

The Ranchos Independent



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A Four-Year Journey



Harrison Caetano's Eagle Scout project consumes a quarter of his life but leaves a legacy

by Christi McKinney

Photo courtesy of Christi McKinney

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The stately sign built of steel and stacked stone that greets travelers entering the Ranchos on Avenue 12 travelling westbound from Highway 41 wasn't always there. And it wasn't the idea of multiple civic groups or County government or a wealthy industrialist.

It was the idea of a 13-year-old boy who spent the next four years of his life seeing it come to fruition.

At the age of 13, Harrison Caetano was looking for an Eagle Scout project that would benefit the whole Ranchos community. That was when he struck upon the idea of a "Welcome to the Ranchos" sign and elected to take on the challenge of getting one built.

"My original vision was to have two signs, one greeting travelers on Avenue 12 travelling east and another for travelers coming through town travelling west," Caetano said.

Caetano knew this project would take a lot of work and a lot of time, but he never dreamed the process would take four years to complete. He is now 18 and preparing to head off to college and he credits the project with teaching him many life lessons, beginning with patience.

Caetano grew up in the Ranchos and joined the scouting program as a Cub Scout in first grade. When he advanced to the level of Eagle Scout, he was very fortunate to find a mentor early on in the process in local resident and Golden Valley Unified School District Trustee, Mona Diaz. Caetano credits Diaz with helping him both with the initial idea and with guiding him through the entire process, step by step.

Once he had the vision of what he wanted to do, Caetano met with the Golden

Valley Chamber of Commerce in the Ranchos to present his idea and see if there was a true interest. When the Chamber members were not only interested but actually excited about the project, he knew he was onto something. Working with Diaz, they put together a plan to get the structure built. Property owner Brock Moore readily donated the use of his land just east of the Ranchos for the future landmark, however Caetano had difficulty finding land to place a sign coming eastbound into the Ranchos on Avenue 12.

Architect Richard Hallert generously donated his time to help Caetano bring his vision to life and plans were developed and submitted to the County for approval. To say there were minor roadblocks here and there was an understatement.

"The Madera County planning commission was the most frustrating step. It took eight months for them to approve the project," Caetano said. "It was frustrating not being able to work at my own pace and not seeing any progress while we waited for the planning commission."

While waiting, Caetano made it his mission to meet with local service organizations including the Kiwanis Club, the Golden Valley Unified School Board and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors to explain what he was doing and to try to get them on board with adding their names or logos to the sign once it was completed.

"I learned something new in every step of this project," he said. "At first I was really uncomfortable speaking in front of groups and answering questions, but it did get easier after a while. I also learned to ask for what I needed from groups whether it was donations or help getting things done.



Just managing the project was a lesson in itself."

In the end, a beautiful sign welcoming all was erected. All of the time and labor that went into building the landmark was covered by generous donors from the Ranchos and throughout the Valley. In addition to architect Hallert, Bedrock Civil Engineering and Star Finishes were instrumental in the process, although sadly Richard Hallert passed away before the sign was completed. Caetano worked diligently to raise approximately \$3,000 from the community and from private donations to cover the materials. Caetano firmly believes that all of these lessons will benefit him in college – he's entering a Pre-Business Program at the University

of Oregon – and in the business world in the future.

"I want to thank the community for their continued support and their patience with me over the last four years in getting this built. So many people offered encouragement and help along the way," Caetano said. "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to get back to everyone. It's my hope that maybe another Eagle Scout will take what I've done and improve upon it. It would be great to see the sign lit by solar lighting. It would also be great to see that the service organizations were added to the sign." He also hopes that one day a second sign will eventually be built.

Harrison Caetano is the son of Tony and Heidi Caetano of the Madera Ranchos.

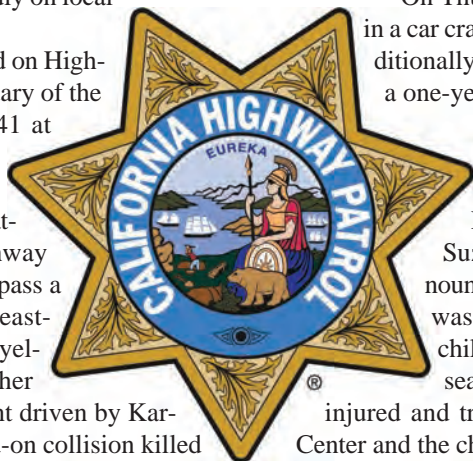
Ranchos Area Roads Turn Deadly for September

By Randy Bailey

The month of September has proved deadly on local roads around the Ranchos.

On Friday, Sept. 7 two people were killed on Highway 145 near Road 38 on the northern boundary of the Bonadelle Ranchos just west of Highway 41 at about 10:30 in the morning.

The California Highway patrol reported that a 2013 Ford Fusion driven by Sasha Watson, 27, was travelling westbound on Highway 145 just west of Highway 41 and decided to pass a car at a high rate of speed by entering the eastbound lane of Highway 145 across a double yellow line. Unfortunately, her action put her directly in the path of a 2013 Hyundai Accent driven by Karrie Lynn Peterson, 51, of Oakhurst. The head-on collision killed Peterson and Heidi Lynn Vanzeyl, 53, also of Oakhurst, who was a passenger in Watson's Ford Fusion. Two other passengers in Watson's car were taken to Community Regional Medical Center



and treated for major injuries and Watson was arrested for suspicion of driving while impaired.

On Thursday, Sept. 20 two more people were killed in a car crash on Avenue 9 near Children's Hospital. Additionally, two more were seriously injured, including a one-year-old.

Another head-on collision, an eastbound Acura Legend drifted into the westbound lane of Avenue 9 and struck a Suzuki SUV. Neither of the people sitting in the front of the Suzuki were wearing seatbelts and were pronounced dead at the scene. Their one-year-old child was seriously injured, presumably because the child was improperly strapped into a child safety seat. The driver of the Acura was also seriously injured and transported to Community Regional Medical Center and the child was taken to Valley Children's.

Additionally, the CHP reported a strong smell of marijuana coming from the Acura as well as the presence of an open container of alcohol in the car.

NO FLU SHOTS FOR RANCHOS

The Madera County Department of Public Health has decided *not* to provide flu shots to the Ranchos *this* year. Calls were put into the County but by press time they had not been returned. Historically, shots have been administered the first week of October. If the County responds, their answer will be posted on the Ranchos Independent Facebook page. Other sites in Madera County are:

Mtn. Christian Center 40299 Hwy. 49, Oakhurst October 9, 2018 9 - 11 a.m.	Chowchilla City Hall 130 S. 2nd Street, Chowchilla October 18, 2018 10 - 11:30 a.m.
North Fork Post Office 33173 Road 222, North Fork October 11, 2018 9:30 - 11 a.m.	Trinity Lutheran Health Fair 1125 N. Lake Street, Madera October 23, 2018 9 - 11:30 p.m.

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Heather

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Letters

Dear Editor:

For too long the citizens of Madera County have been short-changed in the District Attorneys' Office. The residents of Madera County deserve better. We need someone in that position that will work day in and day out for our citizens and to improve that department.

Paul Hornick is the best person for that job. When things get tough, Paul does not run from challenges, he leans into them and faces them head on.

He is endorsed by the Madera Police Officers' Association, The Madera County Prosecutors' Association, The Madera County Correctional Officers' Association and the Chowchilla City Police Officers' Association. He is an Army veteran and continues to serve our country as a Major in the JAG Reserves. He recently received the "Prosecutor of the Year" award, which is given to the prosecutor who has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance in their job duties. Why would anyone want anyone else in this position?

I urge you to reach out and discuss your own concerns with him. He is always available to meet with anyone.

If all of this isn't enough, his ethics and integrity are impeccable. I urge the citizens of Madera County to think before you vote and make the right choice for our next District Attorney and vote for Paul Hornick. A man of full-on commitment and dedication to all areas of his life.

Sincerely,
Kelly Donahue
Madera County

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the curious letter to the editor by candidate Paul Hornick the other day.

I find it interesting that candidate Hornick just woke up to legislation from Sacramento that is a constant assault to the safety of our community, including police officers. Where was he when Sacramento was proposing the elimination of bail for misdemeanors, decriminalizing drugs and letting everyone out of prison early? The job of District Attorney is to protect every citizen of Madera County including law enforcement officers and their families, who are also citizens.

I was also struck by his claim that he's been a prosecutor for 13 years. My understanding was he moved to Madera County less than three years ago. So, I looked into it and based on his information, he was also a prosecutor in Florida for just over three years so that is a total of six years of prosecutorial experience. So, no prosecutions until David Linn hired him to be his political corruption

operative in 2015?

Madera County taxpayers are now facing tens of millions of dollars in lawsuits in federal court by District Attorney David Linn, the same person who hired Paul Hornick to rid the DA's office of harassment and racism. Whether Paul Hornick is Rip Van Winkle or just more of the same, we need a DA who is engaged and concerned about all victims and will fight to protect our families.

A candidate who isn't honest about his experience and is selectively choosing his politically expedient battles from a list of bad legislation from Sacramento doesn't seem like the right choice to lead the DA's office.
Renee Young
Madera

Dear Editor:

I am a new resident to California and Madera County, having moved here from Michigan to take a great job in agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley.

I had the opportunity to meet Paul Hornick and his wife Amber on the 4th July as part of an Independence Day function held near Ahwahnee. I'd like to take this opportunity to voice my support for Paul in the election for District Attorney for Madera County.

Paul immediately strikes me as a person who is passionately committed to the values that have made this country great. While serving as Senior Deputy DA, Paul has shown his commitment to seeking justice with completion of several major criminal cases resulting in tough sentences for those found guilty.

Paul has continued this work despite the cloud that hangs over the DA's office with various allegations made against the current DA. When questioned about the current DA, the allegations and the race against Sally Orme Moreno, Paul took the high road and declined to say anything negative about the incumbent DA or his opponent, instead focusing on the issues that affect the citizens of Madera County and what he believes he can do in the role of DA.

Paul has a distinguished military service record, continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve, including his acceptance into JAG Corps, where he was recently promoted to Major.

Most importantly, Paul shows that he cares about all of Madera County. It would be easy in a campaign like this for Paul to focus on Madera and surrounds with half the County's population. However, Paul has made significant effort to also visit the communities of Oakhurst, Ahwahnee, Coarsegold, North Fork and Yosemite Lakes, among others, discussing the important issues that affect their people.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 9

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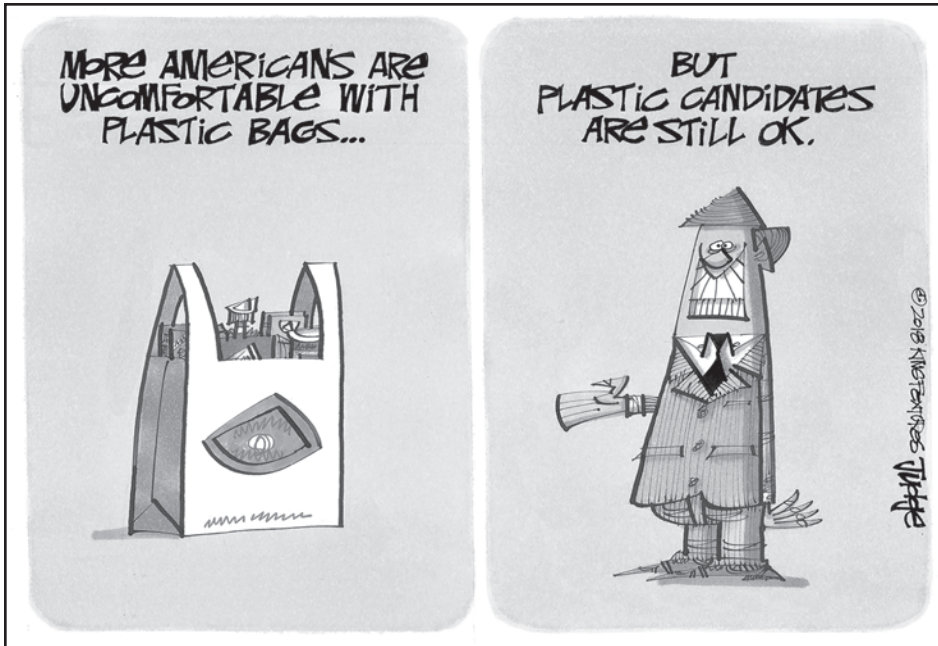
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Editorial

Guilty Until Proven Guilty

By Randy Bailey

We all know this one: “*You are innocent until proven guilty.*”

Right? We all know that one, right?

I mean, it’s the foundation of our American system of justice. If someone has a claim against you, it is *their* job to prove that claim. We, as Americans, assume a person’s innocence and therefore don’t have to *prove* that we’re innocent. YOU have to prove that we’re guilty. That’s how it works, right?

Not so fast.

Welcome to the new era of social justice warriors and antifa and #metoo. In this brave new world, the seriousness of the accusation is now adequate to accuse, try, convict, sentence and punish. Laws? *We don’t need no stinkin’ laws!*

Of course, this is all being brought to light by the latest turn in the Senate confirmation hearings of Supreme Court candidate Brett Kavanaugh. A woman, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, has made a claim that 36 years ago, when she and Kavanaugh were 15 and 17 respectively, Kavanaugh threw her on a bed in a drunken stupor at a swimming party and attempted to pull her bathing suit off of her. When a friend of Kavanaugh allegedly jumped on top of the two, Ford escaped and then harbored the incident for the next 30 years until it finally surfaced in a couples counselling session where Ford never named Kavanaugh as her attacker.

Whether or not the incident ever happened is not the point. If it did happen, he’s a terrible person and deserves to suffer the consequences. If it didn’t happen, she’s a terrible person and deserves to suffer the consequences. What the real problem here is where we’ve gotten in modern American culture that the rule of law has become totally subservient to popular feeling. How people “feel” about a situation has taken precedent over the thoughtful application of rules that have been created to make sure everyone (not just the “victim”) is treated fairly.

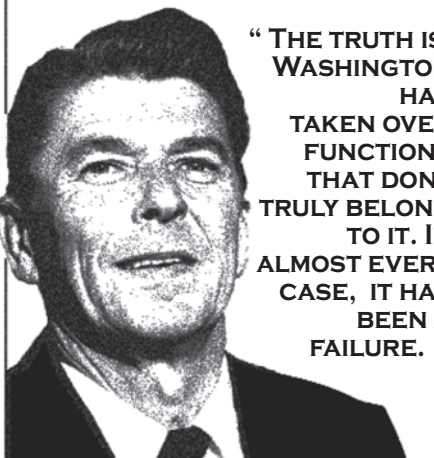
Everyone has more than likely read *To Kill a Mockingbird* in school. In that classic, during the Great Depression a black man, Tom Robinson, is wrongfully accused of raping a white woman. Even though his attorney Atticus Finch does a masterful job of presenting the facts exonerating him, the jury feels -- they *know* -- that in those times a white woman wouldn’t lie about such a thing and that a black man was more than capable of such an act. Robinson is convicted, escapes and is ultimately killed -- all while being innocent.

During the trial, Atticus Finch makes the following observation: “... there is one way in this country in which all men are created equal -- there is one human institution that makes a pauper the equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution, gentlemen, is a court. It can be the Supreme Court of the United States or the humblest JP court in the land, or this honorable court which you serve. Our courts have their faults as does any human institution, but in this country, our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts, all men are created equal.”

This fundamental, intrinsic element of justice in our country is disappearing. We saw it in the Duke lacrosse case. We saw it in the Tawana Brawley case. The rush to judgement, often fueled by the media advancing a pre-conceived agenda, ultimately serves only one purpose and that is to deny the true pursuit of justice. If something bad happened then we need to get to the bottom of it, but we can’t get to the bottom of anything when only one side is presented and then elevated to a position of being unquestionably beyond reproach. When it’s raised to a position where if you even *question* it, you are now part of the problem -- you’re one of “them” -- that’s not right. It’s not fair.

And it’s not American.

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RONALD REAGAN
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The Zen of Not Knowing

I don't know if there is any three-word combination more aggravating and irritating than, "I don't know," when uttered as a complete answer from someone whose job it is to actually have the information. This is neither a complete nor an acceptable answer and yet I have the misfortune to hear it so often I fear the sound of it might give me a facial tick.

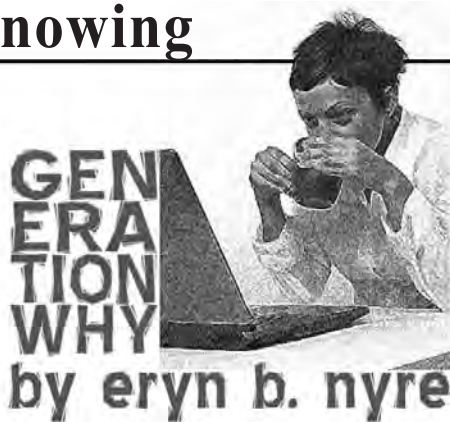
To be clear, because we live in a society where you must overly clarify and qualify everything you say, it's not that I expect everyone to know the answer to any question I might ask at the very moment I ask it. Nor do I expect, in the course of a normal interaction, that no one can possibly utter the phrase, "I don't know," if that person does not, in fact, know something. My contention is that

when you are talking to someone whose job it is to have some particular information that if they don't have an answer to your question their

How about this: instead of a blanket shoulder shrug and a half-hearted, "I don't know," you take a moment and find out?

response should be more robust than, "I don't know." You are supposed to know. It's in your job description to know. You are paid to know.

Allow me to demonstrate my current manner of thinking with a couple of examples. My place of business is a contracted provider to several insurance companies in the area. One of those insurance companies bought out the clients and policies of another and now we found ourselves in a sort of purgatory as we wait for all the necessary paperwork and software updates to maneuver through the battlefield of tedious bureaucracy and blood-red tape. I'm not so worried that we seem to have found a few potholes on the road to perdition, oops, I mean transition, that's expected in the medical field. What worries me is that every time I reach out to someone at the insurance company I get told, "I don't know," and in their worldview that seems to suffice



as a comprehensive and adequate answer. For reference, it isn't. Of all the people who should have the information about the transition and the difficulties it is facing, the people who work for the insurance company heading the transition should be at the top of the list. At the very least, shouldn't you know who in your organization actually knows what you don't seem to know? How about

this: instead of a blanket shoulder shrug and a half-hearted, "I don't know," you take a moment and find out?

I acknowledge that a large organization like that of a major, national insurance company has so many moving parts that no one person or department has complete and unfailing knowledge of all processes and procedures, but someone has to have an answer to my question, right? Someone? Anyone? Bueller?

Sadly, these exchanges are not limited to the world of medical administration. The other night I was at a concert. I was the lucky recipient of some meet and greet passes and I was looking for the super-double-secret door at which I was supposed to wait. I didn't know where this special meeting place was so I asked an usher. To my utter delight his answer was, "I don't know." With about sixteen ushers in my direct eye line I decided rather than raise my voice and toss my six-dollar lemonade in his face that I would simply move on to one who was a

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

little more engaged with his or her work. To my utter dismay, the next one gave me the exact same answer. So, too, did the next when I mistakenly assumed the third usher would be the charm. He was not a charm. I stared at him blankly then asked if, perhaps, he could find out. He didn't know who would know. That was a new twist on my favorite phrase. I pointed at the walkie-talkie clipped to his belt and told him that magical little black box had the mystical abilities to reach out to the beyond to get a response to any questions to which he does not immediately know the answer. Reluctantly he used the little magic box and was told by the disconnected voice on the other end that they didn't know ... but they would find out. Hallelujah! Someone with some basic customer service etiquette. I was starting to think it was a myth like the unicorn and low-carb bread that doesn't taste like stale cardboard. About five minutes later a woman turned up with a clipboard. She not only had the information I needed but

she walked me and my friend right up to the big red door to the magical celebrity realm. She was able to tell me where to wait and what time the doors would be open and how I could best get to my seat from that spot. See, I knew the information existed I just didn't realize that it would take four people, a walk-talkie, and the stink eye to get it.

There's a lot of knowledge out there, no one in their right mind would expect everyone to have every single piece of it just buzzing in their brain waiting to be asked. But if you don't know the answer and you are expected to have access to the information, then try, "I'm not sure but I will find out," before resorting to blowing people off with the old shoulder shrug and a three-word dismissal. What that says is not only do you not know the information, even if you should, but you don't give a flying rat's hindquarters about the information, the customer, or your job. It ultimately says you are lazy, thoughtless and rude. I would think you would want to be thought of better than that, but ... I don't know.

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Mama's Cakes

After reading Eryn B. Nyre's article in last month's paper about her mom who passed away two years ago – and how much she misses her – got me to thinking about my own mom. Next month it will be 30 years that she's been gone. There are days when it feels like it was yesterday and others it feels like an eternity.

I have been going through some medical problems recently and have been wanting to talk to my mom, but I know that isn't possible. I was sitting at my desk the other day and happened to look up on the top shelf and I saw my moms' recipe box and all the recipe cards. Going through them brought back so many memories. There are almost 300 cards and of those 60 are for cakes. Mama loved to make cakes. She made them for cake sales, pot lucks, for a family in need or for her own family. When my aunt and uncle came to visit from Hanford she always made something special. There was a Lazy Dazy Cake, English tea cake or persimmon cookies. Several years ago, I told my aunt (my moms' sister Alma) that someday I would like to make a cook book of "Mama's Recipes." She said, "Be sure to include her prune cake and applesauce cake – those were my favorites."

So, in memory of our mom I'm going to give you her favorite cake recipes.

In light of all the "stuff" that is going on today politically, this one could be renamed and be current.

Watergate Cover Up Cake

1 pkg. white cake mix
1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding mix
1 ½ C or 1 can 7UP
½ C Coconut
½ C chopped nuts
¾ C vegetable oil
3 large eggs – unbeaten
For the frosting:



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

1 pkg. Dream Whip
1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding mix
1 ½ C cold milk
Preheat oven to 350.
Grease generously a Bundt pan with shortening – set aside.

Pour all the cake ingredients into large mixing bowl. With an electric mixer, beat on low until mixed, then turn mixer up to medium and beat two minutes. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Turn cake out to cool.

For the frosting – add all the frosting ingredients into a large bowl. With mixer on medium high, mix until thickened. Spread on cooled cake. Store in refrigerator for up to three days.

Applesauce Cake

I don't remember this cake ever being frosted and there aren't any frosting notes on her card.

Preheat oven to 350.
Grease and flour a 9x13 pan – set aside.

1 C. vegetable shortening
2 C sugar
2 eggs
2 C applesauce
3 ½ C flour
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
2 tsp. baking soda
1 C raisins
1 C chopped nuts

Cream together the shortening and sugar, add eggs and applesauce and beat well. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to shortening and sugar mixture. Stir until well blended. Add raisins and nuts. Pour into prepared pan and bake 40-45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Best served warm.

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9



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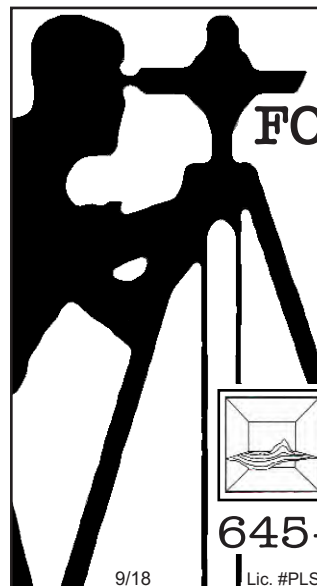
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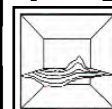
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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

Paul has been effective as a prosecutor and has rightly been critical of his opponent's mishandling of the Waterman-Jackson case, which could cost Madera County thousands of dollars if a retrial is needed, or if the case goes to appeal after conviction.

I am supporting Paul Hornick for DA as he shows he is committed to cleaning up the DA's office, being tough on crime and being effective as a prosecutor representing the interests of the entire County.

Sincerely,
Graham Towerton
Coarsegold

Dear Editor:

As the President of the Madera Deputy Sheriffs' Association, I would like to express our support for Sally Orme Moreno. There are some distinct differences between the two candidates and here is why Sally was our clear choice.

Sally Orme Moreno is a former police

officer and has the most experience as a Senior Prosecutor. She has handled some of the most heinous crimes in Madera County with a proven record of success. Her background working with other law enforcement agencies is exceptional and has led to numerous convictions. Working well with other criminal justice agencies is critical to fight crime in our community.

Sally's proven success has earned her dozens of endorsements. Some include our Madera County Sheriff Jay Varney and former Sheriffs John Anderson, Ed Bates and Berk Berkley. Additionally, other organizations and associations like Cal Fire Local 2881, the Madera Probation Peace Officers Association and the statewide law enforcement organization PORAC have all joined with us in support of Sally Orme Moreno for Madera D.A.

Sally is a good person. She is a wife, mother and volunteer in our community. Her concern for the safety of our citizens is second to none. That is why the Madera Deputy Sheriffs' Association endorsed Sally Orme

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Fruit Cocktail Cake

Preheat oven to 350.
Grease a 9x13 baking pan, set aside.

2 C flour
2 ½ C sugar (1 ½ C for cake & 1 C for frosting)
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda
2 eggs
1 can fruit cocktail
1/3 C packed brown sugar
1/3 C coconut
1/3 C chopped nuts
¼ C margarine
½ C evaporated milk

Put flour, 1 ½ C sugar, baking soda and salt in bowl. Add eggs and fruit cocktail, including syrup - stirring until all ingredients are moistened. Pour into prepared pan and sprinkle with mixture of the brown sugar, coconut and nuts. Bake for 40 minutes or until tested done with a toothpick. While cake is cooking mix the margarine, evaporated milk and remaining cup of sugar in sauce pan. Heat until sugar is dissolved and pour over warm cake. Better if served warm.

The next cake recipe my mom never made, but I have and it is so delicious I want to pass it on. While I was working at the bottled water com-

pany one of the girls in the office brought this cake in.

Close to Heaven Cake

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple
1 small pkg. instant vanilla pudding
2 C cold milk
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese - softened
1 (12 oz.) frozen whipped topping - thawed
Chopped nuts or coconut (optional)

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using a 9x13 pan.

After taking cake from oven, prick top of cake with a fork several times while cake is still warm. Pour pineapple, including juice over hot cake. Blend pudding with milk and beat in softened cream cheese. Spread over pineapple. Cover with thawed topping. Garnish with chopped nuts and/or coconut if desired. Refrigerate until served. If you like pineapple as I do, you will love this cake. Thanks Debbie!

I didn't get to use more of mamas' recipes, so will keep them for another article. I didn't get to talk to mama, but I do feel better. Thanks for going with me down memory lane.

Moreno for District Attorney.

Thank you,
Michael Motz, President
Madera County Deputy Sheriff's Assoc.

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this in support of Paul Hornick's candidacy for Madera County DA. We have lived in Madera County for over 30 years. I feel Paul is the man for this job. He jumped in when this County was in trouble and Sally left for Fresno. That speaks volumes to me. Loyalty is everything to me. Paul has stepped up and done the job. I feel he is a man of integrity and the fact he is serving our country along with doing this job is amazing. Thank you, Paul, you have our family's support!

Jill Satterfield
Madera County

Dear Editor:

Recently defense attorney, Steve Geringer, weighed in on the race for the District Attorney here in Madera. So, what does

a defense attorney have to say about the race for District Attorney? Maybe, we should think about who he is and where his interests might truly be. That is not what people of Madera really feel when they are giving their clients "good deals" so swiftly. Do the victims or their families really believe that? If you were to ask any of them that question, they would without a doubt tell you "no."

If Steve Geringer is thinking that life might be easier and his pocketbook fatter if the DA's office would plead down all their cases, that is just sad. If this is the case, no pun intended, he's probably looking for the weaker candidate. This would only show that they, meaning the district attorney, would be more concerned with getting along with his courtroom counterparts rather than pursuing true justice for victims of the crime. I'm not a rocket scientist, but that seems like a "gimme" to me.

As for his comment, that "most" attorneys feel the same way, he only means that

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 12



The Hub of Your Home

Hub. It's kind of a funny word, but it's descriptive of where most of life's stuff lands. You know: the flat surfaces in the kitchen/dining area. It's the area of activity where we come and go and make plans, make meals and make messes. When I looked up the word hub in the dictionary, I expected to see the word center, but there was an added adjective — "the effective center of an activity." Now that's a different story! Many hubs are far from effective and none is effective 100% of the time.

Lots of people think they're the only ones who struggle with what to do with the stuff that spreads itself around the kitchen/dining area. But, since we don't usually drop by other people's homes unannounced, they have time to bag it up, stick it in a closet and pretend it doesn't exist. Maybe that's been your mode of operation as well.

The problem comes when three weeks later, "Where's that form I needed to fill out?" Or, "Where's the business card for the new yard care person?" Or, "How come I didn't know you had a field trip today?"

When combating the problem, some talk about creating a Command Center, but with that I picture someone giving orders to a group of subordinates. For many of us, that's not the case (any more). So, for today's purpose we'll stick with "The Hub" and look at ways to make the center of activity more effective.

First let's dismiss the idea of perfection. That's not the goal. We're not talking about polished countertops and the table set with china and cloth napkins 24/7. The goal is peace and productivity. Having space to make dinner. Spending time doing your "to dos" rather than looking for the list. Having easy access to what you need without it getting in the way.

What types of activities take place, or need to take place in this area to make it more effective? Mail processing and active paperwork are normally the biggest need and challenge. Even if you're now paying bills online, there's still plenty of mail and paperwork entering the hub. When organizing paper, most people think they need to leave it out and "see" it in order to remember to do it. The problem is that once there's a pile, you only see the top

one and if it's all going in a bag when company comes, you won't see any of it. Shift your thinking to "horizontal is hidden, and vertical is visible."

Grab your pile of papers and put them into categories. You might try: Action, Bills, Events, File, Read, Receipts, etc. Those are ideas, but you need to categorize and name them according to what makes sense to you. File your papers into labeled folders and place them in an attractive file folder organizer for your countertop or on the wall. Yes, in the kitchen area! Keep it close to the action so it's user-friendly. If you process your mail daily and link your paperwork to something you're already doing it will keep it from getting overwhelming.

What about all those lists and reminders scribbled on envelopes and sticky notes? The best de-clutter method is to use your smart phone. My top three favorite ways are Reminders—it will remind me to do things at specific times and/or places, Grocery IQ—I can make lists for various stores and they're always with me and using Contacts for storing names and numbers instead of keeping business cards or filling a piece of paper.

If you're more of a paper person, consider using just one spiral notebook and having a page per day for all your notes and lists. Keep it with you and don't tear out the pages. That way you'll have them all in one place.

Posting routine charts for household tasks (kids and adults) can help the hub run more effectively as well. These can be hung on clipboards or posted inside cabinet doors if you'd prefer them not to be seen.

Lots of people think they're the only ones who struggle with what to do with the stuff that spreads itself around the kitchen/dining area.

Tracking activities is essential. Even if you have your calendar

on your phone and have it synched with family members, it's important to come together at the beginning of the week to review and connect. A family calendar on the wall can be color-coded for each member and available for everyone to view.

Make sure you have basic supplies available for all the activities/projects that take place at the kitchen table—bill paying, homework, etc. If you have more than will fit in a kitchen drawer, consider a small three-tier rolling cart that can be placed in a closet or bedroom when company comes.

Attach hooks to entryway walls for backpacks, purses, coats, etc. Place a large basket there to catch incoming stuff before it hits the table and use it to place outgoing items the night before. This will save your hub from being the dumping ground. You can make it super-cute with ideas from Pinterest. Just search "Command Center" instead of Hub, but I'm going to stick with Hub—an effective center of an activity.

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PAUL HORNICK

FOR MADERA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



I am a senior prosecutor in Madera County with over 13 years experience. I am a JAG officer in the United States Army Reserve, and I am proudly endorsed by four major law enforcement associations:

**THE MADERA POLICE
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**



**THE MADERA
COUNTY PROSECUTORS'
ASSOCIATION**



**THE CHOWCHILLA POLICE
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**



**THE MADERA
CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**



I am not a politician, I am a prosecutor. I have personally talked to over 2,500 Madera County residents about what they expect from a District Attorney, and I am ready to offer it. I will be tough on crime, but fair. I will listen to the voters, and I will run our District Attorney's Office with the same integrity, professionalism, and discipline I bring to my service of our country.

I do not believe in empty promises and political correctness: I believe in hard work and honesty. I believe there are no shortcuts in the administration of justice, and I will continue to work tirelessly for this county, and honor the faith that the voters and our dedicated law enforcement agencies have put in me.

CONTACT

Contact: 559-536-2292
hornick4da.com



9/18

Paid for by Paul Hornick for Madera County District Attorney 2018 FPPC # 1401296

LETTERS cont. from P. 9

for most defense attorneys the same thing applies. A quick look around town would only find that most private defense attorneys who get paid by criminal defendants are just looking for a particular, or should I say weaker, candidate in front of their offices.

Just because private defense attorneys support a particular candidate does not make this very convincing to me, unless he's trying to convince me to vote for Sally Moreno as the new District Attorney of Madera. I want someone who is willing to fight for that true justice for the people of Madera. If so, she definitely has my vote!

Ted Januse
Madera County

Dear Editor:

I find when it comes to politics, it can be very time consuming and confusing. I take my voting rights seriously and when it directly involves our community, I give the candidates more than a side glance. I spend a lot of time trying to separate the truth from half-truths. I check out who has current accomplishments and who is using the past on their platform. I spend the time, researching each candidate, requiring a lot of reading and Googling them. I take the time to speak with the candidates and to observe them at community events.

Time spent, checking out who is endorsing whom. Is it a single person, a group that stands for our community, a group that I, as an older, female, veteran can support and supports me? I check out their signs and flyers. I actually Googled each case listed by candidates.

Even after all this, it's not always a clear vote; but this year, the decision has been made easy for me. In the election for Madera County District Attorney, my vote goes to Paul Hornick.

It was made very easy for me when Paul showed up on my doorstep with his wife. He answered all my questions with no hesitation. Paul even asked me questions that I had not thought about and had the answers to them as well. I have seen Paul and his family out in the community several times and each time he is actively reaching out to people. Paul is

easy to approach, eager to give his time and share his knowledge of the office he is running for and how he plans on making it better.

I like everything I read about Paul, including those that are endorsing him. I like his commitment to our community and his family. I've watched how hard Paul works and that his family is by his side. What clinched it for me? Paul Hornick was named Prosecutor of the Year on Aug. 23, 2018 and was recently promoted to Major in the U.S. Army.

Do your research, take advantage of Google/social media, listen to what Paul Hornick has to say and then, use your right to Vote.

Sincerely,
Laura Marie Lemanek
Madera County

Dear Editor:

After the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting where Deputy DA Sally Moreno out of the Fresno District Attorney Office was the guest speaker, I am even more convinced that she is not the best candidate for the Madera District Attorney position. Mostly she addressed the 1990s, which is over 20 years ago; single people endorsing her; conflicting information from one statement to the next; not clear on her statements; and she never really said what she would bring to the Madera DA office to make it a better office. She was there under David Linn as a supervisor and people quit because of her attitude and management (or lack of) skills. I personally have seen and heard her attitude toward me. She is aggressive and confrontational when questioned about her abilities. She did not give us information on what she is doing now. What kinds of cases is she prosecuting? How prepared is she to prosecute these cases? Why would she bring up a misdemeanor case? This was an old case. Is she prosecuting misdemeanor cases (County Jail) or felony cases (State Prison)? How many cases has she prosecuted in the last one-five years? What is her success rate? She talked at length about the Keep California Safe Act which has been put on hold until 2020. What does that have to do with how well she is equipped to manage and run the Madera District Attorney's Office?

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 13

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... IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT

LETTERS cont. from P. 12

We have a smooth-running Madera DA Office right now. Last thing we need is dissension within the office. Madera is a small office with a lot of crime within the County. There are a lot of cases that need to be tried. Right now, we have good attorneys working in the office. Let's make sure we keep these attorneys and they don't go somewhere else. The November 6 election is right around the corner. This is verbatim. She said: "I am the best person I can be." Is that good enough? And how good is her best? Becky Gribble
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I am writing in support of Paul Hornick's

candidacy for District Attorney.

My wife and I arrived in Madera in 1995, grateful to find a place where we could afford to own a home and raise a family. After 23 years, we are still here and proud to call Madera home. I own and operate a small one-man law practice in Madera and I have appeared in court against both Paul Hornick and Sally Moreno. I am supporting Paul over Sally because, from my perspective, Paul embodies what it is that a District Attorney should be.

Paul is fair and ethical. Never once have I wondered if I have received all of the documentation and evidence that I am entitled to, and on more than one occasion, Paul has gone extra steps to ensure that items unknown to me were provided in accordance with the law.

Paul is the good actor in the court, wearing the white hat, that all Deputy District Attorneys should be.


Paul is extremely hard-working. I have, on multiple occasions, received telephone calls and emails from Paul late into the evening and at all hours on the weekends. It is not uncommon for me to drive by the District Attorney's Office and see Paul's car parked alone in the parking lot. His hard work, dedication and perseverance is most visible in the way he has run his campaign. Since entering the race in January 2018, Paul has worked nonstop, attending numerous events and directly canvassing nearly 4,000 homes. A simple review of his campaign Facebook page, which I encourage all to do, proves this point; Paul is truly everywhere. Given all that has

transpired in the District Attorney's office over the past 10 years, these are the exact qualities we need in a District Attorney to move this office forward in the way that it needs to be moved forward.


Paul is truly endorsed. A review of Paul's agency endorsements reveals him to be the true law enforcement choice of Madera County. Paul is also actually wanted by his peers and fellow employees who are currently employed at the office.

Paul has won virtually every major agency endorsement available since entering the race. And, as recently pointed out by fellow lawyer Steven Geringer, Paul's endorsements resulted from actual membership votes. This is hugely

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 17



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Hello 93636,

Thirty-Three years ago, Sept. 28th, I walked through the front door of Complete Car Care for the very first time. Man, oh man how vehicles have changed. The complexity of a 2018 vehicle compared to its 1985 version is immense. I don't foresee that trend slowing anytime soon but I do foresee the nature of that complexity changing as we rapidly move to the electric vehicle.

Tesla Inc. has a new challenger in the full-electric vehicle market place: Faraday Future (FF). FF recently moved into its new production facility, formerly the Pirelli tire plant in Hanford, to assemble its new FF 91 car of the future. The facility is 800,000 square feet and will support up to 1,300 jobs for our local economy.

FF is an American start-up technology company focused on the development of intelligent electric vehicles. FF was established in April 2014 and is headquartered in Los Angeles.

FF's lithium-ion battery technology produces the world's highest energy density batteries and will extend driving ranges well in excess of 300 miles on a single charge. This represents a significant step forward in battery technology and removes the largest obstacle for full electric vehicles. As I recall from my hybrid/electric vehicle training classes, Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Volt lithium-ion batteries achieved driving ranges of 80 and 50 miles on a single charge respectively.

FF's proposed electric vehicle will have 15 percent higher specific energy than a Tesla Model S and it utilizes a multi-cell solution where both individual cells and/or groups of cells can be replaced. In my mind, that will make the vehicle easier and less expensive to diagnosis and repair.

Full-electric vehicles have significant advantages over today's vehicles in that full-electric vehicles do not need an internal combustion engine or transmission. FF's Head of Design, Richard Kim, discussed his interest in creating a vehicle that featured internet access, in-car entertainment, aromatherapy technology and ergonomic interior design. Aromatherapy technology uses plant materials and other aroma compounds to improve psychological and/or the physical well-being of the user.

WOW!

Is this a cure for road rage? I need some aromatherapy technology in my vehicles. The stick of perfume in my air duct doesn't work so well these days.

Faraday Future plans to begin testing its self-driving vehicles on California roads soon. On Aug. 28, FF celebrated its first-ever successful, pre-production build of the new FF 91

vehicle on the Hanford factory assembly line. The FF 91 will be the first full-production vehicle and flagship model of FF. First deliveries are expected in early 2019. The FF 91 is an all-electric, ultra-luxury, autonomous-ready and seamlessly connected, intelligent vehicle. The FF 91's Dynamic Vehicle

Control integrates torque vectoring (ability to vary the torque to each wheel), four-wheel steering and semi-active damping suspension systems into a synchronously functioning unit. FF 91 users will experience a smooth, agile, enhanced ride with sure-footed traction that will allow the FF 91 to accelerate from 0-60 mph in less than three seconds. Remember, the torque (twisting force) of an electric motor

is consistent. The FF 91 will accelerate just as hard at 1 mph as it will at 100 mph. In fact, electric vehicles accelerate so hard that many require special tires to keep from twisting the tires' sidewalls apart.

The FF 91 is intuitive and will recognize and greet you before you enter the vehicle. As the vehicle learns your habits and patterns, it will anticipate your driving preferences and content



choices. The more you use the vehicle the more intuitive it will become. One third of the vehicle's interior is dedicated for internet living space. FF's vision is to create a mobility ecosystem that empowers people to move and connect freely. The race for full production of the FF 91 has begun and FF is currently hiring on a large scale.

One of FF's priorities is its partnership with the College of the Sequoias (COS) in Visalia to

educate and train newly hired employees at California's Training and Resource Center in Hanford. In groups of 20-25, the newly hired employees, will undergo 40 hours of team building, decision making, problem solving and leadership-skills training needed in the Hanford facility. The COS training will be followed by additional manufacturing training on site at the Hanford factory. FF Senior VP of Manufacturing, Dag Reckhorn, said, "The worker training program with College of the Sequoias through the California ETP grant is essential to the future success of the Hanford facility."

Also in discussion for the near future is a formal FF Management Training curriculum with a select group of community colleges in Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties. I'm sorry to see Madera Community College is not mentioned in this group. Local opportunities abound in the automotive industry. My industry needs bright, young and intelligent minds which GVUSD has in abundance. I urge the GVUSD Board of Trustees to consider these facts when building its curriculum and new 11-acre Vocational Education Training Facility on the Liberty High School Campus.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636
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LETTERS cont. from P. 13

important and should not be minimized.

Paul stayed through tough times. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Paul stayed when the times got tough and he continues to serve the people of Madera County despite a crazy and chaotic office environment; Paul remained loyal to Madera County and quietly provided leadership by his example of hard work. Loyalty is a quality that is often lacking from our leaders. We have an opportunity as a County to elect a person of real character and start a new chapter for our District Attorney's office. For all of these reasons, I will be voting for Paul this November. I hope you will join me.

Respectfully submitted,
Glen Tim Neal
Madera

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to recommend the Rancho's Community vote for Paul Hornick for Madera County District Attorney.

Paul Hornick stayed working in the office when times got rough and took on more to help the people of Madera County.

He also worked on the Political Corruption Unit. We need to keep this unit in the District Attorney's office so no elected officials are above the law.

Respectfully,
Michelle Garcia
Madera County

Dear Editor:

I want to endorse Paul Hornick for the upcoming election in Madera County for district attorney.

I have reviewed both candidates and choose to work with Paul on his upcoming election. This is not something I would typically be involved with however in this case I do believe

Paul is the more qualified candidate and with the DA's history it is time for the right guy to be running the show. I see Paul go to work, then out and about at events and putting on the miles going door to door, then back home to work on more DA items. Personally, I could not maintain that schedule. Paul recently pointed out doing his service to this country in the reserves – a three-hour water treading exercise, being promoted to Major – and then back from Milpitas to Madera in order to be a part of the Madera County Fair then back to Milpitas the next day with yet another return. To me that is devotion to duty not only to this great country but the citizens of Madera as well. Paul has told me his plans to fix the DA's office and better utilize his team within. To me that is leadership!

Mike Creech
Chowchilla

Dear Editor:

In this coming November election, I have

decided I will be voting Paul Hornick for Madera County District Attorney. With elections two months away, I still have no opinion of the other candidate, Sally Moreno. I have not met or spoken to Mrs. Moreno and know nothing about her.

However, Paul Hornick has come out to my home to introduce himself. I have seen him at a few events in town, most recently at the Madera Fair and Ranchos Barter & Auction Monday Madness meet up at Life Tree church. He stated he wanted to get out and meet the community and make himself available should Madera residents have any questions for him. I found Mr. Hornick to be extremely articulate and professional. He did not have a pushy speech prepared, nor did he talk repeatedly about himself. I enjoyed his open and honest approach. I was impressed with his strong work ethic and eagerness to

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 27

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	1		5				7
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		3	9				1
5					6	2	8

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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.

	÷		+		5
×		+		+	
	+		+		24
-		×		×	
	+		×		21
31		16		27	

1 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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Let the Voter Beware

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Because two important elections occur this year, the June primary and the coming Nov. 6 general election, this column has discussed voting methods and recommended candidates and propositions. At the risk of repetition, here we go again.

Beware voting by mail.

Absentee ballots (vote-by-mail ballots) will start arriving in mailboxes the week of Oct. 9. Originally intended for the few voters who could not physically get to the polls on election day, now over half of all California voters mail in their ballots.

Mailed ballots go through many hands in transit, and when received at election headquarters are held – somewhere - until election day. The boxes upon boxes of absentee ballots (along with those of provisional ballots) are opened, registrations are verified, signatures are “verified” by scrolling across a computer screen for a split second, and the ballots are hand counted.

A June 6 Sacramento Bee article, entitled “Why California Takes So Long to Count Ballots,” pointed out the backlog of mailed-in ballots “stacking up in election offices” and noted that “. . . counties had to deal with more than 4 million unprocessed ballots long after the concession and acceptance speeches had been delivered . . .” How absurd: Votes counted after the election is over.

It is best, if at all possible, to vote in person at the polls. On election day you can take your mail-in ballot and envelope to your polling place, surrender it, and ask for a regular ballot that you can vote on the spot. If you no longer want to receive mail-in ballots, you can cancel them at sos.ca.gov. Please go to ElectionIntegrityProject.com. to learn how you can be a trained observer of the election process.

Beware voting by provisional ballot.

In the past, the requirement to vote was simply that a qualified voter show up at his or her precinct (usually within the neighborhood), mark his or her ballot in secret and deposit it in the secure receptacle. Now just about anyone who shows up but is not on the rolls is allowed to vote “provisionally” for almost any reason. Provisional ballots then go through the same process as mail-ins and add to the delay in a final vote tally. To avoid this, be sure to go to your correct polling place, where your name will be listed on the rolls.

Beware misleading propositions.

We’ve been hoodwinked in the past by misleading (lying?) descriptions of proposed propositions, such as high-speed rail and Cap and Trade. A prime example is the wording for this election’s Proposition 6. The official ballot description heading says that it “Eliminates Certain Road Repair and Transportation Funding.” The truth is that it does not affect spending decisions at all but instead repeals the increase in gasoline tax and registration fees enacted last year and requires that any future increases must be approved by a vote of the electorate. Unfortunately, politicians can still spend willy-nilly, but when Proposition 6 passes they will have less of our hard-earned money to waste.

Perhaps if we elect Republicans they will actually fix the roads with the hard-earned money we have already sent for that purpose. Yes, that’s a shameless appeal to vote Republican.

Get the facts at ReformCalifornia.org, where you can volunteer, get yard signs and donate. Spread the word! Vote YES on Prop 6!

Endorsements by the Mountain Area Conservative Forum (642-4921, MACF@sti.net)

Governor - John Cox
Lt. Governor – No conservatives on ballot
Secretary of State - Mark Meuser
State Controller - Konstantinos Roditis
Treasurer – Greg Conlon
State Attorney General - Steven Bailey
State Insurance Commissioner - Steve Poizner
State Board of Equal. District 1 - Ted Gaines
U. S. Senator – No conservatives on ballot
U. S. Cong., 4th District - Tom McClintock

State Senate, 8th District - Andreas Borgeas
State Assembly, District 5 - Frank Bigelow
Madera District Attorney - Sally Moreno
or Paul Hornick

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS:
YES on Proposition 5 and Proposition 6
NO on all others

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

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Aspects favor new romances for unpaired Ewes and Rams. Already-paired Arian twosomes experience renewed harmony in their relationships. Money matters also take a bright turn.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Use that strong Bovine determination to help you keep the faith with your convictions while you move through a period of uncertainty. Things begin to ease by the week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to your intuition alerting you to be more careful about accepting a "statement of fact" simply on trust. Don't be shy about asking for more proof.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Concern for the well-being of someone in need is admirable. But don't forget to take care of yourself as well. Ask a family member, close friend or colleague to help you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's OK to focus on the demands of your career. But reach out to family and friends to try to avoid misunderstandings. Your sharp intuitive sense kicks in by midweek.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Keep a rein on jealousy -- it's counterproductive. Instead of resenting a colleague's good points, concentrate on developing your own abilities.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Spending time on a creative project during this high-energy week can pay off both in emotional satisfaction and in impressing someone who is glad to see this side of you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Now is a good time to start planning that trip you've put off because of the demands on your time. Be sure to choose a destination that is new and exciting.

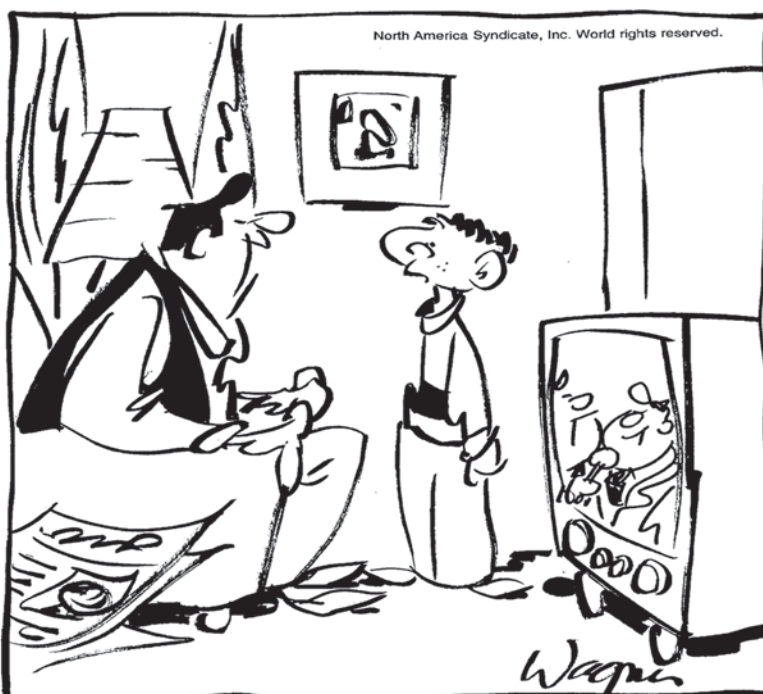
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That upbeat mood in the first part of the week makes you eager to take on new ventures. A more serious note sets in later to help you assess an upcoming decision.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A high energy level gives the Goat the get-up-and-go to finish outstanding tasks before deadline, leaving time for well-earned fun and games with friends and family.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Dealing with disappointment is never easy. But the wise Aquarian will use it as a vital lesson and be the better for it. A close friend has something important to say.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Best bet is not to get involved in an argument between colleagues until you know more about who started it and why. And even then, appearances could be deceiving. Be alert.

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"Son, the time has come for that talk.
... It's halftime."

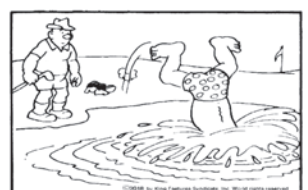
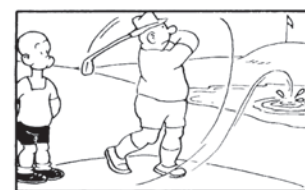
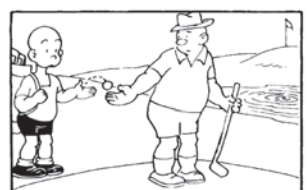
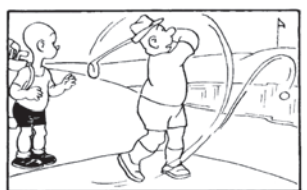
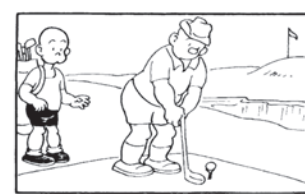
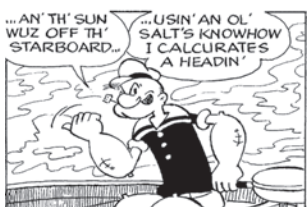
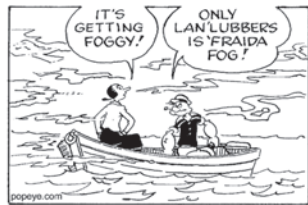
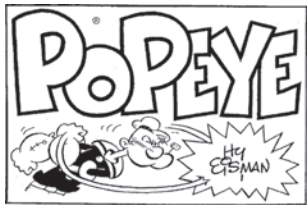
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FUN PAGES



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BY AL SCADUTO

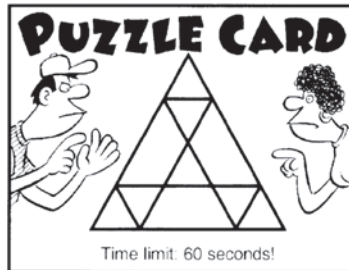
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Answer: There are four sizes. The smallest has seven triangles. The next two sizes have three each. The largest has one. The total is 14 triangles.

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Answers: (1) Throw it straight up into the air (2) Stand by a brook, throw the ball upstream, and wait for it to float back.

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



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Lent, lend, lead, lean, load, loan, loon, loot.

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

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

- | | | | |
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| Austria | Croatia | Germany | Netherlands |
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| Brazil | Finland | Iceland | Sweden |
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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



BIRD BARD CARD CARE CAGE

A "CAGEY" PROBLEM
 In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BIRD to CAGE in four moves. Can you change the following five words in four moves?

- MEAN to KIND
- DIRT to PAVE
- ROCK to BAND
- SEED to PACK
- DEAF to LOUD

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which of the Great Lakes reaches the farthest north and west?
- LITERATURE:** Which English poet wrote and illustrated "Songs of Innocence and of Experience"?
- MOVIES:** Who played the female lead in the 1942 film "Casablanca"?
- OLYMPICS:** In which sport would you perform the "Fosbury Flop"?
- BUSINESS:** Where was entrepreneur/inventor Elon Musk born and raised?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What does a phlebotomist do for a living?
- SCIENCE:** What law is represented by the equation $F=ma$?
- TELEVISION:** Who starred in the TV series "Quantum Leap"?
- HISTORY:** In which war did the Battle of Verdun take place?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is the name of an otter's home?

Answers

- Lake Superior
- William Blake
- Ingrid Bergman
- The high jump
- South Africa
- Draws blood from the human body
- Newton's second law of motion
- Scott Bakula
- World War I
- A hole or couch

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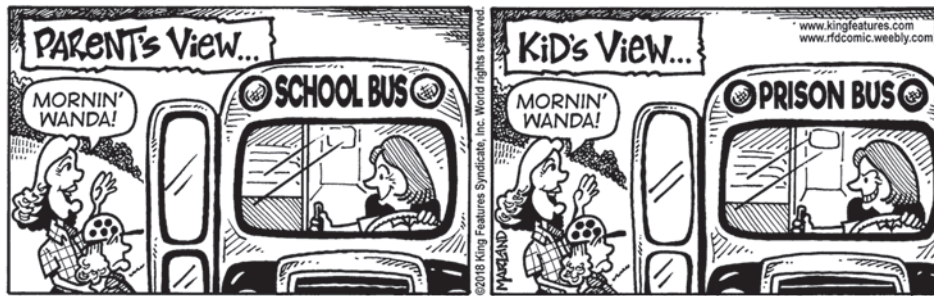
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



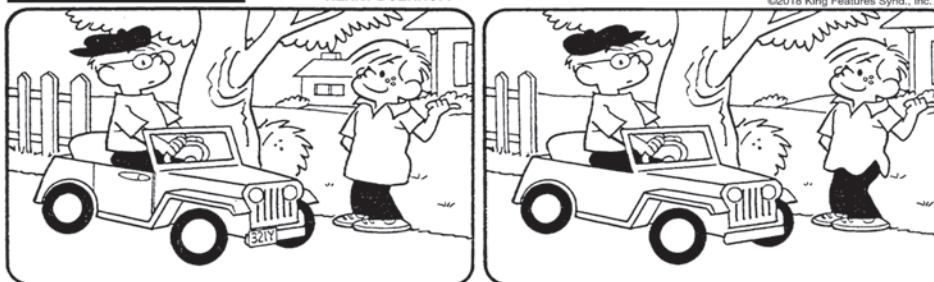
Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

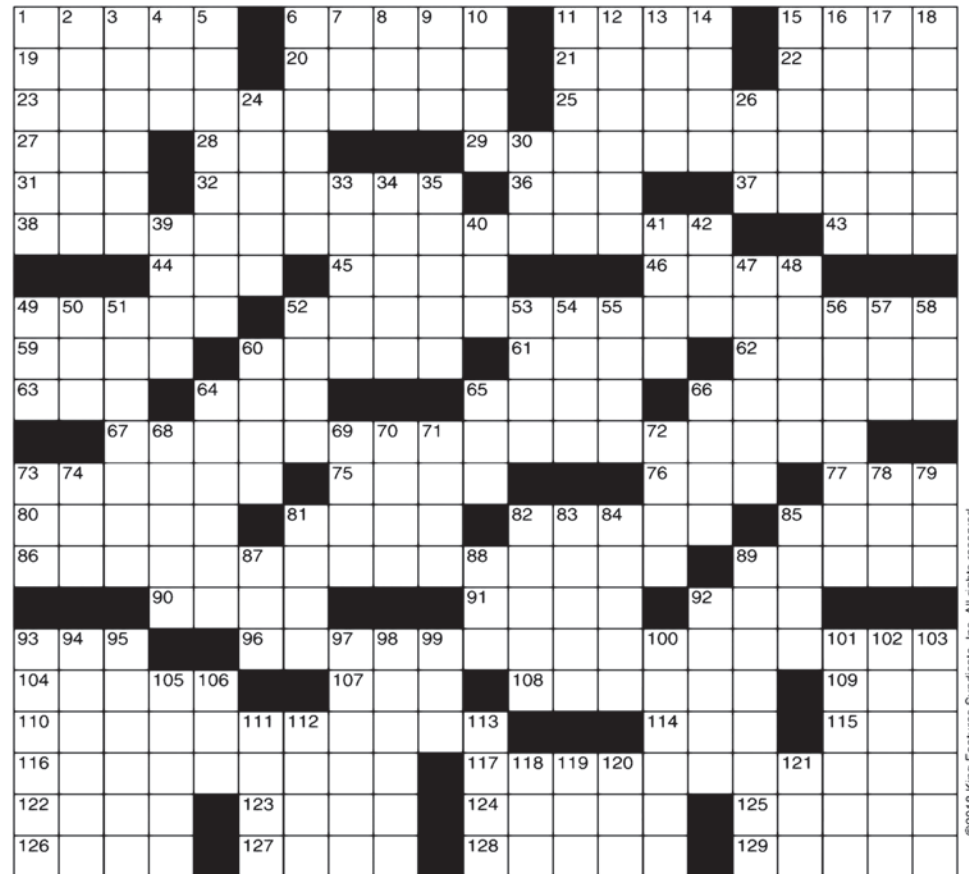
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Fence is missing. 2. Cap is reversed. 3. Car door is missing. 4. House is missing. 5. License plate is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 After, in Paris
 - 6 Paparazzi target
 - 11 Speedy
 - 15 Close loudly
 - 19 Instant replay mode
 - 20 St. Teresa's town
 - 21 Guthrie of folk music
 - 22 Snow beast of legend
 - 23 Frenetic cartoon marsupial
 - 25 Banging, as a drum
 - 27 Bread type
 - 28 Caviar eggs
 - 29 It's not currently erupting [#2]
 - 31 — distance
 - 32 Capital of Kazakhstan
 - 36 Kia model
 - 37 Fragrant compound
 - 38 "Just name it and I'll do it" [#3]
 - 43 Zine staff
 - 44 Sarcastic laugh sound
 - 45 Dust bit
 - 46 Direction of sunup
 - 49 Real guy?
 - 52 House-building charity [#4]
 - 59 Shouts from cheerleaders
 - 60 Recording studio control
 - 61 Watch
 - 62 Concave tummy part
 - 63 Sauna spot
 - 64 — tai (mixed drink)
 - 65 Hive group
 - 66 "Sorority Row" actress
 - 67 Annual publication of Benjamin Franklin [#5]
 - 73 Jonathan Swift's genre
 - 75 Ark crafter
 - 76 Egg case qty.
 - 77 Prefix with con
 - 80 Her "Hello" was a big hit
 - 81 Horror film helper
 - 82 Composer Franz
 - 85 Singer Baez
 - 86 What a green card grants an alien [#6]
 - 89 Dated yet trendy
 - 90 Be a vagrant
 - 91 "Othello" baddie
 - 92 "No kidding!"
 - 93 — jongg
 - 96 Available again because folks asked for it [#7]
 - 104 Not silently
 - 107 August sign
 - 108 Old office note-takers
 - 109 Ending with ethyl
 - 110 Classic song by Rodgers and Hart [#8]
 - 114 Platform that runs on Apple devices
 - 115 Audiophile's stack
 - 116 Certain shore area
 - 117 1988 film about an old baseball scandal (and what this puzzle has?)
 - 122 Bakery tool
 - 123 Brother of Cain
 - 124 Comic Anderson
 - 125 Passover dinner
 - 126 Cruel emperor
 - 127 Simple
 - 128 Bulges
 - 129 Not well-kept
 - 35 Not lifeless
 - 39 Letters that follow pis
 - 40 Converged
 - 41 Tabby sound
 - 42 — es
 - 47 City in Iran
 - 48 Tennis top
 - 49 Wifely title
 - 50 Ceiling
 - 51 Book division
 - 52 Brow or lash
 - 53 Say for sure
 - 54 With 56-Down, entwined like shoelace ends
 - 55 Own (up)
 - 56 See 54-Down
 - 57 With 78-Down, tone deafness
 - 58 Pro's vote
 - 60 Cost to cab it
 - 64 Singer Rita
 - 65 Scornful cry
 - 66 Dark mark
 - 68 Gulf ship
 - 69 Playwright William
 - 70 Pigeon calls
 - 71 Spy Mata —
 - 72 Timber tool
 - 73 Syrup base
 - 74 Sugary drink
 - 78 See 57-Down
 - 79 1969 Beatle bride
 - 81 "— la Douce"
 - 82 Lutzes, e.g.
 - 83 Bar of gold
 - 84 Range
 - 85 Taunt
 - 87 Eatery check
 - 88 Handy-andy's initials.
 - 89 Evaluate anew
 - 92 Low spirits
 - 93 Remit, say
 - 94 — -Lorraine
 - 95 Schnozz
 - 97 Maker of an exact copy
 - 98 Brewing pot (2002 hit)
 - 99 "Sk8er —"
 - 100 Merges
 - 101 Crack, as a cipher
 - 102 Provided, as with talent
 - 103 "— Rides Again" (old Western)
 - 105 In — (not yet born)
 - 106 "What's the —?"
 - 111 Trolley car
 - 112 Caftan, e.g.
 - 113 Jail division
 - 118 Debt doc
 - 119 Chewed stuff
 - 120 Not square
 - 121 Once named
- DOWN**
- 1 Wandering
 - 2 Seek the approval of
 - 3 Capital of Dominica
 - 4 Record label for Bowie
 - 5 Take off from a high nest, as an eagle
 - 6 Academy students
 - 7 Mother of Cain
 - 8 Ullmann or Tyler of film
 - 9 Yale athlete
 - 10 Dis-tressed?
 - 11 Cloth
 - 12 "Am not!" reply
 - 13 Serb, say
 - 14 Pooch in Oz
 - 15 Matches up, as files
 - 16 Papal envoy
 - 17 Paid (for)
 - 18 Tweens, e.g.
 - 24 Army denial
 - 26 Sicile, e.g.
 - 30 Suffix with access
 - 33 Sportscaster — Rashad
 - 34 Weeper in myth

FUN PAGES

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Senior Report

Holiday Craft Fair and Halloween Sneaking Up

By Margaret Tynan

Excitement is mounting at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center. The Inaugural Holiday Craft Fair is almost here. Over 30 artists and crafters from the local community and surrounding area will exhibit their work on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You won't want to miss this event. This is a great place to meet the artists and crafters to learn about their

work and find that perfect hand-crafted gift or item to enhance your home décor. You will be able to choose from a diverse array of lovely things including paintings, prints, hand-crafted soaps, candles, various wood-work art and garden pieces, photo and art cards, one-of-a-kind needle-work creations, jewelry, holiday ornaments and so much more.

The craft fair will be held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos. Parking for the event will be in the vacant lot on Avenue 12, just west of Lee's Kitchen. Look for the parking signs and the persons who will direct you. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have questions, contact the Center at 645-4864.

Ghosts and goblins will once again haunt the Ranchos/Hills Seniors at the annual Halloween party and potluck on Thursday, October 25 at 6 p.m. It's always a good time with games, prizes and delicious food. Members and their guests dress in funny or scary costumes to compete for prizes. Who will be the funniest, the most frightening, the most original or ??? Spooky decorations are planned to add to the festive atmosphere. The evening should prove to be a lot of fun.

The members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors are getting ready to vote for the new officers in November. The nominating committee is hard at work preparing the slate of candidates for the various positions. Our current President, Verlaine

Elinburg, is completing her busy 2-year term in December and will serve as Past President for 2019 and 2020. Verlaine moved to the Madera Ranchos in 1980 from Clovis and joined the Seniors in 2009. She served as Corresponding Secretary prior to her term as President. She worked for the U.S. Postal service beginning in 1990 and held the position of Post Master at Bass Lake, Coarsegold and finally retired from Oakhurst Post Office in 2009. Verlaine has a very interesting

background. Born the youngest of six girls in India and raised in what was then Burma, she emigrated to the U.S. in 1964. She says that as a young woman she was quite athletic. She shared an article from the sports page of a Burma newspaper that said, "Verlaine [is] one of the best young women hockey players Burma has ever had ..."

She has kept that spirit and vitality in her work with the Center. She says she has been able to build on her management and teamwork skills and has gained self-esteem during her tenure. I asked Verlaine what she hopes for the Center. She would like to see continued integration into the community through connection with other community groups. She is very active in many of the local Madera Ranchos organizations. Verlaine's contributions and hard work as President of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors is very much appreciated. We look forward to continued work with her in her new capacity.

Don't forget to come to the regular Bake and Boutique Sale and the Treasure House and Garden Sale on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. The writing group continues every Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. and stretching and strength building exercise class meets every Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 10 a.m.

Thought for October: "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." -- Scott Adams, creator of Dilbert cartoons

Ranchos/Hills Seniors
Craft Fair
Saturday, Oct. 20 • 8a-2p

Ranchos/Hills Seniors
Craft Fair
Saturday, Oct. 20 • 8a-2p

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The Bookshelf

Accelerated Reader Now at Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

This month at the library we are getting back into the swing of school schedules and new AR (Accelerated Reader) levels for the kids. We've got a great selection of books available for all ages and will gladly look up AR levels and points for any book you need.

We will be starting movie nights here with a great selection of films for everyone in the family, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page for updates on those events. We also plan on starting a knitting/crochet/quilting group with a sign-up sheet at the desk, so come on in and get involved.

Here's what your librarian is reading for this month:

Jerrica's Shelf

Air Awakens by Elise Kova

This is a great fantasy romp where you follow a young woman named Vhalla, who is a library assistant and has been for most of her life. She is suddenly faced with an awakening of magical powers that she has spent her life being completely terrified of due to the effect that these powers had on her parents when she was a child. She has a mysterious benefactor giving her lessons through notes left in the pages of a book she was given by another equally mysterious person donning the robes of the sorcerers.

I'm really enjoying this novel and looking forward to the sequels as it is an engrossing tale that presents a unique take on how magic works in a world where there are opposing sides at war with each other on how this magic should be put to use.



The Madera Ranchos Library

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LETTERS cont. from P. 17

rebuild the District Attorney's office.

I believe Paul Hornick is the best choice for Madera County District Attorney because we need and deserve someone who will work tirelessly and go the extra mile needed. We need and deserve someone who is not a politician, but a crime fighter. I urge you to make the time to meet Paul Hornick and decide for yourself. I am confident you will agree.

Sincerely,
Angela Keeling
Madera County

Dear Editor:

I am pleased to endorse Paul Hornick for the office of District Attorney. Not only am I voting for him, but I actively encourage all other qualified voters to do the same. Citizens of Madera and I have had the last weeks to observe and evaluate the perspectives and agendas of the District Attorney candidates in this race but, as an attorney, I have long observed their practices and actions in our county. Mr. Hornick is distinguished from other candidates by his honest approach and pragmatic insight into our community's needs, his willingness to study the issues and his active listening to concerns not only of

law enforcement and peers. A prosecutor's duty is to uphold the highest standards of liberty and justice for all, as is embodied in our laws. Mr. Hornick has done and will continue to do this. Mr. Hornick's work in the District Attorney's office has earned him the confidence of his colleagues, who support him. His direct, informed and ethical approach to prosecution has earned him the respect of the majority of attorneys in Madera County. His work ethic is unmatched and his credentials are all that could be wished. I will be proud to vote for him in the upcoming election.

Miranda Neal, Attorney
Raymond

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. The only rules?

Sign it, be civil or forget about it.

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9/18

SEM CU

speaks

By Jeff McGrath

Rebate Replies

"How long do I have to wait for my rebate?"

"When am I going to see my rebate?"

"Did SEMCU lose my rebate request or forget me?"

These are some of the questions that are heard by Virginia down at the Chamber of Commerce or Verlaime at the Seniors' Center.

No, SEMCU did not forget you or lose your paperwork; it just takes time to process things.

Let me explain how grants work in general.

Using our grant writers, SEMCU tries to find a grant that will benefit our area. Once a grant is found, we apply for that money, trying to meet all the criteria but not all grants are approved every time. When the grant is approved, there is a dollar value attached to it, but no money is advanced. SEMCU usually loans "seed" money to start the process. Quarterly we submit our expenses and a progress report to the state, it is reviewed by the state and sometimes returned for corrections or clarification. When all the paper work is accepted, the approved paper work is signed off by SEMCU and the grant administrator.

Enter, the State

It is then forwarded to the State Treasurer for issuance of a check minus 10 percent holding. That check is then deposited to a special checking account and the reimbursement process begins. This process takes anywhere from six to eight months, which is why people that submitted rebate requests in April have not seen the money yet. The Low Flow grant was more transparent as SEMCU purchased the devices and distributed them while waiting for reimbursement from the state.


The Washing Machine and Dishwasher Grant is different in that you, the consumer, must purchase the item first and submit proof of purchase to SEMCU. Quarterly we submit a request for reimbursement to the state and the process begins.

It is a slow process, but the rebates will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your patience.


We invite you to join and attend a SEMCU meeting. We meet on the third Monday each month at the Pizza Factory at 6 p.m. SEMCU would also like to thank the Pizza Factory for its support and use of its meeting room.

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




YES! NO! YES!


Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation.



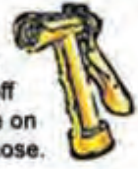
Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.




Take shorter showers — five minutes or less is best.




Install new toilets that use less than 1.6 gallons per flush.




Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.




Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine.




Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth.



Use a low flow showerhead.



Put faucet aerators on sink faucets.



Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and walkways.



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