

The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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**GETTING
"FIVE"
FROM
SPARKY**

Photo courtesy of John Glueck

A YOUNG PARADE FAN GETS A SPECIAL GREETING FROM MADERA COUNTY'S SPARKY, THE FIRE SAFETY DOG, AT THE 27TH ANNUAL FLATLANDERS DAY PARADE.

In This Issue

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

The Case for Ranchos Groundwater Recharge *NOW*

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series of articles about Water in the Ranchos. This May article sets the stage and paints the background picture. Next month's article will feature feedback from representatives of the government agencies that have created the current situation, and the third and final July installment of the series will describe the action plan to achieve significant and lasting groundwater recharge now to reverse the rapid downward trend of the groundwater table in Southeast Madera and beyond

By Karen Petryna

Four hundred eighty-one wells went dry in Madera County during this last drought leaving 210 residences without the means to obtain water and dependent on weekly deliveries from the state of California. Now that the drought has been declared "over" by Governor Jerry Brown, the state is set on June 30 to remove the tanks and pumps lent to residents to hold and serve the 50 gallons per person per day allocated and trucked weekly since their wells went dry.

According to David Mendez with Self-Help Enterprises, the state is getting a lot of pushback about taking away people's only source of water so directly, especially in cases where they are on the verge of scraping together enough cash to install another well 100 or 200 feet deeper for \$25-30,000, or they are coming upon the well drillers' year-long (or more) waiting list in the next few months.

Getting a loan can be tricky too for those who have not recovered from the housing bubble that burst and the economy crash of 2008, which sent many underwater with their mortgages. The most common complaint is that people can't borrow against their home for a new well if there's no equity, but their property's worth zero if it has no water.

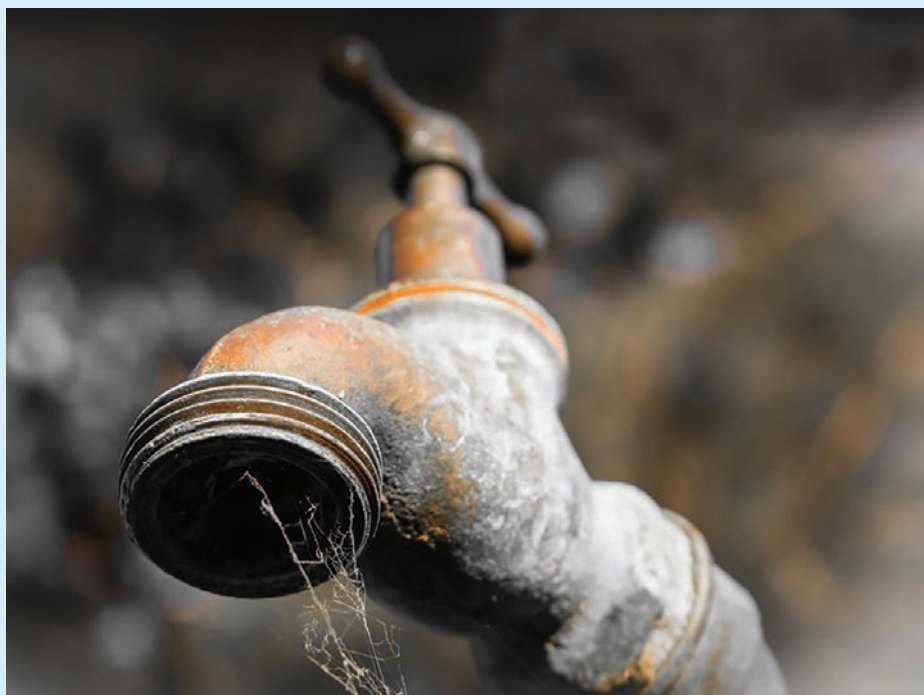
About 850 of the 1,500 lots around the Madera Ranchos are connected to the MD-10a water system with another couple of dozen connected to MD-95 in Continental Estates and a couple hundred more connected to SA-19 in Rolling Hills. Everybody else in Southeast Madera is reliant on their own water system, even those that border a municipal well like the Dublin Well, which many are claiming is causing their personal wells to go dry. The County and the State will not allow any more residential water hook-ups to the existing water systems because it is too perilous; the system is dangerously close to losing pressure or becoming contaminated. There is also the threat of having its 65-year-old plastic, corroding metal and asbestos pipes rupture while operating with an estimated 25 percent leak rate.

After fumbling and stalling for more than five years to address the arsenic contamination in the municipal well at Valley Teen Ranch (VTR), a transitional residential facility and school for delinquent boys located off Avenue 12 at Road 35, Kassy Chauhan and Joel Greathouse with the State Water Resources Control Board came to the Ranchos Middle School with Supervisor Brett Frazier in March of 2016 and promised that VTR would be connected to MD-10a within three months. They also said at that time that MD-10a would get a new well and a 1 million-gallon storage tank as part of a program to consolidate and strengthen community water systems, making them safer and

more reliable.

In December 2016, Chauhan and Greathouse directed the County to take over VTR's grant application, which had been pending since 2011, and include Liberty High School since its municipal wells had also been discovered to be arsenic-contaminated. More than six years later there is no evidence the government has or will do anything about the Ranchos water situation for the residents and the school children, except stop delivering water and take away the tanks and pumps of those whose wells have gone dry and have not been able to replace them.

Meanwhile the Shaw Development across from Liberty High School is scheduled to break ground in a few months and connect to the MD-10a water system. Originally, Shaw was supposed to provide a million-gallon storage tank and then a 500,000-gallon water storage tank for the MD-10a water system prior to breaking ground on their development in exchange for a privilege still denied long-standing residents to connect to MD-10a.



The Government Diverted the Water Away

For millions of years, the San Joaquin River flowed into the San Joaquin Valley from the western crest of the Sierra Mountains. The River pushed and fanned sediment, called alluvium, down and out from the Sierras and into the Great Valley, not only creating a natural pathway and drain for the winter snow-covered mountains, but also a giant recharge basin under the river to flush much of it into the natural underground water bank, called the Madera Subbasin.

Among the native flora and fauna, families have lived and worked in the heart of the Valley of the great delta of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers for thousands of years, up until recently ferrying steamboats from San Francisco Bay as far upstream as Fresno and catching six-foot-long salmon. But all that changed when the government built the Central Valley Project including the Friant Dam to divert the San Joaquin north and south, completely circumventing southeast Madera along the county border with Fresno.

In 1942, the Friant Dam was completed, stopping this historic flow and recharge of groundwater. In 1945, the Madera

Please see **RECHARGE** on P. 14



County Law Plans Torch Run for Special Olympics

Law enforcement agencies throughout Madera County will be participating in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on Tuesday, June 13. The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement.

This year's Opening Ceremonies will be hosted at the Madera County Sheriff's Office at 2725 Falcon Dr., Madera at 6:30 a.m. The over 24-mile route will be completed by runners representing various law enforcement agencies in Madera County. Madera Police Department will commence the first leg of the run from Courthouse Park at 7 a.m. and the final leg of the run will conclude at Veteran's Park in Chowchilla around 1p.m.

The Madera County Guardians of the Flame invite the citizens of Madera County to join them as they carry the Flame of Hope from Madera to Chowchilla.

Golden Valley Unified Graduation/Promotion Dates & Times

*Educational Options at
Ranchos Middle School*
May 31st – 6:30 p.m.

*Liberty High School at
Liberty High School stadium*
June 1st – 7 p.m.

*Ranchos Middle School at
Ranchos Middle School gym*
June 2nd – 5 p.m.

6th Grade Promotions
Sierra View
June 2nd – 8:15 a.m.
Webster
June 2nd – 9:30 a.m.

Click on "Local News" at

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Memorial Day Family Picnic
Sunday May 27th @ Noon
BBQ provided, bring the family,
lawn chair, dessert and your favor-
ite side dish. Everyone is invited.

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who have served
and to all who are
serving



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Vacation Bible School
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5/17

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The 27th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade & Craft Fair in Pictures

All pictures courtesy of John Glueck



The Madera Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign War offered a proud beginning to the 27th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade.



Local icon Ethel Pronin, right, was this year's Flatlanders Day Parade Grand Marshal. She has seen the Ranchos grow first-hand.



If the Rancho's Kiwanis are cooking tri-tip, it must be the Flatlanders Day Parade. A crowd favorite, the Kiwanis are here every year.



The kids thought it was a cannon, but the Golden Valley Baptist Church's float was really an observatory for Vacation Bible School.



Local businessman Warren Parr from Complete Car Care showed why he's the guy that smogs cars that others can't.



Let's cheer for the Ranchos! Liberty High's cheer squad put on an exhibition for the folks lining Avenue 12.



It just wouldn't be a parade without horses. There were several equestrian groups this year from throughout the Valley.



Ranchos Cafe owner Rigo Rivas loves getting the BIG barbecue out for Flatlanders Day and cooking some pork ribs. Yum!



My Mother-in-Law, Hillsdale College and the Constitution

By Betty Van Valkenburg

My very conservative mother-in-law was just short of her 100th birthday when she died in 2000. For three

decades, she had received stacks of mail from purportedly conservative politicians and organizations. I remember her sitting at the kitchen table quietly and methodically slitting open each envelope with a kitchen knife, reading the contents and dispatching them as she deemed fit. I doubt that she ever sent a dime to any group or politician whose mailer

asked for contributions, saving what little discretionary money she had for her church and perhaps Billy Graham. But she would hand write pointed responses when she disagreed with the mailer's message, which was often. And she

would use or keep the free postage stamps and small pencils sometimes included in the mailers. (Remember those?)

One piece of mail that she received regularly was a free publication from Hillsdale College called Imprimis. I stress that it was free, as Mom would not have paid for it even though she appreciated it. When I was at her home I would read her Imprimis copies with their transcripts of speeches by conservative leaders and thinkers and found that they contained common-sense opinions and constitutional principles. At that time, I paid no attention to who published it.

After Mom's passing I forgot about Imprimis. Then inexplicably, years later,

American history is scoffed at in most public schools and is taught derisively in many instances. Until education is extricated from the grip of federal government intervention and Common Core, we would serve our students well by encouraging them to take independent courses and read books (online or the old-fashioned printed kind) on U.S. history, the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and much more.

her copies addressed to her at my home address started arriving in my mailbox and I have enjoyed reading them ever since. I learned about Hillsdale College and signed up for the free online Constitution 101 course, and now I receive my very own Imprimis in my very own name.

Thanks go to my mother-in-law for introducing me

to Hillsdale. I smile each time I receive the mailer that is still addressed to her. (I wonder if she's still registered to vote. Maybe I'd better check that out.)

Please see **TEA TIME** on P. 7

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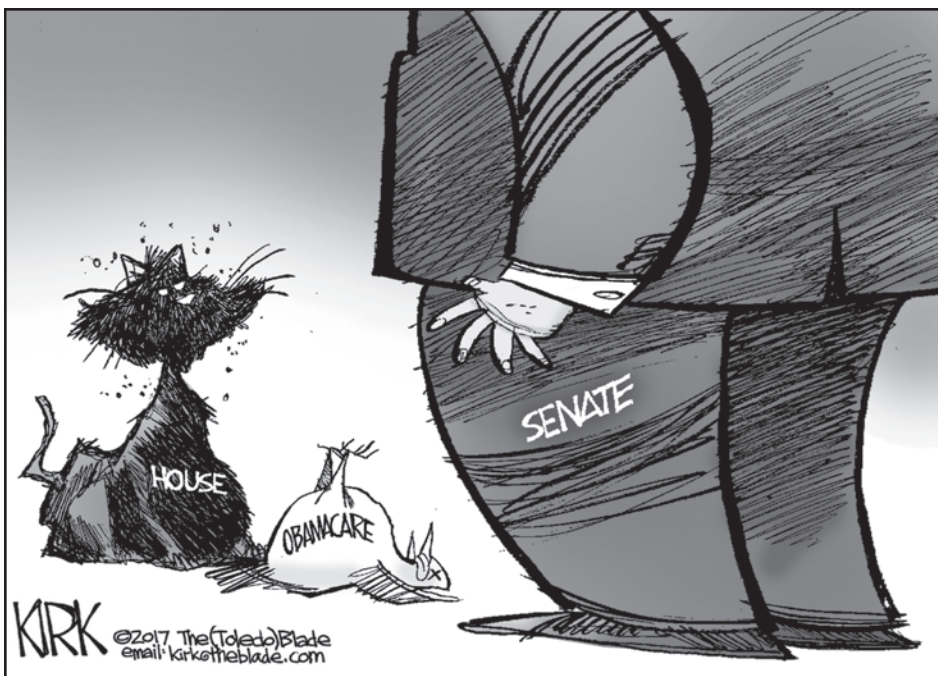


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Editorial

Republican, Democrat ... Communist?

By Randy Bailey

California just dodged a bullet. In case you hadn't heard, a San Francisco-based Democrat, Assemblyman Rob Bonta, had come up with a bill, AB22, whose bottom line was to let communists work in California government ... *legally*. The inference of course is that there are probably plenty of communists working in California's government *illegally*, but let's not get sidetracked.

Bonta's AB22 was looking to repeal state laws from the 1940s and 1950s that were enacted during the so-called "Red Scare" era. Lawmakers back then were trying to keep communists from infiltrating our government and our lives, and if you were a card-carrying communist *and* a public employee, you could get fired from your job as a result of your association. Can you imagine that? They didn't want communists working at the government level in California.

So what's the big deal? George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Therin lies the problem. Bonta was born less than six months before the beginning of the end of the Viet Nam war. He was three years old when it was officially declared over. He grew up in a California where they conducted "earthquake drills" in school that got you to safety under your desk, never knowing that it was really the "duck and cover" drill designed to give

schoolchildren a feeble attempt at survival as the result of a nuclear attack. And who was providing that nuclear attack?

Communists. In 1956 at the Polish Embassy in Moscow, then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev said to western diplomats, "We will bury you."

We took him at his word. It was during this era that the dreaded "McCarthyism" took hold. Problem is, through the prism of history McCarthy has been proven right on virtually all of the charges he made. Old Soviet files in Moscow and the "Venona Intercepts" from FBI recordings of the Soviet embassy from 1944 through 1948 showed that McCarthy was right. And what was he right about? Communists stealing atomic secrets and influencing U.S. foreign policy, to name just a couple.

But to someone like Bonta --and unfortunately many young people today -- "communist" is just another political party. "Over there's your Republican and there's a Democrat and next to him is a communist ..."

They cannot remember the past and so they are condemned to repeat it. Think "We will bury you" is just hyperbole? Think it's "just talk"? With communism that means someone is going to die. How do we know that? Because more people died in the 20th century at the hands of communism than anything else. Hitler was a piker compare to the communists. His estimated 20 million people killed is only a fifth of what the communists have done.

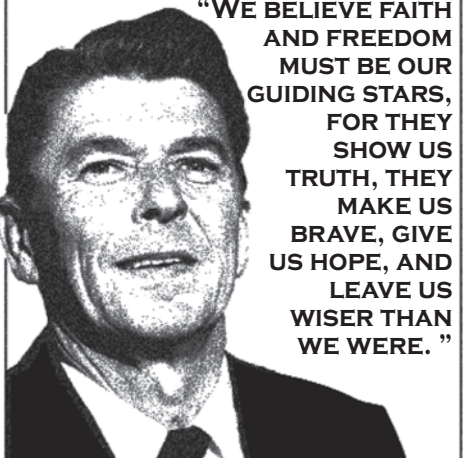
In the *Black Book of Communism*, author Stephane Courtois breaks down the number of people killed by communism:

- China -- 65 million
- USSR -- 20 million
- North Korea -- 2 million
- Cambodia -- 2 million
- Africa -- 1.7 million
- Afghanistan -- 1.5 million
- Vietnam -- 1 million
- Eastern Europe -- 1 million
- Latin America -- 150,000
- Communist movements, parties not in power -- 10,000

All killed for an idea. Bonta withdrew the bill after he learned "... it caused veterans and Vietnamese-Americans 'distress and hurt.'" He simply "didn't know."

Well, he should have known. And our kids should know. They should know what Ronald Reagan knew when he said in a June, 1982 speech that "... freedom and democracy will leave Marxism and Leninism on the ash heap of history."

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RONALD REAGAN
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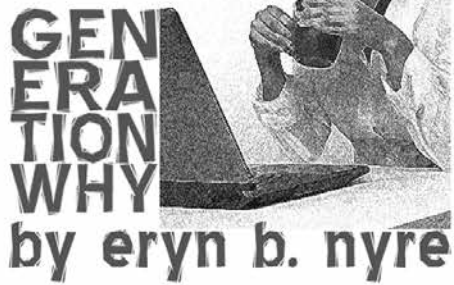
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Dependently Independent



I'm not sure when it happened, but somewhere around the turn of the millennium the definition of "independent" evidently changed. Did Miriam-Webster get that memo? Because I sure as heck didn't.

There was once a time when your independence was defined by your ability to take care of yourself – you know – independently. Some people are dependent on a spouse for income, a parent for a place to live, or even a child for help caring for themselves or their home. I don't personally think there is anything wrong with that. You can need someone to help you get by, need someone to help meet your basic needs, but that directly affects your ability to call yourself independent. That's just science. Okay, maybe not science but it's definitely vocabulary. Those people who throw the word independent around like they have a clue what it means need a serious reality check.

I was recently witness to this very phenomenon. A young lady showed up in my office upset about the missing hours from her paycheck, which is a story for another time, when she started going on and on about how it's hard for her to be so independent when we don't ever pay her correctly. I'm not sure how she qualifies as independent when she needs us to remind her to clock in and out for every single shift but maybe that's part of that new-fangled definition I wasn't aware of yet, but I digress. She only works a couple of hours a day doing caregiving for a neighbor and relies on the county to pay her rent, buy her groceries and supply daycare for her children. Additionally, it's Medicaid that funds the caregiving program for which she works. There doesn't seem to be a single part of her income that isn't completely dependent on hard-working taxpayers. Remind me again, how is that independent? I don't think I get it.

If not for us, her kids would be in foster care and she would

be living in a box somewhere in the shady part of town. Yet she was boasting about being independent and how we need to do our part to fix her time card mistakes. Her entire identity is wrapped up in the delusion that being on welfare doesn't make you dependent. What might you call it then? I certainly don't call it independent. Not being able to make your rent payment without the support of fellow citizens, not being able to put groceries in the house without that special card funded by those citizens, not being able to drop the kids off at daycare without the taxpayers footing the bill all points a big fat foam finger to a state of dependence. Which is, more or less, what I said to her. To which she had no response except shock and anger. How could I, someone who is currently helping to foot the bill for the social programs she is taking advantage of, make such a statement, such a judgment?

First, it is not a judgment. Many Americans acknowledge that we clearly have a welfare problem in this county, and further, an issue with welfare fraud that needs serious attention. My beef here is with perception. Regardless of whether you are an honest recipient that needs a little help for a short amount of time or a sneaky, underhanded thief that is defrauding the system and robbing money from the pocketbooks of hardworking Americans, either way don't close your eyes to your own situation. If you aren't earning your own paycheck through work and using that to pay your bills with-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 9

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TEA TIME cont. from P. 4

In the interest of full disclosure, I admit that I have not yet taken the time to study the (free) Constitution course that is sitting in my email inbox, so I cannot critique it. But from what I learned on the Hillsdale website, I have great respect for the institution. Founded in 1844, it was the first American college to prohibit in its charter any discrimination based on race, sex, or national origin and was associated with the anti-slavery movement from its earliest days.

In the 1970's the federal government attempted to force quota requirements that violated Hillsdale's policy of non-discrimination. When the Supreme Court upheld these regulations on the basis that students were receiving federally funded grants and loans, the college decided that, in order to remain independent, it would refuse every penny of taxpayer-funded government support (even indirectly through student grants and loans). Instead, they rely on private donations. Hooray for them. We need more leaders with the courage to retain independent control of their own colleges, cities or institutions rather than selling out to the federal cash machine.

*Importance of learning
the Constitution*

I agree with Hillsdale that "The U.S. Constitution is the key to securing liberty for all Americans – yet very few know exactly what it says, and what freedoms it protects." For the record, I am of the generation that learned the Constitution and its merits in grade school, as we called it then, and revere it to this day. What I have forgotten I can quickly look up in my ever-present cell phone.

American history is scoffed at in most public schools and is taught derisively in many instances. Until education is extricated from the grip of federal government intervention and Common Core, we would serve our students well by encouraging them to take independent courses and read books (online or the old-fashioned printed kind) on U.S. history, the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and much more.

Youngsters in my family are enjoying and learning from the Rush Revere books, which seem to bring history alive for them and pique their interest.

I can just hear my mother-in-law now: "If stories about a silly horse can teach history to kids, then why don't you send copies to every elected official?"

Amen, Mom. See you later.

*For information and resources,
please visit www.teapartypatriots.org.*

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Potpourri Time

I've been sitting here at this computer for the past two nights trying to think of something about which to write. I've been writing this article for just over eight years (first one was January 2009) and it seems I've just gone blank. I could call Randy and ask him to repeat a previous one, but I hate like heck to do that. I save those times for when the computer dies or another emergency.

When I see a recipe that sounds good I save it in my special binder. I hope you like the four that I'm including here.

We have all liked specialty breads – zucchini, pumpkin – but this is a new one:

Glazed Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal Bread

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9x5x2 loaf pan.

- 2 C all-purpose flour
- 1 C old fashioned oats
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 C granulated sugar
- ¾ C vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ C plain non-fat Greek yogurt
- 1 C applesauce (chunky is best)
- ½ tsp. vanilla

- Glaze
- 1 C powdered sugar
- ¼ C applesauce

In a large bowl, mix by hand flour, oats, salt, cinnamon and baking powder. Set aside.

In a separate bowl mix sugar, oil, eggs, yogurt, applesauce and vanilla, then stir into dry ingredients until just combined. Pour the batter into the loaf pan and bake 40 – 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and mix the glaze ingredients. When the loaf has cooled just a bit, pour the glaze over the top. It will settle into the cracks and keep the loaf moist. The glaze will set, but continue to be sticky.

The following recipe was given to me by a friend. She said her family loves it and if you don't have all the ingredients for the ranch dressing, she uses a couple of cups of bottled ranch



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

dressing.

Ranch Chicken

Preheat oven to 375

- 4 chicken breasts, sliced thin
- 1 C sour cream
- 1 C buttermilk
- ½ C cream cheese
- 1 T dill chopped finely
- 2 T chives chopped finely
- 2 T parsley chopped finely
- 2 gloves garlic, minced into a paste
- 12 corn tortilla cut into quarters
- 1 C mozzarella shredded
- 1 C Monterey jack shredded
- ½ C parmesan shredded
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- Pepper to taste

Slice chicken into thin strips and

season with salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and set aside. In a bowl make ranch by using a whisk to mix sour cream, buttermilk, cream cheese, dill,

chives, parsley, garlic and the remaining salt and pepper. Spread a quarter cup of ranch dressing in the bottom of an 8x8 baking dish. Add chicken to the remaining ranch and mix well so all pieces of chicken are well coated. Evenly layer half the tortillas in pan on top of sauce then spread half of the chicken on top. Mix cheeses together and evenly sprinkle half of the mixture on top of chicken. Make another layer with tortillas, chicken and cheese.

Bake for 45 minutes or until cheese on top is golden brown and bubbly.

I think you all know how I feel about anything lemon.

Easy Lemon 7-Up Cake

Preheat oven to 325. Grease well a 12 cup bundt pan.

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- ¾ C vegetable oil

1 – 4 oz. box of instant lemon pudding

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

When I see a recipe that sounds good I save it in my special binder. I hope you like the four that I'm including here.

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

¾ C carbonated lemon lime soda – any brand

Lemon Glaze

½ C powdered sugar

2 T lemon juice

1 tsp. milk

In a large bowl combine the cake mix, eggs, oil, pudding and the soda and mix well. Pour the batter into the prepared bundt pan. Bake for about 40 to 45 minutes or until set. Allow to cool completely before removing from pan.

While cake is baking mix the glaze ingredients in a small bowl. After cake has cooled, remove from pan to serving plate. Drizzle glaze over top.

The last simple recipe I have is:

Strawberry Magic Cake

10 oz. package miniature marshmallows

1 box yellow cake mix, prepared per box directions

3 oz. box strawberry Jell-O, dry

16 oz. frozen sliced strawberries

Cool Whip, for frosting

Preheat oven to 350.

Spray 10x13 inch pan with cooking spray. Spread marshmallows evenly in bottom of pan. Pour prepared cake mix over marshmallows. Sprinkle dry Jell-O over cake batter. Drop slightly thawed strawberries by the spoonful evenly over the Jell-O powder. Pour 2/3 cup cold water over cake - DO NOT STIR! Bake for almost an hour or until golden brown on top and a toothpick comes out clean. Let stand on wire rack 30 minutes before cutting. Strawberries on top go to the bottom and the marshmallows that are on the bottom come to the top while cake is baking. Top with Cool Whip and additional strawberries.

There you have it – four simple recipes. If you have an idea for future articles or comments about any of them please let me know. You can call the office at 645-0634 and if I'm not there, leave a message on the answering machine. E-mail a comment to ranchosnews@yahoo.com or best of all come to the office and talk to me, I'm usually there Monday through Wednesday from about 10:30 to 3. I'd love to talk to you.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

out taking from others, then you are not independent. That's fine. Not everyone is independent, but don't pretend you are.

This is not a comment on anyone's level of need or whether or not I feel someone deserves assistance, this is about being self-aware. If you need help, that is what the programs are there for, and as long as you are not perpetrating a fraud or taking advantage of the system then I take no issue with it. But, at least have the common sense to recognize your current state of affairs. If you are accepting help then you are by definition, not independent. Period.

The point I am trying to make

is that if you want to be independent, as well as be perceived as independent, then you cannot be actively relying on someone else, especially the taxpayers, to survive. Conversely, if due to circumstances beyond your control you need to rely on the state for a short time in order to live, then you have to let go of the idea that you are independent, at least for the time being. Simple as that. But stop wandering around claiming that you have your act together when you are surviving off the backs and hard work of others. Own up to it. Once you do, maybe that healthy realization can help motivate you to get off the assistance and become truly independent, in the traditional, non-millennial sense of the word.

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5/17



By Brenda McElroy

Organizing Pet Supplies

You name it, we've had it: dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, rats (yes, even rats)! They each had their unique means of finding a way into our home and hearts. One Saturday about 20 years ago, my husband and daughter Rachel, our biggest animal lover, went to Ranchos Market to buy some hot-dogs for lunch. I was a bit surprised when they returned with a REAL dog. Someone brought a litter of puppies knowing that people like us are suckers for a cute furry face.

AnimalPlanet.com lists the top five health benefits of owning a pet: building stronger immune systems in children; building your social network by connecting with other pet owners; minimizing the risk of heart problems by decreasing blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels; increased exercise while walking your dog; and combating loneliness.

Well, our kids all have allergies and my husband deals with blood pressure and cholesterol issues, but all in all, I'd say we've benefited from having animals. Our son even started a dog toy company during his senior year in college.

Whether you're a one cat family, or train and show protection dogs like one of my clients, animals come with lots of stuff. Having it organized means the difference between frustration and ease when caring for your pets or work animals.

Gather the pet supplies together from the garage, laundry room, storage areas, or wherever they've landed. Purge the items that need to go — collars they've outgrown,

treats/toys they don't care for, expired prescriptions, costumes they refuse to wear, etc.

Create homes for the items you're keeping. Think in terms of where they're used and how accessible they need to be. If you do walks and grooming every day, make sure the leash and brush are handy, perhaps on a hook by the door or containerized in a nearby cabinet. An over-the-door shoe holder can be attached to the laundry room door to hold those things along with poop bags and other frequently used items.

Keep dry food fresh and convenient using airtight plastic bins on wheels so you can easily move the heavy container for cleaning. Set up a feeding station away from heavy traffic so bowls aren't tipped and spilled.

Often-used treats can be stored on countertops in decorative canisters for easy access. Back up treat bags and canned foods can be placed in open-topped bins and stored in a nearby cabinet.

Store the shampoo and pet towels inside or outside depending on where you bathe them. A shelf in the garage might hold the backup box of cat litter, case or bag of food, and outdoor toys. Inside toys need a basket or container, or one in each room, to make cleanup quick and easy.

Keep pet meds used infrequently containerized on a higher shelf than those used daily/weekly.

Prepare a to-go bag for the car that includes the essentials — food, water bottle, collapsible food and water bowl, poop bags, toys and wipes. Create a folder for storing your pet's vet records, medication info and instructions when leaving your pet with a sitter.

Side note: Please make sure your pet is spayed/neutered and confined to your yard. It's the right thing to do.

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

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SEMUCU *speaks*

**Grants, Grants and more
Grants, Oh My!**

By Bev Walsh

Hope you all were able to make it out to the Flatlanders Parade and Craft Festival. If you did then you know it was another great success for our small but lively community.

SEMUCU was there with a booth and we continued to distribute low-flow water devices to any and all that can use them and live in the 93636 area code, free of charge. We have a variety of showerheads and faucet aerators available to choose from based on your home plumbing and personal preference. Please take advantage of this hardware giveaway while it is still available. If you missed us at Flatlanders, you can stop by the local Chamber of Commerce office at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and pick up your low-flow devices.

SEMUCU would also like to announce that we have been approved for a new grant opportu-

nity from the California Department of Water Resources. This grant will help local residents offset the purchase cost of a new clothes washer by up to \$350 per washer. We are still getting the details of how this grant money can be used and expect to have all the specifics available by the end of May. Stay tuned and if you are getting ready to go shopping for a new washer, be sure you take the list of qualified washers with you to make your purchase. Again, we hope to have that list of qualifying washing machines, and the specific addresses that are covered by the grant, available by the end of May. If you would like to be contacted directly with this information as soon as it becomes available, please contact us at 559-363-9095 or visit www.semcu.org to be put on a list.

SEMUCU has been drilling dry wells throughout Southeast Madera County to capture as much storm water as possible and send it directly into the aquifer (our water supply) instead of letting it run out to the ocean. Last winter SEMUCU installed over 60 of these dry wells throughout Southeast Madera County. SEMUCU, through generous donations, is providing these dry wells FREE OF CHARGE. No homeowner has had to pay one cent to have these installed on their private property. SEMUCU is not done – we will continue to install these dry wells as long as there are willing land owners with standing storm water and a desire to help refill our aquifer. Please, if you have a spot on your property that you think may work for one of these dry wells, please contact SEMUCU and fill out an application. Remember, these dry wells are FREE to you the homeowner and they will be a long-term benefit to all of Southeast Madera County.

SEMUCU's newest project will be working with Madera County (and hopefully with more grant assistance) to help build recharge basins as an additional way to help recharge our aquifer. We will provide more information on this project as it becomes available.

SEMUCU is a non-profit organization formed by and for the residents of Southeast Madera County. We are always looking for new members to get involved. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 6 pm. Please come to one of our meetings. All are welcome and encouraged to join. Please call us at 559-363-9095 with any questions or visit our website at www.semcu.org.

Please call us at 559-363-9095 with any questions or visit our website at www.semcu.org.

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RECHARGE cont. from P. 2

Canal was completed to divert water from the artificially produced Millerton Lake, north to Madera and Chowchilla. In 1951, the Friant-Kern Canal was completed to divert water from Millerton Lake south to Kern County and the historic flow of the San Joaquin River was repurposed to supply water to geographic areas that never received its waters before, while the historic recharging of the Valley groundwater south of the Friant Dam stopped and the waters' natural and historic beneficiaries began to be disadvantaged.

Since then, the 1,500 residential parcel owners in the 93636-zip code area (roughly Southeast Madera) have seen their savings for the MD-10a

In the 65 years since the Friant Dam was installed, there has been no recharging of the Madera Subbasin, resulting in the groundwater table dropping over 300 feet in that time.

water system disappear with about 300 feet of groundwater. Having been over-drafted since the 1980s, the Madera Subbasin aquifer has been severely impacted most recent by the five-year drought which has

Current Situation

seen hundreds and hundreds more of residential water wells sunk deeper and deeper. That depth begins to encounter the undulating layer of arsenic around 500 feet below grade. They are also unable to compete with the 10-times greater number of agricultural wells sunk four- and five-times deeper into the sand and clay and gravel layers the River has broken and washed out of the granite for millennia.

In the 65 years since the Friant Dam was installed, there has been no recharging of the Madera Subbasin, resulting in the groundwater table dropping over 300 feet in that time. Over the next three months, employees of Madera County, the state of California, the Madera Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation will be asked for their input on how to rectify the situation their predecessors created. Such plans are expected to include Proposition 1 grants and other state and federal funds for projects to

recharge the Madera Subbasin now. Recharge must begin by filling the unlined Lateral 6.2 portion of the Madera Canal, which runs just uphill from both the Bonadelle Ranchos and the Madera Ranchos as well as Rolling Hills, and ultimately it must include thousands of acres of basins as a kind of artificial river bed and stormwater drainage and flood protection system.

Unconstitutional Diversion of Waters

On the Friant-Kern Canal there is an equalization reservoir, called Lake Woollomes or Woollomes Reservoir, just east of Delano that, according to the Director of the Bureau of Reclamation in Fresno, "could be" supplying water to the aquifer of that geographic area (not the Madera Subbasin). On the Madera Canal is a second equalization reservoir, called the Madera Equalization Reservoir, which again supplies water from Millerton Lake to another geographic area that historically did not receive water from the San Joaquin River, namely, the City of Madera.

Opportunity Missed

As part of the original plans for the Central Valley Project, a dam and reservoir called the Fig Garden Dam and Reservoir were proposed. The California State engineers who introduced the Project designed the dam and reservoir to run along the San Joaquin River, on the Madera-Fresno County border, from Woodward Park to Highway 99 as a means of redistributing water resources from northern and central California. The huge body of water that would have been the Fig Garden Reservoir would have helped stabilize the original static pressure of the San Joaquin River along its natural and historic route and thereby allow it to continue to replenish the Madera Subbasin.

Look for next month's article featuring feedback from representatives of the government agencies that have created the current situation.



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Senior Report

Big Senior Raffle Tickets Available

By Patti Groh

We never know what the weather will be like even though Flatlanders Day is always scheduled for the day before Mother's Day. The last two years it has been breezy. Then, some years it has been so hot with sunburns on unprotected noses. This is the third parade I have actually been in. The first as a child, but the other two as an adult in the Ranchos. It is always fun whether I've actually been in the parade or as a spectator. I guess I'm just a kid at heart.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors were well represented in this year's parade. The Grand Marshall, Ethyl Pronin, is a long-time member and we were happy to see her so honored. The Golden Valley Chamber's Volunteer of the Year, Verlaine Elinburg, was there in the parade, in a beautifully decorated golf cart. She is

also the president of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. She led the Seniors' golf carts in the parade. The Seniors were awarded a second-place trophy for their decorated carts. I thought the trophies were especially pretty this year – they were a royal purple color. I hope all you kids and kids at heart made it to the parade and all plan to attend next year.

The Seniors booth at Flatlanders Day did a booming business selling plants. Please check out the garden area at the Seniors Center. It is just full of great flowers and plants for sale and you sure cannot beat the deals. Of course, the first Saturday of the month, June 3, will be the monthly sale at the Center with the bake sale, boutique, treasure house and the garden open for shopping and buying opportunities.

Birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated this month at the Spaghetti Factory in Fresno on Saturday, June 17. Please sign up at

the Center so we can make a correct reservation. Participants need to be at the Spaghetti Factory at 11:15 a.m. to be seated.

And speaking of good food, starting in June the lunch program at the Center will have salad entrees available so there will be a choice between hot entrée or salad. Remember you must put your name on the list for lunch before 11:30 a.m. on the day before you want lunch.

We would like to welcome new member, Sheila Marrs, to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Sheila is a retired child support supervisor who enjoys gardening and traveling and we are very happy to have her with us.

On June 11 we are planning a picnic at the Center and will be honoring our new members. We don't have all the details pinned down yet. Probably each member will bring their own picnic lunch with the time being a flexible 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are planning some games but I don't think you should expect any potato sack races.

We are in need of someone (or two) to take over the job of putting out the monthly

newsletter. This is a vital instrument for letting Seniors and the community know what is going on at the Center. Please seriously consider this and if it is something you might do for the Seniors. Please contact President Verlaine.

Don't forget the Seniors now have the annual raffle fund-raiser tickets available. The prizes include four Disneyland one-day hopper tickets which is a \$628 value; a one day fishing trip for two to three people on Shaver Lake with Fish Box Charter courtesy of Steve Santoro (who just happens to also be a Seniors member) and is valued at \$375; and one free pizza a month for a year from the Pizza Factory which is an approximate \$265 value. Great prizes and you can get a chance to win them. The tickets are available at the Center and from members. The cost is \$1 per ticket or six for \$5, a real deal. The drawing will be held July 4 at the Pizza Factory.

Contact the Center at 645-4864 for info on upcoming monthly Board meetings. We need you and your ideas there!

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Hello 93636,

I want to thank all of you that stopped by my Flatlanders Celebration booth and said, "Hi." Your kind words and encouragement were much appreciated. It's great to be among the 93636 family.

Today I would like to tell you about a great opportunity if you own a vehicle that failed or *may* fail its tailpipe emissions test. As most of you know, I'm not a fan of big government handouts. The program I'm writing about is not a government program so it works well. If you would like some financial assistance getting your vehicle to pass its smog inspection, you are in luck. I whole-heartedly endorse this program. I personally know the managers and I've been partnering with these folks for more than five years. They are quality people and they care about the environment and the people of the Central Valley.

The organization I'm speaking of is Valley Clean Air Now, or "Valley CAN." Valley CAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that partners with more than 100 local organiza-

tions and more than 50 STAR-certified smog check stations throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Valley CAN serves the eight economically and environmentally impacted counties of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Valley CAN serves 3 million residents and their 2 million vehicles by providing financial assistance along with the opportunity to help improve Valley air quality. Each year Valley airborne particles exceed federal standards for about five days, but California's standard is much tighter so the Valley exceeds California's standard an average of 90-100 days per year. Approximately 27 percent of air pollution in our North Valley is transported from the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas. It's estimated that San Francisco and Sacramento areas contribute about 11 percent to our air pollution. Valley CAN's mission is to improve air quality within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

One of the programs utilized by Valley CAN is the Tune In & Tune Up (TITU) program. The primary focus of the Tune In & Tune Up program is contained within its name. The TITU program focuses on "out of tune" or "poor running" vehicles. They produce the most tailpipe emissions that negatively impact air quality. TITU events provide free emissions testing to determine if a vehicle qualifies for free

Please see **HANDS** on P. 17

Business Profile

A Ranchos Business that's Smokin'!

By Randy Bailey

It's funny where inspiration comes from. When Garth and Kaitlyn Richard's second son was born, friends brought over some tri-tip so the new parents wouldn't have to cook. "I wasn't a tri-tip fan but after I tasted it, I decided I had to figure out how they did it," Garth said. What that "it" was, was smoking the meat.

He went on YouTube and found some DIY videos on how to make a smoker from a 55-gallon drum. "I said, 'This is awesome! I did it!'" And in no time his friends started bugging him to make one for them.

And Garth's Custom Barrels was born.

Using only food-grade barrels as a starting point,

Garth has the process down to a science. "I'm hitting 300 barrels this month," he said proudly.

It takes him about one hour to produce a smoker. He makes generic ones or can customize one for clubs or businesses.

Garth, a Ranchos resident and graduate of Fresno State with a B.A. in Entrepreneurship, says he's keeping his day job with Valley radio station Spirit 88.9, but he enjoys making the barrels on the side. Why does he do it? "I like being the hero," he said. "With this smoker, they get to be the hero at their barbecue."

Garth says you just "set it and forget it" and it produces the best, juiciest meat you've ever tasted.

You can contact Garth at 776-1699.



Garth Richards shows how easy it is to lower the charcoal basket into the bottom of a Garth's Custom Barrel smoker.

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NY City Defines "Gender" 31 Ways

According to Nahema Marchal from the website "Heat Street," the City of New York recognizes 31 different "gender identities" to allow its citizens to describe their individual identity. Marchal said, "... many of which fall along the male/female/trans continuum ... without ever having to show 'proof' of gender."

Here's the complete list:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bi-gendered | 13. HIJRA | 25. Non-Binary Transgender |
| 2. Cross-dresser | 14. Pangender | der |
| 3. Drag King | 15. Transsexual/Transsexual | 26. Androgyne |
| 4. Drag Queen | 16. Trans Person | 27. Gender Gifted |
| 5. Femme Queen | 17. Woman | 28. Gender Blender |
| 6. Female-to-Male | 18. Man | 29. Femme |
| 7. FTM | 19. Butch | 30. Person of Transgender |
| 8. Gender Bender | 20. Two-Spirit | Experience |
| 9. Genderqueer | 21. Trans | 31. Androgynous |
| 10. Male-to-Female | 22. Agender | Nowhere on the list |
| 11. MTF | 23. Third Sex | are the options of "male" |
| 12. Non-Op | 24. Gender Fluid | and "female." |



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HANDS cont. from P. 15

emission repairs. If your vehicle fails its tailpipe emissions testing, Valley CAN will give you a \$500 voucher for emission-related repairs from one of many local STAR-certified smog stations listed on the voucher. Valley CAN holds many TITU events each year and the next local event should occur within the next couple of months.

As a STAR-certified Smog Check Station myself, I am required to perform a pre- and post-repair tailpipe emissions test to verify the emissions improvement. If my repairs do not significantly improve the vehicle's tailpipe emissions, my invoice will be rejected. Testing and repairs performed with the TITU program are the same quality repairs as customer-paid repairs. "Check Engine" lamp and other emission failures that do not improve tailpipe emission are not covered by the TITU program.

Since its inception in 2003, more than 15,000 vehicles have been repaired to California emissions standards with the aid of the TITU program. A typical event tests an average of 500 vehicles. Repairs resulting from one TITU event equate to the removal of approximately 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 300 tons of hydrocarbons and 150 tons of oxides of nitrogen from the air for one year. To date, TITU is among the most cost-effective emissions reduction programs in California. If you've owned your gasoline-powered vehicle for six months or more and it's a light or medium duty vehicle (weighs less than 14,000 pounds), you qualify. Event days are Saturdays and testing officially starts at 8 a.m. but usually begins earlier. It's wise to arrive at least 3 hours

prior. Take a book. \$500 is \$500. Take your registration. If you don't have a registration, take whatever documents you have (title, insurance paperwork, an invoice from a repair shop). When my customers fail the tailpipe emissions portion of their emission test, I always inform them of the TITU program. I'm guessing I've save my customers at least \$50,000 dollars or more. It works!

If you have any questions concerning Valley CAN or Tune In & Tune Up events, contact valleycan.org or give me a shout. We are here to help.

As usual I'm looking for useful and interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have any suggestions or questions concerning a vehicle, I can be contacted at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or Facebook me at Complete Car Care. OK everyone, hope this helps.

In closing I'd like to make a personal plea to my 93636 family. Someone told me a long time ago he had no sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, only sons and daughters in his family. I think that's right. My daughter Renée and her husband Jon are currently home on leave from Okinawa, Japan. It's been 1 1/2 years since I've seen my kids and my grandchildren. In two weeks they return to base. If the United States and North Korea enter into conflict, Renée and my grandchildren will be evacuated to the U.S. and my son Jon will go to the battlefield again. He's been in combat twice in Iraq and twice in Afghanistan. Jon is a United States Marine Corps gunnery sergeant. Please pray the U.S. and North Korea can resolve our conflict peacefully. Thank You.


God Bless 93636 and God Bless America,

Warren Parr, Smog Inspector License EO139887

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5/17

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7	8	3	5	4	9	2	6	1
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G R O T C U D N O C

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Source: Statista

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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The Bookshelf

"Read by Design" Reading Program

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library wants to thank you all for contributing to such a successful Flatlanders Day Craft Fair. What a lovely day it was – a little breezy but perfect. All of our vendors were incredibly efficient and it made for such a smooth set up. We appreciate the community for coming out to show support for our Ranchos Library.

We are now moving on to our Summer Reading Program. We will "Read by Design." Again, our theme is inspired by the creativity of authors, artists, builders, inventors, architects and everyone who makes our world a more interesting, livable, accessible and beautiful place. We hope that it inspires readers to explore their own creativity and design new worlds for themselves and all of us.

The Summer Reading Program will be kicking-off with Wild Child Adventures and Mr. Bubble Man on Thursday, June 15 at 11 a.m. Be certain to stop in and get signed up and pick up your summer reading bag. We will be having additional various performances throughout the weeks. Each week

varies so be certain to pay special attention to our activities schedule. Some events will require pre-registration because space will be extremely limited. We are really excited to keep reading through the summer and hope that you will be here to join in on the fun. It is sure to be a fantastic time.

Also keep a look for the Friends of the Ranchos Library Fireworks Booth. We will be set up in the Maywood Shopping Center in the week that precedes the Fourth of July. This is another great fundraiser for the Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and all of your support is so important to us.

The Madera Ranchos Library

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Tue 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wed - Thu 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

• It was Douglas Hofstadter, American professor of cognitive science and Pulitzer-winning author, who made the following sage observation, known as Hofstadter's Law: "It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law."

• According to Reed Hastings, the CEO of Netflix, the biggest competition faced by the online streaming service isn't HBO, Hulu or Amazon -- it's sleep. He recently told stockholders that when viewers are deciding whether or not to watch Netflix, the alternative they're usually considering is going to bed, not watching another service.

• You might be surprised to learn that in the United States, there are more people employed in the solar-energy industry than there are employees in the coal, oil and gas industries combined.

• Economists aren't known for their optimism, but in the summer of 1930, one of the 20th century's most influential economists made a bold prediction. Even as the Great Depression was gaining momentum, John Maynard Keynes declared that by the year 2030, the typical workweek in developed nations would be just 15 hours long. It's not looking good so far, but we do have 17 years to go.


• Those who study such things say that a monarch butterfly can fly a whopping 620 miles without stopping for food.

• You may have never heard the term "reduplicative rhymes," but you're certainly familiar with them. "Razzle-dazzle" is one. Also, "hocus pocus," "fuddy-duddy," "roly-poly," "dilly-dally," "higgledy-piggledy" and "chick flick." Interestingly, Chick Flick also was the name of a baseball manager -- he managed Rustic Tavern, a semi-professional team in the 1940s and '50s.

• Thought for the Day: "Words are like leaves; and where they most abound / Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found." -- Alexander Pope

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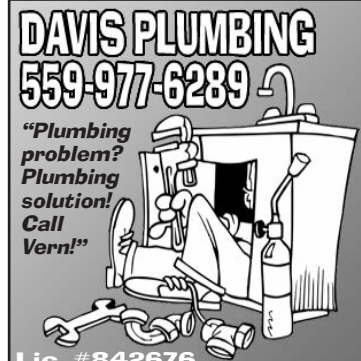
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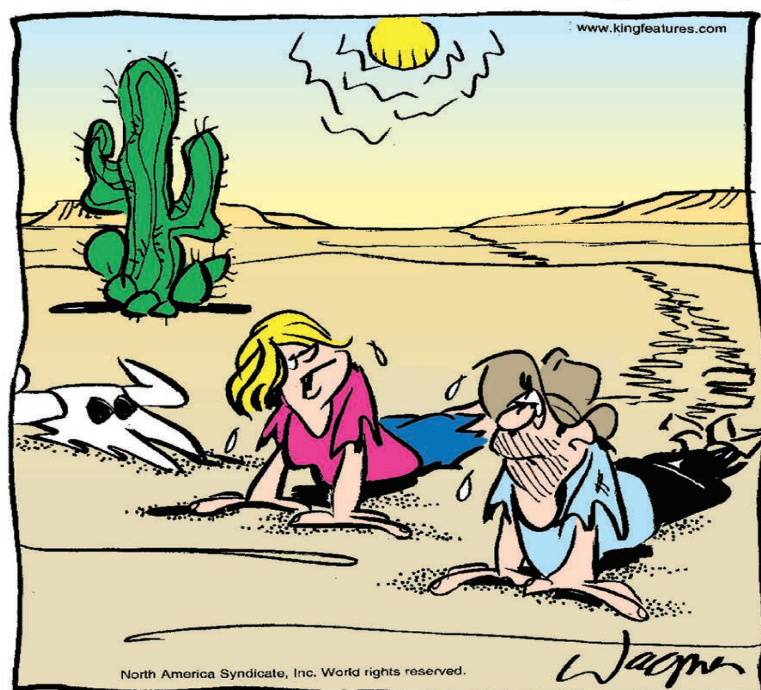
by Dave T. Phipps



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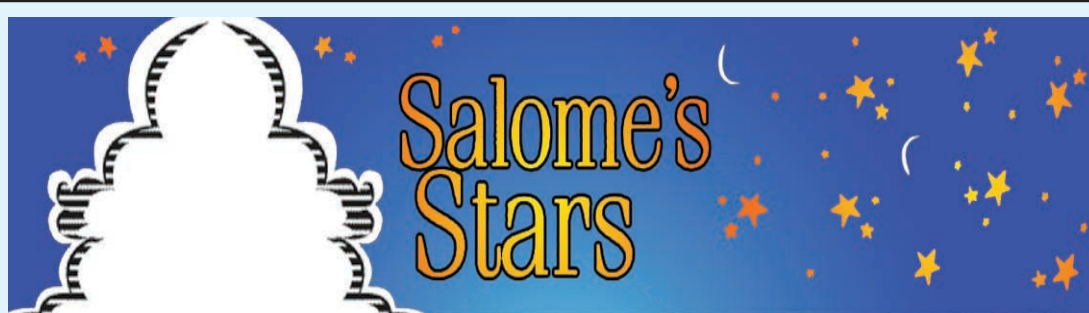
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GRIN and BEAR IT



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might have to turn your Arian charm up a few degrees if you hope to persuade that persistent pessimist to see the possibilities in your project. Whatever you do, don't give up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A "tip" about a co-worker's "betrayal" might well raise the Bovine's rage levels. But before charging into a confrontation, let an unbiased colleague do some fact checking.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although a relationship still seems to be moving too slowly to suit your expectations, it's best not to push it. Let it develop at its own pace. You'll soon get news about a workplace change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A continually changing personal situation makes you feel as if you're riding an emotional roller coaster. But hold on tight; stability starts to set in early next week.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Believe it or not, someone might dare to say "No!" to the Regal One's suggestion. But instead of being miffed, use this rebuff to recheck the proposition and, perhaps, make some changes.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might find it difficult to make a decision about a family matter. But delay can only lead to more problems. Seek out trusted counsel and then make that important decision.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate your focus on what needs to be done, and avoid frittering away your energies on less-important pursuits. There'll be time later for fun and games.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Although the conflicts seem to be letting up, you still need to be wary of being drawn into workplace intrigues. Plan a special weekend event for family and/or friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your quick wit helps you work through an already difficult situation without creating more problems. Creativity dominates by the week's end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be patient. You'll soon receive news about a project that means so much to you. Meanwhile, you might want to reconsider a suggestion you previously turned down.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) There are still some aspects about that new job offer you need to resolve. In the meantime, another possibility seems promising. Be sure to check that out as well.

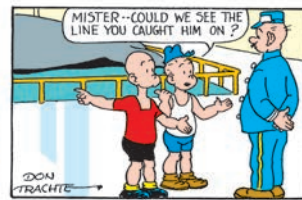
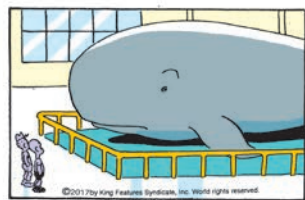
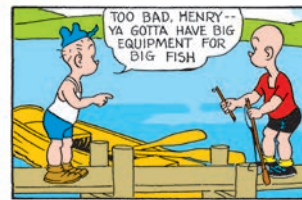
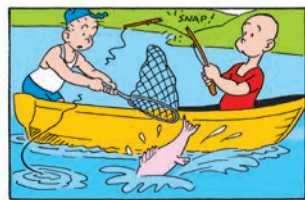
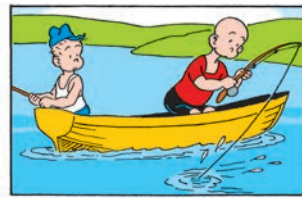
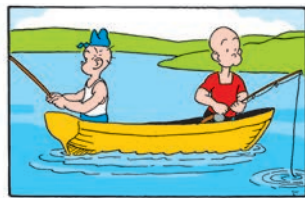
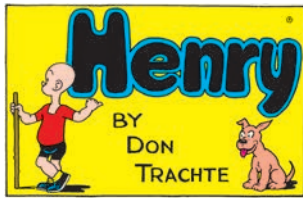
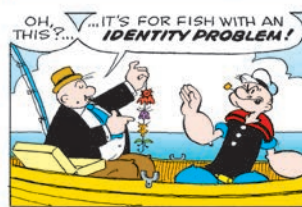
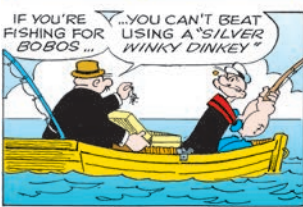
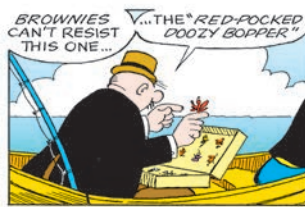
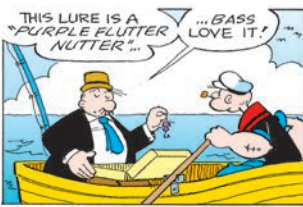
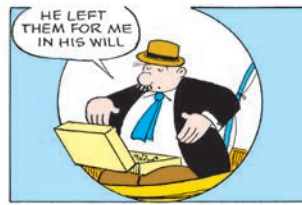
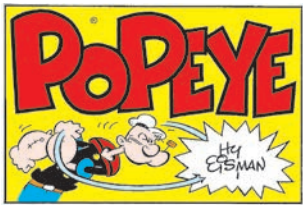
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Opening up your emotional floodgates could leave you vulnerable to being hurt later on. Watch what you say, in order to avoid having your words come back to haunt you.

Born this Week

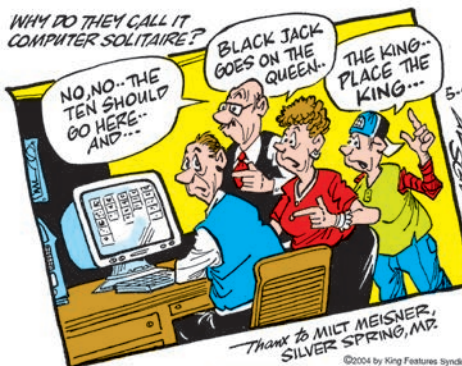
You're usually the life of the party, which gets you on everyone's invitation list. You also have a flair for politics.

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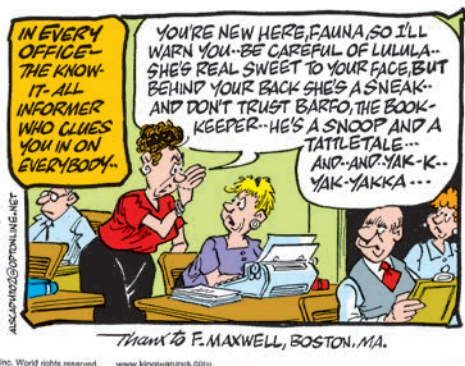
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? YOU TRY TO SHOW OFF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE-HEH-HEH-AND-



A TICKLISH TAIL! Can you guess on which try Henry managed to stick the tail on the donkey?

Answer: On try number two.



DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

FIG. 1

Answer: 1. Foot's gold 2. Dead heat

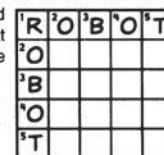


Illustrated by David Coulson

CALLING ALL PUZZLEBOTS! At the right is a Word Square grid. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. A mechanical device (given).
2. A color and a fruit.
3. What a puppy is.
4. Found in bakeries.
5. Brief and to the point.

Answers: 1. Robot 2. Olive 3. Brief 4. Ovens 5. Tense



Wishing Well®

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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MAGIC MAZE ● RAILWAY OCCUPATIONS

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

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

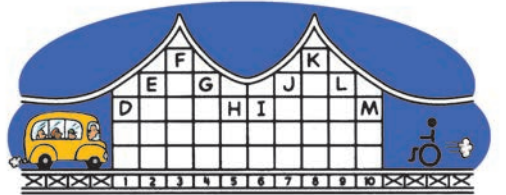
- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Agent | Dispatcher | Inspector | Platlayer |
| Boilerman | Engineer | Length runner | Porter |
| Brakeman | Fireman | Lubricator | Signalman |
| Conductor | Guard | Navy | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. To tap gently; pat.
2. What a high tide does.
3. A type of witty play.
4. To stare or gape stupidly.
5. An evil spell; a curse.
6. To irritate or vex.
7. To tease good-humoredly.
8. Small, flightless birds.
9. A business trademark.
10. To make exaggerated facial expressions.

Answers: 1. Dab 2. Eds 3. Farce 4. Gawk 5. Hex 6. Ick 7. Josh 8. Kims 9. Logo 10. Mung

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GOVERNMENT: How many U.S. senators are elected from each state?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bartender on "The Simpsons"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is Canada's southernmost point?
4. ADS: What airline used this advertising slogan: "You are now free to move about the country"?
5. HISTORY: Which war ended with the 1763 Treaty of Paris?
6. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: What American writer once told Ernest Hemingway, "You are all a lost generation"?
7. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of California?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is the meat used in a dish called tournedos?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of a hot-air balloon's basket?
10. MUSIC: What pop group had a hit with the 1970 release "I'll Be There"?

Answers

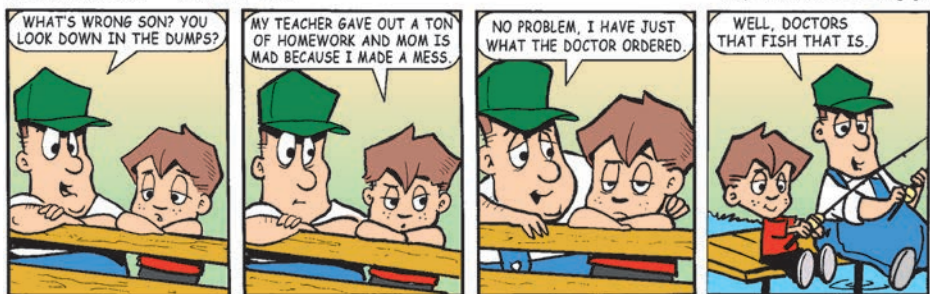
1. Two
2. Moe
3. Middle Island in Lake Erie
4. Southwest
5. The French and Indian War
6. Gertrude Stein
7. Sacramento
8. Beef
9. Gondola
10. The Jackson 5

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



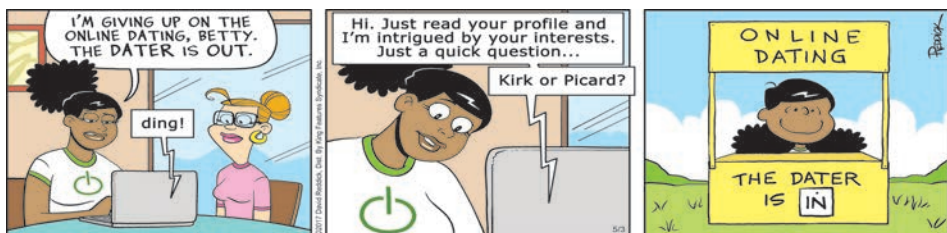
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

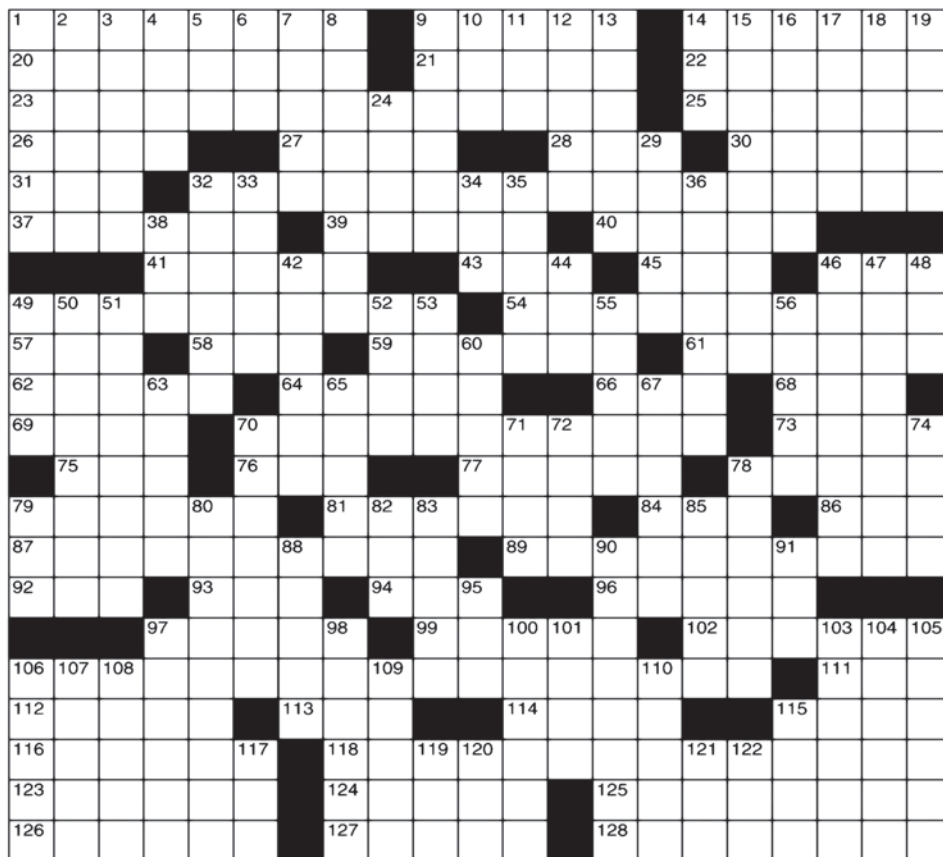
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Cap is missing. 2. Shrub is smaller. 3. Shovelers are missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Shirt is opened. 6. Sign is smaller.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Wave with a foamy crest
 - 9 Bugs' feelers
 - 14 Force to be accepted
 - 20 Waikiki site
 - 21 Ethiopia's — Selassie
 - 22 Of the skin
 - 23 "The King and I" heroine who's a real angel?
 - 25 Plural ending for bed and home
 - 26 "Pb" element
 - 27 Roulette turn
 - 28 Physique, informally
 - 30 Start of a counting-out rhyme
 - 31 Md. hours
 - 32 Flower used in rituals?
 - 37 Minimalist artist Frank
 - 39 Reese of song and screen
 - 40 Litigious sorts
 - 41 Courtroom excuse
 - 43 A, in Amiens
 - 45 — Magnon
 - 46 "I've got it!"
 - 49 Benefactor contributing supplies for a bowman?
 - 54 Different acquired relative?
 - 57 — Grande City, Texas
 - 58 Contents of la mer
 - 59 Like fairly high-quality bonds
 - 61 Form images
 - 62 At the stern
 - 64 Penniless
 - 66 Sports org. for the Rock
 - 68 See 2-Down
 - 69 Be a sign of
 - 70 One talking to the very first man?
 - 73 Author Janowitz
 - 75 Waco-to-Austin dir.
 - 76 Q-U string
 - 77 Went off course
 - 78 "Yeesh!"
 - 79 "La —" (Puccini opera)
 - 81 Region in central Italy
 - 84 Young miss
 - 86 Abet, e.g.
 - 87 Atlanta university student's little slip-up?
 - 89 Nothing except glowing coals?
 - 92 Morning glisterer
 - 93 Dusk — dawn
 - 94 Hornets' org.
 - 96 Glacial ridge
 - 97 Sauna output
 - 99 Shark's place
 - 102 Charge with an offense
 - 106 Curved entryway under which Antarctic birds pass?
 - 111 Unit of conductance now called a siemens
 - 112 Pot fragment
 - 113 Unit of work
 - 114 Tallies
 - 115 "Peek- —!"
 - 116 Neighbor of an Iraqi
 - 118 Unable to afford any more dental visits?
 - 123 Seyfried of "Big Love"
 - 124 Eldritch
 - 125 Virtual vendors
 - 126 Abhor
 - 127 Turn a car
 - 128 Short-term
 - 2 With 68-Across, Lincoln's nickname
 - 3 Like instincts
 - 4 Frog kin
 - 5 Pixieish sort
 - 6 Inferior mutt
 - 7 "It's — cause!"
 - 8 Like mechanically delivered well water, say
 - 9 Antiseptic compound
 - 10 Tow-offering gp.
 - 11 Ullmann of Hollywood
 - 12 USMA freshman
 - 13 Madrid men
 - 14 Carders check them
 - 15 Potential shooting star
 - 16 Prettifies
 - 17 Neighbor of a Yemeni
 - 18 Al Capp's Hawkins
 - 19 "It's nobody — business"
 - 24 Engage
 - 29 Low card
 - 32 Entirely wrong
 - 33 "You — mouthful!"
 - 34 Winter illness
 - 35 Lake craft
 - 36 More cheery
 - 38 Language akin to Thai
 - 42 Leaps
 - 44 Approx. takeoff info
 - 46 Cotton State native
 - 47 Nastygrams
 - 48 Stupefaction
 - 49 116-Across, for one
 - 50 Cytoplasm particle
 - 51 Musical on tour, e.g.
 - 52 Utah city near Provo
 - 53 Absorbed-dose units
 - 55 "Boyhood" actor Ethan
 - 56 Below, to bards
 - 60 Blood classifier
 - 63 Not as many
 - 65 Really enjoy
 - 67 Shims, e.g.
 - 70 "What —!" ("Whew!")
 - 71 Lake north of Sandusky
 - 72 Film director Avakian
 - 74 Warhol of art
 - 78 TV twins Ashley and Mary-Kate
 - 79 Sleeping spot
 - 80 1987-90 NBC sitcom
 - 82 Popular Web portal
 - 83 Jazz genre
 - 85 Alan of film
 - 88 Off to — start (behind)
 - 90 Stupefied
 - 91 City reg.
 - 95 A 29-Down may beat it
 - 97 Holy spot
 - 98 Sharp pangs
 - 100 Playwright Eve
 - 101 " — walks into ..."
 - 103 Infused (with)
 - 104 Writer Deepak —
 - 105 Foot, cutesily
 - 106 116-Across president
 - 107 Rapper's skill
 - 108 Gem unit
 - 109 Marsh wader
 - 110 "Space — premium"
 - 115 Folkie Woody's son
 - 117 D.C. player, for short
 - 119 Equal
 - 120 Be situated
 - 121 "No" voter
 - 122 First-aid collection
- DOWN**
- 1 Belugas, e.g.

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FUN PAGES



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

NEW State Grant Awarded

to residents of South East Madera County

UP TO **\$350*** REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH
Washing Machine certified as:
“Energy Star Qualified”

Sign up** list for those interested in more information:

1. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos, CA 93636

2. Email: info@semcu.com heading “Washer Grant Interest”

IN ADDITION

FREE Low Flow equipment
is **STILL** available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

**Grant monies are awarded to SEMCU, by the Department of Water Resources, (DWR), to help our community members within the 93636 zip code better manage and conserve our water resources.
(Estimated reimbursement amount based on participation)*

For more information Email: info@semcu.com or Call: (559) 363-9095
SEM CU meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at The Pizza Factory

By the Community, For the Community!!!

*****As soon as details are approved with the State we will follow up with those on the lists.***