

The Ranchos Independent



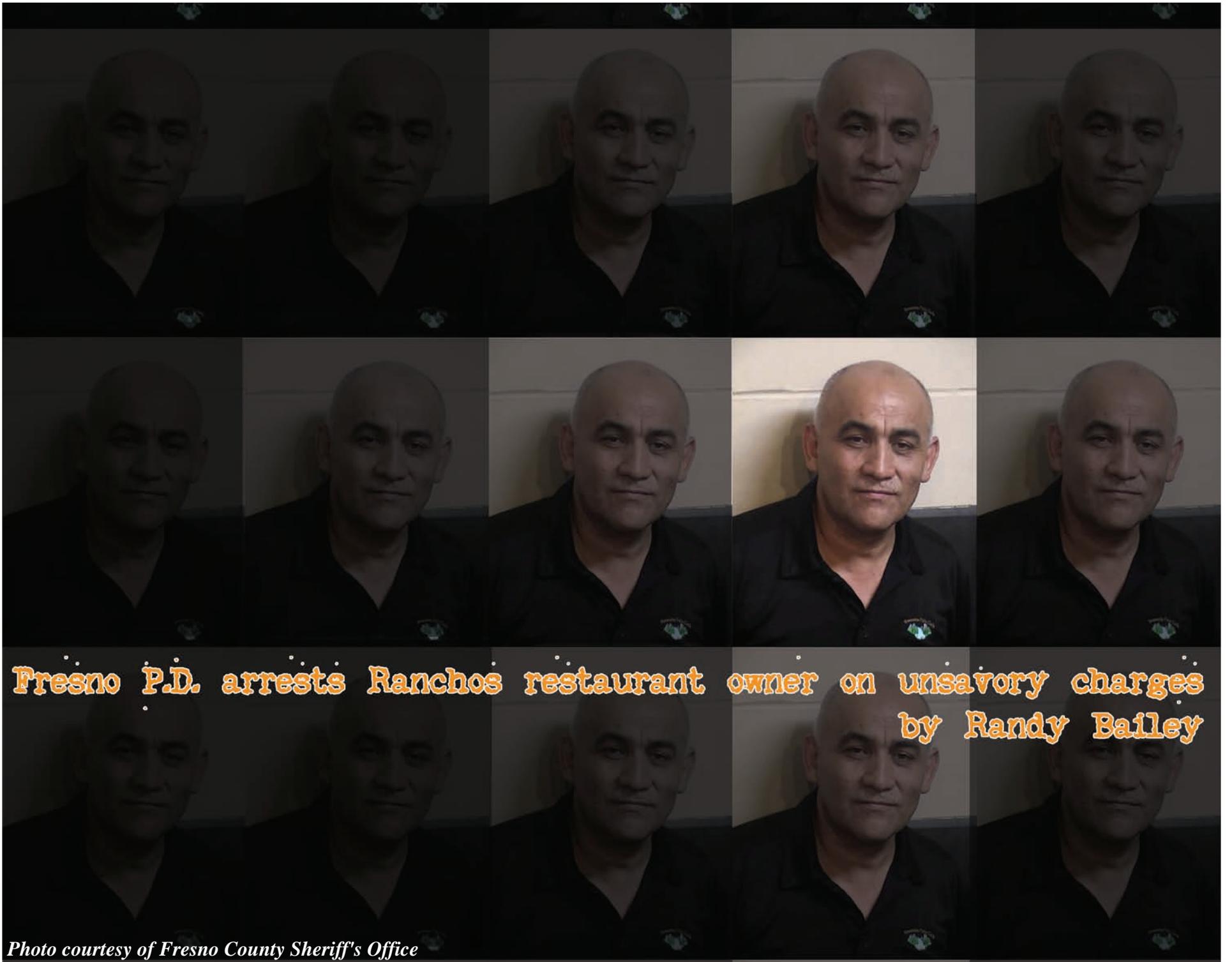
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Volume 17 Issue 8 2021

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



**Fresno P.D. arrests Ranchos restaurant owner on unsavory charges
by Randy Bailey**

Photo courtesy of Fresno County Sheriff's Office

In This Issue

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Fidel Bonilla, the 52-year-old owner of the Ranchos Liberty Café and co-owner of the Yosemite Falls restaurants in Fresno and Clovis, was arrested at his Ranchos café on Sunday, July 25 by the Fresno Police Department on charges of “lewd acts upon a child.” The alleged offenses were claimed to have happened the day before. Bonilla was taken to Fresno County Jail where he was booked, and bail was set at \$90,000. He paid a bond of \$9,000 and was released on July 26. Fresno Police Department representatives said that



Fresno P.D. arrests Ranchos restaurant owner on lewd charges by Randy Bailey

because of the age of the victim in the case, details cannot be disclosed.

According to information from Bonilla’s booking at Fresno County Jail, the charges for which he was arrested were California Penal Code sections 288(A) and 289(A).

Legal website shouselaw.com, states that Penal Code 288 PC is the primary California statute that defines child molestation, formally referred to as lewd and lascivious acts with a child. This section makes it a crime to touch a child under the age of 14 for sexual purposes. A conviction

is a felony punishable by three, six or eight years in state prison. The specific language of 288 PC states that “any person who willfully and lewdly commits any lewd or lascivious act, upon or with the body, or any part or member thereof, of a child who is under the age of 14 years, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desires of that person or the child, is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for three, six, or eight years.”

On the same website, the second charge, Penal Code 289PC was also explained: California Penal Code 289 PC defines the crime of forcible penetration with a foreign object without the victim’s consent, by means of force or threats of force. A conviction is a felony punishable by up to eight years in state prison. The specific language of PC 289 reads : “Any person who commits an act of sexual penetration when the act is accomplished against the victim’s will by means of force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlaw-

ful bodily injury on the victim or another person shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for three, six, or eight years.”

In most cases, a conviction under this section will also make the party charged subject to California’s lifelong sex offender registration requirement as a “tier-three” offender. If convicted, that person must register with the state at least every year for the rest of their life. It becomes mandatory or additional felony charges for failure to register as a sex offender will be imposed.

No Idle at School

As schools reopen for fall, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is asking parents to consider student health and turn off their engines when waiting to pick up their children. Limiting vehicle idling will help reduce air pollution and student exposure to emissions.

Turn off your engine when stopping to drop the kids off in the morning and picking them up at the end of the school day. Please do not idle. Coordinate a car-pool or rideshare to get kids to and from school or, if possible, walk your children to school.

To help ensure continued progress and minimize pollution associated with school site vehicle idling, the District has partnered with hundreds of Valley schools through the Healthy Air Living Schools program. It reminds parents to “Turn the key, be idle free” when picking up or dropping off students.

For more information visit www.healthyairliving.com/schools or contact us at healthyairlivingschools@valleyair.org. Or you can call the District Office in Fresno at 559-230-6000.

All Alvarado Charges Dropped

By Randy Bailey

As reported in the June issue of the Ranchos Independent, former Golden Valley Unified School

District Superintendent Andy Alvarado was arrested June 3 by Fresno Police on felony charges of “inflicting corporal injury on a spouse” and was booked into Fresno County Jail, Friday, June 4, from which he posted bond and was released.

Two months later, on Aug. 4, the Madera County District Attorney’s office – that was

handling the prosecution for Fresno County – announced that Alvarado will not face any charges related to the domestic violence arrest. Specifically, the Madera County DA said the charges would not be able to be proven. A press release from the D.A.’s office said, “After thoroughly ex-

amining the evidence, we have concluded that we will not be able to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt, so we will not be filing charges in this case.”



Former GVUSD Superintendent Andy Alvarado has had all charges from a June arrest dropped.

Alvarado was the superintendent at Golden Valley Unified for seven years and then went to Central Unified in Fresno, the county’s third largest school district, in June of 2018. After the arrest, Alvarado was placed on administrative leave by the school district. During that time, several members in the school district called for his resignation, but Alvarado said

in a written statement, “I am confident that at the end of this process, I will be cleared and reinstated to my position.”

Alvarado is back at his position of Superintendent at Central Unified School District, overseeing the start of the new school year.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month

All the Ranchos News That Fits

By Vicki Gathard

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce member Randy Bailey -- owner, editor and publisher of the Ranchos Independent newspaper -- always knew that one day he’d own a newspaper, he just didn’t know it was going to be the Ranchos Independent in the Madera Ranchos. That was a fluke.

“After several years of working for a magazine publisher in Fresno, that company went out of business, so a co-worker and I decided, ‘We can do this.’” He and his partner started a couponing magazine for the Madera market and in the process of calling upon a local business, found out the Ranchos Independent was for sale. “I found out someone else was very close to buying the Independent but that person’s politics were at odds with the Independent’s owner, so we got it,” Randy smiled.



Starting in December of 2004, he has made many changes and upgrades to that original paper. He computerized the layout process, changed the size of the paper and soon added color, transforming the Ranchos Independent into how it looks today.

“My focus has always been *Ranchos* news,” he said, leaving non-Ranchos news to the other guys. Sixteen years later, nothing’s changed. Today, the Ranchos Independent delivers 5,000 copies monthly -- one to every home in 93636, including Rolling Hills, Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo.

You can reach Randy at 645-0634 about advertising or story ideas.

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- Living in Madera Ranchos gives the advantage of having my car picked up and dropped off. Very convenient. Service has always been great and Warren stands behind his work.* Dennis



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Letters

Dear Editor:

My 45-year wait to bring Road 34 3/4 up to par with EVERY other road in my area has come and gone today. I have intermittently spoken to "our" Madera County road supervisor throughout the decades and he has occasionally sent out a truck and a shovel to marginally fill five out of 20 deep (to the hardpan) chuck holes on Road 34 3/4. ALL the neighboring streets (35, 34 1/2, 13 ...) received a smooth layer of asphalt several years ago. Road 34 3/4 received an uneven smattering of loose asphalt here and there with areas around my house (the "cul de sac") still showing hardpan. By the way, all heavy garbage trucks and all other vehicles use this "cul de sac" for a turning around spot since Road 34 3/4 dead ends here.

A month ago, I was promised by the "road supervisor" that 34 3/4 was scheduled for repaving. Five times a sweeper truck swept Road 34 3/4; three times the residents were warned not to park or have access to our driveways or to have deliveries to our homes BUT to park elsewhere. Never mind that my walk — I should say my wheelchair ride — would be a one-mile round trip. Yesterday, the paving contractors finally dumped a load of stones, covered the stones with slurry and left Road 34 3/4 rougher than EVER. The "Madera Road Supervisor" does not return my calls. We are not paying exorbitant taxes for this third-world sort of service. We try to ride bicycles, push buggies, walk and run and now ride wheelchairs, down this road and have been pa-

tient for 45 years, something must change.

Dianne Reimer
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading your guest editorial "Biden's Afghan Folly" by Rick Lowry. I agree with him, that the Afghanistan government will not be able to defend itself against the Taliban. But the question I have is: "How long do we fight their war?"

I spent 23 years in the military and every mission we were assigned came with an objective. When the U.S. went into Afghanistan, our mission was to find Osama bin Liden and our objective was to bring him back, DEAD or ALIVE. Objective accomplished, end of mission. Our mission was not to rebuild a broken government; the British tried, the Russians tried but that country has been run by warlords and corrupt governments since the beginning of time.

Former President Trump saw the light and realized that there would not — or could not — be a stable government and started the process to bring our troops home. President Biden is just finishing the mission.

I, for one, am glad to see this happen. Too many good service members and too much money wasted.

Jeff Mc Grath
Madera Ranchos

Recall Voter Registration Deadline

To be eligible to vote in the Sept. 14 California Gubernatorial Recall Election, persons must register to vote by Monday, Aug. 30, 2021. You must be a United States Citizen, live in Madera County and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. Registered voters who have moved, changed their name, or wish to change their political party must

re-register by Aug. 30.

Voter registration cards are available at the County Clerk's office, Post Offices and Libraries. Register to vote online at www.votemadera.com or www.register-tovote.ca.gov. For more information, call the Elections Division at 559-675-7720 or toll free at 800-435-0509.

Latest Sierra Shadows 4-H News

By Sarah Morgan

The beginning of our 4-H year is coming up soon in September. In 4-H There are a lot of very fun and creative things you can do. You can show different animals like rabbits, beef cattle, chickens, swine, horses and goats. You can celebrate holidays and play games. Last Halloween we played lots of games, had a haunted house and a parade. On Christmas we made Christmas trees and went on a Christmas walk. You can go to summer camp and do lots of cool things. You can do other fun things like

baking, science and arts and crafts.

At the end of your first year in 4-H, you choose what you want to do in your second year. You can do arts and crafts, outdoor adventures, shooting sports, public speaking, Joshua's Ways, floral, rabbits, beef, chickens, swine, horses and goats. You can get lots of amazing badges that you can put on your 4-H hat and you will make a ton of new friends.

If you are interested in learning more about 4-H, you can contact our community club leader, Dana Poore, at sierrashadows4h@gmail.com.

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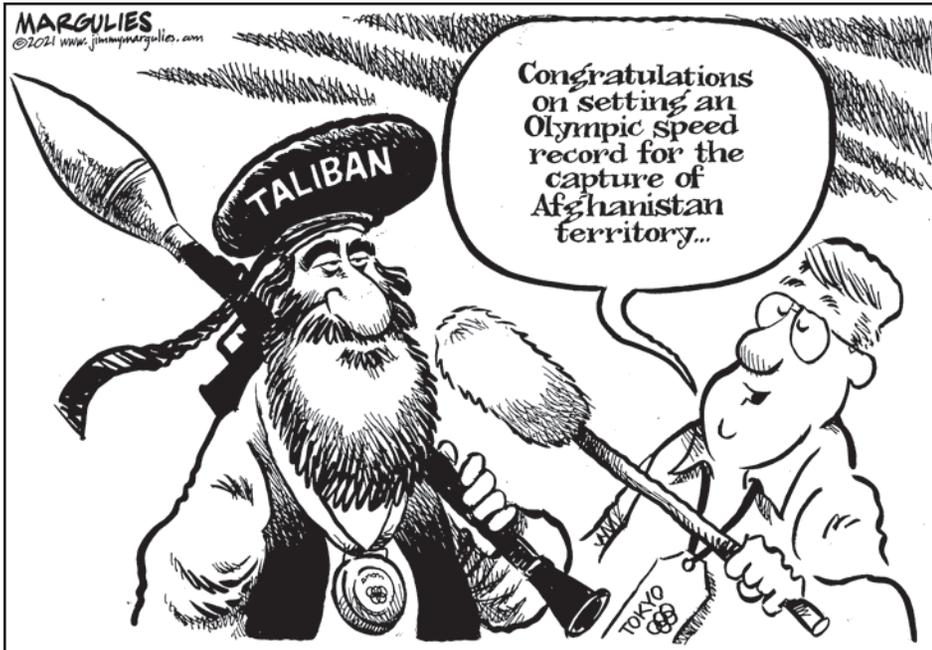
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Editorial

Why Recall Newsom ... Really?

By Randy Bailey

Coming up on Sept. 14, for the second time in my life as a Californian, we are going to be asked to recall our governor. The first time was Gray Davis in 2002. That election was the first time a California governor had been successfully recalled – receiving 55 percent of the “yes” votes – and only the second governor in U.S. history. There are two parts to the recall ballot. If you vote “yes” to recall, you then have to flip the ballot over and vote for one of the 46 candidates certified by the California secretary of state. You can also write in a candidate if none of the 46 quite do it for you. Gavin Newsom is NOT on the list of candidates. If you want to keep Newsom, simply vote “no.”

The most often heard question by the uninformed is, “Why would you want to recall Governor Newsom?” A reasonable question, in the same way “Why shouldn’t I put my hand down the garbage disposal?” is a reasonable question. Here are some points to consider on election day, Sept. 14.

- Crime is spiking in California, yet Newsom ordered the early release of 20,000 inmates and is giving another 76,000 the chance to leave prison early.
- He cut \$150 million from the state’s fire protection budget and misled the public about his fire protection record, exaggerating by over 690 per-

cent the number of acres he was protecting, leaving over 78,000 acres vulnerable to devastating fires.

- After ordering Californians to stay home and avoid social gatherings, Gavin Newsom arrogantly ignored his own edicts by dining with lobbyists at the French Laundry restaurant while not wearing a mask or social distancing.

- A mass exodus is underway with 2020 being the first year California lost more people than it gained.

- As governor, Gavin Newsom has given millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to businesses that pay his wife a six-figure salary, a practice that government watchdogs called a clear conflict of interest.

- Companies where Governor Newsom has an ownership interest received millions of dollars from the Paycheck Protection Program. One, a winery, received nearly \$1 million to protect only 14 jobs. That’s more than seven times the average small business loan to other California companies with a similar number of workers.

- Tesla, Oracle and Toyota all left California and 19,000 businesses permanently closed as Newsom declared “there’s literally no better place to do business.”

- Due to high taxes and fees, Californians pay over \$1.20 more than the national average for a gallon of gas, but Gavin Newsom refused to stop or delay another gas tax increase on July 1.

- Newsom’s EDD has sent over \$30 billion in fraudulent checks to prison inmates and other criminals while hundreds of thousands of Californians wait for money they are owed.

- While claiming homelessness is his top priority, the problem has gotten much worse since he’s been in office. Now he wants to spend \$12 billion more over five years to try and make a dent.

- Gavin Newsom allowed teachers’ unions, not science, to dictate when schools could reopen and whether students will be forced to get vaccinated or wear masks in the classroom this fall -- all while his children attended in-person private school.

On Sept. 14 I’m voting “yes” to recall Newsom and then I’m voting for Larry Elder to replace him. I don’t really want to stick my hand in the garbage disposal anymore.

The Ranchos Independent

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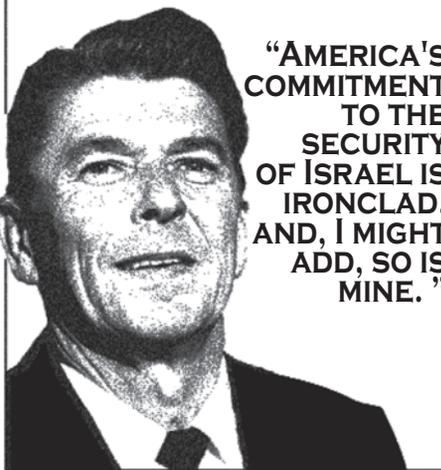
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Legal Larceny is *Still* Wrong

I've often said, and even written, that the biggest problem in the American healthcare system is the flagrant waste. Having worked in various administrative positions in the healthcare field for more than 15 years, I've had a peek behind the exam room curtain and now I think it's even more sinister than just a matter of waste. It's criminal price gouging.

My current position is in training, development and compliance. These past two months I have been traveling around to our locations conducting annual training classes. This is where we refresh everyone on policies, procedures and regulations as well as disperse any new or updated information on techniques and standard practice. Each class is a half-day lecture series and one of our topics is compliance where we discuss fraud and waste. The more I teach the topic the more I feel dirty knowing so many clinics, providers, medical device companies

and pharmacies are not only getting away with what could really only be described as fraudulent behavior, but in many cases flaunt it.

For example, a friend of mine needed to get an X-Ray and some

lab work done. For reasons that I don't remember, and frankly don't matter to the story, she had to pay out of pocket. Being the frugal and financially responsible woman that she is, she called around until she found a place that would charge her about a hundred bucks for the services. So far, this story is no different than shopping around for the best deal on a car or a vacation rental. Here's where it gets interesting, and by interesting, I mean disconcerting. I happen to know what that exact same lab charges for those services when they can bill the insurance company. For the same type of lab work and the same set of X-Rays on the same body parts, it's almost a thousand smackaroos. I know some of you are thinking, well they gave your friend a discount, that's sweet. Perhaps, but I think it smells fishy. That's a heck of a discount if they really need to charge nearly a grand to cover their overhead and make a nice profit. I think it's still possible she did get a discount, but I also think the markup on medical services and supplies is astronomical.

**GEN
ERA
TION
WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



I'll give you another example. A while back, my dad needed a new mask for his C-PAP machine. In case anyone isn't familiar, it's a machine that helps you breathe while you sleep. In any event, all he needed was the mask; nothing else was changing about the machine or its settings. He called the sleep clinic that issued him the machine and they insisted he come in for an exam. Why? He wasn't due for one. His condition hadn't

changed. The machine was functioning perfectly. The mask was still the correct size. It just sustained damage while he was cleaning it and all he needed was a replacement. They wouldn't budge. It was a \$50 copay for the specialty visit, and they

charged another \$50 for the mask. Understandably, he was livid and didn't want to play their game, so I helped him take to the internet and find a replacement. In the end, he purchased two of the exact same masks for less than \$30 after taxes and shipping, or 70 percent less than what the sleep clinic wanted to charge him, and that's not including what they would have also charged the insurance company.

Just last week during one of my training classes, one of our caregivers told me about an experience she had with blood glucose test strips. She went to pick up her prescriptions and the total was quite a bit higher than she was expecting to pay. It turned out that a refill of test strips had been added to her order and her copay for just the strips was \$20. Interestingly, this was all happening about 15 feet from a little box of 50 test strips for a whopping nine bucks. I'm sure you can all guess which option she chose.

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

Having the government pick up the tab for everyone's healthcare would only further incentivize these providers to charge the insurance companies fees that are even more exorbitant ...

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

The media and the left (which is pretty much one in the same) are constantly rallying for free healthcare. I agree that healthcare is out-of-control expensive. I agree that something needs to be done about it. However, I think making healthcare, in its current state, free to everyone would only exacerbate the real problem. That would be like installing a brand-new door to cover up a broken, leaking, moldy, disgusting bathroom and calling it fixed.

Having the government pick up the tab for everyone's healthcare would only fur-

I think making healthcare, in its current state, free to everyone would only exacerbate the real problem.

ther incentivize these providers to charge the insurance companies fees that are even more exorbitant, and the insurance companies will happily pay the higher costs because they will just pass the expense onto the government that's footing the bill. Who cares, it's free to us, right? Oh, wait. The government gets its money from us through our taxes, which will go up as costs rise. We will end up paying more in taxes than we would pay in healthcare premiums if we actually fixed the underlying issue in the healthcare industry. There's no such thing as a free lunch. We all pay for it, in the end.



Creating Order for the New School Year

I'm in my 60s and still have dreams of frantically trying to remember my school schedule, classroom, or locker number. I don't recall that happening in real life, but it speaks to an element of stress relating to school. Add the pandemic issues to the basic challenges and it can be a recipe for stressed-out kids and parents. Being intentional about preparation goes a long way as you gear up to send your little-ones and teens off to school. Here are some tips for a smoother transition.

Don't wait until the first day your child needs to wear long pants to discover he's grown three inches over the summer. Pull out your child's clothes and have him try on several items to determine his cur-

rent size. Remove the outgrown clothing and place it in a bin for a younger sibling or donate. Take inventory of what's left and create a shopping list for what's lacking.

With your child, organize the clothes in categories and designate specific drawers or cubbies for each. Assign a place for dirty laundry and make sure he knows where it's expected to land. Delegate laundry cleaning, folding and/or putting-away duties based on age appropriateness.

Print a grade level supply list from the school's website and check your inventory before you buy. Add to your supply list items needed for your homework

station. If your child has an assigned desk at school or home, use open-topped containers to divide and store pencils, markers, glue and other supplies. If your kitchen table is the homework station, use a caddy for supplies and store it in a nearby cabinet. Label school supplies with your child's name. If purchasing back-up supplies remove them from the bag and designate a "school supplies" place in a cabinet or closet.

Label and assign hooks or cubbies to store your children's back-

packs, lunch bags, sports gear, etc. Create an arriving home routine to ensure they land in the right spot. Assign a tray or file for papers parents must see or sign. Daily walk with your child through the process of getting things where they go until the habit is formed. It may be faster to do it yourself but resist the temptation and build responsibility in your child.

Establish a schedule for study time, snack time, free time, dinner-time, prep for the next day and bed-time. Keep in mind extracurricular

School success is a team effort ... all play an essential role.

activities and homework loads. Set boundaries for screen time. Include your kids in developing the routines.

Kids will push against limits but asking for their input will help. A predictable schedule builds security and self-discipline. Feel free to add incentives and/or consequences as needed.

Create a master family calendar on the wall or phone app where everyone can access it. Establish a set family meeting (15-20) minutes each Sunday to review the upcoming week's schedule and activities. There will still be unexpected

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Dump Cake Anyone?

(August 2011)

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.

Well, here I am, yet another month without a computer to write my article. The part to repair it is coming from somewhere on the East Coast. I think it is limping along, and probably has made its way to Austin, Texas as we speak. In the meantime I'm going to repeat one of my most popular articles - *Dump Cakes*. I received more comments from that article than any other - except maybe the *Rice* article a few months ago. Maybe by the time I have to write the next article I'll have my computer again. Until then, enjoy!

- Aunt Jean

Do you have company coming for dinner and need a quick dessert? Are the kids old enough that they can start helping with dinner? Grandma and Grandpa - do you have grandkids visiting for the summer and they are "BORED!" Well, I have the answer - so simple, you can have a delicious cake and only a can opener, a knife to cut some butter, a fork or rubber spatula and the pan the cake is cooked in! No bowls, no measuring cups or no beaters to wash and all you need is a couple cans

DO NOT STIR any of these recipes. The cake will be baked in layers of fruit, cake mix, butter and nuts (if using). Except for the layering and how long to cook, these recipes don't have to be followed exactly.

of canned fruit, a dry cake mix, some butter and maybe some chopped nuts.

A Dump Cake.

Yes, "dump!" Just dump the ingredients into the baking pan and bake. One of the recipes I read said this can be made by a child or a tired mom.

The first Dump Cake I ate was made with fruit cocktail. I've made a few of these:

Fruit Cocktail Dump Cake

1 Large Can (16 oz.) Fruit Cocktail

1 Box Yellow Cake Mix

1 Cube Butter



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

In a 9x13 greased pan; dump the fruit cocktail, including the juice. Dump the cake mix. Dot with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown.

Cherry Dump Cake

2 Cans Cherry Pie filling (21 oz. ea.)

1 Box Chocolate Cake Mix

2 Sticks Butter - sliced into 12 pieces each

Chopped pecans (optional)

1/8 C Granulated Sugar

In 9x13 baking pan dump the two cans pie filling evenly. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top of cherries. Place butter slices over dry cake mix and sprinkle nuts and sugar evenly over top. Bake 35-45 minutes in a 350 degree oven and serve warm.

One of my favorite cakes is a pineapple upside down cake (made with crushed pineapple instead of sliced). When I saw this recipe I thought about my upside down cake. I'm going to make this one, but add just a little brown sugar and see how

close it comes to the upside down cake.

Pineapple Dump Cake

1 Box Pineapple Cake Mix

1 Stick Butter, sliced into pats

1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple

ple

Chopped Nuts (optional)

In 9x13 pan, pour pineapple, juice and all. Shake dry cake mix on top and spread evenly. Then place butter and nuts on top and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.

When I saw the following recipe, I thought of a peach cobbler.

Peach Dump Cake

1 Lg. Can Sliced Peaches

1 Box Butter Pecan Cake Mix

1 Cube Melted Butter

In 9x13 pan pour in peaches and

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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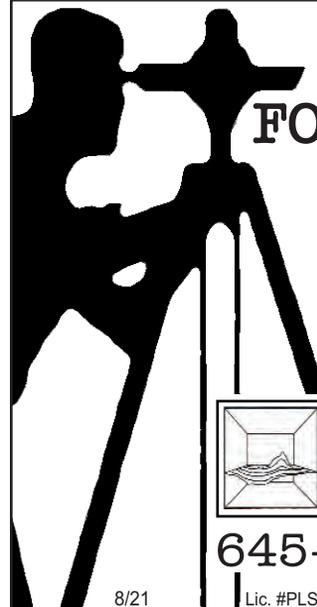
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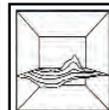
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

juice. Sprinkle cake mix over top to cover evenly. Pour melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, serve warm in bowls.

Peach and Pineapple Dump Cake

- 1 Can Sliced Peaches
- 1 Can Crushed Pineapple
- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Butter – melted

Lightly grease the bottom only of a 9x13 baking pan. Pour canned fruit, including juice, in bottom of pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top of fruit. Pour melted butter over cake mix. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour in 350 oven.

DO NOT STIR any of these recipes. The cake will be baked in layers of fruit, cake mix, butter and nuts

(if using). Except for the layering and how long to cook, these recipes don't have to be followed exactly. Change the fruit – maybe your family likes pears instead of fruit cocktail, or how about spice cake instead of yellow with the peaches or add a little cinnamon. I even saw one recipe that added a little coconut. This is definitely one on which you can use your imagination. One other suggestion I would have if you were using peaches or pears is to cut them up. You don't have to do it in a separate bowl, just dump the fruit in the

bottom of the baking pan and before you pour the cake mix on cut the slices into smaller pieces. These cakes will seem wet and uncooked but once cooked they are delicious – almost like a cobbler. And they are especially good served warm with a scoop of ice cream.

When I told Randy about Dump Cakes he m i s t a k e n l y thought I was saying “Bundt cakes.” When I explained them to him he went home and tried his hand at a Dump Cake. His entire family loved it and loved how simple it was to make. These

When I told Randy about Dump Cakes he mistakenly thought I was saying “Bundt cakes.” When I explained them to him he went home and tried his hand at a Dump Cake. His entire family loved it and loved how simple it was to make.

things are so simple, here's a recipe he made up that he is still raving about.

Apple Spice Dump Cake

- 2 Cans Apple Pie Filling
- 1 Box Spice Cake Mix
- 1 ½ Cubes of Butter, cut into pats

Spray the bottom of a 9x13 baking pan with Pam or any cooking spray. Pour the entire contents of the two cans of pie filling into the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle entire dry cake mix on top of filling and flatten it out with a fork. Place the pats of butter over the entire surface of the cake mix, completely covering it. Bake for 35 minutes in a 350 oven. When you pull it out let it rest for 30 minutes before you cut into it. Randy says it is one of the best – and easiest – desserts he and his family have ever had.

Until next time – stay cool!






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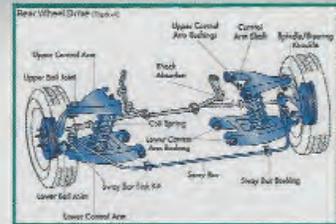


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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Supporting Run 4 the Miracle

By Sally Rowden

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

With this August month upon us, the summer sunshine continues, along with the Kiwanis supporting our children and our community.

The Kiwanis donated \$500 to assist in the purchase of two chairs for the Sierra View Teacher’s Lounge. A note of huge thanks was received from Sierra View Principal, Kelli Reeves. Next, “The Three Blondes,” our Kiwanis members Mona Diaz, Debbie Farr and Ollia Ridge did their magic by providing a Welcome Back Breakfast for all Golden Valley Unified School District staff at Liberty High School on Aug. 9. In supporting our community education, folks we support our children.

Matt Trevor from the Madera

County Public Works Department will be our guest speaker at our first meeting of September on Thursday the 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Factory in the Madera Ranchos. The topic will focus on maintenance and operation of water supplies and needs in the Madera Ranchos. This topic is of high importance to our community.

We will be supporting the Kiwanis Division 5 “Run 4 The Miracle” on Saturday, Sept. 25. The event is a walk/run race to support Children’s Hospital Pediatric Trauma – Injury Prevention Program. The run will start and finish at Panoche Creek River Ranch (the Historic Cobb Ranch). The race will also honor the memory of Fresno Police Sergeant Paul Brown. He lost his life to COVID 19 in February 2021.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

Paul Brown’s parents are long time members of the Kiwanis Club of Old Town Clovis. To obtain further information or be a participant in the walk/run race, Google: Run 4 the Miracle. For sponsorship opportunities contact John Waayers at 559-417-2980 or jrwaayers@gmail.com. Valley Children’s Mission: “The mission of Valley Children’s Healthcare is to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to children, regardless of their ability to pay, and to continuously improve the health and well-being of children.”

“Run 4 The Miracle” on Saturday, Sept. 25 ... the event is a walk/run race to support Children’s Hospital Pediatric Trauma – Injury Prevention Program.

Another event happening in our community is the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the

Madera Ranchos. If you need more information or would like to be a vendor, contact rhseniors@att.net or call 559-645-4864. The vendor space cost is \$35 for a 12’X18’ space. Come out, enjoy and support your community.

The Kiwanis meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Meeting time 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Factory. Contact our President, Richard Wayne, for further information at richardwayne48@gmail.com

“To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care enough and be there.” From “Just Be There” by Scott Booker on May 23, 2018.

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Come join us starting Wednesday, August 25th for our Life App Classes starting at 6:30pm.

Classes available:

Children, Pre-teen & Teen, Women and Adult.

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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THE ORGANIZATION “22 TOO MANY” HAS A MOTIVATION THAT IS CLEAR: THEY WANT TO REDUCE 20 VETERAN SUICIDES A DAY TO ZERO. THEY WANT TO INCREASE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF PTSD, AND ARE ALSO DEVOTED TO HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN WHO HAVE BEEN LOST TO A PTSD-RELATED CAUSE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING COMFORT AND SUPPORT TO THEIR MOURNING FAMILIES.



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Senior Report

Have Ranchos Seniors Got Talent? Find Out Sept. 30 at the Senior Center

By Margaret Tynan

Members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors are looking forward to an informative health presentation, *Stroke: Signs, Symptoms, Prevention* given by Thanh Shanks, RN on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 1:30 p.m. A registered nurse since 1992, Ms. Shanks worked in health care at Community Regional Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital and Kaiser Permanente. She spent extensive time in neurosurgery and as a trauma center stroke team nurse. She also was in charge of a robotic surgery program at St. Agnes. After retiring from active nursing practice, she served as Ombudsman for the State of California, visiting nursing homes and helping patients and their families receive quality care. The community is welcome to join us for this free important health presentation at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. Please stop by or call the Center to register at 645-4864. We hope to see you there.

A Fun Evening Planned

A fun evening is planned for Thursday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. Bring your sense of humor, finger food to share and your hidden or not so hidden talents to “Ranchos/Hills Seniors’ Got Talent.” Sing, dance, pantomime, read your favorite poem, tell a story, tell a joke, etc. The possibilities are endless. Be part of the entertainment and the audience. Sign up at the Center. We’re bound to have a great time.

Be sure to Save the Date for the



Presenter Thanh Shanks, RN, will be giving the Senior Center an informative health presentation on *Stroke: Signs, Symptoms, Prevention*, on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 1:30 p.m. Call the Center at 645-4864 for more information.

Third Annual Ranchos/Hills Seniors Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You won’t want to miss this exciting event. Artists and crafters from the local community and surrounding area are exhibiting and offering their work for sale. This is a great place to meet the artists and crafters to learn about their specialties. You will be able to choose from a diverse array of lovely items, find that perfect handcrafted gift, or item to enhance your home

décor. Watch for more details in October’s Senior Report. Note: There are still a limited number of vendor spaces available. If you are interested in being a vendor, stop by the Center to pick up a Registration Form or email your request to rhseiors@att.net Attention: Rosemary Janis. For further information call 645-4864.

Save the Date!

Here are more dates to add to your September calendar: The regular monthly Treasure House, Garden, Boutique and Bake sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 4 from 8 a.m. to noon. The Planning Meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. The Board Meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 12:30 followed by the General Meeting at 1:30 p.m. The Exercise Group meets at the Center every Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 10 a.m. The Writing Group will meet on Zoom on Monday, Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. Call or email the Center if you are interested in joining.

Thought for September: “The greatest wealth is health.” - Virgil



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SEMUCU *speaks* **Have You Checked Your Well?**

By Matt Maringer

Drinking water can expose people to a variety of harmful pollutants and pathogens. Public water systems use water treatment and monitoring to protect consumers from such contaminants. Generally, private wells do not receive the same services that wells supplying the public do, so well owners are responsible for protecting their drinking water. Please use the following list to check for possible contaminants in your well

Water Well Checklist

Activity Type	Potential Well Contaminant Sources
Agriculture	Fertilizer storage and use <input type="checkbox"/> Animal feedlots <input type="checkbox"/> Animal waste disposal systems <input type="checkbox"/> Animal burial <input type="checkbox"/> Manure stockpiles (e.g. pits and lagoons) <input type="checkbox"/> Manure spreading <input type="checkbox"/> General waste disposal wells <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide storage and use (e.g. spread by airplane) <input type="checkbox"/> Field irrigation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	Airports, boatyards, railroad track and yards <input type="checkbox"/> Junkyards <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling and waste transfer stations <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repairs shops <input type="checkbox"/> Carwashes <input type="checkbox"/> Laundromats <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaners <input type="checkbox"/> Paint shops <input type="checkbox"/> Gas stations <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites <input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses <input type="checkbox"/> Floor drains and waste disposal wells <input type="checkbox"/> Research laboratories and medical institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral homes and cemeteries <input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	Oil and gas production and storage <input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum refineries <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical manufacture and storage <input type="checkbox"/> Electroplating facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Mining <input type="checkbox"/> Foundries <input type="checkbox"/> Metal fabrication facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Machine shops <input type="checkbox"/> Waste disposal wells <input type="checkbox"/> Paper mills <input type="checkbox"/> Textile mills <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential	Residential fuel oil storage tanks <input type="checkbox"/> Household chemical storage and use <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool chemical storage <input type="checkbox"/> Septic tanks and leach fields <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer lines <input type="checkbox"/> Floor drains <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn fertilizer storage and use <input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Road de-icing <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer lines <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water pipes and drains <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned production and disposal wells <input type="checkbox"/> Nearby active disposal wells <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal dumping <input type="checkbox"/>

SEMUCU Meeting Notice

Since the state is again allowing public gatherings, we're able to resume our meetings in person. Meetings will still take place on the third Monday of each month at Verlaine Elinburg's home at 37101 Ave. 12 with ample parking available on site. The public is invited and encouraged to participate and offer ideas for projects that can help improve our community.

To call SEMUCU for more information, call 559-363-9095 or you can reach the organization by email at info@semcu.org. You can also visit the website at www.semcu.org.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- The opposite of paranoia is pronoia. A person suffering from pronoia feels that people or entities around them are plotting to do them good!
- American flags left on the moon will eventually get bleached white by the sun.
- Only two animals have

the ability to see behind themselves without turning around: the rabbit and the parrot. Their eyes are on the sides of their head, allowing them to swivel 360 degrees.

- Not that we ever gave any real thought to the matter, but "snow-bones" are the lines of snow or ice left at the sides of roads after the rest of the snow has melted.
- David Babcock broke a Guinness record at the Kansas City marathon, but not for running. He knitted a 12-foot-scarf while running.

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The Bookshelf

School is Back and Things are Settling Down at the Ranchos Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

School is back in session, and we are loving all the smiling faces we see here at the library. Things have started to settle down, so we will be starting to work on some betterments to improve the functionality of the library shelves, and since parents love our Accelerated Reader-level guide that we have set up on the Easy Reader books, we are going to start working on expanding that to our entire juvenile section soon, so that tool will be available for all the books in our library. We will also be adding rating stickers to all our movies and working to strengthen some of our more highly circulated children's books to make sure they last as long as they can. I am so excited to continue working toward making our li-

"I am so excited to continue working toward making our library as accessible as possible ..."

brary as accessible as possible and love seeing how much the changes are appreciated by our awesome community.

Our Summer Reading program went swimmingly this year, and it was great seeing all the weekly check-ins to pick up our craft kits that were made possible by our lovely Friends of the Ranchos Library. We were able to give out amazing prizes

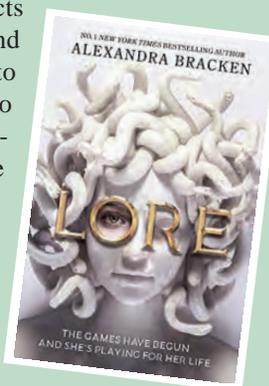
donated by both our Friends group and the amazing people at Pizza Factory, who generously donated great gift cards to award our hard-working readers. If you would like to become part of our Friends group and work to make even more community programs become a reality, come check out our meetings. Friends group meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. right here at the library. We've got some

amazing projects starting up and can't wait to work together to make the Library into the community center that we all know it can grow to be.

Now that the business part is out of the way, let's get to the fun part: books!

Jerrica's Bookshelf: *Lore* by Alexandra Bracken

Lore follows the rough and tumble main character, Lore, as she navigates through New York City to fight off and defend those she loves against the Greek Gods walking the earth during the Agon — the seven-day window when Gods can be killed, and their powers taken by whoever gets the kill. Lore is a descendent of an ancient line of hunters who



tasked themselves with hunting the Gods being punished by Zeus for a heinous crime in the past, and she hates every bit of it. She has tried to extricate herself from the lifestyle only to have it literally show up in the form of an injured Athena arriving at her doorstep and needing help.

The premise of this book is so utterly cool, a sort of *Hunger Games* meets *Highlander* with a little *Percy Jackson* thrown in for flair — and yet I just could not get into it. I had such a hard time getting to a point where I cared what happened, and every time I started to like someone, there was a predictable trope that threw all of that right out the window. The book gets points for creativity on the concept itself, but most of it was predictable and far too illogical when looked at closely. I was so excited for a fresh take on the Greek Gods but was sadly let down on this one.

Even though I didn't love it, it doesn't mean you won't though, so if you're interested — give it a try.

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“Hail Mary” Fix

Hello 93636,

Well, last month a 2001, four-cylinder Chevrolet S10 pickup rolled into the shop with a P0171 (Bank 1 lean exhaust) trouble code. Since I drive a 1999 S10 four-cylinder with 333,821 miles on the clock and with P0171 being our most popular trouble code diagnostic, I was well within my comfort zone with this one. The truck had already been to another shop without success but that's not an uncommon scenario for us.

The other shop provided the customer with a detailed diagnostic. When I read the invoice, I was surprised. The diagnostic was very impressive. When I looked, I saw the other shop was C.A.D.S.-Auto.

Now I am way outside my comfort zone.

The Plot Thickens

If Roberto at C.A.D.S. was unable to solve this air/fuel ratio problem, my chances were slim and none. Fuel systems diagnostic is a C.A.D.S. specialty. Please take this truck away.

Roberto is one of the founding members of the Central California Pico Club. Roberto and I have been developing and sharing diagnostic techniques and strategies for 2 1/2 years. He knows what I know and more. Regular Ranchos Independent readers are familiar with Roberto's Pico Scope diagnostic innovations because I have written about them in past Ranchos Independent articles. Here are two examples:

Many of us have been subjected to an EKG (electrocardiogram) examination by a physician. Patches attach to our body and capture and convert small faint heart beats (pressure changes) into electrical waves. In that same fashion, Roberto attaches these patches onto components inside the passenger's compartment of the vehicle and to a Pico Scope to search out and identify unwanted noises and vibrations.

Another medical device Roberto adapted for automotive diagnostic is the blood pressure cuff. Most automotive water pumps are centrifugal pumps. Fluid is scavenged into the pump by rapidly rotating impeller blades. As impeller blades pass by the water pump inlet, a low-pressure pulse is created. When the impeller blades cast out the coolant, a high-pressure pulse is created. By simply wrapping an infant blood

pressure cuff around the upper and/or lower radiator hoses, we can measure these pressure changes to evaluate the efficiency of the vehicle's water pump. A pump is a pump, right? It's just science.

Back to our S10. A P0171 trouble code is set when the oxygen content inside the exhaust is too high. High oxygen content indicates an insufficient amount of fuel was delivered to the cylinders. Too little fuel mixed with too much oxygen creates a lean fuel condition. The unused oxygen simply passes into the exhaust where it's measured. A correct air/fuel ratio is 14.75 parts of air to 1 part of gasoline.

The Powertrain Control Module (PCM) monitors the exhaust oxygen content via oxygen sensors. When the oxygen content is high, the PCM adapts by trimming “up” (increasing fuel delivery). When the oxygen content is too low, the PCM adapts by trimming “down” (decreasing fuel delivery) until the correct exhaust oxygen content is reached. The PCM learns and overwrites the adaptation into the programming. If the maximum fuel trim correction – plus or minus 25 percent – is reached, the Check Engine Lamp will be illuminated

A Waste of Time.

Since I was confident in Roberto's diagnostic, I knew my normal diagnostic routine would be a waste of time. The only thing I could think to do was to research past P0171 fixes and see if something resonated. A very difficult and unusual diagnostic and repair from the past popped into my head. I featured that repair in my February 2018 "Fun with Diagnostic" Ranchos Independent article. The cause of that P0171 was a leaking valve cover gasket. The gasket lost its seal so false/outside air was drawn into the Positive Crankcase Ventilation (PCV) System creating a vacuum leak.

I decided to add pressurized smoke into our PCV system and see where the smoke leaked out. Hey, where the heck is the PCV valve?

After some research, we discovered this vehicle doesn't use a PCV valve. It uses a Fixed Orifice Tube (FOT) type system. I know European vehicles are big on FOTs but I didn't realize GM used it. As I'm looking at the engine and studying the FOT system, I see the hose connects to the intake air system. This FOT operates with ported vacuum instead of manifold vacuum.

FANTASTIC!

The PCV System is not my problem. One system down.

Since our fuel trims are very high (+25 percent) and sluggish at all engine loads, my next thought was an out of calibration mass air flow sensor.

No!

This vehicle is a speed density system. It doesn't have that either. It uses a manifold absolute pressure (MAP) sensor. I monitored the MAP sensor and it's functioning correctly. Two systems down. I'm running out of ideas.

Training Kicks In

That's when my training kicked in. What if some of the fuel trim adaptives were learned incorrectly? What if the PCM fuel trim “look up files” are corrupted? It's time to try a “Hail Mary”!

I disconnected the vehicle's battery and discharged the computer's internal capacitors. Capacitors are kinda like mini batteries. By eliminating all power to the PCM memory I'm hoping all learned adaptives will be lost/erased.

When a vehicle rolls off the assembly line, the computer is programmed with baseline instructions. As things wear down (second law of thermal dynamics) the engine becomes less efficient and fuel mileage and performance declines. The PCM system is designed to adjust, adapt and relearn. It does this by overwriting the new adaptives on top of the baseline instructions and adding them to the PCM's memory.

Erasing the learned memory will hopefully take me back to the original programming. The engine and transmission may run rough until the relearning process is complete.

It Worked!

I went for a drive.

It worked!

The fuel trim activity was restored and our fuel trims are at +14 percent. The Check Engine Lamp will remain off, the S10 will pass its smog test, but our trims are still higher than our target of +5, but now I have hope.

Low fuel pressure is next on my list. The fuel pressure was normal when Roberto tested but now it's 9 psi low. We performed a fuel pump voltage drop and electrical circuit current test. The pump current was about 5 amps, it was spinning at +5,000 RPM and the waveform looked good. The fuel pump is not our problem. Three down.

We decide to next test the fuel pressure regulator but we cannot find it either. Par for the course. Kyle digs a little deeper and finds out the pressure regulator is located inside the fuel filter.

WHAT?

I lifted the vehicle and sure enough there was the third fuel line. We replaced the fuel filter also and finally the truck was fixed.

At first, I was surprised how much I don't know about my vehicle. After some thought I decided it's because I didn't need to know. Since I service my vehicle regularly, these problems never became an issue. Proper maintenance and good training do not cost, they pay.

OK Guys and Gals, that's all for this one. If you have any questions regarding this article, suggestions for future articles, ideas, recommendations and/or any general or specific automotive questions, please text me at 559-907-7661 or email complete_car_care@hotmail.com.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636. Happy Motoring.

Warren Parr, a two-time NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year.

Newest Eagle Scout for the Ranchos

Madera Ranchos Boy Scout Troop 118 continued to break records when Boy Scout Elliot Mercer earned scouting's highest rank on Thursday, Aug. 19 before a Board of Review and his parents. Mercer became Troop 118's 54th Eagle Scout.

The demanding advancement program requires a minimum of 21 merit badges for both physical and academic achievements, and leadership skills and community service are also essential requirements for the program.

Often referred to as “Four Percenters,” a reference that only approximately four percent of Scouts nationally ever successfully make the rank of Eagle Scout, Ranchos Troop 118 is throwing off the curve. By becoming Troop 118's 54th Eagle Scout, Elliot has helped the Ranchos organization's average for turning out Eagle Scouts over the last 20 years, rise to a lofty 80 percent success rate.

After a comprehensive interview by a Board of Review, Elliot was approved without reservation for the honor.

Elliot now joins the ranks of other Eagle Scouts, including Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon; Astronaut Jim Lovell of the infamous Apollo 13



The Ranchos' newest Eagle Scout, Elliot Mercer (center), is flanked by his dad and mom, Bret and Amy Mercer. Elliot becomes the 54th Ranchos Scout to earn the honor.

mission; Movie director and producer Steven Spielberg; National Hot Rod Association legend, “Big Daddy” Don Garlits; “Dirty Jobs” master, Mike Rowe; and of course, 38th President of the United States, Gerald Ford.

If you're a boy between the ages of 11 and 17, contact Troop 118 through Jeffrey Coulthard at 559-232-0912. They meet at Liberty High, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Classified

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1978 Starfire Cabin Cruiser - 22-foot w/trailer, GREAT CONDITION - 351 Ford, 9.8 HP Honda trolling motor, 2 new batteries, new tires, all work done by Cronin Marine in Madera Ranchos, current license and a cover. **BEST OFFER. Call 304-2019 or 252-0291.**

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Funds support Ranchos community organizations.

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CLEAN cont. from P. 7

events, but far fewer. Use this time to review the daily schedule and make adjustments as needed. As opportunities arise for new activities and commitments (for parents and

students), assess together how they will fit into the schedule and your family's priorities.

Link your family meeting to a quick check online for email messages from the school or teacher. Look for ways to support your child's teacher with a donation of supplies, volunteering and sending encouraging notes or emails with a cc to the principal.

School success is a team effort — students, parents, teachers, support staff and administration all play an essential role. Build into your family an attitude of gratitude for each one.

Wishing you all a peaceful and productive school year!

Contact *Organized by Choice* at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		-		17			
+		-		+				
	÷		+		11			
x		x		-				
	+		+		12			
11		20		10				
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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• Rubbing alcohol can be used to remove ballpoint-pen ink from most upholstery. • "Polish wall tiles in the bathroom using car wax. They will repel water really well. Just be sure that you cover the floor before you apply any wax. You do not want to polish your tub, as that is a safety hazard for sure!" -- M.W. in Missouri • If you have wood floors, you might al-

ready know about felt furniture pads -- the little self-stick felt circles you put on furniture legs to reduce scratches on your floors. You might not know that these same pads can reduce scuff marks that appliances make on countertops. It also makes it easier to scoot around a heavy mixer or other appliances. • Here's a workout tip: Rotate among a few pairs of running shoes to get the best life out of them. Rotating gives them a chance to dry out between wearings, and runners who practice this routine have a 39 percent lower chance of injury, according to a Luxembourg research firm.

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

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8/21



Will the new infrastructure law fill potholes, or pockets?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

The United States Senate and House of Representatives passed the 2,702-page Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the complete text of which can be found online by searching "H.R. 3684." For those who prefer reading hard copies, Office Depot will print the omnibus law, filling five-plus reams of paper, for a mere \$189.14 at 7 cents per sheet.

Of course, the new law includes provisions far afield from improving infrastructure, such as: Tearing down and replacing statues. A \$60 million (for just one year) Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program. Establishing the committee to investigate the January 6th mayhem. Addressing "climate change" ad infinitum, of course. And establishing a program to "demonstrate a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee," meaning a tax paid annually for every mile a vehicle is driven, and for which every vehicle would need a tracking device or other method to verify its mileage. A good article explaining the mileage tax can be found at smallbiztrends.com.

Not surprisingly, doling out grant money like candy to companies, organizations and government agencies adds up quickly; to \$1,200,000,000,000 to be exact. That's 1.2 trillion American dollars. Can the nation absorb that much additional debt?

According to USDebt-Clock.org, the current national debt is well over 28 trillion dollars and rising by the split second. This represents debt per citizen – as of today – of \$86,000 and debt per taxpayer of over \$227,000. The rapidly spinning numbers on this website may enlighten and alarm ordinary citizens, but they seem to make big-spending politicians' heads spin with delusions of power. The faster the numbers spin and the higher the spending, the more power and control for politicians.

As if this huge, bank-breaking "infrastructure" law were not expensive and intrusive enough, it lists 97 pending "Related Bills" which include such things as the Promoting Service in Transportation Act, the Safe Limos Act and my personal favorite, the Promoting Women in Trucking Workforce Act.

We can be pretty sure that not one senator or representative who voted for this new law has read it or knows all its provisions that will impact every one of us. It is another

massive bill like Obamacare, for which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi might say, in this case, "You had to pass the bill to find out how bad it is."

We can be equally sure that a hard-to-read 2,700-page bill – laden with "whereas"-es and "wherefores" and filled with changes to other laws – is open to pork barrel spending, payoffs to donors and pet projects that otherwise would never see the light of day. Such massive, all-encompassing bills seem designed for obfuscation.

Coming up next is an omnibus safety net and give-away bill, set to cost a staggering \$3,500,000,000,000 (3.5 trillion dollars). How fast can the numbers spin, taxes rise and debt increase?

One Subject at a Time Act

According to Congressman Russ Fulcher of Idaho, it is time to pare down the size of bills by passing the One Subject at a Time Act. He notes that huge bills are large funding packages that include hundreds of different government agencies, topics and interests, and that typically they include massive government waste and overspending. It should also be noted that the more complicated and harder for both seasoned politicians and average voters to read through a proposed bill, the easier it is for politicians' pet projects to be hidden.

Congressman Chip Roy says that huge "... so-called 'must-pass' bills are drafted behind closed doors by a select few in leadership, span hundreds of pages and dozens of topics, and are then

dropped on the floor against a deadline for members to take or leave." That makes it easy to just vote the party line once and go home.

The One Subject at a Time Act, which itself prints on one page, would require that "each bill or joint resolution shall embrace no more than one subject and that the subject of a bill or joint resolution shall be clearly and descriptively expressed in the title." Advantages abound: No room to hide pork or special projects; more openness when bills are simple and easy for everyone to read and understand; and more accountability to the public when politicians must vote on each subject to be contained in a new law.

If you're so inclined, please encourage your representative to pass this bill, and share this information with others.



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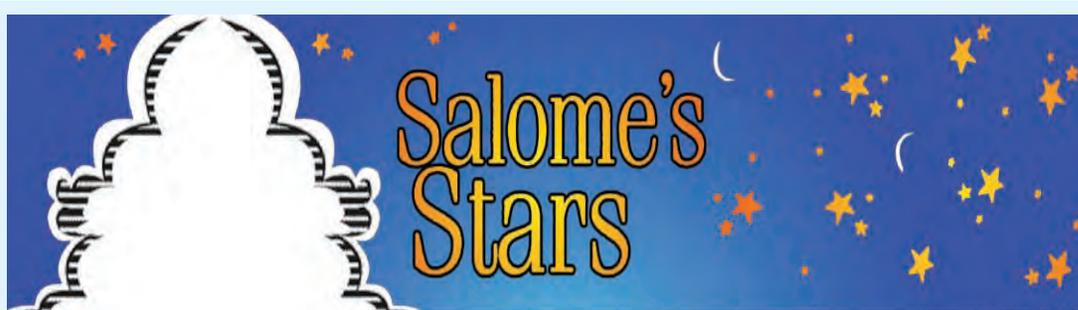
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps




"I bought some great things for the garage sale!"

www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A more harmonious aspect favors all relationships. Family ties with mates and children are strengthened. Libra is Cupid's choice to win the amorous Aries' heart.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The bold Bull is ready to take on fresh challenges. Expect some opposition as you plow new ground -- but supporters will outnumber detractors.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) An upcoming job change could mean uprooting your family to a far-distant location. Weigh all considerations carefully before making a decision one way or the other.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A long-standing problem is resolved by a mutually agreed upon compromise. You can now focus on getting the facts you'll need for a decision you'll soon be asked to make.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat needs to be wary of what appears to be a golden investment opportunity. That "sure thing" could turn out to be nothing more than a sack of Kitty Glitter.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You give of yourself generously to help others, but right now you must allow people to help you. Confide your problems to family and trusted friends.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Relationships benefit from a strong harmonious aspect. Things go more smoothly at work. Someone you thought you'd never see again asks for a reconciliation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A minor distraction interferes with travel plans, but the delay is temporary. Meanwhile, expect to play peacemaker once again for feuding family members.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Keep that positive momentum going on the home front. Arrange your schedule to spend more time with your family. You'll soon have news about that job change.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Control that possessive tendency that sometimes goads you into an unnecessary display of jealousy. You could be creating problems where none currently exist.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new project holds some challenges you hadn't expected. But don't be discouraged; you'll find you're more prepared to deal with them than you realized.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Yours is the sign of the celestial Chemist, so don't be surprised if you experience a pleasant "chemistry" betwixt yourself and that new Leo in your life.

Born this Week

You enjoy being fussed over, as befits your "royal" Leonine nature. You also have a strong loyalty to family and friends.

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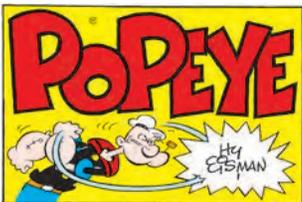
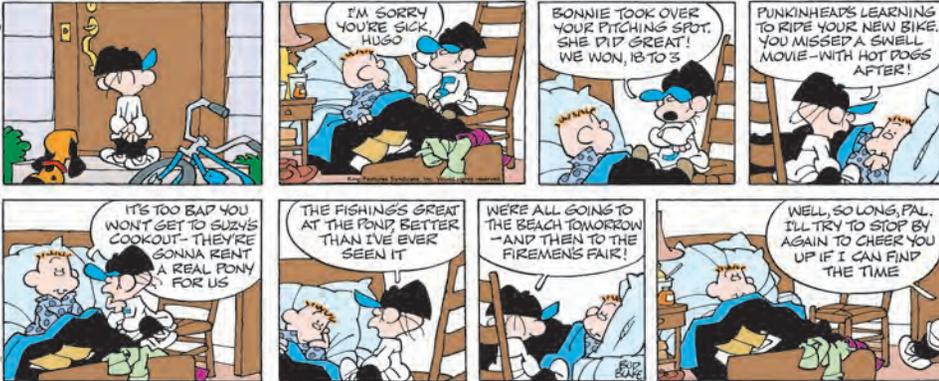
FUN PAGES

Kids' Maze



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TIGER



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



FIND the hidden riddle by reading every other letter as you go around the frame clockwise starting at "W."

Why is a plumber like a pelican?
Because of the size of his bill.

THE I'S HAVE IT! Pictured here is a word pyramid. Each word, as you go down, contains the same letters as the word above it plus a new letter. We give you all of the I's. Here are some hints from the top down.

- 1) One's self (given).
- 2) Not out.
- 3) Moral offense.
- 4) -- language.
- 5) What a canary does.
- 6) To give out.
- 7) Outer covers.
- 8) Shrewdness.



I, in, sin, sign, sing, sings, assign, castings, castings, castings.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

BET YOUR FRIENDS that you can prove that 12 minus 4 equals 7. To prove it, make a Roman numeral 12 as shown here using toothpicks. Now, remove the bottom four sticks, which will leave a Roman numeral 7, proving that 12 - 4 = 7.



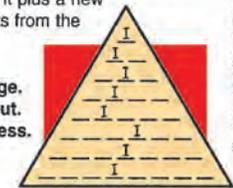
ONE + ONE = ONE

Below are two columns of three-letter words. Each word in column A must be combined with a word from column B to form a six-letter word. The word in column A must come first.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| A | CAT | B | PIE |
| BED | PET | EAR | PER |
| KIT | NAP | AIR | FLY |
| HIP | DIP | TEN | BUG |
| LEG | END | MAY | IMP |
| CAR | DIP | END | |

Time limit: three minutes.

Other words are possible.
Carpenter, bedbug, kitten, hippie, legend, carpet, dipper, endear, mayfly, impale.



Illustrated by David Coulson

Wishing Well

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

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.

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

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

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Charlie Brown | Linus | Pig-Pen | Shermy |
| Eudora | Lucy | Rerun | Snoopy |
| Franklin | Marcie | Sally | Woodstock |
| Frieda | Peggy Jean | Schroeder | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of Kansas?
2. ANATOMY: Where is the pinna located in the human body?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the English name for the country called Sverige by its people?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called heliophobia?
5. MOVIES: Which two films had the most Academy Award nominations without winning any of them?
6. TELEVISION: How many sons did Ben Cartwright have in "Bonanza"?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the most popular topping on a pizza?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many quills does the average porcupine have?
9. HISTORY: Which principal countries made up the Axis powers in World War II?
10. LITERATURE: What is the name of the wizard bank in the "Harry Potter" series?

Answers

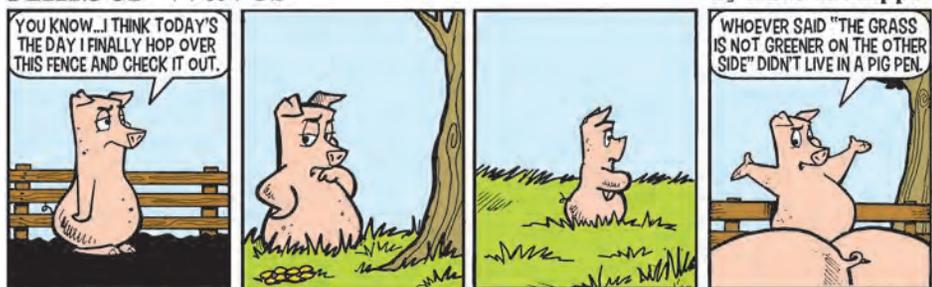
1. Topoka
2. It's the outer ear
3. Sweden
4. Fear of the sun
5. "The Turning Point" and "The Color Purple," both with 11 nominations
6. Three: Adam, Hoss and Little Joe
7. Pepperoni
8. 30,000
9. Japan, Germany and Italy
10. Gringotts

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Click on "Local News" at

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



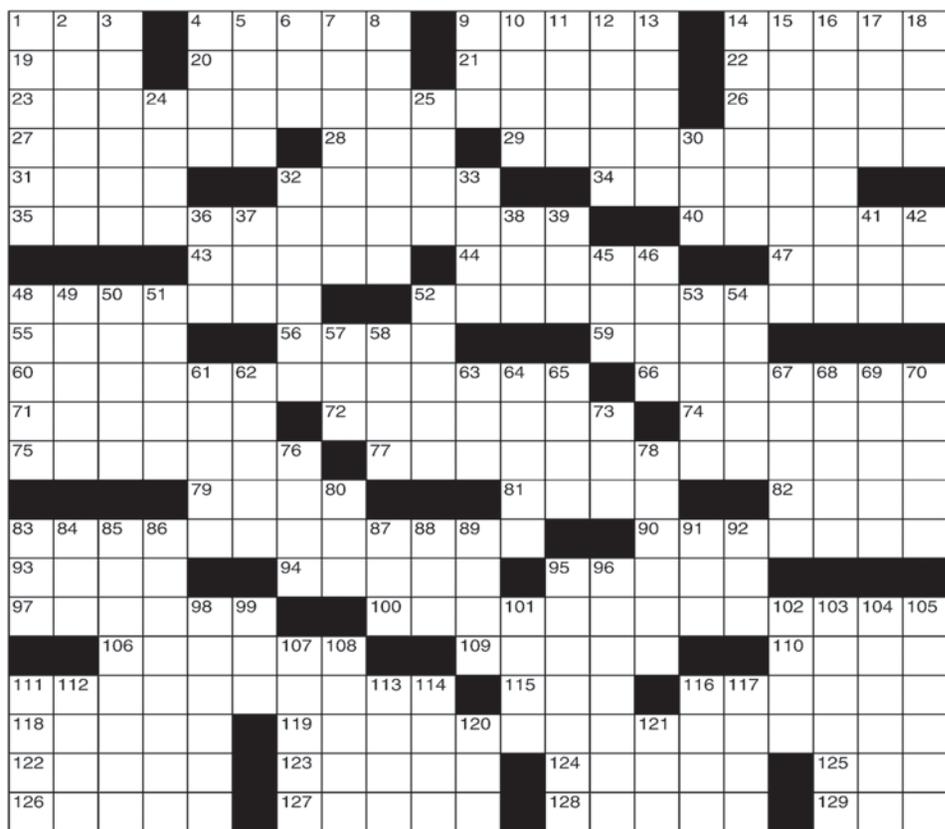
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bow is larger. 2. Hedge is showing. 5. Arm is missing. 6. Fence is shorter. 7. Base is missing. 8. Pants are different.

Super Crossword



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Puck surface | 48 Port on the Gulf of Mexico | 90 People lamenting | 1 Emanates |
| 4 Transparent | 52 Poet Doolittle who did all of her writing in her boudoir? | 93 \$\$\$ spitter-outers | 2 Duo |
| 9 Nick of "Weeds" | 14 Urged (on) | 94 Like clipped sheep | 3 Lashes' base |
| 19 Source of bean curd | 20 Figure skater Sonja | 95 Consumers | 4 See 87-Down |
| 21 Luau "hello" | 22 Thousand: Prefix | 96 Having its petroleum imported, as a nation | 5 Shoved off |
| 23 Soft leather sewn over fabric tears? | 26 Poker entry fee | 106 Having its petroleum imported, as a nation | 6 Rocker Brian |
| 27 Elevate | 28 USMC rank | 109 Cosmic path | 7 Use a fan on |
| 29 Tabby that's a national government's mascot? | 31 Peace Nobel | 110 "My treat!" | 8 Steinbeck novella, with "The" |
| 32 Sounded like a cow | 34 Antarctic penguin | 111 Subtract the cost of an adhesive roll? | 9 "Platoon" war zone, in brief |
| 35 Enticingly beautiful mugs? | 37 "Exile" New Age artist | 112 Salk of the Salk vaccine | 10 Snowman in "Frozen" |
| 40 Braininess | 43 How distant stars shine | 123 Modify | 11 Box in an opera house |
| 43 How distant stars shine | 44 White-rayed flower | 124 Cliff nest | 12 Silents star |
| 44 White-rayed flower | 47 Trevor of "The Daily Show" | 125 Luau gift | 13 Mollified |
| | | 126 Viewpoint | 14 Mummify |
| | | 127 Insolent | 15 Former New York City mayor Rudy |
| | | 128 Norwegian money | 16 Antifreeze compound |
| | | 129 Reno-to-L.A. dir. | 17 Kazan of filmdom |
| | | | 18 By — of (owing to) |
| | | | 24 God, to Henri |
| | | | 25 Baldwin of "Still Alice" |
| | | | 30 Apt., e.g. |
| | | | 32 Brunch quaff |
| | | | 33 "My man!" |
| | | | 36 Roman 401 |
| | | | 37 Quirky habit |
| | | | 38 Brake part |
| | | | 39 Male title of respect |
| | | | 41 Smidgen |
| | | | 42 "— Na Na" |
| | | | 45 Bawl |
| | | | 46 Days of old |
| | | | 48 Lipstick units |
| | | | 49 Action venue |
| | | | 50 Female title of respect |
| | | | 51 Ancient Roman lower class |
| | | | 52 Via automobile |
| | | | 53 Director Forman |
| | | | 54 Moor shrub |
| | | | 57 It blasts |
| | | | 58 Take — (swim or bathe) |
| | | | 61 Given a hint |
| | | | 62 Singer Loggins |
| | | | 63 "Rules — rules" |
| | | | 64 Worker filling a cargo hold, say |
| | | | 65 Spearhead |
| | | | 67 Great risk |
| | | | 68 Begin to fail |
| | | | 69 Bugs bugger Fudd |
| | | | 70 Ninnies |
| | | | 73 Imbiber's hwy. offense |
| | | | 76 P.E. places |
| | | | 78 Most recent |
| | | | 80 "Makes sense now" |
| | | | 83 Chitchat |
| | | | 84 Map no. |
| | | | 85 Editing |
| | | | 86 Adoption of a cause |
| | | | 87 With 4-Down, cooking reality series |
| | | | 88 Uno tripled |
| | | | 89 Prefix with spore |
| | | | 91 Dadaist Jean |
| | | | 92 Prefix with thermal |
| | | | 95 Toni Braxton's "— My Heart" |
| | | | 96 Swizzle stick |
| | | | 98 Totally cover |
| | | | 99 Speck |
| | | | 101 Yank who wore #13 |
| | | | 102 Wine stopper |
| | | | 103 Genuflects |
| | | | 104 Overplays it |
| | | | 105 Actress O'Shea |
| | | | 107 "— the best of times ..." |
| | | | 108 Boxer Ali |
| | | | 111 — vu |
| | | | 112 University in North Carolina |
| | | | 113 Agts.' cuts |
| | | | 114 Just makes, with "out" |
| | | | 116 Narcissistic |
| | | | 117 "Makes sense now" |
| | | | 120 Suffix with cook or mock |
| | | | 121 "My man!" |

FUN PAGES

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Since the state has begun to open public gatherings, we're able to have our meetings in person again. Our next meeting is Monday, September 20 at 6 p.m. Safe distancing and mask wearing will be practiced. We will start at a new gathering hall at 37101 Avenue 12, Madera Ranchos

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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