

The Ranchos Independent



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CELEBRATING
19 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 19 Issue 3 2023

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



As Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno, right, gives the thumbs up for more crab, her table guests at the 19th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed represent a who's who of Madera County government with, from left, Madera County former Sheriff and current Madera County County Administrative Officer, Jay Varney, and Madera County Sheriff, Tyson Pogue.
Photo courtesy of Mike Fursman

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19 Years and Counting. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed Wows the Community Again.

Two years after the Covid-cancelled Crab Feed in 2021, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has roared back in full form with its 19th Annual Community Crab Feed, held on Friday, March 3 at the beautiful Danté Club in north Fresno.

As in years past, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce brought a fabulous crab dinner, surrounded by bread, salad, pasta, drinks and dessert, set among an atmosphere of live and silent auction items. Called a "Community" Crab Feed, as al-

ways the Ranchos community was well represented, with over 200 attendees at the event. Although deciding whether or not to put on a Crab Feed due to possible Covid restrictions was still being debated weeks before the event last year, there was no

hesitation by the Chamber this year. As in the past, Chamber volunteers ran the event and Ranchos Kiwanis were on hand serving the tables. The event is the largest fundraiser for the Golden Valley Chamber.



Chamber member Alma Griffen prepares the silent auction table before the crowds start arriving at the 19th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Crab Feed.



Once the doors opened at 6 p.m., it didn't take long for the Danté Club to fill up as the over 200 attendees found their tables and the festivities began.



As attendees were getting situated in the dining room, the star of the show -- the crab -- was being prepared by Chamber volunteers in the Danté Club's kitchen.



Always a crowd pleaser, the gun auction provided by the Sportsman's Warehouse resulted in multiple winners acquiring new firearms for the price of a ticket.



Once the food started to be served, attendees got serious about what they came there for -- CRAB! The "all-you-can-eat" arrangement assured no one went home hungry.



Even with their food served, you couldn't stop the bidders from returning to the silent auction table where they chased that "deal" or one-of-a-kind item.



At one point, Chamber member Ollia Ridge talked with a prospective auction bidder who had his eye on a green and yellow John Deere wagon donated by Midland Tractor.



And of course, you can't do anything without the helping hands of volunteers. Here are most of the Golden Valley Chamber members who helped out. Photos courtesy of Mike Fursman

Want a Winter View of Yosemite? It's Open Now

According to an official posting from Yosemite National Park, the park restored minimal public access starting Saturday, March 18. If you wanted to visit the Yosemite Valley in all of its winter glory, the Park will be open from sunrise to sunset with very limited services available.

The only access to Yosemite Valley will be via Highway 140 and El Portal Road, with a short detour in El Portal. Hetch Hetchy will re-open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily but will only be accessible via Highway 120 west of Yosemite and Evergreen Road. All other roads and areas of the park, including Big Oak Flat and Wawona Roads, will remain closed.

While several miles of paved

pedestrian paths in Yosemite Valley are plowed, all hiking trails are covered in snow. Wear waterproof boots and traction devices as even plowed paths can be icy. Hiking on snow-covered trails is not recommended.



Yosemite roads and trails crew work to clear one of the many rockslides on Big Oak Flat Road with drilling, blasting and heavy equipment.

Winter weather is again in the forecast next week, however – conditions permitting – Yosemite Valley will open 24 hours per day starting Monday, March 20, with limited overnight lodging. Campgrounds are still buried in snow and will not open immediately. Visitors should be prepared for the possibility of road closures and tire chain requirements. Please call

Please see **YOSEMITE** on P.15

Ranchos Asked To Help Find Dog Abuser

By DJ Becker

A young German Shepherd mix dog was recently found running loose, injured and barking in an agitated state near the intersection of Road 30 and Avenue 13. The dog had flesh wounds worn completely through his fur and skin, down to muscle tissue from a deeply embedded too-small collar he had likely outgrown over many months

Please see **DOG** on P. 3

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce - 559-645-4001
 37167 Ave. 12 #5C - GoldenValleyChamber@yahoo.com

When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

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

What are some reasons I should join the Chamber?

1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life where I live.

3/23

Love Animals? Help Start Area Spay and Neuter Clinic

A volunteer group has established the Madera Spay Neuter Clinic, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and is in the early stages of writing for grants and fundraising to open a much needed, affordable veterinary clinic in leased space in the city of Madera.

"Pop-up" Spay & Neuter Events are planned prior to the opening of the clinic, to try and help reduce the current flood of homeless animals. The group is also in the process of raising approximately \$30,000 with a GoFundMe campaign to equip the pop-up spay neuter events, hire contract vets and other personnel as soon as funding allows. You can go to www.gofundme.com/f/donation-fund-for-the-madera-spay-neuter-clinic for more info.

Founders DJ Becker and Kirsten Gross said the overpopulation of unwanted homeless animals was now a crisis. Both have decades of experience in local animal rescue, sheltering, fostering and adoptions. Gross retired as the long-time director of Madera County Animal Services in December 2019.

"You may have already noticed the large number of stray and homeless animals roaming nearly everywhere in the Madera area," Becker said. "These ani-

mals are continuing to reproduce, only adding to the problem. Shelters and rescue groups are overwhelmed. Many area residents can also no longer find or afford even basic veterinary care for their pets. Simply put - it's a crisis. We know people care and we are hoping the public can help," said Becker. "We also pledge to use every dollar of your donation responsibly.



Founders of the Madera Spay Neuter Clinic, Inc. (drom left) Kirsten Gross and DJ Becker, saw a need with the animal situation in Madera County and are hoping to put their money where their hearts are.

"If all of our local animal lovers could contribute just \$10 or \$15 we would be well on our way. Your donation of any amount now will assist us in purchasing the basic equipment, rent space and hire the contract veterinary personnel needed to make these monthly or weekly pop-up spay and neuter services happen. Hopefully within the next few months," Becker said.

Please join the group on Facebook or visit their website at www.MaderaSpayNeuterClinic.org for the full business plan and background information or to make an online donation. Donations can also be mailed to the address below and are tax deductible. EIN #87-3155849.

Startup Fund for the Madera Spay Neuter Clinic, Inc.
 1625 Howard Road, Suite 506
 Madera, CA 93637-5128

DOG cont, from P. 2

of neglect and being tied.

Authorities are hoping residents from The Madera Ranchos area might recognize the dog, or know the farm location or backyard where the dog was continually tied or heard barking.

Motorists in the area of College Center first saw the dog on March 6, as it was approaching cars and said it was barking frantically as though it was looking for human help or contact.

An off-duty Madera police officer stopped when he noticed the dog's unusual activity and called animal control as soon as he saw the deep bloody neck wounds. "In addition to the serious wounds from the

collar, the dog was also trailing other canvas straps around his abdomen and leashes as though he had just escaped from other repeated attempts at being tied," the officer said. "It was shocking. He kept coming up to vehicles. He didn't appear that vicious, just really agitated, barking, probably from all the pain he was in."

Authorities said the pain and torment from the deep wounds caused by the too-tight collar had likely been ongoing for many months as the continuously tied dog grew from a puppy, was fed but ignored and the collar was never adjusted, cutting into his flesh. Cindy Avila, director of Madera County Animal Services said due

Please see **DOG** on P. 15

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the Ways and Means Committee for taking up my HR 187, the Default Prevention Act. Similar bills I have introduced passed the House in 2013 and 2015, and I am gratified the Committee would take it up in this session. The bill simply provides that even if there is a fiscal impasse in our deliberations over the debt limit, the debt of the United States will always be paid in full and on time.

Frankly, that's already the law. Our revenues vastly exceed our debt service costs. As every family knows, if you're living off your credit cards, you'd better make the minimum payment first. The law and the Constitution require it.

The organic act that established the Treasury Department in 1789 is clear on this point. (Quote) "It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to digest and prepare plans for the improvement and management of the revenue, and for the support of public credit." REPEAT: "The management of the revenue and the support of public credit." The Constitution is also crystal clear. The 14th Amendment commands that "the public debt is not to be questioned." The GAO spelled it out so there would be no doubt in answering the Senate Finance Committee in 1985: "Treasury is free to liquidate obligations in any order it finds will best serve the interests of the United States." And yet, over the years, various Presidents have threatened to default on the debt as a way to roil markets and pressure lawmakers to bend to their will. This president is no different.

But even while the Obama Treasury Department was denying it had the ability to prioritize payments to pay the debt first, we later discovered it was making preparations to do exactly that. We also discovered documents that revealed that Federal Reserve officials were appalled that the administration would suggest defaulting because such statements ran a severe risk of panicking credit markets. We are hearing those same statements today from some Democrats in this Congress and in this administration.

The Default Prevention Act simply takes this threat off the table. Amendments being offered by the committee also require priority be given to Social Security, Medicare and Defense to assure no president can threaten to hold seniors or servicemembers or veterans hostage as well. Nor is this unusual. Most state constitutions provide that first call on any revenues is to maintain and protect their sovereign credit. Indeed, several years ago, in testimony to the Senate, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke praised these state

provisions for maintaining confidence in their state-issued bonds.

This is not to endorse a prolonged impasse over the debt limit. Postponing prompt payment of other bills is not a good thing. But the full faith and credit is fundamental to paying all of those other bills – and that is why we should prevent any president from threatening to default on that credit.

The most preposterous claim we hear is that this prioritizes paying China before other obligations. The fact is, most debt is held by Americans, including most likely, your pension fund. China holds around 3.2 percent of our bonds. The debt limit is there for a reason. If your family is living beyond its means and needs to seek an increase in its credit limit, it had better sit down around the kitchen table and have a serious discussion over the circumstances that have gotten it into this predicament and what steps it needs to take to get out. That's why we have a debt limit – to have exactly that discussion as a nation.

Which is why it is so disturbing when the President says he is not even willing to discuss the subject. Considering the fact that he has added \$3.7 trillion to the national debt in just 25 months in office, that's irresponsible. Not discuss it? Why in the world does he think we have this building with the dome on top in the very center of our capital city? It was built exclusively to have these discussions, to talk out our differences and to reach a wise and satisfactory conclusion to our public policy questions. Not discuss the biggest fiscal threat our nation has ever faced? He can't be serious!

But serious or not, no President should have the ability to threaten to default on our debt, to destroy the full faith and credit of the government or to take hostage our seniors, our veterans and our servicemembers. This bill prevents him from ever threatening to do so again, and it needs to be enacted.

Rep. Tom McClintock
U.S. Representative
California District CA-05

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. The only rules?

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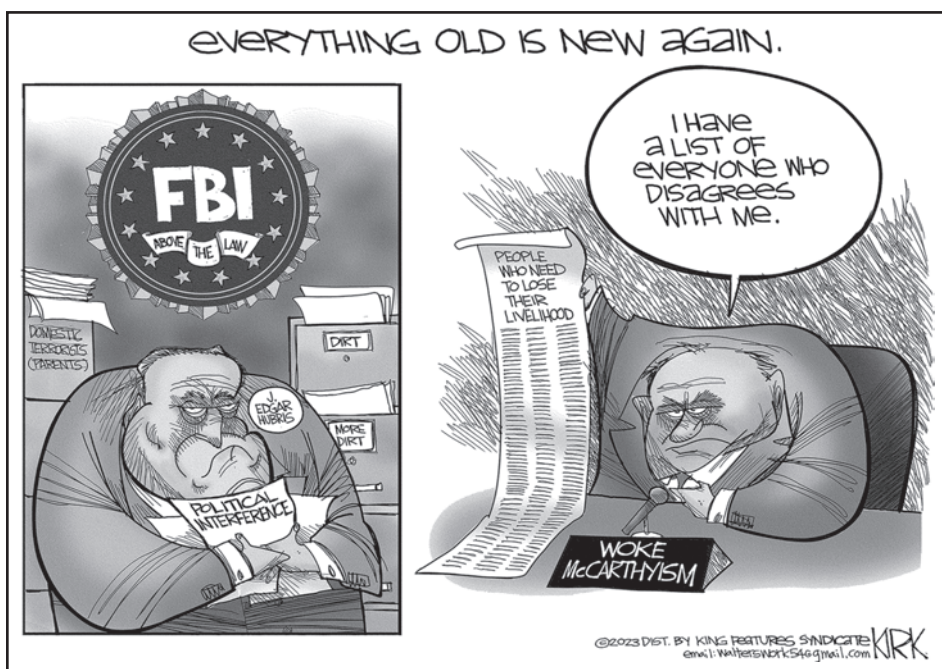
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Guest Editorial

Don't Rewrite Books

By Rich Lowry

First, they came for Roald Dahl. Anyone who thought the politically correct rewriting would stop at the irreverent author of such children's classics as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox" was, of course, sadly mistaken.

The news that hundreds of changes have been made in Dahl's classics is now followed by word that Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, is getting an emergency rewrite as well.

This is a very bad idea.

For a start, where does it end? There's no limiting principle that would prevent the editing of nearly every great writer in the Western canon.

Homer is a cauldron of toxic masculinity. Chaucer, who has been removed from curricula at various universities, would need extensive re-working -- for the offense of relaying 14th-century attitudes toward women, if nothing else. As for Shakespeare, has anyone read "Othello"?

We get the word "bowdlerize" from Thomas Bowdler, who published a version of Shakespeare more

appropriate for families in the early 19th century. He meant well, but his name has become synonymous with ham-fisted editing of texts for political or social reasons. The first Bowdler edition of the bard's works axed about 10 percent of the original, taking out blasphemous language and other unsettling material. The suicide of Ophelia, for instance, became an accidental drowning.

Even Bowdler, by the way, wasn't sure he was able to fix "Othello."

Then, there's the matter of the integrity of the record. Great authors use every word in a book for a reason. Changes in the language, even if done with care,

change the meaning and the nature of the work. If Roald Dahl used colorful language to describe a character (and he quite often did) and it's stripped out for fear of offending people, say, with double chins, the character has been changed -- without the author's permission and counter to how he published his work.

This is no more defensible than someone deciding Monet's water lilies should be an ever-so slightly different shade of green, or that Tchaikovsky should have written his "1812 Overture" in D-sharp minor instead of E-flat major.

Any such suggestions would be considered cultural vandalism and the same should apply to the woke rewriting of literature.

Relatedly, the edits of enduring works are never, ever going to do anything other than make them worse -- less colorful, pointed and eloquent. If nothing else, this is a basic question of literary talent and flair.

To return to the example of Dahl, he's been edited by an outfit called Inclusive Minds ("passionate about inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility in children's literature"). To put it simply, Dahl was good at writing; Inclusive Minds is good at diversity, equity, and inclusion, or DEI. If any editor at Inclusive Minds

Trying to constantly rewrite [classics] to keep up with the latest trends, which may well seem idiotic in due course (fingers crossed), is a fool's errand.

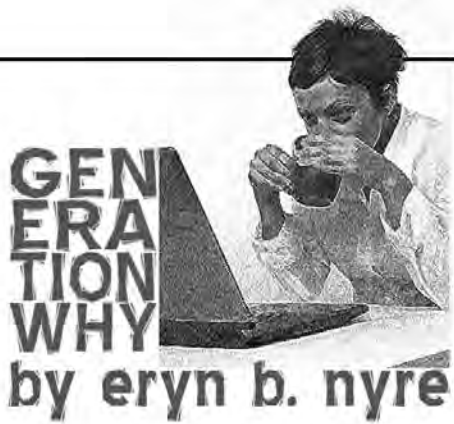
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RONALD REAGAN
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 9

Resolve This!



A lot of people who know me, think of me as a winter wonderland girl through and through, and they aren't wrong. If it weren't for the fact that I have absolutely no desire to drive in any amount of snow, I'd probably move to Montana. My yearning to live in a Thomas Kinkade painting aside, I actually have a lot of love for spring as well. I'm also a pretty big fan of fall, too. The only season I don't enjoy, and would probably fast forward through if I was given a cosmic remote control, is summer. I tolerate summer when I am camping in the mountains or playing around on a lake, but to just live my life like the whole outside isn't trying to roast me like a turkey is annoying. I've gotten off track here; where was I? Oh yes, my love for spring.

There's something therapeutic about coming out of cold, gray days into sunshine, blue skies and birds singing. It's refreshing to see the earth reborn. One of the things I like so much about spring is that I get to enjoy the sun, the sky, and the fresh blooms on the trees while it's still a reasonable temperature out. Summer may

have the sun and the blue skies, but it also has the heat and all the sweating. I don't like the heat and the sweating, especially when I'm just outside vacuuming my car and not running a mile or something. Spring has all the good parts of summer without the heat and the sweating. Sign me up.

Spring is restorative. The earth is emerging up from its winter slumber and it makes me feel like my whole being is coming alive again. This afternoon as I was standing outside taking in the crisp air and the soft breeze, I was moved at how the world renews itself every year. God sure knew what he was doing when he created this world and all the life in it.

The whole notion of rebirth and restoration got me thinking. We always focus on resolutions and goals

at the end of the year as we prepare for the next. Which makes sense because it's a new year, so why not strive for a new you? Spring, however, is newness; it is change. The world around us dies, so to speak, in the winter and is born again in the spring. So, perhaps it would make more sense if we died to our old selves, bad habits and all, in the winter then introduce our new selves with good habits in the spring when everything is new again.

For example, let's say your New

... since I didn't really settle on any resolutions for 2023 when I was supposed to, I think I'll make some now. I'll call it my "Spring Renewal." A few goals that will help me live a healthier, happier, longer life.

Year's resolution was to exercise more. During winter you have to try and talk yourself into driving to the gym on a gloomy, wet day. The worse the weather, the harder it is to stick to the resolution. In the springtime, however, you don't even have to drive to the gym to go for a walk or run if you don't want to. You can just slip on your shoes and head out into the sunshine for your daily dose of endorphins.

Perhaps you resolved to keep your house cleaner. In winter, when it's cold and you have your heater on or fireplace lit, cleaning is often the last thing on your mind. Pretty soon that's another resolution in the garbage. If you made it in spring, however, you can open the windows and let the sun and the fresh air in. It gives you more energy to do those pesky chores that you didn't really want to do in the first place. Maybe we would all keep our resolutions longer if we made them in spring.

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

I think that one of the reasons resolutions are often abandoned, besides the obvious that they are difficult and involve less than fun activities, is that we are trying to do these less than fun activities when we would rather be curled up in front of a fire reading a book or binging a TV show. It's easy to abandon going to the gym because it's raining. It's easy to put off cleaning the house when it's cold and gray. Conversely, one could argue that it is easier to stick with the new habits

when you are awash in the sun's vitamin D with a soft breeze blowing the fresh scent of spring around.

So, with that being said, and also since I didn't really settle on any resolutions for 2023 when I was supposed to, I think I'll make some now. I'll call it my "Spring Renewal." A few goals that will help me live a healthier, happier, longer life. And maybe, just maybe, if I start these new habits with blue skies and sunshine surrounding me, I'll be less likely to give up in a few months. Wish me luck.

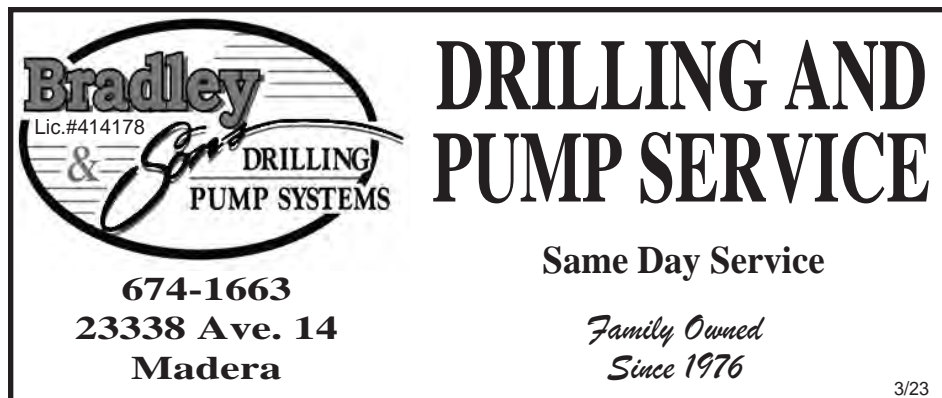


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Does this mean I'm lazy?

Last week I had the opportunity to do a day of substitute teaching for my daughter who homeschools her girls. Fortunately, for me, their math doesn't include long division yet. Yep, sadly that's when math began to get hard for me. This eliminated careers that weigh heavily on math skills. Fine with me.

It doesn't, however, eliminate the need for math in everyday life. Imagine my joy when mobile phones began including a calculator. Learning math basics and having the proper tools makes life as an underachiever doable.

Does the fact that I whip out my calculator to determine the tip and the person at the table next to me does it in her head mean I'm lazy? I don't think so. Each of us is created with a unique set of skills and abilities. Not many of us sing on stage, but we can all join in on a chorus of "Happy Birthday" at family parties. What's natural for some, isn't for others.

It's similar with organizing strengths. Some naturally alphabetize their spices, while others feel lucky if they can find their salt and pepper. Does this mean they're lazy? I don't think so. Having a natural ability to organize doesn't make you a better person any more than being

strong in math does.

Yet for many, being disorganized is a matter of shame. Let's look at why that is and how a shift in this perspective can lead to more peace and productivity.

Who's defining "disorganized" for you? Is it based on the most organized person you know? Is it based on the expectations of a parent or an in-law? Is it a TV show or YouTuber?

Christina Scalise says, "Organization isn't about perfection; it's about efficiency, reducing stress and clutter, saving time and money and improving your overall quality of life." What that looks like and how it's achieved can vary a great deal.

If your quality of life depends on having an art project continually going, your space will look different than the person who spends her spare time golfing. You may have a plethora of supplies but know exactly

Envision your own standard of function for your home and write down what that would look like. Seek the help of a friend, a professional, or a book that has the expertise you're lacking.

where to find each item. To the average observer it may look like a mess, but to you it's functional.

To maintain a busy work and home schedule your laundry organizing may consist of baskets

for dirty and baskets for clean that the family draws from as needed. Your neighbor may use the Kondo folding technique for each pair of underwear and socks. If the baskets are efficient for this phase of life, so be it.

Your organizational skills may be minimal but adequate to maintain the quality of life you desire. Matching your neighbor's standard isn't the goal.

However, you may be struggling with stress, wasted time looking for things and feeling like your home isn't supporting the life you want. You're not a failure. Remember, we all have different strengths and weaknesses. Disorganization is not a

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 17

Happy Easter

(March 2013)

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



by Jean Briner

earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about 10 minutes. After the 10 minutes I usually test one to make sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me – if you have a method you have used, then by all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can handle them, cut them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and

the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until

they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my

whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would make them more festive.

The Easter Ham

As far as the ham goes, I think everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and spoon the juice mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use

10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time.

The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever your family likes.

Like so many of our meals (we have seven households coming together) there are always a lot of desserts. My sister usually makes a coconut cake, I make a pineapple upside down cake (probably won't this year as my oven is on the fritz, and doubt if I can get it replaced before Easter), Adam will bring a couple of his apple pies and there will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner. But she

Please see RECIPES on P. 9

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!"

Egg Dying Time

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always end up with that many. There are the one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there is always egg hunts for the kids – seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be

found (until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.

Our Easter Feast is real simple – baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times

My favorite Easter Hymn is Christ Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

made real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

I'm looking forward to more recipes from the Ranchos', Rolling Hills' or Bonnadelle's good cooks. Or how about kids? I'd love to do an article on kids' favorite foods – anything from hot dogs to s'mores.

An Easter Favorite

My favorite Easter Hymn is *Christ*

Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

This article originally appeared in the March 2011 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Editor

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

had a fraction of Dahl's abilities, this remarkable person wouldn't be working at expurgating someone else's works but writing his or her own beloved children's books.

Finally, we call classics "timeless" because they are imbued with a quality of genius that transcends the fashions of their time and our own. Trying to constantly rewrite them to keep up with the latest trends, which may well seem idiotic in due course (fingers crossed), is a fool's errand.

It is also inherently sinister. There's a reason that everyone naturally recoils from Winston Smith's work in "1984" in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth,

changing old newspaper articles and photographs to update them in keeping with the dictates of the party. The falsity, the thoroughness, and the need for control, extending all the way to the past, are all disturbing hallmarks of totalitarian politics.

Now, it's not a party that is demanding the reworking of inconvenient texts, but a corrupted part of our culture that can't abide the idea that offensive, or potentially offensive, terms and descriptions exist in books that have demonstrated astonishing popularity and staying power. There's no doubt who the giants are here and who are the small-minded censors.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Bookshelf

Now a "Seed Library" in the Ranchos?

By Jerrica Edmundson

We have some awesome plans coming to light this April and I am so glad to be a part of making it happen. Thanks to donations from True Leaf Market, Ferry Morse, Seed Savers and High Mowing Seeds, we will officially be launching a seed library for community use. The foundation of the program is built around the "borrow, grow, return" methodology wherein we provide seeds completely free of charge with some basic information, you grow those seeds — or attempt to, I know I can't grow things well personally — and report back with information regarding them and bring seeds from the harvest if possible. This is a physical catalog in the branch so it will be limited to what we have received in donation, but the Friends of the Ranchos Library made it possible by providing the funds for the physical materials needed to run this alongside the seed donations received thus far. If you have any seeds lying around that you will not be using, we would love to add them to the collection for public use, just bring them by and we will get them added.



On April 4, during spring break, we will be hosting our first ever "Learn to Paint and Play Warhammer" event with the help of a local community member who is familiar with the game. The event is geared toward ages 12-18 and all who attend are invited to paint their own miniature figure that they will get to take home, with all of the supplies needed to assemble and paint the figure being provided. We also have a branch army set that will be available to use to learn to play the game for the entire day, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on that day. If this goes well, we plan to have future events like this, whenever possible — it just depends

on if there is interest, so if this sounds like something your teens would be interested in, bring them by. There is no registration required and you are welcome to stay as long or little as you would like. More details are available on our Facebook event page for this program.

We are also well into scheduling performers for our Summer Reading Program this year and it is turning out to be an amazing year, with loads of performers and plans in play to make it even more exciting than prior years.

We will be bringing back our LibraryLoot store for kiddos to earn points toward, and thanks to a grant received and the continual support of our local Friends group, we will be having numerous performers as well. Be sure to check out our website or Facebook page for individual event listings and schedules will also be available in the branch as soon as details are finalized.

With all of the work we've been putting into planning for the library, I honestly haven't had time to read a book for fun, so unfortunately I don't have any book review this month, but you are always invited to come on in and I will gladly help you find a book to suit your preferences — or let you know what's next on my own TBR list.

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Senior Report

No Fooling -- Seniors' Home & Garden Festival Coming April 1

By *Melanie Williams*

Spring is coming and the April Annual Home and Garden Festival is here on Saturday, April 1 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the perfect time to prepare your garden for spring by coming to the Annual Home and Garden Festival at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Vendors will be setting up booths to sell various specialty products and craft items, and local Master Gardeners are coming to answer questions about getting your garden and trees ready for spring after the abundance of rainfall this season. We appreciate the Master Gardeners sharing their vast knowledge and helpful tips to our local garden enthusiasts in the Madera Ranchos area.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center's own Scout Garden will be having a plant sale located next to the Treasure House during the Festival. Remember: we are a nonprofit organization and encourage any donations of plants for this local event. Additionally, the Senior Center will also be selling fundraising tickets for a beautiful handmade Mother's Day quilt and coffee and pastries will be available for purchase in the morn-

ing of the event. In addition, the Senior Center is hosting a BBQ lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers with drinks and chips that day. Tickets for the hot BBQ lunch will be available for purchase during the day and ready to serve at 11:30 a.m.



VENDORS Are Still WANTED!
We have spaces available if vendors are interested in reserving a spot. Please contact the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864 and reserve your spot.

Valley Caregiver Resource Center is giving a presentation at the April General Meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 1:30 p.m. Anyone in the community is welcome to come and listen to the presentation about resources that are available to people who care for adult family members or friends in their home. The speaker is going to be Rosie Martinez and she will discuss what free or low-cost services Valley Caregiver provides that support the adult caregiver. Please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 if you have any questions.

The Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon is on Saturday,

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 11

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SENIORS cont from P. 10

April 15. We are meeting at Liberty Café at 37193 Ave. 12 Ste. 6A in the Ranchos. It is a local favorite. Anyone can come and gather to celebrate our family and friends at the Liberty Café, just sign up at the Senior Center so we can give the restaurant our anticipated numbers of attendees.

Our first trip of 2023 is on April 16 to the Golden Chain Theater in Oakhurst. We have a block of 25 tickets in the front two rows of the theater – great seats! If all the seats are purchased, we pay \$13 for a ticket. Transportation is not provided, but carpooling is encouraged. Sign up at the Senior Center if you are interested in attending with the group for the live performance of The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Everyone is excited for our first trip of the year.

Remember Brown Bag Day

is on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Madera Food Bank is still taking applications so you can sign up for May Brown Bag Day now. Call the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center for information and an application.

April Fun Facts:

April is Autism Awareness Month

April's flowers are Sweet Pea and Daisy

April is National Poetry Month

April Fool's Day is Saturday, April 1

Easter Sunday is April 9

National Pet Day is Tuesday, April 11

National Gardening Day is Friday, April 14

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22

Arbor Day is Friday, April 28

Happy Easter from your neighbors, the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

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SEE YOU SUNDAY!

SEMUCU speaks

By Jeff McGrath

It Takes a Village

Jordan Wamhoff, newly elected County Supervisor for Madera County District 1, held a “State of the County” meeting on March 6 at the Pizza Factory in the Madera Ranchos. It was attended by about 20 people and hosted by the Republican Party of Madera County. Things discussed were the new water pipe being placed on Avenue 12 to serve MD-10A water needs; Madera Hospital closure and the impact it has on ambulance services; increased traffic in the local area and the need for more Highway Patrol Officers in District 1 and what Jordan is doing to fix the problem; Measure T, which is the road tax, and how important it is to pass it. After all, “roads don’t fix themselves.” Thank you, Jordan, for keeping the locals informed. For more information go to Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff’s Facebook page to stay in-

formed.

Most of the people attending were from the local Republican Party. Maybe the word did not get out in time so more people could attend. Many of the faces in the room were familiar to me, then I realized they are the same faces that that are behind many of the organizations out here that have the community in mind. What makes this and many other small towns in the Valley – or the state for that matter – great, is the people that care. Sad to say, we are getting older and are not able to attend many meetings. Where is the new blood? Do you remember a few years back, before COVID, we used to have an annual “Flatlanders Day Parade and Craft Faire” right here in the Ranchos. It was a source of pride for our community. Many people showed up to watch the parade with Avenue 12 lined with adults and kids watching this event. Would it not be great to have this parade again? The trouble is the people organizing it have decided to step back and no one is willing to fill their shoes. This is the same with the Kiwanis, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Ranchos Library and SEMCU, just to name a few. It is the same faces and they are getting tired. Maybe it was COVID that

forced everyone into not attending face to face meetings, but that is over. It’s time to come out of your shells and attend a meeting to show your support for your community. Get involved, voice your opinion and be part of your community.

Where can you volunteer? Here’s a list:

Ranchos/Hills Seniors – 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 1:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce – 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamber Office at 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Madera Ranchos.

Madera Ranchos Kiwanis - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Second Sons Brewery 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 4C in the Madera Ranchos.

Friends of the Ranchos Library – 1st Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Madera Ranchos Branch library 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos.

Southeast Madera County United – SEMCU – 3rd Monday of the month at 6

p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12 at 6 p.m.

If I missed your organization, I apologize. Support your community and get involved.

SEMCU is a Nonprofit Corporation dedicated to help our community thrive. We hold meetings once a month on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. for one hour. We will be discussing our community’s needs and evolution on matters such as water, school, safety, roads, events and whatever is needed to improve our lives as a community. Everyone is invited to participate, offer opinions and suggest projects that will help serve our community’s needs. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 17. Please join us at 6 p.m. To call, dial 312-757-3221. When prompted dial the access code 715657949#.

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

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DOG cont. from P. 3



A young German Shepherd mix named "Markie" is attempting to recuperate after being rescued near the Ranchos, suffering from a too small collar that had torn through his neck and into his muscle. If you recognize Markie or where he came from, please call 559-675-7892.

to the serious nature of the injury on pick up that afternoon, the young German Shepherd was sent directly to a local vet for treatment and stabilization and was kept there for at least another day for observation.

Subsequent reports indicate the young dog, now named Markie by animal control, was not doing well and may have been so isolated, tormented and severely traumatized by the long ordeal that he is still highly aggressive and potentially unstable, and may not be adoptable even if he survives and recovers from his wounds, they said.

The incident is being investigated as a case of felony animal cruelty and a \$100 reward is being offered for tips that result in the identification of the location where the dog was tied and if charges are filed in the incident. Please call 675-7892 with information on Markie's former location or to report any incident of suspected serious animal cruelty or neglect.

YOSEMITE cont. from P. 2

209-372-0200 (then 1, 1) to check road conditions.

The park has been closed since Feb. 25 due to a series of storms that damaged roads and other facilities. Since Feb. 21, when the series of storms started, Yosemite Valley has received over 21 inches of liq-

uid precipitation and Tuolumne Meadows has received over 15 feet of new snow. The park has documented 22 rockslides, debris flows and other slope failures along park roads during this time, most of which have been mitigated.

Other services and areas of the park will reopen as park recovery efforts such as these continue.

- Believe it or not, cows can be potty trained -- and, it is said, with less trouble than toddlers. It's called MooLoo training, and involves not a toilet, but a special pen with artificial grass. But why bother? The practice helps the environment by reducing air and water pollution and even planet warming.
- The J.W. Westcott II is a boat that delivers mail to ships at sea. Operating out of Detroit, it's the only floating zip code in America.
- In 1931, German engineer Richter Raketennrad built a bike with 12 rockets mounted to its back wheel and reached a speed of 90 kph before his invention exploded and threw him off. While that was, sadly, the end of the rocket bike, Raketennrad himself suffered only a few scrapes.
- Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold.
- For over a year in the mid-2000s, members of the group Untergunther broke into the French Pantheon to repair a clock that had been broken for four decades. They later received court time for the effort but were somewhat vindicated when member Jean-Baptiste Viot, a clock restorer, was hired to repair it in 2018 after further neglect.
- Researchers have found that approximately 97 percent of people are keeping a secret at any given time, with the average person keeping around 13.
- In 2008, a former high school star athlete escaped a crime scene by using Craigslist to hire a dozen identically dressed (and unwitting) civilians to stand at the exact place and time of the arrival of the armored car that he planned to rob.



By Lucie Winborne

Thought for the Day: "Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand." -- Oprah Winfrey

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Kiwanis Korner

Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Score BIG at Chamber Community Crab Feed

By Sally Rowden

As I'm typing this article the rain has subsided though tomorrow could bring us a different story ... just as I am doing; bringing you a different story from the Ranchos Kiwanis.

Our main story is the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed. The Kiwanis were the servers for the event and it was a busy, busy evening. Ollia Ridge, our Kiwanis President, was handling the kitchen happenings and managed all with her positive expertise. The raffles and the silent auction were moving smoothly. Even my grandson who volunteered to help out the Kiwanis in serving was eager to start. He had started bidding on the "Red Lips" picture at the silent auction tables and was determined to outbid anyone. First, we served the rolls, then the salad, then the pasta and then the crab came out that all were enjoying. During dessert, the 50/50 Raffle was announced. Sally Moreno, our District Attorney of Madera, won. And to our complete surprise, she shared her winnings between the Chamber and the Kiwanis. Thank YOU, Sally... \$400. WOW! A gold mine. The additional generous tips from all attendees brought our tips to over 1,000 bucks, allowing us to continue to successfully support our children in our communities. Oh, and the rest of the story... My grandson who works for a Mad Duck Restaurant was serving the next night. He served a table when a lady stated, "Were you at the Madera Ranchos Crab Feed?" My grandson said, "Yes." Then he recognized the lady who donated the \$400. He explained he was helping the Kiwanis because of his Mom and Grandma being members. And shared that the Kiwanis were so excited with her donation. He thanked her for her generosity. Never knowing it was Sally Moreno our DA of Madera County. Hey, and he did win at the bidding for the "Red Lips" pic. They sat next to me as we traveled home that night.

We have started our fundraising for The John Minney Liberty High School Scholarship Awards. We have sent out letters to our community businesses and individuals encouraging donations to support our scholarship awards. These awards go to outstanding seniors of Liberty High School. All donations received go 100 percent to the awardees.

Our Kiwanis member, John Minney was our relentless, dedicated chairperson who needed to make a move heading back east to be with family. Because of his continual and relentless work with this project, we have renamed the awards in his honor. If you haven't heard from us and would like to donate, please contact me, Sally Rowden, by giving me a call at 559-908-7073 or email me at rowdensally2@gmail.com.

Our student Kiwanis Key Club from Liberty High School visited us at our first meeting in March. Lydia Martinez, Presi-

dent from the Kiwanis Key Club introduced Kay Griggs, a Junior at Liberty High School, also a member of the Kiwanis Key Club. Both welcomed joining into our evening activities. I must share that these two students were a valued addition and they wear many hats. They are also members of Liberty High School Future Farmers of America. They shared that on April 1, the Liberty High School FFA will host a Farmer's Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go early so you don't miss out.

Our member, Joliene Mason is also a

member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors and shared information on their upcoming Home & Garden Festival on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be handcrafted wares for sale and Master Gardeners will be available to take any questions. Between this event and the Liberty High School FFA Farmer's Market, we have some shopping to do in the Ranchos.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." – Muhammad Ali.

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Welcome to the New USA: The Unhinged States of America

By Betty Van Valkenburg

No American who isn't living under a rock – or these days, under a bridge – needs to be told that our country is in big trouble. We see the rampant inflation, the failing banks, the racial tension, the mis- or non-education and perversion of our youth, the surge in crime without punishment and the threats from abroad. And as never before – less here than elsewhere, thank goodness – we fear criminals on the streets.

In the rebuttal to the State of the Union address, Arkansas, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders summed up this appalling state of our nation, its leaders and their destructive policies this way: “Whether Joe Biden believes this madness

or is simply too weak to resist it, his administration has been completely hijacked by the radical left. The dividing line in America is no longer between right or left. In the radical left's America, the choice is between normal or crazy.”

Truer words were never spoken, and kudos to Governor Sanders for having the courage to say them. Is there *any* doubt that America has lost its collective mind and is growing more insane every day? Would a sane America elect an *obviously* senile, stumbling old coot as President of the United States of America and a clueless cackling airhead to be a heartbeat away from the presidency? And then expect them to be re-elected? Please note that there is no joy in pointing out Biden's mental incompetency; we may all be there some day. The point is that folks knew he was half-baked and loose with the truth, and they voted for him anyway. Or did they? The question for another day is whether the 2020 vote count was accurate or skewed. You might check out the Election Integrity Project's website to learn about election irregularities and how to help ensure that future elections are free and fair.

Would a sane America allow the invasion of our southern border by millions of migrants breaking and entering into our country? Correction: They are not break-

ing in but are encouraged to come in, along with the vicious cartels and the fentanyl that's killing Americans by the thousands; 70,601 in 2021 alone. With all this going on, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas states that “the border is closed.” If that is the administration's definition of “closed”, then they have met their goal. Now, *that's* insane!

Would a sane president and his administration allow a Chinese spy “balloon” to traverse the entire American continent before destroying it? Would any sane elected official allow the squalor of homeless encampments seemingly anywhere and everywhere? Would they enact soft-on-crime policies, coddle criminals and cut back on policing, thereby assuring a crime wave of epidemic proportions?

Would a newly elected American president curtail needed oil and gas production and distribution? Have the American public and he succumbed to the lie of global warming one day, an impending new ice age the next, or, oh heck, just call it “climate change” and cover all the insanity?

Would sane officials close down the country on the basis of Dr. Fauci's Covid lies and contradictions? Would Governor Newsom threaten to revoke a doctor's license to practice medicine for expressing professional opinions about Covid-19 vaccinations and treatments that dare to disagree with the ac-

cepted party line?

Would sane Americans who once revered and fought for the “first freedom” – the right to free speech – allow their speech to be cancelled and accept censorship of ideas on campus, in print and in the halls of government? Can *imposing* the use of new pronouns, for God's sake, be necessary? Oh wait, mentioning God is not permitted in some circles these days, so perhaps the thought police will assign Him an “acceptable” pronoun.

And on that note, I wonder how many Americans who attended or attend failing schools could even define the parts of speech, like “pronoun,” before it was shoved down their throats and became a political cause.

In the midst of a deadly crime wave, how could a president announce his intention to bypass congressional approval and issue Executive Orders to *force* gun control measures, knowing that such measures would leave law-abiding citizens more vulnerable to the violent criminals?

Insanity, as some say, means doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. It might also be just going along to get along under insane conditions, or merely giving up to the status quo. Perhaps it is past time for once brave and free Americans to grow a collective backbone and push back against the insanity ... or lose our country forever.



By Sarah Morgan

The Madera County 4-H Presentation Day was on Saturday, March 11 and was held at Madera High School. Presentation Day is a day where many kids from many different county 4-H clubs come together so they can give “presentations,” defined by 4-H as “... a method used to communicate an idea or topic by showing, telling, or expressing your opinion. A presentation may be a demonstration, a talk, a speech, or a skit.” 4-H goes on further to state that a 4-H presentation helps the member learn to research a subject, organize ideas in a logical order, share the member's spark or passion on the subject and practice public speaking skills.

There were four different rooms that kids got split into, and three judges in each

room. The judges were going to see who did the best in their room, and whomever did got to go up on a big stage and give their presentation to everyone that attended that day; those were the “command performances.”

There were awards for the other kids too, if they did very well and got everything right they got a gold medal. If they got most of the standards down but not all of them they got a blue seal, and if a kid didn't do the best on their speech then they got a red seal and could not move on to Regional Presentation Day.

Five members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club came and did an amazing job just like everyone else. The people that came were Wyatt Morgan with his informative prepared speech on “Glossophobia,” earning a gold medal and the command performance in his room. Landon Davis presented an educational display on “Artificial Insemina-

tion in Swine,” which earned a blue seal. Sarah Morgan demonstrated “Peanut Butter Treats” and earned a blue seal, and Emily Wallace gave a demonstration on “How to Show a Pool Noodle,” with earned a blue



seal and Abbi Rosier's demonstration earned her a blue seal as well.

All of Sierra Shadows' Public Speaking group will be moving on to the Regional Presentation Day happening in April. 4-H Presentation Day was really exciting and everyone worked very hard. The best of luck is wished to this year's Public Speaking group.

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

respector of persons and even hits those who are naturally organized.


Envision your own standard of function for your home and write down what that would look like. Seek the help of a friend, a professional, or a book that has the expertise you're lacking.

Here's a list of resource books: *Organizing for the Creative Person*, Dorothy Lehmkuhl & Dolores Cotter Laming, C.S.W.; *It's All Too Much*, Peter Walsh; *Organizing Plain & Simple*, Donna Smallin; *Organizing from the Inside Out*, Julie Morgenstern

“Organizing is not nearly as important as many other things in life, but what it delivers is often priceless.” – Sandra Felton (messies.com).

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

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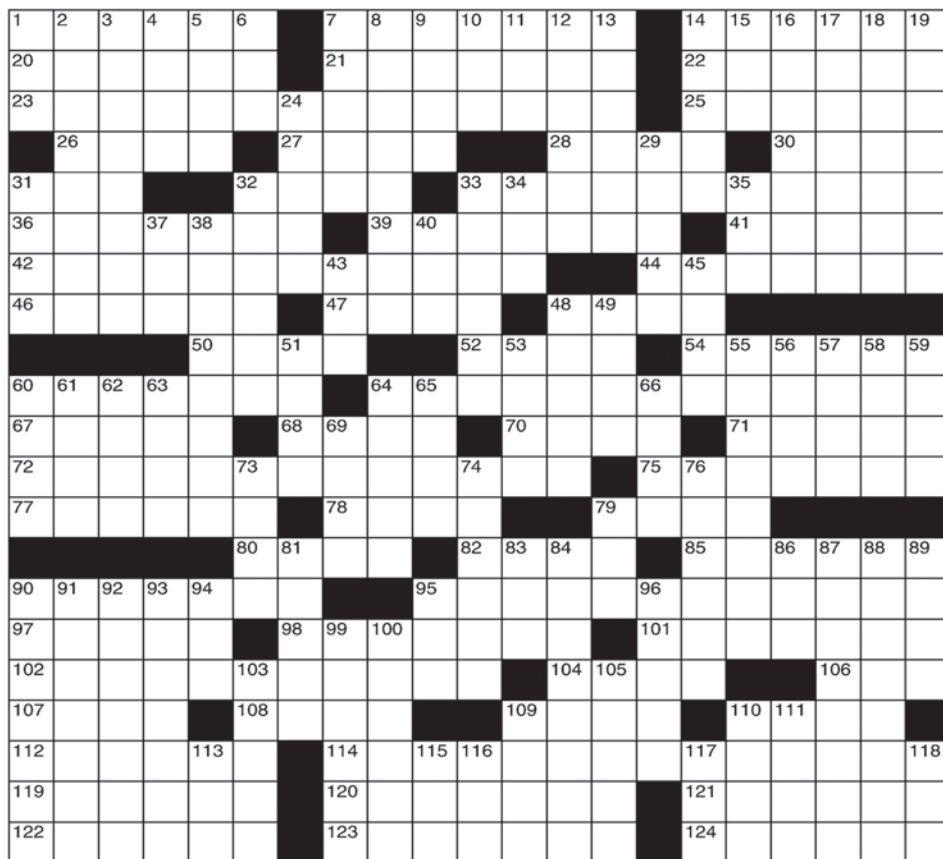
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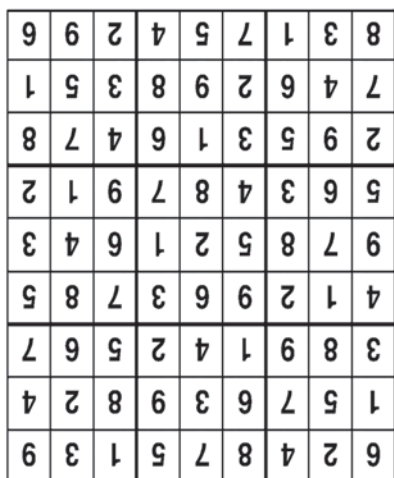
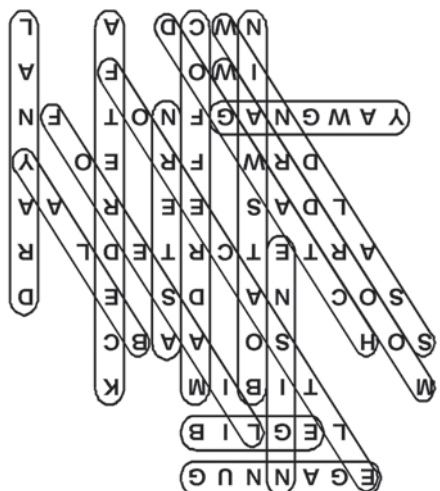
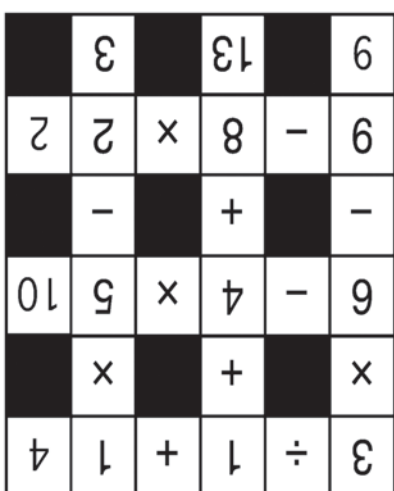
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Super Crossword



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ANSWERS



- ACROSS**
- 1 Imperfection
 - 7 1970 Simon & Garfunkel hit
 - 14 "— Lot" (Stephen King novel)
 - 20 Geronimo's tribe
 - 21 Scenting compound
 - 22 Push forward
 - 23 Footballer from a major Kansas city?
 - 25 Dwell (in)
 - 26 Corp. VIPs
 - 27 Pimples
 - 28 "The — of the Ancient Mariner"
 - 30 Fashion designer Tahari
 - 31 Actor Brynner
 - 32 Strong urge
 - 33 Footballer ejected from a nightclub?
 - 36 She helped Theseus
 - 39 Imparted fizz to
 - 41 Critical
 - 42 Not on a footballer's right?
 - 44 For the most part
 - 46 Aristocrat's home
 - 47 Formerly
 - 48 Liberal —
 - 50 Mai — (rum drinks)
 - 52 Salvador the surrealist
 - 54 Hard hitter, biblically
 - 60 Ship shelters
 - 64 Footballer with a reel and reel?
 - 67 PC-sent greeting
 - 68 Hearing things
 - 70 Fast shark
 - 71 Bamboozles
 - 72 Footballer working as a sound technician?
 - 75 Matching pullover and cardigan
 - 77 Old Chrysler
 - 78 Think meditatively
 - 79 "Uh, pardon me ..."
 - 80 Like Goodwill goods
 - 82 Apple variety
 - 85 Humiliated
 - 90 Expand, as a house
 - 95 Footballer on a plane trip?
 - 97 Thin pancake
 - 98 Envious composer in "Amadeus"
 - 101 Iterate
 - 102 Visit a footballer?
 - 104 Labor
 - 106 Young fellow
 - 107 Flush (with)
 - 108 Sony Bravia or Sharp Aquos
 - 109 Pool hall item
 - 110 Piece of office furniture
 - 112 Plaything for Fido or Fluffy
 - 114 Declaration when a footballer arrives?
 - 119 Angry speech
 - 120 One casting a ballot
 - 121 Urge on
 - 122 Makes a sly verbal attack
 - 123 Ecstasy
 - 124 Feds, e.g.
 - 7 Common infant illness
 - 8 Girl played by Lily Tomlin
 - 9 Bamboozles
 - 10 Anger
 - 11 Quick escape
 - 12 Stuck going nowhere
 - 13 When typical workdays start
 - 14 Self-indulgent binge
 - 15 Have existence
 - 16 Experience a huge failure
 - 17 Remove hair from, as one's legs
 - 18 Like doctors' practices
 - 19 In an aerodynamic way
 - 24 Early Mexican
 - 29 '80s Golden Arches burger
 - 31 Bulldogs' school
 - 32 Scared (of)
 - 33 Kennel club classifications
 - 34 Rowing need
 - 35 TiVo device
 - 37 — minimum
 - 38 Connect-the-points puzzle
 - 40 Abbr. limiting a list
 - 43 Canon — Rebel
 - 45 Exec. helper
 - 48 Make — out of (rebut)
 - 49 Skating place
 - 51 "It's finally clear"
 - 53 Woeful cry
 - 55 Relatives of xylophones
 - 56 Clickable screen image
 - 57 Some ring wins, for short
 - 58 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
 - 59 Take it easy
 - 60 A helmet protects it
 - 61 Take — from (do as suggested by)
 - 62 Units of absorbed energy
 - 63 Vigor, in music scores
 - 64 "Oedipus complex"
 - 65 Egyptian goddess of fertility
 - 66 Black-clad teen, maybe
 - 69 High point
 - 73 Blowout win
 - 74 Enshrouded
 - 76 Mink's cousin
 - 79 "Mein Gott!"
 - 81 "Such a pity!"
 - 83 Erstwhile space station
 - 84 Troublemaker
 - 86 Rear, at sea
 - 87 Marine animal's pelt
 - 88 Title girl of old comics
 - 89 Like green or purple hair
 - 90 Doesn't reject
 - 91 Embedded, as a nail
 - 92 "Taking Woodstock" star — Martin
 - 93 Source of flowing water
 - 94 Tennis divider
 - 95 Shark feature
 - 96 Tot's wheels
 - 99 Pollen bearer
 - 100 Lowest parking garage tier, perhaps
 - 103 "Absolutely!"
 - 105 Earthy hue, to a Brit
 - 109 Post-Q string
 - 110 Fender flaw
 - 111 Latin "Lo!"
 - 113 Lyrical verse
 - 115 Sales staffer
 - 116 Outer: Prefix
 - 117 Rio carmaker
 - 118 Hi- — image

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- Less fussing and a wooden splinter might absorb some liquid, causing it to swell enough to pop out a bit more. • Recycling paper is good, but reusing before recycling is even better. Ask your child's classroom teacher if he or she has a "both sides" policy for lined papers. Also, copy paper that's printed on only one side can be quartered for quick scratch paper. • Trying to spot roof damage but not quite sure you're up for climbing a ladder? Before you get up on the roof, get out your binoculars. You'd be surprised how much you can see from the ground, and you can do a cursory examination and then decide if anything needs a closer look. • Cut kitchen sponges into smaller pieces. They clean as well as a larger sponge, and you can dispose of the smaller pieces when they get yucky. -- O.C. in Michigan • Need sliced mushrooms for your salad or recipe? They are hard to cut, but you might have a perfect tool for doing the job already in your kitchen. If you have an egg slicer, get it out. It works very well for mushrooms, and it's easier to use than trying to cut those slices yourself. -- J.R. in Utah

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+		4			
x		+		x				
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



“Do we make a wee widget?”



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb, and start turning that dream project into reality. You have the ideas, the drive and the charisma to persuade others to follow your lead. So do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You've scored some big successes. But remember that all hard-working Ferdinands and Ferdinandas need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're gaining a stronger mental image of what you're trying to achieve. Now, look for the facts that will help get this to develop from a concept into a solid proposal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A new business venture seems to offer everything for which you've been looking. But be careful that this rosy picture doesn't betray traces of red ink under the surface.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There'll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone wrong.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from people you care about. Those who criticize you don't understand true friendship.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now, go ahead and celebrate with family and/or close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A legal matter you thought had been finally resolved could require a second look. But don't make any moves without consulting your lawyer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open an exciting new vista for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you'll have support from people able and eager to help.

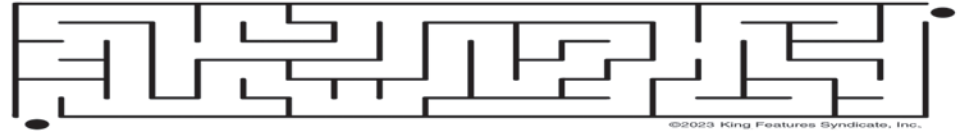
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A spouse or partner might make an important, even life-changing, suggestion. Consider it carefully. It could hold some of the answers for which you've both been looking.

Born this Week

*You always try to do the right thing for the right reasons.
No wonder people have come to depend on you.*

FUN PAGES

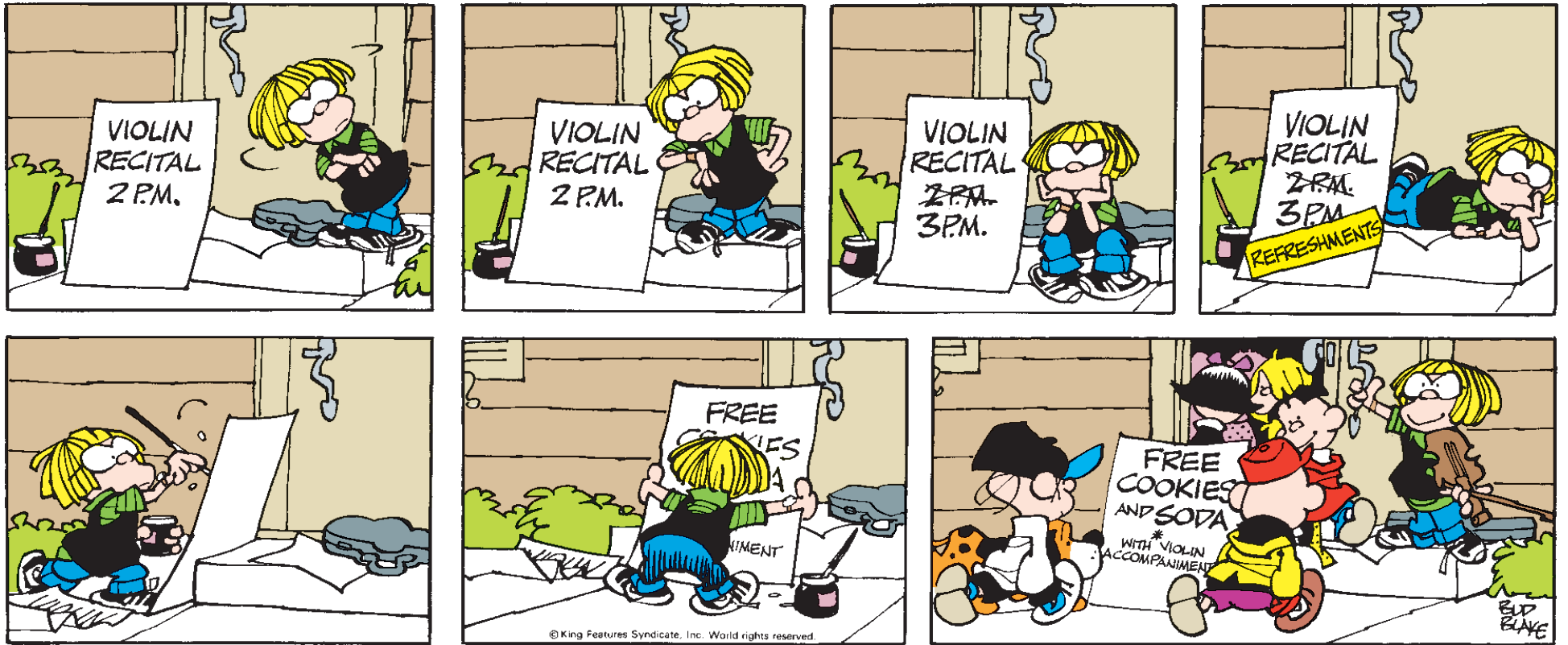
Kids' Maze



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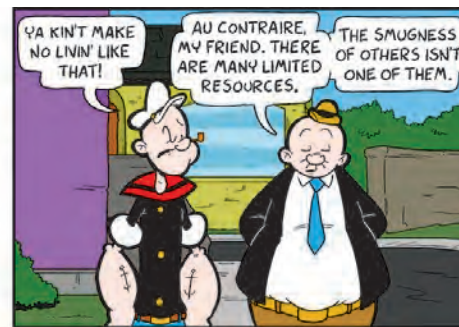
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: Which U.S. city is known for its square pizzas with crunchy corners? 2. TELEVISION: Which character became a fugitive in the final season of "The Office"? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes lies entirely within the United States? 4. LITERATURE: Which famous novelist wrote his last book in crayon due to poor eyesight? 5. GAMES: What are the two most valuable letters in Scrabble? 6. MOVIES: Which movie series features a character named Ellen Ripley? 7. LANGUAGE: What is a "schwa"? 8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which nation is credited for being the top beer-drinking country in the world? 9. ANATOMY: What is a common name for the axilla? 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do you call an ant's home?

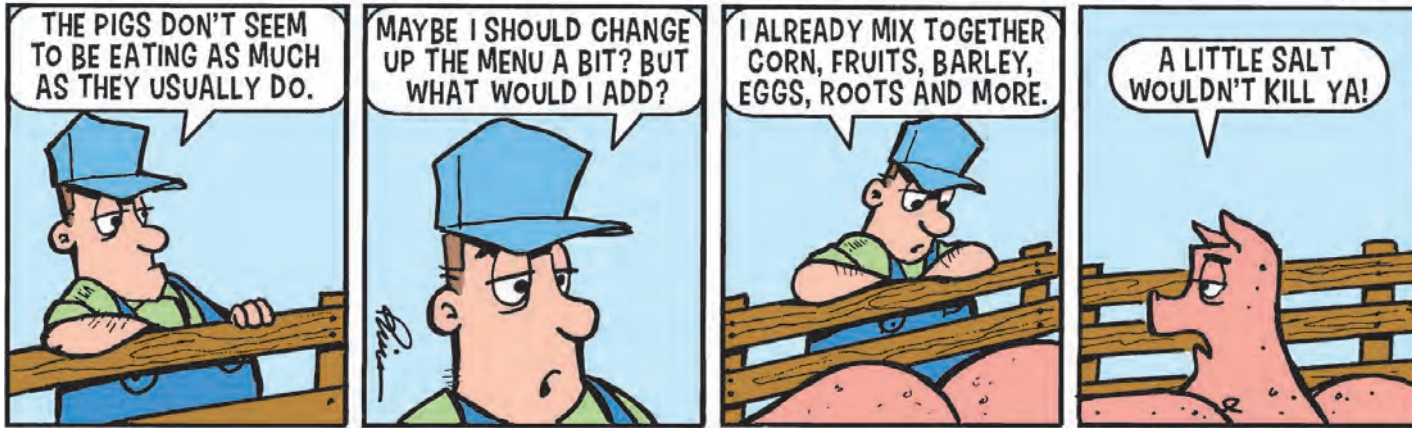
- 1. Detroit.
- 2. Cred Bratton.
- 3. Lake Michigan.
- 4. James Joyce.
- 5. Q and Z (10 points each).
- 6. "Alien".
- 7. Unstressed vowel represented by an upside-down "e".
- 8. Czech Republic.
- 9. Armpit.
- 10. A nest or formicary.

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



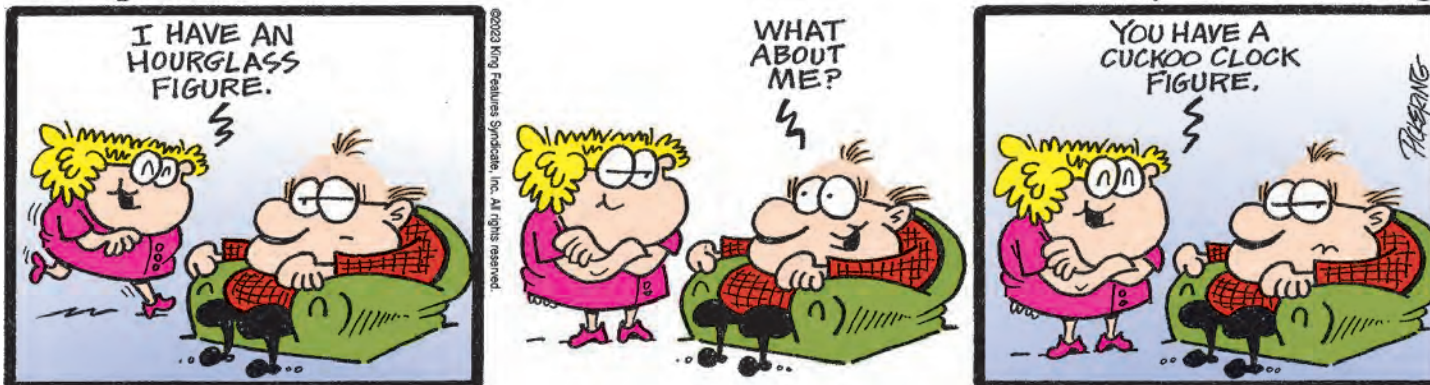
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

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MAGIC MAZE • NAUTICAL TERMS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: THE LEFT SIDE OF A SHIP

- Afterdeck
- Boatswain
- Forecastle
- Lanyard
- Astern
- Cofferdam
- Foresail
- Wardroom
- Belay
- Dogwatch
- Gangway
- Windlass
- Bilge
- Ensign
- Gunnage

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Notice of Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Please join us for One Hour to provide questions, concerns and solutions to our community. Our next meeting is Monday, April 17 at 6 p.m.

Until further notice, the regular SEMCU meetings will take place via teleconference. Please let us know if you have any questions. The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949.