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Volume 21 Issue 3 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## 21st Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed



... let the fun begin!

Photo courtesy of Bill Whyman

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# THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CRAB FEED GOES FOR 21!

Like so many other post-Covid events across America, people were again ready to get out and have a good time, and the folks of the Ranchos were no different. After being cancelled in 2021, the Crab

Feed came back strong in 2022 and 2023, but this year they pulled out all the stops. The event sold out with not a table to spare.

The Annual Crab Feed went forward on

Friday, March 7 at the Danté Club in Fresno at 6 o'clock and lasted till nearly 11 p.m. The event reached its full capacity of 250 attendees and featured over 50 items for live and silent auctions. As always, the Ranchos Ki-

wanis were on hand serving the tables.

The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Board Members were ecstatic with the results.



One of the nearly 50 silent auction items that greeted you at the door as you entered the Danté Club for the 21st Annual Crab Feed.



Of course, you can't bid on fabulous prizes without bid numbers, which Chamber members were more than happy to assign. Sold!



Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno, right, and her guest were eager for the crab to arrive.



Of course, the star of the show, was pan after pan of delicious crab, combined with salad and bread and pasta and desert Win, win, win!.

## Enough is Enough! Madera Noise Complaint Crackdown

By Randy Bailey

If noisy neighbors in the Ranchos have been a problem for you, Madera County thinks it has a solution: increasing penalties of the current noise ordinance.

Madera County Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff said, "We recognize a deficiency within the system, and this is a lot more effec-

tive." That new law gives deputies the ability to not only ticket offenders on the spot, they can now give out multiple tickets per night.

"The first time we write a ticket will be \$500," said Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue. "The second one \$750, and a third one \$1,000. And every one after that is \$1,000 per occurrence, per the time we're coming out

there." And another tool in the kit? If the homeowners do not pay the fines, the County can place a lien on the property.

Sheriff Pogue says the Sheriff's Department receives about 100 to 200 complaints about noise each month, with many coming from the Ranchos. The previous no-noise ordinance was basically a slap on the wrist. Deputies would tell noisemakers to turn it down and would write up a report if they didn't comply. Pogue said that weekly reports were sent to code enforcement, leading to some type of mailed out citation for the homeowners.

The new laws change that,

Not only are multiple tickets being handed out at the time of the infraction, the law is from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. and if you continue to break the law, deputies could even take away your sound system.

"It's classified now as a misdemeanor, which could allow us to seize evidence," Pogue said.

The updated ordinance will take effect in mid-April.



## Road Charge Tax?

By California Political Review

As more drivers turn to zero-emissions vehicles, which don't have to pay anything at the pump, California's gas tax could soon be a thing of the past.

The state is exploring implementing a California Road Charge, which would replace the gas tax with a mileage-based user fee for drivers who use the roads. Essentially, charging by the mile instead of the tank.

California's gas tax is currently about 59 cents per gallon, the country's highest rate. It generates millions of dollars to fund road repairs across the state. According to Caltrans, Californians with gas-powered vehicles pay about \$300 a year in state gas taxes. But with a rise in electric vehicles, lawmakers are worried it won't generate enough money.

Caltrans officials launched a pilot program in August of 2024 to test the road charge system. It concluded in January. The results of the program are expected to be released later this year.

Motor fuel taxes are the largest source of transportation revenue for states, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers' most recent report on state expenditures. But the money they bring in has fallen: Gas taxes raised 41 percent of transportation revenue in fiscal year 2016, compared with roughly 36 percent in fiscal year 2024, the group found.

### Letters

Dear Editor:

I just received your paper and your front page picture is despicable. It's horrible. Do you think everybody here is on drugs or gangs? Please. There are decent people here that really don't care for this. Bye. It's a shame.

Maria Silveira  
Madera Ranchos

**SAY YOU  
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*the Independent*

## WHEN IT COMES TO WATER, THE DAYS OF BEING "LEFT ALONE" ARE OVER!

California farmers are facing unprecedented challenges. Decisions made by officials at all levels can have severe consequences for us all. The California United Water Coalition is working hard on behalf of its members. It is especially important for growers who are interested in the future of the industry to band together immediately.

For those interested in the latest on coalition activity, please join us at our regular morning coffee meetings at IHOP restaurant at 2201 W. Cleveland Ave. in Madera. Our meetings start at 7 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. These meetings are open to community members.

**PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE ON THE EXCITING ACTIVITIES THE COALITION IS ENGAGED IN FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBERS. INCLUDED ARE SECURING A WATER SUPPLY FOR OUR MEMBERS, STOPPING GOVERNMENT OVERREACH, AND PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THE COUNTY'S NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY.**



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### *Kiwanis Korner*

## Kiwanis Pick is Cooperstown Bound

*By Sally Rowden*

In February, we welcomed and celebrated Indie Strickland by monetarily supporting his attendance to the Cooperstown Baseball World Tournament in New York. By maintaining his school grades and baseball accomplishments, Indie is highly honored to be a recipient to attend Cooperstown. His positive presentation at our Kiwanis Meeting in February was his first attempt at public speaking and it was well presented and received. Congratulations to Indie.

Also in February, the winning ticket for our Valentine's Limo raffle was announced. Congratulations to April Bates. On Friday, Feb. 7 at our local Pizza Factory, her winning ticket was drawn. April, along with five other family members and friends, enjoyed the limo ride on Valentine's Day. A sweet treat for these five.

The Crab Feed with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce on March 7 was very enjoyable and the Kiwanis were the servers for the crab event. As the guests were enjoying their meal, the live auction was in high gear. The Kiwanis gives huge thanks to the Chamber for giving us the opportunity to be part of this welcoming community event.

Other events we are working on include our Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair booth taking place on May 17. We are well into the planning stages under the leadership of Kiwanis Chairperson Katie Harr. This will be a fun-filled local event with a parade and vendors at Liberty High School. Save the date.

Our Liberty High School – John Minney – Senior Scholarship Fundraising project is underway. This project is being led by Kiwanis Chairperson Andrea Pille. This is open to all Liberty High School seniors seeking scholarships to support their future college endeavors. Contact the Liberty High School Business Office to receive information in obtaining a scholarship application. The scholarships will be awarded toward the end of May.

The Middle School - Hope of America Awards and the Elementary Schools – Character Counts Awards are also in the planning stages under

the direction of Kiwanis President Richard Wayne. Plus, we will be helping the Clovis Kiwanis with lunches for the Special Olympics and attending with the other Division 5 Kiwanis clubs for the Torch of Ex-



*Indie Strickland presenting his story at the February Kiwanis Meeting.*



*April Bates (left) and her friends get ready for a night of fun as the winner of our Valentine's Limo Raffle.*

cellence award presentations and dinner. This event honors community college student athletes excelling as an athlete and maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. If readers have any questions regarding any of our events or projects, please contact Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com

Just a reminder that we meet on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at Second Son Brews – 37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C at the Maywood Center. Our meeting time is 6 p.m. and all are welcome.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we're "Wishing you a pot o' gold and all the joy your heart can hold."

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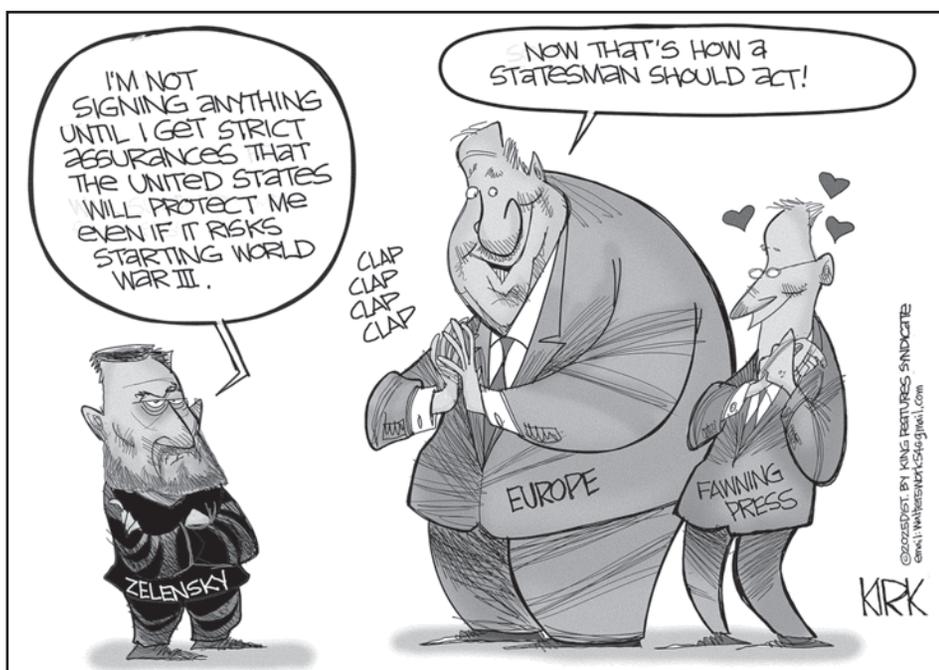
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## Guest Editorial

### Bernie, AOC "Tour" Backfiring?

By Tamira Musgrave

Former Democrat megadonor John Morgan warned that Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's "Fighting Oligarchy" tour could backfire by energizing President Donald Trump's supporters. Speaking to NewsNation's Chris Cuomo on Thursday, Morgan argued that Democrats should refrain from openly opposing the Trump administration, as it only strengthens his base.

Sanders launched his tour in February, with Ocasio-Cortez set to appear at multiple rallies. Morgan, who previously criticized Kamala Harris' 2024 campaign, echoed Democratic strategist James Carville's call for Democrats to step aside and allow Republicans to self-destruct.

"It's a mistake ... I agree with Carville," Morgan said. Carville wrote in a New York Times op-ed that De-

mocrats should "roll over and play dead," predicting Republican infighting would cause their downfall.

Morgan elaborated, stating, "Look, the new [Democratic National Committee] says this to me: They learned nothing from the last election. What they need to do, Chris, is they

*"I don't think [AOC's] going to challenge Schumer, but if she does ... already the Democratic ratings are down to 29 percent. I've never seen anything like it," Penn said. "That means the left base is with the Democratic Party and the moderates are all leaving the party. So, AOC taking on Schumer, wow, that could finish this party off."*

*Trump's approval rating, meanwhile, has surged to 47 percent, the highest of his presidency, according to the NBC News poll.*

need to do nothing. They need to let the dumpster fire rage. Let everybody suffer, fight back, push back, be against it, but at the end of the day, Carville is right. Let the dumpster burn, get a lawn chair, get some popcorn, watch it."

He further explained that Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez do more to rally Trump's base than help Democrats. "See, AOC and Bernie [galvanize] MAGA

because MAGA hates them," Morgan said. "The thing MAGA loves the most, other than what they love, they love watching them twisting and turning. They enjoy that as much as they enjoy destroying the Department of Education."

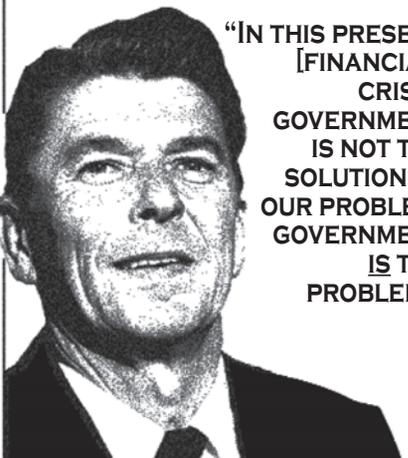
Polls released Sunday by CNN/SSRS and NBC News show Democratic favorability dropping below 30 percent. Meanwhile, former Clinton pollster Mark Penn warned that Ocasio-Cortez challenging Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in 2028 could be disastrous for the party.

"I don't think she's going to challenge Schumer, but if she does ... already the Democratic ratings are down to 29 percent. I've never seen anything like it," Penn said. "That means the left base is with the Democratic Party and the moderates are all leaving the party. So, AOC taking off Schumer, wow, that could finish this party off."

Trump's approval rating, meanwhile, has surged to 47 percent, the highest of his presidency, according to the NBC News poll.

Courtesy of AmericanFaith.com.

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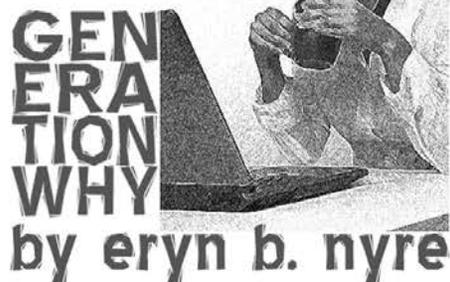


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**RONALD REAGAN**  
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

# Waste Your Own Time

It's not a secret, I have a few pet peeves that trigger dramatic eye rolls, sarcastic comments and occasionally whole articles. Wasting my time is at the top of my pet peeves list. Also at the top of the list is a lack of common decency, which would include avoiding basic hygiene habits when you must be in public. I'm also not a fan of condescension, especially when the person being condescending is wrong. Seems like a random list, except that I experienced all three at the optometrist last week.



**GENERATION WHY**  
by **eryn b. nyre**

First, let's talk about the wasting of my time. The waiting room of this optometrist's office is sprawling and could easily pack in 50 people, and pack them in they did. I showed up 15 minutes early for my appointment, checked in and took a seat to start what turned out to be a long, arduous, mind-numbing wait. I was taken back for the first time about 30 minutes after my scheduled appointment time. It wasn't to see the doctor though, it was just to have my eyeballs measured by a tech who was less excited to be there than I was. Then I was sent back to the lobby of forgotten patients where I waited for another 45 minutes.

When I was called back for the second time, it still wasn't to see the doctor. It was just the vision test and a surprise eye dilation that they didn't think to warn me about. I told the woman, as she was coming at me with eye drops, that I had to drive home. She said I shouldn't have anything to worry about, it will just make me sensitive to light and not to worry, they have dark shades for me. So, she gave me the drops and sent me back to the brightly lit lobby to wait for another 45 minutes.

To make the waiting more intolerable, there was a smell. It was overpowering and could only be described as an overflowing cat box that was left in an abandoned wing of a poorly staffed long-term care facility that was never cleaned after the evacuation. In an attempt to outrun the stench, I moved to the other side of the waiting room. Sadly, there was no escaping the feto. I thought about saying something to the front desk staff, but as they aren't allowed to forcibly bathe random citizens just because their body odor smacks you in the nostrils from 10 feet away, what good would that do?

I won't blame the staff for the smell. I can, however, blame them for the wait. Maybe not all the staff, but someone who works there was at fault. I did ask what the issue was, thinking perhaps a handful of their doctors contracted bird flu, but evidently there are only four on staff, and only three working that day. I asked why they booked so many appointments then if, at most, only four optometrists could see patients on a given day. My question was met with a look of confusion. I guess since the seats exist they might as well keep them filled regardless of the consequence to those filling them. Who cares if

*It's not a secret, I have a few pet peeves that trigger dramatic eye rolls, sarcastic comments and occasionally whole articles. Wasting my time is at the top of my pet peeves list.*

they keep you hostage for hours, if you want the privilege of seeing the doctor, this is the hoop of fire you must jump through. Don't you DARE show up late for your appointment, though. That throws off their entire schedule of sanctioned and legal kidnapping and they will charge you for wasting their time. It's more important than ours, you see.

When I finally got back to see the actual optometrist, I had an experience I have had only once before in my life. She went through my chart, saw that I was colorblind and, for some reason known only to her and Jesus, asked me if I was actually diagnosed or if I just googled my symptoms and assumed.

Ma'am. What? Why?

Are people out here just googling colorblindness and putting it in their medical charts for fun? As far as deficiencies go, it's not glamorous. It's not exciting. It's not dangerous or pity-inducing. It doesn't come with any additional accommodation or government subsidies. What would be the point?

I told her I was diagnosed as a child

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

by a doctor. She said, “Hmmm,” as though I was a kid feigning a fever because I didn’t want to go to school. She stood up and left the room for a moment, then came back with a colorblind test book and sat down ready to either diagnose me with a condition I’ve known I’ve had for my whole life, or say, “Gotcha! I knew you were lying.” As you can guess, she confirmed I am, in fact, colorblind, and proceeded to tell me how it happened and that my mom must have been colorblind as well. I didn’t argue, but what I wanted to say was, my mom wasn’t colorblind, that’s not how I ended up with the condition;

you’re both condescending and wrong at the same time, and at this point I have been here for over two and a half hours now. For the love of eyeballs can we please just get on with it.

I finally got out of there with inaccurate information about a condition I already knew I had, my eyes still dilated and extremely sensitive to the bright sun and a headache from the smell. I sat in my car for a few minutes, with the windows down just breathing in fresh, clean, untainted oxygen and thought to myself, “This is why people avoid doctors.” At least I don’t have to go back there for another two years. The smell will have dissipated by then, right?

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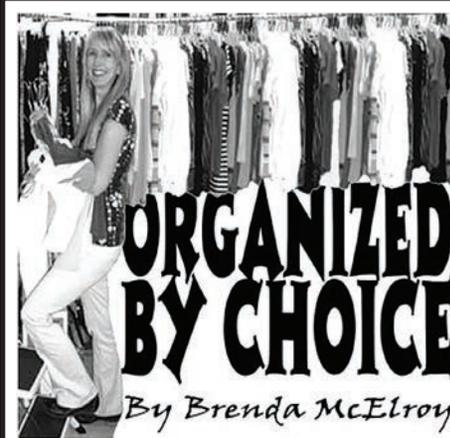
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### ‘Tis the Season

Looking out the window, I see pink blossoms indicating spring has arrived. While God restores life to the outdoors, spring is a great season to restore indoors as well. Here are three often neglected areas to consider.

**Cleaning Products** — Have you looked under your sink lately? Chances are there are more products there than used. We hear someone tout the effectiveness of a new cleaning product and order it. It gets used once or twice, or not at all, then finds its place with the other neglected products. Under the sink becomes a graveyard for sprays, sponges and fancy brushes.

Pull it all out. Place the products you’re using frequently in a portable tote or open-topped bin. If you have multiples of your favorites, place the backups in a separate bin in the back or in a garage cabinet. If under sink space is limited, relocate the seldom used items also. Share your bounty with family or friends and check with your disposal service about the proper handling of the liquids no one wants. Replace well-used brushes and sponges.

Place a motion sensor undercabinet light under the sink. It will reduce the black hole effect making it easy to find what you need and use.

**Medicine cabinet** — How easy is it to add and add and never subtract? Very. Eventually you end up with a cluttered mess that makes it hard to find

what you need. Start with a baggie for expired prescriptions, a container for recycling, a piece of scratch paper or marker and a trash bag. Remove one prescription at a time, check the expiration date and decide if it’s a keeper or a toss. If it’s a toss, remove the sticker and place it on the scratch paper to be shredded later, or mark out your personal information with a marker. Place the pills in the baggie and toss the plastic bottle in the recycling container. Do the same with expired over-the-counter pills, except for the label removing.

Most of us don’t treat our own severe injuries so keep a supply of Band-Aids but let go of the multiple packages of gauze that came home with you from your emergency room visit or surgery. Same with the bedpans, barf bags, etc.

Organize, containerize, and label what’s left into categories like meds for colds/allergies, stomach issues, pain, etc. Take the baggie of pills to your nearest police or fire station that has a pill drop-off box. Shred, recycle, and you’re done!

**Freezer** — How’s your freezer looking? Begin the restoration process by pulling things out and asking the following questions. Is the item still viable? Is there freezer burn, or layers of ice on the product? Is it something I want to eat? If it’s bread, is it better suited for the ducks? Toss anything that isn’t safe to eat. If it’s safe, but not desirable, make a bag of items to share. If it’s something you love that just got lost in the mix, make an inventory of things to use soon, and place it on the fridge. Shop your freezer instead of the store until you’ve used what you have. While everything’s out, give it a good cleaning. For deep freezers, use a hair dryer to loosen ice from the sides. Use various sizes of open-topped containers to corral categories of food and keep things neater.

Giving yourself a little breathing room in these areas will help put a “spring” in your step.

## He Has Risen Indeed!

(March 2015)

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



desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about 10 minutes. After the 10 minutes I usually test one to make sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have

found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me – if you have a method you have used, then by all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can handle them, cut

them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time

until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would make them more festive.

### The Easter Ham

As far as the ham goes, I think everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and

spoon the juice mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use 10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time. The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever your family likes.

Like so many of our meals (we have seven households coming together) there are always a lot of desserts. My sister usually makes a coconut cake, I make a pineapple upside down cake, Adam will bring a couple of his apple pies and there will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner. But she made real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!"

### Egg Dying Time

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always end up with that many. There are the one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there are always egg hunts for the kids – seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be found (until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.

Our Easter Feast is real simple – Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and

*My favorite Easter Hymn is Christ Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"*

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**Say you saw it in the Independent**

**Senior Report**

**Celebrate Spring at Senior Center Festival**

*By Melanie Williams*

This is the perfect time to prepare your garden for spring. Come to the Home and Garden Festival at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. On Saturday, April 5 the Senior Center is hosting their Home and Garden Festival from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plants will be available in the Scout Garden, along with some good advice about how to plant a beautiful spring garden.

It is the first Saturday of April, so the Treasure House will be open at the festival this year and the Senior Center is selling fundraising tickets for a themed basket filled with unique character items. The basket is being displayed in the

*... the Treasure House will be open at the festival this year and the Senior Center is selling fundraising tickets for a themed basket filled with unique character items.*

Boutique located in the main building of the Senior Center. Come on over and check it out.

Our favorite vendors are setting up booths to sell various specialty craft items and the vendors include many specialty items like potted succulents and uniquely crafted wood art for the house and yard. We have locally made olive oil for tasting, beautiful hand-crafted jewelry, crocheted baby items and baby blankets. vendors are still welcome to sign up and participate in the festival and we have spaces available if you are interested in reserving a spot. Please contact the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

The Jacinto Taco truck will be selling the "Best Tacos in the Valley, Since 1995." They have a variety

of Mexican style breakfast and lunch plates and will be open during at the Home and Garden Festival. There will be NO parking available at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on 37330 Berkshire Drive, Madera. Parking is available along Fernwood Drive, but when parking in the neighborhood, please respect the neighbors and their property. Please do not block driveways while parking vehicles.

We still need volunteer members to help on April 4th to set up tables and chairs for the festival. If you need additional information about the Home and Garden Festival, please call 559-645-4864 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Come and join us at the Home and Garden Festival at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Our monthly potluck is on Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. The Spring Fling Potluck and Game Night is our theme for April and if you are feeling the joy of the new season, wear a spring hat and bright attire for the festivities. We have a fun group activity and game night planned and any senior is welcome at our monthly potluck events. All seniors need to bring a main or side dish for eight people and their own place settings for the potluck. Homemade desserts are always welcome. If you plan to come, please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864, so we can have enough tables set up for everyone.

The Senior Center has weekly activities every

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 12

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**Crab Feed Table Sponsors**

The 21st Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed was a success thanks to special sponsors:

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<i>North Fork Rancheria</i>	<i>Red Rock</i>
<i>Hand and Stone</i>	<i>Erin Clay</i>

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Call 645-4001 for more information.

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**2025 Flatlander's Day**

Parade Day: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Group  Individual  Business

Group or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No

Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

*Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry)*

Horses (Single)  Horses (Group) Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Band/Music Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Group's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dance Group's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Children) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Adult) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Novelty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp! • Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m. • Parade route: Road 36 between Ardatth to Ave. 12 in front of Liberty High

*The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 6** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

YOU MUST TURN IN THIS FORM TO BE IN THE PARADE

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!

SENIORS cont. from P. 9

month for seniors to gather and meet other seniors in the community. Weekly activities include the Senior Exercise Classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. Card and Tables Games are every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. and the Senior Hot Lunch Program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. We are continuing to sign up seniors who want to participate in the program with a quick and easy sign up at the Senior Center.

Brown Bag Day is on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Indian Basket Weaving Class members sit and visit as they learn how to weave beautiful baskets with pine needles. The Ranchos "Basket Cases" meet on the last Tuesday each month at 9 a.m.

The members of the RH Seniors want to thank some special contributors for making the Senior Center a won-

derful gathering place for our local seniors. Tim Montgomery donated Bocce Balls and an elite Ping Pong Table to the Senior Center. Now that it is spring, we can play Lawn Bowling and Ping Pong on the back lawn area and patio.

Don Brooks and Dennis Funkner restored our decorative wrought iron and wooden benches for shaded seating in the backyard area. Scott Williams and Bill Prince replaced the wiring and lighting for the American flagpole in front of the Senior Center.

Thank you for your generous donations and talents to support our local Senior Center.

Happy Easter from the members of the Ranchos/ Hills Senior Center.

Quote for April: *"April is like a secret whispered in the woods, a hush of green and bustling life."* — Sarah L. Wildes



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• Use a strip of hook and loop tape to secure game controllers to their consoles. This way, you'll never have to go looking for one when you're ready to play.

• "Fill your sink with soapy hot water as you are cooking dinner. Your dirty pans and bowls can go right in the sink to soak. After dinner, they will be easy to wash." -- E.D. in South Carolina

• Make your stainless-steel sink sparkle by buffing it with a few drops of mineral oil and a soft rag, after a good cleaning, of course.

• "If a pocket or two on an over-the-door shoe rack has busted, it's not done being useful. You can cut remaining pockets to fit inside your bathroom cabinet. Secure at the top with screws. Place cups in a few pockets to hold cotton swabs or balls, etc." -- W.L. in Washington

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.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

	+		×	7	=	77
+		-		+		
	-		÷		=	4
×		+		×		
	+		-		=	3
=		=		=		
60		11		54		

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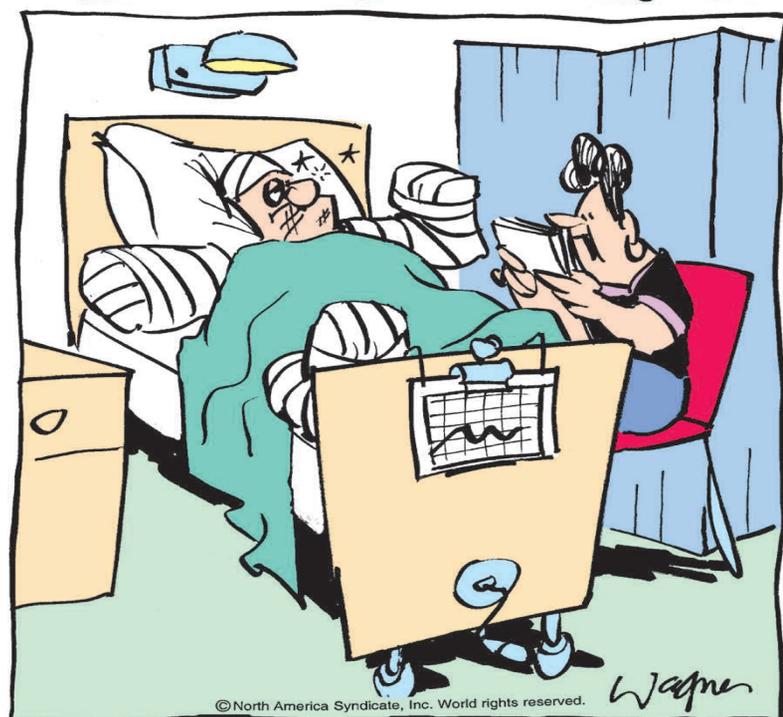
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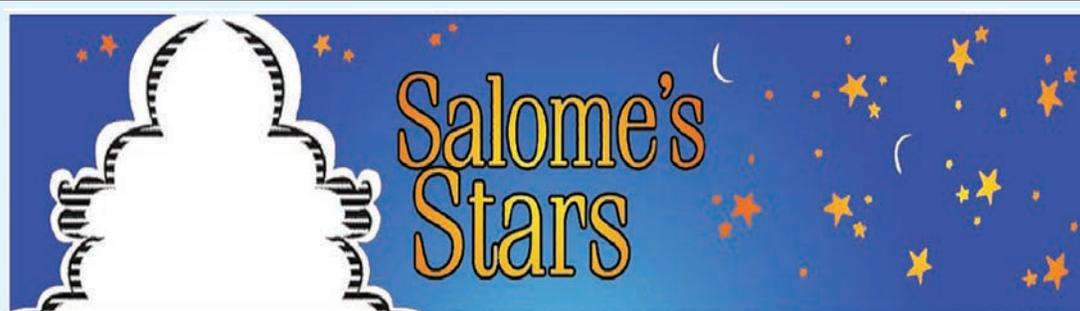
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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*



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**“Here it is in the fine print: Do not try this at home.”**



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The week promises a calmer aspect. Although there might be some lingering effects from a recent job problem, things should continue to ease up. Also expect a change in a home-based situation.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) If you feel uneasy about a colleague's suggestion, it might be that your wise inner Taurean guide is alerting you to a potential problem. Stepping away could turn out to be the right thing to do.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A family get-together opens up new opportunities for renewing ties. It can be especially effective in dealing with disagreements that should have been resolved but never fully were.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You might be surprised at the response you get to a recent decision. You might be even more surprised by the reasons behind it. In any event, you'll learn something important.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Your aspects favor resolving any tensions left over from a recent incident. You might want to consider having a "clear the air" talk as soon as you can. A call can lead to a change of plans.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across. Try changing your approach.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Good intentions plus a strong resolve to succeed can take you where you want to go. Don't give up just because someone suggests you might be pursuing an impossible cause.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected setback can be a blessing in disguise. Use it to recheck your facts and how you've presented them. Meanwhile, look for ways to expand your contacts.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You should finally be seeing a positive change in a recent personal situation. However, an on-the-job matter might need more attention than you realized. Stay with it!

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) While you should be close to completing an important matter, you still need to maintain your focus. Things will ease up in time for weekend fun with family and friends.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A certain matter might take an unexpected turn. Don't simply accept it; ask for an explanation. What you learn might be helpful in shifting the situation around to your benefit.

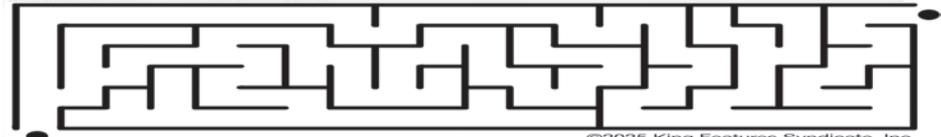
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Projecting a positive attitude helps restore calm, even when you're confronting some pretty stormy situations. Stay the course! The outcome will be well worth your efforts.

**Born this Week**

*While you enjoy tradition and stability, you also appreciate the good things that change can bring. You know how to achieve a great balance within this area of your life.*

# FUN PAGES

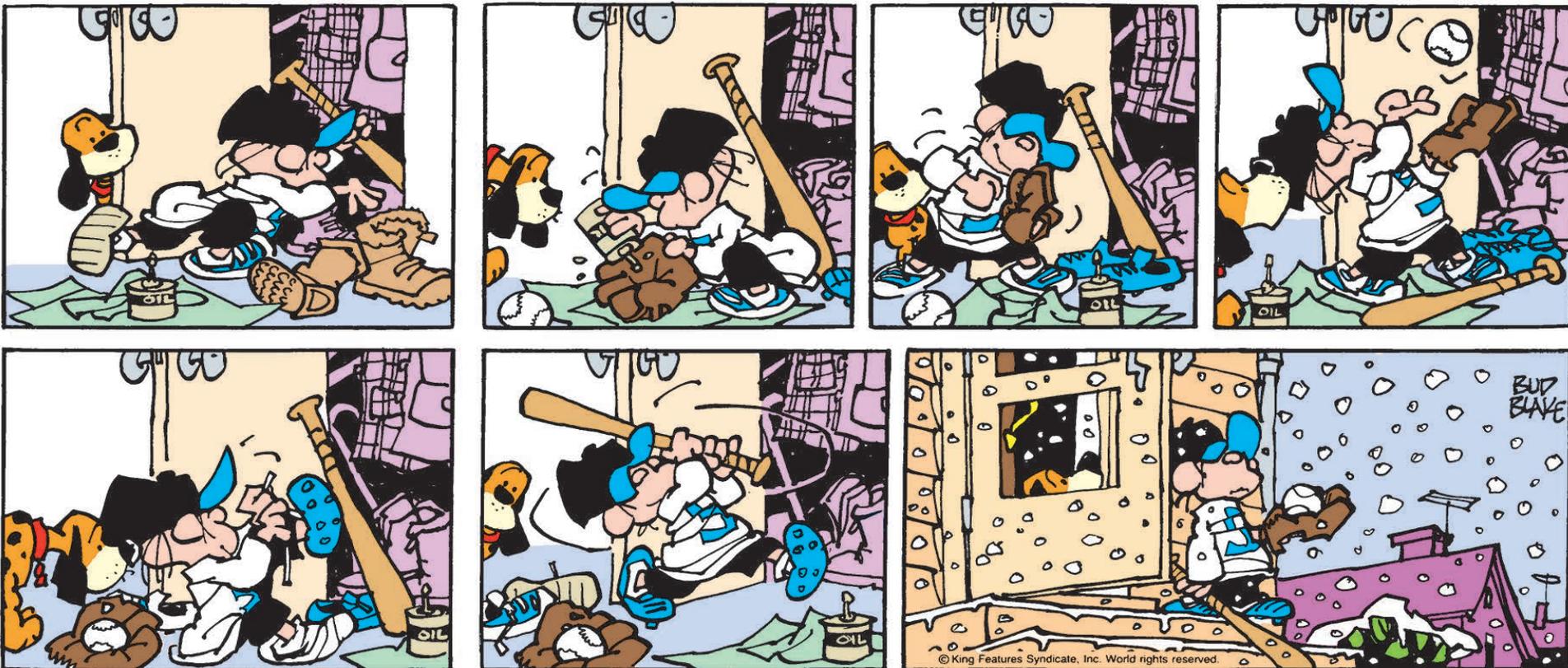
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

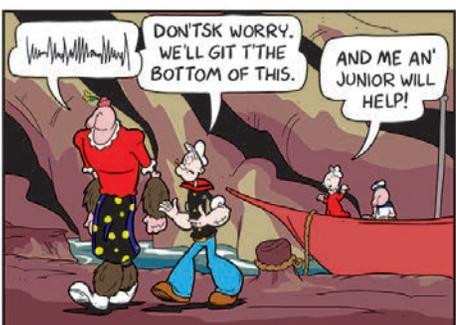
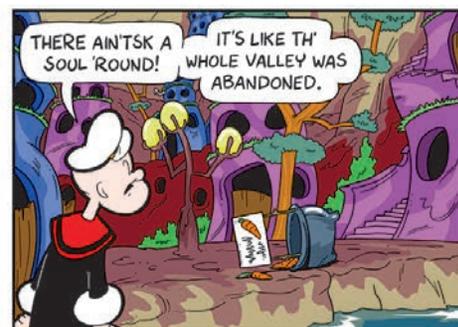
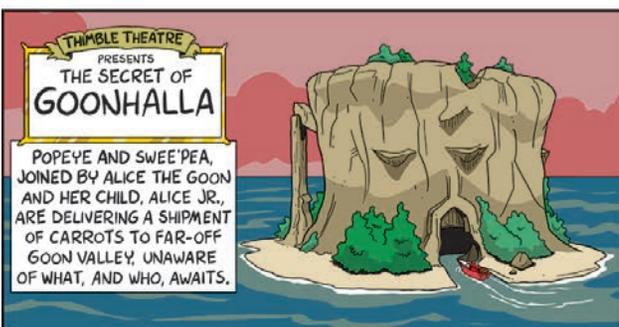
by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Who was Time Magazine's First Man of the Year in 1927? 2. **MOVIES:** Who was the male lead in the film "Risky Business"? 3. **LITERATURE:** In which novel does the character of Emma Woodhouse appear? 4. **LANGUAGE:** What does the acronym "sonar" stand for? 5. **TELEVISION:** What was the name of the Dukes' car on the show "The Dukes of Hazzard"? 6. **HISTORY:** The first atomic submarine was built in which decade? 7. **GEOGRAPHY:** What modern-day country is in the area known in ancient times as Lusitania? 8. **MEDICINE:** What disease is caused by a deficiency of Vitamin A? 9. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which U.S. president's image appeared on a dollar coin in 1971? 10. **MATH:** What does the symbol "r" stand for in geometry?



- 1. Aviator Charles Lindbergh.
- 2. Tom Cruise.
- 3. "Emma" by Jane Austen.
- 4. Sound navigation and ranging.
- 5. The General Lee.
- 6. 1950s.
- 7. Portugal.
- 8. Night blindness.
- 9. Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- 10. Radius.

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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. ID tag is reversed. 2. Clip is added to lunch box. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Stair railing is different. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Windowpanes are different.

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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## The Independent

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR MR. -

Alice	Cowboy Bob	Joey	Tommy
Aunt Sue	Gina	Margaret	Uncle Al
Barney	Henry	Martha	Walt
Ben	Hot Dog	Ruff	

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**We meet at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room - 37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library**

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