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Volume 21 Issue 2 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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Ready for  
your  
NEW  
area  
code?

*The California Public Utilities Commission reminds us to prepare for a new 357 area code starting March 26, 2025.*

***In This Issue***

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The California Public Utilities Commission reminds Californians to prepare for the introduction of the new 357 area code that will be added as an overlay to the 559 area code region starting Mar. 26, 2025.

The 559 area code serves Central California and includes all or portions of Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties. The 559 area code serves communities such as Clovis, Coalinga, Fresno, Madera, Porterville, Reedley, Selma and Visalia, as well as some unincorporated areas. The new 357 area code will serve the same geographic area currently served by the existing 559 area code.

The addition of the 357 area code will require a new dialing procedure for anyone with a 559 or 357 area code. To complete calls from a landline phone, anyone with a 559 or 357 area code must dial 1+ area code + telephone number. This means that all calls from a 559 area code that are currently dialed with 7 digits will need to be dialed using the new 1 + area code + telephone number dialing procedure.

To complete calls from a cellular or mobile phone, callers may dial area code + telephone number or 1 + area code + telephone number whenever placing a call from a phone number with the 559 or 357 area code.

Beginning Feb. 26, 2025, customers with a 559 area code must use the new dialing procedure, even for local calls within the same area code. On and after this date, 7-digit calls will not be completed, and a recording will instruct the caller to hang up and dial again.

Beginning Mar. 26, 2025, new telephone lines or

Ready for  
your  
NEW  
area  
code?



services in the 559 area may be assigned numbers from the new 357 area code. Anyone assigned a new 357 area code telephone number must use the new dialing procedure.

**Key Facts**

Below are some key facts about the 559/357 area code overlay:

- Telephone numbers, including the current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call.

- Customers in the overlay region will dial 1+10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes, and 1+10 digits for long distance calls.

- Customers still can dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, or 811 if those are currently available in their community.

**How to Prepare**

- Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are currently programmed to dial 7 digits are reprogrammed to dial 1+ area code + telephone number. Some examples include, but are not limited to: stored telephone numbers in contact lists in wireless or cordless phones, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, medical alert devices, safety alarm security systems and gates, ankle monitors and/or other similar equipment.

- Customers should ensure such equipment is programmed to recognize 357 as a valid area code.

- Customers should identify their telephone number as a 10-digit number (3-digit area code + 7-digit telephone number) and include the area code when giving the number to friends, family, business associates and others.

- Customers should ensure their websites, personal and business stationery, printed checks, advertising materials, contact information and personal or pet ID tags include the area code.

For more information, please contact your telephone service provider or visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

## GVUSD Bus in Crash on Ave. 12

### Two Students Transported with Minor Injuries

On Thursday, Feb. 13 at approximately 7:18 a.m., Madera Area CHP officers responded to a three-vehicle crash involving a Golden Valley Unified school bus at the intersection of Ave. 12 and Road 32. An 18-year-old and 16-year-old student/passenger in the Golden Valley Unified school bus, whose parents arrived on-scene, were trans-

ported via ground ambulance to Valley Children's Hospital with complaints of pain.

Officers responded and learned that a 48-year-old female from Madera was driving the school bus with 29 students aboard. It had stopped and was waiting to make a right turn onto eastbound Ave. 12. At the same time, a 22-year-old female from Madera in a GMC was stopped on Ave. 12 due to westbound traffic ahead.

A 21-year-old male from Ceres was driving a Kenworth T60 and trailer combination, traveling westbound on Ave. 12 when the driver of the Kenworth observed stopped traffic ahead and applied his brakes but he began to skid/slide, and the driver turned the Kenworth to the right, in an attempt to avoid a crash with the GMC. The left rear of the Kenworth's trailer crashed into the right rear of the GMC, pushing the GMC into the eastbound lane of Ave. 12 as the school bus was making its right turn to eastbound Ave. 12. As a result, the left front of the GMC crashed into the left side of the school bus. All drivers were wearing their seat belts.

Alcohol and/or drugs are not suspected to be a factor in this crash.

File photo



## Newsom 2035 Gas Car Ban D.O.A.

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin just sent California's vehicle emissions waiver request to Congress for review. This is big and kills California Governor Gavin Newsom's ban on gas-powered vehicles.

In December, the Environmental Protection Agency, on orders from the Biden administration, announced that they approved California's mandate to ban the sale of all gas-powered vehicles by 2035, attempting to make it more difficult for President Donald Trump to federally stop the mandate once he took office, the Globe reported.

California's strictest-in-the-nation vehicle regulations require manufacturers to comply with the state's much more stringent emissions standards, and to produce more zero-emission vehicles for the state. However, this is usually sent to Congress prior to authorization.

Enter EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin who on Friday lifted the order and sent California's waiver request to Congress for review:

U.S. Environmental Protection



Photo courtesy of California Globe

Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced in the Oval Office, alongside President Donald Trump and the newly created National Energy Dominance Council, that the EPA will be transmitting to Congress the Biden Administration's rules granting waivers that allowed California to preempt federal car and truck standards promulgated by EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National High-

Please see DOA on P. 3

Click on "Local News" at



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DOA cont. from P. 2

way Traffic Safety Administration.

“The Biden Administration failed to send rules on California’s waivers to Congress, preventing Members of Congress from deciding on extremely consequential actions that have massive impacts and costs across the entire United States. The Trump EPA is transparently correcting this wrong and rightly following the rule of law,” said Zeldin. “The American people are struggling to make ends meet while dealing with rules that take away their ability to choose a safe and affordable vehicle for their families. As an agency, we are accountable to Congress, but most importantly we must be accountable to the American people.”

The EPA rules granting California waivers transmitted to Congress include California’s Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Omnibus NOx rules. The two waivers regarding trucks not only increased the cost of those vehicles but also increased the costs of goods and the cost of living for American families across the country.

As the Globe reported, it was only in January that the benevolent California Air Resources Board had the good sense to withdraw the federal waiver to enact emissions limits that exceed federal standards, and would require California truck drivers to transition from diesel to electric trucks.

This was about to go into effect, but in anticipation of the upcoming Trump administration the CARB actually read the room.

Gov. Newsom hasn’t done that yet.

There was nothing “groundbreaking” about California’s or the EPA’s Advanced Clean Fleets rule. CARB aimed to achieve a total zero-emissions truck and bus fleet by 2045, as well as have at least 1.6 mil-

lion zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks operating in the state by 2048.

“State officials have long considered the rules essential to cleaning up California’s severe air pollution and combating climate change,” CalMatters reported, obviously upset about the federal waiver forcing big rigs to go all-electric being dropped.

Where is California’s severe air pollution? Who in California is experiencing climate change? It’s probably more important to listen to those in the trucking industry than a reporter paid to write “about the impacts of climate change and air pollution and California’s policies to tackle them.”

The Commercial Carrier Journal reported, “The state of California has withdrawn its remaining outstanding request for waivers that would have allowed the state to enact emissions limits that exceed federal standards as the sun sets on President Joe Biden’s administration, which had been an ally in the state’s fight for some of the world’s most stringent air quality regulations.”

In August, 21 Republican Lawmakers from the California Senate and Assembly increased pressure on Governor Gavin Newsom to change up his Advanced Clean Fleets mandate because of multiple electric vehicle fires caused by lithium-ion batteries that occurred in the past month, the Globe reported.

Zeldin announced his “Powering the Great American Comeback” initiative to guide EPA’s work to protect human health and the environment while restoring the greatness of the American economy for the first 100 days and beyond. Today’s action advances two of the five pillars of this initiative: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism and Cross-Agency Partnership, and Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.



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## Sheriff Anderson Passes Away

Former Madera County Sheriff John Anderson passed away on Jan. 31, 2025 at his home in Nipomo. Sheriff Anderson dedicated more than five decades to law enforcement, leaving a lasting impact on our community and the state of California.

In 1998, John was elected as Madera County Sheriff, a position he held for 16 years until his retirement in 2014. He launched the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET) in 1999 to combat drug-related issues in our community. He also initiated the "Save Our Seniors" (SOS-911) program, providing seniors with cell phones for emergency use, and was instrumental in developing the MC-Alert system to keep residents in-

formed during emergencies.

In 1999, Sheriff Anderson established the Citizens on Patrol (COP) program, a volunteer unit trained to perform duties such as patrolling neighborhoods, assisting deputies at crime scenes, and conducting vacation checks of residences. This program empowered community members to play an active role in public safety and support the work of deputies in the field.

His legacy of service, innovation, and dedication will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of working with him. As we mourn his loss, let us also celebrate his life and the indelible mark he left on our community.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Really disappointed in your cover statement "Distracted Driving Strikes Again." We are all human and make mistakes. In no way was this accident caused by so-called "Distracted Driving." How about considering blind spots driving a bus with doors and mirrors on the passenger side? Who said the bus driver was distracted? Major intersections with traffic all along the Avenue 12 corridor and trying to cross is definitely an issue for all of us who drive this area. Traffic on both sides stopped and cross traffic on a heavily traveled

road. Two drivers with split second decisions and overall the outcome could have been much worse. Please get your facts straight and don't publish statements that are not accurate.

Did the Bus Driver make a judgement mistake? Probably. What about the truck driver seeing of all things a school bus coming at him not knowing if there were kids on board. Tough situation for all involved, not Distracted Driving despite your cover story and statement.

Jimmy Herd  
Madera Ranchos

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• St. Nicholas is the patron saint of penitent murderers.  
 • America's first female state senator was a Mormon polygamist who not only ran against, but defeated, her husband.  
 • In 2009, an Italian neurosurgeon had a heart attack in the middle of performing surgery. He powered through it when he realized his patient wouldn't recover if he stopped. Half an hour after finishing the surgery, the dedicated doctor had an angioplasty.

**Strange BUT TRUE**

Thought for the Day: "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." -- Victor Hugo

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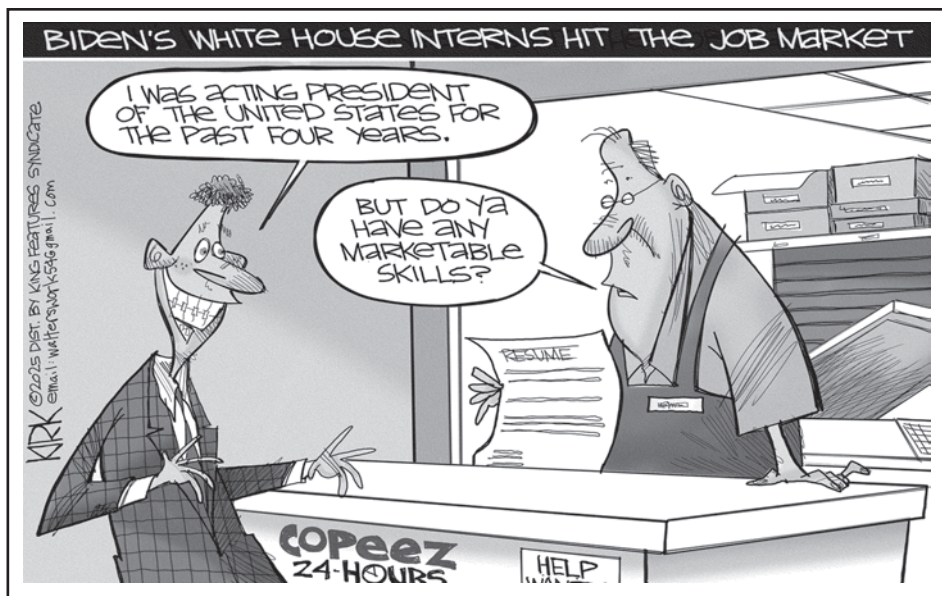
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## Guest Editorial

### Liberal Women Least Happy?

By Elizabeth Heckman and Kristine Parks

A new poll shows liberal women are the most unhappy and lonely. Liberal women between the ages of 18-40 are nearly three times as likely as conservative peers to report frequent feelings of loneliness.

Professor and author Brad Wilcox, a sociology professor at the University of Virginia and fellow at the Institute for Family Studies, spoke with Fox News Digital about the latest research on what makes women happy. Liberal women are the least likely to report being fully

*... marriage and family are an "enormous" source of meaning and purpose for most people, so it's not surprising that conservative women, who are more likely to be married, would also feel more satisfied with their lives in general ... and prioritize family and attending religious services, he said, which also contributes to happiness.*

satisfied with their lives and are far more likely to report feeling lonely often, according to analysis from a recently published poll.

The 2024 American Family Survey reportedly found that 37 percent of conservative women and 28 percent of moderate women, between the ages of 18-40, reported being "completely satisfied" with their lives, but just 12 percent of liberal women in the same age

group said the same. Liberal women were also nearly three times more likely than conservative women to say they experienced loneliness at least a few times a week.

Wilcox, who analyzed the survey's data, said he believes there are a couple of reasons why conservative young

women are more likely to be happier than their liberal counterparts.

"We've seen in the research that conservative women tend to be more likely to embrace a sense of agency and to have the sense that they are not, in any way, the victim of larger structural realities or forces," he told Fox News Digital.

tal.

"They're also less likely to 'catastrophize' about public events and concerns," and "more likely to think of themselves as captains of their own fate," Wilcox added. He also broke down the poll by the relationship status of the women surveyed.

According to his analysis, 40 percent of liberal women reported being single, while 31 percent said they were married.

For conservative women, 33 percent reported being single and 51 percent were married. The remaining women on both sides of the political aisle reported being "in a committed relationship" or "cohabiting" with a partner.

Wilcox told Fox News Digital that marriage and family are an "enormous" source of meaning and purpose for most people, so it's not surprising that conservative women, who are more likely to be married, would also feel more satisfied with their lives in general. Conservative women are also more likely to embrace the gender differences between men and women and prioritize family and attending religious services, he said, which also contributes to happiness.

The American Family Survey is an annual, nationwide survey of 3,000 Americans. The 2024 poll was released in early February 2025 and conducted August 22-29, 2024.

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



# The New National Pastime

I have a new favorite pastime ... watching leftists have absolute meltdowns on social media. I'm talking about the people who are having some big emotions about what the current administration is doing and choose to grab their phones, open the camera app and record themselves screaming and snot-crying for a minute or two, then post it on the internet. These are not the people who use their platform, or their words, to explain why they don't like some of the executive orders coming down the pike. These are the people who throw a hissy fit, and because they need an audience, they put it on social media.

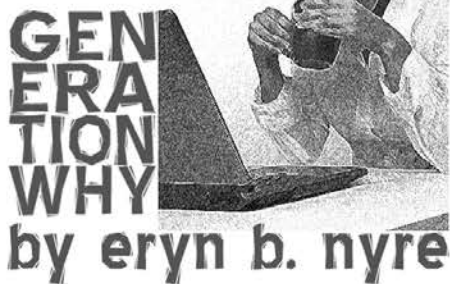
Having a bad day? Scroll Tik Tok for 20 minutes and watch some emotionally unstable nut-bag blubber on nonsensically about how they can't take it anymore. It doesn't even matter what it is that they can't take, it's just about making a scene. They can't formulate a sentence on what, exactly, has pushed them over the edge, but they can surely screech like pros. Too bad that isn't a marketable talent outside of being an owl ... or a cast member on The View.

I get not liking what is happening in the country. I haven't liked what has been happening in the country for the last four

*I'm not sure it's the best place to show off your mental breakdown.*

years; turns out more than half of Americans haven't liked it. Of course, most of us don't record ourselves having a full-on temper tantrum and post it for the world to see. We don't have time for that, we have to get up and go to work. Although social media is the digital playground where everyone has a platform, a soapbox, and a special place to make their voice heard, whether anyone asks for it or not, I'm not sure it's the best place to show off your mental breakdown. But hey, I support your right to do that if you so choose. I also support my right to laugh at your crocodile tears and make fun of your snot-fueled frenzy.

I'm sure at the onset of the social media era some people envisioned that it would be a place of thoughtful discourse and healthy debate where those of opposing views could hash things out in a civilized but expansive forum. Unfortunately, it looks nothing like that. We're watching the left unravel in real-time. In fairness, these extremists are having exactly the kind of breakdowns you'd expect from someone who's spent too much time staring at a phone screen and not enough being told "no" as a kid. They have no



sense of reason, but sadly, it's not about reason. It's about who can shout the loudest; it doesn't matter what they're saying. They aren't actually looking to have a discussion; they want you to acquiesce. When you don't, they scream and cry until you walk away because you don't want to deal with those hysterics, and then they think they've won.

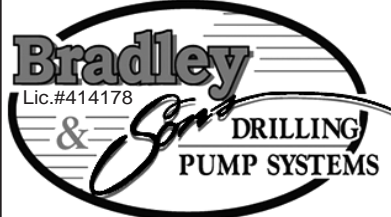
Here's the best part, they're turning on themselves. It's like they are all trying to out "left" each other. Let's take a moment to marvel at the "cancel culture" phenomenon. A phrase that once sounded like something out of a Ray Bradbury

book has now turned into a weaponized tool for virtue signaling. You don't agree with them? Boom. Blocked. You contradict them with reason and facts? Bam. Cancelled. You have the audacity to show receipts? Pow. You're out. And the best part? The people leading this charge are often the same ones slapping peace signs and "coexist" bumper stickers on their cars and running around saying all we need is love and acceptance ... and apparently complete and unyielding surrender to their way of thinking. So much for inclusion and tolerance.

Now it seems like the quickest way to get a leftist to lose their cool on social media is to gently suggest that maybe, just maybe, their idea could use a little more thought. Cue the meltdown. Please, for the love of the algorithm, don't show them any facts or alternative, and reputable, resources. That just makes their faces go red and you know how much they hate that color now.

And as these breakdowns continue, there's a certain irony that they don't seem to notice. Liberals who once prided themselves on being the "party of inclusion" now seem to be experts at exclusion. If you're not fully in line with their

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



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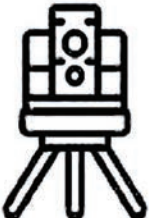
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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

thinking, well, you might as well be wearing a red hat and waving an American flag, because both of those things are bad. Dissent is not just discouraged; it's to be punished. The internet was supposed to be a space for learning and growing, but it's turned into a warzone where the loudest voices drown out anyone trying to introduce even a hint of reason.

This particular brand of leftist, those who post videos of themselves in full

blown breakdowns, have become caricatures of themselves. Sure, they provide entertainment for the masses who find the antics ridiculous, but let's not pretend that their behavior isn't indicative of serious mental health issues. They need help, but as they are still choosing to post this nonsense for all to see, I will keep enjoying the show. So, here's to the liberals of the internet: Thank you for the laughs, the chaos, and the reminder that sometimes the best thing to do on social media is ... log off for a while.



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**ORGANIZED BY CHOICE**  
 By Brenda McElroy

**Random Rhythms and Magical Margins**

What's the opposite of order? Our first thought might be disorder, chaos, confusion or mess. In some cases, that's true. If the planets in our solar system deviated from the orderly path they follow, it could end life as we know it.

Is perfect order always best? We might look at rows of trees in an orchard and note how well-ordered they are. Their straight lines enable the farmer to efficiently plow, harvest and irrigate. But would we drive through the foothills and consider a splattering of oak trees disorderly? We don't label finches disorderly just because they don't fly in formation like geese.

A reoccurring challenge I hear about is people with different views of order living in the same household. As much as I believe that everyone benefits from order, not everyone thrives in the same level of orderliness.

Some of us are born geese attempting to maintain a perfect "V" as we fly through life. Others are more like finches

flying in a less structured manner. If your household is a mix of finch and geese, it's a challenge.

To face the challenge, start with the mindset that one isn't right and the other wrong. Here are a couple more tools to promote a peaceful coexistence.

**Random Rhythms**

The ocean is a great example of random rhythms. Watching the waves can be peaceful, even therapeutic. But if every wave was exactly alike and marched in perfect order, it wouldn't be the same. On the other hand, without the rhythmic tide maintaining the ocean boundaries, there would be no beach from which to enjoy the waves.

Putting it into the home context might look something like this: Let's say the finch in your household is the cook. The goose, because he wants it done "just so," is the cleanup person. The finch is lackadaisical about

*Whether it's a basket on the kitchen counter for the keys and wallet, or a tray in the bathroom for daily used items, these magical margins keep the finch's belongings accessible while providing a sense of order for the goose. Remember — a goose isn't flying a "V" formation just to annoy a finch any more than a finch flies randomly to annoy a goose. We're wired differently.*

schedules, so dinnertime varies from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This drives the goose crazy because there's no consistency and he sometimes ends up cleaning the kitchen at 9 p.m.

A random rhythm would be to agree on a dinnertime window of 5:30 to 7 p.m., allowing for

finch flexibility while providing a suitable boundary for the goose. Identify the areas of your schedules that affect both of you. Honor one another's preferences and look for a random rhythm solution.

**Magical Margins**

I remember driving through beautiful countryside on my way to a client's home in the foothills. There were farmhouses, cattle and cowboys out



## Super Soupy Soup

(February 2015)

**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.



mailed me the following: "Eating black-eyed peas are thought to bring prosperity in the New Year but we found this recipe yummy any time of the year. Enjoy!"

### Black-eyed Pea Chowder

½ lb. diced bacon or ham  
2 C chopped celery  
2 C chopped green pepper  
1 C chopped onion  
1 10½ oz. can beef stock  
2 16 oz. cans diced tomatoes  
2 16 oz. cans black eyed peas  
Sauté bacon or ham with celery, green pepper and onion. Add stock, tomatoes and peas. Simmer 30 to 40 min. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Kale must be the "in" vegetable now. On TV, I have seen it cooked just about every way imaginable: steamed, sautéed, boiled, baked and even fried. When I found this recipe and saw kale in it, I thought it sounded good.

### Kale and Bean Soup

2 medium onions chopped  
2 C cubed peeled potatoes  
1 T olive oil  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1 bunch kale, trimmed and coarsely chopped  
3½ C vegetable stock  
1 28 oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained  
1½ C water  
1 tsp. Italian seasoning  
1 tsp. paprika  
½ tsp. pepper  
1 bay leaf  
1 15 oz. can white kidney or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

In a large soup pot, sauté onions and potatoes in oil until tender. Add garlic and cook one minute longer. Stir in the kale, broth, tomatoes, water, Italian seasoning, paprika, pepper and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer until kale is tender; this should take 50 to 60 minutes.

Cool slightly. Discard bay leaf. In a blender, process 3 cups of the soup until smooth. Return

to pan, add the beans and heat through. You can use an emersion blender and get the consistency of the soup the way you like, rather than putting it in a blender.

On my list of 10 vegetables I like best, cauliflower is not anywhere near the top of the list. However, like kale, I have seen so many recipes lately using cauliflower I thought I'd include a soup recipe using it.

### Cauliflower Soup

1 medium head cauliflower, cored and broken into flowerets  
1 medium onion, shredded  
¼ C chopped celery  
2½ C water\*  
1 vegetable bouillon cube\*  
3 T butter  
3 T all-purpose flour  
¾ tsp. salt  
Dash black pepper  
2 C milk  
1 C shredded cheddar cheese  
Dash hot pepper sauce (optional)

In a large soup pot, combine the cauliflower, carrot, celery,

water\* and bouillon\*. Bring to a boil, reduce heat; cover and simmer for 12-15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Do not drain.

In another large saucepan, melt butter, stir in flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Be sure to stir constantly to prevent scorching. Reduce heat. Stir in the cheese until melted. Add hot pepper sauce if using. Stir into the cauliflower mixture. Makes about 8 servings.

\*Instead of the water and bouillon cube, 2½ C vegetable stock could be used.

I want to thank my contributors Wyatt Frazier and Amy Varney for their soup recipes. Remember that Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 9, (2025) at 2 a.m. but who wants to stay up just to change the clock? Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday or you'll be late for church.

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### Senior Report

## Happy Seniors' St. Patrick's Day

By Melanie Williams

March is just around the corner and here's what's happening at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Our calendar is filled with a whirlwind of activities for seniors this month. The Senior Center has planned a fundraising event with the California Fish Grill Restaurant. They are located at 7825 N. Blackstone Ave. in Fresno. The date is Tuesday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you love seafood, come in for lunch or dinner. It can be for dine in or take out. They also have other items on the menu for non-seafood lovers.

tables set up for everyone.

We are looking forward to another great Monthly Sale on Saturday, March 1 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. We are always grateful for the wonderful community donations coming into the Treasure House, Boutique and Scout Garden. Many thanks to our local Ranchos community for their generosity



*The potluck is on Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.*

When ordering at the California Fish Grill, you MUST state that you are supporting the RAN-CHOS/HILLS SENIOR CENTER in Madera Ranchos. There is a minimum of \$20 or more for each order. Please help support the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. by ordering lunch or dinner at the California Fish Grill.

The Luck of the Irish Potluck is on Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. Cheers to St. Paddy's Day and wear something green to celebrate. All Seniors in the community are welcome to join us for The Luck of the Irish Potluck dinner at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 to sign up so we have enough

in giving to the Senior Center. If you are planning to do Spring cleaning soon and wish to donate some "treasures" to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, we are open every weekday to take donations from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. excluding holidays.

We are preparing for our Home and Garden Show on April 5. The Scout Garden needs donations of potted plants with a healthy root system, potting soil or plant cuttings from your garden this Spring. Please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 if you wish to donate plants and talk to Diane Maxfield. She is at the Senior Center on Tuesday mornings and can answer any questions about how to preserve plants be-

Please see SENIORS on P. 12



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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!



SENIORS cont. from P. 9

fore transporting them to the Senior Center.

Our members greatly appreciate the donation of a new American Flag for the Senior Center flagpole by the Ranchos Veterans "Lives Matter II," who meet at the Liberty Café on Saturday mornings. Thank you for helping us to honor our local veterans.

A big thank you to Bob Groh for working diligently with Carol Wood to help us acquire and install our new magnetic name tag boards at the Senior Center. Now, when you come into the Senior Center we have permanent name tags for our social events.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is trying to reserve a table of 10 at the 21st Annual Chamber Community Crab Feed on Friday, March 10 at 6 p.m. If you would like to join other Madera Ranchos' seniors at our table, we would love the par-

ticipation to support the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested, please call the Senior Center to reserve a spot by Friday, February 28.

Brown Bag Day is Wednesday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Visitors can come by any weekday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick up a Newsletter with a calendar highlighting our upcoming activities and events at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Our volunteers at the front desk would be happy to answer any questions.

Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 9.

Happy St. Patrick's Day on Monday, March 17 from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for March: "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." — Charles Dickens

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

in the fields. One necessary element that kept cattle safe and home properties free from cow pies was fencing. Both sides of the fence had value.

Sometimes when a goose and a finch share space without boundaries, the finch feels like there's no space to roam freely, or the goose feels overtaken with cow pies.

If there's a spare room that can be designated as finch's space, the magical margin is the door that the goose can close when she doesn't want to see it. If that's not possible, a rolling cart with the finch's stuff might be used in common spaces and rolled

into a closet or garage when hosting guests.

Whether it's a basket on the kitchen counter for the keys and wallet, or a tray in the bathroom for daily used items, these magical margins keep the finch's belongings accessible while providing a sense of order for the goose.

Remember — a goose isn't flying a "V" formation just to annoy a finch any more than a finch flies randomly to annoy a goose. We're wired differently. Sometimes it's the same differences that attract us to one another that drive us crazy. What then? With communication, flexibility and grace we learn to co-exist with random rhythms and magical margins.

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# SEMUCU speaks

By Dov Adler

## Weather Update in Madera

Feeling this winter passing by too fast, one can't stop wondering about the short- and long-term effects on us. During the rainy season, Madera had an unusual winter. Normally, Madera's winters are mild, although nighttime temperatures will drop below 30 degrees to the freezing point with January high temperatures averaging around 54° F and about 2.21 inches of rain for the month.

spite the considerable distance between the two regions. One notable impact has been the mobilization of Madera residents to support those affected by the fires. Individuals with ties to Los Angeles have initiated efforts to send aid to the victims, demonstrating the interconnectedness and solidarity among California communities.

Additionally, the economic repercussions of the Los Angeles fires may have broader implications for the state, potentially affecting areas like Madera. The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation estimates that the recent wildfires have caused approximately \$53.8 billion in property damage based on market value. What will the insurance industry effect eventually be on our community? Such significant economic impacts could influence state resources and policies, indirectly affecting communities throughout California.



Photo courtesy of California State Water Resources Control Board

However, this time, the area faced a long drought, making the soil drier and increasing the need for irrigation. On top of that, strong Santa Ana winds, which are not common in this area, made things worse by raising evaporation rates and increasing wildfire risks. These conditions have created big challenges for all of us, especially for the large number of farmers in Madera who have had to deal with water shortages and threats to their crops.

This reduced soil moisture, coupled with heightened irrigation demands, means less water is available to percolate down and replenish the groundwater aquifers. Over time, this could lead to a notable decline in groundwater levels, making it more challenging for the region to meet agricultural and residential water needs. The persistent dryness also increases the risk of over-extraction, further stressing the already fragile groundwater system. Sustainable water management practices managed by Madera County will be crucial to mitigate these impacts and ensure the long-term availability of our groundwater in Madera.

I also wanted to touch on the effect the latest Los Angeles wildfires had on our remote, but still close, community.

The recent wildfires in Los Angeles have had indirect effects on Madera, de-

While Madera has not experienced direct physical effects from the Los Angeles fires, the situation underscores the importance of statewide preparedness and mutual support in the face of natural disasters.

SEMUCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeastern Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools, future parks and energy. We invite our community to join and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. We invite community members to join SEMUCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area. Together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community. SEMUCU meets once per month at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, or you may join us online to virtually participate. To join online, go to [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) for a link and simple instructions. Or if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone at 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. Make your voice heard!

**SEMUCU is "By the Community, For the Community"**



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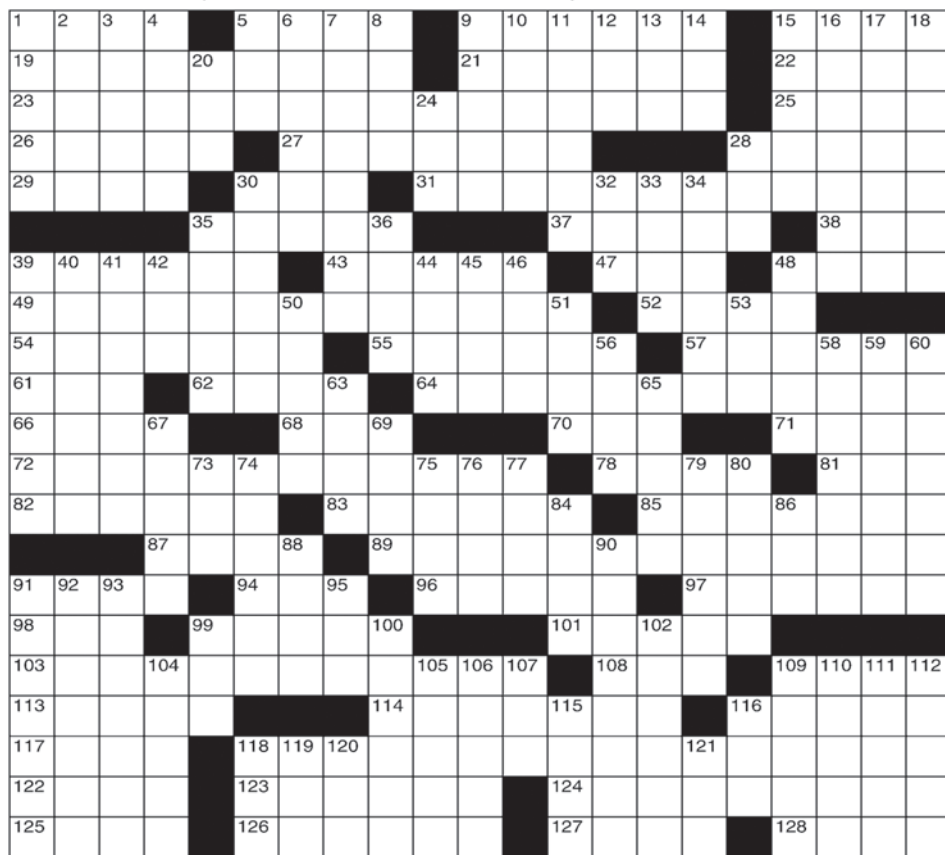


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# Super Crossword



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

**ACROSS**

1 Brief ad  
5 Resistance units  
9 Circular paths  
15 Imprison  
19 Starch-yielding plant  
21 They may disturb sleep  
22 — -Seltzer  
23 Nut acquired with great effort?  
25 Nail salon job, in brief  
26 — box (TV)  
27 Cathedral in London  
28 R&B's Brown  
29 Prohibits  
30 Erfurt article  
31 Sprinkle sofa shams with water drops?  
35 Calf-roping event  
37 Link with  
38 Casino cube  
39 "Boo!" shouter  
43 French city on the Rhone  
47 Tax org.  
48 Stan of jazz saxophone  
49 Catholic dignitary's vigorous strength?  
52 West African country  
54 Juneau native

**DOWN**

2 Polite title for an Indian man  
3 Longtime senator Hatch  
5 "... Mac — PC?"  
6 Goofed (around)  
7 Quebec city  
8 Stair unit  
9 At just the right time  
10 Author Dahl  
11 Actress Jacqueline  
12 "Kinda sorta"  
13 Golf peg  
14 Detroit-to-Memphis dir.  
15 Crawford of the NBA  
16 In style  
17 "Told ya so!"  
18 — faire  
20 Soggy  
24 Pat gently  
28 "Let's Get Loud" singer, familiarly  
30 1996 presidential candidate  
32 2006 Nintendo debut  
33 Salon service  
34 "We have the OK"  
35 Japanese "energy healing"  
36 Thereabouts  
39 Egyptian beetles  
40 Dietary unit

**ACROSS**

55 Directives  
57 Like Stoker's "Dracula"  
61 Steal from  
62 Liking a lot  
64 Overly crooked?  
66 Quite dry  
68 Stock debut, for short  
70 "Nope"  
71 Often-twisted cookie  
72 Long-billed wading bird that loves perching on flexed arm muscles?  
78 Testing stage  
81 Early 1960s atty. gen.  
82 Navy engineer  
83 Made airtight, say  
85 Liken (to)  
87 Joan of folk  
89 Climate that promotes the growth of powdery fungus?  
91 Pale-looking  
94 "Get 'em, Fido!"  
96 Model X carmaker  
97 Runs after  
98 Aussie leaper  
99 Grand house  
101 "You're — pal!"

**DOWN**

103 Class teaching the techniques of Civil War photographer Brady?  
108 Marcel Marceau's clown  
109 — -Cherry (Ocean Spray flavor)  
113 Pretty good grade  
114 Antennae and tentacles  
116 Chicago airport  
117 Unlatch, e.g.  
118 Baseballer Rod when not using a chauffeur?  
122 Indian bread  
123 Literary afterthought  
124 Great skill  
125 Small vortex  
126 Literary journalist Gay  
127 Syringe fluids  
128 "Iliad" city

**ACROSS**

41 Coffee type  
42 Ave. crossers  
44 Old Italian money  
45 Stops  
46 Look for  
48 U.S. naval base in Cuba, for short  
50 Crazy caper  
51 Small bird  
53 Lav, to Brits  
56 Sailor's mop  
58 Victory cries  
59 Lacking frost  
60 Snug-fitting necklaces  
63 Artistic work  
65 "Riverdale" network  
67 "You Light Up My Life" singer  
69 City in Utah  
73 Stir-fry tidbit  
74 Teeter-totter  
75 Café au —  
76 Macpherson or Fanning  
77 Gets hitched  
79 Protective shoe tip  
80 — and the Night Visitors"  
84 Oscar — Hoya  
86 School org.  
88 Galvanizing element

**DOWN**

90 Cary Grant played a male one in 1949  
91 Radius or ulna  
92 S.O.S or Brillo product  
93 Very helpful tip, informally  
95 Pigeon sound  
99 "Bonjour, — amis!"  
100 Fashion frill  
102 Michael formerly of Disney  
104 Word on Winnie-the-Pooh's pot  
105 Total overhauls  
106 Suit fabric  
107 Wallach of film  
109 Intone  
110 Less typical  
111 "Am not!" retort  
112 Full of the latest info  
115 Spacewalks, in NASA lingo  
116 Mo. #10  
118 Tennis unit  
119 Air quality gp.  
120 — Mama (rapper)  
121 School stat

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**The Independent**  




# Classified

## Caregiver Wanted

**Caregiver Wanted** – Seeking caregiver with bedside care experience for 2-3 hour shifts for care receivers in the Ranchos. \$17/hr. Call 559-500-3070 to apply.

## Carpet Cleaning

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery** - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.

## Chimney Sweep

**Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy**- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents.

**REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY!** Call 559-908-9332.

## Exterminator

**CSI Exterminators** - "If you've got a pest, call the best!" Free estimates. Call 559-293-1779.

## Firewood

**Firewood for sale** - Seasoned Almond firewood. Round or split. Call 259-7122 or 645-5523.

## Gutter Services

**The Gutter Doctor** specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor. Repair Maintenance. 26 years working in the area. Call 559-908-0759.

## Housecleaning

Over 40 yrs of experience - References available - Lupe's

House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com**. Call either of our LOCAL numbers: 559-710-0692 or 650-771-2915.

## Property Clean Up

**Property clean up, landscape maintenance and tree trimming** - FREE ESTIMATES. Professional and reliable. Call Eric at 559-903-3757.

## Recyclables Pick Up

**KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLING PICKUP** - AmericanMade Direct/Kids4recycling offers free pickup of newspaper, shredded paper, all household plastic, glass, aluminum and tin cans (containers DON'T need to be CRV). Metal haul away and cleanups available also! 80% return back to community! Call Dianna at 559-999-6832.

## Tractor/Trenching Services

**BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES** - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. Call John at 908-1066.

## Window Cleaning Services

**Most windows start at \$5 and up** -- inside/out - Screen, track, sills. Remove hard water stains on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723.

Free estimates.

• Smartphones and computers are notorious for viruses -- but I'm thinking of the kind that can make YOU sick. These devices are touched by us constantly. And then we stick them right to our faces! Take the time daily to clean off your device with an alcohol wipe to decontaminate it. Your respiratory and digestive systems will thank you.



• "We are always prompted to choose strong passwords, but a random collection of letters, numbers and special symbols can be hard to remember. I make a strong password by using a coded phrase, like "My three boys are number one," which might be "MY3boysR#1." Just thought I'd share my trick, but not my password!" -- R.W. in Iowa

• Use secure networks to transfer data. When out and about, if you are using free Wi-Fi hotspots, choose ones that encrypt data. You can check the web address and look for a padlock icon, or addresses that begin with https://. The "S" means "secure."

• "Sign out of all accounts when you are using someone else's computer. I can't tell you how often I have used the computers at the library and went to sign into my webmail only to find that the previous user's email comes up. Navigating away from a page usually doesn't work, closing the browser sometimes doesn't work, but logging off ALWAYS works. The same for shopping sites, like Amazon. If you don't log off, because these sites use "cookies" to remember you, someone could potentially use your account." -- M.L. in Florida

• Lock your device! Just as you wouldn't leave your door unlocked, so too should you not leave your phone unlocked, particularly if you have applications on your smartphone that can be easily accessed. Lock it up, and be smart.

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

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**TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634**

## 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.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

	+		×		= 30
+		+		+	
	+		-		= 2
÷		÷		×	
	+		-		= 2
=		=		=	
10		1		84	

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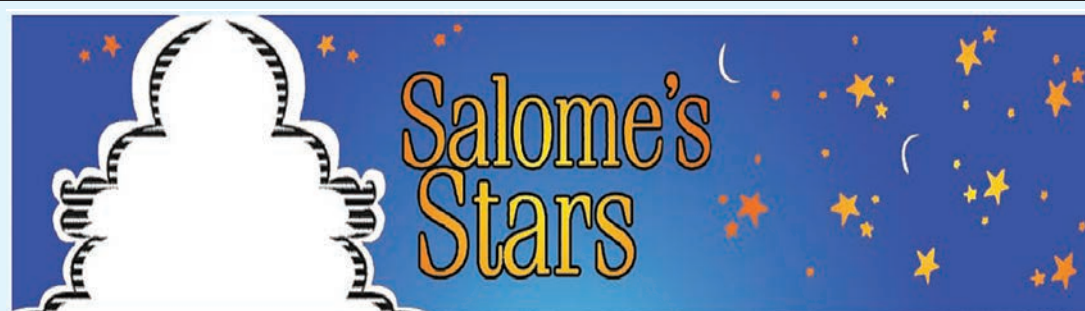


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Try to say as little as possible about the work you're doing through the end of the month. Then you can make your announcement and accept your well-deserved plaudits.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A more difficult challenge than you expected emerges early in the week. But with your strong Taurean determination, you should be able to deal with it successfully by week's end.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Before you act on your "feelings" about an upcoming decision, it might be wise to do a little fact-checking first. You could be very much surprised by what you don't find.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A recent workplace success can open some doors that were previously closed to you. On a personal level, expect to receive some important news from a longtime friend and colleague.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Put your wounded pride aside and do what you must to heal a misunderstanding, before it can take a potentially irreversible turn and leave you regretting the loss of a good friend.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) One way to kick a less-than-active social life into high gear or rebuild an outdated Rolodex file is to throw one of your well-organized get-togethers for friends and associates.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Getting out of an obligation you didn't really want to take on can be tricky. An honest explanation of the circumstances can help. Next time, pay more attention to your usually keen instincts.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Use your Scorpion logic to push for a no-nonsense approach to a perplexing situation. This could help keep present and potential problems from creating more confusion.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A friend's problem might take more time than you wish to give. But staying with it once again proves the depth of your Sagittarian friendship and loyalty.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat can benefit from an extra dose of self-confidence to unsettle your detractors, giving you the advantage of putting on a strong presentation of your position.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might want to ask a friend or relative for advice on an ongoing personal matter. But be careful not to give away information that you might later wish you had kept secret.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Use the weekend for a creativity break to help restore your spiritual energy. Once this is done, you'll be back and more than ready to tackle whatever challenge you need to face.

**Born this Week**  
*You get great joy out of creating beautiful things and sharing them with others who appreciate them.*

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**FIVE TWO** ADVERTISING

ADS  
LOGOS  
PR  
MARKETING

645-0634

**GRIN and BEAR IT** by Wagner

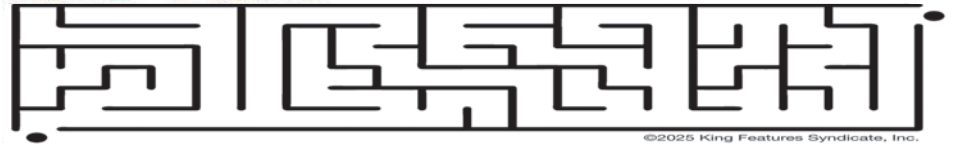


"Figby, we've had reports that you've been combative. Congratulations!"



# FUN PAGES

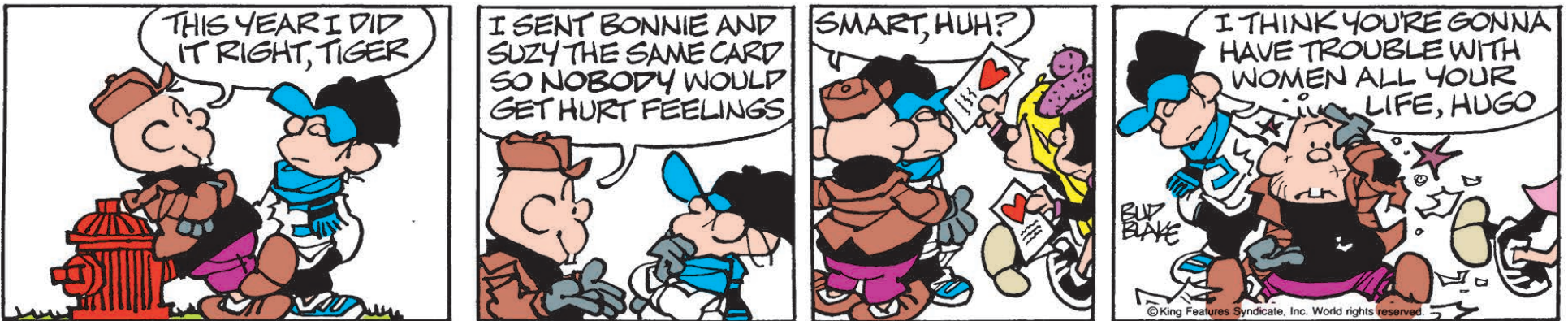
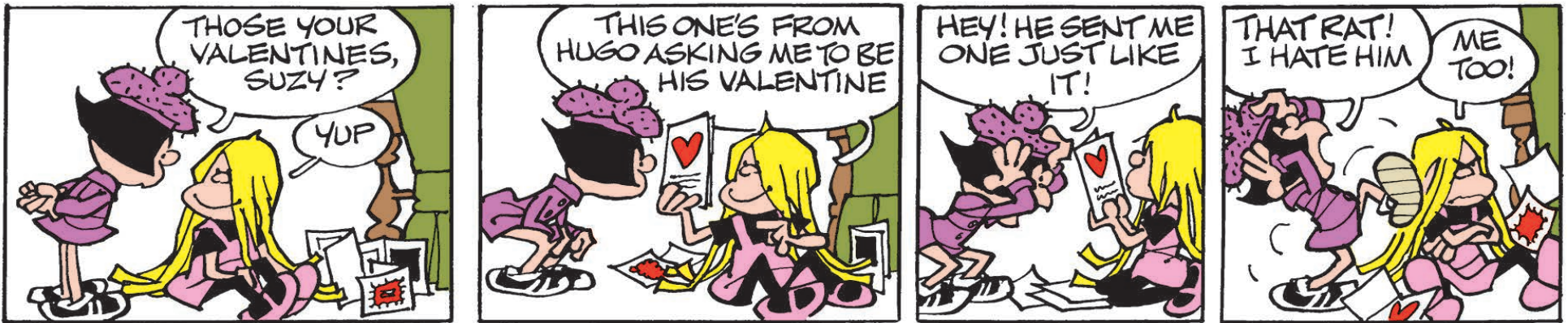
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION:** How many castaways are on "Gilligan's Island"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Which Asian nation's nickname is "Land of the Thunder Dragon"?
- LITERATURE:** What is author J.K. Rowling's real first name?
- SCIENCE:** What is a type of material that can't carry an electrical charge?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state's nickname is "The Last Frontier"?
- MEASUREMENTS:** How many quarts are in a half gallon?
- MOVIES:** Which famous landmark is featured in the movie "Rebel Without a Cause"?
- ANATOMY:** What does the cerebellum control in the human brain?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Where is the late Jimmy Carter's presidential library located?
- HISTORY:** When did the Great Fire of London occur?

- Seven.
- Bhutan.
- Joanne.
- An insulator.
- Alaska.
- Two.
- Griffith Observatory.
- Movement and balance.
- Atlanta, Georgia.
- 10, 1666.

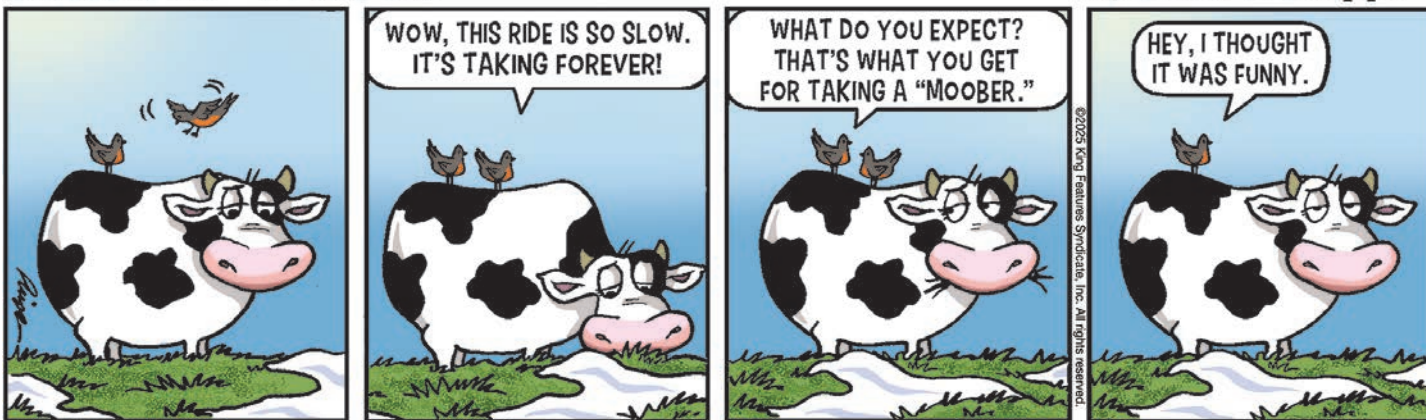
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Click on "Local News" at



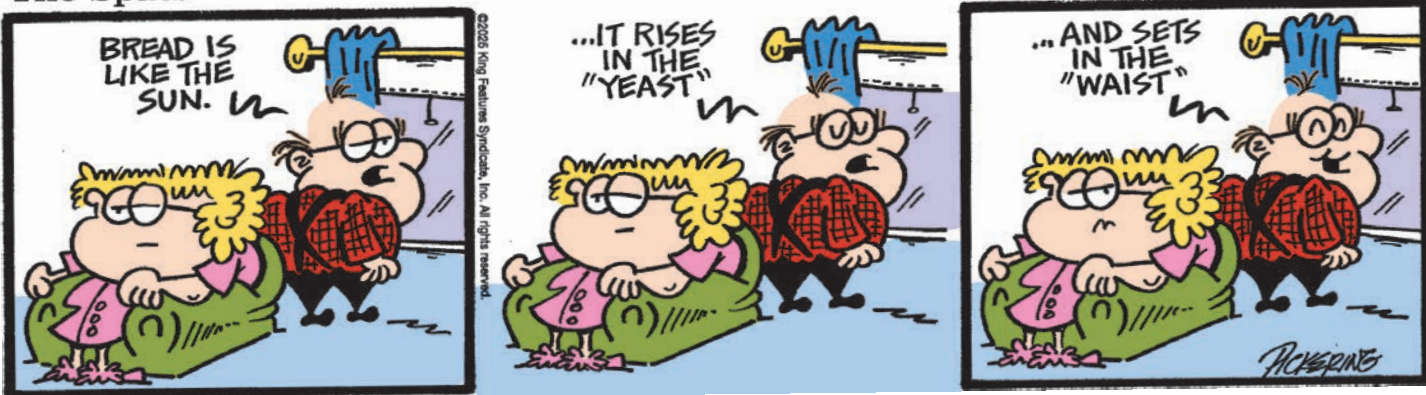
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



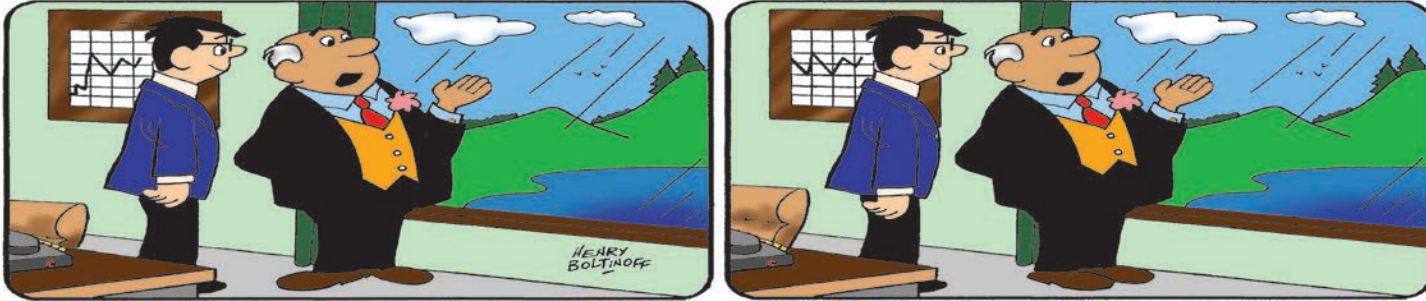
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Vest is shorter. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Chair is taller. 4. Foot is different. 5. Chart is different. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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## The Independent

# CALL 645-0634

# MAGIC MAZE ● UP — OR DOWN —

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

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

- Beat
- Cast
- Field
- Gradable
- Grade
- Hill
- Loading
- Scale
- Side
- Stairs
- State
- Surge
- The mountain
- Tick
- Town

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# FUN PAGES



# SEMUCU

south east madera county united

A non-profit organization dedicated to improving life in South East Madera County

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

## CRAB FEED

Friday, March 7 ♦ 6 p.m.

At the DANTE CLUB Fresno ♦ Live & Silent Auctions

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**\$75 each ♦ Tables of 10 only \$700 ♦ Group/Business Sponsorships Available**

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**SEMUCU ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 18th  
to choose BOARD of DIRECTORS PRESIDENT**

**We're looking for more SEMUCU Board members  
Feel free to apply at our next meeting.**

2/25

**SEMUCU meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month**

**Our next meeting is in person on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**Online: go to: [WWW.SEMCU.ORG](http://WWW.SEMCU.ORG) for the link**

**by phone: 669-900-6833 - & enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343, then access code 854 221**

**We meet at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room - 37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library**

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

**FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**