

BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

A Truly Wild Prom

by Tristan Clarke and Derrick Kang

The end of the year is finally upon us, and with that comes a tradition that we haven't seen in three whole years: Prom!

And what better place to mark our school's glorious return to this hallmark of the high school experience than the Phoenix Zoo! No, seriously! It's no understatement to say that the opponents of the party's venue have been quite vocal; however, here are a few points of consideration to get the hype train back on track:

1. For the first time in memory, we have an inter-BASIS prom! Do any of your friends go to a different BASIS? They're invited! (as long as they're on the list of cool schools)
2. The open-air venue soothes any possible remaining COVID fears which happened to be the reason for a lack of prom last year and the year before.
3. Dancing under the stars? Yes, please!
4. It's a party, go have fun!

Prom tickets are on sale on Smart for Charters for \$60 a person. If you're in 11th or 12th grade, go get your ticket for a wild night!



Source: SciTech Institute

SAVE THE DATE

AP Exams - 5/2-5/13

Prom - 5/14

Term Project Week -
5/20-5/26

Last Day of School - 5/27

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Opinion: BASIS Scottsdale's Anti-Library Strategy

By Jacob Shamoun

Libraries were first created in the Middle East thousands of years ago and have since allowed individuals to read works for entertainment and academics. Although libraries were originally a luxury, nowadays they are available to everyone for reading leisurely or working quietly. Bearing in mind the importance of a library in providing literature and a quiet workplace for students, most schools have implemented some form of a library with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books students can use for entertainment and learning.

For this reason, some students have yearned for a library to be implemented in some form at BASIS Scottsdale, whether that be in a classroom or in an open space. Students have even created a BASIS Scottsdale Library Committee, which has not only been attempting to persuade the administration to implement a library, but also has been collecting books as donations, already having hundreds of books for a potential BASIS Scottsdale library. All of this from a few high school students? Pretty impressive, isn't it? But the BASIS Scottsdale administration would never resort to the tactics created by individuals in primitive civilizations back in the 7th century BCE. Instead, BASIS Scottsdale has made it clear to the student body that it will avoid the creation of a library to save space, time, and resources.

The creation of a library would provide students with endless resources to fuel their education and would be a haven for students to relax and decompress. But these do not even come close to the harms, which of course include, well, preventing the BASIS Scottsdale administration from completing the better things they have to do. Finding a way to

arrange a library would be a total mess. The administration would have to worry about an infinitely long list of tasks, including collecting books, orchestrating supervision of the library, and ensuring student safety by preventing the spread of COVID-19. Such concerns could be extremely legitimate.



New York Public Library Main Branch

So what if a few high school students have collected hundreds of books and have laid out a detailed plan for the library's creation with a website, library cards, scanners, and more? So what if a few high school students want somewhere quiet to read or work? That's why we have late bird at such an affordable price. So what if the library could even allow students to volunteer and become more active in the school environment? Such aspects are outweighed by the difficulty of the task to the point where the administration should not even take the library proposition seriously.

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The BASIS Scottsdale administration has instead constantly been in support of the environment. That's right. We must protect our environment from a library filled with paper, paper which has been marked by the ever-opposed toner (forgive me for using the T-word). We must thank our BASIS Scottsdale overlords for thinking so respectably. It is of the utmost importance that we recognize how groundbreaking this paper and toner-saving strategy is. Without a library, BASIS Scottsdale can save approximately one tree per year and two canisters of toner, all at the small cost of the

student and teacher experience because our environment is what really matters. That's why BASIS Scottsdale is introducing its 2030 All-Green Plan devoted to ending the use of toner and paper by replacing such wasteful and unsustainable tactics with the all-new anti-library system. Once more, thank you to our wonderful BASIS Scottsdale administration for always staying up-to-date with the latest school trends! On behalf of the BASIS Scottsdale student body, I would like to say that it is our pleasure not to have a library. After all, can BASIS Scottsdale students even handle being quiet?



Source: Deposit Photos

The Slap

by Shreyank Murala

Ladies and gentlemen, the Oscar for the best slap of the century goes to (drum roll)...WILL SMITH. The Oscar for the best supporting actor goes to...CHRIS ROCK. And finally, what we've all been waiting for, the Oscar for the Best Picture 2022 goes to...*THE SLAP* directed by Jada Smith!

Recently, the Oscars have gone down in ratings with much less hype surrounding the event than in the past. 2019 saw 29.6 million viewers, 2020 saw 23.6 million, and 2021 saw a whopping low of 10.5 million. According to Mr. Peacher, that's what's called an exponentially decreasing function. With the ratings in a downward spiral, 2022 had to be either a great year or just another stepping stone into the depths of insignificance. Luckily for the academy, Will Smith's slap revolutionized the show and will go down as the slap of the century. With one little slap, the star of *King Richard* sent the internet into a flurry and brought the much needed attention to resuscitate the dying spectacle.

Initially, some said that the slap was fake and made for the express purpose of bringing better ratings to the show. Many claimed that the slap barely grazed Chris Rock while others point out that professional actors like Will Smith could have easily staged such an occurrence. Others said the slap was as real as Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield in *No Way Home*. Even body language expert Darren Stanton pointed out Smith's composure during the event and claimed that he could not have faked "that level of emotion." In the weeks following the incident, however, as Will Smith resigned from the Academy and was banned from the Oscars for a decade, it has become more than clear that the affair was no fraud.

Some say Will Smith was right to slap Chris Rock for making fun of his wife who suffers from alopecia, an autoimmune disorder that causes all or some of her hair to fall out. Some say that Will Smith went overboard and was overreacting to a harmless joke by Chris Rock who was simply doing his job.

As the situation calms down, and we draw further away from the previous Oscars, the long term effects of the slap are yet to be seen. The slap brought huge amounts of publicity to the Oscars for the first time in several years — much needed publicity for a dying show — but on the other hand they also helped shine a light on some of the seeming hypocrisy of the event itself. After all, the Oscars are famous for their acceptance speeches where actors take the stage and decry all manner of transgressions seen in the world with violence often chief amongst them.

We can't say for sure whether or not the slap will help or hurt the Oscars down the line. It provided a temporary boost in publicity, but it could end up bleeding the event of viewers even more. All in all though, I think we can all agree that for the first time in a long time, the Oscars really slapped.



Source: Bryan Snyder (Reuters)

A Molé for Mayo

by Rahul Jasthi

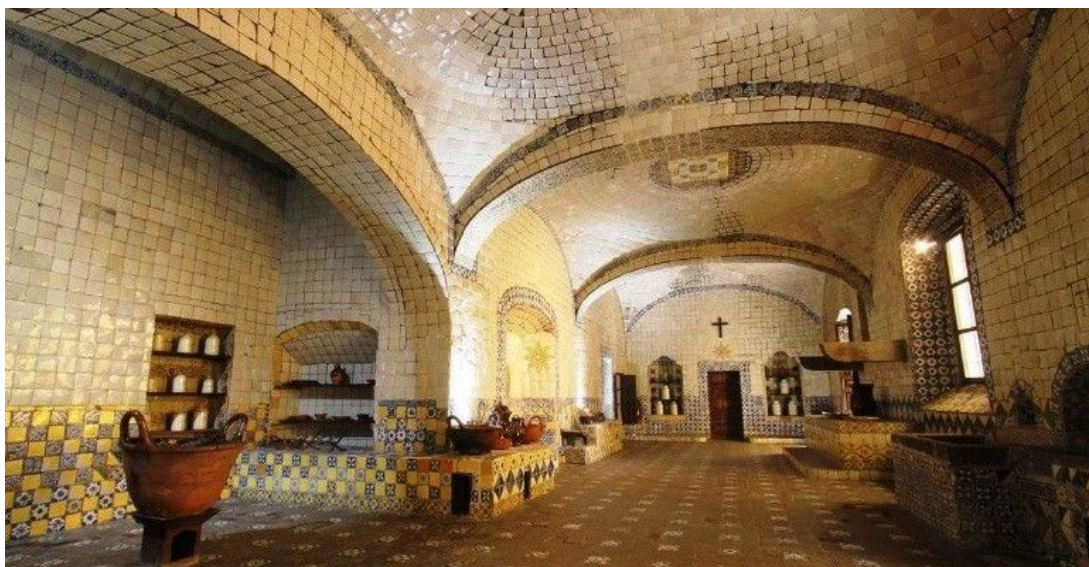
Also called the Anniversary of the Battle of the Puebla, Cinco de Mayo is a holiday celebrated in Mexico, but has become more popular in America. On May 5, 1862, the Mexican army finally defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, hence the name. The holiday commemorates those who fought in the battle as well as Mexican culture both in and out of Mexico.

Along with the parades, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated with mariachi music and parties where the community comes together to enjoy a variety of traditional foods, such as Molé Poblano, the official dish for Cinco de Mayo. The story behind Molé Poblano is that it was first created by a nun at the Santa Rosa convent in Puebla in the late 1600s after she heard of the impending visit of Juan de Palafox, the Viceroy of New Spain and Archbishop of Puebla.

This dish takes inspiration from Old World and New World ingredients and cooking techniques, which makes the list of ingredients somewhat unique, but your efforts will not be in vain after tasting this delicious, spicy, savory sauce. Without further delay, let's get into the recipe:

Ingredients:

- Lard, as needed
- 2 ½ onions, halved
- 8 garlic cloves, plus 1 head garlic, roasted
- 1 onion, roasted and chopped
- 3 tomatoes, roasted
- 10 tomatillos, roasted
- ¾ cup sesame seeds
- ¾ cup almonds
- ¾ cup peanuts
- ¾ cup raisins
- 1 ½ plantains, sliced into 1/4 -inch pieces
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon ground star anise
- 1 (4-inch) cinnamon stick, ground
- 1 stale croissant, cut in pieces
- 1 charred tortilla, broken into pieces
- 1 ½ quarts chicken stock, plus 2 quarts
- 30 mulatto chiles
- 16 ancho chiles
- 6 pasilla chiles
- 1 chipotle chiles
- 8 ounces Mexican chocolate, chopped
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 quarts chicken broth, plus more as needed



Source: International Network for Theory of History

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Procedure:

1. Melt a little lard in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the halved onions and the 8 garlic cloves and cook until lightly browned. Remove from the pan and discard the onion. Reserve the garlic. In the infused lard, fry the roasted onions, roasted garlic, roasted tomatoes and tomatillos.
2. In another large skillet, add the sesame seeds, almonds, peanuts, raisins, prunes, plantains, coriander seeds, star anise, and cinnamon, and toast until aromatic. Set aside.
3. In a blender add the reserved garlic, the onion mixture, the nut mixture, croissants, tortilla pieces, and the 1 ½ quarts of chicken stock. Puree until a smooth mole forms. Transfer molé mixture to a large stock pot.
4. Seed and de-vein the mulattos, anchos, pasillas and chipotles. Coat a large fry pan with lard. Add the chiles and saute until soft. Add the chiles to a blender and purée, then strain into the pot with the molé. Put the pot over low heat and add the chocolate and the sugar, stirring constantly. Stir in the remaining chicken stock, a little at a time, until the desired thickness of the molé is reached.

With this simple recipe of thick, rich red-brown sauce, you can bring a culinary delight from Mexican Cinco de Mayo celebrations to your home!



Source: Sunset Magazine

Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: A Landmark Case

by Stephanie Lobodanescu

It's no secret that Hollywood enjoys a relationship scandal. Paparazzi and journalists alike feel entitled to the ins and outs of every celebrity's life, no matter how personal in nature. The public feeds into this desire and often exacerbates an issue that could have been resolved privately. This isn't always the case, however, simply for the reason that sometimes these scandals bring awareness to a long-ignored and overlooked issue.

If you've been following any general entertainment media recently, you'll likely know of the ongoing legal battle between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. The two met on the set of the movie "The Rum Diary" in 2009 but didn't begin dating officially until 2012. What seemed like a whirlwind romance of genuine, passionate love (at least based on the image they presented when they appeared together to photographers and reporters) quickly devolved into a bitter, heated separation. In 2016, after 15 months of marriage, Heard filed for divorce, claiming that Depp was physically and verbally abusive. She proceeded to file a restraining order, and Depp would pay a 7 million dollar settlement, which Heard claims she donated to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the ACLU.

The end of 2018 brought about a new barrage of issues and legal violations in their divorce case. It was agreed that "neither party could publicly say anything negative about the other," according to *Insider*, but on December 18, 2018, Heard published an op-ed speaking on her experiences with sexual and physical abuse throughout life, and shedding light on the "institutions [that] protect men accused of abuse." Depp's name was not mentioned anywhere in the

article, yet it was plain to see that, based on the well-known reason for their separation, Heard was making a clear accusation.

Many considered the aftermath of the article to be the destruction of Johnny Depp's career. He was not greenlit to appear in *Pirates of the Caribbean 6*, despite previously helming the beloved series. *The Sun* published an article calling him a "wife-beater" in 2020, and Depp lost the libel case against them. Soon after, he was "asked by Warner Bros. to resign from [his] role as Grindelwald in *Fantastic Beasts*," the blockbuster prequels to the Harry Potter franchise, reportedly costing him hundreds of millions of dollars.

It is important to note that Heard's piece with *The Washington Post* was published at the height of the #MeToo movement and was regarded by many as a "centerpiece" of the campaign after its push into the spotlight. Since then, #MeToo has become a volatile and delicate subject, but its nuances must be analyzed.

It began as a way to provide a much-needed platform to voices all around the world— to have a revolution and a cause to stand behind in the battle for gender equality, to stabilize and reset the disparity, the power imbalances, and the clear majority that was the abuser's voice over the voice of the abused. It was a way for people to publicly and clearly denounce those who take advantage of their influence on those who do not have the means to defend themselves. It was a stand of solidarity among survivors of abuse around the world – a statement that proclaimed that everyone's story had a right to be heard, and no one

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was alone in their fight. Its 2006 creator Tarana Burke referred to it as an “international movement for justice for marginalized people.”

At the height of the #MeToo movement, the vast majority of survivors of abuse were women – and 2018 statistics by the NSVRC state 83% of women in the US have reported “some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime.” However, many believed the movement seemed to provide very little entry for men that were also survivors of sexual abuse, which was concerning, considering that 43% of men also reported the same experiences. Men were afraid to speak out about their own stories, fearing that it would impede on the overall meaning of the movement and not have a place in the change that was trying to be enacted.

But that was just the point. Male survivors *did* have a place, even if it was not as recognized, because anyone can be the target of sexual or physical violence. The goal of the movement was to put time and effort into legal proceedings, and to not brush aside cases of assault and abuse, no matter the gender, age, or socioeconomic status of those stepping forward.

As of April 11, 2022, the trial began, with Johnny Depp suing Amber Heard for \$50 million, claiming defamation regarding her op-ed implying that she was both physically and sexually abused by Depp. In the days following, evidence from Depp’s legal team has been presented, providing evidence for Depp’s statements that Heard was, in fact, the abuser. Photo, audio, and video evidence has been submitted, depicting graphic images of Depp’s severed finger after Heard allegedly threw multiple vodka bottles at him, the burns from the cigarette butts Heard put out

on his face, and of Heard admitting to repeatedly saying “I was [**explicit**] hitting you...I did start a physical fight.” The jury has been shown videos of Depp slamming cabinets throughout the house and drinking, as well as photos of the exchange between Heard and her secretary after Heard broke into Depp’s phone and obtained phone numbers for her secretary to trace. Explicit text messages of Depp texting friends about violence he “wished” he could do to Heard are in evidence, as are multiple hours of verbal altercations, obscenities, and fights between the two.

All throughout social media, people are providing their opinions on the case at hand. Some believe Heard weaponized #MeToo and is still proceeding to corrupt a safe space for survivors everywhere with her claims– others are worried that while Depp may be the victim of abuse, the abrupt switch in the narrative from Depp to Heard being the abuser is harmful to female victims who continue to come forward. However, while there is an endless amount of criticism from and towards both sides, the publicity and openly televised courtroom scene between Depp and Heard is raising awareness for survivors of all forms of abuse. Regardless of the outcome of the trial, it will certainly set a precedent for decades to come.



Source: Sky News

Gossip Well Told - The Life and Crimes of Caravaggio

by Tristan Clarke

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio was one of the most influential artists of the Baroque period whose work continues to serve as a model for students and aficionados today. Throughout his two decade long career, the painter developed a technique of mixing heavy shadows (chiaroscuro) with uplifting spots of theatrical lighting in his biblical scenes which would eventually be named tenebrism. But beyond his contributions to the arts, Caravaggio also remains in the focus of history for his troubled life of chaos and crime which would send him traveling from town to town for much of his adult life to escape imprisonment. It's often been said that people have a morbid curiosity for misbehavior, so why not indulge in the life and crimes of Caravaggio?

The artist's life was wrought with trouble from an early age. At only five, he moved with his family from his birthplace of Milan to the small town of Caravaggio to escape the plague which was ravaging urban Italy. When he was only thirteen his mother died and he was subsequently apprenticed to the Milanese painter Simone Peterzano. In Milan, he would hone his talent for art across four years of study, but sadly, that was hardly all he honed. In 1592, Caravaggio fled from Milan to Rome following a brawl which ended in the young man wounding a police officer, and reportedly murdering a young man. When he arrived in Rome he was broke and homeless and immediately scooped up by the workshop of Cesari where he was forced to repeat simple copies of flowers in exhaustingly repetitive mass production. His time would end with Cesari rather quickly as well following a heated argument between the two. On his own, Caravaggio quickly built up his reputation as one of the greatest contemporary artists, but once again, also built up his reputation as a pugilistic

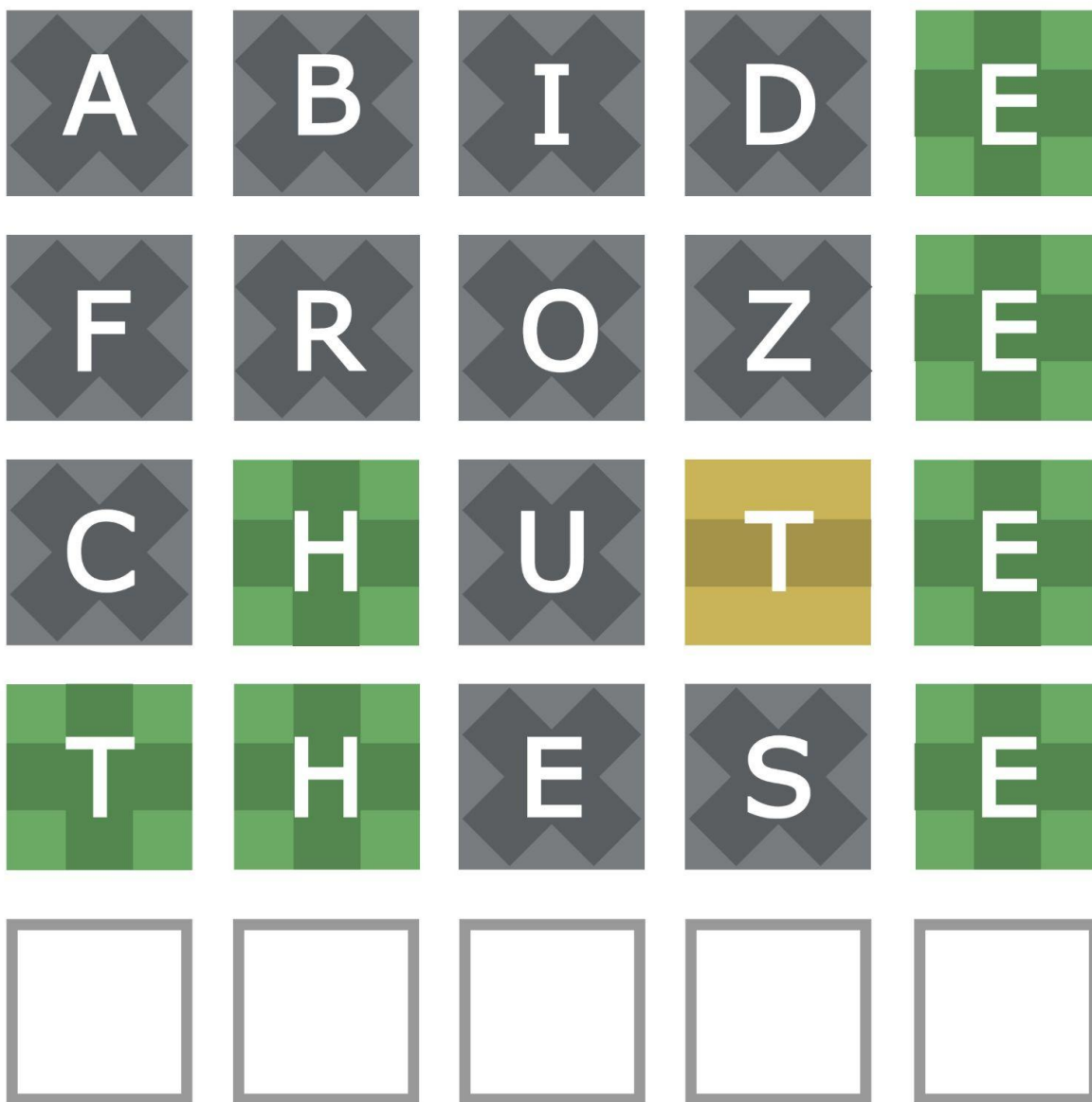
egotist. It was during his years in Rome when Caravaggio created some of his most well known works such as *The Calling of Saint Matthew* (1599-1600) and *The Death of the Virgin* (1601) as well as a reputation for engaging in brawls over the slightest inconvenience. Of his long rap sheet, some of his most notable offenses include beating a guest of a cardinal with a club, possession of illegal deadly weapons, and defamation of rival painters.

Only twelve years after his arrival, Caravaggio would flee Rome after killing a wealthy nobleman in an illegal duel. Although Carravaggio's patrons had been able to protect the painter from his countless offenses for many years, the influence of the slain nobleman outweighed any goodwill the artist still had. A bounty was placed upon Caravaggio's head allowing any man who recognized him to behead him on sight. Over the next four years, the painter fled throughout Italy, first to Naples, Malta and finally Sicily, all the while being pursued by the family of the slain Roman nobleman and countless other bounty hunters. As soon as someone recognized him, it was time to move again.

Eventually the painter's luck would run out and he would die in 1610 due to unknown causes. Some speculate his death was simply an effect of some disease he had contracted, however, some still maintain that his enemies simply caught up to him and carried out the sentence on his head. And while Caravaggio's life of crime may have ultimately caught up to him, no amount of misdeed can ever change the beauty he was able to capture in his paintings, only maybe change how you view the man who brought them into existence.

El Wordo

By Gazette Staff



Searching for AP Credits

By Gazette Staff

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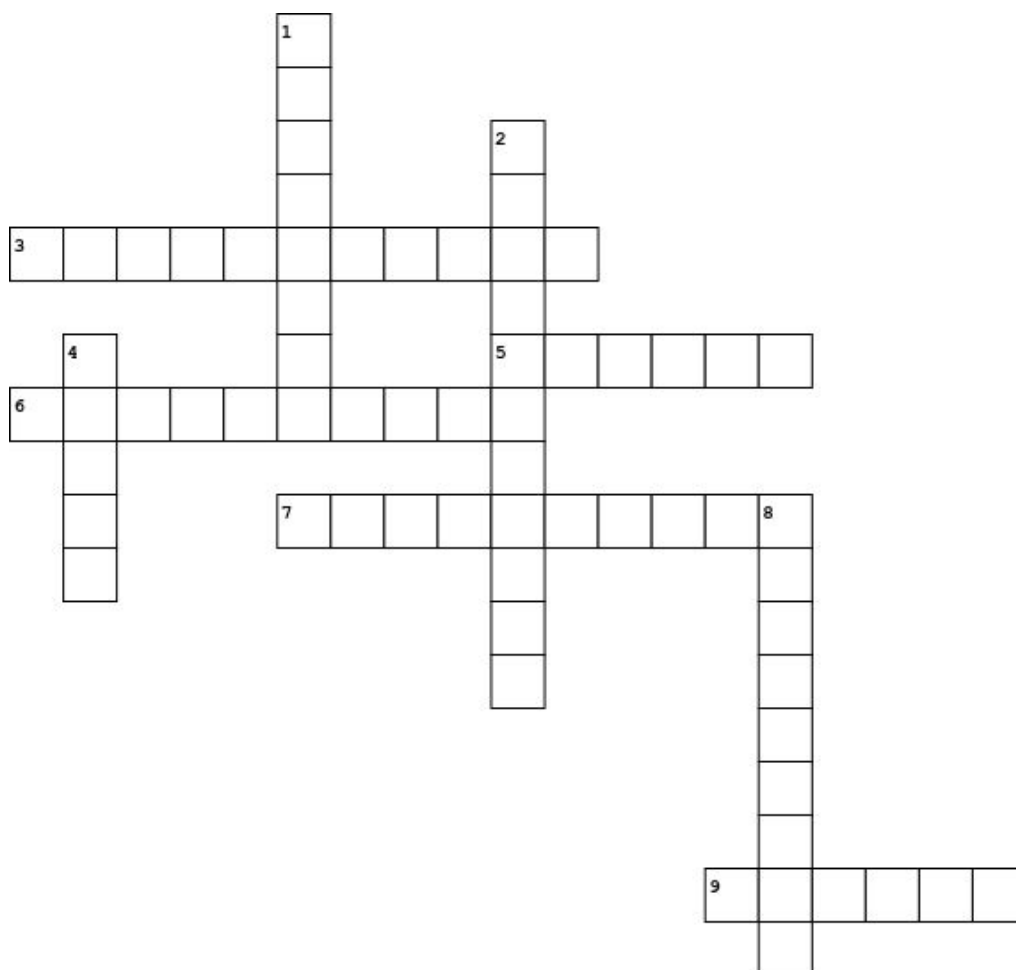
Biology
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 Latin
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May Crossword

By Gazette Staff



Across

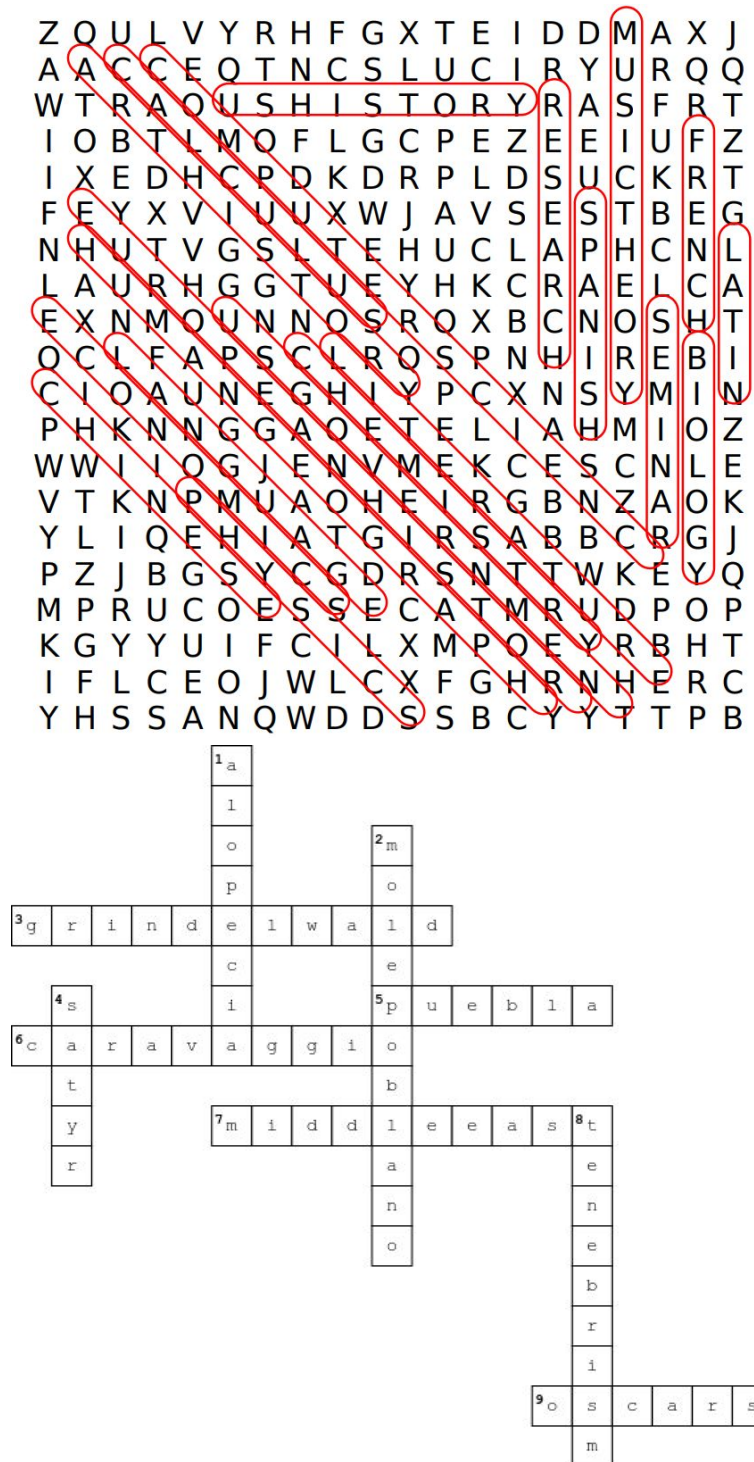
- 3.** Main antagonist of the prequel series Fantastic Beasts
5. Name of the battle where the Mexican army defeated the French
6. An Italian painter who strongly influenced Baroque painting
7. Location of the first library
9. Known as the most prestigious awards in the entertainment industry worldwide

Down

- 1.** Hair loss from the scalp or elsewhere on the body
2. Traditional Cinco de Mayo dish made of chilis, fruit, nuts, seeds, etc.
4. A creature in classical mythology who was part man and part goat
8. Style of painting using especially pronounced chiaroscuro

Answers Page

By Gazette Staff



Last Edition's El Wordo: SATYR



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