

# The Ranchos Independent



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CELEBRATING  
18 YEARS  
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 18 Issue 4 2022

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



*In This Issue*

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## Meet the Candidates

Election season is upon us all across California and the nation. But who are the people who are willing to become involved on the *other* side of our electoral process? They are lawyers and realtors and financial planners and teachers.

They are our neighbors. In a way, they are you and me. They are the embodiment of what the founding fathers intended when they created our system of governance. Not a democracy, but a representative republic where laws are

made by representatives chosen by “we the people” who must then comply with our written constitution -- specifically designed to protect the rights of the minority from the will of the majority.

The Ranchos Independent has

reached out to candidates who will impact our area of Southeast Madera County. These are their own words, telling you who they are and why you should vote for them when your ballot arrives in the mail around May 9.

### County Supervisor, District 1



**Michele Stephens**

I am a wife, mom and community volunteer who has built a successful business career. My husband of 27 years and I were blessed with three boys. One son is currently serving in the United States Navy and another is graduating from Liberty High School in June. We made the decision to move here because this is a great area to raise a family. Since then, I have been involved in youth sports, school activities, fundraisers and many community events.

My business experience with county departments and extensive knowledge of our limited resources -- such as water, roads and prime agriculture -- gives me a big advantage over my opponents. These sensitive areas are all in need of someone who cares and understands how important they are to our residents, businesses and farmers alike. Development and commercial growth are issues that affect all of us. The General Plan clearly states any development must be self-sustaining and not be a detriment to the surrounding area.

Of course, water is the main issue in District 1. Whether you're a farmer or resident, adequate water is imperative. Current water policies are forcing new practices on all of us, so we need to understand the parameters within which we have to work. I will share information as it comes through the county and state and together we will make growth

Please see **MICHELE** on P. 6



**Jordan Wamhoff**

My name is Jordan Wamhoff, I'm a career police officer and small business owner running for Madera County Supervisor in District 1. I believe Madera County deserves a leader with the experience and focus necessary to deliver on the biggest issues affecting our community.

Among my past assignments, I have served our region's children as a school resource officer, a particularly rewarding task strengthening ties with our community's future. For much of the past decade, I have also operated my own business in the solar and construction industry and employ nearly a dozen people here in the Central Valley.

Fifteen years ago, I chose to call Madera County as my home. The reason is simple: Madera County is a place where not only food but families are grown. Today, my wife and I proudly live in the Madera Ranchos and are raising our three children (ages 13, 11 and 6) who attend Golden Valley schools.

As your Supervisor, my vision is focused on strengthening Madera County, maintaining its status as a family-friendly community. I believe that we must embrace smart growth: ensuring Madera County families can reach the American Dream with affordable homes, paired with proper planning of our roads with an eye toward traffic safety. I will fight to keep our neighborhoods safe by equipping Madera

Please see **JORDAN** on P. 6



**Andy Wheeler**

My name is Andy Wheeler. As a 24-year resident of the Ranchos area, I have raised my kids here and seen the changes it has undergone. I have spent my career as a licensed financial advisor and I have also been a trustee for the Golden Valley Unified School board, serving the past two years as the president. As an elected official, Covid and the state mandates provided some significant challenges in the past two years. I fought to navigate these challenges keeping our community and our students in mind. This is a practice I will carry into the Supervisor seat

As a Supervisor, I believe that water, traffic, public safety and business development are key challenges and opportunities. As a current elected official, a businessman and financial advisor, I understand the importance of being responsible with taxpayer dollars, transparency and accountability.

I believe in the importance of communication and that starts by listening. Being accessible to my constituents is critical to my role as your representative on the Board of Supervisors. This is a practice I have followed my whole career and will continue as county Supervisor.

I have been grateful for the trust that has been placed in me to date and look forward to continue earning your support in the years to come.

I have the support of Madera County Firefighters/CalFire 2881,

Please see **ANDY** on P. 6

### Sheriff



**Tyson Pogue**

I am a proud, lifelong resident of Madera County and have proudly served at the Madera County Sheriff's Office since 2001. I systematically worked my way through the ranks of deputy, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, commander and undersheriff before ultimately being appointed the 16th Sheriff of Madera County nearly two years ago.

I graduated the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in June 2019. The National Academy Program offers 10 weeks of advanced, executive-level leadership training. Only 1 percent of law enforcement executives are given the honor of attending the National Academy.

I have dedicated my entire law enforcement career to the Madera County Sheriff's Office and serving the community. I have held supervisory roles (sergeant rank or higher) for the past 15 years with the last nine years being in command and executive staff (lieutenant rank or higher). Over the years, I have served as the Incident Commander during several major incidents, wildfires and disasters.

I am actively involved in the community where I volunteer my time in two service organizations and serve on two volunteer boards. I am an active member of the Madera Noontime Rotary Service Club as well as the Madera Evening Lions Club. I am the Chairper-

Please see **TYSON** on P. 9

# Meet the Candidates

(Meet the Candidates continues on P. 7)

## Sheriff



**Ruben Mendoza**

I formally filed my candidacy as Sheriff/Coroner for the June primary in support of my wife, Lynette Mendoza, retired Fire Captain, California Department of Corrections, and our two daughters, Kamryn and Korina Mendoza.

I was born in El Paso, Texas, attended grade school in El Paso but my parents, Salvador and Juana Mendoza decided to move the entire family, five brothers and four sisters to Los Angeles County where I completed my formal education. I hold an Associate in Science degree in Police Science from Rio Hondo College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Fullerton, and a Master's in Science degree in Human Resources Management from Chapman University. My father was a WWII veteran and my five brothers served in all five branches of the military, with at least two brothers who fought in Vietnam, and they all survived to live successful lives, like my four sisters.

I graduated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), worked for Glendora Police Department, California Department of Corrections as I worked my way toward a parole agent position, however I accepted a police officer position with Chowchilla Police Department and remained for 20 years to the day. Today, I am currently with Merced County Public Defender's Office and serve as a legal assistant in the realm of investigations, supervising and teaching new investigative assistants and working with attorneys.

Briefly, I have worked my way from patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant to command staff and

Please see **RUBEN** on P. 9

## U.S. Representative, District 13



**David Giglio**

I'm David Giglio, a history teacher and small business owner who lives in Madera. I am running for Congress because I believe it is time to elect a political outsider whose only loyalties are you — the people of the Valley.

For decades, the people of the Central Valley have been neglected. Water shortages, homelessness, crime and a decline in the quality of living have plagued the Valley for years, while the ruling class has thrived. While politicians in Sacramento and Washington enrich themselves, our needs and priorities have been forgotten.

This election, that all changes.

As a small business owner, I understand that wages are not keeping up with the rising cost of living. I understand the pain you are feeling from record inflation everywhere, from the grocery store to the gas pump. On the economy, I will fight to cut taxes for Valley families, advocate for small businesses and end wasteful government spending.

I also vow to ensure our nation is made secure and safe. I will stand with police and always ensure that policies passed will uphold law and order.

As a teacher, I know that parents desperately want and deserve a choice in their children's education. Unlocking access to quality education leads to greater equality in outcomes, for children from all walks of life.

In Congress, I will ensure farmers and communities receive the water they deserve by passing my comprehensive water solutions package.

I am blessed to have earned the endorsement from the Madera County Republican Party, Congressman Tom McClintock, Kevin Cookingham, the

Please see **DAVID** on P. 11



**Adam Gray**

What matters to Adam Gray is what matters to the people of the San Joaquin Valley – improved health care outcomes, public safety, educational excellence, creating prosperity through jobs and opportunity and securing the water that allows everyone and everything in the Valley to flourish.

Born and raised in Merced, Adam worked at the family's dairy supply to put himself through four years of college – including the first two at Merced Community College. After graduation, he worked in the State Legislature where one of his first fights was to eliminate the "Tractor Tax" on farm equipment.

Adam was teaching at UC Merced when voters in Merced and Stanislaus counties chose to send him to the Assembly, where they trusted him to offer more common sense and less politicking. Since his arrival in 2012, voters have seen him keep that promise; Adam has never lost an election.

In the Assembly, Adam helped create the California Problem Solvers Caucus to bring Democrats, Republicans and independents together to address our state's most critical issues from homelessness to the pandemic to drought.

Bucking his own party leaders, Adam led the fight against the State Water Grab by organizing the largest water rights rally ever as some 1,500 people – and a high school marching band – came to the Capitol to make their voices heard. Adam's efforts kept the state from ending 135 years of local control of water and crushing California's \$50 billion agriculture industry.

Adam also stood shoulder to shoulder with the Valley's Republican

Please see **ADAM** on P. 11



**Diego Martinez**

This is a formal introduction that I, Diego Martinez, will be running for Congress – District 13. I would be honored if the Madera Citizens would endorse me and contribute to my campaign.

I have owned my own bail bond business for six years. My main office is located in San Andreas. I am a long-time member of this community. I have a business and a residence in Merced as well. Most of all, I am PROUD to be an American and a strong Republican.

As a business owner and resident, I understand the needs of our district. I want to take the fight to Washington, DC, so the voices of the Central Valley can be heard.

We need to stop dumping water into our ocean. Our farmers should be the priority when it comes to water.

We need to stop the cash flow to other countries. We send millions of dollars to Iraq, Jordan, Syria and many other countries. The American people need a helping hand. Just think of our homeless. A large portion of our homeless are Veterans. Our Veterans served our Country with pride. Now, there is NO reason why they should be homeless.

We need solutions NOW!

We have the education, homeless, economy and job issues, etc. It's time we stand as a united voice who says, "America first!"

Who can reach across to the other side of the aisle and bring our district together while still retaining and putting into action our Republican beliefs and values? I believe I am that candidate.

Please see **DIEGO** on P. 11



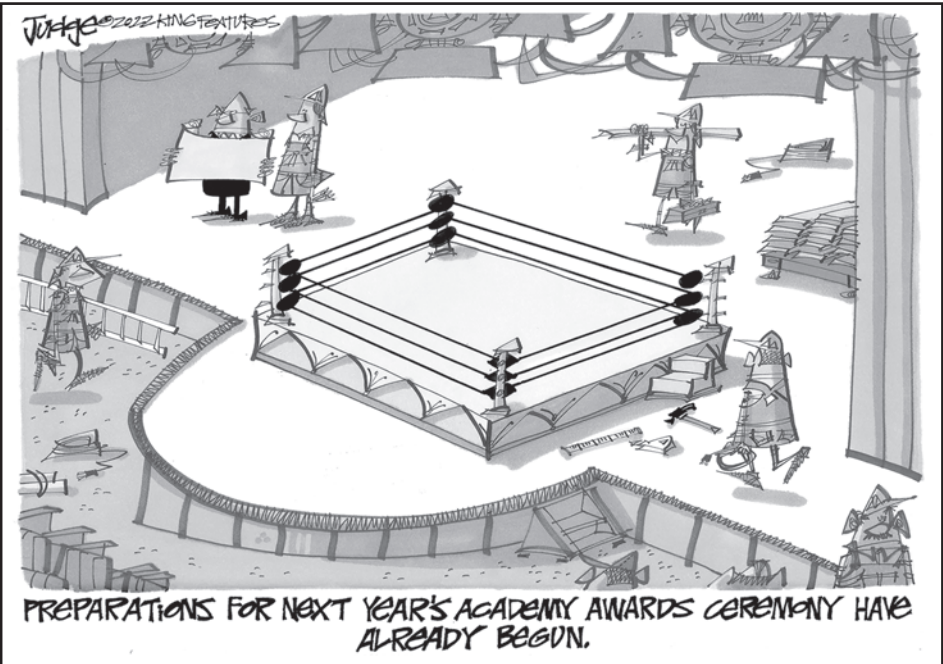
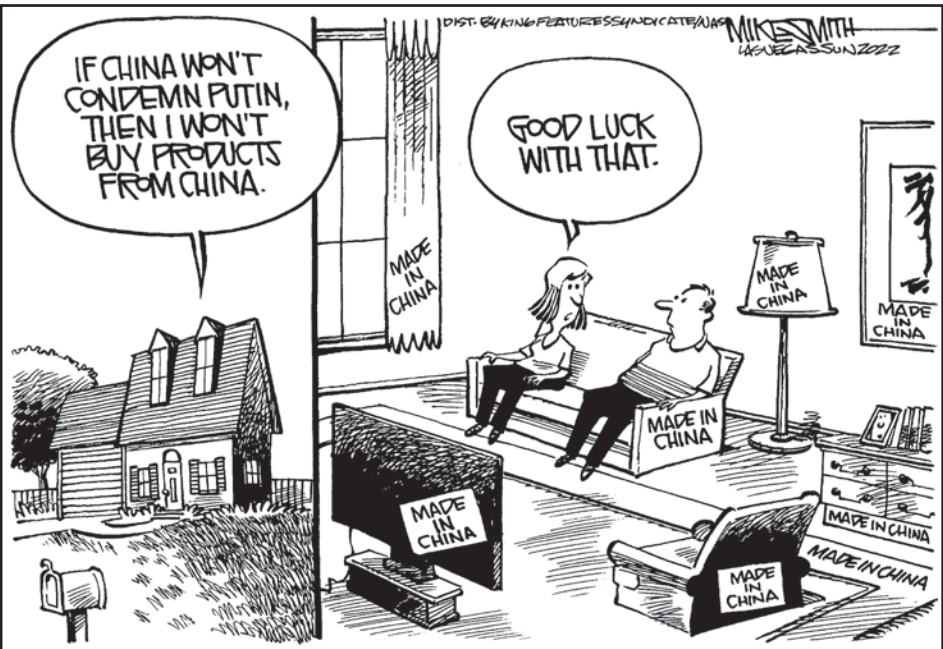
Guest Editorial

# It's the Inflation, Stupid

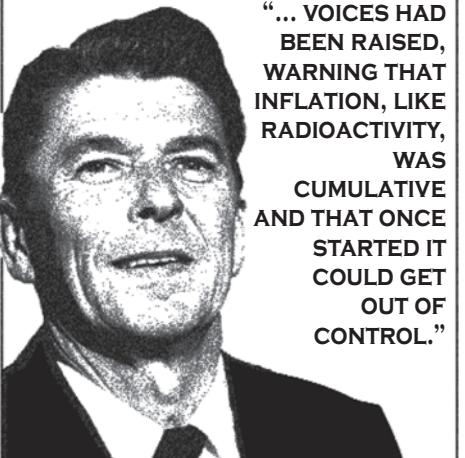
By Rich Lowry

Joe Biden is engaged in the most extensive test of whether an American president can survive elevated levels of inflation since Jimmy Carter, and it's not going well. The latest NBC News poll has Biden at a dismal 40 percent approval rating that, if it doesn't change, will end the careers of Democrats up and down the ballot in November's midterm elections. According to the poll, only a third of people approve of Biden's handling of the economy, a low that most presidents have needed a recession to hit. This number has sunk steadily -- along with Biden's overall standing -- from 52 percent in April of last year. Inflation, which increased 7.9 percent from February 2021 to February 2022, is top of mind for voters. In the survey, 35 percent of people said cost of living is the first or second most important issue to the country. Climate change, in contrast, is at 17 percent and the pandemic at 8 percent. Given the choice, 68 percent would rather see Biden make reducing inflation and improving the economy his top priority, not the war in Ukraine. Elevated inflation represents a trifecta of doom for incumbent presidents. Does it impact the lives of people in a discernible way that they will notice no matter

what the president says or the media covers? Yes. Does it cut the pay of workers unless there are steep increases in wages? Yes. Does it make the president seem powerless to control events? Yes. It was a common question in the media a while ago why people felt badly about a good economy? Paul Krugman's column last year headlined, "The Making of a Feel-Bad Boom." The question, though, was miscast. An economy where wages are effectively falling is not a good economy, at least it isn't going to be felt by most people as such. Even though wages grew by a robust 5.1 percent year-over-year this February, that wasn't enough to keep up with rising prices. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, real average hourly earnings declined 2.6 percent from February 2021-2022. During that 12-month period, the month-to-month change in real hourly wages was only positive in two months. This is presumably why the NBC poll found that 62 percent say that their family income is falling behind, 31 percent say that it is staying about even, and just 6 percent believe it is going up faster. Biden could combine the political talents of FDR and Reagan, the oratorical skills of Lincoln and JFK, and the common touch of Jackson and Truman, and this sense of falling away at the foundations of his presidency. Biden's default has been to reassure the public that inflation is only transitory, to place it in the context of global supply chain issues beyond the control of any one person, and to blame various malefactors, whether meat companies or Vladimir Putin, for surging prices. But the buck still stops with the president, even if the dollar has less purchasing power than it did a year ago. Biden hasn't resorted to anything as readily mockable as President Gerald Ford's "Whip Inflation Now," or WIN buttons in 1974, but is flailing around nearly as badly (inflation did, by the way, drop steeply from 1974 to 1976, but it took a recession to achieve this momentary gain). He's mostly trying to rebrand spending initiatives he already supported as steps toward curbing costs. Regardless, the Federal Reserve has a huge role and, so far, Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 26



**THE RAY GUN**  
SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"... VOICES HAD BEEN RAISED, WARNING THAT INFLATION, LIKE RADIOACTIVITY, WAS CUMULATIVE AND THAT ONCE STARTED IT COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL."

**RONALD REAGAN**  
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

# The Ranchos Independent

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# A SAFE MADERA COUNTY IS A STRONG MADERA COUNTY.

AS OUR SUPERVISOR, CAREER POLICE OFFICER JORDAN WAMHOFF WILL...



- ✓ GIVE OUR SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES THE TOOLS TO FIGHT THE RISE IN CRIME
- ✓ IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND STRENGTHEN FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES
- ✓ SECURE WATER RESOURCES TO PRESERVE MADERA COUNTY FARMS & COMMUNITIES
- ✓ FIGHT FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF KEY DECISIONS, NOT SURRENDER TO SACRAMENTO

**VOTE BY JUNE 7**



**JORDAN WAMHOFF**  
MADERA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

**VOTE BY JUNE 7**

**JORDANWAMHOFF.COM - CALL JORDAN AT (559) 305-2166**

PAID FOR BY WAMHOFF FOR SUPERVISOR



**MICHELE** cont. from P. 2  
decisions that will benefit our community as a whole.

Increased traffic and deteriorating roads are two other issues we deal with every day. We are at a point where the infrastructure does not support the current or incoming growth. Our main thoroughfares have become increasingly dangerous and accidents are a weekly issue, including fatalities. As your supervisor, I will demand that road improvement projects become a priority. I will work to ensure that our roads department prioritizes repairs. Our roads must be safe for our families and friends to travel each day.

Negotiations are part of my daily life and have prepared me for the role of repre-

senting you. As we head into an uncertain economy, I will analyze all budgets and make sure our precious tax monies are spent wisely. This is why the Taxpayers Association chose me to endorse.

We are the gem of Madera County and will continue to prosper if we are diligent. I have the experience and heart to work hard for us, and my passion is to protect our rural way of life. If you like what I've said, I would appreciate your vote.

**JORDAN** cont. from P. 2  
County Sheriff's deputies with the tools and resources they need to get the job done and to let them know that their hard work is appreciated.

I will also work to secure our county's

water supply, fight to ensure that the impact of SGMA is greatly mitigated for the growers who keep our economy growing and develop water banking strategies to strengthen our ability to grow communities in southern Madera County.

After the past two years of pandemic politics, we've learned the value of local control. As your Supervisor, I will be a staunch supporter of Madera County's ability to control how we develop and implement policies rather than defer to far-away bureaucrats in Sacramento.

I'm honored to have the backing of PORAC (Peace Officers Research Association of California) and CCLEA (California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations), representing over 150,000

police officers and sheriff's deputies across California, to serve as a voice of a safer, stronger Madera County on the Board of Supervisors.

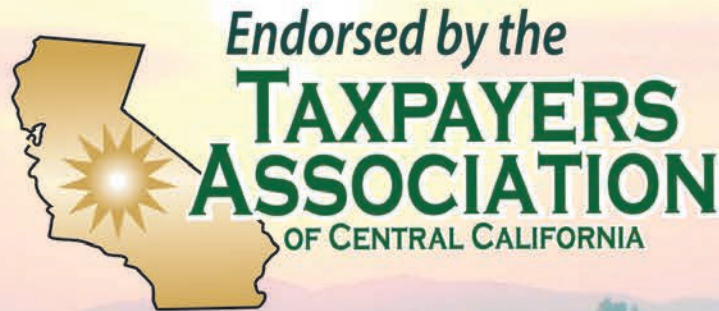
It's been a pleasure meeting residents from Madera Ranchos, Riverstone and Rolling Hills. If you have questions about my candidacy or want to get to know me better, don't hesitate to call me at 559-305-2166 or email me at jordanwamhoff@gmail.com. Election Day is Tuesday, June 7. I humbly ask for your vote.

**ANDY** cont. from P. 2  
Madera Police Officers Association, Supervisors Brett Frazier, Leticia Gonzalez,

Please see **ANDY** on P. 9

# Michele Stephens

Experience is the difference!



4/22



My Priorities:



for Supervisor 1

Click on "Local News" at



## Meet the Candidates

### Assessor



**Brett Frazier**

I have had the distinct honor to serve our community as a Madera County Supervisor for the last eight years and Madera City Councilmember for four years. Over these last 12 years I learned firsthand how important accurate and timely information is from our Assessor's office. As your County Assessor I will make sure Madera County and the Cities of Madera and Chowchilla have this important data to be able to serve your needs.

As a local business owner for the last 16 years, I know what an accurate and fair assessment means to be able to hire employees and keep a business running. As your Madera County Assessor, I will ensure that all assessments to your home, business and farm are fair and accurate through a transparent process with the public. I am a lifelong resident of Madera County and believe deeply in our community. I am committed to public service and will continue to ensure we have an accessible and responsive government. I will always work to serve my fellow citizens and residents.

I would be honored to earn your vote on June 7, 2022.

[www.frazier4madera.com](http://www.frazier4madera.com)

**VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE**



**Jorge Torres**

Hello. My name is Jorge Torres. I am not a career politician. I am the only candidate that is actually a certified, licensed real property tax appraiser.

Are you paying too much in property taxes? Are you getting the homeowner's tax exemption you are entitled to? Many residents with inaccurate assessments overpay property taxes when they don't have to.

Experience with your property assessment matters. I currently work full-time in the Madera County Assessor's Office. In my current position, I review and determine the fair and equitable value of your property - up or down as required by state law. I have almost nine years of experience in this, my chosen field.

I worked my way through Fresno State and have a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. After college, I had the opportunity to work as the finance manager for a non-profit facility for at-risk youth. I was in charge of payroll, accounts payable and receivables, along with the medical billing to three different counties, and produced financial statements for the company. My wife and I live in Madera and have two beautiful boys, ages 2 and 6.

I was also a certified property appraiser for the State of California Board of Equalization and have performed many on-site reviews of property value assessments in multiple counties, including Madera County.

If elected your county Assessor my focus will be to improve information to help residents to understand their property assessments through public workshops and online video tutorials. Property assessments are more than putting a value on a property. An informed

Please see **JORGE** on P. 11

### Superior Court Judge, Office 1



**Katherine Rigby**

I decided to run for Madera County Superior Court Judge after serious consideration and encouragement from members of the legal community here in Madera. Madera is my hometown. This is the community that raised me. I grew up in Madera schools. I grew up active in the community and remain so today.

I am very appreciative to have the endorsement of several Judges from Madera County and Fresno County, Madera DA Sally Moreno, Madera Police Chief Lawson, Chowchilla Police Chief Riviere, Retired Sheriff Varney, Madera Police Officer's Association, Madera Deputy Sheriff's Association, Chowchilla Police Officer's Association, the entire Madera County Board of Supervisors, City Councilmember Artemio Villegas, Fresno DA Lisa Smittcamp and so many other leaders and vital members of our community. It is humbling.

I have legal experience right here in Madera representing hundreds of children who were abused and neglected. I have done criminal defense and civil litigation. During my time in civil litigation, while I worked on a variety of cases, I handled mostly business, agriculture and real estate issues. This allowed me to appear in courts up and down the state, both state and federal. This gave me experience in a variety of courtrooms, with a variety of judicial styles and temperaments. My time with the Governor's Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Food and Agriculture and my MBA came in handy. For the past several years I have been a prosecutor - prosecuting hundreds of felonies. Just in the past two months I have successfully tried three

Please see **KATHERINE** on P. 13



**Alaina Ybarra**

Alaina is a native Maderan who graduated from Madera High School in 1997. After High School, she joined the U.S. Air Force where she honorably served overseas during 9/11 and the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. While serving overseas, she earned numerous accolades and decorations, including Airman of the Year. Alaina also achieved all of her ranks ahead of her peers, all while completing college, earning a BA in Criminal Justice.

In 2005, Alaina honorably discharged from the military at the rank of Staff Sergeant, in pursuit of attending law school. She then attended the University of San Diego School of Law and received her Juris Doctor in 2009. While attending law school, Alaina worked for the law firm of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, the San Diego City Attorney's Office, and the San Diego District Attorney's Office (SDDA). From 2009 to 2011, Alaina worked as a prosecutor for the SDDA's office prosecuting major narcotics and general felonies.

In 2011, Alaina returned home to the valley and became a Deputy District Attorney in the Fresno County District Attorney's Office until 2012. Since 2012, Alaina has been in private practice, servicing Madera residents in the areas of civil litigation (such as business law, property, collections), family law, probate, and criminal defense. Currently, Alaina is a small business owner who runs her own law office.

As a practicing attorney representing several businesses and individuals in Madera County, Alaina has a strong understanding of the court process in Madera. Alaina is well re-

Please see **ALAINA** on P. 13

## Mama's Recipe Cards

(April 2012)

**Editor's Note:** With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.

I spent a recent rainy Saturday going through my Mom's recipe cards. Wow, what a day. The box that she kept the 3 x 5 cards in is metal and three inches deep, holding 119 cards; then there are 161 cards wrapped in rubber bands that won't fit in the box. Of those 280 cards, there are a few duplicates, a couple from my Aunt Gladys, three written in my sister Faye's handwriting, eight in mine and 10 in someone else's handwriting. Some cards had newspaper clippings and recipes from boxes and the balance in Mama's handwriting. That means over the years she wrote about 225 recipe cards.

When I began sorting the cards, I thought for sure there would be more cake recipe cards but I was wrong. There are 62 cookies cards and only 60 cake cards.

While I was going through the cards I was wondering where these cards would end up after I'm gone. It was sad to think that mama put so much time and love into them for them to end up in a dumpster somewhere. People just don't cook this way anymore. Everything from entrées to desserts can be bought in the frozen food case at the grocery store. Bring it home, toss it in the oven for whatever time designated and you have dinner and dessert. Oh, I understand we just don't have the time anymore to cook like we used to. And with all the cooking programs on television today, why bother to put it on a card – to maybe never be used again?

Going through these cards brought back so many memories. I remember so vividly where this box sat in the kitchen cupboard. Every once in a while she would get the box out and look for a special



recipe. There was my Aunt's Per-simmon Cookies and her Lazy Dazy Cake, and there were Grandma Briner's three candies she made at Christmas as gifts for her friends. The zucchini casserole that was a side dish for a lot of meals and is continued today by my sister Maxine. The banana cake Mama would make every year for my little brother George's birthday, or my dad's favorite pineapple pie.

You can tell by the looks of the cards whether or not they were used very much. Some look like they have been used hundreds of times, while others may not have been used at all.

One that I remember being used quite often (and the card looks it) was my brother George's favorite. When he (yes, HE) made brownies or cookies, he wouldn't cook them as long as the recipe called for because he wanted them gooey.

### Hershey Brownies

Preheat oven 350 degrees

#### Cream together:

1 Cube margarine  
1 C white sugar

#### Add:

4 beaten eggs  
1 Can Hershey Chocolate Syrup  
1 C sifted all-purpose flour  
¼ tsp. Baking soda

#### Add:

1 tsp. Vanilla  
¾ C chopped nuts (optional)  
Bake in greased 10 x 13 pan for about 30 minutes.

### Frosting for Brownies

Mix in pan:

3 T margarine  
3 T milk  
¾ C sugar

Boil 30 seconds at full boil.

Take off heat and add ¼ C chocolate chips. Beat and spread on cooled brownies.

A recipe I remember well, and still see at Pot Luck dinners, is a Jell-O salad. There were four cards for it and each from someone different, including a cousin that we visited in Tennessee years ago.

### Extra Special Salad

#### Step one:

1 large box (or 2 small ones)  
Lime Jell-O

1 #2 Can crushed pineapple (well drained – reserving juice)

¼ C Chopped nuts

Prepare Jell-O per package directions, adding pineapple and nuts. Pour into glass baking dish and let set.

#### Step two:

1 8 oz. package Cream Cheese, softened

1 Container Cool Whip

Beat cream cheese and fold in cool whip. Spread on top of set Jell-O.

#### Step three:

1 C of the reserved pineapple juice

1 tsp Lemon juice

2 T flour

¾ C Sugar

2 beaten eggs

In pan, mix together the flour and sugar, then add remaining ingredients mixing well. Cook over medium heat until thick, stirring constantly. Be careful as this mixture burns easily. When cool, spread on top of cool whip layer and spread top with chopped nuts.

I'm not by myself when I say my Mom was the best cook around. While she was the manager of the Chowchilla High School cafeteria, she received a plaque from the F.F.A. boys designating her as the BEST COOK, a plaque from the football team thanking her for all the meals she cooked for them prior to the football games and she had a yearbook dedicated to her!

Proud? You betcha!



**ANDY** cont. from P. 6 —————  
Rob Poythress, Dave Rogers and Tom Wheeler (no relation), County Treasurer Tracy Kennedy, Trustee Steven Lewis and many others.

I respectfully request that you vote for me as your next Supervisor. For more information please visit my website at [wheeler4supervisor.com](http://wheeler4supervisor.com).

**TYSON** cont. from P. 2 —————  
son for the California Peace Officer Association Region V Board and the 15-member Community Action Partnership of Madera County Board of Directors.

We have had many successes and accomplishments that I am very proud of over the past couple years. To name a few:

- I led our agency through California's largest and fastest moving wildfire of its time. Despite widespread evacuations, there wasn't a single casualty nor any report of looting or theft. I provided interviews to BBC International, CNN and many other news agencies while working diligently to keep the local community informed.

- We successfully merged the Sheriff's Office and Department of Corrections after 44 years of separation.

- We opened a substation in the Madera Ranchos.

- We implemented an online CCW process to make the application and recertification process for requesting concealed weapons permits more streamlined and efficient.

Though we have accomplished a lot, we still have several projects in the works. Our primary goal will be to bolster staffing and equipment to serve the citizens of this great county. Utilizing grant funding we plan to establish an ag and rural crimes task force.

I am endorsed by the Deputy Sheriff's Association, 42 of California's current Sheriffs, every living retired Madera Sheriff, seven police chiefs, the Madera District Attorney, the entire Madera County Board of Supervisors, the Madera Police Officers Association, the Chowchilla Police Officers Association, the Peace Officers Research Association of California, the California Fish & Game Warden Supervisors and Managers Association, as well as several community members and law en-

forcement managers.

I commit to you that as your sheriff, I will continue to focus on public safety by being efficient and innovative, and by protecting your constitutional rights. I would be honored to have your vote in June to continue serving this great county as your Sheriff-Coroner.

**RUBEN** cont. from P. 3 —————

done much of everything in-between as a leader, manager and supervisor. Along the lines of my career, my responsibilities engaged me in investigations for nine years, a field training officer, a background investi-

Please see **RUBEN** on P. 11

# ANDY

# WHEELER



## Madera County SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1

**Paid for by Andy Wheeler for Supervisor 2022 FPPC #1444090**



## Ukraine Family “Safe Now” Thanks to Ranchos Family



A series of events led Ranchos resident Travis Hart, left, to successfully bring 14-year-old Bohdan and his mother Tetiana to the United States from war-torn Ukraine. They are refraining from using their last name out of fear for loved ones in Ukraine.

By Nathalie Vera

Tetiana was going home from work and could feel it might be the last peaceful night in Chernihiv, Ukraine. She looked at the cold, late February sky and had a feeling.

She was right.

“It happened within minutes. Nearby, we heard a huge explosion and it felt like a cookie house crumbling down,” she shares in Ukrainian.

Her daughter, 26-year-old Yana, sits next to her and interprets. The family is reunited in the Madera Ranchos now, at the same place Yana called home during her year as a foreign exchange student with the Harts in 2012. She moved to the U.S permanently in 2015, graduating from Fresno State in 2020.

“My American family was a chance to start a new life,” Yana said.

Now it’s the start of a new life for Tetiana and Yana’s 14-year-old brother, Bohdan. They asked to omit their last name because they fear for their loved ones back home.

“We’re extremely grateful for everybody who welcomed us with open arms. We crossed so many borders,” Tetiana said.

The Chernihiv natives are two of hundreds of Ukrainians arriving at the

U.S-Mexico border after the Biden Administration committed to accepting as many as 100,000 refugees last month. Yana’s American dad, as she calls Travis Hart, picked up the family from Mexico City last Saturday.

“They’re so happy to be here and not have only one pair of pants,” Travis Hart said.

Tetiana says she remembers packing in a hurry when the Russian invasion began nearly two months ago. It was like she was 10 years old again, evacuating. After the nuclear accident in Chernobyl, they’d told her family they could return in two days.

She never did.

“We forgot, back then, to grab our family pictures – so this time, I knew,” she said.

She says they took refuge in a family home in a nearby village, where they didn’t have power or internet for 25 days of Russian occupation. She says they couldn’t make any calls.

“They had special devices to track the phone calls. We had 30 seconds if we wanted to make any call. Sometimes they would come drunk and they would shoot at our feet.”

One of the first days hiding in their basement, they heard Russian

Please see **UKRAINE** on P. 12

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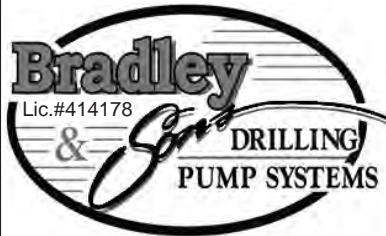


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**RUBEN** cont. from P. 9

gator, internal affairs investigator, range master – advanced in firearms, shotguns and rifles, and task forces to apprehend fugitives. Moreover, I was the department armor, defensive tactics instructor, asp/baton instructor, research and review of policies, and intern college coordinator, among other areas of responsibility. I was appointed as the hotline staff employee risk management authority by the City Administrator and served for nine years as the Liaison Officer for Madera County District Attorney. I also served in multiple county-wide committees throughout my career. I have 1,700 plus hours of training in leadership, management, supervision, etc., taught by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Peace Officers Standards and Training, and several universities or programs that have facilitated a well-rounded and variety of versatile experiences throughout my career.

I have received “Officer of the Year” three times, “Employee of the Year” once, “Quarterly Employee” once and have received many commendations in lifesavings or service recognitions throughout my career from Los Angeles County Probation Department, Glendora Police Department, California Department of Corrections and Chowchilla Police Department. I’ve routinely represented the City of Chowchilla and the Chief of Police in committee meetings and or city functions throughout my employment with Chowchilla Police Department.

For City of Madera, I served six and a half years as the Chairperson, Civil Service Commission, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. In 2016, I ran for Madera Unified School Board, now currently in my second term. As the Board president, specifically these past two years, I had been challenged in my Leadership role as the head of the Board of Education during the pandemic, and the impact it had on 20,000 students and with less than 3,000 employees. The challenges were great, unique, but necessary to make decisions to survive the pandemic.

I currently serve on MUSD committees, Budget and Finance, Citizens Bond Oversight, District Career Technical Education, Facilities, Site Selection, Safety Advisory, and I am currently the President for Madera County School Board Association.

In closing, I will continue to be engaged in committees and commissions as I have throughout my career.

**DAVID** cont. from P. 3

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association PAC as well as the Central Valley Taxpayers Association.

To learn more, please visit my website at [www.DavidForTheValley.com](http://www.DavidForTheValley.com).

**ADAM** cont. from P. 3

and Democratic lawmakers to deliver nearly \$3 billion for new water storage, \$200 million to repair aging canals and \$60 million to bolster groundwater basins.

To address the Valley’s deadly shortage of doctors, Adam secured more than \$210 million to turn the dream of a medical school at UC Merced into a construction project opening in 2023. Legislation Adam wrote doubled the operating hours of rural healthcare clinics so working families wouldn’t be kept from receiving care.

When Merced County had the state’s highest murder rate, Adam secured \$4.5 million to fight gang violence, resulting in the arrest of some 50 gang leaders. The county’s murder rate fell by 50 percent in the first year and 90 percent over three.

Adam has written legislation to crack down on catalytic converter theft and organized theft rings. He has consistently voted against prematurely releasing prisoners who remain a danger to our communities.

When budget cuts jeopardized California’s County Fairs, Adam’s legislation ensured they could continue. Adam got \$400 million to extend commuter train into Modesto and Merced, providing a cleaner option over the Altamont.

Last year, he secured \$60 million to map the Valley’s groundwater and has supported one of the state’s most important river and habitat restoration projects – Dos Rios Ranch – in his district.

Adam’s record of supporting the Valley he loves and where he lives is unparalleled. Now, Adam is carrying his fight for the Valley to Congress, where he hopes to represent Merced County and portions of Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno and San Joaquin.

**DIEGO** cont. from P. 3

I would appreciate your endorsement and support. More importantly, your donation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact my office at 559-707-0756 or send me an e-mail.

Please JOIN ME in taking back Congressional District #13.

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

**JORGE** cont. from P. 7

resident is an empowered resident.

The position of Assessor should not be a popularity contest. This is an essential, independent position within the County of Madera, and qualifications matter! I will work full-time for the residents of Madera.

Your vote is not only an investment in me but for transparency, representation, and

Please see **JORGE** on P. 13



UKRAINE cont. from P. 10

soldiers upstairs.

“And we heard them saying, ‘I don’t know, if you’re unsure just throw a grenade in there.’ And that’s when we ran out and started talking that there are females in here, that there are children in here.”

For weeks, Tetiana said they survived mostly off bread and potatoes.

“Even when the bread started getting moldy, we had to cut off the edges.”

Finally, their chance at survival came in late March.

“We heard the shootings back and forth and then suddenly it got a little quieter and we heard upstairs Ukrainian speech asking, ‘Everybody alive? Anybody here? You have 10 minutes. You gotta’ get out!’”

When the family was finally able to escape to Poland, Yana turned to her American parents for help.

“Maxed out credit cards, did whatever we had to do, but they had to be here,” Hart said. “Once we saw them, it was definitely a flood of emotions – happiness, sadness.”

“As soon as I saw Travis’ face, I knew that we are safe now,” Tetiana shares.

They’re now staying with the Harts. Yana’s dad had to stay behind to fight for his country.

“I do not have any idea if I’m going to talk to [him] tomorrow,” Yana said. “My heart goes to everybody who’s still in Ukraine.”

“You feel happy but almost guilty that they all couldn’t be here, you know?” Hart said.

Yana’s family has launched a fundraising campaign for relocation support. To help, you can visit [www.indiegogo.com/projects/relocation-from-ukraine-for-bohdan-and-tetiana#/](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/relocation-from-ukraine-for-bohdan-and-tetiana#/)

*This article appears with permission from KSEE/KGPE.*



*Now safely out of Ukraine, the family breathes easier at a stopover in Mexico on their way to the Madera Ranchos. Yana, left, was a foreign exchange student with the Hart family during her high school years.*

## Sierra Shadows 4H Club

By Sarah Morgan

The Madera County 4-H Large Animal Expo was March 20 at the Madera Fairgrounds. At the Expo, members took tests to improve their knowledge on their animals. For all animals, members had to identify feed, tools and injections. Members also showed proper animal handling.

The members that did cows were

Wyatt Morgan, who won a certificate, and Jake Poore who won a medal. The student that did sheep was Colie Tickel, who won a medal. The students that did goats were Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith and Annelise Crandal, who all won medals. Cheyenne Barrientos was awarded a certificate. The members that did swine were



Micah Lee, who won a certificate, and Lucy Lee, Kaden Tickel and Landon Davis who all won medals. The swine members also did feed identification, animal parts identification and tool identification and showing a pig. The goat and sheep members did feed and tool identification, showing a goat and a sheep, then placed the goats and sheep from first to last place.

Everyone involved learned something new and had a lot of fun.

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

### Golden Valley Chamber

## 2022 Flatlanders Day Entry

Parade Day: Saturday, May 21, 2022 • \$20 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp!

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

Parade route: Ave. 12 from Trieste to Fernwood

*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 13** to: Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

The Flatlanders Day Parade is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**Time is RUNNING OUT to vote for HONORARY MAYOR**

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Honorary Mayor election ends on MAY 4! There’s still time to stuff the ballot box.

Votes are \$1 each and all the money raised goes to charity.

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**Verlaine Elinburg/SEMCU • Alec Konkle/LHS Band**  
**Sally Rowden/KIWANIS**

You can vote all over town or at the Chamber office at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. **Call 645-4001 for more information.**

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month. Join us on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos.



**JORGE** cont. from P. 11  
 accurate assessments for all.

I will also work to educate residents on the many different, beneficial property tax propositions that have recently passed in California. Wouldn't you want an Assessor that is an experienced, certified Appraiser versus someone with no property appraisal experience and who is not certified or licensed?

I already know this job and enjoy working with property owners. I would love to meet with you to discuss any concerns and answer any questions you may have. I am running a grassroots campaign. My website and contact info are below if you'd like to help or con-

tribute. Thank you for your time and for your vote! torres4assessor@gmail.com www.torres4assessor.com

**KATHERINE** cont. from P. 7  
 felony cases to guilty verdicts.

As a prosecutor our job is not simply to get a conviction. We aim every day to seek justice. We strive for public safety. If that means a prison sentence or a program, so be it. Not every case is the same. Every case needs not just a prosecutor's thought, attention and discretion, but a Judge's as well.

We hear people talking about cases. We aren't talking about cases, but about human beings. We are talking about

victims, the law enforcement officers, their families, the businesses, the defendants, the communities impacted every day by crime.

Judges must decide cases fairly and impartially, free of influence or intimidation. Regardless of their own personal views, they must follow the law - which includes the Constitutions of the United States and the State of California. It is not a Judge's job to twist the law to fit any one parties' needs or to make the legislative branches' job any easier, it is to apply the facts to the law and uphold the Constitution. As an attorney, I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution; as a prosecutor I swore an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. As a Judge I intend

to do the same.

Thank you and I appreciate your vote on June 7th.

**ALAINA** cont. from P. 7

spected by the judges in Madera and Fresno Counties, as well as her colleagues in the legal field. As a military veteran and former prosecutor, Alaina supports all law enforcement agencies. As a judge, Alaina will apply the law as it is written, upholding the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of California for the People, free from undue influences.

Vote for Alaina - The Right Experience, The Right Choice.



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**Katherine**

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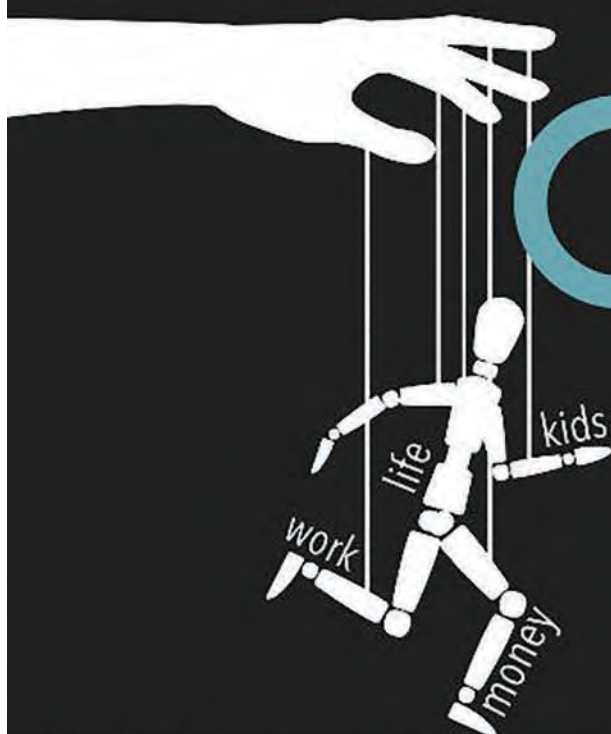
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JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL 2ND SERVICE

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FROM BIRTH - 6TH GRADE



## My Mom ... Leatherface

With that special day right around the corner, most people are trying to figure out what to get their moms for Mother's Day. Even though mine has been gone for more than five years, I still buy her a card every year and write her a letter. I do the same at Christmas. It's my way of catching her up on my life since she left. Most believers would tell me she already knows because she's watching me from Heaven. I understand where they're coming from, but mostly I hope she's so full of joy with Jesus that she doesn't have time to worry about me. After all, I'd like to think that of all the feelings we might experience in the presence of our Lord, worry isn't one of them. Besides, writing to her helps me to feel connected to her and the relationship we had.

Don't worry, I'm not going to share this year's letter. It's just stuff only a mother would find interesting, anyway. Instead, I'm going to tell you two of my favorite mom stories. They aren't necessarily related to Mother's Day beyond being about my mother, but they still make me smile all these years later.

I call this first story, "The Tale of the Ice Cream Stain." Quick background, my mom owned a karaoke business in the mid-nineties with her best friend. This was long before the digital age made it possible for anyone with an internet connection and a microphone to try out for a Grammy. She and her business partner had several contracts and worked a few nights a week. One night I was left alone because my dad joined her for the show. They had faith I wouldn't burn the house down. I didn't. I did, however, decide to eat a bowl of ice cream in my parents' bed. If you're ahead of me, yes, I spilled some. I don't remember if I didn't clean it up well, or if I didn't clean it up at all (my money's on the latter), but there was a small but noticeable spot on the sheets. Now, this would not normally be a big deal, but the next day I saw her showing the sheets to both my dad and her best friend. Evi-

**GEN  
ERA  
TION  
WHY**  
by *eryn b. nyre*



dently, she'd fallen the night before while packing up the van and hurt herself and no one took her seriously. So, there she was, standing in the living room, pointing to the small ice cream stain that she had mistaken for some dried blood in an attempt to convince them that she really had hurt herself the night before and the sheets were proof. I decided that was not the right time to confess, though I did many years later. She was not amused.

The second, and my favorite story is called, "The Hockey Mask and the Chain Saw." Now, before I tell this story, you are going to have trouble believing it, and in this day and age there is no way on earth this could possibly happen. However, I want to make it clear that this happened in a small town in rural New Mexico way back in 1993. I have witnesses. On with the story. I was in middle school, and not allowed to date yet. Nevertheless, I liked a boy and we decided to go steady, or whatever we kids were calling it back then. Normally that just meant wandering around school holding hands, but we managed to put together an ingenious plot to have an actual date. We each got a group of friends together and met at the only movie theater in town. We grabbed a middle row and sat next to each other with our friends flanking us. My first mistake was thinking I was clever. My second mistake was choosing a middle row rather than a back row. My third mistake was forgetting that it was a small town and we all knew each other. Needless to say, I was seen and my parents were informed. My mom demanded to meet him, so the next

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 26

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## Hurricanes & Hoarding

Merriam-Webster lists two definitions for the word devastate:

1. To bring to ruin or desolation by violent action;
2. To reduce to chaos, disorder or helplessness.

Hurricanes and hoarding devastate in those terms, in that respective order. In several ways they are the same, yet different.

### Similarities:

- Neither is respective of socio-economic status, education, race, ethnicities, cultures or political views.
- The devastation to a home hit by a hurricane can render it unsafe for habitation. Areas in a home (kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms) reduced to chaos by hoarding can lead to health and safety issues.
- Both parties experience pain when it comes to losing treasured belongings.
- Homeowners hit by a hurricane and those affected by hoard-

ing are rarely able to rebuild or regain control without a supportive team.

- Structural changes may be required in rebuilding after a hurricane to ensure future stability. Behavioral changes are required to promote lasting change in hoarding environments.

### Differences:

- The destruction of hurricane force instantly creates piles of rubble. Hoarding takes place over a period of time, creating what appears to be piles of rubbish.
- A hurricane victim looks desperately for help to fix the situation. A person who hoards is often resistant to help and may not acknowledge there's a problem at all.
- One of the most unfortunate differences is the response of those around them. The hurricane victim is surrounded by compassionate support. For many who hoard, the response they encounter is disgust, judgement and criticism.

Understanding more about hoarding disorder can benefit those dealing with it, especially in the lives of friends and family. Few people with hoarding disorder reach out for help. Many are fairly comfortable with their situation. They find satisfaction in the process of bringing more into their homes, even when it begins to encroach upon living spaces and render stoves, tubs, halls and rooms unusable. The distress comes when required to remove objects.

Difficulty discarding a piece of string or even a used paper plate can equal that of letting go of a

sentimental gift from a loved one. Without recognizing that aspect, it's easy for loved ones to misinterpret reluctance as laziness or being unappreciative of an offer to help "take out the trash."

David Dudley, in *Conquering Clutter* Jan/Feb 2007, said of working with his dad, "What I didn't understand until it was much too late was that the objects going out the door were not objects at all. Often the items that had been used the least were the hardest to throw out, symbolizing not fond memory, but never-tapped potential. They were, as my father said while I hauled off a nearly new portable gas grill, 'artifacts of unused life.'"

People who hoard have a creative gift of seeing potential in everything they collect. Arguing with him about keeping something that appears of no value to you can solidify his commitment to keeping it, as he makes his case.

The conflict between a person who hoards and the one concerned for his health and safety can be devastating to the relationship. For the latter, creating change by force or threatening a call to the authorities has potential for ending the relationship.

Approach with an attitude of compassion and understanding. *Digging Out - Helping Your Loved One Manage Clutter, Hoarding, & Compulsive Acquiring*, by Michael A. Tompkins, Ph.D. and Tamara L. Hartl, Ph. D. provides steps for gradual and lasting change. Not saying it's easy by any means, but

it's a good resource.

If you think you may be dealing with compulsive hoarding yourself, there is hope. As with any change, the reason to change must outweigh the reason for not changing. Start with a serious look at your values and whether or not your home is supporting what is most important to you.

A helpful resource for creating personal change is *Buried in Treasures—Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving, and Hoarding*, by David F. Tolin, Ph.D., Randy O. Frost Ph.D., and Gail Steketee Ph.D. The authors also recommend Cognitive Behavioral Therapy provided by a Mental Health Specialist. Some also find treating comorbidities such as depression, inattention or anxiety helpful.

Clutter does not equal hoarding disorder. Many of the people I work with have clutter, but a very small percentage have hoarding disorder. For clarification on the difference between hoarding disorder and other clutter issues check out the International OCD Foundation website at [hoarding.iocdf.org/about-hoarding/is-it-hoarding-clutter-collecting-or-squalor/](http://hoarding.iocdf.org/about-hoarding/is-it-hoarding-clutter-collecting-or-squalor/).

We don't yet have ways to prevent hurricanes or cure hoarding disorder, but coming alongside people in need can create positive change.

Contact *Organized by Choice* at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can visit [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) when you go online.



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## Get Your “Clean Green” Rebate On Your New Yard Equipment

Clean Green Yard Machines - Get yours today! Big rebates are available from the Valley Air District when you purchase zero-emission electric lawn care equipment. Valley residents are encouraged to help improve air quality and quality of life by replacing gas-powered yard care equipment with zero-emission, electric alternatives through the Valley Air District's Clean Green Yard Machines: Residential Program.

Clean Green Yard Machines continues to grow, with funding widely available to help Valley residents go electric and save money when trading in their old gas mowers for a clean electric mower. In addition, the program now offers rebates for purchasing various residential electric yard care tools instead of their gas-powered counterparts, reducing air pollution in neighborhoods across the Valley and saving Valley residents money at a time with gasoline prices are at all-time highs.

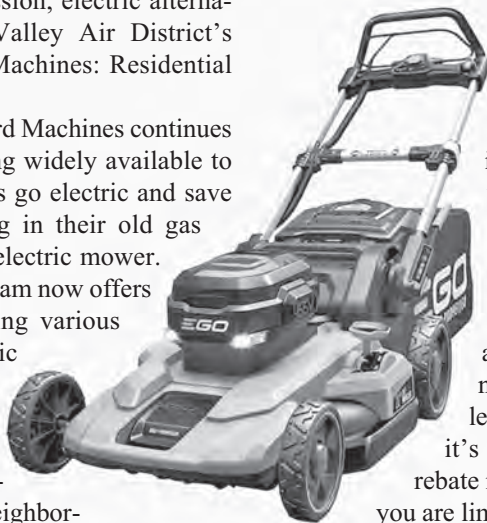
Participants receive up to \$250 when trading in a gas mower in favor of electric equipment, and up to \$50 when making a direct purchase (no trade-in) of electric mowers and other electric yard care equipment such as edgers, trimmers, chainsaws

and pole saws.

There are two option plans. Plan one is if you trade in an old lawn mower to be destroyed. It gives you a rebate of up to \$100 on new equipment costing \$200 or less. On equipment costing between \$201 and \$350 you can get a rebate up to \$150, and on equipment costing over \$350, the rebate is up to \$250.

The second plan is if you're buying new equipment with no trade in. The rebates are only available on lawn mowers, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws and pole saws. If the new item is \$100 or less, the rebate is \$25. If it's more than \$100, the rebate is \$50. In Option One, you are limited to one rebate per address every two years. In Option Two, you're limited to one rebate per equipment type each year. In both cases you will be responsible for 50 percent of the purchase price regardless of how good a deal you get.

For more information contact the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District at 559-230-6000.



## Caltrans Awards County \$450K

Madera County has announced that Caltrans has awarded it a “Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award” in the amount of \$450,000. The award will be used to develop a plan to relocate the Amtrak San Joaquin Madera Station and construct a future High Speed Rail Station. The plan will lead to the creation of transportation options and future development along the Avenue 12 corridor in the Ranchos,

Madera County will do the planning work in partnership with the City of Madera, Madera County Transportation Commission, San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, California High-Speed Rail Authority and Caltrans. This effort is aimed at guiding the design and land-use

in the vicinity of the station area, as well as enable Madera County to promote economic development, encourage station area development and enhance multiple access connections between the station, the City of Madera, Madera Community College and other surrounding communities throughout Madera County and northern Fresno County.

“This is an exciting step toward enhancing our current rail connectivity,” said Madera County District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier. “I believe this is imperative to the success of our cities, our County, Madera Community College and the residents we serve through smart transit-oriented development.”

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

## Kiwanis Korner

### Kiwanis Membership Keeps Growing

By Sally Rowden

Our membership continues to increase as Aimee Beintker became our newest member. She was inducted by Kiwanis Lt. Gov. David Hillman at our last meeting in March. Welcome aboard Aimee.

The donation of \$200 we presented to Liberty High School Ag Department for their FFA State Conference trip was money well spent. Liberty High School students, and members of the FFA Club, Abigail Hanchett, Nathan Hutchison and Corinna Martinez shared their experiences at our first April meeting. Thank you, Anne Deniz, Liberty High School Ag Teacher and Ag Department Chair, for attending our meeting with your successful students.

At the same meeting, Michele Stephens, a candidate running for Supervisor of District 1, was our guest speaker. The Kiwanis Club does not endorse or finance any public office candidates, but we do provide opportunities for all candidates to be heard. Future guest speakers will include



Lt. Gov. David Hillman, left, welcomes new Kiwanis member Aimee Beintker as Ranchos Kiwanis President Mona Diaz looks on.

Sally Moreno, Tyson Pogue and Andy Wheeler. We put our guest speaker, Michele Stephens, to work by having her draw the winning ticket for our HUGE Easter Basket Raffle. That winning ticket went to Sally Rowden. In complete surprise, and then delight, Sally welcomed the win. Again, thanks to Kiwanis member Ollia Ridge for her success in design chairmanship skills and fundraising.

Other activities to be noted begin with our beautification of Webster Elementary School on Saturday, April 2. Kiwanis members around the world annually have a Kiwanis One Day project by members working together to better their community. Thank you to our members Bev Delk, Mona Diaz, Ollia Ridge, Suzy Ruhe and Richard Wayne for volunteering for our Kiwanis One Day project at Webster. And a shout out to member Ollia Ridge's son Rodney Ridge and friend, Mandy Marquez, for joining in.

By the time you read this article, the Honorary Mayor Open House on April 22 will have happened. All four of the Honorary Mayor candidates: Verlaine Elinburg

representing SEMCU, Alec Konkle representing LHS Marching Band, Sally Rowden representing the Kiwanis Club, and Bill Whyman representing the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce were in attendance. Refreshments were served and all candidates were available with their donation buckets. Of course, no speeches or promises given. It's the money-votes that count. Seventy-five cents of each dollar goes to the candidate's non-profit group of choice with 25 cents going to Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The Liberty High School Scholarships for Graduating Seniors is still underway. John Minney, the fundraiser chair along with Kiwanis members, have successfully distributed letters of monetary commitment to our community.

As Bev Delk, our student selection chair, is in progress working with Albert Pando – secondary counselor grades 11-12 of Liberty High School – regarding submitted scholarships. The Scholarship Award Ceremony is to be held May 16 at Liberty High School. Contact John Minney at [jminney@gmail.com](mailto:jminney@gmail.com) for any further information.

The Kiwanis Torch of Excellence will be held on Monday, April 25 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis will be hosting the event. This is an annual event with a partnership between Kiwanis Clubs of Fresno-Madera Counties, the Athletic Departments of Fresno City College, Reedley College and the State Center Community College District. This is in celebration of academic achievement of school-athletes.

The date of Madera Ranchos Flatlander's Parade has been changed to Saturday, May 21. The Kiwanis Club has also changed their food booth choices. Sandwich choices will be pulled pork or turkey. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will also be on the menu. Make plans to come out and enjoy Flatlander's Parade Day in the Ranchos.

“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.” From Kiwanis Club of Indy.

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



## Senior Report

# Warm Weather Heats Up Events

By Melanie Williams

The Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival was a great success. Kim Bradley was our fundraising chairperson and her committee successfully organized the event. We thank Kim, Judy Sears and Amy Vasquez for all their hard work and commitment to make this year's event the best ever. A special thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop 118 and the Sierra Shadows 4-H Club for helping to set up, serve food and transport plants for buyers.

Also, thanks to the Master Gardeners who shared their knowledge and demonstrated how to care for plants and gardens.

Mike Fursman, our Master Chef at lunch, served up some delicious hamburgers hot from the BBQ and a special "thank you" goes out to all our volunteers and vendors who made this event happen.

In May the Treasure House will open again, along with the monthly Bake Sale on May 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. Get there early for the best deals. The Senior Center is offering a "10 percent off" flyer for items sold in the Treasure House on May 7. You can get your flyer early by dropping by the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive. The Treasure House can always use extra help setting up and volunteers are welcome to come and help Jo Chase on Wednesday, May 4 from 8 to 10 a.m. and Friday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to noon.

We are celebrating Cinco de Mayo with Mexican cuisine on May 5 at 5:30 p.m. Come share your favorite Mexican dish with friends and neighbors, and please bring enough to serve eight to 10 people. Bring your own plates and utensils.

The Planning Meeting is open to everyone interested in sharing

new ideas and events on May 3 at 12:30 p.m. The General Meeting is on May 10 at 1:30 p.m. The presentation will be hosted by CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team.

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is on May 15. Call 645-4864 for more information about the breakfast.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can still sign up for the Madera Food Bank Senior Brown Bag program by filling out an application at the Senior Center.

The Birthday and Anniversary luncheon is at the Liberty Ranchos Café on May 28 at 11:30 a.m.

Our monthly Coffee, Craft and Conversation is on May 26 at 9:30 a.m. Bring your own crafting materials and share time with other artists at the Senior Center. All are welcome.

Come and enjoy games, cards or puzzles every Thursday in May at 12:15 p.m. We have a small group of card players that want to teach new players their favorite card games.

Nancy Palazzo has offered to host her jewelry design classes again in May. Sign-ups are required at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center so call 645-4864 for more information.

Members are interested in planning a car show at the Senior Center. We need help from knowledgeable people with contacts with car clubs to help plan this event. Please come to the meeting at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on May 26 at 10 a.m. Hot coffee and snacks will be provided.

Happy Mother's Day from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Thought for May: "To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today." – Barbara Johnson



Shoppers started lining up early for the annual Senior Center Home & Garden Festival.

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Median Price/SF Sold  
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# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Has your well gone dry? Help may be here. Domestic wells continue to fail throughout Southeast Madera County.

Summer is around the corner. Water use is going to increase and our domestic wells will be hard at work putting in some extra time to meet our needs. As in past summers, and probably more so because of the drought we're experiencing, this year some wells are expected to go dry or break down.

We talked about potential help to overcome some of these problems in past articles, but we think that a reminder of some available help through "Self-Help Enterprises" must be mentioned. The organization is a "nationally recognized community development organization" whose mission is to work together with families to build and sus-

tain healthy homes and communities. They can help qualified applicants who are experiencing domestic well problems by installing large water storage tank on the effected property and connect it to your home.

Call Drought Support at 559-820-1685 or contact them at droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org.

As I understand, funding for this project has been provided in full or in part under the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resiliency Drinking Water Program through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.

In addition, Madera County – as part of its Madera Sub-basin management plan – is in the process of developing a program that will potentially provide replacement wells if domestic

wells go dry, but it is not funded yet. It is relying on the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency rate study to be completed and approved, as well as funding from other GSAs. Once that program is initiated (possibly in the next six months) we will write about it.

SEMUCU is continuing with the FREE fire safety program of perimeter disking for qualified homes in the SEMCU area.

For now, the regular (once a month) SEMCU meetings take place virtually on the third Monday of every month and last about an hour. Next meeting is on Monday, May 15 at 6 p.m. To join, call 312-757-3121 and use access code 715-657-949.

For more information about anything related to SEMCU, call 559-363-9095 or email us at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org). You can also visit our website at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).

**SEMUCU is "By the Community, For the Community"**

*Summer is around the corner. Water use is going to increase and our domestic wells will be hard at work putting in some extra time to meet our needs.*

## Ranchos Grad's Inventor Award

The Ranchos' Kaleb Roth, now a student at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, has won the 2022 Braun Student Inventor Award for creating a new type of campfire starter.



Roth's invention is an innovative campfire starting device he calls the "Forever Fire." It uses a human-powered generator to power electronic parts, which can produce an electric arc in all weather conditions.

The Ann and Dave Braun Student Inventor Award includes \$5,000 in cash and a free patent application. The award was established to recognize a South Dakota Mines student who has made a significant discovery or invention while enrolled.

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# Tea Time

## Elections Matter 2022-24 Elections Matter! But does your vote count?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

The 2020 presidential election, for better or for worse, whether honest or not, resulted in the obviously senile and incompetent Joseph Robinette Biden ascending to the presidency of the United States of America. Even before his nomination and the subsequent election, it was painfully obvious that Good Ol' Joe could not lead a one-horse parade, let alone lead our country. That's this writer's opinion, of course, but no doubt accurate. And sad.

Predictably, his election led to disasters on every front: rampant crime without punishment, intensified border chaos, the Afghanistan withdrawal disaster, crushing inflation, lockdowns of previously free American citizens, a faltering economy, empty store shelves, skyrocketing gas prices and dependence on foreign sources, and the unprecedented loss of individual freedom and mobility. All this has occurred under the administration of a president who was, at election time, in obvious cognitive decline and who now shakes hands with the air and gets steered away from reporters by the Easter Bunny. Perhaps the bunny should have been on the ballot.

Which begs the question: How could *this* man have been elected or even nominated for any office? Who in the world would have voted for someone who was in such obvious decline? Is it possible that an actual majority voted for him just to toe the party line? Or disbelieved their lying eyes about his lack of competency, and/or just hated his opponent enough to vote for *anyone* else, senile or not? Perhaps.

Respected leaders and organizations are questioning the integrity of the election process itself and offering compelling evidence of wrongdoing. Those of us who watched any of the vote counting online and on television saw questionable procedures, and a December Rasmussen poll showed that Americans tend to agree.

Fifty-nine percent said cheating was likely in the 2020 election, 75 percent said that a photo ID to vote is a reasonable measure, and 65 percent said that preventing cheating is more important than making it easier to vote.

Biden's presidency has been so disastrous and his actions have become so bizarre, that both conservative and liberal leaders acknowledge a frightening leadership problem. Both parties are openly voicing their alarm that America's trust in the electoral process is damaged and must be restored.

**Make sure your vote is counted. Vote in person at the Primary election on June 7.**

According to the Election Integrity Project-California (EIPCa), voting in person makes your ballot more secure and allows it to be counted more quickly. You should receive a ballot in the mail, but you still have the right to vote in person. Then the mail-in ballot can be destroyed.

EIPCa states: *"When you return your ballot in an envelope with your name and address clearly visible, you are, in effect, waiving your right to a secret ballot...you are subjecting your ballot to innumerable opportunities for potential manipulation as it passes through hundreds of hands of postal workers, seasonal elections officials, ballot traffickers and signature verifiers."*

*"Even after the ballot is removed from the identifying envelope, it is subjected to intense inspection and potential duplication or adjudication before it finally can be tabulated. It takes DAYS before your ballot — potentially transformed in some way — is finally, fully "processed."*

Visit EIPCa to learn how the organization works so that "every lawfully cast vote is accurately counted" and how best to assure that your own ballot is secure. You can sign up for their email newsletters and starting in July you can sign up to be an EIPCa-trained observer for the November general election — a *great* way to help insure the most trustworthy election.

In the next month EIPCa will be providing voter education articles via their website, email blasts and newsletters. Armed with that information, all voters can become effective citizen observers in November and beyond.

See you at the polls, if we can afford to fuel our cars.

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by Dave T. Phipps



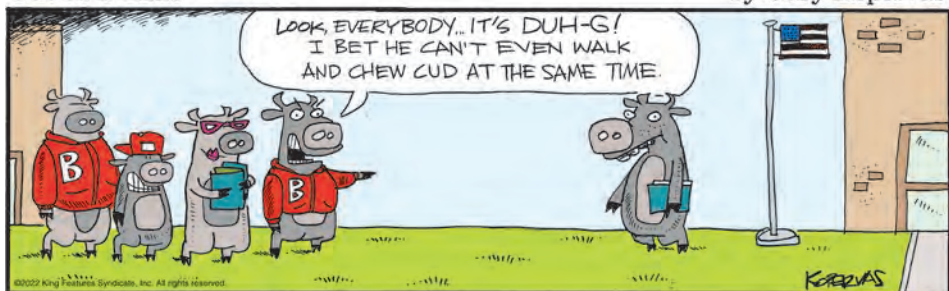
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



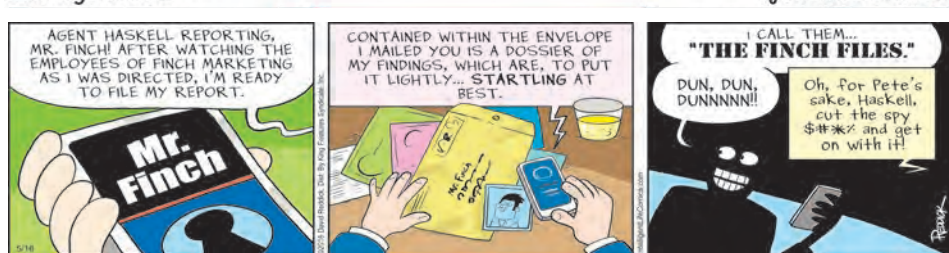
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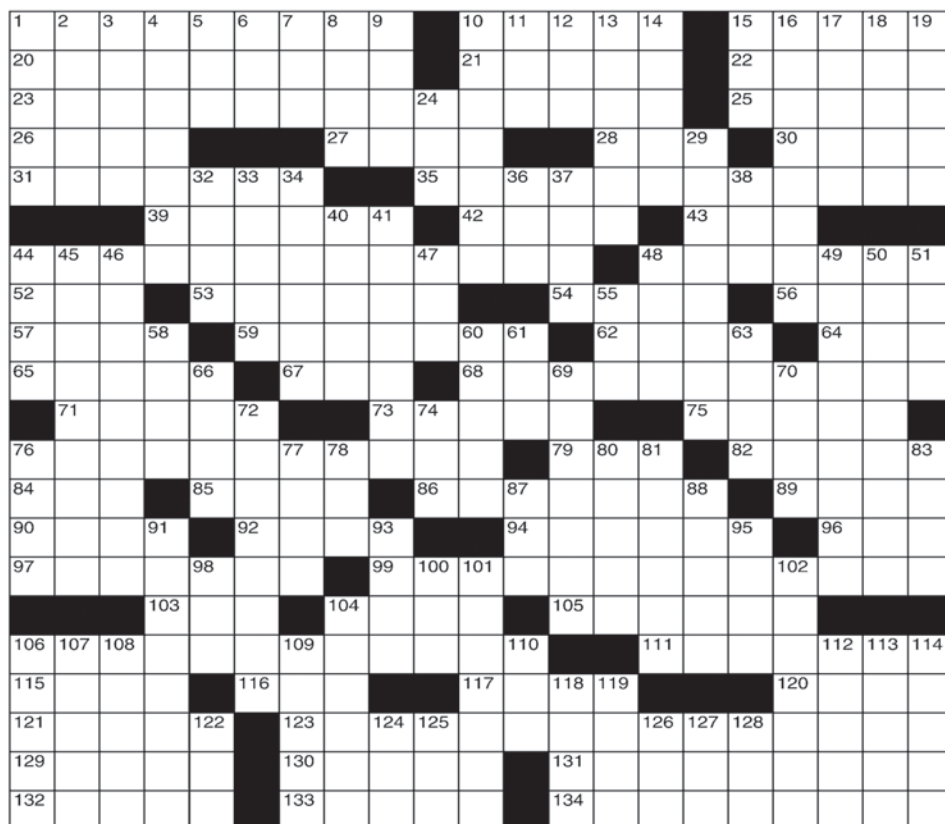
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Sail is missing. 2. Pocket is missing. 3. Camera is missing. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Umbrella is missing. 6. Headline is different.

## Super Crossword



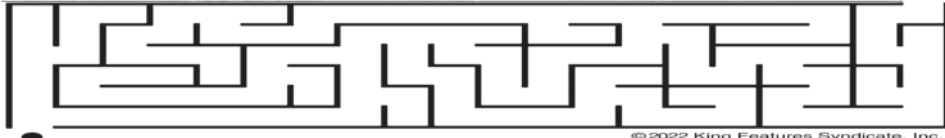
- ACROSS**
- 1 Shoshone woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark
  - 10 Hebrew holy text
  - 15 Chicago hub
  - 20 Rembrandt painted with them
  - 21 You RSVP to it online
  - 22 Tempos
  - 23 Eton and Hogwarts
  - 25 RAM units
  - 26 Nastase of tennis fame
  - 27 The sun, e.g.
  - 28 Hooded viper
  - 30 Get higher
  - 31 Long-necked beast
  - 35 Companies with cabbies
  - 39 Give the details of
  - 42 Kite's home
  - 43 Suffix with human
  - 44 Skilled thief, slangily
  - 48 Adds on
  - 52 Positive vote in Congress
  - 53 "What's the —?" ("Care to explain that?," slangily)
  - 54 Vow
  - 56 Dried up
  - 57 Weightlifting units
  - 59 Cuddle (up)
  - 62 "Stay" singer Lisa
  - 64 Teensy
  - 65 Bug B Gon's brand
  - 67 Abbr. on an airport uniform
  - 68 Jacob Bronowski book about human history, with "The"
  - 71 Platoon unit
  - 73 German wine region
  - 75 Equiper of horse hooves
  - 76 Carnival vessels
  - 79 Backpacked beast, maybe
  - 82 "Chicago" showgirl Hart
  - 84 — polloi
  - 85 "Toodles!"
  - 86 Club get-togethers
  - 89 Bleacher feature
  - 90 PC brand
  - 92 Part of DJ
  - 94 Plant-based salve for treating bruises
  - 96 Longtime CBS series
  - 97 10th month, in German
  - 99 Many golf hits onto the green
  - 103 Comic actor Aykroyd
  - 104 Sweetheart
  - 105 Sitting Bull's tribe
  - 106 Hoped-for result of a throw to a receiver
  - 111 Frosty and the like
  - 115 Face defacer
  - 116 Tofu base
  - 117 Negative votes in Congress
  - 120 Green Hornet's aide
  - 121 Gut
  - 123 Trip associated with the starts of seven answers in this puzzle
  - 129 With 6-Down, boxing legend's daughter
  - 130 Devilish grin
  - 131 Native of the Raiders' home
  - 132 Fidgeting
  - 133 Literature Nobelist William Butler —
  - 134 Event for unloading household items in an urban area
- DOWN**
- 1 Edna Ferber novel
  - 2 Garlicky mayonnaise
  - 3 "— de Lune"
  - 4 Lot statistic
  - 5 Jupiter, e.g.
  - 6 See 129-Across
  - 7 Took the gold
  - 8 Units of work
  - 9 Aide: Abbr.
  - 10 Native of Iran's capital
  - 11 — -lacto diet
  - 12 '16 Olympics city
  - 13 Finally
  - 14 Literature Nobelist Hermann
  - 15 The sun, e.g.
  - 16 Hoedown excursions
  - 17 Stuffy story
  - 18 Singer Della
  - 19 Snaky curves
  - 24 Tabby
  - 29 Divine seers
  - 32 Grub
  - 33 Small flutes
  - 34 — terrible (hellion)
  - 36 Crosses (out)
  - 37 Analogy part
  - 38 Pooh-bah
  - 40 Anklebone
  - 41 Folding craft
  - 44 Poi plant
  - 45 Australian landmark
  - 46 Stayed silent
  - 47 Dress finely, with "out"
  - 48 Oodles
  - 49 Taos locale
  - 50 Most bleak
  - 51 Not hidden
  - 55 Stein quaff
  - 58 Feng —
  - 60 Steer catcher
  - 61 Japan finish?
  - 63 Niels with a Nobel
  - 66 Brewer's kiln
  - 69 Revlon rival
  - 70 Yard third
  - 72 Cul-de-sacs
  - 74 Mil. missions
  - 76 Elaine in Trump's Cabinet
  - 77 Commotion
  - 78 Owns
  - 80 Capital of Yemen
  - 81 Makes glossy, as one's hair
  - 83 Discord deity
  - 87 Street vehicle
  - 88 "Danke —"
  - 91 Retina parts associated with monochrome vision
  - 93 D-Day city in France
  - 95 About
  - 98 "Humbug!"
  - 100 Golf norm
  - 101 Shrub shapers
  - 102 Sadie — Day
  - 104 Miami Heat great Wade
  - 106 Small hand drum of India
  - 107 Shark's place
  - 108 Not ignited
  - 109 "— -daisy!"
  - 110 Prefix with payment or partisan
  - 112 Sister of Eva and Zsa Zsa
  - 113 "I Love Lucy" neighbor
  - 114 — Dame
  - 118 I problems?
  - 119 Bleacher feature
  - 122 "Whoopee!"
  - 124 Shark's place
  - 125 Weightlifting unit
  - 126 MGM rival
  - 127 Waitress at Mel's Diner
  - 128 Racing circuit

# FUN PAGES



# FUN PAGES

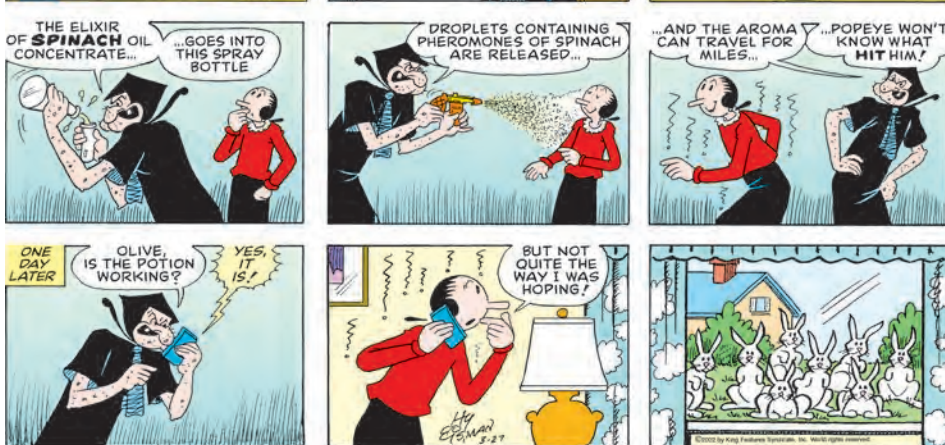
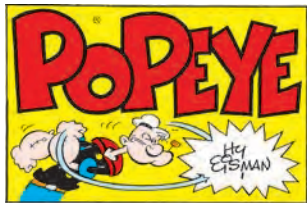
## Kids' Maze



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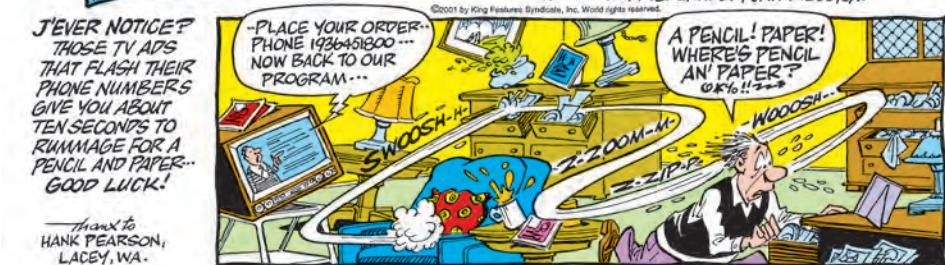
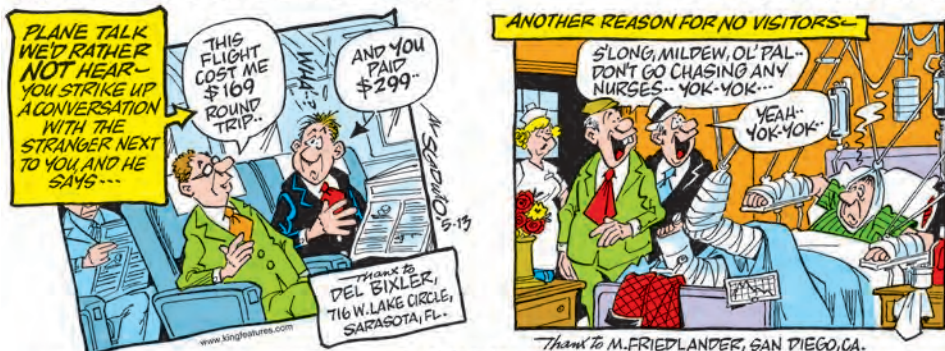
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



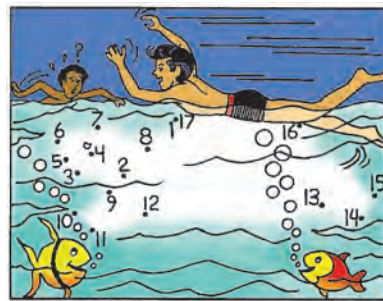
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



# Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



**SWIM PARTY!** A missing figure is needed to complete this swim scene. To complete picture, simply draw dot to dot.



### 1-TO-6 SEQUENCE COUNTDOWN

LOOK over the systematic arrangement of numbers 1 to 6 at left. Then see if you can determine in how many different ways you can find 1 to 6 in order, moving up or down, to right or left, but not diagonally.

Each 1-6 run must differ. That is to say, each six-some must be traced out in a varying path to include at least one new number.

Perhaps you lack the patience to make an actual count. If so, take a guess instead.

Check answer below.   
 Answer: World you believe fifty-six different ways?

**SHIRT SHRIFT!** Say fast: Every single tie-dye-treated two-toned T-shirt shrunk.

**WEIGH FARE!** It seems that if Lorna weighs less than Fran, and Hazel weighs as much as Lorna, and Sue weighs more than Fran, then Hazel weighs less than Sue. True or false?   
 Statement is true.

**PAIR GAME!** A dozen words shown in the diagram at right are to be paired to form just six words (of varying lengths) having two syllables each. Words at left are to precede words at right in the new words formed.

A way to avoid confusion in solving this poser is to start with first word in the first column, find a compatible word in the second column and draw a connecting line to the second word. Do the same with next word, etc.



Word combos: Standsstill, sparring, skylark, sidewall, banham and attract. Will comply.

## Wishing Well

8	5	3	6	4	3	7	8	2	5	4	2	5
B	B	B	L	H	U	B	E	P	R	I	R	I
8	6	4	2	4	7	6	7	2	8	3	8	5
A	I	G	A	H	E	F	T	I	G	S	R	G
3	6	5	4	3	6	4	5	4	6	2	8	5
I	E	H	E	N	I	R	T	V	S	S	E	O
4	2	6	5	3	2	8	5	8	5	2	4	3
A	E	P	U	E	I	E	T	A	L	S	L	S
6	2	5	8	7	5	7	5	2	4	3	4	6
E	B	O	B	R	O	U	K	E	U	S	E	A
3	4	2	7	2	8	7	2	3	7	2	3	6
S	S	S	S	T	L	T	O	U	I	W	C	C
8	3	7	2	3	6	7	3	6	2	3	6	6
E	C	N	E	E	G	S	F	D	S	U	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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## MAGIC MAZE ● CITIES ALONG THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: HARPER'S —, W. Va.

- Andover
- Dalton
- Erwin
- Franklin
- Gatlinburg
- Gorham
- Hampton
- Hanover
- Kent
- Lincoln
- Luray
- Monson
- Rutland
- Salisbury
- Stratton

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# TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK: What was the first food eaten in space?
- LITERATURE: A character named Piggy is featured in which 20th-century novel?
- GEOGRAPHY: What are the residents of Cyprus called?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many pounds are in a stone?
- LANGUAGE: What does Ph.D stand for?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the color of a giraffe's tongue?
- MEDICAL: What is the common name for onychocryptosis?
- HISTORY: What is a more common name for the 19th-century killer known as the "Whitechapel Murderer"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color of "black boxes" used to record flight data on aircraft?
- SCIENCE: What is considered to be the ideal "room temperature"?

## Answers

- In 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin ate pureed meat and then chocolate sauce.
- "Lord of the Flies"
- Cypriots
- 14
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Blue, black or purple
- Ingrown nail
- Jack the Ripper
- Bright orange to aid in recovery
- 68-72 degrees Fahrenheit

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2	4	1	7	5	6	9	3	8
9	7	5	8	3	1	6	4	2
1	6	2	9	4	5	8	7	3
3	5	7	6	2	8	4	1	9
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5	3	6	2	8	4	7	9	1
7	2	9	1	6	3	5	8	4
8	1	4	5	7	9	3	2	6

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

12																				
12																				
6																				
9																				
8																				
2																				

Word search grid with words highlighted:

- MONSON
- NOTTARTS
- NOTPMAHL LAHR
- GATLINBURG
- ATNEKSKNT
- DOIBLTC
- ANDOVER
- NYARUL



# Classified

## Carpet Cleaning

Call 559-970-4476.

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery** - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

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**New construction**, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500.

## Firewood

**Firewood for sale** - Seasoned Almond firewood. Round or split. **Call 259-7122 or 645-5523.**

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**Over 40 yrs of experience - References available** - Lupe's House Cleaning, regular, general cleaning, residential, move-ins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up too. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. 559-916-1528 or 650-771-2915**

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**BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES** - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. **Call John at 908-1066.**

**Tractor Work** - House Pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Lic. #719500. **Call 559-970-4476.**

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GENWHY cont. from P. 16

school day after drama practice we nervously walked out the front doors and down the main driveway to where her big, black truck with a camper shell was parked. She wasn't sitting in the cab and the camper shell door was flipped up. These were not good signs. There weren't a lot of people around, just some kids scattered here and there waiting for their rides. She stepped into view as we got to the truck. She was wearing a hockey mask, and I immediately knew this was going to get worse. She reached into the back, pulled out a chainsaw, and yanked the cord, jerking it to life. My boyfriend froze. If I'd have been him, I'd have peed my pants. My mom started cracking up as soon as she saw the look of terror spread across his face. I was just plain mortified. She killed the chainsaw, flipped up the mask and said, "Don't sneak around with my daughter again." He and I didn't last much longer. Strange.

I know that not everyone will appreciate these stories, but they really are among my favorites. My mom was so full of joy it just bubbled out of her, even when she was holding a chainsaw. She was funny, whether she meant to be or not. She was compassionate, and she loved wholly and unconditionally with every cell in her body. Anyone lucky enough to know her knows what an amazing woman she was. I certainly know how blessed I am to have her as a mother. I miss her every day but sharing stories like these always makes me feel like I'm actually in her presence again, even if for only a moment or two.

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 4

it, like the administration, has been slow to catch up to the new inflationary reality. The American public has had no such luxury. For it, increased prices are a daily lived reality, and no amount of spin is going to change that. Unless conditions markedly improve soon, Biden's experiment is going to end very badly for him and his party.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## 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.

	-		x		8			
x		x		÷				
	-		x		8			
-		+		+				
	-		x		9			
12		12		11				
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	9

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## SUDOKU

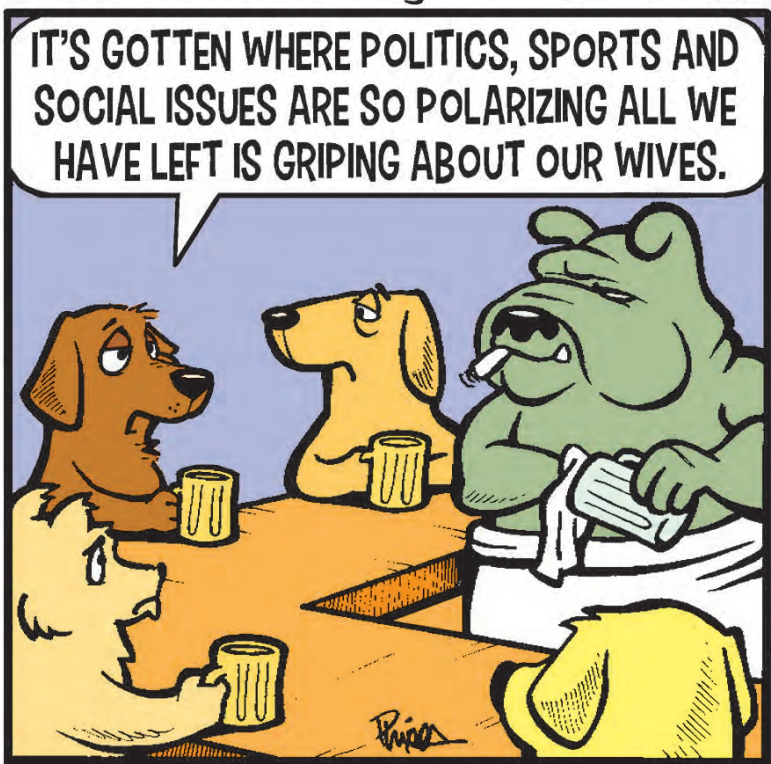
by Linda Thistle

		4		7				6
7			1		3	5		
	3		2					9
		8		1		2		
	5				8			9
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	7		8			6	4	
2				5				3
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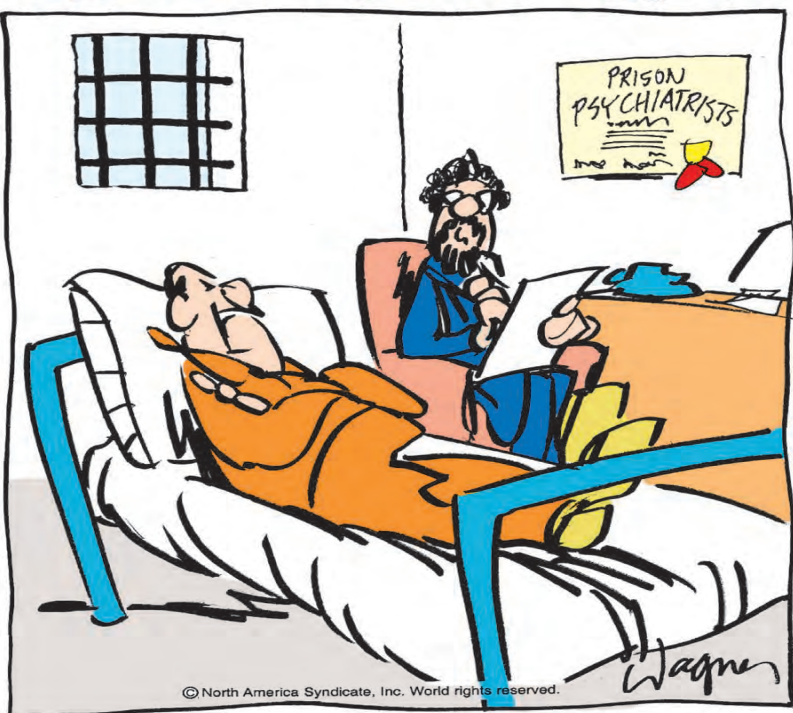
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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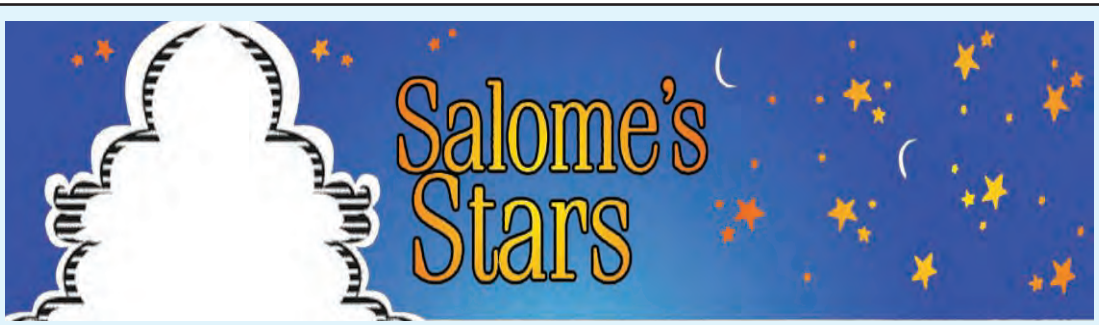
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**GRIN and BEAR IT** by Wagner



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**"Someone stole my identity, and I wasn't myself!"**



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The Lamb loves to be surrounded by flocks of admirers. But be careful that someone doesn't take his or her admiration too far. Use your persuasive skills to let him or her down easily.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time to begin setting far-reaching goals and connecting with new contacts. Aspects also favor strengthening old relationships -- personal and/or professional.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A personal disappointment should be viewed as a valuable learning experience. Go over what went wrong and see where a change in tactics might have led to a more positive outcome.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Don't leave projects unfinished or personal obligations unresolved, or you might find yourself tripping over all those loose ends later on. A relative has important news.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Expect a challenge to the usual way you do things. Although you might prefer the tried-and-true, once you take a good look you might feel more receptive to it.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Much work has yet to be done to polish a still-rough idea into something with significant potential. Expect to encounter some initial rejection, but stick with it nonetheless.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) There still might be some communication problems in the workplace, but they should be resolved soon. Meanwhile, that "tip" from a friend should be checked out.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A new relationship appears to need more from you than you might be willing to give right now. Best advice: Resist making promises you might not be able to keep.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) That restless feeling encourages you to gallop off into a new venture. But remember to keep hold of the reins so you can switch paths when necessary.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A demanding work schedule keeps the high-spirited Goat from kicking up his or her heels. But playtime beckons by the week's end. Have fun. You earned it.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You're beginning to come out from under those heavy responsibilities you took on. Use this freed-up time to enjoy some much-deserved fun with people close to you.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Before you get swept away by a tidal wave of conflicting priorities, take time to come up for air, and reassess the situation. You might be surprised by what you'll find.

**Born this week**

*Your leadership qualities are enhanced by a practical sense of purpose that keeps you focused on your goals.*



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**south east madera county united**

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**Until further notice, the regular SEMCU meetings will take place via teleconference.**

**Our next meeting is Monday, May 16 at 6 p.m.**

**The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949.**

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