

# The Ranchos Independent



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IN THE RANCHOS

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50¢

## Life and Death in the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey

*Being held at gunpoint in front of the State Foods Supermarket in the Ranchos, Nathaniel Chappell, 31, of Fresno (left) was accused of shoplifting and when confronted by store mananager Sam Saleh (right), alledgedly told Saleh, "I've got a gun and a knife and I will shoot you right now." A Ranchos resident with a conceled carry permit sprang into action and held Chappell for Madera County Sheriff Deputies while his wife recorded the whole event and then posted it on Facebook.*

### In This Issue

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



## Life and Death in the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey



### Suspect Booked on Multiple Felony Counts in Madera Ranchos Robbery

On Monday, May 13 at approximately 4:22 p.m., the peace and quiet of the Ranchos was abruptly interrupted when an accused shoplifter at the State Foods Supermarket at 37405 Ave. 12 decided to kick things up a notch to facilitate his escape by allegedly telling Store Manager Sam Saleh, "I've got a gun and a knife and I will shoot you right now."

But Nathaniel Chappell, 31, from Fresno, made the mistake of making that comment within earshot of a Ranchos resident who was armed thanks to his con-

cealed carry permit. The resident drew his weapon and kept his pistol trained on Chappell and told him to lie down while Saleh called the Madera County Sheriff's office. The whole time, the resident's wife recorded everything with her phone and then later posted it on Facebook.

Deputies arrived within minutes, responding to a call about "... a male subject who had shoplifted items and threatened to kill the employee who attempted to stop him." Deputy Brendan Johnson was the first to arrive on the scene and took over detaining Chappell from the armed citizen. Almost immediately, Deputy Michael Lewis and Corporal Matthew Kutz arrived to assist in the

investigation.

Their investigation led to the recovery of a State Foods shopping basket filled with various items taken from the store. Upon further investigation, the deputies discovered that the suspect's vehicle had been stolen out of Fresno earlier that same day. As they investigated the car, the Deputies found no gun.

Saleh stated that he became suspicious when Chappell parked his car near the back of the store where customers don't usually park. Closed circuit footage shows Chappell filling a State Foods shopping basket with items right before he tried to run from the store with the basket. It was at this point that Saleh tried to confront him and Chappell threatened Saleh. This was also where the concealed-carry Ranchos resident overheard the alleged threat.

The Madera County Sheriff's Department reported that Chappell was transported and booked at the Madera County Department of Corrections without incident. He was booked on multiple felony charges including strong arm robbery, theft/unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle and receiving stolen property.

#### *Concealed Carry Permits*

Madera County's Sheriff Department issues concealed carry permits, more commonly called CCWs for Carry a Concealed Weapon, and the process, although involved, can be completed by any County resident who satisfies all of the requirements.

The process is basically a five-step

endeavor. First, you have to obtain a CCW application packet from the Sheriff's Department. They are located at 2725 Falcon Dr. in Madera. Their phone number is 559-675-7770.

Next, you must attend a CCW Class. You have to have approved training prior to submitting an application. A list of approved instructors is provided.

Following your class, you have to complete the Department of Justice Standard Application and it must be filled out completely. Any "holes" will only delay, or possibly deny, the process. And don't sign anything where it states a witness must be present; you can do that when you submit the application.

You have to schedule an appointment to submit the application. There is a list of supporting documents you must bring for your appointment and they will go over the list with you before your actual appointment. They include valid IDs, proof of residence, character reference letters, etc. You will have to take a written test at this time, be photographed and fingerprinted. Also, an application fee will be due at this time.

The final step is up to the Department of Justice. Once approved there, you meet with the Sheriff. It's estimated that the whole process takes about 6-12 weeks. If the application is rejected, you'll be notified in writing for the reason why. If you pass the background and Department review, you will be notified to come pick up your CCW. They must be renewed every two years.

## Tesoro Viejo, Chawanakee Schools To Design New Education Complex

The Chawanakee Unified Board of Education took action at its regularly scheduled board meeting on May 14 to hire SIM-PBK Architects to design the new educational complex planned for Tesoro Viejo.

"This is a very exciting time for Chawanakee Unified, as we continue to grow and expand our educational footprint," said Barbara Bigelow, board president for the Chawanakee Unified School District. "SIM-PBK Architects brings extensive experience in educational facilities design not only in the valley, but throughout California."

The educational complex will serve students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade with a TK through 8th grade elementary school and Rio Mesa High School, a traditional high school that will also feature a hands-on project-based

learning environment focused on health and bio-engineering pathways. The educational complex is located within Tesoro Viejo, the newest master-planned community in Madera County.

Tesoro Viejo is approved for up to 5,190 homes in nine distinct, walkable villages. The 1,600-acre site will be a vibrant hub with housing and business opportunities, a walkable town center with an open-air plaza, thriving industry and neighborhood parks and schools. The community features up to 3 million square feet of non-residential space for commercial, retail, professional office and light industrial opportunities. Recognized for its innovative design and sustainable living, Tesoro Viejo will also include about 400 acres of open spaces, parks, recreation and is anticipated to have more than 15 miles of trails.

## Another Development for HWY 41

Another "master planned community" just started the process of becoming a reality on the east side of Highway 41 between the flag barn and the new Tesoro Viejo development. The Madera County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 14 gave the green light to create an Environmental Impact Report on the nearly 300-acre site and expect the EIR to be completed in about 18 months.

At present, the plans are looking at

creating over 750 homes, both for single families and multiple families, as well as commercial space and open spaces. The project will be much smaller than Tesoro Viejo's projected 5,100 homes or Riverstone's 6,500.

The company developing the project is reported to be Canyon Springs Shopping Center LLC, a subsidiary of Beverly Hills-based developer Isaac Moradi's ICO Development real estate group.

## Eagle Scout Seeks to Improve Sign

Harrison Caetano, the Eagle Scout who created the Ranchos sign on Avenue 12, has created a GoFundMe page to raise funds for improvements.

He says: "The sign has been in place for 14 months, and now I would like to improve the letters for easier viewing. If you

like the sign and are proud of our community image, I ask for your contribution toward this expanded project. Thank You!"

If you'd like to contribute, simply go to [www.GoFundMe.com](http://www.GoFundMe.com) and in the search box type in "community sign letters madera ca." His goal is \$4,000.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

This is in response to the person who was upset by the amount of traffic and subsequent accidents on Avenue 12 and that his follow-up phone call to the Police Department was not well received regarding unsafe parking of a big rig blocking the view of oncoming traffic.

Regarding the increase of traffic along with accidents on 12: As fate would have it, many Ranchos residents began to share this very opinion, myself among them. Recently, on the Nextdoor website, their voices were heard loud and clear, and their desire to do something positive about this issue was palpable. Their cause was taken up and on May 7, we took a signed Petition to the Board of Supervisors (petition verbiage is available on Nextdoor Madera site and on FB Madera Watchdog site).

The Board's response seemed positive and we left feeling optimistic that something would be done to alleviate the traffic problems on 12. We are going forward by meeting with the Madera Transportation Commission on May 22. The results of that meeting will be posted on the Nextdoor Madera and FB Madera Watchdog sites as well.

Regarding your disappointment that your call to the Police Department was unwelcomed is unfortunate. All I can say is that it sounds like someone was having a bad day. To your point that turning onto Avenue 12 from 35 was exasperating, and/or downright dangerous, due to a big rig parked on the North side of 12, I have to agree. At present it looks like the trucker is no longer parking there, so perhaps your phone call did provide a positive outcome after all. Valjean Jury Madera Ranchos

*Editor's Note: Here is a copy of the petition that was presented to the Madera County Board of Supervisors:*

REQUESTING SAFE COMMUTER TRAVEL ON AVENUE 12

WE, the undersigned residents of Madera Ranchos, STATE OR BELIEVE:

Avenue 12 is presently heavily impacted by an upswing in traffic utilizing Avenue 12 east and west. Madera residents believe that this onslaught of increased traffic will become greater with the proposed establishment of a hospital on the Northeast corner of 41 and Avenue 12. Recently, there were two fatalities on 12 which was instrumental in bringing the traffic problems in this area to the forefront. Who knows how many other accidents have or will occur? Area residents complain of non-stop traffic on Avenue 12, with long wait times when attempting to turn onto this impacted street. People are tailgating, passing on the shoulder, ignoring speed limits, not using turn signals and utilizing the center left-turn/right-turn lane to pass vehicles in the area of Madera Ranchos.

Below are some recommendations made by the Ranchos residents to solve these problems:

1. Build the access crossover ramp from Freeway 41 to freeway 99 which was planned years ago, or;
2. Create a roundabout in strategic areas on 12, or;
3. Place signals at strategic areas such as roads 35, 36½, 37 or 38 on avenue 12 to slow down traffic thru the business area, or;
4. Build speed bumps and/or reduce speed to 25 MPH.

The Madera Ranchos residents bring this petition to the Board of Supervisors in order to create safety and convenience to all travelers on Avenue 12.

*The following letter was taken from Congressman Tom McClintock's "Statement in Opposition to H.R. 5" presented in the House Chamber on May 17. - Editor*

Dear Editor:

There are some fundamental principles we should all be able to agree on.

Don't hurt other people; respect the right of doctors to do no harm; respect the right of parents to protect their children.

The bill before us today could have affirmed the right of every adult to declare their own gender consistent with these principles. Unfortunately, it violates these principles in the most fundamental ways. This isn't speculation. Many states have already adopted similar laws and we're now seeing firsthand the result of them.

This bill harms people in so many ways - destroying safe spaces for women, undermining women-owned businesses, intimidating the free exercise of conscience - but let me focus on just one aspect: destroying women's sports. Wherever these laws are imposed, biological males have begun to dominate women's competitions.

Listen to 16-year-old Selina Soule of Connecticut. She tells the story of qualifying for the prestigious "Middletown Invite." "Eight of us lined up at the starting line ... but when six of us were only about three quarters into the race, two girls were already across the finish line ... What just happened? Two boys identifying as girls happened. Fair is no longer the norm. The chance to advance, the chance to win has been all over for us ... I missed the chance to compete in the New England championship this past season because of this." She goes on to say, "The CAAC won't listen to my voice, but I hope Congress will ... HR 5 ... will endanger women and girls of all ages, by opening up every sports team in the country to any male who self-identifies as female. This policy will

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7

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## Editorial

# Mulling Mueller

By Randy Bailey

There's a new mind set that's arisen anywhere there are politics going on in America.

What used to make American politics truly unique, and envied by many other nations around the world, was our ability to disagree, at times vehemently, and yet in the end manage to sit down and talk things out civilly and arrive at a decision that the majority could agree upon. Like making sausage, it perhaps wasn't necessarily something pretty you wanted to watch while it was being made, but the end result usually provided the most benefit to the most people, and all without bloody coups or the military opting to take over the nation "for the good of all."

Things are different today.

That "sitting down and talking things out civilly" is right out the window. Today, in the land of the First Amendment right to free speech, speech has become *anything* but free.

Open discussion of topics used to begin with two sides, each taking an opposing viewpoint. But that doesn't happen anymore. For example, if you have a philosophical problem with someone who happens to be black, the answer is obvious: You're a racist. Got an issue with a LGBTQ person who just cut you off in traffic? You're homophobic. Upset with the young woman who just messed up your order at Taco Bell? That's a "twofer."

You're a misogynist practicing ageism.

It's all straight out of Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. As a matter of fact, it's #5: "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon." By ridiculing you and reducing you to a grotesque stereotype, you're now not even worthy of having a discussion. No one has the time, or would be expected to, engage a ridiculous person with a ridiculous argument about a ridiculous topic. That's why, for example, global warming is not a topic open for discussion. It's "settled science." To even suggest otherwise gets you labeled a "climate denier." Now, admittedly that doesn't sound like such a horrible thing to be called, until you realize that modern "denier" term comes from one place and one place only: Holocaust deniers. Question global warming and you are immediately put in the knuckle-dragging brotherhood of Nazis, KKK members and the Flat Earth Society.

I bring all of this up in the wake of the Mueller investigation. The Left was all fired up about Mueller and how he was finally going to give President Trump his due comeuppance. For two years it was the only topic of discussion from the Progressives. They were so confident that Mueller's investigation couldn't find anything BUT Russian collusion and obstruction of justice, they were picking out the new curtains for the Oval Office.

Problem is, it didn't work out that way.

A few years ago I made the realization that "bipartisan" actually meant "agree with the Democrats." If you agreed to their legislation, you were bipartisan; if you disagreed, you were an obstructionist. So here we are today. "Justice" means getting the verdict Democrats want; anything else is a treasonable offense that can only result in impeachment. And now impeachment is not just for the President, it's also the appropriate solution for his Attorney General, Supreme Court nominees, etc., etc., etc.

So I guess we can add another "realization" to the above list: The only rightful winner of a presidential election (or I guess *any* election for that matter) is who the Democrats want.

But you know what? I don't think I want to play their game anymore. I think I want to vote for whom I want and if he or she wins, great! If not, I'll be back in four years with someone else. And I'm sure there's some Saul Alinsky term for what I am for thinking that way, but you know what? I don't care.

Impeach me.

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# Accepting Low Expectations

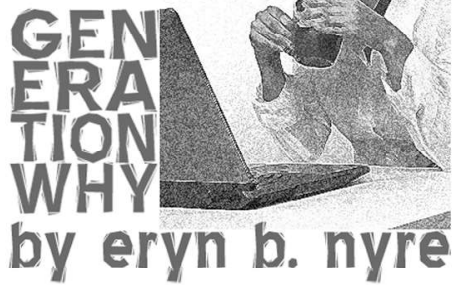
In a world where we hand out trophies for merely showing up to the game, I feel like I shouldn't be surprised by things like women bribing their kids with Starbucks for going to school without causing a scene. I shouldn't be surprised but I still am. I also shouldn't be surprised when I see people come into my office and let their children run amok then give me a dirty look when I ask them not to push buttons on the copier or ride the CPR mannequins like a horse.

This got me thinking, though, about how commonplace this type of behavior is. And it's not child specific. I have a colleague in my department who went an entire week without being late to work, which was pretty unexpected considering she is usually five to 10 minutes

late for every shift, and our boss made a big deal of it out in front of everyone by applauding her effort to be on time. But ... aren't we supposed to be on time for work? There were at least five of us that weren't

late that week either, or the week before, or the week before ... you get the picture. Life happens and people run late from time to time but am I wrong to think that a strong track record of promptness shouldn't be considered going above and beyond? That should be considered simply meeting expectations. I don't falsify my timecard or drink on the job either, should I get a parade for that? Where does it end?

This particular topic has stuck in my craw for a few days and I tried to think back to all the times as a kid my parents bribed me to behave or go to school but I couldn't come up with any. They didn't bribe me to be obedient. On the contrary, I faced consequences if I wasn't. I'm not saying I didn't get some ice cream for a perfect score on



a test or a new toy for straight A's, but I didn't get rewarded for performing at baseline. Maybe that's the root of the problem: As a society we have lost sight of what baseline is.

I was reminded of a conversation I had with my former roommate. With a long track record of dating highly undesirable men, men she wouldn't dare bring around her family, she finally found herself dating someone she wanted to introduce to her parents. I didn't particularly like him, but he certainly wasn't the worst of the bunch. The day came when everyone would meet

*You shouldn't have to praise someone for taking a shower, showing up for work, paying their taxes and obeying the law. That's what is expected of a person, not even an extraordinary one. A great one does all those things plus.*

and he asked her to iron a button up shirt for him so he could come over after work, jump in a shower and clean up before her parents got to our place for a barbecue. She beamed all day that she finally met a great guy. A guy who showered after working outside all day on a golf course and put on a clean shirt before meeting the girlfriend's parents. She hadn't just lowered the bar, she buried it. I mean, he didn't plan the barbecue or help with the set up or clean up. He wasn't even willing to stop by the store to pick up the mustard that we forgot. She and I did all of that. But hey, he showered and put on a clean shirt. That's what amazing, top shelf men are made of.

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7

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**GEN WHY cont. from P. 6**

I think that's one of the biggest problems we have today. Little by little as people fail to meet expectations, we simply lower them. You surround yourself with men who use you, take advantage of you and neglect both you and hygiene and the first guy to shower and put on a clean shirt gets the award for boyfriend of the year. A student who fails to perform the required work finally turns in a paper and manages to barely pass gets celebrated. An employee who is routinely late has a small run of getting to work on time and she is applauded. The baseline is there because it represents basic expectations. You shouldn't have to praise someone for taking a shower, showing up for work, paying their taxes and obeying the law. That's what is expected of a person, not even an extraordinary one. A great one does all

those things plus. Now we celebrate mediocrity as though it is something to be commended. What's next? How long before we start praising the shameful, the contemptible, the inglorious as long as they don't, you know, commit murder or something unforgivable like that?

A mediocre boyfriend showers and puts on a clean shirt before meeting the parents. A good boyfriend wouldn't ask the girlfriend, who spent all day cleaning and preparing for the barbecue, to iron his shirt for him. Instead he would iron it himself after showering at his own house so as not to dirty up a newly cleaned bathroom. A great boyfriend does all that and stops by the store for some extra supplies and helps clean it all up without having to be asked. There's a big difference between mediocre, good and great, but the more we applaud mediocrity the smaller and more insignificant those differences become.

**LETTERS cont. from P. 4**

take away our medals, records, scholarships and dreams."

We know this will happen because it already has. And we know it's the intent of the bill because Congressman Steube offered an amendment that "Nothing in this act may be construed to require a biological female to face competition from a biological male in any sporting event." The Democrats voted it down on a party-line vote. Sorry Selina. If you're looking for fairness from this majority, you've come to the wrong place.

This bill could have protected the professional judgment of doctors, but it doesn't. At our hearing on May 1, the bill's author said, "What HR 5 does is to ensure that transgender people, including young people, are not denied care because of their gender identity." What is care for gender identity? Cross sex hormones, puberty blockers and surgery. Refuse to provide it—on the self-diagnosis of a child—and you've broken the law.

Indeed, Johns Hopkins University, that pioneered sex re-assignment surgery, stopped the practice because they saw the long-term harm it did to their patients. And we know that's the intent of the bill, because I offered an amendment that "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require health care providers to affirm the self-professed gender identity of a minor" and the Democrats voted it down on a straight party-line vote.

Listen to one anguished parent, Elaine, tell her story: "Let me explain to you how this works. If you take your child to a clinic to seek

help, affirmative care means the ... professionals must accept a child's professed gender identity ... Under "conversion therapy" bans, questioning a child's professed gender identity is now illegal. So, if a little boy is five years old and believes he is the opposite sex, affirmative care means going along with his beliefs. Parents are encouraged to refer to him as their 'daughter' and let him choose a feminine name. Teachers are told to let him use the girls' bathroom at school. Therapists will reassure parents that social transition is harmless and reversible. Is it really harmless to tell a child who still believes in the tooth fairy that he is the opposite sex? ... If a 10-year-old girl is uncomfortable with her developing body and suddenly insists she is a boy, affirmative care means blocking this girl's puberty with powerful drugs."

We know this will happen because it already has. And we know this is the intent of the bill because Congressman Mike Johnson offered an amendment that "Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed to deny a parent's right to be involved in their minor child's medical care." The Democrats voted it down on a party-line vote.

Elaine goes on to say: "I am speaking out because I love my daughter. And it is because of her that I know what I have told you is true. She has been a victim of 'gender affirming' medical procedures, and I was powerless to stop doctors from harming her." Sorry, Elaine. The House majority doesn't care and isn't listening.

This is the brave new world that House Democrats propose under the name "equality." Congressman Tom McClintock Washington, D.C.

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Ride will begin at 1st Southern Baptist Church Madera at 711 Nebraska, Madera and will end at Valley Children's Hospital



*Oh, Can It!*

Today we're looking at the magic that can pop out of canned foods you've probably already got in your pantry. Give these suggestions a try, particularly if you're a little pressed for time.

When I was in college in Fresno, if we had a couple of extra dollars some of us would go to a restaurant in the Tower district for a special occasion. There I learned about Three Bean Salad – they had the best I had ever tasted so I started looking for the recipe. I don't remember my mom ever making it, but I found a card in her recipe box. I used to make it so often I knew the recipe by heart. I would laugh about it because it was called Three Bean Salad, but it called for four cans of beans (all different).

**3 Bean Salad**

1 Can each:

Green beans  
Kidney beans  
Garbanzo beans  
Wax beans

½ C Thinly sliced red onion

Dressing ingredients:

½ C Apple cider vinegar

¼ C Seasoned rice wine vinegar

⅓ C Sugar

⅓ C Oil

½ tsp. Salt

½ tsp. Pepper

Drain and rinse beans and put into large mixing bowl. Add onions and set aside.

In a blender\* container, blend the dressing ingredients until well mixed. Pour over beans and mix well. Pour into tightly sealed container and refrigerate to marinate. Even better after second or third day.

(\*I don't own a blender, so I mix the dressing in a container and use my immersion blender.)

Growing up, one of my favorite dinners my mom cooked was fried salmon patties.

**Fried Salmon Patties**

3 Cans Canned salmon

3 Eggs, beaten

1 C Cracker crumbs or dry breadcrumbs

Oil for frying

Drain salmon and reserve liq-



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

uid. Set liquid aside. In large mixing bowl, mix well the salmon, beaten eggs and crumbs. Form into patties about the size of a four- or five-inch circle. If mixture is too dry to form good patty, add some of the reserved liquid. Heat oil in frying pan. Place patties in frying pan and cook until brown on first side and turn and finish cooking on other side. Drain on paper towels and serve. This recipe should serve seven people. My mom would always serve these with creamed potatoes. Peel and cube enough russet potatoes for your family. Boil until just barely done. Drain water and replace with milk (she always mixed whole milk with a can of evaporated milk), add a couple of tablespoons of butter and adjust the salt and pepper. Continue cooking on a low simmer until potatoes are done.

Did you just get home from a hard day at work and didn't put anything in the crock pot this morning, there's no leftovers in the fridge to warm up and to top it off you only have an hour to get dinner on the table? How about a chicken potpie?

**Chicken Potpie**

1 Can Cream of Chicken soup

¼ C Milk

¾ C Shredded cheddar cheese

¼ tsp. Black pepper

1 Bag (16 oz.) Frozen vegetables (your choice – mixed or blends)

2 Cans white chunk chicken breast in water, drained

1 Pkg. Refrigerated biscuits – 10 count

Heat oven to 400.

Mix the soup, milk, cheese and pepper in 3-quart shallow baking dish. Stir in the vegetables and chicken. Bake for 15 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Stir the mixture. Top the mixture with the biscuits and bake for 15

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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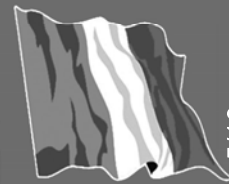
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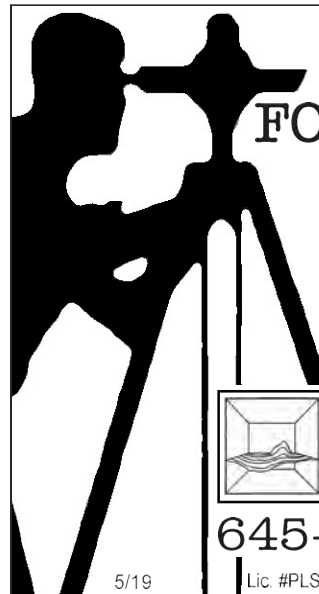
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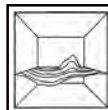
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**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

Randy was telling me about something he makes when he wants some chili but doesn't have the time to make his award-winning "\$1,000 Dollar Chili" that he's so proud of. And it all (almost) comes from cans.

**\$1.98 Chili**

½ lb. Ground beef (Randy buys the frozen patties so he always has hamburger available when he wants to make his chili. He uses two frozen patties.)

- 1 Can Rotel
- 1 Can Ranch Style beans
- 1 Can Black beans
- 1 Can Navy beans
- 1 T. Molasses
- Brown the ground beef with

some salt and pepper to taste or you can use any prepared seasonings that you like.

Add the Rotel first, then add the Ranch Style beans. Next add the black beans and navy beans, but drain them first.

Allow the mixture to cook until it's hot and bubbly. Add the tablespoon of molasses and stir it into the mixture. That's it.

Randy also makes a vegetable beef soup from canned and frozen vegetables that very closely follows the instructions for his chili.

**Randy's Vegetable Beef Soup**

½ lb. Ground beef (you guessed it -- two frozen hamburger patties)

- 2 C Beef bullion
- 1 Can Rotel
- 1 Can Navy beans
- 2 C Frozen mixed vegetables

1 C Frozen diced potatoes  
Just like the chili, start by browning the ground beef with some salt and pepper, or your prepared seasonings.

Add the beef bullion next. You can buy it canned, in jars or Randy says he likes the cubes. Just follow the instructions on how to prepare it.

Next add the Rotel followed by the navy beans, but drain them first.

Randy likes to wait until the mixture gets hot before he adds the frozen vegetables. He's a peas, corn and carrots kind of guy, but you can add any mixed vegetable combination you like.

Randy said he made a discovery when it came to adding potatoes. When he first started making his soup, he used fresh potatoes

that he diced himself, but it took them too long to cook. He wanted to eat NOW. When he was in the grocery store, he came across diced frozen potatoes in the frozen food section that are designed for making hash browns. He tried them and said they were perfect. Perfect size, easily stored and were ready the same time the other frozen vegetables were. Win, win, win!

Add in your potatoes and allow the mixture to cook until it's hot and bubbly, just like the chili. Dinner is served.

For a slight variation, Randy says sometimes he uses canned chicken for the meat and chicken bullion, but everything else is the same. He says he loves the heat Rotel brings, but if it's too much substitute canned diced tomatoes instead.






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*Letter to the Organizerr*

Last month I asked you all: "What's working for you?" BD's response combined so many great strategies, I asked if I could share it. Here's her experience:

Dear Brenda,

I appreciate your articles so much!

You asked what works for us. This year I am decluttering for Lent. I took 40 before photos. Each day I pick one and take an after photo when it's done. I have a friend who is doing similar projects her own

way, with me, and I send my photos to her daily for accountability. We take Sundays off.

I started out taking the before photos as I went, but I'd be well into a project before I remembered, so I thought I'd just go ahead and take them all. The unexpected benefit is that I can pick at areas not scheduled for the day as I pass by, and sometimes by the time I get to a photo, its area is already almost done.

So, one drawer, one corner, one pile of clutter at a time. I could probably take another 50 photos, since they are fairly specific. I hope I will continue after Easter until it's done, but for now, it seems to be fairly do-able and I'm enjoying the progress. The combination of a plan, Lent and accountability is actually working for me.

Marie [Kondo] is about sparking joy, but I am finding it to be more about peace. I used to feel overwhelmed, but now I can just do my daily task and be done. The clutter still stresses me, but I can tell it that its day is coming, and I know that it will. I started with easy projects and it's getting harder, but I've also gained some

experience.

I'm finding it's good to do drawers first, so that I can put things away that I want to keep, but a tidy dresser drawer doesn't give me the little thrill in the morning that my nearly bare nightstand does, so I sprinkle in some projects that show. Last night I got rid of the whole pile of clothes that need mending or altering in one swoop. It is such a relief to not have to procrastinate all that sewing anymore! --BD

**BD's TEN-STEP**

**ORGANIZING VENTURE:**

**1. Choose a start date.** "Someday" is not a day of the week. Put your start date on the calendar.

**2. Choose an end date.** When we know there's an end coming, we persevere more easily. BD chose the 40 days of Lent.

**3. Schedule in some days off.**

**4.**

**Choose small, one-day projects--** "one drawer, one corner, one pile." List them on the days you've chosen for your over-all venture. Begin with easy and don't schedule overwhelming tasks.

**5. Take**

**before photos of each project area.**

**6. Secure an accountability partner.** Preferably one who is simultaneously working toward a similar goal.

**7. Daily - do the organizing** and send the before/after photos to your accountability partner.

**8. If desired, keep going.** If you're on a roll and want to organize an area not on that day's agenda — go for it!

**9. Do some drawers first,** so you have places to put things you're keeping but sprinkle in some areas that show to keep yourself motivated.

**10. When stressed by the remaining clutter tell it, "Your day is coming!"**

One of the benefits BD shared is the peace that replaced being overwhelmed even before her project was complete. If being overwhelmed is keeping you stuck in clutter, try BD's Ten Steps and let me know how it goes.

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](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can also pay a visit online to [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com).

*One of the benefits BD shared is the peace that replaced being overwhelmed, even before her project was complete. If being overwhelmed is keeping you stuck in clutter, try BD's Ten Steps and let me know how it goes.*

*In Memoriam*



**James "Jim" Farr**

*December 29, 1938 -- May 12, 2019*

Jim Farr passed peacefully on May 12, 2019 in Fresno. He is now in heaven with his parents and beloved dogs, Max and Marley.

The retired Indy Auto Parts Store owner is survived by his wife, Debbie. You may also know him from the Ranchos Pizza Factory.

Jim was a member of the Madera County Sheriff's Citizens on Patrol. He loved patrolling the Ranchos community with Howard.

His service will be private. In lieu of flowers please make donations to:

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### The Bookshelf

## Summer Reading Program Starting

By Jerrica Edmundson

Now that Flatlander's Day has past, we begin our annual summer reading program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library and supported by our lovely local community, we have a lineup of fantastic events for all ages this year:

June 13: 11 a.m. movie showing kickoff

June 20: 11 a.m. The Magnificent Tim Mannix

June 27: 11 a.m. Ron's Reptiles (Reptile specific)

Break for July 4th

July 11: 11 a.m. Great Scott the Glad Scientist

July 18: Ron's Reptiles (Exotic Bird specific)

July 27: Ice Cream Social and a movie

We will be interspersing movie showings throughout the program as well if there is demand for it, with family friendly movies showing at different times throughout the two months we have of summer. Be ready for some cool options to stay out of the heat and enjoy yourself.



**Jerrica's Shelf:** *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden

This is an amazing story that mixes actual medieval Russian events with Russian folklore in a

way that keeps you from wanting to ever put the book down.

Vasiya is a young girl who we watch grow up in a rural farming kingdom that is a facet of the huge Moscow rulership. From a young age she is chosen as a recipient of the Winter King's blessing and begins a journey filled with hearth spirits and the like who are all somehow made stronger just by her presence. She has the ability to see these creatures and gives them offerings to ensure they are still remembered as the orthodox Christian faith begins its spread throughout the Russian people. The bells of the church are fighting with these classic spirits and are making them weaker as time goes by and the faiths shift away from them. The Church is damning these creatures as demonic, and Vasiya just wants to help them all co-exist as she knows they should.

I didn't expect to like this book as much as I did, but Arden is so fantastic at taking real world events and mixing them with fairytales that I simply couldn't stop reading, and this is definitely one that I will be recommending for years to come.

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Senior Report

# Seniors' Mason Honored at Parade

By Margaret Tynan

Ranchos/Hills Seniors Activity Center member Joliene Mason was honored at this year's Flatlanders Parade. She was chosen to be Grand Marshal for the event by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Joliene, accompanied by several family members including her six-week-old great grandson, led the parade in her 1969 red and white Ford Pickup. She told me the pickup has special meaning for her and her family. Her father purchased the pickup new and it had been his pride and joy.

Born and raised in the Central Valley,

Joliene moved to the Madera Ranchos in 1999 and held a Central Unified School District position in pupil transportation until her retirement in 2003. She has been a very engaged member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Activity Center since 2000, having held several 2-year terms on the Board of Directors. She was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2006 by the Area Agency on Aging of Madera County.

Her community service continues to the present. Most notably she is an active Madera County Sheriff Citizen on Patrol. Promotion of programs serving youth is one of

Joliene's special interests. She participates in the Junior Education Exhibit of the Fresno Fair Education Days each year and is a member of the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis, which provides educational scholarships to the youth of the area. As volunteer docent at the Coarsegold Museum, she enjoys educating young visitors on the rich history of the area. Fun loving, energetic and involved, she is also active in several social groups and loves to travel both nationally and abroad. Joliene says she admires the spirit of engagement and volunteerism of the Ranchos community and she is proud to be a member. She says, "My life has been blessed." Congratulations Joliene

and thank you for your contributions to the community.

The Seniors Center has several upcoming activities this month. Our annual raffle is going on now with the drawing to be held on July 4. Stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. and get your tickets for your chance to win: 1st prize of \$250 toward a brake job, compliments of Complete Car Care; 2nd prize one large pizza each month for a year compliments of Ranchos Pizza Factory; 3rd prize a 3-yard bin compliments of Red Rock, a \$235 value. Thank you to these businesses for their generous support.

Join us for the monthly Bake and Boutique, Treasure House and Garden sale on Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. There are lots of plants to choose from in the garden area. All are invited to our every Thursday morning coffee, crafts and conversation from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. On the fourth Thursday of each month, a special craft session will be held. This month on Thursday, June 27 Nancy Palazzo will show us how to make lovely crafts and jewelry items from buttons. Bring your favorite or heirloom buttons if you like. Basic materials will be available. We hope to see you there. The annual

BBQ for Ranchos/Hills Seniors members will be held at the Center on Saturday, June 29 beginning at 5 p.m. New members will be honored at this Independence Day themed gathering. It is always an enjoyable event. Bring a dish to share and your table service

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Center's campaign to raise funds to support Liberty High School's Sober Grad Night. We wish our graduating youth health, happiness and success in their life-pursuits.

Thought for June: "In order to fulfill yourself, you have to forget yourself. In order to find yourself, you have to lose yourself." – David Brooks



Joliene Mason waves to the crowd as the 2019 Flatlanders Parade Grand Marshal.



Mason led the Flatlanders Parade in her 1969 Ford pickup that was once her father's pride and joy.

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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

## SEMUCU speaks

By Jeff McGrath

A few weeks ago, shortly after the state measured the snowpack, local radio and TV stations were announcing that the drought was over. It gave the impression that we no longer had to – or should – watch our water usage. I like to think of our aquifer as a bank; in good years we can deposit water into our account and in bad years draw it out. For five years, we have been drawing water out of our account. I don't know about you, but I can't see how one good year is going to replace what we have taken out. I have not seen any guidance from Madera County on the use of water, but in the past we have followed Fresno's water guidelines: "Addresses ending in even numbers may water on Wednesday and Sunday; Addresses ending in odd numbers Tuesday and Saturday". I urge you to conserve as much water as you can because it is up to all of us. A good guide to outdoor watering can be found at University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Publication 8044 at [anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu](http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu).

I hope that you got a chance to read SEMCU Speaks in last month's issue of the Ranchos Independent. In it Igal spoke about the difference made by drilling a deeper and wider recharge well. If you, or if you know someone, that has a creek running through their property, encourage them to apply for a no-cost recharge well. SEMCU is working hard on sustaining our water future. An application may be picked up at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, or requesting it at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).

Back in January, I wrote about our fourth-quarter request to the state for our Washing Machine/Dishwasher reimbursement as being finalized. Unfortunately, the state has changed the manager that we deal with. The new manager informed us that the fourth quarter request was sitting on her desk. This will add more time to the processing program, but we are moving as fast as we can. On the positive side, we have reimbursed 106 residents but

have 46 still waiting. I know it is a long process, but I assure you that the money is forthcoming. We have accepted all requests for rebates but if your rebate was rejected for lack of information, we have already contacted you for further information.

If you are thinking about replacing your appliances, now is the time. Although the time on the grant has been extended, it is not indefinite. An incentive is you will get a \$350 rebate for a dishwasher or a washing machine, or \$700 for both. There is still money available so, if you are thinking about replacing that old, noisy, water-wasting machine that may breakdown at any time with a new Energy Star Highly Efficient washing machine or dishwasher, now is the time to do it. Please see the back page of the Ranchos Independent on how to get reimbursed or go to SEMCU's web page at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) for a form. Other energy products may be found on PG&E's web page at [pge.com/shop-now](http://pge.com/shop-now).

Please plan on attending one or more of our meetings held at the Pizza Factory every third Monday of the month starting at 6 p.n.

We are still looking for a grant writer as ours has stepped down due to increased job responsibility, so we are in search of another one or two writers that could help us with grants. If you are interested, please let us know by attending a meeting. Promise ... we don't bite.

## CORRECTION

CORRECTING MY ERROR IN LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE

-- Igal Treibatch

I'm not sure how it happened, but it did. The test results of one well were correct: 40-acre-feet recharged over 19 days equals 13,034,000 gallons since 1 acre-foot equals 325,850 gallons of water. I mistakenly wrote that this amount of water would last a family of three using 200 gallons per day for 23 YEARS. The correction: IT ACTUALLY WILL LAST FOR OVER 178 YEARS.

13,034,000 gallons divided by 200 gallons per day equals 65,170 days or 178.54 years. Or, it will last 178 families for one year. Yes, you better read it again and try to calculate.

One well, 19 days of recharge, 40-acre feet, will last 178 families for one year.





### Future Mechanics Visit

Hello 93636,

I would like to thank all who took time to come by my Flatlanders Craft Fair booth last Saturday, May 11 and introduce yourself. We really enjoyed meeting you, demonstrating new-school automotive diagnostic technology and answering all your questions. As ALWAYS we were especially interested in speaking with young people and promoting all the opportunities the automotive industry has to offer.

Earlier this week, I received a text message from a young man and family friend, asking to bring his 10- and 12-year-old sons for a visit to my shop. It seems his young sons are interested in how a gasoline internal combustion engine works. Of course, I was interested. I told Steven we independent automotive repair shops no longer rebuild engines in house, so we didn't have any disassembled. More about that later in the article. It's an emissions thing.

We do, however, open engines on a regular basis to replace head gaskets, timing chain assemblies, repair oil leaks and cylinder heads. It just so happened we had a 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt PZEV coming in for a timing chain assembly replacement the following day. The Cobalt's 4-cylinder, 2.2 Liter, dual overhead camshaft, four-valves-per-cylinder, 148 hp. timing chain assembly has six gears, two chains, six chain guides and three tensioners. The Cobalt timing chain assembly is much more complicated than the old-school two-gear single chain assembly of the past. Cameron took time to simply explain the function of the individual components and the assembly as a whole.

Another vehicle in the shop for repair was a GMC Van. We were replacing a vandalized fuel tank. **TECH TIP:** If your vehicle has a locking gas cap, throw it away and replace it with a non-locking cap. Locking gas caps cost much more than they save. If vandals encounter a locking gas cap while attempting to steal gasoline, they simply puncture the fuel tank and drain the gasoline that way. The more holes they puncture the faster the gasoline drains.

Before we installed the replacement fuel tank, we used our smoke generator to pressurize the tank with smoke and inspect for leaks. The process looks interesting with the smoke generator's bright red and

green LED's and all the brightly colored plugs stuffed into the ends of hoses.

Another vehicle was a 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer with the engine removed. The replacement engine and the old engine were side by side as components were in the process of being transferred from one engine to the other.

The most interesting vehicle in the shop to me was a Chevrolet Silverado being repaired for an emissions failure. I diagnosed the failure as a defective Powertrain Control Module (PCM). We were in the process of programming the replacement PCM and ignition keys. A laptop was wirelessly connected to Detroit and to our J2534 interface tool, which was connected to the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostic 2nd Generation (OBDII) connector. We were installing the engine module's operating instructions that we were purchasing from General Motors Cooperation. Michael took a short break from programming to speak with the boys. He asked them if they use the internet to play certain video games. The boys knew exactly what Michael was asking. He explained to them how that process related to what he was doing with the truck.

They were quiet and reserved for their visit until they spotted a 1967 El Camino in for service.

WOW!

After all we had for them to see, they were interested in 52-year-old technology. Steven seemed quite capable of taking over from there, so he and the boys spent some time discussing the details of 1967 technology.

All in all, we had a good time and the boys got the opportunity to observe my industry from the inside out. You are welcome back any time Caleb and Logan.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, for the most part engines arrive to us today in crates. Our job is to install them. The primary reason for that change began in 1996 with the introduction of OBDII. The modern engine, due to emissions concerns and fuel efficiency mandates, have become much more sophisticated and complex. With new systems like active fuel management, dual overhead-camshafts, variable camshaft timing, variable lift and duration, counter-balance shafts and turbos, to mention a few, a higher level of training, tooling and equipment is needed. The major reason I no longer rebuild engines in my shop is due to the use of low-tension piston rings. Low-tension piston rings reduce friction, seal better, improve fuel economy and lower emissions, but they require very specialized tight-tolerance machining processes. The cylinder bores need to be near perfect. If they are not concentric the rings won't seal

properly, and fuel economy and emissions are adversely affected. That's my concern. To achieve the best possible bore geometry, modern engines are diamond honed with heavy steel torque deck plates and head gaskets bolted to the blocks. The plates simulate the loads placed on the block with the heads installed.

Cylinder bore surface finishes are measured with a special instrument called a profilometer. The profilometer drags a tiny diamond-tipped stylus across the bore surface to measure RA (roughness average). For a modern low-tension ring engine, the RA range should be 15-20 micro inches. The expense of the high-tech equipment needed to properly machine a modern-day engine has placed that equipment outside the reach of all but a few very large machine shops. There are still a few small engine machine shops around the area; but for the most part the machining they provide is for high performance, hot rods and older vehicles that are no longer in the California emissions program.

Well, that's all for this one. As always you can send your general or specific automotive or automotive industry questions or suggestions to [completecarcarefresno.com](http://completecarcarefresno.com) or email me at [complete\\_car\\_care@hotmail.com](mailto:complete_car_care@hotmail.com). God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr, ASE Master, Advanced Level and Hybrid Certified Technician.

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**SAY YOU SAW IT IN**  
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*Kiwanis Korner*

**Kiwanis: Doing Good in the Ranchos**

*By Becky Koop*

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

"You are as welcome as the flowers of May," Charles Macklin stated. The feeling of being welcome is my favorite part of Kiwanis. Our meetings always make me smile and feel like I am a part of something good in our Madera Ranchos community.

In the month of May, we all worked together at our Kiwanis Flatlanders Day Parade Booth. We sold tri-tip sandwiches and also delicious cupcakes in a cup. When Kiwanis members come together on a project, there is always lots of fun and laughter that makes even hard work enjoyable. It is also satisfying to know that the money being raised at fundraisers like these will go back to the community thru local scholarships and donation requests. We recently were able to contribute to Liberty High School's Sober Grad event which will be held the night of graduation. A very worthwhile cause for our seniors, it enables them to have a safe graduation evening with fun activities planned by parents and volunteers.

During the month of April, Principal Lalo

Lopez was able to attend one of our Thursday evening meetings and update Kiwanis members on current Webster Elementary events. Webster is growing in attendance and it is continuing to perform well academically. It is always great to connect to the GVUSD principals and staff as they share their updates.

Our lucky winner, Myron Kooiman, won the Kiwanis Easter basket that we were raffling off, and he stopped in our meeting to claim his prize. As for upcoming events, we are also planning another Wildwood Native Park



*Myron Kooiman won the raffled Kiwanis Easter basket and stopped by our meeting to claim his prize.*

Cleanup on June 15 and any help is appreciated. Summer is right around the corner and we would love to finish off several projects at the park that include pruning, raking and working on the foot bridge.

I'd like to again invite you to join us any Thursday, (except the first one of the month) in the Pizza Factory Banquet Room at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos at 6:15 p.m. You will enjoy the camaraderie and fun, and also be a part of making a difference in our community.

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

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### SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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### GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+					11
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2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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ANSWERS

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2	7	3	4	5	9	6	8	1
5	4	8	6	3	1	9	2	7
7	3	9	8	2	5	4	1	6
8	1	2	9	4	6	7	5	3
4	5	6	3	1	7	2	9	8
1	6	5	2	7	8	3	4	9
3	2	7	1	9	4	8	6	5
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### Remembering Our History on Memorial Day and D-Day

By Betty Van Valkenburg

May 27, Memorial Day, is much more than a time for backyard fun and shopping. It is set aside as a national holiday to honor American military heroes who sacrificed their lives serving the country. In the midst of our current political turmoil and open anti-Americanism, it would be good to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made to keep our country free and to dedicate ourselves to keeping it that way.

June 6, without fanfare or holiday status, will mark the anniversary of the momentous 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy that spelled the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe. May we pause again to remember the catastrophic loss of life, exceptional heroism and historic significance of that day and the subsequent battles that raged across Europe to secure the 1945 Allied victory.

Both days are tailor made for brushing up on our history and imparting knowledge and wisdom to others, especially younger folks, whose American history curricula may have been minimal or of the downright "hate-America" variety.

On D-Day, according to Army.mil: "More than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a ... heavily fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi [Socialist] Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "... we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the invasion and by day's end, the Allies gained a foothold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's crack troops."

President Ronald Reagan's 1984 speech commemorating D-Day's 40th anniversary, given at the U. S. Ranger Monument at Pointe du Hoc, France, is unforgettable. His voice cracked with emotion as American veterans who had stormed the beaches and climbed the Normandy cliffs that long-ago day as young men, now in their 60s, listened and dabbed at their eyes. Part of the speech is quoted below, but nothing compares to actually seeing and hearing it. You can find the

video on YouTube and the full text at [ReaganFoundation.org](http://ReaganFoundation.org). You'll hear sentiments that are conspicuously missing from most modern speeches: Unabashed patriotism, love of liberty and acknowledgment of God, faith and prayer.

Excerpts from President Reagan's speech at Pointe du Hoc, France:

"We're here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For four long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved and the world prayed for its rescue. Here in Normandy the rescue began. Here the Allies stood and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

"We stand on a lonely, windswept point on the northern shore of France ... At dawn, on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 Rangers jumped off the British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the invasion: To climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns ...

"The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers – the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machineguns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb ... They climbed, shot back, and held their footing. Soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top, and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs, they began to seize back the continent of Europe. Two hundred and twenty-five came here. After two days of fighting, only 90 could still bear arms.

"The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right ... It was the deep knowledge – and pray God we have not lost it – that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause.

"You all knew that some things are worth dying for. One's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man ...


"Here, in this place ... let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for ...

"Strengthened by their courage ... let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died."

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.teapartypatriots.org](http://www.teapartypatriots.org) for more information.



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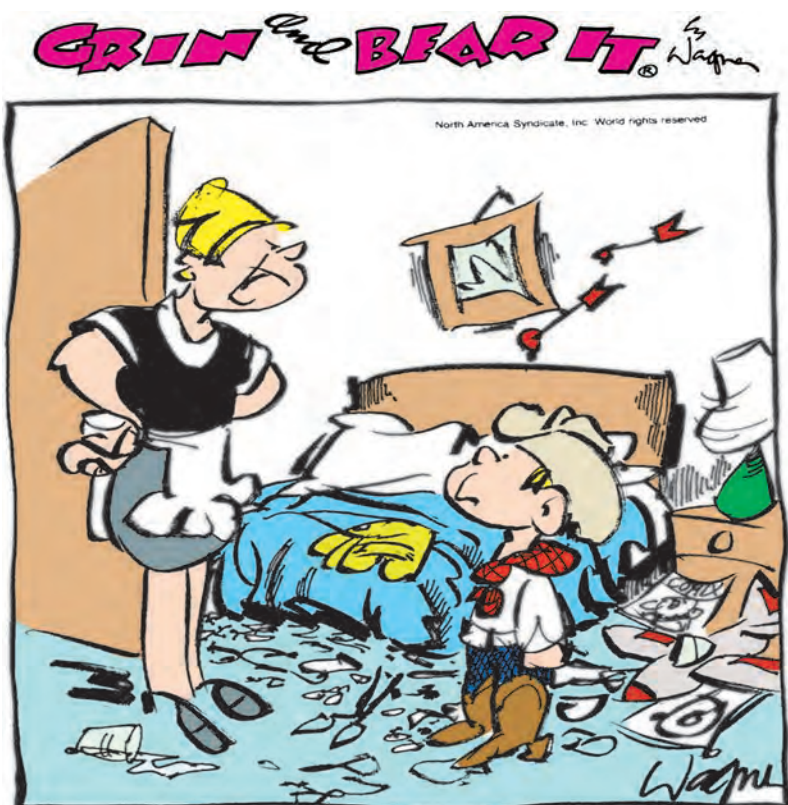
## Just Like Cats &amp; Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



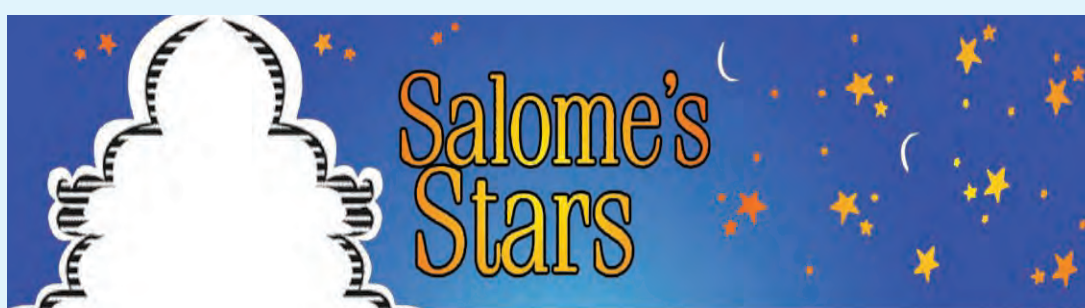
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) An unexpected development could change the Arian's perspective on a potential investment. Keep an open mind. Ignore the double talk and act only on the facts.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A surge of support helps you keep your long-standing commitment to colleagues who rely on you for guidance. Ignore any attempts to get you to ease up on your efforts.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Family continues to be the dominant factor, but career matters also take on new importance. You might even be able to combine elements of the two in some surprising, productive way.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A realistic view of a workplace or personal situation helps you deal with it more constructively once you know where the truth lies. Reserve the weekend for someone special.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) As much as you Leos or Leonas might be intrigued by the "sunny" prospects touted for a potential investment, be careful that you don't allow the glare to blind you to its essential details.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A friend's problem brings out the Virgo's nurturing nature in full force. However, don't go it alone. Allow others to pitch in and help share the responsibilities you've assumed.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A business decision might need to be put off until a colleague's personal matter is resolved. Use this time to work on another business matter that you've been anxious to get to.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Relationships (personal or professional) might appear to be stalled because of details that keep cropping up and that need tending to. Be patient. A path begins to clear soon.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A promotion could cause resentment among envious colleagues. But others recognize how hard you worked to earn it, and will be there to support you if you need them.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Handling a delicate personal matter needs both your wisdom and your warmth. Expect some setbacks, but stay with it. The outcome will more than justify your efforts.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Resist the temptation to cut corners just because time is short. Best to move ahead step by step so you don't overlook anything that might later create time-wasting complications.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Use the good will you recently earned with that well-received project to pitch your ideas for a new project. Expect some tough competition, though, from an unlikely source.

## Born this Week

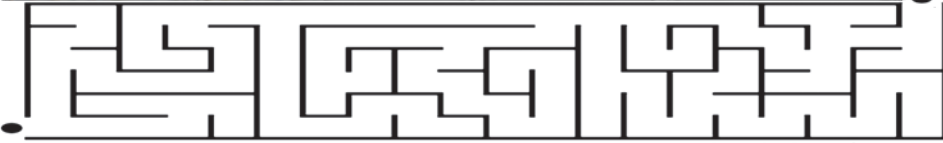
*Your love of family extends beyond your personal life to include others to whom you generously extend your care and affection.*

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# FUN PAGES

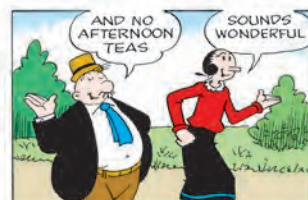
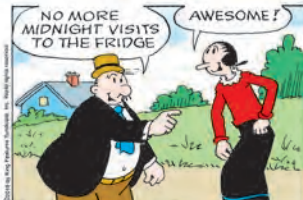
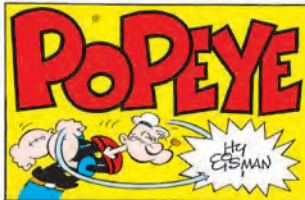
## Kids' Maze



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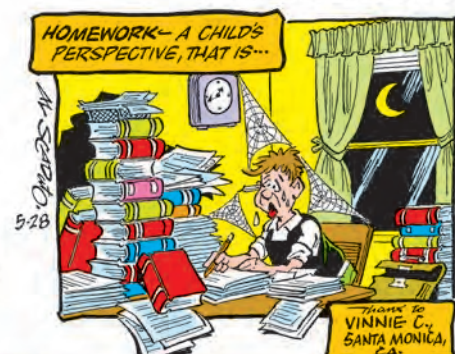
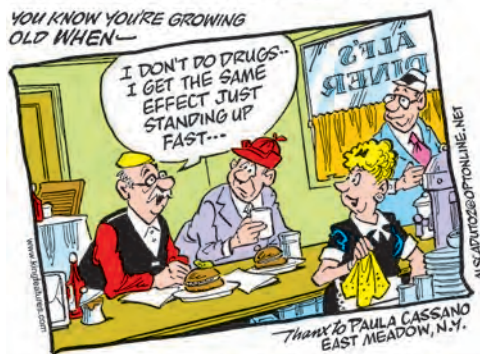
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

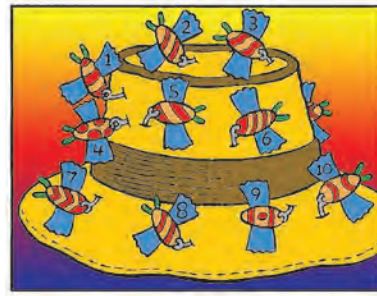


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



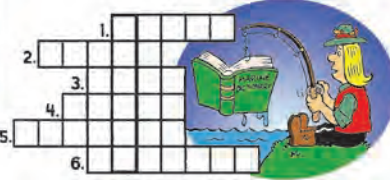
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## Junior Whirl!

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A LUCKY CATCH!



In the grid to the left, there is room to enter six words pertaining to creatures of the sea. The hints below should help.

**CAN YOU REEL IN** the two flies on Uncle Fred's hat that are exactly alike?

Answer: 2 and 8

### EVEN STEVEN!

Can you make an "odd" 7 "even"?



Answer: Drop the "S" from the word "SEVEN" and you have the word "EVEN".

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!** At right is a word square. You are challenged to find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.



- Track and Field (Games, in place).
- To put up with.
- To imitate closely.
- A formal command.
- Small, religious groups.

Answers: 1. Games 2. Abide 3. Mimic 4. Edict 5. Sects

- The favorite fish of lucky people.
- The favorite fish of gamblers.
- The favorite fish of shoemakers.
- The favorite shell fish of barbers.
- The favorite shell fish of jewelers.
- The favorite fish of photographers.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will tell you how most fish eventually travel.

Answers: 1. Fluke 2. Card Shark 3. Sole 4. Razor (clams), 5. Oysters (pearl), 6. Snapper. The dark frame column spells "Frozen".

## Wishing Well®

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

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

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

- |            |         |           |           |
|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Armor      | Comrade | Guard dog | Policeman |
| Bodyguard  | Escort  | Guardian  | Sentry    |
| Chain mail | Forts   | Helmet    | Sheriff   |
| Chaperone  | Fuse    | Parents   |           |

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** What was the name of the team in the movie "Major League"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the first president to be born in the 20th century?
- ANATOMY:** In the human body, where are the islets of Langerhans located?
- HISTORY:** Who commanded the first space shuttle into space?
- GEOGRAPHY:** On which Hawaiian island is Pearl Harbor located?
- TELEVISION:** What tagline described this 1960s cop drama as "one white, one black and one blonde"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What was the name of the horse that won the Triple Crown in 1919?
- MUSIC:** Where was the house in "The House of the Rising Sun" located?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** Gamophobia is the fear of what?
- ADVERTISING:** Which popular brand of cigarettes was named after an animal?

### Answers

- Cleveland Indians
- John F. Kennedy
- Pancreas
- John Young
- Oahu
- "The Mod Squad"
- Justity
- New Orleans
- Marriage or commitment
- Camel

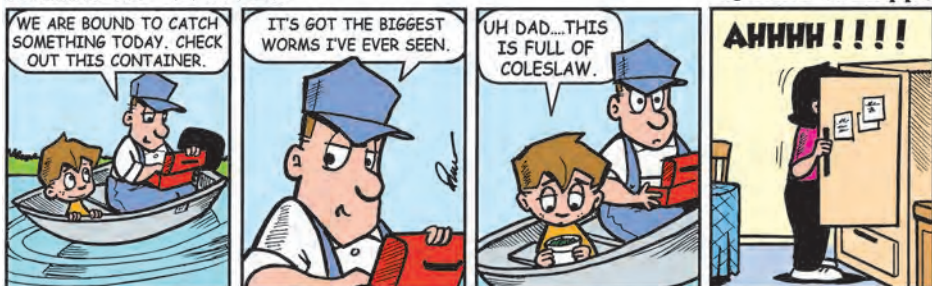
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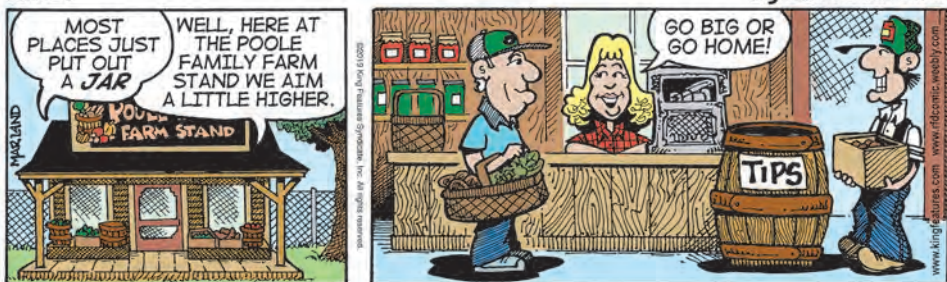
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



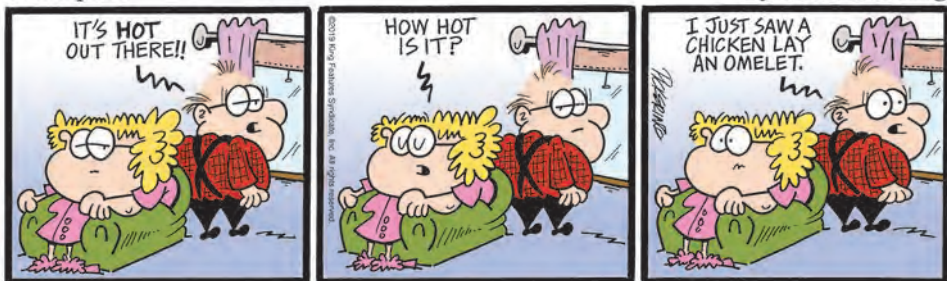
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

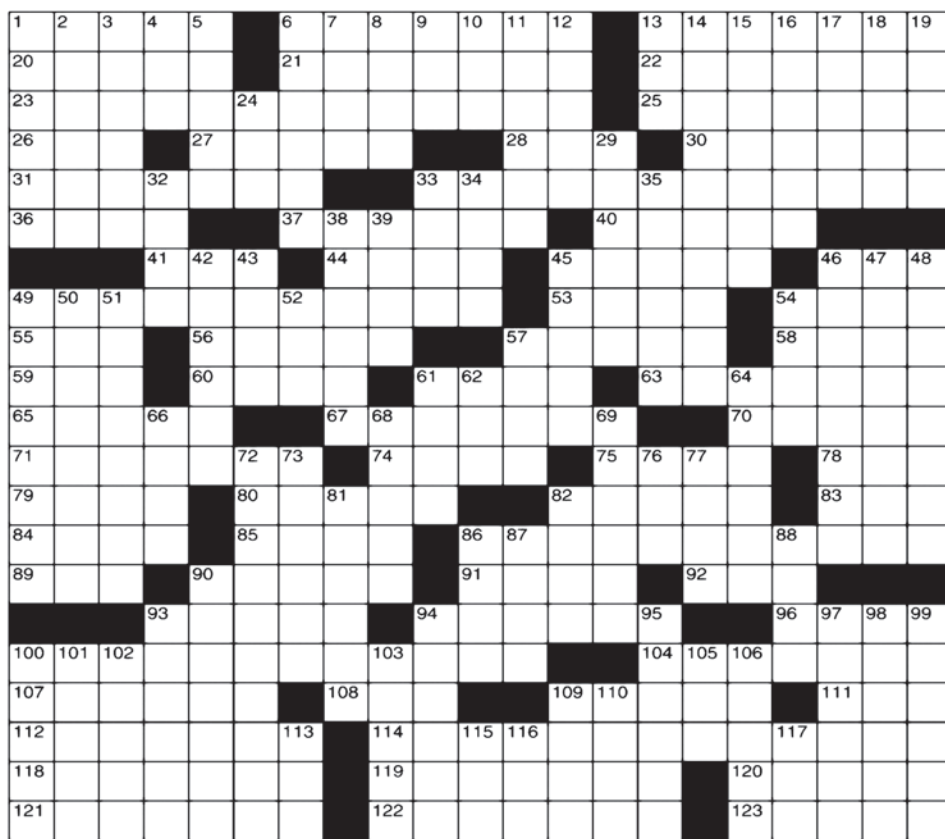
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Boy's hat is different. 2. Picture has been added. 3. Blinds are lower. 4. Man's sweater has a stripe. 5. Desk papers are missing. 6. Boy's shirt has no letter 'T'. 7. Boy's pants are missing. 8. Boy's tie is different.

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## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Taken — (surprised)
  - 6 Beach flier
  - 13 Opens, as some jackets
  - 20 "Gigi" star
  - 21 Talk-show host
  - 22 River of Washington, D.C.
  - 23 Teaching a dog to stay in a pen
  - 25 Law
  - 26 Ease off
  - 27 Many, informally
  - 28 One, in Berlin
  - 30 "Invisible" singer
  - 31 Epon product
  - 33 Mineral required only in minute amounts
  - 36 Tex-Mex snack
  - 37 Less tough
  - 40 Develop
  - 41 Sorority letter
  - 44 Learning by repetition
  - 45 Brooklyn art institute
  - 46 EMT skill
  - 49 The mark "Λ"
  - 53 Quietude
  - 54 "The Cosby Show" son
  - 55 "I love," in Latin
  - 56 False identity
  - 57 Castro of Cuba
  - 58 Pulitzer winner
  - 59 "NY Ink" design
  - 60 Stoop (over)
  - 61 Regard as
  - 63 Fretted
  - 65 Very slow pace
  - 67 Feature of the starts of 23-, 33-, 49-, 86-, 100- and 114-Across
  - 70 Petri dish
  - 71 "Howdy"
  - 74 Use a pressing tool
  - 75 Lacking color
  - 78 Tippling type
  - 79 Tennis' Nastase
  - 80 Use as a dining surface
  - 82 Took to the slopes
  - 83 Suffix with Timor
  - 84 Musk of Tesla
  - 85 Lacking color
  - 86 One who may carry around a plate of hors d'oeuvres
  - 89 Tarzan player
  - 90 Emmy winner
  - 91 Got a perfect score on
  - 92 Broadway loc.
  - 93 Camporee participant
  - 94 "Jobs" star
  - 96 Terminal guesses, for short
  - 100 Free rein
  - 104 Involve in strife
  - 107 Cautions
  - 108 Mythical bird
  - 109 Artist's prop
  - 111 Teachers' org.
  - 112 Put in position
  - 114 Have a pronounced response
  - 118 Forced out
  - 119 Confess
  - 120 Author Zora — Hurston
  - 121 People on a quest
  - 122 Unintended radio silence
  - 123 Grant giver
- DOWN**
- 1 Allow in
  - 2 Entertainer
  - 3 Syrian's language
  - 4 Bivouac bed
  - 5 Posed to propose
  - 6 "No Exit" dramatist
  - 7 History units
  - 8 Laos locale
  - 9 Mil. title
  - 10 Start to cycle?
  - 11 Having one dimension
  - 12 Sound reasoning
  - 13 Raises
  - 14 Very
  - 15 Least fresh
  - 16 "Sorry, can't, I'm late"
  - 17 Make smile
  - 18 "Cry, the Beloved Country" novelist
  - 19 Smell
  - 24 Stubbable body part
  - 29 Closed in on
  - 32 "Unh-unh"
  - 33 One of the Jackson 5
  - 34 Film segment
  - 35 Pencil tip
  - 38 Naval fleet
  - 39 Cries hard
  - 42 Steady
  - 43 Elba, for one
  - 45 — donna (vain sort)
  - 46 Group of matching dishes for fancy meals
  - 47 1975 World Series MVP
  - 48 Open-top, two-seat car
  - 49 More apt to attract attention
  - 50 City in Texas
  - 51 Movement around an axis
  - 52 Yang's partner
  - 54 Calc prereq, often
  - 57 Flowerless plant
  - 61 Fix, as holey socks
  - 62 Braggart's problem
  - 64 Employees' check time
  - 66 "— pigs fly!"
  - 68 Weeper of Greek myth
  - 69 Get along
  - 72 Seafood chain
  - 73 Sharp scolding
  - 76 Churchill's title
  - 77 Rough- —
  - 81 Dental buildup
  - 82 "Undo" mark
  - 86 Dough
  - 87 Yearn
  - 88 Champagne bucket
  - 90 Protective sheet of film
  - 93 Punched, e.g.
  - 94 Bow (to)
  - 95 Trojan War sage
  - 97 Resident of an island kingdom
  - 98 Danny of "Off Key"
  - 99 One doing in a dragon, e.g.
  - 100 Bulk buys
  - 101 Full of zip
  - 102 Knot again
  - 103 U.S.-Can. air watch
  - 105 Body of eau
  - 106 Fair-haired
  - 109 Kett of old comics
  - 110 Bubbly wine, familiarly
  - 113 Zine staffers
  - 115 Doc's gp.
  - 116 Spain's El —
  - 117 Prefix with colonial

# FUN PAGES



**SEM CU**  
south east madera county united

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

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where our kids grow up and where we plan to retire.  
Southeast Madera is our back yard, our home and the  
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