

The Ranchos Independent



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"ACE-ing" the Competition

Liberty High School's Architecture, Construction and Engineering (A.C.E.) Mentor Program took on four other high schools from Fresno County in a mock building project proposal competition at Fresno State, judged by professionals in the building and educational fields.

The team, Liberty's first ever, came away with the top prize and the respect of the other schools and judges.



Picture Courtesy of Shawndee Dix

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Marijuana in Madera County: 2010 Breaks All Previous Records

Increase from 2008 to 2010 in excess of 20,000 percent

In their ongoing efforts to battle the illicit drug trade throughout Madera County, agents with the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET) have just released their annual report for 2010 showing, in some cases, a huge spike in recorded drug seizures, most notably in marijuana. The report shows a growth from less than 67 pounds of processed marijuana seized in 2008 to more than 14,000 pounds seized in 2010.

In 2010 alone, a record number of drugs were seized. They include:

DRUG	AMOUNT	TOTAL VALUE
HEROIN	11.8 grams	\$1,115
COCAINE	41.0 grams	\$3,840
METHAMPHETAMINE	3,877.1 grams	\$379,870
MARIJUANA (processed)	6,400,395.2 grams	\$37,009,351
MARIJUANA (plants)	173,782 plants	\$434,455,000
STEROIDS	2 vials	\$40
METHADONE	5 tablets	\$25
DIZAEPPAM	2 tablets	\$10
HYDROCODONE	15.5 tablets	\$310

While Cocaine and Heroin seizures dropped somewhat from years past, Madera County experienced a spike in the number of marijuana plants found growing illegally on both private and public lands as well as processed marijuana:

Marijuana plants eradicated from 2008 – 2010		
2008	2009	2010
126,712	131,217	173,782
Processed Marijuana seized from 2008 – 2010		
2008	2009	2010
30,119.7 grams (nearly 67 pounds)	30,319.2 grams (nearly 67 pounds)	6,400,935.2 grams (nearly 14,100 pounds)

Between January and December of 2010, MADNET successfully seized close to \$500 million in drugs and made nearly 70 arrests. Sheriff John Anderson believes the spike in drug seizures – specifically marijuana – can probably be attributed to an ever growing number of drug trafficking organizations moving into Central California. In looking at these numbers, Anderson credits the aggressive efforts of MADNET (with assistance from our county’s Gang Enforcement Team, MADGET, our Regional SWAT Team, and Fish & Game) for successfully finding and shutting down these drug operations.

Agents worked together to carry out a number of investigations throughout the mountain communities of Eastern Madera County as well as on the Valley floor in both Madera and Chowchilla. MADNET, MADGET and Madera County’s Regional SWAT team are each made up of sworn personnel pooled from all law enforcement agencies operating in Madera. Those agencies include: the Sheriff’s Department, Chowchilla Police, Madera Police, California Highway Patrol, Probation, Department of Corrections and the District Attorney’s Office. Anderson said the combined support is vital to our continued battle against illegal drugs in our county, and that without our agencies working together we could never tackle the size and scope of drug trafficking organizations operating in Madera County.

MADNET and MADGET operate under a single Commander assigned to Madera County from California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

Anyone with any information regarding suspicious drug activity in Madera County can always call MADNET’s 24-hour tip line at 559-657-7776.

Who’s the Ranchos’ Next Mayor?



Honorary Mayoral Candidates (from left) Mark Kelner, Mike Nolte, Aris Fotopoulos, Jim Santa Cruz, Carla Hart, Tom Hurst, Bill Prince (representing Bill Cosner), and Audrey Stock. Not pictured is Vince Guthrie.

If you’ve been wondering what all the talk about the Ranchos needing a “Mayor” has been about, it’s all in the name of good fun and helping local charities. The Ranchos Kiwanis is sponsoring the event that will culminate on Flatlanders Day. Nine “candidates”

representing various charitable organizations in the Ranchos are soliciting for “votes” at \$1 each, with the person with the most money being named Mayor. Twenty-five cents of every dollar goes to the Kiwanis and the other 75 goes to the charities represented. Vote!

Updating Ranchos Disaster Plan

By Ellen Mester

If you’ve ever wondered how our emergency personnel would handle specific disasters in our community, then rest assured. Sheriff John Anderson, the Office of Emergency Services, and Station 19 have a plan, which they presented on Feb. 23 at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. It’s called the “Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010” written and compiled by several Madera County departments. Sheriff Anderson, Undersheriff Frank Benard, OES Coordinator Janet Stanovich, and CalFire Chris Christofferson presented different disaster scenarios and how they would be mitigated. Their presentations were very informative, and most importantly, they were reassuring. California has such a wide variety of potential disasters or hazards as well as plenty of experience in dealing with them, that our state has become a leader, helping other areas of the county and other nations in disaster mitigation.

Some of the hazards affecting our area that were discussed in the presentations and the questions following were: dam failures, toxic chemical spills, wildfires, underground gas line explosion, volcanic eruption, earthquake, and acts of terrorism. One of the most fearful acts of terrorism would

be an electromagnetic pulse set off above the earth that could knock out ALL electronic equipment for a large portion of the West Coast resulting in no communication as we know it. Questions arose regarding the establishment of a location in the community where citizens could seek information, first aid, shelter, food and water if such an event occurred. Sheriff Anderson suggested Liberty High School as a likely location although nothing has been officially set yet. Undersheriff Benard encouraged all citizens to have a personal plan for their family that includes having a week’s supply of food and water on hand always, safe locations for family to gather and which neighbors to contact. The best defense he said is to know your neighbors and keep your eyes and ears open all the time. Don’t hesitate to call the Sheriff’s Department if something looks suspicious.

This event was hosted by The Citizens Advisory Committee of Madera Ranchos and was held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Approximately 30 people attended. If you would like to learn more about the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) please join us on the last Wednesday of each month at the Ranchos Library at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



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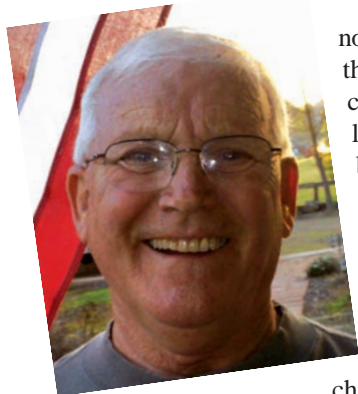
Flatlanders Craft Show History All About the Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

May 14 is rapidly approaching, which means the Flatlanders Day Parade and Craft Show! This is the 21st year for Flatlanders Day which originated as a Grand Opening for the Ranchos Library in October, 1990. The first parade began at Webster School and marched down 36 1/2 to Berkshire and then to the Maywood Shopping Center for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new library. Over the years, the event expanded to include a craft show which now takes up most of the parking lot. The parade was moved to Avenue 12 to give wider berth for the floats, horses, fire trucks and larger crowds of onlookers. This year's event will include all of that PLUS the Firemen's Chili Cook-Off, Blood Drive for Lexi, pet adoption, and of course a book sale. The theme will be "Community Pride." All of the proceeds for the Craft Show go to the Friends of the Ranchos Library. It is our major fundraiser of the year. The Parade portion is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce that does an excellent job coordinating the closure of Avenue 12, arranging trophies, sponsors and advertising. We are so grateful to all the businesses and individuals from both the Friends and the Chamber who work so hard to make this event happen each year.

Elect Bill Cosner for Honorary Mayor

The Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos will be announced at Flatlander's Day. Please vote for The Friends of the Ranchos Library nominee, Bill Cosner. Bill is the chairman for the MD-10a Water District Committee, a long-time resident of the Ranchos and husband of our library assistant, Barbara Cosner. His slogan is "Reading Cures Ignorance!" He agrees with John Wayne who once said, "Life is difficult, but it's more difficult if you are stupid." Please show your support for Bill by casting dollar votes in his campaign jar at the library.



Next up – Summer Reading Program 2011

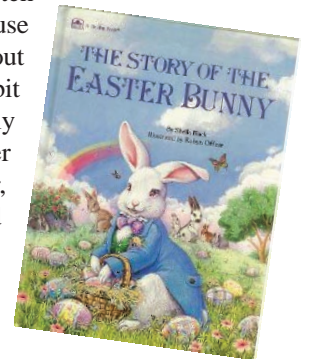
Mark your calendars for June 16 if you have children between the ages of 3 to 12 years. The title of the program is "One World, Many Stories" and the theme centers on cultural diversity and travel. Our kick-off party begins that Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. with games from 14 countries set at each station throughout the library. There will be a flag from each country plus a volunteer who will monitor each station. We even have an Italian gelato stand planned! Everyone who participates will receive a reading log packet and a small prize. Then each Thursday for the following six weeks, we will host a special performer or activity plus our Dragon Drawing for a special prize. All this fun is to encourage kids to read during the summer. Studies show that children will retain more of what was learned over the previous school year just by stimulating the brain through reading. Reading also improves vocabulary and communication skills. It's so important to keep children reading over the summer that libraries across the nation plan and prepare

for the Summer Reading Program six to nine months in advance every year. And yes, these programs are free. They are sponsored by non-profit groups, businesses and individuals in the Ranchos community. Why do we do it? We do it because we care about children and because we know that they are our future.

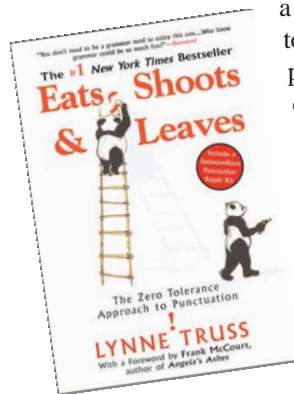
Our regular programs, such as Pre-school Story Time and After School Wednesday programs, will be on vacation over the summer and will begin again in September.

Book Recommendations

Juvenile Picture Book: *The Story of the Easter Bunny* by Sheila Black. As the smallest and youngest bunny in his family, Early wasn't good at many things except telling stories, watching butterflies and daydreaming. His siblings often said he should have been named Late, instead of Early, because he was so slow. But Early had a tender heart and cared about others. All the rabbits had heard about the most famous rabbit of all—The Easter Bunny—but only Aunt Sofia had actually ever seen him. Nonetheless, when they heard that the Easter Bunny was getting old and would soon pick his successor, they all dreamed of being chosen—even little Early. One cold winter day in the middle of a blizzard, an old stranger comes to their burrow looking for food and shelter. All the rabbits shun him, except Early who offers him his bed and food for the night. In the morning he finds a bright green egg but no sign of the stranger. I'm sure you can guess who becomes the chosen successor for the Easter Bunny. It's a sweet story for all ages.



Adult Non-fiction: *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: the Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* by Lynne Truss. The cover shows two panda bears, one holding a gun while walking away, the other trying to erase the comma in the title. This book was a British bestseller in 2004 and sad to say, I've just gotten around to reading it. It's wonderful, funny and oh-so true! Ms. Truss, in pure British humor, shows how the incorrect usage of punctuation can change EVERYTHING. Here's just one example:



"A woman, without her man, is nothing."

"A woman: without her, man is nothing."

Ms. Truss believes that not only are "... punctuation marks traffic signals of language but that they are a courtesy designed to help readers to understand a story without stumbling." This gives me such a new appreciation for using punctuation marks correctly. I encourage everyone to enjoy this book and in doing so, learn something.

Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library, 37167 Avenue 12, Madera. 645-1214. Check our website www.madera-countylibrary.org for current hours and furlough day closures. And don't forget your library card – don't leave home without it.

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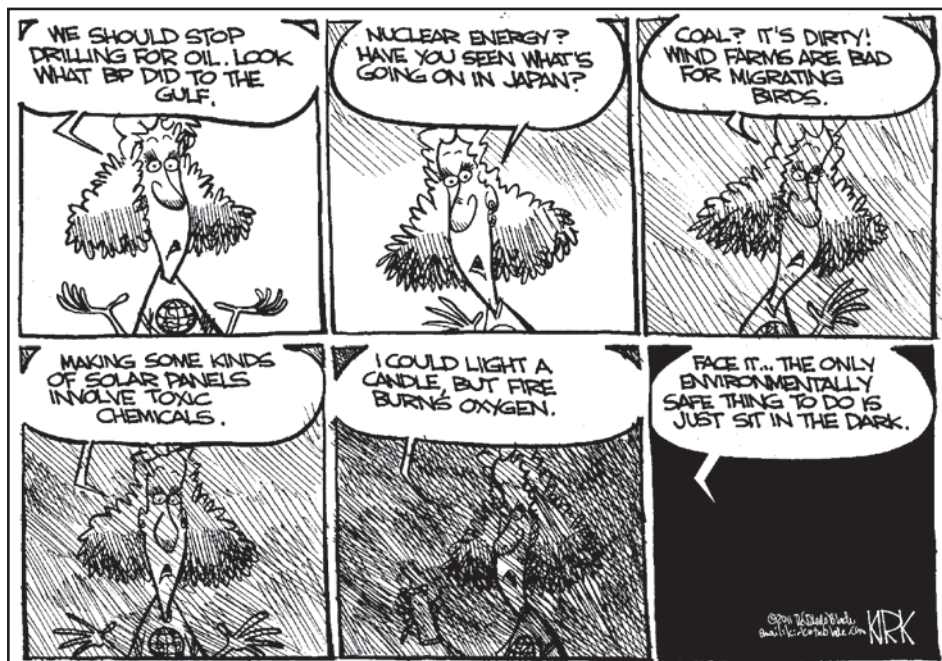
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Editorial

They're Coming for Our Kids

By Randy Bailey

In Chicago, on the West Side, is a public school called the Little Village Academy. Just this month it came to light that they had passed a rule there that its students were not allowed to bring lunches packed from home – unless they had a medical excuse, of course – and that its students must eat the cafeteria food provided by the school.

Why? Just ask the Principal, Elsa Carmona.

“Nutrition wise, it is better for the children to eat at the school,” Carmona said.

So, nutrition wise, it's better for the children to be forced to eat school food. But, in the interest of the children, guess what Principal Carmona and the Little Village Academy think is a viable alternative for the kids who don't want to eat the school food? According to the Chicago Tribune, “At Little Village, most students must take the meals served in the cafeteria or go hungry or both.”

Well, there you have it. Meals from home are so detrimental that it would be better for a child to go hungry than eat something prepared by his or her Mom or Dad. In the infinite wisdom of Chicago-area academics, a hungry child is preferred to a nutritionally challenged child. And what if the meal

prepared from home was better nutritionally? Say Mom or Dad had a PhD in nutrition and provided a far superior lunch to the school, know what would happen to it? Not allowed. And do you know why?

They know better, that's why.

In the Tribune story, one Little Village Academy parent, Miguel Medina, likes the school's “no home lunch” policy. “The school food is very healthy,” he said, “and when they bring the food from home, there is no control over the food.”

Ahhh ... control.

This stuff is coming from the top. In December of last year, First Lady Michelle Obama said that when it comes to deciding what our kids should and shouldn't be eating, well, “We can't just leave it up to the parents.”

The arguments in favor of handing our children over to the state are usually couched in discussions like, “Well, there are some really bad parents out there ...” It's time to shed some light on that myth once and for all and drive a stake through its miserable heart. Yes, there are some really bad parents out there and, unfortunately, they are the ones who usually make the news.

But they are the exceptions, not the rule.

Believe it or not, and I know I'm going to lose a lot of Liberal readers with this one, but the vast majority of parents only want the best for their kids. They don't want a village raising their children. They don't want someone deciding what's “best” for their child at lunch time. They don't want their child to have to get a doctor's note to take a Midol, but not be informed if their under-aged daughter has an abortion. The list goes on and on.

The problem with Liberals, or “Progressives,” their self-defining *title de jour*, is that they always know better than you or I. If we would all just shut up, go along with their plans for our kids, our community and our society as a whole, the world would be an infinitely better place. Just ask them.

Then shut up.

The Ranchos Independent

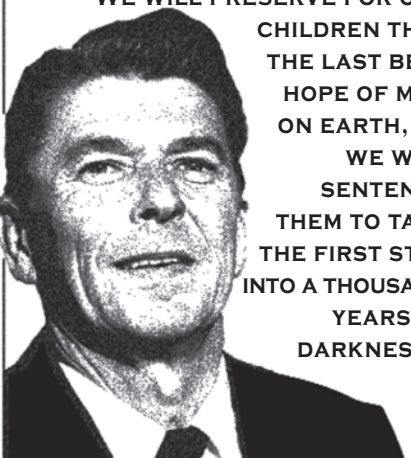
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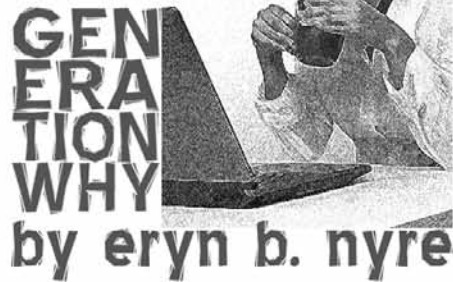
The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Generosity comes in various forms: people give of their time and money, and they share their homes and hearts. I hear stories about people who give thousands and even millions to people in need, but what about the person who only has 50 bucks to their name until their next check, but they still make it a point to give half of that to someone who doesn't even have 20.

My parents are those kinds of people. Whether they are sitting pretty, or tightening their belts, they always make sure to give what they can to others whether it is paying for a new garage door for their mother, repairing a brother's roof, or building a shelving unit for a sister who can hardly walk. Once they even allowed a weary traveler to stay in their home to rest before heading back out on the road; benevolence at its best.

And this feeling of obligation to help our fellow brothers and sisters doesn't just exist within my parents, but my grandparents as well. After we lost my Grandma, while doing the heartbreaking task of tying up the loose ends of her life by closing accounts, cancelling magazine subscriptions and packing up her house, the family came upon a stack of charities that she would consistently give to. My Grams did not have a fat wallet, but she certainly had an enormous capacity for generosity. Having been raised by such loving and giving people, and learning that my Grams was so philanthropic, I decided it was time to follow suit.

I began my benevolent journey at the gas station. I am constantly approached by someone with a sad story asking me for cash. I might toss them a couple bucks and go on my way if I have it and they caught me in a giving mood. This day, I decided to channel the giving nature of my family and do more. When this woman approached me with a story about her misfortune, stolen wallet, empty gas tank and home all the way in Bakersfield, I thought to myself, "This is your chance to try on your benevolent hat." I may not



have a lot of money to spend, but I could afford a tank of gas – well, maybe half a tank with current gas prices. So I asked her where her car was and told her I would be happy to fill her tank. Surprised, she smiled at me with tears in her eyes and pointed to a little beater car parked along the cement wall of the gas station. I helped her push her car up to the pump and filled her tank. She thanked me profusely and went on her way.

"This is why my parents do it; this is why my Grandmother did it. It feels good to help others."

I'll be honest. I didn't think that something so simple would have such a great effect on me, but it did. It felt good to help

someone, and although I wasn't able to buy the shoes I had set out to purchase that day, I know that she needed that money more than me. That good feeling stayed with me for the rest of the week. I imagined that woman pulling into her driveway and hugging her family and thought to myself, "Giving made me feel better than the new peep toe, sling back heels that I had my eye on would have." When faced with a similar situation near my work, I decided I would give it another go around. A tattered man in dingy rags sat under a tree holding a crooked sign that read, "Homeless, Hungry, Hurting, Please Help. God Bless." I thought if ever the good Lord is sending me a sign to give and continue my charitable acts, this was it. I had just swung through the drive through and picked myself up a burger, fries and a shake. I had brought my lunch to work, but I just didn't want the dry sandwich and yogurt I packed, so I jumped in my car and went for a burger. Waiting to turn out of the parking lot is

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 13

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PB&Everything!

Tonight I was Internet surfing (channel surfing to a TV addict) to do some research for this month's article when I came across a website, "National Day of ..."

Every day of the year is "National Day" of something. Tomorrow is National Sibling day – I'll see my sister in the morning at church and lunch afterward – and I'm going to call my brother in the afternoon. I love the text for Sibling Day: "Siblings are like the best friends we never asked for, but are really glad we have." I hope that is your feeling for all of you that have siblings. And tell them as often as you can because tomorrow may be too late – believe me as I am living proof of that!

I was looking for Peanut Butter Day. I found Jan. 24 is National Peanut Butter Day; April 2 was National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day; June 13 is National Peanut Butter Cookie Day; and November is National Peanut Butter Month.

George Washington Carver discovered 300 uses for peanuts. He started popularizing uses for peanuts, including peanut butter, paper, ink and oils beginning in 1880. Carver didn't patent peanut butter because he believed food products were gifts from God.

Which came first, Jif or Skippy peanut butter? Neither! Joseph Rosenfield invented a churning process that made smooth peanut butter. In 1928 he licensed his invention to the Pond Company, the makers of Peter Pan peanut butter (Picky people pick Peter Pan peanut butter; it's the peanut butter picky people pick). In 1932 Rosenfield began making his own brand of peanut butter called Skippy which included a crunchy style peanut butter. In 1955, Proctor & Gamble entered the peanut butter business by acquiring the W. T. Young Foods, makers of Big Top Peanut Butter. They introduced Jif in 1958 and now operate the world's largest peanut butter plant – churning out 250,000 jars every day.

My condolences to all of us Skippy fans, but Jif is the winner – 91,250,000 jars of Jif are sold each year, but only 90,000,000 jars of Skippy are sold annually. THAT IS



A LOT OF PEANUT BUTTER!

There are so many ways to have peanut butter. PB&J sandwiches are probably the most popular, with peanut butter cookies coming in second. Then there is PB on celery (when you can afford celery), on crackers, pizza crust, waffles, and how about on a slice of apple. Or my favorite, on a toasted cinnamon raisin bagel?

We have a dear friend we met when we started going to the church we now attend in Clovis. A few years ago she and her husband down sized and moved to Madera to be closer to their family. Bea sent me a couple of peanut butter recipes I want to pass on.

Coconut Peanut Butter Banana Nut Bread

- 1 ½ C All Purpose Flour
- 1 C Sugar
- 1 ½ tsp Baking Powder
- ½ tsp Baking Soda
- ½ tsp Salt
- 2 Eggs (well beaten)
- 1 C Mashed Ripe Bananas (2 large)
- ½ C Melted Butter
- 1 C Creamy Peanut Butter
- 1 T Vanilla
- 1 C Chopped Walnuts
- ½ C Thinly Sliced Maraschino Cherries

1 C Shredded Coconut
In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt. Mix well and set aside.

In a small mixing bowl, beat eggs, bananas, peanut butter, butter and vanilla. Beat with mixer until creamy smooth. Gradually add dry ingredients mixing well. Fold in coconut, nuts and cherries. Pour into a 9x5x3 loaf pan. Bake at 350 for 55 to 60 minutes or until tested near the center with tooth pick and it comes out clean.

Peanut Butter Dip

(Good on sliced apples and Fruit Breads)

- 1 8 oz. container Sour Cream

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 13



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Mayors, Parades and Sober Grads

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

In the last month's Independent I put out the invitation to come one, come all to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Annual Home and Garden Festival and by golly you came! I want to thank the people of our community for making all of the seniors' hard work pay off. With a special thank you to all of the vendors. People really had a nice selection from which to look and shop. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors made a little over \$5,000 at the event, which will keep the Senior Center operating. For those of you that don't know, the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is owned and operated by the seniors of this community. Since I was the chairman of the Home and Garden Festival this year I really learned a lot and I am glad that it was a success.

Saturday April 16 was another busy day for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Our President, Mike Thomson, organized a bicycle ride as a fundraiser for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors about three years ago. Each year more

bicycle riders have signed up to ride. This year 100 bicycle riders from all over signed up to ride. They started out from the Senior Center on one of the four routes that were laid out by Mike. President Mike worked hard to make this year's ride the best ride yet. There is a lot of planning that goes into one of these rides. When the bicycle riders finish their ride they come to the Senior Center for a homemade lunch and prizes that Mike and his committee had collected.

While the Bicycle Ride was happening at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, across the street at the Ranchos Market the Ranchos Kiwanis club was having a vendor event to showcase all of the mayor candidates. There are 10 candidates run-

ning to become the honorary mayor of the Ranchos at the May 14 Flatlanders Day Parade. Since I was chosen by the Ranchos/Hills Seniors as their candidate to run for Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos, I was at the Ranchos Kiwanis event asking for people's votes. The Kiwanis event really turned out very well and I collected a lot of votes. If you missed my article about the mayor's race in the last issue of the Independent, I will tell you again how it works. Ten different non-profit organizations are running candidates for the honorary mayor position. Every vote costs \$1 and each organization keeps 75 cents and gives the Ranchos Kiwanis 25 cents for their children-centered projects. The dollars will be counted on May 5 to see which organization has collected the most dollars.

The mayor candidate with the most votes will be crowned the Honorary Mayor and ride in the Flatlanders Day Parade on May 14. If you see me out and about come by with your dollars and help out the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Make me, Audrey Stock, the Ranchos Honorary

Mayor for 2011.

I have been too busy to visit our Golden Valley Schools as I usually try to, so I don't have much to tell about our schools except this is a very busy time of the year for all teachers and students. It is a time for testing and Easter Vacation. This school year is almost over and there are still many things left to accomplish. The committee that is putting on the Sober Grad Night at Liberty High still needs gifts and money to make June 2, 2011 a safe and sane night for the Liberty graduates. You can drop off gifts and money at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office as Randy Bailey is the Chairman in charge of the Sober Grad Night this year.

The committee that is putting on the Sober Grad Night at Liberty High still needs gifts and money to make June 2, 2011 a safe and sane night for the Liberty graduates. You can drop off gifts and money at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office as Randy Bailey is the Chairman in charge of the Sober Grad Night this year.

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Kiwanis Korner

“Ranchos Needs A Mayor” Race Heats Up as Flatlanders Approaches

By Carla Hart

“Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.”

The Ranchos Kiwanis Honorary Mayor’s Race is turning out to be quite a successful endeavor with two fun events having taken place to promote it in April. The Mayor’s kickoff officially began on April 2 at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center Home and Garden Show and on April 16 the Ranchos Kiwanis hosted the Mayor’s Craft Fair in the parking lot of Ranchos Market (thank you, David Hill!). Both events featured lots of food, entertainment, games, crafts and an opportunity to get out and meet the nine candidates and cast your votes their way. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated their money and efforts to make these two events so successful. Be sure to visit our website at www.ranchoskiwanis.com for photos and videos of the event.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to meet with the candidates and lend them your

support. If not, there’s still time to vote. Remember, one vote = \$1 and the candidate with the most money wins. The votes will be counted on May 5 at the Ranchos Pizza Factory and the winner will ride in the float at the Flatlanders Day Parade. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds go to the Kiwanis Club and we, in turn, give those dollars right back to the community. Seventy-five percent of the contributions go to the nonprofits. Yours truly is the Kiwanis nominee so feel free to buy lots of votes. Drop your money into my cute little bird houses at your favorite Ranchos establishment like Trophies, Gifts & Awards by Hart Photography, Beauty Club, Crafter’s Cove, S&K Market, Pizza Factory and Ranchos Market. You can also vote by check or money order made out to Ranchos Kiwanis at PO Box 37221 Ave 12 Suite #1C-29, Madera, CA 93636. Please indicate “Vote for Carla” on the check. Candidates are: Bill Cosner (Friends of the Library), Aris Fotopoulos (Liberty Baseball) Vince Guthrie (Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce), Carla Hart (Ranchos Kiwanis), Tom Hurst (Liberty Golf club), Mark Kelner (Ranchos Volunteer Fire Dept.), Mike Nolte (Liberty Football), Jim Santa Cruz (RYF Football)

and Audrey Stock (Ranchos Hills Seniors).

The Kiwanis E-Waste recycling event the weekend of February 12-13 raised \$2,000 which will support the needs of Boy Scouts Troop 118, Cadet Corp and LHS Virtual Enterprise Club. Also in February, the club donated library books to the Golden Valley Unified School District. On March 29, the club presented an \$800 check to the Liberty High Special Education Program. The money will be used to help seniors with special needs make the transition from high school to a work or college environment. Also, a \$500 check was presented to the family of Alexis Delgado. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Lexi and her family.

On March 17, Kiwanis Lt. Governor Richard Wayne presented long-time members John Glueck, Dale Lucas and John Minney Distinguished Service awards for volunteerism and the important role they serve in our club. Congratulations and thank you to these three dynamic members who are invaluable to the club.

Upcoming events include the Torch of Excellence on Monday, May 9 where athletes from the State Center Community College District are recognized for academic achieve-

ment. The event is being held at the Clovis Memorial Building.

The Ranchos Kiwanis meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at Alfresco Coffee and each Thursday thereafter at 6:45 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. If you are interested in having fun while giving back to the community contact President, Mona Diaz at 333-1913. Come join us at a meeting to see what we’re all about.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

Board Members:

- President: Mona Diaz phone: 333-1913
- Past President: John Herrera
- President Elect: Charles Diaz
- Vice President: Chris Parks
- Secretary: Pam Glueck
- Treasurer: Perry Watkins

Board of Directors:

- Marie Cameron
- Bev Delk
- John Glueck
- Carla Hart
- Virginia Vick

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SATURDAY, MAY 14

DIVISION	AGE	WEIGHT
Mighty Mites	6, 7 & 8 year olds (6 year olds must be 6 by Nov. 30)	95 lb. weight limit
Pee Wees	8, 9 & 10 year olds	120 lb. weight limit
Juniors	10, 11, 12 & 13 year olds	10-12 weight limit 140 lbs. 13 weight limit 95 lbs.
Seniors	12, 13 & 14 year olds	185 lb. weight limit

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SIGN UP AFTER FLATLANDERS PARADE
\$135 RETURNING PLAYER • \$160 NEW PLAYER

FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT JOHN STEPHENS 246-8532

Write Your Story and Pass it On

By Verlaine Elinburg

Everyone has unique life experiences that he or she should preserve for future generations. Writing your autobiography is the perfect way to tell your story and pass on valuable life lessons. Purchase a stack of index cards or a small note book and begin entering single events in a single sentence or phrase and the date, if you remember it. Ask yourself questions that will help jog your memory: who, what, where, when, why and how. Questions like where was I born and where did I live growing up? Gather information by talking to friends, family – both immediate and extended families – about past times and about particular times in your childhood. Look through old photo albums, review old records, check the website www.familysearch.org or other genealogical

websites. Create a time line. Organize all your material by milestones: preschool years (information from parents); school years; college; marriage; birth; jobs; special experiences, such

as, first love, breakups, illness and deaths of immediate family members and how the course of your life was affected by the event. Also include your achievements and decisions. Or go chronological and proceed in sequence, with each chapter of your life grouped into 10-year periods. Keep the reader in mind and make sure the events flow logically from one to the other. Use a computer if you can; it does many special things, including checking your spelling and grammar, and it will allow you to easily refine your draft.

Your story is to pass on to your family – many future generations down – your blood line, your history and your health. And for the husband and wife who wondered where the red headed, slant eyed, dark or light skinned baby come from, now you have an answer.

For those of you who would like to share with us, the Senior Center would also like to obtain life stories from our members. I visited the Madera American Legion and was impressed by the pictures they had of their past members and the Senior Center would like to remember its members as well.

Festival a Hit

The Annual Spring Festival was a big success. The weather was a gift to all the participants of the event and to Audrey Stock, the chairperson of the event, a “high five.” She did a fantastic job of keeping on track the

different departments that put the function together. Dittoes to our President, Mike Thomson, for his help in all departments. The Ranchos/Hill Seniors would like to honor and give a special “thank you” to Bobbie Farina and her crew for the baked goods; Caroline Reese and her helpers for Easter baskets; Judy and George Hagler for the Farmers Market; Olens Williams and crew for the garden; Mar and Nancy Koontz for the BBQ lunch; Carolyn Thompson and helpers for the breakfast and Treasure House; Mary Allen for the raffle and Merle Anderson for the Flyers. Also a thank you to Sally Shassetz and to all the runners, cashiers, background helpers and the Boy Scouts Troop #18. We could not have done it without you.

The Madera County Department of Health comes periodically to the center for free check-ups. The screenings include: Per-

sonal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test; nutrition and health education and low cost blood test is available; the health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a suggested price for 60 years and older of \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you, and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy, additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and the Golden valley Chamber of Commerce.

May Activities

May 2 - Board Meeting 6 p.m. 1st Monday of the Month. The membership is invited.

May 7 - Ranchos/Hills Treasure House, Bake, Boutique and Plant Sale.

May 9 - General Meeting 7 p.m. 2nd Monday of the month.

May 16 - Planning Meeting 12:30 p.m.

May 21 - Birthdays and Anniversaries, Japanese Kitchen, 711 W. Shaw, Clovis, CA. 559-297-1100, 11:30 a.m.

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Golden Valley Chamber

2011 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 14, 2011 • \$10 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: _____

Novelty Name: _____

Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!

Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parade route: Avenue 12 from Topper to Kensington

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 2** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

Say you saw it in the **Ranchos Independent**

Click on “Local News” at

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

where I saw him, sweating from the heat, tired from what was clearly a hard life, so I rolled down my window and handed him the lunch I really didn't need anyway. When I glanced back in my review mirror, he was still smiling as he practically inhaled it. And minutes later, as I was savoring my PB&J, I thought to myself, "This is why my parents do it; this is why my Grandmother did it. It feels good to help others." I know that whenever I need anything, my parents are right there to help me. Whenever I am struggling I have friends and family by my side to help me through, not everyone has that safety net. Sure, there is always some twit holding up a sign on the street corner hoping to get enough money to supply a drug habit, or another begging for money at the gas station just so they can go in and buy a beer instead of fuel their car, but sometimes that person asking for food is just hungry and isn't trying to scam anyone. And, at the end of the day, even if you don't have money, you can always spare your lunch.

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

1 8 oz. (or 6 oz.) Cream Cheese
1 12 oz. Cool Whip
1 3 oz. Pkg. Vanilla Instant
Pudding
1 T Vanilla
¼ C Cream (or Half & Half)
½ C Creamy Peanut Butter
Fresh sliced apples or sliced
sweet bread

In a mixing bowl beat pudding, vanilla and cream until smooth. Add cream cheese; add sour cream, then peanut butter – mixing well after each addition. Fold in Cool Whip. This will keep well in the refrigerator for four or five days.

In all the years I have been around kids, I have only found one that didn't like peanut butter (my niece Jessie). In fact, some kids just give them a jar of peanut butter and a spoon and they will be happy.

I went online looking for recipes for kids, both that they would like and they can help make. I found a couple that sound like fun and good to boot.

No Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

2 C Sugar
½ C Peanut Butter
½ C Milk
1 tsp Vanilla
3 C Quick Oats (not instant)

Mix sugar, peanut butter, milk and vanilla together in large pan. Bring to a good boil. Remove from heat, add oatmeal. Cool until able to handle. Have the kids help roll into little balls and place on a cookie sheet. If you want to make these chocolate, add ½ C butter and ½ C cocoa powder to mix before boiling.

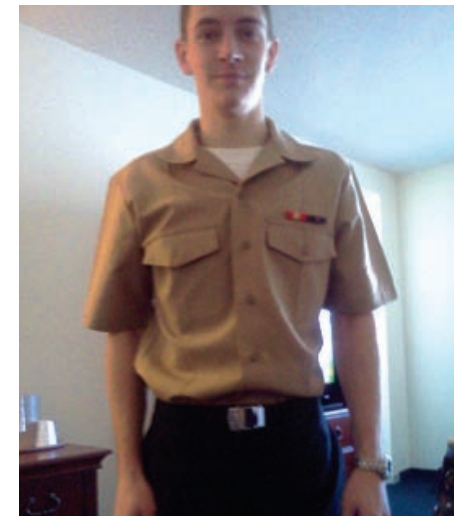
Sushi for Kids

What kid wouldn't like to smash a slice of bread before making a sandwich?

Lay a slice of bread on a cutting board and with a rolling pin roll until thin. Spread the bottom two thirds of the slice with peanut butter and jelly. From the bottom of the bread, roll like a jelly roll (or sushi) and pinch with the top to seal. Slice to resemble sushi. You can cut the crust off before spread-

ing PB&J if you would like. This would make a neat surprise for your child's lunch box.

In researching this article, I found several uses for the peanut and peanut butter. The one that surprised me the most was the United States Navy! Did you know they have a uniform called the Peanut Butter Uniform?



As proof of that, here is a picture of our own Keegan Fitzgerald (Liberty High, Class of 2009) in his.

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Keep it or Toss it?

I want to get organized, but how do I know what to keep, and what to let go of? The answer is simple, but making it reality can be a challenge.

A client whose craft room had become a catch-all told me when we started that she wasn't going to get rid of anything. When she looked into the room, everything in there seemed of equal value to her. Progress came when she caught the vision for regaining the room for its intended purpose. Once she determined the value of the space and what was most important to her, it became easier to make decisions on what to keep and what to let go of. When the job was done, she had a well-organized craft room, complete with all the supplies she needed and space to work in. (Go to www.organizedbychoice.com for before/after pictures.)

A First Step

Whether you're organizing your junk drawer, garage, or office, the first step is to determine the purpose of the space and what your goals and priorities are. Your purpose and priorities become the plumb-line for what stays and what goes. That way you're keeping the things that are most important to you and that fit with the purpose of the space.

Here are some more questions that will help as you determine what stays and what goes:

- Have I used this item in the past

year?

- Do I have a definite use for this in the foreseeable future?
- If it's broken, is it worth fixing?
- Does this item serve a worthwhile purpose in my life?
- Do I need to keep it for legal or tax purposes?
- Is it more important to me to keep this item than to have the space it occupies?
- Do I love it?
- If it has sentimental value, is it something I can take a picture of to remember it by, or keep a portion of it rather than keeping the whole thing?
- Would it be difficult or expensive for me to get another one?
- Do I have more than I use or need?
- Do I really want to continue to take care of it or work around it?
- Is it earning its keep?

What's My Goal?

I recognize that it's hard sometimes to let go. The other day as I worked with a client clearing out paper files, she was struggling with wanting to hold on to stuff. At one point she said, "Remind me again what my goal is?"

"To reduce and simplify," I responded.

Because the process can be challenging, write down your goals and purpose for the space you're organizing. Ask someone to come alongside to keep you on task. You too can experience freedom from the clutter that crowds out what you truly value!

You can contact Brenda McElroy to have questions answered at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, email her at info@organizedbychoice.com, visit her website www.organizedbychoice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

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www.TheRanchos.com

Schools' Crystal Tower Awarded

The Bridge Store, Delaware North Companies, and Valley Bowl received the Crystal Tower Award April 13 at the Eighth Annual Business and Education Shareholders' Luncheon hosted by the Madera County Compact.

Businesses were recognized for their partnerships with Madera County schools in front of more than 160 business and community leaders.

Accepting the award for The Bridge Store, located in Madera, were Wally Nishimoto and Galen Thelander. The Bridge Store was nominated by Marvin Baker, principal at Jack G. Desmond Middle School.

The Bridge Store and its employees have donated merchandise, participated as chaperones on field trips and given cash donations. Their giving hearts are evidenced through their continuous participation which enables youth to broaden their life experiences and make their personal and academic lives more productive.

The Bridge Store allows students access to activities that would not be available without the store's support. They have provided athletic uniforms and donated inventory to athletic events, awards ceremonies and dinners.

Jonathan Farrington, regional director of sales and marketing at the Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp, accepted the second Crystal Tower Award. Delaware North Companies, the owners of Tenaya Lodge, were nominated by Kathleen Murphy, principal at Oakhurst Elementary School.

Tenaya Lodge has provided products, entertainment, talent and time to Oakhurst Elementary. The school has benefited tremendously from the generosity of the Tenaya Lodge at their annual Spirit Night, the largest fundraiser for the school. The hotel has donated spa treatments, dinner packages, hotel rooms and Badger Pass Ski packages, helping the school to raise \$7,000-\$8,000 annually.

Each year classes are invited to learn about the hospitality industry and snowshoe through the back country. When the school had to cancel the weekly trips to Badger Pass

due to funding, Tenaya Lodge stepped in and offered to charter busses for the students.

Terry and Patti Hoban, owners of Valley Bowl in Madera, accepted the third Crystal Tower Award. Valley Bowl was nominated by Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools, and Kristi Fisher, Special Education Director for Golden Valley Unified School District.

Valley Bowl has donated their facility, shoes, bowling balls and time to Madera County's special needs students. They host the annual Special Olympics bowling event for students and allow them to practice for free.

Special needs students who have previously been unable or unwilling to participate

in social and/or sporting activities have flourished in this environment. The Hoban's have devised a special ramp for students who need it and put bumpers in the lanes so each child is successful at knocking down pins.

Along with businesses and educators in the community, the luncheon

highlighted the exceptional student work Madera County has to offer. Many high schools in Madera County contributed to the luncheon in some way.

As guests arrived they walked by photography taken by students at Liberty High School.

This year's keynote presentation was delivered by Kathy Woods, Madera County Office of Education Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Eric Kurtz, chair of the Madera County Compact, served as Master of Ceremonies.

The luncheon was hosted by the Madera County Compact and was held at the Madera Municipal Golf Course.

The Madera County Compact is a group of business, community and education leaders working collaboratively to support efforts to improve the quality of life in Madera County. They promote business partnerships with schools to improve the achievement levels and skills of students and prepare young people for the increasing demands of society and the workplace.



Valley Bowl of Madera was one of the three businesses honored at the Crystal Tower awards. Sharing in the moment (from left) were Kristi Fisher from Golden Valley School District, Terry and Patti Hoban of Valley Bowl, Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools, Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian and Golden Valley Board Trustee, Mona Diaz.

Local Solar Co. Could Benefit LHS

Kenny and Danna McFerrin, Madera Ranchos residents and owners of California Solar, experienced phenomenal success with their company in the area of renewable energy measures in 2010. Their company was one of only 80 nationwide that was recognized and specially trained by BP Solar as Certified Installation Specialists. California Solar has been presented with an opportunity to receive donated solar panels from BP Solar if they can present to BP Solar a proposal that creates the “most community benefit” and generates the most “marketable opportunities” by using the solar panels.

The McFerrins, through California Solar, have chosen to “give back” to many different organizations throughout the year and with the donation of free solar panels they have hit upon an idea that could prove to be a win-win situation: California Solar

would donate all the other necessary components, installation labor and permits to complete a 4.4 kW photovoltaic system for a lucky recipient. California Solar has proposed to donate and install the 4.4 kW solar system on a south-facing building located at Liberty High School.

This designed system could generate approximately 6,660 kW of electricity annually and the benefit to the community would be the savings on electricity costs for Liberty High School for years to come. The system would offset utility costs at Liberty High School for more than 25 years and could also possibly provide an educational opportunity for students interested in vocational training.

At press time the school is on Spring Break so no comments could be collected from either the principal or administrators.

New Pastor Very Experienced

Frank Starkey, Interim Pastor at the Christian Mission Center on Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos, is a servant of the Lord with a long history in the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Starkey retired some 12 years ago from Red Hill Lutheran Church, Tustin, Calif. and moved to King City, Calif. He and his wife, Barbara, bought a Victorian home

which was built in 1892 and made it into a Bed and Breakfast, the only one in Monterey's South County. It is halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Not a “destination” B and B, it attracts people from all over the US, Alaska, Europe and Japan.

The Madera Ranchos is Pastor Frank's fifth interim assignment since he has retired. He has served Lutheran Churches in Los Altos, King City, Hollis-



The Ranchos' newest pastor, Frank Starkey (left) and his wife Barbara, are filling in at the Christian Mission Center on Avenue 12 until a permanent pastor can be found.

ter and Turlock. Barbara, Frank's wife of 59 years, is a columnist for some six newspapers.

Pastor Frank is a graduate of Wittenberg University and Hama School of Theology (now Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio). He has served parishes in Michigan, Iowa and Arizona. In California he served, before his retirement, parishes in Escondido, Glendale, Cerritos, Mission Viejo and Tustin.

He has written several books: “Our Faith,” “Becoming One Flesh,” “Questions and Answers About the Sacraments,” and “A Spiritual Gifts Model of Volunteerism.”

The Christian Mission Center is at 36875 Avenue 12 (at Loren Way) in the Madera Ranchos. Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m. and information is available about services at (559) 324-1144.

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

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Make Your Glasses in the Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

Linda Paquette-Holcroft, a Bonadelle Ranchos resident for 13 years, is proud to announce the opening of Paquette Optical at 37398 Berkshire Drive behind the Ranchos Market and in the parking lot of Hurst Hardware. The Paquette Family has been in the Optical business since 1973 and still has a location in Mountain View, Calif. Linda has over 20 years of experience as a Licensed Optician. "I decided that the Madera Ranchos needed a local Optician and I wanted to work closer to home." On March 4 Paquette Optical opened for business with Linda's daughters Shellie Turner and Angie Turner working with her in the Ranchos location.

Paquette Optical is a full service operation with an on-site lab. All they need is your prescription. They will work with your insurance

company and do the fitting for glasses or contact lens. They carry a wide variety of name brand designer frames, glasses, sunglasses and sport glasses for the entire family, plus they can custom order frames to suit your needs. Linda said she specializes in, "... contact lens fitting, including multifocal and post surgical." They also pride themselves on their years of excellent customer service, their high quality work and on going the extra mile to make their customers happy. "You're welcome to stop in or make an appointment, if necessary appointments can be made outside of normal work hours," she said.

Paquette Optical will be having a Ribbon Cutting and carnival on Saturday, May 21 and everyone is welcome to attend. You can stop by to say hello to Linda, Shellie and Angie and if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment you can call 645-4700.

Business Update

Hart Photo Renames, Relocates



Trophies, Gifts & Awards by Hart Photography is now located at 36734 Ave. 12 across the street from Madlin's Alterations and next to H&R Block on the south side of Avenue 12.

By Christi McKinney

Carla and Travis Hart, owners of Hart's Photography Gallery & Unique Gifts are proud to announce that their business has moved and that the name of the business has changed to reflect their expanded product line. The new business is called Trophies, Gifts & Awards by Hart Photography. It's now located at 36734 Ave. 12 across the street from Madlin's Alterations and next to H&R Block.

While the Hart's will continue to provide the customized gifts, trophies, banners, ribbons, awards and photography services, they made the decision to

change the name to reflect their expanded gift lines. Some of the new gift lines include: Liquid Therapy and Mud Pie. The new gift lines will include clothes for newborn babies, socks and cuddly plush animals as well as beach wear, heirloom boxes and custom lasered desk sets. "We want to take over where Fine Things left off," owner Carla Hart said.

Carla and Travis' son, Andy Hart, will be overseeing the Facebook page for Trophies, Gifts & Awards, to announce specials and new product lines.

Trophies, Gifts and Awards will officially open on April 23. A Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting will be announced shortly.

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We all know the story of Easter...so...what's the big deal?

What difference does it really make NOW...to You and Your family ...in this day and age??

Join us for Flipside Christian Church's Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 24th @ 10am to find out! It will be a unique Easter Sunday experience that you won't soon forget!

In an effort to help those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet...we are proud to be able to offer the "Flipside Hope Store" this Easter Sunday. We will have bags of non-perishable foods, toiletry items, diapers and other necessities that families may need in these difficult times.

ALL ITEMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE...AND GIVEN OUT OF LOVE!!

We encourage you to join us for our Easter Sunday Celebration... and fill up on some spiritual and tangible HOPE!

This is a funny, light-hearted look at the differences between men and women and how those differences affect our marriages.

The Marriage Tune-Up will be presented in 3 sessions:

***Friday, May 13th from 7-9pm**
"HIS BRAIN, HER BRAIN"

***Saturday, May 14th from 7-9pm**
"HOW TO HAVE MINDBLOWING MARRIED SEX"

***Sunday, May 15th from 4-6pm.**
"HOW TO STAY MARRIED AND NOT KILL ANYONE"

As an added bonus...after Sunday nights tune-up concludes, we invite you to enjoy a "Date Night" out with your spouse from 6-9pm!

Child care will be provided for all sessions, including the date night portion of Sunday night, for participating couples...but space is limited so child care pre-registration is required!

4/11



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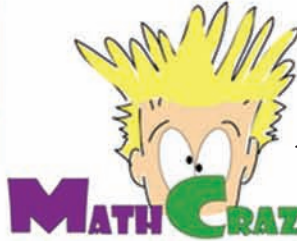
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Columbine Shooting Aftermath: “Rachel’s Challenge” – Do You Accept?



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

A very significant event occurred in Golden Valley Unified on March 25 when the district hosted the nationally acclaimed “Rachel’s Challenge” assembly. Rachel’s Challenge is a touching true life story presented by family members and friends of Rachel Scott, the first student to lose her life in the 1999 Columbine tragedy. Their message to students, parents and community members is an inspiring challenge to all of

us to spread acts of kindness and compassion while reducing acts of bullying and harassment. Rachel’s acts of kindness and compassion along with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation of an hour-long presentation motivating students to make a positive difference in the way they treat others. The Madera County Office of Education led the way by introducing Rachel’s Challenge to the entire county by hosting the community event on March 10 at the fairgrounds in Madera. This event was the kick-off event for the Madera County district events that followed.

On March 25, Liberty High, Ranchos Middle and Educational Options students attended a morning assembly followed by leadership training for a core group of students. During the assembly the students were able to listen to and watch footage of Rachel’s life and the Columbine tragedy. The students were focused, engaged and truly moved by the message of the assembly. Immediately following the assembly, a group of students from the secondary sites were nominated by their teachers to form leadership teams that have been designated to carry on the message throughout the year. The assembly created the desire or the “want” to make a positive change; the leadership training session taught the students “how” to ensure that the momentum and

positive impact will continue. Liberty High School Activities Director, Ms. Sarah Burress and her Leadership students were integral in helping organize the day and will continue to play a key role in sustaining the momentum of the program throughout all of our schools.

In the afternoon assembly, the 4th – 6th grade students from Webster and Sierra View attended a modified version of the assembly which focused on setting goals, looking for the best in others, using kind words, and accepting others. Students were not exposed to the Columbine footage, but had an opportunity to listen and view short vignettes produced by “Foundation for a Better Life.” The interactive assembly allowed students to think about and comment on the right way to respond to difficult choices. I had a chance to interview some of the students after the assembly. They commented that this was a great assembly and it gave them better ways to solve problems at school and positive ways to treat other people. Students from Liberty High School also shared some of their thoughts after the morning assembly. Here is what they had to say.

“The assembly this morning was amazing. It really hit me on what it really means to show kindness and compassion ... the strong are those that stand up for what is

right, who set goals for themselves and stick to them ... Rachel Scott was one of the strong, and because she was strong, her life has lived on; because she believed in her dreams, they became real.”

“With this message you have given to us, I feel like it will change the world and how everyone feels for one another and I’m glad I experienced this today.”

“I feel this assembly is going to help my school in so many ways and potentially our entire community.”

The day ended with the district hosting a community wide event for parents, staff and community members to come together to hear and embrace the Rachel’s Challenge message. Each assembly concluded by students, staff and parents signing the Rachel’s Challenge pledge banner. Students also started making a “Chain Reaction” with paper links that had their written message of kindness and compassion on each link. You may see these colorful links throughout our schools. As a community member, you are welcome to add to the chain links with your own message of kindness and compassion. We invite the entire Ranchos Community to accept the challenge. If you would like more information on how you can participate and accept the challenge, please contact any of the school site principals or the district office at 559-645-7500.

LHS Leadership Takes Challenge



The Liberty High School Leadership class helps prepare for the Rachel’s Challenge Assembly held on March 25. From left are Mrs. Hall, Gaby Lomeli, Kaitlyn Mendez, Ashley Menser, Corie Hamilton, Kathryn Collins, Darienne Schmall, Jessi Wallace, Amanda Penner, Courtney Moses and Mrs. Burress

Rachel’s Challenge Impacts Middle School Students

The following are quotes from our RMS Leadership students after attending the Rachel’s Challenge Assembly on March 25:

- Rachel’s Challenge really got to me. I am now looking for people to sit next to.
- I want to pass on Rachel’s theory that a little heart and kindness goes a long way.
- I learned not to judge people when I first meet them ... I’m now looking for the best in others.
- Ever since I went there, I’ve started to see the world differently. I notice when kids are without friends and I try to cheer people up when they are sad.
- Ever since I saw how she impacted people’s lives, I have been trying my best to look for the best in others, daring to dream, choosing pos-

itive influences, using kind words, and starting a chain reaction.

- Now I know how big of an impact I can have on the lives of other people.
- After I heard about the amazing things Rachel Scott did, I was motivated to make a difference in my behavior at RMS.
- Rachel’s challenge has been a great impact on our school. Many students are changing, and I’m also changing.
- If you actually listened with your heart instead of your ears, you will be motivated to be a better person.
- The Friends of Rachel Club is changing the way students look at each other. Instead of looking at people as the “populars,” the “nerds,” or the “emos,” we are actually seeing

that they are people. People with feelings and families and much more than we see of them at school.

- After Rachel’s Challenge, I noticed a change in our school. People going over to sit by someone who was alone or even giving someone a high-five if they did good on something or just to be friendly.
- When I went to Rachel’s Challenge, I was sad and lonely. But what I heard that day touched my heart! I knew I could make a difference in the world no matter how lonely I was. Since that day, I have been on the sunny side of the world, thinking positive and doing positive. I have been keeping a journal and writing in it, because I know, someday, I will start a chain reaction!

Sierra View Students Learn Giving

Ms. Ford's and Ms. McElhaney's class raised over \$140 for disaster relief in Japan. All money raised has been donated to the American Red Cross. Students donated money from their own personal piggy banks, parent support and donations from the community. We are very proud of our students for exemplifying the character trait of the month which is caring. Thank you to all community members who supported this event.

The Sierra View Parent Club Spring Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. They will have donation cards that itemize their needs for this year's carnival. We have donation cards in the front office and you may bring items in until Friday, May 13.

Sierra View participated in the Fresno Grizzlies "Wild About Reading" program for the month of March. Our students read over 1,870 books in less than a month and 187

students will be receiving two tickets each to a Fresno Grizzly game of their choice. We are so proud of our students at Sierra View everyday and this event is just another reason why our students are truly the best.

The Sierra View ASB raised \$279 for Central Valley Children's Hospital on March 8 for Kid's Day. Children's Hospital is an amazing resource for our families and we are very proud of our students for their initiative. The students sold 279 papers in less than an hour. This is a new record for Sierra View. Also, we would like to thank our community for its amazing support.

Sierra View's girls and boys competed in soccer and basketball last month against Webster. Both schools were victorious in their effort on and off the field. Sierra View and Webster competed with character and the highest degree of sportsmanship. We will play Webster one more time on May 20 with a girls and boys Mushball game.

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NEW LAW

Pertussis (*Whooping Cough*) Immunization Requirement

For ALL 7th-12th Grade Students

(Education Code Section 49403, California Code of Regulations Title 17)

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER, GET CLASS SCHEDULES, OR START SCHOOL IN AUGUST WITHOUT PROVIDING PROOF OF THE IMMUNIZATION!

All students entering 7th through 12th grade will need to show proof of having received a Pertussis (*Whooping Cough*) immunization booster before the start of the 2011-2012 school year. To meet this requirement, students need to have one dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine on or after the 7th birthday.

Check your child's immunization record with the chart below or call your family physician to determine if your child has met the requirement.

Vaccine Name	Disease it helps to prevent	Meets 7th-12th grade requirement
Tdap	tetanus, diphtheria, <i>pertussis</i>	YES
DTaP	diphtheria, tetanus, <i>pertussis</i>	YES
Td	tetanus, diphtheria	NO
DT	diphtheria, tetanus	NO

If your child has already received this vaccine:

- Bring your child's immunization record to their current school office by Friday, May 20, 2011.
- Fax a copy of the immunization record to the school office by Friday, May 20, 2011.

If your child needs this vaccine, it may be obtained from:

1. Your family physician, if you have health insurance.
2. If your family does not have a family physician, you may call the CHDP program at 675-7608 or 1-800-427-6897 to find out if you qualify for free preventive doctor visits (including immunizations), as well as to receive a list of doctors in the community. Doctors participating in this program can provide a full physical exam for your child in addition to providing the Tdap booster.

3. The Madera County Health Department Immunization Clinic is available on the following dates/times (if you do not have health insurance):

- The Main Health Department location, 14215 Road 28, Madera, every Wednesday morning from 8am to 10:30am and the 2nd and last Wednesdays of every month from 4pm to 6:30pm.

A well-child visit to your family physician for the Tdap booster is the best plan. Spring Break is a great opportunity to get an appointment.

Parents wishing to exempt their child from the Tdap booster immunization requirement due to personal beliefs may complete the Pertussis (Tdap) Personal Beliefs Exemption form (CDPH 8261) located at your child's school site.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school site and ask to speak to the Health Clerk.

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4H Happenings
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 4H Happenings
 Sierra Shadows 4H Club
 By Anahi Rivera



Fun with Ranchos 4H

Sierra Shadows 4H club has been very busy with its projects. County Presentation, which was held in March, is an event that features demonstration, illustrated talks, speeches, impromptu speeches or interpretative reading presented by 4H members. Olivia Fernandez, Demetria Marical, Micaela Rivera and Anahi Rivera all did demonstrations. Regan Finger did an interpretative reading. All five participants received a gold medal and are able to move on to the Regional Presentation Day which this year was held in Denair on April 16. Giving presentations helps develop many life skills including the ability to speak in front of a group and organizing ideas.

Several of the Sierra Shadow 4H club members participated at Livestock Expo (beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goats and meat goats) where the members are judged on their knowledge, skill, livestock evaluation and showmanship of their animal.

The members that participated in Livestock Expo did very well and earned a medal at each level they entered.

The Chowchilla Fair will be held from May 18 through May 22. Every member has an opportunity to enter an item in the fair. Members, who not only have animals, will be entering items from their other projects in the fair. The sewing group will be entering the pajama pants they made this year. The food preservation groups will be entering some strawberry preserves they made just a few months ago and possibly some beef jerky.

A couple of the 4H members applied and were accepted to be camp counselors this summer at Camp Pacifica located in Ahwahnee. The camp counselors attended their first camp counselor meeting and are busy planning for this year's five-day camp which will be held June 28 through July 2. 4H camp is a nice way to end a busy year and a time just to relax and enjoy being around your 4H friends and have fun.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4H. The Sierra Shadows 4H club leader is Terri Fernandez, who can be reached at 559-645-4836. Call to find out when the next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School in the cafeteria.



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Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.



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The Pastor's Desk

Sudden Destruction, Sudden Help

By David Jones

As a bi-vocational Pastor, I often travel out of the Valley for my work. One of my new customers is right smack dab in the middle of San Francisco. Negotiating the traffic can be challenging to say the least. With each trip, there comes a new appreciation for our community and our way of life. It's true, there's no place like home.

Sixteen years ago, my wife and I left Fresno to move to Nashville, Tenn. My parents were elderly and needed us, so off we went. After eight years, my parents passed and we decided to come back to Fresno where our three adult children live. Right after we got re-settled, I got a call from one of my Tennessee employees saying her house had been completely demolished by a tornado. Her husband was an optometrist with a large practice and his business had not been damaged. Her adult son's house was hit and totally destroyed. It was evident on the phone that she was suffering from posttraumatic stress.

As time passed, my former employee and friend recovered and built a beautiful house in the same neighborhood. Her name is Susan and she now has lots of stories of how neighbors responded immediately with trucks and labor so they could salvage as much as possible.

Now fast forward to the present time when three days ago, I got another call ... a second former employee in Tennessee was on the phone to tell me her house had been destroyed by a tornado ... in the middle of the night ... with her crouching on the floor of a basement closet. Her husband was on the other side of the planet serving as a helicopter pilot for the 5th Special Forces from Fort Campbell. She said the lights suddenly went black, the sky was a strange color and then it hit. Here is her story as she told it to me.

"It was late at night and I was still up. We live in a wooded area in a community near Fort Campbell. The lights suddenly went out, which was not too strange since it was raining really hard. Then with no warning of any kind everything grew strangely silent. I had my cell phone in my hand and it provided me light to head for the basement steps. As I got to the first

step, the tornado hit the house and began making a deafening noise. I stumbled down the steps and fell on the last one. I wasn't hurt so I got up and crawled into a nearby closet. In a moment it was silent again. I was so frightened I couldn't move. I must have stayed there for half an hour before having the courage to come out. I called my Mother who lives only 20 minutes away and she came right over. When she came, she brought the United States Army with her! Engineers from Ft Campbell and neighbors from everywhere showed up to lend a hand to protect our furniture and household goods."

Her name is Jill. You can pray for Jill, as I know she is suffering from post-traumatic stress also. She has a hard time sleeping and knowing that soon her husband will have to go back to war.

You may recall that Nashville was hit with a tremendous flood only a short time ago and the whole city suffered terribly. That whole region is familiar to me as I grew up in East Tennessee. I wanted

I honestly believe if we had a disaster today, we would find neighbors responding to neighbor. Most of us live a rather hectic and fast paced lifestyle but when the tough times come, we are there for each other.

to remind you of our blessing to live right here in the Central Valley. I honestly believe if we had a disaster today, we would find neighbors responding to neighbor. Most of us live a rather hectic and fast paced lifestyle but when the tough times come, we are there for each other.

In only a few days our community is invited to come together to worship. An Easter Sunrise service will be held Easter Sunday morning for any and all to participate. All the churches, all the neighbors and all the doubters too, you are invited to a time which binds us together in the acknowledgement of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Let's not wait for a disaster before we get to know each other. Our guest speaker is Dr. G.L. Johnson, retired pastor of Peoples Church in Fresno.

Bring a lawn chair and a plate of cookies. The service starts at 7 a.m. on the lawn of Golden Valley Baptist Church. I'll see you there!

David Jones is the Pastor of Golden Valley Baptist Church at 12414 Road 37 in the Madera Ranchos. You can reach him through the church website at www.goldenvalley-church.com. You can send him an email from the website and he'll write back.

In Memoriam

Augustine James "A.J." Soltero



June 19, 1986 - March 15, 2011

Known as "A.J." to his friends and family passed away on March 15, 2011 at the age of 24. He is survived by his father, Augie Soltero; mother, Corina Martinez Magill; sisters Jamie Kovack, Kayleen Soltero and Taylor Magill; brother Austin Soltero; stepmother Jackie Soltero; stepfather Bill Magill; grandparents Lily and Pano Vargas, and grandmother Virginia Martinez.

A.J. spent his summer and Christmas vacations with his family in the Madera Ranchos. During the school year he lived with his mother in Simi Valley, Calif. For a short time A.J. attended Webster Elementary for Junior High. He graduated from Royal High School in Simi Valley in 2004.

He worked at FedEx/Kinkos until 2008 and most recently worked at ANS Paintball.

A.J. loved to dance, wakeboard, snowboard, write hip-hop music, and being in the group Lyricly Stable with Jake Ornelas and Garrett Moomjean. He also loved to perform and could keep everyone around him entertained. A.J. and laughter went together. A.J. was a Dodger fan and was almost always seen wearing a L.A. baseball hat.

A.J. will be deeply missed by his friends and family. Until we meet again ...



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Cost of feeding your child to age 18:

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Cost of clothing your child to age 18:

\$14,688

Cost of driving your child to age 18:

\$36,918

Knowing your child will still be alive the day after high school graduation:

Priceless

Liberty High Sober Graduation 2011 needs your help. From donations of gifts to donating your time, what a small price to pay to keep our kids safe on one of the most dangerous nights of their lives. To see how you can help, call Randy Bailey at 645-0634.

4/11

call Randy Bailey
at
559-645-0634

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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*



By Sam Pistoresi

On the Madera Tribune opinion page for Wednesday, Feb. 9, there appeared a commentary written by Tiffany Williams.

Where's the "Illegal" in Illegal Immigrant Story?

It was titled, "Some Take Advantage of Illegal Workers." I hope every subscriber to the Madera Tribune read that commentary. It shows the mentality of these people.

Tiffany Williams uses the word "immigrant" many times. "Immigrant women" and how they are exploited and

"anti-immigrant" fervor where it relates to Arizona's great new legislation, SB 1070. "Extremely harsh and indiscriminate crackdowns on immigrants." "Yet much of the debate about U.S. borders fails to acknowledge immigrants as people." "We're a nation of immigrants."

Did anyone who read that commentary notice the absence of the word "illegal"? As in "illegal immigrants" or "illegal aliens"?

Some Definitions

I took the liberty to look up some words in the Webster's College Dictionary. They are:

1. **IMMIGRANT** – A person who migrates to other countries for permanent residence.
2. **ILLEGAL** – 1. Forbidden by law or statute. 2. Contrary to or forbidden by official rules or regulations. 3. An illegal immigrant.

3. **ALIEN**: A foreign born resident who has not been naturalized and who owes allegiance to another country.

Interesting, isn't it? Those three word definitions, I mean. Especially the word "illegal." The definition goes right to "illegal immigrant."

Does anyone remember, or at least know how, our ancestors were treated when they come to this country legally? Remember Ellis Island? Remember what our immigrant ancestors had to go through to get into this country legally? The following are just a few of the hurdles they faced:

1. They had to have a sponsor.
2. They had to have a job waiting or a means of support, meaning no burden of any kind on other citizens of this country.
3. Some were brought here by plantation owners or other business owners with the understanding that they would work for them until all expenses and support were paid. Sometimes taking up to three years to get out of bondage.
4. They were quarantined until it was determined that they were not carrying a disease into this country.
5. Then they studied hard for their citizenship papers, took a test written or verbal, swore allegiance to the United States of America and then became legal citizens of the United States.

And Tiffany Williams writes about exploitation and abuse of illegal im-

migrants. Like I wrote earlier, the above are just a few of our ancestor's hurdles.

Does anyone really believe there are no diseases brought into this country by some of the illegal immigrants? Does anyone really believe that these illegal immigrants (aliens) are not a burden on tax payers in one way or another? Has anyone noticed their insurance premiums going up because of accidents with uninsured and unlicensed drivers who normally, if not injured, try to take leg bail and do I dare mention the crime rate involving some illegals?

Preventable Problems

All the other hardships she mentions such as exploitation, cheap pay, family separations and being hounded by border patrol could be prevented if they came into this country legally like our ancestors did. Yes, we are a nation of immigrants with about 95 percent legal. So what part of illegal don't these protestors of illegal immigrants understand?

As far as her condemnation of Arizona's SB 1070 Law, it is my belief that every state in these United States should pass the same type of legislation. We also need to elect an administration which would make an effort to protect these state's borders and, in the event that for political reasons they choose not to, then do not hinder nor interfere with the states that are trying to protect themselves like this administration is doing to Arizona right now.

Our borders need to be closed and illegal immigration needs to be stopped and it needs to be stopped now! The labor problem these liberals use to excuse illegals coming into this country can be corrected in either of two ways: One way is to take all able-bodied people off the welfare rolls and they either work or starve! The other way is to put together a good temporary worker program like the Bracero Program we had before.

Contact John Smedley at 645-7031 or jcsmedley@comcast.net for more information. Rick Farinelli can be contacted at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net. For current information and events you can also visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

Join us for Easter Services Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday 7 p.m. YOUTH 13-18

come meet new friends!

www.GoldenValleyChurch.com

12414 Road 37 · Madera Ranchos · 559-645-1700



Golden Valley Baptist
Pastor David Jones



To Advertise
call 645-0634

Considering Cremation?

\$1,799.81

Smith Manor Grace Chapel is offering a Direct Cremation Package for **\$1,799.81**. Our Direct Cremation Service Package is designed specially for families who have chosen to have a simple cremation. This package includes a



Creating Meaningful Funerals
That Celebrate Life

durable plastic urn, a cardboard cremation container, removal from place of death to mortuary within 50 miles, basic services of director and staff, refrigeration, 1-hour private family viewing, one death certificate, disposition permit and sales tax.

We also have many funeral plans to choose from. To discuss payment options on this plan or any of our other funeral plans please contact Pre-Arrangement Specialist Heather Thomas at

662-8825

801 E. Yosemite Avenue, Madera

or call 375-6396 for a direct line to Heather
Lic. #OG40878





"A Look At Business"



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Guardian Pacific Insurance Services Inc

Of special interest to newly married couples, business people or new folks in the area is GUARDIAN PACIFIC located at 1930 Howard Rd., Ste. 128 in Madera. The good reputation of this agency gets a little better every year. They offer professional insurance service, based on finding just the right coverage for your car, your business, your home or farm. Part of their popularity is due to their policy of finding you the best available coverage for your premium dollar.

If you are "new in this area" or would like to get better value for your car, home or business's insurance dollar, phone **559-675-1077** and talk to the folks who care at GUARDIAN PACIFIC INSURANCE SERVICES INC. They will give you the kind of continuing service that they've become so respected for.

When it comes to insurance, we suggest you call the professionals at GUARDIAN PACIFIC. Once you let them work for your family or business, you can feel confident again.



Locally Owned & Operated By Sherryl Sylvester

Join over 4 million women worldwide at CURVES and see success! CURVES offers a 30-minute workout that is specifically designed to help women. The CURVES program combines aerobic exercise and strength training using circuit training and hydraulic resistance that is safe, easy and effective. Try the new **CURVES Circuit with Zumba** fitness; it mixes the music and moves of Zumba with the proven strength training for a wildly effective workout. The women only atmosphere and friendly and knowledgeable staff help women to make and reach their personal goals. Weight Loss classes and guidance are also offered to help women better know their bodies and obtain success.

Located at 16810 Road 26 in Madera, phone **559-662-0234** to set up an appointment for a free workout and figure analysis or just drop by. Whether you want to drop pounds or tone up, our unique exercise program makes it easy. A complete workout is just 30 minutes that's fun and effective! We are pleased to suggest CURVES. We believe you'll like it!

Mention this ad and try the new CURVES Circuit with Zumba for one week free.



Robyn's Day Care

Locally Owned & Operated By Robyn Browne
Lic. #200408145

One of the favorite places of both busy parents and children is ROBYN'S DAY CARE, one of the region's finest child care centers. Located in Madera Ranchos, phone **559-645-5047**, this outstanding day care features facilities for the care of children of all ages and has won the support and approval of families from all over the local area.

This year round program features a secure learning environment, where highly qualified staff can prepare pre-school age children for the fun and challenge of grade school. They emphasize socialization and cooperation, and they feature many outstanding programs and instructional crafts and projects, hot lunches, supervised play periods, daily naps and more. The atmosphere is one of relaxation and fun, so that the little ones really enjoy coming to this fine center.

State licensed and insured, they feature the kind of enriching activities that help children grow and explore their world in a safe, nourishing place. The writers of this 2011 Look At Business are pleased to be able to suggest ROBYN'S DAY CARE to all of our readers.

Valleywide Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Locally Owned & Operated By Scott Steiner Lic. #783026



Specializing in the Ranchos, VALLEYWIDE HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & PLUMBING, located in Madera, phone **559-645-5650** or Scott's cell **559-351-9663**, knows the plumbing, heating and air conditioning business thoroughly. They don't "guess" at your problems - they find the answers. They are people who understand all phases of this work and they keep up with the latest equipment and maintenance problems. They stand behind their work and will do a job in the shortest time possible. They understand that when you have a plumbing, heating or air conditioning problem, you need someone as soon as possible.

They offer you the best in plumbing, heating, and air conditioning fixtures and installation, both commercial and residential. Repair jobs are given prompt attention at a fair price. You will like their employees and find them courteous and efficient. If you want to do business with someone you can trust, be sure to call them.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business find it doubtful that you could find a more competent contractor. Call VALLEYWIDE HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & PLUMBING, you'll be glad you did.

Pete's Drive-In Restaurant

Family Owned & Operated

If you've been under the impression that you just couldn't get good food at a drive-in, then you haven't tried PETE'S DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT located at 37357 Ave. 12 in Madera, phone **559-645-6039**!

This is one drive-in where every item on the menu is prepared with the same type of care and quality ingredients that most people are accustomed to finding only in an expensive restaurant. Whether you choose the all-American favorite: the hamburger, bacon cheeseburger, a tasty chicken sandwich, a complete dinner or any of the other outstanding items on their complete menu, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise. The food at PETE'S DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT is so delicious and well-prepared that you'll want to make dining at this fine drive-in a regular habit!

The entire staff would like to thank all their valued customers in the Madera Ranchos area and they invite you to stop in often.



"We Come Shine'N Through For You!"

Locally Owned & Operated Since 1976
Cont. Lic. #773424 Chem. Lic. #5977



Catering to commercial and residential accounts, SHINEN LANDSCAPE has been beautifying yards and gardens since 1976 with one thing in mind, to create and maintain lasting landscaping. SHINEN LANDSCAPE has grown today its nature's labor force to over 20 skilled landscape technicians, and continues to grow and provide service to properties stretching from Merced to Lemoore. They feature weekly maintenance, landscape design, landscaping, irrigation installation and service, lighting installation and service, humus and bark installation, pond installation and service, annual flower color, bobcat services, drainage systems and much more. SHINEN LANDSCAPE provides various services but is not limited.

With SHINEN LANDSCAPE only a phone call away at **559-661-7309**, visit www.shinenlandscape.com or email shinengardening@msn.com, clients have come to trust and enjoy the valued service that such an outstanding contractor like SHINEN LANDSCAPE provides. So, let the pros handle the work that will make your yard a showplace of beauty and enjoyment. The writers of this 2011 Look At Business would like to thank SHINEN LANDSCAPE for their commitment to excellence.



Locally Owned & Operated
By Tim Grizzell & David Brown

For many years, automobile dealers considered the "used car" business a sideline to selling new models. The friendly guys down at GT AUTO CENTER located at 690 Noble St. in Madera, phone **559-673-9900** or visit www.maderacars.com, are changing that by totally rejecting this theory. They believe that the used car buyer is just as important as the new car buyer by giving the customer the best possible price, quality and service. They specialize in used cars, trucks and SUV's with a complete automotive sales and service facility. Right now, they're dealing with a lower profit margin than anyone in an all-out effort to help their customers by offering great deals on good, used economy cars, trucks and SUV's with a 2 year, 24,000 mile power train warranty on all vehicles.

The kind of business that this respected firm does is the main reason for their large "family" of repeat customers. People return again and again when they need an automobile because they know that integrity, quality, and value are always offered here. Buy the safe way! Stop in at GT AUTO CENTER and look over the tremendous values in quality used automobiles.

Hernandez Handyman Services

Locally Owned & Operated By Rigo & Alex Hernandez



Do you have little tasks around the home that need attention but no time to do them? Would you like some minor changes in the bathroom or kitchen? Do your gutters and fencing need repairs? Could you use a handyman service?

HERNANDEZ HANDYMAN SERVICES located in Madera, phone Rigo at **559-232-4222**. They specialize in those odd jobs and minor repairs that you need done at an affordable price. Call them any time and they will come out to your home or business and give you a free estimate on any repair job large or small. HERNANDEZ HANDYMAN SERVICES can install electrical fixtures and most any other installation you may need in your home. They do painting, wallpapering, flooring, kitchen and bath remodeling, drywall, kitchen cabinets, carpentry, hauling and more.

With the busy lives that most of us lead, it's impossible to get around to all the home maintenance chores at hand. Contact HERNANDEZ HANDYMAN SERVICES, and let them take care of the small stuff. They are your home repair experts. For information on their services, call Rigo at **559-232-4222**.

Mention this ad and receive a discount up to 10% in special works.

"A Look At Business"

- continued -

Madera Blinds & Shutters

Locally Owned & Operated By Kevin Massetti

MADERA BLINDS & SHUTTERS is where you'll find every imaginable type of beautiful window coverings for your home or office.

This respected specialty shop features the area's largest selection of window coverings for any and all windows.

Located inside MASSETTI APPLIANCE at 305 S. D St. in Madera, call for an appointment to 559-706-2459 or visit www.maderablindsandshutters.com. This well known shop specializes in many styles in window decoration including woven woods, Roman shades, shutters, venetian blinds and many others. They can custom design and install window coverings to fit any size window or opening. Check with them before you buy "just any window shade!"

MADERA BLINDS & SHUTTERS also features the latest in transparent and translucent window coverings to filter out heat and damage-causing sun rays.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business are pleased to be able to suggest this fine merchant to all of our readers. Kevin takes this time to thank all his friends and customers in the area. Your business is always appreciated and he looks forward to serving you soon.

Valley Bowl

Locally Owned & Operated By Terry & Patti Hoban

Bowling, the great American fitness program, is ALWAYS more fun at VALLEY BOWL! This well-known bowling alley features the very latest in equipment and your score will improve whenever you stop in and bowl a game!

Conveniently located at 12829 Hwy. 145 in Madera, phone 559-674-0951, this fine facility has more to offer for the beginner or experienced bowler. They utilize the very best in automatic pin setters and fully automatic scoring machines. Leagues for all ages and abilities are forming right now and there's no better way to improve your skill than to join a team and bowl regularly. The proprietors of this modern bowling alley urge EVERYONE to keep in shape the fun way with bowling! They feature instructions, a bowler's "pro shop", a fine snack bar and many other convenient and enjoyable services to help you enjoy your game a little more.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business suggest that YOU become a better bowler by bowling regularly at VALLEY BOWL!

When you bowl in the summer league, you will receive 3 free games a day.



Schoettler Tire Inc.

Since 1934

With two locations in Madera at 608 N. Gateway Dr., phone 559-674-4678 and at 22800 Ave. 18 1/2, phone 559-674-6236, SCHOETTLER TIRE INC. is well known throughout the valley as being a tire store where quality is just as important as price. Your dealer for famous TOYO, Michelin, Kelly, Goodyear, National Tire and BF Goodrich tires, this community leader features tires for virtually every car, truck or tractor on the road or farm, and their huge inventory allows you to "re-tire" immediately! They have 6 service trucks and can keep your down time to a minimum.

From steel-belted radials to heavy-duty truck tires, these fine outlets have just what you need in stock. The friendly personnel will gladly explain the advantages of a particular tire, and will advise you as to the best buy for your needs. Of course, alignment, balancing, brake and shock work and other services are offered by this outstanding firm including a full line of custom wheels.

Stop in today and see just what kind of quality your tire dollar will buy at SCHOETTLER TIRE INC. The entire crew thanks all their friends and customers from the Ranchos area.



JOHN DEERE

Midland Tractor Co.

Locally Owned & Operated
Serving The Area For Over 30 Years

Your dealer for famous John Deere lawn mowers in the Madera area is MIDLAND TRACTOR CO. This respected garden and lawn care center features new models for 2011 and they're ready to make you a great deal on one of these fine machines. Choose from rotary, self-propelled, and riding mowers. There's one that's just right for your lawn, your need AND your budget! Stop in today at MIDLAND TRACTOR CO. at 1901 W. Cleveland Ave. in Madera, phone 559-674-8757 to find out more about these excellent lawn care products.

This well known dealer also specializes in such quality lawn care machines as rototillers, power rakes, yard tractors, and other power and hand tools to make a beautiful lawn and garden an easy chore. You'll like the friendly service, the competitive prices and the outstanding values in famous John Deere products.

We suggest that you stop in at MIDLAND TRACTOR CO. and look over all of the fine lawn and garden equipment in stock. Everyone would like to thank their many customers throughout the area. It's always a pleasure to serve you.



Locally Owned And Operated By Mark Swan

When homeowners look to update their kitchen, family room or home office, where do they turn? A great place to start is Swan Custom Cabinets, builder of fine custom cabinetry. Few things will add as much value and functionality to your home as distinctive custom cabinets.

These craftsmen don't compromise the quality of their work in order to save a little time. They work side by side with you to design the best solutions to fit within your budget. Each and every custom project built by this master cabinet shop is designed and built with your needs in mind. Be assured that cabinets by Swan Custom Cabinets will be built to the highest quality standards and will provide years of trouble-free functionality. Call Mark Swan at 559-664-9669 for complete information on how you can increase the value and beauty of your home with cabinetry from Swan Custom Cabinets, located at 499 Noble Street, Suite 101 in Madera. Or visit their website at www.swancabinets.com to view their gallery and see samples of their work. The writers of this 2011 Look At Business suggest Swan Custom Cabinets for beautiful and functional cabinetry.



For over 75 years, the MASSETTI name has been synonymous with honesty, integrity and great service to the residents of the Central Valley. MASSETTI APPLIANCE'S customer service is far superior to any service received at the big box stores. With their in-house service department, they are able to truly take care of their customers after the sale.

MASSETTI APPLIANCE carries major appliances from Sub Zero, Wolf, Speed Queen, Dacor, General Electric, Bosch, Asko, Whirlpool and Zephyr. In addition to their impressive appliance line, MASSETTI APPLIANCE is the only local source for the TEMPER-PEDIC mattress line. Stop by and check out all they have to offer at 305 South D St. in downtown Madera or give them a call at 559-673-5137 to take care of your appliance service needs.

Bill Petzolt Painting

Over 30 Years Experience

Lic. #710922

Located in Madera, phone 559-645-6100 or 559-259-7438, is BILL PETZOLT PAINTING, a painting contractor well known in this area for his ethical business practices. Whether you need residential, commercial, or industrial interior or exterior painting done, this is one firm you can trust to do the job right.

Their experience in this field has given them the know how to handle any size job! Unlike so many painters, this firm completely prepares the surface that's being painted, so that the job will be attractive and last for many years. You can be assured that they will complete the job on schedule and at the lowest prices possible.

For a first rate painting job, the writers of this 2011 Look At Business, suggest that our readers contact BILL PETZOLT PAINTING! We think that you'll be more than pleased with the professional workmanship they do!



Locally Owned & Operated

Rated The Best In The Region

In The 2011 CMUS Talk Of The Town!

For those who can appreciate the finest transportation available, it's HS LIMOUSINES, a custom limousine service. This reliable firm is located in Madera, phone 559-232-4141, and will provide the absolute utmost in service throughout the area. They specialize in chauffeured limousines for tours of the city, airport shuttle service, transportation of important visitors and a personal service for those who need the services of a driver throughout the day. You'll ride in comfort and arrive at your destinations relaxed and refreshed. It's the only way to travel. This firm offers 24-hour service anywhere and provides limousine service for those special occasions, such as proms, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Call for reservations today and enjoy your ride to the utmost.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business suggest that you become acquainted with HS LIMOUSINES and find out how affordable luxury can be.

Cardenas Jewelry Repair

Miguel Cardenas - Owner & Jeweler "We Buy Scrap Gold"

If you have an occasion coming up that calls for a truly special remembrance or you'd simply like to treat yourself to some beautiful new jewelry, we suggest you visit CARDENAS JEWELRY REPAIR, one of our area's leading fine jewelers.

Located at 1627 Howard Rd. in Madera, phone 559-673-9591, this shop features distinctive jewelry for all occasions. Miguel does unique work in diamonds and other precious and semi-precious stones, and he offers the finest handcrafted pieces in gold, silver and other fine metals. Miguel welcomes the ideas of his clients and is delighted to do custom work within your budget. Be it a traditional or contemporary style, their craftsmen are sure to please you. Stop by today and discover for yourself the beauty and value of their selection. If you need repair work done, be assured it will be done on site and to your complete satisfaction.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business urge everyone to make CARDENAS JEWELRY REPAIR your stop for quality and service. Miguel thanks his valued clients from the Ranchos area and he looks forward to seeing you soon.

"A Look At Business"

- continued -

Aztlan Restaurant

Family Owned & Restaurant

"La comida suprema!" That's what you'll always find at AZTLAN RESTAURANT! This outstanding Mexican restaurant features all of the traditional south-of-the-border favorites cooked in the authentic manner. Bring the whole family for a truly great meal. They're located at 37221 Avenue 12, #1A in Madera, phone 559-645-8918.

Hearty combination dinners are available and your appetite is the only thing that will stand in your way! Select from great tasting main dishes such as enchiladas, tacos, and huevos rancheros. You'll also want to try some nachos! How about some chips and that fantastic guacamole dip before the main course? Whatever you decide on, you can be assured that you are getting some of the finest Mexican food anywhere. Don't worry about the hot sauce, it's served on the side and you season your food to your own taste!

Make plans now to stop in at AZTLAN RESTAURANT and enjoy a REAL Mexican dinner. The writers of this 2011 Look At Business suggest that you'll soon become a regular customer!

Yosemite Pharmacy

Catering to the family in the old fashioned tradition, YOSEMITE PHARMACY is the modern pharmacy with "old time" service! In fact, they are specialists in service.

Located at 136 E. Yosemite Ave. in Madera, phone 559-674-8583, this is one pharmacy where personal service and individual attention is not a thing of the past. A friendly smile, a cheerful greeting and prompt, personal service are what you'll get every time you walk in. No wonder they're the favorite pharmacy of so many families in the Ranchos area.

They also have a complete line of gifts for all occasions as well as perfumes, money orders, Western Union, utilities payment center, cosmetics, and much more.

The writers of the 2011 Look At Business suggest that all of our readers shop where service and the customer are the main products - YOSEMITE PHARMACY.



Sago Rey Palm Plantation

Locally Owned & Operated By Tom & Maria

For the hardiest, most beautiful nursery stock anywhere, it's SAGO REY PALM PLANTATION located at 3535 S. Temperance Ave. in Fresno, phone 559-268-6650 or visit www.sagorey.com. Here you'll find more than 20,000 palms and Sagos trees in stock, that are just right for any landscaping project that you may have in mind.

Trees for shade, beauty or fruit? Your friendly nursery has these, too...in all varieties and sizes. Start something growing today...it's the natural way to make everything beautiful. SAGO REY PALM PLANTATION has a lot more than just the plants and trees to make your home or business bloom with beauty. They can offer many helpful suggestions for the enhancement of your grounds.

The writers of this 2011 urge YOU to see the professionals of the nursery business today and do something "naturally beautiful" for your home or business.



TRUCKING
LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

Locally Owned &
Operated By Chad Harr



When you need sand and gravel to complete a construction project, you need it right now! At CHAD'S TRUCKING located in Madera, phone 559-645-5363, you'll never have problems with your order not being filled promptly and delivered on schedule! Chad is a qualified professional of the sand and gravel business, and he can offer you, the customer, more in terms of quality products and the fastest service! He can supply any amount of humas, chips, crushed rock, fill materials, topsoil, cobblestone, road base, plaster sand, washed sand, river rock, or other related products. He also specializes in demolition and dump, excavating and tractor work, land leveling and more.

CHAD'S TRUCKING has a comprehensive listing of specialty contractors, who will do a particular job for you. For small loads, they offer money saving pit service on sand and gravel for homeowners. See this full service firm for your sand and gravel needs!

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business suggest them to all of our readers!

Frank Kramer Exteriors

Since 1970 Lic. #273099

When you plan interior or exterior painting, textured coatings, vinyl siding and windows or roofing, a major part of having a place you can be proud of is your choice of a competent contractor. When you ask around as to who does the best work, you'll find that FRANK KRAMER EXTERIORS is the name you hear quite often. When a contractor believes in his work, he will be glad to give references and point out some of their completed projects. A phone call to Frank at 559-645-4113 will get you just the information you need.

That's the kind of people you'll find at FRANK KRAMER EXTERIORS located in Madera Ranchos. Frank's years of experience in this area will assure you of top notch craftsmanship. He uses only the best in materials too, so that you'll be satisfied with your completed job now and 20 years from now.

As the writers of this 2011 Look At Business, we know that Frank will do the kind of work you deserve, with no shortcuts. They are a BBB member with an A+ rating.

Sweet Flower Fruit Stand

"The Only Way To Get Fresher Produce Would Be To Pick It Yourself"
Locally Owned & Operated

The finest fruits and vegetables are available locally from SWEET FLOWER FRUIT STAND, one of the area's leading retail produce suppliers.

Located at 33480 Ave. 9 at Road 33 1/2 in Madera, phone 559-645-4253 or 559-662-5363, this respected produce outlet features every type of fruit and vegetables at discount prices. Their selection of in-season merchandise is most complete, and it's among the freshest, tastiest anywhere!

Be sure that your family is getting all of the necessary vitamins and minerals essential to good health by stocking up on fresh produce from SWEET FLOWER FRUIT STAND. You'll appreciate the care and dedication of this fine firm whenever you serve their quality produce.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business would like to take this opportunity to congratulate this respected produce supplier for their efforts to make the finest fruits and vegetables available to the public in this area.

Always Free Samples

Central Valley Monument Companies

Madera Monuments Beer Monuments

Since 1934

Creating masterpieces in stone and fine metal is the full time job of MADERA MONUMENTS at 401 W. Olive Ave., Ste. 1 in Madera, phone 559-673-3479 and BEER MONUMENTS at 505 W. Belmont Ave. in Fresno, phone 559-237-7888: one of the area's most highly regarded monument makers.

It's a beautiful final tribute when your family selects one of the many fine designs in granite, marble or bronze that these experienced craftsmen have to offer. There's one of the area's largest selections to choose from and every stone has the touch of the master on it. Artistic quality and eternal beauty are what you get when you choose your monument from the outstanding collection available here.

CENTRAL VALLEY MONUMENT COMPANIES are always available to help you select the monument or marker which best suits your needs and desires. Their prices are exceptionally reasonable and their work is among the very best! As the writers of this 2011 Look At Business, we urge area residents to make MADERA MONUMENTS or BEER MONUMENTS your choice when it comes to investing in an eternal tribute.



MADERA PRIVATE SECURITY PATROL

Timothy B. Supple & M. Scott Gonzalez - Owners & Partners
Lic. # P.P.O. 16670

Security for your place of business or residence is what MADERA PRIVATE SECURITY PATROL has to offer. This well known locally owned guard and patrol service specializes in providing security for all types of businesses, as well as residential patrols to help protect your home. Call them at (559) 662-1546 for complete information or stop by their offices at 910 W. Yosemite Ave. in Madera.

Whether your security requirements call for standing guard or patrol services, this is one service which can fill the bill. Their licensed, insured and honesty bonded staff are specifically trained in security procedures and patrol functions. Their vehicles are distinctly marked and highly visible to ensure that there is a strong presence and a visible deterrent. Madera Private Security Patrol Officers are uniformed adding to job site command presence and present a professional image.

MADERA PRIVATE SECURITY PATROL also has officers available at any time for special events security and for other duties that require the utmost in physical security. Tim and Scott thank all their valued clients in the Ranchos area and they look forward to your calls.



"We Toss 'em,
They're Awesome"
PIZZA FACTORY

Pizza Factory

Visit the PIZZA FACTORY in Madera Ranchos at 37184 Avenue 12, owned and operated by Hal and Mary Ann Parks. While the signature pizza, the "Ranchos Special" is a favorite, guests can choose hundreds of combinations. They also offer calzone, subs, pasta, salad bar, soft drinks, beer and wine! "The All you can eat Lunch buffet," is a favorite at \$6.95.

Customer service is a top priority! So, when you stop by you'll see smiling faces, receive "Hello", "Thank You", and "Good-bye." Their friendly quaint restaurant is alive with excitement, Ranchos neighbors, Liberty sports teams, birthday parties, and club events all take place in the "Pizza Party Place." Relax and watch TV while the kids play the video games.

No time to cook? No problem. Friendly delivery drivers will bring your pizza right to your door. Call the PIZZA FACTORY at 559-645-7011 and place your order. For weekend fun, visit their second location, the FRIANT PIZZA FACTORY, on your way to the lake or mountains. Daughter Chris Parks serves up the same great pizza and customer service. Many thanks to the community of Madera Ranchos for all your support over the past 12 years.

Mention this ad and get \$5 off your next extra large pizza.

"A Look At Business"

- continued -

The Tattoo Parlor And Piercing "See Rush For Custom Tattoos"

THE TATTOO PARLOR AND PIERCING at 26063 Avenue 17 in Madera, phone 559-674-3100, is one of those reliable studios we are able to speak of in the highest terms. They specialize in custom tattoo art and piercing.

As one of the leading studios in their field, no amount of effort is spared to give you the most careful service and their clients are delighted with the service that they receive. Using the most advanced techniques, and the most sterile methods in the industry, THE TATTOO PARLOR AND PIERCING, can bring some brilliant color into your life. Whether you're searching for an elaborate design, or just looking to express your individuality with something simple and elegant, the artist at THE TATTOO PARLOR AND PIERCING can bring out the best on you! If you wish to update your present art, or cover it entirely, the professionals at this fine studio can help.

Rush, the owner, has had a long experience at this business and is thoroughly competent in every respect. His advice in matters pertaining to this art is sought after and respected. We suggest this quality studio to all of our readers.



Locally Owned & Operated
By Robert Gamiz
Lic. #798167

It is the opinion of most anyone of the Madera area who has had GAMIZ CONSTRUCTION handle their building construction that there is not a more qualified contractor anywhere! With offices located at 25609 Avenue 17 1/2 in Madera, phone 559-673-8218 or cell 559-232-0915 for estimates, this is one general contractor with the ability and equipment to get the job done right! They specialize in general contracting, home improvements, and custom framing. This organization is noted for their fair prices and business-like policies. They urge anyone considering building to contact them for a referral list of satisfied customers. Their work is their best recommendation!

Using only the latest equipment and proper tools, this is one firm that combines the most up-to-date building techniques with a professional attitude to see YOUR job through to its entirety! The writers of this 2011 Look At Business commend this well respected construction company and suggest GAMIZ CONSTRUCTION to take care of your construction needs!



Locally Operated By
Sarah Gaines - Manager

When you need work in a hurry and you don't want to settle for just any job, see the professionals at PLACEMENT PROS: the position finders!

Located at 1930 Howard Rd, #112A in Madera, phone 559-673-0900, for information or an appointment. This respected firm specializes in finding suitable employment for all types of people, men and women. Their listings include most every job you can think of from light industrial to office/clerical to production to technical to word processing to professional. Positions are filled daily and they offer many benefits to help you seek and keep the position that fits your needs. They are an equal opportunity employer.

Area employers know that this is one firm they can count on to send them the people they want. The complete testing procedures and careful screening takes a lot of guesswork out of hiring for them and they appreciate it! If your business needs people...call this fine agency and let them help you find the right person for the job for you!

We suggest PLACEMENT PROS to employees and companies alike. You'll appreciate the personalized service extended to you and/or your business.

The Edge

Locally Owned & Operated By Jennifer Sewell

Full service hair and beauty care to suit the entire family is what's featured at THE EDGE located at 37164 Ave. 12., #103 in Madera Ranchos, phone 559-645-8323.

This salon features professional stylists to shape, cut, perm and color YOUR hair into a style that is, "distinctly you." Their techniques and professional hair care products assure you of the most natural and healthy hair possible. You'll look better and feel better every time you stop in at this full service hair care salon. THE EDGE also features manicures, acrylic nails, face waxing, hair extensions, gift certificates, and more.

They specialize in all phases of hair and beauty care. For a simple cutting or waving, to a whole new look, this is one of the finest places in the area that you can go to. Quality hair products and accessories are great gift ideas.

Although walk-ins are welcome, appointments are recommended. Whether it's today or the next time you are in the area, give them a try. You will soon be a regular customer. Jennifer and her staff thank all of our readers for your patronage and they look forward to seeing you soon.

Saenz Pest Control

Luis Saenz - Owner & Operator

Is your mother-in-law bugging you? Is that leaking roof bugging you? Is the barking dog next door bugging you? SAENZ PEST CONTROL in Madera Ranchos can't do anything about those "bugs" but for everything else in pest control, SAENZ PEST CONTROL at 35765 Avenue 13 1/4, are the professionals to call.

They can handle any variety of indoor or outdoor pests and can do it quickly too! A phone call to Luis at 559-706-8237 will put you in touch with a person that can solve your pest control problems.

Remember...if your relatives are being pests, don't call SAENZ PEST CONTROL but for anything else, call Luis at 559-706-8237 and make your pest problems disappear.

Luis appreciates all of his friends and clients and looks forward to your calls.



Burrito King Mexican Restaurant Family Owned & Operated

For authentic Mexican food, the people of this area visit BURRITO KING MEXICAN RESTAURANT formally The Aztlan in Ranchos, you will receive the same great service and food at their new location in Madera at 319 N. Gateway Dr., phone 559-674-7596.

Through the efforts of the management to serve only true Mexican dishes with a real flavor of the country, as well as interesting Mexican decor, this restaurant has become a very popular eating place. They have captured the true tangy flavor of Mexican dishes by using the exact spices and foods to prepare them.

Contrary to the belief that Mexican food is very hot, they serve all their dishes with the hot sauce on the side so that you can enjoy it the way you want. Bring the whole family in for a truly great breakfast, lunch or dinner! They feature take-out, catering, a cocktail lounge and a banquet room for large gathering.

For a fine place to eat authentic Mexican food in the same atmosphere, and with friendly service, we suggest that you go to BURRITO KING MEXICAN RESTAURANT. We know you'll want to return many times.



Family Owned & Operated Since 1976
Lic. #414178

Homeowners, ranchers and smart land developers know all about the advantages of a good water well on their property. The homeowner is, of course, concerned with pure, fresh water for his family. The rancher needs stock wells at strategic locations to take care of his livestock. The developer knows just how much a good, free-flowing well can add to property values. Your reasons for needing a well may be different than these but, when you need a well, there's only one person to call and that's BRADLEY & SONS.

This is one well drilling firm that makes customer satisfaction their motto, phone 559-674-1663, 559-441-1401 or visit www.BradleyandSonsdrilling.com. They will drill your well in a very short period of time and their rates are competitive. BRADLEY & SONS also offers pump sales, service and professional installation. They can handle any well repairs, too. Call BRADLEY & SONS today if you want good, pure water.

The writers of this 2011 Look At Business think you'll be more than pleased with the results of that call.



R & D Driving School

Locally Owned & Operated By Ray Perez

Learn to drive the right way with certified instruction by R & D DRIVING SCHOOL. This well-known school of defensive driving will have you on the road...on your own...in just a few weeks, or, if you prefer, in just a matter of days with their special intensified program. You'll learn to drive properly, safely, and easily with the special training that this recommended school is capable of.

Located at 106 N. Gateway, Ste. 105 in Madera, phone 559-664-1144, FAX 559-395-4945 or visit www.rddriving.com (online Drivers Ed is available), this is one driving school that realizes that safety is one of the absolute prime concerns of driving. Ray has over 14 years experience for Class C Driver's License only, and drop-off and pick-up service is available. They are open Mon. - Fri., 10am - 5:30pm and Sat., 8am - 5:30pm.

R & D DRIVING SCHOOL features state licensed instructors, ultra-safe, dual-controlled brakes, dual mirrors, and many specialized classroom techniques so that you know all of the rules of the road and can get through the licensing test with ease.

We are pleased to suggest R & D DRIVING SCHOOL to all of our readers.

These businesses participating in this 2011 special
"Look At Business" section appreciate your patronage
and look forward to working with you soon.

Classified

Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - 40 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12. Call 559-645-4583.**

Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Call **559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

Floor/Upholstery Care

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery. FREE estimates. FREE stain protection with any purchase. **Tile, aggregate, showers, Pebble Tec.** Golden Valley Chamber Member, BBB, references. Call **Bruce at 676-0760.**

For Rent

For Rent - 4BD/2BA Newer home on Ave. 12. \$1650 per month. Call **908-4289.**

For Rent - 3BD/2BA on 1/2 acre with pool. \$1650 per month. Call **905-7780.**

For Sale

For Sale - Swing Set \$100, decorative plates, table & chairs, antiques and much more. Call **645-1770.**

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 29 years working in the area. Call **559-822-2759.**

Health Presentation

Monday, April 25 - Two free information presentations at Alfresco

Coffee in Madera Ranchos, noon and 1:15 p.m. A short video provides tips that may improve health, build immunity, and lessen risk of cancer and heart disease. **Call Ramona Frances at 559 363-5186.**

Housecleaning

Housecleaning Service - Have your house spring cleaned all year long. Experience, responsible, honest. Fair prices. Call **416-2585.**

Landscaping

Luke's Landscaping - Lawns, gardens, weeds & trees. Maintenance, clean ups and repairs. **Call today for free estimate. 559-240-8203.**

Painting Services

Painting Services - 40 years of experience. Licensed and insured. **Frank Kramer Exteriors. Lic. #273099. Call 645-4113.**

Painting Services - Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting. 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. Call **674-2320.**

Tractor Services

Tractor Work - Discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees, trenching and clean ups. Call **Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.**

Tractor Work - House pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Call **559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

Tractor Work - Mowing, discing, light scraping. Call **Tomas at 645-0864.**

Water Treatment

Hard Water? - A Magnetic home water softener will keep your water clean and clear at incredibly lowprices. Bonus: Your Septic tank will work 30% faster. Call **559-213-4470.**

Weight Loss

LOSE WIGHT - and keep it off with Alkaline Water. Call **559-213-4470.**

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WANTED - Used rider mowers. Need for parts. Call **Chet or**

Chris 903-1047.

Window Cleaning Services

Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen, track and sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal available. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates. SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

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The Ranchos Independent classified rates are **crazy** cheap. Only \$10 for each 25 words.

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.

	-		×		21
×		+		÷	
	×		-		23
-		×		+	
	÷		+		10
21		18		14	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

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If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 20 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs.

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A Ranchos resident for over 27 years, I am a full-time professional agent working the Madera, Fresno and Clovis areas. Inventories of homes for sale are at a long term low. Now is a great time to sell as competition is low. And it is a great time to buy with record low interest rates and multiple tax incentives. Call me today!

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4/11

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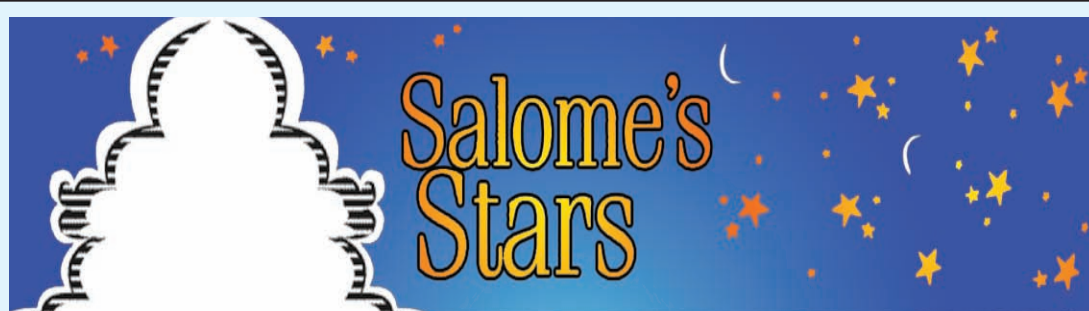
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities also are favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice -- some of it good -- but the decision must be yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

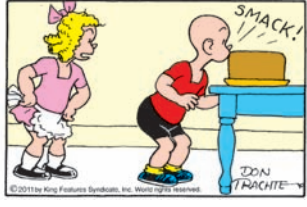
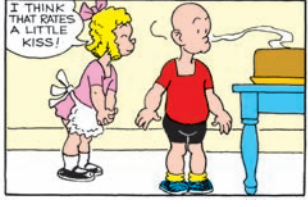
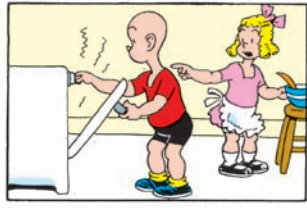
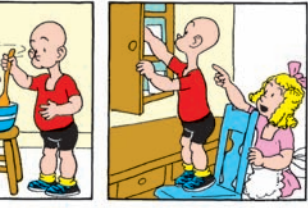
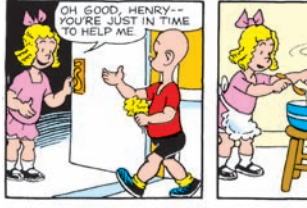
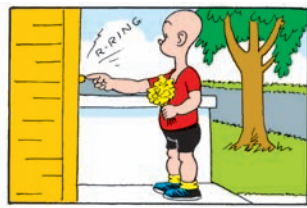
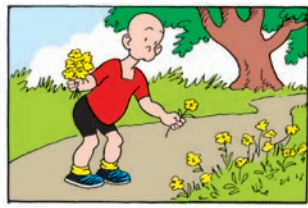
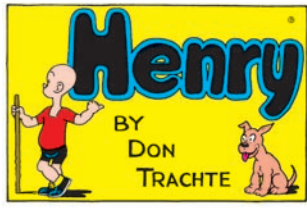
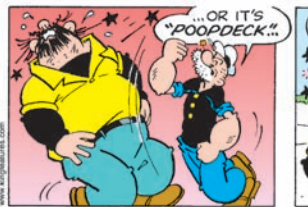
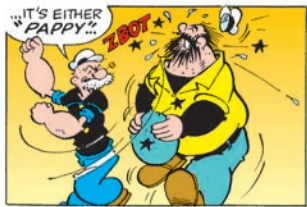
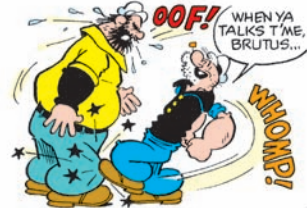
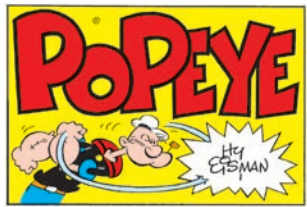
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

Born this Week

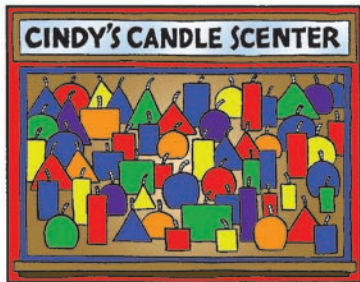
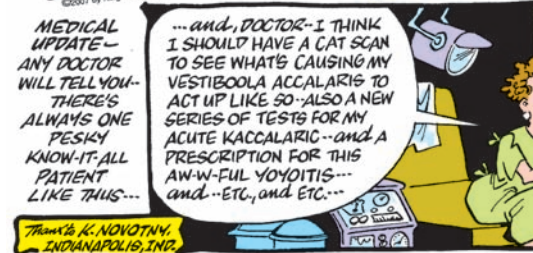
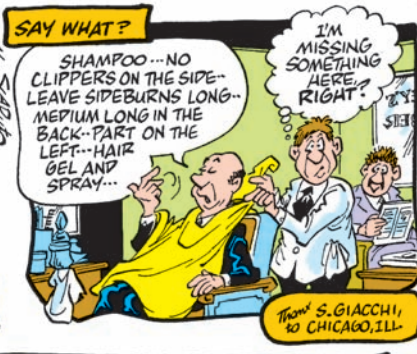
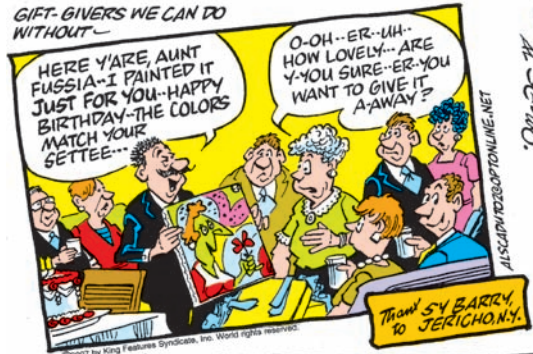
You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

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FUN PAGES



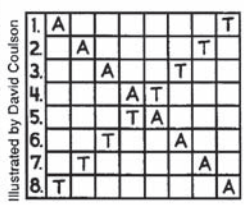
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



CINDY'S CANDLE SCENTER
DON'T BE A DRIP solving this one. Can you correctly count the candles in Cindy's shop window? You have 30 seconds.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS!
Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DON'T GET "SNOWED UNDER" BY THIS ONE! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

- DEFINITIONS**
1. An archaeological find.
 2. To criticize or disparage.
 3. Makes cars travel smoother.
 4. Feeling of malicious pleasure.
 5. Exercise workout garments.
 6. Load to capacity.
 7. Fish with a deadly tail.
 8. A long-shot horse race bet.
- ANAGRAM:**
cart + fiat
moth + baud
plot + back
tail + gong
sole + dart
taut + sear
gist + yarn
rite + fact

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 24 and 26, and 10 through 17 to fill in this Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 71. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you

	20		
23			21
		18	
19			25

Wishing Well

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

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.

EATING UTENSILS

MAGIC MAZE

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

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

Chopsticks	Knork	Spife	Sugar spoon
Crab cracker	Lobster pick	Splayd	Tongs
Fork	Nutcracker	Sporf	Trongs
Knife	Soup spoon	Spork	

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Catch-22"?
2. MUSIC: For what crime did country singer Merle Haggard spend time in prison?
3. CARTOONS: What was the name of Space Ghost's chimp in television cartoons?
4. GOVERNMENT: What country did Haile Selassie rule for more than 30 years?
5. MEDICINE: Who is credited with discovering a vaccination against smallpox?
6. MOVIES: What is Luke Skywalker's relation to Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" movies?
7. ANIMALS: What characteristic is the whippet breed of dog known for?
8. RELIGION: Who were the French Huguenots and why were they persecuted?
9. MUSIC: What is the minimum number of musicians needed to make up a "big band"?
10. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin term "soma" refer to?

- Answers**
1. Joseph Heller
 2. Attempted robbery
 3. Bill
 4. Ethiopia
 5. Edward Jenner
 6. Her brother
 7. Speed
 8. Protestants persecuted in Catholic-dom-
 9. Ten
 10. The body of an organism

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



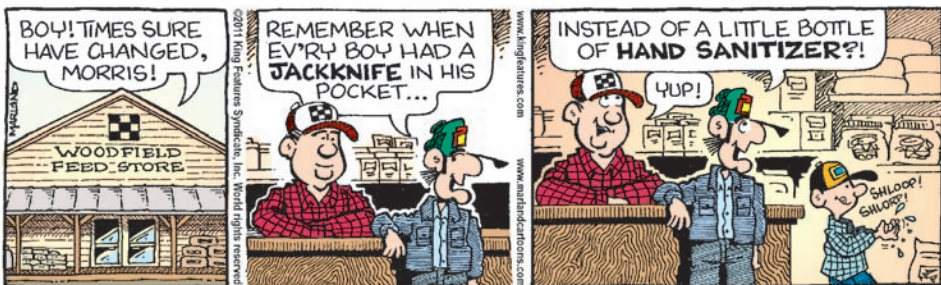
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

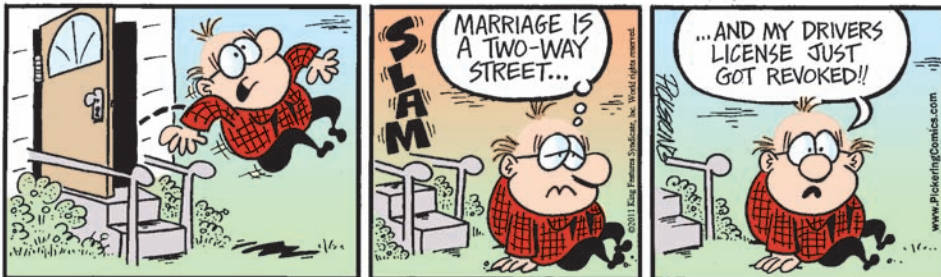
WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



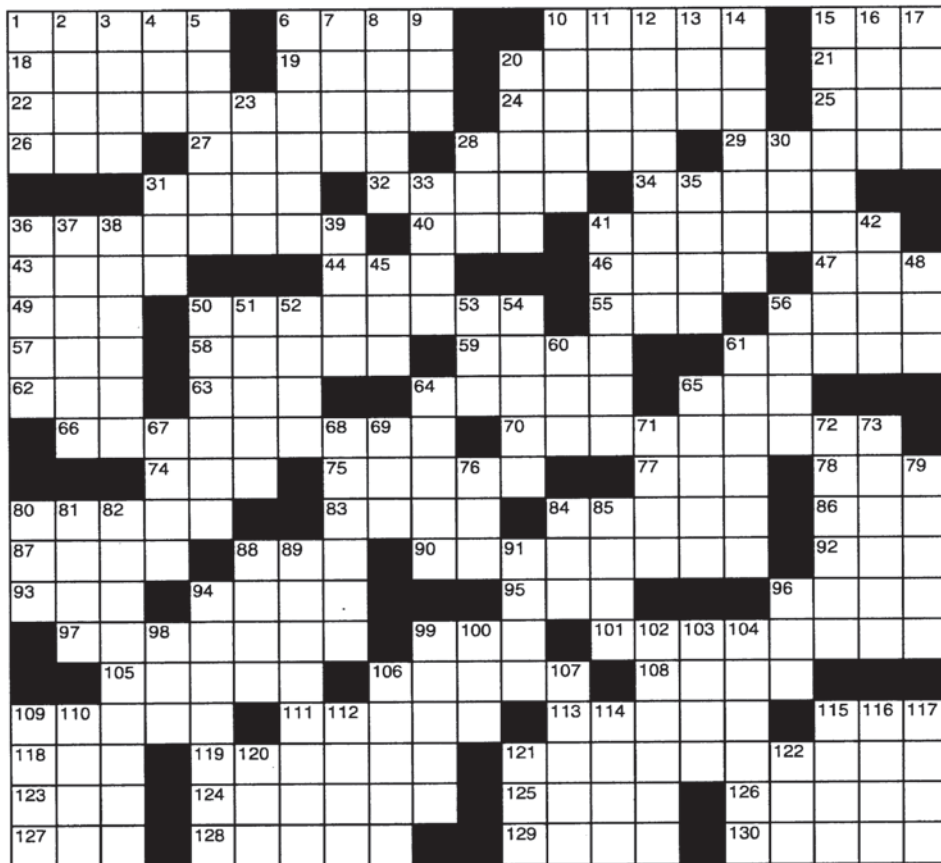
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bees are gone. 2. Stacks have no stripes. 3. Boy has a hat. 4. There's a snake in the grass. 5. Fence extends farther. 6. Boy's shoes are black.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Ohio city
 - 6 "Serpico" author
 - 10 Long Island resort
 - 15 Arafat's grp.
 - 18 Perfect
 - 19 Perry's creator
 - 20 Ancient Greek region
 - 21 CSA soldier
 - 22 Pungent person?
 - 24 Hit man?
 - 25 Compass pt.
 - 26 Goal
 - 27 Horrid
 - 28 Swedish port
 - 29 Fresh
 - 31 Length X Width
 - 32 Sheik site
 - 34 Coin-toss call
 - 36 Actress Rossellini
 - 40 Sly — fox
 - 41 Annoying woman?
 - 43 Hole punchers
 - 44 Impact sound
 - 46 Smeltery stuff
 - 47 Merino male
 - 49 Cartog-
 - 50 Sharp guy?
 - 55 Author Wallace
 - 56 He's abominable
 - 57 Bikini part
 - 58 Harden
 - 59 Puppy bites
 - 61 Horse show
 - 62 Cul-de —
 - 63 Solidify
 - 64 — a customer
 - 65 Beer barrel
 - 66 Avid hiker?
 - 70 Good-looking girl?
 - 74 Sneeze and wheeze
 - 75 Declaim
 - 77 "Le — Soleil" (Louis XIV)
 - 78 Loser to DDE
 - 80 Trolley sound
 - 83 Great —
 - 84 Toy toter
 - 86 Geog. term
 - 87 Sty cry
 - 88 Part of B.S.
 - 90 Billiards player?
 - 92 Actress Gardner
 - 93 LAX letters
 - 94 New York stadium
 - 95 Veneration
 - 96 Pres. protectors
 - 97 Industrious fellow?
 - 99 Fleur-de —
 - 101 Ravenous
 - 105 Pack peppers
 - 106 Austin or Smith
 - 108 Rainbow goddess
 - 109 "Paganini" composer
 - 111 Flourishes
 - 113 Sluggo's sweetie
 - 115 Scepter's sidekick
 - 118 Clay, today
 - 119 Happy guy?
 - 121 Tool man?
 - 123 Bell and Barker
 - 124 Glorifies
 - 125 Memo words
 - 126 Rigg or Ross
 - 127 Tiny colonist
 - 128 Hold up
 - 129 Pilsner
 - 130 Seraglio
 - 8 Maui greeting
 - 9 DC figure
 - 10 Pasta peninsula
 - 11 Eye problem
 - 12 Tourniquet, e.g.
 - 13 Hosp. area
 - 14 Garden flowers
 - 15 Egged on
 - 16 Beam bender
 - 17 Toe the line
 - 20 Oranjestad's locale
 - 23 Baseball's Hershiser
 - 28 "Viva — Vegas" ('64 film)
 - 30 Clerical garb
 - 31 Pecs' partners
 - 33 Inclined plane
 - 35 Once again
 - 36 Poetic feet
 - 37 Self-government, in India
 - 38 Llama kin
 - 39 86 Across or 9 Down
 - 41 "Swanee" singer
 - 42 Corral
 - 45 Assent at sea
 - 48 "O Sole —"
 - 50 VIP
 - 51 Hoopster Shaquille
 - 52 Zodiac animal
 - 53 Hostelry
 - 54 Sib's kid
 - 56 Bear or Berra
 - 60 School grp.
 - 61 Phone button
 - 64 Shy primate
 - 65 Former Japanese capital
 - 67 Pull sharply
 - 68 Alaskan bear
 - 69 Epoch
 - 71 Bond foe
 - 72 Deli meat
 - 73 TV's "Highway to —"
 - 76 Golfer's gadget
 - 79 Comedian Arnold
 - 80 Runner Sebastian
 - 81 Ford or Grey
 - 82 Revolution-ary
 - 84 Create a caftan
 - 85 Imitates
 - 88 Worn-out
 - 89 Cognitive
 - 91 Publisher Conde
 - 94 Behaved like bees
 - 96 Watching machines?
 - 98 — -la-la
 - 99 Living-room accessories
 - 100 "— Too Late" ('71 hit)
 - 102 Fiddle (with)
 - 103 Roman structure
 - 104 Saudi city
 - 106 Sullen
 - 107 Absurd
 - 109 Tibetan monk
 - 110 Dash
 - 112 Tulsa's st.
 - 114 Farm measure
 - 115 Actor Epps
 - 116 Magritte or Descartes
 - 117 Spooky Stoker
 - 120 Bunyan's whacker
 - 121 Triangular sail
 - 122 Actress Farrow
- DOWN**
- 1 — dream
 - 2 Mideastern gulf
 - 3 Devour
 - 4 Cal. page
 - 5 Entice
 - 6 Servile
 - 7 "La Rondine"

FUN PAGES

SEM CU
south east madera county united

SEM CU
MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Ranchos Pizza Factory

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO COME!

Got water problems? • Got traffic problems?
Got a Community Center? • Got a park?

GET INVOLVED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org

SEM CU • FOR THE COMMUNITY! BY THE COMMUNITY!

**The Ranchos Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos
For copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit www.semcu.org**