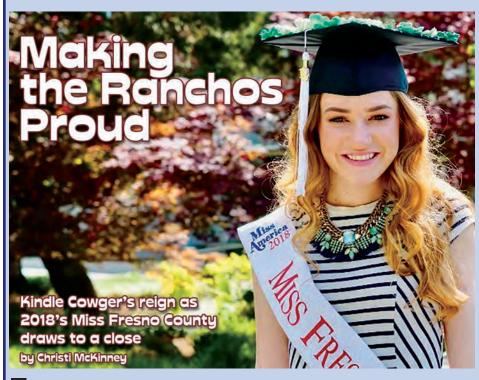
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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢





t was a love for performing and not years spent in the pageant circuit that led the Madera Ranchos' Kindle Cowger to the first pageant she ever entered, and ultimately won. She won the title of Miss Fresno County in the spring of this year and went on to compete in the Miss California Pageant, the state level of the Miss America Pageant.

"I love performing and this was an ideal opportunity to perform and to earn scholarship money doing it," Cowger said.

Though competition in the state pageant was fierce, Cowger's performance of "Journey to the Past" from Anastasia the Musical, earned her a Non-Finalist Talent Award.

Life in Theater

Theater has been a huge part of Cowger's life from childhood. "I began performing alongside my mother at the age of 7 at Roger Rocka's [in Fresno] in a production of Guys and Dolls," she said.

It seems she's been performing ever

Cowger has performed in 40 theatrical productions in the Central Valley since 2004. Though performing professionally kept her quite busy, Cowger found time to play the part of Ariel in Liberty High School's Senior Class production of Footloose before graduating in 2013. She moved to Fresno to attend Fresno State where she graduated as a Theater Arts Major in 2018.

Twice Nominated

Cowger has also been nominated twice for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Her platform in the competition was Americans for the Arts, an organization that seeks to bring attention and support to the value of the arts in America.

"My training in theater has absolutely helped me in my experience with pageants," she said. "I have theater to thank for

a lot that has happened in my life." When asked what her favorite part of participating in pageants has been, she said it's "definitely performing;" but when asked what her least favorite part of participating in pageants, she didn't hesitate: "Definitely the dreaded swimsuit competition."

Miss California is the state competition for the national Miss America pageant that is held annually in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Often thought of as a "beauty pageant," it is actually a scholarship pageant. Miss California for 2018, Mackenzie Freed, received nearly \$25,000 in scholarship money for her victory. The California pageant has been around since 1924 and the latest Miss America Pageant was held in September, crowning Miss New York 2018, Nia Franklin.

Cowger has enjoyed her year of service as Miss Fresno County and the opportunity to promote the value of the arts in America every chance she gets. "My focus right now," she said thoughtfully, "is to work as much as possible to prepare for a move to Los Angeles to pursue a career in theater. I'd love to one day appear on Broadway!"



Kindle's award-winning performance as the Miss California competition.

Even with Rain, Ranchos May Still Experience Bad Air

Even with recent rain events throughout the San Joaquin Valley, continued smoke impacts from the Camp Fire burning in Butte County and Alder/Mountaineer fires in Tulare County have prompted local air officials to extend the current Health Caution and Air Quality Alert throughout the San Joaquin Valley. With

poor dispersion conditions expected to continue, smoke impacts will continue Valley wide. The most severe smoke impacts are expected to occur in the northern counties of San



the region. The Health Caution/Air Quality Alert will remain in place and smoke impacts are likely until the fires are extinguished.

Smoke from wildfires produces particulate matter which can

trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases, and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. People with existing respiratory conditions, young children and

elderly people are especially susceptible to the health effects from these pollutants. Schools should revise outdoor activity plans in accordance with their local air quality

Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced, creating unhealthy air quality in conditions and can refer to the District's ROAR activity guidelines. Pets also can be affected by unhealthy air and should be brought indoors, if possible.

Please see **AIR** on P. 14

Madera County Fireplace Bans

The first fireplace prohibition of the season for Madera County was issued at the beginning of the month. A "Check Before You Burn, No Burning Unless Registered" wood-burning curtailment was put into effect on Thursday, Nov. 8 for Madera County by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. It was the first residential woodburning curtailment of the season for Madera.

The daylong mandatory curtailment was in place through midnight of the same day and prohibited the use of unregistered wood-burning devices because of poor air quality. The curtailment applies to burning wood and pellets in unregistered stoves and fireplace inserts as well as burning wood, pellets and manufactured fire logs in fireplaces or outdoor burning devices such as fire pits and chimeneas.

The daily wood-burning status for Madera County and its residents can be checked at www.valleyair.org /CBYB to see which of these three possible declarations is in place for Madera County:



No Burning curtailment: No one can burn at their residence



No Burning Unless Registered curtailment: Residents must register their emission-compliant wood-burning device with the District by visiting www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration in order to use their device during this declaration



No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged: If burning is absolutely necessary, residents should use manufactured logs, dry/seasoned wood, pellets or a cleanburning device

To learn more about Check Before You Burn or apply to get funding for a cleaner device, visit www.valleyair.org/Rule4901.

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> Steve Allen / Soon to be Ranchos Resident

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Letters

Dear Editor:

One of the greatest emotional worries for female cancer patients is the loss of their hair. Many patients need to continue working while undergoing treatment. Others want to look as normal as possible when they go out in public. For those who are experiencing hair loss due to the side effects of their treatment, the American Cancer Society wig bank program provides one free wig per cancer patient per year. Other head coverings such as hats, scarves and turbans are also provided free-of-charge. Selection varies by location. Wig fittings are held in a private room to help survivors find a wig that will best fit their lifestyle. There are hundreds of wigs to choose from. Call 1-800-227-2345 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to learn the location of the closest wig bank. Appointments encouraged.

Donna Gavello, Program Manager American Cancer Society

Dear Editor:

I am hosting an event at Liberty High School. This event will be featuring talent from anyone in the GVUSD community, whether they are a student, teacher, parent or community member. All proceeds will be collected in order to help improve our local Special Education Programs in the district. This event will be December 6th from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Liberty High School's theater. We will be having a tri-tip dinner, dessert raffle and a show made from talent in our very own community. If you have any questions pertaining to this event please feel free to contact me, Sarah Folsom at sarahmfolsom@gvusd.org.

I am a senior at Liberty High School and am currently serving as the ASB and Key Club President of my school. I have always wanted to put on an event that could reach many people in my community so we could make a positive impact that would improve the lives of others around me.

Sarah Folsom Madera Ranchos

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. The only rules?

Sign it, be civil or forget about it.

email:

ranchosnews@yahoo.com mail:

The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C Madera, CA 93636

559-645-4002



by Samantha Weaver

- It was civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. who made the following sage observation: "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."
- Everyone knows that a sophomore is someone in his or her second year of high school or college. Most people don't realize, though, that the word is derived from the Greek words "sophos," which means "wise," and "moros," which means "stupid."
- Have you ever tried to hum while holding your nose? It can't be done.
- The creator of the ubiquitous smiley face earned a grand total of \$45 for his creative effort.
- If you're a pet owner, you probably know that the epidemic of obesity is not limited to humans; many pets are

overweight, too. You might be surprised to learn, though, that some pet owners choose to deal with the problem in a way that we usually associate only with people: liposuction. Yes, you can get cosmetic surgery for your pets.

- If you hear the word "Bilbo" you might think of a famously adventurous hobbit, but a bilbo is also a finely tempered Spanish sword.
- A recent study by scientist Karl Berg suggests that an adult green-rumped parrotlet, a tiny bird native to Venezuela, will "name" its babies, assigning each a particular series of peeps to identify it. Not only that, other parrotlets then learn to associate that exact series of peeps with that particular bird, and actually use the sounds to get that bird's attention.
- In the original version of the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale "Cinderella," doves peck out the stepsisters' eyes at Cinderella's wedding.
- Thought for the Day: "Life is not a spectacle or a feast; it is a predicament."
 -- George Santayana

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Editorial

What Were They Thinking?

By Randy Bailey

It's rare in these politically charged times that a topic comes up that is truly bi-partisan. Something that has the same impact on the left as the right, the rich as the poor, black and white, Christian and atheist. Those topics are rare and when they come along it is up to all of us to rise to the occasion, take the proverbial bull by the horns and make a difference ...

Or not.

"Or not" is what the collective wisdom of California chose to do on November 6.

There are certain commodities that politicians in Sacramento believe they have complete power over. These commodities they feel they can add taxes onto with complete impunity. They can because they can. Now remember, they did nothing to produce these commodities: No planting, plowing, nurturing, growing, pruning, digging, exploring, researching and developing, transporting ... nothing. The commodity seemingly just exists and they are free to squeeze anything out of it they want for any cause they feel passionate about today.

The commodities that most readily come to mind are tobacco, alcohol and gasoline, and controlling gasoline prices was in our hands for the length of time it took to fill in a bubble on a ballot.

Prop 6 said "... Notwithstanding any

other provision of law, the Legislature shall not impose, increase or extend any tax, as defined in Section 3, on the sale, storage, use, or consumption of motor vehicle gasoline or diesel fuel, or on the privilege of a resident of California to operate on the public highways a vehicle or trailer coach, unless and until that proposed tax is submitted to the electorate and approved by a majority vote."

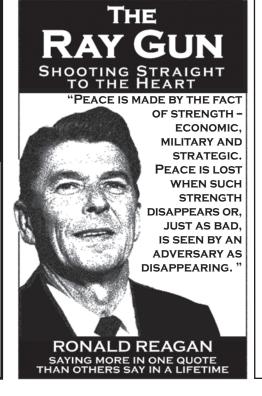
So there you have the three elements of the proposition that Californian voters just couldn't stomach: 1) Preventing the legislature from imposing new taxes on gasoline; 2) Preventing the legislature from imposing new fees on their car registrations; and 3) Letting the electorate vote on whether it wanted to be taxed or not. In wisdom that transcends anything remotely resembling, well ... anything, the voters sent a resounding NO vote. Their action said: "We WANT legislators in Sacramento to impose any taxes --ANY taxes -- they see fit on the gasoline I pump at the gas station. After all, they do know best. I can't see any evidence of other times in California where they've over-promised and under-delivered. Excuse me while I go get on the Bullet Train."

Their action said: "We WANT legislators in Sacramento to impose any additional fees on my car registration that they can dream up. Never mind that my buddy's new Ford pick-up had a registration fee of just under \$1,000 and my '87 Nissan fees just about totalled the value of the car, they need my money a whole lot more than I do. I consider it an honor and a right to pay usury rate-style fees just to garage my car. Excuse me while I go watch all of our rainwater pour into the Pacific Ocean."

Their action said "We WANT legislators in Sacramento to have complete and total control over the breadth, width and depth of how much we are taxed by this ravenous state. They do, after all, know best. Or, at a minimum, better than me. Excuse me while I go watch illegal alien felons re-enter my sanctuary state for the fifth time."

Whether you're rich or poor, black or white, Democrat or Republican, you've got to buy gas for your car. You've got to register your car. You've got to endure the latest taxes sent down from on high. But for one fleeting moment we had a chance to do something about it and we chose "no."

What's wrong with us?



Choosing Your Own Cross

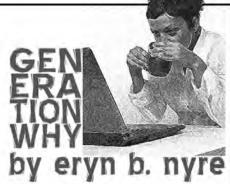
I heard a story the other day that I had never heard before. It was the story of a man who had gone to the Lord to express his concerns about his burdens and trials. He told the Lord that his cross was too heavy and too big a burden for him to carry. The Lord listened then took the man to a room filled with crosses. He told the man to put his cross down and select another, any one of his choosing. The man searched through the crosses, scrutinizing them carefully. Some were too heavy for him to lift while others were small but had thorns and stickers and he knew they would be painful to carry. After many hours he finally selected one. It wasn't too big but there were no stickers or

thorns and it seemed just right for him. He told Lord that he would like to trade his cross in for this one. The Lord asked him if he was sure and when the man nodded the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you came to me with." I don't know if

it's the time of year or perhaps simply the place I am in my life, but this story resonated deeply with me.

There have been many times in my life where I've prayed for the Lord to ease my burdens. I have mistakenly felt that I carried heavier or more impossible loads than His other children. I doubt I'm alone when I say that there have been times when I have neglected to count my blessings and have, instead, focused on the difficulties I was facing. I know it happens, but hearing this story has brought into sharp focus the fact that we simply cannot lose sight of everything we have to be thank-

A couple of weeks ago I participated in a charity project for



work. The project was assembling "blessing bags." For those who don't know, a blessing bag is a bag filled with things such as food, water, socks, hygiene supplies, etc. These bags can be kept in your car and handed out to anyone who is in need. My coworkers and I gathered all the items to donate to the project

What started out as a reg-

ular shopping trip quickly

turned into a lesson in hu-

mility. Rather than just

throwing some random items

into a cart we suddenly had

to put ourselves in another's

fully understand, someone

who didn't have a home to go

then we all got together to assemble the There was a huge turn and out it ended up being a truly eyeopening experience for me.

In preparashoes, someone we didn't tion for the event I grabbed a friend and went to the What store started out as a = regular shop-

> ping trip quickly turned into a lesson in humility. Rather than just throwing some random items into a cart we suddenly had to put ourselves in another's shoes, someone we didn't fully understand, someone who didn't have a home to go to. At first, we grabbed shower supplies but what if the person didn't have convenient access to a shower? We thought of food but what would be best for someone with no way to heat it? It was a humbling experience to stand there and think about all the times I have whined and complained about what I don't have when I have never had to worry about where or when I would be able to take a shower or how I would

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



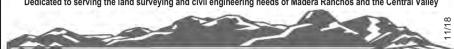
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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent





GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

heat up a meal. I don't have to think about selecting only canned food items that have the pop top because I may not be able to find a can opener. I go to the store and buy food. I go home and heat it up. I go upstairs and take a shower. I am blessed.

Like everyone else in the world, I do have my own crosses to bear and sometimes they feel extremely heavy to carry. Right now, work is chaotic and stressful and I worry every day that I may not have a job to go back to the next day. However, I don't have to worry about where I am going to get my next meal or where I'm going to sleep or how I am going to clean myself.

It's sad that it takes a holiday

for some of us to remember all the wonderful things for which we are grateful. I am grateful to have a home that is safe, warm and comfortable. I am grateful that I have running water and plenty of food in my cupboards. I am grateful for the people I have in my life, both friends and family, who uplift and support me. I am grateful that I was born to the most kind and nurturing woman ever to live. She taught me to be generous and loving. I am grateful to have the most dedicated and thoughtful father. He taught me to be a badger, which means work hard, always improve and never give up. For all these things and many, many more I am truly blessed and I am going to work harder to remember that, not only this Thanksgiving but throughout the entire year.

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Punching Up the Christmas Party

First of all, I want to thank my readers for your concern in missing my column last month. I have been under the weather for a while and didn't really care "whether school kept or not." I love to watch TV cooking shows to see what they are doing and to get ideas for you. But last month I was feeling so bad, I just about gagged even looking at pictures of food. So, when I told Randy that I couldn't write a column we decided to do a repeat, however just before he had to send the paper to the printer he discovered he needed the space my repeat column was using. He called me to tell me he was pulling my article, and I said, "Go for it." I couldn't believe in almost 10 years of writing this (first article was January 2009) I would miss one because I "just didn't give a darn." Thanks to all

my friends and family for their help and prayers through this, but I want to especially thank my sister Maxine. She was my chauffer to doctor's appointments, my shopper and just about anything I needed. I don't know what I would have done without her. And thanks to Randy, Vicki and the girls

for everything they have done. I'm not completely through this yet, but I think and pray (a lot) that I am on the getting well side.

That being said, let's get on with it. When you receive this paper, you will be just about ready to get the turkey ready for the oven or you will have the refrigerator full of left overs (yum!). There is not much point in talking about Thanksgiving, so let's talk about (you are going to hate me for this, but) Christmas!

You'd like to have some neighbors, friends and family in on Christmas Eve that will be spending Christmas day with their own families. You want to have something to eat, but certainly not a three-course dinner. Simple and no stress, how about finger sandwiches, a couple of dips and a dessert?



As finger sandwiches go, the sky is the limit. Two or three flavors of bread – white, wheat, or rye. Deli meat – roast beef, turkey, chicken and ham. And cheese: American, Swiss or provolone. Make the sandwiches using mayonnaise, meat of choice and cheese and maybe a little chopped lettuce. Be light on the mustard because not everyone likes mustard. Cut the crusts off and cut the sandwich in triangles and you have a finger sandwich. Make at least two or three for each guest. If you will have kids at the party, make some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. But instead of cutting them into triangles, use a Christmas cookie cutter – Santa, a tree, a bell and the kids will love them.

You'd like to have some

neighbors, friends and family in

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tainly not a three-course dinner.

Simple and no stress, how about

finger sandwiches, a couple of

dips and a dessert?

Another finger sandwich is the Tortilla Pinwheel – These should be made a day or two ahead of the party. You'll need:

Flour Tortillas – Also Spinach or tomato-flavored, if you can find them.

Spreadable cream cheese – plain or flavored,

your choice. There is chive-flavored or even jalapeño if you want to go spicy.

Thin sliced deli meat – roast beef, ham, turkey.

Greens: baby spinach, arugula, or thinly sliced lettuce.

Spread a thin layer of cream cheese over a tortilla.

Place slices of one of the meats over the cream cheese.

Sprinkle a thin layer of the greens over the meat and starting at one side of the tortilla; tightly roll to form a log. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate to set. When ready to serve, unwrap and slice in the desired thickness, about an inch pinwheel.

You'll need a couple of dips. There is always the old stand-by Onion Dip.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9





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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

RECIPES cont. from P. 8

1 container sour cream

1 package dry onion soup mix.

Mix together and refrigerate. This should be made a couple of days before the party to rehydrate the onions. Best served with ruffled potato chips.

A simple and easy to prepare dip is a brick of cream cheese topped with a jar of either shrimp or crab cocktail.

One of my favorite dips is one my niece Rachael introduced me to: Knorr Spinach Dip

Knorr Spinach Dip

1 package (10 oz.) frozen, chopped

spinach (thawed),

1 ½ C sour cream

1 C mayonnaise

1 package Knorr Vegetable Soup Mix

1 can (8 oz.) water chestnuts, finely chopped**

green finely onions. chopped (optional)

1 loaf soft

French bread (round loaf if possible)

Squeeze as much liquid out of the thawed spinach until it feels dry.

In a medium bowl stir together

spinach, sour cream, mayonnaise, soup mix, water chestnuts and green onions. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours, preferably overnight. When

> ready to serve, hollow out the bread and place the dip mixture in the bread. Break hollowed the into bite bread pieces for size

dipping.

Use paper plates, napkins -

**Can use 1 stalk celery, finely chopped in place of the water chestnuts.

For your buffet table you can have

a platter of raw vegetables, zucchini, carrots, cucumbers, celery, grape tomatoes with a bowl of ranch dressing for dipping. Also, maybe a bowl of pitted olives and bread and butter pickles. Don't forget three or four different flavored chips.

As for something sweet, make a pan or two of brownies from a box, or buy a couple dozen cookies at the bakery.

Use paper plates, napkins - keep it simple, no stress. If you have kids old enough to help, this would be a good time to have them help out, everything on the menu is easy to fix.

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Does having more make us more thankful?

How would you like to travel back in time and sit down for a conversation with the Pilgrims? I did. Well, figuratively speaking. Several years ago, we visited Plimoth (not a typo) Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. It's a living history museum with an entire 17th Century English Village. The townspeople are costumed role players portraying actual residents of Plymouth Colony. You can observe them going about their daily tasks in the garden, barnyard and making meals and goods. You can also engage them in conversation to learn more about what it was like in those early colony years.

As we walked from home to tiny home, I observed the sparsely furnished insides. A few beautifully carved pieces — a table or cabinet, likely chosen very carefully when they packed up their necessities and sailed to the new land. Talk about experts on downsizing.

But these people, the ones who were now living lean, were the ones who gave us what became our Thanksgiving holiday. In contrast to our material goods, they had very little to be thankful for.

But, does having a lot make us more thankful? In a word, no. Our gratitude doesn't exponentially increase along with our accumulation of possessions. In fact, just the opposite can occur when the abundance creates clutter, stress and discontentment.

Have you ever walked into a hotel room and felt the "ahhh" of a clutter-free space? You have brought your personal necessities; the hotel provides the rest — and that's all there is. No pile of stuff waiting to be dealt with or closet so crammed that you can't fit the clothes in it that you're wearing this week. There's less decision fatigue there because there are only three pairs

of shoes to choose from in the morning.

I, for one, am not ready to reduce my wardrobe to what would fit on three hooks like the Pilgrims, but I do want to be vigilant and not allow my stuff to replace my gratefulness with grouchiness. Here are some clues that you might be crossing the line:

You cringe when you open your hall closet.

You drop the bags of groceries on the pantry floor in frustration because there's no room on the shelves.

You feel guilty about making excuses for not hosting the family gatherings due to the clutter.

Clean clothes remain in a pile because there's no space to hang more stuff. Iron? Ugh!

You avoid certain rooms or areas of your home.

Now imagine the opposite. You can easily find and access what you need in your closets. Your kitchen pantry has ample space for current groceries. You gladly open your home to friends and family. Your clothes are all hung up and you can easily walk into your closet. You open every door without stress and shame.

How does that feel? Does it make you feel grateful? This is the dichotomy — too much stuff and feeling grateful. There's no harmony between the two. During this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to increase your gratitude ratio.

The Pilgrims remind us that it is not the amount of stuff that determines our ability to be thankful. Open the closet or cabinet door and let go of the stuff you don't need, use, or love and that will open the door to more gratitude as well

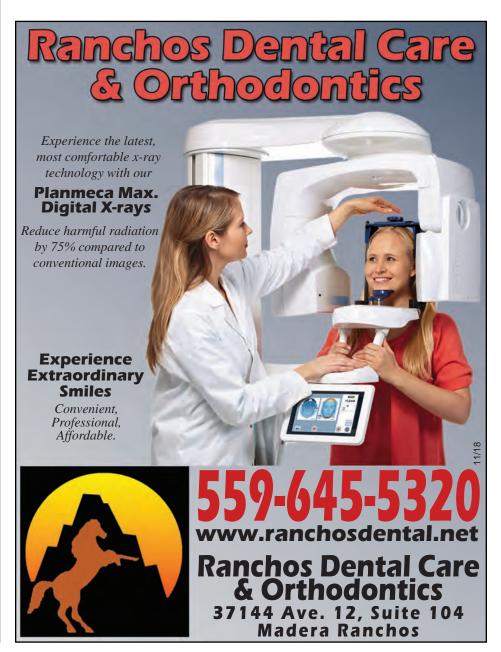
Since we're hosting my family for Thanksgiving this year, I've created a list of 26 "I'm thankful for ..." conversation starters. If you'd like a copy, you can email a request to me at info@organizedbychoice.com, or if you prefer snail mail, you can call me at 559-871-3314. And, if the purge process is overwhelming for you, consider enlisting help from a friend, or Professional Organizer, like me.

May this Thanksgiving find you in a truly grateful state. Blessings on you and yours.

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









Madera Ranchos

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Kiwanis Korner

Up to Speed with Ranchos Kiwanis

By Becky Koop

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

The Ranchos Kiwanis were "rolling in the fun" on Saturday, Nov. 3 as they held their first Bunko Fundraiser at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. They started with a full spaghetti and meatball dinner, played two rounds of bunko and had a silent auction as well. Many local businesses contributed to make this a funfilled night.

The Kiwanis also assembled lunches for a recent Special Olympics bowling event held at the Bowlero Bowling Alley in Clovis. Our local Kiwanis club worked with Madera Kiwanis to provide a meal for all of the hunparticigry pants.

As many you know Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club focuses on the children here in commuour Their nity. fundraising monies go toward programs,



Bunko players have the rules and finer points of the game explained during the fundraiser at the Ranchso/Hills gram.

including sports, affiliated with Golden Valley Unified School District. They sponsor the Key Club at Liberty High School and provide many volunteer opportunities for LHS students. The Ranchos Kiwanis have supported LHS Sober Grad and they also support many national programs such as the Special Olympics, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis held their annual drive called "The Miracle Mile of Quarters" in which they contributed to lay out quarter after quarter to reach one mile. While creating quite a visual display this contribution also provided money for needed programs at Valley Children's Hospital.

The Ranchos Kiwanis meet at 6:15 p.m. on every Thursday evening, except the first Thursday of the month (when they hold their board meeting). Individuals from every walk of life join together at the Ranchos Pizza Factory to combine their efforts in helping their community. With laughter and gentle teasing, they work on community projects such as the Chamber's Crab Feed, the Kiwanis Fishing Derby, the Ranchos Tree Lighting Ceremony, and much, much more. The

> Ranchos Kiwanis also have guest speakers that like to share their perspectives and needs with this local group. Recently Sally Moreno Paul Hornick, who were in the November election for district attorney, gave presentations that provided insight into prosecuting local court cases. Chelan Shepherd also attended meeting to update them on GVUSD Freedom Home School Pro-



Sauce mistress Bev Delk, right, applies the marinara

waiting Bunko attendees at the Kiwanis Bunko

fundraiser held Nov. 2 at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Senior Center.

Please check out the

beautiful Christmas Basket on display at the Ranchos Cafe. The Kiwanis are raffling it off to raise funds for their scholarship projects. Tickets are \$1 and the drawing will be held on Dec. 20 at their regular Kiwanis meeting.

We welcome new members to contribute to this dynamic organization. If you would like to come down on a Thursday evening and listen in, we would welcome your presence. Remember every Thursday (except the first one of the month) at Pizza Factory at 6:15pm.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

Tues.-Fri. 9am-4pm

Sat. 9am-4pm

Sun. 10am-4pm

wan.

Local

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

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Gree Lighting Ceremony

Fernwood Gardens Nursery • Saturday, Dec. 1 • 6 p.m. 12090 Fernwood Dr. • Corner of Fernwood Dr. & Berkshire Dr.

Come join in the celebration at Fernwood Gardens Nursery to raise badly needed supplies for the Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa himself. There's even a mailbox for letters to Santa!

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital

Veterans need instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts and new books.

Items can be dropped off at any time to the Chamber office, but no later than Dec. 7. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



New Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family

Larry Roberts & Jeff Sims **Simply Scrumptious**

Josh Huckaby Flipside Christian Church



Help a Foster Child this Christmas

through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from Barbie dolls to soccer balls. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber

office by December 10. ONLY 7

CHILDREN LEFT! Call 645-4001 for more information.

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

By Randy Bailey

By the end of the day on Nov. 6, one thing was crystal clear: California's slide to one-party rule by the Democrat party was apparently unstoppable. Governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, controller, treasurer, attorney general, insurance commissioner and superintendent of public instruction were all democrats. Our U.S. senator is a democrat and was the result -- as were many of the races -- of choosing between two democrats running for one position. But is that how the Ranchos voted?

Using votes for governor (Cox v. Newsom) as an indicator, the Ranchos votes Republican. Of 5,135 votes cast in the governor's race, approximately 73.5 percent voted for Cox, leaving just 26.5 percent to vote for Newsom. Those percentages were pretty consistent for all of the state positions on the ballot. And Madera County as a whole was not far behind. For governor, Madera County voted 60.97 percent for Cox and only 39.03 percent for Newsom.

Another area where the Ranchos voted strong in the face of California's collective wisdom was Prop. 6, the

Election 2018

How the Ranchos Voted

anti-gas tax. The Ranchos voted nearly 70 percent for the bill while California collectively voted nearly 57 percent against lower gas prices, vehicle registration and say in future tax increases.

Knowing the direction the state was likely to go, it seemed the only elections the Ranchos would have a direct impact upon would be the local elections, namely, district attorney.

The district attorney race was between Madera

County Deputy District Attorney Paul Hornick and Fresno County Deputy District Attorney Sally Moreno. Hornick was employed by Madera County at the time of the race and Moreno was a former Madera County deputy district attorney.

At the conclusion of the election, Moreno won by a total vote of 19,779 votes to Hornick's 14,965. Countywide, that was 57 percent of the vote to 43 percent.

However, in the Ranchos, Hornick won the vote count. For the four areas that comprise the Madera Ranchos voting area, 2,373 people voted for Hornick versus 2,184 votes for Moreno, giving Hornick a slim 189-vote margin. In the Ranchos, the vote was divided approximately 52 percent for Hornick and 48 percent for Moreno. A little better than a coin toss.

And that slim margin was seen over and over again throughout Madera County in Hornick's case, but not in Moreno's. For the rest of the County, wherever Hornick won the vote, it was by a relatively slim margin; however, wherever Moreno won an area it was typically by a wider margin, explaining the 14-point swing in the final vote count.



Black Friday Brings House Fire To Bonnadelle Ranchos Home

A house located in the Bonnadelle Ranchos located at Highway 145 and Road 38 caught fire Friday, Nov. 23 and its source is still under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on the scene around four in the afternoon and discovered the house burning. They reported that two people, and their pet dog, were home at the time and that ultimately everyone got away safely. However, they reported that when they arrived one of the two peo-

ple was on the roof. They were unable to determine if that person was on the roof attempting to put the fire out but did report that person was able to get off the roof on their own.

Fire officials estimate the fire damaged approximately 20 percent of the home, with the fire centered in the area above the garage.

There were no injuries and the fire is still under investigation.

AIR cont. from P. 2

The most effective way to reduce exposure and avoid the ill effects of smoke is to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. If you have a central ducted air conditioning and heating system, run the system while keeping the fresh-air intake closed to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside, and if possible, install a high efficiency filter with a MERV rating as high as the manufacturer of the system recommends.

Ranchos residents can use the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to track air quality at any Valley address by visiting myRAAN.com. The

RAAN monitors are designed to detect the microscopic PM2.5 particles that exist in smoke. Ash pieces, however, are much larger in size and will not be detected. If an area is impacted by smoke and ash fall, air quality should be considered "unhealthy" (RAAN Level 4 or higher) even if the monitor reflects a lower reading.

Ranchos residents can also check the District's wildfire page at www.valleyair.org/wildfires for information about any current wildfires and whether they are impacting the Valley. In addition, anyone can follow air quality conditions by downloading the free "Valley Air" app. For more information, call a district office in Fresno at 230-6000.



Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent







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Senior Report

Craft Fair Success and Holiday Wishes

By Margaret Tynan

Our Inaugural Annual Holiday Craft Fair was a success. Over 40 vendors displayed a wide variety of art and handmade items for sale. It was well attended by people from the local area and from Fresno, Clovis, Merced and other Valley communities. Many attendees and vendors gave us very positive feedback on the organization, presentation, variety and the friendly atmosphere. Thank you to the craft fair planning committee and to all the members, students and friends who helped in so many ways — set up, vendor space preparation, parking, clean up, etc. It could not have happened without such great teamwork. We look forward to doing it again on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019 so mark your calendars.

The Writing Group meetings will begin again on Monday, Jan. 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Cen-

ter. All are welcome. Be sure to come to the monthly Treasure House and Garden Sale and the Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. It's the perfect time to stock up on goodies for the holidays. There are always yummy baked goods, many of which freeze well. There are also lots of lovely items to "Deck the Halls" and add to the merriment of the season. The traditional Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center members' holiday celebration and potluck will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11 beginning at 6 p.m. Delicious roasted turkey will be served. Bring a side dish to share and your table service. We'll see you there.

As we enter this holiday season, I think it is interesting to take a look at the origins of our Christmas celebrations. People throughout the world have been observing it with religious and secular traditions





Just a glimpse of the wall-to-wall people and 40 vendors at the inaugural Annual Holiday Craft Fair held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

and practices for more than 2,000 years. Christians honor the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on Dec. 25. There are many popular customs that include going to religious services, spending time with friends and family, decorating pine trees, exchanging gifts and waiting for Santa. But historically in this country it hasn't always been celebrated. In fact, through the influence of the pilgrims who held strong Puritan beliefs, Christmas was banned in Colonial Boston from 1659 to 1681 and anyone caught with the holiday spirit was fined 5 shillings. With the American Revolution, all things English, including Christmas, fell out of favor in the U.S. During the 19th century, Americans began to embrace Christmas again, making it a family day of peace and nostalgia. It was declared an official federal holiday on June 26, 1870.

Many pre-Christian winter customs from many parts of the world are incorporated into our current-day holiday celebrations as well as traditions borrowed from our diverse population. A few examples: the Christmas tree from the ancient Vikings and Saxons who worshiped trees; wreathes and garlands symbolizing eternal life from the ancient Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews; the Yule log burning during winter solstice from ancient Scandinavia; feasting, making merry and special attention to children from ancient Rome's winter solstice celebrations of Saturnalia and Juvenalia; eggnog from England; poinsettias from Mexico; the Epiphany or Three Kings Day from the Greek and Russian orthodox tradition. The list could go on. No matter what your family traditions are, may you have a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth, joy and love.

Thought for December: "To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone."—Reba McEntire



Car, Drive Thyself!

Hello 93636,

Earlier this month I was in Raleigh, N.C. as a guest of Car Quest Training Institute. One of the demonstrations I observed was an Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) camera alignment. Camera alignment is critical for ADAS and self-driving vehicles. The engineer placed alignment targets in front of the vehicle, beside the vehicle and attached to the rear wheels of the vehicle with light beams bouncing from target to target.

Pretty cool.

If the forward-looking camera is misaligned by just two degrees, at 200 yards out that camera may be looking outside the vehicle's lane of travel and incorrectly reacting to other vehicles and objects. With "Lane Departure" and "Blind Spot Detection" features, cameras are used to monitor painted lines on the road surface and detect objects unseen in the vehicle's rear-view mirrors. In a word, if the cameras are misadjusted, the technology doesn't work.

Earlier this year, Ford Motor Co. announced its collaboration with the world's largest retailer, Walmart, to begin work on a driverless grocery delivery service. The joint pilot program will explore the use of self-driving vehicles to deliver groceries and other consumer goods. The Walmart project is the latest initiative from Ford to increase its self-driving delivery vehicle market.

"Like us, Walmart believes that selfdriving vehicles have an important role to play in the future of delivery," said Brian Wolf, Director of Business Development for Ford's autonomous vehicle business. "Together, we'll be gathering crucial data about consumer preferences and learning the best way we can conveniently connect people with the goods they need."

Automating the arrival of goods to consumers' front porches would slash shipping costs roughly in half, experts say. Consultant McKinsey & Co. predicts that in less than a decade, 80 percent of all items will be delivered autonomously.

Ford and Walmart will test this concept as part of an existing grocery/delivery partnership between Postmates and Walmart. Postmates of Miami-Dade County Florida will play a crucial role in

the Ford-Walmart collaboration. Postmates currently delivers goods ordered from Walmart stores to customers' doorsteps in Ford vehicles. Since Ford and Walmart are already working with Postmates, the companies intend to use that infrastructure to get their pilot up and running quickly.

This project is not Ford's first venture into the delivery service industry. Since mid-February, Ford has completed more than 1,000 successful autonomous vehicle deliveries in the Miami, Fla. area for Domino's Pizza. Ford works with approximately 80 national and local companies to provide autonomous delivery options.

This isn't Walmart's first automated-vehicle partnership either. Walmart had been searching for cost-effective customer delivery options so earlier this year a store in the Phoenix, Ariz. area began working with Waymo, an independent self-driving technology company that began life as the Google self-driving car project in 2009. It transports customers to and from its store to retrieve groceries in autonomous Chrysler Pacifica minivans.

Although the technology is expensive, it will trim delivery costs. This cost savings and convenience will allow Walmart to be more competitive with rivals such as Amazon on-

line. Currently Walmart has grocery delivery options available in 800 stores across 100 urban areas nationwide. That number is expected to double next year.

As self-driving cars come closer to reality, automakers and tech giants are increasingly viewing driverless deliveries as lucrative business opportunity. Ford is emphasizing the usage of autonomous vehicle technology for commercial purposes. In July of 2018, Ford Motor Company created a separate business unit, Ford Autonomous Vehicles LLC, to develop technology for self-driving vehicles. Through 2023, Ford will invest \$4 billion in its subsidiary company. By 2021, the company aims to launch the production of commercial self-driving vehicles. Ford foresees a market worth \$332 billion developing by 2026, in which ride-hailing revenues will account for \$202 billion and delivery services valued at \$130 billion. Ford is "doubling down" on the commercial side of self-driving technology. It's a safer bet for Ford, and one that could pay off well.

According to Ford, the current business model of selling cars to customers via manufacturer dealerships generates a profit margin of 6-10 percent. Ford estimates the potential profit margin in the autonomous-vehicle business is "... much higher than that."

Ford has underwhelmed some investors be-

cause of its later launch date than competitors like Waymo and General Motors Co. Ford's explanation was not only will it deliver a purposebuilt self-driving vehicle by 2021, it will also create a viable business model and market to go along with it.

For Ford, that amounts to launching thousands of self-driving vehicles for immediate and sustainable profits, which they believe is different than what other manufacturers are thinking. Ford announced plans to replicate its Florida model in the Washington D.C. market next year and a third city soon after. Currently Ford and Walmart are examining vehicle configurations and/or modifications necessary for grocery delivery, in which orders tend to be larger and more varied. They're also investigating how many individual orders can be supported on a single trip and what compartments are needed onboard to ensure orders are secured. One of the more challenging design areas is the successful delivery of perishable groceries.

OK guys, that's all for today. As always, I'm looking for interesting automotive topics to write about. If you have any suggestions or any specific questions about a specific vehicle, please text me at 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636. Warren Parr, a 2013 & 2014 ASE/NAPA California Technician of the Year









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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent



By Jeff McGrath

November Updates

More checks from the state of California for our Washing Machine/Dishwasher Grant have come in. With that, SEMCU was able to reimburse an additional 33 applicants that have purchased new Energy Star, Highly Efficient washing machines or dishwashers. That is \$350 back into your pocket, a total of \$18,100 in our local economy.

There is still money available, but this is a two-year grant and time is limited. So, if you have purchased or are thinking about replacing that old noisy machine with a new Energy Star, Highly Efficient washing machine or dishwasher, now is the time to do it. Please see the back page of the Ranchos Independent on how to get reimbursed or go to SEMCU's web page (www.semcu.org) for a

Our first grant for low-flow devices for the

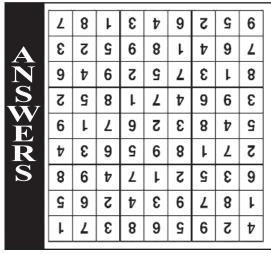
kitchen faucets, bathroom faucets and shower heads has expired. That was a two-year grant first issued in 2014. SEMCU was able to get it extended to this year but no longer. We are closing out the books on that and looking toward more grants. We still have some low-flow units available and they may be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C. The Chamber is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The devices are yours simply by filling out some paper work.

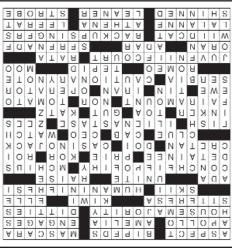
SEMCU's grant writer has stepped down due to increased job responsibility, so we are in search of another (one or two) writer that could help us with grants. If you are interested, please let us know by attending a meeting. Promise, we don't bite.

Please plan on attending one or more of our meetings held at the Ranchos Pizza Factory at 37184 Ave. 12 every third Monday of the month starting at 6 p.m.

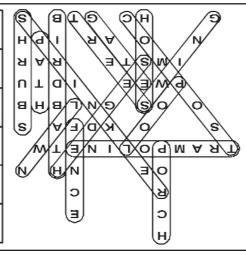
SEMCU is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity that represents the people of Southeast Madera County. Its focus is on water conservation and building a sustainable future. For more information, please visit our website at www.semcu.org.







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Classified

Birthday Notice

Mark this on your calendar! Diana J. Tucker's birthday is December 19. She will be accepting lunch dates, gifts and phone calls. Please call her at 381-5879 and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANA!

Child Care

Child Care - Susan Ryan Day Care. Newborn to 5 years old. Licensed. Call 661-4725 or 706-0424.

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SUDOKU by Linda Thistle 5 1 4 8 3 2 3 5 7 9 9 6 2 8 6 1 5 9 2 5 4 1 7 1 5 2 3 7

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KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECY-CLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RE-CYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Call Diana at 999-6832. Funds support Ranchos community organizations and schools.

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Source: IMD

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Visit the Ranchos' own Website.

Get fully downloadable back issues of the
Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006). Learn
how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site!

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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and candidates, to learn

whose reporting we can or

cannot trust to be accurate and

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The Rule of Law Requires Consequences

By Betty Van Valkenburg

If there are no consequences for breaking the law, there really is no law.

And that seems to be where we are headed; some elected officials and a favored few pay no price for their misdeeds.

Consider the mother laying down the law to her rebellious child riding in the grocery cart. 'Now Johnny, I've told you 10 times already to stop throwing stuff on the floor. Do that one more time and you're really gonna' get it!" Johnny isn't scared to get it because he knows there is no "it" to get. And so, Cheerios go overboard for the eleventh time with no consequences for Johnny. The simple solution, of course, is to take away the Cheerios, but instead little Johnny is rewarded for his lawbreaking.

He knows from experience that Mom won't enforce her own laws, and sadly we know that politicians can't be trusted to follow or enforce the laws they pass or to act responsibly.

Year after year, we give them our votes instead

of Cheerios and rides in limousines instead of shopping carts. "Now Congressman Smith, you've promised through three elections to secure the border. Fail us one more time and we'll ...'

Well, what will we do?

If you insert "You've promised to balance the budget ... " or "... pave the roads ... " the result is the same. They get reelected and we get them for two, three or six more years.

Consider that Gov. Jerry Brown and legislators, who swore to protect and defend the Constitution and

whose highest duty is to keep Californians safe, declared California a sanctuary state where foreigners who broke into the country can evade the consequences and passed laws to let criminals out of jail early.

Consider U.S. Congresswoman Max-

ine Waters, who told supporters to create a crowd and confront Administration officials so they can't go to gas stations, restaurants or department stores. The last time I checked, she hasn't been censured, expelled or arrested, but rather rewarded with reelection by a landslide and is to be named chairman of the important Financial Services Committee.

Consider the FBI officials who exonerated Hillary Clinton before a full investigation of her clearly illegal private phone and server use that jeopardized national security.

Consider Democrats who in lockstep support open borders as humane and desirable.

Maria Fotopoulos - Cercone

Consider the Broward County, Fla., elections supervisor who has, at worst, broken election laws or, at least, performed incompetently in three consecutive elections, yet she keeps getting reelected.

Perpetrators may not reap the consequences for their actions, but others surely do.

In Johnny's case, while he gets a free ride and snacks, shoppers have to dodge his messes and store employees have to clean up after him.

While Jerry Brown rides off into the retirement sunset, vowing to save us from global warming, California citizens watch crime rates skyrocket.

Maxine While Waters enjoys her perks and new-found authority. victims of her followers

who do her bidding are hounded out of public places and have their homes attacked.

While Democrat officials who encourage illegal immigration live in their comfortable neighborhoods, sometimes behind nice fences, citizens living elsewhere lose their jobs to cheaper labor and fear MS13 violence.

While most of those crossing our southern border illegally are probably ordinary folks truly seeking a better life, mixed among them is undoubtedly a criminal element. Once they are here, they can enjoy

sanctuary in California or dozens of American cities, remain in the shadows and committidentify theft and other crimes in order to get by. American citizens, although sympathetic to the truly downtrodden, pay the

While Brenda Snipes of Broward County shirked her duty, all of America waited for election results and wondered whether, with boxes of ballots appearing from nowhere, the election was free and

While some FBI officials have paid for their misdeeds, Hillary Clinton has not only gotten off scot free so far, but she had the privilege of running for President of the United States. (She came in second.)

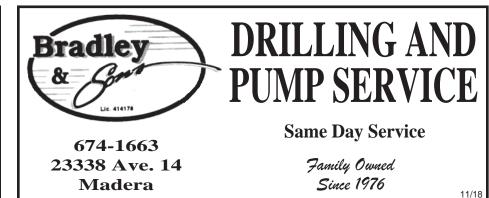
So what can we do?

Education is the key to voting wisely. It's hard to discern the truth while bombarded by rabid political propaganda and 24/7 coverage. These days Senator X's sneeze attack garners coverage on every channel and website. If the coverage leans left, the number of sneezes is a coded message to Russia. If it leans right, the sneezes are the senator's benevolent attempt to cool the stuffy room. The truth may be that the senator has a cold.

We have two years to independently study the issues and candidates, to learn whose reporting we can or cannot trust to be accurate and to vote wisely. Let's do it.

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





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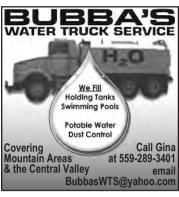






























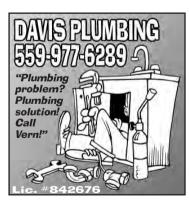


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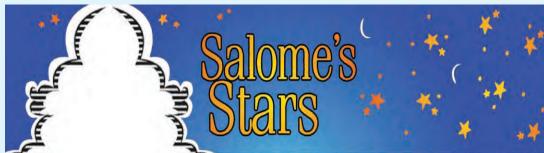


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"I'm transferring back to the emergency room!"



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep your feelings to yourself as you work through an awkward circumstance. Complaining is useless, and also unwise since your words could come back to haunt you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A sudden flash of Bovine practicality shows you how you might be able to turn your artistic pursuits into a profitable venture. A spouse or partner offers some sage advice.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be prepared with several "Plan Bs" that you might have to use as backups just in case you encounter some troublesome complications with your carefully constructed schedule.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might think you'll never have a free moment again with the demands of the workplace piling on. Cheer up. The pressure eases as holiday time nears. An old friend brings good news.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your Leonine pride might make it difficult to offer an apology to a coworker you unintentionally offended. But a quick and sincere "I'm sorry" could prevent problems down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to tackle those backed-up chores that have kept you from moving into other, potentially more worthwhile projects. A personal matter needs your attention.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You usually have no problem rushing to the defense of someone you perceive as being treated unjustly. But perceptions could be deceiving this week. Check the facts before you act.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Before you point fingers at who might be to blame for the unexpected change in your plans, take a few moments to reflect on how this turn of events might be a blessing in disguise.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You seek out advice in the first part of the week. But be careful not to let counsel from others overshadow your own sense of perception. Things become clearer by the week's end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The trusted colleagues you relied on earlier continue to offer support with your project. But you take more control, and by the week's end, you should be in full command.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Rely on your practical side while exploring investment possibilities. Caution is still your watchword in these matters. Your social life takes a gratifying turn by the week's end.

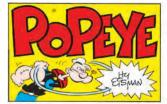
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) An already confusing situation appears to grow murkier during the first part of the week. But it all starts to clear by the week's end. Plan to spend the weekend with someone special.

Born this Week

You have a passion for life that inspires others to follow your example. You could be a motivational speaker.

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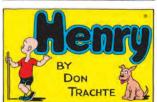






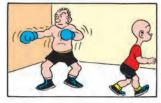






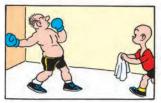














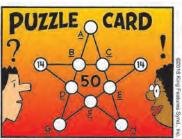


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



SOME COLLECT SOME ESTIMATES





A"LONE STAR STATE" PUZZLE! See if you can place the numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 18 in the empty circles above so that the four numbers in any straight line add up to 50.

Out answer: A=11, B=13, C=9, D=10, E=12, F=8, G=16, H=18,



Illustrated by David Coulson

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> E T

A"SCALY" PROBLEM! When Fred was asked how much the fish he caught weighed, he said: "It weighed 10 pounds, plus half its weight." Can you figure out how much it weighed? Answer: The fish weighed 20 pounds

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "PLANES." See if you can replace these letters in the AN squares so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across): Eel, ape, ten, set. (Down): Eats, epee, lent

See if you can belt out the pyra-mid words before the first act is over. Starting with the given word BARITONES, at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up , so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with BARITONES.

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

- 1. Male singers.
- 2. People who guarantee things.
- More restless or fidgety (slang).
 Literary attack on vice or folly.
- 5. Extremely angry.
- 6. A salty liquid.
- Type of museum.
- 8. Ancient sun god.
- 9. Chess piece (abbr.)

Answers; (from the bottom up): Bartlones, notaries, antsier, satire, trate, tear, art, Ra, R (Rook).



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

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MAGIC MAZE ● BACKYARD

EEBYVSHONKHEBYW NTROLJCGEBYEWUR PENKIGRDBZXCVSQ OMDKIGOEECANHYN WU(TRAMPOLINE)TWS QPNSALJOHKDFAFS ECAYOGOSXGNLBHB VUSQPPWEENMIDTU KJHFEIMSTECBRAR ZYXVNUTORARQIPH POMGLKIHCHGTBGS

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

Birdbath Hedges Pool Swing Trampoline Hoses Porch Compost Fence Shrubs Lawn Trees Gate Path Sprinkler © 2018 King Features Synd., Inc

By Fifi Rodrigue:

- 1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the only U.S. president born on the island of Manhattan?
- 2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Ethiopia?
- 3. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Mount Rushmore?
- 4. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented by the condition astraphobia?
- 5. LITERATURE: Which of Shakespeare's plays produced the line, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be"?
- 6. FOOD & DRINK: In which century was tea introduced to Europe?
- 7. MOVIES: Who sang the title song to the movie "Pretty Woman"?
- 8. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: What baseball great once said, "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game"?
- 9. GAMES: What kind of word puzzle was introduced Dec. 21, 1913 in the New York World?
- 10. MEDICAL: What is a more common name for the condition called achromatopsia?

Answers

10. Color blindness

9. Crossword puzzle

8. Babe Ruth 7. Roy Orbison

6. 16th century

5. "Hamlet"

4. Fear of thunder and lightning

3. South Dakota

2. Addis Ababa 1. Theodore Roosevelt

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Click on "Local News" at











R.F.D.

by Mike Marland





Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





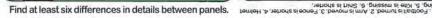
Intelligent Life

OUR DATE NIGHTS ARE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WEEK, SKIP.

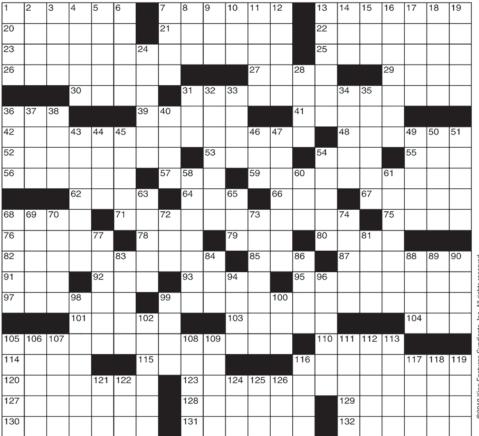




HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Super Crossword



ACROSS 1 Phase

7 Animals with two legs

13 Eyelash makeup 20 1960s space

program 21 Earhart in a cockpit

22 Hires 23 218 or more seats in Congress [BROWN] 25 Simple tunes

26 16th-cen. nun of Avila 27 Bird of New

Zealand 29 Magazine for a fashionista

30 "SCTV" bit 31 Hearttugging facet of a media story

[SIMONE] 36 Oral health org. 39 Wed

41 Heighten 42 Verses using visual devices [GABRIEL]

48 Golden Arches sandwiches with barbecue sauce

52 Person held in custody **53** — -dieu

(prayer bench) 54 Seoul's region: Abbr. 55 King, in Nice

56 Certain Greek 57 "- dare?" 59 2010 Kevin Spacev film

[MITCHELL] 62 Sleuth's tidbit 64 Hailed car 66 Bus.

honcho 67 Wrist wear 68 Cod or koi 71 Romanian tennis great

75 Letters after wyes 76 Artist for a 78 Up — point

target, often 80 Dr. (1990s TV therapist) 82 Substantial

[CALLAS] 87 Salad staple

92 Solder stuff 93 Gulf republic 95 Switchboard

worker 97 Balkan republic 99 Warning

101 Lover boy 103 A bit warm 104 Bovine call 105 Setting of hearings

[DION] 110 - -tat-tat 115 Purim's

116 Lover's tune 120 Ocelot, e.g. [SEDAKA] 123 Supporting vocalists

comic book 79 Dieter's

number

bars a cage' 91 Farm mother 3 Look sulky 4 Nobody 5 Store

assistant message 7 Cabo's

[BENNETT]

for minors 114 Algerian port

month

(or an apt alternate title for this puzzle)

129 Ogle

.. — iron 132 Disco effect DOWN

(only mine)

6 Marisa of Hollywood

peninsula 8 "I believe," to texters 9 — diem 10 Wallach of

Hollywood 11 NFL great Mike 12 "Know what I'm --?'

("Get it?") 13 City north of Mecca 14 Vocalist DiFranco

15 USMC NCO 16 Provider of dishes 17 Quick-footed 18 Film rolls

127 Jack of 19 Thing of use fitness fame 24 Sagacious 128 Wisdom 28 Slim and goddess muscular

31 Mod 130 Climbed, as 32 Idealistic a rope 33 Painter 131 Not so fat Jan van der -34 The Bard's

"— of Athens" 1 Oohs and — 2 Jaguar mark 35 Place in trust 36 "Black Ice" rock band 37 Active sort 38 Stud fee?

e.g.

bowling

Punjabis,

58 Nauru and

piano

69 Dazzled

70 T-bar user

72 Bettor's slip

73 Less cloudy

68 Shrill flutes

65 Purse

74 Diner

77 Allotment

81 Whig's rival

83 Florida city

84 Capote, to

friends

Fiji's area

game

51 Many

40 It's a must 90 Dunkable 43 One behind a batter 94 Aleutian 44 Oman's currency

96 San Diego unit ball team 45 Blah feeling 98 Actor 46 Muscle jerk Fraser

99 Not single-47 Wince at. sex as a 49 Mad as school 100 Decide (to) heck 102 Jubilant 50 Lawn

105 Lower cheeks 106 — the Hittite

86 Rice-A- -

fission

treat

island

89 Dog in Oz

88 Thing split in

107 Vocalist religionwise Frankie 54 Mall station 108 Rebels' ring 109 Sermonize

111 Seed cases 60 Pirate realm 112 Basic belief **61** Guy playing **113** Fury bebop, say 116 Argue 63 John at the (with)

117 Streamlined, for short 118 Uncolorful

119 Punta del -121 Channel for Jake Tapper

122 Meth- ender 124 Third of a dance

move 125 Writer Kesey 126 Article in

Arles





DISHWASHERS & WASHING MACHINES

Dishwashers have been added to the Reimbursement Grant for qualified residents of South East Madera County

NOW GET \$350 EACH FOR Dishwashers & Washing Machines

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/18

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