

The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 14 Issue 8 2018

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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33rd Annual Firefighter's BBQ

bringing together friends, food and fun ...

... for a great cause!

Picture courtesy of John Glueck

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Scenes from the 33rd Annual Firefighter's BBQ



The reason for the season, the volunteers of the Ranchos' Station 19.



A poignant reminder was a table set up in remembrance of fallen firefighters who gave their all.



A photo booth at this year's BBQ brought out many of the attendees' more interesting alter egos.



The cornhole games were busy all night long with people standing in line to get "next."



The BBQ was great but it just wasn't complete without dessert, which was available at the dessert table.



Always a crowd favorite was the silent auction that featured a bevy of different items, many at great prices.



State Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, center, mingles with constituents Don and Sadha Foster.



The music was provided by the band Prestige whose repertoire ranged from the 1940s to present day.



Jacqueline Trafton, right, Miss Madera County for 2018, really upped the ante for ticket takers at the BBQ.

All photos courtesy of John Glueck

LEAF Building Coming to Liberty

On Friday, Aug. 24, the groundbreaking for the Liberty High School Engineering Agri-Science & Farming (LEAF) Academy was conducted. It will be the newest, state-of-the-art educational and research facility dedicated to the Agriculture Sciences Industry. The result of public/private partnerships, LEAF will provide access to 21st Century technologies by being a living laboratory. Once operational it will address: Agriculture Sciences; Environmental



Engineering; Water Technologies and Hydroponics; Forming and Prototyping; Automotive and Diesel Mechanics; Culinary Arts, Butchering and Farm to Table; Ornamental Horticulture; Veterinary Sciences; and Plant Sciences. GVUSD received approval for state grant funding in the amount of \$5,222,919 to assist with the construction of the building. Phase I of construction will begin sometime in the Fall of 2018.

Give Input on New Superintendent

Dr. Marilyn Shepherd, former Superintendent of Golden Valley Unified School District, is now with McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., a search firm retained by the GVUSD Board of Trustees to find a new Superintendent for the district after the departure of Andy Alvarado. She has already held one community meeting at Ranchos Middle School on Aug. 22 where she gathered input that will be ultimately shared with the GVUSD Board of Trustees regarding the qualities of the next Superintendent. There is going to be a second meeting held on August 30 at Sierra View Elementary School in the school's multipurpose room and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

This meeting is open to the public and is your chance to weigh in on the qualities you're looking for in a superintendent. The timetable the Board of Trustees has established is:

1. Application deadline: Aug. 30
2. Finalists selected by Board of Trustees: Sept. 13
3. Interviews with Board of Trustees: Sept. 21 & 22
4. Selection of new superintendent: Sept. 25
5. Starting date: Nov. 1

You can see the requirements for the job and more information at the McPherson & Jacobson website at macnjake.com.

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Karina / Fresno

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James / Madera Ranchos



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Letters

Dear Editor:

My name is Paul Hornick, and I am a prosecutor in Madera. I have been a prosecutor for 13 years and never have I seen a state legislature launch an assault on peace officers as shamelessly as what is happening in California now.

Berkley democrat Nancy Skinner recently introduced Senate Bill 1421, which will likely be passed into law. SB1421 eliminates the confidentiality of peace officer personnel files, exposing peace officers to being more easily sued by unhappy criminals and to have their internal records scoured by reporters from the national media.

On its surface, the bill panders to people who want police transparency — which sounds like a good thing on the surface. Like virtually every other piece of law coming out of California these days, SB1421 promises a vague, positive-sounding punchline and ignores practical realities. In reality, police officers are obligated to interact with dangerous criminals every day. When they do arrest these criminals, the criminals aren't happy. They often make frivolous complaints to the department, which are documented but almost always found baseless. Then, at trial, because evidence of guilt is often so overwhelming, defense attorneys put the officer on trial, flinging mud at them in every way they can to distract the jury.

SB1421 will make it easier for criminals to sue police officers, easier for the national media to generate outrageous stories based on misleading data, and easier for defense attorneys to distract juries from the facts. Peace officers risk their lives for us, and they deserve our support not our suspicion. Please write your representatives and encourage them to vote NO on this terrible bill.

Paul Hornick
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

When is an association endorsement not an endorsement of the association? In the present race for the Office of the District Attorney, Paul Hornick and Sally Moreno have garnered various law enforcement endorsements. Paul is endorsed by the Madera Police Officers' Association, the Madera County Correctional Officers' Association, the Chowchilla City Police Officers' Association and the Madera County Prosecutors' Association which is comprised of the Deputy District Attorneys who have worked with both Paul and Sally. It is reported that Sally is endorsed by the Madera County Sheriff's Association.

Up front let me disclose that I know each of the candidates and after reviewing their credentials and history I will be voting for Paul Hornick. This is not to say that I am opposed to Sally Moreno but rather in making a choice as to who receives my vote, I as well as most of the attorneys based in Madera County, whether working for the government or in private practice, are supporting Paul Hornick for District Attorney.

Paul Hornick's law enforcement endorsements came from a vote of the particular association's members where all of the candidates were represented. Sally Moreno's endorsement by the Madera County Sheriff's Association came before Paul Hornick was a candidate for the office and more importantly the endorsement was not voted on by the members of the association. The Madera County Sheriff's Association endorsement was decided solely by the association's Board of Directors. No vote ever went to the association's members. However, how the members of the association would have voted is not the issue. The issue is giving the impression to the voting public that the men and women comprising the Madera County Sheriff's Association have voted among themselves and decided who the association would endorse for the new District Attorney for Madera County. While the association's by-laws may permit the endorsement to be decided by five or less Board members rather than by a vote of the 70 or more deputy sheriff officers, a full disclosure of such should accompany any such important endorsement. The endorsement should honestly inform the public that it is unknown who the full association supports and rather that the Board of the association is supporting a particular person.

Thus, the answer to "when is an Association endorsement not an endorsement of the Association?" is when the endorsement is not actually decided by the men and women of the association but only by the Board without input from the ranks.

Steve Geringer
Madera

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.
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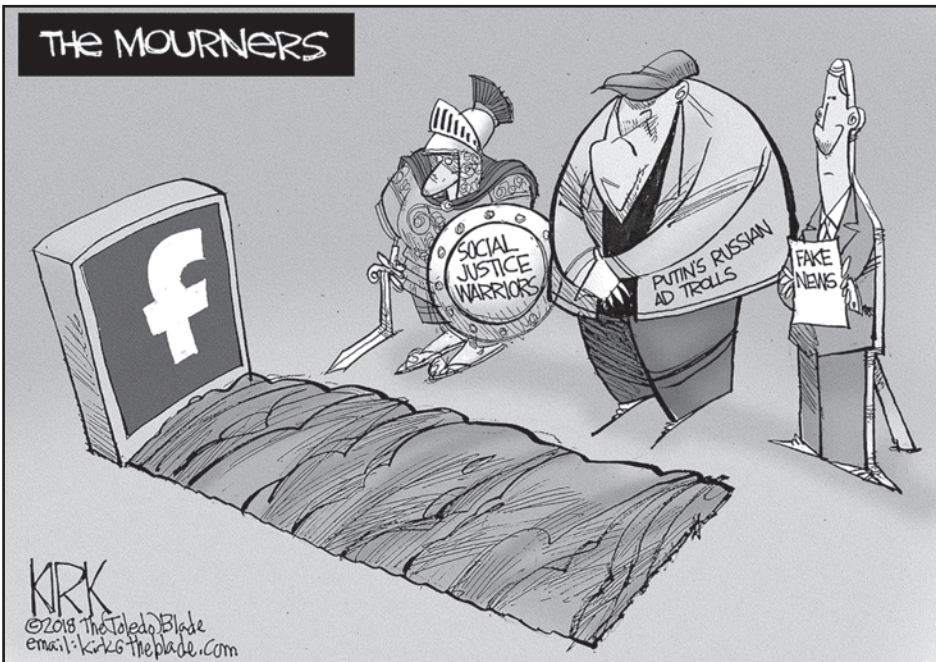
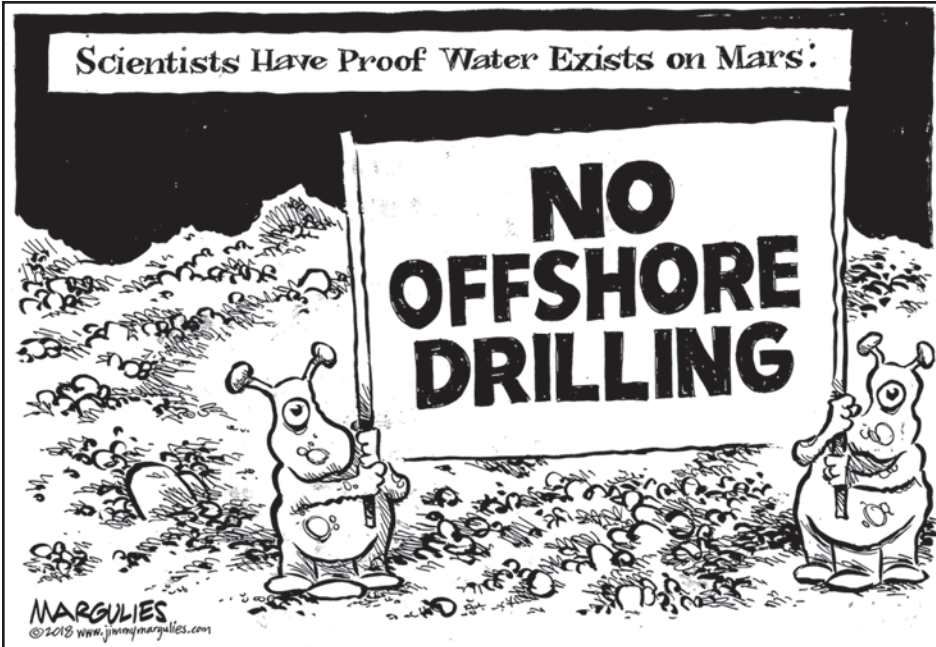
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Editorial

A Letter to My Assemblyman

By Randy Bailey

At the 33rd Annual Firemen's BBQ held at the former Cobb's Ranch down on the San Joaquin River I got to enjoy some good food, listen to some good music and enjoy a lot of good conversation with a lot of people. One of those was our State Assemblyman, Frank Bigelow. I've known Frank for a lot of years, first as our supervisor for Madera County's District 1 and then as our California assemblyman for California's 5th District since 2012.

After all the small talk was adequately covered, I told Frank that his number one priority as my assemblyman has to be focusing on one objective: The overturn of Prop 14.

As a quick refresher, Proposition 14 appeared on the ballot in California in June of 2010 and was proposed as a constitutional amendment that would transform California's elections (except presidential elections) into what is now being called a "jungle primary," so-called because it is survival of the fittest -- in this case the top two vote getters -- who get to advance to the general election in November. It passed with 54 percent of the vote.

As I wrote in the June 2018 issue of the Ranchos Independent: "The idea (allegedly) was to open up California's election process. Instead of having elections

dominated by just two parties -- Democrats and Republicans -- the 'top two' concept would potentially allow an independent third party to scoot in to the final top two and be a player in the general election if they would just get out there and work hard. At least that's how it was supposed to work on paper. The reality? We have gone from an election process dominated by just two parties to an election process dominated by just one party ... Now, in 2018, there will be 41 legislative seats sporting Democrats only on our ballot. There will be no Republican candidate for Lt. Governor, Insurance Commissioner or Superintendent of Public Instruction. For the second time in two consecutive elections, there will be no Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. With 80 Assembly Districts in play this election, 25 will not have a Republican challenger. The same can be said for six of the state's 20 Senate Districts. And out of 53 congressional districts, 10 of them will be solely Democrats on the ballot ... In 2016 there were four races that were all Republican; this year there is one."

Frank told me that since this legislation was not generated by the legislature, it couldn't be overturned by the legislature. But I pointed out to him that there have been plenty of propositions over the years that began within the legislature that ultimately found their way onto the ballot and were then voted on by the voters.

I told Frank that this was going to become my crusade. With only one-party rule in our state, we will remain broken. We will continue to have one side dictate what the other side will do. There is no "give and take" when one side doesn't have to give up anything and then takes all it wants. California is not that far gone. This is the state that produced Ronald Reagan, George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson, all within recent memory. It even produced Arnold Schwarzenegger, a questionable Republican but a Republican none the less.

So I'm going to send Frank a letter:

Dear Frank,
 RE: Proposition 14
 Fix this!
 Sincerely,
 Randy Bailey

You can give Frank a call at 916-319-2005 in Sacramento and tell him "Fix this!" or send him your own letter to:

Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
State Capitol
Suite #4158
Sacramento, CA 94249

THE RAY GUN
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" APPARENTLY THE PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS THAT [DEMOCRATS] WANT MORE AND MORE SPENDING AND MORE AND MORE TAXES. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE LESS SPENDING, LESS TAXES, AND MORE PROSPERITY. "

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

Wounds That Don't Heal

I've always heard that time heals all wounds. I'm not exactly certain who said it first, but I am convinced whoever it was hadn't yet experienced a profound loss. My precious mother has been gone for two years now and the wound feels as raw and exposed as it did the day I got the call that she had gone home to Jesus. The heart-break hasn't lessened in the last two years and the feelings of loss haven't subsided. Time hasn't healed anything. I've just learned to smile through the ache and move forward in life without my best friend. In other words, I've learned to live with it, but I still feel all the pain. I'd give anything for a little scar tissue around my heart right about now.

It's not that I didn't already know how precious and fleeting life was, but the two years I've

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



shouted that I loved her out the open window and left her standing on the porch waving at me. I remember it like it was yesterday and not two years ago. If I would have known it was going to be the last time I saw here I would have held onto her as long as I could. I would gladly sacrifice a month's worth of sleep to hug her one more time.

I am lucky. I had an amazing relationship with my mom. We had a close relationship full of honesty, support, compassion and mutual respect. Many people have to struggle with feelings of regret after losing a loved one. They replay every fight, every harsh word spoken in

Time hasn't healed anything. I've just learned to smile through the ache and move forward in life without my best friend. In other words, I've learned to live with it, but I still feel all the pain. I'd give anything for a little scar tissue around my heart right about now.

The night my mom passed away we ate tacos for dinner at her sister's house. They were homemade. They were greasy. They were delicious. They were easily one of my mom's favorite foods but let's be honest, tacos are most people's favorite food. We ate while we planned a family trip to Mount Rushmore. I had no idea that this would be her last meal. I suppose as last meals go it was a good one, but if I had known I would have slowed down and taken more time with her.

I remember rushing out after dinner because I had to be up with the chickens the next morning for work. I was so sure I was going to be spending the next night with her, too, that I didn't bat an eye at cutting the night short for some much-desired sleep. I rushed a quick hug, jumped in the car,

anger, every bad memory they have over and over again, hoping that their loved one could forgive them. They pray that their loved one truly knew how deeply they would be missed. I have zero doubt that my mom knew how fiercely I loved her. I have zero doubt that my mom knew how much she meant to me. I have zero doubt that my mom knew how important she was to me. Yet, despite all that, I still feel pangs of guilt when I remember a fight where I was particularly harsh or those times I was just too busy to answer her calls. No one is immune to those feelings of guilt when your loved one passes away.

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

If losing my mom has taught me anything it's that you cannot wait to heal relationships. You don't get along with your brother? Get over it. Put it all aside and remember that one day one of you will be gone and it won't be the one in the ground sifting through the regret trying to make sense of it. You have a tumultuous relationship with your dad? Be the bigger person and let it go because one day he won't be here and you will never be able to get the chance to repair the relationship

again. Family is too important and time is too precious to put off mending those fences. Love each other now because one night your brother or wife or father or mom could go to sleep and never wake up. Loss is hard enough without regret as part of the equation.

All I have now are the videos and the pictures and the memories. These are the things that will sustain me as I live the rest of my life without her and I will cherish every single one of them until we meet again.

I love you, Mama.

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Home Favorites

I have six nephews and two nieces and their spouses. From there I have 11 great nephews and 10 great nieces and can't leave out our new just-turned-four-year-old beautiful Addie, a great-great niece. I love each one equally and they are all different. We have a couple of RN's, a teacher, a pastor, landscapers, a mechanic, a truck driver and a pole climber for Comcast. A couple with Master's Degrees, some still in college (one with straight A's) and some that haven't gone to college, but that's OK.

Today I want to tell you about Austin, the son of Randy's younger brother Steve and his wife Lisa.

Austin just graduated from Fresno State's Army ROTC program. He took over 20 units a year in college to be able to complete the course in two years. He graduated as a commissioned

officer with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and already has his orders to go to Fort Benning, Georgia in November to complete his training. When he completes that training there, he will be an active duty infantry officer with an ultimate goal of becoming a Green Beret. WOW, I know he can do it.

Recently I sat down with Austin to talk to him about his future. At the same time, I wanted to pick his brain about things he liked knowing I wanted to tell you about him.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEAL? A good backyard barbequed hamburger. Or if I can't have that - an In 'N

Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes



by Jean Briner

Out double double.

CAKE, PIE, OR COOKIES?

Pie - A coconut cream is the best. German chocolate cake or snickerdoodles and magic cookie bars. His cousin Rachael used to make snickerdoodles just about every week; she knew the recipe by heart. She doesn't make them anymore since she became a vegan and is gluten intolerant, but I'll give you her recipe.

Snickerdoodles

Preheat oven to 375
 ½ C butter or margarine
 1 ½ C All-purpose flour
 1 C sugar
 1 egg
 ½ tsp. vanilla
 ¼ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. cream of tartar
 4 T sugar
 2 tsp. cinnamon

In a mixing bowl beat the butter or margarine with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add about half of the flour, the sugar, the egg, vanilla, baking soda and cream of tartar. Beat until thoroughly combined. Beat in remaining flour. Cover mixture with plastic wrap and chill for one hour.

Combine the remaining sugar and cinnamon in a shallow bowl. Shape the dough into one-inch balls. Roll balls in sugar mixture and place on an ungreased cookie sheet

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9



My great nephew Austin on graduation day from Army ROTC with my great niece Lauren, who graduated from Fresno State on the same day.

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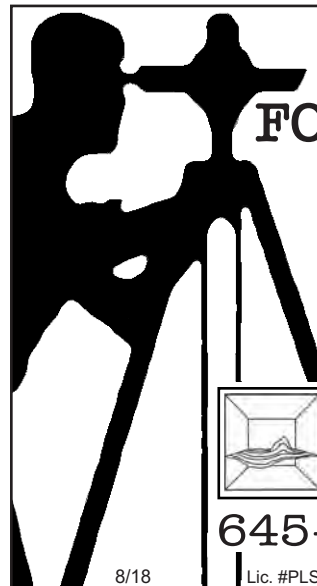
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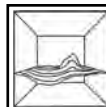
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Soil management techniques to enhance soil quality and the quality of food.

Iris Workshop
September 15, 10 a.m. – noon
Kathy Sierra, Carol Kennedy and Fresno Iris Society Member Katie Hendrickson
Three Sisters Demonstration Garden
Madera Community College
30277 Ave. 12, Madera
Planting and care of bearded iris. How to dig, divide, grow and care for them.

Propagation Workshop
September 29, 10 a.m. – noon
Barbara Mattice
Fernwood Nursery

12090 Fernwood Dr., Madera Ranchos
How to propagate plants, divide and make cuttings.

In addition to these workshops, there will be a "Meet the Master Gardeners" evening meeting where you can meet master gardeners and see if you might be interested in becoming one. Applications for the 2019 training class will be accepted through September 30, 2018. Applications are available online at: cemadera.ucanr.edu/Madera_County_Master_Gardener_Program/

For more information you can call 559-675-7879 ext. 7210 or email them at mgmadera@ucdavis.edu.

Meet the Master Gardeners
September 20, 7 p.m.
Three Sisters Demonstration Garden
Madera Community College
30277 Ave. 12, Madera

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

about two inches apart. Bake for nine minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

When Austin's grandmother (my sister Faye) was alive and we would all go over to her house for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, it was always my job to take the magic cookie bars. I always made a double recipe and when I got there, Faye and I would hide them, but Austin and his sister Savannah would always find them and have a few before dinner.

Magic Cookie Bars

Preheat oven to 350 for metal baking pan or 325 for glass. Coat a 9x13 baking pan with cooking spray.

1 cube butter or margarine, melted

1 ½ C graham cracker crumbs

1 (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk

2 C semisweet chocolate chips

1 1/3 C shredded coconut

1 C chopped nuts (optional)

Combine graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press into bottom of prepared pan. Pour sweetened condensed milk over the crumb mixture. Layer evenly the coconut, chocolate chips and nuts. Press down with a fork (or your fingers).

Bake for 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cut into squares.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO? Go fishing with my dad to his favorite fishing spot in Bishop, Calif. then cooking the catch of the day with him.

Austin's Trout Recipe

After cleaning the fish, leaving the tail on, insert butter, chopped garlic and sliced lemons in the cavity, salt and pepper the fish to taste. Wrap fish in aluminum foil and cook over hot coals for 10 minutes on each side. Enjoy!

I found out his favorite snack is a good granola bar and he chews gum constantly. About the only time he isn't chewing gum is when he's eating or sleeping.

Today I had Austin come over to read this to make sure I had all the details correct. He was telling me while he is waiting for his time to report to Georgia he has been working part time for a local cattle rancher – mucking the stalls (that sounds like fun) and being a regular cowboy: moving cattle by horseback. He was telling me the woman has given him a couple of steaks and how he cooked them. With Austin's cooking abilities I won't worry about him getting enough to eat.

I am so very proud of Austin as I am any man or woman I see in a military uniform. Yes, I'll stand up for the National Anthem and I get a lump in my throat when I see the flag waving in the air.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

• You might be surprised to learn that the kilt originated not in Scotland, but in France.

• The tongue of the alligator is fastened to the jaw all the way around. That's why you'll never see a gator stick out its tongue.

• Those who track radio statistics say Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" is the most-requested song in the United States -- and this despite the fact that it was never released as a single on this side of the Atlantic.

• Thought for the Day: "There's no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn't tell you about it?" -- Kin Hubbard

• It was 18th-century French writer Sebastien Nicolas de Chamfort who made the following sage observation: "Conscience is a dog that does not stop us from passing but that we cannot prevent from barking."

• If you bring to mind an image of John Lennon, more likely than not you'll see him in your mind's eye wearing a pair of round spectacles. In July 2007, a single pair of those iconic glasses was sold at auction for a whopping \$2 million.

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Thriving Through Transitions

Children are masters of transition. I've seen my four-year-old twin granddaughters' transition from 4 lb. helpless babes to girls who ride their bikes, swim and say things like, "I'm satiated," when they're full at dinner-time. (Yes, their father's a teacher). Imagine the countless challenges and transitions their minds and bodies endured in just four years.

Whether you're four or 94, life is full of transitions. Sometimes transitions intrude on us like a ton of bricks. Just this week I spoke with six people who were staggering under the weight of transitions relating to career, health, death of a loved one, relationship failure, finances and a house flood disaster.

While only the house disaster directly caused disorganization in the home, all transitions can contribute to clutter and chaos. Even positive transitions like

... all transitions can contribute to clutter and chaos. Even positive transitions ...

moving to a larger home, getting married, or starting a family can upset the norm and disrupt your organized household. Physical and emotional well-being is also compromised during transitions. There's no one-size-fits-all simple three-point plan that guarantees a successful transition, but there are tips and tools to help you manage and thrive.

Reach Out

What does a baby do when learning to walk? He reaches out for something or someone stable to hold on to. That's smart, but as adults it's hard to do. It's easy to isolate, thinking you're the only one struggling with this, or that you should get through it on your own.

King Solomon once said, "There's nothing new under the sun," and "a wise man seeks counsel." In other words, many have gone through similar transitions and there's wisdom in not going it alone. Reach out to someone you trust who will guide, support and inspire you. If you're a person of faith, pray and reach out to your faith community. Consider an online support group or seek professional services.

Receive

It's truly more blessed to give than to receive, but unless there are people willing to receive, no one is blessed. Friends and family may not know how best to come alongside you, but when they

offer, be prepared to receive and if they don't, be prepared to ask.

No doubt there are things that are going undone while your focus is diverted to the change in your life. It may be the yard, the laundry, or reading to your toddler. Accept that during this transition you're not going to maintain all that you were doing before. Take 10 minutes to make a list of things that others could do and be willing to share your load.

Reorder

If clutter and chaos have ensued, consider some simple steps to regain order. Focus on the necessities. Paying the bills, eating, and sleeping.

To keep the lights on, make sure you have a simple way to process the mail. Place three paper trays and a recycle bin close to where you bring in the mail. Label the first tray "Take Action" for your bills to pay, doctor forms to fill out, dates to record, etc. Label the second tray "Holding" for things you may want to look at, but don't require action. Label the third "File" for items that need to be saved like insurance policies and tax documents.

To avoid being overwhelmed, choose to retrieve your mail daily and do a two-minute sort into your three trays and recycling bin. Forget about saving coupons and catalogs for the time being. Keep it simple and focus on the basics. Set a reminder on your phone or calendar twice a month (1st and 15th) to sort through the Action

tray and follow through with those items. Don't concern yourself with the other two trays for now.

If your transition has impaired your eating and sleeping, you'll struggle to thrive. Give yourself one small goal at a time. Maybe it's an apple a day or choosing the salad bowl or grilled chicken wrap when picking up fast food. Daily fuel your body with a nutritious breakfast bar or smoothie, even if it's on the run. Set an alarm on your phone to establish a bedtime. These routines will reduce your stress and improve your brain function.

Remember

Remember to do those things that renew and rejuvenate you. Recall the times you've triumphed through transitions. Think about what you have right now for which you can be grateful. Shift your focus before you go to bed and first thing in the morning. It will help lighten your load and clear your mind.

Patty Behrens, LMFT, and I are currently writing a book about transitions. If you have a story you'd like to share with us, or would like to be privy to early releases, feel free to contact me (Brenda McElroy) at info@OrganizedByChoice.com.

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.organizedby-choice.com.

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FOR MADERA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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I am not a politician, I am a prosecutor. I have personally talked to over 2,500 Madera County residents about what they expect from a District Attorney, and I am ready to offer it. I will be tough on crime, but fair. I will listen to the voters, and I will run our District Attorney's Office with the same integrity, professionalism, and discipline I bring to my service of our country.

I do not believe in empty promises and political correctness: I believe in hard work and honesty. I believe there are no shortcuts in the administration of justice, and I will continue to work tirelessly for this county, and honor the faith that the voters and our dedicated law enforcement agencies have put in me.

CONTACT

Contact: 559-536-2292
hornick4da.com



8/18

Paid for by Paul Hornick for Madera County District Attorney 2018 FPPC # 1401296

3rd Time the Charm? Ranchos Church Moves Again

By Nancy Palazzo, Church Historian, and Patti Groh

Christian Mission Church has moved, AGAIN! As everyone must be aware of by now, the Hurst's Hardware property has been sold to the County of Madera. You may not be aware that the little building in Hurst's parking lot, which housed our church, was part of that sale and so, we have had to relocate. Apparently, a Sheriff's substation will be located in that building.

We held our first service in our new location, 12089 Maywood Drive, on July 29 with Pastor Gary Gould leading the service.

So, a little explanation of why I said "moved, AGAIN!" The Christian Mission Church (CMC) began as a small bible study group, in a private home in Rolling Hills, in the summer of 2006. The group was made up of residents from Rolling Hills and was under the guidance of Pastor Robert Crabb. Pastor Crabb had been sent by the Lutheran Church to establish a mission in Gateway Village (now Riverstone). He arrived with his family from New York to find nothing but olive trees and no timeline in place to begin building. He started knocking on doors in Rolling Hills in an effort to accomplish his job. In May 2007, office space was rented near Avenue 12 and Road 36

where a Bible study group was held in the evenings. The landlord then remodeled his garage, and the Christian Mission Church had its first Sunday church service there on July 29, 2007, exactly 11 years prior to our current location's first service.

In July of 2008, CMC moved to 36320 Avenue 12. In December 2010, change again struck our little group. We lost Pastor Robert Crabb when he joined the Navy as a Chaplain and Navy Lieutenant. Our building lease unexpectedly came to an end. Over the next few months, we had substitute pastors but certainly wondered and prayed about God's plan for us. Then, a miracle! We found the little building in Hurst's parking lot and we were blessed with Pastor Gary Gould and his wife, Mim (having recently retired from a bigger church) agreeing to come minister to us.



Christian Mission Church member Patti Groh puts up the church's new sign at their new location at 12089 Maywood Drive, directly behind the Maywood Center.

Now you know our history. We are a non-denominational church now. Our mission is to share Jesus Christ, reaching out to all with His ministry of invitation, repentance and redemption, discipleship and witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ. Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study is at 10 a.m. You are all invited to come worship and study with us and check out our new digs.

Alzheimers Ed Seminar Planned

Valley Caregiver Resource Center will be having a seminar on Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Oakhurst Lutheran Church at 39255 Black Road, located at the intersection of Road 426 and Black Road. You can register to learn more on the basic symptoms of Alzheimer's at 559-224-9154.

Valley Caregiver Resource Center offers a unique group of services to help elders and their families with the challenges of the aging process. Its aim is to promote personal and community well-being.

The Family Caregiver Support Program helps families and communities in caring for adults with brain impairing conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, Parkinson's and traumatic brain injury.

To be eligible for services, a client must be caring for an adult with a cognitive impairing condition that occurred after the age of 18, such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, traumatic brain injury, or Parkinson's disease. Or be 60 years and older in need of assistance with daily living activities. Services for those caring for someone 60 and older are available in various counties where Valley Caregiver Resource Center has the Family Caregiver Support Program. For more information call 559-224-9154.

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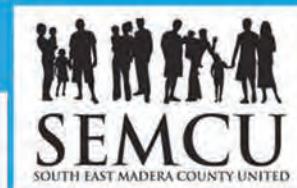
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Aug. 31	7 p.m.	Chavez	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	Washington Union
Sept. 7	7 p.m.	at Kennedy	Oct. 19	7 p.m.	Kerman
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New-school Diagnostics

Hello 93636,

I would like to begin my article by congratulating Golden Valley Unified School District and its governing board for breaking ground on our new GVUSD Career Vocational Education Facility. I would also like to extend my personal thanks and congratulations to Mona Diaz, Maria Knobloch and Brian Freeman for keeping your 2015 GVUSD Special Election campaign promises to make Vocational Education one of your priorities.

WAY TO GO GUYS!!!

Thanks also to Steven Lewis and Andrew Wheeler for your commitment and support for Vocational Education.

Isn't the primary and fundamental purpose of public education to prepare students for career opportunities? There are tremendous employment opportunities within the automotive industry. Please GVUSD governing board, consider the automotive industry when you develop the curriculum and build those facilities. My industry has suffered from a shortage of trained and qualified technicians for many years. The problem is nationwide and, in my opinion – at least in part – the result of the systematic elimination of Vocational Education curriculum from the public-school system. One hundred-thirty years ago the U.S. farmer also experienced a significant decrease in available labor as many left the farm headed for the big cities of America. The American farmer turned to technology to compensate for that shortage. In my judgement, as a result of that decision, today's American farmer produces the highest quality and greatest quantity food products at the lowest prices anywhere in the world. Their successful model has inspired and motivated me to also embrace technology as the means to deal with my industry's labor shortage.

Recently I needed to replace some older worn-out low-current amp probes, so I headed to my favorite automotive technology store, AES Wave of Fresno. They are the largest distributor of Pico technology and one of the largest automotive technology manufacturers and distributors in America.

Carlos walked me into the warehouse and showed me his selection. I already knew what I wanted, but for me, being in the AES Wave warehouse is like being a

5-year-old in Disneyland.

"Hey Carlos, what's that?"

"That's the newest Pico technology in low-current amp probes."

"Why does it have such a large jaw?"

"It's designed for parasitic draw testing at the battery cables." (A parasitic draw is a small current (milliamps) that drains the vehicle's battery dead overnight.)

You mean I no longer have to disconnect the battery cables and install a bridge when testing for parasitic draws? WOW! This technology will definitely enhance my diagnostic ability and decrease my risk. Every time I disconnect a vehicle's battery, I take the risk that a module may not come back online when the battery is reconnected. At the very least, every time a battery is disconnected the vehicle's adaptive memory is lost.

As my brain began processing this new technology, I realized in theory it has the potential to fundamentally change automotive electrical diagnostics beyond the probe's stated purpose. Here's how: A vehicle's battery is the warehouse where electrons are stored. When an electrical component is activated, electrons flow out of the battery's negative post, through a battery cable, through the load and back to the battery via a cable connected to the positive post. The battery

and battery cables are common to every electrical component and system in the vehicle.

The flow of electrons is called current. When current flows through a wire or cable, a magnetic field is created. The current amp probe measures that magnetic field and converts it into current or amps. The greater the magnetic field, the greater the current. Since EVERY electron must flow through the vehicle's battery cables to complete its mission, why don't we just measure the current there? I simply place the new low-current amp probe around a battery cable, turn the ignition key to the "ON" position and activate the component's switch (blower motor, power window motor, power seats, etc.). When the electrons flow, I can measure it.

If the new technology works, I no longer need to remove covers, panels or other obstacles to access electrical components. I no longer need to consult a wiring diagram to find the correct wire to test. With other electrical components, like fuel injectors, ignition coils, actuators, solenoids, etc., I can place my diagnostic scanner into bi-directional control and activate those components with it.

This month, several vehicles come into the shop with power window failure complaints. This presented a very good opportunity to implement and test the new technology. The good thing about power windows is a vehicle never

has just one. Therefore, I should have at least one good component to gather "known good" baseline data to compare to the suspect component data. In the past I was unable to implement this strategy because of the extra time and difficulty to disassemble and reassemble a second door.

The science performed perfectly. It was quick and accurate. The waveform was identical to the waveform taken at the component. The first vehicle suffered from high resistance in the power window motor. That resulted in low current flow which caused the slow window complaint. The second vehicle had a defective power window switch. Intermittently the switch would stick in the "down command" position so the customer was unable to roll the window up.

The new Pico Low-Current Amp Probe technology has proven itself to me to be a quick, reliable and easy way to perform new school electrical diagnostics.

OK guys. That's all for now. As always, I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive industry topics to write about in future articles. If you have any suggestions, or questions regarding my industry, a personal vehicle or any other automotive issue, I can be reached by texting 907-7661.

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Madera Elks Name Hornick Prosecutor of the Year at Annual Awards

Madera Elk's Lodge #1918 honored Senior Deputy District Attorney Paul Hornick as Prosecutor of the Year at its 46th Annual Officer of the Year Awards Dinner.

Hornick joined the county's office as a line attorney in 2015 and rose to his senior deputy position a year later after being chosen to head a political corruption task force to investigate wrongdoing in county government. His Elk's award comes amid his race against rival Sally Moreno for district attorney.

"He's a very hard worker," said two-time recipient Todd Spangler, who serves as supervisor deputy district attorney. "Even though he didn't go to Fresno State, he's a bulldog and he just won't let go. He's most famous for ... prosecuting a one-legged man for driving while intoxicated. There's a story behind that. It epitomizes his grabbing



Paul Hornick, third from right, was honored by the Madera Elks as Prosecutor of the Year at their 46th Annual Officer of the Year Award Dinner. Photo courtesy of Allen Baraldi.

on and not letting go until he gets a conviction."

Hornick, who said he was "humbled"

by the recognition, received the award for consistent high performance as a prosecutor. Hornick lives in Madera with his wife

Amber.

In all, the lodge honored nine law enforcement officers Thursday with the awards, which are generally "peer voted," according to lodge brother David Opfergelt. More than 100 attended the barbecue dinner.

Other officers of the year were Nathaniel Cooper of the Chowchilla Police Department, Craig Lee of Valley State Prison, Frank Tapia of Central California Women's Facility, Jim Yates of California Highway Patrol, Michael Chambers of Madera County Sheriff's Office, Larry Zertuche of Madera County Probation Department, Jaron McAlister of Madera Police Department, and Brandie Beck, Madera County Department of Corrections.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.






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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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Yes on
Proposition 6

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Governor Brown pushed through Senate Bill 1 (SB1) last year that greatly increased gas and diesel taxes and vehicle registration fees, estimated to cost the average household almost \$800 a year. That would buy a lot of back-to-school shoes for the kids, don't you think?

We average Joes and Janes were shocked at the higher pump prices and then at the much higher cost of the little registration bumper sticker. So shocked and angered were we that something unheard of happened: Nearly a million of us signed petitions to place a measure on November's ballot, not only to repeal the increases but to require that any future increases must require a vote of the people.

There were more than enough qualified signatures to place the proposed constitutional amendment on the November 6 ballot as Proposition 6.

As expected, Brown is using his considerable war chest on misleading ads which

warn that passing Prop 6 will result in potholed roads, crumbling bridges, traffic jams from hell and transportation nightmares. But wait, that's already the case; and we already pay among the highest taxes in the nation. Any road work that is actually done using our tax money costs 470 percent more than in other states. Can Governor Brown please explain to us where the billions of tax dollars have been spent and why he needs billions more?

The Secretary of State's office cleverly describes Proposition 6 this way in the Official Voter Information Guide that we voters will rely on: "Eliminates Certain Road Repair and Transportation Funding." That sounds negative, as if the funding is already there and Prop 6 would arbitrarily eliminate it, potholes be damned, right? It should say: "Eliminates Fuel Tax and Vehicle Registration Fee Increases," which is what it does. Liberal Democrats do have a way with words – to match their way with our tax money.

So, what does SB1 provide for (except the tax increases) that justifies so much pushback from the California powers that be? Here are some facts according to ReformCalifornia.org and a cursory scan of SB1's text and media reports:

1. Nothing in SB1 requires that a cent be spent on road repairs or maintenance.
2. There is a built-in yearly tax increase tied

to the California Consumer Price Index to start in 2021.

3. SB1 prohibits the expansion of highways and freeways. No more lanes are allowed, but car lanes can be removed for bike lanes.

4. Millions go to sustainable communities planning grants to local governments.

5. Money is allocated for environmental purposes, local bus and light-rail systems, parks, boating and off-road use. As explained by Assemblyman Jim Patterson, the money can be spent for anything that is "transportation related," and the politicians decide what that includes. "After all, you walk or bike to a park, and that's transportation."

And my personal favorite: 6. SB1 allocates \$100 million to increase the number of trips by bike and on foot (according to the Sacramento Bee). Just how does the government accomplish that?

Clearly SB1 deserves to be repealed, and anyone who voted for it deserves to be replaced. Yes, we sorely need to fix our substandard infrastructure, but SB1 will not do it. If you are so inclined, please go to ReformCalifornia.org for more information and learn what you can do to help pass this much-needed proposition.

Politicians Won't Fix the Roads – The Gas Tax Fraud from ReformCalifornia.org:

Politicians are not interested in fixing or expanding our roads – and the gas tax increase contains zero accountability on where the funds will be spent. In fact, the gas tax measure is specifically written to allow politicians to continue to divert all the funds away from road projects.

State Senator John Moorlach released an independent analysis of the CalTrans budget showing that only 20 percent of the gas tax funds were spent anywhere near roads.

Where do the politicians divert the gas tax money to? The funding has been diverted to cover budget deficits so politicians can continue to spend in other areas. Most of the funds spent on infrastructure get diverted from roads to transit buses, light rail projects, bike lanes (to replace roads), and even park land acquisition.

An independent audit proves very little money actually gets spent on construction. Most of the funding covers the high salaries and pensions for government workers...

There's a better way: Taxpayer advocates have offered an alternative solution to fix our roads without a tax hike – the Road Repair Accountability Initiative – and voters will get a chance to vote on that in the next election once the gas tax hike is repealed. [I look forward to reading this initiative and hope that it will deserve a yes vote.]

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

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Impatience with those who don't keep up with you can cause resistance, which, in turn, can lead to more delays. Best to be helpful and supportive if you want results.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A surprise announcement from a colleague could put you on the defensive. Gather your facts and respond. You'll soon find the situation shifting in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Time spent away from a project pays off with a new awareness of options you hadn't considered before. Weigh them carefully before deciding which to choose.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Consider confronting that personal conflict while there's still time to work things out. A delay can cause more problems. A longtime colleague might offer to mediate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some emerging matters could impede the Lion's progress in completing an important project. Best advice: Deal with them now, before they can create costly delays.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your aspect continues to favor an expanding vista. This could be a good time to make a career move, and taking an out-of-town job could be a good way to do it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Disruptive family disputes need to be settled so that everyone can move on. Avoid assuming this burden alone, though. Ask for -- no, demand -- help with this problem.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Patience is called for as you await word on an important workplace situation. A personal circumstance, however, could benefit by your taking immediate action.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Don't lose confidence in yourself. Those doubters are likely to back off if you demand they show solid proof why they think your ideas won't work.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A temporary setback might cause the usually sure-footed Goat some unsettling moments. But keep going. The path ahead gets easier as you move forward.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) There's welcome news from the workplace. There also could be good news involving a relationship that has long held a special meaning for you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might still need to cut some lingering ties to a situation that no longer has the appeal it once held. In the meantime, you can start to explore other opportunities.

Born this week

Your sense of what's right can inspire others if you remember not to push too hard to make your case. Moderation works best for you.

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FUN PAGES

POPEYE

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

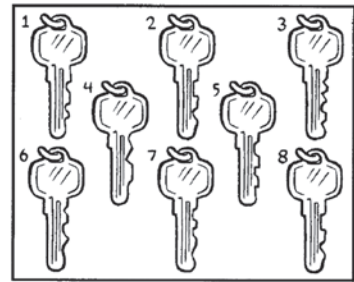
BY AL SCADUTO

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

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Thank to M. POLLACK, THE BRONX, N.Y.

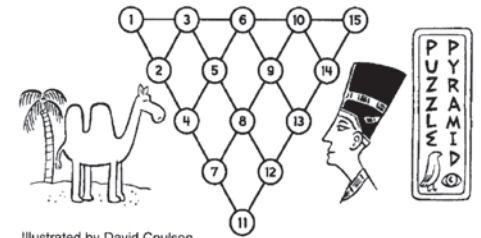


MIX AND MATCH! Can you spot the two keys that are exactly alike?
Answer: Keys 2 and 8.

ODD WORD OUT! To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?
Answer: Raining. The other words all contain the name of a cereal grain. (1. Corn, 3. Oats, 4. Rye, 5. Wheat.)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

THE GREAT PUZZLE PYRAMID
Here's a problem that should keep you busy for hours. On our puzzle board, place 14 coins on all of the circles except No. 6. Now, jumping one coin over another along the lines, as you would in checkers, and removing the jumped-over coin, try to remove every coin from the board except one. As an extra challenge, try to leave the last coin in circle No. 6.

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "STIFLE." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across) Foe, ale, sir, toy, (Down) Fast, olio, eery.

S	T	I	F	L	E
A			E		
			R		
		O		Y	

Wishing Well

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

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 • CARD GAMES

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Blackjack | Fish | Pinochle | Solitaire |
| Canasta | Gin | Poker | Spades |
| Eucre | Hearts | Rook | Whist |
| Faro | Old Maid | Rummy | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Who directed the movie "La Dolce Vita"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the famous Olduvai Gorge located?
- MYTHOLOGY: Tyr was a Norse god of what?
- MUSIC: What pop group sang "Love Shack"?
- PRESIDENTS: How old was Theodore Roosevelt when he was inaugurated?
- SCIENCE: In what century was Isaac Newton born?
- HISTORY: When was the last year the Dodgers played in Brooklyn?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the symbol of the zodiac sign Scorpio?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "speleo" mean?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many bottles of champagne are in a jeroboam?

Answers

- Federico Fellini
- Tanzania
- War
- The B-52s
- 5.42
- 17th century
- 1957
- Scorpion
- Cave
- Four

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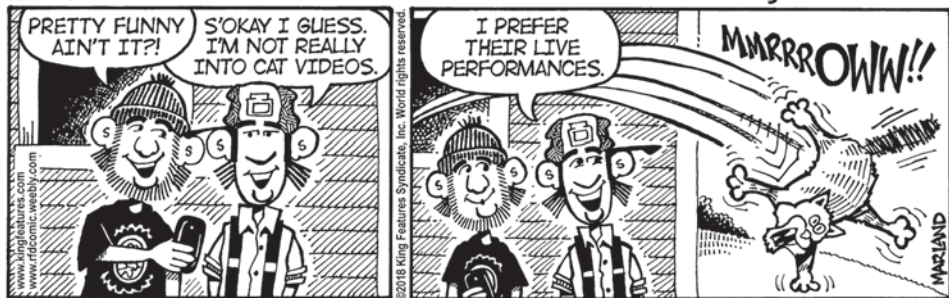
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



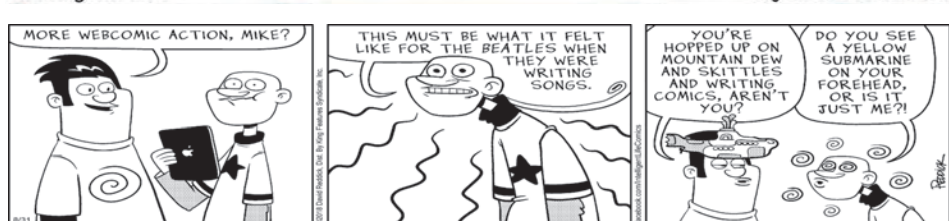
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

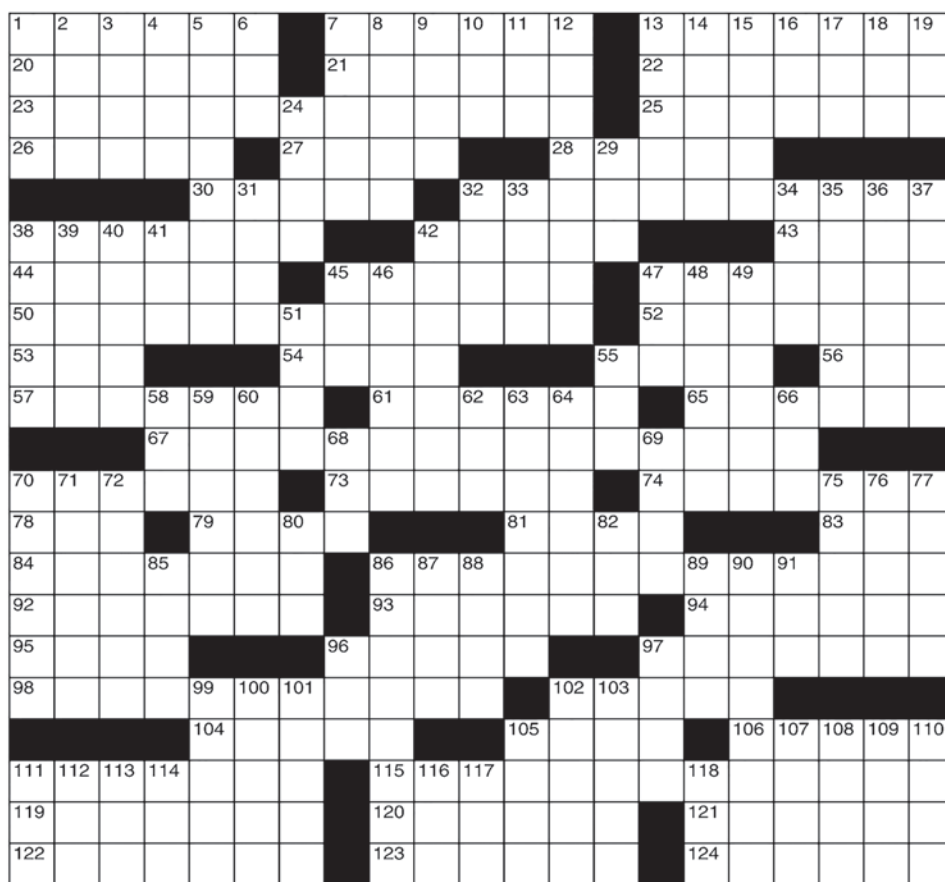
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Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Handle is missing. 4. Curtains is different. 5. Comb is missing. 6. Soda can is missing.

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Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 45 Give out, as a task | 92 Faux names | DOWN | 39 Elevated | 85 Its capital is Vientiane |
| 1 Brand of taco shells | 47 Helps out | 93 Puts up, as an edifice | 1 Sea menace | 40 Sports data | 86 Puts on a new course |
| 7 Serapes, e.g. | 50 Withholding corporal | 94 Arrive at a choice | 2 Big crucifix | 41 Knightly title | 87 Actor Close |
| 13 Holders of strike signs | 51 Punishment, biblically | 95 City near Lake Tahoe | 3 Take care of | 42 Mao of China | 88 Cal — |
| 20 Film critic Richard | 52 Baja naps | 96 Watson's partner | 4 Sword sort | 45 Had food | 89 One forming something |
| 21 Social outcast | 53 Holiday in Hanoi | 97 Popping-up appliance | 5 1936-52 | 46 One forming something | 90 Picture of an ocean view |
| 22 Be given via will | 54 Oven output | 98 "Under the Net" novelist | 6 "Woof!" kin | 47 Cleo's cobra | 91 Mac rivals |
| 23 "Get Smart" device for a secret conversation | 55 Limited | 102 Shovel go-withs | 7 Mace, e.g. | 48 Kitchen tools | 92 String after B |
| 25 All excited | 56 Top pitcher | 104 "Cheerio!" | 8 Recital sites | 49 Car types | 93 Track beams |
| 26 One using a plus sign | 57 Mag revenue source | 105 High wind | 9 Locale | 51 Indian butter | 94 — Polo |
| 27 Rose Bowl sch. | 61 Get bloated | 106 Private stash | 10 Finish at #1 | 52 Liable | 100 Cow's milk source |
| 28 Mario Lanza, for one | 65 Leaps over | 111 Provides documentary films | 11 Body of eau | 53 Licorice-like flavorers | 101 Gets higher |
| 30 Hands over | 67 PBS series | 115 Punny statement | 12 Kind of pony or sheepdog | 60 Music box? | 102 Wage recipient |
| 32 Classmate | 70 — tank | 116 Keyboard instruments | 13 Keyboard instrument | 62 Agcy. OK'ing medicines | 103 At the ready |
| 38 People swearing | 73 Keyboard instruments | 117 Suzzle | 14 Being pulled | 63 "Dudley Do-Right" damsel Nell | 104 Unit of heredity |
| 42 Actress | 74 Avers | 119 Soon-to-be bride | 15 Bird's sound | 64 Not mailed, say | 105 State boldly |
| 43 Reid and skater | 78 Gardner of the screen | 120 Salary maker | 16 Actor Wahl | 66 Exercise | 106 Old Briton |
| 44 1990s IBM computer | 79 Biblical king before David | 121 Artemis' twin | 17 Unit of work | 68 D.C. figure | 107 County seat |
| | 81 Join closely | 122 Stretching muscles | 18 "Shop — you drop" | 69 Alan of film | 108 Rival school of Harrow |
| | 83 Historic time | 123 With 32-Down, event with a funnel cake stand, often | 19 — Jeanne d'Arc: Abbr. | 70 African hunt | 109 Not fore |
| | 84 Like some snakelike fish | 124 Unit of force | 24 RAV4s, e.g. | 71 More sinful | 110 "Bah!" |
| | 86 High-definition iPad feature | | 29 Golf's Ernie | 72 Some Italian sandwiches | 111 Groupie, e.g. |
| | | | 31 Persia, now | 73 Kindled again | 112 Come — (skills) |
| | | | 32 See 123-Across | 74 Vocation | 113 Sombra, for example |
| | | | 33 As a result | 75 Singer Leo | 114 Be wrong |
| | | | 34 "Mila 18" author Leon | 76 Sub inits. | 115 Sci-fi's Solo |
| | | | 35 USPS part | 77 — Cruces | |
| | | | 36 Unbroken | | |
| | | | 37 Damsels | | |
| | | | 38 — pall over | | |

FUN PAGES

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2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

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

8/18

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

NEWS
FIRST

5	9	6	4	8	1	2	3	7
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T	E	N	S	O	R	S	S	T	R	E	E	T											

28	4	X	9	X	16	7
19	6	-	9	+	8	5
30	+	X	1	+	16	25
X	X	+	X	+	8	X
4	X	-	9	X	16	X
27	6	-	9	X	8	2
19	6	-	9	X	8	2

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Senior Report

Back to School, Dia de los Muertos for Seniors

By Margaret Tynan

It's that time again.

Up in the mornin' and out to school/The teacher is teaching the Golden Rule." — Chuck Berry

Families and teachers are busy getting back into the routine of the school year, leaving the carefree days of summer behind. Parents of growing children shop for new school clothes and gym

and sports attire and all the school supplies that are needed. In support of our local students, their families and teachers, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors are collecting school supplies during the months of August and September to donate to the Ranchos Middle School. The

community is invited to join in the effort. You can drop off supply contributions at the Center, 37330 Berkshire Dr., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Some of the suggested supplies are: 70-100 count spiral notebooks, pens, pencils with erasers, rulers, etc. (a complete list is available at the Center). Your participation is most appreciated.

September is full of activities at the Center. A group of members is busy planning the inaugural Holiday Craft Fair which will be held Saturday, Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many artists and crafters from the area are already signed up to exhibit their work and we are still recruiting more. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in signing up to be a vendor at the Holiday Craft Fair, contact the Center at 559-645-4864 to request an application. You can also request an application by email at rhseniors@att.net. You may also go to rhseniors.blog.com on the web to get more information and to download the application. Be sure to mark your calendar. You won't want to miss the opportunity to find that perfect handcrafted gift or item for your home. Watch for more details in the next edition of the "Senior

Report."

On Thursday, Sept. 27, a tour of the Arté Americas Museum in Fresno is planned. The Museum is presenting a diverse collection of art, murals and altars for the 31st annual celebration of El Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, entitled "Inolvidable" (Unforgettable). With its beginnings as a day of thanks for the harvest, El Día de los Muertos has come to be a time to remember ancestors and loved ones who have departed.

Families create altars in their homes. These altars are not places of worship but serve as a way to show honor. They are decorated with favorite objects and other mementoes that were of significance to the remembered loved one. The altars on exhibit at the museum are honoring local and internationally known individuals. There will be a guided tour followed by a craft class. It should prove to be an exciting and interesting day. Contact the Center for more information.

The nominating committee is being formed this month in preparation for the election of officers in November. Members, be sure to stay involved by watching the monthly newsletter and attending the regular meetings. NOTE: There is a change of meeting days. Beginning in the month of September and continuing for the future, meetings will be held as follows: Planning Meeting the first Tuesday; Board Meeting the second Tuesday; General Meeting the third Tuesday. All regular meetings will begin at 12:30 p.m.

A reminder: The regular monthly Bake and Boutique and Treasure House and Plant Sale is Saturday, Sept. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. Exercise Class is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. and the Writing Group meets weekly on Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. We hope to see you at one or all of these events.

Thought for September: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." — Albert Einstein



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The Bookshelf

Storytime for Ranchos Kids is Back

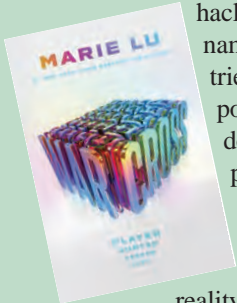
By Jerrica Edmundson

Well, we have successfully completed our 2018 Summer Reading Program and had a great turnout for the whole event. I look forward to next year being even greater. Our usual storytime with Miss Maxfield starts back up on Aug. 23 at 11 a.m., geared toward kindergarten learning and entertainment.

We will be saying goodbye to Spencer this month, so this will be his last book recommendation for you all. He has had a great time serving the community here at the library and will miss everyone, but is moving away and will be missed by us here at the library.

Jerrica's Shelf

Warcross by Marie Lu



Warcross follows a hacker/bounty hunter named Emika as she tries to stave off poverty by hunting down people who are performing nefarious acts within the world of Warcross, which is a virtual reality game that uses NeuroLink glasses to fully immerse the player into the world. Through an unexpected turn of events she is chosen as a wildcard to play in the biggest tournament of the year with professionals, so that she can have better access to find the biggest threat to the world itself: A hacker only known as Zero.

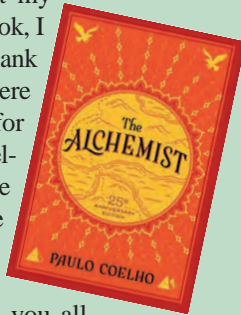
This was an action-packed book that I

wasn't able to put down and finished in just a few hours, making it a great quick read for someone looking for a little adventure on their bookshelf. Fun action sequences, a little bit of romance and a whole lot of intrigue all combine to make this a book that I think anyone would enjoy.

Spencer's Shelf

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Before I start my rundown of the book, I just want to say thank you to everyone here in the Ranchos for making me feel welcome for the time I've been here. I've loved being able to share my favorite books with you all and really did enjoy the experiences I've had here in California. You've been great!



I always recommend this book to people looking for something that deals with more realistic worlds than my usual fare. It takes place in Africa where Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd, has gone to follow a recurring dream in order to fulfil his destiny and find a treasure within the pyramids of Egypt.

This one is a short book so it's hard to give much of a summary without ruining the story for people who haven't read it, but it's stuck with me for years and remains a favorite of mine. A highly philosophical book at its core, this book is all about manifest destiny and how the universe will work with you to make something happen if it is what you really want.

The Madera Ranchos Library

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

SEMUCU speaks


By Jennifer Laughlin

Elections and voter propositions are hot but divisive topics in our country today. Let's put aside the confusion of the Federal government, whatever your opinions are, and turn ourselves home to look at some of the issues that affect our region and community. There are a dozen props up for voting on November 6, 2018 and many of them are important to review.

It is Prop 3, the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, that addresses serious issues that affect our community and will continue to do so for years. For those of you who are not familiar with the proposition, "... the bond will invest \$8.877 billion dollars in California water infrastructure, including key categories like: safe drinking water, Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) implementation, watershed restoration, fish and wildlife habitat conservation, infrastructure repair, and many other important water management programs." That's a lot of money and if it does pass, hopefully it will do good things.

Now wouldn't it be nice if some of those billions would go right into our pockets for our water and energy needs? Ummm ... Yes please! Sadly, that's not how it works. We have a different way to get money in your pockets though. If you purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, buy an Energy Star and you will be eligible for a \$350 rebate through a grant that SEMCU has secured for the community. You can buy them anywhere but Ventura TV and Appliance in Fresno has added deals that could lower your costs to \$9! You saw that right ... \$9! These products significantly reduce your energy costs as well. It may not be \$8 billion but it's still free money. Take advantage of this grant now before it runs out next year.

SEMUCU is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity that represents the people of Southeast Madera County. Its focus is on water conservation and building a sustainable future. For more information, please visit our website at www.semcu.org.



Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation.

Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.

Take shorter showers — five minutes or less is best.

Install new toilets that use less than 1.6 gallons per flush.

Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.

Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine.

Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth.

8/18

come meet friends!

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