

# The Ranchos Independent



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## Man-Made Drought: A Guide to California's Water Wars

By Congressman Devin Nunes

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## Man-Made Drought: A Guide to California's Water Wars

By Congressman Devin Nunes

In the summer of 2002, shortly before I was elected to Congress, I sat through an eye-opening meeting with representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council and several local environmental activist groups. Hoping to convince me to support various water restrictions, they argued that San Joaquin Valley farmers should stop growing alfalfa and cotton in order to save water — though they allowed that the

planting of high-value crops such as almonds could continue.

Then, as our discussion turned to the groups' overall vision for the San Joaquin Valley, they told me something astonishing: Their goal was to remove 1.3 million acres of farmland from production. They showed me maps that laid out their whole plan: From Merced all the way down to Bakersfield, and on the entire west side of

the Valley as well as part of the east side, productive agriculture would end and the land would return to some ideal state of nature. I was stunned by the vicious audacity of their goal — and I quickly learned how dedicated they were to realizing it.

### *How to Steal Water and Get Away With It*

For decades, extreme environmentalists have pursued this goal in California with relentless determination. The method they have used to depopulate the targeted land — water deprivation — has been ruthless and effective.

Much of the media and many politicians blame the San Joaquin Valley's water shortage on drought, but that is merely an aggravating factor. From my experience representing California's agricultural heartland, I know that our water crisis is not an unfortunate natural occurrence; it is the intended result of a long-term campaign waged by radical environmentalists who resorted to political pressure as well as profuse lawsuits.

Working in cooperation with sympathetic judges and friendly federal and state officials, environmental groups have gone to extreme lengths to deprive the San Joaquin Valley, the heart of much of the U.S. agricultural production, of much-needed water. Consider the following ac-

tions they took:

**The Central Valley Project Improvement Act:** Backed by the NRDC, Sierra Club and other extreme environmental groups, large Democratic majorities in Congress passed the CVPIA in 1992 after attaching it to a must-pass public lands bill. The act stipulated that 800,000 acre-feet of water — or 260 billion gallons — on the Valley's west side had to be diverted annually to environmental causes, with an additional 400,000 acre-feet later being diverted annually to wildlife refuges.

**Smelt and salmon biological opinions:** Lawsuits filed by the NRDC and similar organizations forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to issue, respectively, biological opinions on smelt (in 2008) and on salmon (in 2009). These opinions virtually ended operation of the Jones and Banks pumping plants — the two major pumping stations that move San Joaquin River Delta water — and resulted in massive diversions of water for environmental purposes.

**The San Joaquin River Settlement:** After nearly two decades of litigation related to a lawsuit filed in 1988 by the National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and other environmental groups, San

Please see **NUNES** on P. 3

## 2015 Liberty Sober Grad a Success

Thanks to the generous donations of the community, the 2015 Sober Grad Committee was able to put on a Hollywood experience for our graduating seniors. The 92 attendees enjoyed inflatables donated by All For Fun and a food area overflowing with donations from Pizza Factory, Chase's Chop Shop, Madera Produce, Pete & Maria's, Sal's Restaurant and Branch & Vine. Desserts were also donated by Dough-Ray-Me Bakery, Subway and the Hallert family. Thanks to SEMCU and Igal Treibatch, a DJ and photo booth were also provided that night. The graduates were entertained by Brian Parks Comedy/Hypnosis Show and later enjoyed some "Minute to Win It" games run by previous graduates.

There was a live auction and drawings for gifts that were provided by community members, including a \$100 VISA gift card provided by Fire Station 19 and one for \$250 from the Madera County Fire Explorers.

## Ranchos Set for County Town Hall

Madera County District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier is conducting a Town Hall Meeting for residents of the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills areas on Tuesday, June 30 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Ranchos Middle School at 12455 Road 35 ½ in the Ranchos.

On hand will be Phil Pierre to give an update of the Root Creek Water District and Timothy Jones will offer an update on the status of the new Riverstone Commu-

nity at Avenue 12 and Highway 41.

Madera Irrigation District will provide an overview by Thomas Greci and there will be updates on Water-Solid Waste-Road-Storm Water Quality Issues by speakers Johannes J. Hovertsz, Ahmad Alkhayyat, Jared Carter, Julia Berry Terzakis, MLJ-LLC, and from Justin Raymond with Redrock Environmental Group.

Call 559-662-6010 for more information.

## County Cooling Centers for 2015

The County of Madera, City of Madera and City of Chowchilla have established the following locations as Cooling Centers during times of extreme summer heat. The Centers will be open the days and times of the week as indicated on the list provided below. Other Centers may be opened on an "as needed" basis and will be announced through the Madera County Sheriff's Office. Centers are closed on holidays unless otherwise indicated.

### COOLING CENTER SITES MADERA COUNTY

#### **Madera Ranchos:**

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center  
37739 Berkshire Drive  
Madera, CA  
559-645-4864  
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **Coarsegold:**

Coarsegold Community Center  
35540 Highway 41  
Coarsegold, CA 93614  
559-683-7953  
Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse  
30250 Yosemite Springs Parkway  
Coarsegold, CA 93614  
559-658-7466  
Daily 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Water Available Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Clubhouse Office Hours

#### **Oakhurst:**

Sierra Senior Center  
49111 Cinder Lane  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
559-658-2200  
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

#### **North Fork:**

Grace Community Church  
56442 Road 200  
North Fork, CA  
93643  
559-877-2346  
Monday – Friday  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Please see **COOLING** on P. 10

**NUNES** cont. from P. 2

Joaquin Valley agriculture organizations agreed to a settlement in 2006, later approved by a Democratic Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The settlement created the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The program, which aims to create salmon runs along the San Joaquin River, required major new water diversions from Valley communities. De-

spite warnings from me and other California Republicans, agriculture groups naively approved the settlement based on false promises by the settlement's supporters that Valley water supplies would eventually be restored at some future, unspecified date.

**Groundwater regulation:** In September 2014, California Gov. Jerry Brown approved regulations requiring that water basins implement plans to achieve

"groundwater sustainability" — essentially limiting how much water locals can use from underground storage supplies. But these pumping restrictions, slated to take effect over the next decade, will reduce access to what has become the final water source for many Valley communities, which have increasingly turned to groundwater pumping as their surface water supplies were drastically cut.

*A Litany of Hypocrisy*

As radical groups have pursued this campaign to dry up the San Joaquin Valley, it's worth noting some of their stunning contradictions, hypocrisies, fallacies and failures:

**"There's not enough water in California":** Environmentalists often claim that the California water crisis stems from the state not having enough water to sat-

Please see NUNES on P. 13

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Supervisor Farinelli may not be your district's supervisor, but I'm sure that you realize that his vote, along with all others, affects us all in Madera County.

Let's face it, smooth, glib, slick and always diplomatic are not terms easily applied to Rick's plain talking yet thoughtful style. Authentic, honest, helpful, energetic, principled, generous, courageous and loyal are a few terms which do easily come to mind in consideration for his deeds on behalf of Madera County as a whole during the past three years. He has not only been on the right side but on the forefront of the major issues of gang violence, veterans affairs, forest management, personal property rights, water, agriculture and the unalienable constitutional rights of human beings.

He is as personally involved with state and federal issues affecting our county as he is on the local issues. He has never wavered nor vacillated in his opposition to the illegal High Speed Rail and rural fire fee schemes perpetrated by Governor Brown and his like. He has always promoted self-reliance over entitlements as the only proven path to self-respect and prosperity. You may not always agree with Rick's approach but you will never have to guess from which direction he is coming. That alone puts Rick Farinelli head and shoulders above the pretenders. He has earned your support in 2016.

Ray A. Krause, Jr.  
O'Neals, CA

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to Kathleen Crumpton:

Dear Mrs. Crumpton:

Recently I was cleaning out a stack of old

newspapers and came across the September, 2010 issue of the Ranchos Independent. In this issue, you and five other candidates were being interviewed on why you would make the best G.V.U.S.D. board of trustee member. I would like to remind you of the questions asked, and I'll highlight your responses:

1. "What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?"

Your response: *It is widely believed that often the voices of parents fall on deaf ears in the board level.*

2. "What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?"

Your response: *It is important that board members interact with the very people who placed them on the board before they make a decision.*

3. "What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?"

Your response: *It is important that families have a voice in this district and their suggestions are visible in the final decisions that are made.*

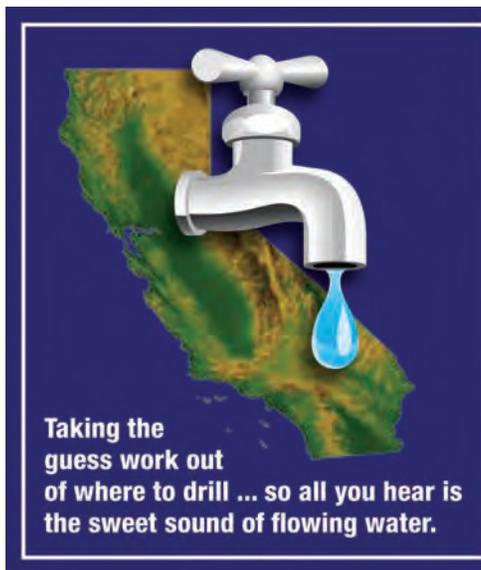
4. "If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?"

Your response: *We do not always get our way in life and being a team player is something we all have to learn throughout our lives ... decisions have to be supported because the board is not run by one person it is a team effort.*

5. "How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?"

Your response: *At the end of my term, families will have been properly represented and listened to. It is my intention to make that happen. I also expect that during my term as board member, when the community*

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 14



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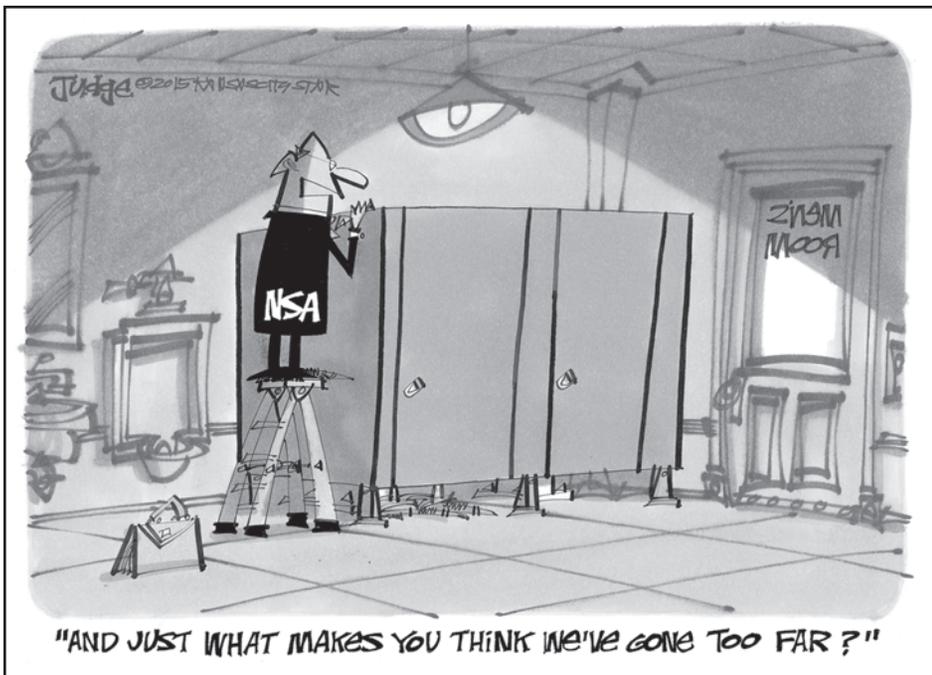
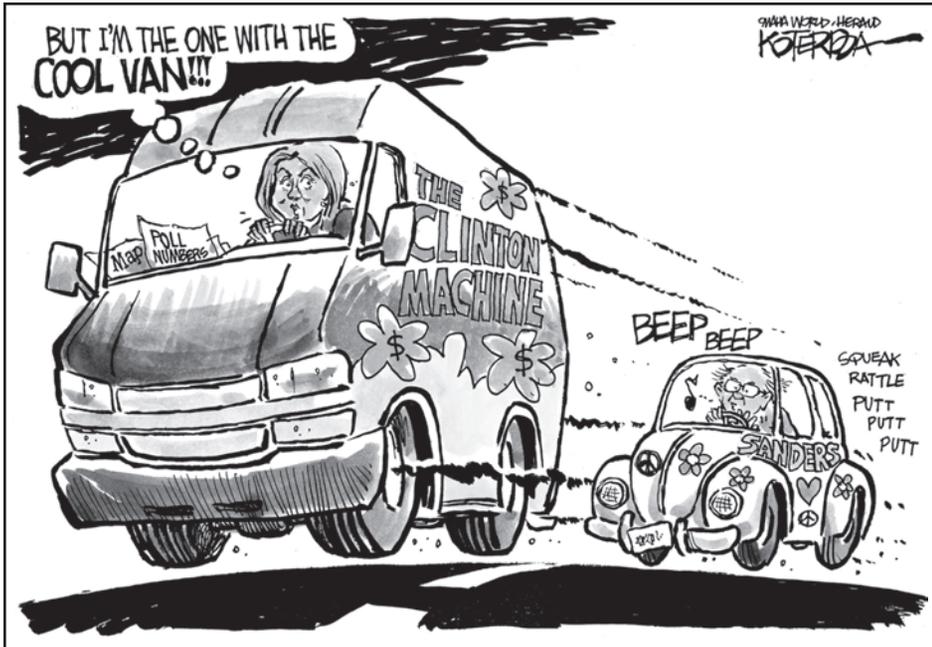
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Guest Editorial

# Ending the Clinton Coalition

By Rich Lowry

Every time Hillary Clinton makes a left-wing policy pronouncement, it is, in effect, another eulogy marking the death of the coalition and style of politics that twice made her husband president.

Bill Clinton got elected by peeling off working-class whites and suburbanites from the Republican Party, while holding traditional Democratic voters. He made significant geographic inroads, winning a handful of Southern states both in 1992 and in his 1996 reelection, when he narrowly won the popular vote in the region as a whole.

This is all very interesting, but the Clinton coalition is rusty and up on blocks in some overgrown backyard like the El Camino pickup he once boasted about. And Hillary knows it.

Who is pushing Hillary to the left? Hillary is. It's sheer electoral necessity.

As Sean Trende of the website *RealClearPolitics* puts it, President Barack Obama has narrowed but deepened the Clinton coalition.

He blew the doors off it among base Democratic voters. As Philip Klein of the *Washington Examiner* points out, Democrats had won the 18- to 24-year-old vote by 11.5 points on average and the 25- to 29-year-olds by about 7 points on average from 1992 to 2004. Obama won those groups by

more than 30 points in 2008 and 20 points in 2012.

He outdid himself among minorities, liberals and upper-class suburbanites. Obama, Klein notes, amped up not just his margin among African-American voters, but their turnout. Elsewhere in the former Clinton coalition, though, his support collapsed, with older and blue-collar whites continuing to flee the Democrats.

Even if Hillary wanted to try to recapture those kinds of voters, it's not clear that she could, and the effort would risk alienating the Obama supporters she needs.

So the question for Hillary is whether a 67-year-old candidate who's not a racial minority or particularly exciting can re-energize the electoral coalition defined by a youthful African-American who rose to prominence on rhetorical flights of fancy about hope and change.

She's certainly not going to do it by recapitulating the politics of Bill. He hewed to the political center. He played defense on cultural issues. He balanced the budget (at the insistence of a Republican Congress). He touted, at least after his first two years, small-scale government programs of symbolic significance. He was tough on crime and relatively hawkish.

Everything indicates she's going to do and be the opposite. Hillary will make herself a paladin of the left, and hope to energize and frighten the constituent parts of the Democratic base enough to walk the treacherously narrow electoral path of President Obama.

This is the price of victory Obama-style. Despite his rhetoric of unity, Obama depends on a politics that writes off much of the country and depends on turning out voters already inclined to support him. It is less a politics of persuasion than of mobilization.

For Hillary, this means the centrism and practicality of her husband have to be jettisoned, so what remains from the Clintonism of yore is mostly the shady dealings and shameless insincerity. But she really has no choice. It's go left or go home.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# The Ranchos Independent

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**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

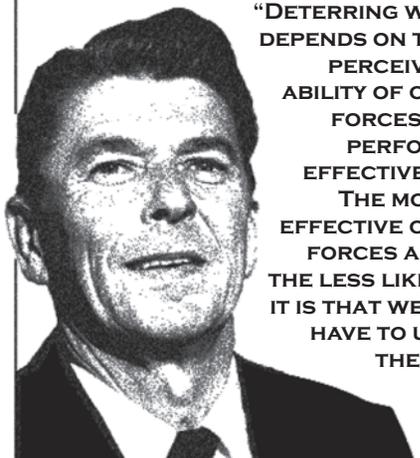
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# I Can't Fight this Feeling

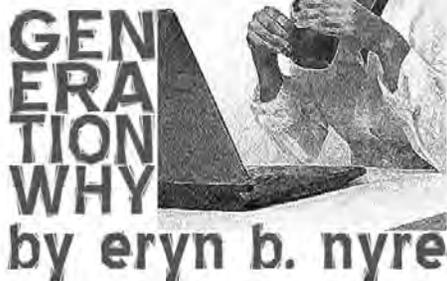
I have a problem and I'm not ashamed to admit it. My name is Eryn and I'm a people-watcher-aholic. I can no longer live a lie.

I should probably get help. I won't though, because then I would have missed out on the five best dance moves I caught at an REO Speedwagon concert last week. Allow me to break them down for you.

**The Preach It:** This guy may have been my favorite. He had clearly been a muscle-head in the eighties who somehow managed to keep ahold of his figure and his haircut. He wore a flannel shirt that at one point had sleeves, had a beer permanently attached to one hand and a look of impassioned nostalgia emblazoned on his face. Lost in the music, his free hand kept shooting into the air like Aunt Mabel at the end of a weeklong Baptist tent revival. He knew every word, sang every line and lived every moment. Preach on, REO, he feels you!

**The Booty Swing:** I sometimes feel out of place when I see a classic rock show. The majority of the fans are older and had the pleasure of being there from the beginning. I received my love for all things classic rock and hair band second-hand from my Dad. Usually I'm mixed in with a sea of middle-agers, baby boomers from both ends of the spectrum, but there are always handfuls of the younger crowd following in the footsteps of our parents, and then some from the top of the age demographic the first time around. I love it. There was one particular woman who had stepped into her seventies with style and flair. She stood up and started swinging her bedazzled, jean covered groove-thing to "Can't Fight This Feeling." I was not only impressed with her rhythmic prowess, I had no idea you could dance like that to a hairband power ballad. Swing it, Grandma. I can only hope to be as awesome as you in my seventies.

**The Phoebe:** This would have only been better had it been the Elaine. Nevertheless, it was a high point of the evening. She had long, blond hair, a bright pink lace shirt, and the rhythm of a three-legged



cat, but she didn't care. She was in the zone, invested in the moment, Calgon was taking her away and she had zero cares to give about who was watching her. She opened her arms wide and let the vibes take her over, swaying and ... well the only word for it is flailing. Lisa Kudrow would have been proud. Maybe it actually was Lisa Kudrow, I didn't get a good look at her face.

**The Dramatic Lip-Syncher:** This is a concert staple. Usually a girl, most often singing to another girl. Cocktails are optional. Drunk on the music and memories, so filled with energy that she must belt out the words with Celine Dion-esque arm movements and facial expressions worthy of a silent movie. It's not enough to sing the lyrics, you must fully embody the message of the song with every inch of your person in order for your friend to truly feel what that song means to you, to your friendship, to the world. Spoiler alert, last night this was my friend. Okay ... okay ... it was me.

**The I Don't Really Pay Attention To Any Words But The Chorus But I'll Sing It To My Man Anyway Because It Has The Word "Love" In It And That's Good Enough:** Yes. This one I am mocking. One of the few girls on my side of the venue who fell into the same age bracket was bumping and grinding all over her guy, looking so intensely at him I feared she might eat his face. She sang him every word like a love poem written from Cupid to Aphrodite and he lapped it up like a thirsty hound. She really meant it, every soulful lyric. Even the part about being a snake in the grass, always coiled, hissing, ready to strike.

Please see GEN WHY on P. 15

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**It's the Constitution, Stupid!**



By Betty Van Valkenburg

The best campaign slogan ever?

"It's the economy, stupid" was Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign slogan. His advisors knew that the existing recession was the electorate's number-one concern. Herbert Hoover's 1928 campaign promised "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage," appealed also to economic concerns. Some things never change.

Candidates pander to voters' hot-button issues, which usually are about keeping their money in their own pockets. There's no doubt that economic issues go to the heart of our individual liberty and the ability to provide for ourselves and our families, but our independence and self-sufficiency depend on stopping an overreaching government from controlling our lives and picking our pockets to "redistribute" the wealth.

The framers of our constitution, as students of both history and human nature, knew that politicians (mere mortals, after all) relish power and that the size and scope of the government always grows. When asked after the 1787 Constitutional Convention what form of government had been established, Benjamin Franklin answered, "A republic, if you can keep it" – a warning that we must be vigilant in preserving our republic.

Thomas Jefferson opined that "... the two enemies of the people are criminals and government, so let us tie the second down with the chains of the constitution so the second will not become the legalized version of the first." George Washington observed that, "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence — it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

The framers attempted to "chain" down the government by providing checks and balances through three co-equal branches of government. They enumerated the few powers granted to the federal government and left all others to the states and "the people." And they wisely provided a way, though purposely not easy or quick, to amend the constitution if and when necessary.

They rejected a strict majority rule

democracy in which, as the joke goes, three foxes and a chicken could vote on what's for dinner and the poor chicken couldn't ask for a recount. Instead they opted for a constitutional republic in which elected representatives govern according to a written set of rules: a constitution. Our constitution is designed to protect individual rights (so the chicken, representing the minority opinion, wouldn't be on the menu in the first place).

It seems we are in a perpetual silly season of presidential politics. It never ends and neither do the sound bites, commercials, mudslinging and those inevitable, usually meaningless, slogans. Remember "Hope and change"? How about "Happy days are here again"? And "I like Ike"?

Elected officials take an oath to preserve, protect and defend the constitution. That should be their major campaign promise from which all other promises flow. It is their duty to perpetuate constitutionally limited government and individual rights that the constitution was designed to protect.

*This means it is up to us, we the people, to right our ship of state. We must be well-informed, we must inform others, and we must take concerted action. Are you interested?*

So perhaps the perfect slogan for every candidate would be "It's the Constitution, Stupid!"

Without the constitution's restraints on governmental power, the president might act as a king, congress

might curtail personal freedom through any law it wanted to pass, the Supreme Court might uphold onerous laws and presidential edicts, states might become mere pawns of the federal government, and individuals might become subservient to an all-powerful government.

Oh, wait! That's already happening, isn't it? We are witnessing Jefferson's warning become reality. Governmental entities at all levels are ignoring and breaking the supreme law of the land and getting away with it.

The president threatens that if congress won't act as he wants them to, he will usurp their power and take executive action on his own. And he does. Presidential and gubernatorial Executive Orders replace or negate laws or make new laws, bypassing the legislative branches. Presidents and governors issue "Signing Orders" that supersede the duly passed laws they are signing. Unelected bureaucrats at federal agencies write volumes of rules and regulations which have the effect of law with no vote of a legislature. Unfunded mandates are placed on states and localities. And on it goes.

Is all lost?

Please see **TEA TIME** on P. 15

**MORE Oldies but Goodies**

I was telling you about a cookbook Randy found for me in a thrift shop. It is *Honest American Fare* by Bert Greene, published in 1981 by Contemporary Books, Inc. Mr. Greene was a cookbook author and food columnist for the New York Daily News from 1979 until his death in 1988. It was his contention that basic American food was some of the best in the world and he put together a book of just such recipes. Let's go back 34 years and see.

Can't get your kids to eat carrots? How about frying some?

**Fried Carrots**

12 to 16 carrots peeled.

Salt

2 eggs, beaten

Cornmeal

Hot bacon drippings

Cook the carrots in boiling water in a medium saucepan until barely tender, about 10 minutes. Do not overcook, carrots should be slightly crisp. Drain and let cool. Cut each carrot length wise into 3 strips. Sprinkle carrots lightly with salt. Dip into beaten eggs, and then roll in cornmeal. Fry in about 1 inch bacon drippings in a large skillet over medium heat until golden. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm until ready to serve.

I love yogurt and of course my favorite flavor is lemon. So when I saw this recipe for a lemon yogurt cake, I thought how could it not be delicious?

**Lemon Yogurt Cake**

1 C unsalted butter, softened

1 1/2 C granulated sugar

4 eggs

1 T grated lemon rind

L tsp. vanilla

2 1/2 C sifted all-purpose flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 pint unflavored yogurt

3/4 C finely ground almonds

1/2 C lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350. Beat the butter in large bowl until light and fluffy. Slowly beat in 1 cup sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time, and beating thoroughly after each addition. Beat in lemon rind and vanilla.



Sift the flour with baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add flour mixture to the butter in three parts, alternating with three parts yogurt. Fold in ground almonds. Pour into a buttered and floured 9 inch tube pan.

Bake cake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Cool on wire rack 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat remaining 1/2 cup sugar with lemon juice in small sauce pan until sugar dissolves. Slowly pour over cake, allowing mixture to soak in. Cool cake completely in pan before unmolding.

As I've told you in previous articles, I love potatoes – cooked just about any way you can fix them. Years ago, my Aunt Alma and I would sit in front of the radio listening to soap operas and eating raw potatoes and soda crackers. I read recently that Queen Elizabeth II of England hates potatoes – her loss!

I can remember my mom taking left over mashed potatoes and frying them for another meal. She would pat them out like little pancakes, dredge them in flour and fry them. She always used shortening to fry with. I can remember many a time getting my fingers slapped trying to steal one or just a part of one before the platter made it to the table. The following recipe is a little different take on my mom's left-over potatoes.

**Pennsylvania Dutch Potato Dumplings**

3 C cold mashed cooked potatoes

1 C (approximately) all-purpose flour

2 egg yolks

1/2 C grated Swiss or Parmesan Cheese

1/2 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg

1/4 C butter, melted

Salt and freshly ground pepper

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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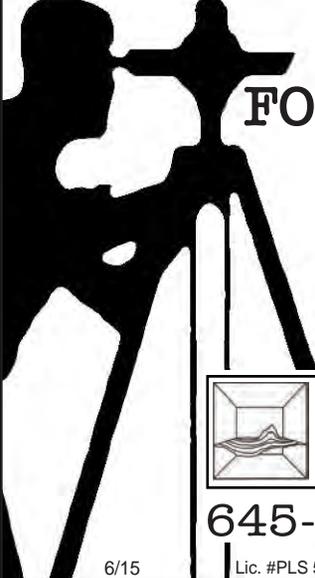


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## RECIPES cont. from P. 8

Heat oven to 300 degrees. Place potatoes on a floured surface or in a large bowl. Work in 1 cup flour, the egg yolks, cheese and nutmeg by hand, adding more flour, if necessary, to make soft dough. Roll into ropes about one inch in diameter. Slice into 1-inch lengths. Press ends of dumplings with the tines of a fork.

Drop dumplings 8 to 10 at a time into a large kettle of boiling salted water. Cook dumplings until they float to the top, about 2 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Keep warm in oven. Just before serving, pour melted butter over dumplings, sprinkle with salt and pepper.

My mom used to fix round steak and potatoes for dinner. That was yummy. She would salt, pepper and flour round steak that was cut up into serving size pieces and brown it in shortening in the bottom of a large frying pan or you could use a Dutch oven. Then slice peeled potatoes and an onion over the top of the steak add some salt

and pepper, then pour in two or three cans of bouillon soup into the pan and add enough water to cover the potatoes, cover the pan and simmer for about an hour until the meat was done. The following recipe is a little different, but still sounds good.

### *Eight Layer Dinner*

3 T unsalted butter  
 1 ½ pounds baking potatoes, peeled, cut into quarter inch slices  
 4 ounces salt pork, cut into quarter inch strips  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 3 stalks celery, diced  
 1 large red pepper, finely chopped  
 1 to 1 ½ pound beef shoulder steak, cut into pieces quarter inch thick, 4 inches square  
 Salt and pepper  
 1 large onion, sliced  
 1 large green bell pepper, finely chopped  
 1 can (17 ounces) plum tomatoes

¼ C chopped fresh parsley

Heat oven to 325. Rub the bottom of a 3 quart Dutch oven with 1 tablespoon butter. Layer the sliced potatoes over the butter.

Render the salt pork in a large heavy skillet over medium heat until crispy. Remove with a slotted spoon; spread evenly over potatoes in Dutch oven.

Pour off all but about 2 teaspoons grease from skillet. Sauté garlic over medium-low heat for about 3 minutes. Remove from skillet and spread over potatoes. Sprinkle the celery and red peppers over the potatoes.

Heat remaining butter with oil in skillet over medium high heat. Sauté meat, a few pieces at a time, until well browned on both sides. As the meat is done, place over the celery and peppers in Dutch oven. Sprinkle meat lightly with salt and pepper. Place sliced onion over meat, then the green pepper and finally the tomatoes. Sprinkle tomatoes with salt and pepper. Bake covered in oven until meat is tender, about 1 ½ to 2 hours. If dinner seems too wet, bake uncovered 15 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley before serving.

Do you have a favorite family recipe or an old treasured cookbook that you would like to share with our readers? Call me here at the office 645-0634 or e-mail me at [ranchosnews@yahoo.com](mailto:ranchosnews@yahoo.com) and I would be happy to print it.

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COOLING cont. from P. 2

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559-675-2095

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**CITY OF MADERA:** For more information on locations, please contact City

Administration at (559) 661-5400 (during regular business hours) or the Madera Police Department at (559) 675-4200 after regular business hours. City of Madera residents may contact Dial-a-Ride at (559) 661-7433 for transportation. Center hours will be extended as needed and announced through the local media.

**CITY OF CHOWCHILLA**

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**CITY OF CHOWCHILLA:** For more information on locations, please contact the City Community Relations Office at (559) 665-8615, Extension 110 (during regular business hours); and the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600 after regular business hours. During business hours, residents may contact CATX for transportation at (559) 665-8655.

Activation of the Cooling Center sites, beyond regular operating hours, will be assessed on an "as needed" basis. In addition, here are some heat-related emergency tips:

Outdoor workers require special precautions during excessive heat conditions and employers must follow California's heat illness prevention regulations ([www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/heatillnessoaltex.doc](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/heatillnessoaltex.doc)). Children, up to age 4, people taking certain medications, persons with disabilities, and seniors age 65 and over are particularly less able to cope with hotter weather and should be monitored throughout the day for signs of heat-related illness.

Regardless of your activity level, drink more fluids — especially water — and more than you think you need. Your body needs water for many crucial functions and dehydration can lead to serious health effects. Make sure clothing is lightweight and comfortable and — if you're planning to be outdoors — avoid the hottest parts of the day by scheduling activities during cooler hours (generally mornings and evenings). Also be sure to wear a hat

*If you, or someone you know, may be at risk for heat-related illness, talk to a doctor or pharmacist. Call 911 in the event of a true health emergency.*

and use sunscreen because sunburn affects the body's ability to cool itself. Don't over exert. Stay cool indoors by turning on an air conditioner or evaporative cooling system. If you don't have access to air conditioned space at

home, please visit a local shopping mall, senior center, public library, community center or other facility that is open to the public. Do not rely only on electric fans during a heat wave. When the temperature is in the 90s or above, a fan will not prevent heat-related illness. A cool shower or bath is a better way to beat the heat and keep body temperatures at safer levels.

Use common sense. Avoid hot meals and heavy, spicy foods when the weather gets hot. Eat smaller meals more often. Never leave infants, children, or pets unattended in your vehicle, not even for a moment. Don't forget about your pets! For information on protecting your pets from the heat, please visit [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org) for hot weather tips.

If you, or someone you know, may be at risk for heat-related illness, talk to a doctor or pharmacist. Call 911 in the event of a true health emergency. For more tips visit [www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov); [www.wr.noaa.gov/hnx](http://www.wr.noaa.gov/hnx); [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

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## The Bookshelf

### Create a Ranchos Library Poster

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library has been strumming along through the Summer Reading Program. What a delight to see all the smiling faces and the shared enthusiasm for reading. We have such a great time with our performances and our entertainers love coming here. Just a note that space is sometimes limited so you may always call the library to check on individual events but we will surely do our best to provide everyone with reminders in advance.

These past few weeks have been moving quickly and before you know it, it will be half way through the summer break. We love seeing everyone coming through and relaxing, soaking up their favorite book or magazine or spending time watching the little ones play on our amazing AWE computers. Again, we have eBooks that are available for checking out on your tablets and other mobile devices. We now have simplified brochures to walk you step by step through the process. These brochures are available at the reference desk.

Come out and support your li-

brary and chamber. Friends of the Ranchos Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual fireworks booth from June 30 – July 4 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Maywood Center. If you have any questions or need information please contact the Chamber of Commerce or the Ranchos Library.

This summer we are having a Family Poster Contest. Our theme: RANCHOS LIBRARY ROCKS! Create a poster as a family expressing why your Ranchos Library Rocks. Be creative and use any items that you wish. Posters will be judged and the winning family will receive a Family Pack of movie tickets. The winning poster will be displayed in the Ranchos Library. Entries must be received by 07/09/2015. Winner will be announced on 07/16/2015. You will need to pick up an entry form from the library and it will need to be attached on the back of the poster and indicate each individual family member's contribution to the project. The possibilities are endless when we work together.

We look forward to seeing your creativity and good luck!

## Senior Report

### Bidding Goodbye to Merle Anderson

By Patti Groh

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Merle Anderson last month. He was a long-time member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, having joined in 1990, averaging up to 98 hours a month volunteering at the Center. He kept up the membership roster, designed fliers and sign-up sheets for Senior events and made name badges for members. He handled the printing and distribution of the monthly newsletter, recently converting it to email. He was in charge of the Brown Bag Program. He was a great raffle ticket salesman, too. In 2004, Merle won the "Seniors Serving Seniors" Volunteer Award. As the FMAAA Nutrition Site Coordinator, Joann Blancett in her nomination wrote, "He definitely has a Volunteer Heart."

Merle was a member of the Madera Break-

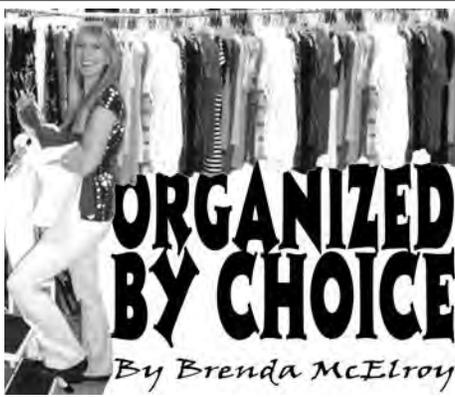
fast Lions, having won their Volunteer of the Year award two times. He was in the American Legion and Secretary of the Halls Committee for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was on the Madera County Election Board, Treasurer of the Restoration



Committee for Madera County Court House Park, member of Madera Masonic Lodge and a member of Friends of the Library. He served on the Madera Ranchos Water Oversight Committee, transportation committee and FMAAA Advisory Council. As fellow Senior, Helen Lowell says, "Merle certainly has left his foot prints all over Madera and the Ranchos." When Merle retired from the Courthouse Park Committee, a

bench was dedicated in the Park as a "lasting monument to his life and service."

Ranchos/Hills Seniors offer a well-earned salute and thank you to this good man. He will be well remembered.



By Brenda McElroy

*True Confessions*

Hello. My name is Brenda McElroy and I have clutter — digital clutter, that is. For a long time I told myself that since I wasn't physically

tripping over it and I could easily find what I needed in my email, it wasn't really a problem. I suppose that's like saying if there was a way to search for physical items in our homes without digging through cluttered drawers and closets, it wouldn't matter how much stuff was stored in them.

Last week I decided it does matter. When I open my email I want my inbox to function like my closet: everything in its place and easy access to what I need most (at least most of the time).

I don't want to be distracted by tons of stuff that isn't essential, or is no longer pertinent. I don't want to wonder if I missed seeing something important, or forgot to respond to something critical because it slipped to the next page. I don't want my kids to say, "You have how many emails in your inbox?!?" anymore.

Just like my office is organized with homes for papers I'm working on, papers I need to keep long-term, and papers ready for recycling, I want to have my email organized too. I want to have a routine for using the email folders I created awhile back, before I got sucked into the idea I could just "search" for what I need. Sound familiar? Yes, it happens to organizers too.

It's not that I didn't know how to do it, I just hadn't come to a point of committing to it. So, here I am, day seven of a "one page" inbox. It feels good! If you're feeling frustrated by or uneasy about your inbox, here are some steps to regain control.

Purge — yes, whether working in your closet, kitchen, or computer, purging is always the first step. I started by bringing the emails I had "starred" to the top of the page and then quickly

scanning through the rest. Using the folders I created such as clients, coaching, receipts, speaking for my business email, and friends, family, ministry and travel for my personal email. I filed some of them and archived the rest. If your email doesn't have the archive option like Gmail does, you may want to take a little more time looking them over and then deleting the emails you don't save in folders.

As a business owner who sends a monthly e-newsletter, I'm not crazy about Gmail's Primary, Social, and Promotions tabs that automatically sort email, since my newsletter may go unnoticed when it doesn't land in someone's Primary inbox, but as a consumer, it's great. The Social tab gets all the Facebook, Twitter, etc. notices

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 15



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**PET AREAS**

NUNES cont. from P. 3

isfy its rapidly growing population, especially during a drought.

However, the state in fact has abundant water flowing into the Delta, which is the heart of California's irrigation structure. Water that originates in the snowpack of the Sierra Nevada Mountains runs off into the Delta, which has two pumping stations that help distribute the water throughout the state.

But on average, due to environmental regulations as well as a lack of water storage capacity (attributable, in large part, to activist groups' opposition to new storage projects), 70 percent of the water that enters the Delta is simply flushed into the ocean. California's water infrastructure was designed to withstand five years of drought, so the current crisis, which began about three years ago, should not be a crisis at all. During those three years, the state has flushed more than 2 million acre-feet of water — or 652 billion gallons — into the ocean due to the aforementioned biological opinions, which have prevented the irrigation infrastructure from operating at full capacity.

**"Farmers use 80 percent of California's water":** Having deliberately reduced the California water supply through decades of litigation, the radicals now need a scapegoat for the resulting crisis. So they blame farmers ("big agriculture," as they call them) for using 80 percent of the state's water.

This statistic, widely parroted by the media and some politicians, is a gross distortion. Of the water that is captured for use, farmers get 40 percent, cities get 10 percent and a full 50 percent goes to environmental purposes — that is, it gets flushed into the ocean. By arbitrarily excluding the huge environmental water diversion from their calculations — as if it is somehow irrelevant to the water crisis — environmentalists deceptively double the farmers' usage from 40 percent to 80 percent.

**If at first you don't succeed, do the exact same thing:** Many of the Delta water cuts stem from the radicals' litigation meant to protect salmon and smelt. Yet after decades of water reductions, the salmon population fluctuates wildly, while the smelt population has fallen to historic lows. The radicals' solution, however, is always to dump even more water from the Delta into the ocean, even though this approach has failed time and again.

**The striped bass absurdity:** If the radicals really want to protect salmon and the Delta smelt, it's a bit of a mystery why they also champion protections for the striped bass, a non-native species that eats both salmon and smelt.

**Hetch Hetchy hypocrites:** The San Francisco Bay Area provides a primary support base for many environmental groups. Lucky for them, their supporters don't have to endure the kinds of hardships these organizations have foisted on San Joaquin Valley communities.

While the radicals push for ever-harsher water restrictions in the Valley, their Bay Area supporters enjoy an unimpeded water supply piped in across the state from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park. This water is diverted around the Delta, meaning it does not contribute to the Delta's water quality standards. Environmental groups have conveniently decided not to subject Hetch Hetchy water to any sort of litigation that would cut the supply to the Bay Area.



An aerial view of the California Delta in happier -- and wetter -- days.

**We're from the government, and we're here to help:** Government agencies that catch smelt as part of scientific population measurements actually kill more of the fish than are destroyed in the supposedly killer water pumps.

**Hitchhiking salmon:** The San Joaquin River Settlement is estimated already to have cost taxpayers \$1.2 billion — and it's clear to me that the total price tag will likely exceed \$2 billion — in a disastrous effort to restore salmon runs to the San Joaquin River.

Moreover, the settlement legislation defines success as reintroducing 500 salmon to the river, which means spending \$4 million per fish. The salmon, which have not been in the river for more than half a century, have proved so incapable of sustaining themselves that agents have resorted to plucking them out of the water and trucking them wherever they are supposed to go. It is a badly kept secret among both environmentalists and fed-

eral officials that this project has already failed.

**A man-made state of nature:** The radicals claim they want to reverse human deprivations in the Delta and restore fish to their natural habitat. Yet the entire Delta system is not natural at all. It's a man-made network of islands that functions only thanks to upstream water storage projects. In fact, without man-made storage projects, canals and dams, in dry years such as this the rivers would quickly run dry, meaning there would be no water and no fish.

#### **A Three-Step Solution**

The radicals have pursued their plan methodically and successfully; between the CVPIA, the biological opinions, and the San Joaquin River Settlement, around a million acres of farmland have been idled. What's

The Valley cannot endure this situation much longer, but the good news is that it's not too late to save our communities. Led by the Valley's Republican delegation, the U.S. House has passed legislation twice that would bring a long-term end to the water crisis. The solution comprises these three simple measures:

1. Return Delta pumping to normal operations at federal and state pumps. Because normal pumping levels are already paid for, this measure would cost taxpayers zero dollars.

2. Fix the San Joaquin River Settlement. Instead of continuing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on an unworkable scheme to recreate salmon runs, we should turn the San Joaquin River into a year-round flowing river with recirculated water. This approach would be good for the warm-water fish habitat and for recreation, and it would save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars that will otherwise go down the salmon-run rat hole.

3. Expedite and approve construction of major new water projects. This should include building the Temperance Flat dam along the San Joaquin River, raising Shasta dam to increase its reservoir capacity, expanding the San Luis Reservoir and approving construction of the Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley. Because water users themselves should rightfully pay for these projects, they would cost federal taxpayers zero dollars. These measures would not only end the water crisis, they would improve the environment for fish and wildlife — all while saving taxpayer dollars.

#### **The Price of Inaction**

I warned of the likely outcome of the radicals' campaign in my testimony to a House committee back in 2009:

"Failure to act, and it's over. You will witness the collapse of modern civilization in the San Joaquin Valley."

That is indeed the grim future facing the Valley if we don't change our present trajectory. The solution passed twice by the U.S. House, however, was blocked by Senate Democrats, who were supported by the administration of Gov. Brown as well as the Obama administration. These Democrats need to begin speaking frankly and honestly with San Joaquin Valley communities, and with Californians more broadly, about the effects of idling 1.3 million acres of farmland. This will ruin not only Valley farming operations, but will wipe out entire swathes of associated local businesses and industries.

The damage is not limited to the Valley. Although residents of coastal areas such as Los Angeles, the Bay Area and San Diego have been led to believe they are being subject to water restrictions due to the drought,

Please see NUNES on P. 14

NUNES cont. from P. 13

that's not actually true. As in the Valley, these areas and many others ultimately depend on the Delta pumps for their water supply. If the pumps had been functioning normally for the past decade, none of these cities would be undergoing a water crisis today.

And it's a safe bet that Brown's mandatory water reductions will not alleviate the crisis, leading to a drastic increase in restrictions in the not-too-distant future. Watering your lawn, washing your car and countless other everyday activities will be banned up and down California. In their mania to attack Central Valley farming, the radicals are inadvertently running the entire state out of water.

**Endgame**

Many organizations representing California agriculture, including water districts and — shockingly — even some San Joaquin Valley cities and counties, became part of the problem instead of the solution, having lent no support to the House-passed water bills. Suffering from a strange kind of Stockholm Syndrome, many of these groups and agencies hope that if they meekly accept their fate, their overlords will magnanimously bestow a few s of water on them.

This mousy strategy, which willfully ignores what the radicals are really trying to achieve, hasn't worked out well for growers of almonds and other high-value crops. Although the radicals had been promising them a free pass back when the groups met with me in 2002, these growers have now become the radicals' primary scapegoat for the water crisis. This condemnation is reflected in articles such as The Atlantic's "The Dark Side of Almond Use," The Guardian's "Alarm as Almond Farms Consume California's

Water," and Bloomberg View's "Amid a Drought, Cue the Almond Shaming."

Sadly, the end is near for communities whose land will be forced out of production. One hopes the affected families will eventually find a more welcome home in some other state where those who wield power appreciate folks who grow our food instead of demonize them.

But for now, the pitiless, decades-long assault to deprive them of their livelihoods is hurtling toward its apex. Meanwhile, many of those capable of advancing a solution are content to wring their hands, blame global warming and continue whistling past the graveyard.

Agriculture groups, water districts and municipalities that refuse to support the two House-passed bills owe their constituents an alternative solution that will resolve our water shortfall. Water bureaucrats who ignore or oppose the most prominent, viable solutions while offering no alternative are, in effect, complicit in the radicals' long struggle. They should publicly declare which land ought to come out of production and which Valley industries should be eliminated since they have no proposals to steer us away from that outcome.

The Valley's critical situation today demands unity around constructive solutions. To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, we must all hang together, or we will surely all hang separately.

*Devin Nunes represents California's 22nd congressional district out of Tulare. He is chairman of the House Permanent Committee on Intelligence. This article appears courtesy of Investor's Business Daily, where it originally appeared on June 12, 2015.*

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

*comes before the board no matter how upset they are, they will be talked to in a cordial manner and be thanked for their input no matter how offended a board member may feel by the comments.*

Mrs. Crumpton, what has happened to the candidate (you) that stated "... wouldn't let the voice of the people fall on deaf ears ... going to interact with the very people that put you in office ... the board is not run by one person, it is a team effort ... the people will be talked to in a cordial manner and be thanked for their input ..."? These are your words, not mine.

As Randy Bailey said in his editorial in the May, 2015 paper, you have no more interest in what the people say than I'm interested in what color shoes you have on tonight. Kathleen says it is so, your two minions (Moseley and Neal) say "Yea," you bang your gavel and that is the end of it. No thought or consideration of what the people that put you there think.

One more thing, in your bio you state that you had a dual major in college, one of them being Public Relations. Wow! Correct me if I'm wrong, but I always thought Public Relations meant to find a way to get along with people, not demanding "my way." They must have taught it differently than when I went to school.

I don't have children in GVUSD, nor do I live in the district. However, I have had family in the GVUSD schools for the past sixteen years and will continue for the next four. So I am interested in what happens out here. I feel very strongly that the time is right for the community to exchange these three trustees for three that will not make up their own rules and will allow the families to have a say.

I would like to thank Warren Parr for bringing this to our attention. We need to be more watchful for the things around us, especially when it comes to the children.

Name withheld by request  
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**The Garden Bug** Resurrection fern BY BRENDA WEAVER

Drought will cause this common tree-dwelling plant to curl up its fronds, turn gray and appear dead. However, when just a little water is present, the fern will uncurl and reopen, restoring itself to a vivid green color within about 24 hours. Studies have shown they can lose up to 97% of their water and remain alive; most other plants would die after losing 8-12% of their water.

Source: wikipedia.org

## ORGANIZED cont. from P. 12

and the Promotions tab gets, you guessed it, all the mass mailings. With two clicks – “select all” and “delete” I easily had zero emails in those two tabs.

In order to more easily maintain your one-page inbox you'll want to reduce the inflow. For email that you might want to reference, but don't need to see pop up in your inbox, you can have them delivered straight to a designated folder. This might be the case for auto-pay statements, hobby and travel info.

As email subscriptions arrive consider unsubscribing. If it's something you're really interested in, you may want to check to see if they have offer a once a week or monthly mailing as an option. Mark unsolicited, unwanted email as spam so that future messages from that sender will go directly to junk mail.

I added a great email tool called Boomerang (available for Gmail and Outlook). If there are emails in your inbox that you don't need to deal with until a later date, you can schedule them to disappear and then show up again at a designated date and time. This helps keep your inbox at one page without moving things and being afraid that

out of sight, will be out of mind — permanently.

Boomerang also allows you to type an email and schedule it to be sent at a later time. And, you can set up recurring emails. Ever wonder what emails you've sent out and never received a response to, but you've forgotten to check on them? You can schedule Boomerang to let you know on a certain date if your email hasn't received a response. Pretty cool, huh?

One novel idea to reduce incoming email is to pick up the phone. Those strings of emails that go back and forth and back and forth while you and a colleague try to come to a conclusion can be eliminated with an old-fashioned phone call.

Finally, set some specific goals regarding how often you'll check email and how many you'll allow to reside in your inbox at one time. By setting a specific time to check email and choosing to respond, file or delete you will succeed in maintaining a manageable inbox.

Contact *Organized by Choice* (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can also visit [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) online.

## GEN-WHY cont. from P. 6

Yeesh. I wouldn't put my face so close to that. I wonder if he knows about all the other men. Well, I guess he does now, but he doesn't seem to be too concerned. Don't worry buddy, she'll keep on loving you ... it's the only thing she knows how to do.

I still managed to keep a close eye on the band who have managed to maintain a level of energy I envy being at least 30 years younger than most of them. It was a great show, like most of the bands from yesteryear I've had the pleasure to see live. What I appreciate most about these bands is that their work is honest and their talent is real,

because if they didn't have the talent, they wouldn't have gotten the record deal. Today, you never know what your favorite artist might sound like stripped of the thousands of ways a studio can alter your voice. Let's face it, they can put the tune in the bucket for you and hire someone else to carry it. In so many cases, if you have the right look or appeal they throw you in the studio, regardless of your actual ability. But classic rock has a higher level of purity, more raw talent because it wasn't as easy to fake it back then. I love being a part of that, if for no other reason than it reminds me of what my parents must have looked like at this concerts a few decades ago.

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## TEA TIME cont. from P. 7

To quote Jefferson again: "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government ... whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."

This means it is up to us, we the people, to right our ship of state. We must be well-informed, we must inform others, and we must take concerted action. Are you interested?

Please visit [CentralValleyTeaParty.com](http://CentralValleyTeaParty.com) to find resource materials and more information.

The Central Valley Tea Party promotes constitutionally limited government – free markets – fiscal responsibility. Visit [CentralValleyTeaParty.com](http://CentralValleyTeaParty.com) or call 559-412-5056 for more information.

# Have You Heard? SEMCU is Winning Grants for the Community

By Karen Petryna

Reaching a sustainable environment that comfortably supports everyone means working on all aspects of our overtaxed community's resources simultaneously. And in unincorporated southeast Madera County, that translates to Southeast Madera County United (SEMCU) made up of dedicated residents and business owners in the area. "It has taken us several years of hard work and a lot of convincing of folks that solutions are available if we all work together," said Igal Treibatch, SEMCU's president. Initially created to meet a state mandate and qualify to join the Madera Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), SEMCU can apply to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other state agencies for water-related grants to help with our community's most pressing issue. In addition to its ongoing involvement with the Madera RWMG and the many community projects SEMCU has been involved in and successfully funded, it has also hired a private grant writing company to widen the potential and increase the success rate of winning grants in multiple spectrums beyond the community's water needs.

The Ranchos has been awarded two grants thanks to the efforts of SEMCU. "It's a game of numbers," Treibatch said. As president of the five-year-old organization, he has been submitting grant applications since 2012. "We've submitted applications for parks, recharge basins, large water storage tanks, soccer clinics for the kids, emergency water for Valley Teen Ranch, feasibility studies to improve the water system, and we're just getting started."

## Two Grants Awarded So Far

To date, two of the applications submitted have been selected for funding — one from the state's Cleanup and Abatement Account for Interim Emergency Drinking Water in the amount of \$14,642, to help defray bottled water costs at Valley Teen Ranch (due to their arsenic-contaminated drinking water well), and another from the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, called the Water-Energy Grant, for \$218,594. The Water-Energy Grant will pay for 20 water meters for private well owners to help monitor the area's water and also low-flow fixture adapters for every one of the 4,173 residences and businesses in the SEMCU area. "The money for bottled water for Valley Teen Ranch will offer those young people some short-term relief, but the low-flow fixtures for all of southeast Madera will benefit the whole community for many years to come," Treibatch said.

## Disadvantaged Community Status

Traditionally, for grant awarding purposes, a community's economic status is a big factor. And according to the latest census, residents of southeast Madera have an average annual household income of about \$70,000, which is well above the state average. But while "average" income for a particular area or group may include a few high numbers, skewing the result upward, "average" air quality is the same for everybody. "We're very excited about the state's new method for measuring disadvantage," Treibatch said, "because we're planning on applying it to many grant applications for southeast Madera in the future."

## More Grant Plans and Agreements in the Works

Focused on water-related projects such as water meters, water storage, and groundwater recharge, SEMCU will continue to go after funding for other improvements for the community such as a community center, library, community parks, road maintenance, security, sports playing fields and clinics, as well as studies to establish the needs and feasibility to address contamination and sewage disposal. SEMCU has also identified opportunities for education of how to better manage our water and other resources, "By partnering and signing memorandums of understanding with organizations such as California State University Fresno and Golden Valley Unified School District among others, we intend to build a water treatment and reuse demonstration project connected to the Liberty High curriculum, which will also improve our grant eligibility status and further many mutual community goals," Treibatch said.

## Low-Flow Fixture Funding Begins in August

According to Treibatch, funding from DWR's Water-Energy Grant for the low-flow water fixtures and meters is expected by August/September, but in the meantime SEMCU is collecting as much information as possible by asking residents to preregister in order to help determine the optimal way to distribute the hardware to conserve the most water. "We estimated one kitchen faucet, two bathroom faucets, and two showerheads per household," he said, "but some houses have more and others have less. And some households may also have already installed low-flow fixtures for sinks and showers."

In order to figure out exactly who can use what, SEMCU is asking all residents and businesses in the 93636 zip code (that's all of SEMCU's territory) to register at info@semcu.org by sending an email indicating an interest in low-flow fixtures, a water meter, or both. The general plan is to get 20 water meters installed first, on private

wells, to establish current water usage, and then install the low-flow fixtures to measure the amount of decrease in water use. Those who have already voluntarily installed water meters and been taking monthly readings are also highly encouraged to contact SEMCU and provide that data, again, so it can be compared (anonymously) to readings taken after low-flow fixtures have been installed.

## Free Water Meter Sign-Up Available Now

Additionally, those who, due to the new County Ordinance, are being required to install water meters on their new or improved private wells stand to benefit a great deal by contacting SEMCU as soon as possible so that some or all of their meter and meter installation costs can be reimbursed through the Water-Energy Grant. But any private well owner who is interested in a free water meter is asked to indicate that in an email to

SEMCU right away so the meters can be distributed as fairly and widely throughout the area as possible, likely via some type of lottery, should there be more than 20 applicants.

"According to the terms of the agreement with DWR, we have until March 2017 to get all the meters and fixtures installed," Treibatch said, adding, "Once we do, we will be saving 67 million gallons of groundwater every year along with 238 kilowatt-hours of electricity and 66,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions."

If you would like more information about the Water-Energy Grant, about SEMCU, or about how to participate on the grant writing committee or any other SEMCU committee, please attend the next monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Factory on Avenue 12. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month and the next meeting will be on Monday, July 20th.



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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		+		15
x		÷		+	
	x		-		17
+		x		x	
	x		÷		15
11		10		20	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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## top ten

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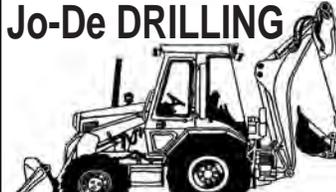
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 • Vestidos De Novia  
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 14794 N. Hwy. 41 #8 Madera  
 between Avenue 14 1/2 and Avenue 15  
 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Alterations & Much More!**

## Business Directory

**WIGHT WATER POOLS**  
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**FREE ONLINE DELIVERY**  
[WWW.WIGHTWATERPOOLS.COM](http://WWW.WIGHTWATERPOOLS.COM)  
MON-FRI: 9AM-5:30PM SAT: 10AM-3PM SUN: CLOSED  
37167 AVE. 12 #5D (559) 645-1969

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HOME SERVICE  
we are a full-service handyman, maintenance and remodeling company  
we REPAIR, REPLACE and INSTALL anything around your home or business  
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**FIVE TWO**  
ADVERTISING  
ADS  
LOGOS  
PR  
MARKETING  
**645-0634**

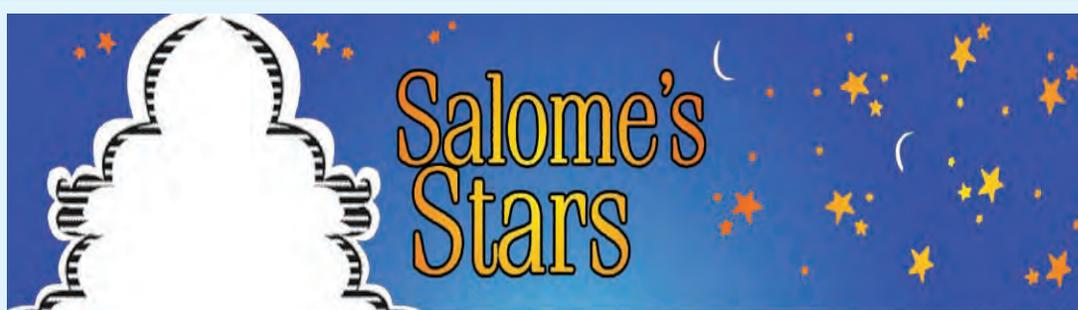
Plumbing Problems?  
**Davis Plumbing**  
LIC. #842676  
**559-977-6289**

DAVIS PLUMBING INC  
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, REMODEL & REPAIR  
VERNON DAVIS, Owner  
CA LIC #842676  
438 E. Shaw Avenue #217  
Fresno, CA 93710  
559-977-6289  
559-645-1864  
davisplumbco@aol.com

### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Making things more complicated than they need to be can be a problem for the typically orderly Lamb. Try to look for a less intricate way to accomplish the same goals.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Avoiding personal involvement in a troubling situation might be advisable at this time, especially since you probably don't have all the facts. The weekend brings a surprise.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A problem with a colleague you thought had been resolved could recur. However, this time you'll be able to rely on your record to get a quick resolution in your favor. Good luck.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Giving your self-esteem a boost could be a good idea for the Moon Child, who might feel a bit daunted by the week's occurrences. Just focus on all your positive accomplishments.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The "mane" attraction for the Lovable Lion this week is -- what else? -- love. New relationships move to new levels, while long-standing partnerships are strengthened.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A recent workplace problem will prove to be one of miscommunication, and once the matter is settled, you should have a better chance of getting your proposals approved.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Good news! After dealing pretty much in the dark with a matter that seemed to be taking forever to resolve, you should soon be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A positive message should help lift that energy-draining sense of anxiety, and you should soon be able to deal with even the peskiest matter, whether at work or personal.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Try to control that heated Sagittarian temperament while dealing with what you believe to be an unfair matter. A cool approach is the best way to handle things.

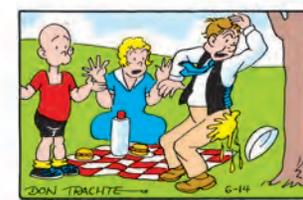
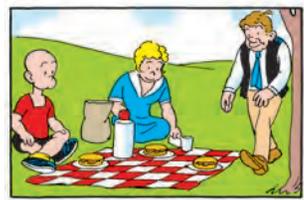
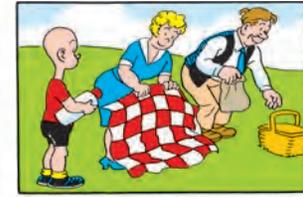
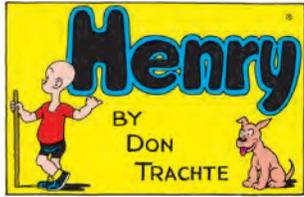
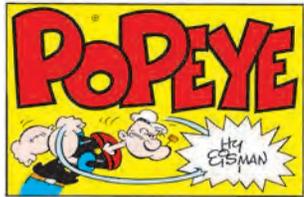
**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Nursing hurt feelings could keep you from learning what went wrong. Ask your partner, a family member or a trusted friend to help you reassess your actions in the matter.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Nature is dominant this week. Try to spend time outdoors with someone special. An act of kindness in the past might be recalled by a person you believed was out of your life.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) An upcoming career decision could be based on how well you might be able to apply your artistic talents. Be sure to use the finest samples of your work to make a strong impression.

**Born this Week**  
Doing good things for others comes easily to you. You are considered a good friend, even by those you might hardly know.

# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

LITTLE-KNOWN FACETS OF BIG BUSINESS—THE DEPT THAT WRITES THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THOSE "ASSEMBLE YOURSELF" TOYS—DOES ITS THING...



## BY AL SCADUTO

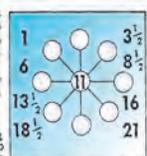
SCHOOL DAZE—



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

HALF HEARTED! Some simple addition involving halves is all that's needed to solve this math poser. Object is to insert the amounts shown into the blanks of the figure at right so that each three-number row totals exactly 33. Again, it's a matter of simple addition. See how quickly you can complete the task. Time limit is two minutes.



WED LOCKS! Wedding bells often given rise to some amusing name inks: Blank-Wall, Bigg-Kidder, Page-Turner, Wide-Marr, Cross-Towne, Wood-Stover, etc. See if you can make up some more.

### ON THE JOB DECODING

Place yourself in the shoes of the secret agent above. See if you can decode the message he is studying. Here's how it's done. Jot down letters of the alphabet in order in a horizontal row. Below this line of letters, jot down the alphabet again, in reverse order. In this code, then, A becomes Z, B becomes Y, C becomes X, and so on. Now see if you can decipher the message at hand. Ironically, it relates to one's decoding ability. Can you puzzle it out?



NET GAIN! Which rare butterfly is netted by the hunter? Pick a number. Then trace through lines to check answer.



DRAWING CARD! Our artist pal always draws a crowd. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple. 9—Dk. blue. 10—Lavender.

### SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

OUTBREAK

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

## Wishing Well

5	3	4	5	4	8	7	4	5	7	5	2	3
B	A	D	L	A	B	S	R	U	T	E	N	T
7	4	6	7	5	3	4	2	7	8	3	8	6
U	I	B	D	S	E	N	E	Y	E	N	S	E
4	3	5	4	6	3	7	2	4	8	2	5	2
G	D	K	T	E	F	W	H	P	T	I	H	
6	3	5	4	7	8	7	2	8	7	6	8	6
R	R	E	O	O	R	O	N	F	U	T	S	
7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	2	5	8	2	8
U	T	G	U	H	R	T	U	S	A	G	N	
6	7	6	8	7	6	3	7	8	3	7	2	7
T	E	I	E	S	N	G	U	O	E	C	H	C
8	6	8	3	7	3	7	3	7	3	2	3	2
U	G	S	E	T	S	U	S	R	T	E	S	

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## MAGIC MAZE • MOORES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- Archie
- Christopher
- Clement
- Demi
- Dickie
- Dudley
- Garry
- Henry
- Julianne
- Mandy
- Mary Tyler
- Michael
- Roger
- Terry
- Thomas

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- ADVERTISING: What did the animated character Tony the Tiger sell in TV ads?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the highest waterfall in the world?
- LANGUAGE: Who wrote the book "Don Quixote"?
- MONEY: What was the Netherlands' basic currency before it adopted the euro?
- MOVIES: What was the name of the male lead character in "Love Story" (played by Ryan O'Neal)?
- ANATOMY: About how long is the human small intestine?
- TITLES: What is the abbreviated title of a veterinarian?
- COMICS: What comic-book superhero is known as "The Caped Crusader"?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for somnambulism?
- ASTRONOMY: Who are most of Uranus' moons named for?

## Answers

- Kellogg's Frosted Flakes
- Angel Falls in Venezuela
- Miguel de Cervantes
- Dutch guild
- Oliver Barrett
- About 20 feet
- D.V.M. (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine)
- Batman
- Sleepwalking
- Characters in Shakespeare's plays

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Click on "Local News" at

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

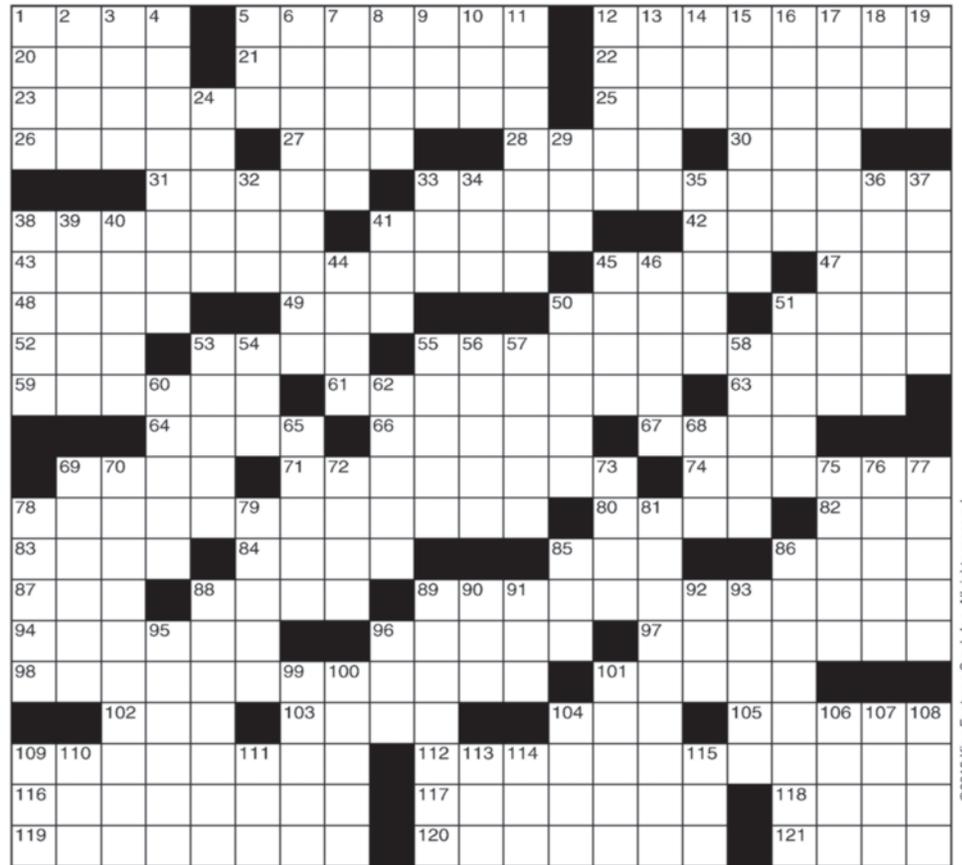
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Float is moved. 4. Letter is different. 5. Poster is missing. 6. Luggage tag is moved. 7. Float is smaller.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Painter of limp watches
  - 5 By the day, as payment
  - 12 "It doesn't matter"
  - 20 Moran of "Happy Days"
  - 21 The tiniest bit
  - 22 Hot pepper
  - 23 Group of wolves decide which hockey disk to use?
  - 25 Brought upon oneself
  - 26 USNA frosh
  - 27 "— Miz"
  - 30 Moniker, in Marseilles
  - 31 Mervyn of film
  - 33 Misplaced the most recent catalog?
  - 38 Sun circlers
  - 41 Braga of film
  - 42 Nervous —
  - 43 Notice folks quarreling about a skewer?
  - 45 Kind of latte
  - 47 Sportswriter Pasquarelli
  - 48 Name of 12 popes
  - 49 Folksy denial
  - 50 Parisian "to be"
  - 51 Actor Robert De —
  - 52 Six-legged scurrier
  - 53 Gift add-ons
  - 55 Farm structure is built in Switzerland's capital?
  - 59 Liam of "Nell"
  - 61 Raises up
  - 63 Yemen's largest city
  - 64 — time (never)
  - 66 Give a big speech
  - 67 Baseball Hall of Famer Waite —
  - 69 Preside
  - 71 Students
  - 74 To no avail
  - 78 Put a clump of tree-trunk greenery in disarray?
  - 80 Bath powder
  - 82 Philosopher Lao- —
  - 83 Optic layer
  - 84 Throw easily
  - 85 Paddle's kin
  - 86 Stuff in ale
  - 87 Rev.'s talk
  - 88 City on I-80
  - 89 Group working on a jackdaw's gullet?
  - 94 Slate clearer
  - 96 Miller rival
  - 97 Optometrist
  - 98 Knock out a pier-dwelling mallard?
  - 101 "— good you let him know": Hamlet
  - 102 "My country, — ..."
  - 103 Lock fastener
  - 104 Plant seeds
  - 105 Shuts noisily
  - 109 Preserve
  - 112 Exited the elevator to the high-ceilinged SoHo flat?
  - 116 How keyless music is written
  - 117 Quito locale
  - 118 Like — of sunshine
  - 119 Little jaunt on a little horse
  - 120 Cyclone
  - 121 Where Coca-Cola is "KO"
  - 2 Central Asia's — Sea
  - 3 Pooch pests
  - 4 Rorschach test features
  - 5 Luau chow
  - 6 Hemming in
  - 7 Type in anew
  - 8 See 95-Down
  - 9 Bettor's note
  - 10 Series-ending abbr.
  - 11 Succeeds
  - 12 Spin around
  - 13 — Barbera
  - 14 "The Middle" network
  - 15 Poked fun at
  - 16 Register
  - 17 Indiana county whose name is a red color
  - 18 Afore
  - 19 Gun, in slang
  - 24 Parts of hammers
  - 29 — good clip
  - 32 Ice-T's style
  - 33 Hack
  - 34 — roll (lucky)
  - 35 Deriding look
  - 36 — Nevada
  - 37 Partner of a mortise
  - 38 Hearing ailer
  - 39 Share a view
  - 40 Artery
  - 41 Minneapolis-to-Dallas dir.
  - 44 Hit with a zapping gun
  - 45 The Beatles' "Let —"
  - 46 Collision
  - 50 Register for
  - 51 Hoops cable channel
  - 53 Pole carving
  - 54 Advice giver Landers
  - 55 Yankee Yogi
  - 56 Bob —
  - 57 Per-unit costs
  - 58 "Bye Bye Bye" boy band
  - 60 Rumba's kin
  - 62 Garden soils
  - 65 Johnny who cried "Come on down!"
  - 68 OPEC fuel
  - 69 Idolize
  - 70 Keystroke or mouse click
  - 72 Canadian gas brand
  - 73 Detached, in mus.
  - 75 Old game console
  - 76 Lanai and Skye, say
  - 77 Product label wds.
  - 78 Ruminated
  - 79 County in New Mexico
  - 81 Tree once associated with bow welders
  - 85 Pained cries
  - 86 "Dirty Sexy Money" actress Zoe
  - 88 Symbol atop the Kremlin
  - 89 Pair of poetic lines
  - 90 Mythical bird
  - 91 Mork's planet
  - 92 Pitching whiz
  - 93 Sausage, in Stuttgart
  - 95 With 8-Down, swims without a suit
  - 96 They made LPs passé
  - 99 Kid
  - 100 West with 21 Grammys
  - 101 — lie (fibbed)
  - 104 Funny Laurel
  - 106 Gossamer
  - 107 Degs. for playwrights
  - 108 Eye malady
  - 109 GPS drawing
  - 110 From — B
  - 111 Ring legend
  - 113 Prefix with law or tourist
  - 114 Cat coat
  - 115 Swing to and —
- DOWN**
- 1 Johnny of "Ed Wood"

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Get your

# FIREWORKS

for the 4th of July

*at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
& Friends of the Ranchos Library*

## FIREWORKS STAND

**June 30 - July 4 - 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Next to the Ranchos Cafe in the Maywood Center**

*Come out and support your local Chamber and library!*

6/15

**The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.**

**37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C. Call us at 645-4001.**

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