

# The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## If nine California Democrats have their way ...

... you won't  
even be  
allowed to  
vote for  
this man.

By Dustin Gardiner



*In This Issue*

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## If nine California Democrats have their way ...

... you won't even be allowed to vote for this man.

By Dustin Gardiner



**D**emocrats in the California Legislature are trying a novel approach to remove former President Donald Trump from the state's March 5 primary ballot. But first they need a fellow state Democrat to get on board the long-shot effort.

### Just Nine Lawmakers

Nine California lawmakers wrote a letter to Attorney General Rob Bonta over the weekend, arguing that Trump isn't eligible to be on the ballot for inciting an insurrection when a mob of his supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The move, which comes amid several lawsuits to keep Trump off state ballots across the country, is unique because Bonta could use his standing as California's top law enforcement officer to expedite a state court ruling on the matter. Should the effort succeed, California could be the first state to bump Trump off its ballot, even if the ruling is ultimately overturned. Bonta would also be the coun-

try's first state attorney general to take a swing at knocking Trump off the ballot. The other cases rely on secretaries of state.

Like the suits in other states, the California case would argue that Trump is disqualified from the ballot because the 14th Amendment prohibits any public official who has been party to an insurrection from ever holding office again.

"We all watched in horror Mr. Trump's insurrection against the United States when he ordered a mob of his supporters to the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021 to intimidate Vice President Pence and the United States Congress," the lawmakers state in the letter which was obtained by POLITICO.

Bonta's office said he is reviewing the lawmakers' request. A spokesperson added, "There is no denying that Donald Trump has engaged in behavior that is unacceptable and unbecoming of any

leader — let alone a President of the United States."

### Taking On Trump

Taking on Trump in such a high-profile way could also bode well for the attorney general's political ambitions. He's considering running for governor in 2026, when Gavin Newsom is termed out.

Bonta, as the attorney general, has automatic standing to proactively ask a court for declaratory relief, a process where a judge can quickly rule on an unresolved legal question. The lawmakers asked Bonta for "immediate intervention" on the issue. Trump has pushed back against the campaign to keep him off the ballot, which has included legal challenges in New Hampshire, Minnesota, New Mexico and Colorado, though such attempts are in the early stages. Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung previously said it was a "political attack" that was "stretching the law beyond recognition" and compared it to the various criminal indictments against Trump, which the former president has described as witch hunts.

### No Legal Basis

"There is no legal basis for this effort except in the minds of those who are pushing it," Cheung told POLITICO last month.

Most efforts to remove Trump have focused on the theory that secretaries of state can unilaterally disqualify him on constitutional grounds. At least one lawsuit, brought by a voter, has already been filed in California calling on Secretary of State Shirley Weber to take action. Weber, however, hasn't ruled anything out. Her office told Playbook they are "carefully reviewing this issue" after receiving many requests to disqualify Trump. But Democratic secretaries of state have largely been

Please see **VOTE** on P. 10

# Madera County Announces Dates To File to Run

Candidate filing dates for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election have been announced. A Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 with the following offices scheduled to appear on that ballot:

### FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICES

President of the United States US Representative in Congress Member of State Assembly

### COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES

Democratic Party (By Supervisorial District) Republican Party (By Supervisorial District) Green Party (At Large) Libertarian Party (At Large) Peace & Freedom Party (At Large)

### JUDICIAL OFFICES

Judge of the Superior Court, Office 2 (Austin) Judge of the Superior Court, Office 4 (Bender) Judge of the Superior Court, Office 7 (Blea) Judge of the Superior Court, Office 10 (Enos)

### COUNTY OFFICES

Supervisor, District 3 Supervisor, District 4

Filing periods for becoming a candidate in this election are:

Sept. 14, 2023 to Nov. 8, 2023 Signature in Lieu of Filing Fee Period

Sept. 29, 2023 to Dec. 8, 2023 Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers – Members of County Central Committees Only

Oct. 30, 2023 to Nov. 8, 2023 Declaration of Intention Period Judicial Candidates Only

Nov. 9, 2023 to Nov. 13, 2023 Extended Declaration of Intention Period Judicial Candidates Only (Extends only if Incumbent fails to file by deadline. Does not apply to office for which there is no Incumbent)

Nov. 13, 2023 to Dec. 8, 2023 Nomination & Declaration of Candidacy Period All Candidates

Dec. 9, 2023 to Dec. 13, 2023 Extended Nomination and Declaration of Candidacy Period (Extends only if Incumbent fails to file by deadline. Does not apply to office for which there is no Incumbent)

Jan. 8, 2024 to Feb. 20, 2024 Write-in Candidacy Period

For filing information, visit [www.votemadera.com](http://www.votemadera.com) and click on the "Interested in Running for Office" link or call the Elections Division. For additional information, contact the Elections Division at 559-675-7720 or call toll free at 1-800-435-0509.

Click on "Local News" at

## "Leg Bail" Suspect Forces LHS, RMS Lockdown

On the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 11, both Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School were locked down when a person suspected of stealing a car bailed out of the car in question and took off on foot in the area of the two schools. Although the situation happened after the students had been dismissed from school for the day, several people were still present involved in after-school activities.

The suspect, described as a Hispanic male, was arrested by Madera County Sheriff's Deputies who were as-

sisting the California Highway Patrol in locating the suspect. He was reported driving near the two area schools and then elected to "leg bail" into the nearby community. Ultimately he was found hiding in a tree nearby.

The lockdown of the facilities was put into place by the respective schools' administrations. The lockdown was kept in place, prohibiting anyone from entering or leaving the two campuses, until approximately 4:45 p.m., at which time the students still on campus were released to their parents.





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9/23

**Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent**

*In Memoriam*

## **Robert Stephen “Steve” Pearl**

**January 25, 1944 -- August 23, 2023**



Robert Stephen “Steve” Pearl of the Madera Ranchos passed away on Aug. 23, 2023 surrounded by family and friends. He was a resident of the Madera Ranchos for 48 years.

He was born in Fresno on Jan. 25, 1944, the son of David and Mildred Pearl. He was the oldest sibling of his three sisters. He served two years in the U.S. Army branch of the military. He received a BA degree in Geography from Fresno State University and had aspirations to teach, but he decided on a career with the United States Postal Service that would last 35 years. With many years of experience in management, he retired as Postmaster of the Madera Post Office in 2003.

Steve was married and is survived by his wife, Arcadia (Cadie) Pearl. They met at the Postal Service in 1978 and have been together for 45 years. He is survived by his daughter, Stephanie, and his daughter-in-law, Erica Lane; his son, Joshua Stephen; his daughter, Jessica; and son-in-law, Robert Willey. We must not forget Lenny, his beloved canine whom he loved to play ball with and was always by his side.

Steve’s fondest memories were from when he resided in Balboa Island in Southern California and worked at the Newporter Inn in Newport Beach; he loved to tell the story. He also loved to garden and was an expert in it. His expertise was apparent in the beautiful landscape and gardens he created and enjoyed for so many years in the Ranchos. He is loved and deeply missed.



*The Bookshelf*

## Ranchos Library Offers Triple Threat

By Jerrica Edmundson

Nestled in the heart of the Madera Ranchos, the Madera Ranchos Library continues to be a beacon of knowledge and community engagement. With its weekly story time sessions, specific book donation hours and the opportunity to join the Friends of the Ranchos Library, this cherished institution is thriving more than ever.

Every Thursday at 11 a.m., families and book enthusiasts alike gather at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Drive for an enchanting journey through the world of storytelling. These weekly story time sessions have become a beloved tradition for residents, fostering a love for reading and providing a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to bond over the magic of books. The library's dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to curate engaging stories and activities that captivate young minds.

In an effort to manage book donations efficiently, the library has established specific guidelines. Donors are encouraged to bring their gently used books during regular business hours only. This ensures that donated materials can be sorted, cataloged and made available to the community in a timely manner. By adhering to these hours, the library staff can focus on providing excellent services to patrons without disruption.

For those passionate about supporting the Madera Ranchos Library and its mission to promote literacy and community well-being, the Friends of the Ranchos Library is the perfect avenue. This dedicated group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. It offers a platform for individuals who share a common interest in books, culture and education to collaborate on projects, organize events and raise funds to further enrich the library's resources and services. Membership is open to all and new faces are always welcome.

In a digital age where libraries face evolving challenges, the Madera Ranchos Library remains a steadfast pillar of the community. Through engaging story time sessions, prudent book donation guidelines and the inclusive Friends of the Franchise Library, this institution continues to foster a love for reading while creating opportuni-

ties for residents to connect, learn and grow together. It's more than just a library; it's a thriving hub of knowledge and community spirit.



And now for **Jerrica's Bookshelf:**

*A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.

E. Schwab is a mesmerizing journey through multiple Londons, each with its unique blend

of magic and menace. Schwab's storytelling prowess shines as she introduces readers to Kell, a powerful magician with the rare ability to travel between these parallel worlds.

The world-building is nothing short of spectacular. From the vibrant and flourishing Red London to the stark and desolate White London, every dimension is vividly realized, with its own politics, dangers and mysteries. As Kell navigates these realms, he stumbles upon Delilah Bard, a cross-dressing thief with a thirst for adventure. Their partnership is both unlikely and electric, making for a dynamic and unforgettable duo.

Schwab weaves a complex tale of power, greed and morality, drawing readers into a world where choices have far-reaching consequences. *A Darker Shade of Magic* is a spellbinding blend of magic and intrigue, leaving readers eagerly reaching for the next installment in this enthralling series.

**The Madera Ranchos Library**

37398 Berkshire Drive  
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Wednesday and Thursday

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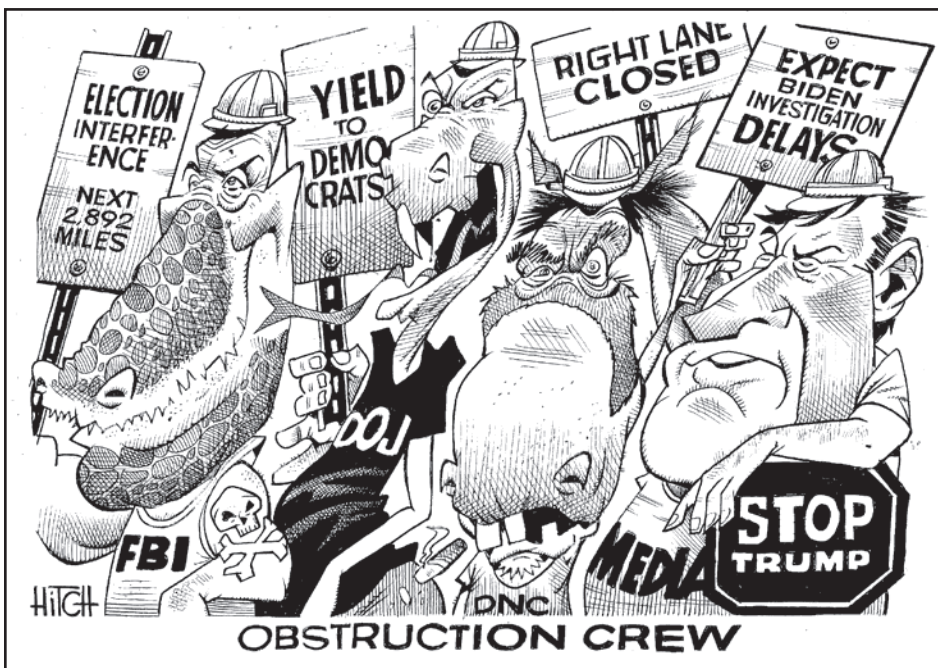
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# The Ranchos Independent

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## Guest Editorial

# Change Kids' Gender ... or Else!

By Al Brodow

A new California law makes it a crime if you don't accept your child's choice of gender identity. "The bill could potentially make you guilty of child abuse if you refuse to call your son 'Jane' and buy him dresses," said Bob Hoge in *RedState*. "Authorities could take away your kid if you don't bend the knee."

California's controversial AB 957, which requires parents to affirm their child's gender identity or lose custody, passed the state Senate. The standard of the well-being of a minor is being changed to "include a parent's affirmation of the child's gender identity as part of the health, safety and welfare of the child." Now that it's passed the Senate, the Assembly will need to agree, which the heavily Democratic legislative body assuredly will. Then it heads to Governor Newsom, who will almost certainly sign it since he endorses gender politics.

A group of dysfunctional people allege that they can change their birth sex and instead of calling them out, our society accepts it and our government uses it as a tool to destroy the nuclear family. California wants to impose sex changes on children who are too young to make an informed decision about their sexuality. Doctors will be forced to treat these children with puberty blockers, hormonal treatments and sex surgeries.

"Society has accepted a destructive

lie that you can create your own reality and define your own identity," says author Ben Shapiro. "Children should not be subjected to the whims of politically driven adults when it comes to massive bodily mutilation that impairs function for a lifetime — all before the child has experienced puberty," Shapiro said. "And society should not be obligated to obey the gender theory nonsense of the radical left, which seeks to confuse as many children as possible in the name of an anti-biological program in service to a political agenda."

"Transgender isn't real," explains Kara Dansky, women's advocate and author of *The Abolition of Sex*. "It was simply made up. Words like 'gender identity' don't have any meaning. Every single human being is either a male person or a female person." Despite the obvious truth of Dansky's statement, we have reached a place where to state the obvious gets you attacked as a child abuser. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says what most of us are thinking — the push to have kids permanently change their bodies is the *real* form of child abuse.

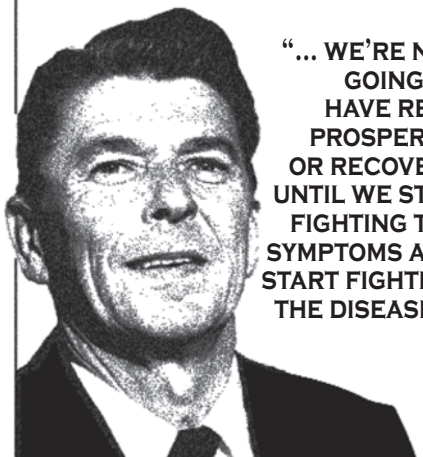
Transgenderism does not describe a marginalized group of people who need civil rights protection, Dansky said. On the contrary, "The so-called transgender agenda is being fueled by a massive, vicious and well-funded industry in the guise of a civil rights movement. It is all a lie," Dansky said. "The obliteration of the material reality of biological sex should scare everyone."

There is no "right" that says you can demand whatever you want. If I identify as a rhinoceros, it is not reasonable for me to demand that everyone ought to agree with me. In fact, it would be ludicrous if anyone agreed with me. My mental state would rightly be open to question. Why do our elected representatives ignore reality by glorifying the delusions of people who think they can change their birth sex?

We have the right to disagree. Parents especially have the right to question children who adopt ridiculous notions about their sexuality. Up to the age of puberty, our kids have all sorts of weird ideas about who they are. The function of parents is to decide what is best for their children. The big question is, why would our elected representatives want

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**RONALD REAGAN**  
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Please see EDITORIAL on P. 15

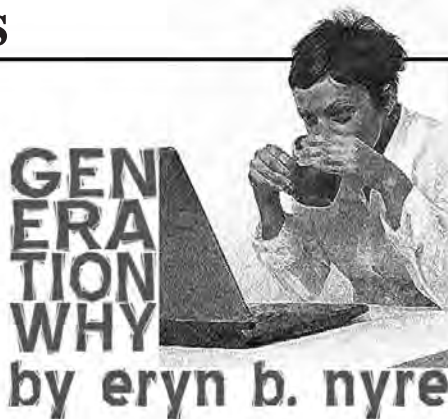


# Monsoon Memories

From around May through September in the Southwest is monsoon season. If you haven't yet experienced it, I highly recommend it. This is the time of year when thunderstorms shake the mountains and lightning turns night to day, even for only mere seconds at a time. It's a riveting show that can last for hours and hours.

I remember as a kid how much I absolutely loved this season. My mom and I would sit on the porch, which is covered, and watch in awe as God's creation sang and danced. I don't have a single monsoon memory that isn't warm and fuzzy. That's probably in part because I have never faced the dangers of being stuck out in that type of weather, but that's not the point of this story. Recently, while spending time with my dad in New Mexico, I was able to catch a few good storms that brought back some wonderful memories from monsoon seasons of old.

Not long before my mom passed away, I was visiting my parents right around this time of the year. As cliché as it sounds, I remember it like it happened last week. We were all sitting in the living room watching television when the first crack of thunder made the windows rattle. Mom and I were immediately excited and jumped up to head outside and watch. Dad, who was mostly unbothered and uninterested in such things, stayed inside laughing at our silliness. We sat in rocking chairs, mostly in silence, and just listened to Mother Nature's grand performance. The lightning was particularly exquisite that night. It was breaking and spreading the expanse of the horizon in mesmerizing patterns. The overhang on the back porch kept blocking my view, and I really wanted to get a video of it, so in my infinite wisdom I wandered into the middle of the backyard with my phone up in the air, recording the night. In the



video, you can hear my mom say, "Yep, there's my brilliant, college educated daughter, standing out in the middle of a lightning storm, making herself the tallest thing in the vicinity, with her phone in the air like a lightning rod." Whether or not the lightning rod part specifically is true, the rest certainly was. I laughed and wandered back onto the porch. I didn't get a good shot of the lightning, but I managed to capture a special moment with my mom that I cherish to this day.

*The patter of the rain intermingled with the crash of the thunder is like God's own personal orchestra.*

Another great monsoon memory goes way back in time, when I was a wee lass of maybe 10. My mom and I were visiting with her parents on the other side of town, having a bit of a multi-generational sleepover, when a particularly exciting storm ripped through the area. I remember it being quick but angry. Mom and I were sitting on the bed in the back guest bedroom, eating popcorn and drinking hot chocolate. We had the sliding glass door pulled wide open; the eaves kept the water from getting in, but mom had laid some towels down just in case. The potential mess was worth the experience. The patter of the rain intermingled with the crash of the thunder is like God's own personal orchestra. We were lulled into a sense of utter peace when my grandpa opened the door and asked if we'd seen my grandma. He was ready for bed and he thought she might be in there with us. This was highly unlikely, because my grandma was terrified of thunder-

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

storms, so there was absolutely nothing that could have convinced her to sit there with us, even her favorite granddaughter. (Spoiler alert, I'm also her only granddaughter). We found her pretty easily, however. She was camped out in the powder room in the middle of the house. This room had no windows. She had the door shut, the lights on and was just sitting on the toilet, with her eyes closed, nursing a drink and whistling and humming to herself. Did I mention that my grandma did not love thunder? This was definitely a rough storm, but I'm not going to say there wasn't a moment

*... the monsoon season is a reminder that this world, and all of us, are fearfully and wonderfully made.*

that my young mind thought perhaps my grandma was destined for the nuthouse. Grandpa tried to coax her out and she said she planned to sleep there until God decided he was done for the night. She didn't end up sleeping in the bathroom because the storm passed quickly, but

she certainly didn't come out until the thunder quieted.

I feel blessed that I shared in my mom's awe of the thunder and rainstorm. I think

it is nature's purest form of beauty. I marvel at God's wonder. In the storm we find light in the darkness, quiet in the noise, and peace in the fear. For me, the monsoon season is a reminder that this world, and all of us, are fearfully and wonderfully made.



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### *Sometimes it's the Little Things*

Walking around the extended recliner, I jammed my "this little piggy had none" toe on the leg of the coffee table. Normally I don't pay much attention to my toes. This little piggy changed that. It also changed things like our hiking plans. Fortunately, we were able to convert to biking in Yosemite instead. Another day it meant being dropped off with the older folks near the entrance at a concert. It still means deciding how badly I need an item from the other room before putting my toe through the pain of getting there.

It's often the little things in our lives and homes that cause angst and frustration. When it's a toe you wait it out. But here are some quick fixes for many of the other subtle, or not so subtle stresses we face.

**Matching** — How many containers and lids must you handle before finding a match? Are you ready to throw out the leftovers before you find one? Store the lids on the containers. It takes more space, but by the time you eliminate all the containers and lids that have no match, there should be room. This goes for sippy cups and water bottles, too.

**New Stuff** — Are you trip-

ping over shopping bags and boxes of items waiting to be homed? Before you put anything into your digital or physical cart, decide exactly where it's going to be stored. Unload bags and boxes immediately into their predetermined homes.

**User-friendly Storage** — Is it hard to find things or put them away in your closet, pantry or drawers? One common culprit is bad lighting. Add a stick-on motion sensor rechargeable strip light to any closet, cabinet or pantry that has no, or poor, lighting. Fix closet doors and drawers that don't open and close easily. Purge drawers that are jammed full. Use open-topped bins for things you use regularly.

**Clothes** — Tired of piles of clothes? Place a dirty clothes bin in the closet. Assign a spot on the bar for empty hangers. Assign a shelf for frequently worn fold-up clothes. Change clothes in the closet. Without having to move much, you can put your dirty stuff in the bin and hang up or put on the shelf your "clean-ish" clothes and voilà! No more piles.

**Bedtime** — Is the kids' bedtime a nightmare? Create a bedtime routine chart with a start and end time and "last call" for snacks so the bathing, brushing teeth, stories, etc. can be done without interruption. Consistency is key to everyone getting the rest they need.

**Location, Location, Location** — Do you need to move other things or use a step stool to reach things you use often? I recall moving a client's baggies and wraps to a top drawer in her kitchen. She still talks about what a difference that

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 9



## Getting Comfortable

(September 2013)

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



by Jean Briner

As I've said before, I was raised as the country was coming out of the Great Depression when things were a whole lot different than they are now. Meals were cooked at home and the family all sat at the kitchen table together to eat. We didn't have iPods, cell phones or fast food restaurants to keep us from eating with the family. We could be out playing or at the library or over at a friend's house, but we were expected to be home in time to set the table for dinner.

*What is comfort food? According to the internet, they are foods that remind us of comforting childhood memories.*

I was looking through my mom's old recipe cards the other day and as I read some of them I could remember eating that dish or watching mama preparing it for her family. In going through the cards, I realized a lot of the meals mama cooked weren't written down on cards. She just knew how to cook them and fortunately, passed them on to us girls. I guess you would call some of the meals "comfort food," as they made me think of the times with family.

What is comfort food? According to the internet, they are foods that remind us of comforting childhood memories. For most of us, these foods are a long way from gourmet. They bring on feelings of nostalgia, safety and security. Someone took a poll and listed the top 25 most popular comfort foods, and believe it or not, in this poll peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and grilled cheese sandwiches came out on top. I won't list all 25, but here is a partial list: apple pie, fried chicken, meatloaf, chocolate chip cookies, chicken and dumplings, chili, beef stew, tomato

soup and tuna casserole. So I decided to take my own poll. On the top of the list were macaroni and cheese, pot roast, fried chicken and potato salad.

I'm going to list our family favorites and tell you how we cooked them. There won't be many recipes because it depends on the size of your family as to how much you cook. You don't want to cook a big four or five-pound roast for just two or three in the family. However, you might want to cook more than your family can eat in one

meal as some of these are just as good, if not better, warmed up for another meal or a snack.

My sister Maxine said the meal she remembers the most is what we called ...

### Smothered Steak

The ingredients are:

- Round Steak
- Potatoes
- Onion
- Oil
- Flour
- Salt & pepper
- 1 can Bouillon Soup, or a couple Bouillon cubes
- Water

Have ready a large baking pan with a lid or aluminum foil. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Cut the steak into serving size pieces, salt and pepper to taste, and dredge in flour. Shake excess flour off and brown good in the frying pan and when meat is browned good, transfer to the baking pan. Scrub enough potatoes for your family and slice in quarter to eighth inch slices and lay on top of the steak. Peel and slice as many onions as you will need (one is usually enough) and put on top of the potatoes. Salt and pepper to taste. Add the can of soup or the bouillon cubes and enough water to just come up to the top of potatoes.

Cover and bake in a 350 oven for about an hour or until meat and

potatoes are done. You can do this without the bouillon, but it just makes a more flavorful dish with it.

Randy's favorite is ...

### Pot Roast

You will need:

1 good roast – I think chuck is best.

A couple of cloves of garlic

Salt and Pepper

Oil

Red Wine, beef broth or water

Carrots

Onion

Potatoes (optional – see note)

Pat the roast dry with paper towels. Peel and slice garlic, make slits in roast and insert the sliced garlic. Salt and pepper the roast. In the pot you will be cooking the roast, pour a couple of tablespoons of oil in bottom and heat well. Brown roast in pot on both sides. When roast is

browned good, remove to plate. Add a little more oil and add sliced vegetables, stirring until well browned. Remove to plate. Pour about a cup of desired liquid into pan and using a wooden spoon scrape all the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Don't discard them as these are yummy and part of the flavoring. Put roast back in the pan and add the vegetables. Add additional liquid (about 2 or 3 cups) to come half way up the roast. Cover pot and put in a 275 degree oven. Cook a 3-pound roast for about 3 hours and a 4 to 5-pound roast you should allow 4 hours. Do not peek during cooking until right at last when you make sure it is done. After taking the roast and vegetables out and placing on serving platter, make gravy with the liquid remaining in the pot, spooning

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

off any surface fat. You may have to add more liquid, make a paste of a couple tablespoons of cornstarch and water. When liquid is boiling, add the cornstarch and whisk until mixed well and thick enough as you prefer.

Note about potatoes: Some people don't like potatoes cooked with the roast, they prefer cooking them separate and making mashed potatoes.

And my favorite? I have been thinking about this for a couple of days and it is hard to pick just one. There is fried chicken, or meat loaf, or just about anything from the garden. How about a pot of pinto beans with fried potatoes and fried okra and a pan of cornbread? But I think the meal I remember the most is corned beef hash – this is one dish you definitely want left overs. Warmed up for breakfast with an egg cooked anyway you like it, a

toasted English muffin – delicious!

**Corned Beef Hash**

You'll need:

Potatoes – peeled and cut into cubes

An onion – chopped

Salt and Pepper

1 Can Corned Beef

Oil for frying

Pour a couple of tablespoons of oil in a frying pan and get it hot. Pour in the potatoes and onions with salt and pepper. Fry until done and golden brown. Don't use too much oil, you don't want to deep fry the potatoes. Open the can of corned beef and break it up and pour into potatoes. Continue cooking until meat is hot and well distributed in the potatoes.

There you have it, some of our comfort food. What is yours? I hope whatever it is it brings back lots of good memories of home, family and love.

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

made — small thing, big pay-off. Pay attention to what frustrates you and consider where it might be more convenient.

**Tasks** — What do you fear you won't get done? Is it paying bills on time, checking the kids' school papers, laundry? Schedule a regular time to do it and put it on the calendar with reminders so that, until it becomes routine, you won't forget. Calendar blocks of time for tasks that take several hours.

You might have noticed three common themes among many of these solutions: creating homes, limits and routines. These are gold in the organizing world.

Whenever you feel stressed, stop and consider: is there a home, limit or routine solution for this issue?

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**The Joy of Showing Animals for 4-H**

**Golden Oak 4-H**

This year, Golden Oak 4-H participated in their first Madera District Fair. Madera Fair is a place where youth get to participate in the display of skills related to agriculture, arts and education. 4-H and FFA Clubs from all over the county come together to compete in multiple different livestock exhibits as well as still exhibits.



Golden Oak 4-H members at the Madera District Fair included (from top left) Elizabeth Morgan and Iris Garzon, Sarah Morgan, Wyatt Morgan and Hunter Williams-Smith.

Golden Oak 4-H had a phenomenal showing at Madera Fair this year with outstanding performances by our primary members. Iris Garzon, who placed 1st in the Acrylic Flowers Painting, entered many still exhibits such as the Cattle Women's Coloring Contest, a Bug's Life Butterfly and participated in Primary Pygmy Goat Showmanship and Evaluation. Elizabeth Morgan, who Placed 2nd for the Lipstick on a Pygmy Goat Costume Contest and Cakes for chocolate cupcakes.

We had outstanding performances from our Intermediate members as well. Hunter Williams-Smith Placed 1st in Intermediate Poultry Showmanship, 3rd in Intermediate Small Animal Master Showmanship and 4th in Bantam Breeding Avian. In large animals, Hunter Placed 1st in Heavyweight Breeding Doe and 2nd in Intermediate Best 3 Doe's Boer Goat, 1st in Daughters and Dam Breeding Boer Does, Best of Division in Livestock Education Poster, 2nd in

Please see 4-H on P. 15

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## Senior Report

# October Brings Holiday Craft Fair

By Melanie Williams

The Craft Fair is just around the corner.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is hosting the 5th Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have many returning vendors and a few new vendors

coming to the Holiday 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 Saturday, Oct. 21 for the Holiday Craft Fair at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We are located at 37330 Berkshire Drive in Madera Ranchos. You are welcome to call the Center at 559-645-4864 any weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for more information.

Our guests at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center had a wonderful time at the Summer Nights Ice Cream Social last month. James Miller coordinated the Legacy Veteran's Motorcycle Club to present a new American Flag to the Center with a formal flag raising ceremony. We sang the Star-Spangled Banner in appreciation of the veterans for their service in the military as well as their presentation of the American flag. Afterward we had delicious homemade ice cream and a good time of con-

versation with new guests and members. David Bradford from Bradford DJ Entertainment compiled a great list of music and donated his time and equipment for the Summer Nights Ice Cream Social. Everyone enjoyed the contemporary music genres as well as some of the "Golden Oldies."

We had guests dancing along with a few brave souls who sang with Karaoke instrumentation in the background. There were many requests to have Bradford DJ Entertainment come back for another Karaoke Night at the Senior Center in the future.

We appreciate the people who came to our open house event. It was a good opportunity to learn more about the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Thank you to Margo Conkle and Connie Prince for the organization and promotion of the event and all the volunteers who helped during our Summer Nights Ice Cream Social.

Another project is in the works at the

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The plan is to form a chess club for people who are interested in playing chess on a semi-weekly basis. We are putting out the word to all chess enthusiasts that we have an experienced chess player who is willing to volunteer to teach the game of chess, as well as coordinate chess games for already experienced chess players. He welcomes novice or experienced chess players.



The Legacy Veterans Motorcycle Club presented a new flag for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.



Guests and members enjoy the Summer Nights Ice Cream Social at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

This is a new activity in the planning stages at the Senior Center. If you are interested in participating in a chess club and are willing to come and play with other chess enthusiasts, call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

Come check out our Exercise Class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. and card Games are every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. The Monthly Sale is on Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Our October Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon is on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Phoenician Garden at 1025 E. Herndon Ave #106 in Fresno.

We encourage the community to come to the Odd Fellows

Breakfast on Oct. 15. It's a great Sunday morning breakfast served from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month. The Odd Fellows Hall is located on Ave 15 and Road 29. They donate to many Madera community organizations. We greatly appreciate their continued generosity and donation to support the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Call or contact us for more information about our weekly and monthly activities at 559-645-4864 or email us at rhseniors@att.net

Thought for October: "Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile." John Howard Bryant, *Indian Summer*

## VOTE cont. from P. 2

skeptical about that approach, arguing that the U.S. Supreme Court is likely to be the final arbiter. The high court could also overturn a favorable ruling for Bonta, should he decide to answer his colleagues' call.

Assemblymember Evan Low, a Democrat from Silicon Valley who initiated the letter, said the strategy is all about pushing the courts to fast-track the matter. Dec. 8 is the deadline for Weber to declare which candidates are eligible for California's primary ballot, and state De-

mocrats fear other attempts to disqualify Trump aren't moving fast enough.

"Whatever the courts decide it is important that they do so quickly to avoid further political strife," Low said, "and the Attorney General is uniquely positioned to get the American people the answers we need to protect our Republic."

The letter was also signed by Democratic Assemblymembers Alex Lee, Stephanie Nguyen, Kevin McCarty, Corey Jackson, Mike Gipson, Mike Fong and Phil Ting and state Sen. Josh Becker.

This article originally appeared on [www.politico.com](http://www.politico.com).

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!



# SEMUCU speaks

By Robin Henderson Kongoni

*“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” – Margaret J. Wheatley.*

Exciting News for the Ranchos Community: Coming Soon! Ranchos Library Teleconference Room! We are thrilled to announce a fantastic addition to our beloved Ranchos Library that will further strengthen our community bonds and facilitate meaningful connections. As SEMCU’s (Southeast Madera County United’s) next donation project, the Ranchos Library will soon feature a state-of-the-art teleconference room, creating a hub for communication, collaboration and community engagement.

The Ranchos Library has always been a cherished space for learning and gathering, now it's taking a step into the digital age. With SEMCU's donation, a complete remote virtual meeting system will allow anyone in our community to book time in our library and host virtual meetings.

Here are some exciting features of our library’s newly equipped teleconference room:

**1. Large Wall-Mounted TV** – A high-quality, wall-mounted TV will provide crystal-clear visuals, ensuring that participants can engage in meetings with clarity and ease.

**2. Independent Speakers** – Independent speakers that deliver impeccable audio quality, making every conversation, presentation, or discussion more engaging.

**3. Roaming Microphone** – A roaming microphone ensures everyone's voice is heard, even in larger gatherings, promoting inclusivity and effective communication.

**4. Camera** – A top-notch camera will capture participants from various angles, making it feel like you're right there in the room with your colleagues, friends or fellow community members.

**5. Podium** – For those moments when a central point of focus is needed, a podium will be available, ensuring a professional and organized meeting atmosphere.

Our goal is that starting from the end of September 2023, individuals and groups are welcome to book with the library staff dates ahead and reserve the teleconference room. This exciting addition will be ideal for various community activities. The conference room will allow people to:

- Come together and

discuss upcoming events, brainstorm solutions to challenges or catch up with family, friends, and neighbors, engage with Government Representatives, Schedule a virtual meeting with government representatives to voice your concerns, ask questions and participate in local governance. • Sports teams and leagues can set up virtual meetings with players and coaches, enhancing collaboration and strategizing.

SEMUCU is happy to make this valuable addition to our library possible. It's a testament to the power of community collaboration and the belief in creating spaces where we can come together physically or virtually. We encourage anyone in our community to suggest ideas for future community-worthy projects. Your input is valued, so we all can continue to make the Ranchos a vibrant and connected community.

We can't wait to see the Ranchos Library's teleconference room in action and witness the positive impact it will have on our community. Please contact the staff at the Ranchos Library for details on how to book your time and get ready to em-

brace the future of community engagement.

Our next teleconference is on Monday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. You can participate or just listen to the SEMCU meetings via telephone or computer. By telephone just dial 312-757-3121 and you will get prompted to input the access code 715657949#. By computer, tablet or phone you can use the link [www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference](http://www.gotomeet.me/GreystoneConference).

To reach SEMCU for more information or suggestions, call 559-363-9095 or reach us at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) or by email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org).

There are opportunities to become a Board Member if you live in Southeast Madera, which will allow you to be a part of the decision-making process with our collaborative group of concerned neighbors in SEMCU’s community area. It will be your opportunity to voice your concerns and have an input on how issues facing our community are handled.

*SEMUCU is “By the Community, For the Community”*



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4-H cont. from P. 9

Chapter Group Breeding Boer Does, 3rd in Heavy Weight Breeding Doe and 5th in Mid-Weight Breeding Doe.

Wyatt Morgan received Best of Division in Intermediate Drawing of a Boeing 747-SP, 1st in Lipstick on a Pig Cattle Costume Contest, 4th in Registered Breeding Heifer and Market Steer and Placed 6th in Intermediate Beef Showmanship. Griffin Williams-Smith Placed 1st in the Livestock Education Poster on Biosecurity as well as entered still exhibits such as Wooden Ring Crafts and Cloud Nine Photo Contest. Sarah Morgan received Champion Yorkshire and Duroc Market Hog, Best of Division for Confections for Ice Cream Cone Cake Pops, 1st in Lipstick on a Pig Swine Costume Contest, 1st in Mason Jar Bouquet and 3rd in Intermediate Swine Showmanship.

Keep a lookout in local social media for activities in which our club may be participating. If you would like more information on our club or would like to join Golden Oak 4-H, please contact our club leaders at 4hgoldenoak@gmail.com.

By Jacob Garzon

#### Sierra Shadows 4-H

The Sierra Shadows 4-H club competed at the Madera District Fair in September under the theme of "Light Up the Night." In total, 18 members represented

our club across numerous classes and competitions, including market and breeding livestock and animals, showmanship, horses and still exhibits.

Highlighting the club competitions, the Sierra Shadows Garden Display, put together by Jake Poore, Ava Wells, Colie Tickel, Sienna Garcia, Paisley Bower and led by Dana Poore, won 1st Place and Best of Show. Our

Swine Group won 1st Place 4-H Club Group, and our Goats were awarded 3rd Place 4-H Club Group. The Club Group selects its three best animals to compete against all other clubs as a group. Lucy Lee and Taylor Ward represented our Horse Group with Taylor competing in 10 different horse events and won 1st Place in 4-H Intermediate Showmanship, 1st Place in her Mare Halter class, 1st Overall in 4-H Intermediate Western High-Points and 1st Place in Western Horsemanship, among other awards. Lucy competed in 13 horse events, placing 2nd in Gelding Halter, 2nd in 4-H Intermediate showmanship for both English and Western and 2nd in the "Big T" pattern for Gymkhana.



Sierra Shadows 4-H members Ciara Pena, Landon Davis, Micah Lee, Sienna Garcia, Roman Pena and Eli Garcia at the Madera District Fair in early September.

Our six Swine members hauled home multiple accolades, including Roman Pena's Grand Champion 4-H and Champion Light Cross Market Hog; Ciara Pena's Champion Hampshire; Micah Lee's Reserve Champion Duroc; Eli Garcia's Reserve Champion Hampshire; and Landon Davis' Reserve Champion Yorkshire.

Landon Davis and Sienna Garcia also took home first Place in their respective classes. Landon Davis also received 2nd Place Pen of Two Market Hogs, and 2nd Place Farrowed and Fed. All six members Placed in their showmanship classes, with Roman Pena, Ciara Pena and Eli Garcia taking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place, respectively, in Junior Showman-

ship. Landon Davis won 2nd Place in Intermediate Showmanship. Three members exhibited Meat Goats, Aubrey Rocca winning 4-H Reserve Champion Lightweight Market Goat, and Annelise Crandall and Lucy Lee taking 3rd Place in their classes. Annelise was also 6th in Junior Showmanship and Lucy Placed 8th in Intermediate Showmanship.

In small animals, our Rabbit Group led the way with Emily Wallace taking home Outstanding 4-H Rabbit Exhibitor and winning 1st Place in two separate classes and 3rd Place Rabbit Meat Pen. Emily also won 1st Place in intermediate showmanship and Jake Biesenthal placed 2nd. Landon Davis received 2nd In Class with his Pygmy Goat and 7th Place in Intermediate Poultry showmanship. Our primary members, also known as Cloverbuds, proved that what they lack in size they make up for in work ethic. Paisley Bower and Brooke Davis exhibited their Pygmy Goats and Brooke also exhibited her Old English Bantam chicken. Paisley Fahey and Jade Mellot both showed in Peewee Goat Showmanship. The livestock show was wrapped up with a Round Robin on Friday where the champion showman got to show each of the six different species in their division of small or large animals. Taylor Ward Placed 4th in 4-H Intermediate Large Animal Round Robin and Emily Wallace was 5th in Intermediate 4-H Small Animal Round Robin. Annelise Crandall, Aubrey Rocca, Jamey Crandall, Landon Davis and Cloverbud Members Brooke Davis, Paisley Fahey and Paisley Bower all exhibited still exhibits, taking home numerous accolades.

Save the date for our next club meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at Sierra View Elementary.

By Mikayla Carr

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

to deprive parents of their right to function as parents?

The answer lies in the ultimate aim of the Left, which is to impose maximum control over the individual. Our country is based on the notion that individual

rights take precedence over unlimited governmental power. We are at a dangerous moment in American history in which individual freedom is under attack. One way for the Left to achieve its objective is by destroying the nuclear family. In California, the family is being crushed by laws supporting false gender

theories and denying parents the right to raise their kids.

Should adults be allowed to choose their sexual identity? Yes. The real question is, should their decision be binding on the rest of us? If a man is sufficiently deluded to believe he is a woman, we have the right to disagree without facing government coercion. That is doubly true when it comes to protecting children from making disastrous decisions about their bodies. A distinction must be made between consenting adults and immature children, who are easy marks for destructive left-

ist ideology.

California politicians want to destroy the family by convicting concerned parents of child abuse. It is time for parents to vote these sick politicians out of office.

*Ed Brodow is a conservative political commentator and author of 10 books, including his latest, THE WAR ON WHITES: How Hating White People Became the New National Sport. He can be found at [www.edbrodowpolitics.com](http://www.edbrodowpolitics.com). This article originally appeared at [www.PolitiCrossing.com](http://www.PolitiCrossing.com).*



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**Kiwanis Korner**

**Cool Weather Brings Cool Kiwanis Events**

By Sally Rowden

Hello to the fall season. The cooling weather is very much welcomed along with all the festive events, holidays and gatherings we share during this time of the year.

We are sending congratulations to Bruce Wilson of the Madera Ran-

chos who won our Labor Day BBQ Basket raffle. He was extremely happy with the win as lots of items to create a successful BBQ gathering were packaged in the basket. Plus, a very unique large country-style hanging dinner bell that was designed and “blacksmith crafted” by one of our own members, Rod Chaney. Again, congratulations Bruce.



*Congratulations to Bruce Wilson of Madera Ranchos, the winner of our Labor Day BBQ Basket raffle and hand-crafted blacksmith dinner bell.*

Mark a “Save the Date” on your calendar for our Winter Christmas Tea happening on Saturday Nov. 18. An easy, relaxing, fun event with lunch, raffle prizes and a silent auction. Many of the auction items are perfect for the fall/winter seasons. The event will be held locally and it’s usually midday. A flyer will be out toward the end of September. You’ll be able to find them in the Ranchos Library, local businesses and on “What’s up in the Ranchos?” on Facebook. The cost of tickets is \$25 each and only 60 tickets will be sold. Tickets will go on sale Oct. 1 and if you would like to reserve tickets you can email Sally Rowden at rowden-

sally2@gmail.com.

I just attended a Kiwanis Leadership Training program with our 11 Kiwanis Division 5 clubs. I came to realize that no matter the size of the group, positive things can be accomplished and you shouldn’t put your ideas in a confining box but rather think “big picture.” Of course, that big picture must address what your community really needs.

As I’ve seen shared on “What’s up in the Ranchos?” folks have posted ideas of needs focusing on re-establishing the Flatlander’s Parade and/or getting a community park built. All projects need the community, clubs, organizations, agencies, businesses, churches, etc., to have a voice and become a team

working together in seeing these projects happen. Possibly as you’re reading this you might have other ideas you would like heard. We welcome you to email us and share your ideas. Send your ideas to rowden-sally2@gmail.com. As we gain input, we will share in our newspaper articles and “What’s up in the Ranchos?”



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**SAY YOU SAW IT ...  
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# Tea Time

## Don't Blame Biden!

By Betty Van Valkenburg

I'm not a doctor, nor do I play one on TV. But it is apparent to anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear that Joe Biden, hapless President of the United States of America, suffers from serious cognitive decline.

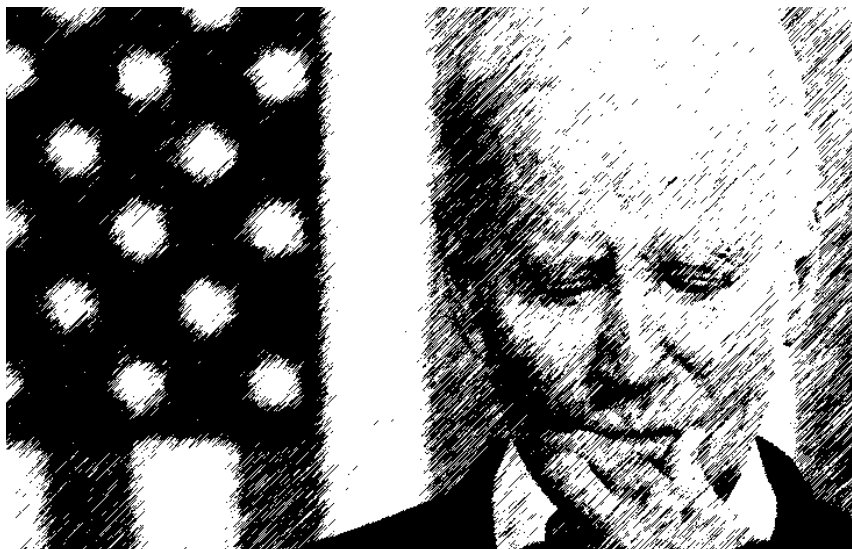
Duh!

And he was already noticeably impaired when he was elected. His condition was – and is – apparent to all, except perhaps to good-'ol stumble-bum Joe himself. And the impairment has become increasingly worse during his disastrous tenure. Everyone sees it. Everyone knows it. Foreign dignitaries see it firsthand as they help him off stage or direct him where he should go. A Medal of Honor hero knew it as Biden turned his back on him before his award ceremony was over and absent-mindedly walked out of the room. Frighteningly, America's enemies know it and see his weakness. His staffers knew it when they enlisted the Easter Bunny to lead him off stage. And the whole world saw on television his disastrous and tragic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He exhibits even more impairment today, embarrassing the country with gaffes, incoherence, obvious lies, memory lapses, stumbles, odd hair-sniffing and senselessly repeated stories. And yet, he is running again for president of the greatest nation in

the world and leads or has led in some polls. How can that be?

Many of us have had heart-wrenching experiences with cognitively impaired family members whom we love and care for. Perhaps sweet Aunt Mary, like good 'ol Joe, stumbled over non-existent objects. But she was not America's commander in chief. Or once-robust Uncle Pete, like good 'ol Joe, sometimes forgets who or where he is, but



he doesn't occupy the Oval Office or have the awesome responsibilities that come with it. And maybe lovable but doddering Grandpa wants to run for president or believes that he is the duly elected president, but unlike Joe Biden, Grandpa is not the president, and considering his cognitive condition, no one would allow him to run for the highest office in the land.

No one wants or chooses severe mental impairment, and any of us could experience

it one of these days. No one would choose to be stumbling, bumbling and incoherent. So, as the title states, I do not blame Joe Biden for his declining mental condition. It is a condition not of his choosing. But I do blame him – vehemently – for using his remaining limited faculties to bring down our once great nation! Weak as he is, he's done his part to stoke crushing inflation, push the climate change hoax, open our borders to anyone from anywhere, and weaken our military preparedness. But I do blame his handlers, whoever they may be, for leading him to speak ("Speak, Joe!") on behalf of disastrous policies and to sign disastrous bills. They know what they are doing, and he is cognizant enough on occasion to reflexively push the most destructive liberal policies. Inexplicably, voters were well aware of his shortcomings, so how in the world did he get elected?

Blame those who voted for him and out-vote them next year.

Democrats ignored Biden's impairments and voted him into office anyway, perhaps with the help of some squishy Republicans and never-Trump voters, and perhaps with the help of a few voting irregularities. This is a cautionary tale. As we know, the national presidential election will be held in November 2024, but before that, in the California Primary Election on March 5, 2024, registered voters will cast their ballots to nominate the candidates whose names will appear on the November ballot. The last day to register before the Primary is Feb. 20, 2024. If you have a favorite presidential candidate, you'll want to make sure you're registered and then vote in the Primary for him or her.

See you next year at the polls in March and November.

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Labour (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 20:35, "That so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words, it is more \_\_\_\_\_ to give than to receive." Righteous, Blessed, Bountiful
3. Ecclesiastes 3:13 states, "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy

- the good of all his labour, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." Will, Gift, Law
4. From Proverbs 14:23, "In all labour there is profit, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lips tendeth only to penury." Whispering, Talk, Howling
  5. In Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his \_\_\_\_\_." Brothers, Soul,

Hands


ANSWERS

1. Neither
2. Blessed
3. Gift
4. Talk
5. Hands

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• When I need to dust the ceiling, I don't have a fancy contraption; I just use my broom. If you have popcorn ceilings, you can rubber band a feather duster to the end of your broom. Look around your house, and maybe you'll find a sneaky cleaning purpose for everyday items.



• Dirty candles can be cleaned up quickly with a leg of panty hose. Slip the candle in the hose, rub the outside of the candle and release.

• "Rub banana on CDs with scratches. Wipe the excess off with a soft towel and make sure all of the banana is gone before you put it in your player. It usually does the trick for me." -- E. in Maine

• You can use a coffee filter to clean the screen of your television. It's not scratchy and non-static. Be sure not to press down hard into today's screens. And use only approved cleaners for your flat-screen and plasma television sets.

• "I purchased a medium-size colander with a handle at the dollar store. I have it hanging on a hook in the kids' bathtub. It's much easier for them to scoop toys out of the water, and more fun too, I think." -- A.C. in Nebraska

• Need to clean your iron? Scrub the face with salt. Then heat it and run the iron over the salt. I pour the salt on foil for even more heat effect.

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

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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.

	-		x		9
x		+		x	
	x		+		16
+		+		-	
	÷		+		16
15		7		9	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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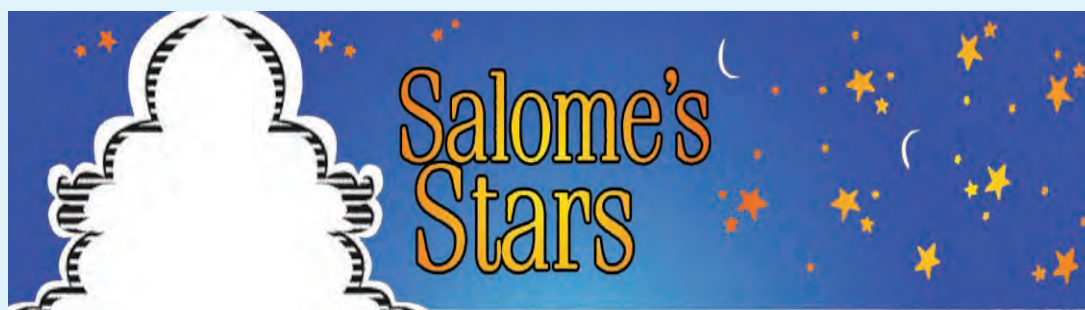
9/23



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A little "wool gathering" for the usually productive Lamb is all right if it helps you unwind. But be careful, as too much daydreaming can put you behind schedule in your work.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A work problem is close to being resolved. Now you can go ahead and celebrate the week, accepting invitations from friends who enjoy your company.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Getting your new plan accepted won't be a major hassle if you have the facts to back it up. Your supporters are also prepared to help you make your case. Good luck.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Dealing with a pesky job problem might be time-consuming, but necessary. The sooner you get this situation settled, the sooner you can move on to other matters.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Career advancement is favored, thanks to your impressive work record. On a more personal side, you should soon hear some good news about an ailing family member.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) There might be mixed signals from a certain someone who doesn't seem all that certain about his or her intentions. Best to sort it all out now before it becomes more confusing.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Get all the facts about that investment "opportunity" before you put as little as \$1 into it. Hidden problems might arise that could prove to be costly.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Compromising on a matter you feel strongly about not only ends the impasse, but can be a win-win deal for all. Remember, Scorpios do well with change.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) With all the demands you currently have to deal with, accepting the help of family and friends could be the wisest course to take at this time.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Recent upsetting incidents might have left you with a big gap in your self-assurance. Refill it by spending time with those who know how worthy you really are.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A dispute about money needs to be resolved quickly before it festers into something more serious. Consider asking an impartial colleague to mediate the matter.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A soft approach could be more effective than making a loud demand for the information you need. You might even find yourself with more data than you expected.

**Born this Week**

*You're sought out for the wonderful advice you're able to offer others. Sometimes you even take it yourself.*

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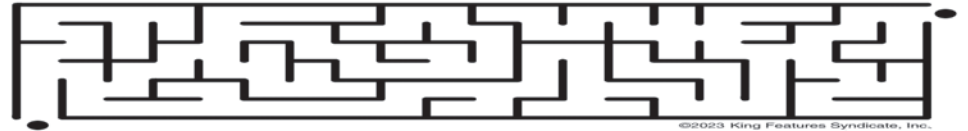


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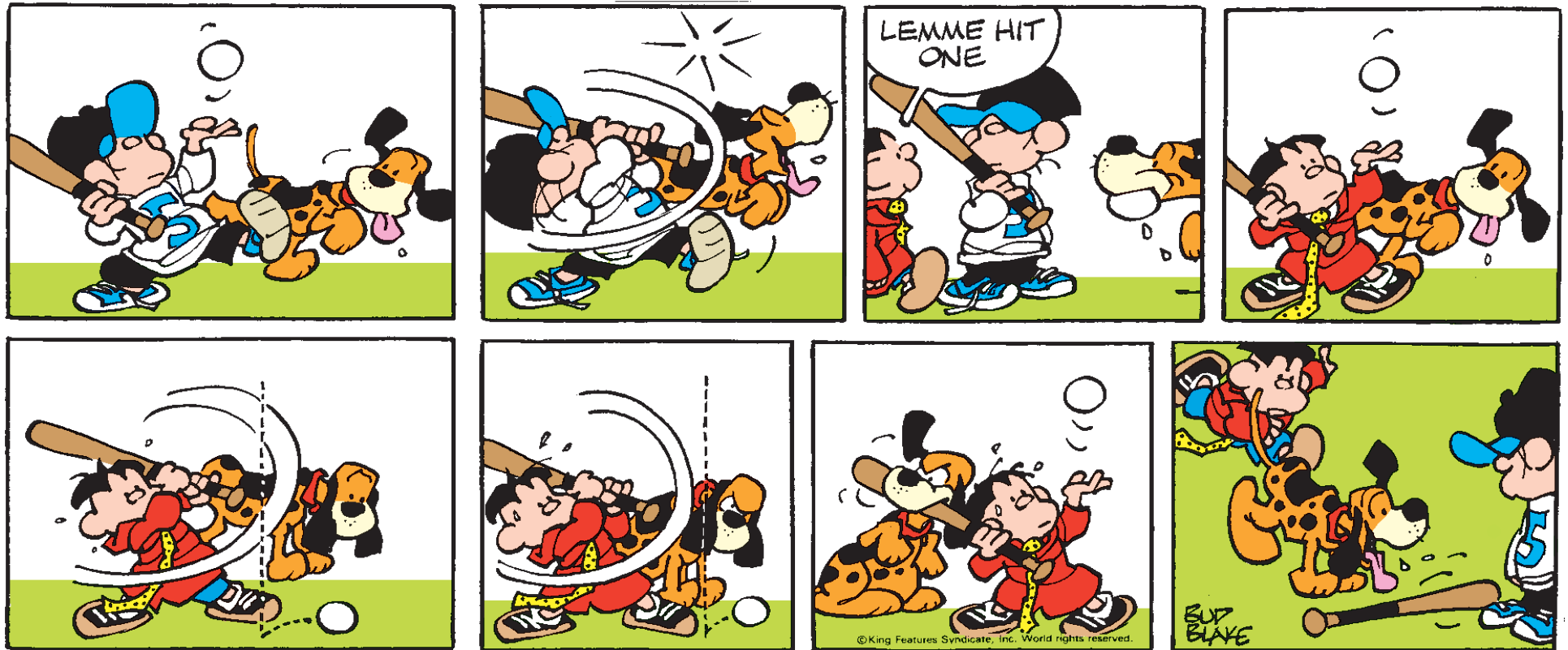
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

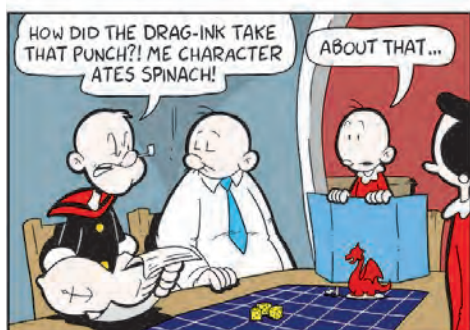
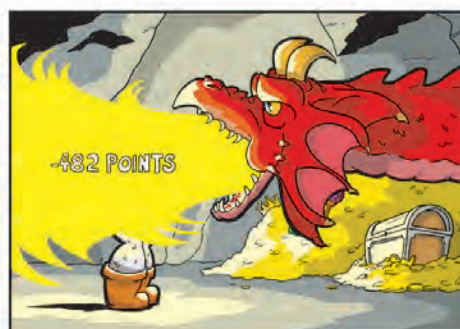
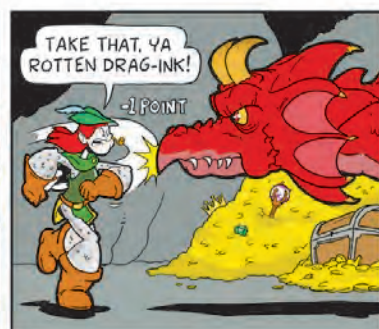
by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK:** What does the acronym "IPA" stand for in a beer?
- LITERATURE:** Who is the author of "The Hunger Games" series?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state has the most lighthouses?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of New Zealand?
- GAMES:** What is a perfect score in bowling?
- SCIENCE:** What does an auxanometer measure?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a female donkey called?
- MOVIES:** Which holiday is celebrated at the end of "When Harry Met Sally"?
- TELEVISION:** Which entertainer has hosted "Saturday Night Live" the most?
- ANATOMY:** What is the anatomical name for the kneecap?



- India Pale Ale.
- Suzanne Collins.
- Michigan.
- Wellington.
- 300 points.
- Plant growth.
- A jenny.
- New Year's Eve.
- Actor Alec Baldwin, 17 times.
- Patella.

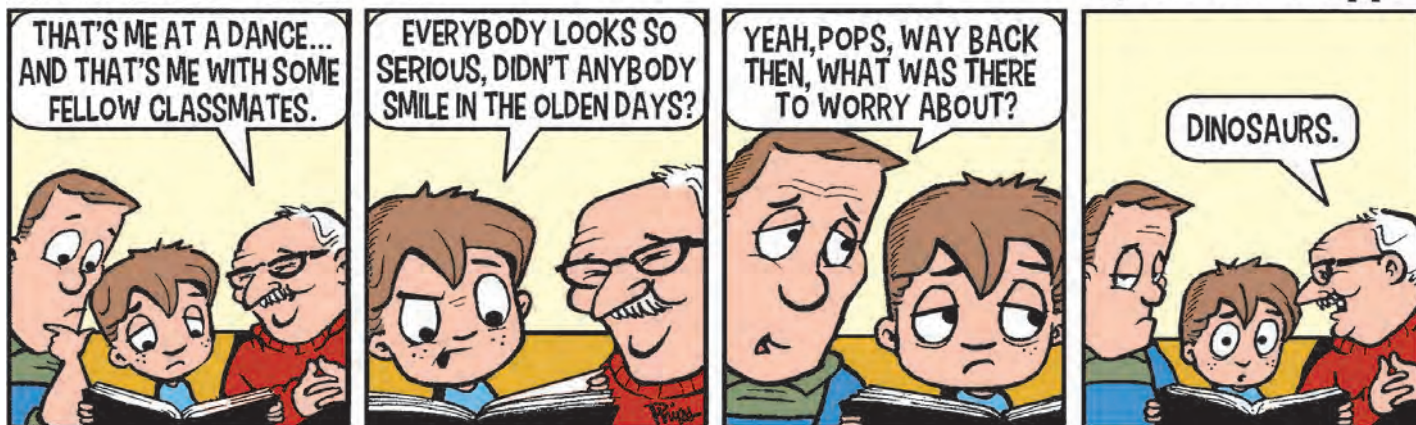
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Click on "Local News" at



# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



1. Name the group that released the 1966 version of "Cherish." 2. Who wrote and released "Just When I Needed You Most"? 3. What prompted Neil Diamond to write "Sweet Caroline"? 4. Who released "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel"? 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Our guardian star lost all its glow the day that I lost you. It lost all its glitter the day you said no."

might have been the better choice. series. Although the Fleetwoods' song Horseman, the animated adult comedy TV that ended the season six finale of "Bodak" fused with the Catherine Feeny "Mr. Blue" woods, in 1959. The song isn't to be con- the records. 5. "Mr. Blue," by the Fleet- and had to be split between a and b-sides of oline. 4. Tavares. The song was too long photo of President Kennedy's daughter Car- 3. Diamond wrote the song after seeing a but it topped the adult contemporary chart. ing company didn't especially like the song. VanWarmer, in 1979. VanWarmer's record- and the song ended up as No. 2. Randy Billboard -- until the rankings were revised and ended the year as the No. 7 song per 1. The Association. The song went to No. 1

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## MAGIC MAZE ● NONSENSE

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

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

- Balderdash
- Claptrap
- Horsefeathers
- Poppycock
- Baloney
- Drivel
- Jive
- Rubbish
- Blarney
- Gibberish
- Palaver
- Twaddle
- Bunk
- Hoey
- Piffle

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# FUN PAGES



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