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Volume 21 Issue 5 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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THE VERY CLASSY
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55 CHEVY AS THE
32ND ANNUAL
GRAND MARSHAL
OF THE FLATLANDER'S DAY
PARADE AND CRAFT FAIR



In This Issue

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THE 32ND ANNUAL FLATLANDERS' DAY PARADE & CRAFT FAIR

Photos courtesy of Bill Whyman

The stylish Ollia Ridge in a very stylish 55 Chevy was Grand Marshal.

When there's a parade and flags, can the Scouts be far behind?

Kids from the local schools provided the soundtrack for the event.

To keep everything on the up and up, the Sheriff brought the big boy.

There was no shortage of different kinds of transportation in the parade.

Ranchos Kiwanis were well represented with the adults and student clubs.

Word is that nobody "floats" like the Baptists.

Did I mention that transportation diversity at Flatlanders' Day Parade?



Raley's "O·N·E" Market Coming to Ave. 12 and 41

The Riverwalk Shopping Center at Highway 41 and Avenue 12 has announced an exciting new development. Sacramento-based Raley's Supermarkets is planning to build a Raley's O·N·E Market, only the second one in Madera County. The market will be a 61,000-square foot expansion and Raley's will serve as the anchor.

According to Raley's website, their "O·N·E Market" concept is short for "Organics, Nutrition, Education." A news release says the idea behind the new concept

is "to provide more transparency in food sourcing and healthier product options." They plan to accomplish this by offering a focus on health and wellness through fresh prepared foods, natural and organic products, and locally sourced produce. There will also be a café.

Riverstone developer, Tim Jones, said the partnership with Raley's, "... represents a major step in our ongoing mission to enhance the lifestyle and amenities available to residents and neighbors of the

Central Valley." He further said that "Raley's is the perfect fit for our growing community. This new store won't just serve our residents — it will become a destination for the surrounding region, offering convenient access to healthy, fresh food and a shopping experience that reflects the values and lifestyle we're building here in Riverstone."

The grand opening is being targeted for spring of 2027 with construction scheduled to begin in the early part of 2026.

Monte Pistoressi — July 18, 1938 ~ April 23, 2025

Monte Pistoressi, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on April 23, 2025, at the age of 86. His passing leaves a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and the many lives he touched throughout his extraordinary life.

Born in Miramonte, California, Monte was the son of Pete and Irene Pistoressi. After graduating from Santa Clara University in 1960 with a degree in Business Administration, Monte enlisted in the United States Army.

In 1963, he returned to Chowchilla where his father had started an ambulance service with one vehicle in 1942 which he operated till his death.

He is survived by his wife, Leona, four children and their spouses, and a multitude of grandchildren. He will be missed.

County Realty Notices Begin

Notices will alert property owners to potential real estate fraud

Madera County Clerk-Recorder Rebecca Martinez announced that beginning May 15, 2025, Madera County property owners will receive an official notification by mail when a document affecting property ownership has been recorded. Real estate fraud is a problem throughout the state and homeowners are being advised to be on the lookout for potential criminal activity.

"We have received a number of calls from property owners who are concerned about the risk of becoming victims of real estate fraud," explained Martinez. "The courtesy notification is sent after a document has been recorded, alerting property owners to potentially nefarious activity and giving law enforcement an opportunity to apprehend these criminals."

The program will provide courtesy notice to property owners within a week of a document affecting title being recorded. The notice will alert property owners to both legitimate documents and potentially fraudulent documents. Included in the notice is the date and document number of the recording; the APN and property address; and a copy of the first page of the document.

If the owner is aware of the recording, no further action is needed, and the notice can be discarded. However, if the property owner is unaware of the recording or believes that fraud has occurred, they should contact the Madera County Recorder's Office at 559-675-7724 or RecorderInfo@maderacounty.com for further assistance.

"This program has been in development since 2024" stated Martinez. "We are continuing to explore notification programs that are automated, and I am hopeful we will have one soon. In the meantime, this mailed notice will help keep property owners informed and aware of what is going on."

The courtesy notification program is free, and property owners do not need to enroll in the program. For additional information about the notification program including a sample notice, property owners are encouraged to visit the County Clerk-Recorder's website at: www.maderacounty.com/government/county-clerk-recorder-elections.

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Independent

Kiwanis Korner

Donors Help Make Kiwanis Happen

By Sally Rowden

If you saw us at the Flatlander's Parade and Craft Fair, you saw three different groups of the Kiwanis family in the parade. The Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos members are local community individuals. Circle K students are from our local Madera Community College, and the Key Club students are from our local Liberty High School. If interested in becoming involved in any of these groups, send us an email. Our new email address is kiwanismaderaranchos@gmail.com.

We are still selling tickets for our Western Dinner Bell Raffle Tub. You might have seen the raffle tub at the Craft Fair. If you didn't get a chance to purchase tickets, you can still do so at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The office is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

every Monday through Wednesday. Ticket cost is \$5 for six tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn on June 14, just before Father's Day.

A huge thank you goes to the following local businesses and individuals for their support in monetarily donating to our John Minney-Liberty High School Senior Scholarship Fundraiser. These folks are Bubba Water Truck Service, Inc., Mr. John Minney, McCaffery Homes, MGA Liquor, Pistoiresi Ambulance, Prewitt Dental, S & K Mini Mart, Valley Propane and Wight Water Pool Service and Supplies. I encourage you to support these folks and tell 'em thanks for supporting our kids. Their giving is

allowing us to award three \$1,200 scholarships. These scholarships were presented on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the Liberty High School Senior Awards Night. Each of these scholarship recipients will be highlighted in our newspaper article next month. Again, thanks to our donors.

We also will be presenting our Hope for America Awards at our Ranchos Middle School. Plus, we will be awarding the Character Counts Awards at our three elementary schools: Riverstone, Sierra View and Webster. These awards will take place at the end of May and, as stated above, the recipients will be highlighted in

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next month's newspaper article.

As the summer months approach, we will begin that vacation mindset. We will still be meeting twice each month on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Second Son Brews. Come visit us. We will be starting our planning for our 2025-2026 events. Hearing new ideas is always welcomed.

"Life is an echo. What you send out comes back. What you sew, you reap. What you give, you get. What you see in others, exists in you. Remember, life is an echo. It always gets back to you ... so, give goodness." Zig Zigler.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

Letters

Dear Editor:

Just would like to thank those responsible for the removal of all the advertising signs stapled to the telephone poles throughout the Ranchos. An eyesore for many years. And illegal, as it is private property. Advertisers, without regard to local residents' concerns have continued cluttering our community for years, just to save a few bucks. Long ago I made a vow not to use any of their services.

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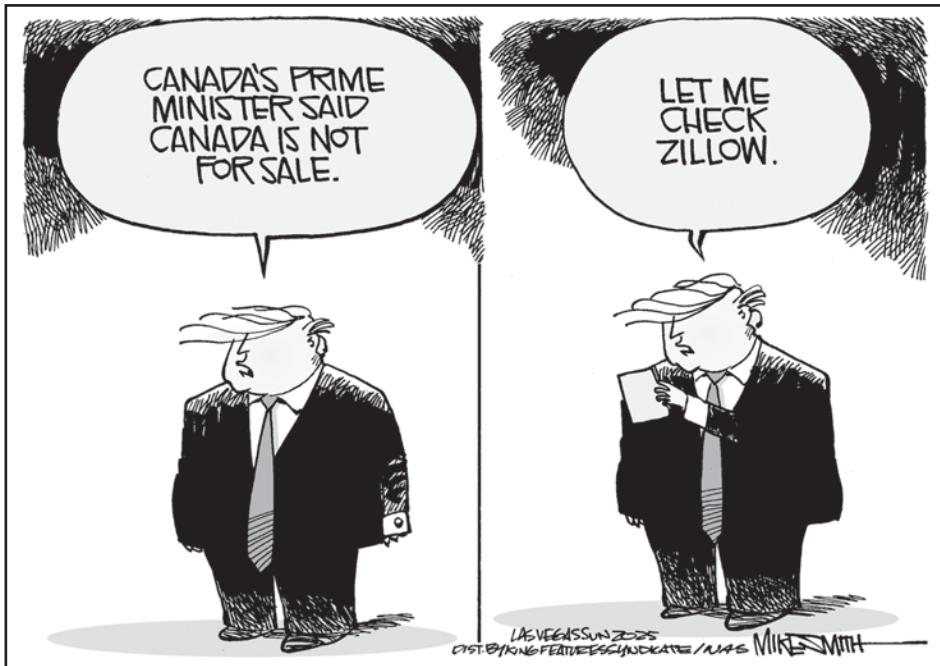
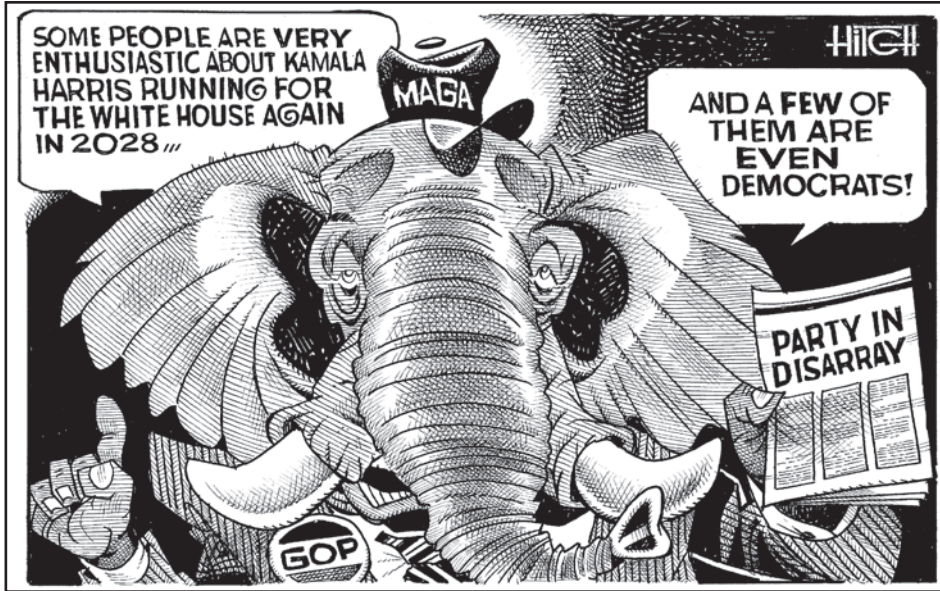
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Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

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Guest Editorial

Huge Deficits not Limited to State

By Katy Grimes

With the state budget deficit, are California's cities also staring down the barrel of a loaded gun?

How many California cities are running huge budget deficits, yet refuse to cut out the real cancer: the bureaucratic and administrative bloat? California's colleges and universities too – they are cutting sports and academic programs, but not the high-salaried, middle management administrative bloat.

The California state budget has a \$10 – \$70 billion deficit. And that does not include the unfunded public employee pension debt, totaling over \$1.5 trillion. Last May 2024, the California Globe reported that the Legislative Analyst's Office updated spending plan in Gov. Newsom's revised budget showed a \$55 billion budget deficit as opposed to the \$27.6 billion figure Newsom presented. The \$70 billion figure is from the Legislative Analyst's Office's last year's projections. This year, Gov. Newsom claimed the budget was balanced, but that's only because he is running for president.

Politico kindly reported this week that Gov. Gavin Newsom is likely staring down a \$10 billion budget hole that could deepen to \$20 billion or more. With pending federal budget and DOGE cuts coming, that number is going to climb exponentially because

Gov. Newsom and Democrats rely heavily on federal funding in their budget.

As the California Globe recently reported, California Gov. Gavin Newsom is bragging that California owns the 4th largest economy in the world. But he leaves out some important details, like poverty, homelessness, crime, taxes, gas prices, housing costs, illegal aliens, welfare recipients and a \$1.5+ trillion total budget deficit, just for starters. And California is the 1st most regulated state in the U.S. And, California has 15.6 percent of the nation's unemployed – a third higher than the state's overall share of US population.

What Dan Walters reported this week should be repeated in every daily news article for the rest of the year: "...since Newsom became governor in 2019, state spending has increased, on average, by 9 percent a year while annual revenues have grown by just 6 percent. The difference between those two numbers constitutes what budget mavens call a 'structural deficit,' meaning that spending baked into law far exceeds what the current revenue system can generate.

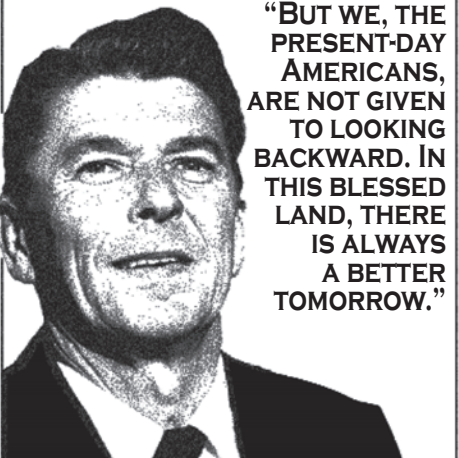
The underlying discrepancy between income and outgo is important to remember, because when Newsom unveils his revised budget, he's likely to cite the Los Angeles wildfires and Trump's tariffs as factors in the budget's gap.

Both of those events are likely to increase the deficit, but they didn't cause it. The deficit exists because Newsom and the Legislature have chronically spent more than the revenue system produces, even though Californians have one of the nation's highest state and local tax burdens, relative to the state's economy."

As the California Globe frequently reports, "It is important to remember that when Gov. Jerry Brown was (re)elected in 2011, the state budget was \$98 billion. The state's population was a little over 38 million. Brown doubled the budget to \$199.3 billion in 8 years – with no measurable increase in population. Gov. Gavin Newsom inherited Brown's \$199.3 billion budget and has grown it to over \$330 billion in 6 years – while losing population.

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 8

THE RAY GUN
SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"BUT WE, THE PRESENT-DAY AMERICANS, ARE NOT GIVEN TO LOOKING BACKWARD. IN THIS BLESSED LAND, THERE IS ALWAYS A BETTER TOMORROW."

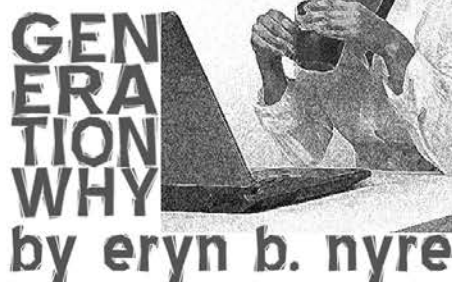
RONALD REAGAN
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Me and Dad; What a Combo

My dad and I are a lot alike. We're both opinionated, outspoken and a tad stubborn with a penchant for debate and a low tolerance for willful ignorance and blatant stupidity. It's probably why we would butt heads so much when I was a teenager. We are also different in a few notable ways such as he wanted me to benefit from his wisdom and experience, so I didn't make a bunch of stupid mistakes in my youth, and I preferred to make all the mistakes myself, so I had some good stories to tell at parties. That's also probably why we would butt heads so much when I was a teenager. We have a pretty solid relationship now, and for the most part I'm glad Dad was such a pain in my youth because a lot of my better communication, leadership and negotiation qualities come from being raised by him.

I have a treasure-trove of great memories with my dad. Man can he throw a party. When I was little, I had a birthday party where he let me and my friends throw pies at his face for prizes. Well, paper plates loaded with whipped cream, but same concept. When I was about 12 or 13, he organized a Halloween party that I will never forget. He designed games and contests that entertained even pre-teens and young teenagers. There was a scavenger hunt, pumpkin toss, bobbing for apples and an elaborate ghost story where he rigged the light fixture to sway, the chairs to rock and various items to move and fall over. My friends all went home wishing their parents could pull off something like that. I know because they all told me. My parents were special.

When I was a little girl, my father was Santa Claus. I don't mean in the traditional way where he filled my stocking and left a present for me under the tree. He did that, too. I mean he was actually Santa Claus. He worked for the City Council and dressed up as Santa for the big city Christmas event and tree lighting every year. For the first few years I had absolutely no idea. Eventually my parents told me that it was Dad and that he helped Santa each year by talking to the kids so the real Santa could stay in the North Pole and prepare for his big Christmas Eve ride. They spilled the beans because they didn't want me to realize I was sitting on my dad's lap and say something that would ruin the illusion for the other kids around. One year he even brought the suit home and at about two in the morning that Christmas, Mom woke me up and we tip-toed into the hall to quietly watch Santa filling my stocking. Because of all this, not only did I have some



magical Christmases, I believed in Santa until an age I'm not comfortable admitting to the public.

He once flew me to Southern California to see a New Kids on the Block concert. He even let me put shoe polish all over his car windows to express my love for Joey McIntyre. I was too young to go to a concert by myself, so he went with me and listened to music he didn't like while surrounded by a sea of screaming, crying girls. I didn't realize what a sacrifice that was then. I get it now.

One year he took me and a friend on a road trip through Arizona. We took a train to the Grand Canyon and stayed in a hotel that looked like they ripped it out of an old Western movie, which was not entirely a good thing. We went to Tombstone and stood right where the shootout at the O.K. Corral happened then went to the Boothill graveyard and my fascination with old cemeteries was born. Dad always made learning interesting. We had lunch in a real, old-fashioned saloon where I ate a dessert called "Death by Chocolate," and they weren't messing around. Let me paint you a picture: It was chocolate ice cream over a chocolate brownie with chocolate fudge, chocolate whipped cream and chocolate sprinkles. I'm pretty sure the kid I was at the time was in heaven. The adult I am now would be sick after one bite.

Dad was strict, demanding and had high expectations. He was a great provider for our family and made sure we always had what we needed and never went without. He was also fun and funny and made sure to fill my life with joyful experiences that I have been able to take into adulthood. Dad went so far above and beyond in order to give his little girl a great childhood. I know how lucky I am to have the father I have and how blessed I was to have had the childhood he gave me.

Happy Father's Day to the man who worked hard to make me the woman I am and gave me more than he had as a kid – and to all the fathers out there doing the best they can for their families.

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By Brenda McElroy

Five Ds Deliver Results

Apparently, I'm now old. Not based on a birthday number, but on the number of specialists I was referred to last month. The crazy thing is, dealing with the medical and insurance system is more stressful than the health issues themselves.

Don't get me wrong. I'm grateful to live in a country where exceptional care is available. It's ironic that along with the advanced medical technology and skills, there's no clear path to receive the doctor's care needed. Where is the break-

down — management, staff, lack of digital systems? Everyone has been kind and courteous, but that doesn't equate to efficiency and timeliness.

As I pondered this challenge, I thought about the struggle we face when managing home and work projects. Whether it's planning a remodel, scheduling a trip, managing a household or doctor care, there are essential steps that lead to success.

Define the goal — Be specific but not detailed. Your goal must be measurable and attainable. State not only the "what," but the "why" as well.

Detail the plan — This is where methods will vary depending on your preference. Planning for my doctor's care goal included creating a

spreadsheet to track the dates, communications and progress of referrals. One of my clients is using a mind map to organize her financial goals. This is a good option for the non-linear thinker. Another client, who is planning a move, opted for a large wipe board to track her tasks and progress. Whichever method works for you, break down your goal into categories and specific steps.

Determine deadlines — Not everything is controllable, as I'm discovering in the medical system. For the steps that are, set specific dates to keep moving forward in your goal. For me, it's assigning a date to make a follow-up call to my insurance for a status update. If you're moving, it may mean putting dates on your calendar to contact your service providers regarding stop service dates or

submitting your change of address to the Post Office. Each step needs an assigned date, fluid as they may be at times. If one is missed, reassign a new date and keep moving forward.

Delegate when appropriate — Is there someone you can pull into your project to lighten your load? My insurance broker offered to make a couple of calls for me when I hit a roadblock. Review your plan and look for steps in your project that a family member or hired hand can do.

Don't give up — After waiting six weeks for a specific appointment, it was canceled that day with the explanation that the referral was coded incorrectly and required a reapplication. Most projects will have glitches. Refer to your goal and reflect on why this is important to you. Celebrate victories along the way and the ultimate realization of your goal.

An Oldie But a Goodie

(May 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.



2 ears corn
1 tsp. salt
¼ C. sliced, pitted black olives
½ C. grated Monterey Jack cheese
¾ C. grated Mild cheddar cheese

1. Gradually stir the cornmeal into the cold water. Stir this mixture into the boiling water in a heavy saucepan. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly; reduce heat to medium low. Add butter. Cover, cook, stirring occasionally, 35 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, cook the sausage meat in a large heavy skillet, breaking it up with a fork, over medium heat until it begins to lose its pink color. Add the onion and garlic, cook 5 minutes. Stir in the chili powder and cumin. Add the ground beef, continue to cook, breaking up meat with a fork, until beef loses its color, about 5 minutes.

3. Stir hot pepper sauce, celery and green pepper into the skillet. Cook 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, cook, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes.

4. Using a sharp knife, remove corn kernels from cob. With back of knife, scrape cobs to remove remaining kernel bits and milky residue. Add to tomato-meat mixture. Cook 10 minutes. Season with salt.

5. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter a 10 inch round baking dish, at least 2 inches deep. Spread two-thirds of the cornmeal mixture on sides and bottom. Spoon meat filling evenly in dish; arrange the olive slices over the top. Sprinkle with the grated cheeses.

6. Spoon the remaining cornmeal mixture evenly over the top of pie to form a crust. If the cornmeal mixture has become too thick to spread, thin it with a few drops of boiling water. Bake until golden brown, about 45 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving or serve at room temperature.

Have you ever been in a used book store and seen the volumes of books? I love to go through them and find interesting books that I would love to read or just have in my library. Years ago, I was going through some old books in a store and found one that intrigued me. It was *The Essentials of Book Keeping* – published in 1886. I paid the 85 cents they wanted for it and took it home and treasured it. When Lauren (Randy's middle daughter) decided to change her college major to accounting, studying to be a CPA, I decided I would give it to her. Her birthday was last week, so I wrapped the book up and she now has it. Showing bookkeeping "as it used to be," before computers. Recently, Randy was in a thrift store and was going through their old books and found a cook book and bought it for me. The book is *Honest American Fare* and was published in 1981. There is no kale, hummus or pesto, but there is one whole chapter on vegetables. There are many recipes I would like to pass on to you so maybe I can do some more in a future article.

This one is from New Mexico.

Tamale Pie

¾ C. yellow cornmeal
1 C. cold water
2 C. boiling water
2 T. unsalted butter
¼ pound sausage meat
¾ C. finely chopped onion
1 large clove garlic, minced
2 T. chili powder
¼ tsp. ground cumin
¾ lb. ground beef
¼ tsp. hot pepper sauce
1 stalk celery, chopped
1 small Italian green pepper, finely chopped
1 ½ C. seeded, peeled, chopped fresh tomatoes

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

So, are California's cities also starting down the barrel of a loaded gun? The City of Los Angeles has a \$1 billion+ city budget deficit • San Diego is over \$300 million in debt • The City of Sacramento has a \$66 million budget deficit • San Francisco has a \$876 million budget deficit • San Jose projected a \$60 million budget shortfall, then ratcheted it down to \$35.6 million, but is projecting a \$52.9 million deficit for 2026 • The City of Fresno is facing a budget deficit of over \$20 million in the 2026 budget. In 2025, the city expects to have an end-of-year surplus of nearly \$15 million, but according to City Manager Georgeanne White, without federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars, 2025 could end up in the red, yourcentralvalley.com reports. What will cities do to address their budget deficits? Sacramento is proposing cutting Sacramento Police Department employees and raising parking fees; how innovative.

LA Mayor Karen Bass announced several cuts and rollbacks in the city budget, including layoffs of 1,600 em-

ployees and the elimination of 1,000 positions. Bass also agreed to a reduced salary. San Diego will make cuts, including to police, homeless services, libraries and other essential services. San Diego city lawmakers and employees, however, aren't getting pay cuts. While Los Angeles and San Francisco are making a lot of sacrifices to cut back on their deficits, including SF Mayor Daniel Lurie not even taking a salary, San Diego isn't taking those needed drastic steps, the California Globe reported.

Smaller California cities work very hard to stay in the black, avoiding deficit spending, but Mayors report that unfunded mandates coming from the Legislature and Governor make it very difficult. One Mayor told the California Globe, "these unfunded mandates are killing us."

"The Governor's mandating that we build houses even though we don't have the resources, i.e. Public Safety and or water to cover the offset of new housing ... he doesn't care. He's mandating it," the Mayor said.

This article originally appeared in the California Political Review.

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Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

ROMANS 12:17,18

Holy Family With a Bird by Simon Vouet (1633)

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- Benjamin Franklin never actually lobbied for the turkey to become the national bird, but he did write that the bald eagle was a fowl of "bad moral character" and that the turkey was "a much more respectable bird."
- The world's largest chocolate bar weighed 12,000 pounds.
- While digging up stones to build a house in 1885, Australian miner George Harrison found gold ore near Johannesburg, beginning the South African gold rush.
- In terms of galactic years, the sun is around 20.5 years old.
- Victorian floriography, the practice of assigning codes to flowers to send messages via bouquets and arrangements, associated basil with hatred! The curious link came from the ancient Greeks, who felt basil leaves resembled the opening jaws of a basilisk.
- In the 1800s, ducks were called "arsefeet," as their feet are so close to their posteriors.
- Painting designs and pictures on fingernails isn't just a modern trend. It was a familiar practice with the Incas, many of whom sported eagle motifs on their nails.
- One percent of people are born with a 13th rib.
- To preserve the quality of the U.S. Constitution, on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., its protective cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40%.
- In the U.K., fish and chips were traditionally wrapped in old newspapers, giving the meal a unique newspaper ink flavor. The practice eventually ended for health reasons.
- During the 1904 Summer Olympic Games, American athlete George Eyser won six medals in a single day, including three gold and two silver, in the vault, parallel bars and rope climbing competitions ... with a wooden prosthetic left leg.

Thought for the Day: *"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."* -- Maya Angelou

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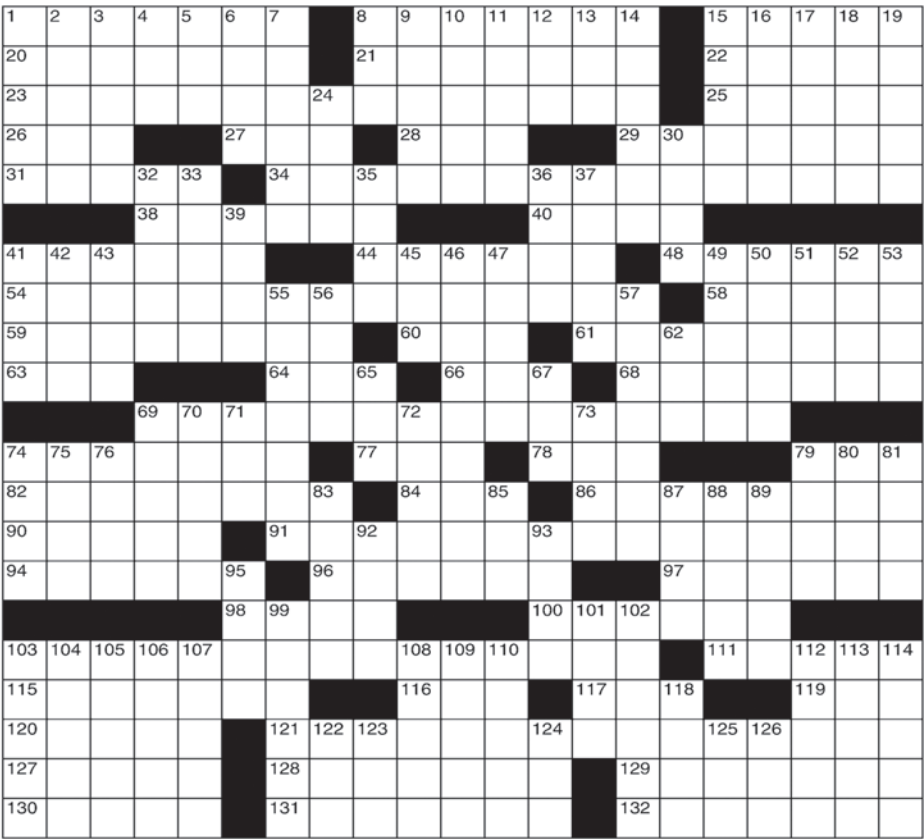
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Super Crossword



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ARITHMETICS

42	=	5	=	19	=	42
3	+	8	-	2	=	9
5	+	4	÷	1	=	9
9	-	7	×	6	=	12

42	=	5	=	19	=	42
3	+	8	-	2	=	9
5	+	4	÷	1	=	9
9	-	7	×	6	=	12

1	4	2	8	7	9	3	6	5
3	5	9	2	4	6	8	1	7
6	7	8	1	3	5	9	2	4
9	8	7	4	1	3	6	5	2
4	2	6	5	8	7	1	9	3
5	1	3	9	6	2	4	7	8
8	6	1	7	5	4	2	3	9
7	9	4	3	2	1	5	8	6
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G	R	A	T	E	D	S	E	E	S	T	O	A	T	A	R	I	S				
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C	Z	E	D																		
S	H	I	R	E	G	U	L	F	O	I	L										

Say you saw it in the Independent

- ### ACROSS

1 Broken stone for paving
8 Big petroleum company of the past
15 Actress Talia
20 Erstwhile empress of Russia
21 Very narrow, as a road
22 Got the lead out?
23 Decision to award Eris' apple to Aphrodite
25 Blah feeling
26 NHLer Bobby
27 Upset infant's sound
28 "Look, mice!"
29 Least severe
31 Stein drinks
34 Original lion-logo film studio
38 Arriver's declaration
40 — buco
41 A Nixon daughter
44 City northeast of Toronto
48 To wit
54 Casara and red ash are members of it
58 Deem worthy
- 59 Poet Rich or actress Barbeau
60 "Yang Yang" singer Yoko
61 Painting in the Louvre
63 San Luis —
64 Doc bloc
66 Shoveled
68 Boots out
69 Hardware pieces for attaching shelves to walls
74 Wrinkly-faced dog
77 Wallach or Manning
78 Outlaw
79 Similar to
82 Diner offering
84 Ancient
86 Sits to appear on the cover of, say
90 Pest control company
91 Hovel
94 Shredded, as Parmesan
96 Takes care of
97 1980s game consoles
98 Honolulu site
100 Snazzily dressed
103 2011 Steve Carell rom-com
111 Sphere
- 115 Port near Buenos Aires
116 "Louisville Lip" of boxing
117 Jeff Lynne's rock gp.
119 "Is that true about me?"
120 Scope of influence
121 The "AA" and "BB" of an AABB scheme
127 Din
128 "Hamilton" composer Lin-Manuel
129 City grid parts
130 Lace snarls
131 Ends of sonnets
132 Phrase with no repeated letters (like each of this puzzle's seven longest answers)
- ### DOWN

1 Dead-end work position
2 Sky-blue hue
3 Corps core
4 Uru. neighbor
5 Not well lit
6 Over again
7 Take care of
8 Oozy gunk
9 Lacking in nourishment
10 Skunk Pepé of cartoons
11 Like crumbly piecrusts
12 Rowing blade
13 Reggae's — Kamoze
14 Best Musical before "Phantom"
15 Silvery fish
16 Dharma follower
17 Private
18 Recycle
19 Fixes up text
24 Son of Odin
30 Holy relic
32 Lake of TV talk
33 Hit hard, biblical-style
35 Novelist Uris
36 "— get it!" ("Oh, makes sense!")
37 Sacred song
39 Violinist Hilary
41 Kind of ski lift
42 Very impolite
43 2012 hit for Flo Rida
45 Calif. air hub
46 Advertising leaflets
47 Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie —"
49 "Stop!" asea
50 Stags, e.g.
- 51 Film director Kazan
52 Intense desire
53 "For" votes
55 Doing Atkins, say
56 Do-fa linkup
57 "Get what I'm saying?"
62 Atlanta-to-Akron dir.
65 Suffix with pent-
67 Chitchat
69 Apple or pear
70 Offer a view
71 Permit
72 Sphere
73 Mafia bigwig
74 Hazy air stuff
75 Mister, in Münster
76 "Lonely Boy" singer Paul
79 At a distance
80 Sets of points, in math
81 Torah holders
83 — pork (Chinese entree)
85 Sleuth: Abbr.
87 Purse part
88 Nitrate, e.g.
89 Ratton
92 Pick- — (refresher)
93 Bygone bird
- 95 Verb before "thou," perhaps
99 Words after man or sergeant
101 With, to Luc
102 House speaker after Ryan
103 Metallic sound
104 Navarro of silent films
105 H.S. science class for college credit
106 Roster of least-sought-after celebs
107 "Eleni" director Peter
108 "— your disposal"
109 Group trying to sack a QB
110 Swiss chocolatier
112 Like — in headlights
113 Ton of, informally
114 Bette Midler's "Divine" stage persona
118 Alibis, e.g.
122 Go quickly
123 Divs. of eras
124 Propane, e.g.
125 In favor of
126 Knee's place

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• It's barbecue time, and here's a fun, festive idea for your next backyard shindig: For each guest, stuff a mason jar with a clean bandanna (for a napkin) and a set of silverware. Write the name on the jar with a silver paint pen made to stay on glassware. Cute, functional and a keepsake! Here's more to get your grilling season started.

- "Bring a distinctive towel to a pool party so that you will know where your towel is. You can make an extra-large towel by sewing two smaller towels together, too." -- U.A. in New York
- "For a really fun take on kebabs, use fruit instead of meat. The kids especially love fruit on a stick. If you have some neat cookie cutters, you can score planks of watermelon and make shapes." -- M.M. in Michigan
- To keep ants from invading your patio, draw a thick line of chalk as a boundary. The ants will not like to cross the chalk line and will leave your patio party alone.
- "Set out wasp attractors at the far reaches of your yard so that the wasps will be busy out there and not attacking your guests." -- T.C. in South Carolina
- Use a muffin tin on the table from which to serve condiments. For larger portions (like lettuce, onion slices, maybe pickle spears) you can set a cup down in the muffin well.



*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
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	-		×	6	= 12
+		+		+	
	+		÷		= 9
×		+		-	
	+		-		= 9
=		=		=	
42		19		5	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

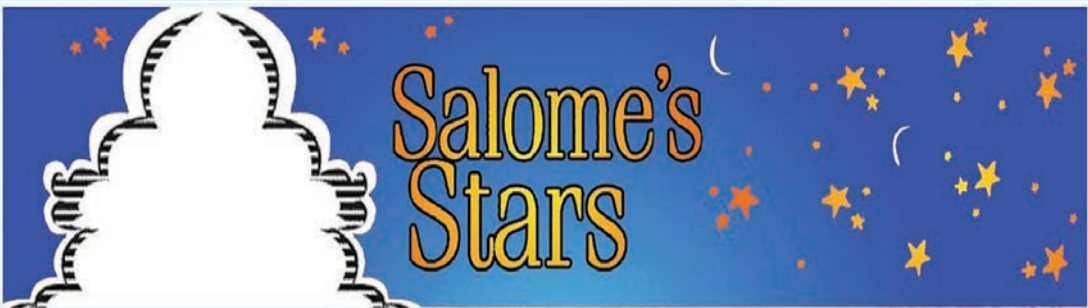


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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might not like some people's ideas of surprises. But you could be in for a pleasant shock when someone finally sends a reply to a request you made so long ago that you almost forgot about it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a time to expect the unexpected. So, don't be surprised if a decision that just recently seemed final suddenly opens up and leaves you with another chance to make an important choice.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Taking a different tack on a work project might rattle some colleagues. But the positive results of your innovative course soon speak for themselves. Celebrate with a fun-filled weekend!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Meeting new associates can be awkward, even if you're in a high, positive phase right now. Best advice: Make them feel comfortable, and you'll soon forget your own discomfort.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a good time for you social Lions to blow-dry your manes, polish your claws, and look like the Fabulous Felines you are as you make new friends and influence the influential!

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Expectations run especially high this week, and you should feel confident in your abilities to take advantage of what might be offered. Meanwhile, a colleague has some advice you might find helpful.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A recent flurry of activity leaves you in need of a little breathing space, and you'd be wise to take it. In other news, close family members should have an explanation about an emergency situation that just passed.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An insensitive act makes a difficult situation more so. But try not to waste either your physical or emotional energies in anger. Move on and let others fill the clod in on the facts of life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It's a good time to look into a training program or college course you've been considering. You might have a good place to use these sharpened skills sooner rather than later.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Education dominates much of your aspect during this week. You might want to start checking out summer session courses that could help advance your career plans.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Making progress often comes by fits and starts. But at least you're moving straight ahead with no backsliding! You should soon be able to pick up the pace and reach your goals in due time.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be wary of a deal that gives confusing answers to your questions. Remember, it's always risky swimming in unknown waters, so you need all the help you can get to stay on course.

Born this Week

*You have a way of bringing people together
and creating close friendships wherever you go.
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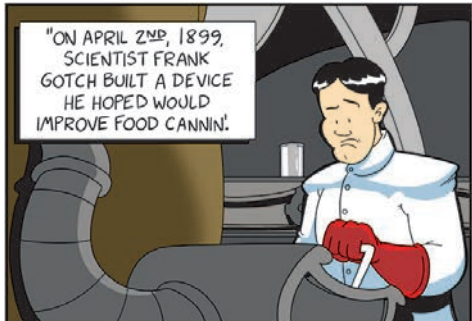
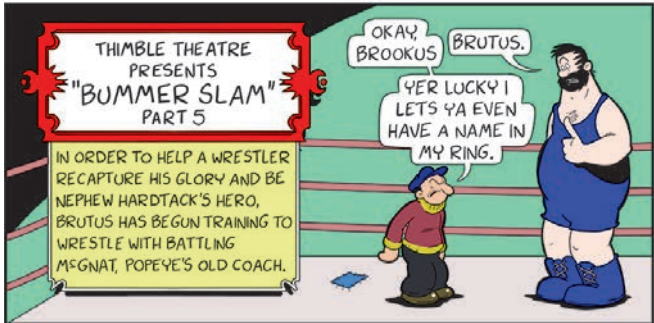
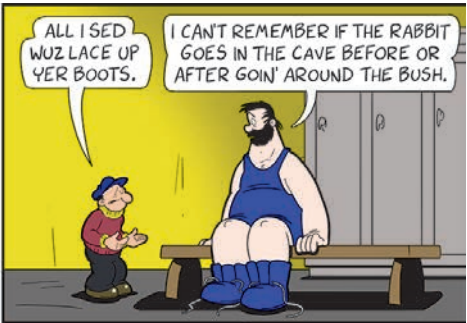
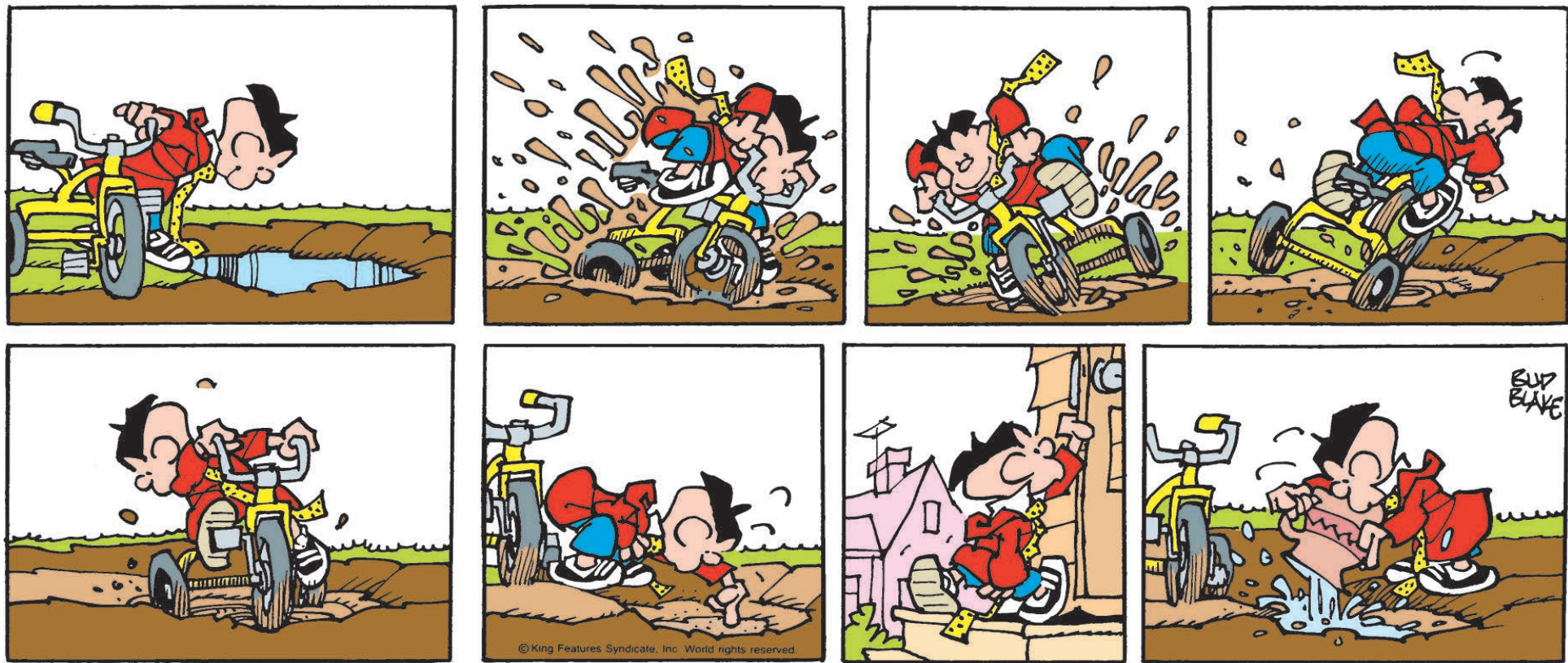
FUN PAGES

Kids' Maze



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **ACRONYMS:** What phrase does the acronym URL stand for? 2. **MOVIES:** What is the name of the ghost that haunts the girls' bathroom at Hogwarts ("Harry Potter" series)? 3. **HISTORY:** Which decisive battle ended the Revolutionary War? 4. **LITERATURE:** What is the pseudonym of the author Eric Arthur Blair? 5. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which of the national parks is the most visited in the United States? 6. **TELEVISION:** Which medical series is based at Princeton Plainsboro Teaching Hospital? 7. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Denmark? 8. **U.S. STATES:** In which state is Glacier National Park located? 9. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the first vice president to die in office? 10. **SCIENCE:** What are elements like neon, helium and radon called?


1. Uniform resource locator.
2. Moaning Myrtle.
3. The Battle of Yorktown.
4. George Orwell.
5. Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
6. "House, M.D."
7. Copenhagen.
8. Montana.
9. George Clinton.
10. Noble gases.

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Amber Waves


COME ON, BOY, TODAY'S THE DAY. WE ARE GOING TO GO SCOUT OUT NEW TERRITORY.



BEHIND EVERY EXPLORER IS HIS FAITHFUL AND FEARLESS DOG.



PROTECTING ME FROM DANGER OR OBSTACLES WE MAY FACE.




OH, GET BACK HERE. IT'S JUST A GARDEN HOSE!




by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats


HAROLD, YOUR STOMACH IS SURE GETTING FLAT.



FLAT?!?




YES, FLAT... BUT THE "L" IS SILENT.



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

THE AVOCADO TOAST AND BLINTZES ARE DEVINE...





MY POACHED SALMON AND FRITTATA ARE TO DIE FOR

OSCAR MEYER BRUNCHABLES™

by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF





Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Stripe on sock is missing. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Towel is longer. 5. Hair is different. 6. Number on shirt is smaller.

FUN PAGES

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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MAGIC MAZE • A SLICE OF —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A GOBBLER

- Apple
- Bacon
- Banana
- Bread
- Cake
- Cured ham
- Fruit
- Luck
- Meat
- Pie
- Potato
- Reality
- Roast lamb
- The good life
- Tomato

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SEMCU

south east madera county united

A non-profit organization dedicated to improving life in South East Madera County

Celebrating a Successful
FLATLANDERS DAY PARADE & FAIR
on MAY 17TH

**Attended by thousands
of our neighbors & students,
with dozens of floats**

**Thank you to all who helped to make this
year's Parade & Fair a success!
We hope to have an even better event next
year!! See you then!**

**SEMCU invites everyone in the community to join us every
month at the Ranchos Library to contribute your ideas to help
improve living in the area. We always meet on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month. Join online, by phone, or in person.**

**SEMCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, June 17th 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