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Volume 19 Issue 6 2023

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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How fair is California's vote?



**A non-partisan election
integrity group says
California elections
fail in nine out
of 10 areas.**

In This Issue

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 20 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

California has received a failing grade on a non-partisan election integrity scorecard after an audit found evidence of voter fraud, inaccurate voter lists, inadequate signature reviews and voter suppression.

A bombshell report released by the non-partisan Transparency Foundation gives California a failing grade on election integrity and declares “from its failure to maintain accurate voter registration lists to its refusal to verify the identity and eligibility of voters, California by far has the worst election practices in the nation.”

Investigators who compiled the report not only interviewed state and county election officials, but also conducted an independent audit over 18 months of California’s election practices, voter registration lists, ballot signature reviews and discarded ballots.

“The findings of this election integrity audit are quite damning and they completely refute the false narrative being spun by California politicians and media outlets that the state has no problems with how it conducts elections,” said Carl DeMaio with the Transparency Foundation.

“The problems are so bad, and the evidence presented is so alarming, that we believe there’s a clear case that California is repeatedly violating existing election laws and immediate reforms need to be implemented before the 2024 election,” DeMaio said.

Audit Detects Voter Fraud

The Transparency Foundation’s

audit was able to pinpoint substantial evidence of voter fraud occurring in California. The audit examined mail-in ballots that were rejected by county election officials because of mismatched signatures and remained “uncured” at the end of the election.

The audit found 56 percent of ballot signatures rejected as mismatched, remained “uncured,” or unclaimed by voters that supposedly cast them – despite repeated attempts by county officials to get these voters to confirm their identity and their attempt to vote in the election.

Even worse, of the 388 individuals with rejected and uncured ballots that were located by investigators and submitted to interviews, the audit uncovered a 14.17 percent likely fraud rate, where the voter denied ever attempting to vote – and some individuals claimed to not even live in California.

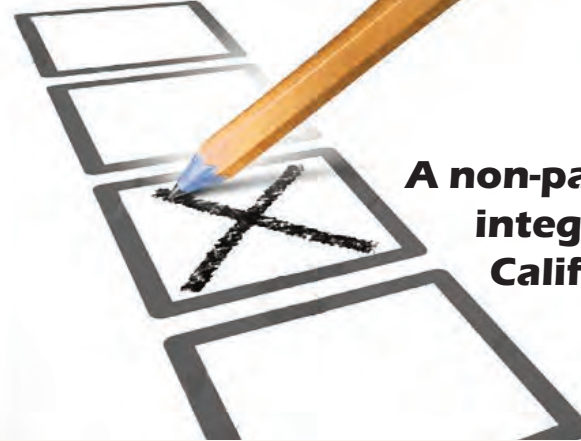
Audit Reveals Inadequate Signature Verification

The audit revealed a massive disparity in signature rejection rates across California counties – with flawed signature review regulations imposed by the California Secretary of State to blame.

For example, in both the 2022 Primary and General Elections, Sacramento County rejected a significantly lower percentage of signatures (.24 percent in the Primary and .23 percent in the General) than San Joaquin County (2.18 percent in the Primary and 2.10 percent in the General).

Sacramento County was also wildly outside the statewide average of rejected signatures of .70 percent in the Primary

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and 1.01 percent in the General. Put another way, Sacramento County’s ballot rejection rate was 438 percent below the statewide average.

Not only do these disparities raise the concern that some counties are not doing an adequate job of signature reviews, but the extreme nature of the disparities offer the basis to challenge California’s ballot signature review regulations on due process and equal protection grounds.

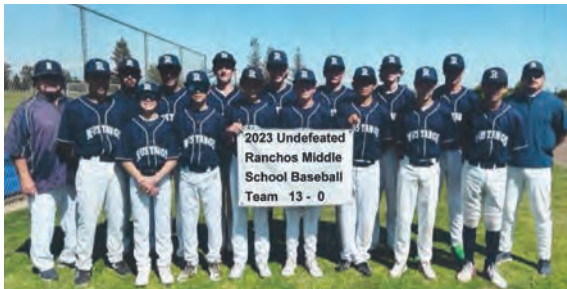
Inaccurate Voter Lists

Investigators say both the interviews with county election officials and the audit showed that California has failed to

maintain even a reasonably accurate voter registration list. The report cites policies imposed by California politicians that make it operationally impossible to maintain accurate voter registration lists. The investigation identified more than 6.6 million people since 2010 that moved out of California to another state. Unfortunately, the report notes the Vote-Cal data system fails to provide county election officials with the data they need to remove someone from the voter rolls when they move out-of-state. The result? There are millions of inactive voters still

Please see **VOTE FAIL** on P. 4

Madera Ranchos Producing Baseball Champions



Both the Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School baseball teams produced winners for 2023.

The Ranchos Middle School Mustangs went undefeated against their adversaries this season, capping their year with a record of 13-0. At the same time, the Liberty High Hawks baseball team went on to claim the title of Northwest Sequoia League Champs after a 15-0 victory over Fowler in the championship game.

The Hawks ended their season with a 13-1 record in the Northwest Sequoia



League. Additionally, the Hawks produced the most home runs for a team in the league and the most RBIs. Of the top six pitchers pitching strikeouts, four of them were Hawks. The Hawks also scored 100 more runs than the next closest team for the season.

The Hawks post-season aspirations were doing just as well and afforded them homefield advantage throughout. They beat Sunnyside 11-0, then Wasco 14-2 followed by Hoover at 10-0. Their final post-season game came against Immanuel from

Reedley. In that game on May 27, the Hawks hit their first major roadblock and lost 9-5.

The Hawks then competed in a state championship against Oakmont on May 30. Their fantastic season came to an end that night with a 3-2 loss. In the end, their efforts produced a program record for consecutive wins at 14 and program record for wins in a season with 26. On top of that winning a league championship and the program’s first D4 section title.

Congratulations.

Ranchos Schools Get Top Honors

Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School were awarded the Silver Award for Best Schools in the Central Valley in the annual Best of the Central Valley competition sponsored by the Fresno Bee.

The Bee website said, “... the Best of Central California honors and recognizes the places, businesses and activities we know and love.”

The Bee said it received more than 445,000 votes from over 136,000 voters, a 40 percent increase over the 2022 competition. In the end, it awarded 656 finalists from among 4,500 competitors with 891 Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards, of which Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School were two.

Click on “Local News” at

Supes Approve \$494M Budget

At a special meeting held Monday, June 12, the Madera County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the 2023- 2024 County operating budget of \$494,333,777, a net increase of over \$26 million over the current fiscal year.

The County claims to be facing significant financial problems as a result of high inflation and extreme labor market competitiveness. Even though “discretionary revenue sources” have recovered to a pre-pandemic level of growth, the General Fund continues to face significant budget problems. Discretionary Revenues, which are what funds the Net County Cost, are estimated to grow to over \$97 million the upcoming fiscal year. That’s a \$9 million increase over the current revenues that are estimated, or a 10 percent increase over the current estimates.

The problem is that the inflation of services and supplies – which are critical to county operations, population-driven service demand increases and salary adjustments to remain competi-

Please see **BUDGET** on P. 17

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VOTE FAIL cont. from P. 2

on California's voter rolls – many who are still receiving mail ballots at their old address. Los Angeles County admitted to having more than 1 million inactive voters – and the Transparency Foundation's statewide audit reflects at least 1.18 million inactive voters still on the state's voter rolls.

The audit also found evidence of 81,421 potential duplicate or triplicate voter registrations for the same individuals in the state voter registration list.

Reinforcing the audit findings, a 2020 survey by Reform California showed nearly one-in-10 California households have received "erroneous" ballots for someone who does not live there, for a dead person, or a duplicate/triplicate ballot for the same person.

Election Interference and Voter Suppression Concerns

Investigators documented numerous instances at the state and local levels where politicians intentionally misled voters by placing false and biased titles on ballot measures. The report also cites millions in taxpayer funds that have been inappropriately used to manipulate election outcomes by boosting turnout in specific voting blocks, to promote ballot measures and to fund lobbyist groups to manipulate the drawing of re-districting maps to benefit the ruling political party and incumbent politicians.

Investigators also raise concerns regarding voter suppression, citing a recent move by California politicians to deliberately eliminate polling locations on Election Day. In 2022, one county saw a reduction of 87 percent in its polling locations on Election Day. Investigators say a case could be made that this move could be successfully challenged in court on voter suppression grounds – pointing to polling that shows that conservative voters prefer to vote on election day, while liberal voters prefer to vote by mail.

California Voters Lack Confidence in the State's Voting System

The report cites polls showing California voters do not have trust and confidence in the state's elections and want immediate improvements in election integrity. The Berkeley IGS poll in November 2022 shows 60 percent of all California voters surveyed said that people voting or casting ballots illegally was a threat, with 39 percent of them saying it was a major threat.

Failing Score on 9-of-10 Criteria

The Transparency Foundation gives California failing grades on all but one of the election integrity criteria applied during the audit:

- 1. Public Trust and Confidence: **FAIL**
- 2. Accurate Maintenance of Voter Lists: **FAIL**
- 3. Verifying Identity of Voters: **FAIL**
- 4. Confirmation of Eligibility/Citizenship: **FAIL**
- 5. Accessibility of Voting: **FAIL**
- 6. Security of Election Systems: **FAIL**
- 7. Interference in Elections: **FAIL**
- 8. Unbiased and Accurate Ballot Titles: **FAIL**
- 9. Individual Ballot Tracking and Curing: **PASS**
- 10. Post-Election Auditing: **FAIL**

"Election integrity should not be a partisan issue, but a collective commitment to ensuring that all voters have trust and confidence in the process and the outcome – and that's clearly not happening in California," said DeMaio.

"We hope that this report and the findings of this audit serve as a call to action to finally force politicians and their friends in the media to be honest about California's election deficiencies and commit to reforming these practices before 2024," DeMaio said.

This story was prepared by the Transparency Foundation. You can find them at www.thetransparencyfoundation.org.

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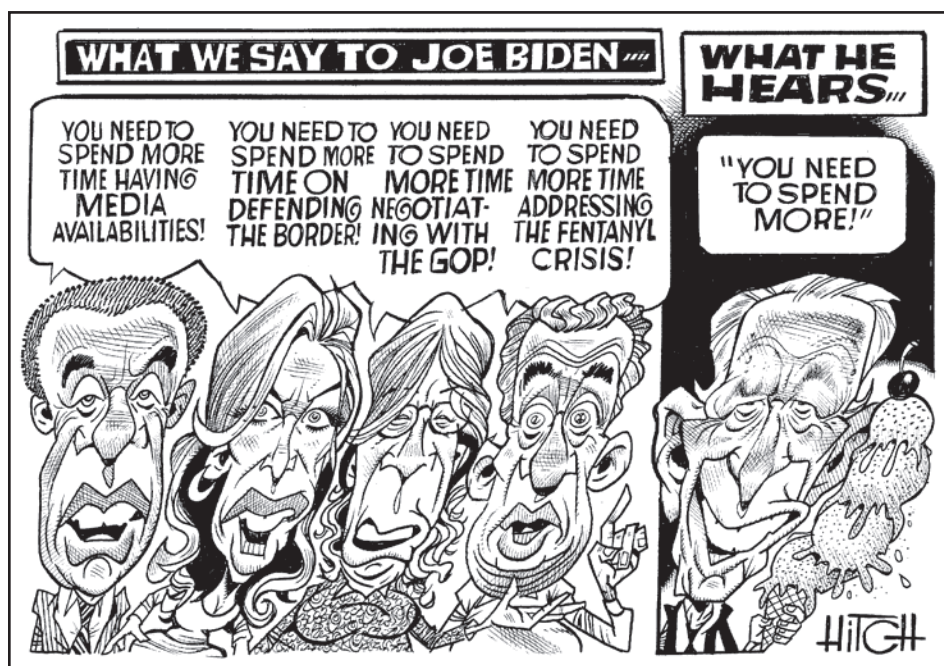
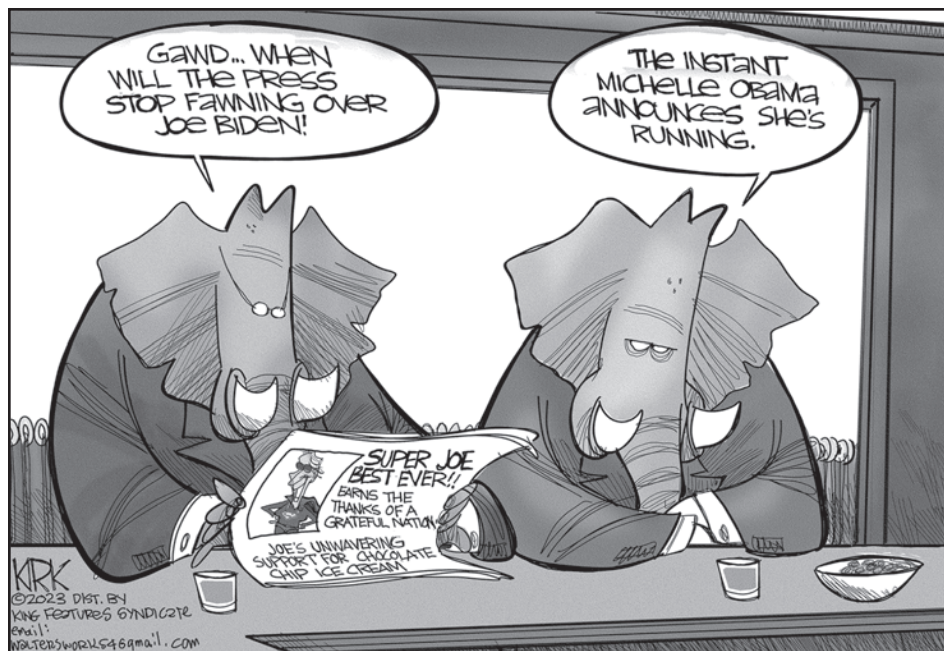
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Editorial

Let Me Respond by Screaming

By Randy Bailey

I don't care how loving, and understanding and calm you are. I don't care if you're a lifelong pacifist who has sworn to never raise your hand in anger. I don't care if you're an adherent to a religious order that has taken a vow of silence ... a toddler in the middle of an ear-splitting screaming tantrum anywhere in public is beyond what most human beings can withstand. The only -- and I stress *ONLY* -- allowance most people are willing to make is, well, it's a toddler. They don't know any better and obviously there's no one in the child's life to show them a better way. Thankfully the vast majority of them will grow out of it; of course, there's always a fresh supply of new ones waiting in the wings to fill the void.

If you spend any time on social media, you will have plenty of opportunities to see "reels." If you're older you'll call them "videos" and if you're REALLY older you'll call them "little movies." They're recorded with the ubiquitous smart phone, get a little editing and end up on Facebook or Youtube or whatever the medium of the day is. They're generally short, usually no more than 90 seconds, and they cover a huge variety of subjects. Some are incredibly interesting while others are incredibly stupid. Often they are funny, but it

seems more often than not they're trying to be funny but they come up short. It appears being funny is a serious business.

One thing that these reels provide is an opportunity to hear opposing sides of a political argument. Let's say, for example, you're a conservative with conservative views on a multitude of issues. In an attempt to understand, you search out a reel with someone taking an opposing view to yours and what do you get?

A toddler screaming.

Somewhere along the way, "constructive debate" has devolved into one side presenting an argument and the other side presenting their ability to scream. And what's bizarre is the screaming is almost exclusively coming from one side of the debate and being dumped on the other. I have yet to see a reel with a liberal talking head get shut down by an ear-splitting barrage from a group of conservatives. Has it happened? I guess. Maybe. I'm just saying that of all the reels I've seen on topics that involve views historically from the left and right, I have never seen a conservative's response to be shrieking and screaming and blowing whistles in the face of a liberal. Have I seen the reverse of that? Are you kidding?

Somewhere in the education of modern Americans -- Americans who suddenly were getting trophies for just participating and being told there "were no stupid questions" -- the ability to think and reason gave way to raw emotion. If you can out yell your adversary, you have a stronger argument. If you drown out someone who has an opinion different from yours, you have won. The greatest irony is those screamers who accuse their "opponents" of being fascists and then successfully shut down their freedom to speak. That doesn't even register with them. They are so convinced that they are right that they can't be confused with facts.

My favorite saying is I'd rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned. When you say that to the type of people I've described here, there is moment of hesitancy that makes you think maybe -- just *maybe* -- you've gotten through.

Then the screaming starts.

The Ranchos Independent

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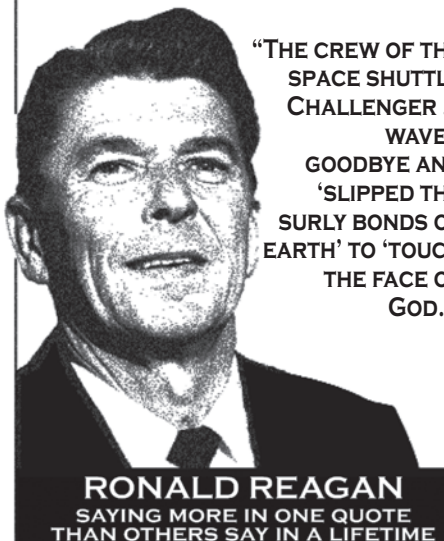
Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
ranchosnews@yahoo.com

www.TheRanchos.com

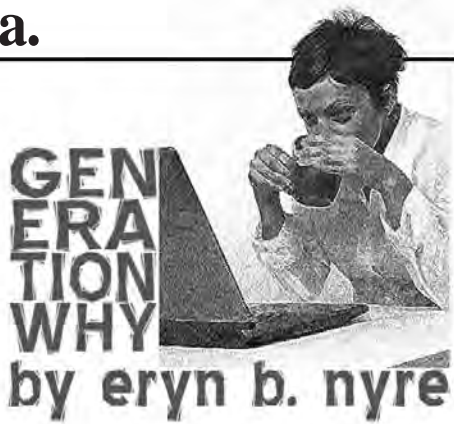
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First of All: America.



The professional fireworks. Because of his job, he was licensed to shoot off the kind generally reserved for amusement parks and city celebrations. I was much younger then, so the memories are hazy, but what I do remember was amazing. There was water – I’m pretty sure it was a lake – and there were friends, family and a lot of people from his work. It was heaven – except for the fish.

The fish were not the positive part of what I can recall, although I certainly laugh about it now. I have a clear and vivid memory of a large group of people wading into the water and then screaming and running back out yelling, “The fish are biting!” I was

told by some old man, who was clearly trying to comfort me, that it was just the perch striking their legs because they were hungry. I’m not sure why he thought that would make me feel better, because it did not. I was much smaller than the adults who were running for their lives; I didn’t need to test the theory that the perch wouldn’t try and take a big bite when an Eryn-sized human wandered into their midst. My mother always attributed that story to why I didn’t love going in any body of water except a pool. I actually don’t think my dad even remembers. I’m pretty sure he would have told me to cowboy up and get in the water and just punch the fish if it tried anything.

I don’t go watch the local fireworks shows anymore. Not because I don’t like them, but because

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

Despite the fact that I’m not really a summer kind of girl, and I definitely prefer the fall and winter holidays, I do have a deep and abiding love of Independence Day. My childhood is filled with wonderful Fourth of July memories.

First of all: America. Despite what the media, both social and mainstream, want you to believe, America is the best country in the world. We are the land of the free, because of the brave, and I am eternally grateful that I was lucky enough to be born here. So, basically what I’m saying is that I identify as patriotic.

Independence Day is all about God, country and family. Most of my young memories of the Fourth are family coming from all over to grill, laugh, play games and celebrate America while simultaneously trying not to light everything on fire that wasn’t supposed to be lit on fire. My dad and uncles were generally in charge, despite their youth, and believe me with youth comes a distinct lack of common sense and spatial awareness.

There was one particular uncle’s house that most often played host to the Independence Day festivities. There was always two metric tons of food. It was Thanksgiving dinner in the middle of summer, only with prime rib or tri-tip or good old-fashioned hot dogs substituted for turkey. He had this KISS pinball machine that I was addicted to. I was not good. I never got the high score, but in my mind I was the kid to beat. Then when the sun went down, we were treated to a homemade light show usually set to 70s and 80s rock music. One year the pyrotechnics got a little away from the boys and started a small fire in a nearby field. Everything worked out – no permanent damage done – but I remember the firemen looking annoyed.

My favorite memories from the Fourth of July were when my dad would shoot off the big fireworks.

We are the land of the free, because of the brave, and I am eternally grateful that I was lucky enough to be born here.

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

watching fireworks shows that your father designed and set off has a spoiling effect on such events in general. I do, however, still like to go celebrate with friends and family. I will always enjoy watching the men, now my age, act like my dad and uncles did way back when.

Wherever I am, whether there are fireworks and prime rib or sparklers and hot dogs, I am always filled with a sense of gratitude. I'm thankful the good Lord saw fit to allow me to be born in this great nation. I'm thankful that 247 years ago we declared our independence. I'm thankful for the freedoms we enjoy today because of all the men and women who have fought throughout the centuries to gain them and keep them.

Sadly, there are many people

who would like to see us give up our freedoms. They want us to give up our freedom of speech, our freedom of religion, even our freedom of expression if that expression doesn't fit the popular narrative. It seems scary out there for those of us who still have love for America and a clear vision of the American Dream. We shouldn't give up, though. I think there are more of us, we are just quieter and more respectful than the crazies trying to dismantle everything we love just because they don't seem to have anything better to do, like a job. But I digress.

So, this Independence Day, let's get a little louder. Let's celebrate this country we love and the people who stand up for her every day. Let's continue to fight for her and proudly proclaim, "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!"

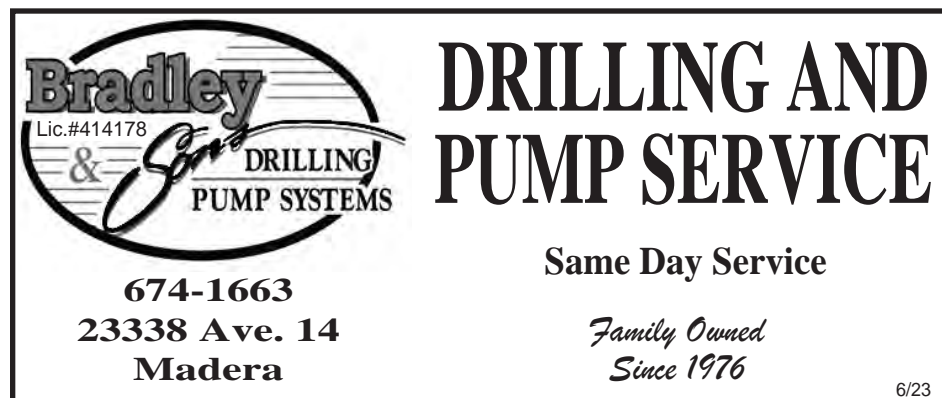


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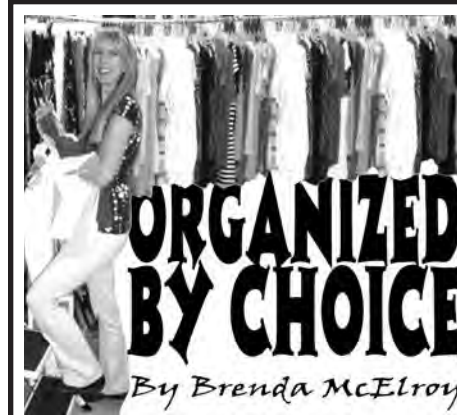


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Cue the Rewards

I didn't need someone to tell me to bend at the knees when lifting, sit up straight at my desk and stand every hour. But, when I requested physical therapy for some back and hip issues I got a video appointment, basic instructions like those above and some exercises imbedded in an online matrix that took me a week to find. Fortunately for me, my symptoms had greatly diminished during the six-week wait for my appointment and "treatment." Unfortunately, so did my motivation to follow through with the instructions. I knew that if I didn't create a new habit for doing them, they wouldn't get done.

In an excerpt from his book *Atomic Habits*, James Clear suggests there are four simple steps for creating a habit: cue, craving, response and reward.

CUE: He says our minds are reward detectors. You might spot desired rewards for your career, family life, spiritual or physical well-being, etc. They may be important, deep and essential, or something that simply takes the edge off. These are cues.

CRAVING: "Without some level of motivation or desire ... we have no reason to act," says Clear. "What you crave is not the habit itself but the change in state it delivers." I was not craving a new exercise routine, but I was craving physical well-being.

RESPONSE: The third step is doing the action that leads to the reward. The crucial part to success, says Clear, lies in the strength of the craving and how much "friction is associated with the behavior." My craving diminished with my symptoms. I experienced friction trying to keep the online session from expiring before I was able to get from one exercise to the next. I knew my symptoms would return so I pressed on with my new routine and found a way to print out the instructions, reducing the friction.

REWARD: The reward is the end goal and the result of the response. It's a little early for me to predict if this habit will produce the reward I crave. As with most habits, it's a process that requires patience and perseverance.

What cues have surfaced in your world lately? Do you crave the way the kitchen feels after

*What cues have surfaced
in your world lately? ...
The key is in the response.*

the housekeeper does her magic and the counters are clear? Do you crave the simplicity of your hotel bathroom that has everything you need in one make-up case? Do you crave the peace of mind knowing what you're going to have for dinner before 5 p.m.?

These are cues for attainable rewards. The key is in the response. How much friction do you feel managing the response?

One thing I was hoping for was hands-on, eyes-on help. Someone to come alongside and guide my steps and actions. Someone to see how I'm doing things and show me how I can change and improve. This is what I do for my clients. I provide hands-on, eyes-on organizing help. No judgement, no guilt, just help. Let me know if I can help you cue the rewards.

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Be a Zucchini Houdini

(June 2013)

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



by Jean Briner

For those of you that have a summer garden, I imagine the zucchini has just about taken over. Your friends, relatives and neighbors are almost tired of seeing you arrive with a bag of the stuff. So what to do with it?

For one thing, you can freeze them but you must plan on doing it the day they are picked, or no later than the next day. Have everything ready before you start as it should be done as quickly as possible. This can be done with any summer squash.

Begin by washing the squash thoroughly and slicing it the way they will be cooked next winter: length wise into "spears," into rounds or chunks, but be sure they are all the same size so they will blanch and freeze in the same time.

Put a large pot of water on to boil. Have a large bowl of ice water ready and a colander ready for draining. Get a slotted spoon, a large cookie sheet and several zip-lock bags.

Add the squash to the boiling water (do NOT salt the water, as that will break down the enzymes and cause the squash to be soggy when thawed). Only leave in the boiling water until they are crunchy "al dente," about two minutes, but start testing after a minute.

As soon as the squash is blanched, spoon into the ice water, then into the colander. Drain well before storing in the freezer bags. If you have a large freezer, you can put the squash on the cookie sheet (lined with parchment paper makes it easier)

and put it in the freezer until all is frozen then put it into freezer bags. This way the squash is frozen individually and you can take out only what you will need rather than using the whole bag when everything is frozen together.

I was looking for different ways to use zucchini than steaming, frying or baking with Spanish rice. My favorite way is using a nonstick frying pan, put about a teaspoon of butter in the pan and add sliced zucchini and some chopped onion. Put a lid on it and on medium heat only cook until just done. Do not overcook because then you have mush – ugh!

Zucchini Cake

2 C. Flour
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. baking powder
3 eggs
2 C granulated sugar
1 C. vegetable oil
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. lemon zest (optional)
2 C. grated un-peeled zuc-

chini. Place grated zucchini in sieve to drain out excess moisture before measuring.

1 C. chopped nuts – walnuts or pecans.

½ C raisins – either dark or golden.

Preheat oven to 350. Butter a 9x12 or 9x13 pan – set aside.

In mixing bowl, mix together the flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and baking powder, set aside.

With a mixer, beat the 3 eggs on high speed until frothy. Lower the speed and beat in the sugar, vegetable oil, vanilla, and lemon zest (if using). Stir in the flour mixture, about a third at a time. Stir in the zucchini and chopped nuts and raisins.

Pour mixture into baking pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Remove

from oven and cool completely before frosting.

Frosting

3 ounces cream cheese softened
¼ cup butter, room temperature
1 ½ to 2 C. powdered sugar

Beat together the cream cheese and butter. Add the powdered sugar and beat until smooth.

I'm going to take my "recipe hat" off now and put on my "nostalgia hat."

When my mom passed away almost 25 years ago, she had boxes of genealogy information on all four sides of our family. I took them and started putting them together and added to it with information from cousins in Tennessee, Iowa and Oregon and ended up with three large binders of information, which I have called "Our Story." I've told everyone in the family what I have and that someday I would like to make a

book, but due to the lack of funds and knowhow I have put it on the back shelf and "someday" has never come. Recently, one of the boys called me and wanted to know some information about a cousin that was in WWII. It got me to thinking – I have played life's 18 holes and am headed for the clubhouse – and I'm still sitting here with all this information and doing nothing about it, and that is idiotic of my part. So I made a few phone calls, and talked to Randy and with God's help, we are going to put it together. I have funding, and Randy has said he would help lay it out – after all, that is his business. What I am saying here is please, if you have any background on your family, write it down now, while you still can. Maybe your family won't be interested today, but

Please see RECIPES on P. 11

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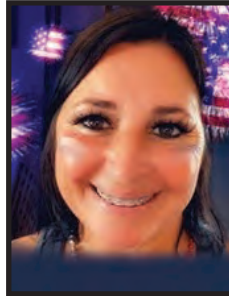
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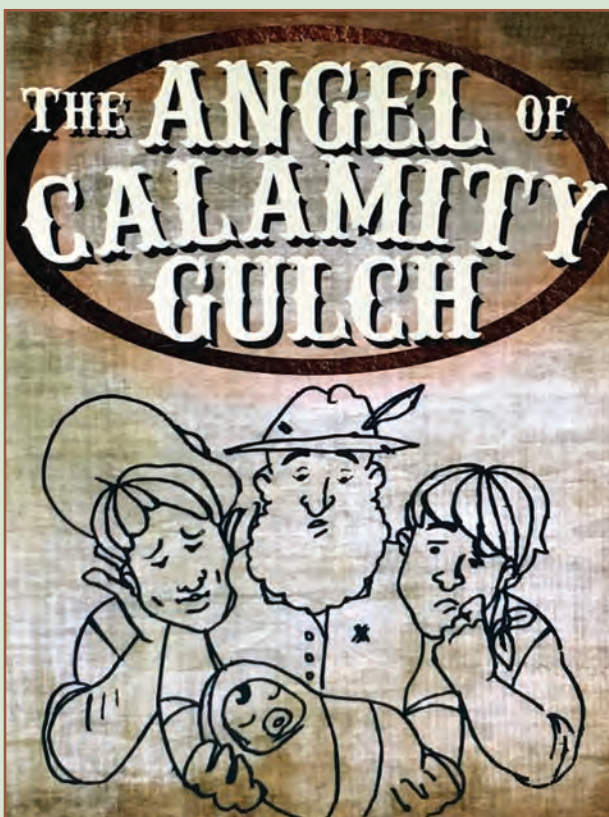
*Senior Report***Seniors Enjoy Melodrama at Golden Chain Theater**By *Melanie Williams*

Summer is officially here with beautiful warm weather and lots of fun outdoor activities, particularly Independence Day. July 4 is celebrated with firework events and family gatherings.

On Sunday, July 9, we are traveling to Oakhurst for another wonderful play presented by the talented actors of the Golden Chain Theater. *The Angel of Calamity Gluch* is a summer melodrama with plenty of opportunities for the audience to boo the villains and cheer on the heroes. This is a tale of the lives of hard luck gold miners, an orphan girl and villains who threaten the safety of the small prospering town of Calamity Gluch.

The Golden Chain Theater is celebrating the 56th Annual Summer Melodrama presentation with the 2023 performance season. Popcorn during the performance is free with each ticket purchased and you can take a ride up to Oakhurst for a fun afternoon of hoots and hollers at the Golden Chain Theater on July 9 at 2 p.m.

Jo Chase had a wonderful vacation and is now back taking donations for our Monthly Sale on July 1. The best time to donate items to the Treasure House is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday within the first three weeks of each month. The Scout Garden also takes plants with roots and cuttings from your garden, if they are protected from drying out from the summer heat. You are encouraged to call the Senior Center before donating plants, so we can contact our volunteer gardeners to replant as needed. Thank you for all the wonderful donations we receive from the community to support our outreach to local seniors.



In case you missed the new info last month, Madera Ranchos seniors have been invited to additional activities presented by Melanie Glass at the Art Groove Gallery in River Park. Bingo is in full swing at the Art Groove Gallery on the second Wednesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. If you like playing Bingo, come and join our senior group on July 12.

Local jewelry artisans are hosting a jewelry making class on every fourth Wednesday each month from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Art Groove Gallery. All the jewelry making supplies are provided. If you are interested in the jewelry making class on July 26 at the Art Groove Gallery, please sign up at the Senior

Center, by calling us at 645-4864. We are still on the Art Groove Gallery schedule every first Wednesday of each month for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Paint Party. The next Senior paint class is on July 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. A big thank you to Melanie Glass, director of the Art Groove Gallery at River Park for providing all of these exciting events for our local seniors.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon is on Saturday, July 15 at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon is at the Ranchos' Liberty Café in the Maywood Center on Ave. 12. Happy July Birthdays and Anniversaries to Senior Center members.

Brown Bag Day is Wednesday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is still not too late to sign up with the Madera Food Bank to participate in the Brown Bag Senior Program for July through December. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is a Brown Bag distribution center only on the third Wednesday of each month. All seniors 55 years and older can participate in the Madera Food Bank Brown Bag Program. You can call the Senior Center at 645-4864 for application forms.

Make sure to check your July Newsletter for upcoming events at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. If you don't receive our monthly newsletter through email, you can drop by the Senior Center and pick up a copy at the front desk.

Happy Independence Day from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for July: "... Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country will be righteous as well as strong." – James Bryce

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RECIPES cont. from P.8

what if after you have made it to the clubhouse your kids will want to know who Uncle Ralph's second wife was, or where did our family come from? Remember, our ancestors all came from somewhere.

Anyway, in with the papers was a newspaper clipping that I found interesting. I thought you might like to read some of it. It is all about the 1940s.

1940: A&P Supermarkets sell the first precut, cellophane wrapped meat.

1940: The first Dairy Queen opened in Juliet, Ill.

1942: Americans hoard coffee, leading to a coffee ration of 1 pound every five weeks. Sugar has already been rationed; the weekly allowance is 8 ounces per person. Meat is also rationed.

1942: The Wrigley Co. packs military K-rations that contain canned meat, four cigarettes and compressed graham biscuits,

1943: A Trumanburger, named after Harry S. and made with baked beans, is concocted in the dying days of meat rationing.

1944: Meat rationing, except for

steak, ends after D Day.

1945: Earl W. Tupper invents re-sealable food containers.

1946: Frozen french fried potatoes are introduced.

1947: Reynolds Metals Co. uses surplus aluminum from WWII to make aluminum foil.

1947: Refrigeration and suburban growth are responsible for the creation of supermarkets where all food stuffs can be found under one roof.

1947: Cake mixes from Betty Crocker and Pillsbury make their debut. The first mix is for a single layer ginger cake.

1948: V8 Cocktail Vegetable Juice is introduced by Campbell Soup Co.

1948: The process of condensing and freezing orange juice is developed but the Minute Maid Co. needs help in getting the word out. Investor John Whitney offers a glass of the juice to his golf partner Bing Crosby. Crosby loves it and buys 20,000 shares of the company and hawks the juice on radio and television. Demand for Florida orange juice quadruples.

1949: Sara Lee Cheese Cake is introduced by baker Charles Luken, who names the product for his daughter.

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The Bookshelf

Not Feeling the Heat at the Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

June has come, and with that we officially are feeling the heat and getting started with our summer. While the heat is less than desirable, it does signal the coming of our annual Summer Reading Program. We will have so many performers this year, bringing back our in-person programming — but still offering some take-home activities to continue the fun in the comfort of your own homes. We have our official performer schedule posted both on our Facebook page and our event calendar on the Madera County Library website.

The Didgeeridoo workshop on June 17 requires registration as seats are limited, but that information is on the calendar for your perusal. The funding for this program came directly from our local Friends of the Ranchos Library and a generous grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. We look forward to seeing everyone reach their reading goals over the summer and fight the summer slide.

In that same vein, the Friends of the Ranchos Library had a wonderfully successful partnership with Papi's Mex Grill by Riverstone where they shared their profits with us from all the food sales from 3 p.m. to close on May 25. We are so thankful for this opportunity and look forward to repeating this fundraiser in the future, so keep an eye out for future dates to support a local business and your local library by just getting great food.

Our recent 3D printing class was a success, and it was so fun to see everyone come by to learn some new skills. We love offering these types of opportunities to the community and will be looking for new ways to provide unique sources of enrichment to you all in the future.

We are open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. We have put a temporary hold on our weekly pre-k reading hour for the summer, but we always have a great air-conditioned space prime for studying, reading, or just relaxing. Our kids' area has little-hand friendly toys and tablets loaded with kid-friendly games. If you are looking for a book to read that we don't have on our shelves, we can always order it in — free of charge — from a local branch and we are more than happy to help you find your next great read.

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SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Lack of water - effects on Madera's farming and the future of Madera's farming business tax revenue

Although we had a banner year of rain, IT DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE OUT OF THE DROUGHT AND WATER PROBLEMS.

Madera County is relying mostly on taxes to run all services for our community. A large portion of Madera's tax budget comes from the agriculture businesses. Agriculture business relies on available water. Since California's aquifers have been overdrafted over the past years due to extended droughts and overuse, the state has implemented mandatory restrictions (through the Integrated Water Management Plan) which the County must follow. These restrictions are negatively affecting the agriculture business, to the point that some will collapse.

As an example, it takes approximately three acre-feet (36 inches) of irrigating water to farm an acre of trees. Over the years, the annual average Madera rainfall has been approximately 17 inches. That does not mean that you get 17 inches every year, especially when you are in a time of drought. Based on the new restrictions, there are new irrigating water allocations of six inches per acre. There is additional water that is temporarily available and is being reduced every year to a point where the true allocated water for farming will potentially end up at only six inches per acre per year. Farming can't be sustained with only 12 inches of water, especially when you get six inches of aquifer water and in a year of drought you may only receive six inches of rain.



The trees can't wait for a year without being irrigated.

That simply means "death" to the trees. The effects of less farming will mean less Tax Revenue to the County. How will that potential loss of tax revenue affect the County services? How soon will the County be forced to cut services? The County will have to look for other tax revenue

sources to make up the difference. A transitional phase will have to take place for our County to be able to provide all the needed services they intend to provide. Since homes use less water than trees, I assume we will be seeing more new homes being built to make up for the differences.

We all must work together and find reasonable solutions.

We at SEMCU invite all to participate at our one-hour monthly meeting on the third Monday of every month, and bring up ideas that could lead to improvement of our neighborhoods and living standards for our community. The public is invited and encouraged to offer ideas for projects to help our community.

SEMUCU convenes FOR ONLY 1 HOUR on the third Monday of every month starting at 6 p.m. SEMCU's next meeting is Monday, July 17.

For the foreseeable future, instead of convening our monthly Board meetings at the Pizza Factory, we will hold our board meetings via telephone conferencing. To participate in the board's conference meeting via telephone or video, call 312-757-3121 and you will get prompted to input the access code: 715657949#

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


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6/23



By Lucie Winborne

- The "Guinness World Records" holds the world record for being the most stolen book from public libraries.
- Some New York City taxis are actually undercover cop cars.
- Nintendo was sued and found guilty because kids were getting blisters from playing too much Mario Party.
- A cow named Cincinnati Freedom lived up to her name when she evaded police officers for 11 days after jumping a 6-foot fence to escape a slaughterhouse. Once caught, she was given the key to the city by Cincinnati's mayor and allowed to peacefully live out her remaining days in a New York sanctuary.
- Before he became the axman for Guns N' Roses, Slash auditioned for the band Poison but decided not to join when he was asked about wearing makeup.
- Persian King Agha Mohammad Khan ordered the execution of two servants for being too loud. Since it was a holy day, he postponed the event for 24 hours and made the servants return to their duties. It turned out to be an unfortunate decision, as they murdered the ruler in his sleep that very night.
- When George Washington died, Napoleon Bonaparte gave a personal eulogy and ordered a 10-day mourning period for France.
- By 1930, doping had become so prevalent and even accepted in the Tour de France that its organizers felt compelled to inform cyclists in the official rulebook that drugs would not be provided.
- Onions are the only commodity banned from futures trading in America.
- The man for whom Mount Everest was named, George Everest, didn't want the honor, pointing out that his name was difficult to write or pronounce in Hindi and that all previous Himalayan peaks were officially given indigenous names.

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Kiwanis Korner

Ranchos Kiwanis and Our Students

By Sally Rowden

Our article this month is dedicated to the students of Golden Valley Unified School District. Congratulations to all completing the 2022-2023 academic school year. Your summer break is here. Enjoy.

Continuing with acknowledging Golden Valley students, we have three categories of awards that are given out at the end of each academic school year. The first is The John Minney – Liberty High School – Scholarship Awards. The second is the Hope of America Ranchos Middle School Awards. The third is the Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster Elementary School Character Counts Bicycle Giveaway Awards.

Starting with our high school students, The John Minney – Liberty High School – Scholarship Awards recipients were Oscar B. Ferrer, Jared Nolte and Madelyn McClure. The criteria to qualify for this award is based upon the student’s GPA of 2.5 or above, activities in the community, a written personal essay telling about themselves and their goals, and providing two letters of recommendation. Congratulations to these three students each receiving a \$1,100 scholarship. Thank you, Bev Delk, our Kiwanis Chairperson leading our selection committee, in awarding these scholarships. And, thanks to Sally Rowden, our Scholarship Coordinator.

Before moving on to the next two awards, as the John Minney – Liberty High School – Scholarship Awards Coordinator, I would like to publicly thank the following individuals and/or businesses of our communities who generously donated: Britz/Sun West • C&S Auto & Truck Parts • Leslie & Bob Carella • Chad’s Trucking • Golden Valley Baptist Church • John Minney • Pistoresi Ambulance • Trigo Enterprises • Quady Winery

Again, it is with sincere thanks for

your donations that make dreams possible.

Shifting to our second award, the Hope of America Ranchos Middle School Awards for \$100 each, Vanessa Barrow and Charlie Chang were the recipients. The criteria as a recipient of this award is to display leadership qualities, ethical/moral character and academic competency. Ranchos Middle School Teachers comprise the selection committee for this award. Congratulations Vanessa and Charlie.

Then, there is our exciting Character Counts Bicycle Giveaway Awards at our three elementary schools: Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster. From Sierra View Elementary recipients are Addyson Gharibeh (5th Grade) and Ivan Tcha (4th Grade). From Stone Creek Elementary recipients are Andrea Cervantes (4th Grade) and Charlie Vick (5th Grade). And, from Webster Elementary, recipients are Aiden Anderson (4th Grade) and Jordan Wallen (6th Grade). Each of these students demonstrated academic accomplishments, leadership and good character as selected by each school’s faculty and administration. Congratulations to each of these six deserving students.

As the summer months unfold, the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos takes the time to enjoy vacations but also plan for our upcoming events during 2023-2024. If you have an interest in becoming a Kiwanian, this would be the perfect opportunity, as you would be part of the planning for our new and continued events. Know that Kiwanis Clubs are dedicated to “improving the lives of children one community at a time.” Contact Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com for further information about joining us. Or if you have ideas that you would like to share with us regarding community events, partnerships, and/or school functions.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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California Election Procedures

By Betty Van Valkenburg

The following is excerpted from the Election Integrity Project California website at www.eip-ca.com. If you are concerned about the fairness of our elections, this is the site for information. EIPCA and its website are highly acclaimed for well researched and up-to-date information and analysis of our voting system, and they offer recommendations for its reform. This is the first in a series of seven recent articles on the website that promote election "integrity". You may want to read them all!

Election Integrity Project California "On Your Honor" Part 1 of 7

Humans are the best of creatures and the worst of creatures. We are capable of

great thinking, creativity, compassion and acts of love. But we are equally capable of the most ugly, dishonest and destructive actions imaginable. So, while most of us do our best to be our best, we need limits, restrictions and laws. We need doors, fences, walls, locks, alarm systems, passwords and identification cards. We also need law enforcement, consequences, courts of law and jails.

It is unwise to trust people just because they say they can be trusted. None of us does that in our own lives, especially on things that matter to us. And yet, when it comes to California elections, everything is "On Your Honor." The state "trusts" everyone in every circumstance. This starts with registering to vote. The California voter registration form asks, "Are you a U.S. citizen?"

- If someone says "yes," the state does not check further – it takes people at their word.

- If someone says "no," the state sends them a card, basically asking, "Do you want to change your answer?"

- If someone does not answer the question, California sets the default to "yes." The state makes the registration legal, without checking further.

An honor system for something as important as U.S. citizenship harms the integrity of our elections. And the problem does not end with voter registration forms, because the state can easily register non-citizens to vote without their having to even complete these forms:

- California's New Motor Voter law mandates the state to automatically register to vote anyone interacting with the DMV, unless the individual proactively opts out.

- When the DMV transmits driver's license applications to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may automatically register non-citizens to vote because the Secretary of State does not have access to the

DMV's information regarding the applicant's citizenship.

The DMV is the best source of information for citizenship, because it requires new applicants to present a birth certificate or a passport to determine the type of license or

ID card it will issue (one for citizens, a different type for documented non-citizens, and a third type for undocumented non-citizens). Yet state law prohibits the DMV from sharing citizenship information with any state elections official, including the Secretary of State. So, whether someone completes a registration form or simply interacts with the DMV, elections officials have no way to check the citizenship status of registrants, even if they wanted to. The people in charge of our elections are flying blind in a system operated purely "on your honor."

Because of all these problems, there is no way to determine how many non-citizens are on California voter rolls, how many actively vote, or how many have their identity used by someone else to cast a vote in their name. This system is NOT a wise way to safeguard our most fundamental right as citizens: The right to choose our representatives by fair, honest and transparent elections.

This article is the first in EIPCA's series that illustrates how California's "On Your Honor" system endangers the integrity of our elections, and it barely scratches the surface of inept election practices. Please go to their website to complete your educational journey in Parts two through seven and use your newfound knowledge to work toward correcting the "holes" in our voting system. Then vote wisely in 2024.

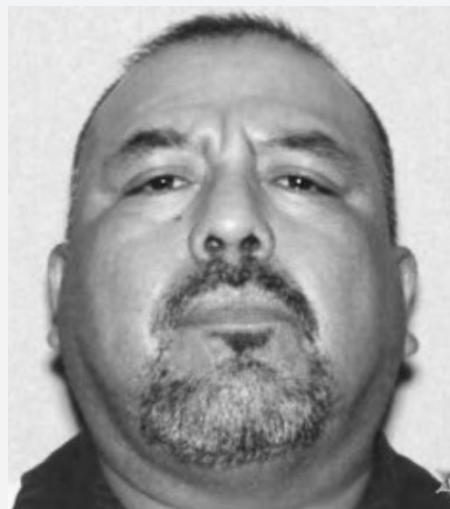
Madera Shooting Suspect Apprehended at Mexico Border

Francisco Trejo Ramirez, 51, the suspected shooter in a double homicide on Father's Day morning in Madera and the focus of a manhunt in Madera County, has been apprehended at the Mexico border as he attempted to cross into Mexico.

Ramirez is suspected of shooting and killing a father and son in Madera and injuring a third person in the early hours of Father's Day morning.

The Sheriff's department said it all happened around 4 a.m. Sunday morning, June 18, near Las Palmas Avenue and Paraiso Street in Madera. The father, who was killed, was at a home in the 23000 block of Las Palmas Avenue and was playing cards in the garage with a group of people. The son, who was also killed, was found shot dead at a separate house one block away in the 23000 block of Avenue 9. The other person shot and injured was a 15-year-old boy that appeared to know the father and son. It was unclear where the 15-year-old was and when he was shot. Sheriffs reported that he was taken to the hospital in critical condition. At present, the only connection to those involved was

a wedding where it appears that the son was a guest earlier in the day. The wed-



Francisco Trejo Ramirez, 51, who is suspected of shooting and killing a father and son in Madera and injuring a third person, has been apprehended at the Mexico border attempting to cross into Mexico.

ding was being held nearby at a home also on Avenue Nine.

Sheriffs say Ramirez was allegedly

an acquaintance of the victims and after the shooting left the scene in a silver 2007 Tacoma pickup with California license plates.

Initially, Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue was asking for the public's assistance to help locate Francisco Ramirez. Since he was believed to live in Madera and was the only suspect, the Sheriff sought the public's help, but with the caveat that Ramirez was considered armed and dangerous.

Persons fleeing the law often look at escaping to Mexico as a foolproof escape plan, possibly stemming from the mistaken belief that the United States and Mexico do not have an extradition treaty. However, the U.S. and Mexico do have a bilateral extradition treaty, first signed in 1978. Between 2003 and 2011, more than 2,000 criminals were captured and returned to the United States for prosecution, according to U.S. Marshals data.


Anyone with any additional information about this case is asked to contact Madera County Sheriff's Detectives at 559-675-7777.

BUDGET cont. from P. 3

tive – continue to outpace this revenue growth. Because of this, the County is in a quandary about maintaining high standards of service in the face of a growing population, which will ultimately result in chronic budget deficits for the General Fund.


The County is betting on bridging these deficits with very limited one-time funding, understanding that meaningful measures have to be taken to reduce services to manageable levels through staff attrition or finding additional revenue sources. Public safety departments, including the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Probation and the Fire Department, will be the most impacted by the proposed budget reductions, as their funding mainly relies on discretionary revenues. In spite of this, the Board has consistently prioritized public safety service levels when it comes to allocating limited funding. For example, discretionary revenues allocated to public safety for 2023-24 is 74 percent, up from 73 percent in 2022-23, and up significantly from 65 percent in 2017-18.

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• Purchase a large tub of cookie dough, and when you make the first batch, go ahead and portion out the remaining dough by teaspoons onto a cold cookie sheet. Freeze as balls, and then replace them in the container they came from. Refreeze. Now you can take out only as many cookies as you would like to make, and cook them straight from frozen. •



by Jo Ann Derson

"This is a tip for painting stairs. Paint every other stair. Let them dry. Then paint the other stairs. This will make your staircase usable the whole way through your paint job." -- R.L. in Michigan • Spray old artificial flowers with hair spray to make the look fresh and vibrant. • Many food containers can be reused to store personal items. Glass jars can be cleaned and labels removed. Paperboard boxes can be custom trimmed and covered with leftover wrapping paper or wallpaper. Paper milk cartons can be cleaned with soap and water, dried thoroughly then painted to hold a variety of items. Don't overlook the many possibilities in a piece of recycling or trash. • Use plain household vinegar to kill grass that grows in the cracks of walkways and driveways. • "Use bathroom fans appropriately. Make sure to turn them off. They vent air to the outside, and that includes your paid-for air conditioning, too. Close the bathroom door after showering and let the fan run for about 10 minutes. Then turn it off." -- D.A. in Texas

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		-		29			
+			-		+			
	-		x		20			
x		x		x				
	x		+		20			
26		27		10				
1	2	2	3	4	5	6	8	9

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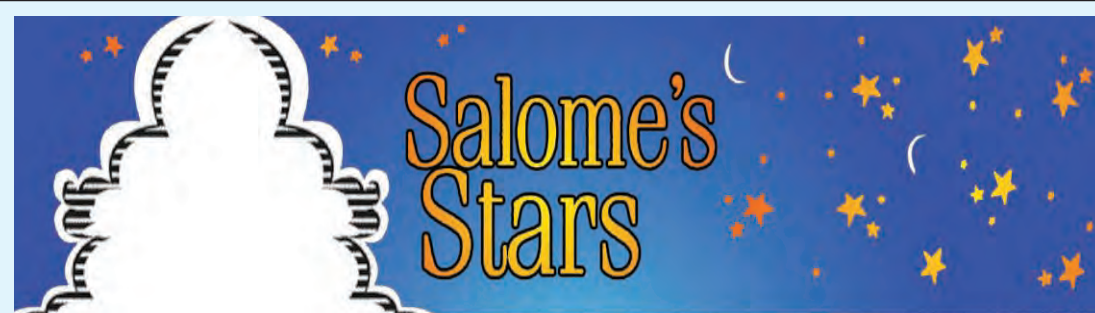
6/23

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You Ewes and Rams will find your ideas cheered by a mostly receptive flock. Those few dissenters could well be turned around by your charm and powers of persuasion.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's time for the bold and beautiful Bovine to shake off the dust of the past and shape up new ideas for the future. This could surprise some folks, but they'll soon adjust.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Those nagging new doubts about an upcoming decision should alert you to step back (at least temporarily) so you can reassess its potential impact from a new perspective.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) That unpleasant situation you hoped would go away by itself needs immediate attention before it affects an upcoming decision. Expect your supporters to rally around your cause.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're moving up and away from that recent setback. But remain cautious about finances. An exercise in thrift today helps cushion a possible end-of-the-month money squeeze.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're still dealing with overtones of pessimism that cause you to doubt your ability to make some needed changes. But the negative pressures will ease up by week's end.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) There could be some fallout from the way you handled a recent family problem. But those who know that you were in the right won't hesitate to step in on your behalf.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Financial strains ease by week's end. Meanwhile, focus on cultivating that new relationship if you hope to have it blossom into something more meaningful.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Health matters once again dominate the week. Be careful not to ignore recurrences of an old problem. An almost-forgotten commitment resurfaces.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The emergence of an unusual selfish streak could dismay those close to you. Defy it -- don't justify it -- so you can become your gracious self again.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Reassess your decision to stay with the status quo. It might seem like the sensible thing to do right now, but changes around you could make that choice a risky one.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Move decisively, but cautiously, when dealing with a delicate personal matter. The fewer mistakes you make now, the less likely it is that the problem will recur later on.

Born this Week

You can find beauty where many cannot, and you enjoy sharing your discoveries with others.

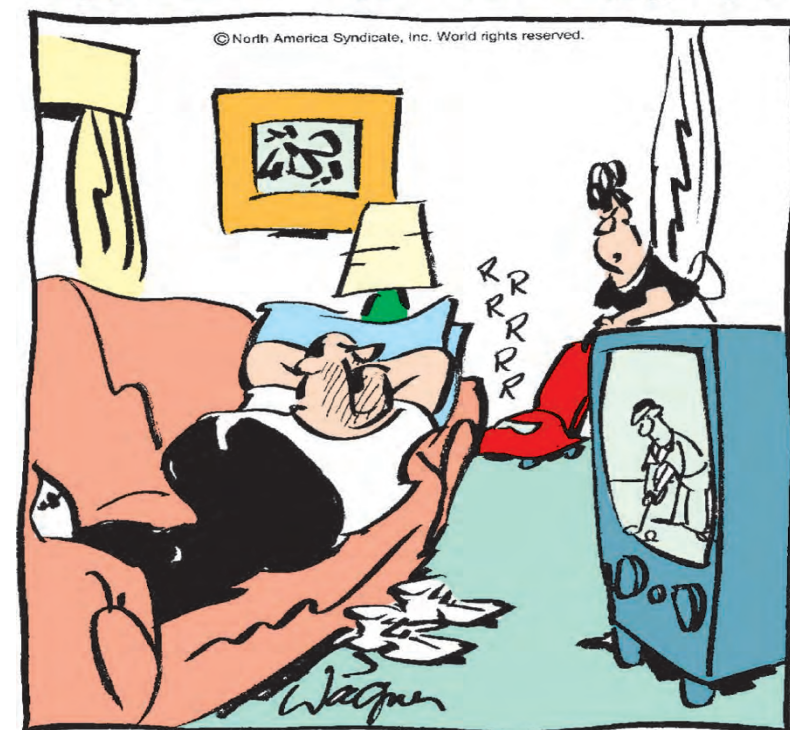
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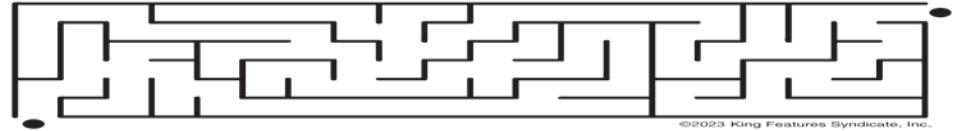
GRIN and BEAR IT © Wagner



“Don't do that while he's putting!”

FUN PAGES

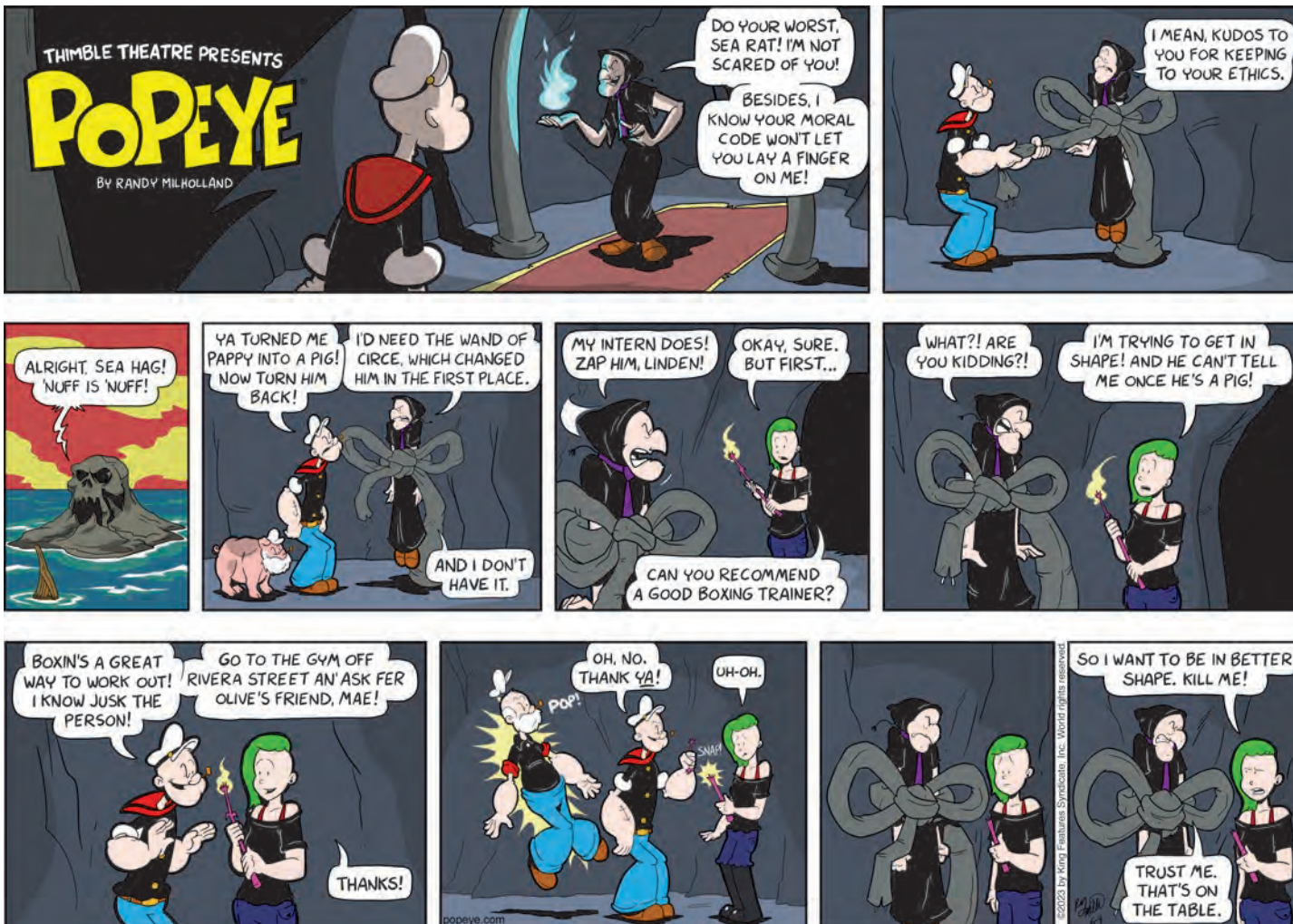
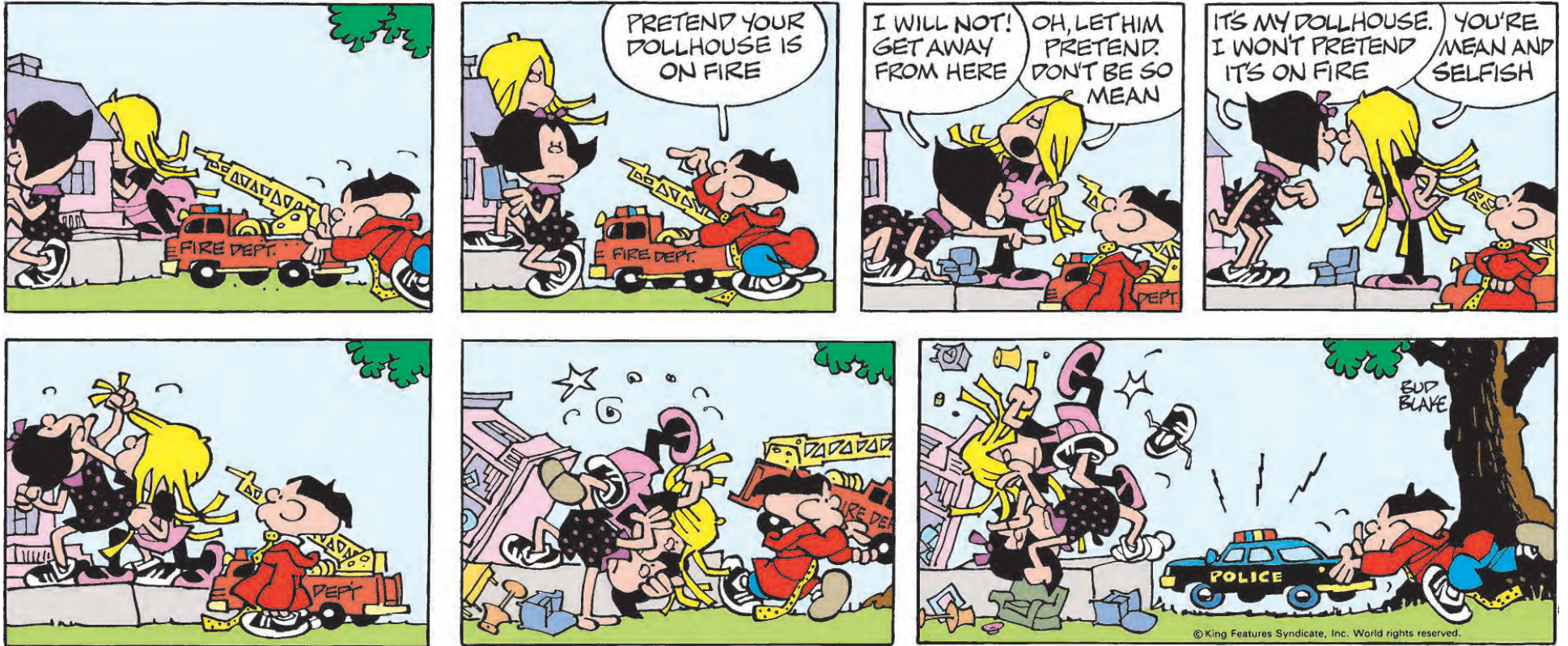
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fiji Rodriguez

1. **MOVIES:** Who voiced Darth Vader in the first three "Star Wars" movies? 2. **TELEVISION:** Which was the first TV show to react to the 9/11 attack? 3. **LITERATURE:** Who is the youngest Nobel Prize for literature winner? 4. **HISTORY:** Where did Anne Frank live before being discovered? 5. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is the tallest breed of dog? 6. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is the national dish of Spain? 7. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which is the city that also is the smallest country in the world? 8. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which holiday is considered the Jewish New Year? 9. **ANATOMY:** What are the bones in the fingers called? 10. **ASTRONOMY:** How many primary phases of the moon exist?

10. Four.
9. Phalanges.
8. Rosh Hashanah.
7. Vatican City.
6. Paella.
5. Great Dane.
4. Amsterdam.
3. Rudyard Kipling.
2. "The West Wing."
1. James Earl Jones.

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



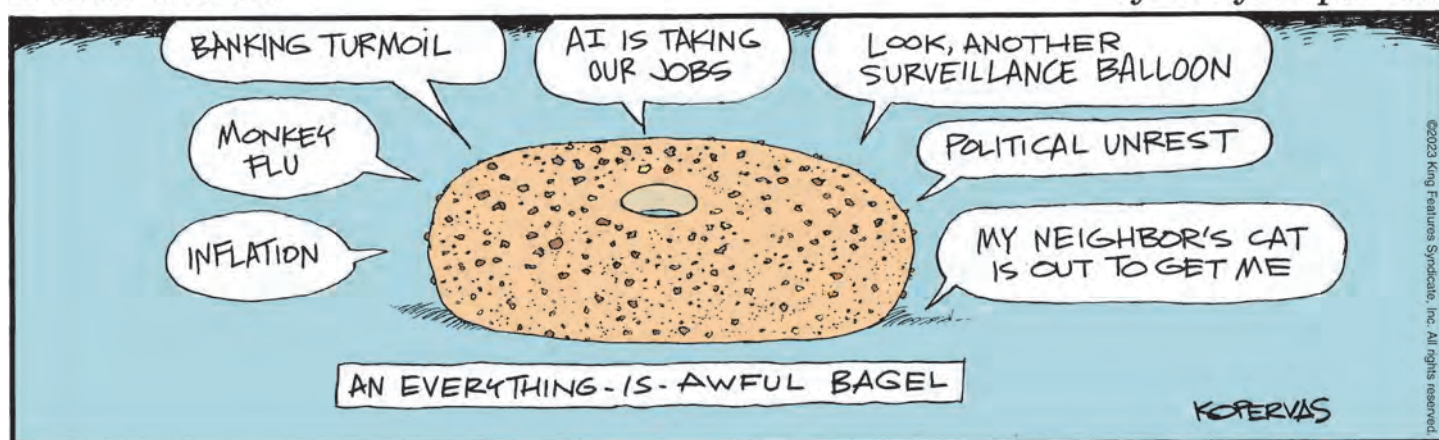
Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



FUN PAGES



1. Name the artist who wrote and re-released "The Happiest Girl in the Whole U.S.A."
2. Which artist released "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine"?
3. The video for which Boy George and Culture Club song was filmed aboard a riverboat?
4. Which duo wrote and re-released "She's Gone"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I live my life the way, To keep you coming back to me, Everything I do is for you."

...sponses on Total Request Live. tion but reentered after the phone-in re-want to air the video due to the shirt por-shirts and continued filming. MTV didn't ing of the video, the boys took off their 1996. When it began to rain during film-My Heart), "Quit Playing Games (with in 1973. 5. "Daryl Hall and John Oates, England. 4. Daryl Hall and John Oates, filmed at Desborough Island near Surrey, "Karma Chameleon," in 1983. It was the R&B and easy listening charts. 3. his career, ending up at the top of both Lou Rawls, in 1976. The song opened up ney for one specific line in the lyrics. 2. denied, was that Fargo was sued by Dis-1. Donna Fargo, in 1972. A rumor, later

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: GARMENTS FOR THE FEET

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Allison | Goldsboro | McFerrin | Unser |
| Bowden | Hull | Orr | Valentine |
| Darin | Jindal | Pin | Vinton |
| Fischer | Jones | Riggs | |

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