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## California's Supreme Court



decides to take your vote away  
By Katy Grimes

*In This Issue*

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## Voters Denied Opportunity to Vote on Taxpayer Protection Act

On Thursday, June 20, the majority Democrat-appointed judges on the California Supreme Court silenced the 1.43 million Californians who signed and placed the Taxpayer Protection Act on the November ballot. The Taxpayer Protec-

tion and Government Accountability Act (TPA) is an initiative aimed at making it more challenging to raise taxes in California, by requiring the legislature to seek approval from the voters for any new or higher state tax.

The TPA campaign issued the following statement from Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and Matthew Hargrove, president and CEO of the California Business Properties Association:

“Today’s ruling is the greatest threat to democracy California has faced in recent memory. Governor Newsom has effectively erased the voice of 1.43 million voters who signed the petition to qualify the Taxpayer Protection Act for the November ballot. Most importantly, the governor has cynically terminated Californians’ rights to engage in direct democracy despite his many claims that he

is a defender of individual rights and democracy. Evidently, the governor wants to protect democracy and individual rights in other states, but not for all Californians.

“We are disappointed that the California Supreme Court has put politics ahead of the Constitution, disregarding long-standing precedent that they should not intervene in an election before voters decide qualified initiatives.

“Direct democracy and our initiative process are now at risk with this decision, showing California is firmly a one-party state where the governor and Legislature can politically influence courts to block ballot measures that threaten their ability to increase spending and raise taxes. Using the courts to block voters’ voices is the latest effort from the Democrats’ supermajority to remove any accountability measures that interfere with their agenda – a failed agenda that continues to drive up

Please see **COURT** on P. 3



## Mustangs Baseball Champs ... Again!

On Monday, May 13, the Ranchos Middle School Mustang Baseball Team clenched their second consecutive West Side Athletic League Crown by defeating the Wilson Middle School Spartans Baseball Team, 8-4.

The Spartans took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, but in the third inning the Mustangs roared back with eight runs and never looked back. Clutch hitting by the veteran shortstop Henry Bilskey, doubled with the bases loaded to start the third inning blitz. First year pitcher, Damian Sandate, had a stellar pitching performance along with the veteran closer, pitcher Jake Guerra.

The Mustangs had to play a Semi

Round with the Creekside Junior High School Cougars baseball team on Thursday, May 9 at Liberty High School. The Mustangs won 3-0 with another stellar pitching performance by the veteran left-hander, Mario Navarro. He pitched a 68-pitch, two-hit shutout to lead the Mustangs to victory. Offense was led by Navarro, Jake Guerra, Damian Sandate and Jeremiah Moreno.

The Ranchos Middle School Mustangs were led by Head Coach Rick Hernandez and his coaching staff: Matt Hernandez, Ron Chappa and Jeremy Norris. The Ranchos Middle School Mustangs would like to thank all the family, friends and community business sponsors for their support on a successful season.

## Drivers Get Ready: Mileage Tax is Here

By Randy Bailey

Since California is mandating that all new cars be electric by 2035, one of the primary sources of money for the ongoing repair of public roads is being greatly curtailed – the gas tax.

The gas tax was incorporated instead of making California’s roads all toll roads. Covering the cost of road repairs by the people using the roads just made good sense, but with the advent of electric cars, gas tax money will disappear. California has addressed this to a small degree by building toll roads throughout the state, but the reality is that California has already begun to lose millions in gas tax revenue and needs to make up for it.

The plan that the state is going forward with involves tracking drivers with GPS monitors installed in their cars. According to Caltrans, under the new plan mileage will be tracked by plugging an electronic device into a vehicle or using the vehicle’s tracking system. Initially, the state is looking at a tax of 3 cents per mile, but there is no upper limit at this time.

In addition to placing another tax on Californians, civil libertarians are also concerned with the powers such a move could give the government, including potentially limiting driving in the future.

## Supreme Court’s Vote Reasoning

By Alexi Koseff

The California Supreme Court sided with Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic leaders in the Legislature on the constitutionality of a sweeping anti-tax measure, ruling today that it cannot go before voters in November.

The, known as the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, broadly aimed to make it more challenging to raise taxes in California, including by requiring the Legislature to seek approval from the voters for any new or higher state tax.



Newsom and legislative leaders sued last fall to stop the

measure, arguing that it amounted to an illegal attempt to revise the California Constitution and would impair essential government functions.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court agreed, ordering Secretary of State Shirley Weber to refrain from taking any steps to place the initiative on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The proposed changes “are within the electorate’s prerogative to enact,” Justice Goodwin Liu wrote, “but because those changes would substantially alter our basic plan of government, the proposal cannot be enacted by initiative. It is instead governed by the procedures for revising our Constitution” — whereby proposed revisions must be submitted to voters by a supermajority of the Legislature or a constitutional convention.

The decision marks the first time in more than two decades that the court has struck an initiative from the ballot. In 1999 it struck a measure that sought to restrict state officers’ pay and transfer redistricting power out of the Legislature.

Alexi Koseff is a journalist for CalMatters. This portion of this article originally appeared at [www.calmatters.org](http://www.calmatters.org).

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COURT cont. from P. 2

the cost of living with little accountability and few results.

"This ruling sends a damning message to businesses in California and across the country that it is politically perilous to invest and grow jobs for the future.

"In light of this ruling and the state's large budget deficit, a huge amount of tax increases are on the way that are sure to make California's cost of living even higher.

"We will continue to explore our legal options and fight for the people's right to hold their government accountable through direct democracy."

Also weighing in on the California Supreme Court decision to remove the Taxpayer Protection Act from this November's ballot is Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City), who said:

"This decision is an outrageous abuse of power by seven Justices who think they know better than the 40 million people of California. The Court is supposed to look out for the people, not rubber stamp the anti-democratic schemes of politicians hell-bent on protecting their power. Today, the Court silenced the voices of Californians and shredded its credibility in the process."

Also commenting was Assemblyman Bill Essayli (R-Riverside):

"California is a fallen republic. When the California Supreme Court can block the people from voting on a ballot initiative, we have devolved from a constitutional to a banana republic. This decision is outrageous, and I hope voters will make their voices heard in November by voting out every incumbent democrat who supported this attack on our democracy."

And Assemblyman Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale):

"Californians have been denied their fundamental right. Residents now cannot protect themselves against a growing government that wants more of their precious dollars.

"It is outrageous that the California Supreme Court is silencing the voice of 1.43 million Californians.

"The California Supreme Court's role is to 'maintain uniformity in the law,' yet today, they chose partisan interests and a bloated government over everyday Californians."

Fox News personality Steve Hilton, star of The Next Revolution with Steve Hilton, also weighed in:

"Today we saw the beginning of the end of Democrat rule in California. The

removal of the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act from the ballot, along with Sacramento Democrats' attempts to kill the citizens' initiative to reform Proposition 47, will be a turning point in California's politics. We now see clearly that an arrogant, morally bankrupt ruling elite in Sacramento, drunk on their own power, cannot stand the slightest challenge to their extreme ideology, a far-left experiment that has led to failure on every front.

"When citizens rise up to demand common sense, reasonable reform, they are thwarted with cynical schemes designed to perpetuate Democrat political monopoly by undermining democracy. First on crime, now on taxes; how dare these out of touch, utterly corrupted politicians treat Californians with such contempt. It is time to fight back and I look forward to leading the charge."

The Los Angeles County Taxpayers Association Chairman Aidan Chaospoke out on behalf of its Board following Thursday's Supreme Court Ruling:

"Today, California's Supreme Court has ruled in favor of a grave assault on voters by Governor Newsom, organized labor, special interest groups and the state legislature. By removing the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act from November's ballot, the Governor has stripped the ability of California residents' sacred direct democratic process. Furthermore, he denied over 527,000 Angelenos their say in direct democracy he claims he defends by invalidating their signatures to qualify this initiative.

"While the Los Angeles County Taxpayers Association is incredibly disappointed in the activist Court and the politicization of Californians' quality of life, we will never stop advocating for the rights of taxpayers and holding our lawmakers accountable for their tax-and-spend agendas.

"The Taxpayer Protection Act was California's most significant opportunity to protect Proposition 13 and strengthen voters' and businesses' stakes in the future of our state. This ruling sends a message that California is no longer welcome to businesses or those who desire a sustainable, affordable life.

"Following today's unfortunate ruling, we will decide in short time our subsequent actions as coalition partners and continue defending Angelenos from government overreach and over-taxation."

*Katy Grimes is the Editor in Chief of the California Globe. This article originally appeared at [www.calmatters.org](http://www.calmatters.org).*



# Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

## Staring At a Blank Screen And It's Staring Back!

Why in the world would this old grandma agree some time ago to write a monthly column? She was and is an amateur writer and is, as stated, old. But her passion for limited government, individual liberty and adherence to the United States Constitution – which she perceived to be in great peril — led her to work with the conservative Tea Party years ago, to preparing Tea Party publications and to saying “yes” to writing for this newspaper.

Right now, she's asking herself “Why did you ever say yes, you dummy?” – with an accompanying slap to the forehead – and after staring at a blank screen for an eternity, wrestling with a long list of possible topics, and wondering *which* is the most important.

Perhaps examining the approaching presidential election is of greatest importance, since its outcome will decide national policy for four years and the state of the union for perhaps eons to come. But there isn't enough column space to highlight the differences between the diametrically opposite candidates. One is a former president who, although flamboyant and sometimes ostentatious, governed successfully and left the nation in better condition economically and safer internationally than he found it. The other candidate “doesn't know his rump from a hole in the ground” (thank you, Dad, RIP, for that indelicate but fitting expression) and is leading our nation down the proverbial rat hole — while he, ironically, depends on *others* to lead *him* on and off the stage. And probably to change his Depends.

A good question that needs a good answer is: *Who* is making decisions for this president in name only? Inquiring minds want to know. American citizens have a *right* to know.

Another important subject to cover might

be the devastating inflation caused by the current president-in-name-only. But all that needs to be written about the horrible price increases is already being written – on the price tags of meat, gas, fast food, cars, baby formula, mortgages and just about everything else.

Another topic worth discussing is the national debt that will cost us, and those to come, as far as the eye can see. The website *usdebt-clock.org* shows the constant running — or racing — increases in the national debt totals and its components. The spinning dials and the dire financial picture they represent could make one dizzy, literally. At the beginning of this article's writing, measured in minutes, the website showed a total national debt of \$34,832,563,198,070 or so. The clock spins so fast that it's difficult to catch the last few of 14 digits. But let's just say that it's a bazillion dol-

lars, give or take! You are invited to check out the website and view the dials going round and round. But please sit down first.

And then there is the age-old subject of taxes. Newsmax magazine shows that California's state taxes are \$7,195 per person, second only to that of Washington, D.C., at \$15,196. The common denominator, of course,

*Another important subject to cover might be the devastating inflation caused by the current president-in-name-only. But all that needs to be written about the horrible price increases is already being written – on the price tags of meat, gas, fast food, cars, baby formula, mortgages and just about everything else.*

is that *both* are governed by liberal Democrats – as is the out-of-control federal government, ruled by whomever might be pulling Bumbling Biden's strings.

And then there's the invasion at our southern border, one of the most devastating problems currently facing our beleaguered nation. It adds to the debt total and may change the nature of our country forever, if it hasn't already. But that will have to be a subject for another time. This grandma's head is spinning, along with the national debt figures.

Back to the national debt clock: It's ever-spinning display *now* shows the astronomical figure of \$34,832,690,506 – up almost half a million in a matter of minutes. You are urged to visit the referenced website for up-to-the-minute figures. How far will the destructive debt total climb in our children's and grandchildren's lifetimes, and how will they survive financially? And more importantly, will they live as free citizens of this once greatest country in the world?

Oops. Grandma went on a rant, but at least a blank screen isn't staring back at her anymore.

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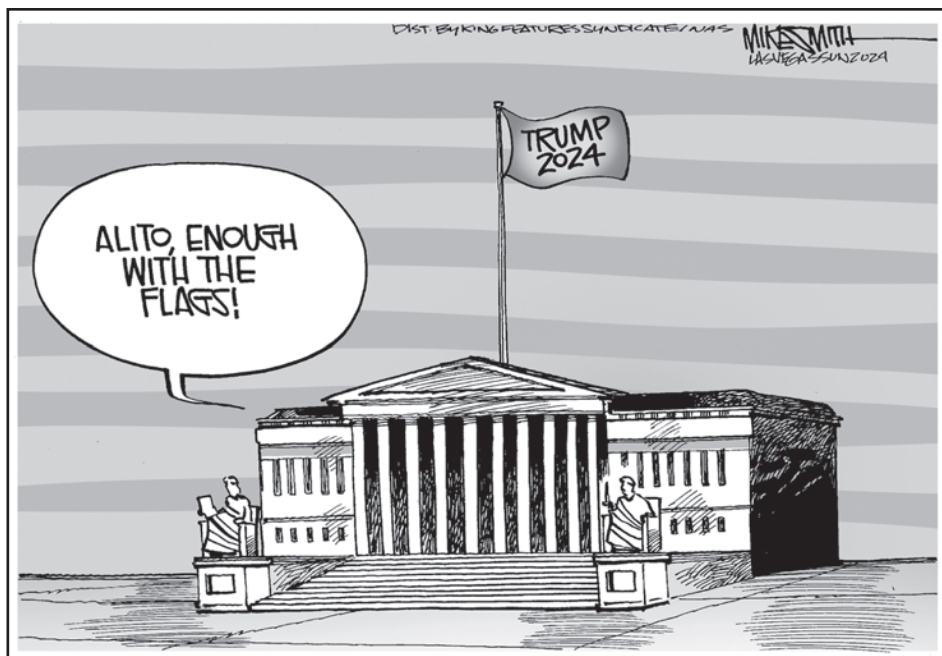
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Guest Editorial

What's Wrong With People of Color?

By Rich Lowry

The progressive journalist Thomas Frank wrote a much-discussed book in 2004 titled *What's the Matter with Kansas?* Right now, some other like-minded journalist might be thinking of writing a book called *What's the Matter with People of Color?*

For Democrats, the presidential polling among Latinos and African Americans ranges from concerning to extremely disturbing, as President Joe Biden sheds support to Donald Trump. The Republican was so bold as to hold a campaign rally that drew thousands in the South Bronx, a heavily Hispanic and Black area where Republicans may be rumored to exist but are rarely actually seen.

*Trump "the blue-collar billionaire" probably has more in common with the average Latino working-class male than any member of the (exclusively Democratic) Congressional Hispanic Caucus.*

A New York Times poll in March had Trump beating Biden among Hispanic voters 46-40, while a Wall Street Journal poll last month found that 30% of African-American males say they are definitely or probably going to vote for Trump. Other surveys show less stark results, but something is going on, especially with Hispanic voters.

If nothing else, we are seeing the

foolhardiness of Democrats believing that all minorities -- with a dizzying array of national backgrounds and socioeconomic and demographic characteristics -- could be lumped together as "people of color" and corralled into the Democratic coalition with woke political appeals. That might work on college campuses; it doesn't work in the rest of the country.

The problem for Biden is that Hispanics are too much like the rest of America. In Cygnal polling, 69% of Americans say the country is on the wrong track, and 72% of Hispanics think the same. Hispanics care about the economy as much as -- in fact, more than -- anyone else. Whereas 30% of the country says inflation and the economy is the top issue, 42% of

Hispanics say it is.

All of this means that only 37% of Hispanics view Biden favorably, essentially the same percentage as among whites.

Changing Hispanic attitudes toward immigration is a big part of the picture. A CBS poll in Arizona found that 52% of all voters think recent immigrants have made life worse. What outrageous xenophobia, you say? Well, 40% of Hispanic voters think they've made life worse, too (a slim plurality, 42%, say they've made it better).

While the Left thought that Hispanics would enjoy getting called "Latinx" and seamlessly fit into its victim-industrial-complex, Trump "the blue-collar billionaire" probably has more in common with the average Latino working-class male than any member of the (exclusively Democratic) Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

The division of the electorate among class lines, long evident among whites, now appears to be showing up among Hispanics. Ruy Teixeira of the American Enterprise Institute cites a YouGov poll that found Biden leading by 1 point among working-class Hispanics and 39 points among college-

Please see **LOWRY** on P. 9

# The Independent

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# Thanks for *Everything* Dad

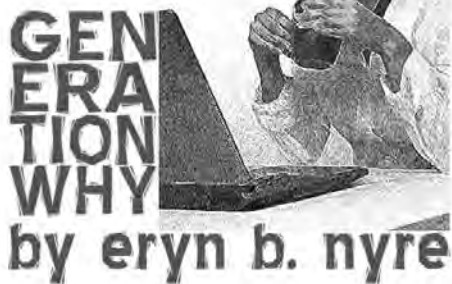
Since I just wrote a piece about my Mom for the last edition, I thought it would only be fair to use the next several hundred words to share a few of my favorite stories about my Dad. It was just Father's Day, after all.

My Dad is many things. He has always been a provider, a storyteller and an idea man. He would be disappointed in me if I didn't throw that in there. He had a talent for walking the line between being a serious, strict, hands-on father and making sure my childhood felt truly enchanted. He was my own personal Santa Claus. No ... really. He played Santa Claus for the city we lived in when I was a child and on multiple occasions he would take the suit home so I could get a personal visit from the big man himself. Mom

would wake me up and we would sneak a peek at Santa filling my stocking. Once he even knocked on the front door just to check in on his favorite little gal. It was like a fairytale.

One of my earliest birthday parties that I remember was my fifth birthday. Some of the details are a little fuzzy, for example I think I remember it taking place at a local park, but it certainly could have been a backyard. What I do remember with perfect accuracy is the fact that my father donned a black garbage bag, a shower cap and goggles and proceeded to let a troop of five-year-olds throw pies at his face. We were a bunch of uncoordinated youngsters and the pies were nothing more than whipped cream sprayed onto paper plates, but he made sure we got close enough to make one heck of a mess. He was always a hands-on Dad, even if it meant participating in a ridiculous game that left his hair dripping with whipped cream.

When I was 12, I decided I wanted to have a spooky-themed, Halloween slumber party. My parents would have been pretty amaz-



ing just letting me have a bunch of my pre-teen friends invade the living room, but they decided to go above and beyond. They planned several intricate activities like a pumpkin chucking activity that involved throwing miniature pumpkins onto a pitchfork. Then there was a detailed and thorough scavenger hunt that had us break off into teams and took us all over,

*I also remember my friends coming out terrified and telling me how lucky I was to have such a creative father. I didn't appreciate that as much then as I do now.*

both inside and outside. Then there was the ghost story. Dad used his considerable storytelling capabilities to spin a tale that had a house full of girls absolutely terrified while at the same time he had used his engineering skills to rig the entire living room to appear haunted. That was a night I will never forget and that I will look back on fondly for the rest of my life.

Speaking of Halloween, a year or two after that now infamous party, Dad was tapped to participate in the planning and execution of a Halloween extravaganza for the entire tiny town we lived in. It was held at an old building that was either the old high school or the old middle school before they built the new one. There were rooms for various games and activities, trick or treating and two haunted houses. One geared for a younger, or as my Dad would call it, a "softer" crowd. Then there was the version that he designed and set up personally. There were disembodied hands coming out of walls to grab you, crazy scientists

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

who wanted to make an experiment out of you, jump scares that came out of nowhere and a gorilla. I definitely remember a gorilla. I also remember my friends coming out terrified and telling me how lucky I was to have such a creative father. I didn't appreciate that as much then as I do now.

I might as well finish with another Halloween themed story. Dad absolutely loves Halloween, can you tell? A couple of years ago on Halloween he helped me decorate the entire front yard to look like a graveyard. It was full of tombstones, skeletons, and even a strobe light. Then he put on a mask, wielded a giant fake machete and joined me in

scaring the neighborhood trick-or-treaters. It might not have been as elaborate as the party from decades before, but it's going in my treasure chest of memories of him and how much fun we have together.

My Dad always tells me that he made a conscious decision to be an active and involved parent, and he most definitely was. He was strict, sure. His expectations were certainly high. He never really tolerated mistakes, but he didn't expect me to figure everything out by myself. He taught me and guided me. He still does. He also enchanted my childhood with magic and fun. I'm the woman I am because of the father he is, and I'm grateful every day that he's my Dad.



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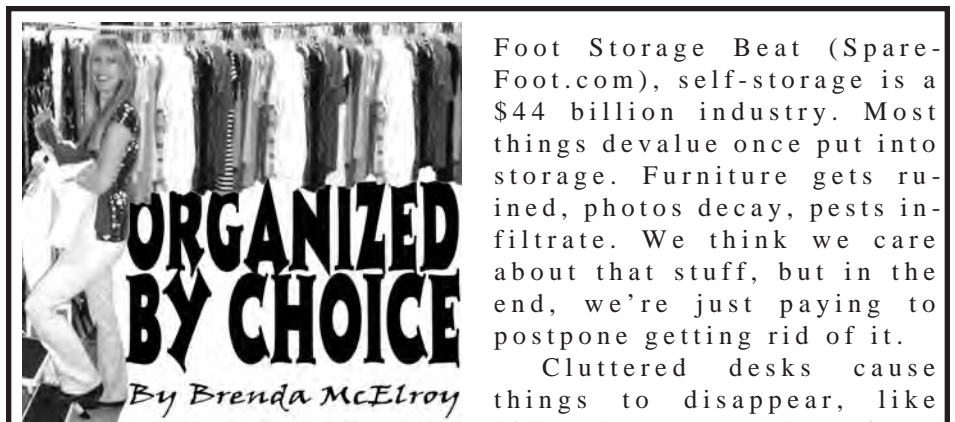
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**What's the Cost?**

"Are you ready to buy it?" This seemed like an odd response to my daughter's question about the cost. After saving for quite some time, she was shopping for a new car. I accompanied her to a dealership. After doing a test drive, we went inside to talk details. Knowing the MSRP is just a starting point, she asked about deals or discounts they might offer. That's when the "Are you ready to buy it?" mantra began. He was not going to give her a price until she said she was ready to buy.

Really?

What happened to making an informed decision?

When we're spending tens of thousands of dollars it behooves us to be cautious and wise. Even when shopping at the Dollar Store, where we know the price of everything, we can be caught off guard at the register, if not watching how much we're putting in the basket.

This is also true of clutter. When we're not paying attention, clutter gets costly. Here are five ways that clutter makes us pay.

**Financial** — The most obvious is paying to store stuff we can't fit in our homes. According to the April 2024 report in Spare-

Foot Storage Beat (Spare-Foot.com), self-storage is a \$44 billion industry. Most things devalue once put into storage. Furniture gets ruined, photos decay, pests infiltrate. We think we care about that stuff, but in the end, we're just paying to postpone getting rid of it.

Cluttered desks cause things to disappear, like bills that accrue late fees, checks to cash, etc. Over the years I've uncovered hundreds of dollars in cash lost in my clients' clutter.

**Space** — There's also a cost to storing stuff in our own homes. Kat Brancato (Better Homes and Gardens, February 2021) says, "Storing unused items in your home costs roughly \$10 per square foot. You can calculate your 'clutter cost' by

*Perhaps you too will take a stand, make an informed decision and choose the benefits of organizing over the cost of clutter.*

dividing your monthly rent or mortgage by the square footage of your home." Not that we have to pay ourselves, but clutter replaces things of

value, like cars left outside while cardboard boxes fill the garage. What do you have that's not earning its keep?

**Time & Money** — Clutter hides stuff. You look for things you know you have but can't find. According to The Pixie Lost and Found Survey (reported in prenewswire.com May 2, 2017), the average American spends 2.5 days each year looking for lost items. Collectively, U.S. households spend \$2.7 billion annually in replacement costs. Kat Brancato points out the irony of keeping things in order to save money, when the buildup ends up costing you more.

**Stress** — The most common word I hear in the ini-

## Be a Zucchini Houdini

(June 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.



by Jean Briner

For those of you that have a summer garden, I imagine the zucchini has just about taken over. Your friends, relatives and neighbors are almost tired of seeing you arrive with a bag of the stuff. So what to do with it?

For one thing, you can freeze them but you must plan on doing it the day they are picked, or no later than the next day. Have everything ready before you start as it should be done as quickly as possible. This can be done with any summer squash.

Begin by washing the squash thoroughly and slicing it the way they will be cooked next winter — length wise into "spears," into rounds or chunks, but be sure they are all the same size so they will blanch and freeze in the same time.

Put a large pot of water on to boil. Have a large bowl of ice water ready and a colander ready for draining. Get a slotted spoon, a large cookie sheet and several zip-lock bags.

Add the squash to the boiling water (do NOT salt the water, as that will break down the enzymes and cause the squash to be soggy when thawed). Only leave in the boiling water until they are crunchy "al dente" — about two minutes, but start testing after a minute.

As soon as the squash is blanched, spoon into the ice water, then into the colander. Drain well before storing in the freezer bags. If you have a large freezer, you can put the squash on the cookie sheet (lined with parchment paper makes it easier) and put it in the freezer until all is frozen then put it into freezer bags. This way the squash is frozen individually and you can take

out only what you will need rather than using the whole bag when everything is frozen together.

I was looking for different ways to use zucchini than steaming, frying or baking with Spanish rice. My favorite way is using a nonstick frying pan, put about a teaspoon of butter in the pan and add sliced zucchini and some chopped onion. Put a lid on it and on medium heat only cook until just done. Do not overcook because then you have mush — ugh!

### Zucchini Cake

- 2 C. Flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 2 C granulated sugar

1 C. vegetable oil

1 tsp. vanilla  
1 tsp. lemon zest (optional)

2 C. grated unpeeled zucchini. Place grated zucchini in sieve to drain out excess moisture before measuring.

1 C. chopped nuts — walnuts or pecans.

½ C raisins — either dark or golden.

Preheat oven to 350. Butter a

9x12 or 9x13 pan — set aside.

In a mixing bowl, mix together the flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and baking powder, set aside.

With a mixer, beat the 3 eggs on high speed until frothy. Lower the speed and beat in the sugar, vegetable oil, vanilla, and lemon zest (if using). Stir in the flour mixture, about a third at a time. Stir in the zucchini and chopped nuts and raisins.

Pour mixture into baking pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely before frosting.

### Frosting

- 3 ounces cream cheese softened

... if you have any background on your family, write it down now, while you still can. Maybe your family won't be interested today, but what if after you have made it to the clubhouse your kids will want to know who Uncle Ralph's second wife was, or where did our family come from? Remember, our ancestors all came from somewhere.

¼ cup butter, room temperature  
1 ½ to 2 C. powdered sugar  
Beat together the cream cheese and butter. Add the powdered sugar and beat until smooth.

I'm going to take my "recipe hat" off now and put on my "nostalgia hat."

When my mom passed away almost 25 years ago, she had boxes of genealogy information on all four sides of our family. I took them and started putting them together and added to it with information from cousins in Tennessee, Iowa and Oregon and ended up with three large binders of information, which I have called "Our Story." I've told everyone

in the family what I have and that someday I would like to make a book, but due to the lack of funds and knowhow I have put it on the back shelf and "someday" has never come. Recently, one of the boys called me and wanted to know some information about a cousin that was in WWII. It got me to thinking — I have played life's 18 holes and am headed for the clubhouse — and I'm still sitting here with all this information and doing nothing about it, and that is idiotic of my part. So I made a few phone calls, and talked to Randy and with God's

Please see RECIPES on P. 17

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## California Table Grape Growers Give Scholarship to Liberty Grad



*Liberty High Graduate Madison Jackson earned a \$25,000 Agriculture Scholarship from the California Table Grape Growers.*

Seven students from the table grape growing regions of California, including one from Liberty High School in the Madera Ranchos, have earned scholarships awarded by California table grape growers. Growers awarded two \$25,000 field worker scholarships to students attending a four-year college or university and two \$14,500 field worker bridge scholarships were awarded to students attending two years of community college and transferring to a four-year college or university. In order to be eligible for a field worker scholarship, applicants or a parent or guardian must work in the California table grape harvest.

Three \$25,000 agriculture scholarships were awarded to students attending a four-year California college or university and planning to pursue an undergraduate degree in a field of study pertinent to the table grape industry. Since 1985, Cal-

ifornia table grape growers have awarded more than 200 scholarships to help students in the grape growing regions of California attend college.

Liberty High Graduate Madison Jackson earned a \$25,000 Agriculture Scholarship from the California Table Grape Growers. She graduated from Liberty High with a 4.1 GPA and will attend California State University, Chico to study agriculture education and environmental science. Madison was deeply involved in FFA, serving in several FFA leadership positions, attending numerous FFA conferences and helping her grapevine pruning team place fifth in the state finals. Madison is passionate about the future of agriculture and plans to become an agriculture teacher after college to help future students understand the importance of agriculture and environmental stewardship.

**LOWRY** cont. from P. 5

educated Hispanics. Working-class Hispanics tend to be more moderate or conservative than their college-educated counterparts and are more pessimistic about the economy and concerned about inflation. As Teixeira notes, about 78% of Hispanic voters are working class, and even higher percentages in Arizona and Nevada, states where Trump is leading.

There appears to be a trend among Hispanic voters. Hillary Clinton won them by nearly 40 points in 2016, while Biden carried them by 23 points in 2020 and could go lower this year. The move among Black voters is more provisional and less pronounced, but still real and obviously worrying to Democrats given their investment in advertising directed

at these voters and Biden's recent fevered commencement address at Morehouse College.

It's best to think of the Latino and Black voters telling pollsters that they support Trump as very much potential voters -- Trump will have to continue to make his case, and the Republican National Committee find ways to reach them and turn them out. But, as the Republican political analyst Patrick Ruffini points out, if culturally conservative non-whites break away from the Democratic coalition it would be a boon for the GOP.

What's wrong with people of color? This year they could prove too politically independent-minded.

*Rich Lowry is the editor of the National Review.*

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*Senior Report*

# Celebrate Independence Day

By Melanie Williams

Summer is officially here with beautiful warm weather and lots of fun outdoor activities. Happy Independence Day to the Madera Ranchos community.

July 4 is celebrated with fireworks, Independence Day events and family gatherings. The members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are taking a break from their regular volunteer duties to observe the July 4th Independence Day weekend. The Senior Center will be closed on Thursday, July 4. We will NOT be open the first Saturday in July for our Monthly Saturday Sale.



The Senior Center will be taking donations during the months of June and July to prepare for the upcoming Saturday Sale on Aug. 3. The best time to donate items to the Treasure House and Boutique is during the hours we are open, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Scout Garden is continuing to receive donations of potted plants from neighboring garden centers. The gardeners appreciate donations of plastic pots, plant cuttings with roots and potting soil. You are encouraged to call the Senior Center before donating plants and garden cuttings so we can contact our volunteer gardeners to replant if needed. Thank you for all the wonderful donations we receive from the community to support our outreach to local seniors.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is looking for senior volunteers to partner with us for the Monthly Saturday Sale in the Treasure House. Jo Chase would welcome a partner to support her with the organization of donated items and the operation of the Treasure House during the Saturday sale days. We have senior volunteers who help during the week with the stocking and hanging of donated clothing. Jo is very willing to work with a senior volunteer interested in learning more about the Treasure House. Call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 to find out more information about volunteering to fulfill this much-needed position.

In the future, we hope to open the Treasure House on the Wednesday Brown Bag Days for seniors who come to the Senior Center for the Madera Food Bank distribution. Brown Bag Day this month is on Wednesday, July 17. The Senior Center serves as a local community distribution facility for the Madera County Food Bank. All seniors in the community can participate in the Madera Food Bank Brown Bag Program. You can call the Senior Center for application forms and mail them to the Madera Food Bank.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors had a great response for volun-

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 17

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Golden Oak 4-H

By Wyatt Morgan

Golden Oak 4-H had a great showing during the Chowchilla Fair this year. The Chowchilla Fair was May 5-12 and the Golden Oak 4-H had members competing in Poultry, Rabbits, Pygmy Goats and Swine.

4-H Happenings  
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 4-H Happenings



Maddox Parker exhibited his market pen of two chickens and his breeding chickens. Maddox came away with Reserve Champion 4-H meat pen of two chickens and 1st in Junior 4-H poultry showmanship. Sarah Morgan exhibited her market pen of two chickens, her breeding chicken and her breeding pig. Sarah advanced to the final round of Intermediate 4-H Swine showmanship, placed 2nd in her class with her breeding swine and placed 5th in Intermediate Poultry showmanship.

Sierra Shadows 4-H members who participated at the Chowchilla Fair included, from left, Griffin Williams-Smith, Hunter Williams-Smith, Maddox Parker, Wyatt Morgan and Sarah Morgan

Griffin Williams-Smith exhibited his market pen of two chickens and his breeding chickens. Griffin had Reserve Champion Overall Rose Comb Clean Legged Poultry and 1st in class Rose Comb Clean Legged Silver Spangle Cock. Hunter Williams-Smith exhibited his market pen of two chickens, breeding chickens, breeding rabbit and his Pygmy Goat Wether, or castrated male goat. Hunter placed Reserve Champion Overall Single Comb Clean Legged Old English, 2nd in class Old English Lemon Blue Hen, 2nd in Senior 4-H Rabbit showmanship, 5th in Senior Buck rabbit class, 3rd in Senior 4-H Pygmy Goat showmanship, 4th in his Senior Pygmy Goat Wether class, and 3rd in Senior 4-H Poultry showmanship. Iris Garzon exhibited in Mini Member 4-H Pygmy Goat showmanship and Mini Member 4-H Poultry showmanship and had a great time.

Congratulations to all of our members who competed. They all came away with more experience and some great memories.



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

The Garden Bug

The app [merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org) can ask you questions about a bird you are trying to identify, and will give you a list of possible matches. It can listen to the birds around you and show real-time suggestions for who's singing. It can identify birds in your own photos, and help you build a digital scrapbook of them. It can help you find out what birds may be available in your area to look for, and connect you to [birdsoftheworld.org](http://birdsoftheworld.org) to view comprehensive information on birds from every corner of the globe.

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: [merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org)  
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# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## The FIRE Season is Upon Us

Are you prepared for fire season? Have you taken the precautions recommended by the fire department?

A build-up of dry vegetation during the hot summer months presents a high risk for hotter, faster moving fires in mountain communities surrounding the Valley, often sending smoke into the San Joaquin Valley. Remember, the fire may not be near you, but a fire's smoke may be ... the elderly and young kids may be more vulnerable, please take care.

Some facts about Madera County Fire Department: The Madera County Fire Department was established on Sept. 21, 1928. It is a full-service fire department providing emergency services to all 2,153 square miles of the unincorporated areas of Madera County. Madera County Fire is comprised of 14 fire stations, a fleet of 56

apparatus and support vehicles, dedicated personal and local volunteers. The primary mission statement of Madera County Fire Department, in cooperation with CAL-FIRE, is to provide a range of programs designed to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the County of Madera from adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, exposure to hazardous materials or dangerous conditions as an emergency response agency. SEMCU sends its gratitude to the Fire Department personnel and volunteers. Thank you."

Water, water, water

In the height of the summer, you may be experiencing domestic well or water quality problems. Self-Help Enterprises may be able to help qualified people by installing a water tank or having bottled water delivered

or have work done on a new or existing well. Their contact information depends on

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property owners and businesses in South-eastern 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.

SEMUCU meets for one hour only once a 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](http://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, July 15 at 6 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of Frank Davis

SEMUCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents,

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## Madera County Sheriffs' Office Arrests Man for Suspected Lewd Acts with Minors

The Madera County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division was contacted by two victims who reported being molested by Jesus Cortes-Padilla. As a result of their disclosures, an investigation was initiated. During the course of their investigation, Detectives identified additional victims, both juvenile and adult, who reported sexual harassment, solicitation of sexual favors, and inappropriate conduct by Cortes-Padilla.

On June 4, Madera County Sheriff's Detectives arrested 35-year-old Madera resident Jesus Cortes-Padilla for numerous charges including attempted lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14, molestation of a child under 18 and solicitation of prostitution. He is currently being held at the Madera County Jail. On June 5, Detectives applied for and were granted a non-release order and bail enhancement motion.

The Madera County Sheriff's Department believes Jesus Cortes-Padilla has potentially victimized more individuals in our community. If you are a vic-

tim, or believe you know someone who is, they are encouraging you to reach out to their office at 559-675-7770.

Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue said, "Our detectives have worked tirelessly on this case for quite some time. They see a pattern of behavior in Cortes-Padilla, and know he attempts to lure girls and women with promises of money. Many of these victims are reluctant to come forward, for fear they will be charged with crimes or he will seek revenge. We are asking each of them to step forward and allow us to seek justice on their behalf."

MCSO is asking anyone who may have information regarding additional victims to please call their office at 559-675-7770. Tips may also be emailed to [MCSOTip@maderacounty.com](mailto:MCSOTip@maderacounty.com). Anonymous tips may be made through Valley Crime Stoppers at 559-498-STOP (7867), or by texting "Tip MaderaSO" followed by your message to 888777. Tips may also be made on the Madera County Sheriff's Mobile App: [MaderaSheriffApp.com](http://MaderaSheriffApp.com).



*Madera County Sheriff's Office has arrested Jesus Cortes-Padilla of Madera, 35, on suspicion of sexual harassment, solicitation of sexual favors and inappropriate contact with both adults and minors.*

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**Kiwanis Korner**

**Ranchos Kiwanis give LHS Awards**

By Sally Rowden

It was exciting to see The Kiwanis – John Minney Liberty High School Scholarship Awards presented to Kaylah Griggs, Emersyn Pires and Isabella Wang at the Liberty High School Senior Awards Ceremony on May 20. Each recipient received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,200. All three of these individuals have their future educational endeavors well planned. Congratulations.

The fundraising for the scholarship awards totaling \$3,600 was successful due to the following individuals and/or businesses generously donating:



Recipients of the this year's Kiwanis John Minney – LHS Scholarship Awards are, from left, Emersyn Pires and Kaylah Griggs.

Birdstone Winery, Britz/Sun West, Bubba's Water Truck Service, Inc., Rod Chaney, Bob and Leslie Carella, Chevron Gas Station, Golden Valley Baptist Church, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Midland Tractor, John Minney, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Pistoresi Ambulance, Ranchos Hills Seniors, Triago and Wight Water Pool Service and Supplies. A huge THANK YOU to all for being willing to give.

Our 2024 Hope of America Awards were presented at Ranchos Middle School and were awarded to Geneva Haines and Weston Hiatt. This award not only looks at academic accomplishments but puts high merit in the individual's leadership and good character. These two students were nominated by the Ranchos Middle School Staff. Congratulations Geneva and Weston.

We had a great time at the Flatlander's Parade and Fair on Saturday, May 18. The Kiwanis-decorated golf cart for the parade was provided by Evan Walsh. Kiwanis members, friends and family walked along side handing out books and bubbles to the children. Our booth housed the "Spin-for Free" children's game and The John Minney – LHS Scholarship Awards raffle. The raffle items on display were the John Deere 20" bike donated by Midland Tractor, the handcrafted BBQ bell and basket made by Kiwanis member Rod Chaney, the wine tasting for 10 donated by Birdstone Winery, and the \$100 auto car care bucket donated by O'Reilly's Auto Parts. The children sincerely enjoyed spinning the game wheel and winning a prize. With it being the last day to obtain tickets for the raffle, it too found much success.

The winners of the raffle were announced on Thursday, May 23 at the Kiwanis meeting. Mike Fursman of the Madera Ranchos won the John Deere 20" bike, Tom Lean of Kiwanis Old Town Clovis won the handcrafted BBQ bell and basket, Judy Obenshain of the Madera Ranchos won the wine tasting for 10, and Kiwanis member Leslie Carella won the \$100 auto car care bucket. Congratulations to all and thank you for your support.

The summer months will find us planning for our 2024-2025 year. Looking at possible events to provide for the communities of eastern Madera County, electing new officers and budget mapping are a few tasks we will be addressing. Of course, relaxation during these next few months will also be addressed.

If you have any suggestions you would like to share with us regarding community events you would like to see happen, or if you would like to attend a Kiwanis meeting, please contact Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com. We would still like to hear from you regarding the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos' name change. Ideas that would allow us to represent the community growth of eastern Madera County.

We do hope for those who celebrated Father's Day it was a great beginning to your summer and you're now getting ready to welcome the Fourth of July. Remember, as we continue moving through our summer months ... "If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed" – Unknown.

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

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**SENIORS** cont. from P. 10

teers to host our monthly Birthday and Anniversary Luncheons. If you are interested in hosting one of our luncheons, call the Senior Center. We have only July and December open for this year. What could be more fun than choosing your favorite restaurant for the monthly Birthday and Anniversary luncheons?

The 4th of July Independence Day Potluck is on the calendar for Thursday, July 11. We have a game night planned after the potluck. If you would like to sign up for a whole group game activity at our July 4th potluck, let us know at the Senior Center. We can help with ideas for group games and the seniors always have a lot of

fun. If you plan on coming to the July 4th Independence Day Potluck, please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 and sign up so we can have tables set up for the event.

We have our regular weekly activities in July, including exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and card and board games every Thursday at 12:15 p.m.

Make sure to check the July Newsletter for upcoming events and weekly activities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Happy July 4th Independence Day from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for July: *"Liberty has been planted here; and the more it is attacked, the more it grows and flourishes."* — Samuel Sherwood

**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

help, we are going to put it together. I have funding, and Randy has said he would help lay it out – after all, that is his business. What I am saying here is please, if you have any background on your family, write it down now, while you still can. Maybe your family won't be interested today, but what if after you have made it to the clubhouse your kids will want to know who Uncle Ralph's second wife was, or where did our family come from? Remember, our ancestors all came from somewhere.

Anyway, in with the papers was a newspaper clipping that I found interesting. I thought you might like to read some of it. It is all about the 1940s.

1940: A&P Supermarkets sell the first precut, cellophane wrapped meat.

1940: The first Dairy Queen opened in Juliet, Ill.

1942: Americans hoard coffee, leading to a coffee ration of 1 pound every five weeks. Sugar has already been rationed; the weekly allowance is 8 ounces per person. Meat is also rationed.

1942: The Wrigley Co. packs military K-rations that contain canned meat, four cigarettes and compressed graham biscuits,

1943: A Trumanburger, named after Harry S. and made with baked

beans, is concocted in the dying days of meat rationing.

1944: Meat rationing, except for steak, ends after D Day.

1945: Earl W. Tupper invents resealable food containers.

1946: Frozen french fried potatoes are introduced.

1947: Reynolds Metals Co. uses surplus aluminum from WWII to make aluminum foil.

1947: Refrigeration and suburban growth are responsible for the creation of supermarkets where all food stuffs can be found under one roof.

1947: Cake mixes from Betty Crocker and Pillsbury make their debut. The first mix is for a single layer ginger cake.

1948: V8 Cocktail Vegetable Juice is introduced by Campbell Soup Co.

1948: The process of condensing and freezing orange juice is developed but the Minute Maid Co. needs help in getting the word out. Investor John Whitney offers a glass of the juice to his golf partner Bing Crosby. Crosby loves it and buys 20,000 shares of the company and hawks the juice on radio and television. Demand for Florida orange juice quadruples.

1949: Sara Lee Cheese Cake is introduced by baker Charles Luken, who names the product for his daughter.

• "Witch windows," or diagonal windows, exist almost exclusively in Vermont. Their moniker comes from the superstition that witches can't maneuver their broomsticks through slanted windows.

• A 67-year-old woman named Dorothy Fletcher had a heart attack on a plane. When the stewardess asked if a doctor was on board, luck was on Dorothy's side: Fifteen people on their way to a cardiology conference stood up! Dorothy survived.

• A killer fog that swathed London in 1952 and left as many as 12,000 people dead led to Parliament's passing the first Clean Air Act in 1956.

• Richard Anthony Jones spent 17 years in jail on a robbery charge until talk by some of his fellow inmates revealed he had a doppelganger with the same first name in the same jail. This second Jones was actually the guilty party.

• Before his acting career took off, Harrison Ford worked as a roadie for The Doors. That gig proved so intense that he humorously claimed he was "one step away from joining a Jesuit monastery" after it ended.

• While doing research for the film *Castaway*, William Broyles Jr. isolated himself on a beach for a week to immerse himself in the survival experience, which lent authenticity to the screenplay.

Thought for the Day: *"By seeing each day and each situation as a kind of training exercise, the stakes suddenly become a lot lower. The way you interpret your own mistakes and the mistakes of others is suddenly a lot more generous."* -- Ryan Holiday

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*...If you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. 1 KINGS 9:6,7*

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**ORGANIZE** cont. from P. 7

tial call with clients is "overwhelmed." In my 18 years in the organizing industry, there are few who find their creative genius stimulated by a messy desk. More often clutter promotes stress and avoidance. If you resonate with the latter, clutter costs you peace and productivity.

**Relationships** — Clients also share the issue of not joining in social events because they feel constrained to remain home and organize, even though their being over-


whelmed prevents them from doing it.

Clutter inhibits inviting family and friends over due to embarrassment. Relationships with spouses and kids are put in jeopardy when common areas are impaired due to clutter. The blame game ensues when items get lost in clutter.

My daughter and I walked out of that dealership. Perhaps you too will take a stand, make an informed decision and choose the benefits of organizing over the cost of clutter.

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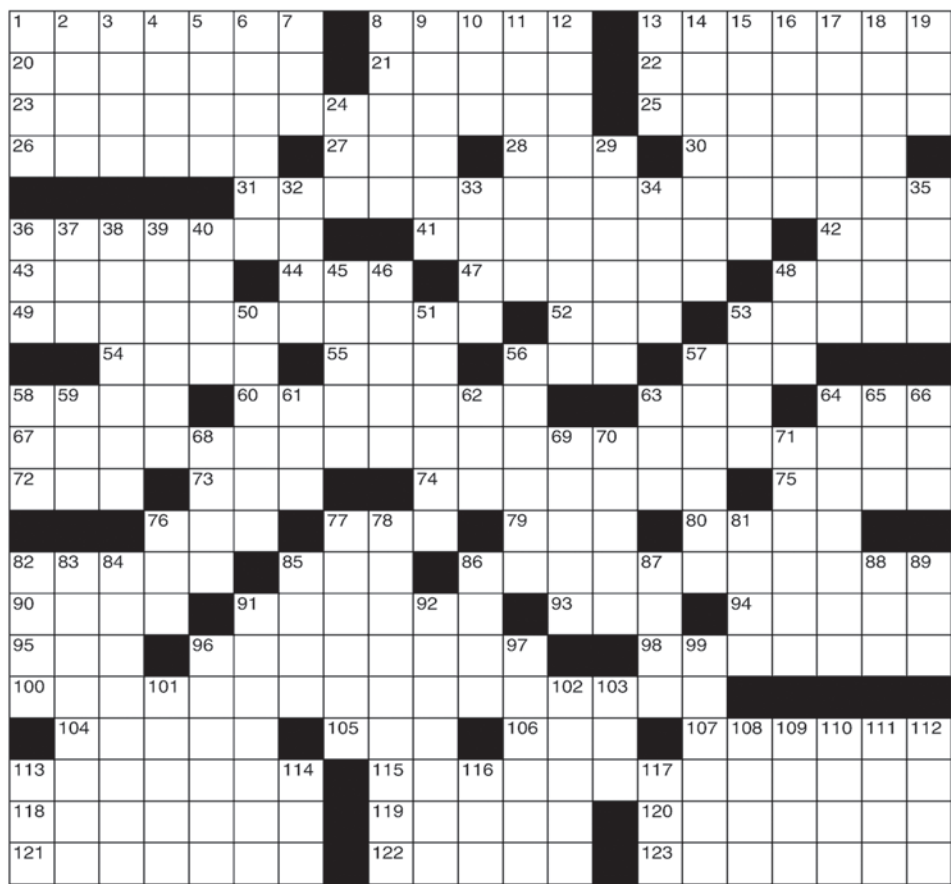
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# Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Washed-up star
  - 8 Baryshnikov's nickname
  - 13 Exhortations
  - 20 Fast, in music scores
  - 21 Foppish scarf
  - 22 Hangs around
  - 23 Punctilious attention to neatness
  - 25 Contrary to
  - 26 Perfumed hair dressing
  - 27 Time of note
  - 28 Special attention, in brief
  - 30 Beginning
  - 31 Krispy Kreme offering topped with colorful bits
  - 36 Enlarged
  - 41 Classic no-calorie soda brand
  - 42 Deep anger
  - 43 Stimulate
  - 44 Missy
  - 47 Court events
  - 48 Arthroscopic surgery site
  - 49 Garden plants with heads of clear blue blooms
  - 52 Euro divs.
  - 53 Feats
  - 54 "Gotta run!"
  - 55 Logger's chopper
  - 56 China's Mao — tung
  - 57 Mary — cosmetics
  - 58 Stimulate
  - 60 Neighbor of Rwanda
  - 63 Family dog, e.g.
  - 64 Env. contents
  - 67 1984 Eurythmics hit that's apt for six related words in this puzzle
  - 72 See 58-Down
  - 73 French painter Jean
  - 74 Egg white
  - 75 Tach stats
  - 76 Gore and Unser
  - 77 Everybody
  - 79 Atty.'s org.
  - 80 & others
  - 82 Sight-related
  - 85 Pay money for
  - 86 Spongy, glazed dessert
  - 90 Hotel offering
  - 91 Weather phenomenon with a more famous "brother"
  - 93 Mauna —
  - 94 Ward off
  - 95 Peat source
  - 96 "— Complaint" (Philip Roth novel)
  - 98 Altimas and Maximas
  - 100 Gift lists for expectant mothers' parties
  - 104 Car identifier
  - 105 Letters after lambdas
  - 106 Quaker grain
  - 107 Some narrow strips of land
  - 113 Revises jointly
  - 115 Use lots of flattery, say
  - 118 Egypt's — Stone
  - 119 Latin for "everything"
  - 120 Metallic shooting marble
  - 121 Jerry Garcia's band, informally
  - 122 "I — drink!"
  - 123 Its capital is Mogadishu
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Lock holder
  - 2 Food for Fido
  - 3 Thin
  - 4 Software test version
  - 5 "By Jove!"
  - 6 Novelist Hemingway
  - 7 Tacit assent
  - 8 Language of New Zealand
  - 9 Honshu, e.g.
  - 10 — -fi movie
  - 11 Horse farm attendant
  - 12 Oakland ball team
  - 13 Tony winner Hagen
  - 14 Seasoned stews
  - 15 Farm with its buildings
  - 16 From Galway, say
  - 17 "Brooklyn —" (sitcom)
  - 18 Made a hand motion
  - 19 Old booming jet, for short
  - 24 For each
  - 29 Stat on a bank sign
  - 32 Bouncy stick
  - 33 DIYers' sets
  - 34 Lubricants
  - 35 Leisure shirts
  - 36 Pitcher's asset
  - 37 "Where — sign?"
  - 38 Tools for light cleaning
  - 39 Will topic
  - 40 Artful
  - 45 In the know
  - 46 Luxury brand of Toyota
  - 48 Lock opener
  - 50 Toils away
  - 51 Hertz car, say
  - 53 Info
  - 56 Cravat clasp
  - 57 Dog refuge
  - 58 With
  - 72-Across, "Actually, I do!"
  - 59 "— -haw!"
  - 61 Ref's cousin
  - 62 FedEx rival
  - 63 Pizzeria order
  - 64 Port in east Argentina
  - 65 Apple's Cook
  - 66 Hosp. staffers
  - 68 Advanced math, in brief
  - 69 Puzzle cube creator Erno
  - 70 Astound
  - 71 Confers honor on
  - 76 Pitcher's asset
  - 77 "The Wizard of Oz" lady
  - 78 Resting atop
  - 81 "Bill & — Bogus Journey"
  - 82 Spheres
  - 83 Dismiss as foolish
  - 84 From the capital Lomé, e.g.
  - 85 Roseanne of "Roseanne"
  - 86 Year's 365
  - 87 Actor Billy of "Titanic"
  - 88 Barbie's guy
  - 89 Hosp. areas
  - 91 "Fist City" singer Lynn
  - 92 Foul-smelling
  - 96 Daintily little
  - 97 Packed away
  - 99 Enjoys a lot
  - 101 Slogged in water
  - 102 Gorbachev's wife
  - 103 Addams family cousin
  - 108 Cherry holder
  - 109 Duke Ellington's "Take — Train"
  - 110 Small peak
  - 111 1,102, to Livy
  - 112 Retail giant in furniture
  - 113 Old PC screen
  - 114 In the dumps
  - 116 French article
  - 117 Old spy gp.

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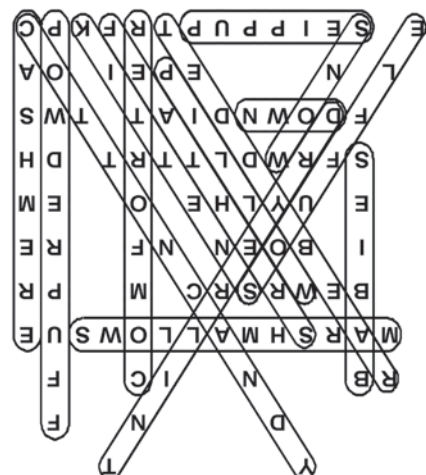
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### ANSWERS

63	=	2	=	30		
9	-	7	+	3	=	5
2	-	1	+	6	=	7
5	+	8	+	4	=	17



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

H	A	S	B	E	E	N	M	I	S	H	A	U	R	G	I	N	G	S			
A	L	L	E	G	R	O	A	S	C	O	T	T	A	R	I	E	S				
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• "Use a bandanna to strain coffee if you've accidentally had a filter bust. It works. I first used this tip when camping, but I have used it at home, too. The coffee goes through it faster than a paper filter, which is fine when it's already brewed, since you lose less heat." -- T.R. in Arkansas



• Recycling notes: Cardboard that's greasy or food-caked is just not recyclable. It's trash. On the plus side, your glass jars don't have to be perfectly clean, nor your cans crushed, in order to take them to the recycling center or drop curbside if your community has a plan in place.

• "To freshen stuffed animals, dampen a cloth with a solution of 1 cup vinegar and 3 cups water. Wipe outside fur thoroughly, being careful not to soak. Secure in a delicates bag or tie inside a pillowcase, then put in a dryer at low heat until completely dry. Adding a fabric softener sheet for the final five minutes is nice, too." -- D.W. in Oklahoma

• Wonderful tip from Fibrenew, a leather, vinyl and plastics refurbishing specialist, on what to do if you get ink on your leather car seats: "DON'T use dish soap or hair spray to remove the marks. The degreasing agents in dish soap can permanently degloss and damage the top coating on the leather surface. Hair spray, another commonly recommended remedy, has alcohol in it and will ruin the surface coating on your leather." Use a special leather-cleaning kit instead, or contact a local professional to fix it for you.

• "Remove tea stains from your teapot with a few drops of bleach added to a pot of hot water. Let sit for five or so minutes, then swish with a brush. Most tea stains will come right out. Be sure to rinse well." -- A.A. in Florida

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*,  
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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.

	+		+		= 17
+		+		+	
	-		+		= 7
×		-		×	
	-		+		= 5
=		=		=	
63		2		30	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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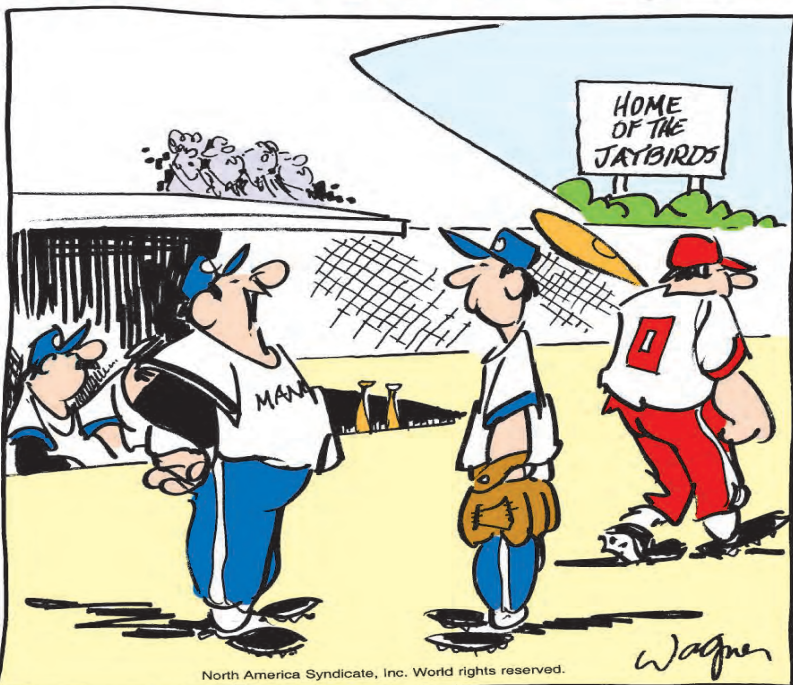
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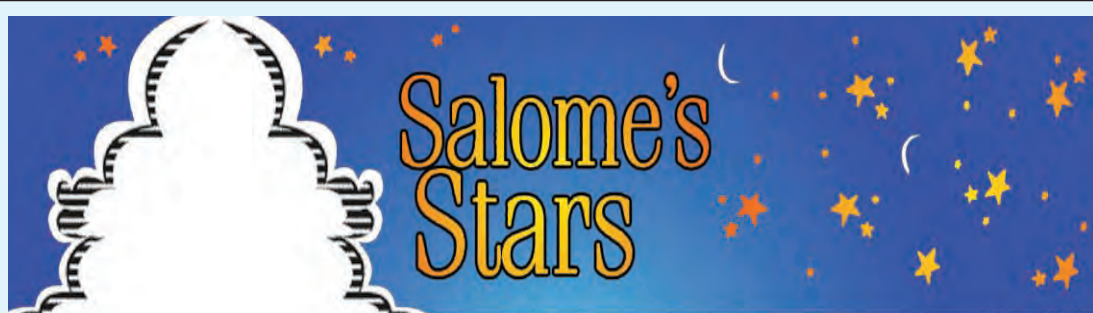
**GRIN and BEAR IT** by Wagner



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Home conditions still demand attention. Also, keep an open mind about a sudden question of trust involving a close friend. All the facts are not yet in.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Travel begins to dominate your sign as spring gives way to summer. Make plans carefully to avoid potential problems during the first half of June.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A romantic Libra sets a challenge that your "sensible" side might question, but your idealistic self finds the prospect too intriguing to resist. The choice is yours.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Those tense times in your personal life are just about over. Concentrate on reaffirming relationships. Your love for travel opens up a surprising new opportunity.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat usually loves to be in the center of things. But this week, it might be wiser to watch and learn from the sidelines. A Pisces wants to make you purr.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) "New" is your watchword this week. Be open to new ideas, both on the job and in your personal life. A romantic Aries or Sagittarian beckons.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Some difficult family decisions have to be faced, but be sure to get more facts before you act. Also, be careful not to neglect your health during this trying time.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You still need to support a loved one through a difficult time. Meanwhile, things continue to work out to your benefit in the workplace.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Aspects continue to favor expanding social opportunities. A Gemini reaches out to offer a chance for reestablishing a once-close relationship.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) There's a potential for misunderstandings in both your job and your personal life. A full explanation of your intentions helps smooth things over.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might be feeling restless on the job, but delay making any major moves until all the facts are in. Meanwhile, a Scorpio has a surprising revelation.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your business sense works to your advantage as you sort through the possibilities that are opening up. A Libra is Cupid's best bet for your romantic prospects.

**Born this Week**

*You have a gift for being open-minded about people. This helps you make friends easily. You do very well in public service.*

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# FUN PAGES

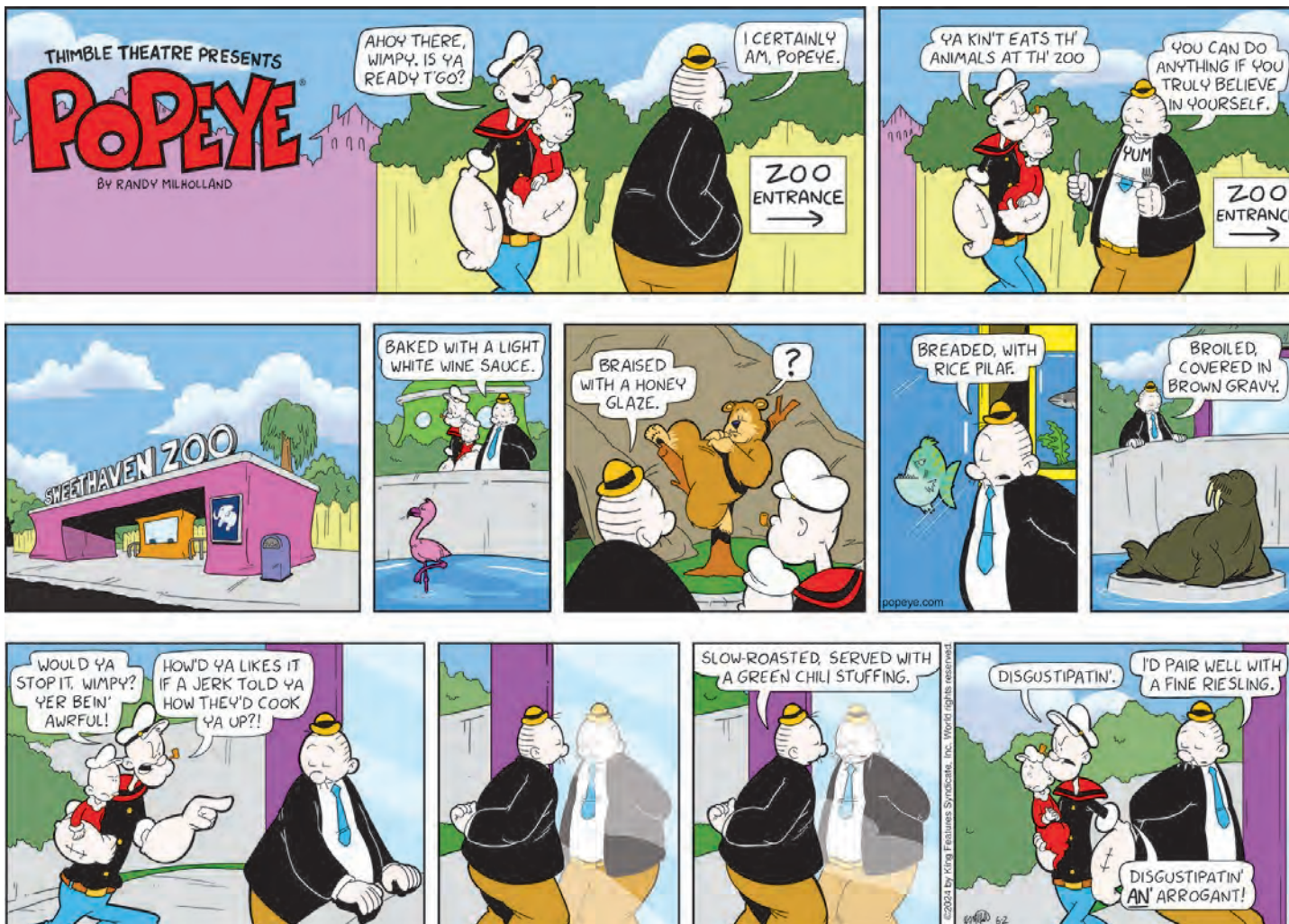
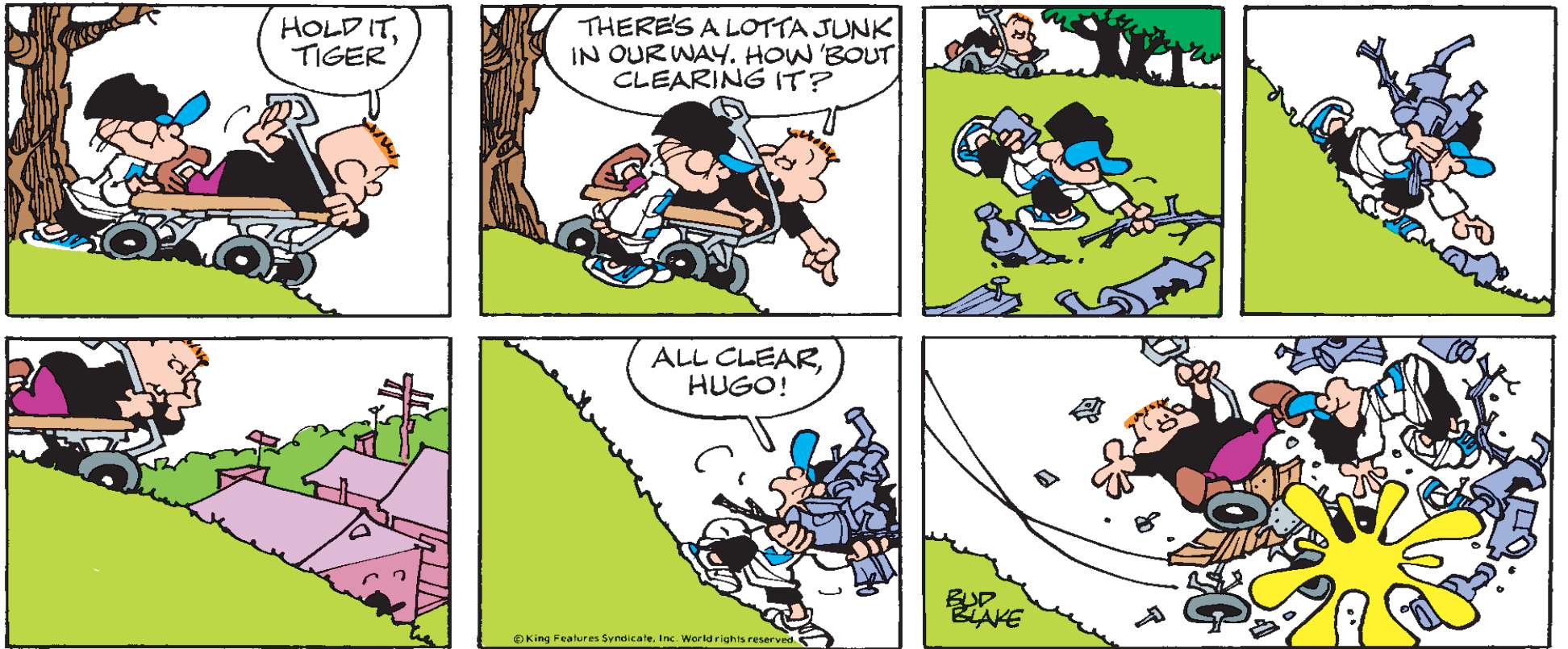
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION:** What subject does Walter White teach at the beginning of "Breaking Bad"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Which three countries make up the Baltic states in Europe?
- MUSIC:** What is the title of The Beatles' first album?
- LITERATURE:** Prince Edward Island is the inspiration for which novel series?
- HISTORY:** Which Roman emperor built a wall across northern England to deter invaders?
- MOVIES:** Which movie first featured the character Lisbeth Salander?
- ASTRONOMY:** The asteroid belt lies between which two planets in our solar system?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state's coast was dubbed the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" because so many ships wrecked there?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What does the term "a la carte" mean?
- SCIENCE:** What is the process called when a gas changes into a liquid?

1. Chemistry.
2. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
3. "Please Please Me."
4. "Ame of Green Gables."
5. Hadrian.
6. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."
7. Jupiter and Mars.
8. North Carolina.
9. According to the menu.
10. Condensation.

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Click on "Local News" at

# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



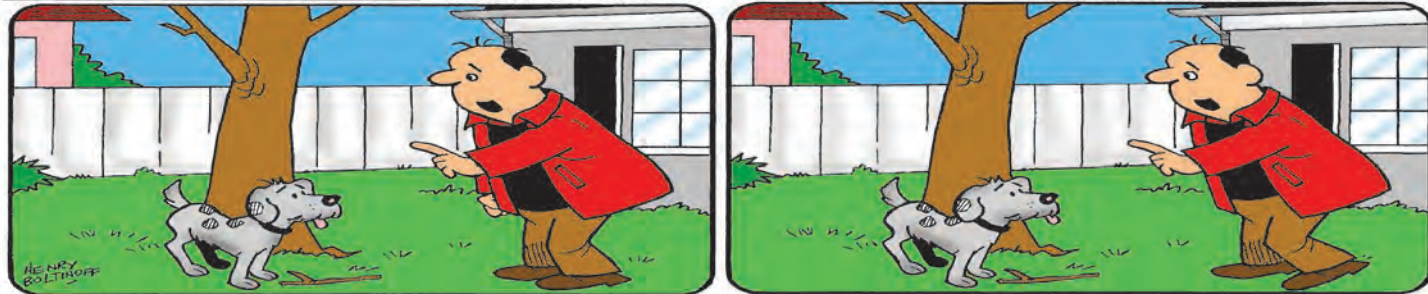
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Dog's tongue is shorter. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Ear is moved. 5. Tree limb is higher. 6. Sweater is shorter.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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# MAGIC MAZE • SOFT THINGS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: THE WOOL OF A SHEEP

- Babies
- Cashmere
- Comforter
- Cotton candy
- Down
- Dryer lint
- Feathers
- Kittens
- Marshmallows
- Pillow
- Powder puff
- Puppies
- Snow
- Souffle
- Teddy bear

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# FUN PAGES

# SEMUCU

south east madera county united

## IT IS FIRE SEASON! ?Are you prepared?

If you are experiencing domestic well or water quality problems, contact "Self-Help Enterprises." Qualified people may have a water tank installed or have bottled water delivered, or have work done on a new or existing well. For your needs, call or email:

Water Wells: 559-802-1289

[waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Water Quality: 559-802-1285

[waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Tank Water: 559-802-1685

[tankandhauledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:tankandhauledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Bottled Water: 559-802-1284

[bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org)

### Congratulations to our Flatlanders KITE-FLYING CONTEST WINNERS

**Chlloe  
Cain**

**Eli  
Cain**

**Averie  
Cain**

Looking forward to next year

SEMUCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room  
37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library  
or online go to: [WWW.SEMCU.ORG](http://WWW.SEMCU.ORG) for the link  
by phone: 669-900-6833  
& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343 with access code 854 221

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

FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY