

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



PRSRST STD  
ECR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADERA, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 61

NOW IN OUR  
19TH YEAR  
IN MADERA  
COUNTY

Volume 20 Issue 4 2024

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## AFTER A BRIEF HIATUS FLATLANDERS DAY RIDES AGAIN!



*Just like these young equestrians did back in 2016, this year's Flatlanders Day Parade and Fair will be complete with horses, floats, music and a Community Fair at the end of the parade route. Make sure you're there on Saturday, May 18.*

### *In This Issue*

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

## AFTER A BRIEF HIATUS FLATLANDERS DAY RIDES AGAIN!



In what will be its 31st Annual appearance in the Madera Rancho, after a one-year break, the Flatlanders Day Parade and Fair is back. As it has been in the past, the event is being sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce with help from other community groups.

This year's location will be something new. Instead of going eastbound on Avenue 12, the parade this year will take place on Road 36 by Liberty High School. The parade vehicles will gather on Road 36 at Ardath and then at 10 a.m. drive south on Road 36 to the high school. There at the high school will be food vendors, craft sellers and other community activities, including a rummage sale and a kite flying contest with cash prizes.

It's free to attend the parade and to get into the craft area. If you'd like to be in the parade, the application is on page 12 of this issue of the Rancho Independent. It needs to be completed and turned

back in to the Chamber by Monday, May 6. The Chamber's address is 37167 Ave. 12 #5C. You can also fax in your application to 559-645-4002. Of course you can call them for more information at 55-645-4001. Also call them if you'd like to be a vendor at the Craft fair.

**What:** 31st Annual Flatlanders Day Parade and Craft Fair

**Where:** Road 36 from Ardath to Avenue 12

**When:** Saturday, May 18  
Check in at 8:30 a.m.

Parade starts at 10 a.m. SHARP

**Who:** Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce 559-645-4001

## Where Do State's Gas Prices Stop?

By David Lightman

A gallon of regular gasoline in California Wednesday averaged 53 cents higher than a month ago. Will it go much higher? It's tough to predict, but the potential is there because a big driver of the price spike is international tension.

The Russia-Ukraine war and Iran's threats to Israel are adding a new dose of uncertainty to an already volatile mix of reasons prices go up as summer approaches.

"Ukraine attacked Russia's supplies, and Iran has become a major threat in the last two weeks," said Sanjay Varshney, professor of finance at California State University, Sacramento.

An Israeli attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria April 1 killed several Iranian military officials. U.S. officials are expecting Iran to retaliate. The tension in the Middle East is among the reasons U.S. oil prices are up about 20 percent this year, ranging recently from roughly \$85 to \$90 a barrel. A gallon of regular gasoline in California Wednesday averaged \$5.41, according to AAA. That figure was the highest in the country, topping runner-up Hawaii by 69 cents a gallon. The national average Wednesday was \$3.63. California's average was 53 cents a gallon more than a month ago and 21 cents above the cost a week ago.

Local prices included: Sacramento, the average was \$5.53, up from \$4.86 a month ago; Fresno, \$5.41 Wednesday, \$4.77 a month ago; Modesto, \$5.41 Wednesday, \$4.70 a month ago; Merced, \$5.44 Wednesday, \$4.82 a month ago; San Luis Obispo area, \$5.55 Wednesday, \$5.06 a month ago.

Prices "... should normally go down

but we see geopolitical risks going up at times with potential involvement of other countries in the Middle East and Ukraine regional conflicts," said Gokce Soydemir, Foster Farms endowed professor of business economics at California State University, Stanislaus. "This gets reflected in terms of higher prices at the gas pump."

While the average California price is still well below the June 2022 record of \$6.44, several elements are still in play that could keep prices at current levels, if not higher. Doug Shupe, Automobile Club of Southern California spokesman, cited "planned and unplanned refinery maintenance has caused supply issues" affecting prices.

Imported gasoline has been ordered and should arrive later this month. Shupe noted there is also planned maintenance at a refinery in Washington state that supplies Southern California and could last several weeks. Any refinery interruption has an important effect on supply.

California requires that drivers use a special blend of gasoline aimed at reducing emissions from motor vehicles. That means the state's refineries produce cleaner fuel.

"Refineries in the state often operate at or near maximum capacity because of the high demand for those petroleum products and the lack of interstate pipelines that can deliver those cleaner fuels into the state," said an analysis from the federal Energy Information Administration. When a refinery has to shut down, the lack of supply from interstate pipelines "means replacement supplies of (California gasoline) come in by marine tanker from out-of-state U.S. refineries or from other countries. It can take several weeks to find and bring replacement motor gasoline from overseas that meets California's unique specifications."

## Madera Hospital Reopening Closer

Madera Community Hospital, shuttered since December of 2022, has inched closer to being able to reopen.

American Advanced Management, the medical management company based in Modesto, was approved by a federal bankruptcy judge to carry out a liquidation plan that would both repay existing creditors and ultimately transfer ownership to them. But a community organization – Madera Coalition for Community Justice – filed an objection with the judge, calling into question AAM's ability to operate the facility. Their primary concern was AAM's ability to handle a hospital the size of Madera Community Hospital and the challenge of so many low-income patients.

Members of AAM, as well as representatives of the hospital's creditors, met with Judge René Lastreto in mid-April and presented evidence that countered the objection. Primarily, AAM pointed out that this type of hospital is *exactly* what they do. On its website, AAM

states, "Our mission is to preserve access to quality health-care for rural and urban communities by revitalizing struggling hospitals with a focus on growth and fiscally responsible centralized services." It worked and Judge Lastreto

said that allowing the objection would only serve to ultimately delay the restitution due to the creditors.

"A motion to intervene earlier in the process could be argued and determined with the input from all sides," Lastreto said. "The result may not be different, but now is simply too late."

The state's Department of Health Care Access and Information awarded \$300 million in loans this month to 16 facilities throughout the state. It was money from a program created by California legislators last year to provide for hospitals that were in trouble financially. The program was called the Distressed Hospital Loan Program. At \$57 million, Madera Community Hospital received the largest portion of all 16 hospitals.

AAM has said they are shooting for a reopening target date of early July, 2024.



# California High Speed Rail Short \$4-7B to Complete *First* Segment

The head of the California high speed rail project told state legislators in March that the project looks to be \$4 billion to \$7 billion short of funds needed to complete the initial Central Valley segment and may need as much as \$100 billion more to build the full Los Angeles-San Francisco route.

KCRA-TV reports that California

High Speed Rail Authority CEO Brian Kelly, in testimony before the state Senate Transportation Committee, said the project has \$28 billion on hand for the segment between Madera and Merced, with completion costing \$32 to \$35 billion, depending on how long it takes to finish. Kelly is hoping federal funds will bridge the gap.

That segment expects to be operational between 2030 and 2033; there is no timeline for completing the full system, which is still waiting for environmental clearances for some portions.

"It's been tough to fund a project with something that has an expiration date," Kelly testified. "We're doing it in building blocks. We're giving you the portions we think we can get done with the funding we have."

One senator asked Kelly how it would be possible to get public support "for something that has had this much of a downside funding wise?"

Kelly replied, "I think the only way you get the public is by performing better and I think the authority is performing better today than it was and I think it will,

going forward. I think it's the right thing to do for the state and country. And yes, it's a challenge. And just like when I worked on the Bay Bridge years ago, and you're stuck in the middle of a very tough project, it feels impossible until it's not and then you grind, you do the work, you perform better and you deliver."

The whole system was supposed to be finished by 2022 — at a cost of \$33 billion. Now, just one segment is currently estimated to cost \$35 billion and not scheduled to be finished till 2030-2033. To get the rest of the system finished is estimated to take \$100 billion — and that is lowballing. Worse, that's looking at a completion somewhere around 2050.

*From www.trains.com*

## We Buy Properties

### Cash or Terms

**Any area, Any condition • Need to sell?**  
**No equity? Running out of time?**  
**Not sure where to turn? We have answers.**  
**Call 559-664-3523 NOW!**

4/24

# NORTHwest PEDIATRIC

## Medical Group

Marina Alper, MD | Vivian Hernandez, MD | John Kim, MD

Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995

## NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Pharmacy, laboratory and  
urgent care ON SITE

Close to the Friant exit  
off of Freeway 41  
7355 N. Palm Ave. #100  
Fresno, CA 93711



4/24

# (559) 271-6302

northwestpediatricmedicalgroup.com

## Riverstone Gets Water Treatment

The Riverstone development near Highway 41 and Avenue 12 is adding something new: A water treatment facility.

Living with what looks like dirty water, several residents have reached out to Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff for solutions and then took their concerns to ABC 30 Action News. Channel 30 aired a report on the matter on April 9.

The development falls under the control of the Root Creek Water system whose district general manager, Julia Stornetta, is aware of the problem. In looking for a long-term solution, Root Creek has decided to add a new water treatment facility.

"We're building a \$25 million project, which we broke ground on six months ago," Stornetta said. "It will be completed at the end of 2025."

Stornetta said that they've only re-

ceived about 41 water complaints in a community of approximately 1,900 homes.

Supervisor Wamhoff pointed out that in the future, Riverstone is anticipating containing approximately 6,500 homes. And that should make the water improve.

"The reason why there's discolored water is because there are minerals in the water — iron and manganese — and when those mix with chlorine and they sit — as sometimes the water does in new developments because there's not a lot of circulation in certain areas — it can actually discolor the water," Wamhoff said. "What solves that is, toward the end of those developments, when new homes come online, they flush the water out of the hydrants, and it circulates that water more and they don't have any more discolored water. As more homes come online, it's not going to be an issue."





# Tea Time

By Betty Van Valkenburg

***I love God, country,  
family and friends.  
... and basketball ...***

My husband and I have been Fresno State season ticket holders for probably 40 years and have seen many game highlights, thrilling victories and agonizing defeats. But the total experience of one of last season's games impressed me in many ways.

Because I had recently undergone knee surgery and couldn't comfortably get down to my regular seat surrounded by rabid fans, I found a vacant top-row aisle seat at the Save Mart Center, rested my weary knee and observed rather than participated in the usual fan-atic frenzy.

This is what I enjoyed watching from my comfortable bird's eye view.

Everyone in the arena stood for the National Anthem and faced the American flag hanging over Section 109 with hats removed, most with hands over hearts, and all silent and respectful. I fought back tears as I have so many times during stirring renditions of the Star Spangled Banner. "Everyone" in the arena included different ages, sizes, races, ethnicities, and probably political persuasions and economic circumstances, court crew, cheerleaders, coaches, players, fans, arena staff and invited guests.

When the anthem ended we cheered or applauded before taking our seats, only to rise again at the start of the game and remain standing, as is the custom, until the home team – our team – made its first basket (which on that particular night took much too long for my comfort).

From the beginning our team was missing two starters, so other players had to step up. Then another starter went down with an injury and our starting guard warmed the bench more than the fans wanted, and a freshman became our unexpected all-star.

Fans cheered for their respective teams: Fresno State and San Diego State. Although greatly outnumbered, San Diego fans rooted against the home team with no fear of reprisal. A man sitting near me chanted "San – Di-e-go – State" throughout; and I appreciated, or maybe just tolerated, his enthusiasm and then

cheered as loudly as I could for Fresno.

Our team members came in all sizes and shapes, from 6'1" to 6'10" and weights up to 285 pounds. They hailed from the local area as well as Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Minnesota, Los Angeles, Nevada and Arizona. But they were, and played as, a cohesive team.

At the end of the first half, we were surprisingly down by only one point.

Non-stop halftime activities both entertained and inspired the crowd; at least they did for those of us who hadn't rushed out to the concourse for food or beverage. A member of the military was introduced and honored by a standing ovation. Student athletes ringed the court as they were acknowledged for individual achievement and the best collective GPA average ever. Fans clamored for the pizza giveaway. The

dance cam caught some amazing and not-so-amazing moves. The blimp dropped coupons to waving hands. The audience-member free-throw contest was the usual hit, with winners and losers equally cheered by the crowd.

Down to the wire, we squeaked out an exciting one-point win. Fresno State's team and fans went wild. San Diego State's team and fans didn't. Coaches shook hands. Opposing players acknowledged each other. Fans stayed a little longer than usual, enjoying the win and the camaraderie. Eventually, players headed to the locker rooms and fans to their cars.

I limped away feeling uplifted by the exciting win and the totally American experience: Winning against all odds, giving one's all for the cause, never giving up, coming together as a team, freely advocating for one's chosen side, exhibiting enthusiastic but peaceful "partisanship" and respecting the rights of others to disagree.

If only America as a whole would follow this example. Or have we become so divided and so polarized along political, racial, income and other lines that we may never again be one team/one nation?

Perhaps the political arena could learn from the basketball arena. Everyone plays by the same rules. Real leaders unite rather than divide. Referees follow rules, not the loudest voices. Equality of outcome is not guaranteed. Playing time (success) is earned, not bestowed. And last but not least, leaders who don't deliver on their promises lose their jobs. (I particularly like that last one.)

We can dream.

*This article originally appeared in the June 2016 issue of the Ranchos Independent.*

*"... the totally American experience: Winning against all odds, giving one's all for the cause, never giving up, coming together as a team ..."*

**How do you get free tank rent  
for the first year, prompt  
friendly service, a free  
initial leak test and  
competitive prices?  
You call ...**



**VALLEY PROPANE**

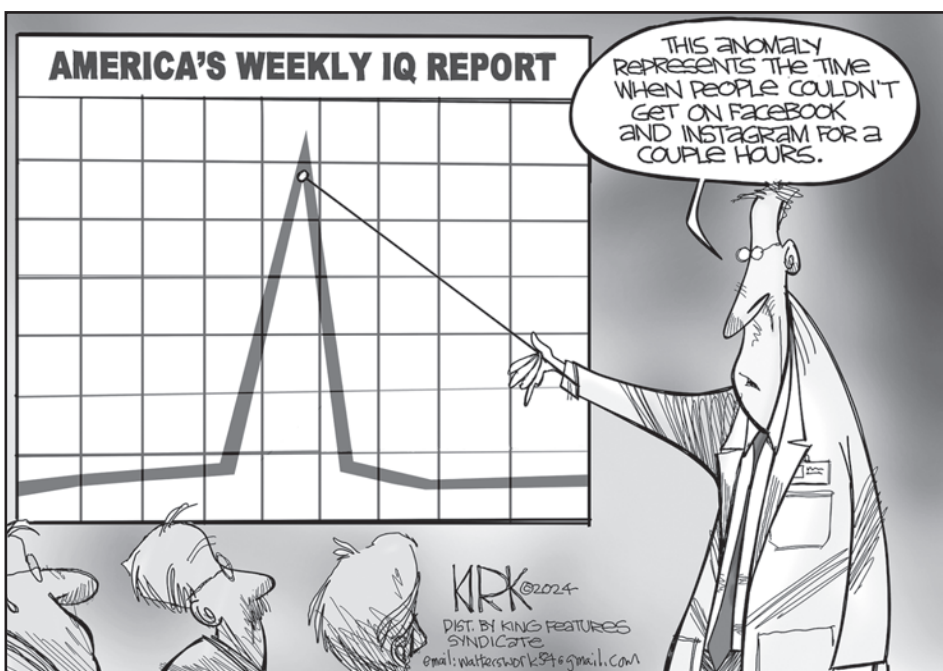
**559-645-5324**

**the ONLY locally owned  
propane company in the  
Madera Ranchos**

**GO  
HAWKS!**

**Join us in supporting our  
LIBERTY HIGH HAWKS  
this season and all year long  
VALLEY PROPANE  
"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"  
645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D  
Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center**

4/24



Guest Editorial

# The Anti-Israel Delusion

By Rich Lowry

Surely, you've heard of the brutal conflict that has displaced millions of people and killed more than 14,000, while aid convoys have trouble getting where they need to go? No? The Sudanese civil war hasn't been on your radar screen?

OK, but how about the crisis that has led to more than half the population of a country needing humanitarian assistance amid constant turmoil and war? You mean you haven't heard much about the conflict in Yemen lately either?

Perhaps, then, the war that has forced large numbers of people to flee the fighting multiple times, while as much as a quarter of the population is facing hunger or illness? You mean the fight between the military and armed opposition groups in Myanmar also isn't top of mind?

These are terrible situations that garner very little or almost no attention, in contrast to the overwhelming level of focus on Israel's war in Gaza, almost all of it through a hostile lens.

This is nothing new. The Jewish

state has long been singled out for opprobrium and held to a standard different than that of other societies. Some of this is justified. As an advanced Western-style democracy and ally of the United States, Israel should be better than whatever armed faction is preying on people in some Third World country -- and, indeed, Israel is better.

International organizations, the media and left-wing activists create exactly the opposite impression, though. Given the amount of time and energy devoted to condemning Israel, one would be forgiven for thinking that the world would be a much more peaceful, just place if only it weren't for the

*... the names and the players have changed, but the tendency - to single out Israel for special obloquy and lie about and obsess over the world's only Jewish state -- has remained the same.*

existence of a Jewish state. There are important distinctions between the war in Gaza and the other conflicts mentioned above. Israel isn't staging a coup or fighting a civil war. It was perfectly content -- indeed, in retrospect, much too content -- to live with a Gaza controlled by Hamas, until it was subjected to a heinous attack that no other society today or in any other period in history would tolerate.

Israel also fights differently. It seeks to honor the rules of war while operating in a dense urban environment against a merciless enemy that wants as many civilians to be killed as possible. In other conflicts around the world, there are no rules. In Myanmar, people aren't just fleeing the fighting, but "executions and killings, forced recruitment, torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and persecution," according to the European Union.

Nonetheless, it is Israel that is accused of committing genocide. The people braying about Israel's alleged crimes against humanity apparently never spare a thought for the Uyghurs, subject to a massive ongoing campaign of repression by the Chinese government; or the Rohingya people,

# The Independent

The Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing. All contents of this publication are copyright 2024, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

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

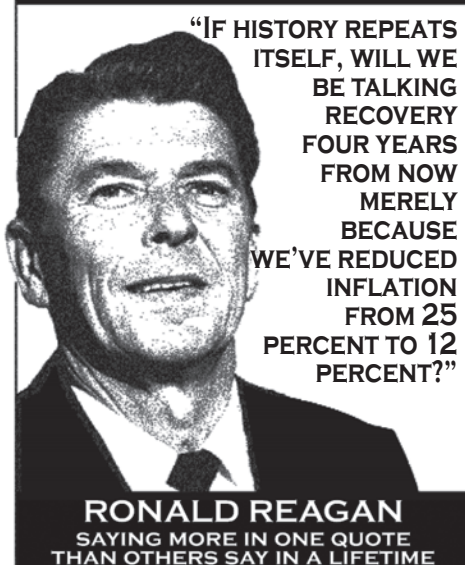
Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

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

www.TheRanchos.com

## THE RAY GUN

SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



Please see **LOWRY** on P. 9

# Common Sense?

My father and I have a lot in common as far as how we see the world and how much we wish people would use a little more common sense. We love to regale each other with our stories of the jerks and morons we encounter out in the wild. Some people just wander about without a second thought for anyone else or even a modicum of situational awareness. Others don't seem to have the sense the good Lord gave a goose.

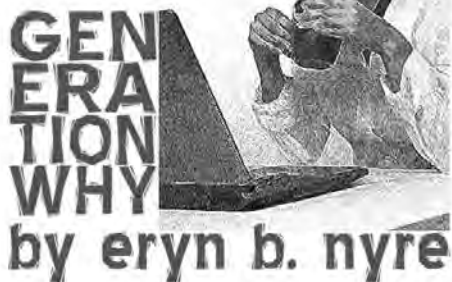
Pops called me the other day and told me a story about an interaction at Home Depot. Evidently the shelves were out of whatever it was he needed, I don't remember and it isn't pertinent to the story, but he noticed the very top shelf, way up toward the ceiling, had more of what he was looking for. He set about searching for an employee to help him since they

frown on customers scaling their shelves, and he stopped considering himself Spiderman at least a couple of decades ago.

It took him a while, but he finally found someone who

procured the necessary equipment and took to the sky get the items in question. From high above the guy called down and asked how many he needed. As my father watched the associate grab the two he requested and start to climb back down, Dad hollered up and suggested he bring down the entire box of stock since the shelves were empty. Evidently the look on the guy's face clearly said he didn't love the stage direction so, and perhaps it was out of spite, he didn't come down with any extra. I don't love being told how to do my job either, but then again, I wouldn't need to be told to bring down enough to restock the shelf. Of course, I'm not only old-fashioned but I've officially reached the age where I say things like, "Back in my day," and, "When I was young."

Needless to say, when dad



called to tell me about that interaction, we ended up in a lengthy conversation about work ethic and common sense. Once upon a time, I worked retail and food service. When customers told us that we were out of something, we brought enough to give it to them and replenish the shelves. Never mind it being good customer service, it would save me extra work in the future. One and done, baby. I was a lazy kid, you see, I only wanted to

*My father has been telling me since before I was able to understand language, "Eryn, it takes less time to do something right the first time than it does to have to redo it a second."*

do the job once. I'm not sure that the old saying, "Work smarter, not harder," is as popular these days as it was ... you know. I had something similar happen to me recently. I was getting some lunch and they were out of lids in the lobby. I stood at the counter for a while before they realized I actually needed something and wasn't just some weirdo staring at them for no reason. The guy who eventually helped me, who was most definitely not a kid, walked over to the drive-thru drink station and grabbed a single lid to give to me. Don't get me wrong, they were busy, but I was not the only person in the lobby who was filling up a large drink cup, not to mention the line of people placing their orders who might also purchase a soda that would require a lid. Each time someone would get his attention he would walk up to the counter, get told they needed a lid, then would make the same trek to the drive-thru to fulfill the request. One at a time.

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

Let us compare your insurance rates



call Mark Crawford • 559-225-1435  
CrawfordInsuranceGroup@yahoo.com  
25-Year Ranchos resident • 30+ years experience  
Lic. #OE52033 & 0800722

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

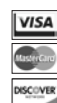
Look Good and Feel Great



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

**LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO**

**WE KNOW LOW CARBS!**  
**\$20 OFF**  
1st visit only



**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

**BEDROCK ENGINEERING**

A solid foundation for your next project

Developing Land Surveying and Civil Engineering Design Solutions with our clients and the local community since 2008

Civil Engineering



Land Surveying



Underground Locating



**559-645-4849**

BedRock Engineering  
10878 Highway 41  
Madera

www.BedRockEng.com

www.chadstrucking.com



**TRUCKING**  
CA #441782

- ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL •
- HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK •
- LANDSCAPE MATERIAL •
- FILL DIRT •
- TOP SOIL •
- HUMUS •
- BARK •
- CHIPS •
- RIVER ROCK •
- BASE ROCK •
- ROCK DUST •
- COBBLE STONES •
- DRIVEWAY BASE •
- CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

**559-479-4113**

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

It would have been less effort to just grab a sleeve and refill the lids, and by my calculations, he was going to run out of drive-thru lids at a rapid pace. I almost wanted to stick around and see how that situation would play out. When he ran out, would he go all the way to the back to bring out one lid at a time? It was interesting, but I had to get back to work.

This isn't about customer service. He was pleasant. It just didn't make sense. He was going about it the hard way. Perhaps he was putting off some unsavory task like cleaning the drains or the fryer trap, but if he thought he was saving time he was

sorely mistaken.

My father has been telling me since before I was able to understand language, "Eryn, it takes less time to do something right the first time than it does to have to redo it a second." He's not wrong. He rarely is – don't tell him I said that. It would have taken the guy at Home Depot less time to bring down the entire box of stock down at that moment rather than having to come back later, drag the ladder with him, and then climb up to grab the box he already had his hands on. That's just common sense. However, if common sense were truly common, no one would try to serve an entire lobby of people one lid at a time.



**Sago Key Palm Plantation!**  
 More than 20,000 Palms & Sagos in stock.  
 We also have a wide selection of Shade & Fruit trees.  
 call Juan and Maria at  
**559-268-6650**  
 6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

4/24



Stump Grinding  
 Trimming  
 Topping  
 Pruning  
 Shrubs  
 Removal

LIC. #1017900  
 BONDED &  
 INSURED

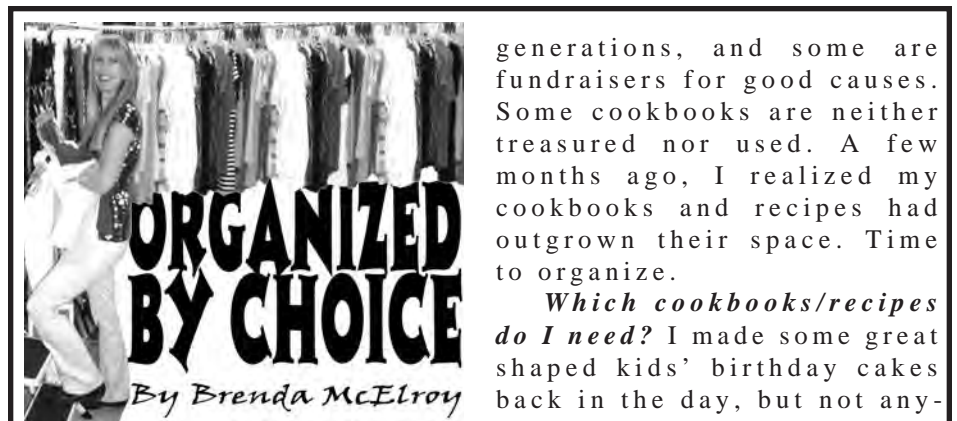
**GARCIA'S TREE SERVICE**  
**559-708-9152**

4/24

Let us help prepare your trees for summer!  
 call today and get **10% OFF!**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
 Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

**www.TheRanchos.com**  
**www.TheRanchos.com**



**ORGANIZED BY CHOICE**  
 By Brenda McElroy

**What's Cookin'?**

Shortly before my dear mother-in-law passed, I went over for a visit. I found her sitting on the couch thumbing through her recipe boxes. She was no longer cooking, but somehow decided it would be a good time to purge unused recipes.

An idea popped into my head. I told her secretly and asked her to pull out her favorites. Just days later, she left for her heavenly home. Gathering up her best-loved recipes

*Whether you're a gourmet or simply a "get-it-done" cook, you'll enjoy it more with well-organized recipes.*

I began preparing a gift, from her to the family.

I discovered Heritage-Cookbook.com where I uploaded photos of her handwritten recipe cards and some pictures of her in the kitchen. One is her standing at the stove in their first apartment — barefoot and pregnant. Another is making the famous McElroy French Toast at the Hume Lake cabin. I also included some handwritten Bible verses that spoke to her as she battled cancer. Recipes for life.

By Christmas I had 40 wrapped copies of "GG's Favorite Recipes" for the young and old. I explained that this was Grandma GG's gift to them and relished the tender moments watching them look through the pages.

Cookbooks are treasured for many reasons — some are beautiful works of art, some are passed down through

generations, and some are fundraisers for good causes. Some cookbooks are neither treasured nor used. A few months ago, I realized my cookbooks and recipes had outgrown their space. Time to organize.

**Which cookbooks/recipes do I need?** I made some great shaped kids' birthday cakes back in the day, but not anymore. I also don't need the Daniel Plan cookbook I bought at a yard sale and never used. Keep those you need for the specific stage of life you're in, and those that accommodate current dietary restrictions or preferences.

**Which do I use?** I use a couple crockpot cookbooks the most. Occasionally I refer to my good 'ole Betty Crocker, and I have several recipe cards that I use often.

I dismissed those that weren't earning their keep. For books that have only one or two used recipes, make copies of those pages and let the book go.

**Which do I love?** Those cookbooks represent people and places that are special to me — the one my mom made for my sister and I when we got married; the church cookbook from Corn, Oklahoma; the Holly Hobbie cookbook my high school friends created; and of course, Grandma GG's. Pair down to the ones you love most. If everything's precious, nothing's precious.

**How shall I store them?** There's no one right way to store recipes. I have a recipe box, a recipe binder and free-standing books in the two little cabinets above the stove. After purging and sorting, they were much more comfortable there.

You can store cookbooks on a pantry shelf, in a caddy

## Hamming Up Leftovers

(April 2014)

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

So now that Easter is over, and assuming you had ham, what do you do with the leftovers? You can only make so many ham sandwiches.

Did you know that April is National Grilled Cheese Month?

### Grilled Cheese and Ham Sandwich

A basic recipe for two sandwiches is:

Four slices of good sandwich bread – White, whole wheat, or even rye or sourdough.

Enough cheese for two sandwiches – your choice: cheddar, Swiss, provolone, or even brie.

Ham – as much as you want for the two sandwiches.

Heat a griddle or frying pan to medium heat.

(Years ago we had a waffle maker that you could take out the waffle plates and insert flat plates, and it became a wonderful sandwich maker – awesome!) Butter one side of two slices of bread. With the buttered side down (might use a piece of waxed paper so you won't mess up your counter) start building the sandwiches. Begin with some of the cheese, then the ham and more cheese. Butter the two remaining slices of bread on one side and place on the cheese, with the buttered side up. Place sandwiches in the heated pan and cook until bread is toasted on both sides, and cheese is oozing out the edges. This should take about 2 or 3 minutes. How about making this your signature sandwich – add a couple of slices fried bacon – sliced tomatoes – or even raw or grilled sliced sweet red onion.

### Ham and Potato Casserole



by Jean Briner

- 2 C Potatoes, cubed
- 2 C Ham, cubed
- 1 (15.25 ounce) whole kernel corn, drained
- ¼ C finely minced parsley
- ¼ C butter
- 1 T chopped onion
- 1/3 C all-purpose flour
- 1 ¾ C milk
- 1/8 tsp. Black Pepper
- 4 oz. cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large pot of boiling salted water, add the potatoes and cook until tender, but still firm – about 15 minutes. Drain and cool.

In large bowl mix potatoes, ham, corn and parsley – set aside. In sauce pan with medium heat, melt the butter, add the chopped onions and sauté for about 2 minutes

stir in the flour and blend well. Using a whisk, gradually add the milk and stir until smooth. Bring to a boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and pour over the

potato mixture. Stir to mix well.

Pour into greased 11x7 greased baking pan. Cover with foil and bake for 25 minutes. Remove foil and cover potatoes with the cheese and bake for another 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Do you like pasta without a rich tomato sauce?

### Pasta Carbonara

- 8 ounces pasta – spaghetti or linguine
  - 3 slices bacon, chopped
  - ½ pound ham, cubed
  - 1 small onion, chopped
  - 2 C sliced mushrooms
  - 3 T Marsala\*\*
  - 3 T Butter
  - Salt & pepper to taste
  - ¼ C grated parmesan
- Cook pasta according to package directions.

In a large skillet, brown the bacon. When almost crisp, add the

ham and cook 3 minutes. Using slotted spoon, remove the bacon and ham to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.

Add onions and mushrooms to pan and sauté for 3 minutes. Return bacon and ham to pan. Add Marsala to pan and simmer 2 minutes. Add butter and remove from heat.

After cooking the pasta, drain, reserving about a cup of the pasta water. Add drained pasta to skillet and adjust salt and pepper and toss. Sprinkle with the basil and parmesan cheese, and toss again. If you feel

it is a little too dry, add a little of the pasta water until it is the way you like it. Serve with additional parmesan.

\*\*If you don't have Marsala, you might use chicken stock as a substitute.

I hope and pray that your Easter was blessed for each of you and your families. After church we went over to my sister's for dinner. We had a wonderful time even though all the family wasn't able to be there. As family members grow up and move away, or have families of their own, that is to be expected.

# PET WASTE REMOVAL

**ThePoopFairies.com**




Yard Gate Safety • Sanitize/Deodorize • Waste Monitoring

## 559-GOT-POOP

(559-468-7667)

4/24

*Create a gift from the heart*

**Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts**

**559-824-6336**

37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

Appointment Only -- Give us a call!

Visit us at [www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com](http://www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com)  
and Facebook "What's Up in the Ranchos"  
Contact us for SPECIAL GROUP PARTIES  
NEVER a sitting fee • Walk-ins ALWAYS welcome



Arts & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Items

4/24

# Rodents destroying your property?

Over 15 years of experience  
Licensed by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Cal. Dept. of Pesticide Regulation  
Nuisance animal trapping

CALL FOR AN INSPECTION TODAY!

**ALLIED RODENT CONTROL • 312-5441**



4/24

# SAY YOU SAW IT IN

# the Independent

Click on "Local News" at



# Americanisms



“The question isn’t who is going to let me; it’s who is going to stop me.”

— *Ayn Rand*

© 2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Got Water?

*Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?  
Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?*

### CALL US!

**Bubba's Water Truck Service**  
call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

4/24

## COME TO OUR GRAND OPENING!

**OUR GRAND OPENING CONTINUES!**

CHECK OUT OUR SPECIAL PRICING

FULL GROCERY STORE · BUTCHER SHOP  
FULL SERVICE DELI · MON - SAT 10-7

YOUR SOURCE FOR UNIQUE CUTS OF MEAT

11156 HWY 41  
MADERA  
421-3046

4/24

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

atop the fridge, in a nearby hutch, or even in a kitchen drawer. Keep the ones you use most easily accessible.

A binder with pocket dividers works great for recipes you gather from magazines or print from the internet. Label the dividers — desserts, salads, main dishes, etc. Put recipes you want to try in the corresponding pocket. Once it’s been made and approved, slip it into a sleeve protector in the correct category.

*Any techy options? Yes!* OrganizeEat.com and RecipeKeeperOnline.com are just a couple of the many recipe apps available. Create a user-friendly digital cookbook by snapping photos of your favorites from cookbooks, recipe cards and magazines, importing recipes from websites or taking a screenshot of a web page. Create a shopping list or meal plan with a tap on the app.

Whether you’re a gourmet or simply a “get-it-done” cook, you’ll enjoy it more with well-organized recipes.

LOWRY cont. from P. 5

Myanmar; or the Baha’i in Iran, the Hazaras in Afghanistan or the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

There are all sorts of candidates for a list of the most oppressive countries in the world, from North Korea to Equatorial Guinea, from Turkmenistan to Venezuela, from Russia to China. Yet, practically all we hear about is Israel.

The old Soviet Union was long at the forefront of propagandizing against Israel, a cause readily taken up by the so-called non-aligned countries and the left around the world. This tendency has been rife with antisemitism and hypocrisy, exemplified back in the 1970s by the brutal tinpot dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin, denouncing Israel at

the United Nations.

Since then, the names and the players have changed, but the tendency -- to single out Israel for special obloquy and lie about and obsess over the world’s only Jewish state -- has remained the same.

A common lament in commentary about other conflicts is that they aren’t getting enough attention. An official with the World Food Programme lamented recently, “The people of Sudan have been forgotten.” The EU noted, “In a world of growing humanitarian emergencies and fleeting media attention, Myanmar is getting ignored.”

There’s a reason for that.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

© 2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God...*

JOB 8:11-13

© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
the Independent

*Senior Report*

# Looking Forward to Flatlanders Day in the Madera Ranchos

By *Melanie Williams*

Flatlander's Day is Saturday, May 18. It's a day of celebration and community spirit with lots of fun activities in the Madera Ranchos. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event with support from the Southeast Madera County business owners.

The Flatlander's Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Ruth Avenue and Road 36, then proceed south on Road 36 to Liberty High School. The parade main viewing area is by the stadium and Liberty High School. Local businesses and vendors are participating in the Flatlander's Day Fair at the Liberty High School Stadium parking lot. The Flatlander's Day Fair will feature music, art, local food trucks and custom craft vendors.

SEMCU is holding a Charity Yard Sale to support our local schools and non-profit organizations in the Madera Ranchos community. A Kite Flying Contest will be held from noon until 2 p.m. on the grass field behind the Flatlander's Day Craft Fair. Prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 will be presented for the best kite flyer and the best kite innovation.

Come and celebrate Flatlander's Day in the Madera Ranchos. Parking is available within the residential neighborhood to the east of Road 36.

The Monthly Sale at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. We had a great response from the community at our Monthly Sale in April. Many people came out, even with the rainy weather conditions, to look for treasured items at the Senior Center. Hopefully, the May Monthly Sale has great weather and pleasant temperatures for everyone as they walk through our Scout Garden, Treasure House and Boutique. Thank you to all the Ranchos community for your generous donations of plants and items for the Scout Garden, Treasure House and Boutique to support our local Senior Center.

Seniors, come and join us for the May Day Potluck and Game Night at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We have planned a night of good food, games and a guest speaker at our General Meeting during the potluck on Thursday, May 9 at 5 p.m. Our guest speaker is Gregory Reitz, a new up-and-coming realtor for the Madera Ranchos and Fresno area. Gregory made our beautiful Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Sign in the front of the property as an Eagle Scout project years ago. He will speak about how to prepare, stage and plan property improvements before selling a home in the local area. The May Day Potluck is a great opportunity for seniors to get to know other local seniors and have a night of good food and fun activities. Call and sign up for the May Day Potluck at 559-645-4864.

Chair Yoga is a new activity at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Desiree Heckman is a Ranchos resident who owns a

yoga studio in Clovis. She has graciously donated her time every other week on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. to teach seniors Chair Yoga at the Center. We've had many positive responses from her introductory classes. Any seniors interested in the Chair Yoga classes can call the Senior Center for more information about signing up.

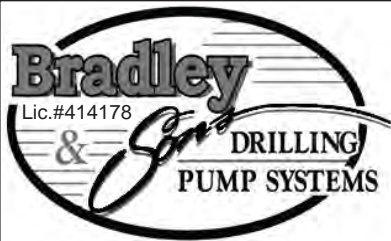
Another new activity is the Indian Pine Needle Basketry Class. Terry Killingsworth is leading our members of the appropriately named Ranchos/Hills Basket Cases in designing and weaving Indian pine needle baskets. We are all new to this class. There is still time to join the other "Basket Cases" and learn beginning basket weaving techniques together. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month. More class meetings might be added to the calendar in the future. Our next class is Tuesday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Brown Bag Day is Wednesday, May 22. Pick up your Brown Bag at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Participants must register with the Madera County Food Bank before picking up a Brown Bag. The Senior Center has applications for Brown Bag Day at the front desk.



*The late Nancy Palazzo, left, and Judy Sears at the Senior Center wearing custom crafted necklaces made by Nancy.*

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 17



**Bradley & Sons**  
Lic.#414178  
**DRILLING & PUMP SYSTEMS**

## DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

**Same Day Service**

*Family Owned Since 1976*

**674-1663**  
**36691 Ave. 12**  
**Madera Ranchos**

4/24

### Golden Valley Baptist Church

---

**Come join us on Wednesdays**  
**for our Life App Classes starting at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Classes available:**  
**Children, Pre-teen, Teen, Women and Adult.**

---

**Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.**  
**12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos**  
**559-645-1700**  
**Facebook: Golden Valley Baptist Church**

4/24

# Beaston Construction Inc.

General Contractor

LIC #923095

**Commercial • Residential • Custom Remodel  
Steel Buildings • Fire Restoration**

**Ken Beaston**

Cell 559-217-8811 BeastonConstructionInc@gmail.com

4/24

# Valley Well Drilling

Lic. #1099927

**Domestic Well, Agriculture Well  
Airlifting, Well Brushing, Swabbing  
Well Rehabilitation, Test Hole**

**559-307-9720 or 559-351-9624**

4/24

LICENSE #932435 **TIM DE MERA**  
Owner/CEO  
Madera Ranchos Resident

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT INC.**

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential  
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting  
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

4/24

**TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947**  
**WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM**

**Say you saw it in the Independent**

www.TheRanchos.com

## Sierra Shadows 4-H

By Mikayla Carr

On March 24, Sierra Shadows members excelled in poultry and rabbits at the Madera County Small Animal Expo. Congratulations to our poultry members: Landon Davis – level 2 medal; Brooke Davis – mini participation; Olivia Arsenault – mini participation; Artemus Arsenault – level 1 medal; and Samara Mohler – level 2. Congratulations to our rabbit members: Eva Phillips, Elecia Negrette, Abbi and Emmi Rosier, and Daisy Hodgdon – level 1; Emily Wallace, Jake Biesenthal – level 2; Annelise Crandall – level 3; Paisley and Lane Bower – mini participation. All members took a written test, skills (showmanship), breed identification and feed identification.

Sierra Shadows 2023-2021 vice president is Jamey Crandal. His job is to take over the meetings when the president is absent, to help and volunteer for events, to

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



be respectful toward all club members, and to be a leader. The Sierra Shadows vice president works really hard throughout the year, and we can't thank him enough for all his hard work. Speaking of vice president, Jamey Crandel held a canned food drive at one of our recent club meetings. He took all the food donated by members to the Madera County Food Bank. Our club works really hard with volunteering and helping the community, so if you ever see a Sierra Shadows 4-H member, tell them thank you for all their hard work.



All of the Sierra Shadows 4-H members that participated in the Madera County Small Animal Expo on March 24.

On Tuesday, April 9 we had our Sierra Shadows club meeting, and we had some amazing presentations. Scott Jackson, a local dog trainer, demonstrated his Loose Leash Obedience dog training to our

members. Taylor Ward and Lucy Lee had entertaining presentations on horse saddles. The meeting also included raffle prizes, games and upcoming events.

Our quote for this month is by Queen Elizabeth II: "When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future."

## Golden Oak 4-H

By Wyatt Morgan

On Sunday, March 24, Golden Oak 4-H Members participated in the Madera County Small Animal Expo Skills Day. Small Animal Expo is for smaller species of livestock and pets like rabbits, chickens and other poultry, dogs and pygmy goats. Small Animal Expo is a great way for members to learn more about different species of livestock and have some fun with their friends. And, at the end of the event, members find out if they have managed to earn a medal to be displayed on their 4-H hats for levels I, II, III or IV.

Members have been studying for this event for months and they were finally able to show their skills in their respective species. In addition to Skills Day, members also had to complete a test about one month ago on information ranging from anatomical parts identification, digestive system parts identification, diseases and treatments and common vocabulary relating to their species. On Skills Day, members have to complete a judging class, identify different feedstuffs, identify common tools for their species and – the highlight of



Golden Oak 4-H members, from left, Griffin Williams-Smith, Kaleb Zapata, Maddox Parker, Elizabeth Morgan, Sarah Morgan, Iris Garzon and Hunter Williams-Smith.

Please see 4-H on P. 17

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

### The 31st Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 31st Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 18 beginning at 10 a.m. and will showcase local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. This year it will be held at Liberty High at the Stadium. There's a food and crafts fair that will be held at the High School as well that will last into the afternoon.

An entry form for the parade is to the right and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are also available from the Chamber.

#### What are some reasons I should join the Chamber?

1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life where I live.

**Call and join the Chamber TODAY!**  
**559-645-4001**

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

# Golden Valley Chamber

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

## 2024 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 18, 2024 • \$20 Entry Fee

Group  Individual  Business

Group or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No  
Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):

- Horses (Single)  Horses (Group) Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- Band/Music Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Floats (Non-profit) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Floats (Business) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Floats (Other) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Children's Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Dance Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Single Entry (Children) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Single Entry (Adult) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_
- Novelty Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

Parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp! • Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m. • Parade route: Road 36 between Ardatth to Ave. 12 in front of Liberty High

*The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 6** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

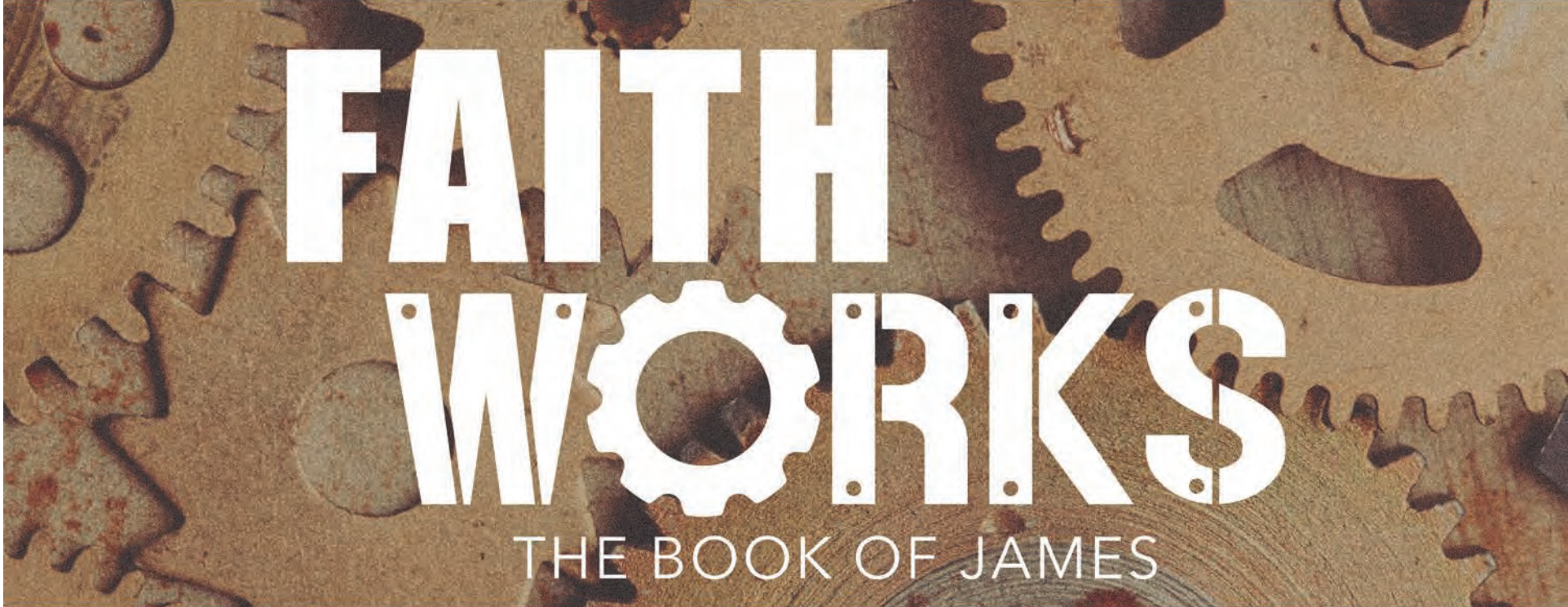
The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on May 8 and help plan the 31st Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Call us at 645-4001.

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

# FLIPSIDE *join us* SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

**WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH**  
FIND US ONLINE AND IN YOUR APP STORE FOR UPDATES ON EVENTS AND ALL OF OUR MINISTRIES



# FAITH WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

IN THE MAYWOOD CENTER | 37193 AVE 12 #3H MADERA, CA 93636 | INFO@ACTS176.COM



**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9 & 10:30 AM**  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE  
JR HIGH 2ND SERVICE

**YOUTH MIDWEEK SCHEDULE**  
JR HIGH | MONDAYS 7 - 8:30 PM  
HIGH SCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS 7 - 9 PM



# SEE YOU SUNDAY!

# SEMUCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## Madera Supervisors, GSA Board and Staff working on our water sustainability.

When it comes to water concerns in our County, it looks as if our Madera County Supervisors and Staff are really paying attention to our water needs. The Madera County water basin is divided and managed by several Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, or GSAs, among which are Madera Irrigation District, Chowchilla Water district, as well as Madera County (who is known as the "White Area" because the County's GSA is delineated on the maps in white). Madera County Supervisors are the Madera GSA Board and part of their job is to look after our sustained water availability.

At the March Madera's Supervisors meeting, after public hearings and ex-

hausting work by Staff, a decision on a "water recharge policy" took place by the Madera GSA board. Without going into all the outcome details, one important policy decision was made to the benefit of all in the "White Area" by allowing recharge of imported new water with recharge credit to the water importer/recharger account of allowable water use.

Now, if you purchase water that is not a part of our basin (new water) and meet all the new recharge policy edicts and qualifications, you may recharge such water and get credit for up to 75-90 percent of that water. The percentage of credited water will depend on the type of soil in which one may be recharging. We must note that one must build a recharge basin, pay for the water and have it wheeled to the basin (not a cheap proposition). Once the water gets recharged, the purchaser only gets credit for 75-90 percent of the water placed into the recharge basin. The County will also benefit from this new water since the rest stays in the basin for the benefit of all in the Madera County's GSA area.

Although most of the water used in the County is for agriculture, others need and use our basin's water. I was shown by staff that attention is being paid to

more than just water for growers, but also more opportunities have been provided for recharge water and credits to the rest of the inhabitants and businesses in the Madera GSA.

Thank you, Madera Supervisors and Staff.

### Upcoming Flatlanders Parade and Fair

As you may already know, on Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m. the Flatlanders Parade is coming back after a short hiatus. This year the parade will not travel along Avenue 12 due to traffic concerns. Instead, the parade will begin North of Liberty High School along Road 36, travel South and enter Liberty High School's parking lot so everyone may visit the floats and Fair. Everyone is encouraged to use caution while lining up on Road 36 along the curbs to enjoy the parade. Beach chairs are encouraged.

At the end of the parade route at the Liberty High parking lot, you will find the "Flatlanders Fair" which will feature food, music and booths with artwork as well as other useful goods. This year, SEMCU will also have "Yard Sale" booths with all sorts of donated items for sale and raise funds to benefit our schools, Senior Center, and U.S. Veterans. In addition, all donators and yard

sale buyers will receive a raffle ticket. The raffle will be held at noon with prizes for three winners.

SEMUCU Kite Flying Contest  
Our inaugural "Kite Flying Contest" will be held at liberty High School's back grass field from noon to 2 p.m. There will be three winners for the best kite innovation and the best flyer. First prize will be \$150; Second prize will be \$100; and Third prize will be \$50. Big or Small, everyone is encouraged to participate. The challenge is on!

Please join SEMCU in making a difference and improving our community. We invite our community members to participate in our initiative. We always welcome new board members from our community, together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMUCU meets only once a month for about an hour at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. You may attend virtually by going on your computer or phone to [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) for the link and simple instructions. You may also phone in by calling 669-900-6833 then enter ID# 83632424343 followed by code 854221.

SEMUCU is "By the Community, For the Community"



**TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?**

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

**Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.**

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815  
36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

4/24 Lic. #PLS 5815



Not everyone needs us ...  
But you might.

If you've been involved in a wreck, you know there's nothing worse. Will your car be like it was? Will it cost an arm and a leg to fix? Will it take forever? Call Caesar Dents. Estimates are always free, the work is impeccable and the price just might surprise you.

**Caesar Dents & Auto Body Repair**

1146 Barstow #G • Clovis  
559-797-2528  
Auto • Aircraft • Boats



4/24

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

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

# Turning On Your Lights Shouldn't Break The Bank



**Stop feeling trapped by your utility company and their ever increasing rates**

- **Fixed Monthly Costs** - Remove the fear of unpredictable energy costs with a consistent, monthly solar bill that you set!
- **Transparent Billing** - Stop paying outrageous hidden fees dumped on you by your utility company and only pay for the energy you use.
- **More money for the things you love** - Been putting off that beach house vacation or Caribbean cruise? With solar savings of up to 40%, you can afford the retreat you deserve.



## 559-978-7448

6081 N 1st Street • Suite 101 • Fresno • [info@solarbystellar.com](mailto:info@solarbystellar.com)

\$1,200 average first year savings • 5 Star rating on Google • Kuubix Master Dealer • FREE Estimate

4/24

*Kiwanis Korner*

# Kiwanis Changing of the Guard

By Sally Rowden

WOW! Our club year of 2023-2024 is almost ending and then new officers will lead our way for 2024-2025. Here are activities currently happening, those coming up and those just concluded.

We are earnestly working on The John Minney – Liberty High School Scholarship Fundraiser. Businesses and individuals have given generously. We are continuing the fundraiser through the end of May. You can find us at the Flatlander’s Day Parade & Fair on Saturday, May 18. We will have a surprise game booth plus a raffle.



Past President Ollia Ridge, left, and Jordan Rusalin, Liberty High FFA-Green and Gold Floral student, talk about flower arrangements available through the school.



Liberty High Key Club students were part of the crew that helped Kiwanis Club Fresno East clean up at Storyland in Roeding Park in Fresno on Saturday, April 6

The raffle gives you the chance to purchase tickets to win our First Prize: a John Deere 20” Dirt Bike, donated by Midland Tractor. Or the Second Prize, a handcrafted dinner bell created by Rod Chaney, Kiwanis Member. Then there’s the Third and Fourth Prizes: A Birdstone Winery Wine Tasting for 10 and an O’Reilly’s car care bucket. Thank you to each of these businesses for their giving. These prizes are on display at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce where you can also purchase raffle tickets. See Ollia Ridge at the Chamber on Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are six for \$5. You can also email Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com for tickets.

A heartfelt thank you must go out to the folks that have currently given monetarily to the scholarship fundraiser. That includes the following: Britz Farming Corporation, Bubba Water Truck Service, Inc., Bob and Leslie Carella, Chevron-Avenue 12, Golden Valley Baptist Church, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, John Minney, NAPA Auto Parts-C&S Auto Ag and Truck Parts Inc., Pistoresi Ambulance, Trigo, and Wight Water Pool Service and Supplies.

Our March guest speaker was Jordan Rusalin from Liberty High School FFA - Green and Gold Floral Shop. She gave a fantastic PowerPoint presentation highlighting the LHS Floral Design students’ creativity in floral arrangements. Plus, informing us of two subscription offers available to the community. There is a monthly floral arrangement subscription at \$280 annually, or the second is the opportunity to subscribe to major holiday arrangements at \$200 annually. There are different payment options and other purchasing opportunities. Very accommodating. A great way to help support these floral design students in their on-going “learning by doing.” Contact Mrs. Katie Mellott - AG Teacher, FFA Adviser, or Ms. Jewlia Winter – AG

### Madera Ranchos Kiwanis

@ranchoskiwanis



venmo

Please see **KIWANIS** on P. 17

# Real Estate



“Real estate is my life! I make your real estate dreams a reality.”



MARIA FOTOPOULOS  
REALTOR

559-250-6740 • [mfotorealtor@gmail.com](mailto:mfotorealtor@gmail.com)

Integrity, Dedication, Results

[www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto](http://www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto) • DRE #01454566

“Put my experience, knowledge, service and professionalism to work for you.”

4/24



TIME FOR A HOME CHANGE?

## LET ME HELP YOU!

ANA MARIE SHERWOOD, REALTOR®

559-903-0855

[ASHERWOOD@GUARANTEE.COM](mailto:ASHERWOOD@GUARANTEE.COM)

DRE LIC. #01894032



GUARANTEE  
REAL ESTATE  
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

4/24

The Luxury Home Realtor

an expert in your area!

559-790-4729

[Folland@comcast.net](mailto:Folland@comcast.net)

[TheLuxuryHomeRealtor.com](http://TheLuxuryHomeRealtor.com)



Truly Local, Truly Expert

Available for all your Real Estate and investment needs

Lourie Folland

559-790-4729

[Folland@comcast.net](mailto:Folland@comcast.net)

BRE #01316346

4/24

What's Happening  
93636

Your Neighbors & Real Estate Experts

Thinking of buying or selling a home?  
Don't know where to start?  
Call or contact us.

WE GOT YOU!

The best time to buy a house?

When you're ready.

And when you're ready

WE GOT YOU!



Mary Avigliano  
559-367-7264

[mary@ironkeyrealestate.com](mailto:mary@ironkeyrealestate.com)  
REALTOR® • DRE 02093132



Jessica Gonzales  
559-408-1784

[jess@ironkeyrealestate.com](mailto:jess@ironkeyrealestate.com)  
REALTOR® • DRE 02136161

4/24



**KIWANIS** cont. from P. 16

Teacher at Liberty High School for more information.

We also saw in March the winning ticket of our Spring Raffle of the sweet bunny goodies and the Squishmallow going to Vick Farms. Congratulations. Hope you enjoyed it and thank you for your endless support.

With the Kiwanis Club of Fresno East, we spruced up the one and only Storyland on Saturday, April 6. The Liberty High School Kiwanis Key Club students assisted too. Those students included Ivan Aguilar, Aaron Batista, Genesis Forshee, Nathan Nguyen and Kendal Patlan. I was very impressed with the work ethic of each of these students. As we all know, yard-

work is not the greatest job. These five didn't shy away. Parents be proud.

Up and coming events for May are the Kiwanis Hope of America Awards at the Ranchos Middle School and the Character Counts Bicycle Giveaways at our three elementary schools: Sierra View, Stone Creek and Webster. Plus, the John Minney – LHS – Scholarships as shared above. We will be helping the Kiwanis Club of Fresno with the Special Olympics by providing lunches to students during their Bocce Ball Tournament.

*"Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration."* – Thomas A. Edison

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

**SENIORS** cont. from P. 10

If you are new to the Senior Center,

come by and pick up our monthly calendar filled with information about each activity and event. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center will be closed for the observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27.

With a heart of sympathy, the Senior Center had a founding member pass away recently.

Nancy Palazzo had such a sweet spirit when

joyfully sharing her creativity in jewelry making classes with many of our local seniors. She donated her time and skills in such a generous way for many dedicated years at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Many of our members have a necklace or other jewelry from her craft collection and will fondly remember her beautiful smile and giving heart.

Quote for May: *"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."* – Emily Brontë

**4-H** cont. from P. 11

the day – show off their showmanship skills. If the member

scores enough points between the test and the Skills Day, they will receive a medal for their hat.

Members participate in one level per year. If you pass your level that year, the next year you take a more complicated test and complete more skills for the next level. Once a member passes Level IV, the member has "leveled out" of that particular species and can now assist younger members in preparing for the test and completing skills day.

Golden Oak 4-H had seven participants. Hunter Williams-

Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith leveled out of poultry last year and assisted younger members from around the county this year. Iris Garzon and Kaleb Zapata participated in poultry Skills Day as mini members and received certificates of completion. Elizabeth Morgan participated in pygmy goat Skills Day as a mini member and received her certificate of completion. Maddox Parker participated in Level II poultry and medaled. He will now be working toward Level III poultry next year. Sarah Morgan participated in Level IV rabbit and medaled. She can now assist younger members next year in the county in rabbit.

Congratulations to all of our hard-working members who participated in Small Animal Expo this year.



1. **Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire** (PG-13) Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon
2. **Dune: Part Two** (PG-13) Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya
3. **Kung Fu Panda 4** (PG) Jack Black, Awkwafina
4. **Immaculate** (R) Sydney Sweeney, Álvaro Morte
5. **Arthur the King** (PG-13) Mark Wahlberg, Simu Liu
6. **Late Night with the Devil** (R) David Dastmalchian, Laura Gordon
7. **Imaginary** (PG-13) DeWanda Wise, Taegen Burns
8. **Love Lies Bleeding** (R) Anna Baryshnikov, Kristen Stewart
9. **Cabrini** (PG-13) Cristiana Dell'Anna, John Lithgow
10. **Bob Marley: One Love** (PG-13) Kingsley Ben-Adir, Lashana Lynch

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

- The Aztec death whistle produces a horrifying sound sometimes described as "the scream of a thousand corpses."

- There's a territory in Costa Rica called Territorio de Zaguates, or Land of the Strays, which is basically a huge, no-kill dog shelter where one can hike for free with the canines.

- And while we're on the subject of dogs: "Dogfooding" is the term for using a company's product to gain the trust of customers. It's said a dog food company president ate a can of the firm's food in a shareholders meeting to demonstrate that "if it's good for me, it's good for your dog." We'll take his word for it, thank you.

- The fertilizer used by the tobacco industry is radioactive.

- In 1970, actor Bill Murray joked to a fellow airline passenger that he had two bombs in his bag. The jest backfired when U.S. marshals searched his luggage, discovered \$20,000 worth of marijuana, and arrested him.

- De-scented skunks make great pets, similar to ferrets. They're extremely docile and can even learn tricks and be called by name.

- Louis Chevrolet died bankrupt and poor working as a mechanic for the company he started.

Thought for the Day: *"Don't spend time beating on a wall, hoping to turn it into a door."* -- Coco Chanel

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

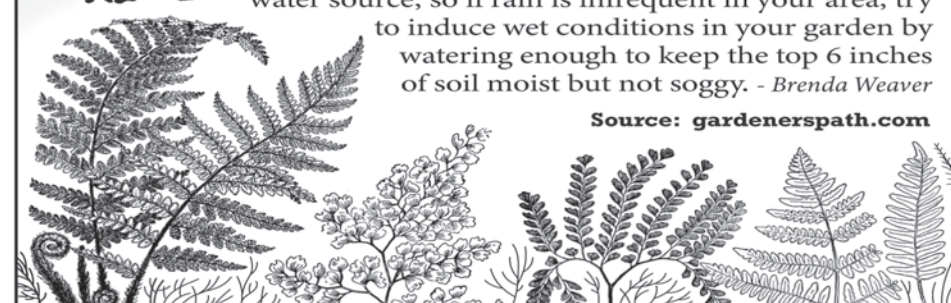
## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

## The Garden Bug

**Ferns** generally prefer soil that is more acidic than alkaline, with lots of decaying organic matter and filtered light. Ferns prefer a highly moist environment, such as in a wetlands or along a water source, so if rain is infrequent in your area, try to induce wet conditions in your garden by watering enough to keep the top 6 inches of soil moist but not soggy. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [gardenerspath.com](http://gardenerspath.com)



© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006)

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

**Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory**

**CHANEY'S**  
  
 Lic. #899496  
**Bobcat Service**  
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •  
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call **Beau**  
**559-301-1613**

**CLARK'S**  
  
 559-645-1578  
**General & Custom Auto Service & Repairs**  
**559-645-1578**  
**PERFORMANCE**

**Unlimited Concrete**  
 Lic. #1042108  
  
 DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
 call **Jose Lopez**  
**559-779-0401**

**Mike's Country Clippers Barber Shop**  
**HAIRCUTS \$16**  
 Seniors Thursdays ONLY \$13!  
**439-2004**  
**37184 AVE. 12 #104**  
 (behind Pizza Factory)

**NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS**  
**All Makes & Models**  
**J.H. Sanders Sales & Leasing**  
**822-4500**  
**41453 Ave. 14 1/2**  
**Madera Ranchos**  
**www.jhsanders.com**

**Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds!**  
  
**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**  
 Quick, Fast! Results CALL NOW!  
**224-6744**  
**Lose Weight NOW!**

**Bradley & Son**  
 Lic. 414178  
**DRILLING & PUMP SYSTEMS**  
**674-1663**  
*same day service*

**Put The Independent to work for you.**  
**CALL 645-0634**  
**Today!**

**BEDROCK ENGINEERING**  
 A solid foundation for your next project  
 Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting  
**INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!**  
 For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!  
 10878 HWY 41 • 559-645-4849  
 www.bedrockeng.com

**TOUCH OF GREEN LANDSCAPE**  
 CA LIC. #934774  
*commercial, residential and industrial landscaping*  
 call **559-242-6352**  
 info@TouchOfGreenLandscape.us

**TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?**  
  
 Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely).  
 Lic. #PLS 5815  
**Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.**  
 645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815

**NORTHWEST PEDIATRIC Medical Group**  
 Quality Pediatric Care Since 1995  
**We're Accepting NEW Patients**  
*"Right off of Highway 41 at Friant."*  
**7355 N. Palm #100 Fresno**  
**559-271-6302**  
 NorthwestPediatricMedicalGroup.com

**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
 Lic. # B0008113  
**Landscaping & Gardening Services**  
 Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control  
 Lawn & garden service • Maintenance  
 Weekly & monthly service (not a licensed contractor)  
 call **Mag Anaya Jr.**  
**559-974-1357**  
 Rancho Resident

**BUBBA'S WATER TRUCK SERVICE**  
  
 We Fill Holding Tanks Swimming Pools  
 Potable Water Dust Control  
 Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley  
 Call Gina at 559-289-3401  
 email BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

**MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR**  
  
 • Weekly Service  
 • Equipment  
 • Supplies  
 • Residential  
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial  
 • Locally Owned  
 251-2514 351-1605 645-4799  
 office cell after 5 p.m.

**SEMCU**  
**"For the community, by the community."**  
**559-363-9095**  
 3rd Tuesday of the month • 6 p.m.  
 37398 Berkshire Dr. • Rancho Library

**VALLEY PROPANE**  
  
*"Service you can trust, prices you can afford."*  
**645-5324**  
**The ONLY locally owned propane company in the Rancho**

**LANDSCAPE MATERIAL**  
 SAND & GRAVEL • CRUSHED ROCK  
 FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK  
 CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK  
 ROCK DUST • COBBLESTONES  
 DRIVEWAY BASE  
 CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP  
  
**559-479-4113**  
 CA #441782 • www.chadstrucking.com

**Aleman's Painting**  
  
 SINCE 1980  
 Interior & Exterior  
 Specializing in Repaints  
 Rental, Residential & Commercial  
 Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal  
 Color Matching  
 BONDED & INSURED LIC. #589140  
**559-974-2268**

**Get Involved!**  
  
**645-4001**  
 2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.  
 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

**FJIPSIDE join us**  
 SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM  
**559-481-6875**  
**37193 Ave. 12 #3H Madera Ranchos**  
 LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM  
**WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH**  
 info@acts176.com  
 SEE YOU SUNDAY!

**"We've got your back"**  
 D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing  
 Sports Physicals only \$35!  
  
**HANEY CHIROPRACTIC & rehabilitation center**  
**660-5262**  
**36754 AVE. 12 • Madera Ranchos**

*Create a gift from the heart*  
  
 Rancho's Crafters Studio  
**Artis & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Items**  
**Rancho's Crafters' Studio & Gifts**  
**559-824-6336**  
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

**for MORE sales tomorrow, call**  
  
**RANDY BAILEY**  
**Today!**  
**(559) 645-0634**  
**The Independent**

# SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family who love the Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in Southeast Madera County?

## SUBSCRIBE!

to the Independent  
local news • local events • local happenings  
editorial • games • real estate • columns

### The Independent

645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com

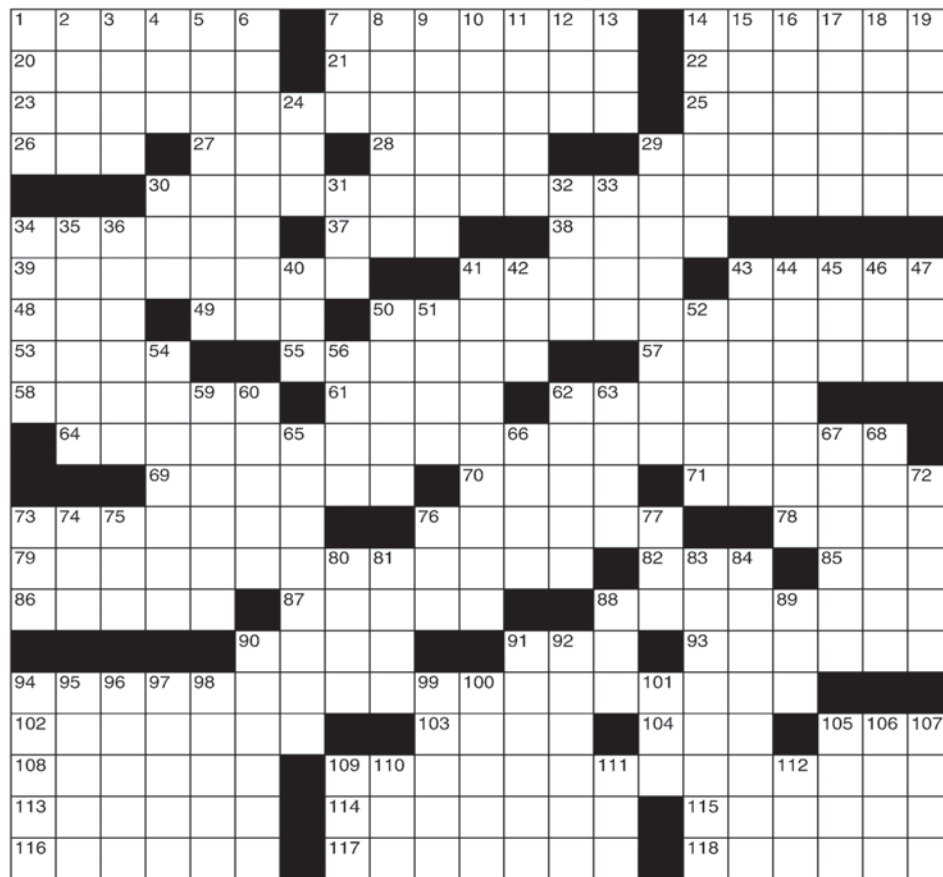


37167 Ave. 12, #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment: \$20  Cash  Check  Credit Card  Bill Me   
The Independent, 37167 Ave. 12, #5C • Madera, CA 93636 Fax: 645-4002

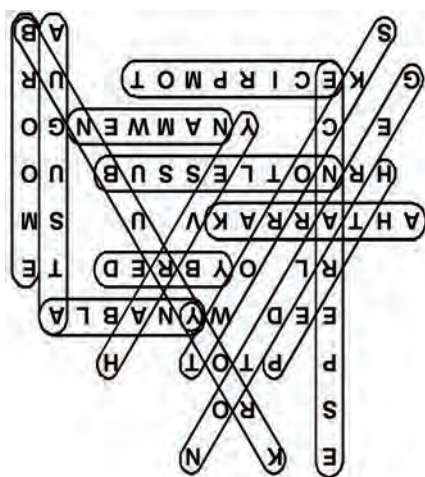
# Super Crossword



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

ANSWERS

06	1	1	1
=	=	=	=
13	9	3	+
x	÷	÷	÷
20	4	2	-
7	-	-	-
+	-	-	-
18	6	5	-
8	-	5	-



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

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Theater district
  - 7 Butcher's cleaver
  - 14 Winter melon variety
  - 20 Replacing, with "of"
  - 21 Privy person
  - 22 Ill-willed sorts
  - 23 Arranged cheddar brands in order of sharpness?
  - 25 Arctic jacket
  - 26 Capitol fig.
  - 27 Collectible cartoon frame
  - 28 Per each unit
  - 29 Set to move forward, as a car
  - 30 Boldly courageous after January 1?
  - 34 Second shoot of a scene
  - 37 Nevertheless
  - 38 "— -daisy!"
  - 39 Paleolithic period
  - 41 Letter-shaped track in metalworking
  - 43 Attach, as to a lapel
  - 48 Pre-TiVo machine
  - 49 — Lanka
  - 50 Comparable in humility to one particular sorority member?
  - 53 Quick glance
  - 55 Not durable
  - 57 Groups of four
  - 58 Underscore
  - 61 Law school beginner
  - 62 Think up
  - 64 Big Steinway played by your father's father?
  - 69 Condo policy about animals
  - 70 Dime, e.g.
  - 71 Passover feasts
  - 73 Canonized seventh-cen. pope
  - 76 Hotel bar
  - 78 Tug sharply
  - 79 Wrapping a wound on the noggin?
  - 82 Sit-up targets
  - 85 Chou En- — for OutKast
  - 87 Artist's stand
  - 88 Raconteur's offering
  - 90 "... and — it all over again!"
  - 91 Young boy
  - 93 Complained petulantly
  - 94 Lion's hunting recollections?
  - 102 River in central Jersey
  - 103 Certain shade provider
  - 104 Certain shade provider
  - 105 Chinese chairman
  - 108 More asinine
  - 109 Reversible fabric used during operations?
  - 113 Rich, filled pastry
  - 114 Daughter on "Bewitched"
  - 115 And others, to Caesar
  - 116 Rages
  - 117 — & Gamble
  - 118 Confirm officially
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Large trucks
  - 2 Apropos of
  - 3 Ladd or Alda
  - 4 Pot cover
  - 5 Petit four and Sally Lunn
  - 6 Piercing spot, often
  - 7 Prefix with air
  - 8 Coop up
  - 9 Fireplace receptacle
  - 10 Secure with string, say
  - 11 Skilled
  - 12 Ballot marks
  - 13 Afore
  - 14 Lon of old horror films
  - 15 Classic root beer brand
  - 16 Raconteur's offering
  - 17 Eagle's nest
  - 18 Cry to a prima donna
  - 19 Interrogator
  - 24 Part of REO
  - 29 Put into office
  - 30 Ex-veep Quayle
  - 31 "Science Guy" Bill
  - 32 Island dance
  - 33 Heroic poetry
  - 34 Answers an evite, e.g.
  - 35 "And so on and so on": Abbr.
  - 36 Bullfight hero
  - 40 PC image file
  - 41 High-voltage transformer
  - 42 Cloudland
  - 43 Peppermint — (York treat)
  - 44 "Bring it on!"
  - 45 Nuggets' org.
  - 46 Unusual
  - 47 "Stillmatic" rapper
  - 50 Prized Chinese vases
  - 51 The "E" of FEMA: Abbr.
  - 52 Big jumps
  - 54 Eisenhower's successor
  - 56 Politico Trent
  - 59 Floor-scrubbing robot brand
  - 60 Old photo tint
  - 62 Carding at a club, e.g.
  - 63 "Well, shoot!"
  - 65 Held back
  - 66 Adjective follower, often
  - 67 Comedian Kevin
  - 68 Very fancy
  - 72 Did the slopes
  - 73 "Quit talking!"
  - 74 No-frills shirt
  - 75 Set (down)
  - 76 Bigger than med.
  - 77 Suffix with Ecuador
  - 80 Groove for receiving the end of a board
  - 81 Not worth — (valueless)
  - 83 Perplex
  - 84 Structured frameworks
  - 88 Big fuss
  - 89 Belittle, informally
  - 90 Ill-fated flier of myth
  - 91 Actor Joseph Gordon- —
  - 92 "Cocoon" co-star Don
  - 94 Bluenoses
  - 95 Charged toward
  - 96 Poet's Muse
  - 97 Casual eatery
  - 98 Best players
  - 99 — -Croatian
  - 100 Sorcery
  - 101 Family mem.
  - 105 African nation
  - 106 "Not likely!"
  - 107 Thumbs-up
  - 109 Motor oil additive brand
  - 110 Nasser's fed.
  - 111 River of Bern
  - 112 Yoga surface

# Say you saw it in the Independent

# Classified

## Carpet Cleaning

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery** - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Golden Valley Chamber member. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

## Chimney Sweep

**Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy**- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents.

**REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY! Call 559-908-9332.**

## Exterminator

**CSI Exterminators** - "If you've got a pest, call the best!" Free estimates. **Call 559-293-1779.**

## FREE

**FREE! Firewood and Agave plant. Call Carol at 232-9624.**

## Gutter Services

**The Gutter Doctor** specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor. Repair Maintenance. 26 years working in the area. **Call 559-908-0759.**

## Housecleaning

**Over 40 yrs of experience - References available** - Lupe's House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, con-

struction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. Call either of our LOCAL numbers: 559-710-0692 or 650-771-2915.**

## Property Clean Up

**Property clean up, landscape maintenance and tree trimming** - FREE ESTIMATES. Professional and reliable. **Call Eric at 559-903-3757.**

## Recyclables Pick Up

**KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLING PICKUP** - AmericanMade Direct/Kids4recycling offers free pickup of newspaper, shredded paper, all household plastic, glass, aluminum and tin cans (containers **DON'T** need to be CRV). Metal haul away and cleanups available also! 80% return back to community! **Call Dianna at 559-999-6832.**

## Tractor/Trenching Services

**BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES** - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. **Call John at 908-1066.**

## Window Cleaning Services

**Most windows start at \$5 and up - inside/out** - Screen, track, sills. Remove hard water stains on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723 - Free estimates.**

• It's tough to eat home-cooked meals as a single eater. Most recipes are geared for multiple portions, and you probably don't want to eat the same thing for five days straight. Try this: Get together with some friends and have a potluck. Each guest brings an entree and at least two side dishes, in extra-large portions, and his or her own leftovers containers. Split the food up amongst the guests, packaged as meals. Everyone can cook once and eat for a week.



- "If your baby gets very rashy on her backside, try to give her some 'air time' each day. Just an hour a day with no diaper has made a big difference in my baby girl's rash." -- H.P. in Illinois
- "Leftover dry erase calendars make good bingo card bases. Cut out a five by five section, and use a permanent marker to fill the squares with small random numbers. Make matching call cards from the unused squares. Place the call cards in a sandwich baggie and the rest in a larger plastic bag. Include a couple dry erase markers, and you have a set that can be used anywhere (ours is in the car) over and over again." -- E.W. and S.D. in Oregon
- Did you have too much summer fun last year? Be ready to soothe that sunkissed skin this year with frozen aloe vera. Use an ice-cube tray to freeze aloe vera gel, and let the soothing begin!
- Control kids' artwork with a digital photo album. Take photos of the best pictures of the month, then arrange them in a scrapbook template and print them out. Keep the pages in a three-ring binder. Label with the child's name.

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

**TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634**

## 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		= 18
-		-		+	
	-		x		= 20
÷		÷		x	
	+		+		= 13
=		=		=	
1		1		90	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

©2024 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

**STOP THE PAIN!**  
**"We've got your back"**



**D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing**  
**Sports Physicals only \$35!**



**36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262**

4/24

Click on "Local News" at

Just Like Cats & Dogs

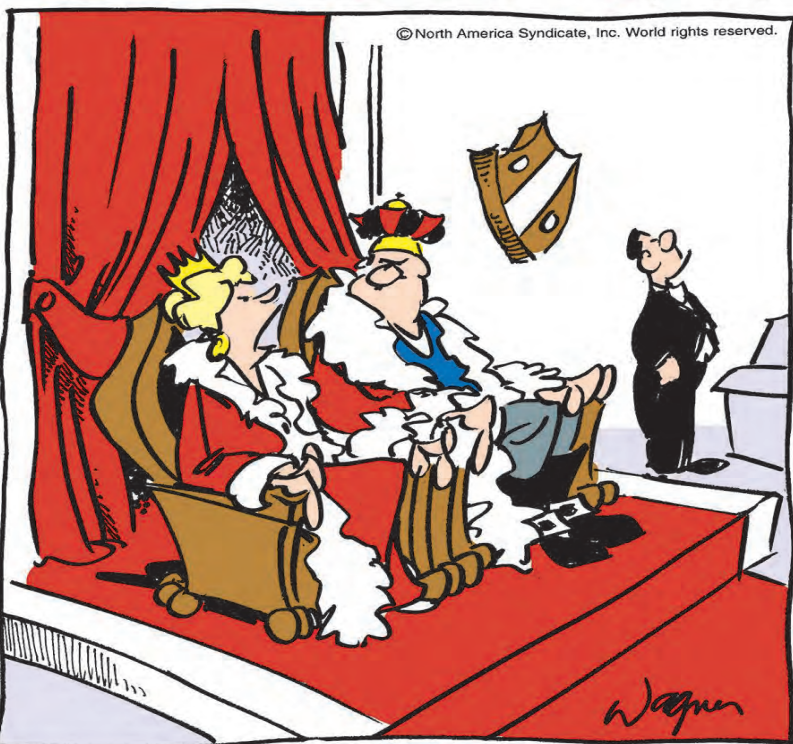
by Dave T. Phipps



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

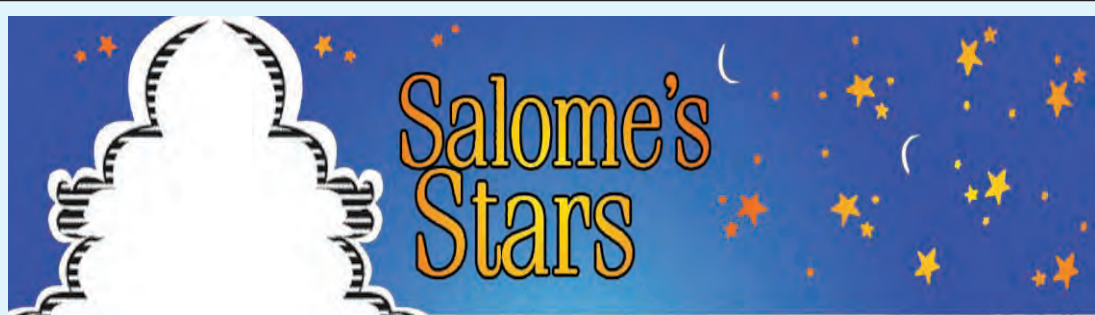
ADS  
LOGOS  
PR  
MARKETING  
645-0634

**GRIN and BEAR IT** Wagner



©North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

www.TheRanchos.com



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You're doing better on a flexibility issue, but you still need to loosen up a bit to show that you can be less judgmental and more understanding about certain sensitive matters.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your personal aspect continues to dominate this week, but try to make time to deal with important career-linked matters as well. A change of plans might occur by the weekend.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Excuses are not really needed for much of the confusion occurring this week. However, explanations from all parties could help in working things out to everyone's satisfaction.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A surprising (but pleasant) recent turn of events continues to develop positive aspects. But be prepared for a bit of a jolt on another issue that needs attention.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Creating a fuss might bring you the attention that you want. But are you prepared for all the explaining you'd have to do? Better to use more subtle ways to make your bid.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) With education continuing to be a strong factor this week, this could be the time to start learning some new skills that can later be applied to a bid for a potential career move.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might do well to reconsider some of your current priorities before you get so deeply involved in one project that you neglect meeting the deadline on another.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) With an important decision looming, you need to be careful about the information you're getting. Half-truths are essentially useless. Get the full story before you act.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Find out what everyone's role is expected to be before accepting a workplace proposal. Getting all the facts now could prevent serious problems later on.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A flexible position on a workplace matter could be the best course to follow during the next several days. A personal issue also benefits from an open-minded approach.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Involving too many people in your workplace problem can backfire. Remember: Allegiances can shift. Ask trusted colleagues for advice, but don't ask them to take sides.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Before submitting your suggestions, take more time to sharpen the points that you want to make. The clearer the presentation, the more of a chance it has to get approved when submitted.

**Born this Week**

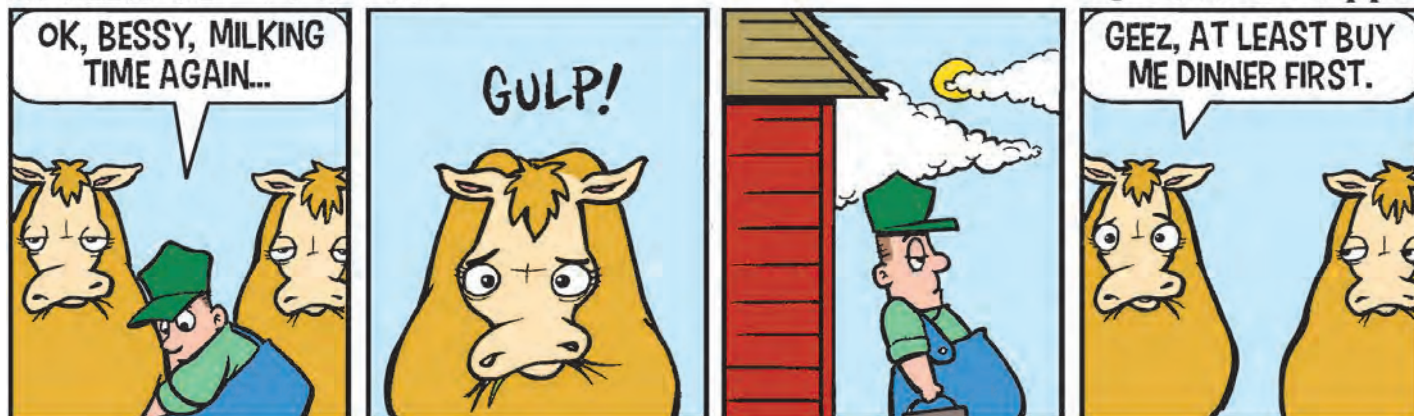
*Your clear sense of who you are gives you the confidence you need for tackling difficult situations.*

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



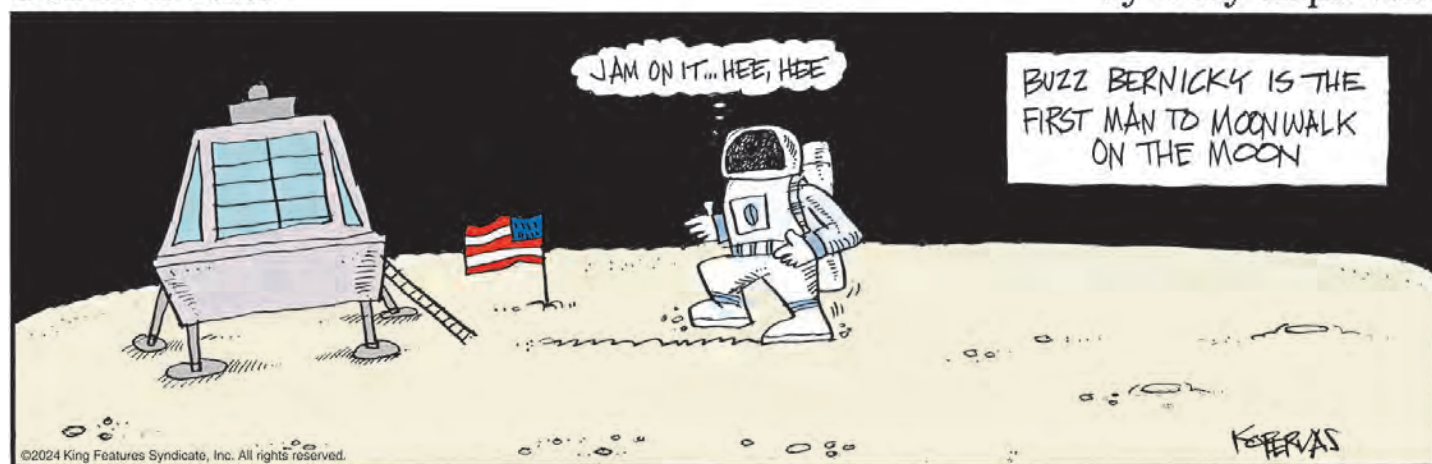
# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



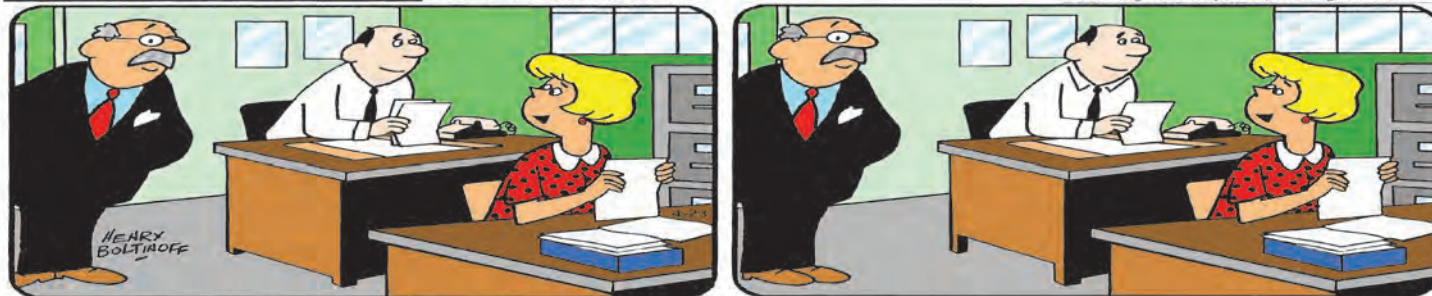
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Paper is missing. 2. Foot is missing. 3. Collar is added. 4. Phone is added. 5. Desk legs are longer. 6. Man is standing straighter.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2024 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

## The Independent

# CALL 645-0634

# MAGIC MAZE ● PLACES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: LASSIE'S BREED

- Albany
- Augusta
- Broome
- Bunbury
- Busselton
- Derby
- Esperance
- Geraldton
- Harvey
- Karratha
- Newman
- Perth
- Tom Price
- Two Rocks
- York

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

# FUN PAGES

# SEMUCU

south east madera county united

## FLATLANDER'S DAY PARADE & FAIR SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 10am

The parade will start along Road 36 and Ardath moving south toward Ave 12 and end up at Liberty High School, where the Fair will take place. The Fair will include food, Music, Arts and Crafts booths, a Yard Sale to benefit our Schools, Seniors Center and the U.S. Veterans, as well as other interesting and entertaining presenters.

The event is a community function and the public is invited to line Road 36 with chairs and cheer for the passing floats and participants.

**KITE-FLYING CONTEST** after parade @ Noon  
PRIZES for **BEST FLYERS & BEST INNOVATIVE KITES**  
**\$150 • \$100 • \$50**

The Kite Flying Contest will take place at the back grass field of Liberty High School, starting sharp at Noon & ending at 2pm.

There will be three winners chosen for **best flyer/best kite innovation**. Prizes: \$150, \$100, \$50  
All families and individuals are invited to participate. Bring your own kite!

**DONATE ITEMS and GET A TAX DEDUCTION**  
make Spring Cleaning PAY while helping our community

**DROP OFF YOUR DONATED ITEMS** at VERLAINE'S at 37101 AVENUE 12, MADERA RANCHOS or  
**CALL SEMCU TO ARRANGE for A PICKUP** AT 559-363-9095

SEMUCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, May 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  
by **phone**: 669-900-6833  
& enter meeting ID#: 836-3242-4343 with access code 854-221

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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

**FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**