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18 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 18 Issue 6 2022

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

A somber reminder rolls through the Ranchos



On Saturday, May 28
a piece of the destroyed
Twin Towers from 9/11 rolled
through the Ranchos on its way to
a memorial being built in Madera at
Madera County Courthouse Park.

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In the morning air of Saturday, May 28, the 9/11 artifact slowly made its way down Avenue 12 toward Madera.

By Randy Bailey

On Saturday, May 28, a 14-foot steel beam salvaged from the World Trade Center that was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001 solemnly rolled through the Madera Ranchos. It was on its way to Madera where it is ultimately going to be incorporated into a 9/11 Memorial planned for construction at Madera County's Courtyard Park.

The beam travelled through Madera County for everyone to view on that day. It was escorted by area firefighters, law enforcement and

the American Legion Motorcycle Riders.

Earlier this year it was reported that Madera County was planning to house the beam in a 9/11 memorial at Courthouse Park. It was reported that the County has an existing memorial honoring the victims of 9/11, but the new memorial will honor the nearly 3,000 people lost from the terrorist attack and commemorate local Madera County fire fighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial is expected to be completed by September of this year.

Result of Primary Election? People Don't Care

By Randy Bailey

The results are now official from the June 7 primary election held in Madera County. There were the requisite winners and losers, but possibly the biggest loser was our system of self governance. The numbers don't lie: People in Madera County just don't care.

In the official election summary released by Rebecca Martinez, the County Clerk in charge of such things, on the first page of the report is a sobering statistic. Of Madera County's 158,662 people, 73 percent are over 18 and are eligible to vote. That's 115,823 people who *could* have some say in the affairs that ultimately impact their lives. Of those 115,823 voting age people, 71,961 have bothered to register to vote. So, of the people who *could* vote, the number who *can* vote is 62 per-

cent of the total.

It gets better.

In this election, out of a total of 71,961 potential voters, 24,810 *actually* voted. That's a whopping 34 percent turnout. What does that ultimately mean? It means that 15 percent of the population is making decisions for over 150,000



people. But go one step further: Fifteen percent is voting for the rest of the population and they're probably going to vote for or against something. So that's (theoretically) 51 percent for or against something and 49 percent on the other side. So realistically you could be talking about eight percent of the population calling the shots. That's 12,692 people making the decisions for over 158,000 good people in Madera County. The best part? The non-voters are willingly giving up their "say" at election time by not showing up, although I am confident they are not giving up their complaining when those decisions begin to impact them afterward.

Another area where low turnout impacts elections can be seen in our own District 1 Supervisorial race. The three

Please see **VOTE** on P. 4

Supreme Court's Overturn of Roe, Impact on Madera

On Friday, June 24 the United States Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to overturn the historic Roe v. Wade abortion decision that created a constitutional right for a woman to have an abortion. The decision on Friday does not outlaw abortion, but rather moves the question to the states instead of keeping it at the federal level.

In his decision for the court that overturned Roe v. Wade, Justice Samuel Alito said, "Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. Roe and Casey arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the

people and their elected representatives."

Although the decision has no impact on states where abortion is legal, such as California, legislators have already started pushing legislation making California a "sanctuary state" for abortion. An unintended consequence of those actions could spark a surge in "abortion travel" from states that have banned abortion. "People who are seeking abortions in California may have a harder time getting appointments, may see facilities get more crowded because abortion care will essentially become more concentrated," UC Davis law professor Mary Ziegler said.

On Friday afternoon, Governor New-

som signed Assembly Bill 1666 into law that protects out-of-state patients who travel to California for an abortion from lawsuits in other states. It also protects providers who come to the state to give an abortion. Those protections take effect immediately.

Although California is an "abortion friendly" state, 40 percent of counties in California didn't even have an abortion clinic.

Under current California law, minors do not need parental consent to get an abortion. For more information about your legal rights, you can go to reprolegalhelpline.org or call the Repro Legal Helpline at 844-868-2812.

An Ending For "Jungle Primary"?

By Katy Grimes

Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) announced Tuesday, June 21 that he authored and introduced a Constitutional Amendment to allow voters to vote to end California's "Top 2 Primary" election system, also known as the "Jungle Primary." Assembly Constitutional Amendment 16 would require a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and the Senate, as well as a majority of California voters.

"The Top 2 Primary is making a farce of our democracy with gamesmanship, fluke outcomes and the disenfranchisement of independent voters," said Assemblyman Kiley. "After 10 years of broken promises, it's time to end this failed experiment once and for

"The Top 2 Primary is making a farce of our democracy with gamesmanship, fluke outcomes and the disenfranchisement of independent voters ... After 10 years of broken promises, it's time to end this failed experiment once and for all."

all."

California's electorate adopted its "top-two" primary system at the June 2010 statewide election by passing Prop. 14. It became operative on Jan. 1, 2011 and amended Section 5 of Article II of the California Constitution, California Globe contributor Chris Micheli explained.

Prop. 14 added to Section 5(a) that "the candidates who are the top two vote-getters at a voter-nominated primary election for a congressional or state elective office shall, regardless of party preference, compete in the ensuing general election."

"Proposition 14 created a single ballot for primary elections, rather than multiple ballots based on political party, for elected statewide and legislative officials, members of the U.S. Senate, and members of the U.S. House," Ballotpe-

Please see **JUNGLE** on P. 14

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VOTE cont. from P. 2

candidates were neck and neck right down to the wire. Jordan Wamhoff got 1,661 votes, only 16 more votes than Andy Wheeler. And Michele Stephens came in third with only 128 votes less than Wheeler. An energized sewing circle could have changed the outcome of an election.

Here are the complete **Madera County** numbers. The top two vote getters go on to the general election in November and any candidate who got 50 percent of the vote +1 is the outright winner.

GOVERNOR

Newsom (D) 32.74%
Dahle (R) 32.36%

LT GOVERNOR

Jacobs (R) 29.37%
Kounalakis (D) 29.24%

SECTY of STATE

Weber (D) 46.48%
Bernosky (R) 25.30%

CONTROLLER

Chen (R) 59.52%
Cohen (D) 12.15%

TREASURER

Guerrero (R) 38.67%
Ma (D) 36.22%

ATTORNY GENERAL

Bonta (D) 33.35%
Early (R) 30.31%

INS COMM

Howell (R) 34.88%
Lara (D) 24.27%

EQUALIZATION

Gaines (R) 64.80%
Altamiriano (D) 19.67%

US SENATE -- FULL TERM

Padilla (D) 29.37%
Meuser (R) 22.65%

US SENATE -- PARTIAL TERM

Meuser (R) 35.93%
Padilla (D) 32.24%

Please see VOTE on P. 12

4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings

Sierra Shadows 4H Club
By Regan Fringer



By Sarah Morgan

For the public, the Chowchilla Fair is held for four days in May; this year it was May 19-22. But for 4-H and FFA kids, it's a week-long event to show animals and be involved in other ag-related events. Those events this year were held from May 15 through 22 for all of the kids who do 4-H and FFA so that they could get ribbons for their

work sell their animals.

The Sierra Shadows 4-H kids who exhibited swine were Micah Lee, Lucy Lee, Sarah Morgan, Kaden Tickel, Sienna Garcia, Landon Davis, Roman Pena, Hunter Weathers, Katherine Talley and Kenneth Talley.

Wyatt Morgan exhibited his feeder steer and the kids that exhibited their goats were Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith and Kinleigh Conae. The kids that exhibited poultry at the fair were Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith, Colie Tickel, Jake Poore and Thiago Garcia.

Some kids also signed up for non-animal exhibits, called still exhibits, at the fair. Paisley Bower exhibited several things and got Best in Show for her baking goods. Aubrey Rocca exhibited some of her arts and crafts creations. Wyatt Morgan entered a photograph, a Lego creation and a shoe garden. Lucy Lee made a drawing and got a 1st place ribbon. Sarah Morgan entered two photographs and a boot garden and won Best in Show with one of her photographs. Lucy Lee and Taylor Ward also exhibited their horsemanship skills in the horse show. The Chowchilla Fair was a good show and it appeared to be a good show for everyone who exhibited at the event this year.



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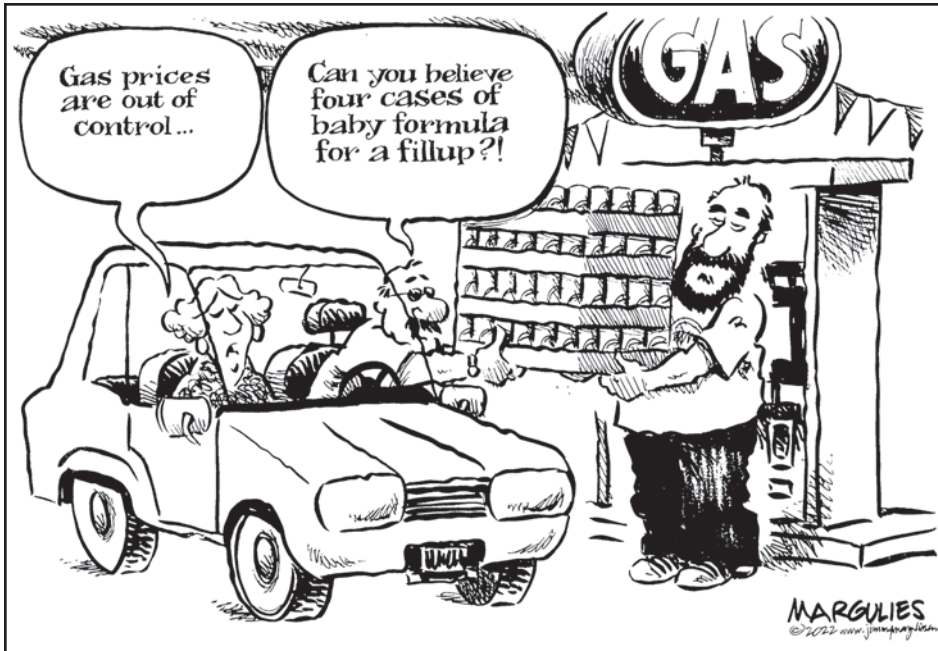
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Guest Editorial

The Democrats' New Clothes

By Tom McClintock

We all know the tale of the Emperor's New Clothes. Grifters convince an emperor that they're expert tailors who weave a cloth so fine that only the virtuous can see it. The emperor wraps himself in nothing and parades the streets as all the townspeople compete to signal their own virtue by proclaiming how beautiful the material is – even though their own common sense tells them otherwise. This scheme is successful until a little boy who knows better states the obvious.

For two years, we were told by the experts that they could stop Covid-19, if everyone did exactly as they commanded. "I AM science," as one put it. They quashed debate within the medical community and ridiculed, censored and fired any dissenters. Looking back, we can clearly see what a self-destructive folly they produced. Study after study now confirms the obvious: that the mask mandates, school closures, home detention orders and business closures had virtually no impact on the virus, but they did appalling damage to the economy, seriously harmed children in ways we are still cataloging and cost untold lives due to suicides, drug and alcohol overdoses, delayed health screenings and treatments and poverty related

deaths.

This recent, tragic experience should warn us all to be much more skeptical of surrendering common sense to so-called experts and of suppressing free debate over what science actually tells us.

Which brings us to the Democrats' ongoing and escalating war on fossil fuels. The road they have placed us on leads to a bleak future of unaffordable energy, rolling blackouts, empty shelves and increasingly brutal rationing of every watt of electricity and drop of gasoline that we once took for granted.

Gasoline prices are already the highest ever seen in this country as we have discouraged production. Electricity prices are skyrocketing, pushed by the crushing cost of renewables. Utilities across the country are now warning of summer blackouts because renewable mandates have destabilized the electricity grid.

Joe Biden and the Democrats promised to wage war on fossil fuels, and they have succeeded. On his first day in office, he cancelled the Keystone Pipeline, which should today have been completed and be delivering 830,000 barrels of oil a day into American markets. He cancelled oil and gas exploration on federal lands. Just last month, he withdrew one million acres of land from exploration and production in oil-rich Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

And he blames Vladimir Putin? Under the pro-growth policies of the Trump Administration, America didn't need Putin's oil. We were energy independent for the first time in our lifetime. We were producing more oil than Russia and even Saudi Arabia. The day the Democrats took office, gasoline was averaging \$2.39 a gallon.

Today, sky-high fuel prices are aggravating supply chain breakdowns and adding to consumer prices.

Acreage once devoted to growing corn for food is now used to produce ethanol – which requires trading an entire acre of corn for just 551 gallons of ethanol.

And the irony is, at a time when these green new deal policies can't guarantee enough electricity to keep the lights on this summer – at any

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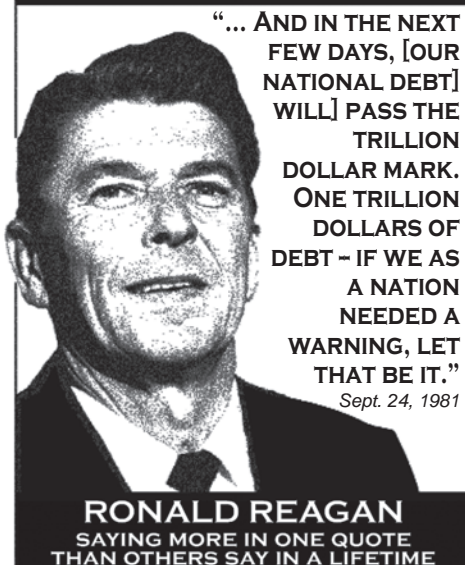
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Sept. 24, 1981

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 17

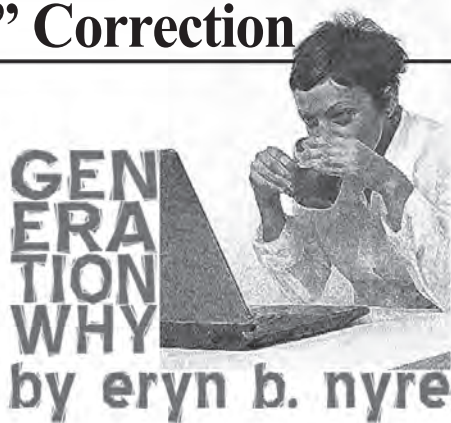
Time for a "Karen" Correction

I think society needs a slight course correction on the whole "Karen" thing. Yes, the jerk who throws her burrito at the Taco Bell employee because there wasn't enough cheese on it, Karen. The donkey's hind quarters who tries to make the Target cashier feel stupid because something isn't ringing up right, also Karen. The problem, however, is that society's pursuit to find Karens in their natural habitats and record them for posterity has made regular people afraid to speak up when they aren't getting the product or the service they are paying for. Better not ask to speak to the manager about this rude employee or this mismarked item, someone will call me a name and put my face on the internet. I think we need to get back to a place where customer service is a real thing and patrons speak up, albeit respectfully, when that isn't happening.

As you might imagine, this is going somewhere. I had to deal with a sales associate at a tire store the other day who thought I was either a liar or a raging idiot. He was condescending and rude. Although I got what I needed in the end, it became an arduous process that had my insides absolutely screaming to ask for a manager. I didn't, but I should have.

First, some background. All four tires on my car were purchased from the same location of a national chain. You may be thinking it's Walmart ... it's not. My dad has always told me to get my tires at Walmart, but evidently I was feeling fancy. I digress. I purchased the tires in sets of two about eight months apart. I also purchased the insurance plan where they repair or replace the tire at no additional charge. Two of my tires are name brand, because I didn't know any better, and the other two are generic.

Anyway, last week my tire pressure system yelled at me and it turned out I managed to pick up a



by **eryn b. nyre**

hitchhiker in the form of a giant screw. It was right at the edge of the tread in one of the generic tires, but in the sidewall. It meant I was going to need a new one. I changed the tire, drove home on a donut and made an appointment for the following morning to get it sorted out. Easy peasy ... or at least it should have been.

I rolled into the shop the next morning and up to the check-in line. The guy who came to my win-

ow looked like he was already having a bad day, and it was only about 9 a.m. Still, he had a kind face, so I smiled big, said hello, and I told him why I was there. He needed only to

look up my account to verify I had, in fact, purchased the tire and the insurance from that store and wasn't a dirty fibber looking to scam a nationwide company with an elaborate database. I don't know what he was doing, but it wasn't that. I also had all the receipts and paperwork with me because I was raised by my father.

I took him to the trunk to look at the tire. He stared at it for a beat then told me that I didn't get it there because they don't sell those. To which I replied, I have the paperwork with me. He didn't even look at me, he just shook his head and said nope as if I were a toddler trying to sneak a cookie. Starting to seethe, I told him they were ordered online. They may not stock them, but they were purchased on the company's website, not third party, and installed at this location.

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

Then I said I had the paperwork with me ... again.

It is here in the story that I would like to point out two things. One, he had yet to pull up my account. Two, he was not looking at me while I talked to him. I tried to hand him my paperwork. Still without looking at me, or taking my documents, he said he'd never seen that brand of tire here and I was wrong. While shaking his head, he finally finished pulling up my information. Then he paused.

As I saw the realization dawn on his face, I thought about what I might do in his position. I would have sucked it up and apologized. I would have said I was mistaken. I would have looked him in the eye. He went in another direction and said, "See, we don't stock those here. I told you. You had to order them online," as if that was brand

new information.

He hit a few more buttons on his device then, with a level of audacity I thought was reserved for actors and professional athletes, he asked me if I wanted to buy new wipers or upgrade my spare to a full-sized tire. I scoffed and with a shake of my head I just said, "Nope." Without another word he turned away and signaled for my car to be taken into the bay.

I ended up getting a new tire at no charge because of the insurance, but I should have spoken to a manager. I would have let them know that once it's time for new tires, they no longer have a customer in me. Being treated like that, paying the prices they charge, I might as well go to Walmart. They don't treat people much better there, but at least they're cheap and don't aggressively try to upsell you every time you're on property.

Ugh ... my dad will never let me hear the end of it.

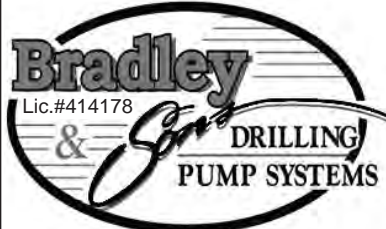
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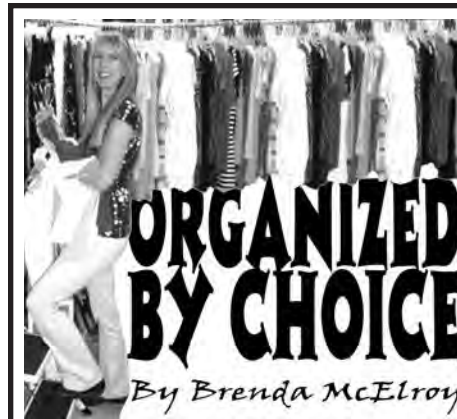


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Happiness Inside

"Happiness inside." Yesterday I saw this printed on the side of an Amazon truck. As a Prime member, I order my share of "happiness." It arrives with unbeatable speed and accuracy. Most times though, I pick up the box from the porch struggling to remember what I ordered. Among those boxes there's a small percentage of things that truly bring happiness.

My husband, being the fun grandpa he is, ordered a zipline for our granddaughters to use in our backyard. It brings happiness to the observing parents, grandparents and great-grandparents as well as to our granddaughters who swing through the air squealing with delight.

Often it seems the shopping experience itself causes more happiness than the item purchased. In the online article, *Why Retail "Therapy" Makes You Feel Happier*, clinical psychologist Scott Bea, PsyD. says, "Research suggests there's actually a lot of psychological and therapeutic value when you're shopping — if done in moderation, of course."

He explains that even just browsing, scrolling online or window shopping, can release dopamine, the neurotransmitter in our brain known as the "happy hormone." In that case it's more about the anticipation of the reward than the purchase itself.

For those feeling down about circumstances beyond their control, choosing something to buy and making a purchase can boost the mood by restoring a sense of control and autonomy.

Retail therapy also provides a distraction from difficulties in life. "The smell of something new, the bright lights and colorful displays combine to create an imaginative, sensory experience that can remove us from our own reality, even for a little while," says Dr. Bea.

As with many activities, shopping therapy has the capacity to bring happiness, but can also pull you down. Here are a few things to watch for and positive ways to stay in control.

Box build up. Online ordering spiked with the advent of Covid. In addition to items we buy for pleasure or gifts, many of our staples are delivered as well. When ordering, choose the Amazon delivery option that gets your orders together in fewer boxes.

Designate a place for packages waiting to be opened other than the entryway to your home. The laundry room or entry closet keeps them close, but not cluttering your living space.

Store a box cutter in the same area and take time to break down the boxes and place them in a recycle bin whenever you open a package. Most Amazon returns don't require the box, but if you need to keep it, store the box broken down and folded in the garage. Apply a sticky note saying what it was for and the date, so you know when to discard it.

No room for more stuff. Whether you're shopping for clothes, kitchen gadgets, tools, recreational items, or anything else, ask yourself, "Do I have space for this right now?" If your rooms and closets are already

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 11

Ice Cream Time

(June 2012)

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



by Jean Briner

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! What is better than a freezer of homemade ice cream on a hot summer evening?

I remember when we were young we had a hand-crank ice cream maker. We kids would have to sit on the freezer so that it would stay in one place while they were cranking the handle. Daddy would put a folded blanket on it for us to sit on, but we would still gripe that our butts were getting cold.

But we loved it. The ice cream always started out vanilla, but if there were fresh peaches

or strawberries they were crushed and sweetened. Then when the ice cream was almost done, he would take the lid off and take some of the ice cream out and put the fruit in, and finish cranking until it just wouldn't crank any more. Of course we always got to eat the ice cream he took out, then when it was done, he would take the paddle out and "pack it" until it was ready to eat. He would fold up a piece of wax paper to fit over the top of the canister then put the lid back on, this way the ice and salt couldn't get into the ice cream. Then he'd drain off all the water and repack it with lots of ice and more salt and cover it with a gunny sack and the blanket that was used for our seat. Then we would

have to wait. Have you ever had to wait for the mailman to bring you that package you ordered two weeks ago? Or even Christmas or your birthday? That was what it was like waiting for the ice cream to be ready to eat.

When I got older and was doing some of the kitchen chores, mama would let me make the ice cream mix. I remember it was 10 eggs, beaten until light colored, adding 3 cups of sugar, a half teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour this mixture into the can-

I remember when we were young we had a hand-crank ice cream maker. We kids would have to sit on the freezer so that it would stay in one place while they were cranking the handle. Daddy would put a folded blanket on it for us to sit on, but we would still gripe that our butts were getting cold.

ister, and add a can of evaporated milk and enough whole milk to come up to the line on the canister. Then as I got older, and began to hear about eating raw eggs, I started making a custard. I would beat the eggs, adding the sugar, salt and vanilla. Heating the milk (at this time, I started using some half & half in place of the whole milk) until it just comes to a bubble (don't boil it) and add some of the milk to the egg mixture, beating all the time to avoid having scrambled eggs, then add this mixture back into the milk. Be sure to cool this mixture before putting into the canister to freeze and crank until it's done.

In later years, I remember not using as much sugar but would add a large package of instant vanilla pudding to the mix. After my brother got out of high school and went to work he bought an electric ice cream maker. It was a heck of a lot easier, but on the down side, it just didn't make the ice

cream as hard as the old crank method.

As a "Reminisce" moment: Do any of you remember before crushed ice in a bag? We went to the ice house and would put a couple of quarters in the slot and this big block of ice would come out that had a strong twine wrapped around it for carrying. We would bring this block home and put it in a galvanized tub and start chipping it with an ice pick.

Randy's youngest brother Adam (the pie maker) made a freezer of ice cream for us for the fourth of July. It was delicious and I asked him for his recipe for a four quart freezer:

Homemade Ice Cream

2 C Whole Milk
1 3/4 C Sugar
1/2 tsp Salt

1 1/2 T Vanilla
2 C Half & Half
4 C Whipping Cream

Put the milk in a pan to heat just to the scald stage. DO NOT BOIL! After the milk is hot, remove from heat and add the sugar and salt, stirring until dissolved. Add the vanilla and the two creams and put the mixture in the refrigerator until it cools. After it is cool, put it in the canister and freeze according to your freezer's directions.

I love sherbet - pineapple is one of my favorites. When we were all still at home I would make pineapple sherbet as often as I could. I made it so often; I knew the recipe by heart. There were seven of us, so I would always double the recipe - hope

Please see RECIPES on P. 9



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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

you like it too:

Pineapple Sherbet

- ½ C pineapple juice (canned)
- 1 T lemon juice
- ⅔ C sugar
- 2 C cold milk

Combine the pineapple juice, lemon juice and sugar, mixing to be sure sugar is dissolved. Put in refrigerator until it is cold. Pour this cold mixture into the cold milk – NEVER pour the milk into the juices or you will have one curdled mess! Pour into a shallow pan and put in freezer. Just before it is frozen solid, use a fork to stir it up then put back in freezer to freeze solid. When frozen, turn into a mixing bowl and beat lightly with a mixer. Return to pan and freeze until frozen.

Ice cream is always good eaten by itself, but if you want to make some cookies, I have a recipe for you. One of our readers Linda Autry sent me this recipe. She said she wishes she could take credit for developing

the recipe but she couldn't, she got it off the TV from the Paula Deen Show. Regardless of where it came from, it still sounds OOEEY GOOEY! She went on to say she took a platter of the cookies to a graduation party and the teenagers gave her a sitting ovation. Enjoy.

Chocolate Goopy Butter Cookies

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 stick butter, room temperature
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 box moist dark chocolate cake mix
- Confectioner's sugar

In a large bowl with an electric mixer; cream the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in the egg, the vanilla, then the cake mix. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or more to firm up so you can roll the batter into balls. Refrigerate overnight is best! Roll the chilled batter into tablespoon-sized balls and then

roll them in confectioner's sugar. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet, 2 inches apart and bake for 12 minutes. Let them sit on the cookie sheet for 15 minutes until they are completely cool. These cookies will remain soft and gooey, if they last that long! Linda said a lemon, spice or any flavor moist cake mix can be used instead of chocolate.

For those of you that make a lot of cookies and use the teaspoon or tablespoon method to drop your cookies on the cookie sheets, if you haven't done so yet, have you considered investing in an ice cream scoop? The old-fashioned kind with the thumb release. My mom had

four or five of them – all the way from a tiny one, about the size of a melon baller, to a large one, the size for meat balls. She used them for lots of things – her Martha Washington candy, all sizes of cookies and making even-sized hamburgers. I don't know how expensive they are now, but you might want to look into them. I found many to choose from online, just search for "portion scoops."

I sincerely want to thank all the contributors. As I've said in each article, THIS ARTICLE IS FOR AND ABOUT YOU – NOT OUR FAMILY.

Until next month – Aunt Jean.

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Senior Report

Senior Summer Activities Coming

By *Melanie Williams*

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center celebrates the summer months with new activities in July, kicking off with our Monthly Sale at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

On July 2 from 8 a.m. to noon, the Treasure House is featuring a 10 percent off flyer than can be used for one item in the Treasure House or the Senior Center Boutique. The Bake Sale is also happening at the same time. Check out the “Star Spangled Banner” cookies. You never know what you might find at the Monthly Sale at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos.

A new activity is a Senior Painting Party on July 6. Melanie Glass is our guide to this new ArtHop event for seniors. She is the ArtHop event director at River Park’s Art Groove Gallery in Fresno and the CEO and founder of B AWESOME, a group that provides a creative space for the community to express, explore and experience the arts. Our Senior Center member and artist, Mary Orcutt, will be attending the Senior Painting Party to lend her own artistic talents to the project. For more information call 559-645-4864.

Our annual raffle event is coming in July and we are seeking unique donations. If you wish to donate, please contact the Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

Our Planning Meeting is July 5 at 12:30 p.m. Community members are welcome to participate and learn more about the activities at the Senior Center.

The General Meeting is on July 12 at 1:30 p.m. and all are welcome to attend to find out what happens at the

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Card Bingo is back on the July calendar. The first Bingo game is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 12:15 p.m. Call your friends and join us for this popular event. For more information, sign up at the Senior Center.

We are celebrating our July Birthdays and Anniversaries on July 16 at 12:15 p.m. Simply Scrumptious is catering the event at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Please call or sign up at the Senior Center for the luncheon at 559-645-4864.

Our Madera Food Bank “Brown Bag Day” is on July 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can sign up for a Brown Bag by filling out an application at the Madera Food Bank online at www.maderafoodbank.com, or by contacting its office at 225 S. Pine St., Madera, 93637. You can also call them at 674-1482 or call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

Nancy Palazzo has once again graciously offered to lead a jewelry design class during our monthly meeting of Coffee, Craft and Conversation on July 28 at 9:30 a.m. She is planning to teach a class on how to make button bracelets. The cost is \$5 for the supplies and materials that will be provided. Anyone can participate. Please call or sign up at the Senior Center.

Many of our members would like to plan more activities that would involve men in our local community. We are hosting a meeting on July 28 at 10 a.m. to discuss some events that would appeal to all of our community members. Men are welcome to come and give their input and ideas of future events we could plan at the Senior Center. Coffee and snacks will be provided at



Winners of the Puzzle Party at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are, from left, Jan Williams, Diane Maxfield, Dan Suderman, Juanita Williams and Jerry Conkle. Not pictured is Carrie Bennett.

the meeting.

The Senior Center has weekly events on the calendar for the entire summer. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. is the Senior Stretch and Exercise Class. Every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. we have two groups playing card games. We would like to invite more people to join so the groups can grow.

Happy July 4th from the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Center will be closed on Monday, July 4.

Thought for July: “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” – President Harry S. Truman

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ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

maxed, your happiness from the order will be short-lived when you have to cram it into an already crowded area.

Make space first. That usually means letting go of unused items, not adding on to the house.

No funds to cover it. If it's going on a credit card that's not getting paid off each month, the happiness from the purchase will last only as long as it takes to get the bill.

By saving up for an item, you can prolong the mood boost as you anticipate receiving it when you have the money for it.

Monthly subscriptions. These can be fun and useful, but if you have a backlog of makeup, craft supplies, or other monthly subscription items, they easily become clutter and burdensome instead of a blessing. Cancel, use up what you have and evaluate the benefit verses cost (\$ and space) before re-subscribing.

Impulsive Buying. With ads continually popping up, it can be hard not to go down the rabbit hole and end up with something

you had no intention of buying. Leave it in the cart overnight. If, in the morning, you decide not to buy it, you got the dopamine from the search without the stress of paying for and storing it.

Compulsive Buying. For about 5 percent of shoppers, shopping goes beyond retail therapy and buying what is needed. If you find yourself continually buying multiples or things you don't need, purchasing items outside your budget, being secretive or feeling guilty about purchases, neglecting work/family responsibilities to shop needlessly, consider talking with a mental health professional.

Here's a bit of Amazon trivia. I may be the only one that didn't already know this, but the arrow that looks like a smile under the word amazon, is connecting the "a" and the "z" emphasizing that Amazon.com offers everything from A to Z. And there you have it.

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Repackaged Revolution Ideas Being Used on You

Laying Siege to the Institutions

By Christopher F. Rufo

Why do I say that we need to lay siege to our institutions? Because of what has happened to our institutions since the 1960s.

The 1960s saw the rise of new and radical ideologies in America that now seem commonplace; ideologies based on ideas like identity politics and cultural revolution. There is a direct line between those ideas born in the '60s and the public policies being adopted today in leftist-run cities like Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago.

The leftist dream of a working-class rebellion in America fizzled after the '60s. By the mid-1970s, radical groups like the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground had faded from prominence, but the leftist dreamers didn't give up. Abandoning hope of a Russian-style revolution, they settled on a more sophisticated strategy — waging a revolution not of the proletariat, but of the elites, and specifically of the knowledge elites. It would proceed not by taking over the means of production, but by taking control of education and culture — a strategy that German Marxist Rudi Dutschke, a student activist in the 1960s, called “the long march through the institutions.”

This idea is traceable to Italian communist Antonio Gramsci, who wrote in the 1930s of “capturing the culture via infiltration of schools, universities, churches and the media by transforming the consciousness of society.”

This march through our institutions, begun a half-century ago, has now proved largely successful. Over the past two years, I've looked at the federal bureaucracy, the universities, K-12 schools, and big corporations. And what I've found is that the revolutionary ideas of the '60s have been repackaged, repurposed and injected into American life at the institutional level.

Most Americans are shocked to discover this. We've all seen the outrage of parents over the past two years as they learned that their young children were being divided according to their skin color and deemed oppressed or oppressors in public school classrooms. Parents began expressing their outrage against critical race theory not only in school board meet-

ings, but at the polls. This made big news in last year's gubernatorial election in Virginia, and the demographic of the now-widespread voter rebellion shows that it crosses party lines.

The Case of the Disney Company

There has been a similar response following the more recent revelations about the Walt Disney Company — a company founded 99 years ago and associated in the public mind with wholesome family entertainment.

I've been reporting on Disney for more than a year, and I have good sources inside the company. I broke a story last year about Disney forcing employees to engage in a critical race theory training program that denounced America as fundamentally racist, had its white employees complete a “white privilege checklist,” and included exercises on “decolonizing” bookshelves.

Disney's first reaction was to deflect. In response to accusations of racism, the company issued a press release denying the charge. Incredibly, it offered as proof the fact that it had produced the movie *Black Panther* — a kind of corporate variation on “I'm not racist, some of my best friends are black.” This ridiculous response suggests that Disney executives were caught totally off guard. The elites who run our institutions, after all, are not accustomed to being challenged.

Disney eventually deleted information on the controversial training program from its internal website. But all things remaining the same, the program will resurface. This wasn't, after all, a case of well-intentioned people making a mistake. Leftist ideologies are now baked into the structures of these institutions.

A much bigger controversy began when the Disney Company waded into a political fight with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. DeSantis had signed a bill, passed by the state legislature, which prohibited teaching about gender ideology, sexual orientation and sexuality in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade classrooms. Despite the fact that its opponents gave this bill an intentionally misleading name — the “Don't Say Gay” bill — it is supported, depending on the questions used by pollsters, by between 60 and 80 percent of Floridians.

Acting against its own apparent business interest, Disney — the most famous children's entertainment corporation in history — came out publicly in opposition to this bill banning discussions of gender identity in elementary classrooms prior to the fourth grade. In an official statement, it

declared that the company's goal was “for this law to be repealed ... or struck down in the courts.”

Shortly thereafter, my sources at Disney leaked a video to me of an hour and 40-minute companywide meeting about the controversy. And what did the video reveal? In a series of unedited clips that I released on social media, an executive producer at Disney said that she had been inserting what she called a “not-so-secret gay agenda” into children's programming, targeting kids as young as two years old, and had experienced no pushback. A production coordinator said that he had created a tracking program to make sure that the company was including enough transgender, non-binary and asexual characters. The president of Disney's general entertainment content referenced a Disney initiative declaring that “50 percent of regular and recurring characters across Disney General Entertainment will come from underrepresented groups.” And a diversity and inclusion manager talked about the company's new policy of doing away with the terms “ladies and gentlemen” and “boys and girls” at Disney theme parks.

These discussions weren't taking place in an Ivy League faculty lounge, but among high-level executives at Walt Disney. Americans were shocked, and rightfully so. The unmistakable gist of the video was that Disney was secretly trying to change, in a fundamental way, how children think about sexuality by engineering a narrative based on gender ideology.

Disney executives had marched into this controversy beating their chests, talking trash to Governor DeSantis, and committing the company to the overthrow of the bill protecting young children. But the leaked videos quickly generated over 100 million media impressions, and with public opinion heavily on the other side — not only in Florida, but nationwide — Disney was pummeled. People started canceling their subscriptions to Disney's streaming service, canceling planned trips to Disney theme parks, canceling Disney cruises, and thinking twice about letting their children watch Disney movies.

Elected officials noticed, too. The Florida legislature and Governor DeSantis have already revoked the special governance and tax status Disney has enjoyed since the 1960s. Disney's stock value plummeted nearly \$50 billion in less than two months. And now Members of Congress are asking why Disney deserves automatic copyright extensions on things like

Please see **REVOLUTION** on P. 15



1. Name the group that released "What's the Name of Your Love?"
2. Who wrote and released "Have I Told You Lately"?
3. What was the original name of The Ronettes?

1. The Emotions, in 1979. The group performed the song in 1980 on "The Midnight Special" variety show.
2. Van Morrison, in 1989. In a U.K. poll, the song made the list of "Top 10 First Dance Wedding Songs," and in the U.S. it was included on a list of "The 100 Greatest Love Songs."
3. Ronnie and the Relatives. The trio included Veronica (known as Ronnie), her sister Estelle and cousin Nedra.

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VOTE cont. from P. 4

CONGRESS DIST 5

McClintock (R) 49.38%
Barkley (D) 26.97%

CONGRESS DIST 13

Duarte (R) 31.85%
Giglio (R) 26.25%

STATE SENATE DIST 4

Radanovich (R) 32.43%
Bailey (R) 20.10%

STATE SENATE DIST 14

Shor (R) 51.07%

ASSEMBLY DIST 27

Soria (D) 39.09%
Pazin (R) 34.73%

SUP COURT JUDGE #1

Rigby 68.74%

SUP PUB INSTRUCTION

Thurmond 31.07%
Christensen 16.63%

CO SUP DIST 1

Wamhoff 34.44%
Wheeler 34.11%

CO SUP DIST 2

Rogers 53.24%

CO SUP DIST 5

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Reed 41.73%

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Frazier 53.70%

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FROM BIRTH- 6TH GRADE

SEMCU speaks

By Robin Henderson Konegni

Our Ranchos community cares; there is no doubt about that. Listen, and you will hear our community spirit. You will hear about the recent way we came together to celebrate our new Honorary Mayor, Alec Konkle. You will hear about how neighbors continue to come together to help those in need, like the Acosta Family, who recently lost everything in a fire. Finally, you will hear the cries of fear as we experience carnage brought on by the uncontrolled traffic on Ave. 12.

Our most recent community spirit assembly was the Flatlanders Day Parade on May 21. Again, we came together as a community, led by the Boy Scouts and high school marching band. Then, of course, our fabulous SEMCU float that celebrated the community's

farms and farmers.

Our community spirit is alive and strong in the Ranchos. Still, we need to accept that our area is changing, and change can be productive. We have witnessed the changes each time we have driven down Ave 12 from 41. Acre by acre, our orchards are disappearing and homes are appearing.



This transition fulfills the need for homes while creating a solution for the land that cannot support crops due to the ongoing drought.

But, as Margaret J. Wheatley said, "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." SEMCU asked that question at the Flatlanders Day Parade and

received solid and positive answers. "We need a way to control the traffic on Ave. 12 NOW," and "We need a regional park and a community center." SEMCU can help make that happen, but we need the power of the Ranchos Community to help make this a reality.

Please join us for the SEMCU meeting on July 18 and find out what SEMCU can do for you and your community.

If you are interested in writing grants for SEMCU, the organization will happily reimburse you for your grant writing college classes with the submission of a grant writing certificate.

Please join us for our next meeting on July 18 online.

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

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

SEMCU is "By the Community, For the Community"

JUNGLE cont. from P. 2

dia reports. "The measure prohibited political parties from nominating candidates in a primary, although political parties were allowed to endorse, support, or oppose candidates. Prop. 14 did not affect partisan primary elections for president or political party officers."

Kiley continued, "Proponents of the Top 2 Primary system argued that it would lead to increased voter participation, less partisanship and more competitive races, but none of these outcomes have materialized. ACA 16 (Kiley) would address a number of bipartisan frustrations with the current primary system that has led to multiple instances of Republicans and Democrats being unrepresented in November legislative runoffs."

The San Diego Union Tribune editorial board wrote in 2018 about the "hated" Jungle Primary and why, even as they continued to support it: "Eight years later, what's come to be known as the 'jungle primary' is again facing ferocious criticism from partisans.

Please see JUNGLE on P. 15

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JUNGLE cont. from P. 14

“Democrats hate the fact that with so many Democratic candidates splitting the vote, it’s possible that two Republicans could advance to the fall runoff in some of the seven highly contested California House seats now held by the GOP. Republicans hate the fact that there’s a chance two Democrats could advance in the governor’s race, thus potentially depressing GOP turnout in November.”

Their reasoning for continued support is interesting:

“In an era of heavy partisanship and polarization, the view that it is unhealthy to give too much gate-keeping power to the two major parties is more appealing than ever — especially given their declining support. Gallup has reported way more independents than either Democrats or Republicans since 2011, and the gap is widening. Last year, Gallup found independents at 42 percent, Democrats at 29 percent and Republicans at 27 percent.”

A recent op ed in the Sacramento Bee by Ron Nehring, former chairman of the California Republican Party, and Steve Maviglio, Sacramento-based Democratic strategist, excoriated the top 2 primary:

“Just as the top-two primary has created opportunities to game the system, it has produced quirky results that have denied millions of Californians the chance to vote for like-minded candidates in general elections. Two out of three U.S. Senate races and 12 percent of all congressional races under this system have featured two candidates from the same party.

“The top-two primary has spawned cynical campaign tactics, forced millions of voters to choose between two unsatisfactory options in the fall and produced bizarre results. It’s time to declare this experiment a failure and move on.”

It’s not clear if voters feel the same as those who are deeply involved in politics.

Katy Grimes is the Editor of the California Globe, found at www.californiaglobe.com. The article is used with permission.

REVOLUTION cont. from P. 12

Mickey Mouse — copyrights that customarily have a 28-year limit. If Congress lets Disney’s various copyrights expire next year, it will cost Disney additional multiple billions of dollars.

Doing further research into Disney’s track record regarding children and sexual predators, by the way, I discovered that the company has a notorious pattern, going back over a decade, of having a significant number of its employees arrested for child sex crimes such as child pornography, child exploitation and child rape. And although a company can’t be held responsible for everything its employees do on their own time, I was able to find two cases of Disney complicity. In the first, Disney authorities allegedly told a Disney security guard to keep her mouth shut when she discovered that a Disney employee was molesting a young boy on a Disney cruise ship. This allowed the employee to evade arrest, after which Disney flew him back home to India so he couldn’t be held accountable. In the other case, I found that the cruise trade association of, which Disney is a member, had opposed and then helped water down legislation that would have required Disney and other cruise lines to report sexual abuse on their cruise ships in a timely manner.

In summary, Disney’s record on the issue of children and sexuality casts doubt on its claim to moral authority.

The lesson I’ve drawn from reporting on institutions that promote ideologies such as critical race theory and radical gender theory is that they have been captured at the structural level and can’t be reformed from within. So, the solution is not a long countermarch through the institutions. You can’t replace bad directors of diversity, equity and inclusion with good ones. The ideology is baked in. That’s why I call for a siege strategy.

This means, first, that you have to be aggressive. You have to fight on terms that you define. In responding to opponents of the Florida bill, for instance, don’t argue against “teaching diversity and inclusion,” but against sexualizing young children. And don’t pull your punches. We will never

win if we play by the rules set by the elites who are undermining our country. We can be polite and lose every battle or we can be impolite and actually deliver results for the great majority of Americans who are fighting for their small businesses, fighting for their jobs, fighting for their families.

Second, you have to mobilize popular support. This requires ripping the veil off of what our institutions are doing through real investigation and reporting so that Americans can make informed choices. We live in an information society, and if we don’t get the truth out, we will never gain traction against the narratives being constantly refashioned and pushed by the Left.

Less than two years ago, an infinitesimal number of Americans knew about critical race theory. Through investigation and reporting, we’ve brought that number up to 75 percent. The public now opposes critical race theory by a two-to-one margin, and it is being hounded out of schools and other places. This kind of action is a model for dealing with every ideology and institution that is undermining the public good and America’s future.

Remember that institutions don’t choose these ideologies democratically — they don’t ask people or employees to vote for them. They impose them by fiat, through bureaucratic, not democratic rule. So, it isn’t surprising that the institutions lose big when we force their agendas into the political arena. What politician or campaign manager in their right mind would ignore an issue that is supported by a two-to-one margin? So-called conservative politicians who do ignore such issues — or who oppose bringing them up out of a false sense of decorum — aren’t on the people’s and the country’s side.

With public institutions like K-12 education, another crucial step is to decentralize them. It is centralization and bureaucratization that makes it possible for a minority of activists to take control and impose their ideologies. Decentralizing means reducing federal and state controls in favor of local control — and it ultimately means something like universal school choice, placing power in parents’ hands. Too many parents today have no escape mechanism from substandard schools controlled by leftist ideologues. Universal school choice—meaning that public education funding goes directly to parents rather than schools — would fix that.

Conservatives have for too long been resistant to attacking the credibility of our

institutions. Trust in institutions is a natural conservative tendency. But conservatives need to stop focusing on abstract concepts and open their eyes. Our institutions are dragging our country in a disastrous direction, actively undermining all that makes America great.

To some extent, the institutions are now destroying their own credibility. Look at the public health bureaucracy and teachers’ unions, which acted in concert to shut down schools and keep children needlessly masked — and for far too long. As a result, there has been an explosion in homeschooling, as well as in the number of alternative K-12 schools such as the ones Hillsdale College is helping to launch around the country. What is needed is to build alternative or parallel institutions and businesses in all areas. There is no reason, for example, why plenty of high production value children’s entertainment can’t be produced outside the ideological confines of the Walt Disney Company.

In conclusion, we make a mistake in thinking about politics simply in terms of a Left versus Right dynamic. That dynamic is significant, but where the opportunity really lies today is focusing on a top versus bottom dynamic. An elite class, representing a small number of people with influence in the knowledge-based institutions, are acting in their own interest and against the interest of the vast majority of the American people — those who are still attached to the idea that America is a force for good and who think, to take just one example, that young children should be protected from the imposition of radical gender ideology.

In terms of the top versus bottom dynamic, the choice today is between the American Revolution of 1776 and the leftist revolution of the 1960s. The first offers a continued unfolding of America’s founding principles of freedom and equality. The second ends up in nihilism and demoralization, just as the Weather Underground ended up in a bombed-out basement in Greenwich Village in the 1970s.

Even those of us who are temperamentally predisposed to defense must recognize that offense — laying siege to the institutions — is what is now demanded.

Christopher F. Rufo is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and founder and director of Battlefront, a public policy research center. The preceding was adapted from a speech he delivered at Hillsdale College on April 5, 2022.



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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Closes Full Year of Service

By Sally Rowden

Gosh, summer is here, school is out and vacation is the seasonal word. The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis also looks at the summer season to wrap up our May and June supported events and begin to plan the coming student, school and community events for 2022-23.

On May 16 there were three Liberty High School Scholarships for Graduating Seniors awarded. The individuals were Wyatt Harr, Devyn Johnson and Yvette Quintana. The criteria to qualify for this award was based upon each student's GPA of 2.5 or above, activities in their community, write a personal, one-page essay telling about themselves and their goals, and provide two letters of recommendation. Extracurricular activities were also reviewed. Congratulations to these three students who received a \$1,400 scholarship each. Thank you, Bev Delk, our Kiwanis chairperson leading our selection committee in awarding these scholarships. And, thanks to John Minney, our scholarship coordinator. A full list of donation sponsors will be listed in our July Ranchos Independent news article.

Then on May 21, two individuals from Ranchos Middle School, Jane Bilskey and Micah Lee, each received the Kiwanis Hope of America Award Certificate along with \$75. The criteria for students to achieve this award is the student's capacity for leadership, ethical and moral character, and academic competency in general studies. Congratulations to Jane and Micah being chosen by the school faculty and administration.

Can't forget the Character Counts Bicycle Giveaways at our three elementary schools: Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster. From Sierra View Elementary School are Charlie and Gabriella. From Stone Creek are Ameera and Mason. And, from Webster are Drake and Mia. Each of these students demonstrated academic accomplishments, leadership and good character as validated by each school's faculty and administration. Congratulations to each of these six deserving students.

Kiwanis members were invited to Sierra View Elementary School on May 31 to be part of the Fourth Grade Leadership Curriculum. Under the guidance of Nicole Canales, fourth grade teacher/activities adviser, students studied the characteristics of being a positive, confident speaker, developing their interpersonal skills and social interactions. The day of the event students worked in groups of three, each presenting their achieved leadership skills by interviewing a Kiwanis member. In conclusion, each Kiwanis member was asked to give whole group feedback according to the Fourth Grade Leadership Curriculum Rubric. It was a rewarding experience for all. Thank you for the invite.

Kiwanis served lunch to the Golden Valley Unified School District's teachers, staff and administration at a year-end luncheon at Liberty High School as a "thank you" to all for their dedication creating success for our entire school district. Have a relaxing summer. See you in the 2022-23 school year.

We must mention that our Flatlander's Day Parade events were very successful. A huge thanks to all who purchased pulled pork sandwiches at our food booth. This allows us to raise funds for our students, schools and community events. Then, our Kiwanis for Kids with Mother Goose from Storyland Float won Second Place in the Children's Category. Waving to the crowd plus handing out bubbles and books to the children along the parade route was fun.

We do have a festive Fourth of July Gift Basket raffle currently happening. The deadline to purchase tickets is July 2. Cost of tickets: \$2 each or \$5 for six tickets. Available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5c. Open three days a week. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or you can call Ollia Ridge at 559-824-0979 to obtain tickets. She is our extraordinary "Basket Raffle Designer."

This brings our Madera Ranchos Kiwanis events to a close for the academic calendar year of 2021-22. Enjoy your summer months. We will be gearing up for 2022-23. A huge thanks to all in our communities that support us which in turn supports your children and your communities. Follow us on our Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Facebook page. Pictures of all events are available.

In closing, though we know our summers are very warm, I do like what Eeyore said to Piglet: "It never hurts to keep looking for sunshine."

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The Declaration of Independence

By Betty Van Valkenburg

This is a partial transcription of the Declaration of Independence on display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Museum, including the original spelling and punctuation. Due to space constraints, some of the grievances against the British king have been omitted. You are encouraged to read the complete text, which is readily available online. May you and your family celebrate the blessings of freedom as you enjoy a fantastic Fourth of July.

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the

consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative

bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences...

... Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

price – these Democrat elitists are telling families to buy electric cars. Where do they think the electricity for their electric cars comes from? Eighty percent comes from fossil fuels – that they are ruthlessly shutting down.

The excuse for all of this, of course, is to stop global warming. But

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they cannot account for why it is that there have been periods throughout paleo history when temperatures have been much higher – and much lower – than they are today. Nor do they account for the infinitely more powerful natural forces that shape our constantly changing climate.

The blind reliance on handpicked experts and the suppression of dissent

in our approach to Covid cost lives and destroyed the most prosperous economic expansion in our lifetime. But its excesses pale in comparison with what the Green Left is now doing to our society. The pain and damage we are feeling today is just the first bitter taste of what is to come if they prevail.

Of one thing we can be certain: Whether or not we destroy our nation's

prosperity by continuing the Democrats' war on fossil fuels, the earth will continue to warm and cool as it has for billions of years. The only question we can answer is whether ours will be a future of abundance or scarcity, prosperity or poverty, comfort or misery.

Congressman Tom McClintock represents California's 4th Congressional District.


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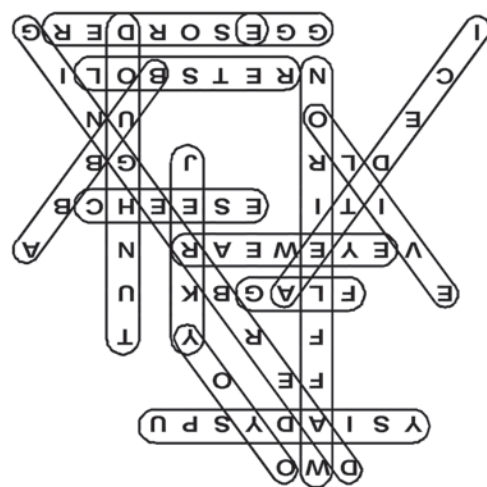
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by Linda Thistle

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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.

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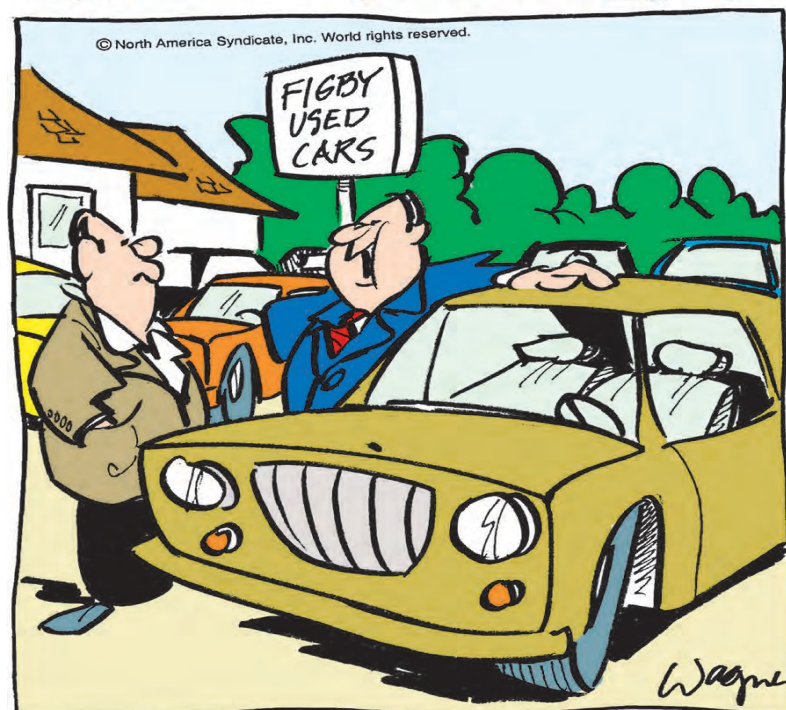
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"It didn't get along with its previous owner, but I think it likes you."

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Recently obtained information could open a new opportunity for a career change. But temper that Arian impatience and act on it only when all the facts are made available.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're moving into a more active cycle. So put your ideas back on the table, where they'll be given the attention they deserve. Expect a favorable change in your love life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A friend might ask for a favor that you feel would compromise your values. Best advice: Confront him or her and explain why you must say no. A true friend will understand.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A relationship continues to develop along positive lines. Meanwhile, a job situation is brewing that could create complications for one of your pet projects. Look into it right away.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your interest in a co-worker's project could lead to a profitable experience for you both. But before you agree to anything, be sure to get all your legal I's dotted and T's crossed.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be careful whose counsel you take about a possible long-distance move. Some advice might not necessarily be in your best interest. Stay focused on your goals.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone might try to complicate efforts in an attempt to work out that confusing job situation. But don't let that keep you from sticking with your decision to push for a resolution.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A disagreement on how to handle a family problem could create more trouble for all concerned. Look for ways to cool things down before they boil over.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected change in long-standing workplace procedure and policy could provide a new career target for the Archer to aim at. Start making inquiries.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're finally able to get back into the swing of things, as those temporary doldrums begin to lift. Expect some surprising disclosures from a new colleague.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Rely on your innate sense of justice to see you through a dilemma involving a family member. Other relatives who've stood back soon will come forward as well.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new friend seems to be pushing you to take risks -- financial or otherwise. Best advice: Don't do it. They might have a hidden agenda that hasn't surfaced yet.

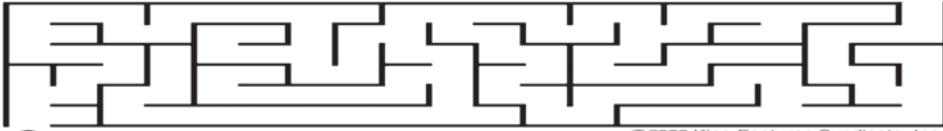
Born this Week

You love to see new places and meet new people. Have you considered working for an airline or cruise-ship company?

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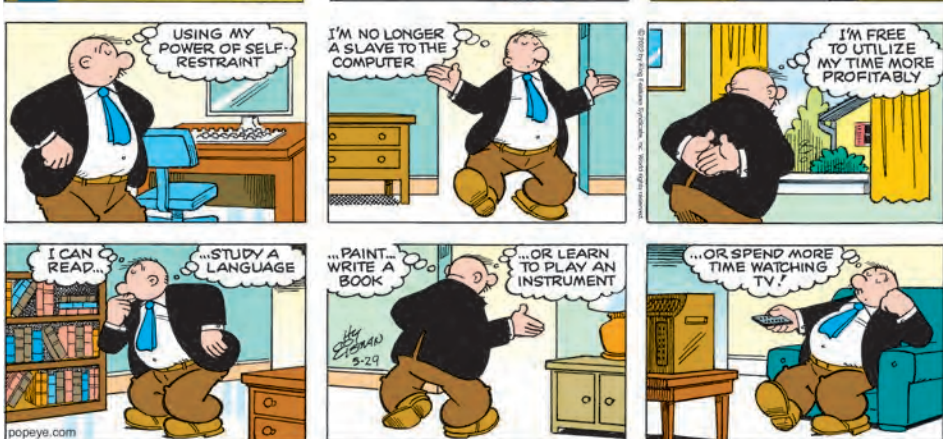
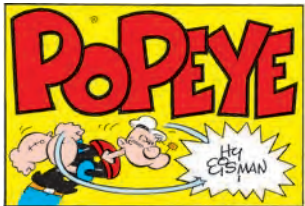
Kids' Maze



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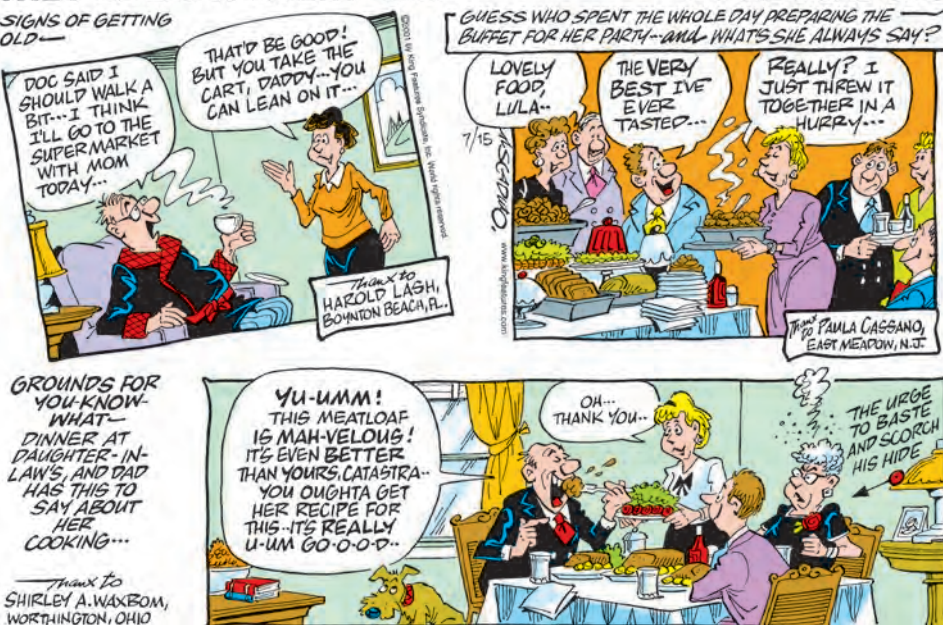
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

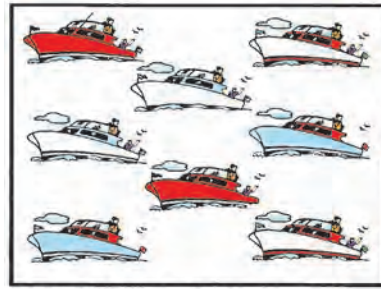


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



Thank to SHIRLEY A. WAXBOM, WORTHINGTON, OHIO



WAVE LENGTHS! Two of eight cabin cruisers above appear to be enough alike to be twins. Which two is for you to say.

SENSES TAKER! Add a sense — sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste — to each sentence. 1. We play — football. 2. I — trouble. 3. She dresses in good —. 4. The judge held a —. 5. We bought the item — unseen.

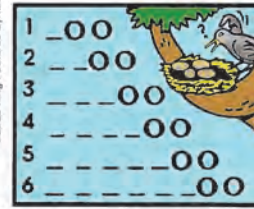
TAKE STEPS! A street with a steady flow of traffic is 22 feet wide. Your stride, either forwards or backwards, is always exactly two feet in length. Now then, starting at curb's edge, if you take three strides forward and two strides backward continuously (in dodging traffic to go straight across), and each stride takes one second, in how many seconds should you reach the other side? This may sound tricky, but it isn't.

Hint: You gain two feet in each five-second period.
P.S.: You'd be much safer at a corner with a light.

Answer: 43 seconds. You advance 16 feet in 40 seconds; last three strides take you to curb.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



DOUBLE-O WORDS TO PONDER

WELL, double-O and behold, we have half a dozen double-O words to ponder, each with one more letter than its predecessor. You are asked to identify these words in accord with the following definitions:

1. Winnie-the-Pooh pal: Baby —.
2. Away, scat, you chickens!
3. Eskimo snow house.
4. Skin-deep body design.
5. Produce used to cleanse hair, prevent dandruff, etc.
6. Screechy, crested member of the parrot family.

Let's see how quickly you can come up with the answers. Time limit: 2 minutes.

1. Roo, 2. Sho, 3. Igloo, 4. Tattoo, 5. Shampoo, 6. Cockroach.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE • NATIONAL — DAY: JUNE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: Self-Portrait With Your Phone

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Bubba | Eyewear | Jerky | Upsy Daisy |
| Cheese | Flag | Lobster | Waffle Iron |
| Doughnut | Gingerbread | Olive | Yo-Yo |
| Egg | Iced Tea | Red Rose | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which country owns the Canary Islands?
2. MOVIES: Which movie features the song "Moon River"?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "non ducor, duco" mean in English?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ducks called?
5. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a character called Sethe?
6. TELEVISION: What drive-in diner is featured in the 1970s TV sitcom "Happy Days"?
7. MUSIC: When did Lynyrd Skynyrd's anthem "Sweet Home Alabama" chart in the Top 10?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Eureka"?
9. HISTORY: When did Wyoming give women the right to vote, hold public office and own property?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had an estate called The Hermitage?

Answers

1. Spain
2. "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
3. "I am not led, I lead"
4. A raft
5. "Beloved"
6. Arnolds
7. 1974
8. California
9. 1869
10. Andrew Jackson

Click on "Local News" at

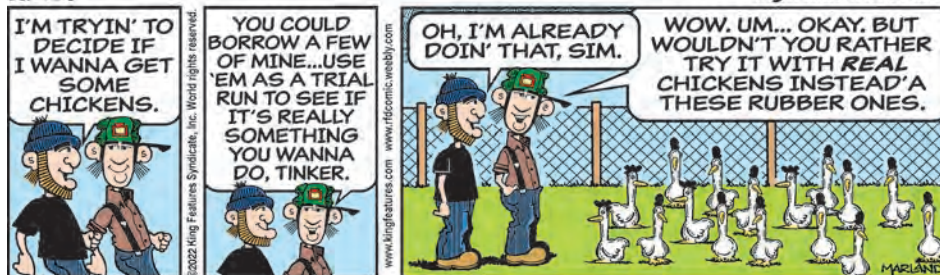
Amber Waves

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

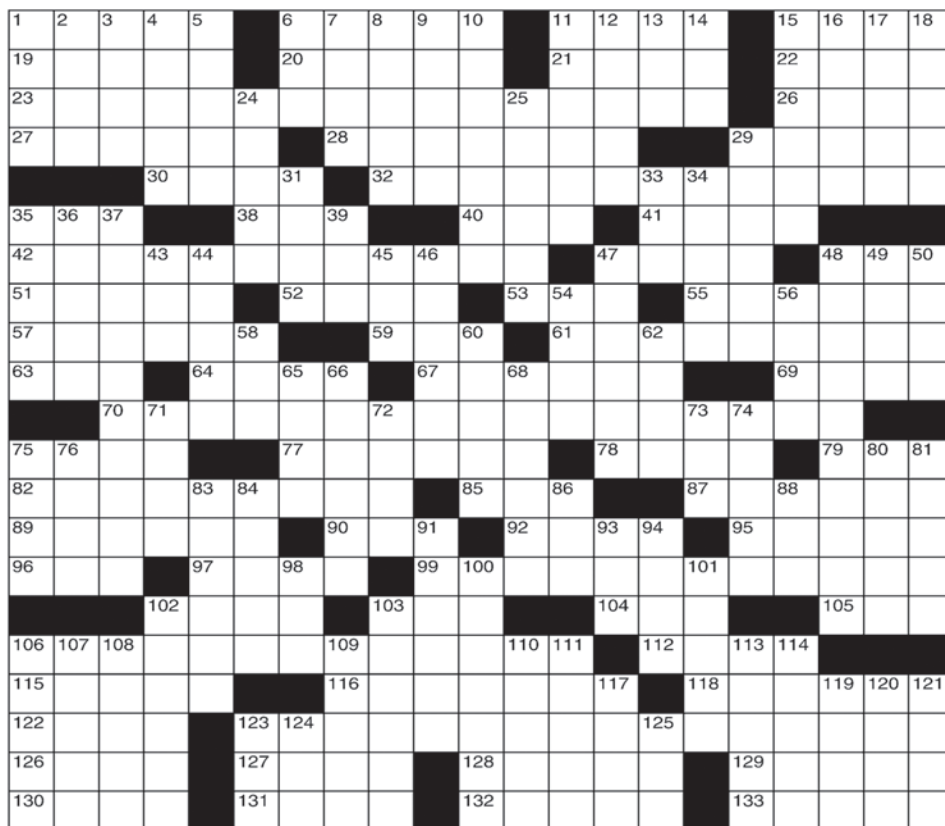
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Roof panel is missing. 2. Glove is missing. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Number is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Sign is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Statesman Kefauver
 - 6 Psi follower
 - 11 Very top
 - 15 "Dancing Queen" quartet
 - 19 Political muscle
 - 20 Plain — (obvious)
 - 21 You, to a Quaker
 - 22 — rock ('70s genre)
 - 23 "... the Sorcerer's Stone," "... the Chamber of Secrets," etc.
 - 26 Carpentry file
 - 27 Mr. Chips player Peter
 - 28 Desert of the Southwest
 - 29 Harm's way
 - 30 Fashion line?
 - 32 Solon of Athens, Thales of Miletus, etc.
 - 35 "Casino Royale" actress Green
 - 38 Director Howard
 - 40 Sinusitis-treating doc
 - 41 Bullring cries
 - 42 Hawikuh, Cibola, etc.
 - 47 Since Hector was —
 - 48 Lilt syllable
 - 51 Allow access to
 - 52 Stole third, perhaps
 - 53 Rhine tributary
 - 55 Adorable sorts
 - 57 Like tornado winds
 - 59 WWII prez
 - 61 C1, C2, etc.
 - 63 Mao — -tung
 - 64 "Beetle Bailey" dog
 - 67 Hope that one may
 - 69 Uber rival
 - 70 Great Pyramid of Giza, Colossus of Rhodes, etc.
 - 75 "Very funny!"
 - 77 Heavenly
 - 78 Gin fruit
 - 79 Paranormal skill, in brief
 - 82 "Infant," "whining school-boy," etc.
 - 85 Albeit, for short
 - 87 Boxer's combo
 - 89 Singer Franklin
 - 90 Photo badges, e.g.
 - 92 Rockies ruminants
 - 95 Diarist Nin
 - 96 "My Gal —"
 - 97 — Mawr, Pennsylvania
 - 99 Envy, gluttony, etc.
 - 102 Trilogy, often
 - 103 Furious
 - 104 Little peeve
 - 105 See 25-Down
 - 106 Red, orange, etc.
 - 112 Barber's sprinkle-on
 - 115 Jetson tyke
 - 116 Criticize petulantly
 - 118 "Eh Cumpari" singer Julius
 - 122 Petri dish
 - 123 100-meter hurdles, high jump, etc.
 - 126 Romantic outing
 - 127 Provo's state
 - 128 "... his wife could — lean"
 - 129 Justice Dept. employees
 - 130 Plum pit, e.g.
 - 131 Makes illegal
 - 132 Acting Buddy
 - 133 Number of items in each set featured in this puzzle
- DOWN**
- 1 Imitate
 - 2 Shutter strip
 - 3 Bullring bull
 - 4 Italian coins
 - 5 Shag or bob
 - 6 Siouan language
 - 7 Witty sayings
 - 8 These, in Acapulco
 - 9 Actress Davis
 - 10 Extremely light porous solid
 - 11 Words before clinking glasses
 - 12 45 player
 - 13 "A mouse!"
 - 14 Marks, as a ballot
 - 15 Consents (to)
 - 16 Bugle noise
 - 17 Elementary
 - 18 Abundant
 - 24 Anjou and Bosc
 - 25 With 105-Across, singer of the 1960 #1 hit "I'm Sorry"
 - 29 Before printing, for short
 - 31 Bovine noises
 - 33 Dandy guy
 - 34 "Orfeo ed Euridice" composer
 - 35 Brilliant success
 - 36 Looks at
 - 37 Driving a car
 - 39 Browns' org.
 - 43 Third of IX
 - 44 2002 scandal company
 - 45 PC pic file
 - 46 Rated most likely to win
 - 47 Sharp range ridges
 - 48 Minutia
 - 49 Moray milieu
 - 50 The "A" of PDA: Abbr.
 - 54 Sacred Egyptian cross
 - 56 Cost to cross
 - 58 Brit's "Inc."
 - 60 Size again
 - 62 Hood for a monk
 - 65 Be rife (with)
 - 66 Consecrate
 - 68 Acid artisan
 - 71 Hops kiln
 - 72 FedEx, say
 - 73 Hugs, in a billet-doux
 - 74 Of kidneys
 - 75 Actor Lukas
 - 76 Indian tourist city
 - 80 Sty dwellers
 - 81 Sheriff's band
 - 83 "Wow!"
 - 84 Partner of Wells
 - 86 Outmoded
 - 88 USN jr. officer
 - 91 Justice Antonin
 - 93 Family
 - 94 Sulky mood
 - 98 Veer, as a ship
 - 100 Many an orphan, in time
 - 101 "Therein lies —"
 - 102 Sawed logs
 - 103 12 in a year
 - 106 Digests a digest, say
 - 107 Pool film
 - 108 Furious
 - 109 Channel airing
 - 110 Detox place
 - 111 Epsom —
 - 113 Molten flows
 - 114 Minos' island
 - 117 Musical pitch
 - 119 "As seen —"
 - 120 Eye affliction
 - 121 The "A" of PGA: Abbr.
 - 123 Nerve center
 - 124 JFK guess
 - 125 Dijon denial

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Anyone with Domestic Well or Water Quality Problems



If you are experiencing domestic well or water quality problems, contact "Self-Help Enterprises." Qualified people may have a water tank installed or have bottled water delivered. Call Drought Support at 559-820-1685 or contact them at droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org.

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

Our next meeting is Monday, July 18 at 6 p.m.

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

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org