

The Ranchos Independent



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Here they come!



Sidewalks on Avenue 12 in the Ranchos

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Here They Come! Sidewalks *Finally* for Avenue 12

By Randy Bailey

The long awaited construction of sidewalks along Avenue 12 has begun and is in full swing.

Dawson - Mauldin Construction, Inc. has been contracted by the Madera County Road Department to complete the sidewalk construction on Avenue 12 with an estimated completion time of approximately one to two months.

The project, which will install sidewalks from Road 36 east to Road 37 ½ on the north side of Avenue 12 and to Road 37 on the south side, began Monday, July 12 with road crews marking lawns and driveways with orange paint for the projected demolition and subsequent construction. The project consists of installation of segments of sidewalk, access ramps, driveways, curbs and gutter, and handrail along Avenue 12.

Madera County Road Department Road Commis-

sioner Johannes Hoevertsz said that no lane closures or road closures were planned for the duration of the project and that he was hopeful that the majority of the work would be completed in 30 days.

The construction of sidewalks has been a concern of citizens of the Madera Ranchos, particularly after the construction of Liberty High at the corners of Avenue 12 and Road 36. Ever since its construction, school children have walked to and from the school on the sides of Avenue 12, the most heavily travelled road in the Ranchos.

Dawson - Mauldin has opened its doors to Ranchos residents who have any questions or comments and can be reached at corporate headquarters at 714-378-1533 or you can reach the local project manager, Carmen Manganaan,

at 559-896-0098. Madera County Road Department Road Commissioner Johannes Hoevertsz can be reached at 675-7811.

Summer has arrived and the Madera Ranchos Avenue 12 corridor redesign is now wrapping up as students and professors from Cal Poly incorporate community comments from a meeting held in June. The Cal Poly transportation team has finished collecting traffic data and is ready to present its findings. As the County nears the project's end, it has one date remaining for community feedback:

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Liberty High School Cafeteria.

The cafeteria is in Building B beside the theater, the first large building on the right as you enter the parking lot from Road 36. This final workshop will present a draft of the final Madera Ranchos Avenue 12 Enhancement Plan based on feedback from the other two workshops, including transportation data collected and presented on July 21.

For additional information you can contact Scott R. Harmstead, Planner III with the Madera County Planning Department. Contact him at scott.harmstead@madera-county.com or call him at 675-7821, ext.3217.

Ranchos Represented at American Legion Girls State

By Christi McKinney

In a tradition that stretches back to 1937, 473 young women were selected this year from high schools all across California to participate in the annual



Lauren Bailey was the 2010 representative from Liberty High to the annual American Legion Girls State in Claremont, Calif.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program held on the campus of Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. during the last week of June. Lauren Bailey, 17, of the Madera Ranchos, was honored to participate as the representative of Liberty High School.

“Overall, Girls State was a very enjoyable, valuable experience,” Lauren said. “It’s definitely a program that more people need to know about so that more girls can attend.”

Fighting Fascism

The experience Lauren is referring to began as a program just for boys in 1935 in Illinois. At that time there was a movement started in America called “Young Pioneer Camps” that was being promoted to high school students by the American Fascist Party. The primary purpose of these camps was to spread the virtues of fascism and the uselessness of democracy. Two Illinois American Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, Ill. in an attempt to offer a counter movement to stress to America’s youth the importance and value of our democratic form of government and

the value to us, and the world, in preserving and perpetuating it. Two years later in 1937, Girls State was instituted under the American Legion Auxiliary and to date nearly one million young people have had the opportunity to learn first-hand how their state and local governments operate. It’s known as the premier program for teaching how our government works while developing leadership skills and an appreciation for one’s rights as a citizen.

Lauren, who will be a Senior at Liberty High School this year, was involved in what has been described by past attendees as an exciting adventure during an intense week-long “living civics lesson.” American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is considered to be among the most respected and selective educational programs for government instruction for high school students and is a program where each student becomes a part of the operation of a mock city, county and state government.

As part of the 473 young women who participated in this year’s session, Lauren and the other attendees registered, were assigned to dorms and were handed a schedule full of meetings for

Please see **GIRLS** on P. 19

Wrong Place, Wrong Time, Murder Results



Christopher Allen Norris, 24, is wanted by the Madera Police as a suspect in the random shooting death of a Madera man on June 28.

By DJ Becker/ NewsMadera.com

Police have identified Christopher Allen Norris, 24 as the suspect they believe shot and killed a Madera man at random on C Street June 28th, in front of many horrified east side residents.

Norris, a known gang member, is considered armed and dangerous. He is described as a white male, 5 foot 9 inches tall, 145 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He also has numerous tattoos, one of a large Huelga bird on his chest.

Detectives say Norris was with three other young white men when he apparently selected and killed 24 year-old Alonso Montes Herrera, an innocent farm worker – at random, possibly right after becoming enraged in a neighborhood dispute with someone else.

Killed for the color of his shirt

Or just as tragically, Norris may have mistaken Herrera’s shaved head and blue T shirt as a sign of opposing gang alliance. Herrera had no gang affiliations according to police and was likely just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The senseless and public shooting of Herrera panicked and horrified residents of C Street, many of whom were out with children, watering lawns or sitting on their porches on the quiet

Please see **MURDER** on P. 18



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Library Summer Reading Program Shatters Prior Attendance Records

By Ellen Mester

Our Summer Reading Program is really making a splash. We have had record numbers of children and adults attending our programs and it is incredible. Mr. Bubble Man brought in 106 children and Pirate Day brought in 124 children plus 57 adults. That's the most people the Ranchos Library has ever held at one time. We definitely need a larger library, preferably one with a large meeting room for events such as these. Despite the crowded conditions, we've had a great time watching talented performers, learning how to be a pirate and most importantly enjoying good books. And the icing on the cake was that the more books that were read, the more chances to win one of the Grand Prizes which our sponsors so generously donated. Congratulations to all the winners but remember the real prize is becoming a good reader and learning to value the entertaining and educational aspects of books. Thanks once again to all our local sponsors for making this the most successful Summer Reading Program that we have ever had.

Book Rental Program

After a slow start, the Book Rental Program is picking up speed. Patrons are discovering that the availability of new best-selling books is worth the extra 50 cents. That fee on top of the 50 cents that they would normally pay to place a request for a book and then have to wait several weeks before it arrived brings the total to \$1. That's \$1 for one week with no renewals. It's a relatively small price to pay for availability. Plus the money stays with the Friends of the Ranchos Library rather than going into the general fund and the book remains at this library as well. It's a good compromise and helps the library.

Don't forget our recycling pick-up is on the first and third Wednesday mornings of each month. You can drop off your recyclables at the back of the library.

Our next Friends of the Ranchos Library meeting is scheduled for Aug. 12 at 6 p.m.

Book Recommendations

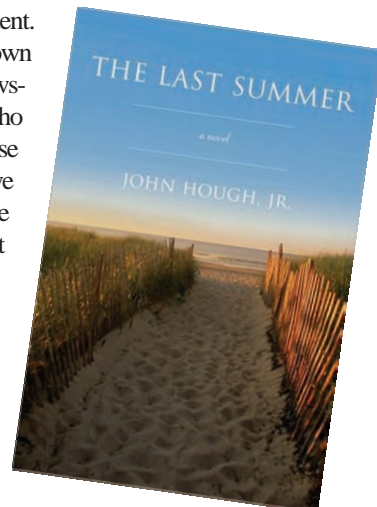
Young Adult Fiction: *Shadow* by Jenny Moss. Imagine being an orphan girl confined to a slave-like existence at the feet of a young queen 24/7. For 16 years Shadow has never known her parents or her real name for that matter. Her entire life, and that of the queen whom she is ordered to protect based on a prophecy that the queen will die before her 16th birthday, has been behind the castle walls. How she longs for freedom and the outdoors. When the prophecy is fulfilled, Shadow must run to save her own life. Fortunately the handsome young knight, Sir Kenway, is on the same path and their destiny is sealed as their love begins to blossom. This fantasy is highly developed and quite interesting. Supernatural powers come into play and Shadow's history gradually reveals itself. A good story for all and appropriate for younger teens.



Adult Fiction: *The Last Summer* by John Hough, Jr. I was hoping that this would not be a typical romance novel, even though I thought I should read at least one for my summertime light reading list. The 1968 time frame with references to current events and the location, Cape Cod, were the reasons I picked up the book. Thirty-eight year old Claire

Malek leaves her high-power job in Washington D.C. after her boss/lover dies after a fatal car accident. Along with her 15-year-old daughter, they move to a small town on Cape Cod where Claire has secured a job at the local newspaper. Soon after she falls in love with the boss's son, Lane, who is 15 years her junior and fresh out of Harvard. Lane of course is smitten with her and they try unsuccessfully to hide their love affair in order to protect their families. It's rather predictable and the character development was lacking in depth. I didn't feel the connection or empathy with Claire that I should have. But I must admit that I read it to the end just to find out what happened. I give the author credit for keeping me hooked to the end, even as I wondered why I felt compelled to care. Definitely a light read.

Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library and don't forget your library card - don't leave home without it!



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Guest Editorial

One Person Can Make a Difference

By Rich Lowry

Eva Moskowitz has become an expert at being hated. It started a few years ago when the "bleeding-heart liberal," as she describes herself, served on the New York City Council as chairwoman of the education committee. In an excess of public spiritedness, she subjected the contract of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), as well as the contracts of the principals and custodians, to critical scrutiny at public hearings.

Her life would never be the same. Moskowitz still talks of those contracts with outraged astonishment. When she visited schools, she would ask what sounds like a setup for a joke: "Does your custodian change your light bulbs?" The answer: Not quite. They would change the bulbs, but not the ballast -- which starts the current in a fluorescent bulb -- because that's not in their contract. Custodians can paint the walls of a classroom only up to 10-feet high, after which the official painters must take over.

A teacher can be fired only after an elaborate arbitration procedure. Since the union approves the arbitrators, it will nix anyone who has been notably unforgiving of teacher malfeasance in the past. Only 10 teachers were fired out of 55,000 tenured teachers in 2008.

The UFT took its revenge by defeating her in a race for Manhattan bor-

ough president in 2005. But it is not yet rid of this meddlesome woman. As the hard-charging CEO of the Harlem Success Academy, a network of four -- soon to be seven -- charter schools, she is on a righteous mission to demonstrate how education can work unencumbered by the insane constraints of the established system. It's amazing what you can accomplish, she says, when you design your schools "around teaching and learning and don't think of yourself as an employment program for grown-ups."

Almost all of Harlem Success' students are black or Latino, and three-quarters qualify for free and reduced lunch. Last year, 100 percent of Harlem Success' third-graders passed the standardized state math exam, and 95 percent passed the English test, far outpacing the local school districts and ranking the school 32nd among all of New York state's 3,500 public schools.

For her critics, it's another reason to hate her.

The union imports activists to protest her schools. Last year, a charming mob greeted Harlem Success children arriving for the first day of school with chants of "Don't be fooled, abort charter schools."

Moskowitz didn't set out to be a union target. "I'm not a Milton Friedman," she says. "I just think kids are getting screwed by a system that's horrible." She is now part of a nationwide revolt against the union-dominated education blob, running the gamut from liberal reformers like her on the left to fiscal conservatives like Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey on the right. For the unions, it should be a worrisome sign that you can engage in a conspiracy against the public interest for only so long before creating a backlash.

As a Harlem Success parent said over and over again in a rejoinder to protesters outside one of the schools: "My baby is learning." Courtesy of the education establishment's Public Enemy Number One.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2010 by King Features Synd., Inc.

"The national debt is the biggest threat to national security."

--Adm. Mike Mullen
Chairman of the
Joint Chiefs of
Staff

"We have met the enemy and he is us."

--Pogo Possum,
comic strip character



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The Ranchos Independent

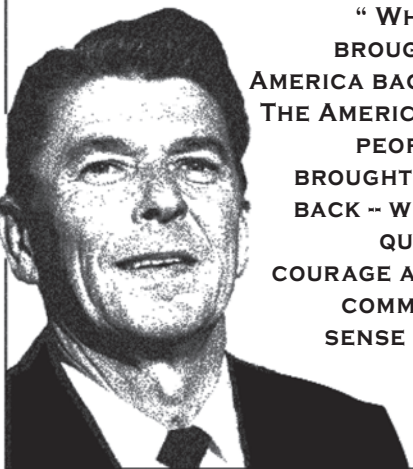
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Justice and Bodywork are Served

It's not often that I am able to witness nature dole out such perfect justice, but recently I had the privilege.

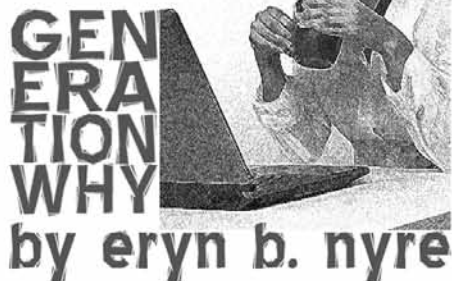
I was on my way to work the other morning, stopped at a traffic light and was waiting for it to turn green when I heard squealing tires and a low thud coming from the right lane. I turned to find a Monte Carlo had bumped right into the backside of another car. I watched as the woman driving the car that was hit eased to the side of the road and got out to inspect the damage. Right about the same time, the young punk driving the Monte Carlo puts the pedal to the medal and takes off on the shoulder in an attempt to escape. I stared in shock about what I had just witnessed when, while trying to negotiate a sharp right turn, he lost control and bounced off the side of a big rig. I had never seen a car get so much air, except maybe the General Lee. Thankfully, no one else but the would-be criminal was injured and, it suffices to say, his car was no longer in any condition to flee the scene. There he sat, stunned and bleeding from the head and you would think he was defeated but no, this guy would not be dissuaded. Instead

I watched as he wrenched the car door open and tried to run, but the obvious head and bodily injuries he had suffered prevented him from getting far. Within minutes, police were on the scene and he was in cuffs. I was able to observe this as well because I had pulled over to the side of the road to act as a witness if needed, just doing my civic duty.

Beyond being amused with his disastrous escape attempt, I was appalled that he would have chosen such a route over taking responsibility for a fender-bender, but it would appear that responsibility has become taboo with American youth. In this case, the driver chose to risk a hit and run conviction, assuming he would have been apprehended, rather than face up to the responsibility of his actions. A mistake, consequently, that was quite miniscule in comparison to the pickle he was in once he lost the game of chicken with the 18-wheeler.

I haven't been able to figure out if the youth of today are allergic to responsibility or just completely turned off by it, either way, aversion to the dreaded "R" word has become a frighteningly common trend. I see it everywhere, from the guy who refuses to participate in providing for his three children by three different mothers, to the girl whose parents have gone bankrupt trying to keep her from a DUI conviction. What happened to responsibility?

As I watched the delinquent bounce off the semi, I thought to myself, now this is justice in its purest form. What a proportional response the



universe handed out to this creep. It was like the clouds opened up and God Himself said, "Well, you could have just stayed put and handled business like a man, taking responsibility for the tiny little scratch you put on that woman's bumper by mistake, but instead you ran like a coward. Now you will have a criminal record, medical bills, and there is a woman over there in a PT Cruiser laughing at you, and I am pretty sure she is going to do everything in her power to make sure the whole world knows what an idiot you are."

The thing is, everyone makes mistakes, albeit, some of us make more than our share. Heck,

I haven't been able to figure out if the youth of today are allergic to responsibility or just completely turned off by it, either way, aversion to the dreaded "R" word has become a frighteningly common trend.

some people make their share, their neighbor's share and their neighbor's cat's share, but it is how we respond to our mistakes that separate the good people from the twits of the world that are too self-obsessed to demonstrate accountability. If you bump into

someone, be it with a car or a shopping cart, you apologize, pay for the damages and then make the effort not to repeat the mistake. That is what good, up-standing citizens do.

I have had a few fender-benders in my time. There was a point when I thought my father was going to cover my entire car in bubble wrap because I couldn't quite figure out how to back out of a parking space without hitting the car next to me. But never did I even imagine leaving the scene. I always found the owner and paid for my mistake. It was costly and led to many grounded weekends, but at the end of the day that is what taking responsibility is all about. Luckily, I have long since figured out how to drive in reverse, which is a good thing because I was running out of creative ways to avoid driving backward.

The bottom line is, taking responsibility for your actions isn't always a jolly good time, but that is part of being a mature, productive member of society. When you make a mistake, like bumping into the car in front of you, you then pull over, get out of the car, apologize and do your part to repair the damage. You do not, however, peel away from the scene of an accident to avoid accepting responsibility, and if you do, may there always be a big rig there to block your path.

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7/10

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Letters

Dear Editor:

If you ever wondered which side of the fence you sit on, this is a great test.

If a Republican doesn't like guns, he doesn't buy one. If a Democrat doesn't like guns, he wants all guns outlawed.

If a Republican is a vegetarian, he doesn't eat meat. If a Democrat is a vegetarian, he wants all meat products banned for everyone.

If a Republican is homosexual, he quietly leads his life. If a Democrat is homosexual, he demands legislated respect.

If a Republican is down-and-out, he thinks about how to better his situation. A Democrat wonders who is going to take

care of him.

If a Republican doesn't like a talk show host, he switches channels. Democrats demand that those they don't like be shut down.

If a Republican is a nonbeliever, he doesn't go to church. A Democrat nonbeliever wants any mention of God and religion silenced.

If a Republican decides he needs health care, he goes about shopping for it, or may choose a job that provides it. A Democrat demands that the rest of us pay for his.

Jim Tangrady

Meridian, Idaho

Dear Editor:

I was excited to see workers on the roadside of Avenue 12 actually marking out where the new sidewalks were going to go and in some cases digging up lawns and driveways to prepare for the additions.

I have got to tell you, it has been my experience in the Ranchos that it seems like great ideas get offered up and people talk alot about them, but rarely does anything ever happen. The lack of a community park and a community center comes to mind.

I guess that with enough persistence anything is possible.

Name Withheld Upon Request

Are Your Headaches Debilitating? Are They Controlling Your Life?

If You Suffer From This Day In and Day Out and Don't Know What to Do, Then Read Below ... A Breakthrough Treatment Could Change Your Life!

Living with headaches is tough.

Day after day of being miserable, irritable, and looking a lot older than you really are. The frustration of knowing that your friends and family don't understand what you're going through.

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And that's not all ... trying one medication after another, feeling like you're on a merry-go-round of drugs.

All this is enough to make anyone want to scream!

They tell me they're sick and tired of jumping from one headache medication to the next. Here's what I hear ...

"I am tired of being looked upon as someone who is only out there to get medicine. I only want RELIEF. I don't know why that is so hard for people to understand. I don't want to be treated badly anymore. I want to get help, and I want to get rid of the headaches."

Imagine being able to live life like a normal person again, pain free and without headaches -- being able to play with your kids, enjoy time with friends, and not have to worry that your headache will hit you at just the wrong time.

I'm running a special 14-day offer for those suffering with headaches. Until August 7, \$47 will get you all the services I normally charge new patients \$257 for!

Why would I practically give away my services? Because patients tell me too often ...

"I only wished I had found you sooner."

This happens so often, I decided to do something about it and run this ad. Just call before August 7 and here's what you'll get ...

- An in-depth consultation about your headaches where I will listen ... really listen ... to the details of your unique situation.

- A complete neuromuscular and skeletal examination of the head and neck so we can find the problem.

- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if posture or joint problem is contributing to your pain ... (NOTE: These would normally cost you at least \$100).

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The Duke Study

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7/10 265127

gain. Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Kings Canyon Chiropractic and you can find us 4842 E. Kings Canyon Rd. #103 in Fresno (between Foods Co. and Home Depot).

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Lien T. Dao, D.C.

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3) Research has proven certain natural treatments have great success with headaches -- even better than massage and medications -- and with no side effects.

Why not get rid of those debilitating headaches today? Read the full facts on this page!

My name is Dr. Lien Dao, DC, and I've been helping patients with neck tension, headaches and migraines live pain free for years now.

Every week I hear how people suffer from severe headaches -- statements like ...

- "I feel like my head is in a vice."

- "My eyes hurt and I feel so drowsy."

- "I have to lay down."

- "I've had migraines since childhood."

- "Muscle tension in the neck and pain into the shoulders."



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Dump Cake Anyone?

Do you have company coming for dinner and need a quick dessert? Are the kids old enough that they can start helping with dinner? Grandma and Grandpa – do you have grandkids visiting for the summer and they are “BORED!” Well, I have the answer – so simple, you can have a delicious cake and only dirty a can opener, a knife to cut some butter, a fork or rubber spatula and the pan the cake is cooked in! No bowls, no measuring cups or no beaters to wash and all you need is a couple cans of canned fruit, a dry cake mix, some butter and maybe some chopped nuts.

A Dump Cake.

Yes, dump! Just dump the ingredients into the baking pan and bake. One of the recipes I read said this can be made by a child or a tired mom.

The first Dump Cake I ate was made with fruit cocktail. I’ve made a few of these:

Fruit Cocktail Dump Cake

- 1 Large Can (16 oz.) Fruit Cocktail
- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Butter

In a 9x13 greased pan; dump the fruit cocktail, including the juice. Dump the cake mix. Dot with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown.

Cherry Dump Cake

- 2 Cans Cherry Pie filling (21 oz. ea.)
- 1 Box Chocolate Cake Mix
- 2 Sticks Butter – sliced into 12 pieces each
- Chopped pecans (optional)
- 1/8 C Granulated Sugar

In 9x13 baking pan dump the two cans pie filling evenly. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top of cherries. Place butter slices over dry cake mix and sprinkle nuts and sugar evenly over top. Bake 35-45 minutes in a 350 degree oven and

serve warm.

One of my favorite cakes is a pineapple upside down cake (made with crushed pineapple instead of sliced). When I saw this recipe I thought about my upside down cake. I’m going to make this one, but add just a little brown sugar and see how close it comes to the upside down cake.

Pineapple Dump Cake

- 1 Box Pineapple Cake Mix
- 1 Stick Butter, sliced into pats
- 1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple

Chopped Nuts (optional)

In 9x13 pan, pour pineapple, juice and all. Shake dry cake mix on top and spread evenly. Then place butter and nuts on top and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.

When I saw the following recipe, I thought of a peach cobbler.

Peach Dump Cake

- 1 Lg. Can Sliced Peaches
- 1 Box Butter Pecan Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Melted Butter

In 9x13 pan pour in peaches and juice. Sprinkle cake mix over top to cover evenly. Pour melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, serve warm in bowls.

Peach and Pineapple Dump Cake

- 1 Can Sliced Peaches
- 1 Can Crushed Pineapple
- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Cube Butter – melted

Lightly grease the bottom only of a 9x13 baking pan. Pour canned fruit, including juice, in bottom of pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top of fruit. Pour melted butter over cake mix. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour in 350 oven.

DO NOT STIR any of these recipes. The cake will be baked in layers of fruit, cake mix, butter and nuts (if using). Except for the layering and how long to cook, these recipes don’t have to be followed exactly. Change the fruit – maybe your family likes pears instead of fruit cocktail, or how about spice cake instead of yellow with the peaches or add a little cinnamon. I even saw one recipe

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 22

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The Stock Report

Looking Back on 80 Full Years

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
July 4th is behind us and the rest of the summer is in front of us. I love summer. July 4th was my dad's birthday. It was a day with family and lots of good food. This July 4th I spent with my other family, the Ranchos Hills Seniors, but back to dad. He always had a big garden. He always said that GOD gave us land to grow food on. The 4th of July meal seemed to celebrate summer. It was the first corn and watermelon of the year plus all of the other summer vegetables. Dinner was corn on the cob and watermelon, with lots of fried chicken, baked ham, potato salad and fresh garden vegetables, homemade cake and real crank-the-handle homemade ice cream. Summer was also the time to go swimming. No one had their own swimming pool when I was growing up. If you weren't close to a

I guess I am looking back because it is just about my 80th birthday. August 11, 1930 started me in the great depression and I have witnessed so many changes in my lifetime.

river, there was always the irrigation ditch to get wet in. There were a few public pools if you had the money. When my family moved from Dos Palos to Grants Pass, Oregon in 1944, the only swimming pool was in Medford, Oregon 30 miles away. My Grants Pass High senior class went to the Medford swimming pool. It was a good thing that the pool was heated because it started to snow while we were swimming. Even so, it was a big treat to swim in a pool. I never have been a very good swimmer even though we had a family back yard pool for 26 years while I lived in Fresno. Those irrigation ditches in Dos Palos were not the best place to learn how to swim. My husband and three kids were all great swimmers.

After high school I went to Humboldt State College at Arcata, California. I was determined to get back to California. The weather in Grants Pass was just too depressing for me after sunny Dos Palos. It was nine months of grey sky and no sun until June. Arcata was better weather-wise but college was so exciting that weather wasn't that important. I met

my husband-to-be at Humboldt State. He had come home after WWII and was at college on the GI Bill for veterans. Most of the men at Humboldt State in 1948 were veterans. Some were already married so the school put up Quonset huts for GI housing. Humboldt State was a small school of 750 students in those days. It has grown to over 25,000 students now.

I got married in 1950 after two years of college and continued college until our first son was born in 1951. We left Arcata in 1953 in time for our second son to be born in Atascadero. After a couple of years in Atascadero, we found our way to Fresno because my husband decided he needed to finish his education.

Fresno State had an opening in the accounting department. In 1954 we moved into government housing with our two boys until my husband graduated. Times were tough but the boys were growing up and I was a stay-at-home mom. My husband worked part time and went to school full time until he graduated as an accountant. It still took a few years before he passed all of the CPA tests and became a full time CPA.

In 1960 our last child was born at the old St. Agnes Hospital where our little girl was born and made our family complete. Does anybody out there remember the 1960's? I was busy raising children but the world was being turned upside down. It was the time of the hippies. Here are some of the things that I remember. Psychedelic Volkswagen vans, peace signs, race riots, war protests, bra and draft card burning. The war in Vietnam was dividing Amerce into "for" and "against" the war. People were doing strange things with booze, pot, LSD, long hair on guys and long dresses on girls. The was the time of the protest musical "Hair," the Beatles, Elvis, protest songs like Alice's Restaurant and many more. Who can forget the music extravaganza Woodstock? While I was watching the world

Please see **STOCK** on P. 22

An Opportunity to Serve Others

By Bob Crabb

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

I have come to believe that God has called each of us to a special purpose(s) of His love. Some of us are called by God to be grandparents and some of us are called to be auto mechanics and some of us are called to serve in the public and private sectors. A lot of times when you meet someone who is living out their call from God, you can sense a charisma or a kind of holiness about them. I remember one time in particular when we needed an electrician and we called someone from the Yellow Pages.

This guy came over to our home who seemed to us to be a guy who was called by God to be an electrician! He filled our whole house with joy and thanksgiving. The work he did was filled with grace and skill. He loved being an electrician and he gave honor to his Lord in the way he performed his work and in the way he talked and labored. His presence blessed our household.

Wherever or whatever God calls us to is important and vital in the Kingdom of God. As a Fire Chaplain, one of the callings that I have become familiar with over that past few years is the calling of Firefighter. I am truly grateful to all of the First Responders in our community, state and nation for all the service they render. Firefighters are part of that great tradition of service to others. For our firefighters in this community, as with firefighters everywhere, (to paraphrase an early 20th century writer) theirs is a tradition of things endured and things accomplished, a tradition of fires fought and lives saved and alarms long forgotten! It is a tradition of service such as firefighters hand down forever. A tradition that includes that abstract thing called "courage." For firefighters, courage is that commodity that is carried forward into the initial attack of a fire or explosion or rescue. So many of us take for granted the safety we enjoy. How many of us who are not firefighters go to

Wherever or whatever God calls us to is important and vital in the Kingdom of God. As a Fire Chaplain, one of the callings that I have become familiar with over that past few years is the calling of Firefighter.

a place of employment in which the work space is sanitary and the office technology is clean. How many of us who are not firefighters go to a place of employment in which the environment poses no threat and is completely benign? Our firefighters are so often called to work in an environment filled with inconceivable malignancy: Asbestos, Particulate Matter, Silica, Synthetic Fibers, Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Benzene, Dioxins, Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. These and more are part of the deadly mix that is so often part of the work environment our firefighters are called into. The physical and mental demands associated with firefighting exceed those of virtually any other

occupation. The combination of stress associated with emergency incidents, the extreme physical exertion of firefighting operations and the inherent dangers of tremendous heat and humidity create conditions that profoundly affect the safety and health of the emergency responder.

One of the critical assets in serving our community and protecting our firefighters is a Mobile Support Unit (MSU) Vehicle. A MSU Vehicle provides water, food, heat injury first aid and other rehabilitation resources at critical incidents in which firefighter exhaustion and fatigue are escalating to dangerous levels. Currently our fire department's 1978 MSU vehicle is aged out and is no longer operable. This is soon going to change.

You can help by joining our Ranchos Station 19 MSU Support Unit as a volunteer.

Over the past year or so, I have had the incredible honor to work with Ranchos Volunteer Fire Captain Chuck Hoover, Fire Capt Tom Shevenell, Paid Call Firefighter (PCF) Bill Morrison and other Station 9 and 19 firefighters on the MSU 19 Vehicle Support Committee. Last December, the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians gave a grant of \$95,000 to the Madera County Fire Department and Station #19 Volunteer Fire

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 13



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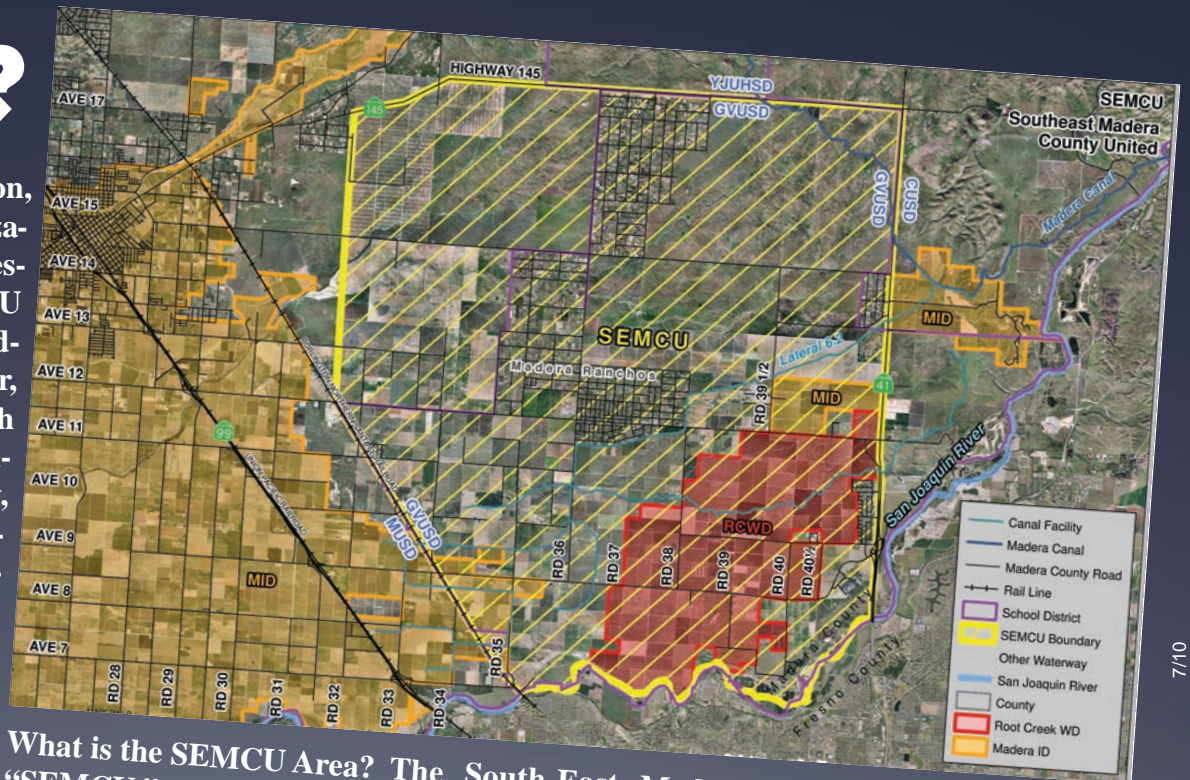
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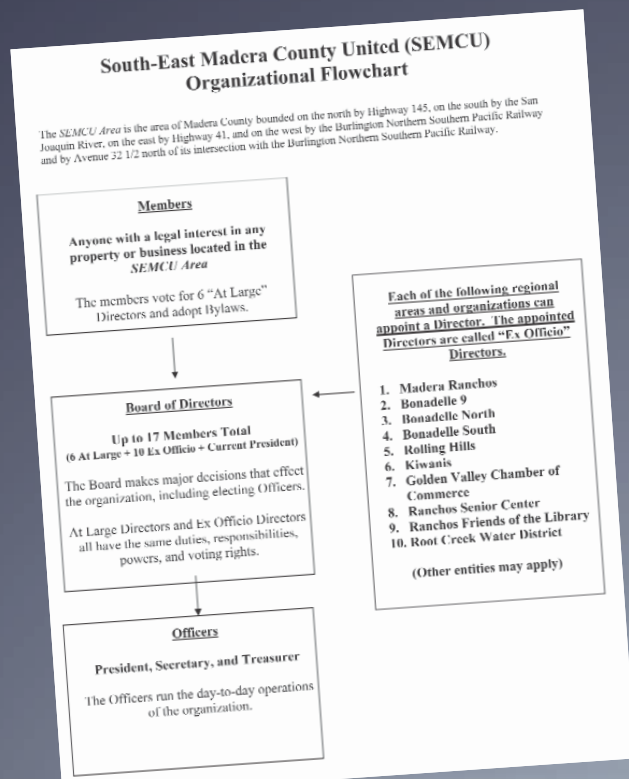
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What is SEMCU?

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



7/10



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

Why Should You Join SEMCU?

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

COMMITTEES ARE NOW BEING FORMED! If you have an area that you are passionate about for the Ranchos, here's your opportunity to get something done.

For more information, call 559-363-9095



Ranchos: Palm Springs North?

By Eleanore Burchell

In 2006, several articles on "Looking Back on the Ranchos" were printed. For those seniors who have forgotten and others who were not here at that time, the information is being repeated.

When Dorothy and Toto went back to Kansas, the Tin Man came to Madera Ranchos. Jack Haley, the man inside the tin suit in the classic Wizard of Oz, was the driving force behind the Madera Ranchos Subdivision. Haley is responsible for developments in the Lake Madera and Madera Highlands as well.

Haley, working with comedian Jackie Gleason and others, wanted to create a Palm Springs North in the wheat fields and grape vineyards of southeastern Madera County. The first subdivision plans were filed on Feb. 24, 1958.

Fresno developer John Bonadelle owned a large ranch about three miles north of the new Madera Ranchos subdivision. He says he bought the ranch as a hobby, but was having trouble keeping good help on the place. Over the Christmas holidays in 1957, relatives and friends of Bonadelle were telling him how hard it was to purchase parcels of two to five acres. That discussion lit a spark with the developer and he began making plans to break his ranch down into two, five and 10-acre parcels. He decided to make the parcels affordable to middle income families by selling them on terms with low monthly payments. The communities of Madera Ranchos and Bonadelle Ranchos grew slowly. In Madera Ranchos, the streets were named after movie and TV friends of Haley and Gleason. Haley said coming up with street names was one of the hardest tasks of developing the subdivision. Whatever came to mind became a street name. It was Thanksgiving time when they were naming streets so Cranberry was named. Trieste was from an old French movie, Bon Jour Trieste. Berkshire was named after the Berkshire Mountains of New York. Topper was a street in New York. Montrose was a street in Beverly Hills. The streets were developed to 1960 standards. Developer Bonadelle recalled that the tractors laid out the streets going 30 miles an hour and if a tire blew it sounded like a bomb going off. Few homes were built as first. Growth was slow. The idea of a "Palm Springs North" did not light the fire in Los Angeles as they had wanted. Also not many people were willing to commute the long distances over narrow highways to jobs in Fresno or Madera.

While growth in the 60's was slow, during the 70's many people built homes. During the 1980's the communities expanded rapidly. The extension of Freeway 41 and improvements on Avenues 12 and 15 made the drive into Fresno

much safer and convenient. Two new shopping centers opened on Avenue 12 in 1990 and home construction boomed. The communities had grown to nearly 3,000 homes and businesses with about 8,000 residents. (Please remember this was written back in 2006.)

The Tin Man's search for a heart of his own led him to Oz. Today, he would find it here in the Ranchos, the Heart of California. (Thanks to Len Wilcox for permission to reprint his article.)

A special Garden Chat Time will be held here at the Senior Center on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. Two topics will be fall and winter vegetables and healthy soil. A special speaker from Fresno County will be Lee Fanucchi. There will also be a question and answer time. Other speakers will be Nita Lackey, Lyn Woodall and True Warner from Madera County Master Gardeners.

We regret to announce the death of James (Doc) Edmiston on Wednesday, June 30 in San Diego while visiting his son. A celebration of his life will be held here at the Senior Center on Saturday, July 24. For more information, please do not hesitate to call Joann at 645-4864.

Our Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center is located at 37330 Berkshire and our members have really been traveling around seeing interesting places and having lots of fun. On June 14-15, we went on a great bus trip, stopped to have lunch in Pismo Beach at Fins Restaurant, spent several hours at Chumash Casino, stayed at Corque Hotel in Solvang and ending up in Simi Valley at the Reagan Library and Memorial. We were served lunch under the wing of Reagan's Air Force One Presidential plane. GREAT TRIP and we recommend the Reagan Presidential Library to everyone. Beautiful scenery on top of a mountain. It is well worth your time and money!

The next trip, a European Riverboat cruise and tour, is planned for October 4-17. Everything is included:

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Please see **SENIORS** on P. 15

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PASTOR cont. from P. 10

Company for a new MSU Vehicle. On May 12, a new MSU vehicle was ordered and we hope to have it in operation in August.

Here's how you can help. The MSU 19 Vehicle Support Committee is establishing a volunteer MSU driver and support team organization. Please consider joining as a volunteer driver or a team member who can hand out water, food, supplies and provisions at a fire scene or critical incident. This is really important stuff for our community. The new MSU 19 vehicle will not only enhance our firefighters' ability to work at an incident but significantly improves their chances of returning to service, ready to answer

the next alarm.

If you are interested in being part of the MSU 19 volunteer team or want more information, please call Volunteer Fire Capt Chuck Hoover at: Station 19 Phone (559) 645-1399 or cell (559) 960-7288, or me: Pastor (Fire Chaplain) Bob Crabb at (559)213-6457.

Now there is an opportunity to participate in a calling that serves our neighbors and supports some people who have also been called to a very special purpose: our firefighters. God bless them.

Rev. Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

For the first time in many a year, melancholia for the old days set in and I went so far as to consider attending church services on Easter Sunday, and heaven only knows there are a dearth of them in the rundown area of town where I reside in a small apartment. But the thought passed quickly and I ended up on Easter Sunday at a shopping mall watching the girls go by.

"The old man and his cat," I have overheard neighbors describe me, and that is not objectionable because it is my situation. And at my age there is little hope of anything beyond. Well, that is not exactly true because one day the gatherer of souls will rap on my door after which my ashes will set out to sea on the eternal voyage to forever.

Forgive me father for I have sinned ...

During Easter Sunday morning during my formative years my two brothers and I served as altar boys in the cold and drafty old frame church in a place known as Fresno, Montana, which is no more. And before Mass we were required to stand in line outside the confessional awaiting the dreaded moment that we would have to expound our sins to Father Warner who had previously admonished us, "Scrape your feet against the floor while you are waiting in line so you don't overhear the sins of the person in front of you."

And during the whispered enumeration of sins within the confessional we dutifully scraped our feet, but suddenly Father Warner would open the door on his side and tell us, "Modulate the scraping. I cannot hear the sins of the lad inside."

We tried to oblige but it was difficult to modulate scraping while wearing hand-me-down heavy work shoes with metal toes and soles cut from an old rubber tire.

My heart beat wildly when it was my turn, remembering mama's admonition that I was lousy with sin. I trembled as I sat on the bench, separated from Father Warner by only a gunny sack-like window. The confessional was musty and dark and as I began to rattle off my sins, I could see the silhouette of the good Father's face but could not read his expression as I stammered.

"I have said some bad words, Father, and had some bad thoughts."

This was always my opener and always held hands over my face so he would not recognize me, fearing he would consider me a rotten-thinking black sheep and shame to the parish. Oh, the humiliation I endured describing how another boy and I scraped a tiny hole in the paint on the window of the dressing room of the high school girls' basketball team, stood on a garbage can and lustfully watched them undress.

"How many times?"

"Well, maybe a couple of times."

"How many is a couple of times, lad? Three or perhaps four?"

"I — I — don't know, but more than that, Father."

"More than six, son?"

"Well, I guess ... yes. Maybe ten."

Finally having stammered and hem and hawed through this, I confessed that I had accidentally touched a few girls' breasts while playing a game we called Pum-pum Pull-away.

"Are you quite certain that it was accidental?"

"Well, maybe not every time, Father."

"How many times would you say you touched the girls' breasts? Maybe four or five? This, my lad, is the worst of sins. Would you say it was more than five or six times? Perhaps ten? And what other grievous sins have you committed son?"

Wow! I knew the penance he'd stack on me would be heavy, but I had no choice but to relate yet another sin.

"I — I — I stole a compact from the dime store to give Mama for Christmas."

"That is very shameful son, trying to turn a bad deed into a good one."

Finally he wrapped up my confession by levying what he considered a fair penance, like maybe 20 Our Fathers, 30 Hail Marys, a dozen or so Apostle Creeds and maybe even the rosary.

And then came the most blessed words of all: "Go my son, and sin no more."

I said my penance, or as much as I could during lulls in serving Mass with my brothers, and with a great feeling of elation now of being sin-free to the very core. And I would sin no more because it was so embarrassing admitting them.

And I didn't until that evening when somebody suggested we play Pum-pum Pull-away again with the girls.



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SENIORS cont. from P. 12

son, gratuities aboard the ship and personal expenses

For more details, please come in to talk with Joann or call her at 645-4864. Another trip is being planned so keep tuned for time and place.

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to greet you. There is still time to plant tomatoes and other vegetables so plan to attend the sale and check out what is available. The boutique has many fine novelty articles for you to see. There are also nice jewelry items available. The bake sale and treasure house will have many new items. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are also available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We currently have jellies, plenty of lemons and freshly harvested onions for sale.

Our center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA). We are located at 37330 Berkshire and invite you to come in and check with Joann about programs which will help you.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE check-ups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are

available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at different places each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. On Saturday, June 19 we had lunch at the Japanese Kitchen in Clovis. On Saturday, July 17 we went to The Golden, a Chinese restaurant located at 1135 N. Fulton, Fresno. Our August luncheon will be held at Black Bear Diner, 1209 E. Almond Ave., Madera. Time is not firm at this time. If interested in joining us for this or any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. All of our members enjoy eating and having fun so we urge you to come and join us. If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us.

Senior Thought of the Day

"You are never too old to be young again."

Oscar Wilde

In the senior years, many need someone to laugh with so come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterward.

There is a lot of fun here. Remember, laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does not mean everything is perfect; it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays, there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweatshirts. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, here is your opportunity to learn while having fun! Card BINGO meets on Fridays, noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: You! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

August 7, monthly sale, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August, Birthday luncheon

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864)

Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (Please bring your own plate and silverware.)

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?

This is farewell, goodbye and aloha from Eleanore Burchell. After writing the Senior Report for the last six years for the Ranchos Independent, I have decided to move on. Thanks for reading all these years.

**"Come and You Will See"**

- Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30am
- Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon
- Youth Group: After Church on Sundays
- Sat's Share & Care Bible Fellowship: 10:30am

Sundays 10:30 a.m.

Music, Message, Prayer and Praise

Christian Mission Center

36875 Avenue 12 (at Loren Way) • (559) 324-1144

www.cmc ranchos.com • www.myspace.com/cv1myouthgroup



\$100,000 Grant for Sierra View Universal Playground Structure Submitted



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

Golden Valley Unified School District recently submitted a grant through the Community Grant Program of the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians and the County of Madera. This is the fourth year in a ten-year program, which will ultimately distribute \$10 million to Madera County non-profit agencies, public schools, and county department and agencies. The application packets will be considered by the Madera County Board of Supervisors in recommending an organization for an award by the Tribal Council of the

Picayune Rancheria. The Council's decision will be final and the awards will be announced on or before October 1, 2010.

Last year, Golden Valley submitted a \$40,000 Chukchansi grant to add a computer lab to Webster Elementary School. We are appreciative that the Community Grant Program was able to fund \$25,000 of this request. Grant funds are a valuable resource to public school districts which are at the mercy of continuous state budget reductions. The grant for Sierra View Elementary would be a tremendous asset to the school community as well as the community at-large. In conjunction with requesting \$100,000 from the Community Grant Program, the district is requesting an additional partnership grant with Play Time Game Equipment Company to provide some of the matching funds to offset the cost of the playground structure.

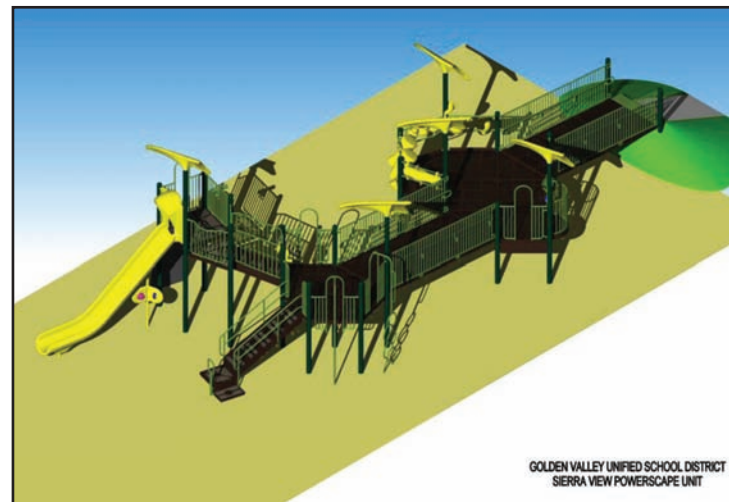
Sierra View Elementary School, located in the Bonadelle Ranchos, in the northeast part of the district, serves approximately 350 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The district is currently planning for the upcoming modernization of the school, utilizing Measure S Bond funds and State Matching funds. However, these funds have been earmarked for upgrading classrooms and adjunct buildings, which has not left enough funding to provide for any type of playground structures.

Sierra View teachers, students and parents

have long desired to erect a "universal" playground structure that would be accessible to both "able" and "disabled" students. This would be a first of its kind in the Madera Ranchos and Bonadelle Ranchos area. The Universal Playground would be an incredible advantage for our families and the community to fully engage and appreciate the gifts and talents of every child. This playground would promote a fully inclusive community.

Sierra View has been on the leading edge in academics earning an API score of 849 in 2009. Sierra View has twice been awarded the Bonner Character and Virtues Award and has also earned the Golden Bell Award for their outstanding character education program. They are recipients of the prestigious California Distinguished School Award and recently their principal, Mr. Tefft, was named Administrator of the Year for Madera County. We are proud of Sierra View's many ac-

complishments. As we plan to modernize the campus, the new universal playground structure would be "icing on the cake." Students would have modernized classrooms and the universal playground would serve to address the physical, sensory, communicative, social/emotional and cognitive needs of all students. It would provide opportunities for all children, both "able" and "disabled" to play and socialize together. This playground structure would greatly enhance equal access opportunities for students during the school day and would be accessible to the community during non-school hours. We hope to hear good news come October 1st!



2009/2010 Liberty High School Athletic All Stars: The Best of the Best

Congratulations to all of the Liberty High School Athletic Teams for a wonderful and entertaining year of sports. The following teams and players had a particularly outstanding year:

Fall

Football – League Champions and Division 5 Runner Up

City County All Star Game Players

- Ben Cowger
- Josh Garza
- Dylan Ferreira
- Edgar Sandoval

North South Rotary Football Game

- Josh Garza
- Derrick Lacy
- Dylan Ferreira
- Justin Nika

Girls Tennis

• Jamie Matthews – North Sequoia League, Singles Champion

Winter

Girls Soccer – Undefeated League Champions and Division 5 Section Champions

City County All Star Player

- Victoria Burnell

• Victoria Burnell is second in the nation for goals scored and goals scored per game.

Wrestling – League Champions

- Austin Baughman
- Karl Reichmuth

Spring

Boys Tennis – League Champions and Division 5 Runner Up

Softball – Undefeated League Champions, Division 5 Section Champions

City County All Star Players

- Kayla Barber
- Kelly Willis
- Devin Kohergen

Baseball

City County All Star Player

- Caleb Hillis

Track

- Josh Garza: Long Jump and 400 Meter League Champion
- Tyler Abell: 800 Meter League Champion
- Daniella Ljuba: Triple Jump League Champion

- Boys and Girls 4x100 and 4x400

Relay League champions

Liberty's Historic, Undefeated, Back-to-Back Championship Team



Pitcher Kayla Barber (right) and catcher Devin Kochergen celebrate after the final out of Liberty Valley Championship win over Riverdale.

By Bob Barber

The Liberty High School Girls Softball Team for 2010 was a team that broke a lot of Liberty Softball records. They were the first Liberty High team, in any sport, to win back-to-back Valley Championships (2009 and 2010) and the first Liberty Softball team to go undefeated in league play with a final record of 10-0.

Liberty beat Riverdale 10-7 in the Valley Championship game played at Liberty High school to capture their third Softball Valley Championship in the past six seasons for the Hawks. Liberty, who had the #1 seed going into the playoffs, beat Bakersfield Christian

and Caruthers to set up the Valley Championship game at Liberty. Heading into this game, the Riverdale Cowgirls, the #2 seed, had won 17 games in a row and our Liberty Hawks had won 14 games in a row. During this game Liberty pounded out 15 hits and scored 10 runs to capture the title.

This Liberty Softball team prepared for their playoff run by playing a very tough non-league and league schedule. Even though Liberty is a Division V school, prior to the playoffs they had primarily played larger schools from Divisions I, II and IV. During league they had to play in a very tough D-IV North Sequoia league. During league play, the Hawks were 10-0.

With the tremendous success against larger schools this season, this softball team ended the season being ranked #1 in the entire state for D-V schools by Cal-Hi Sports. Cal-Hi Sports is considered by many to be the "ESPN" for high school sports, based on their thorough coverage of all high school sports in California. This is a tremendous honor, since only five teams from the Central Valley made the final rankings by Cal Hi Sports, who ranked the top 10 teams in each Division, D-1 through D-V. Liberty was the only team from the Central Valley with a #1 ranking by Cal-Hi Sports.

This Liberty team was made up of a group of girls, most of who have been playing together since 7th and 8th grades. Many of the girls were recruited straight from our Liberty Ranchos Rec Softball fields, soon after our youth league was formed. Most of them played rec ball and travel ball together. Over the years they formed friendships that allowed them to create a bond and positive energy on the field that couldn't be broken. The incredible team chemistry, along with a focused work ethic and a belief that they couldn't be beaten on the field allowed this team to accomplish some things that is slowly allowing Liberty High Softball to earn the respect of larger schools throughout the valley.

Here are some of this season's team and

personal accomplishments:

- Overall record 26-5-1
- Undefeated in league play (10-0)
- Back-to-back Valley Championships - 2009 & 2010
- This team was undefeated in the months of April and May, winning their last 15 games
- Incredible pitching and defense produced 12 shutouts this season
- This team produced the North Sequoia League's Most Valuable Player, two years in a row:

2010 - Kayla Barber

2009 - Devin Kochergen

Senior Kayla Barber led the team with a .505 batting average in 2010 and was 21-3 as a starting pitcher. Freshman Hannah Shevenell was the other starting pitcher and her record was 5-2. Senior Devin Kochergen lead the team with nine home runs (25 total for her four year career), and Junior Darienne Schmall had seven home runs. Darienne's solo home run against Caruthers in the Semi-Final playoff game was the only run scored as the Hawks beat Caruthers 1-0 to earn the right to play Riverdale in the Valley Championship game.

During the playoffs, Freshman Bailey Graham consistently came through with the big hits. Her batting average for the playoffs was a team-leading .444. She had a huge double which knocked in two runs against Bakersfield Christian to break up a 3-3 tie. The Hawks went on to win 8-3. She had two big run-produc-

ing doubles against Riverdale in the Valley Championship game. Some said that Bailey's big hits during the playoffs, and her consistent play at second base, would have earned her MVP honors for the playoff run if such an award existed.

Here are the additional honors received from this year's players. All of these awards were voted on by the other coaches throughout our league:

League's Most Valuable Player

- Kayla Barber

1st Team All-League

- Devin Kochergen
- Shae Ortega
- Carrie Wiegand
- Darienne Schmall

2nd Team All-League

- Kelly "Chilly" Willis
- Randi Wallis

Fresno Bee's - First Team - All Star Team

- Kayla Barber
- Devin Kochergen

For additional photos and game videos from the 2009 and 2010 seasons you can visit the Liberty High Softball website at www.ihigh.com/hawksoftball.



The Liberty High 2010 Back-to-Back Valley Champions (from left, front row) Randi Wallace, Jessi Wallace, Darienne Schmall, Chilly Willis, Kayla Barber, Devin Kochergen, Shae Ortega, Gaby Lomeli, Hannah Shevenell and Danni Devine. Back Row (from left) Carrie Wiegand and Bailey Graham (holding plaque) and Katie Pia.

Pool Season Q & A

Q. How do I clear up a pool that is green?

A. It all depends on how green your pool is. Ultimately if your pool is not a real dark green yet, for a standard 20,000 gallon pool you will need to take several steps to clean the green pool. You will need to first clean your filter. We recommend adding 4-6 lbs. of shock, then 6-8 gallons of highly concentrated liquid chlorine. An algaecide will be needed and we

recommend Silvertrine because it has the metals that kill the algae. You will want to add about 12-16 oz. of algaecide for your initial treatment. You will want to turn your equipment on for at least 24-48 consecutive hours. While the system is running you will need to brush your pool multiple times. After all chemicals have been added and circulating for 24-48 hours you will need to clean your filter again. You will need to use 4-6 oz. of algaecide weekly to prevent the algae from returning to your pool and keep chemicals properly balanced. You may need to add more chemicals

depending on how green your pool is and the pool's size.

Q. How do I get rid of black algae?

A. First you will want to clean your filter then you will need to use a metal brush to scrub the heads off of the black algae. Next, sprinkle a granular 99% trichlor solution directly above or on the black algae. Turn your system off to let the trichlor set on the algae for 12-24 hours, then you will want to turn your system on and run your system for at least 24 hours. Again, you will want to use an algaecide like Silvertrine weekly at the rate of 4 oz. per 20,000 gal-

lons to prevent the algae from returning and to properly balance your water.

Q. What chemicals can go in together?

A. Most chemicals can be added at the same time, however you want to be sure that you do not add Muriatic Acid in with any chemicals containing chlorine. A mixture of these two chemicals creates a lethal gas. Be sure to add acid about 2-3 hours after you add chlorine. Always add chemicals to water and not water to chemicals. Never store chemicals such as chlorine next to acid, oil, gasoline products or out in the elements.

Paving the Way to a More Beautiful Ranchos Home

By Randy Bailey



The steep slope on Harry Andris' home made conventional concrete impractical.

Andris, who owns a beautiful home overlooking Brighton Crest Country Club, interviewed a lot of contractors for his home's unique situation. It's virtually sitting on the side of a hill and, although it's breathtaking, it's not very usable space.

"We spent a lot of time to find the right people," Andris said, "and now we have a usable yard that compliments the course."

Andris and his wife, Darlene, love to entertain and use their home for events, but the outside was unusable. The had talked to cement contractors about what they wanted to do but the prices were astronomical and they were very limited on what they could do.

"With pavers we can build up instead of down," Lacy said. "Cement guys don't think like that."

Lacy's slogan is that nothing outlasts pavers. Pavers are three times stronger than poured or stamped concrete and have a 40 year color life. They resist shifting, sinking or buckling and provide an

"Richard has allowed us to realize our dreams."

That's a pretty good endorsement and homeowner Harry Andris means it. Andris is referring to Richard Lacy, owner of R. Lacy Interlocking Pavers which operates out of the Ranchos.

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excellent surface for walking, bicycling and driving cars and trucks. Pavers have expansion joints between each interlocking paving stone, eliminating cracking. Lacy points out that one of the best features of pavers is that if you're on a budget, pavers can be installed in stages and added in future projects.

One of the things that impressed Andris, on top of the impressive body of work Lacy showed him, was Lacy's experience. Established in 1973, Lacy learned his trade from a Danish Mason and went on to earn a license as a Masonry Contractor and Building Contractor 34 years ago. He has the technical skill but what makes Lacy unique is his genuine love of what he does.

"The advantage to what we do is that it looks good forever," Lacy said. "The Romans built roads with pavers 2,000 years ago and they're still around."

Andris agrees. "The aesthetic value is so superior," he said. "Over time concrete patios fade, they crack and they can be a ton of work."

Richard Lacy looks over the job-site as work progresses at Harry Andris' place and just smiles.

"You get so much more than what you pay for."

Call Richard for a free estimate at 442-1999 and make *your* dreams come true.

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R. Lacy performs the unthinkable for concrete contractors: building up with no mortar.



The right tools help but it's expertise that separates R. Lacy from the competition.

MURDER cont. from P. 2

Monday night just before 9 p.m.

Witnesses told police Herrera was walking quietly down C Street by himself, right before he was approached on foot and shot several times in the head at close range. Herrera died instantly, right where he fell in the dusty vacant lot.

Police believe Norris has no vehicle and may still be hiding out in the area. They consider him to be armed and dangerous. Anyone seeing Norris should not approach him, but report his whereabouts to police immediately. Norris reportedly also has family in the Mariposa area. He is also known as Chris Norris, or Chuck Norris according to police.

Detective Sgt. Robert Salas said the homicide victim, Herrera, was a farm worker with no criminal or gang history, and Herrera may have been selected and killed because Norris' original target fled and got away just minutes before.

"Norris was with three other unknown male adults, and drove up to the area of C St. and 2nd St. in the City of Madera. They all exited the vehicle to confront another man. The four subjects chased this man for approximately one block on foot when the male subject entered his house. When Norris and his friends turned around to walk back to their vehicle, Norris observed a Hispanic male who was walking down the street, and shot him numerous times without provocation," Salas said.

Salas said he thought the unfortunate Herrera may have been targeted simply because he was wearing a blue T shirt and was an easy target of opportunity.

"He was a random victim with no connection to the suspects. Immediately after Norris and the other three suspects ran back to their vehicle and sped away. The weapon is still outstanding. Detectives are currently following up leads that will identify the other suspects. They are considered accessories to murder. This murder was committed by a gang member (Norris), but the victim had no gang connections or criminal history. Herrera was a field worker," said Salas.

Norris has two previous felony arrests and is currently on parole for weapons related charges. He also uses narcotics and is an active gang member according to police.

Anyone with information on the location of Norris is urged to contact the police tip line immediately at 675-4242. Anyone with additional information about the shooting or Norris can call Detective Hill at 675-4248. Crime Stoppers pays a cash reward, up to \$1,000 for anonymous information leading to an arrest and conviction in a crime.

Rancho Station 19 Searching for Mobile Support

Last December, the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians gave a grant of \$95,000 to Madera County Fire Department and Station #19 Volunteer Fire Company for a new Mobile Support Unit (MSU). This will replace a 1978 GMC Van that is now "DOA." The mission for this unit is to support fire, police and all emergency personnel with rehabilitation, water, food and a bathroom. With current staffing levels of one firefighter per engine, at a minimum it is very important to provide rehab to our firefighters. The current staffing environment produces the setting for a "perfect storm" of fatigue created by exhaustion from multiple calls and weariness from sustained understaffed emergency operations that exceed the capacity of human endurance. All fire, sheriff, CHP, ambulance personnel and incident-involved participants will benefit from this program.

On May 12, Station 19 ordered a 2010 Chevrolet Express Commercial Cutaway RWD 3500 with a 16 foot box. This unit should be arriving in August and then it will go to West Coast Trailers in Madera to be outfitted into a MSU, complete with one 21 cu. ft. refrigerator, one 21 cu. ft. freezer, two commercial Microwaves, a 7,500 watt generator, a bathroom and much more. We, the MSU committee, have got the project up and almost running – now we need your help.



The plan is to start a county wide MSU Support Unit. What we need are folks who live in Firebaugh, Chowchilla, Raymond, YLP, Coarsegold, Oakhurst, Bass Lake, North Fork and anywhere else in Madera County to join us. Our mission is to have folks who live in the Ranchos trained to drive the unit to the location where it has been requested. At that time, MSU folks who live in the area close to the incident location will be called and can be waiting for it to arrive. This will ensure that the unit has more than just one person to staff it.

All is not set in stone yet, so if you know of anyone who is over 18 years old and interested, please contact us. There was a MSU Support Meeting at Station #19 on Wednesday, July 21 and if you were unable to attend you can still contact us. This is a great service for church groups, retired folks and anyone else who wants to help, so contact us. Please pass this on to anyone or group you think might be interested in joining.

For more information contact Chuck Hoover, Volunteer Fire Captain, Station 19 at 559-960-7288, or contact the fire station directly at 559-645-1399. You can also drop by the fire station at 35141 Bonadelle Ave., one street south of Ave. 15 and just east of Road 35.

GIRLS cont. from P. 2

the week. Attendees would now be referred to as “citizens” and as the citizens talked among themselves, some of them readily identified themselves as either “Whig” or “Tory” party members, the fictional political parties (with historical roots) for purposes of the week-long exercise.

“The Whigs believed that the government that governs least governs best,” Lauren explained, “and the Tory Party believed in strong government regulation of the economy and business.”

Lauren, having been brought up discussing politics around the kitchen table, readily identified with the “Whig” party.

Setting Up

Some Girls State citizens would run for office while others worked in various capacities for the government. A total of 16 fictitious cities located in four fictitious counties represented the Californian “Girls State.” The citizens would study local, county and state government processes and procedures for their state. They do this by setting up their own miniature city, county and state governments. Then, they administer them according to the laws of their particular state proposing legislation as they see fit. This helps prepare them for their future roles as responsible citizens. The learning experience of living together in the dorms as self-governing citizens with the privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship helps educate young women about their duties as United States citizens and encourages their participation in the democratic process. This experience may

also help prepare them for the opportunity to run for office, learn about effective public speaking, create and enforce laws and actively participate in all phases of creating and running a working government. For Lauren, her participation involved serving on the Whig platform committee.

“I wanted to be on the platform committee so I could do behind-the-scenes work so I could shape our party and its values,” Lauren said.

There, she wrote a “plank” for the platform on a topic she felt strongly about: California’s water problem.

“Last school year I had to do a project on California’s water shortage and I already knew a lot about the topic and no one else was doing anything about it,” she said. Her plank was almost unanimously supported with only a few detractors who questioned cost issues. It went to a vote and was passed by a broad majority and officially became part of the Whig platform.

“I had to take a picture of my plank being projected on the big screen as it was passed, I was so proud,” Lauren beamed. She also received a highly coveted ribbon for participating on the platform committee. “It really was a highlight of my experience to know that my opinion, and something that I strongly believed in, was part of the party platform.”

Ultimately, the American Legion believes our American way of life can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations. The program is nonpartisan and over the years has produced many alumni who have gone on to greater heights. Some Girls

State alumni include NBC broadcast journalist Jane Pauley; former Governor of Texas Ann Richards; Captain Michelle Johnson, the first woman to serve as Wing Commander at the U.S. Air Force Academy; Lynne Cheney, wife of U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney; Kate Shindle, Miss America for 1998 and Ericka Dunlap, Miss America for 2004. Famous Boys State Alumni include: President Bill Clinton; astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon; Nevada senator Harry Reid; radio host and political commentator Rush Limbaugh; NBA god Michael Jordan; and actor, singer and producer Mark Wahlberg.

A Special Alumnus

But one successful alumnus holds a special place in Lauren’s heart: her father, Randy Bailey, editor of the Ranchos Independent newspaper. Randy had the opportunity to attend Boys State in 1972 for Montclair High in Southern California. He is very proud of his experience at Boys State and he’s happy to see his daughter have the opportunity to attend Girls State.

“My fondest memory of Boys State was at the big awards ceremony at the end of the week. Our Boys State was held in Sacramento and we were honored to have then-Governor Ronald Reagan speak to us. At the end of the evening I got to shake hands with him and that has stuck with me a long time,” Bailey said proudly.

This unique program is open to students who have successfully completed their Junior year of high school, have an interest in government and current events, who have high moral character, strong leadership abilities and above-average scholastic standing. Ideally the

American Legion encourages two participants from each high school, one participating in the Girls State program and the other to participate in Boys State. Enrollment fees, or “tuition,” are often paid by American Legion posts or other community minded organizations, with little or no expense to the attendee or to their family.

At the end of the week-long event, two girls are selected from each Girls State program to attend Girls Nation, a national version of Girls State. Girls Nation “senators” meet for a week in Washington, D.C., where they run for political office, campaign for the passage of legislation and possibly meet with state representatives and senators. Capping off the week of Girls Nation often involves a meeting with the President of the United States at the White House.

The young women who attended this year’s Girls State wanted to give something back to the community so they supported a charity called Operation Military Kids. While at Girls State they worked on creating backpacks full of small gift items and toys for the children of active duty military personnel.

“When we started the week we were all a bunch of strangers who didn’t know each other or what we were doing,” Lauren said. “By the end of the week we felt like best friends because we had all been through the same experience. It was something special I’ll always remember.”

Lauren said that one of her primary goals, with the help of her dad, is to spread the word to future students about the value of the Girls State experience and make sure that in the future Liberty High will always be represented there.

ANSWERS

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7	3	5	2	9	6	1	8	4
9	8	4	1	3	7	5	6	2
5	6	3	4	7	2	8	9	1
4	9	2	3	1	8	7	5	6
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by Linda Thistle

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

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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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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

that added a little coconut. This is definitely one on which you can use your imagination. One other suggestion I would have if you were using peaches or pears is to cut them up. You don't have to do it in a separate bowl, just dump the fruit in the bottom of the baking pan and before you pour the cake mix on cut the slices into smaller pieces. These cakes will seem wet and uncooked but once cooked they are delicious – almost like a cobbler. And they are especially good served warm with a scoop of ice cream.

When I told Randy about Dump Cakes he mistakenly thought I was saying “Bundt cakes.” When I explained them to him he went home and tried his hand at a Dump Cake. His entire family loved it and loved how simple it was to make. These things are so simple, here's a recipe he made up that he is still raving about.

Apple Spice Dump Cake

2 Cans Apple Pie Filling

1 Box Spice Cake Mix

1 ½ Cubes of Butter, cut into pats

Spray the bottom of a 9x13 baking pan with Pam or any cooking spray. Pour the entire contents of the two cans of pie filling into the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle entire dry cake mix on top of filling and flatten it out with a fork. Place the pats of butter over the entire surface of the cake mix, completely covering it. Bake for 35 minutes in a 350 oven. When you pull it out let it rest for 30 minutes before you cut into it. Randy says it is one of the best – and easiest – desserts he and his family have ever had.

Well, that does it for another month. I want to thank those of you who have commented on the column and I look forward to hearing from you. Call me at the office at 645-0634, or best yet, come in and talk to me. I'd love to discuss recipes with you.

Until next time – stay cool!

STOCK cont. from P. 9

change President Kenney and his brother Bobby were killed and right after Martin Luther King was also shot. In 1965 I decided after 15 years of being a stay-at-home mom that it was time to go back to college since my daughter was in Kindergarten. What a time to decide to go to college with all of the war protests at colleges going on. At Fresno State it was the “aggies” against the war protesters. There were “sit ins” across Shaw Avenue by the college students. I am surprised that someone didn't get run over. I graduated from Fresno State in 1972 with my teaching credential. That is the year protesters blew up the college computer system. The graduation ceremony had to be held off campus at the Saroyan theatre in downtown Fresno.

I guess I am looking back because it is just about my 80th birthday. August 11, 1930 started me in the great depression and I have witnessed so many changes in my lifetime. Lots of great memories like creating Golden Valley Unified School District and some really strange happenings.

I have six grand children and this year two of them decided to get married. My grandson Christopher Morin grew up in the Madera Ranchos. We didn't have Liberty High School when

he finished the 8th grade at Webster so he went to Madera South High School where he met Seana who he married June 12, 2010. Chris is my daughter Sue's son. The next wedding was on July 17, 2010. That one is my granddaughter Amy Stock to Sean Perkins and was held in Ventura, California. Amy is my son Bob's daughter. I had my hip replacement surgery on March 29 so I have been able to enjoy both weddings. It is so good to see them both so happy.

On July 24th the members of the Ranchos Hills Seniors will be saying goodbye to a very good friend. We will hold a memorial service at the Senior Center for Doc Edmiston who passed away on June 30. With one son living in Florida and one in Los Angeles it has taken time to get everyone together. Doc was born in Clovis in 1913 and could tell wonderful stories about the early days in Clovis and Fresno. I will miss my friend.

Usually I write about Golden Valley Unified and what is happening there but this time it was just a lot of memories. School will start for all Golden Valley Unified Schools on Aug. 12, which is right around the corner. August school board meetings will be held on Monday Aug. 9 and 23 at 6 p.m. at the Liberty High Library. Have a great summer!

**Reclaim Your Garage in 4 Steps**

garage |gə-raj| *noun* 1: a closed shelter for a motor vehicle or vehicles.

What a novel idea! If your car hasn't seen the inside of your garage in years, maybe it's because the garage is functioning as a mini storage, or worse yet, a landfill. It's so easy to hang onto the broken down bicycle, those almost empty cans of paint, or furniture for your kids someday. The clutter may be costing you more than you think in terms of wear and tear on your vehicles, limited storage space for what you really need and time wasted looking for things you know you have, but can't find. If you're ready to reclaim your garage by making it useful and efficient, read on.

Prepare – What took years to accumulate won't be conquered in an hour or two. Set aside a couple days and recruit family or friends to make the project more enjoyable. Secure a supply of trash bags and boxes for garbage, recyclables, items to relocate, hazardous waste, yard sale items, donations and, of course, things to keep. Clear your driveway of all vehicles and section it off in the above categories. Break down the “things to keep” section into sub-categories of yard care, sports, pet supplies, plumbing, household, hand tools, seasonal, paint supplies, etc.

Attack – Pull everything out of the garage – yes, everything! As you do, put the items in the appropriate section or box on the driveway. If you're stuck on what to keep or toss, ask yourself these questions:

- Have I used this item in the past year?
- If it's broken, is it worth fixing and will I really fix it?
- Does this item serve a worthwhile purpose in my life?
- Would it be of value to someone else if donated?
- Is it more important to me to keep this item or have the space it occupies?
- Would it be difficult or expensive to replace?

Now that everything is out and categorized, give the garage a good cleaning.

Assign a Home – As you move things back into the garage, keep like items together, designating areas for each category in your “things to keep” section. Store what is used most often in the prime easy-to-reach areas and consider these storage tips:

- Line walls with floor to ceiling metal utility shelves; create some deep enough for large bins of seasonal items/decorations, sports equipment, power tools, etc.

- Consider using recycled cabinets from your remodeled kitchen or check with a cabinetmaker or home improvement center to see if they have cabinets that were returned because of incorrect size or finish.

- Use vinyl-coated hooks to hang bicycles, lawn chairs, sports bags, ladders, spreaders, electric trimmers, extension cords, etc.

- Store bats and large balls in a clean garbage can.

- Store small balls in an open bin or bucket (no lid means less steps and more likely the balls will be put away).

- Designate an area for kids to park their bikes, wagon, etc. using paint or tape on the garage floor.

- If you're storing paint for touch-ups, pour a small amount in a labeled jar and discard the rest.

- Hang long-handled tools upside-down using two nails spaced appropriately for each item.

- Use a peg-board to organize hand tools on the wall.

- Attach baby food jars upside-down screwing the lids on the underside of shelving to use for nuts/bolts.

- Label everything and store boxes and bins with labels facing out.

Complete the Job – Your garage now looks great, but in order to park your cars there, you need to clear the driveway:


- Bag up the trash and discard immediately.

- Place the donation and recycling bags into your trunk and drive them to their destinations.

- Have your yard sale within two weeks and discard/donate anything that doesn't sell

- Give your friends and family a deadline for picking up items you're giving away

- Check with your local disposal provider about proper disposal of paints and other hazardous wastes.



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in memoriam
James Oscar "Doc" Edmiston
 September 22, 1912 - June 30, 2010

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Born about four miles east of the present City of Sanger in Fresno County along Fancher Creek in what would be later known as the Fairview District, "Doc's" grandfather, Robert Edmiston, bought the land in Fresno County from the government in 1869. Grandfather Robert and his wife Anna Amelia Magee Edmiston, farmed in the Sanger area for more than 40 years before Robert William Edmiston returned from San Francisco State College to help run the family business.


"Doc's" father, Robert William, born on February 2, 1864, and Aunt Anna Edmiston Barr, born on March 4, 1865, were both born in New Mexico Territory while Grandfather Robert was a First Lieutenant in the First Regiment of the Infantry, California Volunteers, Union Army, during the War Between the States.

"Doc," born in 1912, graduated from the former Garfield Grammar School in 1927, Clovis High School in 1931 and attended college in San Francisco before returning to help farm the several Edmiston properties. He was married to the late Olive M. Bray-Edmiston, was the father of James William (wife Charlotte) of Florida and Robert Gene (wife Erlinda) of Los Angeles. He had two grandsons, William Morrow of Chesterfield, Missouri, and David James of Cathedral City, Calif. He also had two great granddaughters, Amanda Marie and Carrie Elizabeth.

A kind man, friend to all, loving father and grandfather, and one of the former pioneers from the early days of our Valley.

May "Doc's" memory last at least as long as his good thoughts and actions that have been given and received by his many neighbors, friends and family.

A memorial will be held at the Madera Ranchos Seniors Center at 37330 Berkshire on Saturday, July 24 at 1 p.m.



in memoriam
Woody Laughnan
 1924 - 2010

Woody Laughnan, who wrote a column for the Fresno Bee for 21 years and wrote *The Olde Cowboy* column for the Ranchos Independent since September of 2006, has died on Monday, July 12 at the age of 86.

Laughnan had been a writer his entire adult life, beginning with a stint at the Martinez News-Gazette in 1945 after his service with the U.S. Army in WWII. In 1946 he moved to his native Montana, where he was born in 1924, and continued to work for newspapers there until his return to California in 1965 when he worked for the Gilroy Dispatch and Paso Robles Press. His employment with the Bee began in 1967 and lasted until 1989.

In August of 2006, 17 years into his retirement, Laughnan called the Ranchos Independent – unsolicited – and said he liked our little newspaper and was still writing a column from time to time and wanted to know if we'd be interested in running it. His column began running in September 2006.

Laughnan had no funeral or memorial service immediately following his death, per his request, but there is talk of a memorial possibly at some future date. Any remembrances for Woody can be sent to the Poverello House at 412 F St., Fresno, CA, 93706.

The Ranchos Independent will run the small amount of remaining columns written by Laughnan in honor of his memory, his character and his humor.

Sweet dreams, Woody.

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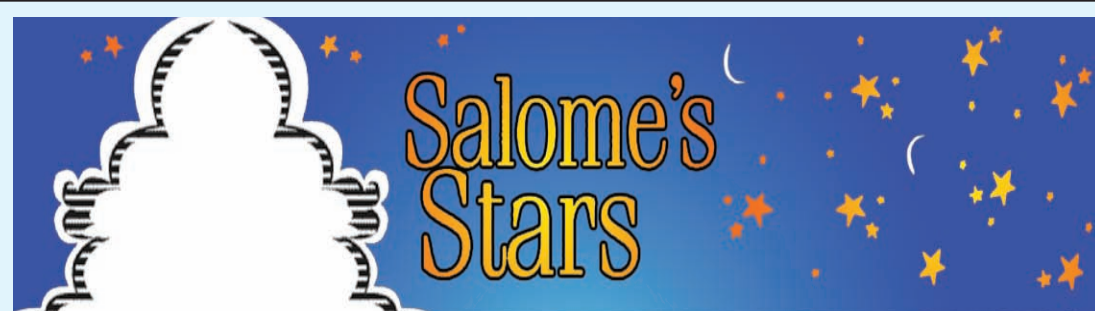
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Starting something new is always exciting for the adventurous Aries. And here's the good news: This time you might be able to get some assistance in helping you finish what you've started.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Put your daydreaming penchant on hold for now, and face the facts as they are, not as you'd like them to be. Your customary hardheaded approach to "deals," etc., would be called for.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Problems beyond your control might delay some of your plans. But things should start to get back to normal by midweek. The weekend could bring an unexpected (but welcome) visitor.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good time to buckle down and tackle those unfinished tasks so you'll be ready to take on other projects. The week's end could bring an invitation from a most surprising source.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Mixed signals could create a few stressful moments for the Lion. But by midweek, explanations should help ease the tension. The weekend is party time! Share it with someone special.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good "catching up" week for finishing tasks, calling old friends and maybe reading that book you haven't opened yet or renting that movie you wanted to see again.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Money matters should be worked out, even if it takes time away from a more romantic situation. Better to settle things before feelings turn hard and angry on all sides.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A job-related problem could turn out to be less troublesome than it seemed at first. Just a few moments of talk 'twixt the parties resolves everything to everyone's satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The Sagittarian Archer takes aim at health and fitness issues this week. Watch your diet, and try to put more exercise time into your typically busy schedule.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As you continue to focus on a career or job change, it's a good time to look over some of your rarely used skills and see where they can fit into your future workplace plans.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A loved one's health might be worrisome, but there's good news by midweek. Expect people who share your ideas and your goals to try to contact you by the week's end.

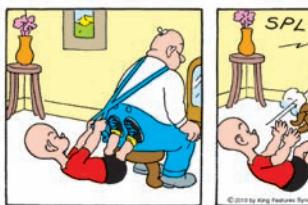
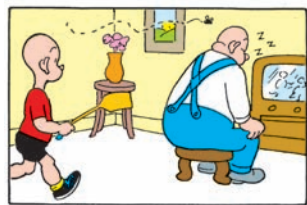
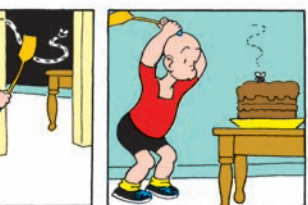
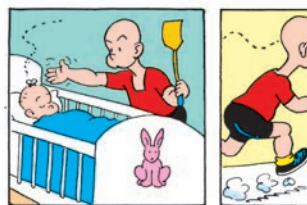
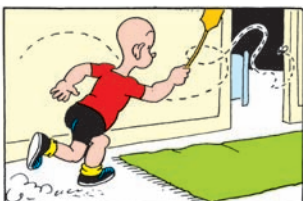
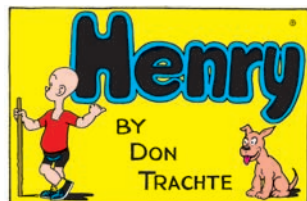
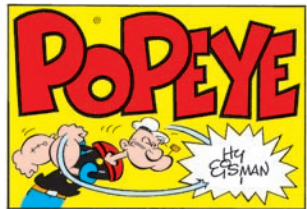
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A colleague's request that makes the typically perceptive Pisces feel uncomfortable is a request you probably will want to turn down. The weekend favors family get-togethers.

Born this Week

You have a gift for making others feel warm and wanted. Even newcomers feel like old friends.

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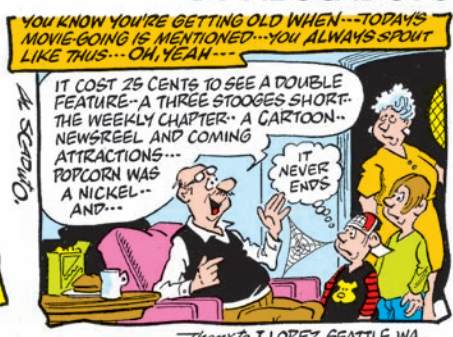
FUN PAGES



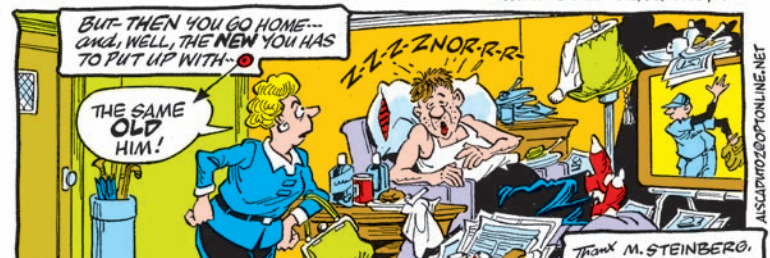
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



YOU JUST SPENT TOP PRICE FOR A SUPER PERMANENT... AND THE BEAUTY PARLOR OPERATOR, WHEN FINISHED, SAID... "VOILA! IT'S THE NEW YOU!"



Y	G	R	N	E	A	
E					B	
F					H	
I					B	
A					C	
S					O	
I	N	R	O	E	R	X

HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous proverb. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter

Answer: Starting with the "F" in the left rail, "Fair exchange is no robbery."

CAN YOU SOLVE this AlphaMath puzzle? Replace the letters in the sand with the digits 0 through 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Wishing Well

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

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.

MAGIC MAZE • WEDDING TERMS

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Best man | Cummerbund | Maid of honor | Train |
| Bow tie | Favors | Pages | Vows |
| Bridesmaids | Fondant | Ring bearer | Waistcoat |
| Corsage | Lace | Tiara | |

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Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE DOGGIES!

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

Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 19 types of dogs. 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 doggies you're trying to catch.

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Akita | Chow | Husky | Spaniel |
| Basset | Corgi | Jackal | Terrier |
| Beagle | Coyote | Pointer | Whippet |
| Boxer | Fox | Poodle | Wolf |
| Bulldog | Golden | Setter | |

TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. THEATER: Who won the 1961 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in "West Side Story"?
2. ANATOMY: How long does it take blood to circulate throughout your body?
3. MUSIC: Who is honored in the song "Candle in the Wind" by Elton John?
4. HISTORY: Where was the first theater built in the American colonies?
5. SCIENCE: What area of study is a lepidopterist concerned with?
6. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the name Addis Ababa (capital of Ethiopia)?
7. MATH: In geometry, what is a perfectly round ball called?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In "The Twelve Days of Christmas" carol, what was sent on the 11th day?
9. MOVIES: What was the name of the submarine in the film "Operation Petticoat"?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Australia?

Answers

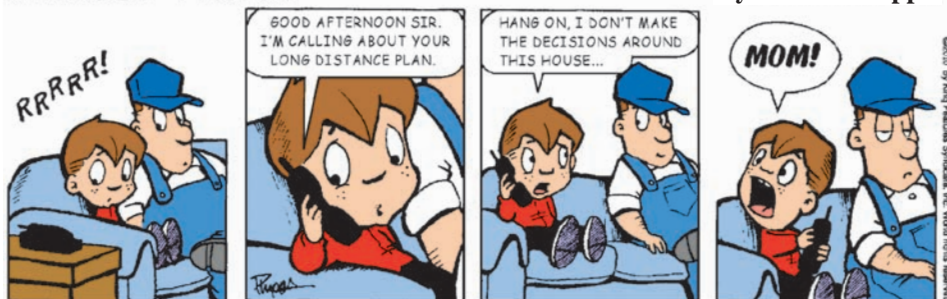
1. Rita Moreno
2. About a minute
3. Marilyn Monroe
4. Williamsburg, 1716
5. Butterflies and moths
6. New Flower
7. A sphere
8. 11 pipers piping
9. U.S.S. Sea Tiger
10. Canberra

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

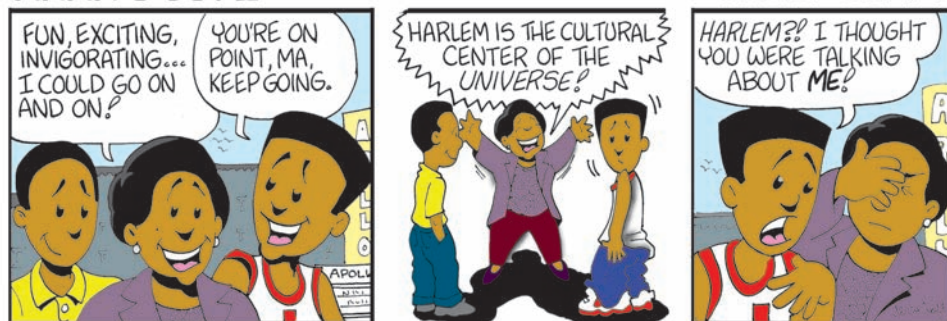
by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



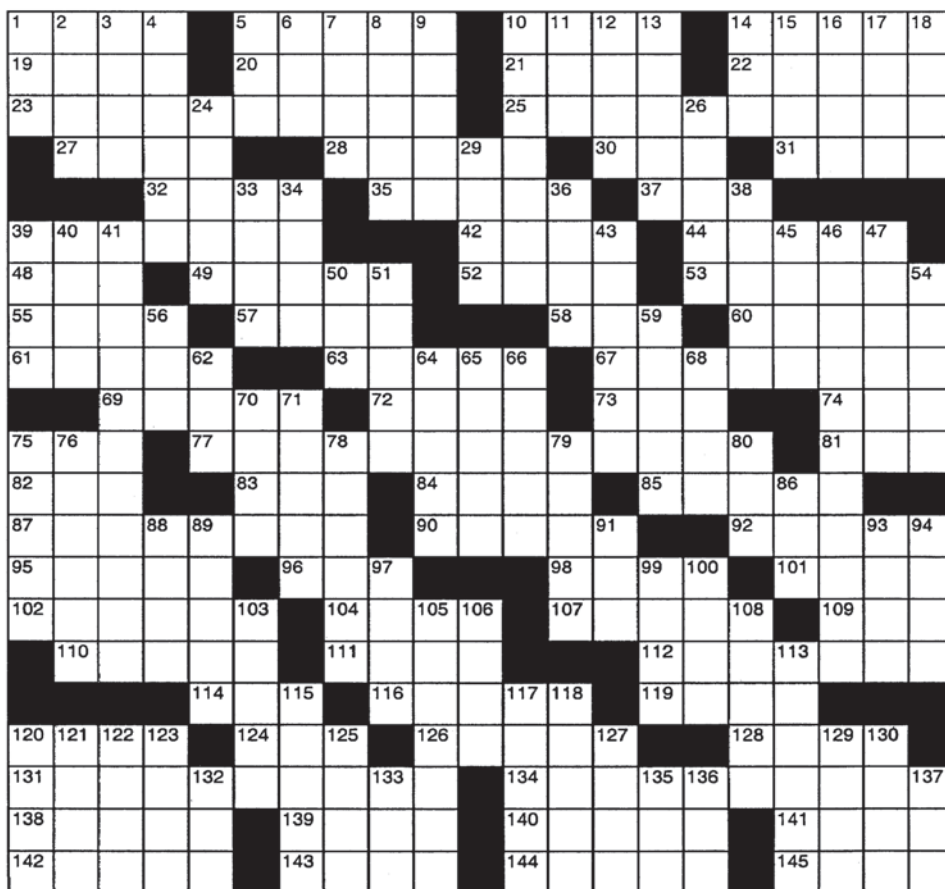
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Button has been added. 2. Patient's nose is smaller. 3. Diploma is missing. 4. File cabinet has third drawer. 5. Patient's nose is wider. 6. Drape is wider.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Covenant
 - 5 Come out of one's shell
 - 10 King or queen
 - 14 Tracking tool
 - 19 "— patriae"
 - 20 Moscow's locale
 - 21 Clarinet kin
 - 22 Cover story?
 - 23 Deception
 - 25 Gibberish
 - 27 Detergent target
 - 28 Roman fountain
 - 30 British bar
 - 31 Nut part
 - 32 Achy
 - 35 Civil Rights org.
 - 37 Baseball's Kluszewski
 - 39 "Moby-Dick" narrator
 - 42 Canvas cover
 - 44 Some are deviated
 - 48 — -Locka, FL
 - 49 Equine exclamation
 - 52 — gin fizz
 - 53 Sufficient
 - 55 Actress Reid
 - 57 Misplace
 - 58 Vane letters
 - 60 Ring championship
 - 61 Caribbean isle
 - 63 Song-writers' org.
 - 67 Idol's perch
 - 69 Stiller's partner
 - 72 Mediocre
 - 77 Disorderly
 - 81 Marsh
 - 82 Circle section
 - 83 Damage
 - 84 Ibsen's "— Gynt"
 - 85 Flight segment
 - 87 Migration
 - 90 Remove varnish
 - 92 — stop
 - 95 Less available
 - 96 Pie ingredient?
 - 98 Holler
 - 101 Kenton or Getz
 - 102 Hardened
 - 104 "— Indigo" ('31 song)
 - 107 Sign of spring
 - 109 Golfer's gadget
 - 110 Islamic ruler
 - 111 Singer Guthrie
 - 112 Climb a trellis
 - 114 "Uh-uh!"
 - 116 Extra
 - 119 Jim Morrison, for one
 - 120 Lost
 - 124 Tiny
 - 126 Peter of "Casa blanca"
 - 128 Arizona city
 - 131 Disorganized
 - 134 Weak
 - 138 Spout like Cicero
 - 139 Close noisily
 - 140 Richard's veep
 - 141 Austin or Garr
 - 142 "The — Drop Kid" ('51 film)
 - 143 Use the VCR
 - 144 Rocky Mountain range
 - 145 Pile
 - 3 Fashion's Chanel
 - 4 Platitude
 - 5 Cool
 - 6 Fuss and feathers
 - 7 Savoir-faire
 - 8 Make butter
 - 9 Biblical book
 - 10 Amusing
 - 11 — Dhabi
 - 12 Frolic
 - 13 Premiere
 - 14 Scott's "The — Quartet"
 - 15 Grad
 - 16 — novel
 - 17 Eban of Israel
 - 18 Disturbance
 - 24 Ashcan artist John
 - 26 Too heavy
 - 29 Punccheons
 - 33 Rod's companion
 - 34 Designer Fiorucci
 - 36 Freighter front
 - 38 AI — (cooking term)
 - 39 It comes before kappa
 - 40 Practice punching
 - 41 Reckless
 - 43 Foreign correspondent?
 - 45 "Petits —"
 - 46 Kind of confection
 - 47 Blazing
 - 50 Youth org.
 - 51 "Siddhartha"
 - 56 Presidential nickname
 - 59 Ridges
 - 62 Ooh's partner
 - 64 Military unit
 - 65 Selling point
 - 66 Hearth hardware
 - 68 Forgo the fudge
 - 70 San —, Italy
 - 71 Consternation
 - 75 Inner circle
 - 76 Journalist Fallaci
 - 78 Shock
 - 79 Author Jong
 - 80 Prison pariah
 - 86 Taxing org.
 - 88 Withered
 - 89 Act like an egret
 - 91 Norm
 - 93 D-Day site
 - 94 "... my banjo on my —"
 - 97 Mount —, FL
 - 99 Schubert song
 - 100 Carson's successor
 - 103 Haggard
 - 105 Connecticut town
 - 106 Extinct bird
 - 108 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)
 - 113 Christmas decoration
 - 115 Criminal caper
 - 117 Director Lubitsch
 - 118 Dais covering
 - 120 Way off base?
 - 121 Lassie's father
 - 122 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 - 123 Choir member
 - 125 Poet
 - 127 Give off
 - 129 Hook's mate
 - 130 Steinbeck character
 - 132 Craving
 - 133 Drink like a dachshund
 - 135 Street salutation
 - 136 Hither and
 - 137 Puppy protest
- DOWN**
- 1 "Fie!"
 - 2 Famous fellow?

FUN PAGES



7/10

Now it's time to get to work

Now that South East Madera County United (SEMCU) has been formed in the Madera Ranchos to help with the pressing concerns of water issues in the Ranchos, and with an eye to the future to help resolve issues of transportation, noise, energy and other services provided by the County and other public agencies, we are still looking for willing hands and minds to help.

If the Ranchos is your home and you are concerned about its future, this is the organization for you. Call the number below or send an email for more information and discover just how badly you are needed.

SEMCU exists to advocate for, and act on behalf of, SEMCU members and the region by working with private granting agents and other parties to attain the above-stated purposes and to provide other services beneficial to SEMCU members and the region.

If we don't get together, outside forces will take it into their own hands. Guaranteed.

559-363-9095
ranchos.community@gmail.com