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IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 15 Issue 4 2019

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## WHAT ELSE DO HEAVY RAINS BRING?



### SAY HELLO TO AEDES AEGYPTI, THE "ANKLE BITER"

BY RANDY BAILEY

*Photo courtesy of the CDC/James Gathany*

## *In This Issue*

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Thank god for the rain. After multiple years of drought conditions in the Central San Joaquin Valley, after two generous rainy seasons back-to-back, the state of California officially announced that the drought was “over.” There’s only one way for a drought to be over and that is to replace dry conditions with wet conditions. But wet conditions can bring its own unique set of considerations that didn’t have to be dealt with during a drought. The number one difference is the presence of mosquitoes.

Lots of mosquitoes.

The San Joaquin Valley is home to the *Culex* mosquito, often referred to as the common house mosquito. It can spread West Nile fever, St. Louis encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis. *Culex* are night feeders who love humans and animals and can be found indoors and outdoors.

Another Valley regular is the *Anopheles* mosquito. *Anopheles* is capable of spreading malaria, a devastating disease, however we seem to have a handle on this one, with the last case of malaria reported in the Central Valley in 1986, 33 years ago.

The common thread that ties all mosquitoes together is water. All Valley varieties require standing water for their eggs to be laid, fully develop and hatch. That’s where the problem of our abundant rain comes in.

#### Too Much Water?

When excessive water is present, it runs out of places to go. When the ground becomes saturated, the water becomes “standing water” and it’s this standing water that provides the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. In addition to saturated ground, plant containers, swimming pools and virtually anything bowl shaped serves as a container for standing water.

The eggs must be covered by water, usually from rainfall, before the larva can hatch. Then, once they do



hatch, the larva feed on microorganisms growing in the standing water. The developing mosquito goes through all four life stages -- egg, larva, pupa, adult -- in the same standing water in as little as 7-8 days. A mosquito’s full life cycle is about three weeks.

The newest visitor to the Central Valley is the *Aedes* mosquito. It’s the carrier of the Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Rift Valley disease. They are easy to spot based on their unique black and white markings on their bodies and legs, but what really makes *Aedes* unique is they only feed in the daytime, primarily early morning and right at dusk. What’s important to know about *Aedes aegypti* is that they prefer to feed on people, meaning they live near humans and are therefore much more likely to spread disease among people than other mosquito varieties.

What makes *Aedes* particularly subversive is they can bite people without being noticed. It’s referred to as the “ankle biter” because it attacks from behind, biting

ankles and elbows.

#### Mosquito Avoidance

The best way to avoid diseases borne by mosquitoes is to not get bitten and there are specific steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of that happening.

**1. Standing Water** -- Step one is to eliminate them where they are breeding and laying eggs. With all of the rain we’ve had, investigate your property. Turn over all areas of standing water. Old boats, cars, appliances, bird baths, pet watering bowls, gutters, even tree holes can be a source. We have some 90 degree days on the horizon and it won’t take long to completely dry out your standing water areas. The best part is if you eliminate the standing water, you don’t have to buy and use any poisons.

**2. In the Home** -- Use air conditioning when you can, or make sure your rooms have good screened windows and doors. In extreme cases you can even use mosquito netting over your bed. Just like outside, make sure there’s no standing water inside as well.

**3. Outside the Home** -- You can always start by minimizing skin exposure by wearing long sleeves and pants. If you need an insect repellent, make sure it contains DEET or another active substance, like picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. Always follow the instructions and do not use repellents under clothing.

Amazingly, there are no anti-viral drugs to treat these diseases and, with the exception of yellow fever, there are no effective vaccines to prevent them. But common sense and being proactive can go a long way toward getting the upper hand with these pests. They can’t grow and flourish where there are no hospitable conditions for them, and the majority of these actions do not require any poisons or other harmful chemicals. They *do* require a degree of perseverance and consistency on your part, but the payoff is well worth it.

## Federal Bar Association Presenting Seventh Annual “Law Day Yosemite”

The Seventh Annual Law Day Yosemite will be held Friday, May 3 at 10 a.m. in Yosemite Valley to commemorate and celebrate our national ideals of liberty, justice and equality, and to rededicate ourselves to these principles and promote public education on the importance of the rule of law.

With a theme of “Unreasonable Search and Seizure in the Digital Age,” this year’s ceremony will feature keynote speaker Antigone Peyton, a Virginia attorney specializing in the intersection of law and technology, discussing the ways in which the technological marvels of our fast-paced digital age may be dramatically eroding whatever bits of privacy we have left. Also included in the program will be the National Park Service Mounted Ranger Horse Patrol presenta-

tion of the colors; Lauren Boone’s solo National Anthem; the award-winning Clovis High School Jazz Band; as well as numerous Federal and State judicial officers and other dignitaries. As in years past, there will also be as many as 400 eighth-grade students in attendance, many of whom will be participating in the Law Day essay contest. The top three prize-winning essays will be announced at the ceremony.

Law Day Yosemite is sponsored by the San Joaquin Chapter of the Federal Bar Association in conjunction with the park concessionaire, Yosemite Hospitality LLC, as well as the National Park Service. The public is invited. For more information please contact Carol Moses at carol@yosemitelawyer.com or call 559-449-9069.

## LHS Eagle Scout Maps Out U.S.



Liberty High School senior Connor McPherson oversees his Eagle Scout project of painting a map of the United States at the Webster Elementary campus on March 17. McPherson was later recognized by the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees on April 9.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Any Ranchos resident who has a warm heart is devastated by the deaths of two precious souls (again; last time it was five souls) on Avenue 12 between Road 35 and 34½ on Saturday, April 13. I called "311" to report possible pertinent information about that stretch of road. The "front office" personnel from the Sheriff's Department raised their voice at me for my efforts to call attention to an unsafe traffic situation at this very location. The dispatcher's rude words were to this effect: "... this accident is a closed and finished case ..."

In my opinion, any extenuating circumstances to a tragedy of this magnitude in this location are, and should be at the very least, considered. There definitely COULD be a plausible "second or third scenario."

The extenuating circumstances I was trying to report were as follows: When trying to enter onto Avenue 12 from Road 35, turning either west or eastbound, vision has been severely obstructed by a semi trailer/truck parking on the north shoulder of Avenue 12 facing westbound. I have commented to passengers that sooner or later there would be a tragedy here.

After this morning's tragic news – and to have a dispatcher from the Sheriff's Dept. raise their voice at me for my efforts to call attention to an unsafe traffic situation at this very location – is unacceptable. This "accident" is NOT an "open and closed case" by any stretch of the imagination (texting/distraction issues notwithstanding). Adding insult to injury, a shouting match with front office sheriff's personal is unpardonable. Name withheld by request

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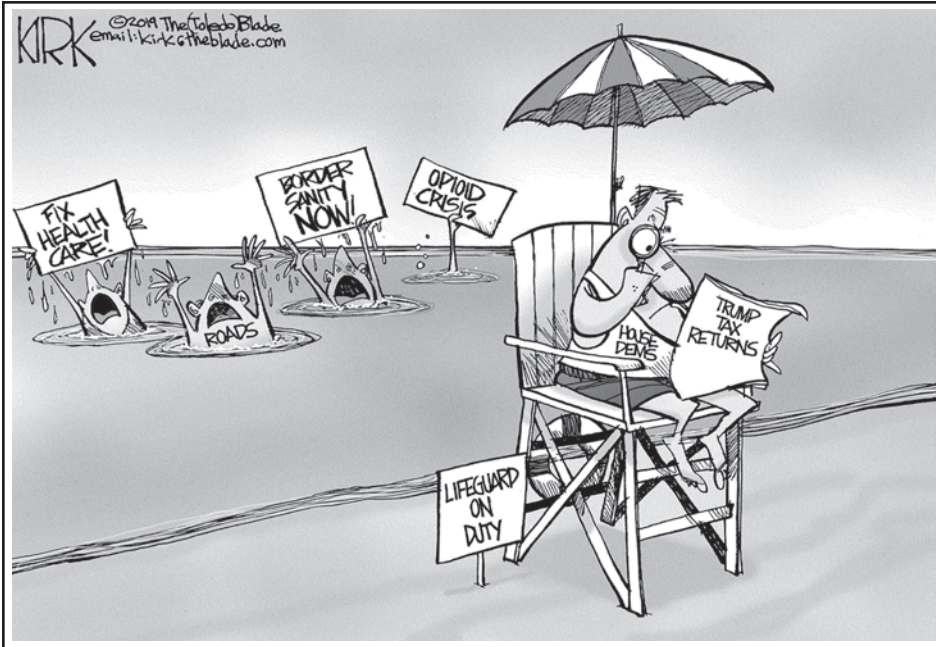
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Guest Editorial

# Anti-Chicken, New McCarthyism

By Rich Lowry

The fast-food chain Chick-fil-A is wanted on suspicion of aiding and abetting Christian organizations.

The home of the "original chicken sandwich" was banned from its second airport in two weeks for the offense of contributing to Christian groups deemed anti-gay by its critics.

The San Antonio City Council voted to exclude the restaurant from its airport, and Buffalo, New York, soon followed suit, thus denying travelers the option of juicy chicken sandwiches and waffle fries in the cause of social justice.

This is about punishing the Georgia-based company for the faith of its leadership. The official bans are anti-Christian, unconstitutional and a harbinger of a larger effort to hunt down and punish any organization that has uncongenial views on sexual morality.

In San Antonio, the leader of the anti-Chick-fil-A effort, City Councilman Roberto Trevino, explained that, "Everyone has a place here, and everyone should feel welcome when they walk through our airport." The irony of discriminating against Chick-fil-A in order to demonstrate the city's famous open-ness was, of course, lost on him.

The hostility to Chick-fil-A stems from a controversy back in 2012 when its CEO, Dan Cathy, made statements opposing gay marriage, and the foundation es-

tablished by the company's founder contributed to politically engaged social-conservative groups. There was nothing wrong with this, but since most profit-seeking enterprises don't like controversy, Cathy said the company would back off the gay-marriage debate and focus on the chicken.

It has, but its critics still detect a lingering stench of Christianity.

The left-wing outfit ThinkProgress issued a report cited widely in the press and among Chick-fil-A opponents accusing the company's foundation of "anti-equality" giving. By which it means it donated to the Salvation Army and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (and a small Christian home for troubled young men in Vidalia, Georgia).

Needless to say, a lot of other people are guilty of the same offense, given that the Salvation Army raises about \$2 billion a year. To consider all that the Salvation Army does -- its thrift shops, aid for the homeless, disaster relief, anti-trafficking programs, Christmas gifts to needy children and much, much more -- and reduce the organization to an allegedly anti-LGBT group is perverse.

For its part, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes stands accused of seeking "to spread an anti-LGBTQ message to college athletes." It's true that FCA asks its leaders to forswear homosexual acts, but it also wants them to pledge not to engage in heterosexual acts outside of marriage and, for that matter, refuse to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

According to Chick-fil-A, its donation to FCA supported sports camps and school programs for inner-city kids -- not exactly controversial causes. And its gift to the Salvation Army went to youth camps and Christmas presents for thousands of Atlanta kids.

The latest campaign against Chick-fil-A is based on the idea that it is impermissible for it to associate with any group with a traditional Christian understanding of sex and marriage, for any purpose whatsoever, no matter how unobjectionable or noble.

It is the enemies of Chick-fil-A who are intolerant and out-of-the-mainstream. They desperately need to abandon their tawdry McCarthyite crusade and "Eat Mor Chikin."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# The Ranchos Independent

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# The Zombie Apocalypse

My workplace is one of those companies that has a lot of entry level positions. It's a no-experience-necessary type of place because we do all the training in-house. The benefit to the company is that a largely unskilled workforce keeps labor costs low. The flipside, however, is that a low-cost, unskilled workforce means a lot of our employees are young and never had a job before.

What's the matter with that, you may ask? Well, I'll tell you. There is a less than charming behavior that is prevalent among young, inexperienced workers and that is a lack of work ethic. Listen, there are plenty of exceptions to the rule, I admit that, but you're fooling yourself if you think companies aren't struggling with a growing workforce

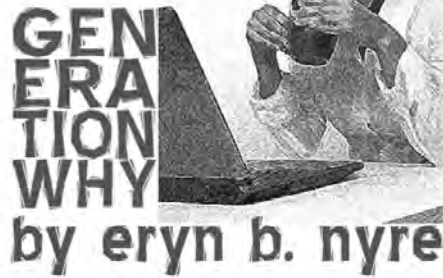
that is chronically late, disengaged, stuck to their phones and have a disregard for the rules. For example, of the 50 people who work in my department, 20 are under the age of 30. That's 40 percent. Do you know how

many of them do not have a current write-up on file?

Four.

Four of them do not have a write-up on file. To put it another way, the remaining 16 have been formally counseled on performance-based issues such as attendance, tardiness, standard work, etc. Compare that to the remaining 60 percent of our department where only six of those employees have been counseled on such things. There's a connection there, whether you want to see it or not.

Attendance is a huge issue. I just had an employee argue that maybe she wouldn't call out as much if we only made her work Monday through Thursday, which wouldn't have been entirely unfair if she didn't actually mean



that she wanted an extra day off without it affecting her pay. Tardiness is another big issue because if you aren't all that well-concerned with showing up for your shift in the first place, being late isn't really going to phase you now, is it? It would appear that many people out there think that a work schedule is merely a "suggestion." Feel free to show up whenever you

*Ladies and gentlemen, if you are waiting for the zombie apocalypse wait no further, it's already here thanks to the smartphone and social media. If you don't believe me, walk through any lobby or waiting room, restaurant or half of the businesses on the west coast.*

can manage to make it in. Don't worry about the clients who are waiting for service, or the team that is relying on you for support. They all know you are totally worth the wait.

Then there is my favorite: The cell phone.

That stupid tiny computer that has singlehandedly managed to unravel the fabric of humanity. Ladies and gentlemen, if you are waiting for the zombie apocalypse wait no further, it's already here thanks to the smartphone and social media. If you don't believe me, walk through any lobby or waiting room, restaurant or half of the businesses on the west coast. You will undoubtedly see a bunch of hunched, half-alert, once human beings staring into the bluish screen of so-called progress. It's frightening.

What's worse is that you're taking up a seat. You are occupying a job that someone else could probably do better but now I can't just fire you for being stu-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

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**GEN WHY** cont. from P. 6

pid because there are laws that protect morons like you. So instead, I have to spend a few months wasting my time on write-ups and formal coaching when it should be common knowledge that when you get a job you actually show up on time and do your job. That's out of left field, I know. I'm crazy like that. You don't want to work, don't work. If your parents are willing to let you live in their basement and glue your face to a screen all day long, that's your business, and their dangerous mistake. But this isn't your daddy's basement and I'm not your mama so grow up or get out.

My beef is not with the people who occasionally need to step away to take an important phone call from their kid's school or need to take a sick day when they are actually sick. My problem isn't with needing some time off to handle personal matters. My issue is a complete lack of respect for your job, your company, your team and

your own integrity. How did these people even pass high school with this mentality? I'm relatively certain it didn't just pop up after graduation. Here is your diploma and we have attached your certificate to pick up your supply of apathy and laziness in the principal's office on your way out. Good luck in the real world with these superb new tools at your disposal.

Is this because we started giving out trophies just for showing up with your shoes on the right feet? Is this because we have lowered the bar in high school to such a degree that one can sail through without so much as opening a book? Maybe it's because we are no longer allowed to send our kids out to the tree to bring back a switch for a little butt-beating therapy. Whatever it is, can we all agree it needs to stop? Raise people to become good adults. Raise people to have some integrity and pride in their work. I wonder if I can get my HR department to agree to implement a "pick your own switch and get a spanking" policy?

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## Strawberry Time

What is your favorite sign of spring? There is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

My neice Vicki's late Grandma Henderson made strawberry freezer jam and I was the benefactor of a jar or two from time to time. Delicious! I understand great niece Lauren has been moaning the fact that she misses Grandma's jam. Well dear, now is the time to learn how to make it and continue your Grandma's tradition. I went through my Mom's recipe cards and found a recipe (not sure if it is the same one Grandma Henderson made, but it will work). So in memory of Grandma Henderson here is my Mom's recipe:

### Quick No-Cook

#### Fresh Fruit Jam

- 2 qts. Ripe Strawberries
- ¼ C Lemon Juice

1 pkg. (2 oz) Jam and Jelly Pectin

- 1 C Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 4½ C Sugar

Fully crush fruit. It should measure 3¼ C. In a 4 qt. bowl stir together the fruit and lemon juice. Slowly add pectin, stirring vigorously. Set aside 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add corn syrup, mix well. Gradually stir in sugar until dissolved. Ladle into clean ½ pt. jars or freezer containers leaving ½" headspace. Cover tightly. Jams in use should be kept in refrigerator up to three weeks or stored in freezer for up to one year. Makes seven containers. This recipe can be used with peaches or nectarines – using 2½ pounds ripe fruit in the place of the strawberries.

If you want to make a strawberry pizza, you really don't have to have a pizza pan. The last one I made, I used a deep dish glass pie plate. Use your ingenuity and your imagination.

I used a pie crust recipe, using butter and adding a little sugar, but here again you can use



your favorite crust. I went on line to see what was used, and believe me, just about anything can be used. There were recipes using Bisquick, sugar cookie recipe, or even one recipe used a package of ready to bake sugar cookies. But the one I like the best was the one used for Republican Dessert.

#### Strawberry Pizza

- 1 C Flour
- 1 Stick Butter-softened
- ½ C Chopped Nuts (optional)
- 2 T Powdered Sugar (optional)

Mix together like pie dough. Press into pan with fingers and bake 10 minutes in 350 oven. Let cool before putting on second layer.

#### Second Layer:

- 1 Pkg. (8 oz) Cream Cheese – softened
- ½ C Powdered Sugar
- 2 C Sliced Strawberries

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Spread on cooled crust. Arrange sliced berries on top.

#### Top Layer:

- 1 C Sugar
- ¼ C Cornstarch
- 2 C Crushed Strawberries

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and crushed berries. Bring to boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool slightly. Spoon over strawberries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Well, that does it for this month. I still like to hear from you about the things you've made from the recipes here, or just to get your comments. Call me at the office, or e-mail me at the paper. But most of all thanks for reading.

*This is a condensed version of an article that originally appeared in the April 2010 issue of the Ranchos Independent.*

Editor

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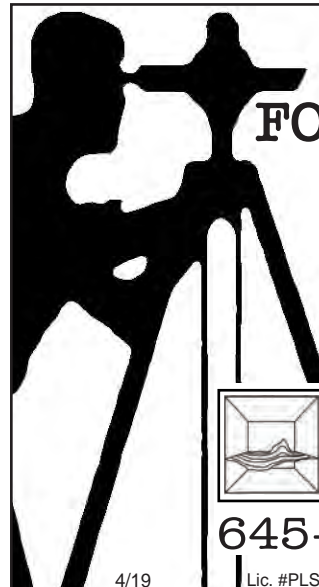
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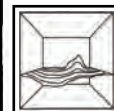
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By Brenda McElroy

*The Sum of Small Efforts*

The other day I was putting away an extension cord. Its container is located in the entry closet – higher than I can reach – with other things I seldom use. I opened the closet, looked up at the container and almost tossed it on the floor and closed the door.

**Robert Collier said:** “Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”

Staying organized requires many small efforts. We tend to comply with this idea more effectively at work and we expect public places – grocery stores, schools, libraries, and department stores – to abide by a standard of excellence that often exceeds our own

at home. We don’t want to have to search through a pile of canned goods at the grocery store to find the cream of chicken soup.

It’s not that we WANT to search through piles of random stuff in our own homes, but neither do we want to do that which prevents the piles and keeps things organized. It’s those “small efforts” Collier referenced that have big effects when it comes to keeping clutter to a minimum.

What stopped me from wanting to put away the extension cord? Getting a step stool from the laundry room. How hard is that? Not very. Sometimes the small effort is having the right products in place. Other times, it’s practicing a simple routine. Here are six small efforts that lead to big effects:

**Step Stools** – This is a simple fix to the “it’s too high to put away” excuse. Purchase a few of the plastic fold-up step stools that can slide into a 2-inch space and have a little handle on top when folded. Strategically place them in or very near closets with high shelving. Slide one between the fridge and cabinet in the kitchen and between the washer and dryer if you have high cabinets in there. You’ll be empowered to make the small effort to put the high stuff away.

**Recycling Bins** – Are there maga-

zines, newspapers, catalogs and ads piled around your easy chair? Is the entry table stacked with recyclable mail? Do empty soda cans amass on the kitchen counter? What about your home office desk or bathroom? Do each of these areas have a receptacle for items that need recycling? It doesn’t have to be a big blue bin with the recycle emblem stamped on the side. Choose baskets or containers that look appropriate for the location and place them wherever you tend to create recyclable materials.

**Remove Stuff From Bags** – You already have a routine of taking your groceries out of their bags before putting stuff in the fridge. Copy that routine for everything else you buy. Whenever you toss a shopping bag of stuff into the pantry, closet or drawer, you’re likely to not remember what’s in it, not be able to find the stuff when you need it and ultimately create clutter by purchasing more to replace it. Small effort: Remove stuff from bags and place it intentionally where it belongs.

**Ten-Minute Tidy** – Take 10 minutes before you go to bed to tidy up your living space. The little pile that got dumped on a chair when you returned home, a few dishes on the countertop, the popcorn bowl on the coffee table. A few

minutes of tidying up daily means no major, overwhelming task at the end of the week, month or year. Truly big effects, for a small effort.

**Two-Minute Rule** – You use the scotch tape in the other room and leave it there. You dump a load of clean laundry on the sofa and walk away. You pull three tops from the closet before deciding which one to wear and leave the others on the corner of the bed. The Two-Minute Rule ends the “leave it here for now” clutter. Here it is: “If it takes less than two minutes, DO IT NOW!”

I would venture to say that if you implemented just one of these “small efforts,” the most impactful for long-term change would be to consistently use the Two-Minute Rule. I tell it to myself regularly. In fact, even though I’ve since purchased an extra step stool for the entry closet, it took me less than two minutes to get the one from the laundry room and return the cord to its container.

May the sum of your small efforts, equal big effects!

Contact Organized by Choice (because things don’t always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can also visit [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com).

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*The Bookshelf*

# Flatlander's Day is Almost Here

By Jerrica Edmundson

This month we get to look forward to the annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair on May 11. We are excited to see everyone's smiling faces to check out all of the booths arranged to provide a fun-filled day to the community. This year the Craft Fair it is being fully organized by the Friends of the Ranchos Library and they will be in touch with participants with information as needed.

Summer is quickly approaching us and so is the inevitable heat that comes along with it. The library is a calm and cool place to get out of the heat and enjoy some great stories at the same time. With summer we

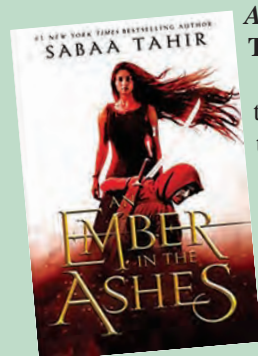
also get to look forward to the Summer Reading Program put on by the Friends of the Ranchos Library. This year the theme is "Showtime at the Library" and we will be featuring performers and will also be showing movies alongside the schedule of performers. The event will start on June 13 with a family friendly movie at 11:30 a.m. and we will be going over the details of the program for this year, making sure everyone has a full understanding of how it all works. It will run weekly on Thursdays (with a one-week break for Independence Day) and the final day will be Saturday, July 27, a day chosen so that more people can participate with us on our annual ice cream social.

Just as a friendly reminder, the dump-

ster behind the library is not a public use dumpster and it would be greatly appreciated if people would stop dumping into it. We don't want to have to take precautions to prevent or find out who is doing so, but will do so if the actions continue.

Now that the business is out of the way, let's get to the fun part of the library: The books!

**Jerrica's Shelf:** *An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir



This is a fantasy novel geared toward the upper teenage crowd with a touch of romance. It has basically everything I look for in a book: Magic, sword

fighting, romance, betrayal, friendship and of course a truly evil person that you just love to hate. Book one of a trilogy that just finished up in December, I am looking forward to seeing how the characters develop considering some of the plot twists thrown in here.

Please see **BOOKS** on P. 17

**The Madera Ranchos Library**

37167 Ave. 12  
645-1214

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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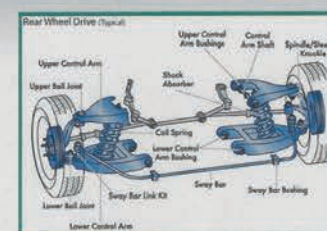
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## The 29th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 29th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 11 beginning at 10 a.m. and will showcase local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. There's also a food and crafts fair at the Maywood Center sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library that will last into the afternoon.

An entry form for the parade is to the right and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library.

### "Why should I join the Chamber of Commerce?"

1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

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# Golden Valley Chamber

## 2019 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 11, 2019 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group  Individual  Business

Group or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No

Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

*Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):*

Horses (Single)  Horses (Group) Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Band/Music Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Non-profit) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Business) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Other) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dance Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Children) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Adult) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Novelty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp!

Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parade route: Ave. 12 from Topper to Maywood

*The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 6** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on May 8 and help plan the upcoming events for the Ranchos. Call us at 645-4001.

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Senior Report

# Ranchos Senior's Service to America

By Margaret Tynan

We are so proud of our Ranchos/Hills Seniors member, Roy Cochran. As an honored veteran of the Korean War, he was chosen to participate in the Veteran's Honor Flight to Washington D.C. April 9-11. The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials.

Roy became very interested in military service at a young age. It was during his high school days as a member of the California Cadet Corps that he was drawn to join the United States Marines. In 1953 he served active duty in a Marine Reserve program that was offered at his high school. He then went into the regular Marines on Sept 16, 1954. At the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego he received rigorous basic and combat training, learning the Marines' shared legacy and embracing commitment to the Corps' core values. He received his marksmanship training at Camp Matthews near La Jolla. Roy then attended Sea School and was ultimately assigned to the USS Hornet around 1955. He served at sea in the Far East for 18 months.

After Roy was honorably discharged at

the rank of Sargent, he held different jobs in the Bay Area where he was born and raised. He eventually worked in the dairy industry retiring after 36 years. He moved to the Madera Ranchos in 1986 with his now late wife Mariane. He has a daughter in Fresno and two sons, one in Sacramento area and one in Arizona. He is very proud of his seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He enjoys gardening and western swing and line dancing. Roy is an active member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors for the past five years. He served on the Board of Directors for two of those years and currently spearheads the Center's recycling project. We are honored to have Roy as member of our community and appreciate his dedication and service to our Nation. Thank you, Roy.

The Center has other appreciations to give. Thank you to all who made the Home and Garden Festival a real success. We couldn't have done it without the community support, the hard work of the organizing committee (Sue Dobbs, Phyllis Fasshauer, Judy Foster, Rosemary Janis), Boy Scout Troop 118 and all the volunteers. Also, thank you to Joann Blancett for the new American Flag she so generously donated in her grandson's honor. Jazper is serving in the U.S. Air Force.

"Sober Grad Night" is being planned for

this year's Liberty High graduates. Ranchos/Hills Seniors is raising funds to donate to this very important event. We are asking our members and members of the community at large to help us in this effort. Please stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. no later than May 11 to make a donation of any amount. Let's help our young graduates have a fun and safe celebration.

The Center will have a booth at the Flatlanders Parade on Saturday, May 11. There will be plants and raffle tickets available for purchase. Also, don't forget to come to the regular monthly Boutique and Bake Sale and Treasure House Sale on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

Thought for May: "No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." – James Allen

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## Fernwood Gardens

PERRY COOPER / STUDIO 318 PHOTOGRAPHY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annuals</li> <li>- Perennials</li> <li>- Veggies</li> <li>- Herbs</li> <li>- Low Water</li> <li>- Natives</li> <li>- Succulents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Houseplants</li> <li>- Antiques</li> </ul>
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**Events**

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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

SEMUCU's ongoing community projects and accomplishments.

Our motto "for the community, by the community" describes very well SEMUCU's operating goals, while our community's volunteering members run the nonprofit on behalf of all of us; their efforts show great results.

**Dry Wells:** In the last three years, FREE to our area residents due to SEMUCU's efforts, we have drilled 110 dry wells measuring 2 ft. in diameter by a depth of 50 ft., with 12 more scheduled for this summer. Recently Provost and Prichard Engineering conducted a scientifically measured test on a 3 ft. by 75 ft. dry well and the results were astonishing. Measured water was introduced to the well for 19 days over a four-week period. That one well recharged over 40-acre feet or 13,200,000 gallons of water. This amount of water will last a family of three using 200 gallons per day for over 23 years. SEMUCU recently applied to the Department of Water and Resources for a \$1 million grant so we can drill more than 200 such wells. Later this year, DWR will consider our request along with other applicants and hopefully will approve our application. There are many competing for the same money. Any resident of Southeast Madera County that has flooding problems or has a creek running through their property could apply to qualify for a FREE dry well. The number one problem to resolve in Southeast Madera County is working on our sustainable water future.

**Low Flow Devices:** Our grant application to DWR of \$218,594 was approved and implemented in July 2017 and ended in August of 2018. Six hundred ninety-two households were given 4,121 water and energy saving devices. We still have some of these devices at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C free to anyone who needs them.

**Grant Writing Class Reimbursement:** SEMUCU is promoting grant writing and we have a standing offer to our area residents: Take a grant writing class at Fresno State and with a completion certificate we will reimburse you for the class tuition. It will be a free course with no obligation.

SEMUCU's annual meeting was held on Monday, March 18 and Ver-laine Elinburg was elected as the next board president for 2019. Jeff McGrath was voted in as treasurer and Igal Treibatch as elected as secretary.

We continue to work on other projects as well. Yes, we're getting a new library but we need a park and a community center as well.

We're meeting only once per month for about an hour, not too big a commitment for people to come, share their opinions, bring new ideas and help make our community a place we want to come home to. We meet on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave 12 in the Ranchos. You can reach SEMUCU by phone at 59-363-9095 or on our website at www.semcu.org.



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### A Wake Up Call

Hello 93636,

I've selected this month's article topic based on something interesting and unusual that recently occurred in my shop. What I didn't realize when I began this article was how much I did not know about this topic and how much not knowing was going to impact my business. This article served as a "Wake Up Call" for me.

During the research of this article it became very apparent to me how much the Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle, or PZEV, is going to impact me and the independent aftermarket automotive repair industry. Although I've known PZEVs have 15-year, 150,000-mile manufacturer's emission warranties, I didn't realize EVERY CAR (not truck) sold in America by 2025 would be PZEV compliant.

With the implementation of the EPA's Tier 3 Vehicle Emissions Standards passed in 2014, I now realize we independent aftermarket automotive repair facilities will be disqualified from performing emissions repairs on every NEW CAR sold in America for up to 15 years or 150,000 miles. That represents a significant potential revenue loss for me and my industry. There is no doubt in my mind many independent repair facilities are just as capable, better trained and better equipped to diagnose and repair these cars as the dealerships. Why don't my customers have a choice?

Let's start from the beginning. Three weeks ago, a young lady from the state of Louisiana rolled into the shop with an illuminated Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL). As you all know, the MIL, or better known as the "Check Engine Light," is an emission failure warning light and only illuminates for an emissions failure. When I looked under the hood, I realized her vehicle was a PZEV so I directed her to the local manufacturer's dealership to claim her warranty. Several days ago, as I was reviewing the shop's Google reviews, I noticed a very nice review thanking me for not repairing her PZEV and instead helping her claim her manufacturer's warranty. It was her review that prompted me to write this article.

How many Ranchos Independent readers drive PZEV's? How many have paid for emissions repairs? Since the writing of this article, two more PZEVs rolled

into the shop in need of emissions diagnostic and repairs. They were beyond their warranty, so I fixed the first and I'm currently in the diagnostic process of the second. What impact will PZEVs have on my business?

OK, what is a PZEV? A PZEV is a California car (soon to be an American car). It is a transitional car as California transitions from fossil fuel vehicles to Zero Emission Vehicles). ZEVs are essentially all electric- or hydrogen-powered vehicles. Because of excessive costs and time needed to develop new ZEV technology, automotive manufacturers were not able to meet California ZEV goals. The PZEV is California's compromise with automotive manufacturers as manufacturers continue ZEV development. For now, manufacturers can count PZEVs as ZEVs in order to meet California ZEV compliance goals. The PZEV has ZERO evaporative emissions from its fuel system and meets SULEV (Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle) tailpipe-emission standards. SULEV cars produce 90 percent fewer emissions than similar non-SULEV cars.

According to Popular Mechanics, PZEVs possess four unique features that differentiate them from other fossil fuel vehicles. The first difference is of course the zero-emissions fuel system. Small amounts of fuel vapor can es-

cape into the atmosphere through plastic fuel tanks, seals, connectors and associated fuel system plumbing. This process is known as "Permeation." To decrease permeation, many PZEVs use steel fuel tanks. Steel fuel tanks are 20 percent heavier and heavier is the enemy of fuel efficiency.

A new PZEV weight-saving plastic fuel tank has been developed that defeats permeation. The fuel delivery components and plumbing have been relocated inside the tank, so all vapor leaks are self-contained. The plastic fuel tank is blow-molded around the fuel tank components in a process called "ship in a bottle."

Another PZEV technology improvement is Carbon Canister technology. Fuel tank vapors generated from higher ambient temperatures and displaced during refueling events are directed into a carbon canister where they are absorbed into charcoal granules. These vapors can become desorbed and bleed off into the atmosphere. With new PZEV carbon canister technology a third chamber has been incorporated, filled with specially designed, highly absorbent, high-capacity carbon to eliminate hydrocarbon bleeding.

The third PZEV technology uses carbon-absorbing devices in the engine air intake system. When a fossil fuel engine is shut off, unburned fuel in the cylinders vaporizes and migrates through the air intake system into the atmosphere.

Carbon devices installed in the air intake system capture those hydrocarbons and store them until they are inhaled back into the engine at the next start up.

The fourth PZEV technology is not really new. Catalytic converters have no impact on tailpipe emissions until they reach light-off at approximately 600 degrees F. PZEVs locate catalytic converters into the exhaust manifolds because the closer proximity to the heat source decreases light-off time.

OK guys that's all for this one. In conclusion, after a week of reflection it's obvious my industry is entering a transition in time. It's called progress. History has taught that with change comes opportunity. I think I'm going to embrace the PZEV and new technology. It should be fun. It's just science. As I see it, training will be the primary and essential component for my opportunity and future success. Looks like a lot more late nights for me, my team and our trainers.

As usual I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any suggestions, recommendations and/or questions about a specific vehicle, please message me at [completecarcarefresno.com](mailto:completecarcarefresno.com) or email [complete\\_car\\_care@hotmail.com](mailto:complete_car_care@hotmail.com).

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## 100 Years Old in the Ranchos



Five generations of Betancourts.

### Emilio Betancourt Born April 5, 1919

Madera Ranchos resident Emilio Betancourt celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday, April 5.

Born in 1919, Betancourt is a retired Operating Engineer who worked on many California highways throughout his long life. He moved to the Madera Ranchos from the San Francisco Bay area with his wife Virginia in September of 1990 when he bought a brand new home on Avenue 12 1/4.

He says he loves living in the Ranchos.

Betancourt has planted every tree, flower and bush on his property by himself. He loves gardening, grows beautiful roses and spends all of his available time outside, working on his yard. Currently, he is staying in Clovis to recuperate from a recent fall.

Betancourt has five children, 20 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. He also has three sisters and two brothers living in the San Jose area.

His family says, "We all love him and pray for his continued health."

### BOOKS cont. from P. 11

*An Ember in the Ashes* follows two main characters: Laia and Elias. Laia is an orphaned Scholar who is chasing after her brother who was taken prisoner by the Martials under the accusation of being part of the Scholar rebel movement. Laia is willing to do everything she can in order to get her brother out of the Martial custody, as he is her only living family member left. Elias is the son of the commandant of the Martial

academy — and he hates it. He is set to graduate from the academy and become a fully fledged member of the Martial military force, but decides that instead he is going to desert and try to find freedom on his own. The night before he is set to depart the academy, he is approached by a mysterious member of the government and is told that he is one of the four chosen to compete in a brutal contest to become the next emperor. The story develops and entwines the two in ways you never expect and wraps you up along with it.

Without Sober Grad, graduation night is one of the most dangerous nights of the year for teenagers. See what you can do to help keep them safe by emailing [libertysobergrad@gmail.com](mailto:libertysobergrad@gmail.com), or joining us on social media, Facebook, "Liberty High School Sober Grad" or [Instagram.com/libertysobergrad](https://www.instagram.com/libertysobergrad)."

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at 559-593-3256

## Kiwanis Korner

### Kiwanis Channelling Robin Williams

By Becky Koop

*"Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child, one community at a time."*

To quote the late comedian, Robin Williams, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'" Robin always shared a contagious enthusiasm with everyone and that's something the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club has in common with him. We like to work together in an enthusiastic, playful, supportive way and make a difference in our community; that we also have fun while doing it, is just an extra bonus.

In the month of March we held our Cross the River Run Fundraiser. In case you missed it, Kiwanis hosted both Adult and Children's races on Sunday, April 14. The proceeds of this fundraiser go toward the generous scholarships that the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club provides to GVUSD students. Traditionally, the Kiwanis Club has been one of the highest local club contributors for college-bound Liberty High seniors with over \$3,500 in local scholarships issued in the 2017-2018 school year. We hope to increase our gifts for the current 2018-2019 school year and would like to thank all of our sponsors and participants who help us toward accomplishing this goal.

Guests during our weekly meetings in March included GVUSD Superintendent Rodney Wallace and Sierra View Elementary Principal, Kelli Reeves, as well as a large group of Clovis Kiwanis members. It was enjoyable to listen to Superintendent Wallace talk about some of his past

experiences and goals for the future of GVUSD. He was excited about how both the school district and community put the children of Madera Ranchos first, and he is working on a plan to celebrate next year's 20th anniversary of GVUSD.

Principal Reeves shared that she was "drawn to Sierra View by the community," and that it feels like a part of her family. She updated us on recent Sierra View events, like the Father/Daughter Dance and Color Run. By balancing events and academics, she hopes to continue to build Sierra View traditions.

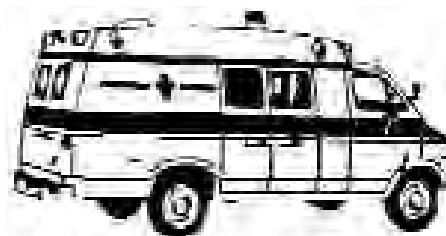
As for our own upcoming Madera Ranchos Kiwanis events, we are looking forward to the Flatlanders Day Parade. Kiwanis will have a food booth running with delicious tri-tip sandwiches and drinks, and our popular "Cupcake in a Cup" desserts. Please stop in and put us to work because the proceeds will be added to our scholarship funds. We are also planning another Wildwood Native Park Cleanup on June 15 and any help is appreciated.

I'd like to again invite you to join us any Thursday, (except the first one of the month) in the Pizza Factory Banquet Room at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos at 6:15 p.m. You will enjoy the camaraderie and fun that reminds me of Robin Williams and also be a part of making a difference in our community.

[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)

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## LEGAL NOTICE

“MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2019.”

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

4/19

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×		13
+		÷		+	
	×		-		11
÷		+		+	
	×		-		20
5		11		10	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8

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# Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



## Welcome to the U. S. A. – United Socialist America

By Betty Van Valkenburg

The specter of socialism has hung over our country as long as we can remember, but we've believed that, even though we saw the government increasingly tilting left, the American people would reject socialism's utopian promises and avoid the ravages of its complete takeover.

Sure, socialistic policies have been implemented one by one by politicians and others who were and are promoting it nonstop – while we were and are 'distracted' by family, children, work and life in general. Sure, we fought against wasteful and demeaning social programs, and lost. We fought the proliferation of freedom-strangling regulations and lost. We fought the imposition of a new "healthcare system" and lost. We fought United Nations land-use planning and lost.

But after each loss, we just knew that as long as there was one more fight left in us, freedom would prevail – somehow, some way. Never in a million years would Americans willingly trade our free-market system and constitutionally protected liberty for socialism's oppressive top-down control of the economy and our lives. Or so we hoped.

Today the challenges are greater. Candidates for President of the United States of America proudly advocate socialism which once was a candidacy's death knell. The closet socialists of yesteryear have become the strident, virulent, shameless Democrat/Socialist/Progressive candidates of today. And a majority of our youth tell pollsters they prefer socialism, whether they understand it or not.

Gone is even a semblance of civil discourse or respect for opinions or facts that don't promote socialism. Today's Left seeks success using a scorched-earth agenda and follows Saul Alinsky's fifth rule in his *Rules for Radicals*: "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon. It is almost impossible to counterattack ridicule. Also, it infuriates the opposition who then react to your advantage."

This is not our grandparents' Democrat party. Grandpa would not have accepted the new strategy: Make any accusation; call any name and then pounce on the accused's reaction. It's hard to prove a negative, so how does one prove not to be misogynist, racist or some other epithet? The mere accusation, if without

foundation, is a means of stifling reasoned debate.

Today's political disagreements are fought with new no-holds-barred rules. Objectivity and common sense are gone. Democrats walk in lock step with hard-left radicals and are abetted by the fawning media, billionaire progressives, tax-free organizations and dumbed down education. Social media should be a conduit for competing ideas, but we've learned that conservative messages are being disallowed.

Meanwhile, too many Republicans (not all) and especially Republican leadership (not all) have fought timidly (or not at all) against the socialist onslaught, lest they be called names, get 'bad press' or not be seen as "the good guys." Or perhaps they just don't recognize the consequences of ceding the debate to those on the Left who believe that whoever controls the debate controls the outcome; or stated another way, the loudest mouth wins.

One case in point is the rollout of the idiotic Green New Deal calling for everything from muffling cow "toots" to getting rid of airplanes. Republicans should have laughed at its stupidity, dismissed it as a non-starter and moved on to serious matters. Instead, they gave it legitimacy by fixating on "how to pay for it," as if it were a proposal worthy of consideration.

Another debate ceded to the Left is the myth of man-made climate change on which the ridiculous Green New Deal and myriad other proposals are based. Rather than accepting it as true or hedging that "perhaps" it is real, leaders should study the subject, refute it altogether and point out its use as a pretext for massive political change and economic upheaval. An excellent article entitled "*Green New Deal: Kill it now or watch freedom die*" is on the website [AmericanPolicy.org](http://AmericanPolicy.org).

Question: Will conservatives succumb to a socialist takeover, or are we up for one more fight? The stakes are high and the battle is difficult. But if we can't win the debate against the likes of dear old socialist Bernie Sanders who, thanks to our capitalist system made a million dollars on his book deal and is happy to keep it, and who paid half as much in taxes on his profits under President Trump's tax cut than he would have under his own tax increase proposal and will gladly keep the savings – if we can't win an argument with this hypocrite, then maybe we should just fold up our constitutions and go home.

Recommended reading: 300-page *Agenda 21* by the United Nations. Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.teapartypatriots.org](http://www.teapartypatriots.org) for more information.

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You might need to do a bit more investigating before making a career move. You do best when you come armed with the facts. A personal matter still needs tending to.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your creativity plus your good business sense once more combine to give you an important advantage in a difficult workplace situation. An ally proves his or her loyalty.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Avoid rushing into something just because it offers a break from your usual routine. Take things a step at a time to be sure you're moving in the right direction.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Bouncing back from a disappointing incident isn't easy, but you should find a welcome turn of events emerging. Spend the weekend with someone special.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) An incomplete project needs your attention before someone else takes it over and uses it to his or her advantage. There'll be lots of time for fun and games once you get it done.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Doubts involving a potential career change need to be resolved quickly so they don't get in the way when you feel you're finally ready to make the big move.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Looking to blame someone for a workplace problem could backfire if it turns out you've got the wrong "culprit." Best to get more facts before acting on your assumptions.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Patience might still be called for until you're sure you finally have the full story that eluded you up till now. A trusted associate could offer valuable guidance.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Look into your recent behavior to see if you could have caused the coolness you might now be sensing from a loved one. If so, apologize and set things straight.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Easing up on your social activities allows you to focus more of your energies on a long-neglected personal matter. You can get back into party mode by the weekend.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A dispute with a colleague can be resolved peacefully once you both agree to be more flexible about the positions you've taken and allow for more open-minded discussions.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Volunteering to take on added responsibilities could be a risky way to impress the powers-that-be. Do it only if you're sure you won't be swept away by the extra workload.

## Born this Week

*Your sense of self-awareness allows you  
to make bold moves with confidence.*

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# FUN PAGES

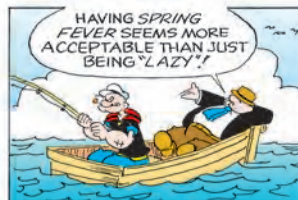
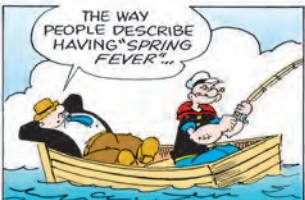
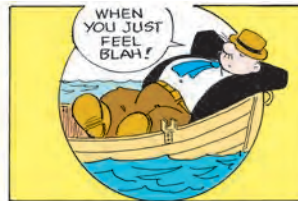
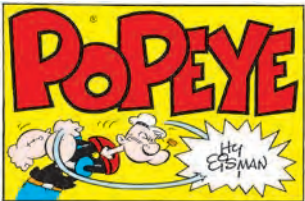
## Kids' Maze



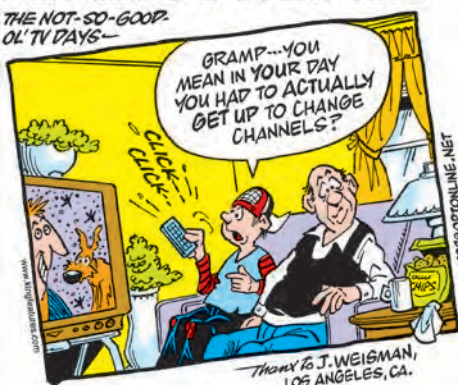
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## TIGER

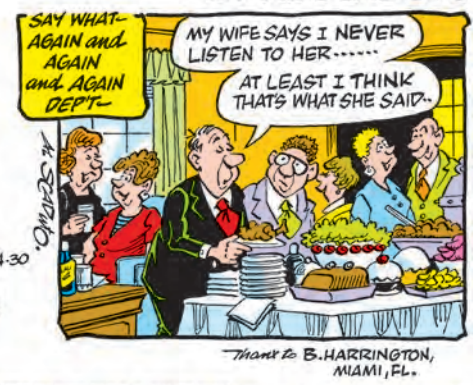
by BUD BLAKE



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

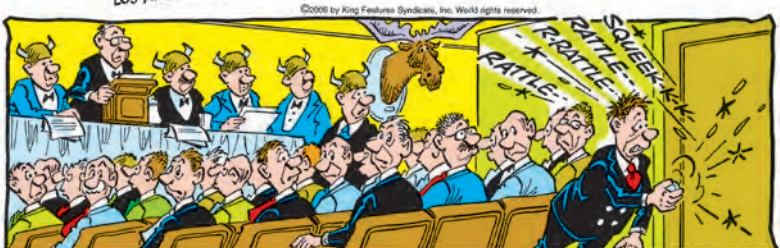


## BY AL SCADUTO



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? TRY TO SLIP OUT ON A DULL SPEECH-- AND JUST AS THE SPEAKER PAUSES-- THE DOOR STICKS--

—Thank to E. SUSSMAN, OYSTER BAY, N.Y.



### RIDDLE CARD

- Who was the greatest actor in the Bible?
- What key is the hardest to turn?
- What goes up and never goes down?
- What has 18 legs and catches flies?
- What must one do to have soft hands?

Answers: 1. Samson. He brought down the house. 2. A donkey. 3. Your age. 4. A baseball team. 5. Nothing.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

F	B	S	R	E	K	A	E	P	S	R	K	S	P
L	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	E	R	E	E	A
O	A	F	O	D	E	S	K	T	E	L	Y	L	P
O	B	T	N	K	I	R	N	N	I	P	B	B	E
R	I	W	I	M	C	I	N	F	E	W	O	A	R
M	N	A	T	A	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	S
A	E	R	O	P	C	H	S	R	E	K	R	A	M
T	T	E	R	S	H	C	O	E	M	O	D	E	M



### CHEMICAL CONFUSION!

That young genius Jimmy A. Chiever is shown here creating a new chemical compound he calls "HIJKLMNO." Can you guess what he's really mixing up?

Answer: "HIJKLMNO" is really WATER (H to O, O, or H<sub>2</sub>O).



### THE OFFICE OF THE FUTURE ... TODAY!

Hidden in the above diagram are 21 words associated with things you might find in a "home office" today. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side, or diagonally. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words you're looking for:

Bookcase	Files	Papers
Cabinet	Floor mat	Pens
Cables	Keyboard	Printer
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Chairs	Markers	Scanner
Computer	Modem	Software
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### CHAIN REACTION!

Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Frage, rags, rats, rate, rats, rats, robe, rats.



### Wishing Well

7	5	2	6	4	3	8	4	8	5	4	7	2
A	S	E	E	O	P	M	T	A	T	H	W	X
7	4	5	8	7	8	4	6	4	3	2	3	4
O	E	A	K	R	E	R	N	S	R	E	O	E
8	6	2	8	3	8	6	4	3	8	3	8	7
A	E	R	F	P	I	R	N	H	R	E	M	T
3	8	2	4	5	8	5	4	3	7	2	8	2
T	D	C	V	R	E	T	Y	I	H	I	C	S
4	8	5	3	7	6	4	6	4	2	8	3	6
Y	I	S	C	Y	G	O	Y	U	E	S	D	R
8	3	6	7	3	8	6	2	6	7	6	8	5
I	R	E	G	O	N	M	E	I	W	N	M	
6	2	6	5	7	3	7	3	2	5	3	2	5
E	I	D	A	F	A	T	M	N	L	S	D	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Volcanoes National Park?
- HISTORY: When did the Deepwater Horizon oil spill occur in the Gulf of Mexico?
- MOVIES: Who sang "Beauty and the Beast" in the 1991 movie of the same name?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which one of Japan's islands is the largest in size?
- RELIGION: Who was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of the land featured in the seven-novel fantasy series written by C.S. Lewis?
- MATH: What is the name of an angle that is less than 90 degrees?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was Mahatma Gandhi's profession before he became an activist for nonviolent civil disobedience?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president popularized the phrase "The Silent Majority"?
- INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing Coca-Cola?

### Answers

- Hawaii
- 2010
- Angela Lansbury
- Honshu
- Constantine
- Narnia
- Acute
- Lawyer
- Richard Nixon
- Dr. John Pemberton

### MAGIC MAZE ● — CREDIT

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 HFDCAEYEEWSVEERN  
 TSQPNVRMLRKLLEA  
 IHFEOICBMULZYNV  
 WVUSDABTROPMIED  
 RREMUSNOCCQPNA

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Advanced	College	Energy	Line of
Bad	Commercial	Export	Overdraft
Bank	Course	Import	Revolving
Child tax	Direct	Letter of	

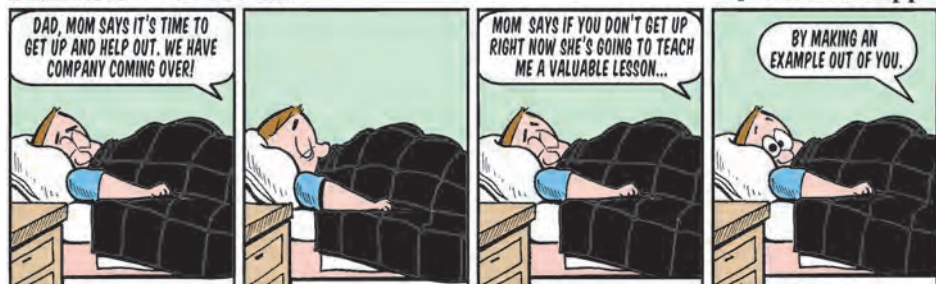
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### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



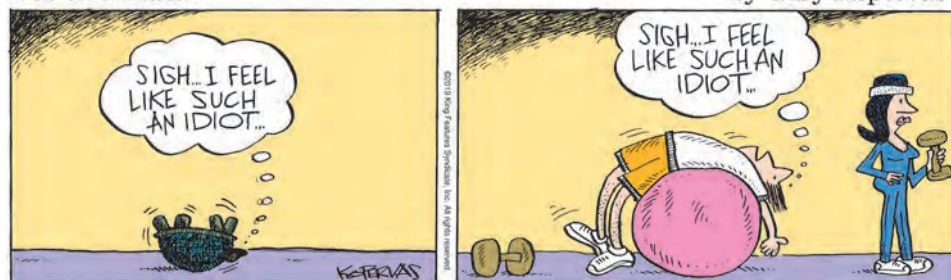
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

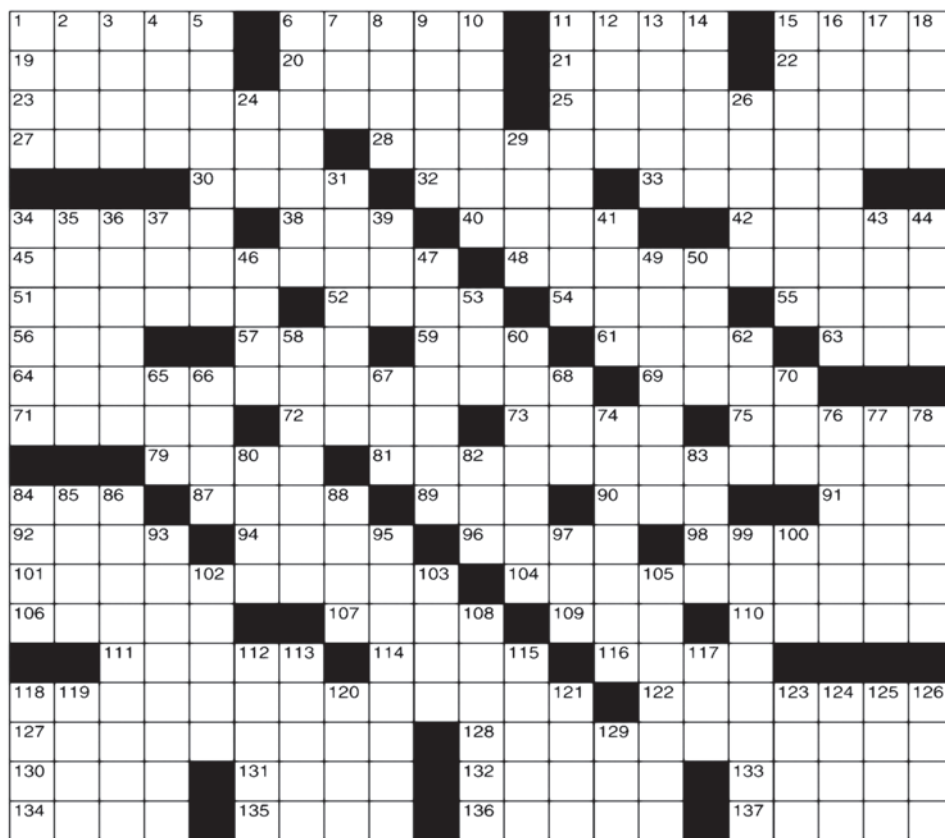
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Girl's bow is bigger. 2. Socks are different. 3. Teacher's dress has buttons. 4. Extra apple is on desk. 5. Blackboard is smaller. 6. Girl's left hand is shown.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Firing sound
  - 6 Frog sound
  - 11 Kerfuffles
  - 15 Soldiers of Seoul
  - 19 Old Aegean region
  - 20 Singer with the 2013 #1 hit "Royals"
  - 21 Typesetter's option
  - 22 Saber's kin
  - 23 Film that's both funny and gloomy
  - 25 Thin material used in painting and baking
  - 27 Bulls scores
  - 28 Putt-putt
  - 30 Yard sale proviso
  - 32 With 40-Across, classic grape drink
  - 33 Step inside
  - 34 "Mirage" actor Edward James —
  - 38 Boolean logic operator
  - 40 See 32-Across
  - 42 Opening bets
  - 45 Overhead air circulator
  - 48 Films, TV, hit songs, etc.
  - 51 Fancy snack
  - 52 — McAn
  - 54 See 50-Down
  - 55 Chilly powder
  - 56 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
  - 57 Clock setting in NYC
  - 59 "... man — mouse?"
  - 61 Sketched
  - 63 Priest follower?
  - 64 Homeland
  - 69 "— Brockovich"
  - 71 Cynic's look
  - 72 Sheep group
  - 73 — vu
  - 75 Metal debris
  - 79 Pianist Hines
  - 81 Alternative medical practices
  - 84 Rubble maker
  - 87 TVs "Better Call —"
  - 89 "— hoo!" ("Hello!")
  - 90 Equal: Prefix
  - 91 Subpar mark
  - 92 High cards
  - 94 FBI agent
  - 96 Bulky brass
  - 98 Michigan county or its seat
  - 101 Important biblical meal
  - 104 Clownish type
  - 106 Really bug
  - 107 Give and take
  - 109 — chi
  - 110 Sales talk
  - 111 Of Tehran
  - 114 Fish story
  - 116 Pulitzer winner
  - 118 Dictionary, e.g.
  - 122 Film theaters
  - 127 Ethiopia, formerly
  - 128 Playing card apt to this puzzle's theme (hint: see the ends of the longest answers)
  - 130 "That's — bad idea"
  - 131 One fibbing
  - 132 Barbecue chain, briefly
  - 133 Ruhr Valley's chief city
  - 134 Tie feature
  - 135 Many August babies
  - 136 Determined to carry out
  - 137 Sown things
- DOWN**
- 1 Lettuce variety
  - 2 Dancer
  - 3 Santa — (some winds)
  - 4 Ill
  - 5 Test the tea, say
  - 6 Shutting
  - 7 CD- —
  - 8 City NNW of Provo
  - 9 Also include
  - 10 Economist John Maynard —
  - 11 Scared by
  - 12 "Get busy!"
  - 13 Well-timed
  - 14 Rigid
  - 15 Mixtures for chemical analysis
  - 16 Well-timed
  - 17 Boat's spine
  - 18 Feudal peon
  - 24 Dollar or euro divs.
  - 26 Blossom bit
  - 29 Breakfast chain, briefly
  - 31 Unstiffened shoe part
  - 34 — razor ("keep it simple" principle)
  - 35 Tackle
  - 36 Part of rpm
  - 37 Suffix with boff
  - 39 Rally cry
  - 41 Imitated
  - 43 Winged god
  - 44 Makes a dress, e.g.
  - 46 At no time, to poets
  - 47 12 p.m.
  - 49 Quaker products
  - 50 With 54-Across, service charges
  - 53 "D.C. Cab" actor
  - 58 Slobby sort
  - 60 Difficult and tiring
  - 62 Far-reaching
  - 65 "— haw!"
  - 66 Epochs
  - 67 Java holder
  - 68 "— out!" (ump's call)
  - 70 Gun rights org.
  - 74 Relative of handball
  - 76 Nickname for Yale
  - 77 "Remington —"
  - 78 Singer Crow
  - 80 Sauce brand
  - 82 Kiddie
  - 83 Halo-worthy
  - 84 Fish story
  - 85 Univ. sports org.
  - 86 Serve as evidence of
  - 88 Racing units
  - 93 Eyes
  - 95 They begin on January 1
  - 97 Iota
  - 99 Failures to attend
  - 100 Domino dot
  - 102 Big names
  - 103 Broccoli — (salad green)
  - 105 "Honest Abe"
  - 108 Fork parts
  - 112 Sam of "Backtrack"
  - 113 Many a navel
  - 115 Bête — (pet peeve)
  - 117 Certain PC pic file
  - 118 Echelon
  - 119 Very dark, to poets
  - 120 "Gotta run!"
  - 121 Make a sweater, e.g.
  - 123 Additionally
  - 124 Think deeply and at length
  - 125 Under the covers
  - 126 IDs for the IRS
  - 129 "Xanadu" rock gp.

# FUN PAGES

**SEM CU**  
south east madera county united

# HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Reach water sustainability  
and help the community with needs  
such as parks, a community center,  
safety, traffic and schools.

## SEM CU Regular Meeting

Monday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

Help with SEM CU and you help our neighborhood  
where our kids grow up and where we plan to retire.  
Southeast Madera is our back yard, our home and the  
place we live. It doesn't take a lot of time,  
meeting only once a month for about an hour.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**