

# The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

## A RANCHOS ICON SAYS GOODBYE

### MERVEN VICK

OCTOBER 2, 1935 - FEBRUARY 14, 2011



*Picture Courtesy of the Vick Family*

## *In This Issue*

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8  
Classifieds • Page 26 / Fun Pages • Pages 30 & 31*



## Massive Stash of Stolen Goods, Drugs Found in Ranchos Rental

A mysterious late-night fire in a Ranchos backyard caught the eye of a patrolling Madera County Sheriff's Deputy on Tuesday, Feb. 8, and as a result stolen items valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars have been discovered.

According to reports, Deputy Sheriff Luis Padgett was patrolling through the Ranchos when he spotted two people near the back end of the property at 37851 Avenue 12 burning items. The Deputy thought it looked like they were stripping wire so he shined his light on the two who immediately took off. Upon closer inspection, the two were indeed stripping copper wire – over



What started out as a bonfire behind a Ranchos rental ended up being a major cache of stolen goods.

1,000 pounds of cut up copper wire stolen from PG&E with an estimated value of \$4,000.

Scattered throughout the backyard of the home Deputy Padgett located numerous buckets and 40-gallon trash cans filled with at least 1,000 feet of cut copper wire. In addition to the wire, he found a license plate belonging to a trailer reported stolen out of Fresno, the remnants of a truck and trailer in a "C" Container, and an engine from a stripped truck.

The house itself is a rental but the renter of the home said that he had rented out the back lot to 45-year-old Wendell Ray Campbell, who is now facing multiple charges for possession of stolen property.

So far victims from Madera, Fresno, Visalia and Porterville have been contacted. Some of the items recovered include a 42" HD flat screen TV, two elliptical treadmills, torch cutting accessories, a fuel



Wendell Ray Campbell, 45, was arrested for receiving stolen goods. He is already out on \$10,000 bail.

Please see **STASH** on P. 23

## Ranchos' "Operation Love for Lexi" Exceeds Everyone's Expectations

By Christi McKinney

The Madera Ranchos community opened its hearts and its wallets to help 12-year-old Leukemia patient Lexi Delgado. In just six hours on Saturday, Feb. 5, "Operation Love for Lexi" raised over \$12,000 to help her family offset the costs incurred during their three-month stay in Stanford. The event, which began with one local business owner, seemed to take on a life of its own as generous Ranchos residents turned out to rally around the Delgado family and to find any way they could help out.

The Blood Mobile was on hand and 71 pints of blood were donated in Lexi's name.

Even more importantly, 56 people signed up for the bone marrow registry. So many people wanted to donate blood that 47 people have pre-registered for the next blood drive which is being organized for March.



Lexi was diagnosed with "Acute Myelogenous Leukemia" (AML) on July 23, 2010 at Children's Hospital in Madera. AML is a very aggressive and rare form of leukemia in children. Lexi has spent most of the past seven months at Children's Hospital in Madera undergoing chemotherapy, only coming home for a few days at a time between chemotherapy treatments. After her fourth chemotherapy treatment, Lexi was consid-

Please see **LEXI** on P. 23

## In Memoriam

# Merven Lee Vick

October 2, 1935 - February 14, 2011

Merven Lee Vick, born in Stilwell, Oklahoma on October 2, 1935 and died on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011 surrounded by the love of his family.

Merven was a general building contractor for over 50 years. He began residential and commercial building in Madera Ranchos in 1975 and years later he and Virginia built and owned Maywood Shopping Center on Avenue 12. Merven had been retired since 2002.

An ardent supporter of the Ranchos,

Merven started the Ranchos Patrol and was an intricate part in the opening of the library in Madera Ranchos. He served on the Board for Friends of the Madera Ranchos Library, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and Madera Hospital. Merven was even the Grand Marshal for the Flatlanders Parade in 2007 and he and his wife Virginia were selected Man and Woman of the Year in 1996.

Merven enjoyed traveling with Virginia, riding his bicycle and reading. Merven's greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Merven was preceded in death by his father Andy Vick and his mother Gladys Vick. He is survived by his loving wife of



54 years, Virginia, and their three children, daughter Vicki Vick and her husband Mike Wood; his son Michael Vick; his son Mitchell Vick and his wife Bella; his nine grandchildren, Vance Killion and his wife Lisa, Lynda Vick, Brittney Majors and her husband Brian, Amanda Massetti and her husband Kevin, Briana, Cody, Moriah, Madolyn and Colton Vick; his nine great-grandchildren, Devin, Derek and Sadie Majors, Cameron and Riley Cavazos, Lailha and Nikolyssa Killion, and Addison and Emily Massetti.

### Thoughts from a friend ...

I was just told of the news that a friend, Merven Vick, had a heart attack and was resting at the hospital and it didn't look good. A couple of days go by and news came that Merven had quietly passed away. This all seemed like a sudden shock, knowing that Merven had dealt with heart problems in the past and it had always worked out. Most recently, having had bypass surgery, Merven had shown so much progress, riding his bike more than 20 miles per ride and showing a faster gait and a slimmer physique, all showing signs of improved health.

As I began the process of reminiscing of having lunch with Merven and our occasional meetings, it reminds me of how quick life passes. Sometimes we take for granted that someone will always be there.

Please see **FRIEND** on P. 10

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at New Covenant Church in Fresno. Immediately after the funeral, the funeral procession drove down Herndon Avenue in Fresno to the 41 Freeway and then to Avenue 12 where Merven was driven through his beloved Madera Ran-

chos and got to pass Maywood Center and the Ranchos Café, where he was a daily fixture, one last time on the way to his final resting place at Arbor Vitae Cemetery in Madera.

The family has asked that any remembrances of Merven be made in the form of donations to the Merven Vick Scholarship Fund through Bank of the West at 7062 N. First St., Fresno, CA 93720.





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2/11



# Friends-Sponsored Flatlanders Craft Show Around the Corner

By Ellen Mester

Believe it or not, the Friends of the Ranchos Library are already planning the 21st Flatlander's Day Craft Show which will be on Saturday, May 14 in the Maywood Center from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Craft Show information can be obtained at the Ranchos Library. The craft booths sell for \$30 each for a 12 x 12 space. The food booths sell for \$50 each and must be inspected by the Madera County Dept. of Environmental Health. Our policy is to NOT duplicate types of items sold as much as possible but to offer on a first come, first served basis. That way we don't have two or more booths competing for sales of the same product. This applies to food booths as well. If you are interested in purchasing a space for the Craft Show stop by the library and fill out an application as soon as possible. The Flatlander's Day Parade, which is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, will begin at 10 a.m. sharp. Parade applications can be picked up at the Chamber office. Awards will be given to entries in various categories following the parade.

### Volunteers

Since our staff has been reduced from three full time employees to 1½ employees, we have relied heavily on our volunteers. Even though they are not allowed to work at the circulation desk, they still help in countless ways. Many volunteers assume that all they will be doing is shelving books. They quickly learn that there are many other tasks involved in running a library. Checking books in and out or shelving them are just the obvious things we do. Our volunteers help with the children's programs, tutor elementary students, process books, pull requests, help patrons find books, shift shelves of books, organize the book sale room, peruse the books stores for new and popular books, and much more. I just want to thank all the wonderful people who have helped this library over the years. We couldn't have done it without you.

### What's Happening at the Library

**Children's programs:** Preschool Story Time: every Thursday at 11 a.m. with Diane Maxfield

**After School Programs:** Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

**Summer Reading Program:** Mid-June through the end of July

### Other important meeting times:

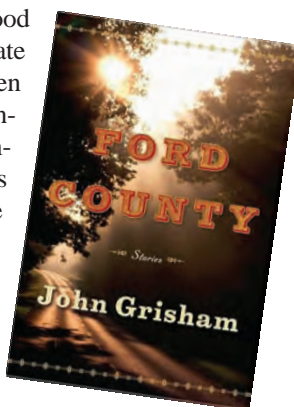
**Friends of the Ranchos Library:** The first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

**Ranchos Library Knitting Group:** Every Monday 5 to 7 p.m.

**Citizens Advisory Committee:** The last Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.

### Book Recommendations

**Adult fiction:** *Ford County: Stories* by John Grisham. Once again Grisham captures the essence of life in the deep south with his stories from Ford County, Mississippi. Some are hilarious, some quite sad but all are believable and memorable. The first story entitled "Blood Drive" is about three good ol' boys who volunteer to drive to a Memphis hospital to donate blood for a local boy who was badly injured on the job when scaffolding fell on top of him. Two of the three have good intentions but the third is purely along for the ride and has an uncanny knack for getting into trouble. The sequence of events and the eventual degradation of positive motives had me laughing. And the ending was classic Grisham. The last story is very moving. It's the late 1980s and Adrian, the son of a once wealthy family, returns to Clanton to die. He is a homosexual and is dying from A.I.D.S. His family won't allow him to stay with them so they arrange for him to spend the remainder of his life in Lowtown with a black, spinster woman. She is a compassionate, intelligent woman who in a short time becomes the perfect care-giver for Adrian. In the end they discover they have more in common than not. Sometimes it is the kindness of strangers that means the most.



**Juvenile biography:** *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa* by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Ella began her career in the 1930s in Harlem but quickly moved on to bigger stages with the help of Chick

Webb, a jazz musician with a bead on the music industry. When they performed together there was a "chemistry, a musical magic." From the Savoy to Carnegie Hall, Ella showed the audiences that "a true star has no color — it just shines." Ella eventually teamed up with Dizzy Gillespie and made bebop her own. She was a true vocal virtuosa. The lovely illustrations complete this biography that reads like a picture book. You can almost hear her voice in the words. It's an excellent selection for African-American History Month.

Check out these books and more at your library and don't forget your library card: Don't leave home without it!

**It's Official! Coffee Drinking is Good for Your Health!**

*Drinking coffee in moderate amounts during middle age may reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the elderly according to a study done in Finland and Sweden. Those who drank three to five cups of coffee per day in midlife were much less likely to have developed dementia or Alzheimer's disease in follow-up checks two decades or more later, the researchers said in an issue of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.*

Here's to your good health!

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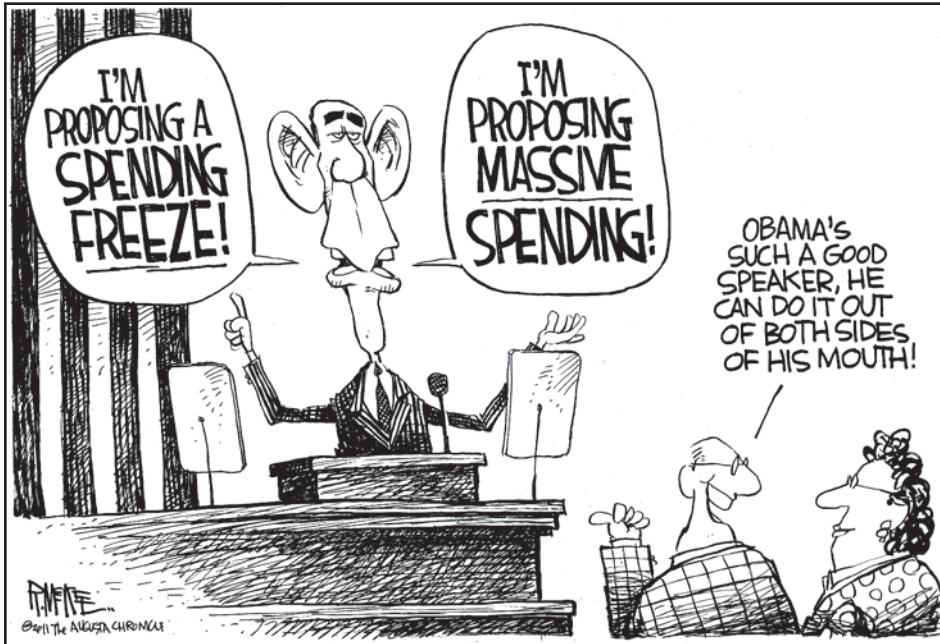
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Guest Editorial

# Egypt's Ambiguous Revolution

By Rich Lowry

Every revolution against autocracy is initially stirring. Who wouldn't have cheered when Louis XVI was forced to convene the Estates General, or when a liberal provisional government took over from Czar Nicholas, or when the rank and file of the Shah's army refused to fire on protesters in the streets?

All these inspiring events were mere prelude to catastrophe, making the years 1789, 1917 and 1979 synonymous with the onset of tyranny and bloodshed.

This is why our applause at the imminent political demise of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak should be decidedly provisional. For all his ruinous failings and disgusting crimes, we may miss him when he's gone.

In Cairo in 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice famously said that we had "pursued stability at the expense of democracy in this region here in the Middle East - and we achieved neither." Her statement is now hailed as prescient, but it was wrong by any reasonable standard.

During the first three decades of Israel's existence, Egypt fought wars with the Jewish state in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973. Since the beginning of Hosni Mubarak's presidency in 1981, there have been none. Most of the credit goes to Anwar Sadat, who signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 that cost him his life. Yet, a 30-year peace between the

largest, most important Arab state and Israel is no small feat of stability.

As for democracy, we didn't actively trade it for order, but took Egyptian political culture as we found it. After decades of British occupation, the revolution of 1952 eventually gave rise to Gamal Abdel Nasser. Historian David Pryce-Jones calls him "the first Arab to have created a police state," complete with the "whole grim and bloody apparatus of control through bureaucratic terror."

Nasser died in 1970, but his system lived on. Egypt has been ruled by emergency decree almost continuously since 1967. The Egyptian police state didn't exist because of American support (initially it was pro-Soviet); we supported it because it existed, and over time became pro-American.

What now? It is heartening to see Egyptians revolt against the indignities and misery visited upon them by Mubarak. But marches and riots -- and even elections -- are one thing. Creating a functioning, liberal democracy is quite another.

Egypt has no experience with true constitutional democracy, and its strongest institution is the relatively Westernized military. We should urge Mubarak to leave without attempting a crackdown that will further radicalize the streets and risk splintering the army (the meltdown of the Iranian army in 1979 was a boon to the ayatollahs). Then, with luck, the military can manage a gradual transition to a more open political system.

The Bush administration undertook a push for democratization that created a tentative democracy at a great cost in Iraq, but otherwise petered out. Weirdly, it may be that the slimy anti-American info-activist Julian Assange, by leaking documents detailing the extravagant corruption of Tunisia's since-deposed dictator, has inadvertently done more to stoke an Arab Spring.

We know how hopeful it is now in its early days; we don't know how it's going to turn out.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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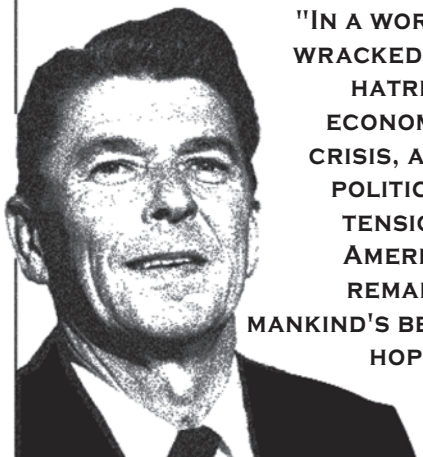
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# People Watching, T.S.A. Style

I highly recommend people watching for anyone looking for an inexpensive and entertaining way to pass the time. Whenever and wherever large groups of people assemble, there is bound to be at least one twit that forgets they are in public and engages in some sort of behavior that can provide hours of hilarious entertainment.

I recently had the opportunity to spend the better part of my Christmas vacation waiting for an airplane because I had decided to visit my parents who live in the middle of a cactus patch in central New Mexico. Two hours after I made my way through the invasion of my privacy that is the TSA security checkpoint, I discovered that my flight was still about another two hours out. Due to a lack of reading material, I decided to partake in a little people watching for entertainment.

The airport was sure to have plenty of tasty cannon fodder for my literary arsenal.

I found a comfortable corner, popped in my ear phones, cranked up my iPod and began studying those around me, and I

learned something: apparently when you take off your shoes going through security, and walk through the naked machine, you leave your dignity behind with your modesty, and clearly some people are asked to check their common sense with their luggage.

One such example of someone who clearly forgot he was not in the privacy of his own living room was the teenage boy with his finger jammed so far up his nose I thought for a moment he only had half a finger. If that wasn't appetizing enough, the glory moment came when he then proceeded to wipe the fruits of his excavation on the inside of his zip-up sweatshirt. I attracted a few people watchers myself as I guffawed, snorted, then rolled onto my side in a fit of laughter. What exactly was he storing up for? Winter? A midnight snack, maybe? Possibly he foresaw an emergency wherein a mild adhesive was needed, and he wanted to be able to come to the rescue, triumphantly

## GENERATION WHY by eryn b. nyre



shouting, "I have something that can save the day! I have mucus!" More importantly, I was seriously concerned about the condition of this young man's nasal cavity because he stayed with the pick and wipe routine for the better part of an hour. What could he possibly have left up there?

Another delightful scene was the two young girls who turned the terminal into their own personal auditorium. At first I didn't notice them

*"... the man responded, loudly, and I am quoting here because I wrote it down, 'No, the other mistress of Satan who let her demon spawn run amuck in the airport while she took a little snooze.' This man was after my own heart."*

because they were sitting quietly with their headphones on, minding their own business. Then their mother took a little nap leaving the little darlings to shed their halos and emerge as the monsters they truly were. They

began skipping around, singing loudly and performing a poorly choreographed dance routine to what I can only assume was some pre-teeny-bopper, bubblegum pop song, and just causing a scene in general. I think their mother must have taken a valium because I can't imagine sleeping through that ruckus without pharmaceutical assistance. The situation really became noteworthy when one took off down the terminal and the other attempted to engage a man, who I thought was her father, in what appeared to be a dance-off. The man just kept turning his head away from her, clearly trying to ignore her. At first I was agitated that her father was just sitting their quietly, avoiding eye contact, when it dawned on me, he didn't appear to recognize this child, which led me to believe either: A) being forced to sit this long in an airport can bring on acute amnesia; or B) this was

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 24

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**2011 Flatlander's Day** 2/11

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

Group  Individual  Business

Group or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No  
Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

**Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):**

Horses (Single)  Horses (Group) Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Band/Music Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Non-profit) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Business) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Other) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dance Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Children) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Adult) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Novelty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!  
Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.  
Parade route: Avenue 12 from Topper to Kensington

*The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 2** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
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Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

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## The Stock Report

# More Ranchos Events and Honors

By Audrey Stock

Hi Neighbors,  
On Feb. 5 I had the privilege to be a speech judge for the Madera County Academic Decathlon. When Golden Valley Unified separated from Madera Unified, the Madera County Superintendent Sally Frazier encouraged both me and Mona Diaz to become judges at the annual Academic Decathlon. This was before Liberty High School was built. Mona and I both became judges at that time and we have continued as judges since that time. Once Liberty High was built we encouraged the Liberty High administrators to put together a team to compete at the Decathlon. This was the eleventh year for me to volunteer as a judge. It is the first year that Mona has missed. When we started there were only three high schools competing in the Academic Decathlon. They were Madera High, Yosemite High and Chowchilla. Liberty High made the fourth team. Now there are a total of eight high schools that compete with more than 70 students competing from Madera

County. It is exciting to see how the Academic Decathlon has grown in the 11 years since I have been involved in it. The school teams are made up of nine high school students who compete in a series of 10 academic tests. Each team has three "A" grade students, three "B" grade students and three "C" grade students. Students compete for medals and cash awards.

For the first time this year Liberty High students participated in the Madera County Mock Trial. Other high school students from participating schools were Chawanakee/Minarets High, Madera High and Yosemite High. These student teams study a hypothetical case, conduct legal research and receive coaching and guidance from volunteer attorneys in courtroom procedure and trial preparation. Students portray each of the principals in the cast of the courtroom characters. Students participate as counsel, witnesses, court clerks and bailiffs. Students get a taste

of the various jobs that are involved in a courtroom trial. They learn about the research that attorneys have to do to prepare for each case. This is a very valuable experience for our Liberty High students.

In case you don't know, Webster Elementary School has had a new principal since administrators came back from the Christmas vacation. His name is Mr. Felipe Piedra who was formerly at Liberty High School as a Learning Director. Mr. Piedra was employed at Liberty High in 2006 as a counselor and was promoted to Learning Director of Liberty High in 2009. Principal Piedra filled the vacant principal spot at Webster when Principal Scott Tefft moved his family to the East Coast. Ms. Alexis Jennings is filling the vacant Vice Principal spot at Webster because Mr. Aaron

Black became the new Learning Director at Liberty High. Golden Valley Unified has had to make changes to meet their budget. As the last half of the school year begins, Golden Valley Unified employees are working together to make this school year one of the best for their students.

*OK, the secret is out, the Ranchos Hills Senior's candidate [for honorary mayor of the Ranchos] is me, "AUDREY STOCK" and I am honored. Don't forget that the most votes wins, so I expect all of my friends out there to vote for me. This is going to be fun!*

February is a very busy month and by the time you get this paper it will almost be over. I hope that you had a nice Valentine Day. Now it is time for the Ranchos and surrounding area to have some fun. The Ranchos needs an honorary Mayor. The race for Mayor is sponsored by the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club as a fundraiser. On Saturday, April 2 at the Ranchos Hills Senior's annual Home and Garden Festival come and sign up your candidate at the Kiwanis Mayor's booth. Maybe you remember when we used to have an honorary mayor in the Ranchos. Archie Burton from the Ranchos Hills Seniors was our last Mayor. Archie has since passed away but he must be smiling to think that the Ranchos will have a new Mayor. The way that you vote is you give \$1 to vote for your favorite candidate. OK, the secret is out, the Ranchos Hills Senior's candidate is me, "AU-

Please see **STOCK** on P. 22



## Substitute *This!*



Have you ever been to a friend's house and had a piece of cake that was absolutely yummy and asked for the recipe? A week later you get the recipe out because you want to make this fabulous cake for your family only to discover it takes "cake flour" instead of all-purpose flour. You haven't had cake flour in your pantry for years. Then you read on that it takes buttermilk! The last time you had buttermilk in the refrigerator was when Aunt Matilda was here for a visit. Now what to do? Don't panic, there are ways to get around these "problems" without going to the store.

In last month's article, one of the recipes called for 1/8 cup of something. I thought later how many of us have a 1/8 cup measure? We all know from fourth grade math that 1/8 is half of 1/4 but that doesn't help here. This month's article is a little different than usual. I am going to give you some substitutes for ingredients and measurements used in food preparation.

Ingredient	Amount	Substitutes
Arrowroot Starch	1 tsp.	1 T Flour or 1/2 tsp. cornstarch
Baking Powder	1 tsp.	1/4 tsp. baking soda plus 5/8 tsp. cream of tartar or 1/3 tsp. baking soda plus 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar
Bread Crumbs, dry	1/3 C	1 slice of bread
Bread Crumbs, soft	3/4 C	1 slice of bread
Catsup	1 C	1 C tomato sauce, 1/2 C sugar, 2 T Vinegar
Chives	2 tsp.	2 tsp. finely chopped green onion tops
Chocolate-semisweet	1-2/3 oz.	1 oz. unsweetened chocolate plus 4 tsp. sugar
Chocolate-unsweetened	1 oz.	3 T cocoa plus 1 T butter or margarine
Cream, half & half	1 C	7/8 C whole milk plus 1/2 T butter or margarine
Cream, whipped		Chill a 13 oz. can of evaporated milk for 12 hours. Pour into a chilled bowl. Add one tsp. lemon juice. Beat until stiff.
Cream of tartar	1/2 tsp.	1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice or vinegar.
Flour, cake	1 C sifted	1 C minus 2 T sifted all purpose flour
Flour, Self rising	1C	1 C minus 2 tsp. all-purpose flour, plus 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt
Garlic	1 clove	1/8 tsp. garlic powder or 1/4 tsp. instant minced garlic

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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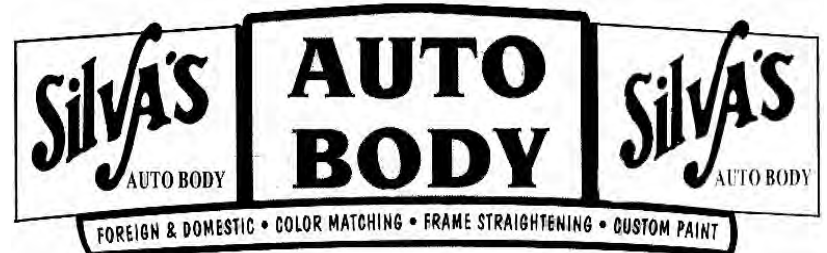
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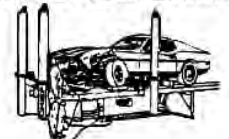
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Ingredient	Amount	Substitutes
Herbs, dried	1 tsp.	1 T fresh, finely cut
Milk, buttermilk	1 C	1 C plain yogurt or 1C minus 1 T sweet milk plus 1 T vinegar or lemon juice. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes.
Onion, chopped	½ C 1 C 2 C	A 4 oz. onion, about 2" diameter An 8 oz onion, about 3" diameter A 1 lb. onion, about 4" diameter
Parsley	1 tsp.	3 tsp. fresh parsley, chopped
Shortening, melted	1 C	1 C cooking oil. Should not be substituted unless recipe calls for melted shortening
Shortening	1 C	1 C minus 2 T lard or if being used in baking, 1 1/8 C butter or margarine, decrease salt in recipe by ½ tsp.

Measurement Equivalents

1 tsp.	equals	1/3 T
3 tsp.	"	1 T
2 T	"	1/8 C
2 T + 2 tsp.	"	1/6 C
4 T	"	1/4 C
5 T + 1 tsp.	"	1/3 C
6 T	"	3/8 C
8 T	"	1/2 C
10 T + 2 tsp.	"	2/3 C
12 T	"	3/4 C
16 T	"	1 C

That's it for the most common substitutions. If you need one that is not on this list and you have access to the internet, type in "food substitutes" or "ingredient substitutes" in Google, and go from there. Or call me and I'll see if I can help you.

Ollie Ridge gave me the following recipe. It sounds so good; I'd like to pass it on.

*Vonda's Apple Cake*

Mix the following ingredients:

- 2 C Flour
- 2 C Sugar
- 1 Can Apple Pie Filling
- ½ C Oil
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon

- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 2 Eggs

1½ C Raisins  
 1 ½ C Chopped Walnuts  
 Place in a 9 x 13 pan and bake @ 350 for about 45 minutes.

Next month will be the Easter issue so we'll probably have special Easter recipes, but the following month I would like to do Peanut Butter recipes. I have a couple from a friend in Madera that I would like to share, but if you have something special your family enjoys with peanut butter, please let me know and I'll be glad to include them in the column.



Dear Editor:

Just thought that I would pass this on to you for the Ranchos paper. Jared [Osborn] was written up by the Fresno Bee as their player of the year and then he earned the All American 2nd team for California and Hawaii, along with Central Valley MVP, 1st team and Nor Cal 1st team. Attached is the All American list ... at this time he is being pursued by Pepperdine, Irvine, UC San Diego, U.C. Santa Barbara, UOP, Fresno Pacific and Cal Baptist.

Just one more reason that we need a pool at Liberty High School. Right now there are about 15 kids that go to swim with the Clovis Swim Club. Many of those kids will be attending Clovis schools in the fall or are already attending Clovis schools because we don't have a pool.

Kandace Osborn  
Madera Ranchos

### FRIEND cont. from P. 2

Merven was an individual who was direct and outspoken. He was community oriented and deeply cared for the Ranchos. He was a pioneer in the development of the business and housing community, and was instrumental in many of the service organizations.

Merven will be a tremendous loss to the community. He was a friend, a person to turn to for advice who always gave an honest and heartfelt answer. One of those moments was my first meeting with Merven in 1999. I was freshly elected and sworn in to office. Merven wanted a meeting at his office. It was interesting, Merven behind his paper-covered desk, he said, "Well, what are your plans for

the future?" And I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "I want to know, what you are going to do about Avenue 12, the water system, the flooding, etc.?" My response was, "Merven, I've been sworn in for three days, give me a chance to work on each of these." He said, "OK, fair enough, but I want you to remember three things: I expect you to be honest, informative, and don't forget the Ranchos!"

All of which I have taken to heart and have done, and will continue to do. I will miss our friendly chats, as two guys who enjoyed wearing hats. May God give him peace and rest.

Frank Bigelow  
Supervisor, District 1

## Nominate "Hands-on-Heroes"

Do you know of someone who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children 0 to 5 years old in their communities? First 5 Madera County is currently accepting nominations for those individuals for a "Hands-on-Heroes" Award.

Committed to celebrating those individuals, Central Region First 5 Commissions will be celebrating heroes in their respective counties in conjunction with the Week of the Young Child on April 11-15. First 5 Madera County will honor heroes in the community with its inaugural "Hands-On Hero" Awards. Individuals can be nominated in three categories: Child Health, Early Care and Education, and Family Strengthening for their work with young children and their families. Nominations forms are due by Feb. 28 and can be accessed at [www.first5madera.net](http://www.first5madera.net) or can be obtained at both the Madera and Chowchilla First 5 Family Resource Centers.

The winners of this year's First 5 Madera County Hands-On Hero Awards

must demonstrate a fervent commitment to serving children 0 to 5 in the community. It is these heroes, serving children every day, that truly deserve to be recognized and applauded for their selflessness and passion for creating a better world for children. Winners will be officially recognized at a First 5 Madera County reception held on April 14th at the Madera Family Resource Center.

First 5 Madera County represents an important part of our state's effort to nurture and protect our most precious resource—our children. The focus at First 5 is to educate parents and caregivers about the important role they play in their children's first years. First 5's services and supports are designed to ensure that more children are born healthy and reach their full potential.

For more information about the "Hands-On-Heroes" Awards or to learn more about First 5 Madera County, please call 559-661-5155 or visit us at [www.first5madera.net](http://www.first5madera.net).

### The Savvy Life

## Make a Game of Spending Less

By Melissa Tosetti and Kevin Gibbons

From the Madera Ranchos to Manhattan, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the Recession tunnel. After hunkering down for the past two years, thoughts of new clothes and actually taking a vacation begin to emerge. The potential to thrive instead of just survive is right in front of us.

But thriving isn't just about vacations and new clothes. It's about creating a strong financial foundation so when the next recession hits, you won't have to worry once again about just surviving.

There are hundreds of ways to manage your finances such as Intuit's Quicken or Microsoft Money, but no matter how you choose to track it, there is only one way to achieve success: You have to spend less than you make.

Spending less than you make sounds easy enough, right? And yet, according to a Feb. 15,

2009 article on Forbes.com, "Eight Reasons Why We Overspend," the average American spent \$1.33 for every \$1 they made. With a \$50,000 income, they spent \$66,500 that same year. That is \$16,500 more than they earned. If this habit were to continue, that \$16,500 of debt would turn into \$33,000 the following year, \$49,500 the next year and so on. None of these figures factor in the devastating cost of compounding interest.

Part of the problem lies in the very things that are supposed to make our financial life easier. Debit cards and online banking do make handling your money easy, but they also emotionally distance you from your money. Also, for many, direct deposit has enabled the dangerous habit of spending into the next paycheck. One powerful lesson learned from the Recession is that you can't count on that next paycheck. The 7.9 million people who lost their jobs can attest to that disastrous fact.

Often, we think we just need to earn more to gain financial stability. That way, we won't have to worry about our spending. However, the media coverage of actors, musicians, athletes and lottery winners who lost everything by overspending demonstrates that it does not matter how much you earn - you have to spend less than you make. The poster child of this example is Michael Jackson. Since the late 1980s, he earned an average of \$40 - \$50 million per year and yet, at the time of his death, he was \$300 - \$400 million in debt.

We know that "paying ourselves first" by automatically putting money into a retirement and emergency account is key, but there is another way to spend

less than you make and have fun doing it. Create a game of striving to have money left over at the end of each pay period. Do whatever it takes not to spend into that next check or to have to dip into your savings account. At first, it may be a little difficult. You'll find

*As you start to master the game, you may have an extra \$5, \$20, \$50 or \$100 at the end of the pay period to spend on something special or save for a bigger ticket item. Truly, the best part of the "Spend Less Than You Make Game" is that you get paid for winning!*

that you underestimated how much you needed to drive and have to fill your gas tank a second time. You may also forget that it's your mom's birthday and you need to purchase a gift for her. What the game does is it makes you aware of out of the ordinary expenses. This type of consciousness allows you to plan ahead.

As you start to master the game, you may have an extra \$5, \$20, \$50 or \$100 at the end of the pay period to spend on something special or save for a bigger ticket item. Truly, the best part of the "Spend Less Than You Make Game" is that you get paid for winning!

Next month, we will talk about how to afford to spend on what is most important to you.

*Melisa Tosetti is the founder of the online magazine The Savvy Life. Along with Kevin Gibbons, she is the author of "Living the Savvy Life: The Savvy Woman's Guide to Smart Spending and Rich Living."*



*Kiwanis Korner***Ranchos Kiwanis Events and Activities Keep Volunteers Hopping**

By Carla Hart

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

Happy New Year everyone! The past few months have been busy ones for the club. In December we purchased, assembled and shipped care packages to 17 of our local Ranchos soldiers stationed both stateside and abroad. Our members would like to extend our true appreciation for the soldiers' service to our country and sacrifice for our freedom. Also in December, seven LHS Key Club members and four Ranchos Kiwanis member chaperones made the trek to Pasadena for the annual Rose Parade float-decorating day on Dec. 30. This exciting, annual Kiwanis event is always an experience not to be missed. This year our group was assigned to the Trader Joe's float, "Exploring Planet Dinner," which won the Best Animation trophy. Great job to all our volunteers and a special "thank you" to all the other Kiwanis volunteers that cooked and

served lunch to 650 of us in 30 minutes.

In January, the club welcomed two new members: Maryann Parks and Debbie Farr.

Anyone who knows these two ladies knows the hard work and dedication they put into our wonderful community and we're fortunate to have them as part of the Ranchos Kiwanis family. Welcome aboard Maryann and Debbie. A big "thank you" goes out to our President, Mona Diaz, who sponsored this dynamic duo. For bringing new members to the club, she received the "BEAR Team" award by our Lt. Governor, Richard Wayne.

Also, in the months of December and January, we had some wonderful guest speakers including educator, author and retired KMPH regular, Bill Coate, who entertained us with his knowledge and history of Madera County. Also, our own Kiwanian, Travis Hart, spoke about the exciting sport of SCUBA diving and presented us with a slide show of his undersea adventures. Thank you to our all our guest speakers. We are always on the lookout for interesting orators. If you have an informative topic you'd like to share, please contact President Mona Diaz at 333-1913.

At press time we will have had our

inner club meeting with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Madera at Round Table Pizza on Feb. 3, our monthly DCM at Home Town Buffet in Clovis on Feb. 12, the annual E-Waste event at Ranchos Market on the Feb. 12-13 and celebrated with a Valentine's Day party at Wildwood Mobile Home Park clubhouse thanks to our own Dale Lucas.

Our next event will be the Mayor's Race in April. Flyers are coming door to door thanks to Kiwanian Bruce Blair and his hard working Boy Scout troop. Look for more details in the next issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Did You Know: Kiwanis offers membership to almost all age groups – from elementary school students to adults. Combined, there are approximately 600,000 members in 8,000 clubs throughout 96 countries. The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club is looking for business owners and individuals who are interested in having fun while giving back to our community. Become part of a civic organization devoted to helping our local children today. If you are interested in becoming a Kiwanian, please contact Mona Diaz at 333-1913.

Thank you to the Ranchos community

for the continued support of the Ranchos Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at Alfresco Coffee and each Thursday thereafter at 6:45 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory.

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”*

Elizabeth Andrew

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

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# New Year, New President for Seniors

By Verlaine Elinburg

Michael Thomson was born and raised in the Bay Area. I always wondered where the Bay Area was and when it was stated that he and his wife were from the Bay Area I checked the words "Bay Area" and the best I could come up with was the beautiful scenic coastal area around the city of San Francisco, San Mateo, Sunnyvale, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Salinas to Monterey. Where people come to in California and then never leave.

Mike attended Watsonville High, Cabrillo Junior College and San Jose State. During the academic years in high school he participated in wrestling and football and continued wrestling in junior college. He moved to the Valley in 1974 and obtained employment at Corkey's Custom Slaughterhouse in Kerman as an apprentice butcher. A couple of years later he commenced his career as a butcher at the Save Mart grocery chain. This is where he met the love of his life, his wife Carolyn. Together they both worked and played into retirement.

When I asked him, "Tell me about retirement life," with a smile he said, "My playground is the outdoors; I travel, fish, bicycle ride, garden, read and spend time with family and friends, and of course my pals Chance and Charlie. We take walks, play and most of all they love their backs rubbed. They are both Border Collies and my best friends."

Thomson that he and Carolyn, his wife, were active members of the "hunter/gatherer tribe," having collected copious amounts of marble and cookbooks. "Our hobbies have taken us far and wide and we have explored great adventures, enjoying our endeavors at flea markets, yard sales, estate sales and county fairs. During the years we have seen our country change and we do miss our treasure hunts, but as technology has come to play, Craig's list, eBay and Amazon have taken over," he said.

Eleven years ago the Rolling Hills area of the Madera Ranchos became their new home. Retired and looking for action, they joined the Ranchos/Hill Seniors where they discovered new friends and participated in the activities at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. "The Center was what we were looking for. It is rock 'n

rolling with activities they have on their ongoing agenda – daily, weekly and monthly, and if you want to know what is happening in the community and the surrounding area and any gossip, it is the place to be," Thomson said.

He and his wife have been on several travel trips organized by the Center. Europe, Alaska, cruises, along with different trips locally and other places in the U.S.A. "We volunteer for various fund raisers to fund the upkeep of the Center, play cards (poker and other card games a couple times a week); pot luck, to check out the new recipes; and good old fashion home cooking," he said.

Carolyn is the assistant treasurer of the Treasure House and this year Thomson "jumped in with both feet" and became the President of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. "I am having the time of my life," Thomson

*"The Center was what we were looking for. It is rock 'n rolling with activities they have on their ongoing agenda – daily, weekly and monthly, and if you want to know what is happening in the community and the surrounding area and any gossip, it is the place to be," Thomson said.*

said. "Presently we are in full swing in preparation for our Annual Home and Garden Festival on April 2nd, and the Bike Ride April, 16th. The bike ride has different levels of ability and different routes. If you have not attended any of our events and would like more information, please give us

a call at 559-645-4864. I would also like to extend an invitation to any adventurous seniors 50 and older to join our center. Find a friend for life, have fun and live life to the fullest."

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center has a 10 Day Alaska Cruise and Tour set for this August from the 10th through the 19th. Alaska-Yukon, Explorer and Inside Passage are part of the cruise. Three night cruise from Vancouver to Skagway, plus a Seven-Day Tour. See Vancouver, British Columbia, the Inside Passage, Tracy Arm, Juneau, Skagway, Whitehorse and Beaver Creek in the Yukon Territory then Tok, Alaska, Denali National Park and Anchorage. Enjoy a relaxing cruise through the famed Inside Passage of Alaska aboard Holland America's luxurious Volendam and then disembark in the historic town of Skagway where you begin your journey through the famed Gold Rush region of the Yukon. You will experience magnificent scenery and authentic Alaska throughout your tour by ship, deluxe motorcoach, the White Pass & Yukon Railroad and aboard the McKinley Explorer train. For booking the tour and additional information contact Jo Ann at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 645-4864.

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**Piles to Files - Part II**

*Creating a Long-term File System*

Now that you have your active files all set up (see last issue's *Piles to Files - Part I*), it's time to take a look at the papers that are jammed in and around the file cabinet. For these we will create a long-term system.

**Purge** – Shred or recycle documents that aren't current such as auto records for cars you've sold, outdated insurance policies (unless they have claims outstanding), and old paid bills and statements that are not needed as a backup for tax purposes. Remember that for each tax year you only need the end of the year statements and W-2s, so the quarterly, monthly, weekly statements and pay stubs may be shredded once you've secured the year-end statements. Check with your accountant for a final say on what you need to keep for tax archives.

The purge process may take awhile depending on whether or not you've done this post 1965. If the task seems overwhelming, set a timer for an hour and chip away a little at a time. Create a reward system to keep yourself motivated as you complete each file drawer or box.

**Create Folders** – If you don't currently have a system that's working for you, I highly recommend Freedom Filer (www.freedomfiler.com – contact me for a discount code or preview). This is a user-friendly system and practically maintenance-free. It's color-coded with categories such as monthly paid bills, tax documents and archives, permanent records (medical, auto, home, etc.), remove/replace documents (insurance/bank policies, service provider info, employment package, etc.), and resource files (travel, health & fitness, home decorating,

etc). With this system you'll always be ready for tax season, have easy access to every paper, and never have to re-label files from year to year.

If you're more of a do-it-yourselfer, you'll still need to have a home for every paper that wasn't purged. Keep the file size manageable by breaking down large stacks of paper such as "Auto" or "Health" records with interior folders for each car or family member.

Label files in general terms, like "Auto Insurance" instead of "AAA," so that if you change carriers you don't need to re-label your folder. If your files exceed more than one file drawer, divide them by categories and use colored dividers to separate and label each category. File your folders alphabetically for easy access.

**Maintain** – Now that there's a home for every paper, filing will be so much quicker and easier. But, you still have to do it! Schedule a monthly time, or link it with your bill-paying schedule. Have a specific place for your "to-be-filed" papers and don't let the stack outgrow its boundary.

If you're using the Freedom Filer system, there will be a built-in schedule for removing outdated items. If you've created your own system, schedule an annual purge in order to keep your files from getting too full.

**One more option** – go paperless! Whenever you have a choice, choose paperless statements that go directly to your email. Using NeatReceipts, a mobile scanner and digital filing system from The Neat Company (www.neatco.com), you can easily scan every other paper (receipts, business cards and documents). It automatically breaks down the information and stores it in an appropriate file in your computer. Just make sure that if you choose this option you have a great computer backup system.

You can contact Brenda McElroy to have questions answered at *Organized by Choice* (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, email her at [info@organizedbychoice.com](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.

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# By the Community

## What is SEMCU and what does it do?

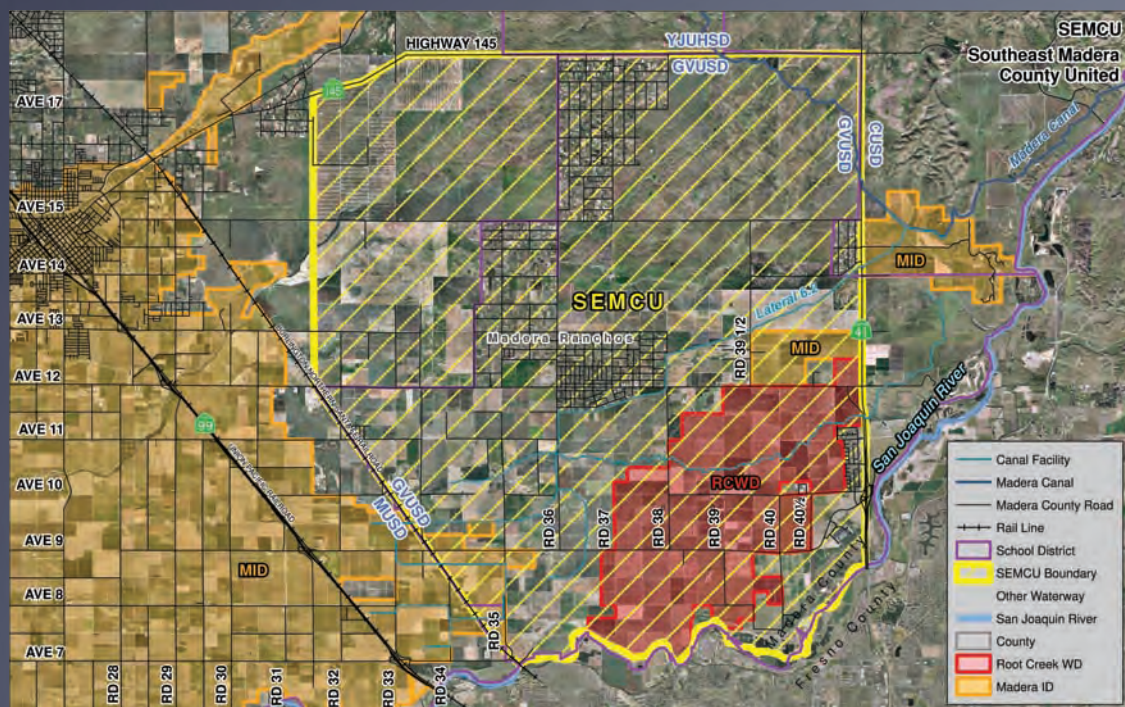
The South East Madera County United organization, or SEMCU, is a nonprofit, mutual benefit organization dedicated to representing the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in the SEMCU Area. In representing local interests, SEMCU studies issues facing its members, such as access to water, transportation, schools and energy, and works with local governments and private entities to find working solutions to regional problems. Additionally, SEMCU strives to advocate for its members wherever and whenever the opportunity arises and to obtain grant funding to help address area needs.

## Who should join SEMCU?

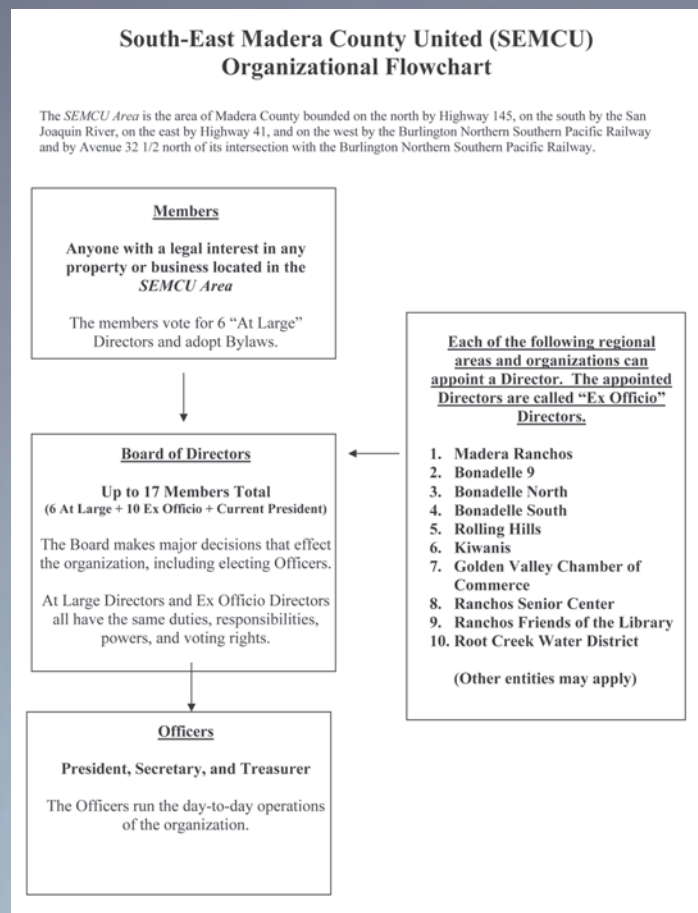
If you are a resident, landowner or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

## Who is on SEMCU's Board of Directors?

Your neighbors. Tom Hurst, Tim Jones, Nancy Koontz, Brock Moore, Jim Powell, Bill Prince, Ethel Pronin, Seth Thomas and Igal Treibatch.



What is the SEMCU Area? The South East Madera County United, or “SEMCU,” Area covers the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.





# ◆ For the Community

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**for more info call 559-363-9095  
or email [info@semcu.com](mailto:info@semcu.com)**

**to obtain copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit [www.semcu.com](http://www.semcu.com)**

**the next Annual SEMCU meeting  
is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 28**

**at 6:30 p.m. at**

**the Ranchos Pizza Factory**

**37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos**





## State Budget has Serious Implications for Madera Ranchos Schools



*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.*

*By Sarah Koligian*

“Do I like the choices we face? No. I don’t. But after serious study of the options left us by a \$25 billion deficit, the budget I have proposed is the best I can devise. If any of you have other suggestions that you think are better, please, share them with us. After all, we are in this together.” - Governor Jerry Brown

Governor Brown’s 2011-12 budget proposal is a balanced approach between revenues and new cuts to solve the deficit and provide for an extension of temporary revenues to support programs our students need and deserve. Over the last several years, K-12 education funding has taken a disproportionate amount of budget cuts. State and local funding for schools has been cut by more than \$18 billion or about

\$1,900 per student in the last three years. The magnitude of this budget deficit on Golden Valley Unified School District has been a reduction of more than \$3 million in anticipated revenue and an additional reduction of more than \$3 million in actual revenue or approximately \$1,500 less per student over the past three years as a result of ongoing statewide cuts to education funding. The district has lost out on more than \$6 million in education funding due to the state not fully-funding Golden Valley over the past three years.

The loss of \$7 billion in one-time federal funding further reduces school budgets statewide. Additionally, approximately 25 percent of our revenues (\$2 billion statewide) have been deferred by the state from the current school year into the next school year, creating further cash flow issues for school districts. In order to reverse this downward spiral, Californians must retain the revenues that enable us to invest in our schools and students. The governor’s budget proposal to limit further cuts to schools in 2011-12 is dependent on voter approval of an extension of existing temporary tax increases. A ballot measure to extend temporary revenues will help prevent further cuts to schools and without this extension the Legislative Analyst’s Office reports that funding for schools would fall by at least \$2 billion, or more than \$335 per student. For Golden Valley, the amount lost per student is approximately \$353 per Average Daily Attendance (ADA), if the initiatives do not pass in June.

Governor Brown says education is a priority, and we expect lawmakers to work with him to protect schools from further

cuts and to ensure the continued investment our students deserve. Voters understand the importance of investing in education as the foundation of a strong economy and a well-educated workforce. According to a statewide Public Policy Institute of California poll, 82 percent of Californians oppose reductions in K-12 schools to fix California’s budget deficit. An initiative to extend temporary revenues will help prevent further cuts to schools and students.

It is our commitment in Golden Valley to provide a quality education for all students, and even though our budget has been decreased by the state over \$3 million dollars over the past three years, from approximately \$17 million to \$14 million in revenues, we have continued to maintain a level of excellence. This is due, in part, to our dedicated employees who continue to put our students first. Over the past three years our employees have worked with the district to reduce work days, to minimize operational expenses, and to maximize class sizes to help weather the financial storm.

Looking at the glass half-full, if the tax initiatives pass in June, Golden Valley would experience an approximate shortfall of \$60,000, which could be absorbed into next year’s budget without any major changes to how our schools are operating today. However, if the voters of California do not pass the initiatives, which extend the current taxes, Golden Valley may be facing a budget crisis like no other. Looking at the glass half-empty, Golden Valley could experience a potential revenue shortfall of approximately \$750,000, and possibly more if Proposition 98 is not fully funded, which

would have a devastating impact on our district. As we have done in the past, we will be relying upon the input and support of our staff, parents and community to work with the district to collaboratively problem solve solutions to once again weather the proverbial storm.

The District and our Governing Board of Trustees want to hear your input on budget reduction ideas. On March 28, the Board will schedule a Public Hearing on the budget to obtain input from our community. The meeting will be part of the regular Board Meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the Liberty High School Library. For more information, please call Golden Valley Unified School District at 645-7500.

Our statewide organizations are also urging all concerned citizens to write our local legislators to let them know what the potential impact could mean to our students if the initiatives do not pass. We appreciate your support in maintaining a community that is “growing a district of excellence.”

Please consider contacting our local legislative representative to share your concern about protecting education. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Assemblymember Linda Halderman**  
District 29  
assemblymember.halderman@assembly.ca.gov  
(916) 319-2129.

**Senator Tom Berryhill**  
District 14:  
senator.berryhill@senate.ca.gov  
(916) 651-4014.

## Whooping Cough Immunizations Required for Admission in 2011-2012

There are new whooping cough (pertussis) immunization requirements for students in grades 7-12. Starting in July, 2011, the new state law (AB 354) requires all students entering 7th through 12th grades to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine booster called “Tdap.”

The new requirement affects all students – current, new and transfers – in public and private schools. Students need their Tdap shot before coming back to school

in August, 2011. There is no grace period for this requirement.

Get your child’s Tdap shot now. A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child’s doctor or clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now and avoid the back to school rush. After receiving the immunization, bring your shot record or fax a copy to your child’s school.

### “Tdap” Information Resources

**Shots for School** by the California Department of Public Health - [www.shotsforschool.org/](http://www.shotsforschool.org/)

**What Parents Need to Know** from the California Department of Public Health - [eziz.org/PDF/ab\\_354\\_faq\\_for\\_parents\\_11\\_05\\_2010.pdf](http://eziz.org/PDF/ab_354_faq_for_parents_11_05_2010.pdf)

**Assembly Bill 354** - [www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_0351-0400/ab\\_354\\_bill\\_20100929\\_chaptered.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0351-0400/ab_354_bill_20100929_chaptered.html)



# Bond Measure Projects Continue

By Jim Monreal

Construction has nearly been completed at Liberty High School for our most recent projects which include a new Science Building and an Athletic Stadium. Site work began in late December of 2009.

The science classrooms are being outfitted to accommodate advanced science classes in Chemistry and Physics. These classrooms are a great addition for the science program at Liberty High School.

Included in the athletic stadium is a newly paved parking lot, bleachers for the home side with a capacity of 1858, a new press box and elevator-lift, men's and women's restrooms, a ticket booth, storage and snack bar areas. The track has been expanded to eight lanes, which will accommodate sporting events. Work remaining is making our

temporary bleachers on the visitor's side permanent according to Division of State Architect requirements. The stadium and concession buildings are currently being used for soccer games.

Did you know that the Sierra View Modernization Project is underway?

We have partnered with TaylorTeter Architects and Harris Construction and are moving forward with our next project which will be the Sierra View Modernization. Construction is projected to begin late May, 2011. All construction is projected to be completed by August of 2011 and will be ready for the 2011-2012 school year. Part of the modernization project includes plans for a new Administration Building.

*Jim Monreal is the Chief Business Official for Golden Valley Unified School District.*

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# Fresno Grizzlies' Mascot Parker Gets Webster Wild About Reading



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## LHS is 3rd in Academic Decathlon

Liberty High finished third overall at the 29th Annual Madera County Academic Decathlon held on Feb. 5 at Madera South High School. Yosemite High School won the Academic Decathlon and will compete in the California Academic Decathlon State Finals on March 11-14 in Sacramento. Yosemite High School scored 32,137 points out of 60,000, and will challenge the best schools from throughout California.

The seven County high schools that competed had nine-member teams, each comprised of three "A", three "B" and three "C" students. Liberty High had no "C" students and still finished third overall, even after scoring no points in the "C" segment of the competition.

The Liberty High team was comprised of Coach Rebecca Harp-Sligh, Jaycob Rousey, Carl Temple, Rene Mondeau, Nicole Ray, Mandy Herron and Lauren Bailey.

Chowchilla High School placed second with Glacier High School and Liberty tying for third in the competition. Other competing schools included Chawanakee Academy, Madera High, Madera South High and Pioneer Technical Center. This was the first year Glacier High School and Pioneer Technical Center participated.

"This was the largest Academic Decathlon in Madera County's history," said Cyndy Dolph, Associate Superintendent,

Madera County Office of Education. "We were excited to have two new high schools join in this academic event."

This year, each student participated in ten challenging events, including tests in art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science and social science. In addition, the contestants performed a prepared and impromptu speech, wrote essays on a given topic and were interviewed by a panel of judges.



The Liberty High Academic Decathlon team was coached by Rebecca Harp-Sligh, left, and watched by Liberty High Principal Kuljeet Mann. Team members included Jaycob Rousey, Carl Temple, Rene Mondeau, Nicole Ray, Mandy Herron and Lauren Bailey. Superintendent Sarah Koligian was also present at the competition.

The 2011 Academic Decathlon topic was The Great Depression and the Super Quiz topic was geology.

The top scoring senior from each school received a \$100 scholarship. The following students earned the senior honors:

**Liberty High School-** Lauren Bailey  
**Chawanakee Academy-** Phillip Benard  
**Chowchilla High**

**School-** Micah Davison  
**Glacier High School-** Jordan Russell  
**Madera High School-** Audrey Cavazos  
**Madera South High School-** Jessica Sierra  
**Yosemite High School-** Melissa Denny

Students received Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for each academic event. The only Liberty student to earn a medal was Nicole Ray who scored a Bronze medal for Language and Literature.

The Madera County Academic Decathlon is funded by donations from local businesses and community members.

## LHS Creating Scholarship Fund

**Attention Community Members!** On June 2, 2011, 129 Liberty High School graduates will leave Liberty High destined to fulfill their college dreams. However, many of these graduates face the daunting challenge of figuring out how to pay for rising costs of attending college and we need your help.

In recognition of our graduates' accomplishments, Liberty High School would like to extend an opportunity to the members of this community to establish a scholarship fund which will promote the attainment of our graduates' post-high

school goals. The creation of these scholarship funds will support the continued growth and educational opportunities for Liberty High's graduating seniors and the future professionals of this community.

It's not too late to establish a scholarship fund for the Class of 2011. If you or someone you know is interested in donating a one-time or annual scholarship opportunity to support college bound students of Liberty High, please contact Karie Hannigan, Scholarship Coordinator, at 645-3500 extension 2003 or email khannigan@gvusd.k12.ca.us by March 11, 2011.

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

2/11

## The Pastor's Desk

### Join the Ranchos' Special Forces

By David Jones

I will never forget the day I arrived at Boot Camp. The experience was everything I had been promised and more. The Viet Nam war was escalating and I didn't want to miss a single adventurous moment of it. After boot camp I went to Georgia for advanced infantry training and then jump school where I earned my paratrooper wings. When I was accepted for Special Forces training (The Green Berets) I was flying high. I worked hard and soon I earned the Green Beret and graduated from the John F. Kennedy School for Special Warfare at Ft Bragg North Carolina.

I only had nine months left of a three-year hitch when I arrived in Viet Nam in February of 1969. Here we are in February 2011 and it has been 42 years since I found myself participating in a war that would remain controversial for the rest of my life. During my short stay in that beautiful country, I made friends

among the locals, traveled over much of the countryside by helicopter and generally enjoyed what would prove to be the greatest adventure of my life. There were moments of intense horror and fear but there were also moments of exhilaration and fun-filled excitement. It has been well said that every man is looking for a battle to fight, an adventure to have and a beauty to rescue. I am no exception.

I have had many adventures and even rescued my beauty. She has been with me 41 years. The one thing that continues on through life is the battle. Oh, it's not the kind of battle I fought in Viet Nam; it's the kind of battle every person in the Ranchos fights. No this battle is not economic – an economic battle is only a skirmish – the kind of battle I'm talking about is really not even physical. It's a battle with the enemy of our souls. It's the kind of battle where the enemy wants to steal the soul of your children and get them addicted to drugs. It's warfare to keep our kids safe and our families together. The apostle Paul calls our attention to this battle in Ephesians, Chapter six.

Paul identifies this battle as one with spiritual forces of evil. The Bible helps us

to know that Satan is a real being and it is his intention to steal our joy. I am so glad that Jesus said, “I am come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” Paul helps us to grasp the right weapons with which to fight our battles. They are listed there in Chapter six.

The Bible uses a lot of warfare metaphors beginning with stories such as Abram rescuing his nephew Lot and ending with Satan being cast into a lake of fire in Revelation Chapter 20. These stories are there because all of this life is preparation for the next life. Battles are allowed because they provide opportunities to exercise faith in God and learn the great lessons of life. Your battle may be in health or relationships or finances but the real opportunity for victory means fighting in the spirit realm.

*Between now and the end of your earthly story, there will be continual battles to be fought. I encourage you to take advantage of the spiritual weapons that are available to you. Most people own a copy of the Bible, but few ever read it.*

Jesus Christ has already conquered our greatest enemy, the enemy of DEATH. If you have read the end of the book (Revelation) you know the end of the story and the fact is: WE WIN! The Bible

teaches that Jesus has overcome death and the grave. There is an Easter and we are looking forward to a celebration of it on April 24.

Between now and the end of your earthly story, there will be continual battles to be fought. I encourage you to take advantage of the spiritual weapons that are available to you. Most people own a copy of the Bible, but few ever read it. Pick it up; dust it off and read Ephesians, Chapter six. Paul declares that our battle is with spiritual forces. Let's serve notice to the spirit world: We are God's Special Forces. Satan may have his spiritual forces but God has his Special Forces.

I joined God's Special Forces the day I enlisted by trusting Jesus Christ to be my Savior and God. All through my 64 years I have had the privilege of fighting along some marvelous warriors. Some of them have gone on to heaven. I think of my buddies like Jim Kurtowicz who never came home from Viet Nam, but I also think of my buddies like Leonard Petersen and Calvin Taylor who fought the good fight and have recently joined with all those who have died trusting Christ as

Please see PASTOR on P. 22

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



PASTOR cont. from P. 21

Savior. Many have died in battle and the war goes on. Take heart, weary soldiers! Upon the authority of God's Word, I promise you a victory is on the horizon! I don't care what your life circumstance is today; you have hope in Jesus Christ. Look to Him, trust in Him, and cling to Him. He is the Commander on the Field and He will direct your paths.

God is accepting new recruits today. On His behalf I want to extend an invitation for you to be part of the Special Prayer Force for the Ranchos.

*Pastor's Prayer*

Dear God, I thank you that we don't

have to depend on our own resources to fight the battles of life. By faith we appropriate your weapons and activate your angels to come to our rescue. Bring a mighty victory out of our situations to the ultimate glory of God. God intervene for the folks in the Ranchos. We are a blessed community but there is much heartache in the battles that are being fought in the secret compartments of the hearts of our people. I pray for the peace that passes understanding and for power that defies any explanation but for saying, "It's a God thing!" Please move in on this community in such a way that we win the battle for the souls of our kids. Move on us in such a way as to sustain our homes and families and our well

being. Thank you for being God. Amen.

*David Jones is the Pastor of Golden Valley Baptist Church at 12414 Road 37 in the*

*Madera Ranchos. You can reach him through the church website at www.goldenvalley-church.com. You can send him an email from the website and he'll write back.*

STOCK cont. from P. 7

DREY STOCK" and I am honored. Don't forget that the most votes wins, so I expect all of my friends out there to vote for me. This is going to be fun!

Next on the calendar is on Saturday, Mar. 5, starting with the Ranchos Hills Senior's monthly sale of plants, bargains at the Treasure House, bake sale, produce and boutique. The sale is from 8 a.m. to noon. After you have lunch and rest a little make your way

to Liberty High cafeteria for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce annual all you can eat Crab Feed at 6 p.m. This is our local Chamber of Commerce fundraiser that keeps our Chamber going and growing. Stop by the Chamber office and pick up a ticket for \$40. If you like crab, this is the event for you to have a great dinner and a fun night out. I have been to each Crab Feed since the Chamber started having them and they just keep getting better each year.

# SPREAD THE NEWS!

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**STASH** cont. from P. 2

pump, a trailer that's been chopped up and three operable trailers – all reported stolen out of Fresno. Major power and hand tools, all used at construction sites, and at least two Dell computers were also recovered. The TV's, treadmills and office furniture were all stolen from a warehouse in Fresno and the owner of a stolen generator was able to be located because he had it stamped with an OAN (Owner Applied Number).

As the task of sorting through the

equipment carries on, deputies have also recovered elliptical machines – at least one destined for a Doctor's office in Madera.

Deputies say they have only scratched the surface and that the final count as to the price tag of the stolen goods is still being tallied, but Detectives estimate it to be several hundred thousand dollars worth of stolen goods.

In addition to the stolen property, Deputies also found and seized a glass pipe commonly used to smoke Methamphetamine as well as a bundle of Meth, all

believed to belong to the suspect.

The renter, Wendell Ray Campbell, has since posted his bail that was set at \$10,000. Deputies have been told that Campbell has only lived at that address for the past three months, but based on the vast amount of stolen property that canvasses the back lot, Deputies believe others may be involved.

If anyone has information about this case they are asked to call either the Madera County Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770 or CRIME STOPPERS at 498-STOP.

**'Pick-A-Colt' Day**

The Lazy K Ranch "Pick-A-Colt" Day Sale will be held one month earlier this year, Saturday May 7, 2011, to accommodate a shift in the ranch's breeding schedule and cattle drive. Also new this year, get from two new stallions added to the breeding program, including an own son of Shining Spark.

What hasn't changed is the availability to purchase foals from some of the best ranch horse bloodlines in the country, including Colonel Freckles, Doc O' Lena, Sugar Bars, Hollywood Dun It and Peppy San Badger. This Quarter Horse and Paint horse sale offers more than 70 colts, fillies, yearlings and a few very kid-friendly riding horses all priced to sell with at least 60 head priced between \$575 and \$975. All horses are pre-priced and sold on a first to pick first to purchase basis.

"We moved the sale up a month as most of our foals now are fall babies," said Larry Knapp, sale manager. "Weaning these youngsters in May allows them plenty of time on their dams, gets them to their new homes earlier and allows us a little more time to get our cattle to their summer pasture."

Each horse will be available to view online at LazyKRanch.com in January. Information on each sale horse includes their pedigree and a photograph, and the photographs of their sire and dam. Shoppers can visit the site and narrow their selections prior to arrival sale day. For those who can't make the trip to the ranch, the sale is open to Internet buyers one hour after the sale begins. Prices for each horse are posted on the ranch Web site, Lazykranch.com, the night before the sale.

"This is the place to get an authentic ranch horse with color," said Larry Knapp, sale manager. "We've got dazzling buckskins, palominos, roans and fancy paints all for less than a breeding fee." "We offer the Internet option so anyone, no matter where they live, can purchase a good ranch, show or trail horse at a great price."

On sale day, May 7, the ranch gates open at 8:30 a.m. with the sale beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by the online portion of the sale. Shipping assistance is available for online buyers located in Southern California.

"It's quite a sight to see when we open up the corrals at 10," said Sherry Knapp. "People are so excited to finally be able to PICK that perfect horse they have been researching online."

For more information on the "Pick-A-Colt" Day Sale visit [LazyKRanch.com](http://LazyKRanch.com) or contact the ranch at 559-665-2908. Information is also available on Facebook and Youtube.com.

**LEXI** cont. from P. 2

Aunt said, "Lexi was thrilled to be home for Christmas. However, just before she completed her last chemotherapy treatment, her doctors discovered that the Leukemia had returned. Because she relapsed during treatment her treatment will now require a bone marrow transplant." The bone marrow transplant will be performed at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford as soon as a bone marrow donor match is found. Lexi and her family will have to stay in Stanford for approximately three months after the bone marrow transplant. Until a donor match is found, Lexi will continue to be treated at Children's Hospital.

Understandably, Lexi said, "When I was first diagnosed with Leukemia I never thought this would ever happen to me. I was scared. Right now, I am grateful for my family, friends, and supporters in the Madera Ranchos. I look forward to getting well and doing all of the things I did before I was diagnosed. I'd like to be home to spend time with friends and family."

Event organizer and owner of the Edge Salon, Jennifer Sewell, has known the Delgado family for some time. She had the pleasure of cutting Lexi's hair just before she went into the hospital. Sewell said, "I knew I had to do whatever I could do to help Lexi fight this disease." When she spoke to her staff about organizing a Cut-A-Thon they were excited to help. During the six-hour event, Jennifer and her stylists, Kristin Knobloch and Mandi Marley, gave 70 haircuts and manicurist Prima Delgado (no relation to Lexi) gave 14 manicures. The staff donated their time as well as tips earned during the event. The Pizza Factory donated 20 percent of all pizza sales and Alfresco Coffee organized a silent auction. Wendy Mee even collected \$82 from other 5th graders at Webster Elementary School.

Candy Hall has been Lexi's Girl Scout Troop Leader since Lexi was five years old and she's watched Lexi grow into a beautiful young lady. Hall organized the blood and bone marrow drives and the Girl Scouts had a bake sale. Hall was happy to step up to the plate to help, saying, "Too many people go through life think-

ered to be in remission.

Alicia Delgado, Lexi's

mother, said, "I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of the Ranchos' commitment to one young girl."



Lexi's family, the Delgados, were overwhelmed by the outpouring of the Ranchos' commitment to one young girl.

ing they should do something someday when in fact they should do anything today! As a mother, I'd hope the community would do the same if it were my child."

"The lines were long everywhere but people didn't mind waiting at all because they knew it was for a great cause," said Sewell. Organizers were overjoyed at the turnout but not surprised at the generosity of Madera Ranchos residents. Sewell points out, "I knew how touched the Knobloch family had been by how the community had embraced their family several years ago when Gavin Knobloch was seriously injured in a tragic automobile accident."

The Delgado Family would like to thank the Madera Ranchos community for all of their prayers, love, support, and contribu-

tions. Operation Love for Lexi would not have happened if it weren't for all of the hard work of so many people. Family members said they truly appreciated and loved their community for supporting their family and uplifting their spirits over the past seven months.

Organizers and the Delgado Family want to thank everyone who donated, everyone who volunteered and everyone who came out to help. Special Thanks go out to: Alfresco Coffee, Candy Hall, Central California Blood Center, Crafters Cove, Debbie Iler, Future Fashions Boutique, Girl Scouts, Hurst Hardware, Jennifer Sewell, Kristin Knobloch, Mandi Marley, Maria Knobloch, Monica Morris, Napa Auto Parts, Prima Delgado, Ranchos Cafe, Ranchos Fitness Unlimited, Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Ranchos Lions' Club, Smoking Coal, Subway, Teco and Gus's Meat Locker, The Anaheim Angels, the Edge Salon, the Higgins Family, the Pizza Factory, the Ranchos Independent, the Ranchos Market, Valley Propane, Webster Elementary School 5th Graders, Wendy Mee, Wight Water Pool & Supply, and to the Children's Hospital for taking care of Lexi.

If you are interested in contributing, signing up for the next blood drive or bone marrow registry or if you'd like to purchase an "Operation Love for Lexi" t-shirt, please call the Edge Salon at 559-645-8323. T-Shirts are \$15 with \$6 going to the Delgado family.



Jennifer Sewell, right, owner of the Edge Salon, was the driving force behind Operation Love for Lexi.



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



**4H is Not Slowing Down**

The new year is not slowing down the Sierra Shadows 4H club, the members have been busy. Favorite Foods Day was held on Jan. 22 at the Life Change Community Church in Chowchilla. 4H member Anahi Rivera made and entered two dishes. Anahi placed third with her very moist Red Velvet cupcakes under the "made from mix" category. Anahi also placed third with her diabetic cookies in both the "healthy/diet foods" category and in the "educational theme."

The rabbit project group prepared and studied very hard for their written test portion of the small animal expo. The second portion, the skill day test, took place at the Madera County Fairgrounds on Feb. 5. On that day the members were judged on their showmanship of their rabbits, breed identification, judging class and feed and equipment identification.

The Leadership Conference of Regional Teens (LCORT) con-

ference was held from Jan. 28 - 30 at the Wonder Valley Ranch in Sanger. LCORT is open to members who are in 7th, 8th and 9th grade. This year's theme was "Leadership: To Infinity and Beyond." The Sierra Shadows 4H members that attended this year's leadership training where Joylene Cross, Cody Hefley, Candice Hefley, Justin Chase and Micaela Rivera. Jolene Cross, who is an All Star member, presented a leadership session along with other All Star members from Madera County.

Several of the Sierra Shadow 4H club members will be participating at Livestock Expo (beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goats and meat goats) where the members are judged on their knowledge, skill, livestock evaluation and showmanship of their animal. Members are studying hard preparing for their written portion of the livestock expo as they need to know the anatomy of their animal, terms and diseases and other items upon which they will be tested. Livestock Expo will be held at the Madera County Fairgrounds on March 26.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4H. The Sierra Shadows 4H club leader is Terri Fernandez, who can be reached at 559-645-4836. The next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School cafeteria on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

**GEN WHY** cont. from P. 6

not his child.

When one of the Airline representatives came up to him and asked him to please collect his other child, who had taken to sprinting up and down the people mover just around the corner, the truth was finally revealed. He stared at the employee and said, loudly enough to startle their sleeping mother to consciousness, that he was most certainly not the parent of either child. The employee turned her attention to the disoriented woman and gently asked her to wake up and collect her children, who then sat up and made a motion that one could only interpret as, "who, me?" to which the man responded, loudly, and I am quoting here because I wrote it down, "No, the other mistress of Satan who let her demon spawn run amuck in the air-

port while she took a little snooze." This man was after my own heart.

The woman's face twisted into a defiant glare as she stood up and shouted something back that I couldn't hear because I was too busy trying to maintain the control of my bladder that was being threatened by my sudden bout of hysteria. She grabbed one child and stormed off to collect the other. I started a slow clap as she stomped off, but it didn't catch on. No one else found this hilarious? People need to laugh more.

Suddenly an announcement came over the loudspeaker that my flight would be boarding soon. I looked at my watch and saw I had passed more than two hours watching other people act like fools. I smiled to myself as I thought who needs a video game when you can always count on an idiot to help you lose track of time.

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"What do you mean, 'Throw myself on the mercy of the court'? The \_\_\_\_\_ is my mother-in-law!"

**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.

	-		×		7
×		+		-	
	+		÷		3
÷		×		×	
	×		+		17
6		21		16	

1 2 3 3 5 6 7 8 9

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**SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

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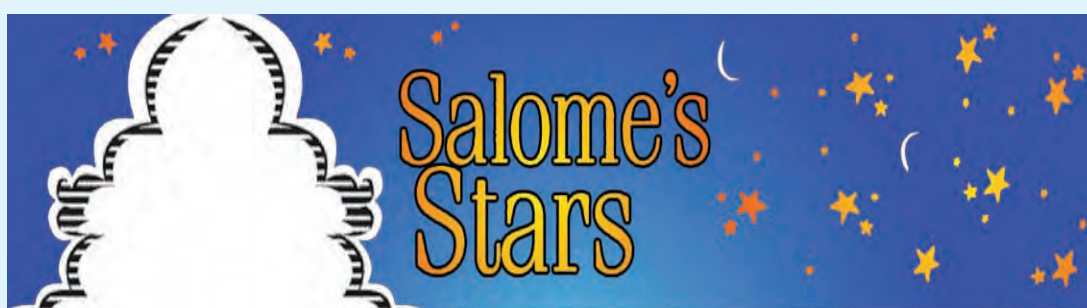
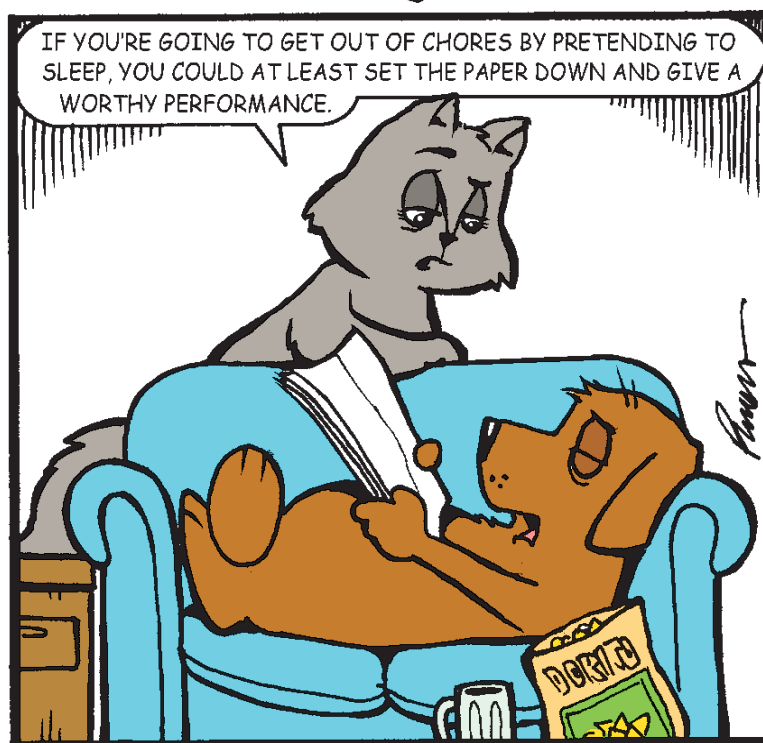
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### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Time is on your side in the early part of the week. But anything left undone by midweek will need to be put into rush mode. The weekend offers choices for you and someone special.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Finally getting credit for a contribution is nice for all you idea-generating Ferdinands and Fernandas. But don't sit on your laurels under the cork tree. Use it as a first step to a bigger opportunity.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Despite the progress made, a hint of doubt might set in. That's OK. You need to stop and consider not only what you're doing but also how you are doing. Make adjustments where needed.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The dreamer is dominant in the Moon Child's aspect, but a dollop of hardheaded practicality is coming up fast and jockeying for space. The challenge is to make room for both modes.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It's a good week for Leos and Leonas to start assessing what they've done and what they plan to do. Moving to a new environment -- home or job-related -- is a possibility for some Cats.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) The week calls for Virgos to make tough decisions, but in a way that leaves the door open for changes. Ask for advice from someone who has been in the position you're in now.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Disappointments are never easy to take, but you have the ability to learn from them and go on to success. Meanwhile, continue to build up your contacts. You'll need them soon.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Things might still be going much too slowly to suit you. But you need the time to make sure they're going in the right direction. It's easier to make a course correction now rather than later.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Showing some temperament at the way things are going is one way of getting your point across. Just don't overdo it, or you risk turning away more-moderate supporters.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Things could change more quickly this week than you like. But don't fret; you'll most likely find that you're up to the challenges. The weekend offers much-needed relaxation.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Big challenge coming up? Uncross those fingers and believe that you're going to do well. And keep in mind that so many people have faith in your ability to succeed.

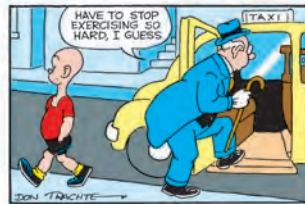
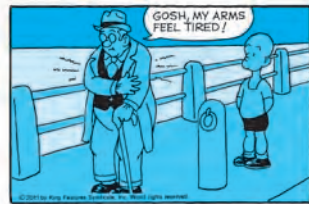
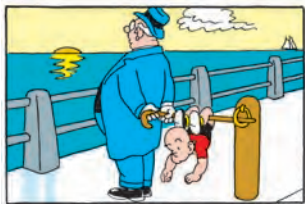
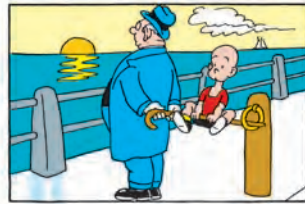
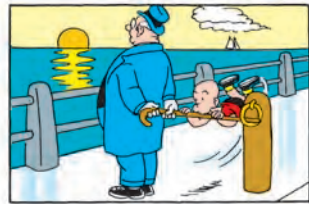
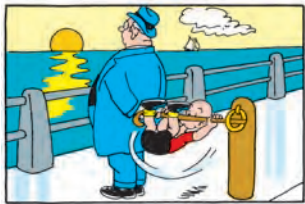
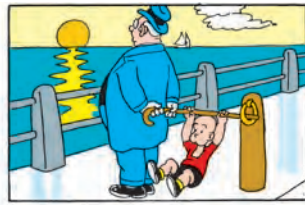
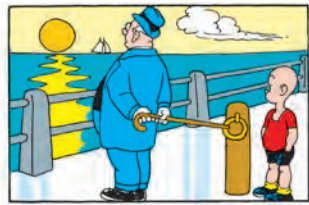
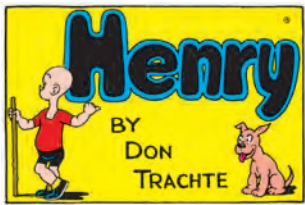
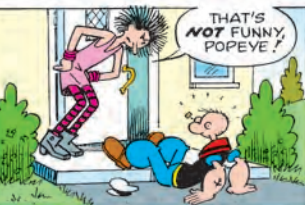
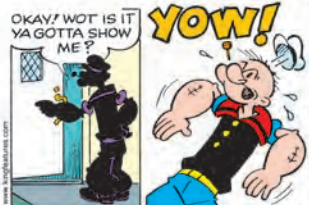
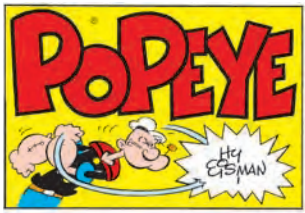
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Testing the waters is a good way of learning about an opportunity before plunging right in. Ask more questions and be alert to any attempts to avoid giving complete answers.

## Born this Week

You have a gift for making people  
-- and animals, too -- feel special and loved.

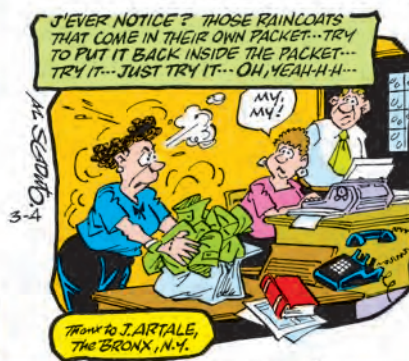
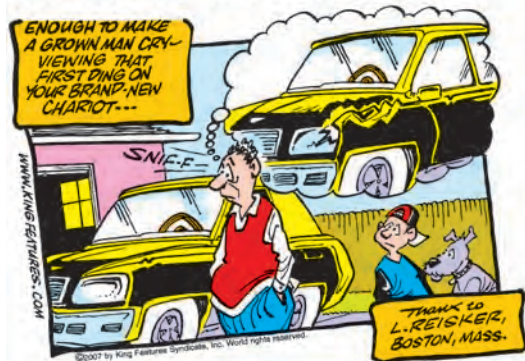


# FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



**A STAMP STUMPER!** You have 30 seconds to lick this challenge. See if you can correctly count all the postage stamps pictured.

Answer: Our count was 80. Did you miss any?

**FIND THE HIDDEN CITY** in this man's sentence!

THE NEW TESTING METHOD CAUSED MY SCORES TO BE SWOLLEN IN GRADE SCHOOL!

Answer: The city is ... LEN IN GRAD ... (Russia).

**FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE!** In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "BRUNET." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across) bat, rue, tea, man; (Down) Brim, aura, teen.



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

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 ● DISTILLED SPIRITS

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

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

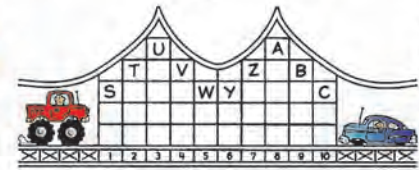
- |          |         |         |          |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Akvavit  | Cognac  | Liqueur | Vermouth |
| Aperitif | Gin     | Mezcal  | Vodka    |
| Bourbon  | Grappa  | Rum     | Whiskey  |
| Brandy   | Horilka | Sherry  |          |

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## Junior Whirl!

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A WORD BRIDGE



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

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Illustrated by David Coulson

1. A glib person (sl.).
2. Able to speak without offending.
3. To turn over.
4. To change direction; swerve.
5. A humorous person.
6. Wild, shaggy-haired animal.
7. Spirited enjoyment; gusto.
8. Unpleasantly sharp taste or smell.
9. Found on a radar screen.
10. A shy or modest person.

Answers: 1. Saps; 2. Zest; 3. Upend; 4. Year; 5. Wit; 6. Yak; 7. East; 8. Aardv; 9. Brip; 10. Coy.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where did Charles Lindbergh start his famous solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean?
2. LANGUAGE: How many letters are in the English alphabet?
3. HISTORY: When did Armistice Day become Veterans Day?
4. TELEVISION: For which city's police department did Chief Robert Insigne work?
5. PHILOSOPHY: Which philosopher was imprisoned for his pacifism in 1918?
6. MYTHOLOGY: What was the name of Pecos Bill's horse?
7. MOVIES: What were the first names of the movie star Gish sisters?
8. BIBLE: In the Old Testament, where did Jacob's Ladder lead?
9. MUSIC: Who wrote the opera "Der Ring des Nibelungen"?
10. ETIQUETTE: What type of gift is traditional for a 20th wedding anniversary?

### Answers

1. Long Island, N.Y.
2. 26
3. 1954
4. San Francisco
5. Bertrand Russell
6. Widow-Maker
7. Dorothy and Lillian
8. To heaven
9. Richard Wagner
10. China

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Click on "Local News" at



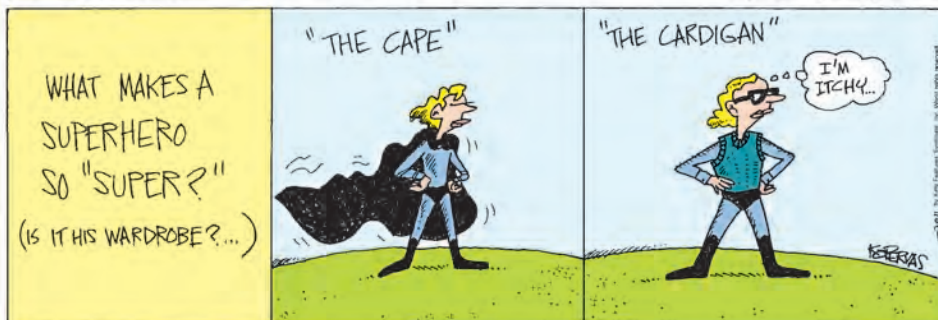
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



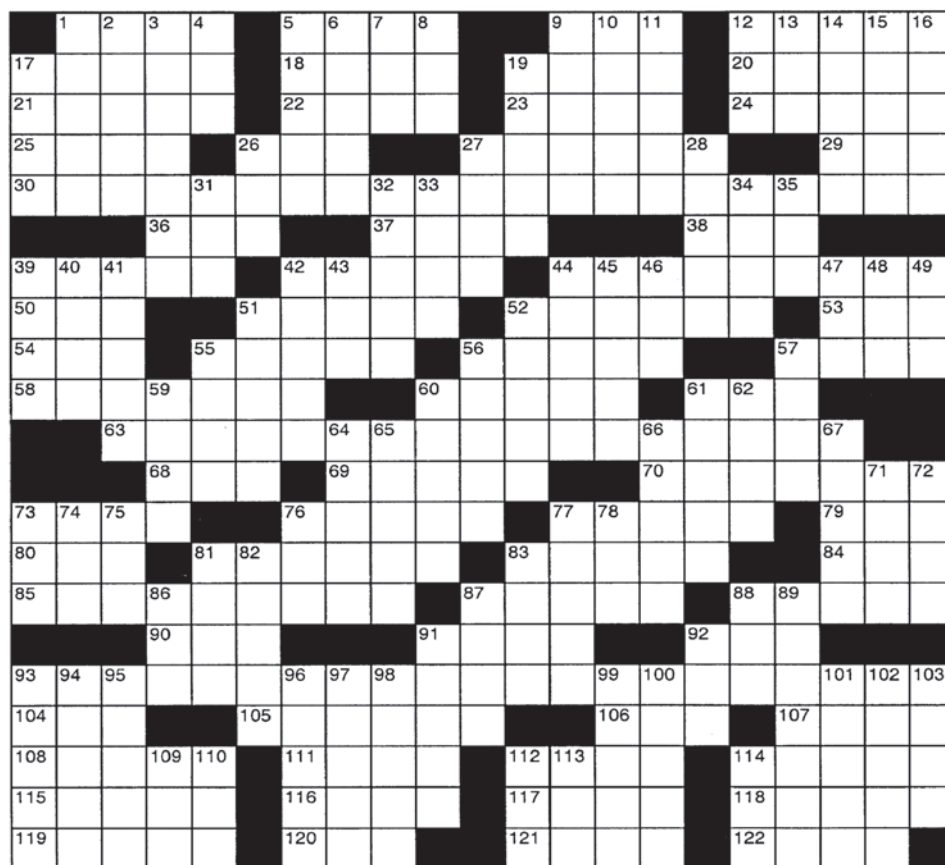
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Signs are switched. 2. Log is missing. 3. Elbow patch is black. 4. Map has illustrations. 5. Walking stick is missing. 6. Black tree is gone.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tower town
  - 5 Ditch
  - 9 Married Mlle.
  - 12 "— Life" ('66 hit)
  - 17 Acted like grandma
  - 18 Sills solo
  - 19 Tam material
  - 20 Sit in on a class
  - 21 Actor Alex
  - 22 "Aida" river
  - 23 "Meter" leader
  - 24 Actress Rivera
  - 25 Throb
  - 26 Loser to DDE
  - 27 Author Christie
  - 29 Stirrup site
  - 30 Riddle: Part 1
  - 36 Gridiron position
  - 37 Z — zebra
  - 38 Present for pop
  - 39 Dutch export
  - 42 Ms. Silkwood
  - 44 Wine variety
  - 50 Sought office
  - 51 Famed caravel
  - 52 Om, for instance
  - 53 Actress Joanne
  - 54 ABA member
  - 55 Skater Hughes
  - 56 Come out of one's shell
  - 57 Dutch export
  - 58 Sharif role
  - 60 22 Across feature
  - 61 Internet acronym
  - 63 Riddle: Part 2
  - 68 Permit
  - 69 Grows light and galena
  - 70 Studio
  - 73 Word with camp or tree
  - 76 "— Rolling Stone" ('65 hit)
  - 77 Groundwork
  - 79 Before, to Byron
  - 80 Mackie or Marley
  - 81 Wobble
  - 83 Add a lane
  - 84 It may be white
  - 85 Titmouse kin
  - 87 Emulate Elle
  - 88 — Castro
  - 90 "— vous plait"
  - 91 Joyce's land
  - 92 Implore
  - 93 Answer to riddle
  - 104 "Exodus" protagonist
  - 105 Plaza Hotel kid
  - 106 Get a galley going
  - 107 Marineland performer
  - 108 Kanga's creator
  - 111 Construct
  - 112 Crow's toe
  - 114 TV's "Mad — You"
  - 115 Celebrity
  - 116 Mispickel
  - 117 Costa —
  - 118 Rampal's instrument
  - 119 — apso
  - 120 Draft agcy.
  - 121 Dentist's directive
  - 122 French bean?
  - 8 — kwon do
  - 9 Drilling site?
  - 10 Club creed
  - 11 Yale or Root
  - 12 Tic- — -toe
  - 13 "What?"
  - 14 "Farewell, Francois!"
  - 15 Big guy
  - 16 Austere
  - 17 Close the curtains
  - 19 Cart
  - 26 Postfix
  - 27 Exiled dictator
  - 28 Mary of "Dodsworth"
  - 31 Claire or Balin
  - 32 Big revolver?
  - 33 Lost
  - 34 "The Ramayana" heroine
  - 35 Barbie's boyfriend
  - 39 Austrian city
  - 40 Solemn statement
  - 41 "Wait — Dark" ('67 film)
  - 42 Ballet company
  - 43 Santa —, CA
  - 44 Smith or Page
  - 45 Like Machu Picchu
  - 46 Utmost
  - 47 Bizarre
  - 48 Nest, egg
  - 49 Zombie base
  - 51 Debra of "Love Me Tender"
  - 52 Fountain treats
  - 55 Use coupons
  - 56 Shampoo ingredient
  - 57 Middle Eastern airline
  - 59 Electrical measure
  - 60 Librarian Melvil
  - 61 "The Addams Family" actor
  - 62 Pindaric poetry
  - 64 Stop on —
  - 65 Delibes opera
  - 66 Blackboard support
  - 67 Cry uncle
  - 71 Cleveland's lake
  - 72 Stagger
  - 73 English channel?
  - 74 Fireworks reaction
  - 75 Kimono cummerbund
  - 76 Peep protector
  - 77 Senator from Delaware
  - 78 Humorist
  - 81 Stowe gear
  - 82 Bisect
  - 83 Sported
  - 86 Civil War initials
  - 87 Pixie and Dixie
  - 88 Charge
  - 89 Vile
  - 91 Road curves
  - 92 Luxury car
  - 93 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
  - 94 Maestro Leinsdorf
  - 95 Novelist Cather
  - 96 St. — fire
  - 97 Savanna sounds
  - 98 Startled cry
  - 99 Vestige
  - 100 Dubuque denizen
  - 101 Game fish
  - 102 Intense
  - 103 Behind schedule
  - 109 Mil. base
  - 110 Homeric character
  - 112 — -Magnon
  - 113 Back talk
  - 114 Sternward
- DOWN**
- 1 Doggy
  - 2 Restless
  - 3 Left the Union
  - 4 Fuss and feathers
  - 5 A Lennon sister
  - 6 — setter
  - 7 West's "Diamond —"

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# FUN PAGES



**SEMUCU**  
south east madera county united

**SEMUCU**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Monday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.  
Ranchos Pizza Factory

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO COME!**

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

**GET INVOLVED!**

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**SEMUCU • FOR THE COMMUNITY! BY THE COMMUNITY!**

**The Ranchos Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos  
For copies of SEMUCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org)**