

# The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 15 Issue 7 2019

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## One man's treasure ...



## ... can be a neighbor's eyesore.

Madera County Code Enforcement is ready to help clean up  
Madera County. We tell you how. **By George Lurie**

### *In This Issue*

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**W**hat can a mountain area property owner do when a neighbor's grass grows head high or a rusty old junker has been parked out front since the 1990s? Call the Madera County Code Enforcement department; or better yet, file a complaint online.

Madera County receives hundreds of citizen-generated complaints a year according to Joe Trujillo, the County's supervising code enforcement officer. In order to handle the complaints, the County employs Trujillo and three additional code enforcement officers.

The small, extremely active department has to cover a lot of ground — more than 2,100 square miles within Madera County's boundaries. In 2018, the County received a total of 602 code enforcement-related complaints. "There were 438 cases initiated" from those complaints, Trujillo said. So far in 2019, Madera County has initiated 207 responses to the 314 complaints the Code Enforcement department has received.

**Mostly Trash and Debris**

"Most of our complaints involve trash, junk and accumulated debris on private property that can be seen from public view or neighboring properties," Trujillo said. "We also receive complaints regarding illegal encampments, inoperable, immobile, unregistered vehicles that are being stored on private property, and recreational vehicles that are being used as permanent living space."

The County does track complaints it receives by specific area. "To date for 2019, 93 cases have been initiated in eastern Madera County, with the majority of those cases being in the North Fork and Oakhurst communities," Trujillo

said. What kinds of complaints does the county investigate and what determines whether code enforcement officers respond or sheriff's deputies?

"Code Enforcement is responsible for enforcing the zoning code and any other possible violations of the Madera County code," Trujillo explained. "The Sheriff's Department enforces violations of the Penal and Motor Vehicle Code."

Trujillo was asked where the department was most active — geographically — and what were the most common complaints to which officers responded.

"Our cases are spread throughout the county," Trujillo said. "In the Valley, we are most active in the Chowchilla/Fairmead area. In the mountains, we are most active in North Fork and Oakhurst."

**Warranting Investigation**

Before sending officers out into the field, Trujillo has to determine whether a complaint warrants investigation or not.

"The circumstances and information provided in each complaint are reviewed for a possible violation and probable cause to inspect the property," Trujillo said. "Our processes for investigating complaints are much like those of law enforcement in that we need to have probable cause for investigating a property. After we receive a complaint and the complaint is reviewed, the case is assigned to a code enforcement officer."

That officer's caseload and the work priorities "will determine how soon they respond — unless the concern is an immediate health or safety issue."

Please see **CODE** on P. 7

## County's First New Fire Station Dedicated in Tesoro Viejo

Madera County's newest fire station -- as a matter of fact, the first one to be built in Madera County in eight years -- was dedicated July 11 in the new community of Tesoro Viejo.

Located at 4150 Town Center Blvd., which is Highway 41 and Tesoro Viejo Blvd., Madera County Fire Station No. 7 was dedicated July 11 but the station has been online since last October. Already called "Lucky Number 7," the fire station is housed in a 4,600-square-foot building that also includes a Madera County Sheriff substation. It was designed to serve the Tesoro Viejo community, as well as the surrounding communities of southeastern Madera County, including the Ranchos.



*The new fire station in Tesoro Viejo is the first for Madera County in eight years and will help serve the Madera Ranchos area.*

The fire station features two apparatus bays and three dorm bedrooms to house one fire company. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with firefighters trained for emergency medical assistance. The new fire station and fire engine will allow the fire department to provide better service with advanced firefighting technology that will benefit the residents of Madera County.

The new fire engine is a 2018 Rosenbauer with a rear mounted 1,500 GPM pump and 750 gallon water tank, eliminating the large traditional pump house for a more maneuverable truck.

## Hwy. 99 at Ave. 12 Preparing For One Year Transformation

If your travels for the next year involve driving west on Avenue 12 to Highway 99 and then turning north, get ready for a shock.

Caltrans and the Madera County Transportation Commission held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 19 announcing the beginning of construction on the State Route 99 Madera Widening Project in Madera County. It's going to cost \$86.1 million and will "revitalize" 23.4 lane miles of highway north to Avenue 17.

Included in the project plans are 11.7 new lane miles to be constructed, an upgrade to the Almond Avenue on-ramp, construction of 3,500 feet of drainage systems and five maintenance vehicle pullouts, installation of one changeable message sign and construction of 25,000 feet of concrete for a barrier.

More than 66,000 motorists per day

use the roadway to reach their destination, and more than 14,000 truckers per day use this segment of State Route 99.

Work is scheduled to take place during the night, Sunday through Thursday, beginning Aug. 5, 2019. The project is scheduled to be completed one year from now in the Summer of 2020. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, however, by using alternate routes and by being

"Work Zone Alert." That includes: "Know Before You Go;" Wear Your Seatbelt; Expect the Unexpected; Avoid Distractions; Pay Attention to Other Drivers; Don't Speed or Tailgate; Obey Road Crews and Signs; Be Patient and Stay Calm.

Also keep in mind that work sched-

ules are subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/or materials, and/or construction-related issues.



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Letters

Dear Editor:

I want to applaud you for your brevity and tenacity in the articles you publish concerning the sad state of affairs in California.

Your latest entry from Victor Davis Hanson (Volume 15, Issue 6, 2019) is exactly why our state is crumbling from within. The buffoons in Sacramento and Washington D.C. are tearing the guts out of our country and especially California.

For the sake of your readers' sanity, keep the "real" news coming.

Best regards,  
Mark Shepard  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Thanks for publishing "Third World Countries." A very necessary read for all of us, as painful as it was to read it.

Thank you, Victor Davis Hanson, for painting such a bleak picture of our dear State of California — however articulate the description is. While reading it,

I had this fantasy that at the closure of this piece, there would be several pithy comments regarding a remedy for our pathetic situation.

I shall suggest one remedy that is successfully addressing the issue in Pasadena, Calif. Neighborhood Urban Family Center at [www.can-dokids.org](http://www.can-dokids.org). Check out this site. Each year's national reading tests are showing an improvement of a grade level in the children's reading scores. Come on California, we can do it.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Reimer  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I'd like to ask a serious question: Where does Donald Trump's support come from?

Although I was raised as a child in a very conservative Republican household, as an adult I have no use whatsoever for the Republican Party, as I strongly oppose their positions on virtually every major issue.

That having been said, I'd also like to make it clear that I don't despise Donald Trump so because he's a Republican. I despise him because he's a dirtbag. For what he has done to our country. The way he has intentionally divided us. The way he has repeatedly wiped his feet on the U.S. Constitution. The way he has embarrassed and humiliated us before the entire world. The way he has made us turn our backs on our nation's most revered and beloved core values.

This is a despicable man. A man without integrity. A man without decency. A man without scruples. A man without empathy. This is a man who has no trace of true morality, a man who at the end of the day cares only for himself. A man who separates parents — most of them asylum seekers — from their children and locks those children in cages without respect for basic needs or human dignity, in deplorable conditions, in facilities that resemble nothing more or less than prisons or concentration camps, in which at least five children have died to date.

A man whose main goal as president is to build a stupid, costly and racist wall — Soviet Union style — across our southern border which will do absolutely nothing to relieve the crime problems he says it is intended to solve. Those criminals who he claims to be targeting will simply go over it, under it or around it — just as they always have. Elaborate tunnels built by drug cartels and other smugglers have been routinely discovered running under the border for decades — his wall will do nothing to stop that.

This is a man who displays clear signs of severe mental illness, including malignant narcissism and sociopathy. A pathological liar — a man to whom the truth is so foreign that he lies even when it serves little purpose — a man who truly seems incapable of telling the truth. A man who lies, in fact, so often that it's actually become easier to just assume that he's lying all of the time, until proven otherwise, than to try and separate fact from fiction in anything he says.

A man who is so immature, insecure and thin-skinned that he lashes out like a schoolyard bully at anyone who opposes him or anything he says, who often resorts to bullying and name calling, has advocated violence, and has refused to denounce or distance himself in any meaningful way from neo-Nazis and white supremacists.

A man with a long-standing reputation as a crooked and corrupt businessman who has made much of his "fortune" by ripping other people off. A man who has destroyed small businesses by refusing to pay them for services rendered, and whose phony Trump University shamelessly ripped off college students for hundreds of thousands of dollars. A man who has had more businesses fail than succeed and has filed for bankruptcy numerous times.

A man who gave enormous and permanent tax breaks to millionaires, while throwing the middle class a bone with meager cuts that will sunset after a few years. And who wants to take healthcare (and protections for pre-existing conditions) away from millions of American citizens, while apparently having no alternative plan to offer.

A man who has a pattern of buddying up to our worst enemies while insulting and alien-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7

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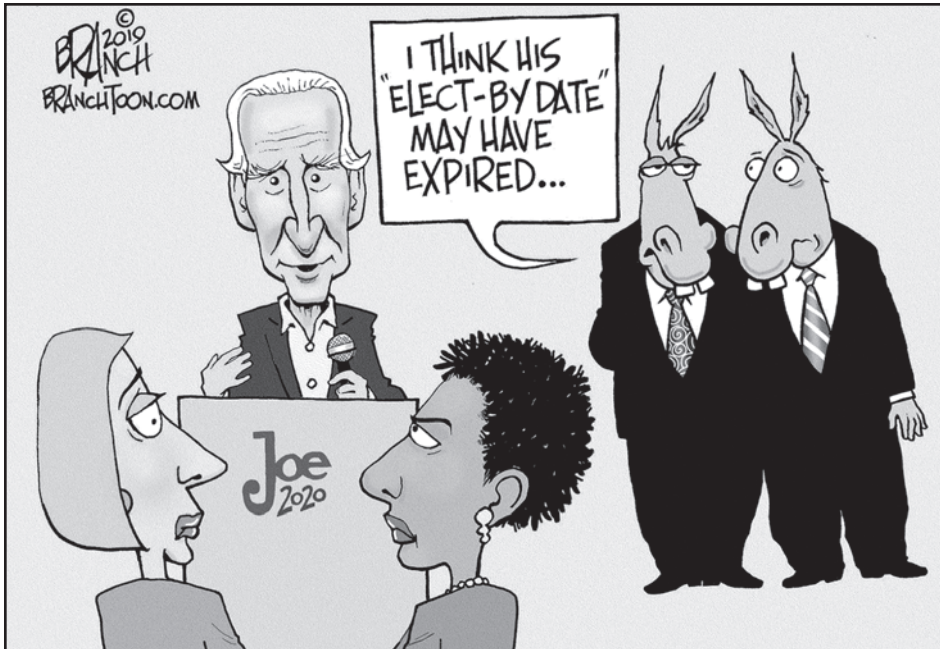
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**Editorial**

**Be Careful What You Wish For**

By Randy Bailey

There's a movement starting in the Ranchos. Slowly at first, but with time it will probably grow. And it's the best kind of movement; the kind that naturally grows out of people being frustrated by a situation and wanting change.

The organization has created a petition online that is being hosted by [www.ThePetitionSite.com](http://www.ThePetitionSite.com). The name they have given their petition is Create Safe Travel for Avenue 12 Commuters through Madera Ranchos.

Who doesn't want that?

In their petition they point out the increase in traffic on Avenue 12 and the presumed even greater increase that the new hospital at 41 and 12 will create. Add in new neighbors from Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo and they see a perfect storm coming.

In their online petition they make observations, such as, "Area residents complain of non-stop traffic on Avenue 12, with long wait times when attempting to turn onto this impacted street. People are tailgating, passing on the shoulder, ignoring speed limits, not using turn signals, and utilizing the center left turn/right turn lane to pass vehicles in the area of Madera Ranchos."

All of those are true.

The petition then lists some suggestions from Ranchos people for possible solutions to the problem: "1. Build the

access crossover ramp from Freeway 41 to Freeway 99 which was planned years ago, or; 2. Create a round-about in strategic areas on 12, or; 3. Place signals at strategic areas such as roads 35, 36 1/2, 37 or 38 on Avenue 12 to slow down traffic through the business area, or; 4. Build speed bumps and/or reduce speed to 25 MPH."

Noble suggestions all, but all misguided. Three of these four suggestions INCREASE the number one complaint in the petition: "Area residents complain of non-stop traffic on Avenue 12, with long wait times when attempting to turn onto this impacted street ..." Good lord, what do you think putting a traffic light every mile of a four-mile stretch will do? And speed bumps? You have got to be kidding me. "People are tailgating, passing on the shoulder, ignoring speed limits, not using turn signals, and utilizing the center left turn/right turn lane to pass vehicles in the area of Madera Ranchos."

I have news for you: There are other areas of the Ranchos that have 25 MPH speed limits and stop signs every block and do you know what people in the Ranchos do? They speed in the 25 zones. They don't know what "STOP" means. They're pretty sure the red octagonal sign means "roll through without slowing down."

Every problem cited on the petition page is only going to be corrected by one thing and one thing only: A police presence in the Ranchos. I don't care who it is, whether the Highway Patrol or Madera County Sheriff or freelance motorcycle funeral escorts, it is the only solution. People speeding? Give 'em a ticket. People passing illegally? Give 'em a ticket. People tailgating? Give 'em a ticket. People not using their turn signals? Give 'em a ticket. Watch how quickly the complexion of Avenue 12 would change.

Once the word got out, all of those bad drivers would find another way to go. And isn't that what we're after all along? I truly believe instead of wasting time with a petition for a series of changes that won't do anything but make Avenue 12 more miserable, we ought to put together a commission and make a call on the CHP office and Sheriff Jay Varney's office. Let's go after some changes that will actually impact the idiots making our roads unsafe.

I mean, that's what I would do.

**The Ranchos Independent**

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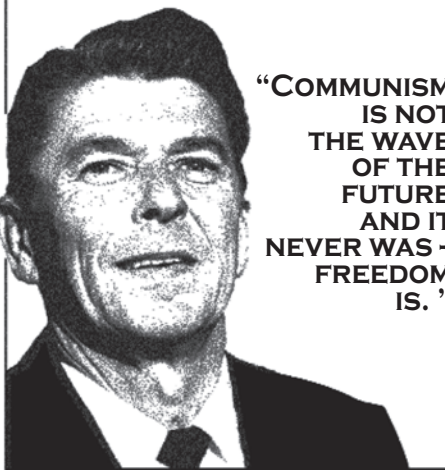
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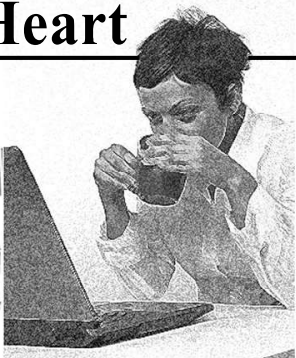
# A Camping Change of Heart

If you would have asked me six months ago if I wanted to go camping, my answer would have been something along the lines of ... only if repeatedly slamming my foot in a sliding glass door while simultaneously stabbing myself in the eye with a chopstick was off the table. Camping was never my thing, if you can't tell. In general, I've always tried to avoid all of the individual aspects that makeup a successful camping trip. Nature? Not my thing. Sleeping in a sleeping bag in a tent where the only thing between me and Yogi and Boo Boo is a thin piece of canvas? Hard pass. Bugs? Gross. Not showering for days? Negative.

I know there are a lot of you reading this right now thinking I'm a whiny girly-girl. When it comes to camping, you aren't wrong. You want to spend a few days with dirt and bugs and wild animals without beds and showers, you go have fun. I'll be at the Four Seasons with four walls, pest control and a comfy mattress, oh and a pool. No one in the history of my entire life could ever call me an outdoorsy kind of girl. But that was then.

Today I write this after having just watched the most beautiful sunrise over the tops of a dense thicket of pine trees with a babbling brook to my left and the tent I have been sleeping in the past two nights to my right. The air is cool, the sound of the cascading water is tranquil, and the bugs are annoying and I plan to murder each and every single one I can get my dirty little fist of bug spray on. In short, I can't believe I have been missing this all my life. Even more amazing is the fact that this is my second camping

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



trip in about a month. In the words of my wise and hilarious late mother, who'd a thunk it?

I have family who have been desperately trying to get me to try camping for at least a decade. Begging is probably more accurate. On two occasions a cousin of mine threatened to disinvite me to Thanksgiving if I didn't go on a

*As it turns out, nature isn't so scary. The bugs bite, pun intended, and I'm relatively certain that citronella and bug spray are just placebos, but the sleep is amazing, the food is delicious, and the comradery is fantastic.*

family camping trip. That didn't really work out because I'm the only one who knows how to make the traditional family dessert. The mere thought of following up turkey and stuffing with anything but our traditional family dessert was enough to make the rest of the family overrule him. Ha!

In all honesty, though, I never thought anyone would change my mind about camping. I'd like to lie and say that it was a sudden profound desire to commune with nature, or perhaps a desire to experience God's beautiful creation firsthand.

It was neither of those things.

It was an annoyingly persistent male friend with an infectious smile and the inability to give up who finally talked me into going on a camping trip with a big group of friends. Well, I don't know that he talked me into it so much as

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

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## LETTERS cont. from P. 4

ating our strongest friends and allies. Who slapped idiotic tariffs on other nations, both friend and foe, which do nothing but hurt U.S. industry and agriculture and drive up prices for every American citizen. And then he wants to use our taxes to make up for the damage he's done. All the while, he takes credit for the already improving economy that was handed to him by Barack Obama, who inherited the worst deficit in American history from the Bush/Cheney administration.

Unquestionably our worst president in history, he is a racist, a sexist, a con-man and criminal who has surrounded himself with other crooks and criminals, and frankly, a man who I believe to be an outright fascist. A threat to our nation and everything it stands

for. A man who was not even legitimately elected, whose election was known by every U.S. intelligence agency to have been aided by Russia – a hostile foreign nation – while losing the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes and has since had an uncomfortably close relationship with Vladimir Putin.

It should also be clearly noted that the Mueller report did not "exonerate" him, and says so in black and white, although he still falsely claims that it did.

So again, just who are his supporters, and in God's name, why? He's simply got to go. If those in Congress won't do their duty, then it's up to the voters. I pray that we'll all finally put country before party and do the right thing.

R.H.  
Madera Ranchos

## CODE cont. from P. 2

If the subject of the complaint is ultimately determined to be out of compliance, Trujillo explained, the County will ask that they voluntarily rectify the problem.

"After the violation has been verified by site inspection, the property owner is issued a 'Notice of Violation' (NOV) that requests their voluntary compliance in correcting the violation," Trujillo explained. "If the property owner ignores the NOV, then we begin issuing administrative citations.

"For each violation, the initial penalty is \$250," Trujillo said. "The second and third citation is \$500 per violation and the penalty for any additional citations issued is \$1,000." In some cases, citations may be issued for each day that the property remains in violation, Trujillo added.

"If the property owner continues to ignore our requests for compliance, then we process the case for special assessment by the Board of Supervisors."

The code enforcement department also has the right to place a lien on a

property if the owner continues to ignore citations. In extreme cases, Trujillo said a property owner could face the loss of their property via a tax lien sale if they ignore County requests to rectify the code enforcement issues.

"We aren't looking to harass people or make their lives difficult," Trujillo said. "We just want them to be responsible, to maintain their property and be good neighbors."

For those considering filing a complaint with code enforcement, Madera County makes the process relatively simple. "The County's 311 system is the best way to submit a complaint," Trujillo said.

During the last 12 months, Trujillo said the County has received 195 complaints via the online system. The online system can be accessed by going to [www.maderacounty.com](http://www.maderacounty.com) and putting "code enforcement" in the search engine at the top of the page.

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## GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

wore me down. But, nevertheless, I went to Walmart and spent a ridiculous amount of money on camping equipment. And can I just ask, why in the name of all that is good and pure in this world are items that are by nature minimalistic and designed to allow us to be one with the forest so freaking expensive? It's a racket, I tell you. But I digress. With new and expensive camping equipment in hand I packed it into the back of my friend's SUV and followed a caravan into the woods where I was sure I was going to hear banjos then promptly die of exposure and bug bites after being mauled by a bear.

I did not die. Instead I slept under the stars. I laid in a hammock and read a book. I played cards and ate camp food and went for a hike. I didn't shower, which isn't my favorite, but I relaxed. I unplugged. I laughed and talked to friends without a phone in my hand. I fell asleep to the sounds of the breeze through the trees. I loved it so much that I am camping again. I loved it so much that while here on this second camping trip my

friends and I have planned our third trip for the summer. I loved it so much that I plan on buying more expensive camping equipment. See? A racket.

As it turns out, nature isn't so scary. The bugs bite, pun intended, and I'm relatively certain that citronella and bug spray are just placebos, but the sleep is amazing, the food is delicious, and the comradery is fantastic. The best part, though, is the peace it brings. It's unplugging from the world, putting the phone away, leaving the television and the internet, and the social media behind. It's just you and your friends and the beautiful landscape. Ok, I'm not blind to the fact that I'm sitting in nature typing on my laptop, but writing is also peaceful for me so it doesn't count.

Camping, as it turns out, is exactly what I have been missing in my life. And there's a lesson here: Try new things, get out of your own comfort zone and bugs are easy to kill so don't let that stop you from enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Now, if you will excuse me, there is a hammock swaying in the breeze that's calling my name.



## BBQ+Veggies = Awesome!



If you haven't yet, it is certainly time to get the barbecue out and get it going. You don't have to have one of the big fancy \$1,000 gas jobs – a kettle that uses charcoal briquettes will do as well.

Do you only cook hamburgers, hot dogs and an occasional steak on your barbecue? How about corn on the cob, potatoes and just about any other vegetable from the garden or a farmer's market?

When cooking corn on the cob, it can be cooked by cleaning it and putting it on the grill. That way you would have a little "crisp" on the corn. If you want to avoid the crisp, then grill it with the husks on.

### BBQ Grilled Corn

Do not take the husks off yet. Lay the corn into a clean sink and fill with enough cold water to cover all your corn. Let the corn soak for at least 30 minutes.

Remove three or four outer layers of husks, but be sure to leave enough to cover the corn to protect it from burning during grilling.

Pull back remaining husks from cob, but do not remove from end of corn. Remove as much of the silk as possible.

Season the cob as you like. Melted butter, salt and pepper, or you can add whatever herb or seasoning your family likes. Those can be garlic powder, rosemary, oregano, or even dill. Since the corn is cold, the melted butter may not stay melted when you brush it on but don't worry because when the corn is grilled the butter will melt.

After the corn is seasoned the way you want it, pull the remaining husks back on the cob, covering the cob completely. Using one of the previously discarded husks, tie the end of the corn so that while grilling the husks will stay on the cob.

Cook on medium to medium high heat for 10 or 15 minutes. Pull back the husks that are covering the corn

and serve. You can serve with additional butter.

If you purchase the corn without husks, you can wrap it in aluminum foil for the same effect.

One last thing: If you want the corn to be hot when you serve dinner, be sure that the corn is the last thing you cook.

### BBQ Potatoes

To cook potatoes whole, after scrubbing or peeling place on a piece of foil large enough to cover the potato. Using a brush or your fingers put oil on the foil and wrap the foil around the potato, sealing well. Grilling on a medium high heat will take about 45 minutes.

To cook potatoes faster and

tastier slice them into about quarter inch slices, cut them into wedges or cube the scrubbed potato. Place on a piece of foil large enough to cover the potato that you have brushed with oil. Brush the pota-

atoes with oil, salt and pepper and seasoning or herbs of choice. You can use sliced red onions, green onions, bacon pieces (cooked), chopped bell pepper or just about anything that you would want on a potato except cheese because the cheese might burn while grilling. Seal the bundles tight and place on a medium hot grill. These packages should cook in 20 to 30 minutes. When you take these off the grill, poke a little hole in the foil with the tip of a paring knife to let some of the steam out. Be real careful opening these packages as the steam is extremely hot.

### Grilled Vegetables

- 3 bell peppers (red or green) seeded and halved
- 3 yellow squash\*\*
- 3 zucchini\*\*
- 3 Japanese eggplant\*\*
- 12 cremini mushrooms

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

*Do you only cook hamburgers, hot dogs and an occasional steak on your barbecue? How about corn on the cob, potatoes and just about any other vegetable from the garden or a farmer's market?*

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**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

1 pound asparagus, trimmed  
12 green onions, roots cut off and trimmed

- ¼ C plus 2 T olive oil
- Salt and Pepper
- 3 T balsamic vinegar
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. chopped parsley leaves
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh basil leaves
- ½ tsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves

\*\* Sliced lengthwise into ½ inch thick rectangles.

Prepare the barbecue to medium high heat. Place the vegetables on a baking pan and brush them with the ¼ C olive oil and salt and pepper. Working in batches, grill the vegetables until tender and lightly charred all over – about 8-10 minutes for the bell peppers, 7 minutes for the yellow squash,

zucchini, eggplant, and mushrooms, and 4 minutes for the asparagus and green onions. Arrange the grilled vegetable on a platter. The key to getting the grill marks is don't move them very much once they've been put on the grill.

While the vegetables cook, mix the remaining 2 T oil, balsamic vinegar, garlic and herbs in a small bowl. Blend with whisk, adding salt and pepper to taste. Drizzle this mixture over the vegetables.

I was going to do fruits and vegetables in this article, but space has just about gotten away from me so I will have to do grilled fruit next month. I never thought of grilling fruit, but I have found some great ideas.

*This article originally appeared in the May 2012 issue of the Ranchos Independent.* Editor

# New Co. Business License Rules

“Beginning July 1, 2019, the Madera County Tax Collector’s office will be switching to a semi-annual Business License renewal cycle. This means there will only be two renewal cycles a year going forward,” reports Tracy Kennedy, Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

The Madera County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 475E on May 21 which amended Chapter 5.04 of Title 5 of the Madera County Code pertaining to Business Licenses. The Ordinance created new terms and billing processes for the Business License renewals.

For Business License currently due for renewal in October 2019, November 2019, December 2019, January 2020, February 2020 or March 2020, Business

License Renewals will now be part of “Cycle 1” (a Feb. 28 due date renewal).

For Business License currently due for renewal in July 2019, August 2019 or September 2019, April 2020, May 2020, June 2020, Business License Renewals will now be part of “Cycle 2” (an Aug. 31 due date renewal).

The Tax Collector’s office is located on the 2nd floor of the County Government Center at 200 West 4th Street, Madera. The office hours are 8 a.m. to – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on holidays.

You can call the office to have questions answered at 559-675-7713 or you can go online and send an email to taxcollector@maderacounty.com.

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*The Tyranny of Clutter*

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

These words were penned as the colonists of 1776 sought and fought for freedom. The British Parliament made every attempt to thwart their success. Following the Boston Tea Party, they established military rule

in Massachusetts, even requiring the colonists to house British troops. Freedom wasn't just a theory for political discussion, it dramatically altered their quality of life and revolutionized the future. That's what freedom does.

Freedom, as defined by Merriam-Webster is:

- the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action
- the liberation from the power of another
- the state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous
- unrestricted use

Despite the freedoms we now enjoy as a result of our nation's independence, there are other issues that have potential to enslave us. Could freedom from the tyranny of clutter alter your quality of life and revolutionize your future? Let's look at the definition of freedom as applied to a cluttered environment.

*Freedom, as defined by Merriam-Webster is: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action; the liberation from the power of another; the state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous; unrestricted use ... Could freedom from the tyranny of clutter alter your quality of life and revolutionize your future?*

**1. Is clutter constraining your choices?** Can you choose to have people over whenever you desire? Does clutter keep you from hosting at holidays? Can you choose what to wear from your entire wardrobe, or are the clothes piles reducing your options? Would you like to move, but feel anchored in place by your clutter? Do you feel coerced into paying for additional storage?

**2. Is clutter constraining your actions?** Are you paying late fees due to paper piles? Have you given up on your hobby because your craft room or garage is a catch-all? Are you postponing a vacation or social activities because you feel like you should rather be home clearing the clutter?

**3. Do you need liberation from powerful behaviors that contribute to your clutter?** Is shopping therapy your go-to when you need a quick pick-me-up? Do you hang on to everything in case you or your kids might need it someday? Does guilt over what you spent on stuff keep

you from letting it go, even when you're not using it?

**4. Is the thought of decluttering onerous?** Do you feel overwhelmed? Are you drowning in your clutter? Do you long for a clutter-free existence, but it seems like an impossible task? Have you tried and failed?

**5. Is clutter restricting your time and the function of your home?** Is it impossible to complete a task without spending hours looking for something you need and know you own, but can't find? Are you restricted to using only the front layer of things in your cabinets or freezer, because they're so impacted that you have no idea what's in the back?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then your freedom is constrained by your clutter. Freedom comes with a price. There is no magic wand. You've seen what your clutter is costing you, now what are you willing to pay for your freedom?

There are many variables based on

the degree of clutter and the challenges combatting change. Here are four points to consider when choosing freedom:

**1. What's contributing to the problem?**

- Behaviors, habits and routines or lack thereof
- No systems in place
- No established homes for things
- No criteria for letting go
- Lack of organizing skills
- Physical or emotional challenges
- Other

**2. What do I need to combat the clutter?**

- Designated time for project planning and implementation
- Clear how-to instructions for decluttering and creating homes and systems
- Disperse, dispose, and donate discards
- Commitment to follow through and maintenance

**3. What do I do when that's not enough?**

- Stop beating yourself up for not being able to do it on your own—that's counterproductive.
- Get help! Not all of us play piano by ear or have technical talents by nature. Neither are we all natural-

born organizers. When we need skills that aren't instinctive, we get help.

- Sometimes friends and family can help, but other times they can be pushy and judgmental in the process. A professional organizer offers expertise and hands-on assistance with patience and understanding.

**4. You have a choice!**

- You aren't trapped in the tyranny of clutter.
- Change is possible even in the most contrary conditions.
- Choose to be free today!

Stephen Covey said, "Every human has four endowments – self-awareness, conscience, independent will and creative imagination. These give us the ultimate human freedom ... The power to choose, to respond, to change."

Liberation from your clutter will enrich your quality of life and revolutionize your future.

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



PERRY COOPER / STUDIO 318 PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Valley Blue Star Moms Need Help

Central California Blue Star Moms need your help. "Remember the Troops" is the theme of the Central Valley Blue Star Moms' annual package donation drive, which will run from Sept. 11 through Nov. 11. The goal of the drive is to create at least 350 "care packages" for local members of the U.S. military who will be on overseas deployments during the holiday season. Needed items include non-perishable snack foods, toiletries, small recreational items and cash (to help defray mailing costs). Names and addresses of deployed service members are also being sought.

The designation "Blue Star" to signify a son or daughter serving in the United States military has been around since 1917. The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A flag can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uni-

form on active duty. A gold star replaces the blue star if that relative is killed or dies in service. If more than one star appears on the flag, the gold star takes the place of honor nearest the staff.

The Central Valley Blue Star Moms is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-discriminatory military service support group whose mission is support of Blue Star members, their sons and daughters, who are serving or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces; share educational information to benefit the members and their families; support military personnel through various service activities and

events; and promote causes that will benefit military personnel through military advocacy programs.

You can request additional information by calling 559-481-8276 or by emailing CVBSM Packaging Drive Chair at [centralvalleybluestarmoms@gmail.com](mailto:centralvalleybluestarmoms@gmail.com).





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## The Bookshelf

### New Library Construction Starting

By Jerrica Edmundson

Well, we've seen the close to another fantastic Summer Reading Program, sponsored by our local Friends of the Ranchos Library. If you would like to become a member of the group supporting our library and putting on awesome community events, we are always accepting new members and have our meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. Come on by and see how you can support not only the existing library, but the new building we will be in later this year.

With regard to the highly anticipated move, we still don't have an exact date for when the physical move will happen, but we have officially gotten a contractor. Madera County has signed a contract with the Harris Builders Inc. out of Hilmar, Calif. and construction is set to begin on July 24. Once we are in the new building, we will have a conference room available with access after business hours. We will have more details as they are available about how this room can be reserved. I know everyone is excited for the move and we will be making announcements regarding it whenever we have definite news to provide.

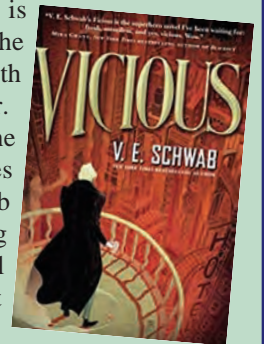
**Jerrica's Shelf:** *Vicious* by V.E. Schwab

I've taken a tiny step back from my usual high fantasy fare to get into a world full of murderers and superheroes. This book was described to me as The Avengers meet Dexter, and I truly can't think of a better comparison — and I absolutely love it. Schwab manages to create a world that runs alongside our own with the addition of EOs: People who

have Extra Ordinary powers for some unknown reason.

The story revolves around two main characters: Eli Ever (formerly Cardale) and Victor Vale. They are both medical students working on their master's thesis and Eli has chosen to study the slowly spreading phenomenon of people appearing to have Extra Ordinary powers. He has a theory on how they are getting these powers and thinks that having a near-death experience imbues the person with powers related to their potential dying thought. As his studies progress, he decides that he is going to test the theory himself with the help of Victor.

This is the start of a series with V.E. Schwab and after reading this and its sequel *Vengeful*, I can't wait to see where it goes next. These books are full of action, mystery, vengeance and retribution — definitely not my usual fare, but I'm glad I took the dive.



#### The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12  
645-1214

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

## Ed Ops goes to All Free Lunches

Educational Options at Golden Valley Unified School District has announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs for the 2019-2020 school year. Effective immediately, *all* students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at Continuation High, which is also known as Educational Options. Continuation High is located at 12150 Road 36 in the Madera Ranchos.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private

schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. It operates under the concept of "Feeding the Future with Healthy School Lunches."

For additional information about the meal program or about Continuation High, you can call 559-645-3580. Additionally, you can reach James Howard at 559-645-3500 x3001 or by email at [jhoward@gvusd.org](mailto:jhoward@gvusd.org). He can also be reached at Food Services at Liberty High School at 12220 Road 36 in the Madera Ranchos.



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1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other’s businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

**When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?**

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what’s going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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# 34th ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER'S BBQ

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- Credit Card: Call Lesley Flores at (559) 871-9175 or purchase at Ranchos Chamber Of Commerce

**- Ticket Price:**

(Before July 31st)  
\$50 ea. or \$450 Table (10 people)

(After August 1st)  
\$60 ea. or \$ 550 Table (10 people)

**EVENING TIMELINE**

- No Host Bar 5pm-11pm
- Dessert Sale 5-6:30pm
- Silent Auction 5-6:30pm
- Catered Tri-Tip Dinner (Outlaw BBQ) 7-8pm
- Introduction and Honoring Firefighters 7:30pm
- Live Auction 8pm
- Live Music and Dancing with Prestige Band 8:30-11pm

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## Senior Report

## July BBQ and Prizes at Senior Center

By Margaret Tynan

Over 50 members and guests enjoyed the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Independence Day BBQ. It was a good time to socialize and get better acquainted with new members Dennis Funkner and John Orta who were honored guests. Since joining, John volunteers at lunchtime and at the monthly Treasure House sale. Bob and Carol Hill, who work tirelessly in the Center's garden week after week, were also honored guests. Many attendees played several games with the "Dessert Walk" being the favorite; winners took home delicious homemade goodies. Thanks to everyone who worked to make the evening a success.

We have winners of the annual raffle. Warren Parr, owner of Complete Car Care and contributor of the raffle's 1st prize, brought his two young grandsons, Max and Riley, to draw the winning

tickets on July 4th. Mitchell Burgess won the 1st prize of \$250 toward a brake job. Second prize of a large Ranchos Pizza Factory pizza per month valued at \$250 went to Phyllis Fasshauer. Bill Zimmerman won the \$235 valued 3rd prize, the use of a 3-yard bin compliments of Red Rock. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all who supported our annual fund raiser.

The Center has several events planned for August that are open to the community, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend. On Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. a workshop will be presented covering two topics: Dealing with scams and brain health. This presentation couldn't be timelier. I'm sure almost everyone has experienced one or many of the scam telephone calls related to computer accounts, bank accounts, Social Security, etc. Come and get some tips on how to recognize scams and avoid being drawn in. Also covered in the morning's talk is information on maintaining a healthy brain throughout life. The talk is sponsored by Humana. It is not a sales event but is for informational purpose only. It will be held at the Center at 37330 Berkshire

Dr. We hope you will attend and bring your friends.

Here's another event that will help you stay cool on a hot August afternoon. Enjoy a dish of ice cream as you sit and listen to readings from members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Writing Group. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m.

at the Center. The Group has undertaken the project of publishing a book with stories written by the Center's members. As a means of inspiring members to write, the Group will be performing several brief readings of their work between 2:30 and 3 p.m. Come and enjoy an ice cream treat, hear some creative writing and learn about the book project. Remember, the project goal is to feature creative writing and artistic works of ALL members of Rancho/Hills Seniors Activity Center because everyone has stories to tell.

See you there.

Calling all Crafters and Artists. It's time to register to show your work at the 2nd Annual Ranchos/Hills Seniors Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You're invited to share the day with us selling your products and services. Last year's Fair was a success and we expect it to grow. The event will be advertised through various means such as Community Calendars, TV, radio, newspapers, flyers, Facebook and other social media. Cost is \$30 per space and is on a first-come-first-serve basis so register early. Stop by the Center to pick up a Registration Form or email your request to rhse-niors@att.net Attention: Carol Wood. For further information call: 559-645-4864.

Note: The regular monthly Treasure House, Garden and Boutique sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. However, there will not be a bake sale this month but will resume in September.

Thought for August: "Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless." – Jamie Paolinetti



Warren Parr's grandsons, Max and Riley, pulled the winning raffle tickets with the help of Ethel Hansen and Carol Wood.



Enjoying the Independence Day BBQ are (from left) David and Eva McAtee, Ethel Hansen, Deborah Konkle, Judy Sears, Lin Terrana and Carole Anderson

## Golden Valley Baptist Church

Come join us starting Wednesday, August 21 for our Life App Classes starting at 6:30 p.m.

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# SEMUCU speaks

By Jeff McGrath

Wow, what a ride. State released our last two requests for reimbursement for the Washing Machine/Dishwasher rebate program in June. With that funding, we have been able to issue over 54 checks to the residents of area code 93636. If you have not received your check, please contact us. I see that as of this writing, nine individuals have not cashed their check. We have obtained an extension to the grant, so if you were thinking about purchasing an Energy Efficient Star Certified appliance or if you have not submitted your paperwork for a rebate don't wait.

I was not able to attend the MD-10a water hearing on June 27, as I had another meeting to attend. I understand that the rate increase is coming, and I don't think there is anything we can do about it. Maintenance, fuel and labor all have increased in recent years, so like it or not, so is our monthly rate. MD-10a is still progressing on completing the connection

to Valley Teen Ranch, Liberty High School, the Middle School, (those wells have all been contaminated and made their water unfit for human consumption) plus a new well and a storage tank. Funding for these projects have been applied for through grants and will not affect the proposed rate increase. While Golden Valley has been able to obtain grants to provide drinking water for the schools, SEMCU has helped Valley Teen ranch with theirs.

A lot of talk recently on Facebook about unsafe driving conditions through our little community of the Ranchos. Back in August 2010, there was a draft proposal by California Polytechnic State University (CAL Poly) that looked at our traffic flow then and in the future with all the developments proposed. Part of the plan was executed resulting in the road improvements between Road 36 and Road 38 on Ave 12. The plan also proposed to by-pass business Ave 12 to reduce the anticipated increase in traffic. To my knowledge, nothing has been done since then and the traffic continues to get worse. SEMCU has been trying to work with the County to resolve the issue.

How many attended the board of Supervisors meeting held at Ranchos

Middle School on July 9? I was there and there was standing room only. During the Public Comment Session about 15 people got up and addressed the issue of traffic on Ave. 12. I believe we got the Board of Supervisors' attention. This is the only way that things can get done, by unity among us. While nothing was locked in concrete, so to speak, Supervisor Frasier said it is on the forefront of discussion with the Board. One person addressing an issue will accomplish nothing but when there are many people expressing their concerns, our elected officials will listen. Speaking of unity, there was a letter mailed out to all residents of MD-10a and MD-95 ad-

vising them of the upcoming meeting on July 9. In that letter on page two in the blue block was a way for us to protest the rate hike. The rate hike was approved by the BOS because not enough rate payers in MD-10a opposed it. So now you can't complain when your bill goes up ... well you can complain, but it is too late.

SEMUCU offers a chance to be heard as a group and not just an individual. Please attend our meeting on the third Monday of each month at the Pizza Factory at 6 p.m. I would love to see a meeting with standing room only.

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

## Kiwanis Korner

# Kiwanis Help Special Olympics Derby

By Becky Koop

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

The summer heat may have slowed some organizations down, but the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club is busy, busy. In June we had our clean-up day at Wildwood Native Park. A lot of great projects were accomplished, and there will be several more to work on at the next one, Saturday, Oct. 19.

Also in June, Barbara Tatum was inducted into the Kiwanis Club. She moved to the Ranchos about a year ago and joined the Kiwanis to meet new people and make new friends. In her past she designed her own



*Thom Walsh helping on the dock at 4 a.m. on Saturday, July 13 at Wishon Lake for the Fishing Derby.*

though, the \$10,000 fish was not caught, there were 32 other cash prizes awarded ranging from \$25 to \$100. I also discovered that if anyone was registered in the derby, they can still receive \$1,000 if they catch that elusive \$10,000 fish before the end of September.

We are currently working on our Annual Kiwanis Bunko Night. Last year's event provided lots of fun and laughs, as well as prizes and an amazing spaghetti and meatball dinner. Tickets will be going on sale soon, and re-

member all proceeds go toward our Liberty High School scholarship program. On another note, if you would like to donate or volunteer for this local event please contact Leslie Carella at 559-645-6249, or Becky Koop at 559-479-1487.

On July 13, five of our local Kiwanis Club members – John Glueck, John Minney, Tom Walsh, and Richard and Nancy Wayne – assisted in the Kiwanis Special Olympics Trout Fishing Derby held at Wishon Lake. On Thursday, July 11 Fish and Game stocked the lake with about 4,000 fish, of which 400 were tagged for the Derby. Al-

You are always welcome to join us at one of our meetings. Come down any Thursday (except the first one of the month) to the Pizza Factory Banquet Room on Avenue 12, at 6:15 p.m. You will enjoy the camaraderie and fun, and also be a part of making a difference in our community.

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

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### Tires, Patch Thyself!

Hello 93636,

One of the services I offer with my business to 93636 residents is free daily pick up and delivery of customer vehicles. Well, recently I picked up a Ranchos vehicle and drove it to my shop for repair. Later that day I received a text from Don informing me my car had a flat rear tire. That's not what I wanted to hear.

After a long, hard day of work, I was not excited about the prospect of changing a flat tire on the side of a dirty, dusty country road. I was hoping the tire was just low and that I could drive the one mile home to install the spare in my driveway.

No, it was dead flat.

I got my small spare tire and jack assembly out of the trunk. What a challenge that was trying to get the small jack aligned with the lift point marked on the bottom of the body and crank the car up. I don't know who designed that jack handle, but it was next to useless. I'm glad however it wasn't dark, cold, raining and muddy.

The next day I took the tire back to the chain store from which I purchased it to claim my free flat repair. After inspecting my tire for about two seconds some wet-behind-the-ears young pup told me my puncture was unrepairable and I would need to buy a new one. I thanked him but "No thanks." I took the tire back to my shop and repaired the puncture myself in about 10 minutes. Problem solved. No more flat tire. The old one is doing just fine, thank you.

#### Tires That Patch Themselves

That started me thinking: Tires that patch themselves. I have never written an article about tires. Most people who read my column have many tires. I did some research and this is what I discovered: Run-flat tires first became popular on sports cars that didn't have room for a spare tire and now they come in two varieties. Traditional Run-flat tires have very stiff reinforced sidewalls. They incorporate a thick ring of hard rubber embedded into the sidewalls to support the vehicle's weight when the tire loses air pressure. The new Self-sealing tire technology uses a different approach. Inside the tire is a layer of sealant material along the tread that oozes into the puncture and thereby

re-seals the tire. All Run-flat tires are designed to allow drivers to keep traveling when a tire suffers damage from a puncture. New vehicle manufacturers like these technologies for several reasons. Eliminating the spare tire decreases vehicle weight, improves fuel efficiency and increases cargo space. In my opinion new fuel efficiency and emissions standards are the primary drivers for most new vehicle technology and innovation. It's ALL about the weight.

Another reason vehicle manufactures like Run-flat technologies is they are safer. Not having to stop and change a flat tire at night, beside a busy street or in an unfamiliar area is much safer. Some positives for traditional Run-flat tires are they can handle a larger puncture and they are much more stable if the tire does go flat. Also, if a traditional Run-flat tire is punctured in the tire's sidewall it can support the vehicle's weight even at zero air pressure.

Some negatives for traditional Run-flat tires are they require a special rim, the vehicle's ride is stiffer due to the stiff sidewall, they must be used with a tire pressure monitoring system and replacements may not be in stock at many tire stores because of their higher costs. NOTE: Traditional Run-Flat tires look inflated even when they are flat.

Without a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS), you may not know you have a flat tire. No problem. If you drive a 2008 or newer car or light duty truck sold new in the U.S., TPMSs were mandatory in 2008.

Another drawback is they wear out quickly after losing air pressure and more than likely will need to be replaced if they are driven more than 50 miles flat.

#### Some Positives

Some positives for Self-sealing tires are they are designed to handle most common tire punctures to the tire tread area. The inner surface of the tire is coated with an environmentally friendly viscous rubber sealant. The sealant is able to flow into the puncture without pooling up at the bottom of the tire when the vehicle is parked. Also, the sealant is able to flow and form an airtight seal at temperatures from scorching hot desert blacktops to frigid winter nights. Creating the rubbery sealant was tricky, Michelin engineers said. Michelin sprays their sealant onto their tires' inner surface. When the sealant works as designed, most drivers will never know it's working because there is no air pressure loss and likely the driver will not notice the object in the tire.

Michelin's Self-sealing tires can theoretically keep going for days, although they will eventually need to be repaired or replaced de-

pending on the severity of the puncture.

The negative for Self-sealing tires is if the puncture is in the tire's sidewall, the Self-sealing technology is ineffective.

Michelin calls their technology Selfseal. Continental, which supplies self-sealing tires to brands ranging from Volkswagen to Bentley, calls its version ContiSeal. Michelin claims their Self-sealing technology will plug a puncture up to 1/4 of an inch and Continental up to 1/5 of an inch. Most major tiremakers now have self-sealing technology. Tire Rack charges about \$27 more per tire for Michelin's Selfseal version. New Michelin® Selfseal tires will be standard equipment on the all-new 2020 Ford Explorer Limited hybrids, Platinum models and optional on the Explorer Limited. Michelin's self-sealing tires will also be available on the Chevrolet Bolt.

OK guys and gals, that's all for this one. I hope this helps.

As usual I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive industry topics to write about. Please text me with your recommendations, ideas or concerns. If you have any general or specific questions regarding your automobile, please text me at 559-907-7661 or shoot me an email to complete\_car\_care@hotmail.com.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636, Warren Parr, A NAPA/ASE 2013 & 2014 California Technician of the Year

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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		+		22
x		-		x	
	-		x		35
+		x		+	
	x		-		29
23		40		26	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		5		9	6	8

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## Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

### Climate Change Hoax Boils Over

Most conservatives dismissed the outlandish global warming/global cooling/climate change hysteria from its beginning, as far back as the notorious '60s. To us, it made no sense, especially since every solution involved more government control, limits on freedom and exorbitant costs to both governments and individuals. We questioned whether temperature measurements in past centuries could be trusted or were being manipulated for political reasons, and we knew the difference between frequent weather changes and long-term climate. Although we have been proven right, the climate change lie has taken root with well-meaning true believers as well as the gullible, greedy and power hungry. The real agenda has been unmasked as a complete re-ordering of our society and changing from our constitutional republic to socialism or communism.

And the hoax continues.

According to a July 17 Fresno Bee article, a Union of Concerned Scientists states that the Central Valley is going to hit "boiling temperatures" and they predict, with certainty, temperatures as far in the future as 2070. For instance, "Fresno County had an average of seven days of 100-degree heat in

2000. In 2036 that average will be 29 days a year. By 2070, it'll be 49 days a year." They predict an average of five weeks a year greater than 127 degrees "by the end of the century if no action is taken to reduce global warming emissions..."

Thank God! Since boiling temperatures are predicted, we can be pretty sure they won't occur. In the 1970's, scientists warned of a looming ice age; but then, oops, their warnings changed to man-made global warming. Oops again. Those predictions fizzled, so the accepted term became "human-caused climate change," conveniently covering all the bases, but you'll notice that climate skills have recently gone back to global warming (frankly, I'd rather freeze than fry, but that's just me).

The great scientist Al Gore predicted that the earth had only until 2016 to be saved from global warming disasters, none of which came to pass. Bummer for him. Meanwhile, the earth is doing fine and he is doing great, becoming the world's first "carbon billionaire" via investments in the very markets he touts, such as carbon trading, solar power and biofuels. You can read "Al Gore and Carbon Credits" at Investors.com. Now, uber-climatologist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) insists we must adopt the Green New Deal or the earth will end in 12 years. Bummer for us!

You might watch the Leonard Nimoy narrated 1979 video predicting an imminent ice age and unimaginable devastation. Oh my. Nimoy is no scientist, but the video attributes facts and warnings to scientists and climatologists. Apparently, ice ages have come and gone with regularity, at least eight in a million years. The last one, Nimoy says,

was 89,000 years ago – but "one could come again in just one lifetime". Oh my again. The YouTube video is titled In Search of the Coming Ice Age.

Climate-change promoters frequently disprove their own claims and prove their own biases.

In the Nimoy video, a climatologist from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Stephen Schneider, was asked if he would recommend, when the earth is covered with ice again, the use of nuclear energy to break up the polar ice caps or melting the ice with black soot. The climatologist stated:

*"Can we do these things? Yes. But will they make things better? We can't predict with any certainty what's happening to our own climatic future. How can we come along and interfere along the way in that ignorance?"*

According to National Review, AOC's chief of staff spilled the beans by admitting that addressing climate change was not Ocasio-Cortez's top priority in proposing the Green New Deal. He said this to Washington Governor Insee's climate director, according to a Washington Post reporter who attended the meeting:

*"The interesting thing about the Green New Deal is, it wasn't originally a climate thing at all. Do you guys think of it as a climate thing? Because we really think of it as a how-do-you-change-the-entire-economy thing."*

Let that sink in.

Now, what is the aforementioned Union of Concerned Scientists? And what are they so concerned about? They are a tax-exempt advocacy group whose website solicits donations. They formed because of a preconceived belief in climate

change. They oppose President Trump's policies and advocate for "scientific research to be directed away from military technologies and toward solving pressing environmental and social problems".


According to their website, they call disagreement with the climate change theory "... a relentless assault on science, truth and justice ... with grave consequences for our health, our safety and our democracy." Excuse me, but questioning self-serving science-by-consensus and searching for the truth does not threaten our democracy but might actually save it. Sorry, Charlie, but I'll use my guaranteed free speech (as long as I can) to "assault" any attempt to use this grand hoax to bring down our economy and change our way of life. And I urge Republicans, conservatives, journalists and policy makers not to reply to preposterous proposals such as the Green New Deal with the knee-jerk reaction, "But how will we pay for it?" We can't. Instead, just state flatly that the preposterous idea in question is not worth consideration, briefly explain why and then go on to another topic.

An excellent factual and informative article explaining renewable energy sources and their drawbacks can be found in "An Open Letter to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez" at The New American website. I urge you to read it. You will find a wealth of information – not propaganda – and you might enjoy the verbal good-natured rebuke of AOC's ignorance.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.teapartypatriots.org](http://www.teapartypatriots.org) for more information.



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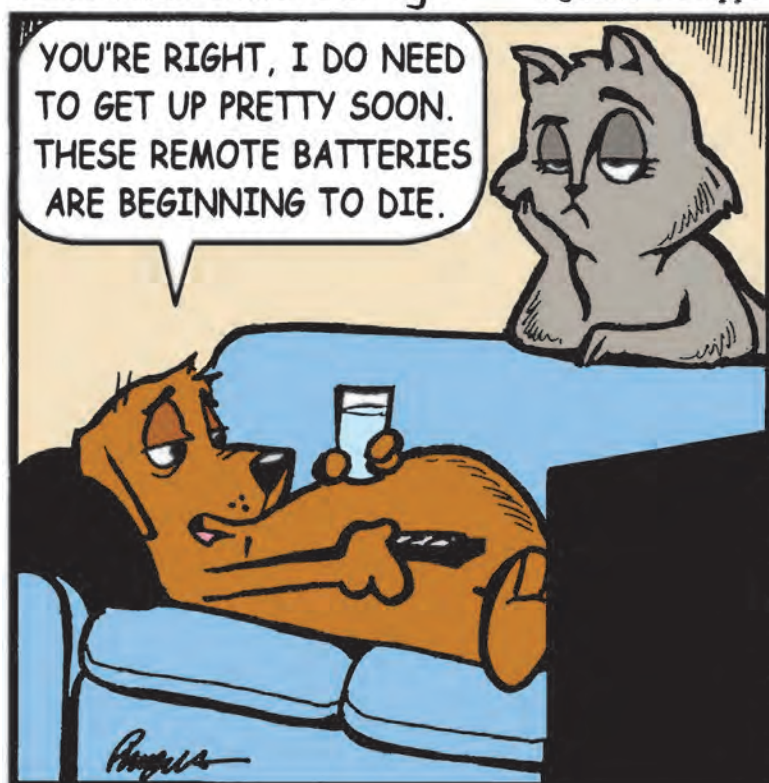
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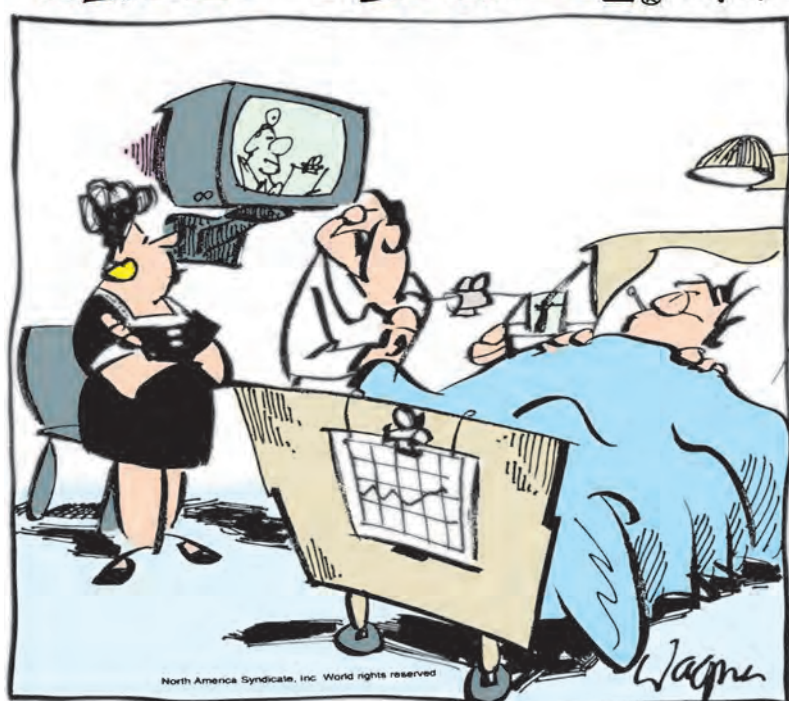
by Dave T. Phipps



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**GRIN and BEAR IT** Wagner



"He has the same thing that guy on 'General Hospital' had last week."

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Is someone at work resisting that Aries charm? Hard to believe. But seriously, Lamb, you might want to back up your ideas with some solid data, and then watch the yeas pile on.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your hard work could pay off in ways you didn't expect, but certainly deserve. Tend to that pesky health problem now so you'll be in top shape to tackle the new projects coming up.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Planning a family event can be stressful unless you make it clear from the start that you're in charge. You might accept suggestions, but it will be your decisions that count.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You still have a way to go to bring that professional matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Meanwhile, an important personal situation could require more of your attention by week's end.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) There's something about you Fine Felines that makes people want to tell you secrets. But once again, be wary of who is doing the telling. You might not want to be that person's confidante.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Creating a fuss about a family matter might get everyone's attention. But it might be better to talk one-on-one with family members in order to spare a loved one unnecessary embarrassment.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You're making progress on that career move, albeit not as quickly as you had hoped. But stay with it. Your personal life takes an unexpected (but very welcome) new turn.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) If you feel you've been unfairly treated in a workplace decision, correct the situation now while there's still time to do so. Arm yourself with facts and go to it. Good luck.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Devising your own system of doing things might be the best way to handle an increasingly complex situation. But do it tactfully in order to avoid ruffling too many of your colleagues' feathers.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A family member's health problem might once again require you to shift some of your current priorities around. But this time, make certain other relatives will be there to help.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Catching up on tasks you've left undone will take a while to accomplish. But the sooner you complete them, the sooner you'll be able to take on another time-sensitive project.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You might feel swamped by all that you're expected to do. But take a moment to come up for air, then handle things one at a time, and you'll soon get through them all.

**Born this Week**

*Although you love being home with your family, you also enjoy traveling and making new friends.*

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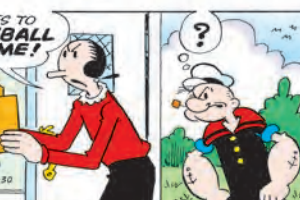
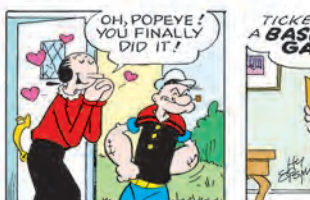
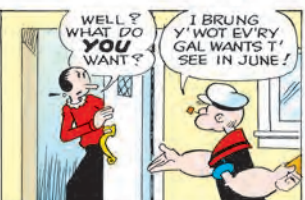
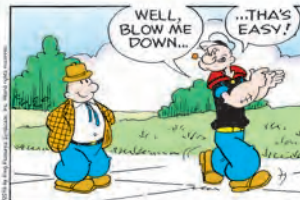
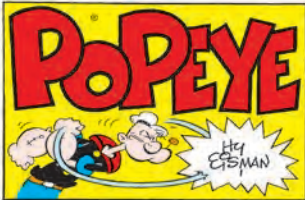
# FUN PAGES

## Kids' Maze



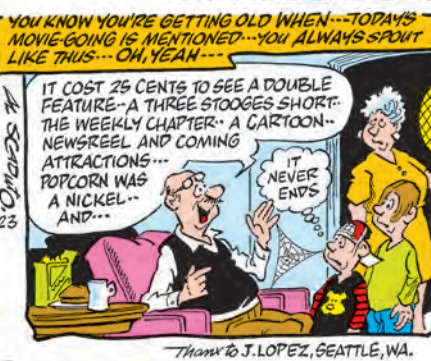
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by BUD BLAKE

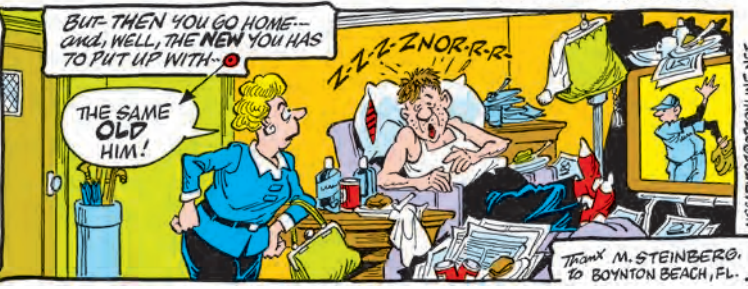


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



YOU JUST SPENT TOP PRICE FOR A SUPER PERMANENT... AND THE BEAUTY PARLOR OPERATOR, WHEN FINISHED, SAID "VOILA! IT'S THE NEW YOU!"



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Answer: Cones 1 and 9

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THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY, THE END OF TIME AND SPACE, THE BEGINNING OF EVERY END, THE END OF EVERY PLACE.

A "BEAR" OF A PUZZLE! Can you find the four five-letter words in the square at the right that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Famous ski resort.
2. Split pieces of rock.
3. Chinese bear (given).
4. A church officer.
5. Comes close to.



Answers: 1. Aspen 2. Shale 3. Panda 4. Elder 5. Nears

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## INSERT A "T" TO MAGIC MAZE ● MAKE A NEW WORD

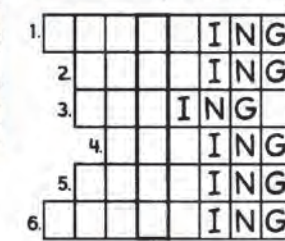
O D A X U R P M J G D D A X V  
 S Q N K I F D A X V N T Q O M  
 J H G F H C (D E D U C E D) A Y  
 W U R N G I P N O L J I H F D  
 E B G Z I N D R Y X P V T R Q  
 O N N N G N I E E L F M K K I  
 H F I O I S I N O H L D C B Z  
 Y W V L R R N M I U G A T R Q  
 O N L A A U A A K A S U R I H  
 F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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- |          |          |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Daring   | Hears    | Morally | Round   |
| Deduced  | Hideous  | Neuron  | Sack    |
| Diplomas | Laughter | Paining | Shooing |
| Fleeing  | Mining   | Pans    |         |

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



IT'S VACATION TIME!  
 In the grid on the left, there's room for six words pertaining to summer vacations. They all end with "ING." There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will tell you what you have to do a lot of before you go on vacation.

- These six hints will help you fill in the puzzle grid:
1. What you might do at a dude ranch.
  2. A good way to spend the day at the shore.
  3. A good way to study bats.
  4. This is a real leg builder.
  5. Something you can't help doing at the beach.
  6. One way of negotiating a price.



Answers: 1. Lassing 2. Boating 3. Caving 4. Hiking 5. Tanning 6. Hagging. The dark frame column spells "Saving."

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the westernmost province of Canada?
2. GAMES: What sport originally was called "mintonette" when it was invented in the late 1800s?
3. CHEMISTRY: What is the second element on the Periodic Table?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which two presidents did Dean Rusk serve as secretary of state?
5. LITERATURE: What was the title of the 19th-century book that carried the subtitle, "Life in the Woods"?
6. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of "omniscient"?
7. AD SLOGANS: What product featured the advertising slogan, "Betcha can't eat just one"?
8. MOVIES: What is the real name of the character known as Sleeping Beauty?
9. GEOLOGY: What type of rock is created from molten lava?
10. GOVERNMENT: What is the eagle in the United States' Great Seal holding in its beak?

## Answers

1. British Columbia
2. Volleyball
3. Helium
4. Kennedy and Johnson
5. "Walden"
6. Knowing everything
7. Lay's Potato Chips
8. Princess Aurora
9. Igneous
10. A scroll with the national motto, "E pluribus unum" (one from many)

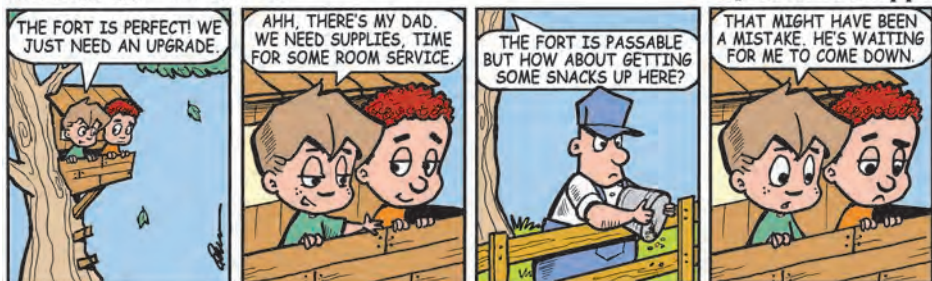
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Click on "Local News" at



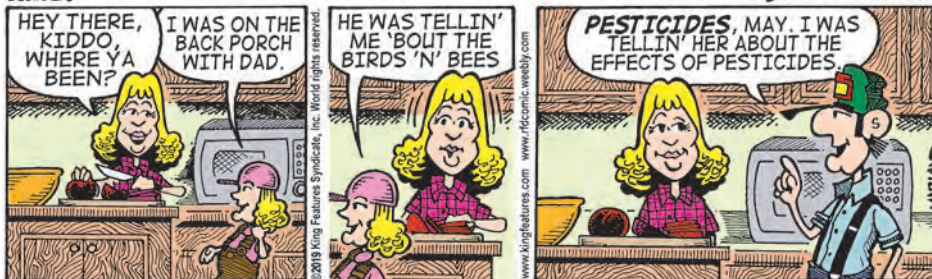
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

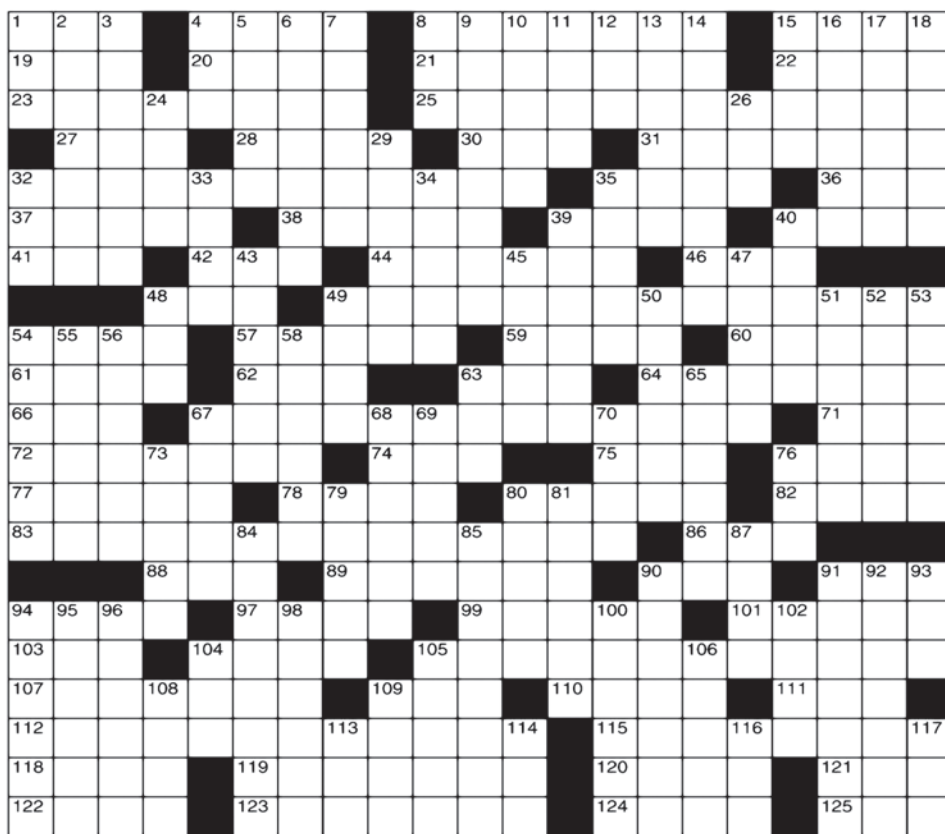
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Umbrella is different. 2. Boy's hat is black. 3. Ring on post is missing. 4. Boy's swim trunks are different. 5. Hat is moved. 6. Birds are gone.

## Super Crossword



- |  |  |   |                                      |                                    |                                       |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                | <b>46</b> Siam or Sudan ender          | <b>89</b> Not stray from, as a schedule                                       | <b>124</b> Loch — Rx watchdog        | <b>34</b> English architect Jones  | <b>79</b> Digs                        |
| <b>1</b> TV-regulating gp.                   | <b>48</b> Cat coater                   | <b>90</b> Connector to the WWW  | <b>2</b> In — (conspiring)           | <b>35</b> Grounds                  | <b>80</b> Econo Lodge, e.g.           |
| <b>4</b> Dems.' foes                         | <b>54</b> A portion of Pal. to Pablo   | <b>91</b> Elhi support org.   | <b>3</b> Hybrid bakery treats        | <b>39</b> Eye layer                | <b>81</b> Throngs                     |
| <b>8</b> May birthstone                      | <b>57</b> Sister of Bart Simpson       | <b>94</b> Split couple  | <b>4</b> Norma — (Field part)        | <b>40</b> Combine                  | <b>84</b> Member of Devo, say         |
| <b>15</b> Deform                             | <b>59</b> Verse writer Nash            | <b>97</b> Misfortunes   | <b>5</b> Dazzling effect             | <b>43</b> Region west of Catalonia | <b>85</b> Germinated                  |
| <b>19</b> Head of corn                       | <b>61</b> Spur                         | <b>101</b> Esau's father  | <b>6</b> We, he or it                | <b>45</b> Brunch fruit             | <b>87</b> Taylor boy of old TV        |
| <b>20</b> Farm unit                          | <b>62</b> 47-Down or 96-Down fuel      | <b>103</b> Family ride  | <b>7</b> Melees                      | <b>47</b> Kitchen appliance        | <b>90</b> Fuming mad                  |
| <b>21</b> Award hopeful                      | <b>63</b> It precedes Tue.             | <b>104</b> Possesses  | <b>8</b> Denver-to-Detroit dir.      | <b>48</b> Narc, e.g.               | <b>91</b> Is profitable               |
| <b>22</b> Suspicion                          | <b>64</b> Got tangled                  | <b>105</b> *Emphatic print  | <b>9</b> Not lingering               | <b>49</b> This and that: Abbr.     | <b>92</b> Narrowed gradually          |
| <b>23</b> *Bunch                             | <b>66</b> Actress Sothorn              | <b>107</b> Silky cats   | <b>10</b> Edit, as text              | <b>50</b> Tenor played by Lanza    | <b>93</b> Air hero                    |
| <b>25</b> *Course taken at night             | <b>67</b> *Gravity, e.g.               | <b>109</b> Actress Lucy of "Kill Bill"  | <b>11</b> Hockey site                | <b>51</b> Goof-offs                | <b>94</b> Avoids, as capture          |
| <b>27</b> "Wish Tree" artist Yoko            | <b>71</b> Eden figure                  | <b>110</b> iPhone voice   | <b>12</b> DiFranco of song           | <b>52</b> Riles                    | <b>95</b> Site of Kubla Khan's palace |
| <b>28</b> Meal for an echidna                | <b>72</b> Stool pigeon                 | <b>111</b> Enzyme suffix  | <b>13</b> Like pre-Easter periods    | <b>53</b> Make beloved             | <b>96</b> V-8, for one                |
| <b>30</b> Bic fluid                          | <b>74</b> When doubled, a Gabor sister | <b>112</b> *Hollywood publication for 80 years                                | <b>14</b> Abases                     | <b>54</b> Showed clemency to       | <b>98</b> Lower-priced                |
| <b>31</b> Slogs                              | <b>75</b> Horse kin                    | <b>115</b> Word with synonyms at the ends of the answers to the starred clues | <b>15</b> Savage                     | <b>55</b> Florid                   | <b>100</b> Promiser's proviso         |
| <b>32</b> *Comment to a very generous person | <b>76</b> La — Tar Pits                | <b>118</b> "Dame" Everage   | <b>16</b> Slow tempo                 | <b>56</b> Year's 12                | <b>102</b> Doe partner                |
| <b>35</b> Defeat                             | <b>77</b> Hawke of film                | <b>119</b> Stately street shader  | <b>17</b> Put on eBay, say           | <b>58</b> Prominent periods        | <b>104</b> Suffix with invent         |
| <b>36</b> Martinique, par exemple            | <b>78</b> Kazan of film                | <b>120</b> Elderly arrangement  | <b>18</b> Went beyond                | <b>14</b> Abases                   | <b>105</b> Bar brew, in France        |
| <b>37</b> Cobwebby room, often               | <b>80</b> R&B singer Marilyn           | <b>121</b> Counterpart of masc.   | <b>19</b> Put on eBay, say           | <b>15</b> Savage                   | <b>106</b> Quotes as an authority     |
| <b>38</b> Operating                          | <b>82</b> Stalin's fed.                | <b>122</b> Chop —   | <b>20</b> Greiner of "Shark Tank"    | <b>16</b> Slow tempo               | <b>108</b> Big skin cream brand       |
| <b>39</b> Pol Paul                           | <b>83</b> *Z-to-A data-alphabetizing   | <b>123</b> Sows again   | <b>21</b> Greiner of "Shark Tank"    | <b>17</b> Put on eBay, say         | <b>109</b> Low-cal                    |
| <b>40</b> Shape                              | <b>86</b> Start dozing                 |   | <b>22</b> Chop or crop               | <b>18</b> Went beyond              | <b>113</b> Apt. parts                 |
| <b>41</b> Original texts: Abbr.              | <b>88</b> Mao — -tung                  |   | <b>23</b> Gear holder for the slopes | <b>19</b> Put on eBay, say         | <b>114</b> "Sure thing!"              |
| <b>42</b> Hightailed it                      |  |   | <b>24</b> Greiner of "Shark Tank"    | <b>20</b> Greiner of "Shark Tank"  | <b>116</b> Pub. house hires           |
| <b>44</b> Forest and desert, e.g.            |  |   | <b>25</b> Gear holder for the slopes | <b>21</b> Greiner of "Shark Tank"  | <b>117</b> Sumac of song              |

# FUN PAGES



**SEM CU**  
south east madera county united

# HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Reach water sustainability  
and help the community with needs  
such as parks, a community center,  
safety, traffic and schools.

## SEM CU Regular Meeting

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where our kids grow up and where we plan to retire.  
Southeast Madera is our back yard, our home and the  
place we live. It doesn't take a lot of time,  
meeting only once a month for about an hour.

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