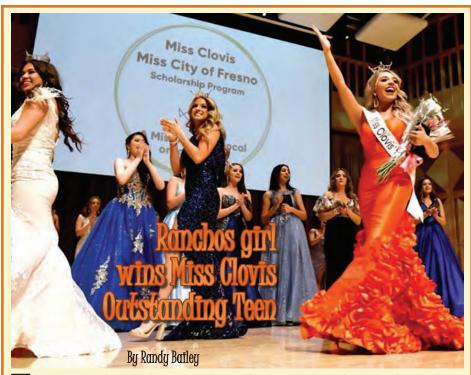


Volume 18 Issue 11 2022

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢





he newest Miss Clovis Outstanding Teen was not only a "Heavenly" choice, but she has a Madera Ranchos connection as well.

Heavenly Carrillo is a Ranchos resident who attended Webster Elementary from kindergarten through sixth grade and then moved on to Ranchos Middle School before opting to attend high school at San Joaquin Memorial in Fresno, where she is now a junior.

Her victory on Nov. 12 brought her a \$500 scholarship in addition to the title. She was also the winner of an on-stage question and evening gown competition that earned her an additional scholarship of \$250. As a participant in the Miss America-sponsored event, all candidates must have a "platform" that they represent. Heavenly's platform was against bullying and stressed mental illness and getting kids help. For her talent competition, Heavenly performed a sign language and dance combination routine in addition to winning "Best Interview."

The event was held at the Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall in Fresno under the auspices of the Miss California Organization which is part of the Miss America Organization. The organizations stress that their objective is to advance the creation, promotion and support of educational, achievement and community service opportunities for young California women. Their programs stress individuality, personal development, communication skills and physical fitness. The organizations award millions in cash and in-kind scholarships annually.

Heavenly will now work with local organizations to help support younger generations and represent Clovis and Fresno County in the 2023 Miss California competition, coming in June of 2023.

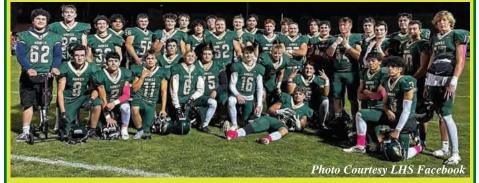
### **Ranchos Challenged to Help Needy**

Eight years ago, Leonore Seng, a resident of Sumner Hill subdivision in Madera County, began casually asking her neighbors for cash, cans of food, non-perishables and other contributions for the Central California Food Bank. Little did she or her neighbors anticipate that these efforts would blossom into a major annual holiday giving campaign serving multitudes of hungry families in Central California every year. Last year this small, 49-lot subdivision raised enough money to help the Food Bank provide over 51,000 meals to those in need. In fact, they were the year's top fundraiser among all contributing organizations and businesses during the Hunger Heroes campaign in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Kern and Tulare counties.

"The economy has caused most of us to tighten our belts, but folks continue to give because we know that there are others out there who are very needy, perhaps staring at empty cupboards and hungry children while searching for an opportunity to work or waiting for that next paycheck. That should not be", said Seng. "Our goal this year will be 60,000 meals. We will be reaching out shortly."

If you would like to contribute or start a contribution drive in your own neighborhood, please contact Denise O'Canto at 559-917-4910 for more information on how to get started. "We'd love to see the Ranchos, Tesoro Viejo, Yosemite Lakes Park, or any other group of neighbors surpass our success," Seng said.

### **LHS Northwest Sequoia Champs**



Liberty High's Boys Football team went 10-0 on the season to claim the title of Northwest Sequoia League Champions.

What many were calling the first post-COVID season, Liberty won the majority of its games with authority:

37-14 over Mendota • 47-7 over Sanger 28-14 over Dos Palos • 33-0 over Yosemite 27-24 over Caruthers • 35-28 over Fowler (OT)

55-0 over Minarets • 63-0 over Parlier 56-21 over Riverdale • 57-7 over Chowchilla

On Thursday evening, Nov. 10, the Hawks played their first playoff game against the Shafter Generals. Shafter came into the game with an 8-4 record and were ranked #5 in the South Sequoia League. The Hawks led the entire game until the final 40 seconds when Shafter went ahead to win 14-13.

### Caltrans, CHP, OTS Ask Drivers to Respect Highway First Responders

Safety is a two-way street. First responders are on our state's highways aiding people along roadsides, but also rely on safe drivers to protect them when they are clearing crashes or responding to other incidents. To raise awareness about the safety of first responders, the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Transportation and California Office of Traffic Safety are joining to promote "Crash Responder Safety Week" beginning today. Nearly every week throughout the country, a first responder is killed while helping clear a roadway crash and many more sustain life-altering

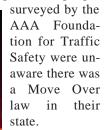
The U.S. Department of Transporta-

tion's Federal Highway Administration established this week to bring attention to

the dangers of working at traffic incidents and to promote compliance with "Move Over" laws. Crash Responder Safety Week reminds drivers to safely move over for crash responders or slow

down when approaching crash scenes if emergency medical services, public it is unsafe to change a lane. California's

"Move Over" law has been in effect for 15 years, but nearly 25 percent of people



The lives of crash responders - the law enforcement, fire and rescue,

works, transportation, towing, and other

roadway workers – are put at risk due to speeding, distractions, and careless drivers. These personnel provide critical aid as first responders and are called to duty at all hours of the day and night, in adverse weather conditions, and next to traffic moving at high speeds.

In California, from 2017 through 2021, three CHP officers were killed and 146 injured – nine severely – while on the freeway shoulder or median performing their job. Nationally, in 2019 alone, 11 officers were struck and killed while conducting traffic stops or other law enforcement activity, accounting for 41

Please see **RESPONDERS** on P. 9

Click on "Local News" at

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

## Annual Community Christmas Gree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Center • Friday, Dec. 2 • 6 p.m. 37167 Ave. 12 • Corner of Maywood & Avenue 12

Come join in the celebration at the Maywood Center to raise badly needed supplies for the Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa himself.

### Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital

Veterans need instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts and new books.

Items can be dropped off at any time to the Chamber office, but no later than Dec. 9. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details

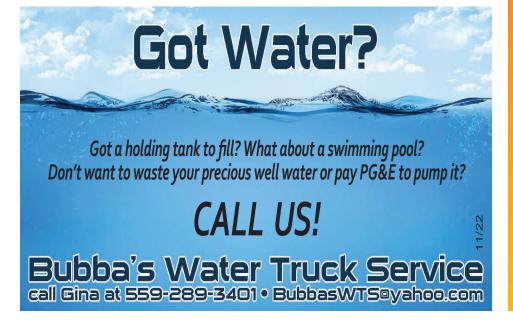
The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual Chamber Christmas Mixer Wednesday, December 14 6-7:30 p.m. **37167** Avenue **12** Suite **5**C Madera Ranchos Everyone is invited. Great food will be served. Our Merry Christmas present to vou. Call 645-4001 for info.



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### Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

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### **Guest Editorial**

### Are You Not Entertained?

By Joseph Enders

Midterm results show many too numb to care

In a fierce demonstration of political might, the GOP has again proven it can manage to blow an election against all odds. And in all honesty, it wasn't the jelly-bellied fat cats and neocons at the Republican National Committee this time. This one's on Donald Trump and his failed political movement.

Before anyone says it, let's be clear: MAGA offers the best political solution for the United States. Donald Trump is a Republican with a proven track record of effectively fighting cultural Marxism and societal decay. MAGA pushes for nearly every economic, social and cultural solution that would truly "Make America Great Again."

#### Comfortably Numb

That said, the MAGA vision faces an enemy it could never hope to vanquish using electoral politics — the dopamine-addicted American public. And can you really blame them for rejecting the unbridled truth? Roughly four generations have spent the better part of two decades bingewatching Netflix, tapping on their phone until their retinas burn and watching pornography every night before bed.

Why would anyone think Americans are going to lay down their lives for their country and prevent the Marxist takeover of our elections by dictator-in-chief Joe

Biden? Take a look at the results: Republicans underperformed with the MAGA message of justice for the stolen 2020 election; securing the borders; and ending Biden's destructive economic policies.

It was supposed to be a blowout, yet (necessarily excluding the aftershock of 9/11) Joe Biden's party had the highest retention rate in Congress of any sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998. Voters chose the backwoods brush ape, John Fetterman, in Pennsylvania over a somewhat conservative and extremely famous TV star, Mehmet Oz. Stew on this: There is now a man in the Senate who can't even speak in complete sentences. It's all because he has "Democrat" after his name.

It's not because of money, cheating or even the overturn of Roe v. Wade. The sad fact is what's left of the American electorate just doesn't care. The Silent Generation's last hurrah elected Trump in 2016, but millions of them are dead now. The war-torn, Depression-era Americans who knew actual suffering are no longer a formidable force in American politics, and they'll continue disappearing every election cycle.

#### MAGA Republicans get it, but no one else seems to

For the other generations, things are just too comfortable. These sunken-eyed marshmallow puffs have no sense of what it means to be an American patriot. Wimpy MAGA warriors simply aren't hardened enough to take any meaningful action against Biden's regime. They never will. That, and only that, is why the movement is an utter failure.

Why support strong, charismatic leaders with real solutions like Donald Trump when you have safe postcard Republicans like Virginia's Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who offers a wholesome picture of his family in goose-down zip-up vests and blue jeans?

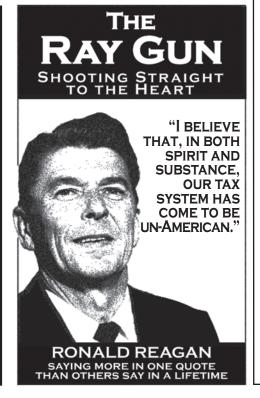
Distracted American voters are so busy bathing in creature comforts that they'll all settle for whomever the GOP plops in front of them.

"He looks like us," they say. "He promised to fix education," they'll shriek.

Yet what they'll get is a spineless loser who hires LGBT staffers who support gay marriage and who also refuse to block unconstitutional vaccine and mask mandates. MAGA Republicans get it, but no one else seems to.

President Trump ought to realize this: These people don't want the answers –

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 7



So Much Worthy of Thanks

As cliché as it is, I have to say it. How did we already get to November? I swear I was just planning a 4th of July camping trip and "BOOM" Halloween is in the past and Thanksgiving is within proverbial walking distance. Time is slipping right through our fingers.

Nevertheless, despite how quickly it seems to have come around again, this is my favorite season. I'm not the biggest fan of it getting dark at five in the evening, but chilly weather, the warm and inviting smell of cinnamon, spice and woodburning stoves, the colorful lights and the music are all enough to fill my cup with so much joy it spilleth over. I'll never understand why some people don't love this time of year.

I love all the holidays packed into the last three months. This past Halloween was one of the best I've had since childhood. I got to attend an over-the-top, Disney-level event

dubbed "The Villain's Ball" where I temporarily became Winifred Sanderson. The original, not the

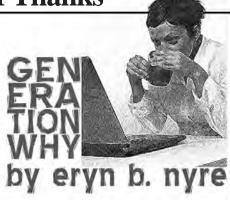
mediocre, phoned-in sequel version with not one but TWO pathetic attempts to replicate the now legendary musical performance found in the first one. I digress.

Thanksgiving!

surrounded by incredible graveyard scene decorations, most of which my dad built, scaring children and giving out candy while my dad wandered around the cul-de-sac with a bloody machete making even some older kids run screaming down the street. It just doesn't get better than that. And now, here we are, about to stuff ourselves with turkey smothered in delicious gravy.

Though we should all spend time every day to thank the good Lord for all He has blessed us with, this time of year always serves to remind us what we really have to be thankful for. I mean, it's in the holiday's name, right?

It's been a hard year for a lot of people. The economy is hitting our wallets, budgets and our retirement plans hard enough that I think I may have to wait to retire until



noon on the day I die. I'll probably still be expected to run the status reports. The cost of everything is up. People are choosing between putting gas in their tank or food on the table. Then when we add illness, unemployment and loss in the mix, it may seem impossible to get down on our knees and thank God for how blessed we are and how much we truly have. The thing is, there is always something to be thankful for. Even when things look bleak and there doesn't seem to be anything positive on the hori-

> zon, there is always something to be thankful

Some people don't have a = place to live and

here I am sitting in my warm home typing on a nice laptop with a Christmas movie on in the background. Yes ... a Christmas movie. I said it.

Have a blessed and joyful

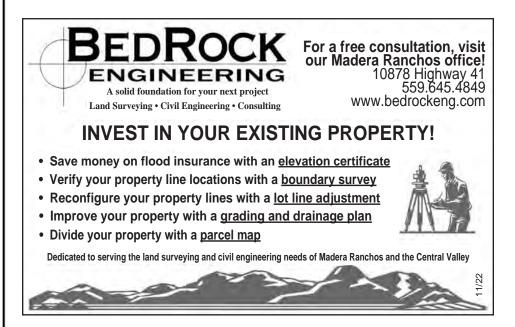
Some people are trying to de-Then I spent Halloween night cide whether to buy food or medicine this month and I have a kitchen full of food to eat. Some people are struggling with complete loneliness. They are sitting in their home wondering why their family doesn't call, why their kids and grandkids don't come over for a visit, or how long it would take someone to notice if they didn't wake up one morning. Worse yet, some people feel all of this while stuck in a nursing home surrounded by strange people and strange smells just wishing they could escape. I have a close family and a group of friends that are sometimes so clingy they will probably notice when I die before I even do.

Things aren't perfect, but when I step back and focus on what I have, what the Lord has given me,

Please see GEN WHY on P. 17









#### **EDITORIAL** cont. from P. 5

they want to feel good about the candidate they vote for, and the mean tweets make voting for Trump impossible. This is an unfortunate reality. Any principled voter ought to appreciate the barefaced truth he delivers in the face of impossible adversity. It's admirable, but Americans will admire the safe Republican over the dangerous mean-tweeter in the world of porn on demand, TikTok and Taco 12-packs.

#### Bring On the Pain

It's nice to think humans are all willing to serve a higher purpose and fight for justice for justice's sake, but let's get real. People don't push for major political change until an insurmountable crisis hits. Even the Bolsheviks didn't rise to power in Russia until almost 2 million of their people died in World War I. At home and on the front, people were starving to death while enduring one of the worst flu pandemics in human history.

That's the type of suffering that provokes dramatic political reactions and social revolutions, not 8 percent inflation and \$4-per-gallon gas. Why would it? Biden is worth dealing with so long as you can veg out on the couch and watch Marvel movies. Things are going just well enough for someone to change nothing and survive. And that's why the Jan. 6 raid on the Capitol was just a flash in the pan.

It's beginning to look like Trump 2024 is a fruitless endeavor — not because Trump failed but because the American people have failed him. They will always hate him for telling them uncomfortable

truths.

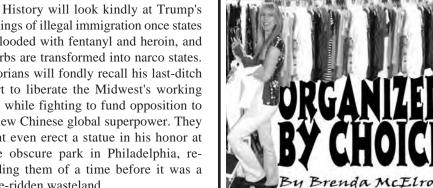
warnings of illegal immigration once states are flooded with fentanyl and heroin, and suburbs are transformed into narco states. Historians will fondly recall his last-ditch effort to liberate the Midwest's working class while fighting to fund opposition to the new Chinese global superpower. They might even erect a statue in his honor at some obscure park in Philadelphia, reminding them of a time before it was a crime-ridden wasteland.

Sadly, this will not happen until Americans experience true suffering — Russian peasant-tier suffering, to be exact. They will follow their neo-liberal pied pipers into slavery and, eventually, death. This slow march off the fiscal cliff is only the beginning. The flutes whistling the tune of hedonism will obfuscate any sense of what's really happening in the mind of the average voter, and the good men who foretell the implosion will just be caught in the crossfire.

The election results provide one glimmer of hope: The cliff is closer now and falling off it is probably the best chance to awaken America's dopamine fiends — to get them out of their comfortable stupor and back on the path of righteousness.

In the meantime, conservatives ought to get married, have a ton of kids and save souls.

This article originally appeared at ChurchMilitant.com. Church Militant (a 501(c)4 corporation) is responsible for the content of this commentary.



To Grandmother's House We Go

The other day I had a group of long-time friends over. As we sat down for a meal one said, "This feels like home." I loved hearing that. Yes, my house is organized, but the best compliment I get is when people feel at home here.

One of the reasons she said that is because of the familiar-For those who moved have multiple times,

Yes, my house is organity of our house. ized, but the best compliing morning the We've been here ment I get is when people Macy's parade almost 43 years. feel at home here.

it can be comforting to go to a we share what we're thankful for like home.

As we anticipate hosting Thanksgiving gatherings, what are some ways we can make real the words of the song, "There's no place like home for the holidays"? Even if you've recently moved, here are some ways to bring the familiar, or even "start the familiar" that will make your house and holidays feel like

Traditional Decorations: As I look around, most of my Thanksgiving decorations are from long ago. There are even a couple wooden Mayflower ships my girls made in Mrs. Zinn's class at Webster Elementary back in ... well, let's just say many years ago. Thanksgiving doesn't tend to be trendy, so it's fun to adorn the house with our favorite pilgrim and pumpkin décor. Decorations don't need to be excessive, but having a few

things that come out every fall enhances the familiar feel.

Traditional Foods: Some of our Thanksgiving favorites are turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, zweibach (a traditional German dinner roll), olives (for the fingers of the little ones), pumpkin pies, chocolate pies and freshly whipped cream.

Your favorites and traditions may be different. Maybe trying a new dish each year is a tradition for you. In any case, sharing familiar flavors is a way of connecting with the past and with each other.

Traditional Activities: Prior to Thanksgiving we like to have our grandchildren for a day of fall activities. I look online for simple crafts and games and prep them ahead of time. I put the titles of each activity on a piece of paper in a basket and the grandkids take turns pulling

> them out to determine what we do next.

Thanksgivis on as we prepare for the meal. During or after the feast

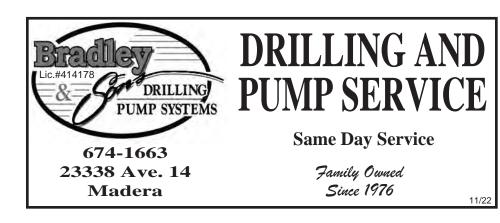
place that feels familiar. It feels and take time to thank the Lord who provided those blessings. Weather permitting, we play Bocce Ball or take a walk around the neighborhood and we play Thanksgiving Bingo.

> Maybe your traditions include watching the football game, using grandma's china, looking through old family photos, doing a craft, watching "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving," or reminiscing about loved ones who have passed.

> If your family of origin didn't have traditions, or they were more along the line of arguing about politics, be intentional about choosing a couple activities that build a connection between those you're celebrating with. As you have opportunity to host again, establish the good ones as traditions.

> > Traditional Gifts: I love that

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 17





### From One Aunt to Another

(November 2012)

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.

A few years ago I was talking to my Aunt (my Mom's only sister) and told her I would like to put Mama's recipes into a book. She said to me, "Oh Jean, be sure to include your Mom's Applesauce Cake and the Prune Cake recipes."

In going through my Mom's recipe cards, I found three Applesauce Cake recipes - actually four if I included one titled "A Man's Favorite" that takes one cup of apple sauce - so I'm going to use the one from the cards that looks like it has been used the most. We had a neighbor named Hazel, so this might have been from her.

#### Hazel's Applesauce Cake

- 1 C Shortening
- 2 C Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 C Applesauce
- 3 ½ C Flour
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Cloves
- 1 tsp. Nutmeg
- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 C Raisins
- 1 C Nuts (optional)

Cream together shortening and sugar; add eggs one at a time. When well creamed, add applesauce. Sift together in a separate bowl the dry ingredients. Mix dry ingredients into a creamed mixture until all mixed. Pour into a 9x13 pan that has been greased and floured and bake in preheated 350 oven for about 45 minutes.

This applesauce cake will have a deeper flavor as it takes molasses. Sounds good.

#### Applesauce Raisin Cake

2 ½ C Flour

1 tsp. Baking Soda

1 tsp. Cinnamon

½ tsp. Salt

½ C Butter



- 1 Large Egg
- 1 C Molasses
- 1 C Applesauce
- ½ C Raisins
- ½ C Chopped Walnuts

Combine flour, soda, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter to resemble coarse crumbs. In another bowl stir together the egg, molasses and applesauce. Blend into flour mixture just until moistened. Stir in raisins and nuts. Pour into prepared 9x9x2 pan. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool in

#### Mayonnaise Prune Cake

- 1 C Sugar
- 1 C Mayonnaise
- 1 3/4 C Flour
- 3 T Cocoa Powder
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1 C Chopped Prunes
- 2/3 C Prune Juice
- 1 C Chopped Nuts

Cream together the sugar and mayonnaise in a large mixing bowl. In separate bowl sift together flour, cocoa, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add to sugar mixture making sure everything is mixed well. Add prunes, prune juice and nuts. Pour into a prepared 8 x 12 pan. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 40 minutes.

None of these cakes call for frosting. If you prefer frosting, a simple powdered sugar/cream cheese one could be used, or if you prefer just a glaze, mix some powdered sugar and liquid (either milk or orange or lemon juice) and pour on the warm

In going through my Mom's recipe cards I found some that Aunt Alma had sent her. The first one I am going to use says, "These make delicious Christmas

#### Fry Pan Cookies

1 Cube Butter or Margarine

1 C Chopped Dates

1 tsp. Vanilla

1 C Chopped Nuts

1 C Sugar

2 Eggs well beaten

4 oz. Maraschino Cherries (optional)

2 C Rice Krispies

Put all ingredients except the Rice Krispies into a large frying pan over medium heat. Stir until mixture begins to thicken about 3 to 6 minutes. Take off heat and stir in the Rice Krispies. When cool enough to handle, roll into small balls and roll in flake cocoanut.

Another of her recipes: Cracker Jacks

Heat oven to 250

Pop 4 quarts popcorn adding baking pan. Pour on 1 or more cups salted peanuts. Set aside.

1 C Light Brown Sugar 1 Cube Margarine

½ C White Corn Syrup

½ tsp. Salt

Stir and bring to a boil. Boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add:

1 tsp. Soda

1 tsp. Vanilla

Stir and pour over corn and nuts. Handle this mixture carefully as it will be very hot. Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 15

Cool. Store in airtight containers such as glass jars.

She says the pan will come clean by adding water and boil-

When you can't find a recipe NO salt. Put on a large metal that you want, where do you look for it? I have all my Mom's cards and several cookbooks, in-Into a medium sauce pan put: cluding Good Housekeeping,

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 10







#### **RESPONDERS** cont. from P. 2

percent of all emergency responders killed on the job. In addition, five officers were struck and killed while working motor vehicle crash scenes and two officers were killed while assisting motorists with disabled vehicles. Also in 2019, 14 tow truck operators, three mobile mechanics and nine fire/EMS personnel were by struck and killed by vehicles.

"Each day our officers put their own safety at risk conducting traffic enforcement duties, investigating a crash, or assisting the public alongside our busy freeways statewide," said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. "Tragically, many have been killed or injured merely performing their job. This week and throughout the year, we strive to raise awareness of these risks so our personnel return home safely to their families each day."

"First responders work tirelessly and risk their own safety to save lives at collision scenes," said Caltrans Director

their part to protect responders by slowing down, moving over a lane, and staying alert when approaching traffic incidents."

"First responders put themselves in harm's way to help strangers," said OTS Director Barbara Rooney. "But they also have loved ones who need them to come home. We want drivers to understand the risks that they take every day, and the importance of slowing down and moving over for first responders so they can do their job safely."

Motorists should be extra careful when approaching flashing emergency lights (red, blue, and amber) on stopped emergency vehicles working at roadway incidents. Avoid distractions like phones while driving and don't drive if you're tired or have been drinking or are under the influence of any drugs. Help protect the first responders who are working to protect you and other motorists on the highway.

For more information about Caltrans safety campaigns, visit BeWorkZoneAl-

### Tony Taveras. "We need motorists to do ert.com. Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos **Holiday House Decorating Contest** Register By: December 2, 2022 Three Community Judges **Registration Forms** Will Complete Judging At Chamber of Commerce December 13, 2022 Or Email rowdensally2@gmail.com Contestants: 1st/2nd/3rd Notified By December 14, 2022 **Awards Presented** December 15, 2022 At Kiwanis Club Meeting Prizes First Place: \$ 75.00 Gift Card - Ornament - Picture in Paper Second Place: \$ 50.00 Gift Card - Ornament - Picture in Paper Third Place: \$ 25.00 Gift Card - Ornament - Picture in Paper For Further Information Contact: Leslie Carella at 559-906-5440 Sally Rowden at 559-908-7073. (Chamber located at 37167 Ave 12 - Open: Mon thru Wed - 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. 559-645-4001) Last Revised: 11-12-22

### **Madera County Election Results**

There were three results that came out of the Nov. 8 election that had an impact on the Ranchos.

First was the election of Jordan Wamhoff as District 1 Supervisor over Andy Wheeler. Wamhoff received 4,258 votes to Wheeler's 3,084.

Second was the failure of Measure T, the Madera County transportation tax.

It needed a two-thirds supermajority of 66.67 percent to pass and only got 52.3

Finally, with all of the conversation and activity about this election and the importance of making changes in Sacramento and Washington, only 51 percent of the registered voters in Madera County bothered to show up. Oh well.

### Local 4-H Installs New Officers



The Sierra Shadows 4-H group's officers were sworn in at a ceremony at Sierra View Elementary on Nov. 8.

By Monique Morgan

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Sierra View Multipurpose Room, this years' 4-H Officer team was sworn into office. We were fortunate that our Madera County Teen Leader Award Winner, Tigerlily King, was able to join us to perform the ceremony. Each officer was called up in turn and told about their job duties. They then took their puzzle piece from a pile on the table and put it into the puzzle so at the end each puzzle piece made a whole puzzle, just like each officer contributes to the whole. All of the officers got a puzzle piece that represented their jobs, and their names. Once the puzzle was together, we all saw that all of the officers always stick together like a puzzle. What this means is that all of the officers have to work together, and if one of us is not there, we are not a finished team.

We are very fortunate to have a large officer team with many seasoned officers as well as a few officers who are brand new to the team this year. This is great for both seasoned officers and young officers because they can learn so much from each other. There were many guests and members in the audience to celebrate the officer induction this night. It was a great night, all officers got inducted and I wish the best of luck to everyone on our amazing officer team. It is great to have a very supportive club with many great members.

The entire officer team is looking forward to a fun-filled year with lots of events and chances to see our friends. We all know we are going to learn a lot and have a chance to spend time with members from all across the county and state. Just a couple of these events are happening within the next month. On Nov. 15 we had our club's Friendsgiving. And in December we will have a chance to join the community to celebrate the Madera Ranchos Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 2. Finally, on Dec. 6, we will have our annual Holiday celebration and potluck at Sierra View Elementary. Happy Holidays everyone!

Senior Report

### A Senior Center Like No Other

By Melanie Williams

It all started with a small group of people who wanted a property, while the senior place where seniors could meet within the local community.

On Jan. 11, 1989, two local Madera Ranchos residents, Ellen pledged to pay \$100 per month Wilcox and Joanne Stern de- for one year to get the ball cided to find a way to meet rolling. other seniors who lived nearby. They enlisted the help of Ellen's on a fixed income accomplish son Leonard Wilcox who was the such a feat? It was with an publisher of the Ranchos News, amazing amount of donations

Independent, and decided to put s m a 1 1 article in the 1 o c a 1 newspap e r inviting those

were 50



The Madera Ranchos'own Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located w h o at 37330 Berkshire Drive.

old Pete's Drive-In on Ave 12.

Many ideas were discussed over "coffee and doughnuts" and the group voted to elect Jim Rancho/Hills Senior Center was officially established and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1989.

The members met in a variety of places to continue their work. They met in homes, schools, churches and even picnics in the park when the weather was good. The goal was to acquire property on which they could establish a local support center for seniors. So, they enlisted the help of a local real estate agent and a founding member of the group, Ethel Pronin. She could see the dream of establishing a center in the Madera Ranchos and diligently began a search for a local Luau Night on the back lawn of property that would meet their the Senior Center. Ruth said, "We needs.

mercial property in foreclosure on Berkshire Road, behind the

vacant lot beside what is now Lee Kitchen on Ave 12. She convinced one member of the group to invest and buy the founding members raised funds to pay back the bank note. Six founding member families

How did a bunch of seniors the predecessor of the Ranchos and fundraising events. The

> Opening o f the Ranchos/ H i 1 1 s Senior Center was on June 6, 1998. The ribbon cutting

cereyears and older to meet at the mony was attended by over 100 local community leaders, including then District 1 candidate Frank Bigelow.

A plaque was presented to Barrow as president and the the seniors by George Kral, from the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging, stating "In Recognition of the contribution of past, present and future volunteers who have added to the quality of life for older Americans of Madera County."

Now, the real work began.

Unlike most senior centers, the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is owned, run and funded by its members. The members had to come up with opportunities for grants and creative ideas to support their Senior Center. Ruth Baker and Jean Barrows would cook for dinner events like the Fiesta Under the Stars and the would cook meals for between 80 In 1997, Ethel found a com- to 100 people to raise money for

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 17

**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

and Gardens that looks like it has been through the mill. And then there is the Internet; there are thousands of recipes there. But my two favorites are the "homemade ones." They are a book of recipes put together by the Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital and my absolute favorite is one put together by the women of a church I attended several years ago. So if you belong to a church or organization that has printed a recipe book from their members I urge you to this article is dedicated to her.

get one as you know these people who donated the recipe, and Pillsbury and a Better Homes may have even eaten the dish.

Aunt Alma was born and raised on a little farm in Chowchilla (as were a lot of us Drinnens and Briners). She guit high school to marry Uncle Clyde (the only person I ever let get away with calling me Jeanie) and they lived a long married life. They had two children, and from that union she left this world with oodles and oodles of grandchildren, great grandchildren and even some great-great grandchildren. Aunt Alma passed away in August at 94 years old, so





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### The Bookshelf

### **Library Friends Book Sale Coming**

By Jerrica Edmundson

I can't believe the end of the year is almost here. We are gearing up for the holidays and have a few upcoming days that we will be closed, so on Nov. 24 and 25 we will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving, and Dec. 23 and 24 in observance of Christmas. We will miss seeing your smiling faces but love the chance we all have to hang out and spend quality time with our families.

Our quarterly Friends of the Ranchos Library book sale will be taking place the second week of December, from Dec. 6 through 10, so be sure to swing by and see the whole selection of books we have available for your perusal and purchase to support our local Friends of the Ranchos Library — who are directly responsible for funding our Summer Reading Program each year. We also will be running our "fill a bag" promotion again, wherein you can purchase a branded Friends of the Ranchos Library tote bag for a \$5 donation and fill it up for only \$2 more. For \$7 total you can have an entire tote bag full of books.

Our donation table is available for accepting item donations of books, movies and other similar items so long as there is room on the table. As a friendly reminder,

we will not accept encyclopedias, textbooks, Readers Digest or soiled items. Receipts are available upon request for documentation of donations to the Friends of the Ranchos Library for tax purposes, as they directly go toward a non-profit group.

Are you a part of a community group? We have a community room available to rent for your meetings. We can also advertise for any non-profit group or events on our indoor digital poster or outdoor community board, just reach out to us at the reference desk for more information on how to take advantage of these awesome community resources.

#### **HOURS**

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Thursday 11 am - 5 pm
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## Speak

By Jeff McGrath

### Pipe Replacement and Meter Installation Project for MD-10A

September 2004, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 2572. This bill was to reduce water waste and encourage conservation. Studies by the California Utilities Commission have shown that communities with metered water systems use seven to 20 percent less water than non-metered areas. All residential and many commercial customers are currently charged a flat-rate fee for water, which is billed monthly based on the number of bedrooms being served. For example, a single person living in a four-bedroom home is being charged

more than a family of four living in a three-bedroom home. A metered system discourages waste and rewards conservation by accurately measuring water usage and billing each household and business based on their actual water consumption.

MD-10A is the area of the Madera Ranchos roughly bordered by Ave 13 on the north, Road 36 on the west. Road 38 on the east and Avenue 11 1/2 on the south. When the letter dated Oct. 11 went out, Facebook page "What's up in the Ranchos" lit up with many negative comments and false informa-

state (not the county) to have water me- MD-10A potable water system. The proj-

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ters installed. Madera county is working hard to apply for grants to place the meters while replacing approximately 41.21 miles of pipeline.

By the time this article goes to press, there would have been two meetings held by the county to answer questions. One on

> Nov. 10 At Ranchos Middle School and one on Nov. 14 the at Madera County Offices, Suite 3100. If you did not attend either of the meetings here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

> What is the MD-10A Madera Ranchos Pipe Replacement and Meter Installation Project?

Madera County tion. Let's face it, our current system is Maintenance District 10A (MD-10A) is old and overtaxed, with many breaks performing design and planning for imand costly repairs. Whether we like it provements to the existing water distribuor not, we are being mandated by the tion system within the Madera Ranchos

ect will install new water distribution pipelines to replace existing outdated pipelines and will also install new pipelines to expand the distribution network, along with water meters and fire hydrants to provide improved water service throughout the MD-10A district area.

### When will the project be constructed and how long will construction take?

The County is currently performing environmental review and engineering design for the project. Once that process is complete and funding is secured, installation of new pipes and meters will require about two years to complete. A specific schedule and phasing plan will be developed as part of the final project design. It is currently anticipated that construction will begin in 2023, subject to construction funding approvals.

### How much will it cost to construct the project and who will pay for it?

The project construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$35 million. The County has already been granted funding for 100 percent of the Planning

Please see **SEMCU** on P. 15



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### Local 4-H Takes Honors at Show



The picture of the Sierra Shadows 4-H group in last month's paper was blocked by a printing error. Here is the picture of the members featured in that story. We are sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused.



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.

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent SEMCU cont. from P. 14

phase (design and environmental) and is coordinating with the California Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance to obtain grant funding for 100 percent of the project construction cost. It is not anticipated that individual property owners currently connected to the MD-10A system will need to pay for anything for the project at this point.

I am currently on a private well but noticed that there will be new pipe laid throughout the area. How do I apply to get pipe run to my parcel?

The project will make water service accessible to all properties within the MD-10A service area. Individual property owners who are not currently connected to the MD-10A system will need to pay the applicable connection fees to connect and install the necessary facilities (i.e., meter and service lateral line) to be served by the MD-10A system if/when they choose to connect to and take service from the MD-10A system.

Do I have the option to decline service and continue to use a private well on my property?

Existing private wells may continue to be used and maintained by individual property owners. At this time, the County does not anticipate that property owners will be mandated to connect to the new system. The project will provide water main lines that will allow connection at a future date at the option of the property owner. However, it should be noted that installation of new private wells and/or replacement of existing wells within the MD-10A service area are prohibited under Madera County Code Section 13.52.030(B).

What [was] the purpose of the November 14, 2022 hearing and why [was] it being held in Madera instead of in the

#### Madera Ranchos community?

The Madera County Development Review Committee [held] a public hearing at 9 a.m. on November 14, 2022, at the Madera County Planning Division offices in Madera to consider adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the MD-10A Madera Ranchos - Pipe Replacement and Meter Installation Project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and accompanying initial study is the County's environmental review document for the project and [was] available for public comment through November 10. The November 14 hearing [was] being held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Development Review Committee meeting which are regularly and routinely held at the Madera County offices in Madera.

I am currently connected to the MD-10A system, but my connection is in the back of my house. How will this project change that if the new lines will be in the street in front of the houses?

The design of the project will account for reconfiguring the connection point and/or service line to existing homes to come from the street (in front of the houses) instead of the back. This will be determined on an individual basis for each home in conjunction with the homeowner/property owner.

How can I stay informed of construction timing and other information about the project?

The County will provide public notices, updates and outreach to individual property owners as final design and construction scheduling proceeds. Individuals can also contact Public Works with specific questions by contacting Craig Wagner, Supervising Civil Engineer at 559-675-7811.

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### Kiwanis Korner

### **Tis the Season for Kiwanis Activities**

By Sally Rowden

Wow, our Christmas Tea held on Saturday, Nov. 5 was a welcoming event for all as the tables were festively decorated and seated a full house. The auction and raffle items were also well received along with the food, catered from Liberty Café. A huge thank you to Mona Diaz and Ollia Ridge for their chairmanship. Please put a "save the date" note on your calendar for next year at this time to join us once again and thank you for your support which in turn supports our children and our communities.

Our "Manhattan Restaurant" raffle continues till Dec. 1. The prizes: First Prize - \$400 (Manhattan Gift Card); Second Prize - \$50 (Manhattan Gift Card); and Third Prize - \$50 (Manhattan

Gift Card). Tickets are \$25 for five. Contact our President, Ollia Ridge, at 559-824-0979 to obtain tickets.

wanis Holi d a y H o u s e

**Decorating Contest** 

is taking place once again.

You might have already seen flyers up in the community. Registration forms can be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce or at rowdensally2@gmail.com. Fill out and return to either of the same two sites by Dec. 2. There will be three community volunteer judges. The judging will be completed by Dec. 13. The contestants will be notified of winners on Dec. 14. Awards will be presented to the winners on Dec. 15 at the Kiwanis of Madera Ranchos meeting held at Second Son Brews. Prizes: First Place - \$75 Amazon Gift Card; Second Place - \$50 Amazon Gift Card; Third Place - \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Plus, each winner will also receive an Award Ornament and picture in the Ranchos Newspaper. Contact Leslie Carella at 559-906-5440 or Sally Rowden at 559-908-7073 for further information.

Our guest speaker for this month was Andrew Overbay, the Madera County Cal Fire Battalion Fire Chief. He gave us great insight into the workings of our Fire Stations 7, 9 and 19. Plus, shared positive current and future happenings such as increasing staff and replacing facilities that sustain and enhance all services provided in our communities. If someone is interested in becoming a volunteer for the fire department, they can contact paidcallfirefighter@maderacounty.com. Chief Overbay did explain there is intense training one must complete, must be at least 18 vears of age and, although a salary is now included in the volunteer program, it is minimal. His final comments focused on the Fire Fighter 9/11 Memorial Brick Program. If you remember, a piece of steel from the 9/11 Twin Towers traveled down Avenue 12 on its way to the City of Madera in this last May. The piece of steel has become the 9/11 Fire Fighter Memorial to be located at the Madera County Courthouse Park. To see this project completed you can contribute \$150 which will

laid in a brick pathway leading up to the memorial. Go to madera 911 memorial.com for further information.

Hope to see all of you at the Christmas Tree Lighting festivi-

ties on Friday, Dec. 2. This event is being hosted by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis will be supporting the event. It all begins at 6 p.m. and Santa will be arriving with an escort from Station 19 Fire Fighters and Engine. The flag salute and tree lighting will be presented by the Madera American Legion Veterans' Honor Guard. Cookies, hot chocolate and coffee will be served. Dress warmly, be ready to sing along to Christmas carols, and head to Maywood Center for a holly, jolly time.

You will be reading this article during our Thanksgiving holiday, the perfect time for the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos to give thanks for all of you who continue to support our events and the many other events happening throughout our community. This makes me think of this quote ... "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference" -- Kathy Calvin).

Thanks for your giving that makes a difference for our children and our community.

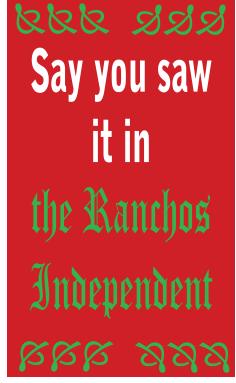
www.RanchosKiwanis.com

### Real Estate











### Happy Thanksgiving America

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Happy Thanksgiving, America, from conservative and liberal perspectives

Conservative: Thank God, from whom all blessings flow.

Liberal: Thank government, to which all taxes go.

*Conservative:* Give thanks for the right

**Liberal:** Give thanks for the right to vote twice. (With apologies to liberals everywhere. This bad joke just wrote itself.)

Conservative: Give thanks for our Constitutionally guaranteed rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and to the rare politicians who uphold these rights.

Liberal: Give thanks for elected legislators who vote their "conscience" - meaning according to their whims rather than according to the letter of the law.

Conservative: Be thankful for the fruits of your own labors, as grand or as small as they may be.

*Liberals:* Be thankful for the taxes that vour labors provide.

Conservative: With gratitude for what you have, take responsibility for yourself and your family and help others who are less fortunate.

Liberal: Thank goodness the government has taken responsibility for the needy, so the politicians make the rules without regard to cost and taxpayers pay the bill.

Conservative: Give thanks for the right to free speech, without which the ideas expressed here — for better or worse — would probably be banned.

Liberal: Thanks for government and media soft censorship, such as burying the Hunter and Joe Biden corruption scandal and saving liberals from over-exposure to conservative thought whenever possible.

Conservative: Thank goodness that Mrs. Paul Pelosi is finally handing over the Speaker's gavel to a House Republican.

Liberal: Never mind a Republican Speaker. We'll thwart his agenda at every turn. And if at first we don't succeed, we'll keep trying. (Republicans could learn a thing or two from the persistence of liberal politicians.)

Please notice that these comparisons are not labeled as between Republicans and Democrats, but between so-called conservatives and liberals. Not all who identify as Republicans embrace conservativism, and not all Democrats are die-hard liberals. And — surprise! — not all elected officials possess identifiable principles beyond their own self-aggrandizement. Too many vote according to whims instead of hard-and-fast principles — or just vote the party line no matter what.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all, regardless of political persuasion. We live in the United States of America where we can still peacefully agree to disagree and even poke fun at one another along the way.

By Lucie Winborne

• You've no doubt heard of shattering a glass with your voice, but how about singing at a pitch so low only an elephant can hear it? That feat belongs to Tim Storms, who possesses a 10-octave



vocal range and holds the Guinness World Record for lowest note produced by a human and widest vocal range. • In some parts of the world, tarantulas have "pet" frogs, which they protect from predators. • At the Harvard-Yale annual college football matchup in 2004, Yale students played quite the trick on their opponents by dressing as Harvard pep squad members and handing out crimson and gold placards to the crowd. While told their cards would spell out "Go Harvard" when raised, the actual message read "We Suck." • The first known dental filling dates to the Neolithic period and was made of beeswax. • You don't need a body to play video games -- just a mind! Lab-grown human and mouse brain cells inhabiting a petri dish became sentient enough to learn how to play Pong. • Billy Joel's song "Only the Good Die Young" was banned by some radio stations for being "anti-Catholic." Joel hardly minded, however, as the resulting publicity made the tune so popular that he wrote to the president of Seton Hall College in New Jersey (the first entity to forbid it) requesting a ban on his next record as well.

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#### **ORGANIZE** cont. from P. 7

out the added pressure of gift giving, but here's a gift idea that can connect generations using traditional décor. As my parents continue to downsize, they've come across holiday decorations that they're no longer using. This Thanksgiving, they're giving each great-granddaughter a corn husk doll from their decorations bin. Maybe it's time I pass along the Mayflower ships too ... nah!

Blessings on you and yours as you celebrate and give thanks. "... always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20

### Memory Tree Service

Many suffer through the holidays with the pain of having lost

a loved one. The Christmas music. holiday parties, and festive deco-Thanksgiving is one holiday with- rations trigger painful reminders of the loss. You're invited to participate in a community Memory Tree Service. This is a familyfriendly time to remember a loved one who has passed away and is dearly missed this holiday season. You're welcome to bring an ornament to place on the Memory Tree in honor of your loved one. The service is Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at Flipside Church, located at 37193 Ave. 12, Room 6 in the Maywood Center. For more information contact Brenda McElrov at 559-

> Contact Organized by Choice at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organized bychoice.com. You can visit www. organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

871-3314.

**SENIORS** cont. from P. 10

the Senior Center. It was such fun."

The traditional bake sale, including many varieties of homemade baked goods, was organized many times throughout the formative years of the center. Many members supported the idea of organizing old, unique collectables in the Boutique and creating a rummage sale on the patio for items donated to the center. It was a successful first step while developing other ideas to generate funds, like hosting their Annual Craft Fair in October and Annual Home and Garden Festival in April. In only eight years, the mortgage on the Ranchos/

Hills Senior Center was paid off. Many members joyously attended the Mortgage Burning Party in November of 2004.

Russ and Helen Lowell were charter members of this group. Helen is still the Parliamentarian for the Senior Center. She has a favorite article entitled What Cups of Coffee and Doughnuts Can Do. Helen stated, "It's so unique and unusual to have a beautiful senior center run by seniors."

Happy Thanksgiving from all the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Thought for November: "Gratitude, help us to see what is there instead of what isn't." -Annette Bridges.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

it's not as hard to be grateful. We all have our own battles and just because your health issue doesn't come with a bleak prognosis or you aren't having Thanksgiving dinner in a nursing home alone doesn't mean that your problems aren't real and your feelings aren't valid. The storm looks quite different from the radar than it does from the eye. My point is that even when it's dark and scary and you can't see where you're going, Jesus is there. He is with you, and if nothing else, that is something to be thankful for. Focusing on your blessings, even when it feels like you don't have any, can help change your perspective.

So, on that note, I am so grateful

for the amazing parents who raised me with love, compassion and discipline. I'm grateful for the family who supports and encourages me. I'm grateful for the circle of friends that make me feel loved and accepted. I'm grateful to have a decent job that allows me to mostly work from home. Above all else, I am grateful for the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, without whom I would be dead in my sin but because of whom I have eternal life.

I hope you all are able to find something to be thankful for. I hope you are surrounded by the people you love and make memories that will last the rest of your life.

Have a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

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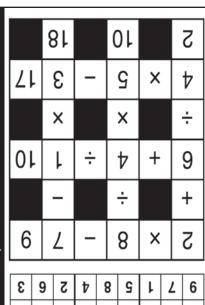














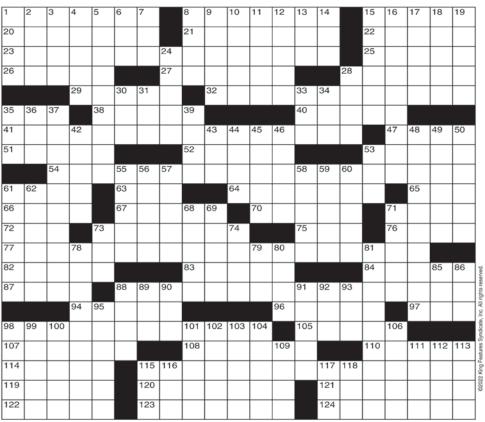


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## Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

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8 Lyricist Sammy 9 See 67-Across 10 Mob group 11 Restaurant offerings 12 Love-in-(plant with feathery foliage) 13 Louse-to-be 14 Lah-di- — 15 1972 Jack Lemmon film 16 Sidesplitter **17** Drug banned for Olympians, for short 18 Minor fight 19 Words on an F paper, maybe 24 Opening for a letter-shaped 28 "My, my, old chap!' 30 Suffix with 31 Ky. neighbor 33 Young guy, in hip-hop 34 Doc studying laryngitis 35 Wyo.

36 Hip '60s teen

6 Centuries on

37 Programs 79 Be suitable 80 Army wheels running in 81 For later use web browsers 39 Hanna-85 - - - fi film 86 "Of course" Barbera bear 42 "Live PD" 88 "Of course" network 89 Coll. in 43 Inmate Columbus 90 Neighbor of 44 Two-time TV's Homer Wimbledon 91 Brunch fruit winner Lew 45 Improvise 46 Allude (to) Herman 93 A Gabor 48 Committing to a fiduciary 95 Chefs' 49 Officers in tie-ons training 98 Makes 50 Doglike easier, with scavengers "down" 99 University in 53 Prefix with Atlanta afternoon 100 "Sounds **55** Really bother 56 Muscle jerk like —!" 101 Sword types 57 One-on-one 102 Birds' student 58 "Stop that, refuges 103 Isle of Minos silly goose!" 59 Pool triangles 104 Roof edges 60 Yummy tidbit 106 Detested 61 Actress 109 Cots, e.g. Bullock 111 Holster fillers 62 Doesn't differ 112 Riga native. 68 Wrist-toold-style elbow bones 113 Rival of Petro-69 San -California Canada 71 Tinfoil giant 115 Spying tool 73 — -Magnon 116 "Westworld" **74** Klingon network

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BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up.
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**Tractor Work -** House Pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Lic. #719500. **Call 559-970-4476.** 

#### **Window Cleaning Services**

Most windows \$5 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.

The Ranchos
Independent
classified rates are
crazy cheap
and crazy effective!

TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634

- Got soap scum? Mix dishwashing detergent with baking soda and use it to scrub bathroom walls. It's very effective, and surprisingly gentle, as baking soda is a mild abrasive that works well without scratching.
- "Unless the label states otherwise, the best rinse temperature for clothing is cold water. It will help the clothing retain its shape and color better, and -- bonus -- it's the least expensive setting." -- I.F. in Texas
- Now by Jo Ann Derson
- When whipping egg whites, make sure you bring your eggs to room temperature beforehand. They will yield greater volume.
- Store asparagus in the fridge only for a few days before serving. Trim the cut end and use wet paper towels to wrap it. Keep it in the crisper drawer.
- Getting your old deck of cards out to play? If they feel gummy, put them in a plastic baggie, add a little bit of talc, baby powder or cornstarch, seal the bag and shake. Knock the excess off before removing from the bag. Shuffle as usual.
- "Wanna spot clean your floor? Spray an old pair of socks with floor cleaner, put them on and do the cha-cha-cha." -- V.B. in Iowa

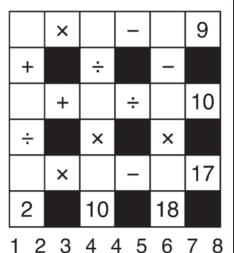
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803

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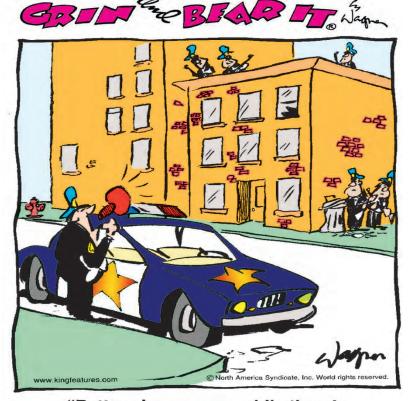
### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

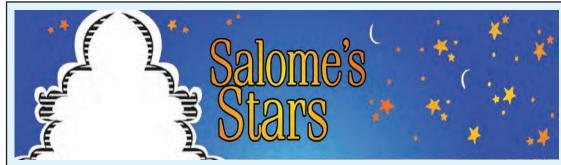


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"Better give up now, while there's no room for you in jail!"



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're eager to "Ram" headfirst into that new project. But before you do, find out why some of your colleagues might not appear to be as gung-ho about it as you are.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) All that dedicated hard work you've been putting in pays off better than you expected. So go ahead, reward yourself with something befitting a beauty-loving Bovine.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to take on that new challenge. And if your self-confidence is lacking, instead of telling yourself why you can't do it, list all the reasons why you can.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is one time when you might want to put some distance between you and the job at hand. It will give you a better perspective on what you've done and what you still need to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Resist that occasional lapse into Leonine laziness that sometimes overtakes the Big Cat. Don't cut corners. Do the job right at this time, or you might have to redo it later.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You know how you like to do things. And that's fine. But watch that you don't impose your methods on others. A current financial crunch soon eases.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone might try to take advantage of your generosity. But before your sensitivity toward others overwhelms your good sense, check their story out carefully.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your strong Scorpian sense of fairness lets you see all sides of a dispute. Continue to remain impartial as you help each person work through their particular grievance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Trust your keen Sagittarian insight to help you see through an offer that might not be all it claims to be. A closer look could reveal disturbing elements.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With the Goat exhibiting a more dominant aspect these days, you could find it easier to make your case in front of even the most skeptical audience.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Take things nice and easy as you continue to build up your energy reserves for a big upcoming change. You'll need your strength for what lies ahead.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Recent news from someone you trust could help you make an important decision. Also, be prepared to confront an upcoming change in a personal situation.

### Born this Week

You can be firm in your own views, but also flexible enough to welcome the views of others.

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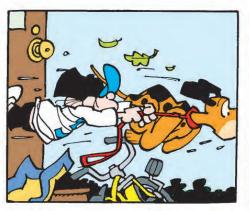
## FUN PAGES

## Kids' Maze











by BUD BLAKE





























### TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was Netflix's first exclusive content series? 2. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Grand Canyon? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the famous Moai statues located? 4. MOVIES: Who directed the chilling 2017 movie "Get Out"? 5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which country's largest airline is Aeroflot? 6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was elected to two nonconsecutive terms? 7. ANATOMY: The ossicles are located in what part of the human body? 8. LITERA-TURE: Which award-winning novel is set in Maycomb, Alabama? 9. MEDICAL: Which international organization declared monkey pox to be a public health emergency? 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only natural predator of great white sharks, aside from humans?

8. "To Kill a Mockingbird." 9. WHO (World Health Organization). 10. Orcas or killer whales.

7. Middle ear.

6. Grover Cleveland.

5. Russia.

3. Easter Island. 4. Jordan Peele.

I. Lillyhammer. 2. Arizona.

Click on "Local News" at

### **Amber Waves**







## by Dave T. Phipps GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER AS LONG AS I'M STILL FASTER THAN HER.

www.

by Mike Marland

Wishing 0 C O M E С D 3 5 5 8 N D R 3 5 6 8 4 G 0 5 8 6 8 4 6 4 3 5 2 6 8 5 3 2 8 2 6 4 8 O D

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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YBYUROKHDAXUQNK HEBYVS(M)PMJHEBYV TQOLGIEGDBYWTRP MK I E F N D D B Y W U E S Q OMKRVIIFDSBZUXW USQOEIAELNLHRSJ

H S F D D K T A E S C H T A Y

WV I T E L I I I S L L A T A Q

P N L S N D O B D K F A I A B

MAGIC MAZE ■

**INSERT A "C"** 

TO MAKE A

**NEW WORD** 

### R.F.D.



MMM ..

FRIED

CHICKEN

AND

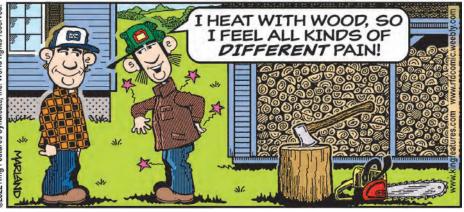
CORN

MMM

TURKEY

AND

GRAVY



### Out on a Limb

BAKED

YUM ..

HAM!

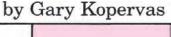
MMM...

AND

POTATOES.

MEATLOAF





DINNER

AT

HSDIAF(N)SEDULERP FIRECRACKER ECBRDBGNIKANSDZ BARREL Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: NOT FALSE Fleeing Mediation Additive Biker Radials Aids Dane Snaking

Deals

Fats

©2022 King Feat

Basis

Bath

### The Spats











### by Jeff Pickering

KARRAS



Path

Prelude

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Sold

	1	7		9				4	
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	5	2			6		9		
9				8		2		3	
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# Free Firewood for the Holiday Season to Qualified Southeast Madera County Residents!

To qualify, you must show an ID with proof of residency within the local area. Pickup will be at 37101 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos, next to the SEMCU sign. For more information contact us at the number below.

Until further notice, the regular SEMCU meetings will take place via teleconference.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The teleconference number is 312-757-3121 and the Access Code is 715-657-949.

Our next meeting is Monday, December 19 at 6 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org