

The Ranchos Independent



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CELEBRATING
19 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 19 Issue 10 2023

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



A Vision for Ranchos Roads

By Supervisor
Jordan Wamhoff

See the
Supervisor's
short, mid and
long-term plans to
address the Ranchos'
increasing traffic situation.

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 20 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



Recently, my office has seen an increase in inquiries regarding traffic, safety, road improvements and ongoing road projects in our beloved Ranchos community. I believe it's crucial to provide our community members with detailed information and clear timelines to address these concerns. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to The Ranchos Independent for collaborating with me to communicate the significant efforts Madera County is making to enhance our local road infrastructure.

Madera County has undertaken a range of projects aimed at improving our roads — making them safer, more efficient and better equipped to meet the needs of our growing community. I understand that road projects can sometimes be complex and confusing. Therefore, my office is here to help you navigate through any questions or concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 559-662-6010 and we will gladly provide you with the information and assistance you need.

I encourage all our Ranchos residents to stay informed and involved in the ongoing road improvements in our community. Together, we can ensure that our roads remain safe and efficient

for everyone, and we can continue to foster a thriving and vibrant community. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to a brighter and safer future for the Ranchos.

**Projects and Timelines
Near Term (1-5 years)**

State Route 41

1. Construct a 4-lane expressway from Avenue 10 ½ to Avenue 12
2. Construct full intersection improvements at Avenue 12
 - a. 2-through lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)
 - b. 2-left turn lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)
 - c. 2-right turn lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)
3. Construct a 4-lane conventional highway from Avenue 12 through Avenue 15
4. Construct full intersection improvement at Avenue 15
 - a. 2-through lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)
 - b. 2-left turn lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)
 - c. 2-right turn lanes at all legs of the intersection (North, East, South, West)

Children's Boulevard

1. Relocate the intersection of Lanes Bridge and Children's Boulevard approximately 1,600 feet further west from the current intersection
 - a. Construct 2-lane road from new intersection back to Lanes Bridge Drive

Avenue 12

1. Construct an 8-lane segment from its intersection with state Route 41 to Riverwalk Boulevard S
2. Construct a 6-lane segment from its intersection with Riverwalk Boulevard S to Riverstone Boulevard SE

Please see **ROADS** on P. 3

Mona Diaz New Kiwanis Lt. Gov

By Sally Rowden

On Friday, Sept. 29, a long-time Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos member, Mona Diaz, was installed as the lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Division 5. A part of the California-Nevada-Hawaii, or Cal-Nev-Ha, District of Kiwanis International. There are 11 clubs in Division 5, serving the counties of Fresno and Madera, with a combined membership of 325 members.

Ranchos Kiwanis are extremely proud of Mona. They feel her valuable leadership will continue to support the Kiwanis club locally plus support the 11 other Kiwanis clubs throughout Fresno and Madera counties.



Mona Diaz, third from left, a long-time Madera Ranchos Kiwanis member, was installed as the lieutenant governor of Kiwanis - Division 5, representing Fresno and Madera Counties. This district is a part of the California-Nevada-Hawaii, or Cal-Nev-Ha, District of Kiwanis International. With Mona, from left, is her son and daughter-in-law, Casey and Desiree Diaz, and son, Charlie Diaz.

Ranchos "Miss Clovis Teen" Ends Her One-Year Reign

By Adam Smith

From her first appearance at last year's Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting, to her recent triumph at the Miss California 2023 competition, Heavenly Carillo's year of service has come full circle, leaving an indelible mark on our community.

Through her "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" service initiative, in which she left inspiring anti-bullying messages at local libraries and coffee shops, Heavenly committed to advocating for those who have faced the challenges of bullying. Her elegance, grace and inner beauty captivated the Miss California judges this past June, earning her the Preliminary Evening Gown award and a \$300 cash award.

Heavenly's involvement with the Miss California Organization is part of the Miss America Organization whose objective is to "advance the creation, promotion and support of educational, achievement and com-



The Ranchos' own Heavenly Carillo, seated, signs copies of her story in the Ranchos Independent at last year's Christmas Tree Lighting.

munity service opportunities for young California women." The organizations award millions in cash and in-kind scholarships annually.

Heavenly's journey doesn't end with her crown. She aspires to become a nurse and has set her sights on attending Penn State University to pursue her dreams. As Heavenly prepares to pass on her crown, the community can celebrate Heavenly's extraordinary journey and the positive impact she has had on our community by attending her farewell ceremony on Nov. 4 at the Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall at 2770 E. International Ave. in Fresno, near Clovis Community College, at 5 p.m.

All Madera Ranchos residents and well-wishers are invited and also asked to consider making a scholarship donation in Heavenly Carrillo's name to assist her in her journey toward higher education. To make a scholarship donation in Heavenly Carrillo's name, please visit www.Miss-Clovis.org.

Measure T Part II Wants Your Input

The Madera County Transportation Authority is considering a second attempt at a Measure T renewal for the November 2024 ballot. The plan itself will be developed by a citizen-based body made of residents from all parts of the County. If you'd like to get involved, apply online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/MeasTForm

Click on "Local News" at

GV Employee Wins Top Award

By Gabriela Gutierrez

On the evening of Sept. 28, Golden Valley Unified School District celebrated the 2023 Excellence in Education awards ceremony for all of Madera County schools. It was a lovely evening, surrounded by top notch educators.

This year, Golden Valley Unified School District had three nominees, one under each of the following categories: Employee, Administrator and Teacher of the year. Ursula Newcomb from Sierra View Elementary was nominated for the Employee of the year; Albert Pando, from Liberty High School, was nominated for the Administrator of the year; and Michelle Tessman, from Stone Creek Elementary, was nominated for the Teacher of the year. Board of Trustees members Maria Knobloch, Shelley Johnson, Steven Lewis and Kevin Hatch were also present at the event.

With incredibly tough competition, Ursula Newcomb was awarded the 2023 Employee of the Year for Madera County. Her dedication, enthusiasm and care for all of the children that attend Sierra View Elementary and the Extended Day Enrichment Program and Before & After School program, was widely recognized and by the end of the night, many in attendance were trying to sign-up to her Extended Day Enrichment Program.

Thank you all for your dedication to the students, parents and staff.

ROADS cont. from P. 2

3. Construct a 4-lane segment from its intersection with Riverstone Boulevard SE through Road 40

Rio Mesa Boulevard

1. Construction of a 2-lane roadway from its intersection of Avenue 12 to Avenue 15

Road 40

1. Continue to work with Root Creek Water District to repair Road 40 from Market Avenue to Avenue 12
 - a. Hopeful to have the road fully repaired and open to traffic by the end of 2023

Mid Term (6-10 years)

Children's Boulevard/Avenue 9

1. Extend 4-lane road segment through the intersection of Road 39 1/2
2. Peck Boulevard constructed north of Children's Boulevard to Avenue 10

Road 40

1. Construct a 2-lane roadway from the intersection of Avenue 10 to Avenue 9

Avenue 12

1. Construct a 4-lane segment from Road 40 to Road 38
2. Construct a 4-lane segment from Road 36 to Road 35

Rio Mesa Boulevard

1. Construct a 2-lane roadway from the interchange at State Route 41/Children's Boulevard north to Avenue 11

2. Improve Avenue 11 to a full 2-lane roadway from its intersection with Business Route 41 to Rio Mesa Boulevard

State Route 41

1. Construct a second southbound lane from State Route 145 to Avenue 15

Long Term (11+ years)

State Route 41

1. Widen freeway to 6-lanes from Madera County line to Avenue 12
2. Full interchange at Avenue 12
3. Widen to 4-lane expressway from Avenue 12 to Avenue 15
4. Full interchange at Avenue 15
5. Widen to 4-lane from Avenue 15 to State Route 145

Children's Boulevard/Avenue 9

1. Widen to 8-lanes from interchange at State Route 41 to Peck Blvd Intersection
2. Widen to 6-lanes from Peck Blvd through Road 39 1/2
3. Widen to 4-lanes from Road 39 1/2 to State Route 99 including BNSF overcross

Avenue 12

1. Widen to 4-lanes from Road 35 to Road 30 1/2

Road 40

1. Widen to 4-lanes from Avenue 12 to Avenue 9

Rio Mesa Boulevard

1. Construct a 4-lane roadway from Children's Blvd Interchange to Avenue 15

California Violent Crime Jumps, Rest of Nation Drops

Violent crime was up 3.7 percent in 2022 in California even as violent crime rates dropped across the country, according to new FBI crime data released this week.

Nationally, violent crime was down slightly, by 1.7 percent to pre-pandemic levels, according to the 2022 Crime In the Nation report from the FBI. At the same

time, property crimes — especially auto theft — rose considerably, by 7.1 percent nationally and 7.6 percent in California.

Notable trends showed a spike in gun violence among juveniles, an increase in hate crimes especially targeting Jews, a spike in carjackings and an increase in crimes committed by groups.

The report comes with a caveat, however. In the past, the annual snapshot of crime in the United States has been criticized as missing data from some of the country's largest cities, including New York and Los Angeles. For the 2021 report, for example, only 62.7 percent of agencies representing just 64.8 percent of the U.S. population submitted data. A change in collection methods helped, and this year, the data represents 83.3 percent of all agencies whose jurisdictions cover 93.5 percent of the population.

Last year was the second in a row that violent crime went down, a big turnaround from the 29 percent increase in the murder rate in 2020, a year of huge pandemic-related social disruption and upended support systems. Richard Rosenfeld, a criminal justice professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, told The Associated Press the drop in violence can be attributed largely to the fact that the "stresses and strains" associated with the pandemic have abated.

simply a return to something approaching normal after the big changes associated with the pandemic," Rosenfeld said.

Violent crime includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault and robbery. The biggest dips nationally were in homicides (6.1 percent) and rape (5.4 percent). Aggravated assaults decreased by 1.1 percent, but robbery was up by 1.3 percent.

In the most recent 2022 report, the violent crime rate was 380.7 per 100,000 people. That's statistically the same as the pre-pandemic 2019 violent crime rate of 380.8 per 100,000 people.

In 2022 in California, there were 62,410 violent crime incidents, and 70,279 offenses reported in the Golden State by 559 law enforcement agencies that submitted National Incident-Based Reporting System data, according to the report. That covers 52 percent of the total population. In the most recent 2022 report, the violent crime rate was 499.5 per 100,000 people in California.

The data offers a snapshot of gun violence in America. Nationally, firearms were used in 80.3 percent of murder and manslaughter crimes. And although violent crime was down overall, the number of crimes committed with one or more guns was up 0.6 percent to 488,900 in 2022, ac-

"By and large, what we're seeing is

Please see **CRIME** on P. 14



Senior Lunch Program
11am-1pm
Monday- Friday

Locations

Ranchos Hills Center 37830 Berkshire Drive Madera, CA 93636	North Fork Scout Center 33807 Rd 228 North Fork, CA 93643
Coarsegold Community Center 35610 Hwy 41 Coarsegold, CA 93614	Sierra Senior Center 49111 Cinder Lane Oakhurst, CA 93644

The Senior Lunch Program offers adults 60+ years and older a nutritionally balanced lunch. These meals are offered at 4 locations in Madera County. They will be opened Monday through Friday.

All Sites Opened come by to enroll!

Call 559-460-3431 or email emrap.seniorlunch@gmail.com to reserve your meal.

Eastern Madera Recreation & Parks

10/23

Letters

Dear Editor:

This year's farm bill should significantly increase federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals.

While the product is currently sold in

a few high-end restaurants, further research is needed for cultivated meat to achieve price parity with slaughtered meat, which is crucial for widespread adoption.

If you'd like to help pressure legislators to support this research, visit SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

The Bookshelf

Collections, Opportunities at Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

We've got big changes and additions happening here at the Ranchos Library and we are so happy to finally share them with you. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our local Friends of the Ranchos Library, as well as our County officials, we have been able to make additions to our services and collection that I think you will appreciate.

Our Friends of the Ranchos Library just made a huge addition to our collection by donating almost 200 new manga titles to be circulated through our branch. Titles include Dragon Ball Z, My Hero Academia and Demon Slayer among others with plans to start jumping up our collection to meet the requests of our local teen population.

We have also increased our magazine subscriptions. We will now have about 30 different subscriptions running with a generalized subject matter including popular titles like Better Homes and Gardens, Consumer Reports, Homeschooling Today and the New Yorker to add to our usual fare of the Madera Tribune, Fresno Bee, and Ranchos Independent.

As tutoring is always something sought out – but very hard to staff – we have started offering “HelpNow” through our online services. HelpNow is an online tutoring system that connects students with live tutor access for homework help, skills building and test preparation, all online and mostly instantly available. All tutors used by the system are vetted by Brainfuse, must possess a four-year degree, have prior teaching or tutoring experience and a clear background check. The help is very real and we are so glad to have the opportunity to share this thanks to the California State Library system.

Our weekly story time with Mrs. Maxfield is still going strong for anyone wanting to come for a pre-k geared story time, crafts and even a snack. Thursday, Nov. 2 we will

have a special guest from Madera's Fire Station 19 take over for the week with activities brought by Madera Fire and access to a real fire truck.

We still have the California State Parks passes available for checkout and now have even more available. You can count on one being available for use, offering free vehicle day-use entry to over 200 participating state parks, with Millerton Lake being our closest available park. These are checked out just like a book and have a three-week due date but cannot be requested ahead of time as they are first-come first-serve.

Just when you thought there couldn't be any more that we could offer, we have even gotten a replacement for our missing Wi-Fi hotspot device, so we have that available again. What this means is that you can check out a personal Wi-Fi device for use at home or on the road with a valid library card. Along with the hotspot device, we also have Chromebooks available for checkout to help patrons gain access to needed computers outside of our branch access.

To make a long story short, come check out what we've got to offer here at the Ranchos Library. We are constantly looking for new and better ways to serve you and are so happy to see the community grow alongside us. As always, if there is something you would like to see happen here, let us know.

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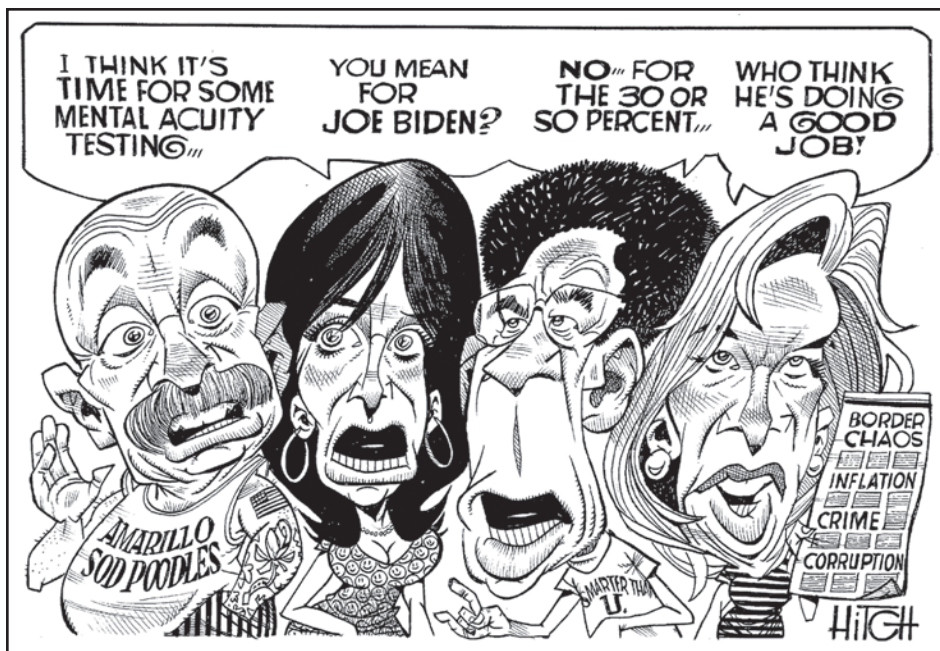


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Guest Editorial

Worst Pick Isn't Biden

By Rich Lowry

Poor Kamala Harris. The alleged misogyny that is tearing at her vice presidency apparently extends to highly partisan Democratic leaders such as Jamie Raskin and Nancy Pelosi. Both of them caused ripples when their praise for Harris in recent TV interviews was notably cool, as if they were at a high-end fundraising dinner and hated the escargot but had to try to convince the hostess that they really loved it.

Raskin revised his remarks to say that Harris is "unquestionably the best running mate for President Biden in 2024," while the former House Speaker's office pointed to the favorable things she said about Harris in her initial interview.

What Raskin and Pelosi clearly know, if they can't say it out loud, is that Joe Biden botched his vice-presidential pick; it is the worst pick in half a century and easily one of the worst in the last 80 years.

As Democrats begin to realize Biden's political weakness, with Donald Trump barreling down the pike, Harris is one of the factors -- although not the main one -- keeping them from doing anything about it.

What if someone did convince Biden to step aside for the good of the party? Well, that might open the way for Harris herself to become the nominee; out of the pan and into the fire.

Even if she lost in an open nominating process, it'd be quite the spectacle for Democrats to turn away a potentially "historic" presidential nominee for someone else. So, she's at least a playing a role in the propping up of what may prove the weakest incumbent presidential candidate since George H.W. Bush.

Harris is going to be an issue next year because everyone realizes there's a significant chance that Biden wouldn't be able to serve out a full second term. Typically, a vice president's popularity matters only for his or her own political ambitions; this time, it could make a difference in the presidential race because her standing is abysmal. In the new NBC News poll, the theme of which is that Biden and Trump are both abidingly unpopular, Harris is right there with them. At 31 percent, her positive rating is lower than both of theirs, and her negative rating of 51 percent is higher than Biden's. The bar Biden needed to clear in his vice-presidential pick wasn't high. He either needed a political nonentity or a popular entity who ideally had some governing credibility; instead, he went with the unpopular nonentity.

How does this rank with prior bad choices? Dick Cheney was a governing choice who, despite all the obloquy heaped on him, performed admirably. Dan Quayle's reputation was destroyed by the press, but he didn't play into George H.W. Bush's fate one way or the other.

I think to find a worse major-party pick you have to go back to Spiro Agnew. At least, as far as we know, Harris hasn't been taking kickbacks that will force her to resign -- in fact, she may be the relatively ethical half of the Biden-Harris ticket.

Prior to that, you probably have to go back to Henry Wallace, whom Democrats thankfully dumped in 1944 after he served one term as FDR's vice president. Wallace's views on the Soviet Union were criminally naive and disqualifying for any high official of the United States.

Wherever you rank Kamala Harris, there's no doubt that she's a poor selection that Democrats will almost certainly have to tolerate because of an ideological trap of their own making.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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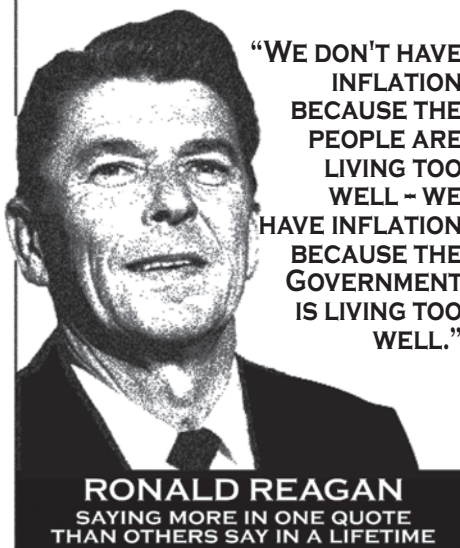
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Halloween is Boo-tiful

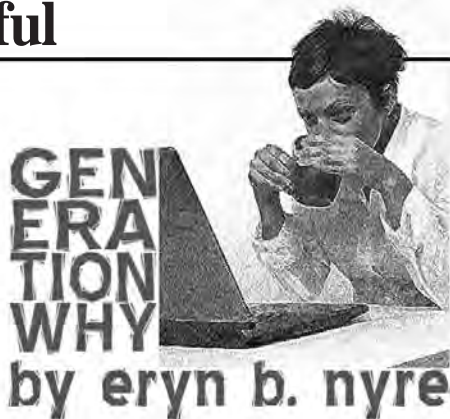
I know there's a lot of people out there who are either a Christmas person or a Halloween person. I, however, happen to be both. I am a proud Halloween fanatic right up until November first when I turn into one of those crazy Christmas people who barely acknowledges there's an entire holiday in between. Turkey and stuffing tastes better amidst Christmas decorations. I will die on this hill. Moving on ... I adore all aspects of Halloween from the silly to the scary and I've spent the last decade or so realizing there really are three main types of Halloween-loving people.

First up we have the type that like their Halloween celebrations like they like their coffee; with a little bit of pumpkin spice in it. I suppose it's to make it easier on the palate but really I think they're just a little more attached to that particular seasonal flavor than I think is

I adore all aspects of Halloween from the silly to the scary and I've spent the last decade or so realizing there really are three main types of Halloween-loving people.

healthy. They love the season, the décor and let's not forget the fashion, which is something I can definitely get behind. Think Hallmark movies but with pumpkins and hay and piles of various colored leaves rather than Christmas trees and snow and ice skating. They like their movies just a skosh below spooky, so their watchlists mostly consist of, "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown," and "Hocus Pocus," and "Halloweentown." They almost singlehandedly keep the Disney and superhero costume companies in business because they are easy and fun.

Then we have the fright night purists. These are the people who view Halloween as a means to let out the inner serial killer that they manage to keep hidden the rest of the year. Well, to be fair, they probably don't keep it as hidden as they think they do. We all know that if they ever end up on an episode of Dateline because they killed their spouse there's going to be at least one neighbor who says they always suspected something because the



Halloween decorations came a little too easily and looked a little too real. These people take their Halloween shenanigans very seriously. They have rotting zombies climbing out of graves in their front yards and bloody chainsaw victims hanging out of upstairs windows. Now that I think about it, I'm pretty sure

my father fits snugly into this category. These scream kings and queens don't consider it a Halloween appropriate movie if it doesn't induce nausea and make at least one friend leave with

a new fear unlocked and an impending bout of insomnia. They live for the jump scare and their costumes always look like they manifested in one of Freddy Kruger's worst nightmares.

Then we have the final category. These are the people whose love for Halloween is pretty much relegated to revealing costumes. This is their chance to wear the least amount of clothing possible, often in a public situation where twice as many clothes would still get them concerned looks from conservatives (as in modest not political affiliation), and people over 60. Now, maybe 15 years ago I would say that the majority of this third category would be filled with women, but I don't believe that to be the case anymore. In the last several years I found as many scantily clad men as I have women wandering around the various Halloween events I've frequented. I'm not sure if that's a win for women's rights or men's rights, but it's certainly a win

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

for costume makers who have spent the last couple of decades increasing their prices for significantly less fabric. I'll be honest, I don't have anything against this group unless they show up at Disneyland wearing a Snow White costume complete with a garter belt and fishnets where the skirt barely covers

their rear end. I don't love that blatant display of sexuality in a public place meant for families, but as far as wearing something like that at an adult party, get on with your bad self. It's none of my business.

Which group am I in? Glad you asked. I guess I'm somewhere in the

middle of the first and second group. I hate pumpkin spice, but I'll definitely drink a hot chocolate and wear my boots while watching a silly Halloween movie. I'm always up for a haunted corn maze or a zombie

hayride, but if you ask me to watch a slasher movie, don't expect me to keep my eyes open. Also, I scare easily because my father has spent my entire life trying to come up

with new ways to terrify the heck out of me, and he's very good at it. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go put the finishing touches on my graveyard where there is a zombie desperately trying to escape his freshly dug grave.

Happy Halloween everyone!

I scare easily because my father has spent my entire life trying to come up with new ways to terrify the heck out of me ...



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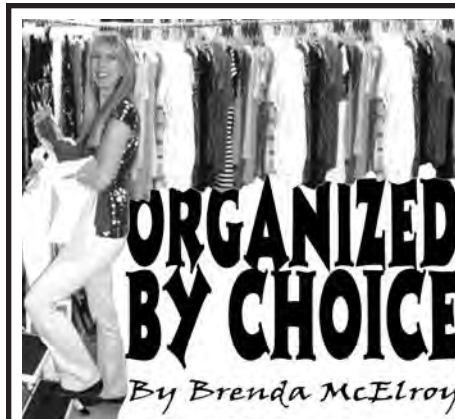
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Kids' Keepsakes — Burden or Blessing?

My first volunteer position at Webster was school Historian. My oldest was in first grade, so I didn't know many teachers and had yet to meet our new principal — Mr. Pisk. I decided to begin my chronicle with a pictorial directory of the staff.

One by one I connected with each to get a picture. As I was photographing Mr. Pisk, I realized my 35

mm camera had no film in it (good ole 90s). Not only was I mortified in the moment, but I also had to go back and admit my incompetence to each of the teachers, asking if I could retake their photos. Chalk one up to most embarrassing moments.

By the end of the 1989-90 school year, I had produced a pictorial album which resided in the office until someone — who was apparently good at purging — let it go. I wouldn't expect the school to store 30+ years of school memorabilia, but that's one thing I would love to see again.

Our children's school years can be overwhelming when it comes to accumulating memorabilia. Three "D's" for managing school days keepsakes are: Decide on criteria for what to save; Designate a place to store it; and Develop a system to get it there.

Decide on Criteria: Start

with the end in mind. There may be some, but not many of us who would say, "I wish my parents had saved more of my childhood stuff." What things do you love seeing when you open a box from the past? Include those in your criteria.

Keep a sampling of things which give insight into your child's thoughts, personality, development and skills. This might include special artwork, story writing, awards, report cards, "About Me" assignments, teacher notes, photos, etc. Worksheets, tests, participation ribbons, artwork with macaroni and glitter are good candidates for the can.

Even if your child wants to save everything now, her future self will thank you for not. One manageable bin is a blessing. Multiple bins is a project.

Our children's school years can be overwhelming when it comes to accumulating memorabilia.

Designate a place: For schoolwork the teacher requires students to keep, create a labeled binder with a pocket

folder for each week. Use a labeled tray, magazine holder or bin to temporarily capture items that are waiting to be sorted. Keep both these items in the hub of your home so you can easily access them.

For things that fit your keepsake criteria create a Memory Bin using a labeled file box (18 1/2" L x 14" W x 11" H available at Target/office supply stores). Prepare it with hanging folders labeled Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st Grade through high school. You may customize with additional folders depending on your child's interests and activities.

If it doesn't fit in a handy place, like the child's closet, use a 16-quart bin to temporarily store keepsakes, then relocate into the Memory Bin file at the end of the year. Use the file box as the boundary and purge as necessary so

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 17

Quick Lifesavers

(October 2013)

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.



by Jean Briner

Now don't throw rocks at me for mentioning "that" word, but ladies and gentlemen, Christmas is just around the corner. In addition to your regular hectic daily chores, you are now faced with Christmas gift shopping, purchasing

and addressing Christmas cards or writing that annual Christmas letter, not to mention getting out the Christmas tree or the decorations to make sure everything is in working order. In addition to all this, you have your career and the household chores to think about. You are looking for as many short cuts as you can find.

My nephew Craig (one of Randy's younger brothers) called me the other night and during our conversation, he asked me if I had ever used the microwavable rice packets. No, I had heard about them, but since I'm really not that fond of rice (although I do love rice pudding) I hadn't looked into them. If I'm going to have a starch, I'd rather microwave a potato or boil some pasta. So tonight I went onto the website of a well know rice company and read about their microwave rice. Wow, if they are as good as they look what a shortcut for dinner. There are 16 different flavors, all the way from Original (plain) to Red Beans & Rice. And I love the way it is cooked: just squeeze the pouch to separate the rice, tear the top to vent and heat on high for 90 seconds. You have cooked rice with

In the middle of your hectic schedule, you suddenly discover you have company coming for dinner tomorrow evening and you need something quick for a dessert. How about an ice cream pie? This one the kids can really help. There are only a few ingredients and if you don't have a readymade graham cracker crust in the freezer, the only baking is the crust.

no clean up. No sticky pan to clean or a messy stove in case your rice boils over. Thanks Craig, I'm putting the rice on my shopping list and will let you know.

In the middle of your hectic schedule, you suddenly discover you have company coming for dinner tomorrow evening and you need something quick for a dessert. How about an ice cream pie? This one the kids can really

help. There are only a few ingredients and if you don't have a readymade graham cracker crust in the freezer, the only baking is the crust.

Ice Cream Pie

Crust (If you have to make one)

18 graham crackers (the large four-part crackers)

1/3 C Butter

– melted

Filling

2 pints vanilla ice cream (or flavor of your choice)

¼ C finely chopped pecans plus extra for serving

4 peanut butter cups, roughly chopped

2 large chocolate-covered peanut butter crunch candy bars (such as Butterfinger) roughly chopped.

For the crust: Crush the graham crackers in either a food processor or a zipper plastic bag. Pour into bowl and add melted butter. Mix with a fork and pour into a pie pan, pressing the crumbs on bottom and sides of pan. Bake in a preheated 350 oven until golden, about 5 minutes. Set aside to cool completely.

For the filling: Take the ice cream out of the freezer for a time before starting mixing so it can

soften slightly. Put In large mixing bowl and add the pecans and chopped candy. Mix thoroughly and pour into the cooled pie crust. Cover with foil and put in freezer until very hard.

Serve with the reserved chopped pecans and if desired, drizzle with chocolate or caramel sauce.

And how about cookies that take absolutely no mixing and no more than 10 minutes in the oven? These for sure the kids can help you. All you need is refrigerated cookie dough and miniature chocolate candies. What a variety you have. The cookie dough comes in everything from sugar cookie to chocolate, and everything in-between. There's oatmeal, chocolate chip, peanut butter – your choice.

And the choices in the minia-

ture candies ...

Right now just go to the candy department and the choice is non-stop. In fact, if you thought you might make these later, while the candy is on sale you might want to stock up on your choices now.

Quick Candy Cookies

Refrigerated Cookie Dough
Miniature Chocolate Candies
Preheat oven to 350

Unwrap about 24 candies and set aside.

Slice the cookie dough into 1 to 1 ½ in slices (about 6 slices). Lay the slices flat and cut into quarters. Place each quarter in greased mini-muffin tin. Bake the cookie dough in preheated oven for just a few minutes, about 6 to 8, then take them out of the oven just as they start to turn golden.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

As soon as you pull them out of the oven, start lightly pressing one piece of candy into each cookie. The warmer the cookies, the better. When you finish putting the candy on the cookies, start taking them from the pan and put them on a cooling rack.

A reader called the other day

and said after the death of her son several years ago someone sent the family a casserole the family truly enjoyed. They liked it so much she got the recipe and makes it often for her family. She asked me to share it with our readers.

Family Casserole

- 1 lb. Hamburger
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped onion

Chopped Garlic (as much as desired)

1 Can French-style green beans (drained)

1 Can Tomato Bisque soup

Instant mashed potatoes (she uses the Idaho brand)

Grated Cheese

Brown hamburger with onion, garlic, salt and pepper to taste. Pour into bottom of casserole dish. Drain

and pour beans on top of meat. Pour soup (do not dilute) on top of beans. Mix potatoes according to box directions and cover ingredients in casserole. Top with grated cheese of your choice. Bake in a preheated 350 oven for about 20 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted.

Thank you for sharing your recipes. I have looked forward to receiving recipes from all of you.

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In Memoriam
Shirley Ann Tickel
September 10, 1938 -- August 17, 2023



It is with great sadness we share the loss of Shirley A. Tickel. Shirley was received in the grace of the good Lord's arms on Aug. 17, 2023. She will be forever missed by her family and friends: two sons James (Jim) Tickel Jr. and Arthur (Bud) and his wife, Eileen Tickel; five grandchildren, Anthony Tickel, Jaime Tickel and her husband Ryan Olson, Jarred Tickel and his wife Melinda, Samantha Scott and her husband Tyler, Sarah Tickel and her wife Nikki; three great grandchildren, Colie and Kaden Tickel and Hudson Tickel; brother-in-law Ron Tickel and numerous nieces and nephews. Shirley was preceded in death by her mother and father, Mary Ellen and Frank Cavalla; sister Judy Cavalla and the love of Shirley's life, James (Jim) William Tickel Sr.

Shirley was born and raised in Fresno and attended San Joaquin Memorial High School where she met Jim who was a lifeguard there. Jim and Shirley married on Jan. 27,

1956. Together they shared the love of the great outdoors, camping, four wheeling in their jeep and traveling in their RV. Shirley was a medical billing specialist for San Joaquin Gardens for over 20 years and she was fascinated with medical terminology. After Jim's passing in 1999, Shirley became immensely involved with the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center where she made many great friends and enjoyed traveling across the globe. Shirley enjoyed reading books and doing artwork with many different mediums, such as acrylics, watercolors, pencil and porcelain. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial gathering at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos, on Nov. 18, 2023, at 11 a.m. Please consider donating to the American Cancer Society in memory of Shirley A. Tickel.

Senior Report

Daily Senior Meal Program Returns to Ranchos/Hills Senior Center

By Melanie Williams

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is thrilled to have the Senior Meal Program up and running again at the Senior Center. Finally, after a few years of COVID shutdown, we are happy to have this program back. It is open to any senior, 60 years and older, living in the community or surrounding area who wishes to participate in the Senior Meal Program. We have been working diligently with the Eastern Madera Recreation and Parks Department and the Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging to host daily meals to seniors at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center in the Madera Ranchos. If any seniors are interested in registering for meals in this program, please come to the Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive, any weekday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration must be done before you can participate in the Senior Meal Program. Additional information can be provided by calling the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Watch for our next Monthly Sale coming up on Saturday, Nov. 4. The Treasure House has lots of great stuff for the Holidays being donated on a regular basis. New winter clothing, coats, jackets and sweaters are all on sale. The Boutique has unique bakeware and holiday serving dishes just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for all the wonderful donations we receive from the community to support our outreach to local seniors.

The Scout Garden had many beautiful Iris plants at the Holiday Craft Fair this past month. They were very unique among the plants sold in the Scout Garden and were donated by local gardeners from the Ranchos. Thank you for to all the fantastic volunteers who helped at our 2023 Holiday Craft Fair.

A reminder to our RHS members, the Senior Center will celebrate the November birthdays and anniversaries at the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner. The Potluck will feature a savory turkey and ham main course, cooked by our members, Ruben and Darla Trujillo. Darla described the process of soaking the turkey in brine for three days before cooking it. We are looking forward to a great meal and a fun time of celebration with the RHS membership. Make sure to welcome Ruben and Darla and thank them for cooking a delicious main course for the Thanksgiving Potluck.

Interested in playing cards or a game of chess? Every Thursday we have a group that meets to play their favorite card and table games. They are always looking for interested players to join and we had many new participants in October. It's a great way to have some fun in the upcoming winter months. Meet at the Senior Center any Thursday for a Senior Lunch at 11:30 a.m., then plan on spending a great afternoon playing cards at 12:15 p.m. Remember: You need to register for the Senior Lunch Program first.

In case you missed the new activities that started last summer at the Art Groove Gallery in River Park, the Madera Ranchos community seniors have been invited to these additional activities presented by Melanie Glass. Bingo is in full swing at the Art Groove Gallery on the second Wednesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you like playing Bingo, come and join the senior group on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

We are still on the Art

Groove Gallery schedule every first Wednesday of each month for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Paint Party. The next Senior paint class is on Nov. 1 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. We can help to facilitate the planning



process at the Art Groove Gallery if you sign up through the Ran-

chos/Hills Senior Center. ALL SENIORS in the community are invited to these free events. A big thank you to Melanie Glass, director of the Art Groove Gallery at River Park for providing these wonderful activi-

ties for local seniors.

Brown Bag Day is Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is a Brown Bag distribution center for one Wednesday each month. ALL SENIORS can participate in the Madera Food Bank Brown Bag Program. You can call the Senior Center for application forms and mail them to the Madera Food Bank.

Make sure to check your November Newsletter for upcoming events at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for November: "Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!" – Charmaine J. Forde

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This carnival is sponsored by the Sierra View Parent Club to raise money for the school and the children for the entire year.

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4-H Achievement Night

Golden Oaks 4-H

All 4-H members, leaders and families from Madera County came to the Madera Fairgrounds on Oct. 1 to honor those who worked hard during the 2022-2023 4-H year.

The night opened with the presenting of the colors and the 4-H pledge. The Teen Leader Awards, or TLAWs, were announced and so were the County Ambassadors for the current year. Members can earn pins, stars, stripes and sparks achievements. These are all earned for different reasons, for example, the pins have multi-

4-H Happenings
4-H Happenings
4-H Happenings
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4-H Happenings



contest, Sarah Morgan earned Red, and Wyatt, Griffin Williams and Hunter all earned White. For the State Plant Science competition, Sarah and Wyatt Morgan earned Blue. For the State Photography contest, Hunter Williams earned Red and Gold recognition. In the State Forestry contest Sarah Morgan, Wyatt Morgan, Hunter Williams and Griffin Williams earned White.

For the Star Awards, Sarah Morgan earned her Silver and Gold Star. Wyatt Morgan earned his Platinum Star for Communications and Public Speaking, Sarah Morgan earned 3rd and Wyatt Morgan earned 2nd Place. For Poultry, Hunter Williams earned 1st Place and Griffin Williams received 4th.

4-H achievement night is definitely something to attend and in which to participate. If you are interested in joining the Golden Oak 4-H Club, please contact our Community Club Leaders at 4hgolde-noak@gmail.com, or visit our General Meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ranchos Library, 37398 Berkshire Drive in the Ranchos.

By Hunter Williams-Smith

Sept-Oct Events, Projects and Fundraisers for Sierra Shadows

Last month the Sierra Shadows 4-H club had their first meeting. It was held on Sept. 12 by President Jake Poore. It was located at Sierra View Elementary School

Please see 4-H on P. 15



Golden Oak 4-H members attending Achievement Night include (top) Jacob Garzon, (middle from left) Sarah Morgan, Hunter Williams, Wyatt Morgan, Griffin Williams, (bottom from left) Elizabeth Morgan and Iris Garzon.

ple meanings which include officer positions, years of membership completed, 4-H Recordbook projects and state recognitions. Stars are earned for certain levels of achievement, for county, regional and state event participation. Members also have to have a certain level of participation in the community such as public speaking, community service and other activities. Stripes are earned by completing a record book at the club level at the end of each 4-H year.

The night began by recognizing the 2023-2024 4-H officers for our new Golden Oak club. This includes Hunter Williams – president; Griffin Williams – vice president; Sarah Morgan – secretary; Wyatt Morgan – treasurer; and Jacob Garzon – historian.

4-H Camp Awards were next and member Wyatt Morgan was recognized for Outdoor Science. We also had Wyatt and Sarah Morgan recognized for Regional and State Awards. For State Interviews, Hunter and Griffin Williams earned Gold. For the State Insect Identification

I PLEDGE
my **HEAD**
to clearer thinking,
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to larger service, and
my **HEALTH**
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my club, my community,
my country,
and my world.

Please see 4-H on P. 15

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

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

The Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 1 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. 12. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.
Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



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10/23

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

Wednesday, December 13
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. 8 at 37167 Ave. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Call 645-4001 for more info.



Help a Foster Child this Christmas through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 15.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



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SEE YOU SUNDAY!

Gunshots Heard in Tesoro Viejo, SO Looking for Info

On Tuesday, Oct. 17 at approximately 12:42 a.m., the Madera County Sheriff's Office received calls from concerned citizens regarding hearing gun shots in the 4400 block of Hillside Road located in the Tesoro Viejo community. Deputies responded to the area and located evidence of a shooting; however, they were not able to locate anyone in-

involved in the incident.

During the course of their investigation, the Madera County Sheriff's Deputies have been able to identify the parties believed to be involved. Sheriff's Department investigation indicates this was an isolated incident and there is no ongoing danger to the public. At this time, we ask anyone with information re-

garding this case to contact the Madera County Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770.

Tips may also be emailed to mc-sotip@maderacounty.com. Anonymous tips may be made through Valley Crime Stoppers at (559) 498- STOP (7867), or by texting "Tip MaderaSO" followed by your message to 888777.

CRIME cont. from P. 3

According to the data. Also, more minors were shot in 2022 than in the year prior. Both fatal and non-fatal gun injuries decreased for adults, but among juveniles, fatal gun violence increased by a staggering 11.8 percent from 1,300 to 1,500. The number of non-fatal gunshot incidents for juveniles was also up 10.67 percent, from 61,800 to 68,300.

The 7.1 percent increase in property crimes was driven by a 10.9 percent increase in motor vehicle thefts nationwide. Carjackings were up 8.1 percent and nearly 90 percent involved one or more assailants with a weapon, according to the FBI. More offenders are working in groups, with a 13 percent increase in arrests with two or more suspects. Most carjackings occur at night, between 8 p.m. and 4 p.m., and males under age 18 represent about 18 percent of those arrested.

Overall national property crime rates were even higher on college campuses, spiking to 35.4 percent in 2022 with more than 6.5 million reports of larceny — that is, property theft without violence. In 2022 in California, there were 349,241 property crime incidents, and 349,241 offenses reported. In the most recent 2022 report, the property crime rate was 2,343.2 per 100,000 people in California.

Reported incidents of hate crimes were up 0.5 percent with 11,634 reported incidents, the highest number since the FBI began tracking such data in 1991. Hate crimes against Jews were up more than 37 percent to 1,122 incidents.

"Reported hate crime incidents across the country have once again reached record highs, with anti-Jewish hate crimes at a number not seen in decades," Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a statement.

Study Finds Eating Grapes Big Benefit to Eye Health

In a recent randomized, controlled human study, consuming grapes for 16 weeks improved key markers of eye health in older adults.

The study, published in the scientific journal Food & Function looked at the impact of regular consumption of grapes on macular pigment accumulation and other biomarkers of eye health. This is the first human study on this subject, and the results reinforce earlier, preliminary studies where consuming grapes was found to protect retinal structure and function.

Science has shown that an aging population has a higher risk of eye disease and vision problems. Key risk factors for eye

disease include 1) oxidative stress and 2) high levels of ocular Advanced Glycation End products, or AGEs. AGEs may contribute to many eye diseases by damaging the vascular components of the retina, impairing cellular function, and causing oxidative stress. Dietary antioxidants can decrease oxidative stress and inhibit the formation of AGEs, with possible beneficial effects on the retina, such as an improvement in Macular Pigment Optical Density. Grapes are a natural source of antioxidants and other polyphenols.

In this new study, 34 human subjects consumed either grapes (equivalent to 1 1/2 cups of grapes per day) or a placebo for 16


weeks. The grape eaters showed a significant increase in Macular Pigment Optical Density, plasma antioxidant capacity, and total phenolic content compared to those on placebo. Those who didn't consume grapes saw a significant increase in harmful AGEs, as measured in the skin.

"Our study is the first to show that grape consumption beneficially impacts eye health in humans which is very exciting, especially with a growing aging population," said Dr. Jung Eun Kim. "Grapes are an easy, accessible fruit that studies have shown can have a beneficial impact in normal amounts of just 1 1/2 cups per day."


Who knew?

Central Valley Alzheimer's Caregiver and Wellness Conference 2023


The Importance of Prevention and Early Detection in Alzheimer's and Dementia
Free Event offered in-person (limited capacity) and on Zoom

UCSF FRESNO ALZHEIMER & MEMORY CENTER:
How To Prevent Dementia?
Dzung Trinh, MD, FCAP, Geriatrician



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION:
Treatments for Alzheimer's and How to Improve Quality of Life
*Anna G. Pendrey Guillen, MD
Geriatric Medicine and Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine*




Valley Caregiver Resource Center:
Viewing Challenging Behavior as Communication in the Interest of Self-Care
Marianne Jackson, Ph.D., BCBA-D

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023
From 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We invite you to our 9th Annual Alzheimer's Caregiver and Wellness Conference in Fresno, CA. The theme of this year's conference is "The Importance of Prevention and Early Detection in Alzheimer's and Dementia". We have wonderful professional speakers and community resources just for you. Please register early. All participants must preregister to attend. In-person registration is limited to 75 participants (first come first served) and will receive complementary breakfast and lunch. For participants not able to join in-person, they will be able to join on Zoom for free. No walk-ins.

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To register and for more information, please call Valley Caregiver Resource Center (559) 224-9154 or (800) 541-8614.

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by Linda Thistle

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10/23

4-H cont. from P. 11

in the multipurpose room. Before the meeting started, the recreation officers had an egg spoon race and all the kids loved it. The Hostess officers handed out raffle tickets for a prize of a 4-H bag and a 4-H journal.

The meeting started at 7 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and the 4-H pledge. The 4-H pledge is recited stating heart for loyalty, head for thinking, hands for service and health for living for the club, community, country and world.

Next were officer reports including the president covering past issues and what's coming up in 4-H. When the meeting was adjourned, the members got ice cream sundaes and the leaders had tables in the back where members could sign up for projects. The 4-H projects for this year include Rabbits, Poultry, Swine, Dogs, Doats, Cloverbuds, Foods, Arts and crafts, Photography, Floral, Rifle Shooting, Outdoor Adventure, Community Service, and Public Speaking.

Our second meeting was on Oct. 10 in the Sierra View multipurpose room at 7 p.m. This meeting had the secretary's report by Lucy Lee, followed by the treasury report by Landon Davis, the National 4-H Week report by Mikayla Carr and the Recreation Officer Report and Announcement by Micah Lee. President Jake Poore announced the past events and the upcoming events in 4-H and when the meeting was adjourned, there was a raffle and snacks. The raffle prize was a "Pop-Its," a fidget toy that's similar to bubble wrap but never breaks.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Sierra View multipurpose room. Please don't hesitate to come join us.

The 4-H members attended the 4-H Achievement Night on Oct. 1. Some treats that the members brought for the achievement night dessert action were brownies, pumpkin cheesecake, cupcakes and apple pie. Most members wore their 4-H shirts and hats.

Members that won awards that night included Jake Poore, Lucy Lee, Landon Davis, Emily Wallace, Abbie Rosier, Emily Wallace, Anellise and Jamey Crandall, and Collie Tickle. The club leaders also won

awards. The leaders that won were Adam Lee, Jesse Bower, Dana Poore, Natile Garcia, Danielle Kier, Payton Poore and Melinda Tickle.

Some of the members that entered articles for the national 4-H week included Jake Poore, Paisley Bower and Mikayla Carr. A sentence from Jake Poore's article includes, "I am excited for this coming year. I like making new friends and mentoring new members too." A sentence from Mikayla Carr's article states, "I am thankful for all the leaders and members that made these past years so wonderful." According to Paisley Bower's article she said, "I love 4-H because it is fun and there are lots and lots of projects."

The first rabbit meeting was on Wednesday, Sept. 27. At the meeting, the rabbit members got to see a real rabbit tail, learn about the different rabbit breeds and see a demonstration of showmanship. Another project that had their first meeting was the Cloverbud group. The Cloverbud members got to use their creativity to decorate a very spooky pumpkin.

The 4-H group got to go to the Fresno Zoo for Halloween on Oct. 21. The members dressed up in Halloween costumes and learned about the different animals.

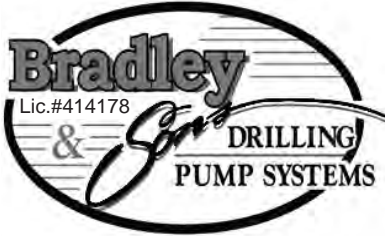
The Annual Madera 4-H Dinner was a drive-through meal that included rice, beans, tri-tip, fruit and bread. Some of the hard-working leaders and members helped cook the rice and beans, chop the fruit, cook the tri tip, bag the food, hand the food out, hold the advertising signs and sold the desserts at the dessert table. Some of the desserts at the table included cookies, pies, cake, cupcakes and other yummy treats. This was a very fun club fundraiser, and all the members worked really hard.

This month the Cloverbuds had a campaign at Tractor Supply held on Oct. 4-15. This event helped the Sierra Shadows 4-H group raise money for their club. This is also a wonderful experience for the members.

"Success is not final. Failure is not fatal: it is courage to continue that counts."

– Sir Winston Churchill

By Mikayla Carr



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Kiwanis Korner

New Officers for '23-'24 Ranchos Kiwanis

By Sally Rowden

We sincerely enjoyed ourselves at the Annual Fireman's BBQ on Sept. 23. The company, the food, the silent auction, the raffle, the live auction, the refreshments and the location gave each of us a welcomed fundraising event. Congratulations to our Station 19 Firefighters.

At the beginning of October at a dinner held on the patio at Liberty Ranchos Café, our local Kiwanis officers were installed. Richard Wayne is our incoming president with our past president being Ollia Ridge. A huge thank you goes out to Ollia as she led our club in a successful year of supporting our children and our communities. Thank you, Ollia. Our secretary and treasurer positions are returning officers: Sally Rowden, secretary and Marie Cameron, treasurer.

The local Ranchos Kiwanis Christmas Tea & Luncheon fundraiser happening on Saturday, Nov. 18 will be here soon. The lunch, dessert and silent auction starts at 11:30 a.m. at 37101 Avenue 12 – Verlaine Elinburg's Event Room. We already have close to a couple of tables reserved. Call 559-824-0979 or 559-333-1913 for tickets. Cost: \$25 per ticket. Find us on Facebook: Madera Ranchos Kiwanis and on "What's Up in the Ranchos?"

We will once again be offering our Christmas Basket Raffle. The cost of raffle tickets are six tickets for \$5. If you've seen any of our previous bas-



Richard Wayne, seen here in April returning from his Honor Flight, is the incoming president for the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis.

kets, you know that the baskets are huge and full – I mean full – of usable, fun, tasty and refreshing items. The basket will be at our Christmas Tea and then we will set up different venues throughout the communities for folks to view and purchase tickets. The winner of the basket will be announced at our meeting on Dec. 14.

There's been a change in our local meeting sites. We will continue to meet the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. The second Thursday's meeting site will be at Liberty Ranchos Café – 37193 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos for a breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. The fourth Thursday's meeting site will be at Second Son Brews – 37167 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos in the evening at 6 p.m. Morning and evening meeting times are now available. If you would like more information on attending a meeting email Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com

In closing, a little food for thought: "You can't be a smart cookie if you have a crummy attitude." - John Maxwell.



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Median Price/SF Sold
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Data based on the
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10/23

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

that your child will have one bin (blessing) instead of multiple bins (burden) in the end.

Develop a System: Daily remove papers from the child's backpack and do a quick sort into the teacher binder and Memory Bin. On crazy days use your temporary holding tray/bin. Schedule time at the end of each week to sort and empty it so that it doesn't become overwhelming. When age-appropriate, train your child to do this. Our job is to work ourselves out of a job.

Extra Credit: Create photo

books of your child's keepsakes. Place each item on a white foam board. Snap a photo with your phone. Upload to a photo book website and if desired, add text. You'll reduce the amount of storage space by 90 percent and you and your child will be more likely to peruse the keepsakes you've preserved in this manner.

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

- If you want to become a police officer in Norway, you'll need a B.A. from the Police University College. The program includes theoretical studies in criminal law, ethics and social sciences, plus a year of practical field training.

- Chloroform was once used in the treatment

- of asthma, cholera and gonorrhea, not to mention as a sweetener in medicines.

- Folks around the world really do love their soda -- to the tune of about 6,700 cans per second, or enough to wrap around the earth every 17 hours. Be sure to recycle!

- International animal rights organization PETA asked musical duo the Pet Shop Boys to change their name to Rescue Shelter Boys. (Obviously, they refused.)

- During a Bulls vs. Jazz game in 1987, after basketball legend Michael Jordan dunked over John Stockton, a 6 foot, 1 inch guard, an upset fan yelled at him to "pick on someone your own size." In response, Jordan next dunked over the 6 foot, 11 inch Mel Turpin, turned to his heckler, and asked, "Was he big enough?"

- Slave ants capture ants from other colonies to increase their workforce.

- If you measure it in terms of rainfall, a hurricane releases the force of 10,000 atomic bombs over an area about 413 miles wide.

- The prevalence of syphilis in the 19th century led to a sharp increase in demand for sunglasses, as the disease causes intense sensitivity to light if left untreated.

- Thousands of years ago, keys were made from wood.

- During the "I smell a rat" scene in the Martin Scorsese flick "The Departed," Jack Nicholson decided things didn't feel quite intense enough, so he improvised by pulling a real gun on co-star Leonardo DiCaprio.

Thought for the Day: "I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse." -- Florence Nightingale

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne



Politicians' Tricks and Treats

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Remember when presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said that you could put half the Trump supporters (conservatives) into what she called her "basket of deplorables"? She further called conservatives "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it". Conservatives shook off Hillary's inflammatory insults, ignored her rantings, and elected Donald

Trump. During his term we – conservatives and liberals alike – enjoyed a good economy, lower taxes, improved stature on the international stage, a strengthened military, attention to the border crisis and the

start of a much-needed border wall. Families could afford to fill Halloween baskets and Christmas stockings with more than straw and their gas tanks with less than a hundred-dollar bill. Some, or most, voters might not have liked Trump's style, but certainly appreciated his conservative accomplishments.

Now, liberal politicians fill our Halloween baskets – or mailboxes or inboxes or social media sites or airwaves – with bigger tax bills, empty promises, excuses and blame, propaganda, campaign mailers and pleas for more money. Meanwhile, our household and tax bills pile up, the Middle East is on fire, criminals and rioters run free, once-safe city streets are homeless camps and our southern border is a sieve.

While the outlook for an era of peace and prosperity may seem out of reach, everyday conservatives – being in most cases self-sufficient and pragmatic – will survive and make the most of any situation. The liberals



and go-along-to-get-along "conservatives" who cause the problems we are facing, may not fare so well in the society they create, which is dependent on government largesse and favoritism rather than freedom to excel and thrive through hard work.

In a tongue-in-cheek spirit of "love-thy-neighbor," this Halloween might be a time to stuff liberals' trick-or-treat bags with things they could use to survive their own folly. Here are some ideas:

Hillary *must* need a fresh supply of crying towels.

Joe Biden's trick-or-treat basket could hold a few bottles of Prevagen for his lagging cognitive capacity, and much-deserved arrest warrants for Hunter and himself. And extra toys for his unwanted granddaughter and a copy of the United States Constitution for daily consultation.

And since he's never found his way to survey the southern border's illegal crossings, he might need a U. S. map marked with the route.

Joe's overworked handlers surely could use some extra energy pills after leading him around day after day and picking him up from Air Force One's treacherous steps. And his speech writers probably need anxiety pills when they hear him butcher their carefully written scripts as well as the entire English language.

Republican House members who can't seem to elect a much-needed Speaker (as of this writing) might be given clothespins to hold their noses while they cast their votes and fulfill their constitutional duty, finally, to choose their Speaker. They, and all elected officials, could certainly use Pocket Constitutions for quick reference, available at Walmart online and from Hillsdale College at lp.hillsdale.edu/free-pocket-constitution-1/. Check out Hillsdale's website for great content, especially their *Imprimis* publications.

Happy Halloween.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Malachi (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What color is the great throne on which God sits while passing final judgment? Gold, Silver, Purple, White
3. In II Timothy 3, all scripture is given by the _____ of God. Blessing, Re-proof, Willingness, Inspiration

4. According to Paul, who pretends as an angel of light? The unholy, Satan, Herod, The wicked
5. Which epistle warns against patronizing prostitutes? Luke, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians
6. "What" of the spirit is the word of God? Sword, Praise, Love, Lamp

ANSWERS

1. Old
2. White
3. Inspiration
4. Satan
5. 1 Corinthians
6. Sword

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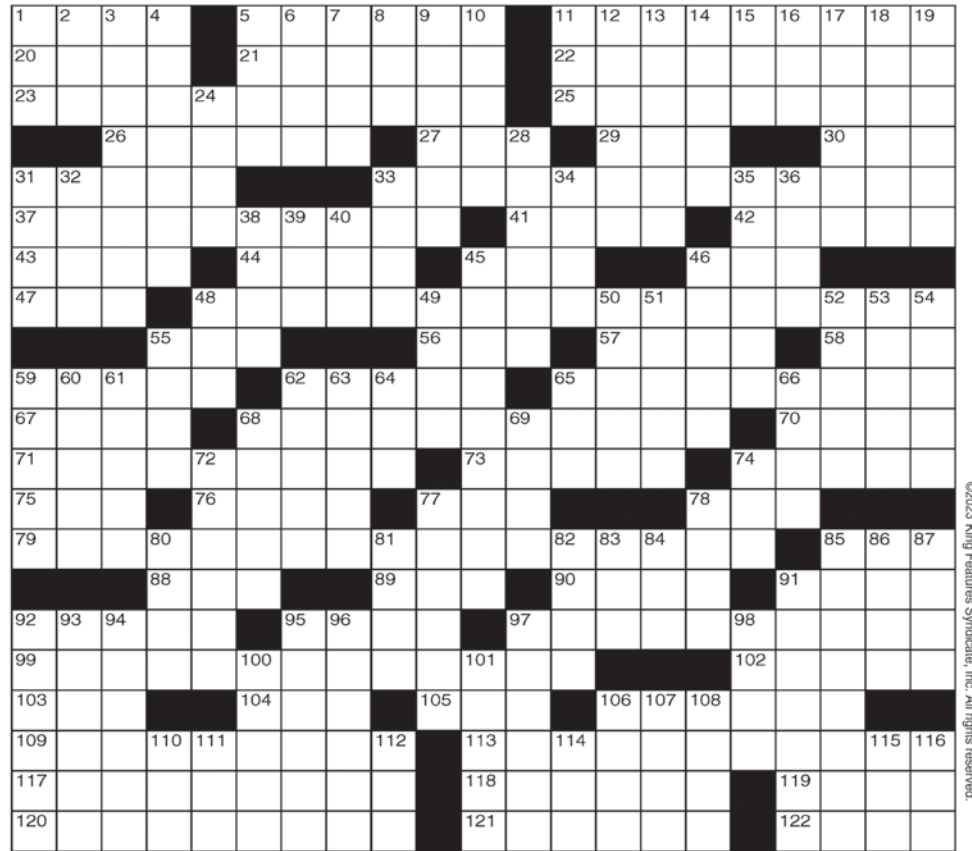
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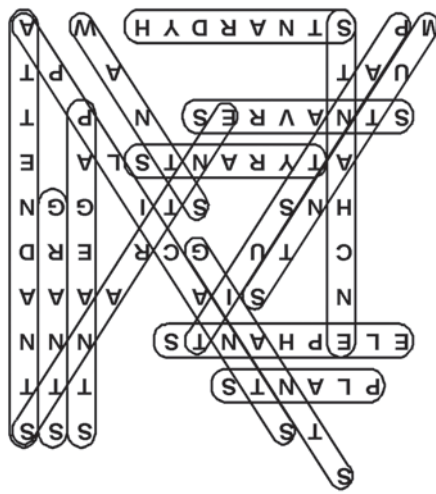
Super Crossword



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ARITHMETIC

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



ACROSS

- 1 Worker welfare gp.
- 5 Bark syllables
- 11 Perform a dynamic crowd action in a stadium
- 20 Hospital bed attachment
- 21 Nomadic type
- 22 Turpentine, for one
- 23 1983-2014 periodical for adolescents
- 25 Reins are parts of them
- 26 The first task on the to-do list
- 27 Help-wanted, e.g.
- 29 Musician Nugent
- 30 Musician DiFranco
- 31 Africa's Sierra —
- 33 No-problem advancement
- 37 What a biting sarcastic person has
- 41 Ostrich lookalike
- 42 Olympic swimmer Tom
- 43 Royal heirs, often
- 44 Veep's boss

- 45 NYC subway org.
- 46 Shocking fish, at times
- 47 Stuff causing a blowup
- 48 Conservative moral principles
- 55 Like Ikea assemblies, for short
- 56 Sitcom alien
- 57 Sloop, e.g.
- 58 Sch. group
- 59 Summits
- 62 Smell terrible
- 65 Splendid
- 67 Special times
- 68 Span rotating horizontally to allow ships through
- 70 Sci-fi guru
- 71 Natives of Palermo or Catania
- 73 Runs slowly
- 74 Peeled
- 75 Above, in poems
- 76 Meara of "Southie"
- 77 Photo lab blowup: Abbr.
- 78 Ryder vehicle
- 79 Alternative to bifocals
- 85 Naples loc.
- 88 Deep, as a voice

- 89 Month, to Manuela
- 90 Put a rip in
- 91 Luau favors
- 92 De Mille of choreography
- 95 Game-airing channel
- 97 Welcome wind on a hot day
- 99 Entry at no charge
- 102 Key just above D
- 103 Tell untruths
- 104 Strike caller
- 105 "... boy — girl?"
- 106 Trial blasts, for short
- 109 They die hard, it's said
- 113 Bob Fosse film title relevant to the starts of eight answers in this puzzle
- 117 Distributes in shares
- 118 Shape-fitting game
- 119 For — (not pro bono)
- 120 Young superhero of DC Comics
- 121 Off the mark
- 122 Road curve

DOWN

- 1 Globe
- 2 — Paulo
- 3 Coxa, more familiarly
- 4 Some nuts
- 5 Jason's ship
- 6 Horse hue
- 7 Perturb
- 8 Parisian bud
- 9 Title anew
- 10 One of the Corleones in "The Godfather"
- 11 Cry from Homer
- 12 City in Kansas
- 13 Actress Wright
- 14 Fit carmaker
- 15 Up 'til
- 16 "Cursed" director Craven
- 17 Really attack
- 18 Capital of Austria
- 19 Junior naval officer
- 24 Assist illicitly
- 28 More or less
- 31 Keep going
- 32 Business coll. topic
- 33 Rocker Quatro
- 34 Lighter — air
- 35 Imagine
- 36 Laze about
- 38 Grand Ole —

- 39 Firearm rights org.
- 40 H.S.-level exam
- 45 Popular dog biscuits
- 46 Shirk
- 48 "— the season ..."
- 49 Sharp taste
- 50 Place to live
- 51 Pines
- 52 Willing to participate in
- 53 Musical exercise
- 54 Mixed greens
- 55 Lover of Lucy
- 59 Fable penner
- 60 Town shouter
- 61 User's shortcut
- 62 Relatives of geese
- 63 Rake parts
- 64 Those elected
- 65 Rapper — Khalifa
- 66 Actress Meg
- 68 Tendon
- 69 Croissant, e.g.
- 72 Crooner Julius
- 74 Dads
- 77 "Yeah, but still ..."
- 78 Noun follower, often
- 80 Open delight
- 81 Devilkins
- 82 School in Berkshire
- 83 Natal lead-in
- 84 Bando of baseball
- 85 Sense no danger
- 86 Oscar winner Minnelli
- 87 Play — (enjoy some tennis)
- 91 Alternative to a right hook
- 92 Drifting at sea
- 93 Car part between headlights
- 94 Acupuncture item
- 95 NFL rusher Smith
- 96 Savor pekee, say
- 97 Certain fuel-carrying ship
- 98 Take a break
- 100 Burj Khalifa locale
- 101 Super-angry
- 106 Razor brand
- 107 Skinny
- 108 Toward dawn
- 110 Sweetie
- 111 Make a move
- 112 IRS ID
- 114 Env. insert
- 115 Buddhist discipline
- 116 Brits' alphabet ender

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• You can use self-stick notes to organize your errands. Use a note for each location, with instructions or shopping lists on each. Then put the notes in order: e.g., drop kids off at Grandma's, shoe store, hardware store, grocery store, home, etc. You will be less likely to forget a stop, and you can make the best use of your time and gas!



• Two tips for sewing buttons: First, for pants buttons, use unwaxed dental floss. It's incredibly strong and can take a lot of abuse. Second, slip a pin between the button and the fabric before sewing on. When you're finished, remove the pin. The button has some room behind it, and it will last longer.

• "This is a tip for us singletons. I love whipped topping on my hot chocolate, but it doesn't always last in my fridge. I buy a tub of it, and spoon it into mug-size dollops on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. When the sheet is full, I freeze them. They can be peeled off easily and slipped in a container or plastic bag. When I make my hot chocolate, I plop one in straight from the freezer. It takes only minutes to soften and melt. And it's delicious!" -- F.D. in Michigan

• "If you cut the entire top and one of the top corners off a cereal box, then tape the bottom closed, it's almost the same as the magazine holders they sell in stores. I covered mine with fancy paper. I keep it in my kitchen for cooking magazines." -- R.R. in Indiana

• Gifts a school-age kid can make: Bookmarks! Cut strips of cardstock into bookmark lengths. Have your child decorate one side and write a nice message on the other. Laminate if possible. Great gift from your child.

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

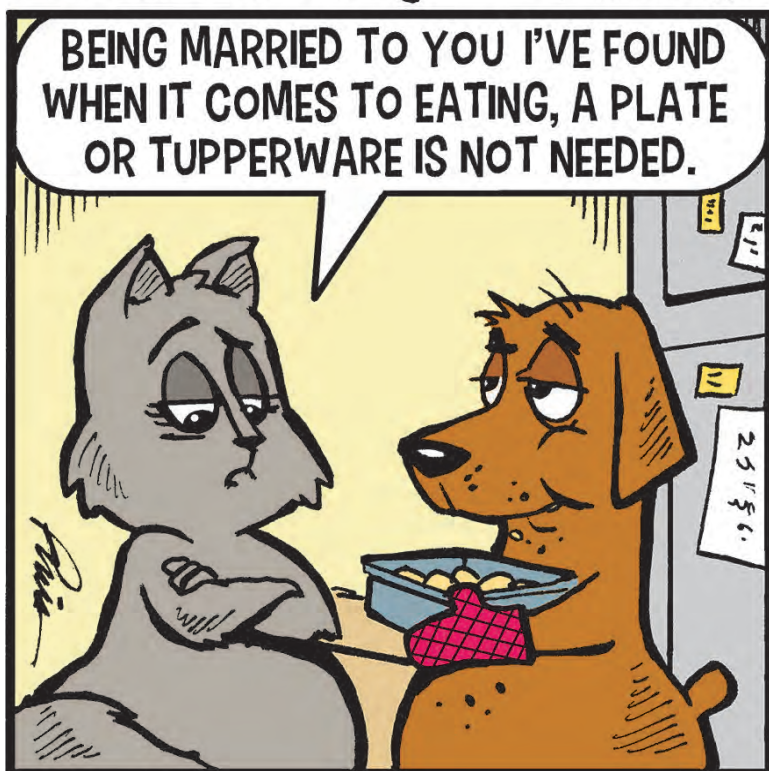
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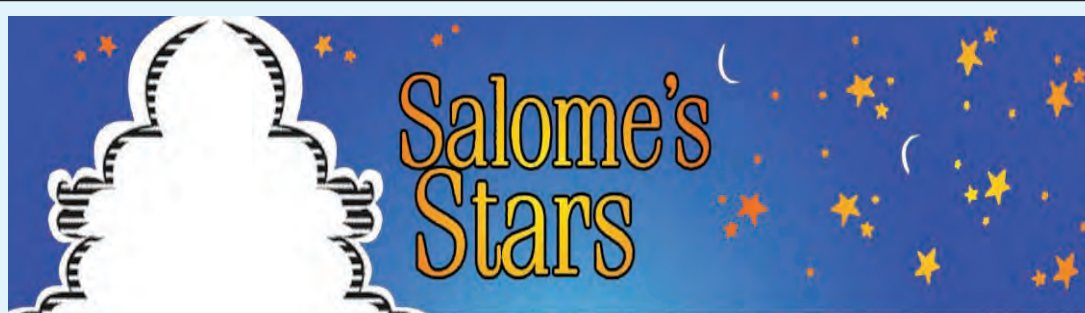
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An upcoming trip could create some problems with your schedule unless you tie up as many loose ends as possible before you head out the door. Ask a friend or colleague to help you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Being eager to start a new project is fine. However, moving ahead without knowing what will actually be expected of you could cause a problem down the line. Ask some questions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Getting through some recent challenges in good shape might give you a false sense of security. Don't relax your guard. You need to be prepared for what else could happen.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Caution is still advised, even though you think you're as prepared as you need to be at the moment. Keep in mind that change is in your aspect, and you should expect the unexpected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Lion's gift of persuasion helps you get your points across, even to some of your most negative naysayers in the workplace. Also, an old friend might seek you out for some advice.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Being sure of your convictions is fine, but leave some room for dissenting opinions. You might learn something that could help you avoid a possible problem later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Getting good legal advice on what your rights actually are is the first step toward resolving that pesky problem so that it doesn't reemerge at a later date. Good luck.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Longtime relationships work well this week, whether they're personal or professional. It's also a good time to invite new friends and colleagues into your life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good week to do the research that will help you uncover irrefutable facts for a project; this will back you up on your new venture when you most need it.

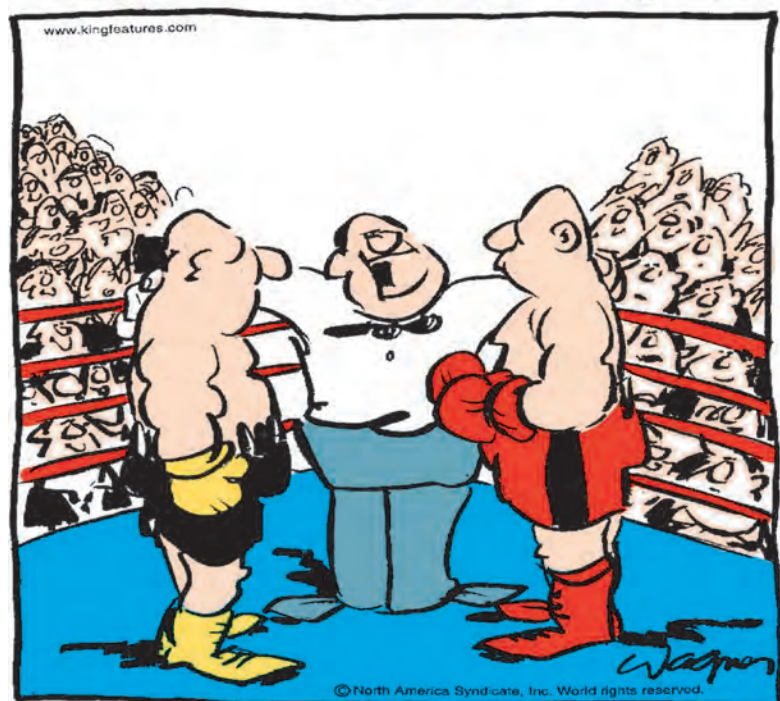
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Change is an important factor in your aspect this week and could affect something you might have thought was immune to any sort of adjustment or "alteration."

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Being asked to share someone's deeply personal confidence might be flattering, but accepting could be unwise. Decline gracefully but firmly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) As wise as you are, you could still be misled by someone who seems to be sincere but really isn't. Take more time to assess the situation before making any commitments.

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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"Shouldn't you guys retire? Your daughters are fighting in the main event."

www.TheRanchos.com

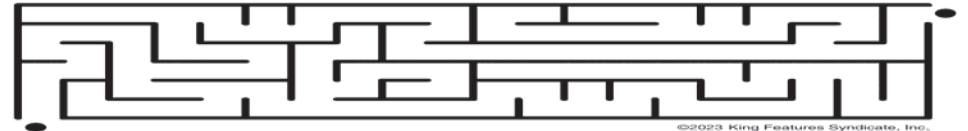
Born this Week

You like to face challenges that others might try to avoid, and by doing so, you set an example of courage for all.

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FUN PAGES

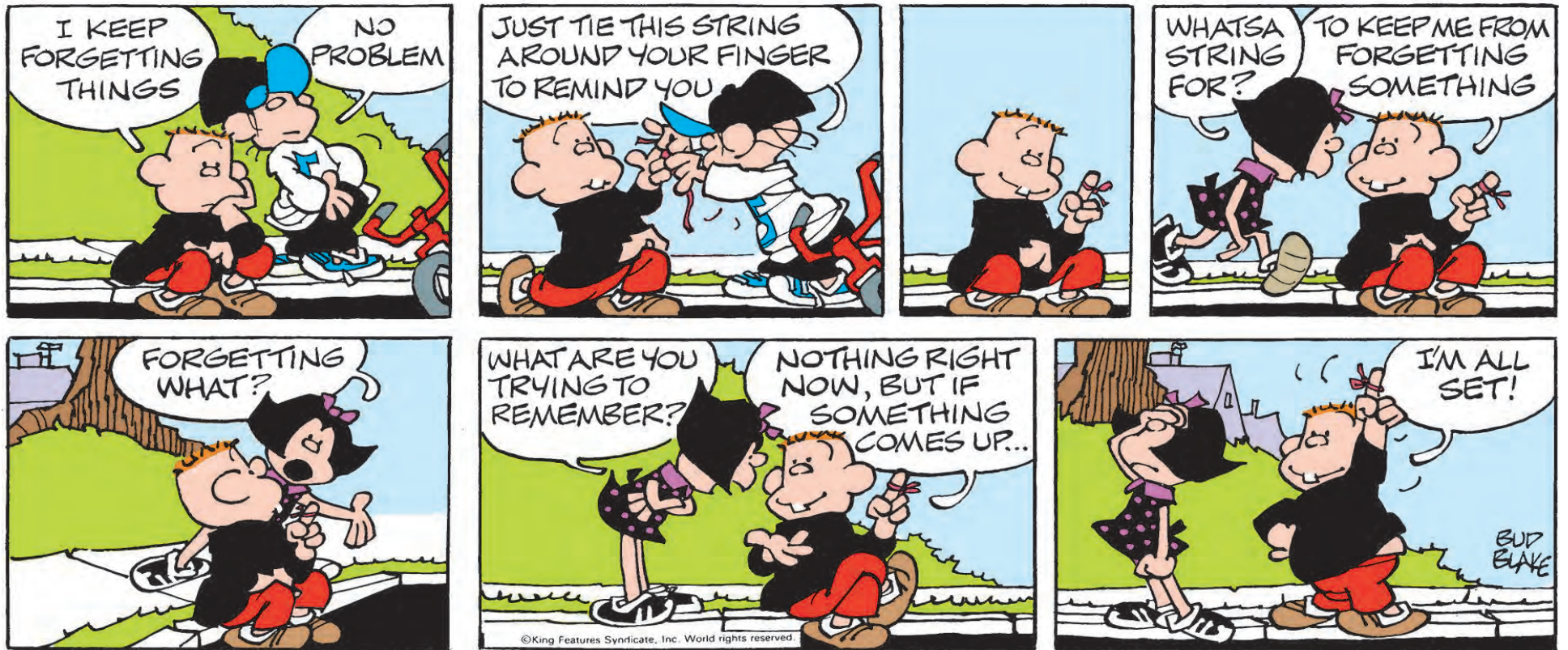
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION:** How many noble houses are mentioned in "Game of Thrones"?
- MOVIES:** What is the name of the high school in the musical film "Grease"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Which southeast Asian country's monetary unit is the ringgit?
- MUSIC:** The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" is from which musical?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the first president to be impeached?
- ANATOMY:** What is considered the "master gland" of the human body?
- PHYSICS:** What does a newton measure?
- HISTORY:** Which founding father wanted the turkey to be the national symbol of America rather than the eagle?
- SCIENCE:** What is studied in mycology?
- U.S. STATES:** What is Alaska's state animal?



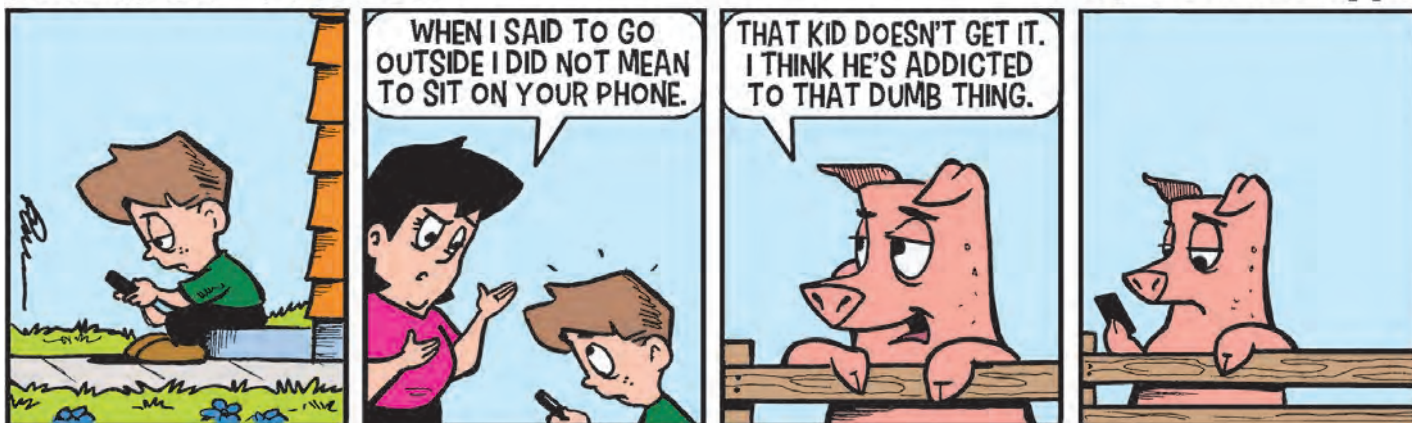
- Nine.
- Rydel High School.
- Malaysia.
- "Oklahoma!"
- Andrew Johnson, 1868.
- Pituitary gland.
- Force.
- Benjamin Franklin.
- Fungi.
- The moose.

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



1. Name the artist who had an ice cream flavor named after him. 2. Why was the "In the Navy" video filmed on a U.S. Navy ship? 3. Who released "Message in a Bottle"? 4. Name the Leo Sayer song that is based on his long conversation in a phone booth. 5. Name the soundtrack song that contains this lyric: "First there are kisses, Then there are sighs, And then, before you know where you are, You're sayin' goodbye."

1. Ben & Jerry's named one of their flavors Cherry Garcia after Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead in 1987. 2. The Village People were asked by the Navy for permission to use the song in a recruiting video. The answer was yes, as long as the group was included in the video. 3. The Police, in 1979. 4. "Orchard Road," in 1983. Sayer was on the phone asking his wife's forgiveness for a mistake he'd made. The song was recorded in one take. 5. "The Cryin' Game," by Boy George in the 1992 film of the same name. The film, about the Troubles in Northern Ireland, took not only a BAFTA for Best British Film but Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director and more.

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MAGIC MAZE • WORDS WITH ANTS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NEWBORN BABIES

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Applicants | Entrants | Mutants | Servants |
| Attendants | Giants | Pageants | Tyrants |
| Elephants | Grants | Pantsuit | Wants |
| Enchants | Hydrants | Plants | |

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FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

SEM CU is changing the Ranchos Library Conference Room to a VIDEO CONFERENCE ROOM to have TELECONFERENCE capabilities for ALL Southeast Madera residents to use. Contact the Ranchos Library to book your use and time.

Until further notice, the regular SEM CU meetings will take place via teleconference.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 20 at 6 p.m.

By telephone - dial: 312-757-3121 and you will get prompted to input the access code 715657949#

By computer, tablet or phone - use the link - <https://www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference>

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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