

The Ranchos Independent



PRSRT STD
ECR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

**CELEBRATING
16 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS**

Volume 17 Issue 4 2021

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Madera County's largest drug bust in a decade ...

OPERATION CRYSTAL VINE

28 Defendants charged with various drug, firearm and gang charges

Aggregate bail for all defendants:
\$36,875,000

Seizures: 18 lbs. of Meth
14 Guns, 3 lbs. of Heroin, 3,400 Fentanyl pills, & \$64,874 cash

... 10 miles from the Ranchos.
By Randy Bailey

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 19 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

Madera County's largest drug bust in a decade ...



... 10 miles from the Ranchos.
By Randy Bailey

On Monday, April 12, Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue announced the conclusion of a major multi-agency drug trafficking investigation in Madera County that yielded 38 arrests, the seizure of over \$400,000 worth of illegal drugs and 14 firearms.

In July of 2020, the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team launched an

investigation into a drug trafficking ring led by Juan Jimenez, operating primarily in the La Vina community of Madera County, approximately 10 miles southwest of the Ranchos.

During the course of the investigation, detectives learned Juan Jimenez was both acquiring and distributing methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine throughout vari-

ous locations within California. Additionally, they discovered Jimenez was procuring methamphetamine from Mexico. The investigation revealed that Juan Jimenez's wife, Maria Hidalgo, and his son Alexis "Nessy" Jimenez were integral parts of the operation. Nessy Jimenez is a documented gang member who has a violent history which includes assault with a firearm. Detectives learned that Juan Jimenez used various gang members to distribute guns and drugs throughout the County of Madera as well as the State of California.

Throughout the investigation, electronic intercepts were implemented to identify when drugs were being transported. Nearly a dozen traffic stops were orchestrated during the operation, yielding the seizure of sizable amounts of various drugs. In a separate notable incident, undercover detectives successfully seized 3,400 fentanyl pills. Several incidents of violent assaults were identified as being committed by members of the group and yielded various arrests.

Beginning on April 5, 2021, 12 search warrants were served in Madera and Fresno Counties. During service of the warrant at Jimenez's residence in the area of Avenue 11 and Road 23 in LaVina, detectives located numerous insulated water coolers, believed to be used to conceal

large quantities of drugs and guns that had been buried on the property. At the time of this report, detectives have made 38 arrests related to crimes uncovered during this investigation.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the regional Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET), comprised of detectives from the Madera County Sheriff's Office, Madera Police Department, Chowchilla Police Department, Madera County Probation, Madera County District Attorney's Office and the California Highway Patrol, assisted by officers from the California Department of Justice and the High Impact Investigation Team.

To date, the operation has resulted in the seizure of over 18 pounds of methamphetamine, over 60 grams of cocaine, 3.7 pounds of heroin, nearly 25 pounds of marijuana, 64 grams of concentrated cannabis and 3,400 fentanyl pills. Fourteen firearms have also been recovered and total asset forfeiture from the operation has been estimated at \$64,874.

The 38 arrests of individuals associated with the organization have produced various felony and misdemeanor charges including conspiracy, distribution of con-

Please see **BUST** on P. 12

Fees to Drive California's Roads? Caltrans Grant will Study Options

Caltrans received a \$2.15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of charging Californians for driving on California's roads as a possible alternative to the state gas tax. Like the gas tax, the charge would be used to fund road and highway maintenance but drivers would be charged for the miles they travel, rather than the gasoline they use.

Caltrans received the grant as part of the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, aimed at providing long-term funding certainty for surface transportation nationwide. This project will be Caltrans' third road charge study.

The California Road Charge study determined four technologies to administer the road charge: Pay at the pump/charge point; usage-based insurance; ridesharing; and autonomous vehicles. California is also partnering with Oregon, which has a voluntary road charge program, on a pilot project to explore issues around transportation between states and help in developing a potential regional system.

California currently imposes a 30 cent tax on gas, but the gas efficiency of newer

cars means that tax money is shrinking yearly. Although the gas tax earns \$2.3 billion dollars for road work each year, it is projected that California roads need approximately \$5.7 billion to be adequately maintained.

It's estimated that the average California driver spends up to \$762 repairing his or her car because of damage from bad roads. In addition, 564 of California's bridges are now deemed "useless" due to damage. With roads not improving and less gas needed, California is looking for new solutions to make repairs.

With the grant, Caltrans would study the viability of GPS technology in differentiating between public and private roads — a key area of research. The project will also identify priorities and analyze potential benefits of a statewide road charge program in rural and tribal communities. Caltrans will use volunteers for the study, which it expects to complete in mid-2023.

To learn more about the California Road Charge program, and its efforts to design a "more fair and sustainable way" to fund road maintenance, preservation and improvements for California, visit CARoadCharge.com.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Spotlight

Going Postal in the Ranchos

By Bev Gambero

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce member Jo Ann Hamblin has been a Chamber member ever since she opened Jo Ann's Gone Postal back in August of 2019. Following the oldest of business advice, she found a need and filled it.

Lacking a post office in the Ranchos was a common complaint among its residents. Jo Ann's Gone Postal fills a very specific need for the people of the Ranchos with one strong attribute: Convenience.

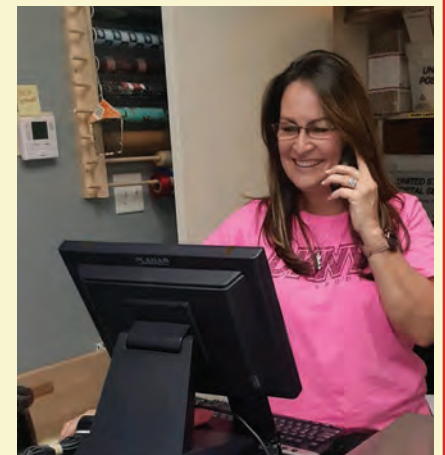
"I can save people time and money by not having to drive to Fresno or Madera," she said.

At Jo Ann's Gone Postal you can ship items via UPS, FedEx DHL and of course the U.S. Postal Service. Also Jo Ann offers mailbox rentals, postage stamps, packaging supplies, fax services, copying services, office supplies and document scanning.

In addition to selling packing materials, if you don't have the time to pack your items Jo Ann also provides package wrapping services. "If you want to make sure your items are packed securely, I make sure your items don't get broken," she said.

Jo Ann's Gone Postal is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and is closed on the weekends. She's located at 37167 Ave. 12 # 5B in the Maywood Shopping Center. Her phone number is 559-481-3050.

Jo Ann also offers up the best part of all: "No standing in line in town."



Click on "Local News" at

COMPLETE CAR CARE

WE ARE YOUR FULL SERVICE LOCAL NAPA AUTO CARE CENTER

**FREE
PICKUP &
DELIVERY
FROM
93636**

**READ
"IN GOOD
HANDS"
ON P. 16
FOR TIPS**

**HOME
TOWN
FEELING,
BIG CITY
SERVICE**



COOLING SYSTEM SERVICE

*WITH THIS COUPON • EXPIRES MAY 28, 2021

**ONLY
\$99*
plus
chemicals**

**ONLY
\$99*
plus
R134a**

A/C SYSTEM SERVICE

*WITH THIS COUPON • EXPIRES MAY 28, 2021

5787 W. BARSTOW, FRESNO • 275-0157

LOCATED ACROSS FROM ISLAND WATER PARK ON THE EAST SIDE OF HWY 99

Kiwanis Korner

Serving the Ranchos in Spite of Covid

By Sally Rowden

“Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child, one community at a time.”

The Kiwanis Club members continue to responsibly and successfully meet twice a month. Yes, some Kiwanis community event favorites are postponed due to Covid guidelines, although other events are eagerly in motion or finalized with exciting outcomes.

Have you seen the “Awesome” signage displayed at our Golden Valley school sites? These visual “Thank You” signs were presented to teachers, staff, parents and students for awesomely meeting the challenges during this school year.

Our Spring Fundraiser was a raffle for a giant Easter basket designed by Ollia Ridge. On April 1, the winning ticket was drawn and was awarded to Mike Fursman. Thanks to



Kiwanis members Ollia Ridge (left) and Mona Diaz delivered “Thank You” signs to our Golden Valley school sites in March, courtesy of the Ranchos Kiwanis.

all who supported this event with a “shout out” to the Ranchos Liberty Café and State Foods Market. Ollia could be found at both of these sites displaying the basket and encouraging folks for support. Thanks to Ollia for her expertise, along with raising funds that will help support the children of our community.

Another fundraiser currently in progress is the Honorary Ranchos Mayor Race being sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Kiwanis President, Richard Wayne is a candidate representing the Kiwanis Club. Voting is in dollar bills. You can vote as many times as you desire for your candidate, but it must be “one vote equals \$1.” If you vote 10 times, then you give your candidate \$10. The candidate with the most votes wins the race. Seventyfive cents of each dollar goes to their charity, service group or organization. The deadline for voting is June 1, 2021. Richard’s contact information – if you would like to cast your money vote in his direction – is richardwayne48@gmail.com.

Also underway is the Golden Valley

Unified School District – Liberty High School scholarships for graduating seniors. Our two Kiwanis Club members managing this event are John Minney, fundraiser chairperson, and Bev Delk, student selection chairperson. This annual scholarship fundraising drive encourages, either by letter or in person, local businesses and individuals to monetarily support and show appreciation to scholar graduates of our community. Scholarship applications can be found at Liberty High School. The scholarships will be awarded in May, 2021. Contact John Minney for any questions and/or support at jminney@gmail.com

Madera County Volunteer Fire Station 19 is providing reflective address signs for our community. Addresses can be hard to locate, but these signs are reflective and are made to attach to your street mailbox. Costs are \$15 for a single side sign and \$20 for a double. An additional \$20 provides installation. You can VENMO @Madera Support Unit or you can mail a check with your address, the sign you would like and if you need installation. Make your check payable to Madera County Volunteer Fire Station 19, then mail it to Madera County Volunteer Fire Station 19, 35141 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93636.

If you are looking to assist your community, being a member of the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos could be your answer. When you are sworn in as a new member, you are told: “You now have time to share about yourself. After this point, meetings are not about us.” The Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos is about the children of our community. Children’s educational, social/emotional, creative and physical wellbeing, and endeavors.

Come join us. For the children.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

How do you get free tank rent for the first year, prompt friendly service, a free initial leak test and competitive prices? You call ...

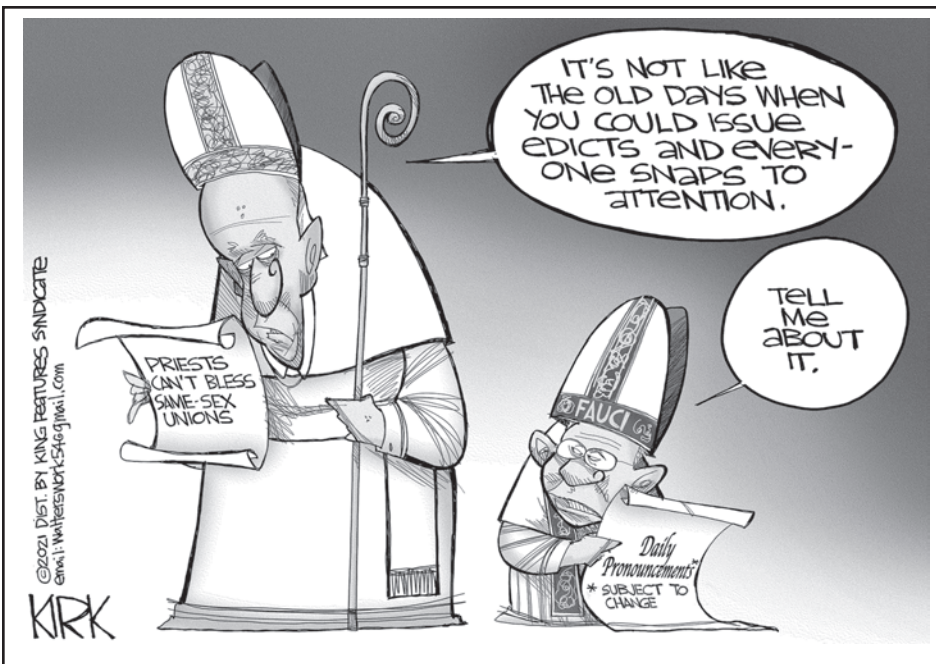
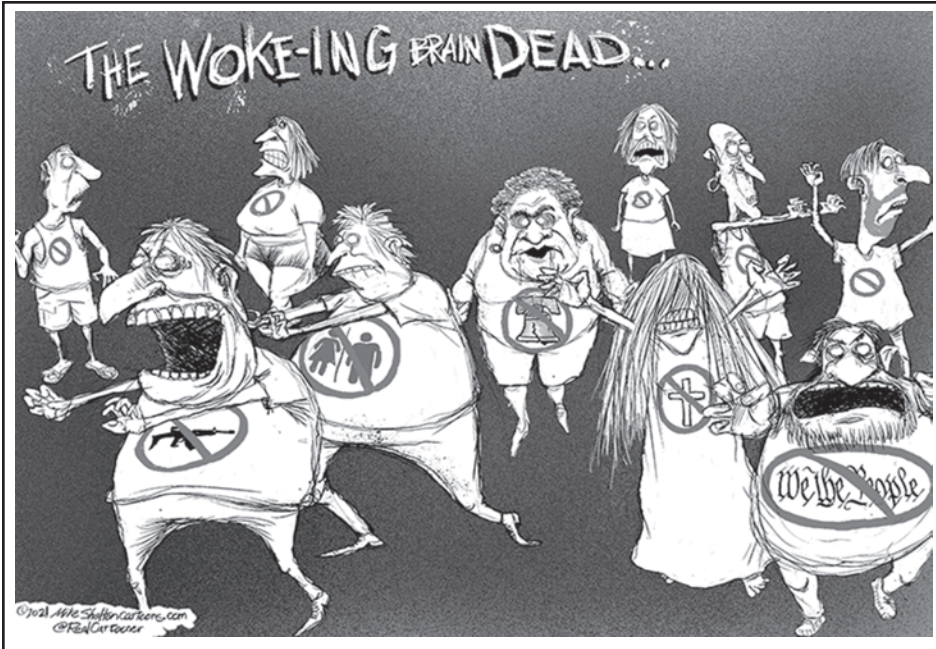


VALLEY PROPANE
559-645-5324
 the **ONLY** locally owned
propane company in the
Madera Ranchos

GO HAWKS!

Join us in supporting our
LIBERTY HIGH HAWKS
 this season and all year long
VALLEY PROPANE
“Service you can trust at prices you can afford”
645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D
Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center

4/21



Guest Editorial

Misplaced Reverence?

By Parker Beauregard

Breonna Taylor. Dijon Kizzee. Jacob Blake. Daniel Prude. Rayshard Brooks. George Floyd. Each name is or has been a rallying cry for both Black Lives Matter and every believer of the manufactured narrative that blacks are oppressed by a white supremacist system and then killed by racist police.

Had any of the aforementioned names been born of European descent and followed the same life trajectory, they would have immediately been discarded into oblivion after their unremarkable demise. They would be lucky to even have garnered a footnote in the annals of police interactions. It's not hard to see why. Drugs, violence and chaos are not the recipe for emulation. However, our culture has chosen to make the deceased, black "victims" our focal point of idolatry, grievance and remembrance. What other culture has ever sunk to such depths? And, what does it mean for us moving forward? The George Floyd Autonomous Zone in Minneapolis is now the site of regular murders and a no-go zone for police, EMTs and the general public. Floyd's death is tragic enough, but now his legacy includes hosting the site of a four-block radius that is home to drug deals gone bad and turf wars over just 500 feet of a single street. And Biden is worried that law-abiding gun owner-

ship is an international embarrassment?

On a personal level, I feel bad for anyone that looks up to George Floyd or these other lost souls as a beacon of hope or an exemplar of a life well lived. Talk about aiming low. Floyd, up until his dying moments, never kicked a drug habit (which appears to be his undoing) and had served multiple stints locked up for unthinkable violence. Maybe at some point the black community says a male role model, however heinous, is better than no male role model. That's what happens when out-of-wedlock birth rates approach 80 percent.

On a societal level, we have clearly gone insane. In the very same moments in which brainwashed minions tear down statues and memorials to American legends and icons citing unforgivable sins, they construct new ones to lionize morally and historically inferior individuals with sins far worse. George Washington mobilized a ragtag fighting force and waged war against well-trained British and German troops. He went on to form and lead the best country in all of mankind's long and gruesome history. But he owned slaves, so now he has to go. George Floyd, on the other hand, abused substances and served time in prison for apparently robbing a pregnant woman at gunpoint. It is not even comparable among the Georges, and yet the deserving one is systematically erased while the other one is culturally revered. The system currently favors one type of person, and it is not of the Anglo-George variety. We need only remember a fully feted, in-person funeral service (at the height of Covid's alleged fury, no less!) replete with a gilded casket to highlight the privileges borne of black skin and the hatred toward those with less melanin (and less of everything else, according to people like Kristen Clarke and Nick Cannon). The past year, white America specifically was forced to atone for its collective role in the deaths of Daniel Prude, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Dijon Kizzee and the paralysis of Jacob Blake. White Americans are surely responsible for the remaining 200 or so black deaths by police, but those first few names are the ones the media most wanted us

The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.
 All contents of this publication are copyright 2021, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.
 All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

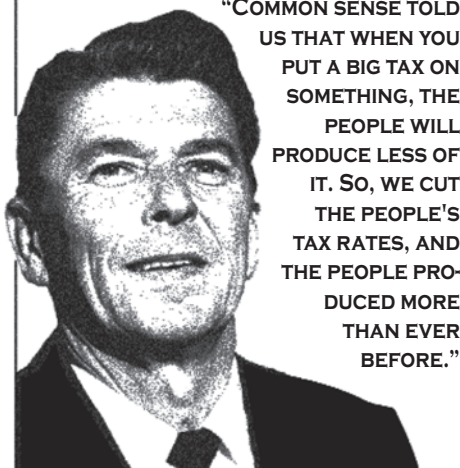
Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
ranchosnews@yahoo.com

www.TheRanchos.com

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"COMMON SENSE TOLD US THAT WHEN YOU PUT A BIG TAX ON SOMETHING, THE PEOPLE WILL PRODUCE LESS OF IT. SO, WE CUT THE PEOPLE'S TAX RATES, AND THE PEOPLE PRODUCED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE."

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

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 10

Escape to an Escape Room

Kids are exceedingly more fun to do escape rooms with than adults are. I said what I said.

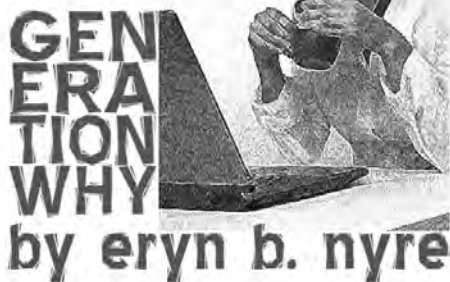
I just came back from visiting my best friend in Colorado and let me just start by saying that Colorado doesn't adhere to the same weather laws as other parts of the country. It's supposed to be spring and the entire time the ground was blanketed by snow and the sun was blocked by thick gray clouds. This didn't particularly bother me because of how much I love the wonderland that is winter; I just don't often get to experience it in April. However, I digress.

My best friend and I have been attached at the hip since sophomore year of high school – I won't tell you how long ago that was, but it's been a while. Her children call me auntie and I love it. As an only child it's the closest I'll get to

nieces and nephews unless I marry a man with siblings. Every time I visit, I do something special with them just to keep the bond strong. This time I took the two eldest, one of whom is a teenager and the other is about to

be, to an "escape room." It was my idea, I can't seem to get enough of escape rooms, but I know how much they like puzzles and brain-teasers so I was relatively certain we would all have a good time. I had made the decision that since they were kids, and novices to the escape room life, I wouldn't focus on beating the clock. As it turns out, we not only beat the clock but also had a terrific time doing it. Let me tell you the three things I observed.

First, kids are better at communicating in this type of situation than adults. This comes from the stereotypical "look what I can do" behavior, but it served us well during the game. Each clue, each puzzle, each step was a contest for who could make the best impression. They would call out



what they found or what they were working out so the whole room knew what was happening. This has not been my experience with adults. Don't get me wrong, you don't often escape a room without at least some communication, but it's not usually as open or as frequent as I experienced with these kids. Adults seem to like to keep their findings to themselves as long as possible in the hopes of singlehandedly solv-

... kids don't overthink things. They aren't burdened by years of navigating social hierarchies, office politics – and let's not forget dating – that force us to read between lines that may not even be there.

ing the puzzle that wins the game and earns them MVP. It would seem that when teenagers aren't giving into the angst and desire to fight against any adult authority figure, they are actually quite capable of excellent communication. It's in there, though perhaps buried. Point to the kids.

Second, kids don't overthink things. They aren't burdened by years of navigating social hierarchies, office politics – and let's not forget dating – that force us to read between lines that may not even be there. They have a simple way of looking at things. Adults try to inject subtext into everything and just end up convoluting it all. We see hoof prints and think of the time we once heard about a zebra that escaped from the zoo and ended up in a coffee shop 16 blocks away and we try to make that knowledge work to fit the clue. Kids see hoof prints and think horses. Ultimately, we all know

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

Let us compare your insurance rates



call Mark Crawford • 559-225-1435
CrawfordInsuranceGroup@yahoo.com
25-Year Ranchos resident • 30+ years experience
Lic. #OE52033 & 0800722

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM/PM Medications
- Diet Injection

LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO

WE KNOW LOW CARBS!
\$20 OFF
1st visit only



DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

BEDROCK ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!
10878 Highway 41
559.645.4849
www.bedrockeng.com

INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

- Save money on flood insurance with an elevation certificate
- Verify your property line locations with a boundary survey
- Reconfigure your property lines with a lot line adjustment
- Improve your property with a grading and drainage plan
- Divide your property with a parcel map



Dedicated to serving the land surveying and civil engineering needs of Madera Ranchos and the Central Valley

www.chadstrucking.com



- ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL •
- HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK •
- LANDSCAPE MATERIAL •
- FILL DIRT •
- TOP SOIL •
- HUMUS •
- BARK •
- CHIPS •
- RIVER ROCK •
- BASE ROCK •
- ROCK DUST •
- COBBLE STONES •
- DRIVEWAY BASE •
- CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

559-645-5363

GENWHY cont. from P. 6

that the simplest answer is often the correct one, thank you Occam, but it doesn't stop us from overthinking everything to death.

Third, they take direction well. This one surprised me because ... well, teenagers. But evidently we walked through some magical portal that temporarily paused their desire to argue with everything. While playing the game, neither of them tried to be the supreme knowers of everything that has happened or will ever happen in the history of the entire universe. The kids listened, took advice and direction, and even learned from one situation and applied it to the next. Adults struggle with this. At least the adults I often play with do. Everyone is an expert at everything and therefore has no room left in their plan for another option or perspective. There was also significantly less eye rolling and heavy sighing when playing with the kids – shocking, I know. It's possible that escape rooms don't always bring out the best in adults.

In the end, we had a blast and still managed to escape in time. Now, as for what happened when we were back at the house with their two younger sisters (who may just be too young to participate in an escape room but are the perfect age to participate in sibling shenanigans) I'll save that for another time.



Three Steps for an Organized Pantry

Last night a former classmate popped up on my Facebook's "People You May Know." Wow — I couldn't believe how much time had passed since I had seen him. He got old! Do you ever feel that way about things you find in your pantry? Something you purchased for a holiday recipe years ago, or unnecessarily stocked up on. New things come in and push those items to the back. Deep shelves and corners are famous for aging groceries.

When pantry shelves are full, things land on the floor. When the floor is covered, you can't reach things to find what you need, so you buy more. If your pantry is in need of some TLC, here are three steps to restoring order and making it user-friendly.

Purge & Sort: Clear off the kitchen table or a large countertop.

Shelf by shelf remove your pantry's contents. As you do, check expiration dates and toss outdated items. Any usable – but not enjoyed by your family – non-perishable items may be donated to the Community Food Bank or the Blessing Box next to the Ranchos Liberty Cafe.

Group Like Items into Categories: Baking, spices, pasta/rice/dry beans, condiments, oils and dressings, beverages, breakfast foods, snacks, sweets, paper supplies, crackers/chips, canned foods (further sort into fruits, vegetables, sauces, soups, beans), pet food, etc. Vacuum and wipe out the empty shelves.

Create Homes: Containerize loose items when possible, using bins or baskets for snack items, pastas, rice, coffee pods, tea, etc. Place oils, vinegars and sauces on turntables. These are great for those hard-to-reach corners, too. Pour flour, sugar, nuts, coffee, etc. into clear airtight storage containers. This will create order on the shelves, keep things fresh and enable you to see quantities, so you know when to restock. Use can use rack organizers or three-tier cabinet organizers for canned goods. Position cans with labels facing forward. Check Pinterest or Google "pantry organizing images" to see these products and more.

Place the categories you use most often on the shelving that's easiest to reach. Home the categories used less frequently on higher and lower shelves.

You may want to designate a section of approved snack items at a level kids can access. Add free-standing wire shelves to maximize vertical space where needed. Store the heaviest items under or on the bottom shelf. Add space with an over the door pantry organizer rack. Label containers and the front of shelves so it's clear where everything belongs.

Maintain: Unpack groceries and supplies right away and place them in their designated homes. This keeps the floor clear. Grocery bags also hide things and increase duplicate purchasing. Use the "first in, first out" rule and place new items in back of the older ones. Avoid "buy two get three free" sales or Costco quantities if you don't have the space for it. Store a fold-up step stool in the pantry to insure easy access to top shelves.

Since organizing is never a "one and done" activity, schedule a day at least twice a year to repeat this process. Containerizing is the fun part of organizing, but you'll benefit as much or more from the purging and sorting, so don't bypass that step. Happy organizing.

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 visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

TRACTOR WORK

- House Pads • Lot Leveling •
- Underground Utilities Installed
- Septic Systems Installed •
- Concrete Work
- Driveways •
- Trenching

Call Sonny at **559-970-4476** Lic. #719500 S.G.E.

GOT POOP?
CALL The Poop Fairies

LOCAL dog waste removal service • Weekly, every other week and one time services • Residential and commercial properties • Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and at www.ThePoopFairies.com

559-GOT-POOP (559-468-7667)

Sago Key Palm Plantation!

More than 20,000 Palms & Sagos in stock. We also have a wide selection of Shade & Fruit trees.

call Juan and Maria at **559-268-6650**

6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

Bradley & Sons DRILLING & PUMP SYSTEMS

Lic.#414178

DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

674-1663
23338 Ave. 14
Madera

Family Owned Since 1976

PB&Everything!

(April 2011)

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.



butter business by acquiring the W. T. Young Foods, makers of Big Top Peanut Butter. They introduced Jif in 1958 and now operate the world's largest peanut butter plant – churning out 250,000 jars every day.

My condolences to all of us Skippy fans, but Jif is the winner – 91,250,000 jars of Jif are sold each year, but only 90,000,000 jars of Skippy are sold annually. THAT IS A LOT OF PEANUT BUTTER!

There are so many ways to have peanut butter. PB&J sandwiches are probably the most popular, with peanut butter cookies coming in second. Then there is PB on celery (when you can afford celery), on crackers, pizza crust, waffles, and how about on a slice of apple? Or my favorite, on a toasted cinnamon raisin bagel?

We have a dear friend we met when we started going to the church we now attend in Clovis. A few years ago she and her husband downsized and moved to Madera to be closer to their family. Bea sent me a couple of peanut butter recipes I want to pass on.

Coconut Peanut Butter Banana Nut Bread

- 1 ½ C All Purpose Flour
- 1 C Sugar
- 1 ½ tsp Baking Powder
- ½ tsp Baking Soda
- ½ tsp Salt
- 2 Eggs (well beaten)
- 1 C Mashed Ripe Bananas (2 large)

- ½ C Melted Butter
- 1 C Creamy Peanut Butter
- 1 T Vanilla
- 1 C Chopped Walnuts
- ½ C Thinly Sliced Maraschino Cherries
- 1 C Shredded Coconut

In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt. Mix well and set aside.

In a small mixing bowl, beat eggs, bananas, peanut butter, butter and vanilla. Beat with mixer

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

Tonight I was Internet surfing (channel surfing to a TV addict) to do some research for this month's article when I came across a web-site, "National Day of ..."

Every day of the year is "National Day" of something. Tomorrow is National Sibling day – I'll see my sister in the morning at church and lunch afterward – and I'm going to call my brother in the afternoon. I love the text for Sibling Day: "Siblings are like the best friends we never asked for, but are really glad we have." I hope that is your feeling for all of you that have siblings. And tell them as often as you can because tomorrow may be too late – believe me as I am living proof of that!

I was looking for Peanut Butter Day. I found Jan. 24 is National Peanut Butter Day; April 2 was National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day; June 13 is National Peanut Butter Cookie Day; and November is National Peanut Butter Month.

George Washington Carver discovered 300 uses for peanuts. He started popularizing uses for peanuts, including peanut butter, paper, ink and oils beginning in 1880. Carver didn't patent peanut butter because he believed food products were gifts from God.

Which came first, Jif or Skippy peanut butter? Neither! Joseph Rosenfield invented a churning process that made smooth peanut butter. In 1928 he licensed his invention to the Pond Company, the makers of Peter Pan peanut butter (Picky people pick Peter Pan peanut butter; it's the peanut butter picky people pick). In 1932, Rosenfield began making his own brand of peanut butter called Skippy which included a crunchy style peanut butter. In 1955, Proctor & Gamble entered the peanut

Create a gift from the heart

Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

Tue-Sat 12-6 • Sun-Mon Appointment Only

Visit us at www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com
 and Facebook "What's Up in the Ranchos"
 Contact us for SPECIAL GROUP PARTIES
 NEVER a sitting fee • Walk-ins ALWAYS welcome

Arts & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Stems

Rodents destroying your property?

Over 15 years of experience
 Licensed by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 Cal. Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
 Nuisance animal trapping

CALL FOR AN INSPECTION TODAY!
ALLIED RODENT CONTROL • 312-5441

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.
 645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
 36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

www.theranchos.com

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.
 Get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006). Learn how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site!

www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

until creamy smooth. Gradually add dry ingredients mixing well. Fold in coconut, nuts and cherries. Pour into a 9x5x3 loaf pan. Bake at 350 for 55 to 60 minutes or until tested near the center with tooth pick and it comes out clean.

Peanut Butter Dip

(Good on sliced apples and Fruit Breads)

- 1 8 oz. container Sour Cream
- 1 8 oz. (or 6 oz.) Cream Cheese
- 1 12 oz. Cool Whip
- 1 3 oz. Pkg. Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 1 T Vanilla
- ¼ C Cream (or Half & Half)
- ½ C Creamy Peanut Butter
- Fresh sliced apples or sliced sweet bread

In a mixing bowl beat pudding, vanilla and cream until smooth. Add cream cheese; add sour cream, then peanut butter – mixing well after each addition. Fold in Cool Whip. This will keep well in the refrigerator for four or five days.

In all the years I have been around kids, I have only found one that didn't like peanut butter (my niece Jessie). In fact, some kids just give them a jar of peanut butter and a spoon and they will be happy.

I went online looking for recipes for kids, both that they would like and they can help make. I found a couple that sound like fun

and good to boot.

No Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

- 2 C Sugar
- ½ C Peanut Butter
- ½ C Milk
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 3 C Quick Oats (not instant)

Mix sugar, peanut butter, milk and vanilla together in large pan. Bring to a good boil. Remove from heat, add oatmeal.

Cool until able to handle. Have the kids help roll into little balls and place on a cookie sheet. If you want to make these chocolate, add ½ C butter and ½ C cocoa powder to mix before boiling.

Sushi for Kids

What kid wouldn't like to smash a slice of bread before making a sandwich?

Lay a slice of bread on a cutting board and with a rolling pin roll until thin. Spread the bottom two thirds of the slice with peanut butter and jelly. From the bottom of the bread, roll like a jelly roll (or sushi) and pinch with the top to seal. Slice to resemble sushi. You can cut the crust off before spreading PB&J if you would like. This would make a neat surprise for your child's lunch box.

In researching this article, I found several uses for the peanut and peanut butter. The one that surprised me the most was the United States Navy. Did you know they have a uniform called the Peanut Butter Uniform?

Did you know [the U.S. Navy] has a uniform called the Peanut Butter Uniform?

H.O. TIRES

BUY 4 TIRES
RECEIVE **FREE ALIGNMENT**
\$49 VALUE

Tires
We carry a great range for all vehicles and all applications, new and used

Wheel Alignments
Computerized wheel alignment. 30-day warranty

FREE Tire Maintenance
We offer FREE tire rotations and balance every 7,000 miles

Wheel & Tire Packages
We give your car the right look without compromising safety

Lift & Lowering Kits
Whether you're looking to run bigger tires or get an aggressive look, we have the right product for you

MADERA 559.831.2837 CHOWCHILLA 559.201.9133 FRESNO 559.478.5539

www.hotiresnwheels.com
(559) 831-2937
421 Noble St. Madera, 93637

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

OPEN 7 DAYS
M-SAT 8-7 • SUN 9-5

PON TUS LLANTAS HOY CON TRES MESES PARA PAGAR

We do suspension and brake service.
Hacemos trabajo de suspension y frenos.

www.hotiresnwheels.com
(559) 831-2937

**We never know
the worth of water
till the well is dry ...**

**Get YOUR
money's worth
with
GARY FOX
Well Drilling &
Pump Service**

- Water Well Drilling
- Pump Service & Repair
- Well Abandonments
- Water Storage Systems
- Well Certification

"From the drilling of the well to turning on your faucet, we do it all."

GARY FOX
Well Drilling & Pump Service
559-243-6050
Lic. #882662

4/21

Senior Report

Seniors Resume Exercise Program

By Margaret Tynan

Members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors happily resumed the Exercise Program after the pandemic-caused year-long hiatus. The group, masked and physically distanced, gathered on the patio for the moderate workout which focuses on muscle strength, balance, flexibility and range of motion. The routine includes deep breathing and movement of all joints from head to toe.

"As an older adult, regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health," says the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in a Feb. 11 communication. "It can prevent many of the health problems that seem to come with age. It also helps your muscles grow stronger so you can keep doing your day-to-day activities without becoming dependent on others."

Whether your goal is to stay fit or to get fit, we hope you will join the group at the Center on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 am.

Jo Chase, who leads the Exercise Group, is a long-time resident of the Madera Ranchos since 1976. "I like living here. There is such a great sense of community," she says. All four of her sons and one of her four grandchildren live in the community as well. She also has two great grandchildren. She joined the Center seven years ago when she retired from her 28-year career as a dietician. A very active and valuable

member of the Center, she not only leads exercise, you will find her and her team organizing the Treasure House for the monthly sales. She shared that she really enjoys meeting and visiting with people of the community on those Saturdays. Jo is also a member of the Center's Writing Group, often leading discussions.

She is chronicling her memoirs or working on the various session writing prompts. Along with Rosemary Janis, Jo volunteers to write the Ranchos/Hills monthly newsletter. All of her hard work, dedication and support are very much appreciated.

It's time to take advantage of the upcoming beautiful May weather to work in your yard and plant your garden. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center has a lovely selection of ornamental and vegetable plants available at our regular monthly Outdoor Sale on Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. Visit the Treasure House and select from a wide range of interesting useful items for all ages. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distanc-

ing while shopping.

Donations are always welcomed and appreciated. Make your check out to Ranchos/Hills Seniors and mail to 37330 Berkshire Dr., Madera, CA 93636. Please note: At this time, we are only able to accept donations of physical items by appointment. Call 645-4864.

Thought for May: *"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."* – Aristotle



Jo Chase (right) leads exercise with the help of Judy Hagler after a year-long hiatus thanks to COVID-19.



From left, Jerry Conkle, Dot Husted and Margo Conkle work out the kinks after a year of no exercise program at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

BUST cont. from P. 2

trolled substances, firearms offenses and assault charges. Bail amounts range from over \$100,000 to \$5,000,000. Classified as "Operation Crystal Vine," this is the largest gang and narcotics investigation of its kind conducted by the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team in Madera County in over a decade.

"This is a tremendous day for public safety in Madera County," Sheriff Tyson Pogue said. "The substantial seizure of drugs and firearms will no doubt make a significant impact to the safety our community. We are thankful for the collaboration between our allied agencies to successfully navigate and conclude this investigation. This operation would not have yielded such positive results without the teamwork between the Madera County Sheriff's Office, Madera Police Department, Chowchilla Police Department, Madera County Probation, the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Justice and the Madera County District Attorney's Office. Let this be an unmistakable reminder to all that we take a strong stand against drugs, gangs and the criminal activity they provoke in Madera County."

The leaders of the drug tracking organization, Juan Jimenez (47), Maria Hidalgo (48), and Alexis Jimenez

(24), have all been arrested for the following felony charges:

- Three counts each of Conspiracy
- One count of Transportation/Sales of Methamphetamine, with an Enhancement for 20+ Kilograms, and an



Part of the \$64,874 in forfeited assets were these 14 firearms in addition to over 18 pounds of methamphetamine, over 60 grams of cocaine, 3.7 pounds of heroin, nearly 25 pounds of marijuana, 64 grams of concentrated cannabis and 3,400 fentanyl pills.

additional Gang Enhancement

- One count of Transportation/Sales of Heroin, with an Enhancement for 1+ Kilograms, and an additional Gang Enhancement
- One count of Transportation/Sales of Cocaine, with a Gang Enhancement

Juan Jimenez is also being charged with additional felony counts of Being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Committing a Felony While Released on Bail.

The individuals below have all been identified as members or associates of the drug trafficking ring operating out of the La Vina area. They have each been charged with crime(s) related to their role in the operation.

- Petra Teresa Anaya, 32, Chowchilla
- Ralissa Janelle Huizar, 28, Madera
- Ramon Loza Chavez, 36, Madera
- John Anthony Chavarria, 33, Madera
- Jose Manuel Sanchez, 39, Madera
- Jose Manzano, 40, Madera
- Rodrigo Delfonso Martinez, 29, Madera
- Alejandro Gomez Frias, 26, Fresno
- Oscar Tista-Herrera, 27, Madera

Please see **BUST** on P. 19

What's Happening
93636

March 2021

Median Listing Price
\$469K

Median Days on Market
9

Median Sold Price
\$469K

Median Price/SF Sold
\$214

*Data based on
Fresno County MLS*

Your Neighbors & Real Estate Experts

Thinking of buying or selling a home?
Don't know where to start?
Call or contact us.

WE GOT YOU!



Mary Avigliano
559-367-7264
mary@ironkeyrealestate.com
REALTOR® • DRE 02093132

Katie Altenhofel
559-325-4276
katie@ironkeyrealestate.com
REALTOR® • DRE 02120478

LICENSE #932435

FREE ESTIMATES



TIM DE MERA
Owner/CEO
Madera Ranchos Resident

ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM **(559) 681-8947**
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM



Fernwood Gardens
12090 Fernwood Dr.
Madera, CA 93636

New inventory of color, vegetables & indoor plants in-stock weekly

CHECK OUT OUR ECLECTIC SUPPLY OF YARD ART & GARDEN DECOR

Tues - Fri: 9 am - 5:30 pm
Sat & Sun: 9 am - 4:30 pm
CLOSED - Monday

559-645-7677

Warmer weather brings "A Taste of Paradise Hawaiian Shaved Ice" back to the nursery

Beginning May 8th.



Hawaiian Shaved Ice every Saturday & Sunday.

Our knowledgeable staff is always willing to help you find everything you need and not need. :)

We offer landscape design services! Call or ask to schedule a consultation. Plans starting at \$150

Follow us on FB/IG for all up to date information!
#fernwoodgardensmadera

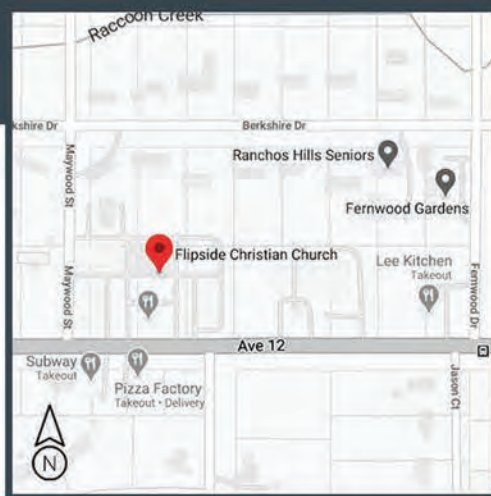
www.fernwoodgardens.net **fernwoodranchos@gmail.com**

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
the Ranchos Independent

FLIPSIDE *join us* SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM
WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH

RELENTLESS LOVE



IN THE MAYWOOD CENTER | 37193 AVE 12 #3H MADERA, CA 93636
(559) 481-6875 | INFO@ACTS176.COM

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9 & 10:30 AM
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE
JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL 2ND SERVICE

YOUTH MIDWEEK SCHEDULE
JR HIGH | MONDAYS 7 - 8:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS 7 - 9 PM

SEE YOU SUNDAY!



EDITORIAL cont. from P. 10

officer's knee was potentially on a shoulder blade and that Floyd ingested fatal amounts of fentanyl and other substances prior to his arrest, among other new revelations.

Rayshard Brooks died in a mid-June fight with police after they were called to attend to a passed-out driver in a Wendy's drive-thru. After a breathalyzer test revealed he had a limit higher than legally allowed, officers attempted to put Brooks in handcuffs. In that moment, and after a melee which included injuries to the officers, he grabbed one of the officer's tasers and fled on foot. He turned around to fire it and was then fired upon. There has been no legal action taken yet in this case and the officer discharged with his murder was released on bail in July.

Jacob Blake was paralyzed in an early-August interaction with police after they were called to a known address in which Blake was unauthorized from being.

When police arrived, he refused to comply, withstood multiple taser discharges, and returned to his vehicle, allegedly reaching for a knife. Officers then fired upon him. Officers will not face charges.

Dijon Kizzee died in a late-August pursuit by police after he had been seen riding his bike on the wrong side of the street and splitting oncoming traffic. When police intervened, he fled on foot. An investigation is still pending, but there were early reports of a reportedly-lost gun falling from his body in the chase. When he allegedly reached to pick it up, police opened fire. This case is ongoing.

Focusing on the Wrong Thing?

Black Lives Matter, the Democrat Party and the mainstream media would prefer that we focus on just one commonality in these cases: That the victims of police engagements were all black.

This itself is racist, as it sets the bar extremely low for black folks. And as noted, ignores the significant fact that not all blacks end up in these circumstances – like 12 million other blacks that interact with police and another 30 million that don't interact with police at all.

In reality, the only meaningful commonalities were drug or alcohol abuse and resistance to peaceful detainment. Daniel Prude tested positive for PCP and he resisted arrest. Rayshard Brooks was asleep in a car from overconsumption of alcohol and he resisted arrest. Breonna Taylor's home was being searched because of her involvement in drug trafficking and her boyfriend resisted their peaceful and lawful entry. Jacob Blake's toxicology report has not been released, but he withstood multiple taser discharges,

[This narrative] ignores the significant fact that not all blacks end up in these circumstances – like 12 million other blacks that interact with police and another 30 million that don't interact with police at all.

which seems to coincide with drug use and, regardless, he resisted arrest. George Floyd had THC, methamphetamine and a lethal level of fentanyl in his bloodstream and he resisted arrest. Dijon Kizzee, although no official toxicology report has been issued, appears to have been arrested multiple times for DUIs and drug use previously. His erratic behavior on the bike would certainly lend itself to suspicion of intoxication. He ignored orders to stop and fled from the police.

So why do we revere these individuals? We can surely mourn their loss, but let's not pretend they contributed to society. Their families and friends can miss them; our society need not. It reflects horribly on the media, politicians and communities that delude themselves into thinking criminal thugs deserve any of our respect. I will take my George of the Washington variety, not the Floyd. All communities would do well to heed this approach.

This opinion piece originally appeared at thebluestateconservative.com. It is used with permission.

**Say you saw it in
the Ranchos Independent**

Free Vacation Bible School

Join Us For
DESTINATION
UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
JEREMIAH 29:13

A Week Full Of Fun Just For The Kids!
June 7-12, 2021
9am - 12pm
Kindergarten - 6th Grade

Golden Valley Baptist Church
Sunday School 9 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
12414 Road 37 * Madera Ranchos
559-645-1700

Strange BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- Johnny Cash's estate was approached by an advertising company asking for permission to use "Ring of Fire" in an ad for hemorrhoid cream. The request was refused.
- A man with severe OCD and a phobia about germs attempted to commit suicide with a gun to his head. Instead of killing him, the bullet eliminated his mental illness without any other damage.
- Nobody knows how the Academy Awards came to be referred to as "the Oscars." The earliest mention was in 1932 and became official in 1939.
- In 1911, Elmer McCurdy robbed a passenger train he thought contained thou-

sands of dollars, and was shot by lawmen after making off with just \$46. His unclaimed corpse was then embalmed and sold to a traveling carnival. It would be used as a prop or attraction in haunted houses and wax museums for the next 66 years (even showing up on the set of "The Six Million Dollar Man") until he was finally buried at the famous Boot Hill cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas.

- Vanilla flavoring is sometimes made with beaver urine.
- A statue of Nikola Tesla in Silicon Valley radiates free Wi-Fi. It was created as an homage to his vision for wireless communication.
- Thought for the Day: "The beautiful thing about life is that we will never reach an age where there is nothing left to learn, see or be; it's magical, really." - Dulce Ruby

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

SEMUCU speaks

California Set to Fully Reopen on June 15

By Matt Maringer

The big, recent news was Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to fully reopen California's economy on June 15 if current COVID-19 trends hold. California will also move away from its color-coded tier system that regulates closures and openings county by county. Though the June 15 date is a reservation, the California Department of Public Health will also con-

tinue to monitor case rates, hospitalizations and vaccines' efficacy. As of April 7, about 42 percent of California's over-16 population has received one dose of the vaccine while 23 percent are fully vaccinated.

Again this summer: Fire prevention project

SEMUCU will also be offering FREE discing around the perimeters of properties in Madera. This project is to help prevent and mitigate the risk of fires throughout the months that have excessive temperatures. We found many people took advantage of this opportunity

last year, which is why we want to continue it. If this is something you would like done, please email info@semcu.org or call 559-363-9095 to get scheduled.

We found many people took advantage of [free discing] last year, which is why we want to continue it. If this is something you would like done, please email info@semcu.org or call 559-363-9095 to get scheduled.

that SEMUCU should move. If you are not available, maybe you know of someone that may be interested and could help our community by spending one hour per

month at our monthly meeting. Although the time required is minimal, the importance of caring for our community is invaluable.

As part of social distancing, our monthly board meetings on the third Monday of each month will be held via telephone conferencing. The public is invited and encouraged to listen in and offer ideas for projects that can help improve our community. To join in on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m., dial 312-757-3221. When prompted, dial the access code 715657949#. To call SEMUCU for more information, call 559-363-9095, or reach the organization at www.semcu.org. You can also send an email to info@semcu.org.

SEMUCU is "By the Community, For the Community"



IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR QUALITY.

"When you put your name on something, you want it to be the best."

That's the work ethic that Chris, our Senior Test Tech at YORK®, brings to work every day. American Quality impacts every level of design, engineering and manufacturing in every YORK® product. It's people of character and commitment who make that happen. You can see that in action in our latest video featuring a day in the life of Chris at YORK.com/today. It's a good day for quality. And that's a good day for everyone who owns YORK® equipment.

Locally owned and operated
37082 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93636
559-662-0336 | www.huckabeeshvac.com

Huckabee's HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
LIC #1021130 INC

YORK AMERICAN QUALITY
INSTALL CONFIDENCE

4/21



Marina Alper, MD | Vivian Hernandez, MD | John Lattin, MD | John Kim, MD | Laurie Dahlberg, CPNP

Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Pharmacy, laboratory and urgent care ON SITE

Close to the Friant exit off of Freeway 41
7355 N. Palm Ave. #100
Fresno, CA 93711



(559) 271-6302

northwestpediatricmedicalgroup.com

4/21

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



Diaphragm Dilemma

Hello, 93636.

Some of my 93636 customers have been asking me to post some of the national media coverage I have been receiving. Most of the coverage is concerning technology and public education. You can find that information if you Google Warren Parr Pico Club. There are 19 posts.

Last month, Ratchet & Wrench magazine—a national trade magazine—included Complete Car Care in its “Best Workplaces” issue. That article can be found on pages 46-49 at issuu.com/10missionsmedia/docs/0321_digital_edition_final.

OK, that's enough of that. Let's get to work.

Earlier this month a first time customer with a 2013 Kia Sorento came to the shop with an intermittent engine stalling complaint. The only discernable pattern was the stalling only occurs while waiting at a traffic light. The engine restarts immediately without any adverse conditions like long cranking.

My first thought was carbon deposits on the throttle body bore, throttle valve (butterfly) or in the idle air passage. As carbon builds up around the throttle bore and on the throttle valve, the incoming air is restricted causing a hesitation or stalling. Maybe carbon deposits in the idle air passage is my problem.

As I'm sitting here writing this article my mind is wandering back to last month's "In Good Hands" article. Now that I'm thinking about carbon deposits, I'm also thinking last month's advice concerning fuel injection system service frequencies was incomplete and I would like to correct that oversight now.

When I perform a port fuel injection system service, I perform an intake air induction system service also. The air induction service may be just as—or more important—than the fuel injection service. Here is why.

There are two engine emissions systems that can exacerbate the formation of carbon deposits in the intake manifold as well as the rest of the engine. The first system is the EGR (exhaust gas recirculation) system. The function of the EGR system is to recirculate engine exhaust gas into the air intake manifold. The chemistry is this: Exhaust gas is inert. All the oxygen was consumed during the combustion process so

when the exhaust gas is mixed with incoming air in the intake manifold the air/fuel ratio is unaffected. The dead EGR gas is not volatile so

cylinder combustion temperatures are lowered which in turn reduces NO (nitrous oxides), the pollutant that turns the air brown. Go rub your finger around the inside your tailpipe. See the black soot on your finger? That is what's being circulated into the intake manifold. Variable camshaft valve timing systems have replaced EGR systems so exhaust gas is no longer being circulated into the intake manifold. Now, the exhaust gas is circulated into the cylinder via the intake valve. With increased valve overlap engineers now draw the exhaust gas into the cylinder when both intake and exhaust valves are open simultaneously. Now that soot is being deposited directly onto the intake valve. Intake valve deposits are becoming a really big problem for gasoline direct injection (GDI) engines.

The second emission system of concern is the PCV (positive crankcase ventilation) system. When fuel in the cylinder is ignited, the heat generated increases cylinder pressures. Some high pressure gas can escape by the piston rings (blow by) into the engine's crankcase. The crankcase is roughly the area of the engine block below the cylinders where the crankshaft is housed. If that pressure is not vented it will force its way through the oil seals and gaskets creating large oil leaks. The PCV System is the vent for the engine's crankcase. Those crankcase gasses are vented into the intake manifold. When the soot from the EGR is mixed with oil vapors from the PCV it creates a sludge that hardens into carbon.

After reconsideration, I recommend a port fuel injection system service every 60,000 miles. If your vehicle is a GDI, I recommend the service no later than 40,000 miles.

OK, back to my Kia. I asked my young customer if the "Check Engine" lamp ever comes on? "Yes, but it goes right back off."

As long as no one has erased the powertrain control module memory, like a chain auto parts store, codes can remain in code history for up to 40-60 engine starts. Great! There are two oxygen sensor lean exhaust codes.

NOTE: If oxygen sensors are setting drivability codes and there is a drivability issue, changing the sensors probably won't help. Don't waste your money on the chain parts stores with their incomplete diagnosis.

When I retrieved the vehicle freeze frame data (drive data stored at the time the codes are set) the vehicle was traveling 0 mph and the engine was idling. The key to the mystery was the total fuel trim was +56 percent. Plus 56 percent means 56 percent more fuel is being injected into the cylinders then the computer's baseline calculation amount. I now have a direction.

I idled the engine but of course the fuel trims were normal. When I scrolled through the live fuel trim information, I noticed the mass air flow (MAF) sensor data was lower than I expected. I connected my EScan Pro and performed an en-

gine volumetric efficiency test. The test results were almost perfect. The MAF sensor, fuel pump and fuel injection systems were excellent. Since fuel starvation was not my problem, the only other option was too much air.

As I'm sitting there processing the information, I decided to take a test drive to duplicate the failure conditions. When I stepped on the brake pedal to shift into "Drive" the short term fuel trims immediately shot up to +25 percent. Can my stalling complaint be a leaking power brake booster diaphragm? I disconnected the brake booster vacuum supply hose and the short term fuel trims were unaffected when pressing the brake pedal.

That's it!

A leaking power brake booster diaphragm is my problem.

The power booster is that large round object to which the brake master cylinder is bolted. When the brake pedal is depressed, the air in front of the internal diaphragm is displaced into the engine's intake manifold. That action pulls the diaphragm forward which in turn pulls the master cylinder input rod forward. As the diaphragm moves forward the area behind the di-

aphragm must be vented or a second low pressure area will be created. Two alike opposing forces will create a stalemate and no brake assist will occur. With a leaking diaphragm the intake manifold vacuum will simply pass through the diaphragm and vent into the atmosphere. The harder the brake pedal is pressed, the greater the leak.

That is why my MAF sensor reading was so low. All the air entering the engine wasn't being measured. I replaced the brake power booster and the engine stalling mystery was resolved.

OK guys and gals. That's all for this one. Hope it helps. As usual I'm always interested in interesting and current automotive topics to write about. If you have any ideas, suggestions, recommendations and/or any general or specific automotive questions please text me at 559-907-7661 or email complete_car_care@hotmail.com.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636 Warren Parr, two time NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year and 2013 NAPA/ASE National Technician of the Year 2nd Runner-Up

Got Water?

Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?
Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?

CALL US!

Bubba's Water Truck Service
call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

STOP THE PAIN!
"We've got your back"

Specializing in
AUTO ACCIDENTS

D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
Sports Physicals only \$35!

HANEY CHIROPRACTIC
& rehabilitation center

36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
the Ranchos Independent

SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?



SUBSCRIBE!

to the Ranchos Independent!
 local news • local events • local happenings
 editorial • games • real estate • columns

The Ranchos Independent

37167 Ave. 12, #5C
 Madera, CA 93636

645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

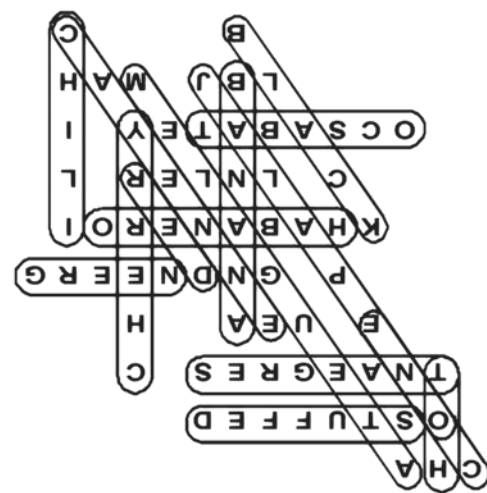
Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Payment: \$20 Cash Check Credit Card Bill Me
 The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera CA 93636 Fax 559-645-4002

ANSWERS

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

INC	EMBRACE	BFS	GARAMEL	ARAVAT	MANIL	S POT
BAC	ARAVAT	MANIL	ASSAP	ANTO	LOLONIES	ROTH
ROTH	LOLONIES	ASSAP	ANTO	LOLONIES	ASSAP	ANTO
SLIT	OSCAR	ARTERY	SLIT	OSCAR	ARTERY	SLIT
ICER	AMCONE	RENEW	ICER	AMCONE	RENEW	ICER
MAC	IRIS	SAT	MAC	IRIS	SAT	MAC
PLA	OUES	PLASTI	PLA	OUES	PLASTI	PLA
SER	UM	NE	SER	UM	NE	SER
APNEA	SEAWAY	HOP	APNEA	SEAWAY	HOP	APNEA
TS	HAWKON	SWARES	TS	HAWKON	SWARES	TS
IPAD	LEERAT	SCRUB	IPAD	LEERAT	SCRUB	IPAD
MYRIAD	DAR	H	MYRIAD	DAR	H	MYRIAD
IRON	MIK	ETV	IRON	MIK	ETV	IRON
DONNE	AYE	W	DONNE	AYE	W	DONNE
ELATE	BATA	HOUS	ELATE	BATA	HOUS	ELATE
ESPRIT	SE	NORA	ESPRIT	SE	NORA	ESPRIT
SPID	ERMITE	MAS	SPID	ERMITE	MAS	SPID
TAD	EURO	SUP	TAD	EURO	SUP	TAD
SKRAT	SLAW	ANIS	SKRAT	SLAW	ANIS	SKRAT
WANT	TAOS	MAN	WANT	TAOS	MAN	WANT

27	15		14		
8	+	9	+	6	23
-	+	+			
5	+	1	x	4	24
x	x	x			
7	+	6	x	2	26



Real Estate

Work with the Realtor® who lives and sells in the Ranchos

Learn more about your local agent who provides value and expertise to her clients www.itsthecozylife.com



Samantha Phebus
559.970.6555

REALTOR | DRE#01823578 | samantha@guarantee.com

GUARANTEE REAL ESTATE
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

4/21

"Real estate is my life! I make your real estate dreams a reality."



MARIA FOTOPoulos
REALTOR


559-250-6740 • mfotorealtor@gmail.com
Integrity, Dedication, Results
www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto • DRE #01454566

"Put my experience, knowledge, service and professionalism to work for you."

HOME SMART
TV and Associates

4/21

More Opinions



CANCELLED!

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Right to Life: Cancelled by taxpayer-funded Planned Parenthood.

Right to Liberty: Cancelled by COVID-19 restrictions on individuals' businesses, churches and organizations.

Right to the Pursuit of Happiness: Cancelled by high taxation, government-caused inflation and onerous government regulations.

The United States Constitution: Cancelled by unconstitutional laws, regulations and rules.

Freedom of Conservative Speech: Cancelled by political correctness, restrictive laws, big tech oligarch billionaires, un-social media, television pundits and print media.

Freedom of Religion: Freedom to assemble and sing cancelled by politicians' COVID mandates.

Right to Keep and Bear Arms: To be further restricted by Biden's "assault weapons" ban and gun buyback program.

Right to Breathe: Cancelled by masks.

The President of the United States of America: Cancelled by social media and big corporations.

Free and Fair Elections: Curtailed in 2020 but to be fully cancelled by the Democrats' so-called "For the People" Act.

Police Protection: To be cancelled by "defund the police" activism.

Public Safety: Cancelled by governors and mayors permitting violent mobs to decimate cities.

Secure Borders: Cancelled by Joe Biden.

Private Property Rights: Cancelled by Green New Deal policies (formerly Agenda 21).

The State of Georgia: Cancelled by Cancel Culture and MLB based on lies about the state's voting law.

Freedom from Crime: Public safety cancelled by soft-on-criminals leftist politicians and district attorneys, sacrificing safety to high crime rates.

Cancel the insanity.
Vote conservative in 2022 and beyond.

No Borders, No Country -- A View from Congressman McClintock

By Congressman Tom McClintock

Before the "lockdown left" took a wrecking ball to our economy last year, we were enjoying one of the greatest expansions of economic opportunity in our lifetimes. Unemployment was at its lowest rate in 50 years, the poverty rate was at its lowest in 60 years. Wage growth was the strongest in 40 years. The wage gap was narrowing for the first time in many years, as blue-collar wages increased dramatically. The unemployment rate for women was the lowest in 70 years. For African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans, veterans and disabled Americans, and those without a high school diploma, unemployment was the lowest ever recorded.

The tax and regulatory relief Republicans won in 2017 and 2018 explain much

of this success, but something else was going on that caused the extraordinary improvement of wages for unskilled and low-skilled workers. The Trump Administration restored control of our borders and stemmed the flood of low-wage labor that had been suppressing American workers' wages for decades.

Big business and big agriculture hated Trump's immigration policy because it forced them to pay their workers higher wages. But in the growing economy it produced, working Americans who had been left behind for decades finally began to prosper.

Did we learn anything from this unprecedented blue-collar boom? Apparently not, judging from the Democrats' zeal to open our borders to new waves of illegal immigration.

Without enforcement of our immigration laws, our borders become meaningless. And if our borders are meaningless, then America ceases to be a nation and instead becomes a vast international territory between Canada and Mexico.

The President's executive orders have already produced a new migrant crisis on the southern border.

One abandoned the border wall in mid-construction. Another undermines the long-standing requirement that immigrants support themselves and not burden American taxpayers. Another ends the remain-in-Mexico policy for those making asylum claims, most of which are false. Yet

another effectively releases illegal immigrants accompanied by youths under age 18 directly into the United States. Another grants what amounts to sanctuary status for a wide variety of criminal offenses including drunk driving and sex offenses. Another restores unrestricted travel from hot beds of international terrorism. The worst orders ICE not to deport illegal immigrants for 100 days. That order, now enjoined by a federal judge, begs the question, "What is the difference between abolishing ICE and forbidding it to do its job?"

Customs and Border Protection agents report that in the last month the daily incursion on the southern border has nearly doubled from 2,000 a day to 3,500 a day. The number of illegal immigrants encountered on the southern border during the first

Please see **BORDER** on P. 19

Click on "Local News" at

Classified

Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - Over 50 years experience - Tailoring, repairs, wedding gowns. FAST SERVICE. By appointment only. 36027 Ruth Ave. Call 559-645-4583.

Carpet Cleaning

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

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents. **REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY!** Call 559-908-9332.

Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. Call 559-970-4476.

Firewood

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

For Sale

1978 Starfire Cabin Cruiser - 22-foot w/trailer, GREAT CONDITION - 351 Ford, 9.8 HP Honda trolling motor, 2 new batteries, new tires, all work done by Cronin Marine in Madera Ranchos, current license and a cover. **BEST OFFER.** Call 304-2019 or 252-0291.

For sale -- Cemetery plots. Two plots at St. Peter's "Sacred Heart" section. No opening or closing included. Side by side location. \$4,500 each plot. Call 559-312-0891 and please leave message.

For sale -- Large bird cage with stand. Color/white. \$160 or best offer. Call 559-312-0891 for more details and size. **Please leave message.**

Housecleaning

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

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including newspaper, shredded paper, containers, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Call Diana at 999-6832.

Funds support Ranchos community organizations.

Tractor/Trenching Services

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

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

Window Cleaning Services

Most windows \$5 inside/out - Screen, track, sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723.

Free estimates. Ask about our SENIOR DISCOUNT!

BORDER cont. from P. 18

four months of the last fiscal year was nearly 165,000. That number has nearly doubled this year to more than 295,000.

Every American needs to clearly understand what this means to their lives, their families, their communities and their future.

How are American workers helped by flooding the labor market with another wave of illegal immigration? How are our children – who have been robbed of an entire year of their educations – helped by filling their classrooms with non-English speaking classmates? How are our streets made safer by allowing aliens who drive drunk to remain on our roads rather than to be arrested and placed in removal proceedings? How is our nation made safer by re-opening virtually unrestricted travel with nations that foster terrorism? How are our communities made safer by making it harder to deport criminal illegal aliens and gang members? How are our hospitals made more accessible by overwhelming emergency rooms with illegal immigrants demanding care? Why would our own government pursue policies that strike most acutely and painfully at American's working families – especially now, when those families are reeling from the effects of a year of oppressive lockdowns? Those blue-collar workers who made the greatest gains during the Trump economic expansion are the most harmed by reversing the immigration enforcement that produced it.

And let us not forget the millions of legal immigrants who obeyed our laws, respected our nation's sovereignty, waited patiently and did everything our country asked of them – they too are made victims of the Democrats' pursuit of open borders.

Without enforcement of our immigration laws, our borders become meaningless. And if our borders are meaningless, then America ceases to be a nation and instead becomes a vast international territory between Canada and Mexico. It is becoming increasingly clear that this is the ultimate objective of the left, and the only force that can stop them now is the American people at the ballot box.

Congressman Tom McClintock represents California's 4th Congressional District.


SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

BUST cont. from P. 12

Oscar Arredondo, 39, Sanger
Francisco Camarillo, 29, Madera
Juan Jimenez, 47, Madera
Simon Garcia, 62, Madera
Eulises Romero Soto, 29, Madera
Aaron Matthew Campos, 40, Paso Robles

Robles

Rafael Nunez, 26, Le Grand
Oscar Aguayo, 30, Madera
Michael Jimenez, 32, Chowchilla
Issa Lidia Silva, 21, San Bernardino
Higinio Montes, 24, Calexico
Bartolo Salinas, 46, Madera
Paula Ramirez, 35, Fresno
Suzanne Marie Barajas, 34, Madera
Ruben Frias, 57, Fresno
Alexis Jimenez, 24, Madera
Maria Hidalgo, 48, Madera
Mario Hernandez Ortega, 54, Madera



• Do you store plastic wrap in the refrigerator? Many home experts will tell you that storing plastic wrap in your fridge or freezer can help with the stickiness factor -- the plastic is easier to manipulate and get into place when cold, but still stays put. Try it and see! • Want delicious fried chicken crust but not the dripping oil? Baste chicken pieces with mayonnaise, then dredge in crushed cracker crumbs mixed with a bit of flour. Bake and enjoy. • Laundry soap -- liquids, powder and pacs -- should be added to the water before clothing. This allows the soap to disperse correctly throughout the water.

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

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2021 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 645-0634

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

CHANEY'S

 Lic. #899496
Bobcat Service
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call Beau
559-301-1613

CLARK'S

 559-645-1578
General & Custom Auto Service & Repairs
PERFORMANCE

Unlimited Concrete
 Lic. #1042108

 DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 call Jose Lopez
559-779-0401

Mike's Country Clippers Barber Shop
HAIRCUTS \$13
 Seniors Thursdays ONLY \$11!
439-2004
37184 AVE. 12 #104
 (behind Pizza Factory)

NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS
 All Makes & Models
J.H. Sanders Sales & Leasing
822-4500
 41453 Ave. 14 1/2
 Madera Ranchos
www.jhsanders.com

BEDROCK ENGINEERING
 A solid foundation for your next project
 Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting
INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!
 For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!
 10878 HWY 41 • 559-645-4849
www.bedrockeng.com

Bradley & Sons
 Lic. 414178
DRILLING & PUMP SYSTEMS
674-1663
same day service

Huckabee's
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 Lic. #837274
559-662-0336
559-438-8260
 Sales and Service - Free Estimates
 Duct Testing & Certification
 Locally owned and operated!

HIGH QUALITY GATE SYSTEMS

559-454-8060

TOUCH-OF-GREEN LANDSCAPE
 CA LIC. #934774
 commercial, residential and industrial landscaping
 call **559-242-6352**
info@TouchOfGreenLandscape.us

Create a gift from the heart

 Arts & Crafts Studio • Blaque • Wood Items
Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

INAPA B&M
Auto & Truck Parts
 Store hours:
 Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30
 Sat 8:00-4:00
 Sun 10:00-3:00
Madera Ranchos Plaza
37405 Ave. 12, Ste. 801
645-1570

PERSONAL TOUCH
 Lic. # B0008113
Landscaping & Gardening Services
 Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control
 Lawn & garden service • Maintenance
 Weekly & monthly service (not a licensed contractor)
 call Mag Anaya Jr.
559-974-1357
 Ranchos Resident

BUBBA'S WATER TRUCK SERVICE

 We Fill Holding Tanks Swimming Pools
 Potable Water Dust Control
 Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley
 Call Gina at 559-289-3401
 email BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR
 • Weekly Service
 • Equipment
 • Supplies
 • Residential
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial
 • Locally Owned
251-2514 351-1605 645-4799
 office cell after 5 p.m.

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.

		+		×		26
×			×		×	
		+		×		24
-			+		+	
		+		+		23
27			15		14	
1	2	4	5	6	6	7
8	9					

H.O. TIRES
 • TIRES
 • ALIGNMENTS
 • WHEEL & TIRE PACKAGES
 • LIFT & LOWERING KITS
 • FREE TIRE MAINTENANCE
559-831-2937

Aleman's Painting
 SINCE 1960
 Interior & Exterior
 Specializing in Repaints
 Rental, Residential & Commercial
 Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal
 Color Matching
 BONDED & INSURED LIC. #589140
559-974-2268

FERNWOOD GARDENS

 12090 FERNWOOD DR.
 MADERA RANCHOS
559-645-7677

Get Involved!

645-4001
 2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.
 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

for MORE sales tomorrow, call
RANDY BAILEY
Today!
(559) 645-0634
 The Ranchos Independent

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Regarding your upcoming challenges, the Aries Lamb should very quickly size things up and allow you to make the best possible use of whatever resources you have on hand. Good luck.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You rarely blame others for missteps that worked against you. But this time you need to lay out all the facts and insist that everyone acknowledge his or her share of the mistakes. Then start again.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to start making vacation plans. And don't be surprised by unexpected family demands. Maintain control. Be open to suggestions, but don't get bogged down by them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work with both your Moon Child and Crab aspects this week to keep both your creative and your practical sides balanced. Your intuition sharpens, giving you greater insight by the middle of the week.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat finally should have all the information needed to move on with a project. If not, maybe you'll want to give everything a new and more thorough check before trying to move on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Too much emotional pain caused by someone you can't win over as a friend? Then stop trying to do so. You have other things you need to work on this week. Go to it, and good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time to reassess where and how your strengths can help you build, and where your weaknesses can hinder you. Remember to build on your strongest foundation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That personal matter that seemed so hard to deal with should be less confusing now. Don't rush. Let things happen easily, without the risk of creating even more puzzlement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Change continues to be a strong factor in many important areas. Keep on top of them, and you won't have to worry about losing control. A personal situation takes on a new look.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A business offer sounds intriguing. But if you don't check it out thoroughly, you could have problems. Take a set of questions with you when you attend your next meeting.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your self-confidence should be coming back. That's good news. But it might be a bit over the top right now, so best to let it settle down before you start making expensive decisions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your life, your decisions. Good enough. But be sure you have all the facts you need to put into the decision-maker mixing bowl and hope it will come out as it should.

ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING
645-0634

GRIN and BEAR IT



© North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

"One of your personalities has stolen the identity of one of your other personalities."

www.TheRanchos.com

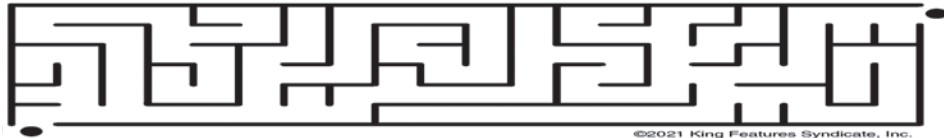
Born this Week

You find much of your creativity with new people who give you much to think about.

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

FUN PAGES

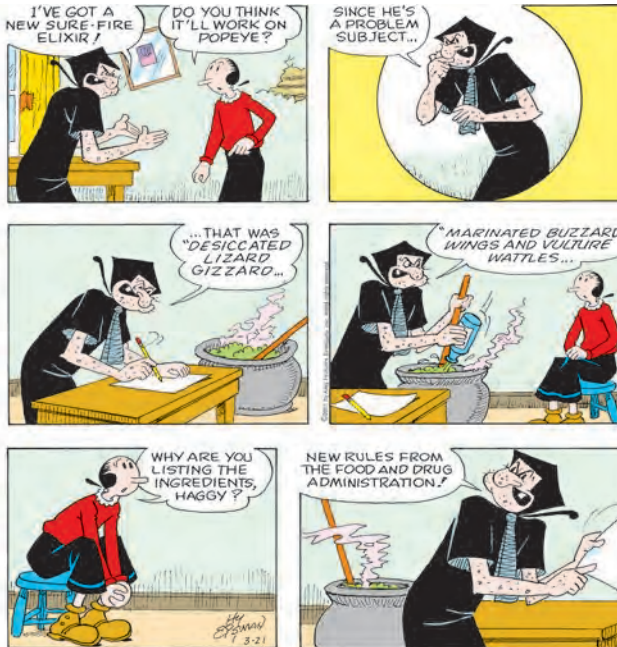
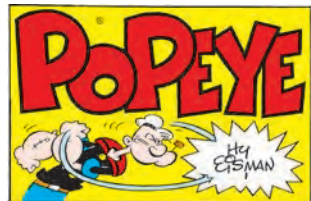
Kids' Maze



©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

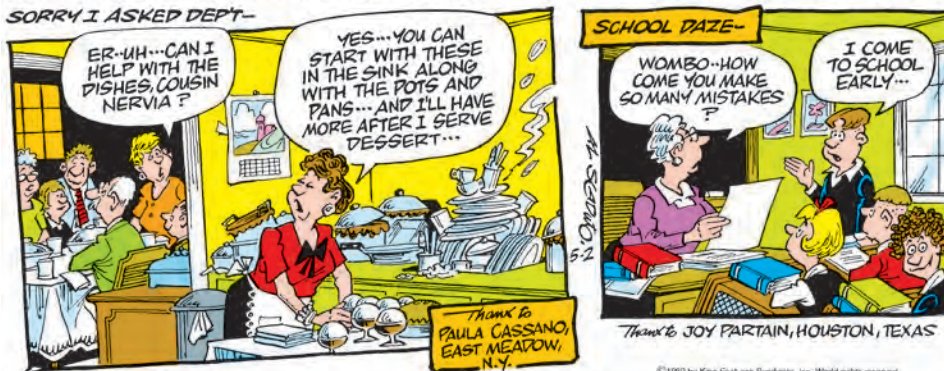
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



HEADS IN THE CLOUDS! With a little imagination, you should be able to pick out at least 15 people who have their heads in the clouds.

TIME OUT! One night, during a storm, lightning struck the Town Hall clock, sending the face of the clock to the ground, where it broke into three pieces. On examination, it was noted that the numbers on each piece added up to 26. Can you figure out how the face of the clock was broken?

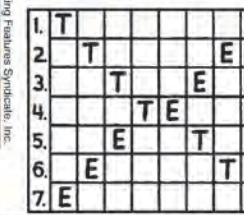
YOUR AGE IS! Did you know that you can tell how old a person is just by knowing what their shoe size is? Here's how:

1. Have the person write down his or her shoe size (forget half sizes).
2. Tell him to multiply the size by 2.
3. Have him add 5 to the result.
4. Next, he must multiply the sum by 50.
5. Now tell him to add the "magic number" 1748 to the product.
6. Finally, tell him to subtract the year of his birth from the previous sum.

You now ask him what number he is left with. You'll find that the last two digits will be the person's age on his birthday this year. (Each year the magic number is increased by 1. This year, 1998 is 1748; next year, 1999 is 1749, etc.)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the seven eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left.

The letters in the two anagram words, for each definition, must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Definitions: | Anagrams: |
| 1. Fellow member | meat + tame |
| 2. Liquids separator | nits + rare |
| 3. Cashew casing | shun + tell |
| 4. Appreciative | gulf+ tear |
| 5. People mover | rove + tale |
| 6. Easily broken | date+ lice |
| 7. Large animal | neat + help |

Time limit: 2 min. each.

1. Teammate 2. Strainer
3. Nutsell 4. Grateful
5. Elevator 6. Delicate
7. Elephant

Wishing Well

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

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● — PEPPERS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: Also Known as Sweet Peppers

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Banana | Chili | Hot | Sergeant |
| Black | Cone | Jalapeño | Stuffed |
| Cayenne | Green | Melagueta | Tabasco |
| Cherry | Habanero | Red | |

©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: Where is the world's most active volcano located?
2. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV drama invented the catchphrase "The truth is out there"?
3. MATH: What is the total of numbers 1-100 added consecutively (1+2+3, etc.)?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do the 100 folds in a chef's hat represent?
5. LITERATURE: In which Harry Potter book does the Whomping Willow make its first appearance?
6. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries in Africa have only four letters in their names?
7. MOVIES: In the animated movie "Up," to which scouting group does Russell belong?
8. ARCHITECTURE: Who designed the famous Fallingwater House in Pennsylvania?
9. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "hyper" mean?
10. MEDICAL: What is the common ailment classified in medical terms as singultus?

Answers

1. Hawaii (Mauna Loa)
2. "The X-Files"
3. 5,050
4. 100 ways to cook an egg
5. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"
6. Three: Chad, Mali and Togo
7. Wilderness Explorers
8. Frank Lloyd Wright
9. Over, excessive
10. Hiccups

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Wildfire Safety Measure Offered to Our SEMCU Residents



If you would like this done, please call 559-363-9095 to sign up for FREE discing of your residential lot and boundary. Or email info@semcu.org and include your name, phone number, address and any specific instructions.

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

Our next meeting is Monday, May 17 at 6 p.m.

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

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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