

Merced judge releases convicted child molester

... to Madera County.

After spending a third of his life behind bars and in mental hospitals for sex crimes against children, Ciro Camacho is now walking the streets of Madera County unmonitored thanks to a judge in Merced.



Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8 Classifieds • Page 20 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23



Merced Superior Court Judge Stephanie Jamieson has ruled that a man convicted of multiple sex crimes against a child no longer poses a risk, even though three court-appointed doctors strongly disagree. The man has been released to live with family in Madera County.

The man in question is Ciro Camacho, 68, who not only served time in prison, but also spent nearly 20 years at the California State Hospital in Coalinga. In 1993 he was convicted of two counts of "lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years of age" and one count of "continuous sexual abuse of a child." But those acts weren't enough to keep Judge Jamieson from releasing Camacho on May 16. She determined that Camacho

ANNVAL FLATLANDERS

could be released from the state hospital and then be on parole for the next 20 years.

Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno, in an interview with the Fresno Bee, unbelievably said it was determined that Camacho's time on parole was already completed. "This decision is directly sending a convicted

child molester back into our society with no monitoring, no accountability," Moreno said.

Camacho was committed to the California State Hospital in 2005 as the result of being determined to be a "sexually violent predator." That classification means Camacho is found to have "mental disorders that make him more likely to re-offend after release from prison." The law goes farther with perpetrators like him, authorizing "involuntary commitment."

Even though the Merced judge ruled that Camacho should no longer be classified as a "sexually violent predator," the Merced County District Attorney's Office argued against his release, saying that evidence presented from three experts believed Camacho should still be

classified as a Sexually Violent Predatorand was not safe to be released.

"To say that I'm extremely disappointed is an understatement – that [the judge] would disregard three state-appointed experts and release this dangerous individual into our community," Moreno further said.

Camacho allegedly has made an appointment with the Madera County Sheriff's Office to register his new address, as required by law. On social media last week, Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue said, "We are fully committed to enforcing all state registration requirements and keeping the public informed."

For 17 years, Camacho was involuntarily committed to the California State Hospital system. In 2006, an amendment to the state's Sexually Violent Predator Act allowed for offenders like him to be committed indefinitely instead of for renewable two-year terms.

During all those years, Camacho went through dozens of examinations and every time doctors found that he always met the conditions to be classified as a "sexually violent predator."

Until 2015.

In that year, one report out of four determined – for the first time – that Camacho "no longer met the criteria for commitment." Additionally, two of the remaining reports suggested Camacho might qualify for "conditional release in the future."

FAIR RETURNS!

California's Unemployment Tops Nation

By Elaine Mallon

A new jobs report reveals California's unemployment rate in April was 5.3 percent for the third month in a row. California possesses the highest unemployment rate in the country, with the national average being 3.9 percent. Washington, D.C. was not far behind California with an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent, and Nevada was at 5.1 percent. A year ago, California's rate was 4.5 percent — though it still ranked as the highest in the country.

Former Employment Development Department Director Michael Bernick told the Sacramento Bee that California's high unemployment rate can be attributed to small businesses struggling with higher prices and tightened consumer spending, tech layoffs that are still above pre-pandemic rates and the end of "the enormous federal and state pandemic and post-pandemic spending."



For every 140 unemployed workers, there were 100 job openings in March. Less than two years ago, there were about two job openings for every unemployed person. In the past 12 months, the number of unemployed workers reached 164,000. However, in April, employers added 5,200 nonfarm jobs to the economy. This is down from 18,200 added in March.

As the state deals with the highest unemployment rate in the nation, it is also struggling to deal with a debt of about \$21 billion incurred to help cover the costs of unemployment benefits. Employers' payroll taxes are increasing in order to cover unemployment benefits and also to cover a state surcharge and federal surtax to pay off the principal on the debt. This will just add to the burden of operating costs for businesses and lower employees' wages. However, another concern that

Please see JOBS on P. 3

Photos courtesy of Bill Whyman Who doesn't like being in a pa-Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff look-No better way to begin a parade Liberty High's marching band put an with a Boy Scout color guard. rade? Kids to grown-ups all agree. ing like something out of Robocop. on quite a musical show. Madera County D.A. Sally Moreno There was a lot of Panther Pride Even though it was a new route, it Not all of the parade participants took no time for the sidewalks to fill up. took a break from the courtroom. on the Sierra View float. vere the two-legged kind. Even God had a float thanks to The craft fair had a little bit of SEMCU rolled right through then Go to a craft fair and register to the Golden Valley Baptist Church. everything for everybody. hosted multiple events at the fair. vote. Only in America!

Click on "Local News" at

JOBS cont. from P. 2

exists is the state doesn't mandate businesses pay enough money to the unemployment insurance fund for workers in need.

Analysts suggest the state's deficit in unemployment benefits can be largely attributed to how it managed \$43.5 billion it received from the American Rescue Plan. Instead of paying off the unprecedented number of unemployment claims during the coronavirus pandemic, the state opted to use the money to provide additional stimulus checks for residents.

"California had options, and it chose the spending option instead of the responsible option," Matt Weidinger, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute told the Los Angeles Times.

California has already paid \$650 million in interest on the loan and will owe \$550 million by Sept. 30.



Marina Alper, MD Vivian Hernandez, MD John Kim, MD

Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Pharmacy, laboratory and urgent care ON SITE

Close to the Friant exit off of Freeway 41 7355 N. Palm Ave. #100 Fresno, CA 93711

(559) 271-6302

northwestpediatricmedicalgroup.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com

Madera County Debt Delinquency

Here's how many people are behind on debt payments nataionwide and specifically in Madera County.

Household debt reached a record \$17.29 trillion in the third quarter of 2023, according to the New York Federal Reserve. Excluding housing debt, the total was \$4.8 trillion, up 6.4 percent from the same period a year earlier. Delinquencies of over 90 days have been rising steadily since 2021, although they are still at low levels by historical standards.

Data from the think tank Urban Institute was analyzed to find out where people are most likely to miss their debt payments. This data shows that excluding mortgages, 26 percent of American adults were significantly late on their debt payments in February 2022. The median debt in collections totaled \$1,739, with unpaid medical bills being the most common.

The Urban Institute's numbers also show that non-white households tend to have much higher rates of default than white households and that households in less affluent counties tend to have higher debt default rates than wealthier ones. Based on the think tank's data, it is estimates that a household living in a predominantly white county with an income of \$150,000 has roughly a 13 percent chance of being seriously delinquent in its debt payments. In comparison, a household living in a predominantly non-white county with an income of \$50,000 has a 47 percent chance of having debt in collections.

Academic research from the National Bureau of Economic Research published in 2019 — using more granular data and sophisticated statistical techniques found other factors, such as a borrower's credit history and total loan balances, matter a great deal, too.

Here are the numbers specific to debt in Madera County:

25.6 percent of residents have debt in collections.-- owing a median amount of \$1,599.00

8.61 percent of residents have medical debt in collections

10.17 percent of residents have missed student loan debt in default

3.50 percent of residents are at least 60 days delinquent on their car/retail loans

3.50 percent of residents are delinquent on their credit card payments

This story features data reporting and writing by Wade Zhou and is part of a series utilizing data automation across 3,017 counties. This information originally came from Stacker.com.

Ranchos Crash, Rollover from DUI

Two people were injured following a single-vehicle rollover crash in the Madera Ranchos early Sunday morning, May 26.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the incident occurred on Avenue 12 east of Road 37 ½. Investigators said that a black 2010 Honda Civic occupied by a male driver and a female passenger was traveling westbound on Avenue 12 at a high rate of speed. The driver then reportedly lost control of the car, causing it to

overturn in a dirt field along the roadway before ultimately colliding into a private property nearby.

CHP officers confirmed that both occupants of the crashed Honda suffered minor injuries. Their names, ages, and place of origin were not disclosed at this time and there is no word yet on if anyone inside the property was hurt as a result of the collision.

The male driver of the Honda was arested for DUI.





By Betty Van Valkenburg

Have you and I gone mad, or is it everyone else?

The world's population has always, I suppose, included what's been called a "lunatic fringe." Each of us might name folks whom we know personally or from the media who lean so far left that they'll fall for anything - except common-sense conservatism. For them, up is down, men are women, women are men, rampant in-

flation is denied, government control of our lives is a political imperative, Joe Biden is so great that he deserves a *people who, unfortunately, voted in the* second term, the constitution is a worthless old document, Kamala Harris really does have a brain and on and on go the sad examples.

A popular old definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Modern left-leaning insanity includes electing obvious fools, expecting and getting nothing but chaos from them, and then defending them against any and all logical criticism so they can stay in power and continue insanely wrecking the country. In this case, who are the fools? Liberal voters get what they voted for - ultra-liberal politicians get elected, rich and powerful - and conservatives get the

are seeing the light.

shaft. Again. Case in point: In what sane country would an old fool like Joe Biden be elected dog catcher, let alone President of the United States of America?

As this column has emphasized before, it would be unfair to blame Biden himself for his senility, or whatever is the proper medical diagnosis. Mental decline is no respecter of persons and might wreak havoc on any of us or our loved ones without invitation. But good ol' Joe has never been the sharpest knife in the drawer, and his governing instincts have never leaned toward common sense or conservativism. Quite the contrary. His instincts seem always to lean toward self-aggrandizement and currying favor with the politicians of the day. To heck with individual freedom, sanity, limited government, national security and national prosperity. Whatever is good for good old Joe and his family takes precedence over what is good for the country he purports to govern.

These words and assessments may be harsh, too harsh for some. But the decline of our

country under the Democrat regimes of Joe Biden (or whoever is

The good news is that the same controlling him) and uber-liberal state and federal officials cannot latest counter-productive politicians be hidden or ignored. Something is definitely wrong when seemingly everywhere one goes,

acquaintances and/or perfect strangers pose the same desperate question: "What's going on in our country?," followed by a laundry list of problems such as the price of gas and groceries, the border invasion, crime, homeless street encampments, decline in education and more.

The good news is that the same people who, unfortunately, voted in the latest counterproductive politicians are seeing the light. Somehow, ultra-liberalism is not working to their advantage, and the problems are too big for them to ignore. Even better news is that there seems to be a decided shift toward voting for conservative, pro-America, family friendly, commonsense candidates who put country over self.

We can hope. And pray.

WE'RE ON THE WEB! Visit the Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Independent (beginning with April 2006)

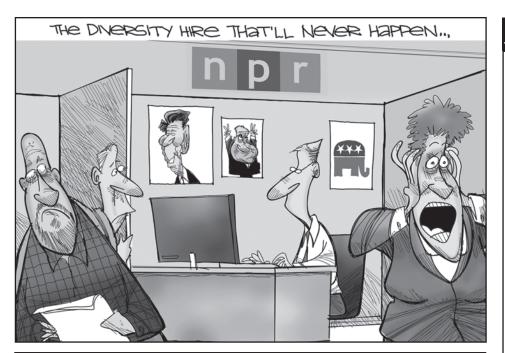
www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com How do you get free tank rent for the first year, prompt friendly service, a free initial leak test and competitive prices? You call

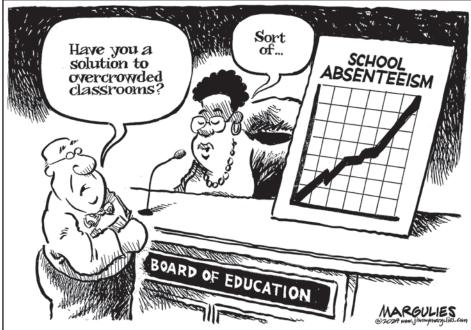
559-645-5324 the ONLY locally owned propane company in the Madera Ranchos

VALLEY PROPANE



5/24





The Independent

The Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.

All contents of this publication are copyright 2024, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636 ranchosnews@yahoo.com

Editorial

Killing with Kindness

By Randy Bailey

I read an incredible story the other day in the pages of the Fresno Bee. To be honest, I'm still trying to wrap my head around it.

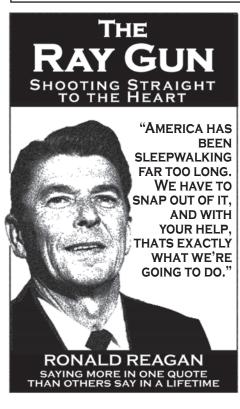
On the surface it was a story about a traffic accident. Traffic accidents happen every day and, although often sad, they're pretty much commonplace. Usually it's a fender-bender and often the police are not even called. You exchange insurance information and you go on your way, disgruntled but thankful no one was hurt.

This accident wasn't like that.

I need to let you know that I *aws are the ones who paid the i aws are the ones who paid the ones wh*

variably, when two vehicles crash into each other on public roads it's because someone — possibly *both* parties — have their head somewhere else. I don't need to tell you where. The only REAL "accident" I can imagine would be driving down the road and having your car hit by a meteorite, forcing you uncontrollably into oncoming traffic. Everything else is because someone's head wasn't in the game. Again, it was somewhere else.

The Bee story involved a 54-yearold driver from Madera and a married couple in their 60s. The couple were



members of the Mormon faith and were visiting Fresno from their home in Texas doing missionary work. The couple were sitting in their car at a red light at Highway 41 and Manning on a Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. just waiting for the light to change. Little did they know that the change that was coming was going to take their lives.

The man from Madera didn't stop as he approached the intersection. He piled into the couple's car with such force it killed the wife on the spot and the husband died the following Monday

in the hospital. What could possibly be at play that would take

possibly be at play that would take someone's head so far out of the game? Well, the CHP charged the driver with DUI.

They said his blood alcohol content was TWICE what is considered "legally drunk."

Twice.

The two people who broke no

But no one could have seen this coming, right? I mean, people make mistakes and it looks like this person had just made a terrible mistake ... or did he? Was this just a horrible turn of circumstances or was there something else, like a pattern?

The court discovered that he had been convicted of drunk driving six separate times beginning in 1997 and then again in 2005, 2006, twice in 2019 and again in 2021. A rational person would have said, "My God! He's going to kill someone!"

Well, he did.

He bears the full responsibility for his actions — which could result in 30 years to life in prison — but why did it take the death of two innocent people to finally get here? Why did the court system keep giving him another chance? And then another? And then another ...?

This should never have happened. This should have never been allowed to get this far. There is something wrong with a judicial system so intent on providing the appearance of fairness that common sense and rational thought are subjugated on the altar of "correctness." The worst part of this entire scenario? The two people who broke no laws are the ones who paid the ultimate price. Where is their justice and "another chance"?

This is the seventh Mother's Day without my mom. Though there are several dates on the calendar that can make for a difficult day, like her birthday or the anniversary of her death, it's Mother's Day that has remained the hardest for me. I think it's the buildup. Starting in April we are bombarded with reminders of the day that is coming. Every commercial, because I don't always pay for the ad-free streaming, is all about what to get mom this year. Social media feeds are filled with ideas and suggestions of what to buy her or where to take her for her special day. You can't get away from it.

I'm not always successful at it, but I try to swing my thoughts and memories to the positive and not

person is gone you can no

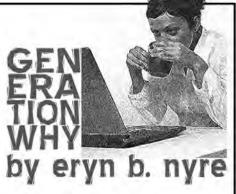
longer add to that treasure

just the pain of missing her. So that's what I am going to do today. I'm going to share a couple of positive memories I have of my

mom. They aren't specifically related to Mother's Day itself, just days I had with my mother that bring a smile to my face when I think about them.

chest.

I had flown out to New Mexico to celebrate what would turn out to be my mom's last Christmas here on earth. There was a pretty good snow that year which actually lasted a few days. We built a snowman that looked nothing like a snowman because even with a pretty good snow in ol' central New Mexico there wasn't really a ton of it. The day they took me to the airport to fly home there was still a decent layer of it on the ground. I was standing in the front yard while my dad was loading my suitcase into the truck when we heard my mom say she wanted to make a snow angel. This was not a good idea. She had some mobility issues at this point in her life and the last thing we wanted was to have to stop at the hospital on the way to the airport because she broke a hip. I think we mostly thought she was joking until he heard her holler, "Whoops," in a



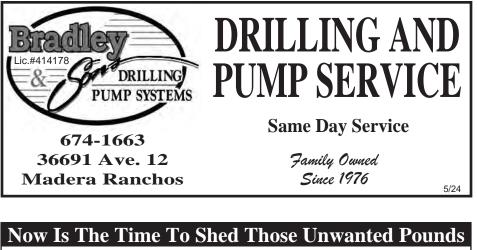
completely casual tone and then giggle like she was a child. We looked over and there she was, lying on the ground making the most enthusiastic snow angel. I recorded her and still watch it from time to time. Of course, it took both of us to help her up, and the snow angel did not survive the effort, but every single time I think of this memory I don't just smile, I

giggle at the of my image The sad fact is, once the mom finding the purest joy in such a simple act. She did that a lot.

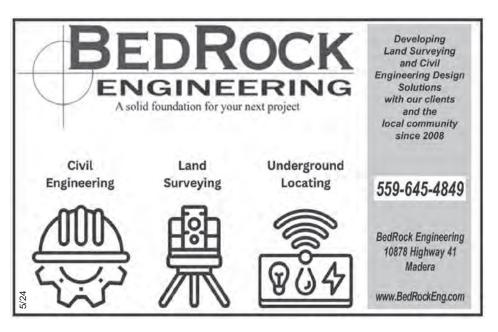
> My mother and I used to

watch Disney's "The Little Mermaid" pretty often when I was a kid. One of our favorite songs in the entire movie was the one sung by the chef chasing Sebastian around the kitchen trying to cook him. It's called, "Les Poisson," but mom and I always refer to it as the fishy song. Obviously after watching the movie a few times, I had not only the songs memorized but basically the entire dialogue in the movie. I would perform each song with the kind of flair you can imagine of an only child trying to keep her mother's attention. As an adult, after a hiatus of many years, my mom would randomly request that I sing the fishy song for her. While we were chatting on the phone, if she was watching me cook dinner, she would just get the itch and ask me to perform. All of those are fun memories, but my favorite fishy song memory took place in line for the Ariel ride at Disnevland. She had never been on this ride before and was so incredibly excited. We were packed in,

Please see GEN WHY on P. 7









GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

waiting for the line to move, when she turned to me with a wide grin spread across her face and asked me to sing the fishy song. I rolled my eyes and told her she was crazy, we were in public, and I was not about to embarrass myself like that. She was having none of it. She told me we were in the perfect place and basically begged me until I relented. So, there I was. Standing in a long line waiting to climb into a colorful giant seashell to take a voyage under the sea, and I was performing the fishy song for all to experience. My mom laughed and clapped, and I will never forget the look of excitement on her face. I wish I could have a

video of that moment. I'd watch it all the time.

One of the things losing my mom has taught me is the value of memories. Making memories is a gift. Having pictures and videos of those memories is a treasure. The sad fact is, once the person is gone you can no longer add to that treasure chest. You can open it and sift through it any time you wish. You can examine all the little gems you've acquired throughout your time together, but what's there is there and you can't add to it once they are gone. So, make sure you are filling your chests with every memory you can so one day, when your loved ones are gone, you can sift through the treasure of all the moments you had with them.



Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

www.TheRanchos.com www.TheRanchos.com



Vertical Value

closet, refrigerator, or cabi- small to medium sized cutnet and thought, "There's no ting boards. Use them in room." The floor or shelf is your pantry for a breathcovered with stuff, so it ap- able, space-saving way to pears full. What you might store potatoes and onions. be missing is the space hid- Place one under the bathing in plain sight. The space room sink for curling irons between the stuff and the and wands. next shelf or the ceiling

above it. The = space on the wall or be-We tend to have hind a door. complicated relationship The vertical with vertical space. space.

We tend

have a to complicated with vertical space. Kids kids' papers and artwork beg for bunk beds and then that comes want them un-bunked. We school. want big houses on small lots but don't want to climb Holders - Get your bills, instairs. These tips highlight vitations, menus, calendars the versatile value of verti- and other mail off your desk cal space.

Adjustable Shelves These are the best! Maxi- holder. mize your space by adjusting your shelves so you're limited space wisely. Go up not seeing a large gap be- the wall with an over the tween your stuff and the toilet cabinet, or a tall, narshelf above it. Keep the row floor cabinet to store space you need to comfortably retrieve and put back your bathroom countertops items and then close the gap and store your everyday use by moving the next shelf items on an acrylic organdown. More shelves will be izer shelf that mounts to the within reach as they are ad- wall. Use stackable slidejusted downward. If you end out under sink baskets or up with a large gap at the top, consider adding another shelf.

Free-standing Organizers - If your cabi- tach to or hang from cabinet net shelves don't adjust, or pantry doors. Place your close the gap by adding free-standing shelf organ-

izers. Some are stackable and others expand for wide cabinets. They're great for kitchens, pantries, bathrooms, closets, etc. They double the usable space without having to stack items on top of each other.

Magazine Holders - Attach a metal mesh or wire magazine holder to the inside of a kitchen cabinet door or pantry wall to store plastic wrap, tin foil, wax paper, etc. They're also Have you looked into a great for vertically storing

> Decorative or acrylic

magazine holders are a great for vertically storing craft paper, color. i n g books, extra school

relationship supplies like notebooks and home from

> Wall Mount Magazine or counter and into folders in a wall mount magazine

> Bathroom Storage - Use bathroom essentials. Clear plastic stackable drawers.

Wall Mount Spice Rack -Create space with wall Shelf mount spice racks that at-

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 17

Duke's Mixture

(May 2014)

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.

This article is going to be sort of a "Duke's Mixture" of recipes. No theme, no rhyme or reason, just recipes. A couple of them have been given to me and the rest are recipe – If you like a special fruit, just ones that interested me.

Have you ever wondered where the phrase "Duke's Mixture" came from? Dog lovers may think it is from a dog – as a mongrel. Then others think it might be from your can be cooked in one dish. Just add fists, as "put up your dukes." Then there is another theory that it originated when King George V's butler spilled several containers of tea

Ι

and swept it all up into one container and the "Duke" approved of the brewed it actually comes from tobacco. A man by the name of Washington

Duke owned a tobacco company in Durham, North Carolina. His first cheese tobacco was mixed, ground and bagged and labeled "Duke's Mix- tional) ture."

With summer coming on and to taste. fresh fruit more available - and with the heat we have been having, doesn't a frozen yogurt pop sound good? - this is a fun recipe with which that the kids could help.

Fresh Fruit Frozen Yogurt

2 (6 oz. each) containers 99% fat free vanilla yogurt.

2 C cut up fresh fruit (Your choice - cherries, grapes, blueberries, bananas, peaches, or raspberries)

1 T Honey

Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth. If you don't have the molds specifically for pops, you can use paper cups. Pour the mixture into six 6 oz. paper cups. Cover firmly with foil,



inserting a craft stick in the middle of each cup. If you don't have any sticks, how about using a plastic spoon or fork? Freeze until frozen, about 6 hours. When ready to eat, if difficult to remove from cup, dip bottom of cup in warm water (NOT hot) for just a couple of seconds and it should come right out.

Use your imagination with this use that yogurt - blueberries with blueberry yogurt; strawberries with strawberry, pineapple with pineapple, etc. - Have fun!

I love stews and casseroles that a green salad and maybe some crusty French bread and you have dinner.

> Sour Cream Noodle Casserole 1 ¹⁄₄ 1b. ground chuck

love stews and can tomato sauce casseroles that can be tea. None of cooked in one dish. Just add these are correct a green salad and maybe ground some crusty French bread pepper and you have dinner.

black 8 oz. package

¹/₂ tsp. salt

1 - 15 oz.

Freshly

egg noodles ¹/₂ C. sour cream

1 ¹/₄ C. small curd cottage

Pinch red pepper flakes (op-

¹/₂ C. sliced green onions – or

1 C. grated sharp cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350

Brown the ground chuck in a large skillet. Drain the fat then add the tomato sauce, 1/2 tsp. salt and plenty of pepper. Stir and simmer while preparing rest of ingredients. Cook the noodles in salted water until al dente. Drain and set aside. In a medium bowl mix the sour cream and cottage cheese. Add some black pepper and the red pepper flakes. Add this mixture to the noodles, add the green onions and stir.

In the bottom of the baking dish pour half of the noodles, pour on half of meat mixture and top with half of the cheddar cheese. juice Top with the noodles, the rest of the meat mixture and then the rest ries, sliced of the cheese. Bake until the cheese is melted and bubbly about 20 minutes.

I love fruit salads, but it seems like we only have them at Thanksgiving. With the fresh fruits coming on the market, what's wrong mix yogurt, mayonnaise, orange with having one now?

Summer Fruit Salad

1 C 99% Fat Free yogurt 1 T. Mayonnaise or salad dressing

¹/₄ tsp. grated orange peel

2 T. fresh squeezed orange

CALL FOR AN INSPECTION TODAY!

ALLIED RODENT CONTROL · 312-5441

1 pint (about 2 cups) strawber-

1 kiwifruit, peeled cut up

1 small bunch green grapes cut in half

1 can (11 oz.) mandarin orange segments, drained

In large glass or plastic bowl, peel and orange juice. Gently stir the fruit into the yogurt mix. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour - but no longer than 4 hours.

Any fresh fruit can be used in

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 17



SAW IT IN the Independent

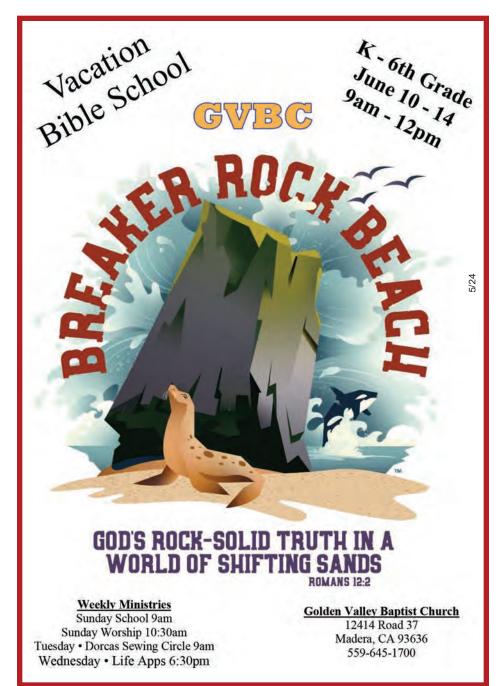
Click on "Local News" at

5/24



Domestic Well, Agriculture Well Airlifting, Well Brushing, Swabbing Well Rehabilition, Test Hole

559-307-9720 or 559-351-9624



say you saw it in the Independent

www.The Ranchos.com





Claudia Fletcher June 24, 1948 -- May 9, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Claudia Fletcher, a beloved artist, muralist and friend, who left us on May 9, 2024 in Fresno.

Born on June 24, 1948, in Madera, Claudia's life was a vibrant tapestry woven with creativity, joy and boundless generosity. Claudia's artistic journey was one of remarkable talent and diverse expression. She was renowned for her murals, portraits, motorcycle art and monument art. For over 30 years, Claudia was the creative force behind the iconic Clovis Rodeo posters, a testament to her enduring legacy in that community.

Beyond her artistic achievements, Claudia was a friend to many, known for her warmth and infectious humor. She always had a joke to share, brightening the days of those around her. Her favorite farewell, "love, hugs and blessings," encapsulates the spirit with which she touched so many lives.

Another passion of Claudia's was ballroom dancing. It was through the Central California Big Band Dance Society in 2004 that she met a kindred spirit in Jim Bailey. What started out as a dance partner blossomed into a life partner over the next 20 years. Every Sunday, until the aches and pains of growing older caught up with them, Claudia and Jim were ballroom dancing.

Although she didn't compete professionally, she was an accomplished horsewoman specializing in riding cutting horses. She had her own horse and loved riding it.

In addition to being in charge of the poster artwork for the Clovis Rodeo for the last 30 years, Claudia was an established commercial artist doing graphic design for advertising agencies and also owned a Madera sign company. At the same time, she was racking up first and second place awards in art shows throughout the Valley.

Claudia's artistry and friendship have left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who knew her. In remembering her, celebrate the joy and beauty she brought into the world. Her legacy will continue to inspire and bring smiles to all who knew her.

"She was known by her giggle," Jim Bailey remembered. "Whenever you talked to her, there was a laugh."

Love, hugs and blessings, Claudia. You will be dearly and sorely missed.

A memorial service is planned for Sunday, June 9 at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds at 1 p.m. The address is 748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis.



Senior Report

Summer Fun Coming to Center

By Melanie Williams

Summer is just around the corner. The Scout Garden has many new plants for the Monthly Sale on June 1 and new donations are coming in regularly from a local warehouse that has tremendously increased our inventory of garden plants. We invite you to come out on June 1 from 8 a.m. to noon and visit our Scout Garden, Treasure House and Boutique. Our volunteers will be happy to answer questions and guide you to what items you might be looking for at our Saturday Monthly Sale. We appreciate the continued support from the Ranchos community for our local

Senior Center.

The June calendar is filled with regular weekly activities for every senior in the com-

munity to enjoy. You don't have to be a member of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center to enjoy these weekly activities and events.

The Senior Exercise Class keeps growing with enthusiasm to build endurance and fitness

Wednesday and Fri-

on

Monday,

and

Basket

the

Terry



Congratulations to Melanie Williams, who received the Mother's Day Basket from the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Fundraiser.



The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Birthday Celebration group. was held at Slim Dilly Dogs in the Madera Ranchos.

chos/Hills Basket Cases and is taking the teaching role for any senior who wishes to learn about weaving pine-needle baskets. She has such skill and patience for those who are willing to learn. The Basket Cases meet on the last Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Senior Hot Lunch Program is every weekday from 11:30

Please see SENIORS on P. 17

Killingsworth is the

leader of the Ran-

Beaston Construction Inc.

General Contractor

LIC #923095

Commercial • Residential • Custom Remodel **Steel Buildings** • Fire Restoration

Ken Beaston Cell 559-217-8811 BeastonConstructionInc@gmail.com

THE

PRINTING	PACKING
SHIPPING	RETURNS
MAILBOXES	COPYING
NOTARY*	SHREDDING**

STORE

Now Open UPS THE UPS STORE be unstoppable

113 Riverwalk Blvd S 41 E, Madera, CA 93636 559.375.1060 store7714@theupsstore.com theupsstore.com/7714

Hours:	
Mon – Fri	8:30
Sat	9:00
Sun	10:00

AM - 6:30 PM AM - 5:00 PM AM - 3:00 PM

*Services unavailable or limited at some locations. **Visit theupsstore.com/shredding for details. The UPS Store® locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of The UPS Store, Inc. (although one or more may be company owned) in the USA and by its master licensee and its franchisees in Canada. Products, services, prices and hours of operation may vary by location. Copyright © 2024 The UPS Store, Inc. All rights reserved. 00_242372052224



5/24

Sierra Shadows 4-H

By Mikayla Carr

This month our members were chillin' at the Chowchilla Fair. Sierra Shadows 4-H members entered their animals for showmanship and their still exhibits, such as art or baked goods. They had a chance to win a ribbon or sometimes even money.

The Sierra Shadows 4-H club would like to congratulate the following members: Lucy Lee, Western High Points Award for her horse; Starla Sisil, 5th overall in Showmanship Of Meat Goats; Artemus Arsenault, Olivia Arsentault and Brooke Davis, 4-H Champion Meat Pen For Poultry; Landon Davis, 3rd in Showmanship For Poultry; Jakob Biesenthal, Abbi Rosier and Emily Rosier for Rabbits; Diesel Dahlem, Landon Davis and Eli Garcia, for Swine; Sienna Garcia, Reserve Champion



www.The Ranchos.com

Light Cross for Swine; Madison Grant, 4-H Happenings Champion Light Cross and 4th Place in Junior Showmanship for Swine; Micah Lee, for Swine; Taylor Ward, Pen of 3-3rd Place Overall for Swine; Lane Bower, for Goat Showmanship; Paisley Bower, 4th Overall for Goat Showmanship; Braxton Davis, Goat Showmanship; Lane and Paisley Bower, for



Sierra Shadows 2023-2024

make sure that the 4-H meetings

run smoothly and no one gets into trouble. The Sergeant at Arms is

Floral, Baking and Still Exhibits; Annelise Crandall, Best of Show in Floral; Jamey Crandall, Braxton Davis, Brooke Davis and Landon Davis, for Floral, Baking and Still Exhibits. Wow, way to go Sierra Shadows!



All of the Sierra Shadows 4-H members that participated at the Chowchilla Fair.

a big job and the club is sure happy to have her.

By Sarah Morgan

To end this article, is the unexpected quote of the month by Mark Twain: "Kindness is the language of which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Golden Oak 4-H

On Saturday, May 25, six Golden Oak 4-H members attended the California State 4-H Field Day. Wyatt and Sarah Morgan both qualified for the State Presentation Day Contest. Wyatt had an Informed Prepared Speech titled The Story of

the Luxury Liner. He received a platinum star, the highest score you can receive. Sarah Morgan had her Informed Prepared Speech titled California's Golden Tree and she also received a platinum star. Hunter Williams-Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith attended State Field Day competing in Forestry, Insect Identification and Plant Science. Both boys did very well in their contests. Iris Garzon and Elizabeth Morgan, two of our Cloverbud members, were also able to participate in the Plant Science and Insect Identification contests. They also had a lot of fun checking out all of the different achappening at the same time.



Golden Oak 4-H members, from left, Elizabeth Morgan, Iris Garzon, Griffin Williamstivities and booths at the expo show Smith, Hunter Williams-Smith, Wyatt Morgan, and Sarah Morgan.

This was the last major activity

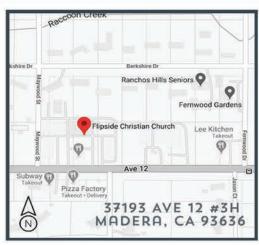
for Golden Oak 4-H before the end of the 2024 program year. If you are interested in learning more about 4-H and all of the wonderful activities offered, you can reach out to the Community Club Leader's, Monique Morgan and Jennifer Williams-Garzon at 4hgoldenoak@gmail.com. The club will be starting its new year on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024 at the Ranchos Public Library at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on Wednesday, June 12 and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001. 5/24

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local





SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9 & 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE JR HIGH 2ND SERVICE

YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE JR HIGH | WEDNESDAY MORNINGS HIGH SCHOOL | SUNDAY EVENINGS FOLLOW ONLINE TO SEE ALL EVENTS AND TIMES

SEE YOU SUNDAY!



www.The Ranchos.com



By Verlaine Elinburg

The Reemergence of the Flatlanders Day Parade

Just as in every past year, the Flatlanders Day Parade in 2023 was sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. A lot of work goes into setting up the parade and accompanying fair. Due to a lack of volunteer participation that left the Chamber's staff overwhelmed that year, a decision was made by a majority of the Chamber's board members to cancel the 2023 parade and fair after many years of bringing joy to our community. For 2024 the board voted to bring the parade and fair back, with the understanding that it is up to our community to step up and participate in any way it can to help meet the challenges. If we want to live in a vibrant community, we should pitch in and take the right steps leading to that goal.

To that end, the Flatlander's Parade reemerged with a new collaboration between Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Liberty High School and SEMCU. Mike Fursman, the vice president of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, spearheaded the event. To overcome the Avenue 12 traffic concerns, a new route was established with the help of Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff and Liberty High School. SEMCU donated \$1,300 toward the event's

expenses such as permits, insurance, advertising and kiteflying prizes. Mike Fursman and Ollia Ridge of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce managed the parade's entries and lineup, as well as coordinating the participation of the vendors and food court.

The new parade

route took place along Road 36 beginning at Ardeth, moving south to end up within Liberty High School's grounds. A fair with festivities, food, music and arts & crafts booths was held at the end of the parade route within the Liberty High School grounds.

SEMCU also held a hugely successful

fund-raising yard sale at the fair, with the funds collected going to benefit the schools, Senior Center, and U.S. Veterans.

SEMCU sponsored what we hope to be an annual event of a Kite Flying Contest at the back grass field of Liberty High School, with three winners who received prizes for the "best flyers" and best "innovative kites." First prize was \$150, second

> prize \$100 and third prize \$50. The public attended and it was a great family event with a lot of happy faces.

As part of it all, SEMCU embarked on a spring-cleaning mission with a twist. The goal was simple: to turn the community's unused items into hope for our com-

munity's needs through a yard sale fundraiser. The response was overwhelming, with donations pouring in - big and small - each carrying the warmth of the giver's heart. The spirit of giving was palpable as the community rallied together, eager to support a noble cause. From exercise and yard equipment, cooking and table

service items, antique vases to children's toys, clothing, books - the array of items reflected the diverse tapestry of our generous donors. It was a testament to the belief that every little bit counts and that together, we can make a significant impact. We are grateful for the incredible support and the willingness to give. It is this spirit that fuels SEMCU's mission and drives us to improve our journey to be there for the Community and its needs. Thank you all again for your generous support.

SEMCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeastern Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools, future parks and energy.SEMCU meets for one hour once per month on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We know everyone's time is valuable, so we try to keep it all simple. We meet at the Madera Ranchos Library (37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos), and you may also join us online. To join online, go to: www.semcu.org for the link and simple instructions, or if you prefer to call in, dial 669-900-6833 and enter ID# 83632424343, followed with the access code 854221.

SEMCU is "By the Community, For the Community"





WE'RE B ONHBI

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

www.TheRanchos.com



If you've been involved in a wreck, you know there's nothing worse. Will your car be like it was? Will it cost an arm and a leg to fix? Will it take forever? Call Caesar Dents. Estimates are always free, the work is impeccable and the price just might surprise you.





Turning On Your Lights Shouldn't Break The Bank

Stop feeling trapped by your utility company and their ever increasing rates

• Fixed Monthly Costs - Remove the fear of unpredictable energy costs with a consistent, monthly solar bill that you set!

• *Transparent Billing* - Stop paying outrageous hidden fees dumped on you by your utility company and only pay for the energy you use.

• More money for the things you love - Been putting off that beach house vacation or Caribbean cruise? With solar savings of up to 40%, you can afford the retreat you deserve.





\$1,200 average first year savings • 5 Star rating on Google • Kuubix Master Dealer • FREE Estimate

5/24

www.The Ranchos.com

Kiwanis Korner Many Kiwanis Ranchos Projects

By Sally Rowden

The Kiwanis Club of the Madera Ranchos has many projects continuing through this month. The John Minney – Liberty High School – Scholarship Awards and Fundraiser is still underway. Along with the Kiwanis Hope of America Awards at the Ranchos Middle School and the Character Counts Bicycle Giveaways at our three elementary schools – Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster. All recipients will be highlighted in next month's June issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Of course, like many of you, Flatlander's Day Parade and Faire activities for

mid-May were underway. We will report on this family-community event in

our June article. Always great local fun.

fieldtrip visits to Storyland at the end of May. A great opportunity for the stu-

dents to see nursery rhythm literature in action while experiencing the outdoors. Two events we were involved in during mid-April and the beginning of

May were the Torch of Excellence and

the Webster Elementary School Carni-

val. The Kiwanis Torch of Excellence is

an event partnered between the State

Center Community College Districts and

@ranchoskiwanis

venmo

We are also sponsoring Webster Elementary T/K (Transitional Kindergarten) and Kindergarten classrooms in



While Kiwanis Past President Ollia Ridge, left, watches with her granddaughter Alisa, a Webster student expresses his "Spinfor-a-Prize" excitement.

the Kiwanis Clubs of District 5. Student athlete's academic achievements are celebrated along with their athletic achievements. All the attending students were highly grateful for an evening of well-deserved acknowledgements.

The Webster Elementary School Carnival was a fun-filled event. We offered a "Spin-For-A-Prize" booth that the students highly enjoyed. Both events are exactly what the Kiwanis is all about: KIDS.

We're still looking for folks to help us with our Kiwanis Club name change. With the community growth in eastern Madera County, we would like to see our name be a representation of all. Send your email suggestions to: rowdensally2@gmail.com

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." - Helen Keller

www.RanchosKiwanis.com



Real Estate



Thinking of buying or selling a home? Don't know where to start? Call or contact us.

WE GOT YOU!

KF

When you're ready.

The best time to

buy a house?

And when you're ready

WE GOT YOU!

REALTOR ® • DRE 02136161

Click on "Local News" at

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

the Senior Center in the mornings and would be happy to sign you up for lunch. You are welcome to drop by the Senior Center any weekday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick up a June Newsletter and calendar for all the activities happening at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Art Groove Gallery at River Park in Fresno hosts senior activities every Wednesday of each month. Melanie Glass is the coordinator of the Art Groove Gallery. You can attend the free Senior Paint Class on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. She also hosts free senior activities on Wednesdays each month like Senior Bingo and Jewelry Crafting classes. If you sign in with your email, Melanie will send you the activities and projects for each senior activity every month. Times for the free senior classes vary. You can also call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 for more information about the Art Groove Gallery at River Park.

Game Night is on June 13 at 5 trembling again, and a new p.m. We encourage seniors who summer is offered me." wish to meet some of our mem- Henry David Thoreau

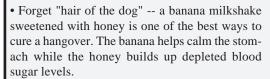
bers at the Senior Center to come and bring a dish or a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jaime is at dessert to our potluck. Enjoy a night of fun and games with other seniors in the community. You can call the Senior Center for more details at 559-645-4864.

> The Odd Fellows Breakfast is on Sunday, June 16 at the Odd Fellows Hall on Road 28 and Ave 15 in Madera. Enjoy a wonderful home-cooked breakfast for \$9 from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

> Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, June 19. If you are on the Madera Food Bank list, vou can pick up vour Brown Bag from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We can only distribute Brown Bags to seniors that have signed up with the Madera County Food Bank. Applications are available at the Senior Center for participation in the Brown Bag distribution.

> Happy Flag Day on June 14 and happy celebrations for Juneteenth on June 19, which commemorates the end of slavery.

Quote for June: "This is June, the month of grass and The Flag Day Potluck and leaves. Already the aspens are



• If you sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry, anyone who places a sales call to your number can be fined up to \$40,654 per call.

• Asian hair grows 30% faster than Caucasian hair.

• The rainbow eucalyptus tree sheds strips of bark as it grows, revealing a green inner layer that changes color over time, taking on vibrant blue, purple and orange hues.

• Java junkies, did you know that when coffee spread from Arabia to Europe, some people called it a "Muslim drink" and wanted it banned? Fortunately, it became widely accepted when the Pope tried a cup and liked it enough to declare it a Christian beverage.

· Japanese scientists successfully created an MRI machine that can record dreams and reconstruct them for you to watch while you're awake.

• In 1818, the U.S. began building a fort near the New York-Quebec border to defend against invasions from Canada. After two years they realized the fort was actually on the Canadian side. The abandoned project was appropriately named Fort Blunder.

• Ever wonder if you have a doppelganger? Head on over to Twinstrangers.com, where you can register to find your lookalike from anywhere in the world by uploading photos, selecting your facial features, and looking through matches.

Thought for the Day: "A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can *learn from a wise answer."* -- Bruce Lee

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

RECIPES cont. from P. 8

this salad other than the ones listed. Whatever is fresh or what your family likes. Different colmelons that are ripe.

The next recipe is for my vegan readers. I have never eaten kale, but from what I have seen on the cooking shows on television, it is certainly a popular vegetable. I've ened seen it prepared just about every way possible. Baked Kale chips, sautéed, steamed like spinach, or added to stews and soups, and this ucts. one for Pesto:

Kale Pesto Pasta

1 Box (14 oz.) uncooked multi- cocoa grain or whole-grain rotini or rotelle pasta

1 bunch (about 8 oz.) fresh kale, ribs removed - should be about 8 cups

1 C packed fresh basil leaves

2 cloves garlic

2 T Olive oil

¹/₄ C reduced sodium vegetable chips (or mix them) broth

1/3 C lemon juice

¹/₄ C toasted pine nuts

1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

¹/₂ tsp. salt

¹/₄ tsp. pepper

¹/₂ C shredded Parmesan cheese Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well, reserving ¹/₄ C pasta water.

Place all remaining ingredients ing rack immediately. except cheese in a food processor. Cover and process about 1 minute. me their recipes. I really appreci-Stopping occasionally to scrape ate them and would like to hear down the side, until smooth.

in pesto from food processor and

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

and spice packs in these eas- Add an adjustable closet ily accessible racks.

ganizer - Yes, they get your levels for hanging clothes. shoes off the floor, but they accessories, etc.

ets - If your current bedroom shelves? Whatever it is, you closets have one shelf above can search the internet and one rod, and a closet redo discover a space-saving verisn't in the budget, maximize tical way to store it.

reserved pasta water. Toss to mix. Serve immediately with the cheese sprinkled on top.

The last recipe is for my readers that are chocolate lovers. The ored grapes, peaches or any of the recipe makes about 3 dozen cookies, and are about 110 calories each

> Double Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

1 C packed brown sugar

1/2 C margarine or butter, soft-

³⁄₄ C 99% fat free creamy vanilla yogurt.

1 egg or ¹/₄ C fat free egg prod-

1 tsp. vanilla

1/3 C unsweetened baking

2/3 C all-purpose flour

2/3 C whole wheat flour

¹/₂ tsp. baking soda

¹/₄ tsp. salt

3 C old-fashioned or quickcooking oats

1/3 C miniature semisweet chocolate chips or white chocolate

Heat oven to 350. In large bowl, mix together sugar, butter, yogurt, egg and vanilla. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons (or your ice cream scoop) about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 11 to 13 minutes or until almost no indication remains when touched. Do not over-bake. Remove from cookie sheet to a cool-

Thank you to those who sent from anyone that has a favorite Return pasta to saucepan. Stir family recipe they would like to share.

the vertical space with a tall, narrow (second-hand) chest most-used seasonings, sauces of drawers or shelving unit. hanging rod that hooks to the Over the Door Pocket Or- current one to create two

Hang It - Where there's a can also store first aid sup- blank wall there's a place plies, beauty products, craft and a way to hang something. supplies, kids' socks/undies, Bikes, fishing poles, backoffice supplies, electronics, packs, purses, hats, leashes, knives, pots, etc. What's Maximize Standard Clos- cluttering your floor and



Page 18

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory



Click on "Local News" at



			71	,		9١			02	
			=			=			=]] () () () () () () () () () () () () ()
	5	; =	2		÷	ŀ	-		ç	
			×			÷			x	
	4	L =	3		-	6	+		8	
ANI			+			+			+	SILUHUHUS SILTAEBEISH
ANSWERS	6	; =	7		-	L	+	-	9	
Ē	4	9	9	6	8	3	L	2	١	CANES AFORMIDABLEFAUX KNOBS RELEASEME MONTE SGET TREAD REDOGDEN
R	F	6	L	g	5	9	1	3	8	
S	5	3	8	ŀ	7	Z	g	9	6	W I C H L O C F I I B I I B I
	Z	ŀ	6	3	9	5	8	ç	4	S T R O S N I T M A 3 T N I M A T A H W J A N I D I R O 3 H T T S I 3 G A S 2 G A S 3 G A
	3	4	5	8	ŀ	ç	9	6	L	M O R 3 3 B A N 1 U N 1 T N 1 I N 1 I N 1 I N 1 I N 1 I N 1 I N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 N 1 A 4 4 3 1 1 N 1 N 1 1 1 N 1 N 1
	8	9	S	7	Z	6	3	١	5	L O K H E E J U U L S A Y Y S A Y Y A Y Y A Y
	6	5	3	Z	5	4	٢	8	9	
	9	8	4	2	3	١	6	L	S	W H E M P O D U T S T O N E N E N F N F N F N F N F N F N N F N N F N N N N F N
	S	L	١	9	6	8	2	1	3	B A T E F B T C L O C F A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A T S A



Super Crossword 15 16 18 19 22 23 25 26 32 34 35 36 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 48 49 50 52 53 54 56 58 64 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 78 80 82 83 84 85 86 88 90 92 93 89 91 94 95 96 98 99 100 101 103 104 106 109 111 13 15 116 117 114 118 120 121 122 123 119 124 125 126 127 128 129 131 130

ACROSS 106 End of the 56 Belgian 1 Pour painter riddle drippings on James 109 See 10-Down 6 J. Edgar 57 Pro photog's 111 Best Picture Hoover's org. of 2012 camera 112 Arbor Day 9 Blocks up 58 Bamboozle 14 Sailing 60 "Pride and mo. 19 Earthy hue 113 Poker Prejudice' champion Stu 20 Arsenal for actress 115 "Ticklish" doll weapons Jennifer 22 Limericks 61 Flemina 118 Top hats' go-withs who created e.g. 120 Riddle's 23 Start of a Bond riddle 64 Shaving balm answer 25 Color 125 Old TV parts brand 67 Handheld qualities 126 Captive's 26 Draintelescope angry shout clearing 69 Riddle, part 4 127 — Carlo chemicals 75 Golden-128 "Full House" 27 Forster's coated horse actor Bob "- With a 76 "Star Wars" 129 Walk over View" princess 130 Crimson, e.g. 28 Frequently. 77 To this point 131 Limerick to a bard 78 Uganda's Idi penner Nash 30 Unadorned 79 Side in sports 81 Pewter metal DOWN 31 Brandy fruit **33** Riddle, part 2 83 Kinds 1 Cereal holder 38 Halt 88 Certain 2 In need of 40 Everyday believer in a massage worker God maybe 90 Riddle, part 5 42 Disembarked 3 Border 43 Sings 95 Marina del collies, e.g. —, California Alpine-style 4 In need of 44 "Listen up!" 97 Bucks' mates a massage, 46 Vaping 98 Car fuel mavbe device brand 99 Walk over 5 History unit 103 Trig ratio 47 Crafty 6 "M*A*S*H" 48 Riddle, part 3 104 Uses teeth actor Jamie 51 Analyze, as 105 Australian 7 Small

state: Abbr

streams

do it — will'

region

an alloy

8 "No more 45 "Rock and for me" Roll, Hoochie 9 Federal —" (1974 hit) health agcy 46 Amount of 10 With jelly or olives 47 Visit casually 109-Across. 49 Smeltery stuff Beatles song or album 50 Sammy with 11 Brand of nai 609 homers 52 Part of SASE polish 53 — -Pei 12 Start to melt 54 Additionally 13 Rod's partne 55 Polite rural assent to a 14 Liable **15** "lťs a lady shame' 16 Upper House 62 Doing the job of Congress 63 A ripe old 17 Celebrity chef age Lagasse 65 Sports draw 18 Size up 66 The way 21 Rikishi's sport things stand 24 Golfed 68 Scrams acceptably 69 Tablet since 29 "Bye 4 now" 2010 32 Pithy saying 70 Appoint 71 Livy's 552 34 Membrane enclosing a 72 Bits in fetus physics 73 Ark crafter 35 Supermodel Heidi 74 Alexander 36 — Olay (face of Reagan's cream brand. Cabinet formerly) 80 Military doc 37 Boxer Oscar 82 Match under de la the stars. 38 Additionally mavbe 39 12:00 p.m. 84 Hooting bird 41 "Either you 85 Bonn's

86 Sunbathes 87 Gumbo, e.g. 89 Horse gait 91 The last Mrs Chaplin 92 Rod's partner 93 Not, to Scots 94 Whirling 96 "Exile" New Age singer 99 Noisy kisses 100 Albanian capital 59 Singer Lovett 101 Yule drink 102 Singer Snow 103 One hanging ten 104 Ember 107 Eye-teasing paintings 108 San — Obispo, California 110 Envelop in haze 114 In the sack 116 Put in silent mode 117 Yaks, e.g. 119 Former Brit. Airways jet 121 Corrida shout 122 Stephen of "Roadkill" 123 Incensed 124 Angsty rock genre

www.The Ranchos.com

Classified

Alterations

The Ranchos' own Madlin's Alterations may have retired, but she's working with Greg's Alterations in Fresno now. Same great service and 40 years of experience. Give them a call for ALL of your alteration needs. Call Madlin at 559-301-7331.

Carpet Cleaning

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760**.

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents.

REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY! Call 559-908-9332.

Exterminator

CSI Exterminators - "If you've got a pest, call the best!" Free estimates. **Call 559-293-1779.**

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor. Repair Maintenance. 26 years working in the area. **Call 559-908-0759.**

Housecleaning

Over 40 yars of experience -References available - Lupe's

House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, moveins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up. LupePrado25@yahoo .com. Call <u>either</u> of our LOCAL numbers: 559-710-0692 or 650-771-2915.

Property Clean Up

Property clean up, landscape maintenance and tree trimming - FREE ESTIMATES. Professional and reliable. Call Eric at 559-903-3757.

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECY-CLING PICKUP - AmericanMade Direct/Kids4recycling offers free pickup of newspaper, shredded paper, all household plastic, glass, aluminum and tin cans (containers **DON'T** need to be CRV). Metal haul away and cleanups available also! 80% return back to community! **Call Dianna at 559-999-6832.**

Tractor/Trenching Services

BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. **Call John at 908-1066.**

Window Cleaning Services

Most windows start at \$5 and up inside/out - Screen, track, sills. Remove hard water stains on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723 — Free estimates.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and righthand 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 ©2024 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

	+		-		= 9
+		+		+	
	+		-		= 14
×		÷		×	
	-		÷		- 2
=		=		=	
70		16		14	

• Buff spots off of silver with toothpaste. Rub gently with a soft cloth, rinse and dry.

• Keep your dishcloths and sponges germ-free and smelling sweet. Once weekly soak them overnight in a few cups of water



to which you've added a tablespoon or so of bleach. It will keep them from developing that mildew smell.

• "To keep mixes from bunching up on the beaters of my mixer, I spray them with a little canola oil right before mixing. It isn't enough to affect the recipe, but it helps them do a better job, I think. And I don't have to stop the mixer so often to scrape the dough from the beaters." -- R.V. in Oklahoma

• To clean tea-stained cups, use a couple of drops of dishwasher detergent. Stir and let set, then scrub out. It should wipe right out.

• "If there's a lot of burned-on food stuck to your pan, just add water immediately after cooking, then stick it in the oven (if oven-safe) at a low temperature for a little bit. It will soften the food, and you can clean it much easier." -- U.A. in Montana

• "Save larger envelopes in which you receive mail. You can reuse them by gluing or taping a new label on the front. You can close them with packing tape. Some of these envelopes are expensive." -- T.G. in South Carolina

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803 © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634

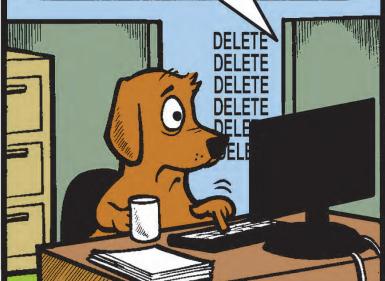


Click on "Local News" at

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

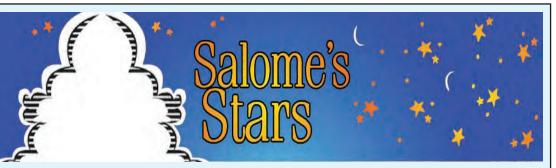








"The kids in the neighborhood want to know if you can do that again, Dad!"



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That anxious feeling disappears with a reassuring gesture from a loved one. In addition, the weekend holds some pleasant surprises for the ever-adventurous Lamb.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A planetary lineup creates unsteadiness both on the job and in your private life. Stay the course, and you'll soon ride out the worst of the unsettling effects.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Leave nothing to chance. You need to get more involved in working out problems at home and on the job. Meanwhile, a Sagittarian offers romantic possibilities.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A new relationship suddenly presents unexpected problems. Clear up all misunderstandings now to avoid more serious situations later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to act on long-delayed projects, both personal and professional. A new job prospect opens up some exciting possibilities. Check it out.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Those on-the-job changes continue to bring new challenges. In your personal life, be more flexible in dealing with a loved one who needs your help.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A personal problem creates some concern at first, but your prompt attention helps to get things sorted out. Family and friends provide much-needed support.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A strong positive attitude helps disperse a cloud of negativism around you. A friend reaches out to offer loving support when you need it the most.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A setback in an important relationship results from a misunderstanding. Forget the finger-pointing and take the first step to set things straight.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Keep an open mind about changes in your personal life. What seems unacceptable at first might prove to be otherwise when more facts begin to emerge.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It's a good time to start the healing process for bruised or broken relationships. There may be some resistance to a reconciliation, but don't give up.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) During this period of change, the wise Pisces should avoid swimming in rough waters. Take time for things to settle before making a serious commitment.

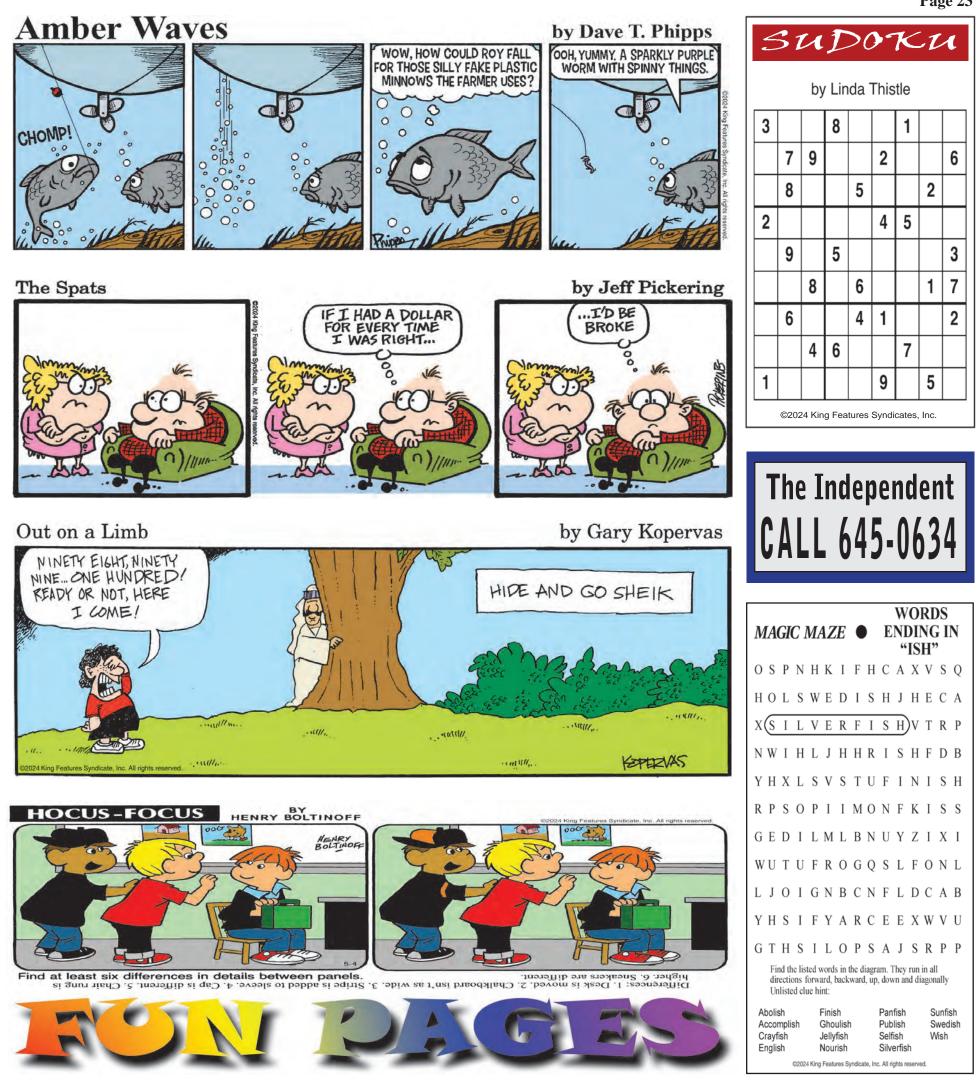
Born this Week

You are friendly and enjoy good company. You have a fine sense of business and are more likely than not to succeed at whatever you choose to do.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc. Click on "Local News" at



www.The Ranchos.com



Celebrating a Successful FLATLANDER'S DAY PARADE & FAIR

Attended by our community and featuring the LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL Marching Band and community floats

Thank you to all who helped to make the Parade, Fair & Kite-Flying Contest a success, especially all who donated to SEMCU's YARD SALE and those who bought items! Your funds will go toward our Schools, Seniors and U.S. Veterans!

SEMCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, June 18th at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room 37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library or online: go to: WWW.SEMCU.ORG for the link by phone: 669-900-6833 & enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343 with access code 854 221

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY