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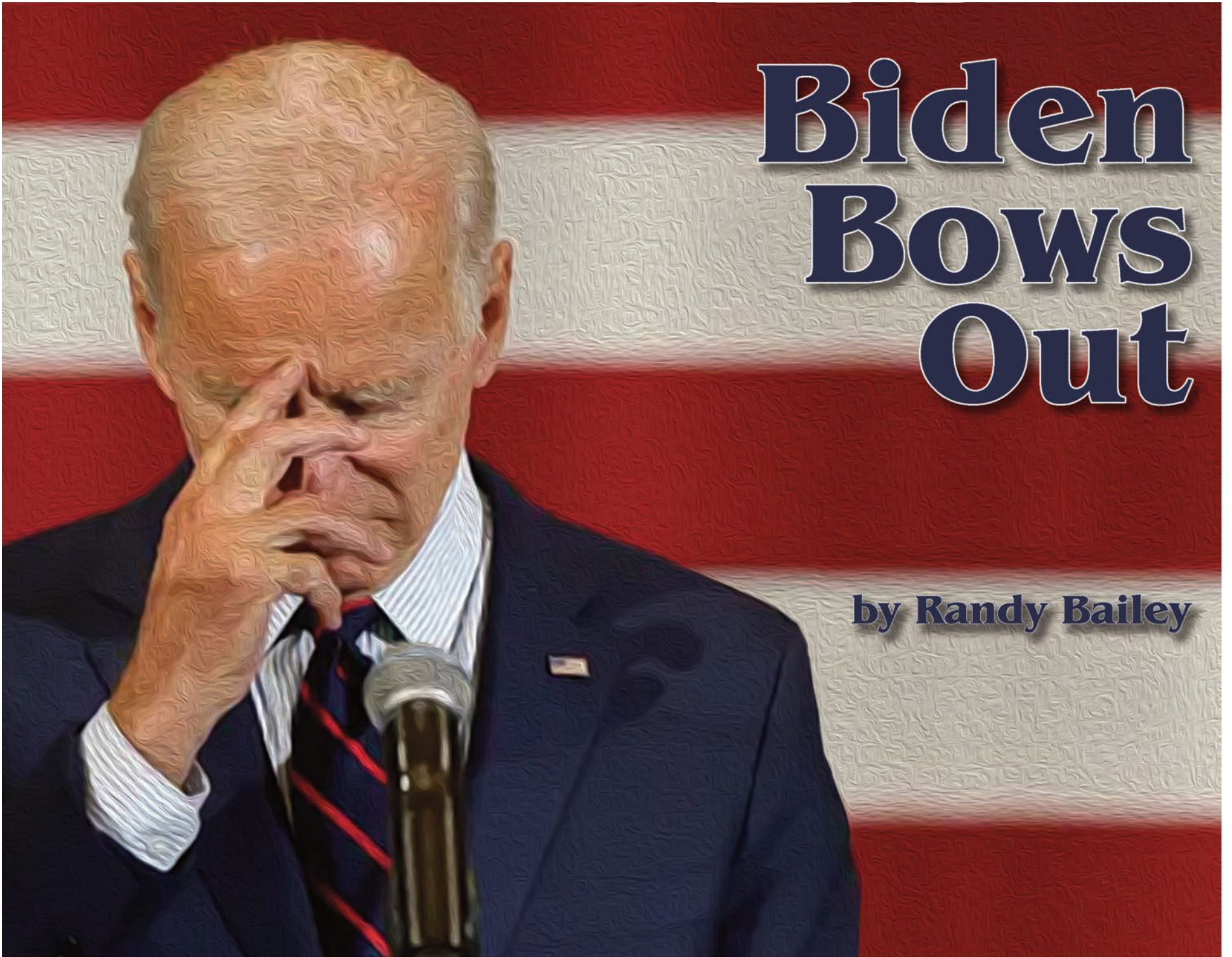
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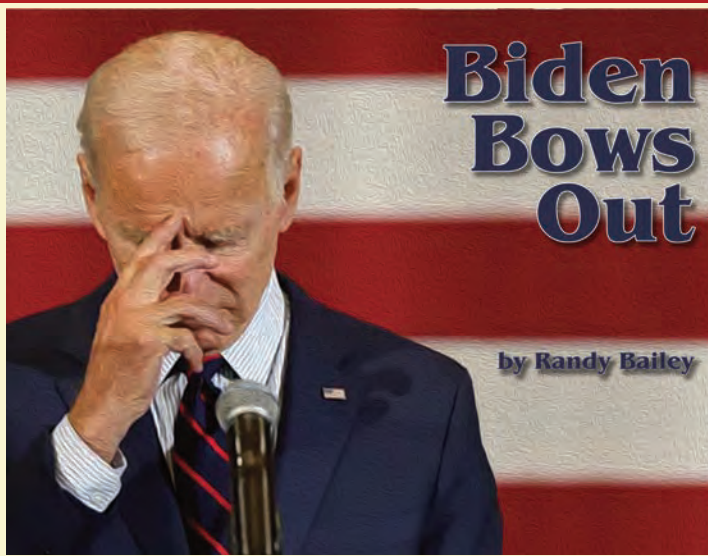


Biden BOWS Out

by Randy Bailey

In This Issue

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On Sunday, July 21, President Joe Biden announced that he was dropping out of the race for president of the United States against former President Donald Trump. In so doing, he then threw his full support for Vice President Kamala Harris to run in his place.

Outside Pressure

Biden had been receiving pressure to withdraw from the race from Democrats. The pressure, considered unrelenting from Washington insiders, was based on his perceived declining abilities and poll numbers. The consensus was that inevitably Biden was dragging down the Democrat party and the only possible outcome would be his – and the Democrat party’s – defeat in November.

His decision comes just weeks before early voting is scheduled

to begin, potentially throwing the Democrat side of the presidential race into turmoil. As of right now, Biden’s endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris makes her the Democratic front runner, but she can be challenged at the Democratic convention, scheduled to be held in Chicago beginning on Aug. 19.

“Not fit to run”

In a phone interview with Fox News Digital, former President Donald Trump said President Biden “... was not fit to run for president ... and is not — and never was – fit to serve.

“He is the worst president in the history of our country,” Trump said in the aftermath of Biden’s stepping out of the race. “There has never been a president so bad. He is not fit to serve.” Trump then posed a question: “And I ask — who is going to be running the country for the next five months?”

Trump then opined that he believed Vice President Kamala Harris would be easier to defeat in November than Biden.

Nationwide polling places Harris in a better position than Biden, but still trailing Trump.

Farewell Letter

Biden posted a “farewell letter” on X that read in part:

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your president. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling duties as president for the remainder of my term.

“For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.”

Nov. Election Filing Dates

Rebecca Martinez, County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, has announced that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. The following offices are scheduled to appear on that ballot:

FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICES

United States Senator (Full Term)
United States Senator (Partial/Unexpired Term)

US Representative in Congress, Districts 5 & 13

Member of the Assembly, Districts 8 & 27

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The following are the filing periods associated with becoming a candidate at that election:

July 15, 2024 to August 9, 2024

Nomination & Declaration of Candidacy Period

August 10, 2024 to August 14, 2024

* 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)

September 9, 2024 to October 22, 2024

* Write-in Candidacy Period * - indicates date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday. Filing date moves to next business day.

Beginning July 12, you can visit www.votemadera.com and click on the “Interested in Running for Office” link on the home page or call the Elections Division. Interested candidates must obtain and file the required documentation to run for office from the County Clerk-Recorder, located at 200 W 4th Street, Madera California. The County Clerk-Recorder will issue and file documents during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, during each of the filing period listed above. For additional information, contact the Elections Division at 559-675-7720 or toll free at 1-800-435-0509.

Californians Blame Gas Tax Over “Price Gouging”

By Evan Symon

For many researchers, the fact that most people think the gas tax is to blame isn’t surprising.

According to a newly released Slingshot California Topline poll, nearly half of all Californians blame the state’s gas tax for why California’s gasoline prices are so high, with only around a third saying that price gouging is to blame.

While California’s gas price has always been on the higher side, motorists in the state have been feeling a greater pinch in the last few decades thanks to ever increasing gas taxes. In 2022, the combined extra taxes, designed to get as much from gas now while the state continues to get more electric cars on the road, was at \$1.30. By 2026, thanks in large part to a “clean air tax,” it will be about \$2, just in taxes. Even the mainline gas tax has seen a more than steady increase in recent years, including going up from 58 cents a gallon to 60 cents a gallon at the beginning of July.

At the same time, Governor Gavin Newsom has said that spiking oil prices hasn’t been to the gas tax, but to price gouging by the oil industry. In May, he even signed a gas price gouging law into place.

The California Energy Commission has had a different story to tell, showing that spikes in the last few years occurred because of refineries temporarily going out of commission due to not

enough oil getting to them. The California Energy Commission also said that lower prices this year were caused by many factors, including a cut in industry costs and profits, lower crude oil costs and a cut in how much environmental programs are getting. In essence, it was multiple factors. However, they could even be lower, but as the California Energy Commission noted, the only thing that went up was the gas tax itself.



For voters, that’s what they have seen. “Price gouging” is largely shifts in crude oil prices and companies needing to charge more because of added refinery and transportation stresses due to high demand. However, the gas tax is constant, regardless of demand and other factors, with lawmakers refusing to budge on it. Even a measure to reduce the gas tax by \$1 to help struggling Californians failed to pass last year.

Voters have seen this, evidenced by the latest poll numbers. According to the Topline poll, 47 percent believe that the gas tax is to blame for higher gas prices in California – far and away the highest polled figure. The second highest, only 35 percent, blamed price gouging. In third place was the blame on California’s special gasoline blend meant to reduce pollution, which only 25 percent of voters said was true. Other answers included 18 percent saying higher costs of business in California, 15 percent California’s restrictions on oil drilling and refinery expansions, and 14 percent governmental regulations.

• In October 1969, in a forest in the Palloneva region of Finland, farmer Heino Seppi split an aspen log and discovered its middle was rotten, forming a hollow that contained a dry fish around 1.3 feet long. No one knows how the fish got there.

• Christopher Columbus' first transatlantic voyage traveled at a rate of around 2.8 miles per hour.

• Several of Aristotle's writings have survived thanks to the men of a Roman army who invaded Asia Minor around 80 B.C., found a number of his manuscripts in a pit, and took the papers to their general, Sulla. It turned out that no other copies of many of them existed, and Sulla had them taken to Rome and recopied.

• The Eiffel Tower in Paris, the City of Light's best-known monument, was saved from demolition in 1909 only because there was an antenna of great importance to French radio telegraphy mounted at the top of it.

• Pollen is one of the few natural substances that does not deteriorate.

• Although "Shoeless Joe" Jackson was barred from baseball's Hall of Fame for his alleged role in the 1919 Black Sox Scandal (he pleaded innocent), his spiked, black leather shoes can still be found there.

Thought for the Day: *"Don't count the days — make the days count."* — Muhammad Ali

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Strange BUT TRUE

Letters

Dear Editor:

Adam Schiff just held a fundraiser in California with other elitist Democrat candidates. They hob – knobbed at a brunch in LA to fund their campaigns that will further destroy California and our country as we know it – and they raised *over \$700,000*.

But how Adam Schiff runs his campaign now says a lot about how he will operate if he beats me. Just like at this fundraiser, he'll run in circles of elitist politicians and consultants, cutting everyday voters out of the picture. That's not how I want to run this race – and that's not how I'll be in the Senate when we win.

I've been humbled by each and every one of my supporters who have given small donations to my campaign. That's how I want to run this race – step by step with generous supporters who have funded my

campaign. The greatest sign to me that this seat is worth fighting for is when I receive small donations from everyday supporters. That allows me to not only be able to fight the Democrat machine, but also personally encourages me to keep fighting.

I'm not running in this race so that I can go to brunches with big – name elite politicians; I'm running in this race to turn California around and make it a state we can once again be proud of. And to be honest, I'd rather go to brunch with any of you than Adam Schiff's career politician buddies. Stand with me and let's win this together!

Steve Garvey
California U.S. Senate Candidate
(You can support Steve Garvey at www.efundraisingconnections.com/c/Garvey)

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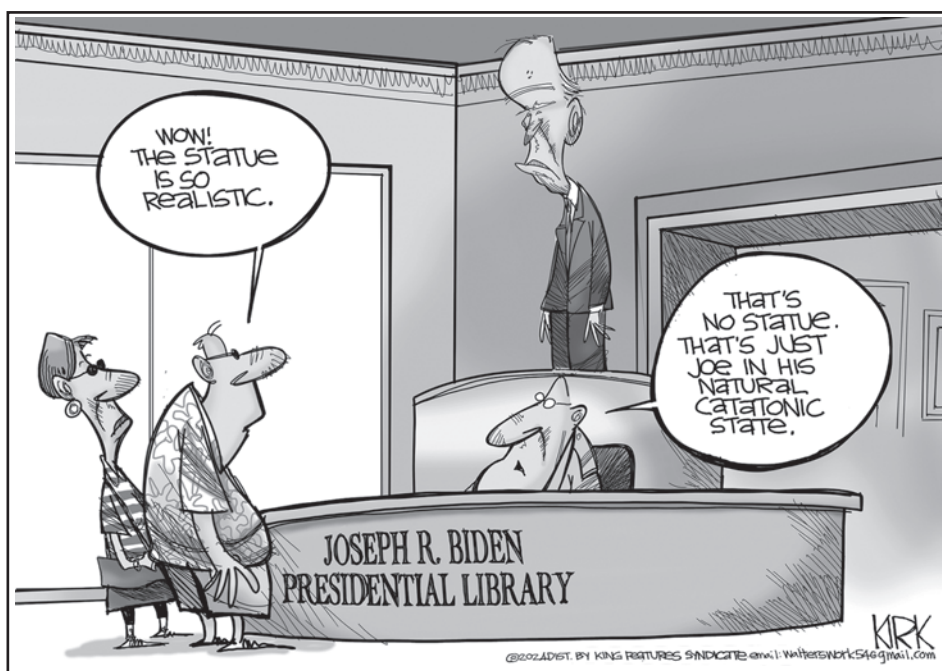
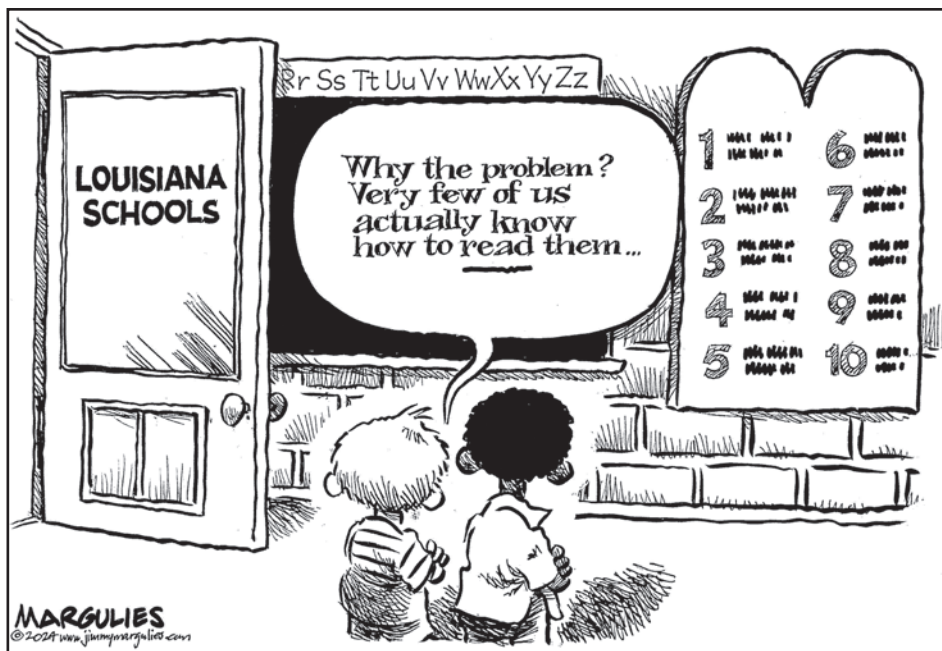
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Guest Editorial

Is California Ready to “Flip”?

By Joel Kotkin

Elon Musk has just announced that he will move the headquarters of both SpaceX and X from California to Texas, citing Governor Gavin Newsom’s signing of a new law banning parental notification by school districts of children’s gender identification changes. “The governor of California just signed a bill causing massive destruction of parental rights and putting children at risk for permanent damage,” Musk wrote on X.

“If you’re a normal family living in California, get out before it’s too late,” wrote one commenter. Many state residents seem to be

Is all this bad enough to drive political change? The stage is set.

coming to a similar conclusion. Californians are concerned for many reasons beyond their governor’s latest concession to the far Left. The state faces a deep budget deficit, tepid job growth and massive net out-migration. Far from being the egalitarian paradise celebrated by Governor Newsom, it has the nation’s highest unemployment and poverty rates while also being home to the most billionaires. It recently ranked last among the 50 states in terms of taxpayers’ return on investment.

Residents have lost confidence.

Only 40 percent approve of the activities of state legislators. Some 62 percent told pollsters the state was headed in the wrong direction, up from 37 percent in 2020. Four in 10 are considering an exit.

Governor Newsom finds himself increasingly unpopular with state voters, but are Californians ready for radical change? Are they even ready for reform?

So far, what should have been a political firestorm has been more like a series of isolated campfires. True, Republicans have rallied modestly from

their 2018 nadir, picking up five House seats in the last two rounds of federal elections, but the GOP’s 12-representative total is a paltry

fraction of the available 52. The next governor and future legislatures are likely to remain progressive, as three-fifths of Californians plan to vote for Democrats for Congress, and a hefty majority back President Biden’s reelection. As former GOP State Senate leader Jim Brulte once told me, “Things have to get a lot worse before they can get better.”

Right now, “There’s some movement politically but not much,” says Shawn Steel, GOP National Committeeman for California, and husband of Representative Michelle Steel (R-CA) in the Disneyland area of Southern California. “People are stuck on an ideology and it’s hard to move them.”

One critical factor in California’s progressive dominance, notes Steel, has been changes in migration patterns. In the past, those who flocked to the Golden State brought diverse political views. This led the state to oscillate between progressive and conservative governance. In recent decades, however, population movement has created ideal conditions for one-party rule. Between 2000 and 2023, per census data, California has lost about 3.8 million residents in net domestic migration — a loss roughly the population of Los Angeles. Many of those leaving, according to an analysis of IRS data that I coauthored, are middle-income people in their childbearing years; a Republican-lean-

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

Please see **FLIP** on P. 9

Customer Service is Job #1

I had the best experience at a restaurant the other day, despite the food itself being abysmal. Stay with me – it was the server. She restored a little bit of my faith in the service industry.

I talk a lot about how important customer service is to me. I walk around as if it is my goal to give everyone a positive customer experience, even when I am the actual customer. Greeting people, asking them how their day is going, even saying “please” and “thank you.” Novel concept, I know. My friends have told me that I often forget what side of the cash register I’m on. I just believe in being kind, and I don’t want anyone to feel like they’re an inconvenience. So ... yes, I put a high value on the concept of customer service, and if you expect a tip from me, then I certainly expect the same in return.

The other day I got just that, and then some. A couple of friends and I went to a well-known, national food chain to have some dinner. It was my suggestion because I had been craving it. Side note: I am now being punished by my friends for subjecting them to what can barely be described as food. Like me, however, they loved the server.

Here’s the thing; normally this place is a hit. The menu is varied enough to accommodate a group of people with different tastes. It’s not overly expensive for a dine-in experience, and you generally know what to expect as far as the quality of food, maybe not this time, but I’m hoping that was just a freak occurrence.

Let’s talk about this server. First, she was just the right amount of bubbly. Her attitude read as being happy to be there, but didn’t come off as fake. She had a sincerity about her that made you feel as though your very presence was both welcomed and appreciated. She was also accommodating. One of the things about me is that when I order water at a restaurant, I always want

GENERATION WHY by eryn b. nyre



lemon with it. Not just a single wedge of lemon, I want lemon flavored water, so bring me the whole tree. I always let the server know that I use a lot of lemon in an attempt to not have to send them back to the kitchen too often. She took me at my word and whenever she brought me a refill, it included another little bowl of lemon wedges. My friends never ran out of tea or

soda, and I don’t think we ever saw the bottom of our chip basket. She was on top of everything without being intrusive. All of which is fabulous in and of itself, but then the real food came out

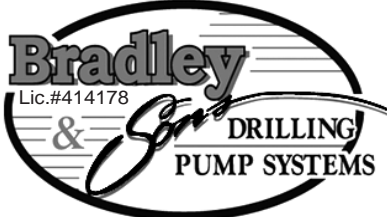
and it was ... awful. Tasteless. Inedible.

One friend ordered a burger medium, and it was basically burned. My other friend ordered chicken strips and somehow the fried chicken came out soggy. To be clear ... I don’t mean greasy. I mean actually soggy, like they tossed the strips in the dishwasher while they waited to plate the rest of our food. Then there was my Cajun chicken alfredo pasta, which was missing most of the chicken and all of the Cajun. Now, I’ve sent things back before, but the sheer volume of mistakes and issues made us feel like it might not be the best idea. We debated back and forth on what to do because none of us wanted to eat, but we also weren’t sure how the kitchen would react to the entire table sending their food back.

This is where she really shined. She didn’t hover, but she paid at-

Some might say she just did it hoping to get a good tip. I hope so, but who cares? She took care of us. She did her best to rectify the problem. I could use someone like her on my team.

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7



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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

tention. When she walked up and asked how everything was, we smiled and nodded and kind of mumbled because we didn't know what to say. She looked us all straight in the eyes in turn and asked ... if everything was ok, why weren't any of us eating? Then she looked at our plates and noticed the hockey puck on a bun, the seasonless pasta, and the wobbly chicken. All she said was, "Nope," and picked up all three of our plates and headed back to the kitchen. She came back with some appetizers and told us she's having the kitchen remake everything.

Now, here's the thing. There was still something off in that kitchen that night, because even the second attempt didn't taste all that great. Still, she did absolutely everything in her power to make it right, including getting us a discount for having to have it all remade. She told us they had a couple of new cooks because they

just experienced some turnover, but that it was no excuse to send food out like that (her words, not mine).

Needless to say we tipped her well. More than about 50 percent of the bill, before the discount, between all three of us. Then I gave her my card and told her if she wanted a different job, she should contact me and I'd see what I could do. She was polite, friendly, and went well above her own paygrade. Some might say she just did it hoping to get a good tip. I hope so, but who cares? She took care of us. She did her best to rectify the problem. I could use someone like her on my team.

I haven't heard from her yet, but I hope I run into her again in the future, though I'm not sure when any of us will go back to that particular location. I don't mind tipping her for that stellar service, but shelling out money for that disgusting, tasteless food is a hard "no" from me. I have to draw the line somewhere, and it turns out the line is soggy chicken.



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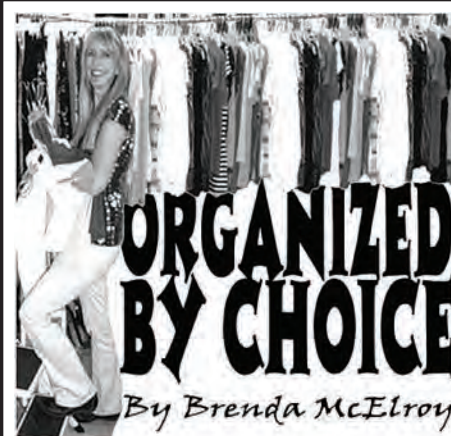
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What Difference Does it Make?

I love my husband. I have lots of reasons, but one is that he cleans the filter on my hair dryer. It's one of those little maintenance things that doesn't take a lot of time, but could potentially (worst case scenario), save my hair from catching on fire. I appreciate that.

There are lots of things we do that aren't arduous, but if left undone can have dramatic effects. If you neglect spending 30 minutes getting your oil changed every few months, you might need a new car engine. If you neglect daily dental hygiene habits, you may end up with tooth pain and big dental bills. Changing the batteries in your smoke alarm is fast and easy, but if neglected it could be a matter of life and death.

Positive Suggestions

Today I've chosen a few tips that, when applied, have positive consequences. I'm not suggesting that being organized will save your life, but it will enhance it.

Make your bed. Yes, every day. It's a fast (1 1/2 minutes) and easy way to create a little order. It gives you a sense of control and sets the tone for the rest of the room.

After one of my classes, a woman told me she let things go to the point of chaos after her husband died. One day she decided to make her bed every day. That was the start to success in regaining control over her home.

The National Sleep Foundation conducted a survey and found that those who make their beds are 19 percent more likely to say they regularly get a good night's sleep. A made-up bed creates a more restful environment at the end of the day.

Process the mail. Again, daily is best. Once you let a couple days go by, it's like leaving a few clothes on the chair in your bedroom; they invite more. Be ruthless and recycle/shred everything that doesn't fit the criteria of something you need to file, act on or read.

Have containers for each category you're keeping. No more frantically searching through multiple piles for important papers, finding uncashed checks or losing bills. Ahhh, peace of mind.

Plan your meals. This is going to take longer than making your bed, but your body will thank you. When we wait until we're on our way home, tired and hungry, we're more apt to choose the packaged and fast foods. Start small with planning for just 2-3 meals per week so you don't get overwhelmed. Make your grocery list at the same time and purchase the items you'll need. Meal planning reduces the "What's for dinner?" stress and provides an opportunity for nutritious eating and healthier bodies.

Clean off your desk. Researchers at the Princeton University Neuroscience Institute published a study in the January 2011 issue of The Journal of Neuroscience. The results showed that clutter is distracting. It inhibits our ability to focus.

When you walk into your office and see your desk covered with projects, they pull at your attention and you get less done. Spend the last 15 minutes of each day putting things away. An organized desk enhances productivity.

Host a social or family event. Weekly, monthly, or at least quarterly have something going on in your home that forces you to declutter. It doesn't have to be a formal dinner. Prepping regularly for company means the clutter won't have a chance to build to the point of overwhelm. An orderly home creates a welcoming, peaceful environment for your guests AND, more importantly, for you!

What Do You Want?

What do you want most — a good night's rest? Peace of mind? A healthier body? More productivity? A welcoming environment? They all sound good, right? Choose one for starters and see what a difference it makes.

Cake Mix Magic

(July 2014)

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.



Thanks Bea.

Have you ever had a craving for brownies, but didn't have a mix and don't want to make them from scratch but you do have a chocolate cake mix in the pantry?

Chocolate Cake Mix Brownies

Preheat oven to 350
1 Devil's Food cake mix
¼ C. water
1 egg

Mix well, dough will be very thick. Press into greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake about 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. If you want them a little gooey, take them out of the oven before completely done. Do not over-bake. To customize your brownies, add a half cup chopped nuts and/or a handful of chocolate chips to dough before baking.

I have always liked Angel Food cake and when I found this recipe I thought it sounded yummy.

Piña Colada Cake

1 Pkg. Angel Food cake mix
1 can (8 oz.) unsweetened crushed pineapple
8 oz. container frozen whipped topping, thawed
½ C. toasted coconut

Heat oven to 350. Spray a 13x9 inch baking dish with cooking spray.

In large bowl, stir together the cake mix and pineapple. Pour into prepared baking dish. Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out almost clean. Cool completely on a rack. Spread whipped topping on cake and sprinkle the coconut on top. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Almost everyone I know likes peanut butter and jelly. Make these and wrap one up and put in your kids (or your own) lunch bag.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Bars

1 White Cake mix
2 eggs
1/3 C. canola oil
½ C. peanut butter (crunchy or smooth)
½ C jelly (your favorite flavor)

Those of you from my generation (The Golden Oldies), do you remember the first cake mixes that came out? It was not long after the Second World War. All you had to do was add water, mix, bake and Voila! You had a homemade cake. But that didn't last very long – the housewives of America didn't like the idea of dehydrated eggs and shortening; they wanted to add their own fresh ingredients. So we have the mixes of today – just about any flavor you want.

Several months ago, I did a column on Dump Cakes, using cake mixes and canned fruit. This column will be a little different, still using the box cake mix.

A dear friend that our family has known ever since we joined the church we are now

attending, sent me this recipe so I decided to find out what else can be made with a box cake mix.

Hope you enjoy them.

Easy Banana Bread

4 Large eggs
1 Yellow Cake mix
1 (3.4 oz.) box instant banana pudding mix
1 C. water
¼ C. Vegetable oil
3 Large mashed bananas
1 tsp. vanilla
½ C. chopped walnuts or pecans (optional or use more)

Preheat oven to 350.

Beat eggs with electric mixer until thick and pale. Mixing after each addition, add the vegetable oil, water, mashed bananas, pudding mix, vanilla and cake mix. Stir in nuts.

Spray and flour two 8 ½ X 4 ½ X 3 loaf pans. Divide batter between loaf pans and bake approximately 1 hour or until tooth pick inserted comes out clean.

I have always liked Angel Food cake and when I found this recipe I thought it sounded yummy.

1 C. Peanut butter chips
Preheat oven to 350. Mix together cake mix, eggs, oil and peanut butter. Set aside ½ C of this mixture. Press remaining mixture into a parchment lined, greased 8x8 square pan. Spread jelly over the crust in pan. Mix the ½ C reserved cookie mix with the peanut butter chips until large crumbles appear. Sprinkle the crumbles evenly over the crust in the pan. Bake for 20-25 minutes.

Not long ago, there was a message on the answering machine in the office and all it said was, "Aunt Jean,

how do you cook eggplant?" No name or phone number to return the call so I hope whoever it was is reading this.

I love eggplant. Growing up, my folks had eggplant in every garden they had, including the Victory Garden when we lived in San Francisco. My favorite way my mother fixed it was fried. She would make a batter of Bisquick and fry it in shortening. I don't have her recipe, but I found one on the internet that could be

Please see RECIPES on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

used.

Batter Fried Eggplant

1 ½ C. Bisquick

1 egg

½ tsp. salt

1 C. water

Mix together to form a batter. Peel and slice eggplant, lightly salt. Dip in batter, shaking off excess. Fry in hot oil until golden on both sides. Drain on paper towels. The only thing about frying it is eggplants are like sponges and will absorb a lot of oil unless cooked quickly. But it is still good.

Another way I like eggplant is

cooked in the oven. It doesn't take as much oil and you let the oven do the cooking instead of messing up the top of your stove.

Heat oven to 400. Peel and cube the eggplant in about 1" cubes. Since eggplant is so full of water, you might let the cubes stand in a colander for 30 minutes to get rid of the excess liquid. Dry with paper towels and put on baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and toss to coat. Using clean hands is the best way. Season with salt and pepper and bake for about 10 minutes, remove from oven and stir the eggplant. Return to oven and bake for 10 to 20 minutes longer or until the eggplant is tender and lightly caramelized.

FLIP cont. from P. 5

ing cohort. And as another study showed, conservatives are three times more likely to consider leaving the state than are liberals. "Texas is taking away my voters," laments the GOP's Steele.

Today, California ranks toward the bottom in attracting newcomers. It is even losing middle-class educated professionals, whose exodus increased sharply between 2019 and 2021 (before a modest rebound). The state's Department of Finance predicts almost no population growth statewide by 2060. Young people are fleeing – Los Angeles County, for example, lost nearly 750,000 residents under 25 between 2001 and 2021.

California voters routinely state that housing is their biggest concern. Those who leave often cite housing prices as the reason why.

This wound is largely self-inflicted. According to a new study presented by the Center for Demographics and Policy at Chapman University, of which I am director, California's income-adjusted housing costs in the 1970s were in line with those of the rest of the country. But policies designed to limit growth in the state's less expensive periphery helped push prices skyward. Demographia's 2023 rankings show that California is home to seven of the nation's 10 least-affordable housing markets. Not surprisingly, the state's home sales have fallen to record low levels.

The resulting exodus of those who cannot afford to live in California, and declining fertility among those who stay behind, has created an electorate dominated by non-families. That cohort, particularly single women, tends to vote progressive. As Wendell Cox and I wrote in a 2021 article for City Journal, "Los Angeles and San Francisco rank last and second-to-last in birthrates among the 53 U.S. major metropolitan areas," and "Only exurban Riverside/San Bernardino exceeds the national average in women aged between 15 and 50 with births." An exurb is a community that's located outside of traditional suburban areas but still has economic ties to a larger metropolitan area. Exurbs are characterized by low housing density, a more rural feel and spacious living environments. They also offer residents access to the benefits and resources of a big city, but at a distance that allows for more affordable options.

California's total fertility rate now ranks ninth-worst nationally.

Lack of economic opportunity also drives migration, and California poli-

cymakers have smothered many of the state's job-creating industries. Sacramento has systematically crushed blue-collar jobs, a traditional source of upward mobility, by imposing draconian climate regulations. Lawmakers have slated oil and gas, once a major industry in the state, for extinction. As a result of these and other policies, California lost some 796,000 manufacturing jobs between 1990 and 2021 and other industries have seen similar declines. Even before Musk's bombshell announcement, California had already lost the headquarters of virtually all its traditional aerospace companies, and though employment has risen in recent years, growth has lagged that of places like Texas and Florida. The state has also failed to capitalize on the current defense boom. Its total defense spending now ranks third, behind Texas and Virginia, and its share of such spending nationally is less than its share of the U.S. population. Employment in Southern California's famed aerospace industry is less than half its 1990 level, according to a 2016 report. Entertainment, one of the state's high-end industries, has also lost jobs, due to technological changes and incentives offered by other states and countries.

California is becoming what former Governor Jerry Brown called a "one note" economy — built around tech-generated capital gains. But this sector, too, shows signs of weakness. A Chapman University study found that since 2005, California has seen its share of jobs stagnate in 50 technology-driven industries, largely because companies are relocating to more affordable states. Silicon Valley tech-job salaries have also fallen by 15 percent, even as they rise in places like Atlanta, Austin and Houston.

Overall, California's income and job growth since 1990 has come in below the national average and been dwarfed by Texas and Florida. Some believe artificial intelligence could turn this around, but AI companies don't employ people like previous semiconductor, computer, or Internet-based firms. Nvidia, for example, makes its chips overseas and has no need for any but the most skilled technologists. Other leading AI firms are laying off workers. Meantime, the rise of such technologies has caused a decline in freelance software work, further eroding the state's tech industry.

Is all this bad enough to drive political change? The stage is set.

This excerpt comes from a larger article written by Joel Kotkin found at www.city-journal.org.

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Senior Report

Local Author at Next Meeting

By *Melanie Williams*

The extreme summer heat wave in July has slowed as we head toward August. Hopefully, a slight weather cool down will prevail in the coming months.

It is time for students to start their back-to-school activities as summer starts to wind down and we look forward to some fun fall activities. Our Monthly Saturday Sale is back on Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. It will be a "No Bake Sale" event to give our bakers a break from the summer heat. If you would like to donate to our No Bake Sale, ask Carol Wood in the Boutique in the main building at the Senior Center at the August Saturday Sale.



The Art of Painting Glassware class will be taught by Susy Leal on Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center and will teach you how to bring out designs with bursts of color.

The Senior Center has many new activities and events for August. Volunteers have started a new Tech Support for Seniors forum. Seniors can bring their own personal devices such as cell phones, laptops and iPads to the Senior Center on Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. to ask questions or solve problems on their devices. Our volunteer technician is Kate, daughter of our current Board President, Ellen Williams. Kate will help local seniors with their tech questions. She is very trustworthy and offers this service for free. The Senior Center is interested in expanding and developing this senior program. If local community members would like to volunteer community service hours to this project, call us at 559-645-4864. We welcome participants, young or old, who might want to help with Tech Support for Seniors at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Brenda McElroy, author of the monthly column *Organized by Choice*, will be the guest speaker at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center August Potluck and General Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 8 at 5 p.m. Brenda will talk about "Rightsizing." She says that with each new stage of life, we adjust our interests, values and activities. Closets and cabinets can get overwhelming as items that accompany those stages accumulate. You don't want to leave this burden to someone else, but you don't know where to start. Brenda, owner of *Organized By Choice*, will offer practical tips and tools to ease the process. Her game plan for rightsizing includes ideas on choosing what to keep, how to organize it, ways to preserve your special memories and methods of distributing your discards.

You'll be inspired and equipped to move forward.

If you would like to participate in the August Senior Potluck General Meeting and the presentation by Brenda McElroy,

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 17

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Kiwanis Korner

“Summer Mode” for Kiwanis

By Sally Rowden

It is certainly vacation time. I’m in a relaxed mode. Of course, this heat adds to the sitting in place. Though as I’m typing this article the coolness of this morning is so welcoming.

Your local Kiwanis Club had a Planning and Budget Meeting earlier in the month. We’ve mapped out our events and projects for 2024-2025. We’re making a few changes but our Year-Long Holiday Gift Baskets, the Winter/Christmas Tea, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Tree Lighting, the Valentine’s Limo Ride, the Liberty High School Scholarships and the Flatlander’s Parade are all secured on our timeline. We will be out-and-about in our communities promoting and I’m going to step-out in advance and thank you for your continued support.

Our Kiwanis Club officers for 2024-2025 are as follows: President-Richard Wayne; Secretary-Sally Rowden; and Treasurer-Marie Cameron. Installation of Officers will take place in October, 2024. We still meet at Second Son Brews in the Maywood Shopping Center on Avenue 12, but we could have some changes to our meeting times. We will keep you posted.



The John Deere Bike donated by Midland Tractor of Madera went to Mike Fursman, our Summer Raffle top winner.

As I’ve expressed in past articles, we were attempting to make a name change. In researching the overall costs of rebranding ourselves we’ve come to the following solution: We will maintain our name of Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos and add “Communities of Eastern Madera County.” Folks interested in knowing more about Kiwanis and possibly getting involved send me an email at rowdensally2@gmail.com.

A dream of mine is a large neighborhood park. That’s why I joined Kiwanis. Since joining I’ve learned Kiwanis International is a huge supporter of such endeavors. Children and communities are their primary focus. I’ve also learned that land is needed. More importantly, donated land. Complete community support, involvement

and sustainability are needed. That’s means at the supervisor level and the neighborhood grassroots level. There’s been past attempts and there still is talk. Anybody out there interested?

Just a few more weeks before the school bells ring. Which reminds me that our Liberty High School - Key Club Officers for the 2024-2025 school year are: President – Nathan Nguyen; Vice President – Sienna Perez; Secretary – Breanna Del Toro; Treasurer – Sarah Solis; and Editor – Aaron Batista. This group of officers will lead the high school service leadership program, a branch of the Kiwanis International family and the local Kiwanis family. As I’ve come to know and work with these high school students, they’ve impressed me with their leadership qualities. Another successful year will begin soon.

We wanted to get this picture of Mike Fursman in our article for being our top winner of our Summer Raffle, winning the gorgeous John Deere 20” bike. A thank you goes out, once again, to Midland Tractor of Madera for their willingness to give.

I sincerely didn’t think Kiwanis would have a July newspaper article because, as I stated above, the summer vacation mode had taken over. But with a little encouragement from our editor ... look! I found some words.

“It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are; far more than our abilities.” – Albus Dumbledore.

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5. Because I feel an obligation to improve the quality of life in Southeast Madera County .

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When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, August 14 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

California imposes permanent water restrictions on cities and towns. But what about desalination?

In addition to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act restrictions which have been in effect since September of 2014, there are plans to impose additional new restrictions by the state of California. For the first time in its history, California has now introduced permanent water restrictions for its cities and towns in an effort to address the issues of water conservation and resilience in the drought-stricken state.

The new regulation, which was approved by the California State Water Resources Control Board this month, will require the state's largest water utilities — which serve 95 percent of California resi-

dents — to reduce the amount of water they provide over the next 15 years. It doesn't apply directly to households or individuals in the state.

The board has previously introduced temporary water conservation measures during drought emergencies, but this is the first time that the Golden State has adopted permanent measures to save water. The idea is to now ask suppliers to save our precious resource at all times in order to prevent the need for the state to scramble to save water during droughts. This, according to the Control Board, will help "... make conservation a California way of life."

A solution to save water is desperately needed in the state, which has suffered two major droughts in the last decade and is expected to face a 10 percent water supply shortfall by 2040 due to hotter and drier

weather conditions.

Under the new regulation, which is expected to come into effect by Jan. 1, 2025, suppliers must calculate water budgets based on the needs of each community, considering the following factors: residential indoor water use; residential outdoor water use; commercial, industrial and institutional landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters; and a supplier's maximum

The sum of these water budgets, called the "water use objective," is what urban retail water suppliers will have to comply with eventually, according to the Control Board. Suppliers are expected to deliver up to nearly 40 percent less water to residents; if they don't cut back on delivery, they will be hit by fines of up to \$10,000 per day.

The regulation, combined with efforts already underway to save water in the state, is expected to produce about 500,000 acre-feet of water savings annually by 2040. "Enough to supply more than 1.4 million households for a year," the Control Board wrote in a press release. The regulation now heads to the state Office of Administrative Law for official adoption.

This is all great action for saving water, BUT, what about manufacturing water? Countries like Saudi Arabia, Israel and many other countries are producing most of their drinking water needs by desalinating sea water. Why are we holding back on this progress? I hear the environmental arguments and



Photo Courtesy of San Diego County Water Authority

allowable volume of water loss from leakage.

Please see SEMUCU on P. 16



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Golden Oak 4-H

By Hunter Williams-Smith



Competing in additional categories were, from left, Sarah Morgan, Hunter Williams-Smith and Iris Garzon

The week of July 16-20, Golden Oak 4-H had three representatives showing for the first time at the California State Fair: Hunter Williams-Smith, Griffin Williams-Smith and Iris Garzon. Iris is participating in pygmy goat and breeding poultry and Hunter and Griffin will be competing in breeding poultry.

Hunter has just exhibited market poultry and eggs at the time of this article. His birds placed 1st and 2nd in their weight classes. Hunter is also

Please see **4-H** on P. 17

SEMCU cont. from P. 14

I'm not convinced. Based on all the evidence, countries that need water produce water. I look at the balance for human existence. There are solutions being implemented to reduce the negative effects on the environment and obviously many countries are spending billions of dollars on water production. Why are we so far behind? Arguments I encounter about the negative effect of the "brine" (the salty water left after the extraction of pure water) don't wash with me. The sea is not a static body; water moves constantly. Yes, in my opinion there will be minimal environmental effect around the purifying plants compared to the needs of our population. The ocean is not going to stand still, it will move and mix it all up to a large degree.

The Coastal Commission – an appointed body, not elected – has the last word on any ocean desalination plans, and it keeps turning plans down.

It looks as if the restrictions contemplated by the state can take care of our present population. What are we going to do as our population grows? We must be forward thinking as other countries have been for many years. I believe in desalination for drinking water and tertiary water treatment for reuse in many areas which may replace normal water, such as agriculture, domestic irrigation, manufacturing and much more.

Wake up California!

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SEMCU 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 in and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. We invite community members to join SEMCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area. Together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMCU meets for one hour only once per month on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We know everyone's time is valuable, so we try to keep it all simple. We meet 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 for a link and simple instructions. Or if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone to 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. Make your voice heard!

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4-H cont. from P. 16

participating in the Poultry Champion Challenge and has completed his Round One knowledge test. He hopes to make it to the preliminary and final rounds later. Hunter will also be giving a presentation on his poultry project for 4-H Poultry Outstanding Exhibitor.

This trip has been very fun and challenging so far. Some of the hardships experienced were transportation of the animals, packing 17 birds, 1 turkey and a pygmy goat into a small two-horse trailer and the truck bed, along with luggage. Overall, this show has been one of the best. Hunter strongly believes that other members

inside and outside the club should go to the annual California State Fair. This was and still is a great learning experience of which everyone should take advantage. There are many activities and interactive learning experiences throughout the fairgrounds such as "The Farm," to learn about agriculture; the "Wild Animal Adventure," to learn about different exotic species; and "The Forest," to learn about plants and forest health, which is an event at the 4-H State Field Day. Attendees can watch gymnastics on horseback, seals doing tricks, and of course enjoy the fair food favorites. Join Hunter, Griffin, Iris and their fellow members at the State Fair in Sacramento next summer.

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 to sign up.

We have more new and exciting opportunities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Susy Leal is leading a class to learn the Art of Painting Glassware on Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. She is very excited about volunteering to teach us how to paint custom glassware pieces like platters, pitchers and vases. Classes are planned at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center and the Riverstone Lodge. Bring your own heirloom glassware to paint or purchase glassware from Susy to paint and take home. She charges \$5 for painting materials if you bring your own glassware. If you buy her glassware, she provides paint and supplies. Glassware prices range from \$10 to \$15 for varying sizes and intricacy of designs. Participants must sign up at the Senior Center for this fun opportunity to learn the Art of Painting Glassware.

Members of the Senior Center are starting a Book Conversation Club. If you love to read and share information about good books, this is the book club for you. The idea for the Book Conversation Club is to get together, share your world of reading and

love of books you enjoy with others. Come to the first meeting prepared to share the genres you like to read. Be ready to talk about a current book or a recent book series you have read and would recommend reading in the future. You are welcome to bring your own iced coffee or share a dessert with the group if you wish. If you are interested in joining the Book Conversation Club, it meets at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Remember Brown Bag Day is on Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Madera Ranchos Basket Cases will meet again to work on their pine needle basket-weaving projects on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 9 a.m.

Exercise Class and Card Table games are happening weekly at the Senior Center. We have a monthly newsletter with a calendar of activities and events for seniors. Members can check their email or anyone can pick one up at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We are open every weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., except for holidays.

Quote for August: "There are many little ways to enlarge your world. Love of books is the best of all." — Jacqueline Kennedy

How to Prepare for Power Outages

Pacific Gas & Electric has a list of actions to take in the event of a power outage in the Central San Joaquin Valley. In introducing the list, PG&E provides the following introduction:

Every day we're working hard to respond to our state's changing climate, reduce wildfire risk and make our system safer. Our crews and emergency response teams do everything they can to keep the lights on, but outages can happen at any time. To help stay safe during a power outage, consider these tips:

- Keep important phone numbers, such as numbers of hospitals, fire departments, police, friends and relatives in a convenient location in case you need emergency help or other assistance.
- Have a backup plan to maintain any life support equipment.
- Keep a charged cellphone or hard-wired, single-line telephone on hand. Cordless phones don't work without electricity.
- Keep a flashlight with fresh extra batteries in a convenient place. Avoid using candles because of the fire risk. If you must light candles, use extreme caution.
- Turn off heat-producing appliances such as ovens, stovetops and irons during an outage. This practice helps eliminate fire hazards that can occur when power is restored.
- Protect sensitive electronic equipment such as televisions and computers with surge suppressors. Unplug any such equipment that is in use when the power goes out.

• Ensure that food stays cold by keeping your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. You can keep the refrigerator cold by placing ice in plastic containers inside it. A full freezer stays colder, longer.

• Keep non-perishable food that doesn't require cooking on hand. Ensure that you have a manual can opener.

• Inform PG&E if you have a generator and avoid using it unless you're sure that it was installed safely and correctly. An incorrectly installed generator can damage your property. It can endanger you, and potentially harm our line workers who may be working on nearby power lines. Read about the safe installation of generators by visiting Electric Generator Safety at www.pge.com.

For public safety, it may be necessary for PG&E to temporarily turn off electricity when severe weather may put you at risk of wildfires. This safety outage is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Get prepared with more PSPS tips and resources www.pge.com. PG&E will attempt to contact customers in advance of a PSPS to ensure there's enough time to prepare. Make sure your email, phone number, language preference and mailing address are current in your online account. For business customers, we'll contact all phone numbers and email addresses on file. Update your contact information.

For more power outage preparedness tips and resources, visit our Outage and Safety page at www.pge.com.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

DEUTERONOMY 4:19

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• Fireworks can be a lot of fun for the kids, especially sparklers. To keep it safe, use a water bucket for spent sparklers. Another idea is to have an adult stationed at the bucket. The children must "turn in" a used sparkler to get a new one. The kids love to hear the sizzle, their feet won't get burned on hot sparklers underfoot and there will be no stray sparklers in the grass hidden for later. (Thanks, J.C.!)
 • Keep in your living room or family room a globe or world map and a dictionary. This way, you can look up the meaning or spelling of a word if you hear it on television and you'll be able to reference the map for places mentioned. I consult mine often.
 • "I use the large pails of kitty litter. They have a lid that can be removed completely but also have a pour spout. I save my empties to collect rainwater. I remove the lid and set them out to catch water when it rains then put the lid on so that the water does not attract mosquitoes. I use it to water my flowers between storms." -- via email
 • "Purchase a variety of wood frames from secondhand stores or yard sales and paint them all one color. It makes a statement when you hang them all close together on a wall. We created a nice large display this way and it was very inexpensive to do." -- E.M. in Arizona
 • Create your own charging station: Find a wooden box large enough to hold a multistrip power connection and pretty enough to sit on the counter. Drill one hole in the side to fit the plug. In the top of the box, create holes through which you can fit your electronics connectors (cellphones, iPad, camera, etc.). All the cords will be stored in the box, out of sight.



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.

2	-		+		= 7
+		+		+	
	+		-		= 5
-		÷		-	
	+		+		= 17
1	2	3	4	5	6

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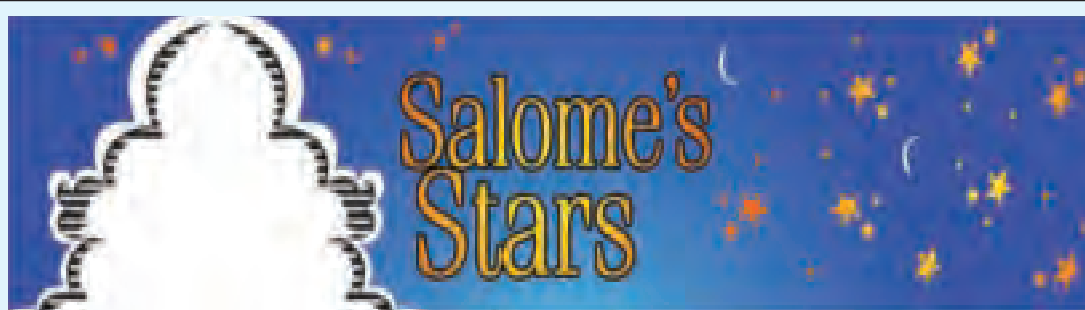
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Arian leadership qualities can help bring order out of confusion, whether it's on the job or at home. But be careful to guide, not goad, others into following you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Applying a more personal view to a job-linked issue could help provide better insight into persistent problems. Use your keen Taurean logic to cut through the double talk.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Taking some time off could be the best way to get through a seemingly endless round of demands. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle things from a new perspective.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Restoring a sagging professional relationship takes a lot of effort. By all means, state your position. But also make sure that you pay close attention to the other person's point of view.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A hot prospect intrigues the Big Cat, who is always on the prowl for a promising investment. But be careful that this "promise" has a chance of being kept. Check it out more carefully.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A friend could use some of your compassion and concern. If they don't ask for help, be sure that you step up and make the first move. Also, check out a new career possibility.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might have difficulty getting your opinions heard because of all the noise being made by the other side. But hang in there. Others should line up with you once they learn the facts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Offering to help a colleague is commendable. But before you commit your time and effort, check to see if this person's situation is all that they have led you to believe it is.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should soon be seeing positive results from your recent efforts on behalf of a family member. On another matter, check that you have all the facts regarding a job assignment.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your aspects favor closer family relationships this week. Take time for visits, whether in person, by phone, by mail or in cyberspace. Let them know how important they are to you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A missed opportunity isn't always a negative. Maybe your instincts are telling you not to rush into something you "thought" was worthwhile. Make time for family this weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your sense of humor helps you get through a tricky situation. But some stick-in-the-muds might not be so willing to make the changes that you and others agree are necessary.

Born this Week

You have a gift for making everyone you know -- or even just met -- feel important and welcome in your life.

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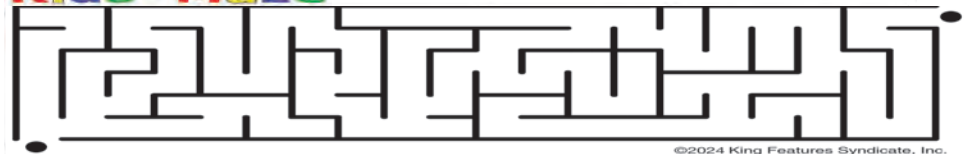


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"Your regular counselor is out homesick."

FUN PAGES

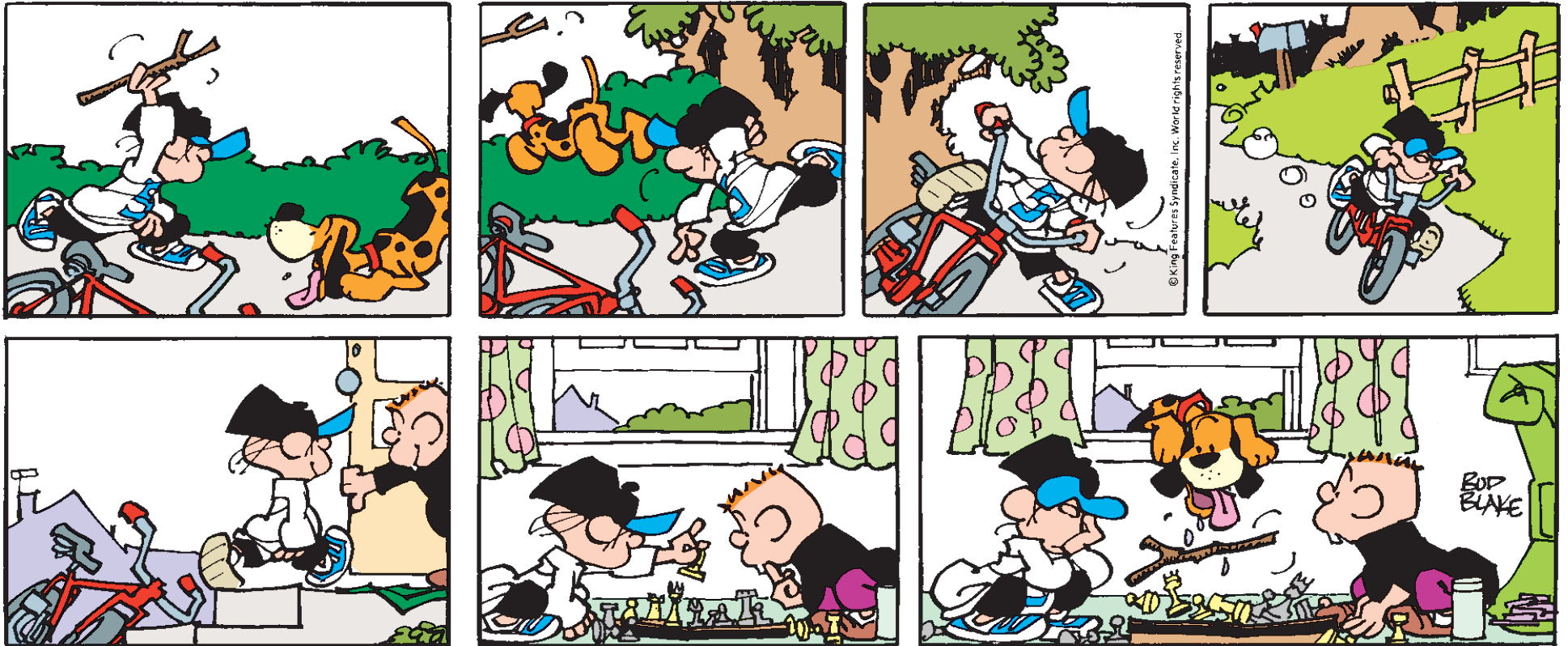
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC:** What is a didgeridoo?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby swan called?
- HISTORY:** What is the name of the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War?
- GEOGRAPHY:** In which country is the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia located?
- SCIENCE:** What does a hertz measure?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What color is most of the toilet paper in France?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** What irrational fear is represented by coulrophobia?
- LANGUAGE:** What is the first character to be added to Morse Code since WWII?
- LITERATURE:** What is the term for a section at the end of a book that concludes what has happened?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president turned down offers to play professional football after college graduation?

1. A wind instrument used by Australia's indigenous people.
2. A cygnet.
3. The Treaty of Paris.
4. Barcelona, Spain.
5. Frequency.
6. Pink.
7. Fear of clowns.
8. The @ symbol (2004).
9. An epitogue.
10. Gerald Ford.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



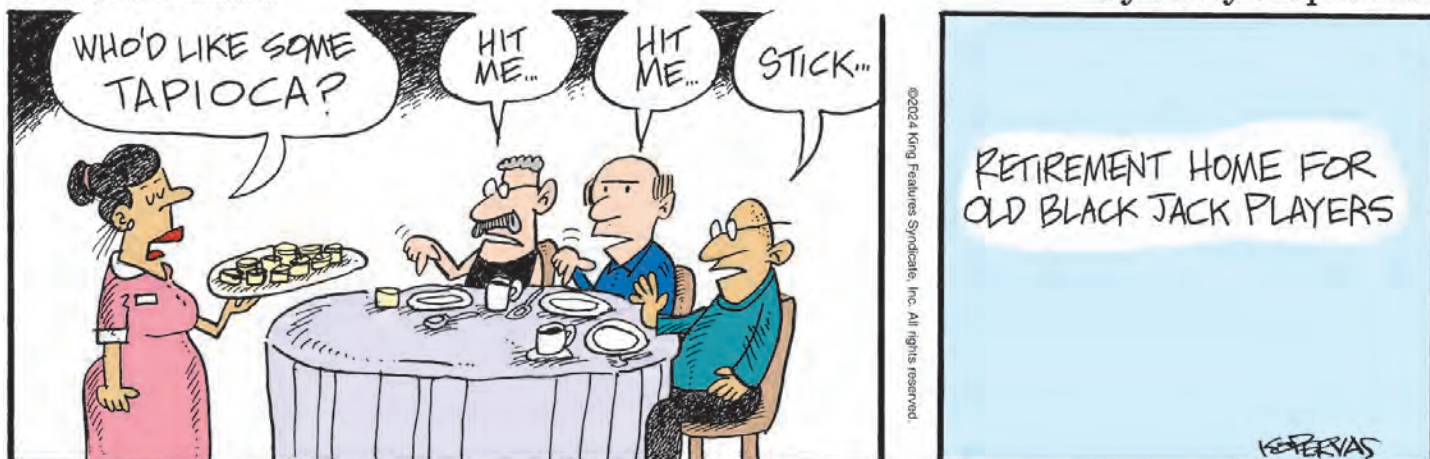
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



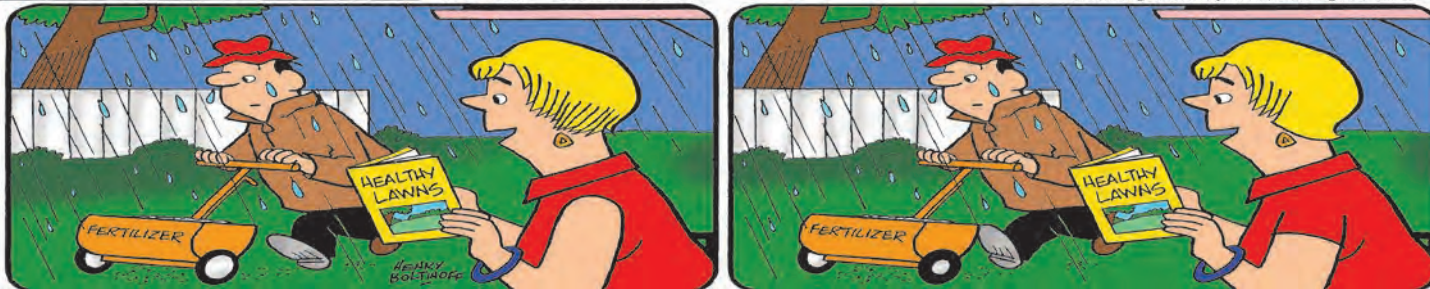
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Leg is missing. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Fence is not as wide. 4. Sleeve is added. 5. Release lever is missing. 6. Hair is different.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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SCAADAMRAWLIVIC

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: Fried and Folded Beaten Eggs

- American Cuisine Inquisition Onion
- Armada Doubloons Language Paprika
- Civil War Elm Monarchs Rice
- Conquistador Explorers Moss

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SEMUCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, August 20th at 6 p.m.
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