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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## The Safely Surrendered Baby Law and the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey



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# The Safely Surrendered Baby Law and the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey



On a bitter cold February morning, a young man delivering the Fresno Bee in the Ranchos was shocked at what he discovered in the road at Avenue 36 and Road 13½. Aurelio Fuentes Jr. discovered a new-born baby wrapped only in a dirty onesie with its umbilical cord still attached. The baby didn't even have a diaper on in the 30-degree morning air.

Fuentes called 911 and set in motion a series of events that probably saved the little girl's life. The baby was taken to Valley Children's Hospital and at last report was doing well. The mother of the baby is still a mystery, however. There were reports of a young Hispanic woman in the area the morning of Feb. 11 who had asked an early morning walker if he would "take her baby." The man allegedly told her to take the child to either a local fire station or Valley Children's Hospital, after which she reportedly left. It was not long after this meeting that Fuentes discovered the baby.

What makes this series of events so unsettling is that it didn't have to happen. California created the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in 2001 and permanently signed

it into law in 2006. The law was created specifically "... to save lives of newborn infants at risk of abandonment by encouraging parents or persons with lawful custody to safely surrender the infant within 72 hours of birth, with no questions asked."

### A Downward Trend

According to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention within the California Department of Social Services, 931 newborns have been surrendered in California from Jan. 1, 2001, when the law was first enacted, to Dec. 31, 2017. Current data indicates that since the Safely Surrendered Baby program has been enacted, there has been a general decrease of abandoned babies in California. Statistics show that the numbers have trended downward from 25 cases in 2002 to five or less cases per year since 2010, reflecting an 80 percent decrease.

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law allows a person to take a newborn to a safe place if the baby cannot be cared for. It is legal, confidential, free and the baby will be placed in a loving adoptive home. The person surrendering the baby will be free to go, with no questions asked.

### Questions Answered

The state website provides answers to frequently asked question regarding the process:

**What happens to the baby?** The baby is examined and given medical treatment, if needed. The county child welfare agency will find a caring family to take care of the baby. If an adoptive family is not available right away, the baby will be placed with a temporary foster family until an adoptive family is located.

**What happens to the parent?** Once the parent or other person with lawful custody has safely turned over the baby, they are free to go, without any questions asked.

**What happens if the parent changes their mind?** A parent or other person with lawful custody has 14 days to change their mind. They should bring their copy of the coded bracelet given to them when they surrender the baby back to the safe surrender site or call 1-877-BABYSAF and say they want to regain custody.

**Can only a parent surrender the baby?** No. If you aren't able for any reason to bring the baby to a safe surrender site yourself, you can permit another person with lawful custody to surrender the

baby for you.

**What information is needed?** None. You will be offered a voluntary medical questionnaire. This will help the doctors provide the best care for the baby.

**Is there another choice?** Yes. Adoption is always a choice. Adoption preserves the rights of all involved. Parents have the right to assist in selecting the adoptive parents and may be allowed to have contact with the baby after the adoption, if desired.

Please see **BABY** on P. 4

## Ex DA Linn Dismisses Suit

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, former Madera County District Attorney David Linn voluntarily dismissed his lawsuit against Madera County and all individually named defendants, including the members of the Board of Supervisors. No money was paid by either party and the case is now concluded.

In November of 2017, the Madera County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to censure Linn for a variety of reasons, including creating a hostile workplace environment. He was also accused of using sexually and racially offensive language.

After an investigation found evidence of "... conduct unbecoming of an elected District Attorney ..." the Board demanded his resignation. Linn then demanded a jury trial claiming a number of violations of his rights, including due process, violation of privacy and "intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation, slander and libel."

With Linn's dismissal of the suit, the Board of Supervisors released a statement saying it was "pleased with the outcome as it ultimately benefits the taxpayers of Madera County."



Former Madera County District Attorney, David Linn.

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**BABY** cont. from P. 2

*Simple Local Steps*

To take advantage of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, the baby has to be taken to an employee at a hospital or other safe surrender site, usually a fire station. In the Ranchos, this part of the procedure is easy. Valley Children's Hospital is located at 9300 Valley Children's Place and their phone number is 559-353-3000. They are uniquely qualified to accept and care for newborns. For fire stations, there are two, at present, in the Ranchos. In the Madera Ranchos, it's Station #19 at 35141 Bonnadelle Ave. Their phone number is 559-645-1399. In Rolling Hills it's Station #9 and it's located at 41016 Ave. 11. Their phone number is 559-435-5658.

Unfortunately, California created this program out of a dire necessity. There were countless stories of babies being left in dumpsters, public toilets or other unsafe locations. Parents abandoning their babies often are under severe emotional or financial stress, with some mothers hiding their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Abandoning a baby puts the baby in extreme danger, is illegal and often results in the baby's death. Because of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, this tragedy doesn't ever have to happen in California again.

*Limited Information*

The amount of information available about abandoned babies is very limited. There is no national database and the preconceived notions about who abandons their babies also seems to be incorrect. NBC news did a study back in 2015 and found that there was a false idea that those who used a program like the Safely Surrendered Baby program were poor, young, uneducated and minority women. The research found that very young teen moms accounted for only about 10 percent of the 95 babies left in the Illinois Safe Haven program, comparable to California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law. Forty-one percent of the moms were white, compared with 25 percent black and 15 percent Hispanic.

"It's the upper-class young white girl, the college student who's supposed to be the apple of her parents' eye, who's terrified to say she's made a mistake," Dawn Geras, president of the Save the Abandoned Babies Foundation in Chicago said.

Another good example is Texas. In 1999, Texas was the first of 47 states to pass a Safe Haven law allowing for the anonymous surrender of unwanted newborns at designated locations. However, state agencies do not systematically collect data on the number of illegally abandoned infants and infants legally surrendered under the law. Using the LexisNexis database of Texas newspapers, a study estimated the number of illegally abandoned and legally surrendered newborns from 1996 to 2006 to be 93. The study concluded that infants continued to be illegally abandoned following passage of the Safe Haven law and that a statewide surveillance system should be implemented to evaluate this important public health problem.

*Still Looking*

The Madera County Sheriff's Department is actively looking for the mother of the abandoned little girl. After talking further with the early morning walker who talked to the assumed mother, she was described as Hispanic, approximately 5'2" tall, 120 pounds and slender. It appears the vehicle she was driving was possibly a dark blue or gray KIA or Hyundai. Additionally, a DNA swab has been obtained from the baby to help identify the mother.



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## Editorial

# Discarded Ranchos Baby - So?

By Randy Bailey

We had a very unusual situation in the Ranchos the other night.

On Monday, Feb. 11, a newborn baby was found on Road 13 1/2 and Avenue 36. Not *near* the road but *on* the road. The baby girl was wearing only a onesie with no diaper and its umbilical cord was still attached. The temperature that night was in the low 30s. A Fresno Bee carrier delivering morning newspapers made the discovery around 4:45 a.m. and more than likely saved the little girl's life. The sheriff was called and eventually the baby made it to Valley Childrens Hospital where she is reported to be doing well.

Those are all the facts we have relating to the case. Authorities still don't know who the mother is or why this horrific situation took place. Elsewhere in this edition of the Ranchos Independent we talk about California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law, but this is the editorial page. This is where we share opinions and hypothesize about things that are happening in the world and in the Ranchos.

The gut-level reaction to this story is "How could somebody *do* that?" with the levels of disgust and disbelief vying for prominence. There are precious few things in life more innocent than a new-born baby. When you con-

sider all of the people in your life who have screwed you around one way or another by their actions, a new-born infant has to be way down on that list.

The real problem is not that someone would leave the most helpless of the helpless in such a manner, but that they would think that to do so would be ok. That in their mind, after considering all of the options, leaving a totally defenseless, helpless new-born baby in sub-freezing temperatures in the road is the best option at the time.

There's your problem.

The reason a person could make that decision is quite simple: Life has been devalued to the point of being inconsequential. It's no different than setting out trash cans on the street for the garbage man to pick up for disposal.

In New York, their abortion laws have just been rewritten to allow an abortion after 24 weeks if the health of the mother is threatened, whereas the law used to read that the abortion was allowable only if the *life* of the mother was threatened. An issue threatening someone's health is not the same as threatening someone's *life*.

At the same time, Virginia's Governor Ralph Northam is heard at a news conference talking about delivering a baby and "keeping it comfortable" while the parents and doctors choose whether or not to end the baby's life.

There's your problem.

People behave one way with things they value; they behave another way with things they don't value. A recent article at HealthyChildren.org suggested to prevent yourself from leaving a child locked, unattended, in a hot car you should "Put your cell phone, bag, or purse in the back seat, so you check the back seat when you arrive at your destination." Don't check the back seat for a child, but rather for something "important" like your cell phone, bag, or purse.

There's your problem.

There is no government solution to this problem. There is no California solution to this problem. There is no neighborhood solution to this problem. The only possible solution is grasping the concept that there's something out there greater than all of us and more important than just "me, me, me."

There's your problem.

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"I WOULD LIKE TO ASK [PRESIDENT CARTER], WHY IS IT INFLATIONARY TO LET THE PEOPLE KEEP MORE OF THEIR MONEY AND SPEND IT THE WAY THEY'D LIKE, AND IT ISN'T INFLATIONARY TO LET HIM TAKE THAT MONEY AND SPEND IT THE WAY HE WANTS?"

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



# The Best and the Brightest

Joe Pesci said it best in the Lethal Weapon series. Though I won't repeat it here, his sentiment about fast food restaurants and their drive-thru windows was spot on. You would think the best employees would be stationed at the busiest location. You would think the strong would be deployed where the bulk of the customers come through. You would think that but, like me, you would be wrong. Thus, the reason for this slightly bitter diatribe.

Sometimes I think that shift managers at fast food chains assign their crew members to the different positions throughout the restaurant like a team captain chooses his kick-ball team. I'll take front cash, I'll take lobby, I'll take grill, I'll take fry station, ok but who's taking drive-thru? The only one left is the little

clumsy girl with zero hand-eye coordination: Let's make her goalie.

The drive-thru should be treated like the

front lines. It should be manned by the best and brightest. Instead we get the people who can barely speak, those who can't count to save their lives and the people who couldn't tell the difference between a spoon and a packet of ketchup.

Last week I was on a snack run for me and a couple of co-workers and I chose the drive-thru for convenience. I did not choose wisely. I bought two milkshakes, some fries and a few other easy to transport items for our late afternoon pick-me-up. After the crew member handed me a bag and shut the window, I noticed I had only received one of the shakes. No problem, it happens. I gave my horn a little toot and waited for her to come back. When she slid the window open, I smiled and told her I was still waiting on the strawberry milkshake. She seemed utterly confused so I handed her my receipt and explained that I ordered and paid for two and only received one. She took the receipt and

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



closed the window without saying a word. This was not how I saw it going in my head. I thought she would simply say "oopsie" and retrieve my missing dairy treat. I was wrong. She came back with a manager. I would have never thought this situation warranted management involvement but maybe things have changed since I was on the other side of the air curtain. The manager, with my receipt in hand, told me that her employee said I received the shake. I was suddenly getting the distinct impression that I was under suspicion of trying to hustle them out of a mediocre milkshake.

I showed the manager my one shake and told her, each syllable dripping with sarcasm, "I ordered two. I paid for two. This is one. Now, two minus one is?" It's probably not a good idea to belittle the people making your food but I wasn't the intended recipient of the milkshake so I wasn't all that worried. She glanced back at her computer screen and then at my receipt then back at the screen. This was serious business, a Nancy Drew mystery in the making. The Case of the Missing Blended Beverage. One way or another I was getting my milkshake even if I had to climb through the window and milk a cow to do it. She asked if I was absolutely certain I didn't receive the second drink and maybe I put it in the bag.

Excuse me?

The conclusion you came to, rather than just that the employee

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

*The drive-thru should be treated like the front lines. It should be manned by the best and brightest.*

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**GEN WHY** cont. from P. 6

forgot to make it is that I slipped a drink into a paper bag? I told her that I would never place something that could easily spill into a flimsy paper sack because that was the dumbest thing I had ever heard of. I did suggest that she was free to scan the roof of my car to see if her worker put it up there when I wasn't looking or maybe she did make the shake but fed it to the ice machine by mistake.

She handed me my receipt and as she retreated into the kitchen she instructed the crew member make the milkshake. As I was watching the slowest person in the world make my drink, I thought to myself this should be the newest diet fad. Order a bunch of food that isn't good for you and they simply won't give it to you. Boom. Weight loss.

Just yesterday I had another hair-ripping incident in a completely different drive-thru. I was picking up a single, solitary sandwich and had to repeat my order three times. I said into the speaker after it took them at least three

minutes to acknowledge me, "May I please have a number thirteen with mayo and extra juice." The response after more than a moment of awkward silence: "A number three with no onions?" So close and yet not even remotely correct. I repeated my order again two additional times before it was read back to me correctly. Then I sat at the window for 15 minutes. FIFTEEN MINUTES. For a sandwich. What were they doing back there, harvesting the wheat and slaughtering the cow? It's a sandwich. Smear the mayo and mustard on the bread, slap on some meat and veggies, wrap and paper, hand to customer. Next!

When the kid working the drive-thru opened the window and asked me to repeat my order for the fourth time I think I might have died for a second from cerebral implosion. It's a thing. After he trotted off and returned with a sandwich that was somehow, miraculously, the exact sandwich I ordered, I thought to myself, where are they hiding the best and brightest? I bet they are in the back doing the dishes.

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## Lemon Benefits

Not long ago we were sitting around the dining room table talking, and the subject of stale or bad room air came up. Think we were talking about men smoking at a poker game – not sure except I know we weren't talking about the room we were in. Anyway, my niece said she had read that if you put a shallow bowl of lemon juice in the room it would freshen the air. I had never heard that so I thought I'd look it up. And you know what? Lucy you are correct.

I not only found out about the clear air, but I also found out a lot I didn't know about the benefits of lemons. According to this article "The Health Benefits of Lemons," there are lots of reasons to take lemon juice. The article went on to say that it is effective in curing many digestion disorders of the lower intestines. Lemon juice is even known to relieve hiccups. I read that the Romans used it as their cure for all types of poison. I read in another article to use lemon juice to get rid of dandruff, to remove fruit or berry stains from your hands rinse hands with lemon juice. To clean your microwave, add four tablespoons of lemon juice to one cup of water in a four cup microwave bowl. Boil in microwave for five minutes, allowing the steam to condense on the walls, then wipe clean. Wow! And I've been scrubbing all this time. There was even a way to brighten and strengthen your fingernails with lemon juice. I guess this just proves that the old home remedies are best. I can remember as a kid we had to wash the windows in the house (and there were lots of windows in the house in San Francisco) and we used hot water and vinegar – no Windex for my mom – and we dried the windows with crumpled up newspapers. And I still swear by baking soda and vinegar to clear a slow flowing drain, especially in the bathroom wash basin or the shower drain.

### *I LOVE Lemons*

As I've told you in previous



articles, I love just about anything made with lemons, especially lemon meringue pie. There are a lot of other excellent ways to use lemons in cooking, especially desserts. In going through my mom's recipe cards there are a couple of lemon recipes that I remember. Lemon Cake Pudding (when finished baking, it is a cake on top with lemon pudding on the bottom) and Lemon Bars.

#### **Lemon Pudding Cake**

**Preheat oven at 350**

- ½ C Sugar**
- 1/3 C Flour**
- 1/8 tsp Salt**
- 3 T Butter**
- ½ C Sugar**
- 3 Eggs – separated**
- 3 T Lemon Juice**
- ½ tsp Grated Lemon Rind**
- 1 C Milk**

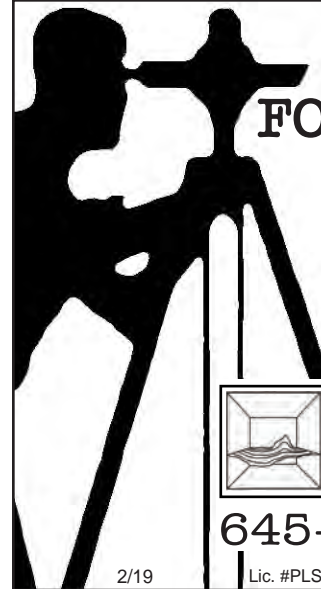
Sift together first three ingredients (use waxed paper and save washing another bowl). Cream together in large bowl butter and sugar then add egg yolks. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the milk, begin and end with dry ingredients, beating well after each addition. Beat the egg whites until stiff, but not dry. Fold into batter. Pour into greased 1½ Qt. baking dish. Place in larger deep baking pan on oven rack. Before closing oven door, pour boiling water in lower pan to within ½ inch of top of baking dish. Bake for about 40 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan of hot water at once. Best served warm.

#### **Lemon Bars**

**Preheat oven at 350**

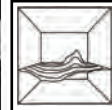
- 1 C Margarine**
- 2 C Flour**
- ½ C Powdered Sugar**
- 2 C Granulated Sugar**
- 4 T Flour**
- 1 tsp Baking Powder**
- 4 Eggs – beaten**
- 6 T Lemon Juice**

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9



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### RECIPES cont. from P. 8

Blend together margarine with 2 C flour and powdered sugar. Pat in bottom of 9x13 pan. Bake 15 minutes.

Sift sugar, flour and baking powder together. Add eggs and lemon juice, blending well. Spread this mixture over the baked crust.

Bake for 25 minutes. Cool, cut into squares and dust with powdered sugar.

#### Lemon Coconut Bars

Preheat oven at 350

¾ C Sifted Flour

1/3 C Chilled Butter

2 Eggs, beaten

1 tsp Grated Lemon Peel

½ t Vanilla

1 C Brown Sugar – firmly packed

¾ C Flaked Coconut

½ C Pecans, coarsely chopped

Cut butter into flour until thoroughly blended. Press into bottom of 13 x 9 baking pan and bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, beat eggs, lemon peel, vanilla and brown sugar together until creamy. Stir in coconut and pecans. Spread evenly over baked layer in pan. Return to oven and bake for 20 minutes. As soon as you take pan from the

oven, spread on the lemon glaze. Cool in pan and cut into squares.

#### Glaze

¾ C Sifted Powdered Sugar

2 T Lemon Juice

Blend together ¾ C sifted powdered sugar and 2 T lemon juice.

I don't have a lemon tree and I don't like to buy too many lemons at a time unless I need them for a special recipe I'm making. But I do like to have lemon juice on hand so I purchased one of the little yellow plastic "lemons" in the produce department. If you do have an abundance of lemons and don't use them all, I'm hoping you squeeze them and freeze the juice in the old fashioned ice cube trays and store in zip lock bags to use as you need it.

#### A Little Help, Please

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are reading this, I need your help. I am running out of ideas for this column – I really had to stretch to do this one. I have one more thing I want to write about and then that will be it. Call me and give me some ideas at 559-645-0634. Thanks!

*This column originally appeared in the May 2010 issue of the Ranchos Independent.*

-- Editor



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Vendors



2/19

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





Thank You Marie Kondo (Part I)

Have you caught the wave of “tidying up” with Marie Kondo? Five years ago, her book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, came to the United States and quickly became a best-seller. Marie and her family relocated from Japan to the U.S. and last month, Netflix released a series called *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*. It’s exciting to see a new wave of enthusiasm for getting organized or what Marie calls “tidying up.”

She’s very entertaining to watch as she interacts with people and their things. You can’t help but fall in love with her sweet smile and gentle spirit. As an organizer, I love seeing and hearing about the after-effect of people’s tidying up.

Marie and I agree on the foundation of tidying up, or what I call organizing. The basics involve one mind-set and two actions:

**Mindset:** *“Tidying is just a tool, not the final destination.”*

**Action #1** – “Deciding whether or not to dispose of something.”

**Action #2** – “Deciding where to put it.”

There’s a third essential action, but we’ll cover that next time.

**MINDSET – The Final Destination**

Marie says to envision the goal, and why it’s important to you. This is the first step to create the mindset for change. Identifying what you value most in life, guides and fuels the process of recognizing your belongings that support those values. I might add that being concrete about the benefits you’ll receive helps keep that mindset going when the going gets tough.

**ACTION #1 – Purging**

**KonMari Method:** Purge by category, not by location. Pile everything from one category, from all parts of the house, in one spot on the floor or bed (all your clothes, all your books, all your papers, etc.).

**Benefits:** You see how much of one thing you have — books, clothes, shoes, papers, etc. You won’t finish organizing an area and then discover more of the same thing somewhere else

**OBC (Organized by Choice)**

**method:** The other day a client was talking about watching *Tidying Up* with Marie Kondo. Her response: “If I piled up all my clothes on the bed, I wouldn’t sleep there for six months!” For some, it’s motivating to put it all out there; for others, it’s paralyzing. With this client, I started small and by location. We organized the laundry room first. This enabled her to see an immediate change and she was motivated to continue to other places in the house. With another client we pulled out every pair of shoes she had in the house and laid them out across the living room floor. Sorting by category worked well in this case. She was able to easily see what she had too

much of and choose those she needs, uses and loves. Sometimes I use category, and sometimes location.

**KonMari Method:** Hold each item to determine if it “sparks joy.” Kondo says,

“We should be choosing what we want to keep, not what we want to get rid of.”

**OBC method:** Use the same positive approach, choosing what to keep but ask, “Do I need, use or love it?” People have joked about getting rid of their bills, broccoli and even husband because he didn’t “spark joy.” There are things like divorce papers that need to be kept despite how you feel about them. There are things like compression socks that you use, but there’s no “zing!” when you hold them. Keeping things you love, distinguishes between things you feel a little sentimental about or obliged to keep, and things that are truly your treasures.

**KonMari Method:** Thank each item before discarding it. “I began to treat my belongings as if they were alive when I was a high school student,” says

Please see **CHOICE** on P. 11

*You can’t help but fall in love with her sweet smile and gentle spirit. As an organizer, I love seeing and hearing about the after-effect of people’s tidying up.*

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6<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Sunday Celebration

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Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 2pm

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Wednesday Life Apps 6:30 PM  
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**SAVE THESE 2019 DATES**

April 13-Spring Festival 9am-2pm	& Fireworks
April 21-“Sunrise” Service 7am-and Pancake Breakfast	July 8-13-Centrifuge Youth Camp
May 12-Mother’s Day Celebration	September 20-22-Women’s Conference
May 17-Family Movie Night	October 26-Harvest Festival 11am-3pm
June 7-Family Movie Night	November 10-Veteran’s Day-Honoring those who served
June 10-14-Vacation Bible School	November 16-Thanksgiving Dinner 5pm
June 16-Father’s Day Celebration	December 8-Christmas Party
June 17-21-Youth Green Days of Summer	December 14-Horseback Caroling 4pm
July 4-Independence Day Family BBQ	December 24-Candlelight SVC. 6:30pm



**CHOICE** cont. from P. 10

Marie. "By acknowledging their contribution and letting them go with gratitude, you will be able to truly put the things you own, and your life, in order."

**OBC Method:** During purging it's important to consider the value your belongings have or had at one time. Like Marie says, it's easier to let things go when you determine that they have completed their usefulness in your life. I'm a huge proponent of gratitude but, while I wouldn't tell a client not to thank their things, I also wouldn't suggest it. Many of Marie's practices have religious undertones that I'll share about next time.

I am truly thankful that Marie's book

and show are igniting both conversation and action in the realm of organizing. She's helping people acknowledge the need and providing hope for change. It's good to keep in mind, however, that some of her methods are more practical for the average home in Japan, which is almost half the size of the average U.S. home. So, if you try her style and get stuck, don't give up! There's more than one way to achieve your goal. I'll have more in *Thanks Marie Kondo (Part II)* next time.

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



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**Senior Report****Spring is Coming Along with Travel**

By Margaret Tynan

There is a lot happening at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors so get out your calendar, you won't want to miss out. Saturday, March 23, beginning at 1 p.m., the community is invited to join us for a rollicking game of Bunco. It's always a lively fun event with prizes, an auction and lots of laughs. Bring some finger snacks to share. Tickets are \$30 with proceeds going to support the Center. Space is limited so hurry and call 559-645-4864 or stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. to get your tickets. We hope to see you there.

Spring is almost here and so is the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' 27th Annual Spring Home & Garden Festival. It will be held at the Center on Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sue Dobbs and committee members are planning an exciting day. Master gardeners Kathy Eisele, Barbara Mattice and Carol Hughes will be on hand to help you with your gardening and landscaping questions. Kathy encourages community members to bring in samples of any plant problems they may be experiencing. There will be two demonstrations open to all attendees: Succulents/dish gardening at 10 a.m.; Successful plant propagation at 1 p.m. Vendors from the community will have their wares available including handmade crafts, jewelry, produce and other unique specialty items. Lovely Easter baskets will be available at the Center's booth. Information on various local organizations' services will be available as well. There are still

some vendor spaces available. Contact the Center for information on how you can participate. Come early and enjoy coffee or juice in the morning as you visit the various booths, pick up yummy home-baked goods and discover that unique item in the Boutique and the Treasure House. You'll also find lovely plants to bring spring beauty to your garden and can enjoy a hamburger or hotdog for lunch. We look forward to seeing you at this fun and informative community event.

Over the years, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors has been fortunate to have the support of Cruise Experts Travel. Through the generosity of the agency's owner, Wes Rowland, one tour each year is designated to support the Center. Joliene Mason, who has been on many of the annual trips over the years, says "These tours are great. Every detail is carefully planned. All the "t's" are crossed and the "i's" dotted. They really take good care of you." I personally enjoyed the last two tours and couldn't agree more with Joliene. We are excited to announce that this year's 7-day, all-inclusive trip, with air to Las Vegas, will be to America's Canyonlands, including Zion, Bryce, Arches and Grand Canyon National Parks. The tour dates are November 10-16 and is open to everyone. Stop by or call Joann at the Center for all the details. Hurry as space fills fast.

The regular monthly potluck on Thursday, March 14 will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. Bring a dish to share, your table setting and your appetite. Also, don't forget the Bake and Boutique and Treasure House Sale Saturday, March 2 from 8 a.m. to noon. The Planning Meeting is Tuesday, March 5 and the General Meeting is Tuesday, March 19. Both meetings start at 12:30 p.m.

Thought for March: "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."  
—Augustine of Hippo



Arches National Park is one of nature's wonders that will be visited on this year's tour that benefits the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center, through the generosity of Cruise Experts.



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# The 16th Annual Chamber

# CRAB FEED



Friday, March 1 • 6 p.m.



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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early! You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.



2/19

## Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month. Join us on March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos. Call us at 645-4001.

### New Member

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest member to the Madera Ranchos business family

*Beverly Gambero*

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*The Bookshelf*

# Library Not a Trash Dumpster

By Jerrica Edmundson

We've officially started ramping up for the 2019 Flatlander's Day Craft Fair here at the library and are actively accepting applications for vendors of both food and crafts. If you know anyone that is interested in participating with us this year, send them our way and we will work together to make another great event for the community to enjoy. The Craft Fair and Parade will be on May 11 this year and we look forward to seeing how awesome we can make it this year.

We also are trying our hand at a new fundraiser by partnering with the Ranchos Crafter's Studio and offering an event on March 28 where for \$25.00 you can get two

hours of studio time and the materials to create an awesome art piece that your family will love. Great for kids, families and honestly anyone who has an inkling to make something beautiful. We have tickets for sale in the library for the 28th specifically and also general access tickets that can get you the same benefit but on a later day you schedule with Jeanette at the studio. All proceeds directly benefit the Friends of the Ranchos Library and the Ranchos Crafter's Studio, so this is a great opportunity to support local businesses and facilities.

One last piece of business, here at the library we have partnered with the community for some time to help with recycling, but due to inconsistencies with what is being dropped off we are going to have to ask that we hold off

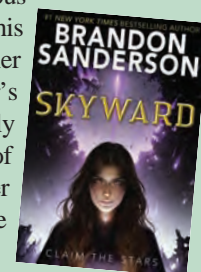
on drop offs of recyclables. They have been largely mixed with standard trash and are not considered recyclable at that point without a lot of additional work. We apologize for any inconvenience it may cause but we do need to ask that people not use the library as a dumping place for trash. We do have limited space for garbage and are frequently having things that are not even legal to place in garbage dumpsters left when we are not open. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this matter.

Now that business is aside, let's get to the fun part.

**Jerrica's Shelf:** *Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson

I know: I read a LOT of Brandon Sanderson's works, but it's because he's a phenomenal author and is so good at building worlds in his novels that I just simply can't get enough. This book follows a young girl who

goes by the call sign "Spin." Her father was a pilot who gave his life to protect the station her and her family live at on a faraway planet and she has done nothing but want to grow up and follow in his footsteps since she ever knew it was an option. The only catch is that his death revolved around a supposed betrayal where he was accused of turning on his fellow pilots and they ended up having to bring him down in order to save themselves. As such, Spin and her family have been nearly exiled by the community and treated as if they had committed heinous crimes themselves. This book follows Spin on her course to clear her father's name, bring her family back to the good side of society, and achieve her dreams of reaching the stars.



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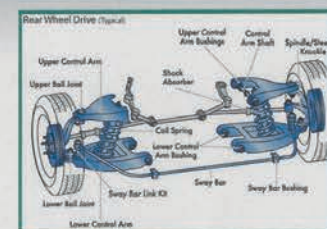
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# SEM CU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Our latest project's scientific results: Providing the science behind the dry wells recharge efforts was a challenge from the start. We knew that the 100+ dry wells we drilled throughout our community worked but to prove it to the authorities was another challenge. We could see the water go down, but how much in what period of time? Below is a brief description of our process and findings which was managed by Provost and Prichard Engineering.

### Drywell Sizing

The dry wells we drilled in our community were 2 feet in diameter and 50 feet deep. The drywells we decided to test were larger. Their size was increased to 3 feet in diameter by 75 feet deep in order to increase the recharge capacity of the drywells and consequently minimize the unit cost of recharge. The larger diameter increases the surface area available for recharge and improves the stability of the borehole walls during drilling while the additional depth increases the head on the water column in the drywell and improves the chances that the water will bypass the surface geology. We drilled 11 test holes to understand the makeup of the ground below and sent samples of every foot we dug to a lab for analysis. Of the 11 sites we selected, four were chosen for drilling the wells and we ended up testing three. We were not able to deliver water to the fourth one, so we only tested the three.

### Results

There was a total of seven tests carried out in two phases. In Phase 1 the drywells at location 1 and 2 were each tested to determine the dry ground capacity. The Phase 1 testing targeted three days for each dry well. After completion, the Phase 2 testing selected a single well for repeated, longer duration tests to provide information about sustained capacity as necessary for large scale recharge operations.

### Location 1

The location 1 drywell was the first well tested. The first test used a 2-inch diameter connection and flow meter as initially recommended in the protocol. After approximately three hours of testing it was apparent that the capacity of the dry well exceeded the capacity of the 2-inch connection and the test was

ended. It took two days to receive the new 6-inch diameter test connection and flow meter. The new test connection was installed on the morning of November 21 and a new short-term test began around noon. A standing water level was visible above rock at the initial flow rate of 500 gpm. Increasing this flow rate resulted in the maximum observed flow rate of approximately 680 gpm with a water level just at the bottom of the grating. After sustaining this flow rate for 30 minutes, the flow rate was reduced to between 400 and 500 gpm for the duration of the test. Due to the holiday weekend and a rain event, the testing was stopped until the following Monday, November 26. Testing resumed at 7:13 a.m. with the highest flow rate initially up around 650 gpm. The flow rate was gradually reduced throughout the day to prevent the water level from overflowing the drywell. The final flow rate was approximately 350 gpm.

### Location 2

The location 2 drywell was tested for only 3 days. The test was performed using the same 6-inch diameter flow meter starting on December 1 at approximately 7:30 a.m. While the drywell initially accepted a higher flow rate than location 1 or location 2, the capacity tapered off quickly to approximately 420 gpm by 11:30. Over the next four days the dry well capacity decreased steadily. The final test result ended up with an average recharge rate of 212 gpm during the 3 days.

### Location 3

The location 3 drywell exhibited the best sustained recharge capacity. After the Phase 1 testing was completed, location 3 dry well was chosen as the drywell for the Phase 2 testing. Both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 testing were completed using the same 6-inch diameter test connection. The Phase 1 testing results showed superior water acceptance compared to the other two dry wells at 4.5 acre-feet over the test duration. The Phase 2 testing included three consecutive tests for seven, five and seven days respectively. There was a resting period of six days between the round one and two, and nine days between the second two rounds to simulate a rain event. During these tests the average recharge rate declined from 550 gpm on the first test to 375 gpm on the third test. However, the total volume of all three Phase 2 tests was nearly 40 acre-feet of water in 19 days.

40 acre-feet (1,742,400 gallons) of water in 19 days will provide for a family that used 200 gallons a day enough water for 8,712 days, or 23 years. Do we

have 19 days of rain events with flowing water per year?

What is next you ask? We need to invest in this program in south east Madera County!

How do we get there? SEMCU is working on just that.

We invite our community members to come to our meetings and get involved in helping to achieve a sustainable future, work on building a community center, provide parks for our kids and in general

look after our neighborhood. We meet only once a month, so the time commitment is minimal. It is that time of year. Once a year SEMCU board is being redefined by voting in new board members. The third Monday of the month, March 18, 2019 at 6pm at the Pizza Factory is it.

Hope to see you there making a difference.

You may reach us through our website at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).

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*Kiwanis Korner*

**Ranchos Kiwanis Bring Great Speakers**

By Becky Koop

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

Happy February, Madera Ranchos. I'd like to invite you to come join us at our next Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club Meeting. We have had some dynamic guest speakers in January that brought interesting topics and updates to our attention.

Cynthia LoMonaco represented CASA at last week's meeting. I personally had never heard of CASA and learned that it stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA is a non-profit organization that works with volunteers that help advocate on behalf of our local foster youth.

Through CASA, a volunteer is matched with a specific foster child. This volunteer is then involved in helping the foster child his or her best possible happy, healthy future. So many foster children do not have a consistent adult presence in their lives. CASA asks for an 18-month commitment so the foster child can rely on you to be there for them as they attend court hearings, settle into foster homes, or just get comfortable at school. I was so impressed by Cynthia's sincere interest in encouraging more community members to commit to help these children through their current difficult moments. CASA is currently holding informational meetings which I highly recommend you check out. The next one is on Saturday, March 9 and you can call CASA at 559-244-6485 to get more information.



*Chris Imperatrice is the principal at Ranchos Middle School, the highest ranked middle school in Madera County and a California Distinguished School, and was a speaker in January for the Ranchos Kiwanis.*

Chris Imperatrice, the principal at Ranchos Middle School, also joined us in



*Also in January, Cynthia LoMonaco of CASA explained to the attendees about being the Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster children in the San Joaquin Valley.*

January. Chris has held many positions in the Golden Valley Unified School District, most recently as the principal at Sierra View Elementary. He brought his energy and enthusiasm to our meeting. Under his leadership, RMS is continuing its exceptional education experience. RMS is the highest ranked middle school in Madera County and it is also recognized as a California Distinguished School.

Upcoming Kiwanis events include helping serve the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Crab Feed on March 1 and also our River Clean Up on March 16. We are excited that both local Boy Scouts and the Liberty High School Key Club will be joining us on the Clean Up Adventure, and we have plenty of room for more volunteers. Our annual Cross the River Run will be held on Sunday, April 14. John Minney is coordinating this wonderful event and we are currently looking for additional sponsors. If you are interested, please contact John at [jminney@gmail.com](mailto:jminney@gmail.com) or call him at 559-275-5937.

Our meetings are held every Thursday evening (except the first Thursday of the month) at the Madera Ranchos Pizza Factory Banquet room, at 6:15pm. The Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. We hope to see you there.





### Those Annoying Lights

Hello 93636,

Last week Lori stepped into the garage to find her car with a flat front tire. I knew a rear tire was leaking air because the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) "Warning Lamp" was illuminating from time to time. I simply re-inflate the tire and problem solved ... for a while.

OK! It's time to buy some new tires for the wife's car but tires are not the only consideration these days when purchasing tires. What about the Tire Pressure Sensors? Should I replace them also? Lori's Honda is 5 years old now.

TPM sensors can be divided into two types, direct and indirect. The indirect TPM systems use wheel speed sensors to measure the rotational speed of the tires. The principle is when a tire is under-inflated, it has a shorter circumference causing it to rotate more times to travel the same distance as a correctly inflated tire. When the TPMS module sees the higher tire speed, it interprets that speed differential as an under-inflated tire.

Direct TPM systems employ pressure sensors at each wheel. The sensors can be internal or external. When the air pressure inside the tire drops below a predetermined valve the TPMS Warning Lamp is illuminated. You best know that symbol as the horseshoe-shaped light with an exclamation point in the center. Most pressure sensors are located inside the tire at the bottom of the valve stem. It's my experience you can generally identify a pressure sensor system by the tire's valve stem. When a pressure sensor is attached to the bottom of the valve stem, the stem is usually metal and ridged. If the valve stem is rubber and flexible, likely there is no sensor attached.

The TPM pressure sensor transmits a Radio Frequency wave to the receiver module inside the vehicle. By the way, your remote key fob also transmits a RF signal so it's common for those systems to share a module.

Each TPM sensor transmits its unique identification and position on the vehicle to the TPMS module. TIP: If you rotate your own tires you may need to reset your tire positions. Some vehicles can be reset with a scanner. You will need to inflate the tires in a certain sequence so the module sees the pressure increase and relearns the sensor's new position. The vehicle will beep its horn

each time a position is relearned. Make sure you reset the tire pressure to the correct setting after the relearn is complete. The correct tire pressure setting is located on the tire label on the driver's door pillar. Usually it's yellow. Some vehicles need a special TPMS tool to reset their tire locations. Good luck with that one.

Because the sensors are located inside rotating tires with no direct connection to an external power source, a very small internal battery is incorporated to power the sensor. The battery is not serviceable. When the first generation TPM sensors were introduced, we technicians we told the battery life expectancy is 5 years. When the battery becomes weak or damaged, the sensor will no longer transmits a clear, steady signal. If you have a constant "no display/low pressure/error message" from your TPMS and you can't erase it or clear it by properly inflating the tires, you likely have one or more failed/dead tire sensors.

As far back as 1970, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) looked into the benefits of low tire pressure warning systems. An Indiana State University study suggested that under-inflated tires were the cause of 1.5 percent of all motor vehicle crashes. A later independent study by the Goodyear Tire Co. confirmed that study.

In 1979, NHTSA considered mandating low-pressure warning equipment as a means to reduce fuel consumption by the general public. A study concluded that properly inflated radial tires achieved a 3-4 percent mileage increase when compared to tires underinflated by 10 psi. At that time the technology was too expensive and the concept lost traction, so to speak. About a decade later TPMS would again become a national topic when Ford Explorer's began rolling over due to failed Firestone tires. Ford's internal documents showed that Ford engineers early on discovered the propensity of Ford Explorers to roll over during high speed evasive maneuvers. Recommendations were made to modify the suspensions and increase axle width, but those recommendations were rejected in part because of increase costs and time considerations. The Ford Explorer release date would have been delayed by one year.

Ford's solution was to reduce the Explorer's tire air pressure to 26 psi. The low tire pressure however accelerated heat buildup within the tire causing the tire tread to separate from the tire carcass. Ford's solution created the same hazard they were trying to mitigate. You guys know I have become a Ford fan during the past decade or so, but I think Ford made a bad decision with this one.

The U.S. Congress got involved and passed the Tire Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act of 2000. The

TREAD act mandated all passenger vehicles weighing under 10,000 pounds sold in the U.S. as of September 1, 2007 will be equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System capable of warning drivers if a vehicle's tire is underinflated by 25 percent or more. All 2008 model year vehicles or later sold in the U.S. are equipped with TPMS as standard equipment. **WARNING!!! DO NOT DISARM THE TPMS!!! IF THAT VEHICLE IS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT CAUSED BY A DEFECTIVE OR LOW TIRE YOU WILL BE LIABLE.**

Now you know why your vehicle has that annoying TPMS lamp, why it's illuminated even though the tire pressure is correct and why my industry will not remove the TPMS bulb. It's been my experience TPM sensor life is closer to 8-10 years. Therefore, I decided to keep my money and not replace my sensors at this time. I will let you know in a future article if that was a wise decision.

OK guys, that's all for today. As usual I'm looking for interesting automotive world topics to write about. If you have any suggestions, recommendations, thoughts or questions regarding my industry and/or a specific or general question about a vehicle, please text me at 559-907-7661 and I will respond in a timely fashion.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636  
Warren Parr, ASE Master, Advanced Level and Hybrid Certified Technician

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**SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

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**ANSWERS**

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FRUSTRATION: SCOTLAND, MARCH, TRIMMER, WOVEN, RAH, EARN, TRIMMER, WOVEN, RAH, THE INVISIBLE MAN, ONE, AMANDA, ILLINOIS, ASTER, VISAS, SEASON, CONNERY, EPSON, LIONS, OPTIMAL, SALT, FOLLY, LIST, QUEEN, ANNE, SOLACE, SOP, LEDA, DAILY, UNO, TAUPE, SAP, SOSA, EROS, GLASS, PER, PLAY, SWELL, WITH, SOOTHERS, ALTIMENT, ISNT, TATA, RAE, CEDAR, TRAG, MIST, ENS, SOUNDERS, SPIC, ON, OPT, BAR, S, ME, EZRA, PRAIRIE, EGG, SPARSE, ST, CURSOR, V, POWDER, TRAK, GIBBS, EER, ICUS, SALS, ANO, OFF, TRAC, K, B, ESS, OT, TING, MER, DOUR, STOLEN, ERIE, ED, S, YOLO, ASS, ENTS, RAP, S

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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		34			
+		x		+				
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15		33		33				
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	9

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- You might be surprised to learn that famed lover and heartbreaker Casanova eventually became a librarian.
- In parts of Illinois, it was once illegal to put a cake in a cookie jar.
- If you've ever yelled out a warning in panic -- "Stop!," "Run!," "Don't!" -- you've used a monepic sentence; that is, one that is complete with just a single word. Of course, at the time you probably weren't concerned about the grammatical nature of your utter-

- ance.
- If you're like the hypothetical average person, your mouth will create 10,000 gallons of saliva over the course of your lifetime.
  - It's been reported that the country's first pizza parlor was in New York City -- naturally. It opened in 1885, but barely got by. In 1895, it was sold for a mere \$200 -- small change even in those times.
  - The bearded vulture is the only known animal whose diet is made up almost exclusively of bone.
  - Thought for the Day: *"It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society."* -- Jiddu Krishnamurti

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



Here Comes Socialism  
Here Comes Socialism

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Newly elected Congresswoman Alexandria (Airhead) Ocasio-Cortez appears to be the new spokeswoman for the Democrat/Socialist Party. She's made so many cringe-worthy statements that we just shake our heads when she says something like: "Here in DC it's like, so weird. It's like everybody is like, a spy. Like, it's so bizarre." We could laugh if all her views were so frivolous. But unfortunately, we can't dismiss the prospect that she and the socialist presidential candidates might succeed in doing exactly what they promise: Completely transforming our country to socialism.

It's reported that a majority of millennials, youth and Democrats view socialism favorably. Millennials, like Ocasio-Cortez, are of a time when the teaching of history is lacking completely or slanted toward hatred of the United States, free enterprise and capitalism. Considering that, along with education, almost every segment of society leans liberal left – television, movies, radio, news media, music – it's amazing that our country hasn't become Venezuela-light already. Add social media, to which youth and too many older folks are addicted and from which so many get their "news," and you have a tsunami of pro-socialism indoctrination.

It occurred to me that Airhead Ocasio-Cortez's many pronouncements, considering her star power, provide a window into current socialist thought. Through her words, let's see what the younger generation, Socialists and Democrats think is good for us.

First, she rolled out the Democrat's lolalalooza of a New Green Deal Resolution. It requires of the federal government these 10-year goals: Providing higher education, free health care and free food; upgrading all existing buildings; guaranteeing housing, good-paying union jobs, paid vacations, medical leave and retirement security; investing in public transportation and high-speed rail, and much more. In other words, it proposes a complete government takeover of the economy and our lives.

When asked how she would pay for the plan, she offered this bit of wisdom: "People often say, like, how are you going to pay for it, and I find the question so puzzling because 'How do you pay for something that's more affordable? How do you pay for cheaper rent?' You just pay for it."

Regarding raising taxes to pay for the

Green New Deal, she said: "You know, it – you look at our tax rates back in the '60s and when you have a progressive tax rate system. Your tax rate, you know, let's say, from zero to \$75,000 may be 10 percent or 15 percent, et cetera. But once you get to, like, the tippy tops – on your 10 millionth dollar – sometimes you see tax rates as high as 60 or 70 percent. That doesn't mean all \$10 million are taxed at an extremely high rate, but it means that as you climb up this ladder you should be contributing more." So enlightening. It's always good to learn a new economic term, like "tippy tops."

In another exchange, when asked how she would pay for the plan, she shamed the interviewer for even asking such a question. "Millennials and people, you know, Gen Z and all these folks that will come after us, are looking up, and we're like: 'The world is gonna end in 12 years if we don't address climate change, and your biggest issue is how are we gonna pay for it?'" ("The world is going to end in 12 years" is United Nations climate-change hysteria, and a lengthy subject for another day.)

And the best was left for last. This is her argument against building a wall on the southern border to stop illegal immigration. "No matter how you feel about the wall, I think it's a moral abomination. I think it's like the Berlin Wall."

Would someone please explain to Airhead Ocasio-Cortez the complete difference between the Berlin Wall and a wall at our southern border?

Tell her that the infamous Berlin Wall, as we all know, was built after World War II to keep people in East Germany from fleeing to freedom in the west. Machine guns were used against those desperate enough to try to escape, not for protection from outsiders. Note: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was in charge of East Germany and the wall.

Conversely, walls on our southern border are there to protect our national sovereignty and stop undocumented aliens, drugs, human traffickers, MS-13 gang members and criminals before they enter illegally.

My main objection to socialist control is not the monetary costs or even the hardships inherent in the system, but the cost to liberty and the human spirit. Socialists look at us as pathetic dependents incapable of self-sufficiency. The central planning and top-down control of socialism and communism always lead to poverty and misery, except for the leaders, as in the once prosperous countries of Venezuela and Cuba.

Let's teach those who are interested the history of our nation and the blessings of liberty guaranteed by our Constitutional Republic.

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## Just Like Cats &amp; Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your efforts in behalf of a colleague do not go unnoticed, let alone unappreciated. Meanwhile, arrange to spend more time investigating that troubling fact you recently uncovered.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Devoting a lot of time to a current career move means having less time for those in your private life. But once you explain the circumstances, they should understand and be supportive.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Organizing your many duties in order of importance should help you get through them pretty quickly. Additional information puts that still-to-be-made decision in a new light.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Lingering bad feelings over a recent misunderstanding should fade as reconciliation efforts continue. Meanwhile, vacation plans might need to be revised because of new developments.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Love dominates the Lion's heart this week, with Cupid shooting arrows at single Leos and Leonas looking for romance. Partnered pairs also enjoy strengthened relationships.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) "Getting to Know You" should be the single Virgo's theme song as you and that special person discover more about one another. That workplace situation needs looking into.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might be upset at having your objectivity questioned in the handling of a dispute. But it would be wise to re-examine your feelings to make sure you're being fair with both sides.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A family dispute creates mixed feelings about how you hope it will be ultimately resolved. Best advice: Stay out of it and let the involved parties work it through by themselves.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Making an effort to smooth over even the smallest obstacles now will go a long way to assuring that things run smoothly once you're set to move on with your plans.

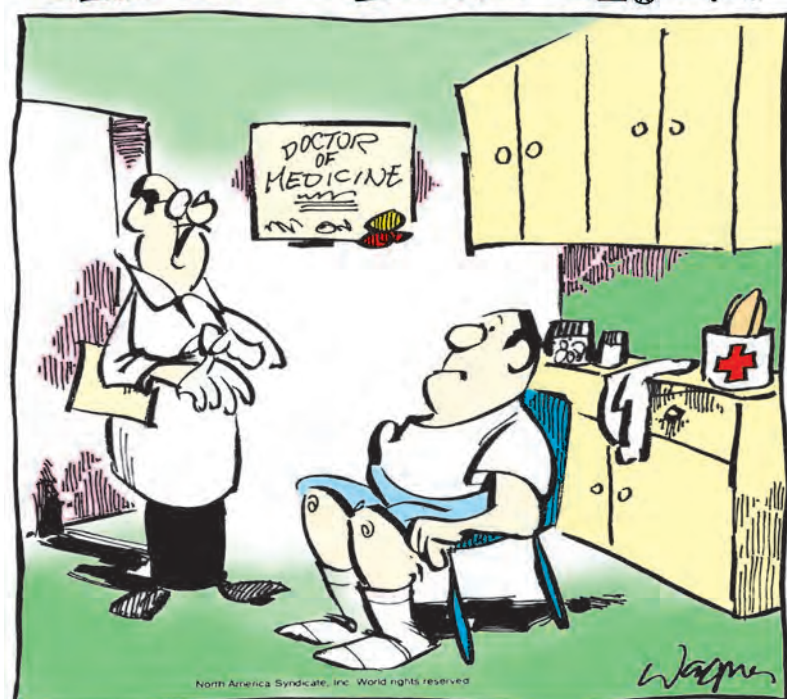
**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A challenge to your authority can be upsetting, but your longtime supporters want you to defend your position so you can win over even your most adamant detractors.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Being unable to get involved in a friend's problem calls for an honest approach. Provide explanations, not excuses. Another friend might be able to offer support for your decision.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You find yourself swimming in circles, looking for some way to get back on a straight course. But things get easier once you're able to refocus your energies.

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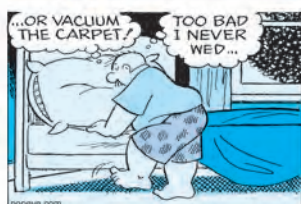
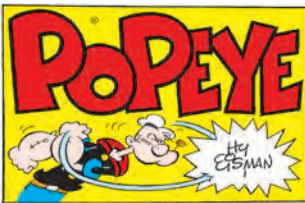
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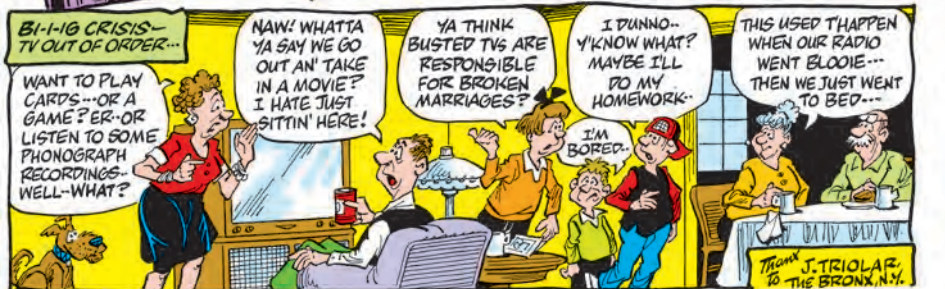
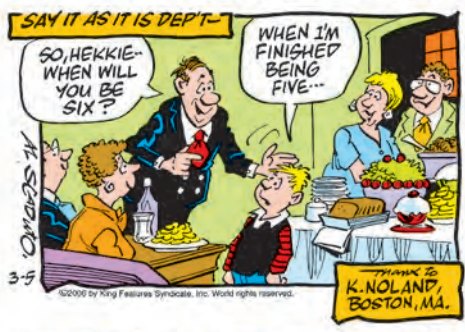
### TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



### THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



**THE SILKEN MAZE!** See if you can help this fly get through the silken maze, and out the window, before Spidey pounces on him.

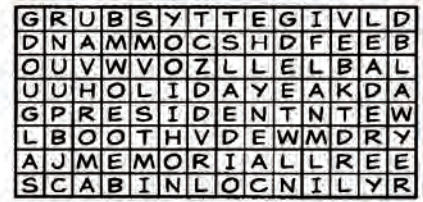
**LUNCH BREAK TROUBLE!** Henry was supposed to buy 4 hamburgers and 3 sodas for \$14.50. Instead, he bought 3 hamburgers and 4 sodas for \$13.50. What was the price of a single hamburger? A single soda?

**A HAT OF MANY SIZES!** In this puzzle, all of the words we are searching for contain the word "HAT." The following hints should help "crown" you with success:

- HAT (given).
- To greatly dislike.
- A ship opening.
- Old type of roofing.
- A French castle.
- Casual conversation.
- Broken into many pieces.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### LOOKING FOR LINCOLN!

Hidden in the diagram above are 17 words associated with the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. 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 words you're looking for:

Able	Douglas	Lincoln
Booth	Gettysburg	Memorial
Cabin	Holiday	President
Civil War	Ideals	Slender
Command	Lawyer	Theatre
Debate	Leader	

Answer: One hamburger cost \$2.50. One soda, \$1.50.

- HAT
- HAT
- HAT
- HAT
- HAT
- HAT
- HAT

Answers: 1. Hat 2. Hat 3. Hat 4. Hatch 5. Chateau 6. Chateau 7. Shattered

### Wishing Well

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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### MAGIC MAZE • THOSE WHO PLAY

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

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

- |           |          |          |           |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bassist   | Fiddler  | Oboist   | Trumpeter |
| Cellist   | Flutist  | Organist | Tubist    |
| Cymbalist | Harpist  | Pianist  | Violinist |
| Drummer   | Lutenist | Piper    |           |

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### TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MEDICAL:** What is the condition that carries the official name "diaphoresis"?
- MOVIES:** Who played the president in the film "The American President" (1995)?
- HISTORY:** What was the nickname of the Haitian president Francois Duvalier, who died in 1971?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** How many future presidents of the United States signed the Declaration of Independence?
- TELEVISION:** Who was the nemesis of Detective Steve McGarrett in the original "Hawaii 5-O" TV drama?
- SCIENCE:** What is the name of the ocean current that warms the eastern seaboard of North America?
- LITERATURE:** What was the name of the bank in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- ANATOMY:** Where is the pinna in the human body?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is nicknamed the "Cornhusker State"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the common commercial name of the drug called diazepam?

### Answers

1. Sweating
2. Michael Douglas
3. Papa Doc
4. Two: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams
5. Wo Fat
6. The Gulf Stream
7. Gringotts Wizarding Bank
8. The outer ear, which is made of cartilage
9. Nebraska
10. Valium

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Click on "Local News" at



### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



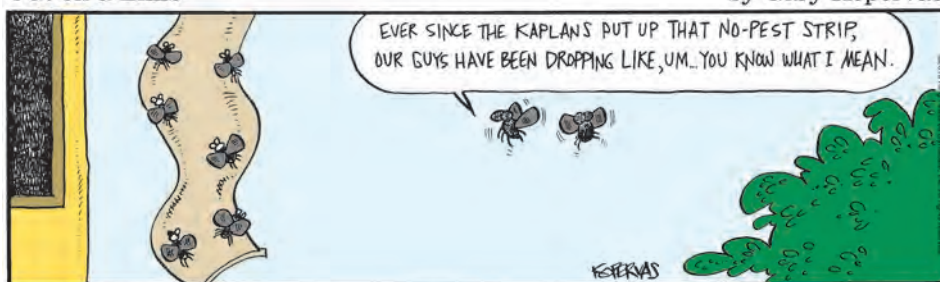
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



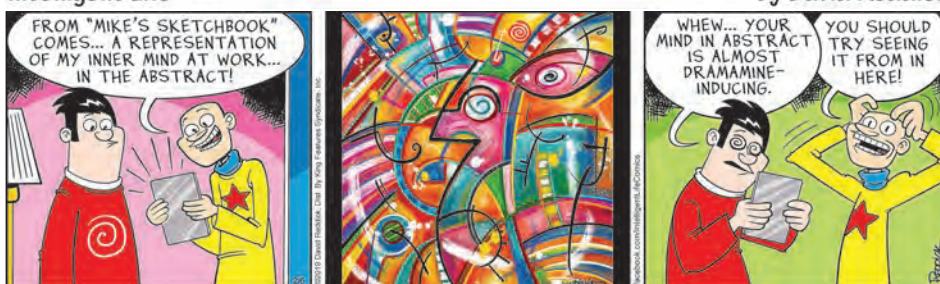
### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

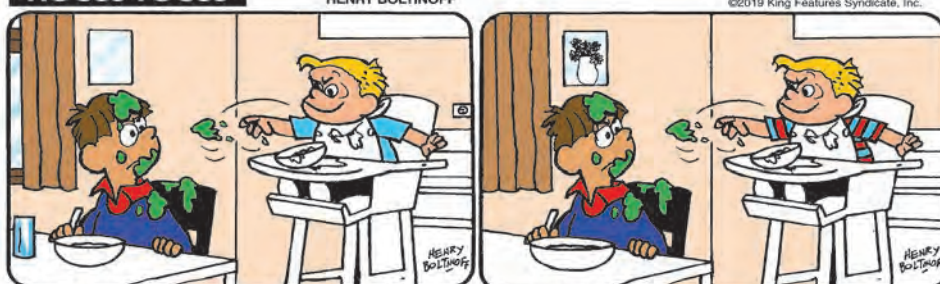
by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

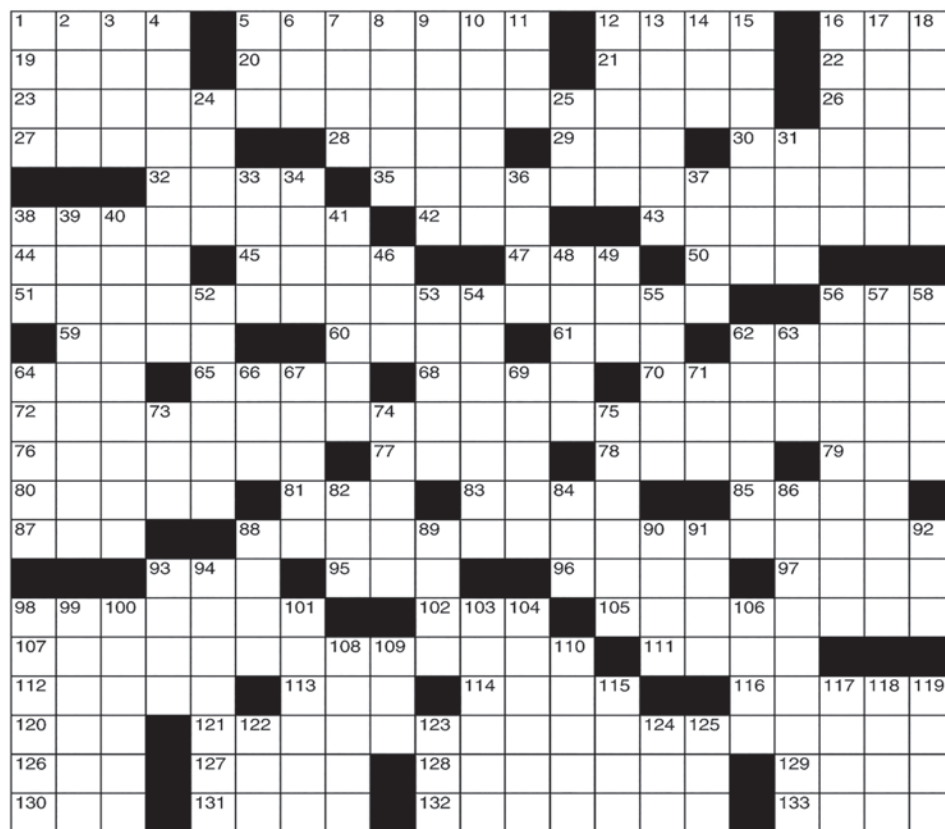
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Baby's shirt has stripes. 2. Picture is different. 3. Curtain covers window. 4. Boy's bowl is larger. 5. Wall outlet is missing. 6. Boy's glass is missing.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Mrs., in Munich
  - 5 Spa offering
  - 12 Tartan wearer
  - 16 Second afterthought in a letter, for short
  - 19 Work for Barber's tool
  - 21 Made cloth
  - 22 Arena cry
  - 23 Ghost of a bricklayer?
  - 26 A bit more than zero
  - 27 Kitchen range brand
  - 28 "— never fly"
  - 29 Toronto's prov.
  - 30 Fall bloomer
  - 32 Passport stamp
  - 35 Put herbs and spices on a James Bond actor?
  - 38 Greek vowels
  - 42 Mr., in Mysore
  - 43 Ideal
  - 44 Deicing stuff
  - 45 Stable baby
  - 47 JFK's veep
  - 50 Suffix with final or novel
  - 51 Comfort given by the last Stuart monarch?
  - 56 Sponge (up)
  - 59 Yeats' "— and the Swan"
  - 60 Tyne of TV party game
  - 61 108-card Gray shade
  - 64 Weaken
  - 65 609-homer Sammy
  - 68 Lovers' deity
  - 70 Person hugging, say
  - 72 Has an affinity for people who are calming influences?
  - 76 Food, archaically
  - 77 "— it a pity?"
  - 78 "Cheerio!"
  - 79 "Norma —" (1979 film)
  - 80 Pencil wood
  - 81 Lilt syllable
  - 83 Backpack fill
  - 85 Fine spray
  - 87 Naval acad. grad
  - 88 More rational hunch?
  - 93 Decide on, with "for"
  - 95 See
  - 64-Down
  - 96 Henchman helping Hook
  - 97 Blogger Klein
  - 98 Grassland
  - 102 Certain hosp. test
  - 105 Most meager
  - 107 Hasty, sloppy application of talc?
  - 111 Arduous walk
  - 112 Taunting remarks
  - 113 Eternally, to bards
  - 114 Post-op areas, often
  - 116 Qdoba dip
  - 120 Year, to Pedro
  - 121 Stupefying someone with liquor away from a horse-racing venue?
  - 126 Sea, to Pierre
  - 127 Gloomy
  - 128 Entered furtively
  - 129 Ohio or New York county
  - 130 'Zine team
  - 131 Modern "Seize the day!," for short
  - 132 Gives a nod
  - 133 Performs like Kanye West
- DOWN**
- 1 Cheese that crumbles
  - 2 Chicago mayor — Emanuel
  - 3 Territory
  - 4 Like surprise guests
  - 5 "Siesta Key" channel
  - 6 Shapiro of radio
  - 7 "Yes, yes!," to Pedro
  - 8 "24: Legacy" actor Jimmy
  - 9 Saunters
  - 10 Actress Sarah Michelle —
  - 11 Poetic "prior to"
  - 12 Football player Lynn
  - 13 Sam's Club alternative
  - 14 — -lacto-vegetarian
  - 15 Lessees
  - 16 For the time being
  - 17 Chain of bakery-café
  - 18 Singer Crow
  - 24 Finger part
  - 25 Bovine noise
  - 31 Sulky mood
  - 33 Den fixture
  - 34 After a while
  - 36 Grain tower
  - 37 Sheriff Taylor's kid
  - 38 Atty.'s name follower
  - 39 He co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates
  - 40 Somnex and Nytol, e.g.
  - 41 Light shoe
  - 46 Grassland
  - 48 Pink wine
  - 49 Mo. #1
  - 52 Suez Crisis figure
  - 53 Tons
  - 54 Serum injector
  - 55 Winter drink
  - 56 Really big
  - 57 Collect-call connectors
  - 58 In itself
  - 62 Dojo mat
  - 63 Gray shade
  - 64 With 95-Across, wide keyboard key
  - 66 Fess (up to)
  - 67 Brief quarrel
  - 69 River romper
  - 71 Ton
  - 73 Singer Sumac
  - 74 Forest vine
  - 75 Does some harping?
  - 82 Polish, e.g.
  - 84 Stubborn equine
  - 86 Rink athlete
  - 88 Move slightly
  - 89 Attracted
  - 90 Mo. #9
  - 91 Bosc, e.g.
  - 92 Rebellion figure Turner
  - 93 Seine feeder
  - 94 Study of poetic rhythm
  - 98 Minecraft, e.g.
  - 99 Wrecked
  - 100 Shady spots
  - 101 Impressive sight
  - 103 Mandates
  - 104 Some lizards (oil biggie)
  - 106 Repose
  - 108 — -Canada
  - 109 Bruins great Bobby
  - 110 Russian money
  - 115 Not masked
  - 117 Turkish money
  - 118 Cut, as hair
  - 119 Many years
  - 122 Egg — yung
  - 123 Simile center
  - 124 Grab a chair
  - 125 Put — (deceptions)





# SEMUCU

SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

## Annual Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 18 • 6 P.M.

**Election of Board Members will be held**  
**PARTICIPATION and NOMINATIONS are WELCOMED**

Be a part of the exciting projects SEMUCU is working on by bringing Grant Money to the Ranchos.  
All members of the public are encouraged to participate.  
Come and provide input on the projects you think are necessary for our community.



Community Parks



Water Issues



Local Schools



Area Infrastructure



Sustainability

**Attend and make your voice heard!**  
**Help make a positive impact on our community**

### Ranchos Pizza Factory

37184 Avenue 12 #101 • Madera Ranchos

All regular meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Ranchos Pizza Factory

**SEMUCU – Working on a Sustainable Future**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**