



SETH WENIG Associated Press

AMERICAN PHAROAH, with jockey Victor Espinoza, crosses the finish line in the Belmont Stakes to become the 12th horse to win the Triple Crown and the first since Affirmed in 1978.

HORSE RACING'S CROWN PRINCE

American Pharoah ends 37 years of frustration

By DAVID WHARTON

ELMONT, N.Y. — Thirty-seven years of waiting ended with a ferocious charge down the homestretch.

Decades of near-misses and disappointment gave way to a horse that had a sense of history from the start.

On a spring afternoon when a gray sky turned sunny, American Pharoah won the Belmont Stakes by more than five lengths to complete thoroughbred racing's vaunted and elusive Triple Crown.

"The way he runs," jockey Victor Espinoza said, "you don't even feel it

'Modern-day Secretariat'

American Pharoah took the country on a joy ride, writes columnist Bill Dwyre. **SPORTS**

when he goes that fast."

Pure speed translated into one of those moments that seemed to transcend sport, captivating a nation that had been closely following the quest.

Only a dozen horses have won all three of racing's biggest events — the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont — over the last 96 years. The last was Affirmed in

1978.

American Pharoah emerged from the Southern California stables of trainer Bob Baffert to join that list in convincing fashion.

"I really felt I had the horse," Baffert said. "I told Victor in the paddock, 'Dude, he is ready.'"

Baffert qualifies as a rock star in his sport, quick with a quote, instantly recognizable by his white hair and sunglasses. The son of an Arizona rancher made a name for himself with quarter horses at Los Alamitos Race Course in Orange County before jumping to the more glamorous world of thorough- [See Belmont, A8]

Auto title loans snag the unwary

High-cost firms are pushing consumers to borrow against their cars as rules on other lending are tightened.

By JIM PUZZANGHERA

Cash-strapped consumers are being shown a new place to find money: their driveways.

Short-term lenders, seeking a detour around newly toughened restrictions on payday and other small loans, often are pushing Americans to borrow more money than they need by using their debt-free autos as collateral.

So-called auto title loans — the motor vehicle version of a home equity loan — are growing rapidly in California and 24 other states where lax regulations have allowed them to flourish in recent years.

Their hefty principal and high interest rates are creating another avenue that traps unwary consumers in a cycle of debt. For about 1 out of 9 borrowers, the loan ends with their vehicles being repossessed.

"I look at title lending as

Driven to borrow

Auto title loans surged in California from 2011 to 2013.

Number of loans	
2013	91,505
2012	64,585
2011	38,148

Value in millions of dollars	
2013	\$334.8
2012	\$234.3
2011	\$133.9

Sources: California Department of Business Oversight, California Department of Corporations

Los Angeles Times

legalized car theft," said Rosemary Shahan, president of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, a Sacramento advocacy group. "What they want to do is get you into a loan where you just keep paying, paying, paying, and at the end of the day, they take your car."

Jennifer Jordan in the Central Valley town of LeMoore, Calif., lived that financial nightmare, though a legal glitch later rescued her.

Jordan, 58, said she needed about \$400 to help her pay bills for cable TV and

[See Loans, A14]

Funding, not ideology, fuels majority leader

Kevin McCarthy's multimillion-dollar political operation is key to the Bakersfield Republican's success.

By NOAH BIERMAN AND EVAN HALPER

BOSTON — Rep. Kevin McCarthy celebrated his first election to Congress at an In-N-Out Burger, sipping sodas from paper cups at Formica tables with his wife and children. The understated evening fit perfectly into the Bakersfield Republican's image as a firefighter's son who started his first business, a deli, with proceeds from a winning lottery ticket.

Eight years later, as the new House majority leader, McCarthy commands a multimillion-dollar political operation featuring lavish



RICH PEDRONCELLI AP

FIRST elected to Congress in 2006, Kevin McCarthy has risen quickly.

meals, opulent getaways with lobbyists and privately chartered aircraft.

In the two years leading up to last fall's election, McCarthy, through his reelection campaign and leadership PAC, spent \$140,000 at steakhouses alone. He paid \$426,000 to companies that charter private jets, cover-

[See McCarthy, A12]



MARK BOSTER Los Angeles Times

AFTER FLOWING 96 MILES, the Santa Ana River enters the ocean. The coordinated approach to managing its watershed could become a model.

No rain, but 'the sky is not falling' in drought

Better water management may result from crisis

By THOMAS CURWEN

The Santa Ana River is a robust and beautiful sight these days. Five miles west of the Prado Dam in Yorba Linda, the water has cut a narrow channel in a sandy bed and courses briskly over submerged rocks and tree limbs.

The water is a complicated cocktail that comes from many sources. As it flows 96 miles from its headwaters to the ocean, it provides a glimpse of the future: a picture of water management set into place nearly 50 years ago that can be seen as a model for California's long effort to keep the state from withering away.

The rushing burble, quickening through narrow shallows, mingles with

bird song and the sound of passing cars whose drivers, if they have paid attention to reports of California's demise, must be astonished by the sight of the water below.

National headlines ask: "The End of California?" News stories track the diminishing snowpack and disappearing reservoirs, and a small fish in the Delta is scapegoated, almond growers and consumers are shamed and the mythology of Western resolve is questioned.

The crisis has led many to wonder whether the state has lost its historic resilience.

But the drama hides reality and for those who have studied California's long relationship with its water, the drought is serious but hardly a disaster.

[See Drought, A10]

Reanimating the Disney brand

Acquiring Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm paid off big for Walt Disney Co. and its "fearless" dealmaker, CEO Robert Iger. **BUSINESS**

Tony preview

Go behind the curtain as Broadway celebrates theater's biggest night of the year. **ARTS & BOOKS**

Weather: Early clouds. L.A. Basin: 80/63. **B10**

TODAY'S SECTIONS

California, Business, Sports, Calendar, Arts & Books, Travel

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



800.843.2669 | TIFFANY.COM ©TRCO.2015



TIFFANY & CO.
NEW YORK SINCE 1837

WILL YOU?