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Volume 21 Issue 9 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## Truth Cannot Be Killed

**A Tribute to Charlie Kirk**  
By Jayd Henricks

*In This Issue*

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The assassination of Charlie Kirk was not just the killing of a brilliant young mind, a husband, and a father; it was an attempt to kill the truth. It was an attempt to kill a movement of young adults engaging in public discourse about the essential truths of humanity. And it was an attempt to kill civility.

This is not to say that everything Charlie said was true; I don't think that is the case for any of us. But Charlie Kirk engaged the arena of ideas more courageously, more robustly, more civilly, and with more faith than just about anyone in the public square today, which is why he had such a following among the youth. He was different.

He did not, as far as I could tell, use the inflammatory language so common in

today's public discourse. He was obviously a staunch conservative and a man of genuine faith, with firm convictions and a preternatural gift for debate, all of which got him killed. But his conservatism was not ideological or partisan. It came from conviction, well-reasoned conviction.

The loss of Charlie Kirk at the hands of yet another practitioner of the culture of death is a tragedy for the country since he, more than anyone else, attempted good faith efforts to model civil discourse and debate in the public square. His hallmark characteristic was to use speech, with patience and kindness, not violence, to address divisive issues. You might disagree with him, but he would give anyone a genuine hearing and then respond.

The assassin and those who are pleased

with the fact that Charlie Kirk is no longer in the public arena fail to understand that what was attacked was not so much a man as the idea that the truth is more powerful than a bullet.

This sort of violence is a tacit admission that untruths are not powerful enough to combat the truth. It is cowardice, but also the fruit of the failure of lies. Yes, there is profound loss with the death of Charlie, but the truth that he relentlessly pursued cannot be killed. In the end, truth will prevail.

Just by telling the truth, we can defeat evil. This, I hope, is part of Charlie's legacy. The best way to respond to this tragedy is with truth, since the light of truth is what destroys lies, even violent lies.

We are living through a perilous moment in history. Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East threaten lives and peace everywhere. The cold civil war that exists in our country is heating up and threatens widespread violence. To acknowledge obvious truths is becoming increasingly dangerous.

And yet each of us has an obligation to speak the truth. We may not be able to do it as cleverly as Charlie did, but we must be willing to risk everything for the truth. We must give ourselves to the truth with the belief that even in death, the truth will prevail. Simply by telling the truth, evil and untruths will be defeated.

We are in a serious struggle for our freedoms and our culture, and the murder of Charlie Kirk seems to be an inflection point. Where do we go from here? There is a danger that his death will lead to more violence. Anger over his death is certainly justified, but violence will not win the day. The virtues that Charlie exhibited are what's needed: Patience and kindness with a firm commitment to the truth.

Sadly, the open – and at times violent

– hostility toward people of traditional faith in this country is becoming a new normal. Yes, there are examples of conservatives behaving badly, but it is obvious that the violence building in our country is directed at people of traditional faith.

We are not facing the systematic persecution of Nero, but the persecution is real, nonetheless. Lives are being lost, but the culture of death is destructive in other ways as well. My two teenage children were both fans of Charlie Kirk. On Wednesday, their innocence was taken away. They now know that to hold ideas that conflict with the progressive Left means that they, too, are hated and that hatred can turn violent.

Ultimately, of course, the response can only be an unwavering commitment to the truths of the Gospel. Belonging to God allows us to defeat lies and deception. Charlie Kirk was a Christian and outspoken about his faith. We've been learning that his wife went to daily Mass and that Charlie sometimes went with her. His murder cannot be separated from the fact that he had deep, personal faith.

The Christian faith is not safe. It requires a commitment to the truth that demands sacrifice. Let's hope, not the sacrifice of one's life, but our life is about the eternal, and it requires a commitment to the truth. If necessary, the commitment of a martyr.

Let us pray that Charlie's life will inspire more of us courageously to commit to the truth regardless of the risk.

*Jayd Henricks is the President of Catholic Laity and Clergy for Renewal and the former Executive Director of Government Relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This article originally appeared at [www.thecatholicthing.org](http://www.thecatholicthing.org).*

## Special Election

Notice is hereby given that Governor Newsom has ordered a Special Election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, regarding Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act (Assembly Constitutional Act 8). For this election, ballots will be mailed out starting Oct. 6. and Drop boxes will be open to receive ballots on Oct. 6. The last day to register to vote will be Oct. 20.

11-Day vote centers will open, on Oct. 25. and 4-Day vote centers will open on Nov. 1.

Important Reminder: As with every election, if you return your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by Election Day Nov. 4, 2025.

## Rash of Vehicle Robberies in Riverstone Resolved

Riverstone was being plagued by a rash of vehicle burglaries, but with the arrest of 38-year-old Felipe Martinez Medina of Fresno by Madera County Sheriff's Office, the burglaries have stopped.

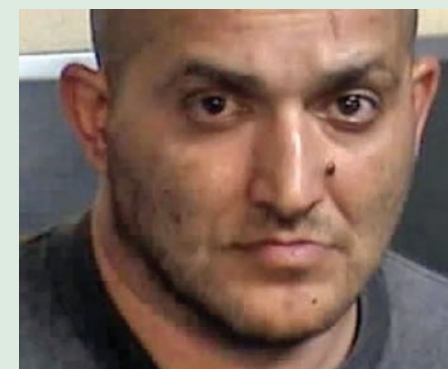
Between Aug. 28 and Sept. 2, Madera County Sheriff's Office received multiple reports of burglaries from unlocked vehicles in Riverstone. The things stolen ranged from a firearm, a tool kit and a stereo, to vehicle keys, mail and other property. Sheriff's Deputies used home surveillance footage to help in their investigation. It was this footage that helped identify the suspect vehicle, a black mid-sized SUV. They were then able to trace the vehicle to a 2008 Ford Edge and to the identification of Medina. Upon checking

Medina's record, it was discovered he was on Post Release Community Supervision for a prior stolen vehicle offense. He was also arrested in Fresno on Sept. 2nd with another stolen vehicle. Search warrants were obtained for his home, which led to the recovery of stolen mail and other property linked to yet another case in Clovis.

"Those who target Madera County should think twice," said Sheriff Tyson Pogue. "Our communities are protected by strong law enforcement and advanced technology. Criminals will be stopped, caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno said, "My office will aggressively prosecute those who victimize

Madera County residents. Criminals need to know that we will hold offenders accountable and seek justice for our community."



*Felipe Martinez Medina, 38, of Fresno was booked by Madera Sheriffs.*



**Kiwanis Korner**

# Inspiring Guests Bring Uplifting News for Madera Ranchos Area Kiwanis Club

By Sally Rowden

We had the pleasure of having Madera County District Attorney, Sally Moreno, as a guest speaker. Sally brought with her Callie the Comfort and Support Dog for crime victims and witnesses, particularly children. Callie is a rescue dog and was trained through the Valley State Prison Freedom Dog Program. She resides with Sally and her family.

Callie displayed her very calm and welcoming presence. When on the job, she helps with witnesses' anxiety and accompanies children during interviews, examinations and in the courtroom. Thank you, Sally and Callie, for your inspirational visit.

Both Mona Diaz and Sally Rowden attended the installation for our incoming Division 5 - Lieutenant Governor for 2025-2026, Dr. Ray Portales. This was held on Sunday, Sept. 14. A fun event with yummy banana splits being served.

A highlight for us was receiving the Dis-

tinguished Division 5 - Kiwanis Club Award. The out-going Lieutenant Governor, Rosemary Hernandez, was to honor a club she felt served their children and communities with dedication, inspiration, and commitment.

Rosemary shared that although the Madera Ranchos is a smaller club, the work it does for its children and communities is highly impressive. To each of our members, thank you for your giving and sharing of time that allows our club to be successful.

A few projects we will be working on in October include our Christmas/Winter Prize Basket which should be out on display in our communities very soon. You'll be able to obtain tickets to become the exciting recipient of this well-supplied basket. All funds go toward our high school, middle school and elementary school scholarships, and awards we present to students at the end of the school year in 2026.

Our Installation of Officers for 2025-2026 will be happening in October. Sally Rowden is the in-coming president and An-

drea Pille is the in-coming secretary with Marie Cameron as our treasurer.

We are planning to attend the Sierra View Elementary School Carnival on Friday, Oct. 24. This should be an exciting event for the children and families. And it should be beautiful fall weather.

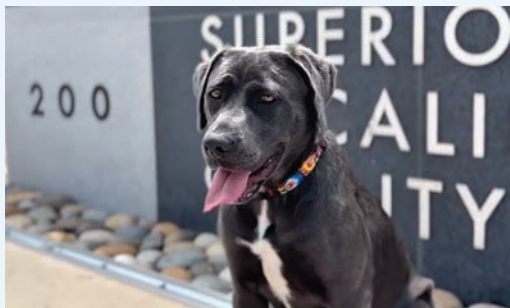
If you have an interest in being part of a giving and sharing group for our children and our communities, come and join us. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The location is Second Son Brews in the Maywood Shopping Center - 37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C in the Ranchos.

We have a guest speaker monthly to keep us updated on community business, health subjects, and/or events taking place. At our first October meeting a Speech Language Pathologist, Theresa Azparren, will be sharing information on our voice development as we become "seasoned."

Besides joining us to give back to others, you will be receiving usable self-information through our varied guest speakers. Come visit. If you have any questions or would like to be a Guest Speaker, please email Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com.



Sally Rowden and Mona Diaz, left, receive the Kiwanis Division 5 Distinguished Club Bell Award for the Ranchos Kiwanis Club from Dr. Ray Portales, Kiwanis Division 5 Incoming Lt. Governor, and Rosemary Hernandez, Outgoing Lt. Governor. The award will be housed in the Madera Ranchos for the 2025-2026 year.



Callie is Madera County's Comfort and Support Dog for crime victims and witnesses, particularly children. Callie is a rescue dog that was trained through the Valley State Prison Freedom Dog Program.

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## Letters

Dear Editor:

My homeowners insurance was cancelled a couple years back. I have not found affordable insurance since. I've been denied for the following reasons(purportedly).

- Our subdivision is under threat of wildfires due to insufficient fire breaks along adjacent grazing lands — to which I do agree. This area experiences high winds daily. And 16-20' breaks will easily be breached by flying embers. Many properties within our subdivision are also in violation of fire prevention ordinances. Is this situation no longer being monitored?

- Secondly, I have been refused coverage because there is not a fire hydrant or fire station within 5 miles of my home. Station 19 is 5.2 miles away. It's been that way for 40-50 years. But with the density of

homes today, this needs serious consideration. The Tesoro Viejo subdivision has a modern fire station.

With just a little more consideration the station could have been placed West of that project and served both communities. Are there any plans for a new fire station to protect our community?

- As it stands now, I would have a difficult time selling my home as prospective buyers applying for a mortgage would be denied for lack of insurance. Lowering the value of my property and property taxes to Madera County.

P.S, I've worked as a volunteer firefighter with Madera County Fire/CDF.

Don Helms  
Madera Ranchos



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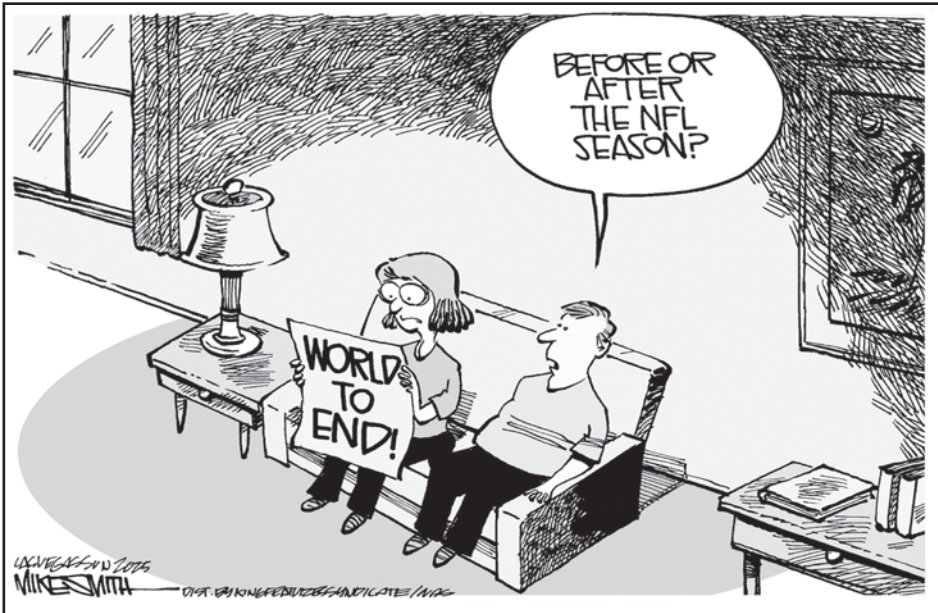
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# The Independent

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## Guest Editorial

### Left's Political Violence

A recent post by Elon Musk on X has ignited a firestorm by highlighting a stark graph depicting “2023 Combined Violence Rates by Party.” The graph shows a towering blue bar for Democrats at 21,765 — dwarfing the red Republican bar at a mere 858. This isn’t just about general crime; it’s a damning indictment of how Democrat-run cities breed chaos, often spilling over into outright political violence. Musk’s amplification underscores a truth conservatives have known for years: Almost all political violence in America stems from the radical left and the Democrats who enable it. From historical assassinations to modern riots and targeted killings, the evidence is overwhelming — and it’s backfiring on the left as Americans wake up to their dangerous agenda.

This graph is a snapshot of a deeper pattern where Democrat policies like soft-on-crime prosecutors, defund-the-police madness and open borders create breeding grounds for violence. In cities like Chicago, New York and San Francisco — all under

decades of Democrat control — homicide rates soar, and political extremism festers. And when that violence turns political, it’s almost exclusively from the left. Take the tragic assassination of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk just last week at a college event. Kirk, a vocal conservative advocate, was gunned down in what Republicans are calling a direct result of leftist rhetoric demonizing the right. House Republicans have demanded an

investigation into left-wing networks, pointing to a pattern of incitement that goes beyond one incident.

As one Town-hall columnist put it, this is the “rising tide of left-wing political violence,” fueled by Democrats who justify ag-

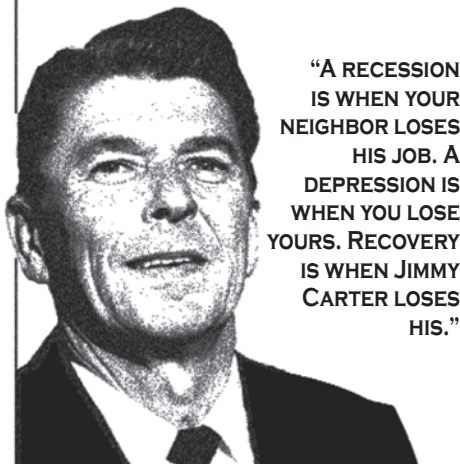
gression in the name of “social justice.” The response from Democrats? Predictably tone-deaf. Rep. Seth Moulton’s deranged remarks downplaying the violence as part of a broader “problem” ignored the left’s culpability, while a Democrat senator’s thread bizarrely tried to equate both sides — missing the point that polls nuke the narrative of equivalence. A recent poll shredded CNN’s talking points, showing the left is far more likely to justify political violence and even celebrate deaths like Kirk’s. This isn’t hyperbole; it’s data-backed reality. The left’s extremist policies — pushing gender ideology, racial division, and unchecked immigration — have led them to extreme suppression of dissent, including violence. As Chloe Trapanotto noted on her show on X, the media lies about symmetry between left and right violence, but it’s not even close.

Look no further than the two assassination attempts on President Donald Trump this year alone. The first, in Butler, Pennsylvania by Thomas Matthew Crooks, was spun by the media as a “Republican” act because of his registration — but conservatives knew better. Crooks donated to Act-

*This isn’t hyperbole; it’s data-backed reality. The left’s extremist policies — pushing gender ideology, racial division, and unchecked immigration — have led them to extreme suppression of dissent, including violence.*

## THE RAY GUN

SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



“A RECESSION IS WHEN YOUR NEIGHBOR LOSES HIS JOB. A DEPRESSION IS WHEN YOU LOSE YOURS. RECOVERY IS WHEN JIMMY CARTER LOSES HIS.”

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

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 16



# Summer Needs to Leave

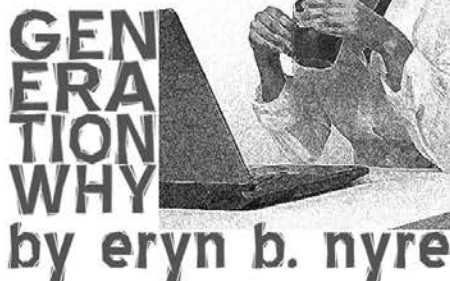
Summer needs to leave.

It has had its time. Autumn is right backstage just waiting to make an entrance, but summer is that theater girl in middle school who thinks the whole audience is here to see her rather than their own kids. I get to work and it's cool and crisp and lovely and I think, finally, autumn is taking centerstage. Then I come out for lunch and summer is back for her fifth encore. Someone needs to grab the old stage hook and drag her away.

Listen, I know I'm supposed to feel wistful about the long days of sunshine and the warmth and the tan lines, but none of that appeals to me. Well, I don't mind sunshine, but I don't need it to hang around past eight. Also, I'm not a fan of sweating, especially when I'm not doing anything more than simply existing, so anything above about 85 degrees is a no from me. And I don't get tan lines anyway. I get red. Extremely red. Then it peels away to reveal my standard lighter shade of pale, so I would rather just slather on the sunscreen and skip the unnecessary trip to lobsterville. I can only fake tan, which I can accomplish just as easily when the temperature outside is a blissful 72 and the sun sets at 6:30.

Every commercial and social media post by some smug person who owns a boat insists that summer is the best. Well, some of us have jobs, buddy, and I don't actually know anyone with a boat. Summer, to me, is just working the same hours I always work but then having to walk to my car at the end of the day with sweat dripping down my back and wondering why they can make a self-driving vehicle, but they can't actually make a deodorant that lasts all day.

Fall, on the other hand, fall is my season. The mornings become crispy and fresh. The evenings cool off before the sun actually sets, even though it's setting earlier. Also, the simple fact that the sun is setting earlier, which makes my early to bed, early to rise schedule a little more in line with circadian rhythms and whatnot. The trees set themselves on proverbial fire in stunning blasts of color. Okay ... as a color-blind person I can't fully appreciate this, but I see enough of it to



know it's breathtaking. A definite win for autumn.

Let's not forget the bugs. Fall not only brings the end of triple-digit weather, but also the end of getting eaten alive by monstrous mosquitoes season. I don't know what purpose mosquitoes actually serve, and I don't care; they're sneaky, I'm itchy, and I'm glad they are going off to whatever their next big adventure is. I do not wish them luck.

*Listen, I know I'm supposed to feel wistful about the long days of sunshine and the warmth and the tan lines, but none of that appeals to me. Well, I don't mind sunshine, but I don't need it to hang around past eight.*

the fall fashion, though. Heaven help me, give me sweaters and leggings and boots, oh my. I love all the layers that create all the right angles and shadows. Adorable jackets that tie the outfit together perfectly. And the socks. Real socks. Not those flimsy no-show things that slide off your heel and ruin your faith in humanity. Actual, cozy, heart and foot-warming socks.

The world slips from smells of sunscreen and sweat to wood burning fireplaces and spices. There are other spices besides pumpkin, people. Summer screams fast paced, cramming all the memories you can make into a short couple of months, which was great when you were a kid and you had nothing else to do. Who has time to make a whole season of memories when there's a 40-hour work week to deal with, groceries to get, food to cook, a house to clean and other various adulting responsibilities that take up way too much time. Fall hands you a

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

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

blanket, flips on the gas fireplace and says, “Here. Read a book. You don’t need to go swimming now, it’s too chilly outside. Would you like a hot chocolate?”

Summer has plenty to be proud of like popsicles, flip-flops, pools and cookouts. Still, fall brings you hearty soups, spiced apple cider, drinks that don’t sweat through the cups, and the best holidays of the entire year. Well, OK, Christmas is technically winter, but close enough.

Fall gets me. It doesn’t demand bikinis

and huge, floppy hats that prevent sunburn, and barrels of bug spray. Fall doesn’t judge me for staying inside when the sun is blazing down and there’s no pool nearby to jump into and cool off. Fall says, “Hey, life’s changing and that’s okay; have some crunchy leaves and enjoy the smell of cinnamon on everything.” Why thank you, fall. Don’t mind if I do.

So, farewell, summer. Take your UV Index and your relentless heat with you. Don’t let the screen door hit you on the way out. Fall and I have plans and some Halloween decorations to put up.



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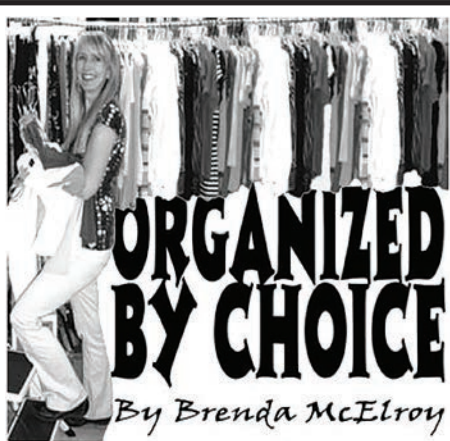
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### Clearing the Path to a User-friendly Kitchen

I was recently on an app that was not easy to navigate. Things weren’t where I’d expect to find them. Information was missing, features weren’t labeled correctly, and event dates had passed.

A well-designed app provides a clear path to what you need. Related items are grouped and labeled logically and unnecessary clutter removed. Your kitchen should work the same way. Is your kitchen missing the mark? Are items hard to find? Do labeled shelves no longer match their contents? Are cabinets cluttered with extra mugs, food storage containers, or pots you haven’t

*Is your kitchen missing the mark? Are items hard to find? Do labeled shelves no longer match their contents? Are cabinets cluttered with extra mugs, food storage containers, or pots you haven’t touched in years? Are expired items going unnoticed? These tips and tools will help you restore order and create a kitchen that’s as intuitive as a great app.*

or toddler plates for kids now in elementary school might need to go. Apply the “need, use, or love” test — every item must earn its keep.

Avoid the trap of thinking, “Now that I’ve found it, I’ll use it.” If it’s been forgotten this long, it’s unlikely to be used now. Keep trash and donation bags nearby for anything that doesn’t pass the test. Toss expired dry goods and opened cereals untouched for months.

As you purge, sort keepers into categories on a table or counter: baking, dinnerware, glasses, utensils, food storage, cookware, etc. Discard unnecessary duplicates. Clean the inside of the cabinets and drawers.

**Optimize placement** – Just like the home page is the easiest point of access on an app, the waist to eye range is the easiest point of access in your kitchen. No step stools or bending required.

Determine which categories are used most often and place them in this prime real estate. Factor in where they’re used. Place pots, potholders and cooking utensils near the stove/oven. Dishes and glassware near the dishwasher or dining area. Mugs near the coffee maker,

touched in years? Are expired items going unnoticed? These tips and tools will help you restore order and create a kitchen that’s as intuitive as a great app.

**Purge & sort** – Methodically clear out cabinets and drawers. Evaluate each item: Is it still relevant to your current lifestyle? That cake-decorating kit from a decade ago

etc. Adjust cabinet shelf height to minimize wasted vertical space and make things easier to reach.

**Organizing tools** – Threetier cabinet organizers and turn tables provide better visibility and access — especially in corners. Containerize front items in deep cabinets



# From Soup to ... Soup!

(September 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.



Have you had just about enough of this hot weather? I know we haven't had some of those 115 degree days I remember from the past, but I for one don't like those kinds of records.

Looking at the calendar, the first day of fall was Monday, Sept. 22. Doesn't that sound great? Makes me think of being able to cook and not worrying about heating up the kitchen or the whole house.

I think just about everyone likes soup (I know some people who could eat soup any day of the year), so looking forward to the cooler weather, let's talk soup this month.

## Basic Vegetable Soup

1 T olive oil  
1 onion – chopped  
2 ribs celery – sliced  
2 carrots, peeled & chopped

6 cups vegetables, chopped  
4 C Liquid  
15 ounces canned diced tomatoes  
1 T dried herbs  
½ tsp. kosher salt

In a large pot or Dutch oven heat olive oil on medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and stir and well coat with oil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables turn golden. Stir in vegetables, let cook for a few minutes, stirring often. Cover with liquid; add tomatoes and dried herbs and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat until a slow simmer. Cover and let cook for about 30 minutes or until vegetables are done.

This recipe is so versatile you can do just about anything

with it – the varieties are endless:

The 6 cups of vegetables can be anything you or your family like. With the summer gardens winding down, there are different varieties of squash, okra, green beans, potatoes (including yams or sweet potatoes) or bell peppers. Or from the farmer's market, how about turnips or cabbage. If you don't have fresh vegetables available, how about canned corn, or green beans. Or how about frozen green beans, corn, peas or even a package of mixed vegetables. If you are going to use baby spinach or

Swiss chard wait until the last five minutes of cooking before adding them.

Liquid can be water or vegetable broth for you vegetarians, but the rest of us can use either chicken or beef stock. I read one recipe

that used V-8 for a liquid – but that would be your choice.

Be careful when adding dried herbs. Remember that they are stronger dried than fresh. You can use dried basil, Italian seasoning, or anything you prefer.

## Carrot Soup

4 C hot water  
4 tsp. instant bouillon (or 1 bouillon cube)  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 onion, chopped (about 1 ½ cups)  
1 rib celery, chopped  
2 T butter or olive oil  
1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced  
1 large potato, chopped  
½ tsp. thyme  
¼ tsp. ground dill  
2 tsp. kosher salt  
¼ tsp. black pepper

1 ½ C milk  
Heat water and bouillon in the microwave until hot. Meanwhile, sauté garlic, onion and celery in butter until tender in a Dutch oven. Add water and all remaining ingredients except milk. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to maintain a slow simmer. Simmer until the carrots are done – about 30 minutes. Puree in small batches in a blender or food processor. Or, if you have an immersion blender it would work right in the pan. Return mixture to pan, add milk and return to temperature without letting it boil. The milk can be whatever you choose. To keep the calories down use skim milk but for a creamier soup use whole milk – or anything in-between.

## Quick and Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

1 T Butter  
½ C chopped onion  
½ C chopped celery  
1 C chopped carrots  
4 (14.5 ounces) cans chicken broth  
1 (14.5 Ounces) can veg-

etable broth  
½ pound chopped cooked chicken  
1 ½ C egg noodles  
½ tsp. dried basil  
½ tsp. dried oregano  
Salt and pepper to taste

In large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion, celery and carrots in butter until just tender. Pour in chicken and vegetable broths and stir in chicken, noodles and seasonings. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes until everything is done.

Do you have a favorite soup or a traditional soup? I read that Ruth Graham wrote that when her family was in China as missionaries her mother always served Oyster Stew for Christmas morning breakfast. After she and Billy were married she continued the tradition with her family.

I have spent the last two Christmas Eves with Randy and his family and he has served his world-famous (so he says) Corn Chowder for dinner.

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## Senior Report

# October Craft Fair at Center

By Melanie Williams

Fall is coming! We celebrate the changing of the season with the arrival of bright vibrant fall colors. The promise of delicious morsels with everything pumpkin and spice, greets us after a summer full of fresh fruits and vegetables. Fall is also the time for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Craft Fair.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, the Senior Center is hosting their Annual Fall Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Treasure House will be open at the Craft Fair this year. Plants will be available in the Scout Garden, along with good ideas for fall planting.

We have new vendors, with some of our favorite vendors returning to participate this year. The Tacos Jacinto truck will occupy a space, selling the "Best Tacos in the Valley, Since 1995." They are also selling a variety of Mexican-style break-

to come, please call the Senior Center, so we can have enough tables set up for everyone.

The Senior Center has weekly activities every month for seniors to gather and meet other seniors in the community. Weekly activities include the Senior Exercise Classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. Card and Table Games are scheduled every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. The Senior Hot Lunch Program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. and Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The new Line Dance Class is kickin' up its heels with instructor Jennifer Howe. Jennifer is very patient to clarify steps and review sequences at a pace that enables seniors to learn to line dance. We had a great group of novice line dancers during August and September. The next scheduled classes are Sept. 24, Oct. 8 and Oct.

Ranchos Hills Seniors

**Craft Fair**

fast and lunch plates at the Craft Fair.

Vendors include many specialty items like leather goods, horseshoe art, handcrafted jewelry and homemade products from essential oils. Parking will be available along Berkshire Drive and Fernwood Drive. Please respect the neighbors and their property and do not block driveways. Call 559-645-4864 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday for more info.

Our monthly potluck is on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. The "Trick or Treat, Always Something Good to Eat" Potluck is our October theme. You may want to celebrate Halloween by wearing some spooky accessories for the festivities. We have a fun group activity and game night planned.

Any senior is welcome at our monthly potluck events. All seniors need to bring a main dish or side dish to share for eight to 10 people and their own place settings for the potluck and homemade desserts are always welcome. If you plan

22. All Line Dance Classes begin at 2 p.m. on every other Wednesday for the fall calendar at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Indian Basket Weaving Class is growing as members sit and visit as they learn how to weave beautiful baskets with pine needles. The Ranchos "Basket Cases" meet on the first and last Tuesday each month at 9 a.m.

A big thank you to Tony Tynan for doing some much needed concrete work on our parking area and access points to the Senior Center. We are very appreciative for his expertise in improving our facility. The members of the Senior Center thank all the local residents and businesses for supporting us to provide a senior community center in the Madera Ranchos.

Happy Halloween and enjoy the family festivities from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for October: "October, the month when trees all remind us how beautiful it is to let things go." --Anonymous



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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is reaching out to the Community — the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos, Rolling Hills, Tesoro Viejo and Riverstone — about new street banners to adorn Avenue 12 and bring more pride to our community. You can help by donating to this project. Send your donation to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera, CA 93636. You may also VENMO a donation to Mike Fursman @ Mike-Fursman. If you have a company and would like to donate, you will be recognized on a banner.

We are all part of this community and we can all be proud of what we can do together. Let's brighten up our community.

Thanking all of you in advance,  
Mike Fursman, Golden Valley Chamber President  
All Chamber Board Members



On behalf of Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, we want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” for renewing your membership. Your continued support means the world to us and plays a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to the community.

*Valley Propane • Timothy Prewitt, DDS. Inc.*  
*Jolene Mason • Wight Water Pools, Inc.*

*Mike Fursman, Golden Valley Chamber President*  
*All Chamber Board Members*

*When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?*

9/25

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Tuesday, October 14 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and be a part of what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001 for more information.

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!



9/25



ORGANIZED cont. from P. 7

so you can remove them easily to reach the back items.

Install metal or wood sliding drawers in cabinets for heavy items like food processors, instant pots and glass bakeware. Cutlery and utensil organizers prevent jumbled drawers by separating measuring spoons, spatulas, tongs, etc. Keep frequently used utensils in a caddy near the stove.

Use lay-flat stacking water bottle organizers. Store trays and cookie sheets in vertical

stands. Label bins for pantry items.

**Reserve countertops** – for daily use objects like a coffee maker, toaster, etc. Free up counter space by storing K-cups, knives, or can openers in under-cabinet organizers.

Your kitchen now has a clear path for use and upkeep. Remember — don't put it down, put it away. Bon Appetit!

For more info, contact *Organized By Choice* at 559-871-3314 or email them at [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com).

## GO FIGURE!

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.

	-		+		=	3
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	+		÷		=	7
×		+		+		
	+	5	÷		=	2
=		=		=		
42		9		9		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9					

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9/25



# SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## My own thoughts without taking a political side!

What happened to the middle?

I wish, I really wish, that we all could find the middle. I wish people could step up, get out of their comfort zone and talk to each other, accept each other as people and work honestly toward compromise. Acceptance can be a hard thing, but it can bring harmony. We are missing harmony. I long and wish for peace.

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](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, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library. Make your voice heard!

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

## Strange BUT TRUE

- The U.S. postmaster general was in the line of succession to the presidency until 1971.
- There are more mobile phones than people alive.
- In the late 18th century, Sweden's King Gustav III tried to prove that coffee was a deadly substance by making one twin drink coffee and the second one tea on a daily basis, while betting on which would be the first to succumb. Both twins survived and outlived both the king and the doctors conducting the experiment.
- The longest English word that generally appears in dictionaries is "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis," the name of a lung disease.
- Watermelons were often used as canteens by early explorers and travelers.
- The tobacco industry spends almost \$4 billion per year to promote smoking, more than is spent advertising and promoting any other product.
- Black holes aren't black. They glow slightly, giving off light across the whole spectrum.
- The world's largest playable guitar is 43.5 feet long.
- Before an NHL game, hockey pucks are frozen to make them glide more smoothly and reduce bouncing.
- The ancient Greeks believed that amethysts could ward off intoxication and hangovers, so they often drank wine from cups carved from the gemstone.
- Seven percent of Americans steal toilet paper rolls in hotels or motels.
- About 70-75% of the world's population does not even use toilet paper.
- In 2009 a pigeon named Winston raced Telkom, South Africa's largest ISP, to see which one could deliver 4GB of data to a location 60 miles away the fastest. By the time Winston arrived with the 4GB flash drive, Telkom had transmitted only 4% of the data.

Thought for the Day: *"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born ... and the day you find out why."* -- Mark Twain

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# —Super Crossword—

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	
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# ANSWERS

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

[illegible]

**Say you saw it in the Independent**

**ACROSS**

- |  |                                |  |                                  |                                   |                                    |
|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Europe's "City of Light"               | named for soprano              | Folles" actor Tognazzi                     | 1 Like Vatican affairs           | warning for sailors               | 84 Algerian port                   |
| 6 Part of NEA: Abbr.                     | Nellie                         | 95 Rooney or Kate of film                  | 2 Kitchen range brand            | 43 Rival of Uber                  | 86 Neck's scruff                   |
| 10 Kailua Bay's island                   | 53 Big online brokerage        | 96 Warship with two banks of oars          | 3 Skating sites                  | 45 See 29-Down                    | 87 Had as its source               |
| 14 Evil being                            | 54 Took off                    |  | 4 Ancient Andean                 | 46 "Don't lose your head"         | 89 Elvis — Presley                 |
| 19 — acids                               | 56 — Na Na                     | 97 What letter carriers carry              | 5 Fly like a kite                | 47 Where pooches get pampered     | 90 Went fast                       |
| 20 Greet the day                         | 57 Brilliance of success       |  | 6 Amazement                      |                                   | 91 Earth orbiter                   |
| 21 Muscat's country                      | 58 Makes diluted               | 100 Grass cutter with an engine            | 7 Pago Pago's place              | 48 Close behind, as a dog         | 92 Those who've broken free        |
| 22 Maine university city                 | 59 Social-climbing whiz kid    | 102 Epoch of the first horses              | 8 Aircraft that can land on snow | 49 Judges evaluating cases, e.g.  | 94 Dashboard fuel indicator        |
| 23 Bisquick or Betty Crocker product     | 61 Letterman's rival, once     | 103 Entraps                                | 9 Following                      | 50 City on the Rio Grande         | 96 Journalist Gumbel               |
| 25 Be deemed acceptable                  | 63 Recognize                   | 105 Meg of "I.Q."                          | 11 Docs' gp.                     | 52 Shout                          | 98 Air Force officer Curtis        |
| 27 Capital of Turkey                     | 64 Actress                     | 106 Genetic helix                          | 12 Rosh —                        | 55 Tic- — -toe                    | 99 Chou En- —                      |
| 28 — -Free (contact lens solution brand) | Kosarin or skater              | 107 Little sister of Bart and Lisa         | 13 Auto racer Al                 | 59 Element with a 235 isotope     | 101 Blunder                        |
| 30 Floor of a fireplace                  | 66 Yule songs                  | 109 Poet Pound                             | 14 Full of gloom                 | 60 Knock sound                    | 104 Home: Abbr.                    |
| 31 — Cruces                              | 68 Clumsy sorts                | 111 Sit-up targets                         | 15 Formerly, archaically         | 62 J.D. Salinger title girl       | 108 Guys writing jingles, say      |
| 32 Iranian money unit                    | 72 1950s-'70s legal drama      | 114 Mexican inn                            | 16 Insect-repelling pellet       | 65 Somanian-born supermodel       | 110 African nation renamed in 1997 |
| 34 "Tortilla Flat" co-star Hedy          | 76 Hitter in a horseback sport | 117 Divan, e.g.                            | 17 Dollar bill                   | 67 Long-used maxim                | 111 Poet W.H. —                    |
| 37 Apiary buzzer                         | 78 Besides that                | 122 "Yeah, that's about right"             | 18 And not                       | 69 Totally original               | 112 Airship type                   |
| 40 Mardi —                               | 79 False name                  | 126 Newspapers, magazines, and such        | 24 Dojo activity                 | 70 "I want some grub!"            | 113 Muscle twitch                  |
| 42 Singer Duane or Gregg                 | 81 "Hamilton" face-off         | 128 As a result of                         | 26 Windy month                   | 71 Obedient dog, at times         | 115 Bus driver for Bart and Lisa   |
| 44 Steel-gray element                    | 82 Grassland                   | 129 Huge heads                             | 29 With 45-Down, bad sign        | 73 Spin                           | 116 Go no further                  |
| 47 Jazz guitarist with 20 Grammys        | 83 "Sula" author Morrison      | 130 Shredded                               | 33 "Sort of" suffix              | 74 In progress                    | 118 Chooses                        |
|  | 85 Athlete like Simone Biles   | 131 Newsy notes                            | 35 Piece of gig gear             | 75 Big Apple team, on scoreboards | 120 Fail to include                |
|  | 88 Miss Daisy player           | 132 Fable writer                           | 36 Baton-waving director         | 77 Longtime Nissan model          | 121 Buttigieg of Biden's Cabinet   |
|  | 89 Jessica                     | 133 Pond critter                           | 38 Actor Idris                   |                                   | 122 BlackBerry, e.g., in brief     |
|  | 90 Eveliner flaw               | 134 Henchman helping Hook                  | 39 Coup d'—                      |                                   | 123 Really regret                  |
|  |                                | 135 Appropriate time to solve this puzzle? | 40 Govt. agent                   |                                   | 124 Female seal                    |
|  |                                |  |                                  |                                   | 125 FDR follower                   |
|  |                                |  |                                  |                                   | 127 Born as                        |

DOWN

- |                                  |                                   |                                    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Like Vatican affairs           | warning for sailors               | 84 Algerian port                   |
| 2 Kitchen range brand            | 43 Rival of Uber                  | 86 Neck's scruff                   |
| 3 Skating sites                  | 45 See 29-Down                    | 87 Had as its source               |
| 4 Ancient Andean                 | 46 "Don't lose your head"         | 89 Elvis — Presley                 |
| 5 Fly like a kite                | 47 Where pooches get pampered     | 90 Went fast                       |
| 6 Amazement                      | 48 Close behind, as a dog         | 91 Earth orbiter                   |
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| 36 Baton-waving director         |                                   | 122 BlackBerry, e.g., in brief     |
| 38 Actor Idris                   |                                   | 123 Really regret                  |
| 39 Coup d'—                      |                                   | 124 Female seal                    |
| 40 Govt. agent                   |                                   | 125 FDR follower                   |
|                                  |                                   | 127 Born as                        |

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**EDITORIAL** cont. from P. 5

Blue, the Democrat fundraising arm, and his social media reeked of leftist influences. The second attempt, by Ryan Wesley Routh in Florida, was even clearer: A hardcore leftist who supported Ukraine aid, hated Trump, and echoed Democrat talking points about "democracy" threats. These aren't isolated; they're part of a continuum where Democrats' inflammatory rhetoric — like calling Trump a "fascist" or "Hitler" — incites their base to action. As Breitbart reported, even MSNBC's Peter Baker admitted the left has engaged in violence, though he weakly tried to pivot to Trump's words. This pattern isn't new. The 2020 BLM and Antifa riots, which Democrats cheered as "mostly peaceful," caused over \$2 billion in damage, injured thousands of police officers and led to dozens of deaths.

Cities burned while Kamala Harris raised bail money for rioters, and Joe Biden dismissed the chaos. The Federalist called it out: The left threatened, "It votes Biden, or it gets the riots again," using violence as electoral blackmail. Contrast that with January 6 — hyped as an "insurrection" but resulting in no armed takeover — just a riot the left uses to criminalize opposition while ignoring their own far worse excesses. Go back further, and the left's violent history is undeniable. In 2017, a Bernie Sanders supporter shot up a Republican congressional baseball practice, nearly killing House Whip Steve Scalise. Rep. Louie Gohmert warned then that such violence was no surprise given the left's portrayal of conservatives as evil. That same year, Sen. Rand Paul was brutally assaulted by a leftist neighbor, suffering broken ribs. In 2022, an armed man tried to assassinate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh after Democrats leaked the Dobbs decision and whipped up hysteria over abortion. Pro-life centers faced a wave of firebombings by

Jane's Revenge, a radical left group, yet legacy media like ABC and NBC buried the story to avoid highlighting left-wing terrorism.

Campus violence is another left-wing staple. At Berkeley in 2017, antifa thugs rioted to shut down conservative speakers, beating attendees while administrators looked the other way. More recently, pro-Hamas encampments turned violent, with chants of "Globalize the Intifada" calling for murder — yet Democrats excused it as "free speech." As Josh Hammer wrote, "... we must stop treating these genocidal calls as acceptable." Even in 2022, an attack on New York GOP gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin was dismissed by the left, with Ben Domenech predicting such violence would worsen under Democrat rule. Historically, Democrats have blood on their hands. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a Democrat sympathizer opposed to emancipation. JFK was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, a communist defector to the Soviet Union. The Weather Underground, a leftist terror group in the 1970s, bombed buildings in pursuit of revolution. Fast-forward, and the left's embrace of violence continues, justified by their moral superiority complex.

Republicans, committed to inalienable rights and law and order, reject such tactics — proving the right's moral high ground. Elon Musk's graph is a wake-up call: Democrat control equals violence, and political violence is their specialty. As Americans see through the media's gaslighting, the left's tactics are crumbling. Trump's resilience after two attempts shows the MAGA movement's strength, while Kirk's death galvanizes conservatives. The backfire is real — voters are fleeing the party of chaos for the party of peace. If Democrats want to end the violence, they should start by looking in the mirror.

*This article originally appeared on whatfinger.com.*

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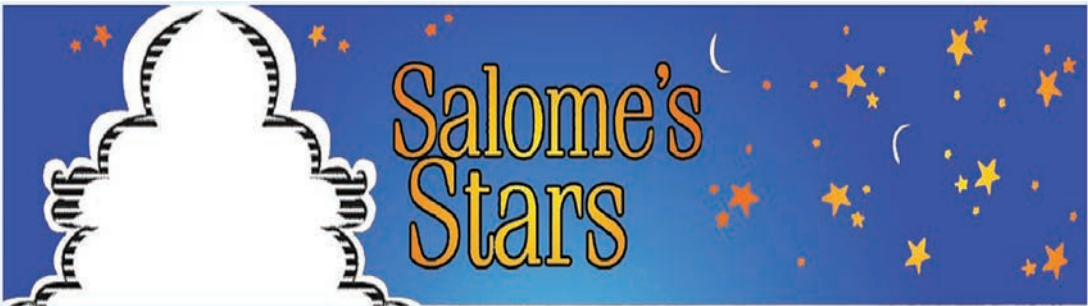
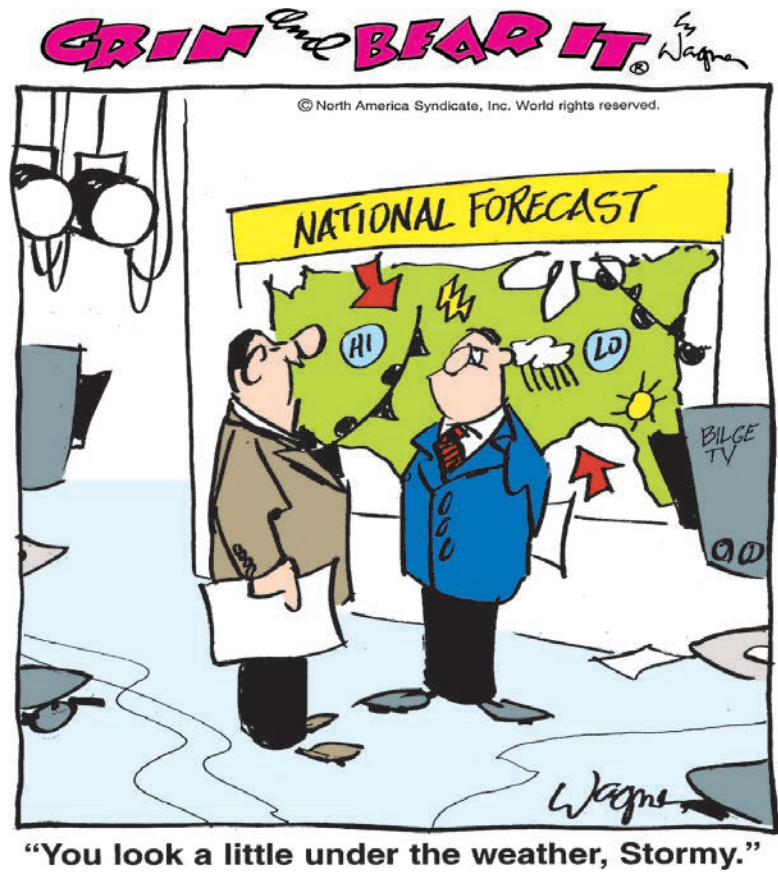
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- ARIES (March 21 to April 19) While you prefer to meet troublesome situations head-on, you might want to stand back from this one until you know what (or who!) started it. Caution should be your watchword.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Once again, your common-sense approach to a problem helps you sort it out before it gets out of control. Expect to learn some startling facts as events continue to develop.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive influences dominate your sign, but you'll have to work hard to get the great rewards that are out there. Meanwhile, personal relationships thrive on tender, loving care.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend seems to be drifting away. You might feel betrayed, but you need to know the facts before you pass judgment. Perhaps you made too many demands that couldn't be met.
- LEO (July 23 to August 22) New people start to come into the Lion's life at this time. Some of them could influence important career changes. Keep an open mind and weigh all the possibilities.
- VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time for agreements, contracts, and other positive commitments, including one with Cupid. Also, expect good news about a health matter.
- LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A recent change of plans upsets your penchant for keeping things in order, but once you adjust to the new situation, you'll be able to make new plans.
- SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Aspects favor personal commitments. Family plans could include moving to a new home or even to a new city. Be open to any and all considerations.
- SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Both attached and single Archers can expect to see a positive reversal in certain relationships that had seemed to be on a collision course to nowhere.
- CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family and friends take priority over everything else. Exercise a little more flexibility in your well-planned life so that you can spend more time with your kith and kin.
- AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A pesky person who caused you some problems recently will soon move out of your life. Meanwhile, an ARIES is ready to help you get a fresh start romantically.
- PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Yours is the sign of change and creation. This is a good time for you to experience changes that can open up new personal and professional opportunities.

Born this Week

You love to have fun and enjoy competition. You also have a gift for "reading" people and assessing situations.

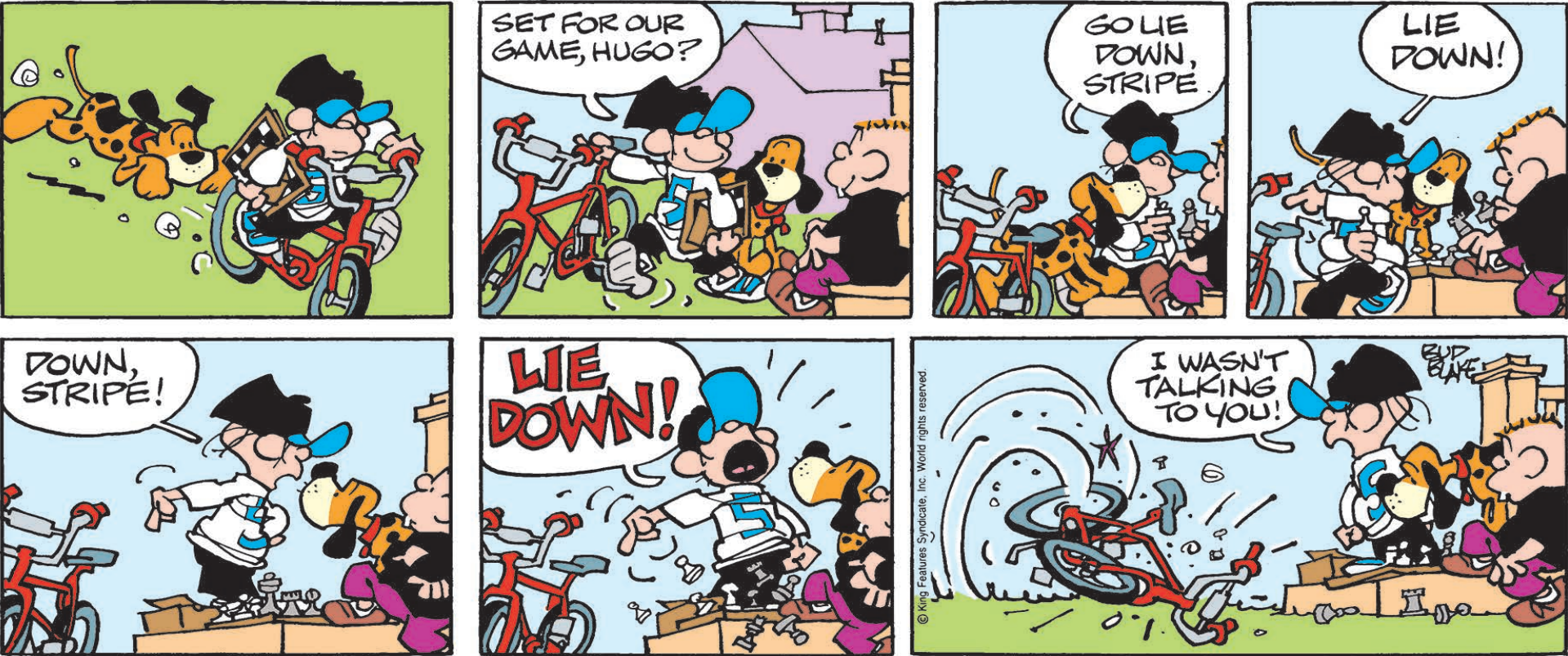


FUN PAGES



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **MOVIES:** What was the name of Ron Burgundy's dog in "Anchorman"? 2. **LITERATURE:** The middle school student Greg Heffley is the protagonist of which book series? 3. **SCIENCE:** What is the Abyssal Zone in the ocean? 4. **GEOGRAPHY:** Where is the island of Aruba located? 5. **TELEVISION:** Which city is the setting for the series "Breaking Bad"? 6. **PSYCHOLOGY:** What is the fear of colors called? 7. **ANATOMY:** What connects muscles to bones? 8. **U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the Badlands National Park? 9. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the sixth president of the United States? 10. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is September's traditional birthstone?

1. Baxter.
2. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."
3. The deepest and darkest part of the ocean, at depths of 3,000 to 6,000 meters.
4. Southern Caribbean Sea.
5. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
6. Chromophobia.
7. Tendons.
8. South Dakota.
9. John Quincy Adams.
10. Sapphire.



Amber Waves

LOU, LIFE ON THE FARM HAS BEEN A BIT SLOW. I NEED TO FIND AN ACTIVITY.

HOW ABOUT JOGGING, BIKING OR MAYBE PILATES?

I WAS THINKING MAYBE YOGA, OR BETTER YET, TRYING MEDITATION.

I FIGURE I SLEEP ABOUT 12 HOURS A DAY, SO I SHOULD BE A NATURAL!

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

I WANT TO WREAK HAVOC TODAY.

WELL, YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE....

...YOU ALREADY REEK.

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

RAT, A TAT TAT

by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

JOE'S GARAGE

JOE'S GARAGE

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

FUN PAGES

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: PERSON WHO MENDS SHOES

- A-Team
- Bellboy
- Birds
- Business
- Croods
- Dark Hours
- Dirty Dozen
- Godfather
- Incredibles
- Lion King
- Longest Day
- Matrix
- Rescuers
- Smurfs
- Town

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## **HELP YOUR COMMUNITY**

We are working on finding grants and other funding for our community at large, including schools, seniors, traffic safety, water, and more. Give us your ideas.

SEMCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at **6 p.m.**  
at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room  
37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library  
or online: go to: [WWW.SEMCU.ORG](http://WWW.SEMCU.ORG) for the link  
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& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343 with access code 854 221

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