

# The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

*from heartbreak to hope*



**11 years after a Ranchos tragedy that changed her life, Martha Tessmer is recognized for her work in keeping young drivers safe**

***In This Issue***

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By Kate Dennis

In 2007, Martha Tessmer tragically lost her son, Donovan, in a distracted driving crash in the Madera Ranchos. Since then, she has woven her skills as an educator and instructional designer into a dedicated effort to save lives by sharing her story of love and loss with families across the country.



## from heartbreak to hope

Martha, now living in Fresno, is one of six devoted safety advocates honored as Unsung Heroes of Highway Safety in recognition of the 15th anniversary of Ford Driving Skills for Life. Ford Motor Company Fund and the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) conducted a nationwide search for the most committed leaders in traffic safety and selected six honorees for their distinguished service.

The Unsung Heroes of Highway Safety were the guests of honor at a special reception at the historic Russell Senate Office Building in the nation's capital.

The first request for Martha to share Donovan's story came from a local nonprofit offering court-ordered workshops for teenage drivers who were first-time offenders. From there, the national organization founded by the California Highway Patrol, Impact Teen Drivers, picked up the story and elevated it to a national audience by using video testimony of the tragic story as the center of their educational curriculum. Martha served as an Education Coordinator for the organization and travelled across the nation talking to almost a million teens and parents as an advocate for teen traffic safety. Through her story, she illustrated the proof of irreversible consequences.

Martha's background allowed her to expand the Impact Teen Drivers curriculum to include training for teen leaders and community volunteers, as well as presentation materials on seatbelt safety for elementary school students and road trip safety for middle school students. Utilizing her contacts in healthcare, she also integrated the message into trauma prevention education. During this time, Martha collaborated with Ford Driving Skills for Life as an event speaker, connecting the dots on how the driv-

ing skills taught on the road course could possibly have changed Donovan's outcome.

"Throughout the past 15 years with Ford Driving Skills for Life, we've met hundreds of individuals who share our passion and commitment to traffic safety," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund. "The six unsung heroes we are recognizing have dedicated themselves – personally and professionally – to making roads safer in their local communities and beyond. On behalf of everyone at Ford Motor Company, we thank each of our honorees for their important work, and for representing the countless safety advocates, trainers, parents and police officers who help keep our families safe every day."

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States and much of the world. Ford Driving Skills for Life was established in 2003 by Ford Fund, GHSA, and a panel of safety experts to teach newly licensed drivers necessary skills beyond standard driver education programs. Ford Driving Skills for Life focuses on key areas that are critical factors in more than 60 percent of accidents – hazard recognition, vehicle handling, speed, and space management. The program has conducted safe driving clinics in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, and is active in more than 40 countries around the world, adapting its free training sessions to reflect the unique environment and driving conditions in each location.

Ford Driving Skills for Life has reached more than 1 million new drivers through hands-on ride and drives, school safety sessions, and online education through the Driving Skills for Life Academy.

## Golden Valley Unified Board Selects Replacement District Superintendent

The Golden Valley Unified School District has appointed Rodney Wallace as its new Superintendent, effective Oct. 10.

Until recently, Wallace was the Superintendent of El Tejon Unified School District just south of Bakersfield, where he had provided successful leadership since 2014. He has over 30 years experience in education with a resume including teaching at both the middle and high school level, being a principal at the elementary, middle and high school level, as well as being the founding principal of an international school in South Korea.



Rodney Wallace was selected unanimously by the GVUSD Board from a field of 26 applicants to be the new superintendent.

There were 26 applicants for the position and the board, comprised of Brian Freeman, Mona Diaz, Maria Knobloch, Steven Lewis and Andy Wheeler, interviewed four finalists for the position during the week of Sept. 17 and unanimously selected Wallace.

Board President Brian Freeman said, "In these exciting times of growth in our district and community, we are looking forward to a long and successful partnership with Mr. Wallace. This will be a strong leadership team that will continue the traditions and excellence in everything we do at Golden Valley."

## 2018-2019 PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE COMING

2018-2019 Secured Property Tax Bills are Being Printed and Mailed

"It's that time of year again," reports Tracy Kennedy, Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector. "We have just begun the tax season by printing and mailing our property tax bills."

Over 56,000 tax bills were mailed out, representing over \$178 million in property taxes and the various bond charges and direct charges are included on the tax bills. Tax bills are also available online. "By accessing our webpage, [www.maderacounty.com/treasurer](http://www.maderacounty.com/treasurer), the taxpayer can select an option to view and/or pay their tax bill," Kennedy said. "This service allows the user to search for the property either by assessment number or by street address. For privacy purposes the owner name will not be shown on the screen. We have taken credit card payments and e-check payments for years as a convenience to the

taxpayer, but this service option will really provide value to both the taxpayers and my staff."

E-checks are free. While there is still a convenience fee attached to online tax payments with credit card, once again the Treasurer-Tax Collector is waiving the e-check fee as a cost of doing business and in order to encourage taxpayers to use this method of payment. The beauty of the e-check feature is that you can pay multiple tax bills with one check and it is free. This service option will allow taxpayers to access their tax bill and to make payments via the website from any computer or mobile device.

To pay by e-check, please go to [www.maderacounty.com/treasurer](http://www.maderacounty.com/treasurer), click on Pay by E-check, accept the terms and then follow the prompts.

The bulk of the tax bills were mailed out the week of Oct. 8. If taxpayers do not receive their tax bill by Nov. 1, please contact Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector at (559) 675-7713 so they can send a duplicate tax bill.



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## 5787 W. BARSTOW, FRESNO



Letters

Dear Editor:

(This is a letter sent to Supervisor Brett Frazier)

Brett,

On or about 9-28-18, three property owners of Madera Ranchos attended a meeting on the third floor of your building on 4th street to discuss the mitigation for adverse effects of the operation of the Dublin Well on nearby private water wells. This meeting was set up by Madera County employees as a result of your town hall meeting out here in the Ranchos a few weeks earlier when Matt Treber told these property owners that he would arrange a meeting to discuss options for their loss of water in their wells.

At this meeting there were six Madera County employees that were ignorant of the history of the Dublin Well and ignorant of the September 2014 printed mitigation report for Dublin Drive Production Well Maintenance District 10a, Madera Ranchos, which clearly states on page 2:

“... for Significant Drawdown Impact Classification – An impact that prevents the ability of the existing infrastructure (well) to provide water to the resident ... LOWER WELL (IF FEASIBLE), COMPENSATION FOR WELL REPLACEMENT, OR CONNECTION TO THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.”

Not only were the main characters of the Madera County “business as usual” not at this meeting; not only were the six Madera County employees ignorant of the arranged purpose of this meeting; they were sent to tell these three property owners who had lost their wells in the

proximity to the Dublin Well fiasco how much money they would have to pay to join MD10a. \$5,600 +/- and approximately \$70/foot of 8-inch pipe down their street from Road 37 1/2 for 700 linear feet.

Jared, as leader of this six-member team, said that they were not there to discuss new wells. The newest Madera County employee, reading the information from the missing employees regarding money from property owners as mitigation, was unaware that Mohammed had told me that the new, improved price for joining MD10a had been calculated at \$2,500 per parcel – down from the \$25,000 earlier quoted by Madera County employees that no longer work for Madera County. Now the new, improved cost to property owners would be \$5,600 +/- and he had no idea who came up with this third price that I have been told over the last five years.

When it became apparent that these six Madera County employees were not at this meeting in good faith, as the three property owners had shown, Linda Bresee asked Jared how this issue can be brought up on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors’ regular meeting. Jared responded that the request to be on the agenda would have to be initiated by the clerk of the board – Rhonda Cargill. Linda Bresee, Vicki Fassett and myself took the elevator to the fourth floor to initiate this process with Rhonda Cargill. Rhonda took down the information and told us that she would advance this request to Brett, supervisor of District 1, and if it was approved it would go to the chair of the

Please see **LETTERS** on P.7

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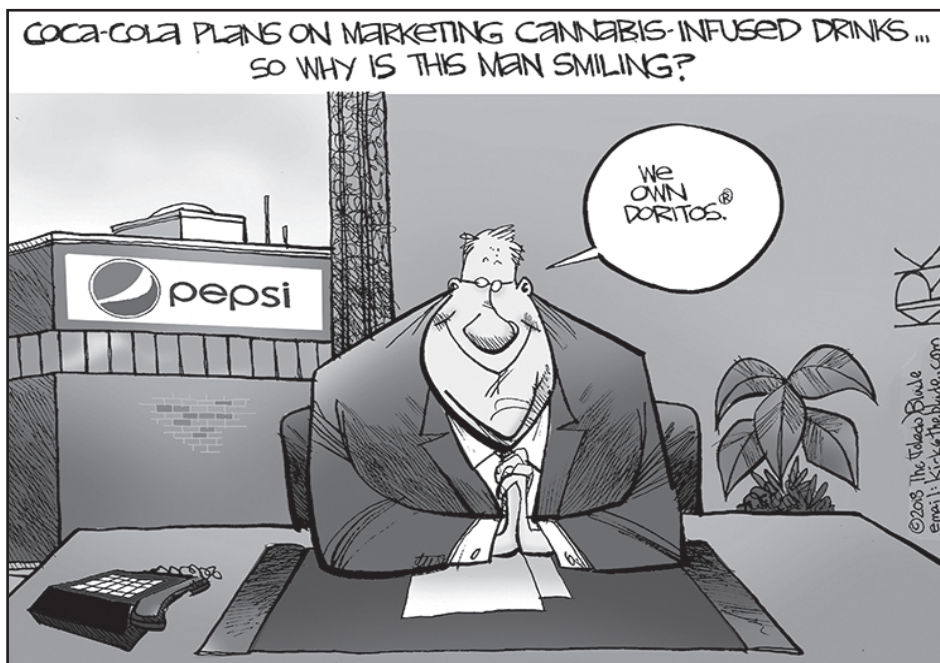
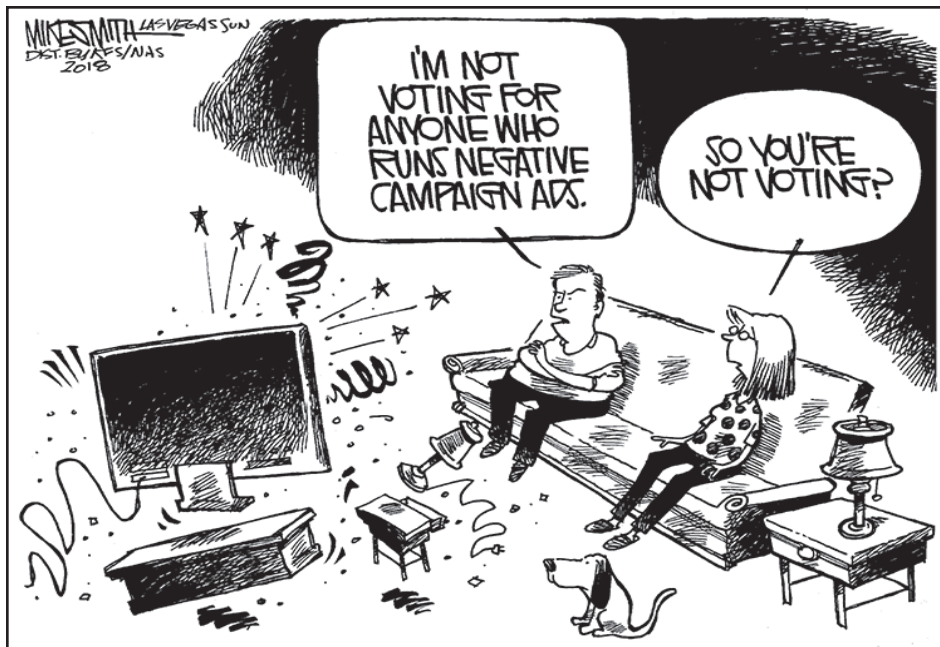
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Guest Editorial

# Kavanaugh Assault Validates Trump

By Rich Lowry

The attempted political assassination of Brett Kavanaugh is bad for the country, but good for a Trumpian attitude toward American politics.

The last-minute ambush validates key assumptions of Donald Trump's supporters that fueled his rise and buttress him in office, no matter how rocky the ride has been or will become. At least three premises have been underlined by tawdry events of the past weeks.

First, that good character is no defense. If you are John McCain, who genuinely tried to do the right thing and carefully cultivated a relationship with the media over decades, they will still call you a racist when you run against Barack Obama.

If you are Mitt Romney, an exceptionally earnest and decent man, they will make you into a heartless and despicable vulture capitalist, also for the offense of campaigning against Obama.

If you are Brett Kavanaugh, a respected member of the legal establishment who doesn't have a flyspeck on his record across decades of public service in Washington, they will come up with dubious accusations of wrongdoing from decades ago when you were a teenager.

Second, that the media is an un-

remitting political and cultural adversary. In the Kavanaugh controversy, the press has been wholly on the other side, presuming his guilt and valorizing his accusers and their supporters, including Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono, whose most famous contribution to the debate was telling men to "shut up."

Third, that politics isn't just rough-and-tumble; it's red in tooth and claw. Process and norms are nice, but they go out the window as soon as something important is at stake, like a potential fifth vote on the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Senate Democrats may delicately talk about the importance of norms and civility on Sunday shows, but watch how they act. They sat on an accusation throughout an extensive process of vetting and questioning a nominee, then declared it dispositive evidence against his confirmation when it leaked at the 11th hour. They delayed a hearing with Christine Blasey Ford long enough to allow time for the second accuser to be persuaded to come forward.

All of this plays into Trump's support. Surely, a reason that the president appealed to many Republicans in the first place, despite his extravagant personal failings, was that they had decided that virtuous men would get smeared and chewed up by the opposition's meat grinder, so why be a stickler for standards?

If Trump's attacks against the media are over-the-top and sometimes disgraceful, at least he understands the score.

He may not be a constitutionalist, but he will be faithful to his own side, and fiercely battle it out with his political opponents.

The logic of this dynamic is risky. It can be self-defeating, and lead down the road of supporting, say, a Roy Moore, a kooky candidate doomed even in red Alabama. It can be corrupting, if character and standards are no longer considered important. But the dark view of our politics that has driven the Trump phenomenon for three years now is impossible to gainsay. Who can watch the frenzied assault on Brett Kavanaugh and say that it's wrong?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# The Ranchos Independent

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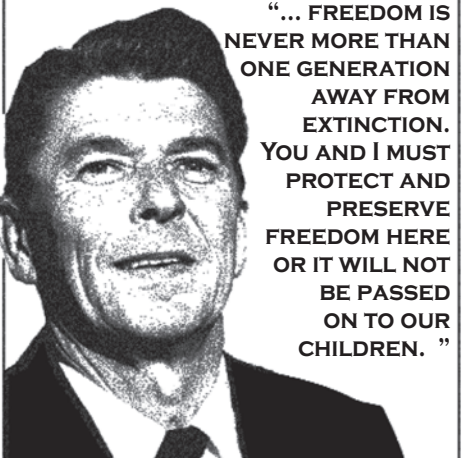
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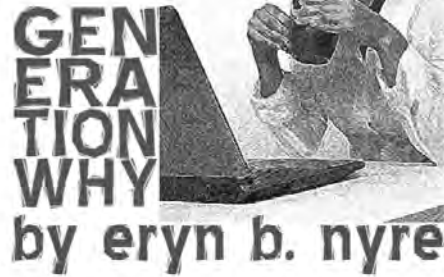
# The Poncho of Shame

People make me laugh. I mean, people also make me crazy. Occasionally they make me angry, but mostly they make me laugh. Sometimes I laugh in order to suppress any desires that I may have to throw my stapler at them. I'm told that's not very nice.

The other day we were checking a long line of caregivers in for an annual training class when one woman caught my eye. Well, let's be honest, this woman caught everyone's eye. Two of my male employees flushed a shade of crimson I would have only thought possible in cartoons and suddenly had more important things to do than stand there and man their posts in the assembly line of sorts. If you allow me to paint you a picture, this woman looked like she was about to go to the gym. Not to work out, mind you, but to stand in front of the mirror and take selfies.

She had on either a sports bra that was two sizes too small or it was a tank top that was six sizes too small. She was spilling out the top, the sides, the bottom. She wore a pair of workout pants that hung so low and tight that even the FBI could have successfully investigated her with all of her secrets on display like that. Needless to say, I wouldn't have approved of that outfit for the gym let alone a business meeting where she was being paid. It wasn't professional, unless of course we are speaking of the oldest profession, in which case it was perfectly professional albeit certainly not high end.

As I tried to pick up the slack for my suddenly vanished male employees, I waved down another manager and asked her to take care of the woman who looked like she would be more at home on the Chicken Ranch in Nevada than in our office. The look on my co-managers face as she mentally tried to walk herself through a conversation where she told the woman she wasn't dressed appropriately was almost as amusing as grown men running from cleavage. Evidently the thought of such a conversation is hard for some. I am not so afflicted, so we



switched places and I invited Tight-Pants Tiny-Bra into my office for a chat. I told her that her outfit was completely inappropriate in a public setting and we couldn't allow her to attend class unless she changed her clothes. She tried to feed me some excuses as though she didn't normally leave the house like that. She claimed that she had woken up late and this was all she could find to wear. I simply don't believe a person could be that comfortable with that amount of skin showing, if this was the first time she had ever walked around in public like that. She was comfortable, this was her everyday attire.

And late my left foot. She had a full face of Kardashian-level makeup and Snookie-sized hair. If she had time to pull all that off she could find a regular shirt and pants to wear to her place of business. And yes, that's exactly what I told her.

She said she had something to put over her in her car and came back a few minutes later with what I assume was a jacket for either an infant or perhaps a larger than average Barbie doll. I shook my head and went to our licensed care division to find the most boring, plainest scrubs I could get my hands on. When I handed them to her I could see the defeat in her eyes. Her choice was boring scrubs where no one would be able to make out that she even had a shape, let alone get lost in her cavernous cleavage, or come back next month for the makeup class and not be able to work until then because she had waited until the last minute to fulfill her employment requirements. It

Please see GEN WHY on P. 12

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**LETTERS** cont. from P.4

BOS which would be Tom Wheeler. Rhonda told Vicki that she would be in contact with her in a few days to let her know how this request was progressing or some such verbiage.

It has been 12 working days and 18 calendar days since this meeting with Rhonda Cargill and no contact with Vicki or Linda has taken place.

Can you, Brett, confirm that you have received this request from Rhonda Cargill within these last three weeks? If you have not, can you please find out why you have not received this request? If you have received this request, why has there been no follow up with the interested parties that made this request during these last three weeks?

It was bad enough that you people embarrassed these six Madera County employees to send them in with the WRONG PURPOSE to meet three property owners, but to continue the stall and “we will get back to you” routine when nothing progresses past the “we will get back to you” is again unacceptable behavior for public employees.

Please reply as soon as possible, like before the end of week. Let us know how this request to have Mitigation for Significant Drawdown Impact from the Dublin Well put on the agenda for the BOS [is proceeding], to finally be accountable for the damage done and

forthcoming damage that you all and Wood Rogers declared would not happen.

Ignoring reality, property owners and consequences of this municipal well pumping 900 g.p.m., 24 hours a day, lowering the water table 90 feet since December 2013 may be comfortable and expedient for Madera County employees, but it has disadvantaged property owners in our community that cannot be ignored.

Chuck La Rue  
 Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Paul Hornick is motivated by duty.

As highly contested political races near election day, generally the mud comes out: motives are questioned and integrity is challenged. As an outside observer of the Madera County District Attorney race who personally has served in the United States Army Reserves with Paul Hornick in the months leading up to his announcement to run for office, I feel compelled to provide a brief description of my perspective on what motivated him to run.

Paul and I are both prosecutors with busy caseloads that we balance with our military obligations. During the weekends of military serv-

Please see **LETTERS** on P.8

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LETTERS cont. from P.7

ice, I would often talk to Paul about our civilian jobs. In 2017, Paul identified numerous dilemmas that confronted Madera County DA's Office. They were experiencing distractions, including investigations of their elected DA that were impeding mission accomplishment. They had old systems in place for processing and tracking cases that would often lead to delays. They were not working with law enforcement agencies during the investigative phase of cases. And the list went on.

What struck me about Paul was that he wasn't just complaining. Instead, as he learned early in his military career, whenever Paul identified a problem, he offered solutions. He had a solution for every problem confronting the DA's Office except for one: Madera County needed a new District Attorney; however, no one within his office was willing to run. Paul also felt that none of the candidates who were considering running at the time would be willing to make the changes that the DA's office so desperately needed.

I was with Paul when the light bulb went off in his head and duty called. I can distinctly remember Paul saying, "I am going to have to do this." Based on all the proceeding discussions, it was clear that the decision wasn't about Paul. He was motivated to enter the DA's race to make the office a more efficient tool for justice. And that was the only reason.

If in the coming days this race becomes personal and Paul's motives for running for elected office are questioned, please consider this personal account of what really caused him to run. He isn't doing this for a higher salary or for recognition or praise. He has joined the race because he believes that he can immediately improve the inefficiencies that he has already identified within the office and he sees it as his duty to do so.

Greg Peterson  
Monterey County

California (PORAC).

Additional public safety, community and business leaders' endorsements include Cal-Fire Local 2881, California Fish and Game Management Association, Madera County Supervisors David Rogers and Robert Poythress, former Madera County Supervisors Gary Gilbert and Gordon Kennedy, Madera Mayor Pro-Tem Jose Rodriquez, Madera City Councilman Donald E. Holley and former California Secretary of State Bill Jones, as well as many local business and community leaders. See her website for details (Sally4DA.com).

The reason that Sally has so many endorsements is that she has the appropriate career experience: being an LA police officer, a Desert Storm Army Officer veteran and homicide prosecutor beginning in 1996 in Merced. After taking time off to raise four children, she came to the Madera County DA's Office in 2011, was promoted to supervisor and handled homicide and other complex cases. She was the supervising deputy DA in Madera when she left to join the Fresno County DA's office in 2015.

Sally and her husband Sergio have been married for 24 years and live with their four children in the Madera Ranchos.

She has always been at the front line in making sure that her community is a safe place. She will do the same for Madera County.

The most relevant and concise reason to elect Sally Moreno as the Madera County DA is the following statement of the Madera County Deputy Sheriffs Association: "As a law enforcement leader, we need a district attorney who will work with us to fight crime in our County. When you carefully consider the experience and the qualifications of the candidates running for district attorney, Sally Orme Moreno is clearly the most experienced and the choice of law enforcement. Please join us and vote for Sally Orme Moreno for district attorney."

Jim Flanagan  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

There are two elected top law enforcement officers in Madera County. They are the district attorney and the sheriff. The top reason to elect Sally O. Moreno as district attorney is that she is endorsed, not only by the current Sheriff Jay Varney, but also by three of his predecessors: former Sheriffs John Anderson, Berk Berkeley and Ed Bates, as well as by neighboring Sheriff Doug Binnewies of Mariposa County. Sally is also endorsed by three current DAs of neighboring Counties: Lisa Smittcamp of Fresno, Tim Ward of Tulare and Tom Cooke of Mariposa.

Other law enforcement endorsers are the Madera County Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Madera Probation Officers Association and the Police Officers Research Association of

Dear Editor:

Neighbors, as you know, I am Paul Hornick, Senior Deputy District Attorney in Madera County. I am writing to set the record straight. My opponent paid to create an untruthful radio advertisement/YouTube video.

Sheriff Jay Varney made a statement that I disagree with and I want to share my version of events. Additionally, Deputy Jessica Martinez inaccurately characterized my actual statement made at a Candidates' Forum on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

First, I will address Sheriff Varney. At the Candidates' Forum, I said, "The Sheriff refused to even meet with me and my coworkers before initializing an endorsement." The Sheriff states

Please see **LETTERS** on P.9

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LETTERS cont. from P.8

in my opponent's radio advertisement, "DA candidate Paul Hornick said the Sheriff refused to meet with him. That's simply not true. I did meet with him for over an hour to discuss his candidacy."

Before I filed my declaration of candidacy paperwork, I reached out to Sheriff Varney to discuss what his concerns were for Madera County. In January, the Sheriff and I met for about an hour at a local Starbucks, where we shared our thoughts and concerns. There was no discussion of an endorsement, as I had not filed my paperwork to run for office yet.

Shortly before Sheriff Varney decided to endorse my opponent in April, myself and a coworker reached out to him to meet for discussion on an endorsement. The Sheriff was unresponsive to my meeting request.

Secondly, I would like to address Deputy Jessica Martinez. In my opponent's radio advertisement, Deputy Martinez states, "At the same forum, candidate Hornick said our endorsement of Sally was meaningless. The men and women of Madera County Law Enforcement are not meaningless."

As an Army JAG reservist and a Senior Deputy District Attorney, I have the utmost respect for our Law Enforcement Officers. At the Candidate Forum, my actual statement was, "The Deputy Sheriff's Association that we keep hearing about is really a phony endorsement folks ..." Deputy Martinez confused the words "meaningless" and "phony."

As defined by the Merriam-Webster dic-

tionary, "meaningless" describes something with no real importance or value. To be clear, the views of our men and women in law enforcement are tremendously important and have great value. The word "phony," however, is used to describe something that is not genuine or real. The true purpose of my statement was to depict the difference between my endorsements and those of my opponent. My endorsements were membership-at-large votes, where the entire Association was allowed to vote after considering both me and my opponent. They voted for me.

The endorsement of my opponent by the Deputy Sheriff's Association was not a true measure of support because a handful of people were permitted to speak for 100. Furthermore, the Deputy Sheriffs' Association endorsement vote was taken over two months before I entered the race for DA.

My opponent has taken measures to twist actual occurrences and spin facts. It is unfortunate that she has decided to continue her negative campaign against me. She even stated that I'm not a "real Veteran" because I haven't served overseas.

What saddens me the most about my opponent's radio advertisement is she has grievously gotten her endorsements to follow her down this false path. My hope in making this statement is to inform the citizens of the facts.

Both my opponent's radio advertisement and Candidate Forum video are posted on YouTube. You can hear my statements for yourself.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Hornick  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Many eyes are on the race for Madera County District Attorney and I feel compelled to weigh in publicly on this extremely important decision. Paul Hornick is the only choice for District Attorney.

Why is my opinion relevant among so many others? Currently, I am the Assistant District Attorney for the Madera County District Attorney's Office. My husband is also an attorney. Between the two of us, we have almost 45 years of criminal law experience, almost all of which have been within the County of Madera. Over 20 of those years have been served specifically within the Madera County District Attorney's Office (I have personally spent over 15 years in this office.) I have observed, first-hand, the history of the office and have lived through and seen many successes and many failures over the years.

I know both candidates. I have worked with both candidates. I have even been the supervisor of both candidates. That is why I, respectfully, disagree with the Madera Tribune's riveting assessment that the formula for determining the best candidate consists merely of adding the number of years each person has worked at the job (not to mention, there is a serious problem with the Tribune author's math in calculating Hornick's opponent's time as a prosecutor!).

Paul is organized, hard-working and ethical. He is dedicated, both to being a prosecutor and to Madera County. However, he is more than that. He is a man of genuine character. He is the only candidate who, throughout this campaign, has continued to serve his community as a prosecutor carrying an extremely full case load. The Madera DA's Office is too small to afford him the opportunity to be moved or placed into an assignment that is "more flexible" and allows ample time during normal working hours to oversee a campaign, as I have heard it said of his opponent. As a matter of fact, I have observed Paul work tirelessly to achieve

justice for victims, no matter how big, or small, the case. That is the mark of a true prosecutor – one who works just as diligently on what others would call a "small," or insignificant, case as he would on a "big" case. This truth is exemplified when the prosecutor consistently conducts himself in the same manner, even when pressed with personal constraints on his time.

What the Madera DA's Office needs is someone who is able to juggle many different issues simultaneously. Not someone who requires a "flexible schedule" to be able to concentrate on one task. It needs someone who can make tough decisions for the right reasons. Paul is that candidate.

The Madera County Prosecutors' Association, most of whom have also worked with both candidates, is endorsing Paul. Most of the attorneys in Madera County are endorsing Paul. Many law enforcement agencies in Madera County are endorsing Paul. I, too, am endorsing Paul Hornick for Madera County District Attorney.

Respectfully,  
Angela J. Hill  
Madera County

Dear Editor:

I am a longtime resident of California. My family has been here for several generations. I have personally watched as gang violence has increased and several people have been given light sentences. I remember when a guy in Fresno was released from jail due to overcrowding and then killed a couple in Huron while burglarizing their house.

I do not want Madera County to suffer the same problems that Fresno has. As new housing developments spring up just across the Fresno County line, in southern Madera County, I do not want Madera to have the same problems with crime that Fresno has.

This is why I support Paul Hornick for District Attorney of Madera County. Paul Hornick works for Madera District Attorney, he knows how to keep Madera safe. His opponent,

Please see **LETTERS** on P.17

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9	5	1	2	8	4	3	6	7
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12				





# ORGANIZED BY CHOICE

By Brenda McElroy

## Six Steps to Increase Productivity

The other day I decided to stop and buy some fruit. I decided to get it at Sprouts. I decided which parking place to use and which cart to grab. Out of the plethora of apple varieties, I decided on non-organic Fuji. I also decided to buy Bartlett pears, yellow peaches and cherry tomatoes. On the way to the register, I decided to stop and check out a “buy one, get two free” promotion for Nut-Thins. Naturally they offered five flavors, so I decided on three. I decided which register line to stand in and, after watching the guy in front of me use his iPhone to pay, I decided to use Apple Pay on my watch rather than cash, credit card or debit. Sprouts’ tag-line is “Every Meal is a Choice.” I’d say, every meal is a surplus of choices.

When you look at how many choices are involved in a simple trip to Sprouts, it’s no wonder our society is experiencing decision fatigue. Equal to the overwhelming quantity of decisions we’re faced with each day, there’s the fear of making the wrong choice. If there are only two types of apples, you have a 50/50 chance of choosing the best. When there are more than 20 choices, you might make the “wrong” choice 20 more times.

If, like me, you desire a peaceful and productive existence, how does decision overload impact your productivity? Here are some lessons from my Sprouts trip and six steps to increase your productivity.

**Prioritize**—Fruit is what I needed. Deciding what I need before stepping into the store makes better use of my time than wandering the aisles. When we don’t prioritize our tasks, it’s easy to be overwhelmed by a list of random things we need to do. We walk into our office, or have a day for home projects, but with so many choices we end up using our time on menial things instead of what’s most important. Keep a short, doable list with your top priority clearly identified so you can jump right in when it’s time.

**Block Time**—From 4:15-5 p.m. my errand time—Sprouts, bank, drop off donations, pick up mail, allergy shots, etc. By blocking time for specific tasks you reduce the overwhelm of trying to decide when you’re going to accomplish your priorities.

**Create Boundaries**— Might I have found a better sale price on some of the fruit if I had researched all the ads or gone from store to store? Perhaps, but for me the benefit wouldn’t outweigh the cost. Making those choices isn’t always easy. While writing this article, it was challenging to limit my time researching decision overload—so many interesting articles! Whether you’re online shopping or gathering info for a project, the internet offers never-ending choices. To be productive, we must choose a limited number of resources or create time boundaries for research.

**Deadlines**— We were down to our last few apples in the fridge making the shopping trip a must. When we have unlimited choice as to when to complete something, it often doesn’t get done. If a task or project is important, but has no deadline, impose one on it. One of mine is getting the last two years’ Christmas photo books done by this Christmas. Giving myself a deadline and blocking some time helped me get Christmas 2016 done. One more to go.

**Routines**— Even though there were 20+ options for apples, I didn’t look at every type before choosing mine. I went straight to the Fuji bin, checked the price and loaded up the bag. That’s my routine. That’s not to say I’ll never try another variety, or that you should never step outside your established routines, but having some will save you time and brain energy for the more important decisions in life. For example, you might create a menu routine—Monday chicken, Tuesday Italian, Wednesday soup, etc., or a wardrobe routine—line up outfits in your closet to reduce the number of decisions you need to make while you’re getting ready each day.

**Good Enough**— In the apple display there were many undesirables (which surprised me since it’s apple season). To search for a bag full of “perfect” ones would have taken a while. As hard as it is for many of us to admit, perfect isn’t always best. Choosing “good enough” means completion and ending the endless pursuit of perfection.

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




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10/18



GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

must have been a tough choice because it felt like 10 minutes before she took the scrubs and went to the bathroom to change.

This whole interaction led me to a thought. We need to have something on hand for when this happens, and this happens more often than it should considering we employ adults exclusively. I'm going to bring in a poncho. I am going to make it the most gaudy, outlandish, ridiculous poncho ever. I'm picturing a rainbow of colors that don't match, maybe some be-dazzling, and a big red "S" right in

the middle and I will call it the "Poncho of Shame." I will put it on any man or woman who comes into the office inappropriately dressed. It will cover the shirts with drug images, the rips and stains, and it will cover cleavage. With God as my witness, it will cover the cleavage. Next time Snookie Kardashian comes into the office I will have the Poncho of Shame waiting for her. That will definitely make me laugh.

I just had a thought. If she thought going into her place of business like that was acceptable, what in the world does she wear at Wal-Mart?



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### Education is the Future

Hello 93636,

Earlier this month the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools held his annual Career Tech Expo at Chukchansi Park. The Career Tech Expo is the largest Career Fair event in the Central Valley each year. Thousands of Fresno County high school juniors and seniors were bused to the event to investigate career opportunities.

This year the Fresno Select Group decided to participate in the event. FSG is a business development group of 13 local independent NAPA AutoCare Centers. One of the major impediments to business development and growth for the local automotive repair industry is the lack of trained, competent and qualified technicians. We purposely set out to attract students to our booth. We wanted to do something with a WOW factor.

In that regard, one of the vehicles we displayed at our booth was a newer Lexus. By installing a Bluetooth device into the vehicles OBD II connector, we were able to control many of the vehicle's functions remotely with a handheld scanner. As students approached the empty car, it started honking its horn, rolling its windows up and down and flashing its lights. We definitely got their attention, not to mention how entertaining it was to watch their reactions. With that attention we promoted the many benefits and opportunities within the automotive industry and demonstrated other new school automotive technologies.

I was very disappointed to learn that only two public high schools within the Fresno City limits offered an automotive vocational program: Central High School and Erma Duncan Polytechnical High School. The only other Fresno County public high schools that I'm aware of to offer an automotive vocational program are Clovis and Clovis West.

As I understand it, Duncan Polytech is a charter school and students are selected through the application process. Access to Fresno public school vocational automotive programs is extremely limited at best. In fact, the vast majority of students we spoke with did not have access to traditional vocational education opportunities.

On the spot we decided to improvise. We passed out business cards to those stu-

dents who showed more than a casual interest during our demonstrations. It's our intention to invite these students into our shops where they can first-hand observe the interworking of a modern-day automotive repair facility. We also want to connect some of the new school technology to live, running vehicles and give those students some hands-on experiences.

Our display also caught the attention of several instructors, educators and administrators. We were greeted with great enthusiasm and received several invitations to visit school sites and speak with students. Among those who visited our booth was the lead instructor from the Fresno City College Automotive Program. I think FCC presents the greatest opportunity to implement a new school training curriculum. The problem has been for us that FCC receives much of its financial support from manufactures like General Motors, Ford Motor Company and the Chrysler Group, so small independents like ourselves have largely been on the outside looking in. We are hoping to bridge that gap and partner with FCC. We independents, FCC and students would benefit greatly from that partnership.

One of the joys of many years in the automotive repair industry is occasional I get to

blend the best technologies from the new school and old school worlds. Earlier this month a 1950 Lincoln rolled through the door. It had a flathead Ford engine with a conventional points-type distributor and a carburetor. I've never worked on a flathead engine before. The customer requested diagnostic for a "Tip In" condition and an old-fashioned secondary ignition tune-up. Man oh man, cars sure have changed, but the basic science and engineering is the same. Just like any other car, I used the same new school technology to diagnose and repair this old-school vehicle. In the past a timing light, dwell meter and tachometer would have been the technology of choice. Today a lab scope, pressure transducer and a low current amp probe were my technology of choice.

By using a pressure transducer instead of a timing light, I can accurately adjust base ignition timing to within .001 of a degree without the need to find or use timing marks. By using the low current amp probe I can watch the coil saturation (dwell) and current load for each of the eight cylinders. An old school dwell meter averages the dwell across the eight cylinders. Because of the dwell meter limitations, if any of the distributor's cam lobes are excessively worn (misfire), that condition is not detectable. Another advantage of the low-current amp probe is if I apply Ohm's Law and use a little math, I have

an accurate assessment of the condition of the ignition coil and its electrical circuits. If I had this technology and training 30 years ago, I would have been the KING of automotive drivability in the diagnostic world.

The moral of the story is new school technology and training is very adaptable, efficient and universal because at its core automotive science and engineering is basically common.

The automotive industry has a lot of work to do. We need to build a comprehensive new school technology curriculum that can be taught at the public school level. As a group we need to support our public school automotive instructors and volunteer as advisors. As a result of FSG's participation with the 2018 Career Tech Expo, I think we have a much-improved understanding of the needs and challenges before us as we work with education to build a comprehensive automotive vocational education program.

As always, I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any ideas, suggestions or a general or specific question about a vehicle, please text 907-7661. I would like to answer those questions for you and possibly include them in a future article.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636 Warren Parr, A 2013 & 2014 ASE/NAPA California Technician of the Year.

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LETTERS cont. from P.9

Sally Moreno, works for Fresno County District Attorney's office. I do not want Fresno County crime or Fresno County Deputy District Attorneys coming to Madera County. Respectfully, Michael Conley Madera County

Dear Editor:

I have had the genuine pleasure of knowing, working and collaborating with Paul Hornick since 2012. Paul and I became acquainted during our mutual service as new officers in the Army Reserve. It was barely a moment before Paul and I began working on projects together. As is common, people of like minds begin associating and exchanging ideas, thoughts, and insight. In short order, Paul and I became good

friends – talking about cars, discussing thoughts on places we have been, and certainly sharing on how we can make things in life better than how we find them. In such discussions, one can get to know a person; their attributes, strengths and qualities. Paul maintains a unique quality that I have seldom found in people. Paul actively engages with people in a genuine, interested way vs. merely exchanging pleasantries. While talking with others is not unique, Paul cares enough to listen and ask questions in a sincere, compassionate, caring way. Any time he asks how somebody is, the answer he receives is never dismissed; Paul is the sort who takes what was said to him and welcomes it with the intention of making a friend's life a little better.

For example, my company was in the process of moving its primary headquarters from one location to another in a relatively short amount of time. In one of Paul's acts of interest and subsequent kindness, he had asked me during one of our frequent conversations about

how my company's move was going. I confessed that there was a new lease which I needed to review, and I really was not confident if I knew where all the "gotchas" and hidden implications might be within the 15+ pages! I admitted to Paul that, while I figured myself to be an intuitive person, there were parts of the lease that were simply not as clear to me as I would have hoped. Without a batting an eye, Paul asked if I could share the lease with him. A day later, Paul had drafted some questions for me to relay to the organization who had generated the lease, as well as a series of recommendations that we should request. I asked Paul how he found time to do such a job so fast with such accuracy. Paul said that insight belongs to everybody and not merely the privileged few who can pass the bar. Paul refused any payment, we secured a great lease, and I never forgot that act of kindness from someone who offered to help – simply because it was the right thing to do.

Paul has also been the sort of person who has achieved so much in life – and yet still has the remarkable personality attribute of being able to set aside ego and internal opinions and welcome others' thoughts and views in combination with his own. In many situations, Paul has a well-formed "been there, done that" resume that tends to show how Paul knows the way forward. However, Paul also knows that the better choice, even if a bit slower, has always been inclusion of others. For example, I witnessed Paul placed in charge of Army plans and products, including formulating a training regimen, implementing safety controls, and responsibly managing a budget. While Paul certainly has the credentials to be a single authority over an entire operation, Paul has always included others in every situation. Why do so, when he alone could do all of the steps himself? Paraphrased, Paul's viewpoint has been clear:

Please see LETTERS on P.26

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Map showing location near Howard Rd, W Olive Ave, S Olive Ave, S Madera Ave, S Woodson Ave, CA-99, W Yosemite, W 10th St, S 10th St, S 11th St, S 12th St, S 13th St, S 14th St, S 15th St, S 16th St, S 17th St, S 18th St, S 19th St, S 20th St, S 21st St, S 22nd St, S 23rd St, S 24th St, S 25th St, S 26th St, S 27th St, S 28th St, S 29th St, S 30th St, S 31st St, S 32nd St, S 33rd St, S 34th St, S 35th St, S 36th St, S 37th St, S 38th St, S 39th St, S 40th St, S 41st St, S 42nd St, S 43rd St, S 44th St, S 45th St, S 46th St, S 47th St, S 48th St, S 49th St, S 50th St, S 51st St, S 52nd St, S 53rd St, S 54th St, S 55th St, S 56th St, S 57th St, S 58th St, S 59th St, S 60th St, S 61st St, S 62nd St, S 63rd St, S 64th St, S 65th St, S 66th St, S 67th St, S 68th St, S 69th St, S 70th St, S 71st St, S 72nd St, S 73rd St, S 74th St, S 75th St, S 76th St, S 77th St, S 78th St, S 79th St, S 80th St, S 81st St, S 82nd St, S 83rd St, S 84th St, S 85th St, S 86th St, S 87th St, S 88th St, S 89th St, S 90th St, S 91st St, S 92nd St, S 93rd St, S 94th St, S 95th St, S 96th St, S 97th St, S 98th St, S 99th St, S 100th St

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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.

	×		-		12
×		÷		-	
	-		×		18
+		+		×	
	+		×		20
14		9		15	

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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## Conservative Principles Really Work

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Election 2018 – Vote Republican.

President Donald Trump is being praised for successes on the home and international fronts, and rightfully so. The big story is not about him, however, but that the successes result from implementation of conservative principles such as individual liberty, limited government, adherence to the Constitution, strong foreign policy and free enterprise.

Despite his infuriating personality traits or perhaps because of one or two of them, he has been able to push through policies and agreements which other politicians promise but never deliver. Congressional Republicans who passed legislation or carried out their advise-and-consent responsibilities also deserve our thanks. In these turbulent times, perhaps they also deserve combat pay (which Trump has increased).

**At home:** The economy is booming. Taxes have been cut. Useless regulations have been repealed. Employment is up. Manufacturing is returning. Some state economies have been revived. We are nearing energy independence and relying less on foreign energy sources. The Obamacare individual mandate and some of its other onerous provisions are gone. Originalist Supreme Court justices have been confirmed. Our military preparedness has improved.

Breaking news in just the last two days: (1) "Trump is eliminating all unnecessary water regulations, ensuring that Valley farmers and residents have a supply of water for generations to come." Hooray for that. (2) A Fresno Bee headline announced that "Fresno County has the lowest unemployment since 1990." More good news.

**Internationally:** Trade deals appear to be more in our favor. North Korea has stopped lobbying missiles willy-nilly, at least for now. We've asserted some clout at the United Nations. The U.S. Embassy in Israel is now where it belongs, in Israel's capital city. The Paris Climate Accord is where it belongs, in the trash can. ISIS power has been diminished. Other countries have become more cooperative.

**More breaking news:** Mexico appears to have agreed with Trump to stop the "caravan" of thousands from reaching our southern border.

Vote Republican to continue the success story.

It pains me to suggest voting a straight party line, but the stakes are high and the evidence is clear. The Republican Party, imperfect as it is, deserves credit for moving the country in the right direction, and doing it peacefully. It and President Trump have much more to do, such as repealing Obamacare altogether, rolling back more crushing regulations, making our borders inviolate, passing and adhering to sensible immigration laws de-

signed to keep our country safe and secure, and eliminating federal government interference in areas which should be left to states and the people – such as education and health care for starters.

Remember that Trump was elected partly because a Democrat Hillary Clinton presidency was unthinkable. Her transgressions imperiled not just her reputation, but the country and people's lives. As Secretary of State – America's representative to the world – national security was compromised by her illegal personal email server; her pay-for-play antics enriched the Clinton Foundation and perhaps herself; and sadly, our United States ambassador and three heroes died in Benghazi due at least in part to her arrogance and negligence and, unbelievably, she blamed an obscure video for causing the assault. Remember also, after all that, the Democrat party rewarded her with the nomination for president of the United States and they still revere her.

Meanwhile, the Democrat Party has abandoned common sense and conscience with their violent protests; their ceaseless resistance-at-all-costs movement; their opposition to any sensible policy or law; their insistence on an end to United States sovereignty through open borders, sanctuary cities and states, and voting by non-citizens; their embrace and promotion of socialism; and the calls by elected Democrat members of Congress to harass Republicans wherever they are, to get in their faces, and to tell them they are not welcome anywhere. Are we surprised that Republican lawmakers are being physically attacked and harassed?

Get others to vote.

Please encourage your family, friends, co-workers, church members and favorite barista to vote – and to vote Republican. If they don't know why, you might have a friendly conversation about conservative principles and why this election is so important.

And while you're at it, vote YES on Proposition 6 to repeal the gas tax increase. Senate Bill 1 increased taxes for "roads" in January. It does not guarantee one cent will be spent to improve or add roads, but it does fund rail, parks, bicycle lanes, university studies, local general plans and more. It adds taxes on retailers. And it builds in another tax increase every year starting in 2020. Proposition 6 will repeal these costly tax increases on gas and vehicle registrations, and it will require that any future increases must be voted on by the electorate.

Period.

It is only two paragraphs long and you can read it at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov).

The opposition is fear mongering and obfuscating, starting with the misleading Official Voter Information Guide title which states that Proposition 6 "eliminates certain road repair funding." Before the January tax increase, California already had the highest gas taxes in the nation, but infrastructure crumbled because the "road" money was being diverted to other uses. Lesson learned. Yes on 6!

See you at the polls.

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



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by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A bid for you to step in and take over an incomplete project could prove to be an excellent learning experience that you can take with you when a new opportunity opens up.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time for socializing, both with family and with friends. Your aspects also favor developing new relationships, any or all of which might become especially meaningful.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Your success in handling a recent difficult situation prompts a request to handle another workplace problem. But this is one you should accept only if you get all of the relevant facts.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) New information about a past decision raises some unsettling questions from an old friend. Be prepared to explain your actions fully and, if necessary, make adjustments.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) This is not a good time to share personal secrets, even with someone you've known for a long while. What you don't reveal now won't come back to haunt you later.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Pushing yourself to meet a project deadline is admirable. But be careful not to leave out important details in your rush to complete your work and send it off.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Watch that you don't take on more than you can handle when offering to help someone with a personal problem. There might be hidden factors you weren't told about.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) That major move you've been considering could come sooner than you expected. Make sure you'll be ready with the facts you need when decision time arrives.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Languishing relationships can benefit from a break in routine. Get out of the rut and do something new and maybe more than a little unpredictable this weekend.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Although you don't think of yourself as a role model, your ability to make a tough decision at this time sets an example for others, who admire your courage.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You need to move any remaining obstacles out of your way before you can take on a new challenge. Seek advice from close, trusted friends and associates.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A career change appears increasingly likely to happen during the next several weeks. It's a good idea to start now to prepare, so you can be ready to make the move when the time comes.

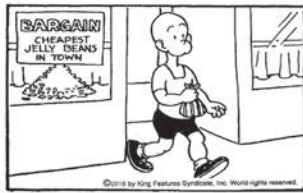
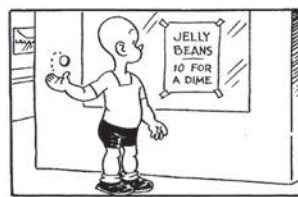
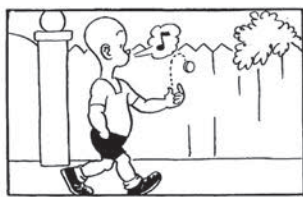
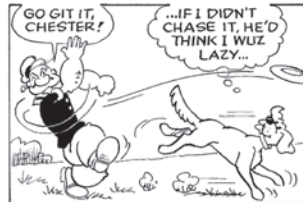
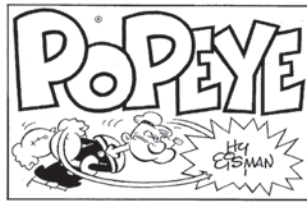
**Born this week**

*You have a strong sense of obligation to justice, which inspires others to follow your example and do the right thing.*

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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

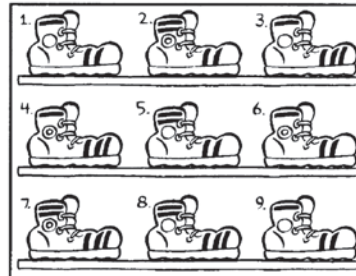


WHYZZIT? YOU GET A LOT OF NEEDLES IN A HOSPITAL and NONE OF THEM HURT... EXCEPT...

Thank to G. GARDINEER, TOLEDO, OHIO



## BY AL SCADUTO



WHICH TWO SNEAKERS ARE THE SAME? You have 30 seconds to slam-dunk this one!

Answer: Sneakers 1 and 9.

LET'S BEHEAD A WORD! When you behead a word, you drop the first letter of the word. The following clues should help you find the starting three-letter word: Behead a beast, and you will find A larger beast is left behind. Behead this larger beast and then Instead of one, you'll find I'm ten.



Answers: Tarradiddle, watted, upsweep, airship, dimpled, candied.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

Answers: Tarradiddle, watted, upsweep, airship, dimpled, candied.

## Wishing Well

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ANIMAL ENCLOSURES

VYUREOKHDAXUQNK  
 HEBYVSSPMJHEBYV  
 (AQUARIUM)TPQOLIG  
 DBYWTRPOOMEKIFD  
 BLYWKUHOHLVYSQO  
 MKLIFCCZBNRABDB  
 ZXWATYOAUAESQON  
 LJHUTTTDIFSHDCA  
 YWHVTS SVDLENNEK  
 QPNLEGACLARROCK  
 IHFECBZYNEPGIPW

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

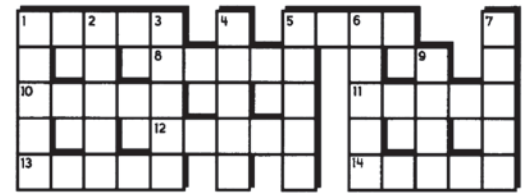
- Aquarium Corral Paddock Stall
- Aviary Henhouse Pigpen Sty
- Barn Hutch Preserve Zoo
- Cage Kennel Stable

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A FILL-IN PUZZLE!



Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 16 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

- APED CADRE GNATS
- ASHEN CHAMP LABOR
- AUDIO DELTA NEATH
- BALER EARTH RADIO
- BIPED GALE TEMPT
- CABIN

Answers (Across) 1. Cadre 5. Gale 8. Ashen 10. Baler 11. Bipod 12. Tempt 13. Neath 14. Radio (Down) 1. Cabin 2. Delta 3. Earth 4. Champ 5. Gnats 6. Labor 7. Audio 9. Aped.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Who directed the movie "La Dolce Vita"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the famous Olduvai Gorge located?
- MYTHOLOGY: Tyr was a Norse god of what?
- MUSIC: What pop group sang "Love Shack"?
- PRESIDENTS: How old was Theodore Roosevelt when he was inaugurated?
- SCIENCE: In what century was Isaac Newton born?
- HISTORY: When was the last year the Dodgers played in Brooklyn?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the symbol of the zodiac sign Scorpio?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "speleo" mean?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many bottles of champagne are in a jeroboam?

### Answers

- Federico Fellini
- Tanzania
- War
- The B-52s
- 42
- 17th century
- 1957
- Scorpion
- Cave
- Four

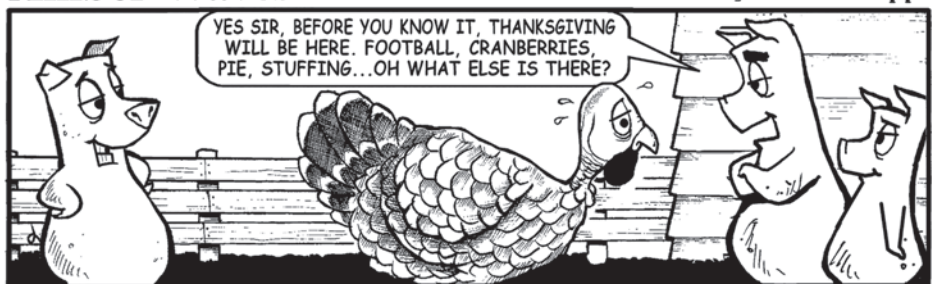
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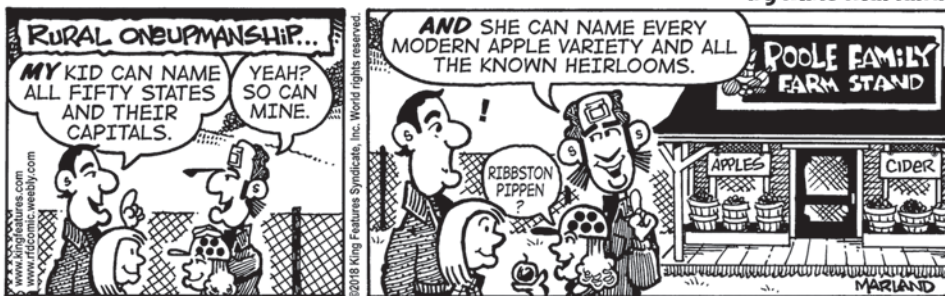
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



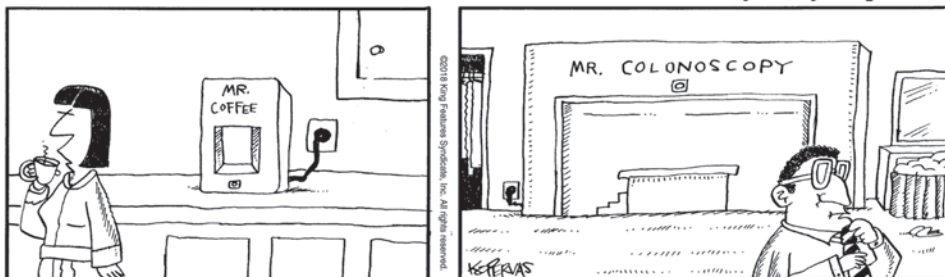
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

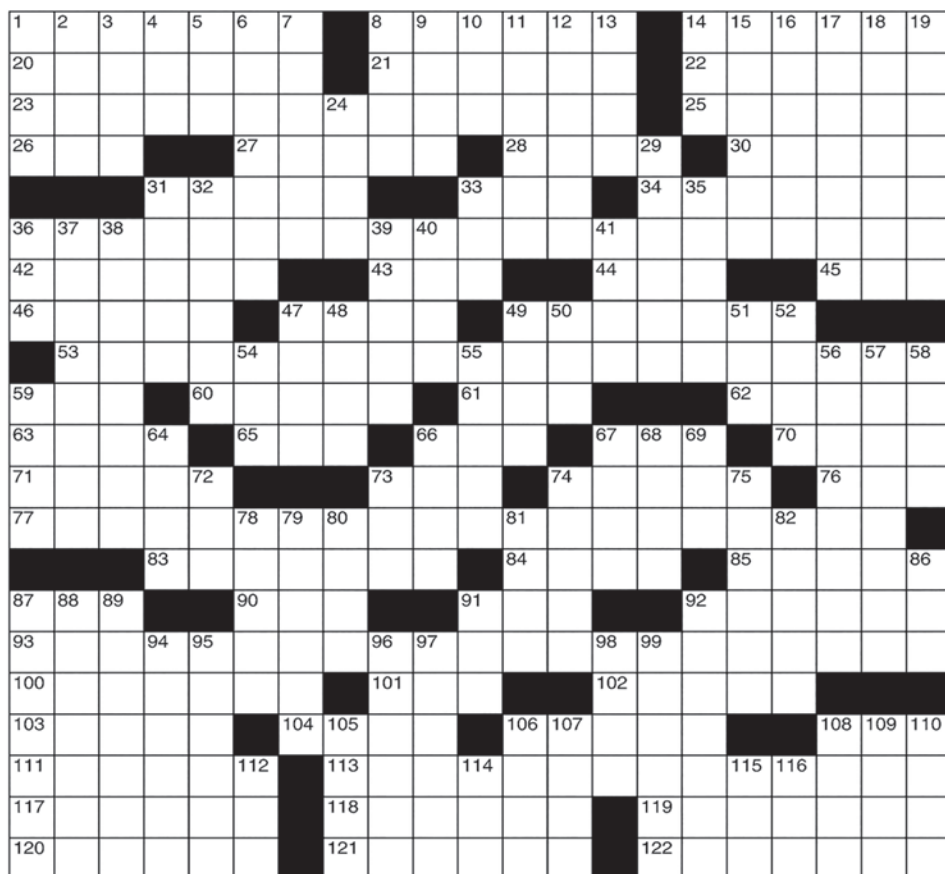
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Container is missing. 2. Hair is shorter. 3. Bolt is missing. 4. Suspenders are cash register. 5. Sign is missing. 6. Cash register is smaller.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Seasoned seaman, slangily
  - 8 Trees that yield a chocolate substitute
  - 14 Entry
  - 20 Muckety-muck
  - 21 Spain and Portugal, collectively
  - 22 Produce
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 There since birth
  - 26 Zeta-theta link
  - 27 Longtime name in gas
  - 28 "— Three Lives" ('50s TV series)
  - 30 Sri Lankan language
  - 31 Light unit
  - 33 Toothpaste-endorsing org.
  - 34 Big and oafish
  - 36 Riddle, part 2
  - 42 Small Aussie parakeet
  - 43 Variety
  - 44 Small, for short
  - 45 Ending for baron
  - 46 Plum lookalikes
  - 47 Diner cuppa
  - 49 Warm's up, as leftovers
  - 53 Riddle, part 3
  - 59 Fighter with Fidel
  - 60 Neighbor of Egypt
  - 61 Retina locale
  - 62 Italian farewells
  - 63 Baseballer Aparicio
  - 65 Clarf of "Hee Haw"
  - 66 Original "Hee Haw" aier
  - 67 A fire sign
  - 70 Threaded fastener
  - 71 Pop singer Goulding
  - 73 Gunky stuff
  - 74 Perm parlor
  - 76 Ph.D. hopeful's test
  - 77 Riddle, part 4
  - 83 Pedal for a floor loom
  - 84 Domain
  - 85 11 hours before noon
  - 87 Lead-in to Magnon
  - 90 "I'm — loss"
  - 91 Bikini part
  - 92 Acting unthinkingly, informally
  - 93 End of the riddle
  - 100 Cry to a good dog
  - 101 18-wheeler
  - 102 "I — Say No" (show tune)
  - 103 Cheese-topped chip
  - 104 Help to do wrong
  - 106 Jiggly treat
  - 108 Real heel
  - 111 Torino locale
  - 113 Riddle's answer
  - 117 Stop, legally
  - 118 "Seinfeld" gal pal
  - 119 Via E! or FX
  - 120 Will concern
  - 121 Prison boss
  - 122 Harmful flies
  - 7 Big Apple opera house
  - 8 U.S. prez, military
  - 9 "Peek- —, I see you!"
  - 10 Kylo — (Darth Vader's grandson)
  - 11 Tater Tots brand
  - 12 Sch. locale with microscopes
  - 13 In no danger
  - 14 Foe of Spinks
  - 15 NBA position
  - 16 Rabbinical mysticism
  - 17 Descendant of Esau
  - 18 Bowling aims
  - 19 Having only daughters
  - 24 Skye of films
  - 29 Bad boy in "The Omen"
  - 31 Raced in a certain sled
  - 32 Big IT company
  - 33 Biblical boat
  - 35 Eastern rice dish
  - 36 Half a fl. oz.
  - 37 Hilo dance
  - 38 "Modern Family" actor
  - 39 Sofa type
  - 40 Writer Paton
  - 41 Grades K-12
  - 47 Karate relative
  - 48 "Scram!"
  - 49 Light units
  - 50 Vegas-to-Denver dir.
  - 51 Tic- — -toe board
  - 52 Peeved state
  - 54 "— Mutual Friend"
  - 55 Football's Tim
  - 56 Ensnarl
  - 57 Concert itinerary detail
  - 58 Bone: Prefix
  - 59 Musical score symbol
  - 64 River buildup
  - 66 Manage
  - 67 Not on time
  - 68 Lioness in "Born Free"
  - 69 "How lovely!"
  - 72 ENT part
  - 73 Hair stiffener
  - 74 Singer McLachlan
  - 75 Political columnist
  - 78 1954-77 defense gp.
  - 79 Sister of Tito Jackson
  - 80 Hard cheese
  - 81 Singer Corey
  - 82 Not fitting
  - 86 Labor Day, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 87 Whodunit poison stuff
  - 88 Goes around
  - 89 One rejected
  - 91 Seek alms
  - 92 Cincinnati citizens, say
  - 94 Mexican bloom
  - 95 Certain reed player
  - 96 Ring of the iris
  - 97 Build-it-yourself auto
  - 98 Rights group, for short
  - 99 Actor Lyle or actress Nita
  - 105 Percolate
  - 106 Mrs. Jetson
  - 107 Idyllic garden
  - 108 Airport waiters?
  - 109 Fit for the job
  - 110 Hair colorers
  - 112 Gobbled up
  - 114 Lad or lass
  - 115 Road hazard
  - 116 Belfry animal
- DOWN**
- 1 Boy of Mayberry
  - 2 Place for hay
  - 3 "A little dab'll —"
  - 4 "Shameless" aier, briefly
  - 5 Aladdin's monkey pal
  - 6 City in southeast Wyoming



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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

# Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Saturday, Dec. 1 • 6 p.m.

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

### Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.

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

Items can be dropped off at any time to the Chamber office, but no later than Dec. 7. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details

### Upcoming Chamber of Commerce Mixers

10/18

**Christian Mission Church Mixer**  
Thursday, November 1 • 6-7:30 p.m.  
12089 Maywood Dr., Madera Ranchos  
Right behind the Ranchos Library.  
Everyone is invited to the Ranchos' newest church.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual  
**Christmas Mixer**  
Wednesday, December 12 • 6-7:30 p.m.  
37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C, Madera Ranchos  
Everyone is invited. Great food will be served.  
Our Merry Christmas to you. Call 645-4001 for info.

### New Members

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

- Becky Gribble**  
Madera Ranchos Resident
- Jeanette Covington**  
Ranchos Crafters' Studio
- Lora Brazil**  
Kamps Propane

### Next Chamber Meeting

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.. The Chamber office is at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 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.



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**Owner/CEO**  
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 Convenient, Professional, Affordable.



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 Madera Ranchos

**559-645-5320**  
 www.ranchosdental.net

## Senior Report

# Honor Flight Recipient Honored by Seniors

By Margaret Tynan

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are so very proud of member Ron Wood. As a veteran of the Korean war, Ron was chosen to participate in the Veterans' Honor Flight to Washington D.C. October 1-3, 2018. The purpose of the Honor Flight is to give as many United States military veterans as possible the opportunity to visit the Washington, D.C. memorials dedicated to the wars in which they served. Ron's wife Carol, his step-daughter Dawn, step-great-granddaughter Keslie and members of the Center honored Ron with a surprise sendoff luncheon. The tables were decorated with patriotic colors of red, white and blue in recognition of and thanks for his service to the Nation.

In an interview with Ron, he shared that flying had been his dream since he was a very young child. He recalls that his love of airplanes got him into a bit of trouble. As a 5-year-old, he rode his bike to the Taft airport without his father's permission, the result of which was no bike privileges until he reached his 12th birthday. He did learn to fly as a young man and eventually took and passed the Airforce Cadet test with the intention of joining. Coincidentally he received his Army draft notice around the same time. Ron says the Air Force won out and he joined in February of 1954. He graduated from flight instructor school in 1955 and trained Air Force pilots during his four-year tour of duty. He then joined the International Guard in Fresno where he logged over 300 hours flying fighter jets.

Flying stayed in his blood throughout his working life. Ron had his own aerial application business in Dos Palos. He flew 26,000 air hours crop dusting, seeding and other services essential to San Joaquin Valley agriculture. After retiring from that business in 1990, he continued managing and maintaining his rental homes which he is still doing today. He says his enjoyment of carpenter work comes in very handy at that endeavor. Restoring vintage motor vehicles

is another of his pastimes. He says that he is currently restoring a 1950 Ford that he hopes to drive in next year's Flatlanders Parade. He also likes to spend as much time as he can at his cabin and on the water fishing. Ron and his wife Carol have lived in the Madera Ranchos since 2004. Carol is currently the vice president of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. It is an honor to have such dedicated and civic-minded members of our community. Ron, thank you for your service.



Honor Flight recipient Ron Wood reacts to a luncheon in his honor at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center with his wife, Center Vice President Carol Wood.

Get out your calendar and mark the important upcoming events to be held at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos. Community member Manual Sisneros is encouraging interested members to join him in a woodcarving activity group every Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The weather is perfect for the group meeting on the Center's patio. Bring your own tools and materials and express your

creativity while enjoying some social time. The regular Bake and Boutique Sale and Treasure House and Plant sale are Saturday, Nov. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. At the Planning Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 6 we will discuss activities for next year. We encourage Center and community members to be engaged and give us input. Let us know what your interests are. Maybe a book club or story telling class might be just the thing. Are there arts and crafts projects or various day trips and excursions that you would like to see offered? Members will elect new Ranchos/Hills Seniors officers at the 12:30 p.m. General Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20. Get involved. We hope to see you there. The annual Thanksgiving dinner for members and their guest is planned for Thursday, Nov. 15 beginning at 6 p.m. It is always an enjoyable time and a great way to begin the holiday season. Bring your own table service, a side dish to share and your appetite. Be sure to sign up at the Center.

Thought for November: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." — John Fitzgerald Kennedy



*The Bookshelf*

# New Help Debuts at the Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

This month at the library we are welcoming a new assistant to our ranks, so let's all give a warm welcome to Kate. She's going to be here with me at the library and can't wait to meet you all.

As a friendly reminder, I would like to point out that all donations to the library should be made during business hours and always need to be brought directly into the library itself. Donations left outside are subject to the weather and can potentially be ruined. Boxes of books left by the book drop will not be accepted for donation as it is not able to be determined if it is for us or otherwise.

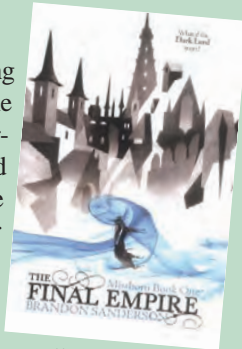
Now that business is taken care of, let's get to what your librarian is reading:

**Jerrica's Shelf:**

*The Final Empire* by Brandon Sanderson

This is Sanderson's second series and revolves around a young woman named Vin and her group of allies. Vin has always been able to directly influence people's emotions and has never really understood why she had this power. One day she meets a man named Kelsier who teaches her that she is a Mistborn: someone who can use the innate powers of metals to modify her body in ways she never thought were possible. By joining up with Kelsier and his crew, Vin helps with a plot to overthrow the tyrants that have been subjugating the lower class and claiming that it is all in the name of preventing a mysterious force called "The Deepness" from destroying them all.

Sanderson is able to build a complete world around his concepts of "burning" metals and manages to also get you interested in the political gambits that the noble houses are controlling all at the same time. I found this book to be exciting and a great intro to a series that I've been devouring since I picked up the first one.



**The Madera Ranchos Library**  
 37167 Ave. 12 • 645-1214  
 Sun-Mon Closed  
 Tue 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Wed - Thu 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
[www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org](http://www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org)

**LETTERS** cont. from P.17

people care more about something that they feel they can influence. That sentiment has always been a part of the Paul I have known and his hope to make lives safer and better.

I know Paul as a colleague and as a friend. He dedicates himself completely to any cause he undertakes – and he truly means what he says. Paul has spoken with me quite passionately about the great people in Madera County

and the fantastic spirit of community that is harder to find in a fast-paced world. Paul is the neighbor you hope to have, the friend you want to have, and frankly, the public servant you need to have. He has proven himself in the eyes of many, and I am extremely proud and honored to see Paul making strides to make others' lives better as he has done for my family and for me.

Respectfully,  
 Michael S. Montgomery Jr.

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# Harvest Festival

Golden Valley Baptist Church  
@ Corner of Road 37 &  
Cloverleaf

**Sat. October  
27th  
11am-3pm**

*Includes: Cookie & Chili  
Competition, Games, Food,  
Pumpkin Decorating &  
Bounce House*

[www.goldenvalleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.goldenvalleybaptistchurch.org)

**Sunday School 9 AM \* Worship 10:30AM**  
12414 Road 37 \* Madera Ranchos \* 559 645-1700

# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## October Updates

### Star Rated Energy Appliances

Hooray! We finally got the first grant reimbursement from the Department of Water and Resources. Reimbursements for the first washing machines will be going out as we receive our next month's allocation. The reimbursement will also be distributed based on the first in/first out basis. The state reimburses the grant applications once per quarter, so please be patient; it is coming.

### Dry Wells

As much as we would like to have all of this completed by now, unfortunately we are dependent on the well driller. His drilling equipment is being repaired as this article is being written. As we understand it, he will be ready to start his drilling by the end of October. As part of this project we have been conducting tests – which will continue throughout this winter – in order to be able to have a complete formula showing how much water we're able to recharge with the dry wells during rain events. We have been working with Madera County staff, Provost & Prichard Engineering and Berkley National Laboratory of U.C. Berkley over these past months. We are anxious to see the results at the end of this work.

SEMUCU, a non-profit corporation, is dedicated to work on behalf of our community toward a sustainable future. You can't have a sustainable future without water. At our last board meeting we had one more local home owner that came by and told us of their well going dry. The question that was asked was what is the most affordable action that can be taken in such a case. We will be discussing this with the appropriate authorities and try to come up with an answer in the next edition of this paper.

SEMUCU meets on the third Monday of every month and the next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave 12. All are welcome. Come and make your thoughts count; this is your community and you have the right to guide it to a sustainable future.

*SEMUCU is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity that represents the people of Southeast Madera County. Its focus is on water conservation and building a sustainable future. For more information, please visit our website at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).*





**SEM CU**  
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

# DISHWASHERS & WASHING MACHINES

**Dishwashers** have been added to the  
**Reimbursement Grant** for qualified residents  
of **South East Madera County**  
**NOW GET \$350 EACH FOR**  
**Dishwashers & Washing Machines**  
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Additional discounts at **Ventura TV & Appliance**  
may bring the cost even lower!

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YOUR PROPERTY?**  
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**for qualified locations**

Sign up at Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

**Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

For more information contact SEMCU at:  
email: [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org) or call: 559-363-9095