

The Ranchos Independent



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TEARING UP THE TRACK AT SIXTEEN



Photo courtesy of Mary Tucker

**THE RANCHOS' EMMA TUCKER PROVES SHE HAS THE RIGHT STUFF
IN THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD OF AUTO RACING**

In This Issue

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Thieves Strip LHS Stadium of Wire

By Randy Bailey

Criminals looking for valuable copper and easy pickings have hit the Liberty High School football stadium twice in the month of August, ironically hitting the stadium the second time as the School Board was authorizing repairs for the first act of thievery.

"The first time was during the evening between August 8 and 9," said Jim Monreal, Chief Business Official for Golden Valley Unified School District. "The second was sometime during the night between August 11 and 12."

The damage is estimated at \$56,000 and is so extensive that the entire stadium is not only going to have its electrical completely redone, but its telephone lines and fiber optics lines as well. The impact of the



The prize, obviously worth getting arrested for or even dying for, is expensive copper wire.

crime has not only taken away lighting for the stadium but the entire sound system as well.

There is another cost to the school district and to the Ranchos. Even though insurance will pay for the bulk of the repairs, the district will have to cover approximately \$5,000 of the cost. "That's about \$600 to \$700 less than what we get from the state for one student to attend school for one year," Monreal said. "We're basically taking the money out that we would have received for one student to make this repair."

Last year was the first year the Liberty High Hawks got to play in their completed stadium and their second season home opener in the stadium is scheduled for Sept.

Please see **COPPER** on P. 11

Tearing Up the Track at Sixteen



The Madera Ranchos' Emma Tucker has a Fever and the Only Prescription is More Racing!

By Randy Bailey

When she was six years old, Emma Tucker's dad, Robin Tucker, bought her what any 6-year-old girl would want: a race car. No Barbie. No My Little Pony. A race car.

A real race car.

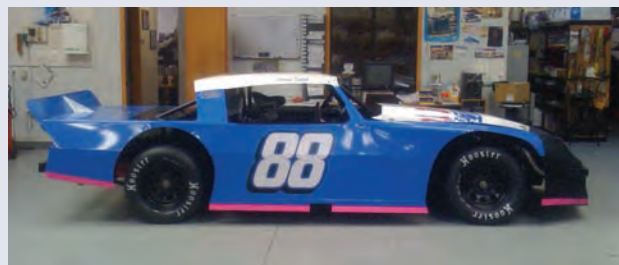
She would sit in it but she would not let Robin start the engine while she was in it. The car was put in the corner of the shop and sat there for the next three years until Emma's brother, Dillon, turned six. That birthday resulted in getting the car out, cleaning it up and carting it off to the track where Dillon was going to try out racing.

After Dillon's first practice, the curious 9-year-old big sister said, "I want to try it!" She did and when she finished her practice, Robin said she could hardly contain herself. "She was so excited about driving a racecar," Robin said. "She was hooked!"

Today, Emma is the driver of the #88 Ranchos Auto Repair/Chuck's Transmission Late Model Stock Car at Madera Speedway. She is a 16-year-old junior at Liberty High School in the Madera Ranchos where she is an honor roll student, runs cross country and plays on the Lady Hawks soccer team.

But it all started seven years ago after

that racing itch got in her blood. She started racing Quarter Midgets when she was nine and quickly found success winning races and setting track records her very first year. During the entire five years that she raced Quarter Midgets, she won many races and earned five championships. She was racing with the Good Times Quarter Midget Racing Club which is located right next to Madera Speedway where her dad, Robin, raced for 22 years. Emma's skill resulted in her racing all over the state of California and in Nevada with the family in tow traveling in the RV



Emma Tucker has graduated to a full-size stock car called a "late model" that she races at Madera Speedway.

to tracks and racing for three days at a time and often at national weeklong events. She met many people from all over the country and Canada and made many friends.

After her first five years of Quarter Midget racing, it was time for Emma to move to the Madera Speedway. Her dad bought her a Legend Car, which is a replica of a 1939 Ford coupe with a 1200cc Yamaha engine. It was very fast and a big jump from Quarter Midgets but, as expected, she did well. She only ran the car three times because Robin felt it was not the safest car for her.

Even in car racing a dad is a dad.

Please see **RACING** on P. 17

Ranchos Teen National Champion

Kieran Devere, 14, of the Madera Ranchos, traveled to San Diego on the weekend of Aug. 6 to participate in the USAT (USA Triathlon) Youth National Triathlon Championships. Coming off a fifth place finish in last year's race, Kieran, sponsored by Pinnacle Women's Racing / Hammer Nutrition, was able to pull off the win this year and was crowned the USAT Youth National Champion in the 13-15 year old female division. Her time of 30 minutes and 55 seconds was 8 seconds faster than



The Madera Ranchos' Kieran Devere, 14, won the USAT Youth National Triathlon Championships in San Diego on Aug. 6.

try attended the event which served as the National Championship race for junior triathletes. The event was sponsored by USA Triathlon, the national governing body for the sport of triathlon in the United States. The event spent the last two years here on the West Coast in San Diego, and next year will move to a designated location somewhere on the East Coast.

Kieran began running when she was five years old with the "Fun Runs" put on by the Ranchos Rotary Club and the Ranchos

Volunteer Fire Department. Kieran and her parents would like to thank these local sponsors for spurring her enjoyment and development in healthy, life-long activities.

Maria Grilliot from Ohio, who was second, and 1 minute and 1 second faster than Madelynn Taulman of Colorado Springs, Colo., who was third.

Participants from all over the coun-

Summer Brings Increase of Criminal Activity in the Madera Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

Madera County has experienced a rash of residential burglaries, property theft and an array of other illegal activities this summer. This activity has caused Madera County Sheriff John Anderson to issue a public warning about an increase in residential burglaries where the victims have been at home when the crimes occurred.

Thieves are targeting homes either during the day or overnight and burglars have

become very brazen. In a number of recent cases, residents have reported two suspects, a middle-aged woman and an older man, driving a white, late model truck. However, both the vehicle description as well as the description of the individuals often varies. The woman knocks at the front door – presumably to find out if anyone is at home – while the male suspect sits out front in the truck. If someone answers the door the woman will go into a sob story about how her car had broken down and how she needs to use the

phone to call for help. If she's let into the home she has the opportunity to scout what valuables you have and the best way to get into the home. If nobody answers the door they presume that nobody is home and they then usually enter through the back yard. They've been very successful at getting past "guard dogs" usually with a handful of "Jerky Treats." They gain entry by either breaking a window or removing a sliding glass door. In one reported case, the owner refused to answer the door thinking whoever

was at the door would leave. As a result, the suspects gained entry, thinking the house was unoccupied, only to run when they came face to face with the resident. In another particularly frightening incident, older children had been left at home alone and had been told by their parents not to answer the door to strangers. The suspects entered the home and came face to face with the children before quickly leaving. Ranchos residents have re-

Please see **CRIME** on P. 11




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Cool Jazz and Wine means a Fundraising Event for the Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

Imagine a beautiful autumn evening (Sept. 17 to be exact), sipping a glass of wine and listening to live “cool jazz” music at Birdstone Winery — and in doing so, supporting the Friends of the Ranchos Library. We are calling this our inaugural Cool Jazz and Wine. It’s our new fundraising event for the library. The tickets are available at the Ranchos Library or through the Friends. The cost is \$25 each or \$40 per couple. There will be hors d’oeuvres, live music and Birdstone’s award-winning wine. It all begins at 5 p.m. on Sept. 17 and tickets may be purchased at the door. We hope the Ranchos community will join us in support of the library.

New Branch Manager

Please welcome Garin Gonzalez as the new Branch Manager for the Ranchos Library. Garin has been working the past three years at the Madera Library as the Reference Librarian. He hails from Oregon, but relocated his family to Fresno and is looking forward to his new role as Branch Manager of the Ranchos Library. I will be working at the Madera Library as the Managing Librarian until a new County Librarian is hired to replace Linda Sitterding, who retired at the end of July. I will still be involved in the community, only in a different role. The Ranchos is my home and I still hope to see a new library built here one day. I will miss seeing everyone on a daily basis. You are all very special to me and I want to thank you for making this such an enjoyable place to live and work.

Winners of the Summer Reading Program

Most reading logs turned in Most hours of reading Grand Prize Drawing Winner



Elijah File and Chloe Taylor



Meg Mercer



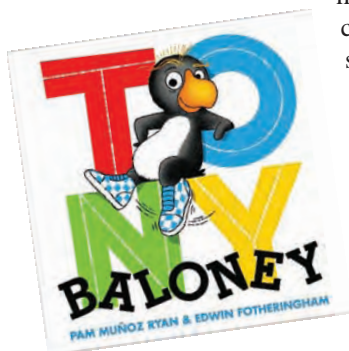
Sarah Folsom

New Hours Adjustment Period

As we all adjust to our new open hours at the library, please remember that you can renew your items online at www.maderacountylibrary.org by clicking on Catalog, then My Account. You will need to put in your barcode number at the bottom of your library card, then your four-digit pin number. If you have forgotten your pin, try using the last four digits of your phone number. Don’t wait until the items are due or overdue. The system won’t allow you to renew them. Renew a day or more ahead of the due date. If that doesn’t work, then call the library and leave a message with your name and phone number or your barcode number. You can also visit any Fresno library and renew your items there as well. Please do not put videos, DVD’s, or CD’s in the drop box. We used to worry about tapes melting, but now our concern is that the disks will get broken when a heavy book gets tossed on top.

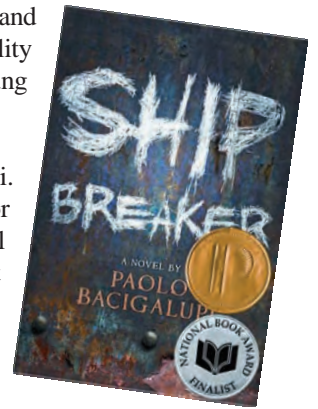
Book Recommendations

Juvenile Picture Book: *Tony Baloney* by Pam Muñoz Ryan and Edwin Fotheringham. Tony Baloney is a penguin who wears blue and white checkered high tops. He is a middle child with a bossy older sister and twin baby siblings. His best buddy is his stuffed animal named Dandelion. Tony tries to behave most of the time, except when Dandelion becomes mischievous, then Tony gets in trouble and hides in “his hidey-space for maybe a year, or twenty minutes,” until his mom and dad have a chat with him. When Tony asks Dandelion, “How long does it take for nicely to creep in?” he answers, “Maybe never, or in a little while. Just wait for it.” I loved the bright vibrant illustrations and the snappy dialog with the extremes of “always or maybe once in a



while.” It captures the way children see events as definitive and “forever” but yet also have the ability to see honestly the reality of things too. It’s a great book for everyone but I think young children will identify quite well.

Young Adult Fiction: *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi. Winner of the American Library Association Printz award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature as well as the National Book Award Finalist, *Ship Breaker* gives us a glimpse of what the world and our country could look like when the distance between the haves and the have-nots widens. Nailer is a teenage



Please see **LIBRARY** on P. 9

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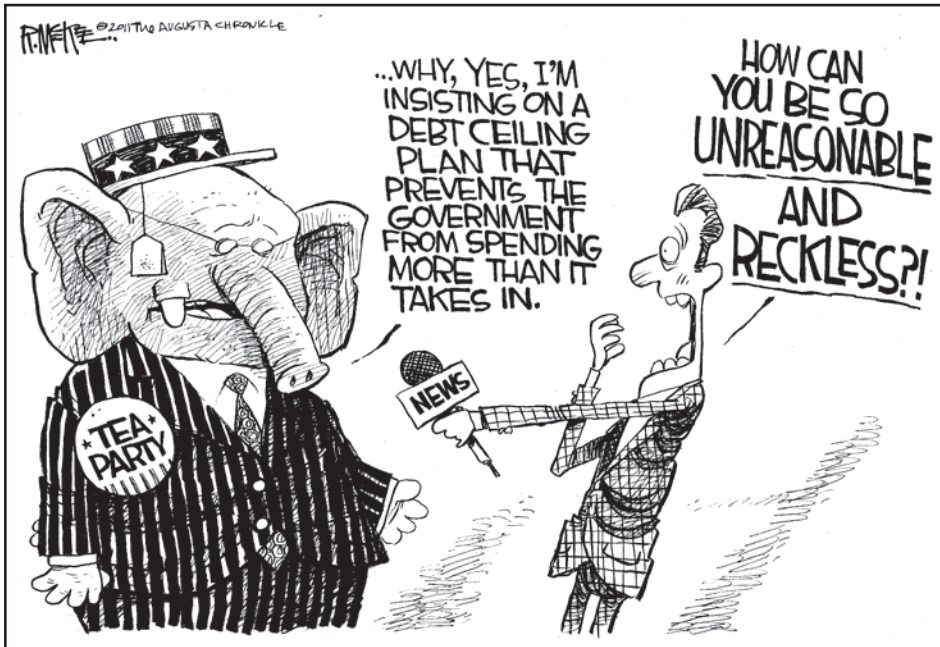
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Editorial

So, What ARE You Going to Do?

By Randy Bailey

On Wednesday, August 3, there was a very interesting meeting held in the Ranchos. Sponsored by Madera County's Planning Department at the request of the people attempting to develop the "Liberty Groves" area west of the high school, the meeting was called in response to an outcry for more information about the development from members of the community. Actually, it was members of the Facebook community, but community nonetheless.

At the meeting was exhibited those Ranchos qualities we're all so proud of and have seen at so many other public information forums: Rudeness, snide comments, speaking out of turn and general boorishness. There were times I wanted to follow some of these people back to their trailer parks and give them a piece of my mind, but to what end? I guess if civility is only skin deep then trashiness must go to the bone.

There was the guy in the background who spouted off, "I don't believe that!" as a water engineer explained the difference in water usage for residential use vs. agricultural use. Really? Who *do* you believe, Mr. Informed Citizen? The guy next to you playing with his toes? The guy in the barber shop who's confi-

dent the phone company killed Kennedy? I guess as long as *you* don't believe it, it *must* not be true.

There was the lady who asked near the end of the evening, "Do we get to vote on this?" Sure, right after we all vote that we don't like what *you're* doing with your private property. We voted and we decided we want you to move. That's how it works, right?

Probably the best one was when property owner Igal Treibatch said that they were going to implement water practices developed in Israel, a land that has 7.5 million people and less water than we have, and a bright bulb in the audience called out, "Take it back to Israel!" Not since Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles* when Olsen Johnson referred to Gabby Johnson's remarks as, "... authentic frontier gibberish," have we heard such an insightful comment.

But none of that is what I want to talk about. The buzz from virtually EVERYONE in the audience was, "What about our water?" "This will take our water!" "What's going to happen to our water???" I posted a question similar to the one that is to follow on the Facebook page that seems to have started this massive concern and has of yet to receive an answer: What are YOU going to do about our water? Forget Liberty Groves. Forget any development in the Ranchos EVER. Forget everything everywhere except US out here in the Ranchos right now. I'll ask the question again: What are YOU going to do about our water? Contrary to Ranchos public opinion, digging a well and putting in a septic tank is NOT a water policy.

It's suicide.

With no new development, without 7,000 new houses, without 20,000 new residents, we are overdrafting our water table by 5 feet per year. Us. Now. What are YOU going to do about our water?

Sucking water up from the earth and then flushing it down the toilet and through the garbage disposal for

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 21

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

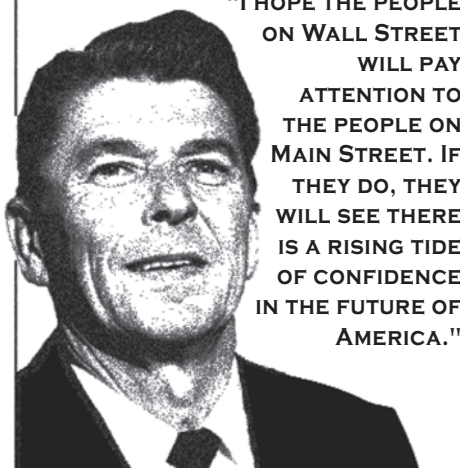
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Costco: Adult Disneyland

I came to a sad conclusion the other day ... I am now a full-fledged, fully grown, adult past the age where gossip and excitement rule my life. I get up, go to work, come home, cook dinner, clean the house and go to bed to start the cycle the next day. Don't get me wrong, this isn't a complaint; I am happy to have grown into a responsible, bill-paying, forward-thinking, productive member of society and I certainly wish more people would actively strive to achieve such an attitude and lifestyle. I knew that it would happen someday and it is a perfectly respectable part of the cycle of life, but nevertheless, when it hits you that the irresponsible, goofy, impulsive part of youth is past you, it tugs for just a brief moment at your heartstrings,

**GEN
ERA
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WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



sauntered through the automatic sliding doors of the happiest warehouse on earth.

What I expected was a far cry from the vision that lay before me. Instead of barrels and vats, pallets and crates, I saw aisles of electronics, kitchen appliances, clothes, books and samples.

Oh, the samples.

I had a delicious marinated tri-tip,

some chicken sausage, a little mashed potatoes, some juice, then for dessert a creamy fruit smoothie and a little apple crisp. Never again will I doubt the awesome power held within the walls of Costco, the power to shop for anything you could possibly

I'll be honest, until recently I never fully understood the obsession with Costco. I thought to myself, "Why are people so thrilled about buying two tons of mayonnaise, and an extra refrigerator they have to set up in the garage in order to store it, just to save a dollar?"

I'll be honest, until recently I never fully understood the obsession with Costco. I thought to myself, "Why are people so thrilled about buying two tons of mayonnaise, and an extra refrigerator they have to set up in the garage in order to store it, just to save a dollar?" Having never been in a Costco myself, I pictured aisles and aisles lined with vats of ketchup and tubs of mustard. Six loaves of bread all bound together and pickles sold by the barrel, not the jar. I imagined people who shopped at Costco would drive moving trucks and have their own hand carts they would use to haul their goods around. Always assuming that Paul Bunyan's wife must shop there in order for it to make sense, it amused me when I would hear stories of people shopping there for their family of two or three. That all changed when I

imagine under one roof and a few things you didn't even know existed. Yes you might get twice as much as you originally anticipated, but you save significantly more than a dollar. Although you might still make up for it with the storage unit and additional refrigerators you have to rent in order to store everything.

Upon leaving I found myself filled with excitement. I basically had managed to do the majority of my grocery shopping for the next month, and saved a small fortune on top of it. As I trucked my payload into the house, and began renovating my fridge to make room for it all, that's when it hit me: This is all it takes to make me giddy? Quality goods and remarkable prices? Where had my youth gone? Clearly

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 9

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The Stock Report

Back to School: Get Out the Checkbook

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Well here we go again on another school year. Each year it seems that that there are new challenges. This year it is the Whopping Cough shots that the 7-12 grade students have to have. I wonder what it will be next year? Some of us remember when school always started the week after Labor Day in September. Now school starts in the middle of August. Why is that? Could it be that the administration wants the fall semester to end before the Christmas Break also known as the Winter Break?

This year the Golden Valley Unified School District has employed six new teachers. Remember last year when everybody was hollering about teachers being laid off? Things are always changing. The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools has given all of the new teachers \$150 to use on their classrooms. This helps new teachers get started. Seven years ago the Foundation for

Golden Valley Schools hosted the first "The Night the Stars Come Out" event. The Golden Valley teachers, administrators and the classified employees are honored at this event with grants written for their classroom and awards voted by their contemporaries for outstanding work. The ticket for the event is \$25 dollars. This affair is held at the Birdstone Winery at 9400 Road 36 in the Madera Ranchos on Saturday evening Sept. 10. The fun starts with a cocktail party at which gourmet hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 p.m. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. Dress for a fun evening in business casual with shoes that you can dance in. The cost is only \$25 dollars each. Please call Aimee Beintker at the District office at 645-7500 to reserve tickets. There will be eight at a table so why don't you get a group together and come out and support our schools? The proceeds from this event will support classroom materials and supplies to enhance the educational experience for the students of the Golden Valley

School District. What a great way to start off the new school year. Remember the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools is always looking for new members. If you are willing to help out our schools call Aimee Beintker at 645-7500 or ask any member what you need to do.

I went by Liberty High School to pick up next year's school calendar and found some interesting informational papers. I found that there is such a thing as "Senior Apparel" – no it is not the senior dress code, it is two t-shirts, a long sleeve shirt, sweat pants and a sweat shirt in a package for only \$80 dollars. Of course you can buy individual items if you don't want the whole package. I guess it has the 2012 senior year motto on the clothes. The motto is "You Can't Out Do the Class

of One Two." Kind of cute. Oh, if you buy the package you save \$10. A penny saved is a penny earned.

So parents are you ready? If you are having a student who is a senior this year there are many costs involved. There are the Winter Formal

So parents are you ready? If you are having a student who is a senior this year there are many costs involved ... Wow! I remember it being expensive for my three children but nothing like this.

tickets, graduation cap and gown, graduation announcements, Sadie Hawkins tickets, Prom tickets at \$85 to \$90, senior pictures, Powder Puff, A.P. Exams, SAT test, college application fees, Grad Night at Disneyland at \$200, Sober Grad night and parents you still have to feed your student.

Wow!

I remember it being expensive for my three children but nothing like this. Of course your student doesn't have to do everything but you are only a high school senior once in your lifetime. If your senior wants an off-campus lunch pass privilege, his or her parents need to sign the pink form at the high school office and return it to the Liberty High principal.

The Ranchos Hills/Seniors had a wonderful adventure on their Alaska trip. Yes the older seniors can still have fun and adventures. If you would like to go to Laughlin, Nevada sign up at the Ranchos Hills/Seniors center.

Please see **STOCK** on P. 19

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It's Time To Get Comfortable

8/11

Dump Cake Anyone?

Well, here I am, yet another month without a computer to write my article. The part to repair it is coming from somewhere on the East Coast. I think it is limping along, and probably has made its way to Austin, Texas as we speak. In the meantime I'm going to repeat one of my most popular articles - *Dump Cakes*. I received more comments from that article than any other - except maybe the *Rice* article a few months ago. Maybe by the time I have to write the next article I'll have my computer again. Until then, enjoy!

- Aunt Jean

Do you have company coming for dinner and need a quick dessert? Are the kids old enough that they can start helping with dinner? Grandma and Grandpa - do you have grandkids visiting for the summer and they are "BORED!" Well, I have the answer - so simple, you can have a delicious cake and only dirty a can opener, a knife to cut some butter, a fork or rubber spatula and the pan the cake is cooked in! No bowls, no measuring cups or no beaters to wash and all you need is a couple cans of canned fruit, a dry cake mix, some butter and maybe some chopped nuts.

A Dump Cake.

Yes, dump! Just dump the ingredients into the baking pan and bake. One of the recipes I read said this can be made by a child or a tired mom.

The first Dump Cake I ate was made with fruit cocktail. I've made a few of these:

Fruit Cocktail Dump Cake

1 Large Can (16 oz.) Fruit Cocktail

- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Butter

In a 9x13 greased pan; dump the fruit cocktail, including the juice. Dump the cake mix. Dot with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown.

Cherry Dump Cake

2 Cans Cherry Pie filling (21 oz. ea.)

- 1 Box Chocolate Cake Mix
- 2 Sticks Butter - sliced into 12 pieces each

Chopped pecans (optional)
1/8 C Granulated Sugar

In 9x13 baking pan dump the two cans pie filling evenly. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top of cherries. Place



by Jean Briner

butter slices over dry cake mix and sprinkle nuts and sugar evenly over top. Bake 35-45 minutes in a 350 degree oven and serve warm.

One of my favorite cakes is a pineapple upside down cake (made with crushed pineapple instead of sliced). When I saw this recipe I thought about my upside down cake. I'm going to make this one, but add just a little brown sugar and see how close it comes to the upside down cake.

Pineapple Dump Cake

- 1 Box Pineapple Cake Mix
- 1 Stick Butter, sliced into pats
- 1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple
- Chopped Nuts (optional)

In 9x13 pan, pour pineapple, juice and all. Shake dry cake mix on top and spread evenly. Then place butter and nuts on top and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.

When I saw the following recipe, I thought of a peach cobbler.

Peach Dump Cake

- 1 Lg. Can Sliced Peaches
- 1 Box Butter Pecan Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Melted Butter

In 9x13 pan pour in peaches and juice. Sprinkle cake mix over top to cover evenly. Pour melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, serve warm in bowls.

Peach and Pineapple Dump Cake

- 1 Can Sliced Peaches
- 1 Can Crushed Pineapple
- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Butter - melted

Lightly grease the bottom only of a 9x13 baking pan. Pour canned fruit, including juice, in bottom of pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top of fruit. Pour melted butter over cake mix. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour in 350 oven.

DO NOT STIR any of these recipes. The cake will be baked in layers of fruit, cake mix, butter and nuts (if using). Except for the layering and

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 18

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Letters

Dear Editor:

With all due respect to your editorial in the latest Ranchos Independent, WE have all done our homework, for 35 years (never mind the web and document searches of "Liberty Groves Project").

Case in point ... the new project is NOT in our GVUSD so not a cent of collected taxes will go to our schools, if there should be any tax generated. I would like

to know (question unanswered by document research) who is out there to buy 7,000 homes and at what price (since every fifth home in suburban America is in foreclosure at this moment)? The day I drove out here to purchase my home, 35 years ago, the thought crossed my mind: "Am I going to have to commute this trip everyday of my working life from here on?" Hardly a working day goes by on my commute that I don't think of the \$30 per

day I spend on my commute (never mind the time) to get to work. I'm not exactly on the lowest end of the pay scale, but commuting costs alone could easily equal a half a day's labor. My research did not show ANY reference to a daily bus system to both/either city (Fresno and/or Madera).

1. "Our water depleted." None of us has our original well. In my research, I did not find ANY reference to an ongoing maintenance of public wells. I did not find any comparison between the draw of water which the ag fields take compared to the draw of water 7,000 homes will take. When the ag pumps come on line (1/4 mile away) my water draw is SERIOUSLY compromised. By the way, we are all conserving water in our own way -- did you bother to research that?

2. "Over crowded schools ..." A bit of redundancy there in the article, though I did find in my research that LGP would

install a police and fire center but maintenance of these services was not mentioned.

3. "33 page notice ..." I live LESS THAN 300 feet from the proposed project and heard NOTHING about the supposedly "first" meeting of the LGP (nor did any of my "less than 300 foot" neighbors). First notification we received was a letter from Scott Harmstead announcing the SECOND meeting on August 3.

4. "Development not in keeping ..." Now my redundancy. THIS AREA WAS NOT PLANNED TO BE SUBURBIA, IS NOT SUBURBIA, SHOULD NOT BECOME SUBURBIA. There are places closer to town to use for suburban purposes (7,000 homes).

Respectfully yours,

Dianne Reimer
Madera Ranchos

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LIBRARY cont. from P. 4

boy who survives by pulling copper wire and anything else of value off shipwrecked tankers on the American coast in the Gulf of Mexico. Because of his small size he is part of a "light crew," with tattoos on his body to show which team he belongs to. If he breaks the loyalty code of his crew he not only loses his source of food but his tattoos will be slashed with a knife and he will be ostracized from any other work crews. The hardscrabble life makes Nailor dream of the fast clippers he occasionally sees

gliding across the sea. He tries to imagine having enough food to eat and a sense of real security. After an injury and a near drowning, he accidentally discovers a shipwrecked clipper full of valuables. As "the fates" would have it though, there is a survivor on board. Nailor must choose between the bounty and the beautiful "swank" girl. The action and tension in the book make it a great fast-paced read.

Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library and don't forget your library card – don't leave home without it!

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

it takes far less to thrill me in my 30's than it did in my 20's and teens. I can't imagine being elated at 19 because I found a heck of a deal on chicken breast. I can remember not long ago it would have taken some fine specimen of man wandering through the walkways to make grocery shopping a transcendent experience. Now toilet paper by the bulk and discounted 30 percent seems to do the trick. It wasn't too long ago that my friends and I would gab excitedly about plans for road trips, concerts and amusement parks. We would inexhaustibly chatter about the upcoming engagement with high pitched squeals and giggles like only young girls can pull off. Now, the thought of a simple trip to Costco is enough to make me smile.

Not that I, and other adults in similar economic situations, don't

plan vacations, go to concerts and amusement parks, but those excursions don't happen quite as often when you have to take time off work and worry about how this will affect your finances for the year and beyond. Of course, who wouldn't be excited about a trip to Hawaii, or a weekend getaway to Vegas, or even a day at an amusement park, but now, as reality has settled all around us, simple pleasures in life have the same effect on us that extravagant plans and possessions used to have. Suddenly saving money can make you tell all your friends; wholesale deals can make you feel ecstatic for days and something that saves you both time and money is a stirring experience. Being an official adult might not be as exciting as being a young 20-something twit, but at least someone thought to invent a Costco to provide us with a thrill every now and then.

Ranchos Volunteering and Abroad

By Verlaine Elinburg

Find a place to volunteer because your unique talents and strengths are needed. The power of volunteering supports each other and through it we meet new people and it breaks down barriers of misunderstanding, mistrust and fear. It also can create new contacts for business and help us in all phases of life from childhood to being a senior.

A good place to commence for parents is to take the family on a "Volunteer Vacation." It could be a weekend or a whole week during school breaks, even longer during the summer vacation. This volunteer vacation will expose your children to new and different environments and skills and could also lead them to different careers they possibly never

would have envisioned. Volunteer vacations also are vastly cheaper than conventional vacations and give to worthy causes.

For the seniors, getting older and retiring does not mean you need to completely withdraw from public life. Even if a senior citizen does not have the opportunity to

find a part time job after he or she leaves the full-time workforce, a retiree can still enrich the lives of people in his or her community by doing volunteer work. Most volunteer work does not require the volunteer to fill out an application; the mere desire to work is good enough for most volunteer agencies. The most important way a senior volunteer can help his or her local community is by contributing his or her time. Senior Volunteers who want to help their local communities do not lose their skills after they retire. In fact, as long as they keep certain skills in use, these skills do not fade with age. The best way for a person to help his or her community is to find an opportunity that matches the volunteer's specific skills. If the volunteer worked for a financial institution, fundraising may be a natural avenue to follow. Former teachers can help by volunteering their time at a day care or at tutoring services offered through various organizations. How a senior volunteer can help his or her community depends on the amount of time willing to be committed

to community service. Senior volunteers help their communities and help themselves. The idea of applying one's time, knowledge and skills to help others is appealing and it also reduces the boredom that some people find accompanies the retirement process. Retiring does not have to mean that you completely withdraw from public life and volunteering is a good way for senior citizens to help their local communities. Even if community service is not the reward you are looking for, there are plenty of benefits to an individual who decides to aid a non-profit organization.

Some of the Ranchos/Hills "couple" volunteers: Merle and Esther Anderson ... Merle produces all required print materials and Esther is the editor of the monthly newsletter ... George and Judy Hagler grow

For the seniors, getting older and retiring does not mean you need to completely withdraw from public life. Even if a senior citizen does not have the opportunity to find a part time job after he or she leaves the full-time workforce, a retiree can still enrich the lives of people in his or her community by doing volunteer work.

and keep our Farmers Market supplied ... Russ and Helen Lowell keep the senior landscape looking beautiful and assist with the administrative and boutique department ... Mike and Carol Thompson ... Mike is our president and Carol assists with the Boutique and keeps Mike happy (that is why he so cool) ... Owen and Norma Williams

are in charge of the nursery and assist with the Treasure House. The Senior Center has many more volunteers that are not named and their generous gifts of their time and themselves are appreciated by the membership. Through volunteering, different organizations in the Ranchos could come together and assist where community services have been cut.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. 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. 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. A suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed

Please see **SENIOR** on P. 18

Minarets Charter HS Now Open

The Chawanakee Unified School District is very excited to announce that, at its meeting of July 13, 2011, the State Board of Education officially recognized the Minarets Charter High School as a new charter school "sponsored" by the District. The District has already received its school code from the California Department of Education and the Charter is now available to students for the fall of 2011. This means that students who do not live in the boundaries of Chawanakee Unified, can now attend without a transfer.

The Chawanakee Unified School District has long considered the idea of offering a charter high school as a way of advancing a unique, forward-looking program to a broad community of students and their families. In supporting the establishment of the Minarets Charter High School, the District has been mindful of strong public policies associated with the state's Charter Schools Act, namely, to provide students and parents with expanded choices in the types of educational oppor-

tunities available, and to provide rigorous competition within the public school system to stimulate continual improvements in all public schools. We believe that the Minarets Charter High School will provide a means by which to accomplish those policies and, therefore, encourage families to seriously consider this wonderful opportunity.

Minarets High School, and now Minarets Charter High School, are 21st Century High School programs that offer each student their own Macbook laptop (no cost to students) that is checked out to them for the school year. Or, students may bring their own laptop. The program is a project-based, student oriented and career-focused one that not only meets and exceeds state standards, UC A-G requirements and more, but also offers students smaller class sizes, greater access to teachers and support, and more professional and off campus opportunities. The programs feature two primary

Please see **CHARTER** on P. 20



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COPPER cont. from P. 2

2, which GVUSD says will still happen, having awarded a contract to a company to make the repairs.

Dave Baughman, manager of Maintenance and Operations for GVUSD pointed out that the thieves stole the wiring while the system was "hot," meaning that they used either insulated equipment or gloves to complete their crime. In one interview Baughman said that without those precautions the district would probably have been looking at a dead body at the scene of the crime.

Part of the problem with copper theft is recyclers who don't require a whole lot of verification for the scrap they receive. And, according to Monreal, it goes beyond

that. When asked why the police don't just post someone at area recyclers and wait for the stadium's contraband to show up, he said that copper thieves that make a big score, like from Liberty High's stadium, will drive to Los Angeles or the Bay Area to sell their stolen property. "Thieves are not hitting the local recyclers," Monreal said. "They're going to LA or up north where the trail gets faint."

When asked what the district's plans are for the future to help secure the rewired stadium, Monreal said they were looking at different options. "Cameras and increased security," he said. When asked if the increased security might include razor wire, machine gun turrets and Rot-tweilers, Monreal laughed and said, "No. Not at this time."

CRIME cont. from P. 3

ported losing jewelry, guns and electronics.

"There were 223 calls for service from residents countywide between May and mid-August," said Sheriff's Department spokesperson Erica Stuart. Unfortunately, a new computer system at the Sheriff's Office no longer enables them to separate calls for the Ranchos from calls for the total county.

"In light of the similarities of these cases, [the Sheriff's Department] is issuing a warning to the public and believes it prudent to provide citizens basic but critical tips on how to keep their homes and themselves safe," said Sheriff Anderson. There are simple security measures folks should take, such as motion detectors, alarm systems, and keeping all doors and windows secured. But the obvious action, Anderson says, is the same advice we provide our children. "Never open your door to a stranger. If that person who you do not know claims they need help, let that individual on the other side of the door know that you're going to assist them by calling 911 so that authorities can better handle their needs," he said. Anderson also urges residents to not just say you're going to call 911, but do it. "If the stranger outside really needs assistance, they'll be grateful you made that call. But if it turns out to be a ruse, you'll be glad that you called 911."

The reason many live in the Ranchos is the value of privacy. Neighbors don't live so close that we can hear their private conversa-

tions or know what they're watching on TV each night, however this privacy has also made all of us susceptible to burglaries, especially during the day when many people are at work. In many cases burglars know our neighborhoods comings and goings better than we do.

After hearing that both a friend and a neighbor had their homes broken into in broad daylight, Ranchos resident Leann Bauer decided to take action. She set up a private Facebook page called "Keeping the Ranchos Safe." The response from the Ranchos community has been overwhelming: in just one month over 600 members have been added to this ongoing private discussion. "This group is designed to keep residents informed of suspicious activity in our area. There has been so much crime out here lately that we need a place to keep track of things," Bauer said. "We don't always know what's going on with our neighbors. Crimes are happening right under our noses. If you see or hear something, I'm hoping this will be a place to discreetly share it with our friends and neighbors. We need to look out for each other and take back our sense of security and community!"

Bauer encourages current members of the group to add all of their Ranchos friends and neighbors to the group. If you are interested in being included please drop Leeann an email at leeannbauer3@gmail.com Please include where you are located and your Facebook profile.

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Kiwanis Korner

A Little Kiwanis Summer Left

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

By Carla Hart

It's hard to believe that summer vacation is over already. Fall is right around the corner and it's time again for the kids to trade in the beach balls for backpacks. But, before we break out the cozy sweaters and start whipping up batches of comfort food, there is still enough summer left for a couple of good barbecues. The 26th Annual Fire BBQ was held on Saturday, Aug. 20 at beautiful Borba's Rancho Vista Del Rio at Highway 99 and Avenue 7. This event is always one not to be missed with dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions. The Ranchos Kiwanis sponsored a hat contest with \$100 in prizes awarded to the best hat in each of four categories: Cowboy, Wild & Crazy, Witty & Pretty, and Best Business. The contest gave everyone a chance to wear their most creative chapeau and dazzle the judges for cash. Congratulations to the four lucky winners. All proceeds from the BBQ will help our fire stations 9 and 19 buy a new \$25,000 Jaws of Life.

The other exciting event is the Kiwanis Member Appreciation BBQ on Saturday, August 27th at the home of Paul and Marie Cameron. This will be an opportunity for prospective members to join us for food, fellowship, and of course, fun. Members and guests will be treated to burgers, hot dogs, salad and dessert, all in a casual, backyard atmosphere. It's a chance for us to show our friends and neighbors what Kiwanis is all about. If you've ever thought about how to best serve your community but aren't sure how to start, contact our Kiwanis club President, Mona Diaz, for an invitation to the BBQ or have dinner or breakfast on us and sit in on one of our regular meetings. The Ranchos Kiwanis club is dynamic and exciting and together we make a real difference in the lives of others, particularly children. We are looking for people at least 18 years old who are interested in serving the community, making new friends and having fun with a purpose.

The Ranchos Kiwanis would like to welcome our newest club member, Nelson Venegas. Nelson has always wanted to be a part of a volunteer organization but was unsure how he could make the greatest impact with the precious time he had to give. After finding out about Kiwanis through our Past Lt. Governor Vern Dillon and sitting in on a meeting, he has decided to become part of our team and we

are proud to have him. Welcome aboard, Nelson!

Thank you to Madera County District 1 Supervisor, Frank Bigelow and Bob Benson of the Department of Homeland Security, our distinguished guest speakers this past month. Both gentlemen gave relevant and informative talks on local and federal governmental decisions affecting our community. If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share call President Mona Diaz for information on how to join the ranks as one of our many dynamic guest speakers.

As I sit in on our weekly meetings, I look around at the friends surrounding me and am reminded of the diversity of our club members. It has been thought that Kiwanis is as an organization strictly for older business owners and professionals, which couldn't be further from the truth. Our members come from all walks of life. We are educators, farmers, homemakers, caregivers, retirees, and yes, entrepreneurs. Our members range in age from their 20s to 70 years old and enjoy all sorts of colorful pastimes. We are SCUBA divers, scout leaders, photographers, artists, singers, philanthropists, cyclists and chefs, just to name a few. We have members that have enjoyed serving for the past 25 years and some that are just beginning this exciting journey. Yet, amidst all this diversity, we share one common denominator and that is our compassion and commitment to making the world around us a better place for families and children.

Ranchos Kiwanis Club meets at the Ranchos Pizza Factory the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. and each Thursday thereafter at 6:45 p.m. If you are interested in having fun while giving back to the community contact President Mona Diaz at 333-1913. Come join us at a meeting for dinner, fun and fellowship and see what being a Kiwanian is all about.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE
 By Brenda McElroy

Shoes Galore!

When getting organized, sometimes it's hard to know what to keep and what to let go of. Well, it just got a little easier. Take a look in your closet, under your bed, or wherever you might be storing shoes that you haven't worn in months, or perhaps even years. Right now there are people living in extreme poverty or recovering from natural disasters who need a pair of shoes. Soles4Souls (www.soles4souls.org) is committed to connecting our surplus with those in need.

All you need to do is collect all your gently used shoes of any kind and deliver them to the Soles4Souls donation box at the Ranchos Pizza Factory during the month of September. They will even give you \$1 off any size pizza with your donation of one or more pairs (during the month of September).

The Ranchos Pizza Factory is going one step further and donating 20 percent of sales to the

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. They will even be offering a Breakfast Pizza for the morning crowd. The fundraiser will help cover the costs of shipping the donated shoes to the Soles4Souls distribution center in Alabama. You're all invited to come dine, and by doing so contribute to helping get the shoes to their destination.

Another way to contribute to the shipping costs is by donating online at www.soles4souls-fundraising.org/brenda_mcelroy. All donations are tax deductible.

Soles4Souls was birthed in 2004 when Wayne Elsey, founder of Soles4Souls, was

watching the news and saw a single shoe on the shore following the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Having connections in the shoe industry he realized that collecting shoes was one way he could contribute to meeting the devastating need. After making some phone calls he was able to collect and send a quarter of a million shoes to the victims of the tsunami.

A few months later, Katrina hit here at home. One million shoes were collected and sent to the gulf coast communities. Seeing the tremendous response to the need, Elsey established the non-profit organization Soles4Souls. To date Soles4Souls has distributed over 15 million shoes to victims of extreme poverty and natural disasters.

"With tragedies such as the earthquakes in countries like Haiti and Japan, on top of the enormous needs elsewhere, we can use the estimated 1.5 billion shoes taking up space in the closets of ordinary people to

Soles4Souls was birthed in 2004 when Wayne Elsey, founder of Soles4Souls, was watching the news and saw a single shoe on the shore following the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Having connections in the shoe industry he realized that collecting shoes was one way he could contribute to meeting the devastating need. After making some phone calls he was able to collect and send a quarter of a million shoes to the victims of the tsunami ... to date Soles4Souls has distributed over 15 million shoes to victims of extreme poverty and natural disasters.

change the world one pair at a time," said Elsey. "Donating shoes is one of the most simple, yet profound, acts you can do, because it will greatly improve someone's life in the most difficult of times."

For some, receiving a pair of shoes means protection from disease. For others it means being allowed to attend school. For those of us who choose what to wear from an assortment of shoes each day, we can help

Soles4Souls change the world one pair at a time.

For more information regarding the Central Valley Soles4Souls Shoe Drive go to www.organizedbychoice.com/speaking_events or call Brenda McElroy at 559-871-3314.

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.



New School Year Brings New Energy Alvarado Welcomes New GV Staff



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

Dear Golden Valley Unified School District students, parents and community:

On August 18, 2011 more than 1,940 students, age kindergarten through 12th grade, walked through the front doors of their schools and began the school year. In doing so, they are taking advantage of a

multitude of wonderful educational opportunities provided by the taxpayers in our district.

The start of each school year is exciting because of the energy our students, staff, parents and community members bring to it — and all the possibilities that working together provides.

Our school district excels above many others because our parents, teachers, staff and community do a remarkable job of supporting our students and setting high expectations.

GVUSD's commitment to the community we serve is to love and care about our students and to do everything we can to ensure each student's academic and extracurricular success.

We want our students to know how much it matters to us that they possess character, integrity and purpose for their lives.

We know that our students will someday graduate and leave our district. In doing so, we want to have confidence that we have prepared them well to be trustworthy, hard-working, wise and capable of honorable service to their family, community and nation.

All the best as we begin a new school year!



Golden Valley Unified Superintendent Andy Alvarado (far right) introduces new staff members (from left) Anne Katuin, Micahel Erickson, Lisa Cartwright, Michael McDonald, Katelyn Peek and Zavorek.

Superintendent Andy Alvarado welcomed the Golden Valley staff back to work at an all-staff District in-service held on Aug. 16 with a State of the District address. Alvarado will be presenting the State of the District address to the community at a town hall meeting in September.

Panian Named Learning Director



Liberty High School welcomes its newest staff member, Frank Panian (second from right) as its new Learning Director. Panian joins other Liberty High staff members (from left) Ruben Negrete, Dora DelaCruz, Kuljeet Mann, Mike Mazzoni, Suzie Dunn, Karie Hannigan, Stacey Kiehlmeier and Tonya Hudson.

Sierra View Eyes 2011-2012 School Year Challenges

The 2011-2012 school year is going to be filled with meaningful academic events that address the whole child. Our site will be focusing on creating great communication with our community, continuing to develop a safe site for all students and sustaining academic rigor that challenges all students to achieve at their personal best.

Communication is essential to another successful year. The Sierra View website is updated every Friday with a two week calendar of events and you can find important documents like the Panther Express, Parent/Student Handbook, SARC report, staff emails and much more. Please visit Sierra View's website at www.gvusd.k12.ca.us/sierra_view_elem/Pages/sierra_view.aspx. The Panther Express is our weekly newsletter and is emailed out every Friday and a hard copy is

available in the office. We will continue with our automated dialer to communicate home and the marquee sign is a great place to find upcoming events as well.

Student safety is a top priority at Sierra View and we have several programs and policies to assure your child is safe at all times at Sierra View. We have an award winning Character Counts program that teaches students how to treat each other with respect and live a life of good character. The Second Step Anti-Bullying curriculum is another program in which our campus participates that takes the students through real life lessons. This program brings greater awareness of how to treat peers with respect. Rachel's Challenge is a new district initiative that we will be participating in that aims at creating positive changes in our community. All of these programs are proactive and create

an atmosphere where all students are safe and learn in a bully free environment.

The state of California has rigorous standards for school and we have set up multiple ways to guarantee your student success. We have an award winning Reading Lab that helps students close the gap in language arts. In mathematics, we will continue to have a math lab available to our students after school twice a week. Also, our English Language Learners will have a tutorial three times a week for additional support in all subject matter. These types of interventions are essential to our students' success and is a key factor in Sierra View being the highest performing school in Madera County.

We are extremely excited about the 2011-2012 year and know that our community can look forward to another amazing year where all students reach their potential.



Come in Your Blue Jeans!

- Wednesday Bible Study: 10 am
- Youth Group: Sundays After Church

Sundays 10:30 a.m.
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 www.cmcranchos.com • www.myspace.com/cvlimyouthgroup

8/11

Faces Around Sierra View Elementary



Sierra View Panthers Brooke Wristen, Anna Harr and Natalie Anselmo. Chelan Shepherd teaches a 2nd Grade class at Sierra View. Pondering their options at Sierra View are Kate Glover and Taryn Cornell.

Foundation to Recognize Educators

Please join the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools in recognizing the 2011 Employees of the Year:

- Mr. Felipe Piedra Administrator of the Year
- Mrs. Chelan Shepherd Elementary Teacher of the Year
- Mr. Frank Panian Secondary Teacher of the Year
- Mrs. Gail Allen Operational Employee of the Year
- Ms. Nicola Lambert Instructional Employee of the Year

The Foundation will also be recognizing teachers who received classroom grants in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. Please see the attached invitation (at left) for additional information.

Fake Calls Scamming Grandma

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing a scam alert after an 84-year-old North Fork woman was conned out of nearly \$8,000.

Earlier this month the victim said she received a call from a young man she assumed was her grandson. The caller told her that he was vacationing in Mexico with some college pals, got into a jam and needed money. He said they crashed into a pole in Mexico City and while the Embassy was helping them he still needed money prior to his court appearance scheduled for the next day. The caller asked her to wire him \$5,500 and begged her not to call his parents.

The following day the victim received a

second call. The voice at the other end said his court date went well but now needed bond money in order to leave Mexico. This time he asked her to wire him more than \$4,000. It wasn't until she reached her grandson nearly a week later that she realized that she had been scammed.

"We've received complaints about calls from Canada and now from Mexico," Anderson said. Although the "tall-tale" varies, "The message is the same, 'Send money and please don't tell my parents.'"

Anyone who receives a call like this should hang-up immediately.

You are cordially invited to attend the 7th Annual "Night the Stars Come Out" event hosted by:

The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools

Saturday September 10, 2011
 6:00 p.m. Hors D'oeuvres
 7:30 p.m. Program
 Birdstone Winery
 9400 Road 36, Madera
 Attire: Business Casual
 (adult event—wine and beer will be served)

Tickets \$25.00

Please RSVP to Aimee Beintker at #645-7500
 37479 Avenue 12
 Madera, CA 93636

Come join the fun and see the Golden Valley Stars shine.

Cocktail Party with Gourmet Hors D'oeuvres
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Proceeds from this event help support classroom materials and supplies to enhance the educational experience for the students of Golden Valley Unified School District.

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A Look Into the Past

Madera Ranchos reader and resident Bob Campbell sent this in to the Ranchos Independent and said that it was sent to him. "Some friends sent me this. They found it in their mother's things. It had a 1 cent postage on it, so must have been a long time ago," Campbell wrote. He thought it was interesting and so do we. It all sounds pretty good but where's that average *maximum* temperature of 75 degrees?
-- the Editor

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2. **MADERA COUNTY** has a climate that affords gracious living year around. Annual average temperature is 63 degrees; minimum 50 degrees; mean of 63 degrees and a maximum 75 degrees. Annual average rainfall 9.64. Elevation 282 feet.
3. **HEALTH IS WEALTH**—The U. S. Census Bureau health authorities point out that you live longer in California for the simple reason that our mild, sunny climate encourages outdoor activities at every season. The refreshing, balmy summer nights insure restful sleep. **MADERA RANCHOS** is ideally situated in the heart of California.
4. **THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE** in which to rear children. The schools and other cultural facilities are unexcelled; friendly churches of every denomination. Come any Sunday, visit Madera and attend the church of your choice.
5. **LIVE LIKE THIS THE REST OF YOUR LIFE** on a 1 1/4, 2 1/2 or 5-acre rancho, only a few minutes drive from Fresno. Buy direct from owner-subdivider, one of California's largest acreage dealers, at their latest and largest development with streets in, electricity and water available, as low as \$795 per acre. Small down payment and easy monthly installments will make YOU a California land owner.
6. **A SPLENDID INVESTMENT** is fast growing MADERA. Choice locations are bound to become scarce and values are certain to go UP and UP. Big projects and wise planning insure a bright future. Surveys show that millions of families plan to move to California—approximately 1,000 per day. Thus, the law of supply and demand proves UP and UP! If you have missed the opportunity to invest in California land in the past, you can NOW get in on the "ground floor" of California's greatest land value. GET THE FACTS NOW. Mail the enclosed card at once for FREE information.
7. **NO PLACE ON EARTH** can you locate better with respect to: work in one of U. S. highest income areas, recreation by the sea, in the mountains—skiing or fishing at Bass Lake, Shaver Lake, Huntington Lake and Millerton Lake, and outdoor living.
8. **INVEST IN LAND**—America's greatest fortunes have been based in Land. Land offers security—Land is productive—Land is sound. Growing population means rising Land prices. This is the A B C of making money in a Land investment. Wherever population increases, the price of Land goes up. Booming California has produced fabulous profits from Land.
9. **BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF.** The times in a man's life when he can get in on the "ground floor" of California real estate are few and far between. IN ALL FAIRNESS TO YOURSELF AND FAMILY, don't wait. **ACT NOW!** If you want to save, be quick to acquire one of the choice Ranchos NOW. Free yourself from being dependent on a weekly pay check. Buy MADERA RANCHOS LAND NOW and take care of it, and it will in the years to come, take care of YOU! As little as \$95, with low monthly payments, can start YOU as a California land owner. Raise chickens, turkeys, grow citrus and other fruit trees, grapes, etc. Your BIG opportunity with a small investment—MADERA RANCHOS.
10. **MADERA RANCHOS** has met with the legal requirements of the County District Attorney, the Planning Commission, Surveying Department, Road Department, Board of Supervisors, Health Department, and the Real Estate Commissioner of California.

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

RACING cont. from P. 2

This year, Robin built her a late model stock car. She went from a 275 pound midget to a 1,300 pound legend to a 3,100 pound stock car.

And she is loving it.

This year she has competed in nine races so far and already has three top five finishes. In her last race she ran up front all race and ran as high as third place at the end. She was in a battle for third place, running door to door for the last three laps as they came off turn four for the checkered flag.

The cars touched each other.

Now they were coming to the final flag at full speed ... sideways. She got beat by a nose and finished fourth. Emma has five races

left this year and it is her hope that she can continue to run up front and end up in the winner's circle.

Emma has been going to the races since before she was born. Emma's mom, Mary, helped in the pits when Robin was racing, up until she was nine months pregnant. Their daughter has been hearing the roar of engines since before she was born. Robin has been involved in racing for 42

years and raced for 22 years at tracks around California, including Madera where he won two late model championships at Madera Speedway. "I guess you could say 'It's in her blood,'" Robin said.

The apple doesn't fall too far from the tree. Emma, whose nickname in Quarter Midgets was "pinky bling-bling," in part because she was running a pink racecar, has won four Pacific Coast Indoor Championships and a championship at her home track in Madera, just like dad.

The Tuckers are sold on racing as a great family sport. They estimate they will



Remember ... it's not bragging if you can back it up.

do 35-40 races per year between Emma and younger brother Dillon, an 8th grader at Rancho Middle School. He races Restricted Sprint Cars in Visalia and

Lemoore on the dirt. He also raced Quarter Midgets for six years, won 22 races last year in Quarter Midgets, won two track championships and set new track records in Madera and San Jose.

There's plenty of racing left at Madera Speedway this season (see below). If you come out for some great racing and cheer on our own Emma Tucker, you just might be rooting for a future NASCAR superstar.

MADERA SPEEDWAY SCHEDULE

1850 West Cleveland Ave. • Event Hotline 559-673-RACE
WWW.RACEMADERA.COM

Dates in **PINK** are when **Emma Tucker** is racing!

August 27th - Midland Tractor Night / LunkeyDaddy Late Models, Hobby Stock, MST, Toyota Sedans, 4-Bangers (Double Points all Classes)

September 16th - Harvest Classic Night #1 presented by Madera Auto Center / \$5 grandstand ticket for everyone on night one. LunkeyDaddy Late Models, Hobby Stock & 4-Banger (Two track series), MST, Toyota Sedans

September 17th - Harvest Classic Super Saturday Round #6 presented by 410/360 Super Modifieds, BCRA Midgets, Vintage Super Modifieds / Valley Sportman & NCMA, Plus the Blown, Injected multi-engine Pulling Tractors! USAC Sprints, USAC Focus

September 24th - Mike Roos Memorial, Fireworks, SRL Southwest Tour, Championship night for the LunkeyDaddy Late Models, Hobby Stocks, MST, Toyota Sedans, 4-Bangers, Legends, ASA Truck Tour, Plus Lawn mower races! (Triple Points for all local classes.)

October 22nd - 5th Annual Pumpkin Smash Halloween Bash and Blow up!!! Late Model Open, Hobby Stock Open, 4-Banger Open, 150 lap Enduro, Destruction Derby and Boat Drags!



Come Join the Fun

The Sierra Shadows 4-H club is looking for adults interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer project leader. Volunteers are the backbone of the 4-H program and in carrying out the 4-H program and activities. Some volunteers become involved in their children's activities while others just want to share a skill or a hobby. Here are a few basic requirements: be at least over 18 years old; have a desire to help youth learn by doing; and time and energy to devote to the project. A minimum of six hours of instruction is required to complete a project with most projects occurring over a period of several weeks or months during a year. The 4-H has resources available to help assist you to become a successful leader. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer and would like more information on how

to become a volunteer, please contact our Community Club Leader, Terri Fernandez, at 559-645-4836.

As many of you are gearing up for the upcoming school year, many members are excited about the upcoming Madera County Fair which will be held from Sept. 8 through 11. There's no break in the summer for 4-H members because they have to work with their animals all summer long just to get ready for the Madera County Fair. They work with their animals to get the animal in good condition to make weight and with the hope when auction time rolls around, their animal will receive some top bids. Other members will be entering items from their other projects into the fair, such as items from their sewing, cooking and/or arts and crafts projects. If you would like to learn how you could support a 4-H member by either being an auction buyer, bonus bidders or an award sponsor. Please contact our Community Club Leader.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4-H. The Sierra Shadows 4-H club leader is Terri Fernandez, who can be reached at 559-645-4836. Her email is trrfernandez@yahoo.com. The next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School cafeteria on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

24 hours in advance prior to noon so remember to call Joann at 645-4864.

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

New to the agenda on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. are a variety of cards games to be enjoyed. Come and learn new games.

Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware Store.

The Farmers Market at the Center has a variety of vegetables and fruits, jams and jellies are available and the Boutique has many "on the spot needed" gift items

Dates for Your Calendars

Sept. 24 – Shuttle to Hanford – Use of old hand projectors – silent movies

Nov. 6 – 10 – Laughlin, Nev. Only 30 seats available, need to sign-up.

September Events

M-W-F – 10 a.m. Exercise; Tuesday – 12:30 p.m. Variety of card and other games; Wednesday – Card Bingo; Thursday – 5:30 p.m. Potluck and Card Games

Sept. 3 8 a.m. – noon. First Saturday of the month Sale. Senior Treasure House, Boutique, Bake goods and Plant Sale.

Sept. 6 Second Monday, Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Sept. 12 Third Monday General Meeting 7 p.m.

Sept. 17 Birthday and Anniversaries at Pismo Coastal Grill, 7937 N. Blackstone, Fresno. 439-9463.

Sept. 19 Planning Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

how long to cook, these recipes don't have to be followed exactly. Change the fruit – maybe your family likes pears instead of fruit cocktail, or how about spice cake instead of yellow with the peaches or add a little cinnamon. I even saw one recipe that added a little coconut. This is definitely one on which you can use your imagination. One other suggestion I would have if you were using peaches or pears is to cut them up. You don't have to do it in a separate bowl, just dump the fruit in the bottom of the baking pan and before you pour the cake mix on cut the slices into smaller pieces. These cakes will seem wet and uncooked but once cooked they are delicious – almost like a cobbler. And they are especially good served warm with a scoop of ice cream.

When I told Randy about Dump Cakes he mistakenly thought I was saying "Bundt cakes." When I explained them to him he went home and tried his hand at a Dump Cake. His entire family loved it and loved how simple it was to make. These things

are so simple, here's a recipe he made up that he is still raving about.

Apple Spice Dump Cake

2 Cans Apple Pie Filling

1 Box Spice Cake Mix

1 ½ Cubes of Butter, cut into pats

Spray the bottom of a 9x13 baking pan with Pam or any cooking spray. Pour the entire contents of the two cans of pie filling into the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle entire dry cake mix on top of filling and flatten it out with a fork. Place the pats of butter over the entire surface of the cake mix, completely covering it. Bake for 35 minutes in a 350 oven. When you pull it out let it rest for 30 minutes before you cut into it. Randy says it is one of the best – and easiest – desserts he and his family have ever had.

Well, that does it for another month. I want to thank those of you who have commented on the column and I look forward to hearing from you. Call me at the office at 645-0634, or better yet, come in and talk to me. I'd love to discuss recipes with you.

Until next time – stay cool!



Concerned about the future of Madera County?

We Need Your Help!

The Madera County Transportation Authority is now accepting applications for membership on the Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee, an appointed body of seven public members that conducts financial oversight of Madera County's \$213 million transportation sales tax measure.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and must reside in Madera County Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, or 4.

Applications may be obtained at the Madera County Transportation Authority offices at 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA or by contacting Richard Poythress at (559) 675-0721 or richard@maderactc.org. A copy of the application package is also available for download at <http://www.maderactc.org/>.

**The DEADLINE for application submittal is:
Monday, September 12, 2011**

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT

STOCK cont. from P. 7

The Laughlin trip is planned for Nov. 6 through 10 for 30 people. If you want to go, be sure to sign up at the center.

Finally, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors have lost another very active member. Whitney Johns was born March 31, 1924 and died on Monday Aug. 15, 2011 at his home in the Madera Ranchos with his wife Anna

at his bedside. He fought a long battle with cancer. His funeral service was held on Friday, Aug. 19 at the Farewell Funeral Service building in Fresno. Whitney was a retired mapper for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Whitney served the Ranchos/Hills Seniors as Chairman for their annual Home and Garden Festival. He was a friend to many and we will all miss him.



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The Pastor's Desk

Rigorous Honesty: The Only Policy

Again this month we have a guest writer for the Pastor's Desk. He is not a pastor but he has a message. With approximately 17.6 million Americans adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent, his message is timely and relevant.

Editor

By Mike B.

Over the last few weeks I have dealt with the fact that my recovery, and others who seek recovery, need to be rigorously honest. Webster's Dictionary defines rigorous as: "Rigidly severe or harsh, as people, rules, or discipline." That is quite a tall order for any regular or normal person. It is an even taller order for someone who is an ex-liar, cheat and thief. "Rigidly severe or harsh," that means I have to make an effort every day to go to the extreme to be honest, because if I am not, I will not change. And, to not change for me is a death sentence. In the program they tell us, "You only

have to change one thing; that one thing is everything." Chapter five "How it works" starts out like this: "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are people who cannot, or will not, completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty."

So, is lying doing something and no one finds out about it? The answer would be a resounding "YES." I have stated before that it took me about 18 months to finally surrender to this simple program. In that first 18 months the few times I drank I thought, "Who would know?" The funny thing is we have an uncanny ability to tell on ourselves. Only I would know – how could I possibly hurt anyone? I'll have a cou-

ple and act cool. Who's it going to hurt? One day after a meeting, after receiving one more 24 hour chip, I read the front of the chip: "To thine own self be true," and I finally realized I had been lying not only to myself, but to God. From then on I realized I had to be honest to myself. Being honest with myself was not only saving me but it was also glorifying God. Making a choice to drink was mine and mine alone. No one or any circumstance or other person could make me drink. Knowing that I needed to be rigorously honest with myself is my choice.

Now I choose to be honest.

To run a good program, and remember it is about progress and not perfection, I have to not only be honest, I have to be *rigorously* honest. I have found that makes my life considerably

Knowing that I needed to be rigorously honest with myself is my choice.

Now I choose to be honest.

To run a good program, and remember it is about progress and not perfection, I have to not only be honest, I have to be rigorously honest.

easier. When I have a problem or concern, I tell people the truth and usually they are very understanding and go out of their way to help. I do not have to backtrack and remember what I told this person or that person, or have to make sure the

other people are told the same story; cover all my bases, so to speak. The truth has no bases to cover. If I make a mistake or do something wrong I own up to it. It is amazing the reaction I usually get and people tend to be a little taken aback. One time a person said, "I'm not through being angry yet! How can you so easily own up to your mistake?" It's easy: I have nothing to hide. Remember Adam and Eve did not try to hide from God until they sinned. People always say, "The truth will set you free." They are correct: the truth is very freeing. What they miss is what or *who* is the truth? According to the gospel of John, in John 14:6 Jesus answers, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Know Jesus, know truth.

Now, not only am I free of this world and all its trappings, I get the added bonus of being free from the pain and sorrow that comes with not being honest. The freedom and peace that comes with being honest transcends all

Please see PASTOR on P. 20



By J.D. Bennett

On Aug. 1, during the fight over raising the nation's debt limit, Vice President Joe Biden was reported as having joined House Democrats in bashing Tea Party Republicans during a two-hour, closed-door Democratic Caucus meeting, accusing them of having "acted like terrorists" by their conduct during the negotiations.

- Editor

An Open Letter to Vice President Joe Biden

Mr. Biden:

I can't even find it within myself to address you by your title. You are in office only by way of Barack Hussein Obama, who was elected by the people, whether I agree with that or not. We didn't have a choice with you. It disgusts and appalls me to know that a man

VP Biden Needs to Apologize for "Terrorist" Comment

in your position is either a socialist or unable to control his tongue on national television. A person in the office you hold is and should be held to a higher standard. What gives you the right to refer to hard-working Americans as terrorists because they support a party other than the one you occupy?

My beliefs align with those of the Tea Party, and I endorse them largely because the Tea Party supports our Constitution and limiting big government spending. I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, honorably discharged. When I retired from law enforcement, I was serving as a Terrorism Liaison Officer, so I know what terrorism is. I studied terrorism and counter-terrorism and have extensive training in its prevention.

Just in case you had a medical condition commonly known as "Impacted Cranial Rec-titis" and weren't able to see the numbers on the vote to raise the debt ceiling, 95 Democrats voted against it. That is 29 more nay votes than the Republican/Tea Party Caucus. Now to my recollection, no Democrats have joined the Tea Party Caucus in Congress. Ac-

ording to you, because the Tea Party took a stance against raising the debt ceiling and actually made a difference in the vote, we are terrorists. Can I ask you, Sir, are the Democrats who voted against it also terrorists? Will you be invoking vice presidential powers to have these "terrorists" arrested?

I would like a public apology via national television. This is the only way you can right this cruel injustice. Are you man enough, Mr. Biden, to apologize to the American public for your despicable words, or will you cowardly turn your back on the hard-working American citizens you disrespected?

J. D. Bennett
Former U.S. Marine
Retired Peace Officer
Current Tea Party Member

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The August meeting presented guest speaker Darren Spellman, Supervisor District 5, in Calaveras County. Supervisor Spellman

explained the role of a County Supervisor in our state mandates.

If you haven't already, please take the time to join us. We would appreciate your presence and, if you like, you'll have the opportunity to discuss current issues and ideas. These meetings are also educational so we can proceed well-equipped with the facts and not with the many untruths that are consistently spread throughout the mainstream media.

Madera Chapter meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at Di Cicco's, 516 So. I Street in Madera from 6-8 p.m. Check the Central Valley Tea Party website: www.centralvalleyteaparty.com and select the events tab on the blue menu bar then scroll to find your area's chapter for current scheduling of meetings, including speakers and topics of discussion.

For more information and for those without Internet access, please contact John Smedley at 645-7031. He can be reached by e-mail at jcsmedley@comcast.net. You can also contact Rick Farinelli at 706-5386 or by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net.

CHARTER cont. from P. 10

career pathways that house many of the elective programs. They are Ag & Natural Resources, as well as Arts, Media and Entertainment. Minarets High School and Minarets Charter High School use Google Apps. as the primary work foundation.

The 300-acre campus offers students a safe and friendly environment, state-of-the-art technology and numerous co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Students can compete in at least eight different CIF athletic programs, while also pursuing opportunities in FFA, Music and Performing Arts, Media, Art and much more. Indeed, students attending on the Charter are extended a one-year reprieve from any athletic sanctions and can participate in athletics immediately. Course electives range from unique and specialized opportunities such as Fire Science, Military Science, Landscape Design, Information Technology, Floral Design, Extreme PE, Advanced Music Production, Guitar, Ag Mechanics and more. Additionally, we offer an eight-period schedule that creates more elective opportunities, as well as a school start time of almost 9 a.m. Other campus amenities include a bike trail, mountain bikes and a climbing wall on campus, a media lounge, a new \$4.2 Ag Mechanics shop facility opening in 2012 and more.

Minarets High School has been WASC accredited since 2010. Minarets High School has enjoyed excellent academic success early on including over a 90% pass rate on the California High School Exit Exam, the 2nd highest API in Madera County and extremely high test scores like English and Language Arts. Although only in existence since 2008, Minarets High School has already received tremendous recognition. Dozens of students have won awards in media, ag and FFA, art, writing, music, and more. There are two Apple Distinguished Educators on campus. Minarets High School also has the Madera County Teacher of the Year for 2010. Minarets High School has the Computer Using Educator Site Leader of the Year for 2010 and also the ACSA Region IX Secondary Principal of the Year for 2011.

Minarets High School and now Minarets Charter High School are located in O'Neals on Road 200 just ¼ mile east of Highway 41. It is just 20 miles north of Fresno and within easily commuting distance from several communities in Madera and Fresno Counties.

For more information, please contact Director of Charter Jon Corippo at 559-676-1935 or Minarets High School Principal Michael Niehoff at 559-287-4078. Additional information is also available at www.minarets.us as well.

PASTOR cont. from P. 19

understanding. Paul tells us in Philip-pians, and remember he wrote this from a prison cell (Philippians 4:4-8), "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again. Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is

true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things."

Being honest and truthful in all that you do will not just make your life easier, it will glorify Jesus Christ. That is our job: in all things glorify His name. This has worked well for me over the last year. I know it can and will work for you. Remember honesty is not the best policy, it is the only policy!

Mike

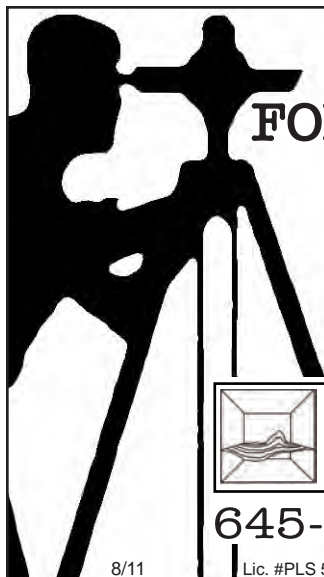
GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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12		10		12	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

one single use and then it's gone is not a water policy. What are YOU going to do about our water?

Is a community water treatment facility and sewage system the answer? Are you willing to pay for it? If not, what are YOU going to do about our water?

Have you contacted our elected officials? Have you joined any community organizations to have your voice heard? Have you researched what other communities in similar situations have done and then taken it to the populace? If not, what are YOU going to do about our water?

The true bottom line is, have you done ANYTHING other than throw up the same old "What about our water?" argument? If so, what are YOU going to do about our water?

There's an old saying that if you keep doing what you're doing you're going to get what you've got. There's about 10,000 of us out here with a giant soda straw sucking every last drop out of the ground and then we hide behind, "They're going to take our water!"

Wake up!

WE'RE taking our water with absolutely no plan to fix the situation. I'll ask again: What are YOU going to do about our water?

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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?

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Salesperson Wanted --The Ranchos Independent is looking for someone who loves the Ranchos and loves the Ranchos Independent and wants the world to know about it. If you're organized and love to talk to people you're half way there ... we can help with the other half. **Call Randy at 645-0634 and we'll set up a time to talk. Look! You're talking already!**

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Lost Dog - Lost over 4th of July weekend. Large Lab-Pointer Mix. Chocolate Brown with white paws, stub tail. Name Mocha. Wearing red collar with tags and has microchip. **Call 645-4367 or Craig's List.**

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by Linda Thistle

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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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ANSWERS

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A troubling situation takes a positive turn and moves toward a resolution that should please you and your supporters. Meanwhile, make time to deal with new domestic issues.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to reassess your goals and consider shifting directions. Remember to keep an open mind, and be prepared to make changes as new opportunities arise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Rely on your strong Mercury aspect to help you close that communication gap before it becomes too wide to cross. A sibling or other family member has news.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're about to get off that emotional roller coaster and start experiencing more stability than you've been used to. This is a good time to let someone new into your life.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Good news: A trusted friend comes through for you. But you still need to shed that last scrap of self-doubt and once more become the cool, confident Cat we all know and love.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Things should be getting back to a less hectic pace. Enjoy the more peaceful atmosphere. You earned it. But don't forget about those still-unresolved issues.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A more positive family relationship develops as misunderstandings are explained away. A job situation appears promising, but check it out before you act on it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations. That on-the-job situation is working out as you'd hoped. Now's a good time to relax and to enjoy the company of family and close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might feel as if you're caught in an emotional tug-of-war. But don't be rushed into a decision on either side. Wait for more facts before you act.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The Goat's usually high level of self-confidence is brimming over these days. This should help you deal with a situation that you've avoided for far too long. Go for it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Relationships become more intense. But be careful not to be pushed into decisions you're not comfortable with. Remember: You're the one in charge of your life.

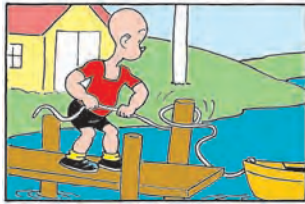
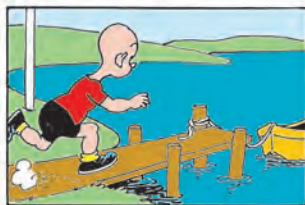
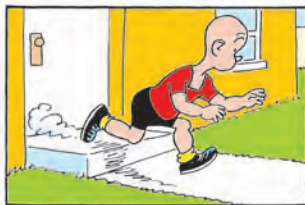
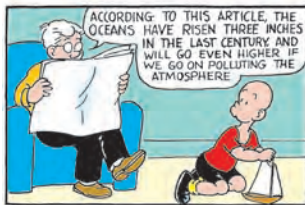
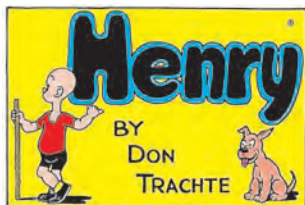
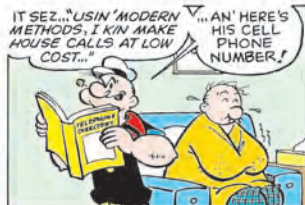
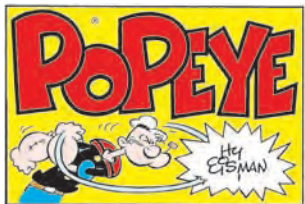
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You need to show more confidence in your ability to reach your goals. Make that long-delayed decision, and avoid floundering around in a sea of self-doubt.

Born this week

Although you appear to be strongly opinionated, you can also be open to other ideas -- so long as they are presented with logic and clarity.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SIGN OF THE TIMES— TRYING TO PRY OPEN THOSE PLASTIC BLISTERS— IT COULD COME TO THIS— OH, YEAH— H-H...



BON APPÉTIT DEPT.— A FOX ON THOSE "LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY OPERATION" TELLERS— YOU WERE FEELING WELL AND HUNGRY— UNTIL...

... THEN THEY FLUSHED THE DOUVENUM— THEN SPLICED THROUGH THE INFECTED YOYOITIS— AND DRAINED THE POISONOUS ACALARS AND STITCHED THE GASTRIC COTTER PIN— THEN— ETC.— ETC.—

BY AL SCADUTO

TRAPPED— CD OR NOT CD— EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?



ARE YOU A SHOE-IN TO SOLVE THIS ONE? Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the 'S' in the left-hand rail, 'Strike while the iron is hot.'

A SENSITIVE STUMPER! Replace the letters on our sun worshiper's chest with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest total possible.

Our answer: T=8, H=6, M=2, E=0, S=7, U=3, N=4, B=9, R=5, F=5 (8820 + 734 = 9354).

PUZZLES IN PARADISE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

1. A military base.
2. A sudden attack.
3. A tasty food store.
4. Great Dutch cheese.



1. Beats out another.
2. What the desert is.
3. Gave false testimony.
4. Produced by constructing.

Wishing Well

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

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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VANISHED COMPANIES

MAGIC MAZE

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

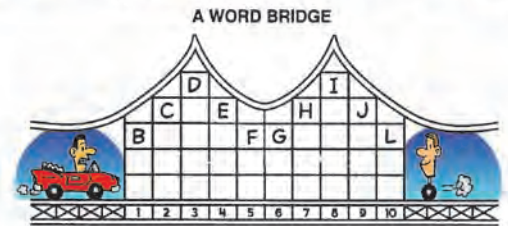
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Adelphia | E.F. Hutton | Pan Am | Standard Oil |
| Bear Stearns | Enron | Pets.com | TWA |
| Compaq | MCI | Pullman | Woolworth |
| DeLorean | PaineWebber | RCA | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. Sleeps in the daytime.
2. To persuade by pleading.
3. Beverage for a nervous person.
4. End-of-term ordeal.
5. A wind mover.
6. Slang for sailor.
7. To pay attention to.
8. Extremely angry.
9. Triangular sails.
10. Smoked salmon.

Answers: 1. Bat 2. Coax 3. Decal 4. Exam 5. Fan 6. Goo 7. Hood 8. Innu 9. Jibs 10. Lox

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the name of the airline company whose plane crashed in the television series "Lost"?
2. POLITICS: Who is the only person in U.S. history to serve as governor of two different states?
3. GEOGRAPHY: In what U.S. state would you find Fort Donelson?
4. BIBLE: What famous biblical character survived a night in a den of lions?
5. HUMAN ANATOMY: What is the liquid part of blood called?
6. NICKNAMES: What is the nickname of the Indianapolis Speedway?
7. MOVIES: Who wrote the story that was eventually made into the animated film "The Iron Giant"?
8. LITERATURE: The character of Mercutio appears in which of Shakespeare's plays?
9. COMICS: Who was "Peanuts" character Charlie Brown's favorite baseball player?
10. INVENTIONS: Who invented the non-stick substance called Teflon?

Answers

1. Oceanic Airlines
2. Sam Houston, governor of Tennessee and Texas
3. Tennessee
4. Daniel
5. Plasma
6. The Brickyard
7. Ted Hughes, British Poet Laureate
8. "Romeo and Juliet"
9. Joe Shlabotnik
10. Dr. Roy Plunkett

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



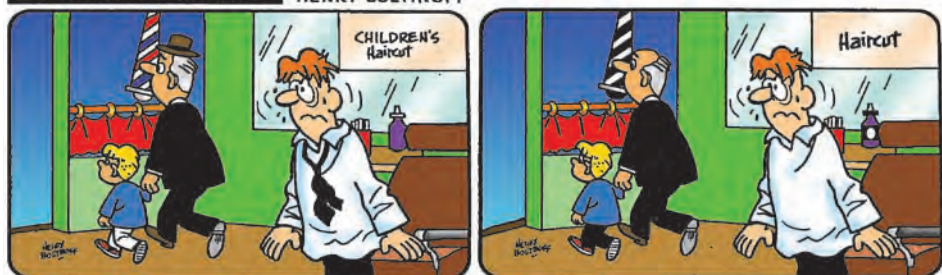
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



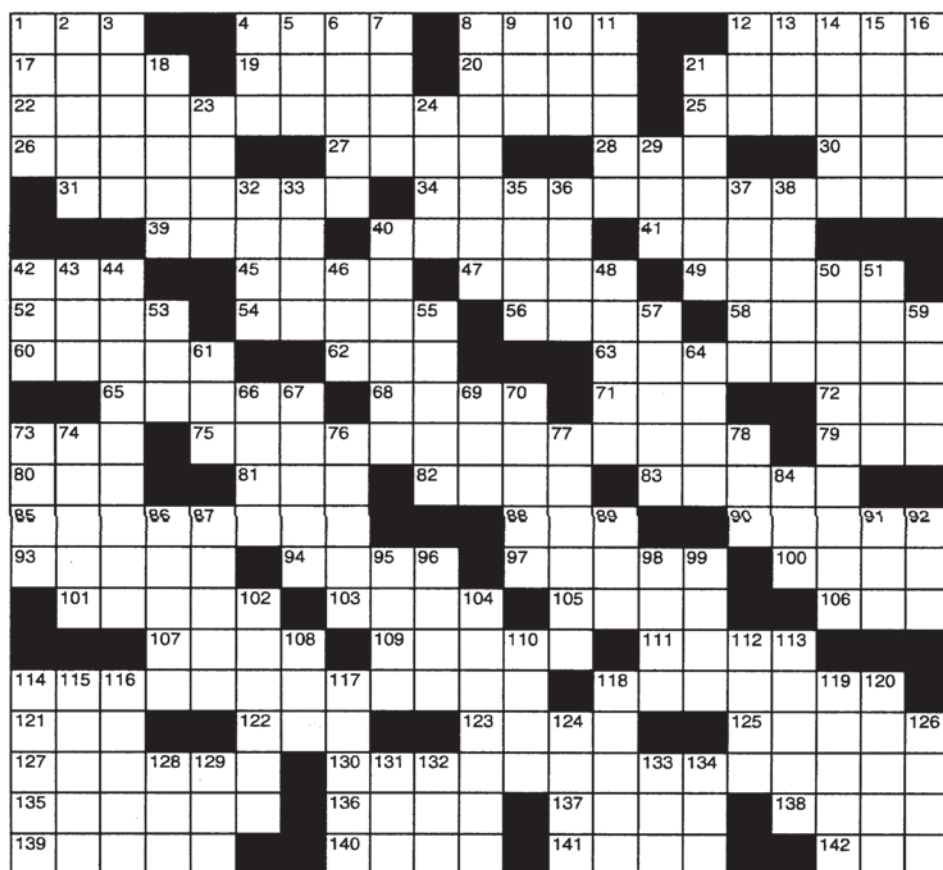
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Man has no tie. 2. Window sign is different. 3. Boy's pants are black and white. 4. Barber's sign is different. 5. Man's hat is gone. 6. Bottle is different. 7. Boy's pants are black and white. 8. Barber's sign is different. 9. Boy's pants are black and white. 10. Man's hat is gone. 11. Bottle is different.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Buddy
 - 4 Verne hero
 - 8 Cantata composer
 - 12 Goo
 - 17 "— corny as Kansas ..."
 - 19 Orenburg's river
 - 20 Literary pseudonym
 - 21 Like Schoenberg's music
 - 22 Like Felix Unger?
 - 25 Act like Holmes
 - 26 "— Card" ('90 film)
 - 27 Comic Orson
 - 28 Bungle
 - 30 Sweater letter
 - 31 On the nose
 - 34 Skinny novelist?
 - 39 Get on
 - 40 Rocker Tom
 - 41 Curly coif
 - 42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras
 - 45 Moffo or Magnani
 - 47 Reggae's Peter
 - 49 Offer an apple?
 - 52 Pinnacle
 - 54 Dawns, to Donne
 - 56 Coarse flour
 - 58 "— on My Pillow" ('58 song)
 - 60 Stiller's partner
 - 62 Tread the boards
 - 63 Man from Munich
 - 65 Ponderosa, for one
 - 68 Mrs. Zeus
 - 71 Mineral suffix
 - 72 Sgt., e.g.
 - 73 Gamble
 - 75 Extremely encouraging individual?
 - 79 Kitten's comment
 - 80 Sharpton and Yankovic
 - 81 Hockey great
 - 82 A sweeping success?
 - 83 Calliope's sister
 - 85 '66 Tommy Roe tune
 - 88 Merino male
 - 90 Shiva worshiper
 - 93 Throw forcefully
 - 94 "The Ramayana" heroine
 - 97 Actress Samantha
 - 100 Jury member
 - 101 Economize
 - 103 Calligraphy supply
 - 105 Land in the sea
 - 106 Longing
 - 107 Jets, Mets, or Nets
 - 109 Release
 - 111 Hideaway
 - 114 Dishonest anchorman?
 - 118 New Jersey's Pine —
 - 121 Port: abbr.
 - 122 Director Lupino
 - 123 "Dies —"
 - 125 Be of use
 - 127 Bring to light
 - 130 Corrupt college official?
 - 135 Acid's opposite
 - 136 Bronte heroine
 - 137 Ice-cream thickener
 - 138 Writer Hunter
 - 139 June birthstone
 - 140 Paper quantity
 - 141 Stink
 - 142 Prior to, to Prior
 - DOWN**
 - 1 BB-gun sound
 - 2 "That's —" ('53 tune)
 - 3 Paint ingredient
 - 4 Lots of laughs
 - 5 Part of NATO
 - 6 Hayes of westerns
 - 7 Crafter's need
 - 8 Publisher Cerf
 - 9 Ginger —
 - 10 Security grp.
 - 11 Couldn't stand
 - 12 Canonized Mlle.
 - 13 King's "Salem's —"
 - 14 Motionless
 - 15 "— Man" ('78 song)
 - 16 Singer John
 - 18 Farm sight
 - 21 Directionless
 - 23 Native Peruvian
 - 24 Yarn
 - 29 Singer Chris
 - 32 Soho streetcar
 - 33 Carson's successor
 - 35 Particle
 - 36 AMEX rival
 - 37 Scacchi of "The Player"
 - 38 Seascape painter
 - 40 Cisco's chum
 - 42 Pin
 - 43 The — Capades
 - 44 Einstein's chair?
 - 46 New Deal agcy.
 - 48 Convent wear
 - 50 Dentist's fee?
 - 51 Vestige
 - 53 Geologic division
 - 55 Cook veggies
 - 57 Make chair legs
 - 59 Chilly powder?
 - 61 Social worker?
 - 64 Swerve
 - 66 Word with pork or karate
 - 67 Toast start
 - 69 Dietary abbr.
 - 70 TV's "Hearts —"
 - 73 Big party
 - 74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
 - 76 Bit of a beach?
 - 77 Leisurely, to Leoncavallo
 - 78 Team scream
 - 84 Palm oil?
 - 86 Lloyd Webber musical
 - 87 Principle
 - 89 Booker T.'s group
 - 91 Billy — Williams
 - 92 Fancy planter
 - 95 Slope
 - 96 Cain's victim
 - 98 — breve
 - 99 Bring up
 - 102 Gauguin setting
 - 104 Feminist Gloria
 - 108 Pie ingredient?
 - 110 Greek sandwich
 - 112 Neighbor of Turkey
 - 113 Variety show
 - 114 Tight
 - 115 Actress Berry
 - 116 Slezak or Alexander
 - 117 Consumer advocate
 - 118 Stocking shade
 - 119 Credulous
 - 120 Indian instrument
 - 124 Way over yonder
 - 126 Director
 - 128 Roller-coaster unit
 - 129 Under the weather
 - 131 Hook's mate
 - 132 Southern constellation
 - 133 Scottish refusal
 - 134 Annoy

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SEMUCU

south east madera county united

SEMUCU REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Ranchos Pizza Factory**

Finally!

A place to get your questions answered about what's happening in the Ranchos. Whether you're looking for solutions to Water Issues, questions about Traffic Situations, curious about the prospects for the Ranchos getting a Park or what the future holds for a Community Center, this new Website is for you.

www.semcu.org

Want to be a Grant Writer?

SEMUCU is looking for volunteers to be on the Grant Committee. The Manchester Center in Fresno is offering a Grant Writing 101 class beginning September 7 and November 9. SEMUCU will pay for any member interested in attending.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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