

The Ranchos Independent

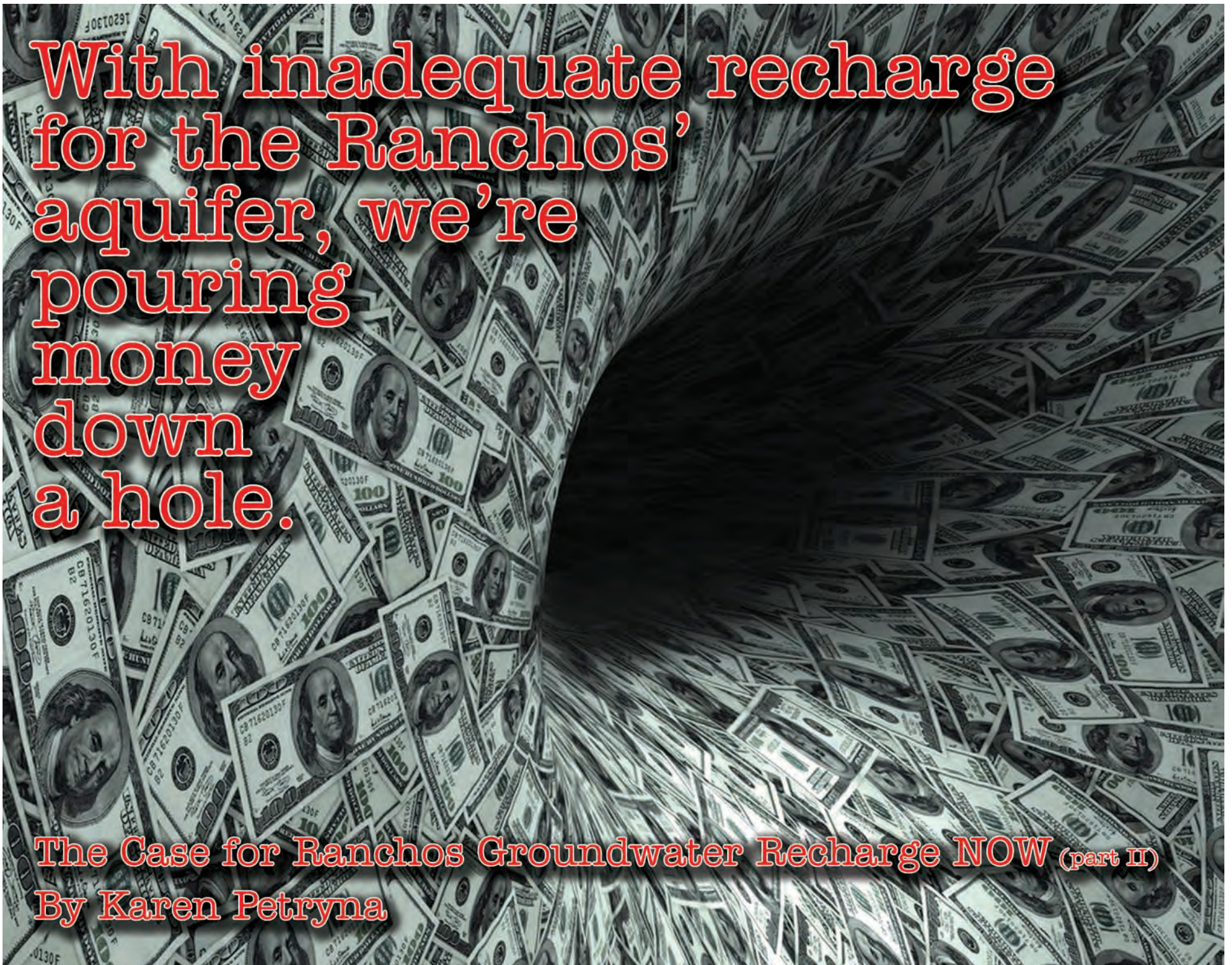


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With inadequate recharge for the Ranchos' aquifer, we're pouring money down a hole.

The Case for Ranchos Groundwater Recharge NOW (part II)
By Karen Petryna

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The Case for Ranchos Groundwater Recharge *NOW*

Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series of articles about Water in the Ranchos. Last month's article set the stage from a historical perspective in terms of how the San Joaquin River Valley was formed over millions of years and then modified in the last 77 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project. This month's article goes into more depth about how public and government agencies have created the current untenable situation, particularly in south-east Madera.

By Karen Petryna

Section 2 of Article X Water of the California Constitution, added in 1928, reads:

"It is hereby declared that because of the conditions prevailing in this State, the general welfare requires that the water resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable, and that the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented, and that the conservation of such waters is to be exercised with a view to the reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interest of the people and for the public welfare."

Yet, as evidenced by the necessity to continue to drill groundwater wells ever deeper by those who have lost access to the benefits of natural groundwater recharge from rivers and water bodies that have been severely diminished or no longer exist, the public welfare has not been protected.

Section 2 of Article X Water goes on:

"The right to water or to the use or flow of water in or from any natural stream or water course in this State is and shall be limited to such water as shall be reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and such right does not and shall not extend

to the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use or unreasonable method of diversion of water."

Unreasonable diversion has been allowed and continues to occur such that the water that always flowed down from the Sierra Mountains into the watershed of the San Joaquin River Valley now flows into man-made canals that carry it primarily to agribusinesses that are using it increasingly to produce almonds, most of which are exported overseas.

Central Valley Project

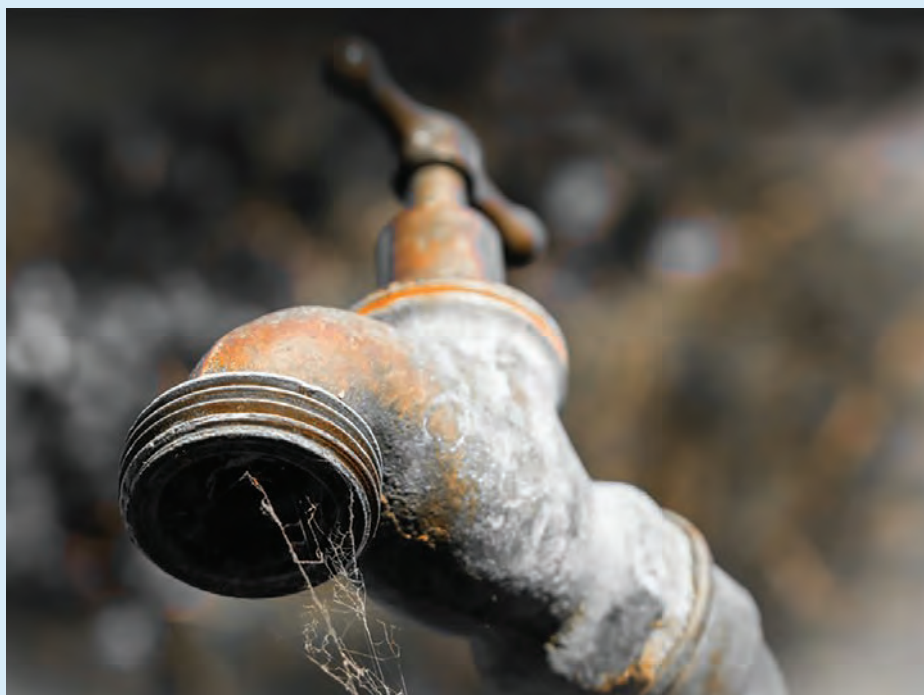
Since the California Constitution was amended in 1928 to address the use of water, federal, state and local authorities, as part of the Central Valley Project, have created agencies, regulations and projects to store, convey and divert the natural flow of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers using dams, reservoirs, lakes and canals along with a myriad of rules, regulations, plans and rights, both historic and manufactured, ostensibly to comply with the California Constitution. This has resulted in a reallocation between those who have had historical access to surface and groundwater and those who never had it before.

Such plans include the Madera Regional Groundwater Management Plan, first completed in 2002 and most recently updated in December 2014. There's the Madera Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, begun in 2006 and most recently updated in

December 2014, and is requiring another update to meet Proposition 1 standards. The Groundwater Sustainability Plans required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 – and due to be completed by January 31, 2020 – all of which recognize the critical need for groundwater recharge and which, if up to date, provide a path for grant funding like that awarded for the Root Creek In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge pipeline. That pipeline, constructed in part with \$4 million of tax-payer dollars, delivers surface water from the public-owned Central Valley Project irrigation canals run by the Madera Irrigation District to citrus groves and vineyards in the Root Creek Water District so that farmers there don't have to pump as much groundwater.

Our Watershed

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a bay-head delta because it is at the head of the San Francisco Bay estuary where the ocean tide water meets the fresh water channels of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers and comprise what are called wet-



lands. This natural water system is an ecosystem defined as "a group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment," according to Dictionary.com. While there is disagreement as to whether all the elements of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem that are interconnected are equally interdependent, let alone equally important, it was a natural system that delicately balanced itself until human intervention that included construction of the Friant Dam, the Madera-Chowchilla Canal, and the Friant-Kern Canal, completed respectively in 1942, 1945 and 1951 as part of the Central Valley Project. These acts also produced Millerton Lake, with a half-million gallons of surface water storage and the canal system that is operated by Madera Irrigation District and the Chowchilla Water District for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Fig Garden Reservoir and Dam

As reported last month, the original plans for the Central Valley Project – a dam and reservoir called the Fig Garden Dam and Reservoir – were proposed but never completed. The California State engineers who introduced the project designed the dam and reservoir to run along the San Joaquin River, on the Madera-Fresno County border, from Woodward Park to Highway 99. The

Please see **RECHARGE** on P. 14

Saving Energy, Creating Jobs in Madera County

\$13.1 Million in Economic Impact; 64 Jobs Created

When California state legislators voted to approve Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and encouraged local communities to embrace this innovative home energy and efficiency financing model, Madera County was quick to act. Madera County, as well as cities within the county, adopted PACE with the goal of helping local homeowners make renewable energy and energy- and water-efficiency upgrades that could reduce utility bills and greenhouse gas emissions while creating local clean-energy jobs.

It's clear that the PACE financing model is working. Through the state's largest PACE program, HERO, more than 350 homeowners in Madera County have made over 700 energy efficiency, water efficiency or solar power improvements to their homes over the last two and a half years. HERO is just one of several PACE providers in the county.

"The HERO program provides homeowners the opportunity to improve their homes functionality and efficiency while improving their standard of living," said Madera County Supervisor David Rogers. "At the same time the program provides local jobs for contractors, which helps the economy."

Since PACE became available, Madera County has also seen a positive impact on the local economy. For example, HERO-funded home improvement activity has generated \$13.1 million in new economic activity. By stimulating home renovations, PACE increases demand for local contractor services. As a result, the HERO Program is now supporting an estimated 64 regional jobs through this boost to the local economy. Many of these jobs, like those in the local construction sector, cannot be automated or outsourced.

PACE enables homeowners to make energy and efficiency improvements and to pay for them over time at a fixed interest rate through an additional line item on their property taxes. The resources saved through PACE-financed efficiency upgrades are significant. For example, for

Please see **PACE** on P. 16

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Letters

Dear Editor:

One of the toughest challenges cancer patients face is getting to and from treatment. Many patients don't own a vehicle, can't afford gas, or don't have access to public transportation. Some may be too ill to drive, or have no family members who can help with all their transportation needs. Without access to reliable transportation, cancer patients are unable to receive regular treatment. And even the best treatment can't work if a patient can't get there.

The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteer drivers, especially in the rural areas, willing to donate their passenger seat to transport cancer patients to and from their treatment through the Road To Recovery program.

All you need is a valid driver's license, a safe and reliable vehicle, and proof of insurance. Drivers must be 18 to 84 years old and have a good driving record. The Society conducts background checks on all drivers and provides free online training.

As a volunteer driver, I can attest

that the patients aren't the only ones to benefit from this program. It's a great feeling to know that I'm literally giving someone a ride that is helping to save their life.

Please help: 800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org/volunteer.

Mickey Jones, Volunteer Driver
American Cancer Society
Dunlap, Calif.

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.

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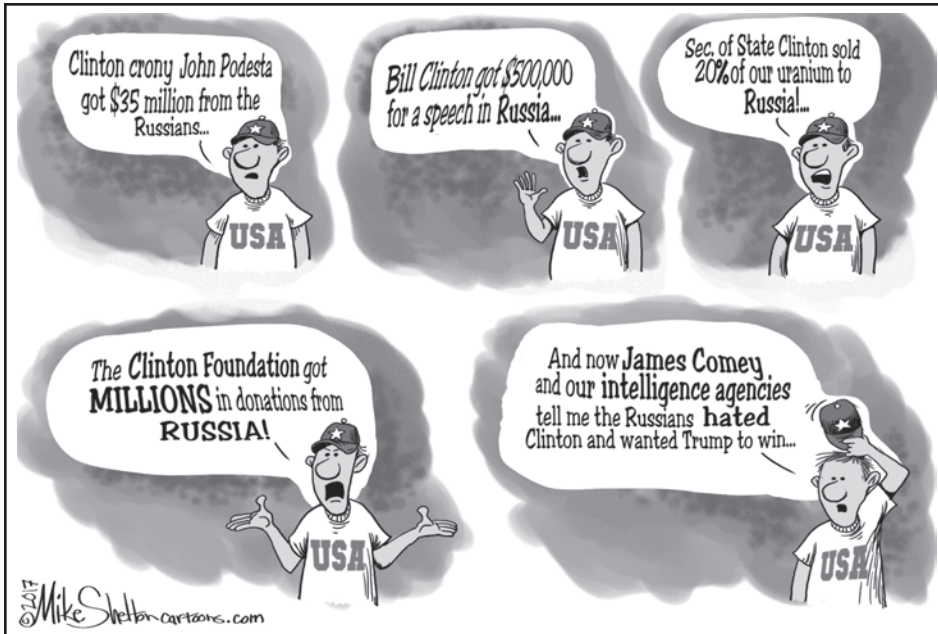
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Editorial

American Journalism -- R.I.P.

By Randy Bailey

I read a very interesting piece over the weekend. It was in the *Imprimis* newsletter published by Hillsdale College. It was excerpts of a speech given by Michael Goodwin, the chief political columnist for the New York Post. Goodwin's been around the block. He spent 16 years at the New York Times before moving on to the Post where he guided them to a Pulitzer Prize.

The article was entitled *The 2016 Election and the Demise of Journalistic Standards*. I'm not going to regurgitate the whole article, but one particular passage really stood out to me. Goodwin, referring to how a New York Times' media reporter started an article, wrote: "The Times media reporter began a story this way: 'If you're a working journalist and you believe that Donald J. Trump is a demagogue playing to the nation's worst racist and nationalistic tendencies, that he cozies up to anti-American dictators and that he would be dangerous with control of the United States nuclear codes, how the heck are you supposed to cover him?'" I read that paragraph and I thought to myself, well, that's actually an easy question. If you feel that way about Trump, normal journalistic ethics would dictate that you shouldn't cover him. You cannot be fair. And you shouldn't be covering Hillary Clinton either, because you've already decided who should be president. Go cover sports or entertainment."

I didn't go to the Columbia School of

Journalism (where Goodwin now teaches) nor have I ever worked for a "BIG" paper. It's been regional magazines and the Ranchos Independent. But when I graduated from Fresno State with a degree in journalism I understood a few things. Number 1 was that news stories were news stories and editorials were editorials and never the twain shall meet. One thing I always loved about Fox News (whether or not they did it all the time could be debated) was their slogan "We report, you decide."

That is the very heart of journalism.

The second thing I took away from Fresno State was one's job as a reporter is to be a "fly on the wall." If you're any more intrusive than that you're becoming part of the story and -- I hate to bring this up to those journalistic prima donnas out there -- YOU'RE not the story. What YOU think about the story is not part of the story unless it's on the editorial page. And then it's only your opinion. I have learned that opinions are like a specific body orifice: Everybody has one.

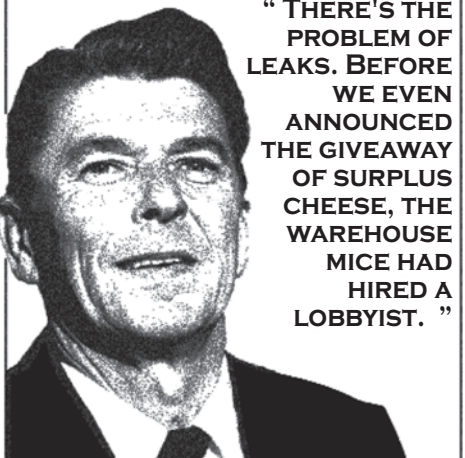
The final thing I learned at the north Fresno campus was writers write, photographers photograph and editors edit. As a journalist you should be gathering as much salient information as you can so your editor has something with which to work. If you're picking and choosing the information you're presenting specifically to slant your reporting one way or the other, you're lying to your editor; you're lying to your readers.

But you know what? Nothing is going to change, at least not in the foreseeable future. Free speech on college campuses now means free LIBERAL speech. People with differing ideas are forcefully -- in some cases violently -- being excluded from speaking. The right to peaceably assemble is only allowed if you're peaceably assembling for the approved leftist idea du jour. And all the while the press reports these and other activities as if they are the new normal. Attacks on the very foundation of our constitutional rights as Americans don't even cause a raised eyebrow in the pressrooms of America's media. And why not? Because to question what's going on wouldn't advance the leftist agenda. Instead, it would make people stop and perhaps question what the media was doing.

The First Amendment of the constitution establishes freedom of religion, speech, the press, peaceful assembly and petitioning the government. There's a reason the press is number three on the list: They're supposed to be that fly on the wall ensuring the others.

Not so much anymore.

THE RAY GUN
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"THERE'S THE PROBLEM OF LEAKS. BEFORE WE EVEN ANNOUNCED THE GIVEAWAY OF SURPLUS CHEESE, THE WAREHOUSE MICE HAD HIRED A LOBBYIST."

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

“It’s hot!” -- You’re Fired

I’m a little more than two months into this new job and the jury is still out on whether or not it’s a keeper, but I’ll tell you this: I will never again struggle to come up with a story for an article.

Today’s lesson is about controlling your anger at your place of business and how throwing a punch, especially in the general vicinity of a manager’s face, is never a recommended approach to problem solving.

Allow me to set the scene. Picture the lobby of a small, boring American office building. There are four walls, some chairs and a big screen TV with a virtual fish tank on a never-ending loop. The lobby is separated from the rest of the building by a heavy locked door that you can only access with a badge or a little red button under the reception desk. Now imagine a sweaty man comes barreling into said lobby pushing his big mountain bike and

demanding to speak to payroll. Not a problem, the receptionist tells him after politely asking him to leave his bike outside in the bike rack. Now picture the sweaty man getting really angry and, though it seems impossible, even more sweaty at the mere suggestion that we have him leave his dirty outside bike in the outside. This was how my day started.

I would like to be able to tell you why the receptionist didn’t think to call security when he started yelling and screaming. I would like to be able to tell you why she didn’t think to call the police when he started throwing clipboards and kicking furniture, but I can’t. I can’t because trying to have a

GENERATION WHY by eryn b. nyre

conversation with her is more difficult than having one with a mentally challenged plastic garden gnome. What I can tell you is that somewhere in the recesses of that muddled little brain of hers she thought the answer to this violent and dangerous conundrum was to call the payroll supervisor (that would be me). So I, not having

the full story and thinking it was merely an agitated employee up front demanding to speak to payroll, hitched up my big girl supervisor britches and walked right into the lion’s den.

When I got to the lobby and saw what was really

going on I knew that receptionist must hate me and has been secretly plotting my murder. Despite this revelation, I immediately went with the tried and true: “Let’s calm down so I can help you” plan. It failed spectacularly. I presume the long trek to the office on a bike in the June heat, the fact that he had to come back to correct some time cards and the impending separation with his beloved bike (a relationship I fear I may never fully understand) produced the perfect chemical reaction to create sweaty red hulk. Bad Eryn. Hulk smash lobby.

I motioned for the recep-

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



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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

tionist to call 911, kept a safe distance and tried to calm the crazy down. It didn't work. I wasn't going to get anywhere with this guy, my safety was in jeopardy and the garden gnome was no help. I knew it was too dangerous to just stand there and wait for the police to get there. I also knew that as much as I wanted to duck out the locked door and leave the receptionist to her fate, I couldn't bring myself to do it. Not because I worried about her but because I know she is dumb enough to let the guy into the back. So, I opted for the next best thing: I pretended I wasn't intimidated and stood my ground while I secretly pocket dialed one of the operations managers to come save me.

Just as I nearly had mountain bike man at least calm enough to stop raining little droplets of spittle all over the lobby, I heard the inner door open and in walked my knight in pastel pink button up and two other male colleagues. To this moment I do not know what is funnier, the sight

of sweaty guy going crazy over leaving his bike in the bike rack or that same guy being confronted by a dude about five inches shorter wearing a shirt Barbie might buy for Ken in a drunken, online shopping binge. You would think being confronted by three guys would be enough to make a normal person say, "Hey, maybe I'm overreacting." No, this guy gets right in Pinky's face and tells him he will take his expletive riddled bike anywhere he expletively pleased. When my colleague told him to please calm down or we will have to call the police, Sweaty cocked his fist back and took a swing. I didn't expect Pinky to be so fast but I was impressed and more than a little disappointed that I didn't have popcorn.

Needless to say, he is now an ex-employee but the best part of the story, besides Pink Shirt taking Sweaty down in a sweet arm bar, is that when the Executive Director called to terminate him the guy said, "It's not my fault; it was really hot."

Ok. Maybe I like my job a little.

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Sweets for the Sweet

In 1993, I was diagnosed with Type II Diabetes and my world came to an end. No more Snickers candy bars or Baskin-Robbins praline and cream ice cream. I almost believed Mars Candy Company, the maker of Snickers candy bars, and Baskin-Robbins, especially the store at the corner of Cedar and Shields in Fresno, would go bankrupt.

But they didn't.

I straightened out my eating habits and we are all still here.

Recently I had a scare with the possibility of having cancer, and I thought I was a goner for sure. I got things done I should have done a long time ago. My property and accounts in order, the DNR (Do-Not-Resuscitate) report done and I started my will. I did a lot of thinking about the hereafter. No more reading labels, how many grams of sugar in the food, no more looking for Sugar Free, No Sugar

Added, and thinking of what God would have for me when I walked over – maybe a big slice of lemon meringue pie or oh: A lemon milkshake from Superior Creamery in Hanford. It's been so long since I've had one.

And then my doctor called (yes, I have a doctor that still calls you at home) and burst my bubble. He explained to me that the Basal Cell Carcinoma I have is curable with proper treatment. After I talked to my doctor I started thinking about the people out there with serious cancer. How much new respect I have for those people. I thought of the people in our families that we've lost: My niece Brenda that passed away last August; three cousins that are gone; my sister-in-law who has had members of her family that have all passed away because of the awful "Big C." My heart goes out to you all.

While I was feeling sorry for myself before my doctor called, I got to thinking about all the decadent desserts that because of the diabetes I would love to have been able to eat. I went through recipe cards and books and found some recipes that looked



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

absolutely yummy.

Old Fashioned Hot Fudge Sundae Cake

- 1 C all-purpose flour
- ¾ C granulated sugar
- 2 T unsweetened baking cocoa powder
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ C whole milk
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 C chopped nuts – pecans or walnut (optional)
- 1 C light brown sugar – packed
- ¼ C unsweetened baking cocoa powder
- 1 ¾ C very hot water
- Ice cream

Preheat oven to 350

In an un-greased 9x9 square baking dish using a fork, mix first set of dry ingredients – flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Mix well.

Next, stir in milk, vegetable oil and vanilla, mix until smooth.

If using nuts, add them now. Spread batter evenly in pan.

Last, sprinkle batter evenly on top with brown sugar and remaining ¼ cup baking cocoa. Pour hot water over top (DO NOT MIX).

Bake on middle rack of oven for about 40 minutes, until top has a dry brownie like crust. When ready, spoon into serving dish with scoop of ice cream, topping with some of the fudge sauce.

S'mores Crazy Cake in a Mug

- 5 T all-purpose flour
- 4 ½ T granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. unsweetened cocoa
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- Dash of salt
- ½ tsp. white vinegar
- ¼ tsp. vanilla

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

While I was feeling sorry for myself before my doctor called, I got to thinking about all the decadent desserts that because of the diabetes I would love to have been able to eat. I went through recipe cards and books and found some recipes that looked absolutely yummy.

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

- 2 tsp. vegetable or canola oil
- 4 ½ T water
- 1 large marshmallow
- 3 Hershey chocolate squares
- 1 graham cracker square broken into small pieces

Using a large microwave safe mug, spray the inside with non-stick cooking spray.

Next, mix the first five dry ingredients in the mug. After mixing well, make three depressions in dry ingredients. Pour the vinegar in one depression, vanilla in the second one, and the oil in the third depression. Pour the water over the top. Using a fork mix well until smooth. Next, place marshmallow in the middle of the cake mix and press down. Place in microwave and cook on high for two minutes, uncovered.* Check with a toothpick to make sure it comes out clean (not near the marshmallow). Be sure not to overcook! When done, remove from microwave, top with the Hershey chocolate squares and sprinkle with graham cracker pieces.

Allow to cool for a few minutes.

*Each microwave cooks differently, adjust time accordingly. If you

overcook the cake, it may ruin it. Be sure to watch it as it bakes.

Chocolate Poke Cake

- Cake**
- 1 ¾ C flour
- 1 ¾ C sugar
- ¾ C unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 C brewed coffee, cooled
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1 C milk
- ½ C vegetable oil
- ½ tsp vanilla

Preheat oven 350. Grease and flour 9 x 13 baking pan.

Combine milk and lemon juice and set aside. (This mixture will thicken slightly).

Combine flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and baking powder in a large bowl.

Add eggs, coffee, soured milk, oil and vanilla. Beat on medium speed for two minutes. Pour into prepared pan. Batter may seem a little runny, but don't worry about it. Bake 30 to 40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Be sure to check at 30 minutes so it doesn't over bake.

Chocolate Pudding Layer

- ⅔ C sugar
- ⅓ C unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3 T cornstarch
- Pinch of salt
- 2 ¼ C milk
- 1 T butter

In a saucepan, combine the sugar, cocoa powder, cornstarch and salt. Add in cold milk, stir until combined. Turn heat on medium high and stir constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Allow to boil for one minute while stirring. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Allow to cool for five minutes stirring occasionally. With the end of a wooden spoon, poke holes all over the cake. Pour warm pudding over warm cake. Tap the pan so the pudding will seep into the cake.

Frosting

- ⅓ C milk
- ⅓ C butter, softened
- 1 ¼ C sugar
- 1 C semi-sweet chocolate chips

In a saucepan, combine the milk, butter and sugar over medium high heat. Bring to a rolling boil and allow to boil 45 seconds. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips. Wisk until smooth and shiny. Immediately pour over cake. Cover and refrigerate for at least four hours.

Got Milk? Or better yet, how about a big cup of black coffee?

How's your fence?



chain link



wood



wrought iron

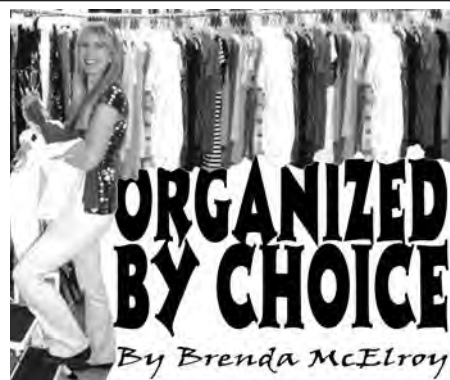
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By Brenda McElroy

Summer Sanity

“Wow, you’re all blown up!” the doctor repeated as she studied my allergy-tested back. It seems as soon as the beautiful spring weather arrives Mother Nature says, “Stay inside and close your windows until it’s too hot to come out!” Well, I think we’ve made the transition. Summer is here.

The lazy days of summer can quickly lead to clutter and chaos without some forward thinking. For summer stay-in-town days try some of these tips:

1. Hooks by the door that normally hold backpacks and jackets can now store a summer tote bag supplied with sunscreen, bug spray, hats, etc. It’s also a great place to hang swim towels to dry, or to grab as you go out the door.

2. Place an open bin by the door for flip-flops and swim shoes.

3. Make sure your summer sports equipment, ice chests and lawn chairs are easily accessible. That means nothing on the floor in front of the garage cabinet they’re in, or place them on open shelving at a level you can reach.

4. Give structure to the bike and scooter area by placing brightly colored duct tape on the garage floor and designate “parking spaces” for each item.

5. Even if your family activities vary from day to day or week to week, establish some morning and evening routines so that personal hygiene, chores and general clean-up are built into the schedule.

6. Create an “I’m Bored” jar with ideas written on large craft sticks for kids to choose from when they can’t think of something on their own. Google “I’m bored jar ideas” if you need some help. Make sure they (and you) know that a project isn’t complete until you’ve cleaned up and put things away.

7. Before summer’s over, be sure to tackle last school year’s papers and artwork. Have your kids choose a limited number of keepsakes, store in a labeled file or bin,

and purge the rest. You may choose to photograph some of the artwork or projects instead of keeping large items.

Chances are you’re going to want to get out of the heat for at least a little bit this summer. Here are a few organizing tips for travel:

1. Press your necklaces and bracelets between two sheets of Glad Press ‘n Seal plastic wrap to keep them from tangling. Place rings and small earrings in a 7-day pill case.

2. Roll your clothes instead of folding them in the suitcase. Place underwear inside of bras to help the bras maintain their shape.

3. Bag your shoes and place them on the wheel end of the suitcase so they don’t squish your clothes when the suitcase is upright. Stuff socks inside of shoes to maximize space.

4. Place a large binder clip over your razor if it’s lost its cover.

5. Use packing cubes or large Ziplocs to keep kids’ clothing sorted (by child/day) and organized in the suitcase.

- 1. If you open it — close it.
- 2. If you finish it — replace it.
- 3. If it’s full — empty it.
- 4. If it’s dirty — wash it.
- 5. If it’s garbage — trash it.

6. For road trips with kids, set a timer and unveil prizes at regular intervals. Prizes can include sticker books, travel games, snacks, books on CD, etc. Use Ziplocs to store

items with multiple pieces. Bring a small cookie sheet for each child to use as a lap tray.

7. Compile a restaurant supply bag with everything you need to make dining out with kids a more pleasant experience. Use a travel make-up bag with multiple sections to store bibs, wipes, applesauce pouches, snack-size packaged crackers/peanut butter, fruit bites, mini games, toy cars/animals, mini magnetic sketch, small books, etc.

8. Use a large plastic pop-top cereal container with a liner bag for trash inside the car.

Finally, establish, record, laminate and communicate some simple guidelines to keep your home orderly. I like Peter Walsh’s from his book *It’s All Too Much*:

- 1. If you open it — close it.
- 2. If you finish it — replace it.
- 3. If it’s full — empty it.
- 4. If it’s dirty — wash it.
- 5. If it’s garbage — trash it.

Blessings on your summer. Stay cool!

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. You can also visit www.organizedbychoice.com.

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Independence Day: Lesson Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

OK, I've now started and scrapped three different drafts for this Tea Time article. They lamented the deteriorating state of the nation and world with varying degrees of pessimism and cautious optimism. They decried our headlong rush toward socialism/progressivism/communism. They condemned the violence and horrible speech that passes for public discourse. Each draft article got more morose than the one before. Since they depressed even me, the writer, I decided not to foist them on you, the reader.

But while trying to be positive and contemplating solutions for our many serious problems, one idea stood out: Schools have not taught American history in any depth for a long, long time. Not only that, but some are actively teaching that the United States is the scourge of the earth.

Younger Americans may not realize that most of human history involved life-and-death struggles to escape from brutal oppression and deprivation. They may not know that our country was founded for the protection of individual rights by a government limited in power and scope by a written constitution, which led to unprecedented liberty and prosperity.

All of us, young and old, have lived our entire lives under an increasingly socialistic and paternalistic government acting contrary to constitutional limits. But the older we are, the more is the likelihood that we were taught the principles that, dare I say it, made this country great.

The lure of socialism's promise to provide a life free from want and pesky hard work appeals to the human nature of both young and old. Couple that with the lack of guiding civic principles and we have the unraveling of our society that we see now.

There I go, getting morose again.

But wait, there's more than that. There's something we can do, starting now, as we celebrate this Fourth of July with a backyard family barbecue and, hopefully, into the future. Read and learn

so that you can teach others. Here are some suggestions for refreshing our memories of the history lessons we may have learned but have forgotten:

Reread and study our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution.

Read a good history book. Google and watch President Reagan's speech given at Normandy on the 40th anniversary of D-Day and listen to it in awe and respect for him and our great nation. Check out the Federalist Papers, which preceded the Constitution.

How long has it been since you read *Animal Farm*? It's short and available to read online.

Any good book about World War II is inspirational and chronicles heroism and sacrifice. My dad endured the Battle of the Bulge in a Sherman tank and I am forever grateful for his and others' sacrifices. Perhaps you or someone in your family has been a part of history that others would like to learn about.

If you have children or grandchildren (or you're just an interested citizen), you might sit down and peruse their textbooks. What are their books teaching about our history and whom and what do they emphasize or ignore? Does Fidel Castro get more space than, say, George Washington? Are they factual? Students could use a good dose of facts to counter any propaganda found in their textbooks and classrooms. If you should find glaring errors or blatant anti-American bias, perhaps you could share your concerns with the school board.

Teach. Independence Day is a great time to start. You are no doubt already a fountain of knowledge and can teach others what you know and have experienced. How about striking up conversations at the barbecue with your family and friends, especially with the younger set? They may really thirst for stimulating conversation after umpteen hours on their cell phones doing Lord knows what! If you are a vintage-model individual, you might make history come alive because you have lived through it or remember your high school history classes.

These seem like small suggestions in the scheme of things, but who knows? You might inspire your granddaughter or nephew to become president someday. And it is rewarding to be even a small part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Have a safe, happy and educational Fourth of July!

For information and resources, please visit www.teaparty patriots.org.

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

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Senior Report

New Members, New Celebrations

By Patti Groh

I had the nicest time at the Seniors Picnic on Sunday, June 11. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet our new members, about 11 of whom were in attendance. We had some lawn games, ate good food each individual brought themselves, had good music and even a little dancing. Of note was Ethel Pronin, Ranchos/Hills Seniors member and 2017 Grand Marshal of the Flatlander's Day Parade, receiving her Grand Marshal plaque from Virginia Vick of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. We plan on making this picnic an annual event.

Our Independence Day Celebration will be held on June 29. Note, I did not call it a Fourth of July Celebration. But we certainly will be celebrating the same sentiments: Our American Freedoms! There will be BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs, expertly done by Mark Koontz. The rest of the menu will be potluck. This is for members only who may bring one guest who is asked to pay \$10. This is a Thursday evening that will begin at 6 p.m. and will continue as long as people want to visit and/or play cards. Don't forget your own table service.

If anyone is looking for tremendous deals, show up for the monthly sale at the Center on July 1. On this day only, everything in the Boutique and the Treasure House will be marked down by 50 percent. This discount will not apply to the Garden or Baked Goods as these items are already ridiculously low-priced. There are a lot of gorgeous flowers available in the Garden. My favorites are the geraniums. Check it all out. Usual hours apply, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Then the August monthly sale, on Aug.

5, will be a "Christmas in August" theme. There are some beautiful Christmas things accumulating at the Center so they will be displayed for sale. If you have Christmas pretties you are wanting to part with, bring to the Center after July 1. Remember that August is No-Bake Sale, which means that contributions can be made to the Seniors Center without

getting our kitchens hot (not to mention our tummies rounded). Same hours apply.

Continuing our once a month "specialty theme," Thursday night potluck on July 20 will be "picnic food." My first thought is potato salad, hot dogs and watermelon. I'm sure there are lots of other ideas out there. Bring your picnic favorite, beginning at 6 p.m. as usual.

A couple of additional upcoming events in August are "Hot August Night" on Aug. 12. This will again be a bring-your-own food, as in not a potluck – just feed yourself and maybe a guest. The details haven't been solidified but we'll let you know by next month. The other is a presentation by a Hinds Hospice representative who will offer information on becoming a hospice volunteer. She will be at the Center on Aug. 9 at 11 a.m., right after the exercise class.

Reminder: All the tickets for the July 4th raffle should be in to the Center as soon as possible. There is a little time to still buy yours either at the Center, at Monday Madness or at the Ranchos Market Wednesday and Friday from about 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The Center will be closed on July 3 and 4. Otherwise the usual activities are "going down."

Information is available in the monthly newsletter which is available at the Center and at local businesses.



Virginia Vick, left, representing the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, presents at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center a plaque commemorating Ethel Pronin's service as 2017 Flatlanders Day Parade Grand Marshal.



Caroline Reeves, left, gets acquainted with new Ranchos/Hills Seniors member Ken Fleming at the Seniors Picnic on Sunday, June 11.

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Keep it Cool

Hello 93636.

Lots of update training during the months of May and June. The training that stands out most in my mind is the training I received concerning today's complex vehicle cooling systems. But before that I have an update for May's "In Good Hands" article. Local TITU ("Tune In Tune Up") events will be held on July 15 at the Chowchilla fairgrounds; Aug. 26 at the Fresno fairgrounds; and Nov. 11 at the Madera fairgrounds. There is no downside to this program. There is no income eligibility qualification and no cost. If you are concerned your vehicle's tailpipe emissions may be higher than your vehicle's Smog Check Pass threshold and would like financial assistance, be there. Your vehicle's tailpipe emissions will be evaluated on site. If your vehicle has already failed a smog inspection due to excessive tailpipe emissions, you qualify. Take your failed test report with you. For more information go to valleycan.org or give me a call. We will be glad to walk you through the process. It's easy.

I know I talk a lot about emissions but emission reduction is the driving force behind the complexity of today's vehicles. For that reason, today's engines run very clean except during cold starts and warm up. In order to reduce those emissions, today's cooling systems have been redesigned. That's correct, the cooling system is now part of the emissions system. The goal is to reach normal operating temperature within 90 seconds after a start up from 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The correct engine warm up rate is 0.2 - 0.4 degrees F per second. Failure to meet this standard will result in lower tailpipe emissions reduction and "Check Engine Light" illumination.

Decreasing engine warm up time is accomplished using a variety of methods. One is to decrease cooling system capacity. Less fluid requires less time. Some cooling system capacities are as little as five quarts. The loss of just one quart is the loss

of 20 percent of the system's cooling capacity. No margin for error. Because of the different expansion rates (aluminum 1.7 times greater than iron) of the dissimilar metals used in the production of today's engines, a gasket sandwiched between dissimilar metals can lose its seal due to shearing. Be careful. No overheating please. Replacing head gaskets on a variable cam timing, dual-overhead camshaft, direct-fuel injected, turbocharged engine is no easy task.

The introduction of computer controlled grille shutters is another way. The shutters, behind the front grille, serve several purposes. Closing the shutters blocks ambient air flow through the radiator and thereby decreases engine warm up time. The shutters are also used to regulate air flow through the radiator and maintain optimum engine operating temperatures (195 F- 212 F) during all phases of driving. An additional benefit from grille shutters happens when the shutters are closed as much as possible while driving. Closing the shutters decreases the vehicle's drag coefficient and improves fuel mileage.

Another option to decrease engine warm up time is to circulate engine coolant through the exhaust system. Coolant is diverted into exhaust manifold passages where exhaust heat is radiated into the coolant. When the engine coolant reaches its pre-set temperature, the exhaust coolant passage is closed. Maintaining today's cooling systems is critical to the proper function and operation of the engine and tailpipe emissions reduction.

At the heart of your vehicle's cooling system is its water pump. Today's typical eight-cylinder engine water pump moves 80 gallons of coolant per minute. Imagine that. These water pumps are capable of draining the average swimming pool (25,000 gallons) in slightly more the five hours. This increased efficiency can be attributed to the use of plastic impellers with exotic blade designs.

Some impellers are constructed from Nylon 66. Nylon 66 is incompatible with some coolants/antifreezes. If the incorrect coolant is used during service, impeller failure is eminent. It may take a few years but the impeller will slip on the impeller shaft and then break apart. This

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

HANDS cont. from P. 15

also applies to plastic radiators and intake manifolds. The chemistry of today's cooling systems is also CRITICAL. The days of one size fits all engine coolant is long gone.

A major factor to consider for the proper maintenance and longevity of today's cooling systems is the pH level of the coolant. When the pH drops below 8.5, the corrosion rate of cast iron increases. When the pH is above 11 the corrosion rate of aluminum increases. The proper pH range for a modern cooling system is 9.8-10.5. The problem is the pH of water is 7.0. The pH of ethylene glycol, the main ingredient in most antifreeze/coolants, is 10.5. At a 50/50 mix the coolant pH is 8.75 and short of our 10.1 target. It is important to supplement the cooling system with a pH buffer. It's just chemistry.

It's easy to measure pH. Dip a pH test strip into the engine coolant and watch it change color. Compare the test strip color to the baseline scale on the side of the test strip container and read. I purchase my test strips from NAPA and I will be glad to give you one. Just let me know.

Ethylene glycol does not wear out but the lubricants, silicates, phosphates and other coolant additives do. Be proactive. Exchange your vehicle's coolant at the manufacturer's recommended intervals. Preventative maintenance does not cost. It saves when done properly.

My preferred method for servicing a vehicle's cooling system is a reverse cooling system flush. Compressed air pulses the coolant which causes a scrubbing action and vibrates debris loose. Flushing the old coolant in the reverse direction pushes debris out of the cooling system and into the ma-

chine to be discarded. "Drain and Fill" does not remove much debris.

Do-it-yourselfers, my advice is do not attempt to service the cooling system of a modern vehicle without proper training and equipment. At times, however, you may want to top off your cooling system. Never ASSUME what type of coolant to use. If in doubt, do what I do. Purchase the correct coolant from the dealer. In an emergency, use water. It's compatible with all coolants.

When servicing the cooling system of an old school vehicle, keep the following principles in mind and all should be fine:

- Never EVER EVER mix coolants. The color of the coolant is NO indicator of the coolant type.

- NEVER use tap water. Use distilled water only. As you can imagine, the introduction of iron, sand and other debris into the cooling system acts like sandpaper on water pump impellers and other cooling system components. Adding fluorine, chlorine and who knows what else into the cooling system changes the cooling system chemistry. Mix the coolant and distilled water at 50/50.

OK everyone, that's all for today. Hope this helps. Ladies, thank you for your input and encouragement. It's great. As always, we're looking for informative and interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have any suggestions or questions concerning a vehicle, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook or text at 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

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PACE cont. from P. 2

every 1,000 homes that complete HERO-financed efficiency upgrades, on average: carbon emissions saved are equivalent to taking 8,500 cars off the road for one year; energy saved is equivalent to powering 13,800 homes for one year; and water saved is equivalent to 2.7 million showers.

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PACENation, the non-profit advocacy organization that promotes PACE financing, are required to go further and conduct live, recorded phone calls to confirm financing terms and reinforce the written disclosures. In addition, members must offer programs to assist homeowners with post-project issues and to assist homeowners who experience unexpected financial hardship.

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RECHARGE cont. from P. 2

huge body of water that would have been the Fig Garden Reservoir would have helped stabilize the original static pressure of the San Joaquin River along its natural and historic route thereby allowing it to continue to replenish the Madera Subbasin, which is the natural water bank that is the underground part of the San Joaquin River Valley watershed.

Further research is currently underway to determine why the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which took the Central Valley Project over from the state of California, did not include the Fig Garden Dam and Reservoir. The research is additionally looking at what requirements Madera Irrigation District (MID) has to preserve the intent of the 1940 study by the Bureau that states, "During the portion of the year when irrigation water is not in demand, this canal (Friant Canal) will be used to replenish the supply of underground basins."

Madera Irrigation District

Tommy Greci, General Manager of MID said that he is not aware of any requirement to keep the unlined Lateral 6.2 Canal that runs along the southeastern border of Madera Ranchos full to replenish groundwater, though his public agency does operate six recharge basins in the vicinity of Highway 99 which are being kept full of water that has been captured by Friant Dam. Greci, whose organization adopted both the Madera Regional Groundwater Management Plan and the Madera Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and must produce a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 2020, said that MID customers who receive surface water do not have to pump that water from underground and that benefits everyone.

Unfortunately, since there are no irrigation canals or recharge basins upgradient of any of the current developments of south-

east Madera, namely Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos or Rolling Hills, there is no opportunity for farmers operating in those areas to access any surface water other than rain water. Likewise, residents of southeast Madera, whether on a water system or not, are equally dependent on groundwater. That is why, with the removal of the recharging capacity of the San Joaquin River, in the last 77 years the groundwater table has fallen 300 feet in southeast Madera and the Madera Subbasin is ranked as the sixth most critically overdrafted subbasin in California.

The state acknowledges that barring drastic action, we will run out of groundwater in southeast Madera County. While residential wells will go dry first, without significant groundwater recharge all the local farmers' wells will also go dry putting us all in the same sinking boat: Risking the same kind of land subsidence evident all around us that signals the complete elimination of the capacity to even hold groundwater while the best laid plans to date have only led to worsening conditions.

Bigger Picture

Next Tuesday, June 27, the Woodward Park Library will host a showing of the documentary *Water & Power: A California Heist* at 6:30 pm. Directed by Marina Zenovich and first aired on the National Geographic Channel on Jan. 23, the film is about California's water system which has been engineered both physically and contractually primarily to the benefit of corporate landowners. Landowners Stewart and Lynda Resnick are featured in the film and their businesses are estimated to use approximately 120 billion gallons of water or more each year with two-thirds of it going for nuts. Almonds, for example, require a gallon of water per nut for each and every almond on the tree. Stewart's Wikipedia entry estimates that 120 billion gallons of water is "... enough to supply San Fran-

SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

For the last three years, SEMUCU has been working on recharge basin projects with Madera County and Madera Fire Department. Today, SEMUCU is working with Supervisor Brett Frasier and others on parcels that have been identified for possible recharge basins while working on identifying more possible locations. This is not just "talk;" this is work that is going on right now. The engineering work for the permits needed are in process as this article is being

written. We intend to have the first two recharge locations built and ready to receive water for this winter's storms.

In the meantime, SEMUCU is continuing its work providing free dry wells, in addition to the 59 dry wells already drilled last summer within our community. These dry wells are creating a sieve effect and have been proven as a viable way to allow storm water to penetrate the ground and help recharge our aquifers. SEMUCU, as a nonprofit, was initially formed with basic reasons: "To deal with deteriorating water conditions, as well as help create a vibrant and sustainable future for our community.

Assembly Member Frank Bigelow will be holding a town-hall meeting in his district in the near future to bring folks up to date on what is going on in Sacramento that will be affecting our immediate area.

A SEMUCU grant for reimbursement for 20 water meters installed on private wells has not been given yet. Take advantage of this grant money as well as a "new" grant that will reimburse \$350 for each washing machine certified as "Energy Star Qualified" purchased during the grant's period from March 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Additionally, through the Association of California Community & Energy Services, free washing machines and dishwashers are available for families that qualify.

On July 17, SEMUCU will be holding its monthly meeting at the Ranchos Pizza Factory starting at 6 p.m. The public is invited. Become a member or simply come and listen and voice your opinion as a member of the community.

Please call us at 559-363-9095 with any questions or visit our website at www.semcu.org.

cisco's 852,000 residents for a decade." The same article lists the Resnicks' agribusinesses in the San Joaquin Valley to include Paramount Citrus, POM Wonderful, Teleflora, Fiji Water and Suterra. The Resnicks, who reside in Beverly Hills, also have agribusiness interests in southeast Madera.

Groundwater Recharge NOW

A local group, called Groundwater Recharge NOW, has as its mission "To develop new groundwater recharge basins that will improve our overdrafted aquifer (the Madera Subbasin)." This group also continues to research public and government agency requirements for protecting everyone's water rights. If you are interested in learning more, you can send an email to RechargeGW@gmail.com.

Next month's third and final installment of the series will describe the steps the State is taking to try and rectify both the rapid decline in groundwater along with the causal imbalance of the man-made water distribution system in California.

ANSWERS

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

RAE	VICTOR	PALP	WHIFF	ELM	ADIEUS	OLAV	HONER	DIC	KCAVET	DONCH	HEADLE	IKEA	ITD	ICE	PUEERILE	DEE	PAKCHOPRA	BIRLA	AIM	PSIS	APR	ANNE	AUF	AIT	A	TEAT	DEANCAIN	INI	VS	IGNS	SAG	HIC	DIXIE	CA	RTER	TEE	PO	PE	TAS	HMO	NABORS	AURAS	BET	RAYS	DCTEN	P	ATERS	AREAS	A	QUEEN	L	L	ELL	ASSES	MUD	DANIEL	CRAIG	LOS	ISH	DAD	YO	TEA	DID	IC	NN	APRES	ED	GGERS	EMUS	NOT	NAY	GAOL	CP	ROCS	D	ALE	C	ARN	EGIE	AL	BAMA	FDR	GRR	NON	E	DAN	AC	AR	V	EY	DY	AN	CA	NN	ON	ENTRE	BITE	A	P	NE	AS	ENS	S	T	E	R	S	P	E	D	M	T	E	I	N	A	R	E	V
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13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23
13	18	15	9	3	+	+	1	7	+	6	13	4	8	×	8	-	9	23

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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		-		23
÷		+		-	
	x		+		13
+		+		x	
	x		-		22
13		18		15	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9
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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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The Bookshelf

4th of July with the Ranchos Library

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library has been moving right through the Summer Reading Program. What an exciting time we had at our Kick Off with Wild Child Adventures. We just all love the Bubble Man. Just a note: space is sometimes limited so you may always call the library to check on individual events but we will surely do our best to provide everyone with reminders in advance. If you were not able to get to our Kick Off event, there are printed schedules for pick up in the Ranchos Library or we have printed schedules hanging in the windows for all to see. You may also check the Madera County Library website at www.maderacountylibrary.org

The Ranchos Library and Friends of the Ranchos Library would like to thank Educational Employees Credit Union and the Ranchos Hills Seniors for their generous contributions to our library and our Summer Reading Program. Thank you for helping us fund our summer reading program. We are so appreciative of those who are also donating their time each and every week to help us keep things running smoothly throughout our events.

These past few weeks have been moving quickly and before you know it we will be half-way through the summer break. We

love seeing everyone coming through and relaxing, soaking up their favorite book or magazine or spending time watching the little ones play. Be sure to stop in and visit and spend some time enjoying the air conditioning. Help prevent the summer slide for your school-aged ones by keeping them reading throughout the summer.

The Fourth of July is quickly approaching. Come out and support your Ranchos Library and Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. We will be hosting our annual fireworks booth from July 1 through July 4 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Maywood Center. If you have any questions or need information please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or the Ranchos Library at 645-1214. Please help us make this another successful year and we hope that you are enjoying your summer.

The Madera Ranchos Library

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Fri-Sat 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved English author J.R.R. Tolkien, best known for fantasy tales *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, who made the following sage observation about his chosen genre: "I have been a lover of fairy-stories since I learned to read. Why should a man be scorned if, finding himself in prison, he tries to get out and go home? Or if, when he cannot do so, he thinks and talks about other topics than jailers and prison walls?"

• You're probably aware that nocturnal animals are active at night and that diurnal animals are active during the day. But what about creatures that prefer the twilight hours? Yep, they have a name, too: They're crepuscular.

• Those who study such things say

that ecdysiasts -- those performers better known as stripteasers -- are likely to be first-born children.

• In a recent survey of Americans and Britons, conducted on behalf of meditation app Calm.com, respondents reported that they get their best sleep of the week on Thursday nights, while Sunday night is the worst for sleeping.


• In India at one time, it was believed that eggshells held clues to the future. Fortunetellers would smash a hen's egg against a special board, then interpret the pattern made by the fragments of shell.

• Add this to the list of America's puzzling small-town festivals: Every June, the town of Ainsworth, Nebraska, puts on the Middle of Nowhere Celebration.

• Thought for the Day: "The true test of a civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops -- no, but the kind of man the country turns out." Ralph Waldo Emerson

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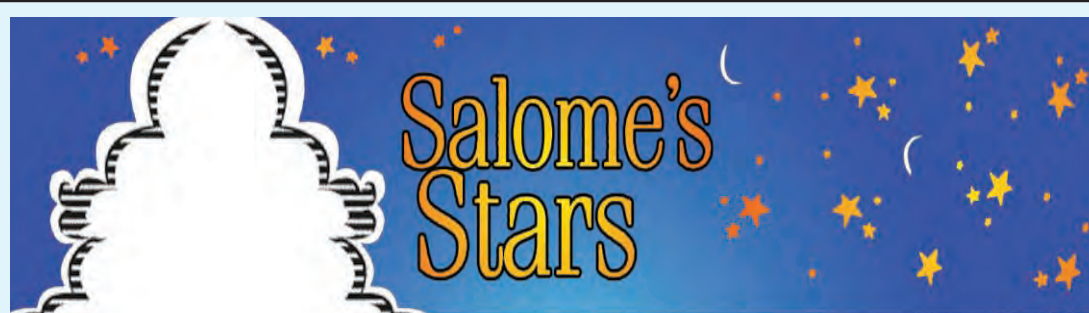
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Information you need might be coming in sporadically, but at least what you're getting is valuable. Continue to wait until more is available before acting on that career move.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You continue on an upbeat cycle, and with that strong Taurean energy you should see favorable results from your hard work. A pleasant surprise awaits you in your private life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A misunderstanding needs more time to be worked out. Don't give up on it just yet. Remain open to providing explanations, if called for. Another friend offers good advice.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Fast action can correct a seemingly minor problem that has taken on some unexpectedly difficult aspects. Stay with it until it's resolved. News on a more positive note is due soon.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some snags could cause delays in those plans you're eager to see put into operation. But be patient. The Clever Cat will soon have good reason to celebrate a job well done.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be careful not to let that Virgan sensitivity dissuade you from being the hardheaded realist you should be at this time. Your goals are in sight. Stay focused on them.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A more positive aspect opens up, allowing you to make some important changes in a personal situation. Remember to seek balance and avoid extremes as you proceed.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This is a good week to get out and enjoy the fine times you missed while you were so deep in those workaday projects. Be sure to share it with that special person.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Work and play are in balance this week. However, expect news that could tip things toward the workplace for quite a while. But all to a good end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're more productive on the job than you have been in some time. That's good. But be careful not to overlook some situations developing in your private life.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You've been doing a lot for others (as usual). But now it's time to focus on your needs, including finally going on that long-delayed trip you've been hoping to make.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's all smoothly going on 'twixt you and that very special person in your life. But a colleague causes some disruption on the job that you might be called on to help settle.

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Born this Week

You are sensitive to the needs of others. But you're no pushover.
You would make a fine teacher, psychologist or minister.

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FUN PAGES

POPEYE

IT'S THINGS WIT' MOTORS WOT 'ABOUT THEM? DEY SHOULD'A NEVER BIN INVENTED!

HEY ETS MAN DAT'S TH' ONLY THING WOT BREAKS DOWN... '...THINGS WIT' MOTORS! MONDAY TH' FRIDGE WENT KERBLOOEY! TUESDAY TH' DISHWASHER CONKED OUT! THEN TH' FURNACE AN' TH' DRYER! NOW ME MOTORSICKLE WON'T START... '...Y' DON'T SEE THINGS WIT'OUT MOTORS' BREAKIN' DOWN! Y' WUZ SAYIN'...

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

AW, LEMME PLAY WITH YER BOOMERANG JUST ONCE, HUH, HENRY?

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN BEING LUCKY MEANS FINDING YOUR CAR IN THE PARKING LOT...

HERE IT IS, ELP! OH, ALFO... YOU'RE SO GOOD...

MAILMAN HAZARDS # 7,551 - IF THE DOGS DON'T GET HIM, THE LAWN SPRINKLERS WILL... OH, YEAH!

THANK TO LEN BERGER, MIAMI, FLA.

THANK TO PAUL CASSANO, EAST MEADOW, N.Y.

BRANO, THE MIND READER, IS A WHIZ ON NUMBERS...

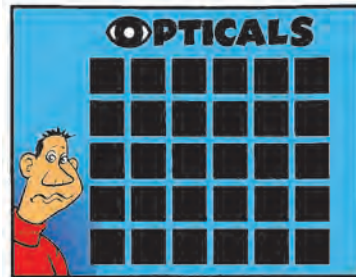
THE SERIAL NUMBER ON YOUR BILL IS F41925679213...

HE NEVER MISSES... RIGHT!

HOWEVER... YOUR ZIP CODE?

ER... 9... NO... UH... 5... NO... 0... GEE... I ER... DON'T KNOW...

THANK TO RUBE DUNN, NEWARK, N.J.



WHAT DO YOU SEE when you look at the intersections of white lines above?

Answer: You see gray dots. If you look at any one dot, it will disappear.

8 HERE'S ANOTHER BETCHA! Bet your friends that you can prove that half of eight is three. When they give up, print the number "8" on a sheet of paper (fig. 1). Then cover the left half of it with another sheet of paper (fig. 2). The "8" has now been changed to a "3."

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's. Here are some hints from the top down.

- \$1,000 (sl).
- A Monopoly square.
- A ship's diary.
- Of great duration.
- A strange language.
- Charitable giving.
- A computer getting data.
- A slanted line.

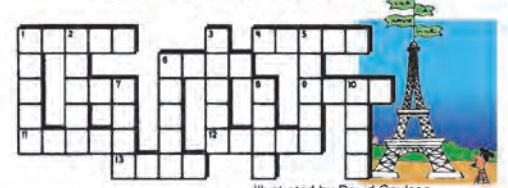


Answers: The words are: G, go, log, long, ingo, doing, loading, diagonal.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SHORT-NAME EUROPEAN CITIES!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are the names of 15 European cities that you will need to complete the puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ARLES | DEAL | PALMA |
| BADEN | EDAM | PARIS |
| BERN | LILLE | RYDE |
| BREST | METZ | SIENA |
| DERBY | ORLY | SELBY |

Answers (Across) 1 Palma 4 Baden 6 Bern 9 Ryde 11 Siena 12 Metz 13 Selby 15 Derby 6 Brest 1 Paris 2 Lille 3 Arles 5 Derby 6 Brest 7 Edam 8 Orly 10 Deal

Wishing Well®

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

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 ● LEAF VEGETABLES

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Bok choy | Celery | Fennel | Parsnip |
| Broccoli | Chard | Kale | Spinach |
| Cabbage | Chicory | Lettuce | Watercress |
| Cauliflower | Collard | Parsley | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Petrified Forest National Park?
- MOVIES: Who starred in the movie version of the musical "Evita!"?
- TRANSPORTATION: What major airport's three-letter designation is ORD?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Hannibal Hamlin served as vice president to which U.S. president?
- ANATOMY: What part of the human body is affected by Graves' disease?
- LITERATURE: A biography of which five-star general was titled "Old Soldiers Never Die"?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many tablespoons are in a cup?
- CARTOONS: What are the names of the "The Chipmunks" singing group?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When is a sesquicentennial?
- FOOD & DRINK: What type of spice can be Hungarian or Spanish?

Answers

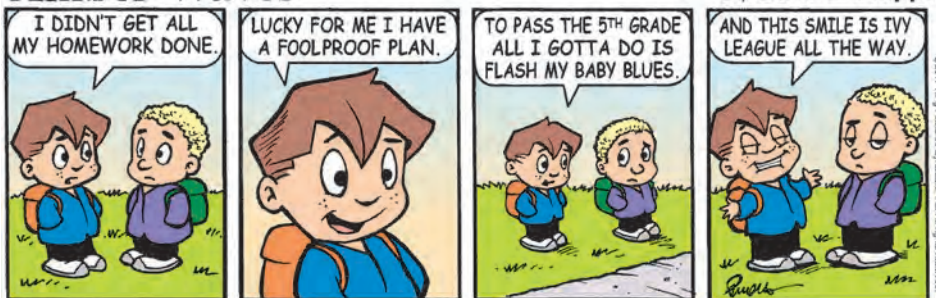
1. Arizona
2. Madonna
3. O'Hare International Airport, Chicago
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. The thyroid gland
6. Douglas MacArthur
7. 16
8. Theodore, Simon and Alvin
9. 150-year anniversary
10. Paprika

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Click on "Local News" at

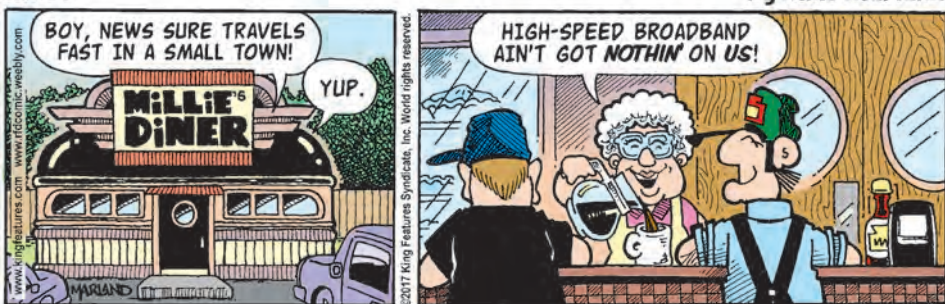
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

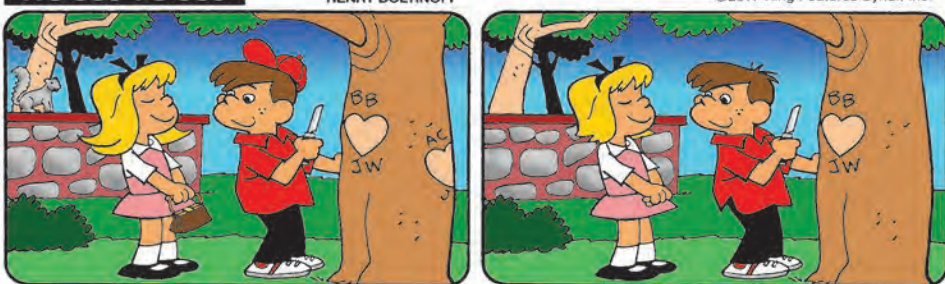
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

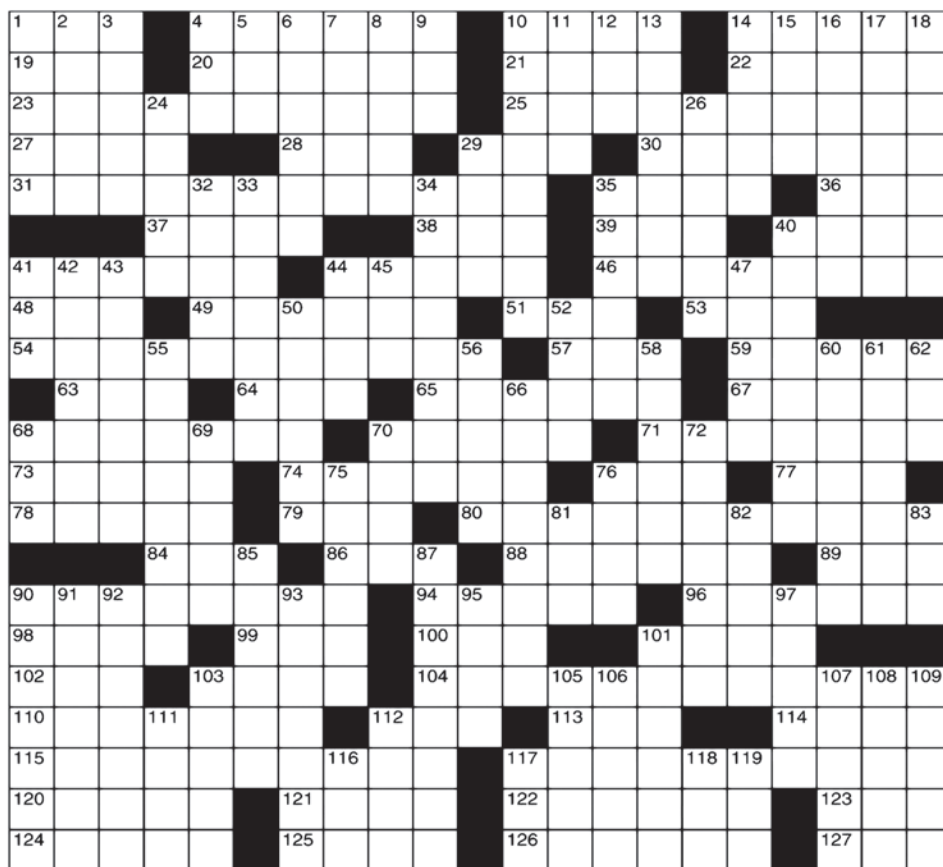
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Squared is missing; 2. Hair is different; 3. Fence is missing; 4. Cup is missing; 5. Shirt is different; 6. Carving is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Charlotte of "Diffrent Strokes"
 - 4 Champion Insect feeler
 - 10 Slight smell
 - 14 North Dakota's tree
 - 20 Farewells
 - 21 Regal Norse name
 - 22 Sharpening device
 - 23 Talk show host with three Emmys
 - 25 Best Actor nominee for "Hotel Rwanda"
 - 27 Giant in retail furniture
 - 28 "— be my pleasure"
 - 29 Cold cubes
 - 30 Childishly trivial
 - 31 "Quantum Healing" author
 - 35 Cause a floating log to spin by walking on it
 - 36 Direct (at)
 - 37 Sorority letters
 - 38 Apt. units
 - 39 30-day mo.
 - 40 Writer Rice
 - 41 Very familiar (with): Fr.
 - 44 Irked greatly
 - 46 He played Clark Kent on "Lois & Clark"
 - 48 Ending of some pasta names
 - 49 Gestures from 4-Acrosses
 - 51 Start to fall
 - 53 Juice brand
 - 54 "Designing Women" co-star
 - 57 Kickoff prop
 - 59 Catholic leaders
 - 63 Univ. helpers
 - 64 MD's gp.
 - 65 Jim who played Gomer Pyle
 - 67 Psychic glows
 - 68 Rats on
 - 70 Jet airliner model that's an apt alternate title for this puzzle
 - 71 Talks glibly
 - 73 Zones
 - 74 Fit for — (regal)
 - 76 Small, like Abner
 - 77 Building wing
 - 78 They bray
 - 79 Slimy stuff
 - 80 Sixth actor to play James Bond
 - 84 Pop music's — Lobos
 - 86 Ending for Brit
 - 88 What you might call a cool cat
 - 89 4 p.m. social
 - 90 She played Frenchy in "Grease"
 - 94 — ski party
 - 96 Landscaping tools
 - 98 Kiwi cousins
 - 99 "— cool!"
 - 100 "Kill bill" vote
 - 101 Brit's prison
 - 102 Red Cross skill, for short
 - 103 Big birds of myth
 - 104 "How to Win Friends and Influence People" author
 - 110 Selma locale
 - 112 32nd prez
 - 113 Cur's threat
 - 114 Nada
 - 115 "Wayne's World" co-star
 - 117 She played Alice in "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice"
 - 120 — nous
 - 121 Snack
 - 122 Breathing problems
 - 123 USN officer
 - 124 Navigate
 - 125 Zoomed
 - 126 E. Sicilian volcano
 - 127 King, to Juan
 - 17 Filmmaker Federico
 - 18 Ex-slaves
 - 24 Sorority letter
 - 26 Cry from a 4-Across
 - 29 Old TV's "My Friend —"
 - 32 "— always said ..."
 - 33 Tastelessly artistic
 - 34 Being there
 - 35 Harass
 - 40 Equip
 - 41 Give relief
 - 42 Ally makers
 - 43 Obsesses
 - 44 Farming-related prefix
 - 45 Leveling stuff
 - 47 Attack like a playful pup
 - 50 Sean Penn drama
 - 52 Slews
 - 55 Galilee residents
 - 56 Assessed
 - 58 Eyed
 - 60 High-ranking cleric
 - 61 Previously
 - 62 Mil. draft gp.
 - 66 Sudafed alternative
 - 68 Goat's call
 - 69 Pt. of NBA
 - 70 Threads
 - 72 Not closing seasonally
 - 75 Five womb-mates
 - 76 Pan covers
 - 81 Scot's denial
 - 82 Nucleotide triplet
 - 83 With 118-Down, fuel container
 - 85 Wine region in California
 - 87 Like batik fabric
 - 90 Century parts
 - 91 Embed firmly
 - 92 Comic Jimmy
 - 93 Extreme diet rule, perhaps
 - 95 Jack of early TV
 - 97 Beck of radio
 - 101 January gem
 - 103 Relay athlete
 - 105 Nile locale
 - 106 Heavy lifter
 - 107 Lost cause
 - 108 Hole — (ace)
 - 109 Itsy-bitsy
 - 111 Undecorated
 - 112 Gala
 - 116 Big shot
 - 117 Beaver work
 - 118 See 83-Down
 - 119 Simile part
- DOWN**
- 1 Made over
 - 2 Not different
 - 3 Show host
 - 4 Dust buster, for short
 - 5 Boise loc.
 - 6 Social studies class
 - 7 Canines, e.g.
 - 8 Defeat
 - 9 Pre-U queue
 - 10 Shows to be downloaded
 - 11 Burn soother
 - 12 PC linkup
 - 13 Many a sewer-line tube, briefly
 - 14 Tire holder
 - 15 Winter frost
 - 16 Gary's state



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

NEW State Grant Awarded

to residents of South East Madera County

UP TO **\$350*** REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH
Washing Machine certified as:
“Energy Star Qualified”

Sign up** list for those interested in more information:

1. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos, CA 93636

2. Email: info@semcu.com heading “Washer Grant Interest”

IN ADDITION

FREE Low Flow equipment
is **STILL** available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

**Grant monies are awarded to SEMCU, by the Department of Water Resources, (DWR), to help our community members within the 93636 zip code better manage and conserve our water resources.
(Estimated reimbursement amount based on participation)*

For more information Email: info@semcu.com or Call: (559) 363-9095
SEM CU meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at The Pizza Factory

By the Community, For the Community!!!

****As soon as details are approved with the State we will follow up with those on the lists.**