

The Ranchos Independent



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**CELEBRATING
14 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS**

Volume 14 Issue 12 2018

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 7 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 22 / Fun Pages • Pages 26 & 27

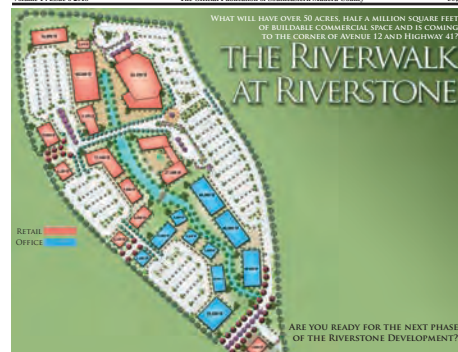


In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 26 / Fun Pages • Pages 30 & 31

**Looking Back:
Taking a look back
at the top stories
in the Ranchos
for 2018**



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Letters to the Editor • Page 4 / Editorial • Page 5
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



In This Issue Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

2018 • Top Ranchos Stories

from the pages of the Ranchos Independent

1 D.A. Linn Actions/January & March • Outgoing D.A. David Linn was busy at the beginning of the year. First he claimed that *all* of the Supervisors were “dirty” with campaign contributions, then in March he and his wife made a \$15 million claim against the County for damages from his earlier public censure.

2 ACLU Case Settled/February • The County’s desire to coordinate its jail with federal immigration authorities, but doing so in contradiction of the Brown Act’s provision of open meetings, made the ACLU step in. Ultimately Madera County agreed to settle the case for \$32,500 and limit interaction with I.C.E.

3 Opioids in Madera County/May • As the opioid epidemic gripped the nation, Madera County wasn’t spared. In May, Madera County joined a nationwide class-action suit against opioid manufacturers, “... for the health and safety of the public ...” said Supervisor Tom Wheeler.

4 Riverwalk at Riverstone/June • It was always part of the Riverstone development, but in June the Riverwalk commercial district was unveiled and suddenly became real. Over 50 acres and a half-million square feet of commercial space less than 4 miles from the Ranchos. The future is here.

5 Water District Privatized/July • In July, the Madera County Board of Supervisors agreed to allow a private water firm to enter into negotiations to manage the water supply for people in Rolling Hills. The action was the result of Rolling Hills residents wanting someone other than the County.

6 Alvarado Gone/July • After a recall election in 2015 that saw the ouster of three GVUSD trustees who fired Andy Alvarado, he was brought back as superintendent, but announced in July that greater things called and that he was taking a position with Central Unified in Fresno.

7 New Superintendent/October • After the rather abrupt departure of Superintendent Andy Alvarado, the GVUSD Board of Trustees wasted no time finding a replacement in Rodney Wallace, the former Superintendent of the El Tejon School District just south of Bakersfield.

8 Ranchos Sign/September • As an Eagle Scout, Harrison Caetano was just looking for a project. Little did he know it would consume the next four years of his life, jumping through County hoops to get authorization. But, the process left a legacy for him and the people of the Ranchos.

9 Martha Tessmer/October • It’s hard to make something positive arise out of tragedy, but that’s exactly what Martha Tessmer did following the tragic death of her son Donovan over a decade ago. Her efforts have made young people safer drivers and hopefully avoid what happened to her son.

10 Kindle Cowger/November • It’s always nice to have a story about someone local who excels by doing what they love. The Ranchos’ Kindle Cowger took her love for entertaining and parlayed it into becoming the Fresno representative for the Miss California Pageant, a step away from Miss America.

Police Issue Email Scam Alert

Madera Chief of Police Dino Lawson has issued a nationwide “Scam Alert” to government agencies, schools and private businesses regarding an email that is being circulated throughout Madera County. The email is demanding payment in Bitcoins if their demands are not met, naming various threats to cause harm to persons or businesses.

The town of Madera specifically was subject to these emails and the Madera Police Department is fully aware of the scam. The emails are poorly written and suspicious in nature. Chief Lawson is stressing the importance of good internet and email safety, namely, if you receive a suspicious email from a person or place that you do not recognize, opening it could cause harm to your computer and is likely to be scam. Never provide personal information or financial material. As always, feel free to contact the police department at 675-4200 with questions. If you see an email from an unknown sender you do not need to contact the police department, but rather freely delete the email without any risk of harm to your computer. Remember: When in doubt, delete.

Valley School Assessments Tallied

2017-18 District State Assessment Results			
Rank	District Name	ELA	Math
1	Clovis Unified	71%	58%
2	Golden Valley Unified	60%	48%
3	Sanger Unified	52%	41%
4	Alview-Dairyland Union Elementary	48%	44%
5	Kings Canyon Joint Unified	49%	36%
6	Fowler Unified	51%	34%
7	Yosemite Unified	50%	34%
8	Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary	45%	38%
9	Caruthers Unified	44%	37%
10	Kerman Unified	45%	30%
11	Central Unified	44%	31%
12	Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified	46%	27%
13	Chawanakee Unified	47%	24%
14	Selma Unified	44%	23%
15	Merced City Elementary	40%	25%
16	Merced Union High	45%	19%
17	Fresno Unified	37%	27%
18	Mendota Unified	37%	24%
19	Los Banos Unified	38%	23%
20	Washington Unified	37%	22%
21	Chowchilla Union High	44%	15%
22	Madera Unified	33%	22%
23	Chowchilla Elementary	30%	22%

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced Central Valley scores for the online California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress tests in English Language Arts and mathematics.

Statewide, in all tested grades, 49.88 percent of students met or exceeded the English Language Arts/Literacy standards, and in mathematics 38.65 percent met or exceeded standards.

This is the fourth year of the computer-based tests. California tested

more than 3 million students with the tests given in grades three through eight and grade 11.

“We’re encouraged by what we see, especially since these tests are more rigorous than previous paper and pencil tests,” Torlakson said. “However, we need to make sure all students continue to make progress. We must continue our work to narrow achievement gaps as we raise the bar for our students, and better prepare for them for 21st century college and careers.”

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get to know you and they call you by name and they have a lot of respect for their customers.

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Elia

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Letters

Dear Editor:

This letter is not about complaints.

It is about very significant advancement, trials and their finding about the community's water condition and the dry wells in Southeast Madera County. We have now proven scientifically with the help of engineers that one drywell may be capable of recharging as much as 936,000 gallons of water in one 24-hour period during a rainstorm.

It is imperative for the community to be informed as to some of the new state water restrictions which will begin in 2020 and ways to potentially help alleviate some of the uncertainty they will bring, as well as fighting future droughts.

For more details see the SEMCU Speaks article in this publication.

Igal Treibatch
SEMCU Board member

Dear Editor:

That was a great article Randy! [What Were They Thinking? -- November 2018, Ranchos Independent] You nailed it, what were we thinking for crying out loud?

Bev Delk
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Many of you know why I stopped attending Board of Supervisors meetings and writing DOG [Demand Open Government] reports: Stress.

I had the satisfaction of knowing I had made a difference on at least a few issues, unfortunately I am discovering many of the issues we were able to defeat were not dead, but rather just hidden for a while. The latest to surface being the supervisor pay increase.

Well heck, everybody deserves to be able to keep up with the cost of living. As Paul Harvey would say, "And now, for the rest of the story."

In this case, many years ago the Board passed a resolution tying their pay to that of California Superior Court Judges. In other words, every time the Judges got a raise, the Board got a raise. They do not vote on it, it is never on the agenda, it just happens. So pretty much every year they have gotten raises. Written into the California Constitution is the ability of the Board to give themselves a raise.

Also written in the same document is the initiative process. The people have the right to ask for a vote on the matter. If 50 percent+1 vote for the raise, they get it. Less than that number and the raise they gave themselves is cancelled. The last time they tried this we had the initiative petitions in hand ready to walk across the hall and be filed.

It is time to take a stand!

My next disappointment is the Madera sign.

This sign, based on the bids and property costs, would be about \$1 to \$1.5 million for the one sign. We thought we had this one dead and gone because it was going to cost so much and every time we asked for more money for police and fire we were told there just wasn't any more money, but they seemed to think there was \$1.5 million for a sign. Item 2c on the next agenda is property negotiations for the property for the sign. Somebody must have found a boat load of money.

Finally, we now have the "Regional Sports Complex" (think Fresno Granite Park). Fresno tried this one several years ago and it is still not up and running Fresno has lost many millions on this boondoggle.

Cost to build Madera's "Regional Sports Complex" is \$12 million, the feasibility study done by the company promoting these parks all over the state predicted annual losses to be over \$1.5 million every year. Add to that this County's track record for running or overseeing any business venture and you have a path to many more millions of our tax dollars being flushed down the toilet of incompetence.

The Complex is now in the works. It was included as a line item in a development agreement for \$12 million dollars. Developers don't just give away stuff for the good feeling it gives them. What did the County pony up to get this?

Dale Drozen
Demand Open Government

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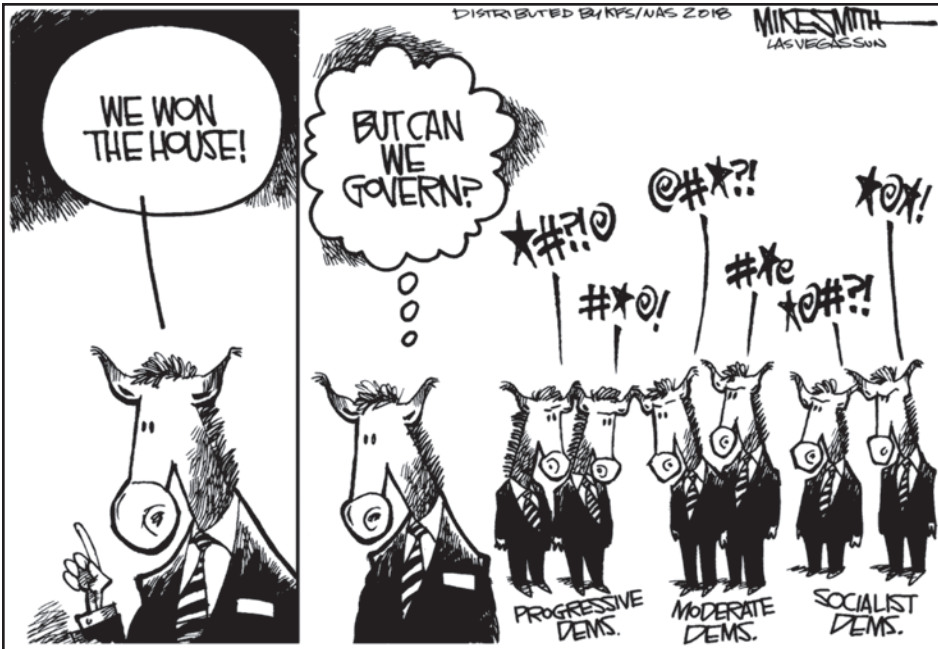
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Editorial

14 and Counting

By Randy Bailey

And they said it wouldn't last ...
 This issue of the Ranchos Independent marks the beginning of our 14th year of producing the official newspaper for the Madera Ranchos and the rest of Southeast Madera County.

If you're a regular reader of the Ranchos Independent you've heard the story before, but since it's our 14-year anniversary here it is again. It was on Dec. 1, 2004 that my former business partner Kim Allison and I bought the Ranchos Independent from previous owner Bill Bell. He had owned the paper since 1996 after acquiring it from original owner Len Wilcox who started the "Madera County Independent" sometime in the late 1980s — early 1990s.

I've also told the story that the way I met Bill Bell was I had written a letter to the editor (hmm, imagine that) and had included my name, address, phone number -- you know, all of the stuff you're supposed to include when you write a letter to the editor -- and Bill failed to remove that information when he published my letter. You can imagine my surprise when I got my copy of the Ranchos Independent with my controversial views in it and there was my address and everything published where any aspiring psycho could find it. I was not in a good mood when I stormed into Bill Bell's office to demand some

form of satisfaction. He couldn't believe what he had done. He seemed genuinely sorry for what had happened and by the time I was ready to leave we were laughing about it and talking about our similar views on a bevy of topics.

It was a few months later that I found out from Jim Cobb over at Cobb's Ranch that the Ranchos Independent was for sale. "You ought to buy it," Jim said.

So I did.

I didn't know it at the time but Bill was dying of cancer. I bought the paper in December of 2004 and on the following St. Patrick's Day, Bill passed away. I found out later that other people had offered to buy the paper from him but he didn't feel they were the right "fit." He had a love for the Ranchos and the Ranchos Independent and, cancer or not, he wasn't going to just "give" it to the wrong person.

On past anniversaries I have talked about all the changes I have seen over the years, but this year I want to go in a different direction and talk about many of the things I haven't seen in the Ranchos in the last 14 years.

There's no water system here. Fourteen years later we still suck it out of the ground, use it (often wastefully) once, and then put it in a septic tank. As I've said so many times before: That's not a "water system;" that's suicide.

Our septic system: The ticking time bomb. Worry about water all you want, but our waste -- and you know the kind I'm talking about -- is going into a septic system in some cases bordering on 50 years old. It's hard to find water now; imagine when the only water you can find is full of what we flush down the toilet.

Avenue 12 bypass. Just tonight, I attempted to pull out of the parking lot at State Foods Supermarket. I needed to turn east toward Highway 41 to take my aunt home to Clovis. The line of cars was so long I literally could not see the end of it and the eastbound traffic wasn't helping either.

Great things have happened in the past in the Ranchos; maybe we can work on some of those other areas needing attention over the next 14 years.

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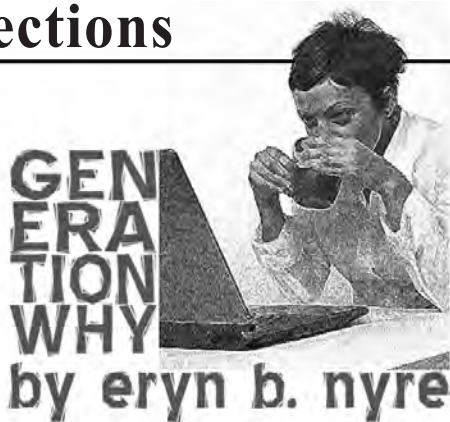
Airport Life Reflections

I know a lot of people who hate airports. I get it. There's a lot to hate about airports. Being in an airport means you had to battle the dreaded TSA cronies who delight in clumsy strip searches that border on molestation. Then there's that moment when the automatons make you take off your shoes (even though you're a known traveler) and you have that sudden and misfortunate realization that you have forgotten to get a pedicure in a very long time and your toes look like something out of a horror film. Let's not forget about the fact that you are about to be stuffed into a tiny seat on a smelly, dirty plane surrounded by various foreign germs trying to invade your body and ruin your vacation. There's ample reason to despise airports but the government sanctioned "me too" experience, and the threat of snot and phlegm aside, I actually don't mind them because they represent opportunity.

"I'm going to plan better for my future but I'm going to make sure I get the most out of life today."

It's because of airports that regular, everyday people like me have the chance to fly long distances in a relatively short amount of time. This means you can visit family and friends who live far away even if you only have a few days off from work. It also means you can travel your company's different branch locations for business and still have half the week left to be home with your family. Then, of course, there is the wonder of traveling for pleasure. Because of airports and the planes that call them home, you can fly off to places you've never been and have experiences you've never had. So, all the irritating and gross things about airports aside, ultimately they symbolize freedom.

Like so many things in the 21st century, we often take the extraordinariness of plane travel for granted. As I sit here, surrounded by Christmas wreaths, twinkle lights and what looks to be a 20-foot tree covered with shiny baubles and garland, I find myself thinking about all the blessings I



have in my life. This feeling is immediately followed by the sudden and crushing realization of everything I take for granted. The fact that I can take a few days off from work to visit friends and family is not something everyone can do. Like so many of us, I get up every day and go to a job where I work hard. My paycheck goes to bills and savings. But what if I showed up to work one day and the doors were closed? The company had gone under and no one in middle management was privy to the information.

What if I drove back home to find my house was no longer standing due to some random situation? Circumstances can change without warning and without reason and it can happen to me as easily as anyone. What would I do then? I surely wouldn't be able to just hop on a plane to Southern California for a couple of days on a whim.

We often take for granted the little things in life. We assume the other drivers will stay on their side of the road. We expect the plane to stay in the air. We go to bed each night and count on waking up the next day to finish our to-do lists. We expect the people on the street to pass by without assaulting us. Hopefully we are all cautious, but if we truly walked around every day expecting catastrophe well ... we wouldn't really walk around much at all. We would hole up in a bunker somewhere with a three-year supply of canned

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

goods and bottled water.

The biggest thing we as a society collectively take for granted is time. When we hold a grudge and stubbornly wait for the other person to apologize before trying to repair the relationship, that's taking time for granted. When we wait to start planning for retirement because there are other things we want or need to do with our money, that's taking time for granted. When we wait and wait for the right moment to say the words that are eating at us, whether it is confessing our love to someone or expressing our pain, that's taking time for granted. The right moment

is a myth. Waiting to forgive another is delaying our own blessings. Holding off planning for your future is the best way to invite disaster.

My airport epiphany has forced me to ask myself how I plan to live life differently in 2019. I'm probably still going to be annoyed by rudeness and stupidity, but overall I am going to fight less and forgive more. I'm going to love stronger and smile brighter. I'm going to plan better for my future but I'm going to make sure I get the most out of life today. And right now I'm going to laugh flu season in the face and get on this plane, though I may slather myself in hand sanitizer just for some extra protection.

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Friends & Family are the Best



What have been my favorite articles in the last 10 years of writing? Any article with family or friends.

I love to write about family because I think family is so important. Then friends are truly important as well. Several of the recipes I've used have come from people I've met in the last 10 years. It's been a good 10 years. I think the one that was the most fun was the First Graders telling us how to cook Thanksgiving dinner. Will have to do something like that again sometime.

Why have I never mentioned my Dad? He passed away almost 56 years ago. He was a wonderful person, truly loved his family and would have made a great grandpa. He taught us to

I love to write about family because I think family is so important. Then friends are truly important as well.

bait a fishhook with a wiggly worm, shoot a shotgun and drive a car with a stick shift. I miss him a lot.

Recently Ollie Ridge ask me if I had ever heard of an Earthquake Cake? She said it was easy to make, didn't take a frosting and it was delicious. I'm all for a cake like that.

Earthquake Cake

1 C Pecans or walnuts or your favorite nuts chopped
1 C shredded coconut
1 box German Chocolate cake mix (Betty Crocker mix works best)
1 to 2 C Powdered sugar (according to your sweet tooth)
8 oz. cream cheese
1 stick butter or margarine
Heat oven to 350. Spray 9 x 13 baking pan with Pam.
Sprinkle nuts and coconut over bot-

tom of pan.

Prepare cake mix according to directions on box. Pour evenly over nut mixture in bottom of pan.

Put powdered sugar, cream cheese and butter in large microwave safe bowl. Microwave until soupy. Stir to make sure it is mixed – pour mixture over top of cake mix.

Bake 35 to 45 minutes until done in center. Cake will crack as it bakes, hence the name.

To serve, cut into squares and flip over on serving plate so the nut mixture will be on top.

Ollie also gave me her mother's banana

nut bread recipe to share.

Mom's Banana Picnic Loaf

Preheat oven to 350
Put into large mixing bowl:
2 C flour
1 ½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
1 1/3 C sugar
½ C oil
1 C mashed bananas (about 3)
¼ C milk
1 tsp. vanilla
Beat for two minutes, add:
2 eggs
Beat two minutes longer
Add 1/2 C nuts or more
Mix well and pour into prepared loaf pans. Bake 35 minutes or more.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9



Welcoming New Patients!

Vivian Bartlett, F.N.P.-C

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- Women's health
- Physicals
- Wellness exams
- Preventive medicine

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing; New Jersey City University
- Master of Science in Nursing and Education; University of Phoenix, Ariz.
- Family Nurse Practitioner; Indiana State University, Terre Haute

CERTIFICATION

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

My sister Faye had a favorite pumpkin bread that was delicious.

Faye's Pumpkin Bread

Preheat oven 350

Prepare 3 loaf pans with baking spray

Mix together in large bowl:

1 large can pumpkin

4 C Sugar

1 C oil

Sift together:

2 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. cloves

1 tsp. nutmeg

1 tsp. salt

5 C flour

Add dry ingredients to pumpkin mixture and mix well. Pour evenly into the prepared loaf pans and bake for 70 minutes or until done.

Overlooked a lot are dates. They make wonderful cookies, candies and even appetizers. They also make a delicious bread.

Date Nut Bread

Preheat oven to 350

1 C boiling water

8 ounces dates, pitted and chopped

2 T. butter

¾ C granulated sugar

¼ C packed brown sugar

1 large egg

2 ¼ C all-purpose flour

1 T. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

½ C walnuts or pecans, chopped

Grease a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan.

In a medium bowl pour the boiling water over the dates and add the butter, set aside.

With a mixer, beat the sugars and egg until light.

In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt.

Add to the sugar and egg mixture,

alternating with the date and water mixture.

Stir in chopped nuts and pour into loaf pan.

Bake 45-55 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Any bread, fruit or vegetable are delicious on their own at any time, but have you thought of slicing them and toasting then add a little butter and serving for breakfast – yum.

If I don't see you or talk to you before then, I want to thank each and every one of you for a wonderful 10 years, have a Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

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Sierra View Band Entertains



The Sierra View Elementary Fifth and Sixth grade band and choir, under the direction of teacher Larissa Sobieralski, held a concert on Thursday, Dec. 6, in the Sierra View multi-purpose room for students and guests. Picture courtesy Tyler Takeda

American Cancer Donation Helps Maderans Get Help

The American Cancer Society Fresno office recently presented cCARE Connects Foundation in Fresno with a \$5,000 check to help cover transportation costs for cancer patients who reside in Madera and Mariposa counties.

Nearly 50 percent of cancer patients in Madera and Mariposa counties need assistance with transportation to and from their cancer treatment appointments at cCARE Cancer Center in Fresno. The \$5,000 community transportation grant from the American Cancer Society will help fill this gap and give cancer patients residing in those two counties a fighting chance to access the care they need to beat the disease.

“Lack of transportation is a major barrier to cancer care,” said Jennifer Giese, Health Systems Manager for the American Cancer Society. “Even the best treatment won’t work if a patient

can’t gain access due to lack of reliable, consistent transportation.”

Many cancer patients don’t own a vehicle, can’t afford the extra fuel or don’t have access to public transportation. Some patients may be elderly and unable to drive, too ill to drive or have no relatives or friends near them who are able to provide regular assistance with transportation.

An estimated 600 Madera County residents and an estimated 120 Mariposa County residents will learn they have cancer this year and getting to their scheduled treatment appointments could be their greatest concern.

One cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need between 20 and 30 trips to treatment over the course of six weeks. A patient receiving chemotherapy may need weekly treatment for up to a year.



cCare Cancer Center representatives Donna Oreizi, left, and Marvell French, second from right, receive a check for \$5,000 to help with transportation costs for Maderans from American Cancer Society members Jennifer Giese, second from left, and Donna Gavello, right.

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Luke 2:11

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Kiwanis Korner

Talent and Talented Kiwanis

By Becky Koop

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

The Ranchos Kiwanis Club is celebrating the holidays with many local Rancho events this month.

The Kiwanis Christmas Basket was on display at the local Ranchos Café near the cash register. Not only did the Café display the basket, but they also generously helped sell tickets on behalf of the Kiwanis Club. The proceeds will go toward the scholarships Kiwanis provides local Liberty High School seniors.



Just some of the 200 people who showed up for the Kiwanis-sponsored Talent Show held at Liberty High School on Thursday, Dec. 6.

The annual Kiwanis Poinsettia Fundraiser was also a great success and always brings so much holiday cheer to the Ranchos.

The Liberty High School Key Club is sponsored by the Ranchos Kiwanis, and its president, Sarah Folsom, helped coordinate the December Tal-



Past Kiwanis President Virginia Vick shows no signs of slowing down as she continues to coordinate events for the Ranchos Kiwanis.

ent Show in an effort to raise funds for Golden Valley Unified School District’s Special Education program. There were over 200 people in the audience as two of our own Kiwanis members, Mona Diaz and Marie Cameron, performed, as well as many other

local talented acts.

The Kiwanis Club would like to encourage community members to send a warm thank you to its previous president, Virginia Vick. Virginia has not only helped coordinate several Kiwanis events this past year, she has also continuously proven to be a pillar in our community, as she works to make the Ranchos community a better place. In addition to her past duties as President of the Golden

Valley Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis, she now arranges guest speakers for the Ranchos Kiwanis Club.

As for upcoming activities, the Kiwanis will be holding their “Cross the River Run” on April 14, 2019. This year the run will be held on the road that stretches from Woodward Park to Madera Panoche Creek. The Ranchos Kiwanis will also be involved in helping clean up the Madera River Parkway on the Madera side of the San Joaquin River starting in 2019.

The Ranchos Kiwanis Club welcomes new members

to join our dynamic organization. We meet every Thursday (except the first one of the month) in the Pizza Factory Banquet Room at 37184 Ave. 12 at 6:15 p.m. Please come on down, listen in and make new friends.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

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(Table of 10 for \$600)

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Buy early and save, this event always sells out!

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The Pizza Factory.*



Proceeds benefit Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Ranchos, Ca



12/18

The Bookshelf

Christmas Hours and Fun for 2019

By Jerrica Edmundson

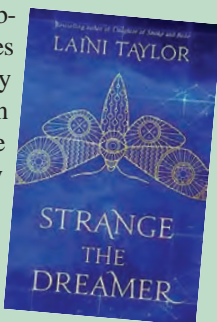
The holiday season has officially come for the year at last. We will have our normal business hours during this month, but keep in mind we will be closed on December 25. Next year will bring lots of fun projects for us here at the library but we will keep making sure that there is plenty of new and intriguing books for you all to read and enjoy.

Jerrica's Shelf

Strange the Dreamer by Laini Taylor

This book was one I absolutely could not put down. Revolving around a boy named Lazlo Strange — Strange being the surname given to orphans in the area, marking them as having no direct family. Lazlo is a librarian

who has always been obsessed with fairy tales about the legendary city of Weep. Weep had an actual name when he was young, but one day the word was ripped from his and everyone else's mind. To this day no one can remember that there even was a different name for the city, it is just Weep. Lazlo, though, is obsessed with what must have been magic that stole the name from him and everyone around him. Over his seven years as a librarian he has read every book there is about this city and become an expert



on the subject, even though his colleagues mock him and call him "Strange the Dreamer" because he is always stuck in a dream world.

This story was completely enthralling and the sequel just recently came out so I am going to move on to the continuation of the story as fast as I can get ahold of a copy. Magic powers wielded by the children of Gods, a mystical city that has been removed from existence in all but its actual physical being, and a librarian who brings it all together — what's not to love?

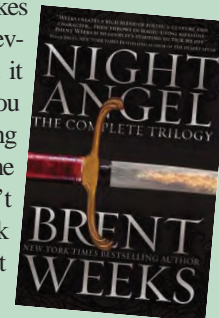
Kate's Shelf

The Night Angel Trilogy by Brent Weeks

The Night Angel Trilogy has been collected into one omnibus edition for its 10th anniversary and I have decided to pick this one up finally. The main character is a street urchin named Azoth who has always dreamed of being a legendary assassin like Durzo Blint. His dream is to apprentice under the elusive

man that he met once in an alleyway and spared his life, unlike those of the unfortunate fellows inside the bar he just ran from. Azoth spends his nights trying to find Durzo in order to convince him to take an apprentice for the first time ever, and one night he actually manages to find him. Durzo gives him a nearly impossible task to complete, but if he can do it, he can actually start on the path to fulfilling his dreams: He has to kill his current crew leader.

Brent Weeks makes a world that is so believable yet fantastic and it completely sucks you into its intricate weaving quickly. I may lose some sleep because I don't want to put the book down, but I really don't mind in this case.



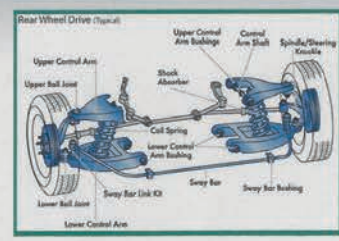
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SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

1 Billion Gallons of Water

At last, some great news! Our efforts are not going to waste.

Before I explain the line above, let me talk about what is forcing all of us to continue and find ways to combat the droughts and the government restrictions which are coming in 2020 to all of us. Since we are in what is considered a "critically over-drafted basin," all eyes will be on us.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was a landmark law signed by Governor Jerry Brown on Sept. 16, 2014 that empowers local agencies to sustainability manage groundwater resources. It is managed by the California State Water Control Board (www.waterboards.ca.gov). The local agency, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, is composed of the area's stakeholders and public water users and is the responsible entity to follow up and begin to implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan acceptable to the Department of Water and Resources by 2020.

In general, the basic way the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act intends to see things is they will determine an aquifer's recovering capability to a sustainable point, which means that if an aquifer can recover in one year to its original level after three acre-feet have been used, then that may be the amount of water one may be able to draw per year. But, if the aquifer can only recover one-half of an acre-foot per year, then that is all that can be drawn from it per one year. In addition to ground water, one may have surface water rights or can buy surface water; that addition will help, but not everyone has that option. If you are only counting on well water, one may be up a dry creek without a paddle.

This is the main reason SEMUCU has been working on sustainability issues and providing free dry wells to Southeast Madera County residents. We are trying to help refill the aquifer. To date, we have drilled over 90 dry wells (2-feet in diameter by 50-feet deep) at no cost to the community. SEMUCU is a member of Madera's Regional Water Management Group, and through that group has submitted a \$1 million grant request from the Department of Water and Resources which could potentially pay for as many as 350 larger dry wells, which are 3-feet in diameter by 75-feet deep, a substantial increase in capacity over the smaller dry-wells.

The only thing we were lacking was the science and proof that dry-wells work. During our free dry-wells program in Southeast Madera County, we have been asked many times, "How do you know this works?"

My answer was I have seen it work.

The follow up question usually is, "Ok, but how much water do the dry wells recharge?"

Today we have a more definite answer; we have the facts proved by science.

We contacted Supervisor Brett Frasier and proposed a private-public project between the County and SEMUCU that would produce the science while working with County staff along with us. We wanted to make sure that the trials we were about to commence were going to be "water tight." Provost and Prichard Engineering was hired to manage and conduct the trials along with the help of Berkley National Lab (associated with U.C. Berkley).

We contracted a driller and after some 10 suggested sites, we drilled test core holes down to 75 feet. As we were drilling, we collected soil samples from every foot of the soil and sent them to a professional lab for analysis to help us understand the soil profiles. We then picked four locations for a full test and drilled 3-foot in diameter by 75-feet deep wells in all four sites. We inserted a 4-inch perforated pipe all the way to the bottom and filled the rest of the area with crushed rocks. We then introduced water to the surface of the dry well without pressure, with a 6-inch pipe that had a water meter measuring the amount of water that was flowing out. The intent was to simulate a rain storm pattern. We were shocked when we found that over a 24-hour period, the well continued an intake stream without overflowing that was as much as 650 gallons per minute. Over 24 hours, 650 gallons per minute translates into 936,000 gallons of recharged water per one well. That astounded all of us. There was no champagne to celebrate, but there was water. We now needed to understand more.

We let one of the wells run for seven days. The first four days the well consumed 650 gallons per minute, the fifth day the well ability to take water was down to 550 gallons and for the following two days the well averaged between 400 and 450 gallons per minute. Like in a rain storm season, we will wait a few days and try the same test in order to see if the well will go back and start again with intake of 650 gallons.

Imagine if we are awarded the grant and are able to drill 350 dry wells, and even if they all average only 500 gallons per minute, the wells will be recharging in one 24-hour period as much as 252 million gallons. Potentially, if we get four strong storms days in one season, we will be recharging over ONE BILLION gallons. Yes, "billions" with a "B."

SEMUCU is continuing efforts to improve water conditions and help achieve water sustainability in Southeast Madera. We invite the residents to come and help with these efforts by bringing ideas and helping meet the needs of our community. Come join SEMUCU's board and make a difference for a better community and home for our families. SEMUCU only meets once per month, at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos.

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You may reach us through our website at www.semcu.org.



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Senior Report

Seniors Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By Margaret Tynan

Here we are again moving into another New Year. May we all find hope and aspirations for peace, love and tranquility for our community, nation and world in 2019. As I look back on last year at Ranchos/Hills Seniors I am so pleased to be part of the friendships, energy, enthusiasm and community engagement among the members. Here are a few of the highlights of the year.

The Spring Home and Garden Festival and Fall Art and Craft Fair are two successful community wide events put on by the Center. Additionally, members again participated in the Ranchos Flatlanders Day activities. Many members enjoyed the monthly collaborative program with Liberty High with a focus on intergenerational socialization and communication. The Center offered free presentations open to the community by the Nursing Program at Fresno State University and informational sessions by the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). There were also many interesting, exciting and fun activities such as arts and crafts sessions, improv acting class, weekly writing group and various holiday gatherings. Members, their families and friends went on several outings including Arte Americas Museum, Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater and, most recently to usher in the Holidays, Second Space Theater's show "Good Company for Christmas."

Many tried and true and new activities are planned for the new year so watch the Senior Report for announcements. A Pajama Party will hail the incoming 2019 New Year with a members' potluck and games. The writing group will resume the weekly Monday meetings on January 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. Center and adult community members are invited to join. Be sure to come to the monthly Bake and Boutique and Treasure Houses.

A sale will be held on Saturday, Jan. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon. Don't forget to join the weekly Monday-Wednesday-Friday Strength and Stretch Exercise group from 10 to 11 a.m. and the weekly Thursday 6 p.m. potlucks. Mark your calendars for the Planning Meetings the first Tuesday and the General Member meetings the third Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and needed.

New Officers Elected

The 2019 Ranchos/Hills Seniors officers and board members were elected in November and were installed at the Dec. 18 Holiday Celebration. Ethel Hansen, a Center member since 2010, will serve as President. She says she will do her best to help the organization

continue forward on a positive track. Vice President Eva McAtee's goal is to enhance her communication and organizational skills during her year of service. She is a member since 2012. Rita Selmon will serve her third term as Recording Secretary since she joined three years ago. She finds belonging to the Center an uplifting experience that brings people together, the experience she hopes to share with the local community. Margaret Tynan's goals are to continue to help plan interesting activities and to increase Center membership. She will serve a second term as Corresponding Secretary. Connie Prince enjoys working with numbers, so she is eager to take on the duties of Chief Treasurer and serve the community. The Assistant Treasurer's role of helping to meet the budget will be filled for a fourth term by Diane Maxfield, a member since 2010. Verlaine Elinburg would normally take on the duties of the Past President, but Carol Wood, the past Vice-President, will take on those advising duties instead. Verlaine will be representing Madera's seniors at the Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging this next year.

Officers' Goals

Each of the four Board members shared their goals for the year. Theresa Santoro plans to work on improving the Center's connection to the local community through technology during her second term. Sue Dobbs is also serving a second term on the Board. Her goal is to reach out to those 50 years plus in the area, letting them know the many opportunities that are available for their enjoyment and involvement at the Center. Rosemary Janis, a new member in 2018, will serve her first term on the board. She looks forward to learning from others and sharing ideas from her past work on other boards. Shirley Tickel is also serving her first term on the Board. A member since 2003, she says she is anxious to help with the various Center pursuits. Helen Lowell, a member of the organization since nearly its inception, will serve a sixth term as Parliamentarian. She is looking forward to a very good year and wants to share what "a terrific place this is" and encourage membership in the Ranchos/Hills Seniors.

All of us at Ranchos/Hills Seniors thank the members and the community for their support and wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Thought for January: "Well, we have a whole new year ahead of us. And wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be a little more gentle [sic] with each other; a little more loving, and have a little more empathy, and maybe, next year at this time we'd like each other a little more." — Judy Garland



Big Brother, Your Car

Hello 93636,

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2019 from the Parr family and the Complete Car Care team. We want to thank you all for your continued business and support.

For me, 2018 ends with a required 20-hour emissions update class and test. Since emissions is fresh on my mind, I thought the opportunity of this article would present a good time to write about California's emissions testing program.

In my opinion, if the California Air Resources Board (CARB) was sincerely interested in clean air, California would change its forest management strategy and policies and become proactive about wild-fire prevention. The amount of emissions emitted into California's air each year from wildfires is substantial. Instead, CARB is attempting to find a way around the United States Constitution's Bill of Rights' 4th amendment protections. Just saying.

For at least 10 years, I've heard rumors about the CARB OBD III program. During preparation for this article I found detailed documentation that would suggest the rumors may have merit. What is the CARB OBD III program? The intent of the program is to reduce the time between when a vehicle's emission failure first occurs and the actual repair.

The Clean Air Act of 1963 was the first federal legislation regarding air pollution control. It established a federal program within the U.S. Public Health Service that authorized research into techniques for monitoring and controlling air pollution.

The Clean Air Act allows California to seek a waiver from the prohibition keeping states from enacting their own emission standards for new motor vehicles. The United States Environmental Protection Agency must grant a waiver before CARB's OBD III program can be enacted.

The program would require each new vehicle sold in California to be equipped with a small device capable of storing and transmitting the vehicle's identification number, the receiver station identification number, current emissions fault code(s), date and time of the current and last query and the status and integrity of the monitoring system. The transponder will also be equipped with a memory function to prevent loss of stored information if the vehicle's battery fails or is disconnected.

When a vehicle emissions fault is detected, a notice would be sent to the vehicle owner requiring an out-of-cycle emissions inspection within a certain number of days. If the vehicle is not inspected and brought into compliance, penal options include withholding the next vehicle registration, a citation, fine or court appearance.

Receiver/Tracking Station options include roadside readers, local station networks and satellites. The roadside reader technology has been tested in California since 1994. The technology is capable of reading eight lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic at 100 miles per hour. The roadside reader technology can be installed at fixed locations or installed onto portable and mobile units. When the reader technology detects an emission fault, the vehicle's identification number (VIN) and fault code(s) will be transmitted to authorities.

Satellite technology can be linked to a cell phone or other tracking device like General Motors' "OnStar." When an emission fault is detected, the vehicle owner would be alerted via cell phone and/or the tracking device. That information would also be relayed to public authorities. Technologies and options available to enforce OBD III regulations include CHP Roadside Pullover or remotely disabling the vehicle via the OBD III device.

Other possible uses for the OBD III technology are police pursuit immobilization, tracking and citing speed limit violators.

What legal issues arise from OBD III? Do public health arguments override our constitutional protections of privacy and consent?

OBD III would sanction private citizens based on the use of "suspicionless mass surveillance" of private property and random testing. It would empower CARB, an un-elected body, to sequester private property. It's not clear to me how due process, the right of private citizens to directly confront accusers and rebut witnesses and 4th amendment protections would be protected.

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects U.S. citizens from random search and seizures. "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated ..."

The drawback with California's current emissions testing program is the entire California vehicle fleet must undergo biannual emissions inspections in order to identify a relatively small number of failing vehicles. Approximately 10 million vehicles at a cost in excess of \$168 million are inspected each year.

CARB suggests if the inspection process could be automated, only those vehicles with actual emissions problems would be required to un-

dergo a FULL emission inspection. As I understand it, the biannual inspection process would remain intact and the costs associated with it.

CARB has identified the major obstacle blocking the implementation of OBD III is public acceptance of a device they would pay for with the capability to disable their vehicle without their permission. The following is a CARB suggested strategy to gain public acceptance. In CARB's own words:

"Ways to obtain public acceptance may be to offer incentives by including this device as part of a package that provides other benefits. These benefits could be an anti-theft device and/or a smog readout device. The smog readout device could eliminate the need for costly and time-consuming periodic inspections at smog stations. With the idea that the only time you would need to go to an inspection station is when the automobile exceeds smog-generating limits".

That is an obvious strategy of deception. OK guys, that's all for now. I'll let you know as details develop. As usual, I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any suggestions, ideas, comments, general or specific questions concerning a vehicle, please text me at 559-907-7661.

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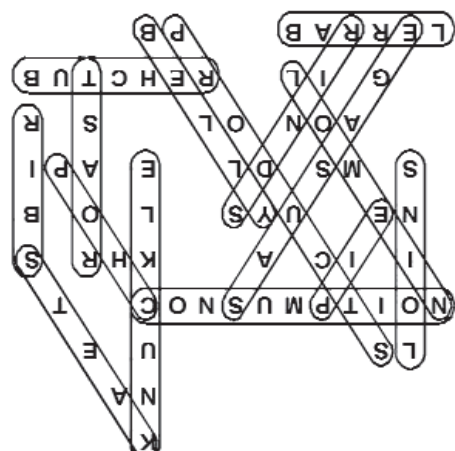
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ANSWERS

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

D	I	A	L	S	P	E	T	A	P	A	R	T	I	N	E	R	D			
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O	N	A	G	E	R	Z	E	S	T	M	I	X	E	D	F	R	U	I	T	
W	A	S	A	B	I	U	S	E	D	I	D	O	R	D	A					
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A	B	S																		
F	A	B																		
A	S																			

17	15	20			
9	-	6	x	5	15
+	-		x		
1	+	3	x	4	16
÷	x	x			
8	+	7	x	1	15



Classified

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

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.

	+		×		15
÷		×		×	
	+		×		16
+		-		×	
	-		×		15
17		15		20	

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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A Gift That Keeps On Giving

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Christmas is upon us and many parents and grandparents may be searching for meaningful gifts for their children, teens and young adults. Toys for little tykes are soon broken. Money and gift cards are impersonal and forgettable. Young adults seem to have everything they want, and who knows what color sweater they want anyway?

What to do?

After the traditional gifts are opened, perhaps the most needed and longest lasting gift would be a year-round dose of old-fashioned wisdom, commonly defined as "the ability to think and act using education, knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight."

So why is this relevant to a conservative political column? Well, it seems to me that our volatile political atmosphere is directly attributable to the lack of education, knowledge, understanding, common sense and/or insight needed for wisdom.

When a newly elected member of Congress doesn't know the three branches of government — one branch of which she just spent months and tons of money to be elected to — then she surely needs education and wisdom.

When the soon-to-be-again Speaker of the House calls a border wall "immoral" and advocates opening our borders to the world, then she certainly lacks common sense, knowledge and insight; and she definitely doesn't know the definition of national sovereignty.

When presidential and congressional candidates espouse socialism, of all things, they can't possibly know its terrible history or its recent destruction of Venezuela; nor can they appreciate our form of government that offers freedom and prosperity. Can they?

When a high-school graduate doesn't know who George Washington is — true story — then our schools need a serious intervention by concerned citizens wise enough to have their grey heads screwed on straight.

Clearly, too many schools are ignoring history, the constitution and our founding principles. Worse, in many cases they teach that America is evil. Is it any wonder then that the under-educated can easily fall for propaganda touting socialism, an end to national sovereignty and the like? Somehow younger generations must hear the counter message

to today's indoctrination.

Imparting the gift of wisdom costs only time and love. It could be as simple as ongoing give-and-take conversations or discussing with those in our lives what they're learning in school or what they think about the latest political occurrence. It could be a recorded oral or written account of personal experiences, such as military service or life in another country, or important lessons learned through the years. Each of us who've lived a few years past prime might have a story to tell and a way to make it relevant. But if you have nothing personal to relate, there are good books, articles, websites and the like that could be passed on or recommended to the next generations.

Not many of us are experts on the constitution or history, certainly not me; but free online resources are available at the click of a mouse. You might check them out and recommend them to those on your gift list.

Hillsdale College offers online courses using short presentations, including Constitution 101 and Principles of Free Market Economics 101. You can watch in your jammies any time you want.

Their latest offering is: "The Stakes of World War II" presented by our own Valley treasure, Victor Davis Hanson. Its introduction is a lesson in itself:

Clearly, too many schools are ignoring history, the constitution and our founding principles. Worse, in many cases they teach that America is evil. Is it any wonder then that the under-educated can easily fall for propaganda touting socialism, an end to national sovereignty and the like?

"World War II can be understood in terms of two competing arguments regarding the nature of man. One argument views man primarily as part of a collective, shaped in decisive respects by race or class. This led to the invasion of peaceful lands and the organized slaughter of millions.

The other argument views the human soul as free — never to be governed without consent. The unflinching insistence on this view led to liberation."

The Heritage Foundation is "... dedicated to advancing conservative principles," and disseminates public policy information "... so together we can decide how we want our government to work." They offer an online Guide to the Constitution with clause-by-clause analysis of the entire document and each amendment — a treasure trove of free information. Also available is "a one-of-a-kind book that presents the U.S. Constitution as never before."

Hometown Heroes is a fantastic KMJ radio program hosted by another Valley treasure, Paul Loeffler, who weekly interviews and honors veterans, presenting history through the perspectives of those who lived it. You can listen live on the radio or to past interviews on the website, hometown-heroesradio.com, where Paul states: "No matter where you're from in this great country of ours ... there are heroes around you."

Merry Christmas and happy new year to everyone.

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

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Safest and Happiest Holiday Possible

Remember ... If You're Going to Do This ...



... Don't Drink and Drive!
Remember to Call a Cab or Designate a Driver



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Arian penchant for impatience shows, as you consider passing a problem-prone project on to someone else. Best advice: Stay with it and work out those snarls yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Even patient Bovines can be frustrated when carefully made plans go awry. But crank up that "stick-to-it-ivity" you do so well, and you'll soon find that your schedule is back in sync.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your aspect favors using more resourceful means in dealing with a workplace situation. Some discreet checking around could help shed light on the root cause of the problem.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You show an unusually strong streak of stubbornness in rejecting suggestions from friends and/or family members early in the week. But you become more receptive by the week's end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat might find a gentler approach more effective when dealing with those who resist needed changes. Remember, the word "persuasion" starts with the sound "purr."

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A disappointing experience with someone you felt you could trust can be painful. But there just might be more to this situation than you're aware of. Press for an explanation.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Changing your views about something you believe in isn't easy. But you might reconsider as the facts come in. Keep your mind open, even if you're uneasy about what you might learn.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some serious shifting of gears to get your project back on track. But cheer up. Your hard work starts to produce some positive results by the week's end.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unsettling mood at the start of the week soon lifts and gives way to a more positive attitude as you find fun and friendship beginning to dominate your aspect.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A delay in firming up holiday plans could work to your advantage. Use this time to scout out possibilities that might be more in line with what those close to you would prefer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Some people might question some of the new friends you've welcomed into your life. But your ability to see beyond the obvious helps you recognize how special they are.

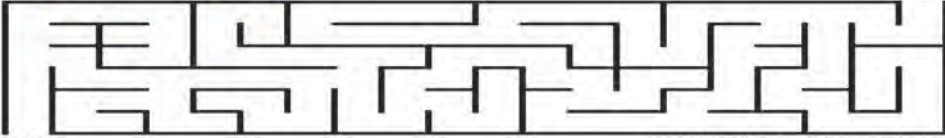
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Financial matters can be especially tricky this week. It's best to follow a conservative investment path for now, and wait for a more fortuitous time to take a bolder approach.

Born this Week

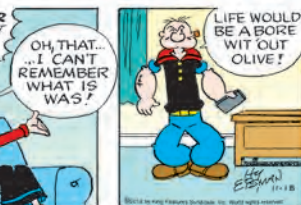
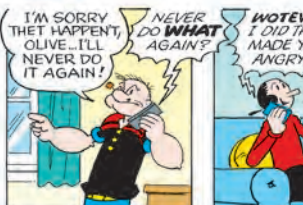
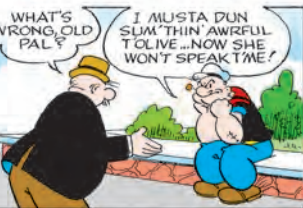
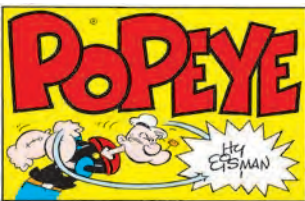
Your warmth, your humor and your genuine concern for others make you someone people love to keep close to their lives.

FUN PAGES

Kids' Maze

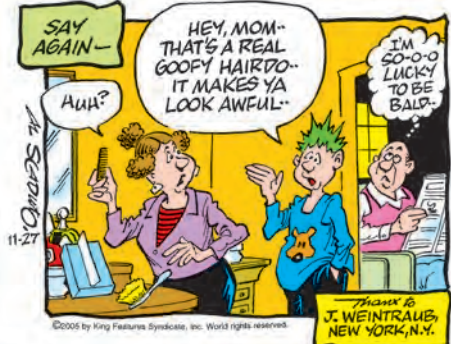
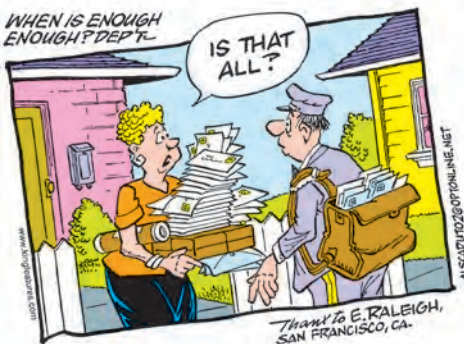


TIGER

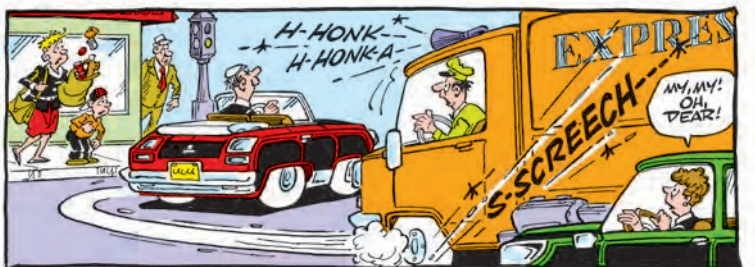


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



TRAFFIC TRAUMA DEPT- A POX ON THE DRIVER WHO GETS INTO THE LEFT LANE and THEN MAKES A RIGHT TURN...
Thank to G. HARLINTON, ATLANTA, GA.



A MAIZE MAZE! Can you help this little bug find his way across this maze of corn so that he can join his buddy at the other end?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE FLOWERS!



Illustrated by David Coulson

HIDDEN ANIMALS!

1. At last a girl moved.
2. He made errors on purpose.
3. Well, I only got terrified out of my wits.



Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 17 flowers. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the flowers you're looking for.

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 5 through 14 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, each vertical column, and even the four corner squares, must total 45. We've filled in six of the squares; the rest is up to you. Use trial and error - and a good eraser!

		19	3
18	4		
	21		
			20

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Azalea | Fuchsia | Plumbago |
| Buttercup | Geranium | Poppy |
| Carnation | Hibiscus | Rose |
| Cosmos | Hyacinth | Sunflower |
| Edelweiss | Iris | Verbena |
| Foxglove | Lily | |

Answers: First row 10, 13, 19, 3. Second row 18, 4, 9, 14. Third row 5, 21, 11, 8. Fourth row 12, 7, 6, 20.

Wishing Well

4	5	3	4	5	6	7	4	6	2	6	5	3
Y	Q	A	O	U	J	K	U	O	C	Y	I	B
7	8	5	7	3	8	5	4	5	3	2	8	4
E	S	C	E	R	U	K	D	A	I	H	C	E
3	5	6	3	5	6	4	8	5	6	2	5	3
E	C	F	F	T	U	L	C	I	L	A	O	E
2	3	4	8	5	6	8	4	3	7	6	2	6
R	N	I	E	N	D	S	G	C	P	A	M	Y
4	5	3	5	2	8	2	4	8	2	5	8	5
H	N	O	E	E	S	D	T	I	L	E	S	D
2	4	3	7	4	5	4	2	4	3	4	2	5
1	0	U	T	T	E	H	F	E	N	R	E	D
7	4	3	8	3	8	3	7	8	7	8	7	7
R	S	T	N	E	E	R	Y	A	I	R	N	G

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MAGIC MAZE • PORK

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

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

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Barrel | Consumption | Pie | Roast |
| Belly | Knuckle | Products | Sausage |
| Butcher | Lo mein | Ribs | Steak |
| Chop | Loins | Rinds | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: What are the four lobes of the cerebral cortex?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month is Black History Month?
3. LITERATURE: Which early American author wrote the "The Scarlet Letter"?
4. CHEMISTRY: Which element is represented by the designation Cl?
5. MEASUREMENTS: How long is a lunar month?
6. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust?
7. MUSIC: Who wrote the 1962 song "The Loco-Motion"?
8. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home of Great Bear Lake?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state claims to be the "birthplace of aviation"?
10. BUSINESS: What law requires banks to disclose the interest rates on loans?

Answers

1. Frontal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobe and temporal lobe
2. February
3. Nathaniel Hawthorne
4. Chlorine
5. 29.5 days
6. Aluminium
7. Gerry Goffin and Carole King
8. Canada
9. Ohio
10. Truth in Lending Act

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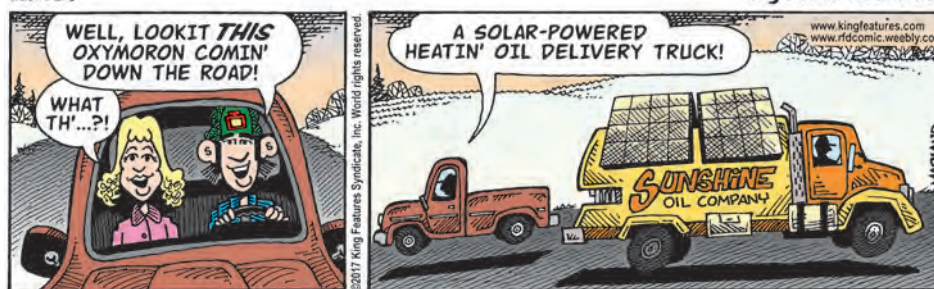
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



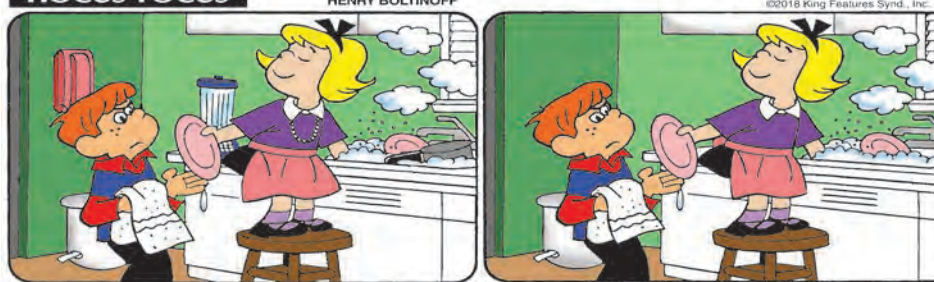
Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



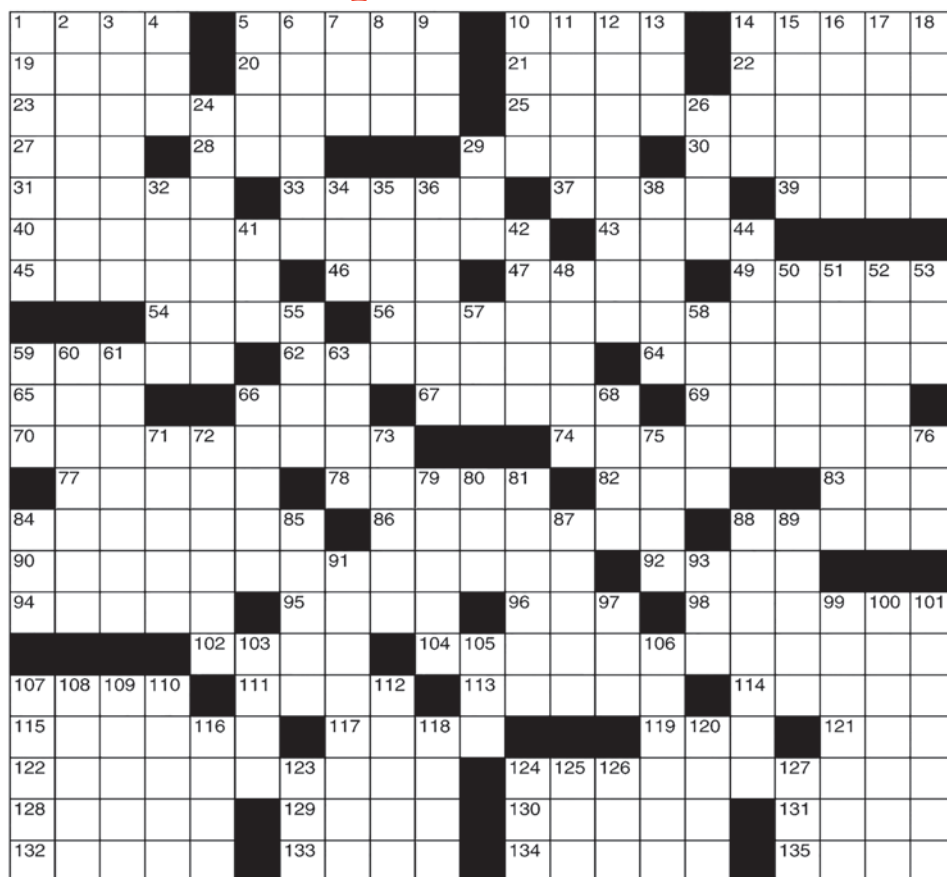
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Phone is missing. 2. Towel is shorter. 3. Blender is missing. 4. Dishes are missing. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pan is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Temporarily trendy things
 - 5 Huge chasm
 - 10 Nile serpents
 - 14 Navajo neighbors
 - 19 "Oh, gotcha"
 - 20 Flip (out)
 - 21 Mets' old home
 - 22 Blue color of the clear 9-Down
 - 23 Eau de vie applied to a head injury to reduce swelling?
 - 25 Having the same figure as Sheriff Wyatt?
 - 27 Verb suffix in London
 - 28 Vast age
 - 29 Average golf scores
 - 30 Kindhearted
 - 31 Clutch, e.g.
 - 33 Sets of two
 - 37 Gyro holder
 - 39 "Fish Magic" painter Paul
 - 40 Drink you can only get by contacting someone by beeper?
 - 43 See 8-Down
 - 45 Her cow was notorious
 - 46 Bite slightly
 - 47 Q-V linkup
 - 49 Designer Schiaparelli and others
 - 54 Jethro — (rock band)
 - 56 Strong Dutch gin that's inexpensive?
 - 59 "The gloves are off!"
 - 62 Like alfresco events
 - 64 Obedient dogs, maybe
 - 65 Rival of HBO
 - 66 Male bud
 - 67 Bert's bud
 - 69 14th-century Russian ruler
 - 70 Golf club for extremely long shots?
 - 74 Unit for measuring the force of some PC picture files?
 - 77 "I pass," in cards
 - 78 Cantina cooking pots
 - 82 Chast of cartoons
 - 83 The sun, e.g.
 - 84 Negatively charged, as an atom
 - 86 Banned diet-drug combo
 - 88 Major alarm
 - 90 Pie topping that originated in Edison's lab?
 - 92 Base for poi
 - 94 Lung, for one
 - 95 Mail, e.g.
 - 96 Lacerate
 - 98 Taking the middle out of
 - 102 Santa — (some hot winds)
 - 104 Surrounded by a spicy Indian condiment?
 - 107 Grungy sort
 - 111 Fierce whale
 - 113 Tatum with an Oscar
 - 114 Post office gizmo
 - 115 Sushi condiment
 - 117 Like hand-me-downs
 - 119 Altar vow
 - 121 Vitamin no.
 - 122 Gusto shown by a wild Asian ass?
 - 124 Apt alternate title for this puzzle
 - 128 Did a fall yard chore
 - 129 "I concur!"
 - 130 Circus site
 - 131 Concept, in Soissons
 - 132 Clock parts
 - 133 Org. against dogfights
 - 134 Shindig
 - 135 Unhip type
- DOWN**
- 1 Painter Fra — Lippi
 - 2 Predictably
 - 3 Split up, as a corporation
 - 4 Summer and fall mo.
 - 5 "Hair" hairdo
 - 6 Marlon of movies
 - 7 Appetite
 - 8 With 43-Across, tear-jerking tune
 - 9 Pilot's milieu
 - 10 Far offshore
 - 11 On the ball
 - 12 Soldiers on
 - 13 Undermine
 - 14 Taunting cry
 - 15 County in Missouri
 - 16 Iris part
 - 17 Dunne of old Hollywood
 - 18 Bog plant
 - 24 Trip during a kegger, say
 - 26 Eye carefully
 - 29 Chi-omega link
 - 32 1954-77 treaty gp.
 - 34 Over there, old-style
 - 35 Wonderland visitor
 - 36 Wife of Niles on "Frasier"
 - 38 Feel
 - 41 1995-2013 Arizona senator Jon
 - 42 Free of fluid
 - 44 Capital of Suisse
 - 48 Bit of parsley
 - 50 Onetime TV legal drama
 - 51 Shelled out for
 - 52 Deduced, not observed
 - 53 Mil. draft inits.
 - 55 British noble
 - 57 Stirrup site
 - 58 Big name in ketchup
 - 59 Suffix with capital
 - 60 Paint diluter
 - 61 Going it alone
 - 63 — stick
 - 66 Obfuscate
 - 68 St. Pat's isle
 - 71 Virus in 2014 news
 - 72 Ryder of "Black Swan"
 - 73 Puckish
 - 75 Courier, e.g.
 - 76 "Grimm" network
 - 79 — helping hand
 - 80 Film director Lee
 - 81 Goad
 - 84 "Ti —" (Italian "I love you")
 - 85 French film award
 - 87 Poet Heinrich
 - 88 Bragging about
 - 89 Vena cava neighbor
 - 91 Cry for help
 - 93 Wilhelm's "Woe is me!"
 - 97 Links org. since 1916
 - 99 Trespass
 - 100 Less well-off
 - 101 Whirled
 - 103 Film genre
 - 105 In vogue, in the '60s
 - 106 Customer
 - 107 Fencing tool
 - 108 Oahu porch
 - 109 Port in Japan
 - 110 Deli nosh
 - 112 Good thing
 - 116 Nap spots
 - 118 Peak
 - 120 Attack time in WWII
 - 123 Tase, e.g.
 - 124 Road guide
 - 125 Nest egg inits.
 - 126 Reagan-era teen, e.g.
 - 127 — Tin Tin



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