

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢



Bringing HOPE to Madera County's Stray Animals

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Animal Services renews life-saving relationship with HOPE

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, the Madera County Board of Supervisors approved renewing a contract between the county's Animal Services Department and HOPE Animal Services of Fresno for low-cost spay and neuter services, a program that has saved the Ranchos – and the rest of Madera County – from higher animal control costs over the past seven years. HOPE, which stands for Halt Overpopulation with Prevention and Education, was founded in 1998 by Derrel's Mini Storage CEO, Derrel Ridenour, after he learned of the large number of dogs and cats that were being euthanized daily in shelters.

Prevention and Education

"It is our hope that through prevention and public education we can save the lives of thousands of innocent animals," said Director of Madera County Animal Services, Kirsten Gross. She said regular veterinary offices perform six to 10 surgeries per day whereas HOPE performs up to 125 per day. And the cost savings is



phenomenal. Gross said that at a regular vet's office, neutering a domestic male cat can cost up to \$100. At HOPE, the surgery can be as low as \$35.

"We take volumes (of animals)," Gross said, adding that the Friends of the

Madera Animal Shelter uses its van and transports cats and dogs four times a week. "Not only from our shelter, but the Friends transport, free of charge, to and from Fresno for those constituents using the low-cost voucher program."

Feral Cat Program

The Friends also take feral cats to HOPE and release them back into the community in an effort to reduce their populations. In the past, Gross said a program created by Red and Nancy Arnold dedicated \$1.5 million for spay and neuter programs for feral cats. "We altered almost 20,000 animals with that funding," Gross said. "We're now seeing the numbers down to 5,000 last year (that ended up in the shelter) as compared to 9,000 four years ago."

Improved Numbers

In addition to seeing far fewer animals in the shelter, the number of animals euthanized has dropped dramatically – according to the 2016 annual report – and the live release number has increased. The report shows that in 2010, 7,948 animals were impounded, 2,481 released and 5,406 were euthanized. In 2016, 4,737 were impounded, 3,300 released and 1,307 euthanized.

"We're a major customer of HOPE," Gross said, adding that animals are brought to HOPE from as far south as Bakersfield. Working together, animal services and the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter have saved the lives of thousands of cats and dogs.

Ranchos Traffic Signal #2 Coming

Within the next year, the Ranchos will have two fully functioning traffic lights within a half mile of each other on Road 36 just east of Liberty High School.

At an Aug. 29 Town Hall meeting held at Ranchos Middle School, District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier presided over the announcement of a new traffic light for the intersection of Road 36 and Avenue 12 1/2. The intersection has long been a concern to parents on



both sides of Road 36. For the parents of students on the east side of 36, the daily crossing by their children to get to either Liberty High School or Ranchos Middle School was a source of endless concern. For parents to the west of 36, their younger children were crossing twice a day to and from Webster Elementary. The intersection has always provided bright yellow crosswalks, school zone warning signs and has flashing lighted crossing signs installed for low visibility situations,

but parents had been promised a stoplight for nearly a decade. Finally the wait is over.

The initial traffic study was conducted in 2007 as part of the construction of Ranchos Middle School. What really pushed the project forward was federal CMAQ funding awarded to Madera County for the signal installation. That has led to the current Detailed Design Phase. It will be completed in December and then bids for construction will go out in the early spring of 2018. They expect construction to begin in the summer of 2018.

It is estimated that the project will require approximately 100 working days, including time for ordering and delivering supplies and equipment. No detours or road closures are expected and there is projected to be only one lane closure for the installation of the massive mast arm over Road 36.

Madera Co. Drafting Disaster Plan

Madera County is partnering with incorporated communities, districts and others to develop an update to their 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Floods, drought, wildfire, earthquakes and severe weather are just a few of the hazards possible in Madera County. While natural hazards such as these cannot be prevented, a Hazard Mitigation Plan forms the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses by breaking the repeated cycle of disaster, damage and reconstruction. Additionally, only communities with a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan are eligible to apply for both pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant funding.

The process began in March 2017 with an initial public and planning meeting and the establishment of a planning committee comprised of representatives from the County, Cities, special districts and other key stakeholders. The plan is scheduled to be finalized and submitted to Cal OES and FEMA by the end of September, 2017.

Public Review Draft

The Public Review Draft of the LHMP Update is available online in PDF format at www.madera-county.com/index.php/lhmp. It is also available as a printed copy at the Madera Ranchos Branch Library, 37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C, Madera, CA 93636. You can call 645-1214 for more information.

Low-Cost Flu Shots Coming Oct. 5

The annual low-cost flu shots provided by the Madera County Department of Public Health will be offered Thursday morning, Oct. 5, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. This year the service is returning to the circular drive on the Liberty High School campus.

You have to be 12 or older and the suggested fee for the shots is \$5, however, no one will be turned away due to an in-

ability to pay.

As in years past, the semi-circular driveway on the east side of Liberty High on Road 36 will be the location for the shots. This set up allows you to pull up to waiting Health Department staff, roll up your sleeve and simply extend your arm out your car window. There is no need to exit your car. You pay the fee, get a bandaid and you're on your way.



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Google Review (4 months ago)

Brought my jeep in for smog and oil change. After the scheduled work was done they did a courtesy vehicle inspection. Am I glad they did. I have been taking the vehicle to the quick lube places but they never perform preventative maintenance. Warren found some things that needed attention now and things that we can schedule later. By ID-ing these problems, I avoided costly bills later this summer. Thanks Warren.

Jeff/Ranchos Resident

Demand Force Reviews (One week ago)

Best ever door-to-door service. My car was actually picked up from my home in Bonedelle Ranchos and delivered back to my home fixed.

Larry/Bonedelle Ranchos Resident

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Martin/Ranchos resident.

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Dear Editor:

I had to agree with your first paragraph [of your "Where to Start" editorial] and that the last seven months have been "among the strangest in my life." Your editorial states that President Trump has "... struck a chord with average Americans ..."

Is the denial of Donald Trump's legislative agenda by Democrats any different than the Republican action (or lack thereof) on former President Obama's proposals? Republican Mitch McConnell's stated agenda was to be an obstructionist and to make Barack Obama a one term president. That agenda was carried over into the president's second term. "... [B]ut even the most pitiful Sad Sack couldn't have EVERYTHING be his fault ALWAYS ..."

The biggest obstacle to Donald Trump

being "the greatest president we've ever had" is Donald Trump. He changes his stories, denies what he previously said and Tweets a stream of consciousness. He scares off, intimidates or dismisses advisors and staff members. He seeks to surround himself with those who will validate his reasoning and opinions, even though his own thoughts and opinions vacillate (dare I say "flip/flop"?).

Ask yourself, why did so many of America's best and brightest CEOs resign from, or decline to join, the Major Business Advisory Councils? President Trump did not receive a mandate or overwhelming vote of confidence last November. He did not receive the majority of the popular vote. His popularity and support have declined since then. I hope that he has, or develops, the compassion, the humility, the strength and the insight to be the president of all of the people, the president of the United States of America.

Jan Williams
Madera Ranchos

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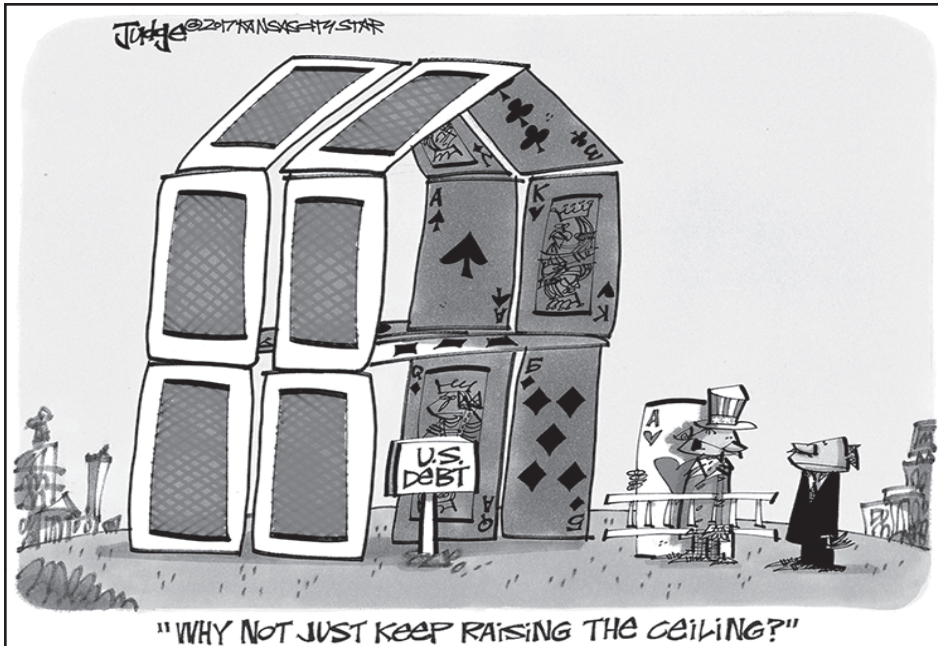


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9/17

Click on "Local News" at



Guest Editorial

Repeal Proposition 14

By Ron Nehring

This week, California Republican Party delegates received an email from some former legislators with the odd pitch that Republicans should preserve the deeply flawed “top two” primary system better known as Proposition 14.

While we all respect those Republicans who have served in the legislature, this request is truly bizarre given what has happened to our party under this failed system. Proposition 14 should be repealed – immediately – so every voter in California has the opportunity to vote for a Republican in general elections.

As we all know, last year because of Proposition 14, California voters had the “choice” of voting for either liberal Democrat Kamala Harris or liberal Democrat Loretta Sanchez for U.S. Senate. This is like choosing between vanilla and French vanilla.

A choice between two Democrats is no choice at all.

Under Proposition 14, literally millions of Californians have been denied the opportunity to vote for Republican

candidates for Assembly, Senate, Congress and statewide offices because only two Democrats were in the “top two.”

How can we possibly grow our Republican Party when voters do not have the option of even voting for a Republican candidate when most voters go to the polls in November? Since the adoption of Proposition 14 Republican strength in the legislature has dropped.

Many of the backers of the “top two”

were convinced it would result in the election of more “moderate” Democrats.

Do you see any “moderation” by the Democrats in Sacramento?

With Proposition 14 elections, the result has been the same old union-dominated

Every voter in California should have the choice of voting for a Republican each November, for every state and federal office. Every politically engaged Republican should support efforts to repeal this failed system and restore meaningful choice in California elections.

agenda of higher taxes for everyone, cap and trade, worsening regulations, more money wasted on high speed rail, and the list goes on. Meanwhile, our party has been left too often with no candidates – no representatives of our party – on the ballots for millions of voters. The solution to Proposition 14 is simple: Every recognized party in California should have the ability to place before voters a nominee for every state and federal office in the November election. To do this, Proposition 14 should be repealed and replaced with a system that gives every voter the choice of casting a ballot for the nominee of any California recognized political party – nominees chosen by voters in the primary election.

California Republican Party delegates rightly and overwhelmingly voted to oppose Proposition 14 when it appeared on the ballot, and it’s clear that opposition remains firm. Every voter in California should have the choice of voting for a Republican each November, for every state and federal office. Every politically engaged Republican should support efforts to repeal this failed system and restore meaningful choice in California elections.

Ron Nehring served as Chairman of the California Republican Party from 2007 to 2011 and was the Republican nominee for Lt. Governor of California in 2014.

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

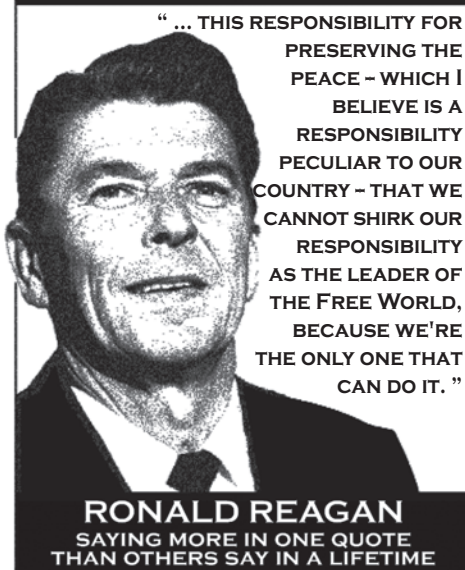
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WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



When my mother passed away I didn't think I would ever stop crying. My world just crumbled and everything seemed so dark. It was as though I forgot what laughter sounded like and my face had forgotten how to smile. I foolishly thought the pain and feelings of loss would lessen over time and living without her would get easier. It hasn't. Wiser people than I have warned me that it doesn't really get easier, you just learn how to deal with it; they were right. The pain hasn't lessened, I've just gotten better at living with it. The hole in my heart hasn't healed, it just beats anyway. I don't miss her

ended up face down on the asphalt with my dress over my head, I would have given anything to call and tell her about that. She would have laughed. Well, first she would have demanded I go straight to the hospital for a CAT scan and a complete physical because she was dramatic like that, but

Losing your mother is one of the most heart-wrenching things a person can go through. It's more than just losing a piece of your heart and soul; you are losing part of your very identity ... For those of you who are still lucky enough to have your mothers here on earth, cherish the time you have because, as I can attest, it's never, ever enough.

less, I've just learned to get through most days without tears. This is a harsh, unfortunate truth that I wasn't ready to learn. As the first year since my mother's passing came and went I've been reflecting on what living without her has meant for me. Mostly it's been lonely. She

was truly my best friend. I felt like I could talk to her about anything and everything, and I did. She and I spoke every day. I knew I would miss that, of course, but you don't really know how important something like chatting with your mother about nonsense is to you until it's gone. I called her about every little thing, like I needed to narrate my life to her. When that instinct to call her and share my day kicks in, and it kicks in all the time, it's like a searing hot blade is piercing my heart all over again.

Like when I tripped and fell in the parking lot at work and

once I assured her I was mortified but physically fine she would have laughed and called me her favorite little klutz. I suppose she was laughing in Heaven.

I wanted so badly to tell her about the caregiver who strolled into my office and demanded a letter from me explaining that he only

failed his drug test because his client used medical marijuana around him. She would have cracked up as I recounted the details of our interaction, and half-heartedly scolded me for my sharp tongue and cold, dry wit. I suppose she got to see the whole thing firsthand and if there is popcorn in Heaven, she was munching on it and enjoying the show.

When the Executive Director of my division called me into her office and told me she was promoting me, the first thing I did when I got back to

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

my desk was pick up the phone to call my mom. I had nearly dialed her entire number before I remembered she couldn't answer. It put a damper on the moment but I know she would have gushed and told me how proud she was of me. She would have immediately called and told anyone willing to listen to her that her daughter was such a hard-working and dedicated genius. Sometimes I think her favorite hobby was bragging about me. I imagine her friends were quite tired of dealing with that over the last 30 years. I suppose she's bragging about me to Jesus now.

Even when I got into a car accident last week, my first instinct was to call and tell my mom. I wanted her to be the one to come get me and take care of me. I would have given anything to see her drive up at that moment. She would have scolded me for the accident then doted on me until she was sure I wasn't suffering from whiplash or some other type of injury. She

may not have been the one to come and rescue me, but to this moment I am utterly convinced she was the Guardian Angel that kept me safe.

Losing your mother is one of the most heart-wrenching things a person can go through. It's more than just losing a piece of your heart and soul; you are losing part of your very identity. This is especially true if you are lucky enough to have a mother as kind-hearted, selfless and wonderful as mine. I don't know how time will continue to shape the loss, but I do know that on some strange level I am grateful for the pain because it reminds me of how much she meant to me. It wouldn't be so hard if I didn't love her so much.

So, for everyone out there who has lost your mom, this is for you. Keep her in your heart and accept the pain as evidence of the great and powerful love that a mother gifts us. For those of you who are still lucky enough to have your mothers here on earth, cherish the time you have because, as I can attest, it's never, ever enough.

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Mama's Vegetables

The other day I was feeling nostalgic and was going through my Mom's recipe cards. When I got to the group on "vegetables," I thought of all the gardens that have been in my life. The acre or so they had out on the farm, the Victory Gardens in San Francisco and the mini "truck farm" she had in Chowchilla. I realize today we couldn't have these gardens because of the water situation. Here where I live I have plenty of room in back for a row of green beans, zucchini, tomatoes, okra and maybe an eggplant – but I'm not allowed to. I can have a tomato plant or cucumber plant in a

pot if I want to, but can only water them on our two watering days a week. Our precious water is flowing down the river to the ocean rather than going to the farmers and city folks where it is needed. I'll stop

there; I don't want this to turn into a political article. I'm sure most of you know what I mean anyway.

There was always an overabundance of vegetables. What wasn't eaten for dinner or canned or frozen for the coming winter was given away. Nothing was thrown away unless it just couldn't be used. My Mom was real particular about when the vegetables were ready to be picked, in particular the zucchini. She didn't want them to get too big. However once in a while one would be unnoticed under some leaves and get big. When this would happen, even then there was usually a use for it.

Zucchini Stuffed with Rice

- 1 Large zucchini
- 1 can (1 lb.) whole tomatoes
- 2 C cooked rice
- 1 T butter
- 2 T oil
- ½ C. chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic – crushed
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- Preheat oven to 350

Wash the zucchini good and cut off the stem and the blossom ends.



Cut in half lengthwise and using a spoon scoop out and discard the seeds. Set the zucchini shells aside.

Drain tomatoes, reserving the liquid. Add water to make one cup. In a small sauce pan combine tomato liquid, cooked rice and butter. Bring to a boil and lower heat to a simmer and cook covered for 5 minutes. Set aside.

In medium skillet heat oil. Sauté onion and garlic until golden

There was always an overabundance of vegetables. What wasn't eaten for dinner or canned or frozen for the coming winter was given away. Nothing was thrown away unless it just couldn't be used.

- about 5 minutes. Add reserved tomatoes, mashing with a fork. Add rice mixture, salt and pepper. Stir over medium heat until heated through, usually takes about 5 minutes.

Dividing equally, fill zucchini shells with the mixture.

Arrange filled zucchini in bottom of 13x9 baking pan. Pour ½ cup water in bottom of pan. Cover tightly with foil. Bake for about one hour or until zucchini is tender.

I can remember sometime my mom would double this recipe and brown a pound or two of hamburger and add it to the rice mixture before stuffing the zucchini and make this a main dish with something else from the garden, probably green beans as a side dish.

She always had eggplants in her gardens. Most of the time she would slice them and fry with a batter. But once in a while she would make a main dish

Eggplant Parmesan

- Preheat oven 350
- Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 egg – beaten
- 1 medium eggplant
- Salt & pepper
- Spaghetti Sauce – either homemade or a good bottled sauce
- 1 C shredded mozzarella cheese

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Grated parmesan cheese
Place bread crumbs in shallow plate (pie plate works best) and place beaten egg in another shallow plate.
Cut eggplant into ½ inch rounds.

Salt and pepper to taste. Dip each slice in egg then in bread crumbs. Place in bottom of baking dish. Bake 15 – 20 minutes until not quite done. Remove from oven and spoon sauce over top of eggplant. Top with cheeses and return to oven. Bake

until bubbly and cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Mama always had a row of bell peppers. Our family loved stuffed bell peppers. I think they were my brother Lloyd's favorite vegetable. He would go out to the garden and

eat them raw right off the plant. I remember one time the peppers were just getting ready to pick when he went out and ate two or three. Mama went out later to pick enough for dinner and there weren't enough for her dish. She was a little upset with Lloyd for ruining her plans for dinner – after all she had seven people to feed.

Stuffed Bell Peppers

Preheat oven to 350

2 lb. hamburger

1 onion – chopped

Salt and pepper

2 cans chopped tomatoes

¼ to ½ tsp. sugar

1 cup whole kernel corn

3 or 4 slices bread

6 or 8 bell peppers

Cut tops off peppers, then cut peppers in half, lengthways. Clean out seeds and membrane. Put in pan of salted boiling water and parboil until not quite done. Remove from water and place in bottom of a 13x9 baking dish, cut side up. Set aside.

With a little oil in the bottom of large pot cook onions until they begin to soften, add hamburger, breaking up as it cooks. Season with salt and pepper. After meat has cooked, with a spoon or paper towel remove as much fat from bottom of pot as possible.

Add the canned tomatoes – do not drain. Add a little sugar to cut the acid of the tomatoes. Let simmer until tomato juice is about half cooked out. Add the corn. Break bread up only a couple of slices at a time, stirring it into hamburger tomato mix until juice is absorbed. Pour mix into baking pan on top of prepared bell peppers. Bake until bubbly, about 30 minutes.

My mom didn't stuff individual peppers because she said it was easier to serve like a casserole.

Dear Readers: Thank you for bearing with me this month. I had laser surgery on both eyes last week. My eyes still burn but I was determined to write this. I could have had Randy do a repeat of an old article, but I hate that – those are only for emergencies. Thanks for all the prayers – I know they are helping me heal.

A reminder for all Ranchos residents: Madera County Health Dept. will be giving flu shots again this year. At Liberty High School – Drive Through! Thursday, Oct. 5 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. There's a \$5 charge for each shot.



MADERA COUNTY STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN CALL FOR PROJECTS!

The Madera County Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is a first of its kind watershed based storm water plan that will establish an integrated, holistic, and coordinated storm water runoff management strategy for the entire County. Development of the SWRP is grant-funded and being led by the County of Madera in coordination with a Technical Advisory Committee, Stakeholder Group, and community members.

Visit:
www.maderacountywater.com
to learn about the SWRP
and

let us know your project ideas!

Complete a project solicitation form by Sept. 30, 2017

PROJECTS IN THE SWRP WILL *be prioritized based on a common set of criteria and will* BE ELIGIBLE FOR BOND MONIES, SUCH AS FROM PROP. 1 STARTING IN SPRING 2018

- » **PROJECT LOCATION.** The project must be located in Madera County to be considered for inclusion in the Madera SWRP.
- » **FUNDING SOURCES:** In addition to Proposition 1 grant funds, projects included in the SWRP will be eligible for other grant monies, such as from the Department of Water Resources and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- » **TIMELINE FOR SWRP COMPLETION:**
 - » **July - Sep. 2017: Call for Projects!** Send us your completed forms this summer, until Sept. 15.
 - » **August - September 2017:** New Project Concept Development & Project Prioritization.
 - » **October 2017: Draft SWRP** ready for public review and comment.
 - » **November 2017: Public Meeting**
 - » **December 2017:** Final SWRP

Please direct any questions & send a completed project solicitation form to **Dario Dominguez** at **dario.dominguez@co.madera.ca.gov** by **Sept. 30, 2017**



By Brenda McElroy

Ready or Not

"I never thought it would happen to me." This was the sentiment heard over and over as first responders and volunteers rescued victims of Hurricane Harvey by boat and air. Within two weeks Hurricane Irma bore down on Floridians forcing them to flee to safety.

The definition of disaster is a sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage. Today's technology enables warnings to be broadcast for many weather-related disasters, but not all disasters are that predictable. Even more reason to be prepared.

September is National Preparedness Month. In general, our society is good at preparing for things. We prepare for weddings, vacations, back to school, having babies and Christmas. But when it comes to "what ifs," we'd often rather live in the "it's not going to happen to me" mode.

On the evening of Jan. 17, 1983 my husband and I returned home to a flood of water covering Avenue 12. Across the empty lots, we could see our home on Sparta Avenue. The porch light reflected on the water all the way to our front door. We're so thankful for friends and family who had already sandbagged and kept some strangers from "rescuing our furniture" while we were away. For many with lower lots, the sandbags weren't enough. Fortunately, in the 34 years since then, those flood-like waters have not returned.

With our years of drought, Californians tend to think more of potential fires and earthquakes. Since 9/11, we're also more aware of potential man-made emergencies. These could shut down services over a broad spectrum.

If you're ready to pull your head out of the sand for a moment, here are some tips to help you be fire and emergency prepared.

While our mountain friends are more susceptible to massive fires, no home is immune. According to the National Fire Protection Association 2017 Fact Sheet, almost all U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, but three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or none that worked. If you're in an

older home, like ours, update your smoke alarm system with dual sensor alarms in each room. Consider adding sprinklers which have decreased the fire death rate per 1,000 reported home fires by about 80 percent.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires with frying foods as the major culprit. To my knowledge no one has ever gotten burned preparing a salad, and it's better for your body too — just sayin'. If you've got to have your fries, don't leave the stove unattended or let McDonald's do the cooking for you. In case of a cooking oil fire, cover with a metal lid or cookie sheet to eliminate its oxygen source.

Make sure you have one or more up-to-date fire extinguishers and that everyone knows where they are and how to use them. Purchase an ABC fire extinguisher. It's effective on fires that result from a variety of causes.

Create a fire escape plan which includes how to exit the home and where to meet outside. Do a practice run with your children so they're familiar with what the alarm sounds like and how to check doors, open windows and crawl through smoke. For more helpful information on Fire Prevention and Safety visit www.ready.gov/home-fires.

An emergency situation often means not having access to important and essential items. Scan your valuable documents and records and store

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 11

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ORGANIZED cont. from P. 10

them digitally in the cloud (Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, IDrive), or on a flash or external hard drive stored off-site. This will ensure that you can access them even if you're unable to retrieve them at home. Store hard copies in a waterproof and fireproof safe or bank deposit box.

According to the www.ready.gov website, these are the basic supplies recommended for an emergency kit:

Water – one gallon per person per day for at

least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert

Flashlight and batteries

First-aid kit

Whistle to signal for help

Dust masks to help filter contaminated air, and **plastic sheeting and duct tape** to shelter-in-place

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

Manual can opener for food

Local maps

Cell phone with charger and a backup battery

Access their site for additional recommendations based on your individual needs. The American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) also has forms and information to help you design your emergency plan. Sesame Street helps take the "scare" out of preparing young children for emergency situations. Visit their website www.sesamestreet.org/

toolkits/ready for games, videos, and activity books.

No one regrets being prepared when it comes to disasters. Our thoughts and prayers continue for those whose lives have been turned upside down by the recent hurricanes.

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

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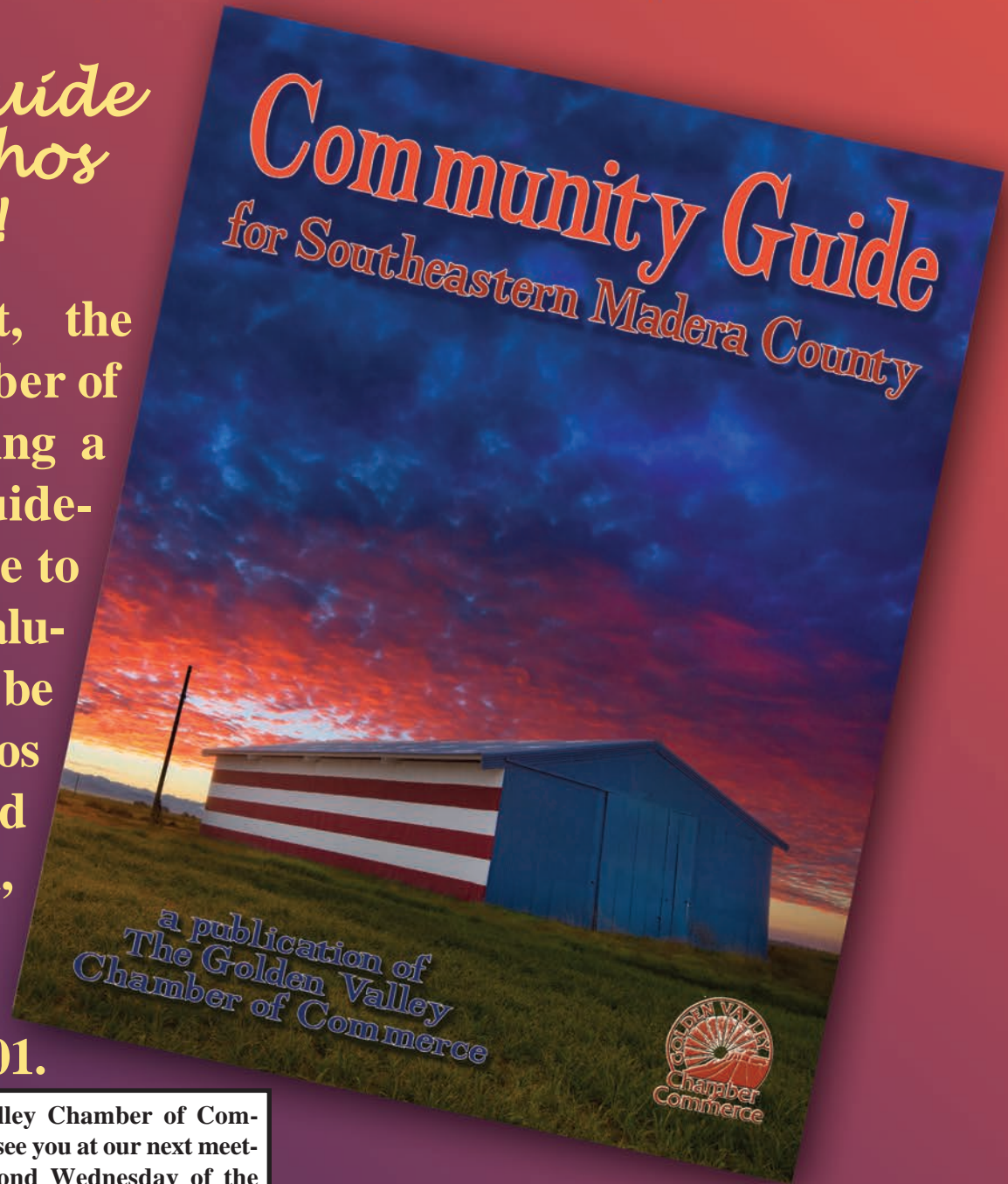
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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on October 11 and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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Senior Report

Seniors Fall into Autumn at Center

By Patti Groh

It seems as though I talk a lot about the weather, but hey, hasn't it been just beautiful? After all that over 100-degree stuff, it was a wonderful change, and I am so thankful fall is here.

Ranchos/Hills Seniors continue to enjoy their activities. The nominating committee is working hard to find willing and able members to fill the soon-to-be vacant positions in RHS leadership. There are a number of positions open and if you are willing and able, please let President Verlaine know. If you have suggestions for the nominating committee, those would also be appreciated.

The last Improvisational Workshop (the last of a series of four) will be held on Oct. 2 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. They have really been a lot of fun and hopefully more of this can be done. Let us know at the Center that you want to do it again.

The next new project going on is a "Paint Session" on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Seniors Center. Now, don't stop reading even if you're saying, "I can't paint." Fresno artist Bobby von Martin of Bloodline Studios will conduct the class. All the supplies to complete a painting, within the two hours, are provided. The subject is a lovely hibiscus flower. There is no experience needed as step by step instruction is given by Von Martin. Really fun idea, don't you think? The cost for everything is only \$35. Registration and cash payment are due at the Center no later than Oct.



Painting is in your future at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center when an instructional "Paint Session" begins Oct. 28.

20, 2017. Contact the Center at 645-4864. All adults are welcome to participate in this marvelous event.

The First Saturday Sale is Oct. 7 and will, of course, include the garden plants, the Boutique and the Bake Sale. The Treasure House is still closed for repairs. The Boutique still has some beautiful Christmas items and they are now 50 percent off. There are also some really cute Halloween decorations. Come get your goblins. We will need the donations of baked items brought in. Mmmmm! Cooler weather, a hot cup of coffee and a freshly baked goodie. And every single one was baked with love. Doesn't get any better.

Annual Halloween party will be Oct. 26, the usual potluck and game night, at 6 p.m. Costumes are encouraged and there will be prizes awarded. Games and a wicked(?) good time are planned.

Remember that tickets for the handmade quilt are available at the Seniors Center. This beautiful quilt is on display at the Center. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and the drawing will be held in December.

The monthly Ranchos/Hills Seniors Newsletter is available at the Center and also at local businesses. In it you can find all the dates and times for Seniors activities. Lunch for Seniors is served at the Center Monday through Friday. More information is available at the Center. There is also exercise class Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 10 a.m. Any questions can be answered at 645-4859.



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IN GOOD HANDS

with Warren Parr



Going HIGH Tech

Hello 93636,

The first training class this month was a "Lubricants and Filtration" class. This class was one of the most difficult and confusing automotive classes I have ever attended. The workbook is 112 pages. Many elements (like zinc) have to be removed from engine oil for emissions concerns. Also, engine oil is no longer just a lubricant. It's the hydraulic fluid for camshaft actuators, multiple displacement solenoids, fuel injectors, turbos and much more. Different engine platforms have different requirements which creates the need for some many different oil blends. Using the wrong oil is NOT an option with modern engine platforms. No more "one size fits all." American oils may not be compatible with European vehicles no matter what the label on the bottle says. At present, I stock 18 different types and weights of engine oil and 16 different types of transmission fluid. I have 24 feet of shelf space dedicated to engine oil filters, but that's no longer enough.

The second class was a "Modern Air/Fuel Management" class (fuel mileage/emissions). All automotive classes are driven by emissions regulation.

With this article, I would like to discuss some exciting new technology developed in England that greatly improves automotive diagnostic capabilities. With the Pico Pressure Transducer, we can now measure internal engine pressures or, even more importantly, changes in those pressures. I know these articles can be more technical than most of you want, but they are intended to help you ask your technician the correct questions and judge his/her answers.

Last week a new customer was referred to the shop with a very poor running 2012, 2.4L, GMC Terrain. He asked us to replace his crankshaft sensor. Of course, we recommended testing his sensor first. Since he had already paid a local dealership to diagnosis the problem he declined our recommendation. You already know replacing the crankshaft sensor had no effect on the vehicle's running condition or I wouldn't be writing about it.

We retrieved two codes from the

Powertrain Control Module, P0016 (Crankshaft position and Camshaft position implausible) and P0365 (Camshaft Position Sensor Error). Based on these two codes we surmised the camshaft and crankshaft were out of phase. The most efficient and effective diagnostic tool available for this diagnostic is a Pico Pressure Transducer. Look up "Compression Waveform WPS500X" on YouTube. The first three images are applicable to this discussion.

The modern internal combustion engine is a four-phase engine. Phase 1: The piston travels upward. Phase 2: The piston stops, reverses its direction and travels downward. Phase 3: The piston again stops, reverses its direction and travels upward again. Phase 4: Finally, the piston stops, reverses its direction and travels downward. One complete cycle consists of four 180-degree phases equaling 720 degrees of crankshaft rotation with the piston coming to a complete stop four times.

Every time the piston rises, the pressure in the cylinder rises. The highest cylinder pressure occurs when the piston reaches its maximum upward travel. Every time the piston descends, cylinder pressure decreases. The lowest cylinder pressure occurs when the piston reaches its maximum downward travel. Since the piston and crankshaft are connected, we can know the exact position of the crankshaft based on cylinder pressure changes (180, 360, 540 and 720 degrees).

The second component of our implausibility code is the camshaft. The camshaft is responsible for opening and closing the intake and exhaust valves at exact piston positions. If the phasing of the camshaft and crankshaft are correct, the camshaft will begin to open the intake valve(s) about 10 degrees before the piston starts its downward travel. When the intake valve(s) open, cylinder pressure will instantly drop to match the negative pressure in the intake manifold. If there is no decrease in cylinder pressure at 350 degrees of crankshaft rotation, the camshaft and crankshaft are not in phase.

Same thing with the exhaust valve(s). When the exhaust valve(s) open, cylinder pressure is instantly equalized to match the pressure in the exhaust manifold. If the camshaft and crankshaft are in phase, there will be a cylinder pressure increase at 130 degrees of crankshaft rotation. If not, the camshaft(s) and crankshaft are out of phase.

The timing chain or timing belt assemblies link the camshaft(s) and crank-

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

**In Memoriam
Frank Bruff**

November 7, 1941-September 4, 2017

Frank Bruff was born in Paragould, Ark. and passed into heaven in Fresno, Calif. He was 75 years old. He is survived by his wife Beverly Ferguson-Bruff of Fresno; sister Faith "Sue" Shaw and brother-in-law Ronald of Madera Ranchos; son Christopher Bruff and daughter-in-law Kimberly of Bakersfield; daughter Teri Strahan and son-in-law Wendell of Tehachapi; step-son Ray Holden and daughter-in-law Geri Ann of Tennessee; seven grandchildren: Matthew, Nathan, Cody, Jessica, Wesley, Frankie and Melissa; five step-grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a blessed man and a blessing to many.



Frank worked for Pacific Bell from the age of 18 to 48. After retiring from Pac Bell, he served as a Kern County Deputy Sheriff. Upon the loss of his first wife, he moved to Madera Ranchos and worked for Fresno County Juvenile Hall. He had many adventures over his 75 years, traveled to many places, flew his own airplane, built himself a two-story log home on top of a mountain, had a small cattle ranch, rode motorcycles with One Nation Under God Motorcycle Ministry until he was past 70 years old, and served the Lord as a Deacon in his Madera Ranchos church, Golden Valley Baptist. He will be missed by his family, church and friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Fay Elaine Bruff, his parents, Fred and Maxine Bruff, his brother Ernest David Fredrick Bruff, and his step-daughter Trisha Trimble.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Golden Valley Baptist Church, 12414 Road 37, Madera Ranchos at 11 a.m. Lunch and fellowship will follow. A graveside service is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. at Green Lawn Cemetery SW, 2739 Panama Lane, Bakersfield.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations are made to the Gideon's or to Golden Valley Baptist Church for bibles so that others might find the salvation and joy in the Lord that Frank had found.

HANDS cont. from P. 15

shaft together. When the timing chain or timing belt assemblies fail, those components become out of phase. A defective timing chain was responsible for the condition of our GMC Terrain.

Earlier this week we received a compression waveform from a partner automotive repair shop. They diagnosed their vehicle with a defective valve train. After removing the cylinder heads, roller valve lifters, rocker arms, push rods and the camshaft, they found no defects. When we looked at their waveform, cylinder pressure when the exhaust valve opened was 5 pounds per square inch (psi). Cylinder pressure should be closer to 1/4 psi. The exhaust was restricted. Likely the catalytic converter failed.

Also this week, a vehicle with lots of blue smoke (oil) coming from the tailpipe came into the shop. Again, the Pico Pressure Transducer is the best diagnostic tool for the job. This time, however, the transducer is connected to the engine's oil dipstick tube. With the dipstick removed, the tube acts like a vent for the engine crankcase. When an engine has worn pistons or piston compression rings, combustion is leaked by the rings into the crankcase creating high crankcase pres-

ures. With our vehicle, the crankcase pressures were normal (.1 -.2 psi) during all engine loads. Pistons and piston compression rings are sealing as intended. No need to rebuild or replace this engine when a new set of valve stem seals will do the job. By the way, I strongly recommend this test when buying a used car. It is a very efficient way of discerning the internal condition of the engine.

By simply threading a Pico Pressure Transducer into any spark plug hole (easiest), we are able to measure cylinder compression, exhaust back pressure, intake manifold vacuum, camshaft/crankshaft correlation and more. New school diagnostic using modern technology is far easier, faster and more accurate than diagnostics of the past. It's just science.

That's all for today. Hope this helps.

If you have any comments, suggestions about future topics or questions concerning a vehicle or the automotive industry, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com, Facebook or text to 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

Warren Parr, 2013 NAPA/ASE National Technician of the Year 2nd Runner Up

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Imagine This

By Betty Van Valkenburg

One day while mulling over our country's political problems for the umpteenth time, I imagined sitting down at my kitchen table for a casual conversation with George Washington, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump and Ronald Reagan.

"Well, George," I started, "what do you think about the state of affairs these days? Did you ever envision government intrusion in every facet of our lives?" Shaking his grey head sadly, he responded that he had warned us. "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." Not to be outdone, Ronnie reminded us of his words. "Man is not free unless government is limited. As government expands, liberty contracts." And further that, "The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help".

Yes, I agreed, shaking my own grey head, it does seem that government has become a "fearful master" on one hand, telling law-abiding citizens what to think and do and say, while on the other hand being unable or unwilling to secure our borders or keep our streets safe from violent protestors calling for the death of cops.

Bill Clinton bragged, "When I became president with a commitment to reform health care, Hillary was a natural to head the health care task force." Hillary cackled, "Remember, before they called it Obamacare, they called it Hillarycare!"

Oh yes, I thought to myself, I remember all too well. Hillarycare appeared just after Bill

took office, miraculously already written. Hillary, unelected to any office, spearheaded the "task force" in secret, and produced a bill of almost 2,000 pages just as onerous as Obamacare came to be. Fortunately, at that time conservative Republicans acted to kill the bill. Unfortunately today, even though Republicans control every branch of government, they won't repeal Obamacare as they have promised over and over and over again.

Just then, Maxine, my favorite gruff-talking cartoon character sat down and rasped, "How's this for a political platform? Don't lie through your teeth!" (I just love Maxine.)

To make her point, Maxine reminded Bill and Hillary that before they were against bold steps to stop illegal immigration, they were for them. She quoted Bill from 1995. "It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years and we must do more to stop it." Then she remembered Hillary's comments on the radio in 2003. "I am, you know, adamantly against illegal immigrants ... certainly we've got to do more at our borders." To be fair, Maxine said she was sure that Hillary had misspoken and was against illegal immigration and not immigrants themselves. (Maxine may not be polite but she is usually fair.)

I asked my imaginary guests to come back soon to continue our conversation and they all nodded their heads and rose to depart. "Remember," Ronnie said, "there are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect." (I just love Reagan.) Donald nodded his orange head and agreed. "You have to think anyway, so why not think big?" (Sometimes I just love Donald. Other times not so much. But that's a discussion for next time.)

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com for more information.

ANSWERS

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6	1	2	3	5	7	8	4	9
8	5	3	9	4	2	7	6	1
4	6	8	1	3	9	5	2	7
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New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. Call **559-970-4476.**

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Misc. furniture for sale. Excellent condition. Call for information. **Ruth 559-645-5807 or Cathryn 559-645-4332.**

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Funds support Ranchos community organizations and schools.

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Oct. 7th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., come check it out! Glass cabinets, Avon, lots of misc. items. **14922 Road 35 1/2.**

Moving/Yard Sale. Saturday, Oct. 7. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tools, Christmas decorations and household items. **14863 Road 35.**

top ten

Most Common GMO* Foods

1. Soy
2. Corn
3. Canola oil
4. Cotton (oil)
5. Milk
6. Sugar
7. Aspartame
8. Zucchini
9. Yellow Squash
10. Papaya

*genetically modified organisms
Source: eatdrinkbetter.com

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The Ranchos Independent classified rates are crazy cheap

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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.

	+		×		26
÷		+		×	
	-		×		16
×		+		+	
	-		×		25
21		7			21

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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SEMUCU speaks

By Anthony R. Forestiere

My name is Anthony R. Forestiere and I am the new Grant Writer for SEMCU. I lived in Madera Ranchos from 1983 through 2001 and then moved to Clovis. In 2015, I moved back to the Ranchos and have decided this will be my last move, so I am here to stay.

My education and experience includes being a Certified Public Accountant for over 30 years, holding a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting and have a wide variety of experience, including healthcare, construction, tribal gaming, real estate development, teaching, higher education and agriculture. With my many years of experience in the work force in many different industries, this experience provides me a perspective that most people don't have and will be extremely beneficial as a grant writer for SEMCU.

I have recently taken a grant writing certificate course through Fresno State that has enabled me to hit the ground running as I write future grants for SEMCU. As I completed the course and obtained my certificate of successful completion, SEMCU has graciously reimbursed me the cost of the course (\$350) which is a benefit offered to all Madera County residences wishing to further their education. All you need to do is sign up for the course, earn your certificate of completion and turn in a copy of your certificate along with a receipt of payment for the course and you will be reimbursed by SEMCU for the cost.

The course was valuable in the sense that it made it clear that in order for a grant to be awarded to any organization you need to do a few things that seem very logical. One, answer all questions asked in the grant proposal. Two, breakdown the grant request based upon the amount of points assigned to each question asked. Third, the time it takes to respond to a grant request is significant and most responses are required to be com-

pleted within 60 days of the grant request being published.

SEMUCU currently has two grants that support water conservation. One grant is for replacing current shower heads and faucets with low-flow water-efficient shower heads and faucets and the other grant is for replacing washing machines with high efficiency, low-water use machines. Both grants are available for qualified residents in Southeast Madera County and are available by completing and submitting an application for each type of grant by going to SEMCU.org or filling out the form at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C in the Maywood Center. The low-flow shower head and faucet grants pays for the labor to change the shower heads and faucets as well as the cost for the fixtures. The high efficiency low-water usage clothes wash-

As I become more familiar with SEMCU's past grant applications and learn about new ones I hope to continue the success SEMCU had in working with and for the community. I am looking forward to serving SEMCU and the Community to the best of my ability; the Ranchos is my back yard too.

ing machine grant is a reimbursement grant for up to \$350 per household for the purchase of a Star Energy Rated clothes washing machine. In addition, there is a full reimbursement for installing a new qualified water meter to a private well which is approved by the county. For now, there are a limited number of such water meter allocations and the reimbursement for them will be on a first-come basis.


Please take advantage of these two grants while the money is still available and help reduce water usage for the Community.

SEMUCU is looking to the community for any suggestions for potential water-related projects that may qualify for grant funding. The deadline for submitting potential projects is September 30, 2017 so please send your project ideas to me at AForestiere@gmail.com with "Potential Project" in the subject line on or before September 30.

As I become more familiar with SEMCU's past grant applications and learn about new ones I hope to continue the success SEMCU had in working with and for the community. I am looking forward to serving SEMCU and the Community to the best of my ability; the Ranchos is my back yard too.

Anthony R. Forestiere, CPA
SEMUCU Grant Writer

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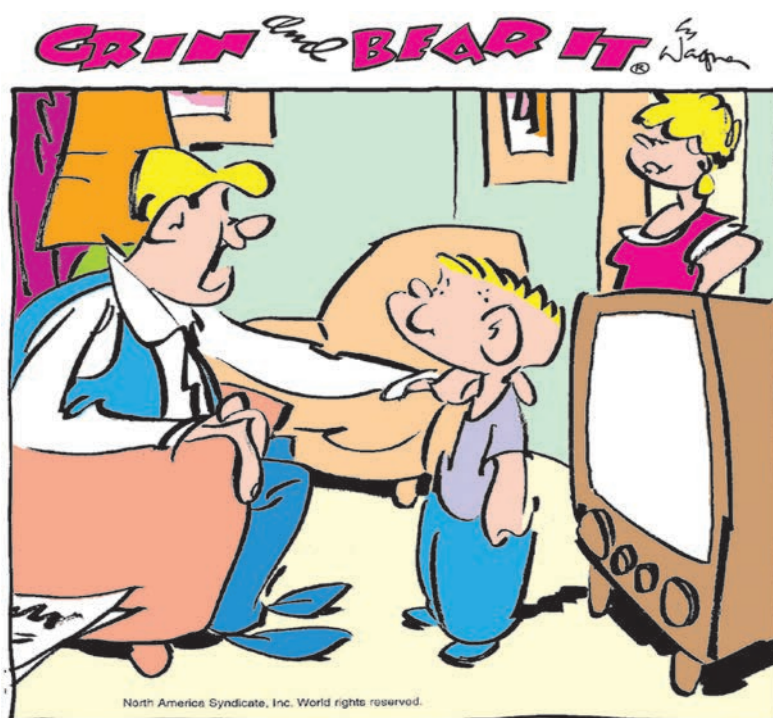
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



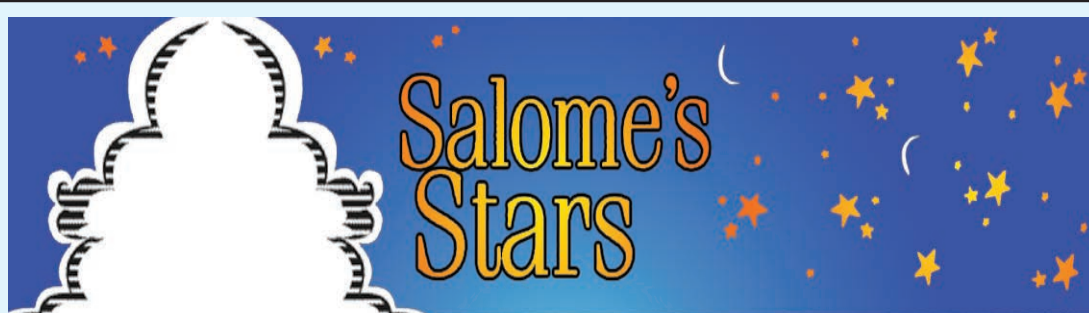
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your ideas earn you the respect of your colleagues. But you'll have to present some hard facts and figures if you hope to persuade those who make the big decisions to support you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Keep those bright Bull's eyes focused on the project at hand. Avoid distractions. There'll be lots of time for fun and games later. Expect to get welcome news this weekend.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You soon might have to decide about moving a relationship from its current status to another level. Don't let anyone influence your decision. It must be yours and yours alone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You finally can get off that emotional roller coaster and get back to focusing on your goals without interruptions through the rest of the week. A nice change is due by the weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Trying to make an impression on some people runs into a bit of a snag at first, but it all works out. An old and almost forgotten personal matter once again needs attention.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A rise in your energy level helps you finish an especially demanding task. Take some time now to spend with family and friends before starting a new project.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is a good time to re-establish contact with trusted former associates who might be able to offer good advice regarding that career change you've been contemplating.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your resourcefulness combined with a calm, cool approach help you work your way out of a knotty situation and avoid a potentially serious misunderstanding.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A calm, quiet period allows you to recharge your energies. But you'll soon be ready to saddle up and gallop off in pursuit of your goals.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family matters need your attention. Check things out carefully. There still might be unresolved tensions that could hinder your efforts to repair damaged relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It's a good time to take a stand and show as much passion on your own behalf as you do when arguing for the rights of others. You might be happily surprised by the reaction.

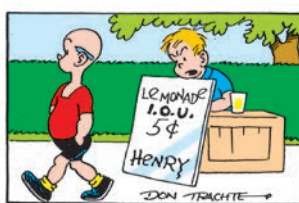
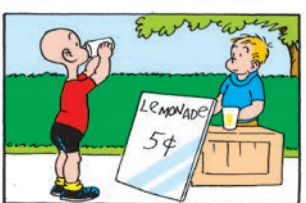
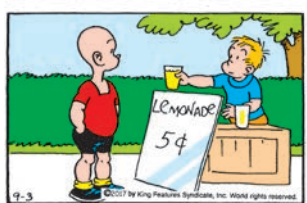
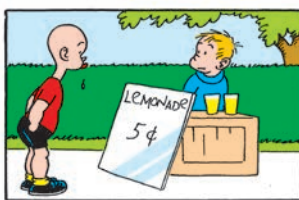
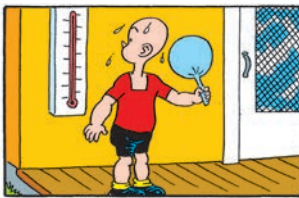
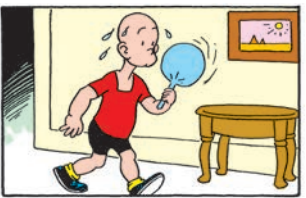
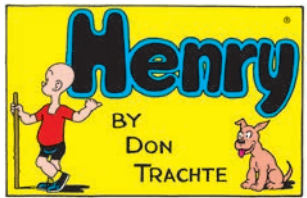
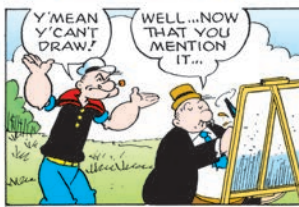
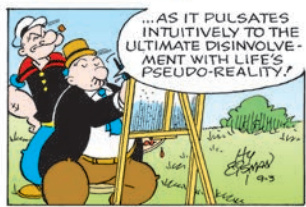
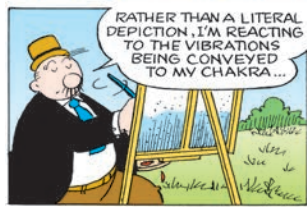
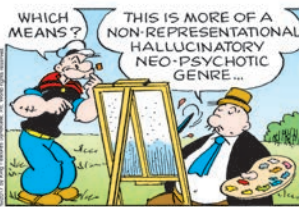
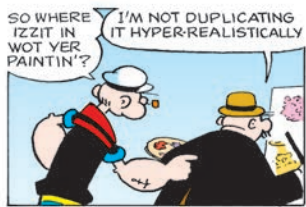
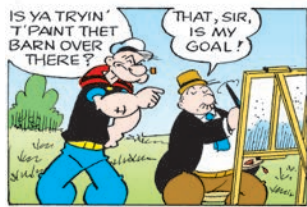
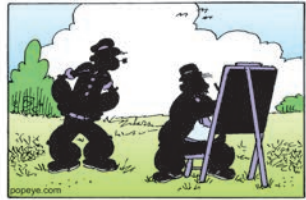
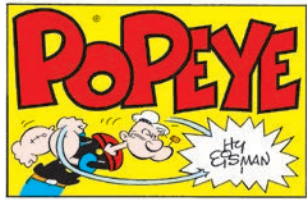
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You bring sense and sensitivity to a confusing situation. Things soon settle down, leaving you free to enjoy a weekend of fun and relaxation with friends and family.

Born this Week

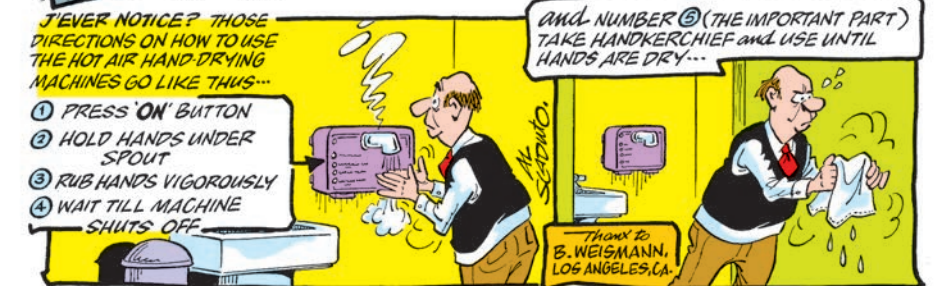
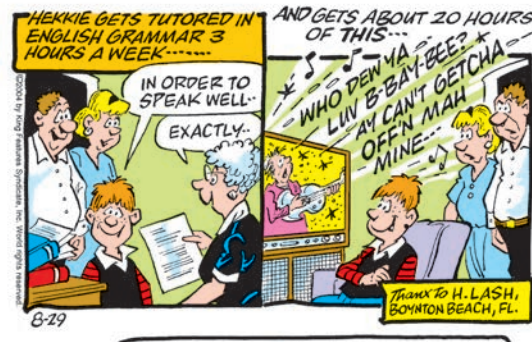
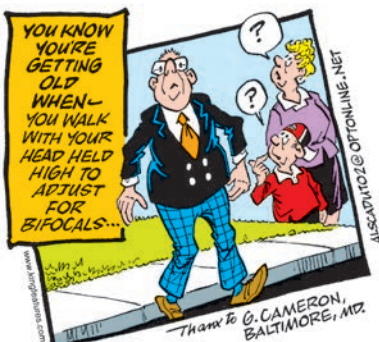
You have a talent for being able to perceive possibilities where others see only problems.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



ARE YOU A SHOE-IN TO SOLVE THIS ONE? Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the 'S' in the left-hand rail. Snake while the iron is hot.

A SENSITIVE STUMPER! Replace the letters on our sun worshiper's chest with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest total possible.

PUZZLES IN PARADISE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

- 1. A military base.
- 2. A sudden attack
- 3. A tasty food store.
- 4. Great Dutch cheese.
- 1. Beats out another.
- 2. What the desert is.
- 3. Gave false testimony.
- 4. Produced by constructing.

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

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 • FRENCH CHEESES

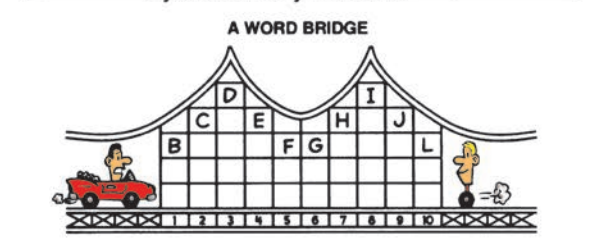
M	N	K	I	F	T	R	O	F	E	U	Q	O	R	D
A	X	V	T	Q	O	G	R	U	Y	E	R	E	E	M
J	H	F	C	A	Y	N	W	U	R	P	T	T	I	N
L	J	H	F	D	B	Z	I	X	V	S	T	R	B	R
Q	O	M	K	I	H	S	F	T	N	S	D	O	R	U
B	C	C	H	E	V	R	E	U	O	E	U	F	O	O
Z	Y	O	(C	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	T	U	M	C
W	V	T	M	R	Q	L	O	N	S	G	V	A	L	E
K	I	L	A	T	N	A	C	I	H	N	F	E	D	B
C	A	Z	X	W	E	S	N	O	N	A	B	B	H	A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

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

Banon	Camembert	Comté	Morbier
Beaufort	Cantal	Gruyère	Munster
Boursin	Chèvre	Langres	Salers
Cabecou	Chevroilin	Livarot	

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Junior Whirl



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. Sleeps in the daytime.
2. To persuade by pleading.
3. Beverage for a nervous person.
4. End-of-term ordeal.
5. A wind mover.
6. Slang for sailor.
7. To pay attention to.
8. Extremely angry.
9. Triangular sails.
10. Smoked salmon.

Answers: 1. Bar; 2. Coax; 3. Decal; 4. Exam; 5. Fan; 6. Gob; 7. Head; 8. Irrate; 9. Jibe; 10. Lox.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

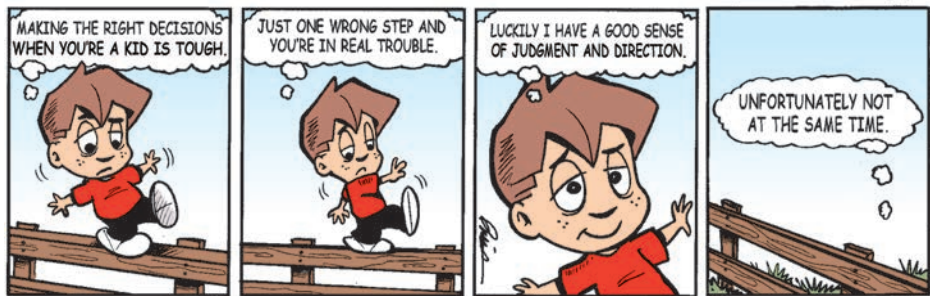
1. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "status quo"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is a cenotaph?
3. MOVIES: What college did the characters in "The Big Chill" attend?
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are partly or wholly north of Canada's southernmost point?
5. GAMES: What color is the No. 5 ball in billiards?
6. GEOMETRY: How many faces does a tetrahedron have?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which first lady wrote a daily newspaper column titled "My Day"?
8. RELIGION: When was the King James Bible completed?
9. ART: What country was artist Joan Miro from?
10. U.S. STATES: What is Mississippi's official state tree?

- ### Answers
1. The existing state of affairs
 2. An empty tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person or group whose remains are elsewhere.
 3. University of Michigan
 4. 27
 5. Orange
 6. Four
 7. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of Franklin D.
 8. 1611
 9. Spain
 10. Southern Magnolia

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



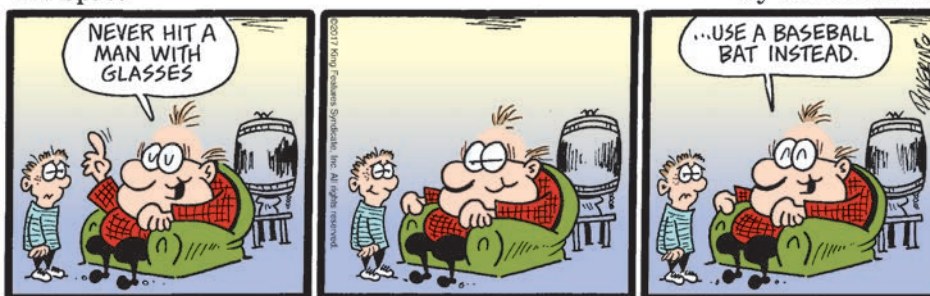
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

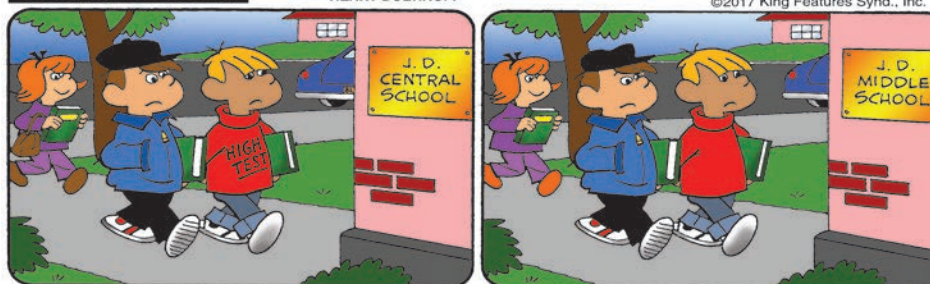
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

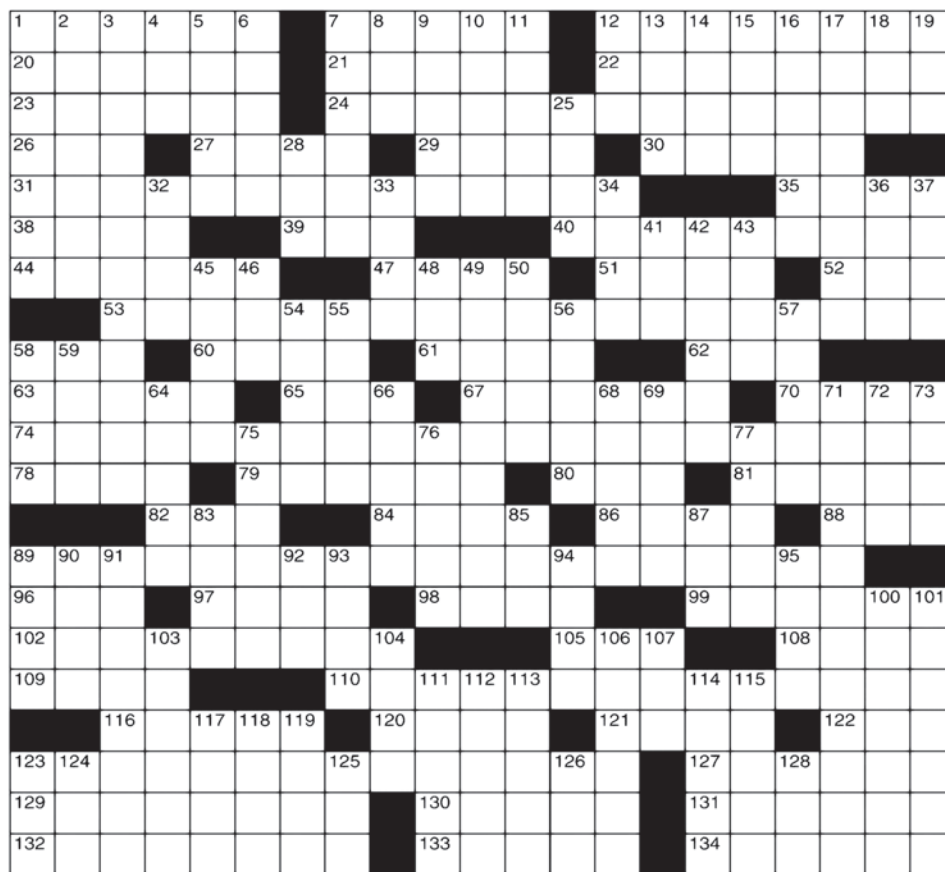
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Purple is missing. 2. Cap is missing. 3. Sweater words are missing. 4. Book is moved. 5. Car is moved. 6. School name is different. 7. School name is missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Went by ship
 - 7 Old TWA rival
 - 12 Exit doors, e.g.
 - 20 Not certain
 - 21 Top-drawer
 - 22 Feeling like suede, say
 - 23 Actor Freeman
 - 24 Start of a riddle
 - 26 — snail's pace
 - 27 Layer
 - 29 Behavioral quirks
 - 30 Eat soup undaintly
 - 31 Riddle, part 2
 - 35 Short swims
 - 38 Lean (on)
 - 39 Horse cousin
 - 40 Parked oneself
 - 44 British noble, in brief
 - 47 Mountain in Thessaly
 - 51 Cost to get out of jail
 - 52 Pro at W-2s
 - 53 Riddle, part 3
 - 58 Open field
 - 60 Actor Sean
 - 61 — Grey tea
 - 62 Curly's friend
 - 63 "For — Know" (1971 hit song)
 - 65 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
 - 67 Rent splitter, often
 - 70 Not only that
 - 74 Riddle, part 4
 - 78 "Anti-art" art
 - 79 New York governor
 - 80 Beauty spot?
 - 81 City in Japan
 - 82 Pull hard
 - 84 Camelot wife
 - 86 Grandson of Eve
 - 88 Diesel of film
 - 89 End of the riddle
 - 96 Balladeer Janis
 - 97 Oahu shindig
 - 98 Relative of "psst"
 - 99 Polish port on the Baltic
 - 102 It's currently newsworthy
 - 105 Flight takeoff abbr.
 - 108 Be like a sot
 - 109 Tex-Mex staple
 - 110 Start of the riddle's answer
 - 116 Set of beliefs
 - 120 Mixed bag
 - 121 Painter Nolde
 - 122 Kylo — ("Star Wars: The Force Awakens" character)
 - 123 End of the riddle's answer
 - 127 Singer Siewi
 - 129 In a tomb
 - 130 Garlic mayonnaise
 - 131 Las —, New Mexico
 - 132 Unrivaled
 - 133 Pulls hard
 - 134 Optimally
 - 11 "Thank you, Yves!"
 - 12 Manning of the gridiron
 - 13 Precious stones
 - 14 Stair user's aid
 - 15 "And you," to Caesar
 - 16 Pot bits
 - 17 Stage scenery item
 - 18 Up 'til
 - 19 Barrett of rock
 - 25 "It — fair!"
 - 28 Clean air org.
 - 32 Bladderlike sac
 - 33 Beginning on
 - 34 Mongolian desert
 - 36 Dad
 - 37 See 124-Down
 - 41 Rower's tool
 - 42 Destiny
 - 43 Choir woman
 - 45 Melville novel
 - 46 Corrida cry
 - 48 Holy Mlle.
 - 49 Give some of yours to
 - 50 1974 and '75 World Hockey Association winners
 - 54 2002 scandal company
 - 55 Ceaselessly
 - 56 Big failures
 - 57 Irish poet
 - 58 Sgt. Friday's force
 - 59 Fitzgerald of jazz fame
 - 64 Marshal Earp
 - 66 Up — (stumped)
 - 69 Qom resident
 - 71 Remove any potential evidence
 - 72 Pen name of H.H. Munro
 - 73 Where Muscat is
 - 75 Spicy stew dye
 - 77 "Such a pity"
 - 83 The NCAA's Bruins
 - 85 '50s prez
 - 87 Texter's "Yikes!"
 - 89 Olympic figure skater Katarina
 - 90 "Funny one!"
 - 91 Entertaining little tale
 - 92 Innuendo queen West
 - 93 Need to
 - 94 "— Him on a Sunday"
 - 95 Perry of pop
 - 100 Round solids
 - 101 Most acute
 - 103 Observer
 - 104 "— shalt not ..."
 - 106 Grad-school proposal
 - 107 Like Obama: Abbr.
 - 111 Revlon brand
 - 112 Bone of the shin
 - 113 Wise, skillful lawgiver
 - 114 Neopagan religion
 - 115 Observant
 - 117 Young lady
 - 118 Nothing but
 - 119 Quite a while
 - 123 Shred
 - 124 With
 - 37-Down, very poor rating
 - 125 Sts.
 - 126 Moose's cousin
 - 128 Fill in (for)
- DOWN**
- 1 Neighbor of Java
 - 2 One more of the same
 - 3 Dish of finely diced vegetables
 - 4 Pull along
 - 5 Muse with a lyre
 - 6 Jeans fabric
 - 7 13-Down of June
 - 8 Sitcom alien
 - 9 Mob boss Frank
 - 10 Didn't dine out

FUN PAGES

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SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

NEW State Grant Awarded

to residents of South East Madera County

UP TO **\$350*** REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH
Washing Machine certified as:
“Energy Star Qualified”

Sign up** list for those interested in more information:

1. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos, CA 93636

2. Email: info@semcu.com heading “Washer Grant Interest”

IN ADDITION

FREE Low Flow equipment
is **STILL** available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

**Grant monies are awarded to SEMCU, by the Department of Water Resources, (DWR), to help our community members within the 93636 zip code better manage and conserve our water resources.
(Estimated reimbursement amount based on participation)*

For more information Email: info@semcu.com or Call: (559) 363-9095
SEM CU meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at The Pizza Factory

By the Community, For the Community!!!

****As soon as details are approved with the State we will follow up with those on the lists.**