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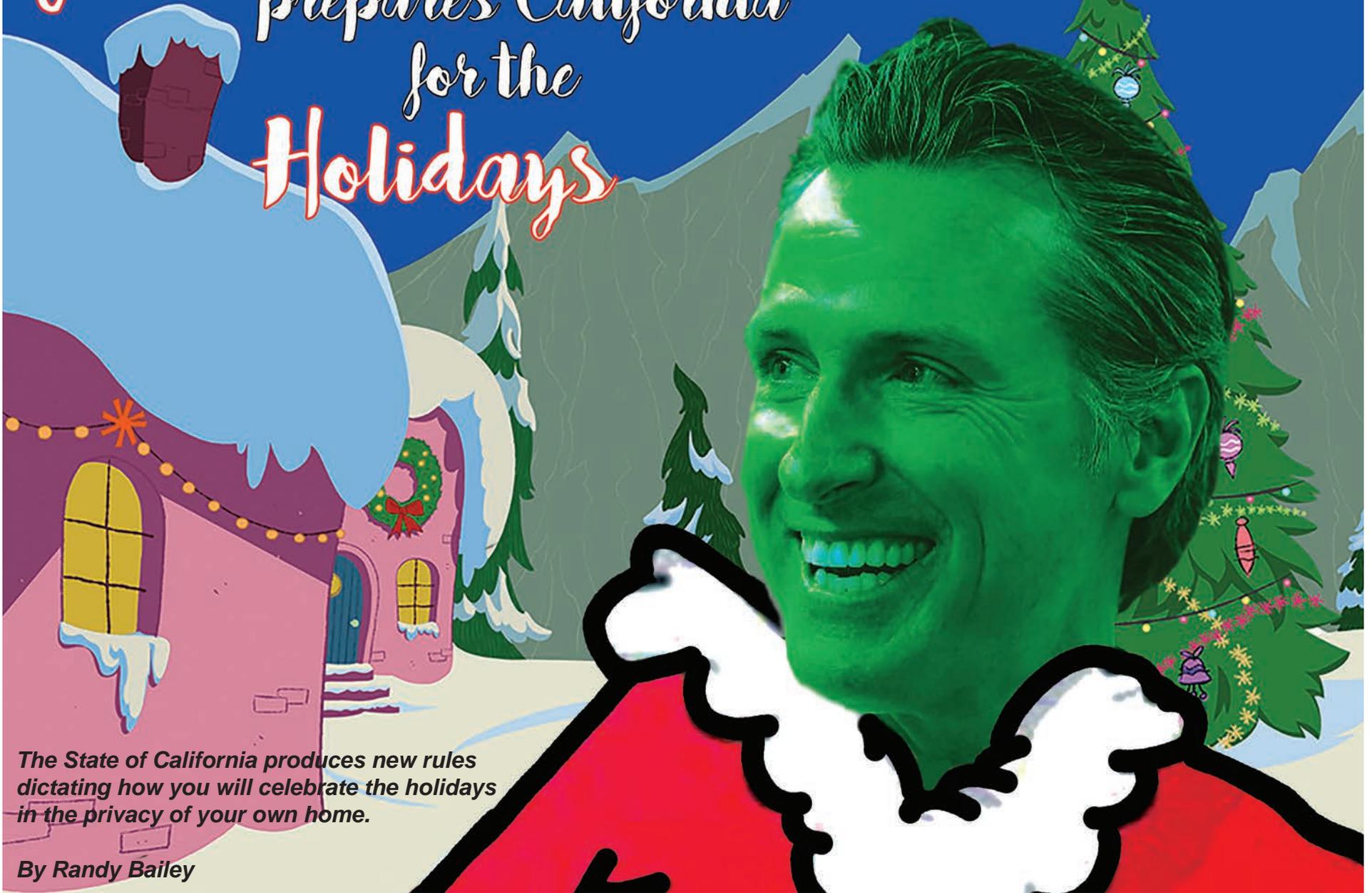
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50¢

Governor Newsom prepares California for the Holidays



The State of California produces new rules dictating how you will celebrate the holidays in the privacy of your own home.

By Randy Bailey

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On Oct. 9, the state of California’s Health and Human Services Agency and the California Department of Public Health provided “Guidance for Private Gatherings” to all Californians regarding the upcoming holidays. Note: This is not guidance for how to conduct yourself in a public situation; this is “guidance” for how you should behave in your own home. Selected parts read as follows:

This guidance provides an updated plan for Californians to gather outside their household ... it applies to private gatherings, and all other gatherings not covered by existing sector guidance are prohibited. Gatherings are defined as social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place. When people from different households mix, this increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Mandatory Requirements for All Gatherings -- All persons planning to host or participate in a private gathering ... must comply with the following requirements.

1. Attendance – Gatherings that include more than three households are prohibited. This includes everyone present, including hosts and guests – The host should collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later.

2. Gather Outdoors – All gatherings must be held outside. Attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized – A gathering of no more than three households is permitted in a public park or other outdoor space ... mixing between group gatherings is not allowed ... additionally, multiple gatherings of three households cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time. This would constitute a gathering exceeding the permitted size.

3. Don't attend gatherings if you feel sick or you are in a high-risk group

4. Practice physical distancing and hand hygiene at gatherings – For any gatherings permitted under this guidance, the space must be large enough so that everyone at a gathering can maintain at least a 6-foot physical distance from others (not including their own household) at all times – Seating must provide at least 6 feet of distance (in all directions — front-to-back and side-to-side) between different households – Shared items should not be used during a gathering. As much as possible, any food or beverages at outdoor gatherings must be in single-serve disposable containers. If providing single-serve containers is not possible, food and beverages must be served by a person who washes or sanitizes their hands frequently, and wears a face covering. Self-serve items from communal containers should not be used.

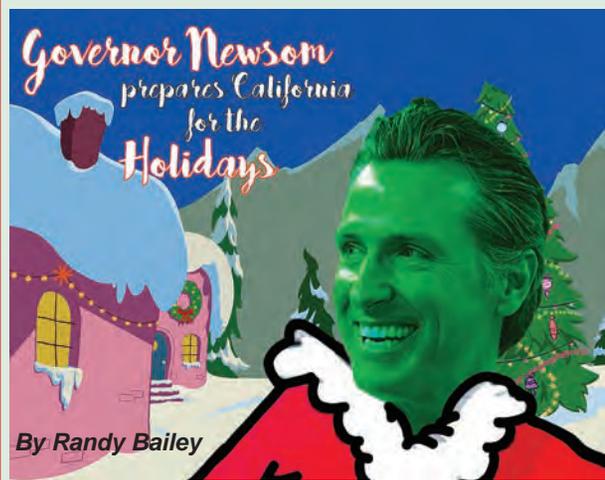
5. Wear a face covering to keep COVID-19 from spreading – Face coverings must be worn ... they may remove their face coverings briefly to eat or drink as long as they stay at least 6 feet away from everyone outside their own household, and put their face covering back on as soon as they are done with the activity.

6. Keep it short – Gatherings should be two hours or less.

7. Rules for singing, chanting and shouting at outdoor gatherings – All people who are singing or chanting should wear a face covering at all times while singing or chanting, including anyone who is leading a song or chant – They are strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing beyond 6 feet to further reduce risk – they are strongly encouraged to do so quietly (at or below the volume of a normal speaking voice) – Instrumental music is allowed but the musicians must be from one of the three households – No wind instruments..

According to the state, when people mix from different households and communities and then laugh, sing, talk loudly and don’t maintain physical distance, COVID-19 runs amok. Limiting attendance at gatherings is a way to reduce the risk of spread as it lowers the number of different people who are interacting. Additionally, by limiting attendance, there is an improved ability to perform effective contact tracing if there is a positive case discovered, which can help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

People who do choose to attend gatherings should discuss and agree upon the specific group rules before convening together. The full report is at www.cdph.ca.gov.



Madera Co. Opens Vote Centers

Two Madera County Vote Centers opened Saturday, Oct. 24 and will be open for 11 days in a row

Two Madera County Vote Centers opened Saturday, Oct. 24 offering voters the opportunity to vote in person, turn in vote-by-mail ballots or get assistance voting. Both the Madera Central Vote Center in the County Government Center and the Oakhurst Vote Center at the Oakhurst Community Center opened their doors at the same time.

“We know that many voters who have voted by mail in the past want to vote in person this time and we are prepared to help them do that,” explained County Registrar Rebecca Martinez. “I encourage those who want to vote in person to vote as soon as possible. Our first two Vote Centers are open for 11 days in a row including weekends.”

The Registrar has been warning voters that lines on Nov. 3, the last day to vote, will be exceptionally long. Election Officials are preparing for lines that could be more than two hours long on the final day.

“There is simply no reason for voters

to wait until November 3rd to vote,” Martinez said. “They can vote in person before the last day. The closer we get to November 3rd, the longer the lines will be.”

An informational mailer that was sent to registered voters this week indicated that the Oakhurst Vote Center didn’t open until Oct. 31 but Stephanie Sibley, the Elections Division Manager, confirmed that it indeed opened on Oct. 24. Voters in the mountain area will receive a postcard in the coming days reminding them when they can vote at the Oakhurst Vote Center.

Martinez is hopeful that voters will heed her advice and vote before election day. In addition to the two vote centers that opened on Oct. 24, five more vote centers will open on Oct. 31 and be open for four days in a row including the weekend. Those vote centers are in Chowchilla, Madera Ranchos, Coarsegold and two more in the City of Madera at the Pan American Center and the Superintendent of Schools Office.

Voters with questions or who may need assistance are encouraged to visit www.votemadera.com or call the voter hotline at 800-435-0509.

Pandemic Help Grants Offered

The County of Madera and the Madera County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) announced they are making significant changes to their Small Business Pandemic Assistance Grant Program to make it easier for more companies to qualify for the grant.

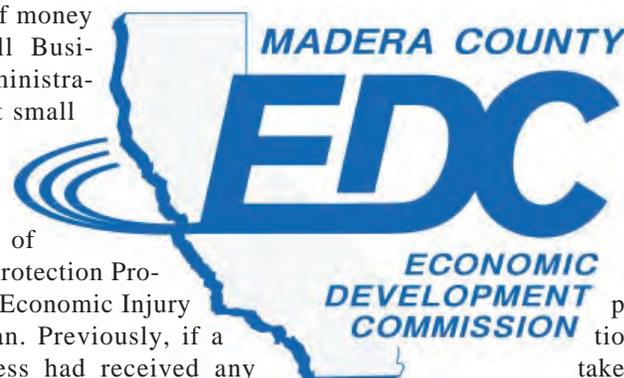
The Coronavirus, Relief, Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) directed large sums of money to the Small Business Administration to assist small businesses. Many businesses took advantage of the Payroll Protection Program and/or Economic Injury Disaster Loan. Previously, if a small business had received any funding through either of these programs, they were disqualified from receiving a grant through the County/MCEDC program.

“We received numerous calls from local businesses that said they had received CARES Act funding through SBA but have been forced to use all of those funds to survive”, said Bobby

Kahn, Executive Director of MCEDC. With that in mind, the County and MCEDC made the decision to allow companies that previously received CARES assistance to now apply for the local grant. “Our goal is to help our local business communities survive this horrific time,” Kahn said.

Eligible businesses with 50 or fewer employees can apply for grants in the amount of \$5,000 or \$10,000, depending on the size of their company. “The action we have taken will give our local economy a chance to weather this pandemic,” said Jay Varney, Madera CAO.

Applications for the grant can be obtained by going to mcedccountybusinessgrant.com or by calling the MCEDC office at 559-675-7768 for assistance. You can also email them at info@maderacountyedc.com



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Thomas Jefferson*

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Local Restaurant Honored by Vets



By Bill Whyman

Jack Allen, president of the Madera Ranchos Military Veterans group, left, presents a plaque to Simply Scrumptious owners Amy and Ray Roberts thanking them for offering their facility as a place to meet. Simply Scrumptious offers free coffee and specially priced breakfast items for veterans.

They meet every Monday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and all military, active, inactive and retired from all branches of service are invited to attend. The plaque reads "Thank you Simply Scrumptious for hosting the Veterans Coffee Hour." Simply Scrumptious is located at 37275-D Avenue 12 behind the green dinosaur at the Sinclair gas station.

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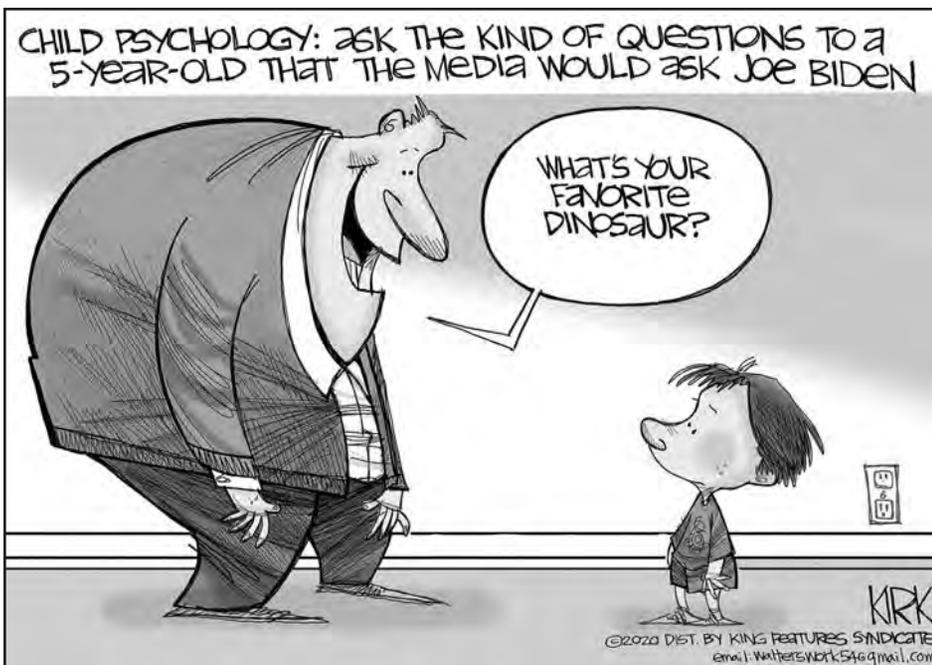
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Guest Editorial

Nothing on Judge Amy Barrett

By Rich Lowry

The Supreme Court fight of the century is, so far, a fizzle.

The ratio of progressive outrage over the nomination of federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett to supposed reasons that the U.S. Senate shouldn't confirm her is completely out of whack -- there's a surfeit of the former and almost none of the latter.

Barrett has received extraordinary testimonials from her colleagues and students, who say she is brilliant, conscientious and kind. The opposition has countered with a dog's breakfast of nonsense, including that her confirmation hearing can't be held in the middle of a pandemic -- when the Senate has continued its business since the pandemic began.

Upon her selection, media outlets ran a spate of stories about her reported membership in a Catholic group called People of Praise, linking the group to the dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale." What Barrett's life and career have to do with the imagined misogynistic world of the novel was never clear -- she's a mother of seven who has ascended to the very top of her profession with the help of a supportive husband.

Barrett's social conservatism has been another line of attack. Her critics have fastened on the fact that she signed a statement in 2006 declaring her oppo-

sition to abortion. It's not news that Barrett is pro-life, nor should it be disqualifying unless progressives believe that anyone with a view counter to theirs on a hotly contested moral issue should be, on principle, excluded from the highest court.

It is not true, as has been widely reported, that Barrett said in that same statement that Roe v. Wade should be overturned (Barrett had nothing to do with an ad denouncing Roe that ran adjacent to the statement).

The group that organized the anti-abortion statement also opposes IVF, as commonly practiced, leading Democrats to conclude that Barrett does, too. Regardless, the Supreme Court obviously doesn't police the nation's fertility clinics.

Barrett has also been portrayed as a threat to Obamacare, given that the court will hear an anti-Obamacare lawsuit shortly after the election. But the merits of the suit are so weak, it conceivably could lose 9-0.

It is alleged that Barrett would take a sledgehammer to precedent, but she wrote in a 2013 law review article that the Court's traditional approach to stare decisis "promotes doctrinal stability while still accommodating pluralism on the Court."

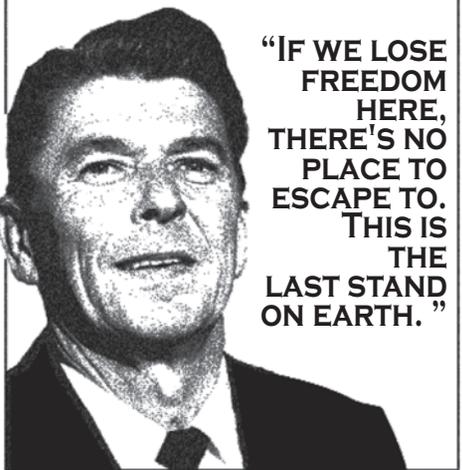
Since progressives haven't gotten traction with any substantive arguments against Barrett, they've been relying on dubious process arguments. Not only is it wrong, they charge, to confirm a justice so close to an election, it's a public health danger to do so now when three Republican senators have tested positive. As a headline in the online magazine Slate put it, "The GOP will still seat Amy Coney Barrett because entrenching minority rule is more important than human life."

This is laughable. First, it's a long-standing norm that when the president and the Senate majority are of the same party, Supreme Court nominees get confirmed in an election year. Second, the Senate Judiciary has already been holding hybrid in-person and virtual hearings all year. There's no reason it can't do the same with Barrett.

At this rate, the Barrett confirmation is going to be the epic battle that wasn't.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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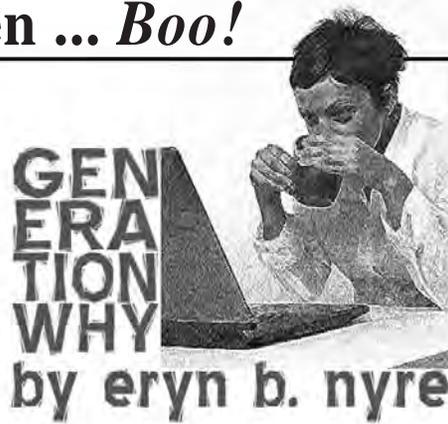


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Ruining Halloween ... Boo!



With Halloween just around the corner I know I'm not alone in wondering how this festering pustule of a year is going to ruin my second favorite holiday. I've already had two friends who were forced to resort to a zoom wedding, one who went with a zoom gender reveal (and I'm sure the forests are all grateful for that), and countless of other friends and relatives who have had their lives turned upside down because of this virus, or more importantly because of certain politicians' reactions to this virus.

Now we are being told Halloween might be cancelled. Not that anyone can cancel a day on the calendar, but with various communities being encouraged to tattle on their neighbors, we might be kissing trick-or-treating, along with sanity and good sense, goodbye this year. I don't really understand the big deal. It's perfectly safe to buy the candy from Walmart, but evidently it's crossing the line to get it from your neighbor. I know you're going to throw the whole social distancing thing at me but it's a lot easier to socially distance in the outside than it is in a Walmart. No, really. A lot easier. Have you been to Walmart lately?

Easy Social Distancing

The thing about trick-or-treating is that not only is social distancing easy, but you are in complete control. From start to finish you get to choose where you go, when you go, how many people go with you and how closely you walk with your group. So, with the current health crisis in mind you are at your leisure to choose to go with just your family. It's also super easy to incorporate a mask into your Halloween costume, even gloves if you've decided to go that route over basic hand hygiene. So that sort of stomps all over the social distance argument. Maybe it's the act of knocking on doors that has people in a tizzy. Doesn't seem to stop the census takers. Do they have a magic corona-invisibility cloak? If so, people should have hoarded those instead of toilet paper. That was a missed opportunity right there.

It can't be about having people in your house because unless

you've never gone trick-or-treating you should know that's not a thing. You don't go inside. No one goes inside. Who would do that? At least, you shouldn't. I hope that's not a thing. I'm pretty sure this is rule number one. Don't get in that sketchy van and don't go into that creepy house even if they tempt you with the full size Snickers. So, if you aren't going in the houses, are you telling me it's still unsafe to soft lob some candy to kids standing on the far side of your porch? You don't have to be Tom Brady to toss a hunk of nougat six feet. Heck, make a game of it. Make it into the plastic pumpkin on the first try and you get to eat a piece yourself.

About Choice

Ultimately this should be about choice. If you or someone in your family is high risk, then stay home and don't pass out candy. I'm not judging your choice. I'm judging my lack of choice in the matter. If someone wants to dress their kids up as Joe Exotic and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and drop by my house for a little sugar rush, I'll toss some candy out the front door at them. I'll say it one more time for the cheap seats: It's about choice. You are not required to participate in anything that makes you uncomfortable. If you want to stay home, do that. If you want to dress up and go trick-or-treating, do that. If you want to build a fancy slide mechanism with which to transport treats from your front porch to your property line so kids don't have to walk up your drive, do that. Also teach me how because that's fantastic.

Life is a risk. Driving to work is a risk. Taking a shower is a risk. Being out in public where someone might mug you is a risk. Being a

Please see **GENWHY** on P. 7

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Kiwanis Korner

By Nancy Wayne

Madera Rancho Kiwanis Cub met one time in the month of September. Paul and Marie Cameron hosted a dinner for the club in their lovely, huge backyard. Keeping six feet apart with optional masks, individually wrapped tri-tip dinners from the Ranchos Liberty Cafe were enjoyed as

new and old officers and board members were installed and recognized for the coming year. The evening came to an end after playing bingo, complete with many prizes being handed out.

Current Board Officers are President Richard Wayne, Treasurer Marie Cameron, Secretary Nancy Wayne and President-elect Chris Parks.



Left side, from top, Bev Delk, Mona Diaz, Ollia Rudge, Verlain Elinburg, Virginia Vick, Thom Walsh and John Glueck.

Right side, from top, President Richard Wayne, Treasurer Marie Cameron, President-elect Chris Parks and Secretary Nancy Wayne.

GENWHY cont. from P. 6

human during the flu season is a risk. We are surrounded by risk. Telling me I can't leave my house except to work and the grocery store is not mitigating risk, it's controlling lives. Telling me where I can go, when I can leave my house and what I have to wear when doing so is, in effect, stripping me of my rights. At some

point we have to draw the line. I'm wearing the mask. I'm limiting contact with others. I'm staying six feet away from strangers, which to be honest I was already doing anyway. Now, leave me in peace to hand out cavities in a wrapper to all the little ghouls and goblins who come to my house and I'll leave you in peace to make your own decisions. Sounds like a plan to me. Happy Halloween!

By Wyatt Morgan & Corinna Martinez

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, Sierra Shadows held a drive-in enrollment and meeting where members set up in a parking lot for their meeting. President Sierra Gonzalez ran the meeting while everyone wore masks and maintained social distance. Leaders and junior leaders were introduced at booths with project information. Members also got to enroll in the club and meet other members of the group.

Several members were interviewed: Brandon has been in 4-H for one year, is involved in Shooting Sports and Outdoor Adventures. He is looking forward to rockets. Tina is the leader for Arts and Crafts and has been with 4-H for five years. She is looking forward to getting to know new families.

Jacob is involved in the Poultry group and has been in 4-H for three years. He is looking forward to getting

4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings
4H Happenings



Sierra Shadows 4H Club

his Bronze Star while Katelin is involved in Rabbits and has been in 4-H for three years. She is looking forward to going back.

President Sierra is involved in Joshua's Ways and Poultry and has been in 4-H for seven years. She is looking forward to going back to normal, while Colie is in Poultry, Floral Design, Baking and Arts and Crafts. She has been in 4-H for four years and is looking forward to going to shows.

Finally, Griffin is in Horse, Goats, Poultry and Public Speaking and has been in 4-H for three years. He is looking forward to earning his Platinum Star.

One Last BBQ

(October 2010)

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.



by Jean Briner

long fork and believe it or not, we had the original Chimney Charcoal lighter. My dad took a three pound coffee can (they were metal in those days) and with a can opener made holes around the bottom and we'd put crumpled newspaper in the bottom then charcoal on top and light the paper and wait a few minutes, and we would have coals ready to go. Our can didn't have a handle; we used pliers and oven mitts to handle it.

We didn't buy bottled BBQ sauce in the store, we made our own. Started out with tomato juice, adding brown sugar, chopped onion, Worces-

tershire sauce, some salt and pepper and simmered it on the stove until it was thick. Also, we didn't have baked beans in

the store like there are today – again, we made our own. In fact, I prefer the homemade anyway because for me the canned ones are all too sweet. When you make your own, you can control the sugar or anything else you put in them. I started with Van de Kamp Pork and Beans and added what we liked – you don't need to measure after you make them a few times. I went on line and found a recipe that is pretty close to the one I use. Be sure to mix these in the baking pan you are going to use so you won't have to wash an extra bowl.

Baked Beans

- 32 oz. Pork & Beans
- ½ C Brown Sugar
- 2 T Mustard
- ½ C Ketchup
- 1 Onion – diced
- 3 T Molasses

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 18

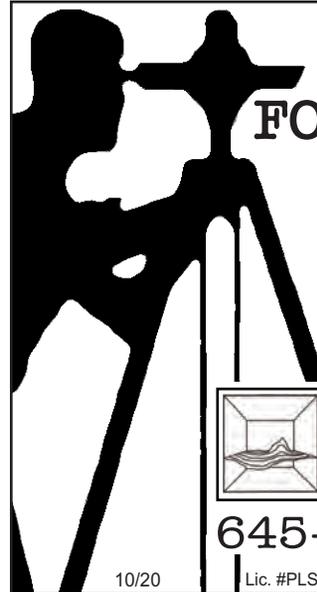
Well, summer is almost over and you can put away that barbeque for another year. No, I'm not crazy, just checking to see if you were paying attention. In fact, in our family, as in many of yours I imagine, the barbeque is never put away – maybe not used as often as in the summer, but still used. I have seen the boys out on the patio in the rain barbequing.

Before I started to write this article, I went on the internet to do some research on BBQing. Believe it or not, I got an English lesson. I discovered that how you use the word barbeque can be different

... in our family, as in many of yours I imagine, the barbeque is never put away ...

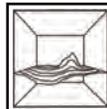
parts of speech. When referring to the meat, the cooking apparatus (the grill) or to a party that include such food, it is a noun. But it is an adjective when referring to foods cooked by this method, and a verb when talking of the act of barbequing. Oh, and by the way it can be Barbecue, Barbeque or BBQ. In Australia and New Zealand it is a Barbie and in South Africa a Braai.

When I was still living at home, and my dad was still able to work, he built a barbeque for our family. It looked a lot like a Weber, but it was half again as big and about 10 times heavier. That thing was so heavy, we hated to move it, but boy did it cook! We used it a lot in the summer time. We didn't have any of the fancy equipment there is today, but not knowing any better we had a good time and resulting good food. We had a long spatula, a



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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE
By Brenda McElroy

How Many Skeletons are in Your Closet?

A few years ago, my girls took me to a Paint Night for my birthday. The instructor walked us through the steps of painting a winter scene. Each person in the class received the same supplies and instruction, tainted as it was by his

desire to be elsewhere. It was his birthday too. There wasn't one "correct" way to paint the scene and at the end it was fascinating to see each unique creation.

Similarly, there's not one "correct" way to organize your Hall Closet. If you have kids at home, it will look different from a retiree's closet. The size, its contents (how many skeletons are stored there) and personal preferences all play into what it's like when completed. Regardless, it's these six basic steps that will help you achieve a user-friendly space.

#1 Create a Vision: Your hall closet is there to serve you. Its job is to store

the things you need and have them handy and easy to find when you need them. Decide which items you want to store there. This will vary based on preference, use and available space. Many use their hall closets for linens and that's totally fine. I choose to store sheets and towels in the rooms and bath-

Don't forget to remove the skeletons, unless of course, you're decorating for Halloween!

rooms where they're used. Mine has some table linens (place-mats/napkins), candles, vases, party and paper goods, light bulbs, household and sewing supplies, games and grandkid supplies. As you create your vision you may choose to relocate some things from your closet and

move others into this space. Maybe you need a spot for back-up supplies like Costco paper towels and toilet paper, craft supplies, gift wrap or photos.

#2 Purge and Sort: The unfortunate truth is that you can pack way more into a disorganized closet. If your vision includes having easy access to things, then paring down is essential. Scavenging the back of the closet may bring to light some long-lost artifacts. Clients often say, "I'll use it now that I know where it is," but it probably would have been searched for earlier if it was that essential. Keep what fits with your vision, current lifestyle, interests and the things you use. As you purge, you're creating space and making your closet more user-friendly.

Please see **CHOICE** on P. 15

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Senior Report

Favorite Time of Year for Many

By Margaret Tynan

Fall, my favorite time of year. Cooler days and evenings. Trees changing from greens to vibrant reds and golds. Holidays on the horizon. In the spirit of the season, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center's Monthly Sale will feature lovely Fall and Christmas decorations at the outdoor boutique on Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m. to noon. The Treasure House has lots of pretty fabric, great for creating handmade gifts for family and friends on sale for "\$5 Fill a Bag." Find plants for your yard at the garden sale. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while shopping.

Donations are always welcomed and appreciated. Make your check out to Ranchos Hills Seniors and mail to 37330 Berkshire Dr., Madera, CA 93636. Please note: At this time, we are only able to accept donations of physical items by appointment. Call 645-4864.

Meet the Haglers

Several weeks ago, I got a call from Center members, Judy and George Hagler, with a generous offer of home-grown fruit. While at their home, visiting on the patio, George shared some very interesting stories about themselves and their active involvement with the Center.

George grew up on the family farm in Florida's panhandle, within two or three miles from both the Alabama and Georgia borders. George said at the age of 10 he worked the fields walking behind a mule-driven plow and helped plant seasonal vegetables. Shelling peas for canning was one of his least favorite chores, but he was fast at it. He'd been doing it since he was 8 or 9 years old. After serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1956 to 1962, George moved to California where he met Judy, coincidentally a native Floridian, at a singles dance in Hollywood. It was the beginning of their life adventure together. They recently celebrated 58 years of marriage. They have three sons and a daughter, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

George held a variety of jobs, but finally went to work for the railroad beginning in 1972 until retirement in 2002. Ten of those years were spent

in Topeka, Kansas. On his days off, he and Judy traveled to many beautiful places in the Midwest. After George retired, they came back to California to look for a home in the Madera area. Relator Ethel Pronin showed them the home they were to purchase in the Madera Ranchos. Ethel, who happened to be a member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, gave them tickets to the Center's Harvest Dinner. They soon became very active members. George served two terms as president and on the board. He and Judy started the Center's very successful Farmers Market that helped fund the operation of the Center. They contribute plums, pluots, peaches and other fruit from trees on their acre, as well as home-grown tomatoes, squash, onions, green beans, etc. One of the big hits was watermelon. George says he'd load the pickup bed and they'd all be sold in the first hour or so.

Prize-winning Melon

One year he grew an especially huge watermelon used for a Center fund raising raffle "Guess the Weight". It weighed a whopping 100 lbs. George entered that watermelon in the Madera Fair where it won Best of Show that year. He entered different vegetables and fruit in the Fair that took many Best of Show and first place awards over the years.

Both Judy and George shared that they enjoy being members of the Ranchos/Hill Seniors. They both have fun playing cards on Thursday evenings after potluck dinner. They participate in many of the special events and parties throughout the year. Judy assists leading the exercise class and George continues to donate fruit to the Center to help with fundraising. Their active involvement since 2002 – which contributes to the Center's success and to the community – is very much appreciated.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving.

Thought for November: *"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."* – Oprah Winfrey

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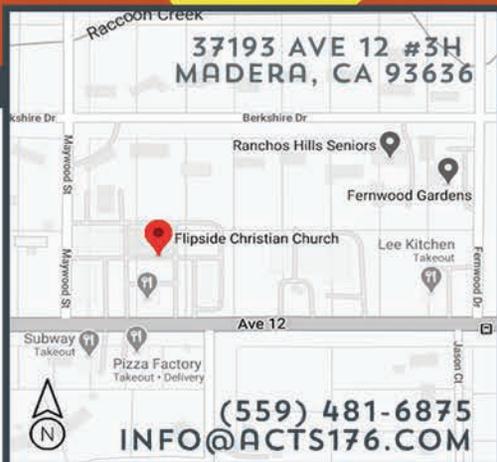
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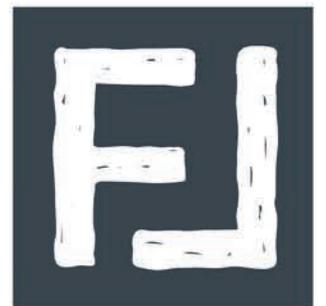
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CHOICE cont. from P. 10

#3 Keep Like Things Together: Consider the categories you chose for your closet. A Home Décor category might have vases, frames, candles, off-season decorations, etc. Household Supplies might have basic in-house tools, picture hanging supplies, felt pads for chairs, adhesives, sliders, etc. Sort the contents of what you're keeping into categories.

#4 Create Homes: Sometimes a home for something is simply a designated place on a shelf, but whenever possible, use labeled containers. Some prefer clear plastic bins that stack. Others prefer open-topped canvas cubes or baskets that give a clean look. Regardless, putting a label on them allows you and others to locate and put things away more easily. Use shelf dividers and label the front of the shelves to keep things orderly when stacking sheets and towels.

#5 Keep Close What You Use Most: What items or categories do you handle most often? Place those on the shelves that are easiest to reach. Fan out from

there based on use. Save the very top, bottom and corners for items rarely used.

#6 Maintain Boundaries: Unfortunately, the creators of the self-cleaning oven haven't created a self-cleaning closet – yet. If left unchecked, your linens and things will multiply like rabbits behind closed closet doors. Unsolicited items will appear randomly on your closet shelves. Life gets in the way of things staying neat. Being mindful of returning things to their rightful place and not overstuffing will combat clutter. You'll know when it gets hard to find what you need and frustrating to access, that it's time to revisit step two: Purge and sort. Don't forget to remove the skeletons, unless of course, you're decorating for Halloween!

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@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

The Bookshelf

Library Opens with New Hours

By Jerrica Edmundson

October is here and we are officially now allowing public access to the library at 37398 Berkshire Drive. Our open hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, with a senior/at-risk hour from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. both days. During this time, you

able through our website and we notify you when the document is available for pickup. Curbside delivery is still available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and we encourage you to use this service if you do not want to worry about any limitations in

Call the library at 645-1214

the branch, or if you would like to continue the simplicity of the curbside delivery.

All library returns are still accepted through the drop box located outside the branch and any returned items are quarantined for 96 hours but are checked in as of the day you turn them in. We are still not accepting donations of materials.

All library returns are still accepted through the drop box located outside the branch and any returned items are quarantined for 96 hours but are checked in as of the day you turn them in. We are still not accepting donations of materials.

We have computer access, copier access and mobile printing available through maderacountylibrary.org. Mobile printing can be done without coming in – we can bring the prints out to your car for curbside delivery, just upload the document to the form avail-

If you have any questions or concerns whatsoever, please feel free to reach out to us at 559-645-1214 or through Facebook @RanchosLibrary.

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Handling High-Speed Rail's Fleet

Hello 93636,

Last month as I was writing this article, I was struggling to see the keys on my laptop keyboard. I decided to take a break and watch a little TV. One side of the TV was dark while the other side was normal. That's when I definitely knew something was wrong. Lori and I headed to the ER and for the first time in five years, I didn't submit an "In Good Hands" article. I spent the following week face down on my stomach looking through a hole in a table.

My vision had been blurry for some time, but I thought it was the result of wildfire smoke, so I ignored it. I started to become a little concerned when two days prior the sky cleared but my vision didn't improve. Now it's late Saturday night in the ER and I'm being scheduled for emergency eye surgery in the morning. Somehow the retina in my left eye became detached. At that moment it didn't escape my memory that just weeks before I wrote the following: "Governor Newsom, if you are truly concerned about the public health and safety of all California residents, let's include the Valley's poor air quality from California's wildfires into our conversation. I am more fearful of the long-term health effects to my children and grandchildren from decades of breathing soot and ash than I am from the Covid virus of 2020."

I didn't realize I soon would come close to being a victim of California's mismanagement as the result of delayed medical intervention. Fortunately for me, my wife is knowledgeable concerning vision issues and she insisted we go straight to the ER. It's been a month since surgery and seven more long weeks remain before I fully recover.

I think it's ironic I was writing the following article when I was interrupted. As a financial conservative, I do not support Governor Newsom's misuse of public tax revenue to build the California High Speed Rail Project. If the \$77 billion dollar project was a profitable venture, private business would build it. I guess the Governor and I just don't agree about his management of California's resources.

I also think it's ironic that recently my business would inadvertently become a beneficiary of California's High-Speed Rail Project. After years of paying high California taxes, I'm not complaining about getting some of my money back. Here is how it happened.

Several months ago, my service writer escorted a gentleman into the shop where I was performing some vehicle diagnostics. He said he was very unhappy with the level of service and quality of repairs he had been receiving from a local manufacturer's dealership and some big box chain store repair facilities. He said he had done some research and wanted to make a change.

When he told me his fleet included 200 small- to medium-size trucks, my response

was that I wasn't sufficiently staffed to support a fleet that size. He asked me how many could I support? "Can you do one truck per day to start?"

Of course, that depends on what kind of service and repairs were needed. His primary problems were high transmission and engine failures, but he needed all services and repairs. Turns out this gentleman is responsible for the fleet of trucks building the local section of California's High-Speed Rail Project. The local project is scheduled for completion in 2026.

This sounds too good to be true.

Prior to 2008, I was heavily invested in construction fleet service. With the housing boom collapse of 2008, I lost about 25 percent of my business in two weeks. The accounts receivables became uncollectable and it took a long six years to financially recover. I have no intention of taking that kind of risk again.



Part of the trucks in the fleet helping to build California's High-Speed Rail are now being serviced by Warren Parr's Complete Car Care.

The next question obviously was how do I get paid and how

often? "Each invoice is paid in full when the repair is completed," he said. That mitigated my concerns. I'm in.

I immediately began performing our Auto Vitals digital vehicle inspections. Each time a vehicle was serviced or repaired it received a comprehensive inspection to proactively identify problems prior to breakdowns. That sounds much easier than it is. There is so much dried mud and packed dirt on the underside of these trucks our visibility is greatly restricted. How can you accurately inspect

what you can't see? In fact, the trucks drop so much dirt on the shop floor it looks like the Sahara Desert. Unbelievable! I took a picture because I wasn't sure my customer would believe me. These trucks were not being properly inspected. Now we wash the undersides so we can perform complete visual inspections. Also included with our vehicle inspection reports are the manufacturer's preventive maintenance recommendations.

Unbeknownst to me, there is a fleet service management company that tracks all the services and repairs for each truck. They had not been following the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations. The management company missed it. Fifty trucks were behind with their scheduled preventive maintenance. No wonder their engine and transmission failure rates were so high. I'm believing with these two simple changes we are well on our way to reducing their breakdowns and catastrophic failures. At this point we are working well together and the relationship is mutually beneficial.

One of the vehicles we service and repair is the crane mobile service truck. While it was in our bay for repairs, the crane building the San Joaquin River Bridge had a failure. It was strange driving to and from home each day and seeing the crane boomed down. WOW! The San Joaquin River Bridge was on hold until we completed repairs to its service truck. That was just plain surreal.

OK guys and gals, that's all for this one. I'm always interested in writing about informative and interesting automotive topics and automotive current events. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or any general or specific questions concerning a vehicle, please text 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636.

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SEMUCU speaks

Traffic Traffic, Traffic!

By Sarbjit Johal

The significant recent housing development and increased traffic in south-east Madera and between the cities of Madera and Fresno-Clovis all require better, safer and more efficient roads. Should Avenue 9 or Avenue 12 be widened is a major issue now facing residents of Madera County.

There are many problems, though, of making Avenue 12 a multi-lane roadway connecting Highways 41 and 99.

The junction of Avenue 12 and Highway 41 is a major bottleneck in the Fresno-Clovis and Madera County metropolitan area at rush hours, and it will take time for any widening here to be completed. Along Avenue 12 there is one traffic light at Road 36 and more proposed on Avenue 12 at the Riverstone commercial and housing development.

Furthermore, there is a 40 m.p.h. speed limit between Road 38 and 36 in the Madera Ranchos and a 25 m.p.h. limit when children are present around Liberty High School. Widening Avenue 12 here would disrupt local businesses and traffic patterns. Making Avenue 12 along the Ranchos a major arterial roadway like Herndon Ave. in Fresno would be very expensive and necessitate more signals and widening of side streets feeding the Road 38 to 36 stretch. A proposed by-pass around the businesses and residences of the Madera

Ranchos would also be very expensive and has been estimated to cost between \$40 to \$50 million. It would also mean the loss of agricultural land to build the by-pass.

Avenue 9, on the other hand, is a shorter route between Highways 41 and 99. Businesses along Avenue 9 and planned housing development would have better traffic access between Highways 41 and 99. Winery owners on Avenue 9 have been in favor of the widening. The Gunnar Ranch West Area Plan submitted to Madera County in 1994 envisaged a major arterial roadway of eight lanes west of Lane's Bridge Road. In all, a widened Avenue 9 would be a less expensive roadway for Madera County. It is important for Madera County residents to voice their input on these key issues facing our community. For more information, please attend the

online meetings of South-East Madera County United, a non-profit concerned with developing solutions to our residents. Meetings are every third Monday of the month.

As part of the social distancing and contending with COVID-19, our monthly board meetings on the third Monday of each month will be held via telephone conferencing. The public is invited and encouraged to listen in and offer ideas of projects that can help improve our community. To join in at 6 p.m. dial 312-757-3221. When prompted, dial the access code 715657949#. To call SEMCU for more information, call 559-363-9095, or reach the organization at www.semcu.org or by email at info@semcu.org.

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CARE cont. from P. 14

chapters including: Hiring In-Home Help; Caring for Memory-Impaired Adults; Reducing Personal Stress; Mastering Caregiving Transitions; Communicating Effectively with Others; Making Tough Caregiving Decisions.

The program is a six-week series that meets for 1½ hours each week on Thursday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The dates for the program are Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Some financial assistance is available for respite care .

You must sign up one-week prior to the class start date. If interested in finding out about respite care in your area, please call: Valley Caregiver Resource Center at 559-224-9154 or 800-541-8614. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This class is offered at NO COST to class participants. It has been paid for through a grant from the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging and Valley Caregiver Resource Center.



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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Dash of Worcestershire Sauce

Mix everything together and just before putting into a 350 oven, lay three or four slices of bacon on top. Bake for about an hour or until bacon is done and beans are bubbly. This recipe didn't call for precooking the bacon, but I always do. Just fry it in a pan until it is almost done and drain it on paper towels before putting it on the beans. This way, you don't have bacon grease on the top of your food.

You can control the sugar by adjusting the amount you use. Also, if you don't have molasses in your cupboard and don't want to go buy a bottle just for this recipe try to use Dark Brown sugar - it has more molasses in it than the light brown. You did know that molasses is in brown sugar?

A Super Marinade

One of the best marinades for chicken I ever used was a recipe given to me by an Italian neighbor we had in Chowchilla. Into a pint jar (or anything with a tight fitting lid), pour a cup of cooking oil and mince two or three cloves of garlic and chop a couple of tablespoons of rosemary into the oil and shake. Let this sit for a while so the flavors will blend with the oil. Brush this on chicken that has been salt

and peppered and cook. If you don't have a rosemary bush growing in your back yard as we did, you can buy it fresh in the produce department of the grocery store.

Ever had your mouth watering for BBQ'd chicken or pork chops and didn't want to fire the outside unit up - or you just don't have one? Then cook your meat in the frying pan, using as little oil as possible. When meat is done, take it out and with a paper towel wipe out the oil and put the meat back into the pan with BBQ sauce and let it heat, turning to get sauce on all sides.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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.

	+		×		10
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	÷		+		10
+		×		-	
	+		+		17
15		8		11	

1 2 3 3 4 6 7 8 9

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Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

America is on Life Support

America is on life support and gasping for air, and the responsibility to save her is in voters' hands - literally the 2020 ballots. Will we vote to pull the plug on our ailing country as it clings to life, fractured and bleeding? Or will we choose a lifesaving transfusion of common sense, constitutional principles and good will needed to allow her to heal and regain her strength?

The candidates for the presidency and lesser offices down the party lines could not provide a more stark contrast. One candidate argues that the patient is not worth saving and would hasten her demise.

Joe Biden tweeted that if elected he would transform America. That transformation would mean the certain death of our form of government. A free republic cannot co-exist with socialism's top-down control proposed by Biden and his cohorts Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. It would be a slow and agonizing death as we watched continual lockdowns; kowtowing to our enemies; strangling the economy; killing the energy sector; encouraging ever-more abortions; exhibiting disdain for people of faith; capitulating to "peaceful protestors" who have ravaged, looted and plundered cities *for months on*

end; emboldening criminals by lowering penalties and then defunding police departments; refusing school choice for others while sending their children to private schools; and limiting gun ownership for American citizens as they are protected by armed guards.

The other candidate, the ultra-hated Donald Trump, has a proven *pro*-America record and promises to continue policies that foster freedom, safety, and security. He wants to take America off life support and make her even greater, not transform her into a system with a proven record of failure and devastation. He had the economy booming before the coronavirus lockdowns, and it is coming back. He wants the country

The other candidate, the ultra-hated Donald Trump, has a proven pro-America record and promises to continue policies that foster freedom, safety and security.

open again - schools, churches and businesses. He lowered taxes and regulations, thus the booming economy, and negotiated

fairer trade deals. He knows that police are necessary to a free and safe society and are to be appreciated and encouraged to be their best. He increased stability in the Middle East, brought troops home, cemented Israel as our friend in the region by moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem and brokering peace deals between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. And the list goes on.

One candidate, Joe Biden, appears to favor what's best for China, and China seems to like lining his son's pockets. He opposed banning travel from China to limit the spread of Covid-19, calling such a ban "xenophobic." Donald Trump has made dealings with China fairer to

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the United States, held them to account and instituted the lifesaving travel ban.

Candidates have likeable and not-so-unlikeable traits and foibles. One is lethargic and seemingly slipping mentally, but people like his "nice guy" persona. The other is bombastic and energetic and sends infuriating tweets. But what matters is not their style but their substantive policies.

The choice is ours. The country's future is in our hands.

Take the ballot you received in

the mail and surrender it at a Vote Center. Centers in Fresno and Madera Counties will be open October 31 through election day, November 3. You will be given a regular ballot to mark and place in the machine. Done. Counted. No chance of your ballot being lost in the mail or thrown out if the machine does not consider your signature on the envelope to match your registration signature.

If you can't vote in person, do not give your ballot to strangers.

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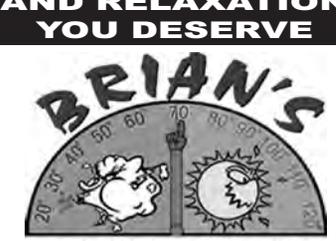
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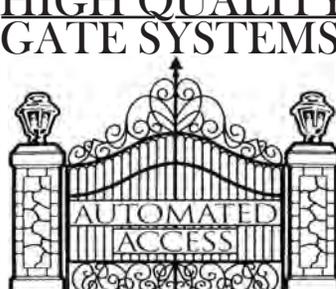
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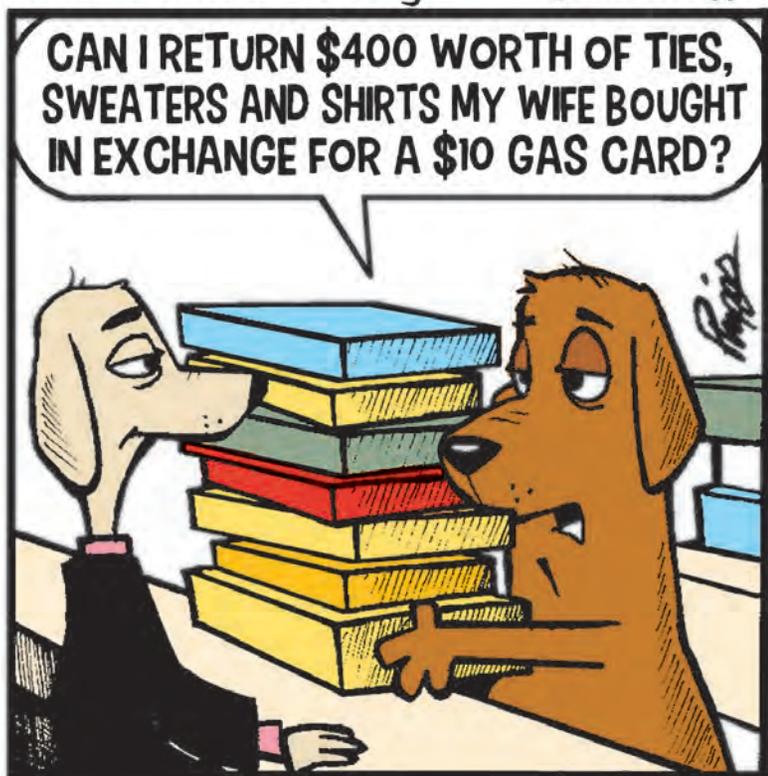
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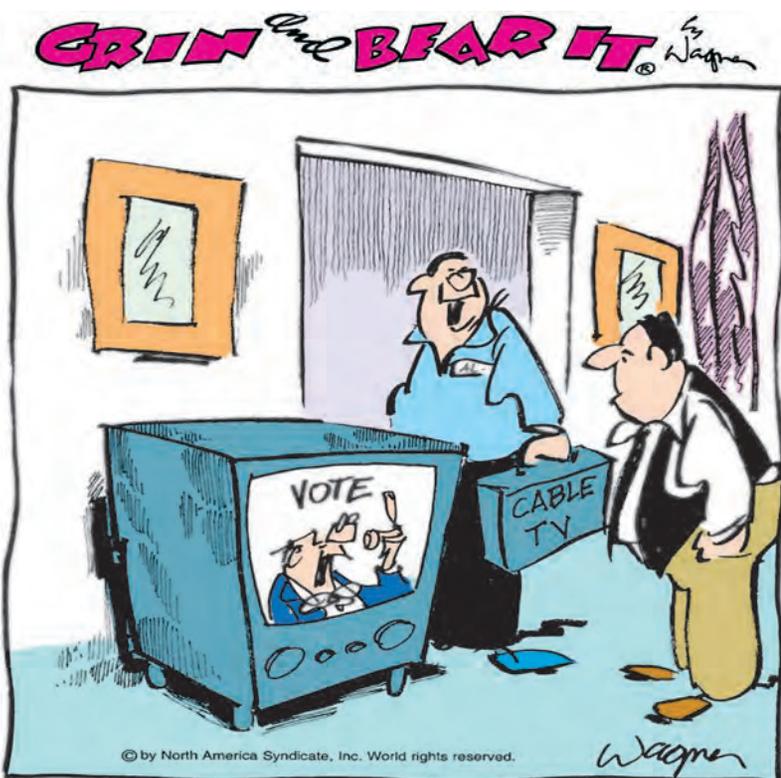
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Some flashes of Aries ire might erupt as you confront an unusually bewildering situation. But you should be able to keep your temper under control as you work through it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That marriage 'twixt the arts and practicality that Taureans excel at once again highlights your enjoyment of much of the week. However, you need to watch any sudden urge to splurge.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Even with all the plusses apparently outweighing the minuses, you still might want to defer an important decision to make sure you have all the facts you need.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) One or two problems might threaten to derail otherwise smoothly running situations at work or at home. But a few well-placed words should help get things back on track quickly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This could be a good time for all you Leos and Leonas in the spotlight to open your generous Lion's hearts and share the glory with those who helped you accomplish so much along the way.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might want to get advice from someone who's been there and knows these situations better than you do, before investing time or money (or both) in a questionable matter.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be careful how you handle a workplace matter that seems out of place in the schedule you've prepared. Before you act, one way or another, find out who set it up and why.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your entertainment aspect is strong this week. Besides providing a wonderful break from everyday obligations, sharing fun times brings you closer to those you care for.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Having a weekend fun fest? Your friend or relative who's down in the emotional dumps could perk up if you find a way to include him or her in your plans.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) If you're in one of those "the Goat knows best" periods, you might want to ease up and try listening to what others have to say. You could learn something.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) That new challenge is getting closer, and you should be out there now showing facts and figures to potential allies to help persuade them to rally to your support. Good luck.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting a head start on holiday plans could help free up some time later to spend on other projects. Meanwhile, a colleague has some ideas that you might find worth discussing.

Born this Week

You are always there for others, and sometimes you need to be reminded that you need to be there for yourself as well.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

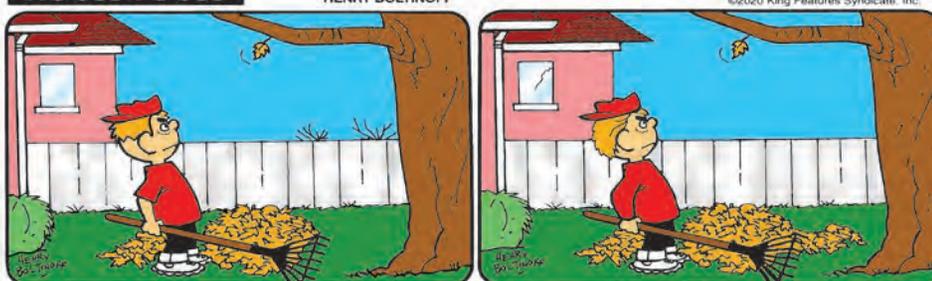
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

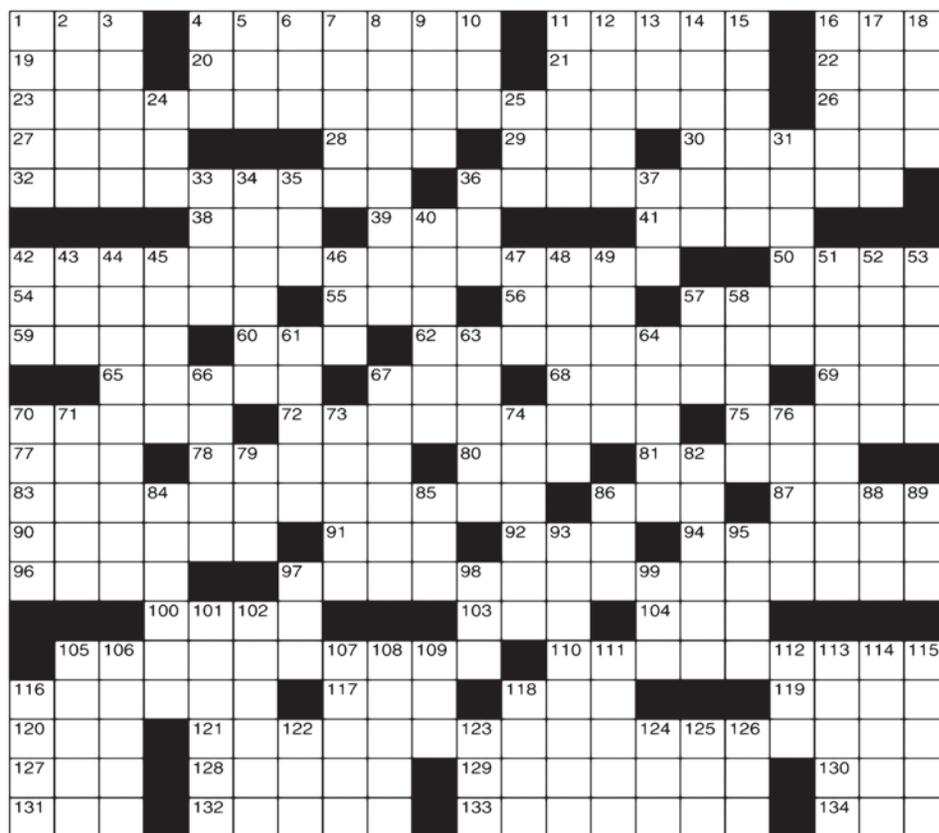
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Window is cracked. 2. Boy's hair is different. 3. Bushes are missing. 4. File of leaves is larger. 5. House is narrower. 6. Shirt has long sleeves.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Mad crowd
 - 4 Ritchie Valens hit of 1959
 - 11 Artificial waterway
 - 16 Jacuzzi joint
 - 19 LAX screeners
 - 20 Mining stuff
 - 21 "Ad — per aspera"
 - 22 Formal duds for a dude
 - 23 Some Sufi ascetics
 - 26 Server's goal
 - 27 Actress Garr
 - 28 Was ahead
 - 29 Julio's gold
 - 30 "Much obliged"
 - 32 Air-cooling vanes
 - 36 Means of telling time
 - 38 — good clip
 - 39 Writer Capote, to pals
 - 41 Steed feed
 - 42 Firestone products
 - 50 Lots and lots
 - 54 Gotten up
 - 55 Technique: Abbr.
 - 56 Feel ill
 - 57 Gloomy
 - 59 — mater
 - 60 Wolf down
 - 62 They succeeded audiotapes
 - 65 "Yipes!"
 - 67 Big lug
 - 68 Ward (off)
 - 69 Alley hisser
 - 70 Ax-wielding lumberjack
 - 72 Dust devils' cousins
 - 75 Old overlords
 - 77 Lupino of "Jennifer"
 - 78 "Arrow" network
 - 80 Quarterback Dawson
 - 81 Big printer brand
 - 83 Carnival classics
 - 86 Coll. email ender
 - 87 Faint trace
 - 90 Tax
 - 91 "Kidnapped" author's inits.
 - 92 Choose
 - 94 Paradiasiacal
 - 96 Talk back to
 - 97 Planets, e.g.
 - 100 Fill-in worker
 - 103 Tyke
 - 104 Pampering, for short
 - 105 Record player parts
 - 110 Kids hold their horses on them
 - 116 Tile design
 - 117 German city
 - 118 It fills la Seine
 - 119 Et — (and others)
 - 120 "Devious Maids" actress Ortiz
 - 121 What 10 of this puzzle's answers do
 - 127 Beer barrel
 - 128 See 116-Down
 - 129 What's often decorated for Christmas
 - 130 "— your call"
 - 131 Sooner than, in odes
 - 132 One-of- — (unique)
 - 133 Bleepers of bad words
 - 134 Tofu source
 - 11 Nile capital
 - 12 Professional org.
 - 13 — degree
 - 14 Soul queen Franklin
 - 15 Beat against, as waves
 - 16 Get up
 - 17 NHL game souvenirs
 - 18 Lines of symmetry
 - 24 Celery piece
 - 25 Loudness knob abbr.
 - 31 Actor Aziz —
 - 33 Like flimsy excuses
 - 34 Expiated
 - 35 Little dollop
 - 36 Shorten
 - 37 Wallops in the ring
 - 40 Create a new digital image of
 - 42 Small battery type
 - 43 E-address
 - 44 Sci-fi travel facilitators
 - 45 Inedible kind of orange
 - 46 Suffix with 116-Across
 - 47 Answer to "Are you?"
 - 48 Teases mercilessly
 - 49 Give a thrill
 - 51 Conductor Arturo
 - 52 Film award
 - 53 Jays' places
 - 57 "Girl Code" channel
 - 58 Dramatist Clifford
 - 61 In — (agitated)
 - 63 Bar none
 - 64 Examined before
 - 66 "— a jealous mistress"
 - 67 "1984" novelist George
 - 70 LP players of old
 - 71 Plant swelling
 - 73 Earthy hue, to Brits
 - 74 Explorer Hernando
 - 76 Seeded
 - 79 1940s pres.
 - 82 Hopi abode
 - 84 Speakers' platforms
 - 85 Ending for Siam
 - 86 Zeta follower
 - 88 You, in German
 - 89 Many laptops
 - 93 British island in Polynesia
 - 95 Film providing a factual report, for short
 - 97 Tax-filing pro
 - 98 Rd. relatives
 - 99 Piece of mail: Abbr.
 - 101 Riddle
 - 102 Highest peak in N.Z.
 - 105 Copier stuff
 - 106 Application
 - 107 Martin Van —
 - 108 Bridges of film
 - 109 Rhea relative
 - 111 Moms' sisters, say
 - 112 Cyst, e.g.
 - 113 — Island (old immigration point)
 - 114 Give a false story
 - 115 Space of "The River"
 - 116 With 128-Across, earn wages
 - 118 Falco of TV
 - 122 DiFranco of song
 - 123 The Rams' gridiron gp.
 - 124 — -Magnon
 - 125 Ending for cash
 - 126 Abode: Abbr.

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Monthly SEMCU Meetings



As always, the public is invited to participate at the monthly scheduled SEMCU meetings. Feel free to ask questions and bring up any concerns you would like addressed. The highlighted area below has the info and instructions for the November 16 meeting.

Until further notice, the regular SEMCU meetings will take place via teleconference.

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949. Please let us know if you have any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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