

The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 9 Issue 5 2013

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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Singled Out

A Madera Ranchos resident is prepared to take Golden Valley Unified School District Trustee Kathleen Crumpton to the Madera County Grand Jury, District Attorney and a recall election for alleged California Penal Code and Education Code violations.

In This Issue

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

SINGLED OUT: GVUSD Trustee Crumpton on the Hot Seat



By Randy Bailey

“I think she’s hurting us. She’s not helping us.”

With those words, long-time Madera Ranchos resident Warren Parr summed up where he finds himself with Golden Valley Unified School District Trustee, Kathleen Crumpton.

On Tuesday, May 7 at a regularly scheduled GVUSD School Board meeting at Liberty High School, Parr stood up before the Board and the assembled audience and leveled a series of accusations at Trustee Crumpton, contending that she had violated two sections of the California Penal Code and another two sections of the California Education Code by her actions involving a teacher and the principal at Webster Elementary, as well as Superintendent Andy Alvarado. By the time he concluded his approximate

three minutes of “Communication from the Public,” Parr calmly revealed that he was taking the contents of his presentation to the Madera County Grand Jury seeking an indictment of Crumpton, after which he was seeking a referral to the Madera County District Attorney for the prosecution of “... her crimes against the administration, employees and students of Golden Valley School District.”

According to an official document of the Board, on April 17, 2013 Crumpton went to Webster to observe an informal, scheduled classroom observation of a special education teacher. She signed in on campus, put on her Board member badge and then “dropped in” on the observation. Webster Principal Felipe Piedra asked Crumpton to leave, noting that her unannounced presence would disrupt the observation.

Crumpton refused.

Piedra cancelled the observation and called his boss, Superintendent Andy Alvarado. At this point, Crumpton

was in violation of five different areas of law that pertain to keeping anyone from creating a disruption on campus. Board Policy 1250, California Education Code section 32210 and 32212, and California Penal Code section 626.10 and 627.7 all give a school principal the authority to require a person to leave a campus when the principal reasonably believes that person is causing or will cause a disruption. This even applies to a Board member. Anyone violating these laws could be charged with a criminal misdemeanor.

Once Alvarado arrived, the Board document goes on, Alvarado repeatedly asked Crumpton to leave.

Crumpton refused.

Eventually, Crumpton did leave. She felt compelled to relate the events of that day so she logged onto the Madera Ranchos GVUSD Discussion Group on Facebook and filed the following report:

“Today I visited Webster as a board member and the events that unfolded were disturbing to say the least. I have always been honest with my community and so I will be honest this afternoon. Usually I can talk about all the classes I visited and the neat things each teacher was doing in their classroom, but today in sharp contrast to my routine classroom visits, I was rudely and aggressively approached by the superintendent yelling at me. He said I had

Please see **CRUMPTON** on P. 15

Ranchos Firm Searching Our Past

A Madera Ranchos engineering firm, Bedrock Engineering, is undertaking a massive project in the Ranchos to locate and catalog all of the boundary corner markers in our community, starting with the Bonadelle areas. These are the markers surveyors use to determine where property lines are supposed to be. In our community many of the markers are more than 50 years old and many of them have been covered over, damaged or, in some cases, are missing altogether.

Bedrock Engineering is utilizing specialized GPS equipment to locate and record the precise position of existing property corner markers.

Their survey crews will initially be surveying those markers which are accessible from the public street right-of-way and/or vacant lots, so as to avoid disrupting homeowners. After they have gathered this preliminary information, if it is necessary they will contact selected residents to request access to

the property corner markers in the rear of their lots to complete the survey.

An obvious question is why is Bedrock doing this?

As addressed above, many of these corners are over 50 years old and are showing their age. Bedrock says that once this project is completed, the original locations of these markers can be preserved, minimizing the amount of time required to reset lost corners. It’s that element that can often make surveying a piece of property more costly than it needs to be. Bedrock says that this completed project will allow them to offer lower prices on boundary surveys

for anyone in the Ranchos where the survey has been allowed, immensely benefitting any community member who needs a boundary survey in the future.

Bedrock Engineering is a small busi-

Please see **MARKER** on P. 14



This is what they’re looking for ... a corner boundary marker. They got lucky this time since many of the 50-year-old markers are either buried, damaged or missing altogether.

Households NOT Completing Essential Ranchos Area Survey

By Tom Zonsius

A crucial survey that can shape the future of the Madera Ranchos has to date received a response by only 7 percent of the residents of the Ranchos.

There have been three open public meetings so far at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. In all the meetings there are three primary topics being addressed. The first, and most important, is getting a good sampling of residents’ input into the Municipal Service Review, or MSR. The survey was developed for Madera County LAFCO, or Local Area Formation Committee, to answer some of the basic questions LAFCO needs answered to set the directions needed to proceed. The survey is currently online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCORanchosSurvey and in written form at the Madera Ranchos Regional Library and at Hurst Hardware.

A letter was sent to all property owners in the area of the Review to please complete the online survey. At our new Su-

pervisor’s Town Hall Meeting, several times people were encouraged to complete the survey. Currently, a notice is going home from all Golden Valley Schools with all school-aged children urging residents to complete the survey. Not only has there been only a 7 percent response to the survey, very few of the responses are coming from the Bonadelle portions of the Ran-

chos. All meetings so far have been held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Ranchos on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. and run to a little after 8 p.m. In attendance at the last meeting were members

of the Local Advisory Committee, County officials from the Roads, Engineering and others departments, District 1 Supervisor, Manuel Nevarez, and a dozen or so residents.

In further attempting to get the word out, the committee has also scheduled two Town Hall-type meetings. These meetings

Please see **LAFCO** on P. 14



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Releasing Prisoners on Californians



By Harlen A. Rippetoe

California Assembly Bill 109 (A.B. 109) enacted by the Legislature in October, 2011 has proven disastrous to the citizens of California. The Bill was designed to reduce overcrowding in our 33 correctional facilities and comply with a federal judge order to provide adequate medical care for inmates. As a result of those two decisions the cit-

izens now suffer an increase in home invasion robberies, home burglaries, car thefts and a total rise in parole-related crimes. A.B. 109's design to release low-level inmates to the custody of the county jails has lacked financial support and thus forced county sheriffs to release felons back to the community to commit additional crimes.

When will our leaders ever learn?

This same failed program was tried in California in the late 70s and 80s. At that time it was called Probation and Parole Subsidies. Counties were paid by the state to keep convicted felons out of the prison system and place them on probation or parole.

Now here we go again. Just change the name, with the same disastrous results.

How soon our leaders forget. It was a low-level parolee who murdered two Oakdale students and then ate their hamburgers. It's just a matter of time for a low-level inmate to bring us back to reality.

Federal Judge, Lawrence Karlton has single-handedly, cost the tax payers of California billions of dollars because of his desire to provide prison inmates with the best medical care possible. You only have to visit any local hospital near a prison and you will see an endless caravan of prison cars

escorting inmates out to receive hospital care at taxpayer expense. Judge Karlton uses the mental health issues as his basis to continue to hold the California Department of Corrections accountable for the treatment of inmates. It would seem reasonable that if the inmates are mentally ill they would be transferred to a mental health facility and leave the prison system to house prisoners who are wreaking havoc in our communities. Judge Karlton is a prime example of federal intervention into our state government. Regardless of cost to the taxpayers, he forces the state to spend billions of dollars on our misfits. It would be nice if Judge Karlton would be as concerned for our seniors currently housed in convalescent facilities. I applaud Gov-

ernor Brown in his efforts to get free from this judicial debacle.

It is noted that a few county Sheriffs are beginning to speak out against the lack of financial support for A.B. 109 and their inability to house the increase in the criminal population. I would hope that they continue to put pressure on the legislature to repeal this horrible law and lock up the criminals who now prey on our citizens.

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Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The June 2013 Madera Tea Party meeting will be held on June 17 at the Madera Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall at 2026 Granada Dr. at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be James Brulte, Chairman of the California Republican Party. Brulte will talk about the current status of the California Republican Party.

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

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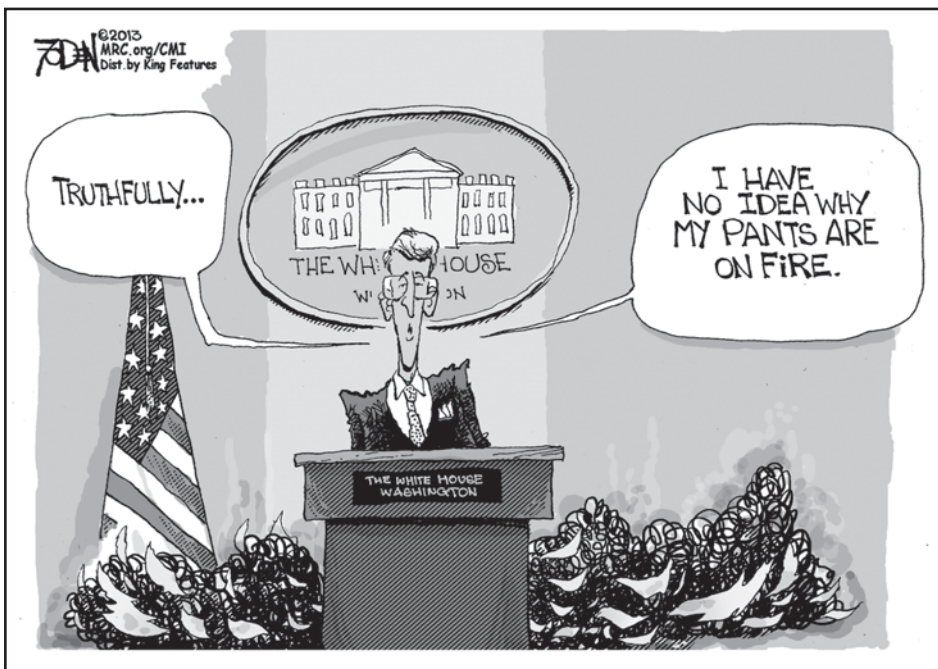
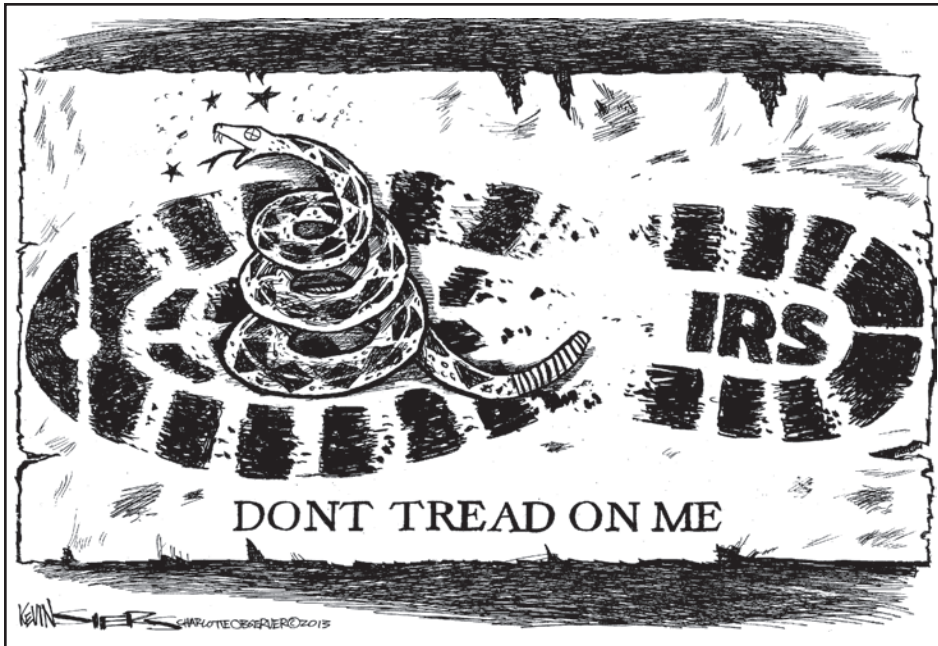
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Guest Editorial

“Patriot” Games at the IRS

By Rich Lowry

It sounds like the plot from a dystopian libertarian novel. The word "patriot" and the phrase "educating on the Constitution and Bill of Rights" triggered heightened scrutiny from the most intrusive agency in the federal government.

We now know that the Internal Revenue Service did indeed target conservative groups, as had long been rumored and oft-denied. The news is a perverse confirmation of the groups' worldview, and a challenge to President Barack Obama's. He always harangues us about putting more trust in government, and then you find out that the IRS has been singling out his political enemies.

This isn't an unaccustomed role for the IRS. It was notoriously used as a partisan bludgeon by Franklin D. Roosevelt and Richard Nixon, an abuse that was a Watergate impeachment count. In this case, the IRS gave special scrutiny to conservative groups filing for tax-exempt status as so-called 501(c)(4) organizations. Their applications would be flagged if an offending phrase or issue popped up, say, "tea party," or statements criticizing "how the country is being run," or concern about the federal debt. Then, the group might be hit with massive document requests and queries about the activi-

ties of family members of board members and key officers.

No one defends the propriety of any of this. President Obama says it is "outrageous," and even the IRS calls it, drawing on that elastic Washington word, "inappropriate." So how did it happen? The IRS explanation is that it was an innocent mistake by the rube out in the Cincinnati office, who apparently lack an appreciation for objectivity and the rule of law, not to mention common sense.

We will learn soon enough how this holds up. But Ken Vogel, a reporter at Politico who has covered the IRS, says via twitter that the "Cincinnati office has little autonomy" and "mostly just follows DC's instructions." Certainly, if the IRS had a rogue operation on its hands, it didn't act like it. An agency vigilant in defense of the rights of citizens and of its own reputation would have exposed and shut down the misconduct immediately.

Reports say that the IRS targeting of conservatives began as early as 2010, and senior IRS officials learned of the practice two years ago. In March 2012 congressional testimony, then-IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman repeatedly denied any targeting of conservatives. Evidently, no one who knew about it did his or her boss the favor of telling him he had misled Congress.

There are two steps toward making it right. One is a thorough congressional investigation and the firing of anyone involved in the harassment or in looking the other way or covering it up.

The other is, as much as possible, to remove political regulation from agencies like the IRS that can become the tool of one party and its partisan agenda. The Federal Election Commission has its faults, but it is designed to be bipartisan and is better-suited to making politically sensitive judgments.

Needless to say, ours should be a country where you can start a group with the word "patriot" in the title and not incur the hostility of the American government.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

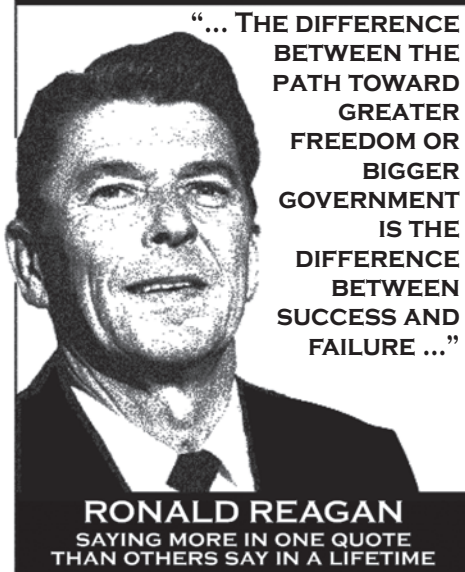
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SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



The Ranchos, Local and Lovin' It

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I hope that you were able to see our local Flatlander's Day Parade. It was really exciting with 55 entries this year on May 11. I was sitting in the local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office in the Maywood Center at 7 a.m. on the morning of the Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair. The excitement was in the air with the craft booths getting set up and serving the first people who had come for the big day. I was watching Virginia Vick (the Chamber of Commerce Treasurer) as she worked through the last minute details of the

The parade theme this year was "Ranchos, Local and Lovin' It" and the RHS are very much involved in our community. These seniors are "Local, Living and Lovin' It" in the Ranchos and Rolling Hills.

lineup of the parade. I was looking at the many parade entry trophies, which Virginia picked up last night. On the table also were the Grand Marshal sash and his wife's corsage was in the refrigerator. Now Virginia was busy matching entry numbers against entries in the parade lineup. About this time, someone came in and begged Virginia to let her company be in the parade. I was sure that Virginia would say it was too late but she was able to squeeze her in by juggling parade numbers and the lineup. About that time two men rushed in to get two pop-up tents from the back room to cover the judge's stand. Next they came back to pick up two tables and 10 chairs also for the judges' stand. It was now 8 a.m. and Virginia, with her two helpers, left the office for her parade check-in spot at road 36 1/2 to hand out the entry place numbers. One of her helpers led people to the assigned space on 36 1/2 where the spaces had been measured, chalked and numbered the night before. Virginia had eight clipboards set up for the seven judges and one for the Master of Ceremonies with a short two-minute script for each entry. Virginia also had a clipboard for herself so she could check off each entry when she handed them their number at road 36 1/2. At the last minute, another pop-up tent and a table had to be found for the Chamber space so that the Chamber information had a place to be displayed in front of the office. It was now

9 a.m. and the convertible car to carry Grand Marshals Merle and Esther Anderson had arrived. Part of my job was to give the driver the two magnetic Grand Marshal signs that he put on each side of the car. People had been coming and going in the office all morning and I had helped them out when I could. Merle and Esther Anderson arrived at 9:30 a.m. and I arranged the sash on Merle and pinned the corsage on Esther, then I took pictures of

them and the pictures came out so nice I had an 8x10 enlargement made and put in a frame for them. It was then time to get them both into the back seat of the car and they were off to claim their space in the parade.

I have been trying to organize the many activities that are involved in putting on this Flatlander's Day Parade. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is our local Ranchos Chamber, started working on the details of the parade as soon as the Crab Feed fundraiser was over on March 1. That gave us time to line up people, materials and assign various jobs so that we could put together this local parade that showcases our community. Then the night before the parade some of the Chamber members came to set up and decorate the judge's stand. They went and got the stairs and hooked them to the stand. They put up yellow caution tape and the road delineators. Now that the parade is over there are more details to take care of. The judges' votes of the winning parade entries were counted and trophies were given out to the winners. The pop-up tents over the judges' stand were taken down, the tables and chairs were taken off the judges' stand and all put back into the Chamber office. Davie Munoz was our sound person this year and the pop-up tent, table and chair were taken down and taken back to the Chamber office. The judging stand trailer was returned to Mark Toole and the stairs were returned to Ray Freeman. The ground around the trailer was cleaned up. The yellow caution tape was taken down. The road delineators were picked up and returned to Fresno. I

Please see STOCK on P. 16

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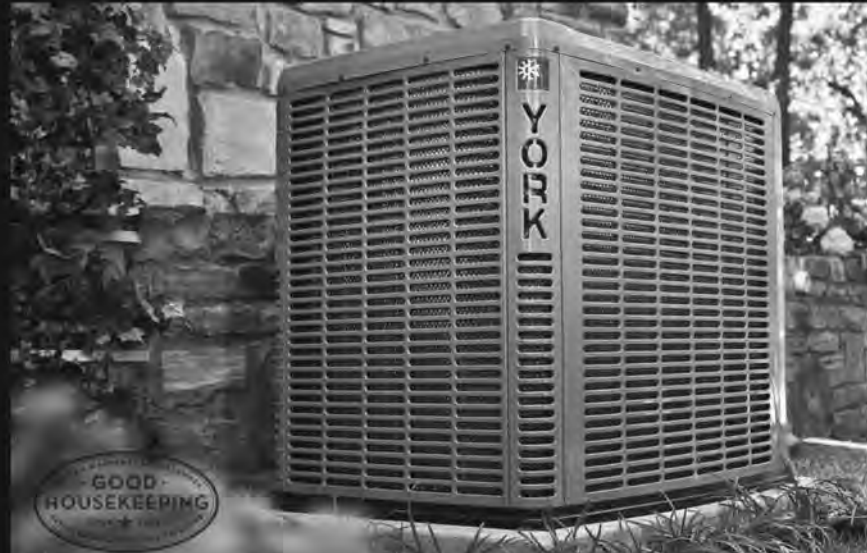


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The post office is screwed.

They are trying to hang on; they’ve dug their claws in, but at some point in the future, history classes will teach about a long ago division of the government that used to hand-deliver little bundles of paper called “mail.” I know I personally rarely use regular mail, so rarely in fact that I had no earthly idea that you could buy stamps anywhere else other than inside a post office. My aunt was the one who informed me that stamps could be purchased at the grocery store when I was whining recently about having to go the post office. I hate the post office, much like the DMV – it’s long lines and rude, unhappy government employees who would clearly rather be doing anything else but helping you, which is evidenced by how many times they wander off between customers, and for what? To acquire a little square sticky that magically makes your mail disappear and wind up at the designated location a week later. This is why I prefer everything electronic because it feeds the need for instant gratification that society has nurtured within me.

I’m not the only one unfamiliar with all things snail mail. While my aunt was making fun of me for not knowing the various establishments peddling stamps, she also told me that her daughter didn’t know which side of the envelope to affix the stamp, and another young woman she knows had no idea how to address a letter. I would say this is a problem, and a dim look at the future, but let’s be honest: who writes letters anymore, other than maybe your grandparents? And more and more companies are pushing paperless, going with the more eco-friendly online option. I pay my bills through the bill pay option at my bank. I have my statements emailed to me and organized on my hard drive. My friends and family call, text and email me. I despise the junk mailers that show up in my mailbox. I have very little use for the United States Postal Service, and something tells me that as time marches on, USPS will go the way of telegrams.

Heck, even the USPS itself has started to move the way of the internet. You can change your address online, forward your mail and hold your mail. There is even a program where businesses can buy postage online and have their mail picked up and then delivered. No need to even set foot in the dreaded post office. Maybe if the employees had just taken just two breaks a day

GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**



instead of five people would rally for the personal attention and customer service of the post office, but you can’t rally for what never existed. In what appears to be a desperate attempt to avoid extinction, they are trying to solidify their position as America’s way to communicate by adapting to today’s electronic environment. Sure, we will always need to ship boxes, but now USPS has to compete with FedEx and UPS and you can find one of those almost as easily as you can locate a Starbucks, not to mention smaller businesses that don’t have nationally recognized campaigns.

I applaud the tenacity with which you have planted your feet, USPS, and boldly declared that you have no intention of being pushed out, but my taxes support your bottom line, so my bottom line is that it might be about time to throw in the towel. Think of all the paper we can save without those mailers being stuffed into our mailboxes without our consent.

Those same mailers are available en masse in front of every supermarket. Think of all the money we can save by getting a half a million people back into the private sector, certainly FedEx and UPS will be hiring like crazy to pick up the business the post office will leave behind. I say let’s all agree that since clearly there is hardly a soul under the age of 40 that takes full advantage of the post office, and what we do use them for can be absorbed by another shipping entity, we should go ahead and start the phase out. Work on updating the history books now. Stamp collectors, or philatelists because I learned a new word and needed to use it, can sit back and just watch their collections increase in value. We’ll give everyone some time to adjust, those last few things that still need to come by mail will have a little leeway to catch up to the times before we lock the doors for good.

All in all, it’s just not looking good for you, Mr. Office. I think it’s time to pack it in and just let the other guys have this one.



Gobble a Cobbler

Recently, a reader was in the office talking about this article. She said when she was a little girl, her grandmother made a fruit cobbler with a batter rather than pie dough. I asked if it was made with biscuit mix dough and she said it was similar, except it was more like a cake batter. And like so many grandmothers' recipes, they were all from memory and nothing written down. I feel so fortunate that most of my Mom's recipes are written. I told the reader I would do what I could to find a recipe for her.

With that challenge, I went on the search for cobblers made with batter rather than pie dough. So the following is what I found:

Spring Cobbler

1 pound rhubarb, cut into pieces

1 T. water

¾ C sugar

2 T. Cornstarch

¼ C. sugar

1 ½ tsp. butter or margarine

¼ tsp. cinnamon

3 T. melted butter or margarine

1/3 C milk

1 ½ C biscuit mix

1 T. sugar

Combine the rhubarb, water and ¾ C sugar in pan. Heat until bubbles form around the edge. Mix the cornstarch with ¼ C sugar. Add small amount of rhubarb juice to make a paste. Stir paste into rhubarb and boil 1 minute.

Pour fruit into 8x2 round baking pan, dot with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon. Place spoonfuls of batter over fruit.

Batter: Add 3 T melted butter the milk and 1 T sugar to the biscuit mix. Stir with a fork. Drop on fruit. Sprinkle with sugar.

Bake in hot oven (400) for 30 minutes.

Easy Cherry Cobbler

1 15 oz. can tart red cherries, undrained

1 C all-purpose flour

1 ¼ C sugar – divided

1 cup milk

2 tsp. baking powder

1/8 tsp. salt

½ C butter, melted



Bring cherries to boil in saucepan over medium heat – remove from heat. Mix flour, 1 C sugar, milk, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Pour butter evenly into 6 one cup ramekins or into a 2 quart casserole dish. Pour flour mixture over butter. Add cherries – do not stir. Sprinkle remaining ¼ C sugar evenly over top.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream if desired.

Red Velvet Berry Cobbler

1 T cornstarch

1 ¼ C sugar, divided

6 C assorted berries (Blackberries, Blueberries, Raspberries)

½ C butter, melted

2 large eggs

2 T red food coloring

1 tsp. vanilla

1 ¼ all-purpose flour

1 ½ T unsweetened cocoa

¼ tsp. salt

½ C buttermilk

1 ½ tsp. white vinegar

½ tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350. Stir together cornstarch with ½ C sugar. Toss berries with cornstarch mixture and spoon into a lightly buttered 11 x 7 inch baking dish.

Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; gradually add remaining ¾ C sugar, beating well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition. Stir in red food coloring and vanilla until blended. Combine flour, cocoa and salt. Stir together buttermilk, vinegar and baking soda in a 2 C liquid measuring cup. Mixture will bubble. Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed until blended after each addition. Spoon batter over berry mixture. Bake at 350 for 45 to 50 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in center of cake topping comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack at least

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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STERLING SPOONS –
FORKS – PLATES, ETC.**

If you have anything for sale call 264-7980. We live in the Ranchos and can come to your place or meet you.

THANK YOU

4/13

WANTED

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

10 minutes before serving.

This one I'm going to include for you that don't have a big family because it looks smaller as it is only cooked in an 8 x 8 pan.

Peach Cobbler

½ C Butter
1 C self-rising flour**
1 C white sugar
1 C milk
1 (16 oz.) can sliced peaches in heavy syrup.

Preheat oven to 350. Place butter in the bottom of an 8x8 baking pan. Put dish in oven until butter is melted.

In a medium bowl, combine flour and sugar. Mix well then stir in milk. Spoon mixture into baking dish, on top of melted butter. Pour peaches over flour mixture.

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes, until peaches are bubbly and crust is lightly browned.

** If you don't have self-rising flour add 1 1/3 tsp. baking powder and 1/3 tsp. salt to 1 C all-purpose flour.

I told my friend Nina about this reader's request and she said she had a recipe like that and, in fact, had just made it for her family that week and would send me her recipe. She said she cuts the sliced peaches

down to more bite-size by putting a sharp knife in opened can of peaches and cuts cross the peaches before pouring them into the casserole. The recipe wasn't named, so in her honor, I'm calling it

Nina's Peach Cobbler

1 cube butter
1 C flour
1 C sugar
2 ½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
¾ C milk
2 large cans sliced peaches

Melt butter in large round deep dish Pyrex bowl. Mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt; add milk to make the batter. Pour batter over butter. Pour cut up peaches over batter, including the syrup. Bake for one hour in preheated 325 oven. Best when served warm. Thanks Nina!

There you have the best of the ones I found. I sincerely hope one of them is like our reader's grandmother's.

Well, that does it for another month. I want to thank those of you that have sent an e-mail or called. I really appreciate the feedback. One suggestion I received was that I include our e-mail address in the column. I took it for granted that since it is in the newspaper somewhere else that wouldn't be necessary, but

perhaps I was wrong – sorry about that. You can call me at 645-0634 (if I'm not in the office you can leave a message on our brand new answering machine), or you can e-mail me at ranchosnews@yahoo.com, or better yet, come in and we can visit. We are in the Chamber of Commerce office, between the barber shop and the pool supply store.

Before I send this article to Randy for the paper, I want to brag to you about my nephew Adam – Randy's youngest brother. I have told you before about his apple pies – I'd put them up against Marie Callender's any time. Well, he proved it this past week. He entered one of his apple pies and a berry pie in the Chowchilla Fair. And ladies and gentlemen – he won first prize for the apple and second for the berry! He honored both his grandmother (my Mom, Gladys) and his mother (Faye) for teaching him how to make the pies by naming it the Gladys Faye Apple Pie.

And we have another pie baker coming up in the next generation. Adam's daughter Jessie entered an apple pie in the junior division of the fair, and she won second prize. When she told me she had entered the pie she said, "... and Aunt Jean, I made it all by myself."

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!

Until next month ...



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Open to **ALL** Skill Levels

The Bookshelf

A Great Flatlanders, A Great Day

By Lori McClendon

What a great Flatlander's Day we had this year. Hope you all enjoyed it. The Friends of the Ranchos Library would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this year's event. Come join us at our next meeting which is the first Thursday of the month.

The Summer Reading Program is just around the corner and this year's theme is "Reading is Soooooooooo Delicious." The program is available for children up to age 12.

Schedule of events: June 20 Chris Lopez (Magician) • June 27 Steve Riley (Author/Artist) • July 11 Wild Child Adventures (Bubble Assembly) • July 18 Don O'Brien (Xtreme Science) • July 25 Katherine Gallagher (Monterey Aquarium Marine Mammals) • August 1 Grand Prize drawing and Ice Cream Party

All presentations will be on Thursdays at the Ranchos Library at 11 a.m. Plan on showing up 15 minutes early.

Did you know free homework help is available at the Ranchos Library? It's available for grades k-5 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Mrs. Taylor. Additional times may be available by appointment, just ask at the front desk.

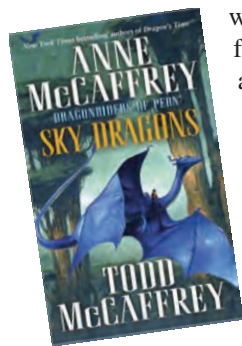
The Oakhurst Branch Library is hosting a Teen Writing Workshop with local published author Jennifer Moss starting June 25. For more details call 683-4838 or visit www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org.

Furlough Days for the Madera Ranchos Library are June 7 and 21.

Check out our New Arrivals

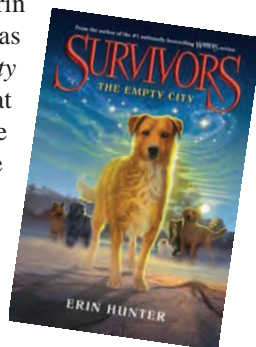
New Adult Audio Books: *Sky Dragons* by Anne McCaffrey and Todd McCaffrey

– Scores of dragons are dead after a plague swept across the world of Pern, and now the Weyrs are struggling to rebuild before Threadfall destroys everything — and everyone — left alive. Their best hope lies with a group of new dragonriders who have volunteered to brave the dangers of an unexplored island populated by vicious wild felines and voracious tunnel-snakes to create a safe home for their young dragons, whose offspring will hopefully replenish Pern's decimated population. But their leader, Xhinna, the first female rider of a blue dragon, faces an uphill battle to win the respect of her peers. Her ability to time travel comes with risks: by venturing into the past, Xhinna may jeopardize the very future she has sworn to save.



New Juvenile Books: *Survivors: The Empty City* by Erin Hunter

From the author of the bestselling *Warriors and Seekers* books comes a thrilling new animal fantasy series. In *Survivors*, Erin Hunter shows readers the world through the eyes of dogs, as she did with cats and bears in her earlier series. *The Empty City* begins with the Big Growl, a devastating earthquake that changes Lucky's world forever. Lucky has always been a Lone Dog, but now he needs a pack in order to stay alive, so he teams up with a group of Leashed Dogs who have been separated from their owners. Lucky's vivid point of view and the pulse-pounding action make for the start of an addictive series.



Services available at the library include books magazines and newspapers, books on CD and tape, DVD and VHS videos, access to ebooks, public computers with internet access, a typewriter, photocopier and system wide book requests.

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 Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
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Senior Report

Living the “Good Life” as a Ranchos/Hills Senior: One Member’s Thoughts

By Verlaine Elinburg

If you had told me that life “sucks” a few years back I would have agreed with you, being a female growing up in a third-world country and knowing that life had not dealt me the winning cards. However, the cards I was dealt had many pluses and it was up to me to enhance them. Like all of us we have our ups and downs. I was lucky and was a lot like a slot machine: I won some and I lost some. In all I succeeded in what America was about, but somewhere along the way I allowed my self-esteem to be sucked out of me and I was not happy with my life.

Suddenly I was a senior. On May 11, 2013 I stood on Avenue 12 at the Flatlanders Day Parade watching the parade. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors were a contender. “The Good Life” was their team. It was then that I realized how happy and content I was with my life. I felt lighter and happier than I ever deemed possible. I was living the good life and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors had changed my outlook on life.

I had joined the Ranchos/Hills Seniors the first year I retired and I volunteered for a minor

task. As my confidence grew I became bolder and became more involved and it keeps getting better and better. It’s like having another family. We create our little groups of friends – some

special and close; some that we use for special projects. We have groups that love to travel and take trips like the trip to the national parks coming up on June 19. We cannot leave out the gamblers that hit the casinos for food and a touch of gambling and our in-house card games. We also have a spiritual and “everything and anything goes” discussion group. Audrey Stock will lead you through exercise, share health information and the local gossip. If gardening is your thing Mary Thomson could use the help. Politics is not covered

unless it involves our living space and our community.

It was enlightening when it was announced that the Ranchos/Hills Seniors received the 1st Place trophy for “The Good Life.” We feel that we have earned it and that a big part of the “good life” is that we do not want to become like so many “old farts,” sitting around, dead and not knowing it. We believe that the happiest of people do not necessarily have the best of everything but they make the most of everything that comes their way. The happiest people continually reinvent themselves, after all America is about renewal, fresh starts and independence. And being a senior, what a perfect opportunity to do and be exactly what and who you want to be.

The survey regarding LAFCO – the Local

Agency Formation Commission – should be taken by everyone in the Ranchos. Copies are available at the Senior Center. Like anything else, get involved or decisions will be made for you.

As seniors you need to have a legible address for emergencies: Order your address sign from your Madera County Fire Department Main Office 559-675-7799 or call Mike Gomez Thursday through Saturday at 559-706-1621. The price is only \$15 and it’s a fundraiser for the Apprentice Program.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. and we have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m.

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



The Ranchos/Hills Seniors took to the streets of the Ranchos at the Flatlanders Day Parade in their golf carts and walked away with First Place in their division.

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With another successful Flatlanders Day Parade completed, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to once again thank the local individuals and businesses who made it possible.

- Pistoresi Ambulance • The Ranchos Independent Valley Propane • CM&N Nursery • Ranchos Café**
- Verlin Dill • The Coffee Spot • Liberty Groves**
- The Rice Bowl • 3V Feed & Garden Supply**
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Oklahoma Twister Relief

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, along with Flipside Church, Central Valley Caterers, Walker - Lewis Rents and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, are cooperating in a relief effort for the victims of the recent twisters that devastated Oklahoma.

Planned is a meal, entertainment by the Ranchos Cowboy Band and all proceeds (after costs) will go to the Oklahoma Salvation Army which assures 100% will go to relief. A donation of \$10 is requested.

Saturday, June 8 • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Flipside Church - Maywood Center

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Next to the Ranchos Café in the Maywood Center

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5/13

New Chamber Board

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- V.P.:** Don Foster - Creative Catering
- Sec.:** Audrey Stock
- Treas.:** Virginia Vick
- Past Pres.:** Ollia Ridge

Board Members: **3-Year:** Randy Bailey - Ranchos Independent; Lisa Haney - Haney Chiropractic; **2-Year:** Cindy Ceja - Vulcan Materials; Paula Stuart - Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop; **1-Year:** Leann Fursman - Skin Elegance; Javier Felix - Madera Ranchos Barbershop

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MARKER cont. from P. 2

ness, founded by members of the local community, and it was feedback from local clients that prompted this radically different approach to surveying boundaries. "This project will make it easier for us to meet our client's needs by giving us all of the information we need to help them before we even begin the project," said Bedrock Engineering to continue to employ members of the community.

Another great reason for doing the project is it allows Bedrock Engineering to continue to employ members of the community.

Throughout the summer of 2013 Bedrock Engineering will be working in the



Bedrock Engineers will be out this summer looking for boundary markers in your neighborhood.

Bonadelle Ranchos subdivision, which is generally north of Avenue 12 1/2 and west of Road 36, in addition to the portions which are east of Road 36 and north of Avenue 15. Hartley says that if you see any of the Bedrock crews out surveying, feel free to stop and talk to them and offer your feedback and get answers to your questions.

It is important to note that Bedrock Engineering will not enter your property without your permission, and you will be contacted ahead of time if it becomes necessary to access the back of your property. If you have any further questions, contact

Bedrock Engineering at 645-4849. Their offices are located at 36961 Ave. 12 in the Ranchos.

LAFCO cont. from P. 2

are to provide a process overview, general information, a progress update and allow for questions and answers. The two meetings scheduled are at Sierra View Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room on June 5, and the other will be at Liberty High School in the Cafeteria on June 18. Both meetings will start at 6 p.m. and run until approximately 8 p.m.

At the last committee meeting, the committee set some ground rules and discussed how it wanted to conduct the meetings. A decision was made by the committee to run its own meetings instead of being led by the County Executive. The members confessed possible conflicts or issues they individually came with and agreed that, when deciding issues as body, to work toward a consensus. If a consensus decision cannot be reached reasonably, a super majority vote of 75 percent will be needed to carry the motion. The committee elected community member Mark Toole as chairman to run the meetings and carry out other duties on behalf of the committee. A vice-chairman and secretary were not selected

but it was agreed they would be nominated at a later meeting.

The third topic that was discussed was the continuation of gaining information on the mechanics of writing the Municipal Service Review, and learning the required information needed for the various parts of the Review. A preliminary review of the survey results that had been received so far showed that the information, although interesting, did not provide a good sampling for the Review. In addition, there are other areas the committee needs help from the residents of the Bonadelle Madera Ranchos, besides simply completing the survey. Many residents have skills, talents and knowledge that may be helpful, if only to answer a question. Attendance at the open public meetings by residents will always be appreciated.

Please complete the Ranchos Municipal Service Review survey. The Review will be done and changes will be made, and by not completing the survey, you are agreeing with the 7 percent of the residents enabling the County and LAFCO to make decisions about where you live. The committee is hoping for a more enthusiastic representation and response on such a critical process.

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CRUMPTON cont. from P. 2

crossed the line visiting a teacher's class who was going to have an evaluation. My visits should have no bearing on any scheduled evaluation or other classroom activities. If the teacher had objected, I would have left, which the teacher did not object. My role as a board member is to stay informed of district operations. But nonetheless, he yelled at me, got in my face and repeated time and time again that I was not his boss, and ordered me to get off the school campus immediately. He kept yelling and said to follow him or he would get reinforcements. He stated he would make sure he would take measures so that I couldn't visit public school sites or classrooms in our district in the future. I took this position with a commitment to my community as your public servant and in light of the disturbing events of today, I wanted to advise you of the superintendent's inappropriate conduct."

As a result of Crumpton's recitation of the events of April 17, she filed a complaint against Superintendent Alvarado to the Board of Trustees. On April 25, the Board met in a closed session to address Crumpton's complaint. It was at this session that Warren Parr first addressed the Board during the Public comment session.

Parr noted that he had become aware of the situation as the result of reading the above Facebook posting. Parr said that he had seen a pattern of behavior by Crumpton concerning Alvarado that went back to the firing of Ranchos Middle School Principal, Shane Pinkard – before she was even a Board member. Parr pointed out that she had voted against Alvarado's plan to reorganize the district and claimed that when the vote didn't "go her way," she began to "intervene in his ability to perform his duties." Parr also said that he thought the Facebook posting was not only inaccurate, but was an attempt to intimidate Alvarado. His major concern was, "The personal vendetta has entered the classroom, which is affecting our kids and needs to be set aside."

Parr was not alone on the night of April 25. Former GVUSD Special Education Director Kristi Fisher asked the Board how she could teach that bullying, cyber-bullying and giving half-truths were wrong, hurtful and even illegal, all Board policies, when a member of the Board does not.

Community member Maria Knobloch felt that Crumpton had placed the District in a liable situation as a result of her Facebook posting and further stated that she felt Crumpton was "pushing her weight around" and as a result was creating a hostile envi-

ronment at the school sites and in the District.

And finally, speaking on behalf of Golden Valley teachers, Kandace Osborn said that Crumpton's frequent visits were "... intimidating, especially to the young teachers." She further said that the consensus among teachers was that they were constantly being evaluated when Crumpton visited.

The next day, on April 26, the Board released its "Findings and Decision" pertaining to her complaint. In this Board document, the Board determined that although Crumpton alleged Alvarado was "physically aggressive," there was no evidence that he ever "... touched, threatened or was physically aggressive toward Board Member Crumpton." The Board further found no evidence of Alvarado yelling, shouting or verbally threatening Crumpton. The Board did suggest that BOTH parties spoke to each other "... directly, forcefully and assertively." Ultimately the Board found by a unanimous 4-0 vote that Alvarado had acted professionally, Crumpton's Facebook statements were inaccurate and found Crumpton's complaint as "... without merit ..."

The April 17 visit did prompt one District employee to file a complaint against

Crumpton, stating that her disruption of the planned classroom observation unfortunately, "... impeded the delivery of services to some of the District's special education students." The Board found this as a material disruption of classroom activities, a violation of law and Board policies.

As a result of all this, the Board directed Crumpton to NOT be at Webster when the planned classroom observation of the teacher was rescheduled; to follow all laws and District policies with respect to visiting school sites; and to immediately leave campus when directed to do so by a principal, the superintendent or any other administrator in charge of a District campus.

And this is where Warren Parr comes in.

When he spoke at the May 7 Board of trustees meeting he said that this was something that he didn't want to do but felt he had to because the Board had not acted. That night, after presenting all of the above information and detailing where laws and policies had been broken, and even thanking Board Member Crumpton for posting on Facebook so there wouldn't be any question where the facts came from, he offered Crumpton a "deal": Resign from the Board

Please see **CRUMPTON** on P. 17



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STOCK cont. from P. 6

am sure that there are many details that I have forgotten. If you would like to help the Chamber put on the parade next year we could sure use your help.

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center had a parade entry this year. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are a very active group of seniors who live in their own homes and get together to work, play and have lunch together at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. One of our members, Helen Lowell, has driven her golf cart in the Flatlander's Parade for several years to represent RHS. This year she put out a call to any senior that had a golf cart to be in the parade with her. She ended up with five golf carts, full of seniors, a senior bicycle rider and a senior quad rider representing Ranchos/Hills Seniors in the parade. The riders all had a good time and want to do it again next year. The parade theme this year was "Ranchos, Local and Lovin' It" and the RHS are very much involved in our community. These seniors are "Local, Living and Lovin' It" in the Ranchos and Rolling Hills.

This year's Flatlander's Day Parade Grand Marshal was Merle and his wife Esther Anderson. They are both 92 years old and still very active at the Ranchos Hills Seniors Center and other community ac-

tivities. Merle is a 50 year member of the Masonic lodge, a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In his spare time he is active in SEMCU and The Ranchos Friends of the Library when he isn't over at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Esther is a retired teacher who has volunteered at the Ranchos Library for over 15 years, and she has been on the Council on Aging and put together the RHS bulletin for many years. Esther took special classes to operate her computer to produce the bulletin. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is proud to name Merle and Esther as the 2013 Flatlander's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

I was glad to see Liberty High School's championship football team and the cheerleading group in the parade. Since the Liberty High senior class was leaving right after the parade for San Francisco and their senior prom, we were not sure that they would have time for the parade. I missed the Liberty High marching band this year.

The Liberty High 2013 Commencement Ceremony will be held on June 6 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Liberty High School Football Stadium. The eighth grade promotion at Ranchos Middle School will be on June 7 at 5 p.m. And so another school year comes to an end.



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www.transitionschildrensservices.org

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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Charisse Stindt, Farmers Insurance, along with Sandi Dunlap and Richard Thurman, would like to thank all the people who participated in our Flatlanders March of Dimes Fundraiser. The winner of the opportunity drawing was Manuel Nevarez, our District 1 Supervisor. He donated back half of his winnings to the March of Dimes, enabling us to send a check of \$241.50 to the March of Dimes.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Split; 2. Delete;
3. Gentle; 4. Suave

Today's Words:

INSTALLED

Turkey Champ



Emily Hallett, of the Madera Ranchos, sells her prize turkey at the Chowchilla Fair on May 18.

CRUMPTON cont. from P. 15

of Trustees and he would not pursue any further legal action. No Grand Jury. No District Attorney. No recall election. He asked for a response in one week.

To date he has received no response from Crumpton.

As of the writing of this story, he has begun the process.

Kathleen Crumpton chose not to be interviewed for this story, however, she did want to offer a written statement:

"It is my philosophy that school board members as elected representatives of the community should visit school sites and understand how a school district works from

the top down. For two and a half years I have visited classes and worked with employees of Golden Valley Unified at the Valley Children's Hospital, the Valley Teen Ranch, Educational Options, Sierra View Elementary, Webster Elementary, Ranchos Middle School, and Liberty High school. I have worked with the night crew, the grounds crew, the mechanics, the cafeteria women, the bus drivers doing janitorial work and I have sat in many classes and volunteered to read to children or help them do classroom activities. It is my belief that I represent individual students, families and the community."

Kathleen Crumpton
Board Trustee

Liberty Principal Search Begins

On Tuesday, May 14 the Golden Valley Unified School District had a meeting at Liberty High to discuss finding a new principal for Liberty High School. A questionnaire was provided and the responses are listed here.

1. What characteristics/qualities do you think are important for the interview panel to look for in principal candidates?

Approachable and portrays an essence of confidence (relaxed confidence).

Strong discipline.

Experienced – parents liked Superintendent Andy Alvarado's comments that the principal and high school need to have equal focus on academics, athletics and activities.

Experienced with high school kids.

Experience – students will try and take advantage of a new "outside" person while they are getting to know the school, students and community.

Internal candidates already have a buy-in to the vision, mission, staff, students and the strengths and weaknesses of the district.

Students are aware of the current level of expectations – would like to see that maintained.

Someone who will continue the current expectations and traditions.

Someone who has the respect of the staff and students.

Someone who loves the community and kids and wants to raise the level of excitement – take things to the next level.

2. What kinds of support do you expect or need from the principal?

Keep communication flowing – continue monthly roundtables.

Continue strong parent involvement.

Consistency of discipline between school sites.

Like that current staff have professional development opportunities to grow in the district.

3. What kinds of previous experience would you prefer the principal to have?

Understands high schools.

Stability – long term.

If you would be interested in sitting on the interview panel you can contact Sabrina Malm at smalm@gvusd.k12.ca.us, or contact the District Office at 37479 Ave. 12, Madera, CA 93636, or call 645-7500.

Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY SEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TBD	Friday Night at the Movies (at Maywood Center)	SEMCU, Inc.
June 1	Swap Meet (at Hurst Hardware)	SEMCU, Inc.
June 6	LHS Sober Grad (at Pump It Up)	2013 Sober Grad Com.
June 13	Farmers Market (at Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
August 17	Fireman's BBQ Dinner (at Borba ranch)	Station 19
September 7	Swap Meet (at Hurst Hardware)	SEMCU
October 5	Chili Cook-Off/Car Show Festival (in planning stages)	Ranchos Kiwanis
December 6	Christmas Tree Lighting (at Maywood Center)	Chamber of Commerce

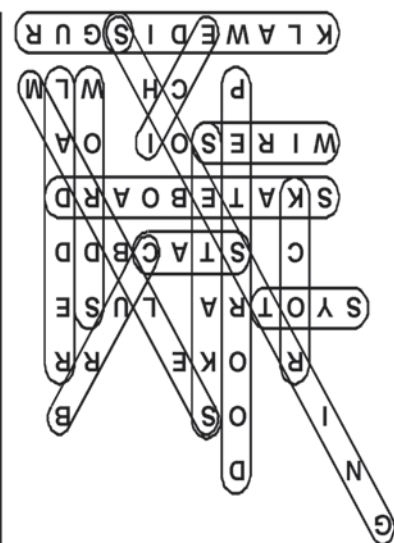
To add items call the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or SEMCU at 363-9095. Items must be submitted AT LEAST one month in advance and are subject to editing.

ANSWERS

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Classified

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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top ten

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8. Cucumbers
9. Peppers
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Source:
USDA

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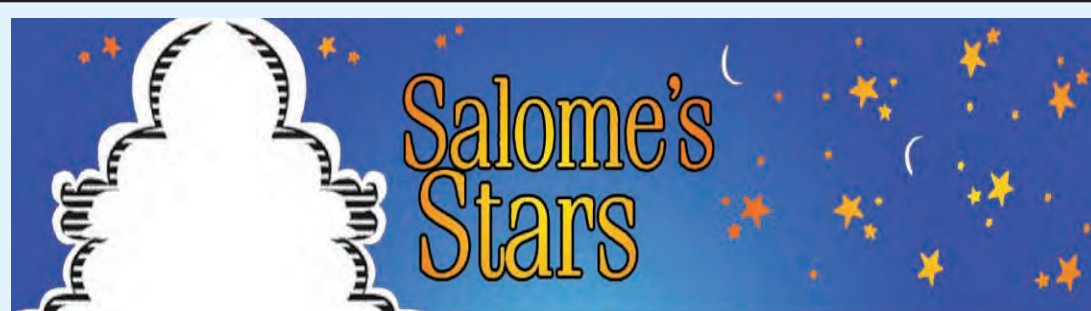


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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An apparent act of injustice might turn out to be either an error in judgment or just plain stupidity. So calm down and cool off, and let the explanations roll out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's upsetting when someone you trusted might have failed you. But with new opportunities ahead, you'll soon be too busy to feel even a wee bit sorry for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A sense of uncertainty could be a good reason to change your position on an important matter. Someone close might try to talk you out of it, but it's your decision to make.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Being too zealous in pursuing your goal could create some resistance. Try to be more mindful of what you ask people to do, and they'll be more likely to do it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Things change as you go from being ignored to being Lionized once again. This is a good time to reintroduce those previously rejected ideas to a more receptive audience.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone new in your life creates both anticipation as well as anxiety. Avoid the potential for misunderstandings by watching what you say and how you say it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch your budget so that you don't overspend now and have less to invest when the time is right later on. Arrange to share your weekend with someone special.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The temptation to involve yourself in a friend's or family member's personal problems is laudable. But get the facts before you make a firm commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might be upset by some of your critics. But most of your associates continue to keep the faith in your ability to get the job done, and done well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You've reached an important point in your ongoing pursuit of your goals. You might now want to consider letting someone you trust join you on your journey.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You've been going through a spate of uncertainty involving people you care for. But it might be time to take a stand on a position you feel sure you can defend.

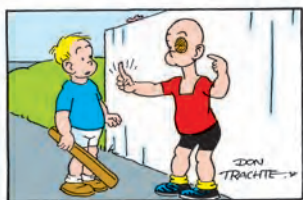
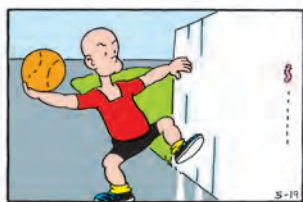
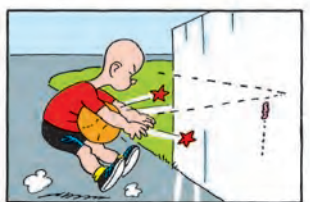
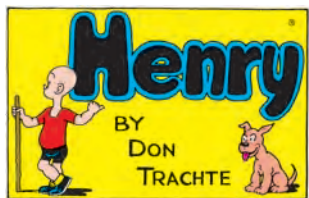
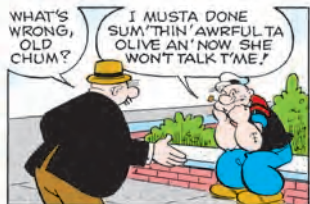
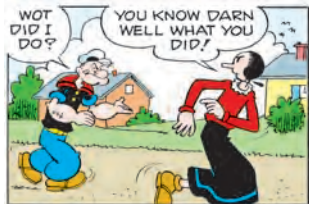
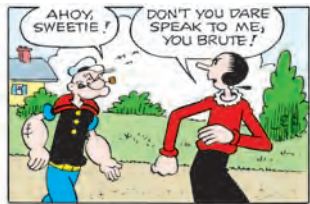
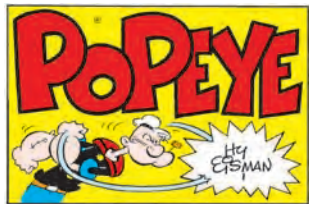
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Treading water keeps you busy, but it won't get you where you need to go. Time to stop making excuses and to start moving ahead toward your goals.

Born this Week

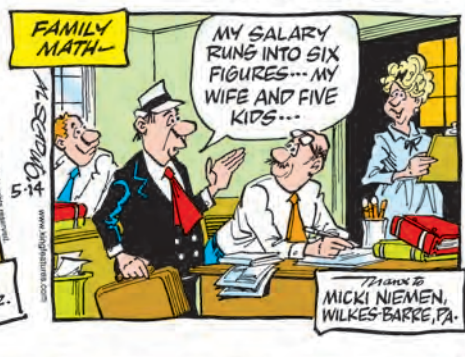
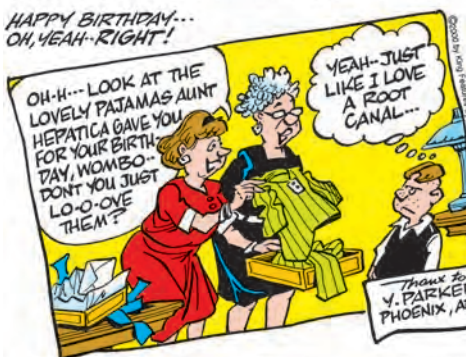
You see life as both creative and pragmatic. You would not only be a fine artist, but also a successful one.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



SPEAKING OF PROGRESS— PEOPLE HAVEN'T CHANGED ALL THAT MUCH SINCE 2 000 B.C.—
—Thank to JOANIE and PAUL S., FREEHOLD, N.J.



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

HOP TO IT! It's said a big grasshopper and a little grasshopper had a race to and fro on a 12-foot course. The big g.h. jumped exactly 10 inches per hop, while the little g.h. jumped 6 inches per hop, but at a faster rate. Both covered one foot of ground every four seconds. Indeed, both were neck and neck at the turnaround point. Question: Which g.h. won the race, by how many seconds and for what reason?

HEAR, HEAR! Wedding guests enjoyed the recital of an epithalamium in honor of the bride and groom. And just what is that? Take a guess.

It's a rapturous poem or song in their honor.

HIT the road, take a plane, board a train—just what, in a manner of speaking, is sending everybody packing?

For answer, insert six six-letter words in blanks above. Then, read words formed in diagonal rows. Definitions:

- Quantity of sound.
- French Mrs.
- Chef's secret.
- All in one piece.
- Uppity-nosed.
- Eight-armed cephalopods.

Answers in the diagonals reads from top left to bottom right, and upward from bottom left.

WHAT'S UP? Hey yarrin', come down from there. Finish the picture by drawing connecting lines from dot to dot.

Words: top down: Volcanic, snooty, conical. Answer: Volcanic, snooty, conical.

Wishing Well

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

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

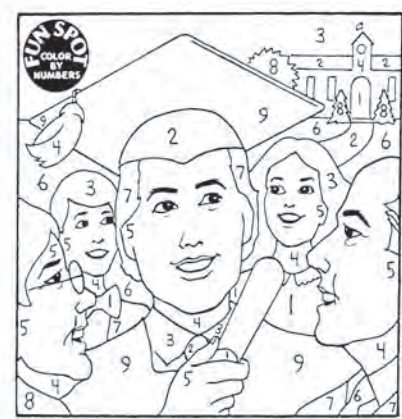
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MAGIC MAZE ● BE CAREFUL—DON'T TRIP

BBYVSQNKHEBYSWT
 ROGLJGEBYWURTPN
 KIGNDBZDXVSAQOM
 KIGEICAOSYWUIBS
 QPNLJRHOKEFERRC
 AYXSOTRAVLUSEU
 SQPNMCKSTACBDDJ
 HFEC(SKATEBOARD)B
 ZYXVWIRESOIUOAT
 RQPOMLKPICHHWLM
 GEDCKLAWEDISGUR

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

Cats	Ladder	Shoestring	Toys
Curb	Marbles	Sidewalk	Wires
Doorstep	Rock	Skateboard	Words
Ice	Rugs	Skates	



GREAT DAY! What a day for Junior — school's out and so is he. Code: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. green, 9—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

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

AIRFIELD

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY:** Who was the last president of the Soviet Union?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** What famous writer once said, "Any idiot can face a crisis -- it's day to day living that wears you out"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of South Carolina?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What are the wild dogs of Australia called?
- BUSINESS:** What company's slogan is, "Don't leave home without it"?
- ASTRONOMY:** What is our solar system's sun composed of?
- HOLIDAYS:** When was Mother's Day declared a national U.S. holiday?
- THEATER:** What city was the setting for the original "The Phantom of the Opera"?
- COMICS:** What comic strip had an imaginary character called "Stupendous Man"?
- WAR:** What was the last former Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War?

Answers

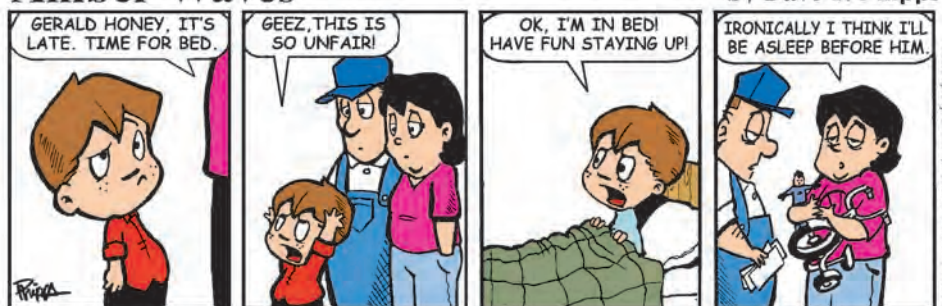
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Anton Chekhov
- Columbia
- Dingos
- American Express
- 98 percent hydrogen and helium
- 1914
- Paris
- Calvin and Hobbes
- Georgia

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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



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

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

Crack **PISTL**

Erase **DEETL**

Easy **ENGLT**

Gallant **VAUSE**

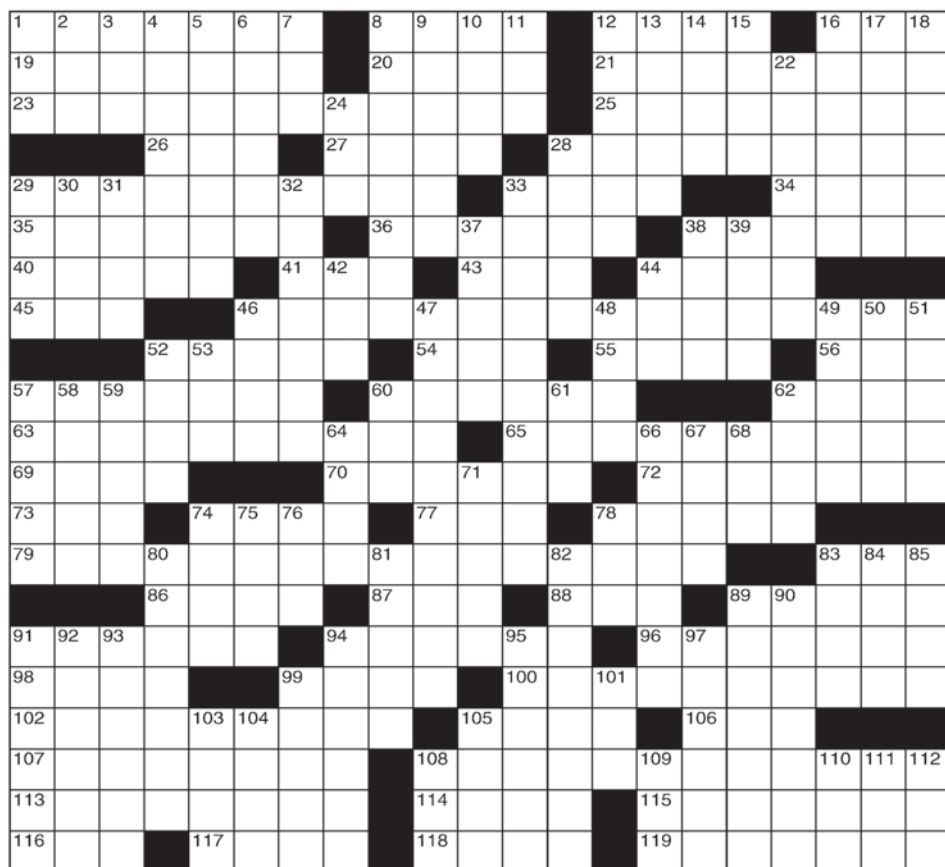
TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers at www.ranchos.com.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stick with it
 - 8 Wife of Cronus
 - 12 "Man — Mancha"
 - 16 JFK's successor
 - 19 Not too much
 - 20 A very long time
 - 21 Brushing and flossing
 - 23 1985 Larry McMurtry novel
 - 25 Cockney, e.g.
 - 26 Inferior newspaper
 - 27 Municipality
 - 28 Exude vitality
 - 29 Sitting atop
 - 33 Certs piece, e.g.
 - 34 Regard
 - 35 Plane's path
 - 36 Songsmith Berlin
 - 38 Like traditional keyboards
 - 40 Neuters
 - 41 Film director
 - 43 Suffix with pent-
 - 44 "Je —" (French for "I am")
 - 45 Double-curve shape
 - 46 Starts seeing things out of balance
 - 52 "— Got Nobody" (standard song)
 - 54 Baseball's Blue Jays, on scoreboards
 - 55 Job to do
 - 56 Novelist Brown
 - 57 Birthplace of GM
 - 60 Infuse with gas
 - 62 Not spicy
 - 63 Train puller
 - 65 1981 hit for Earth, Wind & Fire
 - 69 "... with — foot pole!"
 - 70 Voting slip
 - 72 Picked by 70-Across
 - 73 "Lord, is —?"
 - 74 Points where rays meet
 - 77 Jr.'s jr.
 - 78 Mack vehicle
 - 79 It vibrates in the direction of its propagation
 - 83 AOL or MSN
 - 86 She's a Brit. royal
 - 87 French sea
 - 88 Infuriation
 - 89 Cut's partner
 - 91 Emanates
 - 94 Meryl Streep's alma mater
 - 96 Rips to bits
 - 98 French for "bridge"
 - 99 Toupees, e.g.
 - 100 Certain citrus orchard
 - 102 Cheap town bar
 - 105 Spanish pot
 - 106 Make out
 - 107 County in northwest Florida
 - 108 Gunpowder or fireworks
 - 113 In error
 - 114 Chimps, e.g.
 - 115 Yellow avenue in Monopoly
 - 116 Hive buzzer
 - 117 Bird's refuge
 - 118 Jet-set jets, once
 - 119 Bridge part
- DOWN**
- 1 Chum
 - 2 "Turn to Stone" rock gp.
 - 3 — Tin Tin
 - 4 With severity
 - 5 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, —!"
 - 6 Catchphrase
 - 7 Pro —
 - 8 Split again
 - 9 Noisy owl
 - 10 Be jealous of
 - 11 Enzyme ending
 - 12 Chinese tea
 - 13 — Loops (cereal)
 - 14 Tall and thin
 - 15 Actor Alan
 - 16 Poet Sidney
 - 17 Nominal promotion of a military officer
 - 18 Actor Irons
 - 22 Least warm
 - 24 Italian author Umberto
 - 28 Cruise ship
 - 29 Beam intensely
 - 30 Sharp barks
 - 31 Tax-deferred svgs. plans
 - 32 Back something with a wager
 - 33 Liquid petrolatum
 - 37 Steam
 - 38 Answer's opposite: Abbr.
 - 39 Candle part
 - 42 Mass. hours
 - 44 Hot tub site
 - 46 "Stretch" car
 - 47 Inflexibility
 - 48 Proofer's "keep this in"
 - 49 Ninny
 - 50 Trumpet part
 - 51 Culminated
 - 52 A part of
 - 53 \$20 bill (cereal)
 - 57 Thrash about
 - 58 Kin of bingo
 - 59 Trap post-bizzard
 - 60 Gardner of film
 - 61 Vietnamese holiday
 - 62 Deride
 - 64 "In the same place" footnote
 - 66 Begin a tennis game against
 - 67 Adhesive
 - 68 DVR button
 - 71 Fibbing sorts
 - 74 Rasp
 - 75 Singer Redding
 - 76 Since, slangly
 - 78 Paving goo
 - 80 Organized whole, in psychology
 - 81 PR concern
 - 82 Requiring no cord
 - 83 "As — often the case ..."
 - 84 R-W hookup
 - 85 Le Pew of cartoons
 - 89 Book's start
 - 90 Nabs
 - 91 Self-confidence
 - 92 New player
 - 93 Just to be sure
 - 94 Bon — (epicure)
 - 95 Totally wrong
 - 97 Playwright Eve
 - 99 Becomes hip, with "up"
 - 101 Artist Ernst
 - 103 Shylock's offering
 - 104 "Okey- —"
 - 105 "Stupid me!"
 - 108 — Cruces
 - 109 Sgt.'s underling
 - 110 103-Down accrual: Abbr.
 - 111 Bk. number
 - 112 Prior to, in sonnets

SEM CU

south east madera county united

SWAP MEET!

Saturday, June 1
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hurst Hardware
parking lot
37398 Berkshire Dr.



SEM CU Regular Meeting Monday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Ranchos Pizza Factory

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

Have you completed the survey ...

WHAT SURVEY?

The LAFCO Bonnadelle-Madera Ranchos Municipal Service Review Survey. By NOT taking the survey, YOU AGREE with the changes recommended by those completing it, the conclusions reached by the Resident Advisory Committee and the eventual changes made by Madera County.

The survey is online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCORanchosSurvey or you can pick up a mailable printed copy at either the Madera Ranchos Library or at Hurst Hardware.

LAFCO

www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCORanchosSurvey