

The Ranchos Independent



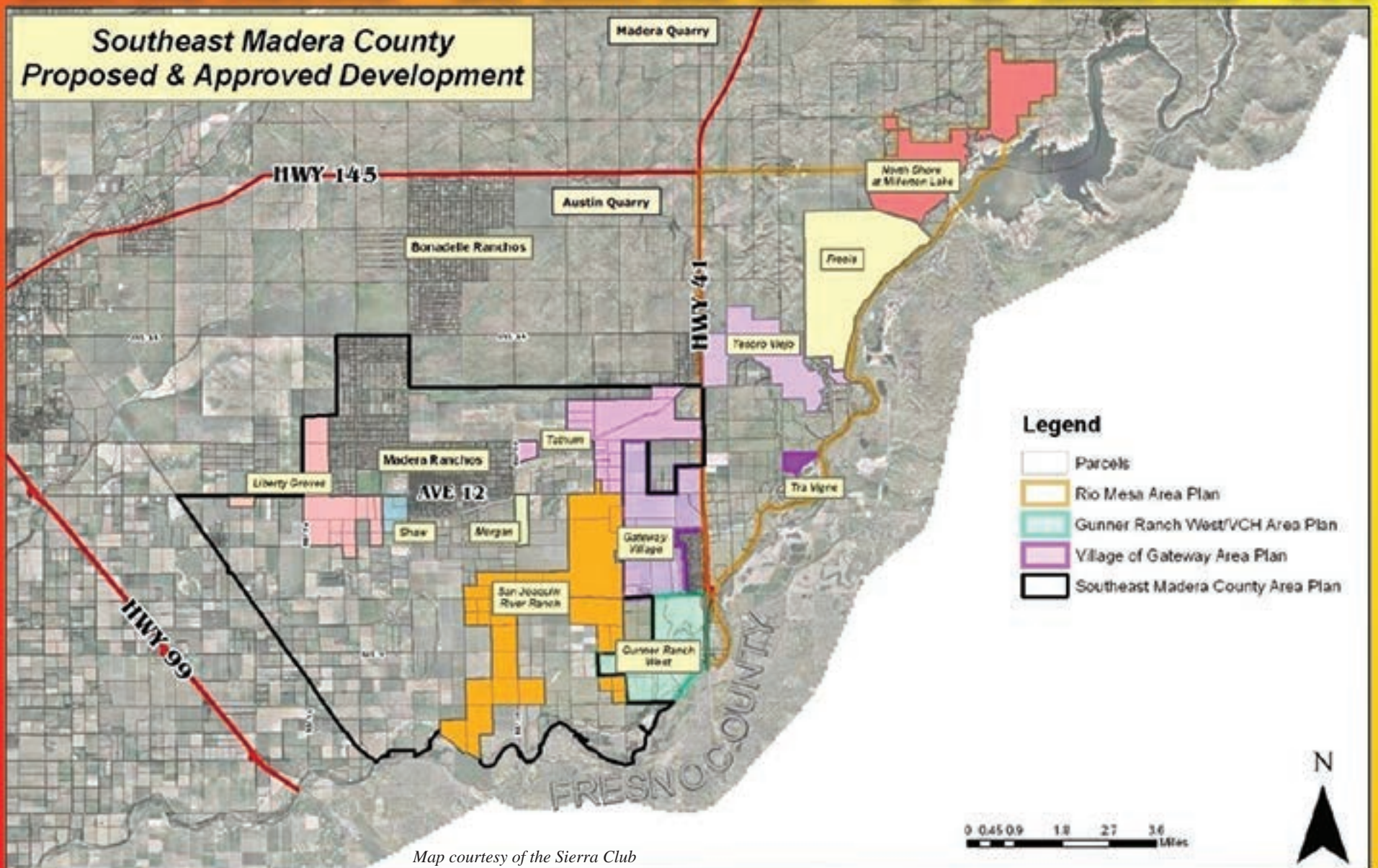
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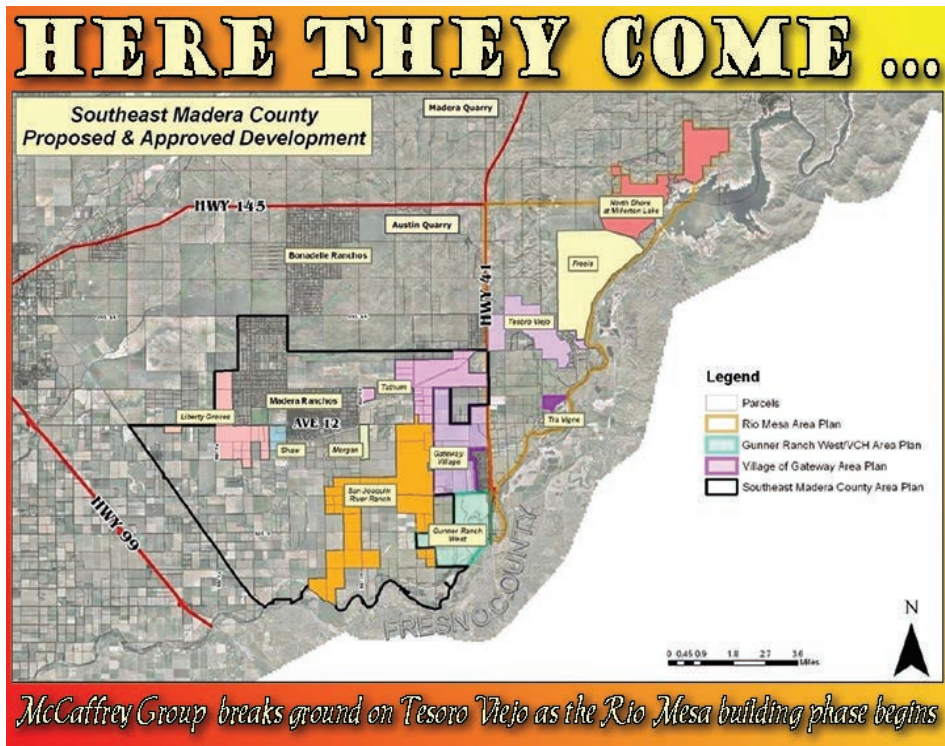
HERE THEY COME ...



McCaffrey Group breaks ground on Tesoro Viejo as the Rio Mesa building phase begins

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McCaffrey Group breaks ground on Tesoro Viejo as the Rio Mesa building phase begins

By Samantha Bauer

More than 300 business and community leaders celebrated the official groundbreaking Oct. 5 of Tesoro Viejo, marking the start of construction of the newest master-planned community just off Highway 41 in the heart of Madera’s planned growth area in southeastern Madera County.

“We acquired this special piece of land in 2004, and have worked extremely hard with our team and leaders of Madera County – along with several government agencies – to make Tesoro Viejo a reality,” said Bob McCaffrey, Tesoro Viejo Development CEO. “To get to this point after many years of thoughtful planning is a real milestone for our team and our region.”

Tesoro Viejo is being developed under partnership by The McCaffrey Group and Lyles Diversified, two long-standing family organizations. The 1,600 acre-site of rolling hills and vistas is situated at the foot of Little Table Mountain and has been designed to capture the scenic surroundings and natural beauty of the

land. Recognized for its innovative design and sustainable living, the community will include about 400 acres of open spaces, parks, recreation, and more than 15 miles of trails.

Long planned by Madera County as the center of the Rio Mesa Area Plan, Tesoro Viejo embraces the planned growth vision by meeting all the needs of a complete community with a mix of residences, employment, recreation and commercial use. Tesoro Viejo and Madera County were recognized recently by the American Planning Association with the Outstanding Planning Award in Innovation and Green Community Planning for its efforts in creating a vibrant and healthy community.

“Tesoro Viejo will have a lasting economic and social impact on not only Madera County, but on our region,” said Madera County Board of Supervisor Brett Frazier. “Tesoro Viejo is at the center of the Rio Mesa Area Plan that was approved more than 20 years ago to bring balanced and purposeful growth to Madera County.”

Overall grading and site improvements are under way simultaneously in three major construction components to ensure residents have the amenities and services they need from day one. Construction has begun on the Hillside Village, the first of nine residential villages; the Tesoro Viejo Town Center with 3 million square feet of office, retail, commercial and industrial space; and the Tesoro Viejo Master Mutual Water Company, the onsite water and wastewater treatment facility.

“Good regional planning matters,” said Fresno County Board of Supervisor Sal Quintero. “Having a strong regional vision is not bound by county lines – Tesoro Viejo will have a positive impact on our entire region.”

Hillside Village will offer up to 800 homes that provide diverse housing options to fit a wide range of lifestyles and needs, and will feature a resort-style clubhouse, an amphitheater, neighborhood parks, Chawanakee Unified School District’s new Hillside School that will serve students from transitional kindergarten through 8th grade, and about a 3-mile trail system that will surround the Village and lead to the Town Center.

The first phase of the Town Center will feature a new Madera County fire station and sheriff substation, a Welcome Center, a large event lawn and future shopping and dining spaces.

The Tesoro Master Mutual Water Company, the third construction component under way, will be an onsite, state-of-the-art water and waste water treatment facility to treat surface water and promote water recycling and reuse throughout the development.

“We have a unique opportunity to attract businesses that will generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue,” McCaffrey said. “Tesoro Viejo is a meaningful investment in the future of our region that will add value and amenities, benefiting not only those who choose to live at Tesoro Viejo, but also neighboring residents.”

County Tax Bills Mailed Out Now

“It’s that time of year again,” said Tracy Kennedy, Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector. “We have just begun the tax season by printing and mailing our property tax bills.”

Over 56,000 tax bills were mailed out, representing over \$169 million in property taxes. Various bond charges and direct charges are included on the tax bills.

“This year some taxpayers will notice an additional line item for the Madera Irrigation District Assessments. This is the second year that your MID assessment has been included on our tax bill,” said Kennedy.

Tax bills are also available online. By accessing www.madera-county.com/treasurer, the taxpayer can select an option to view and/or pay their tax bill. This service allows the user to search for the property either by assessment number or by street address. For privacy purposes the owner’s name will not be shown on the screen. Kennedy said that the Treasurer’s Department has taken credit card payments and e-check payments for years as a convenience to the taxpayer, “... but this service option will really provide value to both the taxpayers and my staff.”

That service option is FREE e-checks. While there is still a convenience fee attached to online tax payments with a credit card, once again the department is waiving the e-check fee as a cost of doing business and in order to encourage taxpayers to use this method of payment. “The beauty of our e-check feature is that you can pay multiple tax bills with one check and it is free,” Kennedy said. The service option will allow taxpayers to access their tax bill and to make payments via the website from any computer or mobile device.

To pay by e-check, you can go to www.madera-county.com/treasurer and click on “Pay by E-check.” Once there you accept the terms and then follow the prompts.

The bulk of the tax bills were mailed out the week of Oct. 9, 2017. If you do not receive your tax bill by Nov. 1, 2017, please contact the Treasurer’s Department at 559-675-7713 so a duplicate tax bill can be sent.

Helping Veterans Heal, One Horse, Dog at a Time

An organization based in Madera is creating an environment for veterans to help in their healing process as they return from active duty. The organization is calling itself “3 Stone Ranch” and is striving to create a sanctuary for veterans that gives them a sense of ownership, a purpose and healing through a focus on agriculture and the training and care of animals.

3 Stone Ranch is a play off the ex-



pression “2 birds, 1 stone” and the three elements the organizers are tackling in one project are:

1. Helping veterans on a working

ranch with the use of –

2. Therapy dogs and –
3. Equine therapy

The vision of 3 Stone Ranch is that veterans will run the ranch and grow their own fruits and vegetables, raise chickens for eggs and meat, all while they train shelter dogs to become service and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

Please see **3 STONE** on P. 13

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Demand Force Oct. 12, 2017
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Complete Car Care did a car tune-up and a repair to the driver's-side seat

heater. They performed the tune-up quickly and explained in writing everything that they did. The driver's-side seat heater is now working again, thanks to them. The seat heater may seem frivolous, but my aching back really enjoys the relief.
Anonymous

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to thank you for putting my brother's obituary in the newspaper. You were so quick to do so, and so helpful to allow me right up to the last minute if I would have needed it. While it was really an added blessing that you do not charge, I was much more impressed by your statement, "... that you felt it was an honor to run the obituary of a Madera Ranchos resident." That really touched me and my family. And to top it off, you ran his picture in color! No cutting corners or costs.

So just know that I appreciate you and your kindness.

Blessings to you and yours,

Sue Shaw (Frank Bruff's sister)
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Disrespected and violated.

For the past three nights we have experienced insult added to injury. Our developer/rancher neighbor, approximately 3 miles away and adjacent to Avenue 12, somehow had the audacity to ignite a huge bonfire in the middle of the night which is still smoldering.

The time must have been near 1 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21. Perhaps I do not have clarity on the law regarding the burning of brush, uprooted trees or other debris. Whatever legal or illegal activity took place, we can all imagine the sort of neighborhood and houses that will be created adjacent to our ever-voracious tax devouring Liberty High School. How insensitive and disgusting can these greedy developers and ranchers be?

We have endured a month of relentless heat and closed windows due to the

NorCal fires. We experienced an amazing refreshment with a few sprinkles and a breath of fresh air for the first time in a month until, in the middle of the night, October 21, we had to leap out of our beds to close our windows against the smoke created by the Avenue 12/Road 35 debris fire. What sort of disrespect is this to the neighborhood, the school, the law? SHAME ON YOU.

Dianne Reimer
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for you and your staff covering the events and issues of the Ranchos. I sense there is little understanding of all the work required, especially Karen Petryna's recent expose of the water situation in the county. I also especially appreciate your editorials, focusing on the recent "Where to Start," which apparently provoked the wrath of one local Obama sycophant to object to your observations about the ex-lying president. A standard blather of incoherent and irrational rabid-liberal accusations begins about associations with the KKK, white supremacists, etc., and fake news about Charlotte. You know, the usual ration of liberal lies and false accusations that they think if they repeat enough will convince others to become as delusionary and fixated against Trump as they have been since well before the election.

Liberals did everything they could to undermine and demean George Bush for eight years, then claim that Obama was mistreated and unjustly opposed, when the reality was that true constitutionally loyal Americans were working to stop Obama's takeover – the constitutional traitor – from succeeding with his disgusting undermining and un-American dictatorial manipulations. Now liberals and their media have stripped off all integrity and ethical conduct to disrespect the president, Donald Trump; distort everything he does, pervert the truth of virtually daily events and desperately try to hold on to the disastrous Obama policies and implemented changes.

When the writer asked, "Did you ever say a single positive thing about Barak Obama?" I can offer "the Constitution is still in existence and we have lived through Obama's lies and deception." Obama should have been impeached for his lies and deceit and incurring almost \$10 trillion in debt with reckless spending

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 11

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.

Send your letters to:

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 Karen Petryna -- Reporter
 Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales
559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
ranchosnews@yahoo.com

www.TheRanchos.com

Editorial

Please, Take My T.V.

By Randy Bailey

Here's a statement from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Acting Director Tom Homan on California's new "Sanctuary Law":

"Governor Jerry Brown's decision to sign SB54 and make California a sanctuary state for illegal aliens – including those who have committed crimes – will undermine public safety and hinder ICE from performing its federally mandated mission. The governor is simply wrong when he claims otherwise.

"SB54 will negatively impact ICE operations in California by nearly eliminating all cooperation and communication with our law enforcement partners in the state, voiding the delegated authority that the Orange County Sheriff's Office has under the 287g program, and prohibiting local law enforcement from contracting with the federal government to house detainees.

"ICE will have no choice but to conduct at-large arrests in local neighborhoods and at work sites, which will inevitably result in additional collateral arrests, instead of focusing on arrests at jails and prisons where transfers are safer for ICE officers and the community. ICE will also likely have to detain individuals arrested in California in detention facilities outside of the state, far from any family they may have in California.

"Ultimately, SB54 helps shield removable aliens from immigration enforcement and creates another magnet for more illegal immigration, all at the expense of the safety and security of the very people it purports to protect.

"Despite the severe challenges that this law creates for ICE, we remain committed to our public safety mission and we will continue to do our sworn duty to seek out dangerous criminal aliens and other immigration violators. ICE seeks straightforward cooperation with all sheriffs and local elected officials. This misguided legislation will severely undermine those efforts."

As each day passes, I find myself more and more running out of words to express my disbelief and dismay at what has happened to my beloved state. I have absolutely no problem with the tired and the poor huddled masses yearning to breathe free, but can't we do it legally? Can't we follow some basic rules? How many analogies do I have to offer? If someone illegally takes your car, do we offer them sanctuary from theft laws? Do we owe them a nice garage to keep it in, complete with paid insurance? If someone illegally breaks into your home, do we offer them sanctuary from burglary laws? Do we owe it to them to set them up in a nice place where they can display YOUR 55-inch TV and your wife's jewelry? If someone illegally dumps a 55-gallon drum of used oil into the San Joaquin River, do we offer them sanctuary from environmental laws? Do we find them a nice place to live where they don't have to see that oily, messy river?

I could do this all day, and every analogy you'd come back with, "No way! That's not right! Are you crazy???" EXCEPT when it comes to illegal immigration. Then, all of a sudden, common sense flies out the window. Feelings trump reason. All bets are off.

Why?

What makes us unique is that we're a nation of laws, not a nation of men and women, each with their own unique set of rules. It's that supreme law of the land that allows you to own property and keeps someone else from taking your stuff. Where we get into trouble is when we elect a self-righteous group of know-it-alls that treat the law like a buffet, picking and choosing the laws they do and don't like. That's how California became a sanctuary state. THAT'S how we got here.

THE RAY GUN
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"... MAYBE IT'S NATURAL THAT IN THE HEAT OF LEGISLATIVE COMBAT WE FOCUS ON OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT THIS SEASON LET'S ALSO TRY TO REMEMBER HOW MUCH WE HAVE IN COMMON ..."

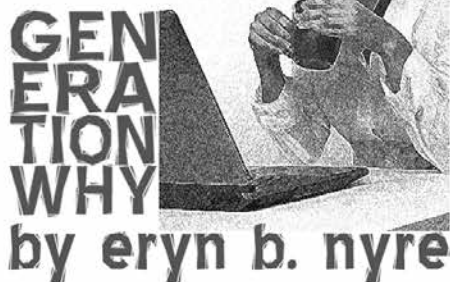
RONALD REAGAN
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

License That Thing!

I support driving tests for motorized carts and wheelchairs. I think the world, especially the grocery store aisles and theme park walkways, would be a safer place if a short operating exam was required before allowing just anyone behind the wheel. People are at an ever-increasing risk for serious injury if we continue to place these small, but life-threatening, hunks of metal on wheels in the care of those unprepared to handle the responsibility. The world is a scary enough place without the Little Old Lady from Pasadena buzzing around inside Wal-Mart at top speed. And for me personally, I am clumsy enough and don't need any help falling over or drawing blood from an electric wheelchair.

I have given this a lot of thought and I'm convinced we should launch beta testing for motorized cart licensing at all Wal-Mart locations. Not only is it where most of these motorized cart incidents happen, but even if the process of getting licensed makes people miserable it won't really affect sales because despite how much we all hate Wal-Mart it never seems to stop us from going there. No matter how loudly we all complain or how vehemently we swear we will never again return, eventually we give in and wind up wasting a few hours at the nation's greatest time suck. Where else can you get groceries, a shower curtain, a new fish tank, tires and boost in your self-confidence simply by remembering to put on pants and shoes before leaving the house? You can hate Wal-Mart, but I have a feeling it's here to stay, which is why it is the perfect test group.

I decided that this project was my new life's calling when I was doing my weekly grocery shopping last week at Wal-Mart, of course. I stopped in the bread aisle and bent to pick up my favorite kind of sourdough that was resting on the



bottom shelf. As I remained stooped to ensure I was selecting the freshest loaf I was mowed over by a woman driving a motorized shopping cart. Lying on the floor clutching my sourdough I thought to myself, "Was this how I was going to die?" I sat up and caught the woman's gaze. She peered at me with the most curious expression as if she couldn't, for the life of her, figure out why I had suddenly decided to fall flat on my back for no discernible reason whatsoever.

Resisting the urge to throw my bread at her because I really like my sourdough, I asked if she didn't see me, in which case the vision center is at the front of the store, or if she just didn't care. I'm sure I could have been a smidge nicer, but in my book polite stops at negligent carting. She was taken aback by my question and asserted that she most certainly didn't run me down. She turned into the aisle and found me like that. Whoopsie, I completely forgot I had decided to take a little catnap on the dirty linoleum there for a moment. My bad. Then she blamed the cart's lack of breaks because veering slightly to the left to avoid hitting me was an unrealistic option and shouting, "Hey, watch out! I'm a crazy woman who should never have been allowed to drive this thing!" was clearly out of the question. So, she went with option number three, quietly run me over and hope I didn't notice. Spoiler alert: I noticed.

This reminded me of a time I went to Disneyland with a

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

group of friends, one of whom has a physical disability and needs to use a wheelchair when walking for long periods of time. She rented one of the electric convenience vehicles. She was a natural, weaving through the crowds all while keeping pace and avoiding collisions with small children at the same time. Our other friend in the group, however, was less of a natural. Disaster would be a better description and that still might not be a strong enough word. She continuously clipped the heels of fellow park goers, ran several families off the main walkways, and in one notable instance smashed directly into a pole, head on. The pole emerged unscathed, but the vehicle had a noticeable dent in the industrial grade plastic. Needless to say that my friend with the disability, who was merely trying to stretch her legs from all the sitting, immediately confiscated the electric wheelchair and refused to allow anyone else to drive it for the remainder of the

visit. See, if we all would have been required to take a driver's test we would have known not to put the crazy woman behind the wheel and a lot less children would be going home traumatized.

I will say this, though, as many bad drivers as there are out there behind the wheels of motorized wheelchairs and shopping carts there are plenty more bad pedestrians wandering the same paths. I cannot tell you how many people step in front of one of these vehicles just, assuming that they can stop on a dime. They cannot. They roll forward even after your hand is off the accelerator. So, when you step in front of one because you think you have the right of way, don't be surprised when they just roll over you like a speed bump. It's really safer for everyone involved if the walkers made the extra effort to avoid the carts because you never know which driver you are going to get: The cautious, courteous disabled person or the twit that has mistaken the shopping cart for a bumper car.

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Apple of Your Eye

It's fall and there are all kinds and colors of apples available. I read somewhere that there are over 7,500 varieties and if you ate one per day it would take you over 20 years to taste them all.

My Mom's parents lived on a farm seven miles from town and I remember all kinds of salesmen coming to the ranch selling their wares. The Fuller Brush Man, Watkins, a fish monger and the fruit and vegetable truck. Grandpa would always buy a lug or two of apples and once in a while a lug of oranges. There would always be apples to eat in the winter. Even at Christmas, we didn't have the stockings kids have today. We kids each got one of our father's socks that we hung on the drying wire over the stove on Christmas Eve. The next morning, we were thrilled with what we got from Santa Claus. An apple, an orange, some walnuts and some hard Christmas candy.

Recently Randy, my sister Maxine and I were having breakfast at The Ranchos Café when Patti Groh came in and joined us. I wanted something a little sweet to finish my meal. I found a package of apple butter and only used about half of it. I noticed Patti also picked apple butter for her toast. We got to reminiscing about how to make it. It isn't made like regular jams and jellies; apples are cooked for hours. I can remember my Grandma Drinnen making it and cooking it on her wood-burning stove almost all day, but the results were fantastic! I know the cooks of today wouldn't (or couldn't) spend that amount of time cooking it so I started looking for more up-to-date recipes.

How about cooked in a crock pot? Apples are cooked slowly in the crock pot with sugar and spices until it is thick and dark preserves. Not only good on toast, but hot oatmeal, Greek yogurt, waffles and just about anything jam would be put on.

Slow Cooker Apple Butter

Ingredients:

6 large tart apples, peeled, cored and chopped fine
 1/3 C. white sugar
 1/2 C. light brown sugar – not packed
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1/8 tsp. allspice



1/8 tsp. Nutmeg
 Place apples in slow cooker and add sugars and spices. Stir well.

Cover and cook on high 5 hours or on low for 10 hours or until apples are tender and brown. Stirring half way through cooking time.

Using an immersion blender, puree apples until like applesauce.

Cook on high 2 additional hours uncovered, stirring occasionally until thickened.

Spoon into jars or containers and refrigerate.

The following recipe was given to me by a friend – delicious!

Apple Pudding

1 C. Sugar
 1/4 C. butter
 1 egg, well beaten
 3 C. Peeled, cored and chopped apples

1 C. sifted flour
 1 tsp. cinnamon
 1 tsp. nutmeg
 1 tsp. baking soda
 Preheat oven to 350.

Lightly grease and flour 9 x 9 baking dish – set aside.

Cream sugars and butter. Add beaten egg and apples, sift dry ingredients and add to apple mixture. Pour mixture into the prepared pan and bake 30 to 40 minutes. Best served warm with either a spoon of whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

How about making apple strips for a special treat – after school snack or maybe something to snack on while watching late night TV?

Apple Fries

3/4 C. milk
 1 large egg
 1 C all-purpose flour
 1 tsp. Baking powder
 1/3 C. plus 2 T sugar, divided
 3 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, divided
 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
 2 C. Vegetable oil, for frying
 3 large Granny Smith apples cored and peeled

Caramel, warmed for dipping
 Make the batter – Combine milk, egg, flour, baking powder, 2

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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(3rd Floor at Citizen's Bank) 10/17

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

tablespoons sugar, half teaspoon cinnamon and salt in a large mixing bowl, stirring until all of the large clumps are broken up. Set aside. In a small bowl combine remaining 1/3 cup sugar with remaining 3 tablespoons cinnamon for dusting the finished apple fries. Set aside.

Pour about 1-inch of vegetable oil into a skillet over medium high heat. Slice apples into small wedges about half inch thick.

Using tongs, dip each apple slice into the batter, then gently lower into the oil. Once the edges of the apple slices are slightly golden, using the tongs flip the apple slice over to cook on the other side, about 1 minute more. Remove apple fries from oil and place on a plate lined with paper towels. Sprinkle both sides with the sugar cinnamon mixture. Serve with caramel sauce for dipping if desired.

Instead of making your own caramel sauce, buy a jar of caramel topping for ice cream.

I love a dump cake – so simple, not many dishes to wash, and one, two and three you've got a cake.

Apple Dump Cake

- 4 C. chopped apples
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ¾ C. butter, melted

Heat oven to 350. Spray the bottom of a 13x9 inch baking pan with cooking spray.

Place apples over bottom of prepared pan. Top apples evenly with dry cake mix and pour melted butter over top of cake mix, making sure to cover top with butter as much as possible. **DO NOT STIR.** Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until bubbly. Serve warm. If you want some spice in your apples, you might sprinkle some cinnamon on the apples before putting on the cake mix or use a spice cake mix in place of the yellow.

There are many varieties of apples to use in cooking, a few of the best are: Raeburn, Cortland, Empire, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious (my favorite) and Granny Smith, or any tart, firm apple. Your choice.

Before I close, I wanted to remind you that Daylight Savings Time goes away on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2 a.m. Then, or Saturday, Nov. 4 before you go to bed, set all your clocks in the house **BACK** one hour. Remember spring forward and fall back.



This year's Harvest Party includes:

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Become a Problem Solver

I was on my way home nearing the lane merge on northbound Hwy. 41. Suddenly, I hear thump-thump, thump-thump, thump-thump. I pull off the road and sure enough, a flat tire. This was back in prehistoric times (a.k.a. before I had a cell phone). I had several options. I could sit and do nothing, hoping that my circumstances would automatically improve. I could lament not learning how to change a tire and make a vow to someday learn. I could continue to slowly drive on it—maybe reaching my destination, but doing more damage in the process. I could follow the tire-changing directions in my auto manual or ask AAA to send the tire change experts.

I decided to ask for help. Even though I had no cell phone yet, others did. I stood on the side of the road making the phone sign by my ear, feeling silly and hoping I wouldn't have to do that for long. I'm sure none of you sped by, ignoring my plea, but many did. It worked out for the good though. An off-duty Fresno policeman on his way home to the Ranchos, stopped on his motorcycle. He not only called it in for me, which gets a quicker response, but stayed until AAA arrived. Thank you, kind officer.

We all find ourselves stuck at times. Whether you're overwhelmed with a chronically messy closet or struggling with a kid who continually leaves a trail throughout the house, circumstances like those can cause stress, frustration and a sense of "stuck-ness." If nothing changes, then nothing changes. So, rather than sit on the side of the road hoping for things to automatically improve, become a problem solver!

Here are seven questions that can "fix the flat" and set you on a course of peace and productivity. I'm using a cluttered closet as an example, but after you read it through, grab a pen and paper and use these questions to create a solution to your own problem.

Question 1: What's the problem? My master closet is a disaster area. I can't walk in without stepping on stuff. I can't find things. Everything's wrinkled from being in piles on the floor. I get stressed while trying to get ready in the mornings. Even when I clean it up, it doesn't stay that way.

Question 2: What's contributing to the problem? Everything gets thrown in there. Even if I want to put stuff away, I don't know where to put it. I keep buying more of the same stuff because I can't find things. I have three different sizes of clothes in my closet. I have a zillion shoes and a half-zillion purses. My closet's also a catch-all for things I don't know what to do with, or whatever I'm carrying when I walk into the bedroom.

Question 3: What's the goal? My goal is to walk unimpeded into my organized closet. It has only what I need, use and love, and only what will comfortably fit (on me and in the closet). Everything in it has a home. Things I use often are easily accessible. I have a simple system for keeping it that way.

Question 4: What are the benefits of achieving the goal? Getting ready in the morning is stress-free! I can always find what I'm looking for. I'm saving time and money not purchasing replacements for things I already have. The maintenance plan eliminates spending hours at a time sorting piles, rewashing and hanging up clothes.

Question 5: What actions/policies/procedures will solve the problem? I'll remove everything I don't need, use and love. I'll do an additional purge if there's still more than will fit. I'll relocate all the items that aren't wardrobe related and resist bringing in more. I'll designate homes for everything I'm keeping. I'll use the "in with the new, out with the old" policy to maintain balance. I'll establish a "don't put it down, put it away" policy to maintain order. This will include hanging up/putting away clothes, shoes, etc. when changing clothes and bringing in clean laundry. When tempted to throw stuff on the floor, I'll remind myself of the benefits as an incentive. I'll do a 10-Minute Tidy on Saturday mornings, as needed.

Question 6: How will I monitor and update the plan? I'll schedule a date to review one month after implementation. I'll assess the closet based on my goal. If it doesn't measure up, I'll adjust my actions, policies and procedures accordingly. (And maybe throw in a reward incentive.) Repeat, as needed.

Question 7: When will I begin? This coming weekend I'll do the purge. I'll assess what, if any, organizing products I need (shoe rack, slim-line hangers, etc.). Next weekend I'll purchase products and designate homes for everything. I'll start hanging up my clothes when changing tonight.

Unfortunately, our closets and families don't come with user manuals like kitchen appliances. But, that doesn't mean you have to fall victim to challenges. Using these questions, you can create your own course of action and become a problem solver. If you decide you need some expert help, visit NAPO.net, the AAA of organizing and productivity.

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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10/17


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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

without congressional approval, not to mention his executive mandates that undermined the republic.

The writer is further confused by supposed "America's best and brightest" declining to join Trump, when they did not have the honesty or integrity to admit that they actually caved to social pressure as so many "sheeple" have in their opposition to the new president. The writer denies Trump has "the compassion, humility, strength and insight to be the president of all of the people;" attributes liberals freely gave Obama while they demanded his respect, all the while he defamed the country, apologized to other

nations based on his own personal biases against the nation, pathetically failed at foreign policies, embraced abortion, sexual perversion, the perversion of marriage, government oppression of Christians while defending terrorism, spending the country into excessive debt, and taking from workers to buy votes of the easily bought.

It is the media's, Hollywood's and rabidly outspoken liberal's continuous adulation of Obama that has suppressed the truth and preserved his fondness from so many. Trump will never get fair treatment, after all, he is not a liberal.

Stewart Hough
Madera Ranchos

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Bake off

Eating Contests!

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Come Learn the TRUTH
about Halloween



10/17

SEM CU

speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Progress, progress, progress! I love progress, especially when it really happens. By SEMCU drilling free-of-charge dry wells/drainage wells throughout Southeast Madera County, we are causing direct recharge into our aquifer.

Every once in a while, things go right and it is wonderful to see when things progress in a positive way. Working together in a partnership, the County and SEMCU have been able to move water recharging forward in a very significant way. This is one of these times when we can all be proud of Madera County's Supervisor Brett Frazier, public works director Ahmad Alkhayyat, Dario Dominguez, Dexter Marr and other staff members. As soon as they realized the potential, they all jumped in and helped.

Ordinarily, you need a recharge basin and the not-so-cheap water to fill it. To build a recharge basin one would need to own the land, conduct an expensive study, obtain permits from various governmental agencies and all the time it takes to complete the process before you can even start the expensive construction.

We identified two Madera County owned locations that have potential for recharge basins. They are small to medium size projects, but we know that every drop counts. We all got excited until we found out that the cost of the study needed for each basin in order to file requests for permits, would cost \$45,000 for just one location (total \$90,000). That meant we needed to find funds. Fortunately, there are potential grant opportunities available and we are looking at those possibilities. We also had to consider that it will take time to apply, and if the effort is successful we can expect the grant to be funded within a year to two years and then it will take some time to construct the basins. But we need water now.

During the process of finding ways to make it work, the ongoing Dry Well Project came to the forefront. We found out that FEMA will allow for the dry wells to be placed within the flood zone and within the creek's channels. After the County communicated with FEMA we received in writing permission with a defined criterion that will allow us to install our dry wells in the creeks running through Southeast Madera County. No one really expected that to happen, but it did.

Why am I excited? We can construct 30 dry wells for the cost of just the study of one

recharge basin.

That project is not just shovel ready, it is already in operation as you read this column, SEMCU is drilling dry wells now, FREE OF CHARGE to qualified home owners of Southeast Madera County.

One of the reasons for my excitement is the available grant money for this type of project through the Madera County Resource Plan "Storm Water Resource Plan" (SWRP) with money potentially available through: Proposition 1 and Department of Water and Resources. We are applying for a \$500,000 grant which can produce almost 200 new dry wells. There may be a need for 25 percent matching funds. I'm certain that a commitment for the matching funds will come through. It may take some time to go through the process but after discussing it with Madera's consultants it seems very likely that we will succeed.

Last summer through SEMCU we constructed 59 Dry Wells. We are drilling more now and will continue until the rains come. With the grant, we potentially can add to our existing dry wells and have over 300 dry wells throughout our area. Just imagine the effect of 300 dry wells recharging as it rains.

All of Southeast Madera County homeowners can apply for a FREE dry well. Your eligibility will simply depend on whether you have a flooded area on your property when it rains or if a creek is running through your property. There is a county permitting process which we will help with. The County agreed to expedite all dry well permits and is waiving the permit fees which means the County is doing the right thing.

On another subject, through a previous grant, SEMCU has obtained money to reimburse Southeast Madera homeowners for 20 well water meters that match the County's specifications, including its installation. The installation must have been after June 1, 2014. Since we are limited with the number of meters, it will be awarded based on first come and qualified basis.

Residents can register their interest by contacting SEMCU on line at info@semcu.com, call us at 559-363-9095 or, stop at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C.

We are always looking for community suggestions of needed and viable projects within Southeast Madera; let us know your thoughts. We are looking for our community to get involved and work on projects and our sustainable future.

SEMCU meets only once a month on the third Monday of every month at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Come and be involved – it is your community and your voice counts.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Saturday, Dec. 2 • 6 p.m.

Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital

Veterans need instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts and new books.

Items can be dropped off at any time to the Chamber office, but no later than Dec. 8. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual

Chamber Christmas Mixer

Wednesday, December 13
6-7:30 p.m.

37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C Madera Ranchos
Everyone is invited. Great food will be served.
Our Merry Christmas to you. Call 645-4001 for info.

New Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family

Brett Frazier
Madera County District 1 Supervisor

Tom and Jean Kellner
Kellner & Sons Properties

Mandeep Singh
MGA Liquor and Wine

Javier Romo
Touch of Green Landscape



Help a Foster Child this Christmas

through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 8.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



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10/17



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Are There Ghosts in the Ranchos?

By Randy Bailey

In honor of Halloween, it has been asked if there are any haunted spots in the Ranchos. Any places where unexplained, ghostly phenomena have occurred. Since I have never heard of any, I went searching the Internet and found www.ghostsofamerica.com. They have a page specific to Madera. Very quickly, a recurring story began to appear. This first one is attributed

to "Christina":

"I do not believe in ghosts, but lately I have heard of a lot of people witnessing something I saw, and none of us had any way to explain this. On Jan. 1st, 2010 I was driving home to Clovis from Madera on Avenue 15. After the second stop sign about two miles before the 41 Highway, I saw a man walking in the middle of the road on the yellow lines that divided the lanes. He was walking toward me with his eyes down. He had on a grey, dark sweater with the hood up and blue jeans. He was a tall Caucasian. I swerved to avoid hitting him because he came out of nowhere. When I turned around to see where he was, he was gone ... I was sick to my stomach. I wanted to believe it was just a person, but many things made me believe different.

"That man never looked up at me, and I was going 60 miles per hour, and I almost hit him! I was wondering what person does not look up at a car that almost hit them. Furthermore, he was there so suddenly and gone so suddenly. If I had blinked I would have missed him. My husband was in the car and did not see him. He only noticed something happened because I swerved so fast to avoid hitting him, and he was looking exactly where the man had been walking. I tried to discount it as just odd, but I have since then had three other people from Madera say they saw him too. He appeared to be young, early 20s (or late teens). I know two other people have seen him on Avenue 18 in Madera also. This is not a joke. I am sick to my stomach just thinking about it and have since refused to drive home on that street anymore."

Then there's this by "Mad":

"When we looked back he was gone! We have ran into a few other people who have seen the same guy dressed in the same clothes on Ave. 15 walking down the street."

Then "Keli" weighed in with this:

I live in Madera on Ave. 18. One night I was coming home, it was last winter, 2013, late at night around maybe 3 a.m. It was a bit foggy but still clear enough to see. I saw the same man: blue jeans, grey hoodie, white sneakers. I swerved as I drove by him but he didn't look up or even move out the way. It was odd because I had never seen anyone walking, especially around this area at that time. Didn't pay much attention to it, never told anyone about it but now that I'm reading this, it scares me."

3 STONE cont. from P. 2

der) dogs for themselves and other veterans.

To get the ball rolling, founder Kim Buck is organizing a fundraiser at the Madera VFW Hall, Post #1981 at 2026 N. Granada Dr. in Madera on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 6-10 p.m. The BBQ fundraiser will cost \$38 per person or \$65 per couple.

Tickets are available online at www.3StoneRanch.com. You can reach Kim Buck for more information at 559-906-4832.

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10/17

Senior Report

Halloween then Turkey at Center

By Patti Groh

BOO! Yes, it's that time of year. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors celebrated this haunting season with a party on Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. It was the usual potluck Thursday with plenty of food to share, as usual. There was a costume competition and a lot of imaginations got in gear and come up with some winning costumes. There was also games and fun. If you weren't there we'll see you next year.

We have some new members at Seniors and I hope you will come and meet them. Mary Morgan is a retired office manager and now likes to knit, crochet, garden and read. Then there's Arnold and Marta Escarcega. Marta is a Director of Nonprofit and says her hobbies are Strategic Planning and walking. We might want to ask her about the first. Arnold is (was?) a physician's assistant. His hobby is shooting. Other information will be available on the board at the Center.

The Improv sessions are over for now. The participants did a great job and hopefully it will be scheduled again and everyone is welcome. We'll let you know when that is.

Nov. 4 is the monthly sale at the Center from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be the usual homemade baked goods, boutique items and great plants. There are some ghoulishly cute Halloween decorations for sale. Work is being started this week on repairing the garage doors on the Treasure House, so we are antic-

ipating it being open for the November sale. Stop by and see the new doors and check out the good stuff for sale.

The Center will be closed on Nov. 10 in observance of Veterans Day which is Nov. 11. Remember, there will be no lunch served on Friday, the 10th.

VERY IMPORTANT MEETING: The General meeting (that is to say for ALL members) will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. This is the night of election of new officers for 2018. Please come and cast your vote. And then on Thursday evening, November 16 at 6 p.m., the Seniors' Thanksgiving Dinner will be held. The turkey and gravy will be provided and members are asked to bring the side dishes and desserts. Each member may bring one guest at a cost of \$10. Please

sign up at the Center so we know how many tables to set up. Also, bring your own table service. That way there is not so much clean up.

I realize these are a lot of dates and times above so please, as soon as you get done reading the paper, go to your calendar and make reminders to yourself. As always, Seniors' information is available in the Seniors newsletter and can be picked up at the Center or at area businesses.

Again, the Center will be closed on Nov. 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I wish you all a very blessed holiday and join me in remembering all for which we have to be thankful.



First a Halloween party on Oct. 26 ...



... then a Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 16.

www.theranchos.com

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.

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10/17

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10/17

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IN GOOD HANDS

with Warren Parr



Going HIGH Tech

Hello 93636,

I want to thank all the "In Good Hands" readers for your generous support and encouraging comments. This is my 29th column, WOW, how time flies. Ladies, I'm humbled. Delightful to hear from so many. Very nice and thank you. Mrs. F, thanks for the homemade apple butter. The family enjoyed it. Finally, this month's article includes two vehicles I thought would be interesting reading, not to mention informative and potentially useful.

First up is a 2012 Chrysler Town & Country with 91,400 miles. The customer's complaint was the Check Engine Lamp was on with a trouble code P0306 (misfire in cylinder #6) stored in the Powertrain Control Module's history. Using a code reader, the customer self-diagnosed his problem as a defective #6 spark plug and requested a tune up. By now, YOU ALL know that's not what was wrong.

As part of our normal diagnostic routine, we consulted the manufacturer's Technical Service Bulletins (TSB), warranty and recall information. We discovered Chrysler TSB 09-002-14 which states "Customers may experience a Malfunction Indicator Lamp illuminated. Upon further investigation, the Technician may find that any of the following Diagnostic Trouble Codes have been set: P0300, P0302, P0304 & P0306." The TSB goes on to say certain 2011-2013 vehicles equipped with 3.6L Pentastar engines have been granted a 10 year or 150,000-mile warranty extension.

It appears the 3.6L Pentastar engines are suffering from low compression issues on bank two. The correct repair is to replace the cylinder head. Since our customer's complaint matches the manufacturer's TSB and the vehicle matches the affected vehicles' profile, the logical place to start our diagnostic was by testing cylinder #6 for leakage (low compression). Like most modern V6 and V8 engine platforms, the bank two cylinder

head is located directly under the intake manifold. Old school diagnostic techniques require us to remove the intake manifold in order to gain access to perform cranking compression and cylinder leakage verification tests. New school diagnostic, not so much.

We started by removing the fuel pump relay so the engine would not start during testing. We then placed a high current amp probe around one of our battery cables, easiest. Using the starter motor to crank the engine over, we recorded the starter motor's current draw. Cylinders with higher compression require higher current, more work. Cylinders with lower compression require less current, less work. The starter current draw from each individual cylinder can be compared to the starter current draw from each of the other cylinders. Guess what, cylinder #6 required 20 percent less starter current. Cylinder #6 has leakage. The manufacturer's TSB directed us straight to the cause and new school diagnostics allowed us to verify the leak-

If your repair facility does not have this capability, you are not an internet user, or you just need help, give us a call and we'll walk you through it.

ing cylinder without disassembling the engine. We directed our customer to a local manufacturer's dealership for his extended warranty.

TECH TIP: If you have a 2011-2013 Dodge,

Chrysler or Jeep with a 3.6L Pentastar engine parked in your driveway, please be aware of this pattern failure and the manufacturer's extended warranty.

TECH TIP: If your vehicle (any vehicle) is less than 10 years old with less than 150,000 miles, ALWAYS, ALWAYS have your technician search for TSB's prior to performing any major repairs. If no TSB's are discovered, keep your repair invoice in a safe location. You may be entitled to reimbursement when at a later date the manufacturer does issue a TSB with an extended warranty. If your repair facility does not have this capability, you are not an internet user, or you just need help, give us a call and we'll walk you through it.

The second vehicle was a 2010 Mazda5 with a hard to start complaint. Our Electrical System Analyzer displayed a "FAILED BATTERY" and "LOW CHARGING" message. I needed to determine if I had one failure or two. I isolated the components and retested. Same message. Do we have a defective

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

Ranchos Represented at Ed. Gala

An elegant reception preceded the 11th Excellence in Education award ceremony sponsored by the Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU). The event was held Thursday, Oct. 12 at the Madera County Superintendent of Schools Conference Center at 1105 S. Madera Ave. in Madera and honored school employees, teachers and administrators from Madera County school districts. The event celebrated outstanding achievement and success in education. Madera County Superintendent of Schools in partnership with EECU proudly shared their remarkable stories with the community. The dedication and commitment of Madera County school staff was recognized.

The winners and finalists were:

2017 Administrator of the Year: Michelle Worrell, Vice Principal, Wilson Middle School for the Chowchilla Elementary School District

2017 Administrator Finalist: Kimberly Bitter, Principal, James Monroe Elementary School District, Madera Unified School District

Camille Edmunds, Program Director, Special Education, Gould Educational Center, Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Fred Faysal, Director MOT, Chawanakee Unified School District

Michael Grossman, Guidance Learning Specialist/Secondary Counselor, Liberty High School/Ranchos Middle School, Golden Valley Unified School District

2017 Classified Employee of the Year: Lawna Porter, Registrar/Principal's Secretary, Yosemite Alternative Education for the Yosemite Unified School District

2017 Employee Finalists: Martha Bermudez, Secretary-Attendance, Furman High School, Madera Unified School District

Kris Bushong, Library Technician, Chowchilla Union High School, Chowchilla Union High School District

Delia Castillo, Office Clerk, Fairmead, Chowchilla Elementary School District

Robin Lawson, Bus Driver/Custodian,

Chawanakee Unified School District
Jennifer Pascale, Executive Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Arnulfo Quintero, Lead Custodian, Sierra View Elementary, Golden Valley Unified School District

2017 Teacher of the Year: John Henson, Mathematics Teachers, Chowchilla Union High School, Chowchilla Union High School District

2017 Teacher Finalists:

Celine Castaneda, K-6 Teacher, Ronald Reagan Elementary, Chowchilla Elementary School District

Kevin Feramisco, Teacher, Ranchos Middle School, Golden Valley Unified School District

Felipe Magos, Jr., Teacher, Sixth Grade, Lincoln Elementary School, Madera Unified School District

Laura Montoya, Teacher, Career and Alternative Education Services, Pioneer Technical Center, Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Kaitlin Morgan, Social Science Teacher, Minarets High School, Chawanakee Unified School District

"Tonight, we showcase our honorees and the many contributions they have made to enhance the lives of our children," said Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools. "Our honorees are often 'unsung heroes' and tonight we shine a light on their achievements and see firsthand how they inspire and teach students every day."

Elizabeth J. Dooley, President & CEO, Educational Employees Credit Union, said, "We are proud to be part of this event to shine a spotlight on everything that happens inside and outside of the classroom to prepare and guide the students toward a bright future. Congratulations to all of the nominees, finalists, and winners on this well-deserved recognition of their commitment to their students and their profession."



Former Madera County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally L. Frazier, left, with current Superintendent Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti and President & CEO of Educational Employees Credit Union, Elizabeth J. Dooley, oversaw the event.

HANDS cont. from P. 15

battery that caused an alternator failure also; an alternator failure that caused a battery failure; or "None of the Above"? The correct answer is "None of the Above". Our battery is defective, but our charging system is in fact functioning as it's designed.

TECH TIP: When a vehicle's battery test FAILS, replace the battery even though it may not be displaying symptoms. Waiting stresses the alternator from constantly charging the battery to maintain its base voltage. Alternator failure can also occur increasing repair costs.

Our low battery voltage is by design. It's Mazda's strategy to increase fuel efficiency by decreasing the alternator's load on the engine. In order to properly test this vehicle's charging system a scanner is needed. At engine idle with all electrical loads off, the Powertrain Control Module (PCM) was commanding the alternator at 25 percent duty cycle. I increased the demand/load on the electrical system by turning on the air conditioning. The PCM increased the duty cycle to compensate. High beam headlamps next. Again, the duty cycle increased. I continued to increase the electrical system load until the

duty cycle was near 100 percent. The battery voltage remained constant during the entire test. The alternator was fine. A new battery was all that was needed.

"Do it Yourselfers," modern electrical system diagnostic can be tricky. Old school diagnostic and technology can mislead you.


TECH TIP: Do your homework before replacing good parts with new parts. I can get you what you need.

"In Good Hands" readers, be sure and add this article to your files. Someday your vehicle may have a FAILED electrical system test. Be informed and ask to see your technician's diagnostic test results. If you don't like the answers, move on. Get a second opinion. Hope this helps.

As usual, I'm looking for interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have general or specific questions, suggestions or recommendations concerning a specific vehicle or the automotive industry, I can be contacted at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook or text at 559-907-7661.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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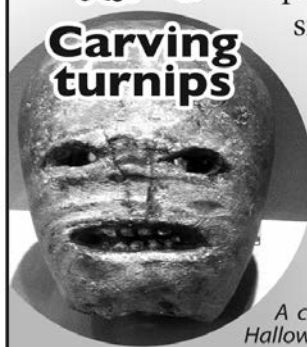
top ten

Most-Used Passwords*

1. 123456
2. 123456789
3. qwerty
4. 12345678
5. 111111
6. 1234567890
7. 1234567
8. password
9. 123123 *2016
10. 987654321 Source: Keeper

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The Garden Bug



For centuries, Irish folklore told of a trickster named Jack who deceives the devil to avoid going to hell. But Jack is denied entry into heaven also, and is forced to roam the earth as a spirit, carrying a hollowed-out turnip lit with a single burning coal. Folks called him "Jack of the Lantern," and carved their own turnips, potatoes or beets into scary faces to ward off such wandering souls or evil creatures. The custom came to America with the Irish, who soon found that pumpkins, a native fruit, made perfect jack-o'-lanterns.

A carved Halloween turnip

Source: www.history.com, www.wikipedia.org

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.

	×		+		27
-		+		÷	
	+		×		24
×		×		×	
	-		×		24
25		20		24	

1 2 3 3 5 6 7 8 9

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10/17



You might live in a nation
founded by geniuses ...
but run by idiots.

By Betty Van Valkenburg

If you receive as many emailed jokes and opinion pieces as I do, then you might have read the following piece. It's been around for a while and is attributed to Jeff Foxworthy. Whether he actually wrote it or someone sitting at a computer in the basement put his name on it, it points out just a few of the absurd policies foisted on us by elected officials who need to be held to account. Thanks to Jeff Foxworthy (or whoever) for providing part of this column for me.

"Jeff" says:

- If you must show your identification to board an airplane, cash a check, buy liquor, check out a library book or rent a video, but not to vote for who runs the government — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.

- If the government wants to prevent stable, law-abiding citizens from owning gun magazines that hold more than ten rounds, but gives twenty F-16 fighter jets to the crazy new leaders in Egypt — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.

- If, in the nation's largest city, you can buy two 16-ounce sodas, but not one 24-ounce soda, because 24 ounces of a sugary drink might make you fat — you might...

- If an 80-year-old woman who is confined to a wheelchair or a three-year-old girl can be strip-searched by the TSA at the airport, but a woman in a burka or a hijab is only subject to having her neck and head searched — you might...

- If your government believes that the best way to eradicate trillions of dollars of debt is to spend and borrow trillions more — you might...

- If a seven-year-old boy can be thrown out of school for saying his teacher is "cute," but hosting a sexual exploration in grade school is perfectly acceptable — you might...

- If hard work and success are met with higher

"If you must show your identification to board an airplane, cash a check, buy liquor, check out a library book or rent a video, but not to vote for who runs the government — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots."

taxes and more government regulation and intrusion while not working is rewarded with Food Stamps, WIC checks, Medicaid benefits, subsidized housing, and free cell phones — you might...

Here's what I say:

- If you live in a nation where Congress can pass a 3,000-page dictatorial healthcare law without reading it or knowing what's in it but can't pass a simple repeal, then you do live in a nation that desperately needs to change members of Congress.

- If you live in a city that can't keep the roads paved but can add miles of new bike lanes — then you do live in a city ruled by politicians whose common sense might be parked in a city hall lot.

- If forecasters can't predict the weather for next week but your legislators believe their computer models can predict catastrophic global warming for the next hundred years, then you do need to fire the legislators as well as those inputting the computer hypotheses.

- If you live in a city covering over 114 square miles that spends \$20 million or so (in grant money from a government that is over \$20 trillion in debt) in order to change six blocks from a walking mall

to a regular street because "great cities must have vibrant downtowns," then you do live in a city with delusions.


- If your fifth grader isn't taught to read or write cursive but can text 90 words per minute then you have a school system run by Common Core and not common sense and maybe a parent who should limit a child's social media activities. [Note: The Constitution and other founding documents are written in cursive script. Will we toss them out of the National Archives when no one is able to read them?]

What do you say?

If you love this still-great nation of ours and fear for its downfall, then please help save it by telling your local, state and national elected officials what you want. They are not idiots, of course, although sometimes their actions may seem idiotic, and in most cases they probably start out with good intentions. The appetite of liberals, progressives and socialists for ever-more government control may never be curbed, but politicians who once considered themselves conservatives and have gone off track might be persuaded to reinstate constitutional limited-government principles. It's worth a try. Our children and grandchildren deserve the effort.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com for more information.

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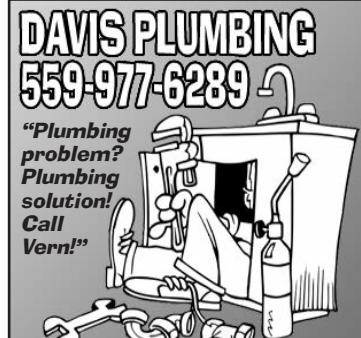
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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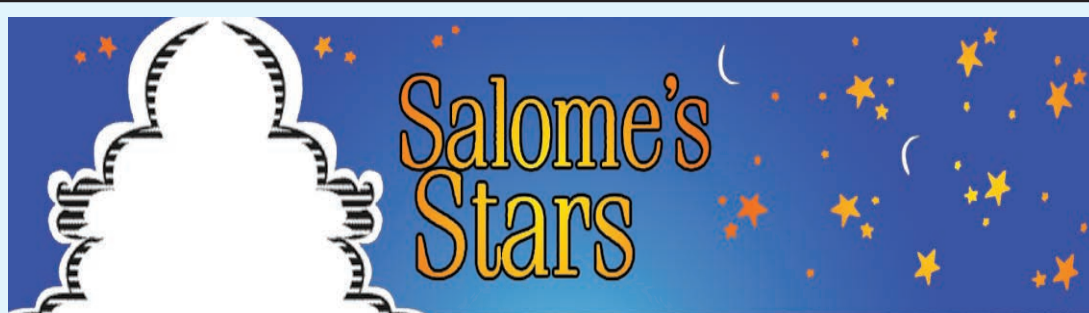
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"Tell me I didn't sound like that!"

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel compelled to get involved on the "right side" of a seemingly unfair fight. But appearances can be deceptive. Get the facts before going forth into the fray.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Bullying others into agreeing with your position could cause resentment. Instead, persuade them to join you by making your case on a logical point-by-point basis.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Resist pushing for a workplace decision you might feel is long overdue. Your impatience could backfire. Meanwhile, focus on that still-unsettled personal situation.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspects favor doing something different. You might decide to redecorate your home, or take a trip somewhere you've never been, or even change your hairstyle.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might want to take a break from your busy schedule to restore your energy levels. Use this less- hectic time to also reassess your plans and make needed changes.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) What you like to think of as determination might be seen by others as nothing more than stubbornness. Try to be more flexible if you hope to get things resolved.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch that you don't unwittingly reveal work-related information to the wrong person. Best to say nothing until you get official clearance to open up.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) With things settling down at work or at home, you can now take on a new challenge without fear of distraction. Be open to helpful suggestions from colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your creativity can help resolve an emotional situation that might otherwise get out of hand. Continue to be your usual caring, sensitive self.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You could impress a lot of influential people with the way you untangle a few knotty problems. Meanwhile, a colleague is set to share some welcome news.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Aspects favor recharging your social life and meeting new people. It's also a good time to renew friendships that might be stagnating due to neglect on both sides.

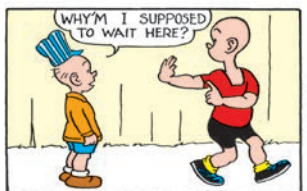
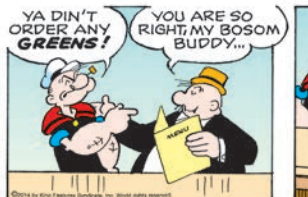
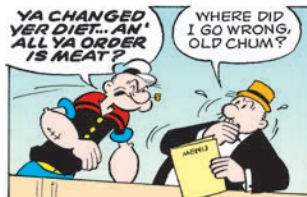
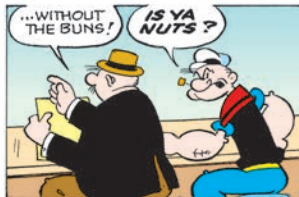
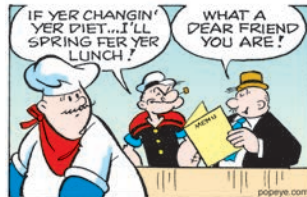
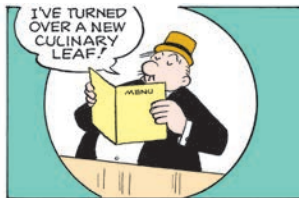
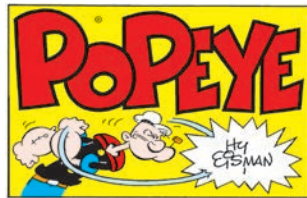
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Congratulations. Your talent for working out a highly technical problem earns you well-deserved praise. The weekend could bring news about a friend or relative.

Born this Week

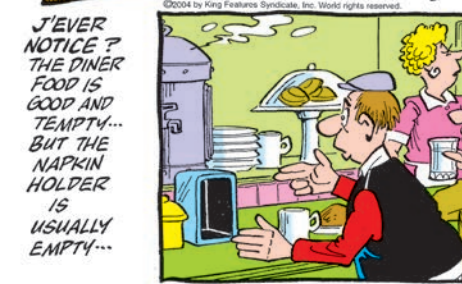
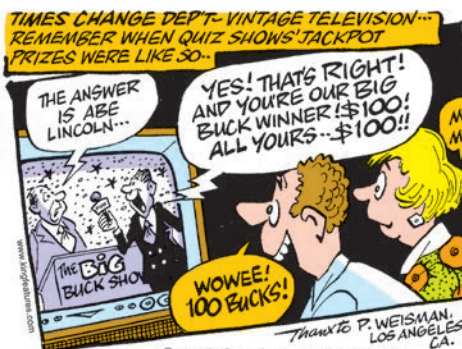
Your sense of justice makes you a strong advocate for the rights of people and animals alike.

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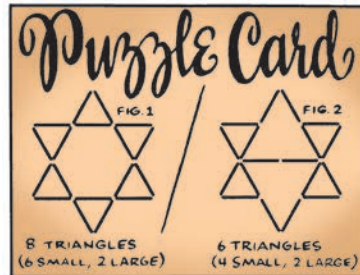
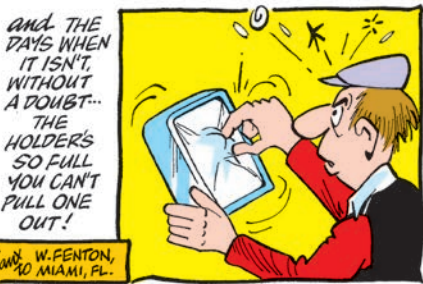
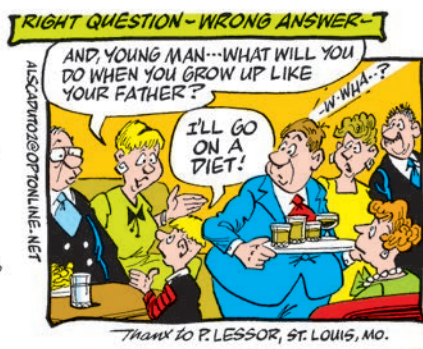
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



LAY OUT 18 STICKS, as shown in Fig. 1, giving you eight triangles. Challenge your friends to move two of the sticks to new positions, so that there will be six triangles. Fig. 2 shows you how.

A WARP FACTOR FIVE FRAZZLER! See if you can replace the letters on this droid's screen with the digits 0 through 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

HERE'S A JUICY PROBLEM! At the right is a Word Square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below?



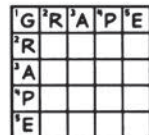
by Charles Barry Townsend



**LARK
LANK
LINK
SINK
SING**

You have five minutes to sing out the answers to these Ladder Puzzles. In this type of problem you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word to form a new word. In our example, we changed LARK to SING in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. TEED to GOLF
2. FIRE to WOOD
3. HOLD to CARD
4. BOAT to DECK
5. CASE to WORK



Answers: 1. TEED, TOED, TOLD, GOLD, GOLF
2. FIRE, FORE, FORD, WORD, WOOD
3. HOLE, HOLD, COLD, COED, CARD
4. BOAT, BEAT, BEAK, BECK, DECK
5. CASE, CARE, CORE, WORE, WORK

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

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Albacore | Coreless | Corey | Scorecard |
| Corean | Corella | Foam core | Scored |
| Co-regent | Corelli | Fourscore | Scores |
| Coreid | Coretta | Hardcore | |

TRIVIA TEST

- By Fifi Rodriguez
1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who were the founders of the magazine Reader's Digest?
 2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Fantastic Mr. Fox"?
 3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president started the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House?
 4. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Mount Etna located?
 5. TELEVISION: What was the name of the skipper on "Gilligan's Island"?
 6. U.S. STATES: Which states are bordered by more states than any other?
 7. ART: By what name was the famous American folk artist Anna Mary Robertson Moses better known?
 8. ENTERTAINERS: Which famous actor/comedian was born with the name Joseph Levitch?
 9. HISTORY: In what year did the United States' first nuclear-powered submarine take its first voyage?
 10. BIBLE: What was Paul the Apostle's real name?

Answers

1. DeWitt and Lila Bell Wallace
2. Roald Dahl
3. Rutherford Hayes, 1878
4. Sicily, Italy
5. Jonas Crumby
6. Tennessee and Missouri, each with eight border states
7. Grandma Moses
8. Jerry Lewis
9. 1958
10. Saul of Tarsus

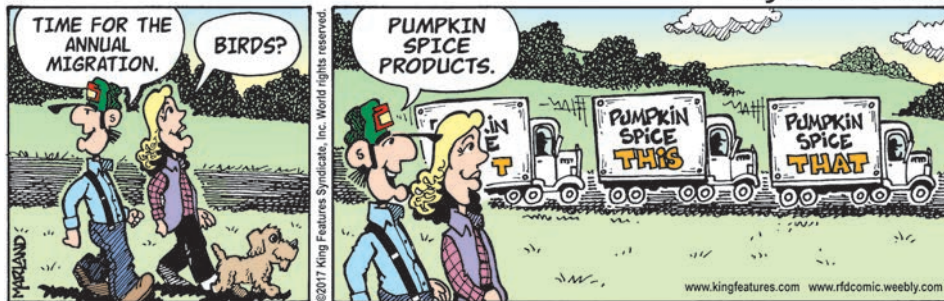
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



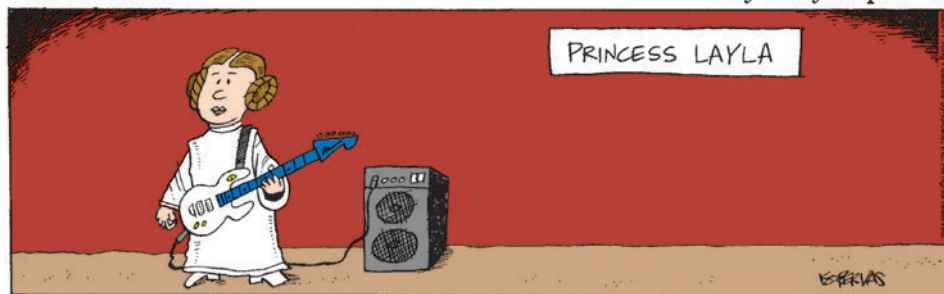
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

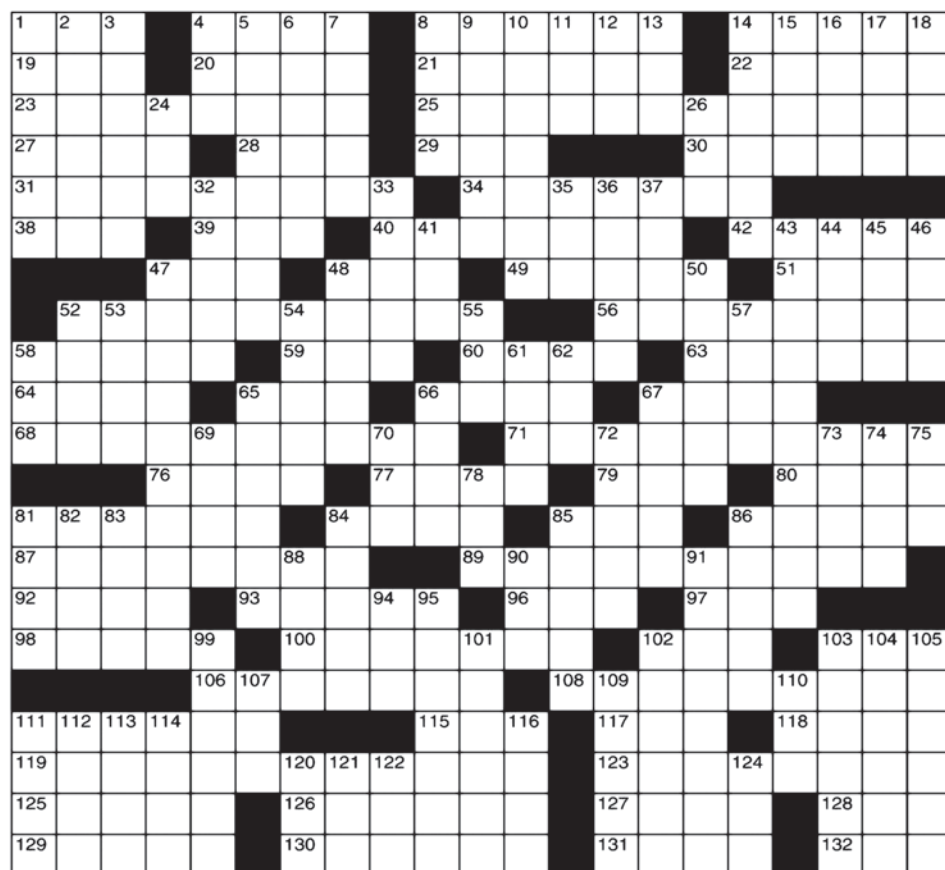
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Ears are different. 2. Stripes are missing. 3. Number is different. 4. Scoreboard is missing. 5. Neckline is different. 6. Book is missing.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Nest item
 - 4 Funny Mort
 - 8 Casual top
 - 14 Cape, e.g.
 - 19 British lav
 - 20 Jai —
 - 21 Its capital is Roma
 - 22 Berry of "The Call"
 - 23 * Group for motorists
 - 25 * Turn a profit, say
 - 27 Jogging
 - 28 Scheming
 - 29 Drench
 - 30 On the other side of
 - 31 * "La Vie en Rose" singer
 - 34 * Amass wealth
 - 38 Aug. hours
 - 39 Bonn "one"
 - 40 Nail file materials
 - 42 As dry as —
 - 47 —Man defense
 - 48 "Rugrats" father
 - 49 Baddie's look
 - 51 Son of Eve
 - 52 * 2009 R. Kelly song
 - 56 * Stay calm
 - 58 10,000,000 ergs
 - 59 Lend support
 - 60 Tip sheet statistics
 - 63 Compares
 - 64 Askew
 - 65 Guevara the guerrilla
 - 66 Greek diner menu item
 - 67 Lushes
 - 68 * Fulfill, as a promise
 - 71 * What you don't need a return ticket for
 - 76 Only
 - 77 Skew
 - 79 Cat paw part
 - 80 Speed test
 - 81 Crucial arteries
 - 84 — noire
 - 85 D.C. VIP
 - 86 Like tapestries
 - 87 * "No noise allowed" Amtrak area
 - 89 * Kids' chemistry set, e.g.
 - 92 Fed. of Brezhnev
 - 93 Deliver an address
 - 96 Walk- (small parts)
 - 97 Chemical ending
 - 98 Nuclear trial, for short
 - 100 Run-of-the-mill
 - 102 "Inc." relative
 - 103 Start for marital
 - 106 * 13th-century pope
 - 108 * General Mills cereal
 - 111 Cascade Range peak
 - 115 — kwon do
 - 117 Squirmy fish
 - 118 With 104-Down, cure concocted by Mom
 - 119 * The mineral citrine, e.g.
 - 123 What the first and last letters of 13 answers in this puzzle proceed through
 - 125 Lowest point
 - 126 Lift
 - 127 Printer's unit
 - 128 Chemical ending
 - 129 Gives applause
 - 130 Capital of 95-Down
 - 131 Harper of Hollywood
 - 132 Seaport of Scotland
 - 45 Gas in lights
 - 46 Pipe elbows
 - 47 Leisure suit fabrics
 - 48 Recoiled (from)
 - 50 Add ammo
 - 52 Des Moines' state
 - 53 Wait secretly
 - 54 Western lake
 - 55 Happiness
 - 57 Feel for
 - 58 Clog
 - 61 Let go of
 - 62 Put on
 - 65 Big name in old video game consoles
 - 66 Itty-bitty biter
 - 67 Football Hall of Famer Lynn
 - 69 Butting beast
 - 70 Be in debt to
 - 72 Foil relatives
 - 73 Shankar with a sitar
 - 74 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
 - 75 Ballpoint, e.g.
 - 78 In medias —
 - 81 Blue-green
 - 82 Force to go
 - 83 Go skyward
 - 84 "Well done, diva!"
 - 85 Raw power
 - 86 George of "Cheers"
 - 88 Saudi, e.g.
 - 90 Turning tooth
 - 91 Bean trees of India
 - 94 Fifth of fifty
 - 95 African country
 - 99 Teaches one-on-one
 - 101 2009 James Cameron film
 - 102 Sobieski of Hollywood
 - 103 Great fear
 - 104 See 118-Across
 - 105 New Hampshire prep school
 - 107 Unedited
 - 109 Bodily pump
 - 110 "— -ching!"
 - 111 Align, briefly
 - 112 Get well
 - 113 Alan of TV and film
 - 114 Tiny mistake
 - 116 Poet Pound
 - 120 Sine — non
 - 121 Increases
 - 122 Ulna's place
 - 124 Royal Navy inits.
- DOWN**
- 1 Highly happy
 - 2 Pumpkins, e.g.
 - 3 "Get busy!"
 - 4 Body pouch
 - 5 Pumpkin pie ingredient
 - 6 Cart off to the jailhouse
 - 7 Tripoli's land
 - 8 Quirky mannerisms
 - 9 Moe or Larry
 - 10 Impedes
 - 11 — du Diable
 - 12 — de Oro
 - 13 Frat letter
 - 14 Mambo relative
 - 15 Actor Bert
 - 16 Roll topper
 - 17 Sad cry
 - 18 Adidas rival
 - 24 Slugger Mel
 - 26 Tic- — -toe
 - 32 Fling
 - 33 Regaled
 - 35 Element #50
 - 36 Smells nasty
 - 37 "Ahh, OK"
 - 41 Post-rain dirt
 - 43 Swimming specialty
 - 44 Woodwind instrument
 - 50 Add ammo
 - 52 Des Moines' state
 - 53 Wait secretly
 - 54 Western lake
 - 55 Happiness
 - 57 Feel for
 - 58 Clog
 - 61 Let go of
 - 62 Put on
 - 65 Big name in old video game consoles
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 - 122 Ulna's place
 - 124 Royal Navy inits.

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