

The Independent

Serving the Madera Ranchos
Bonadelle Ranchos • Rolling Hills
Riverstone • Tesoro Viejo



PRSR STD
ECR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

NOW IN OUR
20TH YEAR
IN MADERA
COUNTY

Volume 21 Issue 8 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



NEWSOM BRINGS THE SALAMANDERS TO CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR FEELS
STATE DEMOCRATS
HAVING ONLY 85%
OF THE VOTE
THREATENS
DEMOCRACY
... HE WANTS MORE

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 16 / Fun Pages • Pages 18 & 19



By Alexei Koseff

California has an overwhelmingly Democratic delegation in Congress. Gov. Newsom's plan could give his party five *more* seats and offset a Texas gerrymander.

The fight over redistricting is about to hit overdrive in California.

As the Legislature returned to Sacramento last week for the final month of session, Democrats are racing to finish a plan that could tilt the state's congressional map in their favor — and thrust California into another confrontation with President Donald Trump.

Republicans, who stand to lose more than half their seats in the state, decry the scheme as a self-serving power grab. But supporters, led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, contend they are “saving democracy” by stopping Trump from “rigging” the outcome of the 2026 midterms. Ultimately, California voters will likely decide in a special election this November.

Newsom is leading the charge for the Democratic response in a burgeoning partisan showdown that could effectively deter-

mine control of the U.S. House of Representatives before a single vote is cast next November. This kicked off thousands of miles away from Sacramento — in Texas. Earlier this year, Trump began pressuring Republican leaders there to redraw its congressional lines to shore up the GOP's narrow majority in the House. As his approval rating sinks, the president is worried Democrats could win back Congress in the 2026 election and disrupt the final two years of his term. Even as dozens of Democratic members have fled the state in protest, the Texas Legislature is advancing a new map that could flip five Democratic House seats to Republican control. Other conservative states, including Ohio, Missouri, Indiana and Florida, are considering similar actions.

So, channeling the anger of Democratic voters, Newsom has launched California into a retaliatory redistricting that would offset the Texas map with five new Democratic-leaning seats.

“Donald Trump, you have poked the bear and we will punch back,” Newsom said during a rally last week formally kick-

ing off the campaign. “Don’t mess with the great Golden State.”

Unlike Texas, where the Legislature determines congressional lines, California voters in 2010 gave that power to a bipartisan citizen commission. The commission draws a new map once each decade, after the U.S. Census, to ensure each congressional district has roughly an equal number of people. It last did so in 2021.

Newsom is proposing to temporarily override the commission and create districts more favorable to Democrats until after the 2030 Census. That requires going to the voters for their approval. Democratic officials already drew a new map in secret, which they finally shared publicly two weeks ago. The Legislature, where three-quarters of members are Democrats, plans to vote before the end of this week to put that map on the ballot in a statewide special election on Nov. 4.

“Voters will see the maps and have the final say,” Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, a Salinas Democrat, said in a statement.

But why the rush? California's primary election is in June, so work backward from there. The deadline for candidates to declare is in early March. Those who want to collect signatures to qualify, instead of paying a filing fee, can start in December. That means new congressional lines need to be in place by the end of the year, so candidates actually know which voters they need to reach.

Newsom is eyeing Nov. 4 for the special election to consolidate it with municipal elections across the state that day. State law requires elections officials to mail a ballot to every voter starting 29 days before the election, and to military and overseas voters 45 days before, which means ballots must be ready by late September. The secretary of state's office has said the Legislature must act by Friday to leave enough time for local elections officials to meet those deadlines for a Nov. 4 election. Even then, the next month will be extremely busy for them.

The state has promised to cover the expenses counties incur running this unexpected election, which won't be cheap. The

last state special election, an unsuccessful recall of Newsom in September 2021, cost about \$200 million. Newsom has said consolidating the election with already scheduled local elections on Nov. 4 could save money, but early estimates from counties — up to \$4 million in Fresno and up to \$16 million in Riverside — are higher than they were for the recall.

“No price tag for democracy,” Newsom told reporters last week following the kickoff rally.

Democrats feel good about their chances, but it's a heavy lift. A Politico poll found that nearly two-thirds of California voters prefer retaining the state's independent redistricting commission over returning authority to the Legislature to draw congressional lines. That is not exactly what Newsom's plan would do, however. His messaging has emphasized that the commission would only be sidelined temporarily, because of what he calls a “Trump-induced political emergency.” It's reflected in the name of the measure: the Election Rigging Response Act. Internal polling shared with lawmakers put support, when framed along those lines, at 52 percent.

While that's enough to win in November, it may not be enough to withstand an intense campaign this fall that is expected to draw hundreds of millions of dollars in spending. Charles Munger, Jr., the longtime Republican donor who poured more than \$12 million into the campaign to pass independent redistricting, has said he will open up his wallet again to defend it.

“Citizens, not politicians or partisan party insiders, should not only hold the power at the ballot box but also the power to draw the lines,” Amy Thoma Tan, a spokesperson for Munger's campaign committee, said in a statement. The National Republican Congressional Committee said in a statement that it was prepared to “fight Gavin Newsom's illegal power grab in the courts and at the ballot box.”

This article by Alexei Koseff originally appeared at Calmatters.org.

Governor Candidate Files Legal Action to Stop Redistricting Seat Grab

By Evan Symon

2026 Gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton announced in early August “legal action to stop Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta from ramming through an illegal, mid-decade redistricting scheme designed to shred the state constitution and rig California's elections.”

Hilton, a former advisor to British

Prime Minister David Cameron and former Fox News political commentator prior to his candidacy, said, “Gavin Newsom is trying to steal five House seats from Republicans so Democrats can flip the House and impeach President Trump. This is not about Texas. It's about Newsom's presidential ambitions. I will not let it happen. Next week I will be laying out a plan to stop Newsom.”

“It is illegal, it is unconstitutional. My

friend [Congressman] Tom McClintock, who endorsed me for Governor, is exactly right there,” Hilton said on Fox News Sunday. “But here's what's going on. Everyone across the country needs to understand this. Gavin Newsom is planning to steal five Republican House seats next year by holding a special election this year to overturn the California constitution and illegally grab power and make this state even more gerrymandered in Democrats' favor.”

“And right now Republicans have 40 percent of the vote in California, but only 17 percent of the House seats. Gavin Newsom wants another five. That will give us for 40 percent of the vote only 7 percent of the House seats in California because Gavin Newsom wants to show that he is the guy fighting President Trump, winning the House majority for Democrats so that they can impeach President Trump. I'm not going to let that happen.”

Click on “Local News” at

Kiwanis Korner

Locals Get Awards from Top Div. Kiwani

By Sally Rowden

We attended the California-Nevada-Hawaii Kiwanis Division 5 Official Visit of Governor Doug Frost on July 25 in Clovis. The evening included awarding each club's local Community Service Award and Distinguished Service Award. Our local recipients were Andrea Pille, Kiwanis Club Member, and Dr. Timothy Prewitt, Prewitt Dental Ranchos.

Andrea received our Distinguished Service Award for her willing attitude to take on a club job and see it through to the finish line. Andrea, from the beginning, has eagerly been involved and is a great role model in her knowledge and dedication to all our community projects. She is also an extremely welcoming fun friend. You want to work with her as the laughter is endless.

Dr. Timothy Prewitt of Prewitt Dental Ranchos received our Community Service Award. Dr. Prewitt and his wife just had their second child so his brother, Stuart Prewitt, Chief Operations Officer at Prewitt Dental Ranchos, was in attendance. Dr. Prewitt, Stuart and the complete staff indicated that they wanted to be involved in our communities,

Please see **KIWANIS** on P. 13

In Memoriam



Merrill Joy Hunter
May 12, 1935 — December 3, 2024

I wanted friends in the Ranchos to know that my husband, Merrill Joy Hunter passed away on Dec. 3, 2024. He had a fall in November and ended up in the hospital with two hematoma brain bleeds. He made it through the surgery, but his heart was not strong enough. He would have celebrated his 90th birthday on May 12, 2025. He was born on Mother's Day in 1935.

Joy served in the Army and was stationed in Germany for three years. He worked for Redwood City Postal Service for over 42 years and he used to drive a school bus on his off times. He loved working with the kids. He retired in 1986.

Our 25th Anniversary was in November while Joy was in the hospital. We were going to Celebrate when he got home, but God had another plan and called him home.

We have lived in the Ranchos for 14 years and we loved living out here, especially after coming from Santa Clara. Joy and I had 25 wonderful years together, praise the Lord.

We went on some fantastic cruises together and took some wonderful trips in our RV to Pennsylvania visiting family. Joy was from Dodge City, Kansas where Joy grew up. He loved going to "Dodge City Days" which was in August. His family lived in Kanas, so we got to visit his relatives. We have a lot of beautiful memories together.

Joy has three sons, and we have five grandkids, and two great-great granddaughters. He will be greatly missed among the family and friends.

Love you sweetheart, and miss you. Love you forever, Scharlyn.

In Memoriam



Carol Maxine Briner
June 30, 1939 — November 9, 2024

Maxine Briner was born to Gladys and Orville Briner on Friday, June 30, 1939 in Merced, California. Originally named Naomi Maxine Briner, her parents changed her name to Carol Maxine Briner when she was five years old.

As a child, Maxine lived with her parents and siblings at Grandma Drinnen's home, Gladys' mother, in the farmlands of Chowchilla. They later moved to the Briner family home at 301 Alameda in Chowchilla, where she lived until she eventually moved away as a young adult. The exception was a brief stay in San Francisco during WWII where her dad, Grandpa Briner, worked as a welder in the shipyards.

While living in Chowchilla she attended school and ultimately graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1957. While there, she was a saxophone player with the Chowchilla High Redskin Band.

After graduating from high school, she got her first – and only – job with the phone company in 1957. She started working for Pacific Bell as an operator in Los Angeles in 1957 and then two years later in 1959 transferred to Merced where she worked for the next 38 years. She also worked briefly out of the Fresno office before she retired.

Although she never married, there were two loves in her life. In the 70s when she lived in Merced, it was Joe Reynoso. Later, when she moved to Fresno, it was Don Dahlstrom. She and Don, whom she met at the phone company, were a couple for 25 years, right up until Don passed away.

It was through Don that Maxine developed her love for boating and the ocean, with the California coastal community of Trinidad becoming her favorite vacation site where they would spend weeks at a time at Don's boat. It was here that her tradition of buying freshly caught tuna from local fishing boats in Eureka would be taken home, canned, and then given to loved ones.

U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Kyle Carpenter said, "Be kind and help others. Let the ones you love know you love them." This quote embodied Maxine's view on life. She was kind and helpful to friends and family and everyone in her world knew that they were loved by her. They knew it by her words and her actions. If you talk to enough people who knew her, you will again and again hear stories of helping out and going beyond what was expected. It was just the way she was "wired."

Maxine leaves behind her brother George and sister-in-law JoRene, and a multitude of nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, as well as extended family and friends who loved her and miss her. During the last few years of her life she actively attended New Covenant Community Church in Fresno with family members. She loved country music, traditional church hymns and conservative talk radio and TV shows.

As we reflect on the passing of Maxine, some words from author Shel Silverstein come to mind:

"There are no happy endings. Endings are the saddest part. Just give me a happy middle, and a very happy start."

Maxine did that.

**Sago Key
Palm Plantation!**
 More than 20,000
 Palms & Sagos in stock.
 We also have a wide selection of
 Shade & Fruit trees.
 call Juan and Maria at
559-268-6650
 6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

**NEED WALKWAYS, PATIOS
OR DRIVEWAYS?
GET IT DONE!**

CALL
AGUILAR'S CONCRETE
 innovative hardscapes services

WALKWAYS • PATIOS • DRIVEWAYS • DECORATIVE
 CURBS • GRADING • FOUNDATIONS
 DEMO/REMOVAL • ROCK HARDSCAPES
 CURB APPEAL LOOK • COLOR STAINS
 CONCRETE REPAIRS • YARD CLEAN UPS

559-718-3554
 call or text

Not everyone
needs us ...
But you might.

If you've been involved in a wreck, you know there's nothing worse. Will your car be like it was? Will it cost an arm and a leg to fix? Will it take forever? Call Caesar Dents. Estimates are always free, the work is impeccable and the price just might surprise you.

**Caesar Dents
& Auto Body Repair**
 1146 Barstow #G • Clovis
559-797-2528
 Auto • Aircraft • Boats

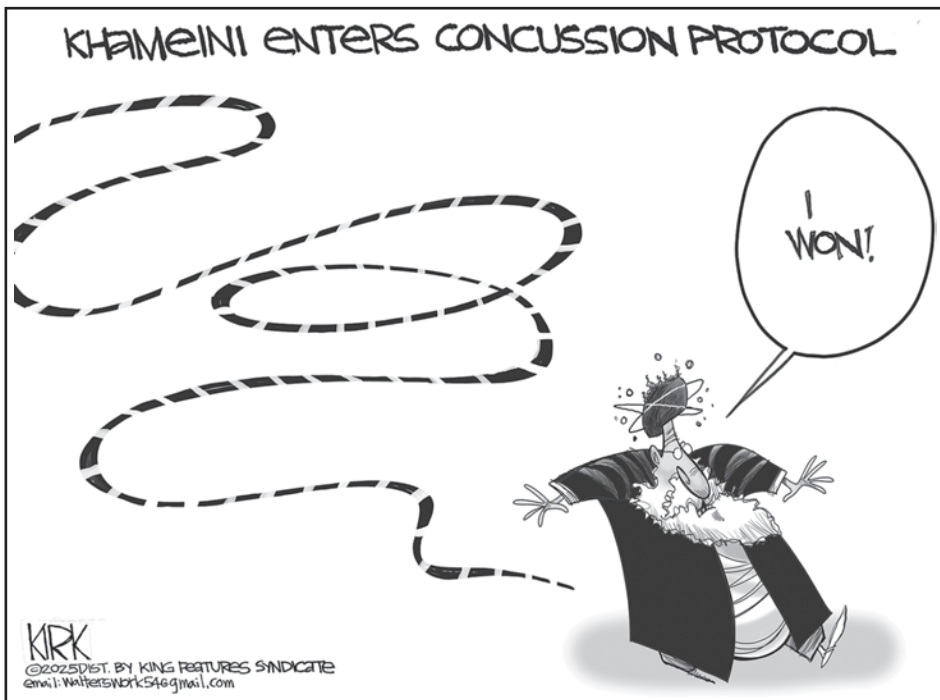
**How do you get free tank rent
for the first year, prompt
friendly service, a free
initial leak test and
competitive prices?
You call ...**

VALLEY PROPANE
559-645-5324
 the **ONLY** locally owned
 propane company in the
 Madera Ranchos

**GO
HAWKS!**

Join us in supporting our
LIBERTY HIGH HAWKS
 this season and all year long

VALLEY PROPANE
"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"
645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D
Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center



The Independent

The Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.
 All contents of this publication are copyright 2025, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.
 All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor
 Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
 ranchosnews@yahoo.com

Guest Editorial

Trump's New Census -- in 2030

By Rich Lowry

Trump wants a new census. If, by this, he means a snap-census before the scheduled 2030 survey, he's demanding that the federal government undertake a gargantuan task with minimal planning and no discernible source of funding. In statistical terms, it'd be like launching D-Day after a month's preparation.

If the White Queen believes six impossible things before breakfast, that the Census Bureau could pull this off would qualify as one of them. The agency couldn't even competently conduct the last regularly scheduled census in 2020.

Given that conducting the census is a core function of the federal government -- indeed, mandated by the Constitution -- it is outrageous that the last survey missed so badly. It undercounted Florida and a handful of other Red states (as well as Illinois) and overcounted New York and a number of Blue states (plus Ohio and Utah).

Because the apportionment of congressional seats depends on population

as determined by the census, these were highly consequential errors that can't be allowed to happen again. There's no legal mechanism for fixing it, though. We just have to do better in 2030. Trump is also, understandably, chagrined that illegal immigrants are included in the census and declares that, going forward, they "WILL NOT BE COUNTED." Here he's going to run smack into the relevant legal texts.

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution refers to "the Whole Number of free Persons," while the 14th Amendment says "the whole number of per-

sons in each State." In a similar fashion, the U.S. code calls for a "tabulation of total population by States."

So it's hard to see how illegal immigrants can be excluded from the count. As it hap-

pens, they don't seem to have much of an effect on the partisan breakdown of congressional seats one way or the other. Although the highest number of illegal immigrants live in California, they are spread around the country, and there are also large numbers in Texas and Florida.

A change that Trump wanted in the 2020 census was the inclusion, once again, of a citizenship question. This is highly relevant information that it's entirely appropriate to ask.

There was a long period from the 19th century through 1950 when the survey had a citizenship question. Then, it was relegated to the so-called "long form." Finally, the long form itself was axed after 2000.

Now, it's considered a scandal to even think about reviving the question. Trump's proposal to ask the question on the 2020 census encountered stiff resistance and the Supreme Court squashed it.

By the way, non-citizens do have a notable impact on congressional apportionment. Recent research by the Center for Immigration Studies found that all immigrants (naturalized citizens as well as all other categories of immigrants) shifted 14 congressional

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 16

THE RAY GUN

SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"FREEDOM LEADS TO PROSPERITY. REPLACES THE ANCIENT HATREDS AMONG THE NATIONS WITH COMITY AND PEACE. FREEDOM IS THE VICTOR ..."

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

When Airlines Drop the Ball

If you fly low-cost airlines with any regularity, you are probably familiar with some of the changes made by Southwest Airlines, specifically the change to their checked bag policy. One of the reasons Southwest has remained popular over the years is the fact that you can check two bags for free, even if you buy the cheapest ticket. Well, earlier this year, the CEO decided to take a wrecking ball to their best perk; no more free checked bags unless you either buy the most expensive ticket or have their credit card. Don't want to spend top dollar for a budget seat with crappy snacks? Well then, you're paying to bring your stuff with you when you travel. As a lifelong Southwest patron, I was shocked. It was their claim to fame. The reason most of us even chose them. It was their "we may herd you onto planes like cattle but at least we don't fleece you like the other guys" promise.

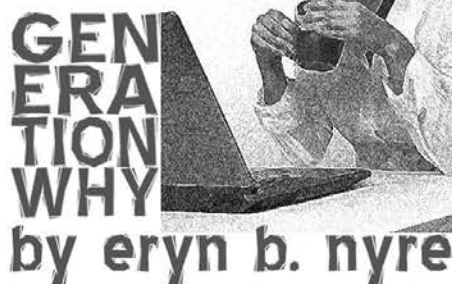
I guess the CEO woke up one morning and thought, "You know what people love? Less value for more money. And good thing, too, because I have a hankering for a wider profit margin." This was the only thing that truly set them apart from the other airlines in their class. It certainly wasn't their ability to stick to a schedule.

As a result of this change, I decided to carry-on for a recent weekend trip. I was not about to hand over an extra \$35 to check a bag just so I could overpack for a little three-day spree. I was not alone in my thinking. Evidently every single other passenger on every single Southwest flight in the country had the same aversion to shelling out a bunch of money to check bags, especially since so recently it was free. But here's the plot twist nobody upstairs thought about: airplanes are not designed to hold an entire flight's worth of roller bags in the overhead bins. Shocking, right?

On each flight, to and from, I had a plane change. And at every single gate I witnessed the airline representatives act out the same comedy of errors. It started with a cheerful request for volunteers to gate check their bag to save time and hassle.

Crickets.

Then it was the preemptive warning.



It's a full flight and judging by the number of checked bags, they expect too many passengers are going to try and store their carry-on in the overhead bin, and there just isn't enough room. So, please volunteer to check your bag so it saves us time when trying to board.

Crickets and blank stares.

Then came the pleading. They really need volunteers, and it will save so much time if it just gets done now.

Then it escalated to thinly veiled threats and bag hostage negotiations. They will have to hold up boarding if they don't get volunteers.

My favorite part of each announcement was the reminder that gate checking our bags would be free! Well, you

know what, Janet, it was free before your CEO decided to blow up the business model, so don't try and use that as motivation to volunteer. Not that it's the gate agent's fault, it just wasn't a useful incentive.

Also, it's only technically free. There's most definitely a cost. We had all packed with the strategy of skilled Tetris players making everything fit into a single, tiny carry-on bag. There was rolling, folding and stuffing clothes into every available centimeter of space. Shoes and back-up outfits were sacrificed, vital skin care products left behind to meet TSA guidelines, all to avoid paying the checked bag fee that didn't exist a year ago. The only added benefit to all this additional hassle was skipping the wait at the baggage claim. Now you're telling me, I've done all that and I will STILL have to wait for my bag?

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



674-1663
36691 Ave. 12
Madera Ranchos

DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

Family Owned
Since 1976

8/25

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO

WE KNOW LOW CARBS!
\$20 OFF
1st visit only



DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

8/25



Developing Land Surveying and Civil Engineering Design Solutions with our clients and the local community since 2008

Civil Engineering



Land Surveying



Underground Locating



559-645-4849

BedRock Engineering
10878 Highway 41
Madera

www.BedRockEng.com

8/25

www.chadstrucking.com

CHAD
TRUCKING
CA #441782

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY
559-479-4113

ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL •
HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK •
LANDSCAPE MATERIAL •
FILL DIRT •
TOP SOIL •
HUMUS •
BARK •
CHIPS •
RIVER ROCK •
BASE ROCK •
ROCK DUST •
COBBLE STONES •
DRIVEWAY BASE •
CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

Yes ... but it's free.

It's also not free for the employees. All those gate agents deserved sainthood. They were stuck enforcing a policy they didn't make, dealing with travelers who were one minor inconvenience away from a full tantrum, and I doubt any of them are expected to see a share of the supposed increase in profits from the checked bag revenue.

This brilliant new system is terrible on multiple fronts. It slows everything down. Boarding takes longer. Takeoffs get delayed. Employees do more work for no extra pay. Customers get crankier. Honestly, the only thing soaring higher than the

planes are the collective blood pressures. Don't get me wrong, I'm not blind to the fact that the airlines need to make money. The business can't run if it's in the red. But there's a fine line between savvy business decisions and testing to see how far they can push people before they riot. When customers AND employees are both miserable, that's not a sustainable strategy, as the CEO must now realize given that a simple google search shows their profits have taken quite a hit.

And here's the real kicker: all that work to bring in more revenue by charging customers a fee to check their bags, because no one thought to make sure the planes could handle an increase in carry-ons, the bags are still flying free!



Tesoro Viejo

FARMERS MARKET

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

TESORO VIEJO TOWN CENTER



FRESH
PRODUCE

ARTISANAL
GOODS

FOOD
TRUCKS

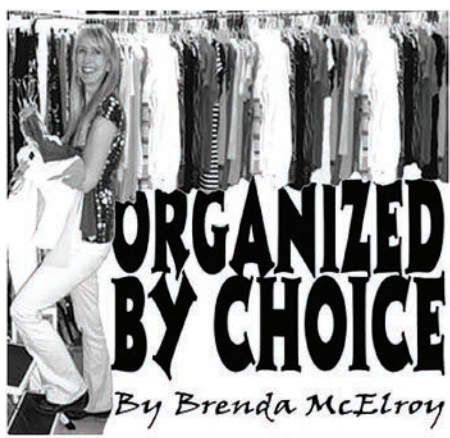
FAMILY
ACTIVITIES

@TESOROVIEJOFARMERSMARKET

8/25

Say you saw it in the Independent

www.TheRanchos.com



Time Will Tell

When we moved there were many things we weren't sure about. Would we miss our large yard and the home we built with the help of family and friends? Would we adjust to houses being closer? What would our neighbors be like? Many things fell into the "Time Will Tell" category.

This week as I was putting away our vacation supplies, I came across a bin in the garage. It was a back-burner box from our move that now, almost a year later, I had forgotten about. In it I discovered framed pictures and miscellaneous décor. At this point, I was more confident in what I wanted to

Giving things the test of time builds confidence in your decisions and minimizes regrets. Without the chance for go-backs, we're thankful that the "Time Will Tell" things related to our move turned out in our favor.

keep than a year ago. I displayed some things. I relocated a few to store inside (so I won't forget about them), donated some, and wound up with an empty bin. Yay!

Why does the passing of time make a difference? Here are three ways it enhanced my decision making.

Clarified values — During those months, I never went searching for the items in that bin. That's not to say there weren't some important things in there, but I realized I already had the most important things displayed.

Freedom to refresh — I enjoyed our old home's hall of fame photos — starting with a collage of our dating years and ending with pics of our first five grandbabies. Our new home has a hall that could support all of them and more, but I realized I'd like to refresh the look and choose a new mix of old and new.

Freedom to stay the same — When we moved in, I thought I would redo the décor in our guest room. After searching — but not finding — new bedding, I decided to stick with what we have for now. This meant that some of the décor hiding in that bin found its way back to the guest room. Looks more inviting now.

This concept works for more than old moving boxes. Sometimes, when purging kitchen, closet or bathroom items we don't feel sure — is it a keep or donate? Dawn Madsen of *TheMinimalMom.com*, suggests having a "Time Will Tell" bin on hand. Rather than getting stuck, or keeping it all "just in case," place the questionable items in your designated bin. Label it "Time Will Tell," and put the date on it.

Place it out of the way in the garage or a closet. Schedule a date to review its contents 6-12 months down the road. In the meantime, if you find yourself needing something, go ahead and retrieve it. Otherwise, at the end of your waiting period, peek in to make sure you know what you're donating, bag it up, and haul it away.

Madsen also suggests a "Time Will Tell" tray for paper. This excludes any paper that has a deadline, bill to pay, requires filing, etc.

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 13

Kitchen Classics

(August 2015)

Editor's Note: With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.



like them.

Swedish Braised Short Ribs

1 T butter or margarine
3 lbs. beef short ribs (cut into 4 serving pieces)

1 sliced medium onion
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. whole allspice
2 bay leaves
1 C hot water
¼ C cold water
1 T. flour
2 T. heavy cream
1 tsp. sugar

Heat Dutch oven until very hot; add butter then meat. Cook on high heat until meat is very well browned on all sides. Add onion; with fork push down into fat around meat; cook a minute or so until browned. Now add salt, pepper, 1 tsp. sugar, allspice, bay leaves and hot water. Simmer, covered, for 1 ½ to 2 hours or until fork tender.

Remove meat to heated platter and keep hot. Skim fat from liquid in Dutch oven. Stir cold water into flour, stir until smooth. Slowly add to liquid in pan stirring constantly. Cook until thickened. Stir in cream and 1 tsp. sugar; bring to boil, pour over meat. Serve at once. Especially nice if served with glazed carrots, green beans and mashed potatoes.

Glazed Carrots

Cook peeled small carrots until almost tender. Drain well and dry with clean kitchen towel or paper towels. Roll carrots in granulated sugar. In same pan they were boiled in add some butter or margarine add carrots and simmer, turning frequently until glazed. (I have also seen this done with brown sugar).

Baked Lemon Cake Pudding

2 eggs. Separated

¼ tsp. salt
½ C. granulated sugar
1 T. grated lemon rind
5 T. lemon juice
2 T. melted butter or margarine
¼ C. granulated sugar
3 T. flour
1 C. milk

Preheat oven to 350. Grease 1 quart casserole. Beat egg whites with salt until soft peaks form when beater is raised. Gradually add ½ cup sugar and beat until stiff. Beat yolks with lemon rind and juice,

melted butter. Stir in ¼ C. sugar mixed with flour; add milk. Fold into beaten egg whites.

Pour batter into casserole. Set in baking pan containing ½ inch hot water. Bake, uncovered 55 to 65 minutes or until top is firm and browned. Cake will be on top and lemon pudding will be on the bottom.

That's all the time I have for this month, but I would like to continue from it for next month.

Until then ...

Create a gift from the heart

Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336
37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

Appointment Only -- Give us a call!

Visit us at www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com
and Facebook "What's Up in the Ranchos"
Contact us for SPECIAL GROUP PARTIES
NEVER a sitting fee • Walk-ins **ALWAYS** welcome

Arts & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Items

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

**Michael Sutherland
& Associates, Inc.**

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
Lic. #PLS 5815 **36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

www.TheRanchos.com

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9am • Sunday Worship Service 10:30am
Wednesday Life Apps 6:30pm • All Ages
Women's Bible Study Thursdays 6:30pm
12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos
Email: GoldenValleyBaptistChurch@live.com
559-645-1700

8/25

LICENSE #932435

FREE ESTIMATES

TIM DE MERA
Owner/CEO
Madera Ranchos Resident

ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMER@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM

8/25

LABOR DAY WEEKEND IS ALMOST HERE!

THE BUTCHER BOSS
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DELICATESSEN

... COME SEE THE BUTCHER BOSS

**11156 HWY 41
MADERA
421-3046**



Senior Report

Fall Activities Coming for Seniors

By Melanie Williams

The summer months were full of fun indoor and outdoor activities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We were blessed with cooler weather, so members enjoyed evening potlucks, fun group games, exercise classes, Indian basket weaving and senior lunches with fresh, cool salads on the patio at the Senior Center.

A few Ranchos/Hills members started Chair Yoga and Cooking Classes at the Camarena Health Wellness Center in Tesoro Viejo. Other Ranchos/Hills members used the hiking trails around the Tesoro Viejo area and listened to music at the Axis Bar Eatery and Coffee Shop on a few Friday nights this past summer. There are many activities seniors would enjoy available at Tesoro Viejo and they welcome the Madera Ranchos community to participate.

Union and the Madera Sheriff's Office about potential scams that target seniors. The Madera Adult Department of Social Services hosted the event. They provided food and sponsored a participation raffle to give out gift baskets and cards. This was a free community event, so if you are interested you can plan to attend future events at the Senior Center to learn about our local county services.

Supervise Jordan Wamhoff hosted a Coffee and Conversation Meeting at the Ranchos Library in August. This is another event to find out more information about future plans and concerns in our local community. We encourage seniors as well as all community members to attend these informational meetings about Madera County. Seniors can contact the Senior Center to be informed about when these meetings are scheduled and more about Madera County services available at 559-645-4864.



Line Dancing is here at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. A Line Dancing Class is being taught at the Center by Jennifer Howes, third from left, from Rolling Hills. Call the Center for more information on the new class, including dates and times, at 559-645-645-4864. Enjoying a lesson are, from left, Cindy Lipinski, Judy McGrath, instructor Jennifer Howes, Martha Suderman, Carol Wood, Margaret Sharp, Ethel Hansen and Ellen Williams.

Cristina Rendon came to the August Potluck at the Senior Center and presented a schedule of programs available for seniors at the Camarena Health Wellness Center. If you would like more information about the programs at Camarena Health Wellness Center at Tesoro Viejo, call their office at 559-664-4123.

The Madera County Department of Social Services gave a presentation for the June Disability Awareness Month to the Madera Ranchos community at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Attending seniors living in the community heard a wonderful presentation by Noble Credit

September is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to cooler days and the softer gentle breezes of Autumn. Jennifer Marie Howes is introducing a new Line Dance Class on August 27th for the fall activities at the Senior Center. She is an experienced instructor and has taught fitness classes for many years. Currently, she is a Group-X Instructor at Sierra Racquet Club. Jennifer works with seniors with limited movement and balance, so she is very patient to teach line dance steps considering a person's individual level of mobility.

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 13

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is reaching out to the Community — the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos, Rolling Hills, Tesoro Viejo and Riverstone — about new street banners to adorn Avenue 12 and bring more pride to our community. You can help by donating to this project. Send your donation to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera, CA 93636. You may also VENMO a donation to Mike Fursman @ Mike-Fursman. If you have a company and would like to donate, you will be recognized on a banner.

We are all part of this community and we can all be proud of what we can do together. Let's brighten up our community.

Thanking all of you in advance,
Mike Fursman, Golden Valley Chamber President
All Chamber Board Members



(Past Banners)

When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, September 10 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and be a part of what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

8/25

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

FLIPSIDE *join us*

SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH

FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR UPDATES ON EVENTS AND ALL OF OUR MINISTRIES

— SEEING THE —

UNSEEN

HAND OF

GOD

IN THE MAYWOOD CENTER | 37193 AVE 12 #3H MADERA, CA 93636 | INFO@ACTS176.COM



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9 & 10:30 AM
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE
JR HIGH 2ND SERVICE 10:30 AM

YOUTH MIDWEEK SCHEDULE
JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAYS | 7:00 - 9:00 PM
FOLLOW ONLINE TO SEE ALL EVENTS AND TIMES

SEE YOU SUNDAY!



SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Our Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff at Work for our Community

If you were at the Ranchos Library on Wednesday, Aug. 13 for the monthly Coffee & Conversation meeting held by District 1 Supervisor, Jordan Wamhoff, you would have been very excited about the robust attendance. I would estimate that there was a crowd of about 70 people in comparison to some past years when we were happy to have 15 people. I think that is all due to the good work Supervisor Wamhoff and his staff are doing.

This was a very meaningful meeting with many representatives from the County giving updates and answering lingering questions about our area and its progress. The crowd had a lot of questions which were answered by the people helping to run the county and Southeast Madera County, our immediate area.

If you missed the meeting, you can find below the outline of the meeting. Unfortunately, I'm unable to report on all the many questions that were asked and addressed.

But Mika, Jordan's assistant, was kind enough to provide me with the meeting's highlight notes which I attached below. The meeting was to last for an hour but lasted for two hours due to the many reports and questions the crowd presented.

Supervisor Wamhoff Coffee and Conversation Notes – 8/13/25

1. DA Sally Moreno
 - a. Talked about "Callie the Court Dog".
 - i. She's a rescue who is an emotional support dog for victims navigating through the legal process.
 - b. The DA's office has also started a program that will update victims and wit-

nesses of crimes on the status of cases they are connected to via texting 559-377-7500

2. Sheriff
 - a. Encouraged everyone to download the MCSO Sheriff app.
 - i. It has agency info and real time updates for the public.
 - b. Sheriff will be enforcing a new Noise Ordinance which allows a violation to be issued any time of the day.
 - i. Deputies will issue a warning first and then a ticket if they are called back.
 3. Public Works
 - a. Ave 12 widening beginning soon
 - b. Development at Ave 12 and Fernwood/Jason Court confirmed to have a permanent stop light installed
 - i. Will have a Camarena Health and a Starbucks
 - c. Maintenance District 10 in the Ranchos is undergoing a water pipeline replacement. Contractor is working bringing the water mains to the front of homes from the backyards and are doing repairs.
 4. CHP



Southeast Madera County's District 1 Supervisor, Jordan Wamhoff, conducted a Town Hall meeting at the Ranchos Library on Wednesday, Aug. 13 and covered a multitude of community topics.

- a. At any time, there are between 3 and 4 CHP Officers on the Valley floor.
- b. Madera Area will be 100% staffed with 28 officers by October 2025.
 - i. It's been years since they have been at 100% staffing.
 - c. For traffic complaints - please call the Madera Area Office and talk to Public Information Officer Sergio Moreno.
 - i. Be specific with your information in regard to speeders or those driving illegally.
 - ii. Include day or days, exact times, and a clear description of the vehicle.
5. Mike Fursman, Golden Valley Chamber

Please see SEMCU on P. 13

Real Estate

"Real estate is my life! I make your real estate dreams a reality."

8/25

MARIA FOTOPOULOS
REALTOR

559-250-6740 • mfotorealtor@gmail.com
Integrity, Dedication, Results
www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto • DRE #01454566
"Put my experience, knowledge, service and professionalism to work for you."

The Luxury Home Realtor
an expert in your area!

559-790-4729
Folland@comcast.net
TheLuxuryHomeRealtor.com

Truly Local, Truly Expert
Available for all your Real Estate and investment needs

8/25

Lourie Folland
559-790-4729
Folland@comcast.net
BRE #01316346

RC REALTY CONCEPTS

TIME FOR A HOME CHANGE?
LET ME HELP YOU!

ANA MARIE SHERWOOD, REALTOR®
559-903-0855
ASHERWOOD@REALTYCONCEPTS.COM
DRE LIC. #01894032

8/25

BUYING or SELLING a home?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

My dream is your dream. A loving place to call home for you and your family. As your trusted real estate agent, I'm here to guide you in your home buying and selling journey. Call me today and let's get started.

MARY CHOMPHOSY AVIGLIANO
559.367.7264
@marytheagentofjoy
marytheagentofjoy@gmail.com
DRE 02093132 • Real Broker

8/25

SENIORS cont. from P. 9

If you are interested in joining the new Line Dance Class, please call the Rancho/Hills Senior Center for information regarding current times and dates for each class at 559-645-645-4864.

Our Monthly Saturday Sale is on Sept. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. We have been receiving community donations for the Monthly Saturday Sale, so come in and check out all the new things in the

Treasure House, Scout Garden and Boutique. Thank you to all the people who have given items to help support our local nonprofit Senior Center.

Our September Potluck and Game Night is on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Jeanne Johnson has hosted Game Night in the past. She learns many fun games and group activities from her experiences on cruise ships, so she has volunteered to share some ideas for Game Nights. Please call for more informa-

tion and to sign up for the Senior Center September Potluck at 559-645-4864.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Senior Center is a local food distribution site for the Madera County Food Bank's Brown Bag Program. You can still get an application and sign up for the Brown Bag with the Madera Food Bank.

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 7:30 a.m. to 11

a.m. They are located at 28860 Ave. 15 in Madera. The Sunday Breakfast is wonderful and a great way to start the week.

The Senior Center has weekly and monthly activities for seniors to enjoy. Come in any weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and pick up our monthly newsletter and calendar. The Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 to observe Labor Day. Enjoy the holiday from the members of the Rancho/Hills Senior Center.

KIWANIS cont. from P. 3

and they made it happen. They highly supported our Liberty High Scholarship Fundraiser and Meet N Greet along with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed and Flatlander's Day. Prewitt Dental Ranchos receiving the Community Service Award certainly is deserving.

We served lunch at the Golden Valley Unified School District – Back to School Luncheon on Monday, Aug. 11. All the teachers and staff filled the Liberty High School Gymnasium. Even though it was 105 degrees outside, everyone appeared to be ready to meet the new school year. Success to all at Golden Valley for this 2025-2026 year.

Here are a few of our projects that we have planned for the fall months. Starting with the Kiwanis Division 5 – Miracle Mile of Quarters & Run 4 the Miracle. This includes all 11 clubs from Fresno and Madera Counties. The event provides a 10K run, 5K run, a 2-mile walk and a children's race. The date is

Saturday, Sept. 20 at George's River Ranch (formerly Cobb's Ranch). All proceeds go to our own Valley Children's Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center's Injury Prevention Program. If you would like to be involved, go to kiwanisdivisionfive.com for further information.

Next, we are working on our Christmas/Winter Raffle Basket. This basket will be something you won't be able to resist and certainly want to purchase tickets to win. Flyers will be out in the communities soon to let you know where you can get your tickets. Or you'll see members at different sites in our communities with the basket, selling tickets. Don't be shy. Step up and purchase tickets when you see us.

That winning ticket will be drawn on Friday, Dec. 5 at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Maywood Shopping Center. Our raffle basket proceeds go to the scholarships and awards we present annually at Liberty High School, Ranchos Middle School and our three elementary schools: Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster.

We are talking with Sierra View Elementary School about having a booth at their Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 24. It is always a fun event for children, families and the Kiwanians.

And, yes, our Christmas Tea will be happening again. Though this year it will be a "Christmas Tea with a Twist." We are in the planning stages. It will be held in November. We will get flyers out for this event, too. Be on the lookout.

In closing, here's your challenge ... "Find out who you are and do it on purpose." – Dolly Parton



Top picture, Kiwanis Division 5 Governor Doug Frost, right, awards Andrea Pille the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos Community Service Award, while in the bottom picture he awards the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos Community Service Award to Stuart Prewitt, COO of Prewitt Ranchos Dental.

SEMCU cont. from P. 12

a. Working on a project that will bring back the vinyl signs along Ave. 12 and possibly other arterial roads.

b. Will welcome those passing through to the Ranchos and surrounding areas

6. Red Rock

a. SB 1383

i. California law targets a 50 percent reduction in the landfilling of organic waste in 2022. By 2025, that reduction target is 75 percent. While some communities already have curbside organics collection services — including food waste collection — additional communities will need to implement organics collection programs to meet these goals.

ii. Red Rock is implementing the organics collection and is working to get customers signed up for the additional green cart.

iii. Customer service was having some issues initially (July 2025), but recently (August 2025) it has improved significantly.

7. Krista Riggs, County Librarian

a. Asked attendees to take a survey about library services.

8. Madera County Transportation Commission

a. Talked about unmet transit needs
b. Introduced a new interactive mapping tool that shows current projects and information about them.

Along with others, SEMCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeastern Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools, future parks and energy. We invite community members to join SEMCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMCU meets once per month for about an hour at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, or you may join us online to virtually participate. To join online, go to www.semcu.org for a link and simple instructions. Or if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone at 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library. Make your voice heard!

SEMCU is "By the community, for the community."

ORGANIZED cont. from P. 7

It's for the questionable items that tend to pile up while waiting for a decision. Rather than being strewn over your flat surfaces, they're neatly tucked into a paper tray. When full, turn it upside down and start with the oldest papers. Now the decisions are easier — the coupon is expired, the event

has passed, you're no longer needing to order a swimsuit from that catalog, etc.

Giving things the test of time builds confidence in your decisions and minimizes regrets. Without the chance for go-backs, we're thankful that the "Time Will Tell" things related to our move turned out in our favor. We love our new place!

**SAY YOU SAW IT ...
... IN THE INDEPENDENT**

SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family
who love the
Independent but live
outside the area? Are
you moving but you
still want to keep in touch
with what's happening in
Southeast Madera County?

SUBSCRIBE!

to the Independent

local news • local events • local happenings
editorial • games • real estate • columns



The Independent

37167 Ave. 12, #5C
Madera, CA 93636

645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name _____

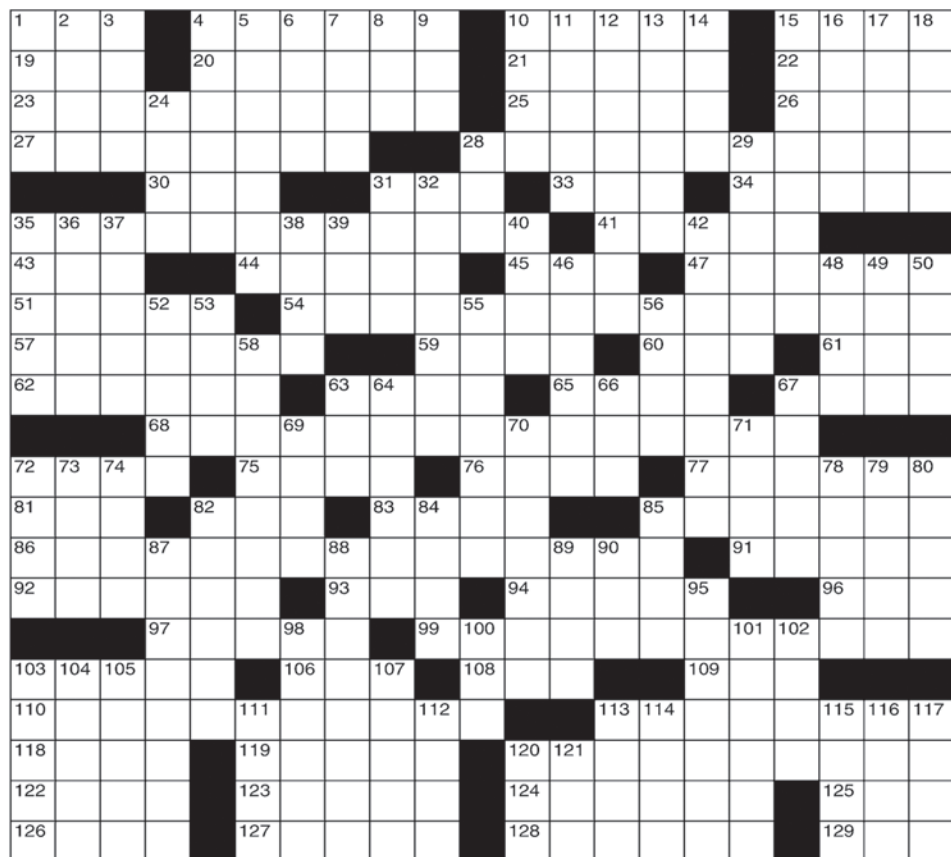
Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: \$20 ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Bill Me

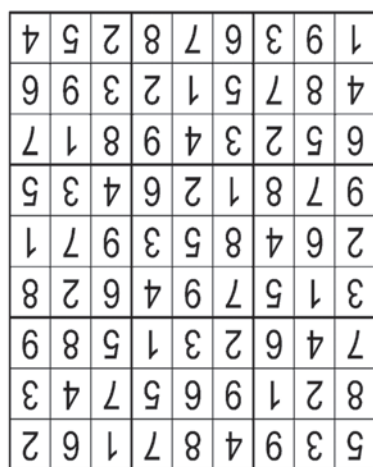
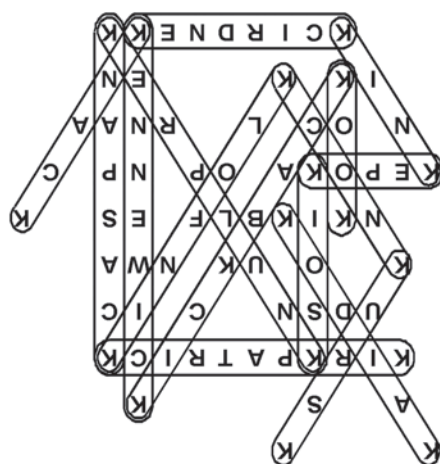
The Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera CA 93636 Fax 645-4002

—Super Crossword—



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

ANSWERS



Say you saw it in the Independent

ACROSS

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Little jump | 51 Pundits' | Maine's city | baseball | as a flower | 79 Removal of |
| 4 Brains | paper pieces | 96 Neighbor of | 3 Brad of | 37 Cara of | govt. controls |
| 10 Teeny bits | 54 Power to | Kan. and Ia. | "Fight Club" | "Fame" fame | 80 Pueblo brick |
| 15 Female | attract others | 97 Pro at taking | 4 Sissy of the | 38 Enjoy a novel | 82 E. Sicilian |
| horse | 57 Unceasingly | dictation | screen | 39 Element #50 | volcano |
| 19 Friend, | 59 Newbie at a | 99 Swear words | 5 Gavin of "The | 40 Chronicle | 84 "Time — the |
| in Paris | law school | and such | Mary Tyler | 42 Zealots | essence!" |
| 20 Social | 60 Sculling tool | 103 Clear wrap | Moore Show" | 46 "This makes | 85 Forearm part |
| outcast | 61 Org. that | 106 Says "yes" to | 6 Jester | no sense | 87 "How sad" |
| 21 Ice cream | screens bags | 108 USN officers | Johnson | to me" | 88 Cure by |
| utensil | 62 Patron of | 109 Sleuth, in | 7 Ocho — | 48 Singer Eartha | exposing to |
| 22 Female | sailors | old slang | (resort in | 49 Canadian | burning wood |
| gamete | 63 "Second | 110 Straight, | Jamaica) | gas brand | 89 E-addresses |
| 23 Cap produc- | gentleman" | flexible wire | 8 Pothole filler | 50 FBI guy, e.g. | 90 Gmail rival |
| tion place | Emhoff | receiving | 9 Sheepish | 52 Barbies, e.g. | 95 A Great Lake |
| 25 — firma | 65 Forget to say | waves | 10 Colon's | 53 Big rig | 98 "Later" |
| 26 "I saw," | 67 Lots and lots | 113 Rather little | meaning in | 55 Poet Maya | 100 Rock- — |
| to Caesar | 68 Logical | 118 Prefix with | an analogy | 56 Enter | jukebox |
| 27 Newspaper | thought | present | 11 Whale locale | 58 Like numbers | 101 Alternative to |
| stories | process | 119 Gorme of | 12 Burrito base | with more | a ballpoint |
| 28 Vehicle | 72 Some sharp | song | 13 Large arteries | than two | 102 Golden State |
| attachment | turns | 120 Post-event | 14 Trade jabs | divisors | sch. |
| to transport | 75 Coll. lecturer | bash ... or | 15 Apt place | 63 "Whoop- | 103 Fencing need |
| watercraft | 76 Low-fat, | where eight | to make a | de- —!" | 104 Ex-NFLer |
| 30 "Get it?" | informally | key words in | scene | 64 When a team | Rashad |
| 31 "Ender's | 77 Piña — | this puzzle | 16 Birthplace of | travels, | 105 Lisa of |
| Game" star | 81 "I have it!" | might appear | St. Teresa | perhaps | "Melrose |
| Butterfield | 82 Hosp. test in | 122 Diatribe | 17 Less | 66 TV bartender | Place" |
| 33 Actress Long | a big tube | 123 U. of Mary- | courteous | Szyslak | 107 Marsh bird |
| or Vardalos | 83 Christian of | land team | 18 Kuwaiti chiefs | 67 Shoelace tag | 111 Fish snares |
| 34 Closes in on | fashion | 124 Band flunky | 24 Finance- | 69 "Will & | 112 Scottish loch |
| 35 Cry while | 85 Led to a seat | 125 Atlas feature | related: Abbr. | Grace" actor | 113 Forest buck |
| wearing a | 86 Typical D.C. | 126 Pivotal WWII | 28 Lamb's cry | McCormack | 114 Contents of |
| costume | dealings | event | 29 Growth on an | 70 Ventilates | Rx bottles |
| 41 Some boxing | 91 County in | 127 Eye maladies | elk's head | 71 Big Apple | 115 "— la Douce" |
| punches | New Mexico | 128 Prods | 31 Intro studio | neighborhood | 116 Go nowhere |
| 43 On top of, | or Colorado | 129 "Yes" vote | class | 72 Microwaves, | 117 Really |
| in verse | 92 Method | | 32 Jane of "Live | informally | promote |
| 44 Divine figure | 93 Muscle: | DOWN | and Let Die" | 73 Sailor's cry | 120 "How — you?" |
| 45 Feel poorly | Prefix | 1 "Funny joke!" | 35 Horn blasts | 74 Lassies | 121 Haze |

Click on “Local News” at

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

Valley Well Drilling
Lic. #1099927

Domestic Well, Agriculture Well
Airlifting, Well Brushing, Swabbing
Well Rehabilitation, Test Hole

559-307-9720 or 559-351-9624

CLARK'S
559-645-1578

General & Custom Auto
Service & Repairs
559-645-1578
PERFORMANCE

Unlimited Concrete
Lic. #1042108

DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
call **Jose Lopez**
559-779-0401

Mike's Country Clippers Barber Shop

HAIRCUTS \$16
Seniors Thursdays ONLY \$13!

439-2004
37184 AVE. 12 #104
(behind Pizza Factory)

NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS
All Makes & Models

J.H. Sanders Sales & Leasing

822-4500
41453 Ave. 14 1/2
Madera Ranchos
www.jhsanders.com

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds!

DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP
Quick, Fast Results
CALL NOW!

224-6744
Lose Weight NOW!

Bradley & Son DRILLING
Lic. 414178
PUMP SYSTEMS

674-1663
same day service

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?
Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely).
Lic. #PLS 5815

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.
645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815

BEDROCK ENGINEERING
A solid foundation for your next project
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!
For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!
10878 HWY 41 • 559-645-4849
www.bedrockeng.com

ALL STATE HOMES
Real Estate & Mortgage Professionals

call **Adrian Gutierrez**

559-363-4968
www.sellingfresnorealestate.com

NEED CONCRETE?

AGUILAR'S CONCRETE
Architectural Hardscapes
Residential • Commercial
Place & Finish Services
Site-Work • Curbs
Sidewalks • Foundations
Retaining Walls • Patios
Driveways • Demo • Grading

call **559-718-3554**
209-276-1579
Free Estimates!
Lic. # 1119919

ANK

QUALITY EXTERIORS, INC.
Contractor Lic. #996620
Bonded & Insured

559-645-1392
www.ankqualityexteriors.com

PERSONAL TOUCH
Lic. # B0008113

Landscaping & Gardening Services
Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control
Lawn & garden service • Maintenance
Weekly & monthly service
(not a licensed contractor)

call **Mag Anaya Jr.**
559-718-0558
Ranchos Resident

BUBBA'S WATER TRUCK SERVICE

We Fill Holding Tanks Swimming Pools
Potable Water Dust Control

Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley
Call Gina at 559-289-3401
email BubbawsWTS@yahoo.com

MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR

- Weekly Service
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Residential
- Drains - Upstarts • Commercial
- Locally Owned

251-2514 351-1605 645-4799
office cell after 5 p.m.

SEMCU

"For the community, by the community."

559-363-9095
3rd Tuesday of the month • 6 p.m.
37398 Berkshire Dr. • Ranchos Library

VALLEY PROPANE

"Service you can trust, prices you can afford."

645-5324
The ONLY locally owned propane company in the Ranchos

LANDSCAPE MATERIAL
SAND & GRAVEL • CRUSHED ROCK
FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK
CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK
ROCK DUST • COBBLESTONES
DRIVEWAY BASE
CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

CHAD TRUCKING

559-479-4113
CA #441782 • www.chadstrucking.com

Aleman's Painting

Interior & Exterior
Specializing in Repaints
Rental, Residential & Commercial
Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal
Color Matching

BONDED & INSURED
LIC. #589140

559-974-2268

Get Involved!

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

645-4001
2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

FLIPSIDE join us
SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

559-481-6875
37193 Ave. 12 #3H
Madera Ranchos

LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM
WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH

info@acts176.com
SEE YOU SUNDAY!

"We've got your back"
D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
Sports Physicals only \$35!

HANEY CHIROPRACTIC
& rehabilitation center

660-5262
36754 AVE. 12 • Madera Ranchos

Create a gift from the heart

Ranchos Crafters Studio
Arts & Crafts Studio • Bique • Wood Items
Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts
559-824-6336
37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

for MORE sales tomorrow, call

RANDY BAILEY

Today!
(559) 645-0634
The Independent

Classified

Carpet/Aggregate Cleaning

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Epoxy/aggregate specialist too. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

Chimney Sweep

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

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

For Sale

Table saw for Sale - Ten inch (10"). \$125. **Call Lydia at 559-312-0891.**

1950s O'Keefe & Merritt gas stove - Worked perfectly when it came out of mother-in-law's kitchen remodel a few years ago. White enamel and chrome. Very "retro" looking. You pick up and take home. **Best Offer. Call 559-905-8311.**

Gutter Services

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

Housecleaning

One month FREE! with 6-month arrangement. 40 years of experience in the Ranchos. - References available - Lupe's

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

Property Clean Up

Property clean up, landscape maintenance and tree trimming - **FREE ESTIMATES.** Professional and reliable. Call Eric at 559-903-375

Recyclables Pick Up

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

Tractor/Trenching Services

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

Window Cleaning Services

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

Free estimates.

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

seats to Democratic states on net in 2020.

Non-citizens also distort the composition of congressional districts. According to the study, there are the same number of citizens in the 13 congressional districts with the highest share of non-citizens as in the 9 districts with the lowest share of non-citizens. In other words, the citizens in those 9 low-immigration districts get 4 fewer representatives than the citizens in the 13 high-immigration districts. It's one man, one vote -- with an asterisk.

To take an example from Texas, the Democratic-held 33rd district, where non-citizens are nearly 30% of the population, has 208,000 fewer voting-age

citizens than the Texas 21st district. So the citizens in the 33rd district have marginally more clout and representation, thanks to a population tilted toward those who can't vote.

Ultimately, the way to diminish these effects is to reduce the level of immigration. Early indications are that there has been a large exodus of illegal immigrants since Trump's election, and the U.S. will have net negative migration for the first time in half a century. If Trump wants to fully capture the changes he's effecting in immigration policy, he should indeed want a new census -- in 2030.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

© 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

- "Beautiful umbrella stands don't have to be limited to umbrellas. We keep sports equipment (bats, a lacrosse stick, yoga mat) in ours and it works just as well." -- T.J. in Kansas
- Make your own camping lamp: Strap a head lamp to a full gallon jug of water. It fills the tent with a soft light, and you can still drink the water!
- Use rubbing alcohol to clean window frames and trays. It evaporates quickly with no residue left behind.



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

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634

STOP THE PAIN!
"We've got your back"

D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
Sports Physicals only \$35!



36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262



8/25

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

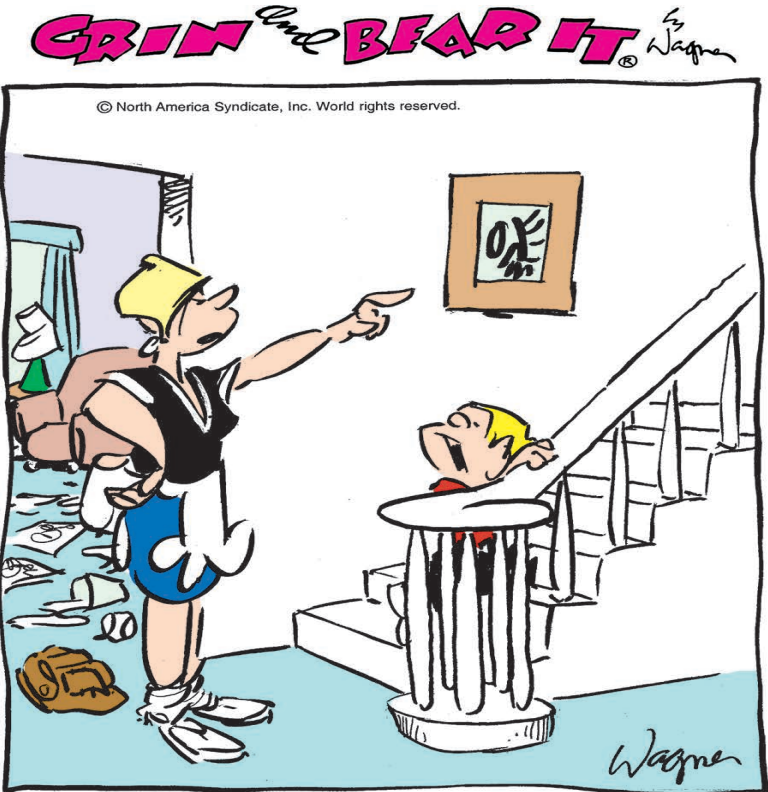
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

	+		×		= 60
+		+		+	
	+		×		= 84
-		×		+	
	+		÷	5	= 1
=		=		=	
3		51		18	

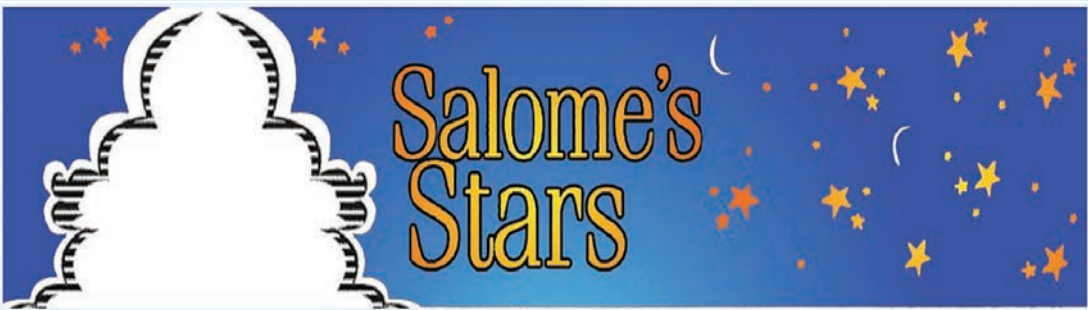
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING
645-0634



“How could you, Mom? There are China-made toys in my room!”



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This week could offer more opportunities for ambitious Lambs who are eager to get ahead. But don't rush into making decisions until you've checked for possible hidden problems.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Some light begins to shine on professional and/or personal situations that have long eluded an explanation. Best advice: Don't rush things. All will be made clear in time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although you might want to protest what seems to be an unfair situation, it's best to keep your tongue and temper in check for now. The full story hasn't come out yet.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work prospects are back on track, but watch what you say. A thoughtless comment to the wrong person -- even if it's said in jest -- could delay or even derail your progress.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A colleague might goad you into saying or doing the wrong thing. It's best to ignore the troublemaker, even if they rile up your royal self. Your supporters will stand with you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Careful not to let your on-the-job zealotry create resentment with co-workers who might feel like you shut them out. Prove them wrong by including them in your project.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although it's not quite what you hoped for, use your good business sense to make the most of what you're being offered at this time. Things will improve down the line.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A more positive picture of what lies ahead is beginning to take shape. But there are still too many gaps that need to be filled in before you make definitive plans.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Continue to keep a tight hold on the reins. This way, you don't charge willy-nilly into a situation that might appear attractive on the surface but lack substance underneath.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You still need to demand answers to your questions. Remember, your wise counseling earns you respect, but it's your search for truth that gives you wisdom.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll find people who are happy to help you deal with some difficult situations. And, of course, knowing you, you'll be happy to return those favors anytime. ... Won't you?

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Give the special someone in your personal life a large, loving dollop of reassurance. This will go a long way in restoring the well-being of your ailing relationship.

Born this Week

You are a delightful paradox. You like things neat and tidy, but you're also a wonderful host who can throw a really great party. You're quite versatile.

FUN PAGES

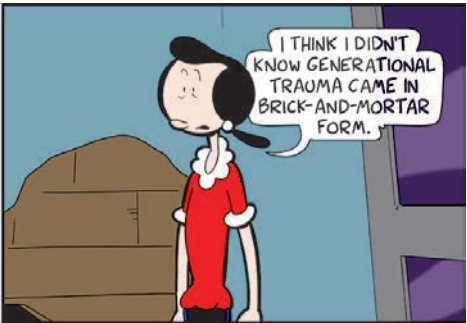
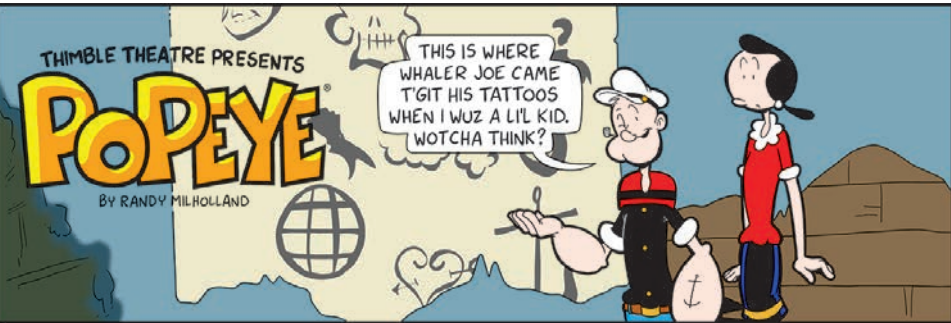
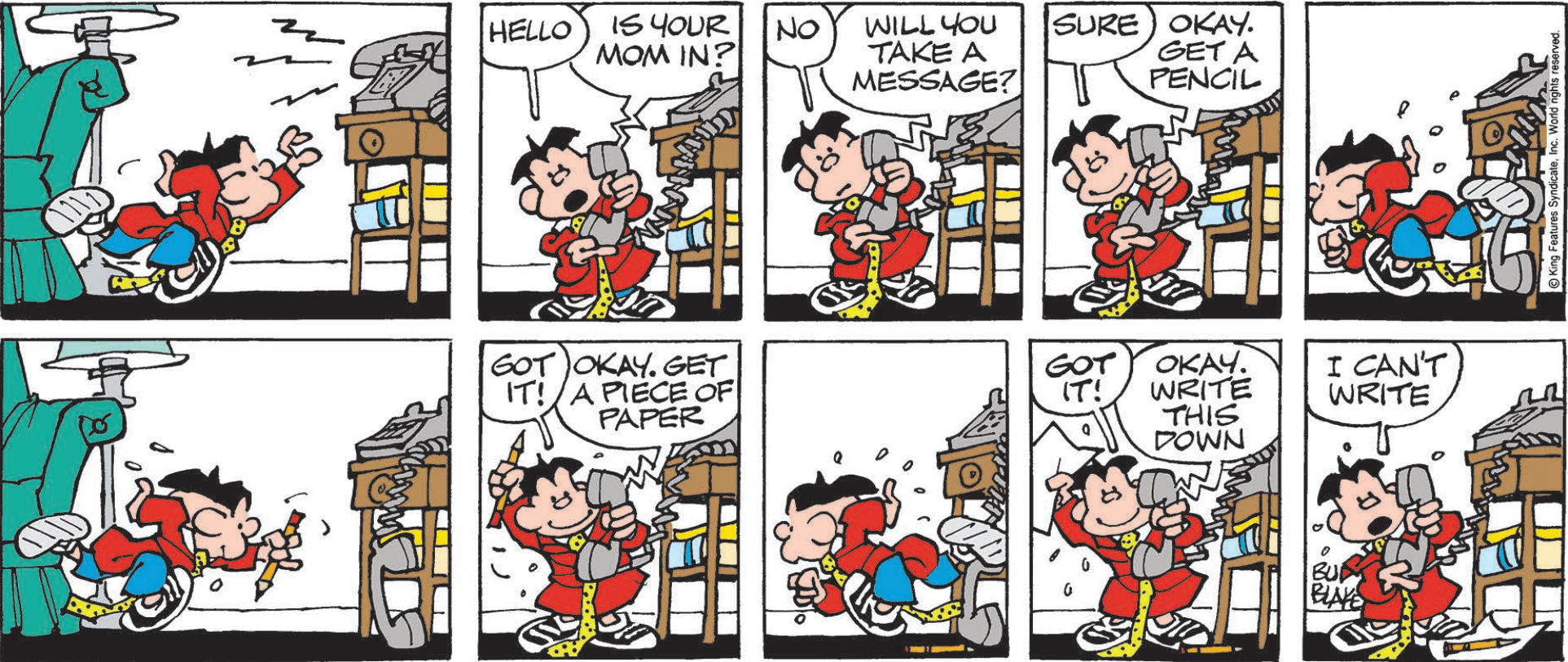
Kids' Maze



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

by BUD BLAKE

TIGER



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **MOVIES:** Which best original song from "Aladdin" won an Oscar? 2. **TELEVISION:** In what year did the animated TV comedy "South Park" debut? 3. **HISTORY:** Where did the Romans build Hadrian's Wall? 4. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Brazil? 5. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president was the first to be impeached? 6. **MYTHOLOGY:** What is the home of the Greek gods? 7. **U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the U.S. Naval Academy? 8. **MATH:** What is the smallest prime number? 9. **LITERATURE:** What is the original name of the farm in George Orwell's "Animal Farm"? 10. **ASTRONOMY:** Which planet is known for its large red spot, which astronomers believe is an ongoing storm?

1. "A Whole New World."
2. 1997.
3. England.
4. Brasilia.
5. Andrew Johnson.
6. Mount Olympus.
7. Maryland.
8. 2.
9. Manor Farm.
10. Jupiter.

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

OWEN, I'M HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY ON SATURDAY AND I HOPE YOU CAN COME.

MY MOM SAYS I CAN INVITE JUST MY BEST FRIENDS.

HEY RONALD, WANNA COME TO MY PARTY?

SURE!

SINCE HIS MOM STARTED MANAGING TOY BARN WE'VE BECOME VERY CLOSE.

The Spats

TOMORROW IS SUPPOSED TO BE MUGGY.

MUGGY??

YES, FOLLOWED BY TUEGGY WEGGY AND THURGGY.

Out on a Limb

YOUR PARROT POOPED IN MY LEG AGAIN...

THE MOMENT A PIRATE RECONSIDERS HIS CAREER CHOICE

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

SPORTS

8-17

HENRY BOLTINOFF

SPORTS

Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bat is missing. 2. Tie is missing. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Column is moved. 5. Ball is different. 6. Face mask is different.

FUN PAGES

by Dave T. Phipps

by Jeff Pickering

by Gary Kopervas

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2025 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

The Independent
CALL 645-0634

MAGIC MAZE

BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH "K"

BLJGDAXVSPNKIFC
KAXVSKQOLJHECAX
VATRSPNLJHKFDBY
X(KIRKPATRICK)VTR
POUDSNMKCIICGED
BKZXOWUKUNWATRQ
ONNKIKBLFLESJIK
KEPOKAGOPFNPDC
CNAOCYLXWRNAAVY
TSIKRKPONLENKJA
IGFKCIRDNEKKECK

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: AN ESKIMO'S CANOE

- Kendrick

Kennewick

Kerplunk

Kickback
- Kinfolk

Kink

Kiosk

Kirkpatrick
- Knack

Knapsack

Knock

Kodiak
- Kook

Kopek

Kursk

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

SEMCU

south east madera county united

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

DEHYDRATION ALERT !!

Educate your kids & the elderly as to how to protect themselves during this DANGEROUS HEAT season!!

They should always carry a bottle of water in their backpack, wear light clothing that protects them from the sun, and wear a hat to protect their heads!

Also keep your pets safe, inside when excessively hot and never locked in a vehicle, not even with the windows cracked!

FIRE SEASON is HERE!

? Are you prepared ?

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

Water Wells:	559-802-1289	waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org
Water Quality:	559-802-1285	waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org
Tank Water:	559-802-1685	tankandhauleddwater@selfhelpenterprises.org
Bottled Water:	559-802-1284	bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org

SEMCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, September 16th at 6 p.m.

at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room

37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library

or online: go to: WWW.SEMCU.ORG for the link

by phone: 669-900-6833

& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343 with access code 854 221

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org

FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY