

29 May 2026

Maraetai resident plans Escape from Alcatraz



Ian Mackenzie (second from left) with some of his fellow tri-trainers from the 'At the Buoys' swim group.

Three years ago, Maraetai resident Ian Mackenzie was told he had stage 3 throat cancer, caused by the HPV virus. Today, he's training for one of the world's most iconic (and tough) triathlon events, the Escape from Alcatraz.

Getting to the start line has not been straightforward. Ian went through three rounds of chemotherapy and 33 sessions of radiation therapy. It took a toll on his body, and he is still feeling the effects, but after two years he began to feel as though he had a bit more resilience.

A visit to his mother in the UK was the turning point. Entry into the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon is by lottery, with only around 20 per cent of applicants securing a race day spot. During his UK visit, Ian entered, not really expecting to hear back.

"Then I got the confirmation."

He was still hesitant, largely due to the steep entry fee, until his mother stepped in.

"Mum said she'd shout it to me for Christmas. So then I was like - 'now I have to do it'."

The challenges didn't stop there. Within two weeks of

entering, Ian was struck down by a cold and sinus infection that dragged on for two months, derailing his training before it had even begun. January brought a back injury. He only managed to begin consistent training in February.

"Getting to the start line became the challenge," he says.

He continues to manage ongoing peripheral neuropathy (foot pain likely resulting from his cancer treatment) as well as plantar fasciitis, which he keeps in check with careful taping.

Maraetai has provided the perfect training ground, he says. Ian swims regularly with a local group of ocean swimmers known as 'At the Buoys', and says that water has played a central role in maintaining his mental wellbeing.

"When you are first diagnosed with cancer, it's so devastating for a while. When I first found out, I thought it was the end of life and I was in quite a negative space. It took me five days to give myself an upper cut - I went outside and talked to my dad, who is in heaven, and realised I wasn't approaching it the right way."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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The PC Times 20 years ago:
26 May 2006: Vandals hit Sunkist Bay Reserve - again.

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Weekly Tide Chart

Date	Moon	Low Tide	High Tide	Direction
29 Fri	☉	5:41am ▼ 3.0m	11:52am ▲ 0.9m	↔
30 Sat	☉	12:14am ▼ 1.0m	6:28am ▲ 3.0m	↔
31 Sun	☉	12:56am ▼ 1.0m	7:12am ▲ 3.0m	↔
1 Mon	☉	1:37am ▼ 1.0m	7:55am ▲ 2.9m	↔
2 Tue	☉	2:17am ▼ 1.0m	8:36am ▲ 2.9m	↔
3 Wed	☉	2:58am ▼ 1.0m	9:17am ▲ 2.9m	↔
4 Thu	☉	3:39am ▼ 1.0m	9:57am ▲ 2.9m	↔

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Guest editorial by Friends of Te Wairoa

It looks as though the rains will return next week, just in time for planting season, and the colder weather means rodents are on the move. This always spurs landowners into action, and that was very evident at a recent event!

The recent Mother’s Day Market at Ararimu was our most successful Bait & Trap event yet, with 59 properties visiting the team to pick up pest animal control supplies. Increasingly, we are seeing people visit us for their pest plant control needs in the form of herbicide gels, and we are very happy to be able to support in this way too. We were also very lucky to receive some native plants from Ardmore Nursery, which we could offer to the community at very reasonable prices for use in local revegetation efforts, extending our tree cover in the catchment but also reducing the risk of slips on erosion-prone land. These have sold out with high demand, but make sure you support our local plant nurseries this winter when purchasing plants!

When we combine the small actions of many together, across the 600-odd properties that are on this journey with us, we realise the impact we have is massive and restoration of Te Wairoa River is happening as we speak with accelerating speed. Thank you for the role you each play in this shared goal.

The team at Friends of Te Wairoa have been conducting eDNA testing in tributaries to the main river, in order to define what species are present currently in the catchment. This serves as baseline data, setting the stage for future comparisons as work progresses. We already know we have kākahi, an endangered freshwater mussel, as one has been found in Paparimu in the upper catchment.

We are grateful for the continued and enhanced support from Franklin Local Board in our mission to regenerate the mauri of the Wairoa River. During this time, we fondly remember Malcolm Bell and his advocacy and support for the special ecosystems found in the Wairoa subdivision. We remind everyone that your vote for the Franklin by-election counts, and we need to ensure it reflects what we value as a community.

Resident plans Escape from Alcatraz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Water has been helpful, I’d go down to Maraetai and get in the cold water and meditate and think about all the people I love.”

TV personality Dai Henwood also helped him reframe his experience. “Dai showed what he’d been through, to help others. He was very good at changing my perspective on things.”

A former Ironman competitor, Ian acknowledges he sometimes pushed himself too hard during recovery, and that cognitive difficulties and irritability posed risks to his progress.

“It’s those things that can end up putting you into an armchair,” he says. “I’m pretty stubborn, I wasn’t going to accept that an illness is going to shorten my life. I wanted to live life to the fullest.”

The Escape from Alcatraz event involves a 2.5km ocean swim from Alcatraz Island to the mainland, a 35km cycle through San Francisco’s hills, and a 13km run across varied terrain including 400 sand stairs.

It will be tough, but Ian says he’s looking forward to the challenge.

“Cancer and even a brutal treatment plan doesn’t mean you have to give up your passion, even if that is endurance sports. At diagnosis and ahead of treatment, the future can look bleak and forever changed, but in the majority of cases if the desire is there, you can overcome the adversity and get back to the things you enjoyed.

“Do what you can to get past or live with the cancer, then use the human spirit, your will and determination to get your life back and achieve so many more wonderful things in life. Cancer for so many, in fact most, isn’t the end, it’s often the beginning. Dealing with the change brings new perspective, new life.”

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Prime Minister pays a visit to the Coast’s schools

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon visited Beachlands and Maraetai Beach Schools last week, meeting students and staff as part of his engagement with communities across his Botany electorate, which now includes Whitford, Beachlands and Maraetai.

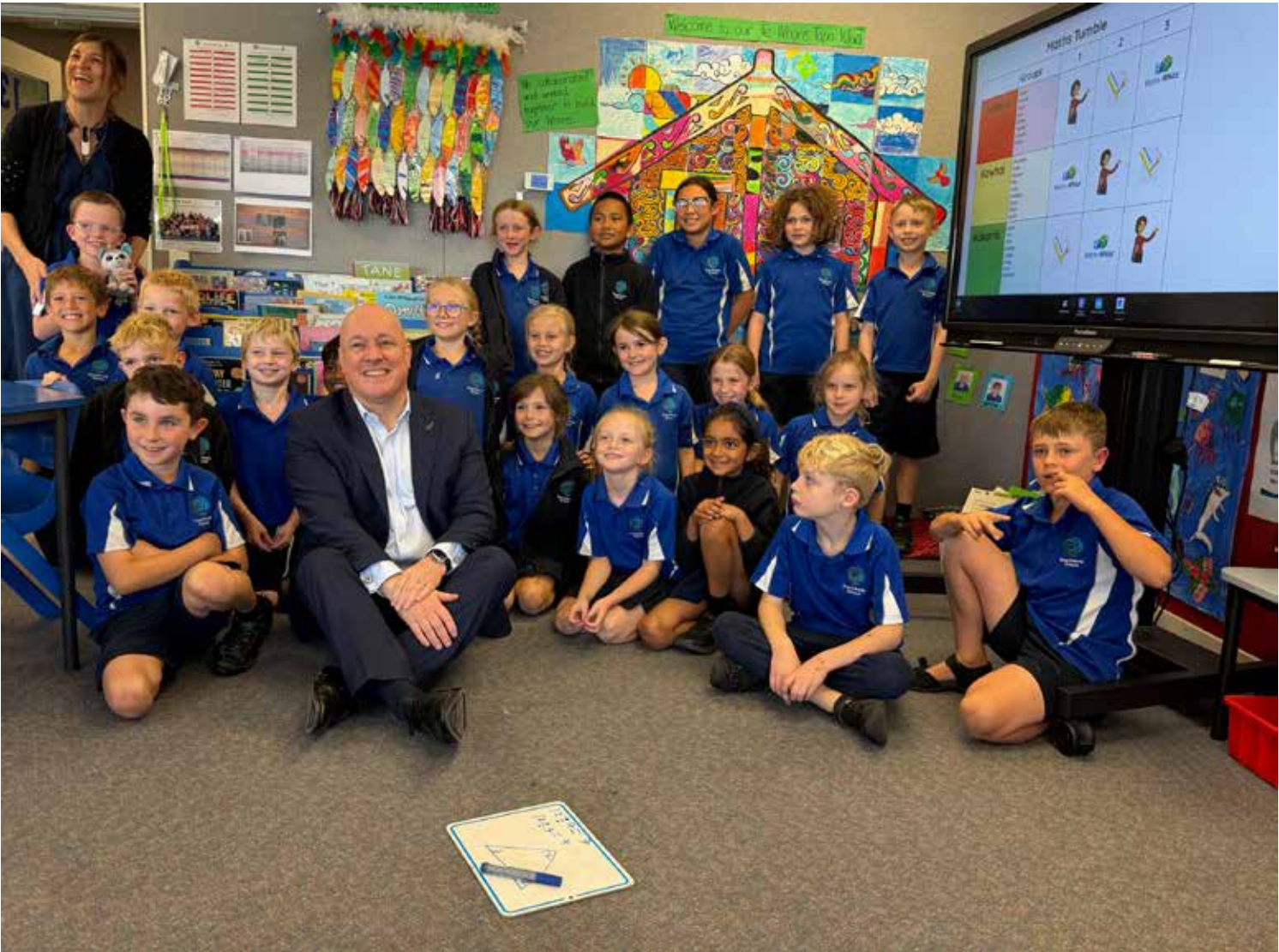
Senior students from Beachlands School guided the PM through the school grounds, into a school assembly presented by Iris Boggs, where Luxon presented student awards and was capably interviewed Q&A-style by students Samantha Mitchell and Daria Miller.

Luxon also spent time visiting junior classrooms and meeting the school’s youngest learners.

Beachlands School Principal Lisa Bethune told the PM: “We’re working really hard, and we’ve got a really supportive Board. I also want to recognise our staff because they work incredibly hard.”

Lisa also told Luxon that the structured literacy programme the school has employed over the past 4 years has led to a measurable improvement in students’ achievement levels.

Right: Students from Beachlands School’s Kowhai 13 class, pictured with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.



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Students battle it out over the chessboard



Students take part in an interschool chess competition at Maraetai Beach School.

Thirty-two students from Maraetai Beach School, Beachlands School and Sancta Maria School came together for the South East Inter-school Chess Competition recently. Maraetai Beach School took out first place overall in the teams division followed closely by Beachlands School. First individual overall was Jonty Revie.

Maraetai Beach School teacher Lauren Revie says it was the first time competing at a tournament for the majority of the students.

“They all had a great time and learnt so much.”

Maraetai Beach School has now qualified to enter a team in the National chess tournament.

If you’re interested in learning or playing chess, new members are always welcomed at social chess, Tuesday nights at 6.30pm, Beachlands Baptist Church - info: www.goodknights.club. All ages and skill levels welcome.

School shaves in solidarity



Staff and students at Maraetai Beach School shaved their heads to raise funds for student Leo McLean-Suzuki.

What started as a physio appointment for a sore leg led to a life-changing diagnosis over the April school holidays for 10-year-old Leo McLean-Suzuki.

Leo has been diagnosed with BCor Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive small round cell tumour. Leo is now facing 14 rounds of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and potential surgery.

His school mates and teachers at Maraetai Beach School have stepped up to help - last week 12 students and teachers shaved their heads to raise funds for Leo and his family through a Givealittle page.

The event was led by Leo’s friend Caleb, with Joe and Sam from Joe’s Barbershop and former Maraetai Beach School student Jacob donating their time and skills with the clippers.

Leo’s mum Cushla says: “How lucky we are to have such compassionate young men in our community. Caleb and friends, together with Maraetai Beach School and the wider community, gave us an afternoon of joy that lasted long beyond the school bell.

“I am so deeply grateful knowing that so many people have Leo in their thoughts during this devastating time.”

Leo is a goalkeeper for his Beachlands Maraetai AFC football team, and is described as Auckland Football Club’s biggest fan.

To support Leo’s journey, visit givealittle.co.nz/cause/leos-big-game-fighting-cancer. All money raised will support Leo and his mum with living costs while he undergoes treatment.

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SPORTS

Beachlands Maraetai Junior Rugby



RESULTS FROM 23-24 MAY
U17 Girls Rip vs Waiheke, 65–15, **POD** Evie Pinch, **DOD** Ashlee Denton
U15 Fast Ferns Navy vs Manukau Rovers, 80–25, **POD** Jaime Wesselink, **ROD** Brooklyn York, **DOD** Jade Barker
Marist Eastern Blue Diamonds U15 Girls Rip vs **Beachlands Maraetai U15 Girls Mako Orange**, 55–45
Y3 Mako Navy vs Karaka Warriors, 100–50, **POD** Viggo Mills, **TOD** Remy Ashmore
Year 2 Mako Navy vs Ardmore, 16–14, **POD** Yannis Alexis, **ROD** Leon Spoelstra
Year 2 Mako Orange vs Karaka, 9–11, **POD** Jazzy Bymolt, **ROD** Matthias Gildenhuys
Year 5 Mako Navy vs Maramarua, 35–55, **POD** Jesse Nel, **TOD** Jaxon Dick
Year 4 Mako Navy vs Onewhero, 105–30, **POD** Jacob Etherington, **TOD** Noah Tuyay
Year 6 Mako vs Pukekohe Gold, 85–30
Year 4 Orange vs Maramarua Green, 50–70, **POD** William
Year 1 Mako Navy, **POD** Louie Van Oosten, **Shark of the Day** Hendrix Wilson
U11 Orange Fast Ferns – Auckland Girls Festival - Great turnout, two strong games played
U11 Fast Ferns Navy - Highlight: Met Black Ferns legends at the festival
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Above: U11 Navy meeting some black fern legends at the festival

Clevedon Football Club



RESULTS FROM 22-23 MAY
Cruisers U5 **POD** Archie Shields
Cobras U5 **POD** Isabella Pickery
Challengers U6 **POD** Isabelle Ward
Crocs U6 **POD** Maddie Anderson
Chaos U6 **POD** Owen Potter
Cannons U7 **POD** Carter Roberts
Cheetahs U7 **Merit** Arlo Larson
Chasers U7 **POD** Toby Searle
Coyotes U8 **POD** Miah Kelly, **Merit Award** Rayan Tiwary
Comets U8 **POD** Hugh Potter, **Merit Award** Madix Williams
Cardinals U9 **POD** Cameron Ford, **Merit Award** Cash Peita
Chiefs U11 v PCFC, **POD** Thomas Barclay, **Merit Award** Noah Kessing
Colts U13 v Bowen Western Spring, **POD** Vos Gibbard, **Merit Award** James Ilich



Above: Isabelle Ward - U6 Challengers

Pohutukawa Coast Netball Club



RESULTS FROM 23 MAY
Prem vs Otara Scorpions 27-42
S2 vs Te Ruapotaka Whanau, 19-28, **POD** Angie
S3 vs CBNC, 24-30
S4 vs S5, 13-20
S6 vs Livewires, 26-17, **POD** Sophie
S7 vs Waka S3, 6-39
C1 vs MBNC Violet 25-42, **POD** Zoe M
C2 vs Howick Indigo, 26-16, **POD** Teagan, **C.Star** Mila
C3 vs CBNC Pink Storm, 17-35, **POD** Torjae, **C.Star** Miia
J1 vs Livewires J1, 18-20
J2 vs Howick Teal 7-31, **POD** Jemma, **C.Star** Thea
J3 vs Monster Boot Camp J1, 5-24, **POD** Skylar, **C.Star** Georgia
J4 vs Te Ruapotaka Whanau J1, 18-4, **POD** Paige, **C.Star** Gemma
J5 vs Monster Boot Camp J4, 3-9, **POD** Brooke, **C.Star** Ayla
Y6 Kōkako, **POD** Isla, **C.Star** Aylah
Y6 Kōtare, **POD** Cleo, **C.Star** Scarlett
Y6 Mātātā, **POD** Eva, **C.Star** Anna
Y6 Takahē, **POD** Frankie, **C.Star** Eva
Y5 Pūkeko, **POD** Lucy, **C.Star** Indie
Y5 Tāiko, **POD** Lucy, **C.Star** Ella
Y5 Kererū, **POD** Sophie, **C.Stars** Blake and Siena



Above: Mātātā players: Coast Star Anna Johnson and POD Eva Le Pine



Above: PCNC S4 vs S5

Beachlands Maraetai Football Club



RESULTS FROM 23 MAY
First Team vs Central United FC, 0-5
U23 vs Central United FC, 3-3
Atletico Beach vs Ellerslie AFC Barons, 3-0
Legionnaires vs Western Springs Revolution, 4-3
Rebels vs Bay Olympic FC Clowns, 0-2
Lions vs East Coast Bays A.F.C Masters, 0-1
Coasters vs Manurewa AFC Drifting Kites, 1-0



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Ingredients (serves 2):
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250g chicken breast or skinless thighs
1 Tbsp peanut butter
1/2 Tbsp lime juice
1 clove crushed garlic
1 Tbsp soy sauce
1/2 Tbsp honey
1 Tbsp Greek yogurt
For the salad:
1/4 cucumber, diced
1/3 can of pineapple chunks
1/2 avocado, diced
1/2 Tbsp lime juice
1/2 tsp honey
A few mint leaves, finely chopped
1/2 tsp chilli flakes



- fully cooked through with golden, slightly charred edges.
3. In a bowl combine the lime juice, honey, mint leaves and chilli flakes, mix until combined. Add the remaining ingredients for the salad and toss to combine.
 4. Serve the chicken and salad with rice if desired.
 5. Enjoy

- Method:**
1. Marinate the chicken in listed ingredients for at least 30 minutes to overnight.
 2. Air fry the marinated chicken at 200°C for 17 minutes, turning halfway, until

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• Employing, training and rostering of casual bar staff.
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The Club operates Thursday – Sunday including some Public Holidays and other days to cater for events. The role is supported by other Duty Manager qualified staff so it is not essential that the Manager works all shifts while the Club is open. Applicants must have excellent English skills, be legally able to work in New Zealand and currently residing in New Zealand to be considered.
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Registration:
<https://collections.humanitix.com/southern-regional-parks-community-planting-days-2026>
Duder Regional Park - 933R North Rd, Clevedon:
• Sunday, 31 May
• Sunday, 7 June
Tāpapakanga Regional Park - 95 Deerys Road, Ōrere Point:
• Saturday, 6 June
Omana Regional Park - 2 Omana Beach Rd, Maraetai:
• Sunday, 28 June
• Saturday, 4 July
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• Saturday, 11 July
• Saturday, 18 July
• Sunday, 26 July
• Sunday, 2 August



Find out more: phone 09 301 0101 or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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Student Voice

LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

This column features news, views and literary talents of students from Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Brookby, Hunua, Paparimu, Orere and Ardmore Schools.

One student featured each week will be presented with a certificate and a \$20 book voucher, thanks to Barfoot & Thompson's Beachlands and Whitford branches.

I grabbed the seat as it carried me up the mountain at Snowplanet. When I got to the top, I shuffled off the lift and raced down the slope at full speed, hitting jumps along the way. This time, we tried the box, a feature in the snow with a drop at the end. Unfortunately, I was the only one in my group who couldn't do it. Still, I wish we had been allowed to try freestyle!

On another day, I had netball, but we were stuck in traffic for two hours. I only got to play for 30 minutes, which was frustrating. Even so, I was excited overall. You should definitely try skiing for fun sometime!

- by Ashton Black, Room 4, Brookby School

TEAM BRIE RAY WHITE CROSSWORD

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				35							



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Across

3. Beginnings (5)
9. Uncommon (4)
10. Person's condition (6)
11. Knotty protuberance (5)
12. Desire (4)
14. Waste material (6)
15. Fancy cake (6)
17. Dirty (6)
20. Energy and style (4)
22. Fire residue (3)
23. Pout (4)
24. Fight (4-2)
25. Reached a high point (6)
29. Search for food (6)
31. Fury (4)
32. Turf (5)
33. Bovine gives birth (6)
34. Spurn (4)
35. Sailing vessel (5)

Down

1. Haggard (5)
2. Tine (5)
4. Imperial unit of weight (5)
5. Via (7)
6. I (4)
7. Control drug (7)
8. Sleep (colloq) (4-3)
13. Jeer (5)
16. Seasonal illness (abbr) (3)
18. Yellow-brown colour (5)
19. Infant (inf) (3)
20. Imposing building (7)
21. Usually (2,1,4)
22. Mollify (7)
26. Stunt (5)
27. Intimidate (5)
28. Race attracting high interest (5)
30. Misfit (4)

Answers on page 10



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Across: 3. Roots, 9. Rare, 10. Health, 11. Gnarl, 12. Want, 14. Offcut, 15. Gateau, 17. Grubby, 20. Elan, 22. Ash, 23. Moue, 24. Dust-up, 25. Peak-ed, 29. Forage, 31. Rage, 32. Earth, 33. Calves, 34. Snub, 35. Ketch. **Down:** 1. Drawn, 2. Prong, 4. Ounce, 5. Through, 6. Self, 7. Placebo, 8. Shut-eye, 13. Taunt, 16. Flu, 18. Umber, 19. Bub, 20. Edifice, 21. As a rule, 22. Appease, 26. Antic, 27. Daunt, 28. Derby, 30. Geek.

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