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50¢

The Crippling of America

Four Months of Unprecedented
Government Malfeasance

By Heather Mac Donald

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Over the last four months, Americans have lived through what is arguably the most consequential period of government malfeasance in U.S. history. Public officials overreaction to the novel coronavirus put American cities into a coma; those same officials' passivity in the face of widespread rioting threatens to deliver the coup de grace. Together, these back-to-back governmental failures will transform the American polity and cripple urban life for decades.

Before store windows started shattering in the name of racial justice, urban existence was already on life support, thanks to the coronavirus lockdowns. Small businesses — the restaurants and shops that are the lifeblood of cities — were shuttered, many for good, leaving desolate rows of “For Rent” signs on street after street in New York City and elsewhere. Americans huddled in their homes for months on end, believing that if they went outside, death awaited them.

This panic was occasioned by epidemiological models predicting wildly unlikely fatalities from the coronavirus. On March 30, the infamous Imperial College London model predicted 2.2 million deaths in the U.S. by September 1, absent government action. That prediction was absurd on its face, given the dispersal of the U.S. population and the fact that China's coronavirus death toll had already levelled off at a few thousand. The authors of that study soon revised it radically downward.

Too late. It had already become the basis for the exercise of unprecedented government power. California was the first state to lock down its economy and confine its citizens to their homes; eventually almost every other state would follow suit, under enormous media pressure to do so.

Never before had public officials required millions of lawful businesses to shut their doors, throwing tens of millions of people out of work. They did so at the command of one particular group of experts — those in the medical and public health, fields — who viewed their mandate as eliminating one particular health risk with every means put at their disposal.

If the politicians who followed their advice weighed a greater set of considerations, balancing the potential harm from the virus against the harm from the shutdowns, they showed no sign of it. Instead, governors and mayors started rolling out one emergency decree after another to terminate economic activity, seemingly heedless of the consequences.

The lockdown mandates employed mind-numbingly arbitrary distinctions. Wine stores and pot dispensaries were deemed “essential” and thus allowed to stay open; medical offices were required to close. Large grocery stores got the green light; small retail establishments with only a few customers each day were out of luck. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer notoriously used her red pen within megastores to bar the sale of seeds, gardening supplies and paint.

It was already clear when these crushing mandates started

pouring forth that shutting down every corner of the country was a reckless overreaction. By mid-March, two weeks before the Imperial College model was published, Italian health data showed that the coronavirus was terribly lethal to a very small subset of the population — the elderly infirm — and a minor health problem to nearly everyone else who was not already severely ill. The median age of coronavirus decedents in Italy was 80, and they died with a median of nearly three comorbidities, such as heart disease and diabetes. The lead author of the Imperial College model has admitted that up to two-thirds of all coronavirus fatalities would have died from their comorbidities by the end of 2020 anyway.

Three months later, this profile of coronavirus casualties still holds true. Public health interventions could have been targeted at that highly vulnerable population without forcing the American economy into a death spiral.

Disinformation

By now it is impossible to attribute the media's failure to publicize the facts about the coronavirus to mere oversight. Every story that does not mention, preferably at the top, the vast overrepresentation of nursing home deaths in the coronavirus death

count — above 50 percent in many countries and 80 percent in several of our states — is a story that is deliberately concealing the truth. Casual readers and viewers have been left with the false impression that everyone is equally at risk, and thus that draconian measures are justified.

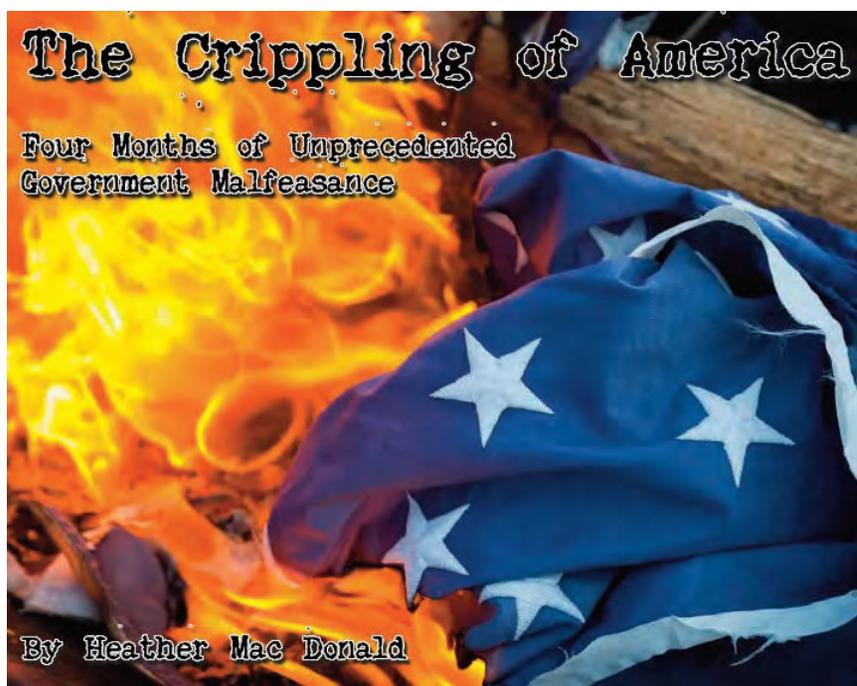
The media have been equally uninterested in the scientific evidence regarding outdoor transmission. Coronavirus infections require what Japan calls the three Cs: confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact.

The fleeting encounters on sidewalks and public parks that characterize much of city life simply do not result in transmission. And yet if you briskly approach someone on one of Manhattan's broad and now empty sidewalks, the oncoming pedestrian may lunge into the street or press up against the closest wall in abject fear if you are not wearing a mask. You may be cursed at.

The public health establishment has been equally complicitous in creating this widespread ignorance. It has failed to stress at every opportunity that for the vast majority of the public, the coronavirus is at most an inconvenience. The public health experts did not disclose that outdoors was the safest place to be and that people should get out of their homes and into the fresh air.

Not coincidentally, the experts' newfound power over nearly every aspect of American life was dependent on the maintenance of fear.

While the U.S. death toll from the coronavirus has been demographically circumscribed and lower than the previous flu pandemics of 1968, 1956 and 1918 when adjusted for population, the



Please see **CRIPPLING** on P. 9

SEMCU *speaks*

Local Group Offers *Free* Lot Mowing

By Dylan Strobel

Wildfires are nothing new to many of us here in California. The loss of life, property and community in Paradise, Calif. is still fresh in many of our hearts and minds and is just one of many tragic wildfires to hit our state in recent years — with a grim outlook for the coming years. This struck close to home for some in the Madera Ranchos-Bonadelle Ranchos area this past month when a pre-evacuation advisory was issued by the Madera County Fire Department after 500 acres near Avenue 16 and Road 36 was lost to a wildfire. There were no injuries involved and no structures were lost in the blaze, but it should still serve as a reminder to those of us in the Ranchos of the danger that grassfires pose to farmers, ranchers and homeowners alike.

According to Cal Fire, in 2019, 259,823 acres were burned in 7,860 wildfires. Three lives were lost and 732 structures were damaged or destroyed. AccuWeather estimates that these wildfires caused an economic loss of \$80 billion. The economic loss for 2018 was estimated at \$400 billion. So far this year, there have already been 4,564 wildfires that have burned roughly 40,600 acres. Thankfully, no fatalities have been reported and only six structures have been damaged, but there are still two to three months left in the fire season. There is currently a wildfire burning just southeast of Coalinga that has burned nearly 19,500 acres and is only 30 percent contained.

There are a number of things that we can do to help protect our own property, families, and community from the risk of fires. Weed abatement and land scaping is one of the simplest ways to protect your home or property from fires. Clearing weeds, dry brush, and dead tree limbs and cutting dry grass on your property, especially along the road and around your home,

Please see **MOW** on P. 7

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Kiwanis Korner

Kiwanis Teacher Grants Available

By Nancy Wayne

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

Madera Kiwanis members have been busy with individual community needs these past months. In June and July, we met as a club in backyards, had a grandbaby shower and discussed ways to refocus our goals and plans for the coming months. Elementary teacher grants, that were put on hold at the end of the school year, will be available this school year. In the past three months monies allotted were: \$3,600 for Liberty High school student scholarships; \$150 for Ranchos Middle School students; \$500 to Sober Grad; and \$215 to the Sheriff's Cadet program.



A "backyard" Kiwanis meeting takes place with, from left, Richard Wayne, Marie Cameron, Virginia Vick, Bev Delk and Thom Walsh ...

Kiwanis members are always willing to hear suggestions about needs for children and our community. Tell a Kiwanis member or come to our meetings and help us make this community the best it can be, (once we are able to start meeting again).

Through fundraising events and activities, Rancho Kiwanis club is able to offer grants and help with funding locally, but Kiwanis International also has programs and projects for the world communities.

Kiwanis's first Global Campaign for Children was to protect against the invisible but devastating effects of iodine deficiency worldwide. Working with UNICEF, the Kiwanis International family raises funds to help solve the problem of iodine deficiency

by supporting salt iodization, testing, monitoring and community outreach and education. Today about 70 percent of people in developing world communities have access to iodized salt. UNICEF has hailed this project as one of the greatest public health triumphs of the 20th Century. More than 89 countries and more than 80 million children in the developing world will be born free of iodine deficiency disorder this year. In 1990 only 20 percent of households around the world used iodized salt, but dramatically today more than 70 percent of households internationally use iodized salt. Today Kiwanis Children's Fund continues to make iodine deficiency



... and Ollia Ridge, Chris Parks, Pam Glueck and John Glueck complete the backyard quorum.

disorder a priority.

Another project funded by Kiwanis International is the Eliminate Project. This joint project with UNICEF is to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a deadly disease that affects over 30,000 innocent babies and mothers each year. Tetanus is a painful and deadly disease that causes extreme sensitivity to light, sound and contact to others. Kiwanis's goal is to raise \$110 million. Mothers and babies in 12 countries are depending on Kiwanis donations to fulfill the pledge and fund vaccines to save lives. This is a monumental effort to protect one of the most intimate bonds on earth: Mother and child.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

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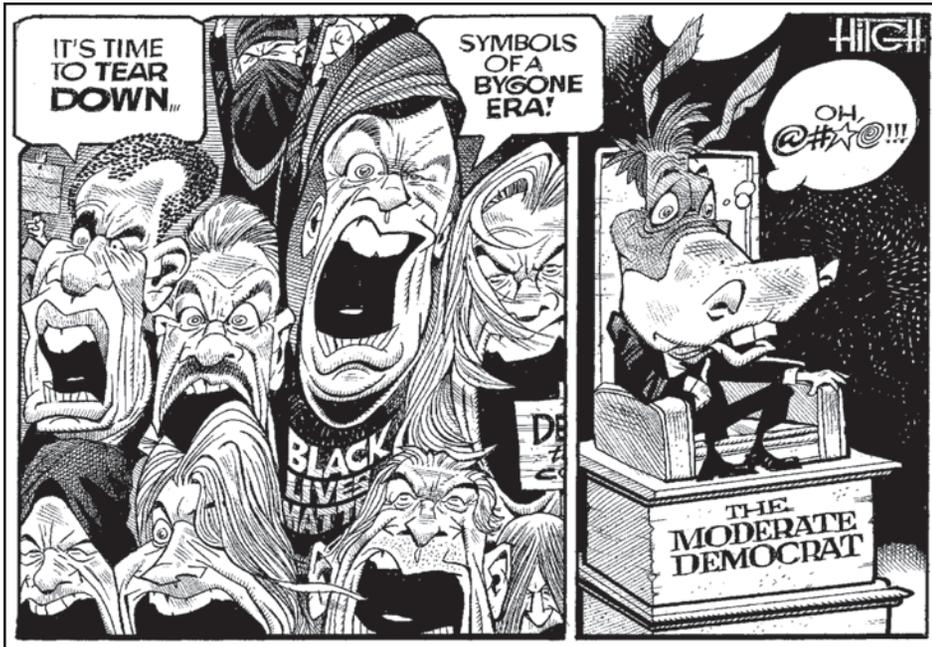
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Guest Editorial

Don't Copy New York

By Rich Lowry

"If only the rest of the country could handle COVID-19 as well as New York ..."

That's the lament of progressive commentators as coronavirus cases spike in the Sun Belt and the South.

Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin hailed New York City the other day after it reported no deaths for the first time during the pandemic. This is what competent government can accomplish, she gushed.

Valerie Jarrett, former aide to Barack Obama, tweeted, "Short term sacrifice saves lives!!!"

This is all perverse given that New York is only now emerging from one of the worst COVID-19 debacles on the planet. There is nonetheless a widespread feeling that New York has been blessed with its exemplary leadership. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, incredibly enough, has sky-high approval ratings.

Some Road map

If New York is going to be held up as the model, every officeholder in the country has a new road map for handling the virus: See a significant percentage of residents of your largest city get infected, barely prevent your hospital system from getting overwhelmed, implement a policy that increases infections and deaths at nursing homes, suffer more than 30,000 deaths and a

higher per-capita death rate than any country in the world -- and then, after all that, get hailed as a hero.

In fairness, New York had many factors working against it. It was hit first, while the virus and how to treat it were still poorly understood, and New York City is an international travel hub with densely packed neighborhoods and a heavily trafficked public transit system. Of course it got hammered.

The outbreaks in other parts of the country aren't anything like what happened in New York, at least not yet. What states like Florida, Arizona, Texas and California are trying to do is avoid New York's fate, even as they are lectured about the superiority of the Empire State's approach.

The positivity rate -- the percentage of tests coming back positive -- has increased in all of these places, and in Arizona has gone above 20 percent. During the worst of the outbreak in New York, the seven-day moving average for the positivity rate reached an astronomical 50 percent.

Deaths are going up, too, but the scale so far is completely different. In New York, about 32,500 people have died. In Florida, a state of comparable population, about 4,300 people have died. In Texas and California, both bigger states, about 3,300 and 7,000 people have died.

New York should be a watchword, not something to emulate.

It is in a better situation now, but only after the virus burned through much of the city. A state survey found that more than 20 percent of New York City residents have antibodies to the virus. This isn't an experience anyone should want to duplicate.

The fact is that the virus isn't interested in scoring partisan points or establishing the superiority of red state versus blue state governance. It is highly infectious and now is hitting places it missed earlier in the pandemic as they have started to reopen.

We should wish them the very best -- and fervently hope they don't suffer the same calamity that befell New York.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

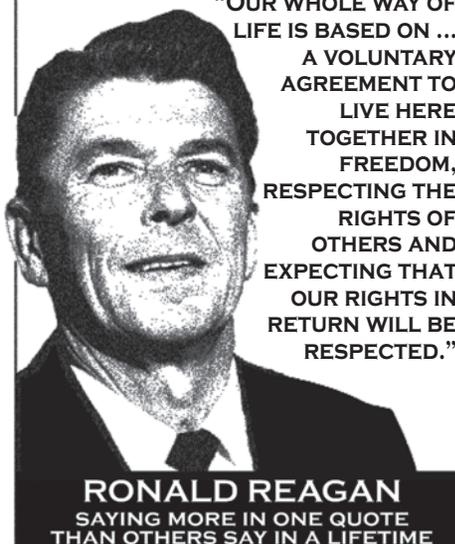
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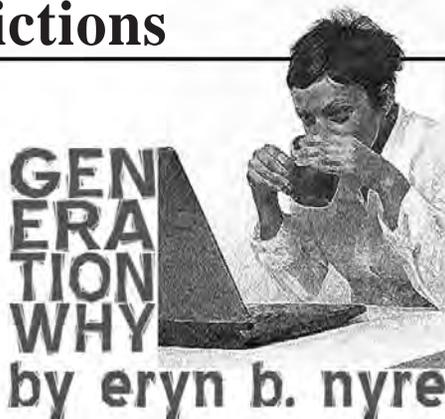
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Reliable (?) Predictions



There's so much crazy in the world it's hard to settle on a topic to write about. With states being locked down again as a response to a rise in positive COVID tests and civil unrest reaching unprecedented proportions, you would think choosing my topic might be easy, but everyone is covering all of those and I often make it a point not to do what everyone else is doing. So instead, I'm going in a different direction.

Recently, I stumbled across a YouTube channel that grabbed my attention called "It's All Downhill From Here," (which is not a real channel) run by a man named Billy Muckenfutch (which is not a real person) who has made some very interesting predictions for the end of the year (which are not real predictions). Here are those that I found most entertaining.

Muckenfutch says there will be some interesting things happening in California. First, the president of Goya Foods is going to accidentally take over the southern part of the state and disaffiliate itself with the rest of the country. Evidently, the entirety of Southern California will become an autonomous zone led by the liberal Hollywood elite who will immediately outlaw anything that isn't made of soy or tofu. Bob Unanue, Goya Foods CEO, will attempt to smuggle in truckloads of Goya Foods to feed the masses, but that will be seen by the Hollywood anti-think tank as a siege. Of course, since the only weapons left in the region will be prop guns and fake knives, the well-armed employees out of New Jersey will easily overpower them and declare Unanue the reigning warlord of the region.

The remaining part of the state will hold a special election following the recall of current Governor Newsom. The YouTuber says Ben Shapiro will win said election via a massive write in campaign. Shapiro won't even know what happened until he receives a call from the capital on inauguration day and is asked

why he hasn't shown up. Muckenfutch anticipates Shapiro will have a long and prosperous run as governor and in his first act he will build a wall around the bay area and convert it to a prison, while Nancy Pelosi is inside. In unrelated news, the House of Representatives will become 36 percent more productive and 43 percent less divisive in 2021. Liberal scholars will be researching possible causes of that shift for decades.

Muckenfutch has predicted that Mark Zuckerberg will be completely incapacitated after a series of mysterious Facebook updates launch. The updates will come after the announcement that a virus brought down several servers in the billionaire's network, including his personal servers in his basement. Zuckerberg will remain unavailable for comment as he will be placed in CIA protective custody and held in the basement janitorial closet. Billy didn't elaborate further.

In news out of Washington, DC, many Republicans will mourn the loss of our own political pundit and pit bill, Ann Coulter. Having about all she could stand of feckless republicans and so-called conservatives, she will take matters into her own hands and attempt to assassinate the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts. She will somehow manage to sneak a small firearm into the Supreme Court Building and unload four rounds of .38 special into the Chief Justice's abdomen. Luckily, since Roberts has no guts he will live and make a full recovery. Ruth Bader

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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GENWHY cont. from P. 6

Ginsberg, however, will tackle Coulter as she attempts to escape. In the scuffle, Coulter will set off her suicide vest taking out herself, two armed guards, and a janitor. Bader Ginsberg will walk away unscathed proving inarguably that vermin can escape anything.

Also in the nation's spotlight, the YouTuber says the fight over masks will no longer be a problem as most governors, with notable exceptions such as Shapiro, Abbott, DeSantis and Ducey, will now require their citizenry to leave the house in full body condoms. These will look alarmingly similar to burkas but will come in neon colors and will glow in the dark. Strawberry flavor will be available upon request, contact your local legislator.

Don't worry, Billy also made a prediction about the upcoming presidential election and foresees Donald Trump winning a second term. I know I was worried, but this YouTube guy seems pretty reliable so I may not even bother voting in November since he's sure Trump will secure another four years in the White House. Of course, it's not all rainbows and fuzzy

kittens for those of us on the right. Billy predicts that The Donald will also become our first transgender president. I guess we will start having to call him something else like The Dana or The Diana, or maybe Caitlyn 2.1. You think the left will still support LGBTQ rights if Trump joins the squad? I guess we'll see.

Finally, after seven months of insanity that includes lockdowns, reopenings and lockdowns again, the killer virus that just won't die, rioters parading around pretending to be peaceful protesters and after months of fear and uncertainty, we have the answer: The upcoming 2020/2021 winter season will be a mild one. This guy seems pretty on the mark. Look out everyone, it seems like 2020 is just getting started!

Legal disclaimer: All preceding predictions are a work of fiction. I am not to be held accountable for any resemblance to reality as they are complete fabrications made up for your enjoyment, but mostly for mine. Moreover, should any of them actually come true, then this country is in more trouble than we thought, and I hope you all have a bomb shelter in which you can hide.

MOW cont. from P. 2

helps minimize the risk of a fire starting from a dropped cigarette, lighter or parked car. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends clearing a zone of at least 100 feet around your house. They also recommend keeping all combustible materials outside of and away from your home. It is advised that you keep firewood as far from your home as possible, keep gas grills and propane tanks at least 15 feet from your home and clear a 15-foot radius around the grill.

Free Lot Mowing

SEMCU is offering to mow the perimeters of residents' lots and boundary FREE of charge to help prevent any fires. The mower that will be used is nine feet wide and we will offer this through the summer months with the exceptionally higher temperatures. If you would like this done, please call 559-363-9095 to sign up or send an email to info@semcu.org and include your name, phone number, address and any specific instructions.

If you plan on camping this summer, you will need to receive a campfire permit to make a campfire and to operate grills and other outdoor cooking equipment

while camping. You will need a shovel and a bucket of water with you when you camp as well. To see what wildfires are currently ongoing please visit the Cal Fire webpage at www.fire.ca.gov/incidents. To receive a campfire permit, please visit www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit. For local fire resources, please visit www.maderacounty.com/government/community-economic-development-department/divisions/fire-division.

As part of the social distancing and contending with COVID-19, for the foreseeable future instead of convening our monthly board meetings we are choosing to hold our board meetings via telephone conferencing. We hold our meetings on the third Monday of every month starting at 6 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to listen in and offer ideas of projects that can help our community. To call in, dial 312-757-3121. When you get prompted, dial the access code 715657949#

To call SEMCU for more information, call 559-363-9095. Or reach the organization at www.semcu.org, or by email at info@semcu.org.

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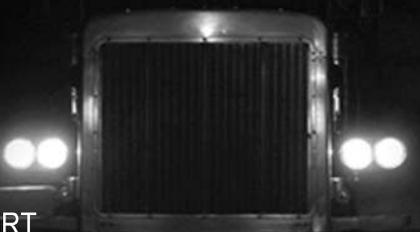
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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

Time for Dump Cake

(July 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.



by Jean Briner

serve warm.

Peach Dump Cake

1 Lg. Can Sliced Peaches
1 Box Butter Pecan Cake Mix
1 Cube Melted Butter

In 9x13 pan pour in peaches and juice. Sprinkle cake mix over top to cover evenly. Pour melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, serve warm in bowls.

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

And they are especially good served warm with a scoop of ice cream.

When I told Randy about

Dump Cakes he mistakenly thought I was saying "Bundt cakes." When I explained them to him he went home and tried his hand at a Dump Cake. His entire family loved it and loved how simple it was to make. These things are so simple, here's a recipe he made up that he is still raving about.

Apple Spice Dump Cake

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

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

Do you have company coming for dinner and need a quick dessert? Are the kids old enough that they can start helping with dinner? I have the answer – so simple, you can have a delicious cake and only dirty a can opener, a knife to cut some butter, a fork or rubber spatula and the pan the cake is cooked in! No bowls, no measuring cups or no beaters to wash and all you need is a couple cans of canned fruit, a dry cake mix, some butter and maybe some chopped nuts.

DO NOT STIR any of these recipes.

A Dump Cake

Yes, dump! Just dump the ingredients into

the baking pan and bake. One of the recipes I read said this can be made by a child or a tired mom.

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

Fruit Cocktail Dump Cake

1 Large Can (16 oz.) Fruit Cocktail
1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
1 Cube Butter

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

Cherry Dump Cake

2 Cans Cherry Pie filling (21 oz. ea.)
1 Box Chocolate Cake Mix
2 Sticks Butter – sliced into 12 pieces each

Chopped pecans (optional)
1/8 C Granulated Sugar
In 9x13 baking pan dump the two cans pie filling evenly. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top of cherries. Place butter slices over dry cake mix and sprinkle nuts and sugar evenly over top. Bake 35-45 minutes in a 350 degree oven and

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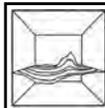
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CRIPPLING cont. from P. 2

economic toll has cut across every sector of the country and every population group. Whole industries have seen their capital wiped out overnight.

Despite a better than expected employment report in early June, the long-term effects of the shutdowns and the continuing mandates to socially distance will prevent a full economic recovery for years to come. Forty-four million Americans are still out of work. Supply chains have been thrown into chaos. Fresh fruits and vegetables are being plowed under and livestock burned uneaten for lack of access to processing plants and markets. Small businessmen who have put their life savings into creating a service that customers want, have seen their hard work go up in smoke. Without rent from their retail tenants, commercial landlords can't pay their taxes. City budgets have been decimated. The additional \$8 tril-

lion in public debt taken on to try to substitute for the private economy will depress opportunity for generations.

And what has been the response to this economic carnage on the part of our ruling class? Branding strategies! Politicians have put cute names on what has been a taking of private property on an unprecedented scale. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo calls the state lockdowns "New York on Pause," as if commerce can be indefinitely suspended and then magically resuscitated with the flick of a switch.

The politicians' ignorance about the complexity of economic life was stunning, as was their hypocrisy. To a person, every elected official, every public health expert, and every media pundit who lectured Americans about the need to stay in indefinite lockdown had a secure ("essential") job. Not one of them feared his employer would go bankrupt. Anyone who warned that the effects of the lockdowns would be

more devastating than anything the coronavirus could inflict was accused of being a heartless capitalist who only cared about profits.

But to care about the economy is to care about human life, since the economy is how life is sustained. It is the source of meaning, as well as sustenance, binding humans to each other in a web of voluntary exchange. To its workers, every business is essential, and to many of its customers as well. Even judged by the narrowest possible definition of public health — lives lost — the toll from the lockdowns will exceed that of the virus, due to the cancellation of elective medical procedures, patients' unnecessary fear of seeking medical treatment, and the psychological effects of unemployment.

In May, politicians started inviting a few scattered sectors of their state economies to reopen, with blue state governors and mayors being particularly parsimonious with their noblesse oblige. These blue state officials invoked "science" to justify yet another arbitrary set of guidelines to determine which businesses would be allowed to start up again and when. "Science," we were told, dictated the timetable for reopening, based on rates of hospital bed vacancies and new infections.

In fact, the numerical benchmarks, enforced with draconian punctiliousness, seem to have been drawn out of a hat — they certainly had no evidence behind them. But even with official reopenings, many customers will be long reluctant to resume their normal habits of consumption and travel thanks to the uninterrupted fear-mongering on the part of the media, the experts, and elected leaders.

Being fantastically risk averse is now a badge of honor, at least among the professional elites. A young tech columnist for

Please see **CRIPPLING** on P.14

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**Late Fees
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Is your bill-paying routine like clockwork or is it more of a random event that happens when panic strikes or a "Final Notice" arrives in the mail? Bill paying is stressful enough without searching through piles to find the bills or trying to remember if something was paid or not. The sinking feeling when your insurance is about to be canceled, or a hefty late fee has been added to your payment can be avoided. Let's look at some simple steps to

bring peace of mind to your bill paying experience.

Gather all your bills together and create a home for them.

For many, who don't have a designated spot for bills, this is a revolutionary step. It's easy to walk in and toss the mail randomly about. Make sure the home for your bills is easily accessible and visible. It could be near the front door, on your kitchen counter or in your home office. It could be a decorative basket or a table-top or wall-mount file holder. Warning: Don't mix other mail (coupons, ads, etc.) in with the bills to pay. It will take all the willpower you can muster to walk the bills to this spot every day, but it will be worth it.

Track your bill paying.

Don't leave it to memory to know if you paid a bill or not. Create a spreadsheet or use a paper, pencil and ruler to make a Bill Payment Record. Turn your paper horizontal (landscape) and label

Now you can allow your mind to rest or be productive with other things and not waste time worrying about your bills.

the first column "Bills to Pay." Then create twelve narrow columns and label them January through December. Or, you can email me for a template at info@organizedbychoice.com. List all your bills and their due dates under "Bills to Pay." When you pay the bill, record the date and amount paid in the month column. On another sheet, list the bills you have on autopay with the dates that payments are deducted from your account. Store the Bill Payment Records with the Bills to Pay.

Create a bill-paying schedule.

Based on your income, due dates and preferences, decide when you're going to pay bills. Maybe you prefer paying them as they arrive. If not, schedule (put it on your calendar like a dentist appointment) a couple times per month to sit down and pay bills. You may want to have a Bill Payment Record sheet for those you pay on the 1st and another for those you pay on the 15th of the month. Label them as such.

Online assistance.

For tracking, reminders and budgeting help, consider using one of these top-rated online sites: Mint.com, PersonalCapital.com, YouNeedaBudget.com or Tillerhq.com.

Resources for kids.

Give your kids a head start to financial responsibility with one of these teaching tools: Bankaroo.com, DaveRamsey.com, FamZoo.com or products from Money Savvy Generation.

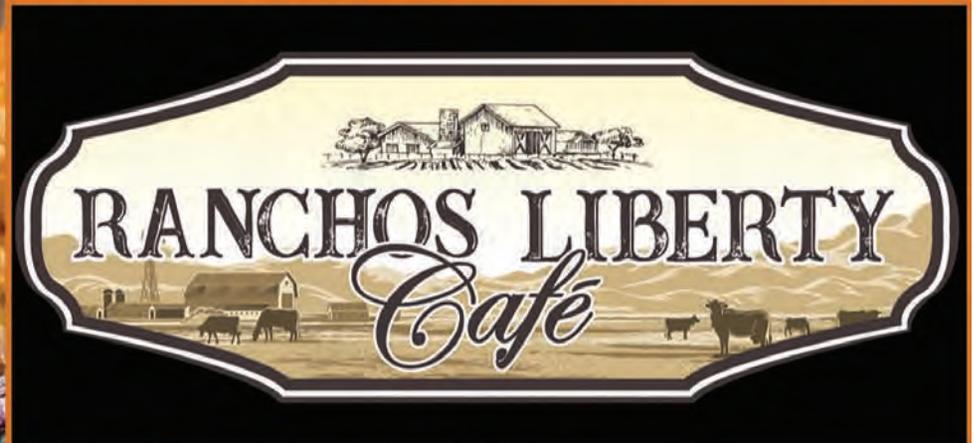
If your kids are adults, make sure they, or someone else you trust, have access to your financial records (bill payments, bank accounts, online passwords, etc.) in the event that someone needs to fill in for you.

Now you can allow your mind to rest or be productive with other things and not waste time worrying about your bills.

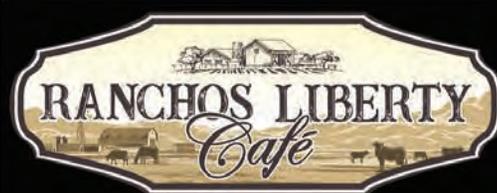
Contact *Organized by Choice* (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also pay a visit online to www.organizedbychoice.com.



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Senior Report

Nancy Palazzo, Senior Treasure

By Margaret Tynan

The Center will open the garden area and Treasure House for an outdoor sale on Saturday, Aug. 1. The sale hours are 8 to 11 a.m. We are asking that everyone wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while shopping. Our sales and donations enable us to continue providing activities and services for our seniors. Make your check out to Ranchos/Hills Seniors and mail to 37330 Berkshire Dr., Madera, CA 93636. Thank you for your support.

Nominations for a new president and two Board members are coming. Watch for notification from the nominating committee sometime in September.

The Writing Group continues to meet on Zoom and work on projects. Jo Chase is drafting a piece called "Life's Journey: Nancy Palazzo."

"It was my pleasure to meet Nancy at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center in Madera, California. It was while attending the exercise classes that we got to know each other better. I am so impressed that she is 94 years of age and still staying active and busy. I soon learned that she is the one making the beautiful jewelry pieces the center sells. Some of the jewelry is made by using older pieces and making a new design. Estate sales prompted her to start buying old pieces of jewelry. Using her natural artistic skills, she started repurposing the antique jewels into new jewelry pieces. For example, she can take a brooch and use it as a center piece of a necklace with entirely different jewels on the sides to create a new and attractive look. Other created designs are made from using new baubles that she purchased on sale, for example at 50 percent off at Hobby Lobby. Nancy donates her creations to the senior

center and to other nonprofit groups so they can keep operating.

"Last year, the seniors at the center had the pleasure of learning how to make button bracelets from Nancy. [Her interest] all started when she was seven years old. When



The Senior Center's Nancy Palazzo has been making jewelry since she was seven years old and now not only teaches others how to make pieces, she sells them at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

her family moved into a different home, Nancy found a can of buttons in an old dresser. Four years ago, she decided to do something with the buttons she had kept for so long. First, she researched the buttons and found they were antique buttons.

She decided to put them in frames by their age. After making 20 frames, no doubt artistically arranged with buttons, she gave them as gifts to family. Button bracelets followed; then button necklaces and next searching for more buttons at swap meets, garage sales, friends and estate sales.

"Per Nancy, 'I do not mind being alone or working hard. However, I would prefer sharing my life with someone who can tolerate my interests and allow me to feel free to be myself. I still have the desire to please others, but being true to myself must also share the top of the list of requirements that make me a happy person. I love the sun, growing things, sharing with friends, hobbies, new experiences, travel, the feeling of space and standing on my own two feet as a person. My family is precious to me and I like to take time to be with them.' Nancy is a treasure! She is still busy and hard at work accomplishing much and spreading joy!"

The Writing Group meets every other Monday at 2 p.m. The next Zoom meetings are on Aug. 10 and 24. If anyone is interested in joining the Writing Group, you would be welcome. Email Rosemary Janis at Rosemary@myrancho.net or Margaret Tynan at mtyan@sbcglobal.net to join.

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 2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other’s businesses.
 3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
 4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
 5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

When’s the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

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

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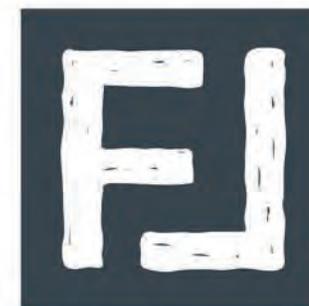
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CRIPPLING cont. from P. 9

The New York Times wrote an op-ed in May about cancelling a restaurant reservation in Missoula, Montana. Missoula County had been virus-free for weeks, and Montana's case load had been negligible. Nevertheless, the columnist experienced a panic attack after hooking a table, contemplating the allegedly lethal risk that awaited him in the reopened restaurant. Rather than being ashamed of his cowardice, the columnist was proud, he wrote, to have bailed out of his reservation in order to continue sheltering in place.

The absurd social distancing protocols make operating many businesses and much of city life virtually impossible. The six-foot rule is as arbitrary as the "metrics" for reopening. (The World Health Organization recommends three feet of social distance, and many countries have adopted that recommendation.) Keeping customers and employees six feet apart will render a city's basic institutions unworkable, from restaurants to concert halls. The Metropolitan Opera has cancelled the first half of its 2020-2021 season while it figures out how to maintain social distancing among audience members and on the stage. Every other performing arts organization will face the same almost insuperable dilemma.

My 34-story apartment building in Manhattan, like many others, has imposed a one person per elevator ride rule, even though the elevator interiors are more than six feet across. I invite anyone who may also be waiting for an elevator to share my ride up; no one has ever accepted the offer, even though both I and my invitee are masked. Nor has anyone ever extended such an offer to me. Now translate this hysteria to Manhattan's massive office towers. If New York City ever fully reopens, a similar social distancing rule for office elevators will lead to lines of workers around every midtown block each morning. As long as this fear lasts, city life is not possible.

From Cold War to Hot

Then the cities started burning. What had been a cold war on the economy and civic life became a hot war.

Government officials, having shut down commerce due to unblemished ignorance of how markets work, now enabled the torching and looting of thousands of businesses due to the shirking of their most profound responsibility: protecting civil peace.

On Monday, May 25, a video of the horrific arrest and death of a black man suspected of passing a forged \$20 bill in Minneapolis went viral. A police officer kept his knee on George Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes as Floyd begged for help breathing. Floyd was already handcuffed and thus posed a minimal risk. The officer ignored Floyd's distress even as Floyd stopped talking or moving. The officer's behavior was grotesquely callous and contrary to sound tactics, and the officer will be prosecuted and punished under the law. His behavior was not, however, representative of the overwhelming majority of the 10 million arrests that the police make each year. Indeed, there is no government agency more dedicated to the proposition that black lives matter than the police. Nevertheless, within 24 hours, the violence had begun.

On the night of Thursday, May 28, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey ordered the city's Third Police Precinct evacuated as the forces of anarchy descended upon it for a third day in a row. The building was promptly torched, sending a powerful sign that society would not defend its most fundamental institutions of law and order.

Soon cities across the country became scenes of feral savagery. The human lust for violence, the sheer joy of plunder and destruction, were unleashed without check. Police officers were shot at, run over, slashed with knives, and clubbed; two cur-

Please see **CRIPPLING** on P.17

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The Bookshelf

Ranchos Library Offers Touch-Free, Sanitized Products for Public's Safety

By Jerrica Edmundson

We are well into our Summer Reading program this year and I love the progress I'm seeing with our participants this year. It's been awesome seeing the minutes logged by the local kids and parents and getting to see just how much reading everyone is doing during their time off from school for the summer. Although I do miss our usual program and seeing everyone's smiling faces, it's good to know that even when we can't be together, we are still acting as a community and reading books. I also hope you are enjoying our digital content that we have been putting up on our Facebook page. While we can't have our usual summer entertainers come in and do a show for you, we have been able to work with them to get some awesome videos viewable for everyone from the comfort of your own homes.

As of this moment, we still do not

have an anticipated date of reopening but keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates, as that is where I post any news when I get it from county. In the meantime, we still have our book drop box open every Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and offer curbside services during our business hours every day. If you want to get a specific book, we can get it for you just like before, with the only change being that we bring it right out to your car for a touch-free and fully sanitized experience. We want everyone to be as safe as possible and do not want to risk any spread through the library or our books and movies. We are still not accepting book or movie donations at this time and will not be at least until we reopen to the public. As a friendly reminder, book donations are not ever to be put in the book drop or left by the door even when we do start accepting them again. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is to avoid any con-

fusion or damage to books and also to allow for as many library items to be returned as possible since we have a very limited amount of space to work with in the book drop.

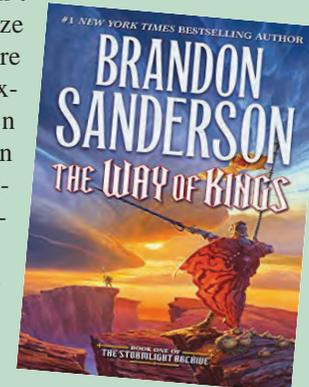
Jerrica's Shelf – The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson

This month I'm revisiting one of my favorite books by one of my favorite authors. I'm doing a full re-read of Sanderson's *Stormlight Archive* series in preparation for the release of his new book in November: *The Rhythm of War*.

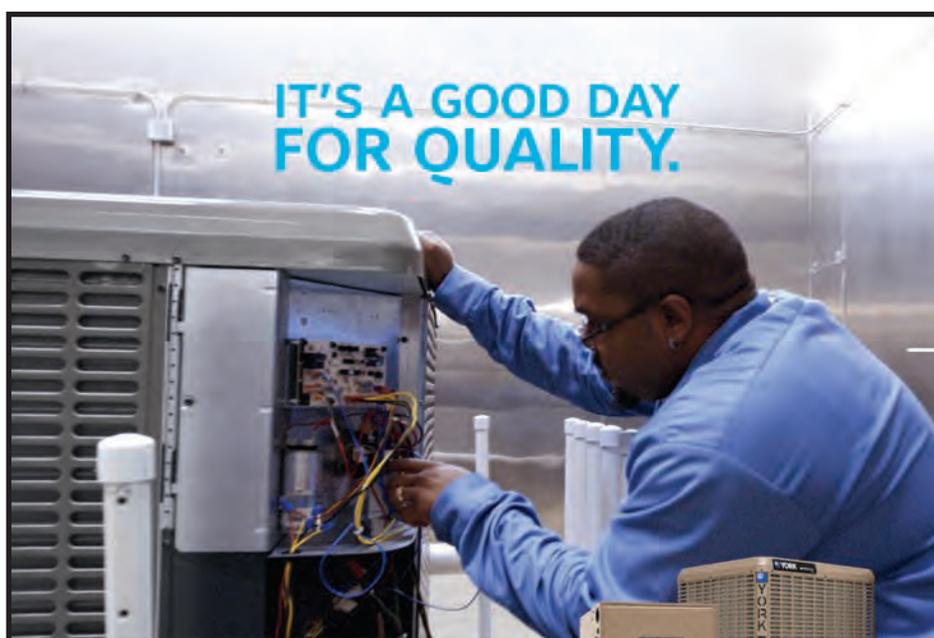
The Way of Kings is the first book in the *Stormlight Archive* and follows Kaladin, Dalinar, Adolin, Shallan and Jasnah through their adventures revolving around the war between the Alethi people and the Parshendi who killed their king. Each character is developed so amazingly that they have a depth that is hard to find in any other book series I've read, although I will admit that this book is largely a setup

for the future novels in the series. With my re-read of this book I am realizing just how perfectly Sanderson sets the stage for the future books and he does it in such a way that you don't even realize that you are reading exposition rather than plot development, really.

Definitely a must read for any fantasy fans out there, but be warned that this is a hefty book that is set in a high fantasy environment and once you get hooked you're in it for the long haul, since you've just got to see what happens next.



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The Home School for Automotive Technicians

Hello 93636,

I just read many California public schools will not be allowed to reopen for classroom instruction this fall. Under Governor Newsom's 5-point "pandemic plan," schools cannot physically open until its county has been off the state Covid watch list for 14 consecutive days. Currently, Fresno and Madera Counties are two of the 33 counties on the list.

Public schools are not the only schools affected by the lockdown. In an average year, my technicians and I each attend approximately 140 hours of instruction and training. One hundred and four hours occur in four-hour blocks in a classroom setting and 36 hours are live "hands on" during our Central California Pico Club (CCPC) workshops.

This year, due to the Covid scare, we technicians have only received eight hours of traditional classroom instruction and training. All the while, the automotive education and training industry is very busy converting classroom instruction and training into on-line instruction. Last week, from the comfort of my own home, sitting in my very own recliner and eating dinner, I attended my very first automotive on-line training session. I must admit, it does have its advantages. I did however discover some significant disadvantages.

Last week's training session covered

the very complex and difficult-to-understand subject of variable camshaft timing for the modern gasoline engine. I am a visual learner and I like to see and touch. On-line instruction definitely presents a challenge for those who learn like me. On my laptop monitor I was unable to see the same detail as live classroom instruction. Next time I'm connecting to my large-screen TV to see if that helps.

Another disadvantage was the loss of personal interaction. During traditional classroom instruction, I can raise my hand and ask for clarification. With on-line instruction, I'm distracted from the lesson while typing in my question. If the answer is delayed my brain has moved on and it doesn't have the same impact. Also, with live classroom instruction we can ask for individual help during the break. Many of us techs grab a drink, walk outside for some fresh air and discuss what we've learned. It's my strong opinion live "in classroom" instruction is superior to on-line instruction at this time.

In order to enhance our local on-line training, CCPC is discussing the option of setting up big screen TVs and tables in our shops in order to meet together and interact. If we social distance and wear masks, that should balance the state's need for safety and our need to learn.

After a two-month hiatus, we of the CCPC are again meeting the first Saturday of each month. At the heart of our workshops are recent successful diagnostic case studies. Local technicians present their cases, demonstrate the technology and explain the thought process during diagnostic. After the presentations, we break into small groups, connect our technology and practice what we just learned.



Calling Dr. Mechanic ... calling Dr. Mechanic!

The Central Valley, home of AES Wave, is a hot bed for creative and innovative automotive diagnostic technology and techniques. Here are just three examples of "New School" automotive diagnostic being developed right here. These techniques and innovation are the brain trust and hard work of my friend Roberto Hernandez.

Many of us have been subjected to an EKG (electrocardiogram) exam by a physician. The electrode patches attached to different points on our bodies convert and transmit small faint heart beats into electrical waves. In

like manner, Roberto uses these same patches to search out unwanted vibrations and noises inside the vehicle. Let's say there is an unwanted noise under the dash. Roberto attaches the patches to different under-dash components and goes for a drive. The electrode patches sense and convert vibrations into electrical waves before transmitting them to our Pico Scopes. The waveforms are stored and analyzed. Pretty ingenious, YES?

In keeping with the theme, I think we are all very familiar with a doctor using a stethoscope to listen to our heart and lungs. Roberto is modifying his stethoscope for the primary purpose of locating engine and other mechanical noises. He removes the headset, the ear-tubes and all but four inches of the barrel. He attaches the Pico Scope to the remaining barrel and chest piece. The chest piece has two different heads to receive sound: The bell and the diaphragm. The bell is used to detect low-frequency sounds and the diaphragm to detect high-frequency sounds.

Placing the chest piece on the engine and moving it around helps pinpoint the location of a ticking noise. Once we confirm the loca-

tion and the components in that location, we can form a more accurate diagnostic without the expense of a teardown.

Another medical technology the automotive Dr. Hernandez is adapting for use by the automotive diagnostic community, is the blood pressure cuff. Most automotive water pumps are belt-driven centrifugal pumps. As the internal impeller blades pass by the water pump inlet, coolant is scavenged from the radiator into a cavity inside the pump. This creates low pressure pulses in the radiator. As the impeller blade pushes the coolant through the pump cavity, it is compressed and eventually exhausted from the pump outlet. This creates high pressure pulses in the engine block, heater core and upper radiator hoses. By wrapping an infant blood pressure cuff around the upper and lower radiator hoses as well as the heater hoses, we can analyze the water pump's efficiency and the circulation of the cooling system much like checking one's blood pressure.

I understand these examples may be a bit of an oversimplification, and they are still in the development process, but I wanted you all to know how our local CCPC is advancing automotive diagnostic. We are not re-inventing the wheel, just merging technologies. It's the same science. The application is the difference.

OK guys and gals, that is all for this one. I enjoyed sharing with you the advancements in automotive diagnostic technology being developed right here in Central California by CCPC.

As always, I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive topics to write about. If you have any suggestions and/or general or a specific question about a vehicle, I can be reached by texting 559-907-7661 or emailing complete_car_care@hotmail.com. God Bless America and 93636.

Warren Parr, ASE Master (A8), Advance Level (L1) and Hybrid (L3) Certified Technician. Two-time NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year.

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Items for sale -- Five-blade ceiling fan. Harbor Breeze "Montclair." Tiffany style w/remote. \$140 or best offer. **Entry chandelier w/three lights.** Tiffany style. \$50. **Oneida "Affection" Silverplate flatware** service for eight. \$150. **Call 559-312-0891.**

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40 yrs of experience - References available - Lupe's House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. 559-916-1528 or 650-771-2915.**

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- Roll scarves around cardboard tubes to store flat. You'll skip the wrinkles and be able to find the scarf you want without much fuss.

- Here's a wallpapering tip from way back: If your wallpaper is applied with adhesive, add a few drops of food coloring to the paste. It will give it a slight tint that will not be visible when dried. Now you can be sure that the adhesive makes it all the way to the edge of the paper for best results!

- "Ironing intricate sleeves or other difficult shapes can be made easier with the use of an oven mitt. Slip the mitt over your hand, put your hand on one side of a fabric to create a flat area to iron. Use care and go slowly, and you'll get a good press." -- E.R. in Missouri

- Bright strips of tape can be a great safety addition to the edges of stairs. Even better is bright, textured, reflective tape for low-light areas, like basements or porch steps. The bright color makes the edges visible in daylight; the reflection does the same at night. A bit of texture makes sure they're not slippery.

- "Here's a great sewing tip from my grandma: When you are attaching buttons, hooks, snaps, etc., tape them to the fabric with transparent tape. You can sew right through it, and it will help keep the item from slipping around while you get it secured." -- A.J. in Pennsylvania

- "Now that my baby is entering her messy eating phase, I cut up several burp cloths to make wipe up cloths for the high chair. They are soft enough for a full face wipe and sturdy enough to sop up baby food and go right in the washer." -- P.W. in Texas.

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

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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.

	÷		×		21			
×		+		+				
	÷		+		15			
-		×		+				
	-		×		12			
19		10		17				
1	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Hello Lockdown, Goodbye Liberty

Media pundits and others repeat over and over that the “Covid-19 virus has caused” this or that conse-

quence to the nation. They tell us that the virus has closed schools, businesses, churches, sporting events, restaurants and entertainment venues. The virus has forced people out of work and bankrupted businesses, their owners and employees. It has banned “nonessential” medical procedures and treatments, thus harming many non-Covid patients, crippling hospitals financially and fur-

loughing doctors and nurses. It has dictated where, with whom, and with how many we may gather – calling it social distancing.

But, through all this, it has had the foresight to leave Planned Parenthood, pot shops and liquor stores open for “essential” work. And it has benevolently allowed – for weeks – thousands to gather, march, riot, loot, burn and devastate cities across the country.

Correction. It is elected politicians who have ordered lockdowns and closed the country in reaction to the virus. Covid-19, the virus, has not *itself* caused the social and economic disruption to our lives and livelihoods. It is a virus that does what viruses do. It infects people. When the infected become ill, they become the purview of the medical field.

It is mayors, city councils, county supervisors and governors who have closed businesses and churches while leaving Planned Parenthood open. It is these same politicians who have ordered us to stay at home, sheltering or cowering in place. It is these same politicians who have closed beauty and nail salons while leaving pot shops and liquor stores open. It is these same politicians who have changed American citizens from free to subservient, with the United States of America resembling a Socialist state. Is this just nitpicking? Why does it matter if *someone* says that “Covid-19 caused” all the havoc, leaving the politicians and their mandates blameless? Why? Because it leaves the politicians and their mandates blameless.

Sadly, the virus is stealing the health and lives of some, while politicians are stealing liberty from *all of us*. They have dictated the rules that stopped this country in its tracks.

And as they bombarded the public with premature and bloated predictions of millions of deaths, freedom-loving Americans acquiesced to draconian orders that would have

been unthinkable a month before.

In fairness, some politicians may have truly believed or still believe that curtailing our rights is – or – was necessary to “flatten the curve” or “stop the spread” or whatever the moving-target goal is or was at the time. Others may have just been following the herd. And others may have consciously decided not to let a good crisis go to waste and to use hysteria to implement previously intolerable policies.

Decisions have been based on hysterical predictions, lack of knowledge, flawed and – in some cases – purposely inflated data, inflamed hysteria, and – dare I say it – political gain. Millions of deaths were projected early on without justification. Official numbers of cases and deaths were reported before there was a test to verify positive cases.

Inflated figures continue to be released by counting the cause of death as Covid even when unrelated – such as the motorcycle death counted because the victim tested positive for the virus. Consider Florida where all positive test results were released but negatives were not, skewing the positivity rate.

The numbers of cases and deaths are hyped without perspective. As of July 17, 91 Covid-19 deaths in Fresno County were reported out of 9,481 cases. Although any death is terrible, that equals one positive Covid-19 case per 1,000 people and one death per 10,000 people.

Question: Should schools and businesses be closed because people have a one in 1,000 chance of contracting the virus, and a one in 10,000 chance of dying if contracting the virus?

The *temporary* lockdown was to be for a short time only. It’s now been four months with no end in sight, and it is billed as the new normal.

This must not be the “new normal.” We must open our free country to free citizens.

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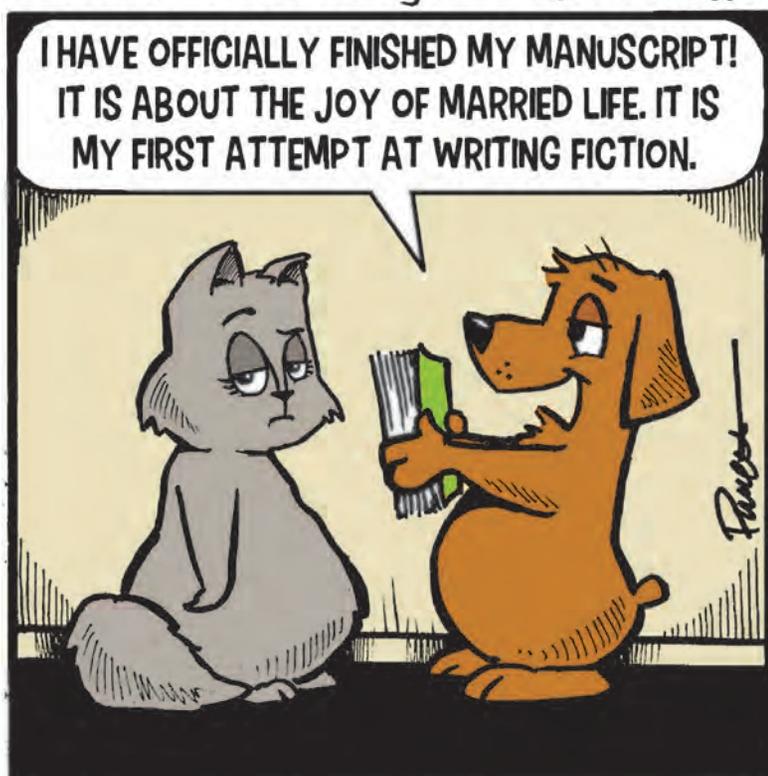
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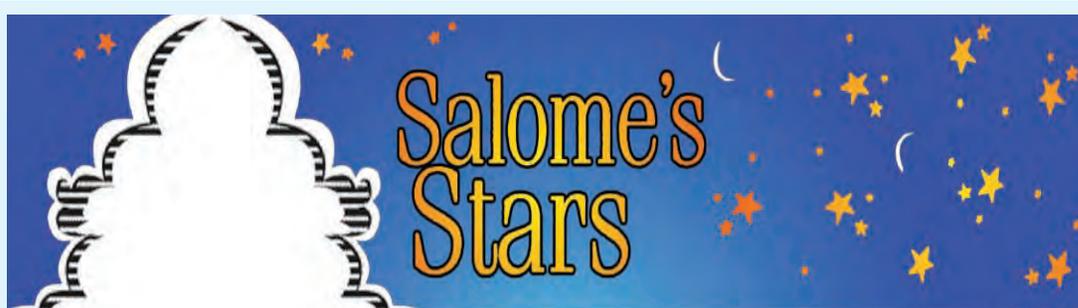
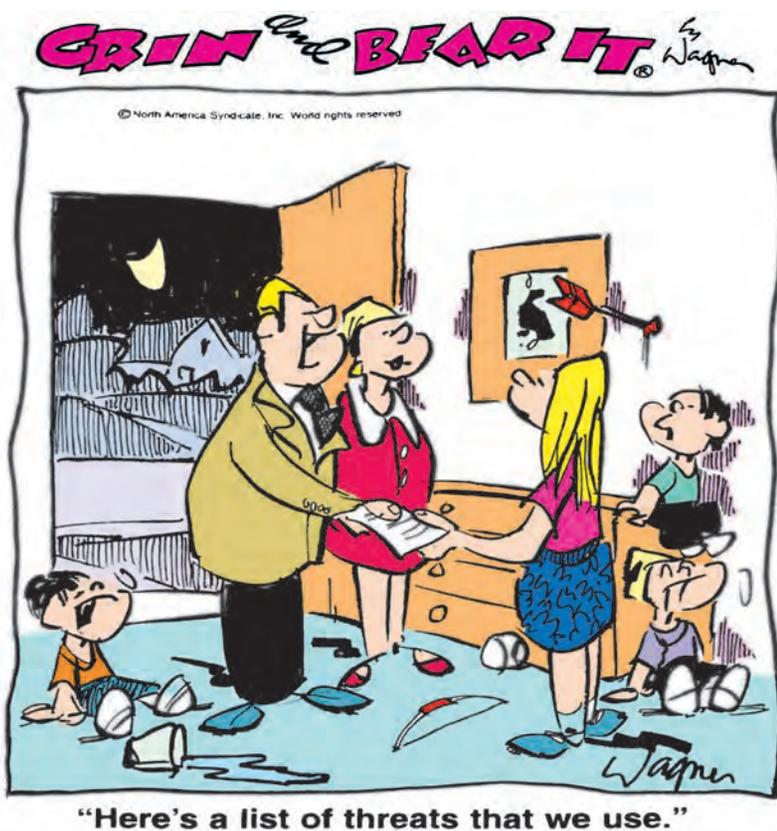
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A bit of Arian contrariness could be keeping you from getting all the facts. Turn it off, and tune in to what you need to hear. It could make all the difference this week.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting an answer to a vital question involving financial matters might take longer than you'd expected. A new factor might have to be dealt with before anything can move forward. Be patient.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Use your good sense to see what might really be driving a colleague's workplace agenda. What you learn could lead to a new way of handling some old problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A change of mind might once again turn out to be a good thing. True, most of your co-workers might not like the delay, but as before, they might appreciate what follows from it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You revel in golden opportunities this week. One cautionary note, though: Be careful to separate the gold from the glitter before you make a choice. Someone you trust can help.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Marriage is important this week, as are other partnerships. Don't let yourself be overwhelmed by sentiment. Instead, try to steer a path between emotion and common sense.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Dealing with someone who has let you down is never easy. But the sooner you're able to clear up this problem, the sooner other problems can be successfully handled.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A "friend" who is willing to bend the rules to gain an advantage for both of you is no friend. Reject the offer and stay on your usual straight and narrow path.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) After all the effort you've been putting in both on the job and for friends and family, it's a good time to indulge your own needs. The weekend could bring a pleasant surprise.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might want to do something new this weekend. Close your eyes and imagine what it could be, and then do it, or come up with the closest practical alternative.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your good deeds bring you the appreciation you so well deserve. But, once again, be careful of those who might want to exploit your generous nature for their own purposes.

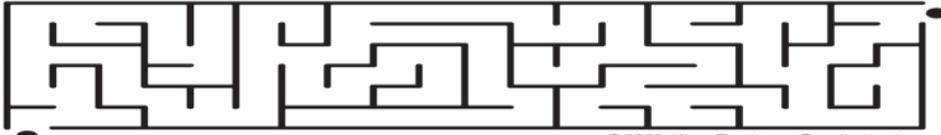
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Trolling for compliments isn't necessary. You earned them, and you'll get them. Concentrate this week on moving ahead into the next phase of your program.

Born this Week

*Meeting new people usually means you're making new friends.
People want to be reflected in your shining light.*

FUN PAGES

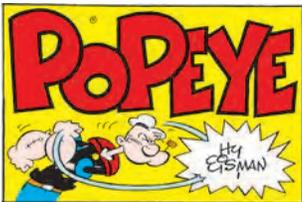
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME...JUST ONCE, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO MAKE A REPAIRMAN WASTE A WHOLE DAY WAITING FOR YOU?

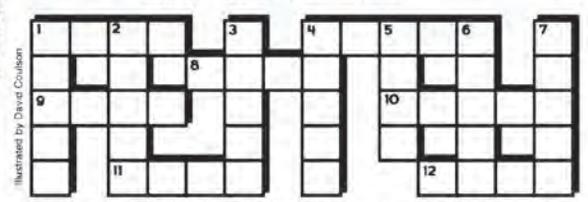
THANK TO N. RYDELL, CINCINNATI, OHIO



IF YOU TURNED the cornerstone on the above building upside down, the date would read the same. What's the nearest previous year that would read the same upside down?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



LET'S DO A LITTLE GARDENING! Below are words pertaining to backyard gardening that you will need to complete the puzzle grid provided. Use the trial-and-error method. Start planting your words!

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL? That's where you'll end up if you fail to solve this poser. Your problem is to arrange eight 8's so that they will add up to 1,000. It's time to rack 'n' roll!



THE "L" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the L's. Here are some hints from the top down: 1. Roman numeral 50 (given). 2. Musical tone. 3. A friend. 4. An earnest request. 5. A fold in cloth. 6. Coated with metal. 7. With great skill.



- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 4-letter words | 5-letter words |
| CART | BASIL |
| IRIS | CROPS |
| KALE | PATIO |
| RIPE | POLES |
| ROPE | RAKES |
| SOIL | STEMS |
| | STRAW |
| | WATER |

Answers: (Across) 1. Rope, 4. Straw, 8. Cart, 9. Kale, 10. Patio, 11. Soil, 12. Iris. (Down) 1. Rakes, 2. Poles, 3. Basil, 4. Stems, 5. Rope, 6. Water, 7. Crops.

Wishing Well

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

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

MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH THREE G'S

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A GROUP OF GEESE
- | | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|----------|
| Baggage | Flogging | Goggle | Gurgling |
| Bagging | Frogging | Gouging | Luggage |
| Begging | Gagged | Greenegade | Mugging |
| Eggog | Giggle | Groggy | |

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which capital city is located on the Tiber River?
- LITERATURE: What is the home team of the main character in the baseball poem "Casey at the Bat"?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the treelike character in "Guardians of the Galaxy"?
- GAMES: How many spaces are in a standard Monopoly playing board?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who are the four presidents whose likenesses are carved into Mount Rushmore?
- TELEVISION: What city is the setting for the sitcom "Laverne & Shirley"?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition known as glossophobia?
- SCIENCE: What is the chemical symbol for copper?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is venison?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many cubic feet are in a cubic yard?

- ### Answers
- Rome, Italy
 - Mudville
 - Groot
 - 40
 - George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln
 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 - Fear of public speaking
 - Cu
 - Deer meat
 - 27

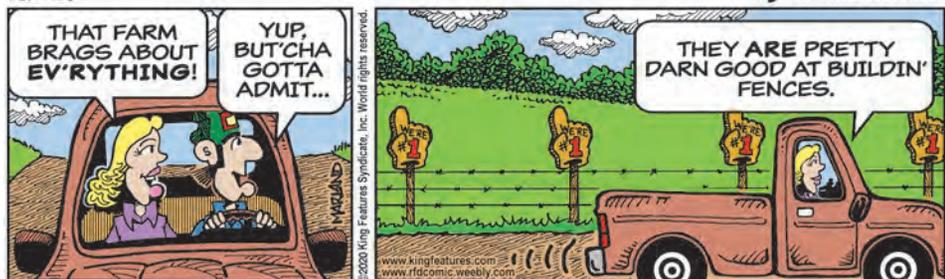
Amber Waves

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



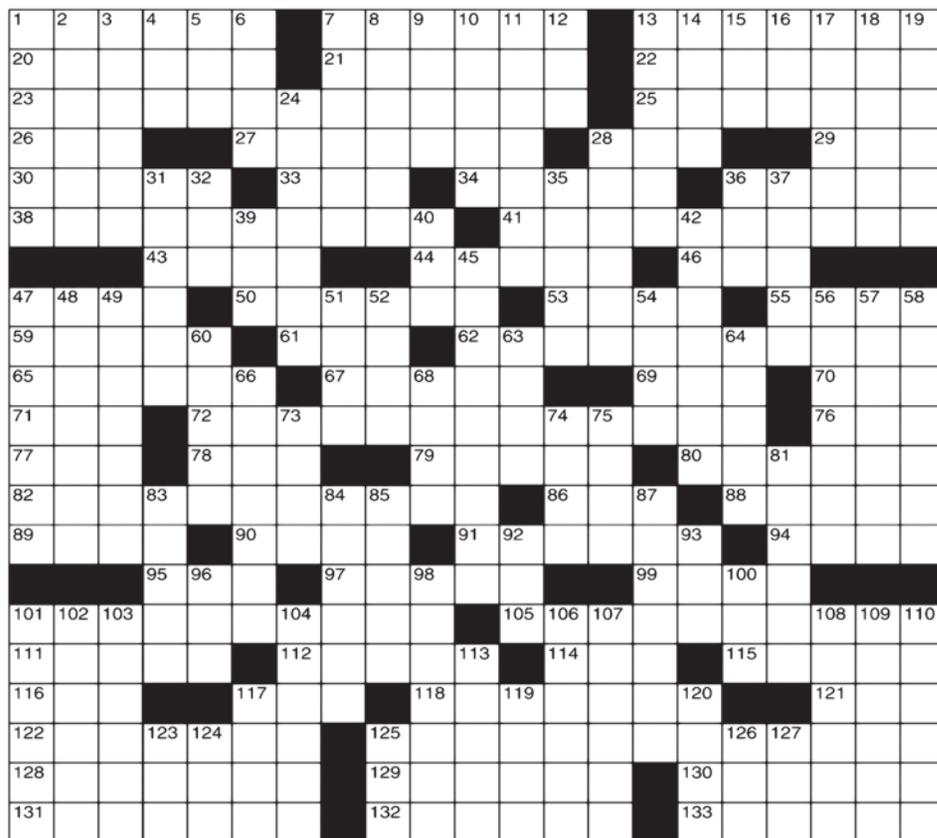
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Tree is fuller. 2. Change belt is different. 3. Fence is longer. 4. Girl's bow is different. 5. Boy's shirt has buttons. 6. Girl's skirt is decorated.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Had mercy on
 - 7 Good-sized combos
 - 13 Dilettante
 - 20 Fictional detective Lupin
 - 21 Tiger cat
 - 22 Model oneself after
 - 23 Cereal invented by actor William?
 - 25 Reference showing an urban area
 - 26 Downed food
 - 27 Lathering up
 - 28 Electrojet bit
 - 29 Hoppy drink
 - 30 Vocalist Della
 - 33 Utter a fib
 - 34 Airheaded
 - 36 "Mack the Knife" singer Bobby
 - 38 Cereal that's more than enough?
 - 41 Cereal that turns kids intoimps?
 - 43 Cassini of fashion
 - 44 Baby hooter
 - 46 "Nope"
 - 47 Judo room
 - 50 Attended, as an event
 - 53 Nut's partner
 - 55 Large burden
 - 59 Very skilled
 - 61 Vintage auto
 - 62 Cereal endorsed by first-year athletes?
 - 65 Even chance
 - 67 Willy with a chocolate factory
 - 69 Turkish commander
 - 70 Sushi fish
 - 71 "— gratia artis"
 - 72 Cereal flavored with
 - 79 Hoppy drink really hot peppers?
 - 80 Look upon
 - 82 Cereal that makes people want to create graphs and tables?
 - 86 "— di-dah!"
 - 88 Challenger
 - 89 Actor Morales
 - 90 Maui, e.g.
 - 91 Guy who "was here"
 - 94 "My Fair —"
 - 95 Foe of Grant
 - 97 Cow catcher
 - 99 "Hud" co-star Patricia
 - 101 Cereal that helps to heal broken legs?
 - 105 Cereal that looks like it's been polished?
 - 111 "Tin Cup" co-star Rene
 - 112 "The Chosen" novelist Chaim —
 - 114 Neither here — there
 - 115 Buying binge
 - 116 Parseghian of football
 - 117 "— y plata" (Montana motto)
 - 118 Sprinkler of plants
 - 121 Rescue crew VIP
 - 122 Lava emitter
 - 125 Cereal with hidden crib sheets?
 - 128 Stouts with white coats
 - 129 Public tribute
 - 130 Actor Danny
 - 131 lie of tennis
 - 132 Stopped slumbering
 - 133 Give the OK
- DOWN**
- 1 Vast desert
 - 2 For now
 - 3 Slumbering
 - 4 Chili's color
 - 5 Propyl ender
 - 6 Lions' lairs
 - 7 Finnish, e.g.
 - 8 Rocker Ric
 - 9 Old soda brand
 - 10 Big African antelope
 - 11 Kid who challenges gender stereotypes
 - 12 Rds.
 - 13 Hunting lures
 - 14 Despot Idi
 - 15 Except
 - 16 Muckraking Nellie
 - 17 Hedy of old Hollywood
 - 18 Latin "and others"
 - 19 Be contrite
 - 24 Clu of "McQ"
 - 28 "Any problem with that?"
 - 31 Some sailboats
 - 32 Sushi fish
 - 35 1990s exercise fad
 - 36 Cell stuff
 - 37 Hate
 - 39 Shul attendee
 - 40 Sousing sort
 - 42 Positive number, e.g.
 - 45 Office furniture
 - 47 Like potential sweethearts
 - 48 Aromatic
 - 49 Actress Alba
 - 51 Latest info
 - 52 Sound a horn
 - 54 Actor Hemsworth
 - 56 River from Lake Erie
 - 57 Saw to a seat
 - 58 Remove moisture in by whirling
 - 60 Having many bunches of feathers
 - 63 Klutzes
 - 64 Examined in order to rob
 - 66 Less cheap
 - 68 Uncluttered
 - 73 Singer Phil
 - 74 Lie languidly
 - 75 On — with
 - 81 Big name in polling
 - 83 Brick ovens
 - 84 So very
 - 85 Not be inert
 - 87 Award winner, e.g.
 - 92 Winter Games gp.
 - 93 Positive vote
 - 96 Prefix with resort
 - 98 Demonstrate
 - 100 Sit-ups sculpt them
 - 101 "Scream" director Wes
 - 102 — borealis
 - 103 Holy songs
 - 104 Got to one's feet
 - 106 Anxious
 - 107 Ribbed, as fabric
 - 108 Liberally
 - 109 Doe or cow
 - 110 Brief brawls
 - 113 Merited fate
 - 117 Individuals
 - 119 Deck wood
 - 120 Nutritional amts.
 - 123 Op. —
 - 124 Tennis' Ivanovic
 - 125 Old TV's "— Na Na"
 - 126 Spy gp.
 - 127 "You there!"

FUN PAGES

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south east madera county united

Wildfire Safety Measure Offered to Our SEMCU Residents

If you would like this done, please call 559-363-9095 to sign up for FREE mowing of your residential lot and boundary. Or email info@semcu.org and include your name, phone number, address and any specific instructions.

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

Our next meeting is Monday, August 17 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