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Happy Thanksgiving, Ranchos



The First Thanksgiving

*"The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth,"
Jennie Brownscombe, 1914*

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The First Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving began at some unknown date between Sept. 21 and Nov. 9, most likely in very early October. The date of Thanksgiving was probably set by Abraham Lincoln who made it a national holiday in 1863, to somewhat correlate with the anchoring of the Mayflower at Cape Cod, which occurred on Nov. 21, 1620 by our modern Gregorian calendar. It was Nov. 11 to the Pilgrims who used the Julian calendar.

There are only two contemporary accounts of the 1621 Thanksgiving, one by Edward Winslow and the second by Governor William Bradford. Winslow's account comes from a letter he wrote on Dec. 12, 1621 that was later published in 1622.

"Our corn [i.e. wheat] did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown. They came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom. Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their great king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

The second description was written about 20 years afterward by Governor William Bradford in his *History of Plymouth Plantation*. Bradford's *History* was rediscovered in 1854 after having been taken by British looters during the Revolutionary War. Its discovery prompted a greater American interest in the history of the Pilgrims. It is also in this account that the Thanksgiving turkey tradition is founded.

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercising in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports."

The primary sources above only list a few items that were on the Thanksgiving "menu," namely five deer, a large number of turkeys and waterfowl, cod and bass plus the harvest, which consisted of wheat, corn, barley and perhaps any peas that survived the scorching. To that list, we can probably add a few additional things that are known to have been native to the area and eaten by the Pilgrims: Clams, mussels, lobster, eel, ground nuts, acorns, walnuts, chestnuts, squashes and beans. Fruits and berries such as strawberries, raspberries, grapes and gooseberries were available growing wild. Pilgrim house-gardens may have included a number of English vegetables and herbs,

Please see **THANKS** on P. 4

County Releases Road Fix List

The Madera County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution in October amending the 2017-18 road fund budget to incorporate a list of proposed projects to be funded by the County's 2017-18 allocation of SB 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act. The road improvement projects are designed to improve and preserve the transportation network used to travel in the region, including parts of the Ranchos. The project list was developed as part of the requirements of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

The list includes (**Ranchos areas in bold and italics**):

- **Road 38 Grader Cap from Avenue 12 to Avenue 9**

- **Avenue 9 Fog Seal from BNSF tracks to Road 36**

- Avenue 9 Grader Cap from SR99 to BNSF tracks

- Avenue 17 Micro Seal from Walden Dr. to Road 26

- Road 26 Micro Seal from avenue 17 to Avenue 21

- Road 28 ½ Overlay from Avenue 20 to Avenue 21

"We've had a growing backlog of deferred maintenance in our County," said Chairman Max Rodriguez. "The new road improvement funding will allow us to start

catching up on the backlog and making our local streets, roads and bridges safer, smoother and sustainable in the long term." In most cases, maintaining local roads is less expensive and time consuming than waiting for them to deteriorate and having to completely replace them.

Fog seal is an inexpensive, short-lived treatment of diluted asphalt emulsion applied to an oxidized (weathered) asphalt

concrete pavement to seal and restore flexibility to the pavement surface.

Overlay is a pavement rehabilitation process for severely deteriorated pavement that overlays bituminous asphalt concrete on top of existing pavement to strengthen its overall structure, improve ride and extend service life.

Microsurfacing

is similar to slurry seal. It consists of the application of a mixture of water, asphalt emulsion, aggregate (very small crushed rock) and chemical additives to an existing asphalt-concrete pavement surface. Polymer is commonly added to the asphalt emulsion to provide better mixture properties.

SB1 will generate over \$5 billion annually for state and local transportation measures. Cities and counties will adopt project lists at the start of every fiscal year and also provide year end reporting on completed projects.



Ranchos Man, 2 Others Killed on 145

By Randy Bailey

Three people were killed on Saturday night, Nov. 11, at 7:48 p.m. on Highway 145 just west of Highway 41 when a 2015 Honda Civic driven by Ranchos resident Hayden Lambert, 23, drove across the centerline of Highway 145, first striking a 2016 GMC Canyon then hitting a 2004 Honda Accord head-on. According to the Madera County Sheriff's Office, in addition to Hayden, two of the three occupants of the Accord, Josie Marquez, 60, and Jesse Gonzales, 60, were also killed. They were both from Firebaugh. Another Firebaugh resident, a 62-year-old woman in the Accord, suffered injuries from the collision and was transported to Community Regional Medical Center. The GMC

Canyon driver declined any medical treatment as did his passenger, a 55-year-old woman from Los Banos.

The California Highway Patrol said that it appeared Lambert's Civic, which was travelling westbound on Highway 145 from Highway 41, drifted across the centerline into oncoming traffic. The Canyon driver attempted to avoid him by taking evasive action but was sideswiped, landing him on the shoulder of Highway 145. The force of Lambert's impact with the pickup caused him to spin, right into the path of the Accord that was behind the pickup, ultimately hitting the Accord head-on.

Although still under investigation, the CHP suspects alcohol or possibly drugs to be a possible cause of the deadly crash.

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THANKS cont. from P. 2

perhaps things like onions, leeks, sorrel, yarrow, lettuce, carrots, radishes, currants, liverwort, watercress and others. It is unlikely much in the way of supplies brought on the Mayflower survived, such as Holland Cheese, olive oil, butter, salt pork, sugar, spices, lemons, beer, aqua-vitae or bacon. It appears the Pilgrims may have had some chickens with them, so likely had access to a limited number of eggs. No mention of swine is found in any account of the first year. They did not yet have any goats or cattle; the first of those arrived on the ship Anne in 1623.

The "Popcorn Myth" would have us believe the Indians introduced the Pilgrims to popcorn at this Thanksgiving, but the Indian corn they grew was Northern Flint, which does not pop well. It was parched to make a simple snack and the Indians sometimes ground it up and mixed it with strawberries for a cake-like desert. Potatoes and sweet potatoes had not yet been introduced to New England.

The tradition of the Pilgrims' first

Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend. Few people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving the next year, or any year thereafter, though some of their descendants later made a "Forefather's Day" that usually occurred on Dec. 21 or 22. Several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. In 1827, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying several Presidents for the creation of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, but her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday.

Today, our Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 – and approved by Congress in 1941 – who changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November, which could occasionally end up being the fifth Thursday, and hence too close to Christmas for businesses.

Happy Thanksgiving Madera Ranchos from the Ranchos Independent

Information from MayflowerHistory.com



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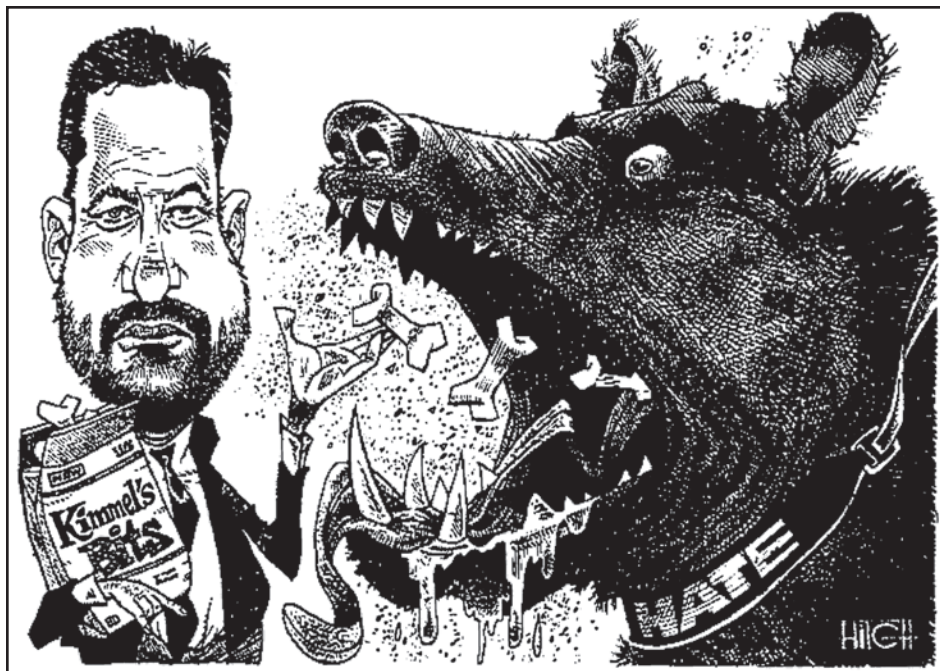
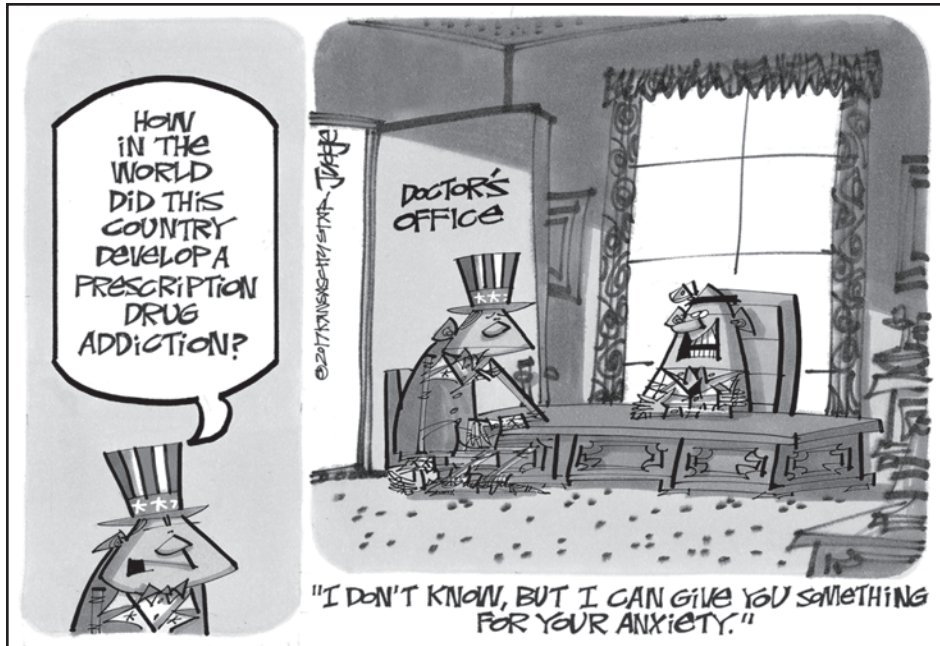
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Guest Editorial

The Russian Facebook Farce

By Rich Lowry

The Kremlin knows a bargain when it sees it.

We are supposed to believe that it bought the American presidential election last year with \$100,000 in Facebook ads and some other digital activity. Frankly, if American democracy can be purchased this cheap -- a tiny fraction of the \$7.2 million William Seward paid to buy Alaska from the Russians back in 1867 -- it's probably not worth having.

The latest obsession in the Russian collusion story, the Kremlin's digital activity has generated headlines and put Facebook and all of Silicon Valley on the defensive, although this looks to be one of the most overhyped stories of the year.

The Russians, as far as we know, bought more than \$100,000 in Facebook ads between June 2015 and May 2017. A little more than half was spent after last November, when, obviously, Donald Trump had already won.

The scale here is singularly unimpressive. A serious House campaign might spend \$100,000 on digital. In a presidential campaign, the amount is a rounding error. The Trump campaign spent around \$90 million on digital in 2016. Hillary Clinton employed a considerable digital staff, and announced she was spending \$30 million on digital the last month of the campaign

alone.

If tens of thousands of dollars was decisive amid this tsunami of tens of millions, the Russian trolls working somewhere in St. Petersburg should strike out on their own and start a political consultancy or an internet publishing company. They are geniuses.

It doesn't appear that much of the Russian material was explicitly advocating for Trump's election, and some of it wasn't even right wing. One Russian Facebook page highlighted discrimination against Muslims. Another promoted anti-police videos for a Black Lives Matter audience. A pro-gay-rights page was called LGBT United.

Other pages were on the right and supportive of Trump. But much of the Russian Facebook activity was peddling online tripe indistinguishable from indigenous American online tripe -- in fact, it was ripped off from content produced by Americans. If the Russians are going to decide our elections on social media, one assumes it will require at least a little originality.

One suspicion has been that the Trump campaign helped direct the Russian online effort. What we know about the Russian activity so far makes that doubtful. Why, if the Trump campaign was running its own digital campaign that was magnitudes larger, would it bother with a tiny Russian effort that wasn't always focused on Trump or his message?

It is outrageous that Russians meddled in our democracy at all, and if there are ways to lock them out of our social media going forward, we should do it. Let's not pretend, though, that the Russian online activity was the key to the election. This is classic conspiracy thinking -- that some small secret cabal is responsible for a world-historical outcome that had much more obvious causes (Hillary Clinton's poor campaign, for one).

There may yet be truly damaging Russia revelations, and the Trump family's business dealings could always produce a nasty surprise. But all the focus on Facebook serves, for now, as a substitute for a smoking gun in the absence of a real one.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

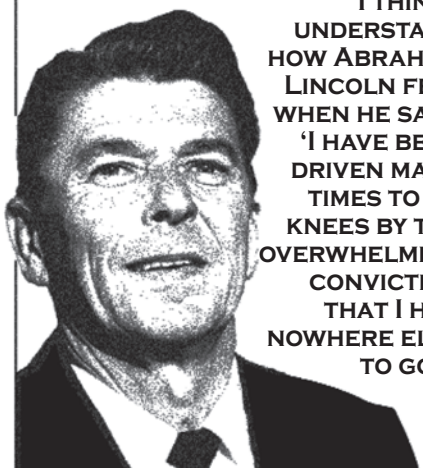
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Controlling Space and Time

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, I find myself a little extra thankful this year. I'm thankful for my generous father, my loving family, my amazing friends and my gainful employment which, besides providing me a steady paycheck, also provides me with a seemingly endless number of ridiculous stories I get to share with all of you each and every month. You should also be thankful.

This Thanksgiving I would like to tell you the story of the little caregiver that just couldn't. Come with me on a magical ride where reason and logic no longer rule but instead ridiculousness is the order of the day.

The day started out like any other day. It almost ended like any other day, too. That is, until my office was invaded by the Man Who Wouldn't Leave and his trusty sidekick

the Beehive Banshee. It was a little after four that afternoon and I was in a meeting with one of my new hires. My office door was closed and we were engaged in a serious discussion when my door swung open and there stood a man with a scruffy beard and a look on his face that told me he had no previous experience with etiquette of any kind. I, less than politely, reminded him that it was customary to knock on closed doors and ushered him out of my office to offer him the opportunity to give it another go. He knocked with a little too much aggression for my taste, but nevertheless I let him in and he barked at me about needing to talk to the manager about his time cards.

This man was in quite the lather over not being paid for

**GEN
ERA
TION
WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



several shifts and wanted answers immediately. My first question was to ask him if the stack of papers in his hand were the time cards for the shifts in question. They were, in fact. My next question was to ask him if he was just turning those

It took two additional managers and a very cranky director to get those two to admit defeat. I'm still not sure they actually believed that I can't manipulate time, but they at least eventually accepted that I wasn't willing to exercise my superpowers in front of them.

in that day. Nope. He literally just picked them up and still had to take them to the client and get them signed. He wouldn't actually be turning them in until the next day. I assured him that he would, of course, be paid for those shifts once the time cards were returned and explained that the money would be on the very next paycheck. This was not what he wanted to hear, especially since he had already heard the same thing from all three of my payroll reps before bursting into my office. He wanted to be paid for his shifts on the current paycheck, the one that was issued the day before. To make sure you picked up on that: He was demanding to be paid for shifts for which he had yet to submit time cards on a paycheck that had already been issued. Ladies and gentlemen, evidently I work in the Twilight Zone.

Needless to say, no amount of me explaining the fact that I have no ability to manipulate

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



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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

time had any effect on him. And to be clear, he wasn't asking me for a separate check. He actually wanted me to make a correction to the check he had already received. This person is responsible for caring for another human being. Let that sink in for a moment.

For what was probably the seventh time I explained I couldn't do anything about the check he had already been issued and since he had long since missed the deadline and still hadn't technically completed the time cards and turned them in, I couldn't issue him a separate check either. I reminded him that he would be paid, but because he missed the deadline he had to wait until the next check. That only served to anger the beast. His voice reached a pitch I had previously not heard from a middle-aged man and it turned out to be his own personal bat signal for his sidekick. I don't know if she was his wife or his girlfriend or just a crazy woman with very tall hair that follows him around but as soon as that noise left his

throat she appeared in my doorway shrieking and squawking like a howler monkey about the money missing from his paycheck. For what felt like the millionth time I told the dynamic duo that I can't pay him without time cards, which have a strict due date that he missed as evidenced by the fact that it was already past payday and the unsigned and uncompleted time cards were literally in his sweaty paw.

As their voices got louder, their insults more ridiculous, and the collective IQs in the room dropped a couple of points, I realized I had to call for reinforcements. It took two additional managers and a very cranky director to get those two to admit defeat. I'm still not sure they actually believed that I can't manipulate time, but they at least eventually accepted that I wasn't willing to exercise my superpowers in front of them. I'll take that as a hard-fought win. I'll say this, it was certainly a terrific learning experience for my new employee. I am also thankful she came back to work the next day.

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Soup Weather

Aren't you just enjoying this weather? You've turned off the A/C for the year, turned on the heater just to break the morning or late evening chill, and maybe put another blanket on the bed? I love it! And now you can cook any of your favorite meals and not worry about heating up the house.

Most everyone loves a big pot of homemade soup. Some people like it no matter what the weather. When the kids were younger and still going Trick or Treating, on Halloween we would all go over to my sister's house or Steve's and have a "Souper Party." Each bringing a pot of soup, loaves of French bread or a salad. This would give the kids something to eat before they went out.

Remember that recipes (except for baking recipes that have to be made exactly as

Most everyone loves a big pot of homemade soup. Some people like it no matter what the weather.

printed) are really just suggestions. If your family doesn't like carrots, don't use as many as called for – add another potato or surprise them with a turnip. I hate cilantro, so I just don't put it in or I substitute parsley instead.

The first recipe was my sister Faye's. Maxine made it and it is delicious.

Taco Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can Rotel
- 1 can chopped tomatoes
- 1 pkg. ranch dressing mix
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1 can ranch style beans
- 1 can creamed corn
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 can navy beans
- Water
- Grated cheese
- Tortilla chips

Brown ground beef with onion in large soup pot. Add Rotel, tomatoes, ranch dressing mix, taco seasoning mix, ranch style beans and creamed corn to beef and onion mix and stir well. Drain and add the remaining cans of beans.



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Add two cans of water. Stir together and simmer for 10-15 minutes or until the consistency desired. Serve over tortilla chips and garnish with grated cheese and a dollop of sour cream.

For you vegetarians out there, I have a soup recipe just for you.

Basic Vegetable Soup

- 1 T olive oil
- 1 onion – chopped
- 2 ribs celery – sliced
- 2 carrots - peeled and chopped
- 6 C vegetables- chopped
- 4 C liquid
- 15 ounces canned diced tomatoes
- 1 T dried herbs
- ½ tsp. kosher salt

In a large pot or Dutch oven heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and stir and well coated with oil. Cook, stirring until they are golden. Add the 6 cups of vegetables, let cook for a few minutes stirring often. Cover with the liquid. Add tomatoes, add the dried herbs and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat until a slow simmer. Cover and let cook for about 30 minutes or until vegetables are done.

Versatility is Key

This recipe is so versatile you can do just about anything with it – the varieties are endless.

The vegetables can be just about any that you or your family like. What may be left from your garden – green beans, potatoes, squash, okra, or if you can't find anything fresh, how about frozen – lots of varieties there, even bags of mixed vegetables. If you are going to use baby spinach or Swiss chard, wait until the last 5 or 10 minutes before adding them. Liquid can be water or vegetable broth, or I read somewhere suggesting a bottle of V-8. Remember that dried herbs are stronger than fresh.

When I worked for Rod Stock in downtown Fresno, several of us would go over to the Yturi Hotel for lunch. We would eat in their dining room with the sheep herders. Meals served "family style" on long tables. They served soup and French bread, salad, vegetables, meat and dessert, and their food was delicious. It was a neat place to eat. One of the soups I remember was:

Beef Barley Soup

2 lbs. Beef – oxtail, stew meat, chuck steak or roast. Any beef that can be boiled.

- 2 Qts. Water
- ½ C. Pearl Barley

- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 3 carrots, cut in ¼ inch slices
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. thyme
- ½ C chopped parsley

Brown the beef with a little oil in the bottom of a large soup pot or Dutch oven. Add the rest of the ingredients except the parsley. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer. Cover and cook for 2½ to 3 hours or until meat is done and barley is ten-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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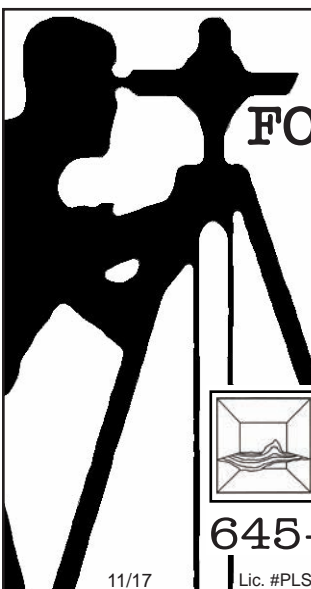
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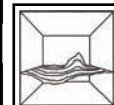
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

der. Cut meat into bite size pieces. Skim any fat from top of soup and remove bay leaves before serving. Stir in parsley and serve.

While the girls were still young and believed Santa Claus was up on the roof top, I would go out and stay at their house all night on Christmas Eve to see what Santa had brought. On Christmas Eve. Randy would always make his spe-

cial corn chowder.

**Randy's Special
Corn Chowder**

- 2 cans condensed Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 Qt. Half and Half
- 3 cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 6 potatoes
- 2 T Sugar
- 2 T. Butter
- 2 T Parsley Flakes
- Put a large pot on medium heat

and empty the two cans of cream of chicken into it. Don't add any water to pan, instead add the full quart of half and half.

Start stirring, you don't want it to stick to the bottom or it will burn. Drain the three cans of corn and add to the pot and continue stirring. Peel and dice the potatoes into about half inch pieces. Add them to the pot as you peel and dice them. Once all the potatoes are in the pot, add the butter, sugar

and parsley. Cook for another 25 or 30 minutes until the potatoes are done. Pair this soup with sliced sourdough bread that has been buttered then put under the broiler. It melts the butter into the bread and toasts it, but only on one side, making the other side soft, chewy and buttery.

It is supposed to rain tonight so I think I'll go see what I have in the freezer that I can make into a pot of soup.

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By Brenda McElroy

Freedom

My husband spends money for a living. It's harder than it sounds. It's one of those jobs where a crystal ball would come in really handy. As a purchasing agent, his goal is to have the right amount of product — not too much and not too little. When things don't go as forecast, it can result in an excess, or running out of parts. Neither is acceptable, so he strives for a "just-in-time" inventory.

Most of us aren't dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars of inventory, but the challenge to maintain the right balance in our homes is difficult. People normally err on the side of excess. Too many clothes, too much pantry stuff, too many mugs, etc.

Many of my clients look fondly on times in their lives when they had less. "When we were first married and couldn't put two nickels together — that was the best time."

"When we had to make a temporary move and put half our stuff into storage, it was freeing."

"When we stay in a hotel and have only what we need, it's so nice."

However, when given the choice of reducing their home inventory to achieve that sense of freedom, they often resist.

Since we're in the season of Thanksgiving, I thought we'd glean some tips from the Pilgrims, who made hard choices and achieved a different type of freedom. Here's what they did:

They knew what was important to them and were willing to make sacrifices to achieve it. For them it was religious freedom and they sacrificed all that was familiar to them. Think about what's important to you.

Determine if managing a lot of stuff is as important to you as relationships, activities and a sense of freedom from clutter.

They kept only what they needed. They determined what was vital to their existence and left the rest behind. Granted, you have fewer choices when everything you keep has to fit in one large chest. I'm sure the criteria included that which was used frequently, and multiples of anything was deleted from the list.

They secured investors. They knew they couldn't make the move and establish a new village without support, so they entered into an agreement for financial assistance. Before you begin to de-clutter, find someone who cares about your success enough to come alongside and support you in your project.

They created the Mayflower Compact. This document laid the foundation for the community's government. In order to maintain order, whether it's a new village or a pantry, there must be a plan and commitment to a new system.

They didn't give up. Only 52 out of 102 of the Mayflower passengers survived the first year. They could have packed up and returned to England when the Mayflower left, but they didn't. Likewise, don't throw in the towel when it gets tough. Keep your goal, values and benefits in mind.

They took advice from Squanto. He instructed them in growing Indian corn which contributed to their survival. Seek help from organized friends or a professional organizer as needed.

They shared. When they finally had enough, they didn't hoard it. They shared it. Keep an open hand on your belongings and share with those in need.

They celebrated. They joined with their new friends and celebrated God's provision, giving thanks. Celebrate your accomplishment — not by buying more stuff, but by enjoying the freedom from it.

I'm thankful for the Pilgrim's commitment to establishing a community based on their values and beliefs. I hope you find their example motivating and instructive in creating a more peaceful and productive environment in your home.

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

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SEMCU speaks

By Verlaine Elinberg

Nearly 70 percent of our planet is covered by water and it's easy to think that it will always be plentiful. However, freshwater that is used daily for drinking, cooking, bathing and to irrigate our farmlands, etc. is only 3 percent of the world's freshwater; two-thirds of that is saline, ocean-based, and also trapped away in frozen glaciers or otherwise unavailable for our use. Our water system that keeps the ecosystems thriving and that feeds the growing population of the world has become stressed. Rivers, lakes and aquifers are drying up and are becoming too polluted to use and more than half the world's wetlands have disappeared. Water is life; wherever they are, people need water to survive. Unfortunately, we humans have proven to be wasteful and inefficient water users. According to the United Nations, water use has grown at more than twice the rate of population increases in the last century. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will be living in water

stressed regions as the result of use, growth and climate change, and we are experiencing this in our present community known as the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills.

The SEMCU Foundation, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to representing the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in the SEMCU area com-



District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier, right, receives low-flow shower heads from Verlin Dill at the SEMCU booth at a recent event.

prised of the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills. At present, SEMCU's focus is on water and water conservation. In 2014, SEMCU obtained a Water-Energy Grant for low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators, which were dis-

tributed to the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills residents and are still available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The dry well project is still continuing, and we are looking for all potential locations where FREE dry wells can be installed. In addition, SEMCU has 20 free well water meters available in order to track water use. More info about the dry wells and water meters can be found at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C, or by calling 559-363-9095. In 2016, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) also issued a Water-Energy Grant. The Clothes Washer Rebate Program offers a \$350 reimbursement for each washing machine certified as 'Energy Star Qualified.'

SEMCU (South-east Madera County United) is working on replenishing our groundwater through free drain wells/dry wells in all qualified locations and offering free water meters for qualified locations. In addition, SEMCU's main focus is on saving our life supply of fresh, clean drinking water. SEMCU assists in all our community needs and concerns.

SEMCU's meeting is once a month on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. It is your community, get involved.

The Bookshelf

By Jerrica Edmundson

The Ranchos Library is facing quite the change of pace this month, as there is a brand-new Branch Manager officially in effect as of Nov. 1. As such, I'm going to take this chance to introduce myself officially to the community and give you all a leg up in getting to know your new librarian. My name is Jerrica Edmundson and I am a born and raised resident of Fresno who moved out to the Ranchos in May of 2016. I was a library assistant throughout high school at Clovis West and have harbored a love for books and organization that has really just grown as time has gone by. I have had numerous jobs in customer service — whether it is a call center or in person — and every company I was with for longer than a year I have been elevated to a trainer or supervisor position. I am a firm believer that when I do a job, it behooves me to do it to the best of my ability.

In the realm of reading, I lean toward science fiction and high fantasy, but I am also a huge connoisseur of historical fiction, biographies and anything with a really nifty sounding summary. Some of my favorite authors are Margaret Atwood, Charles De Lint, Michael Crichton, J.K. Rowling and Brent Weeks.

I am a firm believer that when I do a job, it behooves me to do it to the best of my ability.

As far as movies go, I watch a lot of bad horror movies, action flicks and a fair share of teenage-driven soap operas. Of course, I also catch the superhero movies as they come out in theatre so that I can see the big action on the big screen.

In my free time, I play a lot of video games, board games, and role-playing games (such as Dungeons and Dragons). I also spend as much time as possible reading through my current bedside novel — whatever that may be at the time.

I truly look forward to getting to know all of you and learning more about what makes this community such a tight-knit group of people. I hope to see you all and also hope you are pleased with the changes that we'll be going through at your local branch of the public library — although really I'm just cleaning up the already great environment and making it easier to navigate.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Saturday, 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 and new books.

Items can be dropped off at any time to the Chamber office, but no later than Dec. 8. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual

Chamber Christmas Mixer

Wednesday, December 13
6-7:30 p.m.

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



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 8.

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GOLDEN VALLEY VIEWS

A Publication of Golden Valley Unified School District

Webster's Reading Lab Shines Bright



Fourth grade Reading Lab students build fluency daily through repeated partner reading.

The Webster Elementary School reading lab is gaining notoriety within Golden Valley Unified School District. Reading Specialist Emily Muccianti and Vice Principal Audrey Fulton presented the Webster Model for Intervention at the annual California Reading Association Conference to educators across the state. As a result of that presentation, visitors from Willits Unified in Northern California and Bullard Talent in Fresno came to Webster to see the lab and platooning groups in action.



Emily Muccianti presents the Webster RTI model to educators at the CRA conference in Los Angeles.

A Response to Intervention (RTI) model is a process used by educators to help students who are struggling with a skill or lesson. Every teacher will use "interventions," a set of teaching procedures, with any student to help them succeed in the classroom; it's not just for children with special needs or a learning disability. The Webster RTI is unique in that it delivers direct instruction to students based on their assessed needs. All students get what they need to become strong readers while never missing core instruction. This is a new concept to most schools in the state.

With the support of the teachers, administration, school board and community, the reading lab not only continues to develop deeply literate students, but is now able to share the tricks of the trade with other districts and educators.

Sierra View News

Sierra View held its annual canned food drive from Nov. 6-17. The canned food drive is a class competition with the winning class receiving a pizza party and a half-day sub from Principal Chris Imperatrice. All items were donated to the Madera County Food Bank. The food bank covers all of Madera County from Madera Ranchos to Chowchilla to Oakhurst. Please visit the Madera County Food Bank at maderafoodbank.com for more information.

Sierra View played Webster Elementary in coed volleyball and coed flag football on Nov. 17. The games are in conjunction with a physical education unit that students have been studying for the past two months. The teams are made up of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The schools will have their second competition in March when the two schools compete in boys and girls soccer and basketball at Webster. Both schools will compete in mushball in May to conclude the elementary games. The games are officiated by Liberty High School students.

Sierra View celebrated all veterans on Nov. 9. Each month, Sierra View holds a monthly flag ceremony to announce the Panthers of the Week and say the flag salute together as a family. The Sierra View learning community firmly believe that all character traits are learned including patriotism and citizenship. Throughout the year, the school will honor other service groups including the Madera County Sheriff, Madera Police, California Highway Patrol and Cal Fire.

The Sierra View community is proud of its U.S. Armed Force Honor Wall. The honor wall has the names of former Sierra View students that have served in the U.S. Armed forces, year that they enlisted and the military branch in which they served. The school is soliciting names from the community over the next two months to add to this perpetual banner in the multi-purpose room. If there is a name that should be recognized, email

Please see **GVUSD** on P. 16

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Senior Report

Seniors Draw Upon Holiday Spirits

By Patti Groh

Christmas. Some people groan when I comment on it's being almost upon us. They are concerned about the gift buying and money spent, relatives coming and the house needing cleaning, cooking for all the relatives and so forth. Some people take a more cheerful tone, especially if they are Christian and look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. There are also those who are sad facing the first Christmas after losing a loved one. Through the years I have experienced all of these emotions during the Christmas season.



Just a part of the 18 painters on hand at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center attempting to respond to their artistic muses.

But this year I am looking forward to December and preparing for Christmas. I don't have a large family to buy for, but I enjoy being in the stores (no online for me) with the lights and decorations and music. I have found that I encounter a lot more cheerful people around than bah-humbugs. I cook for my small family so not too big a deal. I enjoy all the Christmas hymns and the Christmas Eve service at church. I find joy and I wish for all of you the joy of Christmas.

The Seniors are celebrating Christmas with the monthly sale being extended from just the one day to two days this month: Saturday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m. to noon. There will be mouth-watering baked goods, boutique Christmas delights (find gifts?), plants from the garden (again, gifts?) and the Treasure House is reopened. It is repaired and is another good source of Christmas gifts. Come check it all out.

The Christmas Dinner/Party is being held on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. The ham will be provided by the Center, with members bringing the side dishes and desserts. This event is free to mem-

bers and each member may bring one guest at a cost of \$10. Attendees provide their own table service. There is a sign-up sheet at the Center. This event is always a lot of fun with entertainment.

Tickets are still available to win the beautiful quilt on display at the Center. Tickets cost \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held Dec. 9 so time to purchase tickets is running short.

The election of new officers and Board of Directors for 2018 is complete. The officers are President Verlaine Elinburg; Vice-President Carol Wood; Recording Secretary Rita Selmon; Correspondence Secretary Margaret Tynan; Treasurer Shirley Tickel; and Assistant Treasurer Diane Maxfield. They make up the Executive Board. The Board of Directors is Joliene Mason, Roy Cochran, Theresa Santoro, Sue Dobbs. Included on the Board is the Past President Ethel Hansen and Parliamentarian Helen Lowell. Congratulations to you all.

The painting activity in October sure was a success. There were 18 painters and non-painters participating and everybody enjoyed it. The plan is to do it again, but nothing concrete yet.

As usual, the other weekly and monthly activities are listed in the newsletter available at the Center and businesses in the Ranchos.

This is my last article for the Ranchos Independent as a reporter for the Seniors' activities. Margaret Tynan is taking over the position. I have enjoyed sharing with everyone, and I hope you have enjoyed reading and perhaps learning more about the Ranchos/Hills Seniors as much as I have enjoyed sharing.



What's happening in December?

Pretty Poinsettias

Santa Letters Mailed Here!

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11/17



Electrification Nation

Hello 93636,

When the rush of summer is over, automotive technicians are bombarded with new training classes. Last week-end, I attended a high-voltage battery class in Culver City for hybrid and electric vehicles. Later this month it will be "Advanced Leak Detection and Sealing Solutions" and "Advanced Engine Condition Testing." Early December is Duramax Diesel diagnostic AGAIN.

No rest. Automotive technology marches on.

Again, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for the great support I have received from 93636. Since I just returned from a 3-day, 16-hour hybrid (HEV) and electrical vehicle (EV) class, I thought I might discuss that technology with the "In Good Hands" readers. Very interesting to say the least.

Although HEVs are gaining popularity in the U.S. and elsewhere, it's my opinion they are just a bridge to EV vehicles. Once high-voltage battery development and technology deliver 500 miles on a single charge and EV charging stations become more prevalent, there will be no need for HEVs.

Hybrid vehicles are very complex because they integrate two different propulsion systems: A gasoline engine with high-voltage electric motors. It takes a lot of hardware and software to blend those power sources seamlessly. Sometime the HEV is powered down the road by an electric motor only. The more electric, the less gasoline is used. Most of the time, however, the vehicle is powered by a very small, under-powered gasoline engine to decrease fuel consumption. When additional power is needed, it's supplied by the electric motor. The electric motor acts like a turbocharger, adding power proportional to the driver's request. Hybrids range in cost from \$19,000 for a Prius C to \$130,000 for a Lexus LS 600hL.

Just to add a little perspective, the Saturn V rocket that powered mankind to the moon and back had six computers onboard at a weight of 72.5 pounds. The 2004 Prius High-Voltage Battery computer (one of dozens onboard) has five times that capability and weighs just a

couple of pounds.

The first modern production HEV sold in America was the 2000 Honda Insight. The Toyota Prius followed the next year. The first pure EV sold in America was the 2009 Tesla Roadster. Electric Vehicles range in price from approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000 and receive \$7,500 in tax credits.

Automotive manufacturers became very interested in HEVs and EVs in 1990 when California introduced legislation that would require 10 percent of all vehicles sold in California to be Zero Emissions Vehicles by 2003. In June of 2002, a federal district judge issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting its enforcement, a year after the Toyota Prius hit the U.S. roads.

How does an HEV work? It starts with a high-voltage DC (direct current) battery pack. A conventional, flooded lead acid battery can-not store enough energy in relation to its weight and size to be useful. My guess is a flooded lead acid battery comparable to a nickel metal hydride (NiMH) or lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery would weigh several tons. With HEV or EVs weight is EVERYTHING.

Lithium is the lightest metal and lithium-ion batteries have the highest energy storage to mass/weight ratio. Therefore, the vast majority of electrified vehicles sold in the U.S. use lithium-ion batteries. High-voltage batteries range from 144 to 330 volts, which is in the Ford Escape. In California, all high-voltage battery packs are under warranty for 150,000 miles or 10 years.

Next, we need an inverter. Inverters convert high-voltage DC from the battery pack into high-voltage AC (alternating current) to power the AC traction motor usually located inside the transmission. The traction motor through an axle shaft spins the vehicle's drive wheels. During braking and coasting those AC traction motors are switched to AC generators. The inverter then converts the high-voltage AC to high-voltage DC to recharge the battery pack. That process is called Regenerative Braking.

Regenerative Braking is the process where the vehicle's inertia is converted into kinetic energy, the energy of motion. With conventional hydraulic braking, the vehicle's kinetic energy is transferred into heat from the friction generated by the brake pads rubbing against the brake rotor. That heat energy is dissipated into the air. Regenerative Braking uses the voltage generated by

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

GVUSD cont. from P. 13

cwinslow@gvusd.org. The school would like to present the new names at Patriotic Day in February.

**Madera-Liberty FFA Summer Update
New Classes**

Liberty is excited for what the new year has brought to the chapter and classrooms. This year Liberty has a pathway of new and updated agri-science courses for students that include introduction to agriculture, food and environmental sciences, biology of sustainable agriculture, and chemistry and agri-science. These courses offer the science standards and requirements for both graduation and UC ag courses, as well as applications to the agriculture industry and the leadership opportunities provided by being a part of the FFA.

In addition to these core courses, Liberty continues to offer ag mechanics 1 and 2, and the art and history of floral design (UC A-G Art Credit).

Because of the interest, there is also a part-time agriculture teacher at Ranchos Middle School. Agriculture is part of the elective wheel and there is a new agriculture course for eighth graders. Also, eighth graders are official members of the Madera-Liberty FFA.

Chapter Happenings:

Newly elected 2017-2018 Madera-Liberty FFA Chapter officers are working on planning a great year for their chapter. They attended the chapter officer retreat, planned their theme for the year, committees, events, and more. Following that they attended the San Joaquin Region Leadership boot camp at Camp San Luis where they participated in team building obstacle courses, challenges, and team reflection sessions.

Sports

The Liberty Hawks girls volleyball

team continues to make history, which was one of the team's themes.

Three years ago, the volleyball team became the first to advance to the semifinals in the Central Section championships. After two straight losses in the semis, the Hawks became the first team to advance to the Valley Championships with a victory over Dos Palos.

Despite a three-set loss to Immanuel in the Valley Championship match, the Hawks did something the past two Valley Champions from Madera and Madera South didn't do in their title years — win a state playoff game.

The Hawks were seeded eighth in the NorCal region of the CIF State playoffs and defeated ninth-seeded Manteca in four sets. They traveled to San Jose on Saturday to face top-seeded Presentation.

Sophia Napier was the top Liberty finisher at the Central Section cross country championships. She finished 12th in the Div. IV girls race at Woodward Park.

Other news

• Liberty High School's Link Crew is collecting school supplies through Nov. 30 to donate to children who attend schools in the Sonoma County region who lost vital educational tools. Bring donations to the Liberty office.

• The school welcomes Tanya Rosa as the school's new financial technician.

• Liberty Drama is proud to present Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Dec. 13-15 at 6:30 p.m. and December 16 at 2 p.m. in the high school theater. Cost will be \$5 for all seating.

• The Liberty band and choir presents their holiday concert Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

• A final message from principal Kirk Delmas: "I hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving Holiday with friends and family."

HANDS cont. from P. 15

the traction motor/generator during coasting and braking to recharge the high-voltage battery pack. The traction motor/generator loads the drive wheels with a braking effect. The traction motor/generator stops the vehicle, NOT the hydraulic brakes except for the last 7 mph.

Also, the voltage output of the motor/generator is proportional to the braking. The harder the brake pedal is depressed the more voltage produced. Less braking produces less voltage. The regenerative braking process is controlled by a computer that interprets various inputs to determine how much braking is safe and how much braking is requested from the driver.

Toyota Prius and many Ford HEVs have a second motor/generator in the front of the transmission. It's driven by the gasoline engine. It recharges the HV battery pack at idle, supplies power to the traction motor and starts the gasoline engine. Not enough room in this article to sort all that out also. It's just math and science but electric vehicles simplify things. There is no gasoline engine and no second motor generator.

Currently I favor the hydrogen fuel

cell concept. Hydrogen vehicles convert the chemical energy of hydrogen into mechanical energy by reacting hydrogen and oxygen in a fuel cell to run electric motors. As of 2016, there were three hydrogen-powered cars publicly available in select markets: the Toyota Mirai, the Hyundai ix35 FCEV and the Honda Clarity.

As newer Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards increase pressure on auto manufacturers to increase vehicle fuel mileage, EVs and HEVs may become standard fare. The processes discussed in this article are over simplified to reduce confusion. OK, that's all for now. Hope this information is informative and useful.

Thanks Stewart for the email. I'll investigate that Ford Fusion computer issue and see where it leads. As always, I'm looking for suggestions, ideas and interesting automotive topics to write about. I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook or text 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr, 2013 NAPA/ASE National Technician of the Year, 2nd Runner Up.

Property Tax Relief for Fire Victims

According to Madera County Assessor Gary Svanda, property owners who were affected by the recent fires in Madera County and have suffered a disaster or calamity as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code Section 170 (such as fire, earthquake, flood or accident), may be eligible for property tax relief as a result of that loss.

To qualify for property tax relief, you must file a claim with the County Assessor within 12 months from the date of damage or destruction. The loss estimate must be at least \$10,000 of current market value to qualify the property for this relief.

In such cases, the County Assessor will immediately reappraise the property to reflect its damaged condition. In addition, when it is rebuilt in a like or similar man-


ner, the property will retain its prior value (Proposition 13) for tax purposes.

This property tax relief is available to owners of real property, business equipment and fixtures, orchards or other agricultural groves, and to owners of aircraft, boats and certain mobile homes. It is not available to property that is not assessable, such as state-licensed mobile homes or household furnishings.

Property owners can obtain a printed Disaster Relief Application by calling 559-675-7710 or by visiting the Assessor's Office or sending a written request to:

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Madera, CA 93637

or by email at Assessor@co.madera.ca.gov.



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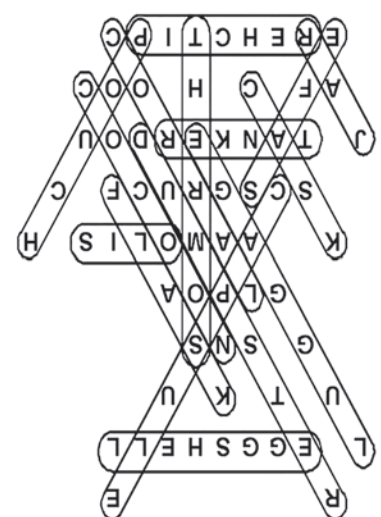
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ANSWERS

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+	+	+	+	+	9
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Mark this on your calendar! Diana J. Tucker's birthday is December 19. She will be accepting lunch dates, gifts and phone calls. **Please call her at 381-5879 and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANA!**

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Child Care - Susan Ryan Day Care. Newborn to 5 years old. Licensed. Call 661-4725 or 706-0424.

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Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean dryer vents. **REMEMBER THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY!** Call 559-908-9332.

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New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. Call 559-970-4476.

For Sale

White Whirlpool 28 inch self-cleaning electric oven - used. Good condition. \$450. Call 559-312-0891.

Gardener's trailer 5'x10' tandem axle w/side and rear doors \$750. **Utility trailer** 4'x6' \$250. **Vintage 1960s Evinrude** 35 HP outboard boat motor \$95. **Assorted phone booths** (including "Superman" style) and complete pay phones. Call Tim at 559-777-0981.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Source: womenfitness.net

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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+		+		+	
	-		×		16
12		20		13	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Happy Thanksgiving

By Betty Van Valkenburg

While trying to write a Tea Time Thanksgiving article about the Pilgrims' experience with socialism vs the free market and how their struggle relates to the current political climate and tax debate, I found the following 2005 commentary that makes the points much better than I could. It is reprinted with permission.

Betty Van Valkenburg

Pilgrims Beat 'Communism' With Free Market

By Mike Francis

Vice President of Government Relations
The Heritage Foundation - Nov. 22, 2005

Recalling the story of the Pilgrims is a Thanksgiving tradition, but do you know the real story behind their triumph over hunger and poverty at Plymouth Colony nearly four centuries ago? Their salvation stemmed not so much from the charitable gestures of local Indians, but from their courageous decision to embrace the free-market

principle of private property ownership a century and a half before Adam Smith wrote The Wealth of Nations.

Writing in his diary of the dire economic straits and self-destructive behavior that consumed his fellow Puritans shortly after their arrival, Governor William Bradford painted a picture of destitute settlers selling their clothes and bed coverings for food while others "became servants to the Indians," cutting wood and fetching water in exchange for "a capful of corn." The most desperate among them starved, with Bradford recounting how one settler, in gathering shellfish along the shore, "was so weak ... he stuck fast in the mud and was found dead in the place."

The Colony's leaders identified the source of their problem as a particularly vile form of what Bradford called "communism." Property in Plymouth Colony, he observed, was communally owned and cultivated. This system ("taking away of property and bringing [it] into a commonwealth") bred "confusion and discontent" and "retarded much employment that would have been to [the settlers'] benefit and comfort."

Brink of Extermination

The most able and fit young men in Plymouth thought it an "injustice" that they were paid the same as those "not able to do a quarter the other could." Women, meanwhile, viewed the communal chores they were required to perform for others as a form of "slavery."

On the brink of extermination, the Colony's leaders changed course and allotted a parcel of land

to each settler, hoping the private ownership of farmland would encourage self-sufficiency and lead to the cultivation of more corn and other foodstuffs.

As Adam Smith would have predicted, this new system worked famously. "This had very good success," Bradford reported, "for it made all hands very industrious." In fact, "much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been" and productivity increased. "Women," for example, "went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn."

The famine that nearly wiped out the Pilgrims in 1623 gave way to a period of agricultural abundance that enabled the Massachusetts settlers to set down permanent roots in the New World, prosper, and play an indispensable role in the ultimate success of the American experiment.

A profoundly religious man, Bradford saw the hand of God in the Pilgrims' economic recovery. Their success, he observed, "may well evince the vanity of that conceit ... that the taking away of property ... would make [men] happy and flourishing; as if they were wiser than God." Bradford surmised, "God in his wisdom saw another course fitter for them."

Amen to that.

Thanksgiving Story: 2005

Plymouth's Pilgrims may have survived that near-fatal brush with socialism but, sadly, many political leaders remain transfixed by a blind faith in the ability of government to shape and set the course of human behavior.

Case in point: the tenacious liberal belief that no connection exists between the tax burden we place on capital formation and the economic behavior of those who must shoulder that burden.

The liberal creed holds that investors will take economic risks and create jobs no matter how punitive the tax regime. To liberals, lowering that burden through reductions in the rate of taxation simply bestows an unwarranted windfall on the "rich" and deprives the government of much-needed tax revenue.

Of course, incentives matter every bit as much today as they did four centuries ago. The latest proof comes from figures released by the Treasury Department for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30. They vindicate the predictions of conservative economists that the 2003 law, which included a number of pro-growth provisions such as cutting the top tax rate on capital gains and dividends to 15 percent, would be a raging success.

Compared to the previous year:

Total federal revenues grew by an astonishing 14.6 percent.


Corporate receipts exploded, increasing by 47 percent.

Payroll tax receipts, an indicator of employment growth, increased by a respectable 8%.

We have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season.

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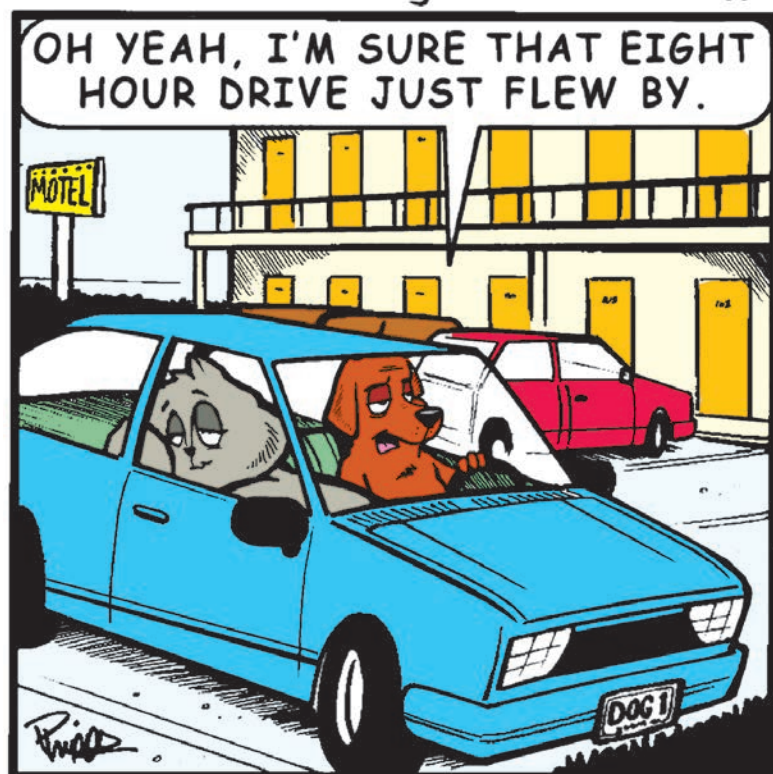
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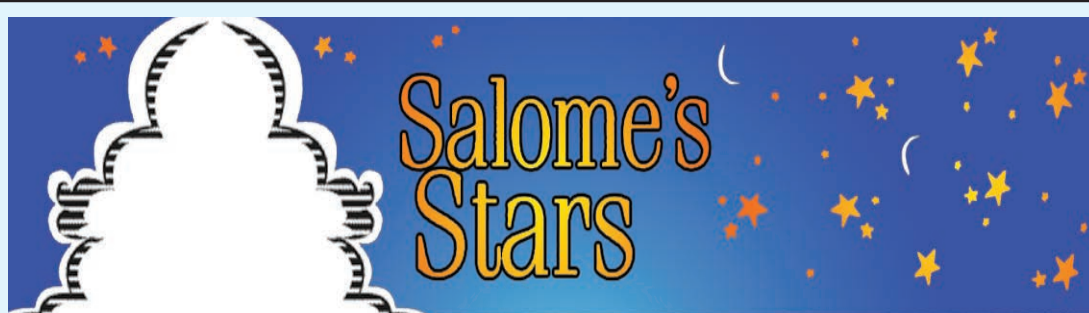


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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your work requires increased effort during the next few days. But it all will pay off down the line. Things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and/or friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your genuine concern for others could prompt you to promise more than you can deliver. It's best to modify your plans now, before you wind up overcommitted later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A situation that seems simple at first glance needs a more thorough assessment before you give it your OK. Dig deeper for information that might be hidden from view.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Careful: Right now, things might not be quite what they appear. Even the intuitive Crab could misread the signs. Get some solid facts before you act on your suspicions.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your energy levels are high, allowing you to complete those unfinished tasks before you take on a new project. A social invitation could come from an unlikely source.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might think you're helping, but unless you're asked for a critique, don't give it. If you are asked, watch what you say. Your words should be helpful, not hurtful.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your attempt at mediating disputes might meet some opposition at first. But once you're shown to be fair and impartial, resistance soon gives way to cooperation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Go ahead. Reward yourself for helping settle a disturbing workplace situation. On another note: A personal relationship might be moving to a higher level.

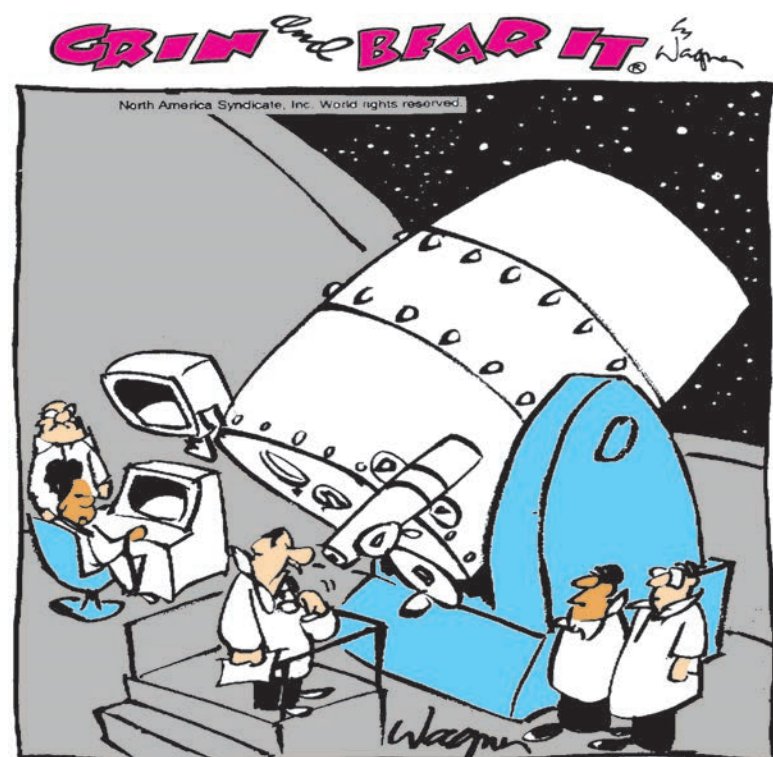
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A sudden change of heart by a colleague might create some momentary uncertainty. But stay with your original decision and, if necessary, defend it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Rely on a combination of your sharp instincts along with some really intense information gathering to help you make a possibly life-changing decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Instead of worrying if that new person in your life will stay or leave, spend all that energy on strengthening your relationship so it becomes walk-out resistant.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A sudden financial dry spell could reduce your cash flow almost to a trickle. But by conserving more and spending less, you'll get through the crunch in good shape.

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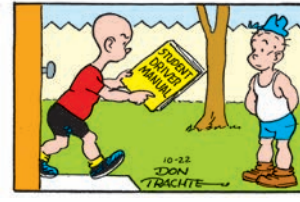
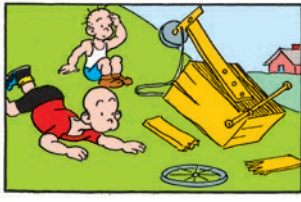
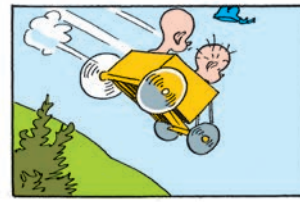
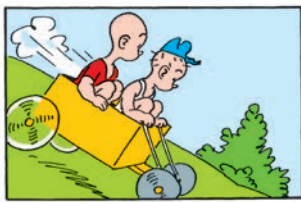
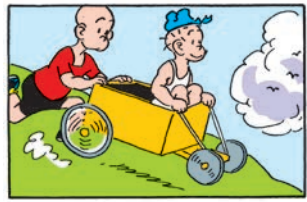
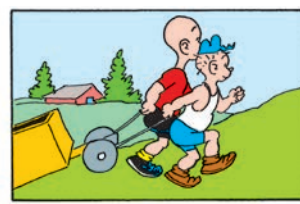
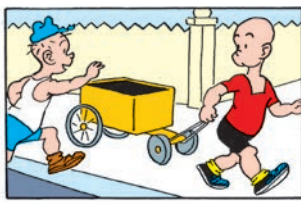
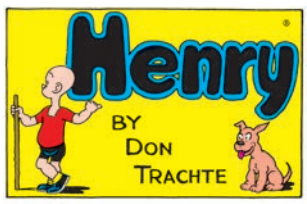
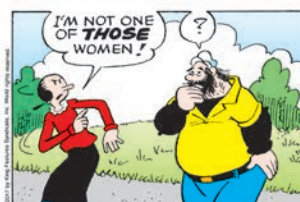
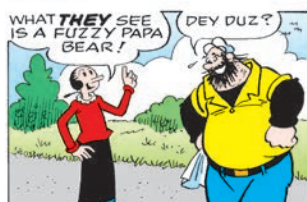
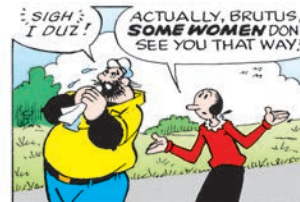
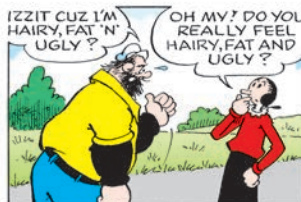
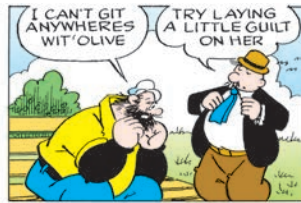
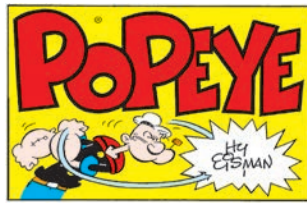


"We may be insignificant in the overall scheme of things, but I'm still the boss!"
www.TheRanchos.com

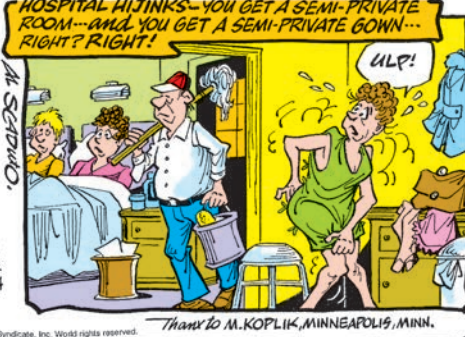
Born this Week
Your ability to keep secrets makes you the perfect confidante for friends, family and co-workers.

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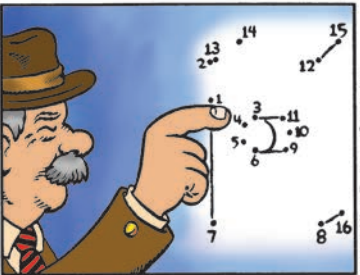
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

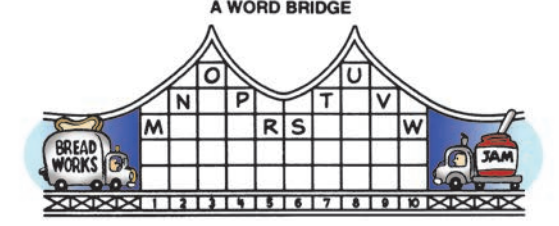


BUILDING FUN and GAMES-- EIGHT ROOMS IN THE NEW HOUSE, BUT THEY ALL WIND UP ELBOWING EACH OTHER IN THE SMALL BATHROOM--
Thank to J. GIELLA, EAST MEADOW, N.Y.



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what asks no questions but requires many answers.

Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend
A WORD BRIDGE



A FRIGHTENING PUZZLE? To solve this problem you must replace the letters in our AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0 through 9, so that you have a correct addition expression. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did

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

Wishing Well

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

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.

MAGIC MAZE ● **CORE WORDS**

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Albacore | Coreless | Corey | Scorecard |
| Corean | Corella | Foam core | Scored |
| Co-regent | Corelli | Fourscore | Scores |
| Coreid | Coretta | Hardcore | |

TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: Where was the Manhattan Project, the atomic bomb, developed?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the 19th-century poem "The Raven"?
- TELEVISION: How many castaways were on the sitcom "Gilligan's Island"?
- HISTORY: What Byzantine city was later renamed Istanbul after being captured by the Ottoman Empire?
- ACRONYMS: What do letters in SCUBA stand for?
- STYLE: What kind of hairdo did The Beatles inspire in the 1960s?
- GEOGRAPHY: The Mexican border city of Tijuana is close to which major U.S city?
- MOVIES: What kind of dog was Toto in "The Wizard of Oz"?
- ENTERTAINMENT: What is the name of Donald Duck's significant other?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the word for Vietnamese noodle soup?

Answers

- Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico)
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Seven
- Constantinople
- Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
- The mop-top
- San Diego
- Cairn Terrier
- Daisy Duck
- Pho

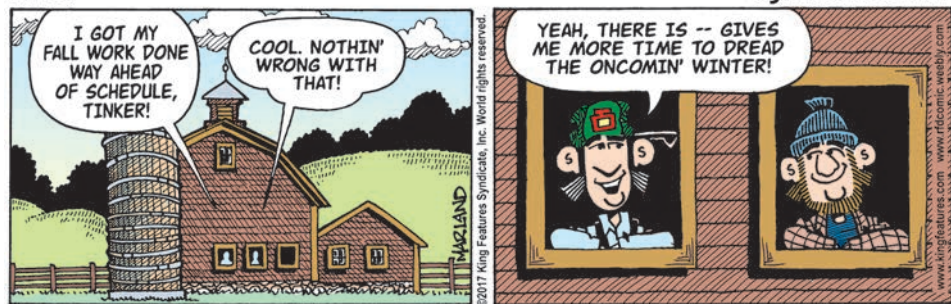
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



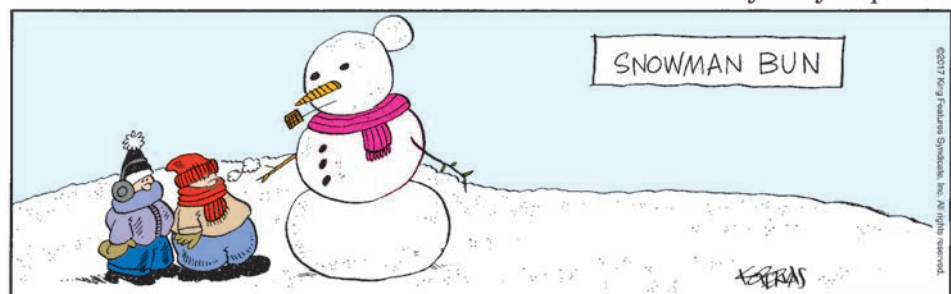
R.F.D.

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

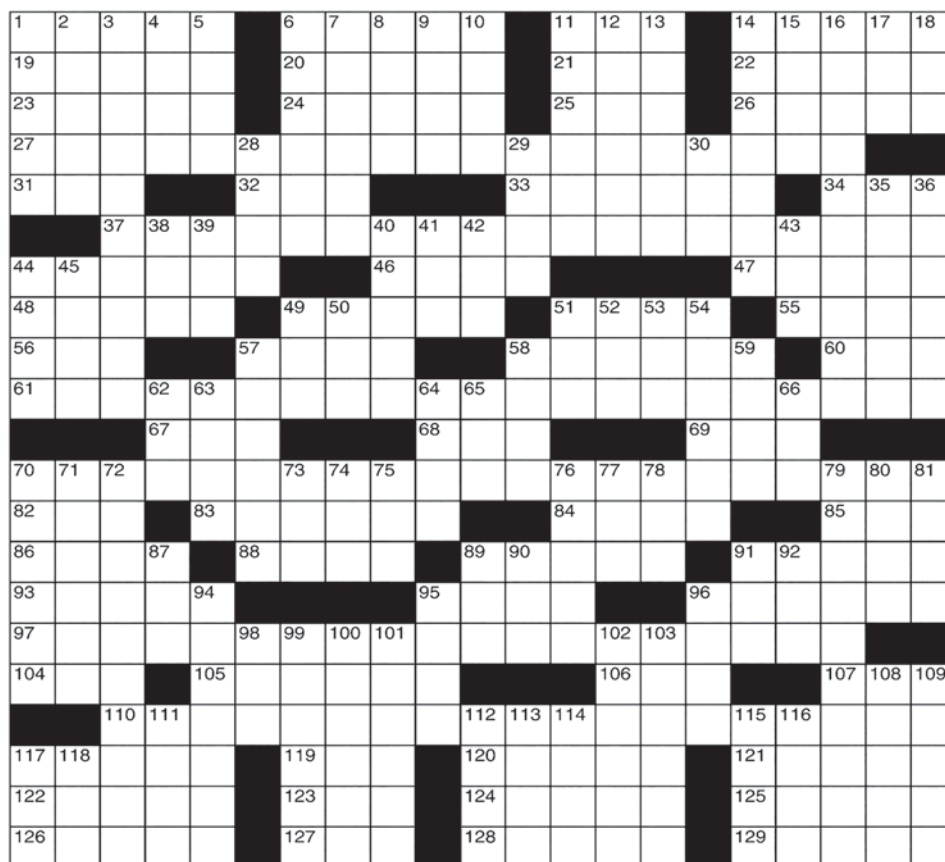
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Carried, as a load
 - 6 University in Druid Hills, Georgia
 - 11 Old TV's "Mayberry —"
 - 14 Mythical man-goat
 - 19 Sub in WWII
 - 20 Coloratura Callas
 - 21 The "E" of REO
 - 22 Milo of films
 - 23 Toot one's own horn
 - 24 Tidy up
 - 25 Seoul soldier
 - 26 Bridle straps
 - 27 Start of a riddle
 - 31 Volcano stuff
 - 32 Basilica seat
 - 33 — Lorraine (region of France)
 - 34 Break bread
 - 37 Riddle, part 2
 - 44 Made up for
 - 46 Cupid's counterpart
 - 47 Mello — (drink brand)
 - 48 Paint type
 - 49 Trembly tree
 - 51 Pepsi or Tab
 - 55 Picnic spoiler
 - 56 Pitching star
 - 57 Clog or pump
 - 58 Skylight?
 - 60 No-frills shirt
 - 61 Riddle, part 3
 - 67 Actress Long or Vardalos
 - 68 Hurry-scurry
 - 69 People with power
 - 70 Riddle, part 4
 - 82 Lac liquid
 - 83 Bumper finish
 - 84 Assistant
 - 85 Man-mouse connector
 - 86 eBay offers
 - 88 Stitches
 - 89 Signed one's name to
 - 91 Up and about
 - 93 Weeps
 - 95 Slushy drink
 - 96 Gave in exchange
 - 97 End of the riddle
 - 104 Me, in Lyons
 - 105 Old game consoles
 - 106 Near-infinite time span
 - 107 Shiny stone
 - 110 Riddle's answer
 - 117 Student
 - 119 Hill VIP: Abbr.
 - 120 Sky hunter
 - 121 Feel jubilant
 - 122 Beneficial
 - 123 Ending for Sudan
 - 124 "Pippin" Tony winner Bob
 - 125 Lamp spirit
 - 126 Overly fond type
 - 127 Old JFK flier
 - 128 Paid to play ones
 - 129 Braying ones
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Friend of Forrest Gump
 - 2 Some double reeds
 - 3 Household insect trap
 - 4 Curiosity org.
 - 5 Caesar's dying words
 - 6 Was a roast host, say
 - 7 African land
 - 8 Russian city
 - 9 Iranian coin
 - 10 Yin's partner
 - 11 Throw again, as dice
 - 12 Like silky down
 - 13 Authoritarian decree
 - 14 Black magic
 - 15 On a cruise
 - 16 Sleeping bag fabric brand
 - 17 Osaka coin
 - 18 Coll. dorm supervisors
 - 28 Barreled
 - 29 Fezzes, e.g.
 - 30 Learning loc.
 - 35 More homely
 - 36 Gives a call
 - 38 "Liftoff!" preceder
 - 39 Really annoy
 - 40 Ward off
 - 41 Prior to, to a bard
 - 42 Swindle
 - 43 Beyond, to a bard
 - 44 "Woe!"
 - 45 Tijuana nosh
 - 49 "I caught ya!"
 - 50 Fa-la link
 - 51 Bovine chew
 - 52 Eye, to a bard
 - 53 Mauna —
 - 54 Make it
 - 57 Mown paths
 - 58 Before long, to a bard
 - 59 Ex-governor Carlson
 - 62 Savings acct.
 - 63 Blu-ray —
 - 64 Unvarying
 - 65 Suffix with block
 - 66 Suffix with balloon
 - 70 Skype setup
 - 71 Coiffure
 - 72 An amplifier receives it
 - 73 "— you in?"
 - 74 Drag
 - 75 Ambulance inits.
 - 76 "Star Trek" actor George
 - 77 Rush along
 - 78 Mix in
 - 79 Holders of frankfurters
 - 80 Maumee Bay's lake
 - 81 36 inches
 - 87 Month no. 9
 - 89 German "I"
 - 90 Born, in Lyons
 - 91 Klee's forte
 - 92 Took a chair
 - 94 Waldorf's Muppet partner
 - 95 Formal reply to "Who's there?"
 - 96 Scads
 - 98 Biblical verb suffix
 - 99 Lectern platforms
 - 100 "Hondo" actor James
 - 101 Official seal
 - 102 Lie at rest
 - 103 Bewailed
 - 108 "The Office" actress
 - 109 Deals (out)
 - 111 Belgian/French river
 - 112 Den fixture
 - 113 Pressing tool
 - 114 Nasal spray, e.g.
 - 115 Dreamcast company
 - 116 Firewood splitters
 - 117 Peas' place
 - 118 ET carrier

FUN PAGES



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

QUALIFY FOR FREE WELL WATER METERS

*Only 20 left. First come, first served.**

NEW State Grant Awarded*
to residents of South East Madera County

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

11/17

FLOODED AREA ON YOUR PROPERTY?

A FREE Drywell/Drainwell will help!*

*For qualified locations. Sign up for more information at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos or email info@semcu.com. You can also call 559-363-9095.