

# The Ranchos Independent



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## A Recall in the Ranchos?

AREA 1

AREA 2

AREA 4



NEAL



CRUMPTON



MOSELEY

Recent actions by the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees has many Ranchos citizens talking about organizing a recall election for Trustees Neal, Crumpton and Moseley.

Facebook is buzzing, there's a website at [gvusdrecall.com](http://gvusdrecall.com) and talk of the Madera County Grand Jury investigating. What's going on?

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# A Recall in the Ranchos?



By Randy Bailey

A tsunami of critical public opinion against Golden Valley Unified School District Trustees Kathleen Crumpton, John Moseley and Carla Neal in response to their decision to enter into a mutual separation agreement with GVUSD Superintendent Andy Alvarado on Feb. 3, 2015 is now growing and appears headed to only one possible outcome: a recall election. That the fervor is heading that direction is well known throughout the Ranchos community, but what many are asking is how did it get to this? The answer lies in a timeline of events leading up to this point.

## Fall 2009

Around late September of 2009, popular Ranchos Middle School Principal Shane Pinkard, who had been the middle school principal since 2006, was suddenly put on administrative leave by a unanimous vote of the GVUSD Board of Trustees. Three weeks later he was no longer with the school district and hurt and confused parents went looking for answers. Among those was Kathleen Crumpton. Since the termination was a personnel issue, the reasons, to this day, are not known to anyone except the parties involved. The Pinkard case, along with other reasons, prompted Crumpton to run for GVUSD School Board in 2010. Interestingly, according to State of California Form 460, which lists donors and donations to political campaigns, Crumpton's modest campaign was funded mainly by her, yet on the last page is a donation valued at \$330 by Shane Pinkard.

## 2010

Crumpton won the election in 2010 and settled into her new position. One of her campaign promises was to not be a "rubber stamp" trustee and just go along with whatever the superintendent suggested. She had stated several times that she was troubled by the 5-0 votes of the board and was determined to not follow suit. However, at her first board meeting, she elected to vote "no"

against transferring funding for improvements to Sierra View Elementary from Webster Elementary, where projects had concluded, ostensibly just to vote "no." She never explained her vote.

It was around this time that Mark Toole got to know Crumpton. He was a trustee as well and became the president of the board. At the Feb. 3, 2015 board meeting, Toole said, "While I was the board president, Kathleen had stated to me that her goal was to remove three people from the District, including Andy. Kathleen did not vote to give Andy the position of superintendent. The vote was 4-to-1 to have Andy as superintendent." Toole went on to say, "She has never supported Andy and has tried to bring actions against him before, costing the District several thousands of dollars in attorney fees. This is money that could have gone into the classroom. At that time she was not supported by any of the different board members and was told that her accusations that she had brought forward were unfounded."

## 2013

In the spring of 2013, Crumpton visited Webster Elementary. Crumpton enjoyed visiting schools while in session to see the interaction between the teachers and students. She checked in with the front desk, as provided for by GVUSD Board Policy 1250, and then headed over to a classroom where the principal was observing a teacher interacting with students. When Crumpton walked in, the principal asked her to leave because of the nature of the observation and Crumpton refused. Ultimately the principal cancelled the observation and asked Crumpton again to leave, to which she refused. This resulted in a call to Superintendent Andy Alvarado who was in Madera at a truancy hearing, which he had to leave to take care of the situation at Webster. What resulted when he arrived was a "he said/she said" situation of al-

leged raised voices, finger pointing and "discussions" on who was whom's boss.

On April 26, 2013 the board determined that although Crumpton alleged Alvarado was "physically aggressive," there was no evidence that he ever "... touched, threatened or was physically aggressive toward Board Member Crumpton." The board further found no evidence of Alvarado yelling, shouting or verbally threatening Crumpton. The board did suggest that BOTH parties spoke to each other "... directly, forcefully and assertively." Ultimately the board found by a unanimous 4-0 vote that Alvarado had acted professionally, Crumpton's statements were inaccurate and her complaint was "... without merit ..." As a result of all this, the board directed Crumpton to follow all laws and District policies with respect to visiting school sites and to immediately leave campus when directed to do so by a principal, the superintendent or any other administrator in charge of a District campus.

## 2014

The November election of 2014 created a realignment of power within the GVUSD school board. Crumpton ran unopposed and the election of John Moseley and Carla Neal proved to be the election of kindred spirits for Crumpton, leaving Trustees Steven Lewis and Mike Kelley effectively outvoted on everything. Insiders say that it was at this point that Crumpton realized she could make good on the promise she had made to Mark Toole four years previous and, "... remove three people from the District, including Andy."

## 2015

On Jan. 21, 2015, Andy Alvarado received a memo from Kathleen Crumpton, who was now president of the board of trustees. The memo said:

*Good Afternoon Superintendent Alvarado,*

*Please send a memo to our site administrators letting them know that board members will be visiting campuses whenever they would like. They will not be signing in or be required to wear a visitor sticker. Board members will be welcomed on campus and will not be accompanied by a site administrator.*

*Kathleen Crumpton  
Board President*

This was in direct opposition to Board Policy 1250, as well as the determination the board had passed unanimously in April of 2013, based specifically on Crumpton's actions at that time. Alvarado

emailed her back, saying:

*Would you like to have BP1250 and AR1250 Visitors-Outsiders placed on the 2/3 [Feb. 3] agenda so revisions can be made to existing policy so Board Policy would be consistent with your request below?*

*The existing policy calls for anyone other than staff and students to sign in at the office. This is for staff can know [sic] who is on campus in case of an emergency.*

*As far as visiting any time, staff is already aware that there should be no restrictions for Board member visits.*

At this time, Crumpton emails Alvarado again, but this time references a discussion she is having with John Moseley about this subject

Please see **RECALL** on P. 3

## Kiosk Banking Now in Ranchos



Photo by Carolyn Bailey

Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) is opening an ATM in Madera Ranchos in March.

The ATM, scheduled to open March 3, is located in the Madera Ranchos Plaza parking lot at Avenue 12 and Fernwood Drive in front of the Ranchos Market. It will be the only full-service ATM in the Madera Ranchos area. The ATM will disperse cash and accept deposits.

EECU President and CEO Elizabeth Dooley said the credit union is pleased to provide the ATM, saying there was a need for a full-service ATM in the area and Madera residents have always been strong supporters of EECU.

"The opening of the Madera Ranchos ATM is part of our continuing mission to offer convenient services for our members," Dooley said.

EECU has 15 branches and serves more than 236,000 members in 10 Central California counties. Membership is open to students, school employees and members of school organizations, and their families. EECU is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

RECALL cont. from P. 2

matter. In her email she forwards Moseley's thoughts and research:

Kathleen,

Please call me. I did research tonight; I knew that the law would not require Board members to sign in, and that it would not support the Superintendent.

Please review the attachments, you may then forward them to the

Superintendent and tell him that this will be a issue if he continues to violate both the Education and Penal code. The Penal code is very clear that the visit requirements do not apply to elected officials, and the Education code does not apply to District officers meaning Board of Trustees.

The Superintendent's interpretation of the Board policy is a violation of Penal Code sections 627,

627.2, 627.1 PC .

Please once again request the superintendent to send a memo to his principals informing them that board members are not required to sign in, give prior notice to visit sites, be escorted by site administrators or wear visitor passes. Please have him send this e-mail to all the board members.

John Moseley  
Board Clerk

**The Brown Act**

The Brown Act was passed in 1953 to guarantee the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies, such as school boards. The idea behind it was to keep items in the public interest public, where citizens could be informed and raise concerns, rather than being on the receiving end of

Please see RECALL on P. 9

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to ask for [community members'] help in addressing the board and holding them accountable in their attempt to change policy regarding school site visitation. Current language of Board Policy 1250 states: "Any person who is not a student or staff member shall register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when school is in session."

I possess documentation from my school site stating: "... effective, immediately, board members no longer have to adhere to past policy of school site visits. From this point forward board members will not be required to give prior notice before site visits, be escorted by a site administrator, sign in or wear a visitor sticker."

This change in policy was never a part of the Board's public meetings and was never voted on. If the school received a revision to Board Policy via email without public discussion or a vote, the Board has violated the law that governs them, which states: "... it is the intent of the law that [board] actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

This is a matter I take very seriously and I feel is a threat to our children's safety. It also speaks to the Board's blatant disregard for the rule of law. If you feel as strongly as I do and would like your voice to be heard, please write a letter to the Board of Trustees regarding this matter. Please explain to them your viewpoint and how you believe it should be handled (i.e., if policy should change or not, regarding school site visitation). I will do my best not to let this matter slip off the radar and making your voice heard is the best way to do that. Please write your letter as soon as possible and return to me so I can start compiling all my needed resources.

Thank you for your help in this matter.  
Sincerely,

Theresa Slaughter, Webster Elementary Parent  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Some have questioned my competence, personal integrity, motivation and agenda for initiating the recall of Trustees Neal, Moseley and Crumpton. Since I now have the soap box and some are interested, I would like to talk about my agenda: Career Vocational Technology (CVT). First, however, I am going to bore you to death and talk about me, my business and relationships within the school district. This is the ONE AND ONLY

TIME I intend to talk about me and my business until the three new school board members are elected. As a diagnostic technician, I have learned to minimize mistakes by blocking out distractions and focusing on the problem before me, and that's exactly what I intend to do from this point forward.

Why Warren Parr? As I have explained many times, most GVUSD meetings are lightly attended by the Ranchos community. The only community members who witnessed the Jan. 20 incident unfold was Mrs. Moseley, Mona Diaz and me. I don't believe Mrs. Moseley would attempt to recall her husband so the responsibility fell to Mona and me.

Andrew Alvarado is a customer, associate and I considered him a friend. Andrew asked me to stand down and not get involved. I assumed he was concerned it would look like collusion and he would be terminated for subordination. As it turned out he was dismissed without cause and I did not stand down. I don't know if my involvement sealed Andrew's fate, but for me the issue was MUCH MORE than just Andrew. As per my present relationship with Andrew, you might ask him his opinion.

I have been in business 30 years and lived in the Madera Ranchos 23 of them. I have a customer list of about 2,200 persons, many who live in the Ranchos. GVUSD, Andrew, various past and present board members, and many others are my customers. The most notable individual on my customer list for this discussion is John Moseley and the Moseley family. My issue is not personal. I hope to keep both Andrew and the Moseleys as customers and I certainly hope to continue my relationship with the Moseley family as they are strong fighters to bring water back to the Ranchos and the Valley.

As to Complete Car Care's qualifications as an automotive outsource provider to the District, it is a registered BAR Automotive Repair Business, California Smog Inspection "Star Station" and we are an ACDC "Qualified Hybrid Service Center." We are one of seven ACDC Qualified Hybrid Service Centers in California and one of two outside Southern California and the Bay Area.

As to my personal qualifications, I have been an ASE Master Certified Technician (A1-A8) for 27 years. I am ASE certified in Light Duty Diesel (A9), Advanced Level Specialists, am an ACDC Master Hybrid Service Technician and a licensed California Smog Check Technician. I am also an advisor to Fresno City College.

In 2013 and 2014 I was a NAPA/ASE California Technician of the Year. In 2013 I was the National NAPA/ASE Technician of the Year 2nd Runner Up.

As to the competency, quality and integrity of my business, I have decided to allow my customers to speak for me. Who else is better qualified to evaluate? Google "Complete Car Care Fresno" and you will find 133 "Demand Force" customer reviews, 142 altogether. All averaged together, Complete Car

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7

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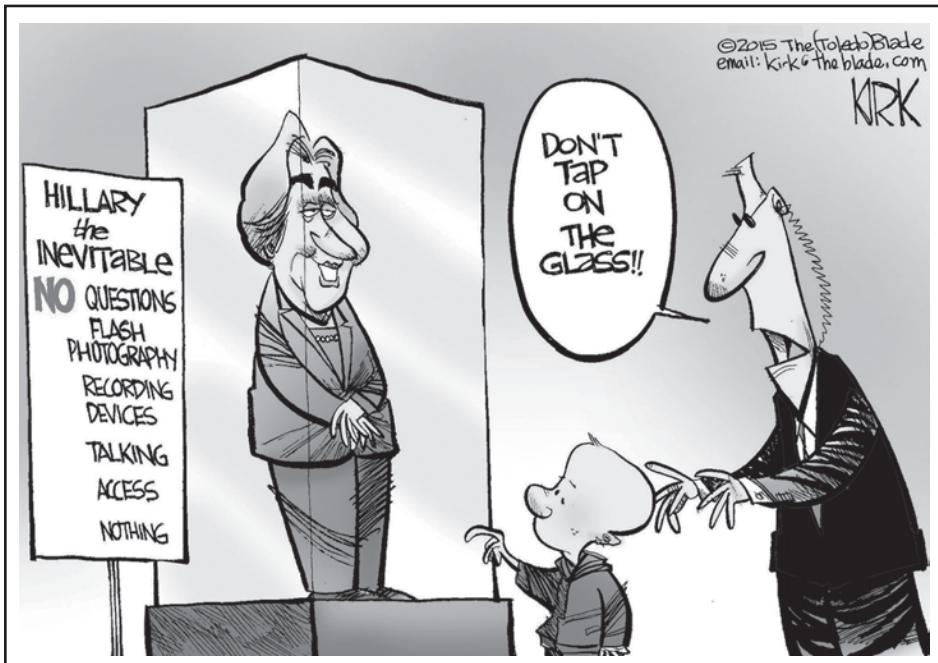
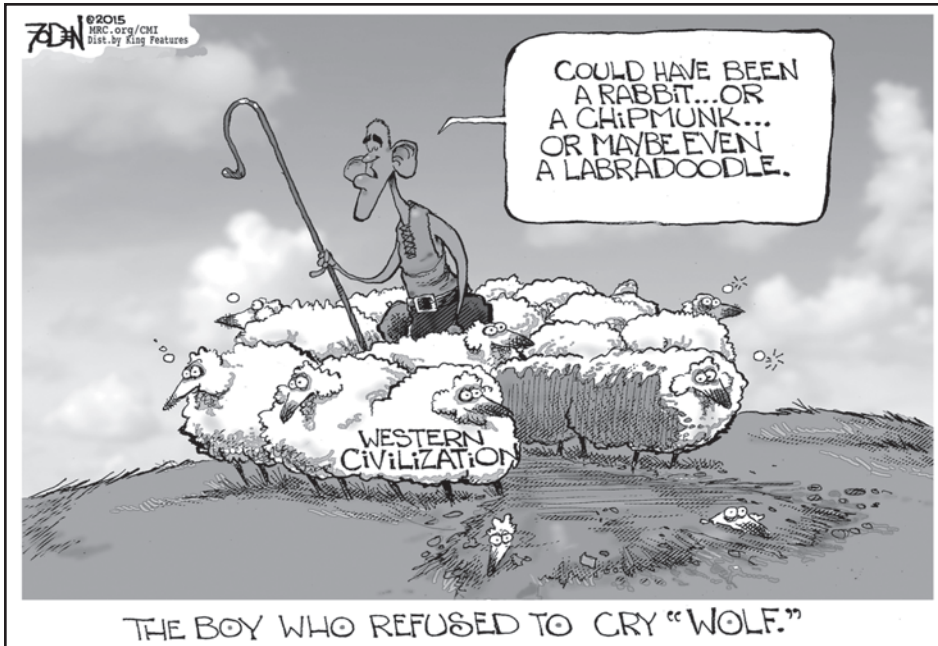
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Editorial

# You'll Get Nothing and Like It

By Randy Bailey

People can get some strange ideas. In the old days -- like, 15 minutes ago -- you could have strange ideas and about the only one that knew about them was you and maybe your long-suffering spouse who has heard it all before, possibly a thousand times. Your spouse knew it was a thousand times because each time you geared up for your rant you would lead off with, "If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times ..."

Many people think the internet's the greatest thing since sliced bread -- the ultimate in freedom of speech. The problem with all the modern incarnations of free speech is that somewhere along the way we've lost the guardrails that are essential for free speech to work. The oldest example is that you can't yell "FIRE!" in a crowded theater (although it's been argued you could yell "MOVIE!" in a crowded fire station and no one would care). Yelling "FIRE!" is an example of irresponsible free speech. It serves only to panic, confuse and distort the truth. And although it's not written down anywhere, that final element -- the truth -- has always been ASSUMED to be an integral aspect of one's free speech. You certainly have the *right* to spout inaccuracies and misconceptions, but why in the world would you?

With all of the discussion in the

community about the Andy Alvarado debacle, you knew sooner or later there would be people -- on both sides -- spouting off on stuff they knew nothing about. So here we had people who didn't know what was going on pontificating to people who knew less than they did, with all of it becoming gospel by the end of a few repostings here and there. This modern version of the game "Telephone" is unavoidable as near as I can tell but it makes me shake my head and shrug my shoulders when I read it.

What really gets me is when people post something by first listing their resume and possibly their position in the local bird watching society or whatever, presenting themselves as an "expert" on the issue. When they post, it's time to sit up and take notes. Moses is about to speak from the Mount. And when they're done, all of their sycophants gush and thank them profusely for their sage words of wisdom.

But what if they're wrong?

One such person -- albeit self-admittedly *very* begrudgingly -- recently stepped down from the mountaintop to set us all straight about this whole Andy Alvarado thing.

He pointed out that when speaking at a board meeting one is not "speaking for the whole community." I would tend to agree, but at THIS board meeting there were approximately 400 people in attendance. That's 90 more than elected Carla Neal and just 50 shy of all of John Moseley's votes.

He said attempting to pressure elected officials to resign is inappropriate and undemocratic. Really? Seems like the height of democracy is to be able to have a counterthought to the majority or a grievance with an elected official and then express that thought. At least now we know where the thought police can be found. I guess we are all equal, just some are more equal than others.

Finally, we were told that this group on the board had done nothing to warrant a recall election. Stupid Ranchos people. Your sense that something's not right, that maybe someone's overstepping their bounds, that this seems awfully personal, that perhaps this is NOT what you signed up for on election day ... just shut up and take it. Or as Judge Smalls said to his grandson Spaulding in *Caddyshack*: "You'll get nothing and like it!"

Yes sir.

# The Ranchos Independent

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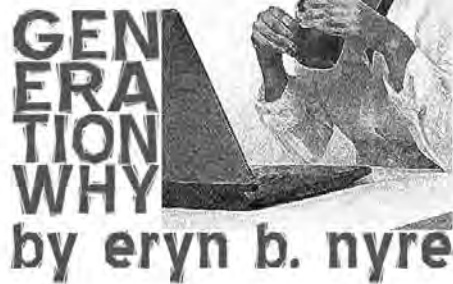
# Jury Duty Continues, Ends

Twenty-nine days. I just spent 29 days in a jury box. Although I feel privileged to have been able to participate in the judicial system, at the same time I'm not entirely sure I survived. I may have actually been bored to death and am writing this to you all from beyond the grave.

First, the legal system is a tediously interesting paradox. Each witness is asked the same question over and over again, varied ever so slightly, just to make sure the court (and the 12 members of the jury who barely have a grip on their consciousness) have the full story. I never knew there were 478 ways of asking one person whether or not they saw the document in question, but damned if the attorneys didn't squeeze out each and every one of them. Yet, despite the monotony, there was something fascinating about the whole thing. I take for granted that I can just walk up to someone and ask them how they like to take their tea. An attorney has no such latitude. They must first determine that the witness drinks tea, drinks tea from a specific café, was at said café the third Thursday in March of 2007, and that they happened to patronize the establishment between the hours of noon and 2:15 before they can then ask whether or not the witness requested milk in their tea. Sheesh. No wonder lawyers have a reputation for being long-winded; you would have to be in order to handle cross-examination. Now that I think about it, perhaps I missed my calling.

It's not like I went into this supposing it would be like watching a live taping of Law and Order. I know Hollywood doesn't put too much stock in accuracy. I did, however, expect a bit more excitement and intensity. Just once I wanted one of the lawyers to leap from their seat and bellow an impassioned "objection!" There were plenty of objections, of course, but they were all quite civil.

The tough part came when they ushered us into the deliberation room. Getting 12 different people with different personalities, different life experiences and different interpretations of the evidence to agree is about as easy a task as teaching your six year old trigonometry. Luckily, since this was a civil case, we just



needed a three-quarter majority for our verdict. I'm quite certain had we needed a unanimous vote we would be deliberating well into 2016.

Honestly, the problem with getting a large group of people to come to an agreement isn't necessarily the differing opinions, but the difference in how people communicate their opinions. On the one hand, you have to try and find a way to disagree with someone who is passionate about their perception of the events without making them think you are calling them stupid. On the other hand, some people are stupid and perhaps no one has ever pointed it out to them before.

I don't think everyone who disagrees with me is dumb, unless of course that person disagrees with me when I say, perhaps, that sticking your hand in a shark's mouth will get it bitten off. I would definitely think that person is dumb. I also might try and get them to prove it to me just for fun. But in general, someone who disagrees with me, and can present a factual, well-thought out argument as to why, is aces in my book. The problem I ran into was that there were fewer of people like that in that deliberation room and too many of the kind who would stick their hands in a shark's mouth. Just to give you an example, we had one guy who based his entire argument on the fact that he works at the post office. That is not an exaggeration. Never mind there was not one single aspect of the case that had anything to do with the post office. That's what I was dealing with.

As tough as a journey as it was to go from crippling tedium to frustrated debating, nothing prepared me to the final moments of my jury service. The verdict was reached. We found for the plaintiff. The light at

Please see **JURY** on P. 16



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**LETTERS** cont. from P. 4

Care reviews are 5 stars out of 5 stars. Read the customer comments and make your own evaluation of my business and staff.

I was first asked to work with the District about six years ago under the previous superintendent. There were some problems with the older vehicles passing their emissions tests. They would be repaired and passed only to fail two years later. It was an ongoing cycle. I fixed the vehicles at a reduced price and those vehicles have not failed since. My invoices with the District are a matter of public record. This is old news. Two years ago Trustee Crumpton requested all those records. Must have done a good job. No complaints from President Crumpton.

I am not the only outsource provider of automotive services to the District. Ranchos Auto Repair is also a provider. My contact with the District concerning my services is with lead technician Gary Gleim. If there are questions regarding the rational of which vehicles and why those vehicles are directed to me, your questions might be better directed to Mr. Gleim.

As to my financial relationship with the District, my first invoice was June 6, 2009. There have been 58 invoices, averaging 8.82 visits per year and totaling \$12,790.77. The average invoice is \$220.52.

Ok, now that that is over let's get down to business. What is my motivation for the recall and what is my agenda? The following is NOT an exhaustive list.

First: The next day, Wednesday, Jan. 21, I at-

tended a Madera County Board of Education workshop along with Trustee Neal and President Crumpton. I attended as an interested community member. The topic was "Update on the 2015-2016 Governor's Budget." Capitol Advisors Group was the presenter. It was more bad news for the District. To make a long story short, over the next six years or so the state will be increasing revenue to the districts under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). That means by 2021 the District's revenue will be restored to about the 2007 level which is estimated to be about a \$3 million per year increase for GVUSD. Good news, right? The problem is the state is also shifting new debt to the districts such as increased compensation to the District employees' retirement packages. No one knows which will be greater, the increase in revenue or the increase in

debt. There is much more and I will present it at the next board meeting during the public comment session. Bottom line was, treat the new LCFF money as one time money for now. Do NOT commit the LCFF money to long term debt "Like Salary Schedules." In a phone discussion with Trustee Moseley the next evening, Thursday night, I attempted to discuss this topic and the warning. He dismissed me like a two year old. This is also the time when he told me about his position on the "Rainy Day Fund," the state-mandated "Budget Reserve" and his many other financial philosophies and theories. This is where John Moseley and I reached an irreconcilable impasse and two days later I wrote the first of my Letters to the Editor.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 17



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### Souper Soupy Soup

In December I attended the Chamber of Commerce Christmas party. In addition to many local merchants attending, our newly elected District 1 Supervisor, Brett Frazier, was there with his children Wyatt and Hallie. If you have ever been to a mixer, you know that we go around the room introducing ourselves and telling a little about what we do. At this party, I introduced myself and told what I do for the Ranchos Independent, namely writing the column Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes, and that I am always looking for new recipes and would love to have anyone there volunteer their favorite recipe. Since it is still chilly outside, I mentioned that my next column was going to be about a good bowl of hot soup with maybe a loaf of French bread to warm up everybody. With that, little Wyatt spoke up and said he had a soup recipe he would give me. I wanted to ask him about his recipe that night but they had to leave before I could talk to him. Then the first of February, the Ranchos Independent (Randy) hosted the February Chamber of Commerce mixer and in addition to other Madera County dignitaries in attendance, were Supervisor Brett Frazier and his son Wyatt. This time I was not going to let the opportunity pass without interviewing Wyatt. Here is what I learned:

Wyatt Frazier is 7 years old, but will be 8 on March 21. He attends Sierra View Elementary School.

Wyatt Frazier's favorite soup: chicken broth. He drinks it with a straw and likes chips with it rather than crackers.

Also at the February mixer was our newly elected Sheriff, Jay Varney and his wife, Amy. A few days after the mixer Amy emailed me the following: "Eating black-eyed peas are thought to bring prosperity in the New Year but we found this recipe yummy any time of the year. Enjoy!"

#### Black-eyed Pea Chowder

- ½ lb. diced bacon or ham
- 2 C chopped celery



2 C chopped green pepper  
 1 C chopped onion  
 1 10½ oz. can beef stock  
 2 16 oz. cans diced tomatoes  
 2 16 oz. cans black eyed peas  
 Sauté bacon or ham with celery, green pepper and onion. Add stock, tomatoes and peas. Simmer 30 to 40 min. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Kale must be the "in" vegetable now. On TV, I have seen it cooked just about every way imaginable: steamed, sautéed, boiled, baked and even fried. When I found this recipe and saw kale in it, I thought it sounded good.

#### Kale and Bean Soup

2 medium onions chopped  
 2 C cubed peeled potatoes  
 1 T olive oil  
 4 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 bunch kale, trimmed and coarsely chopped  
 3½ C vegetable stock  
 1 28 oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained  
 1½ C water  
 1 tsp. Italian seasoning  
 1 tsp. paprika  
 ½ tsp. pepper  
 1 bay leaf  
 1 15 oz. can white kidney or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

In large soup pot, sauté onions and potatoes in oil until tender. Add garlic and cook one minute longer. Stir in the kale, broth, tomatoes, water, Italian seasoning, paprika, pepper and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer until kale is tender; this should take 50 to 60 minutes.

Cool slightly. Discard bay leaf. In a blender, process 3 cups of the soup until smooth. Return to pan, add the beans and heat through. You can use an emersion blender and get the consistency of the soup the way you like, rather than putting it in a blender.

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 16

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RECALL cont. from P. 3

“backroom” deals between a handful of elected officials. Alvarado’s reply to Crumpton understood that and explains why he suggested putting it on the agenda for the Feb. 3 board meeting. Alvarado then received another email on Jan. 22.:

To: Superintendent Alvarado

From: President Crumpton and Clerk Moseley

The proposed language has been reviewed by President Crumpton and myself and is fine.

When you send this to your administrators please copy each Board of Trustee member.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Crumpton  
Board President  
John Moseley  
Board Clerk

Concerned that he was being caught between a position of breaking board policy and being guilty of insubordination, Alvarado reached out to the District’s legal counsel, Kevin R. Dale of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo of Fresno. Dale’s response, in part, said:

... I understand that you are considering sending out a communication to site administrators regarding the school site “sign-in” procedures, and that you are concerned about sending a communication that could be contrary to Board Policy. The basic issue as I understand it is whether Board members are required to “sign-in” when visiting a school site. You mentioned that Board members are not required to wear visitor badges (since they have District-issued I.D. cards), are not required to be escorted on campus, etc. The only requirement is that they “sign-in” at the school site office ... the primary language at issue is set forth in Board Policy 1250.

It appears that the Governing

Board has imposed school site registration requirements greater than those referenced in Penal Code section 627.2. In other words, while the Penal Code exempts elected officials from the registration requirements applicable to “outsiders,” Board Policy 1250 and Administrative Regulation 1250 contain their own language that states, “Any person who is not a student or staff member shall register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when school is in session.” I understand that this requirement means that they simply sign a “sign-in” sheet at the school site office.

Dale went on to state that a possible meeting between Alvarado, Moseley and himself could probably settle the issue. As a result of the email with Dale, on Jan. 23 Alvarado sent out the following email to all school administrators:

As per the Governing Board, after reviewing the various codes that apply to visitors and outsiders, from this point forward board members will not be required to give prior notice before site visits, be escorted by a site administrators, sign in, or wear a visitor sticker.

The various codes that apply to visitors and outsiders does not require Board members to sign in.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Insiders say that at this point the die was cast. Alvarado’s insubordination in not immediately carrying out a board directive was all the grounds the majority of the Governing Board would need to terminate his position with the District. In a moment of compassion, they agreed to let Alvarado terminate to a “mutually agreed” separation agreement “without cause” so that he would not become unemployable.

Please see RECALL on P. 18

## Liberty Hoopsters Raising Funds

The Liberty High School Boys and Girls Basketball Program is having a Tri-Tip fundraiser dinner and an alumni vs. coach basketball game. It’s all happening Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Liberty High cafeteria and gym.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students/children for a Tri-Tip dinner. There will be a DJ, a 50/50 Raffle and a dessert silent auction. Junior Varsity teams will receive their awards during dinner. After dinner there will be a basketball game with Alumni vs. Coaches and Staff. At halftime there will be an opportunity to try a half-court shot for a prize. At the end of the evening the Varsity teams will receive their awards.

The event is being held to raise funds for the Liberty High basketball programs and tickets are available from any Liberty High basketball player.

**The Bookshelf**

**New Help for an Old Ranchos Friend**

By Amanda Judd

Some of you may have noticed a new face in the Ranchos Library. Well, let me introduce myself: My name is Amanda Judd and I have been working in the Ranchos Library over the past few weeks. I am a resident of Chowchilla and was a member of my local Friends of the Chowchilla library for several years and over the past four years I had the opportunity to serve as their secretary. While I will greatly miss my Chowchilla Friends Group, I am extremely excited to begin this new adventure in the Ranchos Library.

We have been working diligently to place new items on the shelf and have put out well over 100 new items over the past few weeks. It is so wonderful to see them going out the moment they are scanned in or within minutes of being placed on the shelf. We have added a lot of new Juvenile Fiction and Picture Books. Don't worry folks, the audio CDs and movie DVDs are up next. We will slowly be rearranging some of the top shelves to make room for our new acquisitions. If you

haven't stopped by in a while, come in and say hello and see if anything new piques your reading interests.

A friendly reminder that story time is held each Thursday at the Ranchos Library at 11 a.m. Mrs. Maxfield provides a wonderful learning experience each week that includes stories read aloud, craft time and snack time, and children get to experience singing and daily fun facts. It is an educational read, play and learn time that you really need to check out.

Tax Forms are here. We do have the instruction booklets to file your California State Return, however, this year we will not have instruction booklets for Federal Tax Forms. You can go to IRS.gov/Forms, IRS.gov/order forms or call 1-800-829-3676 to order tax products by mail.

I also want to remind everyone that the 25th Annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair will be here before you know it. We are starting the preparations and discussions are well underway and remember: Booths for the Craft Fair are all handled through the Ranchos Library. There will be more updates to follow next month.

**FLY YOUR SELF-MADE KITE AFTER THE FLATLANDER'S DAY PARADE!**

South East Madera County United (SEMCU) will be sponsoring a kite building and flying competition for the students of Golden Valley Unified School District after the Flatlander's Day Parade on May 9, 2014 at the Liberty High School athletic fields at 1 p.m.

**PRIZES AWARDED TO EACH FIRST PLACE WINNER**

High School First Place Winner - \$150 • Middle School First Place Winner - \$100  
Elementary Schools First Place Winner - \$50

Further details may be obtained on our website at [www.SEMCU.org](http://www.SEMCU.org). Registration and building criteria/instructions will also be disseminated through GVUSD in the coming weeks.

**ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENTS OF GVUSD**

South East Madera County United (SEMCU) will be sponsoring an essay contest for the students of Golden Valley Unified School District focusing on water conservation and drought issues currently facing our community.

**PRIZES AWARDED TO EACH FIRST PLACE WINNER**

High School First Place Winner - \$150  
Middle School First Place Winner - \$100  
Elementary Schools First Place Winner - \$50

Contest winners will be announced during the Flatlander's Day Parade on May 9, 2015 • Further details will be disseminated to the community once they become available. Check out our website in the meantime at [www.SEMCU.org](http://www.SEMCU.org).

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south east madera county united

## SEMUCU Annual Membership Meeting MONDAY, MARCH 16 • 6:30 P.M.

**Election of Board Members will be held  
NOMINATIONS are WELCOMED**

Be a part of the exciting projects SEMUCU is working on by bringing Grant Money to the Ranchos.  
All members of the public are encouraged to participate.  
Come and provide input on the projects you think are necessary for our community.



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Local Schools



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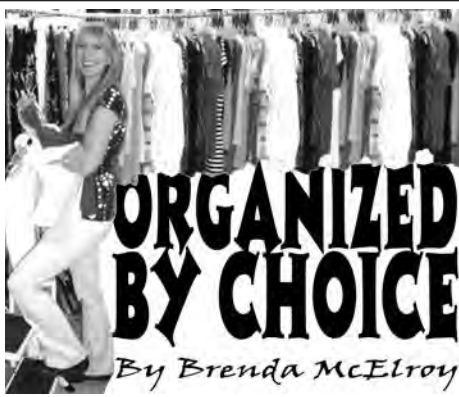
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All regular meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Ranchos Pizza Factory

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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



*You Name It!*

A few weeks ago, I decided to reduce the amount of stuff I keep on my desktop. I relocated a number of binders that I wasn't using often enough

to keep so close to me. I assigned them a home in an empty drawer across the room. Today I needed one of those binders. Hmm ... where did I put them? I know what you're thinking, "See, that's why I don't organize, because then I can't find anything!"

Let me first say that one of the benefits of being organized is that there aren't as many places to look when you can't find something. If you've used the rule of keeping "like things" together, and keeping things close to where you use them, it will greatly diminish your search time.

I knew the binders were in my office and not dispersed throughout the house among piles of clutter, so they shouldn't be too hard to find. What slowed my search was having to look in a few containers that weren't labeled. Instead of knowing at a glance whether they contained the binders or not,

they had to be peered into first.

I had recently worked on a project and containerized some books and craft supplies without labeling them. I don't remember if I thought I would remember what was in them, or was just too lazy to get my label maker out, but without labels, it took extra time to discover that my binders weren't in them.

With the rest of the closet stuff clearly labeled or on open shelves, I quickly determined to look in the next spot where I found my binders. I got my binder, picked up my label maker and went to work.

Some of you might be like me – just missing a few labels here and there. Others might have containers purchased, but haven't taken the step of putting things in them. And some of you might be thinking – what is she talking about?

If you like the idea of spending less time looking for things and more time doing what you love, consider making a trip to Costco or Target, pick up a label maker and read on for some labeling ideas that will simplify your life.

**Kitchen** – Label the front of shelves inside the cabinets with labels such as dinner plates, glasses, mugs, etc. so that everyone who puts things away will know where to put them. In the pantry use labeled, open-topped bins for snack foods, pasta, beans, seasoning packets, tea, etc.

**Closet** – Label the front of shelves with labels such as guest bath towels and sheet sets, kids' twin sheets, beach towels, placemats, vases, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. Label stacking bins for batteries, candles, sewing supplies, light bulbs, craft

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 17



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# The 12th Annual Chamber

# CRAB FEED



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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early! You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory, Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop or the Ranchos Café.



2/15

Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

### Last Mixer HUGE Success

There was standing room only at the last Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the Chamber office. Sponsored by the Ranchos Independent, it was a great opportunity to mix with Ranchos businesses and to rub elbows with several members of Madera County government, including newly elected Sheriff Jay Varney, District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Martinez and Tracy Kennedy, Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector. You don't want to miss the next mixer. Watch for announcements.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C. Call us at 645-4001.

### Crab Feed "500" Sponsors for 2015

A very special "Thank You" to the following Chamber members who elected to support the Chamber as "500" Sponsors:

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and VDI Services*

### Fatlanders Day Right Around the Corner

The Flatlanders Day Parade is coming up Saturday, May 9, and this year will mark the 25th Anniversary of the event. Spots in the parade are only \$10 each and trophy sponsorships are available to local businesses. Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for info.

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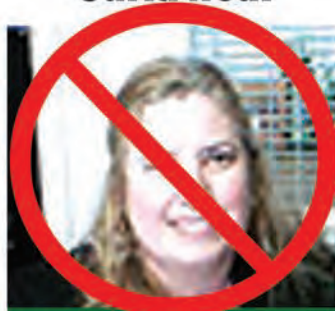
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**Carla Neal**



**Trustee Area 1**

**Kathleen Crumpton**



**Trustee Area 2**

**John Moseley**



**Trustee Area 4**

We will begin collecting signatures in March. For dates, volunteer needs, and announcements go to: **GvusdRECALL.com**



@ GvusdRECALL Kathleen Carla John All 3 Must Go NOW !!!

2/15

**GvusdRECALL.com**

**Get Involved!**

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

On my list of 10 vegetables I like best, cauliflower is not anywhere near the top of the list. However, like kale, I have seen so many recipes lately using cauliflower I thought I'd include a soup recipe using it.

**Cauliflower Soup**

- 1 medium head cauliflower, cored and broken into flowerets
- 1 medium onion, shredded
- ¼ C chopped celery
- 2½ C water\*
- 1 vegetable bouillon cube\*
- 3 T butter
- 3 T all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp. salt
- Dash black pepper
- 2 C milk
- 1 C shredded cheddar cheese
- Dash hot pepper sauce (optional)

In a large soup pot, combine the cauliflower, carrot, celery, water\* and bouillon\*. Bring to a boil, reduce heat; cover and simmer for 12-15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Do not drain.

In another large saucepan, melt butter, stir in flour, salt and

pepper until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Be sure to stir constantly to prevent scorching. Reduce heat. Stir in the cheese until melted. Add hot pepper sauce if using. Stir into the cauliflower mixture. Makes about 8 servings.

*\*Instead of the water and bouillon cube, 2½ C vegetable stock could be used.*

I would like to thank my contributors Wyatt Frazier and Amy Varney for their soup recipes this month. If you have a child or grandchild that likes to cook or help you cook something and would like for them to tell our readers about it, let me know and we'll include it.

Before I close, I want to remind you that Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 8 (actually Sunday morning at 2 a.m. but who wants to stay up just to change the clock at the right time). Spring ahead – Fall back. Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday or you'll be late for church.

JURY cont. from P. 6

the end of the tunnel was growing closer. There was a sense of satisfaction among us that we had performed our civil duty admirably. Our verdict had been read into record and we were awaiting dismissal when all of a sudden, instead of the proverbial gavel dropping, the judge dropped a bomb. He sided with the defendant and threw out the case entirely. Twelve mouths fell open simultaneously. It was so silent in the courtroom we could hear each other's hearts pounding in anger. First, I had no idea a judge could overturn a jury verdict like that. Second, why bring in a jury if he was just going to throw out the case? He couldn't have made that decision before he brought 12 people in and wasted a month of their lives? I never went to law school, I don't know all the ins and outs of our court system, but I just couldn't believe he was allowed to do that. Millions of questions about how the law actually works have been swimming through my very tired brain. But the silver lining is this ... I don't have to worry about going through this again for a long time. Well, for a year anyway. God Bless America!



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## Golden Valley Baptist Church

**Easter Sunday Celebration**  
**April 5 Schedule:**  
 7 a.m. - "Sonrise" Service  
 (Free Pancake Breakfast)  
 9 a.m. - Bible Study (for ALL ages)  
 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

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### LETTERS cont. from P. 7

John and I see financial matters and management totally opposite and I think under his management and direction great financial harm will fall upon the District and delay building of a Career Vocational Complex (CVT) and stall implementation of a CVT. If there is new LCFF money coming to the District, my position is increase the Budget Reserve, restore student programs and electives lost during the depression, implement CVT and increase teacher-to-student ratios.

Second: I can't imagine Crumpton, Neal and Moseley in charge of an \$18 million budget. I don't believe Crumpton or Neal have even run a small business, let alone an \$18 million one. Moseley may have run a small business but that's no comfort to me. The big three are unqualified to manage the District's financial future.

Third: My greatest concern is what will be the direction of student learning. Will it be conservative, neutral or turn hard left? What will the curriculum look like and which text books will the District purchase? I do NOT know. What I do know is this is where the greatest long term risk lies.

When Andrew became superintendent of GVUSD, he approached me and asked if I would be interested in helping him understand what the automotive repair classroom/shop of the future should look like, what the curriculum should be and what skill sets students would need to be employed in my industry in the future. The first thing I told him was it should have no lifts, wheel balancers and tire machines. It should not emphasize engine or transmission rebuilding but teach the

physics. The automotive repair class room of the present should be filled with laptops, scopes, transducers, current probes and LOTS of electronics. The modern day vehicle is a maze of modules and networks. Heck, you can't even rotate your own tires without telling the TPMS Module the new location of each of those tires, or change your own oil without resetting the Maintenance Module. I told him I need the best and brightest minds. I need technicians who want to use their hands and brains and their tool of choice is a laptop – or two and sometimes three.

Fourth: Andrew was developing a CVT model that would partner GVUSD with Madera Community College and hopefully Madera Unified or Sierra High School Districts to allow our students to attend classes at their sites. I think law enforcement, medical, arts, construction, welding, ag, automotive and others were being considered. Andrew wrote a \$6 million dollar application to the state and it was ACCEPTED. GVUSD was just beginning the grant-writing process when Andrew was dismissed. When Andrew left, so did his model and the CVT money, which was our best opportunity for GVUSD students to enter CVT classes in 14 years. We need to quickly reverse the departure of Andrew Alvarado and stop the destruction of GVUSD.

How about that for motivation? I'm MAD AS HECK! My agenda in part is: restore order; achieve fiscal responsibility and stability; and bring Career Vocational Technology to GVUSD and its students.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 19

### ORGANIZE cont. from P. 8

supplies, photos, keepsakes, party supplies, cloth napkins and whatever other groups of things you need and use.

**Kids' Rooms** – Label the front of their drawers (most will peel off without damaging the surface) with pants, shorts, underwear, etc., so kids can put things away and find them when needed. Containerize and label things like cars, balls, ponies, Barbies, Legos, ac-

tion figures, etc. If kids aren't reading yet, print a picture of what's inside and post it along with the label. It's a great way for them to begin to learn sight words. And, by the way, it is reasonable to expect them to put their things away, especially once they know where they go – it's what they do at school.

**Bathroom** – Again, label front of shelves – bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, etc. Containerize and label "daily use" items (open-topped) and separate backup supplies in stackable containers labeled accordingly.

**Office** – Label the spine of binders on your bookcase so you don't have to remove them from the shelf to discover what's in them. Likewise label music, picture and video disks to save time when you come across them later on. Use the label maker for your file folders so you can easily identify them. Containerize similar office supplies and label the containers.

Believe me, the time invested up front will be multiplied back to you when you can, at a glance, find what you're looking for!

*Contact Brenda McElroy at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, 559-871-3314, or email at info@organizedbychoice.com. www.organizedbychoice.com is her website.*

RECALL cont. from P. 9

**Recall Basics**

Madera County has an entire instruction book available on recall elections. It's called *A Guide to Recall for County, School District, Special District and Local Judicial Offices*. One of the first issues covered is the definition of a recall election:

*The California Constitution defines recall as "the power of the electors to remove an elective officer." (Art. II, Sec. 13) Neither the California Constitution nor the Elections Code says under what circumstances recall is justified. Instead, the Constitution says, in connection with recalls of state officers, "[s]ufficiency of reason is not reviewable." (Art. II, Sec. 14) The only language in the Elections Code that has any bearing on this is in §11024. Referring to the proponents' statement of reasons for the recall and the incumbent's answer, it states that, "[t]he statement and answer are intended solely for the information of the voters. No insufficiency in form or substance thereof shall affect the validity of the election proceedings."*

The guide also states who can initiate a recall election:

*Any qualified elector may initiate a recall. A qualified elector is defined as being a registered voter of the jurisdiction and eligible to vote on the office of the incumbent they seek to recall. (§§11005, 322).*

The only provision is that the elected party has to have been in office for at least 90 days. Since the trustees were all sworn in on Dec. 2, 2014, March 2 is the target date at which recall organizers are looking.

The only people who will be able to vote in the event of a recall are those who live in the respective districts of Trustees Crumpton, Moseley and Neal, and those are

also the only ones who can sign the necessary petitions, but those numbers required are vary small, ranging from between 200 and 300 registered voters.

The trustees involved were asked about their feelings on recalls and whether a recall was appropriate in this situation. Board President Kathleen Crumpton responded, "Since I was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, my focus has been on improving the service provided to our children and their parents. I've always believed that we should do everything we can to provide the best education for our children within the means of our budget. I do not believe that a recall is appropriate at this time."

Trustee John Moseley reiterated the same sentiment and said, "Recalls are provided for by our California State Constitution. When I ran for office, I made it very clear to everybody, that I was running to bring back the idea of 'service' in this District; including continuing to provide our students with the best possible education, to have the District be responsive to parents' concerns, and to insure that the District operates within its budget. All my efforts in the very short time that I have been a Trustee have been directed toward achieving these goals. As such, I do not believe that any recall at this time, is justified."

Trustee Carla Neal concluded the responses by saying, "I don't believe a recall is necessary. In the short period that I have been on the board, I have been working to improve the curriculum within the confines of our budget. I have always believed that we work hard to put our children's education first. I campaigned on doing that and I am trying to keep my focus on what is most important. I would ask this community to support my efforts."

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Fresno County United Way at 243-3660*



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**LETTERS cont. from P. 17**

Hope this helps but I doubt it.

The coalition of three ran together, were elected together, conspired together and should be terminated together. They stood together and are co-responsible.

Carla, the fate of the District and students for the foreseeable future depends on some important decisions you have, are, and will be making. You are the deciding vote. I'm asking you to step aside so immediate steps can be taken to mitigate the damage. There is no shame in trying and failing. I believe the community will forgive and forget if you do the right thing now and resign.

Warren Parr  
Madera Ranchos

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Dear Editor:

For the last year I have asked Madera County employees how an equitable approach by Madera County employees and property owners of Madera Ranchos could develop a way to work together so that no property owner in MD-10A is disadvantaged by the outside service area municipal well on Dublin Drive. No options have been presented other than another assessment for Madera County employees to continue in the way they have for 18 years. In this year I have yet to be shown how, as Kheng Vang put it to me in his office on 5-3-14, \$750 a day is spent on the PG&E bill at MD-10A and the other \$750 a day goes to administrative expenses. Those administrative expenses and mismanagement of this small water system have failed to meet the trade standard by any means in fiscal responsibility, fiscal accountability, adherence to the 1996 agreement with the rate payers to replace the leaky pipes resulting in [more than] 25 percent water loss every minute, or basic maintenance or planning for a storage tank in 18 years. The current Madera County employees offer the same inadequate performance at our expense. The only option offered is for new civil servants that we pay to continue misusing our money and water system with no fiscal accountability, thereby devaluating the property values of these [more than] 1,400 lots in the Madera Ranchos plus nearby developments associated with the Madera Ranchos. I find this continuation of an agenda, that does not exist, so repulsive to my life history that I wonder how these civil servants can have such an arrogant attitude and completely dismiss the fact that they are paid by us to do our business, not just self-congratulate and promote their industry of Madera County employees. Civil servants are paid to do the people's business on behalf of the people in an accountable and honest manner.

What happened in Madera County? In 2015 the property owners are a source of revenue. My response to this revulsion of this prevalent attitude of Madera County civil servants resulted in responses that in my life's experience were developed years ago when people wanted to lie to me and steal my money. Nothing original in that approach but I did not realize that the disregard for accountability and honesty were so prevalent in Madera County – without an agenda. The agenda is written up to be that the people's business is the order of the day – not self-perpetuating employment and pension as a civil servant. I challenge any Madera County employee to document that the management and current posted expenditures of the Dublin Drive Well are within trade standards for any county in Central California. That would be the original \$1.3 million and then the projected needed \$1.2 million from the November 2014 MD-10A Oversight Meeting statements and paperwork; \$2.5 million for one municipal well and pump and equipment along with several hundred feet of pipe to hook up to the existing service area of MD-10A. And no tank still.

As a journeyman carpenter for 30 years in this area my real life experience in construction is that all judgments and assessments are made on trade standards – what is the standard of performance for any particular material, trade or aspect of a project? Madera County has failed to perform on behalf of the 1,000 rate payers of MD-10A for 18 years and all indications from current employees and MRWSC personnel show a continuation of this unacceptable behavior.

Where is the "new" taking place with a new manager of Special Districts that so far is unaccountable; a new MD-10A rate payers' committee run by the same old people doing the same old routine regardless of the new rules they are to abide by?

Our approach is consistent and has been over

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 20

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**LETTERS** cont. from P. 19

the [last] year that we do not want any property owner in this community disadvantaged by any action of an individual or a group, such as the oversight committee or any Madera County employee. That approach of ours was new in December 2014 and it has not wavered; we have merely been blocked, ignored, lied to and still have no fiscal accountability for \$8 million resulting in a failing water system and property values for thousands of property owners and mortgage payers.

This continuing resistance to improving the situation and have accountability is unacceptable behavior.

Chuck La Rue  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I don't normally do blogs or the Facebook scene, but something has come to my attention that is very disturbing. After about 60 short days on the board, it appears that John Mosely and Carla Neal have joined Kathleen Crumpton in her mission to have Andy Alvarado removed as superintendent. I cannot believe that they can have learned enough to make such a drastic decision in such a short time, unless they ran to get on the board with this as a personal agenda.

I have the upmost faith in Andy's integrity as superintendent, and as a board member when he was raised to this position I saw him immediately take on resolving employee and several parent issues. While I was the board president, Kathleen had stated to me that her goal was to remove three people from the District, including Andy. Kathleen did not vote to give Andy the position of superintendent. The vote was 4-to-1 to have Andy as superintendent. She has never supported Andy and has tried to bring actions against him before, costing the District several thousands of dollars in attorney fees. This is money that could have gone into the classroom. At that time she was not supported by any of the different board members and was told that her accusations that she had brought forward were unfounded.

Kathleen fully supported the election of John

Mosely and Carla Neal. I believe that she was recruiting help in her agenda to remove Andy. John Mosely ran on the platform of bringing integrity to the District, but instead has done the opposite. John has acted as he has in the past as a school union representative – as a one man army to get his way on the board. During the first meeting when he was sworn in, he stated that certain things were to be changed. This can only be done through a board action. One board member without the help of other board members cannot change policy. I do not believe that John has made any attempt to learn how to act as a board member.

Carla Neal ran on the platform of a "Brighter GVUSD," and is now part of the action that is taking GVUSD through the darkest part of its history. These actions of the three board members do not appear to be supported by the other more experienced board members.

If a person runs for the position of a board trustee with the intention to get someone fired just because they do not like them, they probably do not belong on the board. To make drastic decisions without being on the board long enough to learn how a school district runs is irresponsible and they should resign and let someone that actually is willing to put the students ahead of their personal agendas be on the board.

I am on several committees that are working to create the Ag, Farm and Career Tech program. We are supplying information to the District's grant writing firm. This information is needed within the next couple of weeks, but with the turmoil that is going on within the school district and community, all of this work is grinding to a halt. Andy has been the only superintendent that has supported and fought for these programs. Any changes will either kill or drastically slow down the forward movement to start a solid industrial arts and ag program.

There are past board members or other community members that may be willing to step up and work as a team on the board and to begin taking the District forward in a positive direction.

I apologize for being so blunt, I do not normally respond to things this way. Things that people have worked on for several years may now go away due to the irresponsible actions of a few (not all) board members.

Mark Toole  
Madera Ranchos

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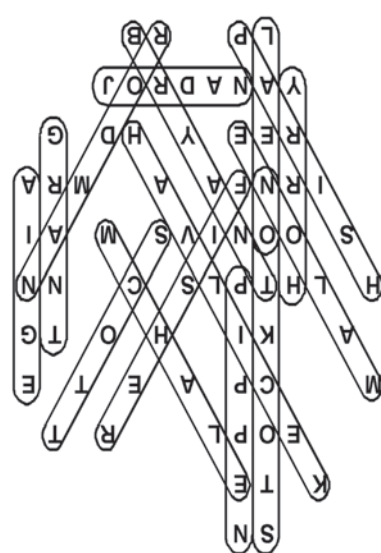
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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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we are a full-service handyman, maintenance and remodeling company  
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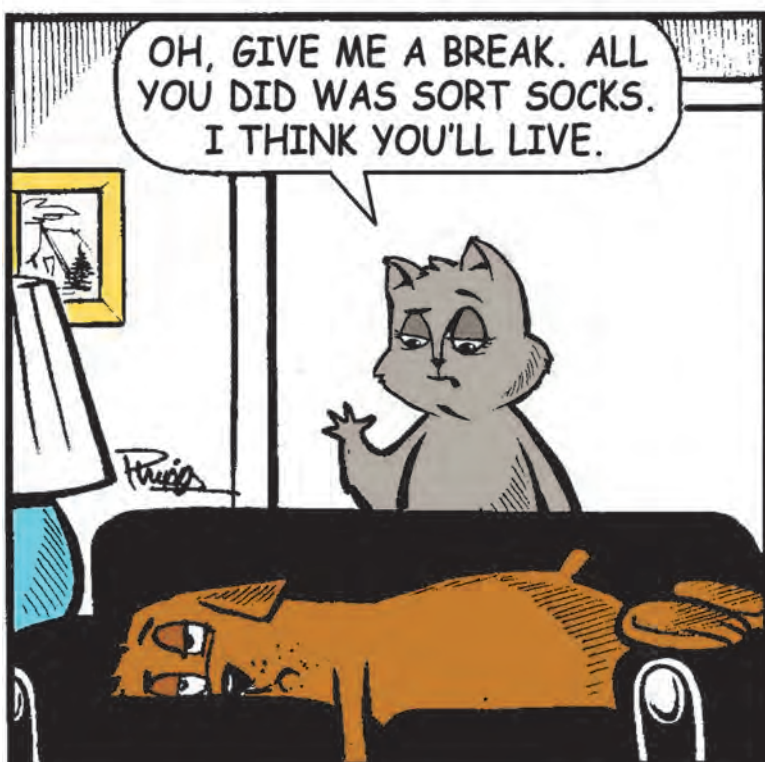
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2/15

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



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Change is still dominant for Rams and Ewes, both in the workplace and their private lives. This is also a good time to look at a possible relocation if that has been one of your goals.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Doing things for others is what you do well. But don't forget that Bovines thrive on the arts, so make some time for yourself to indulge your passion for music and artistic expressions.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) While the Romantic Twin considers where to go for his or her upcoming vacation, the Practical Twin will start making travel plans now to take advantage of some great bargains.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your sensitive nature helps you deal with a difficult emotional situation. Be patient and continue to show your sincere support wherever (and for whomever) it is needed.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You're making progress as you move through some unfamiliar territory. And while there might be a misstep or two along the way, overall you're heading in the right direction. Good luck.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Some good news arrives -- and just in time to remind you that you're making progress. Perhaps things aren't moving as quickly as you'd prefer, but they're moving nevertheless.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good week to step back and assess the facts that have recently emerged to see where they can be used to your advantage. Also, don't hesitate to make changes where necessary.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You should begin to experience some support from those who now agree with your point of view. This should help counter the remaining objections from die-hard skeptics.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Don't let your aim be deflected by trivial matters as you try to resolve a confusing situation. Take time to find and thoroughly assess the facts before making any decision.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The possibility of moving to another location has come up. But before you dismiss it as unworkable, it's worth checking out just in case it does have some merit after all.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) New relationships -- personal or work-related -- show mixed signals. Best to assume nothing. Let things play themselves out until you have something substantive to work with

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your ability to make needed changes without causing too much, if any, negative ripple effect comes in handy when dealing with a sensitive matter either on the job or in the family.

## Born this Week

Although you like things to go smoothly, you're not shy about making waves when you believe the situation calls for it

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# FUN PAGES

## POPEYE

**POPEYE**  
HE'S MAN

WALKING ON A SNOWY MOONLIT NIGHT... ...WHAT DOES THAT DO TO YOU, POPEYE?

IT REMINDS ME I GOTTA GIT UP EARLY 'T MORRA!

TO ME THAT MOON SPEAKS OF ROMANCE

IT MAKES ONE BURN WITH PASSION... ...ACHE WITH DESIRE!

IT IGNITES THE SMOLDERING EMBERS OF ONE'S BEING!

IT DUZ?

IT MAKES ONE PULSATE WITH ECSTASY!

LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES, SWEETIE... ...WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU!?

HMM... ...YA COULD USE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

## Henry

BY DON TRACHT

HEY, HENRY-- WAIT UP!

THE TOWN IS ASKING THE KIDS TO MAKE SNOW SCULPTURES BEFORE IT ALL MELTS

ANY THEYRE GONNA GIVE PRIZES FOR THE BEST ONES.

THIS MUST BE HENRY'S ENTRY

TOO BAD HE DIDNT STICK AROUND TO COLLECT THE PRIZE-- THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WINNER!

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SCHOOL DAZE--THOSE HEAVY KNAPSACKS KIDS LUG--WELL--IS SOMETHING NEW ABOUT TO BE ADDED?

10-6-74

J'EVER NOTICE? DIMBULB EXITS HIS CONVERTIBLE WITH THE ENTIRE INSIDE ALL EXPOSED--AND WHAT'S HE DO? HE LOCKS THE DOORS...

I REALLY SAW IT SAYS VINNIE GAO, SANTA MONICA, CA.

Thank to JANE M. HERGENRETER, TOPEKA, KAN.

## ART MUSEUM CLASS FIELD-TRIP

POINTING OUT THE ARTIST'S BRUSH TECHNIQUE-- HIS USE OF COLOR-- THE COMPOSITION and--AW--WHAT'S THE USE...

THIS CANVAS BY PETER PAUL RHEBARB IS CONSIDERED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, EYE-CATCHING PAINTING OF THE HUMAN FORM...

Thank to PETER FORSTENZER, TARRYTOWN, N.Y.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**SOUND OFF!** Precede each of the 10 four-letter words shown at right with the sound of a single letter to form a new and longer word. In No. 1, for instance, precede BOWS with L to form the word ELBOWS, etc. Remember, it's the sound of the letter that counts. In at least one instance, two answers are possible. No fair peeking below.

(D) W-DI N-6 'S-8 'R-2 'O-9 'B-5 'X-4 'A-3 'E-6 'C-2 'I-1

**BOXED IN!** Address all inquiries to the post office box that is 11 less than twice as much as one-third of itself plus 13. What number? The number is 45.

**EAR-TO-GROUND SIZE UP!**

An observant passenger on a suburban train draws three conclusions about a rider who has just come on board (see above): He is left-handed; he is probably from another land; he has just spent some time on the phone. That he's left-handed is apparent by the way he writes. That he is from another land is surmised from the style of his hat. But how can it be evident that he has just used the phone? P.S.: The observer, ironically, played this conundrum by ear.

**EGG BEAT!** Can you find a route through the egg maze above, from bottom right to X, top left? Give it a try.

## Wishing Well

6	3	7	6	5	6	7	6	3	8	5	4	6
A	F	V	L	D	E	A	R	U	S	O	F	T
7	8	5	7	6	2	3	7	8	7	3	2	7
L	E	R	U	N	Y	N	E	E	Q	T	O	U
4	3	4	7	4	2	5	8	6	5	8	3	
U	I	N	I	A	E	U	E	K	E	S	T	M
8	7	2	4	2	7	3	7	4	7	5	4	7
H	T	W	F	I	T	E	I	T	M	E	E	E
6	3	6	4	8	2	5	6	8	6	7	6	8
S	S	S	R	E	L	A	P	T	A	S	Y	R
2	8	3	6	3	8	6	5	4	6	3	5	2
L	U	A	S	H	T	O	R	H	F	E	C	G
8	6	5	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	4
H	F	H	A	O	O	U	F	D	A	R	R	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** ● PLAYED IN MORE THAN 150 NBA PLAYOFF GAMES

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

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

Ainge	Havlicek	McHale	Rodman
Bryant	Horry	O'Neal	Scott
Fisher	Jordan	Parish	Stockton
Grant	Malone	Pippen	

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**SICK CALLS!** Junior feels better, and Mom has a smile. Add the following colors: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Purple.

## SPELLBINDER

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

OPERATIC

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible maximum: 100 points.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the U.S. Naval Academy located?
2. AD SLOGANS: What company promoted its products with the slogan, "Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven"?
3. ART: Who painted a series of famous works of his garden at Giverny?
4. TV: What is the name of the city in TV's long-running soap opera "All My Children"?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Dragon's Teeth"?
6. MUSIC: What rock group originally recorded the song "Layla"?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What other spice is similar in flavor to mace?
8. COMICS: What was the name of Superman's superdog?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the first name of the pirate known as Captain Kidd?
10. HISTORY: In what year was Malcolm X assassinated?

### Answers

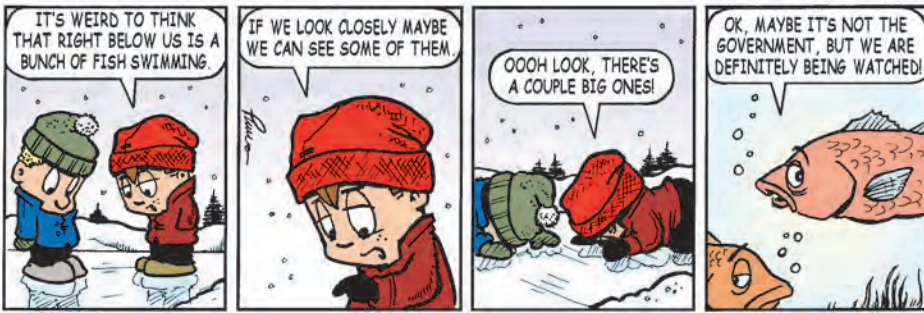
1. Annapolis, Maryland
2. Pillsbury
3. Claude Monet
4. Pine Valley
5. Upton Sinclair
6. Derek and the Dominos
7. Nutmeg
8. Krypto
9. William
10. 1965

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Click on "Local News" at

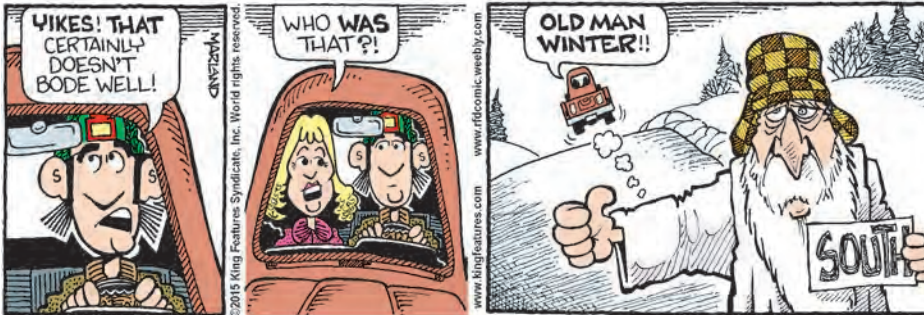
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



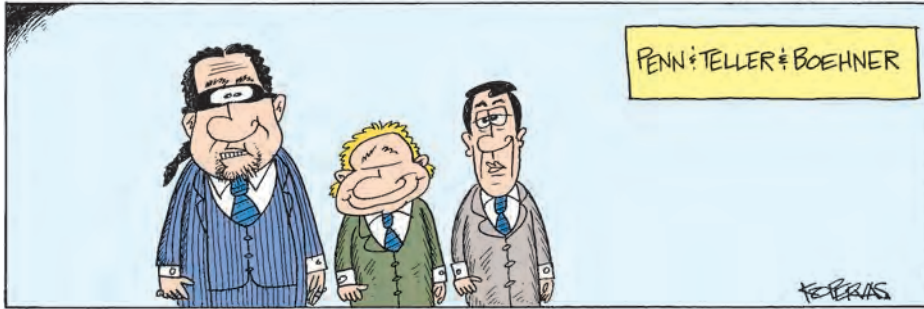
# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# SCRAMBLERS



Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Super TAGER Wild FRALE Touch SCARES Place RESTIN

"Boy, did I ever have a lunch hour?"

TODAY'S WORD

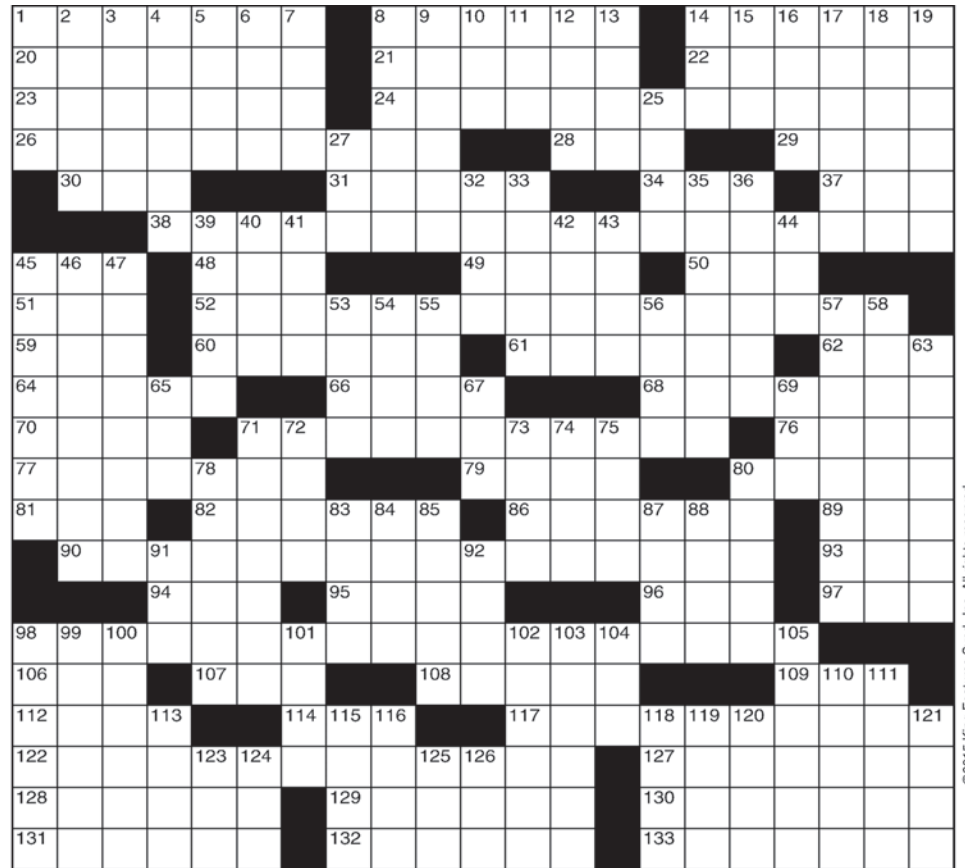
# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details. How many can you find? Check answers with those who are missing. Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. T-shirt is missing. 3. Shoelace is smaller. 4. Sail is different. 5. Hat is different. 6. Camera is missing. 7. Bird is missing. 8. Bird is missing. 9. Bird is missing. 10. Bird is missing. 11. Bird is missing. 12. Bird is missing. 13. Bird is missing. 14. Bird is missing. 15. Bird is missing. 16. Bird is missing. 17. Bird is missing. 18. Bird is missing. 19. Bird is missing. 20. Bird is missing. 21. Bird is missing. 22. Bird is missing. 23. Bird is missing. 24. Bird is missing. 25. Bird is missing. 26. Bird is missing. 27. Bird is missing. 28. Bird is missing. 29. Bird is missing. 30. Bird is missing. 31. Bird is missing. 32. Bird is missing. 33. Bird is missing. 34. Bird is missing. 35. Bird is missing. 36. Bird is missing. 37. Bird is missing. 38. Bird is missing. 39. Bird is missing. 40. Bird is missing. 41. Bird is missing. 42. Bird is missing. 43. Bird is missing. 44. Bird is missing. 45. Bird is missing. 46. Bird is missing. 47. Bird is missing. 48. Bird is missing. 49. Bird is missing. 50. Bird is missing. 51. Bird is missing. 52. Bird is missing. 53. Bird is missing. 54. Bird is missing. 55. Bird is missing. 56. Bird is missing. 57. Bird is missing. 58. Bird is missing. 59. Bird is missing. 60. Bird is missing. 61. Bird is missing. 62. Bird is missing. 63. Bird is missing. 64. Bird is missing. 65. Bird is missing. 66. Bird is missing. 67. Bird is missing. 68. Bird is missing. 69. Bird is missing. 70. Bird is missing. 71. Bird is missing. 72. Bird is missing. 73. Bird is missing. 74. Bird is missing. 75. Bird is missing. 76. Bird is missing. 77. Bird is missing. 78. Bird is missing. 79. Bird is missing. 80. Bird is missing. 81. Bird is missing. 82. Bird is missing. 83. Bird is missing. 84. Bird is missing. 85. Bird is missing. 86. Bird is missing. 87. Bird is missing. 88. Bird is missing. 89. Bird is missing. 90. Bird is missing. 91. Bird is missing. 92. Bird is missing. 93. Bird is missing. 94. Bird is missing. 95. Bird is missing. 96. Bird is missing. 97. Bird is missing. 98. Bird is missing. 99. Bird is missing. 100. Bird is missing. 101. Bird is missing. 102. Bird is missing. 103. Bird is missing. 104. Bird is missing. 105. Bird is missing. 106. Bird is missing. 107. Bird is missing. 108. Bird is missing. 109. Bird is missing. 110. Bird is missing. 111. Bird is missing. 112. Bird is missing. 113. Bird is missing. 114. Bird is missing. 115. Bird is missing. 116. Bird is missing. 117. Bird is missing. 118. Bird is missing. 119. Bird is missing. 120. Bird is missing. 121. Bird is missing. 122. Bird is missing. 123. Bird is missing. 124. Bird is missing. 125. Bird is missing. 126. Bird is missing. 127. Bird is missing. 128. Bird is missing. 129. Bird is missing. 130. Bird is missing. 131. Bird is missing. 132. Bird is missing. 133. Bird is missing. 134. Bird is missing. 135. Bird is missing. 136. Bird is missing. 137. Bird is missing. 138. Bird is missing. 139. Bird is missing. 140. Bird is missing. 141. Bird is missing. 142. Bird is missing. 143. Bird is missing. 144. Bird is missing. 145. Bird is missing. 146. Bird is missing. 147. Bird is missing. 148. Bird is missing. 149. Bird is missing. 150. Bird is missing. 151. Bird is missing. 152. Bird is missing. 153. Bird is missing. 154. Bird is missing. 155. Bird is missing. 156. Bird is missing. 157. Bird is missing. 158. Bird is missing. 159. Bird is missing. 160. Bird is missing. 161. Bird is missing. 162. Bird is missing. 163. Bird is missing. 164. Bird is missing. 165. Bird is missing. 166. Bird is missing. 167. Bird is missing. 168. Bird is missing. 169. Bird is missing. 170. Bird is missing. 171. Bird is missing. 172. Bird is missing. 173. Bird is missing. 174. Bird is missing. 175. Bird is missing. 176. Bird is missing. 177. Bird is missing. 178. Bird is missing. 179. Bird is missing. 180. Bird is missing. 181. Bird is missing. 182. Bird is missing. 183. Bird is missing. 184. Bird is missing. 185. Bird is missing. 186. Bird is missing. 187. Bird is missing. 188. Bird is missing. 189. Bird is missing. 190. Bird is missing. 191. Bird is missing. 192. Bird is missing. 193. Bird is missing. 194. Bird is missing. 195. Bird is missing. 196. Bird is missing. 197. Bird is missing. 198. Bird is missing. 199. Bird is missing. 200. Bird is missing.

# Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Nightclub show
  - 8 "Sweet Rosie —"
  - 14 Floating with no control
  - 20 Surplus amount
  - 21 Greek Muse of astronomy
  - 22 Pointy beard
  - 23 Cough-quelling tablet
  - 24 Cowboys' toppers
  - 26 Like old teams that ferried borax
  - 28 Luau garland
  - 29 Knife incision
  - 30 — -mo replay
  - 31 Big serving spoon
  - 34 Big record label, once
  - 37 Suffix with serpent
  - 38 Long-term home loan option
  - 45 Javelin's path
  - 48 Ending for señor
  - 49 Small musical band
  - 50 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
  - 51 Mem. of the family
  - 52 1979 Nick Nolte film
  - 59 L-P center
  - 60 More silver-haired
  - 61 Dispatched in the direction of
  - 62 Hold up
  - 64 Pianist's challenge
  - 66 Rajah's mate
  - 68 With a leg on each side of
  - 70 "Apollo 13" org.
  - 71 1994 Erica Jong memoir
  - 76 Unlucky time for Caesar
  - 77 Cold Lipton offering
  - 79 — -am (touter of green eggs and ham)
  - 80 Food fish
  - 81 Gp. to call after a stall
  - 82 Deft
  - 86 King in "The Lion King"
  - 89 State south of S. Dak.
  - 90 Flying on foot
  - 93 Ill, in modern Rome
  - 94 Ex-Texas governor Richards
  - 95 Fat-removal procedure, for short
  - 96 Chou En — (former Communist leader)
  - 97 Old JFK lander
  - 98 Philadelphia election-monitoring group
  - 106 Santa —, California
  - 107 This moment
  - 108 French for "daughter"
  - 109 Meditation syllables
  - 112 Take care of
  - 114 "... — mouse?"
  - 117 Phileas Fogg's around-the-world time
  - 122 Right angle feature
  - 127 Satirist P.J.
  - 128 Penguin type
  - 129 Lack
  - 130 More boisterous
  - 131 Father, e.g.
  - 132 Seaport south of Kiev
  - 133 No less than
- DOWN**
- 1 Male foal
  - 2 States bluntly
  - 3 Gemstone mounting
  - 4 "Am so!" retort
  - 5 Vent vocally
  - 6 Like omelets
  - 7 Be rife (with)
  - 8 Money spent
  - 9 Gluttonous
  - 10 Managed
  - 11 Director Lee
  - 12 Oven knob
  - 13 Ivy League school
  - 14 In past time
  - 15 With 74-Down, longtime morning radio host
  - 16 Match cheers
  - 17 Napoli locale
  - 18 Throwing a big party for
  - 19 Student being quizzed
  - 25 VIP's ride
  - 27 Final: Abbr.
  - 32 "— smile be your umbrella"
  - 33 British peers
  - 35 Artsy- —
  - 36 Basically
  - 39 Door part
  - 40 "Do — else!"
  - 41 — avis
  - 42 Provoke
  - 43 Mournful cry
  - 44 Pound sound
  - 45 Iran neighbor
  - 46 Avis offering
  - 47 Inspector in "The Pink Panther"
  - 53 Supermodel Banks
  - 54 Use the ears
  - 55 '62 Bond film
  - 56 RBIs, e.g.
  - 57 Some fishing spears
  - 58 Some Alpine singers
  - 63 Safest option
  - 65 Father
  - 67 Conditions
  - 69 Tumbler top
  - 71 Was a tributary of
  - 72 Bring home
  - 73 Renown
  - 74 See 15-Down
  - 75 Cartoon skunk — La Fume
  - 78 It gives red wine its color
  - 80 "— isn't so!"
  - 83 Eye flirtatiously
  - 84 Nastase of the court
  - 85 — the iceberg
  - 87 Car shaft
  - 88 Marvel's Lee
  - 91 "Platoon" zone, briefly
  - 92 Ex-U.N. head Annan
  - 98 Brief sleep
  - 99 City east of Syracuse
  - 100 Way
  - 101 Having no depth, briefly
  - 102 Rains down ice pellets
  - 103 Actress Cuthbert
  - 104 Really chill, with "out"
  - 105 "Hey, bro!"
  - 110 Singer Callas
  - 111 Comedian Wanda
  - 113 Editing mark
  - 115 Total revision
  - 116 Ripened
  - 118 Circle dance
  - 119 Horse pace
  - 120 Cry of pain
  - 121 Spanish muralist José María —
  - 123 Foil material
  - 124 Up to now
  - 125 "Norma —"
  - 126 Trauma ctrs.

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