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Volume 15 Issue 3 2019

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Everywhere there's CRAB

*New Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
President Amber Hornick was in charge at
the 16th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of
Commerce Crab Feed on March 1.*



Photo courtesy of John Glueck

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The 16th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

Another sold-out Crab Feed was held on Friday, March 1. The Dante Club in Fresno provided the backdrop to over 250 people enjoying crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert. *(All photos courtesy of John Glueck)*



Can you say sold out? Over 250 people went crab crazy.



Husband Paul Hornick helps Amber Hornick with kitchen duties.



Everyone was checking out the silent auction items.



It wouldn't be a Crab Feed without the Ranchos Kiwanis helping.



Sheriff Varney, right, stops to chat at the Ranchos Independent table.



Pistoresi Ambulance owner Monte Pistoresi gets the high auction bid.



Perry Watkins' auctioneering led to the Auctioneers' Polka.



It was all hands on deck to get the food out to the waiting diners.



There were many items up for bid in the silent auction.



In addition to crab, Jolene Mason brought the pasta.



Past President Bill Whyman, left, helps with the auction.



When you're serious about crab, you bring a cart.

Despite Fires, Clean Valley Air

Last month, the "Check Before You Burn" program finished its 16th year with what was one of the cleanest in recorded history, despite record-breaking wildfires at the beginning of the season.

The Check Before You Burn Program, which takes place annually from November through February, is designed to minimize the build-up of harmful fine particulate pollution. Regional high pressure systems often cause pollutants to become trapped in the bowl-shaped San Joaquin Valley, creating high concentrations of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 that build up quickly at ground level, resulting in poor air quality.

November's Camp Fire, which was the deadliest wildfire in the state to date and burned 153,336 acres in northern California, generated some of the most significant smoke impacts ever experienced in the Valley. The District issued several Health Caution notifications, encouraging residents to proactively protect their health by monitoring the Real-Time Air Advisory Network and limiting their outdoor activities when air quality became poor.

Despite the devastating Camp Fire and other wildfires, the wintertime air quality this season improved overall. Fre-

Please see **FIRES** on P. 17

DC Trip Planned for Ranchos Kids

Golden Valley Unified Students between 6th and 8th grade have the opportunity to take a trip to historic Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York, June 7-13, 2020.

The trip is led by Sean Tovsrud, a 6th grade teacher at Webster Elementary who has made the trip before. You can attend an informational parent meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 6 p.m. in the Reading Lab at Webster Elementary at 36477 Ruth Ave. in the Ranchos. The phone number there is 645-3540.

The meeting will allow you to come and see how learning can come to life through an educational trip built around our country's rich history. You don't want your student to miss this opportunity.

In addition to being a 6th grade teacher at Webster Elementary, Sean Tovsrud is also the Golden Valley Teacher's Association president and MESA advisor.

County Transportation Commission Public Meeting

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) will hold a Public Hearing to take testimony regarding transportation needs within Madera County. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 3 p.m., in the Madera County Transportation Commission offices, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera.

The Madera Area Express will provide fixed-route rides at no cost for the Unmet Transit Needs hearing. If passengers are unable to ride the fixed route because of disability, free Dial-A-Ride service to the hearing will be provided to the Madera County Transportation Commission offices. Call Annie Self at 559-661-7435 before 5 p.m., April 16, 2019 to make a reservation. A Spanish language interpreter will be available during the public hearing for those who wish to testify before the Commission in Spanish. If you would like to testify in a language

other than Spanish and English or require other special accommodations in order to testify, please contact the Commission by April 12, 2019, by 3 p.m.

Under the California Transportation Development Act (TDA), this hearing opportunity is provided annually to take testimony on potential unmet transit needs within the region. The Commission must, subsequent to the hearing, make a determination whether the needs presented are "reasonable" to meet. After all "reasonable" needs have been met through the expansion of existing services, or the creation of new transit systems, the Commission may release remaining TDA funds for street and road purposes (repair, reconstruction, etc.).

Members of the public, interested agencies and civic groups are encouraged to appear and testify to any transportation needs not being met by the current system. Testimony should be as specific as

possible with regard to those citizens, or groups of citizens, not currently served by transit, the requested type and amount of transit service, the geographic area in which service is needed, and any other supporting evidence of information, which will help in the evaluation of the "reasonableness" of the requested service.

Those wishing to speak are encouraged to contact Evelyn Espinosa, MCTC Associate Regional Planner, at 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera. The MCTC telephone number is 559-675-0721. A request to speak need not be scheduled, individuals may simply appear at the hearing and request to be recognized, however a scheduled appearance is encouraged to help organize the testimony. Those that are unable to attend the public hearing are encouraged to submit their comments in writing prior to April 17, 2019 for inclusion in the public record.

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Dear Editor:

Thank you for a very insightful edition (February 2019).

I am saddened by the undeniable truth behind the leading article and the editorial. I can only agree our priorities have been diluted or numbed beyond belief. What has become the new normal would make my ornery, cussing, drinking grandfather roll over in his grave.

One person – one step at a time – we (yes, you and me) need to share and effect change. Like Eryn Nyre shares in her column, its dumbing down people in places that 20 years ago you would never get such disrespect to the customer. Wait, they just got a minimum wage hike; that might change things.

Our voted-in government is following suit. As stated in Tea Time, lets teach the history to those who are interested.

FYI for Aunt Jean: My 91-year-old father taught me to use lemon juice (1/2 lemon) on my skin before drying off. Haven't had dry or itchy skin since!

Finally, thank you for a wonderful edition. I have enjoyed it all. I thanked it for being a part of my life and bringing me joy and then promptly threw it in the recycle bin. Scott Rothe
Fresno

Dear Editor:

Abraham Lincoln told the story of boarding with the family of a Presbyterian minister on the night of the greatest meteor shower ever recorded in North America. He was awakened by the minister who shouted, "Arise Abraham, for the heavens are falling and the day of judgment has arrived." But Lincoln noticed that despite the hysteria around him and the chaos above him, he could still see the familiar constellations fixed in the sky, and he knew the world was not about to end.

No one denies that our planet is warming, carbon dioxide levels are increasing and ocean levels are rising. But before we run screaming into the night, let's also do a quick reality check. The sky isn't falling.

Global warming (and cooling) is nothing new: Our planet has been warming on and off since the last ice age. There have been periods throughout both recorded history and pre-history when scientists tell us temperatures were much hotter (and colder) than they are today. Science tells us that carbon dioxide levels have varied widely throughout the planet's history, and have often been many times *higher* than today. Science tells us that at the end of the last ice age, ocean levels were 400 feet *lower* than they are today and the modern rise has been steady, small and

doesn't correlate to carbon dioxide levels. In the Caribbean, where continuous hurricane records date back to 1690, hurricane frequency dropped 20 percent in the last century.

And despite what we are told, there is a vigorous debate within the scientific community over how much human activity influences climate compared with vastly more powerful natural forces that have driven climate change for 4½ billion years. As Chicken Little belatedly discovered, there is a big difference between an acorn and the sky.

Science thrives on civil and dispassionate debate. When someone tells you the debate is over, that dissent should be forbidden and dissenters should be personally attacked – that's not a scientist talking – that's a politician.

We also need to consider the enormous costs that the left would impose on each of our families in pursuit of its "Green New Deal." We already have a taste of these policies in California, where carbon taxes have produced among the highest electricity and gasoline prices in the United States and contributed to the nation's highest effective poverty rate.

This doesn't mean we can't find common ground. There are many ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and adapt to our changing climate that are desirable in themselves, quite apart from the debate over the causes of the Modern Warm Period. For example, nuclear power plants and hydro-electric dams offer abundant and reliable power with no carbon dioxide emissions at far lower costs and with far smaller ecological footprints than wind and solar.

If we can store less moisture in the mountains as snow because of warming temperatures, doesn't it make sense to build more reservoirs to save that water rather than lose it to the ocean?

If oceans are rising, doesn't it make sense to phase out flood insurance subsidies that encourage people to build in flood plains by hiding the risk?

Last year's California wildfires pumped 68 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, making a mockery of carbon dioxide restrictions. Doesn't it make sense to harvest excess timber before it can choke off the forest and burn? Doesn't it make sense to manage our forests to match the tree density to the ability of the land to support it? Doesn't it make sense to space trees so that snow isn't trapped in dense canopies to evaporate before it can reach the ground? And if we can't agree on these measures, then how seriously are we really taking the purported apocalypse?

Congressman Tom McClintock
Sacramento

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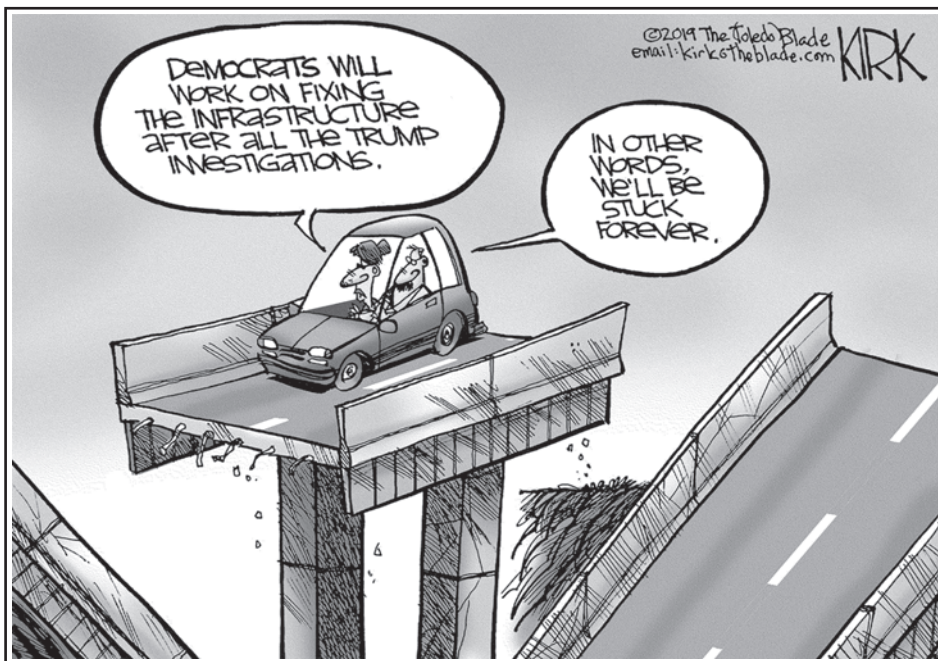
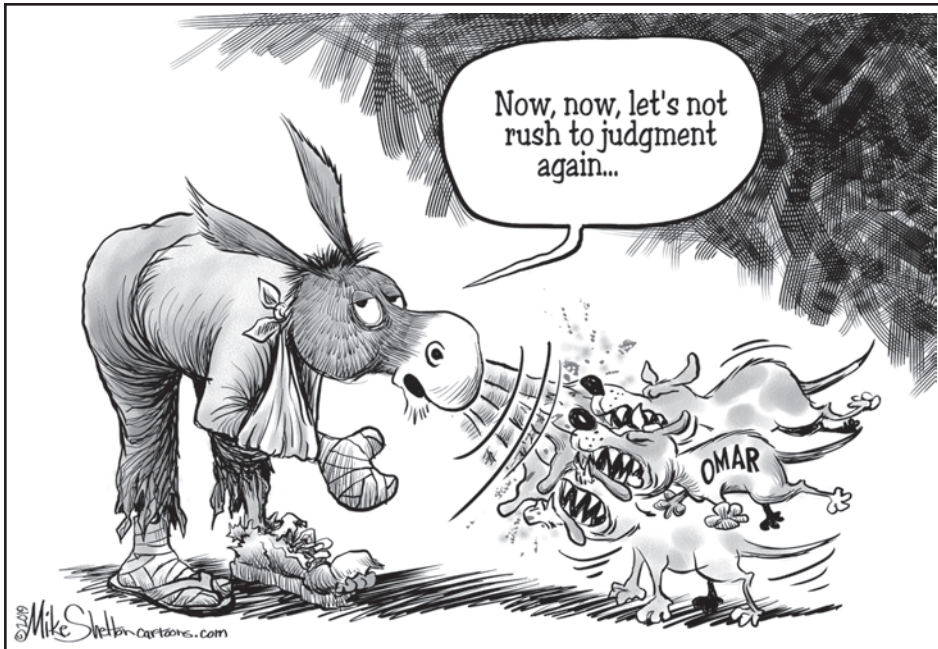
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Guest Editorial

Yes, There's a Border Problem

By Rich Lowry

We interrupt the talk of the president "manufacturing" a crisis at the border with this hair-raising report about the crisis at the border.

Alarming new numbers about border apprehensions from U.S. Customs and Border Protection should puncture the lazy conventional wisdom about the border being under control, except in the lurid imagination of President Donald Trump.

More than 76,000 migrants were apprehended crossing the southern border last month, the highest February in more than 10 years and the highest month of the Trump administration. The number of apprehensions tops any month during the 2014 border surge under President Barack Obama, which no one had a problem calling a crisis at the time.

Yes, there were more overall apprehensions in the 2000s. But it was a different population, made up overwhelmingly of adult males from Mexico who might be apprehended trying to cross multiple times and were reliably returned home when they were caught. Now, we are apprehending people but not returning them.

Migrants are coming in greater numbers from Central American countries instead of Mexico, and are primarily families and children. In an

astonishing shift, in 2012, 10 percent of apprehended migrants were families and children; in recent months, it's been 61 percent.

The rules for dealing with migrants from noncontiguous countries and with family units make it all but impossible to swiftly return or detain them, not to mention that our physical facilities were built with single adults in mind.

There is no mechanism to return these migrants home, to hold them after they cross the border, or to remove them once they are in the interior. And word has gotten out. There's a reason that the subset of migrants that we can't stop from getting into the country is growing so rapidly.

Needless to say, a spiraling border crisis is maddening for a president committed to controlling the border, which is why we've seen such frenetic activity from Trump. His rhetoric may be over the top, but the impulse to get a handle on this is absolutely correct.

First, there's the question of basic sovereignty. If we are going to welcome a large number of migrants from three or four foreign countries, we should make that decision as a conscious policy, rather than slip-sliding into it unawares.

Then there's the matter of assimilation and legality. Poorly educated immigrants, like the ones coming from Central America, have the hardest time assimilating, and they will lack legal status on top of it.

Finally, there's the humanitarian question. Migrant families show up needing medical attention that we aren't well-prepared to provide. We'd be much better positioned to tend to the migrants under our care if the numbers weren't overwhelming.

But we are at a stalemate. The New York Times editorialized the other day that Trump declared "that there's a crisis at the border, contrary to all evidence." Then, the paper ran a news story headlined, "Border at 'Breaking Point' as More than 76,000 Migrants Cross in a Month."

Both of those pieces can't be right. There's manufacturing a crisis, then there's ignoring one for fear of conceding anything to Trump.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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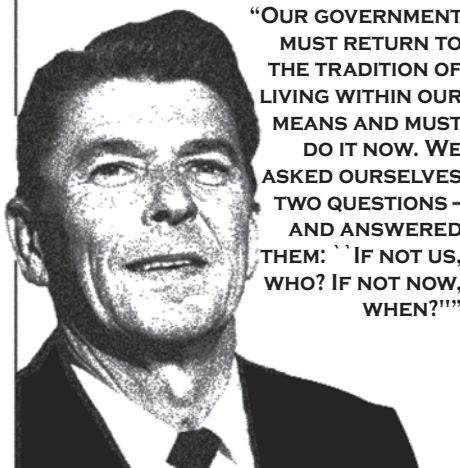
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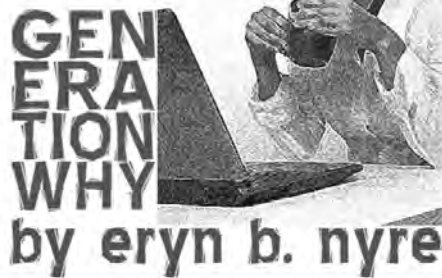
Careful Spending My Money

Every time I walk into the gas station and see a sign that they happily accept EBT cards a part of me dies inside. Seriously? Other than a quick stop to grab a gallon of milk, what exactly is the state saying by allowing food stamp cards to be used at the local 7-11, besides the obvious message that they do not care one tiny little iota about how the recipients are spending our money. I don't care what people spend their own money on, but it seems like an abuse of tax payer dollars to allow them to grab a quick-stop burrito, some nachos and bottle of soda on the state's dime. This money should be going to feed their families and there are certainly better and more nutritional ways to feed your families than convenience store junk food.

I imagine the popular counter argument is that we don't stop parents who are not on the government dole from feeding their children fast food and junk food of all kinds, why then are we trying to put limits on the family that is on government assistance? Well, the answer is easy: Because they are on government assistance. If I'm not helping to support you then I'll keep my nose out of your business. Plain and simple.

Throughout my life my father has always passed on to me a golden bit of advice that his mother-in-law gave to him right after he married my mom. He would say to me, "Eryn, if I don't have to pay your bills, I won't tell you how to live your life." It was a sound piece of advice and he has held to that for the most part. As an adult, other than the occasional fatherly inquiry, as long as he wasn't writing my rent checks, he didn't tell me how to spend my money.

When I was younger, though, I did come to my parents for some financial help. Like so many other teenagers before me I made



the catastrophic mistake of opening my first credit card before I truly understood what that meant. Why pay cash when plastic is less cumbersome? Why save for it when you can swipe a card and pay later? And just like that I joined the ranks of all the other Americans who were sending out more than was coming in and racking up debt for new shoes and a fancy television that I was not

For whatever reason if you have asked for help, be it from your parents or the government, then you have to expect that whoever is footing the bill deserves to have a say in how you are spending their money.

prepared to pay for. Living beyond my means eventually caught up with me. Luckily for me, my parents had a lot more financial wherewithal, so they were able to come to my rescue. This is one of the many

reasons I am blessed to have the parents I have. They bailed me out, paid off my debt and got me back on track, but you better believe they watched my money like a hawk. Now that they had given me money, I lost the freedom to spend anyway I saw fit. After all, at that point I wasn't really spending my own dough anymore. No, I was spending my parents' dough.

This same basic concept applies to the food stamp program. For whatever reason if you have asked for help, be it from your parents or the government, then you have to expect that whoever is footing the bill deserves to have a say in how you are spending their money. And hot dogs and candy bars at the corner store is a gross misuse of community

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

funds. That money should be spent judiciously. Dropping money that someone else is giving you on expensive junk food is not being judicious with the taxpayers' money. If the state is going to put food on your table, then at the very least it should be something that is healthy and filling and not a hold over until you need your next sugar fix.

It's important to remember that this state is broke. Every dollar counts. So in my opinion if you have managed to use all of your food stamp funds putting healthy food in your kitchen to feed your family and there is enough left over to run to a convenience store to pick up some junk food then clearly the state needs to reduce your monthly allowance and put that money to better use. If, on the other hand, your refrigerator is empty and your cupboards are bare and yet you still insist on blowing part of the taxpayers' hard-earned money on crap, then maybe you shouldn't be allowed to participate

in the program because you clearly abuse it.

In a time when every dollar is needed and every penny is important, why are we allowing money to be wasted on the unnecessary? Times are tough and deserving families need every bit of help the state can afford. Can the state really afford to allow its welfare recipients to waste money at the 7-11? If there is enough in the budget to open up the gates to allow junk food havens to accept money slotted to help families survive, then why are we cutting so many other places? I understand this won't come anywhere close to fixing the budget, but it certainly wouldn't hurt. Any step taken to keep abusers out of the welfare pool leaving only honest families that just need a little help to get back on their feet is a step in the right direction. Dollars add up and one less dollar going to pay for an overpriced convenience store snack cake is one more dollar back in the budget that is grossly over extended to begin with.

Strange BUT TRUE
 By Samantha Weaver

- It was Isaac Asimov, professor of biochemistry and beloved Grand Master of science fiction, who made the following sage observation: *"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"*
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, if you're like the average American, you drink 22.7 gallons of coffee every year. The surprising thing about that statistic isn't how much it is, though -- it's how little. It seems that in the 1940s, Americans were drinking twice that amount of java.
- You might be surprised to learn that gravity makes you

shorter. It's true; gravity compresses your spine -- in a weightless environment, you would be 2 to 3 inches taller than you are here on Earth.

- George W. Church, the founder of Church's Fried Chicken, didn't actually enter the restaurant business until after he retired. In his first career, Church ran a chicken hatchery and sold incubators.
- Those who study such things say that 1 percent of the world's lizard species have no males. The females reproduce by parthenogenesis, which produces offspring that are clones of their mothers.
- Before Charlton Heston became a famous actor, he earned cash by serving as an artists' model -- and posed in the nude.
- Thought for the Day: *"Mistakes are a part of being human. Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it's a fatal mistake, which, at least, others can learn from."* - Al Franken

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Feelin' Vegan?

Last December, my nieces Rachael and Lauren asked me what I wanted for Christmas. Rachael said, "Now that you don't drive anymore, where would you like for me to take you?" I said I haven't been down Christmas Tree Lane for quite a while and I would love to go see the wildflowers in the foothills in the spring. A couple of weeks before Christmas, Randy's family, my sister and I started out for Shields and Van Ness. It was fantastic. I had a wonderful time and now I'm looking forward to the trip to the wildflowers.

When Lauren asked me what I wanted, I said I don't want "things;" I'm trying to get rid of things. What I would like was for her, on her day off, to come spend an afternoon with me and just visit. I offered to fix lunch, but her being a Vegan I didn't know what I could fix. She said she

would do that, and she would bring lunch. She asked me if I liked Kale, I said I had it once and I wasn't impressed. A couple of Saturdays before Christmas, she and her fiancé Dominic arrived with a big pot of soup and a loaf of toasted sourdough bread. The soup was delicious and we had a wonderful afternoon. I would love to do that with ALL my family – all 44 of them. Sometimes I resent the hell out of being old and not being able to see my family as often as I'd like, but as Mufasa explained to Simba in The Lion King, that's part of the circle of life.

I had heard the word vegetarian, but "Vegan" was new to me. I thought maybe Vegan was just short for vegetarian, but was I ever wrong. They are two entirely different ways of life.

A Vegan, which Rachael and Lauren are, can be seen as a stricter form of a vegetarian. A Vegan tries to avoid all forms of animal "exploitation" as much as possible. They not only avoid animal flesh, which includes fish, but also all



dairy products, eggs, cheese and also honey and gelatin. They also avoid all leather products, including gloves, handbags and all leather clothing.

Kale Soup

2 T Olive oil
1 small yellow onion – chopped (about 1-1/2 C chopped)
1 T freshly minced garlic
1 bunch Kale – rinsed, large stems removed and coarsely chopped
1 (32 ounce) container vegetable broth

1 (28 ounce) can diced tomatoes (undrained)
2 (15.5 ounce) cans cannellini beans (undrained)
4 carrots, peeled and sliced (about 2 cups)

3 russet potatoes, peeled and sliced into bite sized chunks (about 4 cups)

1 T Italian seasoning
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat olive oil over medium high heat in a 6-quart Dutch oven or soup pot. Add onion and garlic and cook for 2 minutes, or until onions are soft, stirring constantly. Add kale and cook for an additional 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add vegetable broth, diced tomatoes, cannellini beans, carrots, potatoes and Italian seasoning. Bring to a gentle boil then reduce heat to maintain simmer. Cover and cook for 25-30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Season to taste with the salt and pepper.

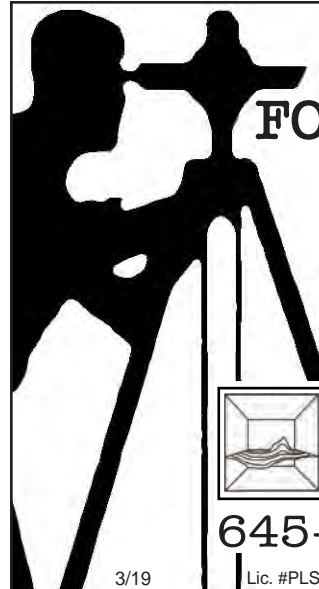
Note: As I said this is delicious, but if you don't like kale or don't have it, I think cabbage or even spinach could be substituted.

Lauren also sent me a recipe for:

Vegan Chocolate Chip Cookies
1/2 C Vegan margarine or

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 13

I thought maybe Vegan was just short for vegetarian, but was I ever wrong. They are two entirely different ways of life.



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The Bookshelf

Summer Reading Program Nears

By Jerrica Edmundson

Summertime is swiftly approaching and we are gearing up for the annual Summer Reading Program here at the library. We have performers scheduled and are planning on starting a new movie series to go along with the usual shows. These movies will be family friendly and will be a little later in the day than the usual program that you are used to. My goal is to have something family friendly that people of all ages can enjoy and allow for a little more to do out here during summer vacation. I hope you all are as excited as I am about this. More details will be posted on our Facebook page as the time draws closer, but keep an eye out for sure.



Kate's Shelf:

Year One by Nora Roberts

I've never read a Nora Roberts book before this one because she's always seemed to write books that fit either

the romance genre or the romantic suspense genres and I am not at all driven to read those. When I read the description of this book of hers though, I was intrigued. *Year One* is a dark fantasy that defies her usual tropes in books and managed to completely draw me into its storyline right from the start.

Year One follows three main groups of people as they continue fighting to live after a brutal disease suddenly obliterates the majority of the population. As this sickness spreads throughout the world, a select few are waking up to find that they have magical abilities that have arisen within them and are now considered "uncanny." Among the Uncanny there are those that strive for darkness and destruction and others that are light and want to further the human race beyond this catastrophic disaster. The abilities manifesting are anywhere from recognizing when someone will die to literally growing wings that allow you to fly — and its causing quite the uproar among the survivors that do not have abilities. Groups of standard humans have taken to roving the streets and basically hunting the Uncanny

in an attempt to cull their population and ensure that they remain part of the world as they know it.

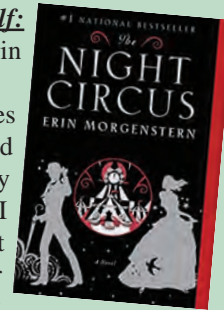
Overall this book is quite intriguing and a great variant among Nora Roberts' prolific bibliography. I highly recommend it and its sequel *Of Blood and Bone* which is already out.

Jerrica's Shelf:

Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

This book comes highly acclaimed from most of my reading groups and I was always hesitant to pick it up for some reason. Now that I have, I honestly can't understand what took me so long and can barely manage to put it down to go to sleep at night. Morgenstern is able to captivate the reader in such a way that the magical things happening in the book seem like they could totally be real and happening right in front of you without ever doubting its truth.

Night Circus revolves around two dueling magicians who both have their own respective careers as illusionists. One is rather silly and goofy about it all, reveling in his ability to fool people into thinking his magic tricks are just sleight of hand in-



stead of the truth: That he can actually do magic. The other takes it all much more seriously, choosing to spend his time studying and perfecting his abilities rather than showing off to unassuming people who don't know any better. Both performers have entered into an agreement that they will take a ward and train them. These wards will then have a chance to compete to see who the better magician overall is — by proxy. Obviously, whoever is able to train the better ward is the better magician, right?

I'm loving this book and my sleep schedule is definitely not happy with me over it, but I have no regrets with this one. If you're interested in magical realism, this is absolutely something I recommend to you.

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Thank You Marie Kondo (Part II)

Thrift stores are experiencing a rise in donations as people discard things that no longer “spark joy.” There are more photos of organized sock drawers on Instagram than ever before. The U.S. has caught the “tidying” bug thanks to Marie Kondo.

There’s much Marie and I agree on when it comes to organizing, or as she calls it “tidying up.” Perhaps the most important being that “Tidying is just a tool, not the final destination.” We all desire homes that promote a peaceful and productive environment. A home in which we can rest, enjoy the company of others and easily access our belongings.

Many people think if they just get the right containers, shelving or more storage space, their clutter problem will be solved. However, reducing to what you need, use and

love will dramatically decrease your storage needs. In *Thanks Marie Kondo (Part I)*, I shared about the Mindset for Change and Action #1 – Purging. That’s always the place to start. In this article I’ll share the KonMari (Marie Kondo) and OBC (Organized by Choice) methods for Action #2 – Storing.

The principle element of Action #2 is **CREATE A HOME FOR EVERYTHING.**

KonMari method: “I have only two rules,” says Marie, “store all items of the same type in the same place and don’t scatter storage space. Forget about flow planning and frequency of use.” Her book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, was originally released in Japan. In it she says, “Considering the average size of a Japanese dwelling, a storage layout that follows

the flow plan is not going to make that much difference. If it only takes 20 seconds to walk from one end of your home to the other, do you really need to worry about the flow plan?”

OBC method:

Keep like things together with some exceptions. Exceptions include things you use frequently in multiple areas of your home — scissors, reading glasses, cleaning products, pens, etc. It’s more convenient and you’re more apt to put these things away if there’s a designated home for them where they’re used. Store the majority of your belongings, “like” things, together. That way, when you need a light bulb, vase, battery, etc. you’re sure to find it on your first try because there’s only one place to look.

Keep close what you use most. This is the “flow plan” that Marie deems unnecessary. In her book she proposes daily drying and placing the soap and shampoo from the shower back in their home with other soaps in the cupboard. Call me lazy, but the home for the shampoo and soap I’m currently using is in the shower. I’m an advocate of placing a holder near the

stove for frequently used utensils and having hooks near the door for coats, purses and backpacks. In other words, create homes for things where they fit with the flow of how and where they’re used.

KonMari method: “Once they [clients] finish my course, all of them, without exception, have told me, ‘Folding is fun!’” Really? Wow. Marie promotes folding almost everything, but not just for the fun of it. “When we take our clothes in our hands and fold them neatly,” says Marie, “we are, I believe, transmitting energy, which has a positive effect on our clothes.” Everything is folded so it can stand on end and is stored vertically in drawers or bins. “By neatly folding your clothes,” she says, “you can solve almost every problem related to storage.”

OBC method: Priority to me is ease of access and getting clean laundry put away. Personally, that means hanging most things on slimline hang-

Please see **CHOICE** on P. 11

Many people think if they just get the right containers, shelving or more storage space, their clutter problem will be solved. However, reducing to what you need, use and love will dramatically decrease your storage needs.

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April 13-Spring Festival 9am-2pm	& Fireworks
April 21-"Sunrise" Service 7am-and Pancake Breakfast	July 8-13-Centrifuge Youth Camp
May 12-Mother's Day Celebration	September 20-22-Women's Conference
May 17-Family Movie Night	October 26-Harvest Festival 11am-3pm
June 7-Family Movie Night	November 10-Veteran's Day-Honoring those who served
June 10-14-Vacation Bible School	November 16-Thanksgiving Dinner 5pm
June 16-Father's Day Celebration	December 8-Christmas Party
June 17-21-Youth Green Days of Summer	December 14-Horseback Caroling 4pm
July 4-Independence Day Family BBQ	December 24-Candlelight SVC. 6:30pm



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Senior Report

Eagle Scout Builds Seniors New Sign

By Margaret Tynan

The 27th Annual Home and Garden Festival is finally here. Join us at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. on Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Master gardeners are available to help you with your gardening and landscaping questions and will demonstrate succulents/dish gardening at 10 a.m. and successful plant propagation at 1 p.m. Vendors and organizations from the community will have booths displaying their wares and provide information on many community services. Items for sale include plants, trees, handmade crafts, jewelry, produce, lovely Easter baskets, home-baked goods and other unique specialty items. Come early and enjoy coffee or juice in the morning, visit the various booths, the Boutique and Treasure House, then have a hamburger or hotdog for lunch. We look forward to seeing you at this fun and informative community event.



Gregory Reitz's Eagle Scout Project was to design and install a new sign for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Jeff Coulthard, consulted with the president of the Center. Gregory then began the many steps he needed to take to complete his project. After research on all the requirements to erect a sign in Madera County, he drew up preliminary plans. They included creating design idea sketches, listing materials and their sources, identifying necessary permits and making a cost estimate. He presented at the Center's Board meeting, explaining and getting feedback on the plan. He also had to develop a safety plan as well as recruiting and organizing a team of helpers for building and erecting the sign.

I asked Gregory what he learned from his experience in completing his Eagle Scout project. He said the project was more complex than he expected, but it helped further his leadership and management skills in planning, communicating and organizing. He went on to say, "I'm very grateful to the Senior Center for the opportunity and to my family, Boy Scouts and my team for their support." Gregory is a senior at Liberty High and plans to attend college majoring in business in pursuit of a career in real estate development. He is active in the California Scholarship Federation and Key Club, both of which promote service to the community. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors members are very pleased with the handsome sign and thank Gregory and his team for their hard work on the project and for service to the Madera Ranchos community.

Thought for April: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."—Muhammad Ali

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The Boy Scouts from Ranchos Troop 118 are again volunteering to help with the Home and Garden Festival as they have over the past many years. Members of the Senior Center are very appreciative of their support. There is even more to be thankful for. Gregory Reitz, a member of Troop 118, chose the Center to benefit from his Eagle Scout project: The design, building and installing of a new sign for the Center. It was at last year's Home and Garden Festival, where Gregory volunteered, that the idea for the project emerged after he and his Scout Master,

CHOICE cont. from P. 10

ers and open-ended easy slide pant hangers. I'd much rather walk in and see my clothes at eye level, than have them in different drawers. Some of my folded things, like camis, I store vertically so I can choose the color I want. Other things, like underwear, I have a horizontal stack and pull from the top. Create homes that are sustainable for you and provide easy access to what you need, use, and love.

My goal is to promote whatever tidying/organizing method works for

you. Marie's methods might be perfect for you. But, if you can't picture doing a KonMari fold for every pair of socks, don't despair! You can still create order and enjoy a peaceful and productive home. I'd love to hear what's worked for you. Feel free to use the contact information below.

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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The 29th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 29th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 11 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 Virginia Vick

New Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family

Jeremy and Phyllis Pool Visiting Angels

Crab Feed "600" Sponsors

The 16th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed was a huge success on March 1, and what really made the event possible was a group of special sponsors:

- Fernwood Gardens**
- SEMCU**
- Bedrock Engineering**
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2019 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 11, 2019 • \$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 (Other) Name: _____
- Children's Groups Name: _____
- Dance Groups Name: _____
- Single Entry (Children) Name: _____
- Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____
- Vehicle Type: _____
- 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 Maywood

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 6** 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.

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

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 10 and help plan the 29th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Call us at 645-4001.

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

Vegan butter

- 1 C packed brown sugar
- 1/4 C Non-dairy milk (like almond or soy)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 C all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/3 to 1/2 C dairy free chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350.

In a mixing bowl, cream together the Vegan margarine and brown sugar. Add almond milk and vanilla and stir to combine.

In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and baking soda. Add dry mix to wet in two parts, stirring to form a dough. Add the

chocolate chips and stir to combine. Using a one to two tablespoon scoop, scoop out dough and roll into balls and flatten on cookie sheet. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until golden. Let cool a few minutes before devouring.

Rachael is not only a Vegan but she is gluten intolerant, so she sent me her favorite recipe

Vegan and Gluten Free Banana Bread

- Preheat oven to 350
- Wet ingredients:
 - 3 or 4 ripe bananas
 - 2 T ground flax seeds
 - 1/3 C almond or coconut milk
 - 3 T grapeseed or coconut oil
 - 2 tsp. vanilla
 - 3 T pure maple syrup (not waffle syrup)
- Dry ingredients:

1/4 C plus 2 T sugar (pure cane sugar)

- 1/2 C oats
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 C flour
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

In large mixing bowl, mix all wet ingredients together. Add dry ingredients, mixing well. Pour into loaf pan and bake in preheated oven about 50 minutes.

Vicki also sent this easy vegetarian/Vegan enchilada recipe:

- Vegetarian/Vegan Enchilada**
- 15 corn tortillas
- 2 cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 can whole southwest style corn
- 2 zucchinis cut into small strips

1/2 red onion, diced
1 can black olives, chopped(optional)

1 large can of mild green chili enchilada sauce

Vegan or regular shredded cheese (pick your favorite flavor, I use Fiesta mix)

In a large bowl mix together beans, corn, zucchini, olives and onion. Heat the tortillas on a frying pan and set aside. Fill each tortilla with 1/4 cup of the bean mixture and add a pinch of cheese and roll the tortilla, placing the seam down in a casserole dish. Cover all enchiladas with an equal amount of enchilada sauce and sprinkle with more cheese. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes.

Oh, by the way ... **HAPPY BIRTHDAY VIRGINIA!**






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SEMUCU speaks

By Matt Maringer

Updates

As part of SEMCU's 2016 Water Energy Grant, we requested to extend the grant for another year because of how well it has been doing the past two years. We received confirmation this past week the amendment has been drafted and it will include the time extension and is ready for signature, which is great news. Also, in this past week, we received the reimbursement check for the 2018 4th quarter applicants and

the rebate checks will be going out ASAP. We know it took it a little longer than expected to get the check from the state, so we truly appreciate everyone's patience.

As a reminder to those in the 93636-zip code, an incentive to the grant is you will get \$350 back for purchasing a new Energy Star, High Efficiency washing machine or dishwashing machine, or \$700 for both. Go to SEMCU's web page at www.semcu.org for an application form.

Dry Well Info

For the Dry Well Recharge Project, we are still working hard toward a \$1M Prop. 1 Department of Water Resources Grant. While preparing for the application process and going through the budget, we were able to calculate that

we would be able to drill more than 200 of the 3 ft. wide by 75 ft. deep dry wells throughout Madera. With this project, the dry wells will provide benefit during and after rain events or when there is surface water available, generally whenever there is rain from November to April each year. The long-term testing of our wells resulted in over 40-acre feet of water, per one well, recharged in just 19 days of operation. That can provide for a family that uses 200 gallons a day enough water for 23 years. These dry wells are FREE to qualified people and we will look to drill once we're awarded the grant. We anticipate beginning next summer when the ground is less wet. Information can be picked up at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce or by calling Verlaine at 559-363-9095.

SEMUCU, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to work on behalf of our community toward a sustainable future. We invite our community members to come to our meetings and get involved in helping to achieve a sustainable future, work on building a community center, provide parks for our kids and in general look after our neighborhood. We meet only once a month, so time commitment is minimal. Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 15 at 6 p.m. at the Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12, Ste 101. We hope to see you there making a difference.

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You may reach us through our website at www.semcu.org.

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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Cross the River Run Coming

By Becky Koop

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

Spring has sprung for the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis. We have been busy working on local projects here in the Ranchos, like the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed and the Wildwood Native Park Cleanup. Both events help make our local community a better place and we encourage you to join us on some of our next endeavors.

On April 14, the Kiwanis are hosting their annual Cross the River Run which will have a 2 Mile Walk & Run, a 10k Run, a Kid's ½ Mile and a Kid's ¼ Mile course. All of the race proceeds will benefit local youth and the Kiwanis are also collecting new and gently used story books for local children at the event. Please contact John Minney at 559-275-5937 if you are interested in sponsoring or participating.



Anxious runners take off at the Cross the River run, sponsored by the Kiwanis, in April of 2018. Kiwanis will be again sponsoring the race this year as well.

There will be an Easter basket on display at the Ranchos Café to be raffled off in April. Tickets are only \$1 and the proceeds go toward the Kiwanis Scholarship fund. We are also planning our Flatlanders booth in May which is always a fun event.



Kevin Hatch, Assistant Superintendent for Golden Valley Unified School District, spoke in February on topics ranging from naming our new elementary school to the new Career Technical Education building.

In February we had Kevin Hatch, Assistant Superintendent for Golden Valley Unified School District, come and review recent school scores and updates. He shared that they are currently working on naming our new elementary school, and that the new Career Technical Education building is still on track for a 2022 opening. It is very exciting to see our school district grow.

Herman Platzke, a Kiwanis member from 29 Palms, stopped in at a meeting in February and talked about the Kiwanis Children's Fund. Also, Lt. Governor of Kiwanis Division 5, Tim Fortier, also came to our meeting last week and stressed that the most important part is to reach out and connect with people through Kiwanis.

I'd like to remind you that you can connect with us every Thursday (except the first one of the month) at the Pizza Factory Banquet Room at 37184 Ave. 12 at 6:15 p.m. Hope to see you soon.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com



Being an Enabler

Hello 93636,

A common misperception I deal with on a daily basis is the perception a vehicle emissions repair and a smog check can be completed on the same day. If the emission failure has illuminated the Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL), commonly known as the "Check Engine Light," the likelihood both can be completed in the same day is very low.

There is also the misperception the MIL can be activated by engine failures like low oil pressure or overheating. The MIL is an emissions light ONLY and is ONLY illuminated when tailpipe emissions exceed 1 1/2 times the allowable standard. WARNING: If the MIL is flashing, STOP and turn the engine off. A flashing MIL indicates the presence of a catalyst-damaging emission failure. An expensive catalytic converter failure can occur in less than one mile of driving. STOP and get the vehicle towed.

Now, standing between a successful emissions repair and a successful smog check is a complicated maze of verification testing know as an OBDII drive cycle. Without a successful OBDII drive cycle, a vehicle will fail its smog inspection even if the MIL is off.

What is an OBDII drive cycle? An OBDII drive cycle is a special pattern of driving that enables all OBDII readiness monitors to run and complete during a single driving event.

What is an OBDII readiness monitor? A readiness monitor is an "On Board" self-evaluation test(s) designed to quickly and accurately evaluate the state of health of an emissions system or component. A modern vehicle can have up to 11 readiness monitors or one per emission systems.

There are two types of OBDII readiness monitors: Continuous and non-continuous. Continuous monitors constantly run and test when the engine is running. They monitor misfires, fuel trim and the comprehensive components. If a failure occurs with a continuous monitor, the MIL will immediately illuminate.

A non-continuous monitor runs only once per trip. For several systems that translates to only once per day. Non-continuous systems include the catalytic converter, oxygen sensor, oxygen sensor heater, evaporative emissions, air injection

and exhaust recirculation. If a failure occurs with a non-continuous monitored system, the MIL will be illuminated with the second failure. If a readiness monitor fails, there is a possibility other readiness monitors will be suspended.

Let's say an oxygen sensor fails its monitor. The catalytic converter and Air Injection Systems (AIS) monitors will be suspended as a result. The reason for that is oxygen sensor data is used in the catalytic converter and AIS evaluation calculation. False oxygen sensor data will adversely affect those calculations. When the oxygen sensor failure is successfully repaired the catalytic converter and AIS monitors will be unblocked.

If the catalytic converter and/or AIS are faulty, we won't know that until their monitors are unblocked and complete. That's why I don't like to return a vehicle immediately after an emissions repair. I like to conduct an OBDII drive cycle until ALL monitors pass. I don't like surprises.

After an emission repair is completed and prior to the OBDII drive cycle, the trouble code(s) are cleared and the MIL is turned off. This process also clears all previous readiness monitor test results. Without a successful drive cycle, the vehicle will fail its smog inspection even if the MIL is off. Now we have to start all

over.

WARNING: Whenever the vehicle's battery is disconnected or replaced, the OBDII test results are also cleared. It's my suggestion you wait at least one week before you attempt a smog inspection. Hopefully you will drive in a sufficient number of different driving patterns and the vehicle's readiness monitors will be completed.

An OBDII drive cycle is designed to complete all readiness monitors during a single drive. During a drive cycle, the vehicle is driven in a variety of unique driving patterns designed to enable all readiness monitors to complete. Enabling criteria includes engine speed, engine load, throttle position, engine coolant temperature at start up and during testing, and elapsed time since startup. Enabling criteria algorithms can be complex or simple. I've seen as many as six sub-tests per monitor, depending on the emissions system being tested.

A simple example of enabling criteria can be found with the Air Injection System. A typical catalytic converter is inefficient until light-off occurs between 400-600 degrees F. From an emission standpoint, it is important the converter reach light-off as soon as possible since most vehicle emissions occur at start and warm up.

During engine warm up the AIS pumps fresh air into the exhaust to light-off the converter and catalyze the vehicle's emissions. It's the same

principle as fanning a fire. The obvious enabling criteria for AIS testing is a cold, idling engine.

During a California smog inspection, the vehicle is connected to the state's data base so the vehicle can report its readiness monitor's status and verify the correctness of emissions repair(s). In California, 1996-2000 model year vehicles must complete and pass all OBDII monitors with the exception of any one. For model years 2000 and newer, all monitors must complete and pass except the EVAP System.

The moral of the story is when your vehicle's smog inspection is due and your MIL is illuminated, don't wait until the last minute to start. Here's where the extra time comes into play. Depending on how long the MIL has been illuminated, it might take some time to sort through the maze of testing, repair and on-board verification tests. There is no legal way to speed up or alter that process.

OK guys, that's all for now. As usual, I'm looking for interesting, informative and helpful automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any ideas, recommendations, suggestions or a specific question about a specific vehicle please text me at 907-7661 and I will respond to your contact as soon as possible.

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3/19

In Memoriam



Larry Wolford
January 20, 1948 - March 11, 2019

Larry Wolford passed away on March 11, 2019, at the age of 71.

Hewas born on January 20, 1948 inJacksonville, Ill. On July 18, 1970, hemarried his true love, Linda. Larry was an automatic transmis-sion repairman for 42 years and was employed with shops in Fresno, Seaside and Madera. His ultimate passion though was the 33 years he spent as a volunteer firefighter withMadera County Station 19 and running the Support Unit for MaderaCounty.

He recently was employed part time with Napa Auto Parts in the Madera Ran-chos. It was the bestway to fill his retirement years. Larry was a hard worker and al-ways found an enjoyable way to fill his time. The friends he made along his life's journey were important to him and he never met a stranger. Larry was preceded in death by his parents Eula and Charles Wolford, his sister Sharon Gutierrez, his brother Jerry Wolford and brother-in-law Dana Nickell. His family was most im-portant to him above anything else and he showed his love to them every day.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda; daughter and son-in-law Marisa and David Etheridge; daughter Renee Wolford and sonMatthew Wolford. He loved and cherished his grandchildren Paige, Deagan, Logan and Layne. His family was his pride and joy. He is alsosurvived by his brother, Jim Wolford,in Illinois; sister Cindy Quintano and her husband Steve of Fresno; his sister Linda and her husband Carl Walla of Selma; his in-laws Joyce Nickell, Cathy and SteveRutherford, Sheila and Mark Hatfield, Darlene Falcon and VictorGutierrez, plus many nieces and nephews. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather andwe miss him terribly. Love you Larry, always and forever.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Madera County Support Unit at 35141 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93636 or www.maderastation19.com.

FIRES cont. from P. 2

quent winter storms immediately following the Camp Fire, along with favorable weather patterns, a high level of cooperation by Valley residents with the Check Before You Burn Program and the use of much cleaner wood, pellet and natural gas devices, had a positive impact on air quality.

Funding is still available to help Valley residents reduce their contribution to particulate pollution by upgrading from an open-hearth fireplace or older wood stove to a cleaner device using the District's Burn Cleaner incentive program. This program provides funding toward the purchase of a cleaner wood/pellet insert, freestanding stove or natural gas insert. To apply, visit valleyair.org/burncleaner.

Additionally, residents can register their clean burning devices to take advantage of the "No Burning Unless Registered" days by visiting valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.

top ten

College Basketball Markets

1. Louisville, Ky.
2. Kansas City
3. Raleigh-Durham, N.C.
4. Greensboro-High Point, N.C.
5. Cincinnati
6. Charlotte, N.C.
- (tie) Indianapolis
8. Knoxville, Tenn.
- (tie) Nashville, Tenn.
- (tie) Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.

Source: ESPN

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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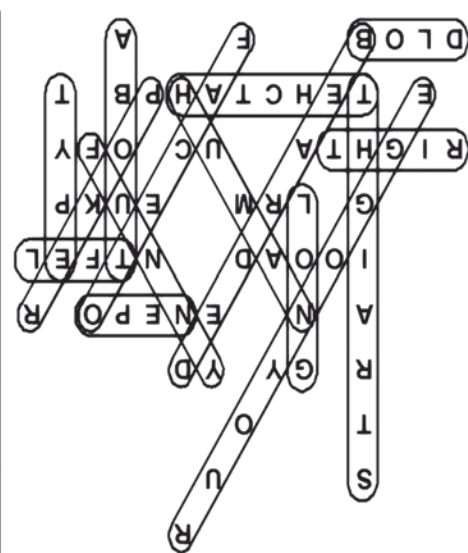
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ANSWERS

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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.

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+		-		+	
	-		x		12
x		x		x	
	x		+		23
27		21		26	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



Great Hoaxes of History

By Betty Van Valkenburg

In the beginning, God warned Adam and Eve not to eat the forbidden fruit. Instead, they chose to believe the serpent's promise that they would become "as gods," took a tasty bite and were banished from the Garden of Eden. It's been all downhill from there.

History is replete with hoaxes – small and large; benign and catastrophic – successfully perpetrated, despite well-founded warnings from those who know better, by those promising great results if only the person/nation/world would ignore reason and follow along. The progressives' "Green New Deal" is two hoaxes rolled into one:

(1) Global warming is destroying the earth, right now!

(2) Socialism will save it and create a utopian society.

The man-made global warming lie had its start many decades ago as man-made global *cooling*, when the earth was to become covered with ice. Never mind that scientists told us there were ice ages millions of years ago from which the earth warmed without human involvement. Indeed, scientists tell us we are still in the "Little Ice Age" while we're also experiencing global warming. Go figure. Al Gore enriched himself by hyping the global warming "threat" and told us that the earth would end by 2018.

Oops, we're still here, Al.

Then the experts called the dastardly threat "climate change" since they couldn't decide if we were going to burn up or freeze to death, but they were darn sure that climate was going to get us either way. Now the United Nations, Democrat presidential candidates and celebrities tell us that our beloved planet will succumb to global warming within 12 years. We just can't win.

Progressives selling the doom and gloom are confused if nothing else. Take the country's newest super star, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or "AOC" (Airhead of Congress -- take her, please). In order to save the planet, scheduled to end in 12 years, she rolled out the progressives' "Green New Deal" calling for a 10-year plan to get rid of all internal-combustion-powered cars, cow flatulence and airplanes. But just today she called for new solar panels on La Guardia Airport as well as a living wage for airport employees.

Huh?

Hey, Airhead, if the airport needs work, why not just close it, like, already, and, like,

ground the planes, and, I mean, save the planet. Then you could use the Green New Deal's guaranteed jobs to put the displaced airport employees to work rounding up the flatulent cows and, well, maybe, like, dispatching them to bovine heaven.

Sorry to pick on AOC, but wow, like, it's just too hard to resist, especially since she and her cohorts are pushing the lie of socialism to save us from the lie of global warming or whatever.

Socialism is the ultimate lie, and its disasters are liberally (no pun intended) chronicled in history. Venezuela's catastrophic collapse under socialism is current news, but many may have forgotten or may never have known that the term "Nazi" meant the National Socialist German Workers' Party (which didn't end well).

Just so we are on the same page, let's define socialism as does Britannica: An economic doctrine that calls for public rather than private ownership or control of property and natural resources. AOC, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, bless 'em one and all, would no doubt tell us that they don't espouse public ownership of our property, just control it if.

No thanks, either way. I'll keep capitalism and freedom.

Under capitalism, we own and use what we work for and we provide for ourselves while adding to the economy. Under socialism, however, the government controls our lives, becoming the "god" promised by the wily serpent. That puts our fate in the hands of some airhead who likens the Berlin Wall to a U. S. border wall, an old coot who denounces the wealthy while owning three homes and enjoying a net worth of \$3 million or so, or a ditzzy white woman claiming American Indian heritage to gain special privileges. Heaven help us!


Free, educated people do not readily exchange a booming free-market economy for socialist stagnation. It's taken decades of miseducation, propaganda, relentless global warming hysteria and a steady drip-by-drip introduction of socialist policies to make the very idea of socialism palatable to so many Americans.

In the beginning, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent's seductive promises for their banishment from paradise. Who have we to blame if the United States trades its freedom for the empty promises of would-be dictators? We can only blame ourselves if we don't fight to save what we have and educate others to do the same.

Suggested reading is a great article on renewable energy: www.thenewamerican.com/print-magazine/item/31579-an-open-letter-to-alexandria-ocasio-cortez

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

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by Dave T. Phipps



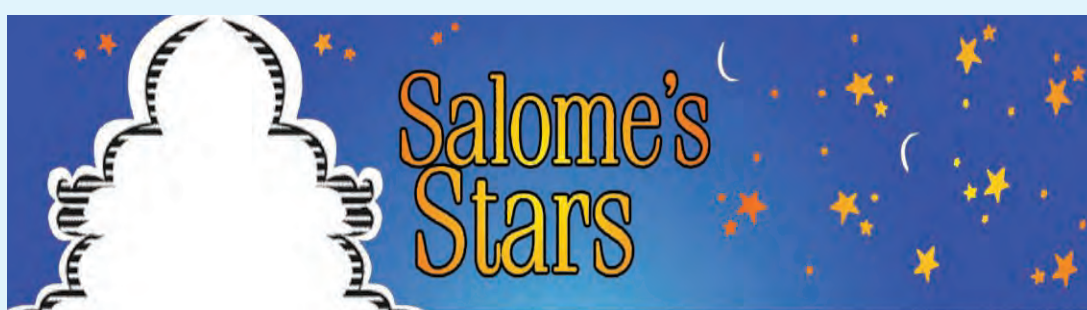
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Putting yourself in someone else's shoes isn't easy for you. But if you do it, you'll gain a better perspective of what you need to do to achieve your goals. Be open to new ideas.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) There are still some problems you might have to deal with before moving on to your next project. It's a good idea to accept help from those who share your objectives.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's time to recognize the difference between those who are truly concerned for you and those who simply plan to use your good nature to their advantage. New ideas become increasingly attractive.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Depending on a promise made becoming a promise kept could be more than a mite unwise at this time. It's best to proceed on your own rather than wait for aid that might never arrive.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A recently revitalized relationship might not be quite what the Big Cat expected. But give yourself more time to deal with the changes. A little flexibility can go a long way. Good luck.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A major change could prompt more adjustments. Some of them might be difficult to deal with at first. But hang in there, and before you know it, you'll be coasting to your next goal.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your sense of justice prompts you to speak out against an unfair situation, even if you seem to be the only one who feels that way. But you soon learn that many others agree with you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Creating a fuss is not usually your style. But that doesn't mean you should tolerate an ill-mannered attitude. Speak up for yourself, and you'll earn the respect of others.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might have a few loose ends to tie up before you can stamp your project as complete. But once that's done, you might want to celebrate with someone special in your life.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Disappointment darkens the Goat's mood. But close friends rally to pull you through with words of encouragement. Use their confidence in you to rebuild your own self-esteem.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An upcoming decision might be more difficult with inaccurate information. Best to recheck the data you have at hand right now to be sure it won't mislead you later.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) An offer you previously turned down might no longer be available. But if you do some checking around, you could find something else that would suit you just fine.

Born this Week

You believe in helping those who cannot help themselves. Although it embarrasses you, the fact is, people like you and tell you so.

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FUN PAGES

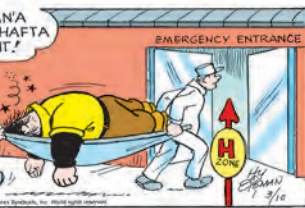
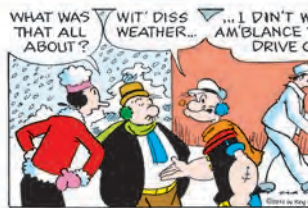
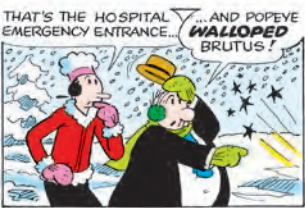
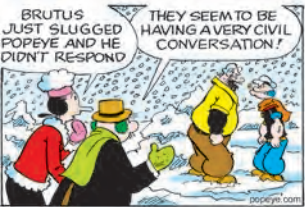
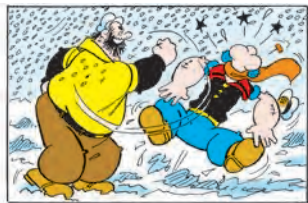
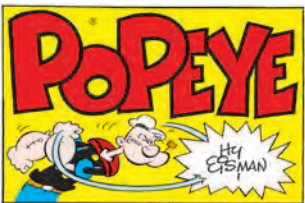
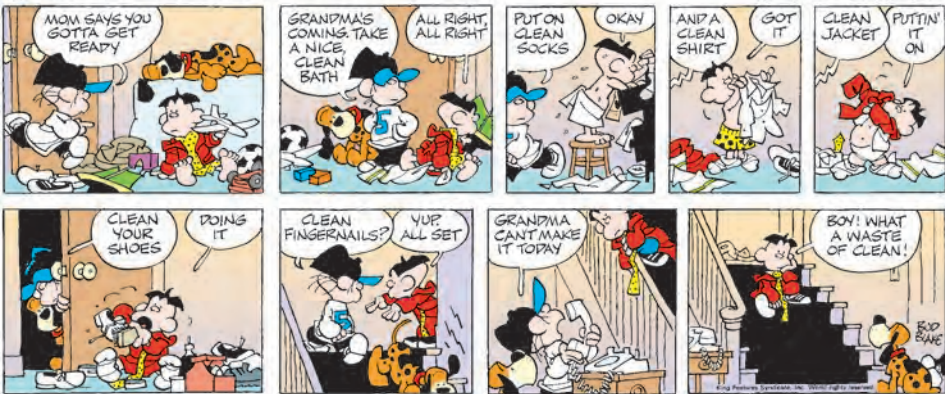
Kids' Maze



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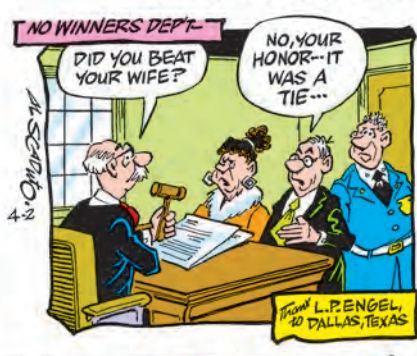
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



AN ITEM YOU CAN'T GET RID OF! Can you spot two boomerangs that are exactly alike?
Answer: Two and eight

AN INTERESTING WORD! There is a five-letter word that contains an additional five words within itself, without moving any of the letters around. You have two minutes to find it. This should be easy since I've already told you the answer.
Answer: THE WORD "THERE". The words are: THE, HERE, HER, HE, ERE.

LET'S 'MARCH' OUT OF WINTER WITH THIS PUZZLE! In the word square below, find the four five-letter words that match the following definitions. All words used must read the same, both across and down.

- Comes in like a lion (MARCH, in place).
- Hello and goodbye.
- Something grand, or stately.
- Monks, not the Monkeys, do it.
- Stops forward motion.

M	A	R	C	H
A				
R				
C				
H				

Answers: 1 March 2 Aloha 3 Royal 4 Chant 5 Halls

Wishing Well®

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

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 ● — FACE

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

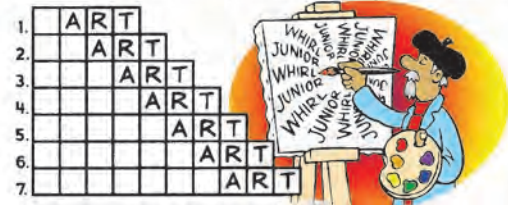
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- About
- Bearded
- Bold
- Egg on your
- Face to
- Funny
- Hatchet
- Human
- Left
- Long
- Open
- Poker
- Right
- Straight
- Type

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



WORD ART, NOT OP ART!
Can you paint a perfect word picture by correctly identifying the seven words listed? Each contains the word "ART." Add the following hints to your word palette:

- To move suddenly.
- Columbus could have used one.
- To go away from.
- A self-important newcomer.
- Used to sell vegetables years ago.
- One who is needlessly troubled.
- A term of endearment.

Answers: 1 Dart 2 Chart 3 Depart 4 Upstart 5 Pushcart 6 Worrier 7 Sweathart

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- ENTERTAINERS: Which pop music singer was born with the name Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou?
- HISTORY: Who was the first woman to hold federal office in the United States?
- MEDICAL: What is a more common name for "myocardial infarction"?
- MUSIC: Which singer had a 2010 hit single with "Rolling in the Deep"?
- GENERAL LANGUAGE: What is the NATO phonetic word for the letter "T"?
- SCIENCE: What is the only type of rock that is less dense than water?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of jellyfish called?
- MOVIES: Who voiced the character of "The Iron Giant"?
- LANGUAGE: What are the Carabinieri in Italy?
- U.S. GOVERNMENT: How many states are required to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Answers

- George Michael
- Jeanette Rankin, elected in 1916 as a U.S. representative from Montana
- Heart attack
- Adèle
- India
- Pumice
- A swarm, a bloom or a smack
- Vin Diesel
- Military police with civilian duties
- Three-fourths, or 38 of 50 states

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

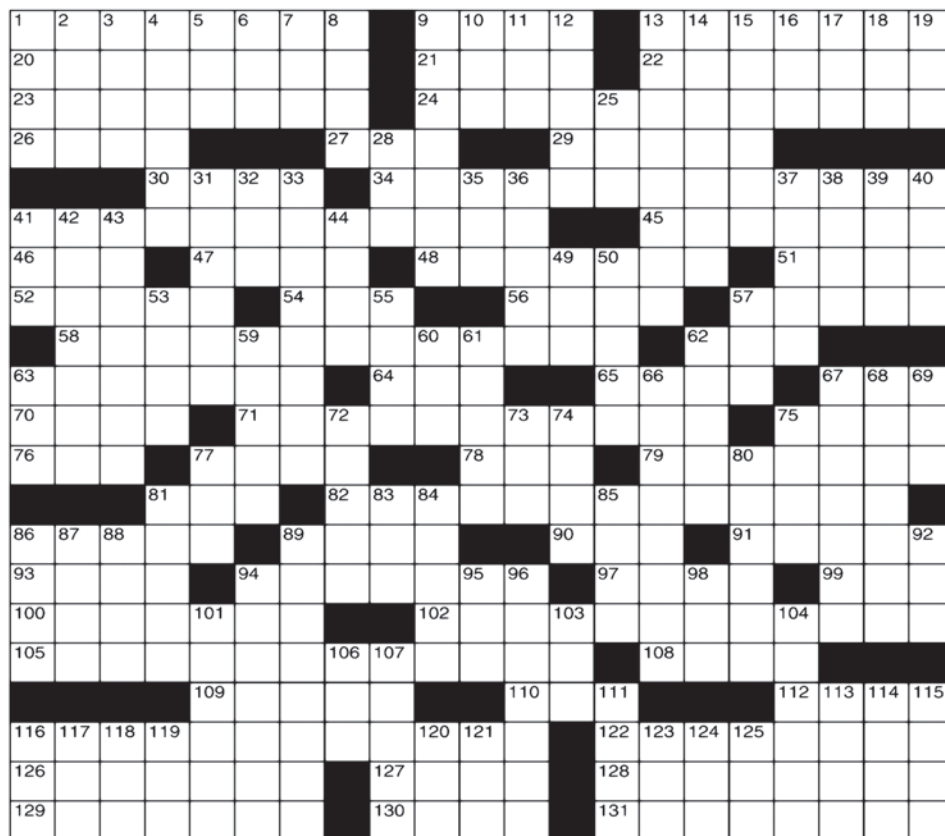
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Window has been added. 2. Drum design is different. 3. Chair ruffie is missing. 4. Picture has been moved. 5. Mom's earring is missing. 6. Mom's hand is not seen.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Spanish sailing ships
 - 9 Regrets
 - 13 Disney's Ariel, e.g.
 - 20 Classic Italian song
 - 21 About Powell of "Rosalie"
 - 23 Agitates
 - 24 Ticket for a suitcase at an airport
 - 26 Model Banks
 - 27 "Let me think ..."
 - 29 1836 Texas siege setting
 - 30 Farm baby
 - 34 "Cleopatra" director
 - 41 Health insurance invoice
 - 45 Off the clock for a while at work
 - 46 "Law & Order: —" (TV spinoff)
 - 47 Libertine
 - 48 Fore-and-aft rig section
 - 51 Actress Capshaw
 - 52 Alabama march city
 - 54 Suffix with ranch
 - 56 Lighten up
 - 57 Trait sources
 - 58 Randy Quaid thriller about a menacing car
 - 62 Cherry, e.g.
 - 63 Biblical wife of Isaac
 - 64 "Showdown" rock gp.
 - 65 "Aha!"
 - 67 "Westworld" ainer
 - 70 Those, to Juan
 - 71 Lisa, vis-à-vis the Simpson kids
 - 75 Anjou, e.g.
 - 76 Pigs' hangout
 - 77 Towed-away car, maybe
 - 78 Route
 - 79 "Yep, sounds about right"
 - 81 Star of Earth
 - 82 Pic on a web page, say
 - 86 Start to use
 - 89 La — Tar Pits
 - 90 Dallas-to-NYC dir.
 - 91 Circular gasket
 - 93 Paella need
 - 94 "Ay, —!" (cry from Bart Simpson)
 - 97 Ride ordered via app
 - 99 — Nabisco (old corp.)
 - 100 "Conga" singer Gloria
 - 102 Shameless untruth
 - 105 Branch of knowledge
 - 108 — Hashana
 - 109 Ungiving sort
 - 110 Western tribe
 - 112 First lessons
 - 116 Like the god Anubis
 - 122 Anchor in a forest
 - 126 Brother of Wilbur Wright
 - 127 Watch datum
 - 128 Electronic device's evaluation state
 - 129 "Sure, hon"
 - 130 Tater
 - 131 This puzzle's nine longest answers use only the first half of it
 - 6 Type widths
 - 7 Actress Lucy
 - 8 Jr.-to-be
 - 9 Flesh on a rack
 - 10 A, in Iberia
 - 11 Work unit
 - 12 George of "King Rat"
 - 13 Tons of a vitamin, say
 - 14 Oxygen, e.g.
 - 15 Do one's part again?
 - 16 — jongg
 - 17 Prop-ender
 - 18 Summer Games gp.
 - 19 Dwight Gooden's nickname
 - 25 Eur. nation
 - 28 Nero's 1,150
 - 31 Just slightly
 - 32 — Zedong
 - 33 Highest-quality
 - 35 AFL- —
 - 36 Urge along
 - 37 Annoyed
 - 38 Be on a slant
 - 39 Not punctual
 - 40 Barely gets, with "out"
 - 41 Orig. texts
 - 42 "Nurse Jackie" actress
 - 43 All-work-and-no-play Jack, per an adage
 - 44 Michael of "Juno"
 - 49 Goat's bleat
 - 50 PC character format
 - 53 West and Busch
 - 55 Took way too much, in brief
 - 57 "Shucks!"
 - 59 Dean who invented the Segway
 - 60 Laid up
 - 61 Lerner's partner
 - 62 — -wip (dessert topping)
 - 63 In medias —
 - 66 Control on a sound mixer
 - 67 1971 Donny Osmond hit
 - 68 Non-barking hunting dog
 - 69 Italian gold
 - 72 Red Sox Hall of Famer Bobby
 - 73 Ill-bred guy
 - 74 Jekyll and —
 - 75 Jack of old talk TV
 - 77 Tire snagger
 - 80 Goody camp snacks
 - 81 Haste
 - 83 "Give — call"
 - 84 Disney deer
 - 85 Ample, to Li'l Abner
 - 86 With 114-Down, phone number part
 - 87 Part of DVD
 - 88 Bi- x four
 - 89 One exiling senior's test
 - 92 Univ. Prince Charles' wife
 - 95 Sweetie, in modern lingo
 - 96 Referred
 - 98 Green: Prefix
 - 101 Doe or sow
 - 103 Pesticide banned in '72
 - 104 "— & Greg" (old sitcom)
 - 106 So-so grade
 - 107 Greek Week groups
 - 111 "— Kett"
 - 113 — tube (TV)
 - 114 See
 - 86-Down
 - 115 "Let it stand"
 - 116 Great delight
 - 117 Plural "is"
 - 118 Rite Aid competitor
 - 119 Farm baby
 - 120 Fast swim
 - 121 Very big bird
 - 123 Priest's study: Abbr.
 - 124 Sci-fi ability
 - 125 Suffix of ordinals
- DOWN**
- 1 Price
 - 2 Pale grayish
 - 3 Mimic a lion
 - 4 Lye, e.g.
 - 5 Neckline type

FUN PAGES

SEM CU
south east madera county united

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

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

SEM CU Regular Meeting

Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

Help with SEM CU and you help our neighborhood
where our kids grow up and where we plan to retire.
Southeast Madera is our back yard, our home and the
place we live. It doesn't take a lot of time,
meeting only once a month for about an hour.

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