

The Ranchos Independent



PRSRT STD
ECR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

CELEBRATING
16 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 17 Issue 11 2021

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

**Cold
Weather
AHEAD**

*... particularly
for your
pocketbook as U.S.
consumers face the
biggest jump in
energy bills since 2009.
Prepare for soaring
electricity and natural gas
prices as cooler weather
approaches.*

In This Issue

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 16 / Fun Pages • Pages 18 & 19*



... particularly for your pocketbook as U.S. consumers face the biggest jump in energy bills since 2009. Prepare for soaring electricity and natural gas prices as cooler weather approaches.

By Randy Bailey

According to an article written by Josh Saul in Bloomberg News, American consumers last month faced the biggest increase in their energy costs since 2009, and the prospects for alarmingly increased costs for electricity, natural gas and fuel oil are only expected to worsen as winter approaches.

Numbers released on Nov. 10 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed that electricity prices in October increased 6.5 percent over a year ago. During the same time, consumer prices for natural gas went up 28 percent. Fuel oil rose 59 percent and propane, kerosene and firewood costs jumped nearly 35 percent. The increase in electricity was the most since March 2009 while the “utility-piped gas” increase was the biggest since August 2008. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, for households

using gas, heating oil or electricity, this winter will be the costliest since at least 2014-2015.

The increases in October’s numbers point a finger at the source of the problem: U.S. prices for natural gas and oil are trading close to multi-year highs, all while there is a global “squeeze” on supplies. Add to that labor shortages at U.S. coal mines and an energy “perfect storm” starts to form.

More Expensive to Heat your Home

“We’re looking at a much more expensive winter this year to heat your home,” said Mark Wolfe, who heads the National Energy Assistance Directors’ Association, the policy organization for state officials who administer federal energy support. “It’s pretty grim.”

Warnings about the potentially high bills on the horizon for this winter are being made by a number of U.S. power companies. Duke Energy Corp. for ex-

ample, which serves parts of the mid-west and south, is proposing to lower the impact of the increased costs by spreading out those costs over two years.

Here at home, our relationship with PG&E is tenuous at best. Even before the shock of increasing prices for this coming winter hits us, the energy institute at UC Berkeley’s Haas Business School determined that PG&E customers pay about 80 percent more per kilowatt-hour than the national average. Further, the study revealed that Southern California Edison charged 45 percent more than the national average and San Diego Gas & Electric charged double. Possibly even more alarming was that low-income Californians enrolled in PG&E’s “C.A.R.E.” program, or California Alternate Rates for Energy, paid more than the average American.

Energy Prices Out of Line

“California’s retail prices are out of line with utilities across the country – and they’re increasing,” said the co-author of the study, UC Berkeley’s Assistant Professor Meredith Fowlie.

A reason for PG&E’s high prices is that its “fixed” costs, such as maintenance, generation, transmission and distribution, are comingled with public programs like CARE and wildfire mitigation. Between two thirds and 77 percent of Californians’ electricity bills are used to offset the costs of those programs. The weight of those programs came to a head in January 2019 when PG&E filed for bankruptcy protection after being held financially responsible for a series of deadly and destructive wildfires in 2017 and 2018.

No rate reductions are planned for PG&E. To reduce your bill, they have a series of “suggestions” at www.pge.com/en_US/residential/save-energy-money/resources/winter-tips/winter-tips.page? to potentially lower your bill.

Death on Ave. 12 Linked to Fog

By Randy Bailey

Foggy road conditions and possibly alcohol may have played a part in a traffic collision on Avenue 12 at Road 36 ½ on Sunday night, Nov. 14 just after midnight that resulted in one death and four injuries.

California Highway Patrol reported that 50-year-old Walter Cleven Vayson, Jr. of Oakland was driving a gray Toyota Rav-4 in the wrong direction on Avenue 12 in the fog and struck an oncoming white BMW head-on. Investigators at the scene were able to determine that Vayson was not wearing a seatbelt and evidence suggested he was driving while intoxicated, although an official cause has not been released yet. Emergency personnel performed CPR on Vayson but were unable to resuscitate him and he was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision.



The other vehicle, a white BMW, contained an adult woman and three children. All four of the BMW passengers were transported to local hospitals and were later listed with non-threatening injuries. Investigators stated that there was no indication of alcohol or drug use by the BMW driver.

A big contributor to the collision was dense fog that Ranchos residents are familiar with annually. Investigators estimated that visibility was between 500 and 100 feet along Avenue 12 that night.

The CHP stresses that driving in fog requires a different set of driving “rules.” Rule number one is slow down. With reduced visibility comes reduced reaction time. Secondly, always use low beams on your headlights, never high beams. High beams will cause your headlights to reflect off the fog like a mirror, blinding you. If you decide to pull over, make sure you park as far from the road as possible and turn on your flashers. Drivers often follow the taillights of the car ahead of them and may not realize the taillights they’re following are on a parked car until it is too late. Finally, roll your windows down a listen for other cars at intersections. These basic rules could save your life.

This collision is an ongoing investigation.

Click on “Local News” at

Recent Increase in Child Porn Cases in Ranchos

Madera County Sheriff’s Department arrested a 33-year-old man from Riverstone on Tuesday, Nov. 2 for possession and distribution of child sexual abuse imagery, bringing the total arrests for these charges in Madera County to four, with two of them coming from the Madera Ranchos. The other three arrested were all teenagers.

Information received



from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children through the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program revealed multiple cases of child sexual abuse imagery being uploaded to the internet in Madera County, specifically from the Madera Ranchos in two of the four cases.

Please see **PORN** on P. 16

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 3 • 6 p.m.

The return of the original Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 3 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. 10. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.
Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

11/21

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual
Chamber Christmas Mixer

Wednesday, December 8
6-7:30 p.m.

37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C
Madera Ranchos
Everyone is invited.
Great food will be served.
Our Merry Christmas to you.
Call 645-4001 for info.



Come to the next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 8 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 10.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

Kiwanis Korner

A Playground for Ranchos Children?

By Sally Rowden

Here's an update regarding the possibility of a park/playground in the Madera Ranchos community. I attended the Coffee Virtual Meeting presented by our Supervisor Brett Frazier on Oct. 28. As the Water Treatment Project discussion concluded, I asked about the possibility of a park/playground being built on the excess land at the project site. Supervisor Frazier expressed that a playground idea has been talked about. The County will be looking at the footprint of the area after the project is completed, evaluating if a park/playground could be developed. Supervisor Frazier feels it would be great for our children, our families and our community to have a play area beside using our schools, and he's very positive about the possibility of having community partners working on this venture.

Also discussed at the Coffee Virtual Meeting was an update on the topic of clean and sustainable water. Stephanie Anagnoson, the Director of Water and Natural Resources of Madera County, expressed that it is everyone's right to have both clean and sustainable water and, to that end, non-profit organization Self-Help Enterprises is available to help achieve those goals. If you qualify – and there is a ceiling income qualification limit – these services can be provided at no cost. Anagnoson suggested that, regardless of income, you should still apply. For questions about clean water call 559-802-1285 and for sustainable water call 559-802-1685.

Here's a reminder that the Kiwanis Christmas/Holiday House Decorating Contest registration is underway. You can get information and pick up registration forms at the Golden Valley Chamber of

Commerce at 37167 Avenue 12 - #5C, Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call them at 645-4001. You can also send an email to rowdensally2@gmail.com and I will email the forms to you. The last day to register is Nov. 30 and judging by the community will take place Dec. 10 after a meeting at Fernwood Gardens at 12090 Fernwood Dr. at 7 p.m. Maps and judging sheets will be distributed. Winning contestants will be notified by Dec. 14 and first, second and third place awards will be presented during the Kiwanis Meeting on Dec. 16 at the Pizza Factory. Contest winners will also be in the December issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Dave Hillman, from the Kiwanis Club of Fresno and our guest speaker at the Nov. 4 meeting, spoke on membership recruitment. During our COVID times, volunteerism has become a challenge. In Fresno, the Kiwanis have initiated a Membership Program that's working well and we hope to initiate a similar type of program soon.

The Kiwanis Club of Fresno is sponsoring an event called the VA Kids Balakian Shopping Spree. This event gives local homeless veterans' children the opportunity to shop for a coat, sweater, sweat-shirt and shoes. Each child is allocated \$150 and their own personal shopper helper. The Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos donated \$300 in support of the children whose veteran parents served for all of us. The event will take place on Dec. 4 at the Burlington Coat Factory in Clovis.

The Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos would like to say Happy Thanksgiving to all in our community with heartfelt wishes for a day full of giving and thanks.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

How do you get free tank rent for the first year, prompt friendly service, a free initial leak test and competitive prices? You call ...



VALLEY PROPANE

559-645-5324

the ONLY locally owned propane company in the Madera Ranchos

11/21

Happy Thanksgiving!

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9am • Sunday Worship 10:30am

Wednesday Life App Classes 6:30pm

Women's Bible Study Thursday 6:30pm

12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos
Facebook: @GoldenValleyBaptistChurch
559-645-1700



In Everything Give Thanks!



1 Thessalonians 5:18

11/21

GO HAWKS!

Join us in supporting our LIBERTY HIGH HAWKS this season and all year long

VALLEY PROPANE

"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"

645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center



The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.
 All contents of this publication are copyright 2021, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.
 All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
 ranchosnews@yahoo.com

www.TheRanchos.com

Guest Editorial

Let's Go Brandon!

By Rich Lowry

The life of Brandon.
 There's a crisis afoot in the land - people are being rude to President Joe Biden.

The trend of anti-Biden protestors chanting or holding signs saying, "F--- Joe Biden," or the cleaner version that has come to signify the same thing, "Let's go Brandon," is being portrayed as a new low in American politics.

A recent Washington Post report was headlined, "Biden's Critics Hurl Increasingly Vulgar Taunts." It stipulated presidents have always been the subject of derision and abuse, then claimed, "The current eruption of anti-Biden signs and chants, however, is on another level, far more vulgar, and widespread."

Really? Put aside all the abuse presidents were subjected to prior to the digital age, whether John Quincy Adams ("pimp"), Andrew Jackson ("a greater tyrant than Cromwell, Cesar, or Bonaparte"), Martin van Buren ("Martin van Ruin"), Abraham Lincoln

("the original gorilla") or Theodore Roosevelt ("that damned cowboy"). The last few years weren't exactly a mannerly period of polite disagreement in our national life.

As Byron York of the Washington Examiner has noted, Donald Trump's opponents gloried in the F-word, such that without it some of them would have been rendered practically mute. When Robert De Niro introduced Bruce Springsteen at the 2018 Tony Awards, he used the opportunity to declare: "I'm gonna say one thing. F---

Trump." Cue the standing ovation.

A Los Angeles art gallery had a "F--- Trump" exhibit, rapper Eminem led a "F--- Trump" call-and-response at a concert in Eng-

land, and so on.

If lobbying this particular vulgarity is now completely out of bounds, the new progressive rule is "F--- you" for me, but not for thee.

After gaining traction with roadside demonstrators outside Biden events and with college football fans, the "F--- Joe Biden" chant took an unexpected turn last month. The NASCAR driver Brandon Brown won a race at the Talladega Superspeedway and the reporter interviewing him misstated a growing "F--- Joe Biden" chant in the background as fans saying, "Let's go Brandon."

The scene was like something out of the Will Ferrell comedy "Talladega Nights." A meme was born.

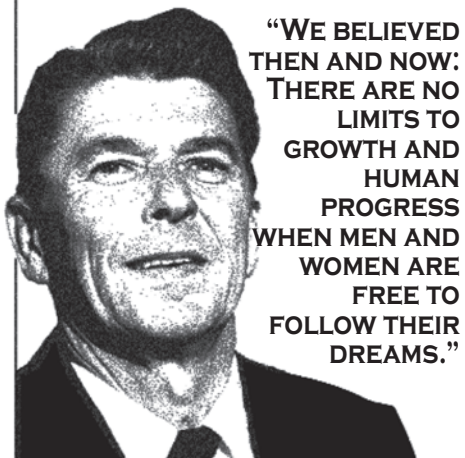
The substitute version of the insult, instantly adopted by the president's critics, is more lighthearted than the original. Fundamentally, it's a joke. It is a gibe at Biden, of course, but also at the misreporting of the chant at the raceway, which is taken as a symbol of the media's ridiculous protectiveness toward Biden.

The chant is also amusingly anodyne, given its provenance. Who can object to the cheering on Brandon, whoever he is?

Not everyone appreciates the

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 9

THE RAY GUN
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"WE BELIEVED THEN AND NOW: THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO GROWTH AND HUMAN PROGRESS WHEN MEN AND WOMEN ARE FREE TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS."

RONALD REAGAN
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Reasons for Thankfulness

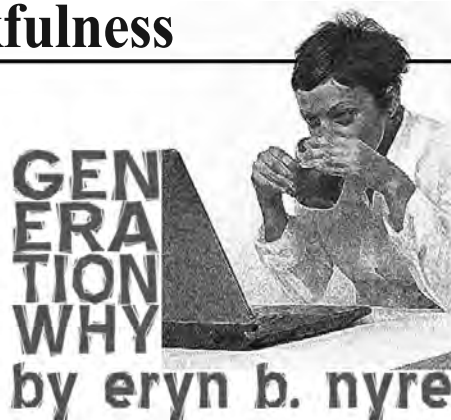
Does it seem impossible to anyone else that the holiday season is already here again? It feels like I just put my Christmas tree away a few weeks ago and here we are getting ready for turkey and stuffing. Did I blink and miss most of this year? Is someone messing with the fast forward button again? I guess it doesn't matter how we got here, the point is that it's the time of year when we express our gratitude for all the ways we have been blessed in this life. I doubt I'm alone when I say I should be better at being thankful every day of the year, and not just hoarding it all up until the end of November, but 'tis the season, so here is a short list of thanksgiving.

First, and most importantly, I am grateful for the unyielding, unconditional love of Jesus Christ and the blessed gift of grace and salvation He gave to all. I am eternally grateful that I live in a country that allows me to practice and proclaim my faith without

fear of being arrested or even killed. Sure, being a Christian in America today comes with criticism and mockery, but sticks and stones. Christians in other countries are not merely mocked for their faith, they are persecuted, jailed and even put to death.

I'm blessed to have been born in the United States of America, even if there are people today doing their absolute best to destroy it from within, because it means I have the freedom to love Jesus and share that love with any and all who will listen.

I'm thankful for being raised by loving, involved, strict parents. Parents who absolutely humiliated me by not letting me go to parties if they couldn't talk to the host's parents. Parents who tormented me with structure, rules and consequences. Parents who loved me enough to know that it is more important to raise me than to be my friend. They brought me up to be a critical thinker, to have a strong work ethic and to work consistently on becoming a better person today than I was yesterday. I can't say I appreciated their methods then, but I certainly do now. I wouldn't



by **eryn b. nyre**

be the woman I am today if they had just phoned it in as parents.

In that same vein, I'm grateful for the extremely close relationship I had with my mom. The teenage years were rocky, and that's the nicest way I can say that, but somehow, somewhere in my twenties, we managed to build a loving and mutually respectful relationship. The kind of mother/daughter connection you might see on a hallmark movie. Sappy alert: She was the best friend I have ever had. Spending the last five years without her has been agonizing,

but it has made me appreciate the years we had together even more.

I'm so grateful for my father. He's directly responsible for my sense of humor, my ingenuity and probably a little of my cockiness too. After losing mom, he and I clung to each other. He has

been my rock, my sounding board, my voice of reason and occasionally that loving slap to the back of my head that everyone still needs from time to time. I don't know how I would have made it through the last five years without his constant love and support.

I am grateful for my job. It's a good job, the pay is decent, I truly like at least 30 percent of my coworkers on a consistent basis, and I get to work from home. This last part I am particularly thankful for because I'm relatively certain that if I had to drive the hundred-mile round trip every day to the office like I used to, I'd have to start selling off internal organs just to afford the gas.

I'm thankful for all of my family. I am thankful for the friends I have made over the years who have become family.

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

To truly appreciate this precious gift of life we have, is to experience all it has to offer ... Love and companionship are more deeply cherished when we have known loneliness and solitude. Through all of it though, it's when we can find reasons to be grateful even in sorrow that we feel true joy.

Let us compare your insurance rates



CRAWFORD INSURANCE GROUP, INC.
auto • home • commercial • workers comp

call Mark Crawford • 559-225-1435
CrawfordInsuranceGroup@yahoo.com
25-Year Rancho resident • 30+ years experience
Lic. #OE52033 & 0800722

11/21

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO

WE KNOW LOW CARBS!

\$20 OFF
1st visit only



DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

11/21

BEDROCK ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!
10878 Highway 41
559.645.4849
www.bedrockeng.com

INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

- Save money on flood insurance with an elevation certificate
- Verify your property line locations with a boundary survey
- Reconfigure your property lines with a lot line adjustment
- Improve your property with a grading and drainage plan
- Divide your property with a parcel map



Dedicated to serving the land surveying and civil engineering needs of Madera Ranchos and the Central Valley

11/21

11/21

www.chadstrucking.com

CHAD TRUCKING

CA #441782

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

559-645-5363

ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL • HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK • LANDSCAPE MATERIAL • FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK • CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK • ROCK DUST • COBBLE STONES • DRIVEWAY BASE • CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •



18 Years of Gratitude

As I was contemplating a gratitude theme this month, I was thinking about how grateful I am for 15 years in the organizing business. I recall talking to a seasoned organizer prior to starting my business. She said, "It's the greatest job — you get to do what you love doing. When you're done, your client thanks you, gives you a big hug, and writes you a check!" I am blessed enough without the checks, but since we're not independently wealthy, I'm grateful for the checks as well.

Through the years, over 450 people have invited me into their homes and offices. I understand it's never easy to reveal what you're challenged or embarrassed by, especially to a stranger. I'm grateful for my clients' trust and hold that in high regard.

I'm grateful for the many wonderful clients who have become friends as well. It's a gift to enter people's lives, hear their stories and journey with them to a more peaceful and productive environment.

Organizing also promotes gratitude in the hearts of clients. Today I received this thank you note: "Dear Brenda, I can't thank you enough for all of your help. I'm feeling the good effects of your skill and involvement every day. I'm not overwhelmed by a cluttered home anymore ... even when company's coming! You've been a life-changer for me. Thank you! Thank you!"

She went on to say how grateful she is that change is always possible when it comes to our habits and tendencies. New skills can be learned, and we are not inevitable victims of our circumstances. Amen!

One couple's eight-year-old grandson had never been inside their home due to clutter. We worked for weeks to uncover a beautiful living room, dining room and kitchen. Clutter was a wall

blocking out those they loved. How grateful they were when they could welcome him in.

"Oh, that's where that was!" is a phrase I often hear. People are grateful as they discover treasures they had searched for—cash, vital documents, jewelry and just some really useful stuff. It's always a pleasure to rejoice with them.

After re-homing bins of paper to a user-friendly file system, a client told me how grateful he was knowing right where to put things.

Another client says she and her husband are still talking about the dramatic difference it made when we moved their food wraps and baggies from a bottom drawer to the top.

Sometimes it's uncovering and giving an honored home to treasures from the past like I've done with my veteran client. And sometimes it's releasing things from the past to make space for current priorities.

My life has been enriched through each organizing encounter, but one stands out above the rest.

In 2011, I stood at DeVonia's doorstep, thinking I had something to offer her. And indeed, given the fact she was a widow with Multiple Sclerosis and bound to a wheelchair, her need was great. However, what she taught me about "being grateful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18) is a lesson that will last my lifetime.

Almost daily as I rise out of bed on my own and carry on my daily activities, I'm grateful for legs that work. I am grateful for DeVonia's example of faith — waiting on God to provide her daily needs and always remembering to give thanks.

No matter her pain or challenge of the day, she greeted me with "God is good, and I am blessed." The Lord graciously released her from her earthly pain in 2019. The last gift she gave me was a beautiful, framed design with the word "Gratitude" in the center.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, it's my prayer that we will be mindful of our blessings and express gratitude to the Giver of all good things.

Contact Organized by Choice at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

I'm grateful for the many wonderful clients who have become friends as well. It's a gift to enter people's lives, hear their stories and journey with them to a more peaceful and productive environment.

TRACTOR WORK

- House Pads • Lot Leveling •
- Underground Utilities Installed
- Septic Systems Installed •
- Concrete Work
- Driveways •
- Trenching

Call Sonny at **559-970-4476** S.G.E. Lic. #719500

GOT POOP?
CALL The Poop Fairies

LOCAL dog waste removal service • Weekly, every other week and one time services • Residential and commercial properties • Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and at www.ThePoopFairies.com

559-GOT-POOP (559-468-7667)

Sago Key Palm Plantation!

More than 20,000 Palms & Sagos in stock. We also have a wide selection of Shade & Fruit trees.

call Juan and Maria at **559-268-6650**

6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

Bradley & Sons DRILLING & PUMP SYSTEMS

674-1663
23338 Ave. 14
Madera

DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

Family Owned Since 1976

Happy Thanksgiving

(November 2011)

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.

A Special Casserole

For 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 Dressing (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



by Jean Briner

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 DeLuxe

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. Wait until ready to serve before putting in the bananas so they don't turn dark on you. You don't want that. You want your salad to look pretty.

Thanksgiving Wishes

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and I hope you have a glorious day after with lots of leftovers.

Create a gift from the heart

Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336

37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

Appointment Only -- Give us a call!

Visit us at www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com
 and Facebook "What's Up in the Ranchos"
 Contact us for SPECIAL GROUP PARTIES
 NEVER a sitting fee • Walk-ins ALWAYS welcome



Arts & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Items

11/21

Rodents destroying your property?

Over 15 years of experience
 Licensed by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 Cal. Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
 Nuisance animal trapping

CALL FOR AN INSPECTION TODAY!

ALLIED RODENT CONTROL • 312-5441



11/21

Got Water?

Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?
 Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?

CALL US!

Bubba's Water Truck Service
 call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

11/21

Click on "Local News" at

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

I'm thankful to be able to write this column. I'm thankful for my education. I am thankful that despite the empty grocery store shelves, the rising cost of food and gas, and the persistent supply chain issues, I am not going hungry, I am not freezing, and I am not without a safe and comfortable home.

To truly appreciate this precious gift of life we have, is to experience all it has to offer. Delighting in new life being born is



amplified as we also experience loss. The joy that comes with youth and health is better appreciated when we encounter aging and sickness. Love and companionship are more deeply cherished when we have known loneliness and solitude. Through all of it though, it's when we can find reasons to be grateful even in sorrow that we feel true joy. So, this Thanksgiving, whether you're surrounded by a large family or small number of loved ones, count your blessings and remember that there is always something for which to be thankful. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

humor, though. When a Southwest Airlines pilot allegedly spoke the offending phrase over the intercom on a flight with an Associated Press reporter on board, the outrage machine kicked into gear in a particularly blatant display of humorlessness and lack of proportion.

Harvard professor and CNN commentator Juliette Kayyem posted a missive supposedly from another pilot calling for the Southwest pilot and the crew all to be fired on grounds that he must have been too mentally unbalanced to operate the plane.

Asha Rangappa, another CNN commentator and a Yale law professor, compared the pilot's statement with saying, "Long live ISIS," as if expressing an anti-Biden sentiment in a jokey way is the same as pledging loy-

alty to a terror group that would love its acolytes to crash airliners.

Of course, pilots shouldn't make political announcements on their flights, and it'd be better if no one resorted to public obscenities when referring to Biden, Trump, or any other officeholder. But it's one of the privileges of living in a democratic age that people can insult the head of state without fear of jail or other punishment.

Anyone who thinks deriding a U.S. president, especially an unpopular one, is breaking new, dangerous ground knows nothing of our history or what it's like to live in a clamorous continental nation. Partisan insults, vulgar and not, come with the territory.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

© 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

H.O. TIRES

BUY 4 TIRES
RECEIVE **FREE ALIGNMENT**
\$49 VALUE

Tires
We carry a great range for all vehicles and all applications, new and used

Wheel Alignments
Computerized wheel alignment. 30-day warranty

FREE Tire Maintenance
We offer FREE tire rotations and balance every 7,000 miles

Wheel & Tire Packages
We give your car the right look without compromising safety

Lift & Lowering Kits
Whether you're looking to run bigger tires or get an aggressive look, we have the right product for you

MADERA 559.831.2837 CHOWCHILLA 559.201.9133 FRESNO 559.478.5539

www.hotiresnwheels.com
(559) 831-2937
421 Noble St.
Madera, 93637

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

OPEN 7 DAYS
M-SAT 8-7 • SUN 9-5

PON TUS LLANTAS HOY CON TRES MESES PARA PAGAR

We do suspension and brake service.
Hacemos trabajo de suspension y frenos.

www.hotiresnwheels.com
(559) 831-2937

New Study Determines Grapes are *Great* for your Gut and Overall Health

By Randy Bailey

A new study has discovered that ordinary table grapes can increase the diversity of “gut” bacteria and reduce cholesterol in your body.

“We found that grapes have a beneficial effect on gut bacteria, which is great news, since a healthy gut is critical to good health,” said Dr. Zhaoping Li, M.D., Ph.D. at an intervention study conducted at the University of California, Los Angeles

What’s In My Gut?

Living inside of your gut are 300 to 500 different kinds of bacteria containing nearly 2 million genes. Paired with other tiny organisms like viruses and fungi, they make what’s known as the microbiota, or the microbiome. Each person’s microbiota is unique: The mix of bacteria in your body is different from everyone else’s. It’s determined partly by your mother’s microbiota – the environment that you’re exposed to at birth – and partly from your diet and lifestyle. The bacteria live throughout your

body, but the ones in your gut may have the biggest impact on your well-being. They line your entire digestive system. Most live in your intestines and colon. They affect everything from your metabolism to your mood to your immune system.

Gut Bacteria and Disease

Research suggests the gut bacteria in healthy people are different from other people with certain diseases. People who are sick may have too little or too much of a certain type. Or, they may lack a wide variety of bacteria. It’s thought that some kinds of bacteria may protect against ailments, while others may raise the risk. Scientists have begun to draw links between the following illnesses and the bacteria in your gut:

Obesity, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease: Your gut bacteria affect your body’s metabolism. They determine things like how many calories you get from food and what kinds of nutrients you draw from it. Too much gut bacteria can make you turn fiber into fatty acids. This may cause fat deposits in your liver, which can lead to something

called “metabolic syndrome” – a condition that often leads to type 2 diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis: People with these conditions are believed to have lower levels of certain anti-inflammatory gut bacteria. The exact connection is still unclear, but it’s thought that some bacteria may make your body attack your intestines and set the stage for these diseases.

This new clinical study, which was published in the scientific journal *Nutrients*, found that consuming grapes significantly increased the diversity of bacteria in the gut, which is considered essential to good health overall. Additionally, consuming grapes significantly decreased cholesterol levels, as well as bile acids which play an integral role in cholesterol metabolism. The findings suggest a promising new role for grapes in gut health and reinforce the benefits of grapes on heart health.

How the Study Worked

In the intervention study, healthy sub-

jects consumed the equivalent of 1.5 cups of grapes twice per day for four weeks. Additionally, the subjects consumed a low fiber/low polyphenol diet throughout the study. After four weeks of grape consumption, there was an increase in microbial diversity as measured by the “Shannon index,” a commonly used tool for measuring diversity of species. Among the beneficial bacteria that increased was *Akkermansia*, a bacterium of keen interest for its beneficial effect on glucose and lipid metabolism, as well as on the integrity of the intestinal lining. Additionally, a decrease in blood cholesterol was observed, including total cholesterol decreased by 6.1 percent and LDL cholesterol decreased by 5.9 percent. Bile acids, which are linked to cholesterol metabolism, were also decreased by 40.9 percent.

“This study deepens our knowledge and expands the range of health benefits for grapes, even as the study reinforces the heart health benefits of grapes with lowered cholesterol,” said Dr. Li at the conclusion of the study.

IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR QUALITY.

"When you put your name on something, you want it to be the best."

That's the work ethic that Chris, our Senior Test Tech at YORK®, brings to work every day. American Quality impacts every level of design, engineering and manufacturing in every YORK® product. It's people of character and commitment who make that happen. You can see that in action in our latest video featuring a day in the life of Chris at YORK.com/today. It's a good day for quality. And that's a good day for everyone who owns YORK® equipment.

Locally owned and operated
37082 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93636
559-662-0336 | www.huckabeeshvac.com

Huckabee's HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
LIC #1021130

YORK®
INSTALL CONFIDENCE

AMERICAN QUALITY
Manufactured in the USA

11/21

NORTHWEST PEDIATRIC
Medical Group

Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995

Marina Alper, MD | Vivian Hernandez, MD | John Kim, MD | Alisha Bajwa, DO

WELCOME DR. ALISHA BAJWA

WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Pharmacy, laboratory & urgent care ON SITE

Close to the Friant exit off of Freeway 41
7355 N. Palm Ave. #100
Fresno, CA 93711
(559) 271-6302

northwestpediatricmedicalgroup.com

11/21

FLIP SIDE *join us* SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM | WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH

THE ONE WHERE WE THANK A

F.R.I.E.N.D

IN THE MAYWOOD CENTER | 37193 AVE 12 #3H MADERA, CA 93636 | (559) 481-6875 | INFO@ACTS176.COM

MAYWOOD SUNDAYS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE
JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL 2ND SERVICE

YOUTH MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

JR HIGH | MONDAYS | 7 - 8:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

FLIP SIDE *preview services* RIVERSTONE ALL SERVICES AT 10:30 AM

OCTOBER 17TH, NOVEMBER 21ST, & DECEMBER 19TH 2021

LOCATED AT STONECREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

11/21

Keeping Ranchos Pedestrians Safe

Caltrans, the cabinet-level California State Transportation Agency that manages the state's highway system, has as its mission statement to "Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability." To that end, the department is stepping up its efforts to enhance safety and educate the public on how to keep pedestrians safe.

"Pedestrians lose their lives on California's roads every day, and the problem is getting worse," Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin notes. "Fortunately, there's a simple remedy: Pay attention and slow down, whether walking, pedaling, or driving."

Pedestrian deaths have steadily increased nationally over the last decade, up more than 40 percent since 2010. In California, pedestrians account for nearly a quarter of all fatalities on public roads, significantly higher than the national average. Caltrans is working to enhance pedestrian safety on the state highway system by investigating high-risk locations to determine the best safety improvements. Such improvements include:

- Signal timing enhancement and extended pedestrian crossing times.
- Intersection and roadway design changes, such as sidewalks, curb extensions, and roundabouts or raised intersections that provide enhanced pedestrian safety in high traffic locations.
- New pedestrian signs and markings, including high-visibility crosswalks, advanced stop and yield markings, or "yield to pedestrian" signs.

"Two Steps Ahead"

Caltrans is also asking both motorists and pedestrians to "Think Two Steps Ahead" and look out for one another.

Pedestrian Safety Tips for Drivers:

- Follow the speed limit. Slow down on busy streets and at intersections.
- Avoid distractions like cell phones, in-dash touchscreens and other actions that take your eyes or mind off the road.
- Be extra careful when approaching crosswalks.
- Be prepared to stop for pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks.
- Avoid blocking crosswalks when waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- Turn headlights on and slow down at night when it's more difficult to see pedestrians.
- Never drive impaired.

Tips for pedestrians:

- Stay off the phone when crossing the street.
- Be predictable. Use crosswalks.
- Take notice of approaching vehicles and practice due care.
- Make eye contact and give a quick nod or wave to let drivers know that you see them and help confirm that they see you before crossing.
- Be especially careful crossing streets and entering crosswalks at night when it is harder for drivers to see you.
- Walk with a flashlight and wear a reflective vest at night to make it easier for drivers to see you.

Bicyclists are also considered thanks to the Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training program. CPBST works with local residents and safety advocates to improve walking and biking safety in their communities. As of 2020, Cal Walks and SafeTREC have conducted 100 trainings across the state.

If you are interested in hosting a CPBST workshop in the Ranchos, apply online at www.calwalks.org/cpbst. For questions about the program, contact Marina Ramirez at marina@calwalks.org.

Real Estate



"Real estate is my life! I make your real estate dreams a reality."



MARIA FOTOPOULOS
REALTOR

559-250-6740 • mfotorealtor@gmail.com

Integrity, Dedication, Results

www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto • DRE #01454566

"Put my experience, knowledge, service and professionalism to work for you."



- You can cut the bitterness in some varieties of greens by soaking them in ice water for roughly an hour before serving. Use a salad spinner to get all of the water off.
- "Place an ice cube (or ice chips) in carpet divots left behind by furniture legs. This will help the fibers "plump up," and the spot will disappear!" -- A.I. in Utah
- Remove the annoying sticky residue from price tags with WD-40 or baby oil. This is for use on hard surfaces only. If you are unsure, test in an inconspicuous spot first to make sure the oil doesn't leave a stain where the tag was.
- "To help repel the dust on baseboards between cleanings, wipe with a used dryer sheet. To make this even easier, you can put the dryer sheet over a Swiffer-type floor

cleaner. This way, you don't even have to bend down." -- M.E. in Alabama

• Felt circles are great for putting under small appliances on the kitchen counter. They are easier to move around, and they won't scratch the countertops. You can find them at the hardware store, or make your own by cutting out what you need from a piece of felt and attaching it to the bottom of your appliance with double-stick tape ... or even a drop of glue.

• Running a washing machine that isn't full not only wastes energy and water, it also wastes money because you're paying to run more washes. Always fill the machine -- but remember not to overload it. This applies to your dishwasher, too.

• The ice cream bean is a fruit with a taste very similar to its namesake vanilla ice cream. The tree that the bean grows on is native to the Americas and can reach nearly 100 feet tall, with bean pods up to 6 feet long.

• King Richard II once had to pawn his crown because he was such a spendthrift.

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

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

ANSWERS

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

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

18		21		10
9	-	7	x	8
x	x	+		16
3	x	6	-	2
		x	-	
5	+	9	x	1
14				

G	A	T	E	N	O	H	P	T	R	A	M	S
E	M	E	N	O	H	P	E	L	E	T	I	
C	N	E										
E	N	O	H	P	I	D	O	N	R	D		
N	S	A	X	O	P	H	O	N	E			
O	P	A	Y	P	H	O	N	E				
H	O											
E	N	O	H	P	O	L	L	A				
E	N	R	A	C	E							
G	M											

SENIORS | FAMILIES | WEDDINGS | REAL ESTATE | MATERNITY

STUDIO 318 PHOTOGRAPHY

EVENTS | RODEO | SPORTS TEAMS | HEAD SHOTS | EDITORIAL

pc318photo@gmail.com

(559) 288-6975

www.studio318photo.com



11/21

Fall & Winter Vegetables Are NOW IN STOCK!



11/21

we also have SPRING BULBS

- **Black Friday sales will be LIVE beginning at 9 a.m. on 11/26**
Please check FB for our sale timeline
- **Santa photos at the nursery with Amanda Barba**
Dec. 4 & 5 from 11-3 p.m. Book ahead through our FB Events
- **Succulent Christmas Tree classes Dec. 1 & 8 from 6-8 p.m.**
Call today for information and reservations. \$55 per person.



Fernwood Gardens • 645-7677

12090 Fernwood Dr., Madera • www.FernwoodGardens.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and
get fully downloadable back issues of
the Ranchos Independent
(beginning with April 2006)

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

Senior Report

Senior Center Planning *More* Events

By Margaret Tynan

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors Planning Committee is busy creating and scheduling fun events for the Center. Several members are looking forward to a performance at Fresno's Second Space on Dec. 5. The Good Company Players' "Holly Jolly Holidays" will be a great way to begin this joyous time of year. A combined birthday, anniversary and holiday celebration will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. The catered meal will feature baked ham with all the trimmings. Members are encouraged to sign up at the Center for the holiday themed table decorating contest for this event. The winner will certainly be entitled to "bragging rights" for a long time to come. Sign up and pre-

pay at the Center no later than Monday, Dec. 13. Also, plan to help us say goodbye to 2021 and hail in the New Year at a potluck on Thursday, Dec. 31 at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Don't forget to bring your table service for both of these meals. It will be fun to see everyone at these festive events.

Ranchos/Hills Seniors wishes to thank the community, volunteers and members for helping make the 3rd Annual Craft Fair the most successful yet. With over 43 vendors participating, fairgoers enjoyed choices of a wide variety of beautiful handcrafted items. Original woodworked pieces will grace many a garden, while lucky friends and relatives will find lovely jewelry, handmade soaps or pottery creations under the Christmas tree this year. We look forward to next year's Craft Fair to be even bigger and better. Mark the date: Saturday, Oct. 15 on your new calendar for 2022.

With the holidays just around the corner, the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. is offering two more opportunities to discover

something special for the season. Two outdoor sales will be held on consecutive Saturdays in December: the 4th and 11th from 8 a.m. to noon. The Christmas Boutiques feature lovely holiday decorations and handmade items, which make great gifts for family and friends. Find plants for your yard at the Garden Sale. Of course, the Treasure House is full of interesting, unique finds. We hope to see you there.

In closing, this will be my last edition of the Senior Report. I have truly enjoyed sharing the news of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors

Ranchos/Hills Seniors wishes to thank the community, volunteers and members for helping make the 3rd Annual Craft Fair the most successful yet.

Center activities over the past four years. It is a pleasure to work with such a great group of seniors and the community. Thank you all for this opportunity. Let me introduce you to

my replacement: Melanie Williams will be keeping the community up to date on all the happenings at the Center. She is a 30-year resident of the Madera Ranchos. She and her husband built their home here in 1991 when there were only seven houses on either side of her street. All three of her children grew up here and attended Sierra View, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High. Melanie taught school at both the middle and high school levels during those years. She did substitute teaching for schools in Golden Valley Unified School District and taught at Educational Options after her children started college. Please join me in welcoming Melanie to her new position, writing the Senior Report for the Ranchos Independent.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors members wish you and yours a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season.

Thought for December: "December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence you need for the best FRESH START of your life." —Vivian Swift

In Memoriam



Diana Jean Tucker-Whittle
December 19, 1946 ~ November 16, 2021

It is with great sorrow that the family of Diana Jean Tucker-Whittle announces her passing on Nov. 16, 2021 in Clarksville, Ark. Diana was born in Cheyenne, Wyo. on Dec. 19, 1946 to parents Thomas E. Restivo, a photographer, and Mary Jeanne Gillen, an administrative assistant. She was the second of three daughters that included Carol Loraine (deceased) and Patricia Marie Conner (deceased). At a young age, the family relocated to Texas where she played cymbals in the middle-school band and eventually moved to Fresno, Calif. She attended both Lemoore and Fresno High Schools and went on to receive an Associate Degree from Fresno City College. Diana worked as a telephone operator while working for Pacific Bell where she met her first husband, Floyd Tucker. They were married and moved to the Madera Ranchos and later had two sons, Bryan Thomas Tucker in 1974 and Nicholas Andrew Tucker in 1978. Always the adventurer, Diana professionally sold Tupperware, decorated cakes, became a cosmetologist, a massage therapist and a notary official. She became a group home counselor at Promesa Behavioral Health where she worked over 30 years, caring for adolescents in the evenings.

She later married her soul mate,

James Whittle, on the California coast. He shared her love for adventure, the outdoors and traveling. She retired in 2019 and relocated to the Whittle family hometown of Coal Hill, Ark. Diana enjoyed many hobbies, such as camping in the snowy mountains, traveling to the coast to watch the elephant seals, participating in cowboy reenactment skits in local parades, square dancing and she adored family and friend gatherings.

One of her most favorite passions was horseback riding. She loved and owned several horses which she enjoyed riding in the Madera orchards, on long dirt roads and on moonlight rides along the canals. She co-founded the B.I.T.S Riding Club and would travel with her group to Montana De Oro Beach or the mountains to enjoy long trail riding weekends. Her love for life and her family were unmeasurable. She is survived by her husband, James E. Whittle of Coal Hill, Ark.; sons Brian (Jennifer) of Chowchilla and Nicholas (Nicole) of Clovis; granddaughter Lauren, grandson Zachary, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was an amazing wife, mother, aunt and friend. Her zest for life was truly amazing and she will be missed dearly.

Tired of your OLD, DAMAGED, OUT-OF-DATE window coverings?
New window coverings are just a phone call away!

FREE ESTIMATES | FABRIC DISCOUNTS | 49 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Draperies by Suzanne
559-660-5643

Complete line of window coverings and accessories
Ranchos resident

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

11/21 Lic. #PLS 5815

What's Happening
93636
OCTOBER 2021

Median Listing Price \$495K
Median Days on Market 12
Median Sold Price \$501K
Median Price/SF Sold \$239

Your Neighbors & Real Estate Experts
Thinking of buying or selling a home? Don't know where to start? Call or contact us.
WE GOT YOU!

Mary Avigliano
559-367-7264
mary@ironkeyrealestate.com
REALTOR® • DRE 02093132

Maurice Gonzales
559.288.1904
maurice@ironkeyrealestate.com
REALTOR® • DRE 01390928

IRON KEY REAL ESTATE

LICENSE #932435 **TIM DE MERA**
Owner/CEO
Madera Ranchos Resident

FREE ESTIMATES
ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent


Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

CHANEY'S

 Lic. #899496
Bobcat Service
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call Beau
559-301-1613

CLARK'S

 559-645-1578
**General & Custom
 Auto Service
 & Repairs**
PERFORMANCE

**Unlimited
 Concrete**
 Lic. #1042108

 DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 call **Jose Lopez**
559-779-0401

**Mike's Country Clippers
 Barber Shop**
**HAIRCUTS
 \$13**
 Seniors Thursdays ONLY \$11!
439-2004
37184 AVE. 12 #104
 (behind Pizza Factory)

**NEW & USED
 CARS & TRUCKS
 All Makes & Models**
**J.H. Sanders
 Sales & Leasing**
822-4500
 41453 Ave. 14 1/2
 Madera Ranchos
 www.jhsanders.com

**BEDROCK
 ENGINEERING**
 A solid foundation for your next project
 Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting
**INVEST IN YOUR
 EXISTING PROPERTY!**
 For a free consultation, visit
 our Madera Ranchos office!
 10878 HWY 41 • 559-645-4849
 www.bedrockeng.com

**Bradley
 & Sons**
 Lic. 414176
**DRILLING
 PUMP SYSTEMS**
674-1663
same day service

Huckabee's
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 Lic. #837274

559-662-0336
559-438-8260
 Sales and Service - Free Estimates
 Duct Testing & Certification
 Locally owned
 and operated!

**HIGH QUALITY
 GATE SYSTEMS**

559-454-8060


**TOUCH-OF-GREEN
 LANDSCAPE**
 CA LIC. #934774
 commercial, residential
 and industrial landscaping
 call **559-242-6352**
 info@TouchOfGreenLandscape.us

Create a gift
 from the heart

 Arts & Crafts Studio • Bique • Wood Stems
Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

**NORTHWEST
 PEDIATRIC**
 Medical Group
 Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995
 We're
 Accepting
NEW Patients
 "Right off
 of Highway 41
 at Friant."
 7355 N. Palm #100
 Fresno
559-271-6302
 NorthwestPediatricMedicalGroup.com

**PERSONAL
 TOUCH**
 Lic. # B008113
 Landscaping & Gardening Services
 Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control
 Lawn & garden service • Maintenance
 Weekly & monthly service
 (not a licensed contractor)
 call Mag Anaya Jr.
559-974-1357
 Rancho Resident

**BUBBA'S
 WATER TRUCK SERVICE**

 We Fill
 Holding Tanks
 Swimming Pools
 Potable Water
 Dust Control
 Covering
 Mountain Areas
 & the Central Valley
 Call Gina
 at 559-289-3401
 email
 BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

**MARION POOL
 SERVICE & REPAIR**
 • Weekly Service
 • Equipment
 • Supplies
 • Residential
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial
 • Locally Owned
251-2514 351-1605 645-4799
 office cell after 5 p.m.

SEMCU
**"For the
 community,
 by the
 community."**
559-363-9095
 3rd Monday of the month • 6 p.m.
 37191 Ave. 12, Madera Ranchos

VALLEY PROPANE

 "Service you can trust,
 prices you can afford."
645-5324
 The ONLY
 locally owned
 propane company
 in the Ranchos

H.O. TIRES
 • TIRES
 • ALIGNMENTS
 • WHEEL &
 TIRE
 PACKAGES
 • LIFT &
 LOWERING
 KITS
 • FREE TIRE
 MAINTENANCE
559-831-2937

Aleman's Painting
 SINCE 1980
 Interior & Exterior
 Specializing in
 Repaints
 Rental, Residential
 & Commercial
 Drywall, Stucco,
 Redashing & Ac-
 coustical Removal
 Color Matching
559-974-2268

**FERNWOOD
 GARDENS**

 12090 FERNWOOD DR.
 MADERA RANCHOS
559-645-7677

FLIPSIDE *JOIN US*
 SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM
559-481-6875
37193 Ave. 12 #3H
 Madera Ranchos
 LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM
 WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH
 info@acts176.com
 SEE YOU SUNDAY!

"We've got your back"
 D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
 Sports Physicals only \$35!

**HANEY
 CHIROPRACTIC**
 & rehabilitation center
660-5262
36754 AVE. 12 • Madera Ranchos

Get Involved!

645-4001
 2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.
 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

for MORE sales tomorrow, call
RANDY BAILEY
Today!
 (559) 645-0634
 The Ranchos Independent

Classified

Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - After 50 years, Madlin has retired from performing alterations. She would like to thank all of her customers over the years and is sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

Carpet Cleaning

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29

years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents.

REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY! Call 559-908-9332.

Construction

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

Housecleaning

Over 40 yrs of experience - References available - Lupe's House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, con-

struction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. 559-916-1528 or 650-771-2915**

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including newspaper, shredded paper, containers, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. **Call Diana at 999-6832.**

Funds support Ranchos community organizations.

Tractor/Trenching Services

BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-

HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. **Call John at 908-1066.**

Tractor Work - House Pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Lic. #719500. **Call 559-970-4476.**

Window Cleaning Services

Most windows \$5 inside/out - Screen, track, sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured.

Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates.

STOP THE PAIN!
"We've got your back"

Specializing in
AUTO ACCIDENTS

D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
 Sports Physicals only \$35!

HANEY
CHIROPRACTIC
 & rehabilitation center

36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262

11/21

TO ADVERTISE
CALL
645-0634

PORN cont. from P. 2

Beginning in October 2021, two 14-year-old Madera County boys were arrested and booked for several felony charges. They included "... possession and distribution of child sexual abuse imagery, distribution of harmful matter to a known person and stalking." To make matters worse, the Madera County Sheriff's Office reported that the two teens were also trying to extort the child victim by "various means."

At the same time, an unrelated case began to unfold in the Madera Ranchos with a 15-year-old boy discovered to be uploading child sexual abuse imagery as well. After serving a search warrant on the home, he was arrested and booked into Madera County Juvenile Hall on felony charges.

Again, at the same time, a tip from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children came into the Madera Police Department that allowed investigators to identify a home in the Riverstone Community as the source of illicit images. A search warrant was served to Michael Diaz, 33, at his residence and he was arrested and booked into the Madera County Jail for felony charges of possession and distribution of child sexual abuse imagery. He was released the same day on a \$50,000 bond.

Madera County District Attorney Sally O. Moreno said her department is currently reviewing the case to determine what, if any, charges it will file against Diaz.

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.

	+		×		14			
-		-		×				
	×		-		16			
×		×		+				
	-		×		16			
18		21		10				
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	9

©2021 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

©2021 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

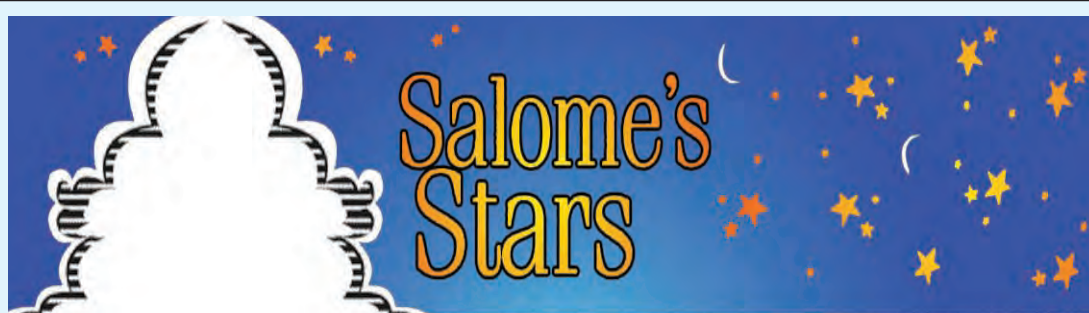
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING
645-0634



“Would you like another taste?”



Salome's Stars

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

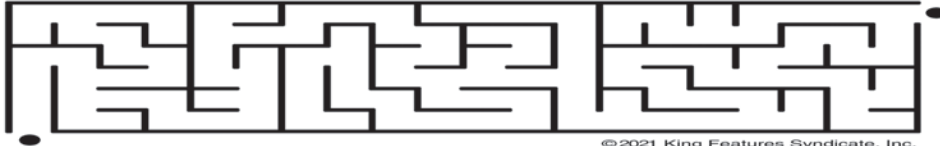
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're very close to reaching your goal. But be wary of distractions that can lure you off-course and leave you stranded far away from where you really want to be.

Born this Week

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

FUN PAGES

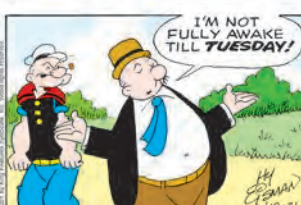
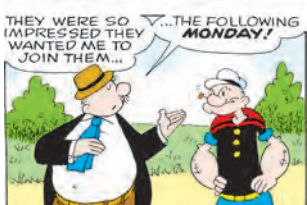
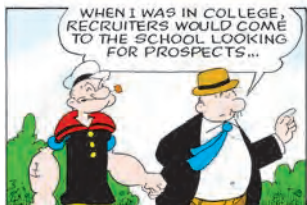
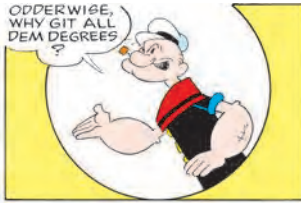
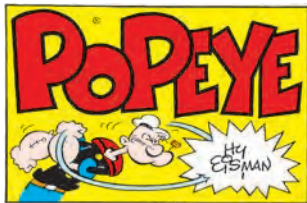
Kids' Maze



©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

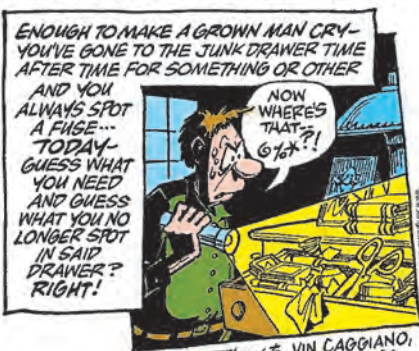
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

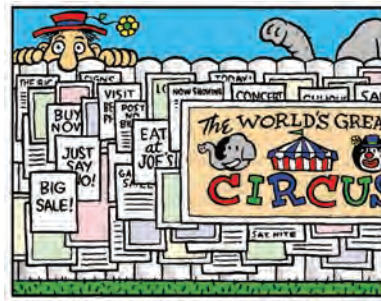


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

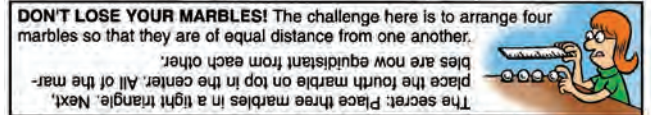
BY AL SCADUTO



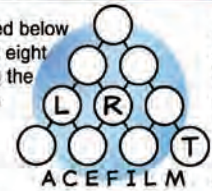
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS NO. 1,753—ASK ANY NURSE—WHO'S TRYING TO DIET, THAT IS...



THE ABOVE CIRCUS POSTER is the latest advertisement posted here. How many other posters do you see on the fence? We found 35.



CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read top to bottom along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



The words are, top to bottom, left to right: Fill, film, firm, fire, farm, fare, face, fact.

Wishing Well®

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

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.

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE • PHONY WORDS



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CLAMSHELL-STYLE PHONE

- Allophone
- Car phone
- Cellphone
- Diphone
- Geophone
- Megaphone
- Microphone
- Pay phone
- Phone tag
- Phoneme
- Phonetic
- Saxophone
- Siphoned
- Smartphone
- Telephone

©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Junior Whirl!

by Charles Barry Townsend

1. A _ A
2. A _ _ A
3. A _ _ _ A
4. A _ _ _ _ A
5. A _ _ _ _ _ A
6. A _ _ _ _ _ _ A

THE A-TO-A STEPWORD!

HERE'S your chance to become an "A" student. To the left you'll find six words that begin and end with the letter A. The following hints should help you fill in the missing letters:

1. Expression of surprise.
2. Operatic solo.
3. Hawaiian farewell.
4. A fleet of warships.
5. A radio needs one.
6. Greek food of the gods.

Five or more correct will earn you an "A." You have two minutes to finish the test.

1. Aha. 2. Aha. 3. Aloha.
4. Ahmada. 5. Ahema.
6. Ahmbrosta.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: What is the name of Ron Weasley's house in the "Harry Potter" novel series?
2. TELEVISION: The sitcom "Petticoat Junction" spawned which other popular spinoff series?
3. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase, "littera scripta manet"?
4. MOVIES: What is the name of cartoon character Porky Pig's girlfriend?
5. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Wyoming?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. interstate highway is the longest in the nation?
7. AD SLOGANS: What product's TV ad sparked the catchphrase "Mikey likes it!"?
8. GEOMETRY: How many straight lines can be drawn through two given points?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What is the hottest chili pepper in the world?
10. MUSIC: Which iconic rock band was once named The Detours?

Answers

1. The Burrow
2. "Green Acres"
3. "The written letter remains," motto of The National Archives
4. Petunia Pig
5. Cheyenne
6. I-90
7. Life cereal
8. One
9. Carolina Reaper (Guinness Book of World Records, 2013)
10. The Who

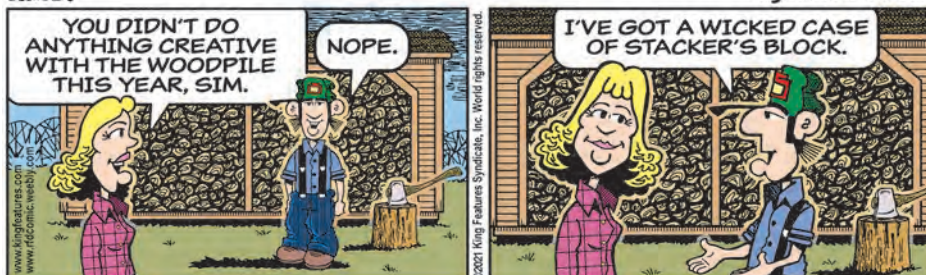
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

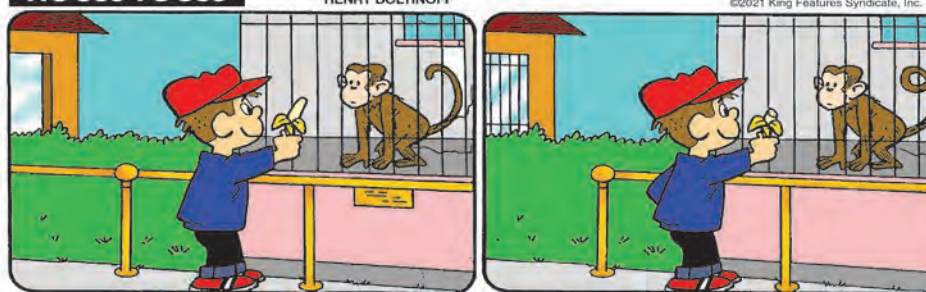
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

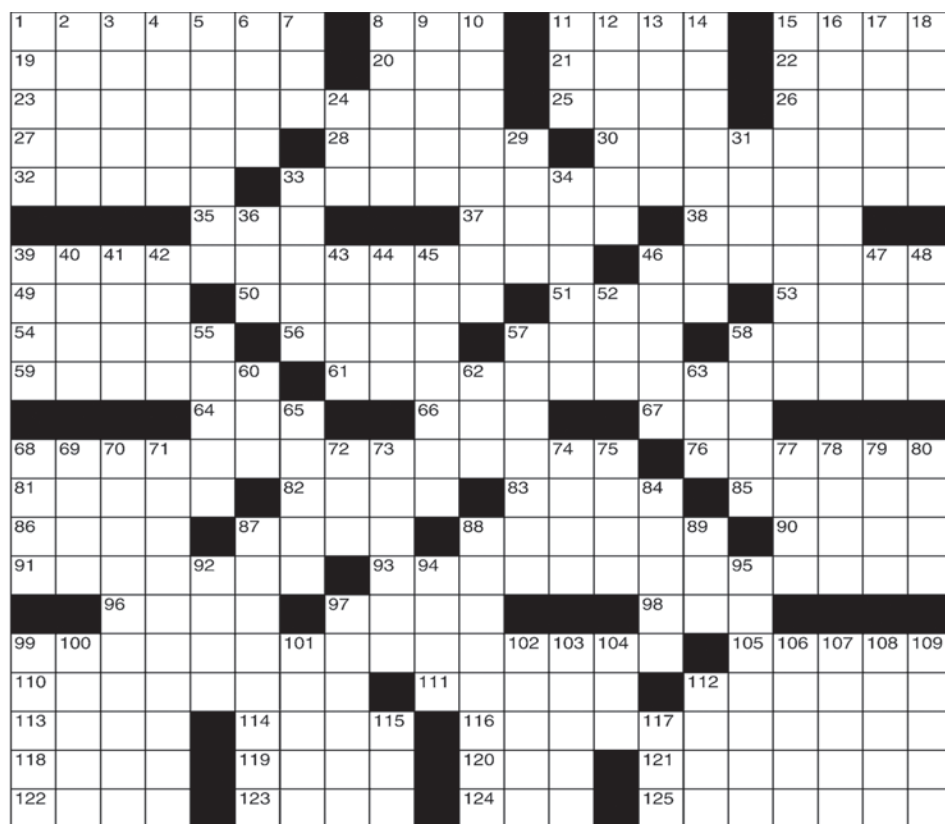
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Banana is smaller; 2. Tail is longer; 3. Fence is shorter; 4. Sign is missing; 5. Arm is showing; 6. Bars are added.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 49 Terrifying dino | 88 Conical shelters | 125 Old Greek harp players | 31 Memorizing process | 73 Cavalry weapons |
| 1 John, James or Judas | 50 With no muss or fuss | 90 Bog grass | 31 Home of St. Teresa | 33 Military flutes | 74 Neck back |
| 8 GI show sponsor | 51 13-digit publishing ID | 91 Enchants | 2 Attach, as a boutonniere | 34 Part of Q&A | 75 Bringer of a legal action |
| 11 13-digit publishing ID | 53 CNN anchor | 93 Pursue impossible dreams | 3 Financial adviser | 36 Swindle | 77 Catty remark |
| 15 Just barely | 54 Dots on sea maps | 96 One-named singer who was a muse for Andy Warhol | 4 Fend (off) | 39 Swab brand | 78 Nabisco bite |
| 19 Taking place in cyberspace | 56 Torah temple | 97 Subpar grades | 5 Listens to a broadcast | 40 Celestial bear | 79 Erupted |
| 20 Give a very bad review of | 57 Car ding | 98 Historic start? | 6 Deposits | 41 Sinuous swimmers | 80 Grassy turfs |
| 21 Piddling | 58 "— a vacation!" | 99 Get ringers and leaners | 7 "Slippery" tree | 42 Previous spouses | 84 Vaults |
| 22 Papa's mate | 59 Volkswagen sedan | 105 Topic to debate | 8 Samoan island where Robert Louis Stevenson died | 43 Gag reaction | 87 Put a ban on |
| 23 For a very long time | 61 Aspire to high goals | 110 In a disturbed way | 9 More lucid | 44 Needle case | 88 Like grads' caps |
| 25 Experts | 64 Seek the love of | 111 Gem often on a string | 10 Getting a regular paycheck | 45 Men-only | 89 Titled man |
| 26 Body part over the eyes | 66 100% | 112 Goddess of wisdom | 11 Small demon | 46 Succinct | 92 Folkie Phil |
| 27 Bakery units | 67 Thumbs-up vote | 113 Think (over) | 12 Tiny letter flourishes | 47 Arena part | 94 Dickens' Uriah |
| 28 Brand of fat replacer | 68 Their passengers stand in baskets | 114 Offers | 13 Bucking ride | 48 Finales | 95 Nor's partner |
| 30 Arouse the interest of | 76 Skewered meat dishes | 116 Cereal associated with seven key words in this puzzle | 14 People cuddling up | 49 Arena part | 97 "All for Love" playwright |
| 32 Auntie — (pretzel bakery chain) | 81 Old family name in violinmaking | 118 Tablet | 15 Having mixed feelings | 52 Acct. accrual | 99 Oil rig parts |
| 33 Good-fortune symbols | 82 "Dies —" (Latin hymn) | 119 Composer | 16 Place to set one's sights | 55 Horror film sequel of 2005 | 100 Native Alaskan |
| 35 Here, in Cannes | 83 Castro of Cuba | 120 LAX info | 17 Illicit affair | 57 Del Rio of old Hollywood | 101 Drab hue |
| 37 Beards on barley | 85 Monte — | 121 Icy treat | 18 1920s U.S. veep | 58 Sci-fi writer | 102 Terre — |
| 38 State, in Cuba | 86 Nada | 122 Stick around | 19 1920s U.S. veep Charles | 59 Get ringers and leaners | 103 Killer whales |
| 39 Cruel ruler in "Alice in Wonderland" | 87 Round hammer part | 123 Big top, e.g. | 24 Hugs, in a letter | 60 Blue Jays, on a scoreboard | 104 Wapiti |
| 46 High-ranking clergyman | | 124 — Moines River | 29 Salamander | 62 Andy Capp's missus | 106 Ventriloquist |
| | | | | 63 "Eww, mice!" | 107 Kosovo inhabitants |
| | | | | 65 Some theater awards | 108 Not fulfilled, as a goal |
| | | | | 68 Mental fog | 109 The Far and the Near? |
| | | | | 69 Boding sign | 112 Suffering a flu symptom |
| | | | | 70 Fast Italian whirling dance | 115 Old JFK jet |
| | | | | 71 How a nation with nukes is armed | 117 Big initials in fashion |
| | | | | 72 Consist of | |

SEM CU

south east madera county united

**When possible, SEMCU
may be able to include
approved advertisements of events
for our community on THIS page.**

Contact SEMCU at 559-363-9095 or info@semcu.org

**Until further notice,
the regular SEMCU meetings
will take place
via teleconference.**

**Our next meeting is Monday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.
The teleconference number is 312-757-3121
and the Access Code is 715-657-949.
Please let us know if you have any questions.**

11/21

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org**