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ARRESTED:

Former Golden Valley Unified Superintendent Andy Alvarado is arrested by Fresno Police on charges of a felony domestic disturbance.

By Randy Bailey

Photo courtesy of Fresno County Sheriff's Department

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ARRESTED:

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By Randy Bailey

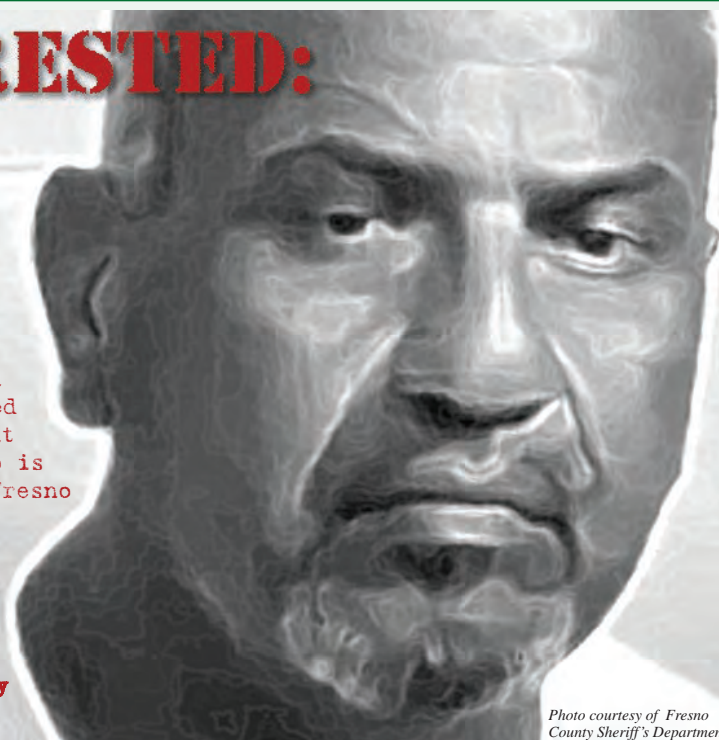


Photo courtesy of Fresno County Sheriff's Department

Former Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Andy Alvarado was arrested in his north Fresno home on Thursday, June 3 by Fresno Police on charges of “inflicting corporal injury on a spouse,” a felony. He was booked into Fresno County jail early Friday morning, June 4, and then posted a \$2,500 bond and was released.

At present Alvarado is the superintendent of Central Unified School District, the third largest school district in Fresno County. However, the Central Unified School Board placed him on paid administrative leave on Tuesday, June 8.

Few details have been released about what exactly happened on June 3. One detail that has emerged is the substance

of a 911 call to Fresno Police. In that call it has been reported that the caller told Police that Alvarado was “pushing and throwing things.” Alvarado was specifically booked on suspicion of violating California Penal Code Section 273.5(a). That statute makes it illegal to injure “a spouse, cohabitant or fellow parent in an act of domestic violence.” It is usually called domestic abuse, domestic violence or corporal injury to a spouse.

Madera's D.A. to Review Case

Although the alleged crime took place in Fresno County, the Madera County District Attorney's Office will review the case. Fresno County's District Attorney, Lisa Smittcamp, has recused herself from the case, citing “personal and professional relationships” with Alvarado but gave no further information on what those relationships entailed.

One detail that has emerged is the substance of a 911 call to Fresno Police. In that call it has been reported that the caller told Police that Alvarado was “pushing and throwing things.”

On Thursday, June 10, Alvarado released a prepared statement: “This is a personal and private matter, now playing out in public, that I take very seriously. I request that you honor me and my fam-

ily's privacy during this difficult time. I will continue to fully cooperate with Central Unified and law enforcement authorities as this plays out. I am confident that at the end of this process, I will be cleared and reinstated to my position. I look forward to returning to work and serving the Central Unified community.”

Legal Elements

According to an online legal site, www.losangelescriminallawyer.pro, to prove that a defendant committed the crime of inflicting injury on a spouse, cohabitant or fellow parent resulting in a traumatic condition, a prosecutor must be

able to establish the following elements:

1. The defendant intentionally and unlawfully inflicted a physical injury on his or her current or former spouse, cohabitant or child's parent.

2. The injury resulted in a traumatic condition.

3. The defendant did not act in self-defense.

Further, the site states that a “trau-

matic condition.

Please see **ANDY** on P. 10

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MADERA RANCHOS DRINKING WATER

The Madera Ranchos Water System, known as MD-10A, violated a drinking water standard with elevated levels of Manganese above the maximum contaminant level, of .050 mg/l in the Kensington Well. The Kensington Well had been offline since January 2020 due to the high manganese levels.

The latest water sample from the Kensington Well on June 15, 2021, showed manganese levels of 0.021 mg/l. While this is currently below the maximum contaminant level of 0.050 mg/l, this well has violated these standards in the past. High levels of manganese in people have been shown to result in adverse effects to the nervous system.

Once the well is in use, the County does not know if the manganese levels will return to the elevated levels. The County will continue to monitor the well in accordance with State guidelines.

What should you do?

- Begin conserving your water immediately. Water should be used for drinking, cooking and bathing only. No outdoor watering.
- You do not need to use bottled water. This is not an immediate risk and if it had been, you would have been notified immediately.
- If you have other health issues, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened and what is being done?

On Sunday evening, June 13, the New Fender Well experienced mechanical failure of the pump. Since then, the Dublin Well has been serving the entire community. Due to decreasing water pressure because of demand, the Kensington Well will be put back online temporarily to meet the demand of the community.

The County anticipates resolving the problem early next week once repairs at the New Fender well are complete. The Kensington Well will then be taken back offline. In addition, a manganese removal treatment plant is scheduled to be online for the Kensington Well by mid-2022.

The County has recently rehabilitated the Charlton Well that was taken offline in the summer of 2017 due to severe fouling and lost production. This well is anticipated to be placed back online within the next few weeks. The new Berkshire Well is scheduled to begin construction next week.

For more information, please contact the Madera County Public Works Department at 559-675-7811 and please share this information with all others who drink MD-10 water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Spotlight

Getting Crafty in the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey

Ranchos resident Traci Carlson may have said it best as she watched her daughter make a special gift for her daddy for Fathers Day at Jeanette Covington's *Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts*. “Whether you're young or old, it's just a great place to come.”

After 33 years as a teacher -- including several years at Webster where she *still* substitutes -- Covington was looking for a new challenge, so in August of 2018 she opened the doors to her *Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts* at 37164 Ave. 12 #102, right behind Subway Sandwiches.

“I always wanted to do projects with children,” she explained. “After-school projects.”

Covington has done that and much more. Since her shop has opened she has done thousands of projects not only with children, but adults as well. Her main medium is bisque items, which are ceramic items that have been fired in a kiln, but *without* a ceramic glaze. Covington sells the items that you can then take home and customize, or you can do it in her shop at no charge.

In addition to the many bisque items, she also offers holiday cookie decorating classes, porch sign instruction and a multitude of other crafts that you can “create from the heart.” She can accommodate crowds up to about 30 and is perfect for bridal showers, church groups and social clubs, BUT you have to call. All craft time is by appointment by calling Jeanette at 559-824-6336. Get crafty!



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The Bookshelf

Ranchos Library Back to “Normal”

By Jerrica Edmundson

We have finally reached summer. Here at the library, that means that our Summer Reading Program is starting up and we have brand new opportunities to promote literacy and reading among our community. This year we will be doing a similar program to that we did last year, with an emphasis being placed on online programming, but we will have take home craft kits to embellish that online programming. Instead of having just a video to watch, most of the activities will have a library-provided kit containing almost all the needed materials to do the craft itself at home. The activities will accompany a bingo program that has different tasks needing to be completed in order to earn entries into our grand prize drawings at the end, and this year we are working with readers of all ages. If you or someone you know would like to participate in our Summer Reading Program this year, visit our Facebook page, website, or branch for more details.

I know this past year has been challenging for our patrons, and I want to be the first to say that we share in that frustration. We have had to constantly be on the edge of our seats waiting for instruction and guidance as to what we can and cannot allow, limiting hours and quarantining our book returns (alongside having a broken book drop box for about four months while we waited for a replacement), and of course facing the challenge of keeping everyone safe and doing what we can to ensure everyone still has access to library materials. I know it’s been hard, but we have officially gotten the green

light to go back to our standard business hours with public access during all of them. We are not enforcing mask usage in the branch as of June 17, but do of course allow anyone to wear them still if they want. We have our furniture all placed back where it goes and are back to being a fully functional library, with no curbside restrictions or limitations. We appreciate everyone’s patience with the changes but are so happy to be as back to normal as we can be.

We will begin accepting donations of materials again on June 22 but will be limiting the quantity we receive simply due to the amount of manpower it takes to process massive donations. Our website will soon have a guidelines sheet directing just what can and cannot be donated to the library and it will be posted in the branch as soon as the document is finalized. We are starting to accept volunteer applications again as well, but the volunteer program has been re-vamped and updated so we will need applications from anyone wanting to become a volunteer to be filled out again — even if you had one on file previously.

The Friends of the Ranchos Library will be teaming up with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce once again this year to bring our fireworks booth back to serve the community, so keep an eye out for that in the Flipside Church parking lot at the end of June to help support both the Library and our Community.

There have been so many changes to how things can operate recently, but we are so excited to start this process of getting back to normal and look forward to seeing all your smiling faces again.

GVUSD Needs a Superintendent Wants YOUR Input on Qualities

The Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees is inviting you to provide valuable input into determining the characteristics of the next superintendent.

Please take a moment and send an email to superintendent2021@gvUSD.org and share with the Board two or three

characteristics or experiences you feel are the most important.

Thank you,

Mike Berg
Interim Superintendent
Golden Valley Unified School District

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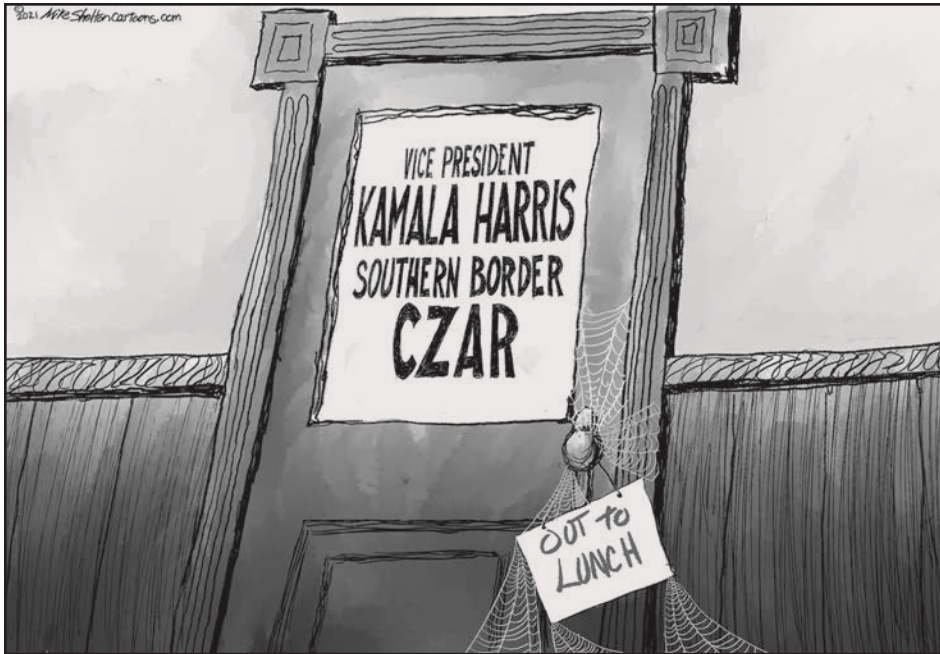
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Guest Editorial

True Racism

By Ray M. Sanchez

Actual, true racism is discrimination or prejudice based on outward perceived or real ethnic or racial attributes. It is nothing more. Discrimination and prejudice based on outward perceived or real ethnic or racial attributes has occurred and does occur in America, as it has in every culture and in every age throughout history. Every human being is susceptible to ethnocentrism and racism. Having “power,” however, is not a prerequisite to be a racist. Racism can be found in every tribe, tongue, and nation.

When the word “racism” is used to mean anything other than discrimination or prejudice, it should be condemned as a false use of the word. When virtually “everything” is racist, “nothing” is racist.

The wickedness of actual, true racism must be unwaveringly opposed and eliminated. But since the terms “antiracism” or “antiracist” are loaded with Marxist ideology and Critical Race Theory, these terms must be disputed and not accepted as legitimate descriptors. Judging people based on perceived ethnic or racial attributes is exactly what antiracists do by claiming a whole race of people (whites) are oppressors and another whole race of people (usually blacks, but also “people of color”) are oppressed. Antiracists assert that individuals in each respective racial group are collectively beholden to and respon-

sible for the entirety of their own racial group’s choices and actions — no matter how long ago they made these choices and actions. It is ignorant and actually racist to claim to hate racism while simultaneously blaming an entire racial group for collective sins.

“Whiteness” is used by antiracists to lump diverse and complex subcultures or ethnicities, based on the color of skin, into one unified, privileged group. Antiracists use hyperbolic terms like “white supremacy” to castigate and demoralize an entire racial or ethnic group, accusing them of collective guilt. Antiracists presuppose the guilt of a whole race of people and the innocence of a whole other group of people — all based on immutable, external characteristics.

Based in Discrimination

Antiracism extols discrimination: “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination,” states Ibram X. Kendi in his book, *How to Be an Antiracist*.

Terms like “systemic,” “structural,” and “institutional” racism are loaded with assumptions that have to be explained with evidence before one can have meaningful dialogue. If antiracists give no evidence and only make loaded assertions, they must be called out and critiqued for their biased presuppositions and false use of language. Antiracists define systemic, structural or institutional racism by asserting that disparate racial outcomes are the result of the hegemonic power of whites. Antiracists posit that if all racial outcomes are not equal, racism is to blame. Therefore, Antiracism is a belief that racism is to blame for all unequal outcomes and that the highest aim in life is to expose, disrupt and dismantle everything and everyone that creates these unequal outcomes.

Free and open inquiry may reveal, in total or in part, that the answer to some disparate outcomes is a racist policy. However, racism is not the answer to all differences in outcomes, nor should it be posited as the default answer in the absence of contrary evidence. Racial inequalities can be found and measured anywhere that data is disaggregated. Honest and objective research must be undertaken to determine what causal fac-

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- *Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus*

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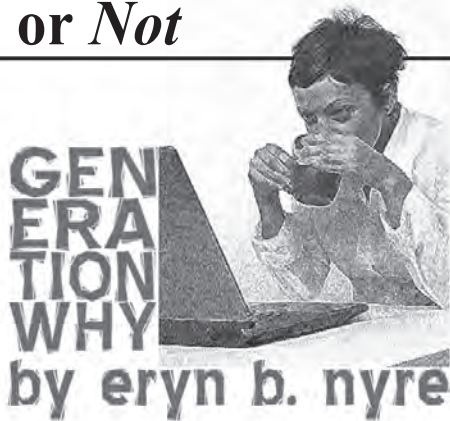


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Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 15

Bait and Switch ... or Not



To all the people out there who'll dive right into the muddy waters of rivers and lakes but wouldn't so much as dip their toes in the ocean because of the terrors lurking just below the waves, don't ever watch the show *River Monsters*. Seriously. It will ruin your summer. It will ruin all the summers. Especially when you realize that not only are there plenty of creatures as horrifying and deadly as sharks prowling rivers and lakes, but you could run into an actual shark in fresh water. Yeah, you read that right. I don't know about you, but I'm sticking to swimming pools.

As if accidentally running into one of these water beasts while playing in the lake isn't enough, some people go out looking for them. Have you ever watched someone do something, be it on TV or in real life, and asked, "WHYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY?" Why would you do that? What possessed you to make that decision and put yourself in that position? I recently asked myself that

Why would you do that?

very question while watching an episode of *River Monsters*. I also asked myself why I was watching another episode, but it's sort of like a train wreck in slow motion, I can't take my eyes off it.

On this episode I learned about a southern pastime called "noodling." Sounds harmless, right? Picturing yourself floating down a river on a humungous pool noodle built for 10? No. Noodling is when you fish for catfish using yourself as bait. No fishing poles. No fishing lines. No worms or lures or reels. Just you and your extremities and a 30-to 50-pound catfish. If you would have asked me a month ago if I was afraid of catfish, I would have laughed. This was before I realized they had teeth, a bad attitude and could weigh as much as a large coyote.

Let me walk you through it: First, you and a buddy or two go down to the lake. Then you feel around - or put your head under the water and look around - for a

nice deep hole or trench that would be the perfect place for a massive fish to be hanging out waiting for its next meal. Next you stick your arm or your leg into the hole and wiggle your fingers or toes to entice the fish to try and eat you.

EAT YOU!
Finally, once they've taken a big ol' bite and are latched on, you and your buddies try and pull the fish up and out of the water while it tries to drag you down. It's a crazy game of tug-of-war and you're the rope. I forgot to mention, if the hidey hole is too far down then you are completely

submerged during this process. So now it's you versus a massive fish with homecourt advantage and you have no oxygen supply.

These catfish can hold on because they have rows of dull teeth used to grip, not shred or tear mind you, but grip their prey. Why would they do that? Oh, because they don't just take a bite out of you like a shark or a barracuda. That's for amateurs. They've graduated from the same predator's university as alligators and crocodiles. They do the grab and spin. Nothing enhances the flavor of a meal like a slow, agonizing death. This catfish, that once upon a time I believed nothing more than harmless river chickens, can clamp down on the leg or arm of an adult male and then proceed to drag him under and spin him until he drowns. And this fool on TV first stuck his arm ... THEN HIS HEAD ... into its lair. Let that sink in.

If everything goes well then Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

you just have a colossal fish gnawing on your limbs. If things go badly then you get pulled out, but the fish stays behind with one of your body parts to feed on for a couple months. Let's not forget worst case scenario: Death. Of all the ways to die, death by catfish is not high on my list.

I've made my own bad decisions in life, but never once have I offered my arm, leg or head as a ritual sacrifice to some water demon masquerading as an enormous catfish. I suppose some would say that maybe I'm not really living. Others might say I will live to see another day because I didn't get my face eaten off in a noodling contest.

The worst part of all of this is not the guy performing for the camera and documenting this special level of stupid for the world to see. It's the two young guys with him that do this for fun on the weekends. There is evidently a whole festival and contest for noodling and the team with the biggest catch wins a prize and recognition for being the village idiots/local heroes – tomato, to-mah-to. Some local notoriety and maybe a gift card to Bass Pro is definitely not worth it for me to play fast and loose with the parts God gave me. I don't think Bass Pro sells extra limbs in the bait and tackle aisle.



Time to Travel

Two days before our twin granddaughters' birthday trip to Disneyland, it closed. This month, having passed another birthday, we're finally getting to celebrate with Mickey. Packing up and "packing out" (unpacking) as my granddaughter says, is the not-so-fun part of travel. If you're venturing out this summer, here are some tips to make your trip a little more organized.

PREPARE

Store Info: Use a large plastic envelope folder to store your trip information and resources — reservation confirmations, tickets, packing checklist, list of your prescriptions, etc. You can also use the folder to collect brochures and memorabilia while away.

Download Apps: Most airlines, hotels and amusement parks have apps and features to streamline and enhance

your experience. TripIt automatically compiles your itinerary when you forward your confirmation emails so they're all in one place. Hotel Tonight helps if you need to make a last-minute booking. This saved us one time when the place where we had reservations was spraying for bed bugs! Sit or Squat has the location of over 100,000 restrooms across the country that have been rated "sit" (good) or "squat" (bad) by users.

Prepare

Home: Put a hold on your mail by visiting www.usps.com or fill out the form at the post office. Arrange care for pets and plants. Put house lights on a timer and secure valuables. Give a trusted neighbor or friend your itinerary and contact info.

Pay Bills: Ensure that you take care of any bills coming due while you're gone.

Family Road Trips: Check out these websites for ideas to make the journey more enjoyable — www.momsminivan.com and www.roadsideamerica.com.

PACK

Packing Checklist: Download or create a packing checklist and keep multiple copies in a folder where you store your suitcases. Be sure to include

a list of your current medications. Create themed checklists as needed — camping, beach trip, Grandma's house, etc. Check things off as you pack.

TSA Rules: For airplane carry-ons, be sure to have liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes in travel-size containers no more than 3.4 ounces each and only what will fit in one quart-size Ziplock bag. Larger size containers must be in checked baggage.

Flying with Kids:

Pack snacks that take a while to eat, such as Goldfish crackers which kids can also pretend with, and lollipops which can help

with ear pain. Pack spill-proof cups, even for the older kids. Download cartoons and kids' games and relax your rules on screen time.

Luggage Identifier: If you're like 90 percent of the population with plain black luggage, tie a brightly colored ribbon to the handle and wheel so you can identify it no matter which way it lands on the baggage carousel.

Hotel Amenities: Find out what your hotel provides (hair dryers, swim towels, shampoo, etc.) so you don't pack things unnecessarily. If you

Please see CLEAN on P. 18

If you're venturing out this summer, here are some tips to make your trip a little more organized

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Rice, Rice Baby

(June 2011)

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

Before we started studying rice in school, I thought rice was only grown in China. I found out differently when I was in about the fifth grade. Our dad took us kids to Los Banos to see rice fields. What a surprise! Vast fields of water with little plants peeping through. I called the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce today to see if the rice fields were still there and the man I spoke to said there weren't any there anymore, however he thought there were some out near Firebaugh and northeast of Merced. With the water shortage we are having I was wondering how they are surviving. According to what I read on the internet, the fields are flooded to slow the weed growth. They can irrigate by rows, but it is more economical to flood the fields because that way they don't have to take care of the weeds separately.

Rice has been grown in the southern United States since the mid-19th century. Rice cultivation began in California during the California Gold Rush, when Chinese laborers immigrated to the state and grew small amounts for their own use. Commercial production began in 1912 in Butte County. By 2006, California produced the second largest rice crop in the United States only behind Arkansas. Most of California's rice is grown in six counties north of Sacramento. The United States provides about 12 percent of the world rice trade. Of the rice grown in the United States, 58 percent is for direct food use, 16 percent is used in processed food, 16 percent for beer and 10 percent for pet food.

Growing up, we had rice more than pasta. I don't remember having spaghetti too often, but we did have rice. I remember mama's yummy rice pudding. I went through her recipe cards and not surprisingly, I didn't find one. A lot of her cooking she would just put things together and it would come out delicious. So I went online and with



by Jean Briner

the many recipes I read, this one sounds the closest to hers. I know she did not put it in the oven; it was cooked on top of the stove. Hope you enjoy.

Rice Pudding

- ¾ C Uncooked White Rice
- 2 C Milk, Divided
- ⅓ C White Sugar
- ¼ tsp Salt
- 1 Egg, Beaten
- ⅔ C Raisins
- 1 T Butter
- ½ tsp Vanilla

In a medium saucepan, bring 1½ C water to a boil, add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

In another saucepan, combine 1½ C cooked rice, 1½ C milk, sugar and salt. Cook over medium heat until thick and creamy, 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in remaining ½ C milk, the beaten egg and raisins. Cook 2 minutes longer, stirring constantly (if you don't stir, it might scorch). Remove from heat and stir in butter and vanilla.

In the book of dates I told you about a couple of articles ago, I read that National Rice Pudding Day is August 9. Happens to be my baby brother George and my sister-in-law JoRene's wedding anniversary – Congratulations!

I've told you before about the mini truck farm my mom had every summer in our back yard. Every year we had zucchini "coming out our ears." Mama would always try to get them picked when they were small, but once in a while one would hide and grow to be too large for regular cooking. But she wouldn't let it go to waste. When she'd bring one of these monstrous squash into the house, we knew what we were going to have for dinner:

Zucchini Stuffed Spanish Rice

- 1 Large Zucchini
- 1 Can Chopped Tomatoes
- 1 C Uncooked Rice
- 1 T Butter
- 2 T Oil
- ½ C Chopped Onion
- 1 Clove Garlic – Crushed
- 1 tsp Salt

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

¼ tsp Black Pepper

Preheat oven – 350

Wash zucchini and cut off stem end. Cut in half length wise. Scoop out and discard seeds. Set aside.

Drain tomatoes, reserve liquid. Add enough water to liquid to make one cup.

In saucepan, combine tomato liquid, rice and butter and bring to a boil. Turn heat down and simmer covered 5 minutes. Set aside.

In skillet heat oil, sauté onions and garlic until golden, about 5 minutes. (Sometimes mama would add a pound of hamburger here, breaking it up with a fork and browning it). Add reserved tomatoes, rice mixture, salt and pepper. Heat until heated through, takes about 5 minutes.

Fill zucchini halves with mixture, dividing evenly.

Arrange zucchini halves in 13x9 baking pan. Pour ½ C water in bottom of pan.

Cover tightly with foil. Bake 1 hour or until zucchini is tender.

My favorite rice recipe I got from a girl that worked in

... I thought rice was only grown in China. I found out differently when I was in about the fifth grade.

Our dad took us kids to Los Banos to see rice fields. What a surprise! Vast fields of water with little plants peeping through. I called the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce today to see if the rice fields were still there and the man I spoke to said there weren't any there anymore ...

our office. I gave it to my mother and she took it to several potlucks. I know Campbell's has a recipe similar to this one and only cooks in half the time, but believe me it is not as good. This recipe calls for a whole chicken but not every family likes all the parts. When I've cooked it for the family, I like thighs and wings, and most all the rest of the family prefer breasts – so use whatever your family prefer.

No Peek Chicken

1 Fryer – Cut Up

1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup

1 Can Cream of Mushroom Soup

⅔ Can Milk

1 Pkg. Lipton Onion Soup Mix

1¼ C Uncooked Rice

Paprika

Preheat oven 325

Mix cream soups and milk. Add uncooked rice. Pour in bottom of 13x9 baking pan. Lay chicken parts on top of rice mixture. Sprinkle onion soup mix on top of chicken and rice. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover pan tightly with foil. Place in heated oven for two hours.

NO PEEKING!






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Kiwanis Korner

Scout Leaders Talk to Local Kiwanis

By Sally Rowden

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

Rod Chaney and Jeff Coulthard were the two guest speakers at our last meeting in May, both representing Boy Scouts of America Sequoia Council for boys and girls. A description of today's scouting opportunities was enthusiastically presented. Yes, the challenges facing scouting was also a topic, but highly overshadowed by the current scouting restructuring that includes programs divided by age and activity offered to both boys and girls. Scouting programs include Cub Scouting – Kindergarten through Grade 5; Scouts BSA (formerly "Boy Scouts") – Grades 6 through 12; Venturing and Sea Scouting – Ages 14 through 20; Exploring – Ages 10 through 20. As expressed by Chaney, "Each of these programs provide tremendous opportunities to have fun while experiencing character and leadership development, citizenship awareness

and personal fitness." In the past, the Ranchos have seen 54 young adults become Eagle Scouts. This is the highest rank in scouting. Some examples of Eagle Projects completed in the Ranchos are the Senior Center Remodel, Avenue 12 Refurbishing of the Pedestrian Underpass and the Welcome to the Ranchos sign at Avenue 12 and Road 38. Rod and Jeff are in the planning stages to visit Ranchos school sites at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year to encourage interest in

scouting for both boys and girls. For a general overview of scouting visit scouting.org
The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Honorary Mayor race came to a conclusion on June 1. The Kiwanis Club would like to congratulate Mike Fursman as our newly elected "Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos," along with congratulating Mike's non-profit of choice, Flipside Church

Presentation of two Kiwanis Hope of America Awards were presented at the Ranchos Middle School Promotion on June 2. The two recipients were Brandon Howard and Brooklin Tharp. The criteria for selection as a recipient is to display leadership qualities, ethical/moral character and academic competency. Teachers made the choice of who was to receive the awards. Congratulations to Brandon and

Brooklin for their outstanding accomplishments in meeting the criteria to receive a Kiwanis Hope of America Award.

The Kiwanis Club of the Madera Ranchos continues "improving the world one community and one child

at a time." If you have an interest and are "passionate about your community, join us." Contact President Richard Wayne, Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos, at richardwayne48@gmail.com for further information on becoming a member.

If you have an interest and are "passionate about your community, join us." Contact President Richard Wayne, Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos, at richardwayne48@gmail.com for further information on becoming a member.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

ANDY cont. from P. 2

matic condition" is a wound or other bodily injury, whether minor or serious, caused by the direct use of physical force. Cohabitants, as used in the statute, means more than roommates and instead describes a relationship of two people living together for a substantial period of time. The website also said a person can cohabit with more than one person at the same time.

Golden Valley Transplant

Alvarado went to Central Unified

from Golden Valley Unified in June of 2018. He had been the superintendent of GVUSD for seven years and before that he had served as assistant superintendent, Liberty High School vice principal and principal. Alvarado had been terminated in February of 2015 by the GVUSD Board of Trustees, an act that so incensed the community that a successful recall election resulted in the ouster of the three board members responsible for his removal. The first act of the newly elected school board was to offer Alvarado his job back in September of 2015, which he accepted.

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THE RANCHOS GETS A MAYOR!

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce announces our new HONORARY MAYOR



Mike Fursman, representing Flipside Church, is the 2021 Madera Ranchos Honorary Mayor.

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NEXT Chamber Meeting

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

6/21

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The Ranchos has a New “Mayor”



Madera Ranchos Honorary Mayor candidates (from left) Verlaine Elinburg, winner Mike Fursman and Alma Griffen. (Photo by Bill Whyman)

By Randy Bailey

Proving that “Pay to Play” politics is alive and well in the Ranchos, five candidates campaigned for the highly sought after -- yet highly fictional -- position of mayor of the Madera Ranchos.

At the end of the day, Mike Fursman was inaugurated as the honorary mayor of the Ranchos. Representing his non-profit of choice -- Flipside Church -- Fursman raised \$4,123, 75 percent of which will go to Flip-

side Church.

The event was sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce as a fundraiser. Every candidate had to select a non-profit organization to represent and then solicited “votes” from the community at \$1 per vote. The community was encouraged to vote early and vote often. At the end of the “election” on June 1, the candidate with the most “votes” won. Seventy-five cents of every dollar went to the non-profit and the remaining 25 cents went to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Mike Fursman was the winner with \$4,123 dollars raised. Second place was Verlaine Elinburg, representing the Chamber of Commerce, raising \$964. Third place was Alma Griffen, also representing the Chamber, who raised \$530. Fourth was Richard Wayne, current president of the Ranchos Kiwanis who was representing the Kiwanis in the race. He raised \$480. Paula Stuart, owner of *Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop* came in fifth raising money for the Kirkland Foundation in the sum of \$430.

All totaled, the fundraiser raised \$6,527 with \$4,896 going to the local non-profit organizations.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has already announced that it will be conducting the election again in 2022.

Senior Report

Dedication, Contributions Honored

By Margaret Tynan

Members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center gathered on June 11 to honor and thank Phyllis Fasshauer for her dedication and contributions to the Center. Phyllis completed an internship program in which she worked diligently to make sure the day-to-day needs of the organization were met. Whether it was tracking applications for the Annual Craft Fair or the Home and Garden Festival or organizing the monthly Birthday/Anniversary celebrations – to name a few of the many events – her involvement added to their success. Phyllis is a member since 2007. Though her internship is ended, happily she will continue to be a valued, active and engaged member. She is very much appreciated.

It is evident that the members of the Center are anxious to resume opportunities to safely socialize after such a long hiatus. Many attended the luncheon held on the Center’s outdoor patio and shaded lawn. The weather was perfect. On the menu were enchiladas and tacos prepared and served by local El Rinconcito Mexican Restaurant and Gill Taco Truck. You could tell by the laughter filling the air that everyone enjoyed seeing each other again.

The popular Card Bingo games are starting again. They will be held every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. Additionally, the Exercise Program has expanded. It is held every week on Monday – Wednesday – Friday at 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

In anticipation of a return to holding special events, the Planning Committee is calling on all crafters and artists to participate in the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 16. If you’ve been busy making arts and crafts over the past pandemic times, here’s a chance to feature and sell your work. Contact the Center at 645-4864 or drop by 37330 Berkshire Dr. to pick up an application for a space. The Center hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Treasure House and the Garden area will be open for our regular sale on Saturday, July 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. Find that special unique treasure and lovely plants to add to your garden. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while shopping.

Please note the following schedule changes: The Writing Group will not meet during the summer. It will resume on Sept. 13; Beginning in July — Planning Meeting, the first Tuesday of the month; Board Meeting followed immediately by the General Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings are held at the Center at 12:30 p.m. It is your Center. Be involved.

Thought for July: “A life without love is like a year without summer.” – Swedish Proverb



Ranchos/Hills Senior Center members honored Phyllis Fasshauer on June 11 for her dedication and contributions to the Center.

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Ranchos Adds More Eagle Scouts



The two newest Eagle Scouts from the Ranchos and their parents. On the left is Cody Huckabee with his mom Sarah and dad Sam, and on the right is Tyler Henson with his dad John and mom Wendy. Only 4 percent of Scouts ever attain the rank of Eagle Scout. (Photo and story courtesy of Rod Chaney)

On Tuesday, June 15, Tyler Henson and Cody Huckabee of Madera Ranchos Scout Troop 118 became the Ranchos' latest Eagle Scouts after successfully completing a demanding advancement program that includes earning a minimum of 21 merit badges for academic and physical achievements, clearly demonstrating leadership skills and providing community service. After a comprehensive interview by a Board of Review, both Tyler and Cody were approved for the honor without reservation.

In Scouting, Eagle Scouts are some-

times referred to as "Four Percenters," a reference to the only 4 percent of Scouts nationally who ever successfully make that rank. Ranchos Troop 118 is not matching that national average, however. The young men became Troop 118's 52nd and 53rd Eagle Scouts over the last 20 years, giving the Ranchos troop an 80 percent passing rate.

At the conclusion of the interview, one of the Board members – a former Navy and airline pilot – said, "This really goes a long way toward restoring my faith in our youth."

LHS Grad Wins Sober Grad Car



LHS Class of 2021 graduate Samantha Sidur stands next to the beautiful 2013 Honda Insight she won at the annual Sober Grad event held for graduating seniors on Tuesday, June 1. The car was donated by Robert and Jennifer DaSilva, owners of Steve Clark Auto in Fresno.

By Corinna Martinez

Current Recording Secretary, Lilly Kier, is graduating. She has been in our 4-H club since she was 9. We thank Lilly for her years in 4-H, wish her the best in life and have some questions for her.

Q: What do you like most about being a member of 4-H?

A: For me, the best thing about being a 4H member is being able to help others, either with their animals, learning a skill or putting on an event.

Q: What was your most favorite project?

A: My favorite project was the horse project. I was fortunate enough to compete at the county and state levels for riding, and state and national level for educational events.



Outgoing Recording Secretary Lilly Kier, doing what she likes best.

It's also been amazing seeing the younger generations grow up with their projects.

Q: Do you enjoy working with kids?

A: I do enjoy working with these kids! They are very inspiring and it's an honor seeing them work toward their goals and grow as individuals. I've loved helping them learn about their projects, and helping them out at fairs.

Q: What are your plans after graduating?

A: After graduating I plan to attend Fresno state and work toward a bachelors in agricultural business.

Q: What did you enjoy about being a club officer?

A: As a club officer I enjoyed being able to help the club run as an organization.



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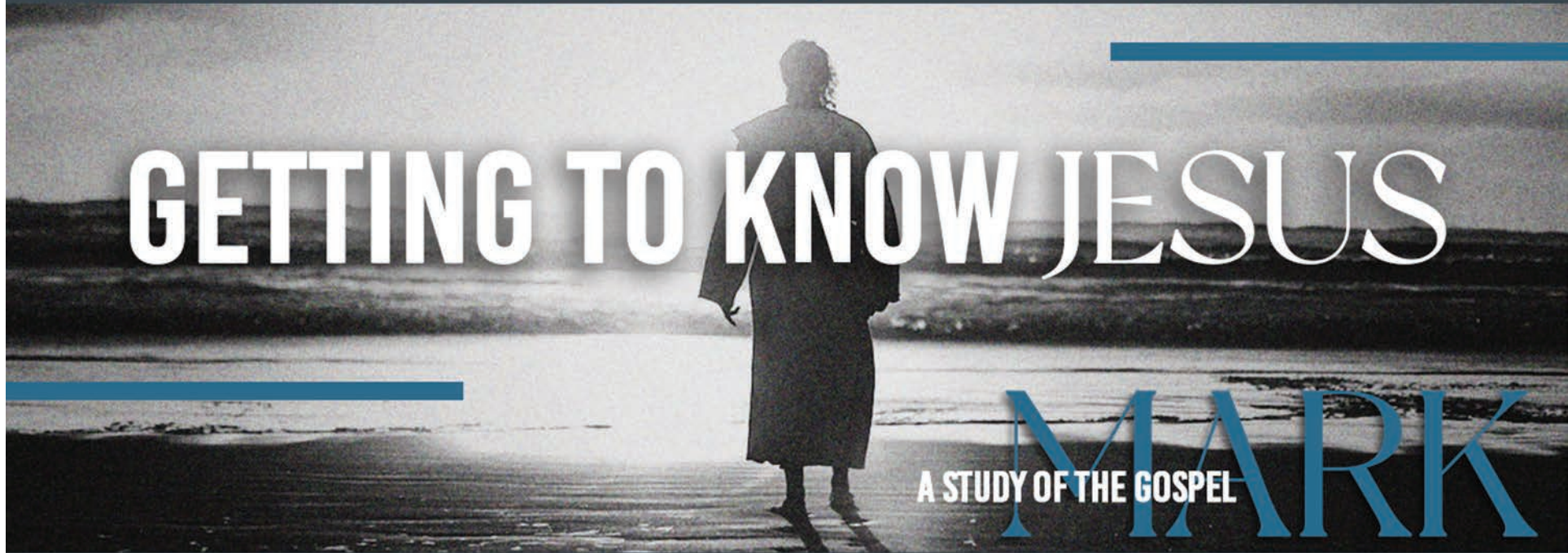
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SEMUCU speaks

The Problem with SB1383

By Matt Maringer

Recently, Madera County advised all property owners that, effective Jan. 1, 2022, they must:

1. Enroll in garbage pick-up service, whether they use it or not, and 2. The rates will increase to \$69.45/month (a 93 percent increase).

The County tells us that they must do this to comply with state legislation that requires residents and businesses to separate organic waste (yard waste and food waste) from other trash and have it managed at a facility other

Do you have flooding or a standing water problem when it rains? SEMCU is offering to place a recharge well on your property at no expense to qualified homeowners.

than the County's landfill. The residents will receive a third garbage can for the organic waste, even though they might be currently composting such waste. The problem I see with this is I cannot put food waste into my compost bin, it just does not work. For more information go to www.maderacounty.com/government/public-works/quick-links/solid-waste-management

Repeating the Fire Prevention Project for This Summer

SEMUCU is offering FREE discing around the perimeters of properties to qualified residents in the SEMCU area of Southeast Madera County. This project is to help prevent and mitigate the risk of fires throughout the months with excessive temperatures. We found many people took advantage of this opportunity last year, which is why we want to continue it. If this is something you would like done, please email info@semcu.org or call 559-363-9095 to get scheduled.

Why should I join

Southeast Madera County United?

Do you know SEMCU is your voice to many things and projects happening in our little corner of the county? SEMCU has representation on the Regional Water Management Group, which is a connection to grants through the Department of Water & Natural Resources.

We also have representation on Friends of the Ranchos Library, Chamber of Commerce and Rotarians. We support local activities at the school, 4-H, Boy and Girls Scouts, we sit in on Supervisor Brett Frazier's monthly "Coffee with your County Supervisor" to name a few. We have also worked on water sustainability by drilling 146 water recharge wells. We were able to secure and distribute two grants worth a total of \$420,000 and we also donated the crossing sign on Rd. 36 for the high school and much more.

Did You Know?

- We have a local Madera County Sheriff's office here in the Ranchos. It is located in the library parking lot at the corner of Berkshire Drive and Fern-

wood Drive. It's manned Monday through Friday to assist us with any paperwork dealing with the Sheriff's department. Stop in and say hi.

- The library hours are opening up and they have

an online summer program for younger kids. Stop in and ask Jerrica, your librarian, for more information.

- Don't want to go into Fresno or Madera for your postal needs? Check out JoAnn's Gone Postal at 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5B, next to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office. It's open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- Problem with your well? According to the County, if you are having contamination problems with your well there is a self-help program from the State. Link to emergency water services with Self-Help Enterprises at www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/emergency-services.

Timely information from Madera County Public Health Director, Sara Bosse

- Vaccine: Not vaccinated yet? Go to maderacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/60e1f7a9d8974869b5e049bccf6e7de3

- Homelessness issues? Go to www.maderacounty.com/home/show-document?id=2673

- The best way to get quick answers from Public Health is the Community Feedback Form at www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/health-updates/corona-virus/covid-19-faqs-and-community-feedback-form

- Contact Sara at

sara.bosse@madera-county.com or call her directly at 559-416-9489.

Free Recharge Wells

Do you have flooding or a standing water problem when it rains? SEMCU is offering to place a recharge well on your property at no expense to qualified homeowners. This deep well will allow water to flow into the aquifer rather than run off to the river. See contact information below.

SEMUCU Meeting Notice

Since the state began to open public gatherings, we're able to have our meet-

ings in person again. This is as long as safe distancing and mask wearing is practiced. Meetings will still take place on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 37101 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. There is more than enough parking at the site. You are invited and encouraged to participate and offer ideas of projects that can help improve our community.

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



Golden Valley Baptist Church

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EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

tors, or possibly even racist policies, are creating or sustaining racial inequalities. However, assumptions and assertions without facts are opinions only. Forcing opinions without accepting counterclaims is authoritarianism.

Declaring that all racial inequalities are caused by racist policies is fantastical and absurd. Suggesting that there is a mono-causal reason for something so complex as disparate outcomes in home ownership or graduation rates is pseudo-intellectual and patently biased. Assigning racism or racist policies as the sole cause of disparities and preventing all the evidence from being considered to further the mono-causal narrative is lying and outright manipulation. Labeling those who disagree with antiracism as racist is

itself bigoted, ad hominem, and a tool of manipulation. All evidence must be considered, all causes must be explored, and all potential solutions must be investigated.

Honest Analysis

Some, perhaps most, racial disparities can be mitigated through an honest analysis of all factors and causes. Examining all factors leads to a proper diagnosis and thus a correct treatment. By contrast, racial disparities cannot be properly mitigated by assigning all causes to racism. There is not a “white supremacy” or white hegemonic culture, and thus all whites do not participate in an oppressor culture, just as blacks aren’t relegated to an oppressed status. Believing that all people think the same whose outward appearance is roughly the same skin tone is in fact racist and a form of racial collectivism.

Antiracists do not only assert that racism is the cause of all disparate outcomes; they never allow debate, let alone dialogue, that addresses other causal factors. If an outcome is different among racial groups, whether home ownership rates or graduation rates, antiracists claim it is racism — and then they disallow any further discussion by claiming “whiteness” silences oppressed voices. Antiracism, as defined and described by Ibram X. Kendi and others, should be resisted because it is a morally bankrupt idea built upon Critical Race Theory.

No Inquiry, No Critique

Critical Race Theory is hostile to free inquiry and doesn’t allow critique. Rather, it asserts a Marxist ideology that pits races against each other: whites are complicit in a comprehensive, universal, systemic racism and blacks belong to an oppressed

class. The ideology which undergirds antiracism is Critical Race Theory, which is fundamentally neo-Marxist in that it bifurcates society into white oppressors and the black oppressed. It seeks to destroy societal unity and the American culture of opportunity and meritocracy. Every person, regardless of race or ethnicity, can create their own success — not so, according to the antiracists.

Any phrase, concept, or term that has Critical Race Theory as its intellectual scaffolding is defunct and morally bankrupt.

Ray M. Sanchez is Faculty Coordinator of Academic Success Centers at Madera Community College in Madera. This article originally appeared on the National Association of Scholar's "Minding the Campus" website at www.nas.org.

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

IN GOOD HANDS

with Warren Parr



A First Time For Everything

Hello 93636,

Well, it's hard for me to believe but this article is the 7th Anniversary Edition of the "In Good Hands" column. I know some articles are more technical than others, but my hope is Ranchos Independent readers are now more knowledgeable, educated and more informed when making automotive decisions. The modern vehicle is an expensive investment and the most sophisticated, complex technology we all come in contact with on a daily basis. It would be nice if the articles were entertaining also, but the reality is I'm an automotive technician and automobiles are not high on the list of most people's entertainment reading. I hope *this* one helps.

Earlier this week, my Ranchos neighbor brought me a late 1990s Jeep with a 4.0L inline 6 cylinder. His complaint was pre-detonation (pinging) and low power. With our technology and training, I felt very confident I would find the cause. To my surprise, the cause was quite elusive and the conclusion was the first I remember in my 36-year career.

Here is my logic and diagnostic strategy: When you depress the accelerator pedal of your gasoline-powered vehicle, three things and only three things need to happen to make more power. They are, in order: More air, more gasoline and increased ignition timing. If there is an engine-related low-power issue, one or more of these mechanical processes is malfunctioning.

1. More Timing -- Secondary ignition travels at a constant speed of 184,300 miles per second. The spark exits the ignition coil and is conveyed to the spark plugs via the distributor assembly and through the ignition cables. If the ignition timing is correct the spark will be delivered at the exact instant the piston comes to rest at the top of the cylinder. If the ignition is late, the piston will have already begun its descent, resulting in decreased cylinder pressure and thereby less power.

Since secondary ignition cannot speed up when the engine speeds up, it has to leave the ignition coil earlier to arrive on time. If the timing curve mechanism malfunctions and the spark arrives early, detonation and low power will result. If the spark arrives late, low power, especially at

low speeds, will result.

At engine idle, our Jeep's base timing was 19 degrees before top dead center (BTDC) and 41 degrees BTDC at wide open throttle. Our ignition timing advanced 22 degrees. No problems here. Our Secondary Ignition System is functioning as designed.

2. More Fuel -- Our Jeep is equipped with computer-controlled Sequential Fuel Injection. When the accelerator pedal is depressed, we need more fuel and we need it quicker. Just like secondary ignition, as the engine speeds up the fuel injection events need to occur earlier so the fuel arrives at the intake valve just as it's beginning to open. I typically see fuel injector events at about 50-180 degrees before the intake valve opens depending on engine speed. The Powertrain Control Module (PCM) also monitors throttle position, engine and vehicle speeds, engine load, temperature and many other engine inputs to calculate proper fuel. The PCM measures the unused oxygen in the exhaust to make fuel corrections. This is called fuel trimming.

We drove the Jeep on our dyno while monitoring fuel trims and air/fuel ratio in a variety of conditions. Our Jeep's fuel trims were +5 percent (adding 5 percent more fuel) which is typical for gasoline with 10 percent ethanol and the calculated lambda (air/fuel ratio) was near 1.000. Everything looks good here as well. The Jeep's fuel injection system is also functioning as designed.

3. More Air -- More air is the most difficult to explain because there is a lot of physics and chemistry happening here. Our atmosphere is 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and 1 percent everything else.

A. Oxygen is a fuel. More air means more oxygen. More oxygen requires more gasoline which produces more heat.

B. The more air we cram into a cylinder the higher the cylinder pressure. Higher pressures produce more heat.

C. More air also means more nitrogen. The expansion of the nitrogen is the force that pushes the piston down. More heat means more expansion. More expansion means more power. Heat energy is converted into horsepower.

How do we control cylinder temperature? At idle the engine's throttle valve is closed blocking all air from entering the cylinders except for a small amount passing through the idle air control system. Less air in the cylinder means less pressure, less heat and less power. When the accelerator pedal is depressed, the throttle valve opens allowing more air in the cylinders. More air means more fuel, higher pressures, more heat, more expansion and more power.

At wide open throttle, our Jeep only pro-

duced 220 psi of cylinder pressure. That is the lowest I've ever measured. Typically, I see cylinder pressures of 275-325 psi. We installed a pressure transducer into the exhaust pipe to measure exhaust pressure. If there is a restriction anywhere in the air intake and/or exhaust systems, low exhaust pressure (low flow) will be the result. If everything is free flowing, much higher pressure and flow will be the result. No breathing problems here. Why the low cylinder pressure?

Next, we tested for cylinder leakage. Piston rings are the cylinders' seals. If they leak the result is less cylinder pressure and lower power. When the rings leak the pressure escapes into the crankcase below. We measured the crankcase pressure by installing a pressure transducer onto the engine oil dip stick tube. There was no significant pressure increase in the crankcase. Huh? The cylinders are sealed. This engine is performing exactly as it's designed.

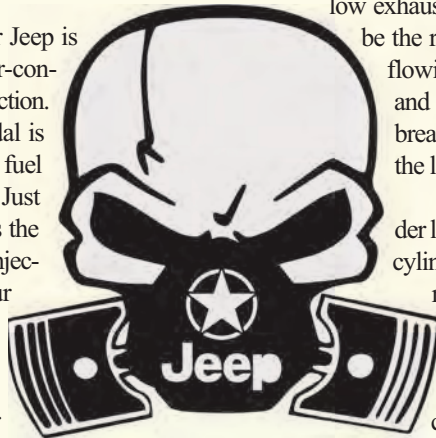
That surprised me so I did some research and found my answer. Jeep's 4.0L engine's compression ratio is only 8.8-1. The engine is equipped with a tubular steel exhaust manifold and a lightweight tuned cast-aluminum intake manifold with long runners. That produces 190 hp and 225 ft lbs. of torque at 3,000 rpm. This engine is designed for torque. Torque (twisting force) is more desirable than horsepower for off-roading.

This Jeep is not a slug by any means but is there ever too much horsepower? More power means more fun.

The customer was glad to learn his 4.0L engine was functioning as designed and in good working order. His primary concern was being stranded while offroading someday.

OK Guys and Gals, that's all for this one. If you have any questions regarding this article, suggestions for future articles, ideas, recommendations and/or any general or specific automotive questions, please text me at 559-907-7661 or email complete_car_care@hotmail.com. God Bless America and God Bless 93636. Happy Motoring.

Warren Parr, a two-time NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year



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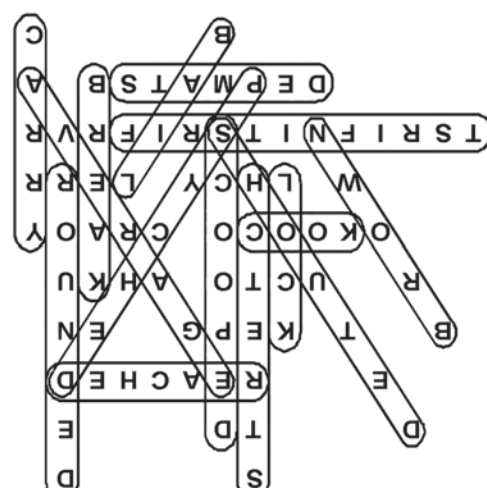
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ANSWERS

2	5	6	1	8	4	3	7	9
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2					
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Housecleaning

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- Sir Isaac Newton invented the cat flap. Newton was experimenting in a pitch-black room when Spithead, one of his cats, kept opening the door and wrecking his experiment. The flap kept both human and feline happy.
- *Brave New World* au-

Over 40 yrs of experience - References available - Lupe's House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. 559-916-1528 or 650-771-2915**

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thor Aldous Huxley became almost completely blind as a teenager. He regained much of his sight later in life, crediting an unorthodox treatment known as "The Bates Method," which recommends never using eyeglasses and exposing one's eyes regularly to sunlight. • The ancient Greeks believed that redheads would turn into vampires after they died. • In Japan, Domino's started testing pizza delivery via reindeer in 2016.

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CLEAN cont. from P. 7

travel frequently, keep a basic toiletries bag packed at all times with deodorant, cotton swabs, toothpaste, etc.

Packing Cubes: I'm a huge fan. Pack each person's clothes in their own packing cube or extra-large Ziplock bag. Undies, swimwear and pajamas should also be packed in a cube or Ziplock. Label each bag with the person's name and category of items. This makes finding things and packing up for your next stop a breeze.

Jewelry: To protect necklaces from tangling, thread them through straws and place them in resealable bags or toothbrush holders. Store rings and earrings in seven-day plastic pill holders or in snack-size resealable bags pinned to the corresponding outfit.

Shoes: Bag your shoes and place them on the wheel end of your rolling suitcase so they don't crush your clothes when the suitcase is upright. Maximize space by filling shoes with small bags of charging cords, belts, etc.

UPON RETURN

Update Checklist: Make adjustments to your checklist for next time, based on what you needed and didn't have or didn't need to bring.

Deadline: Schedule time on your calendar during the week you return to unpack and do laundry. Give yourself a deadline. You're finished when the empty suitcases are returned to their storage area and your clean laundry is folded and put away. Believe me, you'll be glad you did.

Contact Organized by Choice at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	-		×		7			
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Independence Day: Lesson Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Note: The following article was published in June, 2017. It chronicled serious problems facing the nation those four long years ago which have now become catastrophic. What hasn't changed is the need to teach American principles and history to anyone willing to listen.

OK, I've now started and scrapped three different drafts for this 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, and 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 docu-

ments: 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!

Observations from 2021: “Horrible speech that passes for public discourse” has become never-ending politically sanctioned violence and destruction in American cities • “Schools have not taught American history” has become national programs purposely inciting students to hate each other and their country. • “The lure of socialism’s promise” has become a nearly complete Marxist government takeover • “Being a small part of the solution” still means speaking up; interacting with politicians; working on and donating to causes and campaigns and yes, educating the youth.



• Add a cinnamon stick or softener sheet to your vacuum bag when you change it. As you clean, you will distribute the good smell throughout your home. • I make whipped cream -- in my coffeemaker! I have a

French press that I rarely use, until now. Add heavy whipping cream and a bit of sugar to the pot and use the screen to whip the cream by rapidly pumping it up and down. Magic! -- JoAnn • To save money on electricity costs, hang jeans and other heavy clothing to dry first. White or light towels and garments especially love the


sun. When they're mostly dry, pop in the dryer to fluff. • "I love to eat pancakes, but I don't have time to make them every morning. I make a very large batch on Sundays and reheat them through the week. In order to recreate that fresh-from-the-pan crisp (which you don't get if you microwave them), I put them in my toaster."

-- P.E. in Ohio • "I use an extra coffeepot to brew a pot of hot water. I use the water for both tea and instant oatmeal packets in the morning." -- M.S. in Nevada

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by Dave T. Phipps



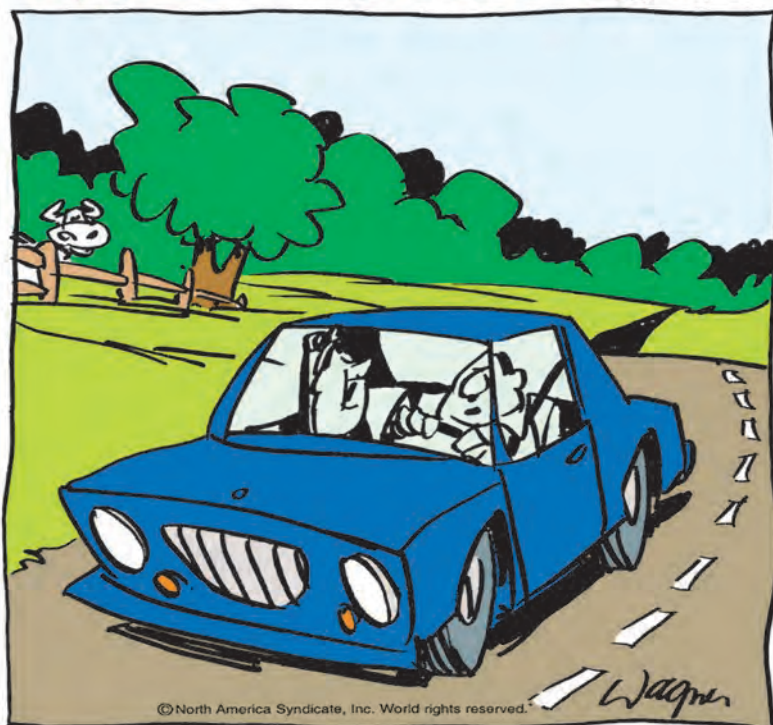
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



“Can’t you go a little faster? We’re getting bug splatters on the back windshield.”

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You feel ready to face up to a major change, although it might involve some risks. A once-dubious family member comes around and offers support and encouragement.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Move forward with your plans, despite discouraging words from those who underestimate the Bovine's strong will. Your keen instincts will guide you well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A misunderstanding is easily cleared up. Then go ahead and enjoy some fun and games this week. A Libra might have ideas that merit serious consideration for the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might feel as if you're in an emotional pressure cooker, but the situation is about to change in your favor. Take time out for some well-earned fun.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A shift in your workplace responsibilities creates resentment among some co-workers. Deal with it before it becomes a threat to your success on the job.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Expect some surprises in what you thought was one of your typically well-planned schedules. Deal with them, and then enjoy some lighthearted entertainment.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be careful: What appears to be a solid financial opportunity might have some hidden risks attached. A hazy personal matter needs to be cleared up.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) It's a good time to strengthen ties with family and friends. You might feel unsure about a recent workplace decision, but time will prove you did the right thing.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Just when you thought your relationship was comfortable and even predictable, your partner or spouse could spring a potentially life-changing surprise on you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your usually generous self is overshadowed by your equally strong suspicious nature. You might be judging things too harshly. Keep an open mind.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love and romance dominate the week. Married Aquarians enjoy domestic harmony, while singles could soon be welcoming overtures from loving Leos.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) An old health problem recurs, but it is soon dealt with, leaving you eager to get back into the swing of things. A favorable travel period starts this week.

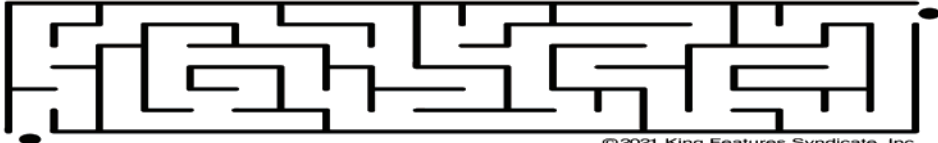
Born this Week

You have an independent spirit that resists being told what to do. But you're also wise enough to appreciate good advice.

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FUN PAGES

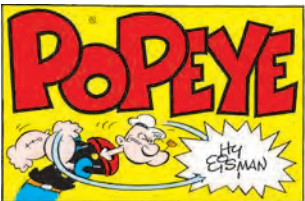
Kids' Maze



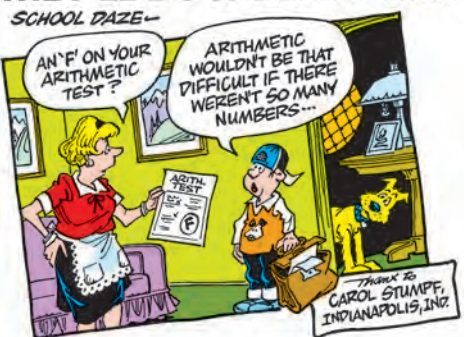
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TIGER

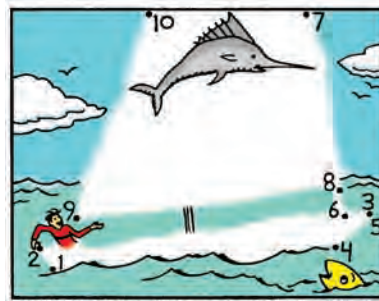
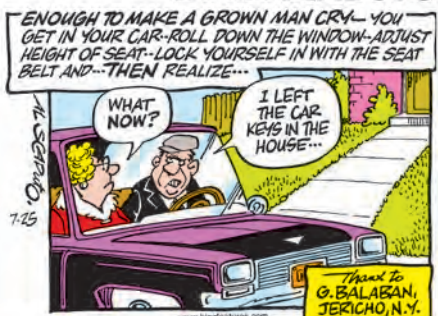
by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



ON SAIL! Go it, sailfish, up, up and away. What can you draw to complete this picture? To find out, add lines dot to dot.

SIX PICK! There are six numbers between 1 and 100 that are spelled with six letters. Four of them are ninety, eighty, thirty and twenty. Quickly, what are the other two?
Numbers eleven and twelve.

SPELL OUT! Let's see if you can insert a three-letter word that will complete seven longer words in each of the posers presented at right. In No. 1, for instance, try AFT, and get craft, waft, but that's all. Similarly, in No. 2, try ALE. Result: Whale, pale, kale... but there the string ends.

Now that you have the idea, continue to try words until you find two that comply.
No fair peeking at answers below.

ASH and EEL, respectively, will do it.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FINGER-TRICKIN' WITS TESTER

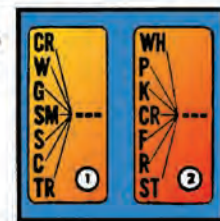
YES, the hand is sometimes quicker than the eye, and on occasion may be shown to outwit the brain.

For instance, simply assign numbers to someone's fingers (see left), ask the person to clasp hands, and then challenge him or her to move designated fingers as you call out numbers.

Vary this, if you wish, by assigning an assortment of numbers in random order.

As a further test, ask your friend to cross wrists, then clasp hands, turn clasped hands inward (toward body), and upward toward the chin.

Now, challenge person to move a finger either by number, or when you point to it.



Wishing Well

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

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 ● — OUT

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: No Radio or TV Coverage Allowed

Average	Carry	Psyched	Shouted
Bail	Cook	Reached	Stamped
Break	First-in, first-	Rounded	Stretch
Brown	Lock	Scooped	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What city is the setting for the 1980s medical drama "St. Elsewhere"?
- HISTORY: When was the first Veterans Day celebrated in the United States?
- MOVIES: Who played the role of Lt. Dan Taylor in the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump"?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is the condition called chorophobia?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the southernmost city in Africa?
- FAMOUS QUOTES: Who wrote this about fleeting summer, "Summer's lease hath all too short a date"?
- SCIENCE: Which nerve transmits sound to the brain?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color papaya?
- FOOD & DRINK: In which U.S. state did Pepsi Cola originate?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president received the Secret Service code name "General"?

Answers

- Boston
- 1954
- Gary Sinise
- Fear of dancing
- Cape Town
- William Shakespeare, Sonnet 18
- Auditory nerve
- Orange
- North Carolina
- Harry Truman

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Click on "Local News" at

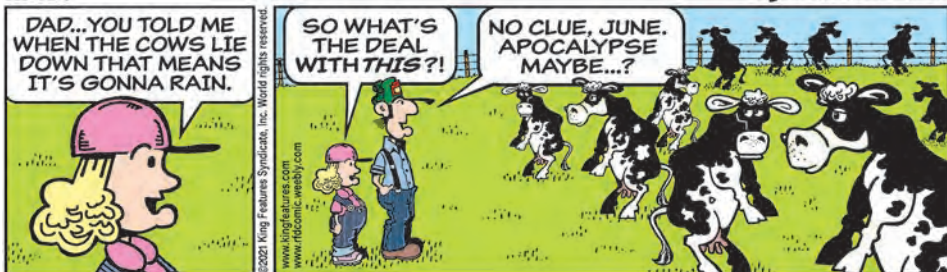
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



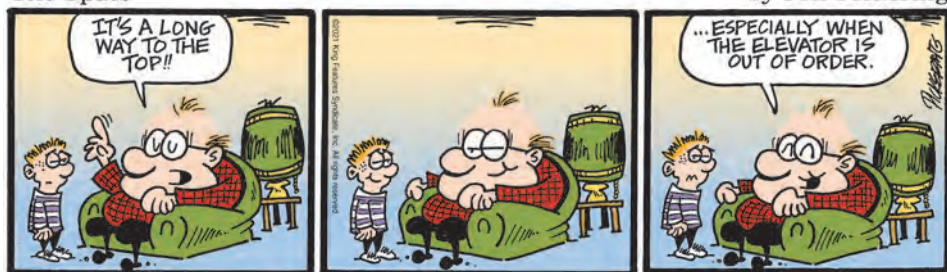
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

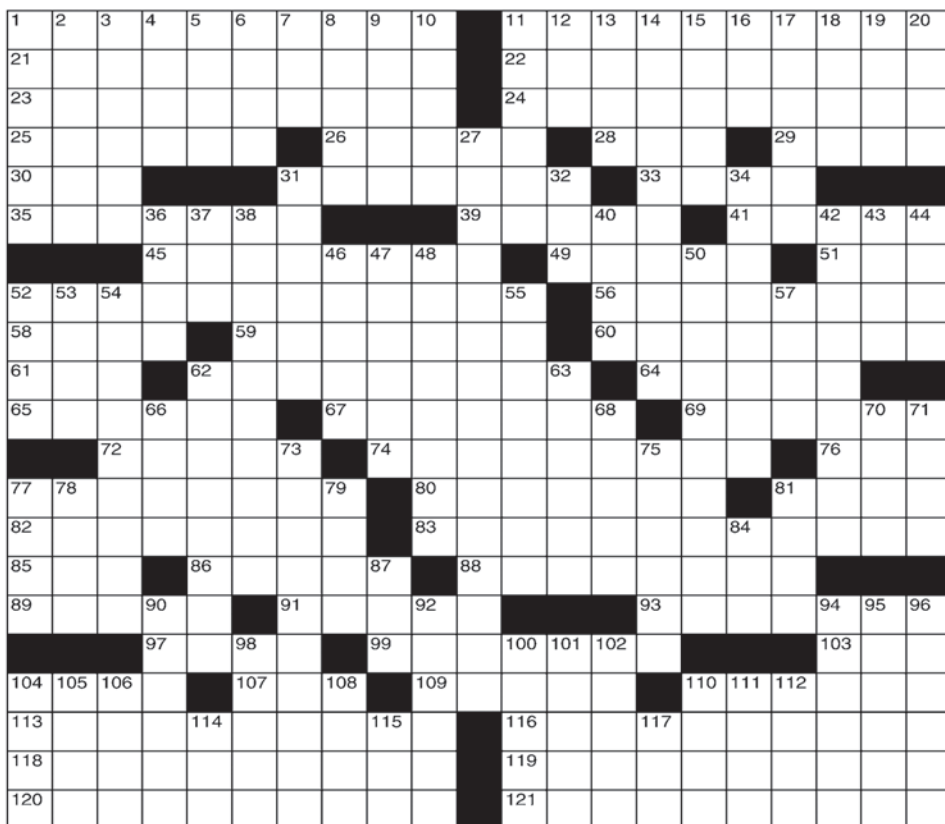
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Window is wider. 2. Ball is different. 3. Hedge is smaller. 4. Cap is reversed. 5. Shoes are different. 6. Fence is broken.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 City in Orange County, California
 - 11 Extended animal shelter initiative
 - 21 Regular guy
 - 22 Well-practiced pieces
 - 23 Good snorkeling sites
 - 24 Within a single school
 - 25 Have a brawl
 - 26 — liver (dish rich in iron)
 - 28 Secret agent
 - 29 — -mell (confused)
 - 30 Frozen water
 - 31 Narrow sea routes
 - 33 Title girl in a J.D. Salinger story
 - 35 Swift feline
 - 39 "Have a Heart" singer
 - 41 Total up again
 - 45 People giving accounts
 - 49 Many Bosnians
 - 51 Socratic "T"
 - 52 Homer Simpson voicer Dan Opatie, e.g. Johnson of old comedy
 - 59 Some rupee spenders
 - 60 Most tranquil
 - 61 Ring around the collar?
 - 62 Cellars
 - 64 "Mercy me!"
 - 65 Ring around the collar?
 - 67 Diet for a boxer
 - 69 Get a move on
 - 72 Discussion venue
 - 74 Ponchos' kin
 - 76 — Fernando Valley
 - 77 Major U.S. field yield
 - 80 Soft, knit fabrics
 - 81 Herr von Bismarck
 - 82 She admired the Man of Steel
 - 83 Perfume ingredient
 - 85 Suffix with meth-
 - 86 Soothing additives
 - 88 Like needles with fibers through them
 - 89 Resembling a homet, say
 - 91 "Republic" philosopher
 - 93 Largest parts of brains
 - 97 Memo start
 - 99 "Dream on!"
 - 103 Bk. after Exodus
 - 104 Send cyberjunk to
 - 107 Kind
 - 109 Took illegally
 - 110 Electric resistance measure
 - 113 Long-life-cycle plants
 - 116 Cabal boss
 - 118 "Way to go, hero!"
 - 119 Field of a retail boss
 - 120 Gazpacho, basically
 - 121 Warnings about shady deals
 - 8 Thrust out
 - 9 As of now
 - 10 Model 3 car
 - 11 Former Sony record label
 - 12 Where lions lie
 - 13 Makes a selection
 - 14 Be guilty of
 - 15 Waiters' loads
 - 16 24-hr. cash cache
 - 17 Certain wig
 - 18 Put to work
 - 19 Verbal
 - 20 Tony-winning Carter
 - 27 Method of valuing inventories
 - 31 Sedimentary rocks
 - 32 She's part of the fam
 - 34 North Pole wife
 - 36 One-named Art Deco artist
 - 37 Summer top
 - 38 Free of artificial ingredients
 - 40 XXX, maybe
 - 42 Affirms as true
 - 43 Oration station
 - 44 With 46-Down, held together with a plumbing adhesive
 - 46 See 44-Down
 - 47 Fill with love
 - 48 Consign to an inferior rank
 - 50 "Glass half full" outlook
 - 52 Announce
 - 53 Sector
 - 54 Uses a wok
 - 55 Bowl over
 - 57 Alero's make
 - 62 — Center (Brooklyn arena)
 - 63 World Cup sport
 - 66 Electrojet particles
 - 68 Lorna of literature
 - 70 Sol followers
 - 71 Hydroxyl compound
 - 73 Corners on the market
 - 75 Hook up (to)
 - 77 Hawk's nail
 - 78 "Game of Thrones" actress
 - 79 Lime discard
 - 81 Bygone, quaintly
 - 84 — Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
 - 87 Announce
 - 90 One of the "Ewings on Dallas"
 - 92 Even choice
 - 94 One on in-line skates
 - 95 Acting king
 - 96 Heads off
 - 98 Rio — (mining company)
 - 100 Fishing bait
 - 101 Of a pelvis bone
 - 102 Three-time Grand Prix champion
 - 104 Roast rod
 - 105 Colombian cash
 - 106 William Saroyan's "My Name Is —"
 - 108 Deck in a boxing ring
 - 110 Korbut on a balance beam
 - 111 Loaf end
 - 112 Musical "Auntie"
 - 114 Rabid fan
 - 115 Hitter Gehrig
 - 117 Whale pod
- DOWN**
- 1 Milk-derived
 - 2 Affirm as true
 - 3 Olympian Jackie Joyner —
 - 4 Distinctive stretches
 - 5 Descend
 - 6 Horrid giant
 - 7 "Riddle me, riddle me —"

FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Wildfire Safety Measure Offered to Our SEMCU Residents



If you would like this done, please call 559-363-9095 to sign up for FREE discing of your residential lot and boundary. Or email info@semcu.org and include your name, phone number, address and any specific instructions.

Since the state has begun to open public gatherings, we're able to have our meetings in person again.

Our next meeting is Monday, July 19 at 6 p.m.

Safe distancing and mask wearing will be practiced.

We will start at a new gathering hall at

37101 Avenue 12, Madera Ranchos

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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