

The Ranchos Independent



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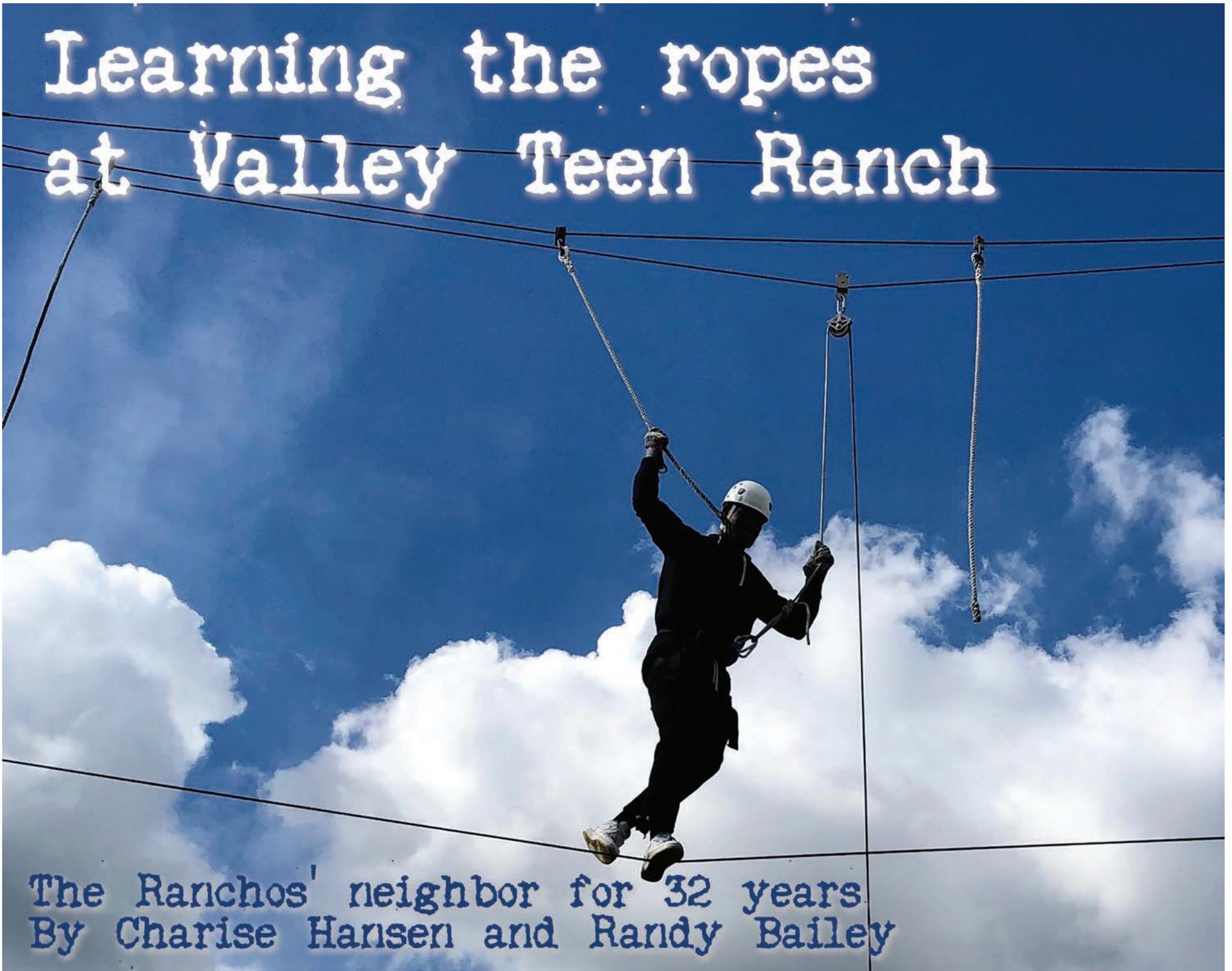
CELEBRATING
14 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 15 Issue 8 2019

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Learning the ropes at Valley Teen Ranch



The Ranchos' neighbor for 32 years
By Charise Hansen and Randy Bailey

In This Issue

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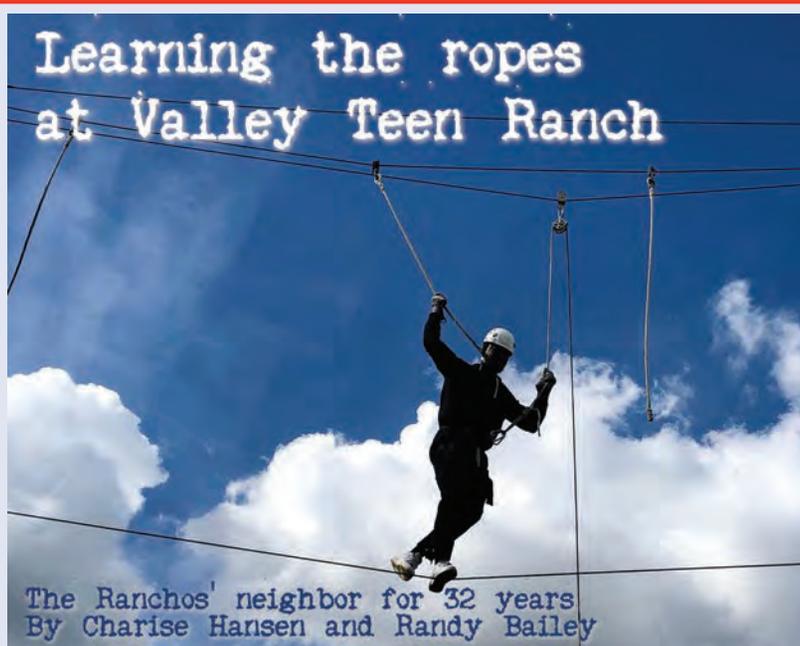
As you drive west on Avenue 12 and cross Road 35, you are probably familiar with the Valley Teen Ranch sign. For over 32 years, Valley Teen Ranch has been a part of the Madera Ranchos Community helping, children, youth, young adults and families. In the last year, however, some changes have been made. Valley Teen Ranch, or "VTR," has a new logo and a new CEO, Andrea Evans. Evans has been with VTR for over 13 years and has worked in many capacities before being promoted to CEO.

VTR is more than a ranch. Starting in the 1970s as an outgrowth of the Fresno-Madera Youth For Christ organization, a group that was volunteering at the Juvenile Hall that wanted to develop a long-term, residential, healthy living environment capable of helping children and youth locked up in Juvenile Hall.

The inspiration came from the Michigan Teen Ranch which had been started by the Michigan Youth For Christ. In 1979, Fresno pastor Bufo Karraker asked David Purvis and his wife Leslie to go to Michigan for two years to learn how to become house parents for the Fresno Teen Ranch. In 1983 they established an official Board of Directors, became incorporated and hired Purvis as the Executive Director and Founder of Valley Teen Ranch.

They settled on 80 acres of barren land at Avenue 12 and Road 35 in the Madera Ranchos in 1985. The first home was completed and the first 10 boys arrived in May 1987, supervised by three full-time and four part time employees and many volunteers. The California State Department of Social Services granted a license to operate as a Residential Group Home that year.

The second home was built and licensed in May 1991 and the third home in 1998. There is also a swimming



pool, ropes course, equestrian program, basketball court, soccer, baseball and football fields, sand volleyball pits, a shop building and a school at the ranch that opened in 2005. It is operated as a Community Day School in partnership with the Golden Valley Unified School District.

The mission of Valley Teen Ranch is "To provide hope to vulnerable children, youth and families through life changing relationships and experiences."

VTR provides for 32 boys who have been placed with the facility from County Probation Departments throughout the State, via a court order by the Juvenile Judge. They have committed offenses such as Assault and Battery, Grand Theft Auto, Breaking and Entering, Truancy from School and Drug and Alcohol abuse. They typically stay with VTR for 12-15 months where they participate in

daily chores, individual and group counseling, and receive two weekly substance abuse treatments in groups. They are taught by example to be respectful, polite, responsible, reliable and to tell the truth. They also assist with outdoor chores such as feeding the animals, irrigating the pastures, cleaning the swimming pool and grounds maintenance.

In the Ranchos, most people know about VTR and its boys in the Residential Therapeutic Program, but there are other programs. VTR programs available to the community include a Foster Family Agency, Adoption Agency and the Transitional Living Home. VTR's goal is to build a foundation for life in all their areas for all those they serve.

The Residential Therapeutic Program at the Ranch is for boys ages 13-17. They often require rehabilitation through therapeutic care. They come to the Ranch trying to navigate trauma, sometimes the loss of their family relationships and the need for stability in their lives. VTR provides intervention, mentorship and education to promote a new way of thinking and being.

A graduate of VTR wrote to the school and said, "Valley Teen Ranch staff actually care and will support what you want to do if you put your mind to it. They are always there if you need someone to talk to. They were there for me even when I was messing up. I am thankful for the program and all the support and guidance."

VTR regularly receives messages from boys who have moved on. Some contact VTR right after leaving and some make contact throughout their lives. The difference the staff and the program made in helping them turn-around or navigate their lives is a common thread.

T.V. School Receives Design Award

Hillside Elementary School – Chawanakee Unified's newest elementary school – was the only new elementary school in the Central Valley to receive an award of distinction from the 2019 Education Design Showcase awards by School Planning & Management. "This award is a testament to the commitment of our Board to provide high-quality facilities that support student learning," said Darren Sylvia, superintendent of Chawanakee Unified School District.

School Planning & Management created the Education Design Showcase in 1999 to share innovative and practical practices in planning, design, and construction to support the creation of the best possible learning environments for students at all levels of education.

Chawanakee Unified opened Hillside Elementary School in August 2018 well ahead of the first residents moving in. The state-of-art school is located in Hillside Village, Tesoro Viejo's inaugural residential village. Serving students in transitional kindergarten through 8th grade, Hillside El-

ementary School offers a strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum. Students learn by doing with project-based learning and the "outdoor classroom" concept allows for hands-on learning with the natural resources of the community's landscape.

Hillside Elementary School received the Project of Distinction award for its innovative design that features a 12-foot sliding door system that allows for innovative instruction. The oversized openings expand the learning space where teachers can collaborate with other teachers, as well as provide learning opportunities for students outside the traditional classroom walls.

Hillside Elementary School was designed by Integrated Designs by SOMAM, Inc. It is the first school to be built in Tesoro Viejo. To accommodate the planned growth of the area, the Chawanakee Unified School District Board took action in May 2019 to hire SIM-PBK Architects to design the new educational complex planned for Tesoro Viejo with an anticipated opening in Fall 2025.

Valley Mosquitoes Turn Deadly

In the April 2019 issue of the Ranchos Independent, we reported that one of the byproducts of our very wet winter was a dramatic growth in mosquito populations. Just this week it has been reported that the Fresno County Health Department confirmed a death in Fresno County from the West Nile virus, spread by mosquitoes. The health department further stressed that August and September are positioned to see a rise in infections.

The Fresno man, Robert Diaz, 84, died on July 26. California health officials say he is the second Californian in 2019 to die from the virus. In addition to Fresno County, in recent weeks Tulare County has also reported its first cases of West Nile virus in humans.

It has also been reported that a

woman in Clovis has been admitted to Clovis Community Hospital with symptoms of a mosquito bite and subsequent West Nile virus symptoms.

In addition to West Nile virus, the Fresno County Health Department last week also claimed to have discovered a "severe" case of Saint Louis Encephalitis.

According to the website www.encephalitis.info, there is no specific treatment for West Nile virus. The simplest preventative measure is to avoid bites from the mosquitoes that carry the virus. Wear long sleeves and trousers and avoiding areas where stagnant water can be found. Use an insect spray containing at least 30 percent DEET.

There is no vaccine at present to protect against West Nile virus.



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Letters

Dear Editor:

There are a lot of cruel adjectives I could use to describe RH's embarrassingly twisted thought processes (Ranchos Independent Volume 15, issue 7), but I find personal attacks to be counter-productive and juvenile. That being said, it's sad to see someone so blinded by hate and socialist propaganda that they can't begin to understand where and why support for our president has come from. Let me explain to him/her in simple, easy to understand language, why President Trump is the most popular president in recent history.

First, he/she calls President Trump a "dirt-bag," yet it was his political rival who sold access to the highest reaches of our government to our enemies, including access to her top-secret e-mails, and selling uranium to Russia (high treason). She gave birth to the term "Arkancide" for the untimely deaths of dozens

of associates who proposed a threat to her. Her "foundation" also milked millions from their Haiti relief fund (grand theft).

It wasn't him who has made trips to Iran to help the enemy thwart our sanctions against that terrorist nation like Kerry and Obama (again, treason!).

It wasn't him who opens our borders to illegal aliens, giving them free medical care, housing, EBT cards and cash, while the veterans who risked their lives to defend America sleep on the streets and have far less than adequate medical care. They've already sacrificed for America, and now "Demoncrats" are making them sacrifice again for Mexico, Venezuela and other nations.

They've increased the danger to the citizens of America with "sanctuary cities," and propagated the re-introduction of formerly eradicated diseases like bubonic plague,

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7



Yves Dushime

Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life...



An Evening With Yves

Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Golden Valley Baptist Church
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Hear Yves Dushime share his inspiring story of receiving a shoebox as a child. "Operation Christmas Child is changing the world one shoebox, one church, and one community at a time." Yves Dushime

YVES DUSHIME was born to a family of eight in a refugee camp in Congo. His family fled from the ripple effects of the Rwandan genocide and moved from Rwanda to Congo, Kenya and Togo.

Yves was 11 years old and living in Togo when he received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. He saw his favorite item, a scarf, as a promise from God that He would deliver his family from their life as refugees. Yves now lives in upstate New York and uses his scarf often. Through Operation Christmas Child, he realized God is able to use simple gifts to plant seeds of hope. To hear about God's faithfulness in his life, and to hear how Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes transformed his entire community, please join us for a special time of Yves sharing his testimony.

8/19

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Editorial

Everything Old is New Again

By Randy Bailey

It seems like more and more people are talking about Avenue 12. Petitions are being signed, the Madera County Board of Supervisors is being involved and people are beginning to talk about this newly discovered plight on the Ranchos. Those are all good things. An involved populace is better than being surprised by the County dumping something on us.

But this is not a new topic. The first discussion of what to do about Avenue 12 was held on Nov. 20, 2007 at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce in a standing room only meeting with residents, County personnel and developers. At that meeting, utilizing Avenue 9 was strongly favored as a way to get the excessive traffic off of Avenue 12.

On Feb. 13, 2008 there was a second meeting where the Avenue 9 route was strongly favored by the residents of the Ranchos but it was quickly shot down by the County folk, led by then-Supervisor Frank Bigelow. The argument then was all about money. Later, a suggestion to make Avenue 9 an expressway paid for with tolls was floated but nothing ever came of it. Frank Bigelow went on to the California Assembly and we're where we are today.

At that time I wrote an editorial that appeared in the April 2008 Ranchos Independent. Here are some highlights:

"I want an Avenue 12 bypass.

When I saw the map produced by TPG Consulting that showed actual traffic counts for our little main street here in the Ranchos, I knew it was time.

According to the traffic analysis done by Charley Clouse of the aforementioned TPG Consulting, the people stopping on Avenue 12 on an average given day comprise about one third of the population of the Ranchos.

That's it. There aren't thousands of eager shoppers anxiously waiting to park their cars and shop for groceries or eat a great breakfast. Seventy-five percent of them just shoot right on by. And they'd shoot right on by at 70 miles per hour if all of those stupid Ranchos people would just get out of their way!

The research shows that on an average day we have approximately 13,000 drivers [this was in 2007/2008] coming into one side of the Ranchos and about 10,000 drivers exiting the other side. I'm no math whiz, but this one seems pretty easy to me. About 3,000 travellers each day (OK -- it's US ... and a few stragglers mixed in every so often) are using all of the wonderful things that the Ranchos have to offer.

Too bad. Their loss.

But now knowing that, I'm ready to do something about it. Call me crazy (as if several of you don't already), but I can envision an Avenue 12 running through the Madera Ranchos that looks like ... dare I say it ... Carmel? Yeah, I know we're kind of missing that whole 'ocean' thing, but what I'm talking about is the feel of Carmel. The feel of Davis by the University. San Luis Obispo. Old Town Sacramento.

What I'm talking about is if we get rid of the people who view the Ranchos as a hindrance in their quest to either get to Highway 41 or Highway 99, then we can make the Ranchos what we've always wanted it to be -- a nice, peaceful little community where you'd be happy to raise your kids. Move the Speed Racers over to a bypass and let us transform Avenue 12 into a meandering thoroughfare with sidewalk cafes and shops. Slow the traffic down to a crawl so you could actually get across the street if you wanted a pizza or a sandwich. Make the Ranchos a 'destination' for people looking to get away from Fresno or Clovis or Madera for a little while. It's completely

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 7

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

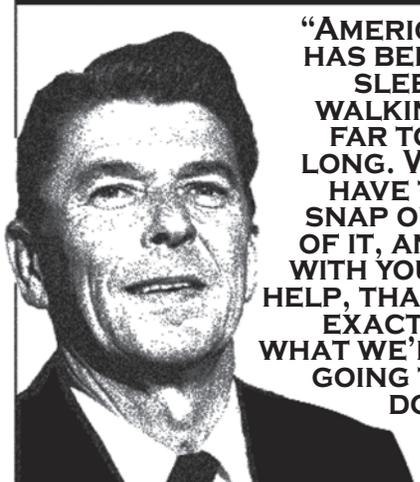
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I Can't Make This Stuff Up

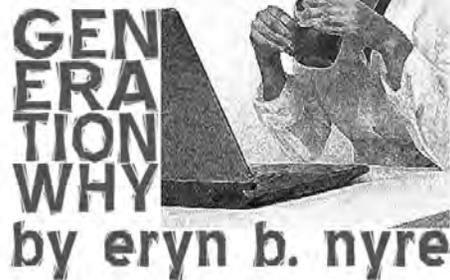
Sometimes I think that I'm on some sort of long-running TV prank show that never ends and doesn't actually air anything. The things I see from the people I work with seem more likely to show up in a bad comedy movie written by some guy imagining the dumbest things that could happen in an office setting that he never actually believes could happen. They happen, by golly, and they happen with the kind of frequency that should make us fear for the future of mine and every other company in the United States.

Every week I teach a recertification class that is not only required for employment but mandated by Medicaid guidelines. A couple of weeks ago a young man walked up to me and asked if he could leave. This was barely two hours into the class, but he pulled me

aside and asked for my blessing for him to leave four hours early. I should make it clear that this was

"... you're going to see that try as I might, I just can't make this stuff up."

not due to some sort of emergency. He wanted special permission to leave and yet still get credit for having attended. Why? He said that he was running on very little sleep from the night before because he had a date that evidently went very well. I stopped him before he offered any details and explained to him that this training is a condition of employment and the only way to get credit is to attend the entire class and complete the competency testing at the end. Like the Disney Princess he clearly aspires to be he stomped his foot and went back into class complaining about how his employment is getting in the way of living his life. Watching a 20-something "man" stomp his foot and complain at having to actually work at his job is a sight to see, I'm telling you. I'm curious what kind of girl signed up to spend time with him but



that's neither here nor there. Speaking of Disney princesses, I have been witness to a live action glimpse of Sleeping Beauty herself. I was overseeing a clinical training when I stepped out for a bit only to return and find my trainer lying on the bed we have set up to teach transfer techniques. She was dead asleep like she just jammed her finger down on the spindle of a spinning wheel in the hopes that today was the day her prince would come. The snoring was one for the books, too. I'm pretty sure

Prince Phillip would have run back to the dragon had he heard those noises coming out of this particular princess. Come to think of it, maybe she was Sleeping Beast. To add just a touch more ridiculous to an already absurd situation, after I woke her up and escorted her from the room she told me that I was being unreasonable because none of the students were using the bed at that moment because they were all busy learning other things. But ... um ... who was teaching them, then, if you were off in dream world getting paid to chainsaw some logs? She didn't have an answer for that. She is also no longer my clinical trainer.

My favorite instance of late, however, came from one woman who tried to turn in her compliance tests without actually having filled them out. In keeping with the theme I'm

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 17

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8/19

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

do-able.

The best part of this is if you're one of those people who wants to speed out of the Ranchos, no problem! Drive a few blocks over to the south and have at it. Go east, go west ... heck, go 70 miles an hour! You will not have lost a thing, but what everyone else will gain will be awesome.

There is no reason why there couldn't be outdoor concerts in such an area or art shows or collectors events or flea markets or car shows ... the list goes on and on. But none of those things really make a whole lot of sense with cars whizzing by -- illegally passing on the right because they might be slowed down by 30 seconds -- prohibiting people from turn-

ing into any of those venues or from walking across the street for some coffee and a cigar in the open night air.

Well there it is. I've made my stand. Yes to the bypass. No to building four lanes down the middle of Avenue 12. And then six. And then ...

... Think of how your community can look. Think about what it can become ... Make no mistake about it -- Avenue 12 is going to change in the future. The only question is will we be responsible for that change or will someone else force their change upon us?"

There you go. Ideas from 11 years ago. I think they still have merit. I think I'm going to dust them off and see if time has made them more palatable.

What are you going to do?

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

measles, mumps, polio and others to which we no longer have immunity.

And then, there's Obama's track record: Eight years of war with no success against ISIS. Lowest economic growth in history. Record number of people on food stamps. Record number of mass shootings. Record high health insurance costs and fines. Record high national debt. Worst rioting since 1967, record job loss to overseas and the highest poverty level in America's history.

"Dirtbag"??? That title fits our "leaders" who are entrenched in our legislature like ticks on a dog's behind and have NEVER kept any campaign promise to the American people!

Now, let's compare MY president, Donald Trump: He promised us an improved economy, and gave us the best in recent history. ISIS is virtually eradicated. We now have peace on the Korean Peninsula for the first time in 70 years, and the first president to step foot in N.K. in that time.

GDP in the United States is expected to be \$20.2 trillion by the end of this quarter, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts' expectations. In the long-term, the United States GDP is projected to trend around \$21.2 trillion in 2020, according to our econometric models. The highest in history.

Obama added more than 6 million recipients to the food stamp/EBT rolls, while the blossoming Trump economy has taken more than 2 million off the rolls by bringing industry and manufacturing back from overseas. (www.trivisonno.com/wp-content/uploads/Food-Stamps-Presidents.png).

In very simple terms by necessity, President Trump has done more for our nation in less than two years than all presidents combined in more than 25 years.

I hope this adequately explains where support for our president comes from, R.H. Get ready for another four years of success, growth and prosperity starting with his reelection in 2020. MAGA!

From America with pride!
C. L. Cake
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

In regard to the letter to the editor, by R.H. in the volume 15 7-2019:

I could have written this letter myself with little change. Had the author substituted President Barack Obama for President Trump, he would have expressed my views exactly. As I read further into the article, casting aside all worries of my rising blood pressure, a few historical facts came to mind.

First, even though President Trump's

colorful statements are sometimes cringe worthy, I have never been embarrassed by what he has said. On the other hand, I found Obama's apology tour of the world extremely offensive and un-American. He seemed to blame most of the world's wars, poverty and strife on the U.S.A. In fact, the world's problems are directly caused by lack of freedom, radical theocracies, corrupt dictators and ignorance of much of the world's population regarding freedom and liberty, having never known it, and lack of capitalism and the patent and copyright laws necessary in a functioning economy. Even communist China figured that out and introduced limited capitalism in their socialist government.

Or, how about J.F.K.'s notorious affairs while he was in the White House, or Bill and Hillary's many corrupt, immoral and often illegal acts? Probably one of the most brilliant -- yet evil acts by any president -- was that of L.B.J. with his war on poverty program; he and the democratic party were able to put the blacks back on the plantations. Simple and audacious, it gave the disadvantaged, mostly black, Americans a subsistence living through government programs and at the same time created one of the largest voting blocs with a singular cause, that of voting for democrats who promised to give them more free stuff, and threatened that if they voted for the republicans that they would certainly lose those benefits.

Of course, neither statement was true. However, his policy accomplished three things: 1) kept the African Americans mostly confined to the inner city ghettos where they felt they belonged; 2) created the fear among the poor of losing what little they had if they didn't vote democratic; 3) created a permanent voting block for the democrats. In contrast, President Lincoln, a republican, took this country to war in order to abolish slavery. Who fought against abolishing slavery? Apparently, you don't know it was the democratic south; the same party of Lyndon Johnson and his new "Keep them on the Plantation Bill" of the 1960s that cost thousands of American lives in order to keep the African Americans in virtual chains.

Of course, one can never accurately describe the history of the democratic party without mentioning Jimmy Carter and his feckless presidency. There is a president whose record of accomplishment of being the worst president in American history stood until being dethroned by Barack Hussein Obama, one of Obama's few accomplishments. Following President George W. Bush's removal of Saddam Hussein from power in the second gulf war to the benefit of a greater enemy -- that of Iran -- I found the actions of Obama in giving the Mullahs of Iran

Please see LETTERS on P. 17

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Souper Soups

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the August 2009 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Aunt Jean fell in her home earlier this month. She is undergoing rehabilitation therapy to get her strength back and should be returning to us after that. People have been asking how to send her cards to wish her well. You can send your well-wishes to;

Jean Briner
C/O The Ranchos
Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93636

I will be sure she gets them all. -- Editor

A Soup Lover

I love soup in the winter time, but I know people (my youngest sister for one and Virginia here in the office) who would eat soup every day of the year. I usually have a pot of homemade soup in my refrigerator ready to warm up most of the time when it is cold outside. On Halloween, we have a "souper party" at either my sister's or over at Steve's, one of my nephews. We have a pot luck of soups, each bringing our favorite to share. There is always a pot of vegetable soup and I take a pot of split pea and someone brings a salad and lots of French bread. This way the kids get to eat a little before they go out trick or treating and they usually eat again when they get back.

Years ago, when I was working for Rod Stock in downtown Fresno, some of us in the office would go down to the Yturri Hotel for lunch and eat in the dining room with the shepherders. You sat at these long tables with the shepherders, although they usually congregated by themselves. Food would be served "family style" – first



by Jean Briner

big bowls of soup, followed by big stainless steel bowls of salad, then vegetables, the entrees and ending with dessert. They prepared the best beef barley soup I have ever eaten and with a big plate of their salad and French bread that was enough for lunch. Salads weren't fancy, sometimes just chopped lettuce with a vinaigrette dressing. When you left there if you were still hungry it was your fault. Or does anyone remember the Greek Restaurant that was in the old Farmers Market in that triangle where Divisadero & Tulare streets meet (there is an Office Depot there now)? That's where I learned to love Lamb Shanks – they had the best spinach salad ever. Just spinach, a little hardboiled egg and a vinaigrette dressing whose recipe I wish I had.

Last month I told you I had received two soup recipes from Linda Manter. The first one is Turkey Tortilla Soup.

Turkey Tortilla Soup

1 pkg. ground turkey meat
1 large onion – chopped
1 large can chicken broth (49 oz.)
1 can diced tomatoes – do not drain
3 garlic cloves, chopped
2 stalks of celery – chopped
1 can kidney beans, drained
4 carrots – sliced
¼ tsp ground oregano
1 ½ tsp cumin
½ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
½ tsp black pepper
½ tsp salt
Brown and cook meat

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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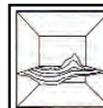
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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

with onion then add the rest of the above ingredients and simmer for 45 minutes. Then add:

- ½ pkg. frozen corn *
- 1/3 bunch of cilantro rough chopped
- 2 large potatoes, cubed

Cook until potatoes are done. Serve with crumbled tortilla chips or warmed tortillas. If you think you need more broth, add additional chicken broth.

*Linda is referring to the 1 pound bag. I use these all the time; they are cheaper than buying the little box. Just use what you need out of the bag and fold the top down and secure bag with a rubber band until next time.

From Around the World

Recently Igal Treibatch was in the office and Randy was telling us about the Bee-rocks he made the night before. Igal said they reminded him of something he makes. Maybe sometime we can prevail upon him to give us some of his recipes. However, he did say that his favorite salad was "Israeli Salad."

Israeli Salad

- 1 large cucumber (Some people call them English cucumber, wrapped in cellophane in the super market)
- 6 medium sized tomatoes
- 1 bell pepper – seeded
- 1 full bunch of red radishes

(Trimmed, using red portion)

- 1 bunch green onions (Using only the green portion)

Chop all vegetables into about a quarter inch cubes, the smaller the better. Mix together with 1/3 tsp salt and ¼ tsp black pepper. Mix in a quarter cup Extra Virgin Olive oil and the juice of half a large lemon. Let this sit for about an hour before serving. Juices will form in bottom of bowl. Igal said to NOT drain those off because they are delicious sopped up with a piece of French bread.

According to the Internet, this salad is "Distinguished by the tiny diced vegetables and described as the 'most

well-known national dish of Israel.' It is widely regarded as an Israeli National dish."

Soup in the Garden

For those of you that have a summer garden, you can literally have a pot of "summer salad soup" in your yard. Just boil a piece of meat with salt and pepper until it's done. Take the meat or chicken out of the pot and add vegetables from your garden: chopped tomatoes, onions, zucchini, corn, okra, maybe string beans and a chopped up potato. Let this simmer until all the vegetables are done and the broth is the consistency you like for soup and then return the chopped meat. Just remember, as in all cooking, be sure to use seasoning as you go.






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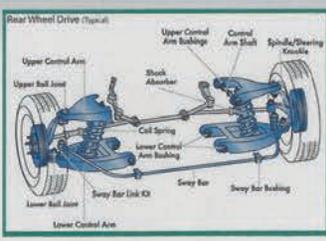
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For Your Driving Pleasure

As I drive around the Central Valley, people see “Organized by Choice” on my back window. Years ago, I attended a networking meeting and got some free publicity when one of the attendees announced to everyone that even the inside of my car is well-organized. Up until then, I hadn’t really thought about the inside publicizing my skills like the outside does. At that moment I was glad that I practice what I preach.

Many of us spend a lot of time in our cars. When we in the Ranchos “go into town,” we want to make sure we have what we need and are prepared for the day. The more time and people you have in your car, the more necessary it is to have some organizational systems in place to make as pleasant as possible. Here are 10 tips to make it so:

1. Familiarize yourself with the built-in storage your car offers. Car salespeople spend more time selling a car on its technology, safety and comfort than on the storage compartments it provides. Glove compartments are standard, but yours may have undiscovered glasses storage, armrest and other storage areas.

2. Maximize the storage areas you have with console organizers. You can purchase ones that are molded to your car, or just use Ziplocs and other small containers to separate and organize the contents such as hand sanitizer, sunscreen, insect repellent and coins.

3. Designate specific homes for items like your vehicle registration and insurance information. A small plastic expandable pouch stored in the glove compartment or center console makes it easy to find these items when needed. A similar pouch can be used to store coupons so they’re with you when you arrive at a coupon destination.

4. If your pick-up doubles as storage for tools and hunting gear, you may consider transforming the dead space under the seats into storage with DU-HA under seat storage compartment. (DU-HA.com)

5. Trunk organizers provide storage for jumper cables, flares and first aid kits as well as compartments to keep groceries from sliding around. You can purchase headrest hooks that

enable you to hang grocery bags, backpacks and jackets by the back seat. These are all available on Amazon.com.

6. On her website OneGoodThing-byJillee.com, Jillee recommends lining your cup holders with silicone muffin cups. You can pop them in the dishwasher when they get messy. You can also repurpose a plastic cereal container by lining it with a plastic bag and using it as a car trash can.

7. Eliminate the frustration of dropping your phone and other small things in the gap between the seat and center console with a Drop Stop gap filler. (Amazon.com)

8. I carry a small bin on the passenger’s seat with tissues, wipes, snacks, coupons, notepad and pen so they’re handy when needed. This is also a good spot for items I’m returning.

9. If you taxi kids, you’ll want to have Ziplocs for extra baby items (diapers, wipes, undies), and older kid stuff like car activities and games. Keep a few extra Ziplocs for wet, messy, or soiled items. There should also be some handy in case of car sick passengers.

10. Store your reusable grocery bags or bins in a designated area or container and get into the habit of putting them back into the car right away or placing them with your purse or other out-going items. My favorite Costco and grocery “bags” are the collapsible bins and nylon totes from CleverMade, also available on Amazon.

Getting your car prepped and organized is all for naught if you don’t have a maintenance plan. Place a trash can in the garage so it’s simple to empty the trash daily or every other day. Before exiting the car, survey the front and back seats and bring in everything that doesn’t need to stay. Replace any items you’ve used to their designated homes. If traveling with kids, make sure they bring in their water bottles, backpacks, etc. Delegate vacuuming and wiping down the dash as a weekly kid chore. Presto, you’re done.

Contact Organized by Choice (because things don’t always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also pay a visit online to www.organizedbychoice.com.

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The Bookshelf

Change is Here for Ranchos Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

School is back in session and it is great seeing all the kids so excited to start their new school year. Moving up in grade means new opportunities to learn things never before available to them and a whole new year to process it all. For those that haven't quite gotten to elementary school yet, our weekly story-time with Mrs. Maxfield has started back up on Thursdays at 11 a.m. every week. Geared toward ages 3-5, we have a story, snack and craft each week with a different theme to match.

As I'm sure you've seen, our construction crew is hard at work fixing up the building for the new library and we are on our way to the move sometime this year. It's been a long time coming but we are excited to stretch our legs and get some more room for the library to continue growing to serve our ever-expanding community here in the Ranchos. With the help from our local Friends of the Ranchos Library group, we will be sure to meet as many community needs as we can with the new facility and can't wait to be able to give you all more details regarding it. News and updates will roll out through our Facebook page as they become available.

This month, the Madera County Library System joined up with a program called Hoopla, which allows our patrons to check out digital items from their expansive library of eBooks, audiobooks, comics, tv shows, movies and even music CDs. Madera county patrons are able to check out three items per month from this system completely for free using their library card. This system is an addition to our pre-existing participation with Overdrive/Libby which allows you to check out items from our own collection through a digital format. This is all in an effort to expand our

availability to our communities and we love reaching out to you in more ways. Hoopla, Overdrive and Libby are all available as applications that can be downloaded to your smartphone through either the app store or the Google Play store. We are more than happy to help get you set up on the applications in the branch if you need assistance with anything in particular regarding the library system apps.

Another awesome tool available to you with your San Joaquin Valley Library card is access to the ValleyCat app. ValleyCat allows you to view the entire collection through the simplicity of an easy to use system. You can request books to be sent to you here at the Ranchos library, check the status of requests you have already put in, see if a book is currently in stock, renew anything you have checked out and see the due dates for anything that is on your account. The app lets you maintain multiple cards within one login, and I've found it to be a lifesaver for keeping track of what I've got checked out from the library.

Speaking of library cards, keep an eye out for promotions during the month of September. September is National Library Card Sign-up month, so if you've been holding out on getting a card with us, you may want to get one in September.

The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12
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3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what’s going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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Senior Report

Seniors Bringing Lasagna - *Mangia!*

By Margaret Tynan

September is a busy time for the Madera Ranchos community. Parents are getting their children outfitted and ready for school, teachers are meeting their students and implementing lesson plans and people are finishing summer projects and starting new ones for fall.

Ranchos/Hills Seniors Activity Center is no exception. A group of members is busy planning the Second Annual Holiday Craft Fair which will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many artists and crafters from the area are already signed up to exhibit their work and we are still recruiting more. If you or someone you know would be interested in signing up to be a vendor at the Holiday Craft Fair, stop by the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and

12:30 p.m. to register. You may also request a registration form through email at rhseniors@att.net, attention Carol Wood. Or Phone 559-645-4864. Cost is \$30 per space and is on a first-come-first-serve basis so register early. Be sure to mark your calendar. You won't want to miss the opportunity to find that perfect handcrafted gift or item for your home. Watch for more details in the next edition of the "Senior Report."

MANGIA! MANGIA! That's Italian for EAT! EAT! The community is welcome to join us at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Activity Center for Italian Night Lasagna Dinner, Saturday, Sept. 14. Arrive at 5 p.m. for meet and greet with a delicious lasagna dinner to follow. A Raffle, 50-50 and door prize are planned. Purchase your tickets and sign up in advance at the center. Tickets for the dinner are \$18 per person. *"Vieni a mangiare con noi."* That's Italian for "Come eat with us." We hope to see you there.

Are you or someone you know in the process of planning to enroll in Medicare or are already receiving the program bene-

fits? There may be questions that you have about the program like: When can I enroll? What are the options? What do Medicare Parts A, B, C and D cover? The Center is offering the community two events to help answer your questions. The first event is to be held at the Center Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. It is sponsored by Humana. It is not a

sales event, but is for informational purpose only. The second Medicare informational session is Wednesday, Sept. 18. Representatives from the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will be at the Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. They will provide free confidential consultation (Spanish speaker available) on many aspects of Medicare such as benefits and rights, how to navigate the system, etc. HICAP is a non-profit funded by Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging. They serve all ages

of current Medicare beneficiaries, family members, or those who are about to become eligible, to make informed decisions about their health care. HICAP does not sell or endorse any products or companies. We hope you will attend one or both of these informational sessions and bring your friends.

Are you "puzzled" about how to spend a fun Sunday afternoon? We have something planned that just might fit, a 500 Piece Puzzle Competition. Whether you're a puzzle fanatic or a first-time puzzler, roll up your sleeves and join in a unique one-of-a-kind competition on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. Teams will be formed randomly the day of this free event. Seating is limited so sign up at the Center ASAP.

Don't forget the regular monthly Bake and Boutique, Garden and Treasure House Sale on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. We'll see you there.

Thought for September: *"The problem is that we always look for the missing piece of the puzzle instead of finding a place for the one in our hand."* — Alina Radoi



It's Italian Night featuring a lasagna dinner at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 5 p.m. Get your tickets.



If you're puzzled about finding something to do, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors are having a puzzle building competition on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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SEMUCU speaks

By Matt Maringer

SEMUCU Who?
Free to the Public and You're Invited

Southeast Madera County United (SEMUCU) is a non-profit benefit organization promoting local interests in the SEMUCU area: Portions of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and by Avenue 32 ½ north of its intersection with the railway.

As you know, there are not many venues available to the general public, whether residents, landowners or business owners, that offer information regarding issues facing our community. Issues such as water, schools, roadways, safety, energy, parks & recreation, libraries, etc. Most of the information comes from social media, attending various County meetings, word of mouth, our local Ranchos Independent, and an occasional television story.

SEMUCU meets once a month on

the third Monday at 6 p.m. at the Pizza Factory. Free pizza and soft drinks are provided. Your one-hour investment generates a ton of benefits. You have the opportunity to learn about issues relevant to you, ask questions – and maybe receive answers or maybe compel the search for an answer, have a say in how issues facing our area are addressed and promote the betterment of our community.

SEMUCU writes grants and obtains funding to help the area's needs. Most recently grants have been obtained to offer rebates for energy efficient dishwashers and washing machines to provide water-saving devices and water meters. Of special note: SEMUCU thanks local farmers and businesses for the funding of dry wells in our area and SEMUCU hopes to continue this project by seeking a grant for installing dry wells.

SEMUCU is a non-profit mutual benefit organization that advocates for our community and needs your voice. The more the louder!

Come on down to the Pizza Factory any third Monday of the month. No investment needed other than your time for one hour. Oh, yes, don't forget the free pizza.

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Kiwanis Korner

Fundraiser Coming to Riverstone

By Becky Koop

"Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child, one community at a time."

The Kiwanis put the word FUN in the word FUNdraiser. We are excited to announce that our next fundraiser will be held at the Riverstone Lodge on Saturday, Oct. 26. There will be food, games and lots of good laughs, so stay tuned for updates. Tickets will be going on sale soon and remember the proceeds will help fund our Liberty High School scholarship program. On another note, if you would like to donate or volunteer for this local event, please contact Leslie Carella at 559-645-6249 or Becky Koop at 559-479-1487.

The Kiwanis were fortunate to catch up with District Attorney Sally Moreno in July. She shared that she has been focused on getting prosecutors and victims the resources they needed to get justice with the support of the Board of Supervisors. Part of the reorganizing of the office has included lowering the case load for three lawyers specifically allocated to violent crimes, and three lawyers specifically allocated to the special victims unit. The office is also working on a new file manager system that will go live in November. This system should make it easier to track information on specific cases and allow the attorneys to research past cases and offenders as needed.

The Boy Scouts of America also at-

tended one of our meetings to update the Kiwanis on their activities and future plans. The Kiwanis charter the Boy Scouts here in the Ranchos, and Troop 118 has produced over 50 Eagle Scouts, 21 in the last three years alone. This is well over the national average and it is a credit to our dedicated local leaders and their well-developed program that local Boy Scouts are staying in the program and achieving this coveted award. Rod Chaney, Assistant Council Commissioner, also discussed the new program of creating troops for girls. These troops, similar to other troops in other countries, have been requested by parents. The new troops will not be co-ed but will have their own leaders with some shared activities and facilities. It is an exciting time for the Boy Scouts program, as more of the Ranchos youth will benefit from these opportunities.

You are always welcome to join us at one of our meetings. Come down any Thursday, (except the first one of the month), to the Pizza Factory Banquet Room on Avenue 12, at 6:15 p.m. You will enjoy the camaraderie and fun, and also be a part of making a difference in our community.



Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno was on hand to talk about the improvements being made to the District Attorney's office.



Rod Chaney, Assistant Council Commissioner (left), and John Martin shared Ranchos Troop 118's abundance of Eagle Scouts.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com



Winning Races with Corn

Hello 93636,

As many of you know, "back in the day" working on race cars was my passion. I worked on just about every kind of circle-track race car from open-wheel super modifieds to hobby stocks both asphalt and dirt. My claim to fame was as being the crew chief of the #43, alcohol-burning, Nick Arias-powered, full-scale, winged midget back in the early 80s. In 1983 at the Copper World Classic in Phoenix Arizona, we lined up in the 3rd row, tied for 5th quickest qualifying time with NASCAR driver Ken Schrader. A quick 10 years later my oldest daughter became a teenager and I retired from racing to become a full-time father. It was a very good decision that I do not regret.

Earlier this year I received a phone call from my son asking me to come by his house. I was definitely surprised when I saw a Madera Speedway Toyota Sedan race car sitting in the driveway. After 26 years of retirement, I decided to return to racing to keep Andrew safe and spend more time with my young new pit crew (my grandchildren).

The Toyota Sedan Class is a budget class which requires a stock un-modified engine block and cylinder head. It wasn't long before my competitive nature kicked in and I was continually thinking of ways to try and win.

TECH FACT: The "Otto" cycle internal combustion engine was the invention of German engineer Nikolaus Otto in 1876. In 1885 Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler were the first to use the internal combustion engine in an automobile.

I know the average "Otto" cycle engine is only about 20 percent efficient with about 80 percent of its usable energy lost as heat energy and friction, but automotive engineers have developed many new technologies that have doubled its efficiency.

As a certified automotive emissions technician, I've spent hundreds of training hours learning how to diagnosis, service and repair these new technologies. Since we can't modify our engine, let's apply our training and improve its efficiency.

The new technologies Andrew and I focused on were Variable Valve Timing (VVT) strategies, Pumping Loss strategies

and flex-fuel science. When I learned E85-R flex-fuel (ethanol alcohol) was legal, I knew that was the direction we should go.

For the past several months, on the Saturdays we weren't racing, we have been load testing our blended technologies on our emissions dynamometer at higher speeds with full throttle acceleration. As a result of testing, we incorporated an oxygen sensor, employed VVT strategies, Pumping Losses strategies and converted to E85-R flex-fuel. The only modifications we made to our engine during the flex-fuel conversion was to increase our compression ratio 1.7 points and increase the carburetor jetting.

Last month we raced with our improvements and we won our 1st race at Madera Speedway.

Although the Pumping Loss and VVT strategies worked well, I attribute most of our performance gains to the flex-fuel conversion. With flex-fuel, the ethanol alcohol made more power, significantly reduced inlet air temperature and decreased engine operating temperature by 20 degrees. The downside was a 60 percent increase in fuel consumption.

In the past I have been critical of flex-fuel technology, primarily due to its poor fuel economy. However, after testing and racing with E85, I see its benefits and I'm re-think-

ing my position. I did a little E85 flex-fuel research and this is what I found: Today, there are nearly 20 million Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFV) on U.S. roadways capable of running on gasoline (E0) or ethanol-gasoline blends up to 85 percent. Except for a few engine and fuel system modifications, FFVs are identical to gasoline-only models. Other than the lower fuel mileage, I'm not aware of any other performance issues with E85.

E85 is an ethanol-gasoline blend containing 51 to 83 percent ethanol. Ethanol alcohol is an organic fuel that is primarily distilled from corn. The variation in the ethanol-gasoline ratio is determined by geography and season. Internal combustion engines do not run well in cold weather on alcohol alone.

During my research, I discovered this test performed by a pair of curious San Diego residents. Using their 2007 flex-fuel Chevrolet Tahoe LT, on consecutive days they made two 667-mile round trips from San Diego to Las Vegas and back. Driving on E85 required 50 gallons compared to only 36.5 gallons on regular gasoline. E85 average fuel economy was 13.5 mpg while gasoline was 18.3 mpg. The E85 cost \$154.29 while the gasoline cost \$124.96.

Because of lower pump prices, some motorists may think they are saving money when filling up with E85. On average they pay about 20-30 percent more due to its lower fuel mileage.

Recent concerns have also surfaced about the efficiency of ethanol production. Some critics have calculated it takes more energy to produce ethanol alcohol than it contains. My questions are how many gallons of ethanol can be produced from one acre of land? How many gallons of water does it take to produce 1.3 gallons of ethanol? Will there be a fuel shortage in drought years?

My opinion now is E85 is superior to gasoline because it's 30 percent oxygen enriched which lowers tailpipe emissions and has a higher-octane rating. The additional oxygen and octane were essential to the increased performance of our engine. Although there are advantages with E85 flex-fuel, it also comes with a price: While ethanol alcohol might be a part of our nation's energy independence strategy, it's clearly not the solution.

OK, that's all for this one, guys and gals. Hope this helps. As always, I am looking for interesting automotive topics to research and write about. If you have any requests, recommendations, suggestions or any general or specific questions about an automobile, I can be contacted at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or texted at 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636 Warren Parr, A 2013 & 2014 NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year.

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8/19

LETTERS cont. from P. 7
 planeloads of cash, for which they used to carry out more proxy terrorists attacks against U.S. citizens as well those of many other countries, even worse. That act alone made me question where Obama's loyalty laid.

President Trump has, for many of us, restored our pride in this country and his domestic and foreign policies have restored America to the greatness it had previously been. His economic policies have helped all working Americans including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Women and all of the other groups that the democrats espouse they to want to help.

The Wall. The illegal immigration problem could be fixed almost immediately if the democrats would work with our president and the republican congress. But that's not going to happen because the democrats don't want to solve the issue. The democrats believe they can use the turmoil at the border for a political tool

for the upcoming election, and above all they cannot allow President Trump any kind of victory, even if it means tearing the country apart. The proof of that is the fact that President Trump offered to give the D.A.C.A recipients legal permanent status in exchange for their cooperation in stopping the flow of illegals at the border, something the democrats refused to give.

I don't know where the rage comes from within you and the new democratic party, but if you and your party are successful in removing a lawfully elected president by any means other than the ballot box, or introducing the tyranny that our founders fought to defeat, then there will be violence like many of us may have thought impossible in modern America.

Don't kid yourself and open your eyes.
 Sincerely,
 Keith Canfield, Sr.
 Ranchos resident 39 years

Business Profile

Who's Gone Postal in the Ranchos?

By Randy Bailey



Jo Ann's Gone Postal owner Jo Ann Hamblin puts mail into one of her many post office boxes at her new Maywood Center location.

One of the most common laments heard in the Ranchos is, "Why don't we have a post office out here?" Thanks to Jo Ann Hamblin, owner of Jo Ann's Gone Postal, we now have the next best thing.

"I am convenient for the people of the Ranchos," she said as she discussed the benefits of finally having a postal-style business in the Ranchos. "I can save people time and money by not having to drive to Fresno or Madera."

The Ranchos resident opened her doors on Monday, Aug. 19 at 37167 Ave. 12 # 5B and offers shipping for Fed Ex, UPS, DHL and the post office. She sells packing materials or, if you don't have the time, she has package wrapping services. "If you want to make sure your items are packed securely, I make sure your items don't get broken."

In addition to packing services, Jo Ann also sells P.O. boxes and office supplies, and in the very near future will include notary services, gift wrapping, passport photos, Live Scan fingerprinting and making keys.

Wow. All of that and the best part? "No standing in line in town," Jo Ann cheerfully added.

Jo Ann's Gone postal is going to be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Tuesday she's there from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are closed on Sunday.

Jo Ann said she spent the last 10 years as a leasing agent for a real estate company, so she's no stranger to massive amounts of mailing. "I'll be able to take care of you."

The phone number for Jo Ann's Gone Postal is 559-481-3050.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

building on, let's call this woman Dopey. Dopey managed to write her name at the top of her testing packet but that is as far as she got. We even go over the answers and allow them to grade their own tests, and yet ... nothing. At the end of the class my partner and I collect the tests and review for names, answers and scores right before we dismiss everyone. We looked at her test then at each other and then at her in the kind of moment that had to have appeared choreographed. I asked her why she didn't actually take the tests. She said it was too hard and didn't think it was really that important to her job. Well, since it is a requirement

for keeping the job, I would say that's pretty important. And also, it isn't hard ... at all. They can use their notes, their information booklets, each other and can ask questions of both my partner and me. It's as easy as we can make it short of not having testing, which again is required by law. I asked why she didn't at least fill in the answers while we were going over them and she said she just didn't see why we couldn't do it for her. Negatory there, Dopey, and now you're stuck staying behind, by yourself, and doing the test again. She threw the answer test down and said she refused and what could we even do to her. We can terminate your employment and submit this incident and your behavior

to the state which could prevent you from working as a caregiver for any agency, even if the client is your own mother. I asked her if she really wanted to have just sat through six hours of training to leave the room and lose her job. I guess she didn't because she sat back down and finished the test, I mean, she did it with a lot of loud sighs and complaints under her breath but at least she did it.

The fact that I had to have such a conversation with an adult, an adult well into her forties, had me once again glancing around for hidden cameras. One day, when this all finally airs, you're going to see that try as I might, I just can't make this stuff up.

ANSWERS

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

ST	PE	TE	R	A	S	S	E	T	S	T	R	E	A	D	S				
EL	US	I	V	E	E	L	I	E	N	H	E	B	R	E	W				
TO	P	S	P	I	N	B	R	O	W	N	I	N	G	S	A	U	C	E	
BA	BI	E	T	D	S	A	D	E	G	O	I	N	A	R	K				
BU	R	N	S	C	A	L	O	R	I	E	S	S	S	E	L	A	S		
BA	G	F	U	L	A	B	E	E	S	E	A								
AN	N	P	E	L	E	F	R	O	S	T	W	A	R	N	I	N	G		
RA	I	D	L	Y	L	E	N	A	M	E	O	D	E						
SE	R	V	I	C	E	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N		
SI	D	I	G	O	R	T	I	T	O	A	S	S	U	R	E	S			
M	U	D	D	L	E	I	S	N	T	G	D	L	D	E	P	T			
H	O	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	O	P	E	L	H	E	P			
OL	D	E	A	L	A	S	T	O	M	U	S	T	O						
RE	T	I	C	L	E	I	N	G	E	M	A	R							
AL	B	V	E	T	C	R	A	N	E	O	P	E	R	A	T	O	R		
U	L	M	I	K	I	D	A	N	I	D	I	S	E	S	S	O			
P	O	U	N	D	S	T	E	R	L	I	N	G	R	E	N	T	E	R	S
AT	H	E	N	A	B	O	O	T	I	E	E	T	R	E	N	T	O	N	
PA	R	S	E	C	A	N	V	I	L	S	S	T	R	I	A	T	E		

11	15	21		
8	-	5	x	7
+	x	x		
3	x	6	÷	1
x	-			
1	+	9	x	2

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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.

	+		×		20
×		-		+	
	×		÷		18
+		×		×	
	-		×		21
11		15		21	

1 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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8/19

Here's one to take a look at!

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8/19

Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Sovereignty or Servitude? The Real Existential Threat

To borrow the Left's new favorite word, our nation does face an "existential" threat. But it is not climate change. It is a threat to our individual liberty and the republican form of limited government established by our Constitution, which elected officials are sworn to uphold. In reality, our very way of life is threatened by democrat presidential candidates' promise to usher in draconian energy changes, skyrocketing taxes and spending, government takeover of private industry through regulation and limiting individual choices.

The climate change hysteria is not about climate at all, but about *transforming America* from a nation of prosperity fueled by the freedom to innovate and create, to a nation of top-down government control and deprivation. Candidate Bernie Sanders states the real goals in the Green New Deal section of his website. In it, he urges the "political will necessary for a wholesale transformation of our society, with support for a transformation of our transporta-

tion system." He also praises 1940's President Roosevelt, apparently his idol, for restructuring the entire economy within three years.

I urge you to read Bernie's plans online (BernieSanders.com), and then to take the plunge and read Elizabeth Warren's and others'. Remember that all democrat presidential candidates endorse the Green New Deal and every cockamamie socialist scheme they can imagine.

Here is a quick recap of just some of their proposals, which you can read online in their entirety.

Green New Deal proposals:

Rejoin the Paris Agreement. Renewable energy generated by the Green New Deal to be government owned. Declare a national emergency on climate change. "... Build ... high-speed passenger and cargo rail" (like California's train to nowhere?) Start a \$68 billion vehicle trade-in program. Spend \$85.6 billion for national electric vehicle charging stations. Replace all shipping trucks. Invest in the United Nations' Green Climate Fund. Create a Climate Justice Resiliency Fund. Build government-owned broadband infrastructure. Build 7.4 million affordable housing units. Reinstate the 1940's New-Deal Civilian Conservation Core (CCC). End the fossil fuel industry's greed. Keep fossil fuels in the ground. Give a living wage and the right to form a union to displaced energy workers. Provide a social safety net. Provide free universal school meals and expand SNAP. Here's the most delu-

sional plan of all, really: Talk other nations *out* of spending trillions on wars and *into* spending that money to combat climate change.

Green New Deal plan for farmers:

Central Valley farmers might be interested in Bernie's proposal for Empowering Farmers to Address Climate Change, which includes: Paying farmers to keep carbon in the soil. Transitioning to organic farming. Government investing in family farms but not corporate ownership. Breaking up big agribusiness. Incentivizing community ownership of farmland.

This is my favorite: "Ensure farmers have the right to repair their own equipment. "... farmers can't even repair their own tractors or other equipment because of the greed of companies like John Deere." My second favorite is: "Establish victory lawns [with] \$36 billion investment to help Americans transform their lawns into food-producing or reforested spaces ..." Victory lawns?

Other crazy proposals:

Most are well known, such as health care and college for all. Others are less known, such as providing "Baby Bonds" with a federally funded \$1,000 savings account for every child at birth. And this: No more private prisons. And: "Instead of spending \$80 billion a year on jails and incarceration, we are going to invest in jobs and education." (Do they intend to take away *all* funding for prisons?) Childcare from birth to school age. And as for immigration reform, "No more snatching babies from the arms of their mothers." Bernie's confusing section on

"Fair Banking for All" promises to eliminate payday lending companies and allow every post office to offer basic banking services.

The battle is on. Are you up for the fight?

We are in a serious battle of opposing philosophies that is being waged, not with bombs or tanks, but with words – or the banning of words. Rational discussion ends when one participant calls the other a horrible name like racist, xenophobe, Nazi or the like. Perhaps the name-calling is born of ignorance or stupidity, but more likely it is a purposeful tactic, straight out of Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*, to silence opposition. Phony shaming such as designating the word "invasion" as racist serves the goal of censoring speech and branding one's opponent as repugnant and therefore unacceptable.

The world is not going to end in 10, 20 or 100 years because of carbon emissions. But it will be negatively impacted if the United States of America succumbs to the total transformation envisioned by all democrat candidates. The creeping socialism of the last few decades may be miniscule compared to what could be on the horizon.

In this war for survival, it appears that Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 may be this era's D-Day. We must stay informed, shape the debate using reason and facts, and educate others.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.teapartypatriots.org for more information.

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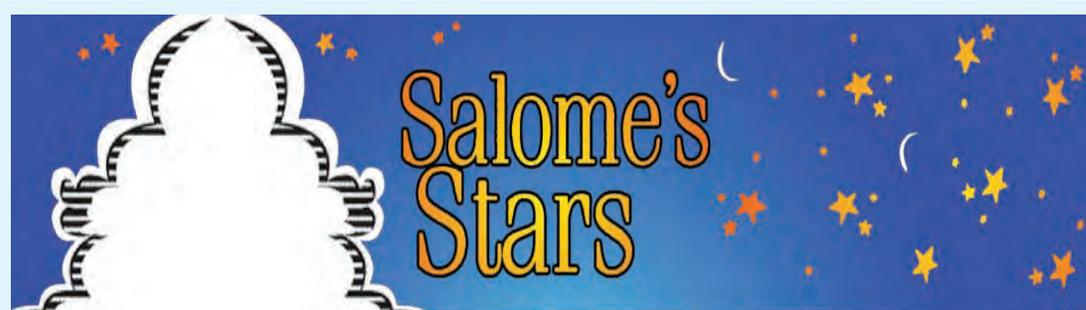
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A chaotic atmosphere taxes the patience of the Aries Lamb, who prefers to deal with a more orderly environment. Best advice: Stay out of the situation until things settle.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Tension runs high in both personal and workplace relationships. This can make it difficult to get your message across. Best to wait until you have a more receptive audience.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is a good time to take a break from your busy schedule to plan for some well-deserved socializing. You could get news about an important personal matter by the week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An offer of help could come just when you seem to need it. But be careful about saying yes to anything that might have conditions attached that could cause problems down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Sometimes a workplace colleague can't be charmed into supporting the Lion's position. That's when it's time to shift tactics and overwhelm the doubter with the facts.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You continue to earn respect for your efforts to help someone close to you stand up to a bully. But be careful that in pushing this matter you don't start to do some bullying yourself.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Don't ask others if they think you're up to a new responsibility. Having faith in your own abilities is the key to dealing with a challenge. P.S.: That "private" matter needs your attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This is a good time to use that Scorpionian creativity to come up with something special that will help get your derailed career plans back on track and headed in the right direction.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While change is favored, it could be a good idea to carefully weigh the possible fallout as well as the benefits of any moves before you make them.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The Goat continues to create a stir by following his or her own path. Just be sure you keep your focus straight and avoid any distractions that could cause you to make a misstep.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A colleague's demands seem out of line. But before reacting one way or another, talk things out and see how you might resolve the problem and avoid future misunderstandings.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A personal matter appears to be making more demands on your time than you feel you're ready to give. See if some compromise can be reached before things get too dicey.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}

"I don't have a gambling problem, except when I lose."

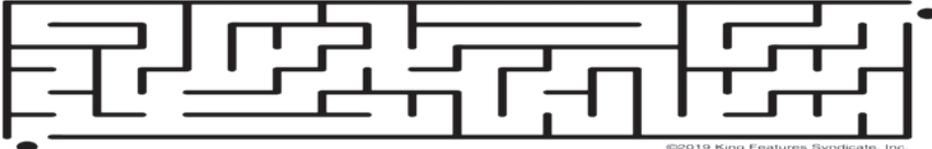
Born this Week

*You're able to communicate feelings better than most people.
Have you considered a career in the pulpit or in politics?*

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FUN PAGES

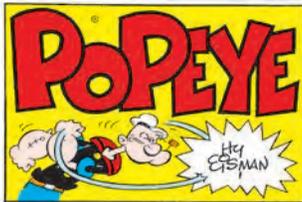
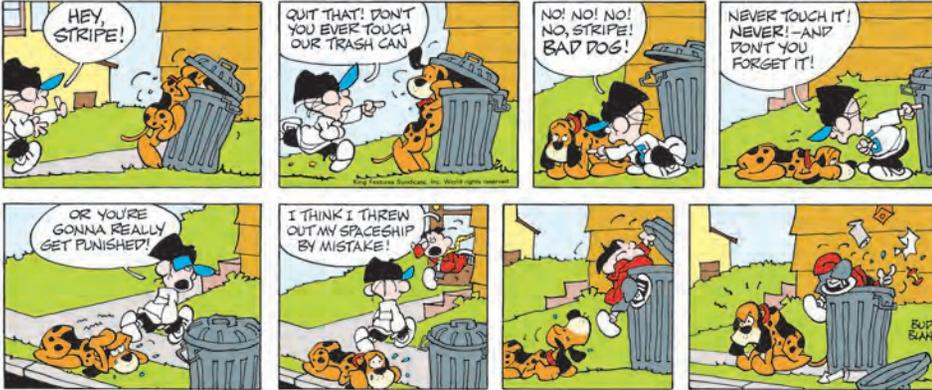
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

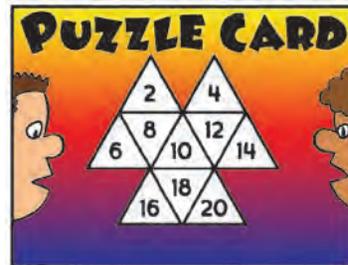


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



WHYZZIT? NO MATTER HOW MANY DIFFERENT CEREALS ON THE SHELVES, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH...ASK ANY SUPER-MARKET CLERK...



SEE IF YOU CAN rearrange the numbers in the small triangles so that the total of the four numbers in each of the large triangles (left, right, lower and center) is equal to 50.

Answers: Top row: 2, 12, Middle row: 18, 10, 20, 4, 14, Bottom row: 6, 16, 8.

TARGET PRACTICE TIME! What four-letter word do these arrows spell out?



Answers: From left to right, they are pointing to the four cardinal points of the compass: (N) North, (E) East, (W) West and (S) South, thus spelling the word NEWS.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Pack, pace, pane, pans, pine, pins, pips, pipe.

Wishing Well

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

WORDS MAGIC MAZE ● CONTAINING A LIE

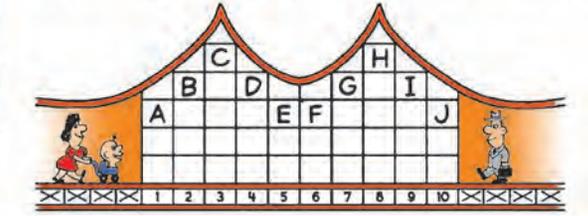
H T R O L J B G E B Y W U R P
 D N K I (M U L T I P L I E R S)
 G E D B L Z X R V I S Q O M K
 R E I L R A E I E G E C A Y W
 F U I L S I Q U G I P N L J H
 D E I L L A T N E I L A S F T
 D E I A L E C A I I Y A X V N
 U S V L N O B Q L P L N V M E
 K A J A E H C T F E C A B A I
 C Z N Y X B V U O T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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Allied	Cavalier	Lavalier	Pliers
Applied	Client	Liege	Potbellied
Belief	Collie	Lieutenant	Salient
Bullied	Earlier	Multiplier	

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A WORD BRIDGE! The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

- To perform.
- A large supporting timber.
- A mound of stones; a marker.
- Head of college.
- Main item in a soufflé.
- (Scottish) Having visionary powers.
- This happens when goods exceed demand.
- A large aquatic African animal.
- A small island.
- A triangular sail.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city will host the 2022 Winter Olympics?
- ANATOMY: What is a human's body temperature in Celsius?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called spectrophobia?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which is the only large major city built on two continents?
- MATH: The Roman numbers MMXIX translate to what in Arabic numbers?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of lemurs called?
- LITERATURE: The character of Miss Moneybags appears in which novels?
- TELEVISION: Which animated series features the character Stewie Griffin?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many yards are in a mile?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "ars gratia artis" mean?

Answers

- Beijing
- About 37 C
- A fear of mirrors
- Istanbul -- Europe and Asia
- 5,2019
- A conspiracy of lemurs
- James Bond novels
- "Family Guy"
- 1,760
- Art for art's sake

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

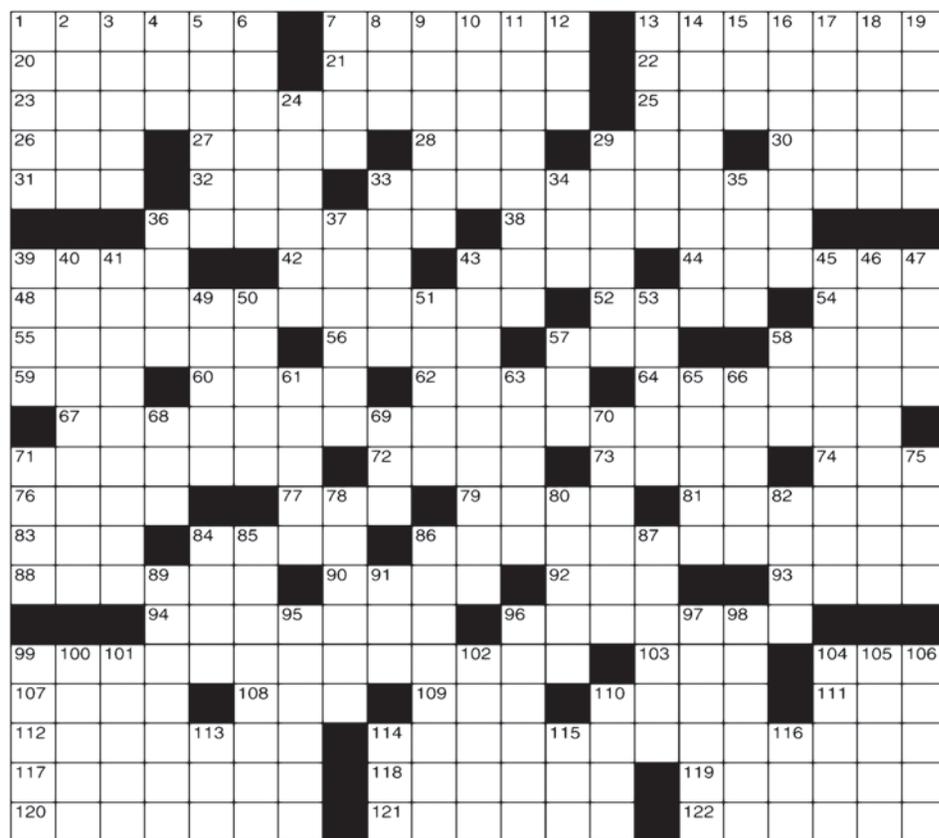
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Boy's hair is different. 2. Birds have been added. 3. Snorkel is different. 4. Shoreline is longer. 5. Bushes are different. 6. Boy on left is shorter.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 3.26 light-years
 - 7 Smithies' blocks
 - 13 Mark with surface ridges
 - 20 Wise goddess
 - 21 Baby sock
 - 22 Garden State capital
 - 23 Money made by the poet who wrote "In a Station of the Metro"?
 - 25 Lessees
 - 26 Port on the Danube
 - 27 "Just playin' with ya"
 - 28 Singer DiFranco
 - 29 Bad-mouth
 - 30 Fuel brand in Canada
 - 31 Tirana is its cap.
 - 32 Hound doc
 - 33 Switchboard worker reached by the poet who wrote "The Bridge"?
 - 36 Grid of fine lines in an optical instrument's focus
 - 38 Boxer Johansson
 - 39 Aged, once
 - 42 According to
 - 43 Concerning
 - 44 High-priority task
 - 48 Holiday tree decoration hung by the poet who wrote "The Song of the Shirt"?
 - 52 German car make
 - 54 Cool, 1940s-style
 - 55 Mix up
 - 56 "No it —!"
 - 57 450, in old Rome
 - 58 Co. division
 - 59 Caesar of old TV
 - 60 Horror film lab helper
 - 62 Puente of mambo
 - 64 Promises
 - 67 Business run by the poet who wrote "The Shooting of Dan McGrew"?
 - 71 Most ventilated
 - 72 Lovett of country rock
 - 73 Give a title to
 - 74 Pindar verse
 - 76 FBI action
 - 77 Koko, e.g.
 - 79 Vigoda and Fortas
 - 81 Having a bill
 - 83 Novelist Packer
 - 84 Soccer star
 - 86 Caution given by the poet who wrote "The Road Not Taken"?
 - 88 Amount of groceries, say
 - 90 Busy as —
 - 92 Adriatic, e.g.
 - 93 Henri's head
 - 94 Off the mark
 - 96 Compound with two or more amino acids
 - 99 Food energy used by the poet who wrote "To a Mouse"?
 - 103 Toronto-to-D.C. dir.
 - 104 — Cruces
 - 107 Irish Rose's lover
 - 108 Pats' goals
 - 109 Drink suffix
 - 110 Enter
 - 111 Noah's boat
 - 112 Tennis hitting technique
 - 114 Marinara
 - 117 Shifty
 - 118 Fisher of fashion
 - 119 Israel's language
 - 120 One of the 12 apostles
 - 121 See 115-Down
 - 122 Tromps (on)
 - 17 Trial blast
 - 18 Bodily trunk
 - 19 Painter James
 - 24 Venetian painter
 - 29 Carry out kind acts
 - 33 Simoleons
 - 34 M.D. type
 - 35 Cuba's Castro
 - 36 Actor Foxx
 - 37 Eau —
 - 39 Resistance units
 - 40 Mardi Gras locale
 - 41 Moving shakily
 - 43 Like sun visors
 - 45 2002 baseball-themed film
 - 46 Reliant (on)
 - 47 Decides
 - 49 Drab shade
 - 50 Denver university
 - 51 Contest form
 - 53 Town square
 - 57 Bamboozle
 - 58 Hwy. felony
 - 61 In base eight
 - 63 1990s cardio fad
 - 65 Conga's kin
 - 66 Guide
 - 68 Purge
 - 69 Jai-alai cry
 - 70 Shoe part
 - 71 UAR part
 - 75 Threshold
 - 78 June gems
 - 80 Twisty paths
 - 82 Cards' cost
 - 84 Witty bits
 - 85 Optional course
 - 86 Alternatives to Maseratis
 - 87 Sherlock Holmes' pal
 - 89 Tactfulness
 - 91 Scarer's cry
 - 95 Comedian Gilda
 - 96 Runt
 - 97 Apple computer webcam
 - 98 More obtuse
 - 99 Norman in "Psycho"
 - 100 Curved fastening bar
 - 101 Rend
 - 102 Pop heroes
 - 104 Singer Branigan
 - 105 Curved
 - 106 Distorts
 - 110 Cotton seed removers
 - 113 Fruit seed
 - 114 TV's Arthur
 - 115 With
 - 121-Across, company's worth after liabilities
 - 116 Japanese prime minister Shinzo
- DOWN**
- 1 — New Guinea
 - 2 Reef ring
 - 3 Any point of the compass
 - 4 D.C. figure
 - 5 Curly-leaved salad green
 - 6 Funeral box
 - 7 Sacked out
 - 8 Hide-hair link
 - 9 Old Plymouth
 - 10 1986 memoir by singer Turner
 - 11 Bolshevik, e.g.
 - 12 Line div.
 - 13 Skunk mark
 - 14 Hair-care brand
 - 15 Kylo — ("Star Wars" villain)
 - 16 Weeping

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south east madera county united

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