

The Ranchos Independent



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In the Heat of the Night

3V Feed & Garden Supply owner Jessie Kang looks at the remains of \$70,000 worth of oat hay that was mysteriously burned to the ground at his business on the evening of January 3.



Photo by the Ranchos Independent

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In the Heat of the Night

Area businessman loses \$70,000 in mysterious hay bale fire.

By Randy Bailey

On the evening of January 3, 3V Feed and Garden Supply owner Jessie Kang got a message on his cell phone at about 11:15 p.m. He was busy and didn't think anything of it. After all, if it's important they'll call back.

Well, it *was* important. Within 10 minutes the same person called back. Jessie recognized the number -- it was a regular customer at Jessie's feed store on Highway 145 just to the east of the outskirts of Madera. Jessie figured the customer was probably having some trouble with his horse and wanted Jessie to open up the store for some supplies the customer didn't have, a practice that Jessie had done several times with many customers.

But this call was not about a horse or supplies or about someone needing Jessie's help. This customer had happened to be driving home down Highway 145 and when he drove past 3V Feed was horrified to see the huge stacked bales of oat hay across the street from Jessie's store were on fire. There was a California Highway Patrolman already on the scene who had been driving back to Madera from a call in eastern Madera County, and had already called for the fire department. When Jessie's cus-

tommer called 911 he was told they were already aware of the fire and that emergency crews were on their way.

Jessie, who lives about 1 mile away from his business, jumped in his truck and rushed over to his store to be greeted by a horrific sight: \$70,000 of prime, dry, seasoned oat hay was burning horribly out of control.

By 11:30 p.m. it had become a massive fireball. Three different stacks were all on fire and were burning ferociously. "The majority was oat hay, but there was some straw in there as well," Jessie said as he helplessly stood and watched. The bales were stacked on top of \$2,000 of wooden pallets. All tolled, Jessie estimated the loss at approximately \$70,000.

"I got a good deal on it this summer," Jessie said. "When I get a good price I pass it on to my customers. There are a lot of people who have animals that are hurting and my prices really help them out. But now ... I can't imagine all of the animals this would have fed."

Jessie said that oat hay is at a premium right now. "The shortage of rain this last year made oat hay like gold," he said. Right now, he said there is none in Cali-



3V owner Jessie Kang is in disbelief at the senseless destruction of over 4,500 bales of oat hay from his property.

Please see **FIRE** on P. 19

Bigelow Announces Bid for New Assembly District

Reports total raised of \$169,150; Cash on hand of \$145,238.

Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow formally announced his bid for California's newly drawn 5th State Assembly district and laid down a marker with impressive fundraising numbers.

"Every year the Sacramento politicians promise to tell us the truth and to make the tough decisions to end California's economic crisis. But one look at last year's state budget only proves that they can't keep their word -- they passed a state budget papered over with phony financial projections and kicked California's problems down the road yet again.

"I've grown tired of the empty promises and the failure to get the job done. So I've decided to throw my hat in the ring to serve as our community's voice in the State Assembly and I'm so very grateful so many have stepped forward to join me," said Bigelow.

For the financial reporting period ending Dec. 31, 2011, Frank Bigelow for Assembly has over \$145,000 cash on



The Ranchos' Supervisor, Frank Bigelow, is making a run for the newly created 5th State Assembly District.

hand and showed a total amount raised as \$169,150. Fulfilling his commitment to his supporters, Bigelow loaned himself \$50,000 to seed the campaign. With the results showing nearly \$120,000 in individual contributions from every corner of the campaign, it appears Bigelow's support is deep and wide.

"Growing up on the ranch, I was taught the value of hard work and I'm approaching this campaign with that mindset. I won't be outworked," Bigelow said.

A Little History

The first thing you'll notice about Frank Bigelow is his hat. To Frank's way of thinking, that hat acknowledges the sacrifice of those who settled our region and serves as a commitment to preserve our way of life. With family roots that date to the late 1800's, Frank's great grandparents, Harmon and Leota Bigelow, settled in the O'Neals area of Madera County and established a cattle and sheep ranch along with a wagon and stage line that served the high country of the Sierra Nevada.

Later, Harmon strung two wires through the trees so that his wife could talk to her friend a half-mile away with a

Please see **BIGELOW** on P. 18

Batter UP! Girls' Softball

It's softball registration time again!

Get your girls out on the field playing softball. Joining our league is fun and a great way to learn the game. Liberty Ranchos Softball League will be holding sign-ups for the next two Saturdays (January 21 and 28) from 9:30 a.m. to noon and Sunday, Jan. 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ranchos Market.

We will be signing girls up for the 2012 Recreational League, which is girls from the age of 6 to 14 years. Cost is \$85 per girl with a \$5 discount for second and third children. Registration fees include a uniform, basic picture package and player insurance. There is a \$20 snack bar fee that is refundable upon working once in the snack bar.

Any sign-ups after Jan. 29 will incur a late fee of \$10. All the teams will be going to a draft system and all new teams will be formed this year. Tryouts for the 10 and 14-and-under teams will be Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sierra View Elementary.

Come on out and play ball with Liberty Ranchos Softball League! For further information please call Candy Hall at 559-824-8132.

FBI Helping to ID Dead "John Doe" Found South of Ranchos

On Friday, Jan. 6 Sheriff John Anderson announced the FBI is working with Madera County Sheriff's Office to learn the identity of an elderly man whose nude body was found in an olive orchard south of the Ranchos last month. A second rendering of the dead man is being released. Numerous database searches have so far come up empty despite a sketch that was released late last year, Anderson said.

John Doe remains a mystery. "We still have no idea who he is. We

don't know where he lived; if he had family," Anderson said. "All we know right now is that the lifeless body of a man was found dumped in an olive orchard four days before Christmas."

It's still not clear how the man died because preliminary autopsy results were inconclusive. Additionally, Anderson said he is aware that some law enforcement agencies are releasing actual photos of an unidentified corpse, rather than rely on an artist's rendering, when seeking help from the public, but

Anderson said he's not prepared to release a grim photo at this time.

Apart from working a number of angles with Sheriff's Detectives, a forensic specialist with the FBI has created a second sketch which is being released in the hopes that someone might recognize the man and give John Doe a name.

The man is described as a light-skinned elderly African American approximately 60-



FBI rendering of man found in olive orchard.

Please see FBI on P. 20





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Tail Waggin' to Frustration Venting

By Garin Gonzales

It's funny. I grew up in Oregon so you think I would be used to foul weather, but I guess I'm turning into a wimp because the winter months here in the Central Valley are taking their toll on me. I'm constantly cold. I have a runny nose. My feet are blocks of ice and the weather is in the 60s! What's wrong with me?

Okay, enough of my yakkin'. Let's get down to business.

Tail-Waggin' Tutors

Beginning in late January we are going to be bringing back the "Reading to the Dogs" program. If your children are just learning to read, this is the perfect way to help them come out of their shells and practice their reading skills. Come and read to our loveable "Dog Listener." Charley, a Cavalier King Charles Terrier, is a certified therapy dog who absolutely loves children and also loves a good story. Bring your child in and have him or her read to Charley. He's a wonderful listener and he never judges. It's a terrific way to work on your little one's reading skills. Charley had his debut with us during Story Time on Thursday, Jan. 19 and we're hoping he'll settle in with us every Wednesday at 11 a.m. after that.

I Must Vent My Frustration ...

When I find the little rat fink that keeps putting food and drink items in the library's drop-off box, I'm going to wring his or her neck. The new cameras that were just installed will tell the tale, and when I finally see the tape, oh boy, are you in for it! Consider this fair warning. I know, you're probably used to a more passive type of librarian, but that is just not me! When some jive turkey (I know, I know ... language) starts damaging my books, I turn into Conan the Librarian! (I realize by writing this I'm inviting "copycat" dumpers, but I'm hoping the distinguished readers of the Ranchos Independent are a little classier than that. I'm also hoping the cameras will be a deterrent.) I mean, really – were you raised by wolves?

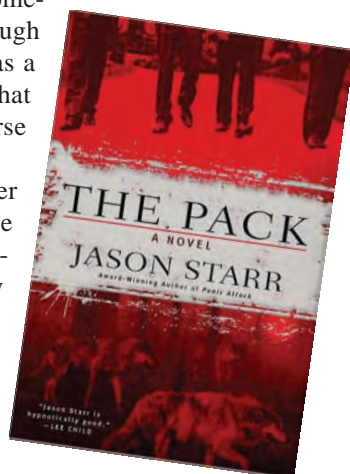
Book Chat

Speaking of being raised by wolves, *The Pack* by Jason Starr is an interesting twist on the wolf tale. Simon Burns is just your average advertising copywriter living a quiet life until one day when his life is turned upside down. He loses his job and is forced to become a stay-at-home-dad. Now if being a stay-at-home-dad was the major plot point, that would be bad enough (while I worked my way through library school I was a stay-at-home-dad to twin newborns. That is a story that would make Stephen King tremble!) But it gets worse from there.

While at the park one day, Simon meets some other stat-at-homeys and they bond. Sure they seem a little strange, especially Michael, with his piercing eyes, intense demeanor and his thick German accent, but they seem like a good bunch of guys and they make him feel right at home. So Simon opens up to them and tells them about his ex-boss who so unfairly fired Simon without any kind of reason.

But then, after a night of carousing with "the boys," the ex-boss is found mauled to death. Worse, Simon wakes up naked in the same area as the mauling! Of course, our hero can't put two and two together, but we can. Author Jason Starr has been on the literary scene since 1998 and he definitely has a unique voice. His protagonists in the past can be fairly described as "anti-heroes." They are stalkers, gambling addicts or the emotionally disturbed. They go from calm to out of their minds in zero to 60. They have weird hang-ups with their sisters. They make terrible decisions, but boy oh boy are Starr's books fun reads! And *The Pack*, although very different from his other books, is no exception.

Well, my fellow book lovers, that is all for now. Try your best to stay warm! As my friend Casey Kasem always says, "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars." Also, keep reaching for that library card. For heaven's sake, don't leave home without it!



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Guest Editorial

Thatcher vs. Decline

By Rich Lowry

Margaret Thatcher is on the cover of Newsweek, or -- the next best thing -- Meryl Streep is on the cover as the former British prime minister in a new biopic.

Thatcher is a rich theme. If the types who expound on such things didn't so hate her politics, she'd launch a thousand dissertations on those inexhaustible academic themes of class and gender. As the daughter of a grocer, she was looked down upon as the personification of, in the words of one highfalutin critic, "the worst of the lower-middle-class." As a woman in a man's world, she was venomously attacked by her opponents as a "bitch" or "the bag."

At this moment in our history, though, it is Thatcher's central purpose that is most important: Her unyielding rejection of British decline. She rejected it with every bone in her middle-class body even though sophisticates scoffed at such a naive nationalism. She rejected it even though the grandees of her own party said it was inevitable. She rejected it even though she knew reversing it meant forcing a wrenching political and economic crisis.

The acrid whiff of decline is in the air in America, in the enduringly weak employment picture, in the spiraling debt, in the persistent pessimism about

our prospects and in the intellectual preparation for a "post-American world." Part of the volatility in the Republican presidential field is the unfulfilled hunger for a Thatcher-like figure. Needless to say, Thatchers aren't often on offer.

The country she wanted to save was by the late 1970s an embarrassing wreck. After World War II, Britain's leaders had grounded the ship of state on the shoals of socialism. The country was broke and beset by maliciously powerful unions. Humiliatingly, it had to go to the International Monetary Fund for a loan. Henry Kissinger told President Gerald Ford in 1975, "Britain is a tragedy -- it has sunk to begging, borrowing, stealing."

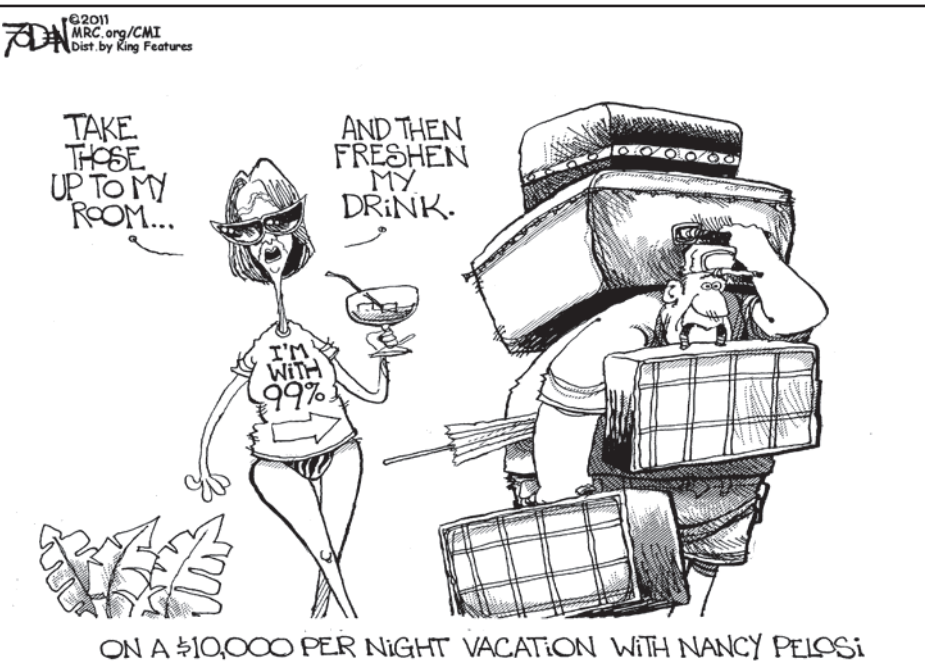
It wasn't enough to rage against Britain's fate without correctly diagnosing the source of its sickness. As Claire Berlinski, author of the book-length study of Thatcher titled "There Is No Alternative," notes, she made an unsparing and comprehensive case against socialism. "In the end," Thatcher thundered, "the real case against socialism is not its economic inefficiency, though on all sides there is evidence of that. Much more fundamental is its basic immorality."

Bold but never reckless, as prime minister Thatcher undertook a comprehensive free-market program to tame inflation, restrain spending, cut taxes, privatize industries, bring unions to heel and deregulate the financial industry. At one point, her approval rating dipped to 23 percent, but her vindication was a sustained return to dynamism and growth. Her victory in the Falklands War represented a turning point in national pride. She was Ronald Reagan's partner in defeating the Soviets. By the end of her career, she had accomplished what Britain's consensus had once deemed impossible.

In today's America, the circumstances are very different, and the basic challenge is profoundly the same. Thatcher's lesson is that decline is inevitable only if its self-fulfilling prophets prevail.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Environmental Elitists Don't Let Up



By Rick Farinelli

On the front page of the Madera Tribune, dated Dec. 28, a headline reads, "Locals Petition for Environment, Economic Growth." What an oxymoronic statement!

Government and environmentalists do not promote economic growth. We are being duped into believing that government can save our economy. Free markets are the only thing that will grow and save the economy. Why are we letting our kids listen to wacko environmentalists who teach our children about the terrible industrialists that are destroying America? If you want to teach them about our environment, then teach them with the facts.

On Oct. 17, 1986 President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). This act amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), commonly known as SARA Title III. Its purpose was to encourage and support emergency planning efforts at the state and local levels and provide public and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities.

SARA Title III was one of the strictest environmental cleanliness and safety acts in United States history. This was actually needed because factories and government military bases were environmentally out of control since the beginning of the U.S. President Ronald Reagan knew that SARA was such an extreme environmental act that it would take decades to enforce industries and government controlled areas to become safe and clean. SARA had such strict laws that some of the acts were grandfathered in so they would not become laws until the late 1990s, then each new regulation would start each year thereafter for the next 10 years. Do any of you remember fuel tanks being taken out of the ground and being replaced with double lined tanks? Do you remember asbestos being taken out of every school, government center and industry to only find out that all asbestos was not bad?

Instead of listening to environmental elitists, read for yourself how laws and regulations, like SARA Title III, cost each American taxpaying citizen and industries to comply. I think you will find the dollar amount in the

billions. The Right-to-Know Act was the right thing to do at the time and the laws and fines are still in effect today. The problem is our government is lobbied by environmental elitists to put more regulations on top of regulations with such restrictions that you cannot do business in America. The environmental regulations are now to the point that you can hardly start up a new business or continue being in business at an affordable percentage of profit. Between obscene regulations and unions, companies are forced to do business in other countries and in our case, other states. We are a country of laws but when we listen to people who don't know the facts about environmental laws and regulations, we deserve what we get, which is less jobs and a very bad economy. Since 1986, The Right-to-Know Act was applied to American industries and government military bases and they have paid their fair share in clean-up. Many paid the price by shutting down facilities that could not meet these environmental regulations. We are the cleanest nation on earth and we already have the regulations to support keeping us that way. We do not need more environmental wackos or elitists trying to make us cleaner.

Next time an environmentalist knocks on your door, do your fair share by asking them to start with China and then go East, West, North and South and from that point it should take them about 100 years to get back to America's environmental standards. Also remind them that this is America and not a "One World United Nations Agenda 21 Program."

Rick Farinelli is the Madera Chapter Coordinator for the Central Valley Tea Party.

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The January 19th meeting had a change of venue to the Hampton Inn in Madera presenting guest speaker Carey James, a retired Border Control Agent speaking about why our borders should be closed.

Most all of the Madera Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 6 - 8 pm at Di Cicco's, 516 South I Street in Madera. The next scheduled meeting is Feb. 16. Should there be a change in scheduling, please confirm meeting dates or guest speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com and select the events tab on the blue menu bar then scroll to find your area's chapter for current scheduling of meetings, including speakers and topics of discussion.

For more information contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator, John Smedley, by e-mail at jcsmedley@comcast.net, or call 559-645-7031. You may also contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator, Rick Farinelli, by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net or call 559-706-5386.

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The Stock Report

2011 Memories; 2012 Possibilities

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

The Christmas tree is down and the beautiful lights are put away for another year. There is always something sad about taking down the tree, the lights, the decorations and putting everything away in those three big red and green plastic tubs. It is like putting a whole year of memories into those three big tubs. The year 2011 had so many memories, some real good, some sad, and some just "life." I have packed the year away in the 2011 memory file with my 2011 Christmas letter. If you send out Christmas letters, I hope that you keep a copy. I have 40 years of letters that really tell the family story.

So we begin a new chance in the year 2012 for new experiences, new

when Joann handed me the phone and said that the Fresno Bee was calling me. I hadn't heard from the Fresno Bee since my last term on the Golden Valley School Board so I wasn't prepared for the questions that the reporter began asking me. The reporter asked how we were able to break away from Madera Unified and become Golden Valley Unified School District. Some people in Fresno were trying to create a new school district. I answered as well as I could but my mind was really on my exercise class. After my conversation with the Fresno Bee reporter I begin thinking about how five young men and this retired school teacher accomplished what everyone thought was an impossible dream. I am proud that I had a part in making the dream of Golden Valley Unified School District come true. There were so many decisions

learning opportunities and new beginnings. I am looking forward to traveling to the Deep South with the Ranchos Hills Seniors May 9 through 19. I know that there will be new sights, sounds, smells and great

The year 2011 had so many memories, some real good, some sad, and some just "life." I have packed the year away in the 2011 memory file with my 2011 Christmas letter.

southern food. If you are interested in this great trip call the Ranchos Hills Seniors at 645-4864 for information about this exciting trip. This is one of the Seniors' fundraising trips that help keep the Senior Center working. Before the big trip to the South, the Seniors will be going to the 25th Mariposa Storytelling Festival March 9 and 10. I went to this Festival last year and had a ball. If you want to go to this Festival with the Seniors, call the Senior Center at 645-4864.

Just because I have packed away each year's memories as a new year has begun doesn't mean that I don't still have those memories on recall if I need them. It just takes a little longer the farther back they are. I hope that you can follow what I am about to tell you. Sometimes a call out of the blue can trigger memories.

A couple of weeks ago I was at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center leading the morning exercise class

to make before we could go to the Sacramento State School Board of Education (I didn't even know that there was such a board) to give us permission to take a community vote to separate from Madera Unified.

That was just the beginning. The State Office of Education gave us one year to form a school district which is now our very successful Golden Valley Unified. We had to form a school board, hire a Superintendent, open an office, pass a bond, buy land and start construction to build Liberty High School all in that first year. One of the things that I wondered is if the Fresno group understands that there are three different kinds of school districts. Even though I was a school teacher for 20 years I didn't know this. There are elementary school districts which teach Kindergarten to 8th grade. There are middle school districts that teach students 6th to 8th grades. Last there are the unified school districts that teach from preschool through adult classes and everything in-between. Golden Valley Unified became a unified district because we were told we had a better

Please see STOCK on P. 11



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Some Super Recipes

Here we are into the year 2012 – can you believe it? It seems like only last week I was changing all the calendars from 2010 to 2011. Time does march on doesn't it? Hope you had a good beginning to 2012. Hope your new year will be very prosperous.

Well, it's Super Bowl fever time again. Will it be the 49ers or the Giants? The Patriots or the Ravens? At this point we don't know who it will be but definitely it will not be Denver, starring the Broncos' Tim Tebow, who was eliminated in a loss to the New England Patriots. My niece Brooke

and nephew Brandon and his girlfriend Barbara flew from southern California a few weekends ago to see the Broncos play in Denver and I think Brooke went just to see Tebow play, rather than the whole team. I can tell you one sad girl who's not looking forward to the Super Bowl.

There are a couple of statistics that are related to the Super Bowl that I find interesting, however I can't verify them being valid. Did you know it's reported that more toilets are flushed during the half time of the Super Bowl and that sewers have a hard time keeping up? And supposedly there are more pizzas sold on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day of the year.

Sticker Shock

Have you seen the price of a ticket to the Super Bowl? I looked on the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis website where the game will be played. The stadium was built with 63,000 seats, but it will be increased to over 70,000 for the game. Tonight (about three weeks before the game) there are 2,356 tickets left and they cost \$2,214 each.



by Jean Briner

And up.

I was looking on the computer to see who was going to be the half time entertainment this year and it's Madonna! So that I won't offend any of her fans, I won't tell you how much I don't care for her. Half time will probably be a good time for me to go clean the bathrooms. Enough said!

Although it is not an official holiday, it is certainly celebrated

Have you seen the price of a ticket to the Super Bowl? I looked on the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis website where the game will be played. The stadium was built with 63,000 seats, but it will be increased to over 70,000 for the game. Tonight (about three weeks before the game) there are 2,356 tickets left and they cost \$2,214 each.

And up.

like one. It is a good day to bring out the munchies. And please, don't just open a bag of chips and say "this is it." Depending on how many are in your group, you could have them each bring a tray of their favorite snack food. A couple of simple suggestions is to open a package of cream cheese (let soften be-

fore serving) and pour your favorite salsa over it, and serve with tortilla chips. Or if you're not a salsa fan, but like seafood, use a jar of shrimp or crab cocktail over the softened cream cheese and serve with pita chips. Or how about a tray of peeled and sliced cucumbers, zucchini, baby carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and olives with a bowl of ranch dressing.

One of my favorite dips is the old standby onion soup mix and sour cream. Just stir a package of Lipton onion soup mix into a pint carton of sour cream. Be sure to let it sit for a couple of hours in the refrigerator before serving so you won't be biting down on dry onions.

Another good one for a crowd is the 7-Layer dip. I use a large

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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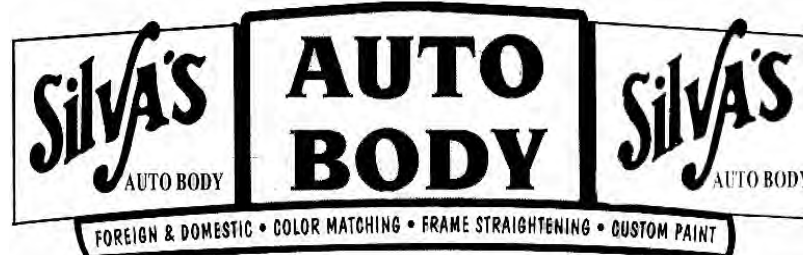


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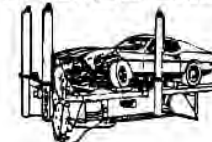
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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

cookie sheet, but use whatever size is good for your party. The layers I use (from bottom to top in this order) are:

- Refried Beans
- Sour Cream
- Guacamole
- Chopped Green Chiles (drained)
- Shredded Lettuce
- Diced Tomatoes
- Chopped (or sliced) Olives
- Green Onions – chopped
- Shredded Cheese

I didn't put any amounts down because it will depend on the size of the platter you will be using. Additionally, I brown a pound of hamburger, drain it well on paper towels and then stir it into the beans before beginning to layer the other ingredients. The cheese can be of your choice: Cheddar, Monterey Jack, or if you want to make it a bit zestier, use pepper jack, or a combination of these. Serve with tortilla chips.

Depending on how much work you want to go to before your party, you could do chicken wings. I'm not a fan of the hot wings, but I do like the BBQ or this recipe for Brandied Chicken Wings.

Brandied Chicken Wings

3 lbs. Chicken Wings with tips removed.

- Sauce:
- ¼ C Brown Sugar (packed)
 - ¼ C Cooking Sherry
 - ¾ C Soy Sauce
 - 2 t Ground Ginger
 - 1 or 2 Cloves of Garlic – chopped

Combine sauce ingredients. Place chicken in baking dish and pour sauce over chicken and let marinate in the refrigerator overnight. When ready to bake, place wings on greased cookie sheet and place in 450 oven for 10 minutes and turn wings over and cook for another 10 minutes. Reduce oven to 350 and cook wings for another 15 minutes or until wings are done.

We went out to Randy and Vicki's after church for Christmas dinner. Rachael had some hors d'oeuvres out to munch on before dinner was ready. One of them was the spinach and sour cream in a bread bowl.

Spinach Dip & Bread Bowl

1 Pkg. (10 oz.) Frozen Chopped Spinach.

Cooked, cooled and squeezed dry

- 1 16 oz. Container Sour Cream
- 1 C Mayonnaise
- 2 or 3 Stalks of Celery, chopped
- 1 Pkg. Knorr Vegetable Recipe Mix

3 Green Onions chopped (optional)

Combine all ingredients and chill about 2 hours. Hollow out a loaf of French bread and use as a container for the dip. Tear up the bread you pulled out of the loaf into bite-size pieces and use as dippers. When the dip is almost gone, tear up the loaf and you have bread with dip on it ready to eat.

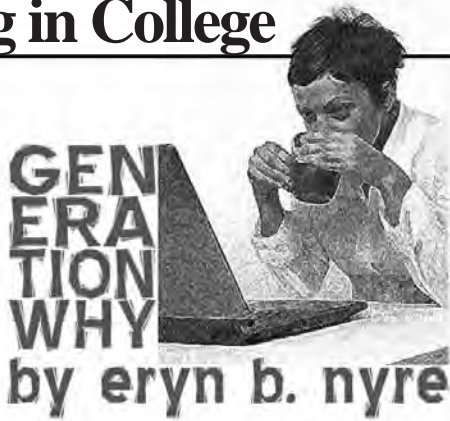
Kickoff will be 3:30 our time so you have enough time to get up and go to church and be home in time to get your party started and enjoy the game – especially if your team is winning. Hope you have a good time.

Before I close, I want to remind you of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's 9th Annual Crab Feed that is coming up. It will be on Friday, March 9 and is going to be held at the beautiful Dante Club on Grantland right off of the 99 about one mile past Borba Ranch were Station 19 have their BBQ every year. The tickets are \$45 and you get all you can eat of salad, bread, pasta and crab, and this year there will be a no-host bar and dancing at the event. It's all going to a good cause because it's the major fundraiser for the Chamber to finance their expenses for all of the good work that they do. So come out and support the Chamber of Commerce and your community!

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Texting vs Teaching in College



You there! Stop texting! The professor is trying to teach you!

One of the disadvantages to attending community college night classes is that I am forced to interact with a large group of teenagers fresh out of high school, some of whom clearly don't take higher education seriously. The benefit of attending these classes is that they provide me with great fodder for my articles.

My current target? The kids that don't feel the need to pay attention in class, and then gripes that they are failing. In every class I have taken there are at least two students that complain about their grades, whine that they are struggling, and moan about all the coursework. And inevitably, these

are the very same twits that spend the entire class texting their friends, posting on Facebook and generally ignoring the professor.

Now, if you want to spend the entire lecture goofing off, that is your business. And, if you can manage to waste all that time and still pull top grades, I applaud you. But if you refuse to

pay attention in class, effectively wasting your money, the state's money – slash the tax payer's money, it's probably your parents' money – and in addition the professor's time just to complain to everyone in earshot about your failing grades, that just infuriates me.

Last term I had the misfortune of sharing a table with such a girl. She seemed nice enough, but every time the professor began her lecture, this moron would open her laptop and spend the next three hours surfing the internet and texting. Then, like clockwork, she would turn to me and ask if we were assigned any homework. I

would routinely give her misinformation for my own amusement. I once told her that we were assigned a paper outlining the power point presentation we just viewed and how it applied to some concepts we learned. We hadn't watched a power point presentation that day but she didn't notice, and she never seemed to turn in any homework anyway. My hope is that she spent

at least a couple of days panicked about how she was going to complete the assignment without having watched the power point that never existed.

After each exam, this same girl would look at her grade and exclaim that she just didn't understand the material and whined about how difficult the class was. I usually ignored her,

but one evening my internal filter broke. The very moment the lecture began, after a lengthy bellyaching episode, she popped her laptop open and logged into Facebook. I pointed at her computer screen and said, "That is why you are failing." Of course, she ignored me, and the cycle repeated for the remainder of the semester.

This is what perplexes me about students like this, and I use this term loosely. Do they not realize they by taking up that seat, someone else was denied a chance to take that class? Do they not see that they are wasting the profes-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 21

What really concerns me is how did these people pass high school with this mentality? I'm relatively certain it didn't just pop up after graduation. Here is your diploma, and we have attached your certificate to pick up your supply of laziness, procrastination and inattention in the principal's office on your way out. Good luck in college with these superb new tools at your disposal.

New Restraint Law Classes Offered

According to Safe Kids, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 3 to 14 in the United States. Car seats can reduce fatal injuries by as much as 71 percent for infants younger than 1 year of age and by 54 percent for toddlers ages 1-4. Children seated in a booster seat in the rear of the car are 45 percent less likely to be injured in a crash as compared to those using a seat belt alone. Effective Jan. 1, a new California law went into effect making it a legal requirement that children under 8 years old

must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat. This new law mandates more stringent standards for parents to follow so they can protect their children in the event they are involved in a car crash.

First 5 Madera County, in partnership with the Madera County Sheriff's Department, will be providing more information to the community about this new law and car seat education classes and check-ups will be offered from January to March 2012. Call 559-661-5155 for more info.

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STOCK cont. from P. 7

chance of separating from Madera Unified if we did.

The interview with the Fresno Bee reporter brought back memories from way back. In 1959 I was elected as PTA president of Viking Elementary school. In those days there were no parents' clubs in schools, it was always a national organization of PTA that schools had. Some of you may never have heard of the PTA. This is the first organization that made people realize the important role that parents play in the education of their children. Here is the history of the PTA.

On Feb. 17, 1897 the Parent Teacher Association was founded in Washington D.C. by two women, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. All over our nation the month of February was chosen to honor these national founders as well as the past presidents of local units. I had gotten involved when my oldest child was in Kindergarten. I learned a lot about working with teachers and administrators

from the PTA speakers and programs. I worked with the state PTA to encourage elementary schools to have libraries on their campuses to encourage reading. Scandinavian School District was an Elementary School District consisting of Viking, Vinland, Erickson, Norseman and Scandinavian Middle School in east Fresno. This was not a unified school district so they could not build a high school. California is a state that seems to think bigger is better and more efficient. In 1959 the California State Board of Education forced the Scandinavian School District to join either Fresno Unified or Clovis Unified so that their students would have a high school to complete their education. Lots and lots of PTA meetings at all the schools were held and the people decided to go with Fresno Unified and the Scandinavian School District was taken over by Fresno Unified. I guess what I am trying to say is that creating a school district is complicated and if you don't do it right you

Please see **STOCK** on P. 21

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Show Your Heart ... Like Tebow

Until he changes his mind, the Pastor's Desk will be written by Mike Bailey and is being renamed "Progress not Perfection." He is not a pastor but he has a message. With approximately 17.6 million American adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent, his message is timely and relevant.

Editor

By Mike Bailey

Over the last few months we have all been exposed to "Tebow Time." His courage is shown more in the way he lives than on the gridiron. His name is just not a proper noun anymore, it is now a verb. You have heard about "Tebowing" when you kneel down on one knee, rest your elbow on the other,

put one hand on the ground and raise the other to your forehead, close your eyes and praise God for all he has done and is going to do. The main difference: I do it in private; Tim Tebow does it in front of millions. He has the courage to wear his love of Christ on his sleeve and does not care what others think. When Tebow prays on the sidelines his prayers are simple:

Tebow does not pray for the perfect spiral or his receiver to be wide open. He prays for the Lord's will in public. He is not afraid to show his faith. Tim is proud to be a Christian and he is walking the walk. The first thing out of his mouth in every interview is: "I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." No matter the fallout from all of the naysayers, he continues to proclaim his love of Jesus. He wears Jesus as a badge of honor and displays it to the world.

he asks the Lord for strength, protection for not just him but his teammates also. He asks the Lord for His will to be done, whatever that may be and the wisdom to carry out His will. Tebow does not pray for the perfect spiral or his receiver to be wide open. He prays for the Lord's will in public. He is not afraid to show his faith. Tim is proud to be a Christian and he is walking the walk. The first thing out of his mouth in every interview is: "I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." No matter the fallout from all of the naysayers, he continues to proclaim his love of Jesus. He wears Jesus as a badge of honor and displays it to the world.

Now, in our society we are supposed to leave our love of Christ at the

altar. You should not say the name Jesus in public because you might offend someone. We have to be careful not to upset anyone. Schools no longer have Christmas Programs, they have "Holiday Festivals," of course, don't tell them that the word "holiday" is derived from "Holy Day." Since when did believing in God become so divisive? We are a country founded on God. The Pilgrims came here so they could worship God.

It is time to not be afraid. We need to show the world what a loving, caring God can do. The last thing Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 is: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of

the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." We have been commanded to share our faith and belief, but yet we tend to cower when the radicals talk about faith being a harbinger for weak people. Don't be afraid, show your faith, and pray as a family at restaurants. Tell people what Christ has done in your life.

Remember Jesus said in John 15:18: "If the world hates you, remember they hated me first." In the book of Matthew Jesus says in chapter 10 and verse 22: "All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Jesus makes it very plain: we will not be liked. It is hard to say why the world will not like us, but we know who wins in the end.

Go, be like Tebow. The persecution and the hatred is not a shameful thing, rather it is a badge of honor which Jesus wore before you or I ever did.

Until next time,

Mike

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Senior Report

Looking Forward to Spring Events, Touring the Deep South

By Verlaine Elinburg

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors had a great holiday season. The celebration of Thanksgiving with a potluck dinner was enjoyed with traditional and different ethnic food dishes. The Senior Center moved on to its Christmas events over the four Saturdays of December, which included the Christmas Boutique, Bake Sale, catered Christmas dinner by the Kiwanis and the installation of the new officers and Board members. Helen Lowell, as always, did an outstanding presentation. President Mike Thomson signed on for an additional year as president. We get to keep our Easter Bunny and sign dancer at the corner of Avenue 12 and Fernwood.

Sign up and join the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, 37330 Berkshire, for the upcoming trip called the Southern Journey to South Carolina and Georgia from May 9 – 19. A few spaces are still available, but going fast, and any adult is welcome to join.

The Brookgreen Gardens is just one of the sights we will be visiting. Although humans first made contact with the area 10,000 years ago, the area wouldn't have human habitation until nomadic tribes settled in villages in the area around 1500 AD. The English settlers came from Barbados and other Caribbean Islands during the 17th Century. In 1931 the Brookgreen Gardens was established as a nonprofit corporation to preserve the flora of this unique area. Today, Brookgreen Gardens is a Na-

Home and Garden Festival which will be on the first week in April and the Annual Bike Ride during the third week in April. Put these events on your calendar.

The Department of health comes periodically to the center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above and for referrals to medical providers and community services the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. and a suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call Joann at 645-4864.

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends and get updates on their fellow members and get current news and updates on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. New to the agenda is Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. with a variety of card games to be enjoyed. Come and learn some new games.

Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy or find additional copies at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and at many of the businesses on Avenue 12. The Farmers Market at the center has a variety of vegetables and fruits; jams and jellies are available and the Boutique has many "on the spot" gift items.



The itinerary for the next Ranchos/Hills Seniors' trip to the historic south.

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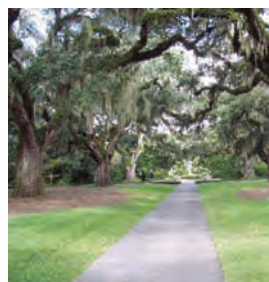
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tional Historical Landmark with an extensive collection of flora and extensive examples of figurative sculptures. If you'd like to go with us, call 645-4864 and make your reservation.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is now planning for its annual

Madera DA Reports on Animal Abuse Prosecutions

Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz and his staff met with the board of directors of the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter on Jan. 10. Concerns raised by the group at the Jan. 4 meeting of the Madera City Council provided the District Attorney's Office an opportunity to meet with and inform members of the public about prosecution of animal abuse cases. During the meeting, the District Attorney's Office presented statistics on animal abuse cases referred over the past year.

In 2011, county prosecutors processed a total of 8,781 criminal cases referred from law enforcement agencies.

Of those cases, 27 involved charges of animal abuse including mis-treatment of dogs and cats, starving horses, cock fighting, abandonment, and other acts of abuse. The District Attorney's Office found sufficient evidence to bring charges in 85 percent, or 23 of the cases submitted. Of those, 16 cases resulted in conviction, while seven cases are currently pending.

Persons convicted of animal abuse charges in 2011 were sentenced by the Madera Superior Court to various punishments including fines, probation, and community service. Conviction may also result in incarceration, as did an earlier

case prosecuted in 2010.

Several instances of animal abuse discovered in Madera County in the recent past received extensive media coverage. However, not all of these cases have been

presented by the law enforcement agencies to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution, either due to continuing investigative efforts or lack of evidence.

The District Attorney's Office takes all criminal matters seriously, including animal abuse. District Attorney Michael Keitz encourages the public to report suspected animal abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

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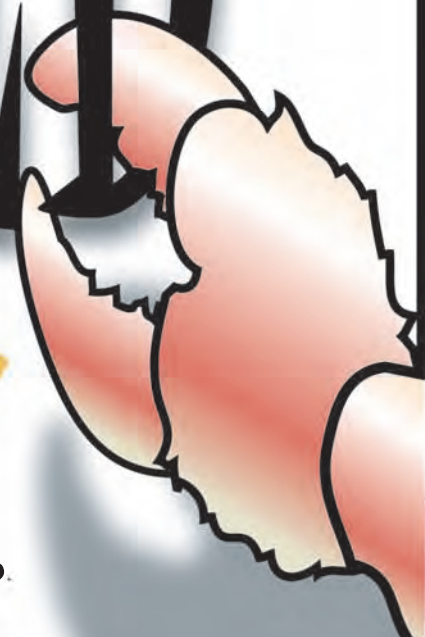


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All proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of commerce and the Annual Crab Feed sells out every year so get your tickets early!

You can get your tickets at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.

Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001



Chamber of Commerce

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GVUSD Going Solar, \$1 Million Rebate First Savings



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

Finding ways to reduce costs is a high priority for the Golden Valley Unified School District board, administration and staff. However, after several years of belt-tightening, it isn't easy finding new ways to reduce costs that don't negatively impact the district's educational program.

One area the board and administration have been exploring for the past 18 months is reducing electricity costs. Payments to PG&E represent almost 10 percent of the district's non-personnel budget and are the fastest growing item in that part of the budget. Electricity costs are also the least predictable and controllable item in the district's budget.

With this in mind, almost a year and a half ago, the board directed staff to explore the implementation of

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities. After looking at a number of alternative approaches, last May, the district contracted with TerraVerde Renewable Partners, an independent public energy advisor, to assist the district in developing a plan to implement solar PV energy project.

The first step was for TerraVerde to analyze the district's electricity usage to see if using solar PV energy facilities to generate electricity for the district would result in meaningful savings. Several presentations of TerraVerde's findings to the board last summer and this fall demonstrated that the district could significantly reduce its short- and long-term electricity costs by replacing power purchased from PG&E with power generated by district-owned solar PV energy facilities. Also, the board learned that with the implementation of solar PV energy project, it would be eligible to receive over \$1 million in rebates offered by the California Solar Initiative.

The next step involved a review of potential locations of the solar PV energy facilities at district sites. In making this decision, the board weighed both the look and costs of the solar PV energy facility structures. One consideration was the placement of solar PV panels on structures in parking lots and over playgrounds to provide the additional benefit of shading.



Photovoltaic panels like these will be sprouting up soon on the classrooms of Golden Valley schools.

Based on these findings, the board then authorized TerraVerde and staff to run a bidding process to select a qualified solar contractor to design and build the solar PV energy facilities for the district. The staff involved in the bidder evaluation process in-

cluded Jim Monreal, Dave Baughman and Melinda Cullins, as well as, consultants from Harris Construction, Taylor Teter Architects and TerraVerde.

At their Jan. 17 meeting, the board voted to enter into a contract with Cupertino Electric, Inc., a large electrical contractor with both extensive school and solar PV installation experience.

While project supervision will be provided by Cupertino Electric, they are committed to 100 percent of the labor on the project will be provided by local electricians and other skilled trades out of Madera County.

The project is currently scheduled to begin at the end of February and be completed by the summer. As soon as the project is commissioned by PG&E, electricity, budget savings and rebates will start flowing. For more information, please contact Jim Monreal, GVUSD Chief Business Official.

GVUSD Calendar

District wide

Feb. 7 - Board meeting

Sierra View Elementary

Jan. 26 - Coffee with Principal Imperatrice

Jan. 31 - 100 Days of School Celebration
Feb. 2 - Spelling Bee

Ranchos Middle School

Feb. 15-16 - Science Fair

Liberty High School

Jan. 19-26 - 2012/2013 registration presentations

Jan. 30 - Parent FASFA workshop

Jan. 31 - NSL Talent Show

Feb. 3 - Rally- Movie Night Awards

GVUSD Ponding Basin Information

Many changes have taken place since the original construction of the ponding basin that is located at Ave. 12 and Road 36. In June of 2002, GVUSD partnered with Madera County to accept and accommodate some road related storm runoff as referenced within the Master Drainage Plan for Madera Ranchos.

The storm drainage facility was designed partly to accommodate the necessary road improvements at the intersection of Ave. 12 and Road 36. Road construction included the installation of a storm drainage pipe running under Road 36, which would then run into the existing retention pond.

With the construction of the Ranchos Middle School in 2007, soil was removed to increase the capacity of the ponding basin. The west end of the basin was also then graded for appropriate drainage. Additional fencing and sprinklers were subsequently added to this area for use as additional turf fields for the district.



The Liberty High ponding basin from the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36.

With our Madera County partnership, heavy equipment was brought in to assist in the maintenance of the basin. We attempted to reach a soil layer to promote percolation. We were also able to remove the excessive foliage growth in the basin promoted by standing water.

As our winter season continues, we will monitor water flow and dissipation as well as vegetation growth.

Click on "Local News" at



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1/12

Denham Reacts to Pipeline Denial

On Wednesday, Jan. 18 Representative Denham issued a statement on President Obama's decision to deny the application for construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, sending more jobs and resources overseas.

"More than three years ago the application was filed to build the Keystone XL pipeline and bring jobs and energy security to America, and today the Administration rejected it. The Keystone XL pipeline is one of the largest private infrastructure projects in American history. It would have created 20,000 jobs immediately; spurred the creation of 118,000 spin-off jobs, and reduced our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

"The Administration's excessive regulations have continually hindered job creation in the Valley and around the nation. We must invest in our natural resources, and encourage access to

available resources and the jobs that come with them," Denham said.



Liberty High Key Club Preps Honda Float For Rose Parade

American Honda was Official Sponsor for Tournament of Roses Parade

On Dec. 30, 2011, Sarah Bures, along with Key Club President Andy Hart and nine Liberty High School Key Clubbers traveled to Pasadena to decorate the Rose Parade floats. Accompanying them were Ranchos Kiwanis President, John Glueck; Secretary, Pam Glueck; Key Club Advisor, Travis Hart; and Carla Hart. This wonderful experience is held every year through the Kiwanis International organization where hundreds of Key Club volunteers are assigned floats based on the decorating needs. This year our kids were assigned to the American Honda float, "Sweet Dreams." American Honda is the official sponsor of the Tournament of Roses Parade. Anyone watching on Monday, Jan. 2 saw Kenny G riding the float and playing the saxophone. American Honda has put together a wonderful short video of the parade showing footage from an interview they did with Andy Hart at the Rosemont Pavilion prior to the parade. The video can be seen on YouTube. Congratulations Key Clubbers on a job well done.




Honda filmed a short video that featured Key Club President Andy Hart and put it on YouTube.



The Key Club gang from Liberty High show the Rose Parade people how to make a float.



Key Club President Andy Hart puts the finishing touches on the Honda float.



Committee Members Needed
for the Golden Valley Unified School District
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for an opening on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies.

If interested, please obtain an application from the Superintendent's Office
37479 Avenue 12, Madera 93636 • (559) 645-7500.

Golden Valley Shining Star Time

It's that time of year again to nominate Golden Valley Unified School District employees for the annual STAR recognition awards. Employees can be nominated by parents, community members, students and colleagues. The Foundation for Golden Valley School holds an annual dinner in September to recognize the five employees who were chosen by a panel of community members in the following categories:

- Secondary Teacher
- Elementary Teacher
- Operational Service Employee
- Instructional Service Employee
- Administrator/Manager

Following the Foundation STARS Dinner, three employees are forwarded to the Madera County Office of Education for their Excellence in Education Awards in a teaching, service and administration/manager category. Madera County Office of Education, in partnership with the Educational Employees Credit Union, holds an annual recognition event in October to honor outstanding employees throughout Madera County.

Please plan to nominate an outstanding employee by submitting a nomination form to Aimee Beintker at the Golden Valley Unified School District Office by February 10, 2012. Nominations forms can be found on the Golden Valley USD website at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us, at a school site or at the district office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Aimee Beintker at 645-7500.

Matthews Named Man of the Year



John Matthews, right, receives the Golden Valley Baptist Church's Men's Ministry Man of the Year award at the monthly Men's Ministry breakfast by Carl Yocum, Men's Ministry Director.

John Matthews, a long-time member of the Golden Valley Baptist Church, was presented the Men's Ministries' Man of the Year award. He has been faithful to the Church in his duties as a Deacon and Director of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Last year he spearheaded a drive to build a playground for the children of the Church and our neighborhood children. Currently he is working on plans for a baseball field and a Frisbee golf course on the Church property for our youth.

John is always looking for ministry op-

portunities to be a good servant of God and follow in the steps of Jesus.

John is a former U.S. Marine who served with distinguished service to his country. He lives in the Ranchos with his wife Ann. His sons Mark and Kerry both live in the Ranchos as well.

We are fortunate to have a man like John in our Church and to serve with him for the cause of Christ. John was presented the Man of the Year award at the monthly Men's Ministry breakfast by Carl Yocum, Men's Ministry Director.

BIGELOW cont. from P. 2

telephone. In 1908, after requests for service from other settlers and a subsequent request by the Forest Service to take over its phone lines, the Bigelow Telephone Company became Ponderosa Telephone Company.

An employee of the Ponderosa Telephone Company since 1973, Frank worked his way up through the ranks of the company, learning all facets of the business and currently serves as Vice President. Frank, a fourth generation rancher, remains active in the operation of his family's cattle ranch, Bigelow Farms.

Elected by his neighbors to the Madera County Board of Supervisors, Frank has a proven record of thoughtful leadership. By working to build a budget surplus, Frank helped protect taxpayers from the tough economic times we are experiencing now. His votes to reduce government spending and economic reforms have forced government to live within its means. Frank fought to re-

store accountability to local agencies and voted to keep and attract jobs to our community.

One of the realities of our region is the threat of fire. Although an official firefighter on his 18th birthday, Frank's commitment to fire safety was born on the ranch as a young boy. 39 years later, Frank continues to serve as a volunteer with his local fire department.

Frank has served on a variety of local organizations and committees, most notably his service on the Madera District Fair Board, the Madera Ag Boosters Board of Directors, California Shorthorn Breeder's Association Board of Directors and the Madera County Cattleman's Association Board of Directors. He served as a leader in the Spring Valley 4-H Club and is a strong supporter of the Future Farmers of America. In keeping with family tradition, he has continued to raise champion registered Shorthorn cattle and champion registered Columbia Sheep.

Frank resides in O'Neals, with his wife of 34 years, Barbara.

Business Profile

New Ranchos Business Lets You Say Goodbye To Your Aching Back

Drs. Michael and Lisa Haney will be opening Haney Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center here in the Madera Ranchos, complete with a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m.

Dr. Lisa Haney, formerly Lisa Camacho, was a graduate of Madera High School and her family moved to the Ranchos from Firebaugh when Dr. Haney was a sophomore. She graduated from Madera High School and attended California State University, Fresno and then continued her education at Parker Chiropractic University in Dallas, Texas, where she received her Doctorate in Chiropractic. She met her husband, Dr. Michael Haney.

They moved to Pennsylvania, where he was born and raised, and there established a successful practice for 13 years. Dr. Lisa Haney always wanted to return home to be with her family and she always loved the country living the Ranchos had to offer, along with the beautiful views of the mountains and the closeness of the little community.

Their practice will be located at 36734 Ave. 12 and they will be offering chiropractic care to all ages. They use Advanced Computerized Technology to detect and correct spinal misalignments which cause pain and dysfunction in the body. They also perform traditional manual manipulation, decompression and laser therapy for disc injuries, physiotherapy and rehabilitation for soft tissue injuries to the neck, back,

shoulders and knees. They perform Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) medical exams and drug testing. They have years of experience and special training for the treatment of whiplash and headaches caused from auto accidents and sports injuries and they also offer sports physicals.

Dr. Lisa Haney feels the Ranchos is a safe place to raise their children, 11-year-old Calissa, 9-year-old Michael, and Christian, the 6 year old, who all attend Webster Elementary. She also thinks it's a great way to give back to the community

where she once lived and lives again.

"If you suffer from headaches, neck, shoulder or arm pain, back, hip or leg pain, sciatica or carpal tunnel, then give us a call," Dr. Lisa Haney said. "We would love to meet you and help you. You don't have to live in pain anymore. It's a new year, make it a new you."

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is going to be conducting a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. and the Haney's invite you to visit the new office and meet the doctors.

Refreshments will be served and they are offering a computerized spinal analysis, a \$50 value, for FREE. They are also giving

away a FREE chair massage to anyone who comes to the ribbon cutting. Stop by to see the Haney's at 36734 Ave. 12 or call 660-5262 if you need more information and be sure you're there on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m.



Drs. Michael and Lisa Haney, surrounded by their children, are excited about bringing top-notch chiropractic care to the Ranchos.



FIRE cont. from P. 2

fornia. "Dealers bought what there was and the majority of it went to Texas where they're having a drought."

When the fire department arrived on scene Jessie was initially relieved, thinking that he would be able to salvage some of his hay. But he quickly realized that not a drop of water was going onto his hay. A tractor that was near the inferno was being wet down by the firefighters to try to save it but the firefighters considered the hay a total loss by the time they arrived.

A firefighter who didn't want his identity revealed said that there wasn't enough water in the trucks to put a dent in a fire of this magnitude. "Our trucks hold thousands of gallons. A fire like this would have taken millions of gallons," he said. Part of the problem was that there are no fire hydrants in that area of the country, limiting the available water to whatever the fire trucks are carrying.

"The firefighters stayed there and made sure that there were no embers blowing away that could have caused even more problems," he said.

Jessie disagrees.

"The hay burned for the next two days. The next day at 1

o'clock there were still flames and you couldn't stand on [the north side] of the road because of the heat," he said.

Jessie's concerns were justified because his feed store across the street from the fire has massive stacks of hay all around his business. "There were black embers all over my driveway in front of my store, just yards from more stacks of hay," he said.

Jessie is also concerned that no one appears to be investigating the crime that was committed against him.

"The sheriff's department said that arson is investigated by the fire department, and no one from the fire department has contacted me."

The source that I talked to said there probably wouldn't be an investigation.

"In a fire like that there's nothing left. There's nothing to investigate. Unless someone sees someone in the act and you pursue that, you've got nothing," he said.

Because life goes on and Jessie heard nothing from any investigators, has cleaned up the area where the bales were burned. "I have to get replacement hay for my customers." He was also concerned about liability in the event that a strong wind could possibly kick up and spread all of the ash across Highway 145, possibly causing a traffic problem

Jessie's commitment to his customers is Herculean. Almost immediately after the fire, and knowing that no oat hay could be found in California, Jessie got in his car and went on a 2,000 mile trek through the western United States, meeting with hay brokers in Oregon, Arizona, Nevada -- anywhere that he could try to get replacement product. His tenacity paid off and he has shipments coming in from all over.

Jessie had initially offered a reward of \$1,000 to anyone who might know something about this crime that will lead to an arrest and conviction and he has just upped the reward to \$1,500.

"Some one knows something and somebody else

probably knows something as well," Jessie said. "Ultimately, the one who did this knows and God knows and the truth will come out one day."

Two things have helped sustain Jessie throughout this ordeal: His faith in God and his customers.

"The almighty has helped me. I feel it was Him who guided me on my 2,000 mile trip and now I have all types of hay coming in at this time," Jessie said proudly.

But his customers are amazing as well.

"My customers have been very supportive and have offered up their prayers and whatever help they can," Jessie said. "This is a community store. I help those who I can and now they are reaching out to me."



From across the street looking south, behind the 3V Feed storefront are mountains of hay.



Looking west with Highway 145 to the left, this is all that remains of 4,500 bales of hay.

Big Changes for Annual Crab Feed

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is presenting its 9th Annual All-You-Can-Eat Crab Feed on Friday, March 9 at 6 p.m., but with some big, exciting changes this year.

This year, the crab feed is going to be held at the beautiful Dante Club at Highway 99 and Grantland. If you've attended the Station 19 BBQ at Borba Ranch in August, the Dante Club is only 1 mile further down the highway. Same side of the road, same direction, you just get off on Grantland instead of Ave. 7. You can even get off on Herndon and it will lead to the same place.

The Dante Club features a full-service, no host bar, something that the Crab Feed has not been able to make available in the past because the event was always held at the high school. Probably more than any other request the Chamber has received regarding the Crab Feed is the desire to have a glass of wine or an ice-cold glass of beer with a crab meal. This year your wish will come true.

The other thing that we hear a lot is why isn't there ever any dancing at the crab feed? Rest assured, the Dante Club has a

beautiful dance floor and there will be music for all tastes and abilities this year. You'll be able to enjoy a great meal, wash it down with a fine wine and then boogie the night away. And don't forget the silent and live auctions. Bid on something you need or something you've always wanted and get caught up in the excitement of a live auction.

At this year's crab feed you will get to see a very special raffle item. Would you

believe a vintage 1993 Suzuki Intruder 800 V-Twin? Imagine a water-cooled Harley and you get the idea.

The best part is the tickets are only \$45 for all the crab you can eat and all of the proceeds go to keeping the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce working for

you. Like Flatlander's Day? That's the Chamber. How about the Community Christmas tree? Chamber again. And if you're a business in the Ranchos, it's the Chamber that helps connect you and support you.

This is going to be an exciting crab feed. It always sells out so make sure you get your tickets early!



How about a vintage Suzuki Intruder V-Twin? Do we have your attention now?

To Burn or Not to Burn ...

As the cold weather continues to grip the Ranchos, our local firefighters have asked to convey a couple of messages to our community.

First, it appears that there is some confusion about what is permissible to burn here. Since we're in the country, many people (particularly recent transplants from the city) seem to think you can burn *anything* you want which is leading to a lot of people burning garbage in their yards and fields. Of all the things that

are permissible to burn, know this: Trash is the one thing in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District handbook that is NEVER allowed to be burnt. The bottom line? If you've got trash, don't

burn it.

Secondly, people are confused about when they can and can't fire up the wood stove here in the Ranchos. The APCD looks to prohibit any type of wood burning, including wood, wood pellets and manufactured wood logs. They can't be

burnt in open hearth fireplaces, EPA certified stoves and inserts, pellet stoves, outdoor chimineas or fire pits. Pretty prohibitive, right? Here's the loophole: We are exempt from all of that. You are exempt if burning wood is your ONLY means to warm your home OR if you do

not have access to natural gas service (and propane doesn't count). There's your loophole. There is no natural gas service in the Ranchos so burn away.

Responsibly ...



Burning garbage is never permitted and especially if you leave it unattended.

County Master Gardener Events

On Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a Bare Root Planting and Care workshop hosted by Master Gardener Kathy Eisele at Lowe's Garden Shop, 2100 W. Cleveland Ave, Madera. It's free to the public so bring your gardening questions.

Everybody loves roses and they're easy to grow in Madera County. From new planting of bare-root roses to maintenance of heirloom varieties, everyone will enjoy the February Master Gardener workshop on roses.

On Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon, enjoy "Roses: Pruning, Pest Control

and Fertilizing," hosted by Master Gardeners Peg Coffin and Carole Chavin. This workshop will be held at Madera Community College Center, Three Sisters Demonstration Garden (Rain location: Room R3A), 30277 Avenue 12 in Madera just east of Highway 99.

The workshop showcases the new rose garden at the demonstration garden and there is no charge to the public. Parking is free. Reservations are requested by calling 559-675-7879, extension 210, or via email at mgmadera@ucdavis.edu. Visit the Master Gardener website at cemandera.ucdavis.edu/.

FBI cont. from P. 3

plus years old. He stood 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 160 pounds. He had brown eyes, a shaved head, sported a salt-and-pepper colored mustache and goatee, had several chipped teeth and some missing teeth. He also had an 8-inch vertical scar between his chest and his abdomen, a small scar across his nose and he also had a "cauliflower" left ear. Cauliflower ear is a condition usually associated with boxers that can occur when the external portion of the ear suffers a blow, blood clot, or other collection of fluid. If not properly treated, in time the cartilage separates

from the overlying perichondrium that supplies its nutrients, causing it to die and results in the formation of fibrous tissue in the overlying skin. As a result, the outer ear becomes permanently swollen and deformed, resembling a cauliflower.

The man was discovered at around 9 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 21, 2011. His naked body had been dumped about two rows into an olive orchard near the southwest corner of the Avenue 7 and Road 34 intersection.

Anyone with any information is asked to call either the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or CRIME STOPPERS at 498-STOP.



What Do You Not See?

What do you *not* see?

I think one of the things I miss most being on the down side of "the hill" is my perfect vision. It's been a good 10 years since it started to go, but I'm still fighting the whole glasses thing. For some things, like reading, I don't have a choice. For other activities I don't need them yet. But, there are a few things, like house-keeping, in which I'm realizing my imperfect vision is blurring reality. What appears to be a clean countertop (to the un-spectacled eye), is really dotted with

yesterday's crumbs!

Wearing my glasses enables me to identify problem areas that I couldn't see before. Similarly, we might overlook problem areas in our homes and offices because we're not looking at them through the proper lenses. Take a look with me through the following lenses and see what you perhaps haven't seen:

Accessibility -Is the cereal within reach of the kids so they can get their own breakfast when needed? Are you digging through summer clothes to find something to wear in January? Do you have a waffle iron, blender, or rice cooker that's never used because it's still in the box?

Look at your home through the lens of accessibility and take the steps needed to make things more accessible.

Wearing my glasses enables me to identify problem areas that I couldn't see before. Similarly, we might overlook problem areas in our homes and offices because we're not looking at them through the proper lenses. Take a look with me through the following lenses and see what you perhaps haven't seen.

Zoning - When it's time to pay a bill, does it require searching four different places for a pen, the bill, a stamp, and an envelope? Is it hard to determine if you have what you need for a painting project because your paint sup-

plies are stored at random places throughout the garage?

The zoning lens helps you see things in groups, keeping like things together so that you can find what you need, when you need it.

Releasing - Is your gift wrap container full of wrapping you never choose to use when wrapping a gift? Is your closet jammed with three sizes of clothes, some from a decade ago? Are your drawers full of single socks or plastic lids with no containers?

The releasing lens helps you see what is

inhibiting your current lifestyle and gives you permission to let go of that which is not enhancing it.

Boundaries - Are there untouched books jammed into and spilling off the bookshelf, and even more stashed in boxes that are keeping the car out of the garage? Are there shoes covering the "walk in" part of your closet making it difficult to reach your clothes?

The boundary lens enables you to control your stuff so it doesn't control you. Decide how much space you want to assign to certain items and then whittle down and maintain that amount.

When a frustration occurs in your physical space check it out through these four lenses - accessibility, zoning, releasing, and boundaries. Chances are a little tweaking in one of these areas will solve the problem.

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@organizedby-choice.com, visit her website www.organizedby-choice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

ANSWERS

7	5	8	4	2	9	6	3	1
4	1	9	6	8	3	2	7	5
3	6	2	1	7	5	8	4	9
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16	5	+	7	+	4
+	+	-			
27	9	x	3	-	6
+	÷	x			
17	8	+	9	x	1

Click on "Local News" at

STOCK cont. from P. 11

get into all kinds of trouble. I wish the group of people in Fresno the best but be careful and understand what you really want to do and what some of the consequences of your actions could be. Remember to keep the children as the reason for your actions. I am so grateful that Golden Valley Unified School District had so many wonderful people that guided us through the complicated process of separating from Madera Unified so that we could have our own high school, Liberty High School. Does any of this make any sense to you? When you are as old as I am you have a lot of memories and sometimes they connect together in a weird way.

Have a wonderful 2012 and keep supporting our Golden Valley Unified Schools. Remember that our children are our future.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 10

sor's time and resources trying to teach someone uninterested in learning? And clearly they don't give one tiny little iota of care about all the money they are wasting. Most importantly, they don't seem to even notice the biggest waste of all: their opportunity.

My beef is not with the people who occasionally drift off in class, text a little, doodle, but overall listen, participate, do the work and learn the material. My problem is with the people who ignore the teacher, fail and then proceed to complain about it. Then I get to listen to endless diatribes against the professors, and sob stories asking why, oh why is this happening to them.

Psssst.
Over here.

I know the answer.

It's because you aren't paying attention!

What really concerns me is how did these people pass high school with this mentality? I'm relatively certain it didn't just pop up after graduation. Here is your diploma, and we have attached your certificate to pick up your supply of laziness, procrastination and inattention in the principal's office on your way out. Good luck in college with these superb new tools at your disposal.

Could it be we have lowered the bar in high school to such a degree that one can sail through without so much as opening a book? Have we tied the poor teachers' hands so much so that the curriculum is easy enough to pass without having gained real study habits? Maybe it is the summer between high school

and college, a chemical reaction caused by heat and sun and weaning senioritis that it breaks down the brain cells and upon returning to the classroom they have lost all desire to learn and all ability to maintain proper educational etiquette.

I think college is important, and would love to see all citizens get an education. I also think that not going to college could be potentially damaging to your future, however, if you don't want to be there, and you are not going to try, then you really aren't going to get much out of it. In the end, you are occupying a place that someone else lost out on, that in and of itself should make you appreciate your position, and put some real effort into your own self advancement, as opposed to waste the time and money of everyone around you.

SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?

SUBSCRIBE!

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Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - 40 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12. Call 559-645-4583.**

Birthday Solicitation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Just to remind you that **Diana Tucker's Birthday was December 19** and she would have accepted lunch dates and gifts in December if someone at the **Ranchos Independent hadn't had their head somewhere else and failed to tell everyone** in the December classified ads. Please call her and get her off of my back!!! **You can call the belated birthday girl at 381-5879. It will make her happy, you happy and definitely ME happy!**

Floor/Upholstery Care

Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery - FREE estimates. FREE stain protection with any purchase. **Tile, aggregate, showers, Pebble Tec.** Golden Valley Chamber Member, BBB, references. **Call Bruce at 676-0760.**

For Rent

Home for Rent - Beautifully remodeled and maintained on 1/3 acre, 3bd, 2 bth; \$1,375 per mo. Includes: yard service, water and garbage. **NON SMOKERS. Call: Allred Property Management - 559-824-5588.**

For Sale

For Sale - Remington Horse Statue, "Mountain Man" 9'x9' Bronze \$3,000. Remington "Coming Through the Rye" 3'x30" Bronze, \$2,200. Crystal Chandeliers. CALL FOR INFO 645-1770.

For Sale - Firewood - Dry, seasoned almond firewood for sale by the bin. Will Deliver. **Call**

559-259-7122 or 559-645-5523.

For Sale - Portable Basketball Backboard - Spalding polycarbonate backboard with all the features. Bought this new one year ago for \$250, hurt my knee and haven't used it since. First \$150 takes it. **Call (cell) 905-8311.**

For Sale - Fine Things Warehouse - NEW STOCK DAILY - 75% off retail. Christmas is coming - are you ready? New hours. Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m to 6 p.m. 37341 Ave. 16 - **Call 999-6832.**

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 29 years working in the area. **Call 559-822-2759.**

Housecleaning

Housecleaning Service - Have your house spring cleaned all year long. Experience, responsible, honest. Fair prices. **Call 416-2585.**

Painting Services

Painting Services - 40 years of experience. Licensed. **Frank Kramer Exteriors. Lic. #273099. Call 645-4113.**

Painting Services - Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting. 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. **Call 674-2320.**

Recyclables Pick Up

Free Recyclables Pickup -- KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of household paper, plastics, tin, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Funds support Ranchos Seniors, library, schools and 4H. **Info call Recycle Gal 999-6832 or 645-1048.**

Tractor/Trenching Services

BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up.

TRACTOR WORK Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding - Roll-off Bins. **Call John at 908-1066 or Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.**

Window Cleaning Services

Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen, track and sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cob-web removal available. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates. SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

The Ranchos Independent classified rates are **crazy** cheap.

CALL 645-0634

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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	+		+		16			
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top ten

Most Mispronounced NYC Restaurants

1. Bice
2. Millesime
3. Nha Trang
4. Oaxaca
5. Sfoglia
6. Sripraphai
7. Txikito
8. Ushiwakimaru
9. Xai Xai
10. Xi'an Famous Foods

Source: Zagat



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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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CLOSED SUN - MON



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Guess what, Lamb? You're about to experience a new perspective on a situation you long regarded quite differently. What you learn could open more opportunities later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bold Bovine is tempted to charge into a new venture. But it might be best to take things one step at a time, so that you know just where you are at any given point.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to go on that fun getaway you've been planning. You'll return refreshed, ready and, yes, even eager to tackle the new challenge that awaits you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The Moon Child loves to fantasize about magical happenings in the early part of the week. But the sensible Crab gets down to serious business by week's end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) What goes around comes around for those lucky Leos and Leonas whose acts of generosity could be repaid with opportunities to expand into new and exciting areas of interest.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your concern about your job responsibilities is commendable. But you need to take some quiet time to share with someone who has really missed being with you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Aspects favor getting out and meeting new people. And as a bonus, you might find that some of your newly made friends could offer important business contacts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might take pride in wanting to do everything yourself. But now's a good time to ask family members to help with a demanding personal situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Pay more attention to the possibilities in that workplace change. It could show the way to make that long-sought turn on your career path.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your need to succeed might overwhelm obligations to your loved ones. Ease up on that workload and into some well-deserved time with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules for amorous Aquarians who can make good use of their ability to communicate feelings. Don't be surprised if they're reciprocated in kind.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Fishing for compliments? No doubt, you probably earned them. But it's best to let others believe they were the ones who uncovered the treasure you really are.

Born this Week

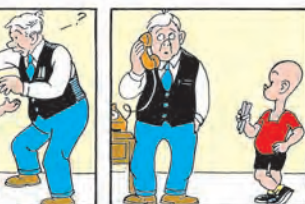
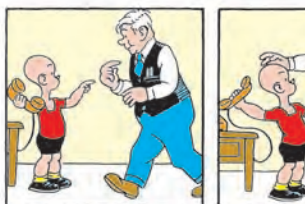
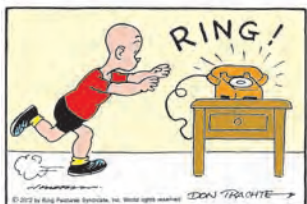
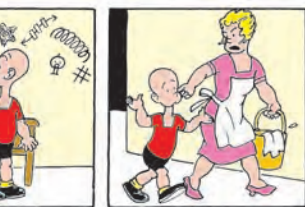
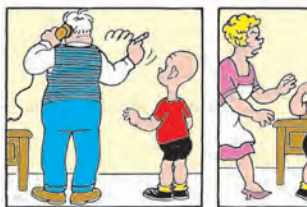
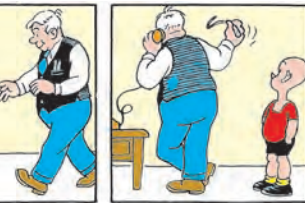
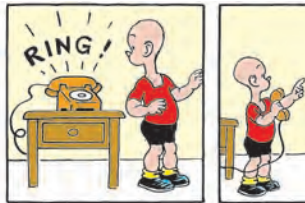
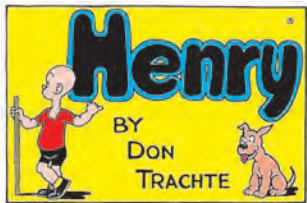
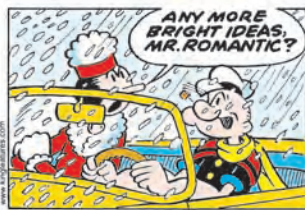
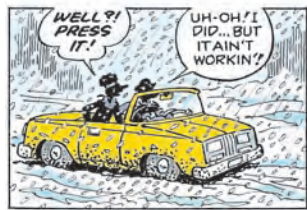
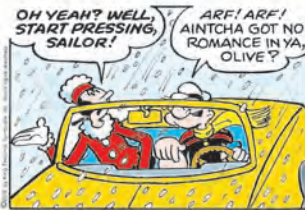
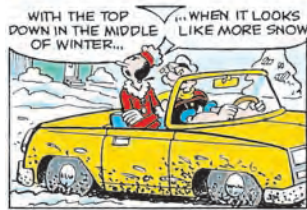
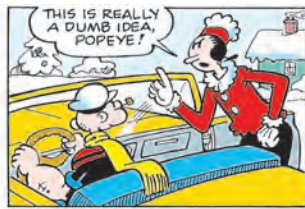
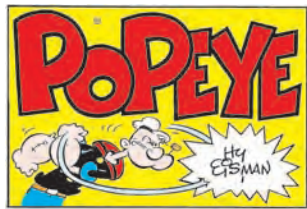
Your good works flow from an open, generous heart.
Nothing makes you happier than to see others happy as well.

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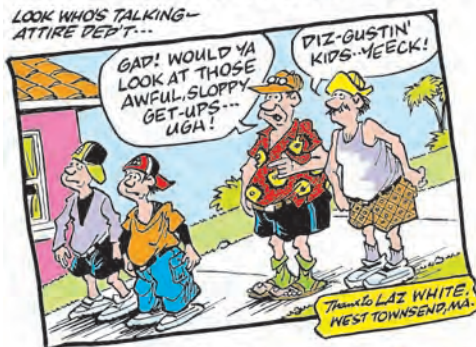
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

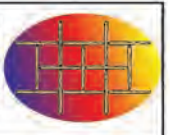


WHYZZIT? THE WHOLE TWO WEEKS YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL... SHORTAGE OF NURSES OR WHAT? VERY DIFFICULT GETTING ONE-- MOST OF THE TIME, NO DICE-- BUT, WHEN YOU'RE DISCHARGED AND ON YOUR WAY OUT... EVERYBODY IN THE JOINT IS AROUND FOR THE BIG SEND-OFF--



THE PERFECT PYRAMID! Cut out the three puzzle pieces in fig. 1 and challenge your friends to arrange them to form a perfect pyramid. The answer to this tricky triangle is shown in fig. 2.

A CLEVER WAGER! Place 15 toothpicks on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them so that they form eight squares, all of equal size. No square can be formed inside another, and no toothpick can overlap another or be broken. The solution is pictured to the right.



FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "WALLET." 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) Lam, wee, net, (Down) Lawn, alee, meet.

Wishing Well

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

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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WORDS WITH MAGIC MAZE ● BIG TEETH AND A LONG TAIL

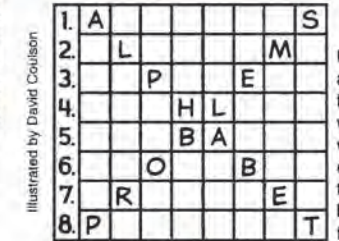
C R O T A G O R R A J H E C A
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 M O W T V T T R A P R N R Y I
 L I T K A A I B G E O O Y R C
 B Z T A G G R E G A T O R O R
 X W U I G O I S R A A I O T O
 P O M M G I L V G J G I T A T
 G U E A D A T I A A E B A G A
 F A T Y X W T S T N L U G R G
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

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

- Abrogator
- Aggregator
- Arrogator
- Castigator
- Delegator
- Fumigator
- Indagator
- Irrigator
- Legator
- Litigator
- Mitigator
- Navigator
- Negatory
- Purgatory
- Vagator

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Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

Illustrated by David Coulson

- DEFINITION:**
1. He had a foot problem.
 2. A cluster of flowers.
 3. Devotees of modern jazz.
 4. Having no pity.
 5. Eccentric people.
 6. An ancient weapon.
 7. A racing fool.
 8. A gradual discontinuation.
- ANAGRAM:**
- case + hill
 - slob + moss
 - rest + ship
 - hurl + sets
 - sold + bald
 - sobs + crow
 - tars + dreg
 - soup + heat

TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. ENTERTAINERS: Which actor's birth name was Ramon Estevez?
2. MUSIC: What was the name of Smokey Robinson's group?
3. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing bifocal lenses?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is manifested in peniaphobia?
5. LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Shylock appear?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: During which war did Harry Truman fire Gen. Douglas MacArthur?
7. HISTORY: When did Australia become a commonwealth nation, largely gaining independence from Britain?
8. ANATOMY: About how long are the intestines in an adult male?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: What American psychologist/philosopher once said: "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."?
10. MEASUREMENTS: Which month is named for the Roman festival of ritual purification?

Answers

1. Martin Sheen
2. The Miracles
3. Ben Franklin
4. A fear of poverty
5. "The Merchant of Venice"
6. Korean
7. 1901
8. About 28 feet
9. William James
10. February (Febru)

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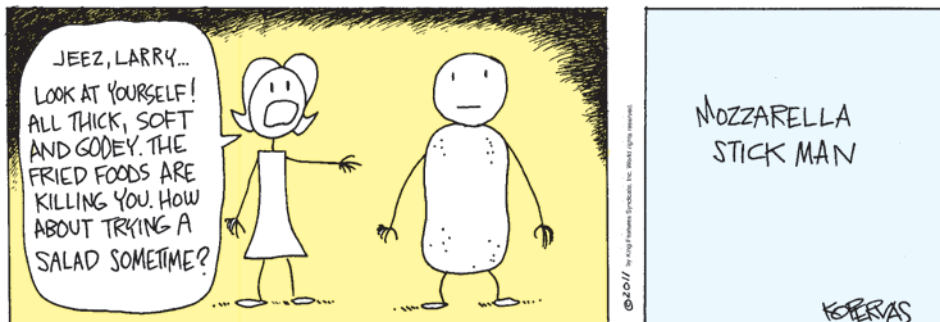
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

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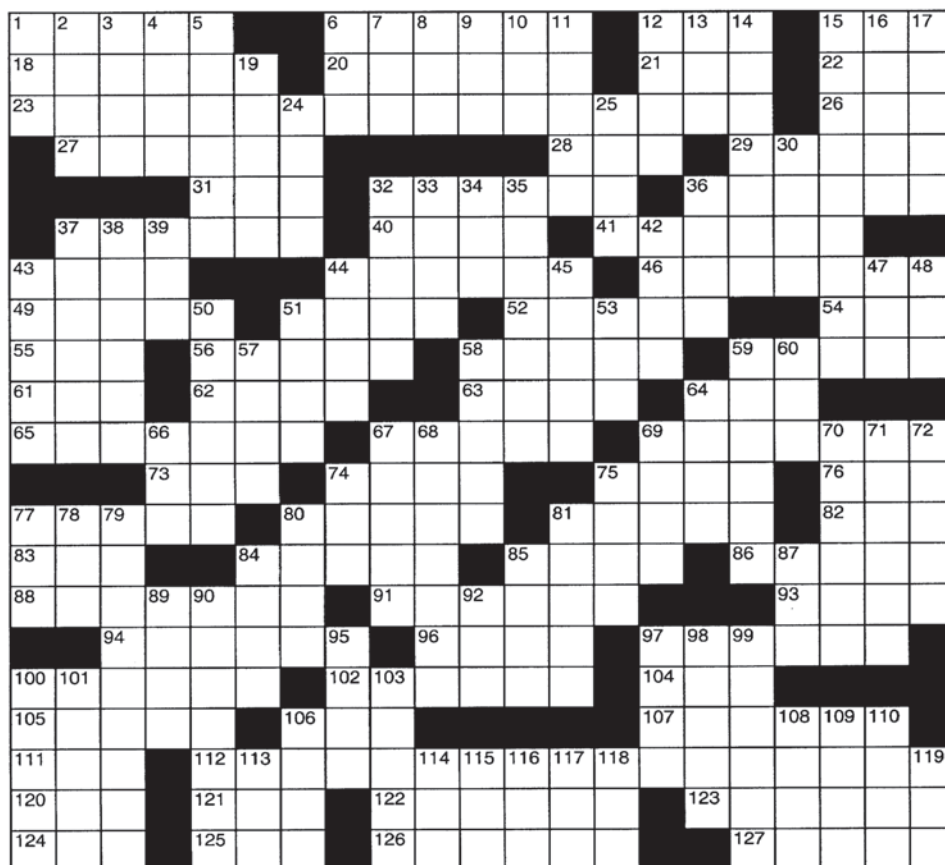
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Boutonniere is missing. 3. Earring is different. 4. Shoes are black. 5. Ceiling lights are different. 6. Clothes are missing from rack.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Roofing material
 - 6 Litigates
 - 12 Director Peckinpah
 - 15 Bull's babe
 - 18 Florida eleven
 - 20 40th president
 - 21 Baudelaire's buddy
 - 22 Nabokov novel
 - 23 Mitch Miller hit
 - 26 "Agnus —"
 - 27 Throw a line to
 - 28 She's a sheep date
 - 29 Bakery display
 - 31 — Aviv
 - 32 Blazing
 - 36 Most mammoth
 - 37 Elegant
 - 40 Pebbles' papa
 - 41 — Leone
 - 43 Black and white
 - 44 Bing Crosby hit
 - 46 Service member?
 - 49 Tilden's opponent
 - 51 Seize
 - 52 Slip of the tongue
 - 54 Tax shelter
 - 55 Animated Olive
 - 56 Proofreader's mark
 - 58 Word with tea or pepper
 - 59 Get more magazines
 - 61 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
 - 62 Be — unto oneself
 - 63 Tear to bits
 - 64 Marry
 - 65 Patti Page hit
 - 67 Scold
 - 69 Andrews Sisters hit
 - 73 Tenor Slezak
 - 74 Corporate VIP
 - 75 Burlap fiber
 - 76 Word on a pump
 - 77 Supped in style
 - 80 Pasta ingredient
 - 81 Government group
 - 82 Winter hazard
 - 83 TV's "Scooby- —"
 - 84 Too experienced
 - 85 Flip
 - 86 Sri —
 - 88 Land mass
 - 91 Wilbert Harrison hit
 - 93 Doesn't come clean
 - 94 Daze
 - 96 — Haven, CT
 - 97 Exhausted
 - 100 Enigmatic sort
 - 102 Lost
 - 104 Essen exclamation
 - 105 Couldn't stand
 - 106 First zoo?
 - 107 Concerto —
 - 111 Bachelor's last words
 - 112 Gladys Knight hit
 - 120 New Deal agcy.
 - 121 — later date
 - 122 Used a ewer
 - 123 Through the nose
 - 124 Cartoon cry
 - 125 — de guerre
 - 126 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
 - 127 Dutch artist Jan
 - 3 To — (perfectly)
 - 4 Petite pooches
 - 5 Builds
 - 6 Paid player
 - 7 Actor Ayres
 - 8 Musical sensitivity
 - 9 Past
 - 10 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
 - 11 Look like Hook?
 - 12 Cash stash
 - 13 Qty.
 - 14 Blend
 - 15 Mamas & Papas hit
 - 16 "Golden Boy" dramatist
 - 17 Dress part
 - 19 Turns about
 - 24 Portrait painter Peter
 - 25 Is in debt
 - 30 Taj town
 - 32 G-sharp's keymate
 - 33 Chow
 - 34 Creepy Christopher
 - 35 Stuck fast
 - 36 Munich mister
 - 37 Kindergarten item
 - 38 Defeat
 - 39 Affirmative vote
 - 42 Sacred image
 - 43 That's the spirit
 - 44 Make tea
 - 45 Worth or Papas
 - 47 Prior to, to Prior
 - 48 Damp and chilly
 - 50 Cleaned a carp
 - 51 Schwarz-enegger's birthplace
 - 53 Cabernet color
 - 57 Voice type
 - 58 It's run of the mill?
 - 59 Nullify
 - 60 Tokyo, once
 - 64 Power unit
 - 66 Wayfarer's whistle
 - 67 Stream
 - 68 Earphones
 - 69 Propel with a pole
 - 70 Entertainer Kazan
 - 71 Played soccer
 - 72 Zones
 - 74 Third degree?
 - 75 Panel of peers
 - 77 SHAEF commander
 - 78 Letters of credit?
 - 79 Johnny Horton hit
 - 80 WWII unit
 - 81 Dock of the bay
 - 84 Put the whammy on
 - 85 Galileo's birthplace
 - 87 Heidi's hangout
 - 89 Racer
 - 90 Nocturnal visitor
 - 92 Subway unit
 - 95 Merit
 - 97 It's a long story
 - 98 Caustic
 - 99 Conversation pieces?
 - 100 Glean
 - 101 Clerical title
 - 103 Excludes
 - 106 Smith or Sandler
 - 108 ER exclamation
 - 109 Painful
 - 110 Eye appreciatively
 - 113 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
 - 114 Sticky stuff
 - 115 Savage sort
 - 116 La-la lead-in
 - 117 Asian holiday
 - 118 Nutritional abbr.
 - 119 Writer Rand
- DOWN**
- 1 Cpl.'s superior
 - 2 Bolger/Haley co-star

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SEM CU

south east madera county united

The next Grant Writing Class 101 (Introduction to Grant Writing) will begin on Tuesday, February 21. This course consists of five classes and will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. This class will be free to all SEMCU members (\$10 Lifetime Membership fee to join SEMCU), members of non-profit organizations and public agencies. A \$25 fee will be charged to all other non-members. Please contact SEMCU to register.

SEM CU
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Ranchos Pizza Factory

Everyone is welcome!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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