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Volume 16 Issue 1 2020

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50¢

Finding Madera's Homeless

A local organization needs help with the count
By Randy Bailey



Photo by Johann Walter Bantz

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

You've heard it before. On the nightly news, stories about national, statewide and local homelessness are everywhere. And somewhere in the story, someone gives a definitive assessment of the number of homeless in that area, as if someone has gone out and actually counted them.

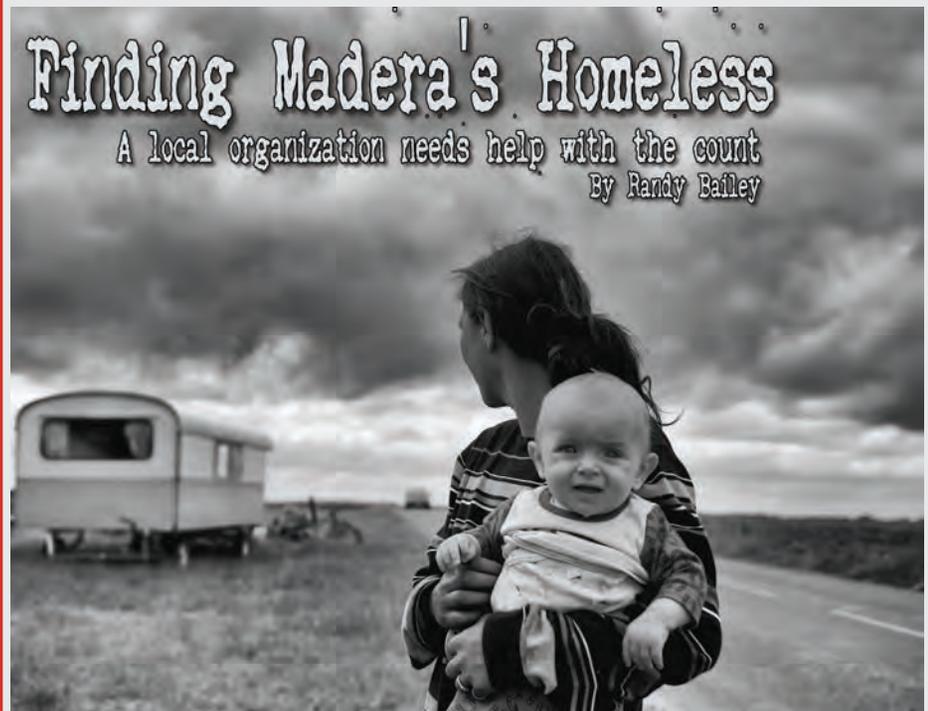
Someone has.

The Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) is a local coalition based on a 1994 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determination that housing and services for the homeless were too fragmented. They introduced the Continuum of Care concept to help communities develop the capacity for long-term solutions to the problems of homelessness and housing in their home areas.

Different groups have different needs, and the homeless as a group contains homeless veterans, people with mental illness, HIV/AIDS victims, victims of domestic violence and/or histories of substance abuse. The key objective of the organization is the movement of all of those within the group toward permanent, independent living, but the first step in that lofty goal is knowing how many homeless are living in the community.

The Point in Time Survey

The most effective vehicle for determining the number of homeless at any given time is a "Point-in-Time" survey. Point-in-Time data is the number of homeless persons at any one given time, making it different from annual surveys that show the total number of people who have been homeless at some time during the previous year.



This Point-in-Time calculation provides a snapshot between the estimated number of homeless persons and the current inventory of homeless services. The problem in the past was multiple agencies provided a variety of services without a common tracking system, thereby prohibiting a precise count of the homeless population. This count is critical for establishing a strategic plan, securing additional -- and protecting future -- funding and advocating for ending homelessness in our community.

How Can You Help?

During the last 10 days of January, the FMCoC conducts a Point-in-Time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families within Fresno and Madera Counties. It will take an effort to recruit and train volunteers to canvas Fresno and Madera County streets and shelters to survey the county's most vul-

nerable homeless individuals and families.

All needed information is available at bit.ly/maderapit2020. At that website you can get a complete overview of the organization, research its goals, see who's sitting on the board of directors and sign up to volunteer in the Point-in-Time survey. The days that they need people are:

- Day 1: Tally - Tuesday, Jan. 28**
(5 p.m.-12 a.m.)
- Day 2: Surveys - Wednesday, Jan. 29**
(5 p.m.-12 a.m.)
- Day 3: Surveys - Thursday, Jan. 30**
(7 a.m.-4 p.m.)

On the website you can sign up for training and you can see the necessary releases that have to be signed prior to going into the field. Additionally, you must also be over 18 to participate in the Point-in-Time survey.

Transitional, Regular Kindergarten Registration

Spread the word – TK and Kindergarten registration is beginning. Please bring your future kindergartener with you to registration as assessments will be given during the registration process.

In order to register your child, you will need the following:

1. Your child must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2020 for Kindergarten. If your child will turn 5 between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2020 your child will qualify for Transitional Kindergarten. You will need to bring in his/her birth certificate to verify either.
2. Your child's immunization record showing that your child is up-to-date on all of his or her shots: A. TB Test (A GVUSD Requirement); B. Polio (4); C. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (5); D. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2); E. Hepatitis B (3); F. Varicella (Chicken Pox) (2).
3. Proof of residency within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries: A. This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.
4. A completed registration packet.

Webster Elementary 645-3540

Feb. 21, 2020 - Kindergarten registration beginning at 9 a.m. and Transi-

tional Kindergarten beginning at 1 p.m. Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Webster Office beginning Feb. 3 in order to have them filled out and ready to bring in on Feb. 21. In addition, if you have concerns about your immunization records and would like to verify that your child has all of the necessary shots before Feb. 21, please feel free to bring the immunization card to the office when you pick up your packet.

Sierra View Elementary 645-3560

Feb. 20, 2020 – Kindergarten 8:10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Transitional Kindergarten 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. by appointment only. Please call the school office at 645-3560 to schedule an appointment. Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Sierra View office beginning Feb. 11. Please have all registration forms completed and bring necessary documents by Feb. 20. In addition, if you would like to verify that your child's immunizations are up-to-date, please feel free to bring the immunization card to the office when you pick up your packet.

Primary Election Ballots Coming

Registered voters in Madera County will be receiving their Official Ballots for the upcoming March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election in the mail beginning Feb. 3. You will no longer have to place a stamp on your ballot envelope to return your ballot through the U.S. Mail. Additionally, voted ballots may also be returned at any secure Ballot Drop Box or at any Vote Center in Madera County.

You can vote in person at any vote center and the back pages of your County Voter Information Guide list the Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, along

with dates and hours of operation. Remember, when voting mark your ballot with blue or black ink only. Never use red ink or pencil and be sure to sign the blue return envelope under the red section and arrow. Voted ballots returned by mail must be post-marked on or before Election Day and received within three days after the Election to be considered timely.

To check the status of your Vote by Mail Ballot online, visit our website at www.votemadera.com. For more information, contact the Elections Division at 675-7720 or toll free at 800-435-0509.

New Truck Stop at 99 and Ave. 12

At the intersection of Ave. 12 and highway 99, a new 15,000-square-foot EZ Trip truck stop is being built where a Jack in the Box and AM-PM gas station once stood. The location was cleared when the Avenue 12 overpass was built.

The new owner, Shawn Shiralian, was the previous owner of Klein's Truck Stop in Fresno at Herndon and Highway 99 and saw that landmark razed for construction of a part of the High Speed Rail.

The new truck stop is being called a "travel center" and will sit atop the 10-acre property, complete with a multitude of diesel and gasoline pumps, charging stations for electric vehicles, a restaurant and more, and is projected to employ approximately 40 people. It's projected to be opened by mid-May, 2020.

In addition to having two other locations in development in Fresno, Shiralian said he also has another Madera location under consideration.

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Ranchos resident and Ranchos Independent reader Dennis Rodriguez (right) seeks help from Complete Car Care's Cameron to solve an elusive engine performance problem with his Jeep Grand Cherokee. No match for new school Pico Technology. Read Dennis' adventure on Page 16.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Veteran services are available in the Madera Ranchos.

The Madera County Veteran Services Office was established by the Board of Supervisors to advocate for every Veteran, their dependents and survivors in presenting and pursuing any claim in establishing the Veteran's right for benefits provided by law. Our purpose is to advocate for and promote the welfare of all Veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Some of the programs we can assist you with are:

- Compensation for service-related disabilities
- Education benefits and vocational rehabilitation information
- Burial benefits
- California College Waiver Program
- Aid and Attendance
- Identification cards for Veterans
- California driver's license Veteran designation
- California Veterans Home

Please visit our office on the first floor of the Madera County Government Center at 200 West 4th Street in Madera, or call our office at 559-675-7766 to schedule an appointment to meet with a Veteran representative.

Jose Trujillo, Veterans' Service Officer
Madera

Dear Editor:

To all who vote in California, you need to be aware of this underhanded trick that will be devastating. It's important.

Major property tax increases are on the launch pad as California politicians try to repeal prop 13 by slipping it under the radar. California's Attorney General, Xavier Becerra is putting together plans to raise property tax revenue by eliminating the only thing keeping some people's property tax from sky rocketing, Prop 13. Because they know it will be unpopular if presented as "Repeal Prop 13," Xavier Becerra has strategically relabeled it "Education and Local Government Funding."

It's already on the 2020 ballot and much like the gasoline tax, it will be worded in a way that misleads California voters. People renting may see it as a way to get something for nothing, but the long term result will be higher rents to pay due to the increase in property taxes. People are leaving the state in record numbers and many here are barely hanging on. This could be something that changes the face

of California forever.

Chris Shighihara
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The 2020 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar is now available Valleywide.

The artwork of 13 student artists kicks off a new decade in the 2020 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar. The District's annual calendar, designed to educate and inspire the public to live a Healthy Air Life and reduce air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, is a full-color, bilingual wall calendar, featuring clean-air messages and drawings of students from throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

The District takes great pride in congratulating the following talented kids featured in this year's calendar:

- Aria Delgado, 10th grade, Sanger – Cover artist "Clean air makes stars sparkle."
- Isabella Guzman, 1st grade, Hughson – "Kids and kittens are happier with clean air."
- Anahi Palacios, 4th grade, Madera – "Ride your scooter!"
- Landen Young, 5th grade, Stratford – "Clean air by driving electric cars!!"
- Logan McDaniel, 3rd grade, Merced – "You should ride a bike."
- Alice Tenio, 8th grade, Stockton – "Skies are pretty, let's keep it clean."
- Athziri Gomez, 8th grade, Arvin – "Clean Air"
- Lesly Rodriguez-Baez, 2nd grade, Fresno – "Remember to turn your engine off while you wait, just like my dad."
- Adelmari, 2nd grade – "Check the Air! Make sure it's at a level one, if it is, go outside and have some fun."
- Kathleen Ly, 8th grade, Stockton – "We're EXHAUSTED of air pollution. Help keep your air clean."
- Kessin Bush, 4th grade, Porterville – "Do not pollute the air! Make it healthier!"
- Melissa Jauregui – "Check Before You Burn!"
- Olivia Myracle, 11th grade, Clovis – "Healthy Air Living" "Aire Limpio, Vida Sana"

The calendars are free and distributed to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches, civic organizations, non-profits and individuals upon request, while supplies last. Email public.education@valleyair.org or call 559-230-6000. Calendars can also be picked up at any District office.

Cassandra Melching
Fresno

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Guest Editorial

Absurd Anti-Vape Crusade

By Rich Lowry

Never before has a boon to public health been met with such hysteria and ingratitude.

Vaping is almost all upside in comparison with traditional smoking, a wanton destroyer of health and lives, and yet the nation is in the grips of a panic about e-cigarettes. In a rarity for the Trump era, the anti-vaping sentiment jumps traditional geographic and political bounds, running from the Oval Office to San Francisco, from President Donald Trump to his most fervent enemies.

Trump has announced a proposed Food and Drug Administration ban on flavored e-cigarettes, while the San Francisco Board of Supervisors banned the sale of vaping products at retail outlets. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo imposed a ban on flavored e-cigarettes on an "emergency" basis. "Vaping is dangerous, period," Cuomo pronounced, citing, like the president, teenage use in particular.

Actually, there's little evidence that vaping, as a general matter, is hazardous, especially when compared with traditional cigarettes, whose smokers inhale a witch's brew of carcinogens and carbon monoxide. Smoking accounts for 30 percent of all cancer deaths and 18 percent of all deaths.

A credible estimate is that e-cigarettes, which involve inhaling a nico-

tine-infused vapor rather than smoke, are about 95 percent less harmful than cigarettes.

The current vaping-related illnesses appear not to implicate standard vaping, but rather the use of black-market liquids containing THC, the active ingredient in cannabis. We could make the risky products involved illegal, if they weren't already illegal.

The problem with the flavor bans -- and especially a San Francisco-style outright ban -- is its effect on adult e-cigarette users. About 11 million adults vape, and some percentage of them are former smokers or would be smoking in the absence of e-cigarettes. A robust study in the United Kingdom found that vaping is twice as effective as other common nicotine replacements in getting smokers to quit. The flavors, according to surveys of users, are a big draw for smokers quitting traditional cigarettes. It's manifestly absurd to ban vaping products and leave cigarettes, including flavored cigarettes, on the market.

Another source of the current panic is that teen vaping is way up, but there's nothing to suggest that this increase in vaping is encouraging real teen smoking, which has fallen below six percent. Everyone would prefer that teens not develop a vaping habit, but this presents nothing close to the health issue presented by combustible cigarettes.

By all means, let's crack down on retailers who are selling products to minors. But exaggerating the harms of vaping and prohibiting the products is a formula for giving back some of the gains against traditional smoking. The libertarian publication Reason points to one study that, insanely, shows more people beginning to consider e-cigarettes as dangerous as regular cigarettes.

The U.K. has adopted a much more sensible approach that welcomes e-cigarettes as an important harm-reduction measure. A couple of National Health Service hospitals have even allowed vape shops on their premises.

That would cause a hue and cry in the United States, where we can't agree on anything except, apparently, our irrational hostility to a product that is an alternative to a terrible scourge.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

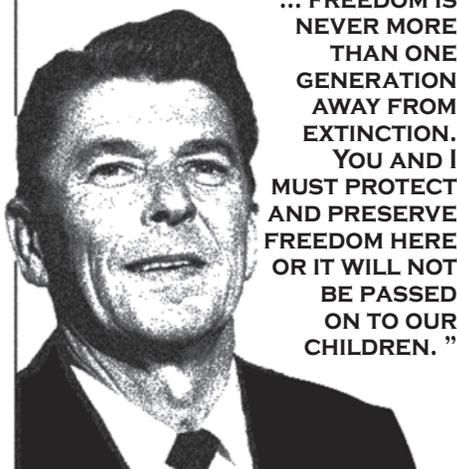
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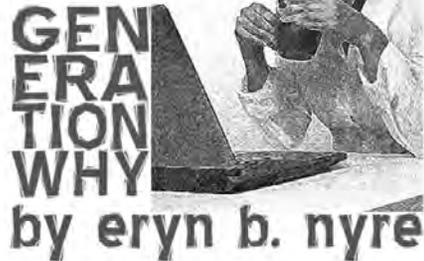
People Watching 101

I highly recommend “people watching” for anyone looking for an inexpensive and entertaining way to pass the time. Anytime you find yourself out and about there is always at least one person who engages in some sort of behavior that is less than suitable for public consumption. People watching can provide hours of hilarious entertainment.

Recently, due to a delayed flight, I had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time in an airport terminal. After I made way through the invasion of my privacy that is the TSA security checkpoint, I discovered that my flight was still about another two hours out. Though I had plenty of reading material, I decided instead to partake in a little people watching for entertainment. The airport was sure to have plenty of tasty cannon fodder for my literary arsenal.

So, I found a comfortable corner, popped in my earphones, put on my favorite playlist and began studying those around me. And you know what? I learned something. Apparently, you leave your dignity behind with your modesty when you have to kick your shoes off and go through the big naked machine at security. Also, it would appear that some people check their common sense with their luggage.

One such example of someone who clearly forgot he was not in the pri-



vacy of his own living room was the teenage boy with his finger jammed so far up his nose I thought for a moment he only had half a finger. I know what you’re thinking. It was a brief moment that I just happened to catch as my eyes flitted around the terminal. You’re wrong. That digit was jammed up there digging for gold for at least two full minutes.

Apparently, you leave your dignity behind with your modesty when you have to kick your shoes off and go through the big naked machine at security.

If that wasn’t appetizing enough, the glory moment came when he then proceeded to wipe the fruits of his excavation on the inside of his zip-up sweatshirt. Um, why keep it? Hoarding boogers? Saving up for a midnight snack? Did he foresee an emergency wherein a mild adhesive would be needed and he wanted to be able to come to the rescue triumphantly shouting, “What I have can save the day! I have mucus!” More importantly, I was seriously concerned about the condition of this young man’s nasal cavity because he stayed with the pick and wipe routine for the better part of an hour. What could he possibly have left up there?

Another delightful

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

scene was the two young girls who turned the terminal into their own personal auditorium. At first, I didn't notice them because they were sitting quietly with their headphones on, minding their own business. Then their mother took a little nap and they were suddenly free to shed their halos and show themselves for the little heathens they really were. They began skipping around, singing loudly and performing a poorly timed and badly synchronized dance routine. They need to replace their choreographer immediately. The situation really became noteworthy when one little monster took off down the terminal and the other attempted to engage a man, who I initially thought was her father, in what appeared to be a dance-off. At first, I was irritated that her father was just trying desperately to ignore her when it dawned on me, he didn't appear to recognize this child. This led me to believe either A) being forced to sit this long in an airport can bring on acute amnesia, or B) this was not his child.

I also enjoyed the couple a few seats down. The man was sitting sort of cross-legged with his tablet on his lap. He was dead asleep as his wife or girlfriend curled up next to him with her head on his shoulder watching whatever movie was streaming on his tablet. They were adorable. They were relationship goals.

They were not actually a couple.

When something stirred the man awake, he jerked up and shouted (expletives deleted because this is a family paper), "Who are you?" Evidently her tablet died so she thought she would just have a little cuddle with a complete stranger and take advantage of his fully charged device. I think he was being too hasty. They looked quite lovely together.

My favorite, however, was the woman badgering the airline employee about the flight being delayed. She was demanding the employee do something because she just could not be late. She had a wedding to get to and this was completely unacceptable. She paid for a service and expected the service to live up to her expectations. The employee was being far nicer than the screech owl deserved, even offered to try and book her on another airline if she could find one, but that was not good enough. She wanted the flight she paid for. Well, allow me to just pull an entire functioning airplane out of my hind quarters and start boarding procedures.

I could have gotten lost in a binging marathon. I could have read a book. I could have taken a nap. Instead, I spent a couple of hours and watched quite a few people who maybe shouldn't be allowed to engage with the public. It was entertaining for me and, I hope, for you as well. In any event, remember people: When you're out in public ... other people can see you.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN

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Room for J-E-L-L-O

(January 2010)

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.



**Aunt Jean's
Ranchos
Recipes**

by Jean Briner

Here we are in 2010 – are you still writing “09” on your checks? If you are like me, it may take a couple of months before you finally learn that it should be “10.”

I want to start the New Year in this column on a little different food item. In the year that I have been doing this I have themed on candies,

pies, cakes, salads and soups. This month I'm going to do something that not everyone likes. Remember this song: “J-E-L-L-O”? When we hear the word Jell-O we instantly think of the wiggly colored gelatin, but that isn't right. The fact is Jell-O is the trade mark name for desserts produced by

Answer to Questions #2 and 3 (Which state eats the most Jell-O and what flavor?): Utah eats more Jell-O than any other state and their favorite flavor is lime. In fact, in 2001 green Jell-O was declared “The Official State Snack of Utah.” The Governor declared the second week of February as the official “Jell-O Week.”

Kraft Foods. There is also Jell-O puddings and Jell-O no-bake desserts. We are going to play a little game: I'm going to ask you six questions about Jell-O gelatin and the answers will be planted at various parts of this article.

1 – What were the first four flavors?

2 – What state eats more Jell-O per capita than any other state in the United States?

3 – What flavor do they eat the most?

4 – Was there ever a Celery, Bubble Gum, or Root Beer flavor?

5 – In a recent poll by American Food Corp., what is the #1 flavor in the U.S.?

6- What year was sugar free gelatin developed and first sold?

Growing Up with Jell-O

Growing up we had Jell-O quite often. I don't know if my folks just liked it or because it was an inexpen-

sive dish. One of the ways mama fixed it was the lime Jell-O with cottage cheese and crushed pineapple. If she wanted it to be a little fancy she would make it in a glass cake pan and when she was ready to serve it, cut it into squares and put it on top of a lettuce leaf on the salad plate with a little dollop of Miracle Whip on top. (Randy is probably gagging trying to type this into the paper – I've already told you how he feels about cottage cheese and I know how he feels about

this dish). Then there was the red Jell-O with sliced bananas and either fruit cocktail or crushed pineapple. And who can forget the lime Jell-O with canned pears? When you are going to be adding pineapple to Jell-O don't make your Jell-O with all water. I pour my pineapple into a sieve

that I've placed over a measuring cup and push the fruit with a spoon to get out as much juice as possible. After you've dissolved the gelatin with the required boiling water, use the pineapple juice as part of the cold water required. It makes a much tastier Jell-O.

Answer to question #1: Strawberry, raspberry, orange and lemon.

Those of you of my generation, remember going to baby or wedding showers and being served Jell-O and ice cream that had been made together? It was quite popular 40 years ago. How things change. The last shower I went to we were served dips and chips and raw vegetables.

Or remember making an angel food cake, cutting it in half and making a hollow “trough” in the bottom layer and filling it with whipped cream that had little different fla-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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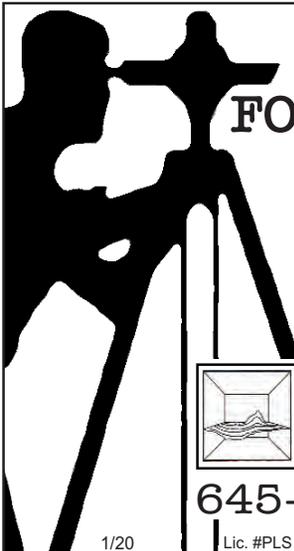
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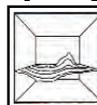
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

vored Jell-O squares (green and red at Christmas) in it, then put the top back on the cake and cover it with the rest of the whipped cream, and put the remaining Jell-O squares on top? I haven't seen one of those in years!

Jell-O Poke Cake

- 1 box white or yellow cake mix
- 1 small box Jell-O (any flavor)
- 1 C boiling water
- ½ C cool water
- 1 8 oz. container Cool Whip

Bake cake as package directs in a 9x13 pan. While cake is baking, mix Jell-O in boiling water until dissolved, then add the cool water. After cake has cooled for 20 minutes, poke holes all over it with a meat fork or the handle of a wooden spoon. Slowly pour the Jell-O over the cake, making sure it

gets into all the holes. Refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours. Before serving, cover the top of cake with the cool whip.

Answer to Questions #2 and 3: Utah eats more Jell-O than any other

state and their favorite flavor is lime. In fact, in 2001 green Jell-O was declared "The Official State Snack of Utah." The Governor declared the second week of February as the official "Jell-O Week."

In going through my mom's recipe cards, I found a recipe for Cranberry Salad that I remember her making, especially at Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Cranberry Delight

Any gelatin recipe can be made with sugar-free Jell-O to accommodate diabetics or people who just want to cut down on their sugar intake.

- 1 pkg. raw cranberries.
- 1 ½ C Sugar
- 1 small pkg. strawberry Jell-O
- 1 ¼ C boiling water
- 1 can crushed pineapple

- 1 C miniature marshmallows
- 1 C Nuts – chopped
- Coconut (optional)

Grind cranberries and combine with sugar. Chill overnight. Next morning, dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Add to cranberries. Fold in pineapple, marshmallows and nuts. Mix well. Pour into mold or bowl, sprinkle with coconut if desired. Chill until set.

Answer to questions #4 and 5: Yes, believe it or not, there was a Celery, Bubble Gum and Root Beer flavors. I can remember the Celery, but the other two – nope. In a recent poll by American Food Corps. the Number One Jell-O flavor in the U. S. was Cherry!

Any gelatin recipe can be made with sugar-free Jell-O to accommodate diabetics or people who just want to cut down on their sugar intake. *To answer question #6, sugar-free gelatin was developed using saccharine and sold under the name of D-Zerta in 1923. Sugar Free Jell-O as we know it today replaced D-Zerta in 1984 and is now sweetened with Nutra Sweet.*

REMEMBER – THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR JELL-O!






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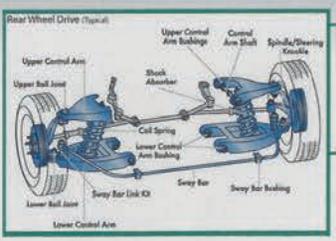


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Swedish What?

A wise man once said: *“It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.”* – King Solomon

During December, I had opportunity for both. There was much feasting and joy as we celebrated Christmas with family and friends. Those gatherings, however, were quickly followed by trips to Oklahoma and Placerville for the memorial services of my Aunt Vera and Uncle Alvin. We celebrated their lives and rejoiced knowing they live on in their heavenly home, but the finality of life on earth is sobering and creates more contemplation than does the feasting.

A reality for us is the fact that we can’t take it with us. Boomers may be considering the daunting task of cleaning out a parent’s home. Perhaps you’ve already inherited a houseful and are contemplating the overwhelming task your children face someday.

Last year Margareta Magnusson, a Swedish author and artist, came out with a book called *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter*. In Swedish, they call it *döstädning*. *Dö* is “death” and *städning* is “cleaning.” Magnusson explains, “It is a word used when you or someone else does a good, thorough cleaning and gets rid of things to make life easier and less crowded.” She talks about taking time to remember when you used various items and saying good-bye to the things you no longer need or use. While I don’t recommend buying her book for your 97-year-old mother, I do support the system and recommend doing it with your own belongings sooner than later.

Magnusson says to begin with your closet. Clothes and shoes are normally (but not always) less sentimental. Therefore, they may be easier to cull. Keep in mind that organizing – even Death Clean-

ing – is not a one-and-done activity, unless you happen to die as soon as you’re finished. Life – with birthdays, Christmas, etc. – will bring more stuff into your home and therefore ongoing culling is needed. Personally, I find it easier to let go of more, each time I purge.

Sarah Hodges followed Magnusson’s book with her own, *Swedish Death Cleaning for Beginners*. She explains how culling the clutter is sometimes based more on feelings than on how it looks. “A chaotic corner of art supplies can feel like an inspiring springboard,” says Hodges. “And a year later, if the supplies haven’t been touched, it begins to look like a landscape of failure.” Not everyone is comfortable in a minimalist state. Consider if your belongings inspire good feelings or bad.

Magnusson poses a helpful question: “Will anyone be happier if I save this?” For me, our treasured Christmas and photo books are a definite “Yes!” Other things, not so much. Another question I would pose: “Is it going to be stored in a box in the garage where I won’t have access to it?” Whatever goes out there is much less likely to be looked at again and therefore not considered a valued item.

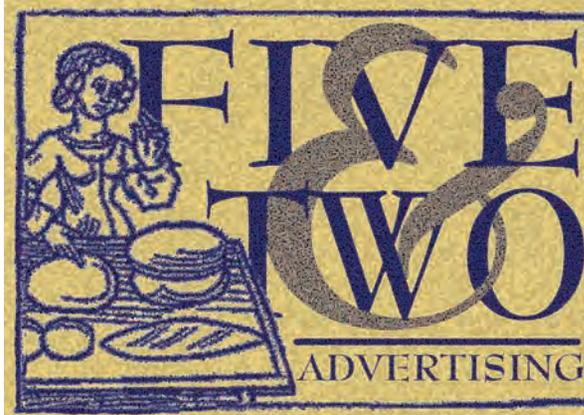
Magnusson says to present the items you value, but don’t want to keep, to your friends and family as gifts. I say definitely – if it’s something they’ve long admired. If you’re not sure it fits their tastes or desire, be sure to let them know it’s theirs to pass along, if they don’t want to keep it.

Part of the process includes preparing end-of-life documents so that if you, through illness or death, are suddenly unable to speak for yourself, your wishes and legal documents are in place. For more on this, visit my website at www.organizedbychoice.com/getting-organized/2018/7/30/one-last-gift.

Finally, Magnusson recommends talking about it with others. Tell others what you’re doing. It builds accountability and makes for an interesting topic of conversation.

Attend my “Organize Your Paper, Space, and Life” class February 11, 18 and 25, 2020. For more information contact: Clovis Community Education at 559-327-2876.

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



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By Wyatt Morgan and Corrina Martinez

On Dec. 5, 2019 Sierra Shadows 4-H helped with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Ranchos Tree Lighting in the Maywood Center. Sierra Shadows set

4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings



Sierra Shadows 4H Club

up game booths and members from the baking group provided baked goods and set them out for people to enjoy. The members from Sierra Shadows did some Christmas caroling, singing Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce set out a Christmas tree and lit it up full of lights. Soon after that, Santa Claus arrived by fire truck and the kids went to take pictures with him.



Sierra Shadows 4H Club members give their all as they sing Christmas carols at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting.

Most of those who came enjoyed the baked goods, the caroling and all of the game booths Sierra Shadows worked hard to set up. It's a fun time to spend with friends and family members before the busy holidays. The members of Sierra Shadows 4H encourage you all to come next year and see what fun it is.

Club Holiday Celebration

On Dec. 10, 2019 our club held its annual holiday party. Almost 100 members, family and friends showed up to celebrate in the Sierra View multi-purpose room. This was a very fun event that was very exciting. We played games like tag and bingo and there were coloring pages for people to color on the tables. Everybody brought lots of great food that we all got to share and enjoy. Then we had an ornament exchange. Every member had to bring a wrapped ornament and then we each got to choose one to unwrap. If we wanted to trade ornaments with someone else, we could. This was a lot of fun especially because you never knew what you would unwrap. This event was a great way to wrap up the year.

Attend Family Caregiving Workshop

Please join us for this interactive workshop to kick start the New Year. Optimize your health by building your own workout routine that will improve your mood, brain health and memory and increase your energy levels. Plus, a review of benefits for healthy eating will help you thrive as a Family Caregiver this New Year. Seating is limited so please RSVP today and wear comfortable clothes.



p.m. Family Caregivers, please call to register at: Valley Caregiver Resource Center, 559-224-9154 or 800-541-8614. This workshop is free for caregivers and is not open to providers, volunteers or for the patients. Some financial assistance is available for respite care. If you require special accommodations, please contact us a week prior to start of this workshop.

Date: January 27, 2020. Location: 5363 N. Fresno Street, Fresno. Time: 2 -- 4

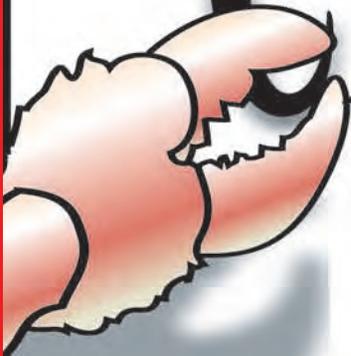
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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early! You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.



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Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

Be a Crab Feed Sponsor

Is your business going to the Crab Feed? For \$700 (*\$600 if bought by Feb. 21*) you get a table for 10, get to put your company banner up at the event, have your name listed at every table, have your table introduced at the event and be listed in the Ranchos Independent. Call 645-4001.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month. Join us on February 12 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos. Call us at 645-4001.

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The Bookshelf

Easy Transition to Our New Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

We have officially moved in at the new library location and are working on getting settled in. We have the same hours of operation and phone number, just a new address at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos, right behind State Foods Supermarket.

We do still hold story time every Thursday at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Maxfield and all are welcome to attend, although it is geared more for preschoolers. Starting in February we will begin accepting donations of used books again, but we do ask that they be like new condition to be accepted. We look forward to seeing how we can better work with the community now that we have more space to host events and such.

Now that business is out of the way let's get to my favorite part: Books!

Jerrica's Shelf: *The Starless Sea* by Erin Morgenstern

This is Morgenstern's second novel, with the first being *The Night Circus* which I absolutely adored. This is a uniquely written book with multiple storylines happening within the covers of the book. You are sent on a weird trip following a main character named Zachary Ezra Rawlins and the story that unfolds as he finds a uniquely unmarked novel in his school's library. He checks out the book and thus enters a world of battling secret societies wanting to preserve or shut down a magical world that exists beneath our feet. Between this story, though, are interludes and excerpted stories that are found in the unmarked book as well as a book of fables he comes across.

I'm not done with this book yet but am enamored with the world it is creating that exists right alongside our own. It's not my usual high fantasy fare, but I'm glad I picked it up all the same.



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Dear Dr. Roach: I always have had small breasts. Suddenly, in my mid-70s, my breasts grew, and now at 80 I have outgrown most of my clothes. My doctor said that it is fat, but I have gained only a few pounds. Could this be hormonal? Have you addressed this issue before? -- S.F.

Answer: I haven't addressed this before. Breasts change size during a woman's life for many reasons. Breast tissue is a mixture of fat and glandular tissue. For young women, there's proportionally more glandular tissue, the amount of which tends to decrease over time. After menopause, the breasts become less glandular; what is lost is replaced by fat, as there is less estrogen.

About 20 percent of women will notice significantly larger breasts after menopause; however, this usually occurs



along with overall weight gain. Significant breast enlargement without much weight gain is not common in my experience.

Hopefully, your doctor did a thorough examination. However, I think it is very unlikely that your breast size changes represent a tumor.

Very rarely, there are estrogen-producing tumors, so if there were other reasons to be concerned, your doctor might check blood levels of hormones, including estrogen.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Senior Report

Senior Center has “Flaming Hot Time” at First Chili Cookoff Event

By Margaret Tynan

Everyone at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Western Chili Contest had a “Flaming Hot Time.” Nearly 40 members and their guests tasted and judged six different chili entries at the western-themed event on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Center. Delicious pots of chili were prepared by Jo Chase, Roy Cochran, Diane Maxfield, Connie Prince, Caroline Reeves and Margaret Tynan. Although all of the entries got rave reviews, Connie Prince’s chili was voted the winner. In addition to the chili, wonderful soups were enjoyed. Robin Hick’s cream of potato, Scharlyn Hunter’s pasta fagioli and Joliene Mason’s chicken noodle. Following dinner, all enjoyed entertainment by Ed Bell, former member of the Baloney Creek Band, who played rhythm guitar, sang lively tunes and told humorous stories. The audience clapped and sang along with many of the familiar melodies. The music even inspired a few in the audience to get up and do some “foot stomping” line dancing. The evening was such a success, Chili Western Night may become an annual event. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it possible and all those who attended. A special thanks to Ed Bell for volunteering his time and talent for all to enjoy.

More upcoming events are planned. Mark your calendar. A Valentine’s Party and potluck will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at

the Center. Carol Wood has some lovely decorations ready to set the mood. Bring your table setting and a dish to share. There will be “Sweets for the Sweet” made by members for sale. They will make perfect gifts for the Valentines in your life.

Plans are in the works for a Bunco Party in March. Watch for details in next month’s edition of the Ranchos Independent and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Newsletter. It is always a popular fun event.

It’s time to get ready for the annual Spring Home and Garden Festival which will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4. If you or anyone you know would like to participate and feature their wares and/or services, be sure to register early as spaces are limited. The cost of a 12’ X 18’ space is \$30. You may request a registration form by calling or faxing Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 645-4864 or faxing 559-645-4830). You can also send an email to rhseniors@att.net, or coming into the Center at 37330 Berkshire Dr. here in the Madera Ranchos. The center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis at the Center.

Our regular activities for February include: Exercise Program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.; Lunch Program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. (see Debbie at the Center to register); Writing Group every Monday from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; weekly potluck and game evening Thursdays

at 6 p.m.; and don’t forget the monthly Bake, Boutique, Garden and Treasure House Sale on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. We hope to see you at one or all of these events.

Note: The Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 17 in honor of Presi-

dents’ Day. Also, it’s time to renew Ranchos/Hills Seniors membership. Deadline is Feb. 10.

Thought for February: “Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone — we find it with another.” — Thomas Merton



Joliene Mason (left), Carol Wood and Rosemary Janis try some fancy line dancing at the Senior Center’s Chili Western Night.



Ed Bell, former member of the Baloney Creek Band, played guitar, sang tunes and told humorous stories at the Senior Center’s Chili Western Night.

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Madera Ranchos Kiwanis News

By Nancy Wayne

The Rancho Kiwanis Club would like to wish you all a peaceful, safe New Year.

This new year, 2020, we'll be busy supporting the community. There are many opportunities for special projects in our club: Working and helping with Wildwood Nature park upkeep; fund raising; seasonal raffles; and helping with Chamber activities, to list a few.

Long time Kiwanis member Virginia Vick was honored when the new Ranchos Library chose to name its new Community Room in honor of her and her late husband, Merven. District 1 Supervisor, Brett www.TheRanchos.com

Frasier, was on hand for the ribbon cutting. The consensus was that Mervin and Virginia Vick were instrumental in the early stages of the Ranchos – and Virginia still today – and it was fitting the new room in the new library would be named in honor of them. Congrats Virginia

Come meet fellow community minded people and get involved. Meetings are at 6 p.m. on the second, third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Pizza Factory meeting room at 37184 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. We eat dinner together, have 30 minutes of social time, then a brief meeting and usually a community speaker. Come join us.

Free Smog Work Offered

Valley residents can continue to “Drive Clean” in 2020. Another decade brings with it more opportunities for residents to clean up their vehicles, for free, by attending Tune-In & Tune-Up (TITU) events, where participants receive a free emissions test to determine if their vehicle will pass an official smog test.

Since the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District began its partnership with Valley Clean Air Now in 2010, 31,000 vehicles have been repaired, passed official smog tests and operate cleaner. Vehicles that fail an

emissions test may be eligible for \$500 repair vouchers, which are accepted at participating smog shops. Cars from 1999 and older that fail the TITU emissions test may be eligible to replace their old gross-polluter and receive as much as \$9,500 toward a newer, cleaner car. The 2020 events are: • Feb. 1, *Fresno Fairgrounds* • Feb. 22, *San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton* • Mar. 7, *West Hills College, Lemoore.*

For more info visit:
www.valleyair.org/community



Helping a DIY'er

Hello 93636,

Hopefully you were all well behaved in 2019 so Santa brought you all you asked for. Lori must have been especially good last year because Santa told us we are getting a new grandchild in August. This one is number nine and we are truly BLESSED. Please pray for our oldest grandchild Kevin Ginn. He is a United States Marine. He is currently on deployment overseas. We don't know where he is or what he's doing.

At the conclusion of every month's "In Good Hands" article I invite readers and "Do-it- Yourselfer's" to contact me if they need automotive advice regarding a personal vehicle. On the rare occasion I receive a request, I like to use it in my article. I think it's more entertaining if the discussion is local. Earlier this month, Ranchos resident Dennis Rodriquez reached out for help. The following is his account of his big adventure.

"I drive a Jeep Grand Cherokee with a 3.6L Pentastar engine. A friend and I were attempting to diagnosis a P0306 (Misfire Cylinder #6) code. The engine seems to run OK but the "Check Engine" light is on. When we clear the code it always returns.

"Because of my engine's design, one half of the six spark plugs are located under the upper intake manifold. Naturally, #6 was one of those. We removed the upper manifold to replace the #6 spark plug. Since the ignition coil was now easily accessible, we decided to replace it as well. When we started the engine, unfortunately the misfire was still present.

"Again we removed the upper manifold and performed a cranking compression test. Cylinder #6 compression measured within the normal range. Since that wasn't the problem, we decided to replace the fuel injector. During that process, I found some information indicating the 3.6L plastic intake manifolds have known pattern failures from warpage so we replace it as well. When we started the engine, the misfire was still present.

"We remove the upper manifold and spark plug again and performed a cylinder leakage test. The results sug-

gested an internal cylinder problem so we removed the engine and disassembled it. (NOTE* An old school leak down test is where the intake and exhaust valves are placed in the closed position and pressurized air is directed into the cylinder through the spark plug opening. The loss of pressure [leak] is measured and calculated into a percentage. From my experience, this test is very unreliable when the leak is small.)

I invite readers and "Do-it-Yourselfer's" to contact me if they need automotive advice regarding a personal vehicle. On the rare occasion I receive a request, I like to use it in my article.

"We had the cylinder heads rebuilt and the engine block cylinders re-honed. We re-assembled the engine with new piston rings. When we started the engine, the misfire was still present. At this point we were very discouraged and out of ideas. After all that effort and money, the misfire problem was no better. I contacted my friend Cameron from

Complete Car Care and asked for help. He came to my house and connected his new-school Pico technology to the Jeep's battery and performed a Relative Cranking Compression (RCC) Test. Literally, within 15 minutes, it told me cylinder #6 RCC was lower than the other five good cylinders. Next, he removed cylinder #6 spark plug and replaced it with a Pico Pressure Transducer. He idled the engine for about five seconds and captured the pressure transducer waveform. After a quick examination of the waveform, my problem was identified as a delayed intake valve opening. He also said the camshaft was not the cause.

"When we removed the valve cover again and made a careful visual examination of the cylinder #6 valve train, we found a worn rocker arm bearing. Under a casual inspection it looked normal. We replaced all the rocker arms and valve lifters and the misfire was gone. WOW, a worn rocker arm bearing caused my 'Check Engine' light to turn on. It only took about 30 minutes to accurately diagnosis my problem. I believe if it wasn't for Cameron and his Pico technology, I would have invested even more time and more money and possibly never correctly identified the misfire cause. I would like to thank the guys at Complete Car Care for coming to my rescue."

You are welcome, Dennis.

To a casual observer, Dennis's diagnostic might seem a little amateurish. I assure you; it was not. The traditional old school diagnostic strategy Dennis employed is the current diagnostic strategy taught in every school I'm aware of and is mainstream for non-Pico technology shops.

Fortunately for us, automotive diagnostic technology and training has greatly improved over the past 20 years. With new-school Pico

Earlier this month, Ranchos resident Dennis Rodriquez reached out for help. The following is his account of his big adventure.

diagnostic technology, we still do the same types of tests – we just do them a different way.

For example, Dennis performed an old school cranking compression test. Just like many current engine configurations, the removal of the upper intake manifold was necessary to gain access to the compression test portal. With Pico technology, we simply

Please see **HANDS** on P. 17

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SEMCU speaks

**To Make a Difference,
Get More Information**

By Igal Treibatch

What would it take to make a difference in our traffic in Southeast Madera County? Follow this link to the SEMCU website to read an important Fresno Bee article about Avenue 9 and traffic between Fresno and Madera. It will enlighten you as to what is going on about our traffic:

www.semcu.org/useful-links

What would it take for you to become informed about the needs, improvement and sustainability of our community? What would it take for you to help guide our community's future and prosperity? What would it take for you to help create the best environment for our families and kids? Seriously, what would it take? What would it take for you to join SEMCU and help make it happen?

SEMCU is an organization specifically created to address issues pertinent to our community. It is an opportunity to create positive changes for us, our families, our businesses and our environment. That opportunity needs a strong membership to turn it into a reality.

SEMCU's membership increased in 2019 and, along with that, some of those new members volunteered to enroll in a Grant Writing class at Fresno State. Why would we want to write grant(s)?

So we can improve our community.

The topics are unlimited: installation of wells, appliance rebates, school safety enhancements and the creation of recreation areas to name a few. Members are needed to identify specific grant-writing topics. Members are needed to research what grants are available. In addition, we reach out to various community businesses for financial support; for instance, a grant proposal may require matching dollars before the grant is awarded. You might be that outreach person because of who you know.

Members are needed for their input, ideas and creativity and personal points of view. You may do nothing more than participate during a meeting with your thoughts and ideas and that is enough. No writing, no computer work, no attending other meetings and no visits to other sites. That's OK. Someone else may be more comfortable gathering thoughts and presenting a synopsis of what was discussed. Maybe you like to research topics and enjoy the detective work involved in discovering details. No matter your background, you have the knowledge and experience to help SEMCU accomplish its mission.

What would it take for you to join SEMCU? Our next meeting is Monday, Feb. 17 at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12 at 6 p.m.

Southeast Madera County United (SEMCU) is a non-profit benefit organization promoting local interests and topics in the SEMCU area. Call 559-363-9095 for information or email SEMCU at info@semcu.org.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was nonviolent Indian activist Mahatma Gandhi who made the following *sage observation*: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
- In 1905, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, became one of the first people ever to be fined for speeding.
- Appropriately, the patron saint of bankers is St. Meingold.
- Ever wonder how BVDs came to be called that? From the names of the men who originally manufactured them: Bradley, Voorhies and Day.

- Less than half the people in the world use a spoon, fork and knife to eat. The rest use chopsticks, just a knife or their hands.
- In Babylon 4,000 years ago, it was accepted practice that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer, and so that time became known as the honey month -- what we know today as the honeymoon.
- People who pick chili peppers in Costa Rica have to wear special suits to avoid getting blisters just from coming into contact with them.
- Thought for the Day: "Going to the opera, like getting drunk, is a sin that carries its own punishment with it, and that a very severe one." -- Hannah More

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HANDS cont. from P. 16

placed a high current amp probe around a battery cable and essentially retrieved the same relevant data.

Let me explain.

When the starter motor is used to crank the engine over, we measure the starter current. If all cylinders produce the same compression (mechanical pressure) all cylinders draw the same starter current (electrical pressure). Cylinders producing higher mechanical pressure require higher electrical pressure. Cylinders producing lower mechanical pressure need lower electrical pressure. Cylinder compression is relative to starter current. Measuring starter current is an easier and quicker way to evaluate cylinder compression.

Second, since the misfire only occurs when the engine is running, we need to test the compression when the engine running. With Pico technology we simply remove the spark plug and replace it with a Pico pres-

sure transducer. The pressure transducer measures all internal cylinder pressure changes and displays it in a waveform. Now we can accurately measure when and how rapidly the intake and exhaust valves open and close. Within minutes, Cameron was able to identify a late valve opening as the cause of the Jeep's illuminated "Check Engine." I wish all automotive diagnostic was that easy.

OK guys and gals, that's all for this one. Hope it helps. As always, I'm looking for current, relevant, informative and/or interesting automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any ideas, suggestions, recommendations and/or general or specific questions concerning a vehicle, I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text to 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636

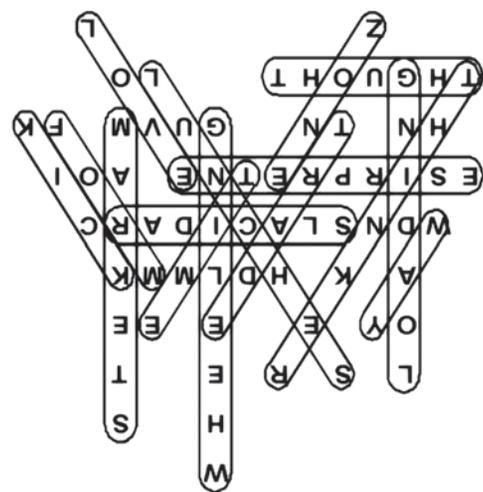
Warren Parr, a two-time selection NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year

ANSWERS

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

POST	OLLA	ESTEE	SNEER
ELMS	BAILL	IRAITE	DOONNE
NOIN	EVES	TRUCTIO	NOIN
ESAI	EVES	TRUCTIO	NOIN
JOY	COOKING	ETA	OMNI
RAY	OFFLIGHT	WIDENS	NETGAIN
RIBB	PLUS	ENE	NIECES
ALOF	GHIA	NICKO	FTIME
PAT	OFF	RLIN	EXIT
NYS	PEARLO	FANS	DOM
ENDS	CARAN	LAX	TAB
DOPE	DIAN	JACK	CLUBS
GRACE	OF	GOD	COMMON
OLLE	IR	ITE	SORT
LASS	OOD	BE	OLD
ANTE	UNO	BILLO	HEALTH
DEAN	OF	ADMISS	ION
ERWIN	REARS	AT	ONE
MASTS	BRIDE	MICR	SHUT

27	25	17		
9	+	5	x	14
			x	
4	x	3	+	8
			+	
7	x	2	+	9



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Available now to work in the Ranchos. Experienced IT professional, experience in accounting and photography. **Call John at 559-706-5215 - NEW NUMBER.**

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		+		23			
-		+		+				
	x		+		20			
x		x		÷				
	+		x		14			
27		25		17				
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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- Mayonnaise can stand in for cooking oil in a recipe. Use in an equal amount. It works especially well in brownies.
- "When flossing, cut a length of floss, then tie the loose ends together. Now you have a circle and can hold it open with your fingers rather than wrapping the loose ends around your fingers. All it takes is a little tension on the circle to keep the line taut." -- C.E. in Kentucky

- "If you have to wash dishes by hand, here's a tip for rinsing utensils: Clean silverware together and toss into a colander, then rinse the whole thing together. This will save time, and water." -- M.V. in Ohio
- Apply car wax to shower walls to keep soap scum from hanging around and petroleum jelly in shower-door tracks to lube them.

- "I like to use metal cans for storage in my shop. To make them safer, I file and dip the rims in melted wax. When the wax hardens, it fills in all the potential jagged edges that might lead to a small cut." -- F.J. in Florida

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

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How 'For Sale By Owners' Can Get Top Dollar for Their Madera Ranchos Home

Madera Ranchos - If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

Like other "For Sale by Owners", you'll be subjected to a hundred sales pitches from agents who will tell you how great they are and how you can't possibly sell your home by yourself. After all, without the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don't give up until

you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has been prepared especially for homesellers like you. You'll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside this report, you'll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You'll find out what real estate agents don't want you to know.

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1/20

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By Betty Van Valkenburg

Impeachment for Idiots

We've read the book. Don't want to see the movie.

As this is written, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has gleefully signed the Articles of Impeachment and celebrated by giving dozens of special signing pens as mementos, just as presidents do to celebrate bill-signing occasions. The House's tin soldiers have marched the Articles to the Senate and Chief Justice John Roberts has been sworn in to preside over the trial of Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America.

Below are suggestions for consideration from this really fed up, frustrated and furious conservative. Fed up with three years of Democrats' impeachment-at-any-cost antics. Frustrated that American citizens don't know the truth of socialism. And furious at self-serving politicians whose only goal is self-promotion.

Perhaps it's time to expel Nancy Pelosi from the House of Representatives, the highest form of punishment allowed for her shameless obstruction of the House's business. She's "obviously" using the House and Senate to oust President Trump, planning to somehow oust Vice President Pence and, through the line of succession, become Madame President of the United States. Farfetched? Maybe. But if the Left's mind readers can claim, with no proof, that the purpose of Trump's request for Zelensky to "do us a favor" was to win the presidency, why not accuse Nancy of using impeachment to ascend to the presidency? More than one political party can play the mind-reading and conjecture game. And if Trump can be impeached for the non-crime of obstructing Congress, can't Nancy be expelled for the same thing? She's held the House hostage to impeachment for three years.

Vote Republican. Enough with the Democrat candidates scrambling over each other to catch the Democrat Socialist Progressive brass ring. There is no reasoning or logic that can be applied to their silly clown show and outlandish proposals. They appear to have

lost their minds.

Case in point: Joe Biden guaranteed to have Latinos in his White House, including Beto O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke isn't "Latino," not that it matters, but it *does* matter that Biden is a pandering fool and that he's leading the Democrat polls.

Examples abound of Democrat hypocrisy, God complexes and naked stupidity. (OK, Republicans can have the same faults, but not *one* Republican proposes changing the USA to the United Socialist America!)

So, my advice is: Just flat-out vote a straight Republican ticket. It's a no-brainer. Anyone with an (R) by his or her name is preferable to anyone with a (D) or (S), and that's S for Super-Socialist, not "Superman." Vote Republican unless you want open borders; a screeching halt to economic gains; the end of private health insurance; and total government control of health care, education, energy, the economy, doctors, hospitals, transportation, air conditioning, food sources, city planning, farming, water and so much more. Vote to retain your liberty and then hold elected officials, Republican and Democrat, responsible for protecting your rights according to the Constitution.

Teach others the truth and history of Socialism and Communism; that our Constitution protects the individual from government excesses and that we are born with rights from our Creator that the government cannot legally take away. Teach them that Socialism is about government control. Once the populace becomes subservient and dependent, socialist governments become tyrannical.

Beware a Democrat "savior" who might appear at the last minute claiming to be the alternative to Trump and the Democrat candidates. Hillary seems to be dusting off her white pantsuit, but she and it are hopelessly tiresome. And whoever might appear would be just another Socialist in Democrat clothing.

Vote in the March 3 primary. It's important. Be sure that you are registered. And if you are registered as "No Party Affiliation," re-register as Republican, otherwise you cannot vote for a Republican for congress in the primary, thanks to the Top-Two Primary System enacted in 2011.

Please vote for Kevin Cookingham (R) who is running for Congress in the 16th District against Jim Costa (D) and encourage others to do the same. A vote to return Democrat Costa to Congress is a vote for Nancy Pelosi and Socialism.

See you at the polls.

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

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

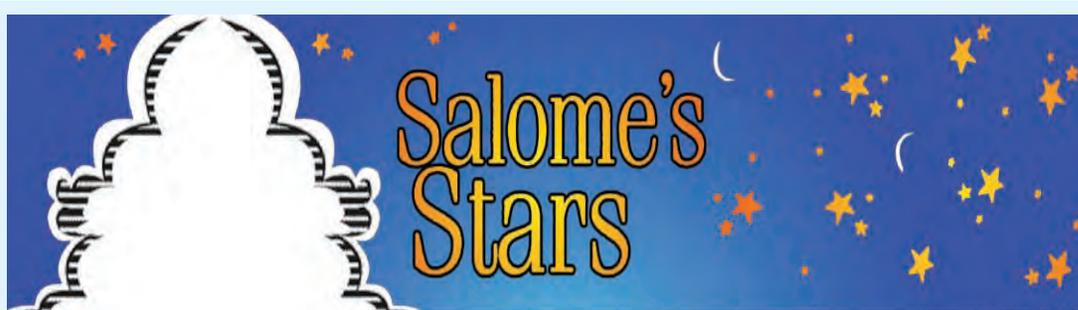


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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That lower-than-acceptable performance you're getting from others in your group might be the result of miscommunication. If so, correct it before serious problems arise later on.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unexpected situation could call for a change of plans. If so, you might feel that this is unfair. But it's best to make the needed adjustments now. There'll be time later for rescheduling.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The new year brings opportunities you might want to look into. Some might be more interesting than others. But take time to look at all of them before you make any decisions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good idea to be careful about expenses until you've worked out that pesky financial problem. You might find it advisable to get some solid advice on how to proceed.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Romance looms large over the Leonine aspect. Single Lions looking for love should find Cupid very cooperative. Paired Cats can expect a renewed closeness in their relationships.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making contact with a former colleague might not be high on your list of priorities. But it could pay off personally as well as professionally. Avoid bringing up any negatives about the past.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A personal relationship could face added stress because of a situation involving someone close to both of you. Be supportive and, above all, try to avoid playing the blame game.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might well find some lingering uncertainties about a decision. If so, take that as a warning that you might not be ready to make that move yet. More study would be in order.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Music is a dominant theme for Sagittarians right now, and it should remind you to make a greater effort to restore some much-needed harmony in that very special relationship.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although family matters might demand much of the Sea Goat's attention this week, you'll want to try to make time to handle those all-important workplace situations as well.

QUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A recurring unresolved issue might need to be revisited before you can move forward. Consider asking someone familiar with the situation to act as an impartial counselor.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Ignore pressure to make a decision. Keeping your options open is still the wisest course, at least until you're sure you've learned all you need to know about the matter at hand.

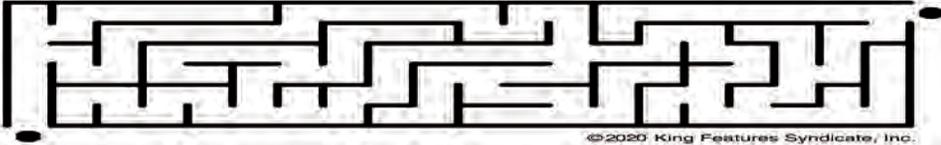
Born this Week

You're capable of great loyalty to those around you, which is one reason you can count on devotion from friends and family.

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FUN PAGES

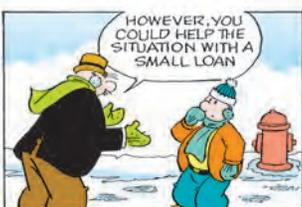
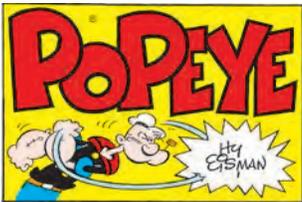
Kids' Maze



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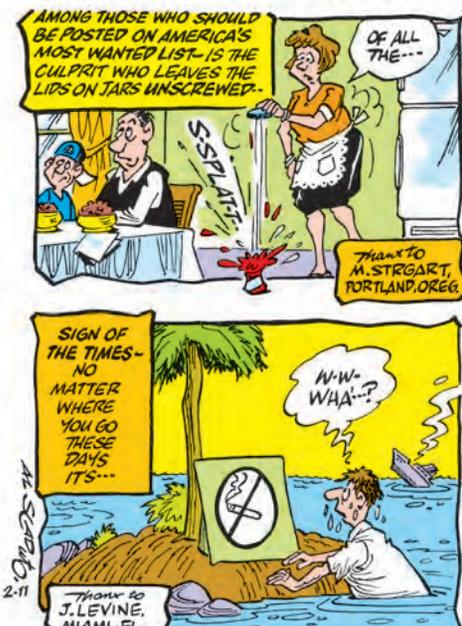
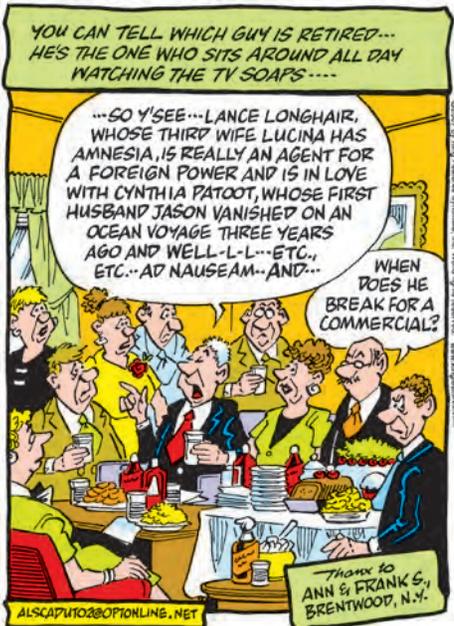
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



DETRIMMING THE TREE! Christmas trees come down a lot faster than they go up. How many ornaments can you count in the above picture? It's up to you to decide.

SUMMING SEVEN IS SIMPLE! See if you can arrange these seven numbers so that they add up to 100:

Answer: $47 + 2 = 100$
 $1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 = 100$

TRY CHEWING ON THIS ONE! It's blue ribbon time if you can find the following "cow" words. All of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with the word COW. Use the following definitions:

1. COW (in place).
2. Monk's hood.
3. Frightened off.
4. Cattle herder.
5. Tuft of hair.
6. Yellow primroses.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

**FEET
FEAT
FLAT
FLAY
CLAY**



DOWN THE LADDER!
 In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example we changed FEET to CLAY in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. CAMP to SITE
2. WORK to FAME
3. BELL to ROPE
4. LIMP to CANE
5. DADO to CUTS

Wishing Well

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

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MAGIC MAZE • FREE

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- | | | | |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Enterprise | Love | Thinker | Way |
| Form | Lunches | Thought | Wheeling |
| Kick | Markets | Time | Zone |
| Loading | Radicals | Trade | |

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are female elephants called?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the oldest brewery in the United States?
3. MOVIES: To which destination is the McCallister family traveling in the movie "Home Alone"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are named after a president?
5. MUSIC: In the song, what did Frosty the Snowman do after a magic hat was placed on his head?
6. ANATOMY: Where is the glabella located in the human body?
7. LANGUAGE: What did the Russian Space Station "Mir" mean in English?
8. LITERATURE: What are the names of the young bunnies in "The Tale of Peter Rabbit"?
9. HISTORY: In what year was the sound barrier broken by a jet aircraft?
10. LANDMARKS: Which presidents are depicted in the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota?

- Answers**
1. Cows
 2. Yuengling
 3. Paris
 4. One, Washington
 5. He began to dance around
 6. Between the eyebrows
 7. World or peace
 8. Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter
 9. 1947
 10. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

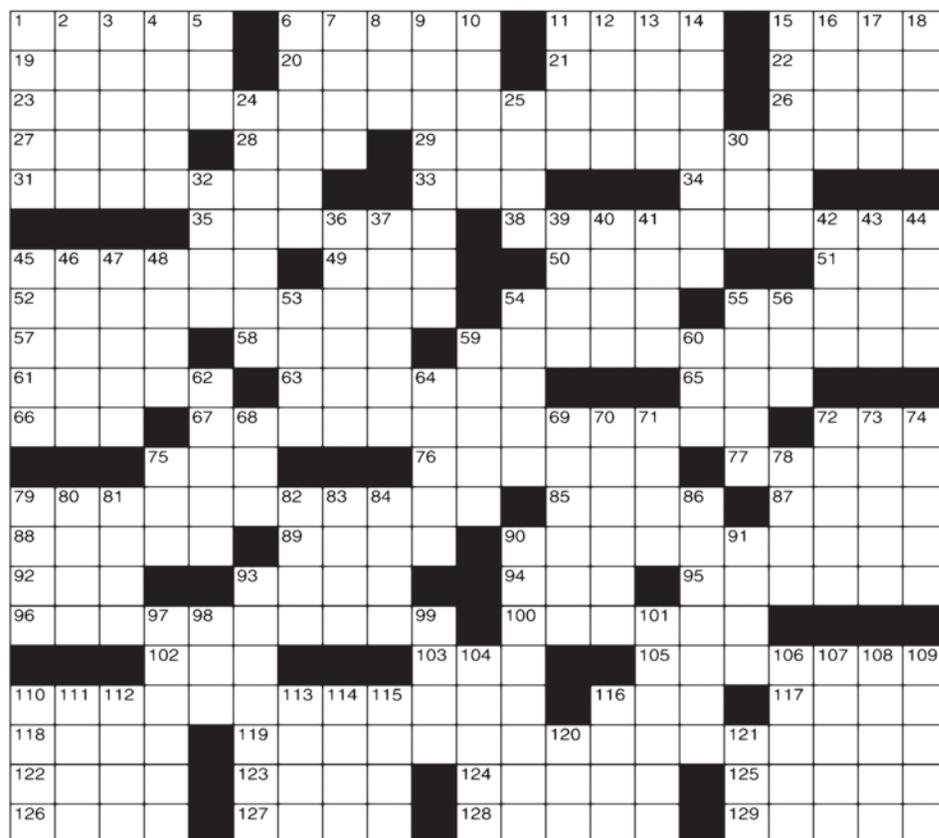
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Differences: 1. Button is missing. 2. Skirt is different. 3. Food splat is missing. 4. Chair back is lower. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Hair is different.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Ship parts
 - 6 One in a veil
 - 11 Very small: Prefix
 - 15 Sealed, say
 - 19 Early TV's Stu
 - 20 Posteriors
 - 21 Stick — in the water
 - 22 Songwriter's creation
 - 23 Martin the ticket collector?
 - 26 Actor Bana or Stoltz
 - 27 Pay to play poker
 - 28 Game with Wild cards
 - 29 Clinton the doctor?
 - 31 Caught at a rodeo
 - 33 Pollen lover
 - 34 Hardly fresh
 - 35 Worldwide
 - 38 Ellington the Peppermint Pattie factory worker?
 - 45 More greasy
 - 49 Ending for Israel
 - 50 Ilk
 - 51 Car owners' org.
 - 52 Kelly the minister?
 - 54 "Let's go!"
 - 55 Former Apple messaging software
 - 57 See 64-Down
 - 58 Primate studier
 - 59 Benny the golfer?
 - 61 Markey and Bagnold
 - 63 Actor Hinds of 2017's "Justice League"
 - 65 Negligent
 - 66 Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's purview
 - 67 Bailey the philosopher?
 - 72 Folder flap
 - 75 Meal tie-on
 - 76 Rice-based Spanish dish
 - 77 Ivory's counterpart
 - 79 Benatar the dairy owner?
 - 85 Fuzzy stuff
 - 87 Departure
 - 88 Standoffish
 - 89 Karmann — (bygone VW sports car)
 - 90 Nolte the clockmaker?
 - 92 Skeleton part
 - 93 +
 - 94 Ariz.-to-Kan. dir.
 - 95 Girls in the family
 - 96 Liotta the lamp designer?
 - 100 Gets dilated
 - 102 Basic deg. for designers
 - 103 Supermodel Carangi or actress Scala
 - 105 End profit
 - 110 Behar the chef?
 - 116 Airport stat
 - 117 Hotel chain
 - 118 Morales of film and TV
 - 119 Arden the demolition contractor?
 - 122 Shady giants
 - 123 Get-out-of-jail money
 - 124 Super-mad
 - 125 "The Flea" poet John
 - 126 Blog addition
 - 127 Pot for stew
 - 128 Lauder of makeup
 - 129 Evil smile
 - 7 Alter totally
 - 8 Reply to "Who's in charge here?"
 - 9 Bounced down the court
 - 10 Actress Davis of two "Matrix" films
 - 11 Spam, say
 - 12 Villain in Hughes poem
 - 13 Athletic team assoc.
 - 14 Film anew
 - 15 Not wobbly
 - 16 Throw
 - 17 Troop body
 - 18 Pt. of MIT or STEM
 - 24 Nuclear reactor tube
 - 25 Polar vehicle
 - 30 Polar pixie
 - 32 Curved arch
 - 36 High jump on a skateboard, informally
 - 37 Lacking a key, in music
 - 39 "Semper Fi" mil. branch
 - 40 Weirdo
 - 41 Rubik of cube fame
 - 42 Aiea's island
 - 43 Broccoli —
 - 44 Kit — (candy bars)
 - 45 Poet Nash
 - 46 Twisted wit
 - 47 — lazuli
 - 48 Frosted Family," to her hubby
 - 53 Abbr. on a pay stub
 - 54 "Please, Mommy, will you let us?"
 - 55 "Veni," in English
 - 56 Nero's 160
 - 59 Villain in Disney's "Aladdin"
 - 60 Waitress on TV's "Alice"
 - 62 Spruce (up)
 - 64 With 57-Across, Ali ring strategy
 - 68 Abate
 - 69 "Fighting" Big Ten team
 - 70 Cut, as pizza
 - 71 Cold and wet
 - 72 Like poison
 - 73 Japanese cartoon art
 - 74 Measures of memory
 - 75 Scaring cry
 - 78 — noire
 - 79 One of Henry VIII's Catherines
 - 80 Et —
 - 81 Mug in a pub
 - 82 Jamaican citrus fruit
 - 83 Mean ruffian
 - 84 Wife on "The Addams Family," to her hubby
 - 86 Cover for a truck bed
 - 90 Crystal rubbers, perhaps
 - 91 Jab deliverer
 - 93 Control in a clinical study
 - 97 Certain wind player
 - 98 Very loudly, musically
 - 99 9-to-5er's weekly cry
 - 101 Main dish
 - 104 Art house film, often
 - 106 Went aboard
 - 107 Nitrogen compound
 - 108 Words after all or hole
 - 109 San Fran griddle
 - 110 All-terrain vehicle
 - 111 Fjord city
 - 112 Tasty tubers
 - 113 Egg-shaped
 - 114 Eye, in Paris
 - 115 Nut with caffeine
 - 116 Rock finale?
 - 120 Perched
 - 121 LP replacers
- DOWN**
- 1 Get gold, e.g.
 - 2 Target Center, e.g.
 - 3 Smacks
 - 4 Spork parts
 - 5 — -cone
 - 6 "Viva Zapata!" star

FUN PAGES

SEM CU
south east madera county united

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Reach water sustainability
and help the community with needs
such as parks, a community center,
safety, traffic and schools.

SEM CU Regular Meeting

Monday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

Help with SEM CU and you help our neighborhood
where our kids grow up and where we plan to retire.
Southeast Madera is our back yard, our home and the
place we live. It doesn't take a lot of time,
meeting only once a month for about an hour.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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