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Liberty High revives its Wall of Honor

Liberty High School Principal Kandace Osborn, center, meets with area U.S. military veterans in front of the Wall of Honor created at Liberty High School for Liberty High students who have chosen the military for themselves.

In This Issue

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



Liberty High revives its Wall of Honor

On Friday, Nov. 8, a group of area U.S. Military veterans met at Liberty High School in an early Veterans Day celebration at the school's "Wall of Honor" under the watchful eye of Principal Kandace Osborn.

The memorial wall has been in a corner of the cafeteria at Liberty High at 12220 Road 36, on the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36, for years. At present, there are 102 Liberty High veterans and active-duty military members honored there with the first names coming from the Class of 2005. All branches of the military are represented on the wall. There are 17 members of the Air Force, 20 members of the Marines, 38 members of the Army, 26 members of the Navy and 1 member of the Coast Guard.

Principal Osborn is concerned that there may be more graduates in the military – past and present – that the school doesn't know about. She's asking for the community's help in making sure that all graduates that have military experience are represented on the Wall of Honor. Attached is a list of the existing graduates known to have served our country in the military. If you have any information on others, Principal Osborn can be reached at ksosborn@gvusd.org or you can call her at 559-645-3500, ext. 2001. You can also contact her by mail at Principal Osborn, 12220 Road 36, Madera, CA 93636.

Graduates on the Wall of Honor:

Air Force

2010 Jeff Cisneros
2015 Jordan Lewis
2016 Caleb Wiens – Air Force Academy
2016 Jeremiah Johnson
2018 Jazper Blancett
2018 Nicholas Eddings
2019 Nicolas Banuelos
2019 Keaton Ellis
2019 Angel Lugo

2019 Tyler Treleaven
2019 Davin Herrod
2019 Zachary Ellis
2020 Dustyn Anderson
2021 Alexander Alvarez Fields
2022 Skylar Hartley – Air Force Academy
2023 Elijah Holland
2024 Cody Woolstra

Marines

2005 Nick Ramey
2005 Joshua Bruun
2006 Shawn Hicks
2007 Dustin Rice
2008 Bryant Poe
2008 Carl Roberts
2008 Mario Rosales
2008 Joshua Norvell
2009 Eric Bulger
2011 Dylan Olsen
2016 Arturo Espinosa
2017 Dillon Carlson
2018 Logan Carter
2019 Adam Pranger
2021 John Quinn
2021 Phillip Banuelos
2022 Matthew Shong-Foo
2022 Danielle Hess
2023 Trenton Engleman
2024 Caleb Sisco

Army

2005 Carissa Greenier
2006 Sarah Munoz
2006 Matthew Escarcega
2006 Daniel Juarez
2006 Nicholas Johnson
2006 Chris Bradford
2006 Paul Porter
2006 Araz Yousif
2006 Aerik Garcia
2007 Kevin Johnson
2008 Kayla Hodges – West Point

Please see **HONOR** on P. 16

Growing Food Together: Community Gardening's Impact

By J.M. Heatherly

Community gardens are more than just patches of green space in urban environments. They are thriving examples of mutual aid that address hunger, combat food apartheid and build stronger, more interconnected communities.

Many feel disconnected from nature nowadays. Some want to learn sustainable practices and others want to know where food comes from. One common desire is the normal need to feel more connected with our neighbors, and community gardens do just that. These shared gardens offer a multifaceted solution to food insecurity, serving as educational spaces, social hubs and sources of fresh produce. By turning available land into productive gardens, we not only grow food but also cultivate relationships and resilience.

Community gardens are collectively managed plots where individuals or groups grow fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. They can be located in various places — churches, libraries, nursing homes, schoolyards, and even on balconies, patios, or rooftops.

People use all kinds of methods to develop their gardens. Raised beds help to control moisture and weeds with easier access. Container gardens work well for plots that need remediation or have a lot of concrete. Hydroponic gardens can function indoors or outdoors – in small or large spaces. Your budget, group size and location help determine what works best in your unique situation. These gardens provide a space for people to learn about agriculture, engage in physical activity and enjoy the fruits of their labor. The concept extends beyond merely growing food. They facilitate a sense of community and

shared purpose.

The significance of community gardening is deeply rooted in history. During World War II, over 20 million Victory Gardens were planted across the United States. These gardens were crucial in supplementing the food supply during wartime shortages. Victory gardens also provided a place for citizens to direct their anxieties.

Today, community gardens continue to offer valuable benefits, both practical and psychological. We saw them resurge in the early 2000s, and the pandemic only hastened their re adoption. People want to grow things in the soil to eat.

Engaging in community gardening provides tangible benefits:

- **Nutritional and Economic Advantages:** Growing your food ensures access to fresh, nutritious produce, often at a fraction of the cost of buying from a store. This is particularly important in food deserts, areas with limited access to healthy food options. By gardening as a community, individuals can improve their diet and save money.

Physical and Mental Health Benefits: Gardening is a physical activity that can improve fitness, reduce stress and enhance overall well-being. Studies have shown that gardening can lower blood pressure, boost mood and improve mental health. Tending to a garden offers a therapeutic escape from daily stresses and fosters a sense of accomplishment.

Social Cohesion: Community gardens are also powerful tools for building social ties. They bring together people from diverse backgrounds, fostering interactions

Please see **GARDEN** on P. 17



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Letters

Dear Editor:

The need is great, and Cancer for College is ready to respond. Cancer for College, a dedicated non-profit organization for cancer survivors and their families, is thrilled to announce the launch of its new fundraising campaign, Bright Futures. This campaign aims to raise \$8 million to provide enhanced need-based college scholarships, medical debt relief and educational programs for cancer survivors, helping to alleviate the financial burdens of cancer treatment. Craig Pollard, Founder of Cancer for College, said that the Bright Futures campaign is an exciting new opportunity that will enable Cancer for College to increase its grants for medical debt as well as college scholarships. With the #1 reason for personal bankruptcy in this country being medical debt and the rising costs of college, Cancer for College is committed to helping eliminate the financial burden and stress placed on families affected by cancer.

The three-year campaign is based on four pillars of support: enhanced college scholarships, medical debt relief, educational programming and a permanent headquarters for Cancer for College to serve the community. This initiative offers a valuable chance to ease both the financial and emotional strain on families navigating a cancer diagnosis, providing hope that their future remains bright despite the challenges

they face.

The campaign kicked off with a launch party for the Cancer for College Board of Directors and Executive Committee, as well as a "Beats for a Bright Future" online fundraising campaign led by previous grant recipients. Upcoming fundraising events include star-studded collaborations that include events hosted by the charity's celebrity ambassador, Will Ferrell, including Will Ferrell's Holiday Jam featuring Dogstar at San Diego's Music Box on Saturday, Dec. 14.

To learn more about the Bright Futures Campaign and how to support local cancer survivors, please visit cancerforcollege.org/bright-futures/ or contact Logan at Logan@cancerforcollege.org or call 760-599-5096.

The Mission of Cancer for College is to provide hope and inspiration to cancer survivors through academic scholarships, medical debt relief and educational experiences. Since its inception in 1993, CFC has grown into a transformative force in the lives of cancer survivors by awarding over \$8 million in college scholarships to 2,000 cancer survivors, with additional support for continuing education and reducing medical debt. For more information visit www.cancerforcollege.org.

Logan Keene
San Diego



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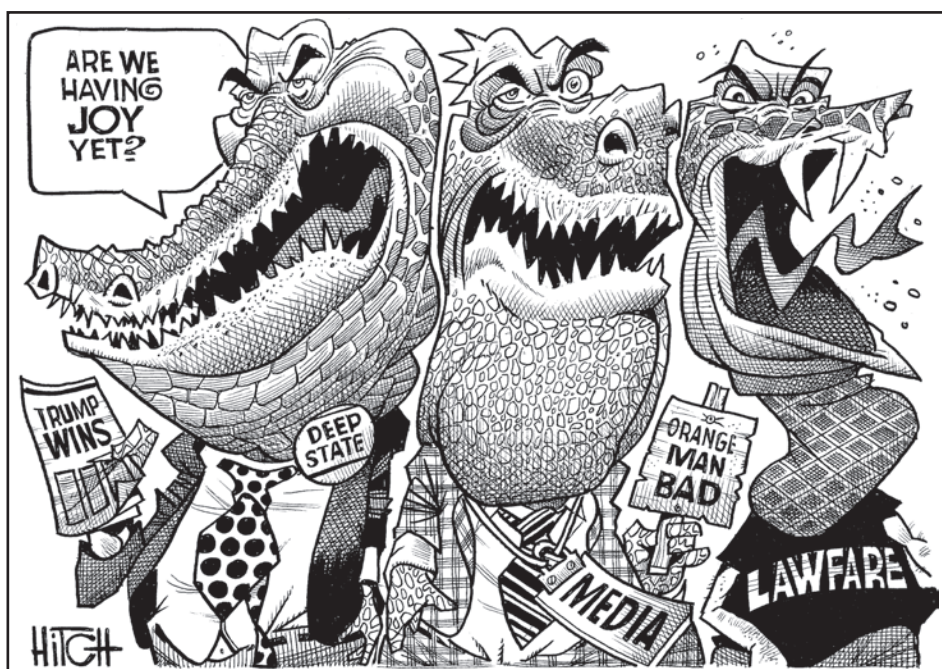
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Guest Editorial

Have Americans Finally Awakened?

By Robert Zimmerman

In my long life there have been a number of times post-election when pundits nationwide have claimed that the results signaled a major cultural transition. This claim was made in 1980 when Ronald Reagan was elected president. It was made again in 1994 when voters gave the Republicans their first majority in the House of Representatives in about four decades. A similar claim was made in 2016, when Trump was elected for the first time.

In every single one of these cases the claim was false. There was no major cultural transition. Republicans might have won control, but the American public and its political class still largely leaned leftward. There was almost no change politically. Despite for example Bill Clinton's announcement that "The era of big government is over" after the 1994 election, the federal government continued to grow in size and power, and to do so with ever increasing speed.

Even more significant, in every single case, the American people went back to sleep after the election. They

considered the election their statement of what must be done, and assumed naively that the newly elected officials would obey that statement. No matter how much conservatives attempted to make the public aware that the government remained out of control and was further beginning to institute leftist policies far outside what anyone in America wanted, those attempts fell on deaf ears.

The American people were essentially not interested. The only political movement that moved with any passion was that of the left, and it took advantage of this passion to successfully

get its policies imposed.

It seems however that the 2024 election signals a real cultural transition, far deeper and more significant than the mere shift of voting patterns to the right that most pundits are noting

It seems however that the 2024 election signals a real cultural transition, far deeper and more significant than the mere shift of voting patterns to the right that most pundits are noting by all demographic groups.

by all demographic groups.

No, what is happening is a shift in passion. The American public has awakened in a way I have never seen. I give you this news report as a clear sign, as the events it describes occurred after the November election, when Americans in the past would have gone back into slumber and stopped paying attention. Watch and be amazed, not just by the outrage by hundreds of ordinary citizens, but by the fact that this outrage was reported correctly and sympathetically by a television news report:

BREAKING: Parents blasted the @StHelensSD school board after discovering that a teacher who was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing students was LET BACK IN THE CLASSROOM while still under investigation without the school even informing parents. – Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) Nov. 14, 2024

Rather than go to sleep after the election, parents and students in large numbers descended on a school board meeting to express their righteous anger over the school board's willingness for years to ignore sexual abuse

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 9

The Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

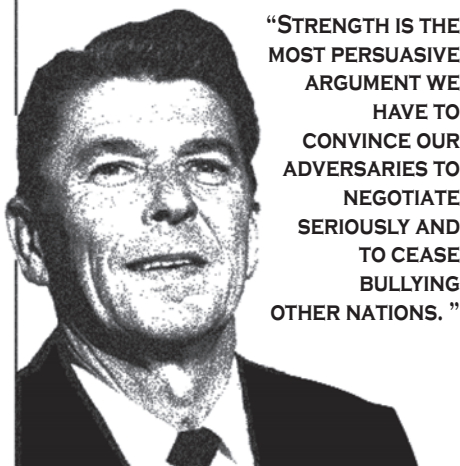
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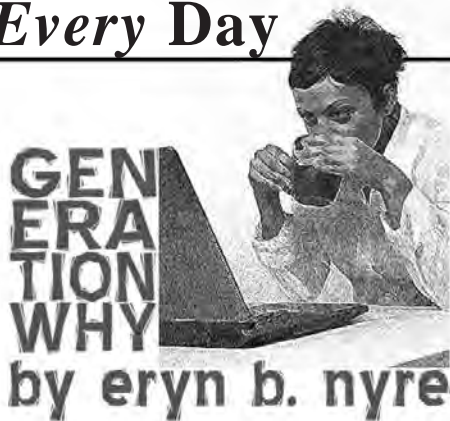
Being Thankful *Every Day*

I've said it before and I'll say it again, we shouldn't wait for November to show our gratitude. We shouldn't hold it in all year and just articulate our thankfulness because a day on the calendar tells us it's time to do so. I know I need to be better at counting my blessings and expressing appreciation throughout the year. Yet, as it is Thanksgiving and there is so much for which to be grateful, I might as well keep with tradition and write about it.

First and most important, I am thankful for God's unending mercy. I'm grateful that He sacrificed His perfect Son to atone for all of my sins so that through my faith in Christ I am saved, I will rejoin my Heavenly Father in His Kingdom of Glory and have everlasting life. I don't deserve it. I have done nothing, nor is there anything I could do to earn it, but I accept this gift from God that only He can give.

I'm grateful for my mom and dad. They were opposites that worked together to give me a well-rounded perspective of the world. I'm grateful for mom's nurturing side who always encouraged me and cheered me on. I'm grateful for my dad's

logical side who taught me to think critically about situations and find the most rational solution. I'm grateful that I share my mom's love of the holiday season with all its light and color as well as my dad's love for hearth and home, both of which have helped me fill my house with joy and laughter each holiday season. There's not a day that goes by that I don't miss my mom, but this time of year brings a depth to the sorrow. She took a holiday already filled with love and light and somehow managed to make it warmer and brighter. No matter how many decorations I put up, or how I trim the tree, there is always something missing without her around. However, I am grateful that my heart is filled with the memories of the love and



joy she brought to this time of year.

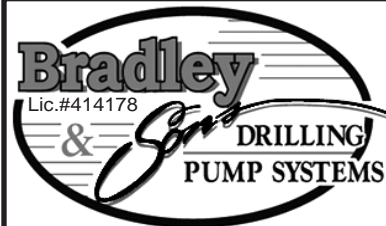
I am grateful for my extended family. I recently had the pleasure of seeing many of my aunts, uncles and cousins, some of whom I haven't seen in years. Even though the reason for the reunion wasn't a happy one, the visit itself was cheerful and fun. We chatted, caught each other up on our lives, shared stories of experiences with our family

There's not a day that goes by that I don't miss my mom, but this time of year brings a depth to the sorrow. She took a holiday already filled with love and light and somehow managed to make it warmer and brighter. No matter how many decorations I put up, or how I trim the tree, there is always something missing without her around.

members that have passed on. It was a positive and lovely visit set against a sad backdrop, and I feel blessed to have had that time with everyone, despite what brought us all there. It reminded me of how much I love and miss them and how I must try harder to make the time to visit more often.

I am grateful for my friends. This year I thought I was going to be spending Thanksgiving alone. It wouldn't be the first time, but I wasn't looking forward to it. I am lucky enough to have people in my life that will invite me to join their family celebrations, but it can make me feel like an outsider intruding when I only know one or two people at the table. It's not a concern after all because a group of us have gotten together and decided to host a "Friendsgiving" event. It turns out that I'm not the only one whose family is off visiting other branches of the tree, so we've arranged a potluck Thanksgiving and game night. I'm very much looking for-

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



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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

ward to the food, the comradery and absolutely annihilating everyone at Trivial Pursuit: Harry Potter Edition.

I'm thankful for this past election. As a conservative, it has given me hope for the future, and not just my fu-

ture but our country's as well. I know there are millions of Americans who are disappointed, even distraught, over the results; I remember how I felt after the last presidential election. I am truly hopeful, however, that those who voted for another candidate will reap the rewards those of us who did vote for this next administration are hoping and expecting to see. I also hope that those currently disappointed will come to see, and agree, with why the majority of the country voted for him. I am grateful that I live in a country that al-

lows me to cast my vote as I see fit, and that even though some tried to bully people into supporting their own cause, the majority of us saw through the tactics of name calling and degradation just because of a difference of opinion. I think there is a bright, joyful future ahead and I am grateful for the chance to watch it unfold.

No matter what is happening in your own world right now, there's always at least a blessing or two to count.

No matter what is happening in your own world right now, there's always at least a blessing or two to count.

Even when faced with sickness and loss, heartbreak and sadness, there is something to be grateful for, and if we just hold onto that while navigating the storms of life it will see us through to the blue skies. Here's to a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving filled with the people that mean the most to you.



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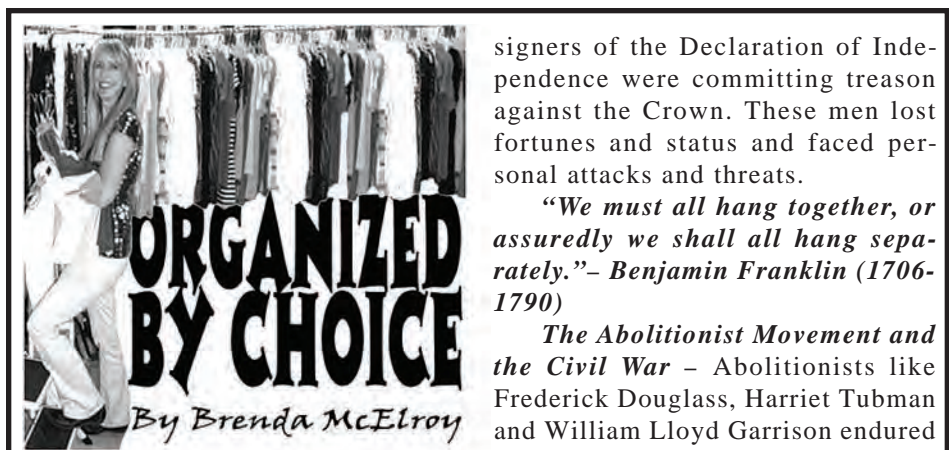
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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE
 By Brenda McElroy

A Lasting Legacy

This morning, I got word that one of my beloved clients, a veteran of the Vietnam war, passed away. Today is November 11, 2024 — Veterans Day. It's a fitting tribute to Kent McNatt who not only served his country but served other veterans, volunteering his time and efforts to honor and support them.

As a high school history teacher, he used his platform to engage students in learning about veterans through an annual event he put on called Veterans Appreciation Day. For many of his students, this was their first opportunity to talk with veterans about their experiences — even with those in their own family.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John F. Kennedy

As we organized his memorabilia, I had the privilege of reading some of his students' responses to that experience. His will be a lasting legacy of instilling understanding and gratitude toward those who sacrificed for the freedom we so easily take for granted.

In this season of Thanksgiving, it's appropriate to take time to reflect on the leaders, soldiers and civilians who played a role in developing and preserving the United States of America. It is through the sacrifice of many that we have much.

The American Revolution — Thousands of soldiers and civilians endured hardship, disease and death in battles such as Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Yorktown — fighting for freedom. Under British law, the

signers of the Declaration of Independence were committing treason against the Crown. These men lost fortunes and status and faced personal attacks and threats.

"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." — Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

The Abolitionist Movement and the Civil War — Abolitionists like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and William Lloyd Garrison endured persecution, violence and arrest in their campaign to end slavery. The Civil War cost the lives of approximately 620,000 people. President Abraham Lincoln faced intense criticism and personal danger, ultimately giving his life for the Union and for the cause of equality.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning." — Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, former slave (1818-1895)

The Women's Suffrage Movement — Securing voting rights for women was another significant battle.

Suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul sacrificed personal security, enduring ridicule, imprisonment and even force-feeding during hunger strikes. The fruit of their labor was the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

"I know nothing of man's rights, or woman's rights; human rights are all that I recognize." — Moore Grimke (1792-1873)

World War I and World War II — For every soldier who paid the ultimate price there's a family who also paid dearly. During World War I, nearly five million Americans served, with thousands losing their lives in overseas combat. During World War II, over 400,000 American soldiers died, and millions more were wounded, both physically and psychologically. To support the war effort, civilians at home endured ra-

The Mouths of Babes

(November 2014)

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



through them and picked out some of the funniest, sincere and thoughtful of them all.

The first question we asked was "Do you know how to cook a turkey?"

We got lots of answers to cook it in a pot for anywhere from 5 minutes to 200 minutes, and lots of dads who cook the turkey on the BBQ.

Kristina from Mrs. Canar's class at Webster said, "First you kill the turkey, next you bbq it. Last you are done."

Payton, also from Webster, said simply, "My Mom never cooks turkey."

Jonnie Lynn from Ms. Fulton's class at Webster said, "First you peel it then you put it in the pot."

In Mrs. Kent's class at Webster Mikayla told us, "You cook it in the oven at 20 (degrees) and 13 minutes."

The next question was "What is stuffing?" which most of the kids said

was the soft stuff inside their teddy bears.

Logan, from Mrs. Canar's class, said, "Stuffing is yellow stuff with vegetables," while Meghan from Mrs. Green's Webster class said, "You put donuts with cake, peppers, slomia (salami?), ice cream and put it in the oven."

Nixon, from Sierra View, said, "Stuffing goes in the turkey. Stuffing is made with a box," while Bonilla, also from Sierra View, said, "Stuffing is yummy. It has bread crumbs and nuts. It has jam. It has protein." And Sierra View's Nathan said, "Stuffing is good. It has ice cream."

Our next question was "Where do cranberries come from?"

Most of the answers were they come from trees or bushes. One student said they came from Costco and April from Sierra View says they come from pomegranates.

Mikayla from Mrs. Kent's class

said, "Cranberries come from trees. I know that because I have seen it." And Helio from Sierra View gave them a ringing endorsement: "My Mom eats a lot of cranberries. My Mom thinks they are very, very, VERY good."

Our last question was, "What are your family's Thanksgiving traditions?"

Most of the answers were either about going to Grandma's house or Grandma coming to their house. And a lot of them play with their cousins.

Gianni from Mrs. Canar's class said, "I eat all the pumpkin pie." All of it?

Isabel, also from Mrs. Canar's class said, "I give my Grandma a card."

Angelica from Mrs. Green's Webster class said, "Celebrate my dog's birthday and eat turkey, mash potatoes. That is our Thanksgiving traditions."

Kaleb from Sierra View said, "We stay home and eat turkey and fruit and pie and watch TV," and Haley, also from Sierra View, said, "We stay home and eat turkey and stuffing. We eat pie and give thanks for poor people."

I'll close with this from John in Mrs. Kent's class at Webster: "We say our prayers," and Emma from Mrs. Green's class: "My Mom and Dad love me and my sisters."

Isn't that what it's all about?

There you have it – only a portion of the answers we got, but they were priceless. I want to sincerely thank Superintendent Andy Alvarado, Principals Ladlo Lopez of Webster and Chris Imperatrice of Sierra View and ALL of the first grade teachers at both schools for all their help. But most of all, the students in the first grade at these two schools – YOU WERE AW-SOME!

As most of you know that have been reading this column for any length of time, you know how so very much I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up. In fact, when my sisters and I would "play school" I was always the teacher – being the oldest didn't hurt either. But being a teacher just wasn't in the cards. That certainly didn't stop me from loving the little guys. I always requested the first and second grades when I taught Sunday School.

Somewhere in the 1960s Art Lin-kletter had a program called *House Party* and on that show he had a segment called "Kids Say the Darndest Things." I would watch it every chance I got because I loved to hear how the kids would answer his questions.

Invariably, Art would ask the question – Did your Mommy or Daddy tell you something that you shouldn't say? And of course, as all kids would do, was blab the answers. "Now don't tell them that Grandpa walks around in his underwear – or your Aunt Mabel is the biggest gossip on the block".

Not long ago, I was thinking about the Thanksgiving article and thought I'd like to see what kids would say about cooking the Thanksgiving dinner. After talking it over with Randy and telling him what I wanted to do, he said I should start at the top. So I put in a call to Golden Valley Unified Superintendent Andy Alvarado, and what a help he was. He contacted the principals at Webster and Sierra View and they contacted the first grade teachers and away we went. And did we get a reaction!

There is no way we can print them all, I wish we could. Randy and I went

There you have it – only a portion of the answers we got, but they were priceless ... most of all, the students in the first grade at these two schools – YOU WERE AW-SOME!

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*In Everything
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1 Thessalonians 5:18



11/24

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

complaints by students about their teachers. More significantly, this outrage grew quickly because everyone involved was able to get educated about what was happening by the new openness on social media, fueled further by the return of free speech on X.

A Pattern Emerges

Nor is this story an outlier. It is the pattern we are seeing nationwide. In another example, when Whoopi Goldberg slandered a bakery in Staten Island — claiming falsely that it refused to fill her order because of her politics when the problem was simply due to mechanical problems that made

Nor is this story an outlier. It is the pattern we are seeing nationwide.

Connecticut and Goldberg were doing something far different than the hundreds of conservatives blacklisted by the left from 2020 to 2023. Those conservatives were almost always simply expressing reasonable conservative opinions, and getting destroyed because of this. The teacher, however, was threatening violence, while Goldberg was defaming the bakery with lies. Such behavior is beyond the pale and should immediately disqualify both from their jobs — teaching any kids anywhere, or doing political analysis on television.

And now, the public is not only aware of these things, it is loudly and continuously rising up to demand consequences for anyone behaving in this manner.

In other words, Americans are no longer asleep. Or as one Japanese admiral

wrote in his diary after leading the attack on Pearl Harbor, “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

The Democrats have done all they could in the past decade to awake the sleeping giant of ordinary Americans. The last four years finished the job. Americans appear enraged and unwilling to fall asleep. Instead, they are using their smart phones to pay attention, and are responding angrily when people in the political realm behave badly.

The Astonishing House Cleaning to Come

This is the real transition. American culture for decades has been dominated by a soft leftist bent that the general public was willing to tolerate, even if it often opposed these political goals. That has now ended. The consequences of this change will be hard to measure.

This editorial originally appeared at www.behindtheblack.com.

Similarly, in only one of numerous recent examples, a Connecticut school teacher went online to whine about Donald Trump’s election victory, and in doing so she actually threatened violence against Trump supporters. The public response was so loud and overwhelming that her school superintendent immediately removed her from the school premises pending his investigation, and she resigned almost immediately thereafter.

I spent the last four years reporting hundreds of similar slander and blacklisting attacks against the right. In most cases there was little public outcry, either because of apathy or fear of retaliation for speaking out. Now, however, the public will no longer sit still and take it, but is instead responding with a loud roar. Do not be surprised if Goldberg finds herself fired from her position on the television show, The View, because of this and other absurdly slanderous statements.

Both the schoolteacher in Con-

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Senior Report

Holidays and Christmas Cheer

By *Melanie Williams*

The chilly winter months are almost upon us. The Autumn leaves have fallen and many people are looking forward to a wonderful snow season in the nearby Sierra Nevada Mountains. December is right around the corner as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas holidays with family and friends. Our seniors are excited for the Christmas holidays and coming festivities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.



The Monthly Sale is coming up on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. The Treasure House has lots of great stuff for the holidays being donated and Christmas items will be on display this month. New winter clothing, coats, jackets and sweaters for adults and children are on sale and the Boutique has unique items just in time for holiday decorating. Thank you for all the wonderful Treasure House donations we receive from the community to support our outreach to local seniors.

The Department of Social Services is hosting another luncheon at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. The invitation extends to all older adults, age 50 or older, including individuals with disabilities and caregivers interested in helping to create a local action plan to serve the Madera Ranchos community. They provide lunch and facilitate roundtable discussions with members of the community to address their concerns with available services in the local area. Anyone wanting to participate in these discussions can call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 to make reservations for lunch. You can also call the Department of Social Services directly and ask for information about participating in this event at 559-662-2600.

The Senior Hot Lunch Program is happening daily at the Senior Center. Any seniors, 60 years and older, living in the community or surrounding area, are encouraged to come and enjoy a hot meal and the company of your local senior community. Our partners in this program would like to expand this outreach to seniors who may not be getting out often, to come, enjoy a hearty hot lunch and visit with other seniors from the neighborhood. We are working with the Eastern Madera Recreation and Parks Department and the Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging to host this senior outreach program at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center in Madera Ranchos. Additional information can be provided by calling the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864 from 9 a.m. to 1

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 15

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Kiwanis Korner

Holiday Festivities for the Community

By Sally Rowden

Our Fall/Halloween Raffle Basket was awarded to Martha Valdez of Madera. When Martha received the call saying that she had won the basket, she indicated that she and her husband were just wondering who had the winning ticket. It was you, Martha! Congratulations.



Santa, Paul Cameron, and the real Mrs. Claus, Marie Cameron, were prepared to make some Christmas dreams come true at the Ranchos Kiwanis' Winter/Christmas Tea and Luncheon.

The Winter/Christmas Tea and Luncheon was very much a success. There were close to 70 ladies present. The luncheon catered by Nina's Bakery of Fresno was scrumptious. With our Kiwanis Key Club Liberty High School students as servers everyone received excellent attention. The festive holiday room and table decorations placed everyone in the holiday spirit along with Santa's arrival, who eagerly led us in joyful Christmas Carols. Huge thanks go to Verlaine Ellinberg for the use of her event room. Along with huge thanks to our sponsors: Annieglass, Dependable Supply Chain Services, Pistoressi Ambulance, Universal Lending and Real Estate and Yosemite Ranch. Plus, the 70 ladies present eagerly handled the silent auction with expertise. Our success is because of the support of folks in our communities. Thank you.

Due to our Thanksgiving Holiday, we will not be having a second meeting in November. The same is happening in December. We will be meeting on Dec. 5 only. This meeting will be held at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 5 p.m. You're welcome to attend.

We will be out supporting the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at their Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 6. Hope to see you all there. Call the Chamber at 559-645-4001 for more information. We will also be out on Dec. 12 serving dinner at the Ranchos Hills Seniors Center. If you're a member we will see you there.



Our Valentine's Limousine Raffle will be starting soon. This is a chance to win a limo ride for up to eight to 10 folks. We should have tickets and flyers out in the communities soon. Be on the lookout.

The help at our Winter/Christmas Tea and Luncheon was excellent, courtesy of the Kiwanis Key Club members of Liberty High School. From left are Reyna Vega, Jennifer Garcia, Aaron Batista, Tyler Nguyen, Nathan Nguyen and Genesis Farshoo.

I want to share with you a couple of lines from the works of Maya Angelou. As I read and reread these statements it made me think that these actions are very doable, especially during this Thanksgiving season. "When you learn, teach. When you get, give".

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 6 • 6 p.m.

The Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, a Christmas boutique, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.
Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books. Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 13. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



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See you at our Christmas Mixer on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Call 645-4001 for info.



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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 everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 2.

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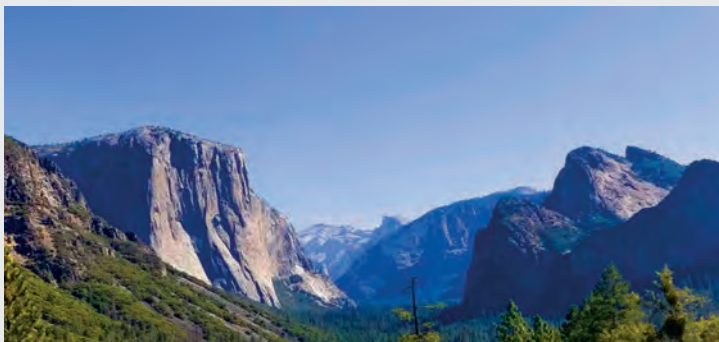
SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Giving Away 25 Turkeys for Christmas

An easy way to brighten up your holiday is with SEMCU giving away 25 turkeys to help the holiday spirit shine for us all. To qualify, you must live in the Southeast Madera County area and write one paragraph about what you like about living in the Southeast Madera area or suggest a project for SEMCU to help with or embark on. Please email your entry to: INFO@SEMCU.ORG and include your full contact information. One entry per family. Entry deadline is Thursday, Dec. 12.

Winners will be contacted the following day. Winners can pick up their turkey on Tuesday, Dec. 17 between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Drive. Good luck!



We all need a “breather” every once in a while. My family and I love traveling and it had been a while since we enjoyed our mountains, so this past summer we planned a “catch-up” trip and I thought I would simply write this month about some of the trip details so it may inspire someone to remember to enjoy our natural wonders, based on the brief, fabulous loop we enjoyed.

We decided to start from Visalia going into the Sierra National Park at the “Foothill Visitor Center” on the south side of the park. We were disappointed when we found out that Cristal Cave was closed to the public, but we trudged forward.

Next was the “Giant Forest Museum.” Driving along the winding crest road within the forest was mesmerizing. We visited the “General Sherman Tree,” and hiked and picnicked in the area.

The next day we explored the “General Grant Tree” and trails, then drove along the winding road of King’s Canyon to “Grizzly Falls” and continued to explore the King’s River winding down. We found

a great spot for a picnic along its banks. Listening to the babbling water and birds was therapeutic.

On our way from King’s Canyon to Yosemite, we stopped at Shaver Lake, rented a wave-runner and spent the day in some of the hidden coves. We stayed the night at a cabin and the crackling fireplace kept us very cozy.

Next morning we were off to Huntington Lake and after breakfast along the lake we headed to Yosemite. We loved Mariposa Grove and the “Tunnel Tree.” Had lunch at the Yosemite Valley Lodge and explored El Capitan, Bridalveil Falls and Yosemite Falls with a short hike to Lower Yosemite Falls. Our stay at the Ahwahnee Lodge was as good as we remembered.

Our plans continued the next day by exploring Tuolumne Meadows and continued to hike along the Tuolumne River. We got brave and stopped for a dip in Tanaya Lake then continued on to enjoy the ride along Tioga Pass down to the Valley on our way to Mammoth Lakes.

The following day we drove to the Mammoth Mountain Ski resort and rode the Gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain. One can’t but be mesmerized by the amazing views of the Minarets and the winding San Joaquin River to the west and the White Mountains range to the east. In Mammoth, we hiked around some of the pristine lakes and fished for dinner. No luck, so we had to make dinner reservation at Lakefront restaurant ... very recommended.

Next day, we hopped on the bus at the Mammoth Mountain ski resort and went down to Reds Meadow along the San Joaquin River; yes, the same one winding through the Valley. We stopped at the Devil’s Post Pile and continued to the soda springs and from there hiked to Rainbow Falls. What a place for a picnic. With a heavy heart, we departed the next day, yet felt exhilarated, retelling the highlights as we drove back home.

I hope this will inspire someone else

Please see SEMCU on P. 17



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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

p.m.

The Annual Christmas Dinner is on the December calendar. We are looking forward to another fun time of Christmas cheer and holiday celebration with the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Don't miss the installation of our new Board members at the festivities.

An announcement to our Ranchos/Hills Senior members, the Senior Center will celebrate the December birthdays and anniversaries at Lee Kitchen on Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m. Please sign up at the Senior Center for the Annual Christmas Dinner and the December Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon at 559-645-4864.

The holidays are full of festive events, so remember some important dates and weekly activities during the month of December at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Many of our seniors are heading up to the Golden Chain Theater on Dec. 8. The presentation *Believe In Christmas* will start every weekend from Nov. 29 through Dec. 22. It features an old-fashioned Christmas musical variety show-style holiday extravaganza. You can even cozy up with a hot

chocolate and watch the show. Tickets are still available through the Golden Chain Theater website.

Other activities at the Senior Center include Exercise Class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. with Jo Chase. Card and Table Games are on Thursdays, Dec. 18 and Dec. 26, starting at 12:15 p.m. during the chilly winter months.

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Odd Fellows Lodge located at Ave. 15 and Road 28 in Madera. They give the majority of their proceeds each month to different local charities in Madera County.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Senior Center will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day. We will also be closed on Jan. 1, 2025 for New Year's Day.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Thought for December: *"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."*—Dale Evans

Strange BUT TRUE

- In 1674, the Women's Petition Against Coffee claimed the beverage was turning British men into "useless corpse[s]" and proposed a ban on it for anyone under the age of 60.
- Eugene V. Debs ran for president in 1920 while serving a prison sentence in Atlanta Federal Penitentiary for his protests against World War I. He still captured nearly 1 million votes.
- The plot of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" was partly inspired by the collision of holiday store decorations.
- Cotton candy was invented in 1895 by candy maker John C. Wharton and dentist William Morrison, who called it "fairy floss" and sold thousands of servings at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. It was renamed "cotton candy" in the 1920s by Josef Lascaux -- another dentist -- who sold the saccharine confection to his patients. Hmmm, sounds a little bit suspicious to us.
- In a study by the Smell and Taste Treatment Research Foundation, the scent women found most arousing was Good & Plenty candy mixed with cucumber.
- Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of your mouth.
- Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the U.S. capital for the shortest period of time, a mere day, on Sept. 27, 1777.
- Aretha Franklin's voice was declared a "natural resource" of the state of Michigan.
- In 1967, supermodel Twiggy became the first celebrity to be immortalized as a Barbie doll. Other celebrity Barbies have included Cher, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis and Priscilla Presley, and Nicki Minaj.
- A face with big eyes, a small nose and a small chin exhibits kinderschema: the collection of traits humans have evolved to find adorable

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HONOR cont. from P. 2	<i>Navy</i>
2008 Nick Nechay	2005 Michael Chavez Jr.
2008 William Juhrend	2007 Stephen Wilson
2009 Cody Dunn	2008 Shawn Ellis
2009 Nick Gizzo – The Citadel	2008 Jeff Avedesian
2009 Roman Williams	2008 Nate Swan – Naval Academy
2009 Rochelle Smith	2009 Keegan Fitzgerald
2009 Brian Semsem	2010 Jedidah Jolliff
2009 Richardo Altamirano	2012 Hanna Fox
2010 Kevin Taylor	2013 Bailey Lindbloom
2010 Joe Barajas Roth	2014 Michael Bronskowsky
2011 Brandon Silva – National Guard	2014 Mason Fox
2015 Kendall Malone	2016 Anthony Anderson
2015 Ben Callahan	2017 Robert Schmeiser
2015 Max Wyatt	2017 Nicholas Macumba
2016 Kaleb Berna	2018 Isaac Casares
2016 Wyatt Sanders	2019 Jarred Castaneda
2016 Kyle Higginbotham – National Guard	2019 Gio Jimenez
2018 Nolan Reitz	2019 Brad Miller
2019 Leasia Wetzel	2019 Logan Stephens
2019 Tyler Miller	2020 Jarred Dotson
2020 Nickolas Blum	2021 Quaiden Copher – Naval Academy
2021 Ben Souders	2021 Connor Hill
2021 Marco Lopez	2021 Lani Whiteside
2022 Brittney Hess	2021 Jason Ramirez
2022 Emilio Ortega	2021 Casey Garcia
2023 Seth Ruell	2022 Tanner Cundall
2024 Ryleigh Conae – ROTC	<i>Coast Guard/Merchant Marines</i>
	2023 Max Nulick

Academic Decathletes Hit Madera

More than 500 Academic Decathletes from throughout California joined Madera County's high school competitors in Madera for the 17th Annual Academic Decathlon Lecture Day. Valley experts lectured on six subject areas pertaining to this year's Decathlon topic, "Our Changing Climate."

"We are proud that Madera County is home to one of the only additional events related to Decathlon available to the entire state," said Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools. "Through Lecture Day, students not only have the opportunity to learn valuable information, but they also have a chance to bond as a team and interact with students from other schools across the state."

Decathletes were allowed to attend four of six sessions throughout the day. Sessions included: Environmental and Environmentalist Art, presented by Susana Sosa, Fresno City College professor; Economics, presented by Aaron Pankratz, Fresno City College professor; Literature, *Solar Storms*, presented by Tiffiny Remmer, Madera Community College professor; Music and the Natural World, presented by Dr. Harmony Murphy, Madera Community College professor; Climate Change in the Past

and Present, presented by Sean Boyd, Fresno City College professor; and Speech, presented by Dr. Brad Millar, Madera Community College professor.

The lectures were held from 10 a.m.-2:40 p.m. at Movies Madera. Each speaker lectured in a theater and students moved to the different theaters. Each expert lectured for at least two 50-minute sessions. Each session was geared toward the topics and areas of study for the 2025 Academic Decathlon. Decathletes will be tested in the areas of art, economics, language and literature, math, music, science and social science. They will also write an essay, deliver a speech and participate in an interview.

Theater owner Bob Gran donated the theater once again for the event. The event is sponsored by Madera County Schools Foundation and Madera County Superintendent of Schools.

This year Madera County will have seven schools participate: Liberty High School, Chawanakee Academy, Chowchilla Union High School, Glacier High School Charter, Madera High School, Madera South High School and Matilda Torres High School. The competition will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025.

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“Madera County Safe” Program



The Madera County sheriff is inviting residents to allow their security cameras at their homes or businesses to become part of a safety technology program.

Sheriff Tyson Pogue announced a new partnership with Flock Safety for the launch of the “Madera County Safe” program. The initiative allows residents to collaborate directly with law enforcement to enhance community safety.

“Our community’s safety is a shared responsibility,” Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue said. “By participating in our camera registration and integration program, you provide invaluable support to our deputies, fire and public safety teams.”

The program asks residents to regis-

ter, integrate, or purchase cameras that grant the Madera County Sheriff’s Office access to their feeds during emergencies or critical incidents. By accessing the web of video feeds, police, fire and public safety professionals will be able to quickly respond to criminal activity and emergencies. The videos will also help investigators gather evidence following a crime.

“This collaboration allows us to respond swiftly and efficiently to emergencies and criminal activities, ensuring a safer Madera County for everyone,” Pogue said.

You can get full information, if you’re interested, at refer.flocksafety.com/madera-county-safe/.

GARDEN cont. from P. 2

and friendships. The collaborative nature of gardening helps strengthen neighborhood bonds and create a supportive network among participants.

One of the most empowering aspects of community gardening is the ability to produce food for yourself. When gardeners have a direct hand in their food production, they know how it was grown and what went into it. The connection with the Earth and the process of growing food provides a profound sense of achievement and environmental stewardship.

Community gardens also offer an opportunity for food redistribution. Harvests can be shared among gardeners, distributed to local neighborhoods, or donated to food banks and shelters. This distribution both addresses immediate food needs and promotes a culture of sharing and support. For example, Tennessee Community Gardens is an organization that connects community gardens and food hubs across the state to promote food equity, sustainability and health. By fostering local food production and access, it plays a key role in mutual aid, supporting underserved communities through shared resources and collaboration.

Additionally, Gardens like the North Nashville Community Garden help address food apartheid, providing fresh produce and promoting community resilience, especially after disasters like the 2020 tornadoes.

For a nation that boasts such abundance and great wealth, we have far too

many people who suffer from poverty. In areas with food insecurity, community gardens act as beacons of resilience. They transform underutilized spaces into productive ones, providing fresh produce to those who might otherwise struggle to afford healthy foods. These gardens create oases within food deserts, demonstrating the power of collective effort in overcoming systemic barriers to food access. Furthermore, community gardening fosters local self-reliance, reducing dependency on external food sources and strengthening community ties. The skills and knowledge gained through gardening empower individuals to take control of their food security and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable food system.

Community gardening is a dynamic form of mutual aid that goes beyond merely addressing hunger. It improves nutrition, supports mental and physical well-being, strengthens social bonds and fosters resilience in the face of food insecurity. Where else can we spend time today without spending much money? Even better there are friends, flowers and free food. It’s a pretty low-pressure environment as long as you don’t mind the elements.

As we continue to face challenges in accessing healthy food, community gardens stand as a testament to the power of collective action and shared responsibility. By embracing and expanding these green spaces, we can cultivate a more connected, sustainable and food-secure future. Help ensure food justice and start a community garden today.

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11/24

SEMUCU cont. from P. 14

to refresh themselves by planning and taking a breather. Next: The Avenue of The Giants.

Bon Voyage.

SEMUCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeastern Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools, future parks and energy. We invite our community to join and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. We invite community members to join SEMUCU as board

members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area. Together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community. SEMUCU meets once per month at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, or you may join us online to virtually participate. To join online, go to www.semcu.org for a link and simple instructions. Or if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone at 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. Make your voice heard!

SEMUCU is “By the Community, For the Community”

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

tioning and labor shortages.

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.” – George Washington

(1732-1799)

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Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20							21					22								
23						24					25									
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130										131						132				

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ANSWERS

	4		9		2	
	=		=		=	
8	=	3	-	9	+	2
	÷		x		÷	
95	=	8	x	6	+	1
	+		-		-	
3	=	4	÷	7	+	5

I	N	T	E	R	E	G	E	R	O	P	E	N	E	D	S	T	O	L	E	N	
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A	M	L	E	T	S	A	L	E	M	S											
P	A	P	E	R	S	A	D	I	D	A	S										

- ACROSS**
- 1 Printed news sources
7 Rival of Nike
13 More potent, as liquor
20 Supposed evil repeller
21 Stephen King's "— Lot"
22 Grow bigger
23 "The Client List" actress Shepherd
24 Result of vandalism
26 Match draw
27 "Them's fightin' words!"
28 Suffix with Canton
29 Right fielder Slaughter
30 Officials at first or third
34 Inner self, to Jung
36 Quarterback Manning
37 Eight minus two
38 Nav. officer
40 Sweater with a pattern of raised bands
45 Ripens
47 Auto exhaust and such
52 River craft
- 54 Nav. officer
55 Rainbow, e.g.
56 Incentive
57 Cardiologist
62 Return to 000
63 Digital holiday greeting
64 Shipping box: Abbr.
65 Digital color inits.
67 Suffix with host
68 Kuwaiti royal
71 Peck upon parting
75 Italy's Villa d'—
76 Prefix with partisan
77 Singer Des'—
78 English lav
79 Have an — mystery
81 Peter out
83 Belief that people are noticing you more than they really are
90 Total up wrongly
92 Source of 24/7 \$20 bills
93 Hot tub site
94 More subtle, as a point
95 Presidential hopeful's bid
- 100 Old Icelandic literary work
101 Dais stand
102 Suffix with cannon
103 "Oh, gross!"
105 President pro —
106 Fighting it out
108 Thor and Indra
113 Spanish for "hand"
117 Forbid
118 "Symposium" philosopher
119 Peter out
120 Personal psychosocial conflict
123 Subsidies
127 Pop flop of 1985
128 Catalog again
129 Manorial home
130 Whole number
131 Unlocked
132 What the starts of nine answers in this puzzle might be
- DOWN**
- 1 Lobby gp.
2 Comedian Poehler
3 Saloon
4 Upper crust
5 Holy artifacts
6 Canonized ninth-century pope
7 Savory jelly
8 — Vader
9 "You beat me this game"
10 Removal from office
11 Prayer ender
12 Russ. or Ukr., formerly
13 Prompt for the iPhone's personal assistant
14 Nativeness to a certain region only
15 In the style of
16 Agatha Christie's title
17 Tehran locale
18 Kellogg's waffle
19 "Cheers" actor Roger
25 Eight plus two
30 Ocean liner?
31 Pond slime
32 Tuscan city
33 Wood splitter
34 Oto or Hopi
35 Sponge up
39 Give a poker hand, e.g.
41 Toy with a tail
42 Sounds
43 Build a financial portfolio
44 Fly of Africa
46 More miffed
48 Gives ear to
49 "Ltd." cousin
50 15-season CBS series
51 They often work with DJs
53 List-limiting abbr.
58 "For heaven's —!"
59 Snoops
60 Keep — head (stay calm)
61 "Have a bite"
66 Richard of "Primal Fear"
68 Nail coating
69 Item hanging above a crib
70 "Be there shortly"
72 Small racer in a groove
73 Grew irate
74 Religion in 17-Down
75 Escort in "The Hunger Games"
77 Brew colored from oxidation
80 Slightly amiss
82 Social skill
84 Pot's partner
85 EarthLink or MSN
86 High no. for a valedictorian
87 "Is there no — this?"
88 Handed over
89 Trolleys
91 All-terrain motorcycle
96 How Jesus walked, miraculously
97 Aetna alternative
98 What a H.S. dropout may earn
99 Syringe parts
104 Most crooked
107 At least one
109 Welcomes to one's home
110 Of service above a crib
111 Snooped (around)
112 Arrive at
113 Skirt style
114 Yemen city
115 Pond wriggler
116 Previously
118 Job of some cooks
121 Dress fancily, with "out"
122 — -Magnon
124 Maglie of the old Giants
125 Adaptable truck, in brief
126 Corral

Say you saw it in the Independent

Classified

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• Need a quick batch of cookies? Keep a box mix of cake on hand. Instead of the listed ingredients, add two eggs and a half-cup of oil to the mix. Mix and shape, then bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. They are really good, and you can get pretty creative.



• Inexpensive gift idea: A cute holiday coffee mug with a bar of chocolate, a packet of hot cocoa or instant coffee, a peppermint stick and a holiday pick. Place inside a gallon-size zipper-top bag, tie with a ribbon, then trim off the zipper-top, leaving just the plastic. Looks nice.

• Instead of going out and buying extra items to have on hand for guests, just borrow from your neighbors. Extra towels, place settings, silverware, kitchen appliances: It's a pretty good bet that someone on your street has it for you to borrow. If you don't know your neighbors well enough to ask, maybe you should start planning a get-to-know-you party right now.

• Inexpensive gift idea: On the front of an empty photo album or scrapbook, print out and arrange color photos of your recipient in a collage. Glue the photos to the front of the album and cover with a decoupage glaze, like Mod Podge. Let dry and glaze again. You've just made a one-of-a-kind gift!

• When holiday cookie time comes, I keep a plastic pitcher of hot water in the sink. I toss cookie cutters into it when I am done with them, so the corners are soaking. They really seem to only need a rinse and a quick brush-off afterward. Mine don't get caked up with dough.

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

	+		÷		= 3
-		-		+	
	+		×		= 56
÷		×		÷	
	+		-		= 8
=		=		=	
2		9		4	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



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"Your lawyer's on the phone. Are you in?"



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Try to be patient as a troubling matter at work is dealt with a step at a time. Progress toward a resolution might seem slow, but it's sure and steady.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to let misplaced loyalty to a friend cloud your usually good judgment. Be true to your principles -- they won't ever let you down.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A seeming inability to make a decision can sometimes work to your advantage. Use the time to reassess the situation, then act on the facts you uncover.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Good news! A personal matter you thought would never improve suddenly takes on a more positive aspect. Things brighten up at your workplace as well.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Don't huddle alone in your den to nurse those hurt feelings. Instead, get out and enjoy the company of family and friends. Remember, lions thrive in a pride!

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An old health problem recurs, but quick attention soon puts everything right. Meanwhile, plans for the upcoming holidays might need to be changed. Stay flexible!

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A project you started earlier this year begins to be noticed by the "right people." Expect to get some heartening news by year's end!

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) It's relationship repair time for both single and married Scorpions. Patch up the weak spots and renew your commitment to your partner or spouse.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Love and marriage aspects are strong for both paired and single Archers. The latter can expect romantic overtures from a loving Leo.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Expect news about a business deal you weren't sure about. In your personal life, a dispute with your spouse or partner is soon cleared up.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You have a tendency to overdo it, especially at this time of the year. Ease up on those grand plans for the holidays and take more time for yourself.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Someone from your romantic past might want to renew your old relationship. While this might be what you were hoping for, weigh your decision carefully.

Born this Week

*You have a strong sense of truth and duty.
You love to learn, and you love to teach.
You make friends slowly, but your friendships last.*

FUN PAGES

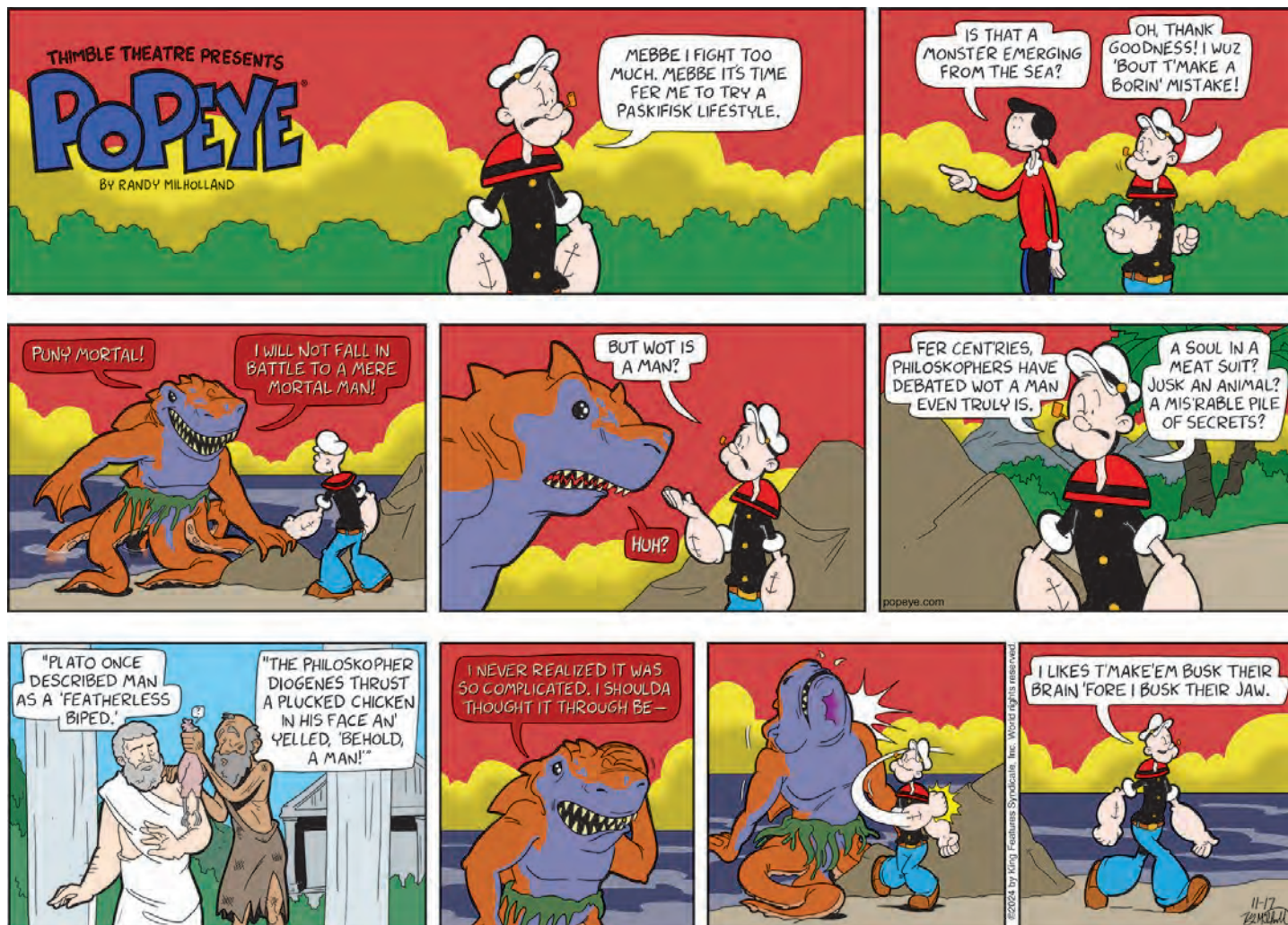
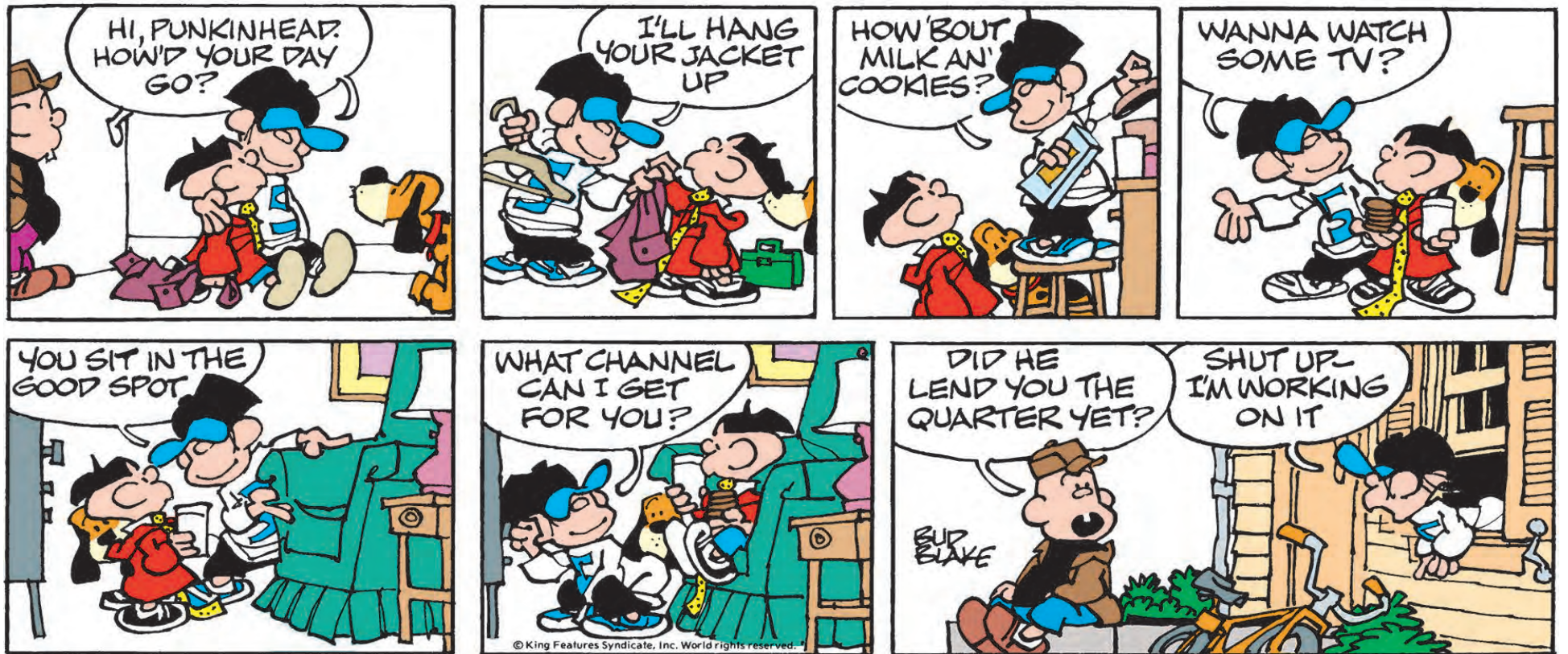
Kids' Maze



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by **BUD BLAKE**

TIGER



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** What is the name of the necklace that Rose throws into the sea at the end of "Titanic"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Where was the ancient city of Carthage located?
- TELEVISION:** What are the names of the FBI agents on "The X-Files"?
- LITERATURE:** Who wrote the short story "The Gift of the Magi"?
- HISTORY:** When was the United Nations organization created?
- SCIENCE:** What is the addictive substance in tobacco?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president signed into law the Sherman Antitrust Act?
- CHEMISTRY:** What is the lightest of metallic elements?
- MYTHOLOGY:** What is the name of the half-man, half-bull creature that inhabits the Labyrinth?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is challah?

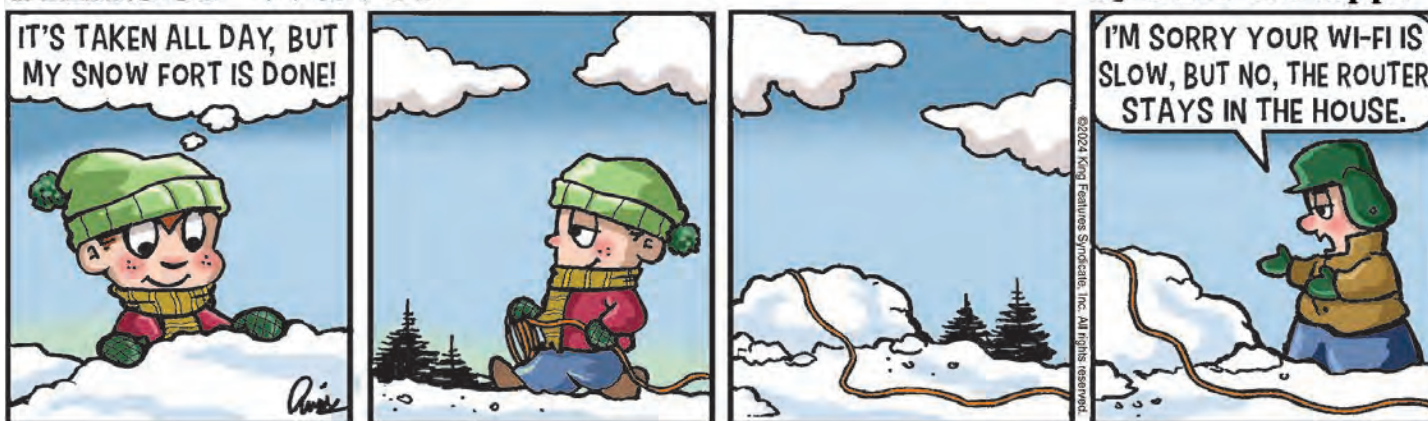
- Heart of the Ocean.
- Tunisia.
- Fox Mulder and Dana Scully.
- O. Henry.
- 1945.
- Nicotine.
- Benjamin Harrison.
- Lithium.
- Minotaur.
- A special bread in Jewish cuisine.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



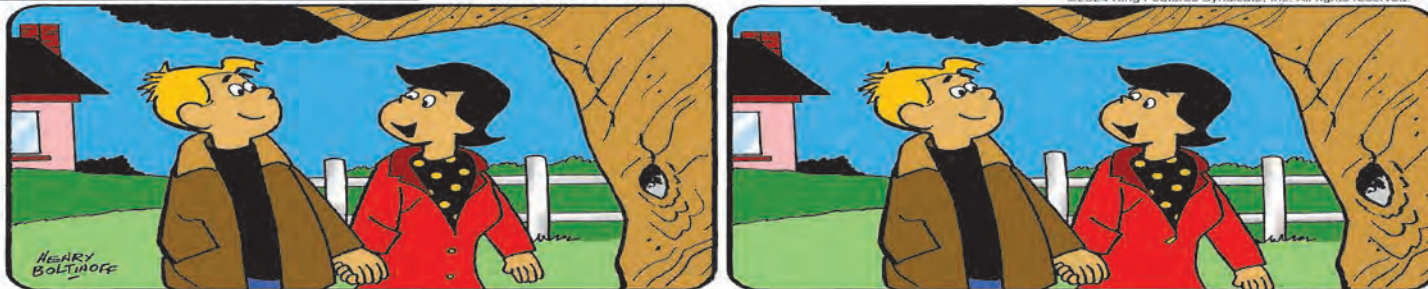
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
 Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Fencepost is shorter. 3. Chimney is taller. 4. Zipper is replaced by buttons. 5. Hole in tree is larger. 6. Zipper is replaced by buttons.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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The Independent

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

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

- Beard
- Caruncle
- Dewlap
- Displaying
- Flocks
- Gobbler
- Hens
- Jakes
- Jennys
- Poult
- Roost
- Snood
- Strutting
- Tail
- Wattle

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FUN PAGES

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south east madera county united

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EMAIL entry to "info@semcu.org"

and please include your full contact information

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Entry deadline is Thursday, December 12th. Winners contacted next day.
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& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343, then access code 854 221

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