

# The Ranchos Independent

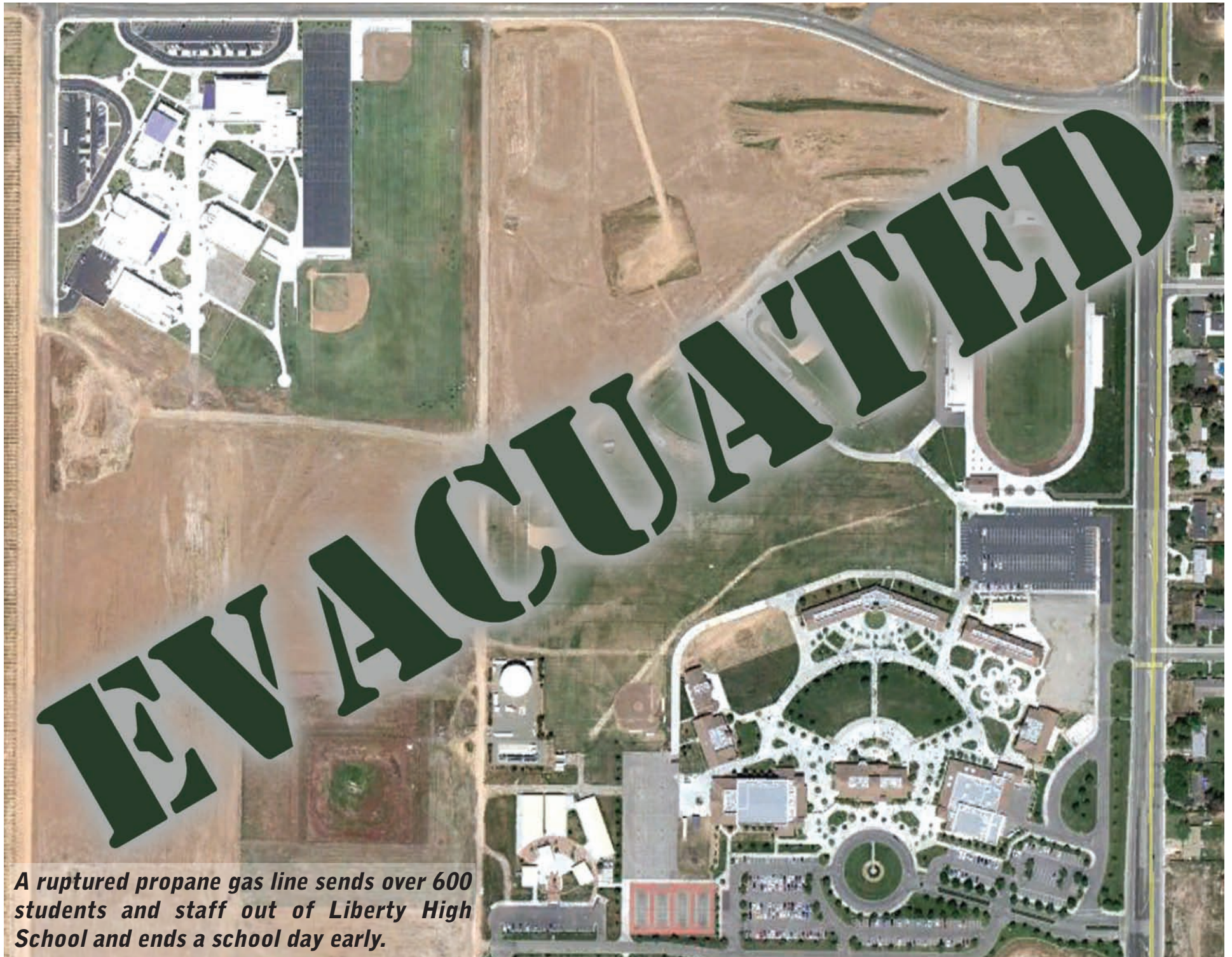


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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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*A ruptured propane gas line sends over 600 students and staff out of Liberty High School and ends a school day early.*

***In This Issue***

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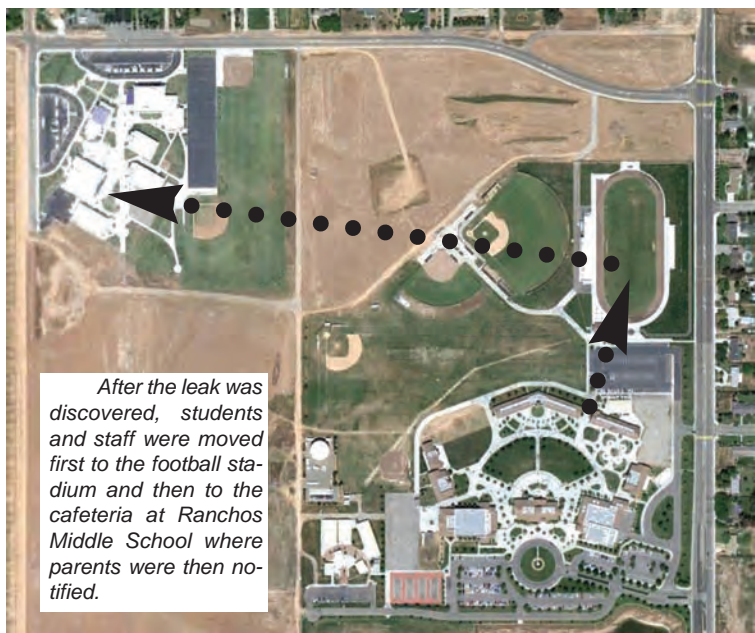
# Workers Rupture Propane Lines, Evacuate Liberty HS

A ruptured propane line resulted in the evacuation of Liberty High School on Tuesday, April 24 at approximately 11:30 a.m. No students or staff were injured during the occurrence.

According to school officials, a crew working on a solar energy project broke the 2-inch gas line that was located approximately 45 feet from the nearest school structure. Area firefighters were called and recommended the evacuation until the gas could be shut off.

Students who had vehicles on campus were allowed to leave first and the balance of students and staff, totalling approximately 630, were first moved to the football stadium and then led to the cafeteria at Ranchos Middle School located diagonally from the high school at the other end of the District property. Once there, the students had lunch provided for them and parents were called to pick up their students. As a result, LHS students were sent home approximately two hours early.

Contractors worked for the next several hours making the necessary repairs on the gas line and school was back in normal session Wednesday, April 25.



After the leak was discovered, students and staff were moved first to the football stadium and then to the cafeteria at Ranchos Middle School where parents were then notified.

# County Looks at Privatization of Ranchos Water

On April 3, the Madera County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to go forward with collecting information for the purpose of, "... exploring, evaluating, and negotiating the potential privatization of all Madera County's Water and Waste Water Special Districts." The Madera Ranchos and Rolling Hills each have a water special district.

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting, Steve Sagouspe, owner/president of Sagouspe Real Estate, Inc., and Stell Manfredi, retired Madera County Administrative Officer, announced that they have joined forces and, with a company called American Water, a national water service utility that services over 15 million people in 30 states, were looking at the possibility of privatizing all of Madera County's water and waste water special districts.

Special Districts are located all throughout Madera County. According to the County's Website, these Districts, "... were formed for the purpose of providing one or more specialized service(s) to the residents. Services provided may include water, sewer, road maintenance, lighting, drainage, etc. The Board of Supervisors acts as the Board of Directors for, and on behalf of each property owner in the district ... the Engineering Department, or more specifically, the Special Districts Department, oversees the daily operations of sewer and water districts."

The Ranchos is serviced by Maintenance District 10A and Service Area 19 in Rolling Hills is the other service area.

The Board's vote is a first step at looking at the viability of having area water serviced by a private company instead of the County. The repercussions will be the subject of much debate.

## Getting to Know the Challengers for Ranchos' NEW Congressional District: District 16



**Mark Garcia**

Self-Made Business Owner, Farmer, Lifelong Valley Resident

By Lee Neves

Mark Garcia is a successful businessman, farmer and grape grower, community leader, and American success story.

The second of six boys, Mark grew up in California's San Joaquin Valley, where the family lived in a modest trailer home. His father worked the farm fields in Kerman, Madera, Fresno, Coalinga and Caruthers, while his mother harvested grapes and took on other jobs to help feed and clothe the family.

Please see **GARCIA** on P. 12



**Johnny Tacherra**

Dairyman vs. "Dairyman" in Congressional Race

By Serafin Quintanar

Having run in a congressional race with career politician Jim Costa myself in 2010, I have taken particular interest in this year's congressional contest in which Jim Costa hopes to extend his three decades long political malpractice. However, this time, he wants to do it at your expense!

You may think that Madera Ranchos will automatically have a Republican representative in Congress, but you would be mistaken. You see, you are no longer in the Republican held 19th District with Jeff Denham. In 2012,

Please see **TACHERRA** on P. 12



**Brian Whelan**

Third Generation Valley Farmer and Attorney

Brian Whelan's Central Valley roots run deep. Raised in Fresno County, Brian is a third generation farmer and attorney. Brian graduated Valedictorian from San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno. After studying at UC Berkeley and Rutgers University Law School, he returned home to practice law in his home community.

Traditional values and common sense led him to champion the Valley's economic and social needs in the court

Please see **WHELAN** on P. 15

**FLATLANDER'S DAY IS COMING! SATURDAY, MAY 12**

**PARADE ENTRY FORM ON PAGE 6**

**YOU CAN HELP! 645-4001**



# Liberty High School ACE Team takes First ... Again

By Richard Hallert

Liberty High School's Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (A.C.E.) Mentor Program students took top honors for the second year in a row in the mock Request For Proposal competition with three other Fresno/Clovis school teams. The competition included Liberty, Clovis, Edison, and Hoover High Schools.

"I am so impressed each year with the capability of the students involved with

the ACE program," said third year mentor Stephanie McShane. "The vast amount of information they must absorb and process during the year is immense. After seeing these students in action, I have no fear about the quality of our future industry leaders. We are in great hands. Liberty High students definitely know how to rise to a challenge."

The ACE Mentor Program of America is a nationwide non-profit organization founded by the principals of leading de-

sign and construction firms to introduce high school students to career opportunities in the industry. ACE is an after-school or extracurricular program designed to enlighten, engage, and expose students to the career opportunities available to them in the industries involved. The ACE Mentor Program of America has been instrumental in steering high school students into a career in Architecture, Construction or Engi-

Please see ACE on P. 18



The winning LHS ACE team (from left) Samantha Emerson, Michael Rios, Randi Wallace, James Owens, Patrick Myers, Leiasa Horanic and Alex Rodriguez.

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# Check 'n Rip at the Ranchos Library

By Garin Gonzales

Alright, we are still looking for volunteers for the Flatlander's Parade and Craft Fair and we still need people to help out with the Summer Reading Program (if interested please call the library at 645-1214.) But you know what? I'm tired of begging for volunteers. I know all of you good people will step up when the time is right or when the chips are down, whichever comes first. So I've decided to write something fun this month. Here goes:

**Top five books checked out and then ripped off from the library  
(and how it signals the fall of the Western Civilization)**

This list is in no particular order. If you have one of these books in your collection at home and you can't remember where you got it GIVE IT BACK TO THE LIBRARY.

1) **The Art of War by Sun Tsu** - Let's start the list off by the one that confounds me the most. The Art of War is the premier work on military strategy and warfare. What a wannabe gangbanger with a six grade education is going to do with this book is mind boggling to me. Dude, it's not going to teach you how to kick box. It isn't going to show you the best way to get out of a "noogie." No. It may teach you wise and learned ways to apply military tactics in battle. But IT IS going to be wasted on you. Put it back.

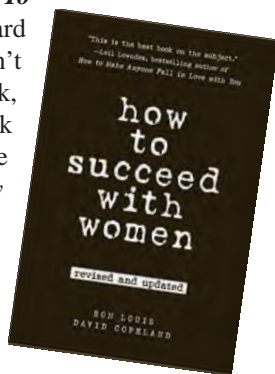


2) **Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler** - Come on, really? What could you possibly glean from Hitler's writing that is going to help you become a better human being? I have to come clean and confess I haven't actually read *Mein Kampf* (or "My Struggle"), but I think I get the gist. Hitler was in prison for trying to start a revolution in a beer hall (because drunk people are easier to win over apparently). So he thought an autobiography/political screed would win over the masses. And I guess for a while it did. But why would kids want to steal his writings from the library? What are you going to do next on your conquest of evil? Steal puppies? (Not to get too political, but why do some people insist on comparing our president to a Nazi? It's just rude and unfair. So stop it.)

3) **Any ASVAB Book** - The ASVAB measures abilities and helps to predict future academic and occupational success in the military. But basically it helps people who want to get into the military get into the military. And I'm supportive of people who want to go into any branch of the service. Good for you. But bring the ASVAB book back to the library! Just because you think the military is your way out of this pee-pee soaked heck-hole that is Madera doesn't mean you don't have to return the book. Other people want to escape this town too!

4) **Any books on tattoo design** - I don't have anything against tattoos. I don't have any, only because I feel that I would regret getting one within days of being inked. I knew a kid who wanted a tattoo of Jim Morrison, lead singer of The Doors. Only he didn't have a good picture of Jim Morrison. So Mr. Bright Guy decides to use the DVD box of the movie The Doors, which has a picture of Val Kilmer portraying Morrison. Meaning this kid (now in his forties) has a picture of Val Kilmer on his arm. I think I just talked myself into a good reason for ripping off tattoo design books. Still, you shouldn't do it.

5) **How To Succeed with Women by Ron Louis or How To Succeed with Men by David Copeland** - Okay, I get it. It's hard being single. But can't you read the book and bring it back? Can't you just photocopy the pages that are particularly helpful? Look, if you don't bring the book back and you happen to try to check something else out, the librarian at the front desk is going to be forced to say, "You still haven't brought back that copy of *How to Succeed with Women*." People might be within ear shot. Wouldn't it be easier to slide that sucker in the book drop some dark night rather than be embarrassed in front of friends and strangers alike?



Okay, ladies and gentlemen, talk to you next month. One last note: Southern writer Harry Crews just recently died. I urge you to take a walk on the wild side and read one of his great novels, like *Body* or *The Knockout Artist* or *A Feast of Snakes*. They aren't for everybody, but they are incredible books. Now get to class.

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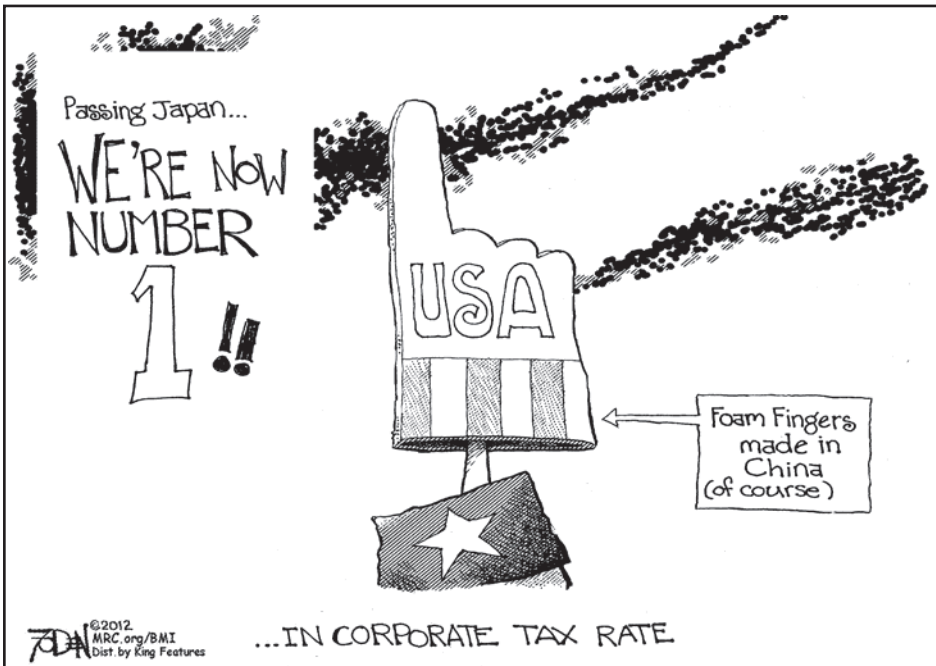
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Editorial

They're All the Same ... Right?

By Randy Bailey

Pen strokes are amazing things. With the stroke of a pen wars are started. With the stroke of a pen peace is declared. And in California, right here in Madera County, with the stroke of a pen we went from being U.S. Congressional District 19 to being U.S. Congressional District 16.

So what's in a name? What difference do two numbers make?

Plenty.

With the election of George Radanovich in 1994, District 19 became known as one of the strongest Republican districts in California. With the subsequent illness of his wife, Radanovich elected to not run again and Jeff Denham, another good Republican, was elected to District 19 in 2010. All seemed right in the world.

Every decade, our U.S. Census tells us how many people we have and those people, based on population, are divided into districts for governing purposes. In order to get equal districts, sometimes re-districting is required. That job has always fallen on the shoulders of California's State Legislature, but beginning in 2011 a citizens' commission was put in charge of drawing the new maps. Can you guess by now what has happened? That's right: With the stroke of a pen we became District 16 being served by Fresno's own perpetual Democrat, Jim Costa.

What do you know about Jim Costa?

Let me bring you up to speed.

Costa graduated Fresno State with a degree in Political Science in 1974 and by 1975 was a member of the Congressional Staff of Rep. John Krebs. The next year he was working as part of the California State Official Staff of Richard Lehman. By 1979 he was ready to get elected to the California Assembly, where he stayed until 1994 when he became a State Senator. In 2005 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he remains to this day. Quite a resume until you stop and realize ... the guy has never had a job. Career politician, all the way.

In 1994 his home was burglarized and as the police were investigating they found a box of marijuana under his bed. He denied that it was his. Reminds me of my favorite episode of COPS where they pat down a suspect and find a bag of drugs inside of his pants. Immediately the suspect says, "That's not mine!" to which the officer replies, "We just found them in your pants." Without missing a beat the suspect says, "They're not my pants!"

In 1986 Costa was arrested in Sacramento for soliciting a prostitute who turned out to be a police decoy. The prostitute he solicited matched the one he already had in his car and was necessary for his desire to engage in a "threesome."

Judgement, judgement, judgement.

In 2008 he voted for Obama's Wall Street bailout; in 2009 he voted for Obama's Economic Stimulus Package and in 2010 he voted for Obamacare.

And with a stroke of a pen, that's who we get.

There are three Republicans vying for the same seat as Costa: Mark Garcia, Johnny Tacherra and Brian Whelan. ANY of them would be better than Costa. Better for us, better for Madera County and better for the United States. It's a two-step process. One of those three will get elected on June 5 in California's Primary and then will go toe-to-toe with Costa in November. If ever there was a time that you needed to get involved in a campaign, to talk to your neighbors, to walk a precinct, to put up some signs ... THIS is it.

We may have to abide by this stroke of the pen decision, but we can sure send a message that WE determine who our representative will be.

The Ranchos Independent

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## The "Gotcha" Mainstream Media



By Sandy Forbes

Did you know that in the mainstream media's world there doesn't have to be an actual source to back up a story? Journalism students are taught the format to build up and also destroy, but they are not taught to focus on real news. "Our job is to give people not what they want, but what we decide they ought to have," said Richard Salient, former president of CBS News.

Journalists, like rabid dogs, viciously attack who they fear could be opposition to their cause or a possible detriment to Obama's electability. Sarah Palin and her children were targeted in the last presidential election with the sensationalism of a tabloid. To this day, Palin remains in their sights, most likely due to concerns she would run in the 2012 election. The media used the same tactics with Herman Cain as he noticeably rose in popularity, zeroing in on him with trumped up scandalous charges.

The mainstream media play these "gotcha games" continuously with fictitious stories that sound more like a soap opera than a direct presentation of facts or description of events. Now Conservatives aren't retreating but firing back. Two such instances remain etched in my memory.

During Gov. Rick Perry's campaign, journalist Mike Allen asked Perry to comment on accusations made by staffers within his campaign to Politico. "You got a name?" Perry said more than once. Allen was squashed silent from the obvious fabrication of those reports.

As a GOP debate moderator, John King's lead question asked of Newt Gingrich was if he would "... like to take some time to respond" about his ex-wife's interviews regarding Gingrich's 1999 affair and request for an open marriage.

Gingrich replied, "No, but I will." While the audience loudly applauded, he continued to say, "I think the destructive vicious negative nature of much of the news media makes it harder to govern this country, harder to attract decent people to run for public office. I'm appalled you would begin a presidential debate on a topic like that."

"Is that all you want to say, sir?" King asked.

"Let me finish," Gingrich answered. "Every person in here knows personal pain. Every person in here has had someone close

to them go through painful things. To take an ex-wife and make it two days before the primary, a significant question in a presidential campaign, is as close to despicable as anything I can imagine. My two daughters, my two daughters wrote the head of ABC and made the point that it was wrong, that they should pull it, and I am, frankly, astounded that CNN would take trash like that and use it to open a presidential debate."

"This story did not come from our network," King argued. "As you also know, it is the subject of conversation on the campaign. I get your point, I take --"

Gingrich interrupted, "John, it was repeated by your network. You chose to start the debate with it. Don't blame it on somebody else. You and your staff chose to start the debate with it."

Along with the audience we were suddenly on our feet cheering in front of the TV as if we were watching a sports game! We had witnessed poetic justice, the sword had suddenly been turned around on King, ABC, CNN and the "elite media." Far too long have the "gotcha media" been at this game and America has had enough. Remember: "Tell a lie often enough, loud enough and long enough, and people will believe you." Adolph Hitler.

The mainstream media's consistent lies contribute to America spiraling into the abyss. In Madera and throughout the country we can't rely that the mainstream media will provide factual reporting. We all must be diligent in researching facts ourselves in this sea of propaganda. It is our sincere hope that enough of us will make the effort to seek out the facts, which is one of the reasons the Tea Party was formed.

### Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The 6 p.m. May 21 meeting will have two guest speakers: Joshua Mitchell, Mayor of Sanger, speaking on Zero Impact Fees and bringing in new business to Sanger plus Dr. David A. Smith speaking about Obamacare cost and ER issues. Meetings are the third Monday every month at 6 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. Confirm meeting dates and speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com)

Comments or questions? Contact Madera Rancho's Tea Party Coordinator, John Smedley, by e-mail at [jcsmedley@comcast.net](mailto:jcsmedley@comcast.net) or call him at 559-645-7031. You can also contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator Rick Farinelli by e-mail at [richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net) or you can reach him at 559-706-5386.

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## The Stock Report

# Reflecting on a Full Life and Beyond

By Audrey Stock

Hi Neighbors,  
Yesterday I went to the Clovis Cemetery for the Memorial Service of an extended family member and it brought up a lot of memories and feelings. George Vianello, age 84, was hit by a car and killed while he was out for his morning walk. George was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. When George came home from the Navy he married Margaret McCormack. They had two children, Dan and Patricia, years later Margaret passed away with

hearing "Taps" played was when I was 11 years old. My brother's plane had gone down in the Pacific Ocean at the beginning of World War II. My brother's ceremony was held at Castle Air Force Base. Taps always brings tears to my eyes. George was also a retired fireman and there were firemen who took part in the Memorial Service. The Pastor read the fireman's prayer, of which I would love to have a copy. I remember that it talked about the brotherhood of firemen and a request to firemen left behind to care for the children and widow of a fallen fire-

cancer. Wanda Steinhauer, who had also lost her mate to cancer, met George and they were married. Wanda has three children, Michael, Donna and Deanna. This is where my connection to George begins, since Donna Steinhauer married my oldest son, Rick Stock. Wanda and I had been friends for many

*My children know I would like a "Celebration of my Life" service. Many of the ends of life rituals are put together by funeral parlors and are very costly. I believe that life is for the living and that funerals are too sad. I just don't want a funeral, I want a celebration.*

years and share grandchildren. I also had another connection to George because both his sister Marion Posson and his niece Eleanor Miksch are my Beta Sigma Phi sorority sisters.

George joined the Fresno Fire Department in 1954 and retired in 1987 after 33 years of service. Family and friends will remember George for his love, generosity and kindness. His family had several memorial services. I attended the Graveside Service at the Clovis Cemetery. The U.S. military did the unfolding and refolding of the American flag. The song "Taps" was played. The first time I remember

man. Then the attending firemen rang a large bell three times and the graveside service was over.


As I started writing about George Vianello it brought to mind all of the many funerals I have attended. The memorial service for my husband Rod Stock and the funerals for my mother and father that I was in charge of. Family and friends need closure after a death. Last year I finally got around to making out a Living Trust Document and going over my wishes with my three children. They know that I don't want a funeral. My children know I would like a "Celebration of my Life" service. Many of the ends of life rituals are put together by funeral parlors and are very costly. I believe that life is for the living and that funerals are too sad. I just don't want a funeral, I want a celebration. No one wants to talk about death but everyone needs to.

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## Mama's Recipe Cards

I spent a recent rainy Saturday going through my Mom's recipe cards. Wow, what a day. The box that she kept the 3 x 5 cards in is metal and three inches deep, holding 119 cards; then there are 161 cards wrapped in rubber bands that won't fit in the box. Of those 280 cards, there are a few duplicates, a couple from my Aunt Gladys, three written in my sister Faye's handwriting, eight in mine and 10 in someone else's handwriting. Some cards had newspaper clippings and recipes from boxes and the balance in Mama's handwriting. That means over the years she wrote about 225 recipe cards.

When I began sorting the cards, I thought for sure there would be more cake recipe cards than anything else but I was wrong. There are 62 cookies cards and only 60 cake cards.

While I was going through the cards I was wondering where these cards would end up after I'm gone. It was sad to think that mama put so much time and love into them for them to end up in a dumpster somewhere. People just don't cook this way anymore. Everything from entrée's to desserts can be bought in the frozen food case at the grocery store. Bring it home, toss it in the oven for whatever time designated and you have dinner and dessert. Oh, I understand we just don't have the time anymore to cook like we used to. And with all the cooking programs on television today, why bother to put it on a card - to maybe never be used again?

Going through these cards brought back so many memories. I remember so vividly where this box sat in the kitchen cupboard. Every once in a while she would get the



box out and look for a special recipe. There was my Aunt's Persimmon Cookies and her Lazy Dazy Cake, and there were Grandma Briner's three candies she made at Christmas as gifts for her friends. The zucchini casserole that was a side dish for a lot of meals and is continued today by my sister Maxine. The banana cake Mama would make every year for my little brother George's birthday, or my dad's favorite Pineapple Pie.

You can tell by the looks of the cards whether or not they were used very much. Some look like they have been used hundreds of times, while others may not have been used at all.

One that I remember being used quite often (and the card looks it) was my brother George's favorite. When he (yes, HE)

made brownies or cookies, he wouldn't cook them as long as the recipe called for because he wanted them gooey.

### **Hershey Brownies**

Preheat oven 350 degrees

### **Cream together:**

1 Cube margarine

1 C white sugar

### **Add:**

4 beaten eggs

1 Can Hershey Chocolate Syrup

1 C sifted all-purpose flour

¼ tsp. Baking soda

### **Add:**

1 tsp. Vanilla

¾ C chopped nuts (optional)

Bake in greased 10 x 13 pan for

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

*Hope I didn't bore you too much taking you with me down memory lane. I'm not by myself when I say my Mom was the best cook around. While she was the manager of the Chowchilla High School cafeteria, she received a plaque from the F.F.A. boys designating her as the BEST COOK, a plaque from the football team thanking her for all the meals she cooked for them prior to the football games and she had a yearbook dedicated to her!*

*Proud? You betcha!*

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**RECIPE** con't. from P. 8

about 30 minutes.

*Frosting for Brownies*

- Mix in pan:  
3 T margarine  
3 T milk  
¾ C sugar

Boil 30 seconds at full boil. Take off heat and add ¼ C chocolate chips. Beat and spread on cooled brownies.

A recipe I remember well, and still see at Pot Luck dinners, is a Jell-O salad. There were four cards for it, and each from someone different, including a cousin that we visited in Tennessee years ago.

*Extra Special Salad*

*Step one:*

- 1 large box (or 2 small ones)  
Lime Jell-O

1 #2 Can crushed pineapple (well drained – reserving juice)

- ¼ C Chopped nuts

Prepare Jell-O per package directions, adding pineapple and nuts. Pour into glass baking dish and let set.

*Step two:*

- 1 8 oz. package Cream Cheese, softened

- 1 Container Cool Whip

Beat cream cheese and fold in cool whip. Spread on top of set Jell-O.

*Step three:*

- 1 C of the reserved pineapple juice

- 1 tsp Lemon juice

- 2 T flour

- ¾ C Sugar

- 2 beaten eggs

In pan, mix together the flour and sugar, then add remaining ingredients mixing well. Cook over medium heat until thick, stirring constantly. Be careful as this mixture burns easily. When cool, spread on top of cool whip layer and spread top with chopped nuts.

Hope I didn't bore you too much taking you with me down memory lane. I'm not by myself when I say my Mom was the best cook around. While she was the manager of the Chowchilla High School cafeteria, she received a plaque from the F.F.A. boys designating her as the BEST COOK, a plaque from the football team thanking her for all the meals she cooked for them prior to the football games and she had a year-book dedicated to her!

*Proud? You betcha!*

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It happened at Wal-Mart, no surprise there, where I was doing my weekly grocery shopping. I stopped in the bread aisle and bent to pick up my favorite sourdough brand that was resting on the bottom shelf. As I remained stooped, ensuring I was selecting the freshest package, I was mowed over by a woman driving her shopping cart. Lying on the floor, clutching my sourdough so as not to lose limb and loaf, I thought to myself, "Was this how I was going to die?" I sat up and



caught the woman's gaze. She peered at me through coke-bottle glasses, with the most curious expression, as if she couldn't, for the life of her, figure out why I had suddenly decided to fall flat on my back for no discernible reason whatsoever.

Resisting the urge to throw my bread at her, I asked her, probably

*The world is a scary enough place without the Little Old Lady from Pasadena buzzing around inside Wal-Mart at top speed. As I am currently nursing an injury from the little golf cart that could, I have decided to take up this cause which is now very dear to my heart.*

just a smidge shy of polite, if she realized she had run me down. Obviously taken aback, she said she had done no such thing. She let go of the handles when she saw me, but the cart just kept going, obviously I should have moved despite the fact

that I was in a squatted position with my back to her. Clearly I should have seen it coming. Sure, it might have rolled a foot, maybe two, but I was halfway down the aisle. Somehow I don't think it rolled 10 feet after she saw me, or perhaps she didn't see me until she was halfway down the aisle, in

Please see GEN WHY on P. 19

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## Progress not Perfection

# Letting Stress Go by Giving it Away

*Until he changes his mind, the Pastor's Desk will be written by Mike Bailey and is being renamed "Progress not Perfection." He is not a pastor but he has a message. With approximately 17.6 million American adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent, his message is timely and relevant.*

Editor

By Mike Bailey

The other day was the birthday of one of my oldest friends. I have not seen much of him in the last three years. He is someone who still abides in adult beverages and other party favors. Don't get me wrong, there are many people in my life today that still drink, but they are basically "normal" drinkers. This friend of mine is not a normal drinker or normal anything else. He parties – really parties. So, I tend to stay away. Being his birthday I went by to wish him well. I only stayed a little more than a few minutes, but less than 30 minutes. As Clint East-

*When I get stressed or a little disturbed I use the tools that were freely given to me. I pray and I give it away. It is not just my problem, it is His also. Remember His "yoke is light." I finally realize that I am not in this alone. He asks us – no He pleads with us – to give it to Him. So, I just do as He asks.*

wood said, "A man's gotta know his limitations." As I was leaving, his wife asked, "If you don't drink or do anything else, what do you do to relieve stress?" My reply was quick and simple, at least for me. I said, "I give it away." It is easy to say that she did not quite understand my meaning. She looked at me with a perplexed look and I could see the wonder in her eyes. What did I mean by saying, "I give it away"?

When I get stressed or a little disturbed I use the tools that were freely given to me. I pray and I give it away. It is not just my

problem, it is His also. Remember His "yoke is light." I finally realize that I am not in this alone. He asks us – no He pleads with us – to give it to Him. So, I just do as He asks.

In the AA book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," in the middle of the 11th step they give us an example of what a prayer should be like. "Lord, make me a channel of thy peace – that where there is hatred, I bring peace and love; that where there is wrong – I bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord – I bring harmony; that where there is error – I may bring truth; that where there is doubt – I may bring faith; that where there is despair – I may bring hope; that where there are shadows – I may bring light; that where there is sadness – I may bring joy. Lord,

grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen."

If you have read this prayer and find it hard to catch its meaning, let me clarify this prayer for you. STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF! He has your back, He is not going anywhere. If you put others first and yourself last, He will take care of you. Give it away, it is not yours. The key to beating this disease is to GIVE IT AWAY. Give your stress and your troubles away. Give what has been freely given to you, away.

Until next time,  
Mike



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**GARCIA** con't. from P. 2

One of Mark's earliest memories is riding with his father on the tractor until late into the evenings as they disked the fields. He and his older brother would often fall asleep in the tractor cab from the soothing sound of the tractor and vibrations.

Mark's father and mother taught him the values of hard work, trust, and conducting business with a handshake. As a young man, Mark learned to earn money feeding chickens, cleaning coups, and caring for hogs, cows, goats and sheep for various farms. Through his teen years, he also worked the Valley's cotton and garlic fields, and picked grapes for raisins.

After completing high school, Mark attended Modesto Jr. College while working several jobs. He also earned his Real Estate License, and simultaneously learned the bail

bonds business.

In 1996, Mark took a risk and launched his own bail bonds company, Garcia Family Bail Bonds. That was the beginning of Mark's success as a business owner. Garcia Family Bail Bonds was an instant success, and brought growth year in and year out.

Through the years, Mark also built his real estate portfolio, developing and managing several family owned commercial properties in and around the Modesto/Oakdale area. In 2000, Mark and Angela Garcia took another risk and planted a vineyard on their vacant Oakdale area acreage. The award winning Most Wanted Wine Company was born – now one of the Central Valley wine industry's up-and-coming stars.

Mark and Angela Garcia were married 22 years ago in a garden chapel. They are raising their four children and active in their local church.

**TACHERRA** con't. from P. 2

you will now be voting in the new 16th District that has a 15 percent registration advantage for the Democrat Party. As if that were not enough of a change, the liberal who has cost farm workers over 40,000 jobs with his lack of courage to fight for water against Diane Feinstein and Nancy Pelosi, Jim Costa, has decided that he has inflicted enough damage on Kern and Kings Counties and is now running in Madera, Merced and Fresno Counties. This also has to do with the fact that he barely squeaked out a win over Kings County farmer, Andy Vidak, in 2010.

Well, fast forward again to 2012 and two of Costa's Republican opponents in 2010, myself and Andy Vidak, have endorsed and are supporting Johnny Tacherra for Congress in YOUR DISTRICT.

Before I tell you a little about Johnny Tacherra, let me first explain one other major change in the way you will be voting for Congress in 2012. The passage of Proposition 14 in 2010 has now made the June 5th election an open primary for congressional and other state races. This means that the top two vote getters will advance to the November election for a winner to be decided by the voters. With a sizable Democrat voter registration advantage, it is crucial to vote for the best Republican candidate this June. That candidate is Johnny Tacherra.

Johnny Tacherra is a fourth generation dairyman. Let's not forget that Jim Costa also claims to be a "dairyman" because his family is involved in the dairy industry, but the only thing he seems to know how to milk are taxpayers. However, Johnny Tacherra has worked on his family's dairy since he was a kid. He is currently the director of his family dairy, Morningstar Dairy. He and his family are also pomegranate farmers. Johnny is also the owner of a welding and metal fabrication

business.

Johnny has been happily married for 18 years and is the loving father of four great children. Johnny is also big supporter of our Veterans. Johnny donated labor and materials to help build Oak Grove Veteran's Memorial and serves on its board of directors. Johnny is already serving you in Washington DC as he fights Jim Costa on dairy policy as a member of the California Dairy Campaign. Johnny is also a long time member of the National Rifle Association and many sporting clubs around the valley.

Johnny Tacherra is a solid conservative on economic and social issues. If you have not already seen his videos or plans, please visit his campaign website at [www.johnnyforcongress.com](http://www.johnnyforcongress.com). You can see his American Jobs 101 Plan and his Congressional Clarity Statement among many other powerful and innovative solutions.

Johnny Tacherra gladly endorsed the Central Valley Tea Party. Something that Jim Costa would, of course, not do. In fact, no other candidate in the race for the 16th district has done so. Johnny also proudly signed the Open Letter from the Tea Party opposing the fiscally irresponsible High Speed Rail boondoggle.

The number one issue is the economy. Johnny not only understands the number one industry in the valley, agriculture, but also how jobs are created because he is a small business owner. Johnny Tacherra has signed the front side of a paycheck, not just the back. Johnny has the Ag, business, family and life experiences that best relate to most voters in the valley. Jim Costa doesn't know what it's like to have to have a real job, run a real business or to be responsible for the wellbeing of a spouse and children.

Do yourself a favor and visit Johnny Tacherra's website, [www.johnnyforcongress.com](http://www.johnnyforcongress.com), and get to know Johnny.

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*My experience and reputation for being fair but tough is why major law enforcement groups including the Madera County Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Madera County Prosecutors Association, and the Madera & Chowchilla Police Officers Associations are asking you to vote for me. Sincerely, Joseph A. Soldani*

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- Madera County Supervisors: Ronn Dominici (Chairman) and Tom Wheeler.
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## Senior Report

# You Make Senior Fundraisers Work

By Verlaine Elinburg

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors Home and Garden Festival, the main fundraiser of the season for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, was a successful and a very well-attended event. Congratulations to the Ranchos/Hills special volunteer membership team for an excellent performance in organizing, promoting and executing an outstanding event, and to the community and our visitors for such great attendance. Also, thank you to our local businesses and nurseries of the Madera Ranchos and the businesses and nurseries of the San Joaquin Valley that stepped up to the plate with their time and generous donations; the vendors that shared their information and their products; the Volunteer Fire Department and Support

Crew for our safety; the coming together of all the Madera Ranchos Organizations; our local Ranchos Independent paper and its publisher/editor, Randy Bailey – all of these people

pull us all together and makes our little community our little haven. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors extends its sincere thanks to each and every one – without all of you we could not have made this such a fun and successful fundraiser for the Senior Center. Again, THANK YOU!

On April 21 the Ranchos/Hills Seniors celebrated the 4th Annual Cycle for the Seniors event and it was very successful. Sponsored by numerous businesses in the Madera Ranchos and the San Joaquin Valley, the event had 101 riders participate. The event was spear-headed by our president, Mike Thomson, and his daughter Heidi, who proved to be Mike's right-hand "person" for the event. And of course since behind every good and successful man is a woman, Mike's wife Carolyn was indispensable.

The Star of the event was our very own Fred Mathes, who at 96 years old is still a participant in Cycle for the Seniors. The Grand Prize, a Giant Cypress FT bicycle donated by Steven's Bicycles, was won by Dr. Sue Stone.

Thank you to all the volunteers and

sponsors for making this a wonderful and sharing event and to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors team volunteers that made this event successful and enjoyable.

It's play time for the Ranchos/Hill Seniors. On May 9-19 the Southern Journey trip will take place. This trip to our nation's southern states will include the history and beauty of the legendary south, Atlanta, historic sites and museums, Myrtle Beach, lakes and blackwater rivers, Georgetown and Charleston and the famous Brookgreen Gardens. They'll see where our first settlers lived in 1700, the magnolia plantations and gardens founded in 1676, Savanna, with its cobblestone streets and elegant homes and gardens, Jekyll Island and the oldest African-American church in the U.S. which played an important part in the Underground Railroad. The Department of health

comes periodically to the center for free check-ups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education

and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above and 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. and a suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. 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 and get updates on their fellow members and get current news and updates on what is happening at the Center. 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 of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy or find additional copies at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and at many of the businesses on Avenue 12.



*Eager bicycle riders get ready to take off at the 4th Annual Cycle for the Seniors event at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on April 21.*



**Kiwanis Korner**

**Health, Fun, Community and Family**

By Perry Watkins

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

Every year Kiwanis have what we call “Total K Day.” This is a time when we search out some worthy person or persons in the community who might benefit from our labors and attention for one morning. The idea is to find someone who would welcome a day of community service at their home for a mini make-over. We plant flowers, trim bushes, clean up clutter and generally spend a few hours of trying to make a deserving person’s yard a bit more beautiful. We might choose a



Mayoral candidate Brian Lee and the Kiwanis helped support the recent Senior Center Home & Garden Event. Brian is seen voting for himself.

person who is unable to do this for him or herself, or perhaps someone who we believe is deserving of a little care and attention. If you looked on the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36 on April 21 you saw us. Thanks for the waves and hollers.

Kiwanis of the Ranchos will be awarding two scholarships for Liberty High seniors soon. We will be focused on one deserving student who is interested in military service. This will honor fellow Kiwanian Dale Lucas. The second scholarship will focus on a senior who exemplifies community service. Helping our local kids a bit with their college expenses is always a joyful experience for Kiwanis.

The Cross River Run is almost upon us. Sunday, June 3 is the big day. Run for fun. Check out the Kiwanis website at www.ranchoskiwanis.com for more details. It is about half the cost of many of the runs these days. Electronic chip timing for all participants this year. Register and pay online with plastic or PayPal.

It won’t be long before Flatlander’s Day.

It is coming up fast on Saturday, May 12. Be sure to look for the Kiwanis booth to get some of the best Tri Tip sandwiches in the Central Valley. Early birds may get some of the free home baked cookies before they run out. We would love to tell you all about Kiwanis and invite you to a meeting if you’re interested. If you don’t know what the heck a Kiwanis is then here is the time to ask. Remember every dollar goes to a good cause – local children. Kiwanis members actually pay all administrative costs for the club so donations go to kids.

The challenge is still out there. The Ranchos needs a Mayor! Raise some easy cash for your organization by joining the Mayor’s Race. We’ll count dollar votes and announce the New Mayor of the Ran-

chos this summer. Come and meet our Mayor candidate. He has made some mighty big campaign promises. Come and hear how the world will change if Brian Lee becomes Mayor.

Businesses can be corporate sponsors of a member in Kiwanis. Send us a member and help local children.

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

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4/12

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## WHELAN con't. from P. 2

room.

Brian's legal philosophy has always been to bring integrity and hard work into the court room in order to make the justice system work for his clients. Having grown up in a bilingual family, Brian is able to represent his clients in both Spanish and English.

Brian frequently takes pro bono cases, representing disadvantaged people in need of legal assistance. He has also worked extensively to promote awareness and research of a musculoskeletal disorder known as FOP which affects his brother, Vincent.

Getting our economy back on track and creating jobs in the Central Valley can't be won in a courtroom. That's why Brian wants to take the fight to Congress. He believes that important solutions for the Central Valley start with intelligent water management and support of agriculture, including growers and workers, and for the Nation, it starts with real fiscal responsibility.

### An Open Letter from Brian Whelan

Dear Friends,

I am a Republican and long-time resident of the San Joaquin Valley. I am frustrated by our legislators' inability or unwillingness to address the critical problems we face: poverty levels higher than anywhere else in the country, productive farmland followed for the benefit of the Delta smelt, willing able-bodied people unable to find work, a broken education system, crushing government debt, out of

control government spending, career politicians kicking the can down the road, etc. I am not a career politician, but a citizen who has reached the point that I feel compelled to do something to try to fix what is broken. I am willing to put my career as a lawyer on hold to do what Congress was meant to do: represent all of the people and not just the powerful few.

As Washington continues to spend us into a hopeless debt hole, it is all Americans, but particularly my generation who will have to pay the bill. The amount of debt per citizen will continue to skyrocket if nothing is done. If we do not come together and act now, our children and our children's children will be crippled by debt before they ever have a chance to work. In Congress, I will work hard for you to restore fiscal responsibility to our federal government.

I believe strongly in the principles of the free market, fiscal responsibility and limited government. By bringing honesty, accountability and common sense to Washington, I will ensure your voice will be heard and together we will provide opportunity and security for this Valley and our Nation long into the future. This is your seat in Congress. Your vote should be counted. Your voice should be heard.

I want to see our government work for us again and it begins with real representation. As your Congressman, I will be available, I will listen and I will be your voice in Washington, D.C.

Thank you and God bless America,  
Brian Whelan

Say you saw it in  
the Ranchos Independent

## Enjoy FLATLANDERS DAY and Our THIRD ANNIVERSARY!

Here's what your friends and neighbors are saying about Ranchos Town & Country:

"Absolutely the best prices. I've compared them to stores in Fresno and they're better!" Vicki B.

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"What a great wine selection right here in the Ranchos. Who would have guessed?" David F.

"Friendly people, great customer service and always greet you by name. I love coming here." Brandon Y.

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4/12


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**WANT A VINTAGE V-TWIN?**



**How about for 5 bucks?**



*The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is having a drawing for a vintage Suzuki 800 Intruder V-Twin, donated by SEMCU. Drawing tickets are only \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20. You can see the bike on Flatlander's Day and you may buy as many tickets as you like. They are available at the Chamber office. Call 645-4001 for more information and good luck!*

**you've gotta go to the Flatlander's Day Parade & Craft Fair**

**Sat. May 12 · 8-2**

**Maywood Center Avenue 12**

**... if you wanna have any fun!**

*There will be a Special Blood Drive in memory of Alexis Delgado. You can sign up at the library.*

**Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Ranchos Library**

**GET IN THE GAME!**



**SIGN UP FOR RANCHOS YOUTH FOOTBALL**

**YOU CAN REGISTER AT OUR BOOTH AT THE FLATLANDERS DAY PARADE & CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, MAY 12**

DIVISION	AGE	WEIGHT
<b>Mighty Mites</b>	6, 7 & 8 year olds (6 year olds must be 6 by Nov. 30)	100 lb. weight limit
<b>Pee Wees</b>	8, 9 & 10 year olds	140 lb. weight limit
<b>Juniors</b>	10, 11, & 12 year olds	160 lb. weight limit
<b>Seniors</b>	12, 13 & 14 year olds	200 lb. weight limit

**SIGN UP AT FLATLANDERS PARADE 5/12/12**  
**\$110 RETURNING PLAYER • \$135 NEW PLAYER**

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

**FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT JOHN STEPHENS 645-5346**



# Sierra View Elementary School

# SPRING CARNIVAL



## Saturday, May 5 • 4 - 8 p.m.

**CAR SHOW REGISTRATION:** Pre-registration is only \$25. Your registration includes entry into the Car Show, a FREE Tri-Tip sandwich & drink dinner and the opportunity to win one of many trophies! For additional information, call Stacy at 645-4320.



# & ANNUAL CAR SHOW

## 16436 Paula Rd. Madera • 645-4320



## Next "Meet the Artist" Scheduled

By Ramona Frances

At 20, Nelina Vargas has already produced a volume of intriguing sketches and is producing additional work for her upcoming Madera Ranchos show. Her solo exhibit will follow Nina McDonald's fine art photography the later part of May and remain into June. The next "Meet the Artist" event will be on May 25, 4 - 7 p.m. and is designed to give the public a chance to speak to the artist at The Coffee Spot, to view, and purchase art work. This will be the Bonedelle Ranchos resident's first art show.

Of her work, Nelina describes it as multimedia ink sketches done in black and white. "And I add splashes of color."

When asked what kept her reaching forward to learn more about art she said, "It is the

whole creation act. It is when you take something from nothing and turn it into something."

Nelina credits her mother and former art teachers for encouraging her. "My mom - Roxanne Martin of Fresno - always encouraged me especially during my teenage years. My grandmother was an oil painter so you could say she inspired me to be like her."

Although the figure sketches Nelina produces do not depict actual people she knows, the human form is a favored subject. She sometimes adds inspirational words to her pieces that may be interpreted different ways by the viewer, she said. Employed by a department store in Fresno, Nelina plans to attend classes at Madera Center Community College before going onto a 4-year college. She hopes to earn a Liberal Arts degree and to teach art.



## GV School Year Winding Down

With May right around the corner, events are wrapping up for the four schools that make up the Golden Valley Unified School District.

The last day of instruction is June 1 with Sierra View and Webster Elementary schools holding sixth grade promotion ceremonies as their students move on to Ranchos Middle School and the changes that come with that.

Ranchos Middle School will host eighth grade promotion ceremonies on June 1 in the afternoon leading to the big step of high school.

Educational Options will host graduation ceremonies May 30 at the Ranchos Middle School theater and the culmination of 12 years of GVUSD education will be May 31 with commencement ceremonies for Liberty High School, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the amphitheater.

Andy Alvarado will address the LHS graduates for the first time as the GVUSD superintendent.

## SCHOOL SURVEY

*We want to hear from you!*

Throughout the month of May, Golden Valley Unified School District will be conducting surveys for students, parents and staff. The surveys will be anonymous and available through the district website at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us).

Thank you in advance for participating in the survey process.

*¡Queremos escuchar de usted!*

A lo largo de mayo, Golden Valley Unified School District va a realizar encuestas para estudiantes, padres y personal. Las encuestas serán anónimas y disponibles a través del website del distrito de [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us).

Gracias de antemano por participar en el proceso de estudio.

## Music and Ice Cream at Liberty

The Liberty High School Band and Choir is planning a concert for Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Liberty High. But beginning at 6 p.m. on the same night at the same location will be the LHS Band and Choir Ice Cream Social. In addition, the ice cream will continue to be scooped for 30 minutes after the concert as well. Ice cream will be provided by the LHS Music Boosters and sold during the social to help raise funds for the band and choir for various activities and items requested that are not funded by the District.

Yum!

For more information call Kelley Juhrend with the LHS Music Boosters at 363-2964.

## ACE con't. from P. 3

neering. Over 70 percent of ACE alumni students are currently studying in the fields of architecture, construction or engineering.

In its third year here in the Central Valley, ACE is administered by the Central California Builders Exchange and is a partnership between schools, architects, engineers, construction management companies, trades, and professional organizations. Participating companies and mentors adopt a group of 10 to 20 students for the school year and introduce them to careers in the design and construction professions. Students and their mentors meet 15 times a year to work on a design project that is presented at the end of the season. Programs in California enroll over 1000 students yearly.

This year the Request For Proposal was for Design-Build Services for a Youth Development Center in downtown Fresno. The competing school teams were issued the Request For Proposal in September, 2011 with submittal of their Request For Proposal response due April 12th, 2012. The students formed the fictitious com-

pany, Alliance Consulting & Engineering (A.C.E.) with a President, V.P., C.O.O., and other company officers. The team included Leiasa Horanic, President, Patrick Myers, C.E.O., Randi Wallace, C.O.O., Michael Rios, Chief Architect, James Owens, Chief Estimator, Samantha Emerson, Project Manager, Seth Krezman, Safety Officer, and Alex Rodriguez, Environmental Consultant/Commissioning Agent.

The Mentor Team included Lead Mentor Ken Eynaud, estimator with New England Sheet Metal Works, Inc., Stephane McShane, Senior Consultant with Maxim Consulting Group LLC, Richard Hallert, Architect, Richard Jones, Supplier/Manufacturer at The Garland Company, Inc., Scott Tunnel, Mechanical Engineer with Taylor Teter Partnership, and Renee Harris, Mathematics Instructor at Liberty High School.

"I was again impressed with enthusiasm and work ethic of the students as the deadline drew near," said architect, and mentor, Richard Hallert. "Their response to the real-life pressures we face as professionals, dedication to completing their proposal on time, and dynamic presentation of their project was well rewarded in capturing first place for the second year in a row."

## GVUSD Calendar

### District Wide

May 14- GVUSD board meeting  
May 21- All Staff district appreciation in-service at Liberty High cafeteria, 1 p.m.  
June 1- last day of school

### Sierra View

May 5- School Carnival  
May 24- SVPC meeting  
May 30- Kindergarten graduation  
June 1- 6th grade promotion

### Webster Elementary

May 15- WPTC meeting  
May 30- Kindergarten awards  
June 1- 6th grade promotion

### Ranchos Middle School

May 16-17- Drama production  
May 22- Band concert  
June 1- 8th grade promotion

### Liberty High School

April 28- Prom at Wolf Lakes  
May 3- Ballet Folklorico Performance  
May 9- FFA Banquet  
May 11- Choir concert  
May 16- Principal's round table  
May 17- Band Concert  
May 18- Senior rally  
May 21- Senior Academic Awards Night  
May 23- Band and Choir Awards banquet  
May 24- Grad night  
May 25- Athletic Awards night  
May 31- Graduation  
May 31- Sober grad



## Vision Statement

Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community based in excellence.

Click on "Local News" at



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Visit the Ranchos' own Website.  
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**Say you saw it in  
 the Ranchos Independent**

GEN WHY con't. from P. 10

which case, the vision center is at the front of the store, time to up the prescription. She was sticking to her story; it was the cart's fault. And, of course, it would have been far too difficult to veer the cart to the left to avoid running me over, and certainly a quick, "Hey, watch out! I'm a crazy woman and have no control over this thing!" was clearly out of the question. So she went with option number three, quietly run the unsuspecting woman over - she might not even notice. All of which I wanted to shout at her, but yelling at little old ladies has never really sat right with me, so, despite the fact that I had just been physically assaulted, I had absolutely no choice but to back down and limp away.

A friend of mine has a physical disability and needs to use a wheelchair if walking for long periods of time, so while at Disneyland earlier this year, she rented one of the electric convenience vehicles. She was a natural, weaving through the crowds, keeping pace while avoiding collisions with small children. Our other friend in attendance, however, was less of a natural. So much less that disaster would be a better description. She continuously clipped the heels of fellow park goers, ran several families off the main walkways, and in one notable instance, smashed directly into a pole, head on. The pole emerged unscathed, but the vehicle had a noticeable dent in the industrial grade plastic. Needless

to say, my friend with the disability, whom was merely trying to stretch her legs from all the sitting, immediately confiscated the electric wheelchair and refused to allow anyone else to drive it for the remainder of the visit. See, now, if we all would have been required to take a driver's test before pulling away with the cart, we would have known not to put the crazy woman behind the wheel, and a lot less children would be going home with nightmares of being run over.

I will say this, though, as many bad drivers as there are out there behind the wheels of motorized wheelchairs and shopping carts, there are plenty more bad pedestrians wandering the same paths. I cannot tell you how many people step in front of one of these vehicles, just assuming that they can stop on a dime.

They do not.

They roll forward, depending on how fast you are going, even after your hand is off the accelerator, again, probably not the entire length of a grocery store aisle, but certainly a foot or two. So when you step in front of one because you think you have the right of way, don't be surprised when they just roll over you like a speed bump. It's really safer for everyone involved if the pedestrians surrounding these vehicles made the extra effort to avoid the carts, because you never know which driver you are going to get: the cautious, courteous disabled person or the twit that has mistaken the shopping cart for a bumper car.

*Madera Ranchos | Southeast Madera County*  
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY SEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 5	Sierra View School Carnival	SV Parent Club
May TBA	Ranchos Farmer's Market (at Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
May 12	Flatlander's Day	Chamber of Commerce
May 18	Friday Night @ the Movies	SEMCU
- Aug 17	(at Maywood Center)	
May 31	LHS Graduation and Sober Grad	Sober Grad Committee
June 2	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
July 1	Freedom Car Show	Lifetree Church
Aug 18	Fireman's BBQ Dinner	Station 19
Sep 8	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
Oct 6	October Feast	SEMCU
		Chamber of Commerce
Dec 7	Christmas Tree Lighting	Chamber of Commerce

*To add items to the Community Calendar contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or SEMCU at 363-9095. Items must be submitted AT LEAST one month in advance and are subject to editing.*



# Do Something About Your Home

By Scott Mercer

You love living in the Ranchos, but your house just isn't big enough. Or maybe your household demographics have changed, and your home doesn't seem to fit your current lifestyle. Perhaps you've poured time and money creating the perfect yard, but now it's time to do something about your house, and you don't know where to start.

If you're trying to decide whether to move, remodel, or expand your current home, you face some hard decisions. In making these decisions, there are complex issues to consider.

Let us begin to explore:

First, do you know what you really want? Is it a matter of spatial quantity (square feet) or quality? Do you really need more space, or could moving interior walls around improve the function



With a good set of plans, the current economic climate is a great time to get those remodeling dreams accomplished.

of your home? Could a customized storage system along one or two garage walls do the trick?

Can adding an accessory building meet your needs? If they are under 120 square feet, a building permit is not required. Some people don't mind having outbuildings on their property, but others can't stand them. If these buildings share the architectural style, roof pitch, material, and color of the existing home, they can even enhance the property. A small free-standing building can be a very economical way of adding storage space.

Here in the Ranchos, the vast majority of lots are zoned to allow a second residential unit. You can build a guest cottage, mother-in-law apartment, or even a rental house. You could also build yourself a new home on your lot, and then rent out the one you're currently living in. Finding out the zoning classification of your property is as easy as calling the Madera County Planning Department and giving them your address (Phone number: 559-675-7821).

The Building Department approval process takes time and money, and you may be tempted to skip it. But the decision to dodge the permitting process always comes back to haunt you. If you get caught, additional fees and documentation could be required beyond what was originally needed. You may even be forced to make some changes, and these may be expensive.

One frequently used strategy for gaining extra living space in a home is to cannibalize the garage. There is one major short term benefits for taking this route: The space is cheap. But then you've lost your covered parking and/or storage space – and that may drive you crazy.

Whether you plan on building a second unit, or adding on to the house you have, there are site constraints that will impact the size, location, configuration, and even feasibility of the project. On most lots in the Ranchos, no part of a house can be located within 25 feet of the front, 10 feet of the side, or 20 feet of the back property lines.

Easements may also exist that affect where you can build.

There are also a number of utilities issues that must be considered. Your septic system needs to be large enough to handle the increased amount of waste water generated by your addition or added unit. You may

need to add leach lines, seepage pits, or even a septic tank. These usually have to be a minimum of 150 feet from any well. In fact, if you have a well, does it have the extra capacity you would need?

What can you afford? Keep in mind that adding exterior walls is a lot more expensive than interior remodeling. Building up may be (but is not always) cheaper than building out. Start to document your vision, and then get some quotes for the work. Once you have some idea of the upgrades you'd like to make to your home, you can get more guidance from one of the many local professionals that we have here in the Ranchos. Ask your friends and neighbors who they have worked with, and see if they had a good experience. Or contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, and they can supply you with a list of local contractors, design professionals, and engineers.

Do what will make you happy with your house and property. Don't worry if somebody else will be interested in it later. Mold your home to your lifestyle, and fill it with your life. Someday it may be a joy for your children, or even your children's children. As John Ruskin wrote: "When we build, let us think that we build forever."

Scott Mercer is a licensed Architect and the owner of Mercer Architecture. He lives and works in the Ranchos.

# Free Gardening Events in May

Take a spring outing to our beautiful Eastern Madera County Sierra foothills by driving to Oakhurst on Saturday, May 12. Visit Oakhurst's renowned Western Sierra Nursery at 49266 Golden Oak Drive and bring your gardening questions to Master Gardeners between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This free event is your opportunity to ask questions of experienced and trained gardeners.

On Saturday, May 19, attend a workshop in Compost, Vermiculture, and Lasagna Beds,

presented by Master Gardeners Steve Gabbard and Mary-Allen Macneil. Learn to promote good garden soil by recycling garden and kitchen waste. This workshop will be held at Madera Community College Center, 30277 Ave. 12, Room R4C, in the last row of classrooms. Park free in Parking Lot C. No charge to the public.

For info call 559 675-7879, ext. 210, write mgmadera@ucdavis.edu or visit their website at cemadera.ucdavis.edu.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

“MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2012.”

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.

4/12

# Ride for the Cure!

The Motorcycle Ministry of

“One Nation Under God”

JESUS RIDES WITH ME

presents its

8th Annual Children's Hospital Central California Motorcycle Event

4/12

SAT. JUNE 2 • 7:30 AM  
Enter to Ride!

All profits will be donated to Children's Hospital for the purpose of any activity that supports children with cancer or helps to find a cure.

for more info call

RON or SUE SHAW  
645-0199 or 232-3464  
rgsfss@sbcglobal.net

Ride will begin at 1st Southern Baptist Church Madera at 711 Nebraska and will end at Children's Hospital Central Valley.



## New Diet Plan - Get Organized!

The other night I returned from a family dinner with some leftover veggies from the veggie/dip plate I brought. I tossed them in a clear bowl with some plastic wrap and put them in the fridge. Not only did they look pretty sitting there all red, orange, green, yellow and whatever color peeled cucumbers are, but the next time I went for a snack, I actually grabbed some and ate them.

I would venture to say that many of you, like me, consider part of the definition of a snack as something that you don't have to prepare when you want to eat it. When I opened the fridge and the veggies were there, all washed and chopped, they suddenly became a viable snack. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not giving up dark chocolate for veggies, but I did learn a valuable lesson.

In all other organizing projects I would say accessibility is a must but, when organizing your food, it can be good or bad. Here are a few tips that can contribute to a healthier you.

Make the healthy food most accessible. Work into your routine of putting the groceries away a few minutes for preparing some fruit and veggies in snack-size pieces. Or, when you're cutting up veggies for a salad or other side dish, prepare some extra ones for snacks. Place them in a clear container, front and center in the fridge. At the very least, wash the fruit and veggies that

can't be damaged by that process so they're a little more ready to eat. If you take snacks with you, put the prepared fruits and veggies directly into snack-size Ziplocs so they're ready to grab 'n go.

Alternately, make the items that aren't as good for you, like canned soda, less accessible. Putting them out of sight or more difficult to reach is a good start to healthy living.

Using some other simple organizing strategies for the fridge can also improve your meal preparation experience, thus, less fast food. When we can't see or find what we need it's frustrating. Start by using the designated drawers for the appropriate items — veggie drawer, fruit drawer, meat/cheese drawer, butter shelf, etc. Use the shelves in the door for condiments. The extra effort to put things in their correct homes will pay off when you go to retrieve them and know just where to look.

Assign a specific spot in the fridge for leftovers. This will keep them from getting

*In all other organizing projects I would say accessibility is a must but, when organizing your food, it can be good or bad. Here are a few tips that can contribute to a healthier you.*

pushed to the back and forgotten. Store them in clear glass containers so you can easily see what you have. They can also go straight to the microwave for quick and easy serving.

Same rules apply to the freezer. Store the ice cream in the back and a healthier alternative in front of it. Keep like things together. Assign specific homes for items you frequently purchase and check stock before buying more.

All this writing is making me hungry ... think I'll go grab a carrot!

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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**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.

**May 13th - 19th is National Women's Health Week.  
Join CURVES during this week and receive 30 days free.**

## Frank Kramer Exteriors

Since 1970 Lic. #273099

When you plan interior or exterior painting, textured coatings with a lifetime warranty, or vinyl windows, 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 2012 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.



**Brian Padilla - President  
Lic. #862395**

BRIAN'S HEATING & COOLING INC. located at 16911 Hill Dr. in Madera, phone 559-675-1681, supplies **Lennox, RUUD, and Bryant** heating and air conditioning systems for homes, stores and businesses.

Whether it is a large or small home or office, these competent people can tell you what it will take to do your job properly and they guarantee your satisfaction in all season comfort.

Prompt service at a reasonable price is the guiding influence of the policies of BRIAN'S HEATING & COOLING INC. and has brought trade for them from all the surrounding areas.

Your home life will be happier and your business more profitable when you surround yourself in climate controlled comfort from this firm featuring **Lennox, RUUD and Bryant**, energy efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

We, the writers of this 2012 Look At Business, commend BRIAN'S HEATING & COOLING INC. on their business policies.



**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 2012 Look At Business commend this well respected construction company and suggest GAMIZ CONSTRUCTION to take care of your construction needs!



## Nancy Watson

**The Ranchos Specialist "Working For You"**

When you're looking around today's tough, critical real estate market for the best place to put your money, trust NANCY WATSON with **Realty Concepts LTD** to help you find the home or property that YOU want!

With an office located in The Ranchos, phone 559-645-5000, email [nwatson21@comcast.net](mailto:nwatson21@comcast.net) or visit [www.nancywatson.net](http://www.nancywatson.net), NANCY WATSON has more to offer in terms of listings and services. Whether you're looking for a building site, a new home, an older house, or vacation property, this is the one to see! Nancy Watson has been a Ranchos resident since 1977, serving her clients with honesty and integrity for over 22 years.

With some realistic prices and some diligent effort, NANCY WATSON can and will find just what you're looking for. She has access to property throughout the state and can assist you in every conceivable manner. When it comes time to sell your existing property, NANCY WATSON with **Realty Concepts LTD** will get more for you! Trust her with your real estate matters!

As the writers of this 2012 Look At Business, we heartily suggest that you contact this well-known realtor for your real estate transactions.

## 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, 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 2012 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**



**JOHN DEERE**

## Midland Tractor Co.

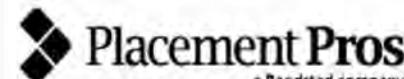
**Locally Owned & Operated**

**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 2012 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.

Stop in at MIDLAND TRACTOR CO. and look over 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 Operated By**

**Sarah Gaines - Manager**

**Placement Pros** a Randstad company 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.



## "A Look At Business"

- continued -



**Owned & Operated By Dennis Bruno**  
Lic. #697635  
brunoelectric@comcast.net

For qualified electrical work of the highest quality, many business people and homeowners in this area call BRUNO'S ELECTRIC SERVICE to be assured of a job well done! Located in Madera, phone 559-706-8372, this firm has been serving the community for many years now and they're recognized as some of the "best people for the job!"

They're fully versed in all of the latest building codes in the area. They make sure that their installations are up to the uniform standards set by the city, county, state and federal electrical requirements. You're assured of having a perfectly safe, inspected job when BRUNO'S ELECTRIC SERVICE does the work. No wonder many leading home builders specify this reliable firm for their new home wiring and installations!

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest that you contact one of the best with YOUR next electrical problem: BRUNO'S ELECTRIC SERVICE.



**Sago Rey**  
**Palm Plantation**  
Locally Owned & Operated  
By Maria Banda & Family

For the hardest, 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](http://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 2012 urge YOU to see the professionals of the nursery business today and do something "naturally beautiful" for your home or business.

"In Loving Memory Of Tom Wash"



**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](http://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 2012 Look At Business think you'll be more than pleased with the results of that call.

## Chuck's Transmission Service

### Ranchos Auto Repair & Chuck's Too

Terry, Lanny, & Robin Tucker – 2nd Generation Owners

Excellence in all phases of automobile, truck, RV and motor home transmission repair is what's featured at CHUCK'S TRANSMISSION SERVICE located at 4438 E. Belmont Ave. (east of Cedar) in Fresno, phone 559-255-1320 and RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR & CHUCK'S TOO located at 12090 Road 37 1/2 in Madera Ranchos, phone 559-645-4475. They specialize in automatic and standard transmissions and differentials.

Transmissions of today are complex and precise machines requiring a thorough knowledge and the proper tools to repair and adjust it properly. These are transmission repair shops that have the knowhow, skill and the equipment to get the job done right the first time. MasterCard and Visa cards are welcome.

People from throughout the area speak highly of the quality workmanship that goes into every job that CHUCK'S TRANSMISSION SERVICE and RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR & CHUCK'S TOO do, and a job well done is the best possible recommendation one could have. We urge our readers to trust their cars to these professional shops. Terry, Lanny, and Robin appreciate your business.

## 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 are not things 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 2012 Look At Business suggest that all of our readers shop where service and the customer are the main products - YOSEMITE PHARMACY.

## All Stage Construction, Inc.

Tim DeMera – Ranchos Resident

Lic. #932435 Over 30 Years Experience

When you plan your new home, steel building, shop, concrete work or room addition, 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 ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION, INC. 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 Tim at 559-681-8947 will get you just the information you need.


That's the kind of people you'll find at ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION, INC. located in Madera Ranchos. Tim's 30 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 2012 Look At Business, we know that this contractor will do the kind of work you deserve, with no shortcuts.



## CHAD'S TRUCKING

Locally Owned & Operated By Chad Harr

When you need sand and gravel to complete a project, you need it right now! At CHAD'S TRUCKING 

located in Madera, phone 559-645-5363 or visit [www.chadstrucking.com](http://www.chadstrucking.com), 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 your material of humas, horse footing, crushed rock, fill materials, topsoil, cobblestone, road base, plaster sand, washed sand, river rock, or other related products. He also specializes in demolition, excavating, tractor work, land leveling and more.

CHAD'S TRUCKING has a comprehensive listing of specialty contractors, who will do a particular job for you. See this full service firm for your sand and gravel needs!

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business recommend them to all of our readers!

## Madera Auto Plaza

Locally Owned Managed By Mike Sulieman

For many years, automobile dealers considered the "used car" business a sideline to selling new models. The friendly guys down at MADERA AUTO PLAZA located at 16594 Road 26 in Madera, phone 559-661-9000, 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 exclusively, and 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.

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 MADERA AUTO PLAZA and look over the tremendous values in quality used automobiles. The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest MADERA AUTO PLAZA for better cars AND better values!

## Duppa Villa Mobile Home Sales

Same Location Since 1958

Locally Owned & Operated By Ron Wright

Discover the beauty and value of manufactured home living by visiting DUPPA VILLA MOBILE HOME SALES at 15786 Hwy. 99 Ave. 16 in Madera, phone 559-674-8452. They are dealers for both single and multi-section homes, new and pre-owned. They feature quality homes and friendly home planners will discuss your living needs, and give you a guided tour through their fine display of luxurious, spacious homes. You will find just the model suited to the size of your family, in the floor plan and decor of your choice and at prices well below that of site building.

Whether you purchase your new home with a site in mind, or you need siting assistance, you'll be treated to complete service, with long term financing including land-home packages and low down payments designed to fit your budget. Their prices are competitive, and they can also arrange for your outside amenities such as foundations, skirting, decks and steps. Now is the time to discover the exciting difference of manufactured housing...they're built for living, built for life. See your dreams come true in a new home from DUPPA VILLA MOBILE HOMES SALES.



# "A Look At Business"

- continued -



Online Driver's Ed Available



**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](http://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 15 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.

## Gerards Home Remodeling & Repair Specialist

Locally Owned &amp; Operated

When it comes to remodeling your home, don't do it the slow, time-consuming do-it-yourself way. Have it done the easy, reliable way by calling GERARDS HOME REMODELING & REPAIR SPECIALIST located in Madera and serving the entire area, phone 559-474-3071. Let this skilled remodeling specialist do the job right the first time! This quality-conscious firm has the knowledge and the proper tools to handle most any addition or remodeling job, and they'll do it for less than you'd think! Call today for a FREE inspection and estimates.

GERARDS HOME REMODELING & REPAIR SPECIALIST's reputation is well established with homeowners in the local area. Let their years of skill and experience work for you on your next project. Whether it's a room addition, a new kitchen, a new floor or just repair work, the writers of this 2012 Look At Business think you should contact GERARDS HOME REMODELING & REPAIR SPECIALIST for any of your remodeling and repair needs!

## BASS & SONS

A Full Service Septic Tank Company  
dba of Timothy Bass, Inc. Lic. #884137  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1959

Building a home is a difficult business. There are many decisions to be made, and you want to get the absolute most for your money in today's tough, competitive market. One way to be sure of getting the proper sanitation equipment is to contact the professionals at BASS & SONS SEPTIC TANK, CO. in Madera at 2183 West Kennedy St., phone 559-673-4581, where some of the finest septic tank systems anywhere come from!

Featuring below ground septic tanks, this well known firm will outfit you with the model which best suits your individual needs and requirements. All of their units are approved by local sanitation authorities and meet all applicable health codes. You know you're getting the best when it's BASS & SONS SEPTIC TANK, CO!

You're welcome at any time to discuss your septic tank needs with their trained estimator. The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest that you'll be in better hands when you deal with this respected company for complete septic tank needs.



Locally owned and operated by Mike and Dave Hartley, **Bedrock Engineering** is a full-service civil engineering and land surveying firm serving public and private sector clients in the San Joaquin Valley area. Their typical clients are general contractors, farmers, ranchers, developers

and homeowners. They specialize in land development services, including topographic and boundary surveys, construction staking, infrastructure design, elevation certificates and FEMA applications.

The staff of **Bedrock Engineering** has strong ties to the community and long-standing working relationships with many local municipalities, developers, and contractors. They utilize skilled professionals and the latest technological advances in civil engineering and land surveying, including global positioning systems, robotic total stations and 3D laser scanners, to provide efficient, timely service and a higher-quality work product. Their goal is to maintain a trusted relationship with every client by treating each one with the utmost respect, providing honest advice, accurate information, and reasonably priced, professional services.

At **Bedrock Engineering, Inc.**, they know successful projects rest on a solid foundation - a foundation firmly rooted in extensive knowledge, broad experience, complete integrity, effective communication, and thorough attention to detail.

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business would like to commend **Bedrock Engineering** for their honest and straightforward service to the community.

559-645-4849 [www.bedrockeng.com](http://www.bedrockeng.com)



Carpet Rug & Upholstery Cleaning  
Janitorial Service

The modern fibers used in today's carpets and furniture require the knowledge of experts for a proper and "deep down" cleaning. The name in this area that people have come to trust is HIGHTECH located in Madera, phone 559-718-5440 for free estimates. They are well-known for their fast efficient and economical methods of carpet and upholstery care and cleaning. Through their 10 years of experience, they have learned the proper cleaning methods for each material. They also offer full service janitorial work on a daily, weekly, monthly or one time basis.

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest to anyone in need of carpet, upholstery or janitorial cleaning, contact HIGHTECH for a professional carpet job that will not only improve the appearance of your floor coverings and furniture but extend their life as well. Trash hauling is also available.

## Saenz Pest Control

Luis Saenz - Owner &amp; 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.



Conveniently located at 1977 W. Cleveland Ave. in Madera, phone 559-675-9212, WALMART is both familiar and popular with the people of this area, and it's the place where you can feel at home while you're shopping. Its friendly atmosphere that predominates at all times has placed this store in an individual class by itself and is the shopping headquarters for this entire area! That much discussed word, "SERVICE" finds true expression in the friendly atmosphere that envelops every customer in this store. WALMART features items in all categories and each department is managed by well trained personnel and the latest merchandise is always seen on their well stocked shelves.

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest WALMART to our many readers in this area. We know you'll be pleased with the quality merchandise, the outstanding service and the low prices that go hand in hand here. The managers and the staff thank all their many valued customers; your business is appreciated. They look forward to serving you and greeting new customers in the future.

## UJ Landscape & Maintenance & Tree Service

Locally Owned &amp; Operated By John Uhalde Lic. #919464

The art of creative landscaping is a job for an experienced professional. Long considered to be one of the local area's leading landscape contractors is UJ LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE & TREE SERVICE located in Madera and serving Monterey, Fresno, Clovis and Chowchilla, phone 559-287-1324. They are licensed and insured.

This reliable firm specializes in the beautifying of your lawn and garden with the addition of shrubs, rocks, fences and many other distinctive decorator items which only a true artisan can use properly. Their years of experience and their dedication to do a professional job are your assurance that your grounds will look better than ever before. When you call this experienced firm to do your landscaping, you get more than just a job. You get the environmental designs of a master! The ecology isn't forgotten when this skilled company is on the job and they specialize in producing "natural" effects. Call them today for a finer looking yard!

The writers of this 2012 Look At Business suggest that YOU contact one of the best in the landscaping field: UJ LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE & TREE SERVICE!

## Vern's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

[www.vernsplumbing.net](http://www.vernsplumbing.net) Lic. #303247



VERN'S PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, located in Fresno, phone 559-673-9400, 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 or heating problem, you need someone as soon as possible and they offer 24-hour emergency service.

VERN'S PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING offers you the best in plumbing and heating 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 2012 Look At Business find it doubtful that you could find a more competent contractor. Call Vern at 559-673-9400; you'll be glad you did.

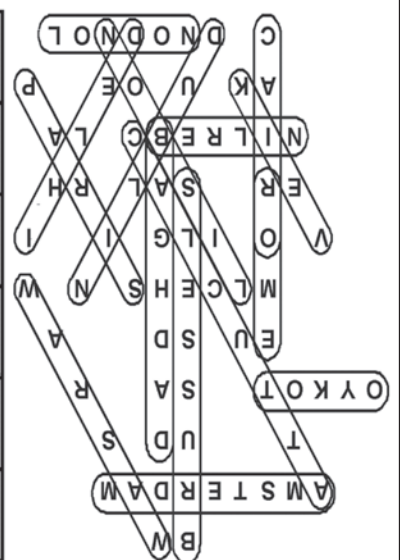


**ANSWERS**

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

STAKE	PAPAYA	ADONIS	LIKED	TEDE	FILET	JUS	SKI
PAVE	ADONIS	LIKED	TEDE	FILET	JUS	SKI	TEDE
PAVE	ADONIS	LIKED	TEDE	FILET	JUS	SKI	TEDE
PAVE	ADONIS	LIKED	TEDE	FILET	JUS	SKI	TEDE
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7	15		10		7
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25					
x	x		x		x
8	6	+	1	+	8
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8	9	-	4	x	8
23					



# SPREAD THE NEWS!

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



**SUBSCRIBE**  
to the Ranchos Independent!  
local news • local events • local happenings  
editorial • games • real estate • columns

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Payment: \$20  Cash  Check  Credit Card  Bill Me

The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera CA 93636 Fax 559-645-4002

The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12, #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

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



# 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 Sale

**For Sale - Fine Things Discount Warehouse** - 75% off retail. **NEW STOCK DAILY.** Holiday, children, home & garden decor. Credit Cards accepted. Open Thursdays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. or by appointment anytime. **Call Dianna at 999-6832.**

**For Sale - Need a gift?** Check out my jewelry at **Hurst Hardware.** Good quality, but inexpensive. Question? **Call 645-6830.**

## 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 Care, In Home

**IN HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER - FULL SERVICE CARE!** Health care professional for 17 years. It's not easy taking care of someone so

let me do it for you. I can help! **Call Delani at 559-978-3812.**

## Housecleaning

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

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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	×		-		23			
÷		+		-				
	+		+		15			
×		×		×				
	-		×		25			
7		10		15				
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	8	9

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## top ten

### Phrases From Shakespeare

1. Green-Eyed Monster
2. In a Pickle
3. Love Is Blind
4. Salad Days
5. Wear My Heart on My Sleeve
6. There's the Rub
7. Cruel to be Kind
8. Wild Goose Chase
9. Dogs of War
10. Strange Bedfellows



Source: [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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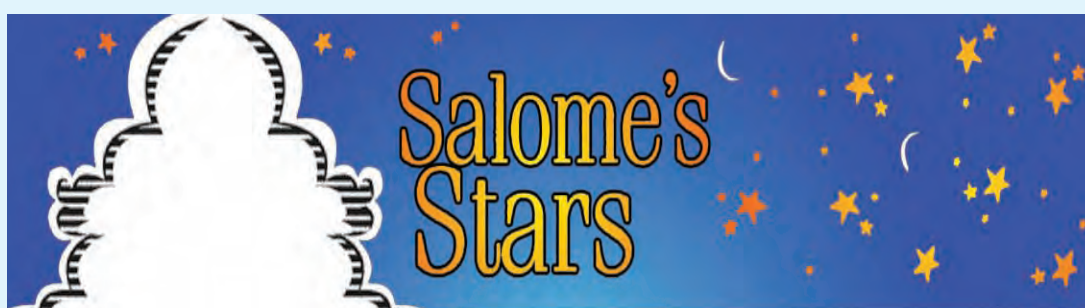
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### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A sudden change of plans could lead to a misunderstanding with a friend or family member. Be ready to offer a full explanation of your decision. A past favor is returned.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Expect pressure from those who want you to change your position on a matter of importance. However, the determined Bovine will be able to withstand the bullying and win out.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) It's time to stop dwelling on past disappointments and move on to other possibilities. By week's end, you'll be meeting new people and making new plans for the future.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A long-simmering situation between co-workers threatens to heat up and could create problems with your work schedule. Best advice: Consult a supervisor on how to proceed.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You might have just learned that someone close to you is keeping a secret. And, of course, the Cat's curiosity has gone into overdrive. But be patient. All is revealed soon enough.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Don't give up. The recognition citing the good work you recently did will come through. Meanwhile, an opportunity opens up that can lead to a lot of traveling later on.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A financial crunch eases, but it's still a good idea to keep a tight rein on what you spend for nonessentials. Education becomes a major focus as the week winds down.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Recent encounters with stressful situations could require some restorative measures to get your energy levels back up. Talk to your doctor about a diet and exercise program.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) New connections follow changes on the job or in your personal life. But keep your feelings reined in until these relationships have a chance to develop.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Pay more attention to your aches and pains, and avoid self-diagnoses. Seek professional advice to make sure these problems won't lead to something more serious.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You love doing research and learning new things, so you'll be happy to know that education becomes a big part of your life at this time, and for some time to come.

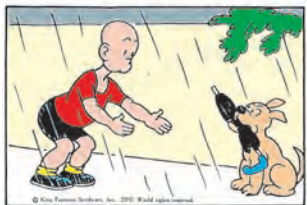
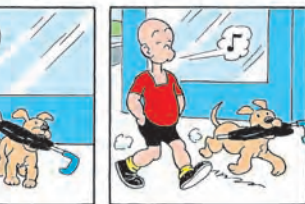
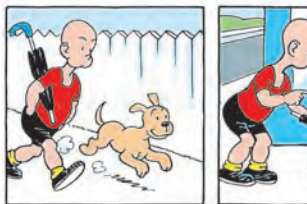
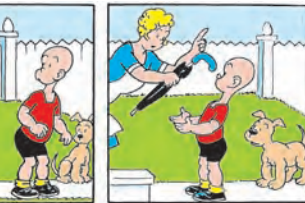
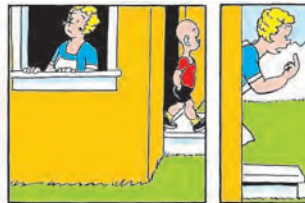
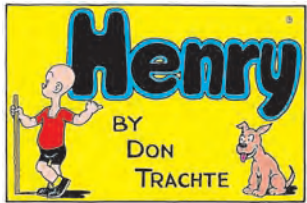
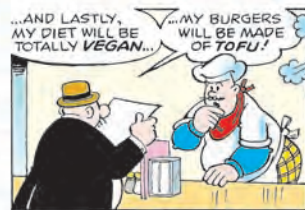
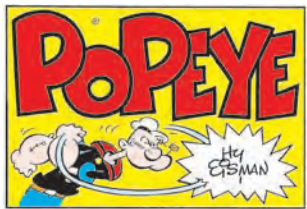
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your Piscean penchant for doing things logically could be challenged by an equally strong emotional reaction to a new situation. Best advice: Keep the two factors in balance.

## Born this Week

You love music and nature. You would be an excellent environmentalist, as well as a fine singer or musician.

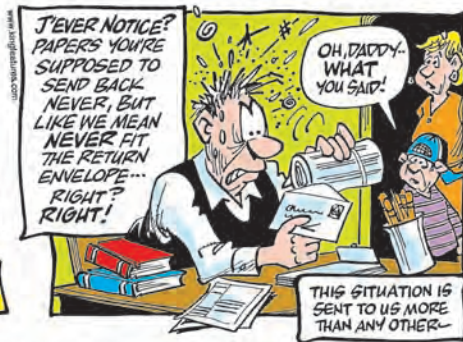


# FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**BIRD WATCH!** See how quickly you can find the names of six birds (listed below) in the diagram at right by the simple method of using one letter from each horizontal row.

These are the six birds: Pigeon, canary, magpie, falcon, parrot, plover.

Each bird's name has six letters, match. Names may begin in any row. Letters may be used only once per row per bird. Time limit: 2 min. It is a rather easy exercise.



**WORD PLAY!** Insert five three-letter names of animals to complete these seven-letter words. 1.—poke. 2.—wash. 3.—walk. 4.—hole. 5.—gone.

### FLICK AND PLOP COIN TRICK

**PRACTICE** this trick so that you can perform it for friends.

Place a playing card atop an extended index finger. Place a small coin atop the card.

Now, using your other index finger, flick the card out from under the coin, and have it (the coin) land on your finger. Give it a try.

Two helpful suggestions: 1. Position the coin atop the card directly over the tip of the finger. 2. Flick the card with a sharp blow.

Any reasonably sized coin will do, as will a business card instead of a playing card. It may take patience.



**ROAD QUIRK!** Hey, what's with the road ahead — some kind of an obstacle illusion? Insert lines from dot to dot.



**DUCK STOP!** Don't be shy, Mr. Mallard, come out from behind those cattails. Color-by-number code: 1—Dk. green, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Lt. green, 6—Gray, 7—Dk. brown.

### SPELLBINDER

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

ESOTERIC

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

## Wishing Well

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

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

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### A RIVER RUNS MAGIC MAZE THROUGH IT

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

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

- Amsterdam
- Baghdad
- Berlin
- Brussels
- Cairo
- Calcutta
- Delhi
- Dublin
- Kiev
- Lisbon
- London
- Paris
- Rome
- Tokyo
- Warsaw

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- ART: Which French painter is known for his depictions of ballerinas?
- ANATOMY: Where is the hyoid bone located?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only mammal that can fly on its own?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the smallest U.S. state in land area?
- TELEVISION: What was the theme song of the TV sitcom "Married with Children"?
- MOVIES: Who played the dad in the film "The Shining"?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What product did the first television advertisement feature?
- HISTORY: Aside from Rome, where did the popes of the Catholic Church reside for a brief period in the Middle Ages?
- PERSONALITIES: What actor got his start as a circus performer?
- FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen"?

### Answers

1. Edgar Degas
2. Throat
3. A bat
4. Rhode Island
5. "Love and Marriage" by Frank Sinatra
6. Jack Nicholson
7. Bulova watches
8. Avignon, France
9. Pierce Brosnan
10. President Harry Truman

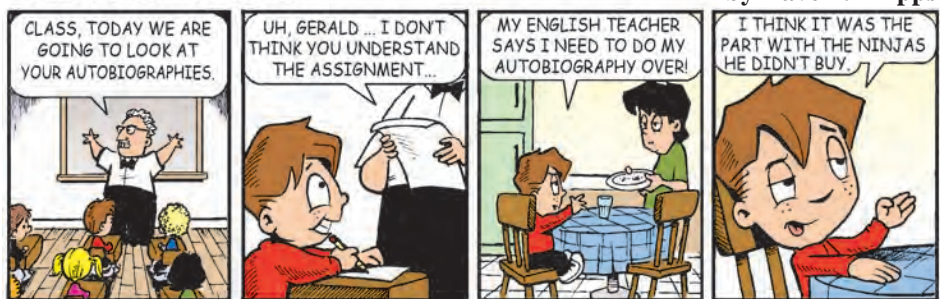
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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



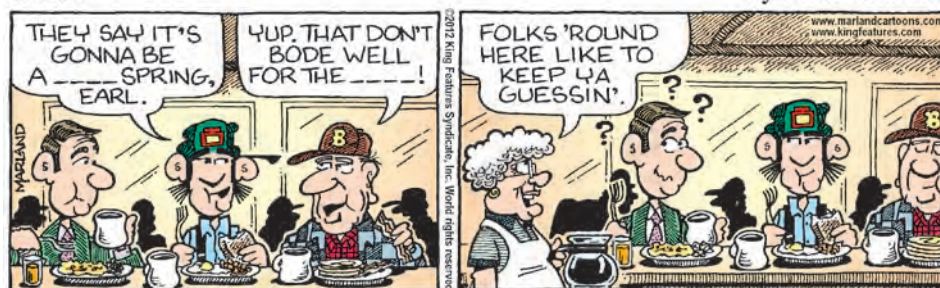
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



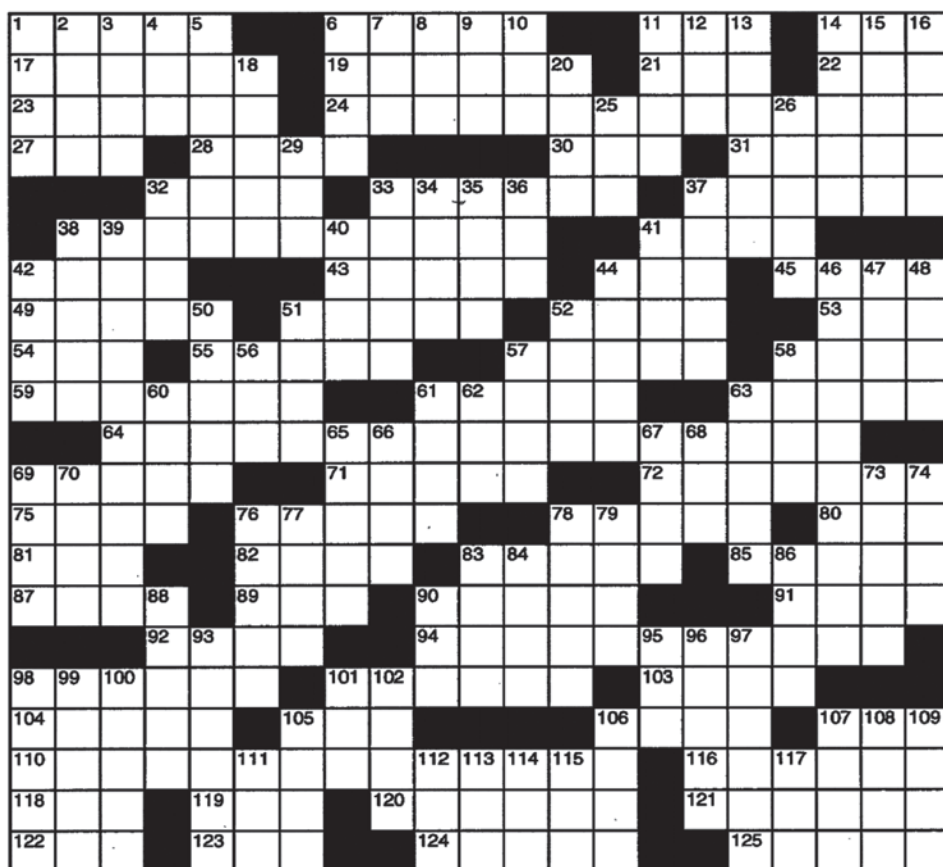
# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are 10 differences between the two panels. Can you find them? Check answers with those below. Differences: 1. Fence is shorter. 2. Cap logo is missing. 3. Bat is thinner. 4. Chest protector is smaller. 5. Cap is smaller. 6. Glove is different. 7. Player is thinner. 8. Player is taller. 9. Player is thinner. 10. Player is taller.

# Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Dracula" prop
  - 6 — mignon
  - 11 Roast beef au —
  - 14 Enjoy the Alps
  - 17 Tropical treat
  - 19 Classical hunk?
  - 21 A Turner
  - 22 Another Turner
  - 23 Toed the line
  - 24 Start of a remark by
  - 27 Prom wear
  - 28 Idle
  - 30 Fury
  - 31 "Garfield" cartoonist
  - 32 Shallit or Siskel
  - 33 Ned of "Deliverance"
  - 37 Stir up
  - 38 Speaker of remark
  - 41 Carrey title start
  - 42 Windmill part
  - 43 Violinist
  - 44 Singer
  - 45 Cabbage concoction
  - 49 Aquatic animal
  - 51 Bodybuilder Charles "— Show" ('94 film)
  - 53 Private pension
  - 54 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
  - 55 Restive
  - 57 Trumpeter Berigan
  - 58 Explorer Hedin
  - 59 '68 Tom Jones hit
  - 61 Shatter
  - 63 — suit
  - 64 Part 2 of remark
  - 69 Raid
  - 71 Sinuous dances
  - 72 Jihad
  - 75 Verve
  - 76 Posada of baseball
  - 78 Thin porridge
  - 80 Thurman of "The Avengers"
  - 81 Deighton or Dawson
  - 82 Blows away
  - 83 Isaac's mom
  - 85 Remove varnish
  - 87 Lug
  - 89 Morning moisture
  - 90 Comic Sherman
  - 91 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
  - 92 Got older
  - 94 Part 3 of remark
  - 98 Yearned
  - 101 Titania's hubby
  - 103 "Java" man?
  - 104 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
  - 105 Woody herb
  - 106 With 107 Down, "Chocolat" actress
  - 107 Kimono closer
  - 110 End of remark
  - 116 Like some recordings
  - 118 Out — limb
  - 119 Gumshoe
  - 120 Update a story
  - 121 Ida of "The Sea Wolf"
  - 122 Fashion monogram
  - 123 Symbol of sturdiness
  - 124 "Jane Eyre" character
  - 125 Murcia mister
  - 4 Kyser or Starr
  - 5 Ornamental opening
  - 6 Comic Joey
  - 7 Wedding words
  - 8 "Hulk" Ferrigno
  - 9 SASE, e.g.
  - 10 Mowry of "Sister, Sister"
  - 11 Be in accord
  - 12 Luau instrument
  - 13 Rarely
  - 14 Martin or McQueen
  - 15 Actor Sorbo
  - 16 What i.e. stands for
  - 18 Hersey setting
  - 20 Tizzy
  - 25 Strive
  - 26 Whittier's feet
  - 29 Buddhist movement
  - 32 Merriment
  - 33 Beer storage?
  - 34 Humorist Bombeck
  - 35 Cry of concern
  - 36 Dress size
  - 37 Like a peach
  - 38 Photo finish
  - 39 Narrow-minded
  - 40 One of the Marches
  - 41 Rub out
  - 42 Nullify
  - 44 Swindle
  - 46 Sausage type
  - 47 Precinct
  - 48 Lack
  - 50 Bendix role
  - 51 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
  - 52 Wharf
  - 56 Prepare to feather?
  - 57 Seeks change?
  - 58 Fluctuate
  - 60 Tenor Kozlovsky
  - 61 Peevishness
  - 62 Genetic info
  - 63 Vends
  - 65 Flung
  - 66 Warm embraces
  - 67 "No dice!"
  - 68 Farm tool
  - 69 Crafter's cloth
  - 70 Toast topper
  - 73 — acid
  - 74 All ears
  - 76 Too experienced
  - 77 Had bills
  - 78 Bit of a beach
  - 79 Be bombastic
  - 83 Disparage
  - 84 Palo —, CA
  - 86 Cast
  - 88 Scout rank
  - 90 Presidential nickname
  - 93 Trattoria treat
  - 95 Heifer or hen
  - 96 Last
  - 97 Telescope sighting
  - 98 Croce's Mr. Brown
  - 99 "Hee Haw" host Buck
  - 100 Mount Everest's locale
  - 101 Absent
  - 102 Grumpy guy
  - 105 Singer Springfield
  - 106 Alzado of football
  - 107 See 106 Across
  - 108 Pro — (free)
  - 109 Perpetual lab assistant
  - 111 Soho snack
  - 112 PBS benefactor
  - 113 Accounting abbr.
  - 114 Tiny
  - 115 "— of You" ('84 hit)
  - 117 "Tarzan" extra
- DOWN**
- 1 Primer pooch
  - 2 Forbidden
  - 3 Summit

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# FUN PAGES



# SEMCU

south east madera county united

## Family Movie Night

The return of **Community Family Movie Nights** is right around the corner. Every Friday night, beginning on May 18 and lasting through August 17, SEMCU is sponsoring **FREE family movies** at the Maywood Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available courtesy of student clubs from Liberty High School. **Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket to spread out on the ground** and be a part of a great tradition that is making its way back into the Ranchos.



## Community Swap Meet

Got stuff to sell or looking to buy? **SEMCU is sponsoring a Community Swap Meet** on Saturday, June 2 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the lot at **Hurst Hardware on the corner of Berkshire and Fernwood**. Booths are open to all and are only \$20. **Admission is FREE**. You can sign up for a booth at Hurst Hardware and get all the information you need or call 363-9095. Remember: "One man's trash is another man's treasure." You get to decide which is which.

## SEMCU REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

*Everyone is welcome!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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