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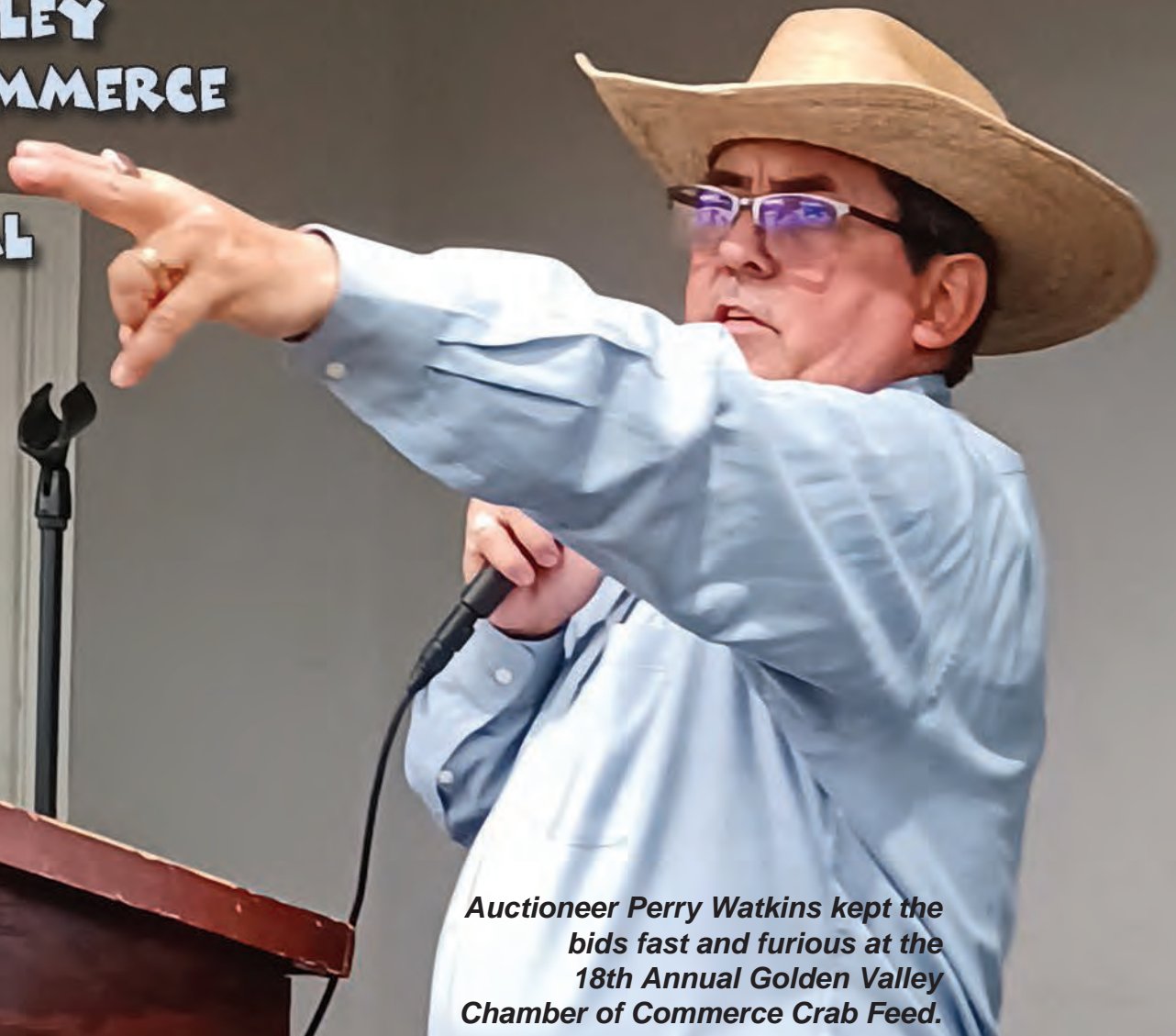
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50¢

## WE'RE BACK!

AFTER A YEAR OFF THANKS TO COVID,  
THE GOLDEN VALLEY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
RETURNS WITH  
ITS 18TH ANNUAL  
CRAB FEED.



*Auctioneer Perry Watkins kept the bids fast and furious at the 18th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed.*

*Photo courtesy of Bill Whyman.*

## *In This Issue*

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# WE'RE BACK! THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CRAB FEED RETURNS FOR THE 18TH TIME

Like so many other events across America in the last 18 months, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Crab Feed was cancelled in 2021. As a matter of fact, Chamber organizers weren't even sure if there was going to be one this

year until about two months before the event. In addition to everything else, supply prices sharply increased from 2020, the last year of a Chamber Crab Feed. Crab prices alone increased nearly 50 percent.

But once the County gave its permission,

followed by the statewide lifting of the mask mandate, the Annual Crab Feed went forward on Friday, March 11 at the Danté Club in Fresno at 6 o'clock and lasted till nearly 11 p.m. The event reached its full capacity of 250 attendees and featured over 50 items for live

and silent auctions. In addition to Chamber volunteers running the event, Ranchos Kiwanis were on hand serving the tables.

The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.



The entrance -- where you turned in your admission tickets -- was busy before the event, and then afterward for people buying their auction items.



The final setup of the silent auction items before the event started. Also featured on the walls were banners from Ranchos businesses that were supporting the event.



A busy area for those that wanted something more than iced tea and water with their meal, drink tickets were available for only \$1 apiece to be used at the Danté Club's bar.



Always a crowd pleaser, the gun auction provided by the Sportsman's Warehouse resulted in three separate auctions with three winners of new firearms.



People enjoying good food and company everywhere. One attendee commented that this was just what we needed after being "cooped up" for nearly two years.



People were constantly checking and re-checking their bids at the silent auction tables. Over 50 items were up for grabs at this year's Crab Feed.



After the silent auction, auctioneer Perry Watkins whipped the crowd into a frenzy on nearly 20 live auction items that ranged from handmade desserts to police ride-along packages



And of course the star of the evening was the food. Before the crab came out, there was delicious salad, bread and pasta. After the crab there was also dessert and coffee. A great time!

Photos courtesy of Bill Whyman

## Home Smoke Reduction Concludes

The Valley Air District concluded its 2021-2022 Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Program on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022 and would like to thank Valley residents who acknowledge the health benefits of following the rule and seeking alternatives to wood burning during one of the Valley's most challenging winters.

"The District's primary responsibility is protecting the health of San Joaquin Valley residents. This requires strict enforcement of rules that regulate emissions from activities such as residential wood burning," said Jaime Holt, District Chief Communications Officer.

The Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Program takes place each winter from November through February to reduce the

build-up of harmful PM2.5. This pollutant can adversely affect public health, aggravating heart and lung diseases like asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

The District continues to urge the public to refrain from burning any solid fuel throughout the year because the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin faces unique air quality challenge.

By taking advantage of the District's Burn Cleaner incentive program, residents can upgrade from an open-hearth fireplace or older wood stove to a cleaner device. The program provides up to \$3,000 for cleaner devices such as electric heat pumps, natural gas inserts or certified wood-burning devices (in certain areas). Visit [www.valleyair.org/burncleaner](http://www.valleyair.org/burncleaner) for program guidelines.

## New State Garbage Laws are Here

Signed into law in September of 2016, then-Governor Jerry Brown created the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction law, also called SB 1383. It established methane reduction targets for California by setting goals to reduce disposal of organic waste in landfills, including edible food. The bill's purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions, such as methane, and address "food insecurity" in California by ensuring that food scraps are composted and the compost is then purchased by cities. The alternative, which is putting organic waste in landfills, is considered to be a significant source of air quality pollutants.

This law requires that 20 percent of all edible food – that would otherwise be



Get ready for a new green garbage can for all of your compostable items.

Please see **GARBAGE** on P. 15

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Liberty High School Marching Band



**Verlaine Elinburg**  
*representing*  
Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month. Join us on April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos.

*For more information, call the Chamber at 645-4001*

**4H Happenings**  
**4H Happenings**  
**4H Happenings**  
**4H Happenings**  
**4H Happenings**  
**Sierra Shadows 4H Club**



*By Sarah Morgan*

On Sunday, Feb. 27 Sierra Shadows 4-H participated in the Small Animal Expo. In Small Animal Expo 4-H, members showed off their skills with rabbits and poultry. Sierra Shadows did the event at the Madera Fairgrounds. The people who did poultry were

Hunter Williams Smith, Griffin Williams Smith, Jacob Garzon and Samara Mohler with Colie Tickel assisting the contest. The people who did rabbits were RJ Scroggins, Christy Kaneko, Emily Dowing, Annalise Crandall, Mikayla Carr and Sarah Morgan.

The following members received medals in poultry: Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith, Jacob Garzon and Samantha Mohler. The different things done in the poultry test were feed I.D., breed I.D., keep or cull, a judging class and showmanship.



The following members got medals in rabbits: Christy Kaneko, Emily Dowing, Annalise Crandall, Mikayla Carr and Sarah Morgan. RJ Scroggins got a certificate in rabbits. The different things done in the rabbit test were feed I.D., breed I.D., keep or cull and showmanship.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Omar Zarate! What a smile. What a Hawk. What an American.

When I first saw the front cover of the February edition of the Ranchos Independent I knew immediately I needed to take Academic Decathlon champion Omar Zarate, and his family, out to dinner to celebrate. Omar is the only student in the picture without a mask on and because of this Omar and his family deserve a night out at the Pizza Factory (not to mention an amazing Academic Decathlon Super Quiz win).

But even more important than the Academic Decathlon win, he proudly showed his face just as he should have -- for the entire GVUSD and Ranchos community! Because of this I want to arrange a Pizza Factory celebration.

Omar, if you see this, please contact Randy at the Ranchos Independent and he can give you my email address. Looks like it is a pizza night for the Zarate family soon! I don't have to tell you not to wear a mask.  
Ray Sanchez  
Madera Ranchos

## Rigby Files to Run For Judge



Deputy District Attorney Katherine Rigby, left, files her paperwork to run for Madera County Superior Court Judge as Madera County Superior Court Judges D. Jones Collett, Ernie LiCalsi, Sosi Vogt, Mitchell Rigby, Mike Jurkovich, Jim Oakley, Tom Bender and Dale Blea look on in support.

Deputy District Attorney Katherine Rigby formally filed her paperwork to run for Madera County Superior Court Judge in the June 7 primary. Rigby was honored to have eight of the Madera County Superior Court Judges present with her, showing their support.

Rigby is a fourth-generation Maderan and grew up here attending Madera schools. She attended Fresno State as a Smittcamp Family Honors College Scholar and Craig School of Business Scholar and then attended McGeorge School of Law, earning a law degree and an MBA. She interned at the Governor's Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Food and Agriculture, as well as local Valley firms.

She returned to Madera to begin practicing law, working for the Ciummo & Associates' Madera Alternate Defense office. She then joined Gilmore, Wood, Vinnard & Magness and practiced civil litigation, representing clients from throughout the Valley. For the past several years she has served as a Madera Deputy District Attorney.

"I am eager to serve the community that raised and shaped me," Rigby said. She feels strongly in seeking justice by upholding, protecting and defending the Constitution -- the rule of law in our great country. She believes that whomever comes before the court should have equal access to our justice system, that cases should be decided fairly and impartially and that decisions be made based on law and not personal or political views.

Because of her strong commitment to public safety and justice, some of her endorsements include eight Madera County Superior Court Judges, the entire Madera County Board of Supervisors, Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp, the Madera Police Officers' Association, the Madera Deputy Sheriff's Association, Madera Police Chief Dino Lawson, and Retired Madera County Sheriff Jay Varney.

She is a Rotarian, currently serves on the board for the Madera County Sheriff's Foundation and is a Friend of the Madera Library.

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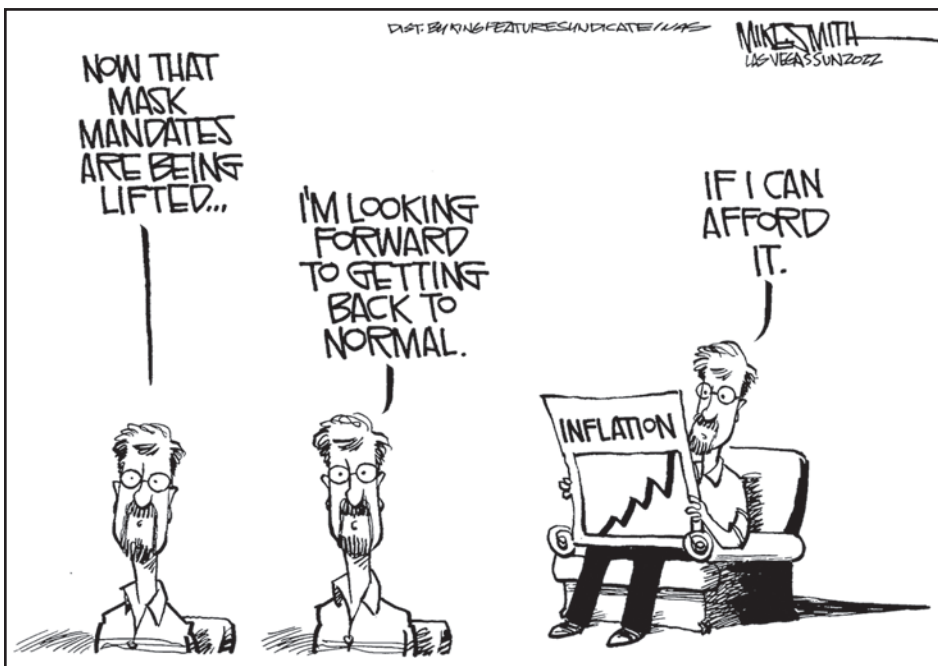
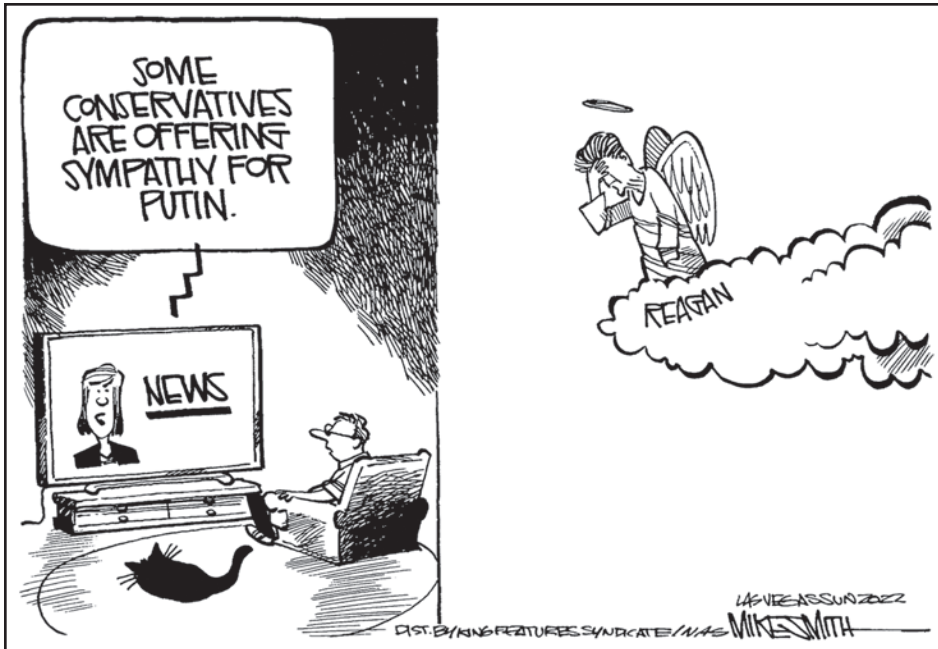
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## Editorial

# More Equal Than Others

By Randy Bailey

You've got to hand it to the left (some would say that if you don't, they'll take it anyway -- but I digress). If you're a democrat/liberal/progressive/leftist, you know exactly where you and your ilk stand on key issues ...

Or do you?

We can go down the grocery list and you know exactly what your position on issues ranging from gun control and abortion to green energy and gay rights are. One of the easiest areas is also probably one of the oldest, first appearing 60 years ago in earnest in the 1960s: Women's equal rights. They even named a potential constitutional amendment after it.

An outgrowth of the feminism movement, its adherents (including everyone on the left) stressed and believed that men and women were completely equal in everything. Not just on the obvious things like mental aptitude, but in literally *everything*, including physical abilities. The only reason women couldn't prove their abilities and superiority was an oppressive patriarchy that ruled with an oppressive -- and one would assume *hairy* -- iron fist. After all, just like today where climate change is unquestioned, settled science, the premise that anything a man could do, a

woman could do ... and probably *better!* ... was and is beyond discussion.

In 1972, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights came up with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. In 2019, athletic programs were considered educational programs and were therefore entitled to Title IX protections, giving women athletes the right to equal opportunity in sports in educational institutions that receive federal funds, from elementary schools all the way up to colleges and universities.

Great news for women. The hairy hand had been slapped away and now athletic programs for women *had* to be on a par with the men's programs. Women had finally reached their true potential and were equal to men in athletics -- until a *more* equal group came along. In George Orwell's masterpiece *Animal Farm*, Napoleon the pig observes that "All animals are equal -- but *some* animals are more equal than others."

Enter the transgender athlete.

Men who -- for a myriad of reasons -- now identify as women and want to compete athletically -- against *women*. An article in The New Yorker magazine researched: "People who have gone through testosterone-driven puberty have, on average, more cardiovascular capacity, greater muscle mass, higher tendon mechanical strength and denser bones. They tend to be stronger and taller, with longer wingspans. In many sports involving timed races, men are roughly 10 to 12 per cent faster than women." To further stress the point, The New Yorker article said, "Olympic track champion Allyson Felix's lifetime best in the 400 meters is 49.26; in one year, 2017, that time was bettered by men and boys more than 15,000 times." I guess there *is* a difference.

So the left had to decide what was going to be sacrificed on the altar of liberalism. Our girls or transgendered men? In case you don't know, a transgender man now holds the NCAA "Women's" Swimming Championship.

Any idea who's "more equal" to the left?

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"WE INTEND TO PUT AN END TO ... THE PHILOSOPHY THAT GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT TO MATCH TAXES TO WHATEVER IT WANTS TO SPEND INSTEAD OF SPENDING ONLY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SPENT."

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



# Miss Manners Takes a Call

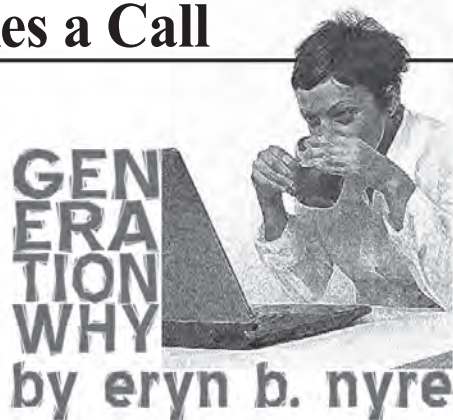
I was watching an episode of Seinfeld with my dad the other day. You remember that show, right? Back when TV was still good and comedians were allowed to be funny. Anyway, one of the underlying plot points in this particular episode was cell phone etiquette. Jerry was scolding Elaine for calling her friend while she was doing something else or when she only had a few minutes to talk. The idea being that you should call someone when you have ample time and when you can give that person your undivided attention. It got me thinking, maybe we need to bring cell phone etiquette back to the table for discussion.

I acknowledge that some things are subjective. For example, I wouldn't call my dad and chat if I were not able to give him my undivided attention. He considers that rude.

However, not all people do. I have friends that are perfectly happy to get a multitasking call because they are also doing other things while we

talk. But there are some things that are just universally discourteous. I would like to see Miss Manners make an appearance and get us back on the right path.

The first behavior I'd like to see corrected is not using headphones in public. People who have a conversation on speakerphone someplace like in the middle of a waiting room drive me nuts. I'll concede that sometimes those conversations are hilarious, but mostly it's just impolite. You're trying to read your book while waiting on your doctor, or actually hear what the receptionist is attempting to tell you, but there's some loudmouth 15 feet away hollering at Twitty McDeaf on her phone, and Twitty is hollering back like they're trying to contact the space station using paper cups and string. Two words: Ear buds. Then you can use your inside voice and the person on the other end can tell you all about the new



fungal cream the doctor prescribed and no one will be the wiser.

Another thing I would like to see stopped is taking secret pictures and videos of people and posting them on social media. There are way too many people who will take a picture of an old man in the grocery store because he tucked his shirt into his underwear and it's peeking out over his slacks, or a video of a heavy girl at the gym who's using the equip-

ment incorrectly and post it for the world to see and mock. We all know it isn't illegal to record someone in public because we don't have a reasonable ex-

pectation of privacy, but what about just a reasonable expectation of respect from our fellow humans.

Stories are one thing. Sharing stories of what we witness is part of the human experience. I cannot tell you how many times in my life I've met someone who knows one of my friends or family members and am greeted with, "Are you the one who fell down the escalator at Disneyland?" Or "You're the one who fell out of her chair in the office, aren't you?" Yes, I am both of those people. I'm not going to lie and say it was never embarrassing, but it's also often funny. Stories are different because they maintain a certain amount of anonymity. When my cousin tells her friends about the time I fell on the escalator, there's not some sort of permanent record that gets shared over and over again. That

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7

*Silence your ringer, use ear buds, use your inside voice. This isn't rocket science ... I think Miss Manners would agree.*

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### Lessons From a Roomba

I admit I was skeptical when I first heard about them. Vacuums that roam around the house on their own? But, when our son upgraded and offered us his original Roomba, I didn't say no. My husband set it up in my office, scheduled it on his phone and voila! I came home to a house freshly vacuumed.

Today as I sat at my desk watching it make its way around my office, I discovered it's not only valuable for picking up carpet debris, it also teaches some useful organizing lessons. If you have an area that's begging to be organized, consider the lessons from the Roomba.

**Lesson 1 – Schedule it.** The Roomba's on a schedule, so we

know it's going to get done. Similarly, rather than waiting till you feel like it, which may be never, schedule your organizing project for a specific day.

**Lesson 2 – Work at strategic times.** Our Roomba comes on when we're at work (today being an exception). Figure out when you're most productive and plan to organize during that time of day.

**Lesson 3 – Remove distractions.** We're careful to clear the floor before the Roomba runs so that it doesn't get stuck in cords and things. Before you begin organizing remove distractions — turn off phone notifications, get a babysitter, etc.

**Lesson 4 – Program efficiency.** It's fascinating to watch as the Roomba strategically covers every area from one end of the room to the other. Similarly, your organizing efficiency will increase when you don't bounce around, all over the room or house. Start in one spot and work strategically around the room.

**Lesson 5 – First things first.** The most advanced Roombas vacuum and then mop. When it comes to organizing, purge and then containerize.

**Lesson 6 – Be persistent and**

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 11

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

oral tale cannot end up on the feed of someone I work with who can say, "Hey, that's Eryn, everyone come look at this video." Stories also require a little talent. If you aren't a skilled raconteur, that story probably isn't going to get the kind of play that an embarrassing video would. We've turned into a society of paparazzi, and I think it's time that stopped.

Finally, I'm tired of people leaving their ringers on in places like movie theaters, classes or church. No one is asking you to shut your phone off and miss a precious notification, but it doesn't take an exhausting amount of effort to put it on silent mode. What's worse is when you let your phone ring more than once and you still don't silence it. This happened at church a couple of weeks ago. Someone's phone rang, which is an-

noying enough, but then ten minutes later the same ringtone filled the sanctuary again. Ok, you forgot to turn your ringer off when you walked in, everyone makes mistakes, but you couldn't be bothered to turn it off after you disturbed the service the first time? These are the people who are so self-centered they either can't see how their actions affect others, or they just don't care.

Ultimately, I think this boils down to respect. If someone doesn't want to hear you do dishes or mop the floor while you talk, then call them when you have time to sit down and be present for them. If you see someone doing something embarrassing, there's no need to be disrespectful and record them. Silence your ringer, use ear buds, use your inside voice. This isn't rocket science. Maybe we all need a friend like Jerry to set us straight. I think Miss Manners would agree.



## Getting Fruity

(March 2012)

**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.



3T lime juice (about 2 limes)

Juice of 1 large navel orange

Pinch of cayenne pepper to taste

Pinch of sea or kosher salt to taste

¼ C chopped fresh mint

½ C crumbled feta cheese (optional)

Preheat a gas grill or build a charcoal fire for direct grilling.

Cut the watermelon in half

lengthwise, then cut each half in half. Cut these quarters in 2 inch thick slices. Brush the slices lightly with olive oil and set aside until ready to grill.

Combine

lime and orange juices. Taste, if it is too tart, add more orange juice. It should taste like a "sour" orange. Add the salt and pepper and whisk continually while adding the oil in a thin stream. Whisk until thickened. Taste and adjust the oil and salt to your liking. Add the mint and set aside.

Just before serving, place the oiled watermelon slices on a very clean cooking grate directly over the heat source. Grill until marked and just warmed through but still crunchy. About 2 to 3 minutes per side. Set aside to cool.

Cut off the rind and discard. Cut the watermelon into chunks and place in a serving bowl. Pour the dressing on top and toss lightly. Top with the feta if you are using it and another pinch of cayenne.

I love pineapple, both canned and fresh. I found the following recipe for grilled pineapple, but I'm not sure I

would use alcohol, but that is your choice. If you do use the alcohol, be real careful when putting it on the grill as it will flare up for sure. Of course you could use the tequila or rum just to show off like seeing Cherries Jubilee being served in a restaurant. But fair warning: Have everyone, especially the kids, stand well back. You don't want singed eyebrows.

### Grilled Pineapple Dessert

1 Pineapple, peeled, cored and sliced in 1 inch thick slices

¾ C Tequila or Rum \*\*

¾ C Brown Sugar

1 ½ tsp. Vanilla

½ tsp. Ground Cinnamon

Vanilla ice cream

Preheat grill. Mix liquor, sugar, vanilla and cinnamon together until sugar is dissolved. Place pineapple on grill. Baste with sugar mixture while grilling, turning occasionally. Grill for about 10 minutes. Serve hot on dessert plate with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top.

\*\*You could use pineapple juice.

My sister Faye's favorite stone fruit was an apricot. When we were little, we had a neighbor that would make fried

pies (that is a whole different article) and Grandma Ross always made sure we got one. If Faye were alive, she would have a conniption fit if she saw the apricot orchard near where I live. It is part of the Fresno State Ag Dept. I watched it as it was bare in the winter and then when the crews came in and pruned it in the early spring. I watched the beautiful blossoms turn to golden fruit ... then it stopped. The fruit started dropping on the ground and no one came in to pick the orchard. It looked like the ground was covered with golden California poppies. It was pretty, but at the same time I thought it was tragic. No one was getting any use out of the apricots. I wondered why they didn't pick or let some organization come in and glean the orchard. What a shame. Once in a while I would go by and see a car deep in the trees (probably trying to hide) and I hoped they were getting some use out of the orchard. By the way, it is on the southeast corner of Willow and Bullard if you are ever that way.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

When I was doing research for these articles, I read a website claiming to be able to grill anything in the produce department. Later, I was picturing the produce department in my head and I would like to challenge the author of that

article to prove to me her claim. At the time I had an artichoke cooking in my pressure cooker (about 10-15 minutes and it is

*I said I doubted that an artichoke could be grilled. I went on the Food Network website and there were 91 recipes.*

ready to eat). Then I thought of cabbage or lettuce (although my Grandma would bring lettuce in from the garden and wilt it in a pan with vinegar and sugar and it was yummy). How can they be grilled?

Ever since I can remember, when we brought a watermelon into the house there was room made in the refrigerator for it to get cold. I never heard of cooking a watermelon or any fruit for that matter except when we would cook peaches, pears or apricots to prepare them for canning.

I found a recipe for grilled watermelon that I will pass on to you -

### Grilled Watermelon Salad

1 watermelon - 3 to 4 pounds

(Preferably seedless and not too ripe)

¼ C Extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for brushing on the melon

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

**Easy to Grill**

Stone fruit is easy to grill. Wash the fruit and pat it dry. Cut in half and brush on some butter and grill. Don't cook too long, about 10-15 minutes for good grill marks.

**Grilled Fruit**

- 2 ripe bananas
- 2 ripe peaches
- 1 pound container of Strawberries
- 1 Stick butter
- 1 T Sugar
- Peel the banana. Wash the

peaches and strawberries and pat dry. Slice the peaches into quarters, making sure they are large enough to put straight on the grill. Hull the strawberries.

Place the strawberries on aluminum foil, sprinkle with sugar and wrap. Brush butter on each banana and each peach slice.

Put all the fruit on the grill. If the flames get too high, put the lid on the grill. Grill until there are visible grill marks or black crisps. Depending on the

heat do not cook longer than 15 minutes.

Bananas take the least amount of time and are usually done in about 10 minutes. Strawberries take the longest. Remove the fruit as soon as it is done. This can be served as a side dish with dinner or as the dessert. Serve a spoon of the fruit on a slice of pound cake with a dollop of whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream.

**Artichoke Doubts**

In the first part of this article I said I doubted that an artichoke could be grilled.

Well, I found out I was wrong. I turned on the food channel and Giada was on and getting ready to grill artichokes. She started by putting a large pot of water on to boil then cooked her artichokes until tender, then took them out of the water and drained them on a baking pan. Giada then sprinkled each piece with olive oil, salt and pepper, some chopped garlic and rosemary, and then grilled them for about 15 minutes ... but I still like them cooked in a pressure cooker best, though.

**ANDY**

**WHEELER**



**Madera County SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1**

**Paid for by Andy Wheeler for Supervisor 2022 FPPC #1444090**



## Senior Report

# Home & Garden Show is Here

By Melanie Williams

The Annual Home and Garden Show is back at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center for 2022. On Apr. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., we will be hosting the Home and Garden Show at 37330 Berkshire Road in the Madera Ranchos. 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.

We invite everyone to attend the Annual Home and Garden Show. Local Master Gardeners will present demonstrations to enhance your future gardening experience in your own backyard. They will also be available for questions and tips for our garden enthusiasts. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center's own garden and plant sale will

be located next to the Treasure House. We encourage local businesses and nurseries to donate plants to the Senior Center. The senior center is also encouraging an entrance donation of \$2 to help with costs of hosting this event. Local craft vendors will be setting up booths to display their specialty items and arrangements.

The Senior Center is selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Mother's Day Basket. Coffee and pastries are available for purchase in the morning. The Senior Center is hosting a BBQ

lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers with drinks and chips. Tickets for the hot BBQ lunch will be available for purchase during the day and will be ready to serve at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see everyone there at the Annual Home and Garden Show. A special thanks to LeAnn and Mike Fursman for supporting the Senior Center to prepare for this spring event.



Taking in the Andy Warhol Exhibit at the Fresno Art Museum are, from left, Carole Anderson, Jolien Mason and Jo Chase.



The Chester Arnold Exhibit at the Fresno Art Museum is viewed by, from left, Bob Groh, Carol Wood, Docent Denise Gorham, Connie Prince and Bill Prince

Our visit to the Fresno Art Museum was a wonderful experience. All the participants had an informative tour of the Andy Warhol and Ansel Adams exhibits on Feb. 27. The docents, Denise Gorham and GinaMarie Munoz, were excited to share interesting and little-known facts about the artists.

We had a good group attending the Fresno Art Museum for the first Senior Center outing of the 2022 New Year. If you are interested in helping or sharing ideas about future events, you are welcome to join us at the Senior Center on Apr. 15 at 12:30 p.m. for the monthly Planning Meeting. Our monthly General Board Meeting is scheduled for Apr. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

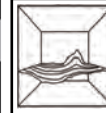
Kim Bradley with *Paws 4 Safety* is giving a presentation on pet first aid after the General Meeting on Apr. 5. She says "Because Moments Matter" when it comes to taking care of family and family pets, it is im-

Please see SENIORS on P. 12



## TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

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## CHP Needs “Senior Volunteers”

The California Highway Patrol is looking for motivated citizens who want to give something back to their community as Senior Volunteers.

Volunteers assist the CHP in providing enhanced public service to the community. The Senior Volunteer Program instills among its volunteers an understanding and appreciation of the justice system, human relations and ethics in the field of law enforcement.

You must be 55 years or older, can work a minimum of eight hours per month, pass a background check, have a good driving record and complete the CHP Senior Volunteer Training Program.

There are four major categories comprising contributions of the Senior Volunteers to the CHP:

- Administration
  - Public Affairs
  - Volunteer Use of the CHP Vehicles and Related Duties
  - Ride-Along with Uniformed Officers
- The program allows seniors to volunteer their time to assist CHP employees in

performing various duties, including:

- Deploying the radar trailer in high traffic areas
  - Working with local schools
  - Directing traffic at special events and/or traffic incidents
  - Assisting the front desk officer in serving the public
    - Answering telephones
    - Helping with administrative duties
    - Participating in “Every 15 Minutes”
    - Sober Grad Night Chaperones
    - Staffing Fire Evacuation Road Closures
    - Monitor DUI Checkpoints
    - Eyes & Ears assisting Patrol Officers
    - CHP REG Program (reporting out-of-state licensed vehicles)
- Citizens interested in the program may call Officer Javier Ruvalcaba at the Madera CHP office at 559-675-1025 or email him at [jruvalcaba@chp.ca.gov](mailto:jruvalcaba@chp.ca.gov). Additionally, they may contact the Madera CHP office and ask to speak with Jan Peirsol or Fletcher Stroemer, Senior Volunteers. Interviews will be conducted in May 2022.



ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

*willing to adjust along the way.* Our Roomba is amazingly persistent. It continually adjusts until it gets the difficult places. While organizing you may run into barriers. If things aren't fitting where you think they should be, consider making adjustments. Try new ways, places, or purge some more, just don't give up.

**Lesson 7 – Know how and when to recharge.** This amazing little machine knows when it's getting low on energy. It makes its way back to the charger, clicks in and then picks up where it left off when recharged. Plan an organizing break before you're depleted of energy. Schedule a snack, walk, or power nap — whatever charges your batteries, and then get back to it.

**Lesson 8 – Release the debris.** Yes, you can even order a Roomba with a self-emptying automatic

dirt disposal. Unfortunately, unless you hire me, you have to haul away your own organizing “debris.” Make sure you finish your project by relocating misplaced items, throwing out the trash and putting the donations into your car right away.

**Lesson 9 – If you get stuck, get help.** Last week I could tell

*While organizing you may run into barriers. If things aren't fitting where you think they should be, consider making adjustments.*

Roomba had done its job, but it was nowhere to be found. I finally discovered it stuck under our oversized rocker. I picked it up and helped it back to its home.

Sometimes when we get stuck it's okay to ask for help. You can find a list of Professional Organizers at [NAPO.net](http://NAPO.net), or visit my website, [www.OrganizedByChoice.com](http://www.OrganizedByChoice.com), for more information.

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



# Easter Celebration

APRIL 17TH | 10:30a | LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

WORSHIP - MESSAGE - BOUNCE HOUSES - KONA ICE - GREAT BIG EGG HUNT

THIS IS NOT A DISTRICT SPONSORED EVENT

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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

portant to have a plan of action or steps to take to ensure their health and wellness. If you have questions on how to care for your pet in an emergency or just preventative general pet care, come to Kim's presentation.

A special jewelry crafting event is planned for April. Nancy Palazzo, our resident jewelry crafter, is planning a four-day training session and craft-making activity for anyone interested in learning the art of jewelry crafting. She has been making and designing jewelry for many

years.

The Senior Center is planning four consecutive Thursdays, starting Apr. 7 at 9:30 a.m. for Nancy to teach willing participants her craft of design and settings for jewelry. Signups are mandatory with the Senior Center because there is only limited seating for this crafting event. If more people are interested than she can accommodate in April, Nancy said she would offer another four-day session in May. Please contact the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864 for more information if you are interested in Nancy's Jewelry

Crafting classes.

Our monthly Coffee, Crafts and Conversation is on Thursday, Apr. 28 at 9:30 a.m. Bring your own crafting materials and just enjoy the company and conversation together at the senior center. We welcome visitors and members to come any Thursday morning at 9:30 to enjoy activities like crafting, games, cards and puzzles. Thursdays are open for sharing new experiences and have fun being together at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Last, but not least, we are having a Birthday and Anniversary Potluck at 5:30 p.m. on Apr. 21.

Come and relax after the Easter season with friends at the Senior Center and celebrate this month's birthdays and anniversaries. Someone might want to bake a birthday cake or dessert to celebrate a special day for the potluck. Please bring a dish that serves 8 to 10 people and your own place settings. We welcome everyone to come to our potluck night on Apr. 21. It is a good opportunity to meet new members while enjoying great homecooked food.

Thought for April: "Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye." H. Jackson Brown, Jr



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JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL 2ND SERVICE

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HIGH SCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FROM BIRTH - 6TH GRADE



# SEMCU speaks

By Verlaine Elinburg

SEMCU is all about representing the interests of the people of southeastern Madera County. Right now, our area is interested in finding an honorary "Mayor" to represent us all. The "election" is being sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce for the second year, and candidates try to raise money by getting votes at \$1 apiece. The candidate with the most money wins the honorary title and their charity gets 75 cents of every dollar collected. The other 25 cents goes to the Chamber of Commerce. SEMCU is supporting the "election" with the nomination of SEMCU member Verlaine Elinburg.

Verlaine feels her resume uniquely qualifies her for the position representing not only SEMCU, but the people of southeastern Madera County as well.

She has lived in the Ranchos since 1980 and she spent 42 years with the U.S. Government through the U.S. Army PX, IRS, Social Security and then 38 years with the U.S. Postal Service, retiring and ending her career as the Postmaster of the Oakhurst post office.

Since 2009 she's been active as a Community Volunteer and a Board member of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, SEMCU, Agency on Aging and Odd Fellows. She has done numerous fundraisers for SEMCU's many projects and has sponsored local non-profit events and needs.

If you'd like to support Verlaine in her run for Honorary mayor, you can cast your \$1 vote numerous ways. You



can go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C in the Madera Ranchos and cast your vote. You can also go to the SEMCU Virtual Office at 37101 Ave 12 in the Madera Ranchos or SK Mini Mart at 37275 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. She is also getting a VENMO account. Look for Verlaine Elinburg. The election ends May 4.

SEMCU is South East Madera County United. It is a local non-profit benefit organization dedicated to representing the interest of Southeast Madera County residents, property owners and business. SEMCU studies community issues such as access to water, traffic, schools, safety and energy. SEMCU works with local government and private entities to find working solutions to our regional problems. SEMCU Foundation makes donations to sponsor activities in

and for the community by obtaining grants. Other activities have included FREE Soccer Camps for our kids, computers for our library, books for the high school library, emergency traffic stop signals, low flow energy saving devices, up to \$700 rebates for Energy Saving washing machines and dishwashers, free gloves during COVID 19, ongoing FREE fire line discing and dry well drilling to replace ground water and mitigate flooding and much more.

Events coming up in our community include the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Home & Garden Festival on Apr. 2 at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos. Also, there is a Spring Festival at the Golden Valley Baptist Church at 12414 Rd. 37 on Apr. 9.

Remember to vote early and vote often!

To call SEMCU for more information, call 559-363-9095 or you can reach the organization by email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org). You can also visit the website at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).

**SEMCU is "By the Community, For the Community"**

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## Grapes = Immunity + Brain Health

Grapes are a top food for immunity and brain health, according to a new book soon to be released by dietitian and author Patricia Bannan, MS, RDN. The book is titled *From Burnout to Balance: 60+ Healing Recipes & Simple Strategies to Boost Mood, Immunity, Focus & Sleep*. The book lists top foods in several categories, among them brain and immune health, with grapes on the list for both.

In addition to the recipes, Bannan includes grapes in her “Nearly No-Cook Meal Ideas” section of the book.

“Grapes are my go-to ingredient for

color, hydration, and nutrition. As a snack or recipe ingredient, grapes are an easy, healthy choice for wellness.

Studies show that grapes are linked to benefits in multiple areas of health, including support for brain and immune health,” Bannan said. “Three of my favorite recipes with grapes in *From Burnout to Balance* are my Simple Salmon Burgers with Grape Salsa, Lemony Farro and Lentil Bowls with Shrimp and Grapes, and my Kale, Sweet Potato & Grape Salad with Walnuts. Not only are these recipes delicious, they are packed with nutrients to support both brain and immune health.”

Bannan will promote her new book throughout the upcoming California table grape season.



*Bannan's Lemony Farro and Lentil Bowls with Shrimp and Grapes.*

*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Chong.*

### GARBAGE cont. from P. 2

disposed of in the garbage or compost – be recovered for human consumption by 2025. The rationale being that surplus edible food will help feed Californians in need instead of decomposing in a landfill while emitting supposed harmful greenhouse gases.

On March 1, the Madera County Board of Supervisors addressed SB 1383 and its impact on Madera County since the regulations are final and went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. This law imposes certain obligations that affect Madera County, its waste franchise haulers, its residents and its businesses.

Madera County has created a Solid Waste team to look at options for the County and it presented a list to the Board. The options presented were:

Option 1: Non-Mandatory Collection with Full Waivers

Option 2: Mandatory Collection with Residential and Commercial Organics Collection Waivers

Option 3: Mandatory Collection with Only Commercial Organics Collection Waivers

Option 4: High-Diversion Organics Processing Facility

The Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Option 1, meaning:

- There would be no mandatory collection requirement.
- Organics and recyclables would be source separated.

• SB 1383 compliant organics collection services would only be offered in the census tracts subject to SB 1383 (75 people per square mile) based on 2020 census data as mapped.

• Services provided by franchisee would include a two grey/blue carts or three grey/blue/green carts subscription service.

• The green cart for organics collection would be by opt-in.

• All residents and businesses within SB 1383 compliance areas must demonstrate compliance with SB 1383 regulations by either:

• Subscribing to collection service.

• Demonstrating de minimis generation (to be defined).

• Self-hauling.

• On-site management.

• Shared service (with a maximum of two properties per service).

• County would be responsible for compliance oversight.

The Board then provided direction to its staff to proceed with preparing an ordinance amendment consistent with Option 1. They are also going to continue looking into alternative funding sources to cover the costs of implementing SB 1383.

Further information can be found by contacting the Madera County Public Works Department at 559-675-7811 and by investigating additional information on the state mandated regulations on diversion of organic waste at [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp).



**Kiwanis Korner**

**Kiwanis Earn \$1,000 from Crab Feed**

By Sally Rowden

As the time change is springing us into daylight savings, the Kiwanis Club is hopping into springtime happenings.

We installed two more new members: Theresa Azparren (daughter to member Sally Rowden) and Katie Harr (daughter to member Marie Cameron) were installed by Larry Loucks, our Kiwanis Region 5 Lt. Governor at our Feb. 24 meeting. Both ladies are ready for volunteerism.

In fact, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed on March 11 at the Danté Club in Fresno started those volunteer hours. As the Kiwanis Club volunteered to be the servers, we met with success as the turnout of enthusiastic attendees allowed our tips to add up to over a thousand bucks. These funds go toward our Golden Valley Unified School District in the form of Liberty High School Scholarships for Graduating Seniors. Thank you, Crab Feed attendees.



Kiwanis Region 5 Lt. Governor Larry Loucks, left, installed new Ranchos Kiwanis members at the Feb. 24 meeting. Next to Loucks is member Marie Cameron and new members Katie Harr and Theresa Azparren. To their right is member Sally Rowden.

Now it's time to be on the lookout for our HUGE Easter Basket Raffle. Our own designer, Ollia Ridge, will be out in our communities displaying the basket for which you can purchase raffle tickets to become the proud owner. Donation cost is \$2 per ticket.

Our Flatlander's Day Parade is returning May 7. Exciting for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and all residents of our community to once again be able to enjoy our own parade event. The Kiwanis Club will have their food booth with choice of BBQ chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Make plans to come out and enjoy.

The Liberty High School Scholarships for Graduating Seniors will be awarded in May 2022. John Minney is our fundraiser chairperson and Bev Delk is our student selection chairperson for this annual event. The event is held during the month of April and primarily consists of asking – either by a letter or by a Kiwanis Club member – for your monetary support. Many of our community businesses and/or individuals have earnestly and continually given. Your continued support is highly appreciated and, of course, welcomed by the Kiwanis Club and our awarded graduating seniors. Contact John Minney at jminney@gmail.com for any further information you may need.



The Ranchos' own Easter basket designer, Ollia Ridge, shows off her handiwork that is going to be raffled through the Ranchos Kiwanis for just \$2 per ticket.

The Honorary Mayor Campaign is still underway. On Friday, April 22 at 5 p.m. an open house at 37101 Ave. 12 will present Verlaine Elinburg representing SEMCU and Sally Rowden representing the Kiwanis Club. Refreshments will be served and both candidates will be available with their donation buckets. No speeches. No promises. It's all about the money – each dollar equals a vote. Seventy-five cents of each dollar goes to the candidate's non-profit group of choice and 25 cents goes to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Please make a note that the Kiwanis Club is now meeting at Second Son Brews in the Maywood Center at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Located at 37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C. Due to our group size growing we needed a larger area. A shout out goes to Ryann and Nicole O'Reilly of the Pizza Factory for housing us for so long. Your hospitality was fantastic.

In reflection ... "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!'" Audrey Hepburn

[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)

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## Give youth a break. They can't know what they don't know.

By Betty Van Valkenburg

What many (not all, of course) younger folks don't realize and haven't been taught is that this nation, although in serious decline, has provided the greatest standard of living and liberty that the world has known. So they aren't grateful for it and don't understand the principles of limited government instituted specifically to keep us safe from external aggression and protect the rights of the individual against government excesses, allowing us the freedom to prosper and follow our dreams as we see fit.

Instead, sadly, many are taught the opposite – when taught history at all – that our constitutional government and free-enterprise capitalism are evil, and that – through some overly twisted logic – more government intervention is the answer to

all problems. They are accustomed to a culture where, increasingly, intact families are passé, dependency is an accepted way of life, traditional values are ridiculed, reason and civility are gone, God is dead and hate-filled rants and violence are commonplace.

Older folks remember when the encroachment on individual liberty was advancing slowly and we spoke out against it. Fast forward a decade or three, and younger generations who have lived entire lives under an increasingly socialistic/paternalistic government don't miss the freedoms they never had and so are conditioned to trade personal freedom for dependence.

But wait – that doesn't let us older folks off the hook. Many of us have also bought into government largesse as a way of life. Others of us who know the pitfalls of an overreaching government haven't taken the time to teach our children and grandchildren about the blessings of liberty and about the sacrifices made to secure the freedoms that we seem to regard so lightly.

Younger generations have every reason to believe the lie of a socialist paradise. They've lived during a time when educa-

tion, entertainment, government, media, unions and other sectors of society have promoted increasing government control over our lives in the form of socialism, progressivism or paternalism. They are told that their rights include free health care, free food, free education, free love, free housing and freedom from being offended – and that anyone who disagrees with them is a hate-monger.

Now, with the groundwork laid to make it acceptable and even desirable, socialism is easy to sell, thus Bernie Sanders' popularity. After all, exercising freedom by taking care of oneself is hard, and the lure of "free" taxpayer-funded "help" is hard to resist, even at the price of government control that comes with every proposed program. Conversely, buying votes with taxpayer-funded "compassionate" giveaway programs is impossible for most politicians to resist. Little by little, drip by drip, personal sovereignty has been traded for empty promises.

Those whose education has left them ignorant of history, who rely on social media and talking heads for news and opinions, and who are immersed in the "gimme" and "bite-the-hand-that-feeds-you" culture, increasingly follow leaders

promising more of the same. Then, not finding the socialist utopia they've been promised, the believers become increasingly more dissatisfied with its

failures but blame those whom they've been conditioned to hate (conservatives, Republicans, old folks, white folks, black folks, rich folks, poor folks, whoever and whatever) and demand even more socialist intervention in their lives.

Perhaps we should tell our children and grandchildren about nations that endured the boot of real socialism and communism, and about the misery endured by its citizens. Venezuela is a living example of the miseries of socialism, not the least of which is the lack of toilet paper! That ought to get their attention.

Soon after ratification of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin cautioned that the framers had given us a republic – if we could keep it. That was his warning to be ever vigilant in preserving constitutionally protected freedoms against those who would usurp them. Others warned that we would fall from within. Let's take those warnings seriously and do all in our power to preserve liberty for all.

*This article originally appeared in the August 2017 issue of the Ranchos Independent.*

## Are You Better Off Today?

By Terry Jones

Are you better off today under President Joe Biden than you were a year earlier? And are you financially prepared for a downturn in the economy or a job loss? The March I&I/TIPP Poll suggests most Americans would answer "no" to both of those questions.

**The poll asked: "Generally speaking, is your family better off today than it was one year ago, worse off than it was one year ago, or about the same as it was a year ago?"**

Fewer than one in five (20 percent) said they were "better off" while more than twice that number — 42 percent — said they were "worse off." Another 36 percent said they were "about the same." Taken as a whole, that means 78 percent of Americans have seen no progress or improvement at all in their financial and economic lives since Biden took over in early 2020. Despite this, Biden's recent speeches have included references to the "best economic growth in the last four decades."

"We did it alone. Without one single solitary Republican vote," he said in Philadelphia on March 11, speaking to House Democrats. "It was the Democrats — it was you — that brought us back."

If that's the message, Americans don't seem to be buying it. And a big reason for that is likely the sudden scary surge in inflation, which hits low- and middle-class Americans hardest of all. While wage gains have averaged 5 percent or higher for four straight months, unfortunately, inflation during the same period has surged by an annual rate of over 7 percent and looks likely to go even higher. Americans, it seems, are feeling the pinch of Bidenomics. They can't keep up, despite all the "stimulus" — or perhaps, because of it.

**In the same poll, I&I/TIPP also asked Americans, "How much does your household have in emergency savings — that is, money that is readily available in either a checking, savings or money-market account?"**

Respondents were given eight possible

responses: "No emergency savings," "One month's expenses," "Two months' expenses," "Three months' expenses," "Four months' expenses," "Five months' expenses," "Six months' expenses or more," and "Not sure." Sadly, the biggest category by far was "No emergency savings," at 34 percent.

Both "One month's" and "Two month's" garnered 11 percent each. So, 56 percent of all Americans, over half of the population, have either no savings or barely enough to last two months, should economic trouble occur. For most, that means they are one job loss or personal injury away from economic disaster. Only 16 percent of respondents said they had financial resources for three to five months. And just 16 percent responded they had enough stashed to last for six months or more. Another 11 percent said they "weren't sure," perhaps the most worrisome response of all. This, after the federal government has spent \$6 trillion on COVID recovery and passed another \$1.5 trillion in spending for the coming year, while the Federal Reserve printed an estimated \$16.5 trillion in new cash and checking deposits since the start of the pandemic.

Despite all this activity and booster rhetoric from Democrats, Americans have given Biden's economic performance failing grades in recent polls.

"Biden now sports the lowest net economic rating of any president at this point through their first term since at least Jimmy Carter in 1977," CNN noted late last year, citing its own CNN/SRSS Poll.

If anything, with the stock market's plunge, continued soaring inflation and growing shortages in supermarkets, confidence in Bidenomics has grown worse in recent weeks, prompting even Democrats to criticize the president's policies. The latest I&I/TIPP Poll was conducted online from March 2-4 with responses from 1,318 adults nationwide. The poll's margin of error is +/- 2.8 percentage points.

*This article originally appeared on [www.issuesinsights.com](http://www.issuesinsights.com).*

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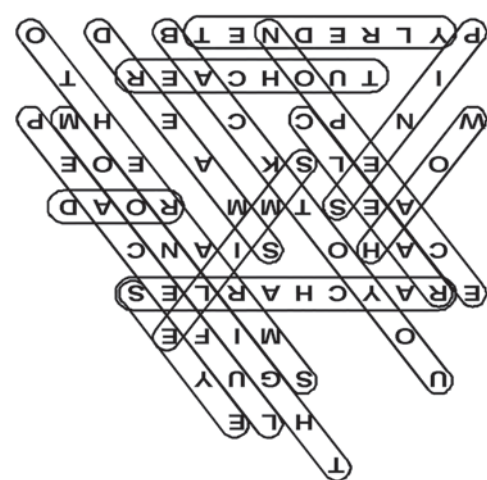
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### ANSWERS

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21		17			21





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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.

	+		×		13			
-		÷		+				
	+		×		18			
×		+		×				
	+		+		19			
21		17		21				
1	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9

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**SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

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

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- 3. Go to [www.uwfm.org/freetax-prep/](http://www.uwfm.org/freetax-prep/)** and follow the prompts.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

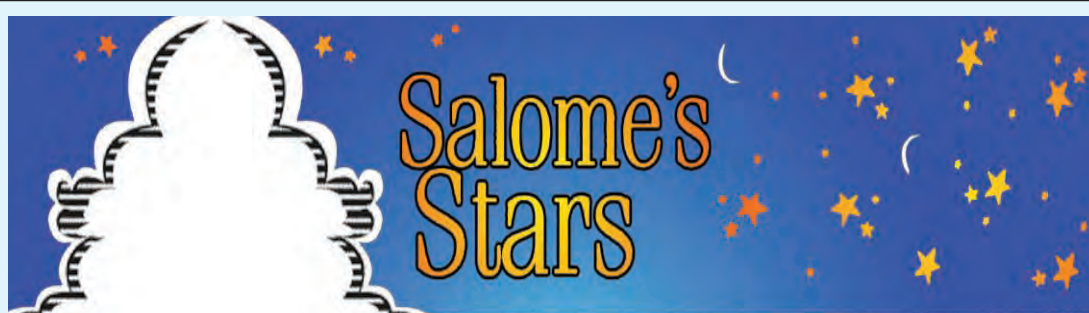


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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



“Prove my innocence ... or else!”



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Keep an open mind about a suggestion you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off, as you come to learn more about the potential benefits opening up.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) By acting as a voice of reason, you can avoid adding to an already turbulent situation. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words ultimately will be heard and heeded.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The possibility of a new acquisition always makes those Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances often can be deceiving.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) No matter how much you might feel that you're in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the matter drop, and move on.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You also find workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You might have to share the credit for that project you're working on. But there'll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don't leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be just what you've been waiting for.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Allowing your artistic nature full expression will help restore your spirits and will put you in the mood to take on that new career challenge. A Libra creates excitement.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at week's end. Your aspects favor new friendships as well as the strengthening of old relationships.

**Born this Week**

*Like St. Patrick (who was also born this week), your spiritual strength is an inspiration to others.*



# FUN PAGES

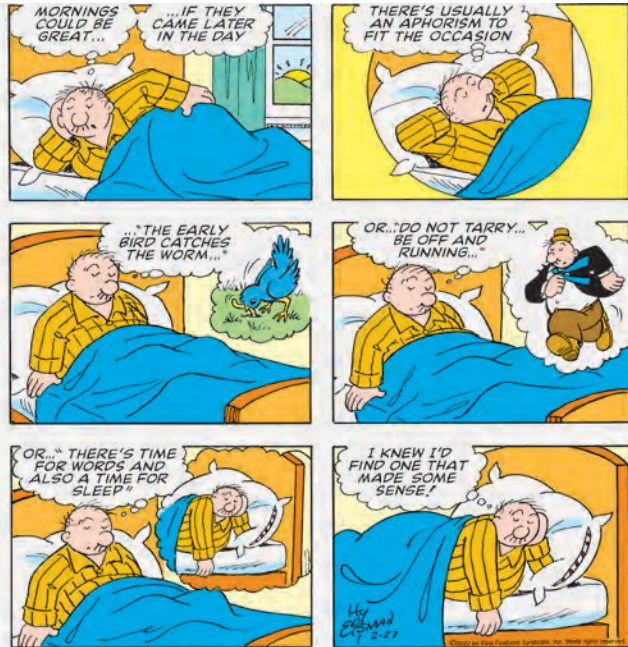
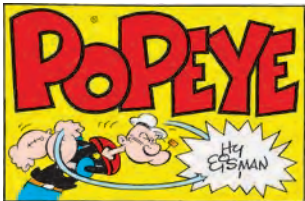
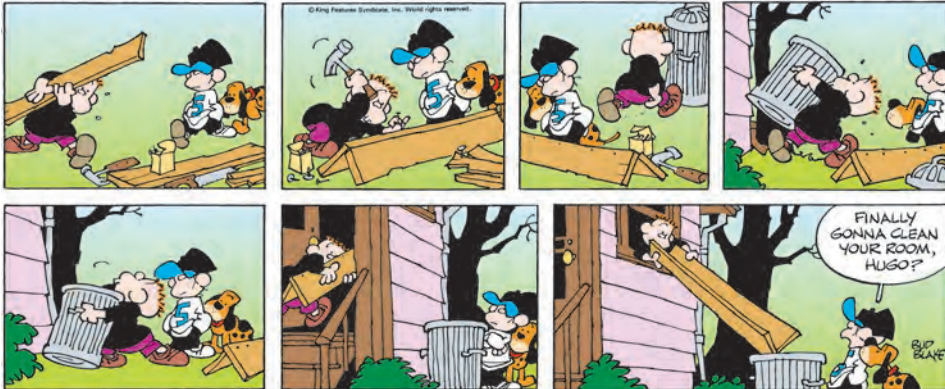
## Kids' Maze



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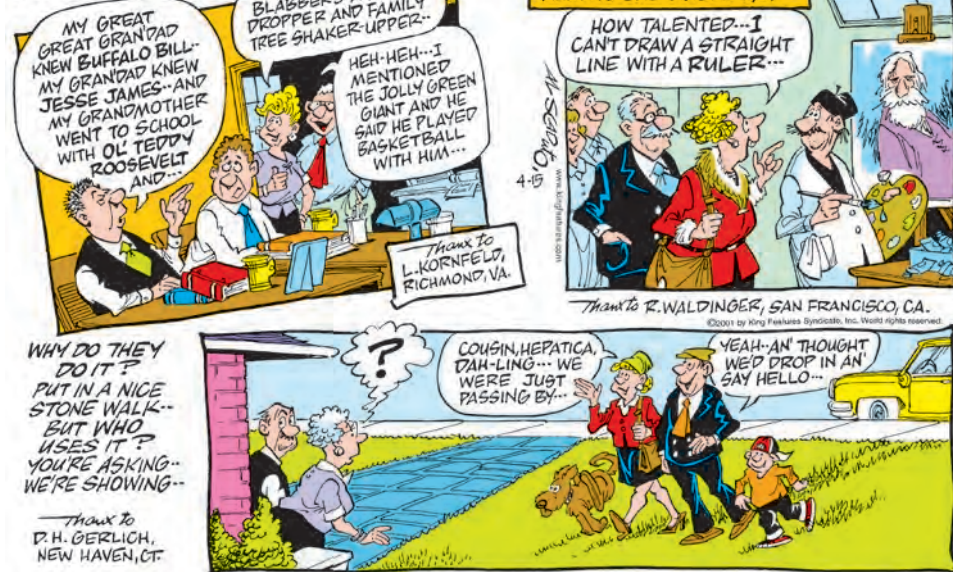
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

TUNING IN ON THE NOSTALGIC CELEB SNOB—



**WATER WAYS!** Which path does the ball take to reach the net at top left? Take a guess, then see if you are right.

**PENNY ANTE!** Asked how many pennies he has, Junior declared: "If I divide them by 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, I always have one left over." How many does he have?

He has sixty-one.

**ADD LIB!** Five of nine consecutive numbers (1 through 9) have been replaced by X's in the addition problem on the board at right. You are asked to put these five missing numbers back in place.

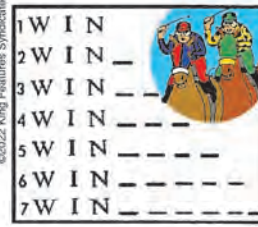
For starters, fill in the number in the upper right-hand corner — obviously a seven — and then deal with digits 2, 4, 5, 6, to complete the sum.

Remember, it is a problem in simple addition. Use trial and error to solve it.

Two, nine, seven plus three, five, one totals six, four, eight.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



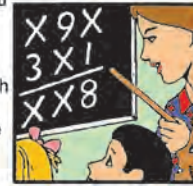
### A WIN-WIN WIN PUZZLEMENT

IT'S a win-win-win, etc., situation for those who participate in this word-finder exercise. Object is to identify progressively longer WIN words in accord with the following definitions:

1. Hit the jackpot (WIN, in place).
2. Rhyming partner word of dine.
3. Buffalo appetizer.
4. Pitcher's pre-toss arm move.
5. —Salem, N.C.
6. Plane dimension.
7. Factor cited in cold weather reports.

How quickly can you find all seven words?

Time limit: 2 minutes.



1. Win, 2. Wine, 3. Wings, 4. Windup, 5. Winsten, 6. Wingspan, 7. Windchill.

## Wishing Well

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

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 ● "GEORGIA ON MY MIND"

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: JUST AN OLD — SONG

- |             |            |             |          |
|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Back to you | Moonlight  | Pines       | Smile    |
| Clear       | No peace   | Ray Charles | Tenderly |
| Dreams      | Other arms | Reach out   | Woah     |
| Eyes        | Peaceful   | Road        |          |

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which U.S. state is the Devils Tower monument located?
2. LEGAL: Which U.S. Supreme Court justice served for the longest period of time?
3. TELEVISION: Which biker drama is set in the town of Charming, California?
4. WEATHER: What kind of natural disaster is caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president founded the University of Virginia?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a young hare called?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which two elements on the Periodic Table are liquid at room temperature?
8. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features the characters Leopold and Molly Bloom?
9. ASTRONOMY: What planet in our solar system is the farthest from the sun?
10. MOVIES: Which movie portrays the beginnings of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg?

### Answers

1. Wyoming
2. William O. Douglas (36 years)
3. "Sons of Anarchy"
4. Tsunami
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. A leveret
7. Bromine and Mercury
8. "Ulysses" (James Joyce)
9. Neptune
10. "The Social Network"

Click on "Local News" at



### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



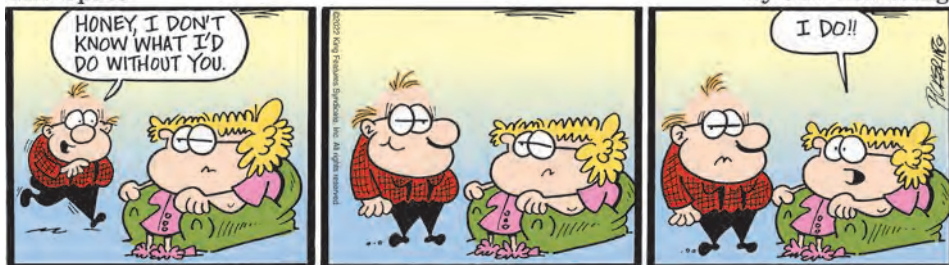
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

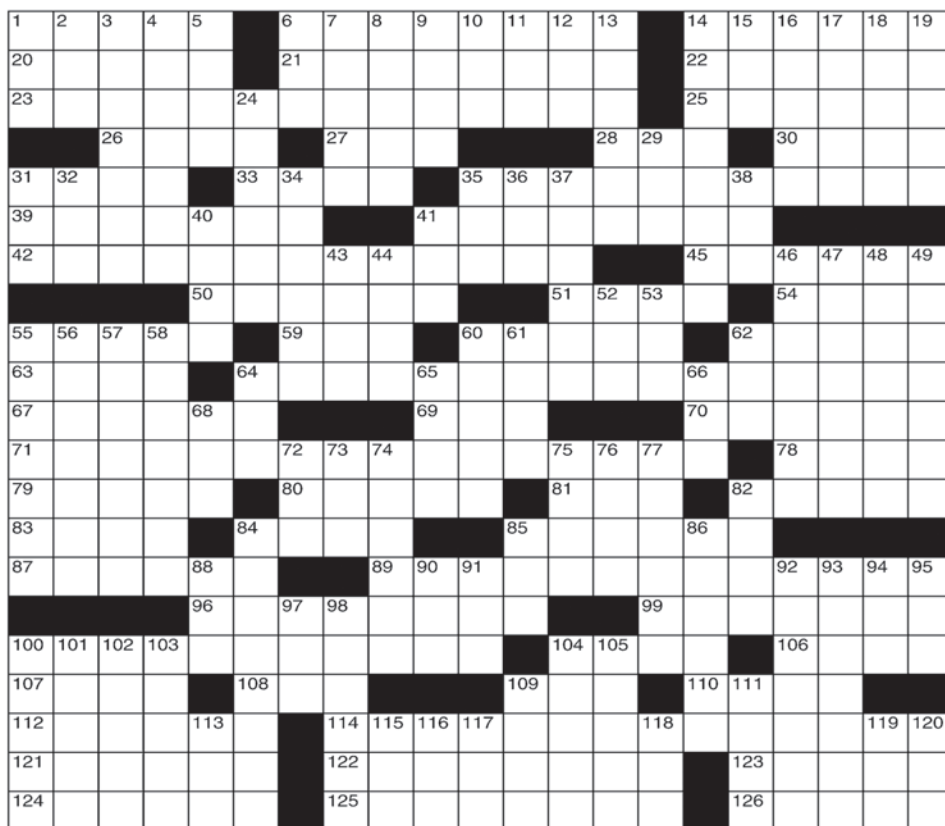
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Differences: 1. Birdhouse is missing. 2. Handle is shorter. 3. Jacket is shorter. 4. Lamp is missing. 5. Scarf is shorter. 6. Buttons are missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Competitor
  - 6 Least hilly
  - 14 Spring birds
  - 20 Adult insect stage
  - 21 Irish moss or nori
  - 22 Insect's egg capsule
  - 23 Steady job, say
  - 25 Money, slangily
  - 26 Egg on
  - 27 See 110-Across
  - 28 One — kind
  - 30 Israeli politician
  - 31 Waikiki locale
  - 33 Catholic liturgy
  - 35 Steak/lobster combo dish
  - 39 Leave behind
  - 41 Aquarium shop supply
  - 42 Endowing organization
  - 45 Didn't allow to pass, as a bill
  - 50 Swimmer Gertrude
  - 51 "— the night before ..."
  - 54 Novelist — Stanley Gardner
  - 55 Pass, as a bill
  - 59 "Lady Love" singer Rawls
  - 60 Really hate
  - 62 Jeans brand
  - 63 Recline lazily
  - 64 Regulating system
  - 67 Main nun
  - 69 Nest egg
  - 70 Estevez of "Tex"
  - 71 Attractive
  - 78 Tesla's Musk
  - 79 Volley starter
  - 80 Flora and fauna
  - 81 GPS display
  - 82 Vogue thing
  - 83 Uruguay's Punta del —
  - 84 Good buds
  - 85 Campout fuel
  - 87 Suffer from hunger
  - 89 Like an attention-grabbing actor
  - 96 Unrefined petroleum
  - 99 Eppie who's known as Ann Landers
  - 100 Home-state candidate
  - 104 Skillful feat
  - 106 Clodhopper
  - 107 Pitcher Hershiser
  - 108 Grassy tract
  - 109 Deceive
  - 110 With 27-Across, makeshift sheds
  - 112 Theater area
  - 114 What the starts of seven answers in this puzzle might do?
  - 121 California beach city
  - 122 Online merchants
  - 123 Sharpens
  - 124 Appraise
  - 125 Sign on a dead-end street
  - 126 Start
  - 8 "Ciao!", in Chihuahua
  - 9 Gets bronze
  - 10 Special attention, for short
  - 11 Conceit
  - 12 Singer Cooke
  - 13 Start a golf hole
  - 14 Longtime Russian dynasty members
  - 15 Large gametes
  - 16 "Carmen" composer Georges
  - 17 D-Max pickup truck maker
  - 18 Appellation bestower
  - 19 Neck warmer
  - 24 Halley of Halley's comet
  - 29 — Schwarz (toy store)
  - 31 Clodhopper
  - 32 — Dhabi
  - 34 San — (Texas city near Abilene)
  - 35 Ungodliness
  - 36 The Trojans of the NCAA (1999 #1 hit)
  - 37 Musical beat
  - 38 1950s prez
  - 40 Losing effort?
  - 41 Add-on charge
  - 43 Cal's twin in "East of Eden"
  - 44 Fill to excess
  - 46 More itty-bitty
  - 47 Redenbacher of popcorn
  - 48 Omission of a syllable
  - 49 Archbishop Tutu
  - 52 Affliction
  - 53 Projectile path
  - 55 Slips by
  - 56 Most majestic
  - 57 Calgary locale
  - 58 Meat cutter
  - 60 Large artery
  - 61 Ho-hum
  - 62 Hasty escape
  - 64 2000-15 CBS drama
  - 65 Prison melee
  - 66 Laugh half
  - 68 ND-to-LA dir.
  - 72 Rockets' gp.
  - 73 Actor Gerard
  - 74 Chucks out
  - 75 Art Deco artist
  - 76 Summers, in Somme
  - 77 Dr. Seuss' title turtle
  - 82 Warty hopper
  - 84 Very risky
  - 85 Hit sketch show since '75
  - 86 Tattooing tool
  - 88 Outmoded TV adjunct
  - 90 Aviary sound
  - 91 A, in Berlin
  - 92 Classic Chrysler
  - 93 Heat-attached patches
  - 94 Prefix with natal
  - 95 Mutt's threat
  - 97 Adaptable truck, in brief
  - 98 Stun with sound
  - 100 Pro — (perfunctory)
  - 101 Opera songs
  - 102 Osso buco meats
  - 103 "Kukla, Fran and —"
  - 104 Carpentry peg
  - 105 — nous
  - 109 Stallion-to-be
  - 111 Iterate
  - 113 Samantha Bee's station
  - 115 Southern Sioux
  - 116 Thai tongue
  - 117 Lucy of TV's "Elementary"
  - 118 1940s prez
  - 119 Really little
  - 120 July hrs.

# FUN PAGES



# **SEM CU**

**south east madera county united**

## **Wildfire Safety Measure Offered to Our SEMCU Residents**



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

**Until further notice, the regular SEMCU meetings will take place via teleconference.**

**Our next meeting is Monday, April 18 at 6 p.m.**

**The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949.**

**Please let us know if you have any questions.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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