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Volume 16 Issue 8 2020

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

State on Fire

By Randy Bailey

The San Joaquin Valley is almost completely covered by smoke in a view from 22,000 miles above earth.

In This Issue

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The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District cautions Madera Ranchos residents of increasing health impacts from unhealthy air. Ongoing multiple wildfires across California and surrounding the Valley are continuing to cause smoke impacts to all counties of the Valley air basin. Through the week of Aug. 24, PM2.5 (particulate matter) concentrations have continued to increase, resulting in very unhealthy air quality across the region. As a result, the District is re-issuing a health caution, which will remain in place until the fires are extinguished.

The District anticipates unhealthy air quality to affect the Valley through the weekend and warns residents to stay indoors. The SCU Lightning Complex Fire, located in multiple northern counties, including Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties; the Hills Fire, located in Fresno County west of Avenal near Highway 33; the CZU August Lightning Complex Fire, located in various locations across San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties; and the Lake Fire located in Los Angeles County southeast of Lebec, are producing smoke that is infiltrating into the San Joaquin Valley which includes Madera County, as well as San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings, Tulare Counties and the Valley portion of Kern county.

The National Weather Service is predicting a storm from the Pacific Northwest will arrive this weekend providing a strong flow of cooler air. Although no rain is predicted with the storm, it is hoped that the strong winds will blow out the smokey air covering the Valley. The winds should also help lower temperatures in the Valley. Air quality information is always available at www.valleyair.org, the San

Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Board's website.

Air pollution officials caution Valley residents to reduce exposure to the particulate matter emissions by remaining indoors in affected areas. PM pollution can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic bronchitis and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Individuals with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of PM exposure. Those with existing respiratory conditions, including COVID-19, young children and the elderly, are especially susceptible to the health effects from this form of pollution. Anyone experiencing poor air quality due to wildfire smoke should move indoors, to a filtered, air-conditioned environment with windows closed. The common cloth and paper masks individuals are wearing due to COVID-19 concerns may *not* protect them from wildfire smoke.

20,000 Lightning Strikes

The fires devastating California are primarily the result of nearly 20,000 lightning strikes throughout the state. According to Cal Fire, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection emergency response and resource protection department, just under 1 million acres of land have burned in the last few weeks. The combination of extremely dry vegetation, high heat and lightning strikes makes for a particularly toxic fire combination.

California's northern and central regions have been hit hardest with nearly 600,000 scorched acres, and the fires have claimed five fatalities at this time. Cal Fire

Please see **FIRE** on P. 17

Ranchos Man Arrested: Sex Trafficking, Shooting

A Madera Ranchos man, Dylan Colby Nichols Dobbs, 27, was arrested in Madera County by the Madera County Sheriff's Office on July 29 and is being held on \$1,025,000 bail for charges of human trafficking, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, financial elder abuse, grand theft and probation violations. In addition, the California Highway Patrol is also charging Dobbs with a Highway 41 shooting that occurred on July 27.



Dylan Colby Nichols Dobbs, 27, was arrested in Madera County on July 29 for charges of human trafficking and other offenses.

It is alleged that Dobbs abused and coerced a 22-year-old woman for the purposes of sex trafficking, as well as potentially other women and girls as far away as the San Francisco area and Las Vegas. Detectives in Madera County are looking for other possible vic-

tims of Dobbs. Detectives believe Dobbs arranged his contact with potential victims through social media.

In a bizarre twist, two days before Dobbs was arrested, there was a shooting in a car on Highway 41 that resulted in multiple injuries and one person having to be transported to the hospital. The California Highway Patrol now believe Dobbs was behind the shooting. The shooting is unrelated to the sex trafficking charge. The Sheriff's Office further said that Dobbs had a history of offenses involving weapons, domestic violence and drugs. Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno will next determine the charges Dobbs' could face for the highway shooting.

Ranchos Water Well Depths

Static Sounding Level				
MD-95	Well #1		Well #4	
July-20	340			334
June-20	322			320
May-20	304			305
April-20	301			302
Mar-20	308			304
Feb-20	304			308
Jan-20	301			302
Dec-19	305			305
Nov-19	310			312

MD10	Dublin	Charlton	New Fender	Kensington
July-20	338		313	
June-20	347		307	
May-20	324		305	
April-20	324		291	
Mar-20	321		295	
Feb-20	321		295	298
Jan-20	322		286	298
Dec-19			290	301

Water Usage

The table below is an account comparison for the water usage for the months of May, June and July 2019 and 2020.

District	May 2019	May 2020	June 2019	June 2020	July 2019	July 2020
MD-95 Gallons	2,213,000	2,855,300	2,764,400	3,283,900	3,759,300	3,380,400
MD-10 Gallons	18,753,800	32,188,000	29,765,659	43,066,100	48,986,500	48,070,000

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Randy

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Dennis



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Letters

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to compliment you on Betty Van Valkenburg's piece in today's paper (Tea Time, July, 2020). It was excellent. I really enjoyed it and I just wanted to thank you.

Stuart Weil
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I hope you'll take a look at a point-on opinion from a Michigan man; maybe you've already seen it. Would you consider sharing it with your readers?

"Dear Editor:

Has America become the land of the special interest and home of the double standard? Let's see ...

If we lie to the Congress, it's a felony – but if the congress lies to us it's just 'politics.' If we dislike a black person, we're racist – and if a black dislikes whites, it's their 1st Amendment right. The government spends millions to rehabilitate criminals and they do almost nothing for the victims. In public schools you can teach that homosexuality is OK, but you better not use the word God in the process. You can kill an unborn child, but it's wrong to execute a mass murderer. We don't burn books in America, we now re-write them. We got rid of the communist and socialist threat by renaming them progressives. We are unable to close our border with Mexico,

but have no problem protecting the 38th parallel in Korea. If you protested against President Obama's policies you were a terrorist, but if you burned an American flag or George Bush in effigy it was your 1st Amendment right. You can have pornography on TV or the internet, but you better not put a nativity scene in a public park during Christmas. We have eliminated all criminals in America – they are now called sick people. We can use a human fetus for medical research, but it's wrong to use an animal. We take money from those who work hard for it and give it to those who don't want to work. We all support the Constitution, but only when it supports our political ideology. We still have freedom of speech, but only if we are being politically correct. Parenting has been replaced with Ritalin and video games. The land of opportunity is now the land of hand-outs. The similarity between Hurricane Katrina and the gulf oil spill is that neither president did anything to help.

And how do WE handle a major crisis today? The government appoints a committee to determine who's at fault, then threatens them, passes a law, raises our taxes then tells us the problem is solved so they can get back to their re-election campaign.

What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave?

Ken Huber
Tawas City, MI"

Thank you for your consideration,
Jan Peirsol
Madera Ranchos

County Makes Pandemic Grants

The County of Madera Board of Supervisors approved a Small Business Pandemic Assistance Grant program to help support small businesses located in Madera County. The County will partner with the Madera County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) to disperse over \$3.8 Million in the form of small business grants. The County received the funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security Act (or CARES Act) from the State of California originating from the United States Government.

"This program affirms the Board's commitment to use available resources to help ensure businesses in the County see a path to recovery from this crisis," said David Rogers, Board Chairman.

By state mandate many businesses that had just recently reopened were forced to shut their doors for a second time. "Small businesses employ a significant portion of our community, especially in the hard hit sectors like tourism and hospitality. The action taken by the Board of Supervisors will give our local economy a chance to weather this pandemic," said Jay Varney, Madera County CAO.

"So many of our small businesses throughout the County have been devastated by the COVID19 Pandemic we felt this was a great way to help them survive during these unprecedented times," said Bobby Kahn, Executive Director of MCEDC. "It has been the absolute worst nightmare come true for so many industries."

Eligible businesses with 50 or fewer employees can apply for grants in the amount of \$5,000 or \$10,000 depending on the size of their business. They will be able to obtain applications by going to mcedccountybusinessgrant.com or by calling the MCEDC office at 559-675-7768 for assistance.

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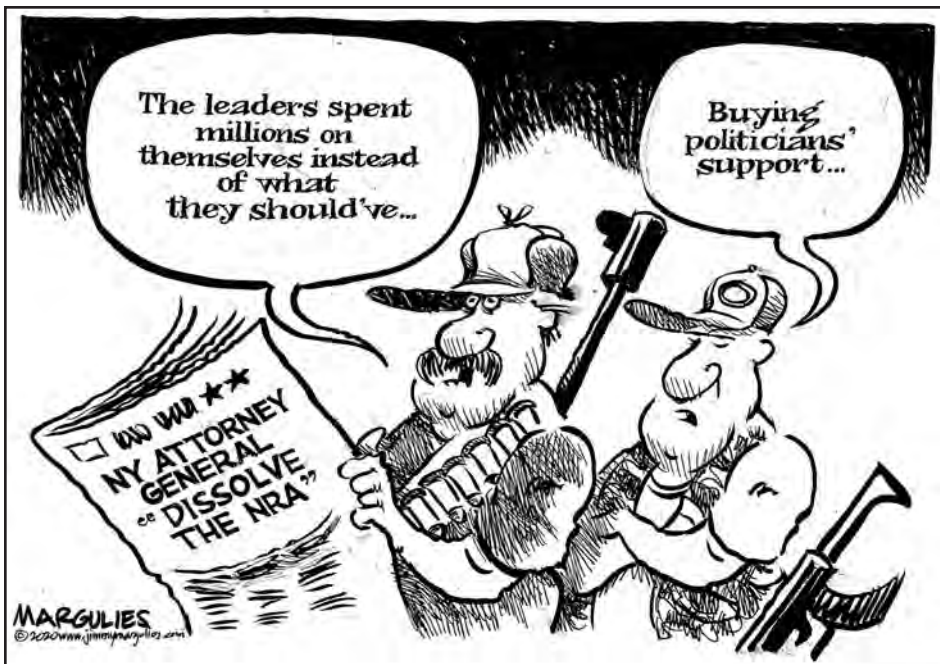
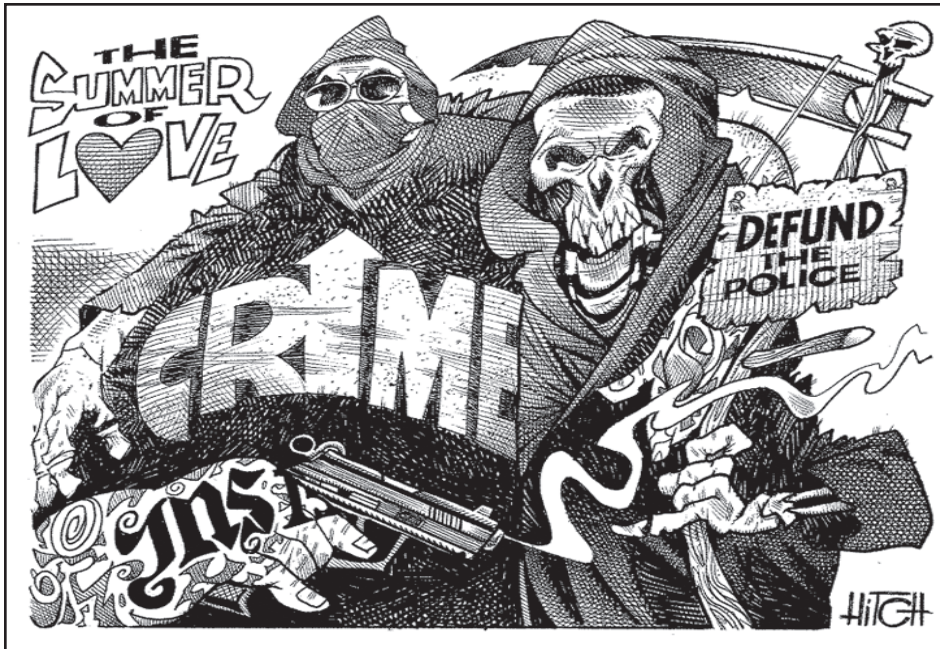
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8/28



Editorial

Some Lives Matter

By Randy Bailey

By nature, I'm a cautious person. I weigh things in my mind, I look at the pros and cons, and then I make a decision. I learned a long time ago that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. And along those same lines, if something sounds like it just doesn't add up, it probably doesn't. I've also learned that in life there's my side, there's your side and then there's the truth. It's this last one that's giving me problems about this whole Black Lives Matter movement.

I remember when I first heard about BLM my first thought was, "Well, ALL lives matter ... not just Black lives." How quickly I was put in my place for such a racist thought. That's right – thinking ALL lives mattered was now a racist thought. I had it explained to me that ALL lives matter was actually code for "white lives matter." I still scrunch up my face and turn my head like a dog hearing a strange sound when I repeat that. It was the same thing as back when "homophobic" was first unveiled. If homosexuality wasn't your cup of tea and you expressed that, you were labeled homophobic – BUT – that didn't mean you feared homosexuals, it meant that deep down inside you wanted to BE homosexual and your "acting out" was the war going on deep inside of you. Again

with the scrunched up face and hearing a bell somewhere in the distance.

So, remember up above and that point about "... if something sounds like it just doesn't add up, it probably doesn't ..."? Here's where I get in trouble.

When you suggest Black Lives Matter, you infer that other lives don't matter; or more correctly, other lives don't matter nearly as *much*. But for the sake of this discussion, I'm willing to agree that Black Lives Matter without the asterisk. But what you are quickly hit with is the reality that some Black lives matter *more* than others. *Way* more.

And not more than White lives or Hispanic lives or Asian lives, but more than other Black lives. In the first 12 days of July of this year it was Black carnage, and none of it by police officers. In Baltimore 12 Blacks were shot, killing one, over the Fourth of July weekend. In Chicago, 64 shootings of young Black men left 13 dead from Friday, July 10 through Sunday, July 12. And in New York City, 30 shootings left 10 Black people dead on Sunday, July 5. The common thread? They were all killed by other Black lives. Mixed in among these numbers – from just a 12-day period – were mostly young men but also children. But these stories weren't being told. Nightly news wasn't reporting on that. BLM leaders and talking heads were acting like it didn't happen or, worse yet, like it was expected. This is just what happens in Black majority cities. The murder of George Floyd was a travesty. I know no one who cheered as he died. But it very quickly becomes apparent that unless the death of a Black life is at the hands of a police officer, Black Lives Matter couldn't care less.

Have YOU heard about 3-year-old Mekhi James, who was shot and killed in Chicago while riding in his stepfather's car? Or 9-year-old Tyshawn Lee who was shot to death on the streets of Chicago by two Black men seeking gang-related vengeance related to Tyshawn's father? Or 13-year-old Rickie Forehand, shot and killed at a Rosedale shopping center and the four other children who were shot in the same incident?

When *those* Black lives matter, this organization might get my attention.

And support.

The Ranchos Independent

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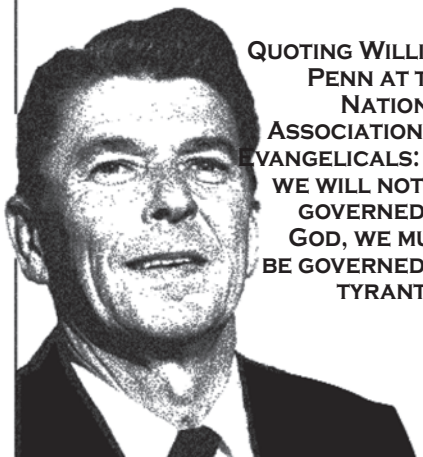
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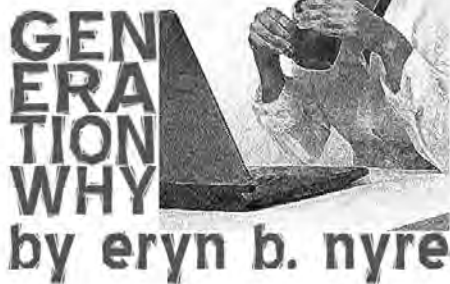
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RONALD REAGAN
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August: The Hardest Month

August will most likely be a tough month for me for the rest of my life because I lost my mom four years ago on the fourteenth. Even four years later this time of year still brings out a pulsating ache in my heart. I am reminded of all the lasts that I had with her as the dates on the calendar tick by. The last time I picked her up from the airport, the last time she visited my apartment, the last time we had dinner together and the last conversation we had on the phone. August has become a month of lasts for me. I know my mom wouldn't want that, so instead I am going to tell you about three remarkable memories she and I shared.

I have many Disneyland memories with my mother that span from the time I was a small child all the way up to the Christmas before her untimely passing. The countless magical moments from all of those



When I was a kid, my parents were involved in all aspects of my life. They knew my friends, they knew my friends' parents, they knew where I was and what was going on. I was lucky to have parents like this. My mom was a member of the PTA and was often a chaperone on school trips and dances. Of course, if you would have asked me way back then what I thought of my mom chaperoning a dance, the resulting tantrum would have been worthy of an MTV reality show. Allow me to take you

I may not be able to make any more memories with her, but I am a deeply blessed woman who has three decades worth of special memories I can cherish for the rest of my life.

back to my first dance in middle school. It started off perfect. The music was slamming. I was wearing my very best jeans with my absolute cutest top. My hair was perfectly teased, which was the style back in my tiny, one-horse hometown because we were stuck in the 80s even though it was the 90s. I was so excited to hang out with my friends and dance the night away, I even got the nerve up to ask my crush to dance, and he said YES! It was like a dream ... that turned into a nightmare when suddenly my mother popped up out of nowhere and started taking pictures of me slow dancing with the boy I liked. None of the guys danced with me after that. I thought I was going to die, and I certainly wasn't going back to school anymore. Obviously, I survived that mild-to-moderate case of parental embarrassment. I know this may sound like a bad memory, but looking back on it through an adult's eyes it's more endearing - still embarrassing, of

course, if you would have asked me way back then what I thought of my mom chaperoning a dance, the resulting tantrum would have been worthy of an MTV reality show. Allow me to take you back to my first dance in middle school. It started off perfect. The music was slamming. I was wearing my very best jeans with my absolute cutest top. My hair was perfectly teased, which was the style back in my tiny, one-horse hometown because we were stuck in the 80s even though it was the 90s. I was so excited to hang out with my friends and dance the night away, I even got the nerve up to ask my crush to dance, and he said YES! It was like a dream ... that turned into a nightmare when suddenly my mother popped up out of nowhere and started taking pictures of me slow dancing with the boy I liked. None of the guys danced with me after that. I thought I was going to die, and I certainly wasn't going back to school anymore. Obviously, I survived that mild-to-moderate case of parental embarrassment. I know this may sound like a bad memory, but looking back on it through an adult's eyes it's more endearing - still embarrassing, of

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

course – but I can laugh at it now, though I never let my mother live it down.

My mother, even in her sometimes-invasive way, was always there for me. In my mid-twenties, I suffered a pretty devastating heartbreak. It was rough and I wasn't handling it well. I lived in California and my parents had already moved back to New Mexico. Most mothers don't like seeing their children anguishing over lost love. Most mothers would try to comfort their daughters as they nurse heartaches. My mother, in her infinite over-the-top mom-ness, hopped on a plane and flew from New Mexico to California to spend a week with me. She took me out to fun activities. She laid around with me and watched movies. She even helped me redecorate my room for a fresh start. Whenever I think of those

times when she was doing a spectacular impression of a helicopter, I always remember when she flew 700 miles to be with me just because I'd had my heart broken. Not everyone is lucky enough to have a mom like that, but I was.

My mother was strong and fierce when it came to protecting her family. She was compassionate and doting when it came to caring for us. She made every birthday special and every happy occasion an all-out event. She put all my mistakes into perspective and had faith in me that I would learn and grow from them. She eased every heartache and disappointment and gave me confidence that things would get better. She was my best friend and my biggest fan. I may not be able to make any more memories with her, but I am a deeply blessed woman who has three decades worth of special memories I can cherish for the rest of my life.

By Wyatt Morgan

Come check out what Sierra Shadows 4-H has been doing. Our 2020-2021 project year is beginning soon and we want your child to see all the fun activities they could be doing. While animals are one of the most noticeable projects our members are involved in, it is by no means the only thing. Come show off your creative side in such projects as Arts and Crafts, Baking, Floral Photography. Show

4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
Sierra Shadows 4H Club




At the Small Animal Expo are, from left, Hailey Martinez, Emily Wallace, Christy Kaneko and Sarah Morgan.



Hunter Williams-Smith, left, and Griffin Williams-Smith present their projects at the Madera Fair Virtual Camp.

your love of community and outdoor life in such projects as Outdoor Adventures, Shooting Sports, Community Pride, and Sign Language. Hone your speaking and leadership skills in projects like Public Speaking, Joshua's Ways and serving as a club officer. Love animals? Join one of our animal projects like Goats, Horse, Poultry, Pigs, Rabbits, or Beef Cattle. You DO NOT need to own an animal to participate in any of these projects. We welcome mem-

bers all year long and look forward to seeing you at our club meetings.

Even during these challenging times, our club has remained active and responsibly. Many of our activities

were successfully able to run on Zoom, while others were done through the mail. Club meetings are held at Sierra View Elementary every second Tuesday of the month, beginning Sept. 8. Currently all club meetings are to be held remotely, however that can change any day. Updates will be made on our club's Facebook page, Sierra Shadows 4H club. You can also reach out to our club leaders at sierrashadows4h@gmail.com.

Super School Lunches

(August 2010)

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



by Jean Briner

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 sandwiches. 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

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.

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 leftover 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

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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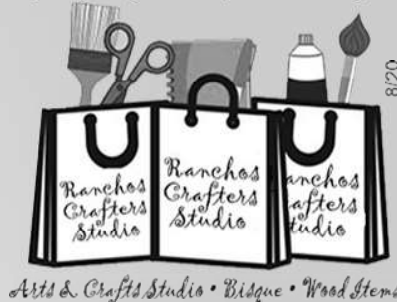
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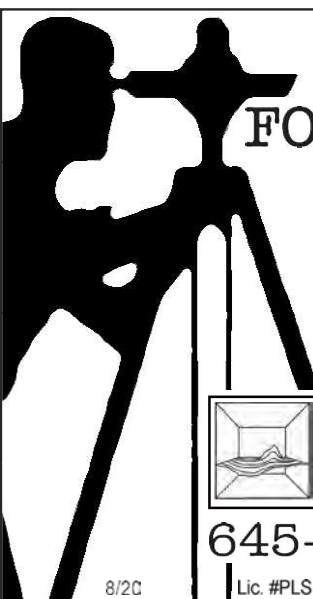
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Piles to Smiles

Do you want a safe and effective way to lose 20 pounds in a day?

Purge your files.

Do you want to make things easier on your kids when you die?

Purge your files.

Do you want to be able to find important documents faster and easier?

Purge your files.

There are a lot of benefits to organizing your paper. The only downside is the process. I remember a client saying, "I have to wait until my fear of doing it is overcome by my fear of not

doing it." Filing isn't second nature to most people. If it is to you, you're excused from reading the rest of this article.

Most paper piles and overstuffed files are due to deferred decisions. The cause is a lack of knowledge or confidence about the following:

- *What to keep*
- *How to store it*
- *When to let it go*

Here are some general guidelines to convert your overstuffed files and piles, into smiles.

1. Get informed.

Know which documents to keep and how long they need to be saved. You can access a record retention guide here at www.suzeorman.com/resources/record-keeping. If you don't have internet access, you may call me and I'll mail one to you (559-871-3314). Since there can be exceptions to every rule, your CPA/Attorney should have the final say.

2. Gather the following supplies:

- a. Boxes or bags labeled "To Be

Sorted," "Shred," and "Recycle."

b. A sturdy file cabinet that opens easily and completely. I recommend Hon. They're pricey, but you can get a good used one for a reasonable price.

c. Hanging files and regular folders along with a label maker or marker.

d. A clear space to work.

3. Collect your papers. Gather the paper piles from wherever they may be and place them into the To Be Sorted box(es). Don't include the current bills

There are a lot of benefits to organizing your paper. The only downside is the process.

to pay and other items you need to take action on. (See instructions for those in last month's article.) This will motivate you to uncover flat surfaces that have not seen the light of day in some time. Set your To Be Sorted box(es) aside in a closet or someplace out of the way until step five.

4. Purge your file drawers. Grab a handful of files from your file drawer and go to your workspace where you have your Shred and Recycle boxes/bags. Systematically go through

each file and purge the items you no longer need, based on your retention guide (see #1). Return that stack and grab another so that it remains manageable as you go along. If you need to break before finishing, place a Post-it note sticking up where you stopped. You may do this over a period of time but give yourself a deadline, so it gets done.

5. Purge & File your paper piles. Bring your To Be Sorted box(es) to your workspace. Grab a handful of papers and begin sorting. Make a stack of those that need filing, and place the rest in Shred or Recycle, based on your retention guide (see #1). Continue the process until you've emptied your box(es).

6. Finish Filing. File your remaining papers in the file drawer. Create folders if needed.

7. Shred & Recycle. Place your recycle in your recycle bin and if your shredding is more than you care to do at home, take it to an office supply store.

If you're creating a file system

Please see **PURGE** on P. 14



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Senior Report

Audrey Stock and the Ranchos

By Margaret Tynan

Members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors are a vibrant, active and delightful group. Over the nearly three years I've been writing for the Senior Report, I've had the opportunity to meet and interview many of them. Featured here is what I've learned from first meeting Audrey Stock when I joined the Center and from a recent interview.

I first met Audrey about four years ago at morning exercise. She impressed me as a very energetic go-getter as she led the exercise group. In our recent interview, she told me she'd led the group for 10 years – even after hip replacements. She shared that she just recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Audrey has lived and been very active in the local community for the past 34 years. She is a member of the Center since 1999, during which time she served terms as both Vice President and President. Not only being very active with the seniors, she has made many prominent contributions to the youth of Madera Ranchos. Through her tireless work serving on the Golden Valley Unified School District school board for two five-year terms, she joined in the effort to establish Liberty High and Ranchos Middle School. In recognition of her work, the middle school's library bears her name. Also, during her tenure on the school board, she wrote "The Stock Report" for the Ranchos Independent, giving insight to the work of the board.

Audrey grew up and worked on a farm. She had a brother, whom she lost in WWII. She retired from Fresno Unified School District where she taught middle school for many years. She has three children and enjoys her 12 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren very

much.

Audrey loved to travel, having visited 15 countries over the years. She now enjoys reading a wide variety of genres and is busy working on a family genealogy project. When asked what she liked about the being a member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center, she replied, "The people. The joy of being together. I enjoy the social activities, especially the games." The Center is proud to have Audrey in its membership. We look forward to seeing her at afternoon game sessions once the Center is able to reopen for in-house activities.

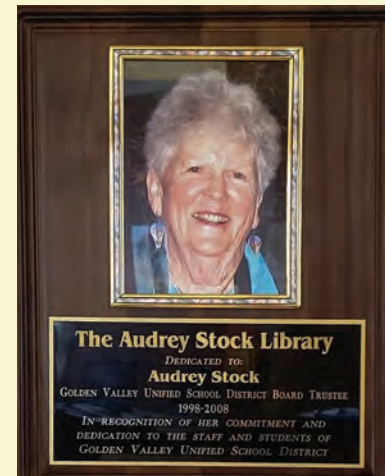
The Center will open the garden area and Treasure House for an outdoor sale on Saturday, Sept. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while shopping.

A big thank you to the Ranchos/Hills

Seniors members, members of the community and local businesses for your support of the Center. You help make it possible for the Center to continue providing activities and services for the seniors of our area. Donations are welcomed and appreciated. Make your check out to Ranchos Hills Seniors and mail to 37330 Berkshire Dr., Madera, CA 93636. Please note: At this time, we are only able to accept donations of physical items by appointment. Please call 559-645-4864.

Nominations are now open for Ranchos/Hills Seniors President and two members to serve on the board. All current members of the Center are eligible to serve. Members wishing to self-nominate or nominate a fellow member, please call the Center to submit names by Sept. 30.

Thought for September: "Do your little bit of good where you are; It's those bits of good, put together, that overwhelm the world." – Desmond Tutu



Audrey Stock's plaque from the Ranchos Middle School library that bears her name.

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1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
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.

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Newest Member**

Ranchos Liberty Café
Fidel Bonilla -- Owner/Partner

Join us in welcoming Ranchos Liberty Café, the newest member of the Ranchos business family. Visit them at 37193 Ave. 12 in the Maywood Shopping Center. Call 559-416-7292 for more information.

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 9 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what’s going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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Kiwanis Korner

Covid Not Slowing Down Kiwanis

By Nancy Wayne

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

Madera Rancho Kiwanis received a photo of the 2020 Sober Grad celebration. We donated money to help the 2020 graduates of Liberty High celebrate their graduation in a safe and sober way, and we wish all of them a successful future.



The Liberty High Class of 2020 celebrating the final event of their high school career, the annual Sober Grad celebration, which received a contribution from the Ranchos Kiwanis.

Ranchos members donated \$700 to the Miracle Mile of Quarters, a fundraiser for Valley Children's Hospital. After all the Kiwanis District clubs donated to the project, the goal of \$25,000 has been met.

Sept. 9-11 our Kiwanis club has been asked to help with the Valley Children's Foundation RadioThon. Listen for your neighbors on KISS Country, Sept. 9-11 and call in and donate to this worthy cause.

Sept. 25 we will be installing new officers for the upcoming year. New officers are: President, Richard Wayne; Vice President, Chris Parks; Treasurer, Marie Cameron; Secretary, Nancy Wayne. Marie has volunteered her back yard for the upcoming meetings so that we can all stay "distanced apart." To liven up the evening, there will be a Mask Competition, complete with prizes for most lovely mask, most horrible and most mind boggling. Kiwanians, start planning the mask that shows your true Kiwanis spirit. Bev Delk will be coordinating the event.

Kiwanians will be meeting in backyards regularly to discuss how to help and support the children in our community.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

PURGE cont. from P. 10

from scratch, or your system is lacking structure, consider setting up your files in categories. Here's a sampling of potential categories:

- Tax Documents – W2s, deductions, bank/investment statements, etc.
- Paid Bills (non-tax related) – service provider statements, credit card statements, petty receipts, etc.
- Permanent Records – Auto Records, Birth Certificates, Home Records, Medical Records, Pet Records, Warranties/Manuals, Education Records, etc.
- Insurance – Auto, Health, Home, Life, etc.
- Resources – Gardening,

Health/Fitness, Travel, other hobbies, etc.

Create tabs for each category and for each folder within that category. Place the category tabs on the right, and the individual tabs on the left and alphabetize. You may also use different colored folders or different drawers to separate categories.

Filing is less daunting when you have a place and space for the papers you need to keep. Happy filing!

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

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The Bookshelf

Ranchos Library Changes Hours to Increase Flexibility During Covid

By Jerrica Edmundson

We have shifted our hours to Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in order to allow for more flexible access to our curbside services and book drop box. For curbside services, we encourage you to place an order through catalog.maderalibrary.org, send us a message on Facebook, or give us a call at 559-645-1214 so that we can get your desired books, movies or other library materials for you and bring them right out to your car as soon as they are ready. If you do place an order, once you get the notification that the item is ready for pickup you can head to the library. Let us know you've arrived by calling and we will deliver the fully sanitized items right to your car.

The book drop box is open during

business hours, so 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. All items go straight in the box, including DVDs and audiobooks, to allow for us to quarantine and sanitize the items per public health's guidelines.

We are not accepting any donations at this time and any books left outside the library as a donation are not taken into the library; they are disposed of. If you need to donate books, you can check with groups like the Salvation Army or Goodwill to take the items in the meantime until we are able to open back up to the public and process donations again.

With that out of the way, we are looking into doing some fun virtual events for fall programming including some exciting "learn to play" board game events to help give fun ideas to keep busy at home and have a good

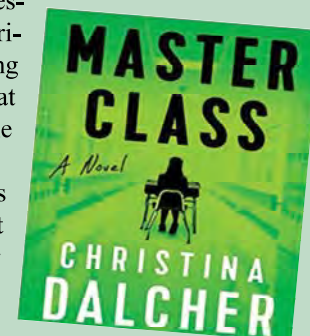
time. More details will be posted on our Facebook page as they become available but keep an eye out.

Jerrica's Shelf: Master Class by Christina Dalcher

This is a vast difference from what I usually read. It has no magic, no dragons and no sword fighting at all — I know: I'm just as shocked as you are. Dalcher's last book, *Vox*, was about a world where women were only allowed 100 words a day and followed characters surviving in that society. *Master Class*, on the other hand, takes place in an alternate version of our own United States and revolves around Elena and her family of four and their attempts to succeed in a world based purely on test scores. Every person is subjected to testing and based on your score you are assigned a color designation, with different privileges being afforded to those who have higher scores than

others. Students go to specific schools based on their color designations: yellow schools are state funded and very basic, green schools are a step up from there, and silver schools are essentially private boarding schools that service the elite.

Elena is a teacher at a silver school and her husband is a higher up in the world of the school administration. When Elena's youngest daughter bombs her silver school test and ends up in a yellow state school, their whole world gets flipped upside down.



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Cars Not California's Top Polluters

Hello 93636,

The current model for the Central California Pico Club all began with Golden Valley Unified School District about six years ago. We had a dream to build a strong Career Technical Education (CTE) program at Liberty High School. Unfortunately, there was not enough local support or resources to make that dream a reality.

My business is located within the Central Unified School District boundaries and has been so for all 36 years. When Andy Alvarado fortuitously became the new superintendent of CUSD we reunited and continued our pursuit of strong CTE programs for local public schools. What began as a simple plan to build a CTE program at Liberty High School has now spread across the nation. The most current article concerning the Central California Pico Club came out earlier this month in NAPA's *Insight Magazine*. We made the cover! *Insight Magazine* has a national circulation of 220,000. It is fantastic to have the support and endorsement of large companies like NAPA. Man, I just teared up. Here is the link to the *Insight* article:

www.1digitalissue.com/publication/?i=666575&ver=html5h

Click the content button and the tab

"Fresno NAPA AutoCare Centers Launch Pico Club." For more information about the Central California Pico Club and our pursuit of strong CTE programs, google Warren Parr Pico Club.

As I sit here at my kitchen table writing this article and watching my grandchildren play in the backyard, all I see is smoke. My grandchildren are playing surrounded by smoke. To say that I'm a little agitated is a gross understatement. I'm mad as heck.

Governor Newsom, if you are truly concerned about the public health and safety of all California residents, let's include the Valley's poor air quality from California's wildfires into our conversation. I am more fearful of the long-term health effects to my children and grandchildren from decades of breathing soot and ash than I am from the Covid virus of 2020.

Governor Newsom, in 2010 California's legislature ordered a study titled "California's Forests and Rangelands 2010 Strategy Report." The report showed areas protected from timber harvesting are net contributors to CO2 and air pollution as the result of wildfires and insect-diseased trees.

Today I cut and pasted this paragraph from an online article: "Nearly 12,000 firefighters are battling over 20 major fires and complexes of fires in California, most of which were started by about 12,000 lightning strikes." California's deforestation and increased levels of particulate matter, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides are the consequence of decades of forest mismanagement. California has been converted into a tinderbox of unharvested timber, dead trees and thick underbrush.

California lawmakers are pressuring au-

tomakers to increase sales of electric and other zero-emission vehicles to 15.4 percent of new car sales by 2025. That's one for every 6 1/2 new cars sold in California. Last time I heard, Tesla received more tax dollars than any other company in America. Is this really the answer to California's poor air quality?

According to a U.S. Geological Survey of the same year, 2018 California wildfires released 68 million tons of CO2 into California's air, or 15 percent of the state's total emissions. A Science & Environment article dated Nov. 15, 2018 states some estimates suggest the northern California wildfires of 2018 emitted as much CO2 into the atmosphere in one week as all the cars and trucks in California emit in one year.



Cars or fires? You decide.

According to these experts, in 2018 California's out of control wildfires were more destructive to California's air quality and therefore public health and safety than all the cars and trucks in California.

I agree.

This week there were many hours of many days I could not see the sun due to ash and soot particulates in the air. No doubt in my mind 2020 is worse than 2018.

The massive amounts of destructive particulate matter, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides spewed into California's air from wildfires are ignored and go unreported by the press. The press's fixation with CO2 generation is to promulgate their global warming hoax. Environmentalists conveniently blame these other emissions and poor air quality on the automobile.

As we all know CO2 is not a pollutant and is not toxic. CO2 promotes healthy plant life and acts like a fertilizer for plants. In-

creased levels of CO2 in the earth's atmosphere increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants. Photosynthesis is the process whereby green plants convert CO2 and water into food compounds and oxygen. The more green plant life, the more CO2 is processed into oxygen. Wow, healthy plant life is nature's CO2 filter.

As a result of California's large wildfires, the forest's ability to process CO2 via photosynthesis is greatly diminished as the result of destroyed plant life. Governor Newsom, is there anyone up there listening to the science?

The complexity of the modern fossil fuel engine is staggering. Today's vehicles are engineering and technological marvels with variable cam timing, variable lift and duration, variable displacement, direct fuel injection, high energy ignition systems, turbo charged, six- to eight-speed transmissions and much, much more. Modern engine controllers process information at speeds nearing 500 million hertz. All this effort, all this cost, all this engineering and technology WASTED. The increases in the efficiency of the modern vehicle are canceled due to the mismanagement of California's environment.

I have been a certified California emissions technician for 20 years. At one time, according to my bi-yearly California evaluation, I was ranked third in state. I test and repair vehicle emissions every day. I can tell you with absolute certainty, the modern gasoline powered vehicles I test are cleaner than the surrounding air I sample outside my shop on a clear day.

OK guys and gals, I've said enough. I'm always interested in writing about informative and interesting automotive topics and automotive current events. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or any general or specific questions concerning a vehicle, please text 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636, Warren Parr

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FIRE cont. from P. 2


is recommending all Californians prepare an "escape bag," complete with a change of clothes and other necessities since the need to quickly evacuate is always a reality.

And Cal Fire says this is just the beginning of wildfire season.

Residents can use the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to track air quality at any Valley location by visiting myRAAN.com. District air monitoring stations are designed to detect microscopic PM 2.5 particles that exist in smoke. However, larger particles, such as

ash, may not be detected. If you smell smoke or see falling ash in your immediate vicinity, consider air quality "unhealthy" (RAAN Level 4 or higher) even if RAAN displays lower level of pollution. The public can also check the District's wildfire page at www.valleyair.org/wildfires for information about any current and recently past wildfires affecting the Valley. In addition, anyone can follow air quality conditions by downloading the free "Valley Air" app on their mobile device.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the District Office in Fresno at 559-230-6000.



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SEM CU speaks

Grant Programs Put \$74,900 In Ranchos Pockets

By Jeff McGrath

I am proud to announce that another successful grant has come to an end. This latest grant, from the State Water Resource Board, replaced both washing machines and dishwashers with Energy Efficient machines in the 93636 Zip code area. Since the start of the program, 93636 area code has upgraded 122 washing machines and 92 dishwashers That is \$74,900 put back into your pockets. Believe it or not, you have made an impact on global warming by reducing water usage and energy consumption. If you have not gotten your rebate check by the time you read this, please contact SEMCU at www.semcu.org and let us know.

As a community, we need to be involved. Read this paper from cover to cover and there are a lot of things going on that may surprise you. Get involved with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Rotary, Friends of the Ranchos Library, Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Golden Valley School Board and SEMCU, just to name a few. I know we all have busy lives, but if we don't find out what is going on in our community and support local businesses, we will lose that small-town image we so love. For example, it's nice to see the Ranchos Liberty Café and Daniel's opened.

I miss the Flatlander's Parade and Craft Faire. As a concern for the spread of

the CORID-19 virus, the event was cancelled but hopes to be held next year. Having the library moved this year presented a new problem as to where can the vendors set up their booths and where can we safely have a parade. Much work goes into this event by both the Chamber (parade) and Craft Faire (Friends of the Library). As fundraisers, volunteers are greatly needed.

If you have the time and would like to be informed, our County Supervisor, Brett Frazier, hosts "Coffee with Brett." You can go to melisa@masderacounty.com and ask to be added to the notification list. This is on zoom so as not to risk the spread of COVID -19. Voice your concerns and ask questions or just listen in. Do not be surprised when we are no longer "just a stop light on Avenue 12."

SEM CU is always looking for other ways to enhance this neighborhood. As mentioned in last month's article, SEMCU is offering to mow the perimeters of residential lots and boundaries FREE of charge to help prevent any fires. The mower that will be used is nine-foot wide and we will offer this through the summer months. If you would like additional information, see the back page of this newspaper.

For the foreseeable future, our monthly board meetings on the third Monday of each month will be held via telephone conferencing. The public is invited and encouraged to listen in and offer ideas of projects that can help improve our community. To join in at 6 p.m., dial 312-757-3221. When prompted, dial the access code 715-657-949.

To call SEMCU for more information, call 559-363-9095, or reach the organization at www.semcu.org or by email at info@semcu.org.

SEM CU is "By the Community, For the Community."

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I	T	D	P	A	N	E																
M	A	K	E	A	S	T	I	N	G	I	M	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N			
T	H	E	P	A	L	E	T	A	R	I	R	A	T	E								
F	I	V	E	A	R	M	C	H	I	L	I	E	N	T	R	A	S	T				
A	L	I	T	T	L	E	A	R	I	A	V	A	M	O	O	S	E	S				
O	P	E	D	P	A	G	E															

10	20	13		
5	x	4	-	1
x	-	+		
5	+	8	+	6
19				
-	x	x		
7	+	3	x	2
20				

R	E	N	O	I	T	I	D	N	O	C	R	I	A	
R	O	S	S	E	R	P	M	O	C					
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R							
D														
H	E	A	T	E	R	E	D	N	E	L	B	R	D	P
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G	A	R	A											
M	O	M												
W														
C	A	R	S											
B	P													

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

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1978 Starfire Cabin Cruiser -

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Items for sale -- Five-blade ceiling fan. Harbor Breeze "Montclair." Tiffany style w/remote. \$140 or best offer. **Entry chandelier w/three lights.** Tiffany style. \$50. **Oneida "Affection" Silverplate flatware** service for eight. \$150. **Call 559-312-0891.**

Housecleaning

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

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Funds support Ranchos community organizations.

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

Work Wanted

Available now to work in the Ranchos. Experienced IT professional, experience in accounting and photography. **Call John at 559-706-5215.**



- Check bagged frozen vegetables with the squeeze test: If it is hard and solid, it has thawed and refrozen, so you should choose another bag.

- "My family drink sodas from the plastic bottles. At the beginning of storm season, I fill a dozen or so about three-quarters full and put them in the freezer. They are good in coolers and such, but mostly they fill space, making the freezer not have to work so hard. And if we lose power, they help to keep frozen foods frozen longer." -- T.R. in Georgia

- "My family has always used mayonnaise as a salve on minor burns. I heard you can use toothpaste, too." -- Sam P. via e-mail

- "I love to put photos of family on the fridge. I found that the photos were getting ruined from grease and moisture in the air. To get around that I cleaned and laminated them. Afterward, I hot-glued little magnets to the backs, and now I can move them around to accommodate new photos. There are so many, and it gives me pleasure to look at them." -- C.R. in Oklahoma.

- Use a paper plate as a splatter guard in the microwave. It will not sag down into your food, and will not get dragged off to the side by any rotation.

- Peppermint oil does a better job of promoting hair growth than hair-growth medication.

- The tradition of knocking on wood for good luck originated with primitive pagans who tapped on trees to summon the protective spirits residing in them.

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

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		×		20			
-		×		×				
	+		+		19			
×		-		+				
	×		-		19			
10		20		13				
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8

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SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Vote NO on Proposition 15 - A Massive Tax Increase

Proposition 15 on November's ballot proposes a huge tax increase on commercial and industrial properties. Proponents say the tax burden would affect only the rich, but in fact the burden would be passed on to consumers through higher prices. All of us, including renters and the poor, would pay more for just about everything we buy and use.

Beware the deceptive ballot title: "Increase in Funding for Public

Schools and Community Services." Reform California warns that Proposition 15's ballot title will not mention the massive tax increase. It is important to remember that such a deception helped to defeat the 2018 initiative to

repeal the massive gas tax increase.

Politicians intentionally changed that proposition's name from "Repeal the Gas Tax" to "Eliminate Road Repairs" – a huge difference. A poll showed that if the title had been "Repeal the Gas Tax," it would have passed. We're still paying at the gas pump for that big lie. Let's not be fooled again.

Proposition 13 of 1978 reduced property taxes. Before the landslide

passage of Proposition 13, there were no limits to property tax rate or value assessment increases. If the value of your home or business went up, your property taxes went up. According to the Howard Jarvis Tax-

payers' Association, "Some properties were re-assessed 50 percent to 100 percent in just

one year, and the owners' tax bills jumped correspondingly. Prior to Proposition 13 ... people were losing their homes because they could not pay their property taxes."

Prop 13 has kept property taxes lower by basing them on *purchase price* rather than *market value* and limiting tax increases. It has worked. Experts estimate that it reduced property tax rates on homes, businesses and farms by about 57 percent. According to Reform California, it is estimated that homeowners save an average of \$13,700 a year and renters save \$4,400 a year. Yes ... renters.

Proposition 15 of 2020 would *increase* commercial property taxes. A lot. Proposition 15 would weaken Prop. 13 by changing the rules for non-agricultural commercial and industrial properties – requiring that they be taxed based on market value rather than purchase price. The state fiscal analyst estimated that the ballot initiative would collect between \$8 billion and \$12.5 billion in taxes per year, and others have made higher estimates.

Where would all this extra tax money go? Proponents tell us it is for "public schools." They promise that the funds will go to education and community services (actually to local governments) and threaten that if the measure is not passed, schools will close and seniors will be harmed.

But wait! Ballotpedia explains that *first*, revenue will go to the state to supplement decreases in revenue

and to counties to cover administrative costs. Then 60 percent of what's left over after that will go to local governments and special districts, and 40 percent to school districts and community colleges. Of whatever remains in that dwindling pot, 11 percent will go to community colleges and 89 percent will go to public schools, charter schools and county education offices.

Do schools actually need this money – whatever the amount would be – after local governments take theirs off the top? You decide. The California education budget is already \$84 billion, almost \$18,000 per student, and yet test scores show that only *half* of California students meet English standards and *fewer still* meet math standards. It doesn't appear that lack of money is the problem.

A yes vote on Proposition 15 is a vote for tax increases on some, with the result of higher prices for everyone. A no vote will retain Prop. 13's safeguards. If this tax increase on commercial property passes, the next fight might involve saving our *homes* from confiscatory property tax increases. Vote NO!

Safeguard Your Vote

Election Integrity Project California (EIPCa) is the premier voter fraud watchdog. Please visit their website at www.eip-ca.com for a wealth of information. They make the following important recommendations:

Although this is billed as a vote-by-mail election, polling places will be open. Please take the ballot you receive in the mail to *your* polling place, announce that you want to surrender it, and you will be given a regular ballot to mark and place in the voting machine. Do not be talked into voting by a provisional ballot.

Do not turn your ballot over to a stranger "ballot harvester" who offers to turn in your ballot for you. Vote it in person or ask someone you know and trust to deliver it to *your* polling place. Then wear your "I voted" sticker proudly.

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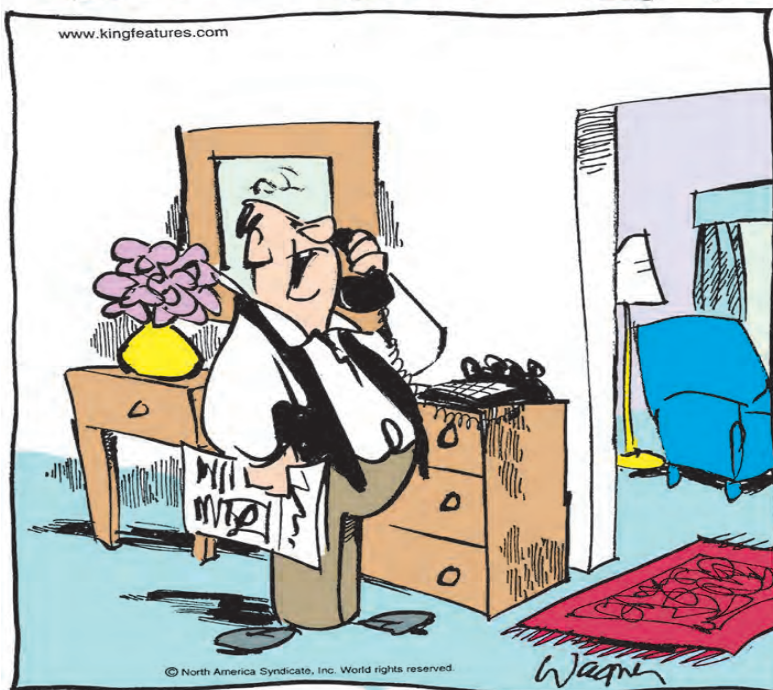
by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



“Can you hold a moment? I have another annoying call on the other line.”

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A relaxed mood early in the week could give way to high-temperature disputes. The Aries Lamb should resist being pulled into heated quarrels that could really singe your wool.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Satisfy that practical obligation first, then you can feel free to indulge in your creative endeavors. Also, check for hidden or overlooked areas where repairs might be long overdue.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Home is still the Twins' major focus this week. But outside matters begin to take on added importance, especially those involving possible career moves. Stay alert for signs of change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A travel plan might need to undergo some considerable adjustment because of unexpected changes. Keep an open mind and let the facts guide you on how you want to handle this.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Playing cat and mouse with a matter you don't really want to tackle wastes time, energy and, most important, an opportunity. Ask someone with experience to help you get started.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A shift in policy might not please you, but before you put up a "no go" wall of resistance, examine the circumstances. You might be quite pleasantly surprised by what you find.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Yesterday's critiques about your methods might have already evolved into today's praise for your achievements. Good for you. Now go on and continue to build on your credibility.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An occasional temperamental flare-up might occur as you continue to help get things back to normal. Stay with it. You should soon get some idea of where to take things next.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A negative reaction to what you believe was a well-deserved request might mean that you need to reconsider your position and make changes accordingly.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) There's always room for someone new at the Sea Goat's table. And the someone new this week could bring a message you've been waiting a long time to hear.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A pile-on of personal matters this week might seem too overwhelming to deal with. But handling them on a one-by-one basis could have you out from under it by the weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need your good advice regarding a matter. Be supportive. But unless you can be absolutely sure you have all the facts, be careful about any suggestions you might be asked to offer.

Born this Week

Few things make you happier than bringing people together and helping to forge new friendships.

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FUN PAGES

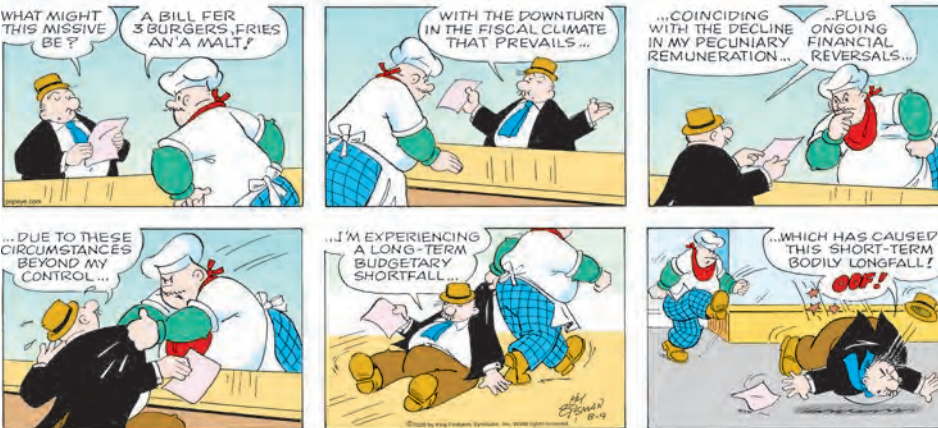
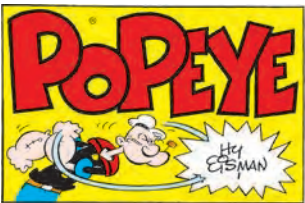
Kids' Maze



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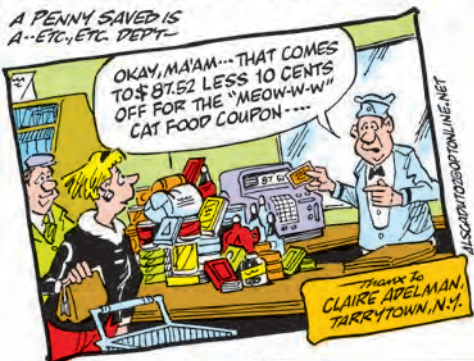
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



WHILE TIMMY IS COOLING OFF with a Clam Spritzer, see if you can count how many shells are in the picture. We found more than 30.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



ANOTHER TYPE OF TEA PARTY! A good way to end the day is with a nice cup of tea. It's also a good way to end the following 14 words. We give you hints for each. (For example: Great speed equals velocity.)

1. Methuselah had it.
2. Type of drink or snowman.
3. Made to look foolish.
4. The spice of life.
5. The soul of wit.
6. Used in quiet cars.
7. Cordial reception of guests.
8. The best policy.
9. A criminal's dread.
10. A skill with hands.
11. Everlasting.
12. A sailor's song.
13. Can keep you down.
14. A stale odor.

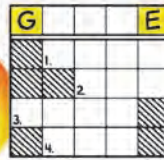
SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by adding four plus signs between certain numbers:

$$1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7 = 100$$

Answer: $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 100$

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in the letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. To load up.
2. A drink ending.
3. Very willing.
4. A young man.



Answers: 1. Lade, 2. Ade (lemonade, orangeade, etc.) 3. Glad, 4. Lad, Mystery word: Glade

Wishing Well

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

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Air conditioner | Compressor | Heater | Pumps |
| Band saw | Computer | Lawn mower | Shredder |
| Blender | Drills | Locomotives | Trimmer |
| Cars | Garage door | Mixer | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: What was the name of Hermione's pet cat in the "Harry Potter" series?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the metal band that attaches a pencil and an eraser?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of giraffes called?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which state claims Mackinac Island in Lake Huron?
5. TELEVISION: What was the name of the coffeehouse in the "Friends" sitcom?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have died in office?
7. MEDICAL: What is the common name for lachrymation?
8. LANGUAGE: What is the American English version of a British flannel?
9. HISTORY: Who was the last czar of Russia?
10. MUSIC: What was the original name of the pop rock group Maroon 5?

Answers

1. Crookshanks
2. A ferrule
3. A tower
4. Michigan
5. Central Perk
6. Eight
7. Flow of tears
8. A washcloth
9. Nicholas II
10. Kara's Flowers

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



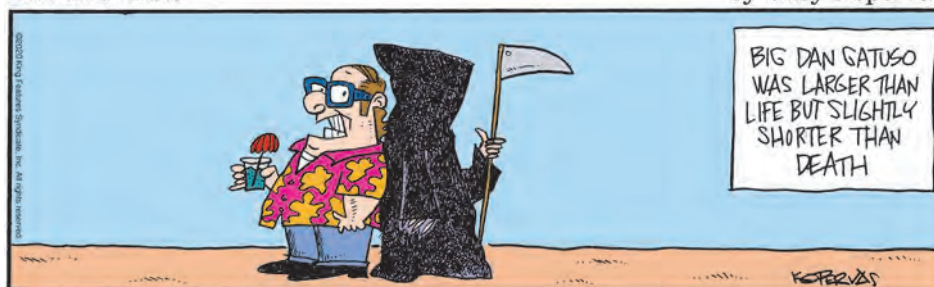
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

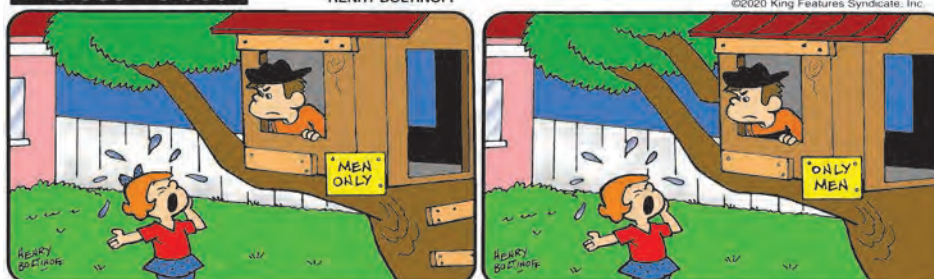
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

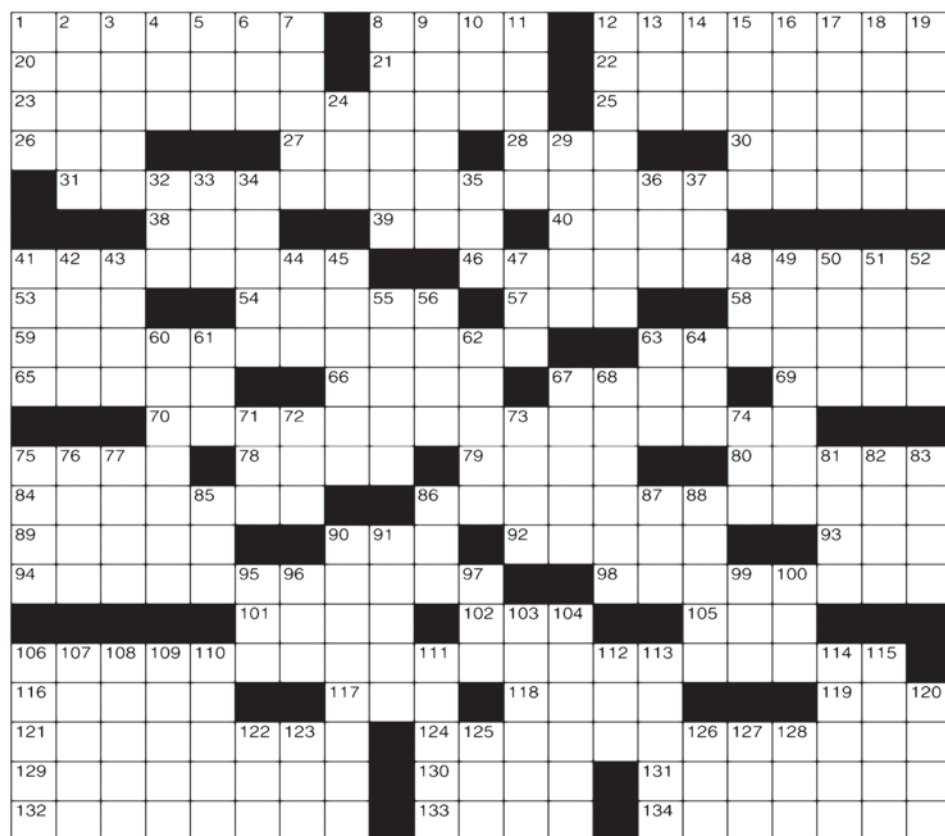
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Girl's bow is missing. 2. Tree limb has been added. 3. Boy's shirt has stripe. 4. Sign is different. 5. Treehouse roof is different. 6. Tree steps are gone.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Most minuscule
 - 8 "The lady — protest ..."
 - 12 Subjective newspaper section
 - 20 Slightly
 - 21 Opera part
 - 22 Scrams
 - 23 Spicy stew that's so thick it takes more than two people to stir it?
 - 25 Commits in confidence
 - 26 Mon. follower
 - 27 With 75-Down, light-colored pub drinks
 - 28 Sticky sealer
 - 30 Very mad
 - 31 Create the wax figure of the Police's frontman?
 - 38 "— be an honor"
 - 39 Diner dispenser
 - 40 Glass plate
 - 41 Cause of a stuffy nose
 - 46 Speed at which a Roman emperor walks?
 - 53 Diner dispenser
 - 54 Bucolic
 - 57 Many '90s music sales
 - 58 Auditoriums
 - 59 Mailed item containing a bill from a nail salon?
 - 63 Replies to irritably
 - 65 Imprint
 - 66 On the safe side, at sea
 - 67 — B'rith
 - 69 Skywalker's mentor
 - 70 Attach a certain package covering to a corkboard?
 - 75 Chorus voice
 - 78 A.J. of auto racing
 - 79 "Psst" cousin
 - 80 Navigate
 - 84 In a lax way
 - 86 Taking a long time to grow, just like some velvety plants do?
 - 89 Born earlier
 - 90 Sci-fi craft
 - 92 Daisy's kin
 - 93 — Palmas
 - 94 Wound protector that causes sorrow?
 - 98 Hot pepper variety
 - 101 Folk tales
 - 102 MPG org.
 - 105 Suffix with salt
 - 106 Hairless inmates in an old English prison?
 - 116 Related to the kidneys
 - 117 GI tour gp.
 - 118 Tyke, in Baja
 - 119 Sis, e.g.
 - 121 Restricted-access computer linkup
 - 124 Product for scrubbing your noggin?
 - 129 Wash lightly in advance
 - 130 Beige-like
 - 131 Painter
 - 132 Mountains between France and Spain
 - 133 River of myth
 - 134 Most orderly
 - DOWN**
 - 1 William Howard —
 - 2 Pelvic bone
 - 3 Big name in skin care
 - 4 Suffix with Tokyo
 - 5 SFO guess
 - 6 Camera type, in brief
 - 7 Work fill-ins
 - 8 Mexican flower
 - 9 Get aligned
 - 10 Up to, in brief
 - 11 Port-au-Prince's land
 - 12 Highway bridge
 - 13 Skillet, say
 - 14 Trauma-trained pro
 - 15 Singer Day
 - 16 Rains heavily
 - 17 Verdi's "very"
 - 18 Reach
 - 19 Ruhr city
 - 24 Bill the — (comics character)
 - 29 All fired up
 - 32 Billy the — (outlaw)
 - 33 & so forth
 - 34 Gussy up
 - 35 SUV biggie
 - 36 Gene stuff
 - 37 Always
 - 41 Motor noises
 - 42 QED part
 - 43 Paquin of "True Blood"
 - 44 Sweetums
 - 45 Dismal
 - 47 Hotshot
 - 48 "— -La-La" (Al Green hit)
 - 49 Old writing scroll
 - 50 And
 - 51 Dressed (in)
 - 52 Juan's "this"
 - 55 Dole out
 - 56 Theater mogul
 - 60 Interloped
 - 61 Center or Pen lead-in
 - 62 Like prisons
 - 63 Weaken
 - 64 Bit of a chill
 - 67 Beer and tea
 - 68 Quarterback great Joe
 - 71 Org. for 68-Down
 - 72 Lad
 - 73 "Easy there!"
 - 74 Big head
 - 75 See 27-Across
 - 76 1970 hit by the Kinks
 - 77 Chuck of NBC News
 - 81 Tahiti, e.g.
 - 82 Sweetums
 - 83 Fuel brand up north
 - 85 Be incorrect
 - 86 Many an heir
 - 87 Salty waters
 - 88 Hotshot
 - 90 American hwy.
 - 91 Feudal lords' estates
 - 95 Kay-em link
 - 96 Lawn turf
 - 97 "Golly!"
 - 99 "Life of Pi" director Lee
 - 100 Teachers' gp.
 - 103 Larder
 - 104 Farewells, in French
 - 106 Linda in 1998 news
 - 107 Actor Fonda
 - 108 Step into
 - 109 Dancer's handrail
 - 110 Actor Delon
 - 111 Riatas, e.g.
 - 112 Kin of Ltd.
 - 113 Film director Christopher
 - 114 Actor Davis
 - 115 Claims on homes, say
 - 120 Writer Harte
 - 122 Ark.-to-Ill. dir.
 - 123 Suffix with Nepal
 - 125 Opera part ending
 - 126 Hydrocarbon
 - 127 — glance
 - 128 NSFW part

FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Wildfire Safety Measure Offered to Our SEMCU Residents

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

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

Our next meeting is Monday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m.

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

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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