

# The *Serving the Madera Ranchos Bonadelle Ranchos • Rolling Hills Riverstone • Tesoro Viejo* Independent



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Volume 20 Issue 10 2024

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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## Decision Time

*In This Issue*

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

## Ranchos' Virginia Vick Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

In August, Ranchos icon Virginia Vick was honored by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce with its Lifetime Achievement Award at an award dinner held at the Madera Fairgrounds. According to the Madera Chamber, the Lifetime Achievement honor is presented to individuals for, "... significantly demonstrating a lifelong dedication to Madera within one or more of following areas: business, agriculture, economic development, education, community and cultural enhancement, advancement of healthcare, and government relations," the Chamber's website explained. "During their time of service, they have possessed and displayed many of the following characteristics: knowledge, creativity, ability to lead, collaborate and create partnerships, deal with adversity, motivate others, show compassion, and maintain a strong sense of integrity. The work and efforts of our recipients have resulted in making Madera a better and stronger community."

Virginia has been in the Ranchos for nearly 50 years. With her late husband, Merven, they bought lots in the Ranchos and built homes and businesses on them, most notably the Maywood Shopping Center in the heart of the Ranchos. In addition, over the years she has owned a series of businesses in the Ranchos as well, including a video rental store and a tanning operation.

She was one of the original members of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce in the Ranchos and is proudest of

being the driving force behind the creation of the Flatlanders Day Parade. In addition, she was fundamental in getting the Madera Ranchos Branch of the Madera County Library in the Ranchos and she was on the committee to create the Golden Valley School District in the Ranchos.

Virginia said she believed she was the first person from the Ranchos to be honored by the Madera Chamber. When asked why she thought she was honored, she said, "I was a businesswoman and a member of the Chamber."



## LIFE Games Bring Out the Best

More than 325 students with special needs participated in the 7th Annual LIFE Games hosted by Madera County Superintendent of Schools on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at the Madera Fairgrounds.

LIFE Games is an event that demonstrates that all students, even the most severely disabled, can be included in any activity with the right preparation. Students participated in activities focused on physical education, sensory, and visual and performing arts standards, and also demonstrated teamwork with large team activities. Community agencies offered informational booths for students who come from all districts in Madera County and are served by this regional program.



More than 250 staff members and community volunteers participated. LIFE Games has received a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association and the 2016 Apple for Excellence Award from California County Boards of Education.

## ELECTION 2024

### THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

*(The following suggestions are provided by SaveCalifornia.com. These are merely suggestions with which the Ranchos Independent agrees. While this is still America, vote how you please.)*

President: **Donald J. Trump**

United States Senator: **Steve Garvey**

U.S. Representative District 13: **John Duarte**

California State Assembly District 8: **George Radanovich**

Golden Valley Unified School District Area 5: **Steven Lewis**

### 10 Propositions on California's November 5 Ballot

**Prop. 2 — NO** — would waste even more taxpayer dollars on the wasteful, dumbing down, politically correct K-12 government schools and community colleges. Making this \$10 BILLION bond all the more expensive are interest payments, which nearly doubles the huge debt it proposes to levy upon already-hurting Californians.

**Prop. 3 — NO** — would permit polygamy, bigamy, child marriages, incestuous marriages (and even people-animal and people-object marriages) by superseding all marriage statutes with an extremely broad and subjective state constitutional amendment claiming "a fundamental right ... to marry" whomever and whatever (the sky's the limit). Prop. 3 won't make any practical difference on same-sex marriages, yet by preempting all existing marriage definitions, standards, and limits, this radical proposal opens up "Pandora's Box."

**Prop. 4 — NO** — would fund another lie-based, subsidization of wasteful environmental groups via a \$10 BILLION bond, costing taxpayers even more money, and with interest (a bond is always more expensive than a direct tax).

**Prop. 5 — NO** — would permit higher property taxes (attacking Prop. 13 from 1978) by lowering the "vote threshold from 66.67 percent to 55 percent for local special taxes and bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure." Targets all property owners.

**Prop. 6 — NO** — would call it "slavery" to make prisoners do work they don't wish to do. This soft-on-crime proposition would prohibit the Department of Corrections from disciplining (removing privileges from) convicts who refuse their work assignments.

**Prop. 32 — NO** — would increase the "minimum wage" to \$18/hr. for all California employees (killing even more jobs and businesses).

**Prop. 33 — NO** — would permit cities and counties to impose deceptive "rent control," which will result in fewer rentals and higher rents, as frustrated landlords sell their rental houses and duplexes to become primary residences, and as developers lack investors to build new rentals.

**Prop. 34 — YES** — would require AIDS Healthcare Foundation of Los Angeles, notorious for misspending taxpayer dollars, "to spend 98 percent of revenues from the federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care."

**Prop. 35 — NO** — would permanently tax health insurers to pay for the state's "Medi-Cal" welfare program, which will hike insurance costs for the rest of us.

**Prop. 36 — YES** — would increase penalties for theft and fentanyl possession and repeal the worst parts of Prop. 47 from 2014. Equipping county district attorneys to prosecute, it would send the message to would-be robbers that retail theft is a crime again.

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**VOTE  
NOV  
5TH**

**VOTE  
NOV  
5TH**

**VOTE  
NOV  
5TH**

**TRUMP**

Letters

Dear Editor:

I'd like to introduce you to a new local business called Seniors Helping Seniors, a unique home care agency that's making a meaningful impact on both the lives of seniors in need and those who care for them.

Unlike traditional home care services, our agency employs active seniors who have a passion for helping others and are looking for purpose and connection. These seniors provide in-home assistance to those who need help with daily activities—whether it's companionship, running errands, or personal care. The twist? Our caregivers are often just as close in age to those they serve, creating a special bond and level of understanding that goes beyond care — it becomes community.

In a time when aging in place is increasingly important, we help not only filling a critical care gap but also offer purpose and income to older adults who are active and able to help. Our model of "peer-to-peer" care brings companionship, understanding, and trust, fostering genuine relationships and improving the well-being of both caregivers and care recipients.

I am a local resident here as well in Riverstone and the business covers seniors in need across Madera and Fresno. I believe our story of seniors lifting each other up through care, empathy, and community would resonate deeply with your readers. It's a fresh take on senior care that stands out in a crowded space, and I'd love the opportunity to share how we're empowering seniors to make a difference in each other's lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Susan Delaney, Managing Owner  
559-500-3070  
www.shsgreaterfresno.com

Dear Editor:

When Measure T failed in 2022, the Madera County Transportation Authority and all our member agencies had to take a hard look at what we did wrong and figure out how to deliver a package of investments that would reflect the needs and expectations of our residents and business community. So, we started over. The new Measure T expenditure plan on this year's ballot reflects almost two years of re-assessing, adapting, and changing the form and structure of the Measure to meet those needs and expectations.

We gathered a steering committee of regular people from each of the five County Districts instead of having our elected officials appoint people to make it more independent. They toured the County and met six times over the past year. They unanimously supported the Measure that was sent to the Board. Yes. A group of citizens formed a Political Action Committee to place the Measure on the ballot with a lower threshold for passage, but – despite claims made by some – it is the same Measure. Period.

Measure T 2024 bears little resemblance to any of its predecessors. With a 20-year horizon, it is not a "forever tax" as was proposed in 2022. We listened and heard people wanted more investments in our local streets and roads so that perhaps – finally – we could improve our pavement condition countywide. That's why 80 percent of all revenues will go to those local roads. That category also includes options for evacuation planning, which residents and businesses in the eastern part of the county badly wanted. It contains options for bike and pedestrian improvements in areas where they are desired and even Safe

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 15

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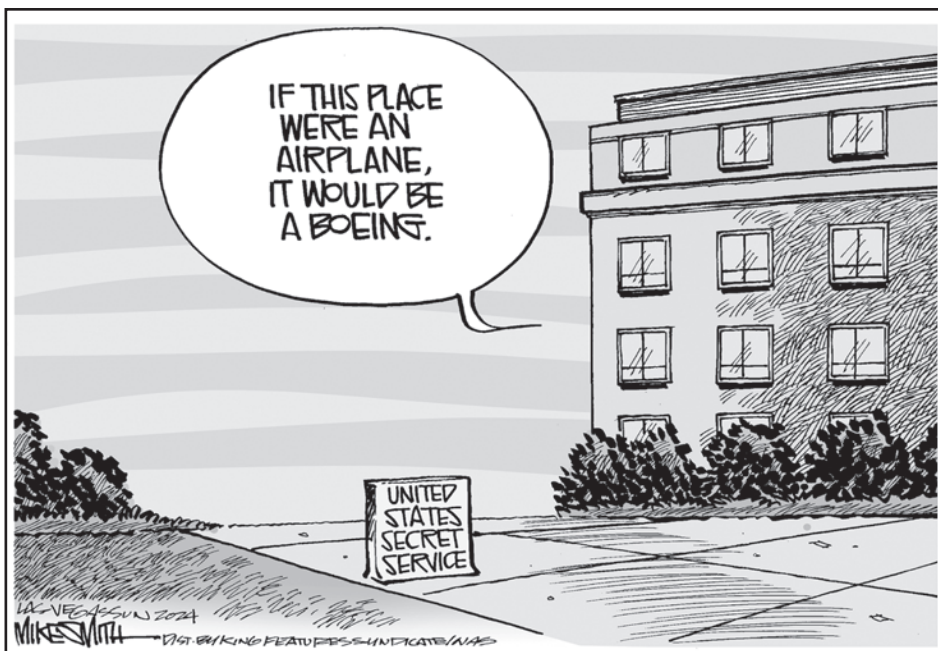
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## Guest Editorial

# Secret Service: Just Embarrassing

By Rich Lowry

If this is what the Secret Service has become, it's a wonder that something worse than Butler, Pa. hasn't already happened. That event was terrible enough, with one rally-goer killed and Donald Trump coming within an inch of losing his life. If Trump hadn't turned his head at the right moment, Butler would have become one of the most notorious locations in American history and we'd be living in a different world.

At the time, the Secret Service's failure seemed unfathomable, and none of the revelations since -- set out in a report by the Senate Homeland Security Committee -- make it any better. Barney Fife was better organized and more accountable.

The Secret Service is given responsibility for avoiding a calamity that would traumatize the nation and derange its politics for years, perhaps decades, to come. Its competence is a matter of the utmost national consequence. Yet, the agency was bumbling and slow-reacting, a disaster waiting to happen. Surely, this sort of ineptitude wouldn't be tolerated by Taylor Swift's security detail.

The Secret Service, which we ex-

pect to be run with a vigor and precision befitting its mission, instead operates as though it's a typical bureaucratic outfit housed within, say, the Health Resources and Services Administration. The Senate report relates "multiple foreseeable and preventable planning and operational failures," as an armed man was permitted to climb atop the roof of the American Glass Research building within 200 yards of where Trump was speaking and get off eight shots.

The story of how it happened is muddled by finger-pointing and confusion over who was in charge. Secret Service advance agents didn't know who was responsible for final decisions and didn't know who determined the

security perimeter for the event. State and local law enforcement were responsible for the AGR building because it was outside the perimeter. But advance agents didn't share planning documents with them, and didn't ask for the operational plans of state and local law enforcement. Someone from Butler Emergency Services warned during a walkthrough that local law enforcement didn't have the manpower to lock down the building.

Advance agents did suggest putting large trucks or other heavy equipment between the stage and buildings to block lines of sight, but nothing came of the idea. The local officers and Secret Service agents operated on separate radio channels, and the only communications connection between the Secret Service and police communication centers was via cell phone. Some agents' radios had technical problems or didn't work, while the counter unmanned aerial system was inoperative at the time the shooter Thomas Matthew Crooks flew a drone over the rally site in the afternoon.

Crooks fired his shots at 6:11 p.m. At 5:44 p.m., the Secret Service security room got word that local police had spotted a suspicious person with a rangefinder near the AGR building. This should have been a five-alarm event, yet key Secret Service personnel weren't told that local police had

*Barney Fife was better organized and more accountable.*

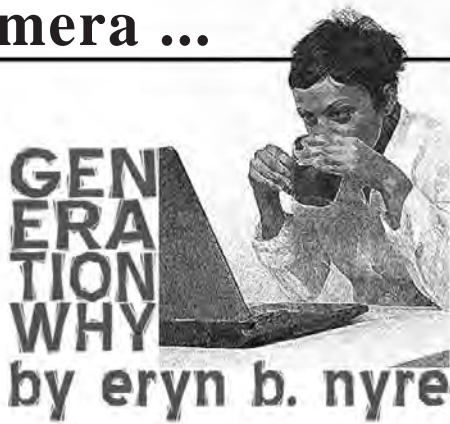
**THE RAY GUN**  
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"LET IT NEVER BE SAID OF THIS GENERATION OF AMERICANS THAT WE BECAME SO OBSESSED WITH FAILURE THAT WE REFUSED TO TAKE RISKS THAT COULD FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THE WORLD."

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

Please see **LOWREY** on P. 7

# Smile for the Camera ...



by **eryn b. nyre**

I've often talked about how I don't think that we, as a society, were ready for the concept of social media as a whole. Not the dark side that has emerged, anyway. The side that pathetic people with nothing better to do use to spew bitterness and hatred while hiding behind the anonymity of their keyboard. I haven't changed my mind on that, but I have decided I don't think society was quite ready for every single person to have a video camera in the palm of their hand at every moment of the day, either. I will admit that it has certainly come in handy on thousands of occasions, but I'm convinced in thousands more it has become a hindrance.

Sometimes it's not dangerous or harmful, it's just annoying. You go to some event like a concert or the theater and you're trying to enjoy the performance and there's a sea of arms in the air with their big, fat screens up blocking your view. So, there you are, bobbing and weaving, not

*... I have decided I don't think society was quite ready for every single person to have a video camera in the palm of their hand at every moment of the day ...*

911. You have to practically throw a stapler at one of the bystanders to get them to pull their face away from their screen to pay attention to what you're asking and make the call. Then the paramedics have to virtually mow them all down when they get there because they're all still recording the excitement of a medical emergency. This wasn't an isolated incident that I have personally experienced, and out of curiosity when writing this article, I did a google search and there are a disturbing amount of videos like that available, it's ubiquitous.

ally experienced, and out of curiosity when writing this article, I did a google search and there are a disturbing amount of videos like that available, it's ubiquitous.

Another really big problem in my opinion, it serves as a deterrent for the wrong behavior. Here's what I mean: though it certainly deters some people from certain nefarious behaviors for fear of being recorded, it also makes perfectly reasonable people with reasonable complaints afraid to speak up for the same reason. I'll give you an example.

A friend of mine and I were at a fast-food restaurant. It was decently busy, but not crazy, and her order was wrong. She very politely took her receipt up to the counter and asked the young man if she could get the situation corrected. This friend is naturally friendly, pleasant, and on the quiet side. She waited her turn, had a polite tone, and said please and thank you. Moreover, she had paid for the item and had every right to ask for the situation to be rectified. She did nothing wrong. Unfortunately, the

to the beat of the music but to try and see around all the phones. People can't just watch the show, they have to record it, probably to post it somewhere so they can look cool to a bunch of people who don't actually care, but I digress. What happened to just being in the moment and making a memory? It's like every single, solitary second has to be captured on that little time-suck that barely leaves all of our hands. Yes, I realize I sound like that grumpy old man who yells at the neighborhood kids to get off his lawn, but seriously, your stupid phone is blocking my view.

So, the above example is irritating but not hazardous, but sometimes it actually is dangerous. For example, when you are dealing with a sudden medical emergency in your office building. A colleague collapses, someone hollers for help, people rush over, there's confusion and panic and suddenly you're surrounded by people with their phones out recording rather than calling

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

kid was rude, dismissive, wouldn't even look at the receipt, said he was too busy to deal with her and walked away without helping her. She came back to our table defeated and decided it wasn't worth the trouble. I told her to ask to see his manager and she immediately shook her head. There were too many people around and was afraid someone would record her and put her up on one of those websites calling her a "Karen in the wild" for requesting a manager. I tried to explain to her that I didn't think that would happen because she was calm, she wasn't raising her voice or using any of the words that the local news would have to bleep out. In short, she wasn't meeting any possible definition of a

"Karen" that I could think of, but she just wouldn't do it. The threat of possibly being recorded and put on a website deterred her from getting an item she was entitled to because she had ordered and paid for it.

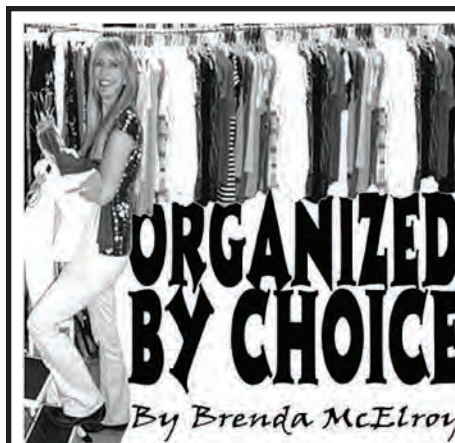
That's the thing, just like with social media, we as a society have abused the privilege of having cameras on our phones. Too many people have no self-awareness, or spacial awareness come to think of it; many are inappropriate and invasive, and far too many are malicious. There's not much we can do about it now that Pandora's box has been opened, but it's definitely something I personally wish I could shove back in there and close the lid. I would be fine going back to digital cameras; we all take too many selfies anyway.

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**New Phase, New Home:  
Practicing What I  
Preach**

Some endings are subtle. The last time you kept in touch with a friend who moved away. The last time you tucked your children in at night or read their favorite book. The last time you made lasagna from scratch before letting Costco do the work.

*These are some of the "practice what I preach" ideas that helped us accomplish a downsize ...*

Other endings, not so subtle. Last month, I locked the door and said goodbye to the house we lived in for 44 1/2 years. A house we built with the help of family and friends.

A year ago, I had no idea it would be our last Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter there. I suppose in a way, those were subtle endings.

We are so grateful for the wonderful memories growing our family

on Sparta Avenue in The Ranchos community. We're grateful too for another young family to now enjoy the house and community in that space.

Ironically, before I knew we would be in the throes of a move ourselves, I had scheduled two Rightsizing your Home and Belongings presentations in September.

These are some of the "practice what I preach" ideas that helped us accomplish a downsize from first entertaining the idea on June 19, to selling our house and buying and moving into a brand-new one by September 19.

**STOP AND CONSIDER** — What size home and yard is appropriate for your current phase of life? What location aligns best with your priorities? Are you needing a place with more services provided? What's the cost versus benefit of making a move?

Why might now be the best timing?

As we near retirement age, we were ready for less yard due to use and main-

tenance. The benefits for us included becoming more energy efficient and regulating our living expenses. With Prop 19, being 55+, and buying a smaller less expensive place, we were able to roll over our property tax rate. Finding a home close to our church and community was important to us. In general, moving aligned with our goal of simplifying life.

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 17

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**Say you saw it in the Independent**

LOWREY cont. from P. 5

observed Crooks and lost track of him. Three minutes before Crooks fired, a local law enforcement officer sent a radio alert that someone was on the AGR roof, with the Secret Service security room getting word a minute after that.

When a Secret Service counter-sniper saw local police running with their guns drawn toward the AGR building, it didn't occur to him to tell Trump's detail to get him off the stage. He said the police running meant only an "elevated" threat level.

The explanation of one top Secret

Service officer -- "I can't put out fires that I don't know exist" -- should never be acceptable. It could have been worse, but that's not the standard.

Given the contents of the Senate report, it's not shocking that the Secret Service allowed another would-be assassin to get close to Trump just two months later. An agency that should fade into the background because the quality of its work can always be taken for granted is instead a national embarrassment.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

## The Magic Words

(October 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.



before I set down at the computer to start this article. There is everything in it from soup to nuts, believe me! There is a paragraph in the forward that I thought was worth repeating here: "In our homes today, as always, life is centered around our kitchens. The joy of cooking for one's family is ageless. The warm atmosphere it creates, the aroma of dinner cooking, and most rewarding of all ... the expression of love from a child when you give him a freshly baked cookie. These are treasures each mother (or Grandmother or Aunt) locks in her heart."

I told you there was every kind of recipe from soup ...

### Spinach Soup

5 C. water  
1 med. Onion, chopped (optional)  
1 med. Potato, chopped  
1 bunch spinach, coarsely chopped  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/3 cube butter or margarine  
1 C. Half and half

Boil the potato and onion gently with seasonings about 20 minutes. Wash and chop the spinach and add to broth. Also add the butter at this time. Cook 5 to 8 minutes longer. Turn off burner; add the half and half. Enjoy.

To nuts ...

### Spicy-Sugared Walnuts

1 C. Sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg  
1/2 tsp. cloves  
1/2 C. water  
2 C. walnut halves

Combine sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and water. Boil together, stirring often to 236 degrees on candy thermometer (soft ball stage). Remove from heat and add walnuts,

stirring until creamy. Turn out on waxed paper and separate walnuts.

Who doesn't like to mix some ingredients together in one pan and have dinner? There is a chapter in this book for casseroles, so I picked a couple that really sound good.

### Chicken Enchilada Casserole

1 can Cream of Mushroom soup  
1 C. Milk  
2 - 7 oz. cans Ortega Green chili salsa or 1 can green chili salsa and 1 can tomato sauce.

1 C. Chicken broth

1-1/2 doz. Corn tortillas

1 large can olives, sliced

4 C. grated longhorn cheese

1 T. chopped onion

1 cooked chicken

Combine first four ingredients together. Cut tortillas and chicken into bite-size pieces. Butter a large baking dish. Starting with the tortillas, layer tortillas, chicken, cheese, olives and sauce. Repeat layers. When complete, top with onions. Refrigerate four to five hours or overnight. Bake at 350 for one hour 15 min.

### Chili Rellenos Bake

1-1/2 lb. hamburger

1 C. chopped onion

2 cans 7 oz. green chilies

2 1/2 C sharp cheddar cheese (shredded)

2 1/4 C milk

6 eggs, beaten

3/4 C. flour

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

Several dashes hot pepper sauce.

Brown beef and onions; drain off fat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Remove seeds from chilies and dice. Place half the chilies in baking dish and sprinkle with the cheese. Top with meat mixture. Place remaining chilies over meat.

Combine remaining ingredients and beat until smooth. Pour over meat. Bake in moderate 350 oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean. Cool five minutes before serving. This dish

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

A few weeks ago, a reader came into the office to talk about an article I had written. In the course of our conversation I discovered she was a member of the Russian Molkan Christian Church. Randy and I had never heard of that particular faith, so we were full of questions. She very graciously explained their belief. They follow the Christian faith; however they follow the Jewish food laws. In talking about their food laws, which included nothing from the pig and no shell-

fish, she said the magic words: "I have a recipe book I can let you borrow to see some of our recipes." I love to read recipe books, especially those written by people that I know have fed their families the meals found in them, so I jumped at the opportunity to read this book.

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After she left, Randy said, "You know, the Ranchos is a mixture of all nationalities. There are probably more countries represented than we think about." We are all Americans, but our ancestors came here from somewhere. Mine are German (in fact we have a street in Hamburg, Germany named after us) and Irish. Where are yours from? Do you still carry on some of their food traditions? I'll bet if we put a map of the world up and put a mark on the country your family came from, probably every country in the world would be marked.

After Sarah brought me her cook book, I couldn't get over the size of it. I was thrilled with it. I spent almost nine hours reading it

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

should serve 10.

**Date & Nut Cookies**

- 1 C. butter or margarine
- 3 eggs
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 C. light brown sugar
- 4 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 C. milk
- 1 C. chopped dates
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Cream butter, eggs and both sugars until light and fluffy. Sift together flour, soda, cream of tartar and salt. Blend sugar mixture and flour mixture and milk. Add dates,

nuts and vanilla. Drop by teaspoon on cookie sheet. Bake in 350 preheated oven for 10-15 minutes or until light brown.

Hint – Let stand 15 minutes before baking.

Well there you have it – four recipes from a book of hundreds. I want to thank Sarah and her church

*Sunday morning, Nov. 3 at 2 a.m., set your clock BACK one hour. Be sure to do it, or you'll be late for church.*

family sincerely for the use of their recipe book. I truly enjoyed it.

If you have a recipe book from your church or organization that you would like to be highlight here, please let me know.

Before I close, I want to remind you that the end of daylight savings time is coming up. Sunday morning, Nov. 3 at 2 a.m., set your clock BACK one hour. Be sure to do it, or you'll be late for church.

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*In Memoriam*



**James C. "Jim" Bailey**  
November 19, 1935 — August 5, 2024

He was born James C. Bailey on November 19, 1935 in Caddo Mills, Texas to parents Mattie Lou and Buck Bailey. The family moved to Thatcher, Arizona in 1939 then in 1943 resettled in Chowchilla, California, where he grew up and attended grammar school and high school.

Later, he joined the Atwater Police Department, followed by a move to the Los Angeles area and becoming a member of the Montclair Police Department, from which he later retired. In retirement he then went to work for Wells Fargo Bank as a Special Agent in loss prevention until 1995.

During this time, he became the father of five sons with Faye Briner Bailey: Randy, Barry, Craig, Steve and Adam. From there came 10 grandchildren and one (now two) great grand children.

Being a late bloomer, he was 34 years old before he attained a bachelor's degree. In his forties, he started a Master's Degree but never finished it. He had three aphorisms in his life (an aphorism is a short phrase that expresses an important truth about life.) 1. Never reward failure; 2. The worst "vice" of all is advice; and 3. Education isn't the only thing, it's everything.

He fancied himself a true lexiconist, a person who studies "lexicons," which are the basic words and phrases that make up a language. He loved words and their meanings.

He fully believed that Jesus Christ died for him and that Christ had prepared a place for him in the afterlife.

He is survived by all of his children, their spouses and his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Joe, Jean, Joy, Allen, Bill, Harlan, Runelle and Flo. Also, his first wife Faye and partner later in life, Claudia.

He asked that any remembrances be directed to your own favorite charities.

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*Senior Report*

# The Season for Thanksgiving

By *Melanie Williams*

As November approaches, the leaves turn their brilliant colors of autumn, the nights are cooler and clouds start to fill the sky. We turn our thoughts toward the season of Thanksgiving growing in our hearts. It looks like an early autumn is here and many thoughts are on the upcoming holidays and planning for family and friends during Thanksgiving and Christmas. The members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are looking forward to the holidays as well.



The traditional Thanksgiving Gathering at the Senior Center is on Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. We are organizing a Thanksgiving Potluck this year. A General Meeting is planned after the Thanksgiving meal to discuss the board member positions for 2025 through 2026. We are looking for new members willing to volunteer for

needed positions on the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Board. If you are interested in serving or just finding out more information about board member positions, please come to the General Meeting on Nov. 14. Call the Senior Center for information and to sign up for the Thanksgiving Potluck at 559-645-4864.

The seniors are planning a trip to the Golden Chain Theater in Oakhurst on Sunday, Dec. 8 to see the play *Believe in Christmas, Calling You Home*. It's a charming evening of holiday music and a family inspired variety show that celebrates the Christmas season.



If you are in the mood for a nostalgic Christmas musical and family inspired entertainment, start the December festivities with a warm hot chocolate and the company of friends from the Senior Center. Tickets are available for seniors to sit together at the Golden Chain Theater. You must order tickets in advance to have the comfy front row seating with the Senior Center members. The reservation deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 6 before 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 if we have 20 members attending the Christmas musical. The doors open at the Golden Chain Theater at 1 p.m. and the musical starts at 2 p.m. Carpools are encouraged for the drive up to Oakhurst. You are welcome to call the Senior Center for more information.

The Indian Basket Weaving Classes are meeting at the Senior Center. Terry Killingsworth is very willing to add more people that want to join the group. The "Madera Ranchos Basket Cases" are meeting on Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The group usually meets twice a month, but due to the Thanksgiving Holidays, they are meeting only once on Nov. 19. Terry encourages all members to share their wonderful baskets with friends and family during the coming holidays.

The Book Conversation Club is meeting on Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Kathleen House is hosting the group and encourages everyone to come and discuss their favorite book, author and genre that they like to

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 15

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*Kiwanis Korner*

**Representing the GVUSD Communities**

*By Sally Rowden*

It's the second week of October as I'm typing this news article, and this hot weather is finally starting to subside. I'm ready for our fall temperatures, as I'm sure many of you can agree.

Two of our fall fundraisers are underway. Our beautifully designed Fall/Halloween Raffle Basket has traveled to different locations on Avenue 12 with members selling raffle tickets. Tickets are six for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at our Kiwanis Division 5 Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26. You need not be present to win. You can go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C during the week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday to purchase tickets. Talk to Ollia Ridge. Gosh, I now realize, by the time you read this article the winning ticket could have been drawn. If you purchased a ticket, possibly you're the winner.

Then our Winter/Christmas Tea & Luncheon tickets are printed and ready for purchase. The cost per ticket is \$30. This is a great festive event to share with friends and family. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, and a scrumptious meal served by our dedicated Liberty High School Kiwanis Key Club members. This is all happening locally at 37101 Ave. 12 in the Madera Ranchos. The date is Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11:30 a.m. You can call 559-824-0979 or 559-333-1913 to purchase tickets or if you know a Kiwanis Club Madera Ranchos Member, they each have tickets to sell. Hey, and I think Santa will be dashing in to give us a "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

In brief, here's a few more of our events happening in the next few months: Installation of Officers is taking place this month with Richard Wayne as President, Sally Rowden as Secretary and Marie Cameron as Treasurer. We have two new members that have joined us: Ed Duarte and Andrea Pille. Both folks bring new ideas and expertise to enhance the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos. Ed and Andrea will be installed as official members in November 2024. We are

planning to support the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce with the Christmas Tree Lightening in December, which leads us into the new year with our February Valentine's Day Limousine raffle.

Lots of happenings along with our meetings twice a month at Second Son Brews. Always the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. We welcome guest speakers sharing information about our educational and community events/happenings. If you're interested in presenting, please contact our President, Richard Wayne, at richardwayne48@gmail.com to setup a day and time.

As I close this article, we would like to wish a happy, fun and safe trick-or-treat to the children and families celebrating Halloween. The weather should be much cooler. And we will be realizing as Oscar Wilder defines, "And all at once, summer collapsed into fall."

[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)

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# It's Time to Join the Chamber of Commerce

## Want to be a Chamber of Commerce Board Member?

Nominations for the 2025 Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Board seats are now open.

As per the Chamber's By-Laws, if you are interested in being nominated as a Board Member, you must be a current paid-up dues Member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce as of October 1, 2024.

**All nominations will be taken until November 8, 2024.**

Stop by the Chamber office Monday through Wednesday from 10 am to 3 pm to put in your nomination.

**Nominations will be heard at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 6 pm.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Veterans Christmas Tree Lighting — December 6 @ Maywood Center

You may start dropping off your Veterans' gift bag donations any time between now and December 6 Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. • 37167 Ave, 12 # 5C, Madera Ranchos • 645-4001 for info



*The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce* is ready to produce its **NEW Community Guidebook!** We need someone to show it to local businesses and groups. **Everyone that says YES, you make money!** Call us at 645-4001 or come by the office at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C and we'll explain it all to you.

## When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, November 13 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!

# SEMCU *speaks*

By Igal Treibatch

## *How can we help ourselves and our community?*

SEMCU is looking for ways to help our Southeast Madera community by finding projects that make a positive impact. We're looking for new grant funding opportunities and we're looking for input about important projects for SEMCU to pursue. Your input will help guide us for the next few months. Education, our kids, library, safety, water, seniors, veterans — any subject you think needs our community's attention and help. Call 559-363-9095 to discuss it or email your suggestions to [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org).

Here are some interesting general facts pulled from different sources about the beginning of Madera, relating to its history as well as today's community.

Madera's history began with a California lumber company's establishment of the town of Madera in 1876. The town was named after the Spanish word for "lumber" – Madera – because of the lumber company's connection to the area. The town was built where the company's flume met the railroad. A lumber flume refers to a long, water-filled channel used by lumber companies to transport cut logs or partially finished lumber from the mill to a shipping location.

The first post office in Madera opened in 1877. At the time, the Madera community was located in Fresno County. Madera County was established on May 16, 1893, after a special election in Fresno County. The vote was 1,179 to 358 in favor of separating from Fresno County. Madera became the first incorporated City in Madera County on March 27, 1907 and became the County Seat.

### *2020 Census*

Madera County's median household income is reported at \$76,920, which is below California's median of \$91,551, reflecting economic disparities within the region. Additionally, Madera County's poverty rate of 24.3 percent surpasses the state's 12.2 percent rate, underscoring significant economic challenges, particularly affecting children under 18, with 38.2 percent living in poverty. Comparatively, Madera County's median income slightly exceeds the national median of \$69,717,

however, its poverty rate of 22.0 percent also exceeds the national average, indicating a notable income inequality within the county.

In terms of housing, Madera County offers relatively more affordable options compared to the rest of California, with a median gross rent of \$1,189 against the state's \$1,870. The homeownership rate in Madera County is 69.0 percent, which is higher than California's rate of 55.8 percent.

The labor force participation rate in Madera County is 56.4 percent, which is lower than the national rate. The County has a youthful demographic, with 27.1 percent under 18 years old, compared to the national figure of 22.4 percent. The percentage of elderly residents in Madera County is slightly below the U.S. average.

Madera County is notable for its higher percentage of foreign-born residents at 20.3 percent, surpassing the national average. This contributes to the county's multicultural identity, with a significant Hispanic or Latino population of 59.6 percent. Linguistic diversity is evident, with 46.5 percent of residents speaking a language other than English at home. An estimated 12,500 to 15,000 people in Madera County are undocumented immigrants.

The California History and Family Research Room is in today's Madera County Library. This room has records and historical information about the county's social, political, economic and cultural development.

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

SEMCU 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](http://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, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m.

Make your voice heard!

*SEMCU is "By the Community,  
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SENIORS cont, from P. 10

read. The conversation is open and we learn about other authors and books that might be of interest to check out in the future. You can even bring a list of books and authors that you enjoy or your electronic reader containing your library of books to talk about with the group. The format is informal and everyone attending is encouraged to share.

Weekly activities are still on schedule at the Senior Center. Exercise Class is led by Jo Chase every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. The Card and Table Games are every Thursday from 12:15 p.m., except for the Thanksgiving Potluck on Thursday, Nov. 14.

We have ladies who run the Scout Garden at the Senior Center and work every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. with the care and main-

tenance of donated plants. If you are interested in helping with the Scout Garden, please call the Senior Center for more information at 559-645-4864.

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is served on Sunday, Nov. 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost is \$9 and all proceeds go to Madera County charities. It is located at the Odd Fellows Lodge on Avenue 15 and Road 28 in Madera.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Senior Center. If you have registered for the Brown Bag Program through Madera County Food Bank, you can pick it up from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Last, but most important is how thankful we are for the community, vendors and volunteers who attended our Annual Craft Fair in October.

Our coordinator, Judy Sears and her committee, worked very hard to ensure everyone had a good experience and enjoyed the festive atmosphere at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Senior Center is closed on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. We are also closed on Nov. 28 to celebrate Thanksgiving.

*Happy Veterans Day! Happy Thanksgiving Day! From the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center!*



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**LETTERS** cont. from P. 4

Routes to Schools.


We heard that many of our communities felt overlooked, lacking the investments they see happening in other areas. The Measure now sets aside 10% of all revenues for disadvantaged communities using the same criteria as those used by the state and federal governments for grant eligibility.

Regional projects identified in our Regional Transportation Plan, updated in 2022, will be eligible for 14.5% of the funds. We doubled investments in transit to address the future needs of our aging population, which may include point-to-point service and on-demand options.

Finally, we drastically improved the process for Citizen Oversight, mandating quarterly public meetings and presentations to the MCTA Board, offering the option of an independent auditor selected by the Oversight Committee, and enhancing outreach to support better transparency.

It's hard to overstate the immense amount of outreach conducted to develop this new expenditure plan for Measure T. More than 40 meetings and presentations, nine town halls, and a Measure website with thousands of visitors provided opportunities to ask questions and review all expenditures made for the last 17 years. We conducted two statistically valid polls to confirm what we thought we heard from the public.

In the end, I am very proud of this effort, my staff, and all the partners, steering committee members, and others who developed this community-based plan, which has the potential to bring over three-quarters of a billion dollars to our County and Cities. Our transportation infrastructure is crucial for our future economic growth, safety, and community sustainability. For more information, please visit [MeasureT-2024.com](http://MeasureT-2024.com).  
Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director, Madera County Transportation Authority



- Alcohol is considered a performance-enhancing drug in most shooting sports, as it calms your body down and allows you to shoot straighter.
- The universe has a color, but it's not what you might think. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University took the average of light from over 200,000 galaxies. It turns out the universe is, on average, kind of beige. They named the shade "cosmic latte."
- In a 2008 survey of British teens, 58% of the respondents believed Sherlock Holmes was a real person, while 20% said that Winston Churchill was not.
- When asked if her husband Abe had any hobbies, Mary Todd Lincoln responded, "Cats."
- The first baseball caps were made from straws and worn by the New York Knickerbockers in 1849. A few years afterward, the first merino wool baseball caps were put into circulation.
- Some traditions hold that walking backward while wearing your clothes inside out will allow you to see a witch on Halloween.
- In ancient Rome, lemons were used as an antidote to all poisons.
- The highest mileage on a single car is over 3 million miles.

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**Golden Oak 4-H**

By Sarah Morgan

On Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m., Golden Oak 4-H attended the annual Madera County 4-H Achievement Night. This event is a chance for all of the clubs in Madera County to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of each club from the previous program year. Golden Oak 4-H had much to celebrate in our inaugural year.

For 4-H summer camp, two of our members were recognized for outstanding achievements. Wyatt Morgan was named one of the outstanding junior counselors and Sarah Morgan received recognition for her tie-dye making skills. Both Sarah Morgan and Wyatt Morgan received Gold at the Regional Presentation Day, and Platinum, the highest award given, at State Presentation Day. In the State Insect Identification contest held at State Field Day, Iris Garzon and Elizabeth Morgan both received recognition for competing as primary members. Griffin Williams-Smith received a Red award and Hunter Williams-Smith received a White award. For the State Plant Science contest, Iris Garzon was recognized for competing as a Primary member and Griffin Williams-Smith received a Blue award. In the State Forestry contest, both Hunter Williams-Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith received blue awards. For the State Postal Shoot, Hunter Williams-Smith received a bronze medal for his achievements. Jackson Frankfort also received a bronze medal. Bryant Frankfort, Maddox Parker, Griffin Williams-Smith, Wyatt Morgan, and Dylan Silva were all recognized for their participation in this event.

Sarah Morgan received her Platinum Star for her outstanding 4-H achievements throughout the year. Wyatt Morgan received his Level 3 Spark medal. Iris Garzon and Elizabeth Morgan were recognized as I-Sprouts curriculum completers. Jacob Garzon received a medal for his club Historian book. Sarah Morgan received a medal for her club Secretary's book. Wyatt Morgan was a County Winner for his club Treasurer's book.

For the record book judging contest, Wyatt Morgan was county winner for aerospace and rocketry, Sarah Morgan was 1st runner up for foods and nutrition, and Hunter Williams-Smith was 1st runner up for Poultry. And last but not least, our leaders were recognized for their years of service: Monique Morgan and Jennifer Williams-Garzon were recognized as 5th-year leaders and Jordan Morgan and Andres Garzon were recognized for 2 years of service.

Overall, it was a great afternoon of celebrating and seeing friends from all over the county. Golden Oak 4-H is looking forward to its second year with even more achievements.

**4-H Happenings**  
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**4-H Happenings**



Putting on a great show at the annual Madera County 4-H Achievement Night are, from left, Wyatt Morgan, Griffin Williams-Smith, Iris Garzon, CJ Morales, Elizabeth Morgan, Hunter Williams-Smith and Sarah Morgan.

**Sierra Shadows 4-H**

By Jake Poore

National 4-H Week was Oct. 7-12 and we celebrated by sharing the opportunities and successes all of our members have accomplished so far. Madera County just had the Madera District Fair and our club had so many amazing experiences.

Our 2024-2025 Officers are: President – Jamey Crandall; Vice President – Jake Poore; Secretary – Lucy Lee; Treasurer – Landon Davis; Sergeant at Arms – Samara Mohler; Recreation Officer – Micah Lee; Healthy Living Officers – Sienna Garcia, Emily Wallace, Taylor Ward; Attendance Secretary – Annelise Crandall; Hostesses – Abigail Rosier, Emily Rosier. Our Cloverbud reps are:

Please see 4-H on P. 17

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4-H cont. from P. 16

Recreation – Paisley Bower; Hostesses – Brooke Davis and Brook Tavares; Healthy Living Officer – Jade Mellott

Look at what some of our members have done at the fair: Market Goats – Starla Sisil 4-H Champion light-weight market goat, 4-H Champion market goat, Reserve Grand Champion market goat, Champion 4-H Junior goat showman, Champion 4-H Intermediate goat showman; Lucy Lee – 4-H Champion Feeder Goat; Annelise Crandall – 4-H Reserve Champion Heavy Weight market goat; Market Swine – Landon Davis 4-H Reserve Champion AOB, 2nd Place Intermediate showmanship; Micah Lee, 5th in Advanced 4-H Showmanship. In Master Showmanship – Emily Wallace 2nd Overall for small animal, Champion Intermediate showman in Rabbits; Starla Sisil 2nd overall for large animal; Taylor Ward 5th overall large animal and 4-H Champion Intermediate showman for Horse. We had our primary members show in PeeWee Showmanship: Lane Bower – Swine; Paisley Bower, Braxton Davis – Goats; Paisley Fahey – Dog. In Poultry, Artemis Arsenault with a very successful Turkey project. When you join our club, we will help prepare you too for an upcoming fair.

**ORGANIZE** cont. from P. 7

**KEEP THE TREASURES** — If everything's precious, nothing's precious. Sort through and identify the things you need, use and love. Keep those that will fit comfortably in your new space and support your current phase of life. Ensure you have your important records in order and purge what's not needed.

Prepping our house for showing helped me identify the things I use. Those got to stay inside. Things we use infrequently moved to the garage temporarily and things we no longer used were donated. I realized I wasn't living as lean as I could be. After the move, some things we lived without access to for a couple months also became donated.

A few large items we loved didn't make the cut. Although that was hard, and our granddaughters haven't quite forgiven us for not bringing our piano, I'm grateful on this end that our new place isn't crowded with furniture.

A project that was on my "when I'm retired" list was purging my large three-drawer lateral cabinet of business and personal files. I rightsized to

[www.TheRanchos.com](http://www.TheRanchos.com)

We are currently looking for more members to help with community events and participate in skill-building activities. We will be helping with a Madera County 4-H Leader's Council Drive thru BBQ to benefit all of Madera County 4-H events and projects, an Officer Installation, Christmas Potluck and Tree Lighting, Veteran's Donations, learning about Small and Large Animal expos, Favorite Foods Day, Horse Expo, Public Speaking contests and more. There is something for everyone and we want you to be a part of it. If you have a child looking to make more friends and learn new skills while having fun, then come join our club. We also provide important leadership opportunities, public speaking lessons and community service involvement. Our Motto is "Learn by Doing" and the theme for National 4-H week this year is "Beyond Ready!"

Sierra Shadows 4-H meets the second Tuesday of the month at Sierra View Elementary in the multipurpose room at 7p.m. This monthly meeting is where we all get together and get updates on the different projects and listen to guest speakers and do recreational activities. Come check us out, contact Jesse Bower Club Leader for enrollment information and find us on Facebook SierraShadows4-HClub.

See you soon!

an open-topped rolling file cart that fits in my new office closet. The printer sits on top and a few infrequently accessed file bins are stored in the garage.

**ORGANIZE THE PROCESS** — There's much to track during a move. Create folders for categories: House Sale, House Purchase, Service Providers, Items to Purchase/Receipts, Checklist, etc. Keep these together in a small file tote or briefcase.

Rightsizing looks different for everyone. It doesn't always mean a move, but for most people it does mean paring down to create a comfortable and safe environment with easy access to what you need and use.

Being long-time Ranchos residents, we were sad when the olive orchards at Ave. 12 and Highway 41 went away but we're now grateful that Riverstone provided us with an opportunity to stay connected to our community in a home that fits our current phase of life.

*Home lies in the things you carry with you everywhere, and not the ones that tie you down.* – Pico Iyer

## Notice of Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes

The following is a list of Vote Centers and Drop Box locations that will be available to serve you, between Oct. 7 and Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 5.

**VOTE CENTERS** –Liberty High School Theatre, 12220 Road 36, Madera Ranchos.

**BALLOT DROP BOXES** - Ranchos Branch Library, 37398 Berkshire Dr, Madera Ranchos.

Madera Community College, 30277 Avenue 12, Madera.

This information can also be found in your County Voter Information Guide, which was included with your Vote by Mail Ballot, and is posted on our website at [www.votemadera.com](http://www.votemadera.com).

## Trump to Withhold Cal Disaster Funds

Speaking from the Trump National Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes in September, former President Donald Trump said that, if elected, he would withhold federal disaster money from California until Governor Gavin Newsom allows more water to go to farmlands and cities in the Southern part of the state.

For years, Trump and California have been at odds over water usage in California. During his term in office, Trump constantly battled California over where water flowed, with Newsom and California pushing more water for environmental reasons, such as releasing water from reservoirs in drought years to help protect endangered fish species, while Trump pushed for more water to go to farms. This came to a head in 2020, with then-President Trump signing an order to divert water to farms in California, only for the state to file a lawsuit against the Trump administration the very next day.

This water diversion soon bent toward environmental reasons during the Biden years. When the megadrought occurred in the early 2020s, California's environmental diversion programs, particularly in releasing water from reservoirs for water outflow for fish, began being severely challenged. More Californians came out against the state policies, with farmers warning that more diversions could decimate the California farm industry, even with city and rural conservation measures coming into place.

However, wet winters in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 erased the drought. Now drought free, and with reservoirs literally overflowing, the state went back to having enough water for urban, rural and environ-

mental uses. However, with future droughts likely on the horizon, future battles between the state and others over water usage are likely to come. Both Biden and Newsom are attempting to put federal and state laws into place by January so that, in case Trump wins, he may not be able to do as much about water usage compared to 2020. Speaking from Rancho Palos Verdes in Los Angeles County, Trump struck back in his own way, saying that he would force California to bend to federal rules on water usage.

"Gavin Newsom [sic] is going to sign those papers," said Trump on Friday. "If he doesn't sign those papers, we won't give him money to put out all his fires, and if we don't give him the money to put out his fires, he's got problems. To protect a little tiny fish called a 'smelt,' they send millions and millions of gallons of water out to the Pacific Ocean. If they turned it back, all of that water would come right down here and right into Los Angeles.

"I'm here today in California with a very simple message for the American people: We cannot allow comrade Kamala Harris and the communist left to do to America what they did to California. The state of California is a mess, with people leaving, and nothing's gonna stop them. Those fields are going to be all green instead of 1 percent green. And maybe even more important, you're not going to have illegal immigrants pouring into your country and killing your family. You're not going to have the problems that you have right now. We're going to lower your taxes. But with this group, everything is dead. The water coming here is dead. He's a lousy governor."

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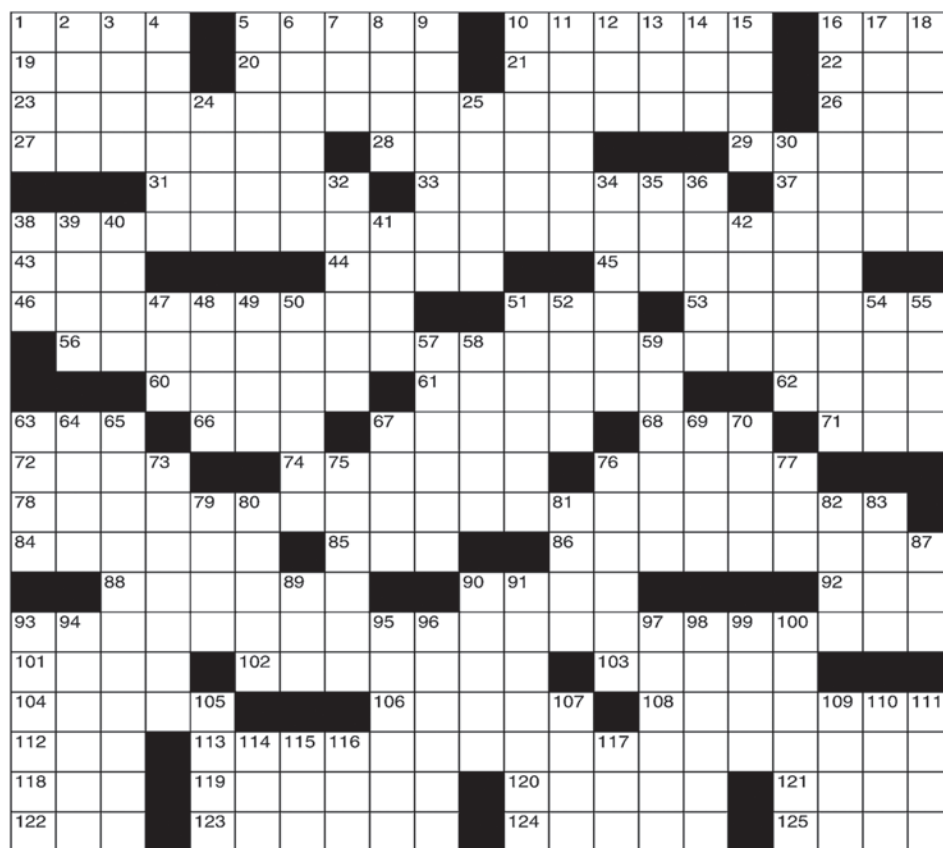


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# Super Crossword



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AZS

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

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

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W	H	A	T	B	U	M	P	E	R	S	T	I	C	K	E	R	P
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R	A	G	A	L	A	N	I	S									
E	D	S															

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fitting name for a herding dog
  - 5 Tense, with "up"
  - 10 "This Is 40" director Judd
  - 16 That guy
  - 19 "... I could — horse!"
  - 20 Actress Christensen
  - 21 Mexican state
  - 22 — -Z (totally)
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 26 Cushion
  - 27 Composer Antonio featured in "Amadeus"
  - 28 Severe
  - 29 Sap source
  - 31 Actors Ken and Lena
  - 33 Sparkly decoration
  - 37 "By the way" comments
  - 38 Riddle, part 2
  - 43 Ending for pent- or prop-
  - 44 City in central Sicily
  - 45 Brand of cough drops
  - 46 Like Diet Coke
  - 51 Holy Mle.
  - 53 Togetherness
  - 56 Riddle, part 3
  - 60 Samms and Stone of film
  - 61 Luau cocktail
  - 62 Lipton drinks
  - 63 High peak
  - 66 Patriotic org. since 1889
  - 67 Symbols
  - 68 Scholastic meas.
  - 71 Seeded loaf
  - 72 Vault
  - 74 "Invisible" singer
  - 76 Press into folds
  - 78 Riddle, part 4
  - 84 Eritrean capital
  - 85 Spanish bear
  - 86 Videotapes, e.g.
  - 88 Hi-fi setup
  - 90 King of Egypt in the 1950s
  - 92 Trellis-climbing plant
  - 93 End of the riddle
  - 101 Successor of Claudius I
  - 102 Tijuana wives
  - 103 Poet Sachs
  - 104 Throw forcefully
  - 106 Subway entry gate
  - 108 Like most sandals
  - 112 Tiny charged thing
  - 113 Riddle's answer
  - 118 Tabloid paper
  - 119 Singer Morissette
  - 120 French capital, in a Cole Porter title
  - 121 Word that's pluralizable
  - 122 'Zine staffers
  - 123 Ferret out
  - 124 African antelope
  - 125 Onetime JFK jets
  - 10 Pippi Longstocking creator
  - 11 Travel destination, generically
  - 12 Very old: Abbr.
  - 13 "TiK —" (Kesha hit)
  - 14 Raw rock
  - 15 Very friendly
  - 16 Greeting on a Sunday holiday
  - 17 Slanting type
  - 18 Demure
  - 24 Composer Bartók
  - 25 — bill of goods (dupe)
  - 30 Cause pain to
  - 32 Plies a broom
  - 34 Missionary "Mother"
  - 35 Prefix with dermis
  - 36 Be cyclical
  - 38 Pas' partners
  - 39 Ample, to Li'l Abner
  - 40 Utah's lily
  - 41 Law school newbie
  - 42 Rice-A- —
  - 47 Is, pluralized
  - 48 Tach readings, informally
  - 49 U.S. disaster aid org.
  - 50 Threaten like a tiger
  - 51 Result of a hit to the eye
  - 52 Wee kids
  - 54 Skin cream brand
  - 55 NASDAQ kin
  - 57 Estevez of the Brat Pack
  - 58 Place a bet
  - 59 River in Iraq
  - 63 — Romeo (sporty auto)
  - 64 Those born in August, often
  - 65 Resort city near Los Angeles
  - 67 "— a Lady" (1971 hit)
  - 69 They oink
  - 70 Lady friend, in Lyon
  - 73 Combat unit
  - 75 Easy winner
  - 76 Wearing, as clothes
  - 77 Stew holder
  - 79 Hershiser of baseball
  - 80 "— hell" (Sherman assertion)
  - 81 Tesla vehicle, e.g.
  - 82 Elec. or gas
  - 83 Golfer Ballesteros
  - 87 Part of DOS: Abbr.
  - 89 Summer, in Savoy
  - 90 Swing wildly, as arms
  - 91 Rising ground
  - 93 In flames
  - 94 Put more film in
  - 95 Of the universe
  - 96 Former NBA star Metta Sandiford- —
  - 97 Male tennis players
  - 98 Was too syrupy
  - 99 "— 3 Lives"
  - 100 Auto-racing posts
  - 105 Tickled pink
  - 107 Appraisal, for short
  - 109 "I" problems
  - 110 Indecent stuff
  - 111 — serif font
  - 114 Seville cheer
  - 115 Very big tub
  - 116 Chicago-to-Toronto dir.
  - 117 Noted period

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# Classified

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• There are many uses for empty Tic Tac containers. Here are three: Wrap with pretty paper and use as a tiny vase for a single-stem flower. Or, separate small scrapbooking supplies in them. Last, thread two needles with a length of thread -- one white and one black. Poke the needles through a small square of paper and wrap the thread around the paper. Slip into the container for a travel sewing kit.



• "Need your nails to dry in a hurry? You can use the cool setting on your hair dryer. It works really fast." -- L.E. in Georgia

• To get a couple more days out of your cat litter, clean the box out and mix in a cup of baking soda.

• Remove mildew from plastic shower curtains by spraying them with a mix of bleach and water, or just toss them in the washing machine with your next load of towels.

• "We have a playroom, and the kids argue about who made what mess and who should clean up which toys. We made a cleaning schedule for the room, having one or two children per day responsible to clean up at the end of the day. It was a rough start, but the kids have learned to clean up as they go rather than leave a big mess for someone else. (Pay back is not kind.)" -- A Mom, via email

• If your vacuum has a paper filter, spray it with your fave perfume or essential oil. It will blow into the air as you vacuum, leaving behind a pleasant scent.

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.

	-		+		= 8
+		+		-	
	+		÷		= 12
÷		÷		+	
	+		÷		= 6
=		=		=	
4		1		7	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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10/24

Click on "Local News" at

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your bold approach to a difficult situation turns a doubter into a supporter. Be aware, though, that you still need to dig for facts to build an even stronger case.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Distractions continue to nibble at your available time. Turn them off and concentrate on setting your sights on your goal. Progress might be slow, but it is steady.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) An opportunity opens up in a new field. You might not feel that it's for you, but check it out anyway. You could be surprised; you might be able to adjust to its requirements.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A new work environment presents some difficult choices. Best advice: Be ready to defend your decisions while still keeping your mind open to suggested alternatives.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Don't let your Leonine pride continue to jeopardize a cherished relationship. You've already taken too long to make that apology. Do it now before it's too late.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A friend needs assistance but fears that you might want to know more than they are prepared to reveal. Provide help without probing into the situation.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You face an important personal decision that could affect a family member. Have a full, frank, no-holds-barred discussion with them before you act.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to think over the choices that have suddenly emerged in your life. Don't be rushed into making a decision until all the facts are known.

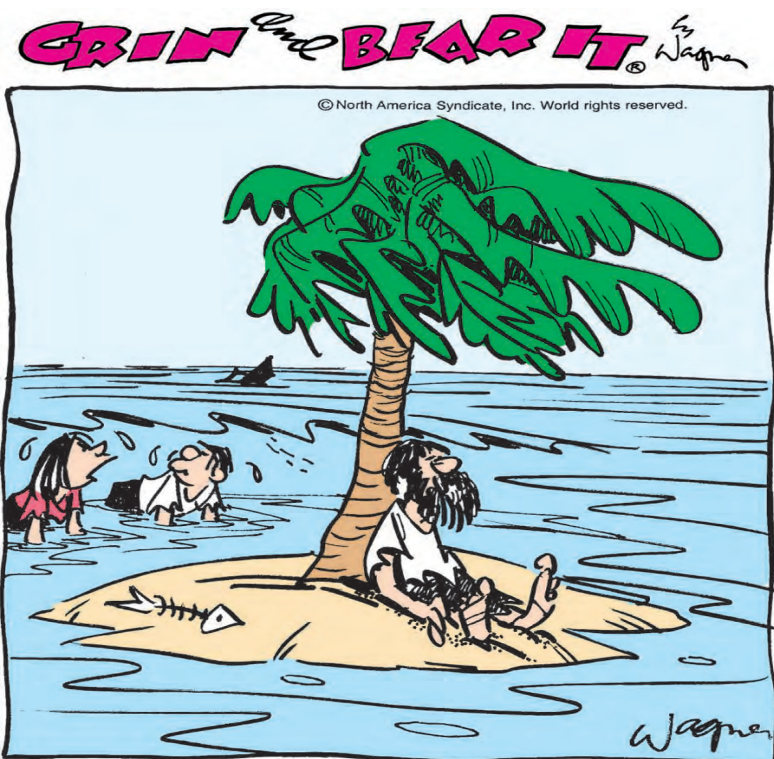
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Someone might be trying to gain your trust for their own advantage. Be wary: A seemingly friendly smile might be an exercise in teeth-baring.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A situation that emerged earlier can no longer be ignored. You need to deal with it now so that it won't interfere with more important considerations.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A job situation presents some problems. Deal with them one by one, and they'll soon vanish. Meanwhile, in your personal life, a Libra would like to know your intentions.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Let your partner know how you feel about your stalled relationship. A delay will result in your swimming around in circles and going nowhere.

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“Well, are you going to ask him for directions or not?”

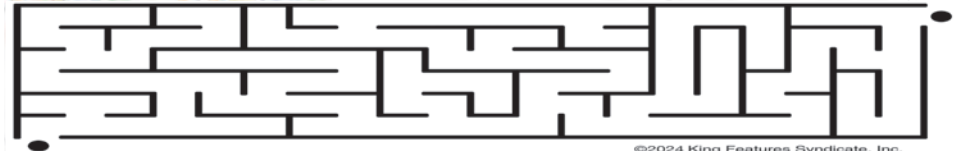
## Born this Week

*Your high energy level allows you to take on and complete more projects than most. You are also an inspired and inspiring teacher.*

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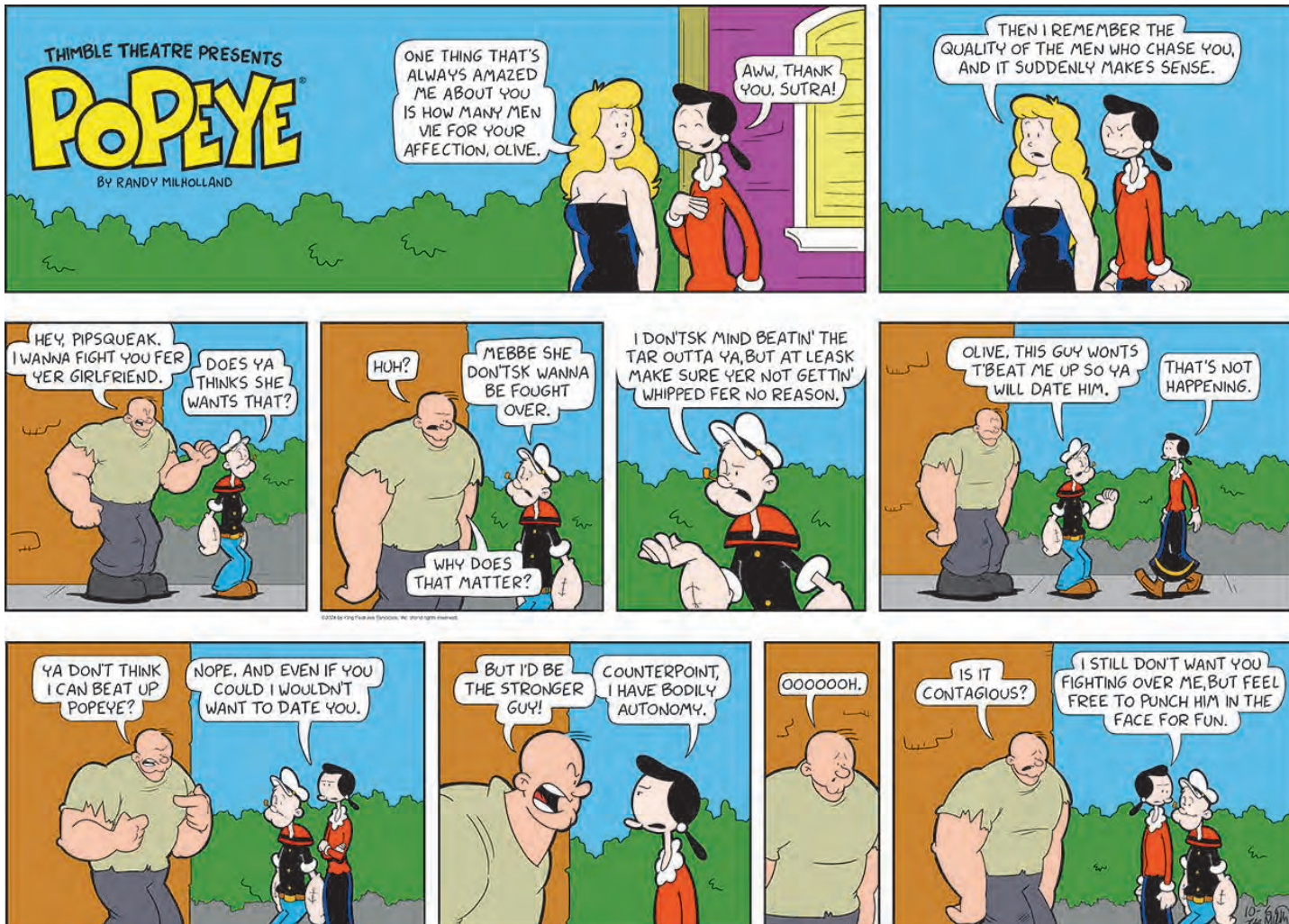
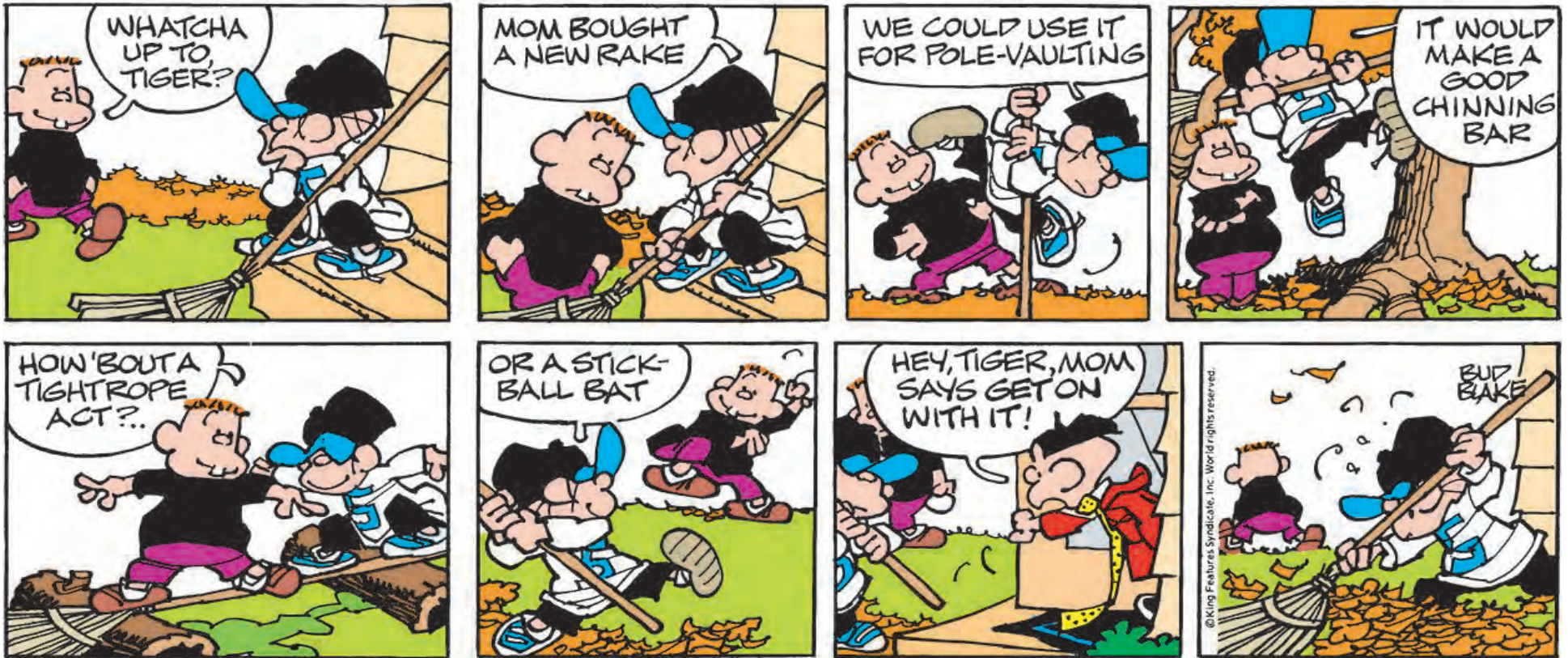
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** Where was "The Lord of the Rings" filmed?
- TELEVISION:** What is the setting for the animated series "South Park"?
- SCIENCE:** What is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president proclaimed June 14 to be Flag Day?
- MATH:** Which letter is contained in every odd number when it is spelled out?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Both the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn pass through which country?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of porcupines called?
- MUSIC:** Which British singer/songwriter helped create many songs on "The Lion King" soundtrack?
- FAMOUS QUOTES:** Who wrote the line about fall, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"?
- LITERATURE:** Which children's book features a fictional world where it is always winter but never Christmas?

- New Zealand.
- Colorado.
- Oxygen (46%).
- Woodrow Wilson.
- E.
- Brazil.
- A prick.
- Elton John.
- Lucy Maud Montgomery, "Anne of Green Gables."
- "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" (Narnia).

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Click on "Local News" at

# 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. Dishcloth is larger. 2. Picture on wall is larger. 3. Stack of dishes is shorter. 4. Cabinet handle is missing. 5. Report card is smaller. 6. Upper cabinet is missing.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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# MAGIC MAZE • SUBSTITUTES FOR CASH

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

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

- Barter
- Bitcoin
- Certified check
- Chits
- Credit card
- Gift card
- Gold
- IOU
- Letter of credit
- Money order
- PayPal
- Scrip
- Shells
- Silver
- Tokens

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# FUN PAGES

# SEM CU

south east madera county united

**HELP TO SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY for the FUTURE**

**Please, bring us suggestions and ideas for projects that SEMCU may be able to do, help with, and fund, in order to improve our daily lives in our area.**

You can call (559)363-9095 to discuss  
or email your suggestions to [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)

**What can SEMCU do next that is important for our South East Madera County community?**

**Schools, Seniors, Veterans, Traffic,  
Water Supply, Safety, Health Care & More**

**SEMCU meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month**

**Our next meeting is in person on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**Online: go to: [WWW.SEMCU.ORG](http://WWW.SEMCU.ORG) for the link**

**by phone: 669-900-6833**

**& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343, then access code 854 221**

**We meet at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room**

**37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**

**FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**