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Third World Countries



Venezuela ... Somalia ... California?
By Victor Davis Hanson

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

Third World Countries



Medieval diseases, gangs, corruption, crime, crumbling infrastructure, out-of-touch wealthy elites ...

“Third World” is now an anachronistic geographical term of the old Cold War. But after 1989, “Third World” was reinvented from a political noun into an adjective to mean more than just Asian, African and Latin American nations non-aligned with either the West or the Soviet bloc. Rather, the current modifier “Third World” has come to transcend geography, politics and ethnicity. It simply denotes poor, failed states all over the globe of all races and religions.

Third World symptomologies are predictably corrupt government, unequal or nonexistent applicability of the law, two rather than three classes, and the return of medieval diseases. Third World nations suffer from high taxes and poor social services, pre-modern infrastructure and utilities, poor transportation, tribalism, gangs and lack of security.

Another chief characteristic of a Third World society is the official denial of all of the above, and a vindictive, almost hysterical state response to anyone who points out those obvious tragedies. Another is massive out-migration. Residents prefer almost any country other than their own. Think Somalia, Venezuela, Cuba, Libya or Guatemala.

Does 21st Century California increasingly fit that definition — despite having the nation’s most amenable climate and most beautiful and diverse geography, with major natural ports facing

the dynamic Asian economies and being naturally rich in timber, agriculture, mining and energy, and blessed with a prior century’s inheritance of effective local and state government?

The California Manor

By many criteria, 21st Century California is both the poorest and the richest state in the union. Almost a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line. Another fifth is categorized as near the poverty level — facts not true during the latter 20th Century. A third of the nation’s welfare recipients now live in California. The state has the highest homeless population in the nation (135,000). About 22 percent of the nation’s total homeless population reside in the state — whose economy is the largest in the U.S., fueling the greatest numbers of American billionaires and high-income zip codes.

But by some indicators, the California middle class is shrinking — because of massive regulation, high taxation, green zoning and accompanying high housing prices. Out-migration from the state remains largely a phenomenon of the middle and upper-middle classes. Millions have left California in the past 30 years, replaced by indigent and often illegal immigrants, often along with the young, affluent and single.

If someone predicted half a century ago that a Los Angeles police station or indeed L.A. City Hall would be in danger of periodic, flea-borne infectious typhus outbreaks, he would have been considered unhinged. After all, the city that gave us the modern freeway system is not supposed to resemble Justinian’s

sixth-century Constantinople. Yet typhus, along with outbreaks of infectious hepatitis A, are in the news on California streets. The sidewalks of the state’s major cities are homes to piles of used needles, feces and refuse. Hygienists warn that permissive municipal governments are setting the stage — through spiking populations of history’s banes of fleas, lice and rats — for possible dark-age outbreaks of plague or worse.

High tech does its part not to clean the streets but to create defecation apps that electronically warn tourists and hoi polloi how to avoid walking blindly into piles of sidewalk excrement. In Californian logic, public defecation butts up against progressive tolerance, so it is exempt from the law. Yet for a suburbanite to build a patio without a permit, for example, costs one dearly in fines. Indeed, a new patio without a permit can be deemed more dangerous to the public health than piles of excrement in the public workplace.

One out of three Californians who enters a hospital for any cause is now found to be suffering from either diabetes or pre-diabetes, an epidemic that hits the Hispanic community especially hard, but for a variety of reasons has not led to effective public-health efforts and sufficient publicity. State-run dialysis clinics now dot the towns and communities of the Central Valley — a tragic symptom of dietary culture, massive illegal immigration and poor public-health education.

Infrastructure is for the Unwoke

California’s transportation system, to be honest, remains in near ruins. Despite the highest gas taxes in the nation, none of its major trans-state freeways — not the 99, not I-5, not the 101 — after 70 years of use, are yet completed with six lanes, resulting in dangerous bottlenecks and wrecks. Driving the 99 south of Visalia, or the 101 near Paso Robles, or the 5 north of Coalinga is right out of Road Warrior — but not as dangerous as the fossilized two-line feeder lines such as 152 into Gilroy, or the 41 west of Kettleman City. The unspoken transportation credo of Jerry Brown’s aggregate 16 years as governor apparently was: “If you don’t build it, maybe they won’t need it.”

Meanwhile the concrete carcass of the recently cancelled multibillion-dollar high-speed rail system dots the skyline over Fresno. Bureaucrats now insist that more billions must be spent to ensure that a short segment of the least traveled route will be finished, though they obviously do not anticipate spurring a new tourist or commercial corridor between Merced and Bakersfield.

High-speed-rail gurus insist on salvaging something of the boondoggle, not because they have an economic rationale justifying more dollars — they would be far better invested in improving freeways, airports and rails — but largely out of pride and shame that demand some small token rescued from a very bad pipe dream.

In 1973, when I first visited and lived in Greece, the roads were medieval. The old Hellinikon Airport was dysfunctional, if not creepy. Highway rest stops were filthy. I have lived in or visited Greece in the ensuing 45 years since, including occasionally after the 2008 meltdown and European Union standoff. And yet today, the freeways, chief airport, and rest stops of relatively poor Greece are in far better shape than are California’s. LAX’s poor road access, traffic, uncleanness, crowds and chaos seem pre-modern compared with the current Athenian airport.

It is an eerie experience to see America’s once premier state, currently at its supposed acme, now resemble Greece of the colonels a half-century ago, while 2019 Greece seems more like a functioning 1973 California. Athens and Thessaloniki are still dirty in a few places, and there are homeless and illegal immigrants. But one does not see needles and feces on the sidewalks, and it is safe to walk in the evening. Greek public restrooms, once notorious, are far more sanitary than those at rest stops in Fresno, San Francisco or Los Angeles.

Power outages are characteristic of Third World countries. Here in California we are advised to brace for lots of them, given that our antiquated grid apparently contributes to brush fires on hot days. As a native, I do not remember a single instance of our 20th Century state utilities shutting down service in the manner that they now routinely promise.

California for Others

Crime the last three years has increased. It is epidemic in local jails. San Francisco has the highest property-crime rate per capita of any major city. The California prison system is a mess, and sanctuary cities ensure that illegal aliens charged with crimes will not be deported. Pick up a McClatchy paper and you’ll see that the day’s fare of Central Valley criminality, even after sanitization and editorialization, is mind-boggling.

California’s cycles of wet boom years and dry bust years continue because the state refuses to build three or four additional large reservoirs that have been

Please see **3RD WORLD** on P. 4

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Having been a resident of the Ranchos for over 39 years, and having read nearly cover to cover the entire paper for many years, as well as before Randy Bailey's time, I especially appreciate the articles written by Eryn B. Nyre. That's not to say I don't appreciate Randy's articles, I do.

Wisdom comes with age, but stupidity is something that once learned, often lingers. Eryn's wisdom comes through each month in that she is trying to teach the younger generation of what is acceptable in the workplace and what is not.

I don't keep the newspapers long so I can't refer to any one article but in that they

all seem to have the same theme, which is how to act in the workplace, is solid gold IF the younger worker will take a few minutes to read these articles.

I've been self-employed for many years and can often times sum up the applicant within a few seconds. Most can do the same. Being a college student myself, and seeing students go to school in their pajamas, their lackadaisical attitude toward rules on campus and in class, speaks volumes about what is not being taught in school or at home.

I shake my head.

Thanks, Eryn, for a job well done and for all those articles to come.

Jan C.

Madera Ranchos

3RD WORLD cont. from P. 2

California functional through even the worst drought. The rationale is either that it is more sophisticated to allow millions of acre-feet of melted snow to run into the sea, or it is better to have a high-speed-rail line from Merced to Bakersfield than an additional 10 million acre-feet of water storage, or droughts ensure more state control through rationing and green social-policy remedies.

Twenty-seven percent of Californians were not born in the United States, a large minority of them residing in the United States illegally. Yet California's universities and popular culture are at the forefront of salad-bowl and identity-politics policies that obstruct assimilation, integration and intermarriage — the historical remedies for the natural tensions that arise within multiracial and multi-ethnic societies. In this perfect storm, at the very moment the world's poorest citizens from Oaxaca and Central America flooded into America, de facto rejecting the protocols of their home, their hosts' messaging to them was that they should lodge complaints about the social injustice of their new home and romanticize the culture that they had just forsaken for good cause.

California schools are usually in the bottom decile of national rankings. No one in polite conversation asks why that is so, given that the state's K-12 schools used to be among the most competitive in the United States. Yet, again in medieval fashion, the professional schools and science and technology departments of California's premier research universities — Cal Tech, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC — are among the highest-rated in the world. Imagine something like the scribal oases of Padua, Oxford or Paris in an otherwise

frightening 13th Century. If one wishes to be schooled as an electrical engineer or cancer researcher, California is an attractive place; if one wishes to be a knowledgeable graduate of a public elementary and high school, it most certainly is not.

California's Department of Motor Vehicles is perhaps the worst public-service entity in the United States. To enter any branch office is to venture into a Dante's Inferno of huge lines, chaos, unkept rest rooms and rude and often incompetent unionized employees. The only efficient DMV office in the state is the unmarked and secret branch in Sacramento reserved for state legislators and grandee insiders who oversee the DMV for the rest of the population. For a fee, concierge private auto clubs and firms often duplicate some DMV services, a de facto admission that the state needs something else besides itself to offer basic services. I once asked a DMV clerk, after a long wait in line, if it was right to be wearing a purple SEIU organizing T-shirt; she replied, "Do you still want to be served?"

The DMV scandals are multifarious: Thousands of motor-voter registrations sent to the wrong people, including illegal aliens supposedly ineligible to vote; corrupt employees who sell commercial truck driver's licenses to the unqualified; and private corporations and occasionally individuals selling hard-to-obtain reservations and appointments.

California now has the nation's highest basket of sales, gas and income taxes. With a state surplus, and a slowing economy, one would think that the legislature and governor would pause before even considering raising more taxes. After all, new federal tax law limits write-offs of

Please see 3RD WORLD on P. 7

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Guest Editorial

The Daily Beast's Shabby Scoop

By Rich Lowry

Breaking news: Some guy posted a doctored video of Nancy Pelosi.

But fear not. The website The Daily Beast sprang into action. It tracked down the random, Trump-supporting man who allegedly posted the offending clip, hounded him until he talked, then published his name and other details about his life in a shocking instance of harassment masquerading as journalism.

The man whose identity was revealed by The Daily Beast is, by the publication's account, an unemployed African American forklift operator who lives in New York City and runs a couple of very minor Facebook pages. He had done it anonymously, one assumes, to avoid any professional and personal fallout, which The Daily Beast has now exposed him to.

The video in question, doctored to make it sound like Pelosi was drunk when talking about Donald Trump at a progressive conference, dominated a news cycle a couple of weeks ago. In other words, it was a big deal for about six hours, and then disappeared like most everything else in our disposable news culture.

The video was certainly a testament to the debased quality of online discourse, but it was also quickly identified as a fake, because it was pretty obvi-

ously a fake.

None of this justifies outing the man supposedly responsible for it. In a better world, anonymous political commentators could be identified without fear of social media mobs attempting to ruin their lives. As has been demonstrated time and again, this is not the world we live in.

Widely criticized for its decision to name the man -- or in online parlance, "dox" him -- The Daily Beast defended its story as a way to show "that disinformation isn't the purview of Russia alone." But who ever believed this?

Even if it's relevant that someone in the Bronx rather than St. Petersburg produced the video, that didn't require naming the man -- let alone detailing his employment history, talking to his ex-girlfriend or delving into his guilty plea to a domestic violence charge and an outstanding warrant for his arrest on a probation violation. (The man denies many of the details of the story.)

All of this was completely gratuitous. The balance, which any responsible publication should have considered, between the public benefit of naming the man (none) and the personal harm that might be done by naming him (considerable) isn't even close.

Of course, it matters that he is a Trump supporter. Outlets like The Daily Beast don't make a routine practice of hunting down trolls who are producing the vast sea of anti-Trump material online, because they don't consider spoofing or maligning Trump to be a threat to democracy, or at all undesirable.

Incredibly enough, according to The Daily Beast, someone at Facebook provided details about the man's posting history that were used to confirm the story. Users of Facebook should take note.

Although reporters might believe that rank abuse of America's high elected officials is something new, it's as old as the republic. And it's often been anonymous. By all means, call out online distortions and lies, but deliberately exposing low-level political advocates to personal destruction is shabby and irresponsible, and more an act of political retaliation than journalism.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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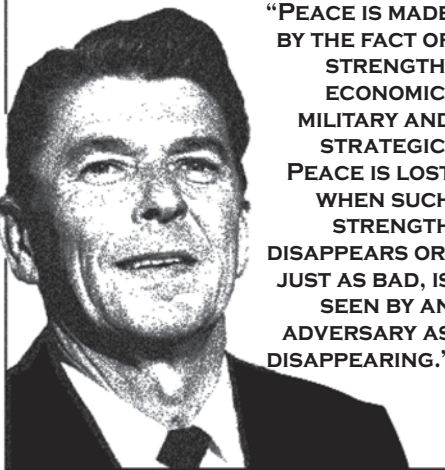
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Just Me and Dad

Over these past few years I've done a lot of writing about my mom. Losing her remains one of the hardest things I've had to go through, and I won't pretend I'm even remotely close to "through it" yet. I've written about how much I miss her. I've written about some of my most cherished memories. I've tried my best to share with the readers what a wonderful mother she was, what an amazing person she was. This Father's Day, as I thought about how the loss of my mother has changed my relationship with my father, I've come to realize how important this day is now that it is just me and my dad.

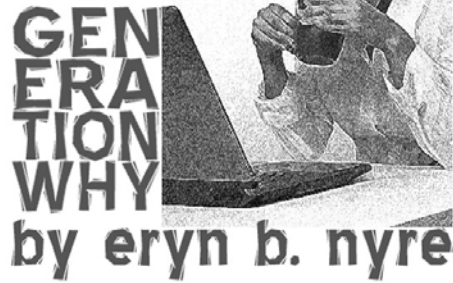
My dad and I didn't always have the best relationship. Mom said it was because we were so much alike.

Neither of us agreed. I was the hard-headed, irresponsible slacker kid and he was the hard-headed, hot-headed, no nonsense dad with seemingly impossible standards. It made it difficult to get along and probably attributed to

This Father's Day, as I thought about how the loss of my mother has changed my relationship with my father, I've come to realize how important this day is now that it is just me and my dad ... I write a lot about my mother and how close we were, but so many fond memories of my childhood come from my dad.

mom's early-onset gray hair. The more I look back on it the more I realize my mother was a saint for putting up with us all those years. Despite the tumult of my teens and twenties I still have some pretty amazing memories of a father who did the very best he could to raise a responsible adult while at the same time gave me a pretty fantastic childhood. This Father's Day I'd been reminiscing about some of the best times with my dad.

Magic Mountain will always be our special place. We went there every summer, just the two of us, from the time I was about eight years old. I can remember when he took me to the



bridge near the "Tidal Wave" ride and told me to stand there and watch the boats. Little did I know the water reached all the way up over the bridge. He took off around the corner and watched as I got semi-drowned. Turns out "Tidal Wave" really was the perfect name for that ride. The story still brings a chuckle out of him whenever he

tells it. I believe it was that same trip when he stuffed toilet paper in my shoes to give me just a little bit more height so I could ride the Viper, which had just opened. It was the scariest roller coaster of its day and I was dying to get on. Luckily

that's all the dying I did that day. I told Mom about that little incident about 15 years later. She was not as amused as I was by that story.

He was the mastermind behind many amazing parties thrown to make his daughter happy. I can remember one particular birthday party when I was about six where he donned a black plastic trash bag and a shower cap and let my friends and me throw pies at his face. If memory serves, they were just paper plates with whipped cream sprayed on them, but the point is that I got to smack my dad in the face with dairy prod-

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

ucts. Not every child has a memory like that. One Halloween when I was about 12, he and my mom threw me a party where they rigged the entire living room to move and sway with a particularly frightening ghost story he had cooked up for the occasion. Of course, to hear him tell it I ruined everything because I figured it all out. Sorry you raised a smart kid who keeps a level head and puts things together even when terrified, Dad. My bad.

He once flew me out to California to see New Kids on the

Block in concert, you know ... their first time on the merry-go-round. He not only took me, but he put on a New Kids on the Block T-Shirt and let me paint the windows of his car to show our support for the group, especially Joey who was the love of my life. I'm still waiting, Joey. I'm still waiting.

Throughout my childhood my dad loved to do things to scare me. I look back fondly at all of his attempts to traumatize me but at the time I was pretty dramatic about it. It's probably why he kept doing it. There were scary stories at night in the car on the dark streets of rural New Mexico

3RD WORLD cont. from P. 4

state and local taxes to \$10,000 — radically spiking upper-bracket Californians' federal tax liabilities. Yet the rule in California is to punish the upper middle class while pandering to the rich and romanticizing the poor. Thus, the legislature is now considering a punitive new inheritance tax and it just imposed an Internet sales tax.

Again, the message is that if Californians can survive a recent 13.3 percent top state-income-tax rate, and a vast increase in their federal tax liability, then certainly they can be easily squeezed further after death to pony up 40 percent of their already taxed estates that are over \$3 million in value. Translated, that can mean that a tract house in Los Angeles or the Bay Area and a modest 401K are proof that you did not build your wealth on your own, so the state has a second shot at appropriating your postmortem capital, to ensure that your children will see no benefit from your parsimony and thrift.

California's apocalyptic present has created an alternate universe, in good Third World style, of pay-for-play services. To avoid the emergency room (the last time I used one, two gangs squared off in the waiting room to continue what their wounded members were under treatment for), progressive Californians often pay for concierge medicine and anything private to avoid at all costs using any state services.

The coastal corridor elite often put their kids in tony prep schools that have sprung up or vastly expanded, in the fashion of the 1960s white Southern academies that were designed to circumvent federal desegregation edicts. Elite progressives mimic old-style, 1960s segregationists but feel that their children's green and multicultural curricula offer

enough penance to assuage their guilt over abandoning the state's much praised "diverse" schools.

Our Dreams, Your Nightmares

What caused this lunacy? A polarity of importing massive poverty from south of the border while pandering to those who control unprecedented wealth in Silicon Valley, Hollywood, the tourism industry and the marquee universities. Massive green regulations and boutique zoning, soaring taxes, increasing crime, identity politics and tribalism, and radical one-party progressive government were force multipliers. It is common to blame California Republicans for their own demise. They have much to account for, but in some sense, the state simply deported conservative voters and imported their left-wing replacements.

In a reductionist sense, perhaps if former governor Jerry Brown knew that he would one day retire to Delano and drive the 99 daily, rather than to Grass Valley with several state pensions in his bank account, or if Dianne Feinstein dwelled in an East Palo Alto or Redwood City residence rather than in Pacific Heights, or if all the Pelosi grandchildren had to attend state public schools, then the architects of 21st Century California might have had to live with the consequences of their own dreams and been less eager to inflict their nightmares on the other 40 million Californians.

But then again, such a radical divergence between a few insider elites and a massive underclass, with little in between, is perhaps what best defines "Third World."

This article appears by the kind permission of the National Review Online magazine. Author Victor Davis Hanson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution.

that always ended with him singing the Twilight Zone tune. To this day that melody sends shivers down my spine. One year, as part of Halloween decorations, we had a weird old man on our front porch. Dad convinced one of the neighborhood kids to get inside the dummy to scare me when I got home. I'm not too proud to admit I peed my pants that day. He once convinced all our neighbors that he had a coffin in his garage with his Uncle Junior still in it and sent people in there to check it out. I'm not sure what was really in there be-

cause I wasn't brave enough to go see for myself, but everyone came out running. Looking back, I don't even think it was Halloween when he pulled this one.

I write a lot about my mother and how close we were, but so many fond memories of my childhood come from my dad. So, this Father's Day I want to say "thank you" to my dad for sharing his time, his knowledge and, most of all, his sick and twisted sense of humor with me. Life would be so boring without it.

Love you, Dad. Happy Father's Day.

Scream for Ice Cream

With the hot weather we've had a lot of requests for Aunt Jean's ice cream recipes. This is a reprint of her article from July, 2011. Enjoy!

Editor



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 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

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.

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

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

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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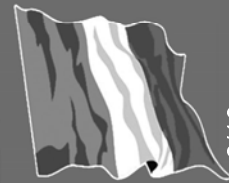
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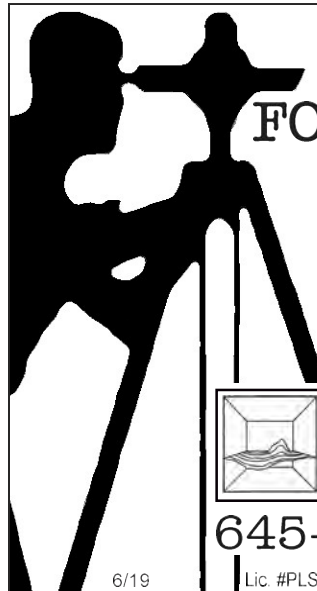
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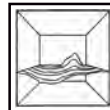
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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

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
- 1¾ C Sugar
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1½ 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.

One of our readers, Linda Autry, sent me this recipe and says she got it off the Paula Deen Show:

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 goopy, if they last that long! Linda said a lemon, spice or any flavor moist cake mix can be used instead of chocolate.

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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What Do Your Books Deserve?

My five-year-old granddaughters LOVE books. I recently pulled out the *American Girl* series that belonged to their mom when she was little. While reading *Meet Samantha* to them, I realized my heart connection to that series wasn't the books themselves, it was to the era of life with my own book-loving children. Ah, the days of reading together before naptime and bedtime.

Even though I wouldn't call myself an avid reader, I still love books and probably have a few too many. How about you? Are books spilling off your shelves? Are there boxes of books in your garage or storage? What is this connection we have to books and why are we so resistant to letting go?

Laura Lippman is a novelist. In her article, *"The Book Fairy,"* (Real Simple Sept. 2018) she presents an interesting observation. People tend to define us by what they see on our bookshelves. From the time she left college with six cartons of books, she continually added until at one point her home, a storage unit and the anteroom in her office were full.

Early in 2017 something changed. "I found myself looking at my shelves and realizing they were not, in fact, a mirror," says Lippman. "If anything, they were a carefully curated and alphabetized lie." The question changed from "What do my books say about me?" to "What do I have to say about my books?"

"Books," Lippman decided, "deserve to be read, not preserved on shelves where they won't be cracked open again in one's lifetime." She developed a clever and somewhat mysterious way of sharing her books. "It's a mitzvah to pass along titles that I love," she says, "a way of playing matchmaker between great writers and avid readers." You can read about it online at www.realsimple.com/work-life/how-to-get-rid-of-books.

If, like Lippman, you're ready to give your books what they deserve, here are some helpful hints.

Space Allotment - Decide ahead how much space you're willing to allot to books and choose to live within that means. Maybe it's one or two bookshelves. Maybe it's a room devoted as a library. You decide.

Purge and Sort - Rule #1 – don't start reading as you're organizing. You'll never finish the job! Remove the books from their shelves, boxes, piles, etc. Sort into keep, donate and sell (if desired). Give your bookshelves a good cleaning. Criteria for

books to keep might include rare/collectibles, favorite authors, not yet read, life-changing, etc.

If your "I might read this someday" pile is huge, you most likely won't. Someday is not a day of the week. The longer it's been on the shelf unread, the more doubtful it is you'll read it.

Reducing the number of books waiting to be read can actually be freeing. Chances are your interests have changed since you purchased some of them and there are current interest books waiting to replace them. For those you insist you'll read, store them on a designated shelf with a read-by deadline. If you haven't pulled them down to read by then, let them go.

Consider the ease and availability to replace a book if you let it go and change your mind. Is it available at the library or through online retailers? If it's a resource book, can you find the information another way? Online perhaps?

Remember Lippman's motto

"Books," Lippman decided, "deserve to be read, not preserved on shelves where they won't be cracked open again in one's lifetime." She developed a clever and somewhat mysterious way of sharing her books. "It's a mitzvah to pass along titles that I love," she says, "a way of playing matchmaker between great writers and avid readers."

"Books deserve to be read." Here are some ways to share your bounty:

- **Sell Online** — www.bookmooch.com, www.bookscouter.com, www.sellbackyourbook.com, www.bookstores.com, Amazon Trade-In Program

- **Sell to Used Book Stores** — Book Nook, Hart's Haven, A Book Barn

- **Donate to Friends of the Library**

- **Donate to Thrift Stores** — Salvation Army, Neighborhood Thrift, Rescue Mission Thrift, Thrift on Blackstone

Create Homes - Once you've paired down to what you'll read and cherish, consider the best placement. Cookbooks, craft books, children's books, study books and "coffee table" books should be placed in appropriate rooms according to use and ease of accessibility.

Bookshelves can be organized a number of ways:

- **Alphabetically** – by author or title

- **By Genre** – fantasy, mystery, science fiction, history, self-help, etc.

- **By Color or Height** – aesthetically pleasing

- **Chronologically** – by publication date, historical events, etc.

- **Frequency of Use** – easy access shelves for books used the most

A greater number of books will require a more detailed system, perhaps combining some of the methods above.

Lining up your books an inch or two from the outside edge will give your shelves a clean and organized look as well as allowing air to circulate behind your books to prevent mold. Place large, heavy books at the bottom and bolt or strap all bookshelves to the wall to avoid injuries.

Final Step – Read and enjoy!

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 pay a visit online to www.organizedbychoice.com.

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The Bookshelf

Smiling Faces for Reading Program

By Jerrica Edmundson

We have officially started the 2019 Summer Reading program and are excited to see all the smiling faces as we push for active reading throughout the summer for our community members of all ages. We've got family friendly movies that we will be showing in the branch to get out of the heat and enjoy some fun stories. You are of course welcome to bring snacks to this and we will be keeping it nice and cool in the library to combat the 100+ degree weather we have abruptly jumped into. We will also be having our usual entertainment for the kids and have the reading program running, so read all the books and get entered in to win our grand prize. For the kids we have a kid-friendly Kindle and for adults we have a Samsung Galaxy tablet that integrates perfectly with our e-book service through Overdrive/Libby. Each age group will have different requirements to get an entry, with 2nd grade and under reading 30 minutes a day for five days per entry; 3rd grade through 8th grade must read 250 pages per entry; 9th grade through 12th grade must read 500 pages per entry; and adults will have a reading challenge BINGO sheet to fill up to get their entries.

Our organized show events will be on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., with a week off for the 4th of July as the library will be closed. The final event will be on Saturday, July 27 with our annual ice cream social and a movie accompanying it. We will be hosting this on a Saturday to allow for more people to make it, but it will also be at 11:30 a.m. Our full roster of events is

listed on our Facebook page which can be found at facebook.com/ranchoslibrary

Our popular tote bags that were being sold during the Flatlander's Day craft fair are still available inside the branch along with the amazing deal that accompanied them. Pick up your 2019 Madera Ranchos Library tote for just \$5 and fill it with books from our sale room for an additional \$3. That's only \$8 for an entire tote bag full of great books!

Even with all of this stuff going on, we have to have time to read and here's what is on our shelves this month:

Jerrica's Shelf: *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin



This book was a tough one to pick up, but once I got into the story, I could see why this author was awarded a Hugo

Please see **BOOKS** on P. 14

The Madera Ranchos Library

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Senior Report

Never Too Late to Get in Shape

By Margaret Tynan

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are celebrating the Nation's Independence Day a little early on Saturday, June 29 with a members' BBQ. The fun starts at 5 p.m. There are some surprise games planned. New members who joined the Activity Center this year are honored guests. Bring a side dish to share and your table service. We look forward to good food and enjoying good friends.

It's the last chance to get your raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. The drawing will be held on July 4th. You do not need to be present to win but you do need a ticket to have a chance. Stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. to get yours. 1st prize is \$250 toward a brake job compliments of Complete Car Care. 2nd prize is one large pizza each month for a year compliments of Ranchos Pizza

Factory. 3rd prize is a 3-yard bin compliments of Red Rock, a \$235 value. Thank you to these businesses for their generous support.

"FILL A BAG FOR \$5" is here again at the regular monthly Treasure House Sale on Saturday, July 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. There's a wide variety of items to choose from. The Garden has a large inventory of lovely plants, trees and shrubs to beautify your yard. Find that unique piece in the Boutique and don't forget to satisfy your sweet tooth at the Bake Sale. See you there.

FLASH! We just got word that the November 10-16 "America's Canyonlands" tour price is reduced. The tour visits some of the most magnificent sights in the country. You'll see Monument Valley and several National Parks: Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches and Grand Canyon. Cruise Experts Travel generously shares the proceeds from this trip with our Center. Call Joann at the Center for more details at 645-4864 or stop by and pick up a flyer.

The hot weather is here. With the sun beating down, it is often hard to get out and get physical exercise. But exercise is crucial to

enhancing our quality of life no matter our age. Experts in the healthcare arena have pointed out the many benefits to exercise that contribute to successful, healthy aging. Here are some of them based on an article by E. Blasi. Heart and overall muscle strengthening as well as endurance and energy levels can improve. The increased blood flow that exercise promotes benefits the brain and helps

with memory. It is believed to help reduce the risk of dementia. Using weights and resistance exercises improves bone health. Flexibility and balance-focused routines help with preventing falls, with falls being one of the most prevalent health issues in older adults. A conservative estimate by the National Council on Aging (2015) is that one third of the population of people over 65 fall each year. Regular exercise helps with improved sleep which in turn increases energy levels. And happily,

exercise contributes to a better mood. The endorphins released into the brain during exercise can reduce depression. It is also noted that participating in group exercise offers mutual support and encouragement to stick with the program. And there is the extra benefit of socializing with friends.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors Activity Center offers an opportunity to gain all of these exercise benefits through our Group Exercise Program. Our program focuses on each of these areas: Muscle strength, balance, flexibility and range of motion. The routine includes deep breathing and movement of all joints from head to toe. Many of these exercises are promoted in the publication "Still Standing Falls Prevention Outreach" (A.T. Still University, Center for Resilience in Aging, 2016). Whether your goal is to stay fit or to get fit, we hope you will join us at the Center every Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Thought for June: "Life is one big gym where we need to constantly workout to stay fit for this world. And indeed, love here is the treadmill." — Munia Khan



Josie Turner, left, with the help of Judy Hagler lead the exercise group



Every Monday-Wednesday-Friday Ranchos Seniors get a workout at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

BOOKS cont. from P. 11

Award for each book in this series. *The Fifth Season* is the first book of the *Broken Earth Trilogy* and I feel it is an amazing start to an intensely different science fiction story. Set in a world that seems a lot like a dystopian future of our own society, you follow three strong women throughout their journeys to survive in times where they are rejected because of innate powers with which they were born. Each of the women have been cast out of their homes and families due to having the ability to move the very Earth beneath their feet, an ability which has essentially been cursed due to its destructive capabilities. The youngest is

taken from her family by a man who will take her to a school to learn how to control her powers; there is a student who is actively learning how to rise in the ranks of the Orijens that she is now a part of and a woman is sent from the school with a high ranking man in the school to resolve issues out in the world.

The story twists and turns and truly had me in shock by the time I got to the end, leaving me scrambling for the next book in the series. I recommend it to anyone looking for something out of the ordinary as it doesn't fit quite perfectly into any genre: A bit of dystopian future, a bit science fiction, some social interaction issues, and even romance thrown in the game.

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

SEMUCU speaks

By Matt Maringer

Greetings,
 Taking a step back, we would all like to thank you for supporting SEMCU. The main purpose of SEMCU is seeing how we can best convey, discuss, study, analyze and resolve the common concerns in the region, in particular in our neighborhood, as we love to hear how we can be most helpful. We would like to thank you for your patience for the reimbursements from the state for our washing machine and dishwasher grant. We are supposed to receive a check from the state on a quarterly basis, but they have been a little slow on that, so we apologize for the delay. Be rest assured though, your reimbursement is coming.

As part of our dry well project, we recently had a detailed technical memorandum completed by Provost and Pritchard to show the testing results. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please email info@semcu.org and a PDF can be sent to you. The dry wells were tested with a temporary connection to the irrigation system including a 6-inch diameter flow meter. For each well, pressure readings were recorded to confirm there was zero pressure at the discharge and water was flowing into the dry well by gravity. From the results, we discovered that one well recharged 40-acre feet of water over 19 days, which is equivalent to 13,034,000 gallons. This can provide 200 gallons per day for 178 families for one year, which is astonishing.

It was another successful year

for the Flatlander's Parade. SEMCU received 3rd Place for the float contest as we promoted our current washing machine and dishwasher grant and the FREE dry wells. There were many people who inquired about both at our booths and we look forward to processing more applications and drilling more wells this summer. As a reminder, an incentive you get with purchasing a Star Energy Rated washing machine and/or dishwasher is a \$350 (potentially \$700 for both) reimbursement. The grant has been extended for another year so please see our ad on the back page of the Ranchos Independent for more details

We are still looking for another grant writer or two that could help us with grants. We are looking to submit grants that can help with water, local parks, education and safety needs within Southeast Madera. We will also reimburse the registration and course fee to anyone who wants to take and complete the certificate for the grant writing course at Fresno State. We are waiting for them to post the next dates of the course but will notify the public as soon as we find out. If you are interested or would like to get more details, please let us know by attending a meeting, or by contacting us at 559-363-9095.

Please plan on attending one or more of our meetings held at the Pizza Factory every third Monday of the month starting at 6 p.m. There have been some great discussions these past couple meetings and the topic of water has been a point of interest for many. This is your community and we would love to hear your voice.

SEMUCU • www.semcu.org
 559-363-9095

Supervisors in Ranchos July 9

The Madera Board of Supervisors will continue to hold "On the Road" meetings with the next one scheduled for the Madera Ranchos taking place on July 9 at 5 p.m. in the All-Purpose room at the Ranchos Middle School at 12455 Road 35 1/2.

A local group looking to improve Avenue 12 road safety is planning to use this upcoming meeting to show their continued support for a petition that was presented to the Board of Supervisors earlier. The content of the petition is as follows:

"REQUESTING SAFE COMMUTER

TRAVEL ON AVENUE 12 WE, the residents of Madera Ranchos, STATE OR BELIEVE: Avenue 12 is presently heavily impacted by an upswing in traffic utilizing Avenue 12 East and West. Madera residents believe that this onslaught of increased traffic will become greater with the proposed establishment of a hospital on the Northeast corner of 41 and Avenue 12. Recently, there were two fatalities on 12 which was instrumental in bringing the

Please see SUPES on P. 18



New Way to Fail Smog

Hello 93636,

The following is a "blast" I recently received from the California Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) informing we California emissions technicians of a change in the California Emissions Testing "Pass/Fail" criteria:

"Beginning July 1, 2010 and newer vehicles equipped with OBD II (On Board Diagnostic 2nd Generation) and a Permanent Diagnostic Trouble Code (PDTCC) stored in the vehicle's computer memory, will FAIL the BAR OIS Smog Check. The additional check augments the existing inspection requirements and failure criteria for OBD-equipped vehicles. The change is expected to increase the overall Smog Check failure rate by less than one percent and will protect customers from incomplete vehicle repairs. When a vehicle fails an emission inspection, the PDTCC will appear on the Vehicle Inspection Report under the Permanent Fault Code category."

Starting next week, 2010 and newer vehicles with PDTCCs stored in the Powertrain Control Module (PCM) memory will fail an emissions inspection with or without the "Check Engine" lamp illuminated.

What is a PDTCC? A Permanent Diagnostic Trouble Code is a regular Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) that has been converted and stored in NVRAM (Non-Volatile Random Access Memory) and can only be erased by the Diagnostic Executive in the vehicle's computer software. PDTCCs cannot be cleared by disconnecting the vehicle's battery or using a scan tool.

It appears DTCs are converted to PDTCCs when there is an on-going pattern of monitor failures over an extended period of time. What is a monitor? OBDII Readiness Monitors are a set of tests written into the PCM software designed to evaluate the performance and efficiency of the vehicle's emissions components and systems. The monitors are performed during a wide variety of driving patterns. The monitors can be passive or intrusive. Some vehicles perform as many as 11 monitors. In order to pass a California emission inspection, OBDII vehicles model year 2000 and newer must run, complete and pass every monitor, with the exception of Evaporative Emissions, and have no DTCs or PDTCCs stored in the PCM memory. Once a DTC has been converted into a PDTCC, the only

way to erase the PDTCC is to fix the underlying problem and drive the vehicle until the failed monitor passes.

My advice is if you drive a 2010 or newer vehicle, DO NOT IGNORE your "Check Engine" lamp if it is illuminated. There are only two options available to clear PDTCCs and both are time consuming. Delay will only exacerbate the diagnostic, repair process and costs.

If a PDTCC is stored in the PCM memory, the first option is to correctly repair the vehicle and preform the universal OBD II drive cycle. This is the option I prefer. It will require three consecutive confirmed fault-free monitoring cycles to erase the PDTCC. My experience is this process will take a minimum of three days. The universal OBDII drive cycle was thoroughly covered in my March 2019 Ranchos Independent article titled "Enabler." It's available online at www.TheRanchos.com. If you find yourself with incomplete OBDII monitors, I believe the article will be very beneficial.

Option two is to perform the manufacturer's specific monitor drive cycle. One fault-free completed monitor will erase the PDTCC. Manufacturer-specific drive cycle information is difficult to find, very narrow and confusing. On the few occasions I've performed manufacturer-specific drive cycles, it's always been

for European vehicles.

If you find yourself with a vehicle that will not pass its California emission inspection due to PDTCC's, do not fret! There is a process in place to assist and protect you. BAR will ignore PDTCCs if the vehicle has completed at least 15 warm-up cycles and been driven at least 200 miles since its monitor status was last cleared.

Do-It-Yourselfers, a little bit about OBDII may be helpful. OBDII is a generic and universal emissions diagnostic system that was first mandated in 1996 for all cars and light duty trucks sold in America. OBDII mandated ALL vehicle manufacturers use the same set of universal diagnostic trouble codes for the same emissions faults. Code P0171 (lean exhaust/bank 1) always means the same regardless of the manufacturer. OBDII made it possible for us to diagnosis vehicle emissions faults with just one OBDII-compliant scanner.

OBDII is divided into 10 different modes and by law it's all available FREE. If you have an OBDII compliant device, you will find a wealth of diagnostic information in Mode 1 - 10. This information is my "go to" information if I have a tough emission diagnostic.

Do-It-Yourselfers, the BAR forgiveness information you need is available in Mode 10 \$0A, Test \$01 PID \$30 and Test \$01 PID \$31. PID \$30 is where you will find the number of completed warm-up cycles. PID \$31 is where you will find

the distance traveled since the codes were last cleared.

TECH TIP: Mode 9 "tracking" is where you will find how many times a vehicle has been driven within a monitor's enabling criteria and how many times the monitor completed its test.

California Air Resources Board is in the process of mandating all newer vehicles run and complete all OBDII monitors at least twice per day, on the way to and from work. CARB wants all monitors to be enabled during normal and routine driving and that all monitors complete their testing 85 percent of the time they are enabled. Because of CARB's robust monitoring process for the affected vehicles, I don't foresee many PDTCC code issues if the vehicles are repaired correctly.

OK, guys and gals, that's all for this one. I know this article may be a little technical, but I haven't written an article for the Ranchos Do-It-Yourselfers group for some time.

As usual, I'm looking for interesting automotive industry topics, including general or specific questions about a vehicle that I can write about. Your suggestions, recommendations and ideas are appreciated. Also, if you have questions concerning this article, please email me at complete_car_care@hotmail.com.

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The 2019 Sober Grad Committee Co-chairs, Laura Mercer and Kari Myers, would like to thank the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who donated to Sober Grad 2019! We couldn't have put on this fabulous party for our graduates without the generosity of our amazing community.

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Gives Students Scholarships

By Bedy Koop

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

As school time ends and the children and parents adjust to summer schedules, it is important to slow down and celebrate family. Class promotions, awards and graduations are milestones of family life. Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club is proud to celebrate with local families as the club's hard work of raising money for scholarships and children's needs are fulfilled. We are excited to recognize Anna Harr, Sarah Folsom, Joshua Bailey, Chloe Cubre, Gisella Vasquez and Nathanael Samarian as LHS scholarship recipients. We



Bev Delk, right, congratulates the six Kiwanis Scholarship winners from Liberty High.

were also able to issue two "Hope of America" scholarships to Elijah Holland and Lilly Gonzalez.

Several of the scholarship winners attended our May and June meetings to thank the club for their contribution to their future. It was wonderful to meet both the students and their family and show them what Kiwanis is all about.

Margaret Tynan, another of our exciting guest speakers last month, came to share her adventure on Viking Cruises to see the Northern Lights. Due to some crazy weather and waves she and several other passengers were evacuated by helicopters to Norway. It was fun to hear about the incident and witness her firsthand account.

Our local Kiwanis Club was happy to

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

recognize Marie Cameron with the Distinguished Service Award on May 11. Marie has been involved with Kiwanis for 15 years and has volunteered at numerous events that help the Ranchos Community. Kiwanis likes to remember that volunteers invest a part of themselves when they put their time, energy and skill into making a difference for their community. We appreciate you, Marie.

As for current events, we are continuing work at Wildwood Native Park. June 15 was another cleanup day and we appreciate all

of the volunteers that came out to help prune, rake, paint and repair areas of the park. Our next scheduled date is Saturday, Oct. 19, and any community members are welcome to join us. We would appreciate the help.

How would you like to catch a \$10,000 fish? We have the 23rd Annual Kiwanis Special Olympics Trout Fishing Derby on July 13 at Wishon Lake and that's our Grand Prize. You can pre-register now at www.kiwanisspecialolympics.com.

If you would like to join us at one of our meetings, come down any Thursday, (except the first one of the month), to the Pizza Factory Banquet Room on Avenue 12 at 6:15pm. You will enjoy the camaraderie and fun, and also be a part of making a difference in our community.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

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6/19

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Business Profile



A Little Relaxation for the Ranchos

The newest business in the Madera Ranchos, and the newest member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is Ranchos Cigarettes and Pipes, also known as the Ranchos Smoke Shop. It is located in the Maywood Center at 37167 Ave. 12 #4D, next to the Madera Ranchos Library.

The Ranchos Smoke Shop is like a warehouse of all of the most current smoking accessories. For those who enjoy vaping, they offer a broad variety of e-juices for e-cigarettes, vape pens and personal vaporizers, with a selection of those items as well.

The hottest item in the world of vaping is the Juul e-cigarette. Since an introduction in 2018, Juul now commands over 70 percent of the e-cigarette market. Juul e-cigarettes use nicotine salts from leaf-based tobacco for its key ingredient, rather than free-base nicotine. The Smoke Shop sells complete Juul kits for the curious.

Of course, the Smoke Shop also carries a full assortment of traditional tobacco products. A full line of all major brands of cigarettes, hand-rolled cigars and pipe to-

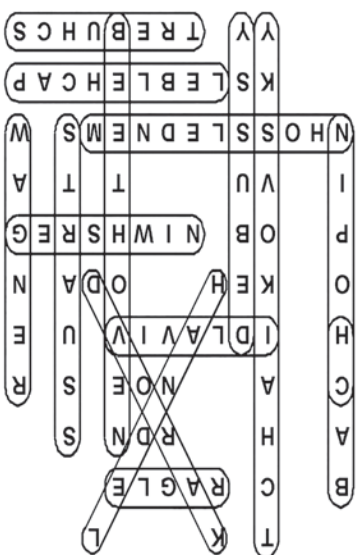
bacco round out the selection. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, they also carry an assortment of hookahs. This Indian communal tobacco pipe (some say it's from Persia originally) allows for group smoking of tobacco but filters it through a water tank, mellowing out the delivery of tobacco.

When asked why they decided to open this shop, store Manager "Sonny" said, "To serve the residents of the Madera Ranchos with the latest items at a reasonable price. The Madera Ranchos did not have a smoke shop."

These items barely scratch the surface of all the items the Ranchos Smoke Shop carries. If you're interested in these products, do yourself a favor and give them a visit. They are open daily, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays they are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Give them a call at (559) 479-4943 or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RanchosSmokeShop/ to see some of their selection.

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ANSWERS



SUPES cont. from P. 15

traffic problems in this area to the forefront. Who knows how many other accidents have, or will occur? Area residents complain of non-stop traffic on Avenue 12, with long wait times when attempting to turn onto this impacted street. People are tailgating, passing on the shoulder, ignoring speed limits, not using turn signals, and utilizing the center left turn/right turn lane to pass vehicles in the area of Madera Ranchos. Below are some recommendations made by the Rancho Residents to solve these problems: 1. Build the access crossover ramp from Freeway 41 to freeway 99 which was planned years ago, or 2.

Create a round-about in strategic areas on 12, or 3. Place signals at strategic areas such as roads 35, 36 1/2, 37 or 38 on avenue 12 to slow down traffic thru the business area, or 4. Build speed bumps and/or reduce speed to 25 MPH The Madera Rancho residents bring this petition to the Board of Supervisors in order to create safety and convenience to all travelers on Avenue 12."

The petition group is stressing that if your work hours held you back from attending past Board of Supervisors meetings, then this is your chance. You are invited to come out and have your voice heard in support of the petition for a "Safer Commute on Avenue 12."

Click on "Local News" at

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Can This Union be Saved?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Young folks frequently ask for the secret to a 55-year marriage, and my quick answer is: First, share the same values; second, be committed to the union and to each other through good times and bad; and third, find a way, somehow, to live long enough! Newlyweds start with lofty dreams but encounter life's adversities along the way. It's their commitment that keeps the marriage strong, or lack thereof that ends it with signatures on tear-stained dissolution papers.

Interestingly, our national union, the United States of America, has lasted 231 years since the Constitution's signing in September 1787, precisely because there have been shared values and a commitment to the "vows" made to the Constitution. And although the commitment is waning, a semblance of it remains.

The union has persevered through bitter political fights, scandals, national disasters, threats from abroad and even a devastating civil war. The question is whether it will survive the current insane political war between the two political parties which are "married" or bound together, whether they like it or not, by their mutual pledge to uphold the Constitution. Alas, one marriage partner, the Democrat Party, is having an open, extra-constitutional affair with ever-seductive radical socialism. Perhaps it is time for the Republican Party to demand that Democrats honor their vows.

As a reminder, socialism is government ownership or control of all production, distribution and exchange, and it invariably leads to subjugation of its citizens through peaceful or violent means. It cannot co-exist with the United States government that protects the individual from government domination.

For too long, socialism's siren call has tempted Democrats, and sadly some Republicans. Bit by bit they have enacted unconstitutional programs that increased government power over us and usurped the proper role of states. The nation has survived the results of this creeping socialism, so far. But how much more debt, dependency on government largesse, poverty, homelessness, drug dependence and illegal migration from all over the world can we withstand?

Today's Democrat Party takes radicalism to the limit. If implemented, their push for such things as open borders, the ludicrous green agenda, gun control, un-

limited government-funded abortion, voting rights for felons and illegal immigrants, and much more, could spell the end of our union.

Ronald Reagan warned that "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction ... It must be fought for, protected, and handed on ... or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children ... what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Thomas Jefferson predicted "... future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Under socialism or any other "ism," before the government can give anything to the people, it must first take from the people by taxation; and worse, it limits self-determination. Conversely, our form of government protects individual rights so that Americans are free to prosper and provide for themselves.

Consider the following free advice:

Republicans, stop letting the Democrats frame the debate with misleading terms. If "toxic masculinity" is publicized, then "toxic femininity" must be given equal time. Ordinary citizens who happen to disagree with the Democrats are not "white supremacists". There is a disaster at the border, not a "manufactured crisis". "Global cooling" and "an imminent ice age" in the 1970's, "global warming" in the 1990's and "climate change" today are all part of the same scare tactics based not on honest scientific study but on skewed computer models or just hot air. Abortion is not "women's health care," it is abortion. "Tearing children away from their mothers" describes something besides border policy. "Medicare for all" is impossible. The current Medicare system is facing bankruptcy.

And, Republicans, please don't reply to asinine proposals such as the Green New Deal by asking how it will be paid for. Instead, point out that it is too absurd even to consider, period.

Democrats, get a grip on reality. Until then, you might quietly thank your Republican partners and President Trump for the bustling economy which puts more money in Democrat pockets to fund two dozen or so Democrat presidential campaigns.

Americans, do your homework before backing a candidate or policy, and then work tirelessly for those you favor. Study the differences between socialism and free-market capitalism. Listen critically to all sides of an argument and question partisan "facts." Recommit yourself to our national union. And, of course, stay true to your spouses.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.teaparty patriots.org for more information.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A change of season reinvigorates the Lamb, helping to overcome the effects of a recent slower-paced period. This is a good time to restate your feelings for that certain someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might not like using your authority to correct a workplace situation, but that's what being placed in charge is all about. Besides, you have people ready to lend support if need be.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your creativity continues to run high and helps guide you to make some fine choices in the work you're doing. Keep the weekend free for those special people in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be surprised if you experience a sudden spurt of energy strong enough to pull you out of that recent period of indecision and put you back in charge of your own goals.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time for Leos and Leonas to set new goals regarding health, educational choices and possible career moves. The plans you make now could be a blueprint for your future.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might have much to offer a potential employer, but it can all be overwhelmed by too many details. Let the facts about you speak for themselves without any embellishments.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is a good week to balance your responsibilities to your work-a-day world with your obligations to the people in your private life. Expect news that could lead to a change in plans.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A changing attitude on the part of a once determined adversary could cause changes down the line. Be prepared to take advantage of an unexpected new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You'd be a truly wise Sagittarius to be skeptical about an offer that doesn't answer all your questions. Even a colleague's testimonial doesn't replace facts that aren't there.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's a good idea to avoid spending on unnecessary purchases this week in order to keep a money reserve against a possible upcoming (but, fortunately, temporary) shortfall.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) More information is what you should demand regarding that recent workplace situation. Don't be surprised at who might turn up as one of your supporters.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might still be in a "treading water" mode, but by midweek, a shift in your aspect favors taking a more active role in pushing for the changes you feel are necessary. Good luck.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



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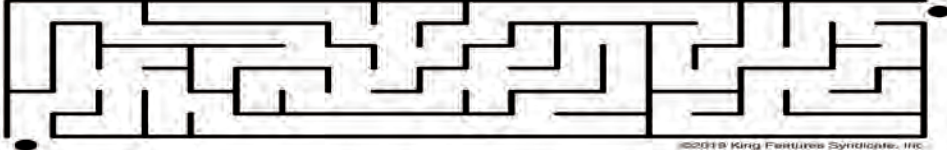
Born this Week

*You exude a warm, caring attitude
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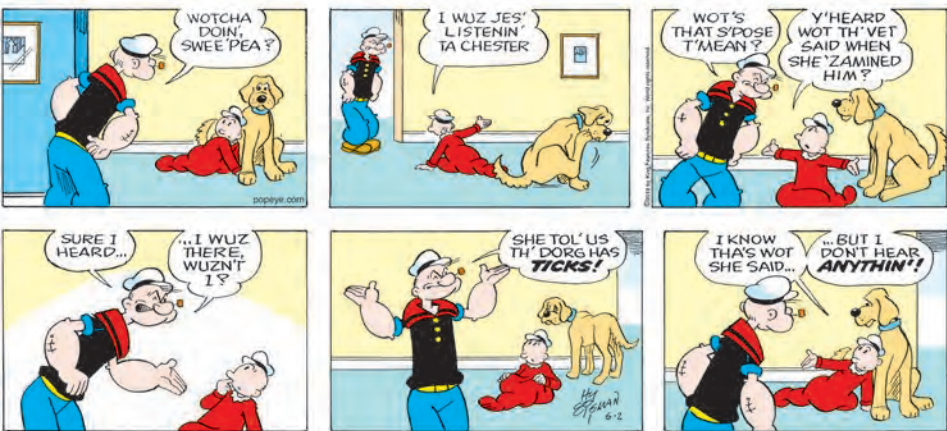
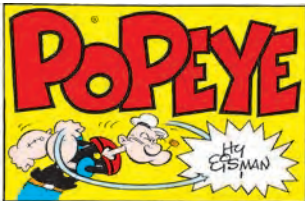
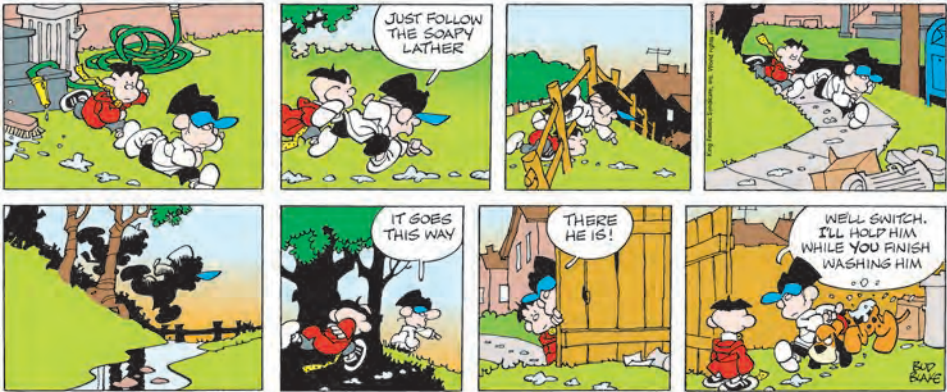
FUN PAGES

Kids' Maze



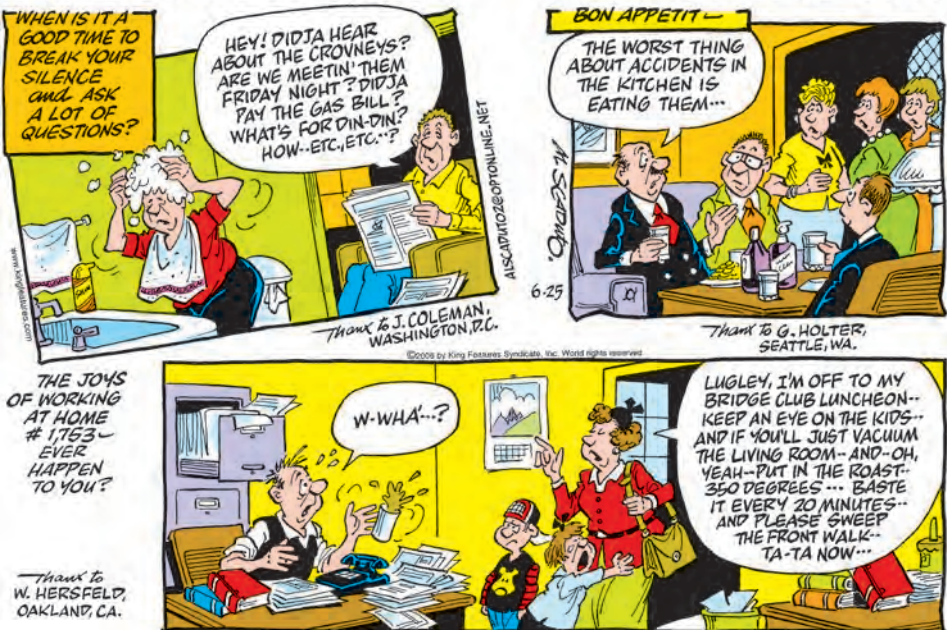
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



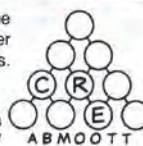
DON'T WIPE OUT ON THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "T" in the bottom left. "Time and tide wait for no man."

THE OLD, OLD MATH! Here's how to prove that 4 plus 6 equals 11. Using Roman numerals, write down a 4 (fig. 1). Turn the paper around and write a 6 above it (fig. 2). You now have a large 11 (XI). Who says the New Math is better than the Old?



CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: tacro, tact, tart, tare, tort, fore, tome, tombs.

Wishing Well

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

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 Y X V Y Y U T R E B U H C S T

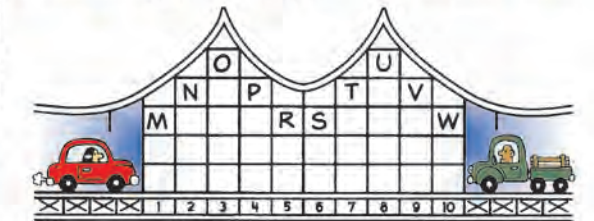
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- BCH, BTHVN, CHPN, DBSSY, DVRK, LGR, GRSHWN, HNDL, MNDLSSHN, PCHLBL, SCHBRT, STRSS, TCHKVSKY, VULD, WGNR

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A WORD BRIDGE!

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter plus plenty of hints:

- To combine audio tracks.
- The back of the neck.
- Slender woodwind instruments.
- Type of fuel found in bogs.
- Type of music.
- Lack of candor.
- To exclude or forbid.
- A brownish color.
- Very great in area.
- An ironic sense of humor.

Answers: 1. Mix 2. Nape 3. Cross 4. Peat 5. Rap 6. Sky 7. Tabu 8. Under 9. Vast 10. Why.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the smallest country in South America?
- ASTRONOMY:** What is a zenith?
- BUSINESS:** Which car company introduced the Boxster roadster?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which magazine features an annual "Dubious Achievements Awards"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which is the only animal born with horns?
- THEATER:** The character of Stanley Kowalski appears in which play?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the geyser known as "Old Faithful"?
- MUSIC:** What kind of car was mentioned in The Beach Boys' song "Fun, Fun, Fun"?
- HISTORY:** In what year was the United Kingdom of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland formed?
- LITERATURE:** Tom Joad is a character in which 20th-century novel?

Answers

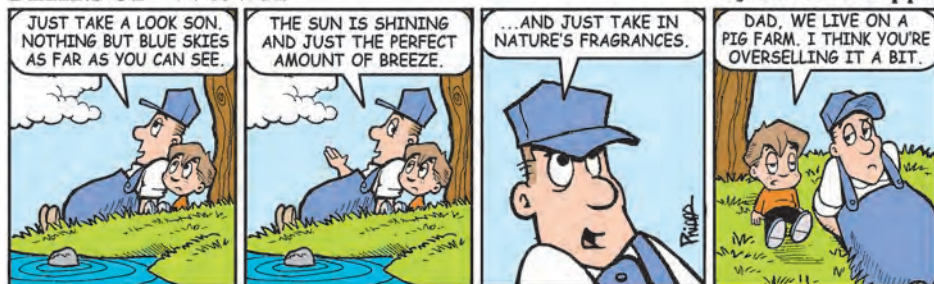
1. Suriname
2. The highest point reached by a given celestial object
3. Porsche
4. Esquire
5. The giraffe
6. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
7. Wyoming, in Yellowstone National Park
8. T-bird, or Thunderbird
9. 1801
10. "The Grapes of Wrath"

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Click on "Local News" at

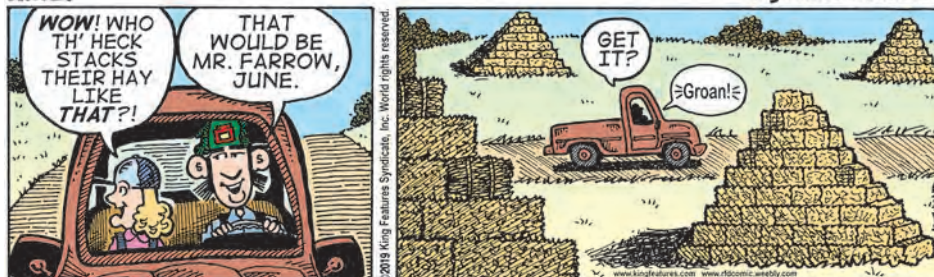
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

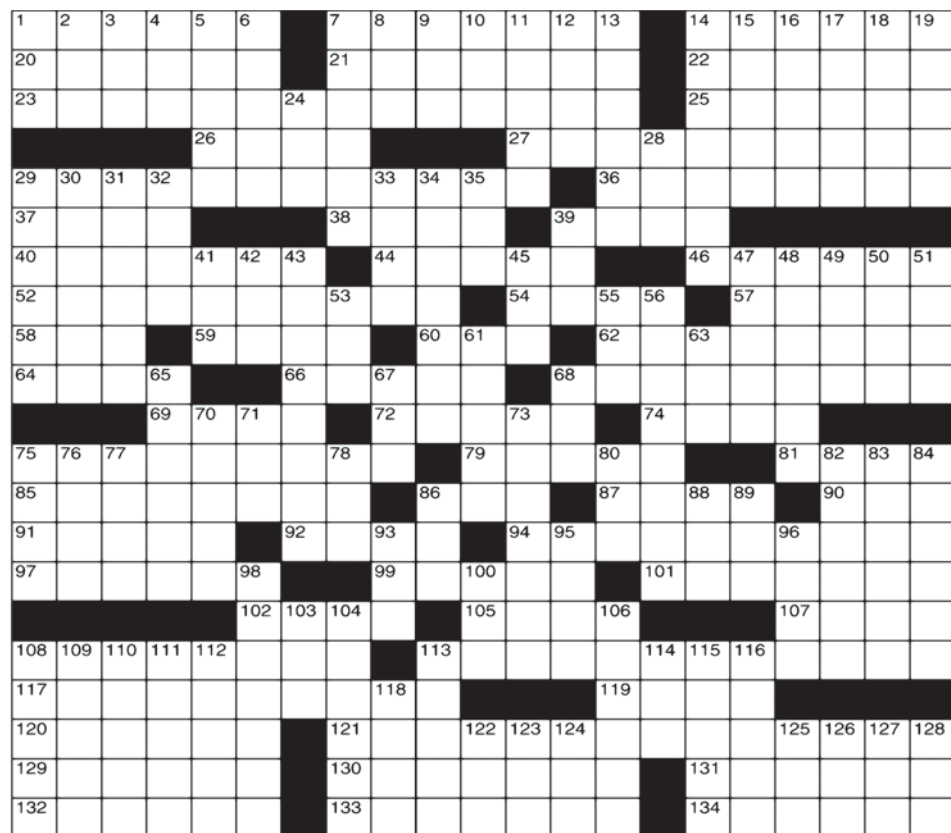
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Differences: 1. Batter's shirt has number 2. Catcher's mitt is missing. 3. Catcher's pants are black. 4. Part of crowd is missing. 5. Fence is different. 6. Home plate is bigger.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Advance again, as money
 - 7 Goofs
 - 14 German subs
 - 20 Eritrea's capital
 - 21 Fudgelike candy
 - 22 "Bachelor Father" actress Corcoran
 - 23 Memoir or exposé, e.g.
 - 25 Beginning language course with conjugations
 - 26 Cut — (dance)
 - 27 Model's gig
 - 29 1974 hit for Kool & the Gang
 - 36 Trips to wildlife areas, say
 - 37 Ending with switch
 - 38 Ski lift variety
 - 39 Theories
 - 40 Huge sea wave
 - 44 Asimov of sci-fi
 - 46 Expatriate
 - 52 Cask aging in a cellar
 - 54 You, old-style
 - 57 Certain Alaska native
 - 58 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
 - 59 Center
 - 60 Dumbfound
 - 62 Wraps tightly in cloth
 - 64 Pained bark
 - 66 "Veni," translated
 - 68 Biting African pest
 - 69 Balsa floater
 - 72 Move in a way suggested by this puzzle's
 - 10 longest answers
 - 74 Past due
 - 75 Earthlings
 - 79 With 91-Across, spaghetti topper
 - 81 Many free TV ads, for short
 - 85 Stretch out
 - 86 Isr. neighbor
 - 87 "You said it!"
 - 90 Env. add-in
 - 91 See 79-Across
 - 92 Sea wrigglers
 - 94 Informal pause-marking punctuation
 - 97 Vile smiles
 - 99 Hanker (for)
 - 101 Of a western U.S. mountain range
 - 102 Jekyll's counterpart
 - 105 British noble
 - 107 Height: Prefix
 - 108 More tired
 - 113 Techie
 - 117 Injury of a bodily band
 - 119 Cost per unit
 - 120 Garb
 - 121 2013 black-comedy crime film
 - 129 Where streets meet
 - 130 Dan Brown's "The — Code"
 - 131 Glimpsed
 - 132 Manipulates, as dough
 - 133 Lettering aid
 - 134 Rents
 - 4 Big galoot
 - 5 Popular typeface
 - 6 Mother-of-pearl
 - 7 Keg feature
 - 8 Zodiac feline
 - 9 Tavern
 - 10 Tavern
 - 11 Listerine rival
 - 12 "This is bad!"
 - 13 Some black teas
 - 14 Let free
 - 15 Brag
 - 16 Giant in lawn care
 - 17 Alphabet vowel
 - 18 Choir part
 - 19 Foul moods
 - 24 Cask
 - 28 Cable chan. for old films
 - 29 Airplane-boarding bridge
 - 30 Bearlike
 - 31 Of a certain part of speech
 - 32 Extinct
 - 33 Stage award
 - 34 Quaint light source
 - 35 Radio host Flatow
 - 39 Kant's "I"
 - 41 "Black-ish" network
 - 42 Chinese chairman
 - 43 Bother
 - 45 Had a meal
 - 47 Center
 - 48 Very involved
 - 49 Deep ravine
 - 50 Cambodian currency unit
 - 51 Website with handmade crafts
 - 53 — center
 - 55 Letter before tee
 - 56 Baby female sheep
 - 61 Crying
 - 63 — standstill
 - 65 Frolic about
 - 67 Suffix of enzymes
 - 68 Colts' stats
 - 70 Infuriate
 - 71 Monk's title
 - 73 Membrane of hearing
 - 75 Giant in oil
 - 76 — Bator
 - 77 Pouting look
 - 78 Letter before dee
 - 80 Letter before upsilon
 - 82 Hunt
 - 83 "Master of None" star Aziz —
 - 84 Nose, in slang
 - 86 Florence-to-Rome dir.
 - 88 Wallach of "Sam's Son"
 - 89 Once surnamed
 - 93 Caustic stuff
 - 95 Like spud-peeling GIs
 - 96 Pick a card
 - 98 Stars, e.g.
 - 100 Bother
 - 103 Thus far
 - 104 Really fears
 - 106 Continental train pass name
 - 108 Pile
 - 109 Reveal
 - 110 — nous
 - 111 Minneapolis suburb
 - 112 Ruminated (over)
 - 113 — Coeur, Missouri
 - 114 Light brown hearing
 - 115 TV landlady Mertz
 - 116 Find another function for
 - 118 "I — your service"
 - 122 — Tin Tin
 - 123 U.S. "Ltd."
 - 124 A fifth of MV
 - 125 Health resort
 - 126 — a pity"
 - 127 Spike of film
 - 128 Pub. staffers
- DOWN**
- 1 Sprinted
 - 2 That, to Juan
 - 3 Alphabet consonant sequence

FUN PAGES

SEM CU
south east madera county united

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

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

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

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