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50¢

California's Next Oil Boom



Is Madera part of the plan?

By Randy Bailey

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California's Next Oil Boom



Is Madera part of the plan? By Randy Bailey

One million two hundred thousand acres, involving nine counties in the Central San Joaquin Valley, are being proposed by the Trump Administration to be opened up to new oil and gas exploration. The area includes parts of Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Ventura and Madera counties. The 1.2 million proposed acres include approximately 400,000 acres of public land.

What's prompting the sudden interest is the development of "fracking." Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, is a technology that allows oil to be removed from areas thought to be "dry," and incapable of removing any additional oil. Through a combination of chemicals, high-pressure water and sand, the stubborn oil is broken loose for extraction from the well. Although this plan is attempting to come to fruition by the Trump Administration, it was first introduced by the Bureau of Land Management

as part of their Resource Management Plan under the Obama Administration in 2012.

California has not allowed any land to be leased for oil production since 2013, but that was quickly halted when a judge ruled that the Bureau of Land Management illegally issued leases without first analyzing the environmental impact of fracking, a legally required assessment in the determination of issuing leases.

But now the Bureau of Land Management has completed the required fracking impact statement and intends to open the area to lease nominations in 2020. It is estimated that between 200 and 400 wells will be developed in the area with approximately 10 percent of those being new leases, and approximately 10 percent of those would be fracking wells.

Groups opposing the issuing of leases and possible beginning of fracking point to

the impact fracking has on air quality, particularly since the San Joaquin Valley already ranks among the worst air areas in the country. Critics point out that emissions from fracking often contain pollutants known to promote asthma, heart conditions and cancer. Additionally, some of the land proposed for possible leases border both Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

Proponents of the move don't see such a bleak picture. According to an interview in USA Today with John Hodge, an associate Field Manager at the Bureau of Land Management's Bakersfield Field Office, he said he didn't expect much to change. Hodge said that there isn't a lot of potential for extraction in the area and they're not expecting a lot of new development.

"We can look over the last 35 years and see that the oil is where the oil is," Hodge said. "It really comes down to the geology of the area."

The Bureau of Land Management said that the idea behind the decision was to enable "environmentally responsible energy development while creating jobs and providing economic opportuni-

ties for local communities." They also estimate that the oil and gas industry – on both private and public land – support approximately 3,000 jobs and \$620 million in tax revenue in the Central California coast area.

In September, California lawmakers passed a bill designed to prohibit the construction of new oil and gas infrastructure on state land, if it is being built to support production of oil and natural gas upon protected federal lands. The bill is now on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.



Valley Air District "Check Before You Burn" In Effect for 17th Season

For the 17th season, the Valley Air District reminds residents living in the San Joaquin Valley to "Check Before You Burn." The residential wood burning season, which runs from November 1 through the end of February has begun.

During this time the District releases a daily county-by-county wood burning declaration, based on the air quality forecast. The Check Before You Burn program, protects public health by reducing PM2.5 (particulate matter pollution 2.5 microns and smaller) emissions from one of the Valley's largest wintertime sources; residential wood burning.

"Thanks to public cooperation, Valley air is getting cleaner, which has a direct, positive impact on public health," said District

Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer, Samir Sheikh. "The public's continued support of the Check Before You Burn Program is critical to the health and quality of life for all Valley residents and, reaching our clean air goals," he said.

Daily burn information is available by visiting checkbeforeyouburn.org, by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463), or by downloading the free "Valley Air" app on your mobile device. In addition, residents may sign up for daily email wood-burning

notifications by clicking here. There are three curtailment levels: No Burning for All; No Burning Unless Registered; Burning Discouraged

Curtailments do not apply to natural gas devices. Residences in areas with no natural gas service or where wood burning is the sole source of heat are exempt. Areas where propane tanks are used are considered to be without natural gas service. Outdoor wood burning devices at all residences are still subject to

the daily restrictions, regardless of exemption status.

Residents with EPA Certified wood and pellet-fueled devices may register them with the Valley Air District in order to use them on "No Burning Unless Registered" days. Find out how to register by visiting: www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.

Valley residents are encouraged to apply for the Burn Cleaner incentive program and receive as much as \$3,000 to upgrade from older, higher-polluting wood stoves and open-hearth fireplaces to EPA Certified wood, pellet or natural gas inserts and free-standing stoves. To participate in this program please visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner.



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Bond Oversight Members Needed

The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for a representative from the following areas to serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies:

- One (1) member shall be the parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the District,
- One (1) member shall be both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the P.T.A. or school site council,

• One (1) member active in a business organization representing the business community located in the District,

- One (1) member active in a senior citizens' organization,
- One (1) member active in a bona-fide taxpayers association,
- Two (2) members of the community at-large.

If interested, please obtain an application from the GVUSD Superintendent's Office at 37479 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93636 or contact Aimee Beintker at abeintker@gvusd.org or #645-3577.

Memory Tree for Loved Ones

Many suffer through the holidays with the pain of having lost a loved one. The Christmas music, holiday parties, and festive decorations trigger painful reminders of the loss. You're invited to participate in a community Memory Tree Service.

This is a family friendly time to remember a loved one who has passed

away and is dearly missed this holiday season. You're welcome to bring an ornament to place on the Memory Tree in honor of your loved one.

The service is Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at Flipside Church, 37193 Ave. 12 in Maywood Center in room 6. For more information contact Brenda McElroy at 559-871-3314.

Caregiving Through the Holidays

Please join the Valley Caregiver Resource Center as we learn simple tips to reduce stress during the holidays or when celebrating special occasions. Overcome the "holiday blues" with support, joy, and care.

The event will take place Dec. 11 at the Valley Caregiver Resource Center at 5363 N. Fresno Street in Fresno at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. This workshop is free for family caregivers but is not open to providers, volunteers nor for the patients. Pre-registration is

required for all family caregivers to ensure that you have a seat for this informative workshop. Class size is limited so please contact Valley Caregiver Resource Center at 559-224-9154 or 800-541-8614 If you require special accommodations, please contact us a week prior to start of this workshop. Some financial assistance is available for respite care. This event is funded by grants from the California Department of Health Care Services and the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging.

LHS Drama Presents "Oz"

The Liberty High Drama Department is presenting the play Oz for four performances in December.

This adaption of the classic L. Frank Baum story is by playwright Don Zolidis and tells the story of a girl journeying through a world suspiciously resembling the film The Wizard of Oz. But with the yellow brick road sold to foreign investors after a financial meltdown, the Scarecrow reveling in his ignorant bliss, the Cowardly Lion acting like a paranoid sociopath and

the Tin Man embracing his emotional numbness, she wonders what role she plays in this classic story gone awry. A hilarious and heart-wrenching exploration of grief and perseverance on the road to acceptance.

The play will be performed Dec. 11, 12, 13 and 14. All shows will be at 6 p.m. at Liberty High. General admission will be \$12 or \$10 in advance; students and seniors will be \$9 or \$7 in advance; and students with ASB cards will be \$7 or \$5 in advance.

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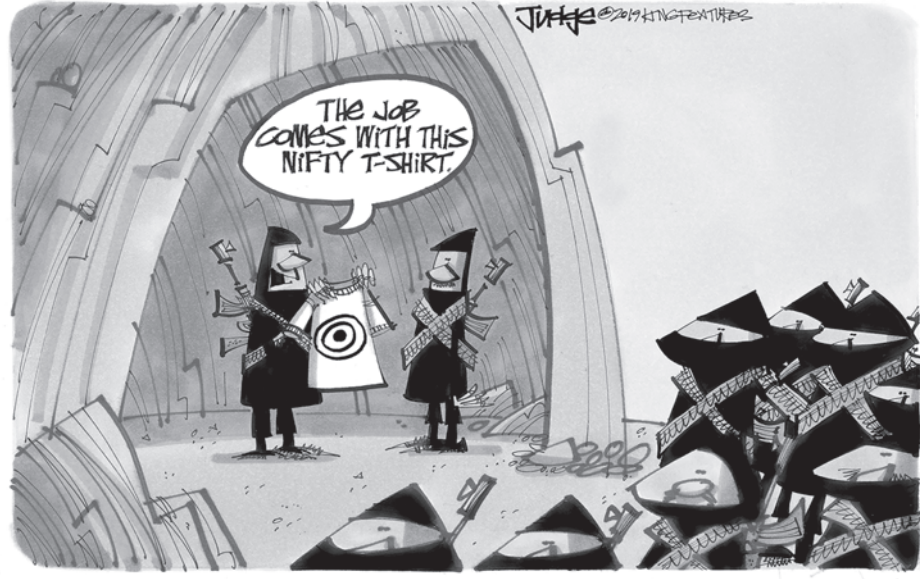
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Guest Editorial

Nationalism a Dirty Word?

By Rich Lowry

If there's one thing that elite opinion tends to agree about on the left and the right, it's that nationalism is a very bad thing. If anything, this view has become even more entrenched as nationalism has demonstrated its potency in recent years, from the election of Donald Trump to Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

When President Trump first openly embraced the term "nationalist" at a 2018 campaign rally, commentators reacted in horror. Patriotism is about love, nationalism about hate, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof opined. Trump, insisted Jennifer Rubin of The Washington Post, is "normalizing a hateful political philosophy that is contrary to our deepest-held beliefs."

As I write in my new book, "The Case for Nationalism," this reflexive hostility to the concept is ill-informed and an attempt to deem nationalism a swearword and end all discussion on that basis.

At its most basic, the scholar Azar Gat writes, nationalism is "the doctrine and ideology that a people is bound together in solidarity, fate, and common political aspirations." Historian Anthony Smith described the national ideal as "a belief that all those who shared a common history and culture should be autonomous, united and distinct in their

recognized homelands."

When Europe went off the rails in the early 20th century, nationalism as such didn't cause its crash so much as social Darwinism, militarism and the cult of charismatic leadership. The aftermath of World War I added its own poison.

Regardless, American nationalism -- which encompasses such diverse, rightly beloved figures as Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt -- is not to be feared. As with so many other things about this country, it is more benign than the versions to be found in Europe and elsewhere.

This is true for a number of reasons. First, we are the inheritors of an Anglo-American tradition that has profound respect for the individual and the rule of law and is a fundamental part of our national identity.

The sheet anchor of American sovereignty, the U.S. Constitution, makes it clear that authority ultimately resides with "we the people of the United States." The Constitution also happens to be a durable mechanism of self-government and itself an object of patriotic loyalty and national pride.

Finally, the United States was never infected with the dream of universal empire that Europe inherited from Rome and that has lingered on in differing forms from Charlemagne to the European Union.

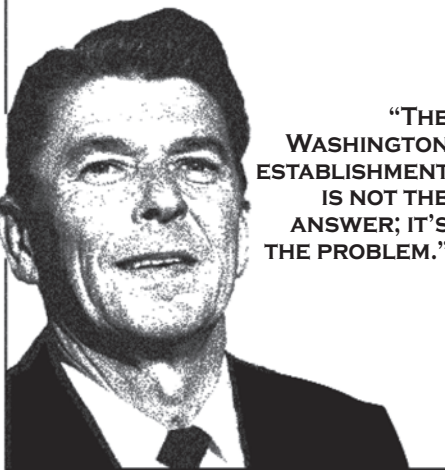
The rise of Donald Trump has pushed the left further away from respect for nationalistic attitudes and even patriotic symbols. Democrats -- and the country -- would be much better served if they countered Trump's nationalism with a version of their own.

On his own side of the aisle, Trump has made Republicans more nationalistic. Still, much of the party is quietly uncomfortable with this. If Trump loses in 2020, the party's establishment may try to snap back to its pre-Trump disposition of relative indifference.

Yet, if there's one clear political lesson from the long history of nationalism in this country and elsewhere, it is that a party interested in moving people and selling a program should make some sort of an appeal to it -- even if conventional wisdom insists it is foolish and wrong.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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"THE WASHINGTON ESTABLISHMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER; IT'S THE PROBLEM."

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Be Thankful All the Time

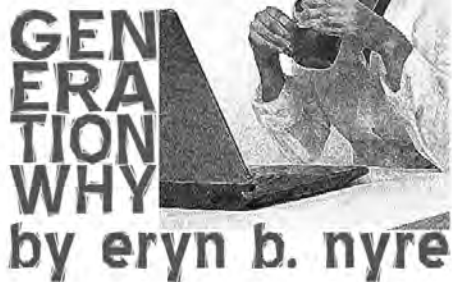
It's that time of year again. The season in which we take stock of our lives and make an effort to give thanks and show gratitude for all we have. I would like to hope that most of us show our appreciation for our many blessings throughout the year and not just wait until Thanksgiving rolls around, but since we are here I thought I would share all of the things for which I am thankful.

I'm thankful for my wonderful mom. She was the most selfless and encouraging mother I could have hoped for. There are so many things about her that I miss, among them her constant support. Even when I was making the

most bone-headed of bonehead mistakes, she would tell me she believed in me. When I managed even the smallest of achievements, she would tell me how proud she was. There are millions

of people who don't know that kind of unconditional love and support, but I do and I feel so lucky to have been her daughter. I wish I had more time with her. I wish she wasn't gone, but I am the luckiest woman in the world to have had a woman like her as a mother and will be forever grateful for the time I did have with her.

I'm thankful for my dad. He may never have been the mushy, lovey-dovey type like my mom, but that doesn't take away from the wonderful dad he is.



Though he and my mom had very different parenting styles, he was the one who pushed me to continuously be a better person. It was my dad who set seemingly impossible standards and didn't let me off the hook until I met them because he knew of what I was capable. He's never let me down and remains one of the only people I can completely and utterly rely on.

I would like to hope that most of us show our appreciation for our many blessings throughout the year and not just wait until Thanksgiving rolls around, but since we are here I thought I would share all of the things for which I am thankful.

It wasn't all just responsibility and expectations, though. My dad knows how to have a good time. From throwing parties where my friends and I threw pies at his face to taking the family on amazing vacations to flying two states over to see my favorite band in concert, my dad always managed to balance fun and learning and I know that's why I love to learn even as an adult. I wouldn't be the woman I am today if he wasn't the father he is.

I'm thankful for my career. A job that started out as a placeholder while I finished my master's degree has turned out to be the steppingstone toward a career passion I didn't re-

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

alize I had. I'm grateful I had leaders in my company that recognized my skillset and acknowledged the passion growing from completing my graduate degree. I'm grateful that I have a boss who is willing to do more than manage, who is willing to mentor as well. A position that I once thought was disposable has evolved into a career that is both challenging and fulfilling.

I'm thankful for my wide circle of friends. For the first time in my life I feel completely surrounded by people who welcome me into their presence. I have never been the kind of person with a busy social calendar. I have always had a small but core group of friends, but we could go weeks without any solid plans or adventures. Now I go weeks without a free weekend, which is a challenge in and of itself, but really it's a blessing. It is an uplifting feeling to know people want you around. It is an empowering sensation to feel included. I sort of wish I had this in my early twenties when I didn't want to crawl into bed by nine, though. Nevertheless, I am grateful to be experiencing it now.

I'm thankful for God's

mercy. I'm grateful for all Jesus did to take my sin upon himself and pay the ultimate price for my redemption. I'm grateful for my relationship with Christ and I know that he hears my prayers. I'm thankful for all of God's blessings. A roof over my head. Food on the table. A closet that's half-full of clothes and shoes that keep me warm and protected from the elements. I have a car that runs, water coming out of the tap, heat and electricity. I live in a safe area with wonderful neighbors who lookout for everyone around them.

Like everyone else in the world I have my challenges, my heartaches, my problems, but it's absolutely true that when you focus on your blessings and show gratitude for all God has given you it's harder to feel angry or sad about your problems and easier to feel thankful and blessed.

So, here's to Thanksgiving, that special time of year when we focus on all we have rather than all we still want. The time of year when family and love and togetherness are what matters. May your Thanksgiving be filled with blessings and may you carry that sentiment with you through all of your days!

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Thanksgiving Time

(November 2009)

Editor's Note: With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

very hard to find rubbed sage today). Then add chicken broth and water and mix it up with our hands until it was just right.

I do the same thing today, except I don't defrost the turkey on the counter. I do it in the sink. I usually fill the sink with real hot water and add a cup of bleach and let it sit for about half an hour to sanitize it, then let the water out and rinse the sink good, then start the defrost. I do it just as it says to: fill the sink with cold water and leaving the turkey in the bag it comes in, put it in the sink and about every half hour to 45 minutes change the water. It is a tedious job, takes about 8 to 10 hours for a 16 to 20 pound bird, but it sure beats defrosting it in the refrigerator – the same size turkey would take three or four days. This is done on Wednesday, but while that is going on you can do other preparations. Make your pies, make the fruit salad or whatever else can be made ahead of time. When the turkey is defrosted, I put it in the roasting pan and put it on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator awaiting Thursday morning.

With the perfection of the turkeys over the last 50 years you don't have to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning it get it in the oven. We would figure about 22 minutes per pound of stuffed turkey, taking about 7 ½ to 8 hours. It only takes 4 to 5 hours to cook a stuffed 18 to 20 pound bird today as opposed to all morning 50 years ago.

As for the stuffing, I do it the same way mama did 50

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

When I sat down to write this month's column, I thought of Thanksgiving, but then I realized some of you wouldn't get this paper until after Thanksgiving, and those of you that did get it before would have already made all your preparations for the big day. But I decided to do it anyway.

Those of you of my generation, do you remember getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to get an 18 pound turkey stuffed and in the oven so it would be ready for dinner at 2 o'clock in the afternoon? And remember how the frozen turkey would sit on the counter to defrost? And we're all still alive!

On the day before Thanksgiving we would toast the bread in the oven on big sheet pans and mama would always make a pan of cornbread for the stuffing. And in-between toasting the bread she would make the pies. It was a busy time. I was my mom's official stuffing "tester." I'd get up when she did so I could help her fix the turkey. Did it have enough salt? Or enough sage? Too dry? I loved doing it as I love "raw" stuffing as much as I like cooked. Mama's recipe was simple: we would chop an onion and about a head of celery and sauté them in butter with some salt and pepper. We'd break up the bread and pour the vegetables in on top and add enough salt and pepper and the only other seasoning she would use was dry sage. She preferred rubbed sage instead of chopped (it is

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

years ago, except I don't toast the bread. I cheat and buy three boxes of Mrs. Cubbison's – two boxes of bread and one of the cornbread. Add the sautéed vegetables, salt, pepper and even though the bread is somewhat seasoned, I usually add some more sage. Then start mixing in chicken broth and water until it tastes just right. I don't use the giblets but sometimes I do cook the neck and take off the meat and add to the stuffing. Take the bird out of the refrigerator, rinse it out and pat dry, cover inside and out with butter (or margarine), salt inside and out and you're ready to stuff. A lot of people don't stuff the bird but we think the stuffing is better that is cooked in the bird than in a baking pan. But, whatever you or your family prefers.

I hate the smell of a turkey cooking for the first hour or so. I don't know what it is, but it just smells yucky to me. But after it gets cooking, the smell changes, and I love it. It smells like "home."

Some people call it stuff-

ing and some dressing but do you know the difference? I read somewhere that if you put the mixture in the bird it is called stuffing and if you cook it in a pan it is called dressing. As far as I'm concerned, whatever it is called I love it.

As for the dinner, we serve about the same thing everyone else does and the same thing mama served: Turkey and stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, fruit salad, cranberry jelly and rolls. However, we have added one thing: Zucchini Casserole. As I've told you in a previous article, my mom loved to get recipes wherever she went. This one she got from a cousin from Tennessee. Mama passed away in October 1988 and when we were cleaning out her deep freeze we found one she had made so we cooked it for Thanksgiving that year. My sister Maxine has taken over the duty of bringing one (sometimes she brings two so that there can be some taken home) to all our family dinners. In fact, everyone likes it so much that you would

think sometimes she wouldn't be allowed into dinner unless she brought the casserole. Here's the recipe, hope you like it as well as we do.

Zucchini Casserole

6 C thinly sliced zucchini
 ½ large onion chopped
 1 C grated carrot
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1 C sour cream
 2 boxes Stove Top stuffing (Chicken or Turkey)
 2 cubes of butter or margarine

Cook the zucchini and onion for about 5 minutes or until al dente, and drain as much liquid off as possible before adding the carrots, cream soup, and sour cream. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, mix one box of Stove Top with one cube of melted butter. Lay this evenly in the bottom of a 9 x 12 baking pan. Pour in the zucchini mix. Mix the second box of Stove Top with the other cube of melted butter and cover the zucchini mix. Bake in preheated 350 oven until lightly brown and bubbly. *Do NOT mix the Stove Top as directed on the package – only put the melted butter in the dry mix*

People would complain to my mom that when they made the casserole, it didn't taste like hers and the first thing she would ask them was, "Did you use the Stove Top dry with only the melted butter, or did you cook it like the package directs?"

Fruit Salad?

Do you like fruit salad? Our family loves it, but there are a lot of different ways to make it. With or without nuts, marshmallows, sour cream, coconut, apples ... I could go on and on and never say them all. In fact, I went on the Food Network web site and they had 1,019 fruit salad recipes and Cooks.com had 850. One recipe I read used various kinds of canned fruit, all drained except the pineapple chunks. Mix the fruits together and add a box of (dry) vanilla instant pudding. As the salad sits, the

pudding will absorb the juice and thicken. That one sounded good, but I think I like ours better. I don't use the canned fruit cocktail because I think the fruit all tastes alike, no individual fruit flavors. Last year, I used two of the large cans of sliced peaches, and two of the sliced pears. Two cans of pineapple chunks (or tidbits) and a couple of cans of mandarin oranges. Drain all the fruit, and reserve a couple cups of the juice. I used the big Tupperware bowl to mix the salad. Cut the fruit into bite size pieces and add some red and green grapes (that have been washed). At this point I divide the fruit into two smaller bowls. In one I add enough sour cream to cover the fruit. For the other salad, I put the reserved drained juice in a pan and add about half a small container of frozen orange juice concentrate. Add a couple of tablespoons (to taste) of sugar and bring to light boil. In a cup or small bowl, mix two or three tablespoons of cornstarch with some of the fruit juice and mix to a runny paste, adding to the boiling juices, cooking until thickened. (I usually do this as soon after I have drained the fruit so it can cool.) After the sauce has cooled, stir it into the salad without the sour cream. Put both of these salads in the refrigerator in covered bowls until time to serve. When ready to serve, to the one with the sour cream, I add miniature marshmallows and a couple of sliced bananas. To the one with the orange juice dressing, I only added a couple sliced bananas. Put in pretty serving bowls and enjoy. The reason to wait until ready to serve before putting in the bananas is they have a tendency to turn dark and you don't want that. You want your salad to look pretty.

For those of you that read this before Thanksgiving, I hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving. And for those of you that read this after Thanksgiving, I hope you had a glorious day and you have lots of leftovers.



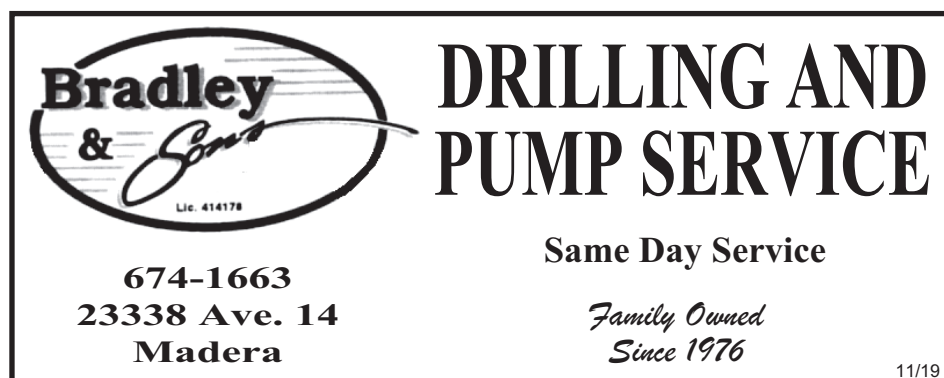
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Restore the Joy of Giving

What would you do with \$730 billion? Apparently, that's what Americans are forecast to spend on the holiday season this year. I'm sure that includes everything from travel and food to gifts and decorations. The gift category tends to rank high on the holiday stress scale, so today we'll look at ways to restore the joy of giving. With less than four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there's no time like the present to begin planning our presents.

Schedule

The following ideas might be appealing, but unless you schedule time for them, you'll likely succumb to the holiday craze and bypass these stress reducers. Schedule time on your calendar to plan, shop (online/in-store), wrap, ship, etc.

Overall Budget

Don't feel pressured to spend your share of the \$730 billion. I don't know anyone who has ever regretted living within their means. Calculate what you can afford to spend on gifts this year without going into debt. This may not reduce your December stress, but come January you'll be much more joyful. For extra accountability, cash out the amount you've designated and stop shopping when it's gone.

List

Create a list of the people you're giving gifts to such as: Family, friends, staff, co-workers, bosses, neighbors, hostess and party gifts, teachers, service providers and a couple of generic gifts for unexpected or overlooked recipients. Store your list on your phone or carry a paper copy in your purse or car so you have it with you and can refer to it and update it as needed. As gift ideas pop into your head, record them on your list.

Person-specific Budget

Based on your Overall Budget, put a maximum amount next to each name and allow that to be the boundary for what you spend. As you purchase gifts, record the amount spent.

Store/Wrap/Ship

Designate a specific area to keep gifts until they're wrapped, so you don't lose or forget to give one. Store nearby (even if it's temporary) your wrap, gift bags, ribbon, scissors, tape, gift tags, shipping boxes and markers. Since wrapping often takes longer than expected, schedule on your calendar a couple of wrap sessions or wrap gifts as they're purchased. It's much easier to do that when the wrapping supplies are handy. Make the gifts you need to ship a priority and set Dec. 15 as your ship-by date.

Ways to Save

Consider drawing names instead of giving to everyone in the family or at the office. Go together on gifts for parents, bosses, etc. Use the Honey Browser Extension to find and apply promo codes for your online shopping (www.joinhoney.com). Let your presence be your present. My sister and I give each other "Lunch and Labor" gifts where the recipient gets to choose a project to work on together (sort photos, organize attic, clean light fixtures etc.).

Shop Smart

Shopping online saves time, gas, and reduces the stress of crowded parking lots and stores. If you haven't joined Amazon Prime, consider that, but also watch for free shipping and price-matching offers from major stores' websites. For in-store shopping try Wednesdays and weekday mornings for less crowds. Map your route before you go, based on your list. Ask for gift receipts to put with your gifts and save your paper receipts in an envelope. Create an email folder to store electronic receipts.

Give What People Want

The people I work with don't want more stuff. Unless it's maybe a label maker. The Baby Boomers are trying to get rid of stuff and young families are drowning in toys. Be aware of and respect your recipients' desires. Invite the people on your list to share their Amazon "wish lists" with you or use Pinterest.com or Clipix.com to share gift ideas online with friends and family. For those

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 14

Happy Thanksgiving!

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1 Thessalonians 5:18

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Fernwood Gardens

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**SAY YOU SAW IT ...
... IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

Sierra Shadows 4-H Club Helps "My Job Depends On Ag" Annual Dinner

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



By Corinna Martinez and Wyatt Morgan, Sierra Shadows Reporters

On Oct. 5 members from Sierra Shadows 4-H Club, which included Thiago Garcia, Delaney Rocca, Nathan Hutchison, Hailey Martinez, Corinna Martinez, Hunter Williams-Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith, went to help set up a dinner for My Job Depends on Ag at Ross Aviation by the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport.

These members put together tables with place settings, tablecloths and centerpieces. They also set up the silent auction tables and a stage for the auctioneer.

Later that day, members Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith, Sarah Morgan and Wyatt Morgan went to act as ushers for the event, taking people to their seats and handing them programs. They went in their 4H uniforms and got many compliments. Everyone who went worked hard and the room looked really nice. The plane sitting in the room was especially interesting and fun.

My Job Depends on Ag is an organization that supports and promotes the Ag industry and Ag in education. This is the second year that the club has participated in this event. While setting up, members got to see airplanes take off near the hangar. They also got to see an airplane up close that was brought into the building for the dinner. Members agreed the dinner was really "cool and fun" and enjoyed helping out. Mem-

bers who participated received credit toward community service. Members are already planning on lending a hand next year as well.



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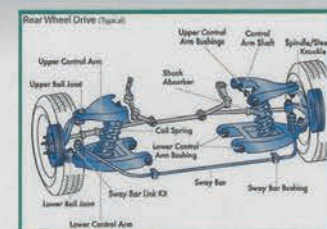
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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

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

The return of the original Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 6 at 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.
Items needed for Veterans: 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. 13. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 16 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 Party

Wednesday, December 11
6-7:30 p.m.

37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C
Madera Ranchos

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



Come to the Annual Chamber Christmas Party on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 37167 Ave. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Call 645-4001 for more 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 13.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



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17th Annual Chamber
Crab Feed
Friday, March 6, 2020 6PM

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Tickets will be available by December 1. Will make a great Christmas gift!

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(Table of 10 for \$500)

After February 21 tickets will be \$65

(Table of 10 for \$600)

Only 250 tickets will be available, none sold at the door. Must have ticket to enter.

Buy early and save, this event always sells out!

Business sponsorships available, call Chamber for details, 559-645-4001



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The Pizza Factory*



Proceeds benefit Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Ranchos, Ca

Senior Report

Holiday Events at Senior Center

By Margaret Tynan

The holiday season is here. Time races by faster and faster every year. It seems like only a short time ago that I packed away the holiday decorations and recovered from eating all the yummy seasonal treats. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are getting ready to do it all again. The Annual Holiday and Installation Dinner will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Center for members and their guests. The Center will provide delicious hams and members will bring the side dishes. There's a signup sheet at the front desk. As is the tradition, Board Members and Officers who are to serve next term will be installed that evening. Also, this year, along with door and raffle prizes, there will be voting and a prize for the best decorated table.

Be sure to stop by the Center and sign up for the holiday table decorating contest.

If you haven't voted for Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos yet, there is still a little time left to do so. Voting closes on Wednesday, Dec. 4 so hurry and vote for your candidate. This is an opportunity to help your candidate support both his/her favorite charity and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center. The six candidates and their charities are: James Brannon — Golden Valley Schools/Special Education; Marcos De Ochoa — Lifetree Church; Vince Guthrie — Ranchos/Hills Seniors; Nicole O'Reilly — Best Buddies Program; Richard Sylver — Ranchos/Hills Seniors; David Wagner — Cub Scout Pack 119. The candidate who raises the most money is chosen Honorary Mayor. Each candidate collects his/her own votes. The funds raised by each candidate are split 50-50 between the candidate's charity and the Center. The winning candidate will be announced at the Golden Valley Chamber of Com-

merce Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 6. For more information stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr., or call 559-645-4830.

Since Thomas Jefferson directed the first census in 1790, a total population and housing count of all 50 states and U.S. territories has been taken every 10 years. As required by the United States Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau will be conducting the count this upcoming year, 2020. The information gathered in the census is of vital importance to every person in every segment of the country. A representative from the Federal Government will be giving a presentation on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Center to explain the purpose and process. The presentation is open to the entire community. Come and learn how to participate, what to expect and have your questions answered. We look forward to welcoming you.

To help you get ready for the holidays, the Bake and Boutique, Treasure House and Garden Sale will be held on Dec. 7 and 8. It's a great time to stock up on those delicious home-baked goodies, most of which freeze very well. There are many lovely holiday decorations to choose from to add to the merriment of the season. Don't forget to check the boutique for a

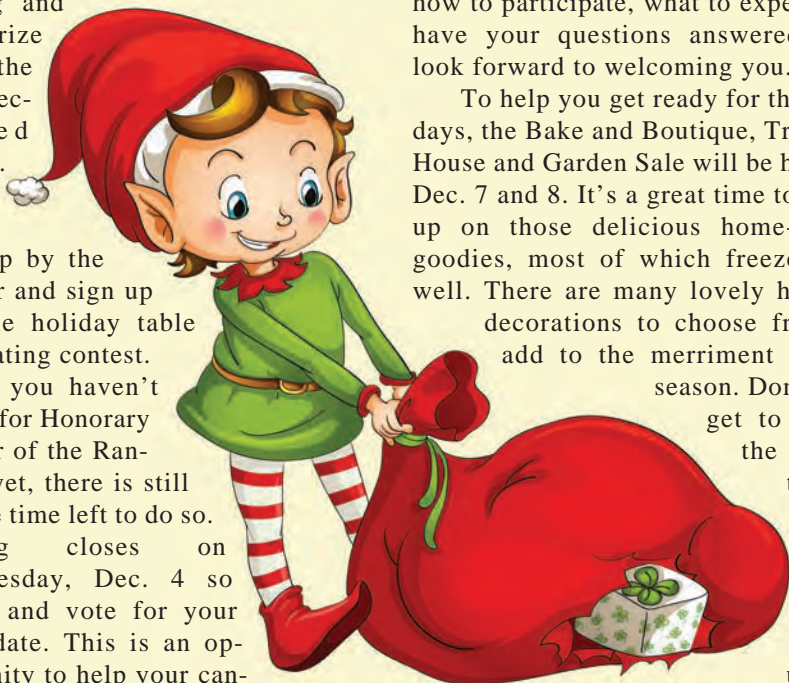
unique gift item for that special someone. Winter is a good time to add new plantings to your yard. Check out what our garden area has to offer. We'll see you there.

Join us for the exercise program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. and you are welcome to join the Writing Group that meets every Monday at 2 p.m.

A reminder: The Center will be closed Christmas Day.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors wishes everyone in our community a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Thought for December: "Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold! - Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon



ORGANIZE cont. from P. 10

who would be happier without more stuff, consider these gift ideas: A donation to a charity in honor of the recipient; a gift certificate (massage, yard care, professional organizer, etc.); concert or event tickets; zoo passes or restaurant and movie gift cards. One gift that is always a winner is a photo book. It doesn't take up much space, it preserves treasured memories and it brings a smile to the

recipient's face.

The best gift of all is the one given that first Christmas Day — Jesus Christ. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

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 pay a visit online to www.organizedbychoice.com.

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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Fundraiser at Riverstone

By Nancy Wayne

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

Rancho Kiwanis would like to thank everyone who attended the Second Annual Fall Fundraiser at the Lodge in Riverstone. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the children at Valley Children's Hospital and Golden Valley School District. Thank you to all that helped at the event, especially Virginia Vick and Bev Delk who welcomed those who attended by handing out silent auction numbers and selling Bunco tickets. There was a huge silent auction with lots of activity, and Debbie Farr and her team deserve a big "thank you" for all the hard work they did displaying all of the auction items.



The Lodge at Riverstone was the setting for the Second Annual Fall Fundraiser sponsored by the Ranchos Kiwanis.

Dinner that night was spaghetti with homemade meatballs provided by Leslie Carella and her food team, including Ellen Williams and Barbara Tatum, who prepared, served and cleaned up such a delicious meal. Ollia Ridge then provided a beautifully decorated dessert bar. The bar efficiently served beverages to make the evening cheery, courtesy of Thom, Bev Walsh and President Richard Wayne. Bunco ended the evening with lots of fun.



The patio area was set up with tables to accommodate this year's attendees for spaghetti, beverages and Bunco.

Teddy Bears were on sale throughout the month and at the event. Everyone who purchased a bear had their name put into a drawing for \$1000. Congratulations are in order to the big winner, April Jones. Kiwanis member Becky Koop deserves a special "thank you" for all of her effort and time putting together every aspect of the fundraiser. It was a wonderful night with perfect weather. And the Key Club girls from Liberty High School who helped with the set up were indispensable.

Events like this don't happen without help from sponsors. Those sponsors include Tom Jones, Riverside Management, Trigo Enterprises, LLC, John and Mary Jane Minney, Christi's Place, Pizza Factory, Elaine's Pet Resort, Simply Scrumptious, Mission Linen, GVUSD, Molly Maid of Fresno, Elizabeth Owens, and Joanne and Nolan Doss.

Kiwanis meets the second, third and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Pizza Factory Banquet Room at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos at 6 p.m. for dinner with the meeting following.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com



Buyer Beware

Hello 93636,

Several months ago, a 2014 Kia Soul was towed into the shop with a major engine failure. When we lifted the car, we discovered a failed connecting rod had punched a hole right through the side of the aluminum engine block. The connecting rod also struck and broke the starter motor. After several weeks of searching, we finally located a good, low-mileage used engine to install. Within 10,000 miles the vehicle returned with the exact same failure. In my 34+ years in the automotive repair business, I have not seen a connecting rod punch a hole through the engine block. Now, in two months, I've seen it twice with the same vehicle.

No Way!

In my mind, there is no way this unique pattern of engine failure is a coincidence. I researched the failure and was very surprised at what I discovered.

93636, if you drive a 2011-19 Hyundai Sonata, Sonata hybrid, 2013-18 Santa Fe Sport, 2019 Santa Fe, 2014, 15, 18 or 19 Tucson, 2011-19 Kia Sportage, Sorento, Optima, Optima hybrid, 2010-2015 Kia Soul vehicle with 2.0-liter and 2.4-liter Theta II GDI (Gas Direct Injection) engine, READ ON!

A class-action lawsuit filed Dec. 14, 2018 in U.S. District Court of the Central District of California (Flaherty vs Hyundai Motor Company) alleges that Hyundai and Kia vehicles equipped with Theta II 2.0 and 2.4-liter, Gamma 1.6 liter, Nu 2.0 liter, Lambda II 3.0 liter and 3.3-liter turbocharged engines, have a dangerous defect that can cause premature engine failure and spontaneous fires.

Many of these engines have improperly machined crankshafts and crankpins that leave metal shavings in the crankshaft's oil passages. The metal shavings restrict oil flow to the connecting rods resulting in catastrophic failures. When the connecting rod eventually seizes, it often breaks and punches a hole through the side of the engine block. Hot engine oil can be ejected onto the hot exhaust and ignite a fire.

Fire Hazard

The exhaust systems for these en-

gines are located on the backside of the engine near the vehicle's firewall. Our vehicle punched both holes in the front side of the engine, so the fire hazard was lower. If, however, a connecting rod punches a hole through the backside of the engine where the exhaust lives, the fire hazard would increase.

A total of 2,985,010 cars in the U.S. are potentially affected and at risk of engine fires. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has tracked at least 3,125 complaints of fires reported by owners and the automakers. The Center said more than 350 were non-collision fires.

In October 2018, Kia began sending owners a letter for a "Product Improvement Campaign" to combat the non-collision fires. The campaign added a vibration sensor to the engine block and new software to detect, predict and "warn" drivers of an eminent connecting rod failure. Sorry Hyundai and Kia, that's not a repair. That's an early warning system for the catastrophic failure that is about to occur.

Resolving Issues

On Oct. 15, 2019 Hyundai Motor America and Kia Motors America entered an agreement to resolve the class action litigation with owners. Terms of the settlement include: 1. Cash reimbursement for certain

past repairs and related expenses, such as towing and rental cars; 2. Cash compensation for certain past trade-ins and sales in lieu of repairs; 3. Free inspection and repair or replacement of damaged engines; 4. Lifetime warranty coverage for short block assembly repairs for original and subsequent owners; and 5. Free installation of the knock sensor detection system software update.

"Reflecting our commitment to customer satisfaction, Hyundai is pleased to resolve this class action litigation," said Jerry Flannery, chief legal officer at Hyundai Motor America. "This settlement acknowledges our sincere willingness to take care of customers impacted by issues with this engine's performance and recognizes the many actions we are already taking to assist our customers."

The NHTSA Recall Number is 17V-224. The Manufacture Safety Recall Campaign Number is SC147.

To be fair, many automotive manufactures are having these kinds of issues. It's my opinion many of my industry's reliability and performance issues are due to overzealous Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. Manufacturers feel pressured to rush new technologies into service before they are completely and thoroughly tested. A few years back Volkswagen got caught with a software defeat de-

vice for diesel engines that could detect emissions testing and change performance accordingly to improve results.

Buyer Beware

I think new car buyers would be taken back a bit if they fully understood the science, the complexity and just how far on the edge new vehicle technology is. If I was buying a new vehicle, fuel economy would not be a primary factor. Cost per driven mile and track record would be too. My advice to 93636 is, if you have ANY vehicle with less than 100,000 miles and less than 10 years old, conduct a NHTSA and Google search for vehicle recalls, class action lawsuits and safety campaigns before you authorize any major repairs. A little time could save you thousands of dollars. If you need help with this feel free to give me a shout. I'm here to help.

OK guys and gals, that's all for this one. I hope this article helps. As always, I'm looking for interesting, informative and current automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any suggestions, recommendations, general or specific questions about a vehicle I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text to 559-907-7661.

God bless America and God bless 93636. Warren Parr, an ASE/NAPA 2013-14 California Technician of the Year.

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SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Acronyms in H₂O Management Run Deep

Ben Franklin said, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." Water seems to be so readily available that we rarely think about how life would be without it or ponder who manages this precious resource. During SEMCU (first acronym, but far from the last) meetings, water consumes the majority of our conversation as the worth of water is well known by members of SEMCU and our community as a whole. I do not write this article as an expert on water or water management, but as a member of our community who seeks to learn more about how our water is managed and who has this awesome responsibility to bring about sustainability of water for us and our posterity.

Lesson one for me when researching was that acronyms run deep with water management. From DWR, SGMA, GSA and GSP (not UFC legend George St. Pierre), to DAC and MID and many more, these agencies play a large role in the future and sustainability of our community. To start, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the main player as this agency is responsible for the State of California's management and regulation of water usage. Laws passed by the California Legislature related to water usage regulation such as the

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) has established goals for water sustainability and has major implications on local control of our water basins. The law was signed by Governor Brown in 2014 with the goal of stopping overdrafting and bringing groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharging. Sustainability must be reached by 2042, and SGMA has empowered – wait for it – Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (another acronym, GSA) to manage our local basins and adopt – yep, another acronym – Groundwater Sustainabil-

Lesson one for me when researching was that acronyms run deep with water management. From DWR, SGMA, GSA and GSP (not UFC legend George St. Pierre), to DAC and MID and many more, these agencies play a large role in the future and sustainability of our community.

ity Plans (GSP). The GSA's play the biggest part in determining our sustainability as the GSAs must have a plan submitted by January of 2020 that is agreeable to all members within the GSA.

The roots to GSA's stem from Integrated Regional Water Management Group (IRWM), whose purpose is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions. Since the Regional Water Management Planning Act in 2002, agencies from cities, counties, water districts, community groups and

tribes have established 48 water management groups, covering 87 percent of the state and 99 percent of its population. Bringing it back to the local scene, Madera County has three sub-basins, which are the Chowchilla Sub-basin, Madera Sub-basin, and a small part of the Delta-Mendota Sub-basin. Chowchilla is broken into the Chowchilla Water District (for a fun-filled activity, feel free to create your own acronyms for this list), Madera County, Triangle T Water District and Merced County while Madera's sub-basin consists of Madera County GSA, the City of Madera GSA, Madera Irrigation District, Root Creek Water District, New Stonewater District, Gravelly Ford and the Madera Water District.

In writing this article, my hope is that you will join our South East Madera County United (SEMCU) meetings at the Pizza Factory for one hour on the third Monday of each month to share your knowledge, opinions, and/or questions about our water sustainability for our community. The Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Ave 12. Please come, make your voice heard and help us, your community, reach a sustainable future. You can get more information at info@semcu.org or by calling 559-363-9095.

My hope is that we won't ever have to echo Steven Wright in saying, "I got powdered water – now I don't know what to add."

SEMCU -- South East Madera County United -- a California non-profit corporation.

"FOR THE COMMUNITY BY THE COMMUNITY"

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was novelist, poet and playwright Gertrude Stein who made the following sage observation: "Everybody knows if you are too careful, you are so occupied in being careful that you are sure to stumble over something."
- If you're like the average American, you will eat about 150 bananas this year -- 26 pounds' worth.
- A researcher in Britain calculated that local farmland contains more than 2 million spiders per acre. Must be small ones, I'd say.
- Up until the 1500s, the accepted way of dealing with a patient who was hemorrhaging was to cauterize the wound, often with boiling oil or red-hot irons. It was in the latter part of the 16th century that a French surgeon named Ambroise Pare began tying off the broken blood vessels with cord. That's pretty much what surgeons do today.
- Thought for the Day: "I don't trust a man who uses the word evil 18 times in 10 minutes. If you're half evil, nothing soothes you more than to think the person you are opposed to is totally evil." -- Norman Mailer

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ANSWERS

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

KNEE	SASS	BERETS	HENS
COVE	ANDS	ISABEL	STEP
UNIT	TALE	JUST	BECAUSE
ROT	REVI	ISE	CE
TRAP	ZE	US	SCLE
SINAI	BALIO	HES	YES
SLAG	LIMO	SIN	EBUS
SLY	GHO	ST	AMMAN
WALTR	US	SM	RIALTO
OPIE	SHEAR	AC	DC
COPIED	TWO	OF	US
ERNNO	HE	GEL	ATAD
AVEEN	AUS	T	AL
TIRE	GRIDS	RATER	ATP
EXCL	US	IV	UNUM
HOE	FREE	BE	BASTE
TERRI	HO	US	INDUS
STEELE	GRE	INDIRA	SOB
BUST	ED	FLASH	TO
ACAI	FLASH	ROSH	EASY
PALM	MOINES	CHAS	SWAB

20	21	7		
5	+	7	÷	4
3				
X	X	+		
2	X	6	+	2
14				
			+	
8	+	9	X	1
17				

Classified

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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.

	+		×		17			
÷		-		+				
	×		+		14			
×		×		+				
	+		÷		3			
20		21		7				
1	2	2	4	5	6	7	8	9

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SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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- Do you butter your cheese? K.M. in Pennsylvania says: "I was always taught to rub a bit of butter on the cut side of my cheese so that it would not dry out."
- "I love handmade whipped cream, but it's a little bit messy when it starts out. I throw a small kitchen towel over the mixer until it gets solid, and this has cut down substantially on mixer

- messes!" -- T.T. in Minnesota
- When static season hits, try this fun trick: Mix a liquid fabric softener and water in a 1 part to 4 parts ratio. Use this to spray carpets from time to time.
- "I have two guest bedrooms that hardly get used until holidays. I keep the beds made up, but when I am expecting guests I will usually strip the beds to freshen the sheets and blankets.

I toss the sheets into the dryer with a fabric-softener sheet and hang the blanket outside in the sunshine for several hours. It always does the trick, and I don't need to wash linens that are already clean!" -- U.C. in California

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

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what it takes to get the most out of the equity you've built up in your current home.

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11/19

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By Betty Van Valkenburg

Pearls of Wisdom From Unexpected Sources

When trying to make sense of current politics and world events, we rightly seek the wisdom of today's giants and those who came before us. At this point in history, we know there is nothing new under the sun, just continual permutations. We consult the framers of the constitution, of course. We re-read the constitution. We watch or read speeches of past presidents. We consult history books and old textbooks and philosophers. But memorable pearls of wisdom also come from ordinary folks just like us, and at the most unexpected times.

At a recent small gathering, the topic turned to politics and of course the current president. While some praised President

"... memorable pearls of wisdom also come from ordinary folks just like us, and at the most unexpected times."

Trump's many successes, others decried his personal shortcomings and wondered aloud how anyone could support him with his glaring faults. A soft voice from someone not known for sharing strong opinions silenced the rest of us with this: "I don't like Donald Trump as a person at all. But as president he is proving that conservative principles work."

Bingo! Drop the microphone. Sometimes we just need to cut to the chase and put things in perspective.

The principles of constitutional limited government, free enterprise, individual liberty and responsibility, equal justice for all, national security and public safety do work. When followed, they improve our lives, guard our precious freedoms, keep us as safe as possible, and allow us to prosper in a free-market economy. After the gradual two-century surrender of our rights to politicians at all levels of government and the accelerated surrender of the last few decades, it seems we are due to roll back at least a few excessive regulations.

Despite Donald Trump's many shortcomings, he is delivering on campaign promises, which most of us doubted were sincere and one of which Barack Obama stated was impossible to fulfill: Bringing back manufacturing jobs. Per-

haps we should appreciate the successes delivered by an outsider, tweeting braggart over the empty promises of silver-tongued charlatans.

Full disclosure: During the 2016 election campaign, no one expected less of him than I did. He was my last choice for president, except for the worst choice: Democrat Hillary Clinton. Looking toward the 2020 election, as long as this president's policy decisions remain basically sound and the rabid impeachment accusations don't dig up a body or two, and while reserving my right to voice any policy disagreements and cringe at some tweets, he will have my support against the entire far-left Democrat-Socialist field. To my mind, good policy trumps bad personality.

Another unexpected bit of wisdom came many years ago when a casual discussion turned to differing religious philosophies. One person stated, to the shock of others: "My core belief is that there is a God, and I am not Him." That seemed ridiculously flippant at the time, but the speaker's explanation revealed deeper meanings: Humility and a search for truth. If our actions and speech reflect the con-

victions that we are not God but there is a true God, then our words, actions and respect for others should be much improved overall.

So, what, pray tell, does that exam-

ple have to do with a political column? A lot! It is not to espouse religious belief, but to make this political point: Liberal politicians play God. All ... the ... time. They compel us - through laws and regulations - to accept, say or do that with which we religiously, philosophically or intellectually disagree. They usurp parental responsibilities and individual freedoms. They impose exorbitant taxation and spend our tax dollars for purposes we find frivolous at best and abhorrent at worst. They reduce us to mere dependents relying on them for our very existence.

Consider the Democrat would-be gods and goddesses running for president. A previous column decried their socialist, Marxist, totalitarian plans for government control of our lives - from child rearing to total government healthcare to leveling of all incomes to the Green New Deal's banning of cars, airplanes and cows. Instead of playing around with our freedoms, they need to recognize their own human frailties. They need to respect that the constitution, which if elected they would swear to uphold, guarantees rights granted by our creator - and that sure ain't any of them!

May heaven help us.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.teapartypatriots.org for more information.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



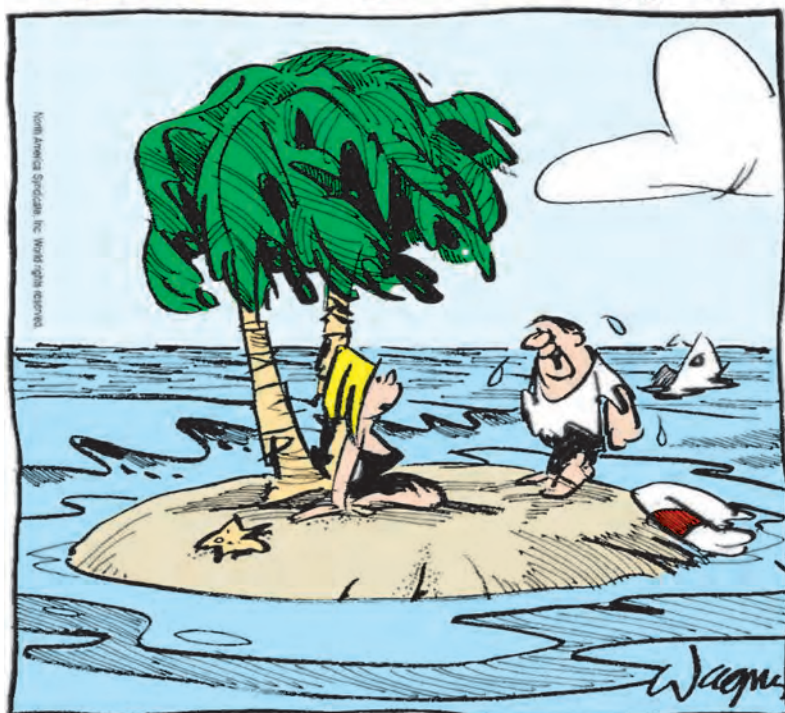
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



“Luckily, I got off a radio message that we’re 500 miles from here!”

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A long-sought workplace change could be happening soon. Consider reworking your ideas and preparing a presentation just in case. A personal relationship takes a new turn.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your persuasiveness doesn't really start to kick in until midweek. By then, you can count on having more supporters in your camp, including some you doubted would ever join you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your workload is still high, but -- good news! -- you should start to see daylight by the week's end. Reserve the weekend for fun and games with friends and loved ones. You deserve it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Regardless of how frustrating things are, keep that "Crab" under control. A cutting comment you might think is apt right now will leave others hurting for a long time to come.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be more sensitive to the emotions of loved ones who might feel left out while you're stalking that new opportunity. Be sure to make it up to them this weekend. A nice surprise could be waiting.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The gregarious Virgo rarely has a problem making new friends. But repairing frayed relationships doesn't come easily. Still, if it's what you want to do, you'll find a way. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A misunderstanding with a partner or spouse needs to be worked out before it turns into something really nasty. Forget about your pride for now and make that first healing move.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Communication dominates the week. Work out any misunderstandings with co-workers. Also get back in touch with old friends and those family members you rarely see.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) As busy as your week is, make time for someone who feels shut out of your life. Your act of kindness could later prove to be more significant than you might have realized.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Congratulations. Your busy workweek leads to some very satisfying results. Sports and sporting events are high on your weekend activities aspect. Enjoy them with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your generosity of spirit reaches out once again to someone who needs reassurance. There might be problems, but communicating eventually pays off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You are among the truth-seekers in the universe, so don't be surprised to find yourself caught up in a new pursuit of facts to counter what you believe is an insidious exercise in lying.

Born this Week

You believe in loyalty and in keeping secrets. All things considered, you would probably make a perfect secret agent.

FUN PAGES

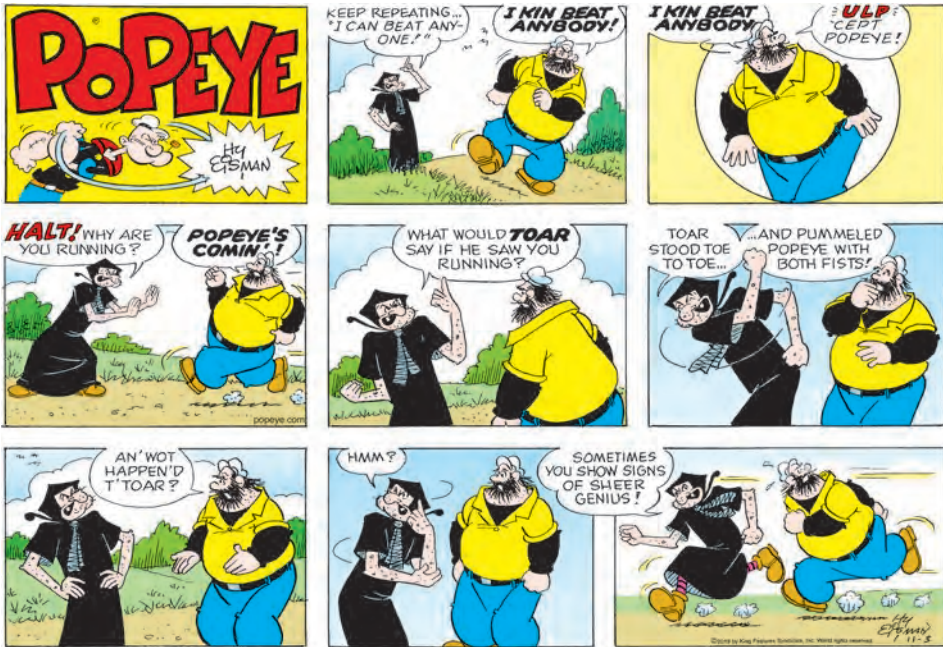
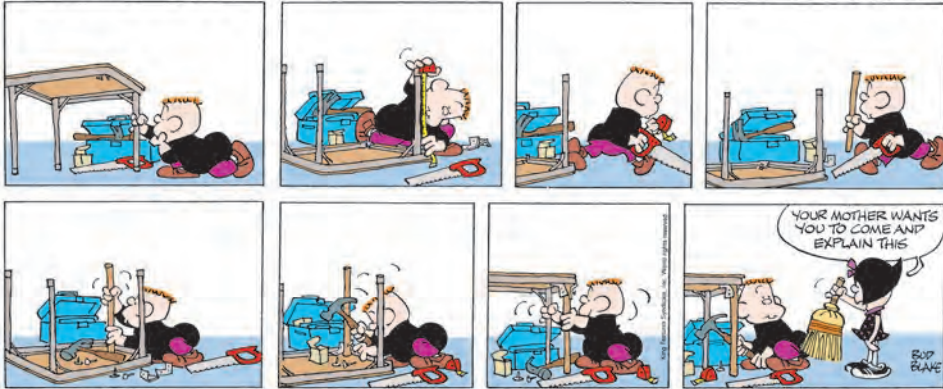
Kids' Maze



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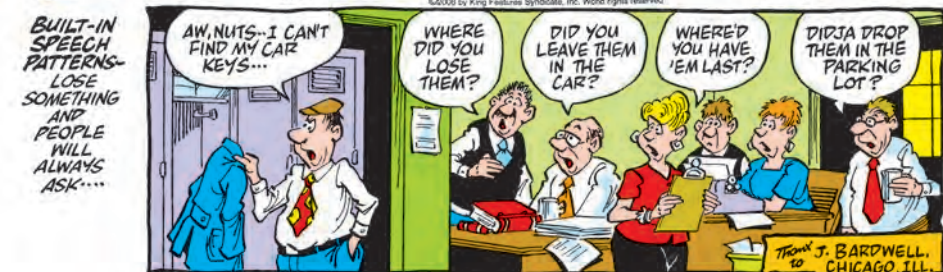
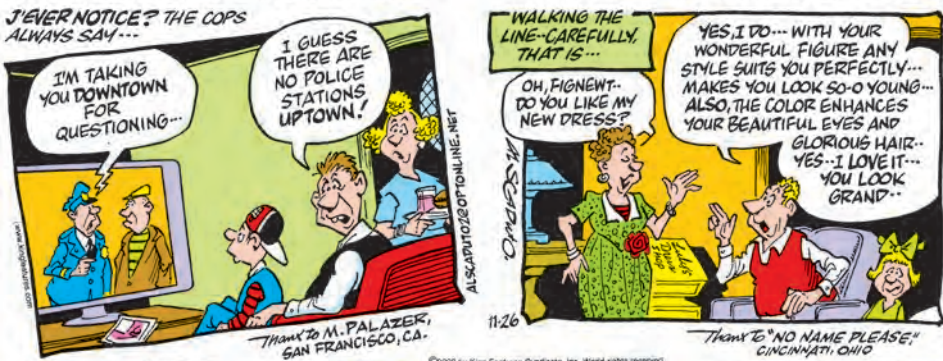
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



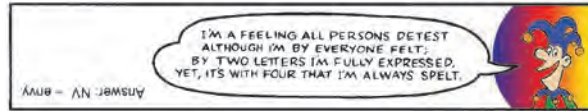
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



SIP AND SOLVE! Your problem is to remove six straws from the 24 shown here and have three squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 5, 8, 13, 15 and 16, you will be left with three different-sized squares.



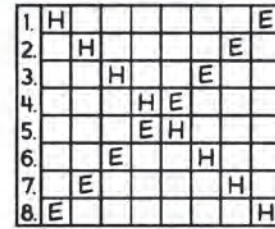
DON'T GET "ANTSY" SOLVING THIS ONE! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with ANT. The following hints should help:

1. Picnic pest (in place).
2. A poker stake.
3. An extravagant act.
4. Pointy decoration.
5. Great for heartburn.
6. Words of opposite meanings.

Answers: 1. Ant 2. Ant 3. Antic 4. Antler 5. Antacid 6. Antonyms

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Known to recede with time.
2. Sailor songs.
3. Helps cold sufferers.
4. Very intelligent people.
5. Gets you into tight places.
6. Lost all its color.
7. Promises to marry.
8. Hour before the end.

ANAGRAM:

hair + rein
sine + chat
shin + real
gags + heed
nosh + hero
ache + bled
rest + both
vent + heel

Answers: 1. Hairline 2. Chanties 3. Inhalers 4. Eggnogs 5. Shoehorn 6. Bleached 7. Betroths 8. Eleventh

Wishing Well

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

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

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

Abbey Cottage Hospital Shed
Barn Dormitory Mansion Skyscraper
Bunkhouse Firehouse Mill Warehouse
Cathedral Greenhouse Mosque

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which two U.S. states is the Gila River located?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin suffix *darium* mean?
3. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century novel begins with the line, "For many days we had been tempest-tossed."
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: In what year did President Richard Nixon resign from office?
5. MUSIC: Who had the 1970s hit "Paradise by the Dashboard Light"?
6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is a span, as mentioned in the Bible?
7. HISTORY: What was the code name of the Allies' invasion of North Africa in World War II?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which organization did Juliette Low found in 1912?
9. PSYCHOLOGY: What abnormal fear is represented in the condition called atychiphobia?
10. TELEVISION: What was the number of the mobile hospital unit in the TV drama "M*A*S*H"?

Answers

1. Arizona and New Mexico
 2. A place associated with a specific thing, such as planetarium.
 3. "The Swiss Family Robinson"
 4. 1974
 5. Meat Loaf
 6. About 9 inches
 7. Operation Torch
 8. Girl Scouts
 9. Fear of failure
 10. 4077th
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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



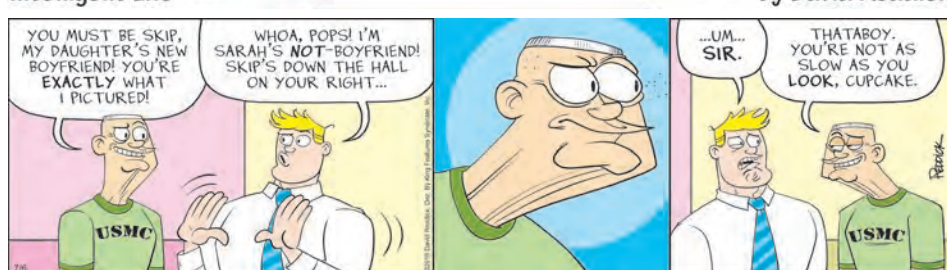
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

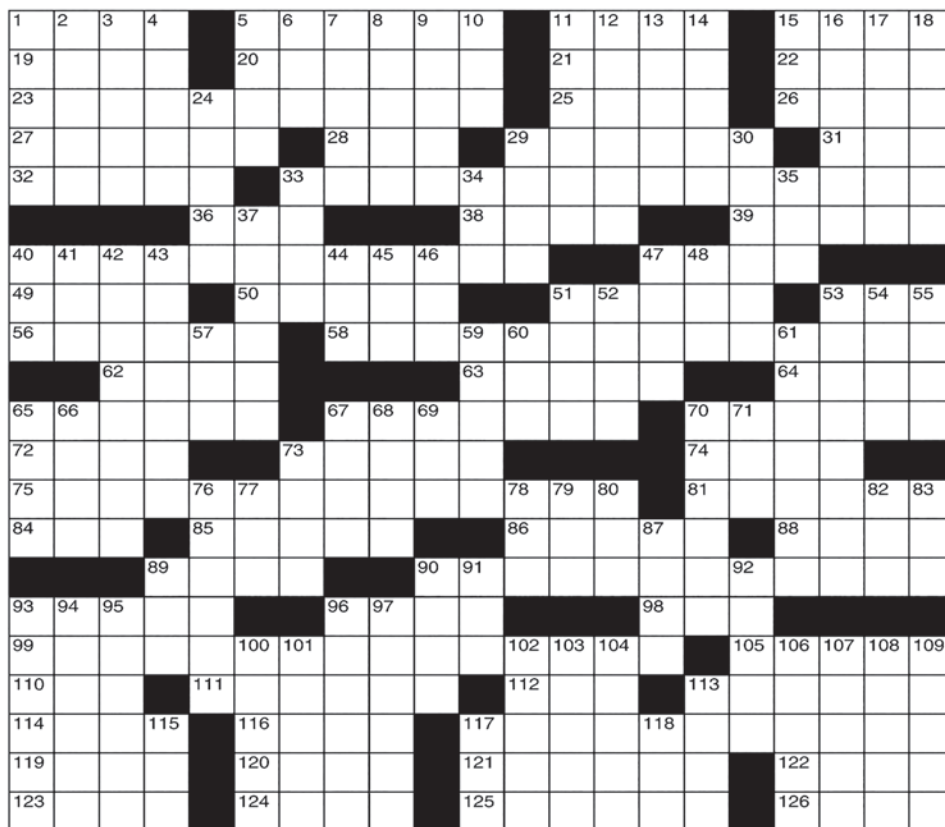
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Girl's bow is missing. 2. Collar is different. 3. Boy's pencil is gone. 4. Name on briefcase is different. 5. Shrub is missing. 6. Picture on box has changed.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 47 "E pluribus —" | 86 Capital of Jordan | DOWN | 43 More guarded | 82 —TV (cable channel) |
| 1 Tropical tree | 49 Wear out | 88 Sage guide | 1 Blue Ribbon beer brewer | 44 By way of | 83 Suffix with resin or peril |
| 5 Des — (capital of Iowa) | 50 Plotting aids | 89 Smelter junk | 2 Piercing | 45 Univ. email ender | 87 Court great |
| 11 Cartoonist Addams, familiarly | 51 Many a critic | 90 Luxury airport | 3 Cutting beam | 46 Inits. on a navy vessel | 89 Trunk gunk |
| 15 Floor mop | 53 Org. for Roger Federer | 93 Moses' peak | 4 Priestly hat | 47 Electric or water co. | 90 Green fruit |
| 19 Berry of a Brazilian | 56 Oatmeal bath brand | 96 Chachi player Scott | 5 Formed | 48 Tch'r.'s gp. | 91 Chit letters |
| 20 Practically no time | 58 Outback locale | 98 "— So Fine" (1963 hit) | 6 See 115-Down | 51 Spaghetti sauce brand | 92 "Gone" boy band |
| 21 — Hashana | 62 Cube creator | 99 A shoulder shrug | 7 "Send me!" | 52 British brews | 93 Slapped, e.g. |
| 22 "Relax!" | 63 Post-Kantian philosopher | 105 Flunkies' responses | 8 Island nation in the Pacific | 53 Group that services car owners | 94 Patch variety |
| 23 Poker hand of four clubs and one heart, say | 64 Somewhat | 110 Get decayed | 9 Double curves | 54 Alexis I, e.g. | 95 Endemic |
| 25 Itty bit | 65 Duplicated | 111 Amend | 10 "Zip it up!" | 55 High degs. | 96 Intensifies |
| 26 Judicious | 67 Beatles song that's an apt alternate | 112 So-so mark | 11 Wince | 57 LA-to-MI dir. | 97 Evaluate |
| 27 Old TV's "Remington —" | 70 Lower baseball leagues | 113 Put in a box | 12 Thick, head-hiding top | 59 Actress Birch of "American Beauty" | 100 Sorority letters |
| 28 Test for univ. seniors | 72 Taylor tyke of old TV | 114 Army division | 13 Sean of "50 First Dates" | 60 TKO caller | 101 First ex of Donald |
| 29 One of the Gandhis | 73 Clip, as wool | 116 Yarn | 14 Pottery piece | 61 Cut coverer | 102 "— me?" ("What'd ya say?") |
| 31 Weep noisily | 74 "High Voltage" band | 117 For no particular reason | 15 Hem, e.g. | 62 Dairy beasts | 103 "Dog whisperer" |
| 32 Country singer Clark | 75 Facial feature of Mark Twain | 119 Little bay | 16 Pants parts | 63 Milky gem | 104 Don't disturb |
| 33 Field of a homebuilder | 81 Island of Venice | 120 Added stipulations | 17 Put in groups | 64 Ergo | 105 Digital dough |
| 36 Farm tool | 84 Foxlike | 121 "The Jeffersons" actress Sanford | 18 "Ta-ta!" | 65 Part of SW | 106 Grain bit |
| 38 No-charge | 85 Haunting one | 122 Tread | 19 1910s senator Root | 66 Memo start | 67 Hitchcock film of 1964 |
| 39 Moist, as poultry | | 123 Body part with the ACL | 20 Uncertain things | 68 King-to-be | 69 Here, to Luc |
| 40 What a patent or copyright might grant | | 124 Get lippy with | 21 Neill of film | 70 CBS journalist Charles | 71 Bad city air |
| | | 125 Soft caps | 22 CBS | 72 More unsightly | 73 "— Na Na" |
| | | 126 Female fowl | 23 LAX posting | 74 GoPro, e.g. | 75 Med. group |
| | | | 24 VII doubled | 76 Bird of the | 77 58-Across |
| | | | 25 In a spine-chilling way | 78 Sloop sail | 79 Lay odds |

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