The Acat of th



In This Issue

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By Randy Bailey

The first commercial phase of the Riverstone development at Highway 41 and Avenue 12 popped up on the internet on June 17 and proposes approximately 50 acres for business development with around a half-million square feet of buildable area for commerce.

The particulars for this part of the development are being handled by Retail California, a division of Pearson Realty out of Fresno. The website makes it very clear that, "... all negotiations relating to the purchase, renting or leasing of the property ..." are to be handled exclusively by the

North Palm office through agents Michael Arfsten and Nick Frechou. **Riverstone's**

Plan The plan for Riverstone ultimately will be 6,578 homes when all building is complete in its eight "districts." Supporting those districts will be an estimated 1.4 million square

stone, anticipating shopping, dining and even live concerts in the THE EIGHT central plaza. DISTRICTS This will be OF RIVERSTONE in addition to the homes, SO MANY WAYS TO FEEL AT HOM parks and a community clubhouse. The final of the three commercial districts will be the "Town Center" 10cated to the west on Avenue 12, which is set be surto rounded by "Parks, com-

feet of commercial space. Developers are banking on new homeowners to support the businesses, as well as people from North Fresno, the Ranchos and Madera. Additionally, its literature points out, "State Highway 41 is the main Central California access route to Yosemite National Park and its surrounding mountain communities. Average annual tourism attendance at Yosemite is 3.7 million visitors."

Three "Districts"

The developers have proposed three commercial dis-

mercial space ... all connected by a Main Street thoroughfare and mixed-use central plaza, with shops and restaurants."

tricts to service the community when it is completed, with

the "Market District" on the southwest corner of Highway

41 and Avenue 12, basically the "gateway" to Riverstone,

acting as the first of the three districts to be developed. In

this first district, planners are anticipating a grocery store,

and Highway 41, will be the "Civic District." Planners

are billing it as, "... for those who crave day-to-night en-

ergy and metropolitan cool." They are planning 45 acres

zoned for commercial use in this "urban side" of River-

To the north, on the northwest corner of Avenue 12

office space and retail businesses.

The real estate agents are offering available business space from between 1,200 square feet to as large as 65,000 square feet.

Riverstone was named America's Best Master-Planned Community at the 2018 Nationals in Orlando, Fla., sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders.

Caller Scams As Sheriff's Sgt.

The Madera County Sheriff's Office has been made aware that a man has been making phone calls to citizens throughout the county impersonating a Sheriff's Sergeant regarding outstanding warrants. THIS IS A SCAM.

The Sheriff's Office will never request funds or personal identifying information over the phone. If you receive a phone call of this nature, please contact Madera County Sheriff's Dispatch at 559-675-7770.

Based on the information provided to the Sheriff's Department, the man identifies himself as Madera County Sheriff's Sergeant Paul Eubanks. He makes phone calls from a 559 area code number and has a voicemail set up at the return number with the same identifying information.



Again -- THIS IS A SCAM. There is no one employed by that name at Madera County Sheriff's Office. If you are contacted by this man, do not provide ANY information to him, and please immediately contact the Sheriff's Office directly at 559- 675-7770.

The investigation into the identity of this individual remains ongoing. If you have information regarding this case, please contact Madera County Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770.



A pair of Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotives, sim ilar to this one, and a freight car were derailed on June 1 and shut down Avenue 12 for the better part of the day.,

A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train derailed Monday morning, June 18, just south of Avenue 12 at the Pacific Ethanol plant. The California Highway Patrol stated that the train derailed at approximately 9:55 a.m. and stopped all traffic on Avenue 12 until approximately 4:15 8 p.m. when clean-up crews were able to re-open the road. BNSF shares the

tracks with Amtrak and the derailment interrupted Amtrak San Joaquin train service for a good portion of the day, resulting in many Amtrak passengers having to be shuttled between Fresno and Merced by bus.

Authorities reported that the freight train was hauling empty grain cars when two locomotives and one car came off the track at a track switch just outside of the Pacific Ethanol plant. The derailment sent the cars onto the dirt shoulder of the tracks. There were no injuries reported and rail officials said there was no hazardous waste on board.

While Avenue 12 was closed, all traffic in and out of the Ranchos was diverted to Road 33 1/2.



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"Friendly and honest customer service. I love that they send a detailed report to your email so you know exactly what they found while your car is still being worked on. Fast service. Would definitely recommend!"

Lexandra



Page 4 H₂O Storage: Approved, Not Built

By Ed Ring

In 2017, when cracks appeared in the Oroville Dam's spillway, more than 180,000 Californians faced the prospect of floods. The emergency came a few years after Californians had overwhelmingly approved Proposition 1, a ballot measure to spend \$7.1 billion on water-storage projects. In the drought-stricken Golden State, where runoff from rain and snowmelt races uselessly into the Pacific Ocean, the proposition won wide support, with voters approving it, two-to-one. But four years after passage, the state water commission has yet to assign a dime of funding for storage.

California once performed miracles in building infrastructure to quench the thirst of its residents and agricultural producers. In the 1960s, Governor Pat Brown oversaw construction of the San Luis Reservoir, capacity 2 million acre-feet. Approved for construction in 1963, it was completed by 1968—five years from start to finish. Those days are long gone. Any surfacestorage project now faces years of litigation from environmental groups such as the powerful Sierra Club. At every stage in the construction process, delays of months or years ensue to resolve well-funded lawsuits launched under every conceivable pretext, from habitat destruction to inundation of Native American artifacts.

Nevertheless, the California Water Commission has finally announced its plans to fund new projects with the money from Proposition 1. Many Californians were surprised to learn that the proposition's fine print stipulated that only a third of the money was ever intended to fund water storage. The rest is earmarked for other projects, ranging from habitat restoration to levee upgrades. Neither the commission nor most of the applicant agencies offer clarity as to how much additional storage the projects will add to California's normal water supplies in an average year.

Clearly, some of the projects will make a tremendous difference to California's parched water economy. The proposed Sites Reservoir, to be built just west of the Sacramento River, promises a capacity of nearly 2 million acre-feet; it alone could contribute a half-million acre-feet or more to the state's water supply even in drought years, and much more in years with normal rainfall. Similarly, the Temperance Flat Reservoir will expand an existing reservoir on the San Joaquin River.

Please see H2O on P. 18



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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales

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Enough is Enough

By Randy Bailey

Back in November of 2016 we started to see a trend in California. In that election, there were 24 legislative seats up for grabs that had a unique feature about all of them: There were only Democrats on the ballot. Probably the *pièce de résistance* was the lack of a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. Californians actually got to choose between which *Democrat* they *really* wanted for that spot.

Now, in 2018, there will be 41 legislative seats sporting Democrats only on our ballot. There will be no Republican candidate for Lt. Governor, Insurance Commissioner or Superintendent of Public Instruction. For the second time in two consecutive elections, there will be no Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. With 80 Assembly Districts in play this election, 25 will not have a Republican challenger. The same can be said for six of the state's 20 Senate Districts. And out of 53 congressional districts, 10 of them will be solely Democrats on the ballot.

In 2016 there were four races that were all Republican; this year there is one.

In June of 2010, Proposition 14 appeared on the ballot in California and was proposed as a constitutional amendment that would transform California's elections (except presidential elections) into what is now being called a "jungle



primary," so-called because it is survival of the fittest -- in this case the top two vote getters -- who get to advance to the general election in November.

Prop 14 wasn't snuck in on us in the middle of the night. It passed with almost 54 percent of the vote, but in a classic example of "so you think your vote doesn't count, *huh?*" that 54 percent was a pitiful reflection of California citizens. There were 37.35 million people living in California then and 16.9 million of them registered to vote. Only 5.3 million showed up to vote that day in June. And of those 5.3 million, 2,868,945 said "yes" to re-inventing our elections. Approximately 7 1/2 percent of the people in California got us where we are today. Thanks.

The idea (allegedly) was to open up California's election process. Instead of having elections dominated by just two parties -- Democrats and Republicans -the "top two" concept would potentially allow an independent third party to scoot in to the final top two and be a player in the general election if they would just get out there and work hard. At least that's how it was supposed to work on paper. The reality? We have gone from an election process dominated by just two parties to an election process dominated by just one party.

I don't know a lot, but I'd be willing to bet the farm that if 41 legislative seats were Republican only; there were no Democratic Lt. Governor, Insurance Commissioner or Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates; no Democrat U.S. Senate candidate (for the *second time*); 25 out of 80 Assembly Districts were just Republican candidates and ditto for six of the state's 20 Senate Districts; and 10 of 53 congressional districts were solely Republican contenders, we probably would have heard about it by now. What do you think?

I think it's time we called our assemblyman, Frank Bigelow (916-319-2005) and senator, Anthony Cannella (916-651-4012) and said, "Fix this!"

Assemblyman Frank Bigelow State Capitol Suite #4158 Sacramento, CA 94249

Senator Anthony Cannella State Capitol Room 5082 Sacramento, CA 95814

Gotta' Work to be Working

Part of the required duties of my job is to be out on the floor observing interactions and coaching and assisting the employees and caregivers whenever necessary. Basically, eavesdropping is officially part of my job description. I get paid to be nosy. So that's pretty cool. I hear some pretty funny things in my capacity as departmental Gladys Kravitz and I keep writing about it because it makes for some answer. She snatched the letter amusing anecdotes.

While scouting the HR department a while back, I overheard a caregiver asking my staff for a letter stating she is employed, but we don't have hours available for her to work. She needed some-

thing to give the welfare office to prove she has done her due diligence by having a job, but won't put we her to work so she needs her housing and food stamps and child care. That last one

made my eyebrows shoot up so less to say, that little sentence fast they disappeared in my hairline for a split second. Why do you need child care if we can't manage to actually put you to work?

employee, who was Mv clearly feeling a little bullied at the moment, was about to print out one of our form letters that verifies employment. I stepped in and added a small piece of information. I typed: "Several shifts available, employee has worked a total of hours in the last 90 days," into the letter and had my employee fill in the caregiver's total hours in the last three months. It was less than 20 hours. Needless to say, when the caregiver read her letter she was incensed. How dare I insinuate that she could work but didn't want to. Fair. we have shifts available. Would you like to work? Evidently, she was too busy taking care of her kids to work. But aren't you trying to keep your child care? She didn't



out of my hand and stormed out without scheduling herself for any shifts. She gave me a nasty little papercut, which I suppose could be Karma's little love bite, but I'll wear that badge with pride if I have managed to prevent even one able-bodied

person

rather

when

living off the

taxpayers

working. I wish

welfare office

turned in that

how it was re-

letter to

from

than

that

she

see

Newsflash: You have to work to be working otherwise you are mooching, leeching or sponging. If you I could have can work but choose instead been in to have hardworking Americans pay your bills, you are a parasite.

> ceived. Needremains a permanent part of all of our employment verification letters.

This is not an uncommon phenomenon. We often hire and train new caregivers with the intention of putting them to work only to have them take their offer letter and certificate of completion and disappear into the forest. They usually show up again a few months later when they want to recertify their welfare benefits. That's when we have a little showdown like the one above. I don't know all the requirements for receiving welfare benefits such as food stamps, housing and child care, but it has become clear that having a job is at least somewhere in the regulation manual. Working that job, however, is not.

The idea of working clearly has a different connotation to these cats. They think that just having their name included in the

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7



Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent





GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

employer's big book of life somewhere magically entitles them to the taxpayers' money. Newsflash: You have to work to be working otherwise you are mooching, leeching or sponging. If you can work but choose instead to have hardworking Americans pay your bills, you are a parasite.

I am really quite tired of people who are physically and mentally capable of holding down a job but choose, instead, to sit at home and lie to the government. Welfare and social programs were designed to help get people back on their feet and yet somehow it has turned into a lifestyle. The mindset is that someone else can provide for my kids as long as I pretend to have a job. Why should I work when there is a big vat of cash sitting in Washington just waiting for me to grab my share? And therein lies the biggest issue. There really are people who believe that welfare is their fair share, that they have some claim on the money paid into by hardworking Americans just because it is sitting there.

Government assistance is there to help for the short-term; it is a resource to get people through the tough times, not a means of permanent financial support. The point is to accept assistance while you get stabilized, find a job, get back on track, out of the hole and return to being a productive member of society. Many Americans use the program exactly as designed. On the other hand, there are many people taking advantage of this system because it is easier to sit at home on the couch then don a McDonald's uniform and flip burgers for eight hours a day. Sadly, it would appear that this attitude has become commonplace, the product of a live-free. love-free, let someone else pick up the check society. Why worry about taking care of your own business when there are people out there that will do it for us. It won't be long before there are more people taking from the magical money trough than adding to it. I have only one question: When there is no money left in the big welfare checking account and people are scrounging every penny just to buy a burger, do you suppose they will want fries with that?

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Getting Fruity

When I was doing research for these articles, I read a website claiming to be able to grill anything in the produce department. Later, I was picturing the produce department in my head and 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 pan with vinegar the oiled watermelon slices on 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 pounds

(Preferably seedless and not too ripe}

¹/₄ C Extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for brushing on the flare up for sure. Of course melon

limes)

ange

taste

Pinch of sea or kosher salt to taste

1/4 C chopped fresh mint

(optional)

Preheat a gas grill or build charcoal fire for direct а 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 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 you could use the tequila or 3T lime juice (about 2 rum just to show off like seeing Cherries Jubilee being Juice of 1 large navel or- served in a restaurant. But fair warning: Have everyone, espe-Pinch of cayenne pepper to cially the kids, stand well back. You don't want singed eyebrows.

Grilled Pineapple Dessert

1 Pineapple, peeled, cored 1/2 C crumbled feta cheese and sliced in 1 inch thick slices

> ³/₄ C Tequila or Rum ** ³/₄ C Brown Sugar 1 ¹/₂ tsp. Vanilla 1/2 tsp. Ground Cinnamon

Vanilla ice cream Preheat grill. Mix liquor,

sugar, vanilla and cinnamon together until sugar is dis-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9





arty the Concrete Guy · 559-

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

solved. Place pineapple on grill. Baste with sugar mixture while grilling, turning occasionally. Grill for about 10 minutes. Serve hot on dessert plate with the lid on the grill. Grill until a scoop of vanilla ice cream on there are visible grill marks or top.

**You could use pineapple juice.

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

Grilled Fruit

2 ripe bananas

2 ripe peaches

berries

1 Stick butter

1 T Sugar

peaches and strawberries and pat dry. Slice the peaches into quarters, making sure they are large enough to put straight on Food Network website there the grill. Hull the strawberries.

Place the strawberries on peared in July 2015.

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 black crisps. Depending on the heat do not cook longer than 15 minutes.

Bananas take the least done in about 10 minutes. Strawberries take the longest. Remove 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 dol-1 pound container of Straw- lop of whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream.

Artichoke Doubts

In the first part of this arti-Peel the banana. Wash the cle I said I doubted that an artichoke could be grilled. Well, I found out I was wrong. It can be grilled. When I went on the were 91 recipes.

This article originally ap-

Inspired by your pure potential.

6/18

We are on this earth for a reason. So much is possible: the things you will achieve, the good you will do, the lives you will touch. You can leave the world a better place. While the love you were born with grows. You, and everyone who's at a beginning, inspire us to do more than practice medicine. You inspire us to transform lives.

See inspiration in action at AdventistHealth.org.



Page 9



Up, Up and Away!

Some people have all the luck. This time it's me!

Imagine you get a call - free round-trip airfare to Hawaii, free accommodations and food, plus you get paid to be there. Scam? No, a client looking for some organizing assistance after moving to Honolulu. OK, so I'll have to do a little work while there, but waking up for work in Hawaii has to beat waking up here, right? If you're preparing to fly away this summer like I am, here are some tips for your trip.

1. Label a large plastic envelope for your trip information and resources. This can house your

reservation confirmations, tickets, packing checklist, photocopies of your prescriptions. passports, postcard stamps, as well as brochures and memorabilia vou collect while on your trip.

If you prefer a more "techy" version. consider using Tripit.

TripCase or the Kayak app to store and access your itinerary, confirmations, tickets, etc. on your phone.

Honolulu.

2. Prepare to be away from home by putting a hold on your mail (www.usps.com) and newspaper subscriptions. Alert your credit card company if traveling abroad so it's not flagged when used in an unusual location. Arrange care for pets and plants. Protect your home by putting house lights on a timer and securing valuables. Give your contact info and itinerary to a neighbor/friend.

3. Pack only what you absolutely need. I'm the first to break this rule when traveling by car, but when flying, excess costs time, space and money. Use a packing checklist available online or create your own. Use your itinerary to guide your wardrobe choices.

4. Keep in mind the TSA rules including the 3-1-1 rule for carry-on liquids. They must be 3.4 ounces or smaller and fit together in one clear quartsized resealable bag. When possible, replace liquids with an alternative like make-up remover cloths or

solid bug repellent and sunscreen stick.

To expedite the security check, bring car keys, loose change, money clip, belt, cell phone, pens, jewelry, etc. to airport in a clear resealable bag. Once you're cleared, relocate items to your pockets, purse, etc.

Consider using a TSA Luggage Lock (www.amazon.com), to secure your suitcase en route and at your hotel. TSA can open it without breaking the lock and relock it when a search is complete. Tie a brightly colored luggage tag or ribbon to your suitcase to distinguish it from the other 50 black suitcases on the baggage carousel.

5. Find out what amenities your hotel offers (hair drvers, beach towels, shampoo, etc.) so you don't pack things they provide. If you need to bring beach towels, shrink them using Space Saver bags - no vacuum needed. You can also use these to shrink your dirty laundry for the trip home. Unfortunately, you'll still have the same number of loads to do once you're there.

6. Use the inside of shoes to pack small items stored inside small resealable bags. Put shoes in gallon-size resealable bags and place them near the wheels of the suitcase so they don't crush clothing. Pack some extra bags for wet suits, snacks, etc. Use packing cubes to keep your outfits or categories of

> organized clothing within your suitcase. Roll soft clothing to maximize space.

7. To protect Scam? No, a client looking for some necklaces from tangling, thread them through straws and place them in resealable bags or toothbrush holders. Store rings and ear-

rings in seven-day plastic pill holders or in snack-size resealable bags pinned to the corresponding outfit.

8. In order to be prepared for lay-overs, lost luggage, etc., be sure to pack the following in your carry-on bag:

Collapsible water bottle with filter (www.amazon.com)

Snacks

Imagine you get a call — free round-

trip airfare to Hawaii, free accommodations

and food, plus you get paid to be there.

organizing assistance after moving to

Prescriptions

Printed tickets, confirmations, passport, ID Valuables-camera, jewelry, computer A change of clothes/underwear

Small selection of toiletries Chargers

Whether you're on your way to Grandma's

or to an all-inclusive resort, I hope you have a wonderful time. ALOHA!

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@organized bychoice.com. You can also visit www.organizedbychoice.com.



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J SAV





Summer is upon us and South East Madera County United (SEMCU) encourages all of us to help save our precious water resource. SEMCU, a non-profit organization that sponsors and supports our various local organizations, has a major goal of implementing ways to reduce water usage. To accomplish this goal, SEMCU continues to offer free low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to local households. In addition to the rebate program for replacing older washing machines with new energy and water efficient ones, rebates are now also available for energy efficient dishwasher replacement. Pickup applications for up to \$350 rebates at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C. The Free Dry Well project has been updated and applications are also available at the Chamber. SEMCU is always looking for new grants and ideas to promote additional water savings. You are encouraged to attend the SEMCU meetings and share your ideas. Meetings are held every third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Pizza Factory, 37184 Ave 12. For more information you can call 559-363-9095 or email info@semcu.org.





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6/18

The Bookshelf Summer Reading Brings Excitement

By Jerrica Edmundson

June is a big month here at the library as we start up the Summer Reading Program into what should be a new and fun event for the whole community. We've got events planned every week to entertain and enlighten people of all ages on Thursdays at 11 a.m., starting with local author Steven Riley on June 21. The whole schedule is available online or in the branch, but there are exciting events every week until August 2. Prizes will be given to award reading achievements and a raffle will be held on the last day for a grand prize. We look forward to seeing you here.

This month, here's what our branch librarians have been up to:

Jerrica's Shelf

SANDMA

The Sandman Series by Neil Gaiman

I've decided to take a break from heavy reading and burrow into a fun graphic novel series this month and have wanted to check out this series for some time. Comprised of 11 separate volumes, this graphic

novel delves into the story of a DC character called Morpheus, colloquially known as the Sandman, who is essentially the god of dreams. Morpheus falls into the official classification of an "endless" where he is joined by six other brothers and sisters: Delirium, Despair, Destiny, Desire, Destruction, and Death. These Endless surpass the classical gods in that they are the inevitable pieces of life that all humans must go through at some point or another.

The story opens with Morpheus being trapped for what is revealed as 70 years by a simple human by chance. He escapes and returns to his realm to find that he must completely rebuild the world of dreaming and the story just goes on from there. He is generally an apathetic individual, but as the story progresses you learn that he is caring and wants the overall best for those who interact with him.

Each volume is a standalone story, but they have aspects that carry through from one to another which does make it fairly important to read in order. It's been a break from the usual for me, but one that I've enjoyed as a whole.

Spencer's Shelf

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman *The Golden Compass* is the first book in

the His Dark Materials series written by Philip Pullman and is a great starter into a realistic fantasy world. Set in a world that is parallel to our own, Lyra Belacqua is a rambunctious child who

lives at Jordan College in Oxford with her daemon named Pantalaimon. After Lyra is adopted by the chic Mrs. Coulter, she begins on a journey that crosses continents and eventually universes all while trying to find the truth about a mystical substance referred to as "dust." Pullman's book has earned a Carnegie medal and has been listed many times as one of the best books of all time and I must say I agree. It is a young adult novel, but one that appeals to readers from any age group. This book was made into a movie back in 2007, but don't hold that movie's terrible reviews against the book - it's a different level of storytelling entirely, and one that shouldn't be missed.

The Madera Ranchos Library 37167 Ave. 12 • 645-1214 Sun-Mon Closed Tue 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wed - Thu 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fri-Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org









Servicing Madera over the last 3 years





Senior Report Seniors Improve through Improv at Center

By Margaret Tynan

Members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors have been very busy with various activities this spring and early summer. We had many visitors to our booth at the Flatlanders event in May who went home with lovely plants for their gardens and homes. Thank you to all the members who helped and to the community for their generous support of the Center.

The participants in the Improv Acting Class ended the four-week session with a performance at the Center. After welcoming everyone, our instructor, Mike Beevers, asked the audience for prompts for each of the acts. The results were hilarious. For the skit "First

Line, Last Line," the actors had to improvise a story beginning with "Why does wine improve with age and humans deteriorate?" and end with "And I finally found my

working on writing stories to answer those questions. Josie Turner pointed out that we all have stories to tell and is enjoying the time to write them. Verlaine Elinburg voiced that she is glad for this time to put down her thoughts and stories to share with her daughter. Others in the group agreed. Rosemary Janis, the newest member of the Center and the writing group said that she is writing about the interactions with her three-year-old granddaughter now. "So, in the future, she will be able to know about our early years together." Rosemary moved to the Madera Ranchos from San Jose about a year ago after retiring from a secretarial position with an attorney. She joined the Center to meet people and become more involved. She finds the



nally found my ferret." David Thorpe's and Margaret

Tynan's improvisation had the audience in stitches. In fact, they liked it so much two members of the audience tried their hands at it. Josie Turner worked with the first line "No mistakes just happy accidents," and Nathan Konkle, grandson of member Deborah Konkle, ended the skit with "I don't think that was drain cleaner." Their improvisation cleverly incorporated a spill, false teeth and a plumbing problem. Other skits included "Once Upon A Time" and "Dr. Know It All." The audience gave the title "Grapes of Wrath" to the skit "Silent Movie Dub" in which Eva McAtee and Sam Glorso interpreted the actions of Jo Chase and Margaret Tynan. It was a fun ending to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Self-help, genealogy, memoirs, and mysteries are just some of the topics of interest to individuals in the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Writing Group. The peer-led group has inspired several members to again take up writing projects they had laid aside. Mary Orcutt went through her files to find the manuscript she'd started quite some time ago. She has aspirations to get the self-help style work published in the future. Helen Lowell is focused on writing about family stories to give to her children and grandchildren. She shared a scrapbook one of her family members made for her in which each page has questions about the family history. Helen is enter to meet peoed. She finds the Valley and the c o m m u n i t y friendly, making this a nice place to live.

R o b y n Hicks is another new member of the Center who joined the writing group to continue her work writing crime and other fiction. She is

also a member of the San Joaquin Sisters in Crime, a group interested in mystery writing. Robyn moved from a small ranch in the Clovis area to the Madera Ranchos in 2011. She says she really enjoys rural living. She retired after over 33 years from California State Food and Agriculture and Animal Health Laboratories. She now volunteers with the Fresno Police Department several days a month and says that she really enjoys the work. Welcome, Robyn and Rosemary.

There are only a few days left to get your raffle tickets for a chance to win the Fish Box Charter Shaver Lake fishing trip, the once-amonth Pizza Factory pizza for a year or the surprise Valley Propane Taste of the Ranchos gift basket. The drawing will take place July 4th and you don't need to be present to win. Pick up your tickets at the Center (37330 Berkshire Dr., phone 645-3864). Be sure to come to the Bake and Boutique and Treasure House sale Saturday, July 7 from 8 a.m. to noon and don't forget to check out the garden area. There are lots of great buys on flower and vegetable plants.

The Rancho/Hills Seniors wish all of you a very happy and safe Independence Day on July 4th.

Thought for July: "The American Revolution was a beginning, not a consummation." ~Woodrow Wilson



Nothing to Fear with FLIR

Hello 93636,

Well, it's an election year again and three Golden Valley Unified School District seats will stand for election. Areas 1, 2 and 4 form the majority on the five-member trustee board. Areas 1, 2 and 4 encompass everything just south of Ave. 13, from Trigo to Rolling Hills.

In my opinion, public education has failed many of our students by not providing traditional Vocational Education classes. There is a great need and many opportunities await students in the vocational trades industries. School boards are always looking for grants, the passage of new school bonds and/or alternative funding sources to implement Vocational Education. The truth is the money is already in the budget. Vocational Education is just a low financial priority for school board members. For 20 years we have been talking about Vocational Education in GVUSD. Wouldn't it be great to elect three (one from each area) strong, pro-Vocational Education candidates to our school board? Monday, July 23 is the candidate filing deadline.

Three months ago, a 2006 Ford Mustang GT rolled into the shop with a hard steering complaint. When turning into or out of parking spaces, the steering was very hard. Hard steering complaints are very difficult to diagnosis at best. The reason for that is components tend to be buried and not easily accessible. When accessible, the pressure testing data I retrieved was not useful because manufacturers' specifications were not available. Basically, I'm left with a subjective diagnostic based on symptoms and/or pattern failures. I determined the Mustang's power steering pump was defective. I flushed the hydraulic system, filled it with fresh new fluid and installed a re-built pump. Three weeks later the Mustang returned with the same complaint. After more pattern failure research and subjective reasoning, I determined the power steering rack and pinion steering box was the problem. I called the customer for permission to replace it also. During the conversation, I learned some additional details that caused me to question my new diagnostic.

I need to get it right this time.

How do I diagnosis the power steering system objectively? How do I measure it? What technology is available to me? Is the belt slipping? Is the pump pulley slipping

on the pump shaft? Is a hose or fluid passage obstructed? Maybe there is an internal gear box seal leaking ... HEY! If the belt or pully is slipping, heat will be generated from the friction (kinetic energy converted to thermal energy). I can measure that. With my FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) technology in hand, I duplicated the hard steering complaint. There was no increase in temperature at the power steering pully or belt, so I eliminated them as potential causes. I also know from science that whenever there is a change in pressure there is a corresponding and proportional change in temperature. If there is a restriction in the system I should see a change in temperature. Again, I recreated the complaint and scanned the system. I did not observe any abrupt temperature changes so I eliminated the power steering hoses and steering box from my list of potential causes. The only component remaining was the power steering pump. Again, I flushed the system and replaced the pump. Problem officially solved. HEY, it's just science.

During that time a Cadillac CTS with an overheating brake problem arrived. This vehicle had many shiny new brake components installed. The complaint was that after several miles of driving, the brakes would drag and overheat. I connected my Tech 2 scanner to the Anti-Lock Brake System Module and retrieved two trouble codes. They didn't appear to have a direct relationship to the complaint, so I suspect they were accidently set during the previous diagnostic and repair. I selected the ABS automated testing and diagnostic feature of the scan tool and performed a brake system evaluation. The brake system was functioning as designed.

I erased the codes and went for a test drive. After several aggressive stops the front brakes began smoking heavily. Using my FLIR, I measured the brake temperatures. The brake components were not hot, not even close and no trouble codes were present. I returned the vehicle to the customer with the recommendation to use a better quality brake pad (NAPA) and go easy on the synthetic brake grease. Thanks to FLIR technology, problem solved.

The FLIR technology development I'm most interested in is in the area of "electrical parasitic draw diagnostic" (dead battery in the morning symptom). The idea is to allow the vehicle to rest overnight and equalize to the ambient air. Electron flow (current) in a circuit generates heat. The next morning when we access the vehicle's fuse boxes, we are looking for the fuse(s) that have a heat signature greater then ambient. Once we find it, we access the components on that circuit looking for a heat signature above ambient.

"Do It Yourselfers," this technology is available on your cell phone. Get it and use it. It works well.

Last year in Denver at the national CTI advisory committee meeting, FLIR was one of the two technologies I supported and lobbied for. Last week at our online quarterly meeting, both FLIR & NVH (Noise, Vibration & Harshness) technologies were presented as new training courses in development. WOW!

In September the advisory committee will visit the CTI Development and Training Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. I'm looking forward to meeting the FLIR & NVH curriculum development teams. I'm hoping to bring back what I learn and pilot the new curriculum. I'll keep you DIYers posted. Hope this helps

That's all for today. Happy 4th of July.

As always, I'm looking for interesting and informative automotive topics to write about. I can be reached at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text me at 907-7661 with any recommendations, suggestions and/or general or specific questions about a vehicle or the automotive industry.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636 Warren Parr

2013 & 2014 NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year







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H2O cont. from P. 4

Propitiously located south of the delta, this 1.3 million acre-foot construction could contribute 250,000 acre-feet or more to California's water supply, even in drought years.

To appreciate how much capacity these two projects would add, consider that California's total residential water consumption - indoor and outdoor combined — is only 4 million acre-feet per year. None of the other proposed projects comes close to matching these two, but in any case, it will be years before this new infrastructure can capture one drop of rain or runoff. The Sites Reservoir application anticipates completion by 2029; the Temperance Flat Reservoir, by 2033. Constant litigation, combined with years of legislation empowering unions and state agency bureaucrats to slow construction, have quadrupled the time required to rior good, Dead #2 cylinder. \$500. All prices CHEAP and FIRM. If you want them, come and get them. Otherwise don't waste your and my time. **905-8311.**

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build — and sent costs soaring. In 2018 dollars, Pat Brown's San Luis Reservoir cost \$672 million; the Sites Reservoir is projected to cost \$5.2 billion — seven times as much, for a nearly identical facility.

To eliminate politically contrived shortages, Californians should embrace an all-of-the-above strategy to increase water supplies. They should select projects that yield the best return on investment while they take a hard look at what's driving construction costs out of sight. Proposition 1 was a mandate to solve a solvable problem — store runoff to eliminate water scarcity. But California legislators have dragged their feet on implementation, betraying their constituents and exemplifying the state's dysfunctional political culture. When it comes to water issues in California, not just quality of life, but life itself, is at stake.

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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.



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Happy Birthday America

By Betty Van Valkenburg

One of my favorite philosophers, Erma Bombeck, said this regarding Independence Day: "You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

Great "philosophers" do have a way with words. Yes, we are fortunate to have great military strength protecting us, but what we Americans truly appreciate is the freedom - guaranteed by the Constitution and protected by military might and the will to use it - to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

Baseball legend Lou Gehrig's famous words at Yankee Stadium, coincidentally on July 4th in 1939, should inspire us to be grateful for what we have that truly matters. Having been forced to retire two weeks earlier at age 36 due a diagnosis of ALS, he told the adoring crowd: "Fans, you have been reading about the bad break I got. Yet today I con-

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sider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth."

May we Americans always remember that, despite its problems, ours is the luckiest nation on earth, with "luck" gained at great sacrifice; and may we vow to protect and continue to improve it.

My hope this Independence Day is that we can put aside the current political insanity and other pressing matters long enough to celebrate our blessings of liberty and enjoy a few of those simple pleasures - like "iffy" potato salad, fresh Fresno State corn, or Grandpa's homemade ice cream. July 4th is a day to eat and throw a Frisbee-we can educate liberals on the superiority of conservative ideas tomorrow

To refresh your memory, or for your first-time reading, here is the text of the document that changed the world.

Declaration of Independence In Congress July 4, 1776

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

Note: Omitted here is the list of griev-

ances against the king.

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We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security - Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Govern-

ment. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

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We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty. com for more information.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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"And where did you hear about this donut diet?"



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Count to 10 if you must, but don't lose your temper, despite that person's (you know who!) efforts to goad you into reacting. Your restraint will pay off in a big way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This week finds you in a sociable mood, ready and eager to enjoy the company of family and friends. It's also a good time to seek out and renew old friendships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Patience is called for as you await a decision about that project you're eager to launch. Meanwhile, try to set aside more time to share with that special person in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid becoming involved in a workplace dispute early in the week by insisting both sides submit their stands to a neutral arbitrator. Things begin to cool off by Thursday.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It promises to be a busy but productive week for the Big Cat. The pace slows by Friday, allowing you to catch up on matters you put aside but that now need your attention.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A suddenly disruptive family situation is best handled with a cool, calm and collected response. Wait until things settle to let off all that pent-up emotional steam.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your practical side dominates the week as you reassess your finances to make some sensible adjustments in what you plan to spend and what you expect to save.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected meeting with a former colleague opens some interesting possibilities. But you need to press for full disclosure before making a decision.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent flurry of activity eases by midweek, giving you time to readjust your disrupted schedule and make new plans for a weekend getaway.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're usually the one who gives advice. But now it's time to open yourself up to counsel from friends who have your best interests at heart.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might find resistance to your call for a full inquiry into a workplace problem. But by week's end even the most rigid naysayers begin to come around.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A recurring problem surfaces once again. Maybe it's time you used your creative talents to help you find a new approach to resolving it once and for all.

Born this Week

You are guided in what you do both by your intelligence and your emotions. An acting career would suit you quite well.

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By Fifi Rodrigue:

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation's tallest mountain is called Fan Si Pan?

2. ASTRONOMY: About how many miles across is Jupiter's Great Red Spot?

3. HISTORY: When did apartheid become the official policy of South Africa?

4. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek goddess of the underworld?

5. RELIGION: Sankara was an important theologian of which religion?

6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the famous sculpture that sits atop the U.S. Capitol Building?

7. INVENTIONS: In what century was the printing press invented?

8. PRESIDENTS: What was the first name of Harry Truman's wife?

9. MUSIC: What is the meaning of the musical term "tenuto"?

10. LITERATURE: When did George Bernard Shaw win the Nobel Prize for Literature?

Answers

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| Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally | | | | | | | | | |
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