

The Ranchos Independent



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CELEBRATING
18 YEARS
IN THE RANCHOS

Volume 18 Issue 7 2022

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



**RANCHOS
ALL-STARS
GO FOR
THE WIN**

In This Issue

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Classifieds • Page 16 / Fun Pages • Pages 18 & 19*

RANCHOS ALL-STARS GO FOR THE WIN

By Heather Hiatt

Two Liberty Ranchos All-Star Teams Wrapped Up Winning Baseball Seasons

Two talented groups of boys from the Madera Ranchos were selected from their Spring Cal-Ripken baseball teams to represent the Liberty Ranchos Baseball League on the Under 10 and Under 12 All-Star Teams. They have spent the last two months competing in multiple individual games and three tournaments, including the State Tournament that was held in held in Visalia.

The Under 10 All-Stars amassed a record of 11-6 over this period with semi-final appearances in both the Central Cali Express Tournament and Mid-Summer Bash Tournament, held in Raisin City. The Under 12 All-Stars finished 17-2 and battled their way to first place titles at both the Central Cali Express and Mid-Summer Bash tournaments, as well as appeared in the quarter finals at the State tournament.

A big thank you goes out to the coaches, parents, the Navarro family and other generous sponsors for their support.



For the Under 12 All Stars, coaches in the back row, from left, are Mark McCullough, Austin Graham, Samuel Meon, Mario Navarro, Eric Debusk, Cole McCullough, Blayz Ketcham and Head Coach Pete Bilskey

In the front row, from left, are Jace Huckabay, Emiliano Salazar, Shane Alesi, Brody VonFlue, Weston Hiatt, Henry Bilskey and Coach Nick VonFlue.



The Under 10 All Stars were coached by coaches Nathan Vick and Jed Webster in the back.

The players consisted of, from left, Alex Simpson, Charlie Vick, Gage Tharp, Austyn Johnson, Aiden Rodriguez, Nate Bolaños, Gannon Webster, David Nolasco, Hyde Ketcham, Cesar Medina, Bobby "Jax" Williamson and Edgar Zamora.

Grisly Wreck on Avenue 12 and 34 1/2

A man was killed on the last day of June on Avenue 12 and Road 34 1/2 in the Madera Ranchos, and a woman in the same car had her arm severed in a three-car crash. The Madera County Coroner later revealed that the victim was Nicolas Renteria, 25, of Madera.

The California Highway Patrol reported that the accident occurred at approximately 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 30 near the intersection of Avenue 12 and Road 34 1/2. Reports indicate that Renteria and a woman were in a Saturn Ion heading east when they tried to pass a Dodge Caliber. For reasons unknown, the Ion sideswiped the Caliber causing the Caliber to spin out of control. Renteria's Saturn



responded to the impact, deflected directly into the path and collided head-on with a Chevrolet Traverse. As a result of the impact, the Traverse overturned and Renteria and the woman were ejected from the Saturn as the result of the impact with the Traverse. They were rushed to Madera Community Hospital, but Renteria died from his injuries. The woman also suffered injuries that included broken bones and a severed arm. A woman and two children who were in the Chevrolet traverse also went to the hospital and were treated for complaints of pain.

The California Highway Patrol has not reported yet who they believe was at the wheel of the Saturn.

Primary is Over, Now What?

Rebecca Martinez, County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters for Madera County, announced that a Consolidated Statewide General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. The following offices are scheduled to appear on that ballot:

- FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICES**
- Governor
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Secretary of State
 - Controller
 - Attorney General
 - Treasurer
 - Insurance Commissioner
 - Member, State Board of Equalization, District 1
 - United States Senator (Full Term)
 - United States Senator (Partial/Unexpired Term)
 - US Representative in Congress, Districts 5 & 13
 - State Senator, Districts 4 & 14
 - Member of the Assembly, Districts 8 & 27

State Superintendent of Public Instruction
JUDICIAL OFFICES

- Justices of the California Supreme Court (5) (Cantil-Sakauye, Jenkins, Liu, Guerrero, Groban)
- Justices of the Fifth District Court of Appeals (3) (Hill, Levy, Detjen)
- Judge of the Superior Court, Office 2 (Collet)
- Judge of the Superior Court, Office 3 (Vogt)

- COUNTY OFFICES**
- Supervisor, District 1 (Run-off)
- SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES – GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER**
- Chawanakee Unified School District – Areas 1, 2 & 3
 - Golden Valley Unified School District – Areas 1, 2 & 4

The following are the filing periods associated with becoming a candidate at that election:

Please see **VOTE** on P. 3

VOTE cont. from P. 2

July 18, 2022 to August 12, 2022
 Nomination & Declaration of Candidacy Period

August 13, 2022 to August 17, 2022*
 Extended Nomination and Declaration of Candidacy Period
 (Extends only if Incumbent fails to file by deadline. Does not apply to office for which there is no Incumbent)

August 13, 2022 to August 22, 2022*
 Period to Submit Arguments For or Against Measures

August 23, 2022 to September 2, 2022
 Period to submit Rebuttals to Arguments For or Against Measures

September 12, 2022 to October 25, 2022
 Write-in Candidacy Period
 * **Filing date moves to next business day.**

Beginning July 13, you can visit www.votemadera.com and click on the "Interested in Running for Office" link on the home page or call the Elections Division. Interested candidates must obtain and file the required documentation to run for office from the County Clerk-Recorder, located at 200 W. 4th Street, Madera, California.

The County Clerk-Recorder will issue and file documents during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, during each of the filing periods listed above. For additional information, contact the Elections Division at 559-675-7720 or 1-800-435-0509.

Wildfire Season is Here -- Get Ready

The 2022 Wildfire season has arrived to central California with isolated grass and wildland fires threatening to bring smoke into the San Joaquin Valley. The Valley Air District is encouraging residents to be prepared and plan now for potential poor air quality due to wildfire smoke that might reach the Valley as we head into the hotter, drier time of the year.

The District reminds residents to change out air filters in their home and set up a "Clean Air Room" for when smoke impacts become severe. A Clean Air Room is a room in your home or apartment where you and your family can escape the worst of the smoke impacts from wildfires. Follow these easy steps to create a Clean Air Room:

1. Choose a room where your entire family can relax and spend the majority of their time.
2. Prevent smoke from entering the room by tightly closing doors and windows.
3. Stay cool. Run fans, window air conditioners or central air conditioning.
4. Filter the air in the room with a store-bought air purifier or create a DIY air purifier.
5. Avoid creating smoke or other particles indoors (no candles, no open flame cooking, no smoking).
6. Spend as much time as possible in

the clean air room to get the most benefits.

7. Remember cloths mask don't work for wildfire smoke, chose N95 masks instead.

Wildfire smoke contains particulate matter (PM), which can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic bronchitis, and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Those with existing respiratory conditions are especially susceptible to the adverse health effects of this form of pollution. Anyone experiencing poor air quality due to wildfire smoke should move indoors to a filtered, air-conditioned environment with windows closed and contact their primary care provider for more information. The recent hot and dry conditions throughout the San Joaquin Valley create the potential for wildfires and lead to smoke impacts in our region. A build-up of dry vegetation during the summer months presents a high risk for hotter, faster-moving fires in mountain communities surrounding the Valley, often sending smoke into the San Joaquin Valley.

Check the District's wildfire page at www.valleyair.org/wildfires for wildfire information and you can follow air quality conditions by downloading the free "Valley Air" app on your mobile device.

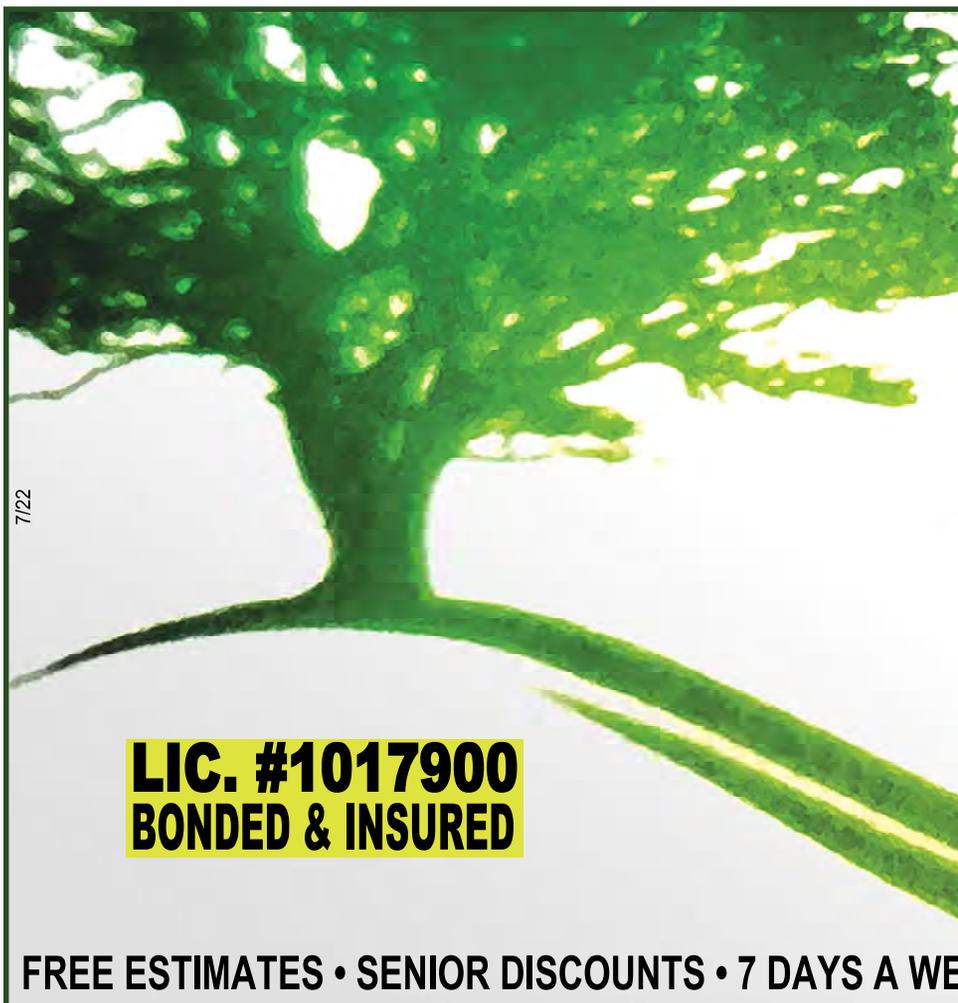
For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the Fresno District office at 559-230-6000.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I'm really sick and tired of the dog and pony show "investigation" of the January 6th protest in Washington. Where was the Demoncrats' outrage when the cities of Seattle, Portland, K.C., Minneapolis and others were held hostage by domestic terrorists who looted, burned, attacked innocent bystanders, destroyed entire neighborhoods, businesses and lives, for more than a year? Now, they start a colossal manhunt for the patriots who marched in protest of an election stolen with fake mail-in ballots! The only death was an unarmed female veteran who was shot by a Park Service "door rattler." The protesters occupied the capitol buildings briefly, but those buildings belong to WE THE PEOPLE, not the politicians we allow to use them, primarily for their own financial gain. There was no arson, no police cars destroyed, no businesses looted, no graffiti on the hallowed halls of corruption, yet the manhunt goes on, and the kangaroo court convenes with lies and the misrepresentation of a civil protest that our constitution protects as an "insurrection," while STILL ignoring the domestic terrorism that served their agenda so well!

In the two years this illegitimate "leadership" has been squatting in the White House, they've managed to bring back the 1918 pandemic, the 1929 depression, the 1968 race riots and the 1973 gasoline crisis all at once.

C.L. Cake
Madera Ranchos

answer to prayer.

We recently moved to the Ranchos looking for a new start. After unexpectedly losing my husband three years ago and our kids having to grieve in isolation during Covid, we moved to the Ranchos for community and to be closer to family. With the kids enrolled in Webster, Liberty and joining Thrive Church, things started to get back on track. But to be quite honest, the days still seemed long and lonely at times.

In prayer I sought the Lord, "Have I been left alone?" and in His providence He answered by burning our house down.

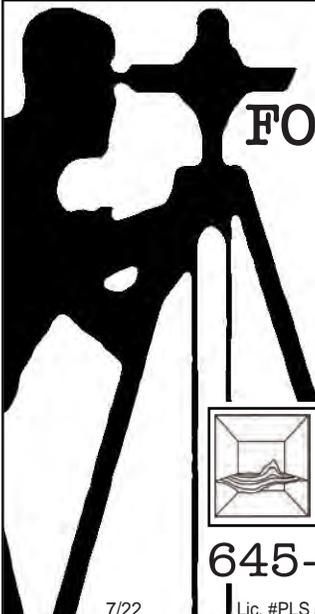
I wasn't alone when the motorcycle driver stopped to turn off the gas or a neighbor made sure my kids and dogs were out safely. I wasn't alone in the days that followed as the Ranchos Facebook group sent prayers and well wishes, as the Ranchos Liberty Cafe fed us. My parents and siblings gave us help to get clothes and toiletries. Family made sure Lizzy had everything she needed for softball. Community provided for Benny to start football. Tomahawks family provided equipment so Sammy didn't miss a day of baseball. EKC, my employer, was and continues to be completely supportive. We also had offers of furniture and linens, so many donations on Go Fund Me.

This community is beyond amazing. I just wanted to say thank you from the four of us. We are rebuilding and looking forward to being back to normal in a year or so, and back to where we can be there for you during your hard times too. Our family will always remember your kindness and I will always remember that you were the answer to my prayers.

The Acosta Family
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

You wouldn't think a fire could be an



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Guest Editorial

Did Conservative Justices Lie?

By Rich Lowry

Progressives tell themselves that they've been undone by a series of dirty deeds, including the alleged deceit of conservative justices who lied to the U.S. Senate about their commitment to preserving *Roe v. Wade*. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez believes that impeachment proceedings should be in play. What the perjury case against the justices in the Dobbs majority lacks is any evidence of assurances made under oath or otherwise that they would vote to uphold a ruling of the court that had, justly, been under withering assault since it was handed down 50 years ago.

Any judge who considers himself or herself an originalist was going to believe that *Roe* was bad law because there wasn't remotely colorable warrant for it under the Constitution. There might have been varying views on what deference was owed to precedent, or other tactical questions; there wasn't any meaningful disagreement on the core matter. The nominees would agree, while not going any further. They'd often cite -- correctly -- the refusal to comment on contested questions going back to Ruth Bader Ginsberg's confirmation hearings. Typical was an exchange between Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Amy Coney Barrett during her hearings.

Klobuchar pressed Barrett whether *Roe* was a "super precedent," or a ruling that no one thinks is in play anymore. Barrett demurred, "I'm answering a lot of questions about *Roe*, which I think indicates that *Roe* doesn't fall in that category."

This wasn't deception -- it was clearly saying, if obliquely, that *Roe* was vulnerable to challenge. I'd prefer if nominees were less lawyerly, but they are experts in subtle distinctions and the longstanding politicization of the confirmation process puts a premium on indirection. Justice Brett Kavanaugh has been a particular target for post-Dobbs attack. Pro-choice Republican Sen. Susan Collins told *The New York Times* that she feels he misled her in a private meeting. The *Times* story doesn't say that Collins asked Kavanaugh directly if he'd overturn *Roe* -- presumably for good reason. The senator would have known such a question would have been highly improper. In fact, she praised Neil Gorsuch during his 2017 confirmation for saying he would have left the room if someone asked him for a commitment to overturn *Roe*. It is doubtful that Kavanaugh told Collins anything in private that he didn't say in his sworn public testimony as well. If he was playing some sort of double game, Collins should have felt an obligation to call Kavanaugh out on it. She didn't. In fact, she gladly voted for him.

It is true that in his hearings Kavanaugh leaned heavily on the notion that *Roe* was precedent and that it had been reaffirmed in *Casey*, what he called "a precedent on precedent." Yet, other supporters of *Roe* weren't inclined to overinterpret this. As Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island told Kavanaugh at the outset of the hearings, "Your own words make clear you do not really believe *Roe v. Wade* is settled law since the Court, as you said, 'can always overrule its precedent.'"

In her dramatic floor statement supporting Kavanaugh's nomination, Collins made it clear that she also understood that his commitment to precedent was not absolute. It would give way, she explained, "in those rare circumstances where a decision is 'grievously wrong' or 'deeply inconsistent with the law.'" The Court held in

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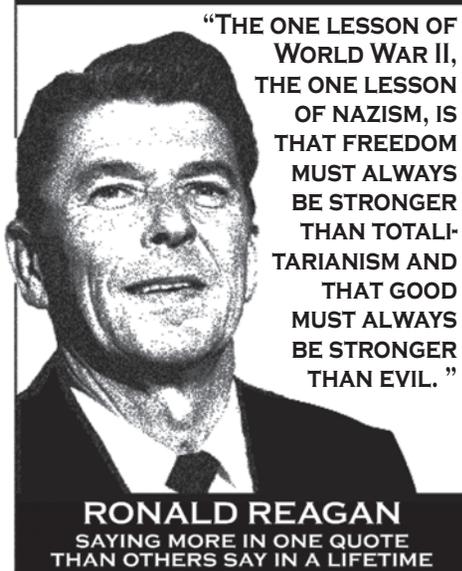
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"THE ONE LESSON OF WORLD WAR II, THE ONE LESSON OF NAZISM, IS THAT FREEDOM MUST ALWAYS BE STRONGER THAN TOTALITARIANISM AND THAT GOOD MUST ALWAYS BE STRONGER THAN EVIL."

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

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 12

EMT or Taco Bell -- Same Job?

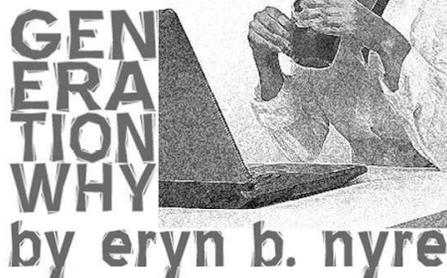
One of the perks of my job is that I get to do quite a bit of travel. It's not exotic travel. I'm only sent to tiny towns in rural states, some of which don't even have national chain restaurants. Still, the hotels are decent, they usually have working hot tubs, and I get paid per diem. I have no complaints.

Last week I happened to be in just such a tiny little town in Northern New Mexico. This particular area has been ravaged by fire over the last few months and is seeing many different crews of firefighters and other emergency responders come and go to help with the disaster. My training partner and I had the honor of meeting a paramedic and an EMT in the hot tub one evening where I learned that evidently in our society, lifesaving emergency training is less valuable than fast food or retail employment.

After a little small talk with our new friends, we found out that they were from Arizona and in New Mexico on a temporary federal contract. My partner, who occasionally has the manners of a loquacious toddler, asked them what EMTs and paramedics usually get paid and how it compares to what they are making on this assignment. They didn't seem bothered by the question. They immediately spilled all the beans and I was absolutely flabbergasted.

The EMT said his regular pay was about \$14 an hour, and the paramedic said she usually makes just under \$20. When I say my jaw hit the floor, I mean it dropped open like a trout who saw a floating worm and thought he lucked into an easy meal. Many fast-food chains are hiring crew members at around \$18 per hour. I never would have thought people with medical training and lifesaving skills would make about the same, and in some cases less, than fast-food employees. And before anyone comes at me, I spent nearly 10 years in the quick service food industry. I know what it takes to serve angry and entitled customers and it is nowhere near the same level of skill as providing emergency medical care.

I looked into it, and after triple checking several different sites, I found that the average EMT salary in the U.S. is about \$38,000 per year, or



about \$18 per hour. This varies by state, and of course depends on experience, but that's the average. For paramedics, who receive more advanced medical training and are certified and registered to perform many of the same medical tasks as registered nurses, their average annual salary is \$47,000. That's about \$23 per hour. Again, average. Meaning there are plenty of those who make more, but conversely many make less, all while Walmart is hiring people starting at \$18 to \$23 an hour.

I have many problems with this, but I'm only going to discuss two of them right now. First, we as a society clearly are not placing a high enough value on our emergency responders. We call them when our lives are in danger, but we pay them roughly the same as the kid in the drive-thru who screws up our order as often as he gets it right. These people take on the responsibility of keeping us alive, they deserve to be paid in accordance with that.

Which brings me to my second problem. We are valuing non-skilled, low-level labor way too high. Non-skilled labor is supposed to be where you learn ... wait for it ... skills! You develop talents and cultivate expertise and use that to promote to new positions. Wash, rinse, repeat. You don't want to make minimum wage? I hear you. Take what you've gained from being a crew member and learn to run an entire shift. Take that and use it to learn how to run the entire store. Don't want to stay in retail or fast-food? I completely understand. Take those skills to another company and show them how all of your experience and knowledge translates to what they are looking for. You aren't interested in working in fast-food or retail at all? Gotcha. Go to a vocational school and learn to be a truck

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 13

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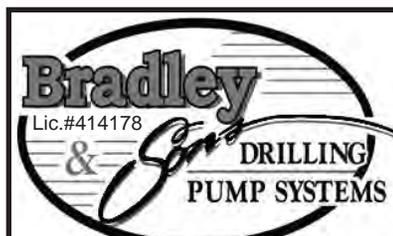


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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE
 By Brenda McElroy

“Looks like you’re Working Out!”

you don’t. Let’s look at three steps to streamline your bathroom space and routine.

Step 1 — PURGE. Yes, it’s always step one. There are no-brainers like empty toothpaste tubes, unpackaged cotton balls in hair-lined drawers, broken hair clips, used tissues, etc. Toss them and other obvious trash.

Then, there are the hair, make up and skin products you purchased two years ago, stopped using, but haven’t tossed because you spent so much money on them. Toss them too. Remember, you’re choosing between having the space they occupy and being reminded of the wasted money each time you bypass those products for the ones you currently use.

Hair equipment tends to cycle in phases — hot rollers, crimpers, curling irons, flat irons, wands, etc. At my house, the hot rollers keep coming back, while a crimper not so much. Let go of the equipment that does things to hair that you don’t want to ever do again. Separate what you’re currently using from things to which

Men don’t know how easy that have it. While curling my hair, this message appeared on my Apple watch: “Looks like you’re working out. Record workout?” Unfortunately, “Curling Hair” isn’t on the list with Walking, Swimming, Running, etc. But thank you Apple for acknowledging the effort.

Along with the physical investment, there’s equipment and products that, if left unchecked, can overtake the bathroom cabinets and counter. Without suitable set-up and maintenance, it can be frustrating to find and access things you need among those

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 12

SUMMER is HERE!

Summer is here and so is our fresh new indoor houseplant inventory!

Just a reminder that when the temps raise above 103° the nursery will be closed at 4pm. Stay cool and stay hydrated!

Pro tips for transplanting in the heat:

- Use vitamin B1
- Do NOT disturb the root ball
- Be sure to provide consistent irrigation
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7/22

Getting Fruity

(July 2012)

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



by Jean Briner

(optional)

Preheat a gas grill or build a charcoal fire for direct grilling.

Cut the watermelon in half lengthwise, then cut each half in half. Cut these quarters in 2 inch thick slices. Brush the slices lightly with olive oil and set aside until ready to grill.

Combine lime and orange juices. Taste, if it is too tart, add more orange juice. It should taste like a "sour" orange. Add the salt and pepper and whisk continually while adding the oil

in a thin stream. Whisk until thickened. Taste and adjust the oil and salt to your liking. Add the mint and set aside.

Just before serving, place the oiled wa-

termelon slices on a very clean cooking grate directly over the heat source. Grill until marked and just warmed through but still crunchy. About 2 to 3 minutes per side. Set aside to cool.

Cut off the rind and discard. Cut the watermelon into chunks and place in a serving bowl. Pour the dressing on top and toss lightly. Top with the feta if you are using it and another pinch of cayenne.

I love pineapple, both canned and fresh. I found the following recipe for grilled pineapple, but I'm not sure I would use alcohol, but that is your choice. If you do use the alcohol, be real careful when putting it on the grill as it will flare up for sure. Of course you could use the tequila or rum just to show off like seeing Cherries Jubilee being served in a restaurant. But fair warning: Have everyone, especially the kids, stand well back. You don't want singed eyebrows.

When I was doing research for these articles, I read a website claiming to be able to grill anything in the produce department. I would like to challenge the author of that article to prove to me her claim. At the time I had an artichoke cooking in my pressure cooker (about 10-15 minutes and it is ready to eat). Then I thought of cabbage or lettuce (although my Grandma would bring lettuce in from the garden and wilt it in a

Tonight when I went on the Food Network website to look up her recipe, I typed in "Grilled Artichokes" and believe it or not there were 91 recipes.

pan with vinegar and sugar and it was yummy). How can they be grilled?

Ever since I can remember, when we brought a watermelon into the house there was room made in the refrigerator for it to get cold. I never heard of cooking a watermelon or any fruit for that matter except when we would cook peaches, pears or apricots to prepare them for canning.

I found a recipe for grilled watermelon that I will pass on to you -

Grilled Watermelon Salad

1 watermelon - 3 to 4 lbs. (Preferably seedless and not too ripe)

¼ C Extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for brushing on the melon

3T lime juice

Juice of 1 large orange

Pinch of cayenne pepper

Pinch of sea or kosher salt

¼ C chopped fresh mint

½ C crumbled feta cheese

Grilled Pineapple Dessert

1 Pineapple, peeled, cored and sliced in 1 inch thick slices

¾ C Tequila or Rum (or use pineapple juice)

¾ C Brown Sugar

1 ½ tsp. Vanilla

½ tsp. Ground Cinnamon

Vanilla ice cream

Preheat grill. Mix liquor, sugar, vanilla and cinnamon together until sugar is dissolved. Place pineapple on grill. Baste with sugar mixture while grilling, turning occasionally. Grill for about 10 minutes. Serve hot on dessert plate with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top.

My sister Faye's favorite stone fruit was an apricot. When we were little, we had a neighbor that would make fried pies (that

is a whole different article) and Grandma Ross always made sure we got one. If Faye were alive, she would have a conniption fit if she saw the apricot orchard near where I live. It is part of the Fresno State Ag Dept. I watched it as it was bare in the winter and then when the crews came in and pruned it in the early spring. I watched the beautiful blossoms turn to golden fruit ... then it stopped. The fruit started dropping on the ground and no one came in to pick the orchard. It looked like the ground was covered with golden California poppies. It was pretty, but at the same time I thought it was tragic. No one was getting any use out of

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

the apricots. I wondered why they didn't pick or let some organization come in and glean the orchard. What a shame. Once in a while I would go by and see a car deep in the trees (probably trying to hide) and I hoped they were getting some use out of the orchard. By the way, it is on the southeast corner of Willow and Bullard if you are ever that way.

Easy to Grill

Stone fruit is easy to grill. Wash the fruit and pat it dry. Cut in half and brush on some butter and grill. Don't cook too long, about 10-15 minutes for good grill marks.

Grilled Fruit

2 ripe bananas
2 ripe peaches

1 pound container of Strawberries

1 Stick butter
1 T Sugar

Peel the banana. Wash the peaches and strawberries and pat dry. Slice the peaches into quarters, making sure they are large enough to put straight on the grill. Hull the strawberries.

Place the strawberries on aluminum foil, sprinkle with sugar and wrap. Brush butter on each banana and each peach slice.

Put all the fruit on the grill. If the flames get too high, put the lid on the grill. Grill until there are visible grill marks or black crisps. Depending on the heat do not cook longer than 15 minutes.

Bananas take the least amount of time and are usually done in about 10 minutes. Strawberries take the longest. Remove the fruit as soon as it is done.

This can be served as a side dish with dinner or as the dessert. Serve a spoon of the fruit on a slice of pound cake with a dollop of whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream.

Artichoke Doubts

In the first part of this article I said I doubted that an artichoke could be grilled. Well, I was wrong. During the time I was writing this article, I was home recuperating from cataract surgery and couldn't do much of anything so I watched TV. Giada was on and getting ready to grill artichokes. I perked up and wanted to see how she did them. She started by putting a large pot of water on to boil. Then squeezed the juice of two lemons into the water and then dropped in the remainder of the lemons and seasoned the water with salt. She then took three medium sized artichokes and cut the top third off and, with scissors, she trimmed the leaves. She then cut each in quarters and with a paring knife cut out the choke from each piece. She dropped these into the water and cooked until tender, then took them out of water and drained them on a baking pan. Giada then sprinkled each piece with olive oil, salt and pepper, some chopped garlic and rosemary, and then grilled them for about 15 minutes.

Tonight when I went on the Food Network website to look up her recipe, I typed in "Grilled Artichokes" and believe it or not there were 91 recipes. Fortunately hers was the third one. May go back and look the others up, but I still think I like the pressure cooker way best.

Senior Report

Seniors in Full Summer Swing

By Melanie Williams

The summer months are in full swing with activities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Senior members attended a wonderful art event at River Park's Art Groove Gallery on July 6, hosted by Melanie Glass the founder of B A w e s o m e . Melanie Glass and Steve Baronian, of Lance-Kashian Company, collaborate to provide the community with an interactive space to experience the many facets of expressive art.

Our seniors stenciled an image and then painted it with watercolors onto a silk suncatcher. The watercolors blended into beautiful vibrant color patterns on the silk canvas ring. When the sun shone on the image, a translucent highlighting of the silk canvas shone through the watercolor painting. The suncatcher art project was developed by a local artist, Linda Kane. Along with our hostess, Melanie Glass, the Art Instructor for this project was Nancy Powell.

Nancy's Art Assistant and daughter, Anyka Powell, guided us through the steps to create our individual suncatcher masterpieces. Everyone was very excited about the experience and are eagerly anticipating the next event. Check out some of the artwork created by our seniors on display at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

If this fun and creative activity has piqued your inner artist and you are interested in joining us for the next event at the Art Groove Gallery in River Park on Aug. 3, call the Senior Center at 645-7864. There is no fee, but donations are welcomed to keep this great art experience going in the community. All art materials are provided by the gallery. A suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 can be directly given to the gallery when you attend the Senior Painting Party. Reservations are required, so sign up the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 645-4864. A big "thank you" to Mary Orcutt for helping to coordinate this event for the Senior Center.

Everyone enjoyed the Summer BBQ on June 30, welcoming new members to the Center. There were lots of hamburgers and hot dogs for people to enjoy. Thank you to all of the members who brought food to the potluck and the volunteers who helped with the BBQ. It was a fantastically fun time to meet new members and enjoy the cooler summer evening. August events are on the calendar, so come check out some of the activities we have planned.

The Kaiser Permanente Medicare Basics Meeting is scheduled after our monthly General Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 9. The presenter, Patricia Magallon, will be speaking about

Please see SENIORS on P. 12



Standing are Melanie Glass, left, and Nancy Powell as they instruct Ranchos/Hills Seniors at the Senior Paint Class at River Park's Art Groove Gallery.



Art Instructor Nancy Powell, left, gives some artistic pointers to Carol Wood, Jo Chase and Shirley Tickel at the Senior Painting Class at River Park's Art Groove Gallery.



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SEMUCU speaks

By Sarbjit Johal

On June 21 last month, the Madera County Board of Supervisors adopted two resolutions that promise to improve the water security and quality of life for most of the County.

At issue was adopting Madera County's plan to implement state mandates on groundwater. Then governor Jerry Brown signed the Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) into law in 2014. It required the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, or GSAs, to develop plans to bring basins up to sustainability.

Madera County has been working since the act was adopted to comply. In last month's vote, a majority of enrolled acreage farmers had to approve a rate plan in each of three sub-basins of the country — Delta-Mendota, Chowchilla and Madera. Rejection of the plan would have led to the default of greater state control of Madera County's groundwater management.

The public hearing began at 10:30 a.m. on June 21. Stephanie Anagnoson, the director of Madera County's Department of Water and Natural Resources, summarized Madera County's compliance with the SGMA and public notice and outreach efforts. She outlined the positive outcomes that would result from board adoption of the sub-basin votes, including greater local control, help with domestic well mitigation and more water

Rejection in all or any of the sub-basins would mean that there would be no programs in place to help if people needed help with recharge, land repurposing and if domestic wells went dry.

reach efforts. She outlined the positive outcomes that would result from board adoption of the sub-basin votes, including greater local control, help with domestic well mitigation and more water

allocations to our area in wet years. Rejection in all or any of the sub-basins would mean that there would be no programs in place to help if people needed help with recharge, land repurposing and if domestic wells went dry.

Many farmers strongly opposed the plan, saying that the new GSA rates would add to their costs of farming, particularly in a time of rising labor, fuel, fertilizer and other input costs. One young multi-generational farmer holding up her infant hoped that her baby would have a future in farming. The Madera Agricultural Water Association favored adoption as did Madera County's Farm Bureau, although the latter did urge the Board of Su-

To learn more about water and quality of life issues and grant writing, attend our meetings and consider joining SEMCU ...

pervisors to be more vocal in letting Sacramento decisionmakers know the pressing concerns of Madera County residents and, particularly, of farmers. As it turned out, a majority of farmers in the Chowchilla sub-basin rejected their plan, with the potential

negative outcomes summarized by Stephanie Anagnoson earlier.

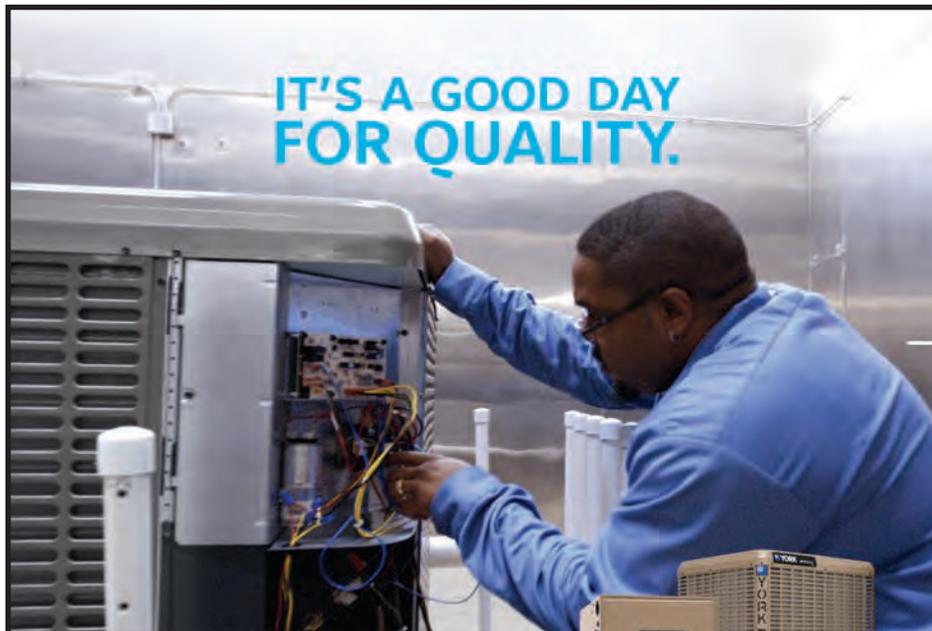
The vote for SGMA Rates adoption in two sub-basins means further local rules and measures will still be necessary, such as grant applications and annual board reviews of rates. Here you and other Madera residents will have a vital opportunity to shape how SGMA is implemented.

To learn more about water and quality of life issues and grant writing, attend our meetings and consider joining SEMCU, a local non-profit concerned with quality-of-life issues in the 93636 Zip code. We hold meetings online every third Monday of the month and would be glad to see you.

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

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The Bookshelf

Summer Reading Program Ends

By Jerrica Edmundson

Summer is coming to an end and with it so is our Summer Reading Program. We decided to take one more year before re-instating in-person programming at the Ranchos Branch and it turned out so great. Overall, we had 12 crafts that were picked up for kids (or adults) in the community and every single kit we had made up was claimed. If anyone is curious, that means we handed out a total of 458 crafts to our participants this year, and the results were so great. Next year, we plan on doing a mixture of in-person performances and crafts to help enrich our community even more.

Madera County Libraries were also the recipient of a Community Connections grant award that we used to work toward fully realizing our goal of being a hub of information within the community. As a result of that grant, we now can advertise your non-profit events and drives through a huge digital screen located in our main area, as well as obtain an outdoor message board that will be available at all hours as a reference for people. We plan to have a calendar of events that we keep updated on that board and want to include everything we can on it. If you have an event or drive planned, please let us know and we can include it on our community calendars when we have them installed.

We are actively seeking regular volunteers at the library, so if you have any spare time that you are willing to donate to us, we would gladly appreciate it. There is a simple background check required by Madera County for liability purposes, but once that is completed, we would love your help with shelving, donation processing or pulling

items off the shelves as needed. It is a great way to keep out of the heat during these Summer temperatures for a few hours each week. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

As a tiny bit of housekeeping, we would like to friendly remind everyone that donations are only accepted in the library through our donation table during business hours. We do not accept any encyclopedias, textbooks or Readers Digest books and anything left outside the building is disposed of to protect everyone from any potential critters.

I feel like it's been forever since I did one of these, but here's what's on my bookshelf currently.

Our Violent Ends by Chloe Gong. Have you ever looked at the classic Romeo and Juliet story and thought to yourself, "What if this took place in China in the 1920's?" Well, if you have, this is the book for you. This is the sequel to *These Violent Delights* and wraps up the story well, leaving all of the loose ends tied up in a way that is both satisfying and mostly unexpected (aside from already knowing how the original Romeo and Juliet story goes, of course).

Set in 1926, this series follows our two main characters – Juliette Cai and Roma Montagov – both heirs to the two major gang families that exist within Shanghai. Juliette is the heir to the Scarlet Gang, and Roma is the heir to the White Flowers who have fought the Scarlets tooth and nail for generations to revenge a murder that took place ages ago. Even though their families are harsh rivals, Juliette and Roma serve as each other's first love, and the potential tool for the downfall of everything they know and love.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

driver, a welder, an electrician or a plumber. You're not interested in blue collar work? Ok, then go to a university and study engineering, medicine, law, computer information systems, teaching, etc. The list goes on, just make your choice and follow through. Though if I may be so bold, leave philosophy and intermediate basket weaving to the trust fund babies if you want to make enough money to live, or at least double major in something a tad more marketable.

The point is that there are plenty of ways to make yourself valuable and earn a decent wage. You can't, however, expect to make more money when your

only marketable skill is that you can take an order and upsell fries. Walmart is already replacing cashiers with self-checkout. Taco Bell and McDonald's are already replacing crew members with computers where the customer can place their own order. If staffing these stores and restaurants continues to become more and more expensive, they'll find computers and robots to stock the shelves and flip the burgers as well. Then where will the people who have no other skills find work? Spoiler alert ... they won't. If you want a valuable salary than you have to contribute something of value to earn it. Perhaps I am alone in this opinion, but we should really assign a lot more value to the people in charge of saving someone's life.

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4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.

5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

7/22

"When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?"

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, August 10 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

Happy 68th Anniversary to Victor and Phyllis Coffey



Madera Ranchos residents Victor and Phyllis Coffey celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2022. They have three children: Darold Coffey of Fresno, LeAnn Fursman (Husband Mike) of Madera Ranchos and Denise Breeden (Husband Terry) of Minden Nevada. They also have five grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

Kiwanis Korner

Ranchos Kiwanis Planning 2022-2023

By Sally Rowden

July finds us sizzling. Lots of inside activities have our attention. Likewise, Kiwanis members are at the planning table finalizing activities for 2022-23.

Before moving into this coming year's activities, we do want to publicly thank all the donors who supported the May 2022 Liberty High School Scholarships for Graduating Seniors. The generous donors included Bedrock Engineering, Britz Farming, Chad's Trucking, David Doyle – Attorneys at Law, Guthrie Chevron, Becky Koop, Madera Ranchos Pizza Factory, John Minney, Pistoressi Ambulance, Ranchos Liberty Café, Suzy Ruhe, Second Sons Brews, Sun West Packing, Michael Sutherland Surveying, Trigo Enterprises – Mona & Casey Diaz, and Valley Propane. Your commitment and generosity are sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

We must also announce the winner of our July Basket Raffle. The joyous winner was Virginia Vick. I'm sure she is still enjoying all the special treats packed into that basket of red, white and blue.

Moving back to our planning table discussions, at our July 14 meeting we not only finalized our timeline of activities for the year, we also approved our slate of officers. Ollia Ridge will be our Incoming President, Sally Rowden our Secretary and Marie Cameron will continue as our Treasurer. Installation of officers will take place in October 2022.

In September, we will be supporting the Kiwanis Division 5 – Run 4 the Miracle event held on Sept. 24 at Woodward Park, which is a 5K race starting at 7:30 a.m. One hundred percent of funds raised will benefit our Valley Children's Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center Injury Prevention Program. The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club supports this event as volunteer staff. If you, as an individual or a business or agency, would like to monetarily support this event there are several sponsor and participation levels available. For more information visit Run4TheMiracle.com or you can contact John Waayers at 559-417-2980.

Also underway for the months of August and September are activities for our local Golden Valley Unified School District. Currently, all in the preliminary stages. Will keep you informed as the activities progress.

Your local Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos had a successful volunteer year. Successful, due to the support received from all in our Ranchos communities. We are eager to for this next year. We are "volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time." If interested in joining us or supporting us in some way, please contact our current President, Mona Diaz, at monaldiaz@gmail.com. We meet twice a month at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Second Sons Brew. You can follow us on Facebook, too, at Madera Ranchos Kiwanis.

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- Before frosting a cake, brush both layers with apricot nectar. This will secure any crumbs and provide a smooth surface. -- L.H. in Illinois
- For drains slowed by grease, sprinkle a half-cup each of salt and baking soda down the drain, and follow it with an entire kettle or pot of boiling water.
- If the smell in your cedar chest has faded, bring it back easily with extra-fine sandpaper. A very light sanding is all it takes in most cases.
- For delicious baked potatoes, boil a pot of salted water, add whole potatoes with skin, remove from heat and let stand for 15 minutes. Finish in oven for a sturdier skin. Start checking for doneness after 15 minutes in the oven. Baking time can be cut in half! -- J.L. in Florida
- Remove that musty smell from stored clothes by adding either vinegar or ammonia to the wash water. Be sure to check for smell removal BEFORE drying, as the dryer can bake the smell into clothes, making it more difficult to remove.



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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+			13		
×		×		÷				
	×		+			11		
-		+		×				
	×		+			11		
15		14		15				
1	2	2	3	4	5	6	8	9

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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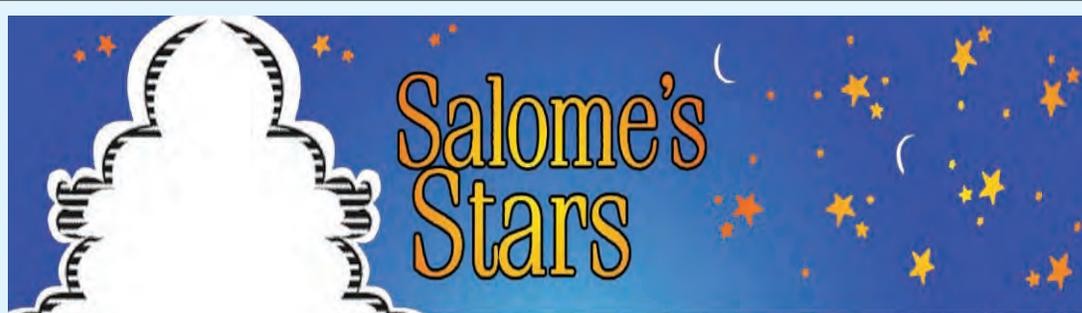
ADS
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



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 “He doesn’t understand that ‘we need to talk’ means he needs to listen!”

www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You dislike waiting for promises to be fulfilled and for commitments to be kept, but resist your headstrong tendency to push things along. Your patience will be rewarded.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect continuing opposition to your plans from die-hard detractors. However, your determination to see things through will carry the day. A Pisces has romantic ideas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be too close to a troublesome workplace situation to deal with it successfully. Step away in order to get a better perspective. A solution soon becomes obvious.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might suspect that someone you trust has misled you on an important matter, but a more balanced view of things reveals a misunderstanding to be the culprit.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat's animal magnetism has rarely been stronger. You can either just bask in all that admiration or use it to your advantage, especially in the workplace.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone who previously balked at cooperating with you on a project suddenly has a change of heart. Accept both help and advice with grace.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Some hazy issues still need to be cleared up before you can move on with your new plans. A friend from the past reaches out to re-establish old ties.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Continued positive fall-out follows that risky workplace decision you made some time ago. Your payoff will soon prove to be more substantial than you expected.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A personal relationship continues to be affected by a recent unexpected turn of events. Things need to work themselves out without finger-pointing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's a wonderful week for all you capricious Goats to kick up your heels with friends or family members in some well-earned fun and frivolity.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Caution is advised before making a financial commitment to someone you don't really know. There are better ways to build friendships than with risky fiscal dealings.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Travel plans continue to be favored. A change of scenery brings new opportunities, both personally and professionally. Be open to the possibilities.

Born this Week

You have a strong sense of loyalty that shows itself best in your relationships with family and friends.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



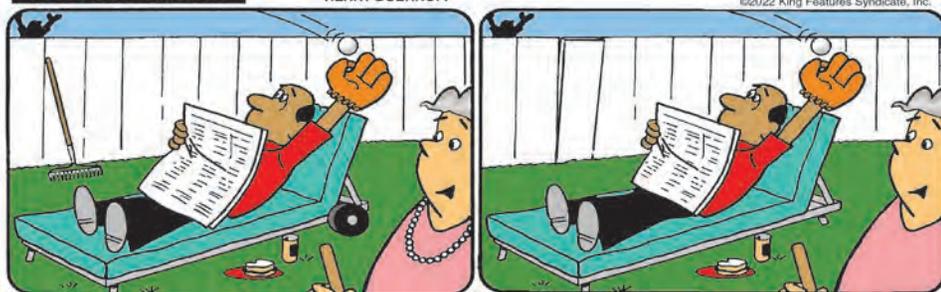
Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



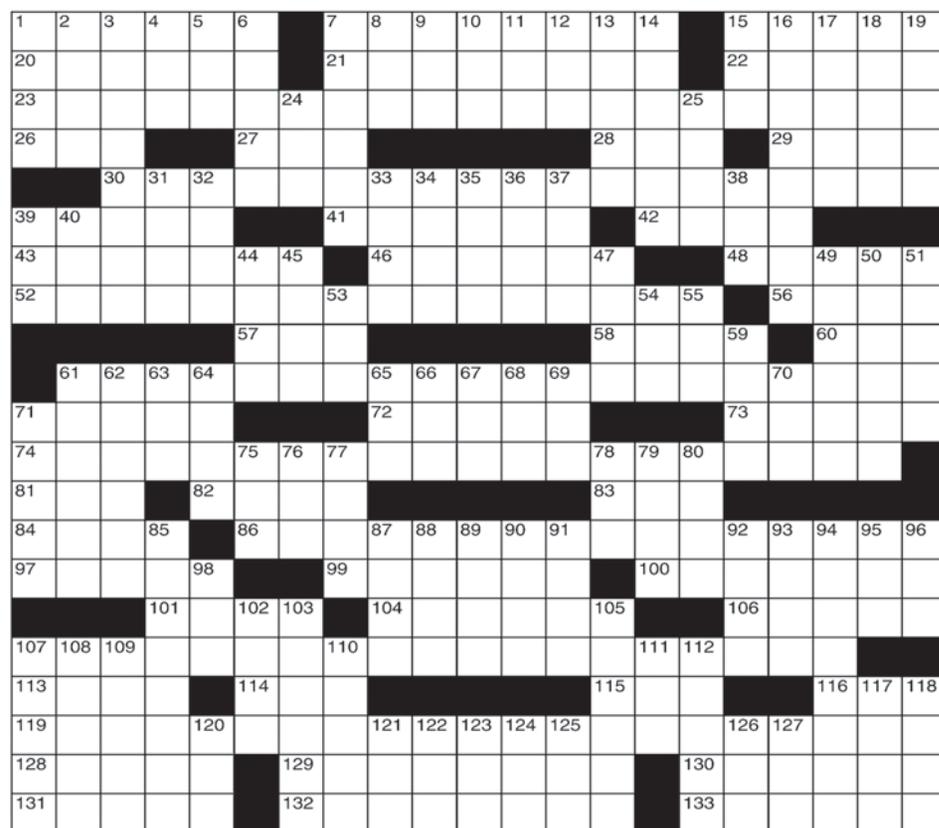
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Flake is missing. 2. Board is moved. 3. Newspaper is smaller. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Wheel is missing. 6. Beads are missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Big name in small planes
 - 7 Passage leading to an aural drum
 - 15 Sign into law
 - 20 Despicable
 - 21 Cessation
 - 22 Six-Day War leader Dayan
 - 23 Starting something over, figuratively
 - 26 Bottom line
 - 27 "You — My Sunshine"
 - 28 U.S. intel org.
 - 29 See 106-Across
 - 30 Question the Devil asks in a Kipling poem
 - 39 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"
 - 41 Leave high and dry
 - 42 — pot (sinus-cleaning device)
 - 43 Wolfs down
 - 46 — wheel (fair ride)
 - 48 Final resting places
 - 52 Cause heads to tum
 - 56 Yule tune
 - 57 Wheel center
 - 58 Turn rancid
 - 60 Norma — (film heroine)
 - 61 Nickname for Connecticut
 - 71 River to the Rhone
 - 72 Senseless
 - 73 Drop by
 - 74 Recent times
 - 81 Wheaton of "Stand by Me"
 - 82 Singer Bareilles
 - 83 G.P. or vet
 - 84 War god
 - 86 Giving a rigorous tryout
 - 97 Play a ukulele, e.g.
 - 99 Boastful talk
 - 100 Cigar-holding container
 - 101 Huge, informally
 - 104 Chucked
 - 106 With 29-Across, neo-soul singer with four Grammys
 - 107 What's accurate about a situation
 - 113 City NNE of Lake Tahoe
 - 114 — Z
 - 115 Courtroom promise
 - 116 On top of, to poets
 - 119 It closed all 130+ of its U.S. campuses in 2016
 - 128 Wall work
 - 129 1973-99 Lima-based carrier
 - 130 "The Wizard of Menlo Park"
 - 131 Conjuring aid
 - 132 Encroach on another's land
 - 133 Novelist du Maurier
 - 12 "Stillmatic" rapper
 - 13 Narc, e.g.
 - 14 Gives access
 - 15 Outback bird
 - 16 Symbol for written music
 - 17 "Ad — per aspera" (Kansas' motto)
 - 18 Mass singers
 - 19 Principle
 - 24 Mutt's sound
 - 25 Despicable
 - 31 Bit of crying
 - 32 Ward of TV
 - 33 Wilson's predecessor
 - 34 Weight allowance, once
 - 35 Yesteryear
 - 36 Brought into the world
 - 37 Troop group
 - 38 "The Addams Family" cousin
 - 39 Actress Kirshner
 - 40 Home pest
 - 44 Cavern effect
 - 45 Daze
 - 47 Spanish ayes
 - 49 Swamp
 - 50 "Get lost!"
 - 51 Precip-ice?
 - 53 "Six-pack"
 - 54 Texter's hugs
 - 55 Cloister sister
 - 59 "Please reply," in brief
 - 61 Jeans go with, often
 - 62 Dog following its owner closely
 - 63 Suffix with south
 - 64 Co. VIPs
 - 65 Uncle, in Argentina
 - 66 Pol. middle-of-the-roader
 - 67 — chi
 - 68 Little — (kids)
 - 69 Vietnamese New Year
 - 70 Actress Carrere
 - 71 "— a Very Good Year"
 - 75 Spy's device
 - 76 Capote, to his friends
 - 77 Courtroom promise
 - 78 Big whoop
 - 79 Chris of "Sex and the City"
 - 80 "Ac-Cent- — Ate the Positive"
 - 85 Bottom line
 - 87 Dog with Dorothy
 - 88 "What business is — yours?"
 - 89 Magazine mogul Condé
 - 90 Lillian of film
 - 91 Grove growth
 - 92 Give forth
 - 93 Pitchfork part
 - 94 Cincinnati Reds player in the Baseball Hall of Fame
 - 95 "... or — gather"
 - 96 Song syllable
 - 98 Sea, to Yves
 - 102 Avocado dip, informally
 - 103 To boot
 - 105 Barely passing grade
 - 107 Prunes
 - 108 In a snit
 - 109 — nous
 - 110 Sharpener of skills
 - 111 Many mag pages
 - 112 Schleppe
 - 117 School on the Thames
 - 118 Thinker Descartes
 - 120 Kay-em link
 - 121 Wrath
 - 122 Bus. firms
 - 123 Extra for an iDevice
 - 124 Grassy area
 - 125 Taxing org.
 - 126 Ore- —
 - 127 Advice tidbit

FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Anyone with Domestic Well or Water Quality Problems



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. Call Drought Support at 559-820-1685 or contact them at droughtsupport@selfhelpenterprises.org.

**Until further notice, the
regular SEMCU meetings will
take place via teleconference.**

Our next meeting is Monday, August 15 at 6 p.m.

**The teleconference number is 312-757-3121
and the Access Code is 715-657-949.**

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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