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50¢



Meet the Ranchos' Newest Supervisor
Jordan Wamhoff takes on District 1 **by DJ Becker**

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Newly elected District 1 Madera County Supervisor and Fresno police officer Jordan Wamhoff brings a unique background and perspective to the office. At 36 years old, with a combination of banking, sales, small business and law enforcement skills, he may also be one of the youngest persons to recently hold a seat on the Board of Supervisors.

Wamhoff discovered the space and affordability of The Madera Ranchos area about 15 years ago, shortly after graduating high school in Reedley, and built his life here with his wife and three children. "It was just a great fit. I loved the open spaces, the rural, warm family feel of the area," Wamhoff said. "But The Ranchos isn't small anymore, and has its challenges."

When the supervisor's position became open, Wamhoff also saw the opportunity to meet and talk to residents and learn more about the many issues of the area. "It was a hard decision to run but I saw some things I wanted to change and ran for supervisor to be able to make a positive difference here," he said.

"I knocked on thousands of doors during the campaign. When you talk to that many people you get a good grasp of what's important here. Listening is the best skill to have, along with problem-solving and consensus-building. I enjoy problem-solving ... effecting real change, and helping people," he said.

Conservative and Independent

Wamhoff describes himself as fiscally conservative but independently minded. "I am most closely aligned with the Republican Party," but said he hopes to bring a fresh perspective to his district. "I also co-own a small solar panel company, so I understand and share residents' concerns of operating a small business."

"District One has the most dangerous roads in the County of Madera," Wamhoff said, and improving public safety is a top priority. As a police officer, he said he especially recognized



Meet the Ranchos' Newest Supervisor
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how the rapid growth in the area had seriously impacted emergency services and public safety on the area roads.

"Speed, commuter traffic and the lack of traffic enforcement are all issues I hope to prioritize and start working on," he said. "Modernizing the district and improving response times for fire, police and EMS. Minutes matter in an emergency. The current response times of 20 minutes or more are not acceptable," Wamhoff said. "We are growing rapidly, with some 6,700 plus new homes planned. We need to make sure we have sufficient police and emergency services and that our resources are being used responsibly."

Wamhoff said he plans to meet with Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue, CalFire and EMS officials as soon as possible to assess those needs and find ways to improve that service delivery. "I also plan to work with state legislators to increase our CHP officer allocations for Madera County, which

are currently way too low," he said.

Wamhoff went on to say the County also needs to better assess the traffic flow and start planning for a better traffic bypass. "Right now, Avenue 12 is the bypass from Highway 99 to Highway 41 for commuters. I think Avenue 9 would make a better bypass. It's the natural progression. In a few years, make it four lanes to handle the growth and reduce the busy traffic flow now clogging Avenue 12," he said.

Planning for a Community Park

"I've been advocating for state and private money for a regional park in District 1 for the last two to three years," Wamhoff said. "It's much needed. Ideally, it needs to be centrally located, 10 or so acres to accommodate future growth in the area. I've been on the lookout for suitable vacant parcels and look forward to working with Madera County planning on using state Proposition 68 funds, and even donations of land," he said.

Groundwater issues in the state are historically complex, Wamhoff said, "... but the State of California has blocked or neglected to provide the necessary infrastructure and water storage we need. Temperance Flat dam needs to be built and locally we need multiple new ponding basins for groundwater recharge," he said. "I've lived the well-water drama here. We also need ways to take the excess flows and make them work for us. Water is not just a farm issue, it's a security issue."

Wamhoff also said his history in banking prepared him on some scale to delve into the world of municipal finance. "I enjoyed working with business owners in business banking. I did that for about five to six years, before deciding to pursue a career change to policing. I continued to work full-time and went to the police academy on weekends before graduating as a reserve police officer," and then transitioned to full-time policing, he said.

Police Background

"Policing is an intense, problem-solving career, and a roller coaster of non-stop, front row action and it's a calling," which Wamhoff said he wasn't ready to give up. "It is taxing. You may have 40 calls waiting. But you help people in difficult or dangerous situations and effect real change."

Wamhoff credits his recent administrative role as vice president within the Fresno Police Officers Association with exposing him to the role and opportunities to effect change within corporate administration. "We have 850 or so officers in the Fresno Police Officers Association. I interacted on behalf of the "FPOA" with the mayor, city manager, city council members and attorneys, and many offices within the City of Fresno on budgets, wages, benefits, negotiating contracts, legal defenses, or basically assisting officers with almost anything else, in times of need."

Wamhoff said he is very used to multi-tasking and is currently reducing his police role in Fresno to just two or three rotating 10-hour shifts per week, as he transitions into his new role as supervisor.

Wamhoff laughed when he said he didn't feel like a politician yet, but he was looking forward to tackling the job. "I think being grounded and not only working as a politician brings a better perspective. But I am looking forward to getting settled in the office. Meeting with staff, the residents, figuring out the issues ... the opportunities, and being a part of Madera County's future."

Diaz Retires from GVUSD Board

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, founding Golden Valley Unified School District Board Member Mona Diaz bid farewell to the school district, the employees, the students and the educational community she was instrumental in creating.

After 23 years, Diaz has decided to embark on a new direction from the Golden Valley School District. As part of the founding school board 23 years ago, when Mona became involved with the newly created Golden Valley School District, there was no high school or middle school. Ranchos students had to leave the area to attend those schools in other communities. Sierra View Elementary and Webster Elementary were already established, but that was the extent of education in the Ranchos. Through hard work, vision and



guidance, Golden Valley Unified School District now boasts Liberty High School, Ranchos Middle School and a new elementary school – Stone Creek Elementary in the Riverstone development – to add to the existing two elementary schools. In addition, the District also administers independent study and continuation facilities, providing for all aspects of the education of Madera Ranchos youth.

Although Diaz is retiring from the school board, she is still going to be active in the community. A long-time member of the Ranchos Kiwanis, she is reported to be taking a position with the organization at the regional level.

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*Rigo Rivas
and
Juana Reynoso*

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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 February 8 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.

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Madera Co. Posts Property Taxes

“Over a hundred million dollars in property tax payments were collected and posted from the December 10th property tax deadline,” said Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector Tracy Kennedy.

Kennedy is pleased to report that all payments were posted and balanced by Monday, Dec. 21, 2022. The delay was due in part to the Groundwater Sustainability Project fee injunction granted by the Superior Court of California for the County of Madera on Dec. 6, 2022. The preliminary injunction did not expressly order refunds to be made, however the Board of Supervisors felt it was the best course of action for refunds to be issued on the Delta Mendota and Madera Subbasin GSP Fees. Refunds will be issued for those who are eligible by March 15. Kennedy said that although the Treasurer Department was unable to post and balance sooner than usual, “I am very grateful to have a team that strives to raise the bar with each tax season. It’s all hands-on deck and the staff works together to make sure all customers are taken care of,” Kennedy said. “The fact that they post and balance payments in such a short period of time is remarkable.”

The funds from property taxes are apportioned to local school districts and cities (Madera and Chowchilla). In this collection period, \$16.9 million were received in E-check payments, which is a 20 percent increase in the number of E-check payments collected compared to last year. “This is a considerable increase of which I am very proud,” Kennedy said. “Our office has been working diligently to promote our Free E-checks because they are easy to use, they post in real time, and they are FREE to the taxpayer.”

As a reminder, taxpayers can now view the total amount of taxes that have been paid in 2022 online for information, if needed to file income taxes. To verify

and/or view payments posted to your account, visit the Tax Collector’s website: www.maderacounty.com/treasurer. Just log in and follow the prompts for “Paying your taxes” and the entire tax bill will be revealed with payment information. Stay informed and sign up for free alerts today. Additional resources are available online via the Tax Collector’s website.

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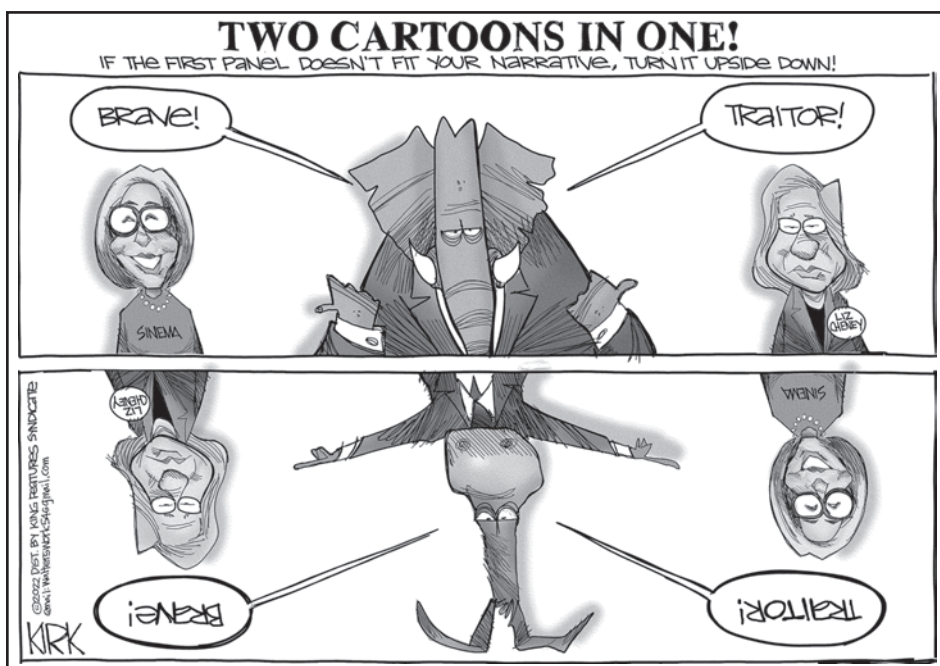
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Guest Editorial

Are You Mad Yet?

By J. B. Shurk

“What do We mean by the Revolution? The War? That was no part of the Revolution. It was only an Effect and Consequence of it. The Revolution was in the Minds of the People, and this was effected, from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen Years before a drop of blood was drawn at Lexington.”

Those are the words of John Adams from a letter written to Thomas Jefferson in 1815, nearly 40 years after the colonies declared their independence. Having had more than enough time to grapple with the world-shifting events the two revolutionaries helped set in motion, and looking back from the vantage point of success in their endeavors, Adams understood that American victory did not belong to the historical giants of their time, but rather emerged from the thoughts and dreams of the common people.

His conclusion is no less true today than it was back then. Before you can transform any system, you must first liberate the minds trapped within that system. If that sounds like an impossible task, it is not. In 1760, the American colonies were not united and the American colonials were loyal to a far-off king. Fifteen years later, their revolutionary fervor turned the world upside-down. Today, Americans are not united, and the American government appears loyal to the World

Economic Forum’s king. Consider where we’ll be 15 years from now. Things appear to happen awfully fast for those in power when they insist on burying their heads in quicksand.

I make no bones about it: I have a guttural revulsion to one-world-government types who seek to rule the world by turning domestic populations against themselves. “Divide and conquer” is the only strategy they know and oppression disguised as altruism is the only outcome they bring. They speak obsessively about racism not because they seek racial peace, but rather because the exploitation of such petty, ancient hatreds distracts people from the real problems those with power continue to create. They preach about “climate change,” not because they fear that our planet is coming to an end, but because scaring humanity into handing governments complete control over the use of energy hands governments complete control over humanity as well. They hyperventilate over COVID variants today, not because they seek to save lives, but because they seek to monitor and manipulate every movement of every life from here on out.

Just this week, the World Health Organization is putting the finishing touches on a set of amendments to its International Health Regulations that seek to further weaken American sovereignty and empower bureaucrats in faraway, foreign offices to bully ordinary Americans in the name of “health.” The Liberty Counsel, a non-profit dedicated to religious freedom, has done an excellent job going through the 46 pages of proposed amendments to highlight a few of the most obscene:

- In Article 1, the WHO is transformed from an advisory body to a governing body whose “standing recommendations” may be legally binding.

- In Article 3, the agency seeks to remove any formal limitations upon its power formerly requiring it to maintain “respect for the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons,” and instead replaces this language with a Marxist commitment to “principles of equity, inclusivity, [and] coherence.”

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 11

The Ranchos Independent

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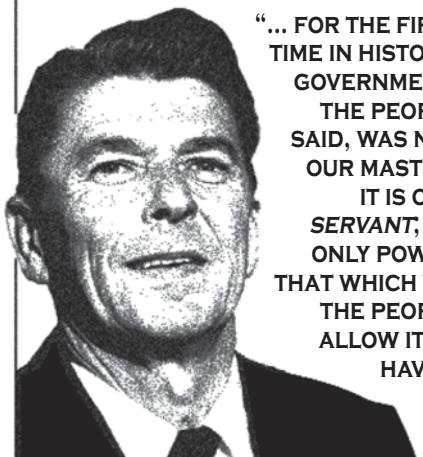
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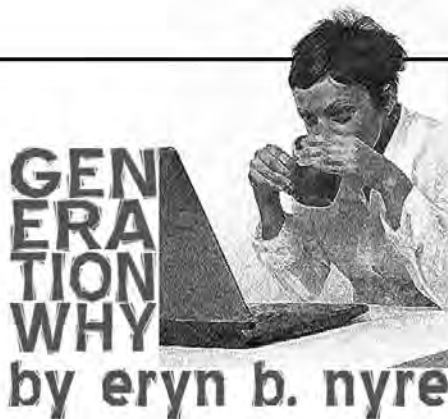
THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



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

Real Music 101



Like many people, probably most, music has always been a big part of my life. It's a big part of my family history as well. My mother's father was an incredibly talented musician who instilled that passion in his kids and grand-kids. My dad always had the soul of a Broadway performer trapped in the body of a hard-working husband and father. He would often break out his guitar and sing to my mom and me. He even enlisted me as his backup singer. Our performances of "Swingin'" by John Anderson remain our most requested.

I grew up in a home where we had family singalongs in the car, musical performances in the living room and an entire era of my youth where karaoke was the very cornerstone of my life. I could read my parents' moods by the music they were playing. I knew mom was doing her regular cleaning when I heard the luscious harmonies of the Temptations or

Four Tops tumbling out of the speakers. I knew she was doing a deep and probably angry clean, and subsequently

... I also learned what the heck "Yacht Rock" is and where that particular moniker came from.

that I needed to stay all the way out of her way, when the twangy voices of Reba McEntire or K.T. Oslin were warbling about the room. I knew my dad was in a particularly good mood when he wandered around the house booming out, "Bless your beautiful hide!" from Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Side note: this remains his most obvious musical tell.

Both of my parents took an active role in my life, but my dad really went above and beyond when it came to music. Mom played her music around me. I learned to love country and Motown because of her influence. For my Dad, however, it was more intentional. He didn't just throw on a record or a tape, or eventually a CD because sadly I am that old, but had to explain to me how the group was formed, what other acts each band member was associated with, and what was special about this band and their sound. It was a thorough education.

Some of his favorite games to play in the car were "Name that Tune" and "Stump Dad" where we had to sing a song to him to see if he could guess the title and the artist. He is quite difficult to stump.

The other night Dad had a chance to carry on the musical education he started with me when I was a wee lass. I was watching a little TV with the old man and we stumbled across a documentary about the soft rock of the 70s and early 80s. You know the songs I mean. You tell people how much

you hate that soft crap, but the minute you're alone in the car and Air Supply comes on you can't help but belt out every word to "All Out of Love" with a solitary tear sliding down your cheek. I see you.

First of all, this is a fantastic documentary. I recommend it. It's called "Sometimes When We Touch," and if you can finish those lyrics, you are definitely the target audience. I learned that I'm a bigger fan of the soft rock genre than I thought I was. Whenever anyone makes inquiries about my musical tastes, I tell them I listen to a little bit of everything, and I do. Classic rock will probably always be at the top of my list because it's the music that filled my childhood home, but I listen to classical, country, gospel, rock, 90s R&B and even some smatterings of contemporary music, although I've reached the age where I've heard myself actually say the words, "they just don't make music like they used to" out loud.

Not only did this documentary

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

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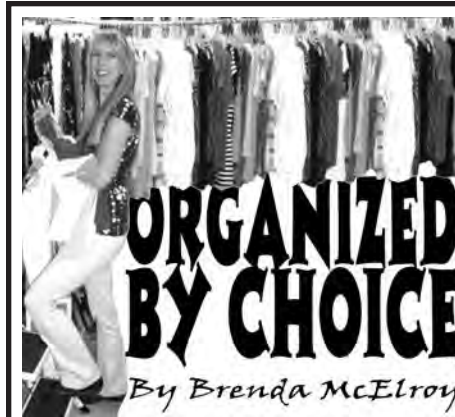
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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

bring back fond childhood memories with my dad, I actually did learn a few things. It's almost like that's the point of a documentary. It certainly brought to light an affinity for "Yacht Rock" I didn't realize I harbored, but I also learned what the heck Yacht Rock is and where that particular moniker came from. I learned that evidently I like a lot of songs from a band called Ambrosia that I didn't even remember existed. I learned that Michael McDonald has always sung like he stuffs marbles in his mouth. I'm convinced that he does this so that if he forgets the lyrics and just makes them up no one would know. I learned that this particular genre of music fell out of favor with the rise of punk rock, but it was when several hip-hop artists started sampling these songs in their music that there was a revival of sorts.

My favorite part of watching this documentary was watching my dad get lost in his own memories. He talked about seeing some of the artists live. He smiled when "Moonlight Feels Right" by Starbuck played and told me that he and my mom just loved that song. Then when the England Dan and John Ford Coley song "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight" played he got a little misty-eyed and said that was their song. He also made sure to pepper in little tidbits about the artist or the band that the documentary didn't cover, because he says it's his job to edify me until the day he dies.

Overall, I absolutely recommend watching this documentary. And, if like me, this genre of music is a little before your time, grab someone a little older and share it with them. It makes the whole experience more immersive.



Sorry Derrel

It's nothing personal. Part of my disappointment in seeing your "Here we grow again!" sign on Avenue 12 was that they aren't replanting an orchard where the orange trees once grew. You're "growing" a mini storage facility instead.

According to Neighbor.com (www.neighbor.com/storage-blog/self-storage-industry-statistics/#data-revenue), self-storage is a growing industry. The U.S. 2019 annual revenue topped \$39 billion with 1.7 billion square feet of rentable space at an average of \$88/unit/month (about \$1,000/year).

In my business, when clients are ready to empty their storage, they've often spent thousands of dollars storing what ends up being mostly donations and trash. Things they could live without but didn't. Let's look at some purposes that validate the storage industry, where the pitfalls lie, and how to avoid them.

Business Storage -- Self storage as we know it was first marketed as supply storage to oil companies in Odessa, Texas. In 1964 Russ Williams and Bob Munn created A1 U-Store-It U-Lock-It U-Carry-the-Key. It's still a good option for businesses with minimal warehousing needs for things such as products, supplies, archived records, etc.

A pitfall arises when no one is responsible for monitoring its

contents. Since the storage isn't on site, the chance of running out or purchasing too much is higher. Poorly labeled archives or no "Destroy After" dates, can cause a buildup and a need for additional storage.

Establish a system of monitoring inventory. Share with employees who need updates. Check with legal/tax professionals to determine "Destroy After" dates for archived documents. Label and date boxes accordingly. As you bring in a new year of archived docs, remove those ready for shredding. Ensure there's a person responsible for each duty.

RV/Boat Storage -- Generally, Rancho's lots have ample space for storing RVs and boats, but for some of our newer neighbors in Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo, renting RV space may be a necessity.

Some storage facilities offer amenities like wash racks and dump stations. Another option is renting space from a neighbor. Visit www.neighbor.com/rv-storage-near-me for information.

If you have a single spot that you frequent on RV trips, renting a space for your RV in that location can save you gas money by driving your car and picking it up once you're in the area.

A pitfall is not recognizing when the cost outweighs the benefit. Our interests, activities, and abilities change through the seasons of life. If using your RV or boat is a seldom if ever occasion, the cost of upkeep and storage may outweigh the benefit. Do the math to decide if you want to continue your investment.

Personal Storage -- "I'll just put this here for now." That's often the frame of mind creating clutter in our homes. It's the same when renting storage. "I'll just store a few things while our house is for sale." "I'll just

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 15

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Beans, Beans, Beans

(January 2013)

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



When you cook them in the soaking water it causes them to be very "gassy."

When cooking beans or peas, do not put salt on them until just before they are completely done. If you put salt on them in the beginning they will be tough and take longer to cook. I learned that the hard way when I cooked some split peas for soup.

A Favorite Bean

One of my favorite canned beans are kidney beans. I like to put them in pasta salad, but be sure to rinse them first. I also like them in taco or burrito fillings. My recipe for the filling is:

- Taco or Burrito Filling
- Hamburger
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped onion

Canned kidney beans

Packaged taco seasoning

Brown hamburger with salt and pepper. Add the chopped onion. Let cook until hamburger is done and onion is translucent.

Add kidney beans with the liquid. Bring to a simmer and add some taco seasoning. Let simmer until

most of liquid is gone. Enjoy!

I didn't use any measurements because I don't know how many you will be cooking for. I use one pound of hamburger, one can of beans and about two tablespoons of seasoning. This makes enough for me for three meals. I usually cook two tacos per meal, and then with whatever is left over I make a taco salad. Put enough torn lettuce in a bowl for your salad, warm the filling and pour this over your lettuce and put some shredded cheese on and maybe some chopped tomato, a little vinaigrette and you've got your third meal.

Another quick meal I like is my version of the Chili Size. All you

need is a hamburger patty, salt and pepper, grated cheese, chopped onion and a can of Ranch Style Beans.

While the beans are warming in a small pan, grill a hamburger patty. When it is done, place on a plate. When beans are hot, pour about half of them on top of the hamburger, add some chopped onions and grated cheese – you have a meal. There should be enough beans for two or three servings. Also, if you want to add bread to the dish, toast half a hamburger bun or a piece of sour dough bread and place on plate before the hamburger patty.

I love a three bean salad. I don't make it very often because when I have it, I eat too much of it. The best recipe I have found is:

Three Bean Salad

- 1 can each:
- Green beans

- Kidney beans
- Garbanzo beans
- Wax beans
- Thinly sliced red onion

Drain beans, rinse kidney beans, put into large bowl, add onion and set aside. Into a blender, or a jar with a lid, mix:

- 1/2 C apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 C Rice Wine vinegar
- 1/3 C sugar
- 1/3 C oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix until well blended. Pour over bean mixture. Using a tightly sealed bowl, store salad in refrigerator to marinate. If you don't have all these beans, or don't like one of them, don't worry about it – the last salad I made I used two cans green beans and two cans kidney beans.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

When I decided to do this article on legumes, I found out that not all legumes are beans, and not all beans are legumes. Confusing?

A legume is a dry fruit (some articles call it a fruit, and others called it a vegetable, so take your choice) that comes from a pod.

The more common legumes we are familiar with are pinto beans, limas, black beans, kidney beans and garbanzos – also known as chick peas. However, the green beans we bring in from our gardens or pour from a can are not legumes because we consume the pod – they are vegetables.

Beans (legumes) have been a staple in many homes for a long time. Our family grew up having beans at least once a week. I can remember a big pot of beans and a pan of fried potatoes.

Beans aren't a food that when you come home

from a busy day out of the house, you think, "Oh, I think we will have a pot of pinto beans tonight," because they will not be ready in the next 30 minutes. Beans need to be soaked for several hours, preferably overnight. My mom did it the quick way – just beans and water in a pressure cooker for 15 minutes, then cool the cooker and rinse the beans. Add whatever seasoning you prefer – bacon or ham, chopped onion, salt and pepper – back into the pressure cooker with enough water to cover the beans and cook under pressure for 30 or 40 minutes and they are ready. Always rinse the beans and put in fresh water after soaking.

The more common legumes we are familiar with are pinto beans, limas, black beans, kidney beans and garbanzos – also known as chick peas. However, the green beans we bring in from our gardens or pour from a can are not legumes because we consume the pod – they are vegetables.

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

Garbanzo beans are not one of my favorites, but I know they are used a lot in soups, salads and another thing is a dip called hummus.

Hummus

1 can garbanzo beans – drained, reserving 1/4 cup liquid.

3 to 5 T lemon juice – to taste

1 1/2 T tahini (a sesame seed paste)

2 cloves garlic, crushed

1/2 tsp. salt

2 T olive oil

Combine all ingredients EXCEPT the bean liquid and olive oil in a blender or food processor. Mix, adding only enough liquid to make mixture smooth. May take 3 to 5 minutes. Pour into serving bowl, adding a small amount of olive oil on top. Serve with pita chips.

Who doesn't like baked beans? Sometimes the canned ones are quite sweet so why not make your own to control the sugar. I like to start with canned pork and beans. I usually just pour the beans into the baking pan I am going to use, and add as I go, but here is what I use:

Baked Beans

1 large can pork and beans

1/2 C brown sugar packed

1/2 a small onion, chopped

1 T mustard

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Salt and pepper to taste

2 slices bacon – browned

Mix all ingredients except bacon in baking dish, mix well. Top with the bacon that has been sliced into bite size pieces and browned, rendering some of the fat out. Place in preheated 350 oven and bake for about an hour or until beans are thick.

The Bookshelf**New Ideas for *Your* Ranchos Library**

By Jerrica Edmundson

The start of the new year always brings new prospects to the library as I try to come up with new and innovative ways to interact better with the community around us. As such, we have started toying with a variety of ideas and need your input to help us find out if it is something we should pursue or if there are better ways we can serve you all.

First up, we are currently hosting a survey to gain input on a potential project called a "Library of Things" wherein we can have a circulatable collection of things to borrow from the library like gardening tools, power tools, health equipment, science gizmos, and so on — completely free of charge just like the library books, movies and hotspots we currently offer. If you would like to let us know what you would be interested in seeing available to check out, come on into the branch and we can guide you to the survey or even submit your responses manually.

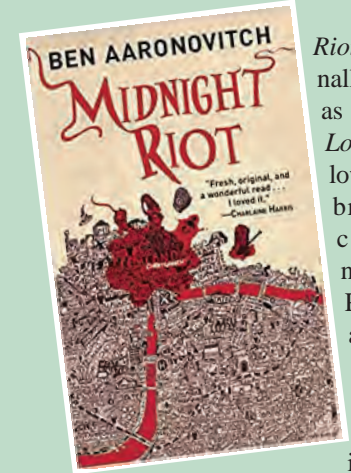
The second big project we are pondering is the potential start up of our own First Lego League robotics team that would meet at the library to learn how to work with each other on a team to compete with other local teams in Lego-based robotics competitions. More information about this is available in the branch or through the website at www.firstlegoleague.org. We know there are currently robotics teams at the high school and middle school but are also aware of many homeschool participants that may want to join a league like this. There are currently other teams in this same program through the Madera main library branch as well as in Chowchilla at their library, so we would potentially be joining the ranks with them but need to know if there is interest in the area to even start the process. The age range for this program would be 4th through 8th grade and it would be a program with multiple practice sessions and would be a decent time commitment, so keep that in mind. If you are interested in finding out more or are interested in signing up for notifications about starting a team, come on into the branch and we can help you out.

We still have a few other projects simmering in the background that are almost ready for announcement, but these are the ones we currently have on the front burners that I am excited to hear from you all about, and as always if you have any other ideas of things you would like to see at our specific branch, let us know and we can see if

we can make it happen.

Now that you know a bit more about what is happening in the branch, let's get back to the fun part for me: book reviews!

Jerrica's Bookshelf: *Midnight Riot* by Ben Aaronovitch



Midnight Riot, originally known as *Rivers of London*, follows a brand-new constable named Peter Grant as he starts working toward becoming a de-

detective in London's Metropolitan Police. Although he has high hopes and dreams, he is unfortunate enough to be assigned to the Case Progression Unit where he will drown in paperwork instead of ever seeing the action of a normal route. Shortly after his less-than-exciting assignment, he catches the eye of Detective Chief Inspector Thomas Nightingale, who has a much "spookier" area of expertise and focuses on seeking ghostly remains to find evidence to help solve crimes. Peter happens to have an uncanny ability to speak with the remaining spirits of the dead and Nightingale wants to get him to join his team. The ensuing story is definitely interesting and leads to the creation of a world that is similar to our own, and yet different enough to still make this technically count as a fantasy novel.

I found this book to be far from my usual fare of fantasy and yet still fantastical in enough of a way to make it intriguing. *Midnight Riot* is more of a police caper that made me feel like I was reading a story about Terry Pratchett's *Discworld Night Watchmen* and present-day London. Carrot has been replaced with Peter Grant, and the incorrigible Captain Vimes has been replaced by Chief Inspector Thomas Nightingale with a cast of additional characters that is almost as diverse and intriguing as any fantasy novel I've read. I felt like this book borrowed a lot from other novels that I've read, and yet it was still compelling enough to overcome my hesitations and drive me to need to find out what happened next. This was an overall quick read that introduced an alternate version of London that I wish was real.

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Senior Report

Kick-Off to a New Year

By *Melanie Williams*

The 2023 New Year is here! The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is ready to say a fond “goodbye and thank you” to 2022 and look forward with excited anticipation for 2023. Looking back at the last year, it seemed we were just starting to get back some of the activities that COVID took away. We were able to bring back the April Home and Garden Festival and the October Craft Fair. Now it’s already the beginning of January 2023. While many weekly activities have been up and going in

2022, we still need help building back other events. January is the time to renew your membership at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. New and Renewal Membership Applications for 2023 are available at the Center. The dues help to keep the Center open and provide activities for seniors in our community. If you have any questions, call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864. The first big event to plan is the return of our Bunco Party. Our last Bunco Party, in July of 2019, had 12 tables going through the event. Carol Wood organized the event and

everyone had fun meeting new people and winning some nice prizes. We hope to have our first big Bunco Party in May. We are looking for volunteers to help Carol organize the event. If you are interested in helping Carol Wood, call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864. The new activities for 2023 include a trip up to the Golden Chain Theater in Oakhurst. The Golden Chain presentations include the Hunchback of Notre Dame in April and the melodrama Angel of Calamity Gulch in June. If either of these presentations at the Golden Chain Theater interest you and you’re willing to travel up to Oakhurst, let us know

so we can add you to our list. The first Monthly Sale of 2023 is on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 8 a.m. to noon. The



Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Exercise Class has (from left) Cindy Lipinski, Jackie Whaley, Dolores Camacho and Carol Sierra-McLachlin working up a sweat.

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 11

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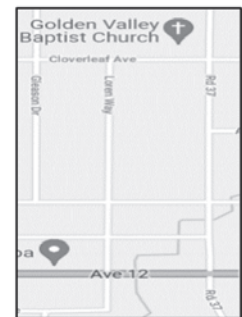
Golden Valley Baptist Church

2023 Family Events!

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

April 1→Spring Festival 9am-1pm
April 9→ “SonRise” Service 7am
May 14→Mother’s Day Celebration
June {5-9}→Vacation Bible School June 18→Father’s Day Celebration
July 4→Independence Day-Firework Celebration @ 8:30pm
July {10-15} →Fuge High Sch. Camp
September 17→National- “Back to Church”

9/29-10/1→Women’s Retreat
October 10→Pastor Appreciation Day
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
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- 1st Saturday of the Month • Men’s Breakfast 9am

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Click on “Local News” at

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

Treasure House and Boutique will have Valentine's Day items ready for the Monthly Sale.

Our volunteer gardeners in the Scout Garden are getting ready for the Annual Spring Home and Garden Show in April. If you would like to donate new plants or even some nice garden plants or cuttings, contact the Senior Center.

We are beginning a new year for our Brown Bag Program through the Madera Food Bank. Participants must fill out an application for the Brown Bag Program and mail it with a check made out to the Madera Food Bank. There are deadlines to participate in the Brown Bag Program, but you can still sign up during the next few months. The Senior Center serves the Madera Ranchos area as a distribution center for the Madera County Food Bank Brown Bag Program.

Seniors can join us at our monthly Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon. On the

third Saturday of each month, we celebrate our seniors and their special day. In February, we are meeting at Tahoe Joe's in Fresno. You can sign up at the Senior Center.

The first big event of the year is on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Join us for a Valentine's Day Potluck and General Meeting at the Senior Center.

Weekly activities include Exercise Class led by Jo Chase every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. Card Games are every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. Many seniors just like to stop by to work on our puzzles each month. A volunteer senior can give you information on our weekly activities and upcoming events every weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are looking forward to a great New Year at the Ranchos/Hill Senior Center.

Happy Valentine's Day.
Quote for February:
"Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises." – Charmaine J. Forde

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

• In Article 13A, the WHO's director general is empowered to redistribute wealth from advanced nations to poorer nations.

• In Article 18, the WHO is empowered to mandate treatments, proof of vaccination, contact tracing and quarantines.

• Throughout the 46 pages of proposals, the WHO creates the institutional structure for digital vaccine passports.

• In Article 45, the WHO is empowered to disclose personal health data.

• In Annex 1, the WHO is empowered to censor what it determines to be misinformation or disinformation.

At the end of the day, who watches WHO(m)? Certainly not the American people! Three years of COVID-1984 insanity put on steroids and made permanent, so that the World Economic Forum's global cabal can have a new, powerful toy. What an absolute totalitarian nightmare!

"Relax," the kind, international health authorities tell the world's peasants. "We come in peace. We need only for you to hand over your dignity, human rights, and freedoms and submit to our system of Marxist socialism, forced medical experimentation, lockdowns, digital tracking, and censorship — and in exchange, we will save your lives! Scratch that — you have no choice; our directives are now legally binding! Ha-ha, suckers! Science!"

Tyranny always comes in the form of false benevolence in which those who profess to be doing the most good are actually orchestrating deep and costly harm. It should be no surprise that totalitarianism today arrives under the guise of medical authority. When spiritual faith and moral virtue are eliminated from society, scientific "objectivity" becomes the perfect vehicle for spreading tyranny because its priests insist that a higher power of unbiased professionalism guides their actions.

When the "golden rule" is replaced with the cold, diagnostic rule of "just following the science," great evils are perpetrated against humanity — in the name of humanity — at the behest of self-declared "learned" men. Eugenics, genocide and forced sterilization all had the resolute backing of "science" at one time, and those who insist on forgetting those atrocities while elevating transgender mutilation, abortion on demand, "climate change" population control and forced experimental COVID injections in their stead, only place themselves in a special category of "useful idiot" for future historians to dissect.

While the United Nations and World Health Organization work the science angle to strip Americans of their rights and liberties, Pretend President Biden has joined hands with his communist comrades in arms from Canada and Mexico to release a joint

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 16



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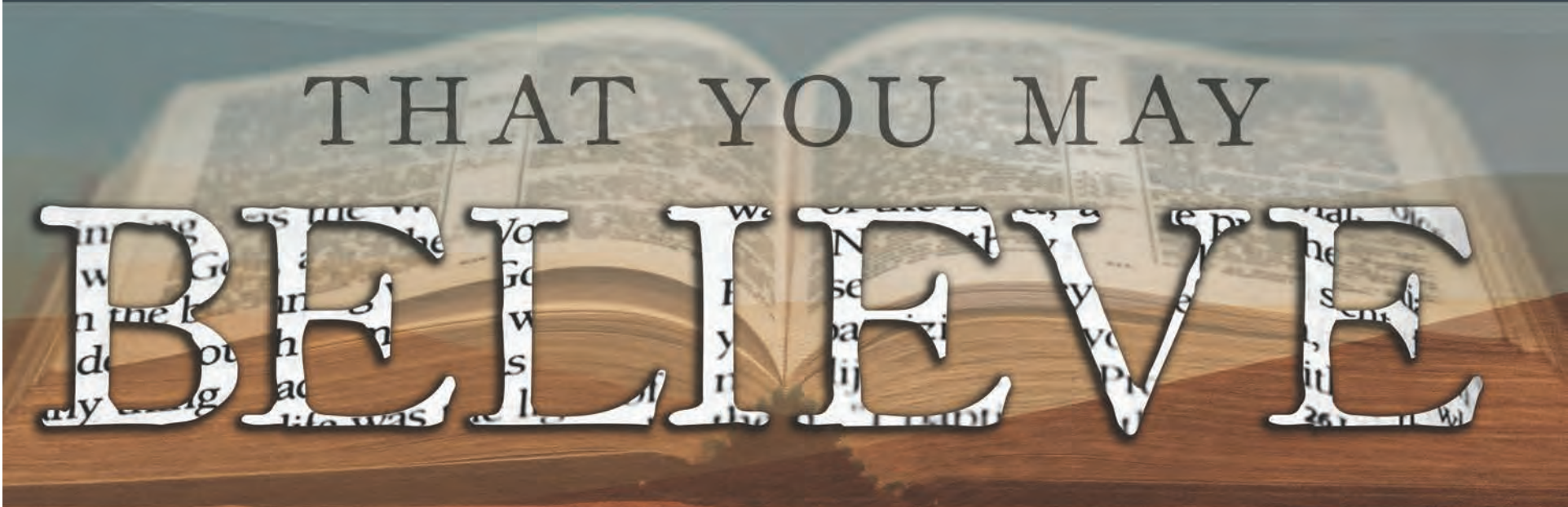
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SEMUCU speaks

By Sarbjit Singh Johal

SEMUCU: Looking Back at 2022 and to the future

The new year is an opportunity to review SEMUCU's accomplishments in 2022.

Like many local organizations, we geared up our activities after the COVID pandemic disruptions. However, SEMUCU never stopped helping the community during the last three years. In 2022, we continued to donate to local organizations and provided services to the community like discing of fields as part of the fire season, giving away free firewood, donating funds to building a much-needed stop light at Ranchos Middle School and donating funds to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Teen Valley Ranch and the Kiwanis,

among others. We also donated mandarins to the Sheriff's and Fire Departments and the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. SEMUCU bought a table at the annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed on March 11, 2022. SEMUCU member Verlaine Elinburg ran for Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos, an annual fundraising event for charity. She was able to donate to charity and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Altogether in 2022 during fire season, SEMUCU disked the fields of local homeowners to help and meet the fire code. We are prepared to disc more fields this year due to the rain as there will be more vegetation to cut down to reduce fire risks by the County-mandated deadline of May 1.

The recent above-average rainfall in California clearly shows us all the need for more groundwater recharge and better flood control. Over the last few years, SEMUCU has funded over half a million dollars and completed the construction of 146 dry (recharge) wells at no cost to approved applicants in the SEMUCU area. This year we seek to restart the recharge

wells program by seeking donations and grant money. If you have part of your property that you think would benefit from better drainage after storms, please contact us to complete an application.

SEMUCU continued its program of funding the cost of anyone in our area that completed a grant writing course. We're continuing to fund this program with the hopes that more people will participate in and help our community to gain access to grant money. One of the interesting things about writing and receiving a grant is the 20 percent management fee that is attached to most grants. That money

can be allocated to the grant writer if they can manage the grant. In short, you can take the course, find, and file for a grant and then get paid for managing it. So, a million-dollar grant may have in it \$200,000 as a management fee.

SEMUCU also is a member of our local Integrated Regional Water Management Group region, a body mandated by the state to assess and integrate water project funding in designated regions of California. Having a vote at the Integrated Regional Water Management Group allows us to file for grants from the Department of Water and Resources as well as have a say on which water projects are funded by the Department of Water and Resources. If you would like to represent SEMUCU at the Integrated Regional Water Man-

Please see SEMCU on P. 15



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SEMCU cont. from P. 14

agement Group meetings or help obtain grants, please become involved. Ideas on what grants we should apply for on behalf of our community are welcome.

SEMCU donated free firewood to about 65 homes with a good response from the community.

SEMCU has actively sought community input on its needs. We set up booths at the Seniors' Home and Garden Festival in April 2022 and the Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair in May 2022. From both events residents told us about

the need for a local community park.

If you are interested in improving the quality of life — managing our water resources, traffic, flood control, reducing fire risks and increasing school safety and recreation — please participate in our one-hour monthly virtual meeting and voice your opinion.

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

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



By Sarah Morgan

We all know about 4-H, but we might not all know about the 4-H Cloverbuds.

What are the Cloverbuds?

The Cloverbuds are a younger group of 4-H members. Our local club, Sierra Shadows, has a Cloverbud project led by Jesse and Chad



Bower. The purpose of the group is to give young children the opportunity to learn more about the 4-H program and to prepare them for further project selection."

Cloverbud members said about their club: Jett said, "I like meeting new friends and seeing cool stuff like fire trucks." Brooke D. said that she likes to draw and

make different types of food. Paisley B. said that she likes crafts because of the fun artwork. Iris loves making new friends and enjoys the fun activities. Brooke T. said that she really loves goats and horses. Joy said she wants to stay in 4-H just like her dad, and that she can't wait to raise her own animals. Elizabeth says her favorite thing is raising and showing goats. Paisley F. says that she wants to stay in 4-H because she loves to learn new things and it is a bunch of fun. She really wants to show all of the animals, big and small.

The Cloverbuds have made cookies, visited the fire station, visited the LEAF building, learned about chickens and had a cooking demo with cheese balls and fruit skewers.

The Cloverbuds are going to learn a lot about this club and their 4-H desires as they get older.

If you are interested in the program, the Cloverbuds meet the first Wednesday of each month and are always happy to have new members. Feel free to reach out to our local 4-H club.

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

move some things to storage during our remodel." "I'll just put Grandma's things in storage until we decide who gets what." "I'll just store my stuff until after we combine households and see what we need."

Legitimate reasons, but there are pitfalls. Things you put in storage aren't the things you use every day, right? Therefore, there's not an urgency about retrieving them, except maybe in the case of a remodel. Even then, you might only retrieve the essentials, realizing you don't need it all.

What's out of sight becomes out of mind. It's easier to write a check each month than to go through all those boxes. Besides, maybe the kids will want it someday, or you might have a yard sale. Maybe you've tried starting the process, but you get overwhelmed, or it gets too hot, or too cold to work in your unit.

Each of these scenarios have the potential of leading to long-

term storage. The crazy thing is, the longer things are in storage, the less value they have and the more it costs to keep them.

Before you choose to store things "for now," research the cost of storage and assess the value of the items you plan to store. Make sure their value supports the expense — even temporarily. Decide up front how much money (months) you want to invest and make plans to empty your unit by the date you determine.

If you've already invested more than enough and are looking for help emptying your storage unit, visit my blog "What's behind door #1213?" at www.organizedbychoice.com/getting-organized/2018/3/26/whats-behind-door-1213?rq=storage, or contact me. If it's something you can live without — then do!

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.

Kiwanis Korner

2023 Brings New Kiwanis Activities to Ranchos

By Sally Rowden

Madera Ranchos Kiwanis are into the New Year planning exciting community events. The first event for the year is a Valentine's Day Limo Ride on Feb. 11. You can visit Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C for tickets or call 559-970-7035 or 559-333-1913. You can also email rowdensally2@gmail.com. Tickets are \$45 each with the drawing to be held on Feb. 3 at the Pizza Factory at 6:30 p.m. Take a chance to win this hearty, fulfilled limo ride for yourself and 12 to 14 of your loved ones.

Future events that are in the planning stages include The John Minney Scholarship Fundraiser beginning in March. Then in April a Madera Ranchos Talent Show, with May bringing a Food Truck Hoe Down and Corn Hole Competition. Leading us into November with the Christmas Tea & Boutique. It's al-

ways possible a few other events could take place so continue to follow us in the Ranchos Independent and visit our Facebook page at Madera Ranchos Kiwanis. Monies raised support our children and our communities.

We will be supporting the Madera County 9/11 Fire Fighter Memorial. If you recall, a 14-foot steel beam salvaged from the Twin Tower attacks on Sept. 11 traveled through the Madera Ranchos on May 28, 2022. Its final resting spot is at the historic Courthouse Park in Madera County. To complete the memorial the community can become involved in the 9/11 Fire Fighter Memorial Brick Program. Individuals, groups and agencies can donate \$150 top obtain an 8" by 8" brick with their own inscription to be part of the brick pathway that will lead to the memorial site. Our brick will read "Ranchos Kiwanis". For more information go to madera911memorial.com.

If you've been following our articles you know that I enjoy closing with a quote. Here's my choice to start out the year. "If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours." – Dolly Parton

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Drawing will be held February 3rd at Pizza Factory at 6:30pm. You do not need to be present to win.

*All proceeds go to the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club, which supports the children of our community and schools.



EDITORIAL cont. from P. 11

"Declaration of North America," or DNA, in which Biden, Trudeau and López-Obrador make clear that American sovereignty and self-determination will be replaced with a Marxist, bureaucratic super-state. Echoing the WHO's newly created mission objectives, North America's Commie Declaration asserts that government obsessions with diversity, inclusion, equity, climate change, mass migration and health will forever take precedence over individual liberty, limited government, constitutional safeguards or the Bill of Rights. Welcome to the

"ruling class's" progressive vision for Americans' future, in which a tyranny of self-proclaimed expertise will be used to smother Americans' freedoms for their "own good." It goes without saying that the DNA should be put on Do Not Resuscitate ASAP.

Does this make you mad? Does this get under your skin and put a grimace on your face?

Good.

Cold, righteous anger is what changes the world — not the Machiavellian machinations of the World Economic Forum's national security surveillance State. The globalists have bought into their new deterministic re-

ligion that quantifies human beings as nothing more than algorithms that can be manipulated at will to do the bidding of the self-identified "ruling elites." They see themselves as "gods" and the rest of us as "ones" and "zeroes" who have no free will of our own. As with all destroyers of humanity who falsely identify as its saviors, they are blinded by ignorance and consumed by hate. While they seek more and more control over humanity, they are waking up more and more humans who refuse to be controlled. They are reminding the world that the real battle before us is between "progressivism's" obsession with death and the human race's natu-

ral inclination to be free.

When George Washington crossed the Delaware River in a surprise attack against Hessian forces on Christmas Day, after all, he didn't first ask permission from a Deep State or make sure the health bureaucracy said, "okay." No Dr. Fauci, WHO or DNA could have gotten in the general's way. What the globalists don't understand is that in America and throughout the West, the Delaware River lies just ahead. And once a revolution in the minds of the people begins, they'll waste no time getting to the other shore.

This editorial originally appeared on Redwave.press.

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1/23



Debt Ceiling Needs Repair!

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Unless we've all been comatose for a while, we've heard from every news source ad infinitum that raising the national debt ceiling is crucial to saving the world. Apparently, the sky is falling. America as we know her is doomed unless Congress raises the debt ceiling! Having been increased by \$4 trillion in just two years, the current debt limit is already a whopping \$34.1 trillion – and we're told that is not enough. Even the sky is not the limit. Thank goodness that Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin will use "extraordinary measures" to finance the government, measures that the Treasury calls "behind-the-scenes accounting maneuvers." Question: Are we ordinary citizens allowed to use "behind-the-scenes accounting maneuvers" when filing our tax returns?

The U.S. Department of the Treasury website states: *The debt limit is the total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, tax refunds and other payments. The debt limit does not authorize new spending commitments. It simply allows the government to finance existing legal obligations that Congresses and presidents of both parties have made in the past.*

Failing to increase the debt limit would have catastrophic economic consequences. It would cause the government to default on its legal obligations – an unprecedented event in American history. That would precipitate another financial crisis and threaten the jobs and savings of everyday Americans – putting the United States right back in a deep economic hole...

Congress has always acted when called upon to raise the debt limit. Since 1960, Congress has acted 78 separate times to permanently raise, temporarily extend, or revise the definition of the debt limit ... Congressional leaders in both parties have recognized that this is necessary.

Wow, that's a lot to unpack.

Is the cart before the horse here? Shouldn't the debt ceiling limit the spending? Instead, it seems that Congress spends

as much as it wants and *then* raises the ceiling to cover their profligacy.

Please notice that "*Failing to increase the debt limit would... cause the government to default on its legal obligations.*" Perhaps members of Congress should have considered that before spending like drunken politicians.

Also note the boast that Congress has *never* failed to raise the debt limit or accommodate spending increases. No wonder we are drowning in debt. Excessive spending is allowed and expected and Congress is complicit. In fact, lawmakers, including Republicans, voted to pass the massive \$1.7 trillion omnibus bill just last month, doing their best to spend the country into oblivion.

If Congress *always* spends more than the debt limit allows and then raises the limit to cover its spending sprees, then there *is* no limit!

Who's demented?

President Joe Biden has called Republicans "fiscally demented" for criticizing the Democrats' big spending habits. Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn countered: "If wanting a balanced budget is fiscally demented, I'm not sure what you would call the economic devastation under President Biden's leadership."

Senator Katie Britt of Alabama said that President Biden's reckless tax-and-spend policies have fueled generationally high inflation and crushed Americans who are simply trying to make ends meet. "He's hired 87,000 new IRS agents while leaving our Border Patrol agents short-handed to deal with the unprecedented national security and humanitarian crisis he caused at the border."

Representative Andy Biggs tweeted: "We cannot raise the debt ceiling. Democrats have carelessly spent our taxpayer money and devalued our currency. They've made their bed, so they must lie in it."

Republicans have insisted that raising the debt ceiling should be tied to reduced spending. Imagine that. But the White House's response has been that there would be no negotiation. In other words: spend, spend, spend. There is no ceiling.

I never dreamed that I'd consider myself part of a "demented" group. But if requirements for inclusion are the desire for fiscal restraint, lower taxes, a safe and stable society and limited government intrusion in our lives and businesses, then you can count me as part of the club. As a matter of fact, I'm so demented that I want our southern border secured and the human and drug traffic stopped. I want the global warming lie to be put to rest forever and for the Davos World Economic Forum crowd to take their carbon-spewing jets home and stay there.

And, yes, I'm so demented that I still love America and pray for her return to sanity and Constitutional principles.

In Memoriam

David Allen Bauer

December 22, 1973 - December 29, 2022



David Allen Bauer was born on Dec. 22, 1973 to Ralph Bauer and Roberta Lewis. He was always active and played a variety of sports growing up, including football, basketball and setting a track record at Madera High for the 400

meter sprint in 1992. David never took life too seriously and always had a smile on his face. At 19 years old, he got a job at UPS and that was where he worked for almost 30 years as a part of the "brown family." It was there that he made lifelong friendships and a lasting impact on every person he met.

In 2001, David met Leann McQueen while he was delivering a package to her workplace. They both hit it off immediately. On April 6, 2002, David and Leann got married and moved into his house in the Ranchos with her daughter, Morgan. David and Leann welcomed their daughter, Jensen, in 2003. In 2005 they added their last daughter, Karsyn, to the family. Nobody rocked being a "girl's dad" more than David. He wore the badge with honor. David was so proud to be the dad of three daughters.

Everyone who knew David knew he loved a good tech gadget and he always found a way to MacGyver anything around him. David enjoyed

watching his youngest play softball — and was arguably the most devoted softball dad out there. More than anything though, he loved his family. He also loved to be able to help people. He would drop everything to help some-

one in need. That was just the kind of person he was.


In 2020, David became a grandpa to Morgan's son, Greyson. Everyone thought he loved the role of being a dad until they saw how much he loved being a grandpa. There was no better pair than David and his grandson.

David Bauer passed away on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022 at 49 years old. He is survived by his wife, Leann, their three daughters, Morgan, Jensen and Karsyn, his son-in-law Kevin, his grandson Greyson, his brothers, Jason and Steven, his sisters, Lisa and Nicole, and his father, Ralph and mother, Roberta.

There will be a Celebration of Life for David on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Liberty High School theater to honor David, his life and the amazing person that he was. David's kindness, willingness to help everyone around him, love for his family, his smile and the sparkle in his eyes will never be forgotten.

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- To make a nice ice pack, enclose several ice cubes in a plastic, sealable baggie, then wrap in a bandana. You can tie the ends together to keep the cover from slipping. When you want to re-freeze, put the baggie in the freezer and hang the bandana to dry. It will dry very quickly and can be reused soon.



- Want to get the most bang for your buck at the takeaway salad bar? Load up on bacon, walnuts, cheese, meats and dried fruits; go light on green beans, cucumbers, hard-boiled eggs, celery, radishes and chickpeas, which were marked up 200 to 300 percent.

- "When you clean out your fish tank, recycle the used water by pouring it on your house or garden plants. I don't know what it is in the water, but it makes shrubs and flowers grow like crazy." -- Patti in Orlando, Florida

- "The all-time best remedy for a runny nose or sore throat doesn't cost hardly a thing: It's plain old saltwater. Mix a half-teaspoon into a cup of hot water and gargle twice to three times a day. If the taste is off-putting, try swishing a bit of mouthwash in your mouth just before you gargle with the saltwater. This works so well, and even my doctor thinks it's a great idea." -- F.L. in Michigan

- Use salt to clean out your garbage disposal. Kosher salt has larger grains that work very well. Dump a half-cup in the disposal, run the cold water and hit the switch. The grains scour the inside, leaving a better smelling drain.

- "Here's a great after-workout drink I just found out about: chocolate milk. The trainer at my gym prefers it over the fancy and costly "post-workout" drinks at the gym's smoothie bar." -- I.E. in Oregon

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

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		+		12
+		x		-	
	+		+		19
x		-		x	
	x		-		10
20		11		8	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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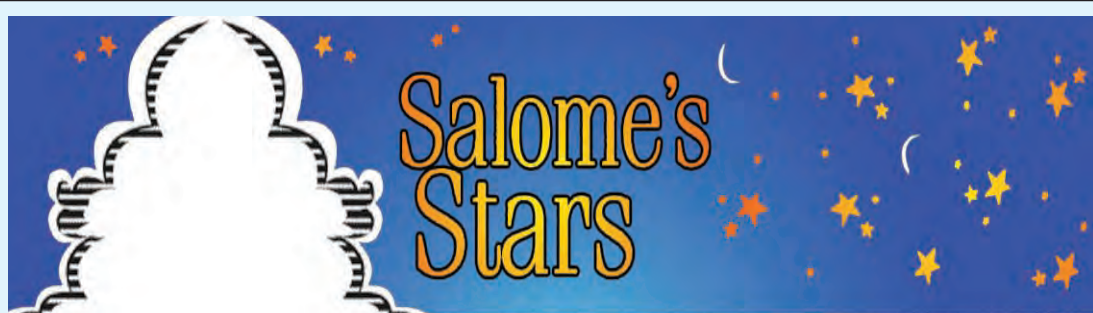
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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



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"Your money is going through a slight downsizing."



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down after the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The creative Twin finds outlets for his or her ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Best to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, rather than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the start of your new year. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what happened.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's fine to appreciate the importance of having a "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you so that you can resolve a difficult workplace problem before it ruins the dynamics in place.

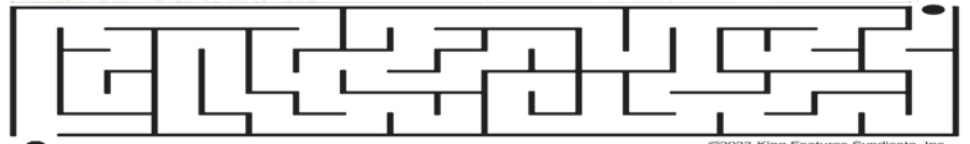
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

Born this Week

*You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others.
You would make a fine social worker.*

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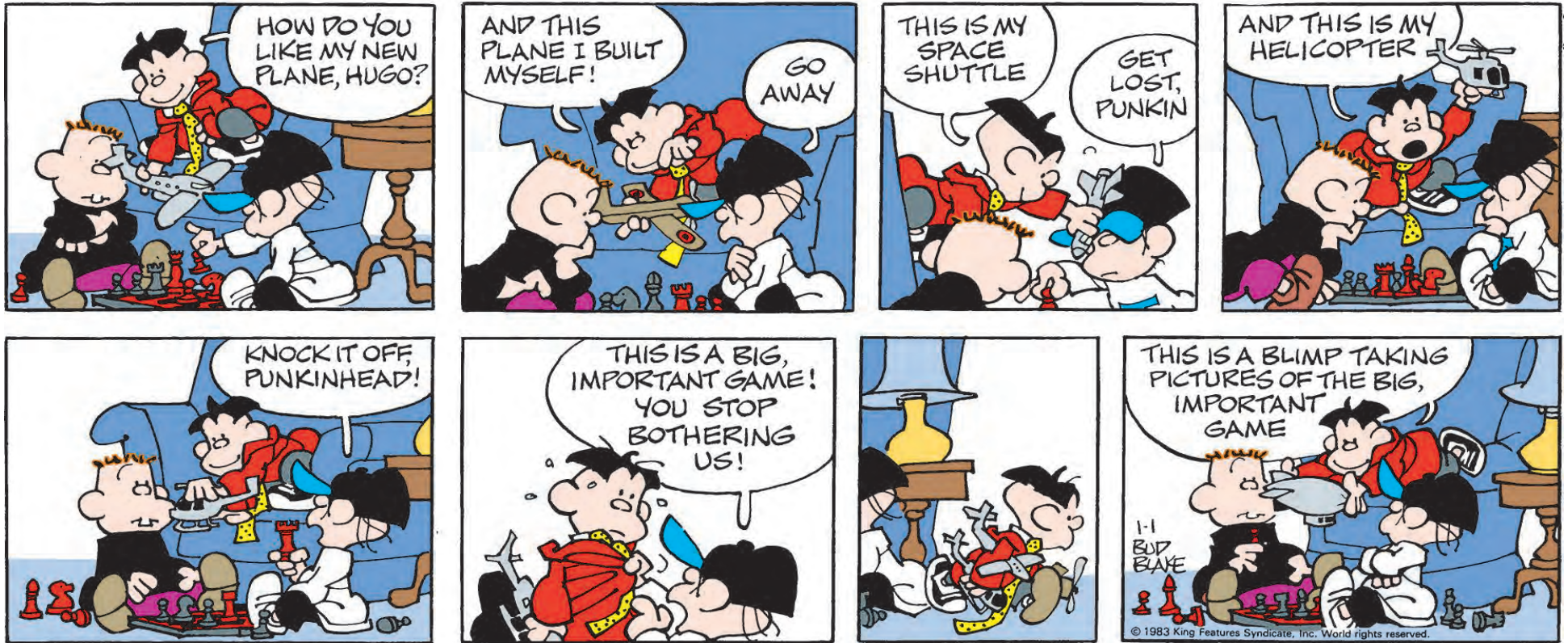
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: What is the name of the ancient trade route that connected the East and West?
2. LITERATURE: What was playwright Anton Chekhov's other profession?
3. TELEVISION: Who are the next-door neighbors in TV's sitcom "Laverne & Shirley"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has the most countries?
5. MUSIC: What does the shortened term K-pop stand for?
6. FOOD & DRINK: What is another name for a kiwi?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: From which Roman god did the month of January get its name?
8. MEDICAL TERMS: If you suffer from medial tibial stress syndrome, what is the condition commonly called?
9. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is represented in the condition called ablutophobia?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby turkey called?



1. The Silk Road
2. Physician
3. Lenny and Squiggy
4. Africa
5. Korean popular music
6. Chinese gooseberry
7. Janus, the god of beginnings and endings
8. Shin splints
9. Fear of bathing
10. A poult

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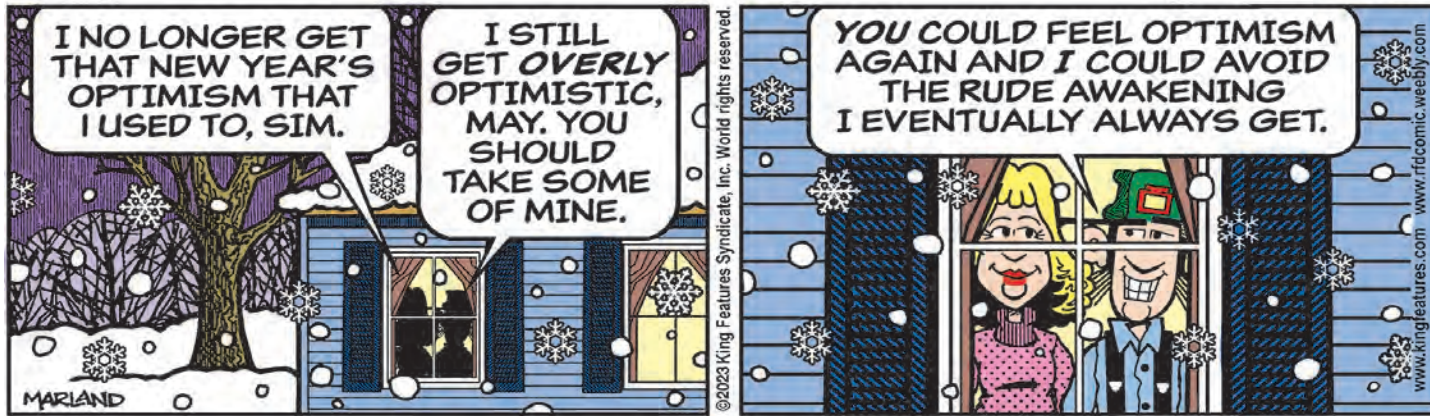
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



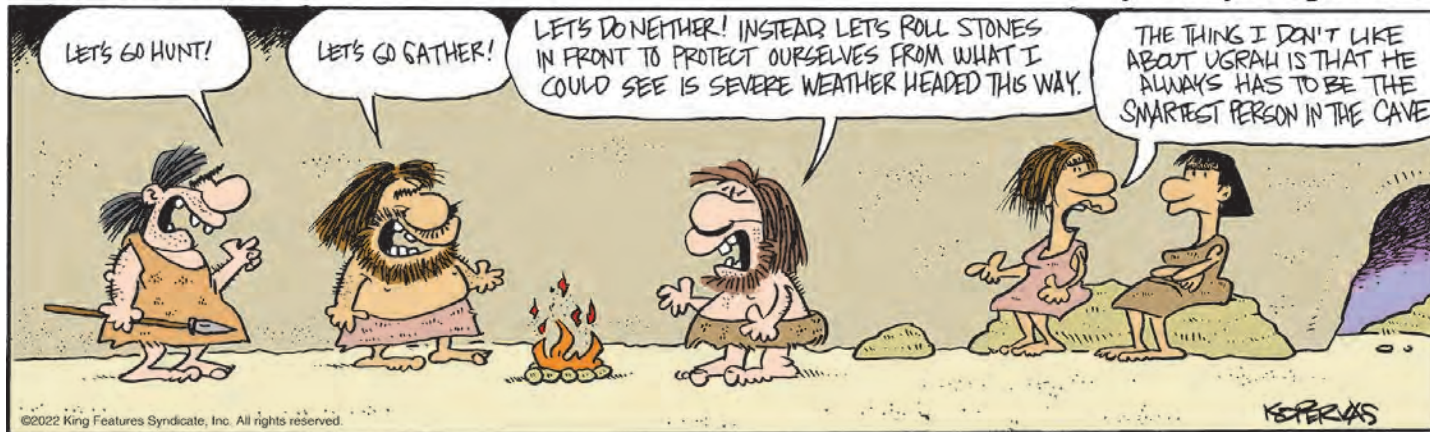
R.F.D.

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by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

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

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

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

- Cab ride
- Champagne
- Cheering
- Confetti
- Countdown
- Dancing
- Festive
- Fireworks
- Friends
- Hats
- Midnight
- Mistletoe
- Music
- Streamers
- Toasts

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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