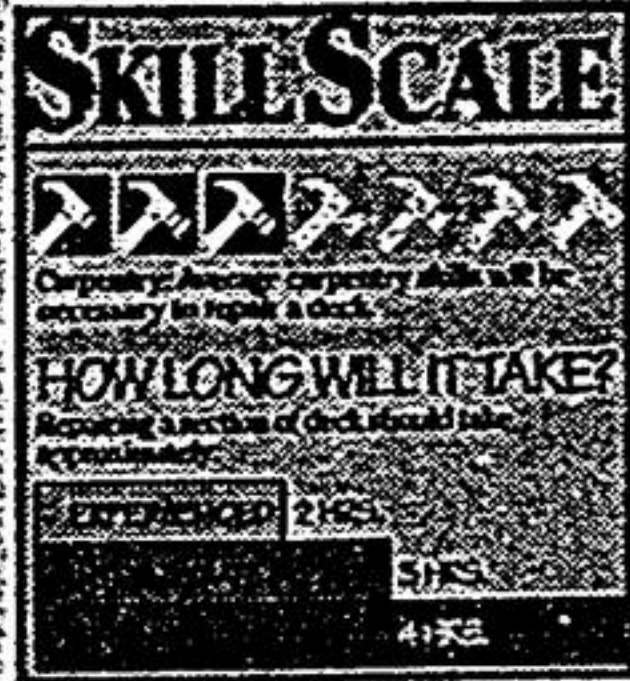


Home Improvement

The average carpenter can repair a backyard deck



Damaged decking is both unsightly and dangerous. Wood rot, if unintended, can spread and affect good wood nearby. When repairing deck boards, watch for signs of damage to the underlying structure.

If necessary, use a flashlight to examine support posts and joists for indications of rot or infestation. Before cutting completely through any damaged joists, make sure the deck is well supported on either side of the cut. If you have to replace structural members, use treated lumber unless the members are visible. Then match the existing support members with either redwood or cedar.

After replacing rotted decking, the new parts are not going to match the older parts. You can weather the new wood with a solution of 1 cup baking soda and 1 gallon water, or clean the entire deck with deck brightener so that the old wood is as bright as the new.

1. Remove nails or screws from the damaged decking boards. Remove the damaged board.
2. Inspect the underlying joists for signs of rotted wood. Joists with dis-

coloured, soft areas should be repaired and reinforced.
3. Use a hammer and chisel to remove any rotted portions of joist.
4. Apply two coats of sealer-preservation to the damaged joist. Cut a reinforcing joist from pressure-treated lumber.
5. Treat all sides of the reinforcing joist

with clear sealer-preservation. Position the reinforcing joist tightly against the damaged joist and attach with 16d galvanized

nails driven every two feet. 6. Attach the reinforcing joist to the ledger and header joist by toenailing with 16d galvanized

boards from matching lumber. 7. Position the new decking and attach to joists with galvanized deck screws or nails.

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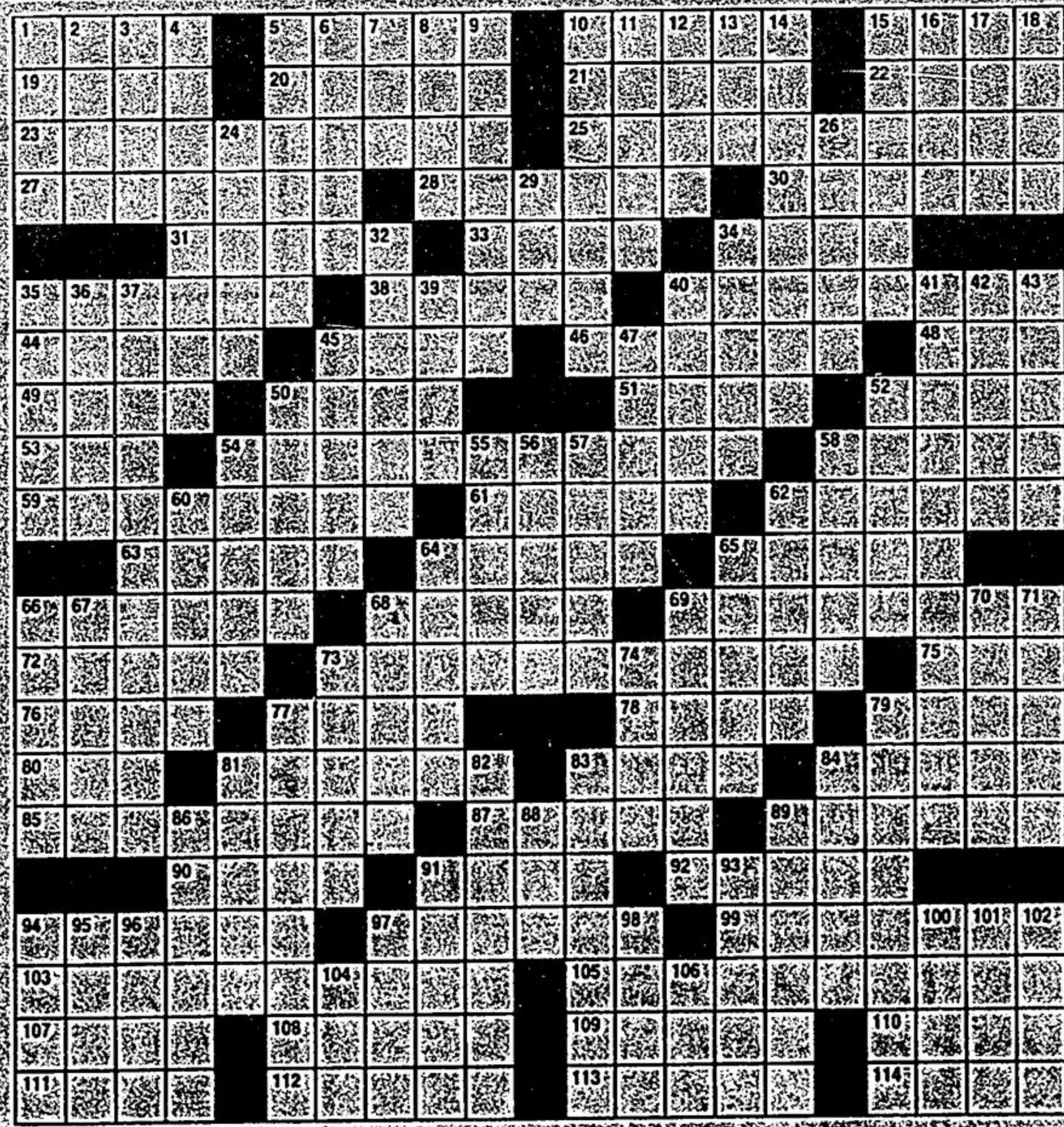
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BY RICHARD SILVESTRI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1. Backside
5. Chaff
10. Fluff up
15. Alum. for one
19. First name in daredevilry
20. Fixed the pilot
21. Mix in a way
22. Mixed bag
23. Part of a girl's magazine dealing with makeup?
25. Attempt to irritate?
27. Kind of sauce. Var.
28. Treasure State capital
30. Straight
31. Sing in a full, happy voice
33. Await judgment
34. Fowl place
35. Tops in quality
38. On the horizon
40. Goldbrick
44. Maker of the game Pong
45. Cinematographer Nykvist
46. Got up
48. 1969 Peace Prize
49. "Bell" (Stephen Foster song)
50. Go parasailing
51. Has a bug
52. E.T.S. offering
53. Connecticut Bulldog
54. Sleeves of a sports jacket?
58. Milk in combinations
59. Dorm companion
61. Former West African capital
62. Infer
63. Epitome of hardness
64. Garfield's middle name
65. Grow past the hour
66. Shampooing aftermath
68. Utter impulsively
69. Kitchen cloths
72. Beautiful Berry
73. Little one bypasses the altar?
75. Script ending
76. Audio effect
77. Appealing
78. Sale caveat
79. Winter Palace resident
80. Afore
81. Kitchen gadgets
83. Slide in sleet
84. Swell top
85. Religious knights
87. Eucharistic plate
89. Help for a mountaineer
90. "Phooey!"
91. Jam session feature
92. Used stickum
94. Put forward
97. Emulate Isamu Noguchi
99. Side by side
103. Grange lacrosse team?
105. Philly champion?
107. Member of the Winnebago nation
108. Like "The X-Files"
109. Stowe character
110. Court defense
111. Bryn College
112. 52 Across and the like
113. Electrical setup
114. Cap'n Hawks of "Show Boat"
9. Increase the slope of
10. Random bits
11. Veldt sight
12. — breve
13. Helios, to the Romans
14. Mask features
15. Tone down
16. Succulent plant
17. Penn Station initials
18. "Hold the Line" rock group
24. Ankles
26. Rank
29. Gamboling spot
32. Washing
34. Directs a hoedown
35. Phony
36. Author Calvino
37. Country's border?
39. At this point
40. Hurts badly
41. Army dog?
42. Overjoy
43. Chopper part
45. Out of (grouchy)
47. Pool shot
50. Protection against tampering
52. Devonshire dad
54. "Get ready for the camera!"
55. Collector's book
56. Sojourn
57. Small type
58. Backing for plasterwork
60. One of the Thomases
62. Krypton and xenon
64. Tattered Tom's creator
65. Fat or wax
66. Night cover
67. Button material
68. Bunches of bits
69. Plying with pills
70. Understand
71. Mattress brand
73. Sounds of contentment
74. Winnebago, e.g.
77. Vestibule item
79. Sideboard
81. Bow on the screen
82. Married people
83. Cork
84. 1920 Colette novel
86. Go for
88. The lot
89. Tube, over here
91. Theater backdrop
93. Caruso portrayer
94. Bit of physics
95. — precedent
96. Cold powder
97. Antioxins
98. Prefix with com
100. Before long
101. Fax
102. Yarborough component, perhaps
104. O.A.S. member. Abbr.
106. Nada



The New York Times CROSSWORD

Answers on page 16