

The Ranchos Independent



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WEEDS

A lot of rain brings a lot of weeds
and Madera County wants them gone ...

... or YOU will pay for them.

By Karen Petryna

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May 1 is the deadline this year – and every year – to abate the weeds on your Madera County property. What’s more, with all the rain we’ve received this past winter, it seems like there are more weeds now than in many years past.

What Exactly is Weed Abatement?

According to Madera County, weed abatement consists of clearing a strip of land 30 feet wide surrounding the entire exterior of any improvement, including fences, greenhouses, animal shelters, fuel tanks, car ports and detached garages up to and including the entire property line or, in the case of a vacant lot, clearing a strip of land 30 feet wide along the entire

property line. Clearing means discing, rototilling, plowing or mowing to a height of no more than one inch, which is to be maintained throughout the fire season.

In addition to newspaper publications to begin no later than April 20, Madera County, through the fire department, also notifies all affected property owners by mailing on or before March 1. As the notice stipulates, failure to abate the weed nuisance by May 1 will result in a fine of \$250 being assessed against the property as well as the County’s costs for abating the nuisance for you.

Ultimately, if you’re the landowner, you will need to comply with Madera

County Weed Abatement Ordinance 7.26.030 which can be found online at the Madera-County.com website. Once at the website, go to the ONLINE SERVICES menu and select “County Code Online.” Choose “Title 7 – Health and Sanitation” on the left-hand side of the page, and scrolling down to Chapter 26.

Risk of Fines and Fire Can Be Avoided

Of course, anyone who has lived through a Madera County fire season knows that weeds and brush are not just a nuisance; they are a real fire danger. To avoid the fines as well as the risk of providing the fuel to burn down your property improvements or your neighbors, get out there and abate those weeds by May 1. And if you’re inclined to burn those weeds chemically with Roundup or some other product, be careful. Read all the directions and follow them closely so you don’t risk your health either.

A Weed by Any Other Name

Now that you know what is expected of you in regard to abating your weeds, what exactly is a weed?

According to Meriam-Webster online, a weed is “... a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth.” So, by definition, designating a plant as a weed is subjective, even though most people would agree on that label, especially in specific areas of the country. For example, most people consider dandelions weeds in almost all locations of the United States, especially when they pop up in cultivated turf or lawns. But, like many “weeds,” dandelions are edible. They are even considered

a delicacy in some restaurants’ salads.

Miner’s Lettuce

In fact, many weeds are edible and were spread to specific areas precisely so that they could be eaten. A good example is Miner’s lettuce, which got its name from the California Gold Rush and helped prevent scurvy, a disease caused by lack of vitamins. Miner’s lettuce is native to Western Coastal and Mountain regions of North America and grows wild in California from Sacramento to the San Joaquin Valley. It’s a great food source for many kinds of wildlife as well as humans. The entire plant, from its lemon-lime-flavored stems to its mild, sweet leaves and numerous flowers are all edible. Miner’s lettuce is sometimes confused with purslane, another edible weed which can actually provide much needed vitamins and minerals in a wilderness survival situation. Although considered an obnoxious weed in the United States, purslane was one of Ghandi’s favorite foods.

Edible Weeds Abound

Other edible weeds include sheep sorrel, white mustard (which is actually yellow), wood sorrel or oxalis, prickly pear cactus (though not necessarily considered a weed), fireweed, field pennycress, curled dock, chickweed, chicory, clovers, burdock, amaranth and cattails. Cattails, found mainly near the edges of freshwater wetlands, including the San Joaquin River, were a staple in the diet of many Native American tribes. Like many of the other’s, cattail leaves are more palatable

Please see **WEEDS** on P. 10

Could YOU be a Grand Juror?

In July of each year, the Madera County Grand Jury is impaneled by a random drawing to complete the 19-member Grand Jury for Madera County. Grand Jurors generally serve for one year – July through June – and the law provides for holdovers for a second year to assure a smooth transition from year to year.

What is the Grand Jury and what does it do?

California’s Constitution and laws require the appointment every year of a Grand Jury for each county. In Madera County, the court appoints 19 jurors. They are an official body of the court with independent authority that is not answerable to administrators or legislators. The Grand Jury’s principal purpose is to guard the public interest. It gives citizens of Madera County a means to participate in the affairs of their local government.

The major functions of a Grand Jury are

divided into criminal indictments and civil investigations. The Grand Jury serves primarily civil (that is, non-criminal) functions – namely, the investigation of county and city government, special districts and school districts. This civil investigation results in recommendations for improvements to save taxpayers’ dollars and to improve services.

The Grand Jury is divided into committees, each of which concentrates on careful and diligent investigation of certain departments of functions of local government. These committees study complaints submitted by citizens of Madera County, visit various facilities, meet with officials, investigate records and documents and draw conclusions regarding the operation of local government.

In the course of its investigations, the Grand Jury may hire an independent auditor

Please see **JUROR** on P. 4

Free Tax Prep for ALL Ages

Free income tax return preparation and electronic filing for both state and federal returns will be available again this year for Madera-area residents, offered by the AARP Tax-Aide program. Services are provided free of all costs and charges. Tax returns are prepared by specially trained and certified volunteers. The returns are prepared on site and then electronically filed the same day. Tax help is offered to persons of all ages. Last year, Tax Aide prepared first tax returns for several 17 and 18-year-old students who had their first jobs.

- **Oakhurst Library** -- Tuesdays between Feb. 10 and April 7. Call Brian at 559-285-1494.

- **City of Madera**, 711 Nebraska -- Thursdays between Feb. 2 and April 6. Call Sarah at 559-675-7871.

- **City of Chowchilla** – Two Mondays. Call Sarah at 559-675-7871.

AARP Tax-Aide Seeks Volunteers

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers to help Madera County taxpayers in preparing and filing their 2016 federal and state income tax returns. There is a role for anyone who wants to help from tax return preparers, technology wizards, volunteers who enjoy greeting, answering calls and questions, and scheduling appointments.

**Contact Bob Musick at
559-675-1760 or Darlene at 559 760-0404
or go to www.aarp.org/tavolunteer.**

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation’s largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service available to taxpayers with low- and moderate income, with special attention to those aged 60 and older.

Click on “Local News” at

Scenes from the 14th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

Pictures Courtesy of John Glueck



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JUROR cont. from P. 2

to examine "fiscal" or "management" records of local government officers, departments, agencies and districts. The Grand Jury may subpoena witnesses to give testimony before its members or deliver documents for its study. After performing these activities, the Grand Jury submits recommendations for improvement of county and city government to the Board of Supervisors.

The Grand Jury may ask advice of the county counsel or district attorney, and may discuss problems with the presiding judge of the court. In matters that might not be properly answered by these officials, the Grand Jury may request advice from the state attorney general.

Who are the Grand Jury members?

The selection process aims at forming a Grand Jury that is widely representative of the citizens of Madera County. The statutory requirements are that each Grand Juror:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Reside in Madera County for at least one year before being selected
- Have ordinary intelligence and good character
- Possess a working knowledge of the English language
- Not be serving as a trial juror at present
- Not have been convicted of a felony or malfeasance in office
- Not have been a Grand Juror within one year of being selected (although for ease of transition from one year to the next, jurors may be held over for a second year at the discretion of the court)
- Not be serving as an elected official at present

Beyond the legal requirements there are more specific qualifications which are desirable for a Grand Juror:

- A general knowledge of the functions, authorities and responsibilities of the county and city governments and other civil entities
- Research abilities, including complex reading capabilities, background in assessing/analyzing facts and report writing
- Substantial background in group/committee work

- Good to excellent health
- Respect and objectivity concerning the positions and views of others

Who may ask the Grand Jury for an investigation and does the Grand Jury investigate crimes?

The Grand Jury may receive and investigate complaints by individuals, including private citizens, local government officials and employees, regarding action and performances of public officials. Members of the Grand Jury are sworn to secrecy and, except in very rare circumstances, neither minutes or records of its meetings can be subpoenaed by any outside body, thus assuring that all complaints will be handled in an entirely confidential manner. If the Grand Jury believes evidence submitted is sufficient, a detailed investigation will be held.

Traditionally, Grand Juries have been empowered to investigate criminal activity and, where there is probable cause to bring charges, to return indictments. While this power still exists, there is a separate procedure for impaneling a criminal Grand Jury by a random selection in the same way a trial jury is selected. Thus the "regular" Grand Jury's function will be to review the general conduct of government each year to assure honest, efficient government in the best interest of the people.

The Final Report

A final report is prepared at the end of the Grand Jury's term that contains summaries of investigations and the Grand Jury's recommendations. Copies of the final report are distributed to the public officials, county libraries and the news media and are available at no charge to the general population. The county Board of Supervisors must respond to each of the Grand Jury's recommendations within 90 days.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Grand Jury? For additional information, contact:

Madera Superior Court, Jury Operations
200 South "G" Street
Madera, CA 93637

You may also call them at 559-416-5570 or visit the Grand Jury's web page at madera-county.com/index.php/grand-jury-home.

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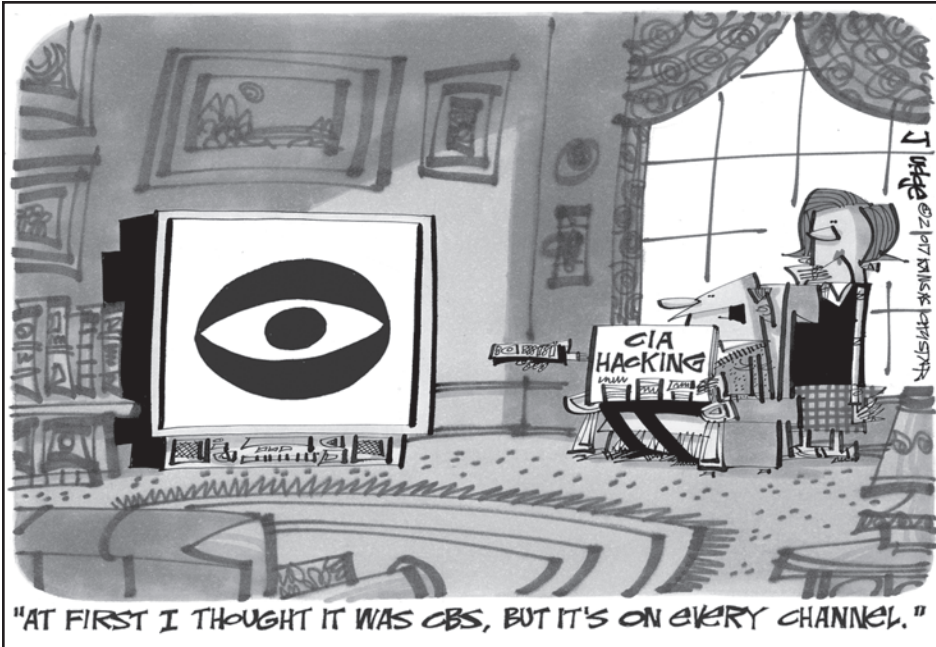
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Guest Editorial

Trump Tweet Exposes Judiciary

By Rich Lowry

As you might have heard, Donald Trump tweeted at a judge.

The commentariat shuddered at the effrontery of it, and some worried that the foundations of the separation of powers had been shaken. Trump's slam of Judge James Robart was undeniably crude and ill-considered, but it wasn't a threat to our republic.

In fact, it is a symptom of our distorted and overly sanctified view of the judiciary that a criticism of a judge with a lifetime appointment is greeted with such pearl-clutching. It is entirely appropriate that the political branches have their own view of the law and the Constitution, and robustly contest -- and even deny the legitimacy of -- court decisions that they consider erroneous.

President Trump will have to go considerably further to come close to Andrew Jackson supposedly saying of a Supreme Court decision protecting the Cherokee Indians in Georgia, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it." Or to match the wars waged on uncongenial Supreme Court decisions by Franklin D. Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's opposition to the Dred Scott decision redounds to his great credit. To say that Republicans weren't deferential to the ruling is an

understatement for the ages. They alleged a vast conspiracy of Chief Justice Roger Taney and top Democrats to commit offenses "comparable to the worst villainies of recorded history," in the words of one historian.

Everyone would soon enough recognize Dred Scott as a disgrace. At the time, though, supporters of the decision considered it a means to peacefully settle a question tearing the country apart. For his part, Stephen Douglas made an argument that was simple and entirely familiar today: "Shut up, the Supreme Court justices have spoken."

Lincoln allowed that Dred Scott applied to the particular parties to the case; he refused, though, to accept it "as a political rule." This wasn't Lincoln venting during an idle moment in his bathrobe. He devoted a portion of his first inaugural to developing his argument, and he governed as if the Dred Scott decision didn't exist.

It's an odd disconnect that Lincoln is justly considered perhaps the greatest statesman in American history, yet his rejection of judicial supremacy that was so central to his view of our system is roundly ignored.

It is certainly true that presidents defying the court willy-nilly would be a formula for chaos. But you see a Lincolnian political resistance to the court in, for instance, the pro-life movement that won't rest until Roe v. Wade is overturned. The determined opposition to Citizens United is another example, from the left.

The fundamental point is that it is not just the executive or Congress that can abuse its power and overstep its bounds. The courts can, too, and no one is obligated to meekly accept their decisions.

If the courts in the end throw out the order, despite the black-and-white letter of the law giving him the authority to block aliens in the interest of national security, it will be a usurpatory act. In that scenario, the courts will have done more violence to our constitutional system than a foolish Trump tweet ever could.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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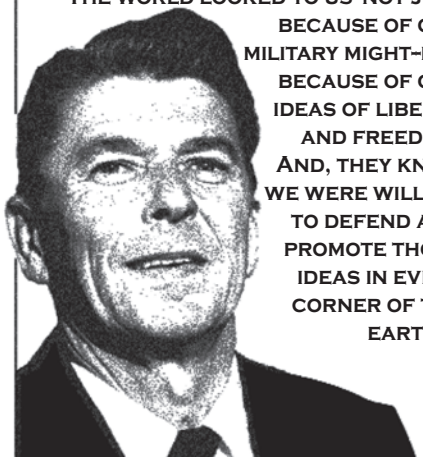
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Don't Mess with Grandma

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



I know it seems like I have a lot of different pet peeves, but really they are all just variations of the same pet peeve: lack of common courtesy. The person who blasts their car stereo so loudly that it vibrates the windows of every car three lengths back, they lack common courtesy. The person who holds up the line because they are too busy on their cell phone to pay any attention to their surroundings, they lack common courtesy. The person who lets their kids run around a restaurant or a movie theater screaming because have no respect for the people around them, you guessed it, they lack common courtesy. Frankly, I'm tired of it.

about six people because he, apparently, has no need to concern himself with things like common courtesy. He walked right up to one of the machines and started doing what appeared to be many, many sets of a ridiculous amount of repetitions. The light went from green to red to green to red, and yet he didn't move.

Allow me to highlight my point by telling you a little story. First, a little background. My gym has one of those circuit rooms where you use a variety of stations in a

Here's what I don't get, though: Why did it take a little old woman yelling at him to get him to correct his behavior? That couldn't have been good for his masculinity.

People were skipping the machine he was hogging and going around him, but that only caused a bottleneck further down the line. The circuit room was reduced to chaos and

particular order to get a complete body workout. There is a giant stoplight on the wall, fully visible from every station, that lets you know when to workout (green), and when to rest (red). Not only are the machines and cardio stations arranged in a clear order, to ensure that it is idiot proof, there are giant numbers pasted on the floor in front of them, you need only know how to count. This room does not require a great deal of thought. It's so simple even a little millennial snowflake could use it without needing a safe space to figure it out. Well, one could think that, but one would be painfully wrong.

angry people sweating. It wasn't pretty.

As I was just about to say something to him about his behavior one of the older ladies had evidently had enough and unleashed her own verbal assault. At first I was sad I didn't get to do it, but I quickly realized I could not have pulled it off as well as she did. She was scary. I mean, old ladies look sweet and grandmotherly and everything, like they have butterscotch candies and lace handkerchiefs in their pockets, but don't ever make them mad. Ever. They have lived too long to deal with your nonsense and are too old to worry about going to jail.

Now, on to my story. In this particular instance, the circuit room was relatively full, but as long as everyone just kept following the pattern, no one would run into each other. Then in walked this dude who effectively ruined the workouts of

This woman started laying into him in a way that probably could have counted for her cardio. I was half expecting her to grab him by the ear and drag him out of the room. I have no idea

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 10

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SEMUCU *speaks*

Disappearing Free Faucets

By Bev Walsh

As you may know, SEMCU has spent the better part of the last year distributing low-flow water use hardware to our local residents and businesses in the 93636 zip code. This hardware was purchased with some of the over \$200,000 SEMCU was awarded from the Department of Water Resources through the "2014 Water-Energy Grant for Low-Flow Hardware."

In the spring of 2015, SEMCU's grant committee, under the guidance of Karen Petryna, began organizing distribution events throughout Southeast Madera County to get this hardware, free of charge, into the hands of as many residents and businesses as possible. Any business or homeowner within the 93636 zip code area is eligible to receive this hardware. To date, SEMCU members have held more than a dozen giveaway events. These events have

been held at the local fire stations, the annual Flatlanders parade, local businesses, the Senior Center, and the Chamber of Commerce. To date, SEMCU volunteers have handed out approximately 3,600 low-flow showerheads and aerators to approximately 600 homes and businesses. But, according to SEMCU Inc. President Karen Petryna, this isn't a typical one-size-fits-all giveaway. "There are a variety of hardware types and styles and they are available and displayed so that participants can decide for themselves what will work best for them. The average participant picks up about \$75 (retail value) worth of hardware that they can easily install themselves. This allows them to save water and energy every time they take a shower or turn on a bathroom or kitchen faucet."

"We are grateful to our community members who have distributed and installed now over 3,000 low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to over 500 residents and businesses in Southeast Madera," said Igal Treibatch, current president and founding member of SEMCU Foundation, Inc., in a recent report to the California Legislature on SEMCU's "2014 Water-Energy Grant for Low-Flow Hardware." The report went on to say the project is saving an estimated 160,500 gallons of water in the first year. It is also reducing greenhouse gas emissions

by 76 MT CO₂e, or metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, which is equivalent to taking 15 cars off the road for a year. The program is saving 273,000 kilowatt hours of energy; an average savings of about \$100 per home or business during the lifetime of the installed devices.

SEMUCU currently has enough stock on hand to provide another 400 households with showerheads and aerators for their entire home and SEMCU will continue to purchase more items as needed until the grant period ends on Dec. 31, 2017.

If you live in, or have a business in, the 93636 zip code, and you have not picked up your low-flow hardware, you can stop by the local Chamber of Commerce office Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; look for our booth at the next Ranchos event, such as Rancho/Hills Senior Plant Sale, Flatlanders Day, etc.; or call 559-363-9095.

Since SEMCU is nearing the saturation point for these low-flow devices in our community, we are currently researching additional ways any remaining grant money can be used to conserve water in our community. Stay tuned.

Please call us at 559-363-9095 with any questions or visit our website at www.semcu.org.



Since SEMCU is nearing the saturation point for these low-flow devices in our community, we are currently researching additional ways any remaining grant money can be used to conserve water in our community. Stay tuned.



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Happy Easter

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed!"

Egg Dying Time

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always end up with that many. There are the

one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there is always egg hunts for the kids - seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be found

(until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.

Our Easter Feast is real simple - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about 10 minutes. After the 10 minutes I usually test one to make



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me - if you have a method you have used, then by all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can handle them,

cut them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been

separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would

My favorite Easter Hymn is Christ Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 18

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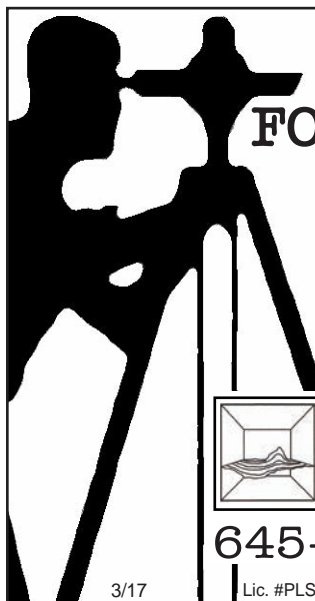
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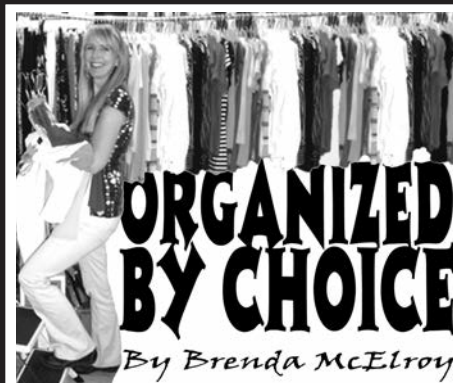
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By Brenda McElroy

A Common Find

The other day I lifted out the final stack of paper from a box we were working through and there it was: *Organizing from the Inside Out* by Julie Morgenstern. My client had a sheepish grin on her face. Organizing books are a common find in my clients' homes and offices. There's some great information out there and today I'd like to share my top three favorites (in no particular order), what they have to offer and how you can get the most out of them.

Organizing from the Inside Out by Julie Morgenstern. One of the cool things that gives this book credence is that even though Morgenstern now has an organizing empire, she was not born naturally organized. Her whole premise is that if she could learn to be organized, so can you. The book is laid out in four parts that include perspectives on organizing and how to create a plan. She goes into detail about how to organize every room in your house, office and even car. The book ends with a section on time and technology.

I love the charts, bullets and extras like "Insider Tips." It's very comprehensive and user-friendly. Once you've read parts one and two, you can pick an area or room you want to start with and go straight to that chapter. Morgenstern's advice for choosing the area: "Pick the space you either spend the majority of your time in, find the most irritating in terms of clutter, or that's keeping you from reaching your personal or professional goals."

If you're creative and find getting and/or staying organized a challenge, you're in good company. And, there's a book just for you: *Organizing for the Creative Person* by Dorothy Lehmkuhl and Dolores Cotter Lamping, C.S.W. Chapter titles include "Creative Ways to Schedule Your Work," "To Keep or Not to Keep," and "Plowing a Path Through Personal Papers." The book is full of real life relatable examples. Each chapter ends with a bulleted summary outlining the most important points.

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Lamping's experience as a psychotherapist brings insight into the challenges you face. "We repeatedly tell ourselves we'll 'get around to it soon,' though we know full well that we'll always be able to think of something better to do." After helping you understand why you're struggling, they provide practical strategies that are especially helpful for those who resist conventional organizing. More words of wisdom from their book: "Clutter expands to fill the areas allowed for its reception," and "... the fewer items you have, the less time it will take you to manage them."

Peter Walsh, author of *It's All Too Much* says, "This book is for people who are overwhelmed, trapped, suffocating beneath their stuff. This book is for people who think cleaning up is a waste of time, but spend whole weeks of their lives looking for their keys." While practical and applicable, Walsh's book also speaks to the emotional aspect of organizing. Part One helps you evaluate your circumstances, set priorities and cast vision. "As soon as you calculate the cost of clutter, you'll realize that it's not worth holding on to

things ... because of what they're worth. Remember to think in terms of the life you want to live and the vision you have for your home," says Walsh.

Part Two is straight talk, with a little humor, on how to get it done. "I have never been able to understand the urge to cover a bedroom floor

Before you get on Amazon and order all three books, consider which one sounds most appealing. Consider if you're willing to schedule time to read and apply its contents. Otherwise, when it arrives on your doorstep, you might as well put it at the bottom of a box of papers and call me.

with yesterday's socks, underwear and jeans. Consider what you want from your bedroom and then ask yourself if dirty clothes on the floor are part of that plan. I didn't think so," writes Walsh. For each area he outlines organizing strategies and provides helpful "Reality Checks."

You might remember Walsh from his TLC hit series *Clean Sweep*. My claim to fame was when he sat next to me in a workshop at a National Association of Professional Organizers conference. Despite his success, he's a very down-to-earth person. I love his book, but I must admit, I'm a bit more gentle with my clients than he is on his show.

Before you get on Amazon and order all three books, consider which one sounds most appealing. Consider if you're willing to schedule time to read and apply its contents. Otherwise, when it arrives on your doorstep, you might as well put it at the bottom of a box of papers and call me.

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 their website at www.organizedbychoice.com.

WEEDS cont. from P. 2

when boiled. In fact, many of the weeds listed above are well-known teas, again, including dandelions.

Unless you're sure you've identified a wild plant correctly, it's not a good idea to eat it — it could be poisonous. Some signs that a plant is not edible are milky or discolored sap; spines, fine hairs, or thorns; beans, bulbs, or seeds inside pods; bitter or soapy taste; dill, carrot, parsnip, or parsley-like foliage; "almond" scent in the woody parts and leaves; grain heads with pin, purplish, or black spurs, and a three-leaved growth pattern. These characteristics are just guidelines, however — some even apply to the edible weeds mentioned above. If you're interested in learning more about edible weeds, check out the SAS Survival Handbook and the U.S. Army Survival Manual. Regardless, be safe, and don't eat anything about which you're not confident.

Worse Than Toxic

Other weeds aren't just obnoxious or even toxic, they're despicable. The Sierra San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance lists the Top 10 noxious weeds and invasive non-native plants of Mariposa, Madera & Fresno Counties in a widely circulated brochure that, among other places, is available at the Annual Native and Drought Tolerant Landscaping Workshop conducted every August at the Madera Community College Center by Madera Master Gardeners. The list includes Himalayan Blackberry, Scotch and Spanish Broom, and the ever present Arundo, or Giant Reed, as well as Italian and Bull Thistle and Yellow Starthistle. These weeds are particularly

devastating to local flora and fauna not only because they're so quick to spread but also because they're so difficult to eradicate. If you can't wait for the workshop, you can get more information on these and other noxious weeds through the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 559-675-7876, the Madera Master Gardener Hotline at 559-675-7879 ext. 7210, and the following websites:

- www.invasivespecies.gov
- www.cdca.ca.gov/weedhome
- www.cal-ipc.org
- www.plantright.org

According to the Noxious Weed Alliance brochure, "Compared to other regions in California, our weed problem (in Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa Counties) is just beginning. This means we have an opportunity to act now and avoid future devastation." Successful weed management involves cooperation of private and public organizations as well as efforts by individuals.

You Can Help

In order to reduce the amount of noxious weeds, the brochure lists the following practices:

- Drive only on established roads and trails
- When using horses or pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed free
- Remove weed seeds from pack, stock and domestic animal coats and hooves/paws
- Check camping gear for weeds and seeds
- If you find a weed-infested area, let the landowner or land management agency know so they can take steps to control the infestation.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

what they were saying to each other because it was in Spanish, but she clearly won. If he would have had a tail, he would have left whimpering with it securely between his legs. I started a slow clap.

Here's what I don't get, though: Why did it take a little old woman yelling at him to get him to correct his behavior? That couldn't have been good for his masculinity. Wouldn't it have just been easier to either go with the flow of the room, or maybe use a different machine on the floor that isn't part of a circuit? Was taking such a direct blow to the ego worth all of that?

I know a lot of people like to use the machines in the circuit room when their counterpart on

the floor is occupied, and if the circuit room isn't busy and you aren't holding anyone up by messing with the rotation, then by all means, use the machine. But let's be aware of our surroundings and respectful of other people's time, shall we?

The next week when I was in the circuit room I was the only one in there and nearly done with my workout when a different little old lady came in and started at the wrong end. Inevitably, we ended up running into each other and needing to use the same machine. I didn't say anything about the big huge numbers indicating where to start in the room, I just skipped it and doubled up on the cardio. I knew better. I learned my lesson from the meathead the week before. No good comes out of pissing off Grandma.

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Senior Report

Home & Garden Festival Springs Up At Ranchos Senior Center April 8

By Patti Groh

In a recent Valley Voices article in the Fresno Bee, Fresno City Council member Clinton Olivier lamented the fact that the City of Fresno does not provide a senior center for Fresno seniors.

Clovis has a "dedicated facility." He reports even small places like Orange Cove, Huron and Kingsburg have senior centers. What all of these centers have in common is that

they are supported with monies from their city coffers. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors has no city for support. I'm told that when the Center was first conceived, attempts were made to get governmental support, but nothing was available. So, the seniors in this area proceeded to do it themselves.

And we still are doing it.

We bought the house, we pay the taxes, the PG&E, propane, garbage, water, buy supplies, make repairs and the list sometimes is longer. That is the reason we continue to ask for the community's support.

That having been said, the Annual Home and Garden Festival, a major fundraiser for the Center, will be held April 8. It will include vendors selling their goods; a hot breakfast of biscuits and gravy, sausage or bacon, OJ; BBQ lunch with burgers and hot dogs; bake sale, Boutique, Treasure House, garden sale, silent auction and Easter baskets for sale. I'm sure there is something in this list to interest everyone. The breakfast will be available 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. with the rest of the activities starting at 8 a.m. Please come and give us your support.

The raffle tickets for the beautiful, handmade quilt donated and made by Dot Husted are available from members and at the Center. The tickets are \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held in December 2017 so to increase your chances, buy tickets often. The quilt is on display at the Center.

I am so pleased to brag about our President, Verlaine Elinburg, who won Volunteer of the Year from the Golden Valley

Chamber of Commerce. This was announced at the Chamber's Crab Feed, March 3. Congratulations, Verlaine!

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at the regular Thursday night potluck, the evening before St. Pat's Day. We had corned beef and cabbage with other side dishes.

Potluck is every Thursday night at 6 p.m. with games after eating.

You can pick up the monthly newsletter at local businesses to read details of the month's activities at the Center. It also shows the menu for the lunch program this month.

The planning meeting for the Seniors is on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. In March, this is the 28th. We are always open and interested in new ideas. Please join us.



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GROWTH ON THE HORIZON

COMMUNITY SEES THE FUTURE IN MADERA

In future years, when families start moving into the 30,000 homes planned for construction in southeast Madera County, Community Medical Centers will be there to meet the growing healthcare need.

In keeping with its tradition of long-term, visionary planning, Community has purchased 200 acres at the northeast corner of Highway 41 and Avenue 12 to build an eventual facility in this prime development corridor. The property, purchased from the McCaffrey family, falls within the largest area in the San Joaquin Valley designated for future growth — Madera County's Rio Mesa Area Plan.

"Thirty years ago, when we started building Clovis Community, some people thought Temperance and Herndon was 'in the middle of nowhere.' But we've had to double the size of that hospital and have plans for another expansion," said Tim Joslin, president and CEO of Community Medical

Centers. "Securing property in Madera is smart growth planning and important for meeting the Valley's future healthcare needs."

Community's 120-year history is marked with similar visionary steps – from buying 125 acres of Clovis farmland far outside the city to taking over a busy downtown Fresno street to construct one of the state's finest critical care facilities.

The wisdom of those bold steps is now evident. Clovis Community Medical Center is today a bustling campus where \$300 million recently was invested to double capacity. And at Community Regional Medical Center, the massive expansion now houses one of the busiest emergency departments in the state, seeing more than a million patients over the past 10 years.

Community has stepped up to run the county's only mental health facility, grow our UCSF partnership in pediatric specialty care and build a new state-of-the-art cancer facility — all to expand care for patients in areas where there are great needs. The Madera property purchase puts Community in position to respond when and where healthcare demands rise.

"We couldn't be more thrilled that Community is the owner of the flag barn property," said Robert McCaffrey, CEO of McCaffrey Homes, "because they are just like us. They are visionary thinkers. They are forward planners. They recognize that this is a strategic piece of the puzzle for the Rio Mesa area. And they recognize much of the future growth for this region is going to be north of the (San Joaquin) river."

cmc.news/access



Regional civic and industry leaders celebrate Community's land purchase. From left to right are: Craig Castro, Community's associate corporate chief operating officer; Max Rodríguez, chairman of Madera County Board of Supervisors; Ash Knowlton, vice president of McCaffrey Homes; Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor District 5; Community CEO Tim Joslin; Karen McCaffrey, vice president of McCaffrey Homes; Brent McCaffrey, president of McCaffrey Homes; Robert McCaffrey, CEO of McCaffrey Homes; Brett Frazier, Madera County Supervisor District 1; David Rogers, Madera County Supervisor District 2; Eric Fleming, Madera County Administrative Officer; and Norm Allinder, Chief of Development Services for Madera County.

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The 27th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 27th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 13 beginning at 10 a.m. and will showcase local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. There's also a food and crafts fair at the Maywood Center sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library that will last into the afternoon.

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

Volunteers of the Year
Verlaine Elinburg & Rigo Revis

New Members
The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family
Steve Santoro
Fish Box Charters

Crab Feed "600" Sponsors
The 14th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed was a huge success on March 3, and what really made the event possible was a group of special sponsors:
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2017 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 13, 2017 • \$10 Entry Fee

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Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No
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Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):

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- 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: _____
- Novelty Name: _____
- Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp!
Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.
Parade route: Ave. 12 from Topper to Kensington

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

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

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

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on April 12 and help plan the 27th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Call us at 645-4001.

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Boosting the EcoBoost

Hello 93636,

March was a very busy month for me with lots of automotive training classes. It started with a Ford EcoBoost Class, followed by a Cummins diesel class and finally a waveform class, my favorite.

Before I begin, I'm asking you ladies for your input concerning topics for this column. In the automotive repair industry, you ladies purchase 70 percent of our goods and services. What information would be valuable

to you when purchasing your next service or repair? Your input would be appreciated.

Today I would like to start with some fun details from the Ford EcoBoost class. The EcoBoost family of engines has added 128 new patents to Ford's development portfolio. As a result

of this new technology, the 2.7L EcoBoost V6 engine introduced in the aluminum frame F-150 pickup truck produces 325 horse power (hp) and 375 foot pounds of torque. WOW! A 166-cubic inch (ci) engine producing 325 hp.

The 3.5L (214ci) EcoBoost V6 engine uses twin intercooled turbochargers to produce the equivalent power produced by its V8 predecessor while obtaining a 15 percent increase in fuel mileage. Ford's second generation 3.5L EcoBoost V6 is expected to produce 600 horse power in the Ford GT.

These EcoBoost engines are very small when compared to the engines from the recent past. These smaller engines and Direct Fuel Injection equate to increased fuel efficiency and lower CO2 exhaust levels. The big horsepower comes from the introduction of turbocharging and the reduction of "Pumping Loss." What the heck is "Pumping Loss"? I'll discuss that later in the article.

As a point of interest, what Ford and other automotive manufacturers are now doing is not new. The Offy racing engine was doing this at least 70 years ago. Those small 4-cylinder turbocharged engines dominated the Indianapolis 500 with 24 victories in 27 years. The 3.0L dual overhead camshaft, four valves per cylinder Offy's produced more than 800 hp. The big difference is, EcoBoost engines are computer controlled. They can make big horsepower on demand or transform into a meek, mild, fuel efficient little guy on the way to the grocery store.

The new Ford EcoBoost technology presents some very unique diagnostic challenges for us. It appears that many of our standard baseline diagnostic tests may not work. I'm hoping there is a way to defeat the

Up to 30 percent of the power generated by a gasoline engine is lost overcoming the vacuum created by the throttle valve. The energy required to overcome the vacuum is called "Pumping Loss." So how do we eliminate pumping loss? Easy! Eliminate the throttle valve.

computer control and place these systems into a conventional mode for testing purposes. Going to be a steep learning curve ahead. I was very apprehensive at first but after some contemplation, I realize this is just some very cool engineering and science and nothing to be afraid of. We

are looking forward to the challenge.

In order to prepare ourselves, we will rent an EcoBoost vehicle for the weekend and connect all of our technology and see if it's applicable. We will also record known good data for our diagnostic baseline library.

What is "Pumping Loss"? Gasoline engines have it and diesel engines don't. A gasoline engine regulates the amount of air entering the engine cylinders by blocking the air inlet passage with a throttle valve. The throttle valve is like a gate. When it's closed at idle, it greatly restricts the amount of air (oxygen/fuel) entering the engine's cylinders. When the gate opens by pushing on the gas pedal, the restriction is decreased. The increased air flow results in increased power. A closed throttle valve creates the "Pumping Loss" inefficiency. Here's why: When the engine's pistons move downward, air is drawn into the cylinders to fill the voided areas. Because

Please see **HANDS** on P. 20

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

make them more festive.

The Easter Ham

As far as the ham goes, I think everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and spoon the juice mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use 10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time. The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever

your family likes.

Like so many of our meals there are always plenty of desserts. Usually a coconut cake, Adam brings his always welcome pies, and I sometime make a pineapple upside down cake. There will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner, but she made real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

I'm looking forward to more recipes from the Ranchos', Rolling Hills' or Bonnadelles' good cooks. Or how about kids? I'd love to do an article on kids' favorite foods – anything from hot dogs to s'mores.

An Easter Favorite

My favorite Easter Hymn is *Christ Arose!* I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

This article originally appeared in the March 2011 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor

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Diana Mendoza
at 559-355-6109
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Owner's Thoughts on Closing Ranchos Auto Repair

By Robin Tucker

Cars have been my life for as long as I can remember, starting with a peddle car that I drove up and down the street in Norwalk, Calif. when I was a child. In 1968 when I was three, we moved back to the Valley. My Dad opened an automotive shop here in 1969 and he sponsored race cars that ran at Clovis Speedway. I remember the first time I went I was hooked on cars and racing.

I started working for my Dad at 14 and by the time I was 17 I built a whole car. What I mean by that is I bought a car with no engine or transmission and built the motor and transmission that went in it. That car became my daily driver.

My Dad taught me everything I know and I'm talking both cars and life. He had four principles that still stick with me to this day: 1. Never lie; 2. Never steal; 3. Save your pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves; and 4. If you take care of the little things in life that are right in front of you, the rest will take care of themselves.

I worked side-by-side with my Dad for 22 years. When you walk into Ranchos Auto Repair, the way I have my benches set up is because of me and him working side-by-side. My Dad was my hero.

Before he died in 1994, I moved in with him during his last two weeks. When he took his last breath, I was holding his hand. I was the only one there and it changed my life forever. There are things in life that you measure pain by; my Dad's passing was the worst pain I have ever felt. Anything that's happened since doesn't compare. There are only three things in life that you can't replace: Your parents, siblings and kids. Everyone else is replaceable.

I got married a month after my Dad passed and then came Emma and a few years later Dillon I didn't think I would ever have kids so when I did, I made a plan. Looking back now I realize that losing my Dad probably saved my life. My plan was that my kids would live in the same house, go to the same school from K-12 and have the same parents. We came close.

The whole reason I built Ranchos Auto Repair was to be closer to my kids. As we moved along, what I learned from my Dad and 22 years of racing helped me prepare for it. I'm a little different about business – it was never about money. It's about people and relationships. It's about

the journey and through the years the business provided for my family and it funded my kids' racing. At one point, we raced 41 races a year. They made friends with kids from all over the country and racing taught them that not everybody gets a trophy; you have to work for it. They learned how to lose and still be respectful, and when they won they saw what it took and it made them better people.

And win we did. Between the three of us, we won 12 championships and this year will be our 35th racing season. The point is Ranchos Auto Repair was just a vehicle to achieve some goals. It's just a building.

I will still be serving this community. My number is the same. I will still be racing and when people ask me about our racing I tell them the same thing: The racing is a small part of it. It's about time with my kids and an opportunity to teach.

Here's what I mean: The biggest race of the year was a \$10,000 purse to the winner after 116 laps and Dillon was in 4th place. They had a green and white checkered flag and he had a real shot to win it and got taken out. He was devastated and it hurt but here's the good part: He got out of his car and he came to me and we embraced. As I'm hugging my son and he's crying and I'm crying for him and consoling him, he walked away from that with his head high. That my friend is what it's all about. Teachable moments. And when the chips are down who are you going to embrace? My point is the racing is a small part.

The race track is what drove my business. It's our life and with the closing of Ranchos Auto Repair it's not the end, it's just a new chapter. I will still be working on cars out here. I will still have the same number. It's just a building.

As you may or may not know, I sold the property to Golden Valley Unified School District. They needed the property and for me and the plans I have with – and for – my kids, it was the right time for a change. Plus, our Fresno shop, which is going on its 49th year, is where I will be spending time between here and there. Additionally, me and my son Dillon are starting a video production company and we are expanding our race team to a two-car team. If things go well we might even be running three cars in 2018. I'm very excited about the up and coming years and I will still be taking care of my customers and serving this great community. I will be seeing you around.

HANDS cont. from P. 16

of the air restriction, a high-pressure area is created in front of the throttle valve and low pressure area behind the throttle valve. Think of a dam blocking a river. Lots of water pressure above the dam but nothing below. That low pressure or vacuum is a very powerful force and requires a greater force to overcome it or the engine will stall. Up to 30 percent of the power generated by a gasoline engine is lost overcoming the vacuum created by the throttle valve. The energy required to overcome the vacuum is called "Pumping Loss." So how do we eliminate pumping loss? Easy! Eliminate the throttle valve.

The EcoBoost strategy to decrease the amount of air entering the cylinders is to delay the opening of the intake valve. When the intake valve opening is delayed, the opportunity for air to enter the cylinder is reduced. The technology used to accomplish that delay is Variable Camshaft Timing. Variable Camshaft Timing technology was the topic of my January 2017 article entitled "Actuator Action." It can be accessed online through the Rancho Independent's archives. There are some valuable tech tips in that article that will help you correctly maintain your EcoBoost engine. Variable Camshaft Timing eliminates the necessity for a

throttle valve.

The introduction of the turbocharger is another important component in the elimination of "Pumping Loss" by pressurizing or boosting the air entering the cylinders. During boost, there is NO low pressure and NO vacuum to overcome. The turbocharger eliminates "Pumping Loss." Hope this helps.

This year's Flatlanders Day event will be held on Saturday, May 13. We will have some of our automotive diagnostic equipment present and connected to live vehicles. What diagnostic equipment or testing would you like us to demonstrate? Would you like a hands-on opportunity to use the hand-held U-Scope? Suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Students, if you are considering the automotive field for your career path, come and hang out. You will be our honored guests.

As usual, I'm looking for automotive topics and items of interest to write about. If you have any automotive questions or suggestions, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or Facebook Complete Car Care.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr

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Dr. Pia makes Dental Education Fun

February was National Children's Dental Health month and Rancho's Dental's Dr. Matthew Pia made the most of it by paying a visit to both Sierra View and Webster Elementary.

On Feb. 3, Dr. Pia visited the First and Kindergarten classes at Sierra View. While there he showed the kids an educational video on dental health starring The Fantastic Four and Spiderman. "Also, we talked about proper oral hygiene and I read a few books to them about sugar bugs and visiting the dentist," Pia said.

On Feb. 10, he visited the First and Kindergarten classes at Webster. "We followed the same outline and I read them a different book on a dentist who visits Africa to fix an elephant's

tooth," he said.

Dr. Pia said he felt the kids all had a really fun time. He gave out Minion toothbrushes to all of the children and Dental Activity and Coloring Books too.

"I really feel that educating the community about proper health, especially the youth in our area, is extremely important," Pia said.

National Children's Dental Health month is in its 76th year. It began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1941 and is now nationally recognized for spreading awareness and information about the benefits of good

oral health to children and to their caregivers under the guidance of the American Dental Association.



Dr. Matthew Pia entertains and educates about dental health at local elementary schools for National Children's Dental Health Month.

Webster DI Team Heads to Finals

On Saturday, Feb. 25, six Webster Elementary School 5th graders competed in the Destination Imagination regional tournament which was held at Liberty High School. Calling themselves "the fire breathing bandIts," they competed against nine other elementary schools in the Fine Arts challenge titled "Vanished!" and took First Place, advancing to the State Finals in Sacramento on April 1. The team was comprised of Aiden Turner, Brianna Chase, Ellie Sano, Halle Deniz, Scott Hartley and Tony Zinzun. The team managers are Mike and Aretha Hartley and the team is sponsored by Bedrock Engineering and Baby Guard Pool Fencing. The team's challenge was to present

... they gave "the fire breathing bandIts" the DaVinci Award for creativity and originality.

a story about how the disappearance of a color changes the world. The story needed to include a vanishing act and a "colorful character." The competition among the 10 teams included schools from Fresno, Clovis and Kingsburg.

The bandIts made their own costumes and props, and wrote their own script. Their story centered on the disappearance of the color black and explained what a world without darkness would be like. Their "colorful character" was a non-talking cat named Professor Mittens, played by Scott Hartley. The Destination Imagination appraisers thought the team's story to be so well done and creative that they gave "the fire breathing bandIts" the DaVinci Award for creativity and originality. The judges wrote: "The 'Colorful Character,' one Professor Mittens, was portrayed with the singular method of physical speech bubbles. Every single line he had was shown with pre-made cards, memorized by the entire cast, and dubbed over by the actor with tongue-in-cheek 'meow-meows.' This acting decision was not only a source of continuous comedy, but also a sly solution to the actor's stage-shyness. Harkening to classics such as Garfield, this solution displayed unparalleled creativity for the entire cast. It took risks as it made memorization more vital. It leveraged the individual skills of each cast member. And it made the audience giggle at each and every 'meow'!"



• "Here's my tip: Fasten all buttons, snaps, fasteners and zippers on your clothes before washing and drying. It will help them keep their shape. Turn socks inside out, too. It will help prevent them from getting fuzzballs." -- M.W. in Saskatchewan, Canada

• "If you are training a puppy or your fur baby has an accident on the carpet, here's how to prevent a reoccurrence in the same spot: Blot up urine, then saturate the spot with club soda. Allow it to sit for five minutes, then blot with paper towels." -- S.S. in Arkansas

• "In this day of recycling and reusing, before I discard an item, I look to see if any part of it can be reused. I removed wire from a broom that can now be used to hang a picture on the wall. I also remove any reusable screws or nails from items I toss. I put them in plastic jars." -- B.B. in Maine

• Here's one for hamster owners out there, from C.H. in Utah: "If your dwarf hamster makes much noise when running in its wheel (especially metal wheels), just lube it with a little olive oil. Just a drop or two will make the wheel turn smoothly and silently, without posing any harm to the little ones in case they lick it.

• "Put battery-operated lights on each wall in the main rooms for when there are power outages." -- M.W. in Iowa

• W.T. from "The Road" (he's an RV traveler) is looking for suggestions to remove the smell from the lid of glass jars to make them reusable -- say, salsa jars or peanut butter jars.

If you have a solution for W.T., send it to me at:

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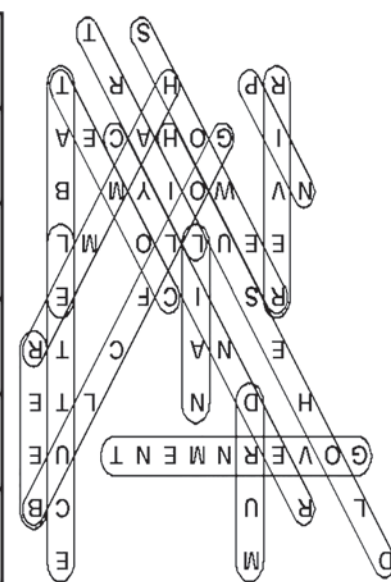
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Words With
Nautical Origins

1. Slush fund
2. Bitter end
3. Offing
4. "Three sheets to the wind"
5. Pipe down
6. By and large
7. Groggy
8. Aloof
9. A1
10. Caboose

Source: Merriam-Webster

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.

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SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Strange BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- It was the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who made the following sage observation: "Government by organized money is just as dangerous as government by organized mob."

- You might be surprised to learn that Helen Keller, best known as the first blind and deaf person to earn a bachelor's degree, loved performing. She spent years on vaudeville tours and in 1919 she starred in "Deliverance," a silent film about her life.
- In the Canadian town of Churchill, Manitoba, most people don't lock their car doors. The primary motivation for this practice isn't trust (although, of course, trust is required), but public safety: A pedestrian who unexpectedly encounters a polar bear will be able to find refuge in

any car along the street.


- With warmer weather approaching, you might want to consider heading to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to witness an annual rite of spring. Students at Lake Superior State University gather on (or near) the first day of spring for the annual Snowman Burning. Started in 1971 by a campus club known as the Unicorn Hunters, the tradition involves setting alight a 12-foot-tall "snowman" -- usually built of recycled paper, wood and wire -- to celebrate the end of winter.

- If you haven't listened to any new music in a while, chances are you're over 33. Those who study such things say that's the age at which Americans would rather stick to what they know than try out new tunes.

- Thought for the Day: "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

-- Dame Rebecca West

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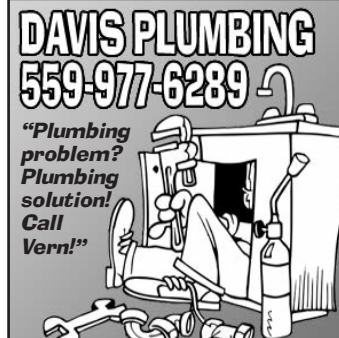
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

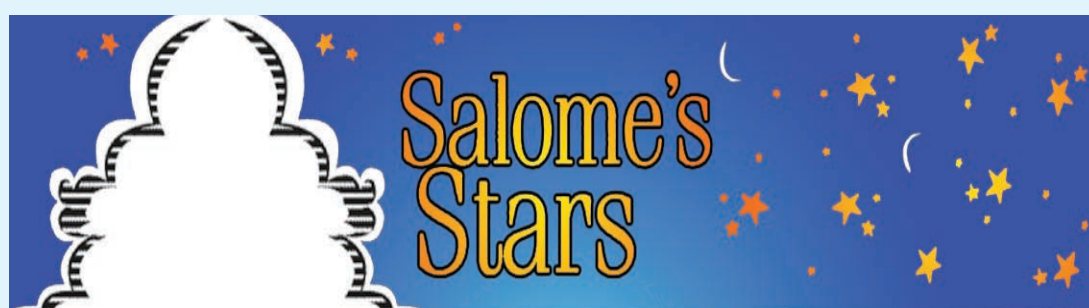


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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be careful about doing someone a favor when you don't know the full story behind the request. Don't rely on someone's unsubstantiated assurances. Insist on all the facts before you act.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That workplace problem still needs your attention before you finally can close the book on it. Meanwhile, a long-anticipated reunion gets closer to becoming a happy reality.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be demanding more from others than they can give. Best advice: Have a long and frank talk to determine what the facts are. Tensions should abate as the week winds down.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Aspects are favorable throughout this week for making contacts that could be important to your career plans. Meanwhile, an old friend offers the advice you're seeking.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's time to stop licking your wounds from past mistakes. Get up and get going toward your future. Loyal friends will be there to help the Lion get back into rip-roaring shape.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Take time out to go over what's expected of you before you begin your new project. Otherwise, you run the risk of pushing yourself harder than you need to.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) An unusual request could put you in an awkward position. Best advice: Deal with it immediately. The longer you delay, the more difficult it will be to get out of it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You should feel recharged and ready for whatever your workaday world holds for you. The same positive energy spills over into your personal relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A prospect might be less than it appears to be. Like the Archer in your sign, you always aim for the truth. And this is no time to settle for less than full disclosure.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Start doing some serious thinking about a career move that could entail more than just changing job sites. Some lifestyle changes also might be involved.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) With tensions easing at the workplace, a more positive environment once again encourages the free flow of ideas so typical of the always-innovative Aquarian.

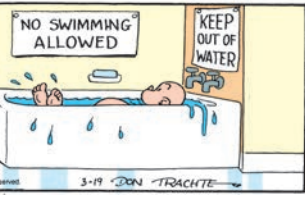
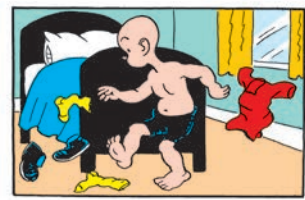
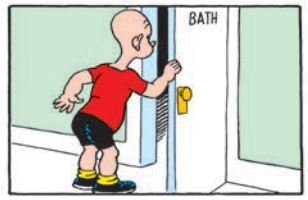
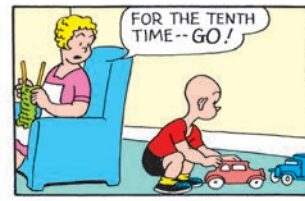
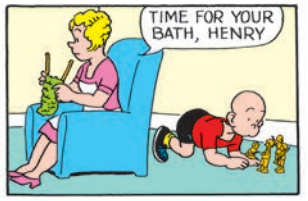
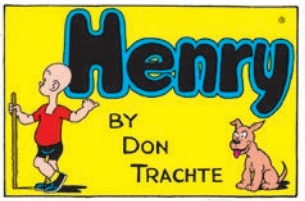
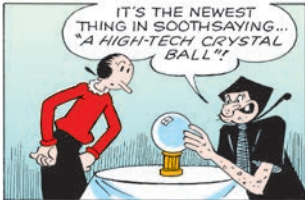
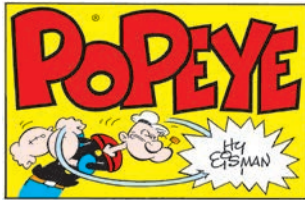
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Show some of that usually hidden steel-strong Piscean backbone, and stand up for yourself if you hope to make a case for that promotion you know you deserve.

Born this Week

*You enjoy doing new things and staying ahead of the crowd.
You would make a fine sports coach or military leader.*

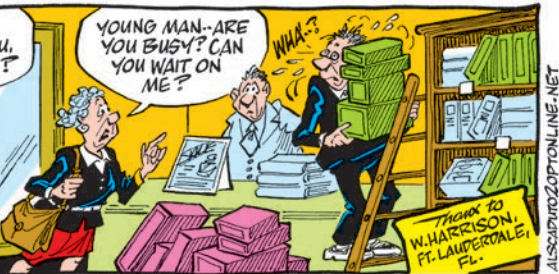
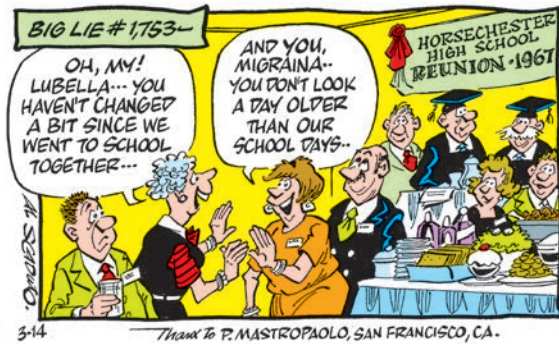
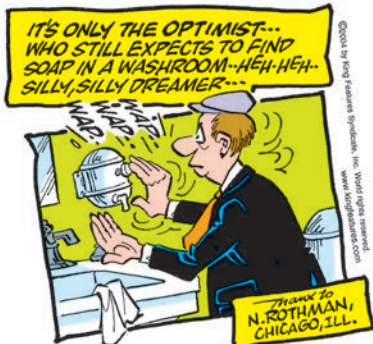
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



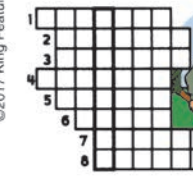
HERBIE FINALLY SOLOS! Can you guess on which flight Herbie successfully landed his new remote-controlled plane?

Answer: He solved the first time and then ran into trouble.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



It's time to get outside and spruce up the old homestead. In our puzzle grid, there is room for eight words associated with spring maintenance. Below are hints to get you started.

AN INTERESTING ADDITION! In this AlphaMath problem, each number is used only once. To solve, replace each letter with one of the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, in such a manner that you will have a correct addition problem. Try to get the highest possible total.



Our Answer: A=8, B=5, C=9, D=7, E=4, F=3, G=1, H=6, I=0, J=2 (859 + 743 = 1602)

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 9 and 11, and 16 through 23 to fill in this Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 62. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.



Our answer: First row: 15, 18, 21, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6, 2, 7, 3
Second row: 17, 12, 11, 22
Third row: 10, 23, 16, 13, 19, 9, 14, 19

Wishing Well

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

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 ● THINGS WITH A HEAD

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- | | | | |
|----------|------------|---------|--------|
| Beer | Golf club | Lettuce | Shower |
| Comet | Government | Nail | Table |
| Cylinder | Hammer | Pin | Trail |
| Drum | Household | River | |

TRIVIA TEST

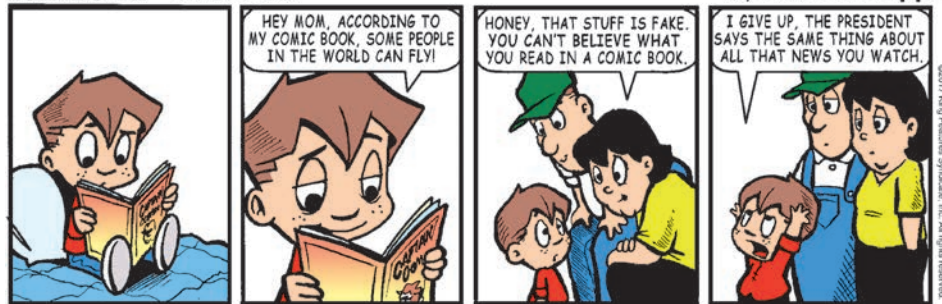
By Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK: What is meringue made of?
- MOVIES: What were the names of the tunnels in the movie "The Great Escape"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Pure gold consists of how many karats?
- LITERATURE: In which of Charles Dickens' novels does the character of Fagin appear?
- GEOGRAPHY: What Pacific island nation is known by the initials FSM?
- ANATOMY: How many chambers are in the human heart?
- MUSIC: How many keys are on a standard piano?
- BIBLE: How old was Methuselah when he died?
- MEASUREMENTS: What degree of latitude is the Equator?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of rhinos called?

- ### Answers
- Whipped egg white and sugar
 - Tom, Dick and Harry
 - 24
 - "Oliver Twist"
 - Federated States of Micronesia
 - Four
 - 788
 - 969 in the Hebrew Bible
 - Zero
 - A crash

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

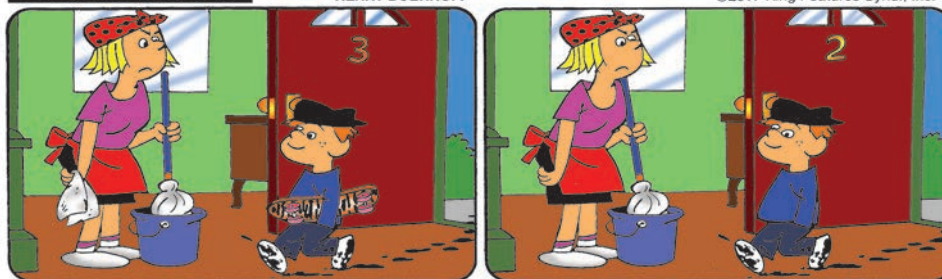
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

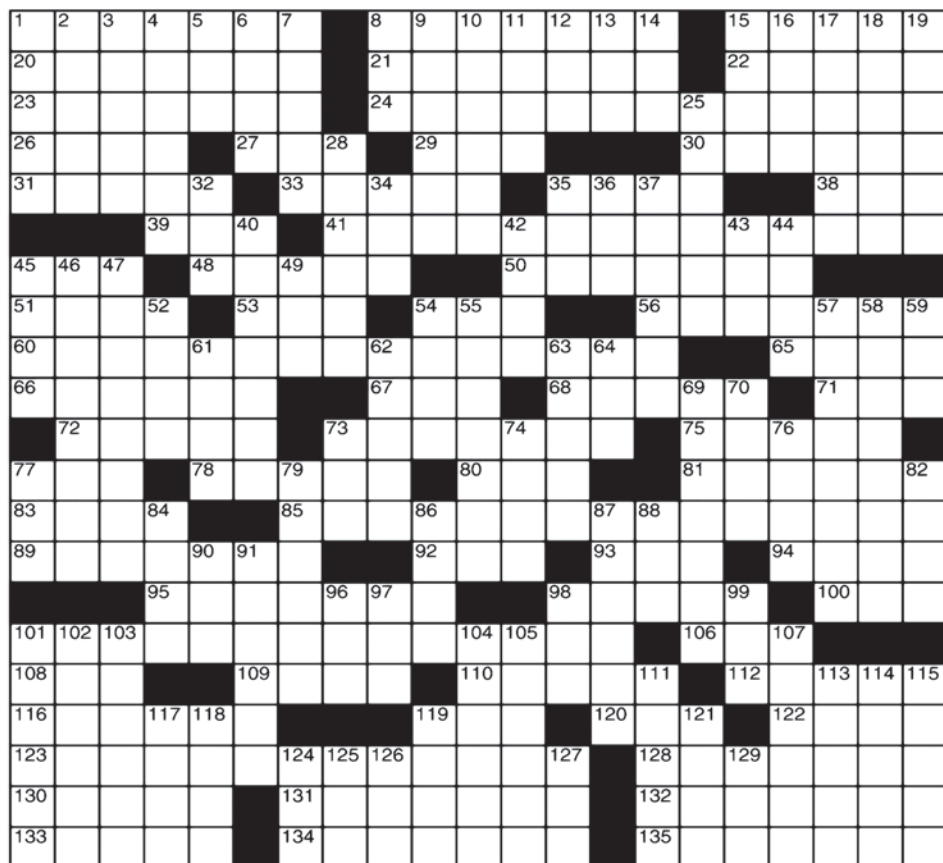
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Neckline is lower. 2. Flag is missing. 3. Arm and mop are moved. 4. Cabinet is moved. 5. Number is different. 6. Skateboard is missing.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Arrange in steps
 - 8 Nova — (Halifax native)
 - 15 Suspect's excuse
 - 20 Sailor lurer
 - 21 Texas city near El Paso
 - 22 Tyke's hauler
 - 23 Totally dumb
 - 24 With 41- and 60-Across, question whose answer is hidden in this puzzle
 - 26 Primatologist Fossey
 - 27 Mister
 - 29 Ending for Nepal
 - 30 Dangerous African fly
 - 31 Baseball exec Bud
 - 33 Kind of navel
 - 35 Gallivant
 - 38 Drinking site
 - 39 — Paulo
 - 41 See 24-Across
 - 45 Tanning lotion spec
 - 48 Kind of navel
 - 50 Drooling hounds
 - 51 — Stanley Gardner
 - 53 Grassland
 - 54 Former Saturn SUV
 - 56 Roloids, e.g.
 - 60 See 24-Across
 - 65 Gossipy Barrett
 - 66 Low opera voices
 - 67 Debt slip
 - 68 Trompe — (visual illusion)
 - 71 The Andes, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 72 Flamboyant flamenco entertainer
 - 73 Armada ship
 - 75 Heat's city
 - 77 Resistance unit
 - 78 Not active
 - 80 Oerter and Unser
 - 81 Lung-related prefix
 - 83 First step of progress
 - 85 With 101- and 123-Across, how to find the hidden answer
 - 89 Singer Flack
 - 92 Camping gear retailer
 - 93 OR figures
 - 94 Statistician Silver
 - 95 "The Barber of Seville" composer
 - 98 Desert plants
 - 100 The, to Henri
 - 101 See 85-Across
 - 106 Turn — dime
 - 108 Romania's basic currency unit
 - 109 Makes mad
 - 110 Spanish hero of yore
 - 112 Fur king John Jacob —
 - 116 Job follows it
 - 119 With 127-Down, China's —tung
 - 120 — -tac-toe
 - 122 "You bet, amigo!"
 - 123 See 85-Across
 - 128 Detectives
 - 130 Hollywood's Eastwood
 - 131 — Obispo, California
 - 132 National dish of Korea
 - 133 Boundary bushes
 - 134 University life
 - 135 Response to news you already knew about
- DOWN**
- 1 Iris relatives, for short
 - 2 TV's O'Donnell
 - 3 Popular font
 - 4 Comics "menace"
 - 5 Ring legend
 - 6 Wallet bills
 - 7 Kiddie-song letters
 - 8 180 degrees from NNE
 - 9 Joint beneficiary
 - 10 Singer Ric of the Cars
 - 11 Carry along
 - 12 Roth —
 - 13 Upper limb
 - 14 — -TURN
 - 15 Dazzles
 - 16 Pathetic
 - 17 "It's enough to live on"
 - 18 Potted tree
 - 19 Buries
 - 25 Actor Seagal
 - 28 Indonesia's basic currency unit
 - 32 Moo goo — pan
 - 34 — kwon do
 - 35 Sharp rival
 - 36 "Fifth qtrs."
 - 37 Look on one's face
 - 40 Sole male offspring
 - 42 Cain and —
 - 43 Sitcom cousin
 - 44 Old emperor
 - 45 Vojvodina native
 - 46 Direct a sermon at
 - 47 Seemingly spontaneous public assembly
 - 49 Snare
 - 52 "Frozen" heroine
 - 54 Cello's ancestor
 - 55 Howl in grief
 - 57 Public
 - 58 Private
 - 59 The, to Hans
 - 61 Actress Petty
 - 62 Cow catcher
 - 63 "You win"
 - 64 Sine qua —
 - 69 Paint applied thickly
 - 70 Ding-a —
 - 73 U. senior's test
 - 74 K-12
 - 76 Time on end
 - 77 Paddle's kin
 - 79 Slate clearer
 - 82 Bullring cries
 - 84 Road's shoulder
 - 86 Wet blanket
 - 87 "Curses!"
 - 88 Kin of Ltd.
 - 90 Get rancid
 - 91 Jeans go-with
 - 96 Social finish?
 - 97 Denials
 - 98 Ozone-depleting compound, for short
 - 99 — bad way
 - 101 1985 Chevy Chase film
 - 102 Fix, as a shoe part
 - 103 Beat at eBay
 - 104 Federation
 - 105 God, in the Hebrew Bible
 - 107 In itself
 - 111 Spine parts
 - 113 Church gift
 - 114 Actor Milo
 - 115 Step part
 - 117 — Kong
 - 118 Kin of -trix
 - 119 Temperate
 - 121 Ad award
 - 124 She-bear, in Spanish
 - 125 Apple buy
 - 126 Viroid stuff
 - 127 See 119-Across
 - 129 British record co.

FUN PAGES

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