

The Ranchos Independent

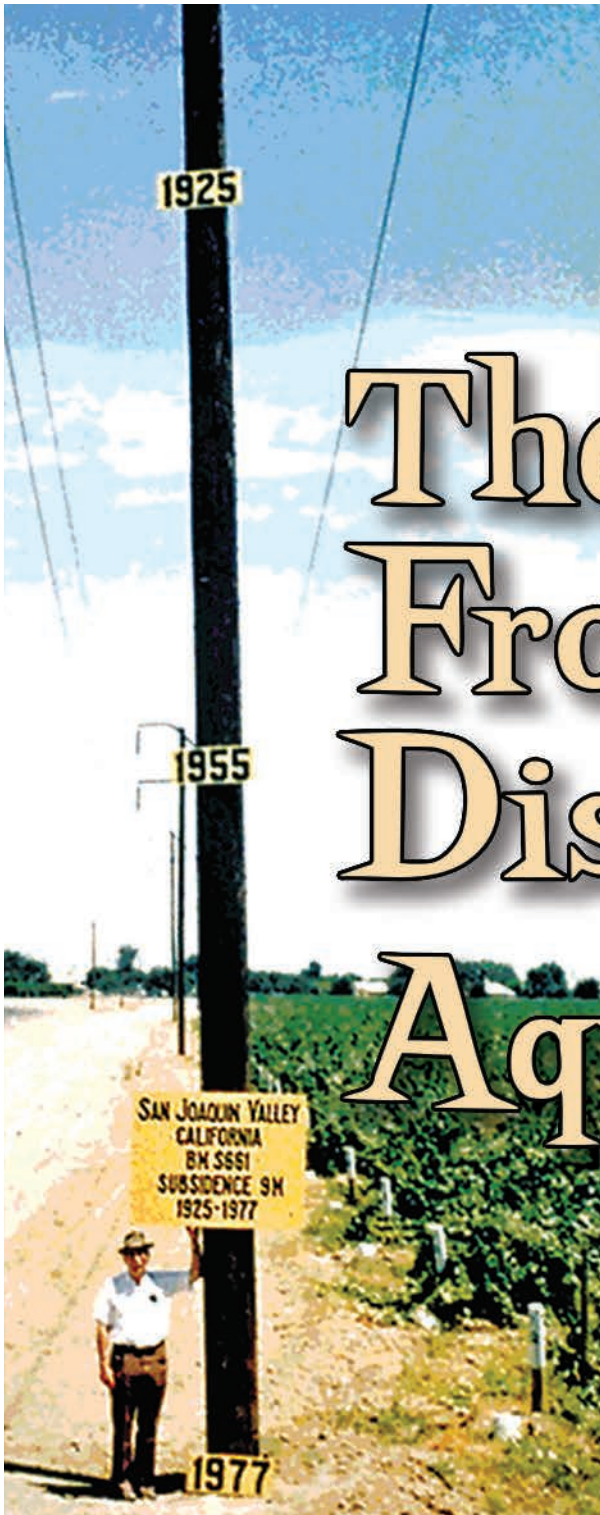


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The Way Back From the Ranchos' Disappearing Aquifer

By Karen Petryna

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The Case for Ranchos Groundwater Recharge *NOW*

Editor's Note: This is the third of a three-part series of articles about water in the Ranchos. May's article set the stage from a historical perspective in terms of how the San Joaquin River Valley was formed over millions of years and then modified in the last 75 by what became the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project. June's article described how public and government agencies have created the current untenable situation of groundwater overdraft -- the withdrawal of more groundwater than is being replenished, particularly in southeast Madera. This month's article details why and how locals must get involved if there is to be any chance of escape from the dire trajectory that has been established.

By Karen Petryna

According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) website, the Madera Subbasin is the seventh most critically overdrafted subbasin in California. This ranking does not include data from the 2011 through 2015 drought. Regardless, Madera County was notified of the condition of critical overdraft of the Madera, the Chowchilla and the Delta-Mendota Subbasins – all three Madera County groundwater sources – by DWR in July 2015. Yet, to date, the County has taken no action to mitigate this incredibly dangerous and worsening situation.

None.

On the contrary, they have issued hundreds of new deep-well water permits while allowing thousands and thousands of acres of land designated for agricultural use to be newly planted with almond trees to produce one of the most high-water use – and high-dollar – crops, almost exclusively for export. Madera County is also designated as the fastest growing county in the United States based on residential development plans. The beneficiaries of these projects are agribusinesses, developers and politicians.

Farmers can use water on their crops that does not meet drinking



water requirements. That's why they can utilize surface water, storm water and canal water in addition to groundwater that is too salty, has too many dissolved solids or contains other compounds that are considered poisonous for drinking. Chief among those is arsenic which occurs naturally at about 500 feet below ground and has shown up in numerous local drinking water wells, including the new Dublin municipal well in the MD-10a water system. Arsenic has also been de-

tected at higher than allowable drinking water concentrations in the Rolling Hills well. Additionally, the Liberty High School well and the Valley Teen Ranch well have also detected arsenic, both of which the State and the County have been developing plans to connect to the MD-10a water system for more than two and six years, respectively. There has been negligible progress on either.

In immediate jeopardy are those residents who are not near one of southeast Madera's water systems. Their only option when their respective wells go dry is to try to find \$30,000 to drill another well that does not intersect any arsenic-containing material. As a reference, Wood Rogers, the consulting company the County paid about \$2 million for the Dublin Well Complex, was unsuccessful in avoiding arsenic in the well they designed and installed, despite first drilling three test wells.

There is Hope

There is hope, however, for those who have invested their lives and their life savings in southeast Madera County and who are completely reliant on groundwater for their survival here: That is to get educated, organized and fight for their water rights.

As detailed in last month's story, the State has established the rights of the public to water. Section 2 of Article X Water, the California Constitution "... requires that the water resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable, and that the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented, and that the conservation of such waters is to be exercised with a view to the reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interest of the people and for the public welfare."

Some would argue that almost completely diverting the San Joaquin River to the Central Valley Project canal system using the Friant Dam, which was completed in 1942, was not reasonable and beneficial for local public welfare. This position is illustrated by the nearly \$4 billion profit achieved by agribusiness mogul Stewart Resnick and his family's agribusinesses throughout the Valley, including the Ranchos. As has been shown in virtually every civic arena, there is no limit to the amount of greed and fraud and abuse that can – and will – be waged in the absence of public oversight and participation. Unfortunately, the Ranchos is often characterized as a "leave me alone" community, resulting in a public that is less and less inclined to participate.

Doing Nothing is No Longer an Option

By way of example, the number of "paid call" volunteer firefighters have declined significantly in recent years in the Ranchos, resulting in greater and greater risk to lives and property considering the severely understaffed Cal Fire Department stations that rely on the volunteers. Yet, voters said no to the Measure L Public Safety Sales Tax in March, signifying either the County's campaign consultants did not adequately communicate the need for additional firefighters, firefighting equipment, fire stations and sheriff deputies or residents were not willing to share an extra one percent sales tax with tourists and visitors. Or both.

Additionally, last year the Ranchos' MD-10a Water Oversight Committee was dissolved after five of seven members resigned and a sixth passed away.

While it is possible, although not desirable, for most of the residents in southeast Madera to exist without adequate fire and safety pro-

Please see **RECHARGE** on P. 3

Death, Fire in Recent Ranchos Vehicle Incidents



This picture of the incinerated postal vehicle was posted by Brad McDonald in "What's Up in the Ranchos?" on Facebook.

By Randy Bailey

A recent vehicle accident in the Ranchos has resulted in one death while a separate incident has involved a U.S. mail vehicle burning to the ground.

Late Friday, July 14, a person was stopped at the intersection of Avenue 15 and Road 36 when a person driving an SUV "blew past the stop sign," according to law enforcement on scene, and collided with the stopped car. As a result of the impact, the driver of the stopped car was killed. That driver has yet to be identified. The SUV driver was arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana and was taken to a local hospital for treatment before returning to custody. The arrested driver faces multiple charges.

Two Days Before

Two days before this deadly incident, on Wednesday, July 12 at approximately 3 p.m., a U.S. Postal Service vehicle was making deliveries on Road 35 when it caught on fire, destroying all the contents of the vehicle. The letter carrier was not hurt. The cause of the fire is not known at present but is being investigated.

If you are expecting mail on that route that you have never received, or if you placed mail in your mailbox for pickup on that day and it has not been delivered, you can call the USPS consumer affairs office at 916-373-8630 for more information.

RECHARGE cont. from P. 2

tection, no one and nothing can survive without water. And most of southeast Madera County's water has been diverted from the San Joaquin River to points west and far, far south, leaving locals to deal with a groundwater table that, without the replenishing river, has dropped an astounding 300 feet in 75 years.

Temperance Flat Dam

One suggested solution for increasing water that has had a lot of recent exposure is the Temperance Flat Dam Project. Representatives from five counties, including Madera, have been working on a Water Storage Investment Program Grant that is being offered through the California Water Commission and funded by Proposition 1 to obtain half the money needed for the approximate \$3 billion project. Proponents talk about the amount of water that is wastefully allowed to flow out to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and reduce salt water intrusion from the Pacific Ocean, but those who are opposed point out the San Joaquin River water is already overallocated by 861 percent and creating another surface holding location will neither create more water nor a fair distribution system. Nor is it clear how a surface holding location, subject to tremendous levels of constant evaporation in the Valley's extremely hot and dry climate, will increase groundwater recharge to address critically overdrafted subbasins throughout Madera and the San Joaquin Valley. When asked whether there was any validity to the suggestion that a great deal of river water was being lost, John Shelton, Staff Environmental Scientist with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, asked, "If there has been extra water available for another dam, why isn't the San Luis Reservoir full?" In fact, after our historic rain season last winter, the San Luis Reservoir is currently at 97 percent capacity compared to 16 percent beforehand, illustrating that there is rarely any extra water.

Another Government Plan

On July 13, Madera County held a stakeholder meeting for another new plan, this one called the Storm Water Resource Plan. Public Works Director Ahmad Alkhayyat said at the meeting that about 50 people had been invited. But, other than Alkhayyat, a County Flood Control Engineer, and five representatives from three consulting companies the County had hired, there were only ten attendees including seven members of the Madera Integrated Regional Water Management Group, which is mainly made up of water purveyors such as the Madera Irrigation District and Root Creek Water District. At the meeting, attendees were told they and anyone else who was interested had until Aug. 21 to complete a Project Solicitation Form – soon to be available on the County's Water & Natural Resources web page – for storm water-related projects for which a specific location and costs had been determined, in order for those projects to be added to the Storm Water Resource (SWR) Plan. They were told further that only projects that were accepted into the SWR Plan would be eligible for Proposition 1 funding and that the Plan was scheduled to be finalized by the end of the year and incorporated into the Madera Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, itself currently ineligible for grant funding due to its non-compliance with Prop. 1 standards.

One Plan to be Added to**Another Ineligible Plan**

As the Madera IRWM Group members in attendance at the SWR Plan meeting knew, they do not have the funds in the IRWM budget to hire a consultant to update the Madera IRWM Plan to meet Prop. 1 standards. The original version and prior updating of the Madera IRWM Plan were all paid for with grant funding from the state. Preparation of the Madera SWR Plan is currently being paid for with grant funding from the state. So initial plans, paid for with state grant funding, are easily accomplished and overseen by the associated agency employees.

But while both the Madera IRWM and SWR Plans have, or will contain, projects eligible for 50 percent grant funding from the state if the IRWM Plan is updated to meet Prop. 1 standards, unfortunately Madera IRWM Group member agencies, including the County and City of Madera, the Madera Irrigation District, the Chowchilla Water District and the Root Creek Water District, have not made any money available to either pay consultants to update the IRWM Plan or to complete grant applications to actually implement projects in the IRWM/SWR Plan(s) that would potentially address the critically overdrafted subbasins of Madera County.

And Yet Another Government Plan

In September 2014, to address the seemingly complete lack of governance of groundwater rights and access that existed almost uniquely in California, Governor Jerry Brown signed a series of three bills known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or SGMA. According to the Department of Water Resources website, SGMA established a definition of "sustainable groundwater management" that required a Groundwater Sustainability Plan be adopted for the most important groundwater basins in California. It also established a timetable for adoption of Groundwater Sustainability Plans, empowered local agencies to manage basins sustainably and establish basic requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plans while providing for a limited state role.

SGMA allows for the definition of "sustainable groundwater management" to be determined locally, in each Groundwater Sustainability Plan by those locals who are notified and who choose to participate in establishing that definition, in conjunction with the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which in southeast Madera County is comprised of one individual, Madera County's new Water & Natural Resources Director.

A New Idea

Despite the County's arbitrary deadline to accept projects for the Storm Water Resources Plan by August 21 and despite the lack of funding that the City and County and water purveyors have made available either to update the Madera IRWM Plan or to create funding applications to respond to DWR grant solicitations, it is nevertheless mandatory that significant efforts, including genuine plans and preparations for large-acre projects for groundwater recharge, begin immediately. One way to accomplish this fundamental objective is to insist the County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the Water & Natural Resources Director whose website is MaderaCountyWater.com) reach out not only to the water and irrigation districts, who naturally have their own interests, but to residents and small farmers on a regular and transparent basis to develop a

holistic strategy that literally safeguards water sustainability for the public. Partners in the process of achieving groundwater sustainability must also include the state and federal governments as well as private industries including agribusiness.

Example Tactic

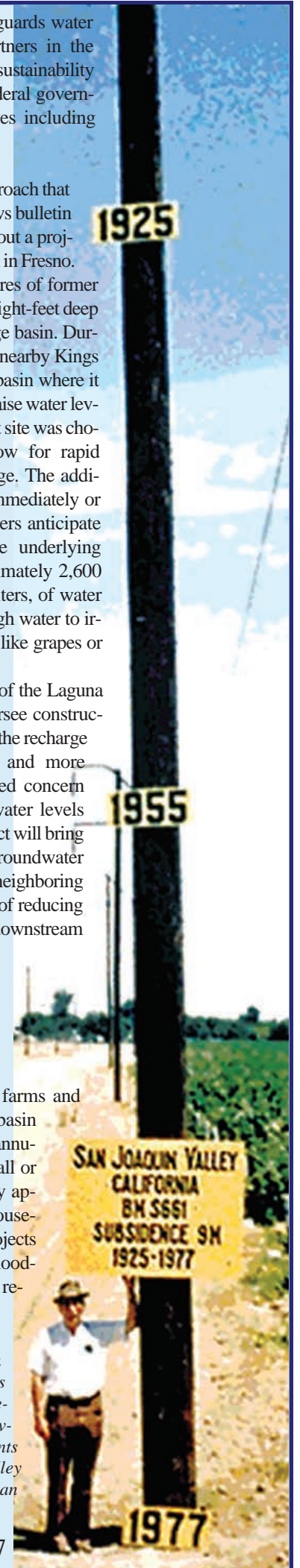
An example of the kind of approach that will be necessary is offered in a news bulletin by DWR from September 2014 about a project that has recently come to fruition in Fresno. The project involves turning 52 acres of former farmland into a giant dirt bathtub, eight-feet deep with earthen sides, called a recharge basin. During wet years, floodwater from the nearby Kings River will be redirected to fill the basin where it will then seep into the ground and raise water levels in the aquifer below. The project site was chosen for its sandy soils that allow for rapid percolation and maximum recharge. The additional groundwater can be used immediately or stored for dry years. Project partners anticipate that the basin will recharge the underlying groundwater aquifer with approximately 2,600 acre feet, or more than 3 billion liters, of water each year on average. That's enough water to irrigate around 1,300 acres of crops like grapes or tomatoes.

Scott Sills, General Manager of the Laguna Irrigation District, which will oversee construction, operation and maintenance of the recharge basin, said, "... dry conditions and more groundwater pumping have caused concern about whether historical groundwater levels will return. The joint recharge project will bring a new opportunity to replenish groundwater supplies for local landowners and neighboring towns – and has the added benefit of reducing the risk of costly flooding to our downstream communities."

The Kings River basin is one of the most productive farming areas in the U.S., generating billions annually. But this economic success is threatened by declines in groundwater levels. On average, farms and communities in the Kings River basin are extracting more groundwater annually than can be replaced by rainfall or snowmelt; enough water to satisfy approximately 330,000 average households each year. More recharge projects like the current one that capture floodwater can significantly improve the region's groundwater balance.

The famous picture of Dr. Joseph Poland with the United States Geologic Survey in 1977 standing beside a utility pole along Panoche Avenue in Mendota. The pole represents 28 feet of subsidence for the Valley floor between 1925 and 1977 from an overdrafted aquifer.

Please see **RECHARGE** on P. 17



Senior Report

Winners Drawn, Going to Disneyland

By Patti Groh

I hear there were lots of illegal fireworks going off in the Ranchos for the 4th. I hope you, your property and animals are all safe. The Seniors celebrated in another fashion by pulling the winning tickets for the annual raffle. AND THE WINNERS ARE (drum roll) ... First prize Disneyland tickets won by Joliene Mason. She was very happy and plans on waiting until all kids are back in school before going down there. The lucky winner of the second prize, the fishing trip at Shaver Lake with Steve Santoro (Fish Box Charter), was Paul Cameron. Diane Campbell won the Pizza Factory one free pizza a month for a year. Her plan for the first pizza was to use it on a 100-plus-degree day so her kitchen would not be heated

up. Good plan. The winning tickets were drawn by long time Ranchos resident, Vivian Norvall. We thank you, Vivian. It was nice to have Ranchos residents win all three prizes. Thank you to all who bought tickets and to those who worked so hard selling them. It was a successful event and proceeds will go a long way paying the Center's monthly expenses.

When we were at the Ranchos Market selling tickets (thank you Ranchos Market), some people had questions about donating used items to the Center. We are very happy to accept your second-hand items for resale in our Treasure House or Boutique. Bring these items to the Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Talk to Joanne inside before unloading anything. The entrance to the Center is the door on the east side of the building, by the driveway. We do not use the front door. It is just a fire exit. We are a nonprofit, and you can be given a receipt for your donation. Just ask.

We do take canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Extras may be sold, but we keep a supply on hand to loan to people in the community who need them. If you need to borrow one, call the Center at 645-4864.

August is No-Bake sale month. As bakers would rather not heat up their kitchens, we ask that you donate the money you would either spend on your baking or what you would pay buying our baked goods. The other first

Saturday of the month sales are still on, August 5, 8 a.m. to noon. The Boutique will be having its "Christmas in August" event. If you have anything you would like to contribute to this sale, get it in soon. There will be some great decorations available for sale. Treasure House and Garden will be open as usual. The garden still has beautiful blooming flower plants.

On Aug. 9, at 11 a.m., Hinds Hospice representatives will be at the Center to speak on volunteer opportunities with them. Please plan to attend and hear more about this great organization.

Hot August Night will be held on Aug. 12. It will begin at 5 p.m. and will be another "bring your own food" event. It is NOT a potluck event, but it will be a FUN event. Bring your own table service and whatever you would like to eat. If you wish, you may come in your best 1950's attire. There will be music and a car show.

The third Thursday of the month "theme" potluck is Aug. 17. It is an Italian food night. Bring an Italian food dish to share. It will be held at the usual 6 p.m. time. There will be game and/or card activities afterward.

The monthly Planning Meeting day has been changed to the third Tuesday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

This is a permanent change. Monthly meeting schedule is Board Meeting first Tuesday of the month; General Meeting second Tuesday of the month; and Planning Meeting third Tuesday of the month. These are every month so please put them on your calendar and plan on attending.

The birthday and anniversary lunch will be held at the Phoenician Gardens Restaurant on Aug. 26. Address and time/carpool information can be obtained when you sign up at the Center prior to the event.

Requests have come in to again have Bingo at the Seniors Center. The first new event is planned for Sept. 23. The exact particulars will be provided as they are finalized. They will be available in the September newsletter, as is other information about the Seniors Center, such as meetings, events, birthdays, lunch menus, etc. The newsletter is available at the beginning of every month at the Center and businesses around the Ranchos.



Vivian Norvall, right, draws the winners for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center's Annual Raffle as Seniors' Vice President Carol Wood looks on. This year's prizes included a trip to Disneyland, a fishing trip and a year's worth of pizzas.

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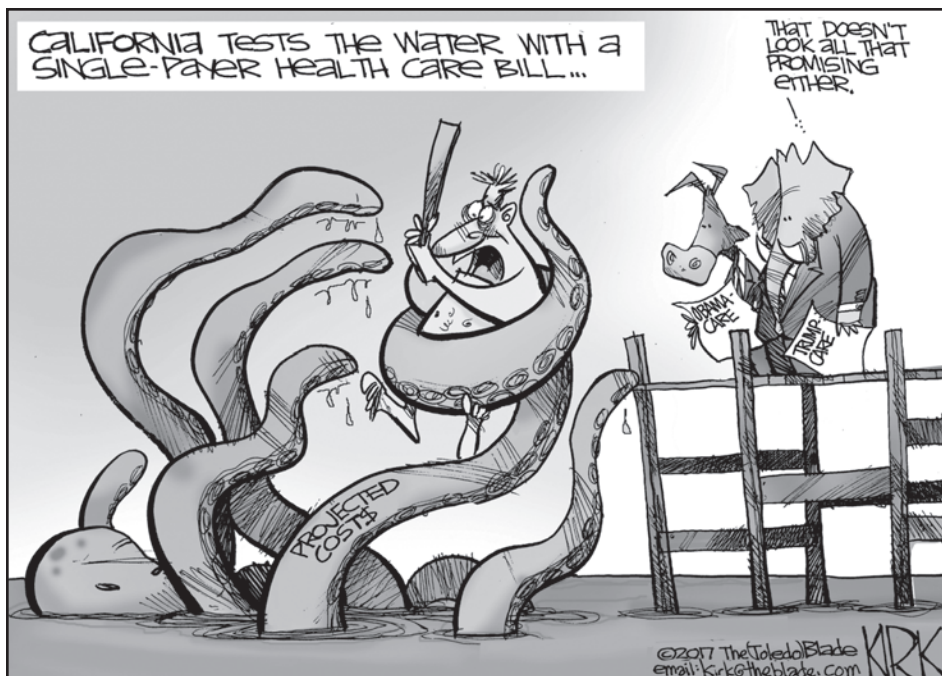
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Guest Editorial

The Neglected Reagan

By Rich Lowry

Does anyone really know Ronald Reagan?

In his new book *The Working Class Republican*, a bracingly revisionist account of the 40th president, Henry Olsen answers "no." One of the most astute political analysts at work today and a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Olsen argues that Reagan's politics bear the distinctive stamp of his origins as a New Deal Democrat.

Olsen's interpretation of what he calls "Reagan's New Deal conservatism" is open to dispute. But he undoubtedly is correct that contemporary conservative politicians do Reagan -- and themselves -- a disservice by remembering him as an unremitting ideologue and tactical maximalist.

As late as 1980, Reagan had still been a Democrat longer than he had been a Republican. As he put it, characteristically, in his 1984 acceptance speech, "Did I leave the Democratic Party, or did the leadership of that party leave not just me but millions of patriotic Democrats who believed in the principles and philosophy of that platform?"

With an eye to these sorts of voters throughout his career and with a sensibility attuned to their concerns, Reagan didn't simply replicate the let-it-all-hang-out, high-octane conservatism of Barry Goldwater.

He never contested the idea that there should be a safety net. In his famous speech promoting Goldwater's candidacy in 1964, Reagan stipulated, "We're for a provision that destitution should not follow unemployment by reason of old age, and to that end we have accepted Social Security as a step toward meeting the problem."

That said, Reagan was hardly a friend of the welfare state. His 1964 speech attacked farm programs, government planning, welfare, the size and power of bureaucracy, and regulations that "have cost us many of our constitutional safeguards."

He extolled the common man, "the forgotten American," and his innate dignity. In his first inaugural address, Reagan hailed the "men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and factories, teach our children, keep our homes, and heal us when we're sick -- professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies, and truck drivers."

He didn't support tax cuts for the rich so much as tax cuts for everyone, and didn't obsess over entrepreneurship.

He had a pragmatic cast. In his campaign for governor of California, he noted that "public officials are elected primarily for one purpose -- to solve public problems." Hostile to taxes, he nevertheless raised them as governor of California in response to a budget crisis, and as president as part of a Social Security deal. A free-trader, he brushed back the Japanese on trade.

Reagan's tone and program, coupled with his generational talent as a politician, allowed him to unlock the working-class vote in his races for governor and president. "The Reagan Democrat" has been part of our political vocabulary ever since. It is telling how President Donald Trump -- not having learned the purported lessons of Reagan -- was able to go and get these voters in a way that Republican politicians bound by Reaganite truisms were not.

Reagan was a constitutional conservative, although an exceptionally gifted one who understood how to meet Americans where they live. In this important book, Henry Olsen reminds us how.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Concert Goers: Get a Room!

Tonight, I went to a Brad Paisley concert. I love country music.

There. I said it. No shame here.

I don't just love country music, I love concerts in general. I've loved going to live shows ever since I was nine years old and my Dad took me to see New Kids on the Block. Okay, that one was painful to admit. I don't even care who's playing. It could be a mediocre local cover band or the biggest musical act to hit the area, I just want to hear live music. I'm not sure what I love about concerts more, watching the artist or watching the people who are watching the artist.

Tonight had some prime people-watching opportunities. Don't get me wrong, Brad was amazing, but the lure of people watching is strong especially when surrounded by a sea of folks who feel the need to dress up like they just "mo-seyed" off the farm (even

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WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



up Hyundai to the concert since he doesn't make it a habit to work the parking lot after one of his shows. He won't even know.

Beyond being amused by the standard country music-concert-goer uniform, I love watching how people actually behave. There are the people so drunk they couldn't find the

The couple behind me was the real issue, however. Their romantic shenanigans consistently resulted in me getting the back of my chair kicked, elbowed in the back and smacked on the top of my head every time I decided to sit down for a moment. Not one time did I get even a half-hearted apology.

beat if someone wrapped it in a bow and gifted it to them. Between the odd, erratic jerking and interpretive dance moves that, at best, could only be described as amateur, the drunkies really know how to show the rest of us how to become the

though I am quite certain that not a single one of them has ever seen the business end of a backhoe in their lives). I bet every store in a 50-mile radius runs out of cowboy boots and hats whenever a singer with some twang rolls into town. Let's not forget the parking lot full of jacked-up pickup trucks. I don't think I've seen so many trucks at one concert before. It made my little civic seem extra dinky in comparison and made me wonder if everyone went out and bought a new truck just to see Brad Paisley. Call my crazy, but I just don't think there's enough of a return on that investment. Brad won't care that you drove your beat-

next dance fail YouTube sensation.

Then there are the people who clearly made up their minds beforehand not to enjoy the concert. These are the people determined to have the worst time ever. They refuse to get out of their seats no matter which song is being performed and glare at everyone in front of them for standing up and blocking their view of the concert they clearly don't want to be at anyway.

Then there is my personal favorite: the people who are so into the music they forget they are in public. The couples so

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

into the song, dancing and swaying, that suddenly they mistake the public venue for their private bedroom. This category may have some crossover with the drunk people.

It seemed tonight I was flanked on all sides by people from the latter group. I had Mr. and Mrs. Handsy in front of me who were both so ridiculously all over each other that I think maybe they had eight arms between them. Then there were the cuddle bugs to my left who couldn't seem to put more than an inch of space between them, which wouldn't have bothered me in the least had they not felt the need to keep leaving and coming back a billion and a half times, having to walk in front of me each time. They were so swirled up in each other that I practically fell backward over the chair to make room for the two-headed love beast. I mean, once or twice a concert is fine, but good grief, it seemed like they were pushing me out of the way every other song.

The couple behind me was the real issue, however. Their romantic shenanigans consistently resulted in me getting the back of my chair kicked, elbowed in the back and smacked on the top of my head every time I decided to sit down for a moment. Not one time did I get even a half-hearted apology. At one point the chick knocked into me so hard that she broke the sunglasses I was using for a headband. Needless to say, that's when I very loudly reminded them that this wasn't some new-fangled, outdoor, public brothel and if they really couldn't keep their hands off each other there was a perfectly good port-a-potty not 50 feet away. I'm not sure if I gave them the best idea ever or just managed to successfully publicly shame them, but they slinked away and luckily I didn't see them again for the remainder of the concert.

The broken sunglasses and knot on the top of my head did nothing to dampen the awesome experience, though. I'll tell you this: Mr. Paisley puts on a heck of a show ... and so do his fans.

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You Say Potato ...

Is it “po-TAY-to or po-TAW-to”? Regardless of how you pronounce them, they’re delicious. What is breakfast without hash browns? A hamburger without fries? A steak without a baked potato? Or a potluck or picnic without potato salad?

When I entered high school in 1947, all I could think about was taking college-prep classes so I could go to college and become a second-grade school teacher. I also wanted to take Home Ec (I understand they don’t even teach “Home Economics” any more – what a shame!). My freshman Home Ec teacher was Mrs. Mae Starkey – a real sweetheart unless you riled her. Her pet peeve was when we pounded the side of a glass mixing bowl with a spoon. That earned an F for the day. We soon learned what NOT to do in her class. Today when I see a chef on TV pound their mixing bowl I cringe and think of Mrs. Starkey.

In my sophomore year, I realized I wasn’t going to be able to go to college so I changed my major to business and didn’t take Home Ec my senior year (which I really missed because I loved that class) so I could get more business classes in. I worked in the Chowchilla Library for a year then borrowed the money from my Uncle to go to Commercial College and the rest is history.

While in Mrs. Starkey’s class we kept a binder of all the recipes we made in that class. The only two recipes I can remember is Prune Whip and Hot Potato Salad. I can’t find my binder so I called my friend Nina in Chowchilla to see if she still had hers. She didn’t but she said would call someone else to see if she could find it. Believe it or not, some 70 years later June still had her binder.

Hot Potato Salad

4 C cooked potatoes - diced
 ½ C celery – diced
 4 slices bacon fried and diced
 3 T grated onion
 ½ C shredded lettuce (for border around salad)
 3 hard-boiled eggs
 ½ tsp salt
 ½ green bell pepper – chopped

While the potatoes are cooking make the Hot Potato Salad Dressing. When potatoes have cooked drain well and place in large mixing bowl. Add the celery, bacon and onion and mix well. Add ¾ C of the dressing, mixing well. Add the boiled eggs, green pepper



and salt and pepper to taste. Add remaining dressing and mix well. Transfer to serving bowl, garnish with the chopped lettuce and serve while it is still warm.

Hot Potato Salad Dressing

1 T Sugar
 1 T Flour
 4 T Bacon fat
 2 Egg Yolks
 ½ tsp mustard
 ½ C vinegar
 ¼ C water
 ½ tsp. salt

Blend sugar and flour, add bacon fat, mustard, vinegar and water. Boil two minutes. Beat egg yolks and drizzle hot mix into the yolks, beating constantly to prevent eggs from scrambling.

Growing up, our family used Miracle Whip instead of mayonnaise. Mama made the best potato salad – of course some people won’t agree with me because it is made with Miracle Whip instead of mayonnaise. Let’s call it:

Briner’s Potato Salad

5 or 6 potatoes – scrubbed and cut into cubes.
 ½ red onion – chopped
 2 stalks celery – sliced
 3 or 4 sweet pickles - chopped
 5 or 6 hardboiled eggs

While the potatoes are cooking, make the salad dressing so it will be ready for the hot potatoes.

2 C Miracle Whip
 3 T milk
 1 T sugar
 1 T apple cider vinegar
 Splash of sweet pickle liquid
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Mix together and set aside

Put cubed potatoes in large pot and cover with cold water. Bring to boil and cook until tender but not mushy. Drain potatoes and put in large bowl. As soon as you can handle them pull peelings off and cut larger pieces into bite-size pieces and add about half of dressing to hot potatoes. Add onion, celery and pickles, mix well, add the chopped eggs and adding more dressing if necessary. When it is mixed with

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

the amount of dressing to your liking, cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Refrigerate remaining dressing in covered container. After a couple of hours in the refrigerator check the salad to see if it needs more of the reserved dressing as the potatoes cool they will soak up more of the dressing. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve. Mama used this same dressing on her macaroni salad.

My sister Maxine is carrying on making the Bailey potato salad that our sister Faye made since her marriage into the Bailey family. We think she got this recipe from her sister-in-law Lena.

Bailey Potato Salad

6 or 7 large potatoes – scrubbed, not peeled. Cut into quarters length way and boil until tender, but not mushy.

3 or 4 dill pickles – chopped

4 or 5 boiled eggs

Mayonnaise

Yellow mustard

Salt and pepper to taste

As soon as potatoes are done, drain and lay out on a cookie sheet spooning about a half tablespoon of dill pickle juice on each potato. When potatoes are cool enough to handle remove peels and spoon more pickle juice on side of pota-

toes that had the peeling. Cut potatoes into bite size pieces and put in large mixing bowl. Add chopped pickles and mayonnaise (start with a couple of cups) and a couple of squirts of mustard. Mix until just moistened. Add chopped eggs and more mayonnaise if needed, add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate until cooled. After it has cooled an hour or so, check salad to see if it needs more mayonnaise or mustard. Do not over dress, but you don't want a dry salad either.

Going to a pot luck or picnic that will be out in this 100-plus-degree weather and you are worried about spoiling salad? How about taking a potato salad with vinaigrette?

Lemon Vinaigrette Potato Salad

3 Pounds red potatoes cut into cubes

½ C olive oil

3 T lemon juice

2 T minced fresh basil

2 T minced fresh parsley

1 T red wine vinegar

1 tsp grated lemon peel

¾ tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

1 small onion, finely chopped

Put potatoes in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk the olive oil, lemon juice, herbs, vinegar, lemon peel, salt and pepper.

Drain potatoes. Place in a large bowl, add onions. Drizzle vinaigrette over potatoes, toss to coat. Serve warm or chill until serving.

There you have it: mustard or not; dill or sweet pickles or maybe no pickles at all; apple cider, seasoned rice wine vinegar (my favorite) or white vinegar; Miracle Whip or mayonnaise, or even vinaigrette; you have all kinds of choices. The only thing for sure is the potatoes and even there you have russet, red or Yukon gold. When you finish with your potato salad and it tastes exactly like you want it to, it will definitely have your signature on it.

I have people to thank for helping with this article. First of all to Patti Groh for talking to me about what she liked and didn't like in potato salad and giving me this idea. Second, to my friend Nina and June for finding our over-70-year-old recipe from high school days. And last, but by no means least, to my sister Maxine for giving me her recipe. If you have a suggestion for this article or a recipe you would like to share, please let me know. Call the office at 645-0634, e-mail at ranchosnews@yahoo.com or best of all, come in and talk to me at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C.

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Live Like an MVP's Mom

Following the Golden State NBA win, Kevin Durant's mom was a guest on Good Morning America. As I was getting ready for the day, I heard the interviewer, Robin Roberts, say, "She put so much of her life on hold to raise her two sons." I'm sure there are ways to argue this to be true, but hearing what Wanda Durant shared prompted my thoughts in a different direction.

Referring to her son's 2014 MVP award ceremony, Wanda said, "I felt fulfilled as a mom. When he gave the speech and he talked about me ... I felt like he got it, he understood why I was the type of mother that I was ... at that moment I felt like I was fulfilled as a parent because it was like all that hard work really paid off."

Does that sound like a life "put on hold" or like a life lived with intentionality, purpose and fulfillment? I work with people at all stages of life — young moms overwhelmed with managing a household and career; retirees who realize that "waiting for retirement to get organized" probably wasn't the best plan; and everyone in-between.

A common thread is a desire to make the most of the current stage they're in; to simplify and purge things so that more attention can be focused on relationships and what matters most to them. I think Wanda Durant was clear in her understanding of what her life was about and she embraced it — making sacrifices yes, but choosing to build into those she loved most dearly: her two sons. There's no "one size fits all" when it comes to living a life with intentionality, purpose and fulfillment, but here are some tips to help you live like the mom of an MVP.

1. Identify what's most important to you. No one else can do that for you (even though they'll try). It may not be the thing(s) you're currently investing in. I've never heard of someone on their deathbed saying, "I wish I had spent more time shopping online, or watching Netflix." It's easy to slip into a comfortable routine that leaves no time for things that truly give us purpose and meaning in life.

2. Think short and long term. Reframe the "putting your life on hold" perspective

by identifying current and long-term goals that align with your values. Weigh the costs and embrace the sacrifices that come with those commitments. Commit to "living" your current life with purpose. You may not have the pay-off of a wealthy son in the NBA like Wanda has, but you will experience a sense of fulfillment.

3. Make the most of your strengths. What do you do well that will enhance your values and goals? My husband is a natural coach. From teaching our kids how to walk and talk, to coaching their softball teams, he used his skills in his role as a dad. How can the strengths and skills you have help you fulfill your current goals?

4. Reject "all or nothing" thinking. My oldest daughter did lots of musical drama during her high school and college years. Now with three kids (two three year olds and a one year old) she can't commit to a Roger Rocka's rehearsal/performance schedule, but she recently participated in the Clovis Community Choir patriotic concert. She found an outlet for her passion that fits her current lifestyle. All or nothing thinking sometimes stops Seniors from purposeful activities, too. Maybe you can no longer work a 40-hour week, but there are many part-time jobs and volunteer opportunities out there.

5. Create an environment conducive to your goals. You knew I'd get to this, didn't you? Is your home supporting the values you've established? Are you wanting to focus more on relationships, but feel embarrassed inviting people in? Do you have a place to work on your projects and goals? Is your home serving as a respite for your family or does your stress level rise as you enter the door? Sometimes, just like we need to create space in our calendars, we need to create space in our homes for what's current and important. Lives of meaning and purpose don't need a "model home" environment, but they need a supportive place to restore and energize you as you achieve your goals.

If this struck a chord, but you're not sure where to start, or afraid you won't follow through, I offer Close-The-Gap Phone Coaching in addition to my hands-on organizing. Through coaching I help people foster awareness around their values and motivation, create and engage in action plans and learn through the process of challenges and completion. Feel free to contact me at the information below.

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

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Hey, Conservatives, "It Takes a Village!"

By Betty Van Valkenburg

No, I'm not thinking about the usual gaggle of village idiots spouting socialist and communist platitudes; the ones who may not know the difference between Karl Marx and Groucho Marx. I'm thinking about the large "village" of conservatives: organizations, publications, websites, activist groups, educators, radio and TV pundits, writers, and (too few) elected officials who are working in their own ways to restore constitutional, limited government. All have their place, from disseminating information or gathering the news, to activism, to holding elected office. But most of us are "none of the above" and have yet to find our place.

Being conservative, by our very nature, we are not inclined to be political animals. Most of us register Republican for lack of a better choice, and since the party apparatus is to our left, we are turned off to party politics. As "ordinary folks" we may complain vociferously about the loss of freedom and government intrusion, and we may vote every two years, but the real rough-and-tumble party politics has not been our "thing." Perhaps it's time that it should be, and here's a good and hopefully painless opportunity to find out and get started.

The Tea Party California Caucus is hosting "The Real Resistance Conference" August 11 and 12 in Fresno and urges us to attend and "learn activist tools to take back California from the Progressive Left!" You can get further information, including the impressive list of speakers, on their Facebook page: www.teapartycc.com/, or by emailing Ken Campbell at drkencampbell@gmail.com.

Since the system is already in place by which "they" who are involved call the shots, I say that "they" might just as well be "us." Please consider attending the conference.

Between now and the conference, and beyond, I urge you to take advantage of what others of the conservative village

have to offer. (Some individual "villagers" will be at the conference so you can meet and talk with them.) Just a few that I have found to be useful, in no particular order, are:

Tom DeWeese, American Policy Center. From the website at american-policy.org

"Tom DeWeese is one of the nation's leading advocates of individual liberty, free enterprise, private property rights, personal privacy, back-to-basics education and American sovereignty and independence." I have found him to be an unfailing expert on the reasons for the decline of private property rights. On his site you can sign up for emails and order educational materials. His book, *Erase*, is a must read.

Election Integrity Project. EIP is the source to learn the good, the bad and the ugly about election procedures. You can become a trained polling place observer or sign up to receive email updates at www.electionintegrityproject.com. I've been trained by EIP and observed the polls for several years and have watched EIP become more and more professional and influential.

California Political Review. I'll let them toot their own horn. Their site at www.capoliticalreview.com says: "Our content is meant to be hard-hitting, solution-oriented and aims to hold legislators throughout the Golden State to higher standards and good governance principles to rebuild a vibrant economy, protect individual liberties and make California as business friendly as possible."

Steve Frank, California Political News and Views. Steve Frank has worked in Republican politics since his association with the Reagan administration and is an encyclopedia (remember those?) of political knowledge. He is Senior Contributing Editor of *California Political Review* and his "California Political News and Views" is a special section of their website.

Tea Party Patriots. Tea Party Patriots has become an influential pro-liberty organization and supports conservative candidates and public policy. At www.teaparty Patriots.org you can learn about the issues and how to become involved, sign petitions and subscribe to receive emails.

Central Valley Tea Party. The local Tea Party started with a bang in 2009 and has been a force for conservatism ever since. Visit their website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com which has more information about the Fresno conference.

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5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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IN GOOD HANDS

with Warren Parr



A "Current" Affair

Hello 93636,

I chose this article's topic because it's very unique, intriguing and reinforces several points I've been trying to make through the writing of this column.

Last week I received a phone call from a customer that was considering replacing his vehicle's HVAC control module (Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning microprocessor). He wanted to know if we had the capability to program the new module or should he take his vehicle to the dealer. My experience with customers inquiring about replacing modules is that it's the only thing left that hasn't been replaced. Just to make this article more interesting, my customer is a Madera County elected official. I know he does not have the equipment to properly diagnose a defective module. I asked him about his complaint and if any HVAC module diagnostic trouble codes were retrieved.

NO and his complaint was the air conditioning intermittently stops blowing cold. Because it's intermittent, he thought it was the controller. It wasn't.

This is the American free enterprise system. Industry working with industry for the benefit of the American people. I am proud of our automotive aftermarket parts industry.

Main Points

First Point: Guessing, or the Trial and Error Method, is the most expensive way to diagnose an automotive problem.

Naturally for us, the customer's complaint was not present when the vehicle arrived. The AC system appeared to be working properly. No problem. Scott, my lead technician, began his diagnostic by retrieving a trouble code stored in the suspect HVAC module. That code led him to start his diagnostic with the AC compressor. He performed his baseline tests so that when the failure did occur, that data could be compared to the failed test data. Good move Scott. The baseline test that eventually iden-

tified the failure and its CAUSE was a current flow test. The same test I've been preaching about for years. We simply place a small CURRENT AMP PROBE around the wire. When current flows, the current is displayed on the scope in a waveform. Easy-Peasy.

Second Point: "Do it Yourselfers," my recent articles have contained a lot of warnings and "do not's." This article is about a DO. With a current amp probe, you can't hurt the vehicle, yourself or the equipment, unless you stick your fingers and/or drop the equipment into the cooling system fan while it's turning.

A little refresher course at this point may be useful. First: Current is the flow of electrons. Current is measured in amps. When electrons flow through an electrical component, that component performs work. The more electrons that flow (current), the more work being performed. Second: Electrical current is equal throughout a circuit. Therefore, the current probe can be placed anywhere (easiest) on the wire/circuit. Third: Since we are only concerned with the amount of current and not its direction, it doesn't matter if we place the probe backwards or forwards. We can't mess up.

Most automotive AC compressors have just two wires: current, coming and going. They are used to energize the AC compressor clutch coil. The AC clutch coil is that big black round thing on the front of the AC compressor just behind the serpentine belt.

Inside the clutch coil cover is a long coil of copper wire; if stretched out it would measure a half mile or so. When electrical current flows through a coil of wire, it creates a magnetic field. The larger the coil, the greater the magnetism. When energized, the magnetism of the AC clutch coil attracts and holds together both steel clutch plates so the serpentine belt can spin the AC compressor.

The Diagnostic

OK, back to Scott's diagnostic. When our AC was functioning properly, the clutch coil current measured 1.5 amps. When the AC failed, the current increased to 8 amps. Let's do a

Please see **HANDS** on P. 15

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HANDS cont. from P. 14

little math using Ohm's Law. If we divide our voltage (12.5 volts) by our current (1.5 amps), we know our resistance to current flow is 8.33 ohms when the AC system is functioning properly. At failure, the current increased to 8 amps. By re-doing the math, we can see the resistance to current flow decreased by 80 percent. What happened that caused the resistance to electron flow to suddenly decrease? Heat distorts things.

When the insulation barrier separating the coil of copper wire from its steel cover flexed enough, the steel cover became the conductor that provided the electrons a short cut to ground (path with the least resistance). Since the electrons didn't have to drudge through the entire 1/2 mile of wire, current flow (amps) increased because the resistance to flow decreased. We have a short to ground.

When the HVAC module saw high current, it went into protective mode and turned the AC off, set a trouble code and ignored the driver's request for AC. The module DID ITS JOB. Testing saved about \$400.

Madera Ranchos "Do it Yourselfers," this test works for all coils, including ignition coils and solenoids like fuel injectors, transmission shift solenoids and electric door lock actuators. The only thing preventing you from doing this diagnostic is a single channel lab scope and a current amp probe. Google "uScope Master Kit." It's very inexpensive.

When researching the vehicle's records, we discovered we installed the AC compressor assembly three years ago. OK. What's the manufacturer's warranty? You guessed it ... two years. At this point I became an advocate for my customer. The waveform showed

the coil was defective and not due to abuse. When we called my NAPA salesman, it just so happened the AC compressor manufacturer's representative was in town and they drove right over. Scott walked the representatives through the waveform point by point. Because a current amp probe waveform is so easy to understand, they agreed the coil was defective even though this was their first current waveform. On the spot they warrantied the AC compressor assembly. Our defective coil and its waveform is being returned to the manufacturer for further testing and evaluation.

Third Point: This is the American free enterprise system. Industry working with industry for the benefit of the American people. I am proud of our automotive aftermarket parts industry. I'm proud of our automotive diagnostic equipment manufacturers and trainers that give us, working in the field, the tools and training to accurately diagnose and repair vehicles and collaborate with our parts manufacturers to improve product quality, reliability and customer satisfaction. I'm proud of my parts supplier, NAPA, for going the extra mile.

That's all for now. I hope this helps. As always, I'm looking for interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have any automotive or automotive industry questions or want to send me your waveform, I can be contacted at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook Complete Car Care or text me at 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636,

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IN MEMORIAM
ANDREW MULLIGAN



APRIL 25, 1946 – JUNE 24, 2017

Andrew R. Mulligan of the Madera Ranchos, age 71, passed away June 24, 2017. He was the owner of Andrew Mulligan Bobcat Service.

Andrew is survived by his wife, Bera Mulligan; granddaughter Anais Mulligan of Oregon; sister Velma Evans of Fresno; brother Charles Mulligan of North Dakota and numerous nieces and nephews. Andrew was preceded in death by his son Eric Mulligan and daughter Kayleen Mulligan.

Andrew was a loving husband, father, uncle and grandfather. He loved to travel and to see different parts of the world. He was a happy, loving and sincere man. He loved to work and was a very hard worker; he was also a classic car enthusiast.

Andrew became very well known in Madera and the Central Valley due to opening his Bobcat business in 1991. He was a Vietnam veteran who served eight years in the army, serving as a medic at the Army Hospital in Saigon at the height of the Tet Offensive. He also served at Walter Reed, the nation's top military hospital. He was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska as a medic when the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Geographic Society surveyed the Iditarod Trail for the dog sled competition. While in Alaska Andrew attended the Alaskan Methodist University and upon his return used the GI Bill to graduate with an Associate of Science degree from West Hills Collage in Coalinga.

We sent our courageous young men to fight for our country. Sargent Andrew Mulligan enlisted at the age of 20 years old and proudly served his country for eight years. A nephew, who served in the military during the same time as Andrew, stated that Andrew was a true hero who saved many lives, some of whom are still living. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs diagnosed Andrew as being 100 percent disabled due to the effects of exposure to Agent Orange.

May he rest in peace.

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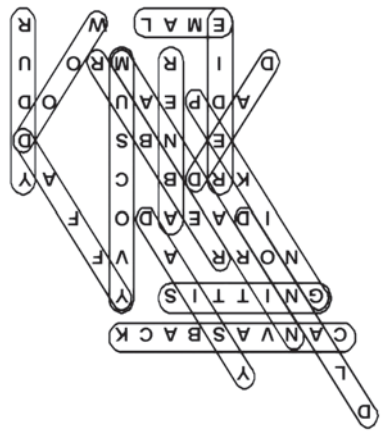


ANSWERS

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RECHARGE cont. from P. 3

Cristel Tufenkjian, Program Coordinator with the Kings Basin Water Authority, a consortium of regional water management stakeholders, said, "... groundwater is an important water supply for our region, especially in drought years. The recharge project helps with sustainability for our area's water resources, economy and people."

"The state's prolonged drought and subsequent stress on our natural resources require everyone – from industry to nonprofits – to work collaboratively on solutions that benefit all," said Ashley Boren, Executive Director of Sustainable Conservation, which is coordinating private investment in the project. "While the project won't single-handedly solve California's groundwater problem, expanding the power of public-private partnerships like ours will help drive a more sustainable water future for California."

DWR and Coca Cola Weigh In

DWR Director Mark Cowin, whose agency provided a majority of the funding for the project, said, "The Kings River recharge project is a good example of what we call integrated water management. By working together, state, local and private interests can maximize water project benefits and help make California's water system as a whole more resilient."

Jon Radtke, Water Resource Sustainability Manager for Coca-Cola North America, which is helping fund the project through a major grant, said, "We know that water is critical to the health, wellness and economic prosperity of local communities. Our work with the Kings River recharge basin is a great example of how we are partnering with local communities to help steward water resources. Together with our community partners we are working to meet our Company's goal to replenish an amount of water equivalent to what we use in our finished beverages."

The DWR Bulletin also points out that the potential for more water is welcome news for thousands of families, many of them living below the poverty line, who depend solely on the area's groundwater for drinking, cooking and bathing. While not currently a problem in the Kings River basin, expanding efforts to recharge groundwater aquifers across the San Joaquin Valley could help avoid costly repairs to roads, irrigation canals and other infrastructure that's increasingly being damaged due to land subsidence from the over-pumping of groundwater.

Fresno County, full of many "leaky acres," is very proactively seeking solutions to groundwater overdraft. Madera County must do the same if its residents are to survive. Since Madera County is so much more sparsely populated than Fresno, the same kinds of storm water drainage systems are not available here to collect and direct storm water to recharge

basins — which don't even exist yet. Madera County has hundreds of miles of canals that were built with taxpayer dollars by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and are now managed by contracts with the Bureau by irrigation districts, such as the Madera and Chowchilla Irrigation Districts. These canals would automatically convey storm water to recharge basins and locations that could easily and economically be placed and/or designated on existing agricultural land which are already located adjacent to the canals. As detailed in last month's article, a very similar setup has been established by the Root Creek Water District, using a DWR grant-funded In-lieu Groundwater Recharge Pipeline from the Bureau's canal system, across Avenue 12, to orchards located in the District. In addition, for a few months during the last rainy season, Madera Irrigation District offered free water to clients who were willing to flood their orchards with water that would have otherwise flowed out toward the ocean and had to be released from Friant Dam.

SGMA Revisited

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies that cover critically overdrafted sub-basins to have a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in place by January 2020 and to have it fully implemented by 2040 — in 20 years. But there are also provisions to ensure steps are being taken along the way to achieve sustainability, and that is how and where members of the public can get involved to protect, defend and assert their water rights. While Madera County has until now not seen the kind of coordinated effort between public and private organizations necessary for genuine integrated regional water management to actually achieve the kind of water and groundwater sustainability that is already taking place in nearby counties, including storm water resources, knowing the historical record, the players that have been involved and what their goals have been, the public — and especially the residents of southeast Madera County — will have only themselves to blame if they don't step up and take action.

Groundwater Recharge NOW

A local group, called Groundwater Recharge NOW, has as its mission, "To develop new groundwater recharge basins that will improve our overdrafted aquifer." This group, which continues to research public and government agency requirements for protecting everyone's water rights and guarantee they are met, is planning a public meeting in August or September. If you are interested in receiving information on the group's progress and public meeting dates, you can send an email to RechargeGW@gmail.com.

National Geographic has created a documentary chronicling California's water situation called "Water & Power: A California Heist." This video helps put into perspective many of the concepts talked about in this article.

The Bookshelf**Ranchos Library for Back to School**

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library has been so busy with all of the participants of the Summer Reading Program weekly events. We love seeing all of the enthusiasm for reading and I am especially proud of the wonderful audience that we have been to our performers.

August will soon be here and with it comes the start of a new school year and, not coincidentally, Children's Vision and Learning Month. With one in four children having an undiagnosed vision problem, the goal of the national observance is to educate about the intimate relationship between vision and learning.

These weeks are speeding right along and before we know it, school will be back in full swing. Keep in mind that the Ranchos Library is the perfect place to come in and pick up books for required reading lists, accelerated reader testing and getting the necessary information to do research for those reports. We are putting out new titles each and every week. Don't forget to take a look at our new book sections when you stop in for a visit, they are continuously changing and we wouldn't want you to miss out.

August is also Getting Ready for Kindergarten Month. The library has lots of resources to get those little ones ready for

their first day of school. It is always fun to read books about kindergarten with them; story times are a great way to get your child talking about the new school. During August we will also be resuming our Preschool Story Time. Mrs. Maxfield's first story time will be on Thursday, Aug. 17 at 11 a.m. and will continue each Thursday thereafter. Ranchos Library Storytime is a fun, read-play-learn activity session that is customized each and every week. We hope to see you there.

Ranchos Library would like to thank the community for supporting your local library and your local Chamber of Commerce with our 2017 Fireworks Booth. We appreciate all of the patronage and enthusiasm for the community and our library. Thank you for making our booth a success and we look forward to your support next year.

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Landfill Aids in Cattle Disposal

Valley-wide heat waves resulting in higher mortality rates among cattle and mechanical issues at the rendering facility in Kerman have prompted several area counties to declare states of emergencies that would allow for disposal of carcasses in ways other than transporting them to the rendering facility.

While Madera County has not seen higher cattle deaths that would qualify for an emergency, its landfill located in Fairmead is permitted by the State Water Board and Cal Recycle to accept carcasses for disposal, according to Alan Davis, general manager for Caglia Environmental, the county's landfill operator.

"We hope to assist our neighboring counties through this crisis," said Eric Fleming, Madera County Administrative Officer, "by allowing immediate disposal of these carcasses at our Madera County landfill, which is already permitted for this use."

The landfill is prepared to start taking

carcasses for disposal immediately, Davis said, adding that ranchers can call the landfill directly at (559) 665-7300 to schedule an appointment.

"They can bring the carcasses to the landfill," Davis said, "or we could pick them up. We have that capability."

It is not uncommon for dairy operators to lose a couple cattle a week in the summer months. According to an article in the Business Journal, rendering plant transportation of carcasses has increased by about 2,000 a week. The mechanical problems, the Journal noted, are due to the increase in processing, about 1.5 million pounds per day which is half a million more than usual.

Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties called special meetings of their Board of Supervisors to declare states of emergency due to the increased cattle deaths.

For more information contact Ahmad Alkhayyat, director of public works, at 559-536-6496.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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Source: Int'l Ice Cream Assoc.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:5



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SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

As time goes by, progress is measured by deeds. Well, SEMCU "is" doing it.

Last week, along with Golden Valley Unified School District's Superintendent Andy Alvarado, we interviewed Anthony R. Forestiere, CPA, as a candidate for SEMCU's vacant grant-writing position. Forestiere has recently moved into the Ranchos community and is set up to stay. The interview went well and a proposal for his services was presented by SEMCU and will be deliberated by the board at the July monthly meeting. As a SEMCU grant writer, Forestiere will not just write grant applications for SEMCU. While under contract to SEMCU, and on behalf of SEMCU, he will also be writing grants for GVUSD and other community entities and for projects with which SEMCU is associated. Grant management by Forestiere potentially will be a part of any funded grant he produces. We will be working on the GVUSD school new expansion for agriculture, trade and water demonstration grant application, water replenishment and recharge opportunities, a park, a community center and more.

I would also like to reiterate our past offer to the public: "Any person living within the SEMCU area who takes the grant writing course given at Fresno State and gets certified will be reimbursed for the tuition cost of the course." There are no obligations other than completing the course.

More progress has been made on the different grants' "implementation." After SEMCU applies and receives a grant for the public's good, it must be acted on and the funds must be dispensed based on the grant's criteria, rules and regulations within a specific time limit. Implementing a grant includes reaching out to the public, advising of the available benefits and dispensing these benefits to qualified recipients.

We recently had the fortune of SEMCU associating itself with Verlaine Elinburg who is now been approved as the "Implementation Manager." Verlaine will see to advertising and public outreach to maximize the number of beneficiaries and recipients of the funded grants benefits.

In Verlaine's own words: "Since my retirement working for the Federal Government, IRS, Social Security and 37 years for the postal service, ending my career as Postmaster of Oakhurst, I have been searching for a meaningful cause to serve my community. I retired in 2009 and began volunteering. I thought it would be the best way to get to know my community where I have lived since 1980. Being a senior, I became a member of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center and it has been a learning journey since then. I wrote articles for the Ranchos Independent on matters pertaining to seniors and other subjects. I wrote the monthly newsletters for the seniors, learned about food service, helped with the lunch program at the Senior Center, chaired and co-chaired the Seniors' Annual Home & Garden Festival, served on the Board and at present am President of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. I am a board member for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ranchos Kiwanis and the Odd Fellows.

"SEMCU is my next adventure in my community. I view SEMCU as supporting

SEMCU meets on the third Monday of every month at the Pizza Factory on Ave. 12 in the Ranchos at 6 p.m. Come make your voice and ideas heard and make a difference. SEMCU works for you and the needs of your community.

more than just one group or cause, bringing together all of us under a community umbrella and working toward a common cause for all of us. For the immediate future, I will be researching for different qualified water meters, energy and water-saving wash-


ing machines with the hopes of providing the community a qualifying equipment list. I plan to be more visible to the community by setting up an information booth at different events and functions; different heavy foot-traffic locations and times; have open house gatherings to be accessible to the public and increase awareness and ideas for our community."

SEMCU's ongoing projects such as the "FREE Dry Wells" and "Water Meter Reimbursement" programs for qualified community members are going on and community members may get in touch with SEMCU or Verlaine for more information at 559-363-9095 or by email at info@semcu.org. Someone will be on the line to respond in person or will return your call. SEMCU will assist with our current projects as well as promote additional devices and projects.

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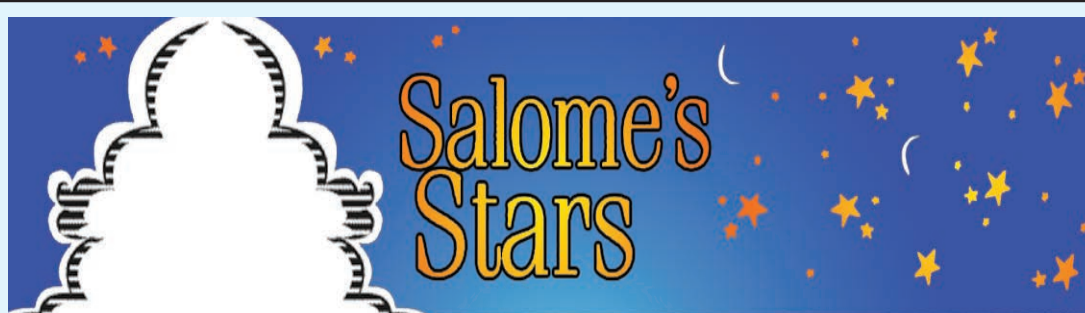
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're wise to let your Arian skepticism question a former adversary's request to let bygones be bygones. Time will tell if they are trying to pull the wool over the Lamb's eyes.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Congratulations. Your hard work soon pays off with some well-deserved recognition. Meanwhile, that important personal relationship needs more attention from you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) That new person in your life seems trustworthy, but don't turn him or her into a confidant just yet. Remember: The secret you don't reveal is the one you won't lose sleep over.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your kindness makes a difference in someone's life. But by week's end, a touch of Cancerian envy could create a problem with a colleague. Take care to keep it under control.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A new spurt of energy sends you roaring back into that challenging work situation. But be careful not to overdo it, or your sizzle could fizzle before your task is completed.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your practical sense helps you see the logic of being a bit more flexible with a workplace colleague. But you still have a ways to go before there's a true meeting of the minds.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A surprise situation could cause you to spend more money than you feel you can afford. But careful budget adjustments will help. Your fiscal picture soon brightens.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That decision you made might still have its detractors, but your supporters are growing. Meanwhile, your personal life takes on some welcome new developments.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Matters of the mind intrigue the sage Sagittarian through week's end. By then, you should feel more than ready to make room for pursuits of the heart.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The canny Capricorn can offer good counsel to others. But how about taking some advice yourself from a close friend or family member who is able and ready to help?

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new workplace opportunity offers a variety of challenges that you might find intriguing. Best advice: Take things one step at a time so that you don't feel overwhelmed.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A bid to revive a relationship that ended on a bitter note needs to be carefully thought out before you can even begin to consider plunging into a new emotional commitment.

Born this Week
You enjoy being with people, and people love being with you. You would probably do very well in politics.

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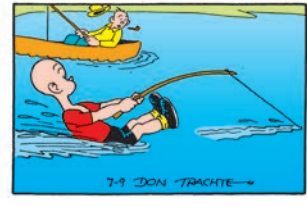
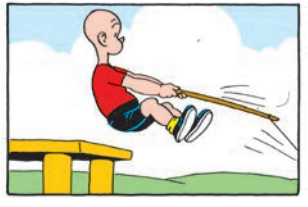
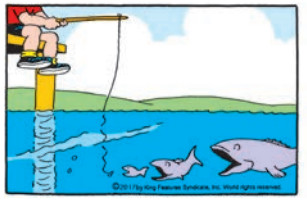
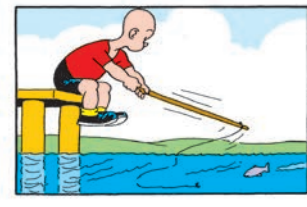
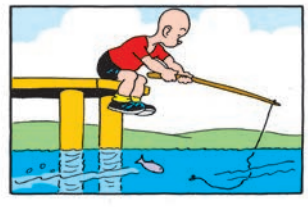
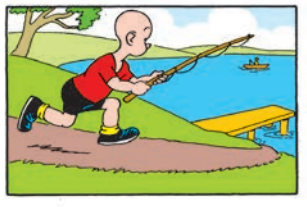
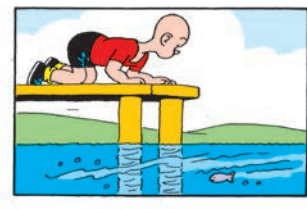
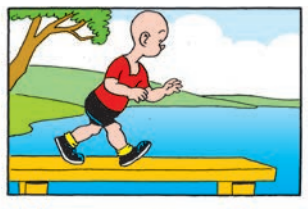
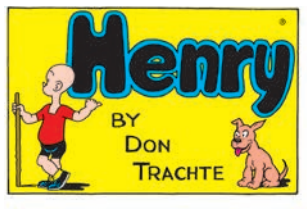
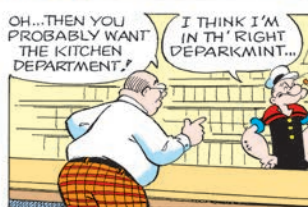
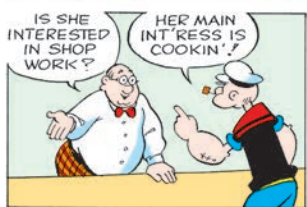
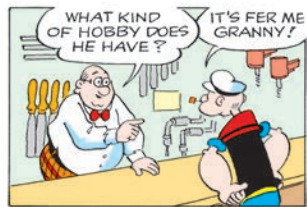
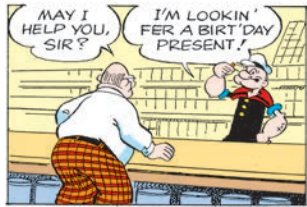
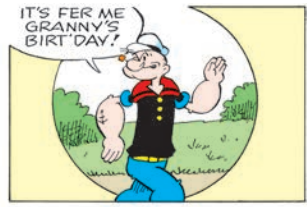
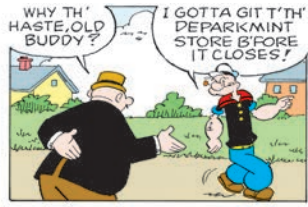
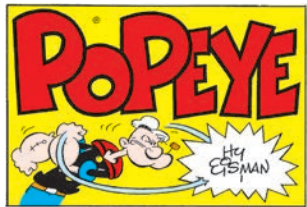
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

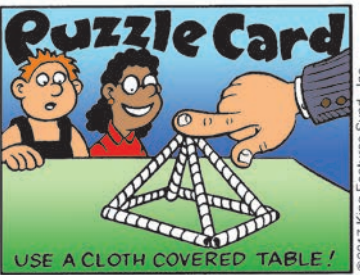
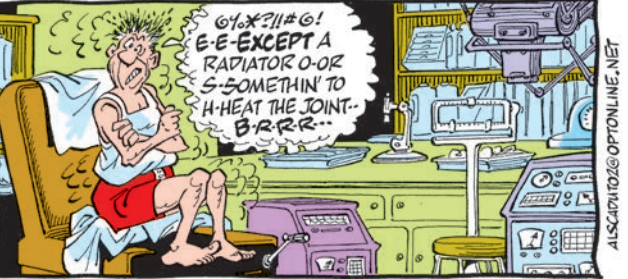
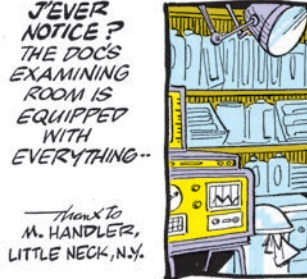
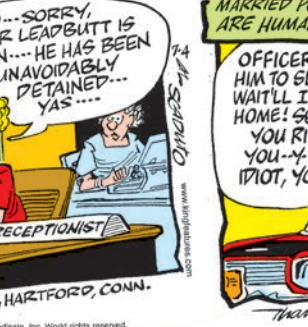


"Marriage is give-and-take, and I can't take it anymore."

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS to arrange eight soda straws so that they will form four equilateral triangles and one square. Our Puzzle Card shows how it's done.

DON'T RUN OUT OF GAS solving this AlphaMath puzzle! You must replace the letters in the signs with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. Try to get the highest possible total.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

Answers: Restowed, cobbled, facton, gallon, debate, hearers.

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

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

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

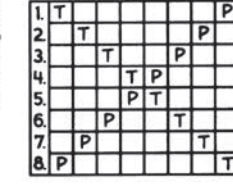
Abner	Dead	Mandarin	Ruddy
Canvasback	Donald	Muscovy	Sitting
Daffy	Eider	Peking	Wood
Daisy	Lame	Rubber	

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!



Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

- DEFINITION:**
1. An earring shape.
 2. Temporary substitutes.
 3. Efforts to achieve.
 4. To delay or put off.
 5. Sequence of bookish events.
 6. A colorful wall hanging.
 7. A light musical.
 8. Fair and comfortable.
- ANAGRAM:**
- dart + rope
 pops + tags
 tump + test
 open + stop
 reps + chat
 tray + step
 poet + tear
 lean + past

Answers: 1 Teardrops 2 Stopgaps 3 Attempts 4 Postpones 5 Chapters 6 Tapes 7 Opera 8 Pleasant

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MONEY: Who was the first U.S. president to appear on a circulating coin?
2. GEOGRAPHY: The Elbe River flows mostly through which European country?
3. GAMES: How much are black poker chips worth?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What major U.S. city is in the 305 area code?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which candidate did Richard Nixon defeat in 1972 to win re-election?
6. AVIATION: How long did the Wright brothers' first flight last on Dec. 17, 1903?
7. U.S. STATES: The bluebonnet is the official flower of which state?
8. HISTORY: When did the French and Indian War end?
9. MOVIES: In which movie does Judy Garland sing, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"?
10. COMICS: Brigadier Gen. Amos T. Halftrack is a character in which comic strip?

Answers

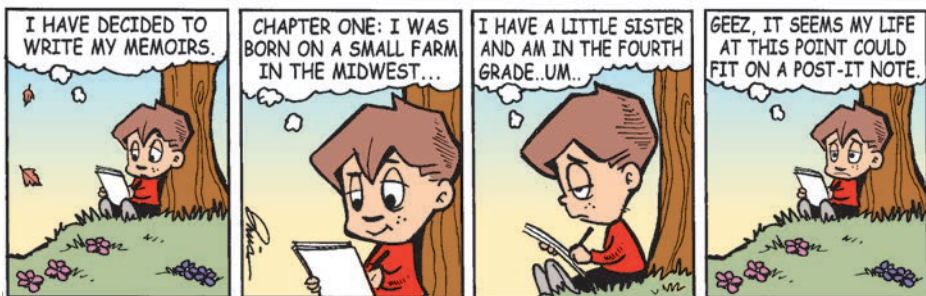
1. Abraham Lincoln
2. Germany
3. \$100
4. Miami
5. George McGovern
6. 12 seconds
7. Texas
8. 1763
9. "Meet Me in St. Louis"
10. "Beetle Bailey"

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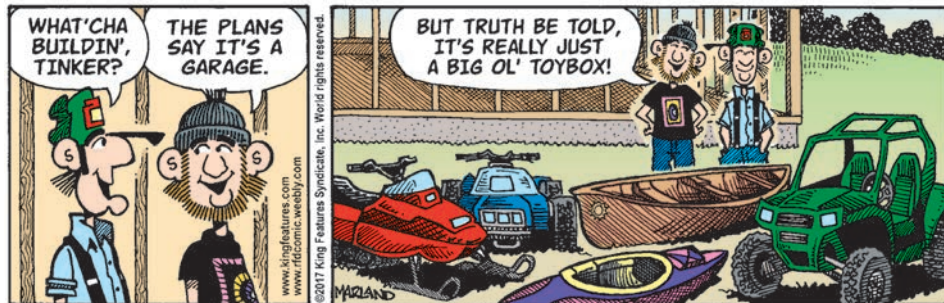
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



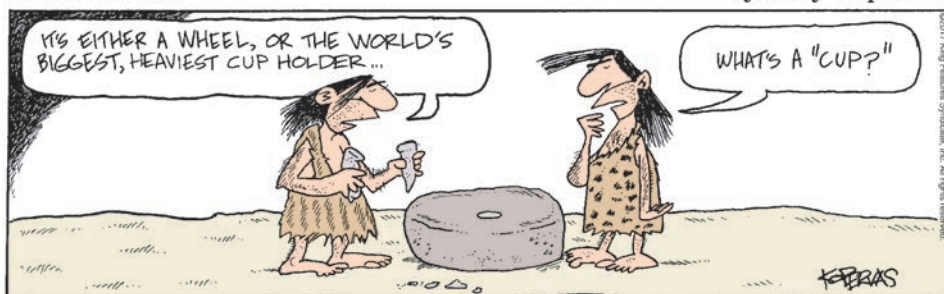
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

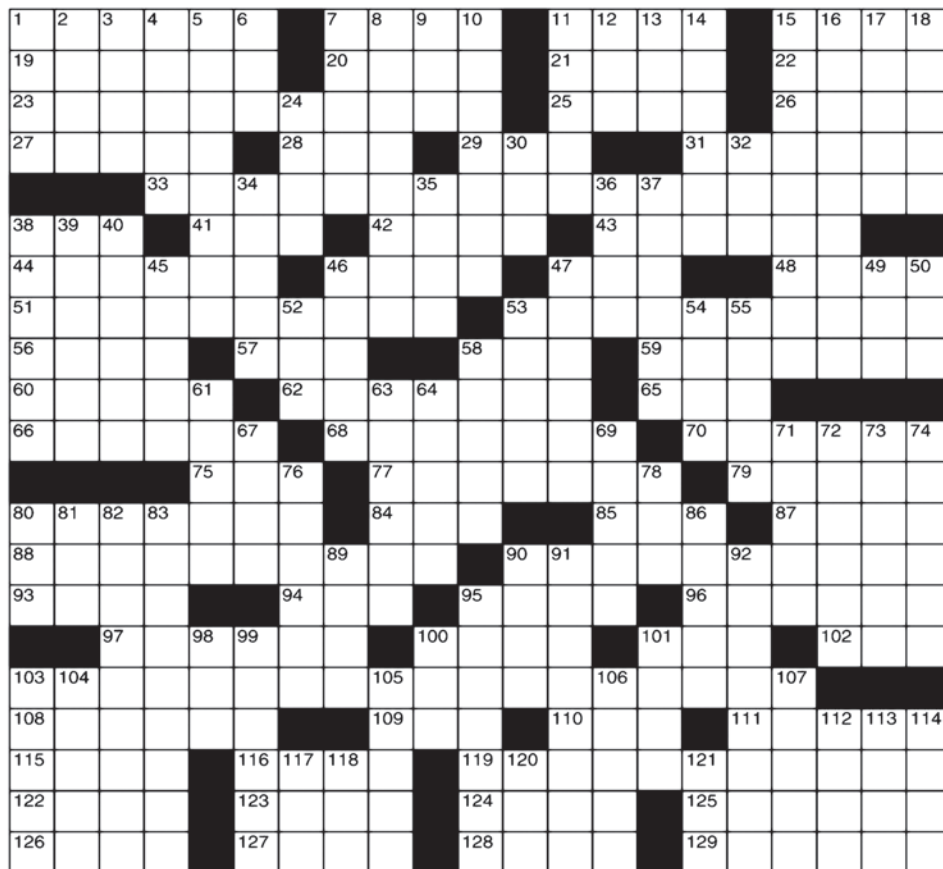
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Dog's ear is shorter; 2. Pirate hat is missing; 3. Cap is moved; 4. Watch-like is missing; 5. Owl is missing; 6. Shovel is missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Neighbor of Rwanda
 - 7 Only OK
 - 11 Lucky mystique
 - 15 Odist, e.g.
 - 19 Bagel shape
 - 20 "— Excited"
 - 21 Baldwin of film
 - 22 Duncan of education
 - 23 Decorative window option
 - 25 Growth-up eft
 - 26 Dryer fuzz
 - 27 Tendril, e.g.
 - 28 Atop, to a 15-Across
 - 29 Washed-out
 - 31 Slowly, on a score
 - 33 Hurdle for a new driver's-license applicant
 - 38 See 24-Down
 - 41 Wall St. news
 - 42 Prefix with vision
 - 43 Superhero film of 2015
 - 44 Apple pic application
 - 46 Bottom-row PC key
 - 47 "— Miniver"
 - 48 Mimics a wolf
 - 51 Totem pole, essentially
 - 53 Item in an election box
 - 56 Ocean's hue
 - 57 Ocean's kin
 - 58 Cleveland cager, briefly
 - 59 Subsidies
 - 60 Oxidizes
 - 62 Upright height
 - 65 Coach Riley
 - 66 Pick up on
 - 68 What can follow eight key words in this puzzle to get phrases meaning "permanent"
 - 70 SSA part
 - 75 City area, informally
 - 77 Deny, as a fact
 - 79 Mambo relative
 - 80 "No, not true!"
 - 84 Mine rocks
 - 85 Bang into
 - 87 Fix, as a cat
 - 88 Vase inserts
 - 90 Fixed goal
 - 93 State, to Luc
 - 94 Alias initials
 - 95 Jacob's first wife
 - 96 Secondary
 - 97 Venerate
 - 100 Objectives
 - 101 24-hr. cash source
 - 102 Serpentine letter
 - 103 Fancy wedding mailing
 - 108 Frosh topper
 - 109 Seedy loaf
 - 110 Salem-to-L.A. dir.
 - 111 It's a no-no
 - 115 Greek liqueur
 - 116 White-dwarf explosion
 - 119 Feature of a body-builder's tummy
 - 122 Dunkable cookie
 - 123 Smack hard
 - 124 Gofer, e.g.
 - 125 Isis' brother
 - 126 "Freak on a Leash" rock band
 - 127 In times past
 - 128 Fulfill
 - 129 Cloud layers
 - 3 Former BP gas brand
 - 4 Not at all, informally
 - 5 Classic cola brand
 - 6 Count up
 - 7 — mignon
 - 8 Italian liqueur
 - 9 Specific mag. printing
 - 10 UFO museum city
 - 11 Miracle food from above
 - 12 Bullfighting yell
 - 13 Hanukkah observer
 - 14 Eighth of a circle
 - 15 Tasty
 - 16 They're not facsimiles
 - 17 Film scorer
 - 18 "Grand" mountain
 - 24 With 38-Across, deteriorate
 - 30 Logger's tool
 - 32 Block (up)
 - 34 Apple items with earbuds
 - 35 Geeky sort
 - 36 Rover's planet
 - 37 Foot section
 - 38 Jean-Luc of the U.S.S. Enterprise
 - 39 Light-blocking
 - 40 Propulsion
 - 45 Egg-shaped
 - 46 Raccoon lookalike
 - 47 Experts
 - 49 "— name it!"
 - 50 Brand of fuel additives
 - 52 "Gone" actor
 - 53 "Lili" actress
 - 54 Dolly's calls
 - 55 Fur tycoon on the Titanic
 - 58 "Aw" inspirer
 - 61 Certain oar
 - 63 Longhair cat
 - 64 Romanov bigwigs
 - 67 Half a sextet
 - 69 Neighbor of 36-Down
 - 71 Tooth parts
 - 72 Horn in (on)
 - 73 Demeans
 - 74 Parfait parts
 - 76 Look out for
 - 78 Talk shrilly
 - 80 Cola cooler
 - 81 "Tsk, tsk!"
 - 82 Daydreamer
 - 83 Matinée time
 - 86 Prefix with faceted
 - 89 Barely earned, with "out"
 - 90 Rig on a road
 - 91 Manhattan area
 - 92 Most distant
 - 95 Equipment for real-time viewing on the Net
 - 98 Steve of rock guitar
 - 99 "All the same ..."
 - 100 Above zero on the (unerringly)
 - 101 To —
 - 103 Nook reading
 - 104 Prefix with physiologist
 - 105 Beyond mad
 - 106 Good point
 - 107 Low point
 - 112 Silents vamp Theda
 - 113 Somber paper notice
 - 114 Greek mount
 - 117 Have
 - 118 Carpet sweeper, briefly
 - 120 Move hastily
 - 121 UCLA part
- DOWN**
- 1 Colorado natives
 - 2 Alternative style to emo

FUN PAGES

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SEMUCU meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at The Pizza Factory

By the Community, For the Community!!!

*****As soon as details are approved with the State we will follow up with those on the lists.***