

# The Ranchos Independent



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CELEBRATING  
19 YEARS  
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 19 Issue 8 2023

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## SHEDDING SOME LIGHT



## ON RANCHOS TRAFFIC SAFETY

Thanks to a gracious donation from SEMCU, the South East Madera County United organization, lighted, pulsating LED stop signs have been placed at Road 36 and Avenue 15, the site of multiple accidents over the years.

*In This Issue*

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## Homeowner Insurance Companies Fleeing California

Insurance companies are exiting California like it's on fire ... because it is.

In the last few months, State Farm, Allstate and Farmers Insurance have all decided to no longer write homeowners insurance for Californians. The companies are saying that record-breaking inflation and severe weather events have increased business costs. To add to this mass exodus, two smaller insurance companies, AM-GUARD Insurance – a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies – and Falls Lake Insurance will also end their homeowners' program. AM-GUARD's parent company – the Berkshire Hathaway Group – includes Geico among its other insurance companies. Although the conglomerate will continue to operate in California, it won't be selling homeowners insurance. In addition, Liberty Mutual said it would stop offering business-owner policies this fall and SafeCo, a Liberty Mutual subsidiary, was

planning to drop nearly 1,000 policies across the Bay Area.

Altogether, it means options for California homeowners to insure their homes or to purchase a house with a mortgage are getting extremely limited. Of note is that, unlike State Farm and Allstate who are simply not writing any new policies but leaving existing policy holders covered, the two smaller companies are dropping their California policy holders cold.

Spokespeople in the insurance industry say the companies' departure is based on high wildfire risks, high inflation, construction costs that are exceeding inflation, a regulatory system in the state that makes it difficult to get rate increases approved and even climate change. Combined, these elements make it ridiculously difficult for insurance companies to turn a profit in California, so they're leaving. The catch is that this is forcing thousands of Californians to scramble for new insurance at the exact

time that insurance options are drying up.

These business decisions have forced more people to turn to the California FAIR plan, a provider of last resort for fire insurance.

The California FAIR Plan Association was established in 1968 to meet the needs of California homeowners unable to find insurance in the traditional marketplace. It is not a state agency or a public entity and there is no public or taxpayer funding.

But the FAIR Plan is supposed to be a temporary fix; a safety net until the homeowner can secure conventional insurance. In the last decade, as a result of the devastation from wildfires in the state, more Californians have turned to the FAIR Plan and as a result, many insurers have pulled back from these markets.

If you're in such a situation, you can get more information and apply for the FAIR Plan at [www.cfpnet.com/how-to-apply](http://www.cfpnet.com/how-to-apply).

## Senate Chokes Parents' Free Speech at School Meetings

By Elizabeth Allen

In a move that should send chills down the spine of every parent, California's State Senate recently passed SB 596, a bill aimed at parents speaking out at school board meetings.

The bill seeks to broaden the definition of "harassment" of school employees. SB 596 defines a "school employee" to include *any* individual associated with a school district, charter school, education board or office. It proposes to penalize acts causing "substantial disorder" at school board meetings as a misdemeanor. However, the bill remains ambiguous regarding what constitutes "substantial disorder," leaving the definition of "harassment" open to wide interpretation. Those who violate these provisions could face fines ranging from \$500 to \$1,000, a year in county jail, or both. Repeat offenses carry stricter penalties, including mandatory jail time.

"It's clear they're trying to chill parents from speaking out," said Sarah Parshall Perry, senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies.

Many conservatives argue that parents hold an intrinsic right to voice concerns under the First Amendment. Perry said, "Ordinary limitations on certain speech — making a true threat of violence, for example — already apply within the context of the First Amendment, making the criminal penalty here unnecessary, legally suspect and ideologically driven."

Kelly Schenkoske, a California mother, expressed her dismay with California Democrats, saying, "Their work over the years to erode parental involvement and rights has been noticed by parents who will stand courageously to speak for the protec-

tion of their children and for a better education."

Jim Manley, state legal policy deputy director of the Pacific Legal Institute said, "The idea that the government is trying to regulate conduct at school board meetings is pretty normal," Manley said. "What sends up potential red flags is some of the language in this bill."

The bill defines "harassment" as "a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, torments or terrorizes the person, and that serves no legitimate purpose." SB 596 defines "course of conduct" as "a pattern of conduct composed of two or more acts occurring over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose." A parent or other person offering counter-opinion "saying two things that the school official finds harassing could be enough to qualify there," Manley said. "An email that simply torments would count as harassment under this standard."

The lawyer noted that "to torment" merely means "to cause mental suffering." "If you send two emails that cause a school board official to 'mentally suffer,' technically you fall under this definition," Manley said. The bill "could be interpreted in a way that chills people's ability to communicate with elected officials," he said.

While the bill exempts labor union activities like picketing, there's no such exemption for parents distributing literature at these meetings, further fueling concerns.

As this legislative environment evolves, some, like State Sen. Scott Wilk, a Republican, are advising parents who prioritize their involvement in their children's education and well-being: "If you love your children, you need to flee California."

*This article appeared at [www.TheFederalistPapers.org](http://www.TheFederalistPapers.org)*



## SEMCU Donates Area Stop Signs



Madera County District 1 Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff, left, is joined by SEMCU Board Members Igal Treibatch, Jeff McGrath, Verlaine Elinburg and Al Solis at the dedication of the newly installed flashing LED stop signs at Road 36 and Avenue 15.

With traffic safety for the Ranchos at the top of their list, community organization SEMCU -- Southeast Madera County United -- has donated four solar-powered flashing LED stop signs for the intersection of Avenue 15 and Road 36 in the Bonadelle Ranchos.

Madera County District 1 Supervisor Jordam Wamhoff was on hand for the dedication and noted that the intersection has been the site of 11 accidents in the last five years, including one fatality.

"SEMCU donated the cost of these LED stop signs," Wamhoff said. "Hopefully they make an impact on traffic collisions and make our area quite a bit safer."

SEMCU Board Member Igal Treibatch said that this wasn't the first project the organization has helped fund in the Ranchos. "Over the last 10 years we've done quite a few of these types of projects," he said. Projects for the Ranchos have included a dry well project, rebates on energy-efficient appliances, free firewood giveaways, property weed clearing and more.

SEMCU is a non-profit community organization that is open to anyone. For more information about SEMCU call 559-363-9095 or email them at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org).



# MCC Profs Sue State Over DEI

A group of six California community college professors, including four from Madera Community College, are suing the State of California over its requirements to include diversity, equity and inclusion elements in their courses.

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression filed a lawsuit on behalf of the professors from three community colleges in Madera and Fresno County, with the professors claiming the mandate violates their First Amendment rights.

"These regulations are a totalitarian triple-whammy," Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression attorney Daniel Ortner said in a statement. "The government is forcing professors to teach and preach a politicized viewpoint they do not share, imposing incomprehensible guidelines and threatening to punish professors when they cross an arbitrary, indiscernible line."

The colleges represented in the lawsuit include four professors from Madera Community College, one from Reedley College and one from Clovis Community College.

The mandates require professors to "promote and incorporate culturally affirming [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and

Accessibility] and anti-racist principles to nurture and create a respectful, inclusive and equitable learning and work environment." The guidelines also instruct professors to "respect and acknowledge the diversity of students and colleagues." Under the new requirements, even using the term "I grade my class based on merit" is not allowed, because merit is "embedded in the ideology of Whiteness and upholds race-based structural inequality," a glossary of terms claims. "Merit protects White privilege under the guise of standards ... and as highlighted by anti-affirmative action forces."

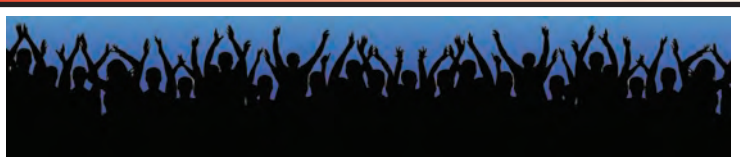
The plaintiffs claimed the new guidelines will affect their academic freedom because they are all being evaluated based on their inclusion of diversity and inclusion concepts in their classrooms and are being forced to include elements that are not necessary to their fields.

The suit targets State Chancellor of California Community Colleges Sonya Christian, the members of the board of governors of the California Community Colleges, Chancellor of State Center Community College District Carole Goldsmith, and the board of trustees of the State Center Community College District.



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## THE RANCHOS GETS A MAYOR!

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce announces our new HONORARY MAYOR



Verlaine Elinburg, left, representing SEMCU, receives the Honorary Mayor's sash from last year's mayor, Alec Konkle.

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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 you feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life where you live.

### NEXT Chamber Meeting

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, September 13 at 6 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 TODAY at 645-4001.

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Dear Editor:

I am a long-time homeowner in the Ranchos.

We need to be more vigilant on testing our well water and that of our community wells.

When people get a new well or purchase homes out here, they get a basic "potable water test" most of the time for free or low cost, and it's generally only to check for nitrates, e-coli and coliform. With those tests coming back clear, everyone feels they have good safe water and they move on.

NOT!

We thought so after getting our brand new well recently -- those tests came out "great." "Absent" was the word they used. Normally we would be happily sipping our ice-cold water with our family, friends and pets and all the things that encompass our lives with good, clean-running drinking water for years to come. The well company was happily collecting their check and told us we were good to go, based on the required basic test they performed.

Until we got further tests (full panel costs about \$500-\$1000 and take about six weeks, longer than most escrows, so most forgo it when buying a home) and found we have very large amounts of arsenic in our brand new well. Very large "acceptable" levels are 10 parts per billion; ours is 43 parts per billion. We live close in, not too far from Avenue 12 and Road 37. Two of our neighbors' wells are dry and they are waiting on their drill dates. We have not said anything to our neighbors yet as we are searching for a solution and don't want to scare them or cause a home sale or value issue out here for everyone.

Because that will happen.

We tried to elicit the help of the County in finding a solution of a whole house filter, reverse osmosis, etc. to remedy this. The County basically said they will note it (not sure what that means as they sure are not letting anyone know) and won't get involved on our private wells unless there are at least 10 households on the same well system. Well, we are all sipping from the same straw people; that's the same "system" if you ask me. And if we have arsenic, chances are so do some of you. Boiling arsenic only concentrates it, so hotter water makes it more intense. We talked to public works, because we are only a couple of houses from the community system. There is a community well system supposedly in the works for the rest of us on private wells, but funding, grants, design and construction are years out. They said two years but that's laughable. And what makes us think the community water will stay safe? A few water filter companies we tried are not familiar with arsenic and don't have a "good solution" for us; some won't even touch the subject saying it's outside their expertise -- and they have been told it's not good to get involved with houses with arsenic issues.

Where do we go from here without causing panic and area desirability decline? I just want everyone to be safe and aware and checking your water!

You can contact BSK Associates at 559-497-2888 or FGL Environmental at 559-734-9473 for water testing.

Name withheld upon request  
Madera Ranchos

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Come join us starting Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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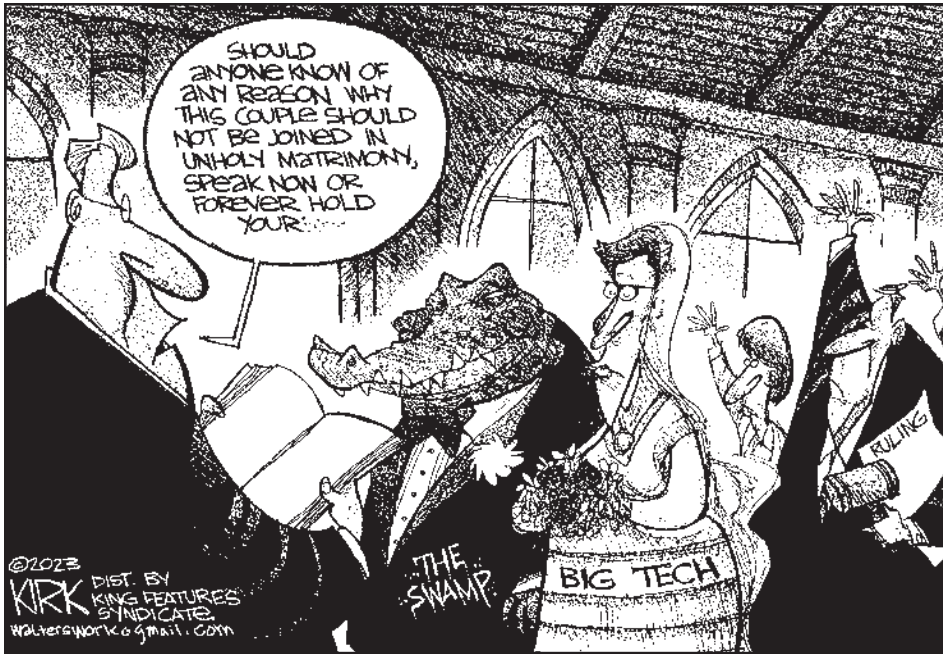
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Guest Editorial

The Florida Slavery Smear

By Rich Lowry

There have been so many poisonous and stupid lies about Florida since 2020, it's almost hard to keep track, but the latest may be the most outrageous.

As you might have heard thanks to the vice president of the United States, Florida allegedly wants to teach its students that slavery benefited slaves.

In reality, the Florida curriculum on slavery is extensive and includes pretty much everything you'd want a child to know about this enormity. The occasion for the Kamala Harris smear is one line that says, "Instruction includes how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

This is not the first thing, or even the 19th, that you'd want students to learn about slavery, but it is also indisputably true.

No one is saying the enslaved "benefited" from slavery.

It's not an endorsement of slavery to point out that slaves looked for every crack in the system to try to improve themselves and gain some autonomy -- rather, it's an endorsement of the initiative and resilience of an oppressed people operating in the worst of

circumstances.

We are supposed to believe that enslaved African Americans strained against their awful condition in every way -- learning to read, worshipping on their own, defying their masters when they could, creating an elaborate system of escape, but they never, ever learned a skill to their own benefit.

This is, of course, nonsense. The Advanced Placement African American Studies curriculum that Florida has rejected contains almost exactly the same language about skills as the state's curriculum -- without causing a firestorm of criticism.

Some of the most honored African American figures in our history took advantage of whatever ability they had, while enslaved, to improve themselves and learn. In Baltimore, Frederick Douglass famously became a ship caulker and brought in \$6 to \$9 a week, rightly re-

*The left wouldn't have to deny the historical record or tie itself into knots if it weren't so determined to lie about DeSantis, but that imperative overwhelms everything else.*

senting "the right of the robber" exercised by his owner, who took his earnings.

In his extraordinary "African Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals," David Hackett Fischer brings to light other lesser-known examples. He notes the example of one Captain David Stodder, the leading shipbuilder in Baltimore in the late 18th century. As of 1790, about two dozen of his workers were slaves, and he freed them in his will. "Among these slaves," Fischer writes, "were some of his most highly skilled workers."

Or consider George R. Roberts, who was probably born a slave in southern Maryland. He became an experienced seaman and eventually "came home to Baltimore, bought a small house in the happy neighborhood that is still called Canton, and became prominent in the civic life of the city."

Or Robert Lemmons, born a slave in Texas. He learned from a rancher who employed him and became extremely adept at handling mustangs. Freed after the Civil War, according to Fischer, he

Or Robert Lemmons, born a slave in Texas. He learned from a rancher who employed him and became extremely adept at handling mustangs. Freed after the Civil War, according to Fischer, he

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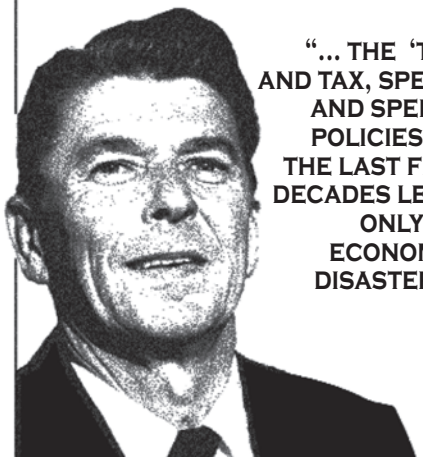
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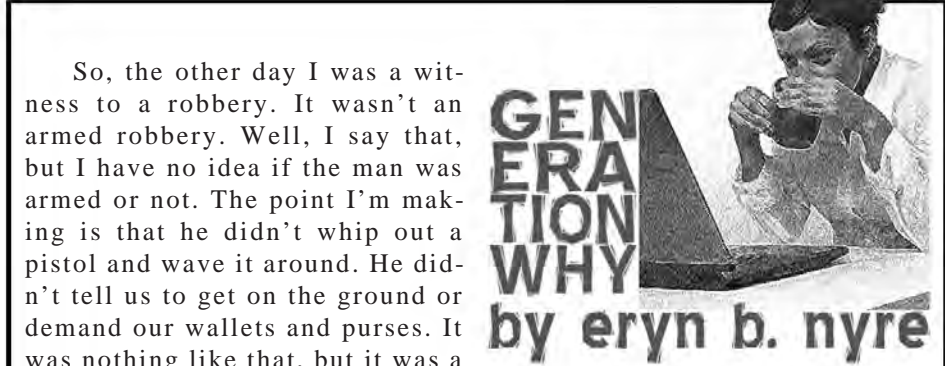


"... THE 'TAX AND TAX, SPEND AND SPEND' POLICIES OF THE LAST FEW DECADES LEAD ONLY TO ECONOMIC DISASTER."

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



# Stealing ... Bad ... Maybe?



So, the other day I was a witness to a robbery. It wasn't an armed robbery. Well, I say that, but I have no idea if the man was armed or not. The point I'm making is that he didn't whip out a pistol and wave it around. He didn't tell us to get on the ground or demand our wallets and purses. It was nothing like that, but it was a strange enough experience that I felt the need to share.

It happened at Walgreens at seven in the morning. I wasn't aware that the criminal element was active so early on a weekday, but clearly this guy had the first shift.

I walked into a mostly empty store. It was no surprise to me that nearly half the inventory was locked behind plexiglass, but I'll admit that I was a little shocked that the unprotected shelves were so bare. It gave me flashbacks of early COVID with empty aisles and hoarded toilet paper.

Let me take a moment to set the scene. I just needed one thing, and I was on a timeline, so I walked in and straight to what I needed. I didn't walk by a man holding people hostage. I wasn't ignoring telltale signs like employees hiding and mothers clinging to their crying children. There was an employee talking to a customer up front and one other employee in an aisle who looked like she was filling an online order. No one gave off any indication there was anything happening other than business as usual. I didn't come across anyone else in my short journey to the eye drop aisle and back up to the front where the customer was still chatting with the associate. He stepped aside to let me check out and the associate, a sweet older woman, greeted me with a smile and bubbly hello.

If I could paint you a picture of this employee, I would start by saying she looked like she was someone's grandmother. Not the feisty type of grandmother with a sharp tongue and a bunch of sassy sayings you quote to your friends for laughs. She looked like the type of grandma that coddles you and spends her days wrapped in an apron baking cookies just in case

you happen to come over. That was the vibe this lady was giving off. That is, until something caught her attention over my shoulder and she started slinging a combination of curse words I had never heard before. Thinking that this was the most impressive case of Tourette's I'd ever witnessed, I looked over my shoulder to see who or what brought on the episode.

It turns out it was a man. He was wearing a hoodie and carrying two enormous bags with him. He was moving down the aisle sweeping his arm across the shelves dumping whatever he could into the bags. My first thought was this explained the empty shelves. My second thought was, Grandma the Screaming Banshee was going to get us shot.

She was calling him a no-good dirty thief and a loser with no job who would rather rob a store than do an honest day's work. She yelled at him that they'd been watching him since he came in and knew what he was doing. She said the police were on their way. Well, that was the gist, anyway, what I could make out around all the swear words. Then I watched this man take his bags and casually – and I mean as casually as though he were strolling through a garden in spring just to smell the flowers – walk out of the store. He didn't even have the decency to act like he knew he was doing something wrong. Aren't criminals supposed to run when they get caught? He strolled. He ambled. He moseyed. He meandered. He did not run.

The associate said that this has been happening more often. She said that with changing laws and corporate policies, there is

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

nothing the employees can do. Apparently, she really had called the police, but told me they wouldn't show up for a while because it wasn't considered a priority and even if he was caught, he wouldn't be prosecuted given the dollar amount of what he stole. Overall, the experience wasn't so much scary as it was just surreal. I felt like I fell asleep watching the news and then dreamed myself right into the story.

This isn't a victimless crime. And to be clear, I don't mean myself. You may have an opinion on corporate giants, but stealing is stealing. And an increase in the amount of theft with no recourse for the company means stores closing. That impacts everyone down the entire line including the associates as well as the community at

large. When the stores close, people lose their jobs. When the stores close, people in the community who don't have the means to get to a store further away suffer. People who own small, single location businesses lose everything if they have to close. But instead of uniting behind being against something as seemingly straight forward as stealing, California passes laws that make it harder for companies to stop and prosecute criminals.

I can't fully wrap my mind around how we have allowed this to become commonplace in society. No, that's not true. I know how. What I don't understand is why the good, law-abiding citizens of this country, wherever you are on the political spectrum, can't find common ground on this.

Stealing ... Bad ... I'm pretty sure they teach that in Kindergarten.



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### Playing Puzzle

It seems strange to me that I don't like puzzles. A couple of our kids do, so before our family gathered at Hume Lake last week, my husband purchased a 1,000-piece puzzle. When they dumped the box of pieces onto the table, it looked overwhelming to me.

"That must be how some of my clients feel when they view their clutter," I thought. I'd rather organize the cabin's kitchen (which I did to a degree), than participate in "playing puzzle" as we called it. Despite my disdain for puzzles, there are many correlations between puzzling and organizing.

**Keep the box top handy.** It's essential to know what your puzzle will look like. Similarly, when organizing you need a vision of your final outcome. Determine how your area will look, feel and function. Revisit that vision while organizing to drive your actions and stay focused and motivated.

**Designate a time and place.** For our night owl puzzlers, it was 10 p.m. to midnight. They used a puzzle board and moved it under a bed during the day so little hands couldn't disturb it. Schedule your organizing when you have the most energy and least distractions. If your project is mobile, like a box of paperwork, photos, etc., consider bringing it out to the table or your evening chair and then return it to a spare room or closet when you're not working on it.

**Sort by color and pattern.**

This is tedious, but a necessary step in puzzling. The puzzle board they used had shallow drawers to sort and store the colors. This made it easier to find specific pieces. Likewise, it's important to sort while organizing — putting like things together. Use containers to separate categories. Unlike a puzzle, some of your items may be placed into a trash or donate category.

**Borders first.** The puzzle pieces with a straight side are low hanging fruit — easier to spot and position. All other pieces fit inside that border. Whether you're organizing a bathroom cabinet or a desk drawer, borders are essential. Some are natural borders, like a bookshelf. If the desired outcome is to have all the books neat and accessible on the shelf, then the shelf size dictates the border and how many books you keep. A finished puzzle doesn't have pieces spilling over the border, and neither does an organized area.

**Persevere.** One of the puzzle pieces looked like it should easily fit on the deer, but it was stubborn when they tried to place it. It took several attempts before it was successfully positioned. In organizing it's often the opposite. You think, "that will never fit there," but don't give up before you try. After you remove things that don't belong, it often fits fine.

**Done is better than perfect.** After hours of laborious puzzling, it was finally complete. Well, almost. One piece was missing. We searched high and low, but in the end, they had to be content with an almost perfect picture. Don't allow perfection to ruin your organizing ventures. Unlike puzzles, there's not just one right place for everything. If your belongings are now easier to find and use, consider it a win.

Contact *Organized by Choice* at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can visit [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) when you go online.



## Pass the Pigskin

(August 2013)

**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

2 T butter  
½ C honey  
¼ C chipotle-flavored hot sauce

1 T grated lime rind (about 3 limes)

3 T fresh lime juice

¼ tsp. ground red pepper

4 to 5 pounds chicken wings

1 T salt

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. pepper

1 C all-purpose flour

Peanut or vegetable oil

Heat tomato sauce and butter in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring until butter melts. Stir in honey and next four ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer, stirring often, 5 minutes. Set sauce aside.

Cut wingtips off and discard. Cut wings in half at joint.

Sprinkle wings with salt and pepper; dredge lightly in flour, shaking off excess.

Pour oil into large skillet or

Dutch oven to a depth of 1 ½" and heat to 375 degrees.

Fry wings in batches for about 8 minutes per batch or until golden and crispy. Using a slotted spoon, remove wings to drain on paper towels. Be sure to allow oil to heat up again before starting the next batch.

Place wings in a large bowl. Drizzle with the tomato sauce mixture, tossing well to coat. Let stand 5 minutes before serving or packing up to take to the tailgate party.

Or how about some meatballs on your table? This recipe gives the ingredients to make your own meatballs, but if you didn't have the time to make those little meatballs, how about cheating and get a bag of frozen meatballs at the grocery store?

**Sweet and Sour Meatballs**

¾ pound lean ground beef

¾ pound ground turkey

1 small onion, minced

Can you believe the kids are back in school and the boys have been at football practice for weeks, and the first day of fall isn't for another month?

Tailgating, especially at college games, has become quite the thing to do. Have you ever driven by Fresno State on the day before a home game? There are garbage bins everywhere, preparing for the tailgaters. And after the game, the grounds are clean, but the bins are overflowing. I've never been tailgating, but from everything I hear it must be a lot of fun. When I was in high school if we had an extra quarter in our pocket we'd get a hot dog and soda at the concession stand.

I was surprised at the paraphernalia they have to take to get their food on the table. An ice chest of course is a must, but a barbecue is another necessity. These days it isn't just hamburgers and hot dogs – there is tri-tip, chicken, ribs or sausages to choose from. Then there are all the salads – macaroni, potato, pasta, and how about baked beans (don't you dare just open a can of pork and beans). And of course dessert – cobblers, pies, cakes. What you end up with is a backyard barbecue that you take with you to the football game.

What party is worth having that doesn't include some kind of chicken wings? You can make everything from hot wings, to the sweet and sour wings. How about:

**Sweet and Spicy Chipotle Chicken Wings**

1 (15 ounces) can tomato sauce

*I've never been tailgating, but from everything I hear it must be a lot of fun.*

1 egg  
½ C Italian-seasoned bread crumbs

¾ C Ketchup

1/3 C white vinegar

¼ C Worcestershire sauce

3 T Sugar

2 tsp. dry mustard

Combine first five ingredients, shape mixture into 1 inch balls. Brown meatballs in batches in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Remove meatballs from skillet, and wipe skillet clean. Stir together ketchup and next four ingredients in skillet, bring to a boil. Add meatballs, reduce heat, and simmer 5 minutes or until meatballs are no longer pink. Makes about 40 meatballs.

While your tri-tip is on the barbecue, you may want to serve your guests an appetizer. In addition to the usual dips and chips,

jalapeño poppers would be fun. This recipe might take some time but the end results would be worth it. It is highly recommended that you wear gloves while preparing the peppers; remember the oils in the peppers can burn your skin.

**Jalapeño Poppers**

30 Jalapeño peppers

2 8oz. packages of cream cheese, soften to room temperature

12 ounces shredded Cheddar cheese

1 C. milk

1 C. flour

¼ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. black pepper

1/8 tsp. paprika

1/8 tsp. chili powder

1/8 tsp. garlic powder

1 C. seasoned bread crumbs

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

- 1/8 tsp. chili powder
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 C. seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 quart oil for frying

With your gloves on, slice peppers in half lengthwise. Use a spoon to scrape out the pith and seeds inside the peppers. The seeds and the pith are where the intense heat is so you need to discard the heat.

In a bowl combine cream cheese and cheddar cheese, stir until well blended. Use a spoon to fill each pepper half with the mixture.

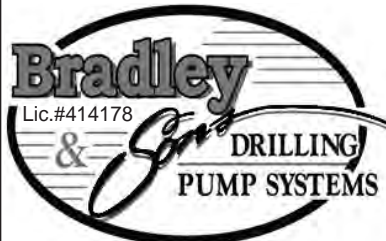
Place flour in a small shallow bowl. Add salt, pepper, paprika, chili powder and garlic powder to the flour. Blend spices into flour until a uniform appearance. Place milk into a separate shallow bowl. Dip stuffed peppers in milk, and then roll into the seasoned flour mixture. Place floured peppers on a baking sheet with a rack. Let the peppers dry for about 10 minutes. This step is crucial for the peppers. The flour layer will help the stuffing remain inside the pepper, and give the bread crumbs something to hold onto.

Pour the bread crumbs into a shallow bowl. Dip the peppers

into the milk then into the bread crumbs. Place pepper back on rack. Preheat oil to 350 degrees. Dip the peppers into the milk and the bread crumbs for a second time. The bread crumbs coating needs about 5 minutes drying time.

Fry peppers one or two at a time until golden brown. This will only take a minute or two. Remove from oil and drain on baking rack.

The first Liberty High league home game for the 2023 season will be Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at Hawk Stadium. The first Bulldog home game is Saturday, Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. playing Eastern Washington University. I love football. I grew up with it. My dad played on the Chowchilla team in 1926, both of my brothers, Randy and all of his brothers all played on their respective high school teams and Adam played for Fresno City College. So whether it is the Hawks, Chowchilla, Fresno City, the Bulldogs, or whichever team you are rooting for, I sincerely hope they have a good season and you have a good time!



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**Golden Oak 4-H**

The Golden Oak 4-H group has just had its first-ever club meeting, where we elected our officer team for the 2023-2024 program year. A club officer is someone that is crucial to the running of the club and is someone who, like the president and vice president, is there to help and correct other members of the club. These officers work to plan the agendas and run the monthly meetings, they also keep the meetings running on time and smoothly. The treasurer keeps track of all the financial records and the secretary takes minutes for the meetings and files them all and the reporter writes articles for the newspaper. The historian keeps records of all past activities and events such as articles and pictures and gathers them all up into a book at the end of the year so that the entire club can look back on all the activities and events over the year. Being an officer takes a lot of responsibility.



*The founding youth members of Golden Oak 4-H Club are (top row) Jacob Garzon, (middle row -- from left) Wyatt Morgan, Griffin Williams-Smith, Hunter Williams-Smith and Sarah Morgan, (bottom row) Elizabeth Morgan and Iris Garzon.*

These members spend extra time planning the meetings and coming up with ways to make the meetings and the program year more fun for everyone. When you are elected as a 4-H officer, the entire club has come together to elect you to assist the club by doing a specific job. Members trust that you are going to do what you promise and grow in leadership.

Our club officers this year are Hunter Williams-Smith – President; Griffin Williams-Smith - Vice-President; Sarah Morgan – Secretary; Wyatt Morgan – Treasurer; and Jacob Garzon - His-

Please see **4-H** on P. 15



Senior Report

# Senior “Crazy Hat Potluck” Soon

By Melanie Williams

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is planning a new event for the September Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon. We are hosting the “Crazy Hat Potluck Luncheon” on Sept. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

Everyone is planning to wear their best, craziest hat to the event. We are going to showcase some of the fashionable donated clothing we have in the Treasure House. Some brave



volunteers are working with a few of our senior members to wear their most favorite outlandish outfit as well as a crazy hat that they may have had tucked away in their closet. Plan to make a fashion statement by dressing up in your own unique attire. It should be a fun “Blast from the Past” event as we celebrate our members who have birthdays and anniversaries in September.

If you would like to attend the Crazy Hat Potluck Luncheon, contact us at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

The Craft Fair is coming soon. We are starting to prepare for the Annual 2023 Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have many returning vendors and a few new vendors coming to the Craft Fair. Vendors can still sign up at the Senior Center, and if you are interested in participating as a vendor or a volunteer at our Craft Fair in October, contact Judy Sears at the Senior Center for more infor-

mation at 559-645-4864 or email us at rhseniors@att.net

During the Craft Fair, we offer coffee and breakfast pastries, as well as a BBQ lunch. Plan to come and join us on Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Monthly Sale returns again on Saturday, Sept. 2 during the Labor Day weekend from 8 a.m. to noon. The Treasure House, Boutique and Scout Garden will all be open. At the last Monthly Sale in August, Juanita Williams baked some delicious chocolate chip cookies for our guests and volunteers at the center. It was a wonderful treat for all from a gracious heart. Thank you from everyone at the Senior Center for your generosity.

We welcome the community to come and visit the Boutique inside the main building of the Senior Center. If you are looking for an unusual or decorative gift, come in and check out the Boutique during our Monthly Sale.

We also have a Fall Quilt Fundraiser happening in the Boutique. The beautiful handmade quilt was donated by Dot Husted. We are grateful for Dot and what she gave throughout the years to the community and the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Community spirit lives in the Ranchos. We are so thankful for the many Ranchos people who support and give to our local businesses, churches, school district, public library and community organizations. The Senior

Center would like to thank Pastor Paul and Gail Krob, from Lifetree Assemblies of God, for helping us to clear away our tree limbs around the light post and flagpole in the front of our property. He worked diligently to finish the work and then went to another volunteer service project that same afternoon. We appreciate the staff and congregation of Lifetree for their generous service and donation to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Happy Labor Day.

Thought for September: “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

## LHS FOOTBALL 2023

8-25	Sanger West @ LHS	7:30
9-1	LHS @ Dos Palos	7:30
9-8	Yosemite @ LHS	7
9-15	LHS @ Caruthers	7:30
9-29	LHS @ Fowler	7:30
10-6	Minarets @ LHS	7:30
10-13	LHS @ Parlier	7
10-20	LHS @ Riverdale	7:30
10-27	Chowchilla @ LHS	7

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## The Bookshelf

# Check Out Library's Mobile Apps

By Jerrica Edmundson

Summer has come to a close and with that, school is back in session. We may not have our library organized the same as the school library, but we do have AR level stickers on most of our children's section with color coding to help pick out books that will suit your little one's needs. We are always happy to help find books, but will always stand by the belief that finding something you are interested in will always help promote more reading. If there is ever a title you are looking for that we don't have on our shelves, we can order it and have it brought directly to us in a few weeks.

If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to download our mobile app: SJVLS ValleyCat, where you can check if we have a title, order books through our hold system, check your due dates, pay fines and even renew your books. We have been hard at work trying to bring better tools to you that will help manage your account and love what we have been able to bring out. ValleyCat is just one of our many mobile applications that can enhance your library experience. Hoopla and Libby will allow you to check out digital copies of popular eBooks, digital audiobooks, music CDs, movies and TV show episodes with no risk of late fees or even waiting in some instances. Through our website at [maderacountylibrary.org](http://maderacountylibrary.org), we even have online encyclopedia databases and a full catalog of Chilton reference guides to help with any automotive re-

pair you might be trying to perform. All you need to take advantage of these great resources is a Madera County Library card, and those are totally free.

Aside from fully digital resources like those above, we also have Chromebooks available for checkout as well as State Parks Passes which will provide you with a day pass for a passenger vehicle into most California State Parks (the nearest to us is Millerton Lake). If you are headed to Millerton, we have developed a fun interactive experience called Agents of Discovery, another mobile app, that can provide some fun insight into the world around you through an exciting, augmented reality platform. If there is anything you think we might be able to add to our services line up, let us know and we will see what we can do to make it happen. Our goal is to ensure that we are serving your needs in the best way possible, and we are glad to help.

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11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

[www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org](http://www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org)

## Gray vs Duarte ... Again in 2024?

In basically a rematch of our last congressional election in 2022, Democrat Adam Gray has announced that he will run again for the Congressional seat in District 13, the area that includes the Madera Ranchos.

The former state assemblyman from Merced lost to Republican John Duarte by only 564 votes out of 133,000 votes cast, the second-closest House of Representative decision in the nation for that election.

Gray has already been endorsed by Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, and others. In a video announcement of his candidacy, Gray said, "If you look at those results (from November), it was a low-turnout election. I think a lot of people were frustrated, and rightfully so, with inflation and coming out of COVID, and the way the Central Valley has been treated." He thinks that an election that piggybacks on a presidential election will boost his numbers at the ballot.

The National Republican Congressional Committee issued a statement calling Gray a "Sacramento swamp creature."

"Central Valley voters rejected Adam Gray after he betrayed them to collect lavish special interest perks," National Republican Congressional Committee western press secretary Ben Peterson said, citing that as an Assemblyman Gray, "... skipped over 150 votes – and when he did show up, Gray drove up inflation, raised the gas tax and waged war on the Valley's way of life."

Although District 13 encompasses all of Merced County and parts of Fresno, Madera, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, Duarte outpolled Gray by more than 3,600 votes in Madera County, which ostensibly gave Duarte the victory.

The Ranchos' 13th Congressional District is viewed as a potential key to whether Republicans will maintain their majority in the House of Representatives.



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# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## Mitigating Road Accidents With New Flashing Lights At Road 36 and Avenue 15

One of the most common complaints from our community is traffic incidents. Accidents and even deaths have become common and occur on a regular basis. From SEMCU's inception, one of the concern pillars was "traffic safety." In the past, we at SEMCU have worked with Madera County, Golden Valley Unified School District and all the Southeast Madera County's area communities over traffic danger and safety issues. We advocated for the improvement and upgrade of Avenue 12 as well as using Avenue 9 for traffic relief, installation of signals and stop signs throughout our community by donating traffic-related road signs.

Recently we added to past donations the cost of four red flashing solar-operated stop signs at Road 36 and Avenue 15, which is one of the busier intersections of our community. Accidents and even death mark that spot. The County's department of public works was very involved and was the one that installed the SEMCU -donated four stop signs on July 13. Supervisor Jordan Wam -hoff joined SEMCU at the dedication and the County's will and energy in working toward making our roads safer as funds become available from their own sources needs to be praised.

Today, SEMCU is already working on our next donation project by working with Madera County Library. SEMCU is donating a complete remote virtual meeting system to allow anyone to book time with the library and hold virtual meetings in the li-



brary's meeting room. A large wall-mounted TV, independent speakers, a roaming microphone and a camera will facilitate remote Zoom-type meetings. A podium will serve as the meeting's central point when needed. Individuals and groups are welcome to book dates ahead and reserve the meeting room as soon as the installation is completed by the end of this month.

SEMUCU would appreciate anyone in Southeast Madera County to suggest ideas for future community worthy projects. You can participate or just listen to the SEMCU meetings which are held only once a month for approximately an hour at 6 p.m. on the third

Monday of every month via telephone or computer. By telephone just dial 312-757-3121 and you will get prompted to input the access code 715657949#. By computer, tablet or phone you can use the link [www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference](http://www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference).

To reach SEMCU for more information or suggestions, call 559-363-9095 or reach us at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) or by email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org).

There are opportunities to become a Board Member if you live in Southeast Madera which will allow you to be a part of the decision-making process with our collaborative group of concerned neighbors in the SEMCU's community area. It will be your opportunity to voice your concerns and have an input on how issues facing our community are handled. Our next meeting is on Monday, Sept. 21. To reach SEMCU for more information or suggestions, call 559-363-9095, or reach us by email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org).

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4-H cont. from P. 9

torian. These members are very excited and have some big plans for the club this year. They have already begun planning activities for the monthly meetings to introduce members to all of the opportunities 4-H offers.

Golden Oak 4-H will be holding its monthly club meetings the second Wednesday of every month starting in September. We will be meeting at the Madera Ranchos Public Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. We look forward to meeting all of our members for our first business session and "welcome back" activity. If you are interested in more information please contact our community club leaders, Jennifer Garzon and Monique Morgan at 4hgoldenoak@gmail.com.

By Wyatt Morgan  
Club Treasurer

### Sierra Shadows 4-H

Sierra Shadows 4-H Club had a busy 2022-2023 year. Members participated and competed in events all over the state and we couldn't be more proud to have them represent our club. For the beginning of another year in 4-H, the officers had their first meeting on Aug. 8. The new officer team includes President – Jake Poore; Vice President – Jamie Crandall; Secretary – Lucy Lee; Treasurer – Landon Davis; Reporter and Historian – Mikayla Carr; Sergeant At Arms – Samara Mohler, Recreation – Micah Lee and Annelise Crandall; Healthy Living – Emily Wallace and Taylor Ward; Attendant Secretary – Ava Wells; Hostess – Abigail and Emily Rosier; Cloverbud Hostess – Jade Mellott; Cloverbud Healthy Living – Paisley

Bower; and Cloverbud Recreation – Brooke Davis.

To celebrate a memorable and exciting year in 4-H, the members participated in a movie night. This was held on June 24 at the Gonzalez house and everyone had a terrific time. A treasured event was that some of our members experienced summer camp at Camp Kelo last month. The members participated in fun games and activities at camp, such as canoeing on the lake and singing around the campfire. Every member had a spectacular time and looks forward to returning next year.



The members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H Club gather in the Sierra View Elementary multipurpose room at 16436 Paula Road in the Bonnadelle Ranchos.

Please save the date for our first club meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Sierra View Elementary Multipurpose Room. We have members as young as five and up to age 19. We offer various projects for members of different ages, such as Public Speaking, Large and Small Animal options, Outdoor Adventure, Foods, Arts and Crafts, and more. Please don't hesitate to contact our new Club Community Leader, Mrs. Jesse Bower, for more information at sierrashadows4h@gmail.com.

By Mikayla Carr  
Reporter

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

"saved his profits, invested in land, built a holding of 1,200 acres, became a successful rancher, rented some of his land, added another business, and became a local money lender."

Was slavery good for these men? Absolutely not. The point is what they accomplished despite slavery, not because of it.

Two can play the Kamala Harris game, by the way.

In her famous 1619 Project essay, The New York Times writer Nikole Hannah-Jones writes that: "Black people were not chattel. And so the process of seasoning, instead of erasing identity, served an opposite purpose: In the void,

we forged a new culture all our own."

There she goes -- saying slavery served some good, that it was "seasoning."

Imagine if the Florida curriculum said that slavery gave us African American hair styles? There'd be outrage, but Hannah-Jones says it: "Today's avant-garde nature of black hairstyles and fashion displays a vibrant reflection of enslaved people's determination to feel fully human through self-expression."

The left wouldn't have to deny the historical record or tie itself into knots if it weren't so determined to lie about DeSantis, but that imperative overwhelms everything else.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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- In 2018, Nataraj Karate set a new Guinness World Record by stuffing 650 drinking straws in his mouth at once. He had to keep them there for at least 10 seconds to break the previous record.

- Human blood cells have different lifespans.
- Dollar bills weren't always green. Colonial

money, for example, was tan with black or red ink. The Civil War government began using green ink to print paper money because it didn't fade or easily decompose, which protected against counterfeiting.

- Auto manufacturer Volkswagen makes not just vehicles, but currywurst sausages.

- Following his successful bladder stone surgery, the relieved English diarist Samuel Pepys celebrated the anniversary of the event every year after.

- The first hot-air balloon flight, in 1783, took off with a sheep, a duck and a rooster on board, as it was unknown how the human body would react to flying at high altitudes. (They landed safely.)

- A company in Poland makes dinnerware out of wheat bran.

- Queen Elizabeth II visited the set of the TV series "Game of Thrones" but couldn't be seated on the throne due to an old rule that "the ruling monarch can't sit on a foreign throne."

- While it's not the longest word in the English language, a study of 1.7 million samples of everyday English found that the longest word you're likely to encounter on a daily basis is "uncharacteristically."

- Ants leave pheromone trails when they walk that serve as maps for other ants.

- Although Saturn is the second-largest planet in our solar system, it's also the lightest, and could float in water because it's basically a giant gas ball -- if we had a bathtub big enough to hold it.

Thought for the Day: "Laws control the lesser man. Right conduct controls the greater one." -- Chinese proverb

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

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**Get Your Kiwanis BBQ Basket Tickets**

By Sally Rowden

Several of our members are out in the community with our Labor Day Barbeque Basket raffle. It's full of everything for the perfect BBQ gathering. Raffle tickets are \$5 for six tickets. All monies support our children in our communities. If you don't see us, you can contact Sally Rowden at 559-908-7073 to request tickets. The drawing will take place on Labor Day.

Our successful previous fundraising projects are assisting us in purchasing a water filtration system for the students at our Ranchos Middle School. Students will be able to fill up their water bottles with fresh filtered water, keeping themselves hydrated.

Lots of club business is taking place. The Fresno Kiwanis will be visiting us in August. The Kiwanis Division 5 is made up of 11 clubs from Kingsburg to Madera. We take turns visiting each other's clubs, to not only support each other, but to glean additional ideas on how to continue to be successful in all our endeavors.

Our new officers will be established, installed and introduced by the beginning of October. Plus, all officers will be attending a Kiwanis Division 5 training. Our own Mona Diaz will be installed on Aug. 28 as our Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor of Division 5, meaning she will be governing 11 Kiwanis clubs. Congratulations Mona!

We've purchased a table at the Fireman's BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 23. Always an exciting event, we hope to see you there. In the morning of this same date, the Kiwanis Division 5 clubs of Fresno and Madera will be hosting the "Run 4 the Miracle" and the "Miracle Mile of Quarters" at Cobb Ranch. These two charity events support the Pediatric

Trauma Unit at Valley Children's Hospital. The run/walk trail starts at Cobb Ranch going out to Sycamore Island and then back. For more information go to [kiwanisdivisionfive.com](http://kiwanisdivisionfive.com)

Remember to save the date for our Winter Christmas Tea which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18. Further information will follow in the next publications of the Ranchos Independent.

This would be a great time of the year to come and join us. We desire to hear about projects the community would like to see happen for the children of our communities. Parents, grandparents, great grandparents, caregivers, etc., all are welcome to come and share their ideas. Possibly other community groups have ideas to share. It would be great to work together. Sometimes I'll see on "What's up in the Ranchos?" Facebook site ideas shared. Let's make them happen.

We meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Second Sons Brewery at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to email Sally Rowden to share your ideas and your contact information, you're welcome to do so at [rowdensally2@gmail.com](mailto:rowdensally2@gmail.com). Please note there is a change to our last meeting in August which will be on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

In closing ... *"It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them: The character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas."* -- Fyodor Dostoyevsky



[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)

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Median Days on Market  
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# Tea Time

## Climate Change Hoaxsters Came for Your Kitchen Stove

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Remember the saying “everything but the kitchen stove”? A quick search tells us that it first appeared in an 1894 newspaper and meant “just about everything.” During World War II, the phrase “everything but the kitchen sink” became popular in England and frequently meant that everything was being thrown at the enemy. Today, many of us could say that when we travel, “we pack everything but the kitchen stove.”

Now, power grabbers are using global-warming/climate change hysteria from the 1992 Earth Summit of world climate-crisis leaders, chronicled in their book called “Agenda 21,” to outlaw or threaten to outlaw things we cherish or need – including our gas kitchen stoves. These would-be gods have called their villain “global warming” or “global cooling,” and “an existential threat” and finally “climate change.” Everything but the kitchen stove – or sink!

A few of them may believe their own hype, but shame on those who use fear mongering based on a false theory to elevate

themselves to positions of power over the rest of us. Here are just a few quotes that show the true arrogance – and sometimes pure malevolence – of climate elites, some of whom participated in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, including Al Gore.

### Quotes

“Isn’t the only hope for the planet that the industrial nations collapse? Isn’t it our responsibility to bring that about?” – Maurice Strong, Chairman of the 1992 Earth Summit

“If I were reincarnated, I would be returned to Earth as a killer virus to lower human population levels.” – Prince Phillip, leader of the World Wildlife Fund

“I believe it is appropriate to have an over-representation of the facts on how dangerous it [climate change] is, as a predicate for opening up the audience” – Al Gore, former Vice President and self-appointed climate czar

“We reject the idea of private property.” – Peter Berle, National Audubon Society

“We’ve got to ride this global warming issue. Even if the theory of global warming

is wrong, we will be doing the right thing in terms of economic and environmental policy.” – Timothy Wirth, President of the UN Foundation

“Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, air-conditioning and suburban housing – are not sustainable.” – He forgot the stoves. Maurice Strong, Chairman of the UN Earth Summit

“We must make this an insecure and inhospitable place for capitalists and their projects. We must reclaim the roads and plowed lands, halt dam construction, tear down existing dams, free shackled rivers and return to wilderness millions of acres of presently settled land.” – Dave Foreman, co-founder of Earth First

“No matter if the science of global warming is all phony ... climate change provides the greatest opportunity to bring about justice and equality in the world.” – Christine Stewart, former Canadian Minister of the Environment

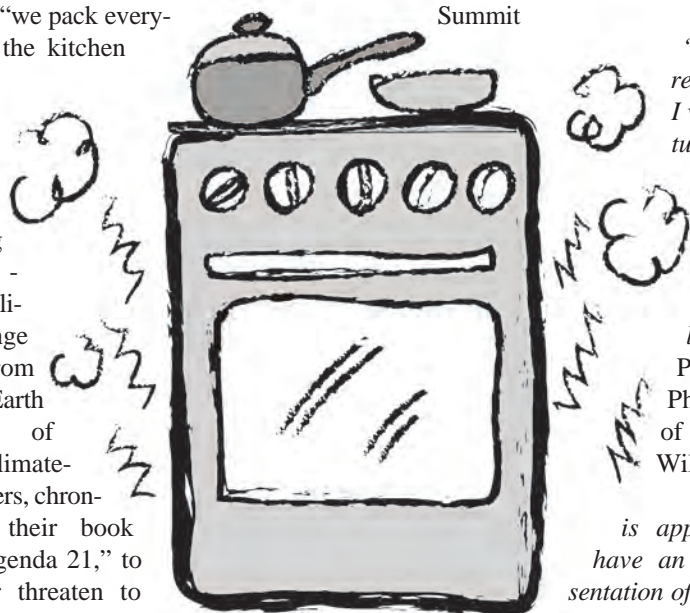
“A massive campaign must be launched to de-develop the United States. De-development means bringing our economic system into line with the realities of ecology and the world resource situation.” – Professor Paul Ehrlich, professor of population studies at Stanford University

“Human beings, as a species, have no more value than slugs.” – John Davis, Editor of Earth First Journal

### The American Policy Center

These quotes and others are contained in *The Wrenching Transformation of America: Agenda 21* produced by the American Policy Center and available at [AmericanPolicy.org](http://AmericanPolicy.org). The site is an excellent source of information on the important subjects of education, property rights, cancel culture, elections and much more that is relevant to today’s monumental and seemingly insurmountable problems.

NOTE: Fortunately, family stoves were saved from extinction by the *Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act, H.R. 1615 (118)*. Yes folks, fearless lawmakers saved the home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner from extinction. Let’s hope they will save America from the same fate.



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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Miriam (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which book may be summarized as "Bad times do not change the nature of God"? Judges, Job, Jeremiah, Jonah
3. From 2 Chronicles 9:11, what are psalteries for singers? Robes, Stringed instruments, Lyrics, Abodes
4. In Revelation 6, what's the name of the

- fourth horseman? Death, Power, Brimstone, Terror
5. From Ecclesiastes 3, there is a time to break down and a time to? Plow, Climb, Rejoice, Build up
6. Which of these was Abraham's wife? Rebekah, Martha, Sarah, Michal

### ANSWERS

1. Neither

2. Job
3. Stringed instruments
4. Death
5. Build up
6. Sarah

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).


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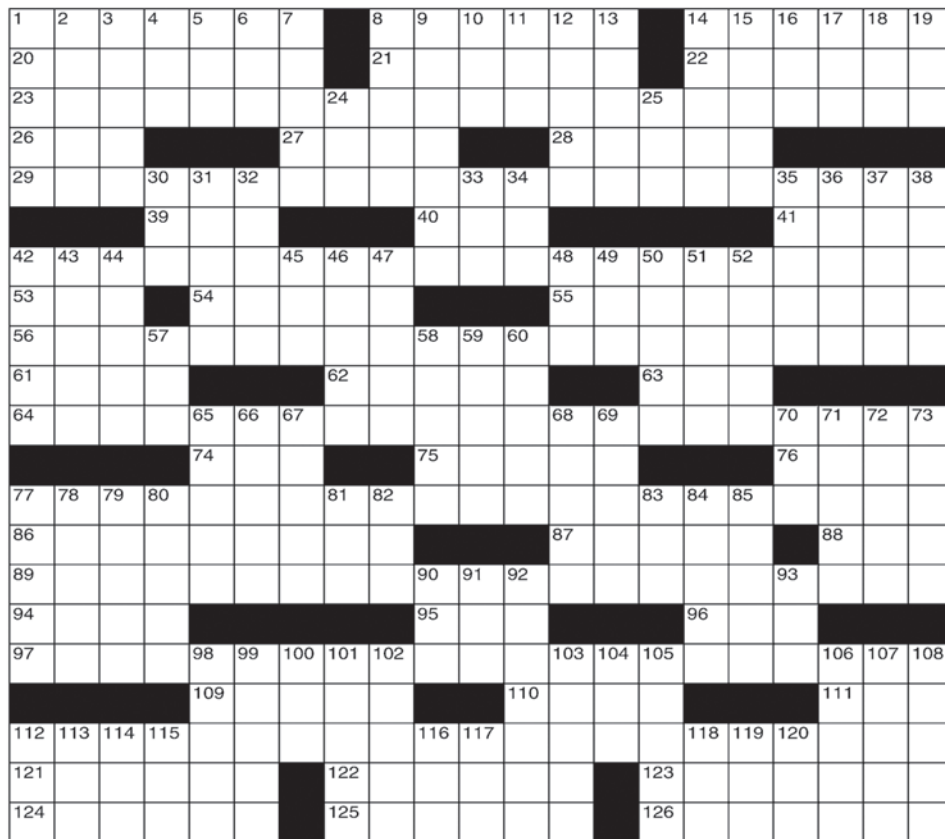
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# Super Crossword



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ANSWERS

18	25	30			
4	x	5	+	5	25
+	x	x			
8	+	2	x	3	30
+	-	-			
6	x	7	-	9	33

Y N A R G M S  
 L C E E N L H  
 S R G R S  
 S O M S  
 S H A E S  
 M S  
 S O S N S  
 S H A E S  
 S O M S

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

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Upside-down-sleeping mammal
  - 8 Economizes to a fault
  - 14 Untrustworthy sort
  - 20 One way to serve apple pie
  - 21 Very solitary sort
  - 22 Monkey (with)
  - 23 Frigid-weather readings
  - 26 Military missions, in brief
  - 27 Old Ford div.
  - 28 Tennis great Chris
  - 29 Classic Coca-Cola slogan
  - 39 "Son of," in Arabic names
  - 40 Thurman of "Kill Bill" films
  - 41 Volcanic flow
  - 42 Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
  - 53 Busy crawler
  - 54 Make sport of
  - 55 Cocktail party spread
  - 56 School in England's East Midlands
  - 61 The Emerald Isle
  - 62 Play — in (contribute to)
  - 63 Heap
  - 64 Graduate student's position that might include conducting experiments
  - 74 "Give — ring"
  - 75 Plantain lily, familiarly
  - 76 Actress Ward of "Sisters"
  - 77 Polite cut-in words
  - 86 Drains of color
  - 87 Heaps
  - 88 Tulsa-to-Topoka dir.
  - 89 Metropolises, e.g.
  - 94 Climb
  - 95 — pro nobis
  - 96 Flight guess, in brief
  - 97 "In time the reason shall be made clear"
  - 109 Furnish with new weapons
  - 110 Mean Roman emperor
  - 111 Kung — chicken
  - 112 "The Magic Flute" composer
  - 121 Stylish filmmaker
  - 122 Made giggle
  - 123 Active, as a law
  - 124 Out of sight
  - 125 San Fran football team
  - 126 Music scorer
- DOWN**
- 1 Explorer John or Sebastian
  - 2 Letter before beth
  - 3 Triple-time dance, in France
  - 4 Broody rock subgenre
  - 5 Bend at a curtain call
  - 6 Woodworking tool
  - 7 Swarms (with)
  - 8 Not at all tall
  - 9 Mustard alternative
  - 10 Cholera
  - 11 "Delicious!"
  - 12 One of 11 in a Christmas song
  - 13 Carell of "The Office"
  - 14 Knighted Ringo
  - 15 Cappuccino alternative
  - 16 Ostrich relative
  - 17 Mo. in spring
  - 18 Final letter
  - 19 Hosp. triage sites
  - 24 Riddle-me- —
  - 25 KO counter
  - 30 Some sorority letters
  - 31 Grab — (eat quickly)
  - 32 Al who won four Indy 500s
  - 33 French buddy
  - 34 Driveway-topping goo
  - 35 Stinging hits
  - 36 Lays into
  - 37 Something to RSVP to online
  - 38 More stable
  - 42 Longtime Twins catcher Joe
  - 43 Navel type
  - 44 Swizzles
  - 45 Airline to Oslo
  - 46 Basketball — Thomas
  - 47 2014 Wimbledon winner Kvitova
  - 48 Sickly
  - 49 Compete (for)
  - 50 "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" musical
  - 51 Military mission, in brief
  - 52 Spinner of "Star Trek" films
  - 57 Neckline shape
  - 58 Dinosaur in Nintendo games
  - 59 Actress Kaitlin
  - 60 Singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
  - 65 Whac- — (reflex-testing game)
  - 66 Of kidneys
  - 67 Slyly spiteful
  - 68 Engraved stone pillar
  - 69 Divining card
  - 70 Old JFK jet
  - 71 "Die Lorelei" poet Heinrich
  - 72 Actress Massey
  - 73 Window segments
  - 77 Baseballer Martinez
  - 78 Stayed home for a meal
  - 79 Washer cycle
  - 80 Gave two pills to, say
  - 81 Cool, in jive talk
  - 82 That, in Peru
  - 83 Singer Carly — Jepsen
  - 84 A cow milker tugs on it
  - 85 H.S. juniors' exams
  - 90 Campaigning pro
  - 91 Net address
  - 92 Wash clothes games
  - 93 Untrustworthy sort
  - 98 Have a spat
  - 99 Pine (for)
  - 100 "— Can Cook" (old culinary show)
  - 101 Brain, for one
  - 102 Food taste associated with MSG
  - 103 Must have
  - 104 Actress Joanne
  - 105 Red lab dye
  - 106 Divided
  - 107 Drug dealer
  - 108 Overly fond sort
  - 112 Baby's cry
  - 113 Yes, to Gigi
  - 114 British "Inc." agent
  - 115 Govt. agent
  - 116 Of city govt.
  - 117 Enzyme suffix
  - 118 L-P center
  - 119 Frequently, to poets
  - 120 Suffix meaning "animals"

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• To help our children learn the placement of states, we glued a map to a piece of cardboard, then used a razor knife to cut each state out along its lines. This created a puzzle. It made learning the states fun, and we wrote the capitals on the backs, so we learned those, too. -- M.A. in Georgia

• Keep extra magazines in the car to read when you have to wait or while sitting in line at the bank or fast-food drive-through.

• I love self-sticking notes to stay organized. I use them on my bathroom vanity mirror so that I can preplan my day in my head while getting ready. -- E.T. in Georgia

• I purchased extra-large safety pins and used scraps of fabric to designate towels for family members. I wrote each of our names in washable ink on several "tags," which are then attached to our bathing towel. I can tell in an instant who has left his or her towel on the floor/bed/etc. And I am washing a lot less towels now. -- D.L. in Ohio

• I had a few old mouse pads that were lying around. I used embroidery floss to stitch a few together, and I use them as a knee pad in the garden. The bonus is that it rolls up for storage. -- A.C. in New Mexico

• Keep and wash thoroughly any vegetable or meat trays (discard broken ones or pierced ones). They can be used as paint trays for small projects around the house, or for the children.



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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.

	x		-		33			
+			-					
	+		x		30			
+		x		x				
	x		+		25			
18		25		30				
2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9

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# STOP THE PAIN!

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**Sports Physicals only \$35!**

**HANEY CHIROPRACTIC**  
& rehabilitation center

**36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262**



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



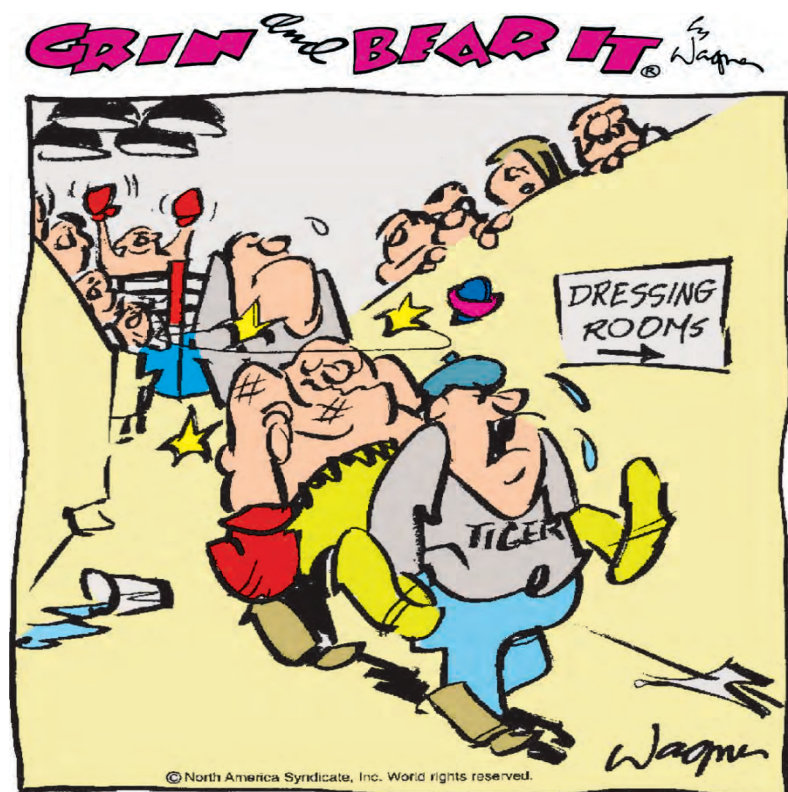
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ADS  
LOGOS  
PR  
MARKETING

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645-0634



**"I liked him better when he was a lightweight!"**



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Mars, your ruling planet, helps you deal with career challenges in a way that reflects some of your own hidden strengths. This impresses some important decision-makers.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your strong Bovine will, combined with your romantic nature (you are ruled by Venus), helps turn a romance with a potential for problems into one with more positive possibilities.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Mercury's influence creates some unsettling moments, but nothing that you can't live with. You'll soon learn more about a major change that is about to be revealed.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Opportunities for you are like the phases of the Moon -- constantly appearing and reappearing. So, cheer up. The opportunity you thought slipped by will be replaced by another.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) An opportunity that you hoped would open up for you remains closed. Stop wasting time scratching at it. Something else you'll like will soon make itself apparent and accessible.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You'll soon hear some positive feedback for all of the hard work you recently put into a project. Meanwhile, a Pisces could soon swim into your personal life.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Someone whose friendship you felt you had to write off will try to revive it. What you do is up to you, but don't do it without giving it considerable thought.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A job-related plan might need to be reworked to allow for changes. Lucky for you, there's strong planetary influences that can help you focus on getting it done right.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to move into areas of self-discovery. You might be surprised about who you really are and how you really relate to those around you.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Expect to confront someone who will make an unwelcome request. Stand by your resolve to do the right thing, no matter what "persuasion" might be offered.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A friendly competition could become more contentious than you expected. Take time out to discuss the reasons behind this unexpected change and act accordingly.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You have a wonderful mind for solving mysteries, so you should feel confident about solving the one that develops very close to you. An unlikely source offers help.

## Born this Week

*You're a great host or hostess. You love being with people, and you're very good about planning all sorts of social events that bring folks together.*



# FUN PAGES

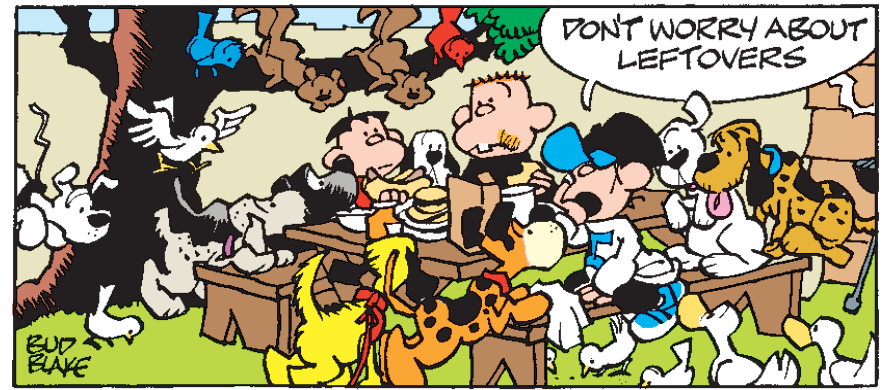
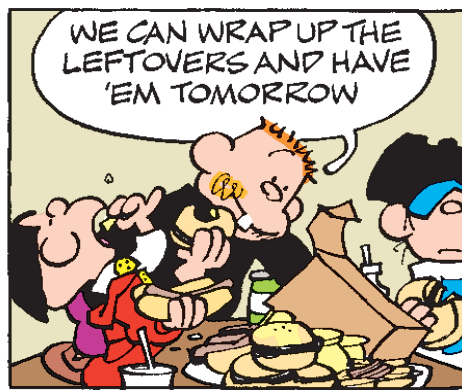
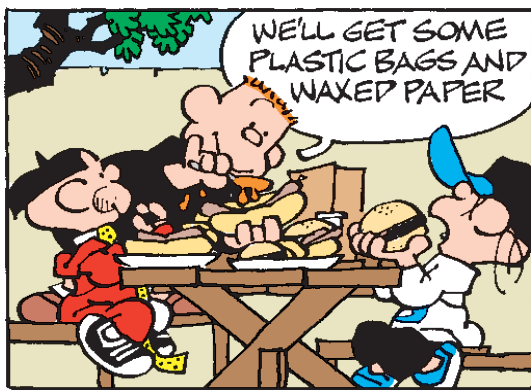
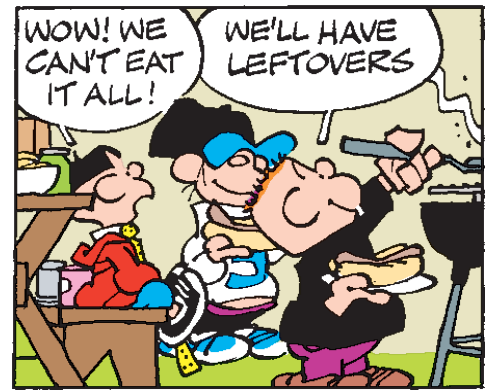
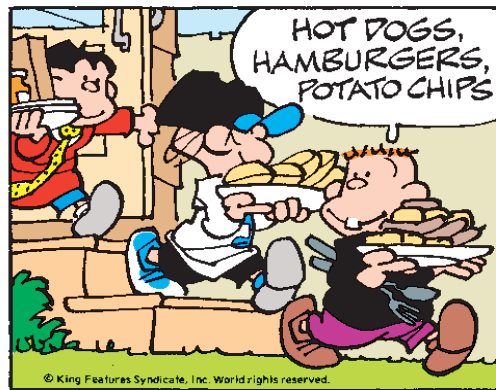
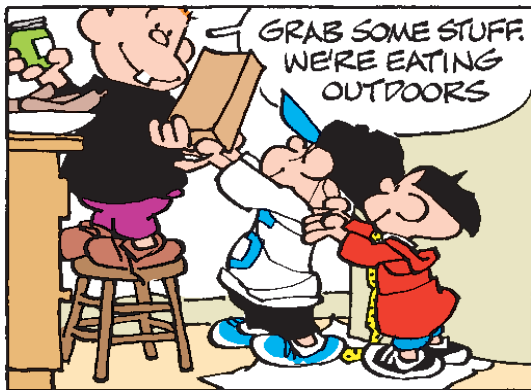
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of kangaroos called?
- MOVIES:** What kind of enchanted flower is featured in the animated film "Beauty and the Beast"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** How many pyramids are in the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt?
- TELEVISION:** What did the surgeons on the "M.A.S.H." TV drama call their tent home?
- FOOD & DRINK:** When was the first restaurant franchise of Kentucky Fried Chicken founded?
- U.S. STATES:** What is the capital of Vermont?
- CHEMISTRY:** What is the only letter that doesn't occur in the Periodic Table?
- MYTHOLOGY:** What is the Roman god equivalent of the Greek god Hermes?
- LITERATURE:** Which famous singer-songwriter won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016?
- MUSIC:** Which country is the pop band ABBA from?

1. A mob.
2. A rose.
3. Three.
4. The Swamp.
5. 1952.
6. Montpelier.
7. J.
8. Mercury.
9. Bob Dylan.
10. Sweden.

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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



1. Who was born Richard Starkey? 2. Name the artist who was only 12 years old when he wrote "Lucky Man." 3. Who wrote and released "I Call Your Name"? 4. Which artist wrote and released "Two Faces Have I"? 5. Name the song: "Watching you play our favorite song, Shuttters down, headphones on, I want the world to know my pain."

and the first since 1999. released on their "Life" album, their sixth and Culture Club, in 2018. The song was "More Than Silence," by Boy George debut album. 4. Lou Christie, in 1963. 5. Mamas & the Papas in 1966 on their hands down, was the cover by the Lennon, in 1964. The best-ever version, after he'd learned four chords. 3. John after his mother bought him a guitar, and Emerson, Lake & Palmer. He wrote it to music in the U.K. 2. Greg Lake, of knighted by Prince William for services he's Sir Richard Starkey, having been musical instruments for therapy. Today was in a sanitarium for tuberculosis for two years and was encouraged to play He'd taken up drums as a child when he Ringo Starr, drummer for the Beatles.

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**MAGIC MAZE • TYPES OF KNOTS**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: DRINK CONTAINING HOPS

Cat's paw	Packer's	Stevadore	Transom
Crown	Sheepshank	Strangle	Turle
Granny	Shoelace	Surgeon's	Windsor
Miller's	Slip	Thief	

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# FUN PAGES



# **SEMUCU**

**south east madera county united**



**Flashing Stop Signs  
for the Ranchos**  
**Four High-visibility, Flashing  
LED Stop Signs placed at the  
crossroads of Avenue 15 and  
Road 36 were recently  
donated by SEMUCU**

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

**Our next meeting is Monday, September 18 at 6 p.m.**

**By telephone - dial: 312-757-3121 and you will get  
prompted to input the access code 715657949#**

**By computer, tablet or phone - use the link -  
<https://www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference>**

**Please let us know if you have any questions.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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