

# The Ranchos Independent



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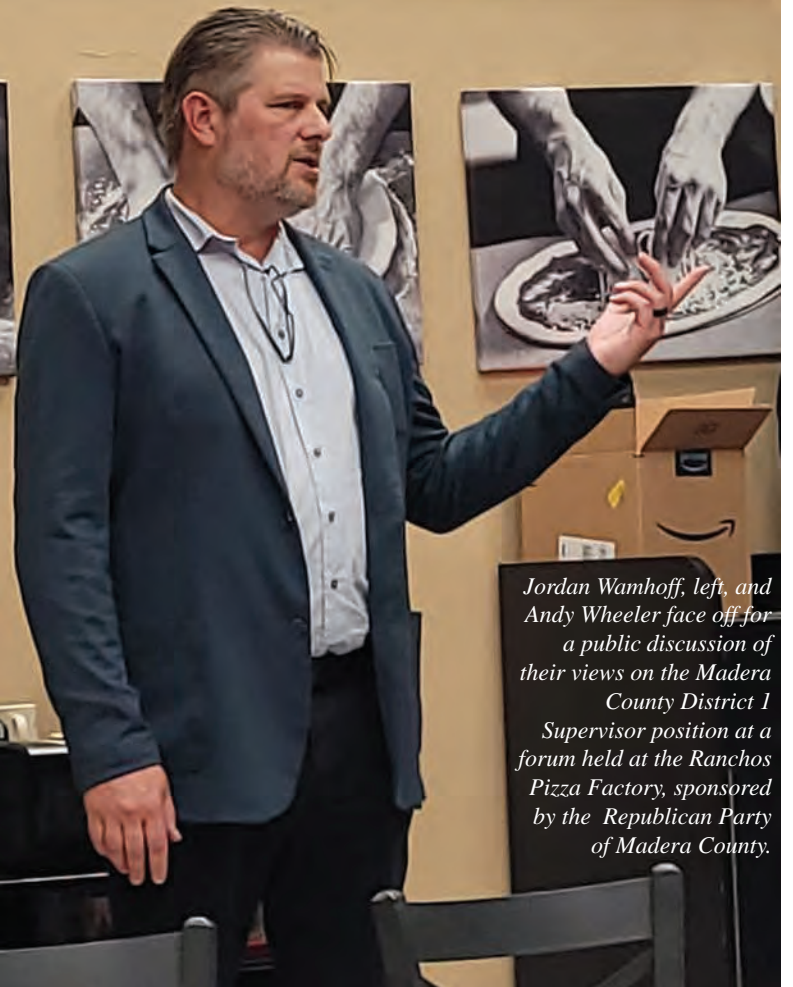
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50¢

## DECISION TIME

*a Supervisor choice for the Ranchos*



Jordan Wamhoff, left, and Andy Wheeler face off for a public discussion of their views on the Madera County District 1 Supervisor position at a forum held at the Ranchos Pizza Factory, sponsored by the Republican Party of Madera County.

*By Randy Bailey*

### In This Issue

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

As this political season starts to wind down heading into the November General Election, most local races concerning the Ranchos have already been decided – but not so with the race for District 1 Supervisor. Relatively evenly matched in the results of the June Primary Election, Jordan Wamhoff edged out Andy Wheeler by a vote of 1,661 votes to 1,645. Only 16 votes separated the two candidates. Now, in the General Election coming on November 8, the two are fighting to hold on to their existing votes and are trying to carve up the 1,517 votes that went to Michele Stephens.

In an attempt to get their names and messages out to more voters in the Ranchos, on Monday, Sept. 12 a forum was held at the Ranchos Pizza Factory, sponsored by the Republican Party of Madera County. The two candidates spoke for nearly two hours answering questions from the public on a broad range of topics. Here are the highlights of that forum.

**The Forum Begins**

“What do you want me to tell the people when they call and ask?” was a question rhetorically posed to the two candidates by Republican Party of Madera County Chairperson, Gina Wallace. Acting as the master of ceremonies for the event, she was setting the tone that she – and many others in the room – felt that County Supervisors needed to be accessible to all voters on all topics.

Leading off the evening was a question of water fees being imposed on farmers through California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or “SGMA.” Wamhoff was first to speak, but his concern addressed a bigger picture. “They’re supposed to raise about \$10 million from this in the County, to go toward water infrastructure” he said, “who’s to say it doesn’t go toward consulting fees?” For Wamhoff, trusting government to do what it says was the bigger issue. Wheeler spoke next, giving a brief explanation of SGMA and how its creation was in response to overdrafting of California’s water tables and that it came to Madera County directly from the state. With a state objective of being “water neutral,” meaning putting in as much as you take out, Wheeler said, “They’re collecting a fee to be able to do: a. Water recharge; b. Fallow out land or whatever other projects.” He continued by saying the problem for many was how legitimate are some of these projects? “\$10 million get raised but will it actually move us to a point where we become water neutral?”

At this point, Chairperson Wallace asked a straightforward question: “How would you have voted?” Wheeler attempted to explain that the real problem was not the vote but how it got to the voting stage, to which Wallace accused Wheeler of avoiding the question. After further insistence on Wallace’s part, Wheeler said that, given the way it was pre-

sented, he would have voted for it. Wamhoff said that, “Without having concrete, clear-cut language as to how that money would have been spent ... I would have voted no.”

**Trash Talk**

Wallace next asked about the recent attempt by the County Supervisors to institute a new three-can trash system that forced people to pay for composting, even if they were already composting themselves, pointing out that public outrage killed the plan even though all supervisors had signaled support of the plan. When asked if he would have supported the plan, Wamhoff succinctly answered, “No.”

Wheeler answered next by saying, “The simple answer is ‘no,’” but he then went on to explain that the biggest challenge County government faces is the State decrees something and then tells the County to figure out a way to do it. “The easy way is to just take the State rules and pass them on down ... it’s not the best way.” Using his experience on the Golden Valley Unified School Board, he explained about finding creative ways to satisfy the State while taking care of the people of the Ranchos. “It can’t be a ‘one size fits all’ solution.” Wallace then stated that the existing Supervisors did roll over and didn’t listen to constituents, but a groundswell of opposition did effect change – opposition she inferred of which the Supervisors should have been aware.

Noting all of the new building in the Ranchos, Wallace changed gears and told of a proposed “halfway house” for drug offenders in another District that was being planned to be built near a school, under the guise of being “affordable housing.” Community members banded together and stopped it, but Wallace asked the candidates their thoughts on the proposal.

“Affordable housing means a nice, small house a family can get as a first starter home,” Wamhoff said. He then elaborated by saying the term “affordable housing” is often a camouflage for a myriad of different programs, including mental health and drug treatment facilities. Secondly, he offered that “affordable housing” is usually affordable as a result of massive government subsidies paying for the housing; subsidies with which he said he disagreed. “That’s something I would keep a very watchful eye on to make sure our community is safe.”

Andy Wheeler led off his comments by saying, “I’ll start off the phrase by saying ‘no,’ I would vote against it.” Wheeler went on to explain that a concept like affordable

Please see **FORUM** on P. 4



By Randy Bailey

Jordan Wamhoff, left, and Andy Wheeler

## Valley Air District Kids’ Calendar

Every year the San Joaquin Valley Air District needs artists in grades K-12 to submit drawings with clean air themes for the annual *Healthy Air Living Kids’ Calendar Contest*. If you are a creative person and you go to school in the San Joaquin Valley, this contest is for you.

- Contest is open to San Joaquin Valley school students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Artwork should be your original



drawing and demonstrate why it is important to have clean air or how we can all help keep our air clean.

- Artwork should include a “Healthy Air Living” message.

For complete rules and an entry form, go to [ww2.valleyair.org/youth-resources/calendar-contest](http://ww2.valleyair.org/youth-resources/calendar-contest).

The deadline for 2023 calendar entries is Oct. 14, 2022.

## Area Takes 2 Lives in 48 Hours

Two people lost their lives on Ranchos area roads in a 48-hour period from Sept. 15 to 16.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, a Dodge pickup travelling northbound on Highway 41 near Avenue 15 hit a Toyota Corolla, causing the car to travel out of control into the southbound lane of Highway 41 and run head-on into a BMW.

The Corolla driver was killed and the driver of the BMW had to be airlifted to a local hospital after sustaining major injuries.

No one in the pickup was hurt and the CHP doesn’t know what triggered the ac-

cident, whether the pickup driver was trying to pass or just merge into traffic.

Again on Friday, Sept. 16, a man riding a Harley Davidson was travelling eastbound on Avenue 12 when a westbound Altima near Road 33 1/2 attempted to pass into his lane. Both drivers, in an attempt to avoid the other, mistakenly turned into each other, hit head-on and ended up on the shoulder of the south side of Avenue 12. The motorcycle driver was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene while the Altima’s occupants all appeared to have been wearing their seatbelts. They were taken to a local hospital for their injuries.

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# JORDAN WAMHOFF

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FORUM cont. from P. 2

housing should be a response to a need within a community. "When you look at putting a group of houses like this in an area that's rural, you have to look at the area around you and ask, 'What are we attracting?'" He said such an action would actually bring in more people just to satisfy the "need" the housing created. He also mentioned the problems created with lack of infrastructure found in a rural setting, like hospitals and police services.

**Three to Two**

The Ranchos Independent asked the next question which dealt with building alliances. Madera County is made up of five Districts, two unincorporated Districts that include the Ranchos and Oakhurst areas, and three incorporated Districts, two in Madera and one in Chowchilla. Since the incorporated Districts tend to "stick together" and out vote the unincorporated areas, how would the candidates build alliances to get things done?

"Sunlight is the greatest disinfectant," Wamhoff led off. "I would be extremely vocal about what we were in opposition against." He concluded that by keeping his cards on the table, that would preclude others from being able to finagle backroom deals against the Ranchos' best interests. "I would team up with absolutely everybody I could think of." He also spoke of packing the Supervisor's meetings with plenty of like-minded individuals to send the message to other Supervisors of District 1's intent.

Andy Wheeler saw the question as a two-parter. "You have to have a coalition, but also how do you influence the ones who are not in that coalition?" Citing his School Board experience, one area that he said he felt was most beneficial was keeping the public informed about what was going on. An involved populace can add weight to the District's position.

The proliferation of accidents on Avenue 12 prompted the next question, namely what were either of their plans to get a police presence in the Ranchos?

Although some were thankful for a Sheriff's substation in the Ranchos, it was opined that someone driving 70 miles per hour down Avenue 12 could care less about a substation over behind the grocery store.

With his police background, Wamhoff was eager to go first. "Substations are there to shut the community up," he said. He claimed that substations give the perception of safety, but there is, "... not a deputy sitting there, twiddling his thumbs, waiting for a 911 call." He stressed that we do need more deputies and EMS out here, but he also had a first step toward making Avenue 12 safer: Writing tickets. "You can start out by having deputies scratch out citations," he said. "There are lots of things they can write tickets for. I haven't seen someone pulled over on Avenue 12 for a long time. A long time."

Wheeler explained that with the Ranchos area growth, it has generated more of a tax base to pay for more emergency services. "But, through the years, we generally have less requests for services so they get pulled away to other places ... they go where the calls are." Wheeler pointed out that as the area grows, the more people out here requires more policing and he agreed that more ticket writing would indeed make people slow down. He also pointed out the recent climate in America that has seen a reduction in police, coupled with retirements and the problem of trying to fill vacancies. "The number one responsibility of the County is public safety."

**Work Schedule**

Since both candidates have jobs outside of their political aspirations, the question was raised about how much time the

Please see FORUM on P. 15

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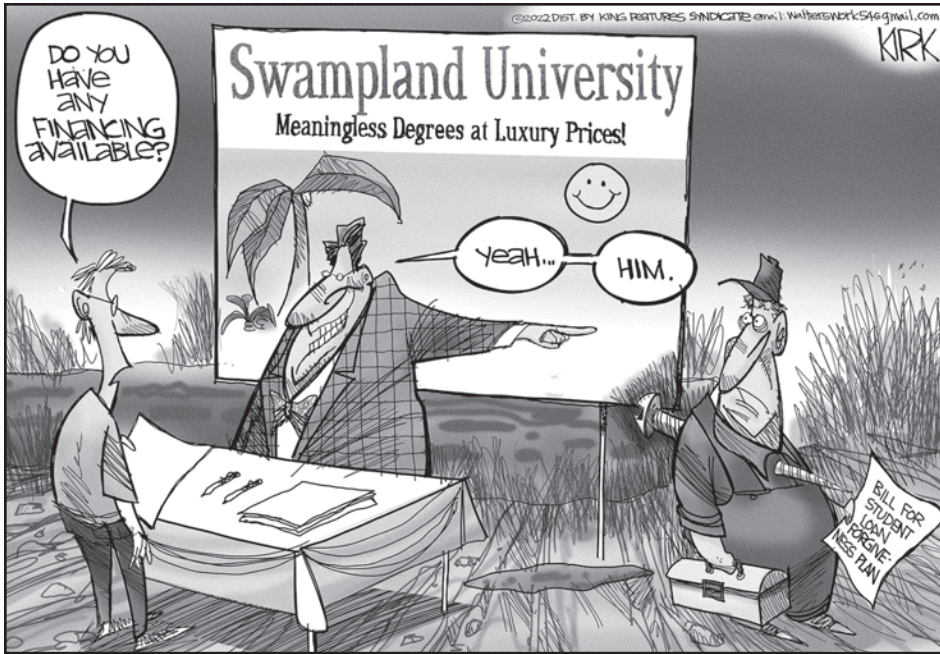
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## Guest Editorial

# Better Off Under Biden?

By Issues & Insights Editorial Board

When he wasn't admiring his White House portrait, Barack Obama managed to say a nice thing about President Joe Biden. He must have been joking, though, because what he said defies reality.

"Joe, it is now America's good fortune to have you as president," Obama said. "The country is better off than when you took office. We should all be deeply grateful for that."

Our "good fortune"? Let's review just how much "better off" we all are thanks to Biden and his fellow Democrats.

**COVID deaths:** When Biden took office on the promise that he had a plan that would end COVID, the official death count was 424,318. Today, it is over 1.044 million. In other words, there have been nearly 620,000 COVID deaths on Biden's watch and that's despite all the interventions Biden claimed would end the pandemic. Are the families of those 620,000 people better off?

**Inflation:** Despite the recent decline in pump prices, gasoline costs 91 percent more than it did in January 2021, according to the Consumer Price Index. Food prices are up 14 percent. Overall prices have climbed 13 percent in the time Biden has been president. To put that last number in

perspective, the overall increase in the Consumer Price Index during President Donald Trump's entire four years in office was just 7 percent.

**Real earnings:** How about workers, are they better off? While wages have climbed, they haven't nearly kept pace with Bidenflation. As a result, workers have seen their real wages decline by 5 percent, which works out to an effective average pay cut of \$2,726 per year. Does that, in Obama's mind, make them better off?

**Financial stress:** Inflation and a sluggish economy have had an impact on people's sense of financial stress. When Biden took office, the IBD/TIPP Financial Related Stress Index stood at 61.6. Anything over 50 indicates increased stress. That was understandable since the economy was still reeling from the COVID lockdowns the previous year, but the financial stress index was 69.3 in July 2022, or 12.5 percent higher. Anyone want to argue that people are better off under Biden when it comes to their financial worries?

**Economic optimism:** The IBD/TIPP economic optimism index stood at 50.1 when Biden took office and then climbed during the first few months of his presidency. But once Biden's economic policies started to take effect, confidence plunged. It is now a desperately low 38.1. The last time it was this low, Biden was vice president.

**Unity:** When it comes to how united the country is, well, our differences are also worse since Biden took office, despite his solemn pledge to bring the country back together after Trump's supposedly "highly divisive" term. The TIPP unity index stands at 28.5, which is down from 37.8 back in April 2021 – the first month TIPP began tracking this. Even Democrats overwhelmingly think Biden has failed to unite the country, with the index plunging from 53.7 in April 2021 to 35.8 today.

**Stock market:** On the last trading day before Biden took office, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 30,997. Last week, it closed at 32,151. On paper, that's a gain of 4 percent – which over the span of 18 months isn't much to brag about. (Over those same

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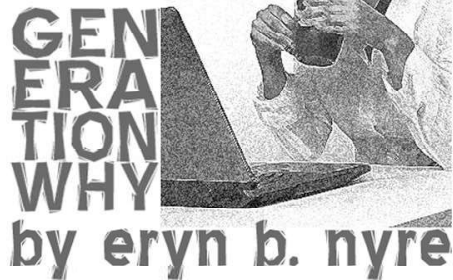
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**RONALD REAGAN**  
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 17

# Changeable Parts Don't Help

As you are all aware, I write a lot about work ... I have an entertaining job. It often annoys me, but it makes for good stories and I write about the people I encounter who have a tenuous grasp on logic and reason. But today's stories are about things people said that made me have to hold back my laughter until they were out of earshot.



Both of these stories take place during my company's "new caregiver" training, specifically the section on bathing patients. This is one of the most common services we provide for our patients and caregivers usually haven't had any clinical training. It involves detailed images and an anatomically correct mannequin with interchangeable male and female parts. I'll skip the obvious joke about interchangeable parts in today's society and carry on with my story. Don't worry, I'm not going into graphic detail.

The process in this section is to first show images of various body parts and make sure everyone knows the medical terms before walking the students through

*All I have to add is this: if things are this exciting in a healthcare training class for adults, there must be an absolute party going on in High School health classes these days.*

how to clean them. We impress upon our caregivers the importance of handling bathing with the utmost dignity and respect because it is an incredibly vulnerable situation for our patients. I'd like to think they take our words to heart in our patients' homes, but in the classroom they sometimes struggle to maintain the level of reverence we prefer, and this is where my first story really begins.

My training partner and I had gotten to the female image when he motioned to the screen and asked the class, "What is this called?" Many times we hear the right answer. Many times we hear innocuous colloquialisms from people who are uncomfortable using the proper medical terms. Just as often as all that, we hear words that have no place in that setting. Mostly we are immune to it and simply gently reprimand and correct the class,

then move on. This time, however, we hear a deep voice rise up from the back and say, "Looks like a Friday night to me."

It was most definitely crude, but also a little funny in an I haven't heard that one yet kind of way. Still, it hit a nerve in my partner and the look on his face was a warning to me not to laugh. Let me see if I can paint a picture: Have you ever had your toddler drop a poorly enunciated curse bomb in

front of the entire family at Thanksgiving dinner? You know you're supposed to reprimand her, but the youthful innocence of the child juxtaposed against the look on Grandma's face is just so funny that you have to bite your lip and hold your breath so as not to laugh. Yeah, that's what it was like.

He stood there for a beat then he just turned around, walked out the door and left me standing in the classroom without a word. The comment itself was amusing, but my partner's reaction was what really sent me over the edge. Of all the things he's heard, that one left him speechless. He's a good Mormon boy, so maybe it was just too much to imagine such activities referenced in a less than respectful way. Whatever the reason, it's been over a year and he still hasn't lived it down.

This last story is about a woman who thought she'd hired into an open at-home prostitution ring. You read that right. The

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

woman in question was retired and just wanted to supplement her income a bit. She saw our billboard somewhere and thought she'd just be babysitting some elderly people a few days a week, playing a little cards and making them some lunch. I don't know if the hiring manager skipped going over the job duties in detail in the interview, or she just didn't pay attention, but as we got to the bathing and hygiene portion of the training she was starting to look increasingly alarmed. So much so that I leaned down and whispered to her asking if she was ok. She said she wasn't willing to be part of this illegal sex ring. Of all the responses I tried to anticipate, this was not on the list. I blinked a few times before my brain caught up to her words.

As you can imagine, we immediately called a break and spoke to her in private. When I asked her to clar-

ify her comment she said we were obviously expecting her to perform sex acts for money. No. Nope. Not even a little. None of that is true. That is the most wrong thing I've heard in all the years I have been doing this job.


It was so hard for me to keep a straight face while trying to convince this woman that we are not a prostitution ring fronted by a federally funded home healthcare program. She didn't believe me and said she would be reporting us to the authorities and stormed out leaving my partner, the hiring manager, and me trying to reconcile what in the heck just happened. Side note, I would have loved to have been on the other end of her call to the authorities.

All I have to add is this: if things are this exciting in a healthcare training class for adults, there must be an absolute party going on in High School health classes these days.



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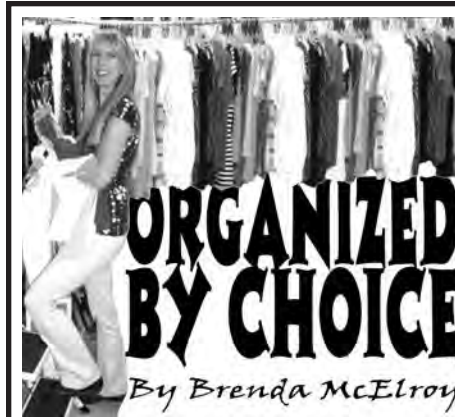


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### Disorganized and Hating It

We've all heard that blondes have more fun, but do organized people have more fun? Think about this: what's more fun, spending \$75 per month on renting storage space or going out to dinner once a week? What's more fun, spending a ½ an hour looking for your keys or purse, or reading a good book?

While most would answer going out to dinner and reading, statistics show that many lifestyle choices result in a more stressful existence. That's not fun. The Na-

tional Association of Professional Organizers Survey showed that 65 percent of respondents noted that their household was at least moderately disorganized and 71 percent said their quality of life would improve if they were better organized. There seems to be a disconnect between believing that being organized is a better way of life and actually doing it. So, how do we bridge that gap?

Boundaries.

If you're visiting the tigers at the zoo, you're very aware of the benefit of boundaries. Boundaries also enhance your experience in sports, relationships, time management and finances. At times we perceive boundaries as restrictive or cumbersome, but they spare us from stress, injury, heartache and loss.

The same is true for boundaries in organization. They minimize anxiety and frustration. Here are a few common boundary pushers and some tips on how to combat them.

**Collectibles:** Years ago, a client began collecting Hummel figurines. For each birthday she receives more. What used to be a joy, is now as burden as she struggles to cram them into closets and keep the ones on display dust-free.

Setting boundaries for a collection means to decide how much space you want to allot to it, choose the favorites that will comfortably fit and release the rest. It also means giving yourself permission to let people know you have reached your limit. Offer some alternative suggestions for gifts like a gift certificate for a massage or dinner out, in other words, something you don't have to store.

**Backup**

**Supplies:** One woman emailed asking what to do with all the backup supplies that were spilling out all over her floor. She said she saves money by buying in bulk and stocking up

when things are on sale.

Living beyond our means when it comes to our space comes with a cost. She was stressed with the clutter it was causing. Designate a specific space for backup supplies. Honor that boundary and wait to purchase more until there's room for it or, find someone to split the sale value and supplies with.

**Left-over Containers:** Chances are you have more containers for left-overs than you have left-overs to put in them. They take up valuable kitchen space and cause stress when rummaging through a stuffed cabinet trying to match a lid to a container. Determine how many you actually need and use. Match that number of lids and containers and let go of the rest. Resist saving every-

Please see ORGANIZE on P. 17

## From Soup to ... Soup!

(September 2012)

**Editor's Note:** With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.



by Jean Briner

Have you had just about enough of this hot weather? I know we haven't had some of those 115 degree days I remember from the past, but I understand we broke some kind of record for the longest stretch of days at 100 or more. Well, I for one don't like those kinds of records.

Looking at the calendar, the first day of fall will be Thursday, Sept. 22. Doesn't that sound great? Makes me think of being able to cook and not worrying about heating up the kitchen or the whole house. I

*Looking at the calendar, the first day of fall will be Thursday, Sept. 22. Doesn't that sound great? Makes me think of being able to cook and not worrying about heating up the kitchen or the whole house.*

think just about everyone likes soup (I know some people who could eat soup any day of the year).

So, looking forward to the cooler weather, let's talk soup this month.

### Basic Vegetable Soup

1 T olive oil  
1 onion – chopped  
2 ribs celery – sliced  
2 carrots, peeled & chopped  
6 cups vegetables, chopped  
4 C Liquid  
15 ounces canned diced tomatoes

1 T dried herbs  
½ tsp. kosher salt

In a large pot or Dutch oven heat olive oil on medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and stir and well coat with oil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables turn golden. Stir in vegetables, let cook for a few minutes, stirring often. Cover with liquid; add tomatoes and dried herbs and salt. Bring to a

boil. Reduce heat until a slow simmer. Cover and let cook for about 30 minutes or until vegetables are done.

This recipe is so versatile you can do just about anything with it – the varieties are endless:

The 6 cups of vegetables can be anything you or your family like. With the summer gardens winding down, there are different varieties of squash, okra, green beans, potatoes (including yams or sweet potatoes) or bell peppers. Or from the farmer's

market, how about turnips or cabbage. If you don't have fresh vegetables available, how about canned corn, or green beans. Or how about frozen green beans, corn, peas or even a package

of mixed vegetables. If you are going to use baby spinach or Swiss chard wait until the last five minutes of cooking before adding them.

Liquid can be water or vegetable broth for you vegetarians, but the rest of us can use either chicken or beef stock. I read one recipe that used V-8 for a liquid – but that would be your choice.

Be careful when adding dried herbs. Remember that they are stronger dried than fresh. You can use dried basil, Italian seasoning, or anything you prefer.

### Carrot Soup

4 C hot water  
4 tsp. instant bouillon (or 1 bouillon cube)  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 onion, chopped (about 1 ½ cups)  
1 rib celery, chopped  
2 T butter or olive oil  
1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced  
1 large potato, chopped  
½ tsp. thyme

¼ tsp. ground dill  
2 tsp. kosher salt  
¼ tsp. black pepper  
1 ½ C milk

Heat water and bouillon in the microwave until hot. Meanwhile, sauté garlic, onion and celery in butter until tender in a Dutch oven. Add water and all remaining ingredients except milk. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to maintain a slow simmer. Simmer until the carrots are done – about 30 minutes. Puree in small batches in a blender or food processor. Or, if you have an immersion blender it would work right in the pan. Return mixture to pan, add milk and return to temperature without letting it boil. The milk can be whatever you choose. To keep the calories down use skim milk but for a creamier soup use

whole milk – or anything in-between.

### Quick and Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

1 T Butter  
½ C chopped onion  
½ C chopped celery  
1 C chopped carrots  
4 (14.5 ounces) cans chicken broth  
1 (14.5 Ounces) can vegetable broth  
½ pound chopped cooked chicken  
1 ½ C egg noodles  
½ tsp. dried basil  
½ tsp. dried oregano  
Salt and pepper to taste

In large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion, celery and carrots in butter until just tender. Pour in chicken and

Please see RECIPES on P. 17

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**Madera County SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1**

9/22



**An Important Message from  
Madera Sheriff Tyson Pogue**

"I'm supporting Andy Wheeler for Supervisor in District 1. His professionalism and dedication to the community is second to none. As a Financial Advisor, School Board Member and community volunteer Andy has the knowledge and skills to make the right decisions to protect our families, businesses and students.

**Please Vote for Andy Wheeler for Supervisor!"**

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Senior Report

# A Senior Center Boutique? Why, Yes

By Melanie Williams

Did you know the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center has a boutique? We have met many people who come to the monthly Saturday Sale at the Treasure House, but have not visited the boutique inside the main building of the Senior Center.

Do you need a gift idea for someone special? Come and see what you might find at the Ranchos/Hills Boutique. It has many unique and collectable items for sale and the boutique has an eclectic collection of donated items from times past as well as modern day jewelry pieces. If you are looking for an unusual or decorative gift, come in and check out the boutique in the Senior Center. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you can shop any time during the hours the Senior Center is open.

When the Senior Center opened in 1980, many people in the community wanted to develop ways to keep the place open to the community in the Madera Ranchos Area so they established it as a non-profit community center. Since they wanted it to be self-sufficient from the other County-operated community centers, they had to find ways to raise funds to buy the property and keep it running. Many seniors began sharing their creative ideas and projects that would generate funds to keep the center operating without major funding from Madera County.

One of the many ideas was to open a space that would house collectable items for sale that were donated by the members of the Senior Center and the surrounding Madera Ranchos community. This space was affectionally called, "Grandma's Attic." Helen Lowell hand-

crafted the first sign for Grandma's Attic and it still hangs in the boutique today. The name was eventually changed to the Ranchos/Hills Boutique.

Many people donated hand-crafted items to Grandma's Attic, as well as unusual "White Elephant" collectables. They made jewelry, quilts, artificial flower arrangements and even Easter Baskets. The tradition of making Easter Baskets is still done by Carol Wood, who now runs the boutique for the Senior Center. Carol became involved through her creative talents of decorating the center every change of season as well as the events hosted by the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. She took on the Boutique from Caroline Reeves and Bobbie Farina, who would decorate tables, share craft ideas and donate artisan collectables to the center.

Marie Sell started a quilting group by providing embroidery blocks to any members interested. She would then piece the blocks together into stunning quilts that were sold in Grandma's Attic. Tom and Jenny Mullins were the first couple to run Grandma's Attic and they made wood projects that other members painted and sold from Grandma's Attic. Joann Steirn would hold crafting classes in her home to develop crafting ideas that people could continue at the Senior Center.

Through the dedication and participation of the many talented founding members of the Senior Center, we were able to make their dream a reality. Come and visit us at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The Craft Fair is just around the corner.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is hosting the Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have many returning vendors and a

few new vendors coming to the Craft Fair. If you are interested in participating as a vendor or a volunteer at our Craft Fair, there is still time to sign up. The center will be selling hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs to anyone who would like to purchase a BBQ lunch. Come and join us on Oct. 15 at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos.

Fernwood Gardens, at 12090 Fernwood Dr. in the Ranchos, is hosting a Spooky Gardens Tour with live music, a raffle and other events on Oct. 22. They have gra-

ciously offered to donate proceeds of the evening raffle to benefit the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The Senior Center will have an information table set up during the event on Oct. 22, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The community is welcome to the event and can learn more about our local Senior Center. Call or contact us for more information at 559-645-4864 or email us at rhseniors@att.net

Thought for October: "How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days." - John Burroughs



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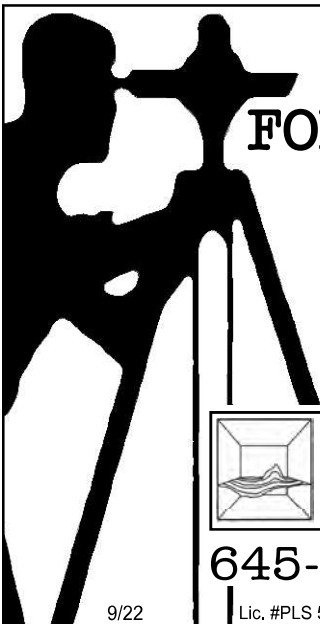
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Come join in the celebration that  
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Veterans at the VA Hospital. Snacks,  
drinks, Christmas carols and Santa!

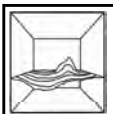
***When's the NEXT Chamber  
of Commerce Meeting?***

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

9/22

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**The Bookshelf****“Reset Time” at the Ranchos Library**

By Jerrica Edmundson

It feels like we are finally getting a chance to reset here at the library, and I am taking advantage of that for sure. We have been receiving volunteer applications and I am very grateful that our community has been so supportive of me during this time where we have been short-staffed at the library. Hopefully with the addition of volunteers we may be able to offer things like tutoring at the library again; it all depends on what time those around us are willing to share. I have been doing all I can to make sure everyone is just as well cared for as they were when we had an added staff member, but I will be so thankful when the hiring process is complete. Hopefully we can see a new face around the library in October, so be sure to give them just as warm a welcome as you always do. Once we are re-established with our staff and settled in, be ready to see a lot of changes at the branch here, as I have big plans for making everything even more accessible for everyone.

Storytime has resumed on Thursdays at 11 a.m., just as it was before, and we have enjoyed seeing so many new faces as more and more members of the Tesoro Viejo and Riverstone families have been coming to visit, and I just love it. These last two weeks we have even had guest readers who have made sure that story time could go on even if Mrs. Maxfield took a little vacation. We love our community and absolutely adore being able to play a part in telling stories to our littlest members. Storytime is every Thursday here at the library at 11 a.m., and Mrs. Maxfield prepares a story, song and snack for every little one that comes to join us.

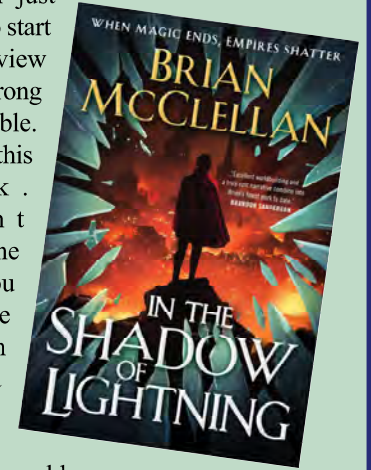
Our next Friends of the Ranchos Library Community Room Takeover will take place Dec. 6 through 10, so if you missed our last book sale expansion, it will be your next chance to catch it. The Friends also have new tote bags available and with just a \$5 donation to the group, it's a great way to show your support for the library and

show off that support at the same time. As a reminder, any donations made to the Friends of the Ranchos Library are fully tax deductible.

**Jerrica's Bookshelf:** *In the Shadow of Lightning* by Brian McClellan

I'm just going to start this review off as strong as possible. I loved this book. Right from the start you are thrown into a rich and intriguing world pop-

ulated by people who have an affinity for using a special kind of glass called “god-glass” after it has been imbued with mystical aspects: witglass makes your mind work better, forgeglass makes you stronger, milk-glass eases pain, auraglass boosts your charisma, cureglass can heal your wounds, among countless other types. The only catch: the glass must be forged using a specific type of sand and that sand is a finite resource that is reaching the end of its availability. This amazing introduction to the *Glass Immortals* series follows a diverse and well-created cast of characters as they try to stave off the end of life as they know it, all while defending those they love and solving a mysterious murder case. We get to see the interactions of our main characters — Demir Grappo: an outcast nobleman and ex-military commander; Kizzie: an illegitimate child of a well-known councilmember seeking validation; and Thessa: a highly skilled silceer who can work wonders with the godglass — and learn to truly care about what happens to them along the way. I honestly can't wait for the next entry into this series and will be watching carefully for when it comes to light.

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Median Days on Market  
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# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## How will water problems change Madera County?

Throughout Madera's history, Madera has always been known as "farming country." Most of Madera's Tax revenue came from agriculture. Cattle, fruit, nuts and annual crop production was vibrant and successful. Our not-so-recent water shortage has finally come home to roost and will change our lives.

To understanding Madera's land and water history, we have to look back to the "Gold Rush" when the state gave away free land to those who were willing to work the land and put it to use. The basic reason was to increase the population and increase the tax base. Along with the land, California gave away the water rights connected to the

land which resulted in their inability to fully control water use. Today, through different methods, Sacramento is wielding its power to change that. New rules such as the Sustainable Ground Water Act has newly defined how we all must look after our water and aquifers. We can't just drill a well and use the water as in the past. We are on the way to measure the aquifer's ability to recharge itself and draw only the amount of water that will not cause over-drafting, or taking out more than is going in.

Since the early 2000s, I have been working on water projects as well as bringing to Madera all the managers of the Israeli National Water Company, called MEKOROT (please look them up on your computer. You will be amazed). I did this to show them California's problems as well as taking California delegations, including politicians and water professionals, to Israel to show them the water technology advancements of MEKOROT. Due to their aggressive Reverse Osmosis projects and other methods, as well as

re-using water, Israel in most cases no longer has to depend on rain, surface or ground water to meet all of its domestic needs, including providing available water to its neighbors.

One of the forms they implemented is drilling Dry Wells, or "recharging wells," in flood and rainwater flow paths in order to sink passing water for recharging the aquifers. To date, with farming business' help, SEMCU has been able to drill 146 similar wells – all free of charge to the homeowners – throughout Southeast Madera County with great results.

But all of this is not enough to turn the tide. It is certain that agriculture in all its types will decline in Madera and many family and corporate farms will go out of business in the next few years. Today, agriculture is restricted to the amount of water they may use during the year, with insufficient amounts of water for farming. I've taken over 200 acres out of farming in my operation with more to come. As we all noticed in recent years, more urban development is coming to Madera and replacing agriculture. I see it as the natural future progression since water use can be

better controlled with such urban developments by treating and reusing water, and may even create water surplus for recharging. So, less trees and more homes are in our future since Madera County will need the new homes' tax base to replace agriculture's tax base in order to stay afloat and take care of Madera's inhabitant's needs.

In the past, SEMCU applied for and received several hundreds of dollars in grants relating to water and electricity savings and helped homeowners throughout our area receive these funds and equipment to help our water saving goal. SEMCU is closely following the drought and encourages ways for you to get involved with this very important issue, along with other community issues we all care about. We at SEMCU invite you all to come up with ideas for projects that our community needs and let us know your thoughts.

For more information related to SEMCU, call 559-363-9095 or email

Please see SEMCU on P. 15



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SEMCU cont. from P. 14

SEMCU at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org). You can also visit SEMCU on the web at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org). Please join us for the once-a-month meeting and see what SEMCU can do for you and your community. Our virtual SEMCU meetings place on the third Monday of each month and

last about one hour. The next meeting is Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. If you would like a link to the virtual meeting, you may give us a call at the number listed above. To join the conference call, dial 312-757-3121 and use access code 715-657-949.

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9/22

FORUM cont. from P. 4

felt the would have available to devote to the business of the people of District 1.

"I work as an independent financial advisor," Wheeler said. "I do not work for a firm or punch a clock." His position allows him to not be strapped to a desk 24/7. He also mentioned that he has four kids who have "All moved on with their lives," meaning that the typical family-related things that many people deal with daily are, in his words, "Now moving to the side."

Wamhoff revealed that he has a successful solar distributorship that he has run for the last 11 years with two partners who now handle the bulk of the business. "We're doing quite well, and I don't do a lot of the day-to-day operations anymore." Wamhoff then made a point he was adamant about. "I still contend that you guys do not want a full-time politician doing this job. You don't."

### A Timely Question

The final question of the night was pulled from the pages of newspapers and off of TV screens all across the country. If, as a Supervisor, you were approached by a special-interest group that wanted permis-

sion to fly their organization's flag in front of the County offices, alongside the American flag and the flag of the State of California, what would your response be?

"My stance is, if the procedure is there, stick to the procedure," Wamhoff said. "If the procedure is we fly the American flag and the Californian flag, then that's it. If you want to open it up and someone wants to put a Black Lives matter flag, well, if that's open, then you had better be able to fly the Gadsen flag. I think if you just stick to the procedures you can avoid a lot of those issues."

"There are three sort of flags that should generally be there because that's what you're representing. That's the American flag, the State flag and the County flag," Wheeler said. "Those are the pieces we are truly dealing with. Anything else and you're giving voices to groups that really have nothing to do with your local politics." His concern is what has recently been observed in Fresno where individual groups have started saying, "Well, I want this ... but you can't have this because this one's prejudiced ..." When Gina Wallace asked both candidates how they would vote on the "flag" issue, both offered a resounding, "no."

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



By Sarah Morgan

The Madera Fair Started on Aug. 27 and ended on Sept. 11. All 4-H members who participated in livestock came and did an amazing job. The types of livestock animals that attended were beef, dairy cattle, swine, lambs and goats. There were also some small animals

there, such as rabbits, chickens and ducks. We also have exhibitors with horses. The livestock animal exhibitors at the Madera Fair were Hailey Martinez, Lucy Lee, Taylor Ward and Roman Pena. Also were Hunter Weathers, Landon Davis, Micah Lee, Sienna Garcia, Sarah Morgan, Cheyenne Barrientos, Annelise Crandall, Jamey Crandall, Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith and Wyatt Morgan. These kids did such an amazing job and many of them had champions and placed in showmanship. The small animal exhibitors at the Madera Fair were Hunter Williams-Smith, Jacob Garzon and Griffin Williams-Smith.

We also have many club members who exhibit non-animal things, called "still exhibits." That can be anything from cookies and cupcakes, photographs and drawings,

arts and crafts items and even Lego creations. Our members who exhibited still exhibits were Paisley Bower, Brooke Tavares, Jade Mellott, Iris Garzon, Elizabeth Morgan, Brooke Davis, Paisley Fahey, Landon Davis, Wyatt Morgan, Sarah Morgan and Aubrey Rocca. Many of these exhibitors placed in the top three with their amazing creations.

Congratulations to all of these hardworking members for a job well done at the fair.



Jamey Crandall, Hunter Williams-Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith wrangle goats for 4-H.

*Kiwanis Korner*

# Kiwanis Brings “Buddy Benches” to Golden Valley Elementary Schools

By Sally Rowden



Kiwanis members, from left, John Minney, Becky Koop, Ollia Ridge, Leslie Corella, Mona Diaz, Shellie Roth and Shelly Deniz flank their donated “Buddy Bench” to Stone Creek Elementary School.

students create friendships. The staff have shared with the students the friendship sharing idea of the Buddy Bench. When a student sees another student sitting on the bench, they can share their friendship by asking them to join in to play. A great way for our schools to provide a student resource that supports students “who just want to make friends.”

As shared by Cadence Fraga, now a second grader in Klein, Texas, Cadence in first grade at a new school experienced a Buddy Bench. She made friends immediately. From that experience she went on a journey of raising money to have a Buddy Bench at three other schools. Thank you, Cadence. Your vision has now journeyed to us in the Golden Valley Unified School District.

Two other school projects underway that we are monetarily supporting are the supplies needed for the Home Economics Class at the Ranchos Middle School and the student garden supplies needed at Educational Options. Further information on these two projects will be shared as the planning and implementation continues to develop.

Our Installation of Officers and Dinner will take place on Sept. 17. Ollia Ridge will

September, with this heat, has surprised us all. As I’m typing this the triple digits are supposed to be coming to a close. Ninety-seven degrees will be so welcoming.

The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis have continued right through the sweltering heat. Excitingly, the “Buddy Bench” project for our three elementary schools was completed. As you’re visiting Sierra View, Stone Creek or Webster elementary schools, look for a bright red or glossy blue bench that reads “Buddy Bench.”

These benches are to help

be installed as our president, Sally Rowden installed as our secretary and Marie Cameron will continue as our treasurer.

At our Oct. 13 meeting our guest speakers will be Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims and Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue. Their topics will be how Fresno County and Madera County work together in fighting crime and the growing issue of fentanyl in our Fresno and Madera communities. Their presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at Second Son Brews at 37167 Ave. 12 #4C.

Other upcoming Madera Ranchos Kiwanis events include the Run 4 The Miracle 5k Run/Walk – Kiwanis Division 5 supporting Valley Children’s Hospital Pediatric Trauma – Injury Prevention Program on Sept. 21 at 7:30 a.m. at Woodward Park. For more information google Run 4 The Miracle (runsignup.com).

Two other events to be watching for are the Poinsettia Sale and the Christmas Tea. Orders for Poinsettias will start at the end of October and beginning of November. The Christmas Tea is planned for Nov. 5. Only 60 tickets will be sold so watch for updates in our Ranchos Independent articles and on our Facebook page regarding both of these events.

In closing, when you’re reading this article the blistering heat will have quieted and fall will be at the front door. And the Madera Ranchos Kiwanians will be continuing their work for our children and our communities as “*There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.*” – James Doolittle

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



Another “Buddy Bench” was donated to Sierra View Elementary by the Ranchos Kiwanis, represented by, from left standing, Becky Koop, John Minny, Marie Cameron, Leslie Corella, Shelly Deniz and Charlie Diaz. Seated are Ollia Ridge and Mona Diaz.



*In Memoriam*

## **Frank Kramer** **August 18, 1945 - August 19, 2022**

The Lord called Frank home on August 19, 2022. Frank was born on August 18, 1945 and lived a full life of 77 years. Frank graduated from Woodward High School from the Class of 1964. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served proudly for three years on board the USS Enterprise.

Frank married his loving wife Gloria in 1967. He was an entrepreneur at heart and opened his own construction company in 1980 called Frank Kramer Exteriors. Frank loved to fish, gamble and was always on the go, but most of all he loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Gloria of 55 wonderful years, three sons: Michael and his wife Jacqueline; John and his wife Heather; and Mark and his wife Jaime along with six grandchildren: Isabelle, Ashley, Allison, Emma, Alex and Breanna.

Frank has been described by many as a wise, generous and loving soul. He wisely invested time spent with his grandchildren and gave to them generously with outings like John’s Incredible Pizza, doughnut runs and pedicures. Frank will be missed by all who knew him.





## Making Sure Your Vote is Counted

By Betty Van Valkenburg

On its website, the hard-working and dedicated Election Integrity Project-California recommends avoiding the voting machines and not mailing in your ballot. Instead, they encourage us to vote in person, with a paper ballot if possible, on or as close to election day as possible. Voting “in person” means marking your ballot, preferably paper, in a polling location and submitting it to the ballot box with no envelope or other voter identifier. Obviously, if you vote in person you would not also vote the ballot that was mailed to you.

They say that “... the Founders bequeathed to all Americans the most amazing governing document ever written by human hand, declaring that all living under its influence would be free from the tyranny of the majority, and self-determining through a democratic process of electing governmental representatives. Under this system, each and every vote matters immensely.”

But they warn that the democratic process is being subverted by a myriad of methods, and on the front burner of concern is election technology: “the machines.”

“Current evidence strongly suggests that algorithms (a programming of the voting machines and/or tabulators to create a pre-determined result) do exist in some places, and that all the machines currently in use are at least capable of and vulnerable to electronic manipulation ... If there are

such algorithms in a county’s system, they must be adjusted throughout the tabulation period in order to appear credible. Voting early, mailing or dropping off your vote-by-mail ahead of Election Day, allows the manipulation of algorithms.”

It does not help to submit your mail-in ballot in person at the last minute. Turning in a ballot in an envelope subjects it to other types of manipulation, and the extended processing time – 29 days – allows for digital tomfoolery.

Vote in person – on election day if possible.

You can do it!

“It is vital to vote in such a way that your ballot is counted the day you cast it. The only way to do that is to vote in person, no envelopes allowed. And a last-minute in-person vote surge would be an antidote to the algorithm. The recent Arizona primary is proof of that.”

You are encouraged to visit the EIP-CA.com website for a wealth of information for which there is not space here. While on their site, you might learn how to work with them to insure honest and fair elections.

Commentary, from this writer and not from EIP-CA: While you’re at it, be sure to vote to return sanity. One single party has given us rampant inflation, confiscatory gas prices, a broken supply chain, empty store shelves, chaos at the border with fentanyl and criminals coming in along with migrants, staggering numbers of fentanyl deaths, dependence on unfriendly countries for oil after purposely wrecking our energy independence, government-imposed lockdowns, Covid lies and mismanagement, a 6,800-page income tax code, 78,000 new and armed IRS agents, multi-billion-dollar tax-and-spend bills with deceptive names, the deadly Afghanistan withdrawal debacle, overspending, overregulating and over taxing.

That would be the Democrat party.

VOTE REPUBLICAN!

**ORGANIZE** cont. from P. 7

lunchmeat container, just in case.

**Toys:** It’s easy for a home with young children to become overrun with toys. Just like you have rules about where food is allowed, you can set boundaries for toys. Designate specific rooms for play. Set cleanup boundaries – like placing toys in designated bins every night before bedtime. For outdoor bikes and scooters, “draw” a parking boundary with colored duct tape in the garage or patio. By maintaining an amount of toys that

will fit in the designated storage areas, you will reduce stress for both you and your child when it’s time to clean up.

Just like barriers at the tiger exhibit make the experience a pleasant one, developing and maintaining boundaries with our stuff creates a peaceful and productive environment in our homes.

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

## SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

vegetable broths and stir in chicken, noodles and seasonings. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes until everything is done.

Do you have a favorite soup or a traditional soup? I read that Ruth Graham wrote that when her family was in China as missionaries her mother always served Oyster Stew for Christmas morning breakfast. After they came back to the United States they brought the tradition

with them. Then after she and Billy were married she continued the tradition with her family. I have spent the last two Christmas Eve’s with Randy and his family and he has served his Corn Chowder for dinner. I asked him to give me the recipe to put in this article, but with getting the paper out, his daughter ready to go back to college next week, and going to the all-important Hawks football game, he just didn’t have time. So I promise you I’ll have it for you next month.

**EDITORIAL** cont. from P. 5

months in Trump’s administration, the Dow shot up 37 percent.) After accounting for inflation, investors have lost money under Biden.

**Crime:** The number of aggravated assaults was up 4 percent in the first half of 2022 compared with the first half of 2021, according to the Council on Criminal Justice. Robberies are up 19 percent. Motor vehicle thefts are up 15 percent. While murder rates are down slightly from 2021, they are still higher than they were in the first half of 2020 and way above where they were before COVID.

**Direction of the Country:** The week after Biden took office, 61 percent of the public said the country was

on the wrong track, according to the Real Clear Politics average. Today, more than 70 percent say the country is on the wrong track. If there’s a better indication of just how much “better off” people believe we are under Biden, it’s hard to top that.

Finally, there’s the fact that a majority of Americans now favor impeaching Biden. A new Rasmussen survey finds that 52 percent of likely voters want him impeached. Even among Democrats, almost a third – 32 percent – want him impeached.

Ask yourself, are you “deeply grateful” for how things have turned out under Biden? If not, what are you going to do about it?

This editorial originally appeared at [www.issuesinsights.com](http://www.issuesinsights.com).

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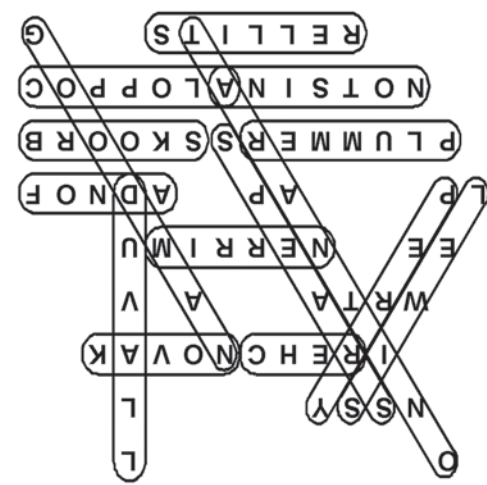
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### ANSWERS

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**New construction**, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. **Call 559-970-4476.**

## For Sale

**For sale -- Large bird cage.** 20"x20"x28" high. Rolling stand 27" high w/shelf. White. Like mew. \$250. **Call 559-312-0891 and please leave message.**

## Help Wanted

**Reliable person to clean horse corral** every other weekend. Training for work will be provided before starting. Approximate work time is one hour. \$20. Need two references. **If interested, please call 559-312-0891. Leave message.**

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- Before I pluck my eyebrows, I rub on a bit of my granddaughter's teething gel. She's done teething and doesn't need it anymore, but it works well for me. Be very careful to apply, let dry and wash your hands before touching your eye any further! -- M.L. in California
- When microwaving items of different sizes, arrange the largest parts toward the outside of the plate for more even cooking.
- Lemon juice mixed together with coarse salt makes an inexpensive copper cleaner.
- When going fishing and you are only bringing a couple of lures, use an old, empty pill container. It holds well and you won't be poked. -- D.B. in Minnesota
- When figuring up the cost of moving yourself or using a service, be sure to consider the cost of your time and your health. And be certain that you are able to drive the moving van if you rent a large truck.
- If you don't keep a lot of foods in your freezer, you can fill large gallon-size zipper-top bags with ice cubes. You will always have plenty of ice on hand, and your freezer will not have to work as hard to keep the items in it frozen.



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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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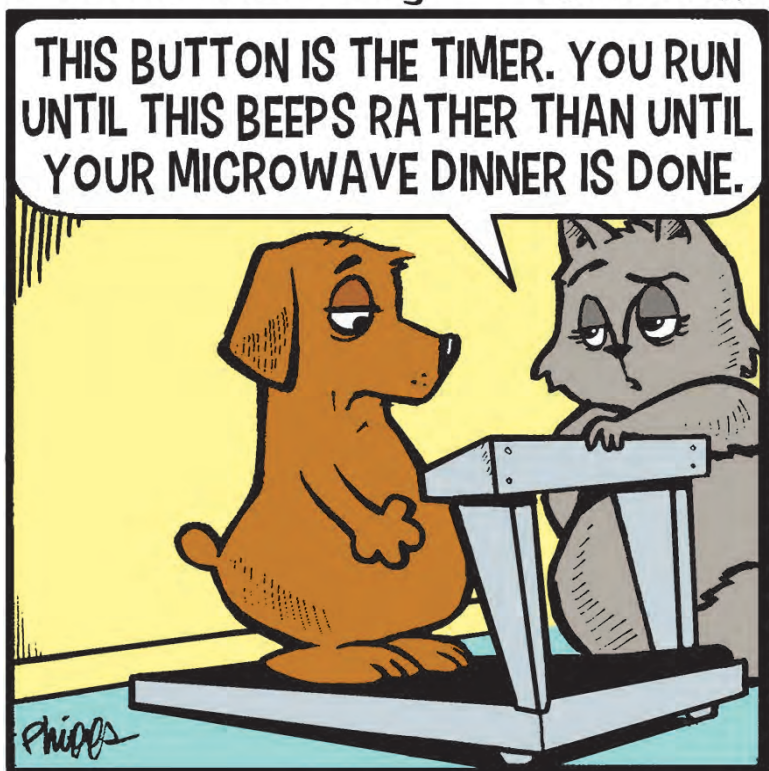
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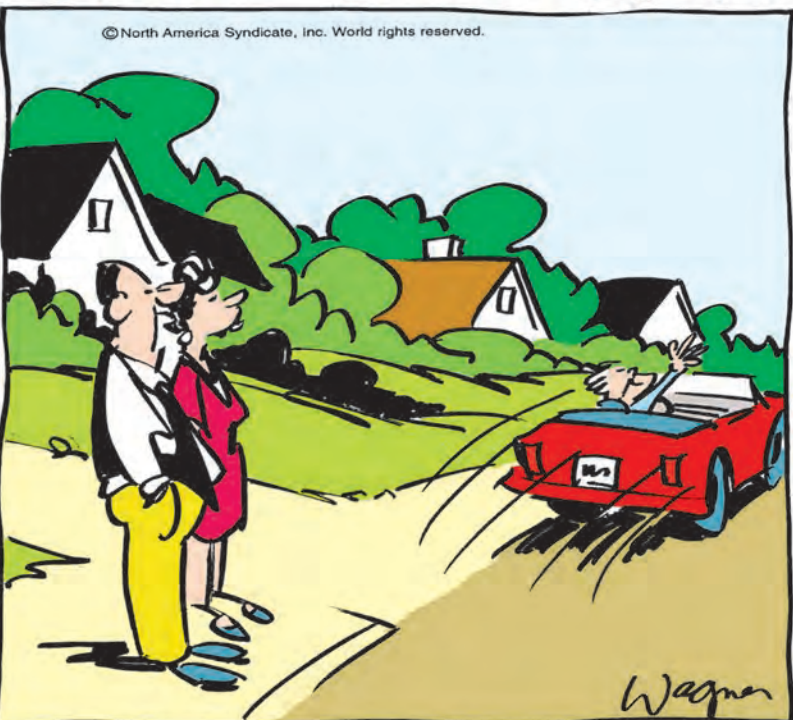
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



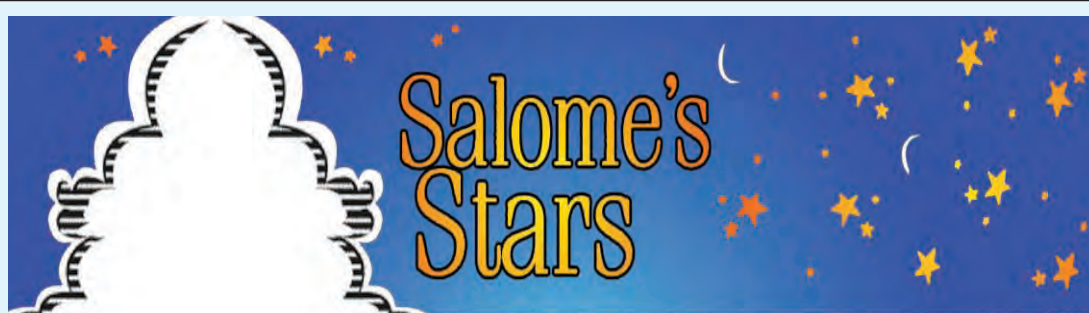
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ADS  
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



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"It's times like this that I wish we didn't have a cool car!"



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) As eager as you are to take on that new challenge, it would be best to temper that spurt of "Ram"-bunctious energy until you have more facts to back up your decision.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time for hardworking Bovines to take a break from their hectic on-the-job schedules to bask in the unconditional love and support of friends and family.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to what you hear in the workplace. You could pick up some hints about possible changes. Meanwhile, a new infusion of creative energy sets in by week's end.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Try to be more flexible in dealing with a suddenly difficult situation, whether it's on the job or at home. Others might have some good points to offer. Listen to them.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You might think you're not getting the royal treatment you deserve. But, be careful not to become a royal pain by complaining about it. Be patient and allow things to work out.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Watch that penchant for being super judgmental at work. It might create a bad impression with someone whose decisions could determine the course of your career.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You've been your usual busy-bee self, gathering nectar wherever you can find it. But now's a good time to kick back, relax and just enjoy smelling the roses.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) That pesky personal situation seems to be improving. But, change comes slowly, so be patient. Expect someone to bring more positive news by week's end.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Whoa! Ease up on that hectic pace you've been putting yourself through. Take time to recharge your energy levels before going at a full gallop again.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Try to be intrigued, not intimidated, by the issues you're suddenly facing, and you'll be ahead of the game. Don't be afraid to demand answers to your questions.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Are new associates freezing you out of their inner circle? Never mind. Put a warm smile on that friendly face of yours, and you'll soon thaw them all down to size.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your wise guidance helps colleagues agree to compromise and move forward. Meanwhile, there are still vital issues you need to deal with in your personal life.

**Born this Week**

*You enjoy being free with your emotions, but you can exercise disciplined focus as well. You would make a fine artist.*

# FUN PAGES

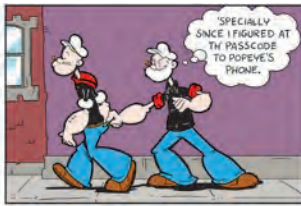
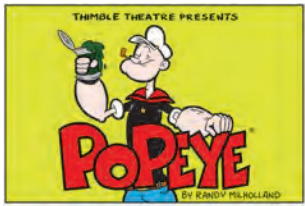
## Kids' Maze



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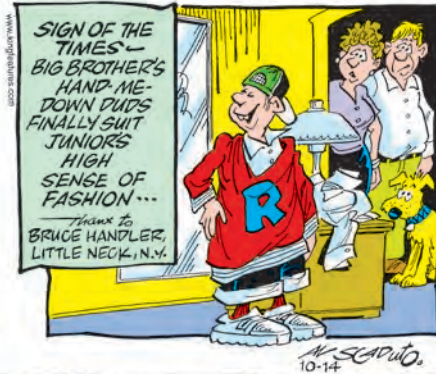
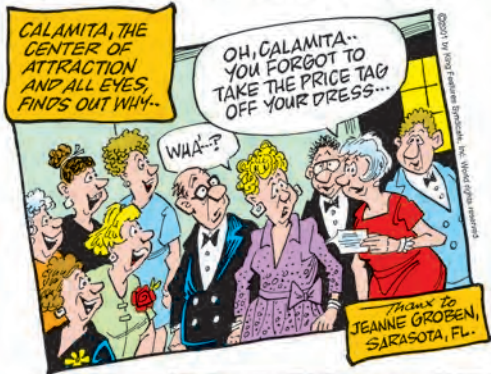
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

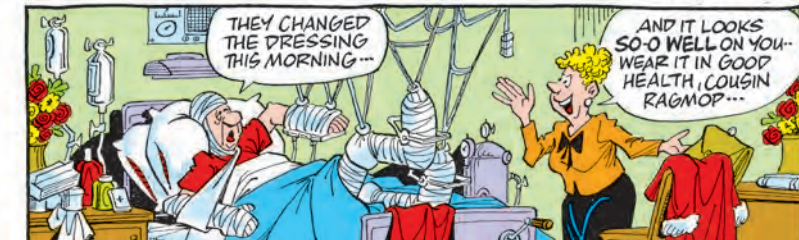


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



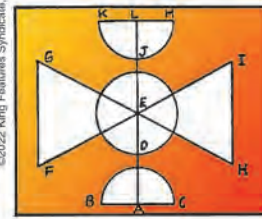
ABSENT-MINDED NICE SAYINGS FOR WRONG OCCASIONS...  
Thank to W. FORLANGER, HOUSTON, TEX.



IN OR OUT! School's in, but which path leads to the door? Choose line 1, 2, 3 or 4, and see if you have picked the right one.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### HOLD THAT LINE DRAWING TEST

IT IS possible to draw the configuration, left, in a continuous single line. That is to say, without lifting pencil from paper. To start, place pencil at point A, draw to B, around to C...and take it from there. Lines may cross but may not be retraced. Remember, object is to draw the figure in a single continuous line.  
Draw A to B, to C, back to A, to D, around circle back to D, to E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, back to J, to L.

REACT-O! Quick: Rearrange letters of REACT to form four more five-letter words.  
Create, cater, caret, trace.

SUM PURR-PUSS! Blame it on the cat. Eight of the 18 numbers of this multiplication problem are missing, purloined perhaps by our frisky kitten friend. In any case, you are invited to restore what's missing.  
Hint: Five times something results in a five, and five times five requires a certain sum to produce eight.  
How quickly can you fill the blanks?  
Time limit: Two minutes.



SAY WHAT! Some expressions involving edibles are as right as rain. Hot potato, for instance. Or cool as a cucumber. And how about pea soup fog? Lentil soup fog, chicken soup fog or minestrone fog just don't cut it. Don't you agree?

Six five times three five seven equals two three two zero five.

## Wishing Well

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

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 ● FOOTPRINTS AT GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE SINCE 2010

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CARL AND ROB —

- Aniston Duvall Mirren Spears
- Brooks Fonda Novak Stiller
- Cher Goodman Perry Tarantino
- Coppola Lewis Plummer

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country in the world without an official capital city?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which Chinese zodiac animal is celebrated in the year 2022?
3. BUSINESS: When did the auction site eBay launch?
4. HISTORY: How many years has Queen Elizabeth been on the throne?
5. MOVIES: Who played Wolverine in the X-Men movie series?
6. U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Mountaineers are always free"?
7. ASTRONOMY: What is the only planet in our solar system that isn't named after a Greek-Roman deity?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Which Egyptian god has the head of a jackal?
9. TELEVISION: How many times has the hospital's name changed in the drama "Grey's Anatomy"?
10. RELIGION: Where was the founder of Buddhism born?

### Answers

1. Nauru, an island nation in the Pacific Ocean.
2. The Year of the Tiger.
3. 1995.
4. 70. She just celebrated her Platinum Jubilee.
5. Hugh Jackman.
6. West Virginia.
7. Earth.
8. Anubis, god of death.
9. Three.
10. Buddha was born in what is modern-day Nepal.

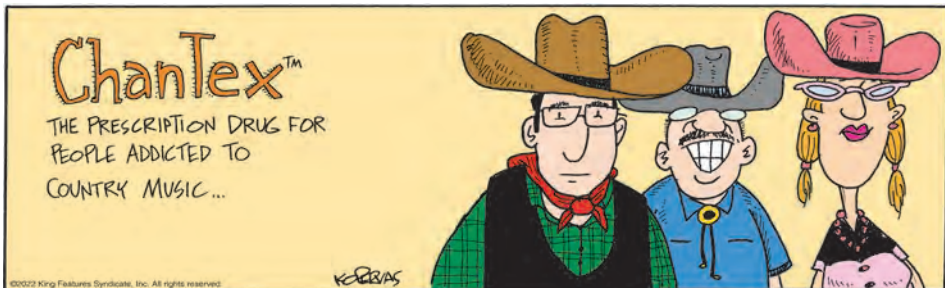
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



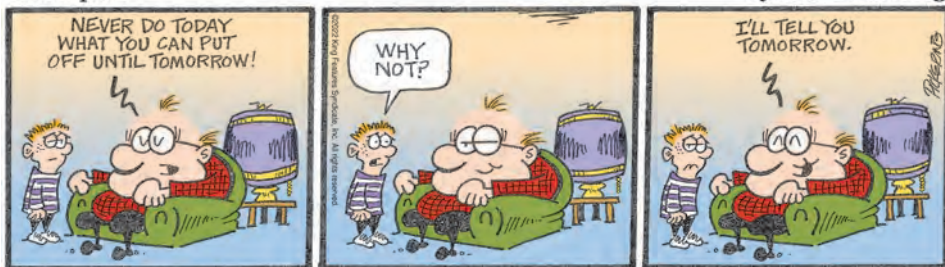
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

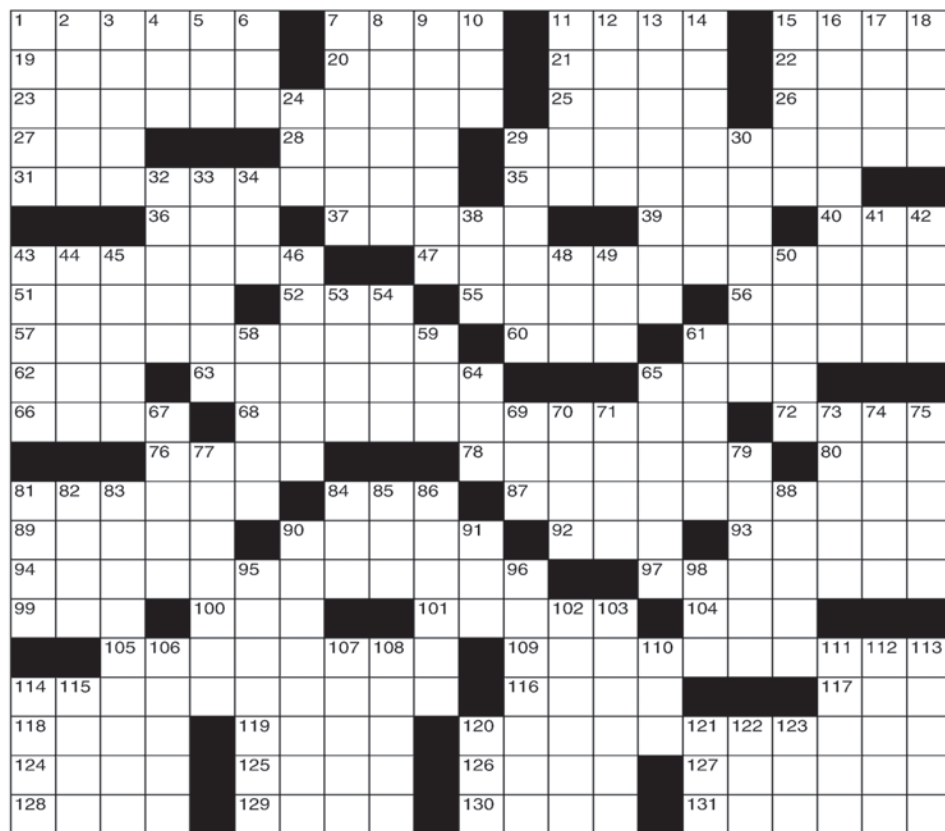
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Bow is different. 2. Sneaker is different. 3. Cap is reversed. 4. Cap is smaller. 5. Shirt is different. 6. Sneaker is different.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 First scale syllables
  - 7 Gripping tool
  - 11 Arid expanse in Mongolia
  - 15 Move like a grasshopper
  - 19 "Not Afraid" rapper
  - 20 Affirmation of self-ability
  - 21 De-wrinkle
  - 22 Giant fair
  - 23 Stocks and shares [1st]
  - 25 Stand-up comedian Richard
  - 26 Super serves
  - 27 Low digit
  - 28 Play starter
  - 29 American robin's close relative [5th]
  - 31 Figure on a kid's toy battleground [10th]
  - 35 Revolutionary War mercenaries
  - 36 Wed. follows it
  - 37 Yellow-disked flower
  - 39 Zine
  - 40 Canon camera line
  - 43 Rapping noise
  - 47 She sang "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" [15th]
  - 51 Online selling
  - 52 Driver's license, SSN, etc.
  - 55 Determined to accomplish
  - 56 Living space
  - 57 1988-91 war drama series [20th]
  - 60 Earth's heater
  - 61 Bluegrass fiddler Alison
  - 62 Longtime ISP option
  - 63 Laundry receptacle
  - 65 &&&
  - 66 "Hey, over here ..."
  - 68 Tree of eastern North America [25th]
  - 72 Lid fastener
  - 76 Infamous ldi
  - 78 Very small minority
  - 80 Mineral spring
  - 81 Taxi driver
  - 84 Angry
  - 87 Small, pungent pickling vegetable [30th]
  - 89 Player's top effort, informally
  - 90 Literary leaf
  - 92 Part of IPA
  - 93 Slow a car down
  - 94 Dorothy's magical shoes [40th]
  - 97 Filleted
  - 99 Cough up
  - 100 Low digit
  - 101 Rapscaction
  - 104 PC key abbr.
  - 105 Daughter of JFK
  - 109 Half-million-selling album [50th]
  - 114 Mae West play [60th]
  - 116 "Dies —" (hymn)
  - 117 Dog coater
  - 118 "Eso Beso" singer Paul
  - 119 Revered sort
  - 120 Occasion associated with the starts of 10 answers in this puzzle
  - 124 Salt Lake City NCAA team
  - 125 Soothe
  - 126 Profit
  - 127 Actor Steven Abbr.
  - 128 Work honcho
  - 129 Deli breads
  - 130 Possesses
  - 131 Attractive
- DOWN**
- 1 Bus station
  - 2 Neighbor of a Yemeni
  - 3 Get mature
  - 4 Ending for propyl
  - 5 Sea, to Henri
  - 6 "— big boy now"
  - 7 Glutinous
  - 8 Cold drink, informally
  - 9 Like biting writing
  - 10 U.S. Navy off.
  - 11 Toy for a boy, traditionally
  - 12 Longtime cookies
  - 13 Bail provider
  - 14 Part of IPO
  - 15 Find out
  - 16 "How rude!"
  - 17 Gorillas, e.g.
  - 18 Opulent
  - 24 Tearful
  - 29 "As a matter of fact, I do!"
  - 30 Hollow-eyed
  - 32 Sully
  - 33 Ban
  - 34 Grazing area
  - 38 Near-grads: Abbr.
  - 41 Part of 122-Down
  - 42 Beholds
  - 43 Quick review
  - 44 Eldest
  - 45 Kite features
  - 46 Has a link (with)
  - 48 Actor Erwin
  - 49 Whole lot
  - 50 Disconcert
  - 53 Author Roald
  - 54 1976-81 skit series
  - 58 Sink bowl
  - 59 Color shade
  - 61 Get down to propose
  - 64 "It's freezing!"
  - 65 Filmmaker
  - 67 Singer Wynette
  - 69 See 70-Down
  - 70 With 69-Down, tourist's printed guide
  - 71 Ring, as bells
  - 73 Nepali, e.g.
  - 74 Said words
  - 75 Sectioned, as a window
  - 77 Conductor
  - 79 Teeter
  - 81 Be a kvetch
  - 82 Juan's water
  - 83 Sweetums
  - 84 Swabby's tool
  - 85 High mount
  - 86 Semi fuel
  - 88 College org. for sailors-to-be
  - 90 Occasion for unrestricted amusement
  - 91 Tolkien terror
  - 95 More silly
  - 96 Eastern Michigan city
  - 98 Corn serving
  - 102 "Top o' the — to ya!"
  - 103 Prairies, e.g.
  - 106 Accrue
  - 107 "Victory is yours"
  - 108 Brother on "Frasier"
  - 110 Actor Patel of "Lion"
  - 111 No longer a minor
  - 112 Countryish
  - 113 In a deadpan manner
  - 114 Smear on, as paint
  - 115 Crazy about
  - 120 Past
  - 121 PC key abbr.
  - 122 Speed Wagon
  - 123 Golfer Snead

# **SEM CU**

**south east madera county united**

## **Anyone with Domestic Well or Water Quality Problems**



**If you are experiencing domestic well or water quality problems, contact "Self-Help Enterprises." Qualified people may have a water tank installed or have bottled water delivered. Call Drought Support at 559-820-1685 or contact them at [droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org).**

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

**Our next meeting is Monday, October 17 at 6 p.m.**

**The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949.**

**Please let us know if you have any questions.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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