

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢



Happy Ranchos Thanksgiving

so much for which to be thankful

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By Randy Bailey

Now that the 2016 election is behind us – many would say “thankfully” – we know the election outcome nationally and how we voted in California, but how did Madera County vote? How “in tune” with the rest of California are we? Since hindsight is 20/20, let’s take a look.

Some Background

There are almost 155,000 people in Madera County. Of those, 112,373 are over 18 and (providing they’re citizens and not criminals) are eligible to vote. How many *are* registered to vote? About a third, or 58,128. Think about that the next time you get in a group of three people who are complaining about the government. If you’re registered to vote, chances are neither of them are.

So, with only about a third of Madera County’s eligible voting population registered to vote, and the 2016 vote being billed as a pretty important election, how many actually did show up to vote on November 8? Just a touch over 35,000. Here’s what I love: That means about 22 percent of the population determined what the other 78 percent are going to have to endure. Actually, it’s worse than that. If you realize that to win all you need is 50 percent plus 1, now you’re talking about 17,501 votes determining the welfare of 155,000 people. That’s 11.2 percent of the total population. Tell me your vote doesn’t matter.

If you were wondering, Madera County loves its absentee ballots. Of the 35,000 votes cast, over 22,000 were absentees. Approximately half, 13,000, made

2016 ELECTION RECAP

how did Madera County vote?

the trip to physically go to the polls and vote. Enough back story. Here’s how we voted:

Local – the only local election we had was for Golden Valley Trustee Area 3 between Andy Wheeler and Warren Parr, vying for the seat being vacated by Mike Kelly. Since Trustees are elected now by area, we all didn’t get to vote in this one, but those in Area 3 did and they chose Andy Wheeler over Warren Parr by a vote of 456 to 324. That’s right, 57 percent of 780 people chose who has jurisdiction over your child.

Regional – there were three regional elections. California Assembly District 5, U.S. House of Representatives District 16 and the U.S. Senate. These races encompassed more than just Madera County. In the Assembly, Frank Bigelow continued his winning streak by besting Robert Carabas 64.5 to 35.5 percent. In Madera County, Bigelow’s home turf, the numbers were 67 to 33 percent. For U.S. Congress, Johnny Tacherra was the Madera County favorite with 59.5 percent over Jim Costa. Unfortunately, there was also Fresno County and Merced County that got to vote. When you added them into the mix, Costa won with 57.7 percent.

The U.S. Senate race was interesting because it was the outgrowth of California’s wise Prop. 14 law that was passed in 2010 (by us no less) that allows the top two vote getters to compete in the general

election. This year we got to “choose” between Democrat Kamala Harris and Democrat Loretta Sanchez. Similar to your ability to get a Model T Ford in any color you wanted, as long as you wanted black, the only guarantee in this election was that, by God, we were going to get a Democrat Senator. California voted for Harris 62.5 to 37.5 percent. Madera County, wisely noting that it was a glorified coin toss, gave Harris 50.1 percent to Sanchez’ 49.9. Let’s hear it for choice.

National – For President, California voted exactly as you would expect: 61.5 percent for Hillary Clinton and 33 percent for Donald Trump. But Madera County was having none of it. Since we’re not connected to a coastline here, Madera County voted 55.2 percent for Trump. Guess Madera County knew something the rest of the nation knew.

Propositions – There were 17 propositions on this year’s ballot. I can not remember there ever being that many. You needed a slide rule and an advanced degree just to navigate through them. I’ve already written on all of these so unless something really sticks out, this will just be a comparison with the final California vote first and the Madera County results second (*some numbers rounded upward*).

Prop 51 School Bonds

PASSED 54-46	FAIL 43-57
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Prop 52 Medi-Cal Hospital Fees

PASSED 70-30	PASSED 59-41
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Prop 53 Revenue Bonds

FAIL 49-51	PASSED 50.5-49.5
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Prop 54 Legislature

PASSED 65-55	PASSED 63-37
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Prop 55 Tax Extension

PASSED 62.5-37.5	PASSED 51-49
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Prop 56 Cigarette Tax

PASSED 63.5-36.5	FAIL 46-54
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Prop 57 Criminal Sentences - Juveniles

PASSED 64-36	FAIL 41-59
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Prop 58 English Proficiency

PASSED 73-27	PASSED 60-40
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Prop 59 Political Spending

PASSED 53-47	FAIL 38-62
--------------	------------

Prop 60 Adult Films

FAIL 46-54	FAIL 41.5-58.5
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Prop 61 State Prescription Drug

FAIL 46-54	FAIL 31-69
------------	------------

Prop 62 Death Penalty

FAIL 46-54	FAIL 31-69
------------	------------

Prop 63 Firearms - Ammunition

PASSED 63-37	FAIL 38-62
--------------	------------

Prop 64 Marijuana Legalization

PASSED 56-44	FAIL 44-56
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Prop 65 Carry-Out Bags

FAIL 45-55	FAIL 31-69
------------	------------

Prop 66 Death Penalty - Procedure

PASSED 51-49	PASSED 51.5-48.5
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Prop 67 Ban on Plastic Bags

PASSED 52.5-47.5	FAIL 33-67
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Madera County differed from the State of California on seven of the 17 propositions. In each of the seven cases, an argument could be made that Madera County voters took a more “Conservative” view of the issue being presented. Beginning with Prop 51, a bond issue for schools, it’s as if Madera County voters

Please see **VOTE** on P. 14

By Julie Snyder

At Thanksgiving, most of us turn inward and think about what we’re most thankful for and smile. Some families have a tradition of making a “Thanksgiving Tree” where they write what they’re thankful for on a piece of paper or “leaf” and tie it to the tree. We still have ours on display. It’s a great reminder for everyone in the family.

In no particular order, here’s what comes up for myself and family. What are some of the things for which you’re thankful?

1. Laughter -- I’m thankful for laughter. Children and babies laughing. I’m thankful that I can laugh at myself. I love when the whole family is grabbing at their bellies.

2. Simple comforts -- I’m thankful for the simplest of comforts in my own home: For hot water, light and warmth. I’m thankful for finances that allow us to live comfortably and be generous with others.

3. Freedom -- Despite frustration with politics, I’m thankful to be living in the U.S. I’m very thankful for the men and women — and their families — serving in our



military.

4. Difficult times -- I’m thankful for past adversities that have formed me into the person I am today. I’m thankful for difficult times that sharpen me and make me better in the end.

5. Health -- I’m thankful for my health (both physical and emotional) and I’m thankful that I have support and information so I can improve it.

6. My children -- I’m thankful for each of my kids. Even when they were just a thought on the horizon, they helped me be a better person so I could be a better mom.

7. Friends and family -- I’m thankful new relationships and connections this past year, both online and right here at home. Of course, I love my long-time friendships as well.

8. Best buddies -- These women who know the words to the song in my heart. I trust them to sing it back to me when I forget.

9. Nature -- I’m thankful for the beautiful world around me. For the changing seasons, the brilliant colors, the promise of coming spring.

10. Today -- Today, because it’s a new adventure. Today, because it’s another opportunity to make a positive change. Today, because it’s another chance to open my eyes and see what a fantastic experience life really is.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

North Fork has Solution for Energy Needs, Devastated Forest Trees

By Randy Bailey

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. With millions of dead trees in the Sierra National Forest, disposing of them before something catastrophic happens has been on the top of the mind of many people in the North Fork area. On Thursday, Nov. 3, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for what many con-

sider a clever solution to the problem.

North Fork Community Power and Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D Council hosted what is the first steps of building a 2-Megawatt bioenergy facility at the Old Mill Site located at 34000 Koso Nobe Road in North Fork.

The groups have been working with Phoenix Energy, a San Francisco-based private label power company that "...

builds, owns and operates on-site biomass gasification plants in partnership with businesses in the agricultural, waste, and forestry industries." Phoenix Energy helps its partners become their own energy providers.

Two Years in the Works

The project has been in the works for at least the last two years, focusing on financing to complete the project at a de-

serted sawmill in North Fork that closed down in the early 1990s. Once in operation, the biomass facility will generate power through its process of disposing of dead forest trees.

Funded through a \$5 million grant from the California Energy Commission and \$900,000 in New Markets Tax Credit

Please see TREES on P. 15

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Trigger Warnings Part II

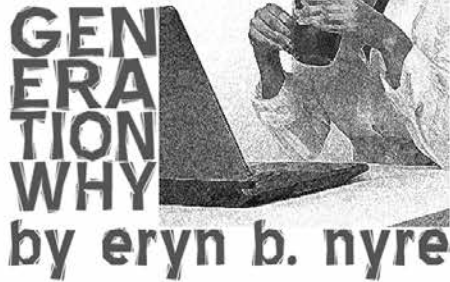
I thought the idea of trigger warnings was laughable. Literally. I laughed so hard when I read about them and did such a dramatic eye roll that I gave myself a headache. I also thought that had to be the extent of the ridiculous coddling that took place on college campuses. I was wrong. There's more, and it's not funny at all. It's just sad. So very sad.

As if the concept of trigger warnings isn't ridiculous enough, there are professors so worried about the mental health of their students after this election that they are making midterms optional. Poor babies need time to process this turn of events and crying into their

craft beer and bitching on social media is taxing enough without having to worry about studying for exams. I mean, hey, it's just college. It's not like it's supposed to prepare you for life or anything. Wait. What? It is? Oh, man. We're all screwed.

What's really going to kick you in the pants is that it's not like this is happening at Bubba's House o' Learnin' – it was a professor at Yale, and evidently he started a trend. He didn't think his students should have to worry about a pesky midterm in the wake of a Trump win. Never mind all of the work and stress they had to endure just to get accepted to such a prestigious school, they obviously can't handle the stress of a presidential election. I guess it's a good thing it only happens every four years otherwise no one would ever graduate.

Do these professors even realize how insulting this really is? To treat college students as children is not protecting them, it's saying that the university system as a whole has zero faith in the student bodies' ability to



learn, grow and adapt. Hey kid, you aren't strong enough to be disappointed in life and still manage to be productive and move forward, so we'll just let you be stagnant and lazy. It's good for you.

I personally wouldn't be grateful if my professors gave me the option to skip the midterm; I would be offended. How dare you think so little of me that you assume I collapse into a depression when I don't get my way. We are teaching the art of tantrums in college. Can you major in that?

You know, instead of being an enabler for the lazy malcontents of the world, how about you try this on for size Mr. Yale Professor: Be an example to your students that life is about moving forward and not about throwing a fit when you don't get what you want. Our future leaders are sitting in those seats and we are allowing them to be taught that you simply don't have to deal with life when it gets hard. Just throw the covers over your head, put on some sappy emo song and sleep until there's a whole new set of problems in your life you feel you may just be equipped to handle.

I wonder if that Ivy League professor would have had that level of sympathy and compassion for his conservative students had the election gone the

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

What's really going to kick you in the pants is that it's not like this is happening at Bubba's House o' Learnin' – it was a professor at Yale, and evidently he started a trend.

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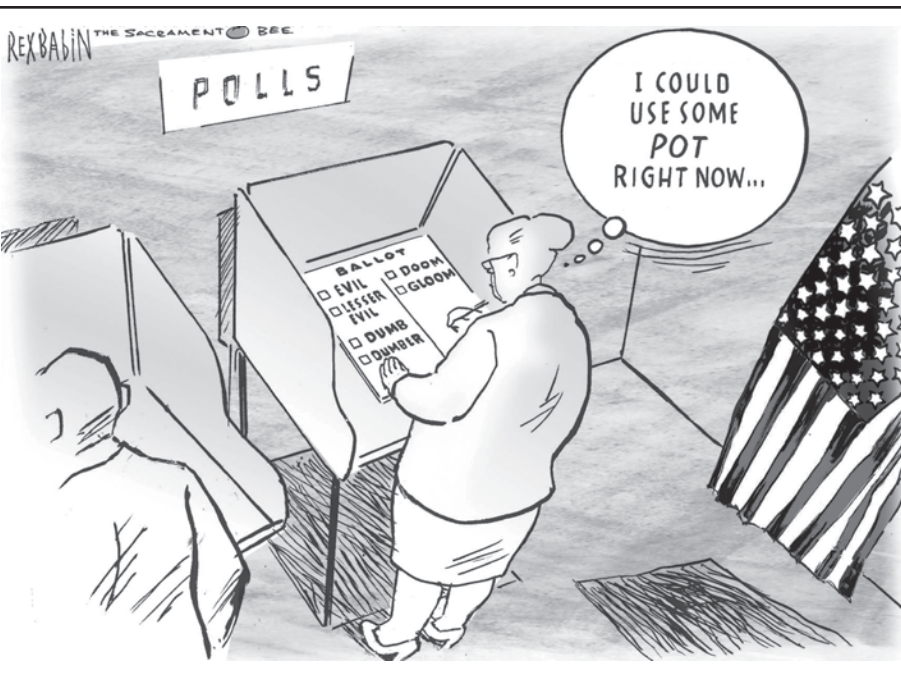
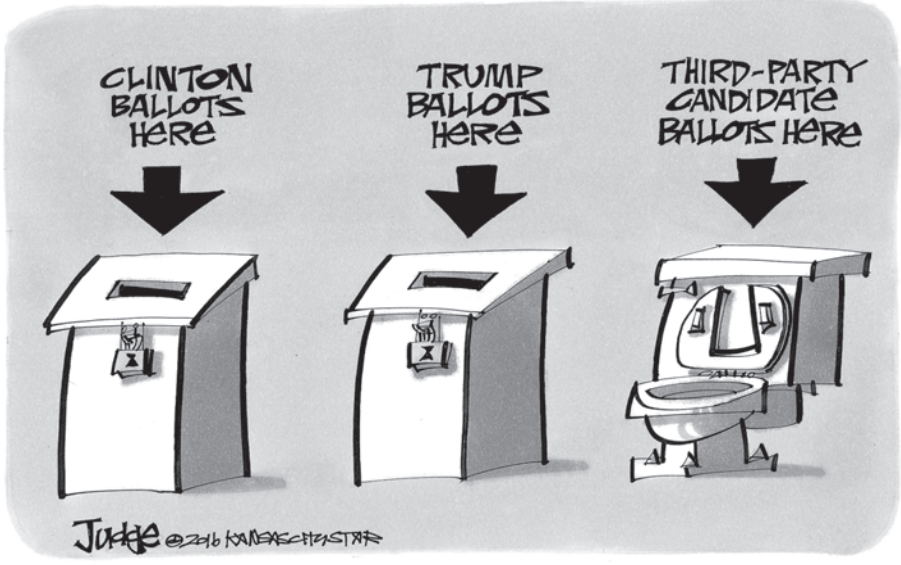
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Editorial

Facebook Election Misinformation

By Randy Bailey

Now that the election is over we can get back to things that matter. Number one among things that matter? Disseminating wrong information on Facebook.

Social media added a whole new wrinkle to the latest election cycle. People who didn't know their butt from their elbow now had a means by which to weigh in on the topics of the day and get it all wrong. Early on I saw it coming. I very gently suggested to friends and acquaintances that Facebook – which up until that point had been the domain of pictures of the grandkids, funny cat videos and recipes *ad nauseam* (“Tasty!”) – was probably not the best venue for political discussion. Something just gets lost in the translation on Facebook. As an example, I tried to explain to an acquaintance on Facebook who was going off about Donald Trump losing the popular vote that the difference in votes (at that time) was only equal to about a city the size of Fresno. I then explained that it's the Electoral College that elects the president. Her response? “This isn't about Fresno.”

OoooKaaaay ...

Matt Masur is a “progressive activist” who wrote a Facebook guideline piece that was posted in the Huffington Post. His key point? “Even more dan-

gerous are the posts that don't appear to be far-fetched until you dig into the details. The big problem with that ... people don't dig for the details.” He concluded his thought by saying, “What we have now is not only uninformed but *misinformed* masses. That's something that should scare us all.” Here are his key points:

1. Read first. *Then* share. Don't share based on the headline. This is the worst thing any of us can do. Stop being lazy.

2. Check the source (and *their* sources). In the age of new media, true and valid information comes from non-traditional sources but so does a lot of garbage. Any article that posts facts, figures or quotes should provide a source for that information. If there is no backup for their claims, move on.

3. Watch out for recycled stories. Often old stories are being presented as happening *now*. Check the date on the story before you read on. You'll be shocked to see how many are from another time and aren't applicable to the current event you thought they were talking about.

4. If you care about facts, ignore the blatantly slanted. Having a slant or taking a position on a story is not wrong in itself. What is wrong is when these ideas are taken as unbiased fact. You can avoid all of this by simply avoiding websites with the words Conservative, Liberal, Democrat, Republican, etc. in the title. They are just advertising how slanted they are. That's ok if you choose to live in your side's bubble but please don't have any delusions that these stories reflect the whole picture.

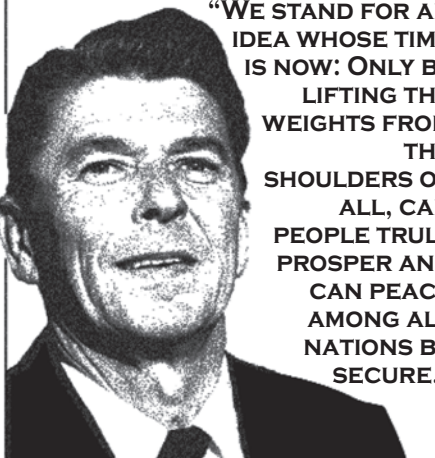
5. Google it. God gave us Google for a reason. If you see a story that's unbelievable or has no sources or even if it does, *verify*. See if the same facts are reported across multiple outlets. See if anyone disputes these facts. Read these pieces and then make up your mind.

Masur says, “If we could all take these simple steps our society would be a better place. We all have opinions and leanings. There is nothing wrong with that, but could we at least all come from a starting point based on facts and reality? The truth is, sharing illogical things begins to erode YOUR credibility and it makes you look foolish. Trust me, I speak from experience.”

Feel free to share this.

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Senior Report

Seniors Vote in New Officers, Board

By Patti Groh

Christmas is getting close and again I say, "Where has the year gone?" I don't know about you, but as I get older each year whizzes by faster than the year before.

At our Nov. 8 general meeting, new officers and board of directors were voted in. These include Verlaine Elinburg, president; Carol Wood, vice-president; Shirley Tickel, treasurer; Diane Maxfield, assistant treasurer; Rita Selmon, recording secretary; Patti Groh, correspondence secretary; Helen Lowell, parliamentarian; and board members Jolene Mason, Roy Cochran, Elva Earll, Nancy Koontz and Ethel Hansen. The initiation of these officers and board members will be held at the Dec. 13 general meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Also on that evening will be the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Members Christmas Dinner. Each member may bring a guest at a \$10 charge (no cost for members). Ham will be provided by the Center with members asked to bring potluck items to round out the menu. We are asking that you sign up at the center. Last year we had our first Christmas Table Centerpiece Competition. There were some beautiful (and some amusing) entries. It really was an enjoyable event and so we're going to do it again. I don't have particulars on who is in charge of it this year, but there are 10 tables and I'm sure if you tell Joann at the center (645-4864), she'll get the information to the appropriate chairperson.

The Center's Christmas Boutique and bake sale will be held both Dec. 3 and 10. The Treasure House and Garden will also be open. Thank you for the wonderful and plentiful baked goods that were available at the first Saturday of November sale. Please remember in December we will need goodies two weekends. Special Christmas items would be great, but the usual standards are also desirable. The boutique

will also welcome your handmade Christmas items. Carol Wood does a wonderful job of displaying and selling the boutique items.

Ranchos/Hills Seniors wish to acknowledge and thank the Oddfellows Lodge 327 for their generous donation to the Center. This was from the money they collected from their Oct. 15 breakfast. The Oddfellows serve breakfast

The 2017 membership application packets are available at the Center. Please pick yours up and turn your application in as soon as possible.

the third Saturday of every month, donating proceeds to a nonprofit organization. The December breakfast is on Dec. 17 at the Oddfellows Hall at 14862 Road 29, the southwest corner of Road 29 and


Avenue 15. You are encouraged to come out, enjoy a great breakfast and support the next nonprofit.

Because Christmas is on a Sunday, the Center is closed on the following Monday, Dec. 26, but the Center will be open on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Food will be a potluck buffet of finger foods. Some people will stay and party until midnight, but don't feel that you have to. You're welcome to come and stay as little or long as you like.

I would like to remind seniors in the area that lunch is available Monday through Friday to provide nutritious food and warm companionship. Seniors must call in to the Center the day before you plan to eat, before 11:30 a.m. Joann then lets the food preparers in Madera know just how much food they need to deliver. The Center's phone number is 645-4864.

The 2017 membership application packets are available at the Center. Please pick yours up and turn your application in as soon as possible.

Here's a little "tickler" – coming in February, tickets will become available to (perhaps) win a beautiful, handmade quilt, made and donated by Dot Husted. More information will be available in January.




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The Bookshelf

Party Time at the Ranchos Library

By Amanda Judd

Please join the Ranchos Library for our Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. Friends of the Ranchos Library will be hosting our celebration. Refreshments will be provided. Be sure to come in and help us decorate our Christmas Tree. December is "Hi, Neighbor" month and what a fantastic way this would be to get know people and participate in something fun in your community.

December is also Read a New Book Month. We are continuously putting out new and exciting titles. Be sure to come in and check out our New Book Section. Books also make excellent gifts. Stop by our Book Sale Room and see if you can find a gently loved book that would be perfect for someone special on your gift list.

We continue to receive questions about our recycling program. The library does continue to recycle. We accept cardboard, paper, aluminum, plastic, glass and cans. We do not accept Styrofoam. For more information, please contact the library. We would be happy to answer your questions. All proceeds we receive go to benefit the Ranchos Library directly.

Please remember that if you are an on-line shopper and utilize Amazon for your purchases, be sure to use your Amazon Smile account and help support the Ranchos Library. If you have not registered with AmazonSmile simply type the following in your web browser: smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0298991 The Ranchos Library will receive donations from eligible purchases. It is a fantastic way to contribute to our library while you do your holiday shopping.

Thank you to all of you that have donated to our Bucks for Books program. These donations go a long way to help us bring in new books for our library. All of the donations stay local to the Ranchos Library. Just be certain to designate the Ranchos Library on your Property Tax Insert when you make your contribution. We appreciate all of your support.

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Pump Up the Pumpkin



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Here we are in autumn already. I love the fall time of the year – not real cold yet, and a lot cooler than what we have been through. Probably the only people that don't like this weather are at PG&E. We can open our windows and doors and enjoy.

What do you usually think of when this time of year gets here? Football games? Beautiful orange and red leaves on the trees (and then you have to rake the lousy things up)? Thanksgiving? Pumpkins! Over the past few years I used to pick up Randy's, and then Adam's, kids after school at Sierra View and I loved to sit there and watch the little ones on the days they came back to the school after their trip to the Pumpkin Patch. What excitement! They were so protective of their precious treasures. They hung on to them like the star football player running with the ball to the goal line.

Hopefully they all had someone at home that could help them make that all important Jack 'O Lantern.

Pumpkin Any-one?

And what are you reminded of when we say "Pumpkin"? Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Bread and lots of other desserts made with pumpkins? Most people don't bother with seeding, peeling, and cooking a pumpkin any more, they just buy a can.

Although pumpkin pie is not my favorite, my Mom did make delicious ones. She usually made two for Thanksgiving except when she knew her grandson Steve would be there, then she would always make a couple extras. She didn't have any secret recipe, not even one written on her cards. Her recipe was on the back of a can of Libby's pumpkin. Each large can will make two pies.

In going through Mama's recipe cards, I found this one. She has cut it out of a newspaper and taped it to one of her cards so I will copy it as it is. If you can't make good pie crust (like me) or just don't like to make pie crust, this recipe would be ideal and it sounds good too.

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No Crust to Screw Up

Make the pumpkin-pie mixture from the large can of Libby's pumpkin. Pour it into a large deep casserole. (I'd say she used about a 3-quart Corningware dish.)

In a large bowl blend a package of spice cake mix with two cubes of melted butter.

Drop this mixture by spoonfuls on top of the pie mixture in the casserole dish.

Bake at 350 for about 1 1/2 hours.

Now I ask you – doesn't that sound good? How about a big spoon of this with a blob of whipped cream on it – or a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yummy.

The following pumpkin bread recipes are for everyone, but especially

for the lady that called the office and requested them and before I could get back to her, I misplaced her phone number. The first one is my Mother's.

Pumpkin Nut Bread

- 1 C margarine
- 3 C sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 large can pumpkin

- 3 C sifted all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 C chopped nuts
- 1 C raisins

Cream together margarine and sugar. Beat in eggs, add pumpkin and vanilla, mixing well. Sift together dry ingredients, blend with pumpkin mixture. Add nuts and raisins.

Bake in loaf pans for 40 to 45 minutes in preheated 350 oven.

The following recipe is my sister

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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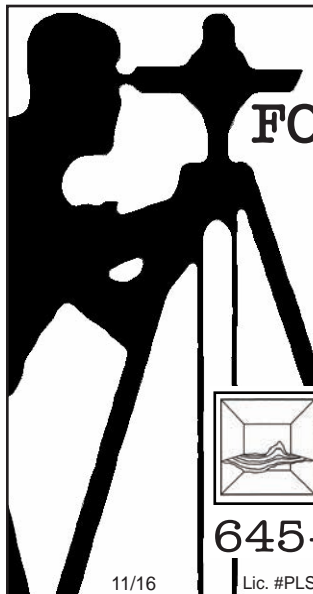
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Faye's (Randy's mom). You will notice it doesn't take any eggs.

Faye's Pumpkin Bread

Oven 350 Yield – 3 loaves

1 can pumpkin

4 C sugar

1 C oil

Mix together, then add to pumpkin mixture:

2 tsp baking soda

2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp cloves

1 tsp nutmeg

1 tsp salt

5 C flour

Bake in prepared pans 70 minutes

I have a very dear friend living in Chowchilla that I went to school with since the seventh grade. She took over as manager of the high school cafeteria when my mother retired. Every year she invites my sister and me up to her house for a Christmas luncheon. A couple of years ago she served a pumpkin roll that was really delicious. I asked her for the recipe and I'll pass it on to you.

Pumpkin Cake Roll

3 eggs

1 C sugar

1 tsp lemon juice

2/3 C pumpkin

1 C chopped nuts

3/4 C flour

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp ginger

1/2 tsp salt

2 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg

Filling:

1 C powdered sugar

6 oz. pkg. cream cheese- softened

1/4 C butter - softened

1/2 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven at 375. Grease a 15x10x1-inch baking pan and line with waxed paper. Grease and flour the paper. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs on high for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar until thick and lemon colored. Add pumpkin and lemon juice.

In another bowl (I use a large piece of wax paper so you won't have another bowl to wash) mix flour, cinnamon, baking powder, salt, ginger and nutmeg, fold into pumpkin mixture.

Spread batter into prepared pan, sprinkle with nuts.

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes or until

cake springs back when lightly touched. Be careful not to bake too long or it will be too dry to roll.

Immediately turn out on a clean towel that has been dusted with powdered sugar. Peel off paper and roll cake up in the towel starting with the narrow end. Cool.

Meantime, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla until fluffy.

When cake has cooled, carefully unroll the cake. Spread filling over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up again (not in towel). Cover and chill until serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

Happy Thanksgiving.

This story originally appeared in the October 2009 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor



GEN WHY cont. from P. 4

other way. Oh, that's right, they don't foster conservative ideals and opinions in the American University system, it's go left or go home.

Of course, my opponents would say I have no heart, no compassion, no feeling. I am a cold, right-wing radical who thinks feelings don't matter and I also hate babies and unicorns. They applaud the Yale professor and others like him for having such strong compassion for his students that he recognizes the pain some of them are going through, having failed to put their liberal darling into the White House. We need to have sympathy for them because, well, they've been raised in a society that hands out trophies just for participating and ribbons just for showing up. The students aren't taught how it feels to lose because losing would be detrimental to their self-confidence, and if we've learned anything from the last 20 years it's that self-confidence is more important than hard work, tenacity, dedication or skill. It's self-confidence that counts, even if there is absolutely nothing in the person's character or personal repertoire that can back it up. We should definitely perpetuate this cycle because it's doing wonders for our country.

You aren't thrilled with your representatives? Make sure you vote. It didn't work out this time? Try again next time. Don't like some of the proposed laws that are coming on down the pike? Do something about it. Volunteer to support your favorite cause. Start a petition to raise awareness. Write your congressmen and women.

I get it: It sucks when the election doesn't go your way. I haven't liked the outcome in the last two presidential elections. But you know what? I got up the next day, I went to work, I went to class, I tended to my responsibilities and I moved forward knowing that I tried and I would try again next time around and hope things went my way. It's time to grow up people. Your little Yale professor can't protect you forever.

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*The election's over --
Trust but verify*

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Donald Trump's voters came from many different perspectives: from those who supported him completely no matter what to those who held their noses and voted for him as their only choice. But all agreed on one thing: that unless something is done – and soon – our country is about to take its last gasp as a beacon of freedom and become just another broke socialist third-world nanny state.

One Nation

Regardless of how each of us voted, Donald Trump will be our president. We wish him well and pray for him and our country and that he will rise to the awesome responsibility the voters have given him. We will give him a chance to prove himself

and remember that some changes will be more difficult than others.

The election insured that the presidency and congress will be in Republican hands and Republicans are generally perceived to be conservatives. New Supreme Court justices are expected to be constitutionalists or "originalists."

This scenario offers the best opportunity ever (at least in my lifetime) to return our country to the greatness that resulted from adherence to the Constitutional principles of limited government, rule of law and individual liberty.

Conversely, however, it offers the possibility of the greatest missed opportunity, or worse, of all time. With all federal power vested in one party, even the one we might identify with, there exists the temptation toward the very corruption, cronyism and overreach that we voted to end. We are, after all, talking about politicians who are mere fallible human beings with, usually, overly inflated egos.

Hold the President and Congress accountable

Let's remember that Mr. Trump is a recovering Democrat who does not profess to be a conservative but rather a pragmatist. We must also remember that Republicans in congress have been worthless in the

cause of liberty and fiscal responsibility, even with control of both houses.

We and those before us have allowed the government to run amok and trample on our rights. We must learn from our past mistakes and get involved now more than ever, lest we squander this golden opportunity. We must not go back to sleep as usual. We can't be engaged only at election time and then just yawn and go back to our daily lives, trusting those we elected to govern wisely. They don't!

President-Elect Trump made many promises applauded by conservatives/ constitutionalists and which we hope he can manage to honor. But already we see evidence of the status quo with Republicans in congress and a softening of Trump's resolve to keep his promises.

For instance, he promised to return education to the states, but in September he proposed \$20 billion in block grants to expand charter and private school options for low-income children. The goal may be laudable, but this is not getting the federal government out of education. It is more of the same.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives is proving why Trump pledged to "drain the swamp" as they offer a bill to bring back earmarks, which the House itself banned years ago. Earmarks, of course, allow a politician to direct tax money to projects,

such as the infamous bridge to nowhere, that benefit special friends or special interests. This could be considered cronyism or buying votes, and either way it is wrong. As the Heritage Foundation said: "You can't drain the swamp by bringing back earmarks."

The best way for us to influence federal policies and the president is to know and keep in touch with our congressional representatives. We can search their websites, become acquainted with their voting records, call them, Fax them and visit them when they are home on one of their many breaks. They are the ones who pass the laws, good or bad, and the president merely carries them out. Or at least that's the way it's supposed to work.

A step in the right direction might be asking your representative how he or she intends to vote on the earmarks bill and offering your opinion. Let's make America great again, one step at a time!

For information and resources, please visit www.teaparty patriots.org.

The best way for us to influence federal policies and the president is to know and keep in touch with our congressional representatives.

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IN GOOD HANDS
with Warren Parr



Don't Fail Your Water Pump

Hello 93636,

I chose today's topic due to the rash of failed water pumps I replaced this month. These water pump failures were predictable and preventable because the primary cause was low coolant levels.

At my shop, whenever an engine oil change is performed we also perform a large vehicle preventative maintenance inspection. That includes cooling system testing. If the vehicle's coolant level is low, it indicates a leak. Some customers choose not to repair cooling systems leaks as long as the engine is not overheating. Instead, they choose to top off the cooling system from time to time. In my professional opinion, that's a bad decision. Sooner or later the leak will need to be repaired. Many times it's later, when the water pump fails. That's what happened with the three water pumps I have replaced so far this month.

The vehicle that prompted this article is a 1993 Mitsubishi pick up. The upper radiator tank has been cracked and leaking for some time but the customer adopted the top off from time to time strategy. Yesterday when I saw the Mitsubishi on the flat bed of the tow truck I knew it probably wasn't good. When the water pump failed, it also took out the belt. Hope he caught it before the engine overheated and damaged the cylinder head gasket. We will see tomorrow. Cooling system leaks can lead to catastrophic engine failures. The proper time to repair a cooling system leak is before. Now, instead of just a radiator repair, I need to replace the water pump and belt. Oh, almost forgot, the water pump on this vehicle is under the timing cover which means the timing belt is likely in the way. WOW. I see a long-awaited vacation in my near future.

Here's my explanation of how water pump failure is caused from LOW (not empty) coolant levels. The water pump impeller moves coolant through the engine block, cylinder head and back into the radiator where the heat is dissipated. The impeller draws fresh, cool coolant from the ra-

diator into the water pump, compresses it and pushes it out the other side into the engine block. When the water pump impeller is not submerged, it mixes air bubbles into the coolant resulting in foaming and cavitation. Waves in the ocean kind of do the same thing as the wave curls over and traps air into the ocean water creating the white foam. The illustration I like to use with my customers to explain cavitation is imagine a large ship riding high in the water with its propeller partially submerged. As the propeller blade rotates it smashes into the water pulverizing and aerating it. The consequence of this action is cavitation. When cavitation happens, a heavy vibration occurs when the air bubbles burst and then again when the blade slaps the water. Same thing happens when the water pump impeller vanes are partially submerged. The vibrations on the impeller are transferred through the impeller shaft, destroying the water pump bearing. Once the bearing fails the pump shaft no longer spins true and the shaft seal begins to leak. Also, worn out coolant also allows bubbles to form on cast aluminum housings and create pits, or cavities, when they explode.

I recommend pulling the owner's manual from the vehicle's glove box and read the manufacturer's recommended service intervals. Engine coolant does wear out. Exchanging coolant at the recommended interval does reduce premature failures of the cooling system. Just a footnote here: If you haven't noticed, the lower radiator hose is larger than the upper radiator hose because it's on the suction side (negative pressure) of the water pump and suction is less efficient. The upper radiator hose is smaller in diameter because it's on the discharge or positive pressure side of the water pump. Whenever a radiator hose blows apart, it's the upper hose because it's the one with positive pressure.

For suggestions on future topics or questions concerning a vehicle, I can be contacted at completecarcare@hotmail.com or Facebook me at Complete Car Care.

Hope this helps. Happy Thanksgiving all. God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr
Twice NAPA/ASC California Technician of the Year
2013 NAPA/ASC National Technician of the Year, Second Runner Up.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 2 • 6 p.m.

Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.

Veterans need instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books.

Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 9. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual

Chamber Christmas Mixer

Wednesday, December 14
6-7:30 p.m.

37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C Madera Ranchos

Everyone is invited. Great food will be served.
Our Merry Christmas to you. Call 645-4001 for info.

New Chamber Member

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

Cindy Vail -- Vail Insurance Services, LLC



Ranchos Area Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 Kiwanis Board Meeting, Ranchos Cafe 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 1 Friends of the Library Xmas Party, Ranchos Library 6 p.m.
- Dec 3 Xmas Boutique at Senior Center 8 a.m. to noon
- Dec 8 Kiwanis Meeting at Pizza Factory 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 10 Kiwanis Xmas Party
- Dec 10 Xmas Boutique at Senior Center 8 a.m. to noon
- Dec 13 Senior Center Installation and Xmas Dinner
- Dec 14 Chamber Xmas Mixer at Chamber Office 6 p.m.
- Dec 15 Kiwanis Meeting at Pizza Factory 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 19 SEMCU meeting Pizza Factory 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 22 Kiwanis Meeting pizza Factory 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 26 Senior Center Closed



Help a Foster Child this Christmas

through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 9.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



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The Ranchos' Chloe Robbins needs your help!

Chloe is running for 2017 Chowchilla Western Stampede Little Miss. All money raised will go back into our community in the form of high school scholarships, 4H and FFA ag programs and much more. Money will go into the Ranchos programs because Chloe is a local kid.

It's all based on ticket sales and sponsorships.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each with a chance to win six box seats to the Salinas Rodeo and a \$500 gift card to Boot Barn (to be drawn March 16, 2017).

You can purchase tickets by calling Sandra Robbins at 559-363-3602. She will even deliver them.

Local businesses may also sponsor Chloe. Call 559-363-3602 for more information.

*Thank You,
Ranchos!*



11/16



LHS Football Shares League Title



Picture courtesy of Tyler Takeida

The Liberty Hawks football seniors celebrate a victory over Kerman to clinch a share of the North Sequoia League championship and a sixth straight victory. Front row, from left, are Robert Pacheco, Wyatt Johnson, Javier Lopez and Brett Cazares. Back row, from left, are Markie Brandt, Christian Baker, Anthony Imirian, Brandon Fincher, John Clay Cowger, Colton Ferreira, Corey Hiatt, Ethan Clark, Seth Shevenell, Seth Ferreira, Angel Villafan and Christian Napier.

The Liberty football team won six straight games and was one of three teams to claim the North Sequoia League championship. For the second straight season, they lost in the first round of the

Div. IV playoffs. This year they lost to Madera South in a Thursday night game 63-27 for the first round of the Central Section CIF Les Schwab Football Championships.

Liberty 2016-2017 Basketball Schedule

11/30	@Tranquility	6:30
12/6	Laton	7
12/7	@Kings Christian	7
12/9	@Riverdale	5
12/13	Fowler	7
12/15	Faith Christian	8
12/16-17	Hawks Classic	
12/19-22	Woodlake Tournament	
12/17-30	Laton Tournament	
1/3	@Minarets	7
1/6	Dos Palos	7
1/10	Mendota	7
1/13	Chowchilla	7:30
1/17	@Yosemite	6:30
1/20	Sierra	7:30
1/24	Kerman	6:30
1/27	@Washington Union	7:30
1/31	@Chowchilla	6:30
2/3	Yosemite	7:30
2/7	@Sierra	6:30
2/10	@Kerman	7:30
2/14	Washington Union	6:30

Liberty High Fall Highlights

- Liberty readies for break -- Ahead of Thanksgiving break, Liberty High School is prepared for its stretch toward the end of the first semester and winter break.

- Liberty's band, choir and drama will host their annual concert on Dec. 15 in the theater.

- Mock trial competition, in which Liberty is the defending champion, begins Dec. 6 at the Sierra Courthouse and Dec. 8 and 10 at the Madera County Courthouse.

- The senior play production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* will be held Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. This is a production where the Liberty High School drama seniors direct the elementary school students.

- The Liberty FFA club competed in opening and closing competition in Tranquility and Reedley. They also have

a banking contest on Dec. 1 at Sanger High School. Liberty's Jordan Alexander was an award winner in the Farms II Leadership program.

- Liberty High School will hold its Winter Formal on Dec. 10. Tickets are \$70 and dinner will be included.

- First semester finals will be Dec. 12-15. Winter break begins Dec. 19 and school resumes Jan. 9.

- Liberty cross country runner Sophia Napier, a freshman, placed second in the North Sequoia League championship on Nov. 10. The teams competed in the Central Section Championships on Nov. 17 at Woodward Park.

- The Liberty Hawks girls volleyball team advanced to the semifinals for the second straight season. However, for the second straight season, the Minarets Mustangs ended the Hawks' season.

VOTE cont. from P. 2

were saying, "Enough! We've been taxed enough." A good cause? Maybe. Good enough to get their votes? No.

Prop 53 was voted down by the state while Madera County said, "Yes." And what did the state say "No" to? Letting the people have some say over how BIG (over \$2 billion) state projects would be managed. It's as if the rest of the state said, "It's OK. We trust you with our money. Spend it any way you see fit. Why would we think you might be less than trustworthy with it?"

Prop 57 was real easy for the people of Madera County. They didn't think the solution to prison overcrowding was releasing criminals back into our communities. Changing the name of a crime doesn't change the nature or severity of the crime, and the people of Madera County understood that.

Prop 59 was just silly. Asking the voters for permission to defy a Supreme Court ruling? While it just squeaked by to be passed by the state, Madera County said "No" 62 percent to 38.

I believe people who live in rural areas more fully understand the Second Amendment than people who live along the coast. Prop 63 was just another in a long line of confiscatory measures sent down from Sacramento and the people of Madera

County saw through it. The numbers for Madera County were almost exactly opposite the numbers from the state to pass Prop 63. The State passed it by 63 percent to 37 while Madera County voted AGAINST it 38-62 percent.

Prop 64 legalized recreational use of marijuana. Again, the numbers from Madera County were completely opposite of the passage numbers. What does it mean? It could mean the majority of people in Madera County are reluctant to have more people running around with diminished capacities than there already are. When you're the sober one, that sometimes seems like a lot.

Finally, Prop 67. Getting rid of the single-use plastic bags from grocery stores. Another one that squeaked by on the final vote while being trounced two-to-one by the voters of Madera County. Did Madera voters reject it out of the perceived loss of convenience? Did they see it as an example of the nanny state telling them how they could and couldn't bring home groceries? Who knows? All that can be determined from the 2016 presidential election results is that the people of Madera County tend to skew more Conservative than other areas of the state. Their voting patterns show that they do not fall into lockstep with the majority of California and on topics which they disagree, they disagree strongly, often voting two-to-one in opposition to the majority.



Picking the Perfect Cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm really excited -- my mom has decided we can get a kitten! We're going to adopt one from the local shelter. Do you have any advice on picking the best cat? -- Jaynah and Sherar in Poughkeepsie, New York

DEAR JAYNAH AND SHERAR: First of all, congratulations! It's exciting to get your first pet. And I'm glad you're choosing to adopt from a shelter.

While I've always liked to say that we don't pick cats, they pick us, that's not entirely true. Sometimes it takes a little time to find that perfect fit. With kittens, it's even harder, because they're almost uni-

versally cute.

When you visit the shelter, ask if you're allowed to play with the kittens before choosing one, or to observe them in a play area outside of their cages. Note how they interact with each other and with humans. Are they confident or aggressive? Standoffish, or anxious and shy? Will they play with a toy or string that is dangled in front of them?

Note the kittens' general health. It's easy to spot a potential problem if a cat is listless, won't play, has visible sores, shakes its head frequently or has trouble walking. Most shelters are open about a cat's known health problems. That way potential owners can decide if they want to take on the costs of bringing an adopted cat back to health.

Again, take your time and don't commit to one kitten immediately. If there are multiple shelters in the area, check them out as well.

And of course, once you've found your new friend, be sure to schedule a checkup with a veterinarian to give it the healthiest start with your family.

Send your questions, comments or tips to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Bailey -- Cheslik



Sheila Bailey and Doug Cheslik -- November 13, 2016

Lee and Jan Bailey of the Madera Ranchos are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sheila Bailey, to Doug Cheslik. The couple was married on November 13, 2016.

The wedding was held at Wonder Valley Ranch in Sanger, California.

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TREES cont. from P. 3

financing, the facility should produce enough energy to power approximately 1,000 homes. Rather than burning the dead trees, the biomass facility will “bake” the wood then collect the gas emissions. It is those emissions that will be used to create the electricity through a state-of-the art “gasifier” developed by General Electric which will be installed later this year.

Phoenix Energy CEO Greg Stangl was interviewed in *Biomass Magazine* and talked about water treatment at the facility. “Hopefully we can put in a biological treatment process — using plants, water and biochar as a filter media — and allow the water to sit there for some time,” he said. “It’s a polishing step, and will get the water into a position where it is reusable outside the plant. Gasification is water accretive — we create it every hour we operate, and in California, the last thing you want to do is have water that you need to throw away. And, since these projects are out in the middle of nowhere, there is no sewer or utilities; it provides a very cost-effective way of getting a tertiary treatment.”

The North Fork Biomass Facility is projected to be built in stages, with the first Megawatt of capacity on-line by late first quarter 2017. The plant is projected to be fully operational by the end of the year. Additionally, researchers from the University of California, Merced will be analyzing its operation during its initial start-up period.

Madera County Supervisor Tom Wheeler was quoted on KFSN-TV as saying part of the plan is to sell energy back to PG&E. “We’re going to sell it back to the grid via PG&E, and the money generated will be an economic engine [for] the community,” Wheeler said. “Now we can get some of these other businesses to come here and bring jobs here.”



- Online shopping season has started, or maybe it never really stops! Don't forget to run your preferred brand and model number through Google to make sure you have the very best price. Try searching www.freeshipping.org to find coupon codes for free shipping. Also, take advantage of coupon hunting apps like RetailMeNot, CouponSherpa and Coupons.com before heading out on shopping expeditions.

- “I recently scanned in a great many of my old photos in order to organize and preserve them. I have decided to send the originals of many candid photos as holiday cards this year. I purchased a big box of blank greeting cards at a crafts store for a great price and attached photos to the card fronts. This has turned into a fun project for me and a keepsake for the recipients.” -- V.R. in Washington.

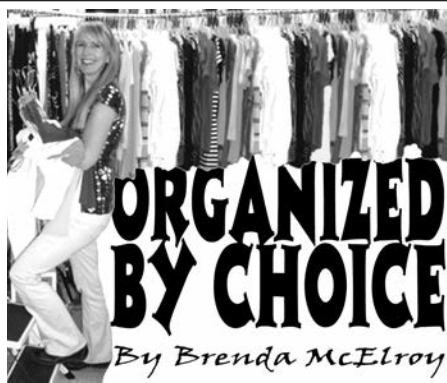
- Did you know that pillows need to be replaced every year? You can keep your pillow performing better by using a pillow-protecting pillowcase, and fluffing in the dryer for 10 minutes on low heat every so often to restore the loft of the pillow.

- “I found a rack meant to hold spice jars at a garage sale. It was really neat, so I bought it but didn't know what to do with it. When I brought it home, my roommate had the great idea to spray paint it and use it to display nail polish bottles. It's so easy to find the right color, and they fit just right!” -- M.T. in Alabama.

- Use empty toilet paper rolls to corral cords in storage. This works for small cords that go with electronic devices as well as small extension cords. Write the cord's use on the tube, for example, “JoAnn's iPad,” “Bob's digital camera,” etc. If you have many cords, you can store them together in a shoebox. For a nicer presentation, cover the box with lively paper.

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Equalize

“You’re going to need a BIGGER CLOSET,” said the shoe ad in my *Real Simple* magazine. It was touting the idea that if the shoe fits, buy one in every color. But, what if you’re like the woman who called me today and already has 200 pairs of shoes? I’m going to go out on a limb and say a bigger closet isn’t always the answer.

In today’s society “bigger” and “more” is almost always associated with “better.” We don’t want to admit that we don’t have room, don’t have time, or can’t afford it. So, we cram more into our space or calendar. We extend our credit to create the illusion that we have unlimited resources.

I recently listened to a wealthy young man being interviewed on the radio. He was very philanthropic. The interviewer asked, “How do you decide how much you’re going to give?” His

There are many facets to maintaining organization, but today I want to focus on equalizing as it’s defined in the dictionary: to make even or equal.

answer was compelling. He said that he and his wife determined how much they need to live on and then choose to give away everything they earn above that amount. That gives a whole new meaning to “more is better,” doesn’t it?

A term made popular by Julie Morgenstern in the organizing world is “equalize.” It’s the final step in her **SPACE** formula – Sort, Purge, Assign Homes, Containerize, and Equalize. In her book *Organizing from the Inside Out* Morgenstern uses the term to describe the maintenance part of organizing. There are many facets to maintaining organization, but today I want to focus on equalizing as it’s defined in the dictionary: to make even or equal.

Whether we’re organizing our homes, offices, schedules or finances, equalizing offers some outstanding benefits. Let’s first take a look at what *doesn’t* happen when we equalize.

We don’t create walk-in closets that we can’t walk into. We don’t have pantry supplies spilling out of the cupboards, or office storage so tightly jammed that we can’t see what we have. We don’t still have every set of sheets or towels that we ever purchased crowding the linen closet.

Likewise, we don’t have every minute scheduled. We don’t add and add new responsibilities until we’re running ragged. We don’t crumble under the weight of over commitment.

We’re not smothered in credit card debt due to purchasing things we really can’t afford. We don’t succumb to “buy one in every color” ads.

Do any of those sound familiar? Good news — they’re fixable! It’s a matter of choice. Getting organized *by choice*. Here are some of the choices necessary to achieving that equalized state.

Just like the rich guy, you need to determine how much you need. How many pairs of black boots? How many mugs? How many sets of sheets? Once you’ve determined how much, keep your favorites and let the rest go. And then practice equalizing. You’ve already decided you have enough, so when faced with the opportunity to bring more in, keep it equal. One comes in, and one goes out.

Two come in, two go out.

For consumables, decide how much space you have for them to occupy. Equalize by not buying more than what you’ve determined you have space. Yes, even

when it’s on sale. Remember, it may cost you more later, but it will cost you more now in terms of space and stress when you exceed your boundaries.

Same thing with your schedule. Rather than adding things willy-nilly, evaluate how much discretionary time you have. Make a list of what’s most important to you. Schedule those commitments and activities according to priority. Don’t forget to include down-time. Now, when a new request or opportunity arises, before saying yes, look at your schedule and make a choice. Is it going to replace something because it’s more important than something already on your schedule? Is it something you can add later, when another commitment ends? Equalize.

In Time for the Holidays

As we head into the holiday season, I can’t think of a better time to consider how to equalize with our finances. The most obvious way is to not spend more

than is coming in. Can you imagine a January not stressed by credit card bills? Give yourself permission and explain if need be that you’re intentionally cutting back this year to keep from acquiring more debt.

As with your time, determine the discretionary amount of money you have to work with. Create a list of priorities and from that list a holiday budget. When you discover something cost more than you thought, equalize by cutting back on some-

thing else. It’s easier said than done — but it’s possible! You can do it! And in January you will breathe a sigh of relief instead of grief.

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 their website at www.organizedbychoice.com.

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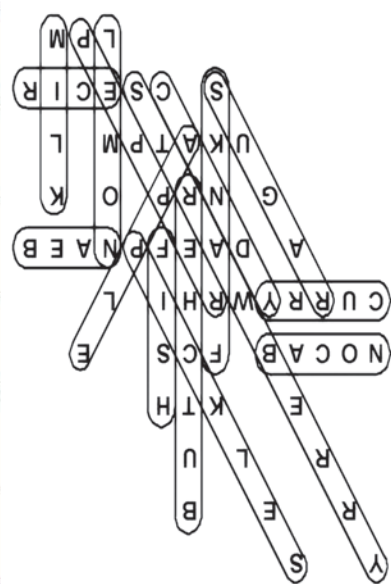
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-	x	x	x	6	24
8	+	5	+	3	16
27	25	24	24	24	24



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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		3		7		6		
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	5			1				8
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		6	2					3

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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.

	+		×		22
×		+		+	
	-		×		24
-		×		×	
	+		+		16
27		25		24	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was beloved Scottish author J.M. Barrie, creator of Peter Pan, who made the following sage observation: "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."
- Among the Balonda people, an African

tribe that dwells along the Zambezi River, it was once customary for a groom to promise that he'll supply kindling wood to his mother-in-law for the rest of her life.

- Those who study such things -- word mavens with a penchant for statistics, presumably -- have determined that, on average, English-language text contains 56 e's for every q.
- A fisherman in the Philippines recently revealed a treasure that he'd been keeping under his bed for 10 years: a 75-pound natural pearl with an estimated value of \$100

million. Evidently, after finding the pearl in a giant clam, he decided to keep it as a good-luck charm. The "Pearl of Puerto," as it's known, blew the world record out of the water (pun intended). The previous record holder for largest natural pearl was the "Pearl of Lao-Tsu" (sometimes called the "Pearl of Allah"), which weighs in at a mere 14 pounds.


- The female Jesus bird is the one in charge, it would seem. She controls her own territory, allowing several male birds to build nests within it. Then she lays eggs in all the

nests, and the males incubate them.

- Before the Beach Boys were the Beach Boys, they considered naming their band the Pendletons.
- The name "toadstool" actually has nothing to do with toads. The word is derived from the German words "tod," which means "death," and "stuhl," which means "stool."
- Thought for the Day: "Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night." -- Edgar Allan Poe.

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by Dave T. Phipps



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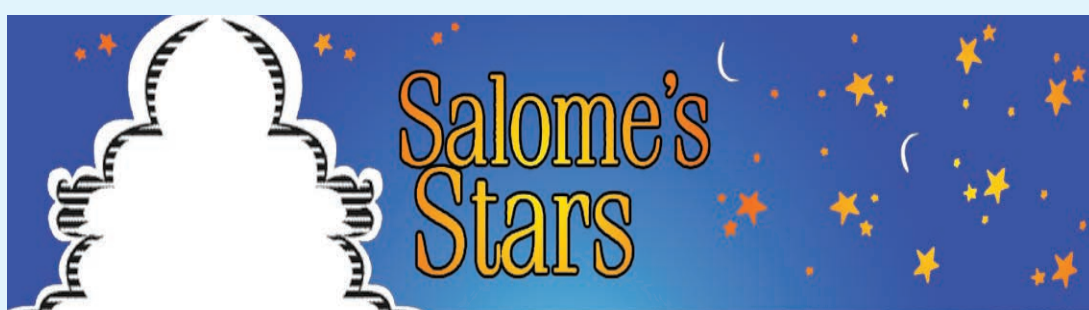
GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



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“Can you type with your fingers crossed?”

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Some changes might seem confusing at first, especially to an Aries whose impatience levels are pretty shaky this week. Take it one step at a time, Lamb, and soon all will be made clear.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That difficult situation you've been dealing with continues to call for careful handling. Avoid quickly made choices that might not stand up when they're finally put to the test.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You still have lots of evaluating to do before you can consider making a commitment. It's better to move cautiously than to risk stumbling into a major misunderstanding.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A previously peevish partner offers to be more helpful with your problems. But remember: The final choice is yours. Be guided by what you feel is the right thing to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As the Big Cat, you sometimes can be pretty rough on those you suspect of betrayal. The best advice is to pull in those claws and listen to the explanation. It might surprise you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your inner voice usually guides you well. But a note of caution: This is a period of mixed signals for you, so be careful that you don't misunderstand the messages you're getting.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Cupid's call beckons both single Librans looking for a new love, as well as couples hoping to strengthen their relationships. A workplace problem is quickly resolved.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) It's been a hectic time for you, and you might want to take a break to restore both body and soul. You'll then be set to face new challenges later this month.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It's a good idea to take a more conservative approach to your financial situation right now. Some plans made earlier this year might need readjusting.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a fine time to move boldly into those new opportunities I promised would open up for you. Check them over, and then choose the best one for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Congratulations. Your self-assurance is growing stronger, and you should now feel more confident about making that long-deferred decision about a possible commitment.

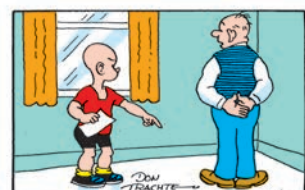
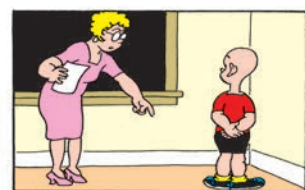
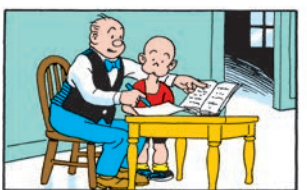
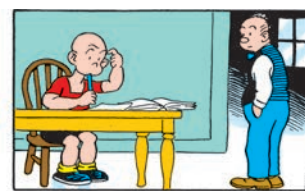
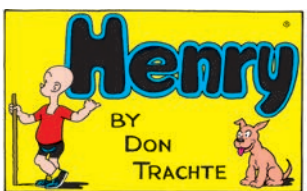
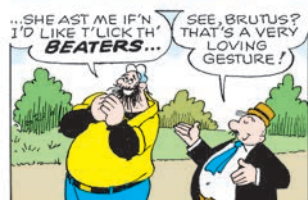
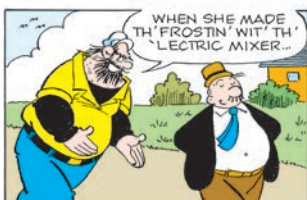
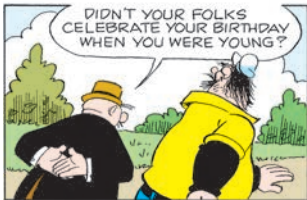
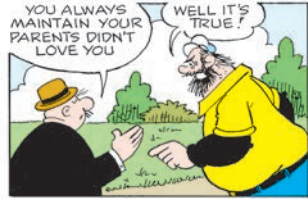
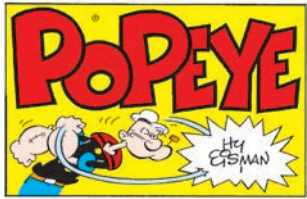
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're very close to reaching your goal. But be wary of distractions that can lure you off-course and leave you stranded far away from where you really want to be.

Born this Week

*You have an inner sight that helps you see into people's hearts.
You would be an excellent psychologist or social worker.*

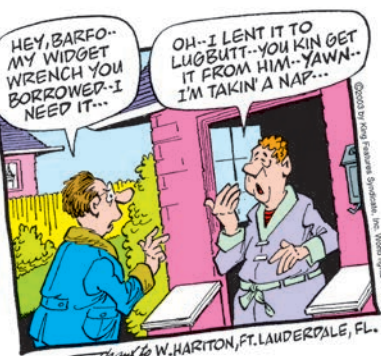
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FUN PAGES

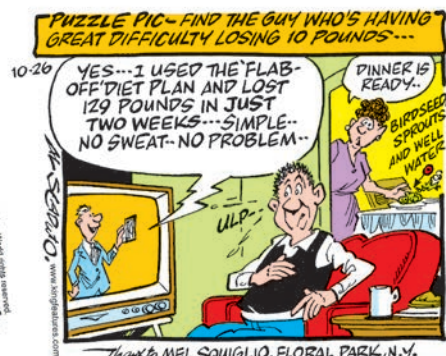


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT-- THE NERD NEIGHBOR NOT ONLY BORROWS YOUR TOOLS-- BUT HE'S ALSO VERY GOOD ABOUT LENDING YOUR TOOLS, TOO...



BY AL SCADUTO



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? DINNER COOKED AND READY TO SERVE-- THEN THE PHONE RINGS and--



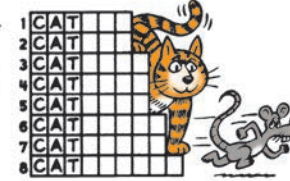
WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR? Connect the dots and find out.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

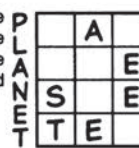
THE CAT'S "MEOW" PUZZLE!



You'll be sitting in the "catbird's seat" if you finish this one. To the left is a stack of eight words, each of which begins with the word "cat." Using the following hints, see if you can catch them in less than five minutes

A "PICKY" PROBLEM! Here's a neat little wager. Place 16 toothpicks on the table, forming five squares as shown in fig. 1. Challenge your friends to move two of them to new positions so that you will have only four equal squares. The solution is shown in fig. 2

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "PLANET." Can you replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down? Time limit: 60 seconds.



Answers: (Across): Pat, ale, see, ten, (Down): Past, alee, teen.

PLANET

1. An easily remembered tune.
2. A short rest.
3. A tomato favorite. (Var.)
4. A disapproving whistle.
5. Found at big parties.
6. Found in swamps.
7. Great for moving heavy objects.
8. A well-known slogan.

Wishing Well

6	5	6	4	5	6	2	6	3	6	8	3	7
M	F	U	A	U	S	M	I	E	C	A	X	F
3	4	3	8	7	3	6	7	4	5	6	3	8
E	G	R	W	U	C	I	T	R	N	N	I	O
2	3	4	6	2	7	8	3	4	8	3	6	7
O	S	I	Y	O	U	R	E	N	K	P	O	R
6	7	5	3	6	5	7	8	6	3	2	8	6
U	E	A	A	R	F	I	O	L	T	D	F	I
7	4	2	3	8	7	4	3	6	7	4	6	5
S	T	I	L	B	O	E	F	R	D	E	T	
2	5	8	4	5	2	7	8	3	2	3	4	7
M	E	O	A	R	P	I	V	N	R	C	Y	G
5	7	3	7	5	2	8	2	5	2	5	2	5
H	H	E	T	O	O	E	V	U	E	R	S	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 ● FOOD-RELATED SURNAMES

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

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

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|------------|
| Apple | Candy | Lemon | Rice |
| Bacon | Curry | Milk | Strawberry |
| Bean | Fish | Pepper | Sugar |
| Butcher | Franks | Pickles | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest mountain chain on Earth above sea level?
2. ASTRONOMY: Europa is a moon of which planet in our solar system?
3. TRADITIONS: What is the traditional birthstone for February?
4. CHEMISTRY: What element has the chemical symbol Hg?
5. ANATOMY: How many chromosomes do human beings normally have?
6. MOVIES: What was the first film directed and produced by a black filmmaker to win the Academy Award for Best Picture?
7. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: What award-winning singer/songwriter once said, "I consider myself a poet first and a musician second. I live like a poet and I'll die like a poet"?
8. MATH: What two letters are symbols for 1,000?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: By what title is Jorge Mario Bergoglio better known?
10. GAMES: What is the name of the casino employee who takes bets and spins the wheel in roulette?

Answers

1. The Andes
2. Jupiter
3. Amethyst
4. Mercury
5. 23 pairs, or a total of 46
6. "12 Years a Slave" (Steve McQueen)
7. Bob Dylan
8. M and K
9. Pope Francis
10. Croupier

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



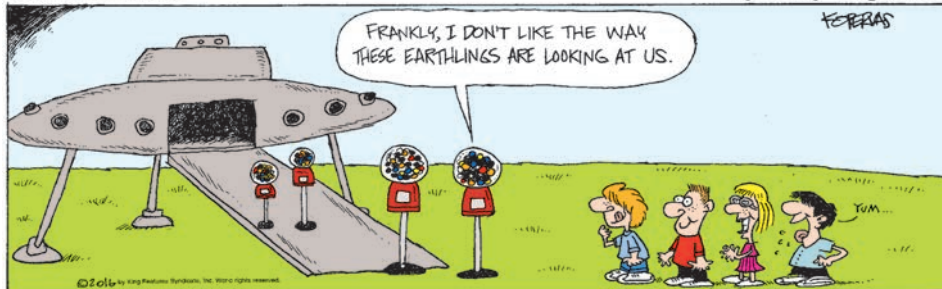
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

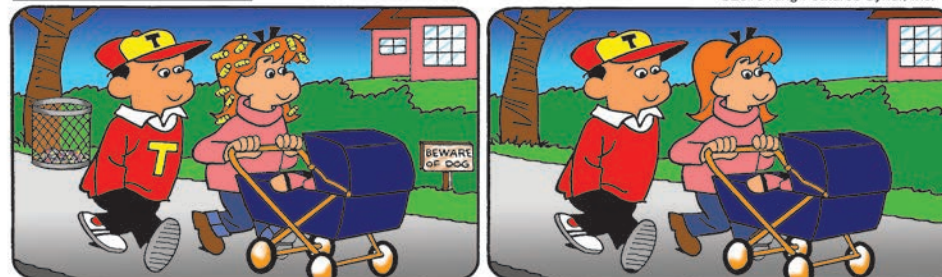
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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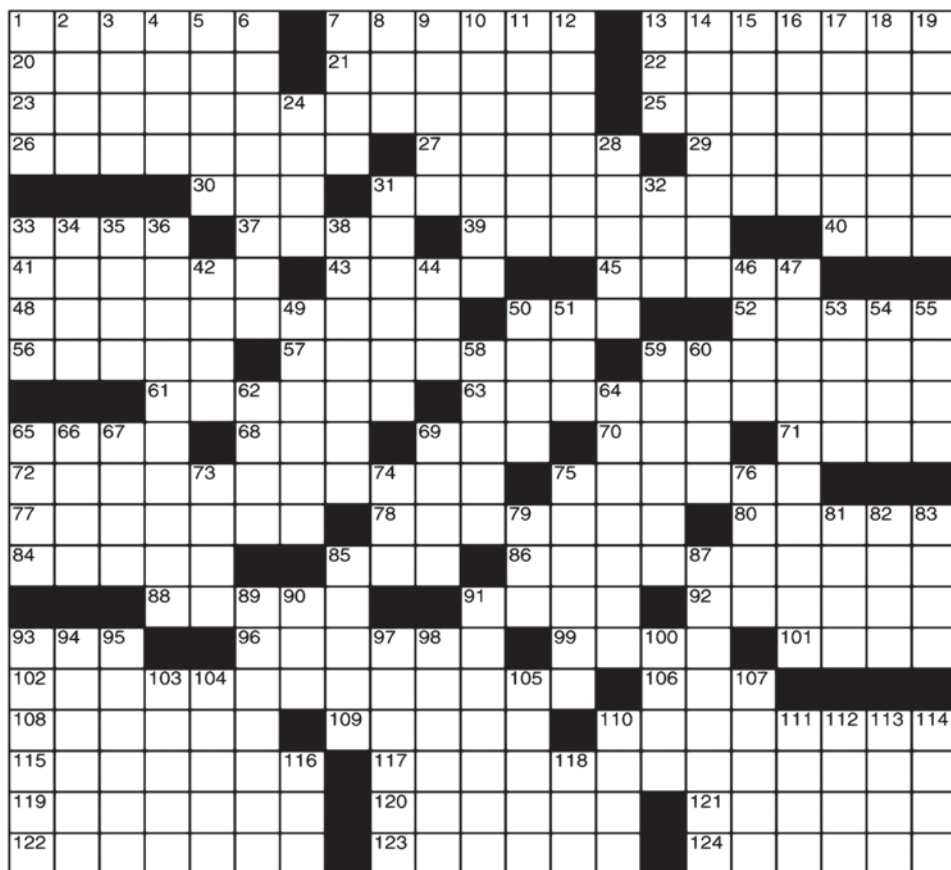


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Trash can is missing. 2. Letter is missing. 3. Curtains are missing. 4. Cuffs are missing. 5. House is missing. 6. Sign is missing. 7. Cuffers are missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Like humans
 - 7 Turn about
 - 13 Bundt holder
 - 20 Extreme folly
 - 21 86-Across in eastern Kansas
 - 22 Constructed in advance
 - 23 Site of many a yoga class
 - 25 Fiji's part of the world
 - 26 Like some braking systems
 - 27 Freezing cold
 - 29 One adding seasonings
 - 30 — lamb
 - 31 Mumbai, vis-à-vis India
 - 33 "Blow" co-star Johnny
 - 37 Bicolor whale
 - 39 Reprive
 - 40 Clearasil competitor
 - 41 Selfishness
 - 43 Forget to include
 - 45 Papyrus plants, e.g.
 - 48 Bit attached to a cob
 - 50 Civil War prez
 - 52 Fictional Scarlett
 - 56 Pitch-perfect
 - 57 Science also known as bionomics
 - 59 Fire on
 - 61 Comic actor Kevin
 - 63 What melts in a meltdown
 - 65 Lawyer's assignment
 - 68 Airport rental
 - 69 Stir in, say
 - 70 "Listen up!"
 - 71 Patella site
 - 72 Like the social class that includes managers
 - 75 Move beyond
 - 77 Prepared
 - 78 Razor brand
 - 80 Subs in offices
 - 84 Give a coif to
 - 85 Comic actress Charlotte
 - 86 San Rafael, vis-à-vis
 - 88 Invest (with)
 - 91 Furnace fuel
 - 92 Different: Prefix
 - 93 Slap cuffs on
 - 96 Actor/singer Jerry
 - 99 Enchilada kin
 - 101 Gumbo, e.g.
 - 102 Proton's place
 - 106 Drillmaster's syllable
 - 108 Rent payer
 - 109 Hogs' pens
 - 110 Simple exercise to work the abs
 - 115 Coifs
 - 117 Card that's an apt alternate title for this puzzle
 - 119 "Swing Time" co-star Fred
 - 120 Lifelessness
 - 121 Totally ripped
 - 122 Least sloppy
 - 123 Brook, e.g.
 - 124 Passed quickly
 - 7 U2's genre
 - 8 Flamenco dance cry
 - 9 Dance from Buenos Aires
 - 10 Take a stab at
 - 11 Louise's film sidekick
 - 12 More weird
 - 13 "— Sharkey" (old sitcom)
 - 14 Inverse trig function
 - 15 — cool head
 - 16 Online missives
 - 17 Mexico's — Villa
 - 18 Farewells, to François
 - 19 Close
 - 24 Wound result
 - 28 Producer for Eminem
 - 31 Began airing
 - 32 Runner-turned-baron Sebastian
 - 33 Erté's genre
 - 34 Designer von Furstenberg
 - 35 Bacon, e.g.
 - 36 Certain evergreen dropping
 - 38 Capital of New Hampshire
 - 42 Terrier type
 - 44 With 94-Down, restless
 - 46 Mail-slot spot
 - 47 Evaluations of resistance to sudden impact
 - 49 Adjusted, as floor tiles
 - 50 Up in years
 - 51 Win — hair
 - 53 Oodles
 - 54 One-in-a-million
 - 55 Suit to —
 - 58 Mandate
 - 59 Climb aboard
 - 60 Oscar de la —
 - 62 Vertex
 - 64 Count — (cereal brand)
 - 65 Snarly dogs
 - 66 Adopt- — (kennel program)
 - 67 Fix, as a dog
 - 69 Balm plant
 - 73 French for "nothing"
 - 74 Biotech material
 - 75 Says "I told you so!"
 - 76 Eyelid woe
 - 79 Writer Umberto
 - 81 Satisfy
 - 82 Trim (down)
 - 83 Pack away
 - 85 Puzzle with pictures
 - 87 Ideas
 - 89 "ER" extras
 - 90 Samovar
 - 91 "The Swimmer" author John
 - 93 Detroit of "Guys and Dolls"
 - 94 See 44-Down
 - 95 "La Isla —" (Madonna hit)
 - 97 Pretends to be
 - 98 Patron
 - 100 Master cook
 - 103 "—/Sade" (1967 film)
 - 104 Not from a major studio
 - 105 "Please, I'd like to help"
 - 107 Before-surgery
 - 110 Potting soil
 - 111 Swiss river to the Rhine
 - 112 Made angry
 - 113 Ticket leftover
 - 114 Notice
 - 116 In position
 - 118 Vardalos of the screen

FUN PAGES

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