

# The Ranchos Independent



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IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 17 Issue 10 2021

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



*In This Issue*

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# Big Jump Coming for S.S. Checks

According to an article from American Action News, inflation in the Biden economy is continuing to run hot, with the newly released Consumer Price Index for September showing another 5.4 percent year-over-year increase.

There may be a silver lining however, at least for those individuals receiving Social Security Benefits.

As CNBC reports, the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment will be 5.9 percent in 2022, the Social Security Ad-

ministration announced.

The 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment will be the biggest boost to Social Security beneficiaries' checks in about 40 years. In 2021, the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment was 1.3 percent. Social Security beneficiaries will see the increases in the monthly checks starting in January. The estimated average monthly benefit for all retired workers will rise to \$1,657, up from \$1,565.

## Newsom Bans Gas Equipment

As part of his goal to remove all gas-powered engines from California, Gov. Newsom signed a bill into law on Oct. 4 that will effectively ban all gasoline powered leaf blowers, lawnmowers, other lawn equipment, generators, pressure washers, chain-saws, weed trimmers and golf carts. The ban targets new gas-powered equipment using 25 horsepower or less engines. Essentially, this means that all future landscaping equipment used by homeowners and professional landscapers will have to be either battery powered or plug in models. The new law orders the California Air Resources Board to apply the new rules by Jan. 1, 2024. Add this to the fact that last year, Newsom decreed a ban on the sale of all new gas-



powered cars and trucks in California by 2035. That was coupled to state regulators approving a rule that automakers had to sell more electric work vehicles and delivery trucks than gas powered. A first in California.

It is estimated that California has nearly 17 million small engines in the state, totaling about 3 million more than the number of cars here. One group of state officials estimated that running a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour equaled the same pollution as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver.

In an attempt to put a band-aid on a broken arm, Newsom also included of-

Please see **BAN** on P. 4

## “Couture For A Cure” Raises Breast Cancer Funds

“Couture For A Cure” is a fundraiser whose proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer research program and patient support. It’s going to be held on Thursday, Oct. 28 from 4 - 8 p.m. at the Discovery Shop at 2004 W. Bullard Ave. in Fresno.

The shop has come into possession of designer clothes, purses, shoes and other accessories by Louis Vuitton, Prada, Escada, Saint John, Marc Jacobs and many more.

Price of admission is \$25 and may

be purchased now through Oct. 28 at the Discovery Shop between 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

In addition to attending the special event showcasing designer merchandise and sampling hors d'oeuvres with wine, shoppers will enjoy 25 percent off all purchases for 30 days from the date of transaction. A silent auction will also be held featuring customized shoes by local artists.

For more information, contact Bonnie or Sheri at 559-446-1600 during shop hours.



Madera County Department of Public Health has partnered with Madera County businesses to develop a new “Vaccine Deals” program. The program provides discounts at participating businesses to individuals who are fully vaccinated and live or work in Madera County. Individuals who participate in the program will receive a #VaccinateMadera wristband which must be shown to receive the deals. The Vaccine Deals program will run from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021 and is a great way to support local businesses.

To participate, individuals must show proof of receiving both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine at any location where the wristbands are distributed. To obtain a wristband, individuals will need to show their physical or digital vaccine card at one of these locations:

**First 5 Madera County**, 525 E. Yosemite, Madera, M-F 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Madera City Hall**, 205 W. 4th Street, Madera, M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Madera Co. Dept. of Public Health**, 1604 Sunrise Ave., Madera, M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Madera Chamber of Commerce**, 120 North E Street, Madera, M-F 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Proof of vaccination can be in the form of a physical or digital vaccine card. Digital vaccine cards can be downloaded instantly at [www.MyVaccineRecord.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.MyVaccineRecord.cdph.ca.gov).

For more information, you can visit Madera County Department of Public Health’s Vaccine Deals page, [www.MaderaCounty.com/VaccineDeals](http://www.MaderaCounty.com/VaccineDeals), where you will find a complete list of participating business and locations where the wristbands are distributed. Businesses may also sign up through this webpage which is updated regularly.

Many medical experts think that vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others against COVID-19. Currently in Madera County, 46.40 percent of eligible residents are fully vaccinated. You can find a vaccine clinic near you by visiting [www.MyTurn.ca.gov](http://www.MyTurn.ca.gov) or by calling 311.

Businesses interested in participating need to complete a brief survey on the website then decide what deal or discount they will offer to those wearing a wristband.

Business	Deal*
Andy's Sports & Design, Madera	10% off purchase*
Blue Shell Gaming & Collectibles, Madera	10% off purchase
Boost Mobile Madera	10% off purchase & discounts on emergency broadband
Buggy Shower Car Wash, Madera	10% off on Hand Wax
Burrito King, Madera	10% off purchase
Dicicco's, Madera	10% off purchase price
Digital Mirrors, Mountain Area	10% labor discount for new clients
First 5 Madera County, Chowchilla	Free book for your child 0-5 years old
First 5 Madera County, Madera	Free book for your child 0-5 years old
Mosqueda's Cooling and Heating, Madera	\$25.00 off any repair
Movies, Madera & Madera 2 Drive In	1 free Small Popcorn per vaccination wristband
Oilstop, Madera	\$10 off Any Oil Change Service and/or major service**
Ramos Furniture, Madera	10% discount on any purchase
Rocio's Bridal, Madera	Buy 1 at the regular price & get the 2nd item at 50% off
Sierra Meadows, Ahwahnee	\$10 discount coupon for any concert in our 2021 series
Sugar Pine Smokehouse, Madera	Free dessert with purchase of a meal
Tiffany's Beauty Salon, Madera	10% off hair cut PLUS free wash, style & Olapex treatment

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\*Some restrictions apply. \*\*Not valid with any other offers. Updated 8/18/22.



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Ray

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Randy

*I trust this repair shop and their service is excellent!*

K. M.

*Living in Madera Ranchos gives the advantage of having my car picked up and dropped off. Very convenient. Service has always been great and Warren stands behind his work.*

Dennis



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



*By Sarah Morgan*

On Sunday, October 3, we had our Madera County 4-H Achievement Night. The people in Sierra Shadow's 4-H that came to the meeting were: Lucy Lee, Mica Lee, Corinna Martinez, Aubrey Rocca, RJ Scroggins, Griffin Williams-Smith, Hunter Williams-Smith, Wyatt Morgan and Sarah Morgan. There was a dessert auction, drinks and cupcakes were offered during the event.

Sierra Shadows members received a lot of awards. Scholarship Recipient - Lilly Kier; State Postal Shoot - Christy Kaneko - bronze, Aubrey Rocca - silver and Wyatt Morgan; Taylor Ward - bronze; Regional Presentations - Wyatt Morgan - gold; Silver Star recipient - Wyatt Morgan, Gold Star recipients - Griffin Williams-Smith, Hunter Williams-Smith; Historian Medalist - Colie Tickel and Kate Hauschel; Reporter - County Winner - Corinna Martinez and Wyatt Morgan; Beef - County Winner - Wyatt Morgan; Camping and Outdoor Adventure - County Winner - Micah Lee; Communications and Public Speaking - 1st - Corinna Martinez; Horse and Ponies - County Winner - Hunter Williams-Smith; 1st - Jacob Garzon; 2nd - Lilly Kier; 3rd - Lucy Lee; Meat Goat - County Winner - Griffin Williams-Smith; Outstanding 1st Year - County Winner - Sarah Morgan; Self-Determined - 1st - Emily Waldren; 2nd - Sierra Gonzalez; 3rd - Jake Poore; Shooting Sports - 2nd - Aubrey Rocca.

Congratulations to all our members for a job well done.

BAN cont. from P. 2

fering rebates to change equipment, with \$30 million set aside for that purpose in the state budget, but many in the landscaping industry say the amount is way too low, citing nearly 50,000 small businesses that will be impacted.

"This Legislature hates fuel, which is very sustainable," said Republican State Senator, Brian Dahle who opposed this action. "It's easy to access. And when the power is off, you can still use it. You can still run a generator to keep your freezer

going, to keep your medical devices going. But when your battery's dead and there's no power on, you have nothing."

Not everything about this new law is smooth sailing for Newsom, however. For example, written into the law is an allowance for the California Air Resources Board to delay implementation if elements are found to be "not feasible." Under the federal Clean Air Act, California must also apply to the Environmental Protection Agency for authorization to "enforce its own standards for new non-road engines and vehicles."



Moments  
in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Oct. 26, 1775, King George III speaks before both houses of the British Parliament to discuss growing concern about the rebellion in America. He urged Parliament to move quickly to end the revolt and bring order to the colonies.
- On Oct. 31, 1864, Congress quickly admits Nevada as the 36th state in the Union. President Lincoln's proposed 13th Amendment banning slavery was the decisive factor in easing Nevada's path to statehood.
- On Oct. 27, 1873, Joseph Glidden, an Illinois farmer, submits an application to the U.S. Patent Office for his new de-

- sign for a fencing wire with sharp barbs on two strands. Barbed wire would forever change the face of the American West.
- On Oct. 30, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt approves \$1 billion in Lend-Lease loans to the Soviet Union. The terms: no interest, and repayment would not start until five years after the war ended.
  - On Oct. 28, 1962, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev orders the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba, ending the Cuban Missile Crisis.
  - On Oct. 29, 1998, almost 40 years after he became the first American to orbit Earth, Sen. John Glenn Jr. is launched into space again as a payload specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. Glenn, 77, was the oldest human ever to travel in space.
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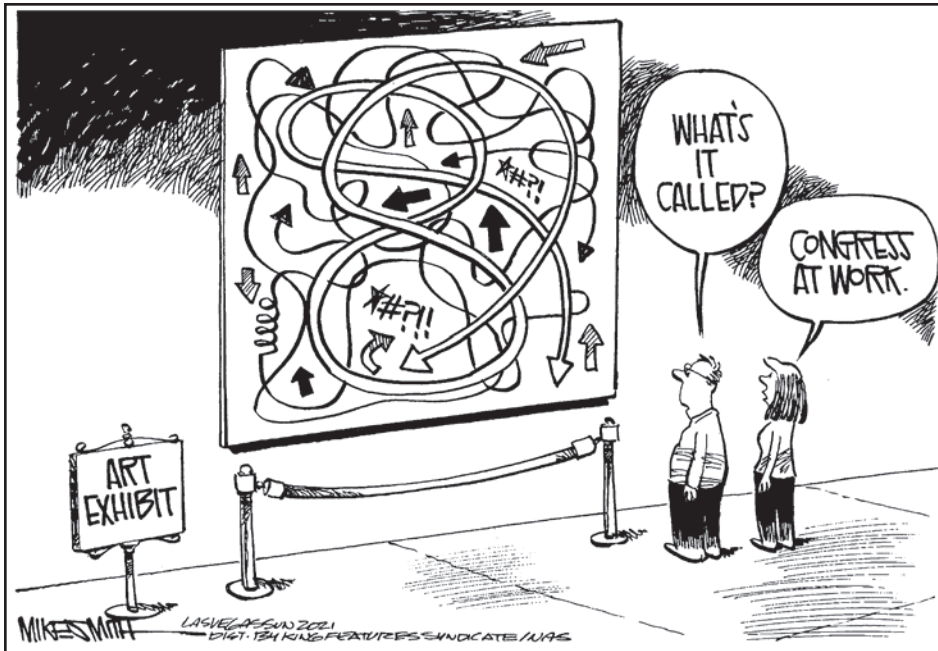
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**Guest Editorial**

**Who Pays for the Woke?**

By Congressman Tom McClintock

During the Trump Administration, Republicans passed one of the biggest tax cuts in American history and the greatest regulatory relief ever. The result was the biggest economic expansion in our lifetimes. Before the “lockdown left” took a wrecking ball to our economy, Americans were prospering with the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years – the lowest poverty rate in 60 years – and the fastest wage growth in 40 years. For the first time in decades, the income gap was narrowing.

Joe Biden and the Democrats have reversed these policies with reckless abandon. It is no coincidence that real wages for Americans have declined every single month since he took office.

History is crystal clear on this point: No country has ever taxed, spent and borrowed its way to prosperity – but many have done so to their ruin.

Brian Riedl tallied up the total cost of the Democrats’ new spending bills for the New York Post and estimates \$8 trillion of new spending over the next ten years – about \$60,000 per family. Joe Biden and the Democrats tell us this won’t cost you a penny. It will all be paid by somebody else.

Here is the dirty little secret of government spending: Government

cannot put a dollar into the economy that it hasn’t first taken out of the same economy. Every dollar it gives you it must take from you and there are only three ways to do it: Current taxes, which rob you of your current purchasing power; borrowing, which robs you of your future purchasing power; or printing money, which robs you every time you go shopping by reducing the value you of your earnings, all while it silently hollows out your savings and retirement funds.

And don’t fall for their lie that their taxes will only fall on businesses. Businesses don’t pay business taxes. YOU pay business taxes: As a consumer through higher prices; as an employee through lower wages; and as an investor through lower earnings. That’s your retirement fund.

You know they’re coming after working families because they want to hire 87,000 new IRS agents. That is every man, woman and child living in Miami Beach, Florida. Or Ogden, Utah. Imagine the entire population of one of those cities unleashed to go after every taxpayer in America.

The Democrats’ so-called “American Families Plan” will require your bank to report every one of your private transactions over \$600 to the IRS. Does that sound like they’re going after the Biden family? No, they’re coming after YOUR family. And if you’re typical, you already paid more in taxes last year than you paid for food, clothing, health care and entertainment combined. According to the Democrats, that’s not enough.

What else do you get for your \$60,000 of new taxes, inflation and tax-driven price increases?

Amnesty, legal permanent residence and a fast track to citizenship for eight to ten million foreign nationals who illegally entered our country and are demanding to stay. Eight million is the entire population of Wyoming, Alaska, Vermont, South Dakota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Montana and Maine – combined. This at a time when real family earnings are declining, crime is increasing, homelessness is rampant and mounting debt is killing the American dream of a better future for our children.

How are American workers helped

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 16

**The Ranchos Independent**

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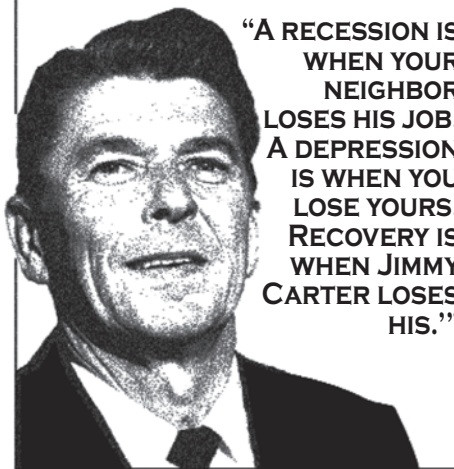
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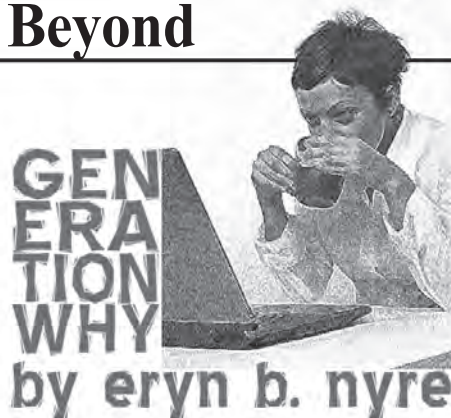
## Service Above and Beyond

Customer service experiences have been at the forefront of my mind ever since writing last month's column. To be honest, for years I feel like there has been a pretty serious decline in the art of the customer experience. With the nation currently experiencing crippling staffing shortages because nobody wants to work for less than what the unemployment boost would give them, it's gotten worse. It almost seems as though expecting friendly service in exchange for my hard-earned money is too much to ask.

So, since the last article pointed out some of the worst experiences I have had recently, this month I am going to highlight the best. Despite many unreasonable government mandates that make the job harder, coupled with the lack of co-workers to share the load, there are still people out there that have made it their mission to do their jobs not only exceptionally, but with a level of friendliness and enthusiasm I've come to assume barely exists in the workforce today. So, with that introduction, let me present to you my very favorite purveyor of customer service: Michelle.

Michelle works at a favorite big chain restaurant of mine. I love it because it is close to work, the food is better than decent, and I personally believe they have the best ranch dressing around. Yes, good ranch dressing can make a repeat customer out of me, as long as I have something halfway decent to dunk it in or drizzle it on. I'm not ashamed. I've seen Michelle work the busy bar area completely by herself and still help out in the regular dining room. I've seen her tend the bar, take orders tableside, deliver food and bus tables. She is one of the hardest restaurant workers I have seen, and never once has she been without her smile (even when it is hidden behind a mask) and a friendly tone in her voice. Whether she actually loves her customers or not, she makes us feel like we matter, and at its core that is exactly what customer service is all about.

About a month ago she was working the bar area with just one other person. There are about 15 tables in this section, not to mention the actual bar, and it was full, nary an empty chair in sight. I imagine she was tired and stressed out, but you would never have known it because she was friendly and energetic. When our food was brought to us, two of the orders were incorrect. She not only fixed it almost before the plates hit the table but then she brought us a free dessert for our



trouble. We tried to explain to her that it wasn't any trouble, she fixed everything before there was trouble, and we would rather pay for the dessert. She wouldn't hear of it. She wanted happy customers, and that's exactly what she always has.

After work last Tuesday we ate there again before seeing a movie. We were not able to sit in Michelle's section, sadly, because evidently half the city had the same idea. However, we saw her pass by us a couple of times and made a point to say hi. Now, the server we had was friendly and attentive. She did her job well and we have no complaints, especially since the restaurant was busy and we aren't the only customers. However, it was still Michelle who ended up going above and beyond. At one point she walked by me, saw that I was drinking water but didn't have my usual bowl of lemons accompanying it (I drink a lot of lemon with my water, or a little water with my lemon as my mom used to say). I was still waiting for our server or the runner to bring them. It wasn't an issue, I knew I'd get lemon eventually, but Michelle noticed it and brought me a bowl. Then, as we were settling up getting ready to leave the restaurant, she happened to notice that my friend didn't have his usual "to go" cup of Dr. Pepper with him, so she made one and caught up with us at the door to give it to him. That's so far and above standard customer service that I think I need a new name for it.

Needless to say, not only do we always try to sit in her section, but we also never tip her less than \$5 or \$10 apiece to show how much we appreciate her and her impeccable service. I imagine she probably has many loyal customers because of her attentiveness and positive attitude. I also imagine these phenomenal traits, especially in light of the current state of society, often go unnoticed with other customers.

So, here's to you Michelle; I hope you are treated as well by others as you treat me and my friends.

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**Smartphone Tips to Try**

A few of my clients think I'm a tech wizard. My kids would say that's hyperbole. In many cases our tech savviness is linked to our age, or connection to people with skills. I'm blessed with a son who's a software engineer. He's helpful when I have questions and every so often drops a tidbit of info that boosts my skills and productivity. This article is for those who aren't of the tech savvy generation, or simply haven't taken time to discover how smart their phone really is. It's also specific to iPhones since my son generously shares his Apple hand-me-downs. I'm sure Androids have similar features but the set up may be different.

**Magnifying Glass:** So handy for us "older folk" when there's fine print – like expiration dates,

receipts, etc. Go to Settings > Accessibility. Tap Magnifier, then turn it on. To add it to your Control Center, go to Settings > Control Center, then tap Customize Controls. Tap the add button (+) next to Magnifier. You're able to adjust the light, zoom and even snap a picture, if needed. Now nothing is hidden from view.

**Zoom In on a Website:** For magnification while using Safari, tap on the AA icon on the top left corner of your screen. Directly below you'll see a small A on the left and a larger A on the right with a percentage block in between. Click on the large A until the website font or image is the size you need.

**Save Website Pages for Later:**

When you want to save a website in Safari, tap the box with the up-arrow icon at the bottom of your screen. Then, tap "Add to Reading List." To view, click on the book icon at the bottom of your Safari screen. You can even save it to iCloud for offline reading when you're not connected to the internet. Go to Settings > Safari, then turn on "Automatically Save Offline" (below Reading List).

**Close Safari Tabs (all at once):**

Years ago, before I learned to close my websites, I remember my son's friend grabbing my phone and X-ing out website after website for what seemed like five minutes. Now, you can easily close them all at once. While in Safari hold the tab button (two squares icon) on the bottom right-hand corner and select "close all tabs."

**Kodak Moments:** To quickly access your camera, engage Siri. Simply command "take a selfie," "take a photo," or "take a video" and your camera will appear ready in the correct mode.

**Expand Your Photo Skills:** Swipe up (if vertical) or left (if horizontal) from the basic photo controls to find

a row of hidden camera modes including a timer, night mode, exposure, etc.

**Give Your Photos a Caption:** Launch the Photos app and tap a photo to which you want to add a caption. Swipe up on the pic to access the caption field. Tap "Add a Caption." Write your caption, press return, and done. You can easily search for a photo using the caption you've created.

**Calculator Tip:** If you mistype

a digit while using your calculator, rather than starting over with the C or AC button, swipe to the left or right at the top of the screen. The motion will act as a backspace and remove the number you entered last.

**Flash for Notifications:** If you have a hard time hearing, you can set your phone to blink the flashlight in addition to, or instead of ringing. Go to Settings > Audio/Visual and look for "LED Flash for Alerts."

**Sing-along:** To see the lyrics of songs you have downloaded on your phone, tap the three dots of the "Now Playing" screen. A menu will come up with "See full lyrics" as an option. Beware of singing along while using your earbuds — like in a plane.

Some settings/steps may vary depending on the age of your phone. If you need extra guidance, do a search on [www.support.apple.com](http://www.support.apple.com), check for a video on YouTube, or ask your kids. If they complain, remind them that you once taught them how to use a spoon.

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... ask your kids. If they complain, remind them that you once taught them how to use a spoon.

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## What's in a Name?

(October 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.

Have you ever wondered if there was someone out there in this big world with a name the same as yours? In doing our family's genealogy for the last 20 years (I've been able to trace three of my grandparents' families back to the 1700's. I'm having a little trouble with my dad's mother's family. She always told us we were related to John and John Quincy Adams

but haven't been able to prove it yet). Growing up, I always thought Briner was not a common name – but in doing the genealogy, I found out differently. One of the problems is when

... so I thought I'd Google "Aunt Jean's Recipes." Wow, what a surprise. So here are a few of the Aunt Jean's Recipes that aren't even mine.

our families came from the old countries, their names were not written correctly, or ineligibly and got recorded incorrectly. An example of that is my Great Great Great Grandfather came over from Germany as Petrus Breiner, Sr. but his son is recorded as Peter Briner, Jr. I also found out that the name has been spelled Breiner, Bryner and Briner – and they are all related.

If you would like to find out if there are other people out there with the same name as yours, look it up. The website I use a lot to look people up is zabasearch.com and click what state you want to search. If your name is Tom Brown, or Nancy White, it might tell you there are too many to list, but if your name is not that common, you might be surprised what you find. Another way to look your name up is Google it. You might also find that names may not be spelled the usual way. I have four nieces with names we hear quite frequently, but the girls names are spelled different: Our girls are Eryn (Erin), Sara (Sarah), Rachael (Rachel) and Savanna (Savannah). Even Randy's name – his full



by Jean Briner

name is Randahl (it is said his dad had a "thing" for the movie star Arlene Dahl), so take that into consideration when researching names.

A week or so ago, I was sitting here wondering what to write about and didn't have anything else to do (Now that isn't quite the truth – but who wants to clean out a closet or mop the kitchen floor when you can sit at the computer looking up interesting stuff?). So I thought I'd Google "Aunt Jean's Recipes." Wow, what a surprise. So here are a few of the Aunt Jean's Recipes that aren't even mine.

When I told Randy what I had found and was thinking of writing my article about, he Googled the site and was reading some of the recipes. He copied this one and said it sounded interesting.

### Aunt Jean's Easter Rice Pie

- 8 Eggs
- 1 ½ C rice, cooked and cooled
- 3 lbs. ricotta
- 1 ¼ C sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 (9inch) unbaked pie shells
- Cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, add the rice, ricotta, sugar and vanilla, stir thoroughly. Turn the mixture into the pie shells and sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 1 hour. This recipe makes two pies, but if you want to make only one pie, just divide all the ingredients in half. Half of 1 ¼ C sugar is 1 C less 2 Tablespoons. Randy's daughter Rachael made this recipe that night and they all really liked but said next time they would add more sugar. Seems it just wasn't quite sweet enough.

The following recipe sounds real good and I love both pork chops and rice so I am going to buy a can of onion soup when I go shopping and try

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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**RECIPE** cont. from P. 8

it – I'll let you know. And another thing to like about it: it's done all in one pan!

**Aunt Jean's Pork Chops**

Pork Chops

1 can Campbell's French Onion soup

1 can water

1 cup uncooked long grain rice

Season pork chops with salt and pepper and brown in large frying pan. Once browned, pour in soup and water. Cover and simmer 30 minutes. Pour in rice around chops. Cover and cook for 20 minutes or until rice is fully cooked.

I love rhubarb so this recipe really caught my attention. I'm anxious to try it.

**Aunt Jean's Rhubarb Crumble**

Preheat oven to 350

1 C flour

½ C brown sugar  
 ½ C melted butter  
 ¾ C dry oatmeal  
 4 C chopped rhubarb  
 ½ C white sugar  
 2 T cornstarch  
 1 C water  
 1 tsp. vanilla

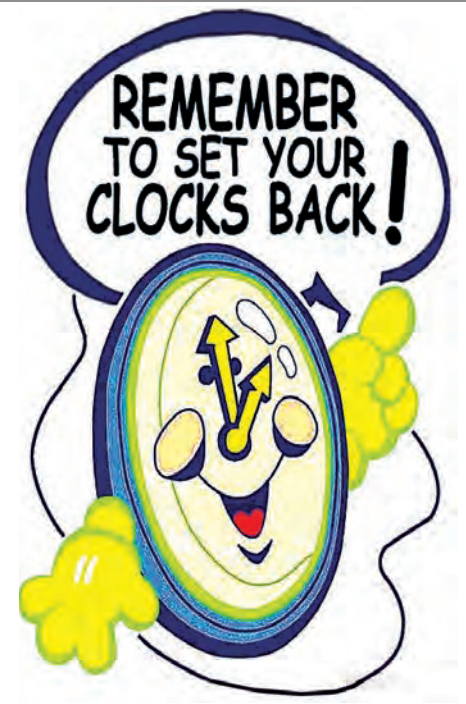
Mix the flour, brown sugar, oatmeal and butter together until crumbly. Press half into bottom and part way up sides of greased 9x13 pan. Set remaining crumbs aside.

Sprinkle rhubarb mixture over crumbs. In a saucepan, combine white sugar, cornstarch, water and vanilla. Heat to boiling. Cook and stir until thickened. Pour over rhubarb. Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Bake in preheated oven for 45-60 minutes. Serve warm. Maybe with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Before I close this article I want to remind you that Daylight Saving Time will end at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of November. This year that is Sunday, Nov. 7. But who wants to sit up till 2 a.m. to change the clock back? Before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 5, move your clocks back an hour. If you don't change your clock, you could be an hour early for church. Remember, Spring forward and Fall back.

Next month's article will be on cookies – in time to make a batch for family and friends for Christmas giving. I have a couple from the Aunt Jean's Recipes and I already have a recipe that was brought to me by a reader. I would sure like to include one from you – CALL ME at 645-0634!

*(The Daylight Savings Time in this story is correct for 2021. -- Editor)*




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**Kiwanis Korner**

**Ranchos Kiwanis Honor Supporters**

By Sally Rowden

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

During our last meeting for the month of September, our guest speakers were “Winifred and Myrtle” from the Madera Ranchos, giving the club highlights of what a day looks like in the lives of two longtime friends. It was a pleasure to view our own Kiwanis members, Marie Cameron and Mona Diaz, creating the comical characters and giving all of us the medicine of laughter.

We also had the pleasure of honoring Chad and Katie Harr of Chad’s Trucking, a local Madera Ranchos business. They were awarded the Kiwanis Community Service Award for their huge, outstanding, ongoing support of the Kiwanis Club of the Madera Ranchos and its projects supporting our children, our community and our club. Thank you, Chad and Katie.

An update on the Kiwanis Division 5 “Run 4 The Miracle,” supporting Valley Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Trauma – Injury Prevention Program held on Sept. 25. It was a success. We want to thank our members who were able to volunteer at the event: Marie Cameron, Leslie Carella, Bev Delk, John Glueck and John Minney.

At our first meeting of October, several Kiwanis event happenings in the Madera Ranchos were discussed. The first event is the Kiwanis Christmas/Holiday House Decorating Contest. Information/registration forms will be available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, starting Monday, Nov. 1. Chamber hours are Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and you can contact the Chamber at 645-4001. You can also send an email to rowdensally2@gmail.com with your name, ad-

dress and contact information and you will receive an entry form.

If you’re interested in purchasing poinsettias for the holiday season, the Kiwanis Club is selling them and will deliver them to your doorstep. The cost is \$12.50 per plant and you can make your check out to Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos. Email Ollia Ridge at ollia.ridge@gmail.com by Nov. 8 with your name, address, contact information and the number of poinsettias you would like to purchase and you will be contacted confirming your order and instructed on the payment process. On Dec. 9 the poinsettias will be delivered to

your home.

Our Kiwanis “Three Blondes” are working on a Christmas/Holiday Boutique Yard Sale. This event will take place Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 18 through 21 at 37101 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. Besides enjoying holiday shopping, you’ll get to meet our Kiwanis “Three Blondes”: Mona Diaz, Debbie Farr and Ollia Ridge. You can contact Debbie Farr at 559-801-7703 for more information.

At the conclusion of our Oct. 7 meeting, we acknowledged a very supportive Kiwanis member, Verlaine Elinburg. She was honored for her personal commitment of housing the Kiwanis meetings during COVID. The limited gathering guidelines established made meetings difficult but Verlaine persevered. Verlaine received the well-deserved Kiwanis Honorary Member Award for her giving attitude.

New President Mona Diaz gave all members a homework assignment at the end of the meeting. Each member received a booklet entitled *Tools for Success*, a Kiwanis publication for achieving club excellence. She asked that we be prepared by the next meeting for discussion and to explore what Martin Luther King, Jr. meant when he stated, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)



Chad and Katie Harr of Chad’s Trucking receive the Kiwanis Community Service Award.



Verlaine Elinburg (right) receives the Kiwanis Honorary Member Award from Ollia Ridge.

**NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK**

**NOV. 15-22**

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<p><b><u>Drop-Off Location</u></b>  <b>Golden Valley Baptist Church</b>                  12414 Road 37                  559-645-1700</p>	<b>11/15/21</b>	6pm-8pm
	<b>11/16-18/21</b>	3:30pm-5:30pm
	<b>11/19/21</b>	6pm-8pm
	<b>11/20/21</b>	10am-2pm
	<b>11/21/21</b>	1pm-3pm
	<b>11/22/21</b>	9am-10am

# Harvest Festival

October 30<sup>th</sup> • 11am – 2pm

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Corner of Road 37 & Cloverleaf

Cookie Competition  
Chili Cook OFF  
Games & Food

Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Life Apps (All Ages) Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

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## Senior Report

## Comedy and Song Showed Ranchos/Hills Seniors "Got Talent" on Sept. 30

By Margaret Tynan

Yes indeed, Ranchos/Hills Seniors Got Talent. Everyone in the audience enjoyed the Sept. 30 evening of comedy and song. The show opened with Mrs. Middy Bidy, aka Martha Suderman, delivering a prayer thanking the Lord for understanding the hilarious shortcomings and quirks that sometimes accompany aging. Toward the end of her list of comical foibles, Mrs. Bidy said, "I won't even mention driving into the wrong end of the car wash ... people get so excited when you do that. I don't know why the lady in the other car was screaming like that ... I was just as surprised to see her as she was to see me." Laughter continued later in the show



"Mrs. Middy Bidy," aka Martha Suderman, opened the Ranchos/Hills Got Talent Show with some serious comedy.

when Carol Wood took the stage wearing a sling on her left arm. "Everyone is asking how I hurt my arm. Well, the 'injury' is from all the arm twisting that it took to get me to perform tonight." She then removed the sling and proceeded to entertain with a series of funny one-liners, drawing the audience in with, "Did you hear the one about ...?"

Mary Orcutt's lovely voice filled the room with her favorite Stephen Sondheim Broadway show tune "In Buddy's Eyes." She was accompanied by Karen Condon on the keyboard. The performance met with enthusiastic applause. Mary sang solo at many venues over the years and now sings with a group on a regular basis. The last singing performance of the

evening was by Margaret Tynan. She shared that she performed in coffee houses in Chicago and in Fresno in her younger years. Though she plays the guitar, she hasn't for so long that the calluses on her fingers are gone, making it painful to play. So, she used internet karaoke YouTube accompaniment music with the help of an iPad and "Alexa." The very successful fun evening ended with an audience sing-along. Too bad Simon Cowell from America's Got Talent wasn't able to be there. I'm sure he would have been impressed.

Spend a pleasant morning of Coffee, Crafts and Conversation on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Eva McAtee will be teaching us how to make lovely papercraft cards, etc. for the holidays. This has been a very popular event in the past, so we hope you'll join us. Sign up at the Center.

A combined Thanksgiving, birthday and anniversary celebration is planned for Saturday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. for members at the Center. The catered early dinner will feature the traditional turkey fare with the trimmings. It will be wonderful to see everyone again after having missed the Thanksgiving celebration last year due to the pandemic. Be sure to come into the Center to sign up and prepay by Monday, Nov. 15. We'll see you there.

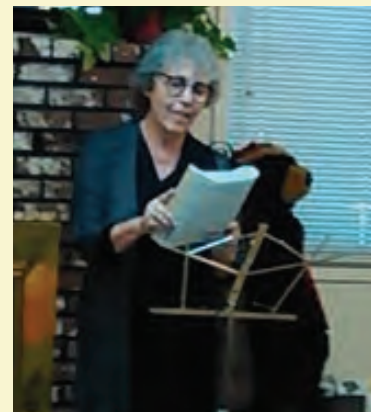
With the holidays just around the corner, the Nov. 6 Saturday Sale is just the place to start your shopping. The Garden Shop will be open and the Treasure house has lots of interesting and unique items to choose from. The perfect gift awaits you in the Boutique. Of course, there will be yummy items to tempt you at the Bake Sale. We'll see you at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. between 8 a.m. and noon.

The Exercise Group meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Center. The moderate exercises focus on flexibility, strength and balance. It's a great way to get into and

stay in shape. If you enjoy playing cards, join the group on Thursdays at 12:30 for a friendly game of "Hand and Foot" or any of a variety of games. (Note: there will be no card game on Thursday, Nov. 20). The Writing Group meets every other Monday at 2 p.m. on Zoom. The meetings for the month are on Nov. 8 and 22. We'd love to have you join. Email Rosemary Janis at [rosemary@myrancho.net](mailto:rosemary@myrancho.net)

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are thankful to the community for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy, healthy Thanksgiving.

Thought for November: "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues." -- Cicero



Mary Orcutt sang Stephen Sondheim's Broadway show tune "In Buddy's Eyes," accompanied by Karen Condon on keyboard.



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7 am - 4 pm  
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Event 2-4 pm Costume contest,  
Chilli Cookoff- sign up by Oct 24th  
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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



## 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, Nov. 10 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.



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HIGH SCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS 7 - 9 PM



# SEE YOU SUNDAY!



# SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

The following will try to shed a little bit of light on some of the complex government architecture of water management such as DWR, SGMA, GSA, GSP and IRWMG. These agencies are playing a large role in the future of water sustainability in our community.

To start, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for the State of California's management and regulation of water usage.

Laws passed by the California Legislature related to water usage regulation such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which established goals for water sustainability and has major implications on local control of our water basins. The law establishing SGMA was signed by Governor Brown in 2014 with the goal of stopping overdrafting and bringing groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharging. Based on that law, sustainability must be reached by 2040.

SGMA has required that local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) will manage our local basins and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP's) toward that goal. The Madera County Supervisors are the board of directors of the Madera White Area's GSA. The "White Area" designation is the area not covered by a city or water district.

The Integrated Regional Water Management Group's (IRWMG) purpose is to create a collaboration among all water

districts and agencies as well as Madera County with a purpose of identifying and implementing water management solutions through grants given by DWR.

Any related questions may be submitted to SEMCU at the contacts below.

### Upcoming Events

#### Madera Pomegranate, Fruit and Nut Festival

Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Madera Chamber of Commerce Tourism Alliance Committee invites you to the festival.

Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Madera District Fairgrounds.

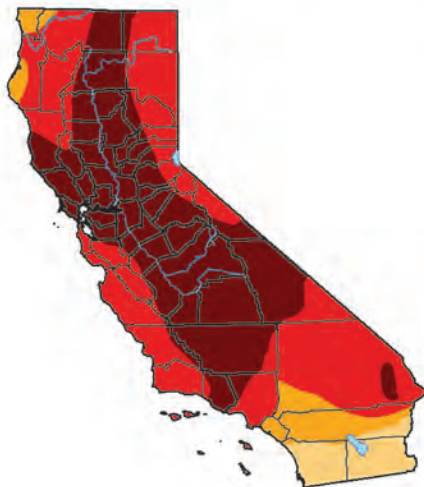
We at SEMCU are always interested in adding to our Board and would appreciate any nomination of community members who are interested in helping with ideas and the direction SEMCU should move forward. If you are not available, maybe you know of someone that may be interested and could help our community by spending one hour per month at our monthly meeting. Although the time required is minimal, the importance of caring for our community is invaluable.

As part of the practice of social distancing, our monthly board meetings take place on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and will be held via telephone conferencing. The public is invited and encouraged to listen in and offer ideas of projects that can help improve our community. To join in at 6 p.m. dial 312-757-3221. When prompted dial the access code 715657949 #.

To call SEMCU for more information, call 559-363-9095 or you can reach the organization by email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org). You can also visit the website at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org).

**SEMCU is "By the Community, For the Community"**

### U.S. Drought Monitor California



October 12, 2021  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.16	45.66
Last Week 10-25-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.88	45.66
3 Months Ago 07-12-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.76	86.73	33.32
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2020	0.00	100.00	65.17	74.34	33.75	1.16
Start of Water Year 10-01-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.89	45.66
One Year Ago 10-13-2020	15.40	54.50	87.54	55.61	12.74	0.00

**Intensity**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:  
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPD



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What's Happening  
93636

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*The Bookshelf*

# More New Details Regarding Ranchos Library Internet Lending Abilities

By Jerrica Edmundson

September was a great month, with the official recognition of National Library Card Sign-up Month. We had a lot of fun giving away prizes for all the people who signed up for new cards and can't wait to continue helping everyone find whatever they need within the library itself. October is a pretty slow month for us, but that gives us time to get everything caught up and recovered from our busy summer season and prepare for the upcoming winter. Throughout this time, I will be working on organizing and re-organizing various parts of the library, so forgive me for the dust — I promise it will be worth it in the end. Expect to see new signage up around the library to help with navigating the stacks, more accurately alphabetized sections, ratings stickers on our DVD selection and many more improvements.

I touched on it last month, but now we have more finite details regarding our internet lending abilities. We have five mobile hot spot devices that can be rented out from the library (much like a book) for seven days at a time. We also have five Chromebooks that do not have independent internet access available for checkout for 14 days at a time. These devices must be returned inside the library during business hours and there are filters on the internet (the same as those on our branch computers), but they offer access to internet and computers where there may not be pre-existing access and we are so excited to be able to offer this to our community.

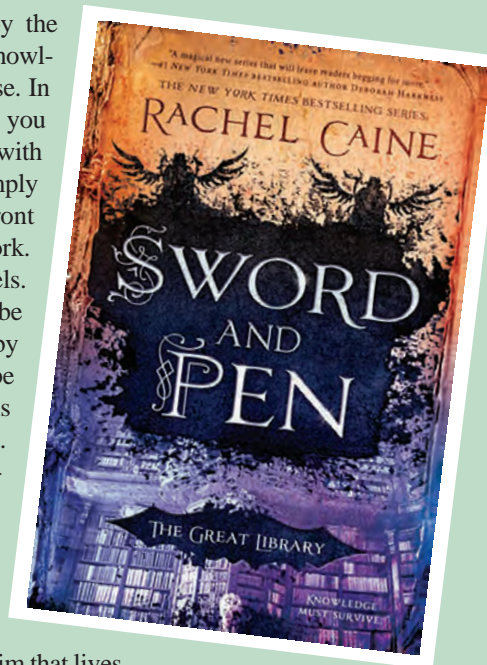
**Jerrica's Shelf: *Sword and Pen* by Rachel Caine**

This is the final book in the *Great Library* series that Caine has come up with and I was so pleased with this whole series. I found it to be a unique and interesting take on what would happen if the world put the pursuit of knowledge before that of anything else.

Imagine, if you will, a world where the library has complete power over everyone. The

government is essentially controlled by the Great Library as they have decided that knowledge is more important than anything else. In this world you can read nearly anything you want via a proxy book that will populate with the pages of whatever book you want, simply by writing the title and author on the front page and then letting the magic do its work. In this world, of course there will be rebels. People who think that knowledge should be free flowing to everyone and not filtered by the magic that allows the books to be copied into blanks, as who can tell if that is really what was originally written or not. The *Great Library* doesn't allow the circulation of original novels, so there must be something hiding there and there must be a way to access that as the general public. These people call themselves "burners," and they seek to destroy the *Great Library* as an institution and proclaim that lives matter more than books.

Thus is the world that Rachel Caine has created and I absolutely adored my time in the stories. Be sure to check them out.



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10/21





Hello 93636,

By the mid-1990s, many of California's traditional vocational education programs were eliminated due to lack of funding. Because of the loss of those vocational education programs, California's automotive repair industry has suffered from a substantial technician shortage. Sixty-six per cent of the current automotive technicians are 45 years or older. Less than three percent are 18-24. Because of the severe shortage of qualified automotive repair technicians, some local automotive repair facilities have turned to technology for help. Employee training and new-school technology has helped improve efficiency and production. Last year, after seven years of investment, I lost a key employee. It took nine months and three new hires to replace the skill set of one skilled technician. The strategy I employed to cope with the technician shortage clearly was inadequate.

#### Taking it Personally

The Fresno Select Group is an organization of NAPA AutoCare Center owners working together to build our businesses and positively impact our industry and communities.

Our first opportunity came last year with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Career Tech EXPO at Chukchansi Park. The Career Fair presented a tremendous opportunity for us to display our technology and speak with hundreds of high school students about opportunities within our local automotive repair job market.

We took several vehicles and connected our substantial new-school technology to demonstrate what we do. Although we didn't know it at the time, the four shops who participated -- instead of being competitors -- began sharing and supporting each other with difficult vehicle diagnostics. Since we were all using the same Pico digital storage oscilloscope technologies, we began sharing waveforms, knowledge and information. On Feb. 2 of this year, we formed the Central California Pico Club (CCPC). The CCPC is a grassroots effort of local independent auto repair facilities, purposed to train and teach us and "Career Technology Education" (CTE) instructors in the use of Picoscope automotive technology.

At our monthly meetings we share information, teach case studies, teach each other the new Picoscope technology learned the previous month and we practice. Within the city limits of Fresno there are only two public high schools with a CTE automotive program: Duncan Polytechnical and Central. It was very fortuitous to us that Golden Valley Unified's former superintendent, Andrew Alvarado, was the new superintendent of the Central Unified School District so we started there. When we contacted Superintendent Alvarado, he was happy to have CCPC as advisors to his CTE automotive program.

#### A Pleasant Surprise

When we visited the Central High School facility, we were pleased to find Picoscope Technology. The instructor, Robert, however had not received training with the technology and he was very receptive to learning. We invited Robert to participate with us and within four months he wrote a basic Picoscope curriculum and began teaching it to his students. Soon Duncan Polytechnical and Clovis High School also joined CCPC. All three instructors learn and train free of charge, side by side with our technicians. I received an email from the Fresno City College CTE Department I would like to share with you:

*"Hi Warren, ... I recently became aware of the Central California Pico Club. I would like to schedule a meeting with you and attend your events as an Educational Representative from Fresno City College. We would also like to partner with CCPC as an Educational Partner and host a CCPC Meeting at our FCC Automotive Technology Campus. We would like our students to attend your CCPC meetings for the purpose of establishing a relationship and providing our students with the newest Diagnostic Strategies and Diagnostic Tools and Equipment available.*

*Martin S. Kamimoto, Instructor/Coordinator, Automotive Technology, Fresno City College"*

WOW! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? The CCPC will now have local high school instructors, junior college instructors, students and our working technicians in the same building at the same time sharing the same technology and training. I'm very hopeful we will collaborate and design a curriculum that will facilitate entry level high school students up to Associate of Science degrees from Fresno City College. If our local small business/educator partnership model is successful, I expect to see an improvement with our local automotive technician shortage in about three years.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr, ASE Master, L1 Advanced Level and Hybrid Certified

*This column originally appeared in the September 2019 issue of the Ranchos Independent. -- Editor*

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

by flooding the labor market with low-wage labor?

Of course, the woke ruling class makes out very well. The \$60,000 taken from your earnings over the next decade will, for example, pay bonuses of up to \$50,000 each for reporters and bloggers across the country who so shamelessly do the Democrats' bidding. There are lavish handouts to ivy-league universities and the fashionable elite who buy \$82,000 Teslas. There's even

a new Civilian Climate Corps, presumably filled with officious little climate pioneers ever eager to report whose chimney is smoking, who's watering their lawn on the wrong day and who's spreading forbidden climate disinformation.

The fine point of it comes down to this: What makes the Democrats think that socialism will work any better here than everywhere else it's been tried?

*Congressman Tom McClintock represents California's 4th Congressional District.*

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

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**Strange BUT TRUE**  
 By Lucie Winborne

- You're more likely to die on your way to purchase a lottery ticket than you are to actually win the lottery.
- *Stenocereus Eruca*, commonly known as the Creeping Devil, is a species of cactus that lies on the ground and grows at one end while the other end slowly dies "creeping" (growing) up to 2 feet a year. It can also clone itself to survive.
- Babe Ruth paid a fan \$20 to return the baseball he hit for his 700th career home run.
- When he retired in 1990 after molding 1.4 billion crayons, Crayola's most senior crayon molder, Emerson Moser, revealed he was actually blue-green color blind.
- In 2017, social robot Sophia was given citizenship by Saudi Arabia -- the first robot to be given legal personhood anywhere in the world.
- The Western lowland gorilla's scientific name is *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*.
- Speaking of names, SpongeBob was originally created as SpongeBoy, but Nickelodeon discovered that the moniker was already copyrighted by a mop.
- Using &%#@\$ instead of swear words is called a Grawlix.
- In Singapore, if you walk naked in your own house, it's a possible fine of \$1,136.

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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.

	+		×		16
×		-		×	
	-		×		18
+		×		-	
	-		×		6
13		15		15	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

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**SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

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

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## Patriotic Lessons from a Basketball Game

By Betty Van Valkenburg

*The following was published in the Ranchos Independent in 2015, but its message seems to be even more important and applicable today.*

I love God, country, family and friends. And basketball.

My husband and I have been Fresno State season ticket holders for probably 40 years and have seen many game highlights, thrilling victories and agonizing defeats. But the total experience of one of last season's games impressed me in many ways.

Because I had recently undergone knee surgery and couldn't comfortably walk down steps to my regular seat surrounded by rabid fans, I found a vacant top-row aisle seat at the Save Mart Center, rested my weary knee and observed rather than participated in the usual fanatic frenzy.

This is what I enjoyed watching from my comfortable bird's eye view.

### *A Different View*

Everyone in the arena stood for the National Anthem and faced the American flag hanging over Section 109 – with hats removed, most with hands over hearts, and all silent and respectful. I fought back tears as I have so many times during stirring renditions of the Star-Spangled Banner. "Everyone in the arena" (court crew, cheer leaders, coaches, players, fans, arena staff, invited guests) included different ages, sizes, races, ethnicities, political persuasions and economic circumstances.

We cheered or applauded before taking our seats when the anthem ended, only to rise again at the start of the game and remain standing, as is the custom, until the home team – our team – made its first basket (which on that particular night took much too long for my comfort).

From the beginning our team was missing two starters, so other players had to step up. Then another starter went down with an injury, our starting guard warmed the bench more than the fans wanted, and a freshman became our unexpected all-star.

Fans cheered for their respective teams: Fresno State and San Diego State. Although greatly outnumbered, San Diego fans rooted against the home team with no fear of reprisal. A man sitting near me chanted "San – Di-e-go – State" throughout; and I appreciated, or maybe just tolerated, his enthusiasm and then cheered as loudly as I could for Fresno.

Our team members came in all sizes and shapes, from 6' 1" to 6' 10" and weights up to 285 pounds. They hailed from the local area as well as Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Minnesota, Los Angeles, Nevada and Arizona. But they were, and played as, a cohesive team.

At the end of the first half, we were down by a point.

Non-stop halftime activities entertained and inspired the crowd; at least they did for those of us who hadn't rushed out to the concourse for food or beverage. A member of the military was introduced and honored by a standing ovation. Student athletes ringed the court as they were acknowledged for individual achievement and the best collective GPA average ever. Fans clamored for the pizza giveaway. The dance cam caught some amazing and not-so-amazing moves. The "blimp" dropped coupons to waving hands. The audience-member free-throw contest was the usual hit, with winners and losers

equally cheered by the crowd.

Down to the wire, we squeaked out an exciting one-point win. Fresno State's team and fans went wild. San Diego State's team and fans didn't. Coaches shook hands. Opposing players acknowledged each other. Fans stayed a little longer than usual, enjoying the win and the camaraderie. Eventually, players headed to the locker rooms and fans to their cars.

### *An American Experience*

I limped away feeling uplifted by the exciting win and the totally American experience: Winning against all odds, giving one's all for the cause, never giving up, coming together as a team, freely advocating for one's chosen side, exhibiting enthusiastic but peaceful "partisanship," and respecting the rights of others to disagree.

If only America as a whole would follow this example. Or have we become so divided and so polarized along political, racial, income and other lines that we may never again be one team/one nation?

Perhaps the political arena could learn from the basketball arena. Everyone plays by the same rules. Real leaders unite rather than divide. Referees follow the rules, and not the loudest voices. Equality of outcome

is not guaranteed. Playing time (success) is earned, not bestowed. And last, but not least, leaders/coaches who don't deliver on their promises lose their jobs. (I particularly like that last one.)

We can dream.

October 2021, update:

*"Way back" in 2015, our country was already under attack from those determined to shred the Constitution's guarantees of individual liberty and limited government and to "fundamentally change America." Neither back then, nor after the Trump administration's many successes, could we have imagined the total chaos inflicted in such a short time by the Biden/Democrat lunacy: Border invasions; the Afghanistan debacle and abandonment of Americans behind enemy lines; purposeful reduction of oil supplies; doubling gas prices; rampant inflation; out-of-control crime rates; wanton destruction of cities and businesses; vilification and dismantling of police forces; failure of schools to provide basic education while teaching racial hatred as well as sex instruction to first graders; and the destructive and conflicting coronavirus policies, lockdowns and mandates. May God help us.*

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10/21



- Update window treatments to compensate for dropping temperatures. Trade your sheers for sturdy, draft-

blocking panels.

- To easily get keys on a keychain, use a staple remover to create an opening to slip the keys on. It is very effective and will keep you from getting frustrated.
- When hammering a nail, try this save-your-finger trick: Use a clothespin to hold the nail steady, and then use your hammer to drive it in. Hammering into the wall? Push the nail through a strip of cardboard, and then hold the cardboard over the right spot. No more banged-up fingers or thumbs!

- "At a party, someone spilled a cup of red wine on one of my throw pillows. I love the pillow, since it is just the right size and really soft, but I could not get the stain out. So I covered it with a new fabric. I ended up doing all the assorted pillows in the same fabric, and it made a big change in the room. I wish I had done it sooner." -- I.F. in Pennsylvania
- Bringing some plants indoors? Use styrofoam packing peanuts in the bottom of pots when planting. They aren't as heavy

as rocks, but they do just as good a job. It makes the pots easier to move around should you need to.


- "For easy-cleanup pancakes, use a turkey baster to 'squirt' the batter in the griddle or skillet. No drips, and it usually results in a pretty good circle, too!" -- A.J. in Florida

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

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You're moving from a relatively stable situation to one that appears to be laced with perplexity. Be patient. You'll eventually get answers to help clear up the confusion around you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A vexing situation tempts you to rush to set it all straight. But it's best to let things sort themselves out so that you can get a better picture of the challenge you're facing.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Financial matters could create some confusion, especially with a torrent of advice pouring in from several sources. Resist acting on emotion and wait for the facts to emerge.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) That goal you've set is still in sight and is still in reach. Stay with the course that you're on. Making too many shifts in direction now could create another set of problems.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It might be time to confront a trouble-making associate and demand some answers. But be prepared for some surprises that could lead you to make a change in some long-standing plans.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You're making great progress in sorting out all that confusion that kept you from making those important decisions. You're on your way now.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A difficult experience begins to ease. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is a possible complication that could prolong the problem awhile longer.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your self-confidence gets a much-needed big boost as you start to unsnarl that knotty financial problem. Expect some help from a surprising source.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Congratulations. Any lingering negative aftereffects from that not-so-pleasant workplace situation are all but gone. It's time now to focus on the positive.

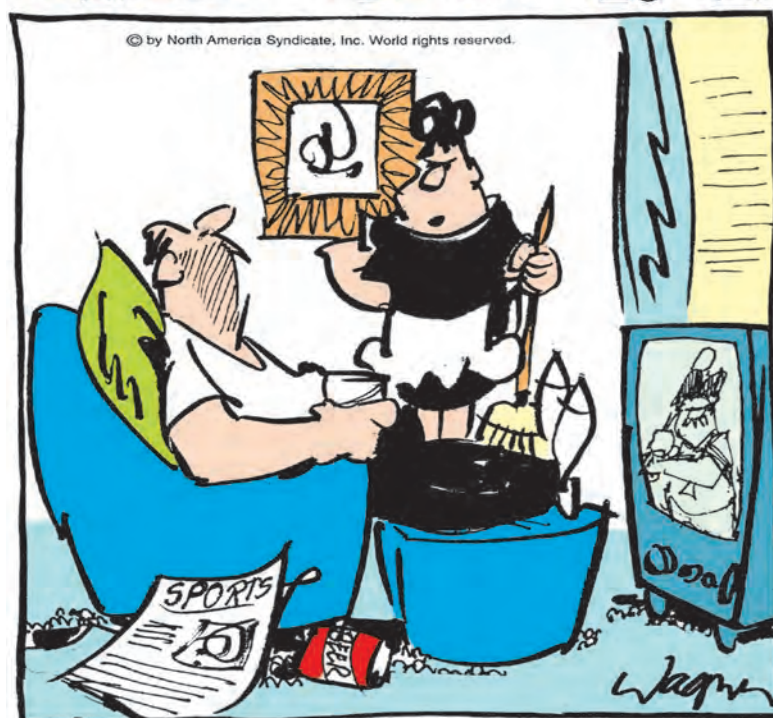
**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Your self-confidence grows stronger as you continue to take more control of your life. Arrange for some well-earned fun and relaxation with someone special.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) As usual, you've been concerned more about the needs of others than your own. You need to take time for yourself so that you can replenish all that spent energy.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Stronger planetary influences indicate a growing presence of people eager to help you navigate through the rough seas that might mark your career course.

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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



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"Not now! I'm right in the middle of baseball season!"

**Born this Week**

*You can balance emotion and logic, which gives you the ability to make choices that are more likely than not to prove successful.*



# FUN PAGES

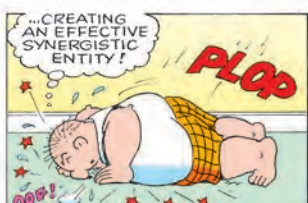
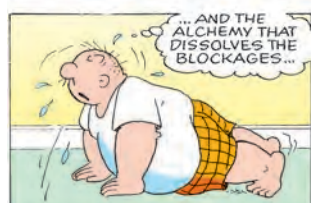
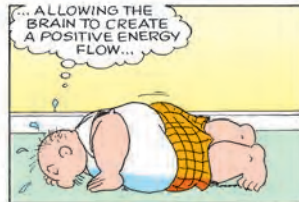
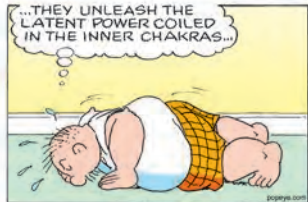
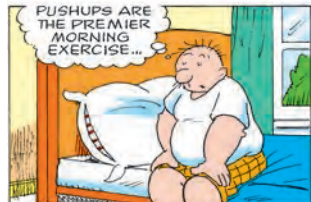
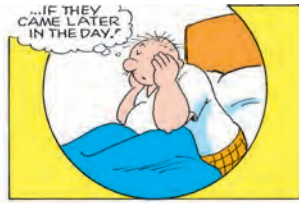
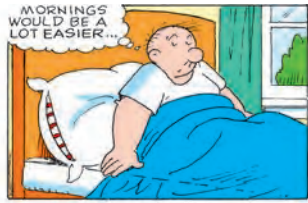
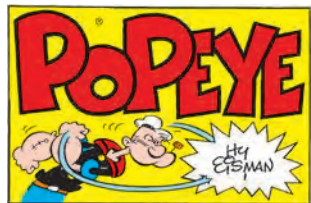
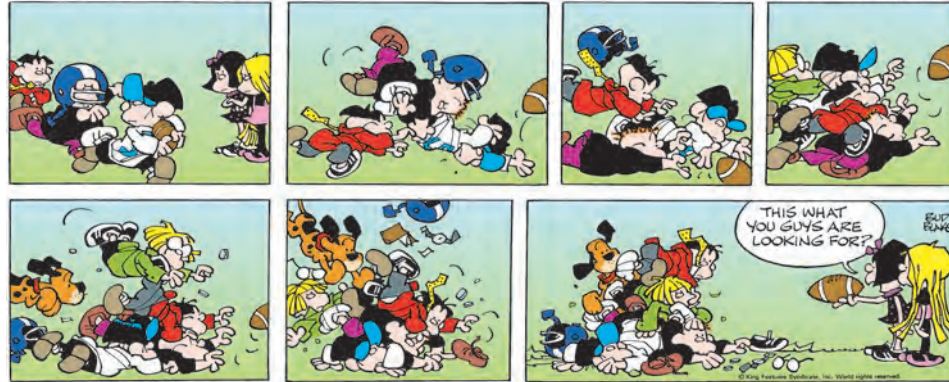
## Kids' Maze



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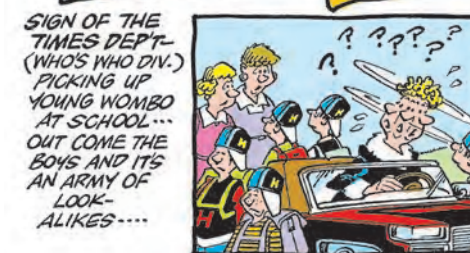
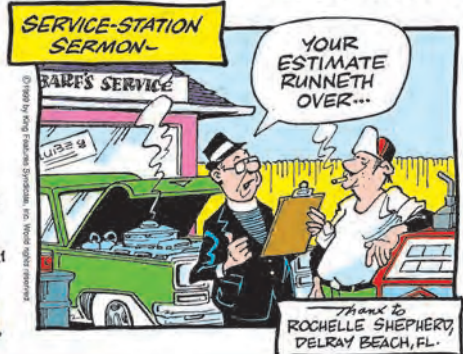
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



**BOBBIN' ALONG!** Connect the dots to complete the harvest-game picture. Also, why did the jelly roll? Because it saw the apple turnover!

**EGGTRAORDINARY!** Farmer Brown owns a peacock that wandered over to Farmer Jones's place and laid an egg in his back yard. Who owns the egg, Farmer Brown or Farmer Jones? No one. Peacocks are male peafowls and do not lay eggs.

**A SQUARE APPLE!** Now you've seen everything! To solve this word-square you must find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words must read the same both across and down.

1. Firm, edible fruit (Apple, in place).
2. Where people vote.
3. Earnest requests.
4. South American animal.
5. Short literary composition.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### IT'S CRUNCH TIME!

Here at Aunt Hattie's Apple Mill you can find anything that's made from apples. Listed below are the names of five apple varieties and five apple desserts. To make a game of it, we've scrambled the letters in each word. Unscramble them, in apple-pie order, in under 5 minutes.

### TYPES OF APPLES

1. Smhctni
2. More
3. Nipswea
4. Nnajhtoa
5. Lorncdat

### APPLE DESSERTS

6. Bocibre
7. Numgdislp
8. Rsltedu
9. Wponadyd
10. Leapspecua

1	A	P	P	L	E
2	P				
3	P				
4	L				
5	E				

Illustrated by David Coulson

## Wishing Well

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ● AMUSEMENT RIDES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: Creature With Eight Tentacles

Booster	Kamikaze	Rainbow	Tornado
Fireball	Log Flume	Rotor	Troika
Freefall	Monster	Speed	Twist
Frisbee	Orbiter	Tagada	

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEASUREMENTS: What period of time is represented by a triennial?
2. MOVIES: Which actress is the voice of Jessica Rabbit in "Who's Afraid of Roger Rabbit"?
3. LANGUAGE: What word represents the letter E in the radio phonetic alphabet?
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of the alternate dimension in Netflix's original series "Stranger Things"?
5. ART: What is alebrije?
6. COMICS: What was superhero Deadpool's real name?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which mammal has the shortest gestation period at 11 days?
8. LITERATURE: What did Hagrid name his Norwegian Ridgeback dragon in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books?
9. HISTORY: Who was Time magazine's first man/person of the year?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What are the official languages of Haiti?

### Answers

1. Every three years
2. Kathleen Turner
3. Echo
4. The Upside Down
5. A type of Mexico folk art that depicts fantastical creatures painted in bright colors and intricate designs
6. Wade Wilson
7. Striped face dunnart, an Australian marsupial. (Possums have the next shortest gestation period at 12 days.)
8. Norbert
9. Aviator Charles Lindbergh
10. Haitian Creole and French



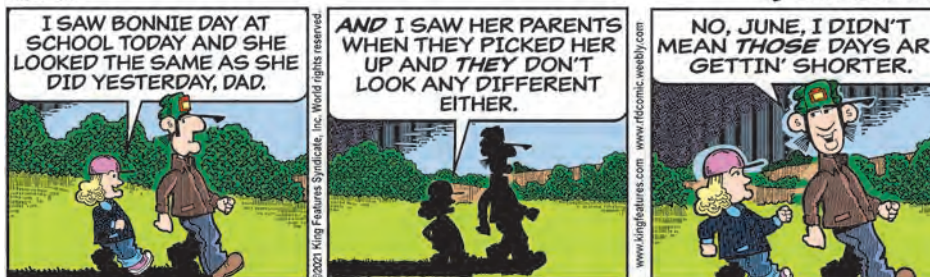
### Amber Waves

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

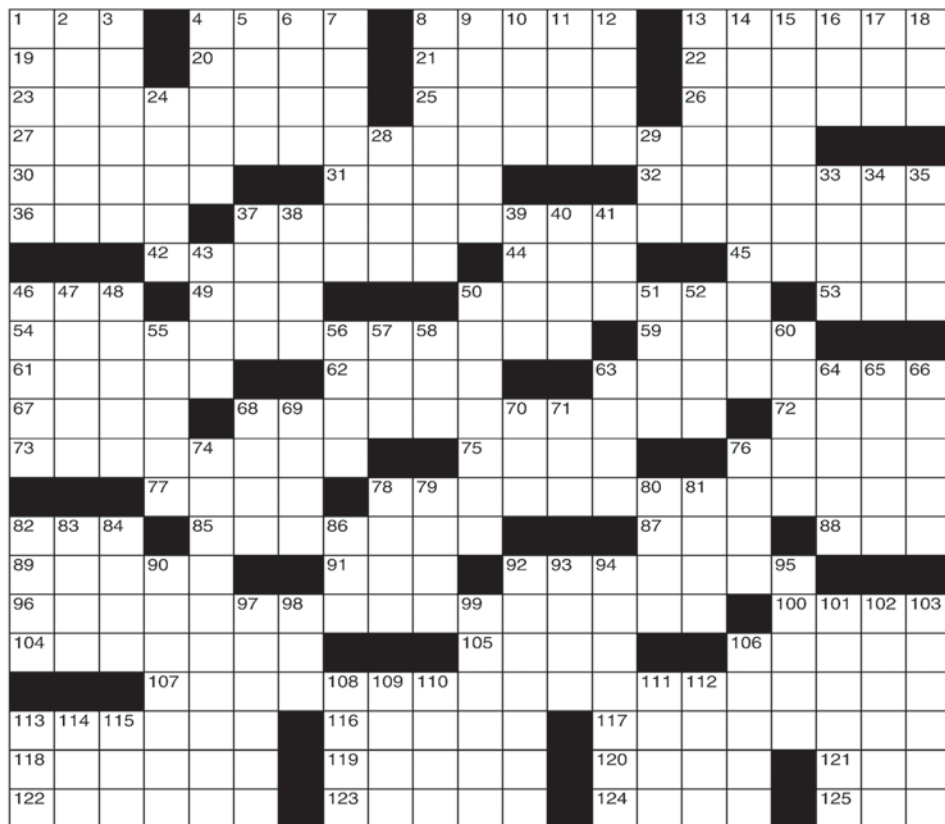
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Differences: 1. Hedge is missing. 2. Cap is different. 3. Leg is missing. 4. Fence is different. 5. Letter is different. 6. Leg is added. 7. Leg is moved.

www.TheRanchos.com

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Spot's threat
  - 4 Bacteria-growing gel
  - 8 Crevices
  - 13 Having the most wisdom
  - 19 Glasgow refusal
  - 20 "Space Ghost" cartoonist
  - 21 Actress Kemper of "The Office"
  - 22 Swollen and distended
  - 23 Central North Carolina city
  - 25 747, say
  - 26 Often-used expressions
  - 27 Start of a riddle
  - 30 "Three Times —" (1978 hit song)
  - 31 Hay unit
  - 32 Be in great anguish
  - 36 Trainee, e.g.
  - 37 Riddle, part 2
  - 42 Diplomat's skill
  - 44 Former NBAer
  - 45 Gets wrinkles out of
  - 46 See 71-Down
  - 49 1930s-'40s prez
  - 50 Church vestibule
  - 53 Classical intro?
  - 54 Riddle, part 3
  - 59 It may take the cake
  - 61 "— Sexy" (1992 #1 hit song)
  - 62 Clapton of rock
  - 63 Bernstein's "Candide," for one
  - 67 Early Oscar winner
  - 68 Riddle, part 4
  - 72 Fought (for)
  - 73 Look for a therapist, say
  - 75 Poi base
  - 76 River mouth deposit
  - 77 Go via boat
  - 78 Riddle, part 5
  - 82 "— culpa!"
  - 85 How a winding path proceeds
  - 87 Part of RBI or ERA
  - 88 Dir. from Ariz. to Ky.
  - 89 Dazzling success
  - 91 Despot Amin
  - 92 Gives a hand
  - 96 End of the riddle
  - 100 "Woe is me!"
  - 104 "The Mummies' Dance" singer
  - 105 No longer relevant
  - 106 Classic arcade name
  - 107 Riddle's answer
  - 113 All-terrain military vehicle
  - 116 Clipped, as a sheep
  - 117 Many a magic trick
  - 118 Give support
  - 119 Sizable
  - 120 Sulky state
  - 121 Malt product
  - 122 Some online greetings
  - 123 Possessed
  - 124 GI's "lullaby"
  - 125 Longest river of Scotland
  - 6 Razor option
  - 7 Certain parallelogram
  - 8 Drive back
  - 9 "Maybe"
  - 10 Shortcoming
  - 11 Ex-Yankee
  - 12 Appear
  - 13 Miserly
  - 14 Sound engineer's console
  - 15 Smiling one
  - 16 Swelled head
  - 17 Resident of a gaming "City"
  - 18 NFL scores
  - 24 "It's the — an era"
  - 28 Rowboat pair
  - 29 Satisfied sigh
  - 33 Victor's gloat
  - 34 "Titanic" actor
  - 35 Petro-
  - 37 Time — half
  - 38 Square type
  - 39 Meg of "I.Q."
  - 40 Three feet
  - 41 "Poppycock!"
  - 43 "Should that be true ..."
  - 46 Brown, Penn and Harvard
  - 47 "The Silence of the Lambs" director
  - 48 Shaw of swing
  - 50 "Valiant attempt!"
  - 51 Aspiration
  - 52 Just-prior periods
  - 55 Egg middles
  - 56 Work fill-in
  - 57 Goya's gold
  - 58 Cedar cousin
  - 60 "Fat chance!"
  - 63 — about (close to)
  - 64 Mark in "piñata"
  - 65 "Grand" Rockies peak
  - 66 Wise saying
  - 68 Herr's "no"
  - 69 Pot for arroz con pollo
  - 70 "Poppycock!"
  - 71 With
  - 74 Is in first place
  - 76 "— be shy"
  - 78 Bona — (real)
  - 79 Lena of "Havana"
  - 80 Grand — (auto race)
  - 81 Drive out
  - 82 Whine like a baby
  - 83 Yodeling comeback
  - 84 Banned orchard spray
  - 86 Currency of Laos
  - 90 Dined at someone else's place
  - 92 Embellished
  - 93 Haughty sort
  - 94 Band's lineup of gig songs
  - 95 Fills up
  - 97 "Gas Food Lodging" director
  - 98 Tennis player
  - 99 Appear
  - 101 Lasso
  - 102 Colorful ring of anatomy
  - 103 Writer Sheldon
  - 106 Lies against
  - 108 Port of Norway
  - 109 Turn to liquid
  - 110 Trumpet, e.g.
  - 111 Forearm part
  - 112 Radar image
  - 113 Color tone
  - 114 Scanned market ID
  - 115 Deg. for many an exec
- DOWN**
- 1 Chew on persistently
  - 2 In an overly hasty way
  - 3 Hold a new trial for
  - 4 Up a tree
  - 5 Silly mistake

# FUN PAGES



# **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](mailto:info@semcu.org)**

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

**Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 15 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.**

10/21

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**