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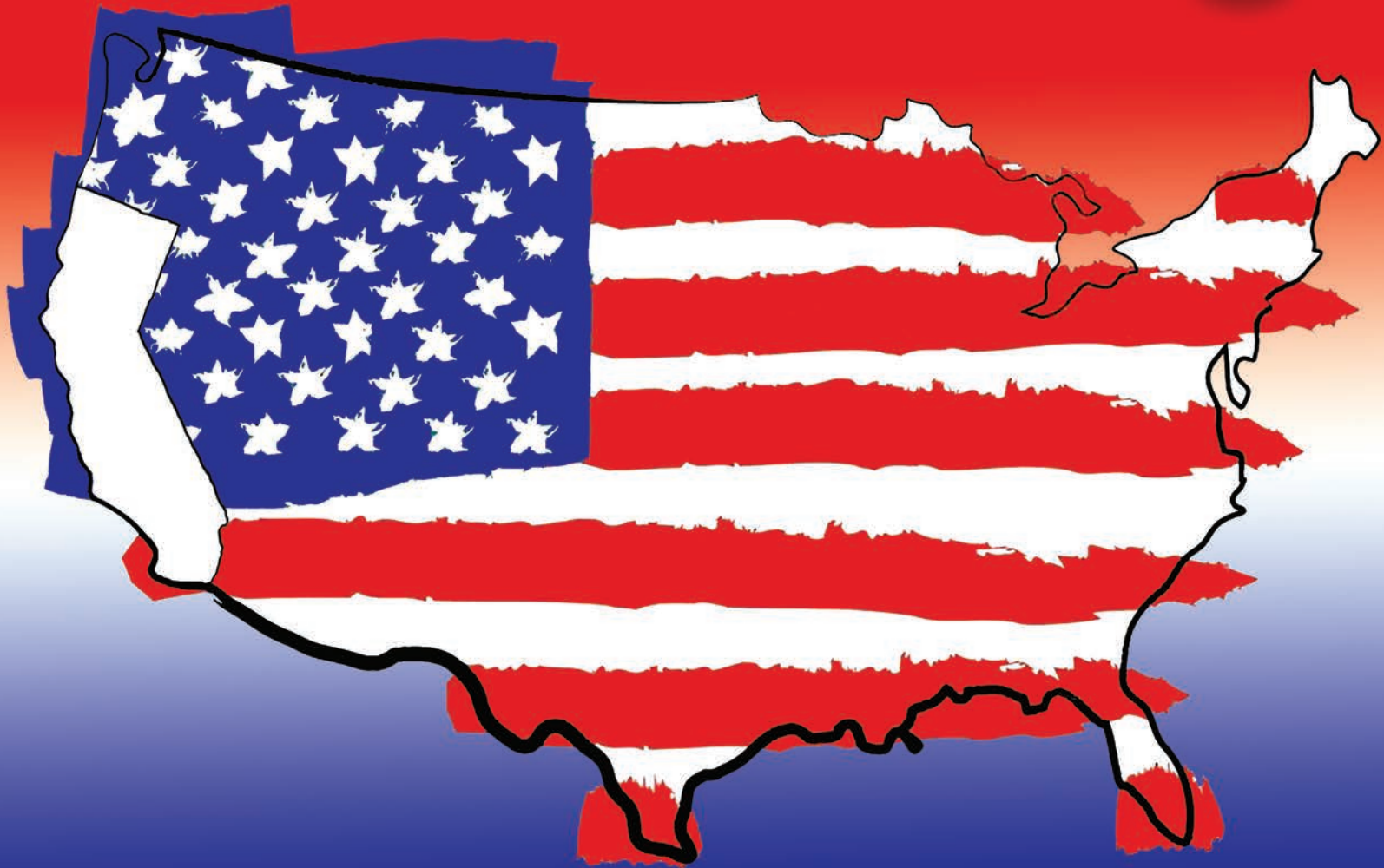
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50¢

What's Missing?



California stumbles toward leaving the United States

By Randy Bailey

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Back in January of this year, Reuters/Ipsos took a poll of 500 Californians, asking how they felt about California seceding from the United States and forming its own country. Almost one third (32 percent) said they supported the idea, an increase of 12 points from when the same question was asked back in 2014. What changed? The election of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States. Reuters/Ipsos made it clear that "... a significant portion of those residents ... are Democrats who vehemently oppose the 45th president."

"Calexit" is what the movement is being called.

Fashioned after "Brexit," the catchphrase coined after Britain announced its intention – and later successful departure – from the European Union, Calexit, the concept, has been around for a while. But it has taken on a new life in recent days, specifically after the latest attempt at a ballot initiative was submitted to the State of California on Thursday, Aug. 17, calling for a federal constitutional convention to facilitate California's ability to leave the union. Once state Attorney General Xavier Becerra gives the latest attempt an official title and summary, its supporters will then have 180 days to gather nearly 600,000 signatures from registered California voters in order to place it on the 2018 ballot. If that happens, it will be the third potential ballot initiative that has sought to be placed before California's voters since Trump's election. The second one, which is actively seeking signatures now, wants the governor to negotiate more auton-



omy from the federal government. The first one has been abandoned by its supporters.

In California's history, there have been more than 200 unsuccessful attempts to chop, slice or carve the Golden State into something other than its original configuration.

A Closer Look

If the second initiative were to be approved by voters in November 2018, it would be followed by a special election in March 2019 asking voters what they wanted to do. If independence from the union was chosen, that's when California's trouble would begin.

The U.S. constitution has no provision for a state to secede. Calexit, by virtue of what it's attempting to accomplish, would require an amendment to the U.S. constitution. An amendment to the constitution requires approval by two-thirds of congress and three-quarters of the states. Daunting odds.

Hence the latest ballot initiative.

That initiative is the brainchild of a group called "Cal Con Con" – California Calls for a Constitutional Convention. They are seeking to go straight to the process of changing the U.S. constitution, and not just for the sake of

California. Language in the proposal calls for changes that would give any state "... a clear and reasonable path [for] complete independence."

But the group has an ulterior motive and wants to add a few more items to their constitutional change shopping list, including references to making federal taxes "negotiable," equal pay and clean energy clauses. And then there's recognizing "nature's rights."

"Human Community Laws of Nature" is a new section they want added to the constitution, declaring, "... that Nature is a freely living being with inalienable rights and that no individual, business entity, government, 'owner,' or organization shall inflict violence or servitude on her."

California's Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst's Office determined that major economic and budgetary impacts for state and local governments would be the likely result of California "nationhood."

Russian Connection?

Yes California, a secession group, was led by Marcus Ruiz Evans, who calls himself the founder of the Calexit movement, and has been active in the secessionist movement since 2012. His first attempt at putting an initiative on the ballot (the first of the three mentioned above) has been pulled, thanks in no small part to claims of Calexit being linked to Russia. Louis Marinelli was the co-leader of Yes California with Evans and at present is teaching English in Russia, but he formerly was the interim chairman of the California Na-

Please see CALEXIT on P. 12

2017 Madera Ranchos Property Values Available from County Online

Gary Svanda, Madera County Assessor, has released the Assessed Value Notices for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for all properties in Madera County. They are now available online and Ranchos property owners can review their value notices at assr.parcelquest.com/Home. The notice can be searched by the street address or assessor's parcel number, which can be

found in the upper right-hand corner of a property tax bill.

Posting the value notices online allows the assessor to make assessed values available for all properties while saving tens of thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs. Property owners without access to the County website can obtain a printed "Value by Notice" four

ways:

1. *By calling the Assessor's Office at 559-675-7710;*
 2. *By sending a written request to: Madera County Assessor's Office 200 W. 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637;*
 3. *By visiting the Assessor's Office; or*
 4. *By email at Assessor@co.madera.ca.gov.*
- "Over the past three years, Madera

County has grown in overall assessable value by more than \$1 billion," Assessor Svanda said. "The 2017-2018 tax roll stands at \$13,495,073,944, the highest value ever reported for the County. Housing values comprise 50 percent of assessed value with ag land contributing approximately 35 percent and commercial/ industrial 15 percent."

2017 LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL HAWKS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	7 p.m.	at Firebaugh	Sept. 29	7 p.m.	vs. Patterson
Sept. 1	7 p.m.	at Mendota	Oct. 13	7 p.m.	vs. Sierra
Sept. 8	7 p.m.	vs. Escalon	Oct. 20	7 p.m.	at Washington Union
Sept. 15	7:30 p.m.	at Fowler	Oct. 27	7 p.m.	at Kerman
Sept. 22	7 p.m.	vs. Corcoran	Nov. 3	7 p.m.	vs. Chowchilla

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New Members

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Sally Moreno

New Members

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**Janet Sanchez
El Rinconcito Mexican Grill**

8/17

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



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Dear Editor:

On August 8, 2017 the Madera Board of Supervisors held a scheduled meeting to unanimously agree to allow a public employee to negotiate up to a \$500,000 loan for Madera Ranchos water system ratepayers; that those 1,000 ratepayers would be liable for and the public employee would use whatever means necessary to collect that loan payment from the MD-10a ratepayers.

The purpose of this new arrangement is so that the Public Works department and our supervisor, Brett Frazier, could abide by the majority desire of the 1,000 ratepayers of MD-10a to make a new feasibility study regarding the replacement of the known leaking water main pipes in the system and to install the

California state-mandated meters on all municipal water recipients. The existing, and already paid for, feasibility study done on MD-10a leaking water pipe replacement that concluded in 2009, I believe, was not accepted by, I suppose, those same majority 1,000 MD-10a ratepayers. The Madera County cost on that project would have been \$15.5 million to the 1,000 ratepayers and evidently that was too much.

The new feasibility study will do a comparative price evaluation to the 2009 existing study to see if the price can be cut down by replacing the “at rear of lots” existing leaking water main pipes by various methods, including running a rubber ball through the existing pipes and breaking them under the hard pan and replacing these 10-in. to 4-in. pipes with adequate pipes that I am sure would maintain the existing pressure we now have with this graduated pipe system.

Another option discussed at this BOS meeting on August 8 was to use a backhoe to dig up the existing pipes and replace them and cover them up. Consider a backhoe going into a thousand backyards – some that do not have gates large enough for this – where there is existing landscaping to include large tree roots, out buildings and pavement work, to mention only the obvious, along with a thousand fences that a backhoe would drive through.

Consider why all new residential construction developments like Riverstone

have their water pipes down the street in the easement. Madera County, as part of their contract obligation to MD-10a ratepayers with the multimillion-dollar state grant, did in fact replace some of the known leaky pipes down the roadway with laterals going to the individual parcels. This is normal construction practice because it is the easiest way to get the work done, which means less labor and damage and less cost than going through 1,000 fences and yards to do who know what, where and when. Madera County does not even have accurate maps showing where the existing original leaking pipes are. Ever notice how it takes five trucks or more and many men to find the shut-off valves when pipes blow up out here in the Madera Ranchos?

Once again, it appears necessary for the ratepayers and property owners of Madera Ranchos and MD-10a to challenge the mismanagement and foolish spending of our money with no input by the 1,000 ratepayers, rather than only the chosen ones that represent all 1,000 of us to the Madera County employees as they have for years.

I ask every person that pays the 60 bucks a month, or so, for water at your home or Webster School or business on the MD-10a water system, to attend the August 29 meeting put on by our supervisor, Brett Frazier, at the Middle School between 6 p.m. and when they throw us out.

For the record, with the 1996 state bond money and subsequent Madera County BOS/BOD running MD-10a, part of our monthly payment was to replace the miles of leaking pipes over a 20-year period. That did not happen. Some pipes were replaced – who knows how much – but the money to replace those known leaking pipes was stacked up until Madera County employees took \$1.5 million of that money to do the Dublin Well fiasco outside of the MD-10a service area, negatively impacting our neighbors with private wells, and never told the MD-10a ratepayers except for those few special people that keep telling the supervisors and temporary employees of the county what the rest of us 960 ratepayers

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

Send your letters to:

email:

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Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

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Being Entitled to Entitlements

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



My Father always taught me that old adage to never look a gift horse in the mouth. I was raised to be grateful for what people give me, especially if it was something I had asked for in the first place. I cannot think of a single instance where someone handed me something out of the goodness of their heart, and my response was, "Oh, how nice ... but I would rather have it in fuchsia."

My Dad once told me the story of a disastrous lunch he had with one of his co-workers. My Dad had asked his colleague if he would like to accompany him to lunch one afternoon. At first, the man politely declined, saying he needed to save money,

but after my Father offered to treat, he happily accepted. All was well until my Dad told him he was taking him to his favorite deli. Apparently this man was not a big fan of sandwiches, so he

asked if they could go somewhere else. Slightly irritated, my Dad suggested a little Mexican place he knew with great lunch specials, but no, he just didn't feel like Mexican that day. Maybe he should have just declined the offer and eaten the lunch he brought from home. I don't know about you, but when someone offers to buy my lunch for me, unless I am allergic and will die, I smile and find something on the menu that I can eat. Pickiness is the luxury of the person picking up the check. But obviously this guy wasn't raised by a man like my father.

When my desk finally succumbed to old age, I asked around to friends and family to see if anyone had a desk they were no longer using, and as luck would have it, my aunt did indeed. It was bigger than I would have wanted and it did

not go with the color scheme of my apartment, but it was, as requested, a desk. So there was nothing else to say other than thank you so much and when can I pick it up? But that is not always the common behavior in these situations, and I find that disheartening.

You find this lack of gratitude and sense of entitlement everywhere and in all situations. For example, I was in line at Walmart one day when the woman in front of me was yelling at the cashier because her food stamps card

didn't cover her beer. The poor cashier, who has no control over what is and is not covered by food stamps, had to just stand there and listen as this twit continued to make a spectacle of herself. This person is expecting groceries on the government's dime and yet is incensed that alcohol isn't included in the package? But, how is she supposed to get drunk and ignore her children if the government doesn't provide her beer, too? I know several people accepting food stamps regardless of what might not be included. She should have just been grateful that there is a program available that puts groceries in her home and that she is eligible, because not everyone is and many people go hungry. Rather than complaining, how

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

I don't know about you, but when someone offers to buy my lunch for me, unless I am allergic and will die, I smile and find something on the menu that I can eat. Pickiness is the luxury of the person picking up the check.

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

about being thankful that because of the tax payers, whom you are holding up in line with your little tirade. It is possible for your children to eat rather than starve. Get hammered on your own dime; I shouldn't have to pay for it.

In another example, a pregnant friend of mine has been asking her friends and family to donate an infant car seat to her. Several people have come to her rescue and offered her their infant seats that are no longer needed, but she keeps declining. Why? Well, one wasn't the style she liked. Apparently she likes the type with a base that stays in the car so she can just lift the carrier out for convenience. It sure is convenient that you don't have to spend 50 bucks of your own money on the thing, but I guess she didn't think of that. She declined the next one because it wasn't the right color. She was having a little boy and just didn't want him in a pink car seat. I remind you, what you have asked for is a free car seat ... if you want to shop for a car seat

then you are going to have to spend money. Either show a little gratitude that your friends are willing to give you something they could easily sell, or pry your wallet open and buy it yourself.

This general feeling of entitlement is a poison that is spreading throughout our nation. Somewhere someone got the idea that they were owed something just for having the courage to be alive. You are owed only what you earn. You work for a living, you are owed a paycheck, and when you pay for goods or services then you are owed that. If you ask for something free, like a desk or a car seat or groceries, if you are lucky enough to receive it you should feel grateful, not entitled. You should be thankful, not critical. And for the love of God, you need to come to grips with the fact that if you are, in fact, a beggar, you have forfeited your right to be a chooser.

This column originally appeared in the August 2012 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor

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Super School Lunches



Well, school has started – where did the time go? Vacation is over, but summer won't be over until Sept. 22. It is still hot – I think it was 101 today. As I've said so many times, the best thing about summer is I know winter is on its way. Yes, I like the fog and rain.

For you families with school children that are up in the morning trying to get them fed and lunches fixed, I have seen the menu for the local cafeterias and some of them look quite tasty. For those days your child doesn't want to eat in the cafeteria, there is always the box lunch from home. When we were in school, most everyone ate in the cafeteria.

The food was excellent. It was cooked on the premises and almost like home cooking. The only time I remember taking my lunch was the three years we lived in San Francisco during WWII. I can still remember my mom's bologna sand-

... a piece of left over pizza – yes, I know kids (and adults) that will eat cold pizza. Or a spaghetti sandwich – yes, spaghetti! Butter two slices of bread, put the spaghetti on one and top with the other and Voila! A spaghetti sandwich. I know adults that will eat that!

wiches. I don't know what was so special about them, but I loved them. Thinking back it just may have been the bologna that we bought at a meat market. It was a stick that you sliced at home and it had a wrapping on it that you had to peel off before eating it. We didn't have the plastic wrap or the sandwich bags we have today. Everything was wrapped in wax paper, even potato chips and cookies. And did you get an orange in your lunch? Mama always "scored" it (run the tip of a paring knife in a circle around the top and strips down the sides) so it would be easier to peel.

Have you had trouble in the past with someone stealing your child's sandwich out of his lunch bag? I have the solution! There is a site on the internet for Anti-theft Sandwich bags. After looking at them, I can understand why no one would want to eat the

sandwich they just stole. This sandwich bag is made to look like the sandwich in it is all moldy. I know some kids that would think it a blast for someone to try to steal their sandwich.

Sandwich Ideas

There are so many combinations available today for sandwiches. There isn't just white or brown bread; there is pita bread, mini croissants, sandwich rolls (cut to the size your child can handle), and tortillas for wraps. Or

how about peanut butter on raisin bread? And so many different kinds of fillings. Not just bologna, ham or cheese, or combinations thereof. My mom would take the left-over Sunday roast and put it through the food grinder (they didn't

have food processors in those days), added Miracle Whip – of course you could add mayo – and use it as a spread for sandwiches.

I love a good tuna fish sandwich, but I want to eat it as soon as it is made, because I don't like to let it sit and make the bread soggy. When I worked, I would fix the sandwich as usual, only not put the tuna on. I would put the tuna in a separate container then put it on the bread when I was ready to eat lunch.

I was on the internet looking for ideas for this article and I found some excellent sites. I Googled "school kids lunches" and "school kids sandwiches."

Having trouble getting your child to eat a good whole wheat bread because he or she only wants white bread? How about using one slice of white and one slice of

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

whole wheat with a design on each. Put the two slices of bread together before putting in the filling, and using a cookie cutter, cut a design from the center of each slice. Then take the design from the brown slice and put it in the spot that was cut from the white bread and do the same with the white slice. At least you'll get them to eat half brown bread.

Or how about a wrap? Put a flour tortilla in the microwave for about 20 seconds so it will be easier to roll. Using your choice of fillings: lettuce that has been sliced very thin, grape tomatoes, sliced olives, red bell pepper that has been chopped, grated cheese, and sliced turkey or ham lunch meat. Spread the tortilla with ranch dressing and layer each ingredient on half

of the tortillas. Fold in each side of the tortilla and roll the wrap from the end with the filling, making sure to tuck in the filling as you roll. You can cut the roll in half if you wish to make it easier to handle.

Sandwich on a Stick?

Or how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sandwich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat. Slide onto a skewer with other foods your child will eat. Olives, pickles, grape tomatoes or a piece of lettuce. You might want to add a little

... how about a wrap? Put a flour tortilla in the microwave for about 20 seconds so it will be easier to roll. Using your choice of fillings: lettuce that has been sliced very thin, grape tomatoes, sliced olives, red bell pepper that has been chopped, grated cheese, and sliced turkey or ham lunch meat.

container of ranch dressing for dipping. Also, I would suggest not using the skewers that look like big toothpicks – don't think the school would appreciate a child playing with them after they eat their lunch. I've seen packages of the sticks used for candy apples in the grocery store that might work better than the skewer.

Who says lunch has to be a sandwich? There are all kinds of things you can use for box lunches. How about a thermos of warm leftover stew or soup from the night before dinner? Or a piece of left over pizza – yes, I know kids (and adults) that will eat cold pizza. Or a spaghetti sandwich – yes, spaghetti! Butter two slices of bread, put the spaghetti on one and top with the other and Voila! A spaghetti sandwich. I know adults that will eat that!

I hope I have been able to give you some ideas for lunch boxes or bags. And I didn't even get into the desserts available. There all kinds of prepackaged cookies and some just 100 calories, and there are all of the prepackaged gelatins, puddings and fruit that are available. If you are afraid to send one of your good spoons (I know they can be tossed with the wrappers), why not purchase a package of disposable spoons so you don't need to worry?

This article originally appeared in the August 2010 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor

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To Keep or Not to Keep

Experience creates perspective that can be attained no other way. For instance, how we think about our stuff. Years ago, my sister-in-law had minutes to choose what to grab before their home burned down in the Santa Barbara Tea Fire. I think about the families that transition from home-owners to refugees when civil war or terrorism forces them out. When my great-grandparents immigrated to the United States, a large wooden trunk held their belongings.

“Stuff used to be rare and valuable,” says Paul Graham in a thought-provoking essay called *Stuff*, (www.paulgraham.com/stuff.html). “Stuff has gotten a lot cheaper, but our attitudes toward it haven’t changed correspondingly. We overvalue stuff.”

Most of you won’t have dramatic experiences like the ones listed above, so what shapes your perspective on stuff? How do you decide what to keep and what to let go of? Here are some tips from the perspective of what not to keep.

Don’t keep things that don’t bring you joy. This is Marie Kondo’s mantra and I think it’s valid. Of course, there are exceptions, like divorce papers and other things you need to keep whether you like them or not. But, overall, it’s a good place to start.

When my mother-in-law recently passed away, the only things we quickly let go of were the items related to her cancer — pills, equipment, etc. Sometimes my clients want to hang on to everything related to a deceased loved one. Ask yourself, does this bottle of pills, or even this picture, bring happy memories or sad? Keep the things that bring you joy.

Don’t keep things you’re not using. So often drawers and cabinets are so full of stuff not being used, that you can’t find what you really need. But, when you look into the drawer, you convince yourself you need it all! One trick is to take a drawer or shelf and empty the contents into a box. Keep the box nearby, but only return an item to the drawer or shelf if you’ve pulled it out and used it. What’s left in the box after a reasonable amount of time can go.

The same idea works with the clothes in your closet by turning your hangers backwards and only turning them the right way after you’ve worn something. If you’re not using a

good deal of your wardrobe (too big, too small, not comfortable), stop crowding the items you do use.

For paper files, DVDs, VHS movies (yes, I know you have them), try attaching brightly colored sticky notes after you’ve used/viewed them. After 6-12 months, you’ll clearly see which have been used and which haven’t. Let the unused go.

Don’t keep things just because you spent a lot of money on them. This is tough for a lot of people, but think about it. How do you feel every time you see that item — regret, frustration, guilt? Probably. And it’s taking up valuable space so it’s costing you more. Let it go.

Don’t keep things out of obligation. Most of us wouldn’t want our belongings to become a burden to our family members when we’re gone. If, after the passing of loved ones, your house feels more like a storage facility than a home, you have permission to let some things go. Whatever’s stashed out in the garage is probably there because it’s not a favorite or there’s simply no room. Offer it to family and what’s left can be sold and the funds donated to your loved one’s favorite charity. That’s much more honoring than letting things deteriorate in a garage or storage unit.

An exception to the obligation rule is this: If you receive a gift from someone that will look for it and be hurt if he/she doesn’t see it at your place, and you value the relationship enough to have it out whenever he/she is there, then the relationship trumps the discard. But, if it’s sitting in a closet, never to see the light of day again, let it go.

My mother-in-law’s passing influenced my own perspective on stuff. Her belongings represent her tastes and interests, but I find myself most drawn to the photos and things she had written down. Above and beyond these are the memories I have of her subtle wit, her competitive spirit during our card games, her love for babies and years of service in the church nursery, and as my sister-in-law says, her super-power of coziness. I will miss you Mom Mac.

Daniel G Amen, M.D., clinical neuroscientist and psychiatrist says, “The most precious treasures we have in life are the images we store in the memory banks of our brains. The sum of these stored experiences is responsible for our sense of personal identity and our sense of connectedness to those around us.”

Feel free to add as many precious treasures as you’d like to the storage in your memory bank.

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

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**Give youth a break.
They can't know
what they don't know.**

By Betty Van Valkenburg

What many (not all, of course) younger folks don't realize and haven't been taught is that this nation, although in serious decline, has provided the greatest standard of living and liberty that the world has known. So they aren't grateful for it and don't understand the principles of limited government instituted specifically to keep us safe from external aggression and protect the rights of the individual against government excesses, allowing us the freedom to prosper and follow our dreams as we see fit.

Instead, sadly, many are taught the opposite – when taught history at all – that our constitutional government and free-enterprise capitalism are evil, and that – through some overly twisted logic – more government intervention is the answer to all problems. They are accustomed to a

... Benjamin Franklin cautioned that the framers had given us a republic – if we could keep it.

culture where, increasingly, intact families are passé, dependency is an accepted way of life, traditional values are ridiculed, reason and civility are gone, God is dead and hate-filled rants and violence are commonplace.

Older folks remember when the encroachment on individual liberty was advancing slowly and we spoke out against it. Fast forward a decade or three, and younger generations who have lived entire lives under an increasingly socialistic/paternalistic government don't miss the freedoms they never had and so are conditioned to trade personal freedom for dependence.

But wait – that doesn't let us older folks off the hook. Many of us have also bought into government largesse as a way of life. Others of us who know the pitfalls of an overreaching government haven't taken the time to teach our children and grandchildren about the blessings of liberty and about the sacrifices made to secure the freedoms that we seem to regard so lightly.

Younger generations have every reason to believe the lie of a socialist paradise. They've lived during a time when education, entertainment, government, media,

unions and other sectors of society have promoted increasing government control over our lives in the form of socialism, progressivism or paternalism. They are told that their rights include free health care, free food, free education, free love, free housing and freedom from being offended – and that anyone who disagrees with them is a hate-monger.

Now, with the groundwork laid to make it acceptable and even desirable, socialism is easy to sell, thus Bernie Sanders' popularity. After all, exercising freedom by taking care of oneself is hard, and the lure of "free" taxpayer-funded "help" is hard to resist, even at the price of government control that comes with every proposed program. Conversely, buying votes with taxpayer-funded "compassionate" giveaway programs is impossible for most politicians to resist. Little by little, drip by drip, personal sovereignty has been traded for empty promises.

Those whose education has left them ignorant of history, who rely on social media and talking heads for news and opinions, and who are immersed in the "gimme" and "bite-the-hand-that-feeds-you" culture, increasingly follow leaders promising more of the same. Then, not finding the socialist

utopia they've been promised, the believers become increasingly more dissatisfied with its failures but blame those whom they've been conditioned to

hate (conservatives, Republicans, old folks, white folks, black folks, rich folks, poor folks, whoever and whatever) and demand even more socialist intervention in their lives.

Perhaps we should tell our children and grandchildren about nations that endured the boot of real socialism and communism, and about the misery endured by its citizens. Venezuela is a living example of the miseries of socialism, not the least of which is the lack of toilet paper! That ought to get their attention.

Soon after ratification of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin cautioned that the framers had given us a republic – if we could keep it. That was his warning to be ever vigilant in preserving constitutionally protected freedoms against those who would usurp them. Others warned that we would fall from within. Let's take those warnings seriously and do all in our power to preserve liberty for all.

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

CALEXIT cont. from P. 2

tional Party. That political organization's primary goal was California's secession from the U.S. While in Moscow last fall, Marinelli got involved in a pro-secession conference backed by the Kremlin. Although he and Evans saw nothing wrong with their involvement, donors to their group began dropping like flies out of fear of being associated with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Evans eventually resigned as vice president of Yes California, citing Marinelli's Russia ties. Claiming they had become a distraction, Evans determined the connections were killing the organization's fundraising. Evans was quoted as saying, "People got scared. They got spooked by what they saw on the news and pulled out."

In retrospect, two campaign committees that had been associated with this first initiative attempt reported that they had raised absolutely no money for the project. Further, it ultimately was unclear how many signatures had actually been collected, or whether *any* had been. This initiative sought to remove language from California's constitution classifying the state as "... an inseparable part of the United States of America, and the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land."

After the incident, Marinelli, although still active in the California secession movement, announced that he intended to seek permanent residence in Russia. After the split with Marinelli, Evans said that the leader of the new group is British-born Clare Hedin, a "sound healer" who lectures at San Francisco State University and is a singer-songwriter.

Another Player

Another player in the game, although taking a different tack, is Jed Wheeler. He's the vice-chairman of the left-leaning California National Party and agrees with Evans that as an independent nation California could keep more of its money that at present is going to Washington; it could also call its own shots on topics like immigration and healthcare. He thinks the answer is to form a political party of secessionists, thereby having favorable politicians in place for the long haul instead of just a quick fix like a ballot initiative. His greatest fear is that a quick fix would undermine the whole pro-secession political party. The California National Party has taken no position on the 2018 secession drive but Wheeler has indicated that he thinks the initiative is a loser.

Just to make things more interesting, Brit Nigel Farage, a huge proponent of Brexit in

Britain, and coincidentally an outspoken Donald Trump supporter, visited California talking of a plan to split the state right down the middle. Farage's plan would call for a "West California" that would encompass the coastal areas and "East California" that would be everything that's NOT on the coast. Most Californians find it amusing but pro-secessionists see it as a distracting move to take the emphasis off of their "serious" intent of state independence.

Jefferson?

Anyone who has driven north to Oregon is aware of yet another independence movement, but this one has roots stretching back to World War II. Signs pop up near the Oregon border proclaiming the state of Jefferson, "the 51st state."

The idea behind Jefferson is a handful of rural northern California counties and southern Oregon counties that are far away from Sacramento and Salem, respectively, and who feel those state capitols are not responsive to their needs. The idea started in 1941 and had begun to build steam when Pearl Harbor got attacked. National unity overshadowed the movement and it died on the vine – almost.

Jefferson proponents don't want secession, they want to carve out a new, 51st state that's more responsive to their lifestyle. A Jefferson proponent was heard to remark, "We want to add a star to the flag, not take one off."

A Contrary View

On the Tucker Carlson show on Fox, Victor Davis Hanson, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford, a professor at Fresno State and a lifelong Californian, was asked to respond to one of the Calexit supporters.

"Yes, well, it is unhinged. Because about 75 percent of the geography of California is red and we have these two Californians from San Diego ...

"[California is] where about 30 million people live. But if you were going to secede, all of the minerals, the oil, the agriculture is farmed or worked or mined by conservatives. And when they go, they are not leaving to spread California values. They are leaving because they have 13 percent income tax, the second highest sales tax, third highest gas tax and yet their schools are rated 46th in the country. And I think Forbes rated our freeways 49th in the country.

"So, we have one out of every four people in California who was not born in the United States. And we have 22 percent below the poverty level, one out of three on welfare. So, it is Mississippi in Massachusetts in one state. And people are leaving to get away from that."

Liberty High Cheer Boosters Hot Rod the Ranchos



Liberty High Cheer Boosters opened the door to even the RYL youth cheerleaders at their inaugural car show.



Fernwood Gardens provided part of the backdrop for the LHS Cheer Boosters' car show on Sunday, Aug. 13.



Chevys were well represented at the fundraiser that helped raise money for LHS cheerleaders. Approximately \$2,000 was raised.



Pontiacs were on hand as well as this Grand Prix will attest. The boosters are hoping to make the car show an annual event.



Corvette or T-bird? Why choose? How about one of each? The LHS Cheer Boosters' car show had over 50 cars on display.



Hurst Hardware also opened up its parking lot for the Cheer Boosters' show. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks raised the most money.



It's not a Thunderbolt, but still an exceptionally nice Ford Fairlane. Fords were in abundance at the inaugural car show.



Now HERE'S something you don't see every day. You don't see a lot of Studebaker pickups; you REALLY don't see them hot rodded.



The mouse that roared: The mighty Chevy small block. Booster spokeswoman Stacy Dewall said the consensus was "Do it again next year!"



From rat rods to full-on customs, not a bad show for something put together in about two weeks. Hopefully an annual Ranchos event is born.

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!

8/17

Senior Report

Seniors Want to Improve with Improv

By Patti Groh

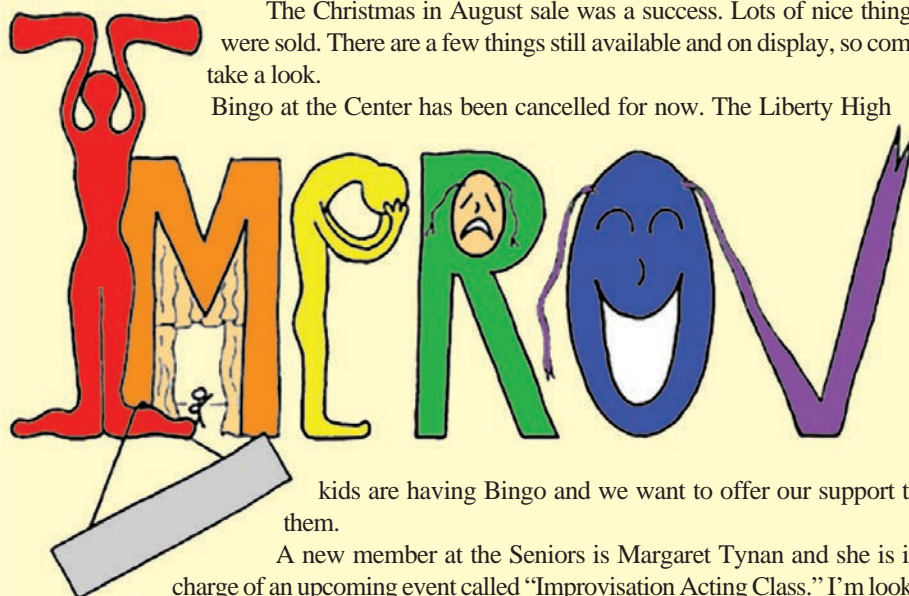
I am sitting here this morning, doors open, really enjoying the cool temperature. I see people out working in their yards, people out walking and it makes me happy. Please enjoy the cool mornings and be happy too.

Lots of activities here in the Ranchos and that includes the Seniors Center. The Hot August Night was not largely attended. If that type of event isn't of interest to you, please plan on attending our planning meetings, the third Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. We need your input. As Hot August Nights usually includes a car show, our twist on that was a display of Hot Wheels. It was kind of fun with the voting for Best of Show award going to the '32 Ford.

The No-Bake sale continues, but Sept. 2 will be our usual monthly sale with baked goods, the boutique and the garden. Unfortunately, the Treasure House (which sells the second-hand treasures) will not be open. We had a car go into the front that wiped out the support and it is unsafe at the present time. We are working on getting it repaired and will let everyone know when it is open again. In the meantime, please don't go through the caution tape.

The Christmas in August sale was a success. Lots of nice things were sold. There are a few things still available and on display, so come take a look.

Bingo at the Center has been cancelled for now. The Liberty High



kids are having Bingo and we want to offer our support to them.

A new member at the Seniors is Margaret Tynan and she is in charge of an upcoming event called "Improvisation Acting Class." I'm looking forward to it and hope many of you can attend. The class will be held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. and the class will be held for four consecutive Mondays: Sept. 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2 from 4 to 6 pm. There is no cost for the class.

The instructor is Mike Beevers, a member of the Valley Improvisational Players who performed and taught Improv throughout the San Joaquin Valley for over nine years. He studied with Gary Austin, founder of the Groundlings in Los Angeles.

Improvisation (Improv) is an art form that has many benefits for participants. It will help you discover, explore and express your creative self, find your inner comedian, share your ideas, meet interesting people and have lots of fun. Improv is popular in many senior centers throughout the country.

Improv is not only fun, but contributes to overall health. Experts say acting offers cognitive, emotional and physiological benefits because it stimulates activity in the brain. A Center for Aging, Health and Humanities study at George Washington University showed seniors involved in the arts have fewer falls, fewer doctor visits and fewer pills to take, and they are in better health than those who do not participate in the arts.

If you are looking for fun and an interesting way to spend the afternoon, join the class. Guests 50 years and above are invited. Call Ranchos/Hills Seniors, (559) 645-4864 to register.



Valley Improvisational Players member Mike Beevers is leading the Improv class at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. He has taught Improv throughout the San Joaquin Valley for over nine years and studied with Gary Austin, founder of the world-famous Groundlings in Los Angeles.

Back-to-School Traffic Pollution Could Cause Valley Ozone Spike

As kids head back to school, please reduce your vehicle emissions. With school back in session the Valley Air District is asking the public to reduce vehicle emissions by carpooling or walking their children to school and to refrain from vehicle idling during school pick-ups and drop-offs. Triple-digit temperatures and multiple wildfires may begin to impact Valley air quality over the weekend and into next week and the public's help is crucial in reducing the risk of spikes in ground-level ozone and exceeding federal air quality standards.

"Thanks to the vigilance and cooperation of residents and businesses throughout the Valley, we continue to see improvements in air quality every summer," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's air pollution control officer and executive director. "We urge the public to be even more mindful of their contributions to poor air quality during this crucial Back-to-School window."

Valley air quality has shown tremendous improvement over the past several summer ozone seasons compared to many years ago and has continually set new improvement records over the past 35 years. These improvements would not be possible without the success of the District's control strategy through its various attainment planning efforts, its robust incentive programs and the commitment from Valley stakeholders doing their part to reduce emissions as much as possible.

To ensure that these clean air trends continue during the Back-to-School season, the Valley Air District may call for the pub-

lic to take action when conditions such as increased emissions, high temperatures and stagnant air flow are favorable for ozone accumulation. Residents and businesses are urged to reduce vehicle emissions by driving less, refraining from idling their vehicles, carpooling or vanpooling and avoiding the use of drive-through services. Other measures, such as shifting ozone-creating activities, including lawn maintenance to early mornings, can also help offset rising ozone levels.

To help minimize pollution associated with school site vehicle idling, the District has partnered with hundreds of Valley schools through the Healthy Air Living Schools program. The program gives schools tools and materials to encourage parents to "Turn the Key & Be Idle Free" when picking up or dropping off students.

In addition, the program trains schools on how to use the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) and Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) Guidelines. Schools, parents or any Valley resident can check current, localized air quality by subscribing to RAAN, which links a computer or iPhone app to any air monitoring station in the District's Valley-wide network. Hourly, automated emails are delivered when air quality is changing. To explore these tools, visit www.valleyair.org/RAAN or www.valleyair.org/WAAQS. Residents can also check their daily air quality forecast by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463) plus they can visit the District on Facebook or Twitter by searching "Valley Air District."

Yosemite Fire Air "Very Unhealthy"

The U.S. Forest Service has determined the air quality for the Wawona community in Yosemite to be "very unhealthy" and will become "hazardous" as the South Fork fire in southern Yosemite National Park continues to grow. As of Saturday, Aug. 19 the fire was just under 3,000 acres and was only 10 percent contained. As a result, there was a mandatory evacuation order for the Wawona community of more than 1,000 people. One result of the Yosemite-area fire was increased unhealthy air for

Madera County, including the Ranchos.

Wawona is only approximately 1.5 miles from the fire and the U.S.

Forest Service has closed down areas of Highway 41 near there. Fire-fighting crews are on scene trying to get the fire under control but they don't expect containment of the fire until Sept. 3. Thunderstorms and winds in the area are exacerbating the situation.

Live fire updates are available daily from 209-379-5322 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.





IN GOOD HANDS
with Warren Parr

Car, Drive Thyself

Hello 93636,

Lots of training this month (Brake/Anti-Lock class, Hybrid High Voltage Class and GM Duramax Diesel Class). A spontaneous and very interesting discussion was generated during the Anti-Lock/Crash Avoidance portion of the Brake Class. I thought the Ranchos Independent readers might also be interested in our discussion so I did a little Google research to add some detail. I was surprised how many do not know about Google's autonomous vehicles.

In 2015, Google announced their 23 self-driving vehicles had driven over 1 million miles, encountered 200,000 stop signs, 600,000 traffic lights, and 180 million other vehicles. As of July 2015, those vehicles have been involved in 14 minor collisions on public roads. Based on Google's own accident reports, human drivers were at fault 13 times. Eight times Google's vehicles were rear-ended at a stop sign or traffic light. It was not until 2016 that a Google car's software caused a crash. That occurred in February, 2016 when a Google self-driving car attempted to avoid sandbags blocking its path. During the maneuver, it made contact with a bus.

In the United States annually, 42,000 people are killed and more than 2.7 million people are injured in traffic accidents. According to Corey Harper of Carnegie Mellon University (the Autonomous Vehicle Research hub), "... widespread implementation of blind-spot detection, lane departure and forward collision warning technologies could prevent or reduce the severity of as many as 1.3 million accidents, or about 25 percent of all crashes [annually in the U.S.]"

In the recent past, automotive manufacturers have focused on enhanced onboard safety features like anti-lock braking systems, air bags, side air curtains, vehicle to vehicle communications and structural designs to increase crash survivability. The industry's new focus is on "crash-avoidance technology" which attempts to avoid the crash all together.

It appears the original focus of self-driving vehicles was for use by the United States Military. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) annually sponsors competitions for American self-driving vehicles and pays cash awards. DARPA's mission is to gain revolutionary, high-payoff research that bridges the gap between fundamental discoveries (civilian) and military use. The first DARPA contest was held in the Mojave Desert on March 13, 2004.

In 2005 the team from Stanford University created the robotic vehicle Stanley which won the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge and its \$2 million prize. The team that developed Stanley consisted of 15 engineers working for Google.

Fast forward to May, 2014. Google revealed its new prototype driverless car, which has no steering wheel, gas pedal or brake pedal. The prototype began its testing on San Francisco Bay Area roads in 2015. Google's prototype cars have an estimated \$150,000 in Crash Avoidance Technology on board, including a \$70,000 LIDAR System. The range finder mounted on top of the vehicle is a Velodyne 64-beam laser. The Velodyne System allows the vehicle to create a detailed 3-D map of its environment. The system then takes those generated maps and combines them with high-resolution maps of the world, producing different types of data models that allow it to drive itself.

However, if you're betting on Silicon Valley stars like Google, Tesla and Uber with autonomous driving technology, don't. That's the key take-away from a new report. According to Navigant Research, whose newly released "leaderboard" report ranks players not just on their ability to make a car drive itself, but on their ability to bring that car to the mass market.

Ford – YES, Ford, that Detroit-based, 113-year-old giant – is winning the race to build the self-driving car, with General Motors running a close second. Renault-Nissan, Daimler and Volkswagen round out the top five. Google sits in sixth place with Tesla in twelfth.

Beyond the safety benefits of self-driving vehicles, the automotive industry is also looking at these vehicles to help meet the new tough U.S.

Please see **HANDS** on P. 15

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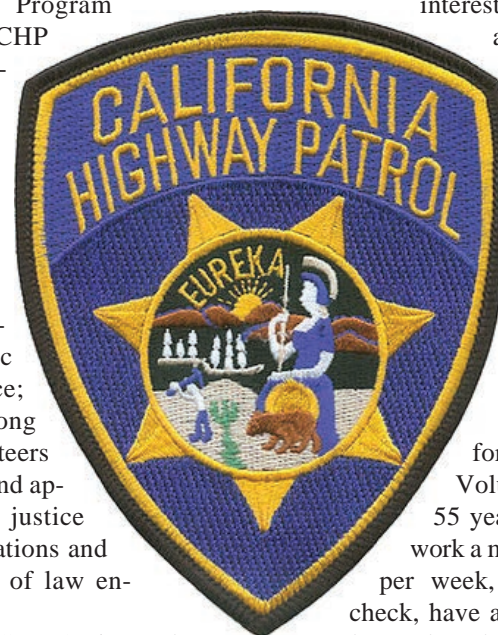
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CHP Looking for Senior Volunteers

The California Highway Patrol's Madera Office is looking for motivated citizens who want to give something back to their community as Senior Volunteers. Senior Volunteers are CHP employees who assist in both administrative and field capacities. The objectives of the CHP Senior Volunteer Program are: To assist the CHP in providing enhanced public service to the community; to provide an opportunity for senior citizens to make a definitive contribution toward improving public safety and service; and to instill among participating volunteers an understanding and appreciation of the justice system, human relations and ethics in the field of law enforcement.



The duties of CHP Senior Volunteers will include administrative functions, such as filing, data entry, photocopying, answering phones and assisting the Watch Officer at the front desk. Field functions will include working at community events, directing traffic, surveys in high-traffic locations/school zones, deploy radar trailers and shuttle vehicles/equipment. Senior Vol-

unteers drive marked CHP cars in uniform while performing field duties. Volunteers attend shift briefings and occasionally ride along with officers to learn and assist as an additional set of eyes in search of violators.

"We are interested in citizens who are interested in public service and effecting change in their community," Lieutenant Kevin Clays, Commander of the CHP, Madera Area said. "Volunteers will find working with the California Highway Patrol extremely rewarding and fun."

The requirements for being a CHP Senior Volunteer includes being 55 years and older, able to work a minimum of four hours per week, pass a background check, have a good driving record and complete the CHP Senior Volunteer training program.

Citizens interested in the program may call Sergeant Darren Long (Program Coordinator) at 559-675-1025 or email him at DLong@chp.ca.gov. Additionally, they may call Tina Keyser at 559-675-1025 or email her at Rkeyser@chp.ca.gov. Interviews will be conducted in September of 2017.

HANDS cont. from P. 14

CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards. Self-driving vehicles do not speed or drive with a heavy foot, do not get lost and can avoid traffic delays by adjusting their course. These qualities make for a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

Another advantage of a self-driving vehicle is you can send it home after it drops you off at work. No more parking lot fees or, even worse, parking meters. Also, since it's home, it's available for use. It's estimated the average family will need less vehicles when one of them is a self-driving vehicle. That means less California licenses/registration fees, not to mention fewer vehicles to insure.

In 2014, Nathaniel Fairfield, Google's principal engineer, used Google's prototype vehicle to provide his old friend, who is legally blind, the first driverless ride on a public road which was not accompanied by a test

driver or police escort.

With self-driving vehicle technology, age or physical disabilities may no longer be a barrier to mobility. Just science. Can't wait to get one of these in the shop. I think I'll add a gas pedal to mine.

That's all for now. Hope it was as fun and informative to you as it was to me.

As always, I'm looking for interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have any recommendations, suggestions or questions regarding a vehicle or the automotive industry in general, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook Complete Car Care or text 907-7661.

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The Bookshelf

Successful Programs and Big Changes in Store for Madera Ranchos Library

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library just finished up another successful Summer Reading Program. It was so much fun to see the excitement for reading and all of the attendees at our weekly events. I especially enjoyed our Ice Cream Social this year and the building activities that we were able to do. We would like to congratulate Annabelle Koop for winning our Grand Prize, a full year subscription to a monthly Spangler Science box.



Annabelle completed her reading log each week. Great job reading Annabelle, congratulations! Also, congratulations in the toddler winning group: Judah Totten and his Robot Factory. Keep up the great work Judah.

We also want to remember to thank everyone who makes this program possible. Thank you to Friends of Ranchos Library, Educational Employees Credit Union and Ranchos/Hills Seniors for your generous donations to fund this program. Also thank you to all of my amazing volunteers, we simply could not do any of this without you.

We would like to remind everyone that we have resumed our Preschool Story Time. Mrs. Maxfield's story time is on Thursdays at 11 a.m. Ranchos Library Story Time is a fun, read-play-learn activity session that is customized each and every week. It is definitely something that you do not want to miss.



September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. If you have your card, make sure you are getting good use of it. If you do not have your library card, help us celebrate this month and come in and get your card. It only takes a few minutes and you will be so glad you did.

On another note, I have some news that I need to share with each of you. You will notice a few changes in the Ranchos Library. Effective the second week of August I will have relocated to the Chowchilla Library Branch. While I am very excited for a new challenge, Ranchos Library will always hold a very dear place in my heart. Thank you for welcoming me in as your neighbor and your friend. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve all of you in the Ranchos. I have loved watching your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews grow. I will always cher-

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ish my time with the Transition Learning Center and the incredible work you have done, not just in the library, but in yourselves and in me. I will be back from time to time and I will continue to be involved in the functions of the library until my replacement arrives. It should be a fairly seamless transition.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Friends of Ranchos Library. You are

an amazing group of people. I will be eternally grateful for the support that you provide not just to this library, but to me as an individual. I value each and every one of you and your unique talents that contribute to Ranchos Library being the amazing success that it is. I am excited to see what the future holds for all of you and the Ranchos Library. I expect nothing but greatness from you all.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

want to pay for.

Credibility and past history indicates that the BOS/BOD and temporary employees working for this county do not manage our water system or our money in a transparent, accountable or proper manor. What they have done is violate our 1996 agreement and mispend millions of our dollars. What they have done is not replace the known leaking pipes in the 21 years they have been able to with our money. What they did do is spend up to \$3 million on a municipal well outside our service area that has negatively affected the water supply to our neighbors in the Dublin Well area. What they did not do is notify people beyond 300 feet of that well site that they were going to do it, keeping MD-10a

ratepayers in the dark on that one, except for those few people that have the ear of the supervisors and other temporary county employees. Every MD-10a ratepayer that shows up at the August 29 public meeting at the Middle School should be able to collect a fresh \$100 bill from the appropriate Madera County employee in charge of that department.

Show up at this meeting or just smile when your monthly water bill goes to \$300 a month because you did not challenge these special people that have been helping the county employees do this to us for all of these years. Don't snivel in a couple of years because here and now is where the rubber is hitting the road.

Chuck La Rue
Madera Ranchos

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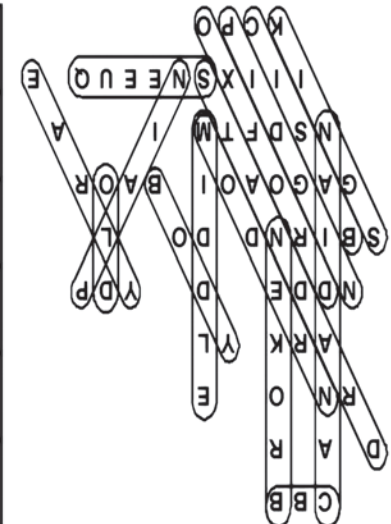
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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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8/17

SEM CU speaks

By Jeff Mc Grath

Wow, here it is August already, football has started, kids are going back to school and the harvest season is upon us. Time sure does fly.

I hope everyone took the time to read Karen Petryna's great three-part article addressing the water problem here in South East Madera County. It was very informative and factual. Kudos to Karen.

Karen mentioned that the Ranchos community is "Characterized as a 'leave me alone' community, resulting in a public that is less and less inclined to participate." This leaves us with two options: The first is doing nothing to improve the community; the second is letting the county Board of Supervisors make decisions for us. Think back to the Austin Quarry, Measure L being put on an extra ballot rather than being added to the fall election, the misinformation on the Dublin well or solving the issue of contaminated water at both the Teen Ranch and Golden Valley schools.

Community member Chuck La Rue has published a letter addressing the County's mismanagement of the MD-10a

water system and he urges everyone to attend Brett Frazier's town hall meeting scheduled on Aug. 29 at the Ranchos Middle school starting at 6 p.m. The point is we have a community that I believe is concerned with what is happening, but a community that is characterized by many splintered groups. To be an effective voice in this community, we need to band together. South East Madera County United (SEM CU) is such a group - "For the Community, By the Community."

SEM CU has provided resources for soccer clinics, computers for the Ranchos branch library, Boy and Girl Scout projects, recharge basins, a grant for low-flow water devices and a new grant for energy efficient washing machines. The more members we have, the more the county Board of Supervisors will have to listen to us. I urge you, if you have an interest or a stake in something that would improve our community, join us. The more voices we have the more strength we have.

We have committees that are in need of members to direct them and we have room to add a committee of your choosing. Have a say in your community; don't let outside sources make that decision for you. Your life time membership dues of \$10 will allow you to be heard, so join now. We meet every third Monday at 6 p.m. at the Pizza Factory. SEM CU's web page is www.sem cu.org.



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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

It was 20th-century playwright Lorraine Hansberry who made the following sage observation: "The thing that makes you exceptional, if you are at all, is inevitably that which must also make you lonely."

Yes, zebras run in herds. It is more interesting, though -- and just as correct -- to call such a group a dazzle of zebras or a zeal of zebras.

If you're planning a trip to India, keep in mind that in that country it's considered rude to whistle in public.

One day in 1994, Duff McKagan, the original bass player for rock band Guns N' Roses, was bored. With little else to do, he decided to take a look at the band's financials -- and realized he couldn't make sense of the info. Frustrated, McKagan enrolled in

a basic finance course at a community college. One thing led to another and he ended up at Seattle University's Albers School of Business. Now, the rock star is becoming a money manager, founding wealth-management firm Meridian Rock to help other musicians in the same boat.

If you saw two ships run into each other, you'd likely call it a collision -- and you'd be correct if both boats were moving at the time. Technically speaking, though, if one of the boats is stationary, it's known as an allision.


Those who study such things say that when a male beaver gets in a wrestling fight with a female beaver, the female usually wins.

As it turns out, cuddling isn't just fun -- it's good for you, too! Research shows that snuggling up with a loved one stimulates the release of oxytocin, which (among other things) can help wounds heal faster.

Thought for the Day: "Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."
-- Theodore Rubin

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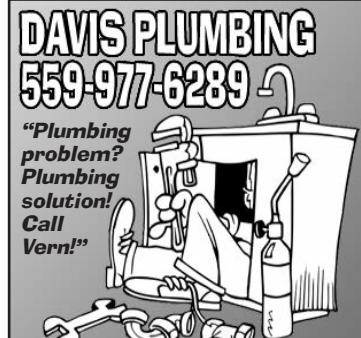
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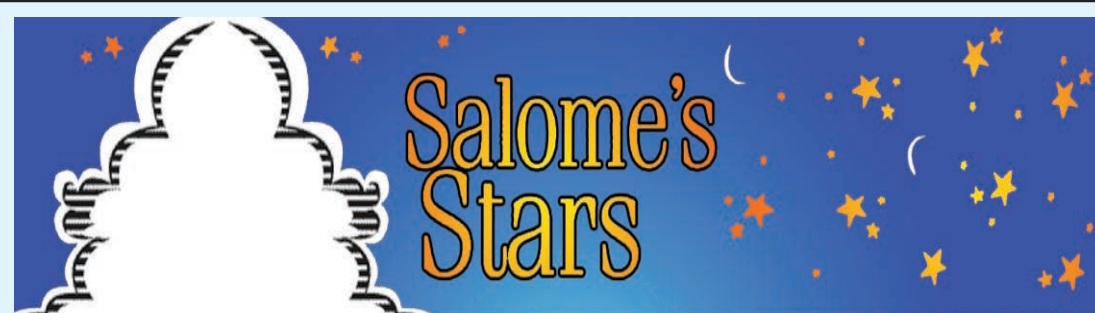
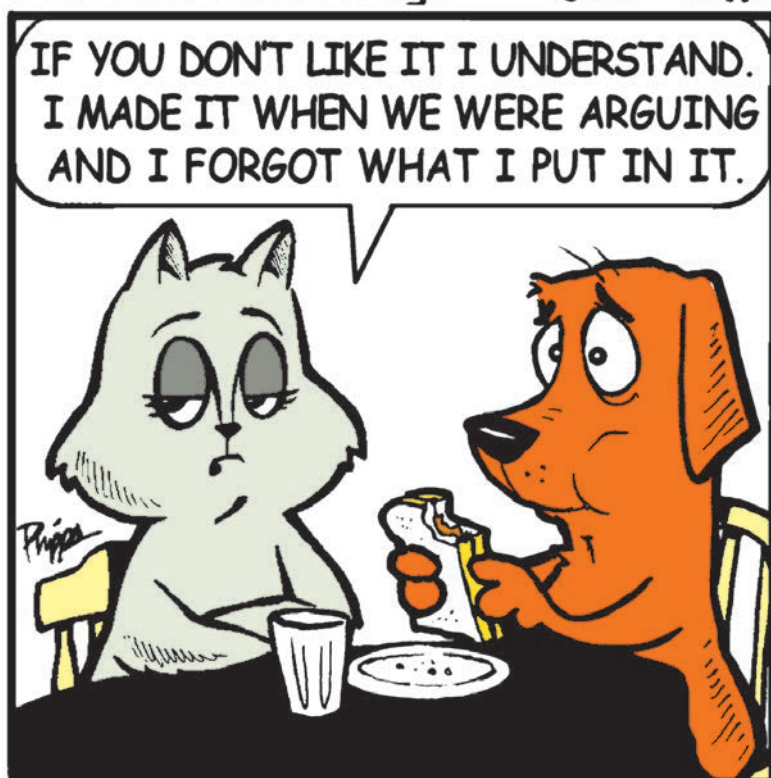

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) As eager as you are to take on that new challenge, it would be best to temper that spurt of "Ram"-bunctious energy until you have more facts to back up your decision.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time for hardworking Bovines to take a break from their hectic on-the-job schedules to bask in the unconditional love and support of friends and family.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to what you hear in the workplace. You could pick up some hints about possible changes. Meanwhile, a new infusion of creative energy sets in by week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to be more flexible in dealing with a suddenly difficult situation, whether it's on the job or in the home. Others might have some good points to offer. Listen to them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might think you're not getting the royal treatment you deserve. But be careful not to become a royal pain by complaining about it. Be patient and allow things to work out.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Watch that penchant for being super-judgmental at work. It might create a bad impression with someone whose decisions could determine the course of your career.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You've been your usual busy-bee self, gathering nectar wherever you can find it. But now's a good time to kick back, relax and just enjoy smelling the roses.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That pesky personal situation seems to be improving. But change comes slowly, so be patient. Expect someone to bring more positive news by week's end.

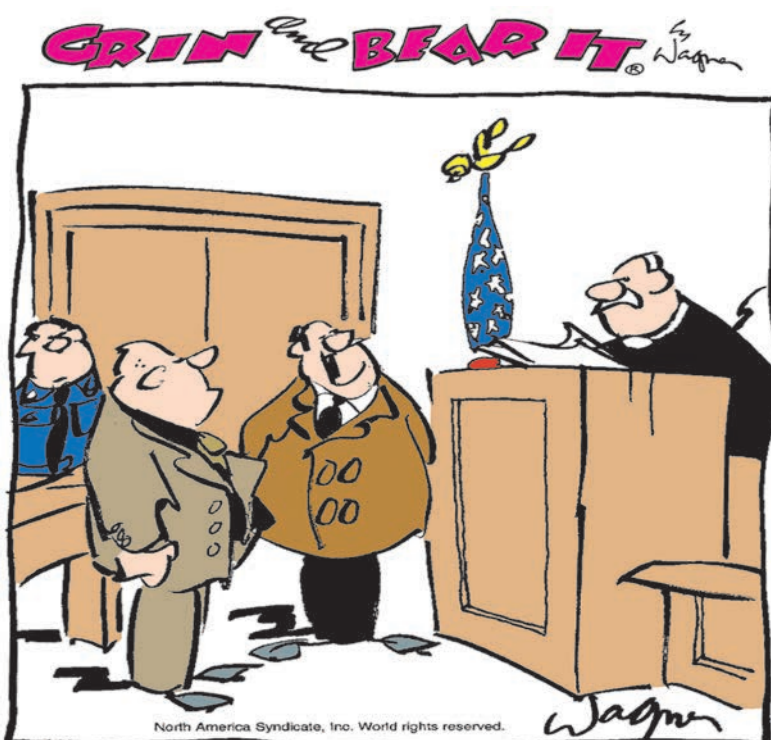
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Whoa! Ease up on that hectic pace you've been putting yourself through. Take time to recharge your energy levels before going full gallop again.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Try to be intrigued, not intimidated, by the issues you're suddenly facing, and you'll be ahead of the game. Don't be afraid to demand answers to your questions.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) New associates freezing you out of their inner circle? Never mind. Put a warm smile on that friendly face of yours, and you'll soon thaw them all down to size.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your wise guidance helps colleagues agree to compromise and move forward. Meanwhile, there are still vital issues you need to deal with in your personal life.

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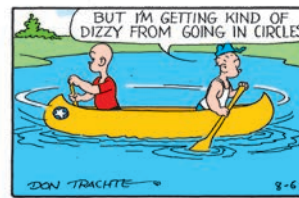
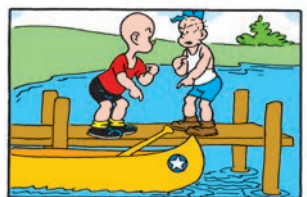
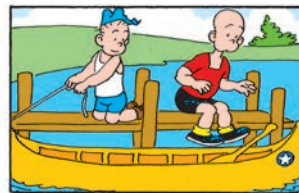
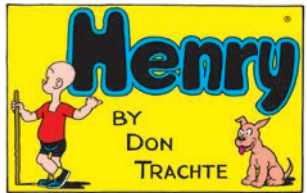
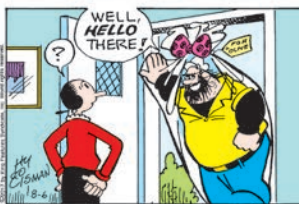
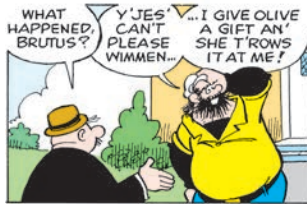
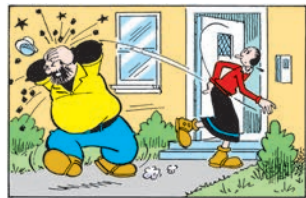
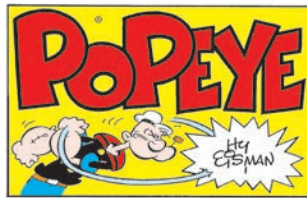
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Born this Week

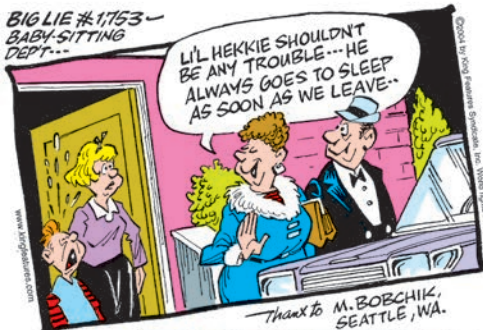
You enjoy being free with your emotions, but you also can exercise disciplined focus. You would make a fine artist.

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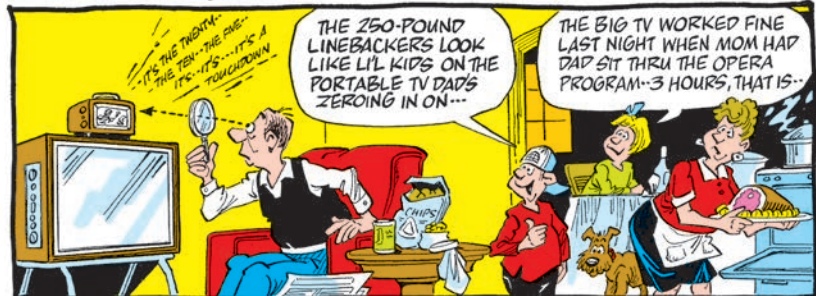
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



THE DAY YOUR 30-INCH TV GOES ON THE BLINK... P.S. IT'S THE DAY OF THE BIG BALL GAME, OF COURSE...
Thank to V. ANDROTTI, NEW YORK, N.Y.



BY AL SCADUTO



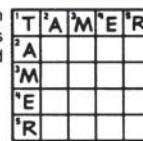
A PRICKLY PROBLEM! Can you guess which course our daredevil should steer to avoid these desert dangers?

Answer: Flight path number 1 is the one to choose

FIND THE LEAD SINGER! Hidden in this presenter's announcement is the name of a popular rock singer. You have 30 seconds to find it.



TRY TAMING THIS PUZZLE! At the right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.



1. A circus performer (given).
2. To tolerate.
3. Short skirts.
4. A formal command.
5. Musical pauses

Answers: 1. Tamer 2. Tolerate 3. Minis 4. Edict 5. Pauses

Wishing Well®

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

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 ● — ENGLISH

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

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

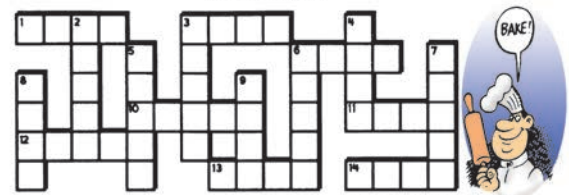
- | | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Basic | Canadian | Modern | Plain |
| BBC | Early | Old | Queen's |
| Body | King's | Oxford | Standard |
| Broken | Middle | Pidgin | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FOOD WORDS



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are the 16 food-related words you will need to complete the crossword puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. And keep a good eraser handy!

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ASPIC | JAMS | PESTO |
| BAKE | MOCHA | PLUM |
| BEAN | NACHO | ROLL |
| CRAB | PEACH | TACO |
| CREAM | PEAR | TUNAS |
| EGGS | | |

Answers: (Across) 1. Bean 3. Pear 6. Crab 10. Nacho 11. Eggs 12. Mocha 13. Plum 14. Taco (Down) 2. Aspic 3. Peach 4. Bake 5. Tunas 6. Cream 7. Pesto 8. Jams 9. Roll

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIE: What 1980s movie had the tagline, "One man's struggle to take it easy"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which is the largest of the Great Lakes?
3. MUSIC: How many notes are in the military bugle call "Taps"?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the only American president born on July 4?
5. EXPLORERS: What European explorer discovered the Grand Canyon?
6. FLAGS: What kind of tree is featured on Lebanon's flag?
7. BUSINESS: What firm was originally known as the National Biscuit Company?
8. TELEVISION: Who starred as Kunta Kinte in the original miniseries "Roots"?
9. ANATOMY: What is the normal temperature of the human body in Celsius?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: At which school are Rhodes scholars invited to study?

Answers

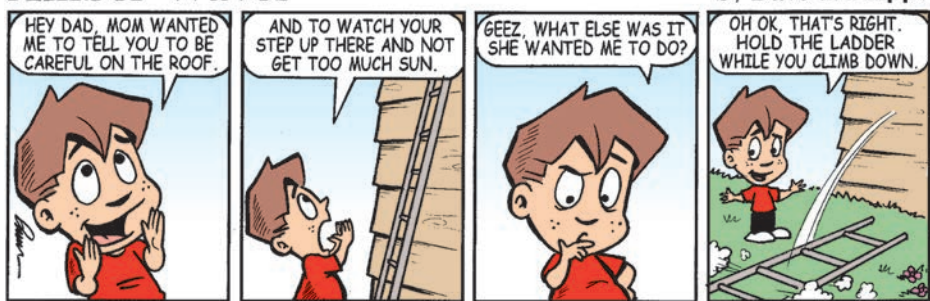
1. "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"
2. Lake Superior
3. 24
4. Calvin Coolidge
5. Garcia Lopez de Cardenas
6. Cedar
7. Nabisco
8. LeVar Burton
9. 37 degrees
10. University of Oxford

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Click on "Local News" at

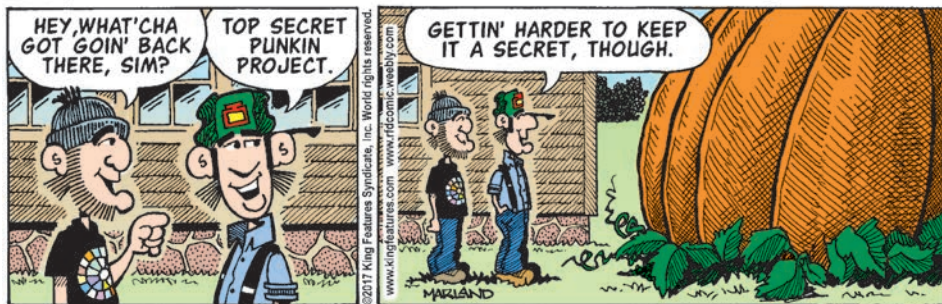
Amber Waves

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

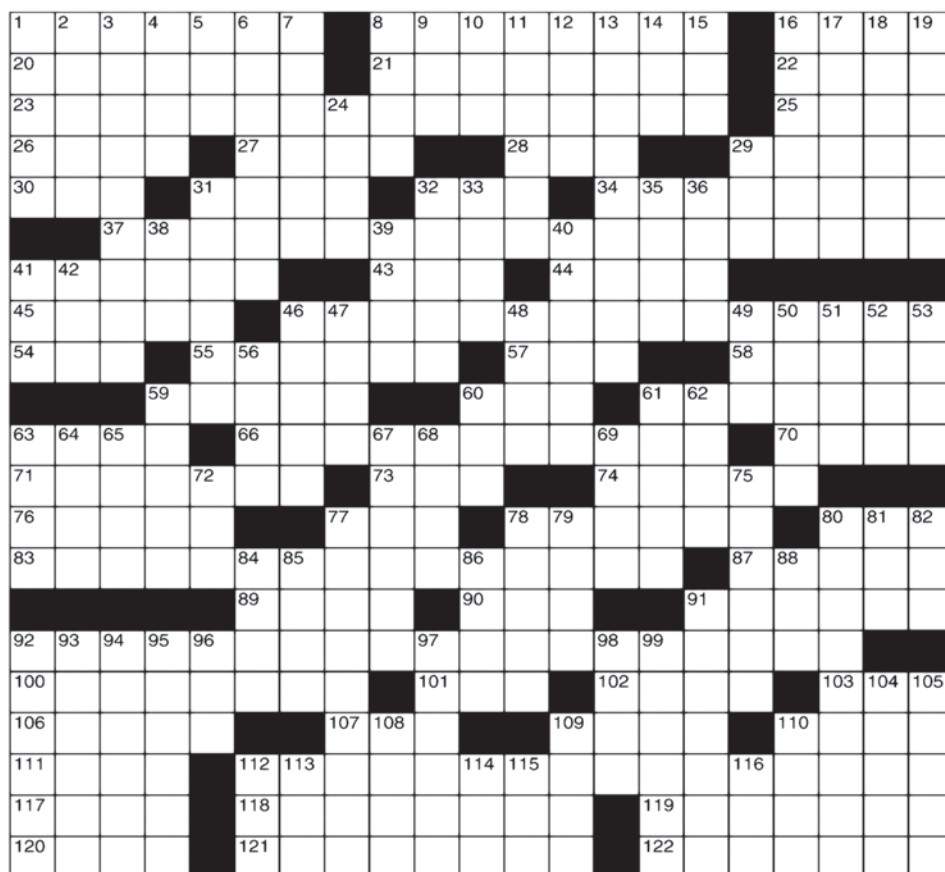
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Butterfly is moved. 2. House is missing. 3. Jar is smaller. 4. Net is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. House is moved. 7. Force rail is missing. 8. Butterfly is missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 As a substitute
 - 8 Part of VCR
 - 16 Snow clearer
 - 20 Saint who converted Scotland to Christianity
 - 21 Informal "Leave it to me"
 - 22 Roll-call call
 - 23 Public speech about unity?
 - 25 Dictator Idi
 - 26 D.C. baseball team
 - 27 Dog pests
 - 28 On the — (in hiding)
 - 29 Gun-carrying
 - 30 — devil
 - 31 Roster
 - 32 Canto or esprit lead-in
 - 34 Big online dating site
 - 37 Japanese dancing girls being helpers?
 - 41 Shunned sort
 - 43 Hagen of the stage
 - 44 Former U.N. head Annan
 - 45 Citizen of Muscat
 - 46 Don't leave the Hoosier State?
 - 54 Method
 - 55 Walk atop
 - 57 "Wow!" in a text message
 - 58 Get via logic
 - 59 Reeves of Hollywood
 - 60 Dandy guy
 - 61 Substitute
 - 63 Prefix meaning "both"
 - 66 Infant next to a famous British poet?
 - 70 Holders of holy tablets
 - 71 Observant
 - 73 French "yes"
 - 74 Atlanta university
 - 76 Carne — (Mexican dish)
 - 77 Method: Abbr.
 - 78 Feta, e.g.
 - 80 English article
 - 83 Route for some travelers headed for Ohio from Ontario?
 - 87 Housing at 74-Across, e.g.
 - 89 London vehicle
 - 90 Hawaii's Mauna —
 - 91 Style of many ski chalets
 - 92 Police officer in a certain military posture?
 - 100 Having several parts
 - 101 They may be parked at KOA sites
 - 102 Dark film genre
 - 103 Seattle-to-Phoenix dir.
 - 106 Weed B Gon brand
 - 107 Stable diet?
 - 109 Followers of Attila
 - 110 Like two peas in —
 - 111 Miles of film
 - 112 What DNA paternity tests provide?
 - 117 Shah's home
 - 118 Assumed control of
 - 119 Polar light phenomena
 - 120 To be, to Tacitus
 - 121 Fireplace log supporters
 - 122 Adolescents, informally
 - 33 Actor Morales
 - 35 Player of 45s
 - 36 "It's —!" ("That's just wrong!")
 - 38 A, in Berlin
 - 39 Japanese sport
 - 40 Like bikinis
 - 41 "Smack!" color
 - 42 Org. for drs.
 - 46 Of kidneys
 - 47 Digital book file extension
 - 48 Tyro PC user
 - 49 Drop down
 - 50 Mosaic piece
 - 51 Miles off
 - 52 Tie locale
 - 53 Eros' father
 - 56 Perfume from Dana
 - 59 Fella
 - 60 Sticky-note initialism
 - 61 Juliet's flame
 - 62 Baseball's Slaughter
 - 63 At the drop of —
 - 64 "You've Made — Very Happy"
 - 65 Pooh, e.g.
 - 67 Cellist with 18 Grammys
 - 68 Total failure
 - 69 Marsh stalk
 - 72 Real admirer
 - 75 West Coast evergreen
 - 77 Hawaii achieved it in 1959
 - 78 Congeals
 - 79 Sun provision
 - 80 Take place
 - 81 "I wonder ..."
 - 82 Suffix of nationalities
 - 84 Certain Vette roof
 - 85 Uttered
 - 86 Kingly Norse name
 - 88 Pedro's gold
 - 91 In dispute
 - 92 Cheap flick
 - 93 Sirens, say
 - 94 Radicals
 - 95 Gas in fuel
 - 96 AFL- —
 - 97 Strive to get
 - 98 Adequate, in dialect
 - 99 Skim, maybe
 - 104 Sub finder
 - 105 Rims
 - 108 Golfer Isao
 - 109 — d'oeuvre
 - 110 Elvis — Presley
 - 112 K-12 gp.
 - 113 Pal of Harry at Hogwarts
 - 114 Lacto- —
 - 115 Marsh
 - 116 Lead-in to existing
- DOWN**
- 1 Holy relics
 - 2 Singer Jones
 - 3 Roofing
 - 4 Mild rebukes
 - 5 Former U.K. record co.
 - 6 Nullify
 - 7 Pastry type
 - 8 French film
 - 9 In time past
 - 10 Prince, e.g.
 - 11 Artist Frank
 - 12 2015 erupter
 - 13 TV show opener, often
 - 14 "— a pity"
 - 15 19th letter
 - 16 Big — (drug companies)
 - 17 Actor Jack
 - 18 Get aligned
 - 19 Rival of Burger King
 - 24 Bi- times four
 - 29 Goya's field
 - 31 Act as a link
 - 32 Not — eye (show no reaction)

FUN PAGES



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

NEW State Grant Awarded

to residents of South East Madera County

UP TO **\$350*** REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH
Washing Machine certified as:
“Energy Star Qualified”

Sign up** list for those interested in more information:

1. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos, CA 93636

2. Email: info@semcu.com heading “Washer Grant Interest”

IN ADDITION

FREE Low Flow equipment
is **STILL** available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

**Grant monies are awarded to SEMCU, by the Department of Water Resources, (DWR), to help our community members within the 93636 zip code better manage and conserve our water resources.
(Estimated reimbursement amount based on participation)*

For more information Email: info@semcu.com or Call: (559) 363-9095
SEM CU meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at The Pizza Factory

By the Community, For the Community!!!

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