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What's Next?

WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE
TO GET AMERICA
OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN?

BY RANDY BAILEY

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

As America struggles to get through the quarantine that the COVID-19 outbreak has produced, President Trump and Governor Newsom are both talking about the next step, namely how we get back to pre-quarantine “normal.”

In a press conference on April 16, President Trump said, “My administration is issuing new federal guidelines that will allow governors to take a phased and deliberate

approach to reopening their individual states.” Notable was the President’s pronouncement that the timetable for opening up their respective states was solely the states’ governors. Earlier he had stated that he had “absolute authority” in determining when restrictions would end or be eased, but a multitude of constitutional experts say the president has little constitutional power to force state governments to change laws and regulations that relate to public health. It was largely state governors who instituted COVID-19 restrictions.

“Governors will be empowered to tailor an approach that meets the diverse circumstances they have in their own states. If they need to remain closed, we will allow them to do that. And if they believe it is time to reopen, we will provide them the freedom and guidance to accomplish that task and very, very quickly,” he said.

“Opening Up America Again” is a series of protocols that, if met, should allow an eventual “return to normal” in America. The protocols are presented in three phases but the following “gating criteria” are recommended to be met first:

1. A downward trajectory of flu-like illnesses, including COVID-19, within a 14-day reporting period.

2. A percent of total positive tests or actual cases showing a downward trajectory within a 14-day period.

3. Treatment for patients without crisis care in hospitals and a thorough testing program for healthcare workers. This will include emerging antibody testing.

Once these three criteria have been met, the “Opening Up America Again” protocols can be followed.



Phase One states that vulnerable populations should continue to self-quarantine and continue to practice social distancing outside the home. Further, Phase One stresses no gathering in groups of more than 10 people. Additionally, schools must stay closed but restaurants and other gathering places can open IF strict physical distancing is enforced.

Phase Two will allow gatherings of up to 50 people and non-essential travel will be OK. At this point, schools will be able to reopen and restaurants will be able to operate with moderate physical distancing.

The “New Normal” will be instituted by Phase Three. It will consist of “normal life” with a focus on hand-washing and keeping as much reasonable space as possible between people outside of the home. Participating in large groups is to be avoided.

There are no specific timelines on any of the phases. Their timing is being left to the discretion of the individual states’ governors.

Adjusting the Dimmer

Likening the transition from self-quarantining to “normal” in California as more of rolling a dimmer than flipping a light switch, Governor Gavin Newsom said at an Apr. 14 press conference, “This cannot be a permanent state. These stay-at-home orders have a profound impact on the economy.”

Not unlike Trump’s plan, Newsom stressed testing and slowing hospitalization rates – Trump’s “downward trajectory.” Noting the perceived success of the “stay-at-home” directive from Sacramento and its impact on the spread of the Corona virus in California, Newsom wants to be

cautious before turning the state’s population back out into the streets. Ultimately, Newsom is hoping that on the horizon in California there is either a vaccine or wide-spread immunity.

Newsom’s plan is a six-step approach that he feels needs to be met prior to reopening the state.

Testing, testing and more testing is step one of Newsom’s plan. Knowing what you’re dealing with is the first step of

trying to control it and protect communities. Second, turning an eye toward high-risk groups, such as seniors and those with underlying health issues, to see how infection can be prevented. Next, making sure we aren’t caught in a situation like in New York where there were hospitals and health care systems unable to handle the increase in cases because of inadequate staffing, beds, ventilators and masks.

Fourthly, Newsom wants to expand on the ability to develop “therapeutics” to meet the demand. Therapeutics means serving and caring for the patient in a comprehensive manner, preventing disease as well as managing specific problems. Next, he wants physical distancing guidelines supported by businesses, schools and child-care facilities. This will have to include these places providing supplies and equipment to keep the public and employees safe.

Finally, Newsom wants to develop necessary protocols that, if met, could lead to a re-institution of our existing guidelines, if conditions warrant them.

When?

Both Trump and Newsom’s plans share one major characteristic: No timeline. People fed up with staying at home and not going to work or out to dinner or to church want to know when this is all going to be over. The reality is, no one knows. It all comes down to a giant game of risk management with no elected official willing to sign off on something that could result in the death of potentially countless citizens. Unfortunately, the path that they have signed off on has resulted in the death of a thriving economy, societal connections and relationships.

The Unseen Death Toll

By Congressman Tom McClintock

The accumulating death toll from Covid-19 can be seen minute-by-minute on cable news channels. But there’s another death toll few seem to care much about: the number of poverty-related deaths being set in motion by deliberately plunging millions of Americans into poverty and despair.

In the first three weeks since governors began shutting down commerce in their states, 17 million Americans filed for unemployment, and according to one survey, one quarter of Americans have lost their jobs or watched their paychecks cut. Goldman Sachs predicts that the economy will shrink 34 percent in the second quarter, with unemployment leaping to 15 percent.

Until the Covid-19 economic shutdown, the poverty rate in the United States had dropped to its lowest in 17 years. What does that mean for public health? A 2011 Columbia University study funded by the National Institutes of Health estimated that 4.5 percent of all deaths in the United States are related to poverty. Over the last four years, 2.47 million Americans had been lifted out of that condition, meaning 7,700 fewer poverty-related deaths each year.

It’s a good bet these gains have been completely wiped out, and it’s anyone’s guess how many tens of millions of Americans will have been pushed below the poverty line as governments destroy their livelihoods. It’s also a good bet the resulting deaths won’t get the same attention.

And that doesn’t count an unknown number of Americans whose medical appointments have been postponed indefinitely while hospitals keep beds open for Covid-19 patients. How many of the 1.8 million new cancers each year in the United States will go undetected for months because routine screenings and appointments have been postponed? How many heart,

Please see **TOLL** on P. 17

FLATLANDERS DAY CANCELLED

The Chamber of Commerce decided at its February 2020 meeting to cancel the annual Flatlanders Day Parade and Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 9. Based on what other communities were deciding in regard to public events and the Covid-19 virus, the vote to cancel was unanimous.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I appreciated Eryn B. Nyre's article "Quarantine: A Diary" in last month's issue. With all the turmoil of this pandemic, it was nice to have a good laugh. With her humorous and detailed account of her cat's behavior, I was totally surprised when she revealed she doesn't have one!

Cheers,
Brenda McElroy
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Hi. My name is Lyda and my number is XXX-XXX-XXXX and I really resent the Bernie Sanders political cartoon where it says "Make Cuba great again." I am a registered Republican, but I even find that offensive. That is not accurate and you guys are making yourselves not worth looking at.

Lyda
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The following letter was sent to Governor Newsom and all California legislators.

Dear Governor Gavin C. Newsom and All Members of the California State Legislature:

In 2019, California Assembly Bill 5 was passed to regulate the use of independent contractors in a variety of activities. By prohibiting the use of independent contractor drivers, health care professionals and workers in other critical areas, AB-5 is doing substantial, and avoidable, harm to the very people who now have the fewest resources and the worst alternatives available to them. We, the undersigned Ph.D. economists and political scientists, call for the immediate suspension of AB-5.

The current situation of voluntary

(and mandatory) self-isolation has created an immediate need for flexible and low-cost ways of delivering goods to customers. Other essential needs could also be served by enabling independent contractors currently hindered by AB-5. Hiring laws, especially for firms with more than 50 employees, mean that companies are unwilling to make long-term commitments to traditional jobs. We aren't sure what our economic needs and capacities are going to be even two months from now, but hiring someone in a traditional job, with hours and benefit requirements, is too expensive to contemplate given that employers do not know whether they will be able to fill any permanent jobs at all and, if so, when.

Employment decisions hinge on the costs of distributing risk. While employers are not hiring, gig workers could shoulder myriad tasks that are needed to flatten out the effects of the temporary emergency. It doesn't really matter how great the pay is, how predictable are the hours, nor how generous the benefits may be, if the law prevents a job from existing in the first place.

AB-5 unintentionally has pushed all of the risks and all of the costs of a vibrant gig economy onto lower- and middle-income individuals, those who would benefit most from flexibility to work around the restrictive policies.

A mountain of work needs to be done, deliveries made and people stranded at home helped to receive groceries and medications. Meanwhile, furloughed Californians stand on the verge of being wiped out financially because the law prevents them from working part time in a variety of indispensable positions. Blocking work that is needed and impoverishing workers laid-off from other jobs are not the intentions of AB-5, but the law is having these unintended consequences and needs to be suspended. We propose that the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom suspend AB-5.

This letter was signed by Michael Ake-mann, Managing Director, Berkeley Research Group, LLC, and 150 additional California economists.

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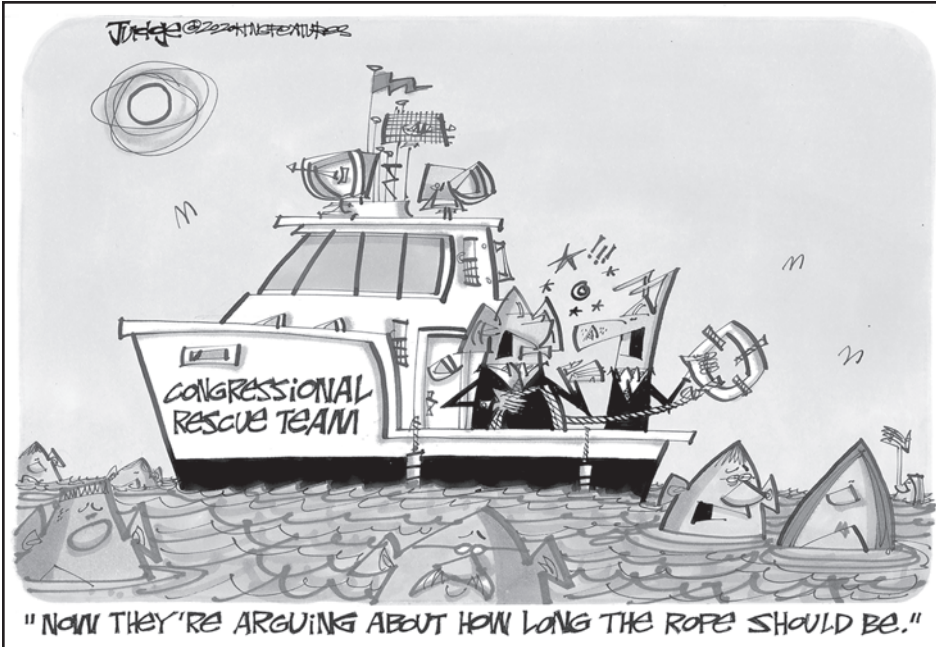
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Guest Editorial

Virus Exposing “Little Tyrants”

By John Daniel Davidson

Some mayors and governors seem to think their authority is limitless in the face of the pandemic. They need a remedial lesson in the Constitution.

There’s nothing like a crisis to bring clarity. The response of some mayors and governors to the coronavirus pandemic in recent days has made it clear they think they have unlimited and arbitrary power over their fellow citizens, that they can order them to do or not do just about anything under the guise of protecting public health.

We’ve now witnessed local and state governments issue decrees about what people can and cannot buy in stores, arrest parents playing with their children in public parks, yank people off public buses at random, remove basketball rims along with private property, ticket churchgoers, and in one case try — and fail — to chase down a lone runner on an empty beach. All of this, we’re told, is for our own good.

Some Authorities are Targeting Christians

The most egregious example of this outpouring of authoritarianism was an attempt by Louisville, Ky., Mayor Greg Fischer to ban drive-in church services on Easter. On Holy

Thursday, one day before Christians were to begin their most important religious celebrations of the year, Fischer declared that drive-in Easter services would be illegal.

To remove all doubt about his seriousness, he also threatened arrest and criminal penalties for anyone who dared violate his order, and in an Orwellian twist, invited people to snitch on their fellow citizens. Fischer justified this by saying it was “to save lives.”

Thankfully, a federal judge made short work of the mayor’s idiotic power-grab, issuing a temporary restraining order against the city of Louisville on Saturday, writing so as to remove all doubt, “The Mayor’s decision is stunning. And it is, ‘beyond all reason,’ unconstitutional.”

The mayor shouldn’t have needed a federal judge to tell him that. Anyone with a passing familiarity with the U.S. Constitution should know the government can’t single out religious worship for special regulations and prohibitions, which is precisely what the clueless Fischer did here. His order would have barred Christians from driving to their church parking lots and sitting in their vehicles for Easter services — all while maintaining proper social distancing — while imposing no such restrictions on drive-up and drive-through restaurants, liquor stores, grocery stores, or parking lots generally.

Mayors or governors — or even presidents — can no more single out Christians on Easter than they can single out Muslims during Ramadan or Jews on Yom Kippur. If you’re going to ban parking in parking lots, it has to apply to everyone everywhere.

But this didn’t just happen in Louisville. Two churches in Greenville, Miss., that were holding drive-in services for Holy Week, said police showed up and ordered churchgoers to leave or face a \$500 fine.

In a video posted on Twitter from Pastor Hamilton of King James Bible Baptist Church in Greenville, a police officer tells Hamilton that because of the governor’s order, “Your rights are suspended.” To the good pastor’s credit, he correctly notes that the governor cannot suspend his rights be-

Please see TYRANT on P. 7

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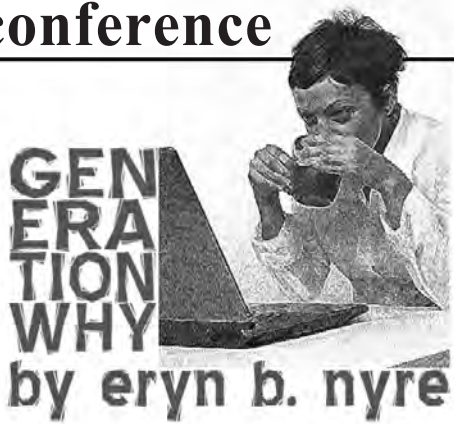
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Tales of the Teleconference



by **eryn b. nyre**

You know what? It's hard to find a topic to write about when you aren't allowed to leave your house. Not a lot of fodder for the old editorial trough when you are working from home and haven't seen another human being in the flesh in too many days to count, other than the wonderful people who deliver your groceries. I could easily fill 10 columns on the ridiculousness of hoarding toilet paper and eggs, but if you have the internet you've heard more than enough about that already. So instead I will regale you with tales of video conferencing fails I have had the pleasure of witnessing over the last few weeks.

Of course, none of my experiences are as entertaining as the woman who forgot she was on a video conference and dropped her pants right on camera and used the toilet. If you somehow haven't seen that video, then kindly share with me how you have been spending your time because I haven't been able to avoid it. Still, I have been witness to a couple of memorable moments.

... during a meeting at the local level a coughing fit came over me. I immediately hit what I thought was the mute button on my headset cord. It was not.

In my position I have, some would say, the unique opportunity to work with both a local team and a national team. I call it serving two masters who fail to communicate at every level and expect me to read minds, but I digress. In one of my national team meetings we had about 50 people on the video call. After the first hundred reminders to mute our microphones, we heard one woman answer her office phone and proceed to tell the caller that she couldn't talk at the moment because she was stuck in a stupid meeting that was a waste of time. Our director quickly chimed in and advised her that if she truly thought that then they could meet separately to discuss alternative ways for her to spend her time moving forward. If that wasn't amusing enough, watching nearly 50 people try to stifle laughter really brightened an otherwise dull meeting that was, in fact, largely a waste of time. Still, mute your microphone kids!

meetings I had the privilege of watching one of our nurse preceptors go spelunking in his nasal cavity for nearly a full minute. I know what you're thinking – he just forgot he was on camera. Incorrect. He was obviously using the camera as a mirror. His buddy tried to give him a subtle warning, but by subtle I mean he sent a message in the group chat, effectively turning everyone's attention to the excavation. The cave diver saw the message, but it was after he had already abandoned his expedition. I could have looked away, but it was like watching a car wreck. You know it's gross, you know you can't un-see it, but you just can't seem to mini-

mize the screen. One of my favorite video conference fails was from a local team meeting when one of my coworkers was very clearly watching Harry Potter in the background. I don't personally have anything against watching during work hours when you're working from home. As a matter of fact, I fully support such decisions, but I highly recommend you pause it when you are supposed to be in a meeting. Still, that's not what amused me. What amused me was that the administrator, upon hearing the tell-tale signs that it was, in fact, Harry Potter, immediately asked me to pause the movie until after the meeting. It makes sense, I'm known around the office as the resident Harry Potter expert (read: geek). I say this without a shred of shame. Showing my extreme nerdy side as it pertains to the wizarding

kids!

In another one of those national

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

world does not embarrass me in the least. We all had a nice chuckle when the actual person watching the movie fessed up. The administrator apologized but to be honest, I would have thought it was me if I were in her shoes.

As it turns out, I am not immune to video conference fails. Let me preface this story by saying that I have managed to develop bronchitis. For those unfamiliar, this means I am coughing. A lot. A ton. So much I want to remove my lungs with a spoon. And what makes this better? This has come in the middle of a global pandemic where the most common and obvious symptom of the big, bad, scary virus is ... coughing. If this isn't the perfect metaphor for my entire life, I don't know what is.

Anyway, during a meeting at the local level a coughing fit came over me. I immediately hit what I thought was the mute button on my headset

cord. It was not. I also didn't think to stop the video. In fairness at that moment I was much more concerned with whether or not I would ever breathe again. Once it passed and I managed to swallow about a gallon of water, I went to unmute my microphone only to realize that I hadn't actually muted anything. Once again I say, mute your microphone, kids! So not only were all in attendance treated to the enticing sight of a spastic coughing fit, but also to the dulcet tones of what can only be described as a desperate attempt to expectorate an entire lung. Needless to say, what was originally a part-time at home/part-time in the office arrangement is now an order to work exclusively from home through the duration of the health crisis. I can't complain; the amount of money I save in gas and the amount of discomfort I save not having to put on real pants more than makes up for the humiliation of everyone thinking I'm this generation's Typhoid Mary.

TYRANT cont. from P. 5

cause his rights come from God, not the government.

Pandemic or not, this stuff has no place in American society. Petty tyranny of the kind these mayors and local officials are scheming is wholly alien to our customs and way of life, and destructive to the social contract on which our nation is built.

Thankfully, the Department of Justice has taken notice of this fledgling authoritarian streak among the country's mayors and governors. A DOJ spokesman said Saturday, Attorney General William Barr is "monitoring" government regulation of religious services and may take action against local governments as early as this week.

Overreaching Orders Expose Arbitrary Rule

That's a good start, but the targeting of churches, while undoubtedly the most offensive overreach by state and local governments, is hardly the only instance of government gone wild. In Michigan, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has taken it upon herself to declare what items are and are not "essential," dictating to grocery stores what they can and cannot sell as part of a sweeping order issued Friday.

Among the nonessential, and therefore banned, items are fruit and vegetable plants and seeds. Never mind that growing fruits and vegetables at home right now would help maintain

social distancing during the pandemic, the governor has spoken and her word is law. (Lottery tickets, on the other hand, are still permitted.)

Beyond the fruit and vegetable ban, the governor's order is an object lesson in the absurdity and inconsistency of arbitrary power and rule by fiat. Michiganders are banned from traveling "between residences" if they own a cottage or a summer home, but the ban only applies to Michigan residents, so an out-of-stater with a cottage in the Upper Peninsula could presumably still visit. The ban also still allows travel between states, so if a Michigander has a cottage in Wisconsin or Ohio, he can travel without fear of being arrested or fined by state police.

Why did Whitmer tailor her order this way? Probably because she knows she has no authority to ban travel between states, or issue orders to Americans generally — no more than a mayor has the authority to shut down drive-in Easter services in his city.

That these officials need to be reminded of that, and in some cases restrained by federal judges, bodes very ill for America. Now, more than ever, we need leaders who don't just care about protecting us from the pandemic, but also care about preserving liberty in a time of crisis.

John Daniel Davidson is the political editor at The Federalist. This column appears by permission, courtesy of www.thefederalist.com.

Strawberry Time!

(April 2010)

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



by Jean Briner

Grandma Henderson made, but it will work). So in memory of Grandma Henderson here is my Mom's recipe:

Quick No-Cook Fresh Fruit Jam

- 2 qts. Ripe Strawberries
- ¼ C Lemon Juice
- 1 pkg. (2 oz) Jam and Jelly Pectin
- 1 C Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 4½ C Sugar

Fully crush fruit. It should measure 3¼ C. In a 4 qt. bowl stir together the fruit and lemon juice. Slowly add pectin, stirring vigorously. Set aside 30 minutes, stir-

ring occasionally. Add corn syrup, mix well. Gradually stir in sugar until dissolved. Ladle into clean ½ pt. jars or freezer

containers leaving ½" headspace. Cover tightly. Jams in use should be kept in refrigerator up to three weeks or stored in freezer for up to one year. Makes seven containers. This recipe can be used with peaches or nectarines – using 2½ pounds ripe fruit in the place of the strawberries.

We get a newsletter here in the park where I live and there is usually a recipe someone has donated. I guess someone was thinking along the same lines I was because in the April newsletter the following recipe was in it. I haven't made it, but it sounds good.

Special Strawberry Salad

- ¾ C sugar
- 1 8 oz. pkg. Cream Cheese – room temp.
- 1 C Chopped Nuts
- 2 Bananas – sliced
- 1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple – drained
- 1 10 oz. Frozen or Fresh Strawberries
- 1 Large Carton Cool Whip

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

What is your favorite sign of spring? Tulips and Crocus popping up out of the ground? All the beautiful trees blossoming? The wildflowers on the side of the road? April showers? (Holy Cow! That was no shower we got last week! Hope you weren't out in it as I was.) Although I love the signs of spring I just mentioned, there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

... there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields ...

According to a list of 25 low carb fruits, strawberries are second to lowest, only behind watermelon (believe it or not). Strawberries have 6.5g of carbs per half cup sliced serving and watermelon has 5.5g. Strawberries have lots of vitamins and minerals, so eat up.

Strawberries can be fixed so many different ways, and are always good. There is strawberry pie or "pizza," strawberry shortcake – those of you that went to the Crab Feed, how about that shortcake we had for dessert? There are strawberry waffles, and last, but by no means least, strawberry jam.

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

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

If fresh strawberries are used, clean and slice and set aside. Mix sugar and cream cheese with electric mixer. Fold in nuts, drained pineapple, strawberries and Cool Whip. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

If you want to make a strawberry pizza, you really don't have to have a pizza pan. If you don't have a pizza pan you can use anything you have on hand. The last one I made, I used a deep dish glass pie plate, but you can use anything. Use your ingenuity and your imagination. If you want to impress company coming, make it in a spring form pan and when ready to serve, put it on a pretty cake plate and pipe some whipping cream around

the bottom.

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

Strawberry Pizza

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

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

Second Layer:

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

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

Top Layer:

- 1 C Sugar
 - ¼ C Cornstarch
 - 2 C Crushed Strawberries
- In a large saucepan, combine

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

While I was writing this article, we had some real wild weather. With the hail storm and all the rain this week, I hope it didn't damage the strawberries too badly. Maybe if we get some warm weather it will dry their fields out and there won't be too much loss.

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

... when we see them, we know it is strawberry season ...




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Now & Then

This morning I recorded in my gratitude journal events from the weekend that brought me joy:

- Worked in the yard
- Took a walk in the rain
- Participated in the Flipside Church service online
- Watched an old movie
- Read a book
- Used FaceTime to read *Little*

House on the Prairie to my granddaughters

- Texted friends I hadn't seen in awhile
- Talked to neighbors more (at a safe distance)

I wondered which, if any, would happen if I wasn't sheltering in place. For me, the restrictions mean not working with clients, commuting, random shopping and general running around. I'm definitely doing things differently and have more discretionary time on my hands.

If you're still going to work or working from home, you may not have more time than you did pre-Coronavirus. You still have work, laundry, meals. If you have kids at home, something you never intended: Home-schooling.

We're all in this together and yet our experiences vary. Some suddenly have a great deal of togetherness; others complete isolation. Both are challenging and provide the potential for discovery.

While waiting for the time when restrictions are lifted, consider this: What is happening now that will – or can – impact us then?

Financially

Mindful shopping — Yes, it's easier when stores are closed or restricted, but down the road we'll benefit if we realize we don't need daily trips to the

grocery store or Target.

Saving money — With places of entertainment shut down, there's less spending, more saving. If anything, we've discovered we're not in control and we need to have an emergency fund for things in life we don't predict. When external restrictions lift, continue restraining your spending to establish or replenish your emergency fund.

Generosity — People everywhere are giving their time, talents and funds to help those hit hardest by the pandemic. The repercussions of this crisis will continue and so will the need for generosity.

Relationally

Connecting with technology — Maybe you're using FaceTime or Zoom for the first time to connect with local family and friends you can't physically be with. Once you're reunited with your local folks, consider using this new-found mode of communication to connect with others you rarely see or want to reconnect with.

Family Time — Okay, so you'll probably want some space from family for a while after this, but during

your confinement you likely discovered some activities that you enjoy doing together. Celebrate your liberation with a once-per-month Family Night. Resurrect those games, puzzles and activities.

Neighborhood — Birthday parades, front porch dance-alongs and Teddy Bear hunts. Everyday someone's coming up with new ways to connect in their neighborhoods. Instead of leaving them in the dust when the restrictions lift, think about ways you can continue to invest in your community and bring neighbors together.

Environmentally

Organizing Inside — Many who said, "If I'd just stay home, I could get organized," are! Before life returns to the crazy busy schedule, create a plan to maintain your newly organized space. I'm not talking model home status. Life is messy, but a daily 10-minute Tidy can help keep clutter at bay.

Outside Time — Cabin fever gets us outdoors. Thankfully, we've had some beautiful weather during the pandemic. More people are planting gar-

I'm definitely doing things differently and have more discretionary time on my hands.

Please see **CHOICE** on P. 16



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**4H President
 Bids Farewell**

By Corinna Martinez,
 Monique and Wyatt Morgan

4H Happenings
 4H Happenings
 4H Happenings
 4H Happenings
 4H Happenings
 Sierra Shadows 4H club



Our current president of Sierra Shadows 4H is Payton Poore. She has been in 4H for nine years and this is her last year, so we took this opportunity to ask her some questions. We are all going to miss Payton and wish her the best in life.

Q: What do you like most about 4H?
 A: What I like the most about 4H is how members are able to learn so many new skills (leadership, speaking and community service).

Q: What are you going to miss about being in 4H?
 A: I will miss all the experiences from my projects, as well as being president and meeting new members and watching them accomplish their achievements.

Q: Which project that you were involved in was your favorite?
 A: My favorite project that I am in is Joshua's Ways because I love building bonds and helping young members learn more about 4H.

Q: How long have you been in 4H?
 A: I have been in 4H for nine years. I started out as a shy, mini-member and I was lucky to have some mentors to look up to and I am hoping I inspired others and they can look up to me now.

Q: What was your favorite part about being an officer?
 A: My favorite part about being an officer is I get to lead my club and watch my officers help and inspire our club members.

Q: Do you enjoy working with kids?
 A: Yes, I enjoy working with kids. I love to teach and train them. Through my skills in 4H I have been able to utilize my skills and use them for outside of 4H events/projects.

Q: What are your plans when you graduate high school?
 A: When I graduate high school, I plan on starting out at a community college then I plan on majoring in AG Business because the Central Valley is the heart of agriculture and I plan on giving back to the community.

Payton has had such an impact on every member of our club, we wanted to gather some words from our members to give to Payton.

"Payton has been a great president these past three years. She was one of my very first friends in 4H. She has encouraged me to try many things in 4H. I am so grateful to have met her and become closer with her throughout the past six years in 4H." - Sierra Gonzales

"Payton has been such a great mentor and leader for our 4H club and community. Payton always works hard for our club and is giving. She has a bright future ahead of her." - Taylor Cardoza

"She is a great 4H president and makes the mini-members feel very welcomed." - Lucy Lee

"Payton makes things fun for us. She inspires me and motivates me to be more than I am." - Griffin Williams-Smith

"She is super nice to everyone even when we're not at 4H meetings." - Micah Lee

"Payton includes everyone at meeting and events. She helps people when they are confused. She makes me feel happy because she helps you and tries to make things better for you. She is a role model for me because I want to do great things in 4H like her." - Hunter Williams-Smith

Payton Poore is the outgoing president of the Sierra Shadows 4H club in the Madera Ranchos. She has been a 4H member for the last nine years.

... I was lucky to have some mentors to look up to and I am hoping I inspired others ...



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 4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
 5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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Senior Report

Staying Together While Staying Apart

By Margaret Tynan

Through these very difficult times, my hope is that all of you are staying healthy and keeping your spirits up. It is wonderful to see the outpouring of kindness and support coming from our community. Everything from the calls to check if neighbors need anything to the Birthday Parades for the little ones who can't have their party, demonstrates the caring during this pandemic. Thank you to the community.



month's Senior Report. Because of this new reality, I decided to interview some of our members to see how they are faring and spending their time while "sheltering in place." I enjoyed these phone conversations, hearing the variety of ways our members are making the best of their time at home.

E t h e l Hansen, the Center's president, says she's "hanging in there." She is going into the Center periodically to check on things, keep up with the mail, phone messages, etc. Her at-home

Of course, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors have not held any of our usual activities and do not have any planned for May at this point in time. We hope to resume as soon as it is safe to do so. So, for now, I can't write on the usual subjects for this

routine hasn't changed a whole lot, although she is getting caught up on a few household chores that have been on her "list." She said that Pretzel, her cat, also hasn't changed its routine. It still wants to go in and out of the house all day long.

Getting outside for fresh air and exercise is a big theme for most of the Center members that I spoke to. The gardens and yards of many should be weed free by the time summer arrives. Rosemary Janis reports that she is making a dent in her to-do list, which includes working in her rock garden. Besides helping with these projects, her husband Lou, an engineer by profession, is using some of his time to study the scientific research on protective equipment used in the fight against Covid-19.

Besides working in the yard and on her building project, Verlaine Elinburg is using her stay-at-home time to take online classes, such as "How to Write Your Story" and "Using Excel." She says that her dogs love that she and her sister Mi Mi Avatt are now home all the time.

Looking ahead to better times, several members are planning for future events. Roy Cochran is planting pumpkins that will be ready to deco-

rate for the Center's annual Halloween party in October and three varieties of chili peppers for the next Chili Cook Off. He made a delicious fiery entry at the last event. He also enjoys getting out in the yard every day and taking care of his cat, koi fish and turtles. The three Mitchell sisters are normally very active entertainers, singing for various organizations throughout the year. They are now staying home, but say they are certainly not bored. They are using this time to work on new music. Celetta, the cook in the family, is trying out new recipes. They all enjoy Baby and Lady, their 8-year-old Rottweilers and doing many activities together such as playing cards and watching old movies. They shared, "We're leaving the cleaning until later. It will always be there."

Like everyone I spoke to, Ruth Baker finds staying in contact with

Please see SENIORS on P. 16

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

In Memoriam



Lin Edward Rothe
January 24, 1952 -- April 2, 2020

Lin Edward Rothe passed away on April 2, 2020 after losing a long struggle with Cancer.

Lin hailed from Fresno, Clovis, Prather and later Grants Pass, Ore. He began his working life at Perryboy's Smorgy and then moved on to Bervin Rug, OK Produce, Pozar Paving and Pacific Western Construction. He decided to go back to college to get his teaching credential and was hired by Golden Valley Unified School District in the Madera Ranchos, from where he retired.

Lin had a passion for restoring his 1957 Chevy Nomad and horseback riding in the Sierra Mountains. It was on horseback that he met his wife of 28 years, Dianne. He lovingly called her his

best friend. Together they did many things they both enjoyed, including building two ranches. They had a son, Matthew, who is a water polo coach at Sierra High, among other duties.

Lin is preceded in death by his mother Betty and sister Leeanne. Lin leaves behind his wife Diane, son Matthew, father Rex and brother Scott, along with nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Lin had a passion for life and enjoyed each day. He loved to tell stories and also hear them. Whenever he would hear a really good story he would always respond with an astounding "NOOO!"

He was a friend to all and will be missed.

Kiwanis Update and Brief History

By Nancy Wayne

Madera Rancho Kiwanis has cancelled their weekly meetings but are meeting bi-monthly on Zoom. Liberty High Senior Scholarships will be approved and announced in May. Teacher Grants have been postponed until the fall.

Kiwanis International was founded in 1915 in Detroit, Mich. The group was originally called the Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers but a year later it was changed to Kiwanis. The name Kiwanis was taken from an American Indian expression, "Nunchuck's Keewanis," which means "We Trade." In 1920, the motto of Kiwanis became "We Build." This motto remained until 2005 when it was changed to "Servicing the Children of the World." Originally the group focused on business networking, but in 1919

the focus changed to service, specially service to children.

American history shows us that at that time, 18 percent of all American workers were under the age of 16. People expected and thought that primary education was not necessary for all children. Many states established a minimum wage for labor and minimum requirements for school attendance. Horrific conditions for many child laborers brought the issue to the public's attention. In 1900, an effort to regulate or eliminate child labor started and by 1904 the National Child Labor Committee was organized.

Kiwanis expanded across the United States and Canada until the 1960s when worldwide expansion was approved and Kiwanis became an international organization. The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club was formed in 1985.



De-Coding the Codes

Hello 93636,

Hope this article finds you all doing well. Everything is good with the Parr family and Complete Car Care. We are blessed. I'm a little tired of constantly being reminded of the Corona-19 virus so I hope you are not disappointed that this article does not address the virus or its impact on the Automotive Industry.

I've picked this month's topic based on a growing trend I see in my shop's bays. Some auto parts outlets are offering free "Check Engine" lamp code retrieval in order to attract new and potential customers. I'm fine with that strategy and I offer the same. It's what happens after the code retrieval that concerns me.

After retrieving diagnostic trouble codes, outlets also provide information that ranks the codes' probable causes. Often individuals purchase parts based on a false sense of diagnostic probability only to have the trouble code return.

There are hundreds of OnBoard Diagnostic II (OBD2) trouble codes and after 24 years of experience I have yet to find any one trouble code that has only one potential cause. I acknowledge there are a handful of trouble codes for some vehicles that when I see them, I'm confident I know what's wrong. Even those are not 100 percent foolproof. From experience I know the most expensive and inefficient method of diagnostic and repair is the trial and error method.

Since 1996, all cars and light duty vehicles sold in America are OBD2 compliant. OBD2 is a system of standardized 5-digit emissions trouble codes retrievable from every vehicle's powertrain computer without regard to manufacture. These 5-digit codes are accessible via a standardized connector usually located under the dash near the steering column. With the implementation of OBD2, technicians have access to all emission-related trouble codes from every manufacturer's vehicles with a single code reader.

With OBD2 the vehicle's "Check Engine" lamp will illuminate anytime the vehicle's emissions exceed 1.5 times the federal test procedure maximum limits for the same model year and vehicle. The primary function of the "Check En-

gine" lamp is to alert drivers of a vehicle's emissions failure. The lamp will illuminate even if no drivability complaints occur. If the "Check Engine" lamp is illuminated during a California emissions test, the vehicle will automatically fail.

Let me help some by decoding a 5-digit OBD2 trouble code numerical sequence and explain how it works and what it means. The first digit is always "P" for powertrain, and it indicates an emissions failure. The second digit identifies the fault code type. "0" means it's a universal trouble code that all manufacturers are required to use for the same common emissions faults. If the second digit is "1" the trouble code is a manufacturer-specific code and only applies to that specific vehicle and manufacturer. I always address the manufacturer-specific codes first because they are the most useful as they are more direct and detailed. The third digit identifies the failed emission system and the fourth and fifth digits identify the failed tests.

A little refresher course may be useful at this point. A gasoline internal combustion engine is most fuel and emissions efficient when an exact air/fuel ratio of 14.7 parts of air to 1 part of fuel is achieved. When this perfect condition is met, theoretically all fuels – including the oxygen – are completely consumed during the combustion process. The only exhaust emissions are carbon dioxide, water vapor and nitrogen. By the way, these are the same emissions we humans exhaust when we exhale. Now let's decode two of most popular and simple OBD2 trouble codes my industry deals with on a daily basis.

With P0171 (Bank 1 Lean Exhaust) and P0174 (Bank 2 Lean Exhaust) the "P" indicates an emissions fault. The "0" means they are generic codes. The "1" indicates a failed Fuel Management System and "71" and "74" identify the failed Fuel Management System tests. A P0171 and/or P0174 will set when the air/fuel ratio is over-balanced due to excessive intake air or insufficient fuel distribution. When the oxygen sensors detect an abundance of non-combusted oxygen in the exhaust system, the "Check Engine" lamp will be illuminated for a lean exhaust condition.

Let's consider some potential causes for lean exhaust condition. Maybe we have an intake manifold leak and false air is leaking into the air intake system. Maybe the positive crankcase ventilation system is leaking. I once found a leaking valve cover gasket that caused a P0171 to set. The leaking gasket acted just like a leaking PCV hose.

Maybe the cause is not an abundance of



oxygen but the absence of fuel. A restricted fuel filter, defective fuel pump, plugged fuel injector or any number of failed sensors can cause a fuel delivery deficiency. Another common cause for a P0171 and P0174 is an exhaust leak. With an exhaust leak, outside air can be scavenged into the exhaust creating the appearance of a lean air/fuel mixture. Oxygen sensors do not know from where the oxygen originates, only that it's present.

"Do it Yourselves," here is a helpful tip when attempting an exhaust leak diagnostic. Some guys are using leaf blowers in the tailpipe to pressurize the exhaust sys-

tem. Spraying soap on the exhaust helps isolate the leak. Just watch for the soap bubbles. And yes, even a failed oxygen sensor can cause a lean exhaust condition, but it's extremely rare.

The point of this article is buyer beware. There are many potential causes for each of the hundreds of OBD2 diagnostic trouble codes. The most efficient way to identify their cause is to test. Be careful of the free stuff. Sometimes it's not so free.

OK guys and gals, that's all for this one. As always, I'm looking for current, relevant, informative and/or interesting automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any ideas, suggestions, recommendations and/or general or specific questions concerning a vehicle, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text to 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636, Warren Parr

CHOICE cont. from P. 10

dens, taking walks and cycling. A garden is a great way to keep yourself going outside once things return to normal. Continued walking or cycling may require partnership with someone already in a routine or is willing to make it a priority with you.

I encourage you to take a moment before we're set free to consider one of your "now and then" scenarios. Redeem this experience with a positive life-change.

I acknowledge that for many the "now and then" of this pandemic is

painfully life altering. Sickness, death, job and business loss, and financial hardships are prevalent. My heart and prayers go out for those who are hurting. If you're in need of supplies during this time, Flipside Church would like to help. Contact 559-481-6875 or info@acts176.com.

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SENIORS cont. from P. 14

family and friends always very important, but especially during this time. We agreed that even if family and friends can't be physically together, staying in touch goes a long way to helping keep one's spirits up. I asked Ruth what she misses most. "Weekly shopping trips with my daughter." Though she did share that her husband pointed out saving money was one of the advantages.

Helen Lowell is very grateful for all the calls from friends and family. She is also thankful that she has so many interests to keep her busy: Sewing, knitting and crochet.

Staying healthy and in shape is one of Violet Smith's goals. A regular participant in the Center's exercise program, she misses the group activity, but is doing the exercises routine daily at home. Jo Chase, who usually leads the exercise program is

staying in physical shape by doing yard work. She shared that she finds comfort and enjoyment in her daily Bible study.

Carol Wood says that she and her husband Ron have taken drives to enjoy spring views of the countryside. Both of them miss going out to eat with friends. Carol has been doing all the cooking and says she's lost weight during this time. She mused, "Perhaps my cooking is responsible, or maybe it's the missed french-fries." Another thing that Carol misses is being able to give her friends a hug. Let me join Carol and all the members of Ranchos/Hills Seniors in giving all our friends and neighbors a big "virtual hug." With each other's support and caring, we will get through this. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay happy, and stay hopeful.

Thought for May: "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." — Desmond Tutu

SEMCU speaks

Census = Money

By Holly Strobel

This year we all received an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census and a lot is riding on that form. If you need a reason to participate, here's a big one: Money. We all need resources for our community.

The Census determines how money is distributed for health, like those much-needed hospitals right now. Also for education, Title I funding which determines where to build and close schools, how many teachers will staff each school, district boundaries and education grants and nutrition grants from the U.S.D.A. Housing and transportation, roads and wouldn't we all wish for a great community center here? We will be counted for the seats in the House of Representatives.

It takes around two minutes answering simple questions for 10 years of progress. Not filling it out leaves federal money on the table. If you don't answer that questionnaire, are you willing to give away your paid tax money to someone else's community?

Please text or message someone and check in to see if they filled out their census form. In a time where the

lack of resources has been exposed, do your part to ensure that our community has the best chance to get our fair share. We want to be visible and to show policymakers that we are here and we count.

Did you know the first census was taken in 1790 and happens every 10 years? In 2010, the Bonadelle Ranchos-Madera Ranchos population was 8,569 with 47 percent female and 53 percent male. The population per square mile was computed to be 739.7 people. You can respond to the Census by going to my2020census.gov or complete and mail in the questionnaire that was mailed out several weeks ago in the pre-paid envelope.

Join SEMCU to help provide resources for the community. We work to provide resources to the community through grants and donations. SEMCU meets once a month for about an hour at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month at the Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12. With the current COVID-19 situation we are teleconferencing. You can get more information at info@semcu.org or by calling 559-363-9095.

SEMCU - Southeast Madera County United - a California non-profit corporation. "FOR THE COMMUNITY BY THE COMMUNITY"

Southeast Madera County United (SEMCU) is a non-profit benefit organization promoting local interests and topics in the SEMCU area. Call 559-363-9095 for information or email SEMCU at info@semcu.org.

TOLL cont. from P. 2

kidney, liver, and pulmonary illnesses will fester while people's lives are on hold? How many suicides or domestic homicides will occur as families watch their livelihoods evaporate before their eyes? How many drug and alcohol deaths can we expect as Americans stew in their homes under police-enforced indefinite home detention orders? How many new cases of obesity-related diabetes and heart disease will emerge as Americans are banished from outdoor recreation and instead spend their idle days within a few steps of the refrigerator?

I have participated in many discussions among top policymakers in Congress and the Administration over the last few weeks. Such considerations are rarely raised and always ignored. Instead, policymakers fixate on epidemiological models that have already been dramatically disproven by actual data.

On March 30, Drs. Deborah Birx and Anthony Fauci gave their best-case projection that between 100,000 and 200,000 Americans will perish of Covid-19 "if we do things almost perfectly." As appalling as their prediction seems, it is a far cry from the 200,000 to 1.7 million deaths the CDC projected in the United States just a few weeks before. And even their down-sized predictions look increasingly exaggerated as we see actual data.

Sometimes the experts are just wrong. In 2014, the CDC projected up to 1.4 million infections from African Ebola. There were 28,000.

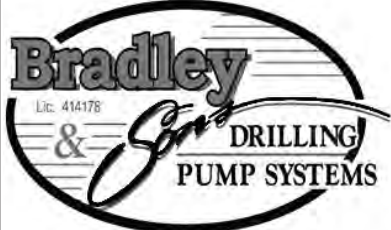
Life is precious and every death is a tragedy. Yet last year, 38,800 Americans died in automobile accidents and no one has suggested saving all those lives by forbidding people from driving - though surely we could.

In 1957, the Asian flu pandemic killed 116,000 Americans, the equivalent of 220,000 in today's population. The Eisenhower generation didn't strip grocery shelves of toilet paper, confine the entire population to their homes or lay waste to the economy. They coped and got through. Today we remember Sputnik - but not the Asian flu.

It's fair to ask how many of those lives might have been saved then by the extreme measures taken today. The fact that the Covid-19 mortality curves show little difference between the governments that have ravaged their economies and those that haven't, suggests not many.

The medical experts who are advising us are doing their jobs - to warn us of possible dangers and what actions we can take to mitigate and manage them. The job of policymakers is to weigh those recommendations against the costs and benefits they impose. Medicine's highest maxim offers good advice to policymakers: *Primum non nocere* -- first, do no harm.

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Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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By Betty Van Valkenburg

Repeal AB5 & Save Prop. 13

The following articles are reprinted with permission from ReformCalifornia.org. Reform California states that they "Fight costly and unfair taxes, mandates and fees because working families cannot afford a higher cost of living – and state and local politicians already have enough of our money." Please sign the petition to repeal Assembly Bill 5 (AB5) at DefendFreedomToWork.org and also tell Governor Newsom and your state assemblyman and senator that you want this destructive law repealed.

AB5: Now is the Time to Help, Not Hurt Small Businesses in California

By Carl DeMaio, Chairman of Reform California

If Governor Gavin Newsom and California Democrats really wanted to help struggling small businesses and millions of unemployed California workers, they would immediately suspend or repeal a variety of damaging and costly taxes, mandates and regulations that have been choking the California economy for years. At the top of the list of relief should be the repeal of AB5.

Last year, Governor Newsom and the Democrats passed AB5 into law to ban the use of independent contractors in California and impose stiff penalties on small businesses for hiring independent contractors. AB5 is an outrageous attempt to deprive Californians of the freedom to work, destroy the once-booming gig economy,

and boost government tax revenues by forcing independent contractors and their clients to pay higher employment taxes. Even before the Coronavirus, AB5 had devastated hundreds of thousands of workers already – and now AB5 is one of the biggest obstacles for unemployed Californians seeking what little work is available.

Gov. Newsom has the power to suspend AB5 completely so small businesses and independent contractors can find work during these challenging times. I want to commend Assemblyman Kevin Kiley for leading the fight to ask the Governor to do this, but Newsom has refused to do it. What's worse, Gov. Newsom is weaponizing the Coronavirus federal bailout program to enforce AB5 and punish small businesses and independent contractors.

President Trump wisely included independent contractors in the unemployment insurance provisions of the federal Coronavirus bailout program since many have lost their clients during the shutdown. Unfortunately, Gov. Newsom has instructed the state's Unemployment Insurance Program to use the federal bailout funds to collect data and evidence from independent contractors when they seek the unemployment benefits to build enforcement cases against small businesses that used independent contractors after Jan. 1, when AB5 went into effect.

I have heard from many independent contractors who fear that if they apply for federal unemployment benefits, they will get their small business clients in trouble under AB5.

Punishing struggling small businesses and independent contractors is NOT what we need during this economic crisis. If California politicians are serious about helping ease the economic impact of Coronavirus, they need to start by repealing or suspending AB5. Concerned taxpayers who agree

How 'For Sale By Owners' Can Get Top Dollar for Their Madera Ranchos Home

Madera Ranchos - If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

Like other "For Sale by Owners", you'll be subjected to a hundred sales pitches from agents who will tell you how great they are and how you can't possibly sell your home by yourself. After all, without the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don't give up until you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has been prepared especially for homesellers like you. You'll find that selling your

home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

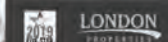
Inside this report, you'll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You'll find out what real estate agents don't want you to know.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-844-404-5054 and enter 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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that California politicians should suspend or repeal AB 5 can help send a message today by signing the petition at DefendFreedomToWork.org.

Proposition 13 is Under Attack – What "Split-Roll" Really Means

By Dave McCulloch, President of Reform California

In 1978, Californians overwhelmingly passed the "People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation," or Proposition 13, that limited property tax to one percent of the full cash value ... and limited property tax increases to no more than two percent each year. Prop. 13 has provided much needed stability in terms of state revenue while also protecting citizens and their businesses from constant tax increases at the whim of out-of-control politicians.

Now, Prop. 13 is under attack. Politicians have placed a ballot measure on the November 2020 ballot to massively raise taxes on commercial and industrial properties. Worse, they shamelessly disguised the measure as a way to give more money to schools – which already receive over \$60 bil-

lion, almost one-third of the entire state budget.

This attack – called Split Roll – would take Prop. 13 protections AWAY from commercial and industrial properties. While you may breathe a sigh of relief that the property tax rate on your home won't change, it is not safe: Sacramento will be all too eager to raise YOUR property taxes during the next election cycle if this passes.

If Split Roll passes, the impact will be felt by working families all over the state. Help Reform California by building the coalition to fight back. Be a part of our effort and get your local community involved. We're also raising the funds to mount a strong opposition campaign to this dangerous ballot measure. Spread the word. Explain to your family and friends about this horrible ballot measure. Remember, voters across the political spectrum support and rely on the current protections in Prop. 13.

Visit ReformCalifornia.org.

Visit www.teapartypatriots.org for more information.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be upset about having to deal with problems that are no fault of your own. But you can turn the annoyance into an asset by showing how quickly and how well you can resolve them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's fondness for tidiness pays off when you untangle a situation that seems hopelessly snarled. You might later be surprised to learn who will be expressing his or her gratitude.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although you can tackle your assignment the way you prefer, it might be a good idea to at least ask for suggestions. Who knows? One or two might even turn out to be helpful.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Make all the changes in your plans or proposals that you feel are necessary before -- repeat, before -- you submit them to your colleagues. You'll come off looking more decisive that way.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might feel a mite intimidated in a new environment, be it a job, a classroom or meeting the future in-laws. But enter with a big smile, and everyone will see you as a real take-charge Cat.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This could be a romantic time for you if you can set aside your cynicism and let yourself believe that someone really cares. If you're already in a relationship, expect your partner to be extra-loving.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time to shed any doubts about your abilities. You've proved yourself in the past, so why not accept that you'll do just as well, or better, in dealing with the new challenge ahead?

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your suspicions might be on the mark, but unless you can prove what you assume, you need to exercise that Scorpion discretion and let events unfold without your assistance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Be careful not to go over the top this week. Avoid overeating (especially of the wrong foods), or drinking too much, or working too hard. You can do it all, but in moderation.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A family matter is given to you to resolve because you have the gift for bringing quarrelsome kinfolk together. But while you're playing Dr. Phil, don't neglect your career obligations.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Someone of importance shares your goals but disagrees with your plan to achieve them. Never mind. Defending your methods with logic and facts earns you admiration and respect.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Consider getting away, perhaps for the weekend, despite all the demands made on your time and energies. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle it all with your usual finesse.

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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



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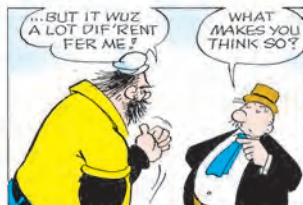
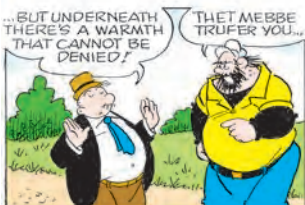
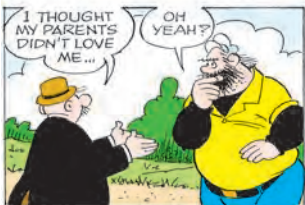
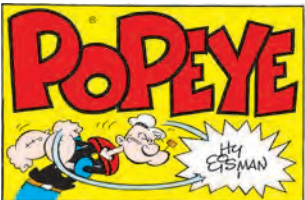
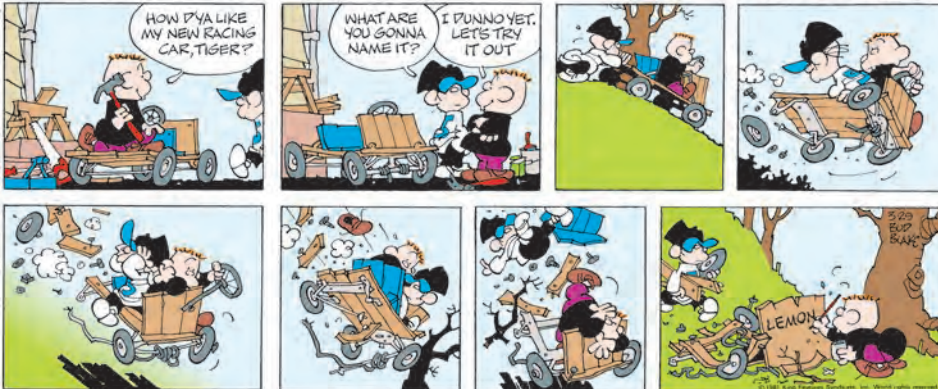
Kids' Maze



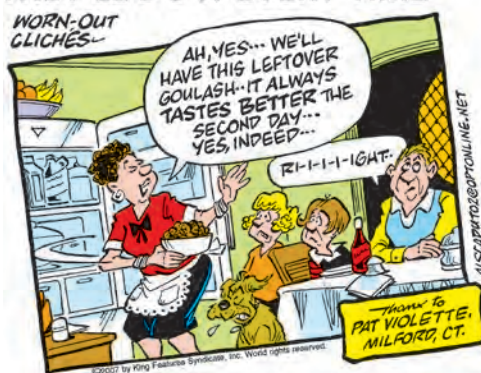
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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

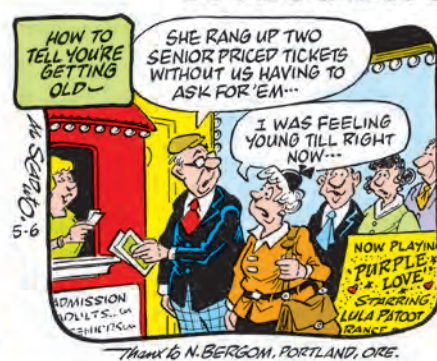


QUES. WHAT ARE THESE BUMS IN SHORTS AND SNEAKERS DOING?
 ANS. GABBING WITH A NEIGHBOR FOR THE LAST THREE-QUARTERS OF AN HOUR.
 QUES. WHAT ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?
 ANS. OH, YEAH--THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING THEIR EVENING EXERCISE WALK, THAT'S WHAT!

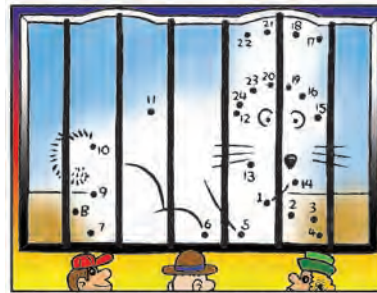


Thank to J. CAGGIANO, CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.

BY AL SCADUTO



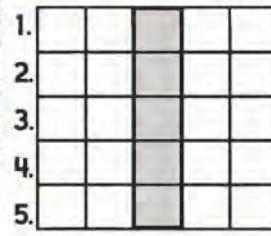
Thank to N. BERGOM, PORTLAND, ORE.



IS THIS THE NEW KING OF BEASTS? Join the dots and find out.
 Answer: No, it's only a Giant Bolivian Bashful Bunny.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



BIG TOP BAFFLERS!

IN THE GRID, at left, there is room to enter five five-letter words pertaining to the circus world. The following definitions should help you:

- To put up a circus tent.
- What acrobats do.
- Type of clown pants.
- Performers in the World's Smallest Circus.
- Found in animal cages.

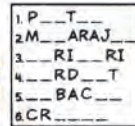
There is a dark frame around the center column of letters. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in this frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of a circus animal.

Answers: 1. Pitch, 2. Flips, 3. Baggy, 4. Fleas, 5. Straw. The center column word is tiger.

READ THE FOLLOWING sentence once and state how many "f"s are in it.
 "To be genuine, every package of Kellogg's Corn Flakes must bear the signature of W. F. Kellogg."

DOUBLE TROUBLE! Below are six partially spelled words. Four letters are missing from each word. In each case you must find a two-letter word that can be used to fill in the missing letters. Below you'll find some hints.

- A favorite food.
- A king or prince.
- An Asian disease.
- Type of headgear.
- Used for cooking.
- A crucial situation.



Answers: 1. (AS) Pastas, 2. (AH) Maharajah, 3. (BE) Benden, 4. (HA) Headhat, 5. (HS) Headst, 6. (IS) Criss.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● KEEPSAKES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: OLYMPIC GOLD—

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Antique | Jewelry | Photos | Souvenir |
| Autograph | Locket | Postcards | Token |
| Diary | Necklace | Relic | Trophy |
| Gifts | Pendant | Rings | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which 1980s hit movie was originally titled "When I Grow Up"?
- BIBLE: Which book of the Bible has the most chapters?
- MYTHOLOGY: What were the original names of our moon, according to the Romans and Greeks?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the president in the TV drama "The West Wing"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president and first lady hosted the first Easter egg roll on the White House lawn?
- GEOLOGY: What is the most common volcanic rock?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which range of mountains provides a boundary between the continents of Europe and Asia?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby swan called?
- LITERATURE: In which 20th-century novel does the character of Nick Carraway appear?
- HISTORY: Which treaty ended World War I?

Answers

- "Big"
2. Psalms, 150
- Luna to Romans, and Selene to Greeks
- Josiah Bartle
- Rutherford and Lucy Hayes
- Basalt
- Ural Mountains
- A cygnet
- "The Great Gatsby"
- The Treaty of Versailles

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Click on "Local News" at

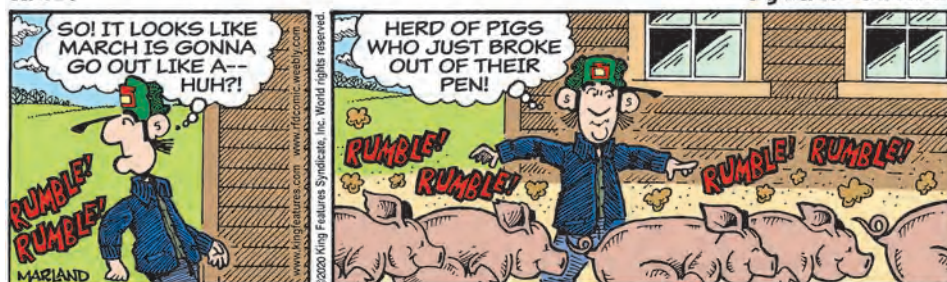
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



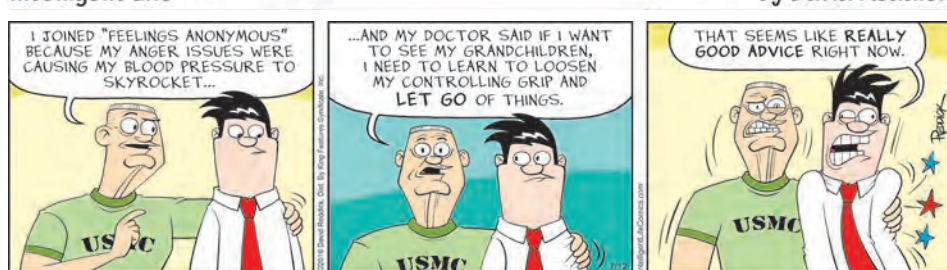
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

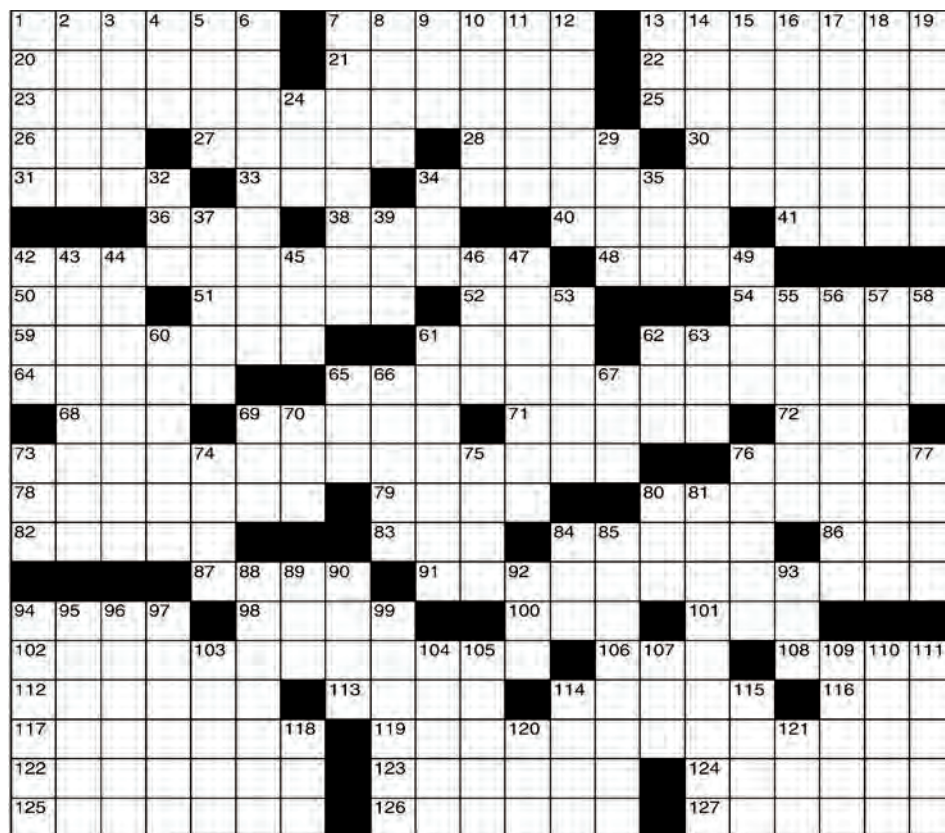
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. 1. Picture is missing. 2. Wave is added on screen. 3. Pants are different. 4. Chips are different. 5. Buttons are missing. 6. Buttons are missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Reddish-brown pigment
 - 7 Nitpicky know-it-all
 - 13 Fleet leader
 - 20 Instead (of)
 - 21 Win over
 - 22 Bishop's district
 - 23 User's storage component
 - 25 Gives approval
 - 26 Rock's Brian
 - 27 "My true love — see" ("Oh! Susanna"
 - 28 Without, to Jean-Luc
 - 30 Shrubby expanses
 - 31 Disorder
 - 33 NBAer — Gasol
 - 34 Occasion to say "King me"
 - 36 Pasty luau food
 - 38 Baseball card stat
 - 40 — flight (go by jet)
 - 41 Zing
 - 42 Ship-deck diversion
 - 48 Sauce giant
 - 50 Brew source
 - 51 Hotsy —
 - 52 Crown
 - 54 Diver's gear
 - 59 "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"
 - 61 Prefix with dose or ton
 - 62 Less lenient
 - 64 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" dramatist Joe
 - 65 Participant in the sport Ultimate
 - 68 Yellow transport
 - 69 Draw — on (take careful aim at)
 - 71 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)
 - 72 Hanoi's home, briefly
 - 73 It enables a motorist to stop
 - 76 Bog bird
 - 78 Naive
 - 79 Brazilian soccer star
 - 80 Tending to wear away
 - 82 "Hmm, let — ..."
 - 83 Former NBA star Ming
 - 84 Spiro who served with Nixon
 - 86 False tale
 - 87 K-P hookup
 - 91 45's place
 - 94 "Mickey" singer Basil
 - 98 Gives help
 - 100 In the style of
 - 101 "Try — might ..."
 - 102 It includes the sacrum
 - 106 Nellie of social reform
 - 108 Film-rating org.
 - 112 Paris' mother
 - 113 Author Jaffe
 - 114 He defeated Romney
 - 116 Put — (deceptions)
 - 117 Like space debris
 - 119 Commonality of seven answers in this puzzle
 - 122 Turn loose
 - 123 Gathering, as bees
 - 124 Lie
 - 125 Fair — (blond)
 - 126 Dictation-taking pros
 - 127 Mad Hatter's party pieces
 - 39 Tarzan's son
 - 42 French battle site of '44
 - 43 Clairol's area
 - 44 Newly rich people
 - 45 Ordinal suffix
 - 46 GPS options: Abbr.
 - 47 Wound from a mutt
 - 49 With 65-Down, charge to log
 - 53 Bel — cheese
 - 55 Witches
 - 56 In a careless manner
 - 57 Animated film featuring Seinfeld's voice
 - 58 JFK landing: Abbr.
 - 60 Fumble
 - 61 Around June or July
 - 62 Saul — Marie
 - 63 Your, once
 - 65 See 17- or 49-Down
 - 66 Grating
 - 67 Elegant tree
 - 69 Smallish batteries
 - 70 Bibliophile's love: Abbr.
 - 73 It takes vids
 - 74 Film holder
 - 75 Wild plum
 - 76 Wolf cries
 - 77 — -do-well
 - 80 Goal
 - 81 Lender's expectation
 - 84 Co. that owns Moviefone
 - 85 Potpourris
 - 88 Discomfort
 - 89 Cage of film, informally
 - 90 Small on
 - 92 Fire
 - 93 Goal
 - 94 Simple top
 - 95 First act
 - 96 Kidman of Hollywood
 - 97 Accustoms
 - 99 Sluggish tree-dwellers
 - 103 PLO head Mahmoud
 - 104 Missed, as a bull's-eye
 - 105 Writer Binky
 - 107 Loo, briefly
 - 109 Mile markers
 - 110 Body part below a shin
 - 111 Useful thing
 - 114 "This is bad!"
 - 115 "Zip — -Doo-Dah"
 - 118 Knight of TV
 - 120 Yang go-with
 - 121 "That — lie!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Words to an attack dog
 - 2 — ear and out the other
 - 3 "St. — Fire"
 - 4 Small swig
 - 5 Nine, in Nice
 - 6 Avation aid
 - 7 Agitates
 - 8 Within: Prefix
 - 9 Women's patriotic gp.
 - 10 Mennonite subgroup
 - 11 Bursting stars
 - 12 Gl's ditch
 - 13 "The Piano" pianist
 - 14 Kitchen cloth
 - 15 Hurdler Edwin
 - 16 Frigid stretch
 - 17 With 65-Down, video store charge
 - 18 Allergic affliction
 - 19 Decrease
 - 24 Special span
 - 29 Hershey candy bar
 - 32 Tanning lotion stat
 - 34 Spy org.
 - 35 Cleanup org.
 - 37 Quite a lot

SEM CU

south east madera county united

**HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
BY PUTTING YOUR GLOVES ON**

FREE LATEX GLOVES!

SEM CU would like to do as much as possible in these troubling times. Together with our community, SEM CU will be fighting COVID-19 with our "GLOVES ON" by distributing **FREE latex gloves to the residents of Southeast Madera County.***

* Gloves will be provided ONE BOX PER FAMILY on a first come, first served basis until all available gloves have been distributed.

**DISTRIBUTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT:
37101 Avenue 12
Mondays • Wednesdays • Fridays
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning Monday, April 27**

The regular monthly SEM CU meetings are suspended for the foreseeable future. Instead, the Board Members will be holding the meeting at the regular time via teleconference

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org