

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

Who wants crab? Everybody!

Volunteer John Addington keeps the crab coming at
the SOLD OUT 15th Annual Golden Valley
Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed



Photo courtesy of John Glueck

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The 15th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

Another sold-out Crab Feed was held on Friday, March 2. The Dante Club in Fresno provided the backdrop to over 260 people enjoying crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert. *(All photos courtesy of John Glueck)*



Can you say sold out? Over 260 people went crab crazy.



In the kitchen, Ollia Ridge put the finishing touches on her salad.



The silent auction got a lot of attention as the night progressed.



D.A. candidate Sally Moreno talks with Supervisor Brett Frazier.



Sheriff Varney was there, donating his world-class fudge for auction.



Johnny Tacherra was there enjoying crab while he runs for the senate.



Before the crab, Don Foster kept the gallons of pasta coming.



John Addington was a crab delivering machine at the Crab Feed.



Virginia Vick goes over some auction items with Perry Watkins.



Another attraction was the 50/50 raffle, netting someone over \$700.



Chamber President Bill Whyman, center, discussing the event.



Perry Watkins handled the auctioneering duties flawlessly.

Madera Jail Lawsuit Means Less ICE Cooperation

By Randy Bailey

On Valentine's Day, Madera County and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) settled a lawsuit that claimed the Board of Supervisors met behind closed doors to make the decision that the Madera County jail would increase its cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); this after California's decision to become a "sanctuary state" and NOT cooperate with ICE. The alleged closed-door meeting would be in violation of the Brown Act that calls for open public meetings. The lawsuit brought against the County never reached a verdict. Although the ACLU claimed there was a violation of the Brown Act, Madera County argued no violation ever happened and ultimately the matter was resolved by agreeing to a settlement that entailed paying the legal fees the ACLU had incurred. An additional part of the settlement was that Madera County's Chief of Corrections, Manuel Perez, had to prepare a report specifically detailing exactly how the County jail interacts with ICE. As a result of the settlement, Madera County paid the ACLU \$32,500 for its attorney's fees and now County officials are



saying they are going out of their way to avoid cooperating with ICE.

At a Madera County Board of Supervisors meeting held March 13, Perez said the jail is not communicating or working closely with ICE unless an inmate is identified by a federal database as the result of fingerprints. Perez said their ICE cooperation is limited to the state's sanctuary state law and requests by ICE agents for full access to inmates are refused unless the inmate in question is in the above-mentioned database. The main thrust of the sanctuary law for local law enforcement is the prohibition of holding inmates based on their immigration status and then sharing that information with federal law enforcement, namely ICE.

The ACLU filed the lawsuit in July of 2017. According to the lawsuit, Madera County District Attorney David Linn issued an order to Perez to both fully agree to all ICE requests and then make ICE agents aware of any undocumented immigrants being held in the Madera County jail. Madera County responded that the statements issued by Linn were neither accurate or authorized, and there was no activity in any closed session that would violate the Brown Act.

DA Linn, Wife Want \$15 Million From County

By Randy Bailey

Madera County District Attorney David Linn, and his wife Betty Linn, have filed claims for damages against Madera County for a total of \$15 million. They claim the damages against them are the result of a public censure of David Linn by the Madera County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 27 of last year in response to an investigation into claims concerning sexist, racial and abusive conduct by the district attorney in the District Attorney's office.

In his complaint, Linn claims he has been subjected to a hostile work environment and has suffered damages as a result of the "... intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress ..." from the Board's action. He further states in his claim that he has suffered "... loss of reputation, loss of future income, bodily and emotional injury causing him to suffer



Madera County's District Attorney, David Linn, along with his wife Betty, is seeking \$15 million in damages from Madera County.

mental anguish, physical and emotional injuries." He also claims that the censure and the corresponding activity surrounding it were designed to interfere with his ability to run for re-election.

In Linn's claim, his list of witnesses included "... all persons in attendance at the [Board of Supervisors] meeting of November 27, 2017, as well as any persons in the Madera-Fresno news market." He is asking for damages in the amount of \$10 million.

Linn's wife, Betty, has also filed a complaint, stating that she suffered from the "... illegal and wrongful release of

Please see D.A. on P. 18

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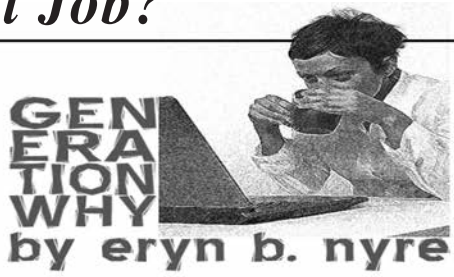


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“Is This Your First Job?”

When I was younger I always wanted a catch phrase. Michelle had “*You got it, dude.*” Urkel had “*Did I do that?*” The Fonz had “*Heeyyyyyyy.*” It took me a few decades, but I finally got one and it’s “*Is this your first job?*” Okay, it’s not great, but it’s mine. I actually hadn’t realized it was my catch phrase until one of my employees presented it to me in a picture frame. She said if I put it on my desk for everyone to read maybe I won’t have to say it so often. Also ... I wouldn’t have to say it so often if more people had been properly prepared for adulthood, but that’s neither here nor there. For a little fun, let’s have a looksee at the top three times I had to use my handy dandy catch phrase.

Third Place: The gentleman who didn’t think clocking in and out appropriately was his problem. This young man, who was actually quite polite despite being exceedingly stupid,



... the young man who stomped through the main bullpen area of our office demanding to speak to the “Super President” ... You read that right. Not just the company president, but the “Super President.”

asked for a moment of my time to discuss why his paycheck was always short. After some quick research it was because he consistently forgot to clock out for his shifts, then didn’t come in to correct the issue. After delivering my standard “we can’t pay you for a shift if we don’t know the exact amount of time you worked it” speech (it’s a good one – I plan on whipping it out at dinner parties) he still didn’t get. To him he should just get paid the same exact amount every week regardless of his ability to, you know, prove he actually worked the hours in question. The second delivery of my famous speech didn’t really make an impact either, but

Please see GEN WHY on P. 6

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"I am running for District Attorney to provide leadership, reestablish trust with our law enforcement partners, and reorganize an office that is flourishing. We have had significant turnover in the last four years. We need a D.A. that is a leader and a prosecutor. I was asked by my colleagues, members of the criminal justice community, and business owners to run for office to restore integrity and leadership to the office of District Attorney."- **Paul Hornick**

GEN WHY cont. from P. 4

he moved on to blaming the timeclock software for the issue saying that he tried to clock out and if it didn't work it's not his problem. Why would it be your problem? It's only your paycheck that's short. So, I asked: "Is this your first job?"

Second Place: Goes to the angry caller who couldn't adequately read a calendar. When the quietest of my payroll reps shuffled into my office and told me that he had a caregiver on the phone yelling at him I just assumed the caregiver said, "gosh darn it" and it was more than my employee could handle. Turns out, the caller was actually yelling. He was absolutely enraged that we had the audacity to hold his paycheck. Who did we think we were? I mean, really. No reputable company would ever hold someone's pay. As I tried to explain to him that we didn't hold his pay, he just hadn't worked a shift during the date range of the pay period, he got louder and added more colorful language to his tirade. His mom should be proud. The issue was that he had started working for us on February first. The paycheck he thought we were holding was issued on February fifth. Since the date range for the paycheck in question ended nearly a week before he worked his first shift, and payroll for that same check was processed and completed two days before he worked his first shift, there was simply no way we could have paid him at that point. Try as I might, I could not get him to understand so I asked: "Is this your first job?"

And the First Place prize goes to the young man who

stomped through the main bullpen area of our office demanding to speak to the "Super President" of the company about our poor business practices. You read that right. Not just the company president, but the "Super President." This is one rung above president but about four rungs below Supreme Mugwump of the World. This guy meant business. It took two managers to coral him in a conference room to get him to calm down enough to explain the situation. This young man was absolutely livid because the company was blatantly stealing from him. I've been accused of maliciously holding time cards, messing up paychecks and being unable to count, but stealing ... this was new. Once I managed to unpack the issue it turns out really it was the government that was stealing because he hadn't given us his permission to take taxes out of his paycheck. Well, hey, I'm with you there, but until we manage to get a law passed outlawing the income tax, unfortunately we don't really get a choice in the matter. And frankly, you did agree - you took a job and filled out an I9 form. So, there's that. Despite spending over an hour with him, we actually couldn't convince him. He was adamant and decided he was going to go home and tell him mom and have her come down and talk to the "Super President." So, I asked: "Is this your first job?" In this case, it actually was. Still, I think maybe he wasn't adequately prepared for the real world and I sort of hoped his mom really would come in so I could have a chat with her about that. She didn't, but hey, at least I have a catch phrase.

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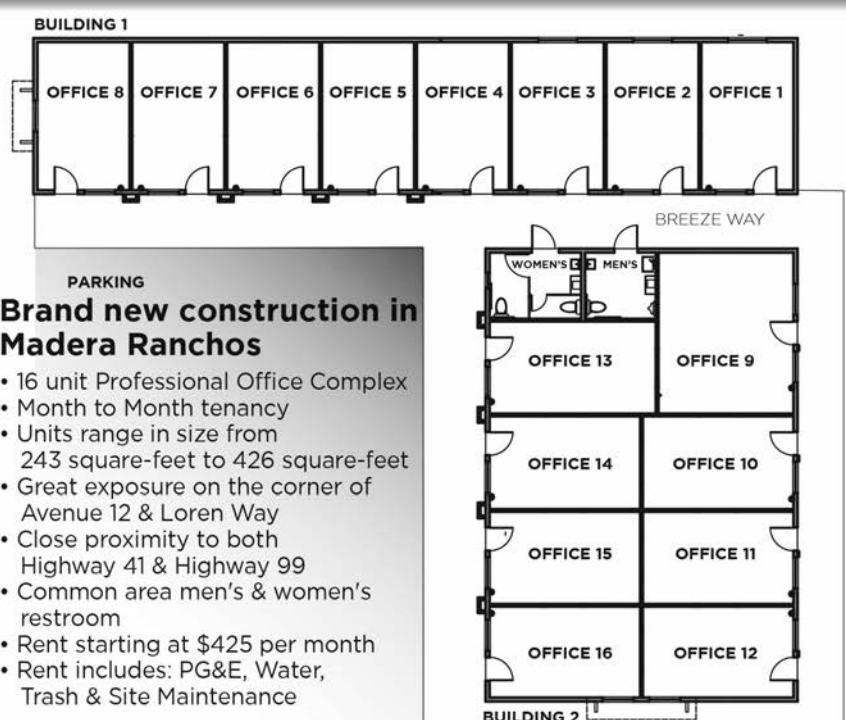


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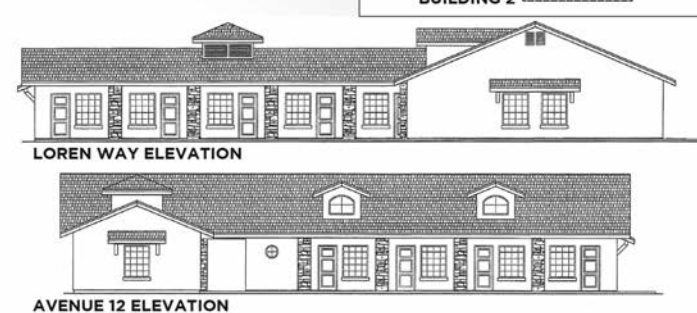
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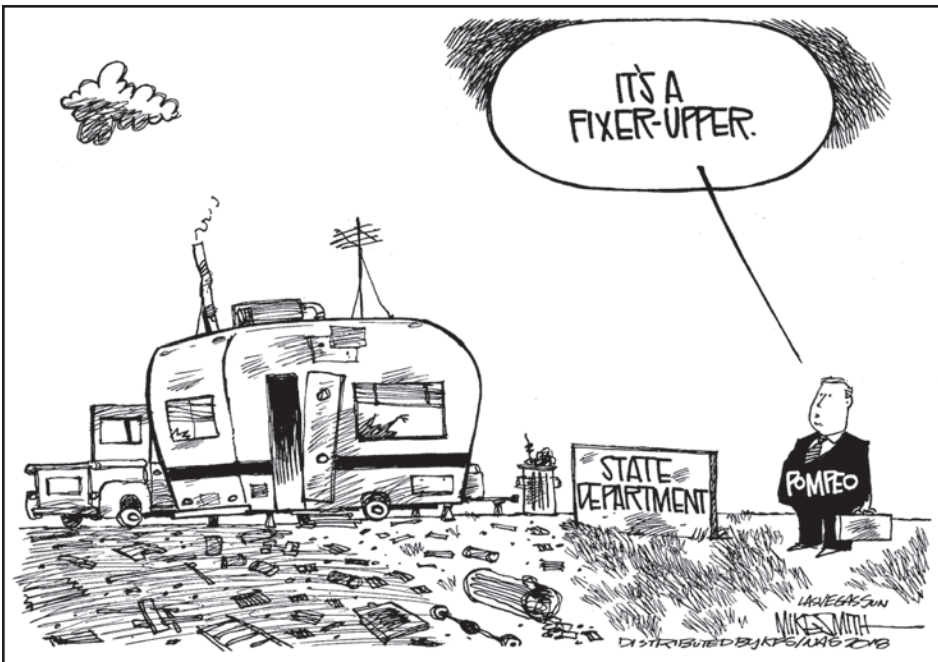
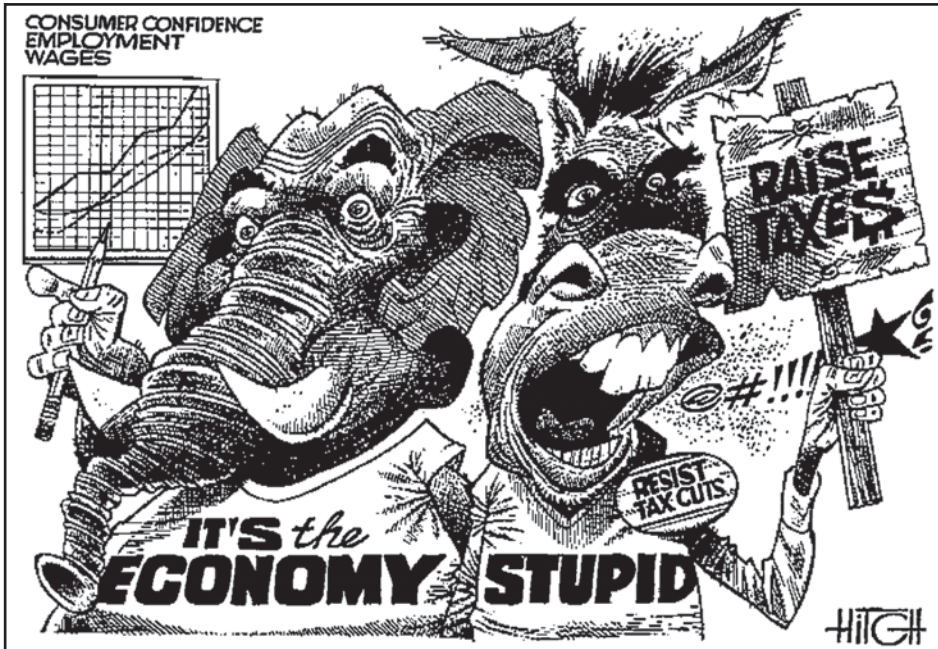


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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*



Editorial

Not Racist? Not So Fast ...

By Randy Bailey

We may be doomed. According to Paul Joseph Watson, writing in the *D.C. Clothesline*, "... an official University of California list of racist 'microaggressions' asserts that saying 'I'm not racist' is racist.

Let's try that again. "... saying 'I'm not racist' is racist." I remember a few years ago when the "homophobic" label was introduced. I was confused.

No one I knew that disagreed with the "homosexual lifestyle" was afraid of homosexuals ("phobic" after all meant "a persistent fear of an object or situation"), as much as they disagreed with it as a choice for themselves. One guy I knew suggested that "homorepugno" was more accurate, meaning "I resist homosexuality." But then the creators of the term came out with the revelation that homophobic people were pretty much all secretly gay. They were gay to such a degree that their only outlet was to be stridently anti-gay.

Confused yet? There was a great scene in the movie *The Life of Brian*, Monty Python's look at people's misunderstanding of religion, where a group has mistaken Brian for the Messiah. They call out to him, calling "Hail, Messiah!" to which he responds, "I'm NOT the Messiah! Will you please listen?! I'm not the Messiah, do you un-

derstand?! Honestly! I'm NOT the Messiah!"

Someone in the crowd puts two and two together and responds, "Only the true Messiah denies His divinity!" to which a perplexed Brian says, "What?! Well, what sort of chance does that give me?! All right, I am the Messiah!"

In unison the crowd screams, "He is! He IS the Messiah!"

Logic would dictate (as if you could use logic in these cases) that a proclamation that "I'm not a racist" being met with the conclusion that you ARE a racist, that the opposite would yield an opposite conclusion. By taking Brian's lead and saying, "All right, I am a racist!" should set the record straight, however it's of course going to be met with, "See? We knew it."

In the novel *1984*, author George Orwell introduces us to a dystopian future where the government is all powerful and one of the tools it uses to maintain its power is something called "doublethink." Orwell describes it as: "*The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously and accepting both of them. To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them; to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just as long as it is needed; to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies — all this is indispensably necessary. Even in using the word doublethink it is necessary to exercise doublethink. For by using the word one admits that one is tampering with reality; by a fresh act of doublethink one erases this knowledge and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth.*" The perfect example in the book are the three slogans of the all-powerful "Party": *War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, and Ignorance is Strength.*

That's how "they" will eventually win. They will use our own language against us until we are backed into a philosophical corner from which we can't escape. We've already turned an unborn baby into an "unviable tissue mass," re-defined "marriage" as the joining of ANY number of persons, places or things, and increased the number of genders for living organisms daily to satisfy the needs of some very needy individuals. Now you can add claiming to not being a racist as rock-solid proof that you definitely ... well ... are one.

Yeah, we may be doomed.

The Ranchos Independent

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**Aunt Jean's
Ranchos
Recipes**

by Jean Briner

Happy Easter

I just looked at the March calendar and it is full of special dates. Did you turn your clock forward an hour and get to church on time? And in just a few days it will be the first day of spring. Then the best one of all: EASTER! Yes, I know it's April Fool's Day, but close enough.

I love Easter. I probably tell you that every year, but it excites me. It is my absolute favorite holiday. To know that God gave his only son for US – WOW! Easter *next year* will be on April 21. I sure wish they (whoever "they" are) would make Easter the same Sunday of every year like Mother's Day. I know it has something to do with the Equinox, but I understand that about as well as I understand trigonometry. Maybe I'll write to President Trump.

We don't have any little ones to hide Easter eggs anymore, but that doesn't stop our gang. Last year, the cousins hid eggs with boyfriends and girlfriends (I think there were 12 or 15 of them out there and the youngest was 17). They had a blast. They hid the eggs two or three times and I think they only lost one. I hope they continue doing that for a long time.

And Easter baskets – what fun. One year it was baskets, another year sand pails and shovels. Not a whole lot of sand in Chowchilla, but lots of dirt. Both my brothers were still at home and young enough to get in on the goodies. What good memories.

What to fix for Easter dinner? Most everyone I know fixes ham, but there are other things to fix and do. If the weather is nice, how about a backyard BBQ or a picnic? Growing up, our favorite spot for a picnic was Lake Yosemite, a few miles east of Merced. In fact, we celebrated my 18th birthday there.

If you are staying home, how about

lamb? Growing up I don't ever remember my Mom cooking lamb. The first time I ate lamb was in the Iran restaurant down in the Farmers Market in Fresno. I believe there is an Office Depot on that corner now. Anyway, I thought it was pretty good. Then when I was working for Rod Stock, he had an associate for a time named Joe.

When Joe retired, he and his wife moved to Hanford to be close to their daughter. They invited me down to spend the weekend. When I walked in the door I could smell this wonderful aroma, but I couldn't figure it

out. I didn't want to be rude and say "Hey, what are we having for dinner?" When we sat down to dinner, she had cooked a leg of lamb that had a thin crust of dried oregano all over it. It was delicious. She served little red potatoes, green peas and a green salad with it, with the most delicious French dressing. I brought part of the roast and that salad dressing recipe home with me. When our family is having a dinner that I know

there will be a green salad, I always make this dressing. I think I have given you this recipe before, but it is well worth repeating.

Deluxe French Dressing

- 3 T sugar
- 2 T vinegar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 4 T catsup
- ¾ C oil
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- Dash of garlic powder

Combine all ingredients in a pint jar and shake vigorously or use an immersion blender.

My brother Lloyd used to bring me things to cook for him. His favorites were Reuben Meatloaf or Lamb Shanks. The first time he brought lamb shanks I asked him if he was crazy. I didn't know exactly what they were and had never cooked them. I searched cookbooks and found a recipe that looked fairly simple and cooked them. They turned out really good and I still have that recipe.

Lamb Shanks with Tomatoes

- 4 lamb shanks, trimmed
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, minced

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

I pray that each of you and your family have a Blessed Easter. Remember:

*Low in the grave He lay,
Up from the grave He arose!
HAPPY EASTER!*

*Easter with
Flipside*

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

- ¾ C chicken stock
- 2 (14.5 oz.) cans diced tomatoes
- ¼ C chopped parsley

Heat a large Dutch oven over medium high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Sprinkle lamb with salt and pepper. Put lamb in pot and cook four or five minutes on all sides until browned. Remove lamb from pan. Add garlic to pan and sauté for 15 seconds. Add stock to pan and cook for two minutes, scraping little brown bits from bottom of pan. Stir in tomatoes and cook for two minutes. Return lamb to pan, cover and reduce heat, and simmer for one hour. Turn lamb over and continue cooking until lamb is tender, about another hour. Take lamb out of pan and place on a platter, cover loosely with foil. Skim fat from top of sauce, bring sauce to a boil and cook until thickened, about 10 minutes. Place lamb back in pot and cook until lamb is heated. Add the parsley.

Unless you have a special lemon meringue pie or coconut cake that you usually serve for Easter, I would suggest one we like. In fact, whenever my niece was coming to visit her Grandma she would always know that a Republican Dessert was going to be waiting for her. The official name for this dessert is

Chocolate Layered Dessert but the recipe was given to us as Republican Dessert, supposedly because it's "so rich." It is also known as "The Next Best Thing to Robert Redford Dessert."

Republican Dessert

For the Crust: Preheat oven to 350. Mix one cup of flour, half a cup of margarine or butter, two tablespoons of sugar and a half a cup of finely chopped nuts. Mix to consistency of coarse sand. Press into the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Allow to cool.

First Layer: Blend one 8 oz. package of softened cream cheese with one cup of powdered sugar. Mix in one cup of frozen whipped topping (Cool Whip) from a 9 oz. container. Spread mixture on the cooled crust.

Second Layer: Mix one package (5 ½ oz.) of chocolate instant pudding mix with 2 ½ cups of cold milk until well blended and thick. Pour over cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate until firm.

Top: Spoon on remaining Cool Whip and smooth with a spatula. Sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired. Freeze until ready to serve.

I pray that each of you and your family have a Blessed Easter. Remember:

*Low in the grave He lay,
Up from the grave He arose!
HAPPY EASTER!*

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What's Behind Door Number 1213?

A comic strip shows an older man with his walker standing beside his son in front of an open storage unit door, contents spilling out. The caption reads, "One day, son, all this will be yours."

In my 10+ years of organizing, I've never heard someone speak with fond remembrance

In my 10+ years of organizing, I've never heard someone speak with fond remembrance about the process of clearing a deceased parent's home, much less a storage unit that held all the stuff their parents could live without but couldn't part with.

about the process of clearing a deceased parent's home, much less a storage unit that held all the stuff their parents could live without but couldn't part with.

From its humble beginnings in the 1960s, the self-storage industry has grown to an annual revenue of \$38 billion.

While some units are used for business purposes or temporary use, many are storing the over-flow of personal households, leading Tom Vanderbilt to refer to these units as "The catacombs of consumerism" in his article Self-Storage Nation.

You may not be contributing to Derrel's Mini Storage empire, but you likely know someone who is. If you share this info, they might take you out to dinner with the money they save. Here are some questions to consider before paying next month's rent:

How is having the stuff in storage benefiting you? Not, how did it benefit you in the past when you were using it, but how is it benefiting you now to store it?

What feelings are aroused when making the monthly/quarterly payments? Are you happy to be paying that monthly fee because the items you're storing are worth so much more to you than \$700-\$1000 per year?

What's in your unit? Do you remember?

Having helped a number of clients close down storage units this past year, I can almost guarantee that if you've had it awhile, you're not sure what's in it.

What's your long-term plan for the items you're storing? Is it to wait until it becomes your children's problem?

If storing things for your adult children, have you asked them if they want those items? If they do, what's the time-frame for passing them along?

When would be a better time to open it up and check things out, when it's 75 or 105 degrees?

You get the picture. There's no better time than now to open up that puppy and begin the purge. Here's how to do it:

1. Schedule a date(s) and stick to it.
2. Have an able-bodied partner to help you.
3. Bring garbage bags labeled "Trash" and "Recycle."

4. Bring a folding table and chairs if you have lots of boxes to sort through or bring the

boxes home for sorting. (You may prefer to do it there, if they're dirty.)

5. While sorting, identify larger items and boxes for donation with a certain colored sticky note. Use a different colored note for items to return home. That way, if you don't finish the

project in a day, you can easily see what's been previously sorted, and what's left to do.

6. Before bringing an item back home, think through where it will land. If you don't have a place for it, consider letting it go, or letting something else go to make space for the more valuable item.

7. If, at the end, your donation pile is more than what will fit in your car, consider scheduling an appointment with a thrift store to meet you there and pick it up.

8. If you have items belonging to others, give them notice that you're not renewing your unit after a specific date, so they can retrieve their things.

9. Schedule a weekend away a few months after closing your unit to celebrate a better way to use your finances.

Contact *Organized by Choice* (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also visit www.organizedbychoice.com.

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 6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

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 645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
 36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

LEGAL NOTICE

"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2018."

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

FORMER POLICE OFFICER AND ARMY VETERAN

SALLY

— ORME ★ MORENO —

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Former Police Officer



Army Veteran



Tough Prosecutor

Vote Sally Orme Moreno for District Attorney

Paid for by Moreno for Madera County District Attorney, 2018
201 South D Street #825 Madera, CA 93638 FPPC#1395640

3/18

Senior Report

Seniors' Home & Garden Show Almost Here

By Margaret Tynan

Spring has sprung and it's time for the 26th Annual Ranchos/Hills Seniors Home and Garden Festival to be held on Saturday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 37330 Berkshire Dr. A wonderful day is planned for the community. Come early for continental breakfast served from 7 to 9:30 a.m., then spend time visiting the various booths and displays.

Mary Thompson and a team of member volunteers have prepared a variety of trees, plants and shrubs for sale. Chat with Master Gardeners Kathy Eisele and Harry Rogoff who are there to answer your gardening questions

and help with planting ideas. Volunteers of the Madera County Master Gardener Program, they are trained by the University of California Cooperative Extension in landscaping and gardening appropriate to the San Joaquin Valley's growing conditions. Harry is a Madera Ranchos resident and his home has been featured in garden tours. They shared that there is a demonstration garden open to the public behind the Madera Community College Center on Avenue 12.

Here at the Festival many specialty items such as crafts, jewelry and more will be available at the various booths of private vendors and you

can pick up information from local businesses and health and community organizations. Stop at the SEMCU booth and pick up a FREE low-flow shower head and faucet aerator to help conserve our precious water during the drought. There is also information regarding rebates on the purchase of water conserving washing machines. Be sure to visit the Boutique where Carol Wood and others will help you find lovely unique decorative and antique items. The Treasure House will be open fea-

turing housewares, clothing, toys, books and much more. See Josie Turner and the member volunteers for assistance in finding that special treasure. Take a lunch break and visit the BBQ booth where Steve Santoro is flipping burgers and grilling hot dogs between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. And of course, satisfy your sweet tooth with delicious fresh baked goodies made by members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors.

We are very happy to announce a new addition to the festivities: Music. Music, music, music. Come do a two-step, a waltz or maybe a line dance to the acoustic guitar of "Little Dan" Cabral who will be playing country music beginning at 11 a.m. Dan, another resi-

dent of the Ranchos, has played for more than 45 years and was the winner of the Bakersfield Country Music Award. He also played with the San Joaquin Gun Slingers Band. We are so excited that he is joining the Festival.

Madera Ranchos Boy Scout Troop 118 is volunteering their time to help with the Festival again this year. Their generous involvement is very much appreciated. A big "Thank you" to all the Center members and the community for all their support making the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Home and Garden Festival possible. Come join us for a lovely way to greet the Spring. We'll see you there.

A reminder: Sign up at the Center for the free Improvisation classes with Mike Beevers. Classes are open to adults in the community and will be held on four consecutive Mondays, April 30, May 7, 14 and 21 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Center.

Thoughts for April: *"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden."* - Ruth Stout

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." - Margaret Atwood



Ranchos/Hills Senior Center members Josie Turner (far left) and Jo Chase (far right) get items ready for the upcoming Annual Home & Garden Festival at the Center on Saturday, April 7.



Kay Gilkinson (left), Ann Johns and Inderbir Dhillon admire the lovely items in the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Boutique that will be available at the Home & Garden Festival.

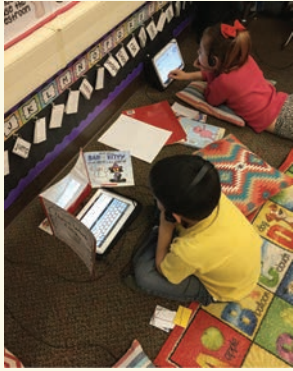


Webster Improves Test Scores

Webster Elementary School continues to make impressive academic gains, particularly in mathematics and English-Language Arts on assessments.

On the most recent state assessments, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, the percentage of students meeting, or exceeding, math standards rose by 13 percent and six percent in English-language arts. Webster Elementary students had one of the highest percent proficiency and growth in mathematics in Madera County.

More impressively, the most recent state Five-by-Five Placement Report indi-



icates that Webster has made significant growth in math and English language arts, while significantly decreasing the number of students' suspensions.

One of the reasons for the improvement is an innovation in first grade with flexible seating while integrating technology and core curriculum to maximize student engagement. Another way to help improve the test scores was through a thriving music education program, available during the school day for students in the third through sixth grades. Students also have multiple opportunities to get involved in the school's formal and informal sports teams.

DISTRICT WIDE CALENDAR GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018/2019

JULY - 2018							AUG - 2018							SEPT - 2018						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
29	30	31											30							

OCT - 2018							NOV - 2018							DEC - 2018						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	29	30	31										30							

JAN - 2019							FEB - 2019							MAR - 2019						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

APR - 2019							MAY - 2019							JUNE - 2019						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	29	30											30							

7/4	Fourth of July Holiday	12/31	New Year's Eve
8/13-8/15	Staff Development	1/1	New Year's Day
8/16	Students' First Day of School	1/21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
9/3	Labor Day	2/11 & 2/18	Presidents' Days
11/12	Veteran's Day (observed)	4/15-4/22	Spring Break
11/19-11/23	Fall Break	5/27	Memorial Day
12/24-1/11	Winter Break	6/7	Students' Last Day of School
12/24-12/25	Christmas Eve/Day		

☒ All Holidays
 ■ Student Break
 { } Staff Development
 □ Board Meetings

85 days 1st semester
 95 days 2nd semester
 180 school days

Board Approved: January 30, 2018

TIME TO WAKE FROM YOUR SIESTA AND JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY

FIESTA FUN RUN

FUNDRAISER RIGHT HERE IN THE RANCHOS!

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 5TH (CINCO DE MAYO)

WHO: OPEN TO ALL

WHAT: 5K RUN OR WALK AND A KIDS MINI SPRINT

WHERE: STARTS AT THE LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

HOW: VISIT WWW.RUNSIGNUP.COM/FIESTA FUN RUN

TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE DETAILS!
REGISTER EARLY BEFORE PRICES GO UP ON APRIL 9

3/18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, (John 3:16)

Why?

ANSWER...

Do you Love your children? If they were in danger what would you do to save them? Now do you get it? Set an example for your children by coming to God's house this Easter. Sunrise Service 7am followed by a Free pancake breakfast or come to our 10:30 service.

Golden Valley
BAPTIST CHURCH
the Ranchos first church

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(Corner 37 & Cloverleaf)

3/18

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3/18



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SEMUCU speaks

By Sarbjit Johal

Three years ago, on January 1, 2015, California began implementing the first-ever Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the state. Governor Brown had signed the Act the previous year in September 2014 following years of severe drought, cuts in federal allocations of water to farmers and over-drafting of groundwater. Among the aims of SGMA are preventing reductions in groundwater storage, degraded water quality, land subsidence and surface water depletions that adversely impact beneficial users. The aim is to bring aquifers to sustainability in 20 years after Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) are approved. In all of this, the legislative aim of SGMA was to maintain local control.

What has been done so far locally to comply

with SGMA? Madera County established a new Department of Water and Natural Resources. Seven organizations in the Madera sub-basin have formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) as required by SGMA. On November 1, 2017, these GSAs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate to develop a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for this part of the Madera sub-basin.

Now you could say that we cannot wait 20 years because groundwater levels are dropping and will continue to drop, but we

“SEMUCU has already led in the drive to sustainability. It has provided resources to 93636 zip code residents to build dry wells ... install low-flow shower and bathroom hardware ... energy efficient and water-saving washing machines ... installing water meters ...”

have to start immediately and SGMA lays out a plan to do so. Madera County has proposed a project to install groundwater well monitoring wells in the Madera sub-basin. The sustainability of the Madera sub-basins

will progressively increase during those 20 years, thereby reducing the problems.

The state of California recognizes the critical nature of the problem because the State Department of Water Resources released a map as required by SGMA identifying the most critical areas of over-draft. Madera is one of those areas is as much of the San Joaquin Valley floor from Stockton to the Tehachapis. These areas have the greatest priority and responsibilities in complying with SGMA.

SEMUCU has already led in the drive to sustainability. It has provided resources to 93636 zip code residents to build dry wells in suitable areas for groundwater recharge. We are seeking to increase the depth of new dry wells to 75 feet. Through the work of our grant-writer, Anthony Forestiere, we have obtained grants for residents to install low-flow shower and bathroom hardware, energy efficient and water-saving washing machines, and money to pay for installing water meters.

What can you do to help in groundwater sustainability as a resident of southeast Madera? First, take advantage of the benefits listed above for saving water and energy and water recharge. Grant money is still available. Secondly, join SEMUCU and attend SEMUCU meetings (the third Monday of every month at the Pizza Factory on Avenue 12 at 6 p.m.). Finally, participate in the meetings and membership of the committees of the GSAs.

The aim of SGMA is to maintain local control of planning and implementing the Act, but if we don't participate, the state of California will make the decisions for us.

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The 28th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 28th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 12 beginning at 10 a.m. and will showcase local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. There's also a food and crafts fair at the Maywood Center sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library that will last into the afternoon.

An entry form for the parade is to the right and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library.

Volunteer of the Year

Patti Groh

New Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome

Jessie Kang
3-V Feed & Garden Supply
Carol Moses

Crab Feed Sponsors

The 15th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed was a huge success on March 2, and what really made the event possible was a group of special sponsors:

Fernwood Gardens • SEMCU
Bedrock Engineering
Greg Reitz Realtors
Vulcan Materials • Pistroesi Ambulance
Riverstone Development
Keller-Williams Realty -- Mario Rivera
North Fork Rancheria

A special "Thank You" for the Ranchos Kiwanis' help!

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

2018 Flatlander's Day 3/18

Parade Day: Saturday, May 12, 2018 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No
 Approx. number of participants _____ Approx. length _____ ft.

Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):

- Horses (Single) Horses (Group) Explain: _____
- Band/Music Name: _____
- Floats (Non-profit) Name: _____
- Floats (Business) Name: _____
- Floats (Church) Name: _____
- Children's Groups Name: _____
- Dance Groups Name: _____
- Single Entry (Children) Name: _____
- Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____
- Novelty Name: _____
- Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp!

Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parade route: Ave. 12 from Topper to Kensington

The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 7** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

Golden Valley Chamber

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on April 11 and help plan the 28th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Call us at 645-4001.

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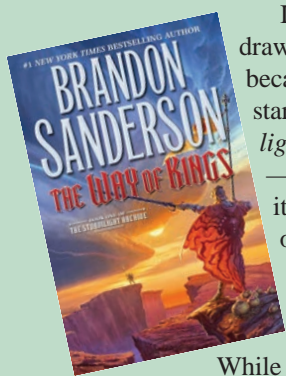
The Bookshelf

What Are We Reading at the Library?

By Jerrica Edmundson

It's a slow month for events this time around here at the library as we are gearing up for the Flatlander's Day Parade as well as our Summer Reading Program. Spencer and I decided to do something a little different this month and try something new: giving a little insight to the books we are reading and maybe it will pique someone's interest to read something new, or give a bit of a glimpse into why we love the books themselves so much.

Jerrica's Shelf: *The Way of Kings* by Brandon Sanderson



I was originally drawn to this book because it is the start of the *Stormlight Chronicles*—which just had its latest release of *Oathbringer* come out within the last month or so.

While reading this book though, I've become enamored with the uniqueness of the story and depth of the characters within.

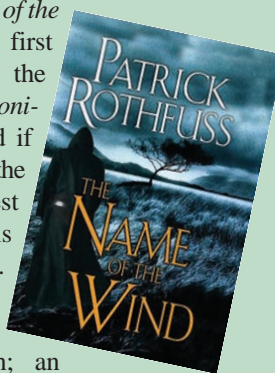
This story revolves around four seemingly unconnected characters and the hardships they face in a world torn apart by a war that has been going on for decades. First, we have a decorated war hero that has an unfortunate turn of events befall him and is branded a deserter by those for whom he

once risked his life. Then there is a beautiful girl seeking to be a student of a scholarly princess when she finds the fortune her family has based their entire life upon is a sham after her father's death. Our third character is a reluctant assassin, who listens to his master's word without fail—regardless of his opinion of the task. The last character is the uncle to the newly appointed king, who has visions that foretell coming events and he has to choose how to react to the knowledge he can't explain.

I'm only about a quarter of the way into this book and can't put it down. I hope this gives someone else a reason to pick it up as well.

Spencer's Shelf: *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss

The Name of the Wind is the first book in the *Kingkiller Chronicle* trilogy and if you have even the smallest interest in fantasy this story is for you. The book begins in the Waystone Inn; an unassuming inn in an unassuming town run by a young man with hair as red as fire. The Waystone is soon visited by a scholar who has spent his life chronicling the lives of important people. This Chronicler reveals that the young innkeeper is none other than Kvothe Kingkiller, a man whose name is known throughout the world. Kvothe agrees to share his history with the Chronicler and here the true story begins. With some of the most poetic and poignant writing I have yet to experience, author Patrick Rothfuss takes you on a journey filled with hardships, perseverance, loss, love and of course, magic. This is one of my favorite books of all time and whether you're new to the fantasy genre or an old hand, I think you'll love it too.




The Madera Ranchos Library
 37167 Ave. 12 • 645-1214
 Sun-Mon Closed
 Tue 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Wed - Thu 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Fri-Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

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My name is Carol Moses and I'm running for Madera County Superior Court Judge.

My background includes 20 years in federal law enforcement as a Yosemite National Park Ranger and over 20 years as a practicing attorney in Madera, Mariposa and Fresno counties.

I am fair, honest, hard working and have a passion for justice.

Please vote for me, Carol Moses, for Madera County Superior Court Judge on June 5th.

"I am John Anderson, retired CHP Commander and retired Madera County Sheriff. I endorse local attorney Carol Moses for Judge of the Madera County Superior Court. I respect her nearly 20 years as an accomplished federal law enforcement officer and more than 20 years as an outstanding attorney. She is honest, experienced, ethical, hardworking and trustworthy. Please join me in voting for Carol Moses for Judge this June."

-- John Anderson

"As a trial attorney for 14 years, I represented clients before administrative law judges, state court judges, federal judges and appellate justices, including the United States Supreme Court. I have been a judge in Madera County for 20 years. I know what it takes to be a judge. Carol Moses has what it takes to be an outstanding judge. I know of no other as qualified as she. Please join me in voting Carol Moses for Judge of the Madera County Superior Court."

-- The Honorable Charles A. Wieland

"I have worked with Carol for over six years on community service activities, including her work on the Madera County Arts Council and the San Joaquin River Parkway. She is currently the Treasurer for the MCAC and on numerous financial committees on the Parkway Trust Board. As the Chair of Law Day Yosemite she strives to involve 8th grade students from all Madera County schools in the program that studies different facets of the Rule of Law. I find her to be energetic, positive, hard-working, a self-starter, a motivator and a true asset to our community service network. I will be voting for Ms. Moses for Madera County Superior Court Judge this June. She will be an excellent judicial officer."

-- Julia O'Kane, Community Leader

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MADERA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MosesForJudge.org

Paid Political Advertisement (Paid for by the Friends to Elect Carol Moses Superior Court Judge Madera County 2018, Seat #2) FPPC# 1401522

Come Celebrate!

Saturday, April 21
 10am - 2pm



Educational Booths
 Local Vendors
 Crafts
 Food

Hours

Tues.-Fri. 8am-6pm
 Sat. 9am-4pm
 Sun. 10am-4pm

Spring Hours start March 20

Location

12090 Fernwood Dr.
 Madera Ranchos
 Ph. 645-767



Fernwood Gardens

Facebook.com/FernwoodGardensMadera

County Introduces New App for Services and Information

This month, Madera County introduced its new phone application, "MadCoServices," allowing residents to submit service requests right from their fingertips. This is an extension of the County 311 Customer Service Center, providing increased support and transparency to our residents.

311 is an easy-to-remember phone number people can call to obtain up-to-date information on all non-emergency County services. The Madera County 311 Customer Service Center went live on August 1, 2012, and has been serving the public ever since. Operators provide information, take service requests, and refer callers to local government agencies. With 311, residents have a single convenient number to call for non-emergency County services.

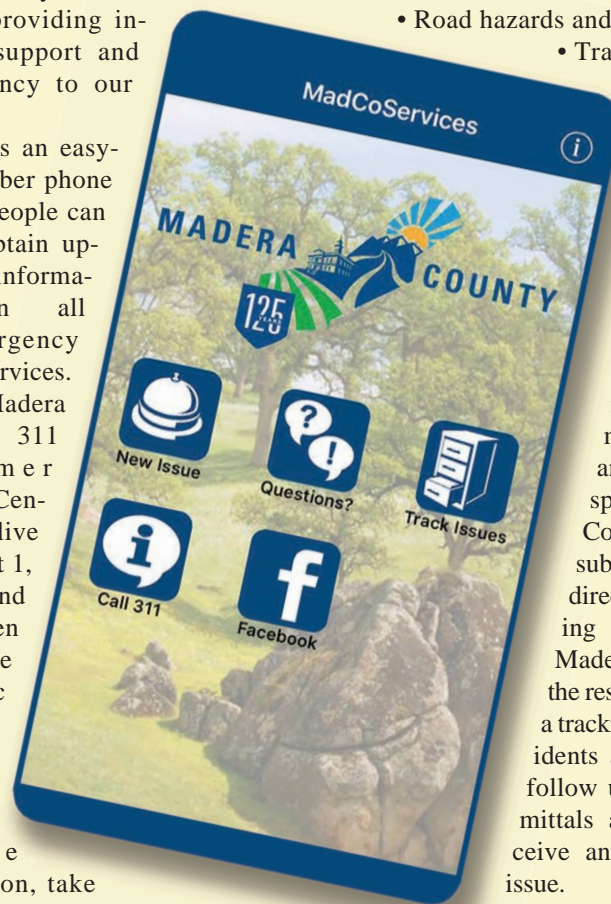
With the expansion of the Mad-

CoServices App, residents can now quickly request assistance on various issues, including:

- Animal complaints
- Code enforcement and other violations
- Environmental health complaints
- Road hazards and repair
- Trash and weeds

When submitting a service request, the App allows the user to provide a photo as well as geo-tag the area of the issue, creating a more accurate and timely response from County staff. Once submitted, issues go directly to the tracking system for Madera County, and the resident is provided a tracking number. Residents are now able to follow up on their submittals and quickly receive an update on the issue.

The MadCoServices App will be available in both the Google Play and Apple App Store. You will also be able to submit and manage issues online at MadCoServices.com.



It is a pleasure to announce that the Madera County Board of Supervisors will conduct several regular meetings by bringing the discussion to you - "On-The-Road." Join us as we talk about important issues affecting your area and the County. This is a new and exciting way for you to participate and interact with the Board!



TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- 125th Anniversary of Madera County
- County Services
- County Finance
- Public Safety
- Developing our Community
- New Voting System
- Road Improvements
- And More

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Representatives from a variety of County departments will be available to answer your questions
- Comment cards and suggestion box will be available.
- Sheriff's Department, Fire Department & other vehicles will be on display.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Oakhurst	April 3	10:00am	Oakhurst Community Center 39800 Fresno Flats Road, Oakhurst
Chowchilla	April 17	3:00pm	Chowchilla City Chambers 130 S. Second Street, Chowchilla
Madera Ranchos	May 1	5:00pm	Liberty High School Theatre 12220 Road 36, Madera



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D.A. cont. from P. 18

defamatory information ...” concerning the district attorney. Further, her complaint states that she was “... seated next to Mr. Linn at the hearing of November 27, 2017 and within the zone of danger created by the Board of Supervisors’ defamatory, illegal, and inaccurate statements.” She is seeking \$5 million.

The censure came as the result of a three-month investigation by Kimberley Horiuchi of the law firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. She produced a 39-page report that didn’t make any legal decisions, but rather looked solely at whether the alleged claims made against Linn of sexist, racist, offensive and threatening behavior toward both employees and crime victims were credible, or “sus-

tainable.”

She determined they were.

The censure resolution stated “... multiple documented sources give accounts of frequent outbursts of anger and inappropriate behavior with his staff members, including threatening remarks and offensive comments about their physical appearance, race or gender ... Linn’s conduct is unbecoming of an elected district attorney and has tarnished the reputation of the Madera County District Attorney’s office ...”

Linn has denied all the allegations.

The County has rejected both claims, leaving the potential for a lawsuit as the Linn’s next option.

You can see the complete, although heavily redacted, copy of the Huriuchi report at assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4310823/RedactedReport.pdf.

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2018 County Academic Pentathlon

The 2018 Madera County Academic Pentathlon culminated with the Super Quiz and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 17 naming North Fork School this year's seventh and eighth grade champions. Ranchos Middle School came in second place in the 7th grade competition and Rivergold Elementary School placed third. Mountain Home School Charter came in second in the 8th grade competition and Rivergold Elementary School placed third.

More than 200 students participated in this five-event academic competition, held on March 9 and 17. Students competed in the areas of essay, fine arts, literature, science and social science. This year's topic was Africa.

"Madera County's seventh and eighth grade students proved themselves today," said Dianna Marsh, Assistant Superintendent, Madera County Superintendent of Schools. "This year's topic was an

extremely difficult one. Our students studied countless hours to meet the challenges of the selected topic. They showed exceptional sportsmanship, team spirit and dedication throughout the contest. Without the generous support from our community and school districts, our student academic events would not be possible."

Each team consisted of up to 15 students per team. Students had to compete in all five events. Teams had been practicing for this event since October.

Seventh grade winners included:

Literature:

Silver

Carson Loquaci.....Ranchos Middle

Bronze

Riley Dillard..... Ranchos Middle

Noah Sanchez..... Ranchos Middle

Social Science:

Bronze

Oscar Briceno.....Ranchos Middle



Ranchos Middle School 7th Grade



Ranchos Middle School 8th Grade

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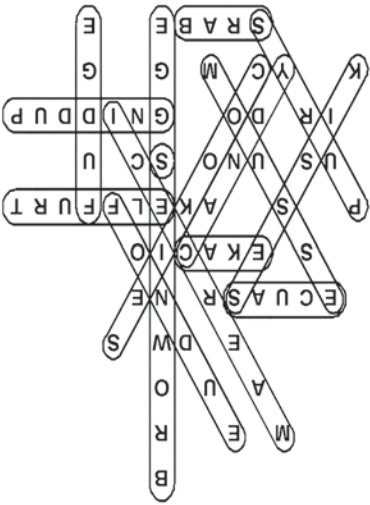
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ANSWERS

2	1	7	6	4	9	5	8	3
9	8	3	5	1	2	4	6	7
6	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	1
5	9	8	1	2	7	6	3	4
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ASWARM	RILES	MAMAM
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WINE	SAP	WINE
REFINES	FERAL	LACTATE
AMONGST	TRIBE	SNACKED

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x	+		+	
5	8	+	7	+
+	÷		x	
3	8	x	1	-
16				



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by Linda Thistle

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

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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.

	-		×		16
+		×		÷	
	+		+		20
×		+		+	
	×		+		17
16		11		10	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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8. Knoxville, Tenn.
- (tie) Nashville, Tenn.
- (tie) Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.

Source: ESPN

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*Uncle Sam:
The Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy
and Santa Claus all
rolled into one*

By Betty Van Valkenburg

The Easter Bunny hides plastic eggs filled with goodies for children. All the kiddies need to do after a fun Easter egg hunt is to open the eggs and enjoy the goodies. Of course, their parents are the ones who worked to buy the eggs and its contents and who prepared and hid the eggs, but the Easter Bunny gets the credit.

The Tooth Fairy leaves money in exchange for a worthless tooth. All a child has to do is hide the tooth under a pillow at night and find the money under it the next morning. Of course, unbeknownst to the child, the parents worked for the money and went to the trouble of leaving it under the pillow, but the Tooth Fairy gets the credit.

Santa Claus brings toys and gifts down the chimney for boys and girls. Some of these boys

and girls may opt to leave cookies and milk for Santa, but all they really have to do is wake up Christmas morning to find surprises under the tree. Of course, the parents worked – sometimes at great sacrifice – to pay for the gifts as well as the optional cookies and milk, and they expended the hours and labor necessary for shopping and wrapping. But Santa gets the credit.

Why should children have all the fun? We grownups have our good old Uncle Sam.

Uncle Sam, AKA the government, will give us what has been called cradle-to-grave security if we let him. All we need to do in order to receive life's necessities is demonstrate that we can't provide for ourselves. Of course, this "gift" comes from taxpayers who not only provide for themselves but then pay the taxes to provide for those who don't or can't. And Uncle Sam gets the credit. Never mind that this crazy Uncle is broke, even after all the tax revenues, and borrows money from China that future generations will repay plus interest. He gets the credit and we get the bill.

Bless him, good old Uncle Sam lavishes all of us with goodies, asked for or not, such as Social Security. All we and our children and grandchildren have to do is pay a Social Security tax on every penny earned during our lifetimes, save what we can for retirement because Social Security won't be enough, pay still more taxes on the meager "benefits" we do eventually receive, and become dependent on Uncle for what he (AKA politicians) decides to "give"

us at any given time. And the government gets the credit for so much generosity.

There are obviously stark differences between the fairy tale gifts bestowed by parents on children and Uncle Sam's so-called benefits to adults. We are not children, and the government is not meant to be our keeper. The government is to protect our rights so that we are free to provide for ourselves and to live our lives as we see fit.

Before you call me Scrooge or worse, let me state that of course there are people who fall on hard times and need help. I just happen to think – no, I know – that assistance is better given by friends, family, charities, private entities or faith-based institutions and not by any government entity. The purpose for helping should be to restore those in need to productive lives of dignity and self-sufficiency, rather than permanent dependence on the whims of the government in power. Many elected officials, as we know, have a vested interest in keeping constituents on public assistance so that, while taxpayers foot the bill, politicians get the credit.

As Easter approaches and we await the family gathering and Easter egg hunt, it might be a good idea to get copies of The Little Red Hen for the kids' baskets to reinforce the lessons of self-sufficiency and the rewards of working for a living.

As Tax Day approaches, and with elections not far behind, we might

vow to research and vote wisely on ballot measures and candidates, and perhaps send a copy of the United States Constitution for our legislators' Easter baskets and a note encouraging them to follow it.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com for more information.



IN GOOD HANDS
with Warren Parr



Calling Young Fans

Hello 93636,

Over the past several months I had the opportunity to attend several advanced training classes. The most interesting class was the ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) class. Several features resulting from ADAS technologies are Parking Assist, Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Detection and Lane Departure Warning. ADAS vehicles blend radar, sonar/ultrasound and forward-looking infrared. ADAS vehicles are currently in production and are the predecessor to the self-driving vehicle.

Thanks again to my 93636 family for all your support and encouragement. Two weeks ago Sunday, as I was walking into church, I heard a voice saying, "Our son was very excited to read your Ranchos Independent article."

"Thank you," I replied. "Is he here? I would like to meet him."

"He's outside playing."

Confused!

"How old is he?" I asked.

"Nine."

Now his parents had my full attention because I'm wondering which article I wrote that would interest a nine-year-old boy.

"Which article did he read?"

"Your most recent article about the Ford F150."

NO WAY! That article was one of the hardest and most difficult articles I've written. I wasn't able to meet the young man that day but as destiny would have it, Wednesday night our families arrived at church together and parked side by side. There he was, all nine years of him. He was wearing a big smile and grinning from ear to ear. I felt like a big-time celebrity. I walked over and shook his hand. "My name is Warren, what's yours?"

"Jake."

"Jake, how would you like to go to the shop with me and hang out?"

"Cool," Jake answered. We talked a bit and then I made my mistake.

"Jake, what's your favorite car?" I expected him to say Corvette, Mustang, Camaro, Dodge Viper or some kind of American muscle car. Jake's favorite car was one I've never heard of, some kind of Nissan. To save face I change the topic and asked Jake if he would help me at my Flat-

landers Celebration Complete Car Care booth. He said yes, so I would like to invite everyone to stop by the booth, meet my new best friend Jake and check us out.

93636 pre-teen and teenage readers, sorry, I didn't realize you are out there. If you are interested in cars, I'd like to speak to you for just a bit. The automotive repair industry is wide open and there are many great opportunities for you. It's not always easy but it can be quite rewarding. Let me share some statistics with you. Sixty six percent of today's automotive technicians are 45 years and older. Less than 3 percent are 18-24 years of age. We will begin retiring soon so opportunities will abound.

Everyday vehicles are becoming exponentially more complex. The tool of choice for today's automotive technician is not a wrench, it's a laptop and tablet, or two or three. We are car doctors. It's our job to investigate, test and repair problems. The need for well-trained, competent, qualified automotive professionals has never been greater and that need will only increase. I wish I could be there with you.

It was once my vision and hope to implement within our local school district a comprehensive automotive vocational training program including advanced placement. I haven't been able to make that happen so instead I'm going to give you some good advice that will prevent you from being disadvantaged in the future when competing with others who attended Career Vocational Training programs: Take all the math you can.

Math is the language of science and the foundation of automotive diagnostic. Any and all classes related to the science of electricity is essential. Physics and chemistry will also be very helpful. An engineering class would be the icing on the cake. Remember, cars are designed by engineers using math and science. We just reverse engineer them during diagnostic. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Come by the Complete Car Care booth at the Flatlanders Celebration on Saturday, May 12 and let's talk.

Last week, a 2009 BMW rolled into the shop for an emissions inspection. As usual I started the inspection by familiarizing myself with the vehicle's emission label. As I was reading through its list of emission components, there was one unfamiliar to me: DOR.

After a bit of investigation, DOR is the acronym for Direct Ozone Reduction. On my BMW the DOR was the radiator. DOR components have special coatings

that react with the ambient air passing over its surfaces. A catalyst in the coating converts ground level ozone, the main component of smog, into oxygen. DOR treated radiators can convert as much as 75 percent of the ozone it contacts into oxygen, which vehicle manufacturers use to offset tailpipe and evaporative systems emissions. The amount of ozone conversion credits available depends upon the size of the radiator and airflow rate. Factors that impact the air flow rate are the radiator's cooling fan and vehicle speed. Several mitigating factors that impact the ozone conversion rate include system deterioration, density of traffic, road grime, temperature variations, vibration and weather conditions. In order to demonstrate overall effectiveness, manufacturers are required to conduct on-the-road driving or wind tunnel testing at 14 different speeds for a minimum of 10 minutes per speed.

Since DOR-treated components are con-

sidered emission control devices, federal law requires they be monitored for performance. The OBDII (On-Board Diagnostic 2) system will directly or indirectly monitor the component's ozone conversion effectiveness. If the conversion rate falls below the minimum standard, the Check Engine Lamp will be illuminated and a diagnostic trouble code is set. YES, that is correct. Your radiator can be used as an emission reduction device. Good stuff, huh?

As usual, I'm in search of interesting and informative automotive topics to write about. If you have any suggestions or general questions concerning a personal vehicle or the automotive industry as a whole, I can be contacted at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text 559-907-7661.

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Warren Parr, ASE Master, Hybrid and Advanced Level Technician

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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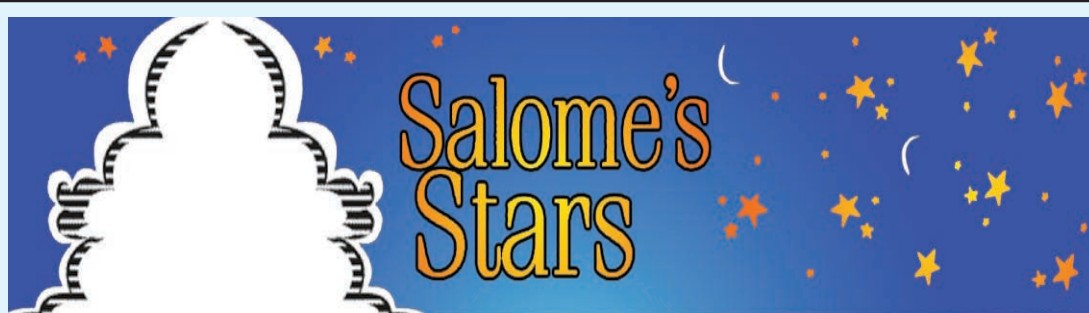
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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"Your siren's not stuck ...
there's a cat in here."

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Resist a confrontation with that irksome person. The matter will soon blow over anyway. Channel your Arian energy into areas with more positive potential.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The innovative Bovine finds a creative way to resolve a sensitive domestic problem by midweek. A former colleague returns with an intriguing business suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) An unexpected critical statement from someone you trust could catch you momentarily off guard. But you soon recover your equilibrium and rise to the challenge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might feel you can handle a new project on your own, but advice from someone with experience could help you avoid costly and time-consuming obstacles.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Waiting for others to make decisions is difficult for the take-charge Lion. But by week's end, you should hear news that will help you regain control of the situation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your superjudgmental side could dominate the week unless you try to keep it in check. Otherwise you risk offending people, including some who are very close to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Expect more information to come out about that possible career shift. Meanwhile, your loving concern helps someone close to you get through a worrisome period.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Despite an occasional setback, workplace pressures should continue to ease through most of the week. This would be a good time to plan that long-delayed trip.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian quickly recognizes an opportunity when she or he sees it, especially if it's one you've been planning for. Take aim and go for it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat's unique insight guides you as you check out a questionable situation. Your efforts should be rewarding for you and your supporters.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to pace yourself a bit more. Rushing could lead to serious slip-ups. Take more time to check out details you might otherwise overlook.

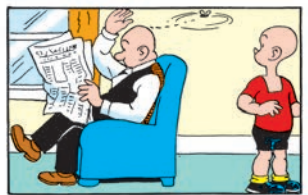
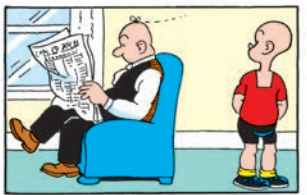
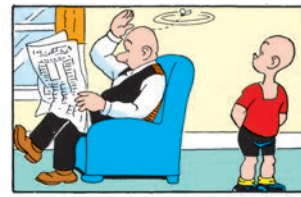
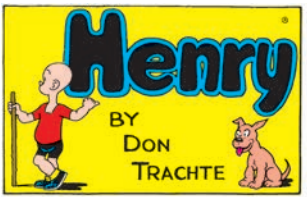
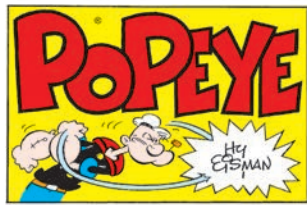
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The best way to resolve those remaining problems is to ask others for help. They'll be happy to do so, especially when you agree to share the credit for a job well done.

Born this Week

*Your natural gift for honest leadership earns you
the respect and admiration of others.*

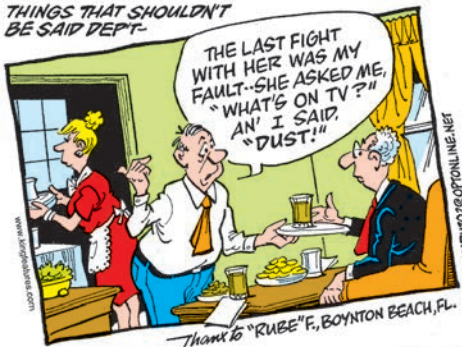
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

THINGS THAT SHOULDN'T BE SAID DEPT.



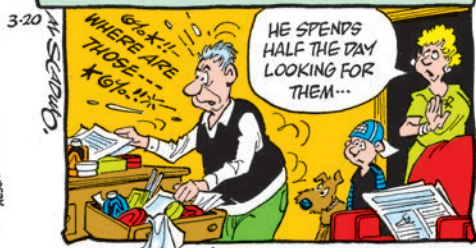
THE HOCKLEYS SACRIFICED FOR YEARS TO HAVE THEIR SON GRADUATE COLLEGE... AH-H-NOW THEY CAN RELAX WITH NO MORE COLLEGE BILLS... RIGHT? HEH-HEH--THINK AGAIN, DEAR READER...

MOM--DAD--WELL--I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...I'M GONNA TRY MEDICINE... I'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP TWO YEARS OF PRE-MED--AND THEN...

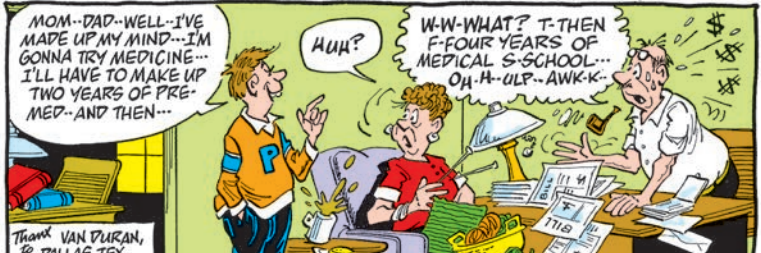
Thank VAN DURAN, DALLAS, TEX.

BY AL SCADUTO

YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY GETTING UP THERE WHEN--YOU NEED READING GLASSES--AND YOU KEEP FORGETTING WHERE YOU PUT THEM DOWN...



HE SPENDS HALF THE DAY LOOKING FOR THEM...



W-W-WHAT? T-THEN F-FOUR YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL... OH-H-ULP--AWK-K...



A MOMENTOUS MOMENT IN HISTORY! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by adding five minus signs and one plus sign between certain numbers on the left side.

$$1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7\ 8\ 9 = 100$$

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "PATENT." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.



Answers: (Across) Map, ale, its, not (Down) Man, alto, pest

Wishing Well®

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

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 ● CHOCOLIC DELIGHTS



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

- Bars
- Brownies
- Cake
- Candy
- Cookies
- Eggs
- Fondue
- Fudge
- Ice cream
- Kisses
- Mousse
- Pudding
- Sauce
- Syrup
- Truffle

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



HE'S IN THE MONEY!
In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed HAVE to LEND in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. FIRE to SOOT
2. BAKE to ROLL
3. LIMP to RACE
4. DRUM to BEAT
5. BULL to COWS

Answers:
1 FIRE, SIRE, SORE, SORT, SOOT
2 BAKE, BALE, BALL, BOLL
3 LIMP, LAMP, LAME, LACE, RACE
4 DRUM, DRUM, DRAM, DRAH (mind game)
5 BULL, BULL, BOWL, BOWS, COWS
BULL BEAT

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. ASTRONOMY: How large is Jupiter's giant "red spot"?
2. U.S. STATES: Which is the only U.S. state that begins with the letter "p"?
3. HISTORY: Who was the last man to walk on the moon?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: The average person speaks how many words in a day?
5. MOVIES: In the movie "The Wizard of Oz," what did the Tin Man want from the wizard?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a guanaco?
7. BIBLE: In the Old Testament, who was Abraham's first wife?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What two states border Lake Tahoe?
9. WEATHER: What was the fastest wind speed ever recorded?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first U.S. president to declare war?

Answers

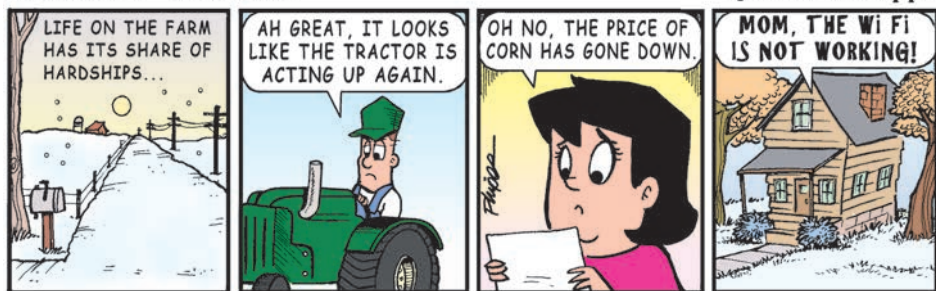
1. Twice as big as the Earth
2. Pennsylvania
3. Eugene Cernan
4. 7,000 to 20,000 words
5. A heart
6. A camelid native to South America
7. Sarah
8. Nevada and California
9. 253 mph wind gust registered on Barrow Island, Australia
10. James Madison

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by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

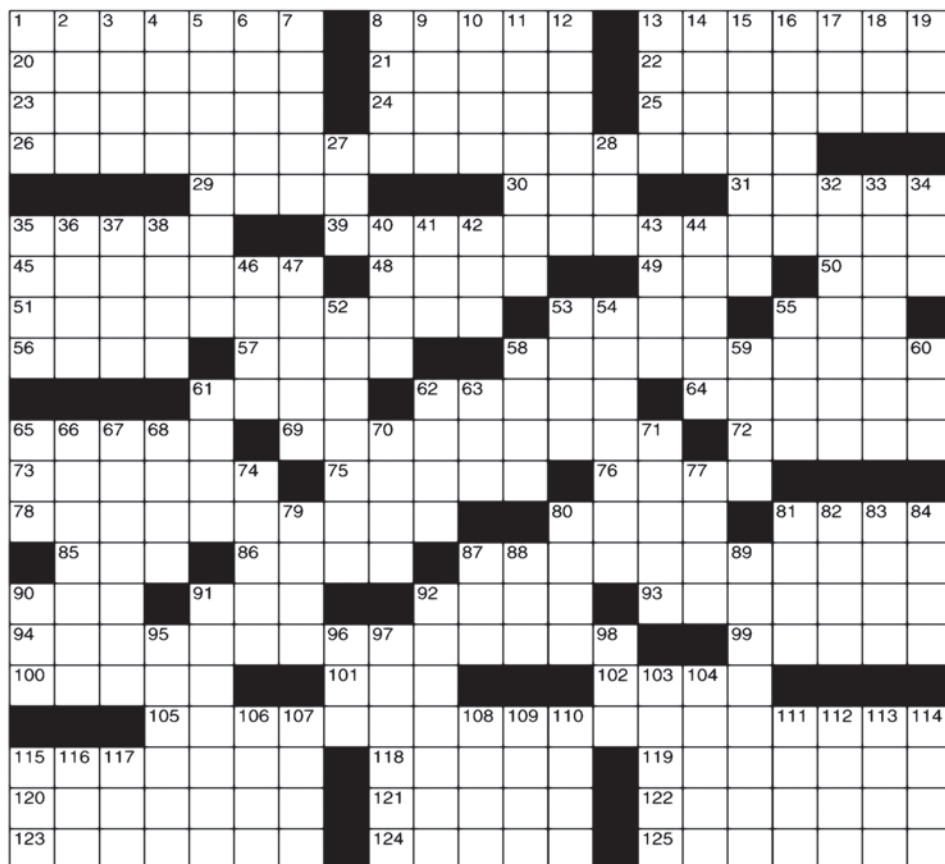
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Cap is different; 2. Scoop is missing; 3. Light is missing; 4. Headset is missing; 5. Straw holder is missing; 6. Fork is lower.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Ritchie Valens hit
 - 8 Store up
 - 13 Credit (to)
 - 20 Black keys, informally
 - 21 Air raid alert
 - 22 Percussion pair
 - 23 Very tidy sort
 - 24 Musical pace
 - 25 Airplane trips
 - 26 Viola or cello
 - 29 Tulip chair designer
 - 30 Always, in an ode
 - 31 Eucalyptus-eating "bear"
 - 35 "Deck the Halls," e.g.
 - 39 Outlet insert
 - 45 "Anne of Green Gables" town
 - 48 Sounds of wonderment
 - 49 London brew
 - 50 Mile. who's canonized
 - 51 Where a ball rolls in an alley
 - 53 Nero's 251
 - 55 Luau dish
 - 56 Swing in the breeze, say
 - 57 Round bread of India
 - 58 Place to par
 - 61 Lyricist
 - 62 Jeweled crown
 - 64 Misprint list
 - 65 Gracefully limber
 - 69 It may include spools and thimbles
 - 72 Dada artist
 - 73 Teeming, as with bees
 - 75 Makes mad
 - 76 Title for a lady
 - 78 Figure in black magic
 - 80 Dollar bit
 - 81 Irishwoman, e.g.
 - 85 Cubs' and Eagles' org.
 - 86 Vehicle ding
 - 87 Wartime "pineapple"
 - 90 Rat-a-
 - 91 Wiggling fish
 - 92 Balkan native
 - 93 Some pianos and motorcycles
 - 94 Contest on a mat
 - 99 Door
 - 100 Gelatin dish
 - 101 Winning line in tic-tac-toe
 - 102 Abba of Israel
 - 105 Theme of this puzzle
 - 115 Hard to catch
 - 118 "Pal Joey" novelist John
 - 119 Red apple variety
 - 120 Purifies, as ore
 - 121 Wild, as an animal
 - 122 Secrete
 - 123 In a group of
 - 124 Oto or Ute
 - 125 Moved stealthily
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Camera eye
 - 2 Aid in evil
 - 3 Male swine
 - 4 Prefix with Fidel
 - 5 Actress Liza
 - 6 Light brown
 - 7 Questioner
 - 8 Bubbly wine
 - 9 Personal manner
 - 10 Weaponry
 - 11 Octets minus one
 - 12 Loud sleeper
 - 13 Like most radios
 - 14 Shop lure
 - 15 Crease
 - 16 Convertible auto
 - 17 Einstein's "I"
 - 18 Slugging club
 - 19 Ending for lion
 - 27 Female gerbil
 - 28 Mystifying Mr. Geller
 - 32 Race loser
 - 33 Many troubadours
 - 34 Grow mature
 - 35 Hailed rides
 - 36 State frankly
 - 37 Line of seats closest to the stage
 - 38 Part of SRO
 - 40 Bank offer
 - 41 Myriad years
 - 42 Friend of Fidel
 - 43 Wee cow
 - 44 Faye of film
 - 46 City in Sicily
 - 47 Petri dish
 - 52 Not right now
 - 53 Wine stopper
 - 54 Declared
 - 55 Cat sound
 - 58 Comic's bits
 - 59 City east of Utah Lake
 - 60 Break a fast
 - 61 Lionhearted type
 - 62 Money tray
 - 63 Suffix with 61-Down
 - 65 Water closet
 - 66 Some weather lines
 - 67 Polka relative
 - 68 — cow (flipped out)
 - 70 Droop, as from heat
 - 71 Piquant
 - 74 Catwalk user
 - 77 Big name in razors
 - 79 Sub shop
 - 80 "Squawk Box" network
 - 81 Annoying fly
 - 82 Partners of 48-Across
 - 83 Mild cheese
 - 84 — majesty
 - 87 "... made — woman": Genesis 2:22
 - 88 Gallery work
 - 89 High rank
 - 90 Old Delta rival
 - 91 Drawing with acid
 - 92 Cover thickly
 - 95 Acts as a sub (for)
 - 96 Yuletide drink
 - 97 Get mushy
 - 98 Sly laugh part
 - 103 Really cries
 - 104 Of birds
 - 106 Burl of song
 - 107 104-Down hangout
 - 108 Spy Mata — e.g.
 - 109 Bahraini, e.g.
 - 110 Folklore bit
 - 111 Antifur gp.
 - 112 Writer
 - 113 Rap's Dogg
 - 114 Zipped along
 - 115 Timeline part
 - 116 Old NASA moon lander
 - 117 ET's craft

FUN PAGES

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