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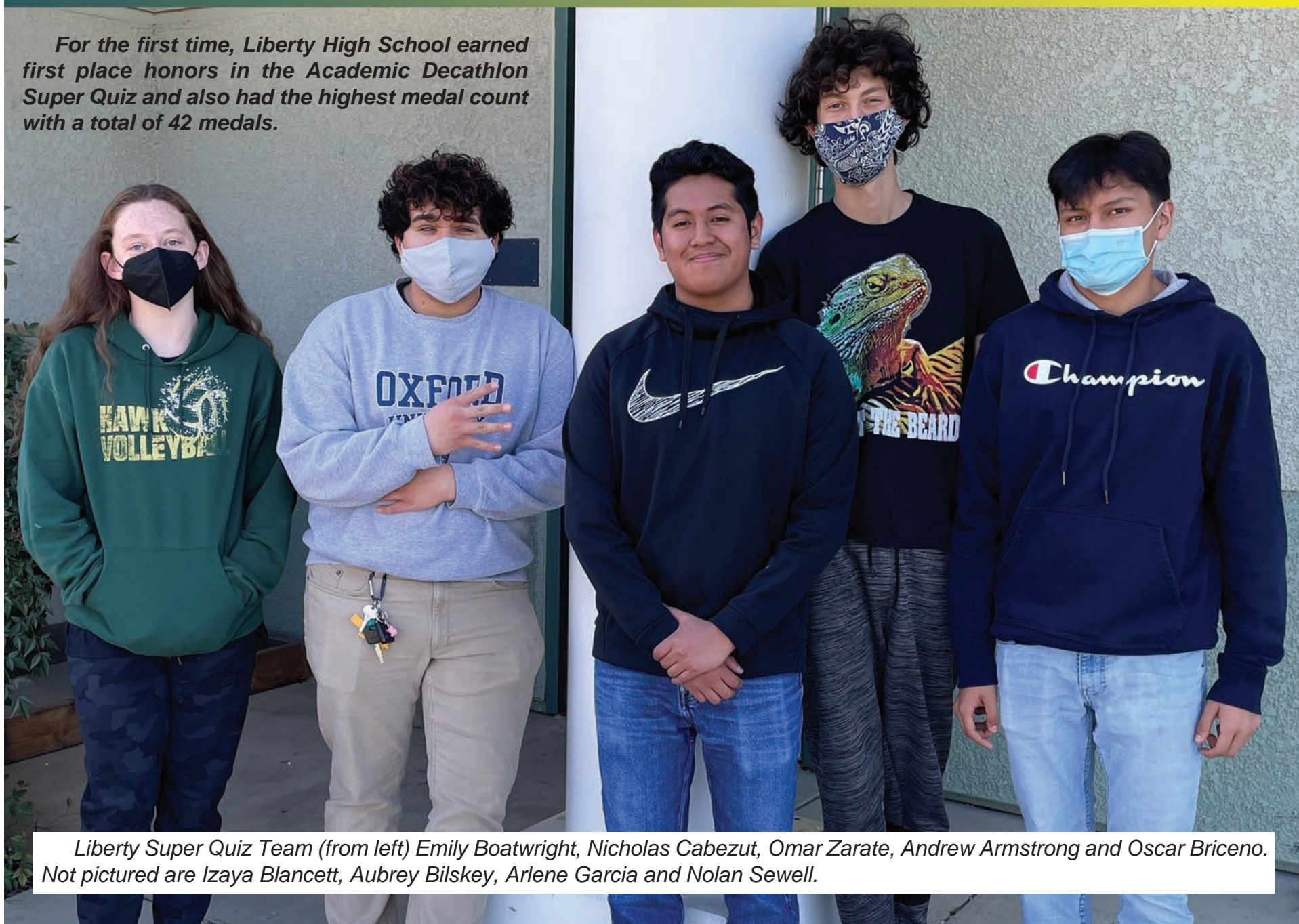
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50¢

SUPER QUIZ CHAMPIONS!

For the first time, Liberty High School earned first place honors in the Academic Decathlon Super Quiz and also had the highest medal count with a total of 42 medals.



Liberty Super Quiz Team (from left) Emily Boatwright, Nicholas Cabezut, Omar Zarate, Andrew Armstrong and Oscar Briceno. Not pictured are Izaya Blancett, Aubrey Bilskey, Arlene Garcia and Nolan Sewell.

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Liberty Super Quiz Team (from left) Emily Boatwright, Nicholas Cabezut, Omar Zarate, Andrew Armstrong and Oscar Briceno. Not pictured are Izaya Blancett, Aubrey Bilskey, Arlene Garcia and Nolan Sewell.

LHS Wins Academic Super Quiz

For the first time, Liberty High School earned first place honors in the Academic Decathlon Super Quiz. They also had the highest medal count with a total of 42 medals and will receive first place Super Quiz rosette ribbons.

Seven schools competed on Feb. 5 in this 10-event competition, answering questions based on the topic “Water: A Most Essential Resource.”

“We are proud of all of our student decathletes for changing their plans and participating virtually this year. Their dedication and determination to succeed is inspiring,” said Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools.

Glacier High School Charter earned a score of 28,824.9 to win the Academic Decathlon and will advance to the California Academic Decathlon in mid-March. This is

Glacier’s first win.

Liberty High School came in second place with a score of 26,253.1 and Madera South High School placed third. Chawana- kee Academy Charter, Chowchilla Union High School, Madera High School and Matilda Torres High School also competed in this 10-event competition.

The Super Quiz is the only team event where students work together to answer questions as a team. It is also the only event open to the public. The Super Quiz was held through Zoom this year. Students competed from their campus and connected to Zoom while Dr. Massetti read the questions on Zoom. Family, friends and supporters were invited to watch the Super Quiz live on YouTube.

Decathlon teams are comprised of up to 25 members competing in three levels of competition: Honor, Scholastic and Varsity students. Competition levels are based on the students’ grade point average.

All tests were held online, including the speech and interview competitions. Community members volunteered to judge this year’s competition via Zoom. Students entered individual breakout rooms and delivered speeches and interviewed for competition.

A total of 118 medals were handed out at the awards ceremony. With the highest medal count, Liberty High was awarded 42 of those medals: seven gold, 18 silver and 17 bronze.

The top scoring senior from each

school will receive a Pacific Gas & Electric Top Senior Scholarship for \$250. For Liberty High, that award went to Izaya Blancett. The nine decathletes who participated in the Super Quiz from Liberty High include Andrew Armstrong, Aubrey Bilskey, Izaya Blancett, Emily Boatwright, Oscar Briceno, Nicholas Cabezut, Arlene Garcia, Nolan Sewell and Omar Zarate. The team of 24 decathletes is led by coach Mike Erickson who has been coaching Liberty’s team since 2013.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the competition. Liberty has participated since 2004.

The Madera County Academic Decathlon is funded by donations from local businesses and community members. The Madera County Schools Foundation proudly supports the event.

Medal Recipients Art

Honor

Bronze: Liam Samuelson, Chawana- kee

Scholastic

Bronze: Gunreet Mahil, Liberty

Varsity

Silver: LaVeda Chan, Liberty

Economics

Honor

Silver: Winston Samuelson, Chawana- kee

Scholastic

Gold: Nicholas Cabezut, Liberty

Please see **MEDALS** on P. 3

Madera County Auditor-Controller Resigns Term 10 Months Early

By DJ Becker

The Madera County Auditor-Controller Todd E. Miller submitted his resignation this week, effective Feb. 28, according to county documents, with 10 months remaining on his elected term in office. The short-term filling of the vacant position was discussed in the open session by the Board of Supervisors at the Feb. 1 meeting. The elected office pays approximately \$150,000 per year and will then be up for the county-wide primary election in June of 2022.

Miller, a CPA, had come under scrutiny after allegedly selling his residence in Oakhurst in June, reportedly purchasing another home in Battleground, Wash. and relocating his household there.

The Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Officer Jay Varney and Miller all refused to answer any questions posed in mid-December, and again in mid-January, regarding Miller’s state of residency or other allegations made by current

and former employees. Residents said they were concerned if Miller was no longer a legal resident of California if he would be unable to effectively fulfill his elected position or work in the best interests of M a d e r a County, and the relocation could be a violation of state law.

O t h e r employees from multiple county departments also alleged significant payroll reporting inaccuracies over multiple years, including the overreporting of wages for Social Security and Medicare and that they were never notified of the

discrepancies, or of a possible employee data breach that may have resulted in employees’ information being used erroneously or in identity theft.



Madera County Auditor-Controller Todd E. Miller has resigned his county elected position 10 months early and has reportedly bought a home in Washington state.

Oakhurst area residents alleged Miller was unwilling to audit or account for projects, including M a d e r a County’s collection methods and reporting accuracy of the full Transient Occupancy Tax, which includes a separate Tourism Business Improvement District Tax collected on the many popular and pricey vacation rentals in mountain communities.

One North Fork resident, Kris Hamilton, described Miller as hostile and unhelpful and said she wanted to know if the essential department had the appropriate checks and balances in place or had ever been forensically audited by an independent agency. Hamilton went on to ask, “Who is ensuring the many millions of our taxpayers’ dollars are being appropriately used and accounted for?”

Miller, 70, was first elected in 2014 and also has an Oakhurst CPA practice. He did not give a reason for his early resignation, answer any questions or respond to employee allegations but said in an undated statement to the Board of Supervisors that he had been asked by Supervisor Tom Wheeler multiple times to run “... to help straighten out the Auditor-Controller’s office” and Miller “... now felt he had fulfilled that challenge and it was time for new blood to take over.” Miller went on to make the recommendation of appointing David Richstone, a CPA and an existing Certified Internal Auditor in the office, to fill his remaining term.

Click on “Local News” at

WWII Bombs Lurking in Ranchos? Yes ...

If you live between Road 36 and Road 38, and Avenue 15 and Highway 145, the U.S. Army would like you to know that you live on a former military bombing range. No kidding.

From 1942 to 1946, this area of the Madera Ranchos was known as Fresno Air Base Bombing Range. It served the U.S. Army Air Forces for practicing air-to-ground gunnery and bombing practice. In 1944 the U.S. Navy added targets for rocket and RADAR training. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this area of the Ranchos has been, "... identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards." Those explosive "suspects" appear to be rockets, practice rockets, practice bombs with spotting charges and small arms ammunition.

The government has created the "FUDS" program under the Department of Defense with the U.S. Army administering it. FUDS stands for Formerly Used

Defense Sites Program. At this time there are over 5,400 similar sites throughout the country in basically the same situation as the Ranchos.

A letter from the Department of the Army has been mailed out to homes in the affected area. The gist of the letter is that by and large munitions that have been here for over 80 years are more than likely buried deep underground. But it is possible that, with time, some may have become partially or completely exposed and they can pose an explosion risk.

The information provided is three-fold: First it stresses the "3Rs" Safety Guide. Second it recommends calling local police if you discover something so they can dispose of it properly. Finally they offer a toll-free number and website to reach FUDS directly.

The 3Rs can be found at 3Rs.mil and FUDS' toll-free number is 1-855-765-FUDS.

MEDALS cont. from P. 2

Silver: Izaya Blancett, Gunreet Mahil Liberty

Essay

Scholastic

Gold: Izaya Blancett, Liberty

Bronze: Arlene Garcia, Liberty

Varsity

Silver: Isabelle O'Neill, Liberty

Bronze: Omar Zarate, Liberty

Varsity

Silver: Omar Zarate, Liberty

Silver: Sydney Lindsay, Liberty

Silver: Nolan Sewell, Liberty

Bronze: Andrew Armstrong, Liberty

Bronze: Rey Giron Cortes, Liberty

Social Science

Honor

Bronze: Winston Samuelson, Chawanakee

Scholastic

Gold: Nicholas Cabezut, Liberty

Silver: Izaya Blancett, Liberty

Silver: Jade Seymour, Chawanakee

Bronze: Noah Clark, Gunreet Mahil Liberty

Varsity

Silver: Andrew Armstrong, Liberty

Bronze: Morgyn Lindsay, Liberty

Bronze: Omar Zarate, Liberty

Speech

Scholastic

Gold: Jade Seymour, Chawanakee

Silver: Tyler Edwards, Liberty

Silver: Omar Zarate, Liberty



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You can get your tickets at the Chamber office or the Ranchos Independent.

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 9 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos.

For more information, call the Chamber at 645-4001


2/22

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Alec Konkle
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Letters

Dear Editor:

At first, I thought the people who bought homes in the new Riverstone subdivision with balconies overlooking Avenue 12 were crazy, but now I see why. It's like having a circus in your back yard every day. A mini-series of vehicular stupidity, raging tempers and extreme danger, and it's all available at no extra charge.

Rarely is there a time that I pass through that area that I don't witness idiocy in motion, and usually at high speed. The area is notoriously dangerous, from the bottleneck on Highway 41 that is a constant cause of frustration and road rage, to the intersections leading into the Riverstone community. At least one death has occurred there, with frequent accidents and near misses. I was witness to two such near misses at the same spot (where the passing lane ends) in the last two days.

Stop lights have been installed at two intersections, but only orange delineators have been placed at two of the most dangerous intersections. These intersections

desperately need their own turn lanes, as people make U-turns around the delineators that are supposed to keep them from turning left onto the side streets at those points. Highway 41 needs to be widened at least to Avenue 12 to ease congestion. The entire area is a recipe for disaster and should have been addressed and eliminated by the developers before the first house was built, but as with most things that involve: A) money; and B) politicians, the only things seriously discussed are how much and when. They say money talks, and in politics there's no such thing as falling on deaf ears. Whether the developers' money goes into the county's coffers or a more questionable destination is anyone's guess, but in any case, the developers walk away laughing. At that point, the safety of the citizens our Board of Supervisors were elected to represent becomes a non-issue, while dash cams become a necessity.

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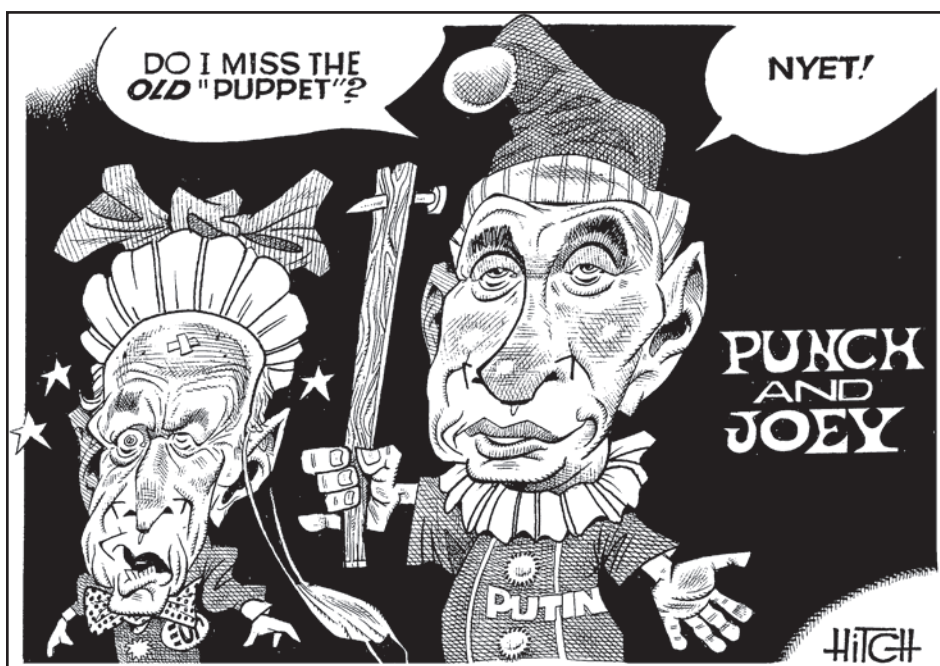
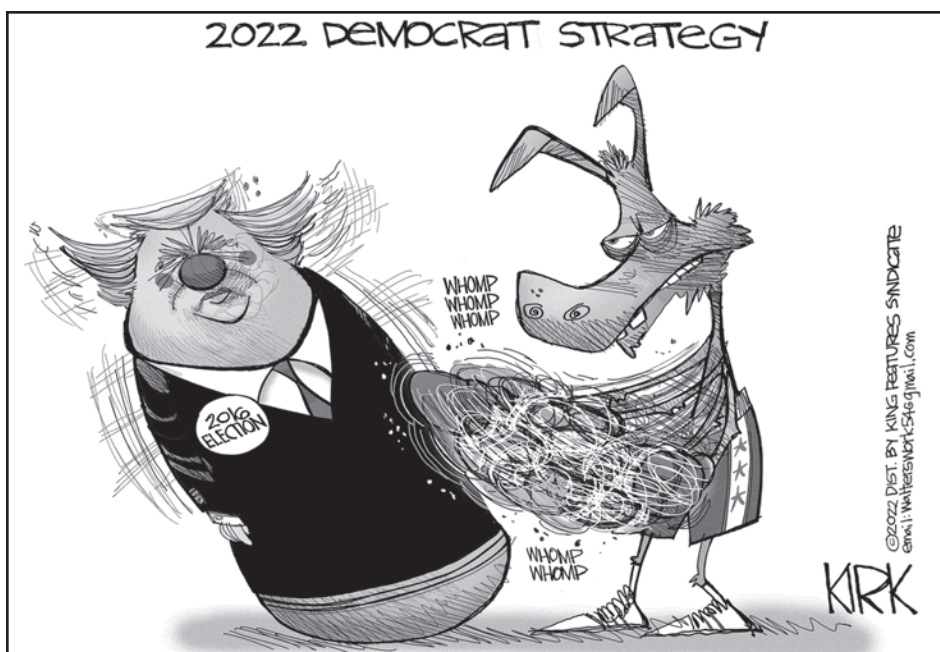
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2022 DEMOCRAT STRATEGY



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Editorial

Joe Biden Has a Plan

By Randy Bailey

Joe Biden has a plan, and that plan is simple: Whatever he promises won't cost you or me one red cent.

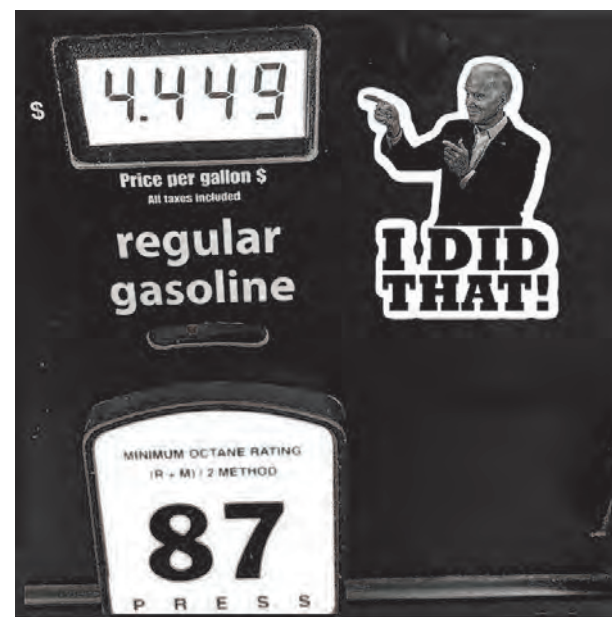
That's a great plan. There's only one problem with it – it doesn't seem to be working.

One of the president's first projects was to drive a wooden stake through the heart of the dreaded leviathan known as "climate change." You might remember "climate change" by its maiden name, "global warming." Of course, in the 1970s it was known by another alias, "global cooling." That old girl does get around.

So how is that stake-driving panning out? According to a report from the Heartland Institute, a conservative think tank, implementing Biden's plan over the last year has – so far – cost the average American more than \$1,000 in extra energy costs. When you couple those rising costs with Biden's rising inflation – a proud tradition perfected in the Jimmy Carter days – you get the highest single-year increase in energy costs in

decades.

"Rapidly rising energy prices are no accident, but instead the predictable result of Joe Biden's war on energy," said James Taylor, the president of the Heartland Institute in an article in the Washington Times. What that means is nothing that Biden has done directly



has cost you or me anything, but all of the peripheral "things" have cost us dearly. And there's no end in sight. It's like an anti-Midas touch. Instead of everything he touches turning to gold, instead it turns into a bill on something related for which you and I now have to pay.

The report showed that no one is spared. While overall costs for electricity for individuals went up 8 percent last year, electricity for businesses shot up 15 percent.

"Whew, we dodged a bullet there!"

Not so fast, slick. While you're paying your increased 8 percent for your electricity, guess what else you're paying? That's right. The prices of all those things you bought a year ago are now 15 percent higher. Biden kept his word. By the way, did your income go up 15 percent? Neither did mine. And don't forget your gallon of gas that's gone up more than a buck in the same time period. Not to digress, but have you noticed that when the Republicans are in power and gas prices go up, it's because those Republicans are profiting from it? Congressional hearings

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"... WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING AMERICA AT PEACE, THEN NONE OF US CAN AFFORD TO BE SIMPLY A DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN; WE MUST ALL STAND UNITED AS AMERICANS."

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

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 12

Is This Your First Job?

I've said it before and I'll say it again, my catch phrase at work should be, "Is this your first job?" I'm going to have T-Shirts made and then just point to it when someone says something particularly green and naïve ... or just annoying.

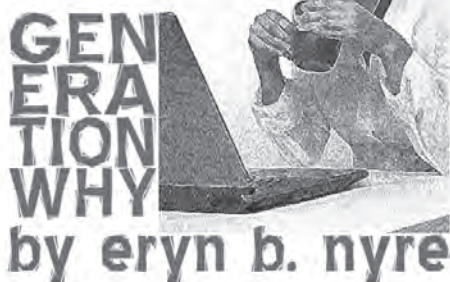
We had a big batch of new caregivers going through our three-day orientation process, so I was in the office helping the regular orientation trainer when the ol' catch phrase just popped out of my mouth – twice. The new hire in question was a youngin', probably 19, but he had already developed quite a talent for testing my patience with his incessant questions. I suppose everyone needs a skill.

Before you roll your eyes, I don't have an aversion to questions. Part of my job is conducting training classes so, obviously, fielding various inquiries is a huge part of that. It's true, I have very little patience for people who make me repeat myself because they aren't paying attention, but I encourage sincere and relevant questions in all of my classes. I do not, however, subscribe to the silly notion that there is



no such thing as a stupid question. The world is full of those.

It is a stupid question, for example, to ask your trainer if you are expected to remember to clock in for every shift, especially given that she just spent 15 minutes explaining that not only are you expected to clock in for every shift but not doing so violates federal law. He then followed it up by asking me if there would be consequences if he forgot to clock in, how often is he allowed to forget before he experienced the consequences, how severe his consequences would be, and my favorite, what excuses could he use to avoid these consequences. The audacity of this man-child. I'm sure



you've already guessed how I responded, and you'd be right. I asked him if this was his first job.

Listen, we are all human. We have "brain farts," we forget stuff, we get preoccupied and say silly things when we're nervous. However, this young man was clearly testing his boundaries to see how much he could get away with. So, he is either too lazy to meet the very basic requirements of the job or too

forgetful to be responsible for another person's health and wellbeing.

As if that wasn't annoying enough, he then proceeded to spend the remainder of the hour-long module raising his hand and saying "scenario"

every few minutes, followed by the most ridiculous examples of what is least likely to happen in a client's home as a caregiver.

Scenario ... What if you are having a really bad week and just don't have the energy to clock in? Well, sir, if you are so lethargic that the mere act of clocking in (which is accomplished through a few taps on your phone) is beyond your capabilities, how are you managing to bathe, feed, ambulate and clean for your client? He didn't have an answer. He was all questions and no answers. I told him if he is finding himself without enough energy to clock in

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 12

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By Brenda McElroy

How to Win Points with your Future Son or Daughter-in-law

If you have a teen who's keeping a tidy room, you have a rare find. Yes, there are some who are born with the clean gene, but even my own neatnik son had a messy room in high school. Kids have a lot on their plates these days and making time to find their bedroom floor isn't high on the list.

If you're tempted to close the door and post skull and crossbones, there are other options to consider with benefits for you, your teen and his or her future spouse. The current benefit to your teen may not be as obvious as the benefit to you, but consider the stress your student faces when he has to dig through piles to find

his homework or sport's uniform. A messy room can also contribute to anxiety and a feeling of not being in control of his environment. It can cause an inability to concentrate on homework and other tasks. It's important to give teens the freedom of expression in their own space while equipping them with the tools they need to maintain a peaceful and productive environment.

Decide what's necessary. Before approaching your teen, consider realistic expectations. Model home status isn't the goal, but picking up laundry off the floor and bringing dirty glasses and dishes to the kitchen might be. You may want to add some incentive — if the basket of dirty clothes is in the laundry room by Saturday morning, you'll wash them. If not, she's on her own. Or a negative consequence — if there are still dirty dishes in the bedroom on Saturday, no leaving for social events until the task is done.

Be clear on the standard you expect. Make sure it's not higher than what you're modeling in your own space or more than what you're willing to regulate. For example, the

laundry and dishes requirement may be weekly and the vacuuming once a month. Just remember that the more frequently it's decluttered, the less overwhelming the task is.

Write out your expectation and rewards or consequences. Sit down and talk it over with your teen. Ask and share about benefits including an end to the nagging about cleaning the room. Explain that it's your responsibility to equip her with these life skills. Be open to discussion and make sure there's understanding and agreement on what her responsibilities are going forward.

Provide a strategy and support. If the room is a disaster, the initial cleanup is probably overwhelming you both. Don't say, "clean your room," and walk away. Set a date when you and your teen have several hours to devote to the project. Provide your teen with a copy of the steps below. Ask if he would like your help, the help of a friend,

or if needed, the help of a Professional Organizer. Ensure that if your teen chooses a friend, it's someone with an affinity for tidiness. Even if you're not the one helping, be sure to check in on the progress and provide break times.

Supplies: Trash and recycle bags, laundry basket for dirty laundry, hangers for clean laundry, box for dishes, food, etc. to be relocated, and a box/bag for items to be donated. Label sticky notes and tape them to each container.

- Steps:**
1. Turn on the lights and open the blinds and window, if needed
 2. Make the bed
 3. Bag all the trash/recycle
 4. Hang/fold clean clothes and put dirty laundry into basket
 5. Sort contents from floor and other surfaces into categories — relocate, donate, electronics, school supplies, accessories, keepsakes, sports, etc. (Use the made bed to sort on; first cover with a sheet if necessary.)
 6. Put collected categories of items where they belong. If there isn't a home for them create one. (See below.)
 7. Vacuum, dust and clean

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 12

*Remember, we're not talking "white glove" checks, but it's your responsibility to follow through and support your teen in the maintenance agreement.
Your future son or daughter-in-law will thank you.*



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Cheese It!

(February 2012)

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



by Jean Briner

in-between.

I love cheese. What is a hamburger, or a bologna, or ham or even a tuna sandwich, without cheese? Or a toasted cinnamon raisin bagel without cream cheese? Or cottage cheese, how can you go wrong there? Or on a cold night, how about a grilled cheese sandwich and a cup of tomato soup? Or a burrito or taco without cheese? So you see, there are so many good reasons to use cheese.

A real simple appetizer is to cube two or three kinds of cheese

and serve them with some sliced meats like salami, ham and/or turkey with two or three kinds of crackers.

Or how about a cheese fondue? A fondue is a fun and informal way to gather friends and family together. A fondue can be used for an appetizer or

a main course, depending on the cheese, or what you serve with it. Think about putting a platter of cooked, shelled, deveined shrimp or ham chunks, or raw vegetables or even apple slices in addition to the chunks of French bread.

Cheese Fondue

- 2 C Half and Half
- 1 T Worcestershire Sauce
- 2 tsp. Dry Mustard
- 1 Garlic Clove, Peeled and Halved
- 1 ½ lbs. Shredded Cheddar Cheese (About 6 C)
- 3 T Flour
- Salt

About 30 minutes before serving, in a fondue pot or saucepan (recipe recommends not using an aluminum pan as mixture may turn dark) over low heat, heat milk, Worcestershire sauce, mustard and garlic, stirring until hot but not boiling. Discard garlic.

Meanwhile, in medium bowl, toss cheese with flour. Gradually

stir cheese into hot mixture with a fork or wire whisk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until cheese is melted and mixture is smooth and bubbling. Add salt if needed. Keep hot over very low heat in fondue pot.

I went through my Mom's recipe cards hoping to find her recipe for macaroni and cheese but like so much of what she cooked, she didn't write it down. But I remember it being gooey and crunchy on top. I found this recipe on the internet and it sounds a lot like hers.

Classic Baked Macaroni and Cheese

- 1- 8 oz. Package Macaroni
- 4 T Flour
- 4 T Butter
- 1 C Milk
- 1 C Cream
- ½ tsp. Salt

- Black Pepper to Taste
- 2 C Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 1 C Buttered Bread Crumbs
- Preheat Oven to 400

Cook and drain macaroni according to package directions and set aside. In a large sauce pan, melt butter. Add flour mixed with the salt and pepper, using a wire whisk to stir until blended. Pour milk and cream in gradually, stirring constantly. Bring to boiling point and boil 2 minutes (stirring constantly to avoid burning). Reduce heat and cook (stirring constantly) 10 minutes. Add shredded cheese a little at a time and simmer an additional 5 minutes until cheese melts. Turn off fire. Add macaroni to the saucepan and toss to coat with the cheese sauce. Pour mixture

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

I've been trying to think of a food that can be used from an appetizer (you thought I couldn't spell hors d'oeuvre, didn't you? The word is French meaning, "Outside the Meal") to a dessert.

I concentrated on appetizers and desserts that use the same kind of foods and then it dawned on me - cheese!

I never dreamed there were so many kinds of cheese, nor so many countries that make cheese. If you want to get educated about cheese, go on the website

I love cheese. What is a hamburger, or a bologna, or ham or even a tuna sandwich, without cheese? Or a toasted cinnamon raisin bagel without cream cheese? Or cottage cheese, how can you go wrong there?

Cheese.com. It lists more than 50 countries that make cheese and you can click on the individual countries to find out how many different varieties of cheese that country makes. The United States makes more than 35 different varieties. A few of the cheeses that I had never heard of were Cougar Gold, made of cow's milk by Washington State University, that is packed in a can; Humboldt Fog Cheese, made from goat milk in Arcata, Calif., and Idaho Goatster, which is a hard cheese made from goat milk. And so many different kinds of milk used: buffalo, camel, ewe, reindeer and mare (in Turkey). Oh, and believe it or not, a chef in New York is making cheese from human female milk - I kid you not!

There is an alphabetical list of kinds of different cheeses. I didn't count them but the list includes about 150 to 200 names from Abbaye de Belloc to Zanette Parmigiano Reggiano and all kinds

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

into buttered baking dish. Sprinkle with bread crumbs Bake for about 20 minutes or until top is golden brown and casserole is bubbly.

Do you use the “blue box” for mac & cheese instead of making it from scratch? Try making it from scratch for your family and see how much better they will like it. I’ll admit I used to keep the blue boxes. When I took care of the girls and had to fix their dinner because mom and dad were working late, I would open a blue box for them – they loved it. I remember one time I was cooking it and my niece Carolyn (she was about six or seven years old) was watching me. When I was finishing and added a little pepper to it, she said she really liked my mac & cheese and I asked her why? She said, “Because you put pepper in it.” Wow! By the way, if you are reading this on the 28th of February that little girl turned 17 years old. Where does the time go? (*Editor’s note: This year she turns 27.*)

Have you ever thought of or had a cheese blintz? I always thought they were a crepe filled with whipped cream – sort of like a cream puff. In doing some research, I found out they can be made with mashed potatoes and served as a main course.

Cheese Blintz**Crepes:**

- 1 ½ C Flour
- 2 C Milk
- 3 T Butter, Melted
- 2 T Granulated Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- ½ tsp. Vanilla
- ½ tsp. Baking Powder
- ½ tsp. Salt
- Additional Butter (for pan)

Filling:

- 1 C Cottage Cheese
- 1 C Farmer Cheese, Soft or 1 C

- Softened Cream Cheese
- ¼ C Powdered Sugar
- ¼ tsp. Vanilla

Using an electric mixer, blend together all the crepe ingredients (except the butter for the pan) in a large bowl. Blend just until smooth. The batter will be very thin.

Combine the filling ingredient in a medium bowl and mix by hand. Set aside.

Preheat a 10 inch crepe pan (or frying pan) over medium heat. When the pan is hot, add about ½ tsp. butter. When the butter has melted, pour 1/3 C batter into pan. Swirl the batter so that it entirely covers the bottom of the pan. Cook for 1 ½ to 2 minutes or until golden brown on bottom. Slip a spatula under the crepe and using your fingers, flip the crepe over, and cook for another 1 ½ minutes until not quite as brown as the other side. Repeat this until all batter is used. Stack the crepes on top of each other to keep them warm.

Heat the cheese filling in the microwave for a minute or two or until hot. Place each crepe on a plate. Pour 2 or 3 T of cheese filling across the center of the crepe. Fold the sides in and turn the entire blintz over (seam side down) onto a serving plate. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and a spoon of strawberry preserves. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Before I close, I want to remind you of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed coming up on the 9th of March. It’s their big fundraiser for the year. Come to the Dante Club and support the Chamber!

(*Editor’s note: This year it’s being held on Friday, March 11 at 6 p.m. It’s still at the Dante Club in Fresno and tickets are available by calling 559-645-0634.*)

Senior Report**Seniors Explore Wealth of Activities**

By *Melanie Williams*

Spring is coming and we have our annual Home and Garden Festival planned for April 2. There are still plenty of spaces available for vendors and if you are interested in setting up a booth, please contact the Ranchos/ Hills Senior Center at 645-4864 to register for a spot.

The festival will include a wide variety of vendors, crafts and garden enthusiasts, as well as the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center’s own garden and plant sale next to the Treasure House. Local Master Gardeners have been invited for a demonstration and they will be available for questions and tips to make your future gardening experience fantastic.

There are more details to come so “Save the Date,” April 2 for the 28th Annual Home and Garden Festival at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Mississippi River Paddleboat Cruise is coming soon as one of the senior events this summer. Rooms are still available and you can sign up in March. There is more information about the River Paddleboat cruise aboard the American Countess available at the Senior Center. If you are interested, call the senior center at 645-4864 and talk to Jolene.

March is full of fun activities as the weather starts to warm up. The Treasure House will be open on Saturday, March

5 from 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are always welcome to help Jo Chase set up for the monthly sale. Additionally, donations of new or used one-gallon plastic pots are needed for the upcoming garden and plant sale in April.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center welcomed Donna Blair to our monthly general meeting on Feb. 8 where she presented some great information about health conditions that relate to breathing difficulties and dental issues.

When discussing sleep apnea, Donna pointed out how it relates to strokes, arrhythmia and high blood pressure. She encouraged seniors to talk to their dentists and primary care doctors about screening for potential problems as we

start to age.

If you missed Donna Blair, “once a dentist, always a dentist,” at the last monthly board meeting, then make sure to be at the senior center on Tuesday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m. Jo Chase will be giving a presentation on maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle. She is a registered dietician and also leads our exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week at the Senior Center. Take the opportunity to get healthier for the new year.

We have our first Movie Matinee this year on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. Come and

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 12



Senior Center member Ethel Hanson (left) gets professional advice from dentist Donna Blair who spoke to seniors on a variety of health topics.



Seniors at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center learn in a presentation of “Dentistry ... not just about the TEETH” from dentist Donna Blair.



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SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

I may be overstepping my role at SEMCU by talking about my personal hardship, but I find that in today's environment I'm a sample of what is happening in Madera, and I think it is relevant to all of us in this farming-based county.

I've been farming in Southeast Madera County just west of the Ranchos for over 30 years with much hope, dreams and enthusiasm. I found this community to be my own and my neighborhood with plenty of friends, although I don't live in the Ranchos.

We all have experienced long droughts as well as very wet years. Today

we're at a precipice which we've never reached before. California has grown in population from 1.49 million people in the year 1900 to today's population reaching 40,000,000. Having to find work, creating a business, manufacturing goods and feeding all of us and our families has taken a heavy toll, in particular with the fact that the amount of water available to us all has not increased. Other countries have turned to producing water through available technologies to solve such problems although the cost is

... things are going to change Madera over the next few years.

very high. Dams holding water are like saving accounts dispensing water as needed. Many in our society have opposed it.

With the addition of today's restrictions affecting the use of water, things are going to change Madera over the next few years. Farming businesses have to change and curtail their operations; some will probably go out of business and "go bust." Where are the taxes for

running the county going to be coming from?

As a farmer I'm left with little choice, yet I must make a change that will allow me to survive. I will have to curtail my farming activities, meaning reduce my farming operations and somehow create a new business. Who is going to buy a farm with no water? Will you? Today this is not a problem unique to me, and water is not the only problem our society is facing. Covid has brought its own challenges for us all and we have to make the necessary changes as we move along.

I may be driven out of the agriculture business but I'm not planning to leave; I'm planning to adapt. I'm encouraged by human nature which helps us to make the necessary changes in order to survive and thrive. I love this place and I'm here to stay!

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

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FROM BIRTH - 6TH GRADE

SENIORS cont. from P. 9

enjoy popcorn, snacks and good fun at the movies in the Senior Center. Requests and suggestions will be welcome for the next Movie Matinee on the calendar. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is located at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos.

The St. Patrick's Day Potluck is on March 17 at 5:30 p.m. and the favorite dish for this event is Irish stew and soda bread, if you need an idea of what to bring. Of course, twice baked potatoes or "champ" is delicious as well. An Irish Proverb says, "Laughter is brightest where food is best." Make sure to bring 10 to 12 servings of your favorite Irish dish, along with your own table setting and utensils to celebrate a Happy St. Patrick's Day together at the Senior Center.

It's another monthly celebration of birthdays and anniversaries at the Senior Center in March. Invite your friends and celebrate at Lee Kitchen in the Madera Ranchos on Saturday, March 19 at 11:30 p.m.

A special Coffee, Crafts and Conversation is happening at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center in March. Carol Wood is hosting an Easter Basket craft making event on Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m. When you sign up, we encourage you to donate \$5 to \$7 so Carol can purchase specialty items to put into your Easter basket. Carol is a savant basket maker extraordinaire.

Attendees are going to have a great experience making beautiful baskets for someone special. Please sign up at the Senior Center because spaces will fill up quickly.

Thought for February/March: "A good friend is like a four-leaf clover – hard to find and lucky to have." Irish Proverb

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

Create Homes. There are two main contributors to clutter — too much stuff and no designated homes for things. If the closets and dressers are stuffed to overflowing, purge.

If there simply aren't places designated yet, add a dresser or a wire drawer unit to the closet. Attach hooks to the closet or bedroom wall for backpacks, purses, hats, jackets, etc. Use under-the-bed containers for keepsakes and other items rarely used. Put shelves on the wall for decorations and trophies. Consider over-the-door shoe hangers for sandals, accessories, leggings, etc. Cube

storage organizers can be used for electronics, books, and school supplies. Label containers to make future clean-up easier. Ensure there are adequate-sized waste and laundry baskets.

Maintain. Remember, we're not talking "white glove" checks, but it's your responsibility to follow through and support your teen in the maintenance agreement.

Your future son or daughter-in-law will thank you.

Contact Organized by Choice at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

GENWHY cont. from P. 6

then he doesn't have enough energy to work and subsequently get paid for his shift, he should therefore call out per company guidelines and get some rest. Can you imagine what his follow up question was? I'll give you the answer to it: "No, you won't be able to keep your job if you don't actually show up and do it regularly."

Scenario ... What if I walk through the client's front door and there's an emergency like she is on fire, am I supposed to clock in first? Is that a real question? Yep. To which I replied, in that most unlikely scenario of walking through the client's front door and finding her lounging in her recliner and watching a little TV completely unaware that her hair is ablaze, clocking in should not be your first action. I warned him, however, that using that excuse even once would trigger a full investigation including verifying the client's medical records. He seemed a tad disappointed. I can already tell he's going to be really easy to catch, so there's the silver lining.

Scenario ... What if the client

has spent the last few nights on a drinking binge with her friends and tells you that she's too hung over for you to work for her today, can you clock in anyway? There's a lot of things to unpack from that question, especially given that his client is his own mother. I started with: "I'm sorry, are you asking me if you can clock in and get paid without doing any work?" No, child-whose-parents-did-a-real-bang-up-job-raising-you, that is called Medicaid fraud. Call us and we will find you another client. Also, if that happens often, we need to report it because if she can go on a bender every other week then we have to question whether she really is eligible for this taxpayer-funded program. It was some of the quickest and clumsiest back peddling I've ever witnessed. He was just thinking outside the box. His client wouldn't do that. He saw something like it on TV one time. He just thought that since Medicaid authorizes a certain number of hours, he should get the money regardless of whether or not the client received care.

Seriously, is this your *first* job?

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

were arranged to call the CEOs of Exxon and Chevron on the carpet to explain themselves ... but since Biden has driven those prices up singlehandedly, have you heard of any hearings being called? Don't hold your breath.

Finally, have you checked what it's costing to keep you and your kids warm in your house? Across the U.S. heating oil has gone up 43 percent and natural gas has risen 61 percent. Ninety-three

percent of American homes use either electricity, gas or oil to heat their homes and they are all going up.

The Heartland Institute's James Taylor, from the same article, said, "Joe Biden's radical energy and climate policies are imposing a massive regressive tax on American households, and especially America's poorest families. Skyrocketing energy prices show it's time to end this administration's war on affordable conventional energy."

Joe Biden has a plan ...

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Do Your Research

This conservative, freedom-loving writer has no pedigree, no PhD and no government stamp of approval. What she does have is great respect for individual liberty and our country – a respect instilled by a solid, although not advanced, education; by eight decades of lived experience; and by a little old-fashioned common sense aided by an inborn political B.S. detector.

Love of freedom, not just for self but for every American, led to some low-key political activism over the years and a desire to express heartfelt conservative principles in writing. An ever-present desire for accuracy has required a large amount of research in order to separate truth from manure emanating from politicians and much of the media.

Each of us can, and I dare say should, research important topics to determine the truth to our own satisfaction. This is not always easy, but it is necessary to retaining our freedom. Otherwise, we can be led down a very dark political path to government control of our lives, livelihoods, families and religion. If America has not already reached that destination, it is alarmingly close.

Media outlets spewing lies, opinions and propaganda abound today as never before. Access to information – true or false, appropriate or inappropriate – is available 24/7 on television, radio, social media, websites and in print. Every person of almost any age with a cell phone or computer can access it all, for good or ill.

Of course, we know this already. It is emphasized here to encourage research and learning rather than uncritical acceptance of whatever a website, group, government agency or TV talking head should spout as gospel.

We are not doomed to ignorance and/or blind obedience. Every TV news watcher can verify which talking heads are truthful and which are not. A careful internet search can reveal their lies and distortions or verify their truthfulness. In search of political truth, we can consult people we trust, question elected officials, attend meetings, join reputable like-minded groups and yes, consult websites and publications – all while questioning conclusions and verifying facts.

Here are some varied resources that readers might find of interest

For inspiration, Ronald Reagan's 1984 D-Day speech on YouTube is awe inspir-

ing and a great mini education for young people who don't know any details of World War II.

For kids and teens, the Tuttle Twins books at TuttleTwins.com are outstanding at teaching the values of a free society and free enterprise. The books are so excellently written and cleverly illustrated that this old grandma enjoys them without reservation, especially the one in which the twins and their own grandma start a business. The authors state that it is "critical that we empower children to understand time-tested principles so that they can recognize and reject the brainwashing they will be bombarded with in the world." Their books and curriculum materials support family values and teach students the benefits of a free society, and the book sets make excellent gifts that will last a lifetime.

For quick information and insight, you might watch any of the five-minute videos on PragerU.com. They are interesting, intelligent, thought provoking and lightning fast. They deliver on their promise to offer pro-America content with messages of truth, reason and hope.

For some rare, factual COVID information, you might watch an interview of Dr. Scott Atlas by searching "Allie Stuckey Scott Atlas interview".

Some recommended books are *American Marxism* by Mark R. Levin; *The Enemy Within – How a totalitarian movement is destroying America* by David Horowitz; and Glenn Beck's books: *Common Sense* and *The Great Reset*.

If you want to learn the origin of radical environmentalism, the Green New Deal, proliferating bike lanes and the claim that the earth will end in exactly nine years or exactly 12 years or exactly 30 years, there is a 300-page book available at Barnes and Noble called *Agenda 21* in which the United Nations proudly heralds its 1992 "Earth Summit" of world leaders plotting the demise of fossil fuels and nations.

Go to the Source

Last but not least, it never hurts to re-read America's founding documents and introduce them to others whose education might have included basket weaving but not the foundation of our country. The Constitution, Federalist Papers and Declaration of Independence are great political documents which have been mostly ignored by public schools in recent years. Sadly, a generation of Americans cannot read the original hand-written Constitution of the United States of America because they were purposely not taught to read or write "cursive." Really.

We must do careful research and then teach others.

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2 Corinthians 5:7

Great family events!

So, save the dates and join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:30am for our Sunday Worship Service.

- April 9→Spring Festival 9am-1pm
- April 17→ "Sonrise" Service 7am
- May 8 →Mother's Day Celebration
- June 6-10→Vacation Bible School
- June 19→Father's Day Celebration
- July 4→Independence Day-Firework Celebration @ 8:30pm
- July (11-15) →Fuze Youth Camp

- September 18→National "Back to Church" 9/30-10/2→Women's Retreat
- October 29→Fall Harvest Festival
- November 11→Veteran's Day-Honoring those who served
- November 19→Thanksgiving Dinner 5pm
- December 11→Christmas Party 12pm
- December 24→Candlelight Service 6:30pm

Weekly Ministries

- Sunday School 9am
- Sunday Worship 10:30am
- Tuesday • Dorcas Sewing Circle 9am
- Wednesday • Life Apps 6:30pm For all ages!
- Thursday • Women's Bible School 6:30pm
- 1st Saturday of the Month • Men's Breakfast 9am



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2/22

Kiwanis Korner

Guest Speakers and New Members

By Sally Rowden

Activities for the Kiwanis Club of the Madera Ranchos continue to be fun-filled and action packed.

We heard from two very passionate guest speakers at our last meeting in January. A Liberty High School student and member of the Madera Liberty FFA Chapter, Nate Hutchison, spoke on his poultry project. I learned that there are chickens to lay eggs and chickens for meat. Possibly common knowledge but new to me. Nate hopes to attend the FFA State Conference and shared his Nothing Bundt Cake fundraising plan which the Kiwanis Club members, individually and enthusiastically, supported.



Liberty High Student and FFA Member Nate Hutchison presented his FFA Poultry Project to the Ranchos Kiwanis.

Then, in listening to Kelli Reeves, principal of Sierra View Elementary School, we learned of their "Whole Child" teaching philosophy. Yes, academics are of high importance, but character and citizenship are as important, creating "Purposeful People," shared Kelli. She invited Kiwanis members to be part of the learning process by volunteering to be a panelist during their focus on leadership.



Ranchos Kiwanis' newest members Charlie and Casey Dias were sworn in at the February meeting.

At this same meeting, we nominated our candidate for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Honorary Mayor Fundraiser. Sally Rowden, that's me. Our ballot boxes will soon be on display at local businesses for your \$1 votes. Seventy-five cents of each dollar goes to the Kiwanis with 25 cents going to the Chamber. This is a great way to locally support the Kiwanis mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time. The candidate with the most money/votes for their charity wins as Honorary Mayor. Call the Chamber for further information at 645-4001.

Moving into our first meeting in February, we welcomed a dedicated guest speaker and an induction of new member-

ship. The Scouts' Boy Scouts of America representative, Rod Chaney, gave an overview of the local boys and girls scouting programs. The local programs are in high need of new members, Rod said. Their rosters are extremely low. If you and your child have an interest in scouting contact Scouting.org. Click "Scout Me In," then plug in your zip code. Then click "Find And Reply." Contact information appears.

Our two new members inducted into the Ranchos Kiwanis were Charlie Dias and Casey Dias. Our Kiwanis Region 5 Lt. Governor, Larry Loucks, presided over the ceremony. With Kiwanis members from Fresno and Clovis also present. A huge welcome to Charlie and Casey. And thank you Second Sons Brews for housing us.

Two of our ongoing activities have finalized with exciting outcomes. The winning ticket for our Valentine's Day Limo Ride Fundraiser was pulled on Friday, Feb. 4 by a Pizza Factory patron. The lucky individual was Larry Loucks, our Kiwanis Region 5 Lt. Governor. He also had the winning ticket for the Second Place Gift Basket. Time for Larry to hit Las Vegas. Our Third Place Gift Basket went to Katie Harr. Congratulations Larry and Katie and thank you to all the community folks that supported this fundraising activity.

The other finalized activity is our sign on the northeast corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36. Take another peek, as it now wears a coat of beautiful cobalt blue paint. Thanks to member Bev Delk and her husband Sam for getting the job completed.

To end, I share a quote that I like: "The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play." Arnold Toynbee. From the book, *INSPIRATION - 365 Days A Year* by Zig Ziglar.

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 The Ranchos Independent

Classified

Carpet Cleaning

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents. **REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY! Call 559-908-9332.**

Construction

New construction, remodels, room addi-

tions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. **Call 559-970-4476.**

Firewood

Firewood for sale - Seasoned Almond firewood. Round or split. **Call 259-7122 or 645-5523.**

For Sale

For sale -- Cemetery plots. Two plots at St. Peter's "Sacred Heart" section. No opening or closing included. Side by side location. \$4,500 each plot. **Call 559-312-0891 and please leave message.**

Housecleaning

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

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including newspaper, shredded paper, containers, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. **Call Diana at 999-6832.**

Funds support Ranchos community organizations.

Salesperson Wanted

Salesperson Wanted - Retired? NOT retired? Like talking to people? Looking for some extra cash? The Ranchos Independent is look-

ing for an independent contractor to sell advertising. Set your own hours, make as much as you want. **Call 559-645-0634.**

Tractor/Trenching Services

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

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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.

	+		×		25			
×		+		×				
	×		-		23			
+		×		-				
	÷		×		24			
29		21		27				
1	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9

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SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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FREE TAX PREP
 For Seniors and Other Individuals

The United Way of Fresno and Madera Counties are offering FREE income tax preparation for seniors and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The returns are prepared by trained and IRS-certified volunteers.

You will need an appointment and there are three ways you can get one:

- 1. Dial 311.** Like 911 for emergencies, 311 will connect you with people who can further guide you on getting your taxes prepared for **FREE**.
- 2. Call 866-559-4211.** This toll-free number will do the same thing as the 311 call.
- 3. Go to www.uwfm.org/freetax-prep/** and follow the prompts.

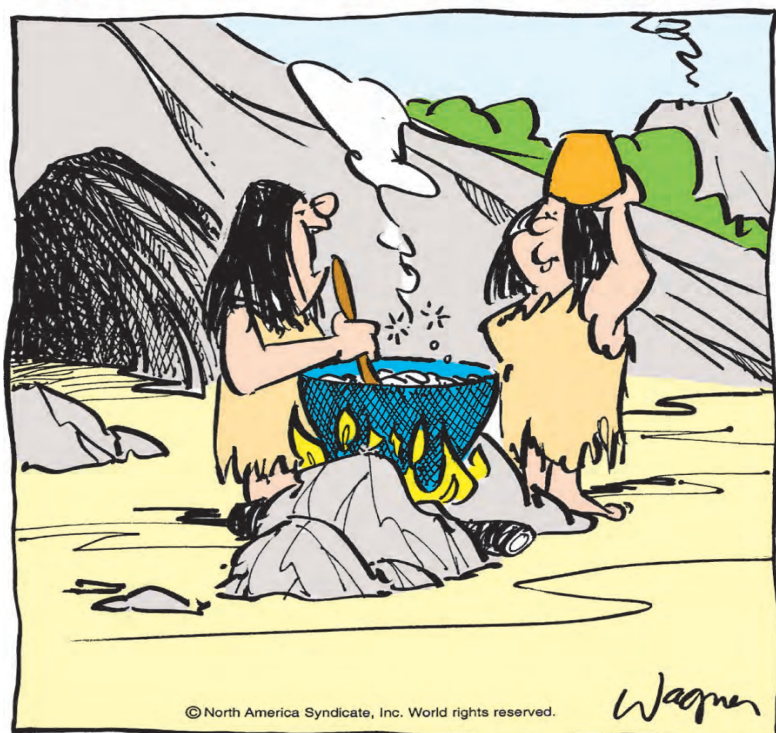
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

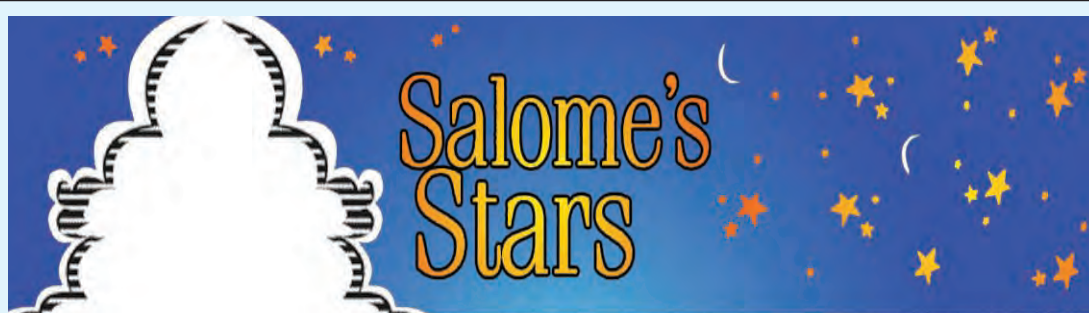


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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"I found the recipe on the wall of the cave."



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A close friend or relative has news that can change some of your plans. Be flexible. You could be in for a most-pleasant surprise at how things turn out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new opportunity opens just as you close the door on an earlier project. However, you should be prepared to make adjustments in your expectations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Expect a surprise ally in your corner when you confront a still-uncertain situation in your workplace. In your personal life, a family member has good news.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A co-worker could resent what he or she might perceive as arrogance on your part. Smooth things over with a full explanation to avoid a serious misunderstanding.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) There is no time for catnaps this week. A workplace problem needs your attention before it gets out of hand. Ditto a financial matter that must be resolved as soon as possible.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Pressuring someone to act quickly on a problem could backfire. It makes good sense to be both patient and supportive if you want full cooperation.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A touch of uncertainty lurks in your aspect this week. Weigh all decisions -- personal and professional -- even more carefully than you usually do.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You need to use your innate good sense to help you sort through career offers that might not be what they appear. A trusted associate can help.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Things move along more smoothly at work, but a personal relationship presents some challenges that need close attention.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Positive observations resolve the last lingering doubts about a recent move. Now you need to work on that still-pesky problem with a loved one.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might be a generous soul, but avoid being taken advantage of by those who have their own agendas. If you have any doubts, get out before regret sets in.

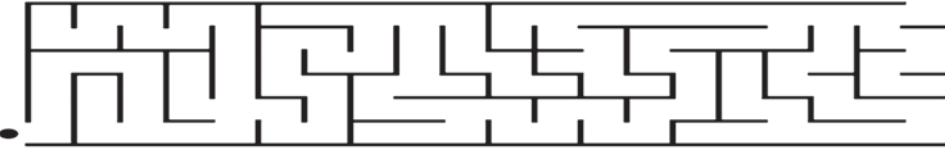
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your strength might be tested by conflicting priorities in your personal life. Weigh the facts and then make the only choice you can: the right one.

Born this Week

You have a deep sense of honesty and spirituality. People instinctively put their trust in you to lead them to the light.

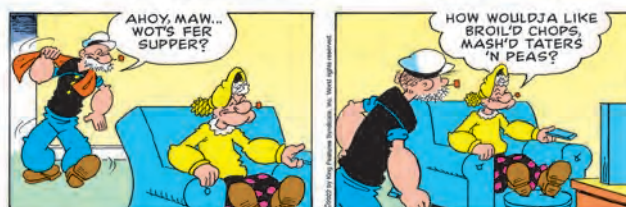
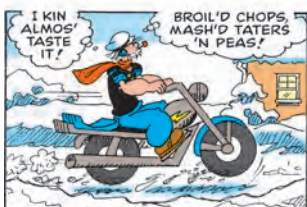
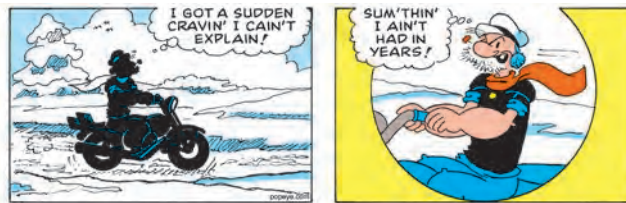
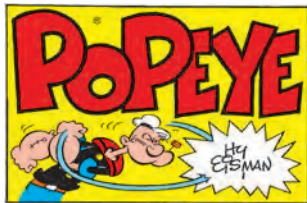
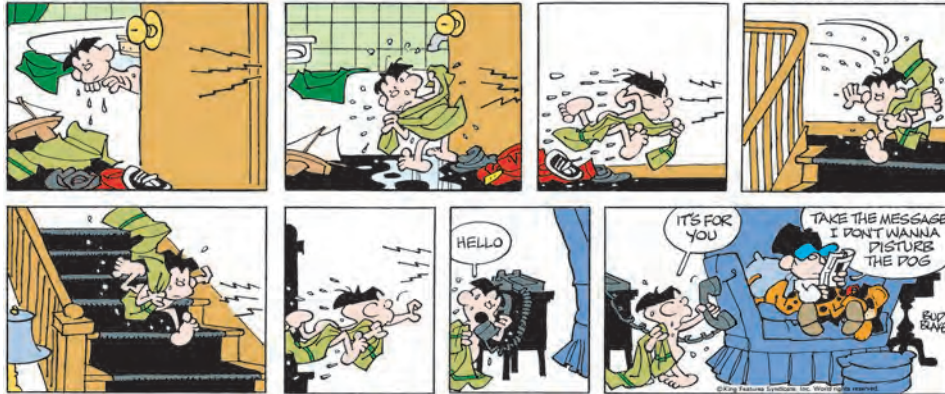
FUN PAGES

Kids' Maze



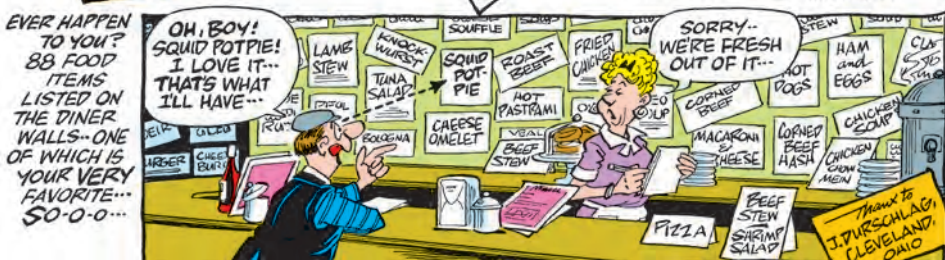
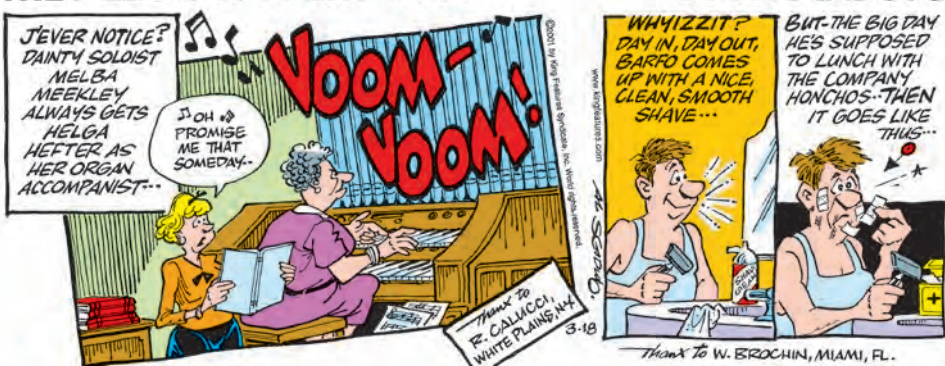
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



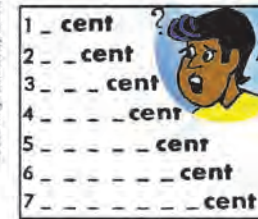
FACE CASE! Our artist says there are some 17 faces in this drawing. See how many of them you can find. Time limit: 60 seconds.

SELF STARTER! Challenge: To initiate some research. With how many toothpicks—without bending or breaking any—can letters of the word INITIATE be formed? Fifteen, 17, 19—what say?

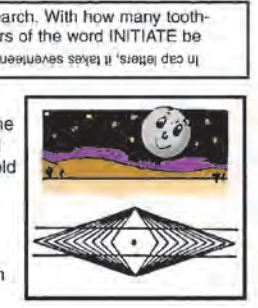
TIME WARP? What ho, Mr. Moon, when we fix our gaze on the black spot in the figure below, the two long lines (from side to side) appear to bend inward, as if to a distant infinity. Yet, when we hold the display at eye level and sight along these same two lines, alakazam, they are perfectly straight and parallel. Why is this so? It is a classic example, of course, of a design that fools the eyes.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



CENTS OF DIRECTION WORD-BUILDER
YOU ARE challenged to provide missing letters of seven progressively longer words, each ending in the word CENT (see left).
Definitions:
1. What a bloodhound picks up with its nose.
2. Newly done.
3. Interest unit.
4. Curved roll.
5. Still; inactive.
6. Teen-ager.
7. Grandly glorious, as a sunset perhaps.
Time limit: 2 minutes.



1. Scat, 2. Present, 3. Percent
4. Crescent, 5. Quiescent, 6. Adolescent
7. Magnificent

BIRD CALLS! Chickens (one red, one blue) are official birds of what two states?
Delaware (Blue Hen Chicken), Rhode Island (Rhode Island Red).

Wishing Well

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

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 • BLACKJACK TERMS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: Player Takes no more Cards

- Betting box
- Card counting
- Casinos
- Dealer
- Draw
- Going bust
- Hit
- Hole card
- Insurance
- Natural
- Push
- Split
- Surrender
- Table
- Twenty-one

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MYTHOLOGY: In Roman mythology, Cupid is the god of love. What's the name of the Greek god of love?
2. MOVIES: Which movie series features a character named Inspector Clouseau?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the basic currency used in Greenland?
4. HISTORY: What was the first toy to be advertised on U.S. television?
5. MEASUREMENTS: What is the unit of measurement used to gauge the speed and direction of a computer mouse?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. territory's unofficial slogan is "Where America's Day Begins"?
7. TELEVISION: What is the longest running scripted TV series?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president campaigned for election with the slogan "Happy Days Are Here Again"?
9. LANGUAGE: In British English, what is a windcheater?
10. ANATOMY: What part of the human brain controls hunger?

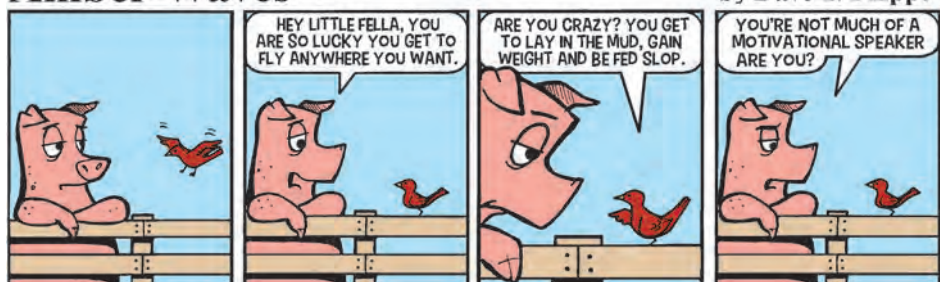
Answers

1. Eros
2. "The Pink Panther"
3. Danish krone
4. Mr. Potato Head
5. Mickeys per second
6. Guam, whose location is near the International Date Line
7. "The Simpsons"
8. Franklin Roosevelt (1932)
9. A windbreaker
10. Hypothalamus

Click on "Local News" at

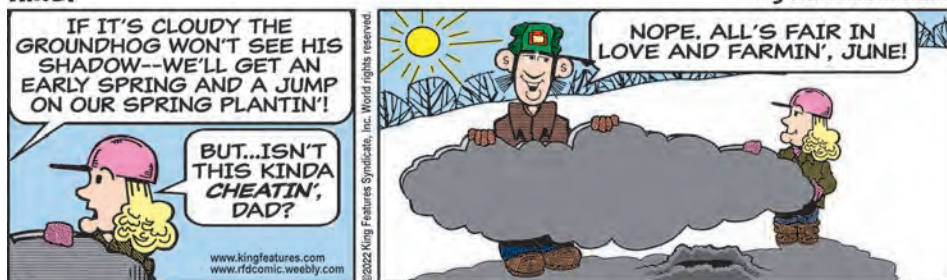
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



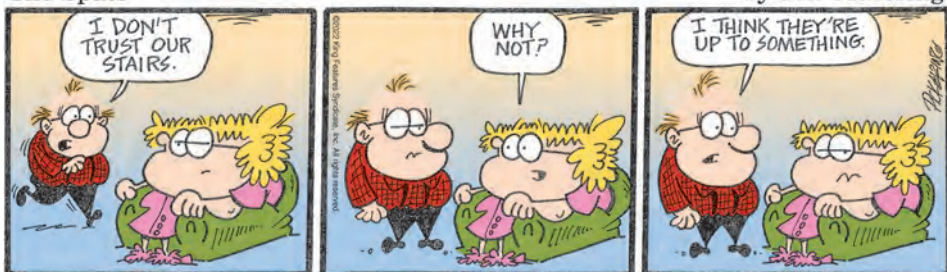
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

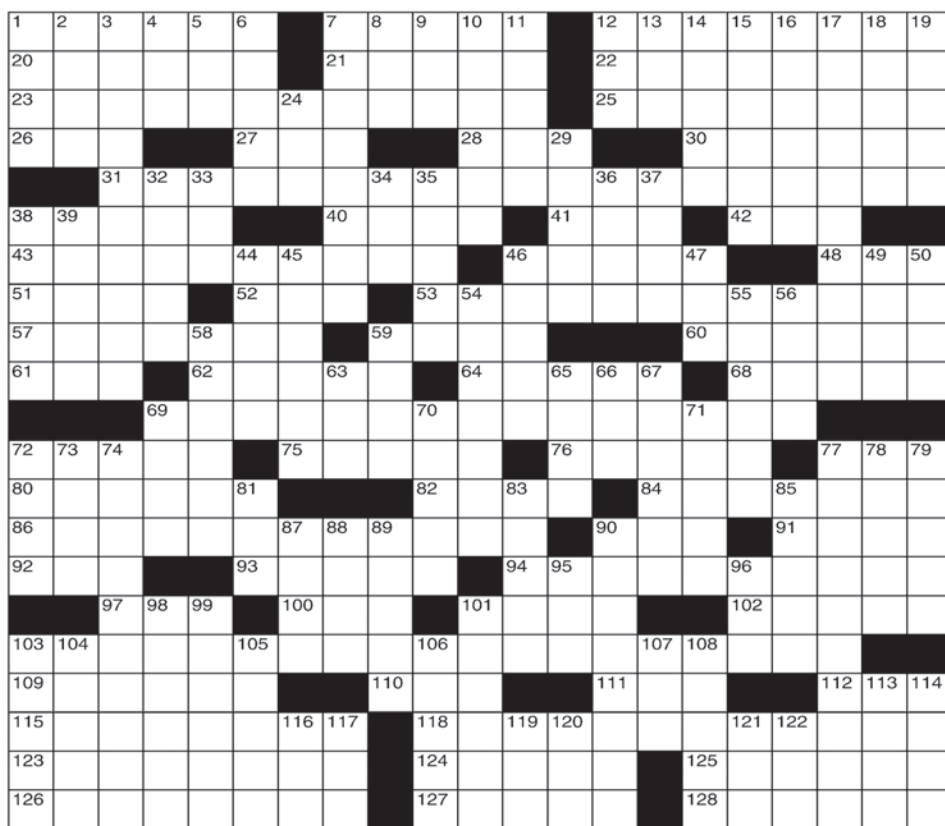
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Leash is shorter. 2. Tail is lowered. 3. Wall is shorter. 4. House is missing. 5. Tongue is different. 6. Front paw is hidden.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Unicellular swimmer
 - 7 Fold in a skirt
 - 12 Jolie of film
 - 20 The "R" of 33-Down
 - 21 Actor Cox
 - 22 Prepared for storage, as a hose
 - 23 Endlessly repeating programming problem
 - 25 Fashion designer in "The Incredibles"
 - 26 Hwy. felony
 - 27 Man-mouse middle
 - 28 What iPads run on
 - 30 "Boston Legal" actor James
 - 31 Higher, spiritual level of awareness
 - 38 Get a whiff of
 - 40 Lift to check the weight of
 - 41 Gig hookup
 - 42 PC key abbr.
 - 43 Elicitor of a major "Whew!"
 - 46 Zodiac ram
 - 48 Truckload
 - 51 Basso solo, e.g.
 - 52 Eligible for Soc. Sec.
 - 53 Head honcho
 - 57 Some hole menders
 - 59 Force unit
 - 60 Bouffant, e.g.
 - 61 Pipe joint
 - 62 — Yello (Coca-Cola brand)
 - 64 China's Zhou —
 - 68 Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"
 - 69 M114 howitzer, e.g.
 - 72 Prickly shrub
 - 75 Occurrence
 - 76 — d'Or (Cannes award)
 - 77 G-man, e.g.
 - 80 Cousin's mommy
 - 82 Actresses Carrere and Mowry
 - 84 "Look here as well," in a reference book
 - 86 1931 crime film starring Edward G. Robinson
 - 90 — Juan
 - 91 Late hours, in ads
 - 92 Minneapolis-Montreal dir.
 - 93 King of CNN
 - 94 1971 Elton John song
 - 97 CD- — drive
 - 100 Comical Costello
 - 101 Just OK
 - 102 Microwaves
 - 103 Bacterium, e.g.
 - 109 Blissful
 - 110 "General" of Chinese cuisine
 - 111 Miracle- (plant food)
 - 112 Vocalist Sumac
 - 115 Not together
 - 118 2, for helium
 - 123 Like rags
 - 124 Follow, as a pointer
 - 125 Join a force
 - 126 Evaluates
 - 127 Partner of Cheech
 - 128 Chinese system of calisthenics
 - 6 Universal truth
 - 7 "Amen, pastor!"
 - 8 Online chuckle
 - 9 Roxy Music's Brian
 - 10 Put holy oil on
 - 11 Manuscript mistakes
 - 12 King beater
 - 13 Nonverbal "yes"
 - 14 Knife of old infomercials
 - 15 Pass, as time
 - 16 French racing city
 - 17 "Upon my word!"
 - 18 "David" and "The Thinker"
 - 19 Imitating sorts
 - 24 Prefix with state
 - 29 Make afraid
 - 32 Fake fat in some chips
 - 33 Kind of camera, in brief
 - 34 Just-OK grade
 - 35 — a mile (not even close)
 - 36 "Yes, sign me up"
 - 37 14-member oil gp.
 - 38 Color
 - 39 Wall painting
 - 44 Did it wrong
 - 45 "Gigi" star Caron
 - 46 G-man, e.g.
 - 47 "Quiet down"
 - 49 Chances
 - 50 New Mexico skiing spot
 - 54 Lethargy
 - 55 "You got that right!"
 - 56 Floral symbol of purity
 - 58 Former "Top Chef" judge
 - 59 Rounded roof
 - 63 "P.S. I — U" (old TV show)
 - 65 They may be glossed over
 - 66 Carte lead-in
 - 67 "You got that right!"
 - 69 "Joey" star LeBlanc
 - 70 Anxious
 - 71 Make revisions to
 - 72 Farm bundle
 - 73 Lay waste to
 - 74 Picks off, as a pass
 - 77 Lighter catchphrase in old ads
 - 78 Lauder of fragrances
 - 79 Active types
 - 81 Sometimes-jellied fish
 - 83 — -Detoo (sci-fi droid)
 - 85 Latin for "year"
 - 87 Trig is a prereq for it
 - 88 Ending for buck or stink
 - 89 Spew lava
 - 90 Being amorous, to Brits
 - 95 Jerusalem's nation: Abbr.
 - 96 Darth Vader, as a kid
 - 98 Rococo
 - 99 Watery silks
 - 101 Whiskey type
 - 103 Political hostess
 - 104 Thoughts
 - 105 Injury marks
 - 106 Singer Hayes
 - 107 Bow's shape
 - 108 Tune for nine
 - 113 Fit together
 - 114 Beginner's painting class
 - 116 Pipe joint
 - 117 Mag staff
 - 119 Western tribe
 - 120 Sun.-Tue. link
 - 121 Article in Argentina
 - 122 1,051, in old Rome

FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m.

When possible, SEMCU may be able to include approved advertisements of events for our community on THIS page. Contact SEMCU at 559-363-9095 or info@semcu.org

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

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

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org**