

# The Ranchos Independent



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## Where's our water going?

A stressed out water delivery system gives out during the hottest week of the summer and offers a foreboding glimpse at the future of the Ranchos' water situation

*In This Issue*

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8  
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

## Water Problems During Hottest Week of Summer: Just the Beginning?

By Christi McKinney

In a 10-hour period beginning on Monday, Aug. 13, a series of events caused havoc with the county water main lines with a total of six breaks in the main line and two malfunctions at the well sites. Madera Ranchos residents were quite unhappy to find they had very little water pressure during the hottest week of the summer.

Steve Norman, District Manager for the Special Water District, Resource Management Agency, said, "The trouble started on Monday when a malfunction with one of the well's flow control valves malfunctioned. This caused the pump to turn off and on successively and caused a water surge or 'water hammer.' This created a weak point in the system and a pipe split causing the initial leak in the main line. Water district staff identified the problem and repaired the leak," Norman said. "Then on Tuesday at approximately 2 a.m., we were back on site when a tube broke in another well's hydro-pneumatic

tank allowing air to escape. The lack of air caused shock waves in the main line and caused five additional leaks. At this point staff from both the valley shop and from the mountain shops worked feverishly to see that all necessary repairs had been made. Two of the leaks were located off Avenue 12 between Topper and Road 36 on the north side of the street; another was on Trieste and 36 1/2 on the south side of the street. There were two more leaks off of Cloverleaf and another off of Blossom." Norman further said that although this cre-



ated very low water pressure for everyone on the water system, nobody's water was shut off completely. The county prefers not to work on water lines during the summer to minimize interruptions to homes and businesses but they hope to replace some old water mains this fall. As replacement lines are installed the lines are being moved out of resident's back yards and moved to the street to minimize nuisance to residents.

Madera County took over the old water system in 1996. Users of the system are the actual owners and Madera County

is responsible for handling repairs to the system since that time. Some of the water lines in the Madera Ranchos are still the original water lines dating back to the 1960's when a private company installed the system. The price for water on the water system is approximately \$50 per month and is limited to an area within a couple of miles north and south of Avenue 12 from Road 36 to approximately Road 38. The fee is used to repair and to update the water system in cases just like the one we just experienced. We still pay much less than most water systems in the Valley and we are also not metered as most other California communities now are.

The county is past due on scheduled replacement. "Trying to replace entire water mains is a big, expensive job," said Norman. "We've been trying to prioritize repairs based on the number of leaks in any given section and identifying the lines most prone to leaks. We are also pursuing new water sources and upgrading existing

Please see **WATER** on P. 7

## SEMCU Brings H<sub>2</sub>O Groups Together

By Randy Bailey

On the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, the South East Madera County United group (SEMCU) brought together representatives from Madera County, Valley Teen Ranch and the Madera Ranchos Maintenance District 10A to look at possible ways of pooling their resources to find funding to help ease the stress on the Rancho's water system. SEMCU, which has just recently been approved as a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) corporation, has the ability to advocate on behalf of Ranchos residents in seeking funding from the state in the forms of grants. Valley Teen Ranch, an alternative school and part of the Golden valley School District, is in need of a new well immediately and the Ranchos' community wells, as evidenced in the story above, are in need of help as well. It is believed that by joining forces that the collective group can aim for larger grants from the state of California to help cover the costs of wells, repairs and storage tanks, for which individually the disparate groups could not qualify.

Additional meetings are planned with the hopes of also including Golden Valley Unified School District to sign on as an active participant, to further strengthen the overall group's ability to generate grant dollars.

## Tip Puts 3 Scrappers Behind Bars

Sheriff John Anderson credits a Madera County citizen for the arrest of three scrappers accused of stripping 500 feet of power line that belongs to Union Pacific Rail Road.

Bonnie baker, 53, and 45-year old Bret Harmon – both of Madera – were captured on Saturday. By Sunday morning Deputy Marcos Plascencia tracked down a third suspect, 46-year-old Terrie Metzler – of Chowchilla - taking her into custody as well.

The Sheriff's Office received a tip Saturday morning. Three people appeared to be stripping wire in a vineyard near Avenue 12 and Highway 99. Nearby, 500 feet of electrical wire was missing – stolen from Union Pacific Rail Road.

The cost to repair the damage is estimated at \$60,000

All three were booked into Madera County Department of Corrections with bail set at \$100,000 each.

## Loss of Water Motivates Community

By Christi McKinney

If you've ever questioned the value of social media sites or Facebook, a recent chain of events in the Ranchos has produced a success story that began with a letter to the editor of the Ranchos Independent.

It started with an active duty soldier, SPC Zachary Montanez of the Madera Ranchos, who was very worried about the news he'd received from his family back here at home. Their well had run dry and his family was unable to secure financing to drill a new well. They'd tried every means they had to come up with the money. Sandra Montanez, Zachary's mother, had visited their bank but they couldn't borrow against the equity in the property because they, like many others were "under water," meaning they owed more on the property than it's worth in today's real estate market, a truly ironic term considering the situation.

Feeling helpless, Zachary Montanez wrote a letter to Randy Bailey, the editor of the Ranchos Independent newspaper. Bailey was touched by the soldier's plight, however unfortunately the July issue had just gone to press and waiting for the next edition would sadly be too late to help. Bailey chose to get the word out via Face-

book on one of several pages dedicated to the Madera Ranchos. Here is the letter Montanez sent and Bailey posted:

*Dear Editor,*

*I am writing to anyone that can help. My family is in dire need of a new well as it has run dry. I am a soldier in the army deployed to Iraq in 2008 and 2009 and am now stationed at Ft. Irwin, California. I went to Webster Elementary from Kindergarten to 8th grade. My family's home on Marciel Avenue is out of water and has no financial means to drill a new well. My family has lived in the Ranchos for 23 years and is now faced with losing the family home that I grew up in and will be forced to leave the Madera Ranchos because they aren't able to afford a new well. My grandfather, Thomas Chapa lived in the Ranchos for 18 years and did disking for many of the homes here now. After losing his wife to a stroke related to a battle with diabetes he has moved on and now his daughter (my mother Sandra Montanez), her brother and his three adopted kids live here just trying to get by. They will be forced to lose the house and leave this great community. If there is any way that my family can get help it would be*

Please see **WELL** on P. 7

Click on "Local News" at

# Golden Valley Unified Takes First Green Step with School Solar Panels

Golden Valley Unified School District has gone environmentally friendly.

Those solar panels you see by Liberty High School off of Avenue 12 are up and running.

Helped by a loan from the California Energy Commission, the solar panels will take care of the district's power needs without increasing the cost of electricity.

"This has been an ongoing conversation for approximately three years," said Andy Alvarado, GVUSD superintendent.

"Not only the potential of energy cost savings, but also to be environmentally conscious."

The rate of the loan is at a fixed amount which makes it easier for the district to budget without the worry of energy costs going up. Of course, assuming the rates of PG&E continue to increase over time.

"Once it penciled out to save money, the decision to go solar was finalized," Alvarado said. "At Golden Valley, we strive

to stay on the cutting edge of innovation and this is an example."

The district will save close to \$8,713,549.00 cumulatively on the project and allows the district to pay for the solar panels without impacting the general fund.

The total development and installation of the project is \$5.9 million.

"The rebates, loans and the interest rates fell right into place," Alvarado said. "Right after we signed off on the project, the rates jumped even higher."

There is also an educational aspect to the solar project. There are plans to incorporate solar energy into lesson plans. There is an informational kiosk about solar panel in the Liberty library.

"The kids will be able to see how solar power helps the environment," Alvarado said. "We will be able to educate the kids on solar power and see the benefits."

The district contracted with Ter-

Please see **SOLAR** on P. 11




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# A Trilogy of Tea Time Thought



## Big Ego Government

By Christopher Green

Traudl Junge, Adolph Hitler's personal secretary, spent the last days of the Third Reich in a Berlin bunker taking dictation for his last will and testament. After the war she testified that Hitler ultimately blamed the Holocaust on the Jews and the destruction of Germany upon his own people, the Germans, for not being strong enough to defeat his enemies. Such are the big egos of the history's tyrants. From Genghis Kahn to Stalin to Pol Pot to Saddam Hussein, tyrants first divide the world into enemies and allies, and then set out to destroy their enemies. But in the end they often consume their own allies.

How could the educated people of Germany elect Hitler to office to highjack their democracy in the first place? How could Venezuelan voters select Hugo Chavez to methodically take apart the press and his political opposition and nationalize key industries? How could Argentines, even after the disastrous experience with Juan and Eva Peron, allow Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner to take over industries and put the country on a path to economic ruin? No democracy on earth is immune to elected leaders who could turn democracy against itself by methodically classifying and dividing populations, rewarding friends and punishing enemies. In the end, however, even when vast amounts of blood are not spilled, the asphyxiation of liberty always brings moral decay and economic collapse.

## Principled, Modest Leaders

From the time of George Washington our country has had been blessed with principled and modest leaders who credited others with their success and who sought to unite rather than divide our people. From Jackson to Nixon when a few presidents strayed from this narrow course Amer-

icans delivered a stern rebuke. But let us not think in these fluid times that the American life as we know it cannot be corrupted and destroyed. The signs of political rot in Washington and in state capitals across this land are clear. Let us look at today's leaders at all levels of our government and rebuke those who credit themselves, blame others and seek to divide us and turn us against each other. If each of us doesn't fight back resolutely against these big-ego politicians today, we may find ourselves on their enemies list tomorrow.

## You Did Not Build That Business

By Don Jans

Both President Obama and Elizabeth Warren would have us believe this premise. But who gave them this idea? Here is a paraphrase from the Communist Manifesto written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Business is a collective product and only by the united action of many members, nay, in the last resort, only by the united action of all members of society, can it be set in motion. Business is, therefore, not a personal but social power and therefore should be converted into common property, into the property of all members of society.

This is an essential premise of the Fundamental Transformation we have been promised by Obama and Marx. It is critical America understand all aspects of this cancer eating away at the land of individual freedom and self-reliant citizens.

Don Jans is the author of *My Grandchildren's America*. His website is [www.mygrandchildrensamerica.com](http://www.mygrandchildrensamerica.com).

## Political Whirlwinds

By Sandy Forbes

Much has been happening in the political whirlwind. Mid-July the Obama comment, "You didn't build that," struck a nerve all across this country and I'm sure now Obama wishes "I hadn't said that!"

Chick-fil-A supporters turned out in the

Please see TEA on P. 16

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Editorial

# They Just Don't Get It

By Randy Bailey

We recently had an example of our little community working as a cohesive unit. An email was sent to me -- while I was on vacation in Avila beach -- from a soldier who grew up in the Ranchos but whose family was now faced with the prospect of having to move away, all because they had run out of water in their Ranchos home. They didn't have cash to plop down for a new \$14,000 well and although they had the ability to pay back a loan, the lenders they contacted decided that the risk was just too high for any of them to put their money in play.

I had just published my paper and I told the gentleman that my next paper wouldn't be going out for another month which, sadly, would be too late. All he wanted to know was if there was something anyone could do to help his family. I said I would try.

I turned to the Ranchos Facebook community and posted the letter from the soldier in its entirety. One by one, area folks picked up on the family's need and started to mobilize to see what could be done. Many offered what they could and many more offered suggestions and connections to others who had the ability to help. Eventually, Doug Bradley of Bradley and Sons was contacted and arrangements were made and the soldier's grateful family were able to remain in their Ranchos home, complete

with water and the ability to pay back the cost of construction. What a great place to live, huh?

But in the midst of all of this, with neighbors helping neighbors and those who "have" being able to help those who "have not," a comment was made on Facebook that blew me away. There's always someone who will take the most inopportune moments and try and use them for their own selfish reasons. They turn something innocuous into a political statement, or something harmless into a racial confrontation. The list goes on and on and we've all seen it.

So, in the midst of this family's desperation of not having water, and smack dab in the middle of everyone trying to help, someone posts a message on the facebook page posing a question to the effect of, "... can you imagine how bad it would be if that development was built?"

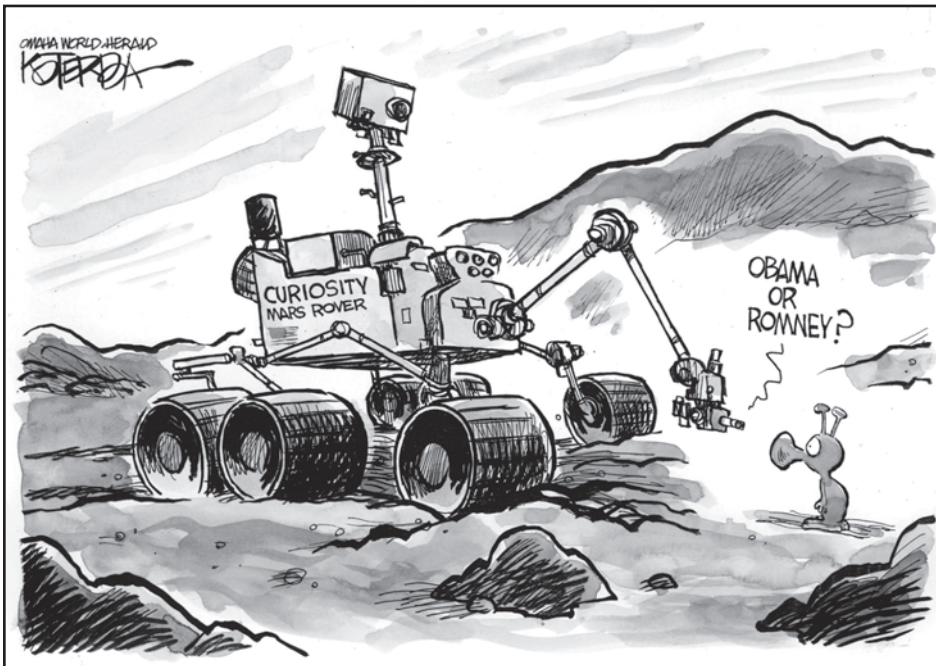
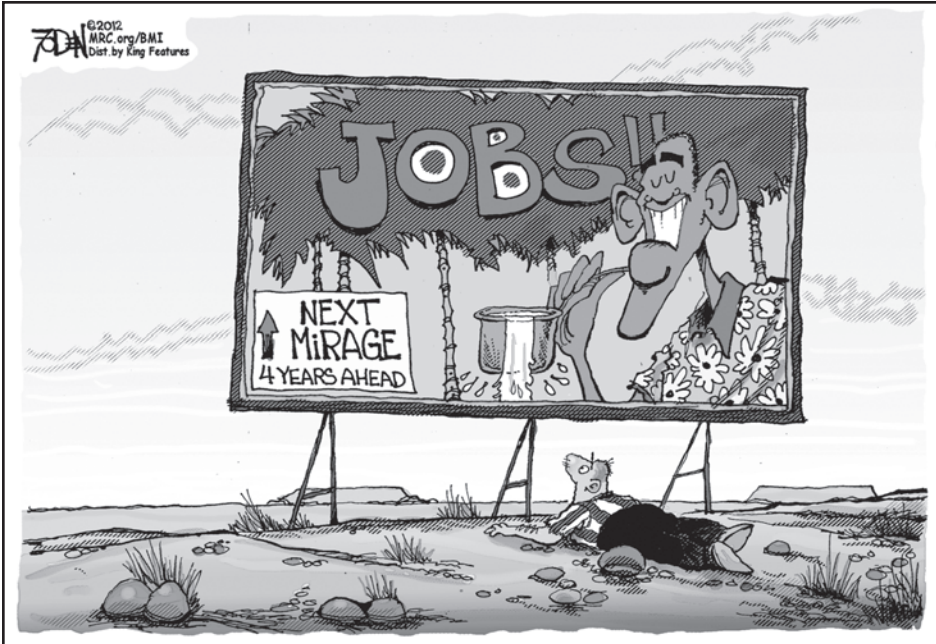
What sheer stupidity. What gross ignorance.

I don't know how much clearer the message can be. There is NO development and people are running out of water. You can look for a boogeyman that you can hypocritically point your spindly fingers at so that it makes you feel better about the future prospects of Ranchos water, but the cold hard fact is that WE are running out all of our water. I have said it before and I will say it again, digging a well, pumping out all of the water for a one-time use and then sending it to a septic tank is NOT a water system.

It is suicide.

California law mandates that new developments MUST provide for water systems that include reclamation, regeneration and reuse. Our only hope for the future with our grotesquely dwindling water supplies is to get some sort of effective water system out here, and one of the most cost effective ways is to piggy-back onto a system being built for a nearby development. Getting more than one use out of our water is the key, particularly since we each use between 60 and 70 gallons per day, and that's just inside our homes. Double that for outside.

Keep pointing those fingers, but next time take a look at how many of your fingers are pointing back at you.



# The Ranchos Independent

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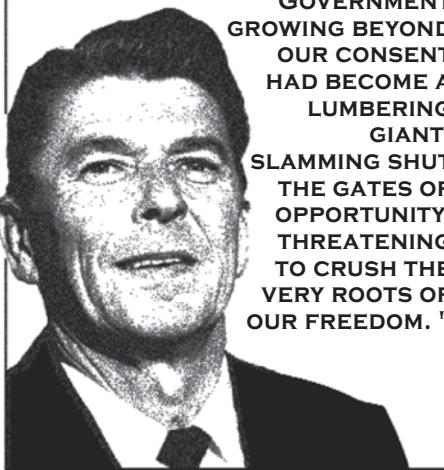
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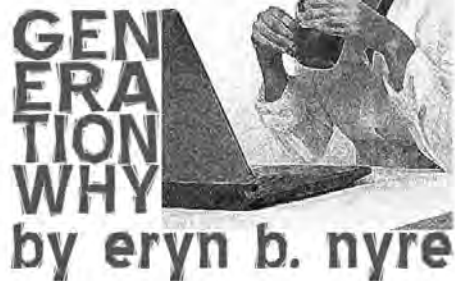
My Father always taught me that old adage to never look a gift horse in the mouth. I was raised to be grateful for what people give me, especially if it was something I had asked for in the first place. I cannot think of a single instance where someone handed me something out of the goodness of their heart, and my response was, "Oh, how nice ... but I would rather have it in fuchsia."

My Dad once told me the story of a disastrous lunch he had with one of his co-workers. My Dad had asked his colleague if he would like to accompany him to lunch one afternoon. At first, the man politely declined, saying he needed to save money, but after my Father offered to treat, he happily accepted.

All was well until my Dad told him he was taking him to his favorite deli. Apparently this man was not a big fan of sandwiches, so he asked if they could go somewhere else. Slightly irritated,

my Dad suggested a little Mexican place he knew with great lunch specials, but no, he just didn't feel like Mexican that day. Maybe he should have just declined the offer and eaten the lunch he brought from home. I don't know about you, but when someone offers to buy my lunch for me, unless I am allergic and will die, I smile and find something on the menu that I can eat. Pickiness is the luxury of the person picking up the check. But obviously this guy wasn't raised by a man like my father.

When my desk finally succumbed to old age, I asked around to friends and family to see if anyone had a desk they were no longer using, and as luck would have it, my aunt did indeed. It was bigger than I would have wanted and it did not go with the color scheme of my apartment, but it was, as requested, a desk. So there



**GENERATION WHY**  
by **eryn b. nyre**

was nothing else to say other than thank you so much and when can I pick it up? But that is not always the common behavior in these situations, and I find that disheartening.

You find this lack of gratitude and sense of entitlement everywhere and in all situations. For example, I was in line at Wal-Mart one day when the woman in front of me was yelling at the cashier because her food stamps card didn't cover her beer. The poor cashier, who has no control over what is and is not covered by food stamps, had to

just stand there and listen as this twit continued to make a spectacle of herself. This person is expecting groceries on the government's dime and yet is incensed that alcohol isn't included in the package? But, how is she supposed to get drunk and ignore her children if the government doesn't provide her beer, too? I know several people accepting food stamps who welcome the assistance regardless of what might not be included. She should have just been grateful that there is a program available that puts groceries in her home and that she is eligible, because not everyone is and many people go hungry. Rather than complaining, how about being thankful that because of the tax payers, whom you are holding up in line with your little tirade. It is possible for your children to eat rather than

*I don't know about you, but when someone offers to buy my lunch for me, unless I am allergic and will die, I smile and find something on the menu that I can eat. Pickiness is the luxury of the person picking up the check.*

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 17

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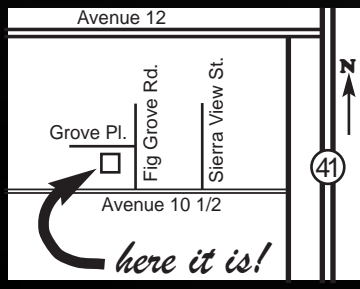
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**WATER** cont. from P. 2

water lines and water flow. We hope to have another well online before next summer," he said. A site has been selected and engineers are working on a plan that includes a site big enough to hold a half-million gallon storage tank. Having a storage tank is really the only way to insure that Madera Ranchos residents won't be in the same predicament they experience when they experience low water pressure every summer at peak usage times. "We are also looking to install 'loops' in the new lines so that when there is a problem in the main line we won't experience it throughout the entire water system," Norman said.

The Madera Ranchos water table is still in a continually declining state. The water table here is lowering faster than any other place in Madera County. It's estimated that the water table in the Madera Ranchos has been dropping about 6 feet each year. Norman describes it as, "We're on the edge of a lake, and everyone who uses water either at their home or business can be viewed as having a straw, drawing water for their use. The solution is not always to simply go deeper with existing wells. If you go down too deep you have potential arsenic issues and the water would require extensive treatment just to be able to drink it," he said.

The symbolic lake just gets smaller every year. Residents who are not on the water system are also affected by the lower water table. Some Ranchos residents with their own wells drilled a new well last year only to find this summer that they are having problems and are having to drill further for usable water. "It's important for us to recog-

nize that even if no other homes or businesses are ever built here in the Ranchos, we are still going to be faced with critical issues in regards to our use of water. The solution to this problem is not going to be one simple thing we do but instead a combination of many things we can do to insure we will have water in the future," Norman said. "Nobody likes to hear about water conservation, reusing of non-potable water for landscaping or really any other way we might address this problem, instead preferring to assume it will always be ok. Like it or not we will be forced to rethink how we live and how we landscape our homes."

The public is highly encouraged to become active in finding a solution we can all live with. Please consider attending meetings of the Madera Ranchos Water Oversight Committee. For information about this organization contact [meterman1943@yahoo.com](mailto:meterman1943@yahoo.com).

Another organization that has been very proactive in looking for solutions to our water problems has been SEMCU (Southeastern Madera County United). They have monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Madera Ranchos Pizza Factory. You can find more information about this organization at [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) or on Facebook at SEMCU. They are also instrumental in organizing a number of events for the Madera Ranchos Community and their schedule of events is always found on the back page of the Ranchos Independent.

In addition, the Facebook site "Keeping the Ranchos Safe" has allowed residents to keep up with what's going on and how extensive the problems and repairs are.

**WELL** cont. from P. 2

*greatly appreciated.  
Thank you,  
SPC Zachary Montanez*

Sandra Montanez and her family were literally one week away from losing the family home that had been home base for the Montanez family for three generations. "We never thought we'd find ourselves in this situation," Sandra Montanez said. "We had already started looking for a home to rent when my son's letter appeared on Facebook." The response on Facebook was immediate. Among other things, Madera Ranchos residents began promising to send money to help the Montanez family. Sandra always knew this community held a special place in her heart. "I'm extremely grateful to our neighbors who helped with water when we had none, and to the entire Madera Ranchos Community for their generosity in helping us keep our family

home."

Word soon got to Doug Bradley of Bradley and Sons whose family also has a long history in the Madera Ranchos. Touched by the story, Bradley offered to match all donations up to \$3,000 and Bradley and Sons began work on the well. SPC Zachary Montanez, the dedicated son whose letter to the editor was instrumental in rallying his home town to action, "... extend[s] my gratitude to everyone who has helped my family keep our home."

Sandra Montanez has requested that all donations be made directly to Bradley and Sons. Individuals and businesses who have promised to help or who wish to help can call Bradley and Sons at 559-441-1401 or mail their contributions 3625 S. Highland, Del Rey, CA 93616. Bradley and Sons will provide Sandra with a list of everyone contributing so that she can thank them personally and the Ranchos Independent will be happy to publish the list of all contributions as the list becomes available.

## Food for One (or Two)

For those of you that read my article last month concerning my complaining about the apricots not being picked in the orchard belonging to Fresno State, I found the answer.

According to Mike Mosinski, Fresno State interim farm manager, "Back in March, when we had the storms come through, this particular orchard did get the hail damage." An insurance adjuster came out and found 80% of the crop was damaged. "We are getting an insurance claim on the damaged fruit. And then at that point economically, to try to go through and pick only what looks good just wasn't a good business decision for us. So basically the fruit had to fall to the ground"

Allowing people to come in and pick the apricots wasn't possible because of a host of liability issues and university officials said that the price of apricots has dropped so much that this will probably be the last crop they grow with the orchard probably being pulled out by this fall.

What a shame.

Also in my last month's article, I said I had never heard of grilled artichokes. I was talking to my sister-in-law later, and she told me that at different family dinners both of her daughters brought grilled artichokes, each with a different sauce on them, but both delicious. So, I stand corrected and am anxious to try grilled artichokes.

### A Reader's Suggestion

One of our readers came into the office to ask me to do an article on cooking for one or two. She said her son is getting all the leftovers. I don't even know these people, but I don't want the son to be upset with me because his leftovers may stop because I answered her request.

Following a recipe for one or two servings is somewhat foreign to me. Ever since I started cooking beside my mom



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

and learning what to do, there has always been a large family for which to cook. When I was in high school, since both my folks worked, it was my job to come home from school and get dinner started. There were seven in the family, so we didn't just cook a couple of potatoes or a thigh and wing of a chicken.

When I started living alone and doing my own cooking, I had to adjust the way I cooked. I am not that fond of some leftovers and never more than a day or two and then that is enough for me. I have learned to cook just what I will need for the day or two. However I do still make a whole pot of spaghetti sauce but I put it in two or three Ziploc bags and freeze it until I want to make spaghetti for dinner again. I only cook one or two pork chops or a couple of pieces of chicken at a time. I do buy frozen vegetables in the one pound bag and use what I need for each meal, and fold the bag up and hold it with a rubber band in the freezer until I need it again. The little boxes are fine for one or two, but I find the bags a lot more economical.

Do you use margarine, cottage cheese or even cream cheese in the tubs? Don't throw them away yet. Wash them out and store until you can use them again. Be sure to let them dry completely before stacking. They make perfect containers for leftovers. When you go to a family dinner and know there might be leftovers to bring home (like Thanksgiving dinner), have your cleaned out containers ready. Or the last time I made spaghetti sauce I used two of the containers to freeze the sauce until I would use it. But listen to the voice of experience, they DO NOT

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

microwave! If you don't put them into the refrigerator to defrost, put them in a little warm water until the food can slip out into a pan to heat.

After this reader ask me to do this article, I went online and found some recipes she might use. The first one is for chicken pot pie that makes three - of course, that depends on how much you eat.

#### Easy Chicken Pot Pie

½ C canned cream of chicken soup  
¼ C milk  
1 C frozen mixed vegetables  
½ C cut up, cooked chicken breast  
½ C Bisquick  
¼ C milk

Heat oven to 400. In ungreased 1-quart casserole, stir together soup and ¼ C milk, stir in vegetables and chicken. Microwave uncovered on high 3 minutes, stir.

In small bowl, stir remaining ingredients until blended. Pour over chicken mixture. Bake uncovered about 20 minutes, or until crust is golden brown.

#### Santa Fe Beef Medley

2 sheets (12x18 inches each) Aluminum foil. If not using the non-stick foil, be sure to spray with baking spray.

½ pound boneless beef sirloin steak, cubed.

1 medium zucchini, sliced ¼ inch thick

1 medium red bell pepper, sliced into thin strips.

1 (8.75 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained.

1/3 C Beef gravy

1 ½ tsp. Southwest seasoning  
½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 450 degrees or grill to medium high.

Center one half of steak on each sheet of foil. Sprinkle with ½ tsp. seasoning. Arrange zucchini, bell pepper, and corn on top of each pile of steak. Combine gravy, remaining seasoning, and salt; drizzle on top of steak and vegetables. Bring up foil sides. Double fold tops and ends to seal packets, leaving room for steam inside. Repeat to make two packets.

Bake 18 to 20 minutes on a cookie sheet in oven. Or grill 10 to 12 minutes in covered grill.

#### Baked Chicken and Potato Dinner for Two

2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves

2 T Dijon Mustard

½ C Bisquick

¾ pound small red potatoes cut into fourths

1 small red or green bell pepper, cut into ½ inch pieces

1 small onion, cut into 8 wedges

Cooking spray

2 T grated Parmesan cheese, if desired.

½ tsp. paprika

Heat oven to 400. Spray 13x9x2 inch baking dish with cooking spray.

Brush chicken with 1 T of the mustard, then coat with the Bisquick mix. Place 1 chicken breast half in each corner of pan. Place potatoes, bell pepper and onion in center of pan, brush vegetables with remaining mustard. Spray chicken and vegetables with cooking spray; sprinkle evenly with cheese and paprika. Bake 35 to 40 minutes, stirring vegetables after 20 minutes, until potatoes are tender and juice from the chicken is no longer pink when centers of thickest pieces are cut.

And now for some dessert.

#### Fruit Cobbler for Two

1 C your favorite fruit pie filling (Apple, cherry, peach or blueberry)

½ C Bisquick

2 T milk

1 T sugar

1 tsp. butter or margarine, softened

Heat oven to 400. Divide pie filling between two ungreased 10-inch custard cups. Stir remaining ingredients until soft dough forms. Spoon half of dough onto pie filling in each custard cup. Sprinkle with additional sugar if desired. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until topping is light brown.

What to do with the left over pie filling? I would probably eat it out of the can if I could, or warm it up and put it on vanilla ice cream or pancakes or waffles.

**Kiwanis Korner**

# How Do You Measure Success?

By Perry Watkins

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

If you can measure it by the smiles of children and by tears of joy, then Kiwanis has had a successful year. Most of our major fund raising events have been completed – whew! Our President, John Glueck, and Secretary, Pam Glueck, have done a phenomenal job. They put in scores of hours as well as physical labor and brain power to make these events happen. Each year the dedication and plenty of hard



*Fellow Kiwanians will welcome new board members Mona Silva, second from left, new secretary and board member Virginia Vick, center, and new president, Marie Cameron, fourth from left.*

work result in several thousands of dollars. Most of those funds stay right here in the Ranchos to fund scholarships and achievement awards, and give assistance to the local community in various ways.

Here is where the smiles come in.

The Seniors at Liberty High were certainly smiling when scholarships were awarded. Our goal is to increase these kinds of awards in the coming years. Our new board will establish those goals over the next few months.

The new board has been elected and will be seated after the induction ceremony in September. We will warmly welcome Marie Cameron as our new president. Virginia Vick will be our new secretary and board member Mona Silva will join our board to create a new year of giving back to the Ranchos. We also welcome Haley Ardner to our club as a new member. She has been a dynamo at Liberty and we expect great things as she goes to college.

When we see the excitement at events such as the Fishing Derby, which was just completed, we know our efforts are worth every hour and every hard-earned dollar. It is getting more and more difficult to earn those charity dollars. Precious little comes as free grants. Most of our donations are through sales of things like food and fireworks. Therefore, when we decide how to give these gifts to the community, we are very careful to do things that will have an

impact, especially on the lives of local children. Did you know that members pay all administrative costs so that your dollars go where they are most needed? If you could see all the joy at the Fishing Derby you would know exactly what we are talking about. Kiwanis members often have favorite events and the “Fishin’ Derby” is special in the hearts of John and Pam Glueck who have donated so much of their own time over the years to assist those folks.

Other Kiwanis have an extra special place in their hearts for the local volunteer firemen, scholarships, special education, or promoting achievement in grade schools. The Firemen’s BBQ on Aug. 18 was one such event that bene-

fits all community members. Many people contribute to the event, which in the end, helps to save lives and protects property. The Borba family hosts this amazing event and the community joins in to make it very special. All are welcomed every year. Kiwanis member Deb Farr puts in many, many hours to help promote and coordinate this life-saving event. We really appreciate her. All Kiwanis members are there to help make some of those very wonderful smile-producing events happen, with more than a few tears of joy along the way. It is so heartwarming and rewarding to be a member of Kiwanis. We thank all of you in our community who support our events. We are so pleased to have the privilege of giving back to the community in turn. We would love to have you join us.

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

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- Past President: Mona Diaz
- Vice President: Marie Cameron
- Secretary: Pam Glueck
- Treasurer: Perry Watkins

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## Ranchos' Newest Restaurant Bowls 'Em Over

By Christi McKinney

Doug Huynh is the proud owner of the Madera Ranchos' newest restaurant called the Rice Bowl. The Rice Bowl serves a variety of Asian entrees including Chinese food, Japanese food and Hmong specialties. They also serve smoothies and a variety of specialty teas. Huynh prides himself on serving only the freshest food using local produce and never using MSG. He's also a fanatic about making food to order and will cook anything to your specifications.

The Rice Bowl will offer monthly spe-

cial based on what's in season. August specials revolve around basil and September specials will include green beans and snap peas. If you have a craving for something special that's not on the menu, Huynh is up to the challenge. Maybe lobster, crabs or scallops. Just call a day ahead and he will be happy to make anything you like to order. Huynh is also available for catering.

Huynh was born and raised in Fresno and is one of a growing breed of adults who left the Valley for the Bay Area to attend school and to work but who has now moved back with his wife and children to be closer to family and to

follow his passion for cooking.

The Rice Bowl is located next to the Ranchos Market at 37405 Avenue 12. Their hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. They are closed on Mondays. They encourage phone in orders at 645-5454 and they have free Wi Fi.

The Rice Bowl has the pleasure of already experiencing growing pains. They're already adding more tables and because they're fanatic about all ingredients being fresh they've sold out of some entrees every day they've been open. It appears the Madera Ranchos is indeed supporting its newest local business.

## SOLAR cont. from P. 3

raVerde Renewable Partners to assist on developing a plan to implement solar power and secure the loan with the California Energy Commission.

"We can't say enough about our partners involved," Alvarado said. "The whole project went was a tremendous success."

Alvarado gives credit to our Governing Board, District staff, Cupertino Electric, TerraVerde Renewable Partners and Piper Jaffray.

"Our board was committed to leaving a legacy whereby this rapidly growing cost is stabilized for succeeding generations of students, parents, staff and community," Alvarado said.

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## Six Promoted At GVUSD

With a new school year brings changes within Golden Valley School District.

Along with 10 new hires, six employees were promoted or were given more responsibilities within the district.

Alexis Jennings is the new vice principal at Webster Elementary. She will oversee categorical programs, the reading lab and serve as the school's main disciplinarian.

Christine Panian is the program specialist for special education for Golden Valley. She will support the district's special education staff, specifically monitoring IEP files, modifying curriculum and instruction for students with special needs.

In transportation, Jeanne Hall is the new supervisor. She will supervise all bus drivers, in addition to her previous coordinator responsibilities.

Melanie Lewis is the coordinator of learning resources where she will oversee the technology department and provide addition support in the area of professional development.

In addition to managing maintenance, operations and transportation, Dave Baughman will take on the added responsibility of manager of facilities.

Diana Forshee is the new coordinator of special programs. She will continue to provide support in educational services, specifically in the area of state and federal programs, curriculum, instruction and assessment.

# Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

By Garin Gonzales

Well, the Summer Reading Program is over and done, and I have to say it was a very successful. But before we put it "in the books," (get it? because I work in a library?) there are a lot of people I would like to thank for making the reading program such a huge hit. First I would like to thank all of the participants. Congratulations, kids. You've successfully read books; you've entertained and edified yourself as well as kept your brain from turning into mush over the summer. Good for you. I'd also like to thank all of the parents who so graciously brought their kids to all of the programs and presentations. You are involved in your child's life. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to all of our sponsors: Town and Country Liquors, The Pizza Factory, the Ranchos Café, Paramount Citrus, Ranchos/Hill Seniors, Ranchos Valero, Hurst Hardware, Ranchos Auto Repair, Bresee Properties, Greenleaf Orchards and Pegasus Orchards (and if I missed anyone, I apologize profusely). Thanks as well to all of the wonderful volunteers who have been such a tremendous help in our busiest time of the year: Ginger Taylor, Diane Maxfield Kathy and Kara Pfingsten, Shirley Tickel, Ima Martin and Gracie Wall (again, if I've missed anyone I'm so sorry). Your help was instrumental in making the Summer Reading Program the success it is.

Thanks to the Ranchos Friends of the Library group. Your tireless fundraising efforts and support makes the program go so smoothly. A huge thanks goes to Linda Bresee and her family for picking out the wonderful prizes we gave out to all of our young readers. Your selection of educational toys and games was a perfect way to help keep kids' brains stay engaged and tuned in until school starts up again. Finally (I hope I haven't missed anyone, but I'm sure I have), a big thank you to my fellow employees Barbara Cosner and Kalani Torres. Without their help, I would be afraid to take a vacation day. But they are so good at what they do I can take time off and know when I come back that all is still running

smoothly.

Although I'd like to fill the rest of this article just by repeating the words THANK YOU over and over again until I've made my word count, I realize that probably wouldn't fly. So...

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT BOOK DONATIONS

Donations are the lifeblood of any library. For the most part, we love getting donated books and books on CDs and everything else we so desperately need. However, some misguided patrons believe that our library is simply a dump for every nasty, waterlogged, mold-ridden, dirt-caked, ripped-up book that they can no longer find room for in their garage. Here's a good rule of thumb: If you would be embarrassed giving your box of books to your mother, then it's probably not going to be good for our library.

Look, I have no problem with people asking us if we'd like donated books. We can usually use most of them in one of three ways: 1) Books that are in good condition (and are popular) we will add to our collection. 2) Books that are in decent shape (like lightly-used paperbacks) can be added to our "For Sale" room. 3) Books in bad shape can be recycled. The first option is great because we don't have to buy that particular book, which saves us money. The second option is fine as well because chances are we can sell that book to a patron and at least make some money off of it, which will help us buy future books. The third option is a little less optimal for us because, although we get some money kicked back to us through the recycling folks, we have to tear the covers off the books and rip up the book so it's easier for the recycling folks to handle. And that takes precious time we just don't have.

So every time a patron sets a box of tattered, mildew-smelling books we cannot use by the library during off hours and drives quickly away, you are creating more work for us. A LOT more work. Perhaps these books would be better given to Goodwill (that is, if they are still in decent shape)? Or maybe you can take a crack at recycling them yourself? The staff and volunteers of the Madera Ranchos library thank you.

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*Progress not Perfection***Yesterday's Misery, Today's Triumph: 18 Years in the Blink of an Eye**

By Mike Bailey

If I am allowed to quote Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you're gonna get." This week I sent my son away for a job. Not too far away,

just enough to make it hurt. As a father/parent I started to think how fast the time has gone. Seems like only yesterday was April 29, 1994 at 11:36 a.m. when I met my first born, a boy, for the first time. And, now today he is a man on his own (kinda). I remember all the good times and kind of kick myself for

being so selfish some of the other times. We all have said it, thought it or done it: "I need a break; this kid is driving me crazy. I need some ME time." Now, all I want is to hold that little 7 pound baby one more time and tell him, "I won't screw it up this time."

Our time with our children is so fleet-

ing. The average American lives 74 years, if you are lucky enough to be a parent, you will only spend 16 percent of your waking life with your child. That is, if they leave home at 18 years of age.

I say "child" because I'm only speaking of the time they spend under your roof. And, might actually listen to you. People say, "We are parents for life," and we are, but we are under the same roof for a very short time. It seems and feels like it was just a moment.

What if all that I had gone through was to set the stage for this? What if all the self-inflicted wounds, the hardships, the pain and my rebirth was just to open this door for my son? If had not been fired from my career job, went to rehab, got sober? Would this opportunity for my son ever of happened? Only the Lord knows.

This job is not just any job. This is a chance for him to grow with the Lord. To build his relationship with God and to be around kids who are walking with the Lord. Plus, he gets paid.

Everyone wins.

My son had a plan: join the military right after high school. Because of asthma that plan was quickly quashed. Then the big question became "Now what?" He was upset and disappointed to say the least. My son had not one idea about what to do. He would say, "What is God's plan for me? I wish he would let me know!" I always had the standard reply: "Seek Him, get to know Him and the Lord will gladly show the way." Then one day at my new job (the only reason I have this job is because my addictions cost me the others), a customer comes in who runs a Christian camp. I had dealt with him before at work but this time a light flickered in my head. What a great chance for my son to get away, get out of the heat in Fresno. He can be with kids his age who know the Lord. A chance to see a way of living that one's main focus is to serve OUR SAVIOR. My son has an opportunity of a lifetime, a fun job and a chance to get closer to the Lord. All because the events in my life led to me meeting a guy named Bob who ran a Christian Camp. That, my friends, is worth everything I went through. No matter what your hardship, whatever the sorrows or problems, "... you never know what you're gonna get".

Father to You, I commend my son's spirit. I would not have it any other way. Thank You for Your patience and grace You show me every day.

Until next time,

Mike B.

**"We are so lucky to have this place in Madera."**

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Mom could sit alone  
at my house all day, **OR** be

- surrounded by people her own age with similar interests
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*Rochelle Noblett, daughter of Flora Minneti*

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## School Year Starts with Welcome from Superintendent



*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.*

By Andy Alvarado

Dear Parents, Staff and Members of the Golden Valley USD Community:

Welcome back! It's hard to believe that the warm, wonderful days of summer have passed so quickly and are beginning to blend into the warm, wonderful days of a new school year. It must be true, since you're receiving this annual welcome back to school letter from me. Summer is an im-

portant time for relaxation, thought and in-filling. We give so much of ourselves throughout the year that it is essential we take this time to re-energize our bodies and restore our spirit. Teaching is a very giving profession. Summer is a time for educators to take instead of give — take in fresh air, take in new ideas, take time to read and take time to just contemplate. How many of us have learned that doing nothing is doing something?

The beginning of each year brings a measure of excitement and anticipation. It is also a time of rejoicing and rededication. We are excited about what lies ahead for our students for the coming school year. We are energized by the changes of a new class of students, a new grade level or, for some of you, a new school. We begin the year with fresh ideas, exciting plans and great antici-pation.

Teaching reinforces the ideas and be-liefs that each of us has about making a dif-ference in our students lives. We are fortunate to have chosen a profession that allows us to be of service to others. We have the incredible opportunity to help students learn how to learn — and how to live. The glory of education is the joy that comes

from helping others. In the next 10 months, we have the opportunity to influence and motivate students with diverse personalities, strengths and talents. That is our challenge! It's a big job, but one that is part of what we do as caring and dedicated educators.

I am confident that the coming year will be filled with rich and rewarding expe-riences that will reinforce the ideals and be-liefs that each of us has about the importance of being a teacher. As we are bombarded with the changes and challenges of teaching, we need to keep that as our focus. We need to enjoy and appreciate the opportunity we are given each year to teach children. This is our privilege and our joy!

I would like to take this time to person-ally welcome the following individuals to our "Golden Valley Family." We are truly excited to have them as part of our wonder-ful team.

- Tmar Bedoya, Special Education Teacher, Webster Elementary
- Hilda Brenes, Cafeteria Assistant
- Natalie Devany, 2nd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary
- Audrey Fulton, 1st Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary
- Joshua Koop, English Teacher, Liberty High School
- Joe Lopez, Grounds/Sub Bus Driver
- Sarah Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary
- LeAnn Nowlin, Manager of Business Services
- Ashley Risenhoover, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary
- Michelle Thornton, Special Education Paraprofessional
- Kenneth Vossler, Special Education Teacher, Liberty High School

- Joshua Koop, English Teacher, Liberty High School
- Joe Lopez, Grounds/Sub Bus Driver
- Sarah Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary
- LeAnn Nowlin, Manager of Business Services
- Ashley Risenhoover, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary
- Michelle Thornton, Special Education Paraprofessional
- Kenneth Vossler, Special Education Teacher, Liberty High School

The school year officially kicked off on Aug. 20 for all staff at 7:30 a.m. inside the Liberty High School cafeteria and school began with students on Aug. 23.

I am so encouraged our learning com-munity's dedication and achievements de-spite the many challenges facing our district. Families, students and staff never cease to amaze me! Throughout the year, I will con-tinue to keep you apprised of the challenges we face and the solutions we create to con-tinue moving GVUSD forward. For now, enjoy a great year and welcome back!

Your Superintendent,  
Andy Alvarado

## New Staff Welcomed to Golden Valley Unified



*Ashley Risenhoover, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary*



*Audrey Fulton, 1st Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary*



*Hilda Brenes, Cafete-ria Assistant*



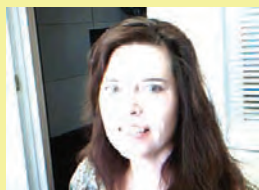
*Joshua Koop, English Teacher, Liberty High School*



*Kenneth Vossler, Spe-cial Education Teacher, Liberty High School*



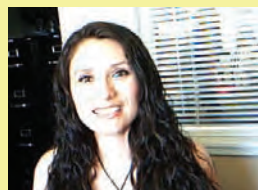
*LeAnn Nowlin, Man-ager of Business Services*



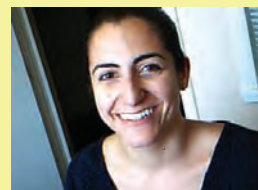
*Michelle Thornton, Special Education Para-professional*



*Natalie Devany, 2nd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary*



*Sarah Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary*



*Tmar Bedoya, Special Education Teacher, Web-ster Elementary*

## 2012/2013 Board of Trustees Meetings

- September 4, 2012
- September 17, 2012\*
- (\*Please note this is a Monday night)
- October 2, 2012
- October 16, 2012
- November 6, 2012
- December 4, 2012
- December 18, 2012
- January 15, 2013
- February 5, 2013
- February 19, 2013
- March 5, 2013
- March 19, 2013
- April 16, 2013
- May 7, 2013
- May 21, 2013
- June 4, 2013
- June 18, 2013

Click on "Local News" at

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



### 4H is Getting Started

WOW, what a summer. Many members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club attended Camp Keola, located at Huntington Lake, from June 12 through 16. A variety of sessions were offered to the members, such as swimming, fishing, a nature hike, photography, arts & crafts, canoeing, cake decorating, and archery, just to name a few of the fun sessions. Sixteen members represented Sierra Shadows 4-H club at this year's camp. They were Lexis Hinds, Rylee Jackson, Mikaela Fringer, Alexis Fringer, Regan Fringer, Hannah Chase, Taryn Cornell, Isabel Rocha, Payton Poore, Nathan Doyle, Olivia Fernandez, Demetria Marical,

Micaela Rivera, Samantha Waag, Cody Jackson, and Anahi Rivera.

After camp several members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club traveled to Sacramento to participate at the State Fair which was held from July 12 through 29. Cody Jackson showed a market steer and placed 2nd in his class. Mikaela Fringer showed a market hog and placed third in her class and was in the top 10 for senior 4-H swine showmanship. Amy Dierberger also participated, however her results are unknown at this time.

All 4-H members keep a record book which members have an opportunity to reflect on their yearly work. The members document their skills they have learned and experiences in a written report. This record keeping provided various members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club to receive special recognition awards in the following categories: Payton Poore - County Winner in Floral Arrangement, Olivia Fernandez - County Winner in Food Nutrition, Micaela Rivera - County Winner in Rabbits, Anahi Rivera - County Win-

ner in Swine, Cody Jackson - 4th place in Swine, for club officer books: Gianna Paolinelli and Graciela Ruiz - 6th place in Historian, Anahi Rivera - 2nd place in Reporter. Congratulations to those who entered their books.

As many of you are gearing up for the upcoming school year, many 4-H members have been very busy over the summer caring for their animals and/or getting their still exhibits ready for the Madera County Fair, which will be held at the Madera County Fairgrounds from Sept. 6 through 9. The 4-H members have worked hard all summer long in order to get their animals in good condition to make weight and with the hope when auction time rolls around, their animal will receive some top bids. This year the livestock auction will be held on Sept. 8 at 12:30 p.m. 4-H members have also entered still exhibits which are on display in the various buildings in the fairgrounds.

I encourage you to come see what 4-H is about and come meet new friends. 4-H is a very busy ac-

tivity but it is fun because you go places, meet new friends, and learn valuable skills and you can learn how to care and show an animal. There are currently 21 projects being offered this year to the members of the Sierra shadows 4-H club: Arts & Crafts, Beef/Cattle, Cooking, Floriculture, Meat Goat, Horse, Outdoor/Recreation, Poultry, Public Speaking, Rabbit, Sewing, Sheep, Swine, Wild Life, and Wood Working. Sierra Shadows 4-H club will be having a new member's orientation meeting on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Sierra View Elementary multi-purpose room. Anyone interested in joining 4-H or would like more information is welcome to attend this meeting.

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 645-4836. Her email is trrfernandez@yahoo.com. The next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School cafeteria on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there.



37193 Avenue 12, suite 3H  
Madera, CA 93636

*SUNDAY SERVICES:*  
9:00am & 10:30 am  
Maywood Center

#### CHILDREN

"Kidz World"... a dynamic approach to disciplining children through amazing programs! Email Kim Stroemer at kimstroemer@acts176.com for upcoming children's events and more information.

#### YOUTH

Jr. High and High school students meet during the 2nd service and also during the week on Monday's and Wednesday's. Email Josh Huckaby at josh@acts176.com for upcoming youth events and more information.

#### COLLEGE

If you're between the ages of 18-25, meet on Sunday's at 6:30pm at the following address 34777 avenue 12 1/4 Madera, CA. Email Josh Huckaby at josh@acts176.com for upcoming youth events and more information.

For more information on church activities visit our website at [www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) or E-mail [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)

8/12

A STUDY IN FOLLOWING GOD & EXPERIENCING HIS WILL

EXPERIENCING

God

**TEA cont. from P. 4**

thousands across the country on Aug. 1 when former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee suggested a "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day." If numbers for this are any indication of how the election could go, we might witness a conservative landslide.

**Congressman Paul Ryan Picked**

Keeping the pulse running high, on Aug. 12 Governor Mitt Romney selected Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan as his running mate. Ryan is well-known for his dedication to strengthen America's economy with budget and tax cuts. "The Comeback Team" currently is excelling in polls of battleground states.

An excellent documentary about Obama's past called 2016 arrived in Fresno theaters on Aug. 17, a must-see for any voter. Author and president of Kings College, Dinesh D'Souza, and Gerald R. Molen, Steven Spielberg's co-producer of several blockbusters, did what the mainstream media would not: vet President Obama.

This is one of the most important elections our



*Madera County District 3 Supervisorial candidate Rick Farinelli, left, and J.D. Bennett engage U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock at the most recent monthly Madera Tea Party Chapter meeting.*

country has faced. Register to vote. We, the people, must stop this administration's political whirlwind and put an end to these Obamametric pressures.

**Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings**

The August meeting highlight was guest speaker Congressman Tom McClintock, representing California's 4th District that stretches from just east of Sacramento and all the way up to the Oregon border. Always giving powerful speeches, McClintock answered many questions from the public.

Madera Chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive in Madera. Meeting dates can be confirmed on our Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com) for scheduled speakers and their topics of discussion.

For comments or questions contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator John Smedley by e-mail at [jcsmedley@comcast.net](mailto:jcsmedley@comcast.net) or call him at 559-645-7031. You may also contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator Rick Farinelli by e-mail at [richardfarinelli@sbc-global.net](mailto:richardfarinelli@sbc-global.net) or call him at 559-706-5386.

**Senior Report****Living Single and Loving It: Breaking Through the Myths and Stereotypes**

By Verlaine Elinburg

It may appear to outside observers that living single would be lonely. Actually you could be living in a house full of people and still be lonely; it is a personal feeling. Contrary to the lyrics of Three Dog Night, "one" is not necessarily the loneliest number. Those choosing to live alone enjoy the benefit of simple things, such as being able to control their own time on their own terms; to eat, sleep, read and watch television when and where they want. They get to socialize with people of their own choosing.

The single lifestyle is an increasing trend, although it is not usually considered natural. Many choose the single lifestyle and for others it is chosen for them, depending on how the cards are dealt.

Sometimes it just happens.

Many are unmarried and just finishing their education as they embark on their new career paths while others who may never have intended to live alone find themselves single due to divorce or death of a spouse or a significant other. Finally, there are those for whom living alone is deliberate and a much preferred lifestyle choice.

**Things Change**

Over the years, going out alone, or just with friends, is no longer a time of talking about being solo. We used to talk about friends, what we wanted or didn't want, what we had or didn't have. We talked about our

children, or our bosses or our loneliness. Mainly we talked about how great it was to just have an evening being single.

Now we talk about our life goals, our accomplishments, politics and the work that we do within our communities. While some of us are dating, and others still looking, the discussions seem to center around growth and moving forward, not whether we are in a relationship or not. However, I don't really remember when this change in the topic of conversation took place. It's just that over the years I've felt increasingly comfortable being out with my single and married friends and I seemed to laugh more often.

**Rewriting the Script**

While sudden change still throws us all for a loop, and on occasion we all have to take a step back and rewrite the script, many of us still feel nervous about rejection and the influence of group thinking can still sway our way of independent thinking. Still, we relish our independence and take pride in how far we have come from our past lives into our present while constantly looking at new ways of thinking about our future. We peruse magazines, websites or newspapers for stories that give us a new perspective on an old situation; a way of looking at ourselves through different lenses. However, feeling overwhelmed at times, and needing some help in seeing a clear path toward the future, does not diminish our strength in any way.

At the Senior Center, we have many liv-

ing single members that create our "other" family. We enjoy special friendships, choose our own circle of friends and enjoy the social activities through lunches, exercise classes, card games, potlucks, travel, and special events throughout the year. Whenever we need company, someone to chat with, or a card game, we head toward the Senior Center.

**Center Benefits**

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 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call Joann at 645-4864 and also notify the center if you need to cancel or change your reservation.

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, meet new friends and get updates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happen-

ing at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

On Tuesdays at noon are a variety of card 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 of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware and several businesses along Avenue 12. The Farmers Market at the Senior Center has a variety of vegetables and fruits, and jams and jellies are available. The Boutique also has many "on the spot" needed gift items.

The summer vacation has come to an end and the Center is back to planning for the year 2013. This coming year the Senior Center will have three vacancies: President and two Director positions that need to be filled. Also, Olen Williams, who supervises the garden, is retiring. We are looking for replacements and any members interested in stepping up to the plate should contact JoAnn at 645-4864.

**Dates for Your Calendar**

**Senior Sale** – September 1.

**Birthday and Anniversaries** – September 8 at Pismo's Coastal Grill, 7937 N. Blackstone, Fresno in the Villaggio Center.

**Trips** – February 26, 2013, Snow Train, Reno. May 2013, National Parks, Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore.

Click on "Local News" at



GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

starve. Get hammered on your own dime; I shouldn't have to pay for it.

In another example, a pregnant friend of mine has been asking her friends and family to donate an infant car seat to her. Several people have come to her rescue and offered her their infant seats that are no longer needed, but she keeps declining. Why? Well, one wasn't the style she liked. Apparently she

likes the type with a base that stays in the car so she can just lift the carrier out for convenience. It sure is convenient that you don't have to spend 50 bucks of your own money on the thing, but I guess she didn't think of that. She declined the next one because it wasn't the right color. She was having a little boy and just didn't want him in a pink car seat. I remind you, what you have asked for is a free car seat ... if you want to shop for a car seat

then you are going to have to spend money. Either show a little gratitude that your friends are willing to give you something they could easily sell, or pry your wallet open and buy it yourself.

This general feeling of entitlement is a poison that is spreading throughout our nation. Somewhere someone got the idea that they were owed something just for having the courage to be alive. You are owed only what you earn. You work for a

living, you are owed a paycheck, and when you pay for goods or services then you are owed that. If you ask for something free, like a desk or a car seat or groceries, if you are lucky enough to receive it you should feel grateful, not entitled. You should be thankful, not critical. And for the love of God, you need to come to grips with the fact that if you are, in fact, a beggar, you have forfeited your right to be a chooser.



The Perfect Pantry

A friend at church, who recently moved into the Ranchos, approached me with a common question: "How do I organize my pantry? It has such deep shelving!" This problem plagues many homes and the consequences can be pretty gross when items sit for long periods of time in the recesses of deep shelves. One client and I discovered a package of canned green beans from Costco that had leaked and molded into the shelving – yuck!

If it's been more than six months since you've purged your pantry, and for some the term "years" might be more accurate, that's where to start. Remove everything from the shelves. Toss anything that's stale, spoiled, or

expired. With food I always follow the rule—when in doubt, throw it out. Any usable, but not enjoyed by your family, non-perishable items may be donated to the Community Food Bank.

Sorting, Sorting, Sorting

Continue the sorting process with what's left using categories such as: canned foods (further sort into fruits, vegetables, sauces, soups, beans, etc.), baking items, spices, pastas/rice/dry beans, condiments, oils and dressings, beverages, breakfast foods, snacks, sweets, paper supplies, crackers/chips, etc.

Wipe down the pantry shelving. If needed put a fresh coat of paint on the walls. White walls and good lighting help you see what you have and may inspire you to keep your pantry organized.

Maximize the use of vertical space by adding shelves where needed. You can purchase do-it-yourself shelving, hire a handyman, or add free-standing expandable shelves.

Containerize foods and supplies you regularly use in transparent square or rectangular containers with lids that seal. This will create order on the shelves, keep things fresh, and enable you to see quantities, so you know when to restock. Do this with flour, sugar, baking mix, crackers, favorite cereals, pasta, rice, etc. Pour them into the containers, seal and dump the boxes.

Place small seasoning packets, snack foods, Jello, and teas in plastic or metal baskets. I like the ones with handles so they're easy to lift off a shelf. You can also place these items in an over-the-door pocket hanger to maximize space. Use larger sturdy plastic baskets for onions, potatoes and garlic.

Step shelves are helpful so you can see your spices, soups, or other canned items. Lazy Susans can also store spices, oils, and other baking supplies.

Now that you have containerized your items, designate the most accessible shelves for things used most frequently. Place those items by category on the shelf. Label the edge so that it's clear to everyone what belongs there. You may want to designate a section of approved snack items for the kids. Place the less frequently used categories on higher and lower shelves.

Lined Up and Labeled

Line up boxed items so that the label on the side of the box shows. Place the items you stored in baskets in front of the individually packaged foods such as, boxes of cake mix go behind the basket of baking powder, baking soda, etc. This enables you to remove just one thing to get to the items in the back.

If your shelves are deep, place your packages of backup stock (sugar, flour, rice, etc.) behind the clear container that stores what

you're currently using. Place your canned goods in a line by content with the newest cans in the back and labels facing the front.

Store the heaviest items under or on the bottom shelf. If it's a walk-in pantry make sure you can walk into it at all times. Keep a fold-up step-stool handy for reaching the upper shelves.

To maintain your newly organized pantry avoid the buy two get three free offers if you don't have the space to store it all. If need be designate a shelf in another closet, or use an under-the-bed storage container for back-up supplies.

Reorganize and purge a couple times a year.

Create an inventory of supplies and keep one in the pantry on a clipboard so that family members can check items as they're depleted. Add to the list when meal planning and use it as your weekly grocery list. Contact me for a free template using the contact information below. Happy organizing!

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, or you can email her at [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com), visit her website [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

ANSWERS

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

3	10	15	10	10
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9	2	4	x	4
x	x	-	-	-
2	1	x	7	+

P I C H E T A L O C H C

D N O M L A

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L O U E M

T A T L E O R

I S U T A L T

S S E N T B H

R E F R I G E R A T O R

N E C I P S U

# Classified

## Alteration Services

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**For Sale - Goats (Chivos)** \$45 - \$55 each. Call **645-1460.** Call after 1 p.m.

## Housecleaning

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**Painting Services** - **Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting.** 40

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## Recyclables Pick Up

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## Tractor/Trenching Services

**BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST HOLES** - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding - Roll-off Bins. Call **John at 908-1066** or **Neal at 645-1200** or **285-8211.**

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### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		×		9
×		-		×	
	-		×		10
÷		×		+	
	-		×		8
3		15		10	

1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

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### top ten Most Popular FRUITS

1. Bananas
2. Apples
3. Watermelon
4. Oranges
5. Grapes
6. Strawberries
7. Peaches
8. Pineapples
9. Pears
10. Grapefruit

Source: USDA

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### SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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# Real Estate

## Who's got 1980's prices?



8/12

You can do it yourself or have the pros at Madera Glass & Mirror take care of your window repairs. Got broken screens? Madera Glass & Mirror has the expertise to make quick work of any screen repair. Glass for picture frames is a specialty at Madera Glass & Mirror. Fix a broken one or complete a project.

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## Short Sale vs. Foreclosure

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### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) As eager as you are to take on that new challenge, it would be best to temper that spurt of "Ram"-bunctious energy until you have more facts to back up your decision to move.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time for hardworking Bovines to take a break from their hectic on-the-job schedules to bask in the unconditional love and support of friends and family.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to what you hear in the workplace. You could pick up some hints about possible changes. Meanwhile, a new infusion of creative energy sets in by week's end.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Try to be more flexible in dealing with a suddenly difficult situation, whether it's on the job or in the home. Others might have some good points to offer. Listen to them.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You might think you're not getting the royal treatment you deserve. But be careful not to become a royal pain by complaining about it. Be patient and allow things to work out.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Watch that penchant for being super-judgmental at work. It might create a bad impression with someone whose decisions could determine the course of your career.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You've been your usual busy-bee self, gathering nectar wherever you can find it. But now's a good time to kick back, relax and just enjoy smelling the roses.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) That pesky personal situation seems to be improving. But change comes slowly, so be patient. Expect someone to bring more positive news by week's end.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Whoa! Ease up on that hectic pace you've been putting yourself through. Take time to recharge your energy levels before going full gallop again.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Try to be intrigued, not intimidated, by the issues you're suddenly facing, and you'll be ahead of the game. Don't be afraid to demand answers to your questions.

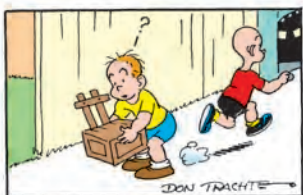
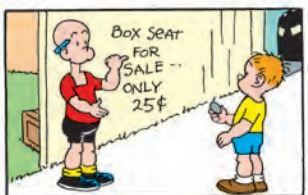
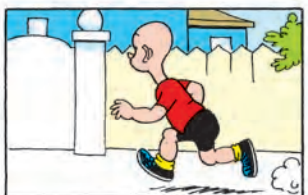
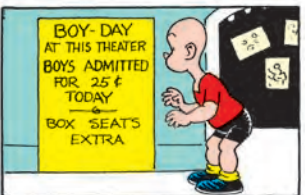
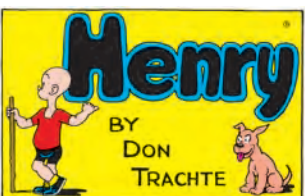
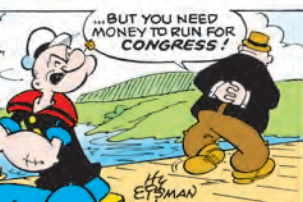
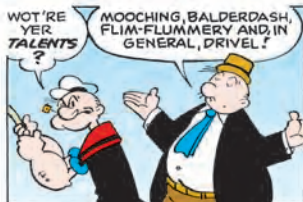
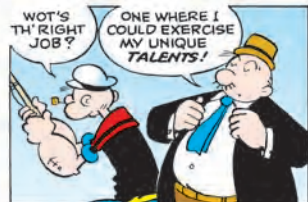
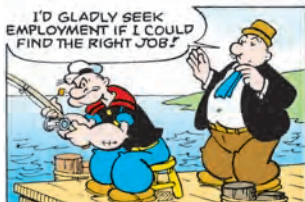
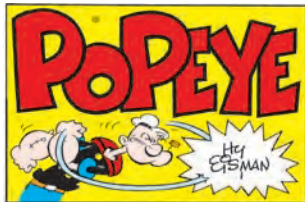
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) New associates freezing you out of their inner circle? Never mind. Put a warm smile on that friendly face of yours, and you'll soon thaw them all down to size.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your wise guidance helps colleagues agree to compromise and move forward. Meanwhile, there are still vital issues you need to deal with in your personal life.

## Born this Week

You enjoy being free with your emotions, but you also can exercise disciplined focus. You would make a fine artist.

# FUN PAGES

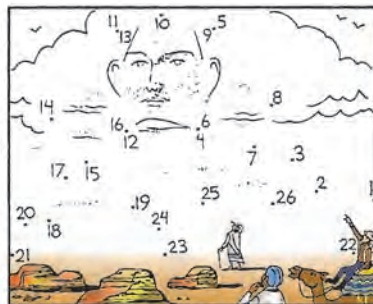
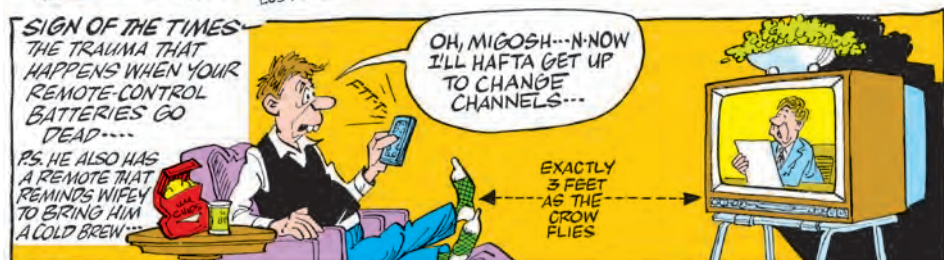
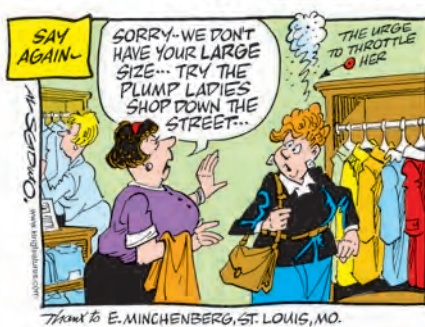


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

GENERATION GAP—ATTIRE, THAT IS...



## BY AL SCADUTO



**STARE CASE!** Hey, whatcha staring at out there in the sand? To complete picture, draw connecting lines from dot to dot.

**JOB HUNT!** If Cher Ate is a teacher and Peter Carn is a carpenter, what jobs are held by Tina Erp, Mel Burp, Alan Mess and Tess Car? Rearrange letters for answers.  
Painter, plumber, salesman and actress, respectively.

**LETTER GO!** Solve this verse-riddle, letter by letter. My first is in run, but not in race. My 2nd's in nose, but not in face. My 3rd's in door, but not in lock. My 4th's in herd, but not in flock. My 5th's in grass, but not in lawn. My 6th's in deer, but not in fawn. My 7th's in honest, but not in true. My 8th's in green, but not in blue.

What am I? Clue: My whole is an unlikely winner, but a favorite with the crowd.  
What am I? I'm an underdog.

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ● — COOKIE

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

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

- Almond Fortune Raisin Sugar
- Anise Molasses Refrigerator Toll House
- Butter Oatmeal Shortbread Tough
- Chocolate chip Ore Spice

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## Junior Whirl®

by Hal Kaufman



### STRIKE-OUT TEASER

TO SCORE a strike in the diagram at left, simply cross out answers to posers below. That is to say, if answer to No. 1 is 0, cross out 0; if answer to No. 2 is 435, cross out 4, 3 and 5 etc. Object is to cross out all 10 of the "pins."

- TV show: "— Minutes."
- Number of holes in six dozen doughnuts.
- A bed, curiously, has — legs but only — foot.
- If ABC is 123, HIE is —. Decode.
- Add 32 to one-third of this number and the answer is 33: —.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1—60, 2—72, 3—41, 4—49, 5—5, 5—3

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "crypto" mean?
- MEASUREMENTS: If the outside temperature is 10 degrees on the Celsius scale, what temperature is it on the Fahrenheit scale?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: The Julian calendar was named for whom?
- ASTRONOMY: What is perihelion?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the element magnesium?
- LAW: Legally speaking, what does a testament do?
- GEOGRAPHY: What modern-day country is in an area known in ancient times as Lusitania?
- MEDICINE: What disease is caused by deficiency of vitamin A?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Swiss Family Robinson"?
- MATH: What does the symbol "r" stand for in geometry?

### Answers

- Hidden
- 50 degrees F
- Julius Caesar
- Point in orbit where an object is closest to the Sun
- Mg
- Indicates how a person's personal property should be distributed
- Portugal
- Night blindness
- Johann David Wyss
- Radius of a circle

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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**

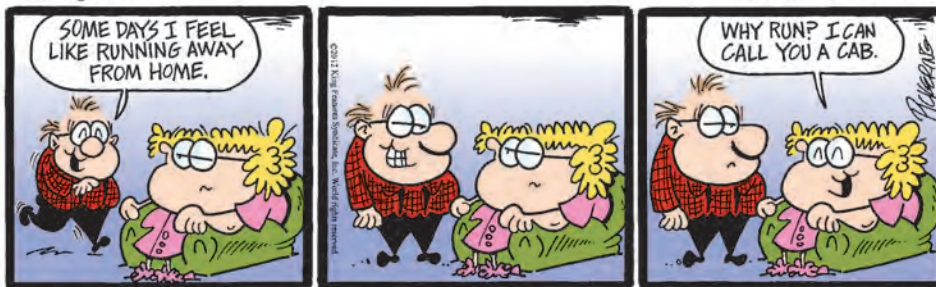
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**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering



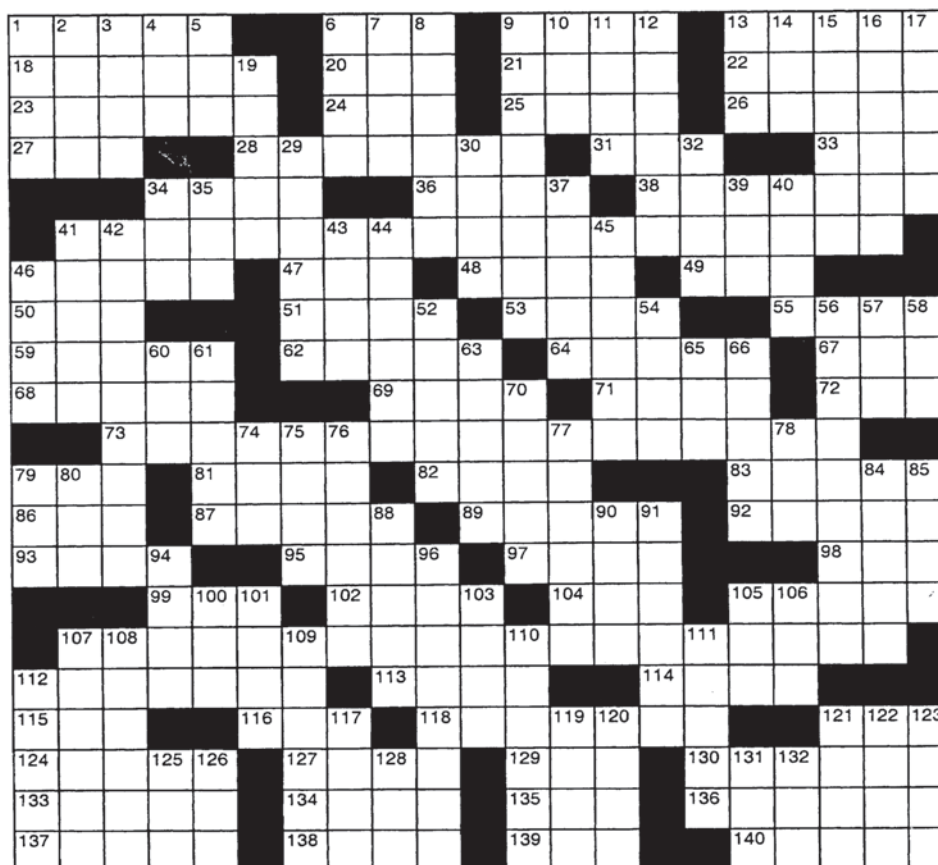
**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 9 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.  
Differences: 1. Mailbox is missing. 2. Number is missing. 3. Snakes head is moved. 4. Rug is different. 5. Hair is different. 6. Buckle is missing.

**Super Crossword**



- ACROSS**
- 1 Monty Python's Michael
  - 6 Deli choice
  - 9 Gear teeth
  - 13 Film pterodactyl
  - 18 Porthos' pal
  - 20 Team scream
  - 21 Well-ventilated
  - 22 Felony
  - 23 Start of a remark
  - 24 Funnyman Philips
  - 25 Deep purple
  - 26 Confused
  - 27 Faux —
  - 28 Vince of "Ben Casey"
  - 31 Small shots
  - 33 PC key
  - 34 "Rosanna" rockers
  - 36 Couple
  - 38 Part of HOMES
  - 41 Part 2 of remark
  - 46 Minnesota city
  - 47 Alias initials
  - 48 Heavy metal instrument?
  - 49 Child welfare org.
  - 50 Mil. unit
  - 51 Say it isn't so
  - 53 Labyrinth
  - 55 Relax
  - 59 Gentle as —
  - 62 Abhorrence
  - 64 A Barbary State
  - 67 "Norma —" ('79 film)
  - 68 Buccaneers' head-quarters
  - 69 Actress lone
  - 71 Football's Swann
  - 72 Woodsman's tool
  - 73 Part 3 of remark
  - 79 — Mahal
  - 81 Alley Oop's love
  - 82 Out-of-this-world org.
  - 83 Invasions
  - 86 President Bush was one
  - 87 Overturn
  - 89 Macho type
  - 92 Roast host
  - 93 Circus sight
  - 95 Teri of "Tootsie"
  - 97 — majesty
  - 98 Canterbury quaff
  - 99 Hoagy
  - 102 Wordsworth work
  - 104 ABA member
  - 105 Teach on the side
  - 107 Part 4 of remark
  - 112 Deprive (of)
  - 113 Wooden strip
  - 114 Olympic event
  - 115 Flight
  - 116 Tasty tuber
  - 118 Proposition
  - 121 Carol opener
  - 124 Inevitable activity
  - 127 Hungarian sheepdog
  - 129 Shaq's pack
  - 130 End of remark
  - 133 Daybreak
  - 134 Toast topper
  - 135 Perlman or Palillo
  - 136 Bostonian, for one
  - 137 "The Brandon — Story" ('98 film)
  - 138 So. state
  - 139 Still
  - 140 Self-confidence
  - 5 Zilch
  - 6 Make coffee
  - 7 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
  - 8 Legendary athlete Jim
  - 9 Pepper
  - 10 Vinegar's partner
  - 11 Chow
  - 12 Token
  - 13 JVC competitor
  - 14 Terrier's tidbit
  - 15 Win over
  - 16 Audrey Tautou role
  - 17 Peachy-keen
  - 19 Take care of
  - 29 El —, AR
  - 30 Tapered seam
  - 32 Cut a cuticle
  - 34 Decimal base
  - 35 Two — kind
  - 37 Morocco's capital
  - 39 Cable channel
  - 40 Thickening agent
  - 41 Writer Rogers St. Johns
  - 42 Thingumbob
  - 43 Got by, with "out"
  - 44 Disappear
  - 45 Lapis —
  - 46 Part of Q.E.D.
  - 52 Canadian territory
  - 54 "Only Time" singer
  - 56 Destroy
  - 57 Getz's instrument
  - 58 Fairway accessory
  - 60 Speedometer abbr.
  - 61 "Blue —" ('77 hit)
  - 63 Blabby bird
  - 65 Business abbr.
  - 66 — drum
  - 70 One of the Fords
  - 74 Weasel word?
  - 75 First name in fashion
  - 76 Finger food
  - 77 Composer base
  - 78 "Platoon" setting
  - 79 Gumshoe
  - 80 Chicken — king
  - 84 Apollo's isle
  - 85 Soothsayer
  - 88 Witty
  - 90 Vino center
  - 91 Irritate
  - 94 Punta del —
  - 96 Link
  - 98 Actress Thurman
  - 101 Bunch of birds
  - 103 "Pyramus and Thisbe," e.g.
  - 105 Playground game
  - 106 Luau instrument
  - 107 Confederation
  - 108 January stoat
  - 109 Earl Grey's place
  - 110 William Sydney Porter
  - 111 Man of the cloth?
  - 112 Great time
  - 117 Stubbom sort
  - 119 Hautboy
  - 120 Be bombastic
  - 121 "Kon- —"
  - 122 Summer-time treats
  - 123 — -Ball
  - 125 "Sister Act" extra
  - 126 Scholastic abbr.
  - 128 Deighton or Dawson
  - 131 "The Bells" monogram
  - 132 — -Cat

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# SEM CU

south east madera county united

## Community Swap Meet

SEM CU is sponsoring a Community Swap Meet on **Saturday, September 8 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the lot at Hurst Hardware on the corner of Berkshire and Fernwood. Booth spaces are \$20 each and Admission is **FREE**. You can sign up for a booth space at Hurst Hardware or call 363-9095 for more information.



## Water Problems Persist in Southeast Madera County

*SEM CU Foundation is ready to apply and submit grant applications for water projects to help resolve water problem issues. SEM CU recently became a member of the RWMG (Regional Water Management Group) which has the ability to apply to, and receive money (grants) from, the California Department of Water and Resources. We are in the process of investigating and looking for such appropriate projects. SEM CU is soliciting the public's ideas and participation for such grant projects.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

## SEM CU REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory**