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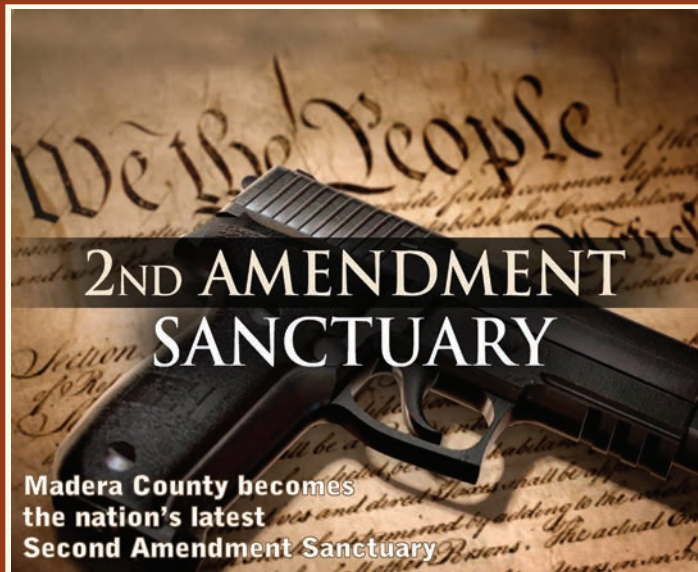
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2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY

**Madera County becomes
the nation's latest
Second Amendment Sanctuary**

In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 16 / Fun Pages • Pages 18 & 19



On Monday, Oct. 21, the Madera County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring Madera County a “Second Amendment Sanctuary” County with a 4-0 vote, with one abstention.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. It says, “A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” Across the nation, counties have adopted “Second Amendment Sanctuary” resolutions to reaffirm their commitment to this fundamental right. District 1 Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff

became alarmed by recent actions by Governor Gavin Newsom and California’s state legislature for placing increasing restrictions on responsible, law-abiding gun owners.

“The Governor’s sweeping gun control legislation targets law-abiding citizens instead of cracking down on criminal behavior,” said Wamhoff. “This resolution sends a clear message that Madera County stands with the Constitution, the Second Amendment and the rights of responsible gun owners.”

The resolution declares Madera County a “Second Amendment Sanctuary,” symbolizing the County’s support for the constitutional rights of lawful gun owners and aligning Madera with other counties throughout California and the nation that have taken similar action. The resolution does not change existing laws or enforcement practices, but serves as a symbolic affirmation of Madera County’s support for the Second Amendment and the freedoms it guarantees.

It is estimated that there are thousands of “Second Amendment Sanctuary” counties across the U.S., though the exact number is difficult to pinpoint as many have adopted resolutions rather than local laws. These counties pass non-binding resolutions to declare their opposition to stricter gun control laws and their commitment to protecting Second Amendment rights, but local law enforcement is still required to enforce state and federal laws.

A Second Amendment sanctuary resolution

means it’s a symbolic resolution passed by a local government to express its opposition to potential new gun laws at the state or federal level. These resolutions are often not legally binding and do not change how local law enforcement operates and Sheriffs and police are still obligated to enforce state and federal laws, but what the resolution does show is a political signal to state-level politicians that voters and local officials support Second Amendment protections and may influence legislative decisions. Citizens may become encouraged to contact politicians and create platforms for pro-gun rights legislation.

The “Second Amendment Sanctuary” movement is a response to gun control measures and is distinct from “sanctuary cities” or counties, which are typically associated with limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Some jurisdictions are designated as “sanctuary” for immigration purposes, but this is a separate issue from Second Amendment Sanctuary resolutions.

Like any other contentious political issue, Second Amendment sanctuary is very complex. Some consider its legal status to be non-existent, while others believe it is imperative for maintaining rights guaranteed to citizens under the Second Amendment. Regardless, new laws are sure to come, new challenges to those laws are sure to be initiated, and this debate will rage on as an important facet of firearms discourse in the United States.

Tesoro Viejo A.M. Raid Arrests

An 8 a.m. gang-related search warrant served at a home in Tesoro Viejo on Thursday, Oct. 9 resulted in two arrests – a 35-year-old woman and a 15-year-old boy. Authorities say they were searching for illegal weapons, firearms and wanted fugitives.

The sheriff’s office, with support from the U.S. Marshals Service, executed the search warrant at a residence on Phillip Way, targeting a wanted individual and looking for potential firearms.

Five people in total were detained, including two minors. Elizabeth Green, 35, was arrested after Madera County Special Enforcement Team Detectives discovered evidence of identity theft during the investigation. A minor was also arrested and faces multiple charges, including assault with a machine gun on a peace officer and resisting arrest.

The Madera County SWAT team was also deployed for safety and tactical sup-

port because of the suspicion of weapons in the residence and a School Resource Deputy was stationed at nearby Hillside Elementary as a precaution, though the school was never in danger.

“The U.S. Marshals Service brings



Elizabeth Green, 35, was arrested by Madera County Sheriffs with the help of the U.S. Marshals.

unmatched expertise to high-risk cases, and together we are enhancing public safety throughout Madera County,” said Sheriff Tyson Pogue.

Scholarship Opportunities Available

California table grape growers are once again providing scholarship opportunities to graduating high school seniors from the table grape growing regions of California. Three categories of scholarships are available again in 2026.

Two scholarships are available to field workers and their families. The Field Worker Bridge Scholarship is a \$14,500 scholarship for students who will attend two years at a community college and transfer to a four-year university in California. The Field Worker Scholarship is a \$25,000 scholarship for students who will attend a four-year university in California. Eligible high school graduates or graduating seniors, or their parent/legal guardian, must have been employed as a field worker in a California table grape vineyard during the 2025 harvest or plan to be employed during the 2026 season to be eligible for the Field Worker Scholarships.

The third scholarship is a \$25,000 Agricultural Scholarship available for stu-

dents interested in building a career in the California table grape industry and investing their undergraduate years of study in academic areas related to the industry. Eligible high school graduates or graduating seniors must pursue a four-year undergraduate degree from a California university in a field of study pertinent to table grapes and be residents of the Coachella or San Joaquin valleys.

Three scholarships from each category are available. Applicants for all scholarships must plan to attend a California college or university. The deadline to apply for all scholarships is Friday, February 6, 2026.

Since 1985, California table grape growers aided over 200 students in attending college. To hear from recent scholarship recipients, please visit www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/scholarship-recipients. For more information on the scholarship program, please visit www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/ or contact Scholarships@grapesfromcalifornia.com.

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN
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Click on “Local News” at

- Assembling the International Space Station took more than 200 spacewalks.
- The average freediver can hold their breath for approximately 10 minutes, much longer than the average healthy, fit human but well short of the Guinness World Record time of 22 minutes.
- During the Middle Ages, the majority of western maps placed east rather than north at the top.
- Diamonds are the only gem made of a single element, at nearly 99.95% carbon, the most commonly found element on Earth.
- After the axle, the first wheels did not appear on any mode of transportation, but on a child's toy. Scholars estimate that it took another three centuries after wheels were used in pottery and toymaking for them to be applied to transportation.
- The Great Pyramid at Giza has over 2 million stone blocks, each with an average weight of more than 2 tons.
- Two days after Alexander Graham Bell died at his summer home in Nova Scotia on Aug. 2, 1922, all telephone service in the United States and Canada was suspended for a full minute at the precise moment when he was lowered into his grave.
- Just 10 percent of an incandescent light bulb's energy produces light. The remaining 90 percent produces heat.
- At the 2007 French Open, Venus Williams' serve sent the ball flying at 129 miles per hour, the second fastest serve by a woman ever recorded. It was also the fastest recorded in a main draw match at that time.
- Most people think you gain 5 to 10 pounds over Thanksgiving, but you'll be glad to know the average amount is really just a single pound.

Strange BUT TRUE

Thought for the Day: "I'd rather attempt to do something great and fail than to attempt to do nothing and succeed." -- Robert H. Schuller

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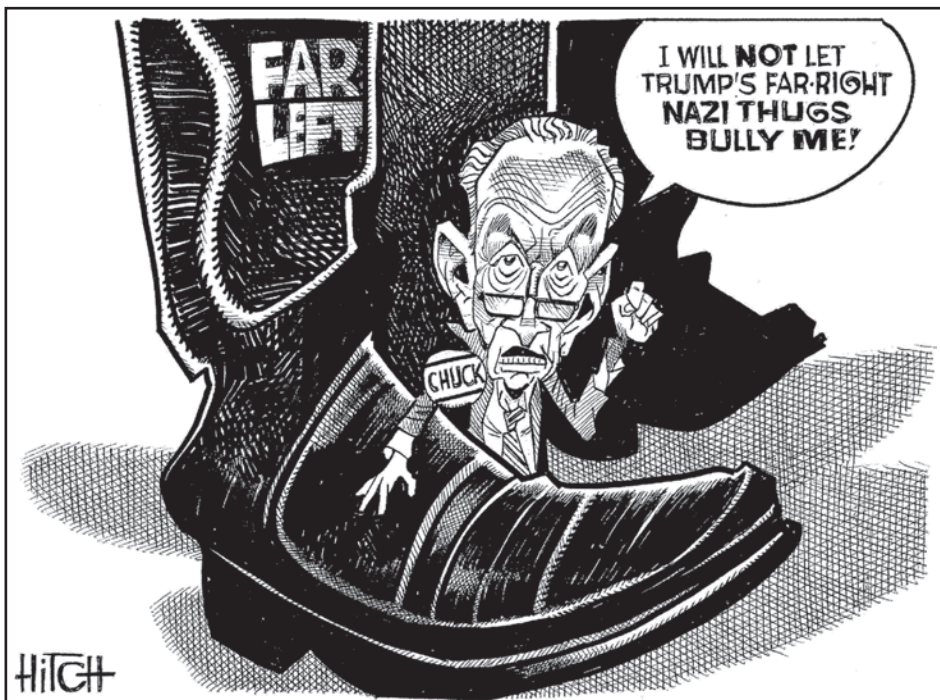
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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
ranchosnews@yahoo.com

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Guest Editorial

Trump's "Gonzo" in Gaza

By Rich Lowry

The "ceasefire now" crowd finally got its ceasefire, although not the way it hoped.

Israel and Hamas have agreed to stop the fighting in Gaza, while the terror group will release all Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

There's always a chance the agreement falls apart. Still, it isn't creating

jubilation from all the people who have been braying for Israel to end the war. There are two reasons -- one is that the deal is favorable for Israel, and the other is that the deal's architect is a president of the United States whom, the fiercest advocates of a ceasefire hate.

If it holds, the agreement is the biggest victory yet for Donald Trump's hyperactive, transactional diplomacy.

A lifetime of maneuvering for advantage in the real estate and media worlds in New York City -- searching for and using every ounce of leverage -- was better preparation for high-level

international diplomacy than if Trump had spent a lifetime on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Whereas "international opinion" believed we had to isolate and cut off Israel, Trump armed the Jewish state, bombed Iran and squeezed Qatar to bring Hamas to heel -- and it worked. The deal is a tribute to avoiding the well-worn ruts of Middle East diplomacy.

As for Israel, it needed to find a

way out of a conflict that had become a PR disaster. Getting the hostages back is an important national goal, even if the exchange is lopsided (these swaps always are). Meanwhile, Israel will pull back to an agreed-upon line, but still hold an estimated 53% of Gaza as a security

buffer. Even if things eventually go south again, Israel has bought time by decimating Hamas and significantly diminishing the threats from Iran and Hezbollah.

It is certainly true that Phase 2 of the deal, which is supposed to disarm Hamas and establish a technocratic Palestinian government in Gaza, will be much more difficult to pull off. If it were to come to fruition, though, it would be transformative for Israel's security and for the lives of Gazans.

There will presumably be no speeches at Hollywood awards ceremonies crediting Trump for his peace-making. Among other things, there's too much cognitive dissonance in saying, "I think President Trump is a dangerous fascist -- but appreciate how bound and determined he is to end conflicts around the world."

Trump is a gonzo version of standard U.S. foreign policy. All American presidents want to make peace in the Middle East, and all want, whether they say it or not, to win the Nobel Peace Prize. What's different about Trump is his methods, and his openness about seeking a call from the

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 16

THE RAY GUN
SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"GOVERNMENT CANNOT CLOSE DOWN THE 'ASSEMBLY LINE.' IT HAS TO PROVIDE, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT'S REASON FOR BEING."

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

Scared to Death? YES!

I love the spooky season. Cool weather. Playing dress up. Christmas hiding in the back of Walmart just waiting to jump out and take over. Okay, that's a lie. Christmas took over before the back-to-school items were cleared from the shelves. I see you, giant blow-up Santa Claus, but you have to wait – there's tricking and treating to be done.

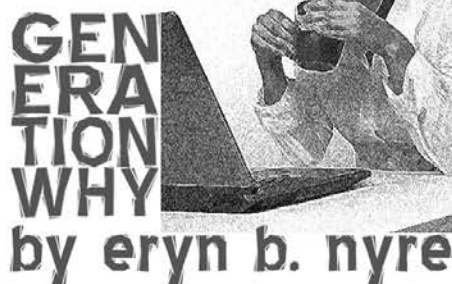
My love for this time of year came from my dad. This was always his favorite season. Christmas belonged to my mother, and it was an event in our household, but Halloween was when my dad shined. Not that he needed it to be Halloween to scare me. Instead of Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss, dad would put me to bed by telling me scary stories. From bloody hooks dangling from car door handles to crazy-eyed, homicidal maniacs hiding in the backseat with a hatchet. Really, it's a wonder I ever slept as a child.

Still, it's because of that, and a love of all things true crime, I'm largely desensitized to scary stories. What I am not desensitized to, however, is haunted attractions and things jumping out to scare me even when I expect them. In fairness, I

am also easily startled when someone pops into my cubicle unannounced. So much so that on more than one occasion I have fallen out of my chair, but that's not what we are here to talk about today.

I went to my favorite haunted pumpkin patch again with a friend of mine last week. It's become an annual tradition for us, even though I'm not exactly sure I handle it well. My voice is absolutely wrecked from all the screaming. Even when I know it's coming. Even when I see the person lurking, I scream like I'm auditioning for Michael Myers' next victim when they lunge for me. Yet I sign up for it year after year.

I'm not interested in driving out into the middle of nowhere to spend a small fortune on a pumpkin that costs seven and a half times more than one from the grocery store down the street. I will, however, make that same drive and spend a similar fortune to have a bunch of teenagers scare the bejesus out of me on purpose. This pumpkin patch has a haunted corn maze, a haunted slaughter-



house, zombie apocalypse paintball, various other carnivalesque games, and touts an exceptional barbecued brisket that I still haven't tried. Turns out, a near-constant state of anticipated terror ruins the appetite. Who knew? All in all, it's a great time even with the increased risk of being frightened to death.

Though my favorite part is always pelting zombies with paintballs, I do love the haunted attractions because, evi-

dently, I find it fun to play fast and loose with my bladder control on a Saturday night. It's not so much that I'm scared, it's that I'm on edge the entire trek through the attraction and it takes very little to startle the heck out of me, which I suppose

makes me the ideal audience for such activities. The people in the maze can't touch you, but they are supremely talented at making you think they are coming at you from one direction, then popping up behind you.

I grew up with my dad, so every year I think to myself, "What could they possibly come up with that he hadn't already done in one of the many haunted houses he created in my childhood?" Every year I am wrong. Very wrong, and I will tell you this: I'm half convinced my father actually designed this corn maze of pure terror as payback for all the Halloweens I didn't get to spend with him as an adult.

Things you think are fake turn out to be very much alive and follow you until they herd you into something like a swamp. A creepy, green, steaming swamp where you can't see below your waist, but you can most certainly feel things brushing against your legs. You make a left and come face to face with a murderous look-

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

ing clown, only to turn around and have your retreat blocked by three of his homicidal friends who most certainly were not there a second before. More than once, I have run headfirst into a wall of cornstalks and fallen over backward in an attempt to escape a deadly clown ambush. Yes, I know the cornstalks are there. They're always there, however the fight or flight instinct doesn't often come with a rock-solid strategy for escape.

I also have a theory that my friends can't get me to let go of. I'm convinced some of it is real, why else would a level-headed person such as myself be so terrified, right? RIGHT?

Hear me out.

I think that place is the perfect forum for hiding multiple homicides. There's not

enough light and you move through it too fast to be able to tell the difference between real gore and simulated. Everyone is screaming and there's the sounds of chainsaws and chopping noises everywhere you go. What better place to hide murder and dead bodies than in plain sight where no one actually expects anything to be real? There's also the fact that there is no one at the end of the maze who counts the people who exit. For all we know, a thousand people went in but only 982 came out. I am convinced I'm the only person who sees this place for what it really is: A murder field disguised as a pumpkin patch. Still, I'll go back every year, if for nothing else than one day I'll break the case wide open and they'll interview me for Dateline.

Until that day, stay vigilant, stay scared, and Happy Halloween everyone!



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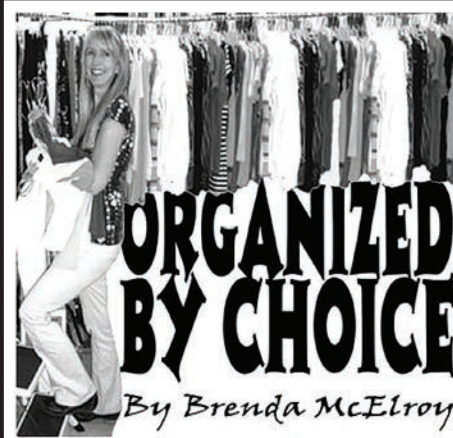
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The Upward Spiral

I was recently babysitting my younger grandkids. The four-year-old began playing with her food as four-year-olds do. Before I could intervene, the fruit cup spilled onto the floor. Looking at the mess under the table she mumbled, "I didn't see that coming." Her response caught me by surprise, and I couldn't help but laugh.

The funny thing is, that's not the first spill as a result of playing with food, and yet she wasn't expecting it. Doesn't that sound just like us? We keep doing the same thing, expecting different results?

Telling a child to "stop spilling" won't magically prevent messes. It takes time and a series of specific instructions to effect change. Lean over your plate. Use your spoon. Pick up the cup with both hands.

Likewise, we can tell ourselves to have a tidy bedroom, office, or pantry, but without specific steps and adjusting our habits, it won't happen.

In their book, *Switch - How to Change When Change is Hard*, Chip and Dan Heath say, "Small targets lead to small victories, and small victories can often trigger a positive spiral of behavior."

A woman in a class I taught shared that after her husband died, she let things go and became completely overwhelmed with clutter. One day she started a little habit that equipped her to do

increasingly more until she regained control of her home. She started making her bed every morning. It was a small victory that triggered an upward spiral of behavior.

One way to do this, say Chip and Dan, is to shrink the change. Having a tidy bedroom might sound wonderful but overwhelming. What about having a tidier bedroom? You can have a tidier bedroom in just 10 minutes.

Choose a 10-minute window leaving yourself a little margin before you must be somewhere, just in case you get inspired and want to keep going.

Go for the low-hanging fruit with a trash bag and laundry basket. Clear the floor of clothes and trash. Avoid getting hung up on things you don't know what to do with. Box them up and email me for my "Keep or Toss" tip sheet (info@organizedbychoice.com).

Keep the focus on the floor until that space is clear or your timer chimes. Move shoes into the closet, books onto a shelf, etc. If your 10 minutes is up before completion, schedule another 10-minute tidy.

Decide on a few small habits you're willing to implement to *keep* the floor clear. Use a trash can and laundry basket *daily* as needed; place shoes and books where they belong after *each* use. Attach a "CHECK THE FLOOR" reminder to the bathroom mirror until this new habit becomes routine.

Move on to dresser tops and nightstands — tossing, relocating and creating simple routines to maintain your de-cluttered surfaces.

Choose your next small target and continue your upward spiral 10 minutes at a time.

For more info, contact *Organized By Choice* at 559-871-3314 or email them at info@organizedbychoice.com.

Pump Up the Pumpkin

(October 2015)

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



and it sounds good too.

No Crust to Screw Up

Stick it in the oven and forget it for an hour and half. Easy, peasy. My 11 year old niece could have made it last year or the year before! But wait, Sara's recipe is as good as her story:

Make the pumpkin-pie mixture from the large can of Libby's pumpkin. Pour it into a large deep casserole. (I'd say she used about a 3 quart Corningware dish.)

In a large bowl blend a packaged spice cake mix with two cubes melted butter.

Drop this mixture by spoonfuls on top of the pie mixture in the casserole dish.

Bake at 350 for about 1 1/2 hours.

Now I ask you – doesn't that sound good? How about a big spoon of this with a

blob of whipped cream on it – or a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yummy.

The following pumpkin bread recipes are for everyone, but especially for the lady that called the office and requested them and before I could get back to her, I misplaced her phone number. The first

one is my mother's:

Pumpkin Nut Bread

- 1 C margarine
- 3 C sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 large can pumpkin
- 3 C sifted all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 C chopped nuts
- 1 C raisins

Cream together margarine and sugar.

Beat in eggs, add pumpkin and vanilla, mixing well. Sift together dry ingredients, blend with pumpkin mixture. Add nuts and raisins.

Bake in loaf pans for 40 to 45 minutes in preheated 350 oven.

The following recipe is my sister Faye's (Randy's mom). You will notice it doesn't take any eggs.

Faye's Pumpkin Bread

Oven 350 Yield – 3 loaves

- 1 can pumpkin
- 4 C sugar
- 1 C oil
- Mix together, then add to pumpkin mixture:
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp salt
- 5 C flour

Bake in prepared pans 70 minutes

I have a very dear friend living in Chowchilla that I went to school with since the seventh grade. She took over as manager of the high school cafeteria when my mother retired. Every year she invites my sisters and me up to her house for a Christmas luncheon. A couple of years ago she served a pumpkin roll that was really delicious. I asked her for the recipe and I'll pass it on to you.

Pumpkin Cake Roll

- 3 eggs
- 1 C sugar

- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2/3 C pumpkin
- 1 C chopped nuts
- 3/4 C flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- Filling:
- 1 C powdered sugar
- 6 oz. pkg. cream cheese- softened
- 1/4 C butter - softened
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven at 375. Grease a 15x10x1 inch baking pan and line with waxed paper. Grease and flour the paper. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs on high for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar until thick and lemon colored. Add pumpkin and lemon juice.

In another bowl (I use a large piece of wax paper so you won't have another bowl to wash) mix flour, cinnamon, baking powder, salt, ginger and nutmeg, fold into pumpkin mixture.

Spread batter into prepared pan, sprinkle with nuts.

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes or until

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 12

Here we are in autumn already. I love the fall time of the year – not real cold yet, and a lot cooler than what we have been through. Probably the only people that don't like this weather are at PG&E. We can open our windows and doors and enjoy.

Pumpkin Anyone?

And what are you reminded of when we say "Pumpkin"? Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Bread and lots of other desserts made with pumpkins? Most people don't bother with seeding, peeling, and cooking a pumpkin any more, they just buy a can.

Although pumpkin pie is not my favorite, my mom did make delicious ones. She usually made two for Thanksgiving except when she knew her grandson Steve would be there, then she would always make a couple extras. She didn't have any secret recipe, not even one written on her cards. Her recipe was on the back of a can of Libby's pumpkin. Each large can will make two pies.

In going through mama's recipe cards, I found this one. She has cut it out of a newspaper and taped it to one of her cards so I will copy it as it is. If you can't make good pie crust (like me) or just don't like to make pie crust, this recipe would be ideal

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Senior Report

Thanksgiving Potluck Coming to RHSC

By Melanie Williams

As November approaches, leaves turn their brilliant colors of autumn, nights are cooler and clouds start to fill the sunny skies. Autumn begins and our thoughts turn toward preparation of holiday celebrations and time with family and friends.

The members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are looking forward to celebrating the season of thanksgiving as well. The Thanksgiving gathering at the Senior Center is on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. We are organizing a

mittee, worked very hard to ensure everyone had a good experience and enjoyed the festivities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

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



Line Dancing is a new activity at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center starting Wednesday, Nov. 5 and 19 at 2 p.m.

Thanksgiving Potluck this year. The Nominating Committee is planning to update members during the Thanksgiving meal and discuss their progress on filling board member positions. We are looking for members who are willing to volunteer for needed positions on the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Board in 2026. We are also planning a Game Night after the Thanksgiving Potluck. If you are interested in the update about board member positions, please come to the potluck. Call the Senior Center for information and to sign up for the Thanksgiving Potluck at 559-645-4864.

The 7th Annual Holiday Craft Fair at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center was a great success. Thank you to all the Ranchos community that came to see the participating vendors and their uniquely crafted items at the Craft Fair. We had a winner for the greatly anticipated "Pizza A Month" fundraiser donated by the Pizza Factory in the Madera Ranchos. Congratulations to Harry Fayter. What a treat to enjoy a Ranchos' favorite pizza for the upcoming year. We greatly appreciate the local businesses who donated toward our silent auction.

Last, but most important is how thankful we are for the community, vendors and volunteers who attended our 7th Annual Holiday Craft Fair in October. Our coordinator, Judy Sears and her com-

"Madera Ranchos Basket Cases" are meeting on Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 from 9 until 11 a.m. The group usually meets twice a month, but due to the Thanksgiving holiday week, they are not meeting on the last Tuesday in November. Terry encourages all members to share their wonderful baskets with friends and family during the coming holidays.

Weekly activities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are on calendar of the RHS monthly newsletter. Exercise Class, led by Jo Chase, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. The Card and Table Games are every Thursday at 12:15 p.m., except for the Thanksgiving Potluck on Thursday, Nov. 13 and Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, Nov. 27.

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

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is serving on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 7:30 to 11 a.m. They donate their proceeds to local Madera County charities. It is located at the Odd Fellows Lodge on Avenue 15 and

Please see SENIORS on P. 12

All Chamber Board Members



10/25

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8:00 AM

9:30 AM

11:00 AM

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*REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 2ND

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

cake springs back when lightly touched. Be careful not to bake too long or it will be too dry to roll.

Immediately turn out on a clean towel that has been dusted with powdered sugar. Peel off paper and roll cake up in the towel starting with the narrow end. Cool.

Meantime, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla until fluffy.

When cake has cooled, carefully unroll the cake. Spread filling over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up again (not in towel). Cover and chill until serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time will end (in 2025) on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2 a.m. Before going to bed Saturday evening, set your clocks back (remember spring forward, fall back) one hour. You don't want to be an hour early for church — or do you?

SENIORS cont. from P. 9

Road 28 in Madera.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Many of our seniors in the Madera Ranchos community have registered for the Brown Bag Program through Madera County Food Bank. Any senior can sign up by filling out an application for Brown Bag Day

The Ranchos/Hill Senior Center is closed on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. We are also closed on Nov. 27 to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Happy Halloween, Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving Day from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

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Say you saw it in the Independent

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	+		+		= 13			
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=		=		=				
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10/25

SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

Madera County is on its way to meet its needs for revenue

As I wrote in previous articles, Madera County is, and will, continue to lose agriculturally based businesses mostly due to water shortage and the state-enforced regulations. That said, one has to realize that the need for County operating funds from these sources will be diminishing to a point where services to the public may suffer.

However, the fortunate thing is,

Madera County is located in the center of California with available and affordable land for development. So now, there is a new crop: Housing. That component adds to the County's ability to sustain and even grow and provide services to the population and meet its objectives.

Although, today, as we all feel the pressure from the traffic slowdown due to construction, it is really a part of progress. Yes, I know, not everyone is happy with more dense population. Many of us moved to Madera County looking for more rural type of living and a more relaxed retirement environment. Unfortunately, time, necessity and progress do not pay attention to that; it just keeps creating new history. If I could have stopped time in 1959 – when I just turned 15 and had a girlfriend with no worries – wow ... what a thought!

But reality is harsh and is not forgiving if you don't pay attention.

Well, thank God, our County supervisors are paying attention and pushing for and working on that lost/replacement part of insurance so Madera County's cof-

Along with others, SEMCU is a non-profit 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 community members to join SEMCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMCU meets once per month for about an

hour at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, or you may join us online to virtually participate. To join online, go to www.semcu.org for a link and simple instructions. Or if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone at 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library. Make your voice heard!

**SEMCU is "By the Community,
For the Community"**

fers get a chance of having enough to take care of its citizens. Part of it should also be thankful to the partnership with the Madera County Economic Development Commission, whose job is to look for and bring new businesses and investors to Madera. Aside from looking for new "potentials," they have the ability and are charged with a directive to help in many ways to bring such businesses to Madera County. If you ask me, things are looking up even though the road is tough. It is exciting to see progress in Madera County.



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10/25

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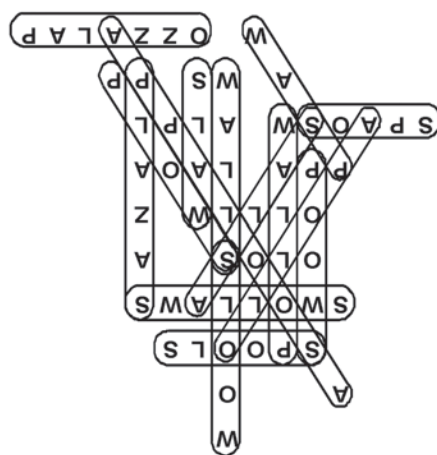
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[illegible]

Say you saw it in the Independent

1 For the stock	anticipated	94 Be litigious	1 Honda model	while	82 Adolescent
issue price	Yuletide	95 Buddy	2 Seat of	39 Brewing	83 Be deter-
6 Low voices	visitor	96 Zesty taste	Ireland's	fungi	mined by
12 Test version	57 * Yuletide	97 Intl. 1940s	County Kerry	42 Brazilian	84 Be a fan of
16 Aykroyd of	tinsel, orna-	conflict	3 Arrive at a	juice berry	86 Chip topper
"Coneheads"	ments and	98 Misstep	stop, as a	43 Kind of poker	88 Texters'
19 Small wine or	lights	100 Edge along	bus	44 Canadian gas	playful growl
oil container	59 Wray of	105 * Yuletide	4 Tilted	station name	89 "Yeah,
20 "Fighting"	"King Kong"	tree, e.g.	5 Camping	46 Smooth but	dude"
NCAA team	60 Circular	108 * Time off for	gear retailer	unconvincing	90 Rotate
21 Epochs	square dance	Yuletide, say	6 Conference	49 Meanie's look	94 Transparent,
22 Logging tool	maneuver	110 "Scram!"	for UC Davis	50 URL opener	informally
23 * Fourth-day	61 Actress Reid	113 Office tel.	7 Einstein or	51 Asia's — Sea	95 Empty talk
gifts in a	62 Keeps pelting	add-on	Camus	52 Orchestra	97 "Buddy Holly"
Yuletide song	64 Eat away (at)	114 — fire under	8 Lost traction	Sorvino	rock band
25 * Warming	66 Backup	(stirred up)	9 Knightly title	53 One-named	99 Egg-holding
Yuletide drink	strategy	115 Make — for it	10 Alternatives	supermodel	capsule
27 Earthen	68 * Plant hung	(try fleeing)	to escaroles	54 Once more	101 Lake that
cooking pot	up for	116 * Scrooge in	11 Spacek of	55 More	feeds the
28 Bedazzled	Yuletide	a Yuletide	"Carrie"	reasonable	Mississippi
29 Suffix with art	70 Jessica of	classic	12 Scrooge's cry	56 Oral health	102 Fortnight
31 President	"King Kong"	119 Apt phrase	13 Vanity	org.	103 Paris art
Reagan	75 Roaring cat	spelled out	14 "Neon" fishes	58 Pixar title fish	museum
32 * Flying	77 Bombardier's	by the first	15 Chichi scarf	59 Book leaf	104 Group of
Yuletide team	attack	letters of the	16 Father, to a	63 Rocket part	nine
34 * Leafy	79 Paper pack	answers to the	wee tot	64 Targets	106 Sweater
Yuletide door	80 Quality	the starred	17 Skating	65 Astrophysicist	type
decoration	evoking pity	clues	jump	— deGrasse	107 Parolee, e.g.
37 Tooth: Prefix	84 In time past	122 Spock's	18 "Adorkable"	Tyson	109 Vid
38 Fashion flair	85 * Phrase from	pointy part	sort, perhaps	67 Online	recorder
40 Shared by us	the Yuletide	123 Toon	24 Scot's denial	journals	110 Bar brew
41 Soften	carol "Silent	frames	26 Wearing	69 Wall Street	111 Auction site
45 Fed, e.g.	Night"	124 Tough trial	stilletos, say	worker	112 Richard of
47 High trains	87 * What "it's	125 Capital of	30 Involving	71 Circle parts	"First Knight"
48 Ill. neighbor	lovely weath-	Ghana	give-and-take	72 In tidy order	114 Legal claim
49 Religious	er for" in a	126 Seeded loaf	33 — for	73 Chutzpah	117 Roth of
branches	Yuletide tune	127 Jenner of	Murder"	74 TV trophy	horror films
50 Figure skater	90 NFL scores	reality TV	(Hitchcock	76 "Sorta"	118 Web feed
Dorothy	91 To a huge	128 Subtle	film)	78 Opera	format inits.
54 Some toy	degree	distinction	34 Troubles	queen	120 Dietary std.
batteries	92 Church cries	129 Detested	35 Totally spoil	80 Jr.'s exam	121 Sign of relief

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EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

Nobel committee.

A hallmark of his policymaking at its best is an unwillingness to take "no" for an answer, an unremitting sense of urgency and a creativity that is considered unrealistic or reckless by conventional metrics. We saw it during his first term with his success in securing the border, with the historic achievement of Operation Warp Speed and with the Abraham Accords.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world," George Bernard Shaw maintained, "the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

In this sense, Trump is usefully un-

reasonable. Everyone around the world needs to be a little afraid of him, while he is willing to talk to anyone or consider anything. His optimism can be misplaced (the Ukraine war was a tougher nut than he thought) and his highly personalized diplomacy can misfire (he got unnecessarily crosswise with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi), but he can also prove all his doubters wrong.

The Washington cliché is that there is no limit to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit. Trump shows, to the contrary, that sometimes there is no limit to the good you can do if you want all the credit.

Rich Lowry is the editor of the National Review.

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• "Here's a fun game to help kids learn their sight words. BINGO! Make your own bingo cards with sight words in all the spaces. Use flash cards to call out the words, and the kids can mark them off as they hear them. We tape the bingo card to a small magnetic dry erase board, and the kids use refrigerator magnets to cover the words. We can use the boards over and over, really reinforcing the lesson. And it's fun!" -- A.J. in Florida

• Glass and chrome will shine if you clean them with newspaper. You can mist the paper with water first, but not too much. Rub, and the shine comes right out -- plus no streaks or lint!

• "Use purified water in your coffeemaker to lengthen its life. Water deposits build up and affect both the flavor and function of your machine. They can be cleaned, but it's much better if you use purified drinking water from a jug. It's very easy to fill the machine, too." -- M.E. in Wyoming

• If you need to pick up small shards of glass, you can use a cotton ball that's been moistened, or a slice of white bread (insides only) wadded up.

• "That time of the year is almost here for us. You know, the time when running the heater gives the whole house the zaps. To keep our carpets from giving us static shock, we fill a water spray bottle with one part laundry softener and four parts water. Give the air and carpet a spritz, and it kills the zaps." -- A.O. in Canada

• When you are frying up ground beef, add a tablespoon or two of water. It will help the excess grease pull away from the meat, making it easier to drain off.

*Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip,
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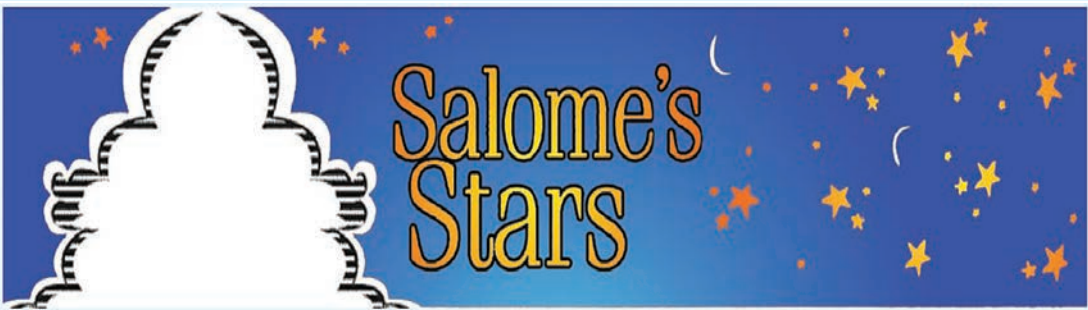
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A work-related situation that started last month takes on increasing importance this week. The choice is still yours as to how it will evolve. Be careful not to make quick judgments.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) "Careful" is the watchword for the prudent Bovine this week. Don't let your emotions overwhelm your logic. Try for balance as you maneuver through a touchy situation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your energy levels rise to meet the challenges that will mark much of this month. New opportunities beckon. Look them over, but proceed cautiously before making any kind of decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your private life can be a problem this week as a partner becomes more difficult. Resist a reaction that you might regret. Instead of walking away, try to talk things out.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You should be your usual sunny self these days as you bask in the admiration that you adore. Enjoy it as you move into a new arena to confront an exciting upcoming challenge.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your perseverance reserves will be tapped frequently this week as you deal with the problems involved in making a new situation work for you. It'll all be worth it!

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You'll find fewer roadblocks turning up as you continue to move ahead with your plans. Expect some important news to come your way in a few weeks.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Good news! You finally get to the bottom of a pesky mystery you've been trying to solve for weeks by using some gentle persuasion to get someone to break their silence.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The best time to take on that important task is now. Move forward one step at a time so that you can assess your progress and, if need be, change direction.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new opportunities you hoped to find this month are beginning to open up. Study them carefully to be sure you make the choice that's best for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Turn a disappointment into a learning experience. Check out possible weaknesses in your approach and strengthen them. A loyal colleague offers good advice.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your new situation offers opportunities to help you get the skills you'll need in order to stop swimming in circles and finally move straight toward your goals. Go for it!

Born this Week

*You have a sharp, logical mind and a quick intellect.
You would make an excellent mystery writer.*

FUN PAGES

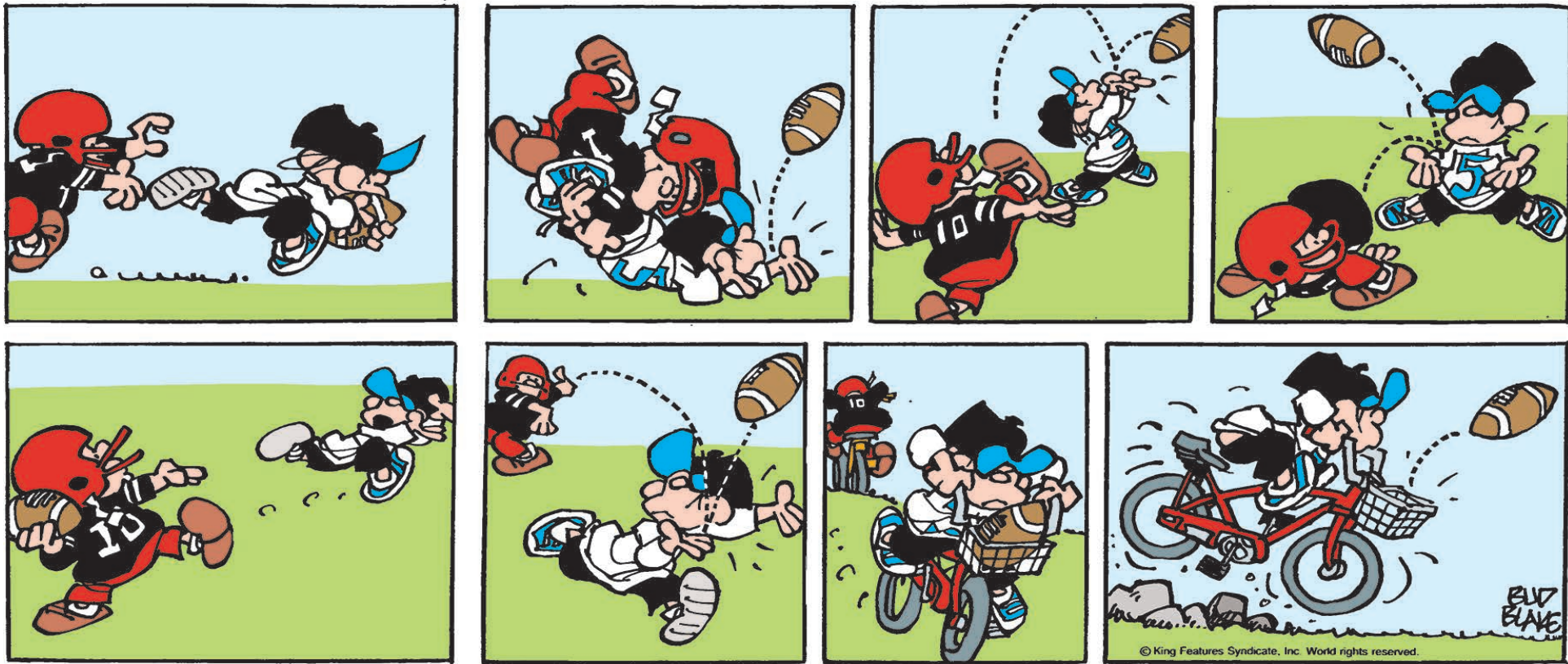
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

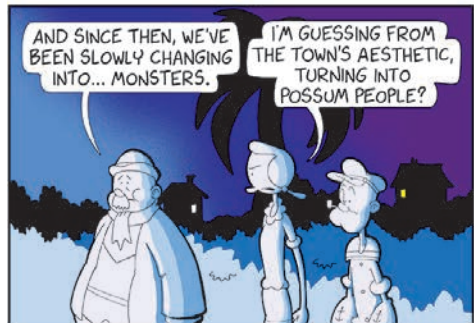
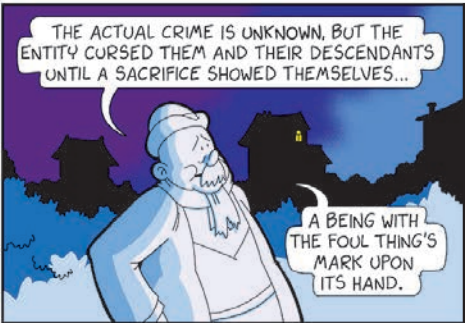
by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **COMICS:** What is Thor's home planet? 2. **LITERATURE:** Which of Charles Dickens' novels has a character named Miss Havisham? 3. **ANATOMY:** What is the largest muscle in the human body? 4. **MOVIES:** In the movie "Zombieland," what sweet treat is Woody Harrelson's character searching for? 5. **ASTRONOMY:** What is the largest moon of Jupiter? 6. **TELEVISION:** How does George Costanza's fiancée die on "Seinfeld"? 7. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a quahog? 8. **GEOGRAPHY:** How many countries does the Amazon River and its tributaries flow through? 9. **ENTERTAINERS:** Where is Elvis Presley's home, Graceland? 10. **SCIENCE:** What is the study of clouds called?



1. Asgard.
2. "Great Expectations."
3. Gluteus maximus.
4. Twinkies.
5. Gamyrede.
6. Poisoned by licking cheap wedding invitation envelopes.
7. Type of clam.
8. Nine (Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana).
9. Memphis, Tennessee.
10. Nephology.

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

MOM, COME ON. WE HAVE OUR COSTUMES ON AND ARE READY TO GO!



HURRY UP! WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG? WE'RE GONNA MISS ALL THE GOOD CANDY!



GULP!!



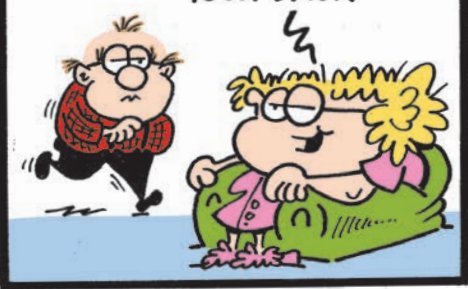
THE ONLY THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE THIS WORSE IS IF SHE GETS MORE CANDY THAN ME.



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

HAROLD, IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOUR BACK.



REALLY??



YES, IT'S SO MUCH NICER THAN SEEING YOUR FRONT.



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

SO, TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF, GREG...



WELL, I HAVE FOUR BOOKS OUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS



FOUR BOOKS? THAT'S IMPRESSIVE



YES, THREE BOOKS ARE OVERDUE SO I OWE THE LIBRARY SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY CENTS, AND THE LAST BOOK IS DUE BACK TUESDAY.



by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF





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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Cake slice is reversed. 2. Cup is a different shape. 3. Pillow is behind edge of other pillow. 4. Picture is moved. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Nightgown strap is moved.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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The Independent
CALL 645-0634

MAGIC MAZE TYPED WITH RING FINGERS AND PINKIES

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

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

- Apollo
- Appaloosa
- Palazzo
- Plazas
- Plows
- Salsa
- Slaw
- Soaps
- Spools
- Swallows
- Swoop
- Wallop
- Walls
- Wasp
- Wools

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FUN PAGES

SEMCU

south east madera county united

10 TURKEYS GIVEAWAY

To qualify, you must live in the South East Madera County area and write one paragraph: “What I like about living in the South East Madera area” or suggest a project for SEMCU to help with or embark on.

Winners will be the first 10 QUALIFIED entries.

EMAIL entry to “info@semcu.org”

and please include your full contact information

**PICK-UP DATE for WINNERS: Friday, November 21 4-6pm
@ the Madera Ranchos Library, 37398 Berkshire Drive**

Entry deadline is Sunday, November 16th. Winners contacted the next day. One entry per family.

SEMCU meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month

Our next meeting is in person on Tuesday, November 18th at 6 p.m.

**Online: go to: 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 • info@semcu.org
FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**