

The Ranchos Independent



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GOT AGGREGATE?

does the Ranchos need another quarry?

BY KAREN PETRYNA



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The Madera Quarry, located on Road 209 five miles north of the Highway 145 and Highway 41 intersection where the Austin Quarry has been proposed by Vulcan Materials, began operations sometime in the early 1900s according to Quarry Manager Jerry Cobb. Cobb has been in the construction materials business since the eighth grade when he went to work for his dad at a concrete ready mix plant in Auberry. Cobb came back to the Madera Quarry for the third time in May of this year to work for current owner, Schimmick Construction. Previously he had worked there for Vulcan Materials beginning in 1998, when they leased it from then owner and former Madera County Supervisor Rick Jensen. Cobb also worked at the Madera Quarry for W. Jaxon Baker of Jaxon Enterprises from 2006 to 2014.

Historical Madera Quarry

Cobb couldn't verify a story that Madera White Granite from the Madera Quarry, which used to be called Sierra White Granite until the term was trademarked by the Raymond Quarry, was used to build the State Capital Building in Sacramento and the San Francisco Civic Center, but he did know that like the Raymond Quarry the Madera Quarry used to produce what is called "dimensional granite," which is used in such edifices.

Cobb compared the Madera Quarry to the proposed Austin Quarry, saying that for its most recent incarnation, the Madera Quarry was required to reconstruct what is now "... the nicest road in the county," Road 209, and to improve the Road 209/Highway 41 intersection, both prior to reopening. Operational conditions for the Austin Quarry require only a minimal change to Highway 145: A single new eastbound lane about a mile long before the quarry opens and an offer to fund



a future three-mile, one-lane widening on southbound Highway 41 several years after the quarry begins operating.

In terms of capacity, Madera Quarry is currently allowed to extract 900,000 tons of aggregate per year whereas the Austin Quarry, if permitted, would be allowed to extract 2.5 million tons of aggregate per year or nearly three times as much as the Madera Quarry. When asked as to whether so much aggregate is needed for Madera County, Cobb said present demand from Madera County projects is far below the 900,000 ton limit at Madera Quarry. He further said he couldn't see any scenario in which Madera County's demand for aggregate would be anything near 900,000 tons in the future. Nonetheless, Madera Quarry has already met with the County Planning Department and an application has been

filed to expand and increase current production to 2.7 million tons per year. Thus, if the County believes that additional supply is necessary, either in Madera County or elsewhere, Madera Quarry is hedging its bets with the County and saying that it can fully satisfy Madera County's aggregate needs. Cobb also said that because Madera Quarry is already an operating quarry, its expansion would have fewer environmental impacts than a new quarry at Highway 145 and Highway 41.

Groundwater Monitoring Differs

The required monitoring programs for the two quarries also differ, Cobb said. The operating Madera Quarry is required to use a third party to measure and report water wells' groundwater levels to the County on a monthly basis, both on and offsite, including 14 wells on the property owned by 12 separate neighbors. The proposed

Austin Quarry's operating conditions require only that they self-report annually the amount of water they have used over the previous year and that they monitor their own on-site wells and a few off-site wells on property to the south that is owned by the same person who owns the quarry site. And while the Madera Quarry must take specific mitigation measures should they impact their neighbors' wells (which may include replacing lost water) there are no such requirements for the Austin Quarry.

Status of Austin Quarry Project

At about one o'clock in the morning on July 20, the Madera County Planning Commission was faced with a daunting challenge. They had been presented with a \$2 million, 11,000-page Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) prepared by a company called Benchmark Resources just 19 days before. In front of them sat a sea of blue-shirted Vulcan employees who had been released early from work in order to travel from their Friant, Sanger and Los Banos quarry job sites to be present for the meeting, and after listening to a presentation from Vulcan about their proposed project's benefits – as well as comments from dozens of county residents over the course of six hours – the Planning Commission approved the Austin Quarry Project in a 3 to 2 vote in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers at the County Government Center.

Leading the opposition to the Austin Quarry is the Madera Oversight Coalition (MOC). Its Attorney, David Hale, filed an appeal shortly thereafter the Planning Commission vote, which led to the need for the Board of Supervisors to hold a special hearing and final vote to decide whether to override the appeal or let it stand. Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on

Please see **QUARRY** on P. 3

Watch Your Ranchos Mail Box, Madera Sheriff's Department Warns

The Madera County Sheriff's Office wants to warn residents again to be on the lookout for mail theft. Mail theft continues to be a problem, especially in the more rural areas of the county where residents have roadside mail boxes. Stealing mail from an unsecured mailbox only takes a few seconds but problems arising from the theft can take months or longer to resolve. Identity theft and other types of fraud are the usual occurrences. Residents should consider placing outgoing mail in the mail slots at the Post Office or handing it to a letter carrier. Received mail should be picked up as soon as possible and not left in the mailbox overnight. Neighbors should watch out for each other and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office immediately. Here is just some of the mail-related activity in the last month:

- On July 16, the Sheriff's Office received a call of two white males with shaved heads driving an older gold-col-



Deputies arrested 32-year-old Salvador Viera, Jr. and 33-year-old Monica Sanchez, both of Chowchilla, and recovered mail stolen from at least 25 victims. They were found passed out in their car surrounded by mail.

ored Toyota Camry, stealing mail out of a mailbox in the 22000 block of Road 15 1/2 in Chowchilla. These suspects were apparently taking the contents out of envelopes and then discarding the empty envelopes on the side of the road.

- On July 18, the Sheriff's Office received a call of a white female adult driving an older red Honda and opening peoples' mail boxes and possibly taking mail in the 22000 block of Robertson Boulevard in Chowchilla. On the same day, they also received a call that a mailbox had been pried open at least two different times in the 7000 block of Avenue 18 1/2 in Chowchilla and a mailbox cluster had also been vandalized with mail possibly stolen in the area of Avenue 18 1/2 and Road 4.

- On July 22 the Sheriff's Office received a call of mail

Please see **MAIL** on P. 14

Click on "Local News" at

QUARRY cont. from P. 2

Sept. 12 at the same location at 200 West Fourth Street, the hearing will likely be attended by many more people. As a counter to the blue shirts worn by Vulcan employees at the previous meeting, MOC has been selling red shirts for \$5 each that read "STOP" at MOC public meeting events.

MOC President Bruce Grey not only encouraged those in attendance at the Aug.

3 public meeting at the Ranchos Middle School to buy the red shirts, but to show up early for the Board's special hearing which begins at 9 a.m. so that local residents who would be affected by the Austin Quarry "... won't be squeezed out of the Board's Chambers again by Vulcan employees." Grey also encouraged everyone to call, email and write to all the Supervisors to express how they feel. He said the message didn't have to be fancy or formal,

but simply clear on how individuals felt. He said all the Supervisors' phone numbers and email addresses were available at MOC's website, MOC1.org.

Traffic and Water

A traffic engineer, using the data from Benchmark's Report, showed what kind of impacts an estimated 800 trucks per day could have on surrounding roadways. Carrying up to 25 tons of aggregate each, the engineer surmised that pulling out onto the

highway and stopping and starting and turning would cut current average speeds nearly in half, quickly degrade poor quality roads not designed for such loads and would increase air pollution. But the highlight of the Aug. 3 public meeting was a presentation by Dr. Iris Priestaf, President of Todd Groundwater, the company that produced Madera County's first Ground-

Please see **QUARRY** on P. 20

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Dear Editor:

As a citizen of Madera County for 41 years and an elected official, (Chawanakee Unified School District, Board of Trustees, 31 years), I have never witnessed such a lack of respect for our citizens and our government process as I did at the August 9, 2016 Madera County Board of Supervisors meeting. I attended the Board of Supervisors meeting so that I could speak regarding an agenda item that was illegally placed on the agenda through a reconsideration motion from the July 12, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting. It concerned an item for funding an archaeological study by transfer of funds from developer fees for the Blackhawk Mountain OHV Park proposed in eastern Madera County. It seems that Rosenberg's Rules of Order by which the Board conducts its meetings is merely a suggestion, according to Madera County counsel. I have not made my opposition to this OHV project private and my reasons for opposing this project are too long to list in this letter. However, I felt compelled to attend the August 9th meeting with, what I realize now, was a misguided belief in the Madera County Board of Supervisors dedication to the citizens of Madera County.

As I approached the podium to speak, Chairman Farinelli advised those in line to speak that they would be limited to three minutes to express their views. He didn't enforce the three minutes rule to supporters of the OHV Park that spoke before and after me, but I honored his request. During the time that I addressed the Board I was rudely interrupted by several Board members. The attitude portrayed by these members toward myself and other people with whom they disagree is shameful.

Shortly thereafter, a supporter for the OHV made a comment about a local ordinance which prohibits motorcycle riding on a piece of land less than 10 acres. The gentleman speaking was passionate about his dislike for this ordinance and Supervisor Tom Wheeler interrupted the man and informed him, and everyone in attendance, "That ordinance was put in by Frank Bigelow about 15 years ago." (My husband, Frank, was Supervisor at the time the ordinance was passed March 28, 2006 by unanimous vote. It is limited to residential areas that are specified or have a tract number and does not cite an acreage limit. Please see Madera County Ordinance #10.28.010-.050). Supervisor Wheeler continued to en-

courage the man by stating, "The ordinance was only for the rich and elite." Since when can ONE Supervisor "put in" an ordinance? I thought it requires a majority vote. Was he insinuating that because the Bigelow family has owned ranch land in O'Neals for over 150 years and we are opposed to this location for an OHV Park, we should be targeted as "elite and rich"? If so, this is Supervisor Wheeler's fabricated and baseless personal opinion and for him to express this as an elected official, in a public meeting, is unprofessional, to say the least. I was appalled that not one of the other Supervisors or staff members intervened. Remember this: Silence is implied agreement.

As citizens, we should expect our elected officials to conduct public meetings so that we feel we can bring our concerns to them. We should not feel we will be targeted if we have concerns or oppose a project. We should expect our voices to be heard without interruption from board members and we should expect our elected officials to act in a respectful manner. Most importantly, our elected officials should be honest and transparent with us. If they are unable to do any one of these things, they should not be re-elected to the office in which they have been trusted. I urge your readers and Madera County citizens to watch the archived board video from the August 9th meeting and form your own opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bigelow
O'Neals

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.

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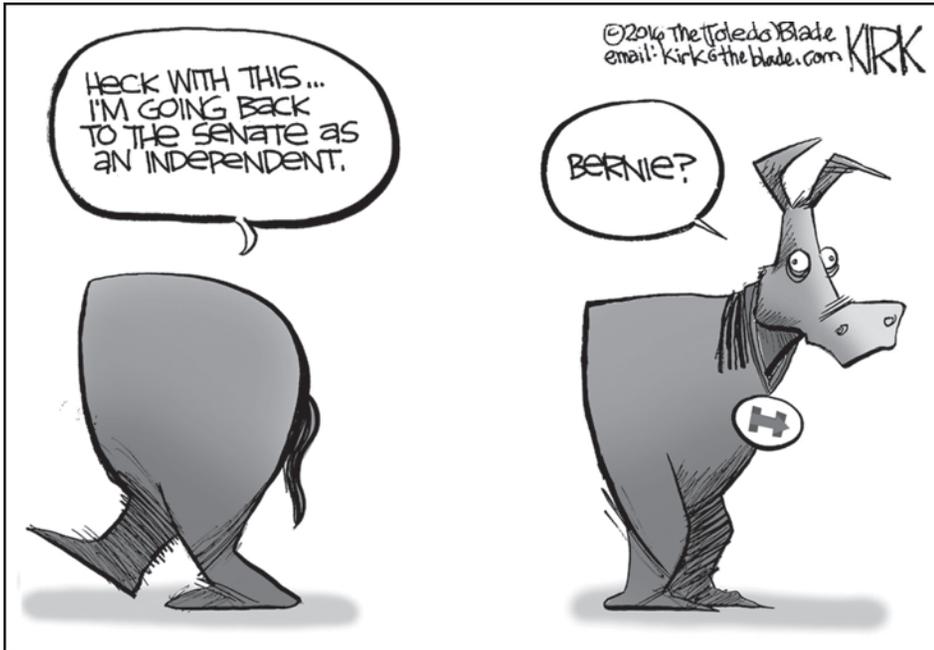
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Editorial

To Quarry or Not to Quarry

By Randy Bailey

Somewhere along the way in the years I've been on this planet, I heard an expression that was as profound as it was succinct: "There's your side, there's my side, and then there's the truth." It has struck me -- again and again -- how true these words are. I don't care what the argument is, I don't care how good your references are and I don't care how strong your evidence is, the truth, as the X-Files pointed out, "is out there." And "out there" is somewhere between your side and the other guy's side. It's because their "lie" has a little bit of truth in it and your "truth" has a tiny fib somewhere. It always does.

I don't care what the argument is, I don't care how good your references are and I don't care how strong your evidence is, the truth, as the X-Files pointed out, "is out there."

In the case of the Austin Quarry that's projected for the corner of Highway 41 and Highway 152, the sides are being drawn and it appears there is no middle ground. You are either for the quarry or you are against it. You are either for Vulcan, the "corporate behemoth," or you're for the "grassroots" Madera Oversight Coalition. And, like anything else, there's a little

"lie" in one side's truth and a little "truth" in the other side's lies.

Vulcan's side is the easiest. It's a huge company with 300 locations all across the United States and Mexico, and it employs around 9,000 people. In 2015 its revenue was \$3.4 billion.

The Madera Oversight Coalition is the other side of the equation. Claiming to be a grassroots organization, MOC states its objective is: "To encourage responsible growth through adherence to Madera County General

Plan Policies, California Land Use Law and to promote the health, safety and welfare for all within Madera County ..." by "... informing the public on subjects beneficial to the community, in-

cluding the importance of protecting the natural environment from adverse impacts, which may result from man-made projects or environmental alterations."

It's easy to see where Vulcan's money comes from -- it's a business in the business of doing business for a profit. MOC is a 501-c (4) non-profit citizens action group that charges members an annual fee of \$25 each to belong. That means, for example, to fund an operating annual budget of \$1 million from membership they would need 40,000 members per year, every year, or approximately every fourth person in Madera County would have to be a member. Does this mean their money is coming from somewhere else? Who knows? There's nothing on their web page that tells you.

Ever hear of Madera Quarry? That's the quarry that's about five miles north of the proposed Austin Quarry. It was strongly opposed back in 2010. By whom? The Madera Oversight Coalition. What makes their 2010 opposition so interesting was in one of their presentations to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the "Bates Station Neighbors" group in April 2010, they entitled the quarry "The Right Project -- The Wrong Location." And what did they deem was the RIGHT

Please see EDITORIAL on P. 7

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

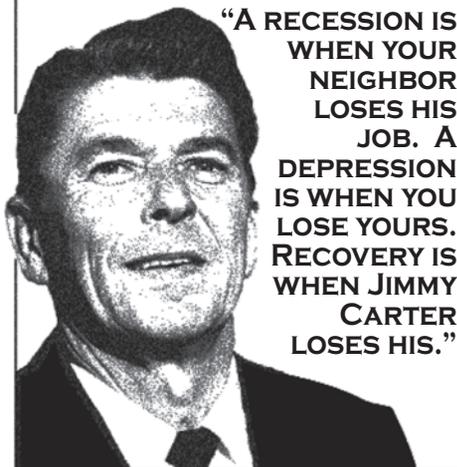
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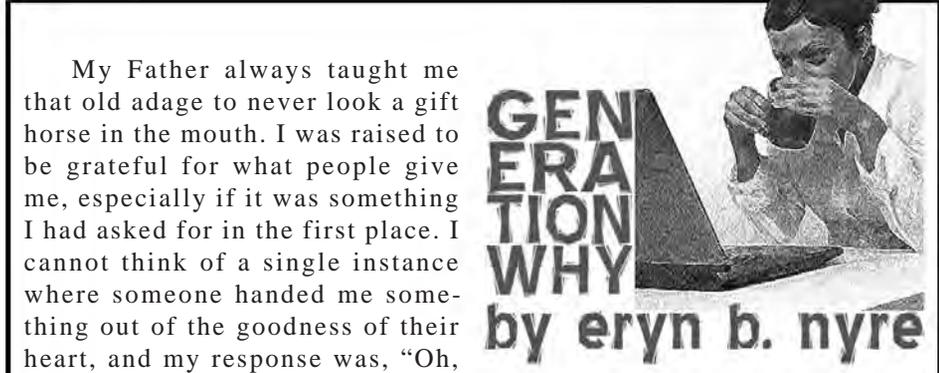
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Being Entitled to Entitlements



GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**

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 irri-

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.

tated, 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

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 starve. Get

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

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.

This column originally appeared in the August 2012 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 5

quarry at the RIGHT location? From pages 63 and 64 of their presentation: "Vulcan Materials will be delivering 2.9 million tons of asphalt and concrete, aggregate, plus other materials as well as recycling as a service to its customers. The Right Project - The Right Location."

Further they state: "For Granite [a quarry that withdrew] and Vulcan the cumulative effects will be at a minimum due to the correct location, location, location. No housing and minimal of environmental issues make these projects right for Madera."

Then they summed up with this: "The Perfect Answer -- Granite and Vulcan could not have come at a better time in the big picture of South East Madera County. Both these giants have proven track records with quarry management, financial stability and mine reclamation whereas Madera Quarry may not have the backing required to

complete all aspects in a professional manner."

Interesting thing, Madera Quarry settled a lawsuit and Madera Quarry has been in operation ever since. Even more interesting, in the letters to the Madera County Board of Supervisors regarding the Vulcan EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is a letter from the Madera Quarry making the pitch that since they are now an established quarry, it makes more sense for them to handle the Valley's aggregate needs. In other words, now they are the right quarry in the right location.

Vulcan's Austin Quarry would provide a product that we, the Valley, need -- however they can't sacrifice our water and air and the peaceful enjoyment of our homes in order to obtain it. Somewhere between these two is the truth and we need to not be so blinded by ideology that when it walks up to us and slaps us in the face that we're unable to recognize it.

The truth is out there.

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Sandwich Ideas

There are so many combinations available today for sandwiches. There isn't just white or brown bread; there is pita bread, mini croissants, sandwich rolls (cut to the size your child can handle), and tortillas for wraps. Or how about peanut butter on raisin bread? And so many different kinds of fillings. Not just bologna, ham or cheese, or combinations thereof. My mom would take the leftover Sunday roast and put it through the food grinder (they didn't have food processors in those days), added Miracle Whip – of course you could add mayo – and use it as a spread for sandwiches.

I love a good tuna fish sandwich, but I want to eat it as soon as it is made, because I don't like to let it sit and make the bread soggy. When I worked, I would fix the sandwich as usual, only not put the tuna on. I would put the tuna in a separate container then put it on the bread when I was ready to eat lunch.

I was on the internet looking for ideas for this article and I found some excellent sites. I Googled "school kids lunches" and "school kids sandwiches."

Having trouble getting your child to eat a good whole wheat bread because he or she only wants white bread? How about using one slice of white and one slice of whole wheat with a design on each. Put the two slices of bread together before putting in the filling, and using a cookie cutter, cut a design from the center of each slice. Then take the design from the brown slice and put it in the spot that was cut from the white bread and do the same with the white slice. At least you'll get them to eat half brown bread.

Or how about a wrap? Put a

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 12

Well, school has started – where did the time go? Vacation is over, but summer won't be over until Sept. 22. It is still hot – I think it was 101 today. As I've said so many times, the best thing about summer is I know winter is on its way. Yes, I like the fog and rain.

For you families with school children that are up in the morning trying to get them fed and lunches fixed, I have seen the menu for the local cafeterias and some of them look quite tasty. For those days your child doesn't want to eat in the cafeteria, there is always the box lunch from home. When we were in school, most everyone ate in the cafeteria. The food was excellent. It was cooked on the premises and almost like home cooking. The only time I remember taking my lunch was the three years we lived in San Francisco during WWII. I can still remember my mom's bologna sandwiches. I don't know what was so special about them, but I loved them. Thinking back it just may have been the bologna that we bought at a meat market. It was a stick that you sliced at home and it had a wrapping on it that you had to peel off before eating it. We didn't have the plastic wrap or the sandwich bags we have today. Everything was wrapped in wax paper, even potato chips and cookies. And did you get an orange in your lunch? Mama always "scored" it (run the tip of a paring knife in a circle around the top and strips down the sides) so it would be easier to peel.

Have you had trouble in the past with someone stealing your child's sandwich out of his lunch bag? I have the solution! There is a site on the internet for Anti-theft Sandwich bags. After looking at them, I can understand why no one would want to eat the sandwich they just stole. This sandwich bag is made to look like the sandwich in it is all moldy. I know some kids that would think it a blast for someone to try to

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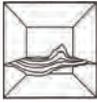
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The HC Detective

Hello 93636,

Today's topic is technology. The modern automobile is the most complex piece of technology that most individuals interact with on a daily basis. Modern vehicles can have up to 60 modules (computers) on board communicating on several networks and can communicate with other vehicles in close proximity. For example, if a vehicle drives over a slippery spot in the roadway and the Traction Control Feature is activated, that information is relayed to other vehicles in the area to alert them of the potential danger. Drivers are unaware of vehicle to vehicle communication and the actions taken to keep them safe.

The technology I would like to discuss today however is the technology we use daily to diagnosis and repair these marvels of modern engineering. Since all vehicles are products of math and engineering, all vehicle failures and their solutions are math and science problems. My company motto is: "Quality, Dependability and Performance through Science and Technology."

Today I would like to discuss the Five Gas Analyzer. The probe you observe in a tailpipe during an emission test is attached to the analyzer. The analyzer samples and displays the values of the five tailpipe gases in percentages or parts per million (PPM). Understanding the relationships between gases – how and why they are formed – diagnostically tells us nearly everything we need to know to start our diagnostic in the proper direction. Collecting and entering those gas values into a Lambda Calculator is diagnostic on steroids when evaluating the fuel injection, secondary ignition and the efficiency of the Catalytic Converter and combustion process. The Five Gas Analyzer is INDISPENSABLE for the proper diagnosis of emissions and drivability problems.

Today's primary topic is the untraditional and innovative ways we use five gas technology to advance diagnostics outside of emissions. One of our largest competitors sends us a lot of referrals. When they suspect a

blown head gasket or cracked cylinder head they perform the traditional "Block Test." If the vehicle fails the test the customer is referred to us. Their diagnosis has a high rate of inaccuracy, much to the relief of those customers. We use our Five Gas Analyzer. When a head gasket loses its seal or the cylinder head is cracked, the gasoline/hydrocarbon (HC) vapor in that cylinder is leaked into the cooling system during the compression event. Those air bubbles collect at the highest point in the cooling system: the radiator neck. With the radiator cap removed, we sample that gas. If HCs are present, we have a sealing problem. It's quick and accurate.

Another untraditional way we use this technology is when customers complain of gasoline fumes in or around the vehicle. I move the emission probe over the engine, down the fuel rails and fuel supply lines, on top of the fuel tank and over the vapor canister while watching the analyzer monitor. Once HCs are displayed, I just keep working the probe until I find the highest concentration. I do not have to smell the leak in order to find it. The five gas technology puts me on the complaint quickly and accurately.

Last week I was battling a 1994 Nissan Maxima with a misfire. My diagnostic lead me to believe I was dealing with a defective fuel injector. The problem was my fuel injector was under the intake manifold and labor intensive. I wanted to be reasonably sure the misfire cause is insufficient fuel before I invest that much time. I removed the spark plug and inserted the emission probe. I started the engine and monitored the HCs. Only 35 PPMs displayed. A good injector will display HCs in the 5,000 PPM range and above. A new fuel injector solved the problem and the Maxima easily passed its smog inspection.

Automotive repair is not a stagnant industry. We continue to learn, innovate and advance our diagnostic capabilities to keep up with the advancements in Automotive technology.

OK. That's all for today. As usual I can be reached for suggestions for future topics or specific questions concerning your vehicle at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or Facebook. God Bless 93636 and God Bless America.

Warren Parr
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Sept. 2	7 p.m.	vs. Mendota	Oct. 14	7 p.m.	at Sierra
Sept. 9	7 p.m.	at Escalon	Oct. 21	7 p.m.	vs. Washington Union
Sept. 16	7 p.m.	vs. Fowler	Oct. 28	7 p.m.	vs. Kerman
Sept. 23	7:30 p.m.	at Corcoran	Nov. 4	7 p.m.	at Chowchilla

Ranchos' Valley Teen Ranch Hosts 7th Summer Olympics

By Karen Petryna

Shortly before the 2016 Summer Olympics began in Rio, Madera's own Valley Teen Ranch (VTR) group home hosted its 7th annual Summer Olympics to compete with the boys from the Keeping Youth Journeying Onward (KYJO) group home of Fresno.

A total of 25 young men from VTR and 20 from KYJO were mixed together into four teams, each with their own colored shirt and graphic design, and had the opportunity to compete in a dozen or so athletic and academic events during the last week of July from 8 a.m. to noon each day and culminating in an awards ceremony and BBQ on the last day.

"Valley Teen Ranch was happy to share its facilities with Keeping Youth Journeying Onward," said VTR CEO Connie Clendenan, "because we have so much more space." Athletic events included soccer, flag football, basketball and swimming, among others, while academics were tested with contests in artwork, poetry and essay writing on the topic, "Where do I see myself in the next five years?"

Regardless of their preferences, all boys were strongly encouraged to participate in all the events in order to earn the maximum number of points for their team. Despite a tendency to get discouraged after losing at one event or another, the boys were constantly reminded to keep trying. "We're trying to help them learn good sportsmanship, how to play fair and how to win and lose," Clendenan said, activities they haven't had much experience dealing with, particularly in sports and academic contest venues.

The boys from KYJO travelled to VTR every day from Fresno, joined their respective teams and competed for points by achieving 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place in every

team event. At the same time, all the boys competed for Most Valuable and Most Inspirational Team Member as well as Most Valuable and Most Inspirational Individual.

Staff from both homes coached, refereed and judged the events and medals and trophies were awarded during the ceremony on Friday, July 29 which was followed by a BBQ of tri-tip, hot links, salad and ice cream.



The tug-o-war pit the two teams against each other and stressed the importance of teamwork.



Just like in Rio, there were swimming competitions between the two teams.

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BULL'S-EYE RANCHOS

Austin Quarry puts a bull's-eye directly on Madera Ranchos and Bonadelle Ranchos. **No neighborhood would be more affected** by this huge new quarry at the intersection of 145 and 41.

County Supervisors will vote on September 12

Hearing at 9:00 a.m.
Madera County offices,
200 West 4th St., Madera

Hearing time may change.
Check NoAustinQuarry.org
for updates.

TIP: Get there 1-2 hours before the hearing time if you can. When the Planning Commission held its hearing, Vulcan employees who don't even live in Madera County showed up early in their blue T-shirts, and took up most of the seats. This time, let's take the seats we deserve! **Wear red to the hearing to show your opposition.**



WWW.NOAUSTINQUARRY.ORG



Surrounds us with truck traffic on 3 sides. 816 new trucks per day on Route 145. 673 new trucks on Route 41. 55 new trucks on Avenue 12. On these 2-lane roads, impatient drivers will take risks to pass slow-moving trucks, increasing the risk of a head-on collision.



Hogs our water. 4,000 acre-feet flowing into the quarry pit, drawing down Ranchos wells. A series of toothless conditions won't even begin to fix the problem.



Hurts our local economy. The County gets a few new jobs and a few hundred thousand dollars in taxes. Our homes go down in value by 20%.

CAN'T MITIGATE THE IMPACT? THEN DON'T PUT A QUARRY THERE.

To Find Out More, Come to Our Public Meetings:

COARSEGOLD • Tuesday, August 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse, 30250 Yosemite Springs Pkwy.

MADERA RANCHOS • Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Liberty High School, 12220 Road 36

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

flour tortilla in the microwave for about 20 seconds so it will be easier to roll. Using your choice of fillings: lettuce that has been sliced very thin, grape tomatoes, sliced olives, red bell pepper that has been chopped, grated cheese and sliced turkey or ham lunch meat. Spread the tortilla with ranch dressing and layer each ingredient on half of the tortillas. Fold in each side of the tortilla and roll the wrap from the end with the filling, making sure to tuck in the filling as you roll. You can cut the roll in half if you wish to make it easier to

handle.

Sandwich on a Stick?

Or how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sandwich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat. Slide onto a skewer with other foods your child will eat. Olives, pickles, grape tomatoes or a piece of lettuce. You might want to add a little container of ranch dressing for dipping. Also, I would suggest not using the skewers that look like big toothpicks – don't think the school would appreciate a child playing with them after they eat their lunch. I've seen

packages of the sticks used for candy apples in the grocery store that might work better than the skewer.

Who says lunch has to be a sandwich? There are all kinds of things you can use for box lunches. How about a thermos of warm leftover stew or soup from the night before dinner? Or a piece of leftover pizza – yes, I know kids (and adults) that will eat cold pizza. Or a spaghetti sandwich – yes, spaghetti! Butter two slices of bread, put the spaghetti on one and top with the other and Viola! A spaghetti sandwich. I know adults that will eat that!

I hope I have been able to give you some ideas for lunch boxes or bags. And I didn't even get into the desserts available. There are all kinds of prepackaged cookies and some just 100 calories, and there are all of the prepackaged gelatins, puddings and fruit that are available. If you are afraid to send one of your good spoons (I know they can be tossed with the wrappers), why not purchase a package of disposable spoons so you don't need to worry?

This article originally appeared in the August 2010 issue of the Ranchos Independent.

-- Editor

Madera County will benefit from the tax revenue, employment opportunities and the locally-sourced materials generated by the Austin Quarry. This will promote economic development countywide, including in the cities of Madera and Chowchilla.

- Bobby Kahn

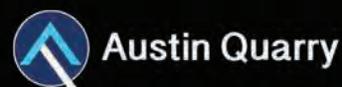
Executive Director, Madera County Economic Development Commission

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See what other Madera County leaders have to say about **Vulcan Materials Company** and the **Austin Quarry** at:

www.AustinQuarry.com





WITH AUSTIN QUARRY, WILL OUR ROADS BECOME "BLOOD ALLEY"?

County Supervisors will vote on September 12

Hearing at 9:00 a.m.
Madera County offices,
200 West 4th St., Madera

Hearing time may change.
Check NoAustinQuarry.org
for updates.

TIP: Get there 1-2 hours before the hearing time if you can. When the Planning Commission held its hearing, Vulcan employees who don't even live in Madera County showed up early in their blue T-shirts, and took up most of the seats. This time, let's take the seats we deserve! **Wear red to the hearing to show your opposition.**

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MADERA RANCHOS

Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Liberty High School
12220 Road 36



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Highway 126, a rural road serving several quarries in Ventura County, has long been known as "Blood Alley" because of constant accidents, many of them head-on collisions. Even a widening to 4 lanes in the 1990s didn't solve the problem: A few years ago, a wreck between a car and a dump truck killed 3 motorists, including a 5-year old child. The driver of the dump truck was unharmed.

Here in Madera County, head-on collisions and near-misses are already common on Routes 41 and 145, which are mainly 2-lane roads with no center divider. There have also been fatal accidents on Avenue 12 in recent years. When Austin Quarry injects hundreds of new trucks each day onto these roads, impatient drivers will take risks to pass slow-moving trucks, increasing the risk of a head-on collision. Will our 2-lane country roads become "Blood Alley North?"

SURROUNDS US WITH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON 3 SIDES:

Route 145:

- At least 102 new trucks per day heading to Route 99 will take 145, a 2-lane road with limited visibility and no shoulder. Another 714 trucks (one per minute) will head down 145 from the quarry to 41.
- Trucks leaving the quarry site and heading toward 99 will make a slow left turn onto 145, with no traffic signal – causing delay and possibly accidents.
- Residents turning left into the Ranchos will face more delay, as the quarry doubles the cross-traffic on 145. Trucks caught behind these left turners will further clog the traffic stream.

Route 41:

- The quarry will add 608 trucks per day (one per minute) to Route 41 south of 145, and two trucks per minute at rush hour. During the evening rush hour, traffic speeds leaving Fresno will be reduced by 8 miles per hour from Friant Road to 145.
- Vulcan says it will pay the cost of adding a new 3-mile long lane to the southbound side of 41. But Caltrans won't actually build this until at least the 2020s, many years after the quarry is built and operating. So, it's traffic first, road later.
- Vulcan says it will pay its "fair share" for other improvements on 41 needed to offset the effects of the project, but since there's no source for the rest of the money, they may never get built. You can't drive on a "fair share" of a road.

Avenues 12 & 15:

- Some trucks looking to head south on 99 will take 41 south from the quarry and then turn right onto Avenue 15 or Avenue 12. The traffic study assumes 55 trucks per day will use Avenue 12. With 24-hour operations, trucks will be rumbling through the Ranchos business district and right by single family neighborhoods, at all times of the day and night.

CAN'T WE MITIGATE THE IMPACT SOMEHOW?

- The County admits that significant traffic impacts of the project on numerous intersections and road segments cannot be mitigated.
- Meanwhile, state law keeps the County from making Vulcan pay for more road improvements.

TRAFFIC: CAN'T BE MITIGATED. SO DON'T PUT A QUARRY THERE.

The Bookshelf

September is Library Card Month

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library was a full house with the participants of the Summer Reading Program. It was so much fun to see the excitement for reading and all of the attendees at our weekly events. I especially enjoyed our Ice Cream Social and getting to visit individually with our reading fans. We would like to congratulate Logan Haines for winning our Grand Prize, a Samsung Tablet. Logan completed his reading log each week and each log was entered into our Grand Prize Drawing. Great job reading Logan, congratulations!

These weeks are speeding right along and school is back in full swing. With the beginning of school, remember that the Ranchos Library is the perfect place to come in and pick up books for required reading lists, accelerated reader lists and getting the necessary information to do research for those reports.

We would like to remind everyone that we

have resumed our Preschool Story Time. Mrs. Maxfield's story time is on Thursdays, at 11 a.m. Ranchos Library Story Time is a fun, read-play-learn activity session that is customized each and every week. Story time last approximately one hour.

Ranchos Library would also like to announce that we will no longer have the 50 cent hold fee when you request items from other libraries. Items may now be picked up absolutely free of charge. All Madera County Libraries will have this policy in effect. Don't forget you may access the catalog on-line from your personal PCs and devices. This makes searching for items easy and convenient and available wherever you may be.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. If you have your card, make sure you are getting good use of it. If you do not have your library card, help us celebrate this month and come in and get your card. It only takes a few minutes and you will be so glad you did.

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MAIL cont. from P. 2

theft out of a mailbox in the 13000 block of Avenue 23 1/2 in Chowchilla. The mail was taken and empty envelopes littered the side of the road.

• On July 23 a caller reported a blue Honda travelling in the area of Avenue 19 and Road 21 with two people throwing mail out the windows. Deputies later found the vehicle parked in that area with both occupants passed out or sleeping in the vehicle with mail found on the ground, in a tree and inside the vehicle. Deputies arrested 32-year-old Salvador Viera, Jr. and 33-year-old Monica Sanchez, both of Chowchilla, and recovered mail stolen from at least 25 victims as well as a Marine Corps ring that is suspected to be stolen.

• On August 2, a Sheriff's Deputy stopped an older green Ford Explorer on Road 400 near Road 603. The Deputy found mail from numerous different people and addresses in the vehicle. Jocelynn Gray, was arrested for mail theft, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and a felony warrant out of Madera County.

It is unknown if all of the earlier mail thefts were related but it is likely there are several groups of suspects responsible for the recent series of thefts. If you suspect your mail has been stolen, you should make a report with law enforcement and monitor your financial and identity records.

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VULCAN THINKS AUSTIN QUARRY WILL BE IN A GROUNDWATER "ISLAND," BUT WHY ARE THEY TESTING THEIR THEORY ON OUR WELLS?

County Supervisors will vote on September 12

Hearing at 9:00 a.m.
Madera County offices,
200 West 4th St., Madera

Hearing time may change.
Check NoAustinQuarry.org for updates.

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MADERA RANCHOS

Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Liberty High School, 12220 Road 36



WWW.NOAUSTINQUARRY.ORG

Austin Quarry would puncture our groundwater aquifer with a 258-acre, 400-foot deep hole. Yet Vulcan's consultant has a theory: He says the quarry site isn't connected to the rest of the Madera Groundwater Basin or the other wells around it. Instead, he insists that the site is located in a groundwater "island": a solid block of rock, which will keep any water at all from percolating away from wells in the Ranchos and into the quarry pit. **But no one else, including the California Department of Water Resources, is buying Vulcan's outlandish theory.**

Vulcan refuses to do the groundwater testing that would confirm its theory, even though County supervisors and others have requested it. Instead, Vulcan wants to dig out the quarry pit and then use our Ranchos wells to test the theory. **If Vulcan is wrong, we pay the price: A series of toothless conditions won't even begin to solve the problem.**

HOGS OUR WATER.

- An independent hydrogeologist concludes that the quarry pit could draw in 4,000 acre feet of water, or the same amount consumed by 8,000 homes. Vulcan will quietly pump this water out of the pit – in a process called "dewatering." Then they'll either dump the water on the lands to the south, or evaporate it from on-site holding ponds.
- This constant dewatering of the quarry pit will create a 400-foot deep cone of depression around the quarry that will draw down wells in the Ranchos by 50 feet or more.
- We don't have to wait 100 years for this to happen: Vulcan's mining plan allows it to go down 400 feet deep during the first decade of operation.

CAN'T WE MITIGATE THE GROUNDWATER IMPACTS SOMEHOW?

- Because of its groundwater "island" theory, Vulcan denies that the quarry will have a significant impact on groundwater. Still, Vulcan offers a series of conditions to deal with our concerns. **Unfortunately, none of the conditions will work.**
- **The first condition** says there can be "no net loss of groundwater" from the quarry. To prove this, Vulcan would present an annual "groundwater balance report" to the County, written by its own hydrogeologist. **BUT:** There's no objective yardstick to measure "groundwater balance," so the report will be worthless. And even if Vulcan's reports do show a groundwater imbalance, the only remedy is for the quarry to "implement corrective measures." No one knows what these measures will be, or whether they would work, and the quarry doesn't shut down if they don't work.
- **The second condition** would allow a Ranchos resident to file a complaint if he believes the quarry is causing drawdown in his well. The resident has to hire a professional hydrogeologist at his own expense before even filing the complaint. Once a complaint is filed, the County can verify it and then make recommendations to remedy the impact. **BUT:** The County can only require Vulcan to implement recommendations that are "deemed both necessary and feasible." Any recommendation that would interfere with the quarry operation – like, for example, shutting down the quarry – would surely be deemed "infeasible" and would not be imposed.
- **The third condition** says that Vulcan will recharge 85 acre feet per year into the Madera Groundwater Basin through a water transfer to the Root Creek Water District. **BUT:** That's just 2% of the 4,000 acre feet that may flow into the quarry pit. And even this small amount doesn't benefit the Ranchos; the water would be spread on lands many miles to the south.
- There's no condition in the permit that says if Vulcan's theory of a "dry quarry pit" is wrong, and if thousands of acre-feet of water flow into the pit, Vulcan will have to stop mining and fill the pit back up. **Once the pit is dug, if thousands of acre feet of water flow into the pit, the County will be powerless to mitigate the damage.** Even shutting the quarry down won't work, because the water would still flow into the idle quarry pit – forming a lake that would evaporate at the rate of 1000 acre feet per year.

WATER: CAN'T BE MITIGATED. SO DON'T PUT A QUARRY THERE.



Outside the Box

When my kids were little I supplemented our income with folk art painting. Okay, it was probably more of a hobby than a moneymaker, but once in a while it came in handy – like the time I had just finished a boutique and our refrigerator conked out. There went my profits.

Without the space for a craft room in our home I resorted to using the kitchen table as my workspace. Needless to say, there were challenges keeping little hands out of my stuff and extra work clearing it off for every meal. Looking for another option, I spied our coat closet.

I relocated the coats to a line of hooks on the wall in the laundry room. I purchased a desk that fit inside perfectly, wall to wall. The shelves above held my project supplies, I used a folding chair and when not in use it folded up and the door closed to hide the mess. A perfect solution.

So, what has you stuck? What's frustrating you in terms of your space?

Do you have a guest room with nary a guest? Consider letting go of the bed so you can use that space for your exercise equipment or craft table. Keep an inflatable mattress on hand for the rare occasion of an overnight guest, but use the space for which you're paying.

I've seen bedrooms turned into closets

and closets turned into bedrooms. Too often we are limited by tradition or simply not thinking outside the box.

Our kitchen doesn't have a pantry, so half the upper cabinets in my laundry room are for imperishable food storage. If there's no space for your Costco paper supplies in your pantry or bathroom, but your kid's closet is only half full — use it.

Laptops have us on the couch or kitchen table so we don't have to use the home office for paying bills. A rolling file cart can store the files and office supplies you need and can be rolled into a nearby closet when not in use. Lose the big office desk and create.

If the kitchen table is a homework station use the bottom of the china hutch for school supplies. Do your kids bring toys into the kitchen while you're making dinner? Why not designate a bin of "kitchen toys" and store them in the hutch or kitchen cabinet? Don't fight it, fix it.

If you're among the diminishing population that still irons clothes, you may think that it "should" be done as part of the laundering process, when actually it's done whenever you pull something wrinkled out of the closet. Set up an over the closet door board or attach a wall-mount board in an attractive cabinet in your bedroom so it's handy for those quick touch-ups.

Life is easier when things are, well, easier. It takes some time to stop and think outside the box, but the payoff can be sweet. I would love to hear of your "outside the box" organizing projects. You can reach me at the contact information below, or post on my Organized By Choice Facebook page.

Contact Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also visit their website at www.organizedbychoice.com.

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IF AUSTIN QUARRY TURNS THE RANCHOS INTO A GHOST TOWN, WILL VULCAN BUY MY HOUSE?

County Supervisors will vote on September 12

Hearing at 9:00 a.m.
Madera County offices,
200 West 4th St., Madera

Hearing time may change.
Check NoAustinQuarry.org
for updates.

TIP: Get there 1-2 hours before the hearing time if you can. When the Planning Commission held its hearing, Vulcan employees who don't even live in Madera County showed up early in their blue T-shirts, and took up most of the seats. This time, let's take the seats we deserve! **Wear red to the hearing to show your opposition.**

To Find Out More, Come to Our Public Meetings:

COARSEGOLD

Tuesday, August 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse,
30250 Yosemite Springs Pkwy.

MADERA RANCHOS

Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Liberty High School, 12220 Road 36



WWW.NOAUSTINQUARRY.ORG

An academic economist studied property values in the vicinity of a quarry and predicted that houses near a quarry lose 20% of their value.

Here in the Ranchos, we can expect our home values to reflect that in our midst, and near a prominent intersection, serene agricultural land will be replaced with an intensive industrial use. And that doesn't even include the dramatic impact on property values that would result from dried-up wells in the Ranchos. Without access to water, our houses could be worthless.

HURTS OUR LOCAL ECONOMY:

- The quarry will generate only \$92,000 in property tax for the County, just \$142,000 in sales tax, and between 15 and 40 jobs.
- In fact, there is zero net economic benefit for the County and the Madera County economy. Since the demand for concrete aggregate is fixed in any given geographic area, the small increase in tax revenue and jobs is directly offset by an equal decrease of taxes and jobs at other quarries, such as the Madera Quarry on Road 209.
- Meanwhile, the loss in value of surrounding properties, and the resulting decrease in property tax, would more than offset any increase in property tax from the quarry itself.
- The County would also lose all the property tax and sales tax the County that it might have reaped from alternative uses of the land – such as for a residential subdivision. And that loss will last and last, for 100 years.
- Road fees are 10 cents per ton, which is \$250,000 per year. But that's just 10 cents per ton of quarry product, and is barely enough to resurface 1.2 miles of County roads. Meanwhile, the entire County road system is worn down by more than 200,000 quarry trucks each year.

CAN'T WE MITIGATE THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS SOMEHOW?

- The County can't impose more taxes or fees on the quarry, because state law strictly limits the taxes and fees that can be imposed.

**ECONOMICS:
CAN'T BE MITIGATED.
SO DON'T PUT A QUARRY THERE.**

In Memoriam



Brenda Marie Bailey

November 5, 1957 -- August 14, 2016

Brenda Marie Bailey passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Sunday, August 14, 2016. She was 58 years old.

Brenda was born in Pomona, Calif. on November 5, 1957 to Ellis and Wanda Landers. She lived there for most of her young life. Her family was close and she often spoke of her childhood with awed enthusiasm.

In 1978 she married the love of her life, Barry Bailey. She loved being a part of such a large and close-knit family. Then, in 1980 she had her only child, a daughter named Eryn. Though she spent the majority of her life as a homemaker, tending to her husband's and daughter's every need, she briefly owned a karaoke business with her best friend and partner where she spent several nights a week entertaining and delighting groups of people with skits, musical numbers, and the sheer force of her charm and personality.

Brenda and her husband retired to a quiet and happy life in a small town in central New Mexico where they loved taking motorcycle rides together and

traveling the United States as often as possible. She also enjoyed the occasional cruise with friends and family, but her favorite vacation spot was her annual trip to Disneyland with her daughter. Their latest excursion happened just this past winter when she finally fulfilled a lifelong dream of seeing Disneyland at Christmas time.

Brenda was loved and adored by everyone she met. She had a contagious smile and an infectious laugh and her generosity and kindness was felt by all.

Brenda was preceded in death by her mother and father. She is survived by her husband and daughter as well as her sister, Linda Lorigo and Linda's sons Oscar and Dustin and their families. She was also survived by her cousins Ginny, Betty, and Phyllis and their families as well as her father-in-law Jim, her brother-in-law Randy, his wife Vicki and their children, her brother-in-law Craig, his wife Lucy and their children, her brother-in-law Steve, his wife Lisa and their children, and her brother-in-law Adam, his wife Lori and their children.

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Your Community Needs You. It's Time to Get Involved!

New Chamber Member

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest member to the Madera Ranchos business family

Dr. Rene Brewer -- *Valley View Veterinary*
10266 Highway 41, Madera

"Why should I join the Chamber of Commerce?"

1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

8/16

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Liberty Football Plans Donation

Liberty High School football is about building a young man's character and "Beyond the Game" allows the players at Liberty to play for a higher purpose than just winning football games (of which they intend to do A LOT!)



Beyond the Game is a movement started by Kaleb Roth, a junior at LHS and a member of the varsity football team. The goal is to generate \$10 for every point scored by the Liberty Varsity football team and donate it to Valley Children's Hospital. The team understands how fortunate they are to be able to play the game and want to be a benefit to others who can't play. Beyond the Game is meant to bring greater purpose to the game on Friday nights.

Beyond the Game also gives the Ranchos community the opportunity to come together and create better lives for those in need at Children's Hospital. Local businesses around the Ranchos have already agreed to help support and donate to this great cause. Businesses have the option to sponsor an entire game, meaning that business will be responsible for donating \$10 for each point scored by Liberty's team during the game. These businesses will be acknowledged at the game for their generosity. Businesses and individuals can also make a donation of any amount for any game this season.

If you are interested in being a part of this great opportunity, you can contact Liberty High School at 559-645-3500 and speak to the secretary. Donations can also be made through donation boxes placed around various Ranchos businesses or at home football games by the snack bar. Checks can be made out to Liberty High School and all donations are tax deductible. Any donation helps and is greatly appreciated.

QUARRY cont. from P. 3

water Management Plan.

The focus of Dr. Priestaf's presentation was a comparison of the opinions stated in the Benchmark Report and those of John Kirk, expert Engineering Geologist and Hydrogeologist with the California Department of Water Resources stationed in the department's South Central Region Office in Fresno. Priestaf explained the Benchmark Report says that the proposed Austin Quarry Project's location is not in the Madera groundwater sub basin whereas Kirk, examining the geologic and hydrogeologic evidence, says that it is. Priestaf told the audience of about 300 that the report says there is only one fracture in the bedrock that contains groundwater, namely the Norwest Well, which produces 120 gallons per minute (gpm) and would be used to dewater and spray down the dusty rock pit as it is blasted out. But Kirk, referring to the thousands of fractures throughout the fractured bedrock, says they are "... hydraulically connected to the alluvial aquifer of the Madera sub basin," meaning that it is through the fractured bedrock that groundwater travels from the Sierra Nevada into the sandy, underground groundwater storage area from which it is withdrawn for public and private use.

The Benchmark Report uses the rate of five gallons per minute, far more than many local, private groundwater wells produce for families and people and animals to live on, as a "benchmark" to define "a dry hole." And thereby calling a hole that generates 5 gpm "dry" justifies its own characterization of all the test holes drilled into the water-producing fractured bedrock as "dry" and therefore incapable of filling the quarry pit or potentially affecting the Madera groundwater sub basin over which it lies.

But Kirk, who has no vested interest in the project, says, "Quarry dewatering will lower water levels ... significantly impacting the local water supply ... it will increase

groundwater overdraft of Madera's critically overdrafted sub basin."

Another reason the 11,000-page Benchmark Report fails to consider impacts to local groundwater conditions caused by pit dewatering may be its lack of scientific study. As Priestaf explained during her presentation, neither Benchmark's draft nor revised draft, nor final EIR contain any scientific numerical analysis, a procedural method that it is standard practice for making such evaluations. Priestaf, who ran a very simple numerical analysis herself using the data from the Benchmark Report, not only showed that the property of the Austin Quarry is part of the same groundwater system but that a quarry pit, which is proposed to be dug 400 feet deep, will function as a giant groundwater well, causing tremendous and extensive dewatering of the surrounding region and ultimately producing a 258-acre lake that will be subject to about 1,000 acre-feet (326 million gallons) per year of surface water evaporation.

More Meetings

Since the public meetings held by the Madera Oversight Coalition on Aug. 3, the MOC has said that more meetings have and will take place to get the word

out about the proposed Austin Quarry Project. Ongoing efforts have included the collection of hundreds of signatures on a petition of opposition, weekly meetings in front of the Ranchos Library every Saturday at 10 a.m. to distribute t-shirts and yard signs, and to organize volunteers to go door to door. MOC will also host additional public meetings on Aug. 30 at Yosemite Lakes Park and on Aug. 31 at Liberty High School, both from 6 to 8 p.m.

How Will the Board Vote?

Whether they get a chance to read the report or not, the Madera County Board of Supervisors will have to decide for themselves if they believe the conclusions from the Planning Department and Commissioner-approved Benchmark Report. They'll also have to decide whether to consider the views of hundreds of local residents who oppose the project and, ultimately, they'll have to decide whether Madera County needs another quarry or not.

For more information from both sides you can go to the Madera Oversight Coalition's website at www.MOC1.org as well as Vulcan's website at www.AustinQuarry.com.

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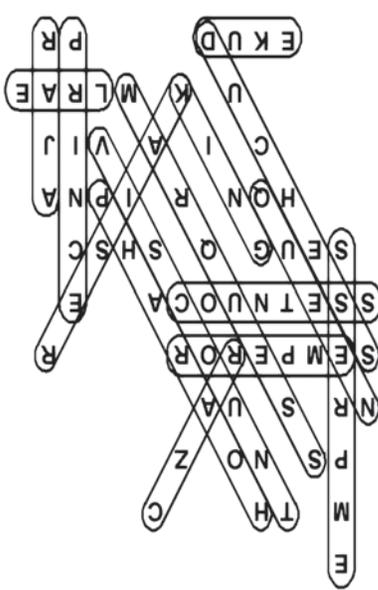
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by Linda Thistle

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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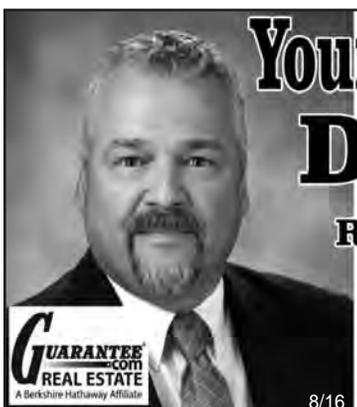
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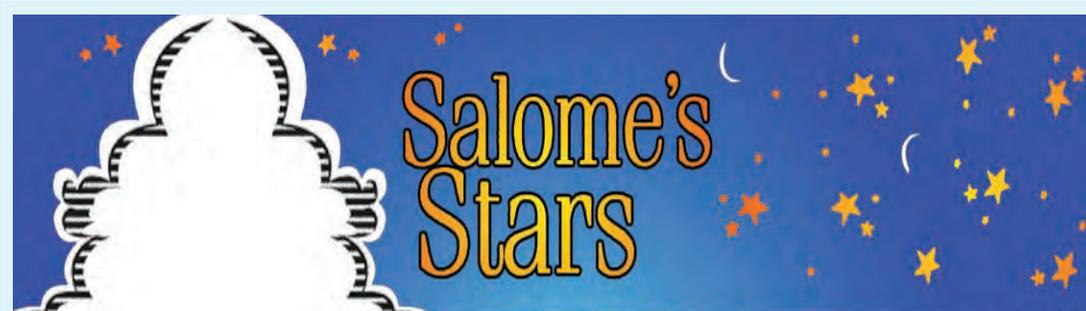
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 The Ranchos Independent

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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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.

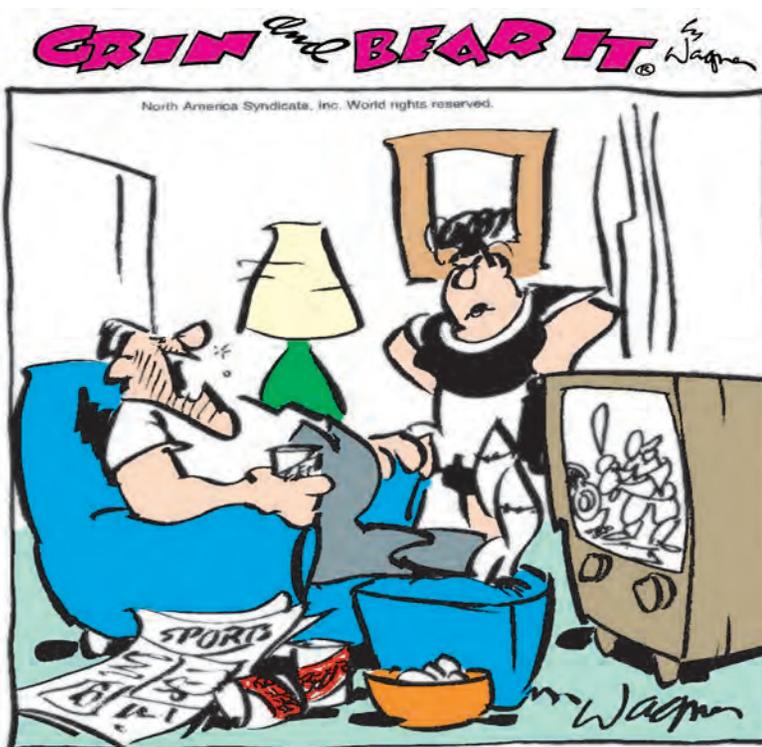
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might feel as if you're caught in an emotional tug-of-war. But don't be rushed into a decision on either side. Wait for more facts before you act.

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.

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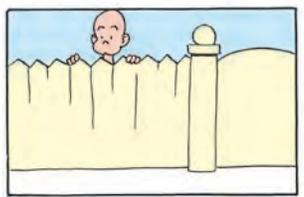
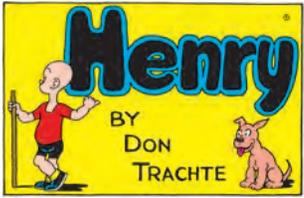
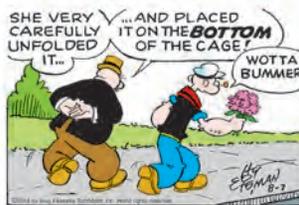
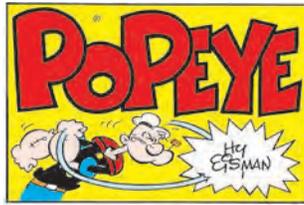
"You knew I was an athlete
when you married me!"

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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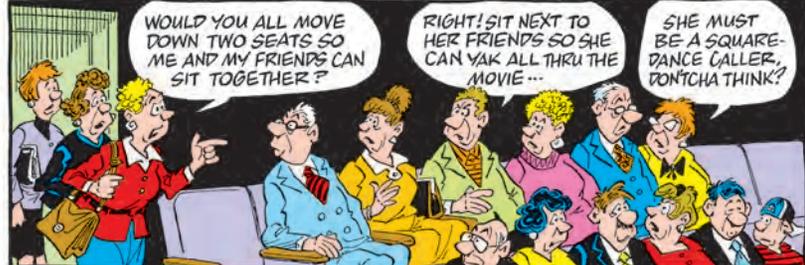
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT—THE NERVOUS GAL WHO PLAYS MUSICAL SEATS AT THE MOVIE THEATER...
—Thank to D. SCHAFER, RALEIGH, N.C.



BY AL SCADUTO



A PRICKLY PROBLEM! See if you can find the two cactus plants that look exactly alike in less than 30 seconds.

A BUSTED BAFFLER! Clumsy Calvin will never be able to use this broken vase. However, can you think of two things that have to be broken before they can be used?

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Slang for \$1,000 (given).
2. Move along.
3. Unhewn timber.
4. Of great duration.
5. An unfamiliar language.
6. Elfin creature.
7. Locking the door.
8. Swelling with water.

Wishing Well

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

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 ● ROYAL TITLES

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

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

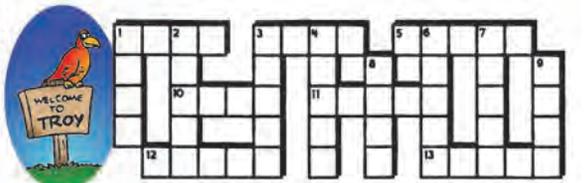
- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Countess | Earl | King | Queen |
| Czar | Emperor | Marquess | Raja |
| Duchess | Empress | Pharaoh | Viscount |
| Duke | Kaiser | Prince | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SHORT-NAME AMERICAN CITIES!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are the names of 15 American cities that you will need to complete the puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method.

- | 4-Letter Names | 5-Letter Names | 5-Letter Names |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alta | Amory | Orion |
| Avon | Angie | Ronda |
| lola | Eaton | Tracy |
| Milo | Leeds | |
| Otis | Meade | |
| Troy | Minot | |

Answers: (Across) 1. Avon, 3. Milo, 5. Amory, 10. lola (Down) 1. Alta, 2. Orion, 3. Meade, 4. Leeds, 6. Minot, 7. Ronda, 8. Otis, 9. Troy

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MYTHOLOGY: What was Charybdis in ancient literature?
2. TELEVISION: Who was the original host of the game show "Let's Make a Deal"?
3. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of South Dakota?
4. HISTORY: When was the Securities and Exchange Commission established to regulate sales of stocks and bonds?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. city's seal includes a phoenix, which symbolizes its rise from destruction in the Civil War?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where are the British Crown Jewels displayed?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is tequila made from?
8. MOVIES: Who earned a second supporting actor Oscar for his performance in "The Cider House Rules"?
9. ANATOMY: What kind of tissue connects bones and joints?
10. LITERATURE: What was the pseudonym of author Hector Hugh Munro?

Answers

1. A whirlpool sometimes described as a sea monster
2. Monty Hall
3. Pierre
4. 1934, after the 1929 stock market crash
5. Atlanta
6. The Tower of London
7. Blue agave
8. Michael Caine
9. Ligament
10. Saki

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



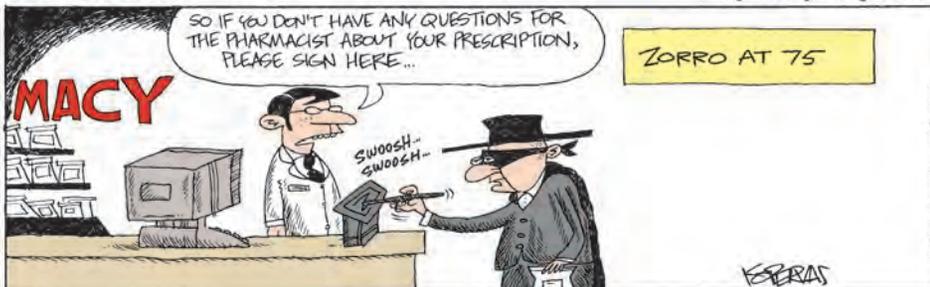
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



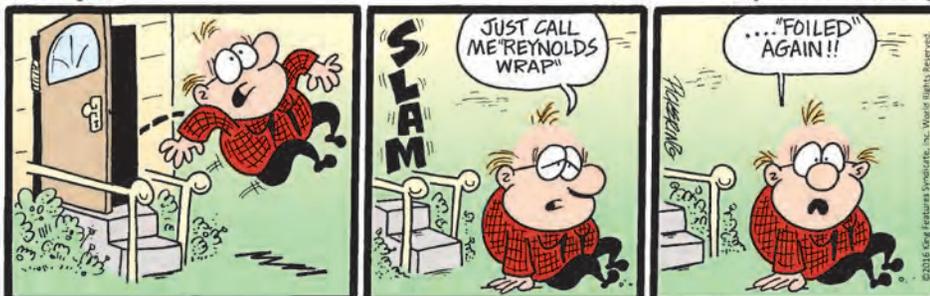
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



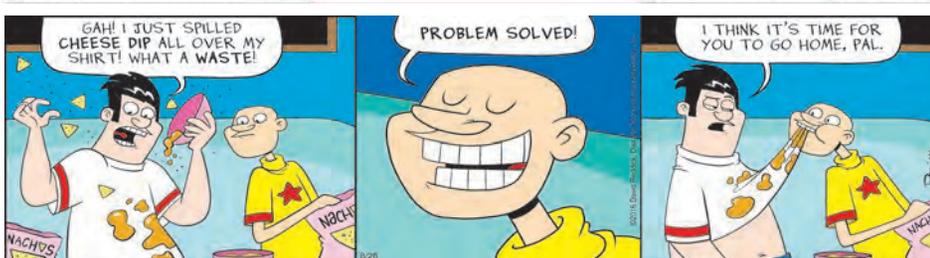
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

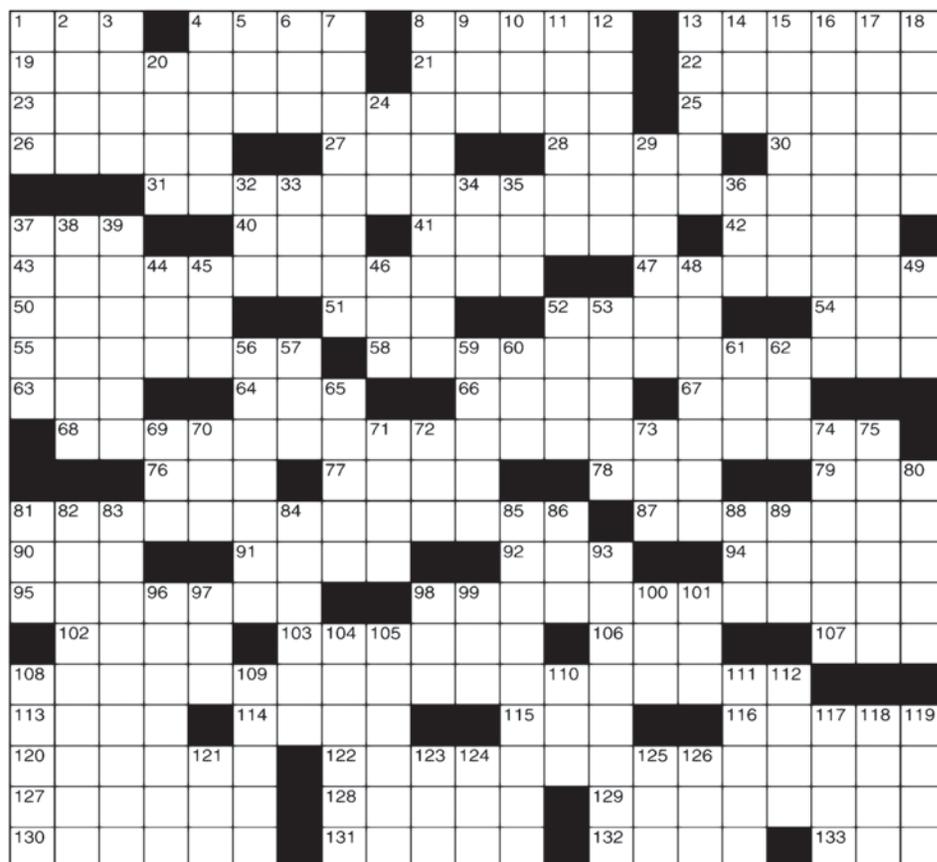
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Frying pan is missing. 2. Tent flap is missing. 3. Sun is lower. 4. Frying pan is missing. 5. Tent flap is different. 6. Towel is missing.

Super Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Divine one
- 4 Chew on
- 8 Part of UPI
- 13 "Yeah, and?"
- 19 Gilbert and Sullivan work
- 21 Try to swat
- 22 Operate a 767, say
- 23 Tool with a large bony projection?
- 25 "La Isla —" (1987 Madonna hit)
- 26 Freshwater polyp
- 27 Clucking bird
- 28 Eye, in Versailles
- 30 Mined rocks
- 31 On a tool's upper surface?
- 37 Oomph
- 40 Roadside assistance gp.
- 41 Odd one out
- 42 Bazaar sight
- 43 Tool given as a peace offering?
- 47 Czarina, e.g.
- 50 Glittery rock
- 51 — Jacinto
- 52 Jamie of old sitcomdom
- 54 Sutcliffe or Erwin
- 55 Trade sanction
- 58 Hit a cartoon dad with a tool?
- 63 Trendy resort
- 64 State south of B.C.
- 66 Ending for million
- 67 Alert at sea
- 68 Add-on accessory for a tool?
- 76 "The Big Read" org.
- 77 Ham's father
- 78 Mode or king preceder
- 79 Remind over and over
- 81 Male bovine using a tool?
- 87 Hurriedly
- 90 "Be there — sec"
- 91 Glen
- 92 Owns
- 94 Speak to the masses
- 95 Get a steal at a store
- 98 Use a tool on some products?
- 102 Disintegrate, as cells
- 103 Sees in the distance
- 106 "— out!" (ump's call)
- 107 Before
- 108 Priciest tool?
- 113 "Permit Me Voyage" writer James
- 114 "Mike & Mike" ailer
- 115 Taoism's — -tzu
- 116 Crude-carrying ship
- 120 Venetian island
- 122 Statement upon locating someone's lost tool in the dark?
- 127 Expose by being a fink
- 128 "It's —!" (quitter's cry)
- 129 Getting set to propose
- 130 Gauge
- 131 Did it wrong
- 132 Cries noisily
- 133 Thing, in legalese
- 8 Observable occurrences
- 9 Divest (of)
- 10 JFK posting
- 11 Remove, as a branch
- 12 Canonized fifth-cen. pope
- 13 Weasel's kin
- 14 — -lacto-vegetarian
- 15 Gain the support of
- 16 Quality of a yeti or a yak
- 17 Certifies
- 18 Bedevil
- 20 — avis (wonder)
- 24 With 110-Down, post-tax revenue
- 29 Buries
- 32 — chi ch'uan
- 33 Solo in films
- 34 Followers of omicrons
- 35 Pre-CIA gp.
- 36 "The Racer's Edge"
- 37 Printing units
- 38 Free from obligation
- 39 Big cheese
- 44 Rx overseer
- 45 Plop lead-in
- 46 Informal turndown
- 48 X-ray alternative
- 49 Earth lighter
- 52 Flowerless office plant
- 53 Match milieu
- 56 Yankees manager Joe
- 57 Lofty verse
- 59 Quite manly
- 60 My, in Milan
- 61 Pithy saying
- 62 Follower of chi
- 65 Void legally
- 69 Call a halt to
- 70 Barely visible
- 71 Tune penner Porter
- 72 TV's Linden
- 73 71-Down, collegially
- 74 Cut-rate
- 75 Talk nonstop
- 80 Ducks' kin
- 81 Bro's counterpart
- 82 Comparable things
- 83 Members of an elite U.S. force
- 84 Rolls with holes
- 85 Shaped with a certain cutting tool
- 86 Penn of "Epic Movie"
- 88 Ad —
- 89 Boat built by 77-Across
- 93 Knowing glances
- 96 Parsons of "Roseanne"
- 97 96-Down's "Roseanne" role
- 98 Fish by letting the bait bob
- 99 Clergyman's subj.
- 100 JFK Library architect
- 101 Deep anger
- 104 Lying face-up
- 105 Try to separate out, as gold
- 108 One of the von Trapp daughters
- 109 Time on end
- 110 See 24-Down
- 111 Riata's, e.g.
- 112 Many a sunlit ledge
- 117 Lion's den
- 118 Suffix akin to -trix
- 119 Partner of rules, briefly
- 121 Lean- — (sheds)
- 123 Locale of Sp.
- 124 U-turn from WNW
- 125 Game akin to crazy eights
- 126 Civil War southerner

FUN PAGES



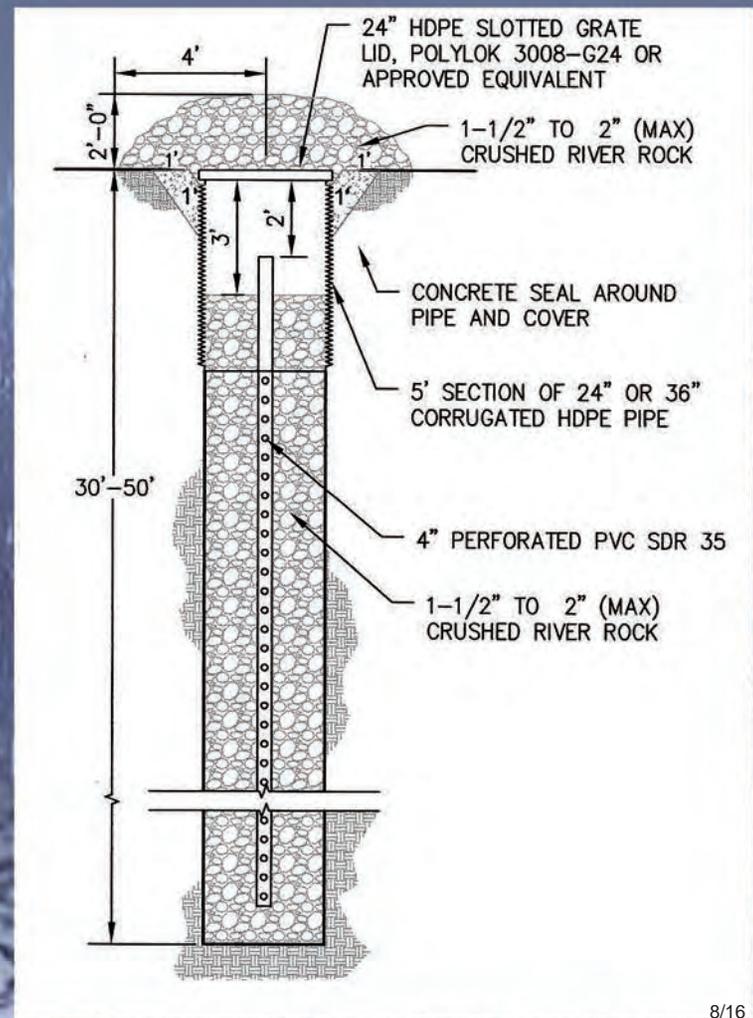
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