

The Ranchos Independent



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Fill 'er up!

The first of three 1 million gallon water storage tanks to service the Riverstone Development at Avenue 12 and Highway 41 is nearing completion and set to go online in April.

By Karen Petryna



Photo Courtesy of Karen Petryna

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The first of three 1-million-gallon water storage tanks to service the Riverstone Development at Avenue 12 and Highway 41 is nearing completion and set to go online in April.

By Karen Petryna

Just behind PG&E's Cassidy substation on Ave. 12, approximately 1 mile west of Highway 41, construction for a 1-million-gallon potable water storage tank is nearing completion. The tank is the first of three that will be utilized by the Riverstone Development at Avenue 12 and Highway 41 at full build out. According to Timothy Jones, part owner of the development and the one who is overseeing it, the tank and connecting water system will be operational in April. The tank, located at a relative high spot on Riverstone property on the north side of Ave. 12, will send water by gravity via pipelines already running under Ave. 12 to homes and other facilities on the south side.

The water that fills the tank will come from three wells, two new and one

old agricultural well, that are located south of Ave. 12. Those wells are around 800 to 900 feet deep and they pump in the range of 1,300 to 1,650 gallons per minute, according to Jones.

Riverstone's "backbone" of water, storm and sewer lines and electrical lines have already been laid, Jones said, adding that construction for model homes begins in late February when in-tract improvements will also commence as home builders start to "pull" the utilities off of the backbone and into the neighborhoods and lots.

Riverstone and Root Creek Water District will meet the County's water balance requirements – to take out no more groundwater than they put back

Referring to California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Act, Jones said, "Everyone in California will be required to produce a water balance by 2020. Riverstone is ahead of the game."

into the ground – Jones said, partly by using the District's In Lieu Groundwater Recharge pipeline, which also runs under Ave. 12 from the Madera Canal's Lateral 6.2 on the north side to the District's agricultural land on the south side. "[The water is] all part of the same basin or District," Jones said. He further explained that by using surface water taken from the canal, the District will provide

Please see **TANK** on P. 16

Potential \$10 Million for MD-10a

A New Well for Sierra View Elementary School is Also in the Works

By Karen Petryna

Grants for more than \$10 million appear imminent for Sierra View Elementary School and Special Maintenance District MD-10a to be applied to a new drinking water well at Sierra View, estimated at \$368,550, and potentially up to \$10 million to connect the water systems at both Valley Teen Ranch and Liberty High Schools and also make other upgrades and improvements to the expanded system.

Previously, Madera County personnel had reported at public meetings they would not pursue a project to consolidate Liberty High School's water system with MD-10a's because they had been told by State authorities that the County did not qualify for grant funding. However, at the Dec. 7, 2015 meeting to discuss the MD-10a plus Valley Teen Ranch Consolidation Project, as reported in the Dec. 2015 issue of the Ranchos Independent, the County's Engineer I, Alvina Prakash, said the State would grant fund the project if Golden Valley Unified School District (GVUSD) made the application itself, since, as a public school, it automatically qualified as a "Disadvantaged Community."

Arsenic Concerns

GVUSD had been struggling with arsenic contamination in one of the system wells since mid-2015, similar to the situation at Valley Teen Ranch. Due to consistent arsenic levels above the new Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL, of 10 parts per billion, the well had been disconnected from the water system including its irrigation piping network. And, despite being perfectly safe and legal, the well could not even be used to water the grass on the high school and middle school campuses.

Maintenance, Operations, Transportation and Facility Manager Dave Baughman was equally interested in finding a solution for the situation at Liberty High School, since he had two wells for the two schools, Liberty High and the Ranchos Middle

School, and he knew it would be very difficult to get by using only one, especially in the warmer months. But it was Baughman's secretary, Melinda Cullins, who brought up the more immediate concern with the well at Sierra View Elementary. When asked, Baughman said that due to the drought, the well there was failing quickly, sucking sand and debris, and wreaking havoc with the mechanical components of the school's water system. He had already gotten Kenneth Schmidt, the local expert, to design a new well and had put the work out to bid. But, again, due to the drought, only one driller in the area was willing to bid on the job — everyone else was just too busy. Baughman had conferred again with Schmidt, who made modifications to allow the well to be drilled by the more common mud rotary method rather than using a reverse rotary drill rig and Baughman was just getting ready to put the job out to bid again.

Local area non-profit Southeast Madera County United, or SEMCU, which has been actively pursuing grants for the community, approached GVUSD Superintendent Andy Alvarado with a potential new opportunity for the MD-10a plus GVUSD Consolidation Project, and he was very interested. Alvarado asked Baughman to meet with SEMCU before he went further with the drilling proposals. The outcome of a series of meetings with State authorities working for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and also with Madera County resulted in the State allowing the County to pursue grant funding on behalf of GVUSD to connect the High School and its 1-million-gallon storage tank to MD-10a. The second result was the State notifying GVUSD and SEMCU that the failing Sierra View well was eligible for Interim Emergency Drinking Water and Drought Related Drinking Water Funding.

SEMCU Submits

Since then, with GVUSD Board approval, SEMCU has submitted the application to pay for Sierra View's new well. Kassy Chauhan, Senior Sanitary Engineer with the State Water Resources Control

Please see **MILLION** on P. 13

Bearing the Burden of California's Road Repairs

By Jim Madaffer

California drivers are bearing the burden of the state's transportation funding crisis, with the average driver spending more than \$500 a year to repair the wear and tear on their vehicle caused by bad roads. Gas tax revenues currently fund most of the

state's road maintenance and repairs, but gas tax revenues are declining as cars become more fuel efficient and as drivers adopt hybrids and electric vehicles. Caltrans estimates the funding gap to be about \$5.7 billion per year for the state highway system alone.

Unless we address the transportation

funding shortfall immediately, the funding gap will only widen. Lawmakers are working on a short-term solution to maintain our roadways and we will have to depend on the gas tax for the immediate future. However, gas tax revenues will continue to fall behind

Please see **ROADS** on P. 13

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I have no "dog in the fight" when it comes to "93636." I do not live in your bucolic community but I have been known to peruse your paper on occasion.

I've noticed each time Mr. Warren Parr writes to the editor, there seems to be a hint of a political connotation to his interests, such as "career vocational training." I trust his intentions are noble. Question: Is he preparing to run for office? He mentioned a "parcel tax." No matter how minute the tax raise is, it makes most God-fearing conservatives nervous.

My suggestion to Mr. Parr would be to contact his assembly or congressman's offices for grants or low interest loans.

One other suggestion to the editor: limit the number of words per letter. On occasion I've noticed that some writers are very verbose. This hinders all in the class of "Writing to the Editor 101."

I ran for office and had to pay for flyers, stamps, etc. Editors would not print my material for free.

Name withheld upon request
Clovis

Dear Editor:

Thank you again for this feature of your newspaper. It provides community members like me the opportunity to

disseminate important information that may otherwise go unreported. I know you have a small but dedicated staff and may not always be able to report everything on every issue.

In preparing for this January's GVUSD Board Meeting, I read from cover to cover the 2014-2015 Auditor's Report. According to the report (page 62), during the past three years GVUSD operated at a \$1,270,436 deficit to the general fund. Last year's operating loss was \$503,191. I attribute most of that deficit to employee raises negotiated by the previous board of trustees. Those numbers should be no surprise to anyone who regularly reads the Ranchos Independent Letters to the Editor.

What I was not aware of was the "Total net position (VALUE) of GVUSD decreased by \$19,027,752 during the year" because of the implementation of GASB 68 (page 6).

WHAT THE HECK IS GASB 68?

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board implemented a new rule, GASB 68, that required school districts and other state governmental agencies to disclose all ongoing financial liabilities from employee pension funds (page 31) in the audit. For the first time we have full disclosure and transparency with regard to our district's employee pension fund liabilities. (WOW) The report went on to say (page 31) GVUSD has \$3,475,600

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 14

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Guest Editorial

The Great Humiliation

By Rich Lowry

The Obama administration was right when it insisted that the capture and release of 10 American sailors by Iran showed the benefits of a cooperative relationship with Tehran.

The crux of the arrangement is simple: The Iranians agree to humiliate us (and pursue their long war against the United States and their hegemonic ambitions in the Middle East), and we agree not to care. It is, as Secretary of State John Kerry says, diplomacy at its best.

What Vice President Joe Biden called "standard nautical practice" involved the Iranians making our sailors get on their knees on their captured boats, eliciting an apology from the commander, and photographing and videotaping all of it to broadcast for propaganda purposes -- in clear violation of international law.

This obviously wasn't another Carter-era Iranian hostage crisis (it wasn't even a hostage crisis), but it was another national humiliation to add to a sour public mood that President Barack Obama doesn't get, let alone understand his own role in creating.

His State of the Union address was devoted to a pep talk for the country that did more to demonstrate that he is out of touch -- an occupa-

tional hazard for late-second-term presidents -- than that anyone is wrong to feel pessimistic.

Yes, the economy has had a long recovery, but it has been slow and weak and, by some measures, hasn't been felt in much of the country. Yes, we are the most powerful nation on Earth, but our adversaries, from Vladimir Putin to ISIS to Iran, have been gaining and are eager to demonstrate our toothlessness -- in the case of ISIS, with spectacular acts of evil.

The president's version of world events in the State of the Union was particularly wan. He touted the marginal gains against ISIS without coming to grips with the catastrophes that made its rise possible; he boasted of the Iran nuclear deal, with nary a hint that the pact hasn't moderated Iranian behavior as hoped; and he spoke as though "partnering with local forces and leading international efforts" in Syria is an effective response to that country's hellish meltdown.

True to form, in what was supposed to be a visionary speech, Obama continually took ill-disguised shots at his potential Republican successors, Donald Trump foremost among them. He scolded the 2016 GOP field for its fear, cheap sound bites and pandering.

There is all of that, of course -- it is a primary campaign, after all -- but there also is a deeper disgust with the direction of our country and the failures of its institutions, and a yearning for something better.

The president has actively sought America's diminishment abroad. For him, this is a shrewd play that avoids costly entanglements and makes us stronger. But there is no doubt that we are less respected and feared around the world. The public feels it, and doesn't like it. Many Americans, as a certain presidential candidate puts it, want to win again.

They look at the photographs and videos of those American sailors, and it feels like a punch in the gut. The Obama administration looks at them and says to the Iranians, thank you very much.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

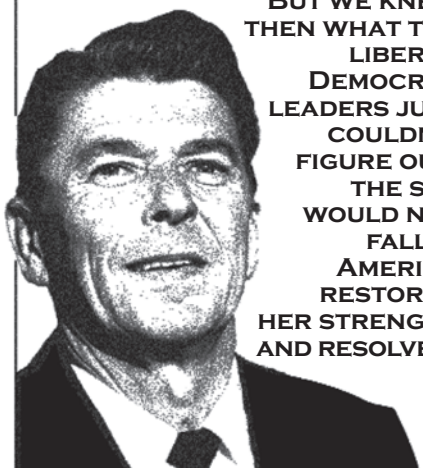
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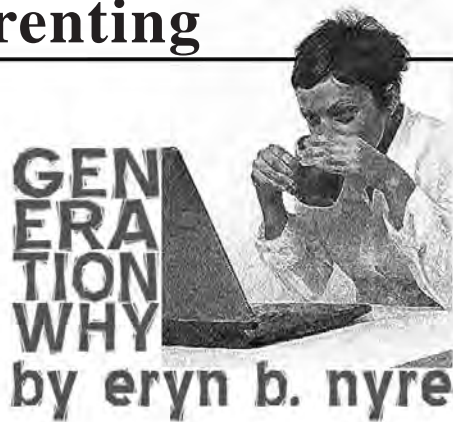
“Hands On” Parenting

I saw this cartoon a while back that depicted life in the world of parenting today versus 50 years ago. The yesteryear parents were reprimanding their child for his grades in front of the teacher; the present-day parents were reprimanding the teacher for their child’s grades in front of the child. I thought it was amusing, having been on the short end of the discipline paddle myself once or twice in my youth, but it never carried much weight with me. Surely parents still hold their children accountable for their own behavior. Right? Now that I think about it, I may be wrong.

I remember an incident from when I was in high school. I had an English teacher that I just couldn’t manage to gel with, which was weird because I usually got along with all of my teachers. He obviously didn’t like kids much because he gave everyone a hard time. Perhaps he had been teaching too many years and it soured him. Perhaps he had seen too many bad eggs and he had become jaded. In any event, I ended up getting a few low grades in his

I was really hoping there would be an all-out brawl – I’ve been waiting to video something like that and post it to YouTube – but instead it was a quick battle of wits and the entire team of teenagers and the mother of the year promptly lost.

class. I explained to my parents that he wasn’t grading the content of the paper but the opinion. He was more concerned with preaching his political agenda than teaching his students and he was quick to cut a grade if you expressed an opposing point of view. My parents didn’t storm down to the school and scream at him. Actually, my dad simply asked me if I argued my point well enough, and if I did, then I could go into the teacher myself and demand (respectfully he would always add) a grade review myself. Taking his advice to heart, I made sure that every paper I turned in was impeccably argued with supporting evidence and carefully cited sources. From that point on, every time he would give me a lower grade I would then argue with him, point by point, until he gave me the grade I deserved. I’ll tell you this: he certainly taught me to argue well, even if it was by engaging in shady grading prac-



tices. Perhaps that is a central difference between parenting then and parenting now. I just got a firsthand glimpse of the other side.

Stuck with a four-hour layover coming back from visiting my own parents over the Christmas holidays I watched a large group of young girls, maybe 12 or 13 years old, wreaking havoc on a small pizza restaurant in Concourse A. It appeared to be a pack of athletes coming home from a win. Good for them – bad for everyone else within earshot. They bombarded the place and took up about five tables. They easily could have squeezed into two to save room for the 50 or so other patrons who wanted a seat, but the cliques could clearly not intermingle. I thought the whole team was supposed to be a, well, team.

The chaperones took a table to themselves, I don’t begrudge them that because I wouldn’t want to share a table with those monsters (of course, I wouldn’t want to share an airplane with them either, but that’s a horse of a different color). They were close enough to see the shenanigans, but evidently too tired to care.

The first thing I noticed, apart from the way they seemed to be multiplying by the second, was their mouths. I’ve heard athletes cuss, but I didn’t think 12 year olds would be so comfortable doing it so loudly in public in front of people who were supposed to be chaperoning them. Is chaperone French for, “sit there and do nothing while you drink wine and

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 17

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Myths vs Facts

By Betty Van Valkenburg

With the Tea Party movement approaching its seventh anniversary, it is amazing that false accusations continue to abound, but they do. And sometimes one just feels compelled to set the record straight.

Myth: "The Tea Party is just a bunch of anarchists." Absurd. Anarchists want an absence of government, which insures chaos. The Tea Party not only recognizes the need for government but reveres the Constitution that established the government of the United States.

Myth: "The Tea Party is an arm of the Republican Party." Definitely not true, although most Tea Party folks are probably registered Republicans because they see no other choice. Unfortunately, the Republican Party has abandoned limited-government principles to become "Liberal Lite" and that's why a Tea Party California Caucus was formed to try to bring the party back to a semblance of conservatism. And that's why the national Tea Party Patriots and local groups have been instrumental in defeating establishment Republicans and replacing them with more principled conservatives. Remember John Boehner's resignation as House Speaker, fueled to a great extent by Tea Party activism?

Myth: "Conservatives oppose President Obama because of his race." Hogwash! Tea Party conservatives do oppose the policies of President Obama on principle. Government overregulation, massive debt and deficits, federalized health care, crony capitalism and executive overreach did not start with Barack Obama, but he has put them on steroids. "Conservatives" or "constitutionalists" opposed similar policies under many presidents, including George H. W. Bush (remember that he lost a second term for abandoning a pledge of "no new taxes"?); Bill Clinton (remember Hillary's 1994 conceived-in-secret healthcare plan that was resoundingly rejected and eerily similar to Obamacare?); and Jimmy Carter (remember that he called for "shared sacrifice," not prosperity?).

Shouting racism, sexism or other "isms" is a tiresome diversionary tactic. Tea Party conservatives/constitutionalists/libertarians support those who promote constitutional principles and oppose those who don't, period – regardless of gender, ethnicity or skin color.

Note that Herman Cain was a favorite

candidate of the Tea Party because of his economic and political solutions, not his skin color. Dr. Ben Carson is an obvious polling favorite with the Tea Party because of his integrity and conservative philosophy, not his skin color. Carly Fiorina, although not polling well, was deemed to have won debates because of her intelligent, no-nonsense approach to economics and national defense, not because she is female. Ted Cruz, whose father escaped from Cuban communist oppression, was backed by the Tea Party when elected to the Senate. Liberals/progressives oppose them all. Is that racist or sexist?

Myth: "The Tea Party is a bunch of redneck know-nothings." Au contraire. Active Tea Partyers are highly informed on American history, the Constitution, politics and current events. If they didn't have a foundation of knowledge before they have become educated quickly through shared information, educational programs and political activism. Ask a Tea Party conservative about common core or other critical issues and be ready to hear a five-minute dissertation and perhaps receive a stack of educational materials!

Myth: "The Tea Party wants people to fend for themselves and doesn't believe in helping the needy." Well, part of that is true. Conservatives want all Americans to be successful and prosperous so that we can, indeed, take care of ourselves and our families. But people can be "down on their luck" at times and conservatives do believe they should get a helping hand when needed – from individuals, churches, neighbors, charities and the like. The federal government is not a charity and sadly encourages dependency with its myriad welfare programs. Its best role in "helping" people is to ensure a robust economy and free society where hard work and innovation are rewarded with a paycheck or a profit.

Fact: Tea Party conservatives are strong individualists who agree on the core principles of constitutionally limited government, free markets and fiscal responsibility. They may not agree on much else and may disagree on specific proposals and candidates (much like all Americans, right?).

Conclusion: Governments are becoming increasingly totalitarian and our liberty depends on concerted, educated, conservative action. If you agree, you are encouraged to visit www.CentralValleyTeaParty.com or www.TeaPartyPatriots.org to learn more and get involved.

Good sources of information are The Heritage Foundation, California Political Review, Coalition of Energy Users and Election Integrity Project – to name very few of many – and you can sign up for e-mail alerts on their websites.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Super Recipes for the Super Bowl



by Jean Briner

Here it is time for the Super Bowl again. Seems like only yesterday they were just beginning the 2015 season. This last weekend the playoffs determined who will be in the Super Bowl. The Denver Broncos will meet the Carolina Panthers and will play Super Bowl 50 on Feb. 7 in Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, home of the San Francisco 49ers. Levi's Stadium is known for being the most high-tech stadium in the world. It took over two years to build with construction beginning in April, 2012 and opening on July 17, 2014. It seats approximately 68,500 and can be expanded to 75,000 seats. For as high-tech as it is, it does not have a roof on the place. A statement on the site states, "The structure takes advantage of our Silicon Valley climate and is predominately open and airy, while environmentally friendly." They probably thought we were going to be in the midst of Global Warming and didn't dream of the El Niño we are having. I sure hope it doesn't rain on the 7th. It cost \$1.2 Billion to build. That's right, billion with a "B"!

The reason it is called Levi's Stadium? On May 8, 2013 the 49ers awarded Levi Straus & Co. naming rights to the stadium. The deal calls for Levi's to pay \$220.3 Million to the City of Santa Clara and the 49ers over 20 years with an option to extend the deal for another five years for around \$75 Million.



BRONCOS

I almost choked when I saw the price of tickets. They start at \$3,389.

Upper Corners (take a box of tissues for your nose bleed) are just over \$4,000. End Zones are just over \$5,000. Lower VIP 40-50 yard lines are \$30,385. That's each ticket.

There is no tailgating and you can't take food in with you. If you get hungry, you buy it there or tough it out until after the game. If you decide to buy a snack or drink there, it will be pretty pricy: a 20 oz. cheapest domestic beer will be \$10.25; a frankfurter (they don't call them hot dogs there) is \$6.25; a 21 oz. Pepsi product drink is \$5.25; a slice of pizza is \$8; a bag of M & M's is \$6 and it's \$5.75 for a 20 oz. bottle of water.

I'm not going to lie to you, if I could walk better (there is lots of walking to get from your car to your seats) and had the money, I would love to go to one of these games. I love football. I guess you might say it is in my blood. My dad played for Chowchilla High graduating in 1928, both brothers played for Chowchilla, Randy and his brothers played at Montclair High School with youngest brother Adam going on to play college ball. Now the next generation coming up with my great nephew Josh playing on the JV team at Liberty High and my brother George's grandson, my great nephew Colton Briner, playing at Clovis East. I'm not able to go to their games but I have followed them on the internet. I have watched every game of my favorite pro team yelling at the TV like they could hear me. Yes, they are in the playoffs. I'm not going to tell you which one - but here is a clue: I think Peyton is better than Tom!

Are you going to a Super Bowl party, hosting one or just staying home alone? Either way, you need some food. You can go to the market and purchase a bag of chips and a couple containers of dip, or you can order a party tray from any of the restaurants in the Ranchos, or make a couple of your own.

Bean Dip

- 1 can refried beans
- 2 oz. sour cream
- 4 oz. cream cheese softened
- ½ jar salsa
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 can Ortega chilies

Please see **AUNT JEAN** on P. 9

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AUNT JEAN cont. from P. 8

Green onion chopped
½ C shredded cheese (any kind – cheddar, Monterey jack, or pepper jack or a combination)

Mix all ingredients together and put into a baking dish. Sprinkle 1 cup shredded cheese on top with some chopped onions and sliced olives. Bake at 400 for 40 minutes. Serve with tortilla chips.

Chicken Strips with Gravy

24 oz. frozen chicken strips
2 cans crescent rolls

Cook chicken strips according to package directions, but only cook for 8 minutes. Remove from oven and keep warm.

Place chilled crescent roll dough triangles on clean surface and add a chicken strip. Wrap the dough around the chicken and place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 10 to 12 minutes or until the rolls are golden. Serve with your favorite BBQ sauce for dipping or make a quick gravy for dipping. Heat a can of Cream of Chicken soup, adding just enough milk to make a good consistency for gravy, adding salt and pepper to taste.

Want a recipe that will cook while you are at church that morning? Game doesn't start until 3:25 p.m. so you will have plenty of time.

Meatballs in Cranberry Sauce

1 14oz. can cranberry sauce

1 12 oz. bottle Chili Sauce

1 2lb. bag frozen pre-cooked cocktail size meat balls.

Place meatballs in slow cooker. Combine sauces and pour over meatballs. Cover and cook 4 hours on HIGH.

At the Chamber of Commerce mixers members bring appetizers for the get together. After the last one Randy was telling me about one that he really enjoyed and wanted me to include it in this article. It comes courtesy of Patti Groh.

Bacon Wrapped Crackers

Keebler Club Crackers
Grated Parmesan Cheese
Uncooked Bacon Strips

Place Club Crackers on a rack on a baking sheet. Top each cracker with grated parmesan cheese (about ½ tsp.) Wrap ½ slice thin bacon around cheese and cracker. Bake in 250 degree oven for 2 hours. Serve warm or cold. Can be frozen and reheated. Thank you Patti!

Whether your team wins or loses, have a good time.

QUESTION OF THE DAY FOR YOU L.A. RAMS FANS: Now that the Rams are returning to L.A., will you root for them again? I know a young man that had converted a spare bedroom to the L.A. Ram's Room – curtains, bedspread, lamps – you name it. After they moved to St. Louis, the room was empty.



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Smog Through Brakes?

Hello 93636,
I had an odd smog repair last month so I thought it would be useful in discussing vehicle communications networks and modules.

A module is a microprocessor (more than 50 in some modern vehicles) and they communicate via an on-board network to share data. My new customer inherited a 97 BMW 540I and asked us to evaluate its condition and perform a Smog Inspection for transfer of title. The customer's priorities were correct: SMOG FIRST. My advice is don't spend money fixing a vehicle that won't pass a smog inspection; you can't drive it.

Just to digress here with a warning to all, in California the seller is REQUIRED to provide the buyer with a currently passed smog inspection certificate. This law protects buyers from predatory sellers. You may think the purchase price is a really good deal but without a smog certificate you may have additional costs getting the vehicle to pass a smog inspection. DO NOT purchase a vehicle without a smog inspection certificate.

This BMW's "Check Engine Light" was on. That's an automatic smog failure. The "Traction Control" light (TC) was also on but since it's not emissions related, OR SO I THOUGHT, I put it on hold for now. Starting with the "Check Engine Light," I connected a scanner and retrieved emission code P0345 (Camshaft Sensor Fault Code). I removed the air intake ducting and traced back the camshaft sensor harness to find a good place to connect my lab scope and test. What I found was the TC connector was plugged into the Camshaft Sensor and the Camshaft Sensor connector was plugged into a TC actuator. This will be easy; I'll just reverse the communi-

cation connection. I started the engine and the TC and emissions warning lights turned off. GREAT. I didn't even get out of the parking lot before the Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) warning light turned on. Since the "Check Engine Light" was still off I put the ABS issue on hold also, OR SO I THOUGHT, and continued driving the car to allow the on-board emissions self-evaluation testing to complete. During the drive the "Check Engine Light" came back on. A new code was set indicating a Vehicle Speed Sensor (VSS) fault. Now I have an ABS fault, a TC fault and a VSS fault. The more I fix, the more I need to fix.

The reason for this is when a system fails, the onboard self-evaluation testing for that system is suspended. If not, a failed component could adversely affect

I went for a test drive to verify. After further testing, the speed sensor was communicating and its information was accurate. The ABS Module failed ... I had to replace the ABS Module (BRAKES!) in order for this vehicle to pass a Smog Inspection.

testing results and set a false trouble code. Complete system testing may not reoccur until the failures are repaired. If the vehicle continues to be driven without repair, over time other faults can accumulate but may not be known until the original failure is corrected and on-board testing restarts. That's what I think happened with this car and that's where I find myself. The VSS fault is an emission fault and is standing in the way of my payday. I need it gone. I can't find my crystal ball right now so I don't know where this is headed but with some hard work I won't need it anyway. The customer is hanging in there very nicely for now.

After some research, I determined

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

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March 19th – Spring Festival – 9am-2pm	Sunday School 9 AM
March 27th – “Sonrise” Service 7am – Pancake Breakfast	Sunday Worship 10:30AM
May 8th – Mother’s Day Celebration	Wednesday Life apps 6:30 PM
May 29th – Memorial Day Family Picnic	(Please note: No school = No Wednesday Life apps)
June 6th–10th – Vacation Bible School	Men’s Breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at 9 AM
June 12th – Family Day & Picnic	Starting Soon: Ladies Thursday Night Bible Study at 6 PM
June 19th – Father’s Day Celebration	
July 4th – Independence Day Family BBQ & Fireworks	
July 15th & 29th – Family Movie Night	
September 11th – 9/11 Remembrance	
September 18th – Friend Day Sunday	
October 29th – Harvest Festival	
November 13th – Veteran’s Day – Honoring those who served	
December 24th – Candle Light Service	

Ongoing Ministries

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Wednesday Life Apps 6:30 PM
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The Bookshelf

Ranchos Library Kicks into 2016

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library has been very busy this past month. In case you missed it, our Winter Storytime with Steve Riley was amazing. We had such a great time listening to his incredible tale of encountering a bear with his two young daughters and how they miraculously got away. Each child that attended was able to go home with a special drawing or caricature.

We have been busy re-arranging some sections in our juvenile collection. We just finished up the Juvenile Fiction and the shelves are looking really great. You will

notice small things being moved about the library. If you go to look for your favorite it author and those books are not exactly where they used to be just let us know and we will be glad to help you. They are probably just a couple of steps away.

We have received our theme for the 2016 Summer Reading Program. This year we are going to "Read for the Win." The theme for this year will coincide with the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de

Janeiro. Just like the Olympians aspire to achieve athletic greatness, I want our chil-

Please see **LIBRARY** on P. 17

The Madera Ranchos Library

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Wednesday and Thursday

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

Senior Report

More Happenings at the Senior Center

By Patti Groh

Rain, wonderful rain. I am enjoying it so much. It hasn't slowed down the Seniors any. We continue to exercise M-W-F mornings at 10 a.m. There is lunch at the center every weekday at 11:30 (just remember to call in the morning before). There is also the potluck every Thursday evening with cards played afterward. What a faithful, dedicated bunch of players they are.

Don't forget annual dues of \$40 should be in to the Seniors Center before Feb. 1. After that, there will be a \$10 late charge attached.

The tickets sure went fast for the Jan. 30 luncheon. We are serving special tomato tortellini soup, great turkey sandwiches, dessert of brownies, lemon bars and walnut bars. Yum. The profits from this event will be used for solar window coverings on the east side of the Center and toward new insulation in the ceiling. There may be a couple of tickets left. Check with Joann at 645-4830. None will be available at the door so if you missed this one, let us know you would like us to have another one.

Jan. 24, 2016 a bunch of Seniors planned to go up to see the Eagles at Miller-ton Lake. Hopefully it was not too cold or wet.

The monthly sale at the Center will be Saturday, Feb. 6. If it rains, the Treasure

House won't be open but the boutique and bake sale will be there as usual with beautiful gifts and home decorations. There will also be the multitude of homemade baked goods.

On Thursday, Feb. 11 (the usual potluck and card game night) we will also be celebrating Valentine's Day. There will be special decorations, goodies, activities and lots of love all around. Arrival time is 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30.

The February birthday and anniversary celebration lunch will be held at Lee Kitchen here in the Ranchos. It is Feb. 20. Be there no later than 11:15 a.m. and please sign up at the Center.

Remember that the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Board meeting, general meeting and planning meeting are now scheduled the first, second and fourth TUESDAYS of each month at 6:30 p.m. We need your input.

Also, keep the date of March 19 open for our Second Big Bunco Blowout. It was very successful last year, just great fun. Plan on attending this year.

The Newsletter will be available during the first week of February at the Center and local business locations. Thank you so much Verlaine Elinburg. The Center will be closed on Feb. 15 which is President's Day. The Center is at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Ranchos and the phone is 645-4864. Hope to see you soon.

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GVUSD Transitional and Kindergarten Registration

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration is beginning. Please bring your future kindergartener with you to registration as assessments will be given during the registration process. In order to register your child, you will need the following:

1. Your child must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2016 for Kindergarten. If your child will turn 5 between Sept. 1 and Dec. 2, 2016 your child will qualify for Transitional Kindergarten. You will need to bring in his/her birth certificate to verify either.
2. Your child's immunization record showing that your child is up-to-date on all of his or her shots: TB Test (A GVUSD Requirement); Polio (4); Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (5); Measles, Mumps,

Rubella (2); Hepatitis B (3); Varicella (Chicken Pox) (1)

3. Proof of residency within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries: This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.

4. A completed registration packet.

Webster Elementary 645-3540:

Feb. 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Webster office beginning Feb. 1 if you want to have them filled out and ready to bring in on Feb. 3. In addition, if you have concerns about your immunization records and would like to verify that your child has all of the necessary shots before Feb. 25, please feel free

to bring the immunization card to the office.

Sierra View Elementary 645-3560:

Feb. 25, from 8:10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

By appointment only. Please call the school office at 645-1122 to schedule an appointment. Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Sierra View office beginning Feb. 1. Please have all registration forms completed and bring necessary documents with you to your child's appointment on Feb. 25. In addition, if you would like to verify that your child's immunizations are up-to-date, please feel free to bring the immunization card to the office when you pick up your packet.

SV Patriotic Day

On Feb. 19, Sierra View will be honoring Sierra View students who have served in the armed forces by dedicating new names to our honor wall in the Multipurpose Room. We are looking for past students or staff who have served and if you have any new names please email Mrs. McElhaney at cmcelhaney@gvUSD.k12.ca.us or call 645-1122.



Sierra View News

RadKids Program

The RadKids Program, hosted by Madera County Probation, completed its eight-week course with Mrs. Lee's class. RadKids is a child-safety program that addresses multiple issues that might be faced by our students including bullying prevention and child preventing predator. Students received training by Madera County Probation Officers in physical resistance strategies against abduction, internet safety, personal space safety, home, school, out and about safety (parks, fairs, playgrounds, beaches, stores, malls) all through the eyes of the child. Mrs. Bridge's class will have the opportunity to go through this training in January and by the end of the year, grades 4-6 will have gone through the class at Sierra View. Par-

ents will receive additional information, including a waiver before their child participates in the program. Please visit www.radkids.org for additional information.

Santa's Workshop

We would like to give a big thank you to the Sierra View Parent Club (SVPC) for hosting our annual Santa's Workshops. Students were able to buy gifts for their family and friends at discounted prices. SVPC does not make money on the event and actually loses a few dollars each year, but the meaningful experience of giving is worth every penny. We would like to give a special thanks to all the parents who came out and devoted countless hours, especially Soraida Ascencio for chairing the event. It was a huge success.

A Special Thanks

The district wants to thank the following companies/people for their contributions directly to GVUSD during the first semester: PG&E Corporation; Dr. Jeff Stanley; Wells Fargo; POM Wonderful; Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club; Vulcan Materials Company; The Anderson Family; The Sierra View Parent Club; The Webster Parent Teacher Club; The Golden Valley Ag Foundation; Debi Fimbres; Central California Women's Facility; Pegasus, Silverdust and Greenleaf Orchards.

Upcoming events

- President's Day Holidays - No School: Feb. 8th and Feb. 15th
- Liberty High School Open House/Spring Showcase - March 16th
- Ranchos Middle School Open House - March 17th
- Webster Elementary Open House - May 12th
- Sierra View Open House - May 19th

New Phone Numbers:

GVUSD office -- 645-3570 • Sierra View Elementary -- 645-3560
Webster Elementary -- 645-3540



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ROADS cont. from P. 2

our transportation funding needs over the longer term. We must ultimately find a new transportation funding model that better reflects today's realities.

One potential solution is the road charge. Under a road charge system, drivers pay by the mile rather than by the gallon. Whether you drive a gas-guzzling truck or an all-electric sedan, the road charge is the same per mile. Everyone pays their fair share. Several other states are already testing the road charge concept, and we must explore it further in California to determine if it is the right solution for us.

The state has already taken steps to begin exploring a road charge system. Senate Bill (SB) 1077, signed into law last year, requires California to study the feasibility of a road charge in a statewide pilot that includes a variety of volunteers from all regions of the state. To help ensure the parameters of the pilot meet California's unique needs, SB 1077 also established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to design the pilot with the benefit of robust public input. The TAC includes experts in telecommunications, data security and privacy, as well as highway users, business and consumer advocates, elected officials and academic researchers.

In 2015 the TAC conducted a robust stakeholder outreach process to seek feedback and input on the design of the pilot. The TAC held 12 public meetings throughout California and invited residents all over the state to attend a meeting or comment through the TAC's website. Additionally, the TAC invited over 400 stakeholder groups and 130 elected officials to participate in the process, and it consulted a Road

Charge Work Group made up of representatives from local government, vehicle manufacturers, fuel distributors and highway users.

After carefully reviewing all of the feedback and input gathered, the TAC released its final recommendations for the design of the pilot in early January. Some of the highlights of those recommendations are that the pilot should:

- Give drivers multiple options to report miles driven
- Provide non-technological options for those who choose to report their miles manually

While we know the current gas tax system will not keep pace with state and national needs in the future, we also know the development and implementation of a sustainable long-term solution will take time to deliver.

- Protect driver privacy and personal data
- Measure the impact of a road charge on rural and urban drivers
- Require no cost to participate

The pilot is now scheduled to launch this summer and aims to recruit 5,000 participants that reflect the geographic, demographic and socioeconomic diversity of the state.

Because it has been rigorous, this endeavor gave us the opportunity to carefully examine and develop a set of recommendations that reflect the unique nature of our state. While we know the current gas tax system will not keep pace with state and national needs in the future, we also know the development and implementation of a sustainable long-term solution will take time to deliver. That is why we should all do our part by signing up for the pilot. Together, we can help the state determine if paying by the mile is the right transportation funding solution for California.

Visit www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com for more info.

Jim Madaffer is the Chair of the Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee and a California Transportation Commission member.

LHS Participates in Decathlon

The 34th Annual Madera County Academic Decathlon competition begins on Friday, Jan. 29. High School students will compete in the interview and essay competitions at Madera County Office of Education.

Liberty High, Chawanakee Academy, Chowchilla High, Madera High, Madera South High and Yosemite High Schools will be competing to be named County Champion. The winner of Madera County's Academic Decathlon will advance to the state competition in March. This year's topic is India.

"In addition to the interview, public speaking and writing skills students learn, the understanding of another culture will benefit them throughout their lives," said Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools.

Schools will be allowed up to 25 students per team and all are eligible for awards. The final overall team will be determined by selecting the top three scoring students from each division.

For more information please call Kristi Winter, Events Developer, at 559-662-3873.

MILLION cont. from P. 2

Board, Division of Drinking Water, provided verbal approval for \$15,000 to purchase a 10,000-gallon potable water storage tank and equipment to begin trucking water. Baughman plans to be able to turn off the old well and eliminate any further damage by the end of the month of January.

Baughman has worked since mid-2015 through the holidays, his vacation and all the recent rainy weather on both the Liberty High and Sierra View Elementary School Water Systems to ensure the Schools' students and staff have clean drinking water and can continue to flush toilets. He said he would be glad to be out of the water business. Indeed, this is also the State's goal, according to Chauhan, who also spoke at the MD-10a plus VTR Consolidation Project meeting, held at the Ranchos Middle School last December. She said the State would like to get as many water systems consolidated as possible because it's more efficient and a safer way to operate.

Regarding the consolidation of GVUSD's Water System at Liberty High School with MD-10a, Interim Madera County Public Works Director Ahmad Alkhayyat said that, "The County was told [by the State] to incorporate all improvements needed on the GVUSD Water Sys-

tem into the MD-10a plus VTR Consolidation Project and that the GVUSD Project was eligible for up to \$5 million in grant funding, just like VTR." Alkhayyat also said that the County is determining the full scope of work required for the GVUSD Consolidation Project and, per the State's request, the County will include the GVUSD portion into the MD-10a plus VTR rate study report to determine if there will be any increased cost to the MD-10a ratepayers to maintain the expanded system, in addition to any other rate increase necessary just to maintain the current system.

As required by Proposition 218, MD-10a ratepayers will get to vote on whether they will accept any rate increases, with or without the addition of a new well from VTR and a 1-million-gallon storage tank from GVUSD. But, with the consolidations, MD-10a also stands to gain another added benefit, thanks to the efforts of Madera County Engineer I Mohammed Alqutami: he is working to have solar panels included in the \$10 million grant package from the State. Alkhayyat said the State was amenable as part of their focus on green energy and that such an addition would greatly help defray the unexpectedly high electricity costs that the MD-10a system has been experiencing since bringing the Dublin Well on line.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

worth of financial liability to the California Public Employee's Retirement System (CalPERS/Non Teachers) and \$11,069,280 of financial liability to the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) for a total of \$14,544,880.

The way these retirement systems are designed (pages 44-49), CalPERS and CalSTRS are fiduciaries. Had to look this one up. Fiduciary is a trust, an agency that prudently manages money and/or assets for others. CalPERS and CalSTRS manage the state, school district employees and teachers' pension funds. Contributions from employees, governmental agencies and the state of California are collected by the fiduciary and invested. CalPERS and CalSTRS respectively need a 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent Return on Investment (ROI) annually to meet their financial obligation to their beneficiaries, state retirees. If their investments fall short, the taxpayers, governmental agencies and present state employees pick up the tab. According to a Los Angeles Times Article dated Nov. 18, 2015, CalPERS has only managed an average 5.2 percent ROI over the last decade. Every year our district has to backfill employee pension funds. By the way, this additional financial liability is retroactive. GVUSD doesn't know its financial pension fund liability until the fiduciary reports its ROI. The poor ROI is one of the primary reasons our district has been operating at a deficit. To make matters worse, according to the article, CalPERS has lowered its ROI projections to 6.5 percent. On page 45, the auditor included an example of that exact scenario. A decrease of 1 percent ROI by CalPERS increases GVUSD's pension fund liability an additional \$2.1 million. Pension fund contributions come straight out of the district's general fund which is where the money is for things like Career Vocational Training, student programs, electives, course offerings and others.

CalPERS and CalSTRS are competing with our students for funds.

In my estimation, this is the major reason the district is struggling to grow student opportunities. Students assume all the risk but none of the benefit. I'm sorry if this offends anyone but this is not right. Our students should be the education system's first priority. Instead, education has become big business because employees vote, students don't. CalPERS and CalSTRS are fiduciaries of the state and our district's em-

ployees. The students have no standing with CalPERS and CalSTRS but state and district employees do. If their fiduciary is not performing, they should get control of it or change it but leave the students out! The Golden Valley Teachers Association (GVTA) does not consider the increased contributions to their pension fund a raise. The California State Employees Association (non-teachers) is much more sensitive to the district's financial position. CSEA only received last year's Cost of Living raise due to a "Me Too" clause. In 2015 (page 52), GVUSD paid \$654,189 into CalPERS and CalSTRS employee pension funds. By the way, those are not the only two (page 18).

We are bankrupting our children's future.

In 1988, voters passed (barely by a 50.7 percent vote) California's Proposition 98. Prop. 98 requires California to spend at least 50 percent of its annual general fund budget for K-14 education except during emergency years. For years Sacramento has been backfilling school district employee pension funds but that money was not included in the Prop. 98 funding formula. Because of that loophole, money spent on K-14 education was annually billions higher than reported. Governor Brown closed that loophole by including additional employee pension funding as part of the Prop. 98 formula. Subsequently, he reduced revenue to school districts by \$4 billion and used that savings to pay down California's employee pension fund liabilities. That reduction to school districts was one of the reasons why a previous GVUSD board of trustees could not fund pay raises for district employees.

I want a better deal. I want a "New Deal" like President Roosevelt said during the Great Depression. I would like our GVUSD Board of Trustees to follow Gov. Brown's example on this one. Please consider increased contributions into the district's employees' pension funds as raises. This way the district's employees are financially accountable for the low ROI by CalPERS and CalSTRS, not our students. If we make this one change, I estimate over the next five years we can save our general fund about \$1.5 million dollars. We can STOP operating the district at a loss and rebuild our budget reserve (Rainy Day Fund). This will protect our employees, programs, course offerings and students from downturns in the economy. With a little conservative budgeting we can

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

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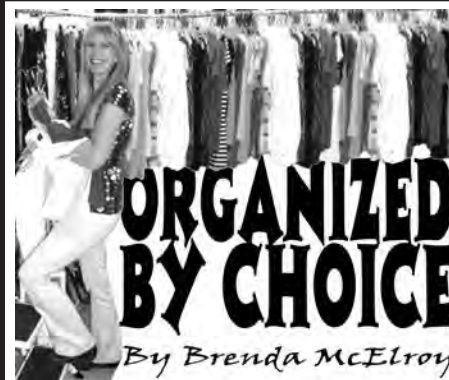
Priceless

Liberty High Sober Graduation 2016 needs your help. From donations of gifts to donating your time, what a small price to pay to keep our kids safe on one of the most dangerous nights of their lives. To see how you can help, give Diana or Stephanie a call.

1/16



call Diana Mendoza
at 559-355-6109
or Stephanie Workman
at 559-709-1477



By Brenda McElroy

Be SMART in 2016

Today as I opened a "new document" on my computer, a blank page popped up. It reminded me of the feeling of a new year. A blank page. But in reality, it's not blank. It's full. Full of opportunities. Full of choices. Full of experiences. Full of the unseen. Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, "And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."

As you consider this new year, what's your perspective? Is Doris Day singing in your ear "Que Sera, Sera" – whatever will be, will be? Or, are you planning to take a more intentional role in 2016?

A University of Scranton study reported in *The Journal of Clinical Psychology* that "... people who explicitly make resolutions are 10 times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't explicitly make resolutions." On the opposite side, as Zig Ziglar said, "If you aim for nothing, you will hit it every time."

One way or the other, 2016 will be full. The question is how much of it will be intentional on your part, and how much of it will be determined by other people's agendas or by reacting to whatever comes your way?

I thought I was clever when I named my company "Organized By Choice" with the tag-line "because things don't always fall into place." But getting organized isn't the only thing that's acquired by choice. Healthy relationships, healthy bodies, financial gain (unless you won that billion-dollar lottery), further education, quitting bad habits, starting good habits and so much more requires choice, not chance. Good intentions just don't cut it.

On your "blank page" for 2016, what will you choose? Since there's no time like the present, grab a piece of paper or open a blank document on your computer and, if you haven't already done so, write down two or three things you would like to see happen in 2016.

Early in January my son, Chase, and I were texting about our goals. These were the four I shared with him:

1. Floss daily 2. Reduce paper using

FileThis and *ScanSnap* 3. Complete my coaching hours for certification 4. Memorize Psalm 145.

I like to use George T. Doran's SMART goal concept and make my goals:

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Time-oriented

For example, a *Specific* goal is "floss daily" instead of "improve dental health." It's *Measurable* because I've identified exactly how often I plan to do it. It's *Attainable* because it will take less than two minutes per day. It's *Relevant* because it fits with my overall value of caring for my physical health. It's *Time-oriented* in that I plan to do this through 2016 (and hopefully beyond). Take a look at your goals and make adjustments, as needed, to render them SMART.

The next step is to set yourself up for success. What do you need to make your goals a reality? Supplies? A new routine? A mentor? Professional help? Accountability? Good intentions simply don't cut it. Under each goal list what you need to succeed. Prioritize your list so you have a plan to follow.

Each of my goals, and perhaps most of yours, will require an element of a new routine to ensure success. Since we have all failed at starting new routines, this step can be daunting. Leo Babauta (zenhabits.net) says, "If you want to build trust in yourself, you need to start with something incredibly easy, something you won't fail to do. Most people ignore this advice, and fail, and then don't believe in themselves."

Another proponent of small steps is Dr. Robert Maurer. In his book, *One Small Step Can Change Your Life*, Maurer suggests that slow progress is better than no progress. So even doing one push-up a day until that becomes your new normal, is better than saying, "I'm going to do 50 push-ups every morning," and then quitting after the first week. Once you have successfully incorporated your small step into your lifestyle, add a tiny bit more until that becomes your new normal.

One other step that for me is hard, but helpful, is to make your goal public. It doesn't mean you have to publish it in the *Ranchos Independent* like I did, but tell someone that cares about your success and will support you in the process. And yes, you have my permission to ask how I did at the end of 2016.

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

LETTERS cont. from P. 14

protect every one of our hard-fought gains over the past six years and grow student opportunity marginally. The district's employees will still receive raises; they are just deferred until retirement.

If you have some time, please read through the audit and become informed on this issue. As President Reagan said, "Trust but verify." To save you some time, I listed some of the important audit page numbers. Here is how you can locate your copy of the audit. Google GVUSD and click on the Home Page. Click the Board of Trustees tab, left side. Click on the blue Agenda Online button. Find board meeting 1/19/16, top right. Click on it. Scroll

HANDS cont. from P. 10

VSS data is directly related to the ABS wheel speed data. Hey, I have an ABS code also. Is the emission fault and ABS fault related? Yes, as it will turn out. The ABS Module receives data from the wheel speed sensors, uses it and then sends it to all the other modules via the communication network. Some modules like the sun roof or headlamps don't need speed sensor data and pass it along. Door modules on the other hand use wheel speed data to lock the doors above a certain speed. Other modules like ABS, TC and Powertrain Control Module (PCM – engine) use the data as part of their calculation. Now we are getting somewhere. The wheel speed sensors are the common denominator. This BMW has four, one at each wheel. Here's how the network works:

The wheel speed sensors generate a speed signal. All four should indicate the same speed at all times. If under hard braking, for example, a wheel speed sensor indicated 0 miles per hour, the ABS Module knows that wheel is locked up and skidding. The ABS module will lower the brake pressure to that wheel until it starts spinning slowly and vehicle control is regained. The TC Module also uses wheel speed sensor data but for a different purpose. During acceleration, if the rear wheels (driving wheels) spin faster than the front wheels, the TC Module activates a component that reduces engine power until the rear and front wheel speed sensors match indicating rear wheel traction is regained. This is especially helpful on icy or slippery surfaces. The Tire Pressure Module (TPM) uses wheel speed data to detect an under-inflated tire. An under-inflated tire has a smaller circumference and therefore spins faster. If this condition occurs the "Low Tire" warn-

down to agenda item J.2. and click onto attachments 2014-2015 Audit Report. Check it out for yourself.

If you agree, I urge you to please consider attending a GVUSD Board Meeting soon. Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Liberty High School Library. Around 7 p.m., 30 minutes of each meeting are set aside for public comment. Three minutes are allotted per individual. Write some notes and let the board know your position. It should take less than an hour of your time but without your input, it's hard to know among all the loud voices.

God Bless 93636

Warren Parr
Madera Ranchos

ing lamp may be turned on. Lastly for our conversation, the PCM uses wheel speed as vehicle speed. The vehicle speed is part of the engine load calculation and is used in determining the fuel injection calculation. Wheel speed sensors are important components that impact many systems. If your doors stop locking as you drive away, better check the brakes.

I decided the best way to solve the "Check Engine Light" problem was to solve the ABS problem. Sure enough, the ABS Module had a right rear speed sensor fault code stored. I went for a test drive to verify. After further testing, the speed sensor was communicating and its information was accurate. The ABS Module failed. My cost from the BMW dealer for a new ABS Module was \$1500. WOW!!! I had to replace the ABS Module (BRAKES!) in order for this vehicle to pass a Smog Inspection. I was able to find a good used ABS Module and the car passed its smog inspection easily. All the other related systems are also function correctly and no more warning lamps.

If you Google Complete Car Care Fresno, and click Demand Force Intuit Reviews, you will be able to read this customer's comments. Look for Anita and Clarence. It feels GOOD to solve a tough one for a customer.

If you have any questions about your vehicle or suggestion for future topics, please give me a shout at complete_car_care@hotmail.com. Your input would be appreciated. I would like to answer the questions that interest you.

God Bless 93636 and Go Hawks,
Warren Parr
EO139887 (Smog License)
California ARD License #117312
(Automotive Repair Dealer License)

TANK cont. from P. 2

3,400 acre-feet of groundwater recharge on a five-year rolling average to reduce groundwater pumping by the same amount.

A five-year rolling average means that while some years produce less and others more, on a five-year average 3,400 acre-feet of surface water will be delivered from the canal to the District's farmland for irrigation — the first five-year period beginning when the "... first system turns on for homes," Jones said.

Referring to California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Act, Jones said, "Everyone in California will be required to produce a water balance by 2020. Riverstone is ahead of the game."

According to the Sustainable Groundwater Management website (www.water.ca.gov/cagroundwater), the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, "... provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater

supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for state intervention when necessary to protect the resource."

Already the Department of Water Resources has established 127 high and medium priority basins, which account for approximately 96 percent of groundwater use in California, and ranked the Madera Sub-Basin as 6th out of 515.

The deadline to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for all high and medium priority basins is June 30, 2017 and all basins subject to critical overdraft must be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by Jan. 31, 2020.

To help meet the regulatory requirements, the State has established the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program with a fund of \$100 million. And, as Interim Madera County Public Works Director Ahmad Alkhayyat reported to the Joint Powers Authority at their quarterly meeting at the Madera Irrigation District office on Jan. 7, Madera County has already applied for \$500,000.

Do you know any Liberty High grads in the military?

LHS is updating its Military Wall and would like to include all of the men and women graduates who have served our country.

Please contact Josh Bailey at joshuabailey@gvUSD.org or Rebecca Harpsligh at rharpสลigh@gvUSD.org by March 11.

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

wonder how your life went so wrong as to lead you to this point”? If so, well done. When a woman with two small children asked one table to watch their language, the little twit shouted back to her using a string of cuss words I’ve only ever heard in military movies. That’s when one of the chaperones stood up and walked over to the potty mouthed little tyrants and I thought to myself, we are about to see a 12 year old get a verbal spanking. What happened, however, was that the chaperone asked the girls if the woman with the two young children was bothering them. The best part? The little twit said, “No, Mother. I handled it. She won’t bug us again.” Great parenting there, turbo.

I was about to open my mouth but the table of men in front of me jumped on the mother before I had a chance. My post-vacation stupor had clearly

made me a little slow. I was really hoping there would be an all-out brawl – I’ve been waiting to video something like that and post it to YouTube – but instead it was a quick battle of wits and the entire team of teenagers and the mother of the year promptly lost. I was secretly hoping that someone would tell airport security the kids were hiding bombs in their backpacks so they could get detained and a nice, invasive pat down, but that never happened. I think the mom of the two young children must have gone to complain during the struggle because next thing you know the restaurant manager had come over and demanded that the kids consolidate into the least amount of tables possible and threatened to kick them out if they didn’t settle down. At least the restaurant manager seemed to understand the concept of parenting.

Guess that comic was a bit more perceptive than I originally thought.

LIBRARY cont. from P. 11

dren to achieve literary greatness. We will set goals and do our very best to accomplish them despite any obstacles that may appear in our way. We will push ourselves harder than last year. My goal for 2016 is to have more children in the community complete the full program with a full reading log turned in each week. I know that if we all work hard and pull together we can surely do it. At the very core we are challenging our community to promote lifelong learning by encouraging our youth to read.

With that being said, we are always looking for contributors to help us fund our Summer Reading Program. You may contribute gift cards that can be awarded at weekly drawings, funds to help us with our

weekly performances/activities and our grand prize. To donate, please contact the library for information. Sponsors will be recognized on program materials that are distributed to participants. We also need volunteers to help us during our programs as well. If you would like to be a helping member in the community, please contact the library for further instructions. We can always use help to set up and clean up and for those who are in high school looking for their community service hours this is the perfect opportunity to do so.

Tax season is creeping upon us and in the coming weeks IRS forms will be available. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Flatlander’s discussions have begun. If you have questions or require any information, please contact the Library.

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6. Hope Solo
7. Alex Morgan
8. Abby Wambach
9. Maria Sharapova
10. Chris Evert

Source: Harris Poll

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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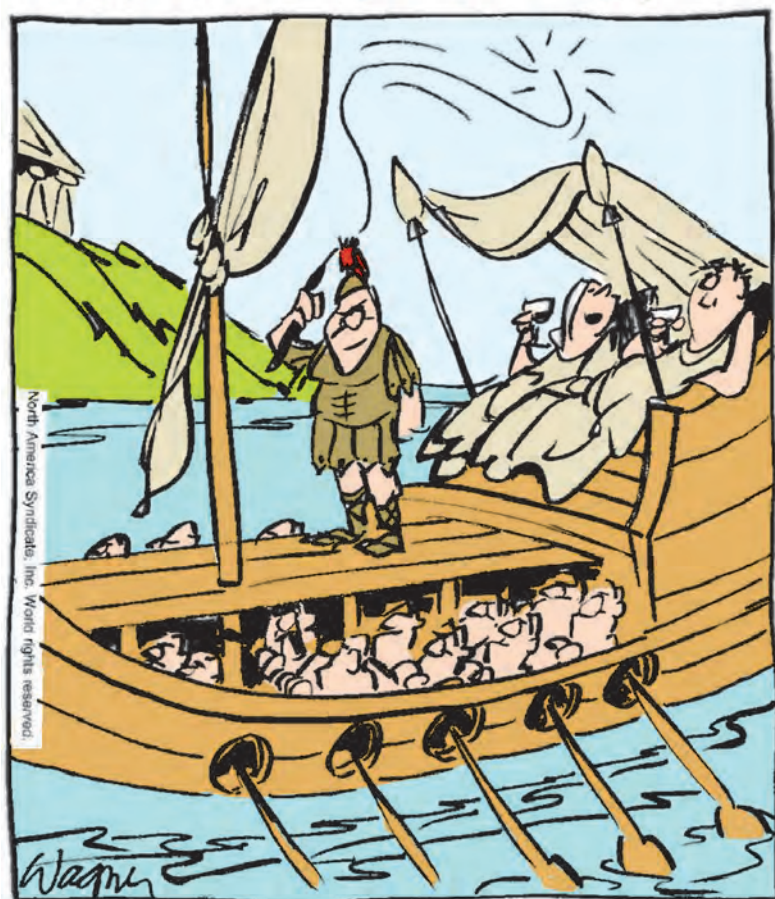
by Dave T. Phipps



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

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

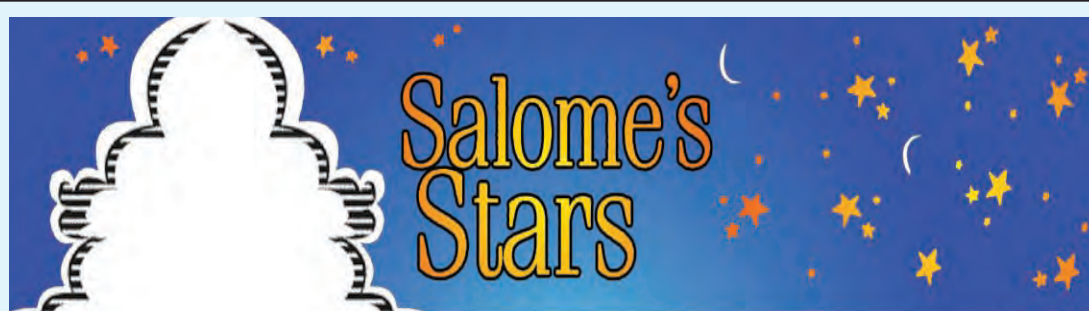


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Wagner

**“What do you think of the new
cruise director?”**

www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A gracious Lamb can learn more about a problem-filled situation than one who is openly suspicious of what could be happening. A friend might offer some well-directed advice.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting adjusted to an unexpected change might be difficult for the Bovine who prefers things to go according to plan. But help could come from a most welcome source.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This could be a good time to get a head start on those career-related plans. The sooner you check out the pluses and minuses, the sooner you can act on your information.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A personal situation you thought would no longer present a problem suddenly could produce some surprises. Try to sort things out with the help of trusted colleagues.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) An upcoming move holds both anticipation and anxiety for Leos and Leonas who have some big decisions to make. Advice is plentiful, but it's up to you to decide which way you want to go.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone from a previous project could provide valuable guidance on how to handle a current problem, especially where it might involve a legal matter.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A business situation presents some unexpected complications. But rather than try to handle them all at once, it would be best to deal with them one at a time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You just might get what you want, despite the odds against it. In any event, be sure to thank all those people involved who believed in you and went to bat for you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Before you even hint at an accusation, remember that you'll have to prove what you say. So be sure you have what you need to back up your comments.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A romantic situation takes an unexpected turn that favors some Sea Goats, but causes others to reassess how they've been handling the relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A surprise turn of events could unsettle the Water Bearer. But it also might help open up an entirely different way of working out an important matter.

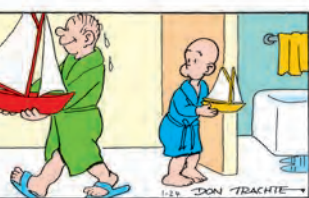
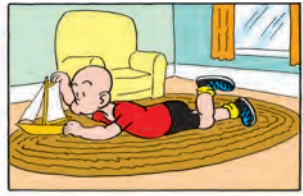
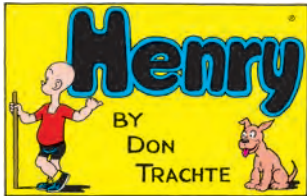
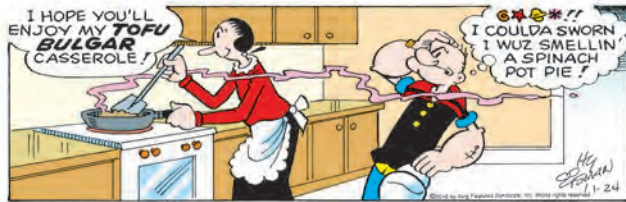
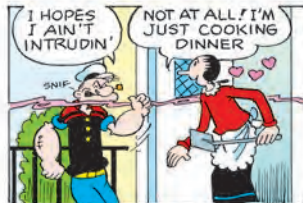
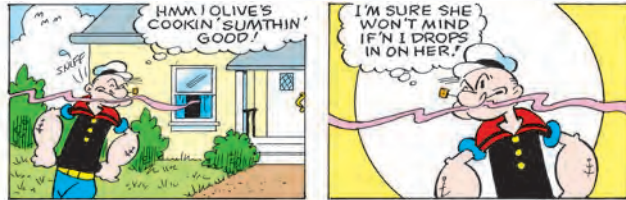
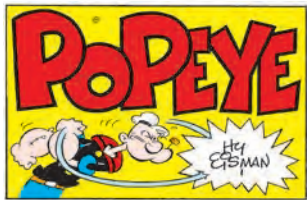
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A smoothly running operation could bump up against an obstacle. This is where your ability to assess situations and make adjustments can restore things to normal.

Born this Week

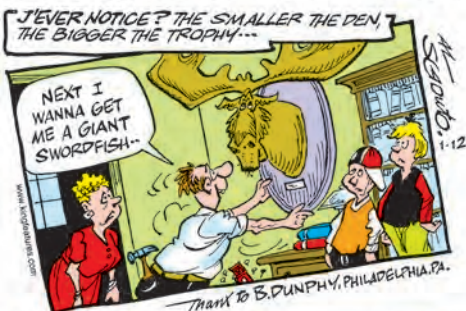
*Your kindness is legendary, and so is
your strong sense of responsibility.*

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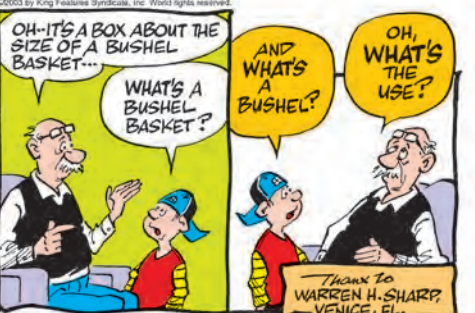
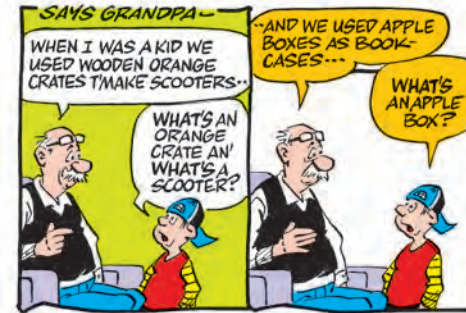
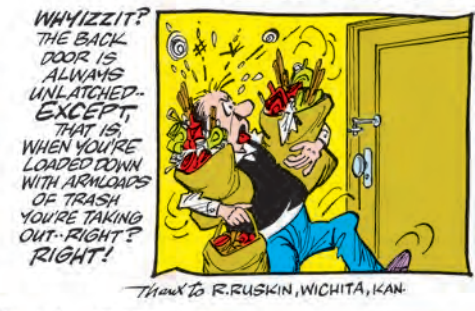
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what the end of everything is.

ANSWER: The letter "Q," of course, is at the end of "EVERY-THING."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SIGNS OF WINTER!



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Hidden in the diagram above are 17 words associated with winter. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you're looking for.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Blizzard | Lights | Sleet |
| Christmas | Mistletoe | Snowball |
| Drift | Presents | Toboggan |
| Fireplace | Salt | Toys |
| Flurries | Shovels | Trees |
| Holidays | Sledding | |

DON'T SLIP UP ON THIS ONE! Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle over a nice cup of hot cocoa. You must replace the letters in the sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.



IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 6 through 15 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, vertical column and even the four corner squares must total 55. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error – and a good eraser!

	16	20	
19			17
	22		
			21
	[55]		

Answers: First row: 13, 16, 20, 6. Second row: 19, 7, 12, 17. Third row: 8, 22, 14, 11. Fourth row: 15, 10, 9, 21.

Wishing Well

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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REMOVE MAGIC MAZE LETTERS TO FIND A STATE

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

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

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Autobahn | Imagine | Marines | Nuthatch |
| Cohesion | Ironware | Matinee | Outreach |
| Foregone | Kilowatt | Microwave | Outwash |
| Foreground | Magazine | Mustache | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing"?
- MOVIES: Who played the lead female role in "The Silence of the Lambs"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of bird is the fast-moving roadrunner?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What occupation is traditionally associated with leprechauns?
- LANGUAGE: What is another name for comestibles?
- MEDICAL: What is the modern-day equivalent of the ailment once known as "grippe"?
- GEOGRAPHY: The country of Wales was known in Roman times by what name?
- MEASUREMENTS: What is the unit of measurement for stacked firewood?
- MUSIC: Which pop star's real name is Reg Dwight?
- GAMES: Which two letters of the alphabet have the highest values in the game of Scrabble?

Answers

- Judy Blume
- Jodie Foster
- Cuckoo
- Shoe-making or mending
- Food items
- Influenza
- Cambridge
- A cord
- Elton John
- Q and Z, 10 points apiece

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

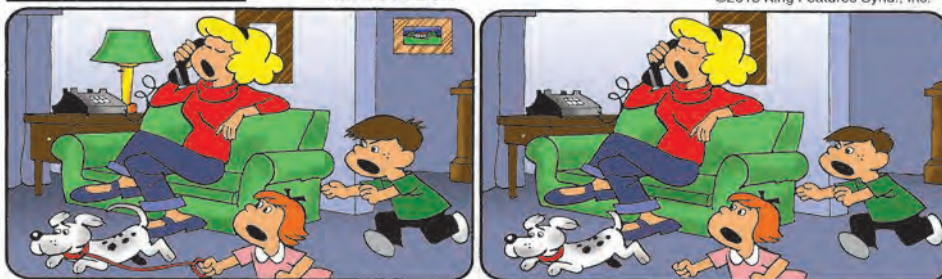
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

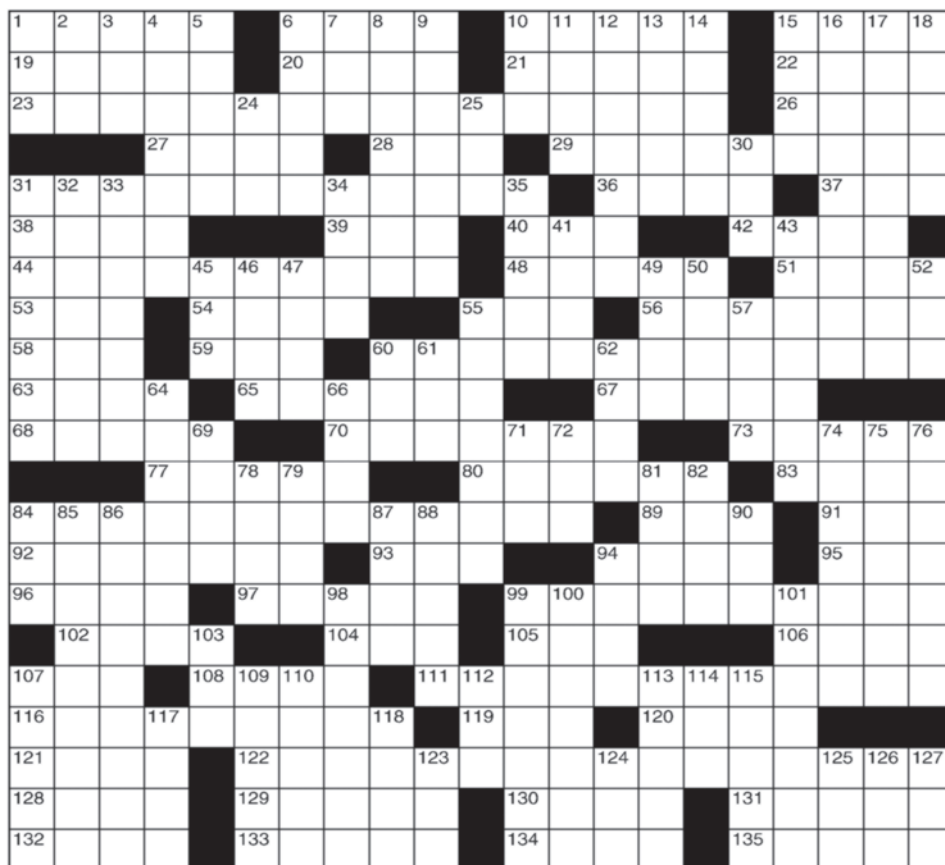
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 High-school balls
 - 6 Give backup
 - 10 See 90-Down
 - 15 Rip — (thefts)
 - 19 Andrea — (lost ship)
 - 20 Disappearing Asian sea
 - 21 Living space
 - 22 Poet Whitman
 - 23 Award for the top spot
 - 26 Big West org.
 - 27 Caulk, e.g.
 - 28 Clumsy type
 - 29 Thing laid by a redbreast
 - 31 Facilitator of stargazing
 - 36 Game akin to bingo
 - 37 Ltr. writers' afterthoughts
 - 38 Little chaps
 - 39 Suffix with Canaan
 - 40 Run up a tab
 - 42 "Shoo!"
 - 44 Atlantic or Pacific fill
 - 48 Utah range
 - 51 Street brawl
 - 53 Fast, two-door autos
 - 54 Fibula, e.g.
 - 55 Thai pan
 - 56 Writer Huffington
 - 58 Oxygen, e.g.
 - 59 Portable bed
 - 60 Muppet with a major sweet tooth
 - 63 And others, in a list
 - 65 Make less dangerous, as a bull
 - 67 Cranked hoisting device
 - 68 Zellweger or Adorée
 - 70 Apt question concerning 10 answers in this puzzle
 - 73 Patronage
 - 77 Knack
 - 80 Lung compartment
 - 83 Freeway rig
 - 84 Proofer's marking tool
 - 89 Brutus' lang.
 - 91 Capitol VIP
 - 92 Opera great Pavarotti
 - 93 Seoul soldier
 - 94 In the style of, on Italian menus
 - 95 Pericles' T
 - 96 Mine outputs
 - 97 Dully sedate
 - 99 Lees, e.g.
 - 102 — Spumante
 - 104 Game with Skip cards
 - 105 "— for Outlaw" (Sue Grafton book)
 - 106 Old sitcom boy Taylor
 - 107 Frequently, in sonnets
 - 108 Kaput
 - 111 Flowers symbolizing constancy
 - 116 Habitually sullen sort
 - 119 Fire waste
 - 120 Afflicts
 - 121 "Rats!"
 - 122 New York and Hawaii, election-wise
 - 128 Model who hosted Fox's "More to Love"
 - 129 Rips to bits
 - 130 Shoestring
 - 131 Folklore fiends
 - 132 T-man Eliot
 - 133 Very, to Chopin
 - 134 Unclean stuff
 - 135 Bête — (bugbear)
 - 3 NHLer Bobby
 - 4 Beauty pageant since 1952
 - 5 Filled fully
 - 6 Berry of film
 - 7 Timeline part
 - 8 Crocodile-ologo shirt brand
 - 9 Gratifying one
 - 10 Month after avril
 - 11 Shortened form of a wd.
 - 12 Neighbor of Jersey City
 - 13 Producer of Acrobat
 - 14 Bolshevism founder
 - 15 Dominates
 - 16 Mug-decorating stuff?
 - 17 Flat paving slab
 - 18 Does' mates
 - 24 Good bud
 - 25 D.C.'s — Stadium
 - 30 Antis' votes
 - 31 Obstructing object
 - 32 Produce mother's milk
 - 33 Many a Ukrainian
 - 34 Location
 - 35 Terse question after an accident
 - 41 User-revised Web site
 - 43 Pileups, e.g.
 - 45 Network for Jimmy Fallon
 - 46 Balsa, say brand
 - 47 Novelist Hoag
 - 50 Presley's middle name
 - 52 Paving stuff
 - 55 Recouped
 - 57 Old Andean
 - 60 Dot —
 - 61 "... goes, — go!"
 - 62 Rams' mates
 - 64 Liberal-leaning
 - 66 Lyre relative
 - 69 Kazan of filmmaking
 - 71 52, to Flavius
 - 72 Hot-linked address
 - 74 Ruthless organization
 - 75 "No joke!"
 - 76 Commonly congested cavities
 - 78 Sothern and Romney
 - 79 "— Rhythm"
 - 81 "For — care ..."
 - 82 Tranquil
 - 84 "Xanadu" rock gp.
 - 85 Brand of packaged fire logs
 - 86 Events with freezing rain
 - 87 Isle of poetry
 - 88 — approval ("yes" signal)
 - 90 With 10-Across, Agra attraction
 - 94 "As I Lay Dying" husband
 - 98 They follow summers
 - 99 Back fins
 - 100 Four hours before noon
 - 101 In the very distant past
 - 103 Ology
 - 107 Poet Nash
 - 109 Serpent slain by Hercules
 - 110 Arch types
 - 112 Boat mover
 - 113 "Be silent," in music
 - 114 Prefix with fit
 - 115 Rocker John
 - 117 Wallet wad
 - 118 Sprite, e.g.
 - 123 "—, Miami"
 - 124 Hosp. area
 - 125 Part of TNT
 - 126 Rocket tail?
 - 127 Compass dir.
- DOWN**
- 1 13-Down filename extension
 - 2 King, in Paris

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