

The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Going to the Dogs

the Ranchos' canine population keeps
growing ... and growing ... and growing ...

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Break-Ins Cleared by Sharp Witness

Sheriff John Anderson credits a keen-eyed witness for helping the Sheriff's Office make three arrests that ultimately cleared a half dozen burglaries and even a robbery. All the crimes are believed to be tied to a single truck.

On Jan. 10, the hunt ended with the arrest of 27-year-old Arturo Chavez Torres of Madera. He was wanted for robbing a vender on Jan. 4 on Road 28. His capture follows the apprehension of two Madera women taken into custody last month. Jessica Loreene Cuteri, 24, and 26-year-old Aurora Lopez were booked into Madera County Department of Corrections on Dec. 27. The pair were apprehended following a residential break-in on Dec. 26 where a witness was not only able to describe the suspects, but also provided a detailed description of the make and color of their truck. Deputies tracked down that truck to a home on Western Way in Madera, where the two women were taken into custody and where deputies found property from six different burglaries.

It was that same truck witnesses described seeing Torres flee in after robbing a vender. He reportedly handed the victim a counterfeit bill, grabbed a bag of chips, punched the victim and then grabbed \$50 from the vender's cart. Torres said he admits being there but says he never touched the victim. He claims he was in the area visiting one of the women in jail.

Torres, who was also wanted on a misdemeanor warrant out of Merced, remains jailed with bail set at \$50,000, Aurora Lopez also remains behind bars booked on six counts of burglary and probation violation. Meanwhile, Jessica Cuteri is currently out of custody according to jail records, however she and Lopez are expected to appear in court.



Arrested in the break-ins are Aurora Lopez, left, Arturo Chavez Torres and Jessica Loreene Cuteri, all thanks to a sharp-eyed witness who was able to identify the truck used in all of the crimes.

Ranchos Water Survey Available

In response to recent discussions about possibly selling the county's special districts to a private company, or outsourcing staff, Madera County decided to develop a Special Districts Customer Satisfaction Survey, that began being mailed out Monday, Jan. 7 with quarterly billings. A phone survey and online survey have also been set-up and are ready to use 24 hours a day. The customer surveys will be conducted through Feb. 2. The surveys are slated to be mailed to approximately 6,000 residents.

Both surveys will be available 24-7. The phone survey is automated and the questions are pre-recorded in both English and Spanish. The caller can select in which language they want the survey conducted. The survey is only for County rate payers that reside in a County operated Sewer and/or water district. The survey is not intended for other general County government

services.

The County is in the initial stages of just evaluating the potential options, and has not made any decisions yet. That is why it is important that the county get our customers feedback by participating in this survey.

The County will review the results of the survey and hold another special committee meeting to discuss the process further.

To complete the survey online, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/maderacounty-specialdistricts, or by phone by calling 559-664-3525. Additional information can be obtained on the county website by visiting madera-county.com/index.php/special-districts-survey

Please contact Kheng Vang if you have any further questions. You can reach him at the Resource Management Agency at 559-675-7817, EXT 3351.



By Christi McKinney

Has life in the Ranchos gone to the dogs? One might wonder if you've noticed that stray dogs are running rampant here at record levels.

Who do these dogs belong to and why are they running loose? Some dogs are simply escape artists whose owners seem to have tried everything they can think of to keep their dogs safely in their own yards. Presumably this includes neutering male dogs and spaying female dogs, which is one of the biggest reasons dogs run astray. One irate Ranchos resident came home to find her purebred female dog "entertaining" an unidentified male dog in the middle of her bed.

The screaming that ensued sent the male dog scrambling to flee out of the doggie door, which was clearly how he'd made his entrance, but not before doing some property damage on his way out.

These dog owners have built seemingly secure fences and have fortified the fences to try to insure their dogs can't dig out. They've tried using technology, including invisible fencing and micro-chipping their dogs, some with more success than others. The use of Ranchos-related Facebook pages is directly responsible for reuniting many grateful dog owners with their wayward pets. If you want to help a stray dog without worrying about approaching the dog simply whip out your

cell phone, snap a picture of the dog and post it to Facebook with a general description of the dog, where you last spotted it and which direction they were heading. There is a large network of dog lovers here so rest assured that someone will spot your dog, just be sure you have someone that can check Facebook.

Other dogs roam the streets on a regular basis, foraging for food by dumping trash cans or eating food left for your own pets. This group of dogs may be very thin or look sickly because they haven't eaten in a while. These dogs are usually the ones who are chasing early morning joggers and they normally have no ID tags so you wouldn't know who they belonged

Stray dogs of any kind are not only at risk of being hit by a car but they also jeopardize the lives of drivers who are doing their best to avoid hitting the dog, their passengers and whoever might be driving behind them.

to, if they've bitten someone or caused property damage along the way to being picked up by Animal Control. There have been frightening recent reports of vicious dogs attacking and killing pets, chickens and even goats.

As with any stray there is no way to know if they are friendly or if they've been vaccinated. It never hurts to snap a photo of them and post it to Facebook to see if you might find the owner.

Dogs, aka "man's best friend," are a big part of any dog lover's family. However, when times get hard they are sometimes treated as extra baggage rather than a devoted friend. It's heartbreaking to

Please see **DOGS** on P. 3

Click on "Local News" at

DOGS cont. from P. 2

hear that many pets are being left at vacant homes without food or water long after residents have been evicted or moved on. Just as disturbing are stray dogs that have been dumped out here in the country in hopes that some kind-hearted dog lover will either keep the dog or find a home for it. One resident recently witnessed a car stopping outside her home. The driver got out of the car with a dog, took the collar off the elderly dog's neck then drove away. The dog stood at that spot seemingly wait-

ing for his owner to return, which never happened. Thankfully the kind-hearted woman who witnessed this rescued the dog. There's no doubt that this lucky dog will live out the rest of its life being well cared for and loved.

If you own a dog that is an expensive or rare breed please be cognizant of the fact that as sick as it sounds thieves will steal pets and hold out for a reward from the owner desperate to get the pet back. There have also been recent cases where they try to sell the stolen dog on Craigslist. A number of lost or stolen dogs have been

found this way.

Ranchos residents have shown their heart and their generosity in many ways. A number of residents are involved in various organizations that help rescue dogs or promote the training and care of particular breeds. Ranchos resident Sherrie Robertson is a devoted volunteer who works as an Adoption Counselor for Animal Rescue Fresno (ARF - www.arf-fresno.com). ARF is a no-kill animal shelter and adoption agency that rescues dogs from shelters throughout the Valley. They often nurture neglected dogs back to health and provide

a safe place for them until they are able to find a good home. While at ARF dogs are tested for temperament and all shots are given to insure they are healthy. ARF is run solely by dedicated, hard-working volunteers. ARF's dogs are housed at their facility located at 4545 E. Dakota in Fresno or at one of ARF's foster homes. Robertson explains, "Most of the dogs that we rescue from shelters are euthanize rescues, which means that they are on their last day at the shelter. We've rescued some dogs as

Please see **DOGS** on P. 17

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Obama's Great, Progressive Deceit



By Don Jans

We need to raise the taxes on the rich so we can reduce the deficit, or so says Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives. They also say deficits are increased when the marginal income tax rates are reduced because less revenue is collected.

This premise is false.

Arthur Laffer was correct when he explained major drops in the top marginal rates would increase revenues. In 1923 the top marginal rate was 56 percent. Revenue from income taxes was \$1.7 billion. In 1925 the top marginal rate was 25 percent and revenue from income taxes was again \$1.7

billion. By 1926, with the 25 percent rate still intact, revenue was \$1.9 billion and \$2.1 billion by 1927 with the same 25 percent rate. In 1932 the rate

was raised to 63 percent and was between 79 percent and 91 percent until 1963. The following year President Kennedy had the top marginal rate reduced to 77 percent and then down to 70 percent in 1965. Revenue from income taxes was \$64.2 billion in 1963 and went to \$74.3 billion in 1965 and up to \$95.5 billion by 1967. The top rate was reduced to 50 percent in 1982 and revenue from income taxes increased to \$347 billion. Revenue rose to \$412.1 billion in 1986 and with a marginal rate of 28 percent in 1987 revenue rose to \$495.7 billion and was at \$560.4 billion by 1989.

It is hard to believe Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives do not know these numbers even though they are easily accessible. Why do Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives continually try to deceive us? We know it is not because they are concerned about reducing the deficit. Based on their actions, and not their

words, this is the least of their concerns. If they were concerned about the deficit as they claim, they would pass a budget and not accept trillion dollar+ deficits. If they were concerned about the deficit, they would work to eliminate wasteful spending and graft and corruption.

If they were concerned about the deficit, they would reduce the top marginal income tax rates.

Instead, they say they are concerned and will correct the problem, just not now. Ronald Reagan would ask, "... if not now, when?"

Why do Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives continually try to deceive us? Perhaps they understand if America understood its real goals, America would immediately throw them from office. Therefore they must deceive (lie) to stay in power to accomplish their goals. Their real goal, as Obama told us, is to "fundamentally transform" the United States. Not what they say – but everything they do – tells us what this fundamental transformation really is.

If they were concerned about the deficit, they would reduce the top marginal income tax rates.

fundamental transformation really is.

If your real goal is to spread the wealth, as Obama stated, you follow the principles set forth by Karl Marx. He wrote in the Com-

munist Manifesto that a progressive income tax that is very steep is necessary to accomplish this goal. A higher marginal tax rate does not raise more revenue for debt reduction, but it greatly enhances the goal of sharing the wealth. The higher marginal tax rates also punish success and are great aids in promoting class warfare. This was also important in the fundamental transformation outlined by Marx and adhered to by Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives.

Why do Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives continually deceive us about the deficit? The deficit is the single biggest threat to our American way of life and will reach \$16 trillion shortly. This is greater than our Gross National Product, which is the sum total of all goods and services produced in America in a single year. We are currently paying under 1 percent on short-

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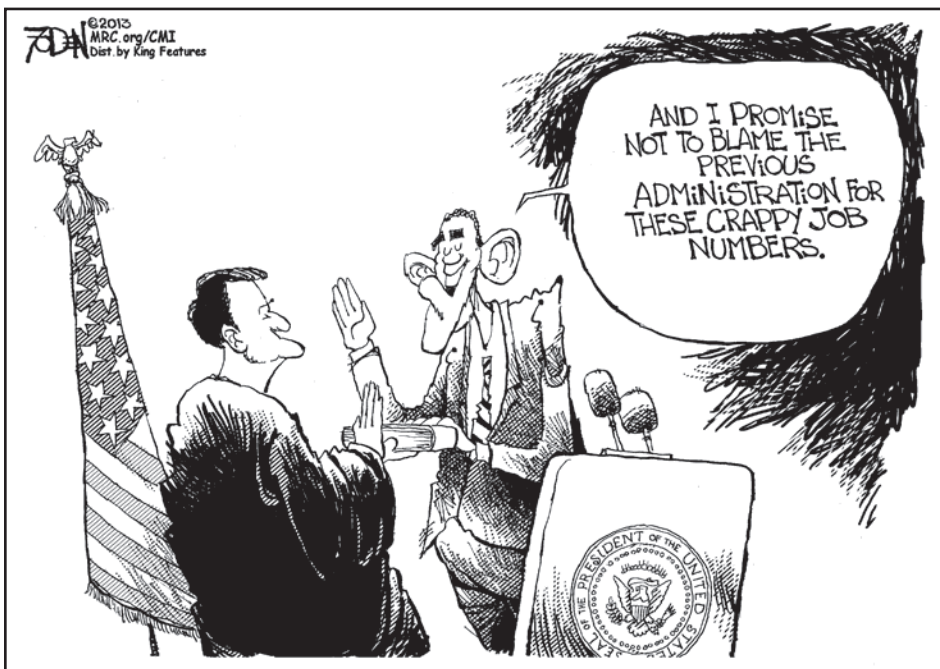
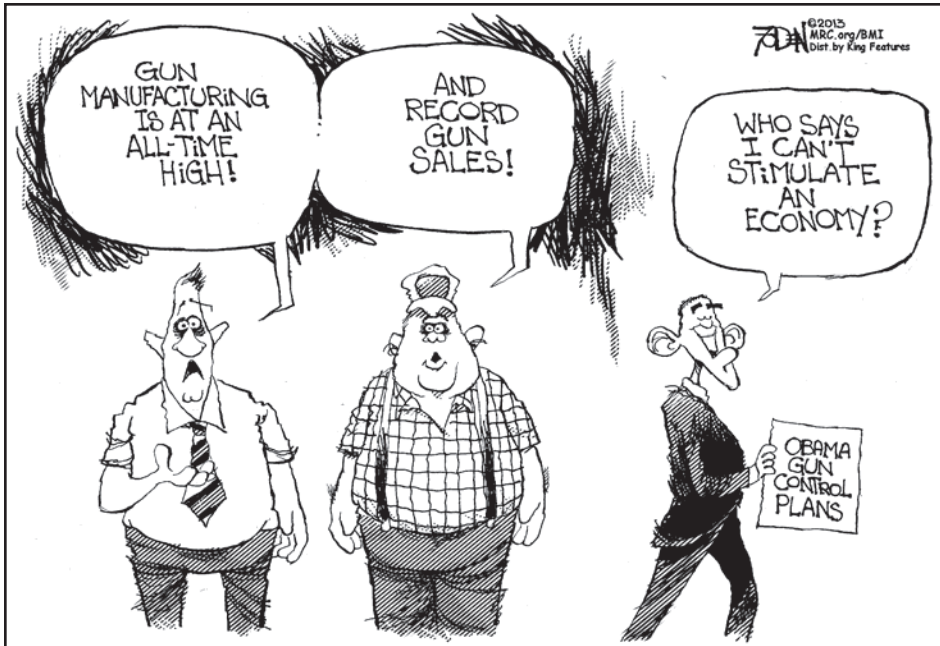
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Editorial

Target or Survivor? You Decide

By Randy Bailey

Back in 2009 when Rahm Emanuel said, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before," many people were aghast. What kind of person would actually use a crisis, when people were hurt and at their lowest and most vulnerable, to get something done that they hadn't been able to pull off before? It was a sobering admission that validated what many on the Right suspected about President Obama and the people that surrounded him. Most astounding was that it wasn't something that had to be arrived at by reading between the lines or by figuring out a pattern of behavior; Emanuel just said it in front of a running camera without a second thought.

Fast forward to December of 2012 and the horrific events in Newtown, Conn. While most decent people were trying to understand the depth of such barbaric behavior, immediately those who didn't want to waste a good crisis were swinging into action. Those actions have led us up to where we are today with the second amendment of the constitution apparently not even existing, or at least having such little validity that the knee jerkers are willing to toss it on the ash heap of history because they obviously know better for modern America than a bunch of old white guys in wigs from over 200 years ago.

Aeschylus, a Greek tragic dramatist

from around 500 b.c. said, "In war, truth is the first casualty." Nothing much has changed in 2,000 years and in this modern war against your second amendment rights, truth has been quickly dispatched.

Here is some truth.

- Mass shootings are no more common than they have been in past decades, despite the impression given by the media.
- The high point for mass killings in the U.S. was (get ready) 1929, according to criminologist Grant Duwe of the Minnesota Department of Corrections.
- Incidents of mass murder in the U.S. declined from 42 in the 1990s to 26 in the first decade of this century.
- The chances of being killed in a mass shooting are about what they are for being struck by lightning. Right up there with getting eaten by a shark.

But here is probably the scariest piece of truth: "With just one single exception, the attack on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson in 2011, every public shooting since at least 1950 in the U.S. in which more than three people have been killed has taken place where citizens are not allowed to carry guns." That's Dr. John Lott, an economist who has studied gun violence and armed vs. unarmed citizens. His pedigree includes the University of Chicago, Yale University, the Wharton School and the University of Maryland. Richard Mack, a former Arizona sheriff, agreed saying, "Guns are already banned in schools. That is why the shootings happen in schools. A school is a 'helpless-victim zone.'"

Virginia Tech. Columbine. Sandy Hook. The shooter at the theater in Aurora, Colo. drove past seven other theaters showing the Batman movie to get to the one that was posted as a "Gun Free Zone" so he could open fire. In an online interview Lott said, "Disarming law-abiding citizens leaves them as sitting ducks. A couple hundred people were in the Cinemark Theater when the killer arrived. There is an extremely high probability that one or more of them would have had a legal concealed handgun with him if they had not been banned."

One trick the Left has perfected is change the definitions of things and then anything is possible. The legal ability to defend yourself is now defined as an indicator that you're a potential mass murderer, therefore you're the problem that needs to be corrected. The sad reality is that it's hard to get criminals but easy to get law-abiding citizens.

Who do you think they're coming after?

The Ranchos Independent

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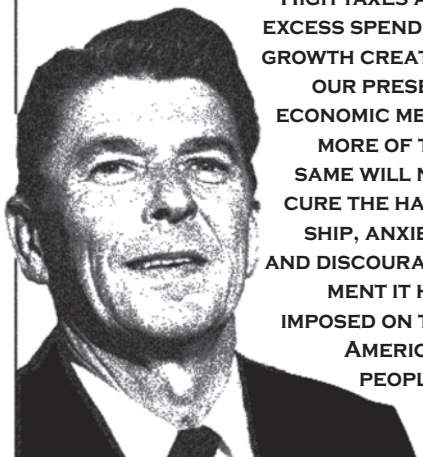
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Good Things for 2013 ... Please?

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Many people are glad to see the end of 2012. It certainly was an eventful year. It was a year of chaos for many people. Politics, divisiveness, ugly and mean-spirited politicians left many with a bad taste in their mouth for 2012. Now that 2012 is over and most of us have survived the election and we have not gone over the cliff yet, how lucky do you feel about Friday the 13th? We will have two Fridays the 13th in 2013, in September and December. It was 100 years ago that the year 1913 ended in 13. The world didn't end then and it won't end in 2013 either.

Superstitions make people do strange things. Some people really do worry about 2013 being a year of doom and gloom. The thing

that we could all do without is that on February 3, 1913 the states ratified the 16th Amendment to the U.S.A. Constitution and gave our government the power to impose and collect income tax. Darn! That means it is time to start putting my tax papers together from 2012.

Good news! The Chinese calendar goes back a lot farther than the western calendar. As we say farewell to 2012 the Chinese are saying hello to the year of the snake, and goodbye to the year of the dragon. Snakes are wise creatures and we hope that wise political decisions will greet us in the New Year. Charming and cunning are two descriptions of the snake-like qualities. No more cliff hangers to get everyone upset in 2013, please. Hopefully this will be a year of less talk and more action to help the country heal and move forward. Snakes are not outwardly emotional and they conceal things, but that is how things may get done in the coming year. Some of my ideas about the year of the snake came from an article written by David Mas Masumoto in the Fresno Bee.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are getting excited about the Feb. 26 Snow Train's 50th Anniversary to Reno. We have 96 seniors, friends and family members going on the trip with us. It is especially pretty if it is snowing. This will be my third time going with the Ranchos Hills Seniors on the Snow Train to Reno. When my family used to drive to Lake Tahoe or Reno, I

would watch the train winding along the mountain side and going through tunnels. I would say to myself, "One of these days I am going to ride on that train," and here I am going on the train again. It is good to dream and have that dream come true.

The other trip that the Ranchos/ Hills Seniors are looking forward to is the 26th Annual Mariposa Storytelling Festival on March 8, 9 and 10. A group of 15 members went to the Festival last year and are looking forward to the trip again. The storytellers come from all over the U.S.A. and are very interesting. I was so looking forward to this trip and then I found out that I have another event at the same time. Oh,

well. Sometimes I think I belong to too many organizations. My organizations have a way of getting in the way of each other.

The always busy

Ranchos/Hills Seniors have a new slate of officers for 2013:

- President** – Debbie Farr
- Vice President** – Nancy Palazzo
- Recording Secretary** – Nancy Koontz
- Corresponding Secretary** – Verlaine Elinburg

Treasurer – Shirley Tickel
Assistant Treasurer – Diane Maxfield
 Plus five directors, two Council on Aging members and one Nutrition Site Coordinator. As you can see it takes a lot of members to keep the Ranchos/Hills Seniors open and running smoothly. Congratulations to the RHS officers for 2013.

This is a new year with new beginnings for many organizations. Along this same line the members of Golden Valley Baptist Church welcome Mansel Trimble as their new pastor. Mansel is a product of Golden Valley Baptist Church. This is where Mansel accepted Christ and was baptized in the year 1988. Mansel met Jaci Schoeder at Golden Valley Baptist Church and a year later married Jaci. They now have two sons, Trevor and Kevin. Pastor Mansel Trimble previously served in Youth Ministry with Sierra Heights Baptist Church and Clovis Hills Community Church. You are invited to worship with Pastor Trimble at Bible Study at 9 a.m. and Worship service at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday. Hope to see you there.

Happy New Year to the Ranchos community. Lets all of us make it a great year.

Hopefully this will be a year of less talk and more action to help the country heal and move forward.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

The article, "School Tragedy, Gun Control Truths," truly bothered me. Perhaps it was because I, like the author, was deeply affected by the shooting in Newtown. The idea of this happening to children the same age as my niece is heart-wrenching. However, I took very different lessons from the atrocity that occurred.

Gun control is often used like a bad word among members of our community. This is however overlooking how good it could be for our society. In his article, Mr. Friedman stated that we should have a "responsibly trained and responsibly armed society". The question I would ask: without gun control, how could this actually be achieved? Individuals can buy these weapons at places like gun shows without needing to have any background check. A federal investigation revealed that at federally licensed dealers who were obligated to run background checks, guns have been sold to people using fake IDs with ease. Beyond that, people who purchase guns are not required to learn how to properly use them. It is not so terrible to assure that people who purchase guns, who gain that extra capability to harm others, have the know-how and mental stability to responsibly own them.

In his article, there also was a long explanation detailing the difference between semi-automatic and automatic weaponry. This seems unnecessary. Semi-automatic guns obviously left a horrible death toll in Newtown. A major problem with this type of gun is that they can have large capacity clips. We do not have to worry about any roving bands of raiders traveling through the Ranchos. People do not need to have the large clips of ammunition. This is what the majority of gun control proponents are calling for and it would be a great way to prevent large-scale massacres like this.

One final comment on the recent arti-

cle is a correction about the reality of gun control in Israel. In Israel gun ownership is actually very tightly controlled. The author was correct that individuals in key positions are given weapons to protect others. However, they have very tight rules about who can have them. If an individual wants to have a gun there, it is viewed as a privilege, not a right. To have these weapons, one must undergo intense screenings and be trained how to properly use them. Only 1 out of every 50 Israeli citizens actually has a licensed gun. Those who are licensed are only allowed to have 50 rounds of ammunition. Using Israel as an example for why we should not have gun control is incredibly misleading, given the fact that they have much more strict gun control laws than we do.


I feel like everyone on both sides of this argument want the same thing: the safety of our communities. Hopefully some honest dialogue can occur with this fact in mind and help stop another event like that in Newtown from occurring.

Kate Williams
 Madera Ranchos

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

Send your letters to:

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Beans, Beans, Beans



When I decided to do this article on legumes, I found out that not all legumes are beans, and not all beans are legumes. Confusing?

A legume is a dry fruit (some articles call it a fruit, and others called it a vegetable, so take your choice) that comes from a pod.

The more common legumes we are familiar with are pinto beans, limas, black beans, kidney beans and garbanzos – also known as chick peas. However, the green beans we bring in from our gardens or pour from a can are not legumes

because we consume the pod – they are vegetables.

Beans aren't a food that when you come home from a busy day out of the house, you think, "Oh, I think we will have a pot of pinto beans tonight," because they will not be ready in the next 30 minutes. Beans need to be soaked for several hours, preferably overnight. My mom did it the quick way – just beans and water in a pressure cooker for 15 minutes, then cool the cooker and rinse the beans. Add whatever seasoning you prefer – bacon or ham, chopped onion, salt and pepper – back into the pressure cooker with enough water to cover the beans and cook under pressure for 30 or 40 minutes and they are ready. Always rinse the beans and put in fresh water after soaking. When you cook them in the soaking water it causes them to be very "gassy."

When cooking beans or peas, do not put salt on them until just before they are completely done. If you put salt on them in the beginning they will be tough and take

The more common legumes we are familiar with are pinto beans, limas, black beans, kidney beans and garbanzos – also known as chick peas. However, the green beans we bring in from our gardens or pour from a can are not legumes because we consume the pod – they are vegetables.

longer to cook. I learned that the hard way when I cooked some split peas for soup.

A Favorite Bean

One of my favorite canned beans are kidney beans. I like to put them in pasta salad, but be sure to rinse them first. I also like them in taco or burrito fillings. My recipe for the filling is:

Taco or Burrito Filling

- Hamburger
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped onion
- Canned kidney beans
- Packaged taco seasoning
- Brown hamburger with salt and pepper. Add the chopped onion. Let cook until hamburger is done and onion is translucent. Add kid-

ney beans with the liquid. Bring to a simmer and add some taco seasoning. Let simmer until most of liquid is gone. Enjoy!

I didn't use any measurements because I don't know how many you will be cooking for. I use one pound of hamburger, one can of beans and about two tablespoons of seasoning. This makes enough for me for three meals. I usually cook two tacos per meal, and then with whatever is left over I make a taco salad. Put enough torn lettuce in a bowl for your salad, warm the filling and pour this over your lettuce and put some shredded cheese on and maybe some chopped tomato, a little vinaigrette and you've got your third meal.

Another quick meal I like is my version of the Chili Size. All you need is a hamburger patty, salt and pepper, grated cheese, chopped onion and a can of Ranch Style

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 16

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TEA PARTY cont. from P. 4

term debt while during the Carter years this rate went into double digits. The rates today are historically very low. If they go to even 3 percent, we would add over 1/2 trillion dollars to the debt every year just to service the debt. Greece and Spain are over 6 percent. We do not have the money to service this debt. If we do not want to default, or declare bankruptcy, we must borrow the money to pay the interest. This means we would be adding almost two trillion dollars per year to the already out of control national debt. Is it farfetched to call this total insanity? Yet, Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives refuse to take this seriously, as demonstrated by their actions and not their words.

Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives surely must know this. Why do Obama and the

other Marxist/Progressives then intentionally deceive us? When we look at actions, and not listen to words, we can better understand their total disregard for the dangers the deficit poses to the United States. They simply do not care. Marx explained how rich countries exploited the less developed countries in the same way the capitalist exploited the worker. The wealthy countries colonized the developing countries and then stole their natural resources according to Marx. He explained this must be rectified in the same manner the oppression of the individual worker by the capitalist was to be rectified: redistribution of wealth. Bankruptcy of the powerful is one method. Another method is eliminating borders and allowing free movement of workers between wealthy countries and poor countries, also called for by Marx and adhered to by Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives.

The deceit of Obama and the other Marxist/Progressives is destroying this nation. They do not believe in individual freedom and free enterprise. They advocate government reliance as opposed to self-reliance. They understand how government reliance enhances government control and furthers the movement to the "fair and equitable" classless society they desire. They intend to fundamentally transform the United States.

No more deceit, Obama and you other Marxist/Progressives.

We understand your game.

We individual-freedom and free-enterprising United States citizens will restore the United States to the country envisioned by the founding fathers, and sought by so many brave and industrious people who were willing to sacrifice everything to be a part of a country that believes in and enhances those great principles.

Don Jans is the author of My Grandchildren's America and he can be found at www.mygrandchildrensamerica.com.

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

Congratulations to Rick Farinelli for his election as District III Supervisor for Madera County and to Steve Brandau for his win of a Fresno City Council seat. The Tea Party has not vanished, as the mainstream media would like you to believe.

For the January meeting we were proud to present guest speaker, Charlie Waters, a Veteran Affair Activist and CVTP Patriot. He spoke about current affairs for the Central Valley Veterans.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive in Madera. Confirm meeting topics and speakers on the CVTP website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

Comments or questions? Contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator, John Smedley, by e-mail at jcsmedley@comcast.net or call him at 645-7031, or Madera Tea Party Coordinator, Rick Farinelli, by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net or call him at 559-706-5386.

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Tech Savvy Organizing

So, how tech savvy am I? That's probably relative to whom you're asking. If you ask my parents they would say, "Quite!" My son, on the other hand, would probably squint and say, "Mmm, she's coming along."

I recently got a push in that direction when asked to do a spot on KSEE 24's Central Valley Today show. Alex Delgado suggested the topic, "tech savvy organizing." Yikes, I thought, I still use a paper calendar! But, as I began my research I found some very cool stuff that I want to share with you too.

Clipix.com – Some of my clients call themselves "information junkies." But these days, even those who wouldn't fall into that category have

Some of my clients call themselves "information junkies." But these days, even those who wouldn't fall into that category have an abundance of information to keep track of.

an abundance of information to keep track of. Clipix is a great online tool to store and organize a lot of info. On Clipix you create your own page of personalized clipboards for storing information you want to come back to, or share.

My clipboards include topics like Home Décor, Gift Ideas, Gardening and Organizing. By attaching a "Clip" button to my bookmarks bar, I can clip anything I find online that I want to save and attach it to one of my clipboards.

If I come across a great online article about organizing closets, I just "clip it" and pin it to my Organizing clipboard. If I'm searching for purse organizers, I can clip and pin ideas from various websites and have them all accessible from one spot later on. You can do the same thing with recipes, research projects, You Tube videos and more.

Another great feature is the Price Drop Alert. Let's say you place a coffee table on your Home Décor clipboard, but it's a little more than you can afford right now. You can request a Price Drop Alert and Clipix will send you an email when the item has gone

on sale or dropped to the price you specified.

For iPhone and Android users there are some additional perks. You can clip photos from your phone or clip products by scanning bar codes. I might see a plant with beautiful flowers, but not know what kind it is. I can take a picture with my phone, clip it to my Gardening clipboard and take it to a nursery. Without scanning through all my photos, I can easily retrieve the picture from my clipboard once I'm there.

If I'm shopping for clothes, I might see something that I want to run by my daughters. I can just scan the barcode, clip it to my Clothing clipboard and have a picture there to share with them.

And that leads me to the next great feature: You have the option of keeping your clipboards private or sharing them with others. This is perfect for Gift Idea boards. Family members can each create a board throughout the year and share it with the rest of the family, so when birthdays, etc. come along, you can find something they really want.

GroceryIQ.com - Another useful organizing tool is GroceryIQ.com. You can use it on your computer, but again, if you have an iPhone or Android, it gets really fun.

With the phone app you can either type in your items, scan barcodes, or speak one or more items onto your list. When you're on the go, there's no need to find a piece of paper, or the list you already started – it's with you all the time.

You can sync multiple devices or access your list from any computer. Family members can add to the list as needed. If you need someone else to do the shopping, you can send a list through email.

You can also create multiple lists for various stores (Ranchos Market, Target, Costco, etc.). Grocery IQ automatically sorts the list by isle and category. It even offers free printable coupons.

Check these out and let me know what you think, or, if you have other techy organizing tools to share, I'd love to hear from you.

You can contact Brenda McElroy to have questions answered at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, or you can email her at info@organizedbychoice.com, visit her website www.organizedbychoice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

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

Kiwanis Korner

Local Kiwanis Ask: Who are You?

By Perry Watkins

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

One of the nice things about being in a service club is getting to know one's neighbors. Many of us have been engaged in charity work for many years. This desire to help our neighbors, to improve our community and especially to help our children, drives much of our motivation to attend meetings as often as we can. Another large motivator though is getting to know and keeping in touch with our neighbors and the local area. Kiwanis love to know the local community. If you are a local leader, a teacher with a passion, a new business, a student on a mission, an inspirational speaker, or any other community member with a story to tell then Kiwanis would most likely want to hear what you have to say. We love to have students or student groups stop in and let us know what projects they are working on and how we might help them. We are interested in looking at ways to assist other civic minded groups as well. We may be able to attend your meeting or participate in one of your events to assist you in your endeavors. We have recently been discussing ways to reach out to the community in new ways. If you have an idea and you think we might play a part in your own efforts then let us know.

Likewise, if you are interested in attending any of our events as a participant then let's talk. You may not feel able to commit to regular attendance of weekly or monthly meetings but feel able to help with a single event in our own community. Help during some of our larger events would often be appreciated. Members are not required to participate

in any specific number of events or meetings. Some folks show up now and then to catch up and see old friends. Other members are dedicated and rarely miss a meeting. We are pretty casual and never want to miss the main point of our membership which is to return something to the community and to enjoy our camaraderie. We have a lot of events planned that we hope will bring lots of fun and entertainment to the Ranchos and surrounding areas. We have our Fishing Derby in the summer, River Run, and the Garden Tour is planned for a return, to name a few. We would like to have you drop in during our meetings at the Pizza Factory on Thursday evenings. We would really like to hear from some of neighbors in the Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills areas. This is your community, let's make some good things happen together.

Kiwanis exists solely for the purpose of making a difference in the lives of others, particularly children. We are looking for people at least 18 years old who are interested in serving the community, making new friends, and having fun with a purpose. If you are interested, contact President John Glueck at 559-706-5215. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at The Coffee Spot and every Thursday thereafter at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. Come join us at a meeting for fun and fellowship and see what being a Kiwanician is all about.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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President: Marie Cameron
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Manners, Courtesy Gone?

I miss common courtesy – manners in general. The small little interactions where someone goes out of their way, even if only by a matter of inches, to make your life a little easier. Who hasn't been in a situation where your day would have been improved if only someone had shown a little courtesy? Imagine you are running toward the elevator, you are less than six feet away when you hear that familiar ding and see the doors sliding shut. Just beyond, you lock eyes with a man in a shirt and tie, he need only extend his hand to hold the elevator for you as you cross the final few feet, but instead he drops his eyes to the floor as he disappears into the sliding cube. And there you stand with only two choices before you: you can either hoof it up 10 flights of stairs, or stand there for what feels like an eternity while the elevator makes its way back to you, all because someone forgot the manners their mama taught them. I have seen this so often lately, people forgetting the common decency that was once the very definition of civility.

I was saddened at a particular display of selfishness and poor manners when I saw several people just walk past a poor, elderly woman, who had dropped several files on the floor, not a one of them stopping to help her and most of them trampling over them as they shuffled by. I happened to be walking behind this woman at work recently who looked to be in her 70s and was loaded down with a briefcase on wheels and an armful of papers. As only bad luck would have it, a breeze kicked up as she passed an open door and her papers went flying from the crook of her arm and sailed down the hall. I stopped to help her as she frantically tried to gather up her things, all the while I noticed not just one or two, but several people stroll by, glancing down at us as we worked, but not stopping. Not a single person deigned to take a moment out of their day and help a poor old woman; they just kept on walking, scanning the scene, but doing nothing to help. What happened to people? Where did it all go wrong? Would it have killed anyone to stop and help scoop up some scattered papers? Where they so pressed for time that two minutes could not be spared to help a poor old woman gather her things? Maybe they were afraid of a sudden spinal injury, they just couldn't be bothered to bend over and

GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**

perform the most menial of tasks for fear of throwing their collective backs out. I rolled my eyes at them, but repressed my urge to shout obscenities in their general direction – I was in a hospital after all. The woman was very grateful, even shocked that anyone was willing to help her, which is a sad statement about society, indeed.

I had my own run-in with a man who obviously leaves his manners at home when he ventures out in the real world. I was loaded down with a few items and no more than a few steps behind him when he

made it to the door of the building. He looked back at me as he opened the door, we made eye contact, I smiled, then he walked through the door and let it close. Leaving me outside the building with-

out a free hand to wave my badge or open the door. I stood there, mouth agape, eyes wide with shock. He had clearly seen me, it was obvious I could use a hand, but he couldn't be bothered to wait a matter of seconds to hold a door open. I had no choice but to put everything down, swipe my badge, open the door and then do a little on the spot gymnastics with one foot holding the door open while I stretched to gather up my load. I made it through the door, but not before I made a bit of a spectacle out of myself, which could have been avoided had the twit taken 30 seconds out of his day to stand still and hold a door. What a tremendous feat that would have been but clearly he didn't have the energy.

I just don't think it is too much to ask to take a second and hold a door, or pick up some paper, pull a chair out for a lady ... any number of things that show you are not so engulfed in your own little world that you can't spend a fleeting moment on your fellow human beings. I guess this is a dog-eat-dog world and it is just too cumbersome to be held responsible for silly little things like common decency or manners.



Business Profile

By Christi McKinney

The wait is over. Ed Trieu and his wife Kristy Fung are proud to announce the opening of Lee Kitchen Cantonese-style Chinese Cuisine at 37357 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos. Lee Kitchen is named after Trieu's brother in law, Chef Zhi Lee, who has perfected his recipes in the kitchen. They have an extensive menu with just about anything you can imagine.

You can dine in their completely remodeled dining "fan room" for a quiet lunch or dinner followed by hot tea, or you can call in for takeout. "We've been overwhelmed by the support we've experienced and we feel embraced and welcomed by the Ranchos community," said Trieu. "Since we opened on January 7th, we've served an averaged 90 people per day plus many takeout orders."

Trieu and Fung are the proud parents of two young sons aged 1½ and 5 years old. "We've heard such great things about the excellent schools here and how tight-knit the community is that we're excited about moving to the Ranchos and raising our sons here," Trieu said. "We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding while we worked through the logistics. We always welcome feedback

or comments from our customers. We look forward to becoming involved in the Madera Ranchos community."

Trieu had the opportunity to come to America from the Guangdong (Canton) province in southern China to attend high school for one year at the age of 16. After completing high school he attended Fresno State. The family is a veteran of the restaurant industry having previously owned the Imperial Garden Restaurant in

Fresno.

Lee Kitchen is open seven days a week. Their phone number is 559-645-6888. They offer free Wi-Fi Service, they have several big screen TVs and they have the ability to host private functions or meetings in their newly remodeled Fan Room. They



currently employ seven people and they are still looking to hire two more part time employees. By the way, if you see a familiar face in the kitchen it's JR who had worked at Pete's Drive In and is now working at Lee Kitchen. Say hi when you drop by.

On another note, when Pete's closed down many pictures of a variety of teams were left behind. If you'd like to pick up any of the pictures please go to Lee Kitchen and speak to the owner, Ed. He will be happy to get those pictures to the teams or coaches.

McCaffrey, Lyles Replace Stolen Supplies

Upon hearing about a break-in and theft at the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post 1981 in Madera's storage facility late last year, the McCaffrey and Lyles companies stepped up to lend their support to replace the stolen items.

In late December 2012, VFW Post 1981 was the victim of a robbery and lost their Honor Guard supplies used in presentations at funeral services for Veterans and at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Events. Boy Scout Troop 117 also lost their camping supplies that were housed at the facility by the VFW. The McCaffrey and Lyles companies donated \$5,000 toward the replacement of the items stolen and for repairs to the facility.

"We were devastated when we lost our

supplies and the Boy Scouts supplies, and didn't know how we were going to afford to replace them," said Bob McCracken, a Vietnam Veteran and Commander of VFW Post 1981.

"We have a strong belief in our community and are indebted to our Veterans who have given so much in service to our country as well as the Boy Scouts who are the very future of our community," said Robert McCaffrey, CEO of McCaffrey Homes.

VFW Post 1981 services Madera and the Madera Ranchos. To learn more about the VFW and how you too can support those who gave their service to our country visit www.vwf.org. To learn more about Boy Scouts of America and how you too can support Troop 117 visit www.seqbsa.org.

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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early!

You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.

Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001



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Be a Crab Feed "500" Sponsor

Is your business going to the Crab Feed? For \$500 you get a table for 10, get to put your company banner up at the event, have your name listed at every table, have your table introduced at the event and be listed in the Ranchos Independent. Call 645-4001.

Chamber Mixer

Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop

Wednesday, Feb. 6 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Come join your neighbors as you mix and mingle with fellow Ranchos residents at Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop at 37184 Ave. 12 #104 next to the Pizza Factory. Find out about the great items in the shop as you enjoy snacks and beverages. Admission is free.

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Madera Ranchos Barbershop

Your Chamber of Commerce

This information is brought to you by your Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses and individuals in the Madera Ranchos and beyond. Find out more about your Chamber at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C or call them at 645-4001.

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The Importance of Good Attendance at Golden Valley Unified Schools

Children are in school to learn and grow into responsible, productive young adults prepared to enter the world of work. Regular school attendance is the key to high school graduation and preparation for gainful employment.

Poor attendance in elementary school often leads to excessive absences in middle and high school. Poor attenders become disinterested and unmotivated in school and often drop out.

“Our most important goal is to give your child and all students in the district the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed,” said Golden Valley Unified School District superintendent Andy Alvarado.

Being late to school also hurts a child’s learning. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Unlawful absences or trancies have been identified as one of the early warning signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social problems or failure in school. According to research, truancy frequently leads to dropping out of school, entering the juvenile court system and unemployment.

Truancy is a sign that a young person is losing his or her way and needs support. Pupil personnel workers and other school staff are available to provide that support.

SCHOOL’S RESPONSIBILITY

- Provide a safe and secure learning environment.
- Make students and parents/guardians feel welcome.

- When a student is absent, immediately contact the student’s parent/guardian.

- Reward and recognize individuals and classes for improved attendance and perfect attendance.

- Clarify legal and school standards related to attendance for students and enforce them consistently.

PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.

- Avoid scheduling family trips and doctor appointments during school hours.

- Make certain your child stays healthy by eating nutritious foods and getting enough sleep and exercise but do not send your child if he/she is ill.

- Discuss with your child what happens at school each day.

- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy. Refer to the on-line Parent/Student Handbook. Point out the consequences of skipping, such as Saturday School or a loss of credits.

- Show your child why education is important.

- Talk with your child’s teacher if there is a problem. Together you can make a difference for your child.

- Check PAMS, the online atten-

dance system for parents. www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/studentparentinfo

STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY

- Attend school and all classes, on time, each day.

- Participate in school work, prepare for all classes, complete all assignments, participate in class discussions, and follow directions given by your teachers.

- Take responsibility for his/her actions and behavior.

GOAL

Improving student attendance is a top priority in GVUSD this year. The personal lifetime cost to students is very great, but the cost to sisters and brothers and other students in the school district is also sizeable.

The State of California pays the district for every day a student is present. The district does not get reimbursed for family vacations, illness, doctor visits, and dentist appointments.

The current attendance rate in Golden Valley is 94.83%. The district has set a goal of a 1% increase in student attendance for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Count Me In! Campaign supports school efforts to meet the district’s goals. This effort will assist with increasing students’ learning and graduation rates to prepare students for a

positive future. Also, it will generate an increase of approximately \$105,000 in state funds for Golden Valley.

STRATEGIES

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - Count Me In!

- Communicate to students, parents and community the importance of student attendance. Engage them in understanding and spreading the message about the importance of regular school attendance.

- Work with media to build awareness of the campaign and the importance of student attendance.

- Provide incentive programs to reward students and schools with the most improved attendance and the highest attendance.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS

Schools will provide incentives to students for increasing student attendance.

CLEAR ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Students between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend school daily. Parents or guardians are responsible for sending their children to school (Education Code 48200).

- A student who is absent three full days without a valid excuse, or is tardy or absent on three occasions without a valid excuse for more than 30 minutes, or any combination thereof, is a truant (Education Code 48260).

- Truancy can lead to severe consequences, including fines and criminal prosecution.



Vision Statement

Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community based in excellence.

2013 Board of Trustees Meetings

The Board of Trustees has approved meetings once a month beginning February 2013. If you have an item that you would like presented to the Board of Trustees, please contact Superintendent Andy Alvarado two weeks prior to the Board Meeting at 645-7500. The following is a revised list of Regular Board Meeting dates for the Golden Valley Unified School Board:

February 5, 2013 • March 5, 2013 • April 2, 2013 • May 7, 2013 • June 4, 2013

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Senior Report

Friends, Family Improves Health

By Verlaine Elinburg

People with consistently active social lives with friends, family and neighbors improve their health in surprising ways. Social activities can help you live better and longer. The Ranchos/Hill Senior Center is the place where there are many friends and social activities to keep you healthy.

Presently the Ranchos/Hills Seniors will be enjoying the Snow Trip to Reno from Feb. 26 – 28 with 93 people travelling on this trip. On June 19 the Mt Rushmore and Yellowstone Park National Parks trip is filling up fast, so if there is an interest contact Joann at 645-4864. Every month the seniors celebrate their anniversaries and birthdays with a special lunch on a Saturday at a selected restaurant. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is looking forward to the Annual Home and Garden Festival and Bike Race which is approaching in April.

A Community Resource

We are a community resource for area seniors and their families at

www.rhseniors.org. The monthly newsletter will give you the information and activities past, present and what is to come. Any senior 50 and above is welcome to become a member. Living a long and healthy life has a lot to do with living an enjoyable and happy life.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings

are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. A suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call Joann at 645-4864 and also notify the center if you need to cancel or change your reservation.

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs, meet new friends and get updates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

On Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. are a variety of card games to be enjoyed. Come and learn new games.

On Thursdays at 6 p.m. we have a great pot luck with

poker and other great card games. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware and several businesses along Avenue 12.

The Farmers Market at the Center is toning down for the winter, but jams and jellies are still available. The Boutique also has many "on the spot" needed gift items.



Ranchos/Hills Seniors on one of their many travel trips is just one of the fun activities shared by this energetic group.



Ranchos/Hills Seniors also enjoy live entertainment as part of their ongoing activities.

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Beans.

While the beans are warming in a small pan, grill a hamburger patty. When it is done, place on a plate. When beans are hot, pour about half of them on top of the hamburger, add some chopped onions and grated cheese – you have a meal. There should be enough beans for two or three servings. Also, if you want to add bread to the dish, toast half a hamburger bun or a piece of sour dough bread and place on plate before the hamburger patty.

I love a three bean salad. I don't make it very often because when I have it, I eat too much of it. The best recipe I have found is:

Three Bean Salad

1 can each:

- Green beans
- Kidney beans
- Garbanzo beans
- Wax beans

Thinly sliced red onion

Drain beans, rinse kidney beans, put into large bowl, add onion and set aside. Into a blender, or a jar with a lid, mix:

- 1/2 C apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 C Rice Wine vinegar
- 1/3 C sugar
- 1/3 C oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix until well blended. Pour over bean mixture. Using a tightly sealed bowl, store salad in refrigerator to marinate. If you don't have all these beans, or don't like one of them, don't worry about it – the last salad I made I used two cans green beans and two cans kidney beans.

Garbanzo beans are not one of my favorites, but I know they are used a lot in soups, salads and another thing is a dip called hummus.

Hummus

1 can garbanzo beans – drained, reserving 1/4 cup liquid.

3 to 5 T lemon juice – to taste
1 1/2 T tahini (a sesame seed paste)

2 cloves garlic, crushed

1/2 tsp. salt

2 T olive oil

Combine all ingredients EXCEPT the bean liquid and olive oil in a blender or food processor. Mix, adding only enough liquid to make mixture smooth. May take 3 to 5 minutes. Pour into serving bowl, adding a small amount of olive oil on top. Serve with pita chips.

Who doesn't like baked beans? Sometimes the canned ones are quite sweet so why not make your own to control the sugar. I like to start with canned pork and beans. I usually just

pour the beans into the baking pan I am going to use, and add as I go, but here is what I use:

Baked Beans

1 large can pork and beans

1/2 C brown sugar packed

1/2 a small onion, chopped

1 T mustard

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Salt and pepper to taste

2 slices bacon – browned

Mix all ingredients except bacon in baking dish, mix well. Top with the bacon that has been sliced into bite size pieces and browned, rendering some of the fat out.

Place in preheated 350 oven and bake for about an hour or until beans are thick. Most recipes call for just placing the slices of bacon on top before baking, but I like to precook the bacon a little because I don't like the bacon fat on top of the beans. Also, this is a recipe that you can adjust as you like – don't want that much brown sugar? Want to add some catsup or a couple of tablespoons of molasses? Do whatever you or your family will like.

I know the last three months of a year are busy, but have you looked at the calendar for this year? It is full of special dates:

Feb. 02 – Ground Hog Day – Happy birthday Jim!

Feb. 03 – Super Bowl

Feb. 13 – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

Feb. 18 – Presidents Day

Mar. 01 – Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

Mar. 10 – Daylight savings time begins

Mar. 20 – First day of spring

Mar. 24 – Palm Sunday

Mar. 31 – Easter

And last, but by no means least, is Liberty High's Sober Grad Night. Vicki needs your help! Can you volunteer some time? Some money? Some gifts for the seniors? Call her (call her here at the office 645-0634 and leave a message so she can get back to you) as soon as possible because if the next five months go as fast as the last five months, it will be here before you know it.

The Bookshelf

By The Friends of the Ranchos Library contact the library at 645-1214. You can also contact the library for food and craft vendor applications. Furlough Days for Madera Ranchos Library are Feb. 1 and 15.

Come join us for the Pre-school Storytime to Read, Play and Learn with Diane Maxfield. Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Be sure to mark your calendar for from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

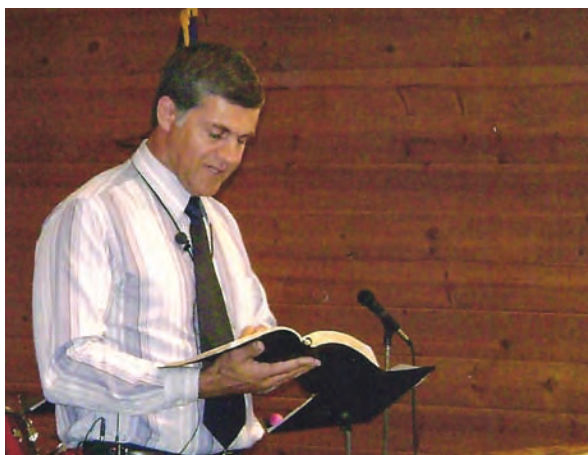
This is a big fundraiser for the library and planning has started. If you would like to help, You can also visit the library's website at www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org.



Ranchos Baptists Welcome Pastor

Faith brings Ranchos resident full circle as he now leads church where he found Christ nearly 25 years ago.

Effective Dec. 19, 2012, Mansel Trimble became the Pastor of Golden Valley Baptist Church in the Madera Ranchos. Trimble had previously served in the youth ministry with Sierra



Mansel Trimble is the new pastor at Golden Valley Baptist Church in the Ranchos. A Ranchos resident, it was at this very same church that Trimble was saved in 1988.

Heyley Baptist Church and this is where he accepted Christ in 1988. It is also where he met his future wife, Jaci. The Ranchos Independent would like to offer congratulations to Mansel Trimble at Golden Val-

Heights Baptist Church in Fresno and then at Clovis Hills Community Church in Clovis. He is a product of Golden Val-

ley Baptist Church, 12414 Rd. 37, Madera Ranchos, Stop by on Sunday and wish him well.

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For Rent

For rent - Available Jan. 01, 2013 - Office space at 36733 Ave. 12. \$375. per mo. Utilities included. **Call 805-570-1797.**

For Rent - House at HWY 41 & Ave. 14 1/2 - 3 Bd/2 Bth - 1800 sq. ft. Hardwood floors throughout. On one acre. \$1400. per mo. **Call 908-4289.**

For Sale

For Sale - Firewood - Dry seasoned firewood for sale by the bin. Will Deliver. **Call 559-259-7122 or 559-645-5523.**

Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Salesperson - The Ranchos Independent is looking for outside sales people. If you've sold before, you can figure this out. If you haven't, come talk to me. **Monday - Friday 559-645-0634.**

Housecleaning

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

Housecleaning - Get ready for spring! Get your house, yard and windows in order. Give us a call for a free estimate. **Call Linda at 559-645-0308 or Staci at 559-458-3248.**

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FREE RECYCLABLES PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials, including paper, plastics, glass, aluminum and cardboard. If you have any questions be sure to call **Dianna at 999-6832 or 645-1048.** Funds support Ranchos' Seniors, library, schools and 4H.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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.

	+		÷		5
×		+		×	
	÷		+		11
÷		÷		÷	
	×		-		6
21		2		3	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 9

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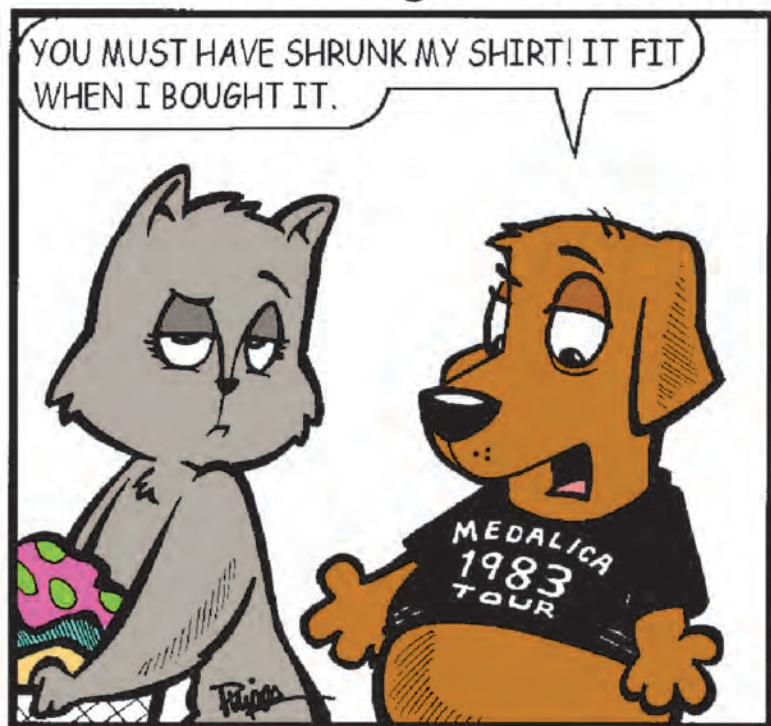
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It could be risky to push for a project you believe in but others are wary of. Never mind. If you trust your facts, follow your courageous Aries heart and go with it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your enthusiasm sparks renewed interest in a workplace project that once seemed headed for deletion. Support from supervisors helps you make all necessary changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A colleague might be a bit too contrary when your ideas are being discussed in the workplace. A demand for an explanation could produce some surprises all around.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to avoid distractions at a time when maintaining stability in a fluid situation is essential. There'll be time enough later for the Moon Child to enjoy some well-earned fun and games.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Stop wasting energy licking your wounded pride. Instead, put the lessons you learned from that upsetting experience to good use in an upcoming opportunity.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You love being busy. But try not to make more work for yourself than you need to. Get help so that you don't wind up tackling tasks that are better left to others.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your usually balanced way of assessing situations could be compromised by some so-called new facts. Check them out before making any shift in judgment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel angry over an unexpected shift in attitude by someone you trusted. But this could soon turn in your favor as more surprising facts come out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Love rules everywhere for all amorous Archers, single or attached. It's also a good time to restore friendships that might have frayed over the years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's not always easy for the proud Goat to forgive past slights. But clearing the air could help establish a better climate for that important upcoming venture.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Good news: Your skillful handling of a recent matter has won admiration from someone who could be influential in any upcoming decisions involving you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You continue to welcome new friends into the widening circle of people whom you hold dear. One of those newcomers soon might have something special to tell you.

Born this Week
 You love nature and inspire others to follow your example of concern for the planet's well-being.

FUN PAGES

POPEYE

POPEYE
BY E.C. SIBMAN

SON, I JES CALLS TA THANK YA FER TH' GIFT!

SHUCKS, PAPPY, T' WERE NUTHIN'!

UP TILL NOW... I DON'T THINK MUCH 'BOUT MIKERWAVE OVENS... BUT YA REALLY HIT A HOMER WIT' THIS GIFT!

IT'S LIKE HAVIN' A MAGICIAN IN TH' KITCHEN!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA... IT'S MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

YA MEAN TH' OVEN IMPROVED GRANNY'S COOKIN' THAT MUCH?

IT DINT'... BUT WE FIND OUT THET I HAFTA PICK UP A PIZZA IN LESS TIME THET... GETCHER HAT, WISE GUY!

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

YOU WANT TO TRY OUT MY SNOW BLOWER, HENRY?

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SAY IT LIKE IT IS DEPT--

CAN I HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOMEWORK, SON?

ER... NO THANKS, POP... I'LL MAKE MY OWN MISTAKES...

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLD WHEN YOU ADD UP THE SALE ON THE PAPER BAG INSTEAD OF USING THE COMPUTERIZED CASH REGISTER...

LESSEE... THAT'S 1.29... 3.35... 78... 2.19... HMM...

OH, GREAT! JUST GREAT! BEST VACATION EVER! ER... I WANT SOME ASPIRIN, BICARB, SUNBURN LOTION, POISON-IVY SALVE, BANDAGES, LARGE-SIZE WITCH HAZEL, AN' SOME SLEEPING PILLS...

THANK TO H. STEINBERG, BOWTOWN BEACH, FL.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SAY IT LIKE IT IS DEPT--

THANK TO ATTIE WHITE, WEST TOWNSEND, MA.

THANK TO JACK SHERMAN, BRONX, N.Y.

VACATION R--

HI! WELCOME HOME-- HOW WAS IT?

OH, GREAT! JUST GREAT! BEST VACATION EVER! ER... I WANT SOME ASPIRIN, BICARB, SUNBURN LOTION, POISON-IVY SALVE, BANDAGES, LARGE-SIZE WITCH HAZEL, AN' SOME SLEEPING PILLS...

THANK TO H. STEINBERG, BOWTOWN BEACH, FL.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SQUARE DEAL! Rules for scoring in this target-shooting contest call for each set of four shots to strike four small circles that form a square (note two examples indicated by bull's-eyes). Squares may be of varying sizes, spread among the 20 small circles shown. Just for fun, see if you can determine how many different ways there are of forming such squares. Hint: Look for more than 20. There are some ways you can't see!

NAME GAME! Replace one letter in each word to form the name of another animal: 1. Cat, 2. Dog, 3. Mule, 4. Moose, 5. Monkey. No fair peeking below.

ADD-A-LETTER RUNOFF

LET'S see if you can run out these RAN words. Beginning with the word RAN, add a letter in each step to form a new word in accord with the following definitions:

1. Competed in a race (ran, in place).
2. Military status.
3. "Meanwhile, back at the..."
4. National Park employee.
5. Pillage a place.
6. Haphazardly.

When finished, see if you can make up another list of RAN words. Time limit: 2 minutes.

BOUND TO WIN! Just one of four skiers above makes it to the finish line (in a fairly straight run). Which skier?

Wishing Well

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

MAGIC MAZE ● CONTAINERS

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

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

Capsule	Dumpster	Luggage	Silo
Cask	Eggshell	Pitcher	Tanker
Cocoon	Flask	Pouch	Thermos
Corral	Jar	Safe	

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SNOWBALLS

ON A ROLL! Snowball's a-rollin' - watch out below! Add the following colors neatly: 1-Red, 2-Lt. blue, 3-Yellow, 4-Lt. brown, 5-Flesh tones, 6-Green, 7-Dk. brown, 8-Purple.

SPELLBINDER

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

UNDERDOG

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: The island state of Bahrain lies in what body of water?
2. HISTORY: In what year did Germany invade Poland?
3. CARTOONS: What is the name of Donald Duck's girlfriend?
4. NATURAL WORLD: What part of the cotton plant is known as the boll?
5. MOVIES: Which actor produced and starred in Bonnie and Clyde?
6. MYTHOLOGY: In Greek mythology, which god is associated with winged sandals?
7. MILITARY: In Great Britain, what is the Victoria Cross awarded for?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of porcupines called?
9. ENTERTAINERS: What famous singer/songwriter was born with the name Stevland Judkins?
10. MUSIC: According to the song, where does Johnny B. Goode live?

- ### Answers
1. Persian Gulf
 2. 1939
 3. Daisy
 4. Seed pod
 5. Warren Beatty
 6. Hermes, messenger of the gods
 7. Valor in the face of the enemy
 8. A prickle
 9. Stevie Wonder
 10. Louisiana

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

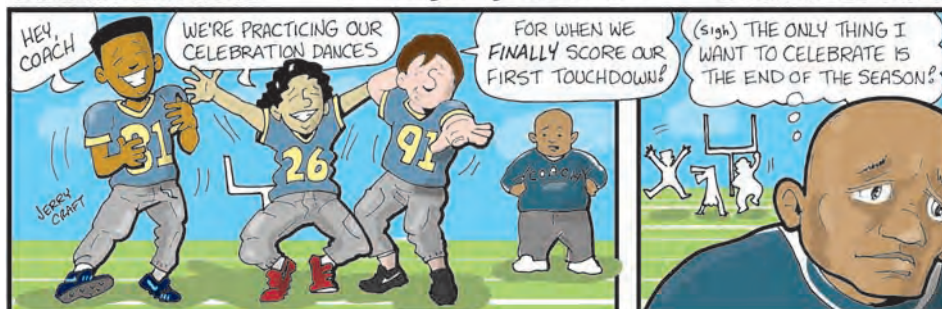
by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

www.jerrycraft.net

JERRY CRAFT



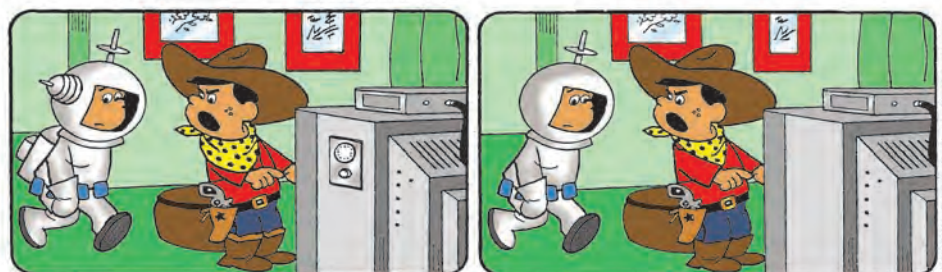
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



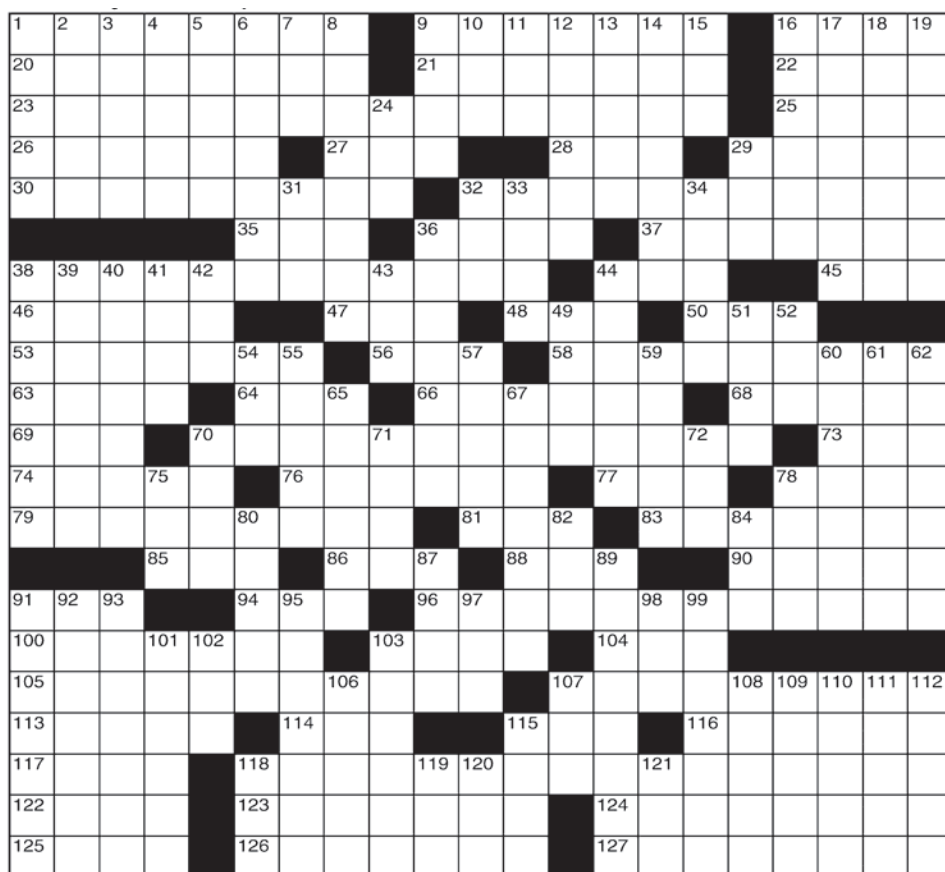
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



DIFFERENCES: 1. Earpiece is missing; 2. Backpack is missing; 3. Bandana is missing; 4. Boots are different; 5. Picture is different; 6. Dial is missing.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Lets go by, as a chance | 9 Like some eyeglass lenses | 16 Short race | 20 Emerge again | 21 Medium tempo | 22 Not tricked by | 23 ... Nuclear Physics | 25 Needle-nosed fishes | 26 "Grand" instruments | 27 Speak ill of, in slang | 28 O.J. Simpson trial judge | 29 Cuban salsa singer | 30 People who may share armrests | 32 ... the Symphony | 35 McKellen of "Scandal" | 36 Like the pope: Abbr. | 37 Become laryngitic | 38 ... Organized Crime | 44 Wd. with the same meaning | 45 Luggage screeners' org. | 46 Lobbies with glass ceilings | 47 Ease off | 48 Motor noise | 50 Señora Perón | 53 Golfer's first stroke | 56 —jungg | 58 ... Modern China | 63 S&L options | 64 TV actress | 66 Ease off | 68 "False!" | 69 Tantrum | 70 ... Country Music | 73 Lady Liberty's land | 74 Win by — (barely triumph) | 76 Clay worker | 77 Univ. e-mail ending | 78 Garden of — | 79 ... History | 81 Nestlé's — Caps | 83 Napping audibly | 85 Wear for a messy meal | 86 Small inlet | 88 Employer of many CPAs | 90 Dorothy, to Em | 91 Father's Day honorees | 94 Exam room noises | 96 ... Modern Genetics | 100 Tremendous Actor | 103 Mischa "The Raven" penner | 105 ... Fitness | 107 Libra | 113 Shaw of jazz clarinet | 114 Former Ford | 115 "Either he goes — go" | 116 Iroquois tribe | 117 Early 16th-century year | 118 ... the United States | 122 Centuries on end | 123 Off base with permission | 124 It offers goods under a canvas shelter | 125 Hong Kong's Hang — Index | 126 Dawdled | 127 Playful marine mammal | DOWN | 1 Readies, briefly | 2 Falcon's nest | 3 Largest city in Yemen | 4 Exhausted | 5 Derby city | 6 Leave port | 7 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance | 8 Wisdom | 9 Cross words | 10 Suffix with brilliant | 11 32nd prez | 12 Dumb and clumsy | 13 Bill worth 100 clams | 14 Waste away | 15 Was ahead | 16 Folded-over page corner | 17 Investment firm worker | 18 Long steps | 19 Biblical cry of praise | 24 Scale notes | 29 Single dance move? | 31 Fraternity "T" | 32 First mo. | 33 "Then again," in a chat room | 34 Darling | 36 Supper club | 38 Queen of rap | 39 Of the womb | 40 Maker | 41 SWAK part | 42 Slangy approval | 43 Aptiva maker | 44 Dirty streak | 49 New no more | 51 Vehicles for large families | 52 — -Z (totally) | 54 Kobe sash | 55 Seduce | 57 Toast starter | 59 Essentials | 60 Hit the books | 61 Very nature | 62 Hardly the saintly type | 65 Secret love affairs | 67 More hokey, as a joke | 70 "Star Wars" knight | 71 "Who's there?" reply | 72 Quick trot | 75 Cry out loud | 78 Activist Brockovich | 80 Malia or Sasha | 82 The "O" of NATO: Abbr. | 84 Not divided | 87 "Son of —!" | 89 Clever, specious reasoners | 91 Crib clothes | 92 Prize getter | 93 Division | 95 Modern Greek | 97 Mr. — (old whodunit game) | 98 Caviar base | 99 Loggins & — Don't Dance" duo) | 101 Aspen sport | 102 Bullring holler | 103 — Doria (ill-fated liner) | 106 Bikini Island, e.g. | 107 Lilt syllable | 108 Italian for "hundred" | 109 Neurotic worrying | 110 Unleash upon | 111 School, in Paris | 112 More rational | 115 Fell behind financially | 118 Zeus or Thor | 119 Ben- — | 120 Eden exile | 121 "Te- —!" |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|

FUN PAGES

SEMUCU

south east madera county united

**SEMUCU is working on grants
to help our Community!**

**SEMUCU would like help and input from
the Community about projects you think are
necessary. Volunteers to help with these
grants are needed!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SEMUCU Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, March 18
Come and make your vote count!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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SEMUCU REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory