

The Ranchos Independent



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PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 5 Issue 11 2009

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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So That We May Never Forget ...



Garrett Lee, a scout in Ranchos Boy Scout Troop 118 and son of Troop 118 Scout Master Lauren Lee, helps in the annual flag raising and bugle call on Veterans Day at Liberty High School.

Picture by Bruce Blair

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Madera County Search & Rescue Awarded "Laci & Conner" Grant

Sheriff John Anderson announced last week that the Madera County Sheriff Department's Search & Rescue (SAR) Team has been selected to receive a grant from the "Laci & Conner Search & Rescue Fund."

The program operates under the auspices of the Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation but was founded by Sharon Rocha in memory of her daughter Laci Peterson and her grandson Conner. The grant is intended to provide monetary assistance to law enforcement agencies and non-profit organizations involved in search and rescue missions. The Madera County Sheriff's Department submitted its request for essential items the group needed specifically for dangerous rescue and/or recovery operations.

Sheriff Anderson said the department could have submitted a blanket request for as much as \$7,000 to benefit the SAR program. Instead, "Our Search & Rescue Team submitted its request for funding that would cover basic and critical Technical Rescue Equipment we

need, like ropes, helmets and harnesses," he said.

The tab totaled \$5,124.23. "In response to showing what we needed and the cost to procure these items the foundation graciously advised us that our request has been fully funded," Anderson said.

Anderson said the need for this kind of equipment is very critical, citing that the Madera County Sheriff's Department is no stranger to call outs, whether being asked to assist other counties or carry out searches in Madera County. Since 2002, Madera County alone has responded to more than 200 Search & Rescue calls.

"We are honored that Madera County was chosen," Anderson said, noting that

while working on an extremely tight budget the funding couldn't have arrived at a better time.

Laci Peterson, pregnant with her unborn son Conner, vanished in December 2002. A year later the Laci & Conner Search & Rescue Fund was established and since then has funded over \$219,000 in grants to 44 organizations in 11 states.



Laci & Conner
Search and Rescue Fund
 Program of The Carole Sund / Carrington
 Memorial Reward Foundation

LHS Science, Stadium Construction Set to Begin at End of Current Season

By Rick A Diaz

Construction is set to begin at Liberty High School on a new science building as well as completion of the athletic stadium. Golden Valley Unified held interviews in July of 2009 to select a developer to construct the project, and in August of 2009 Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees acted on the recommendation of staff to approve Harris Construction Company Inc. as the developer to complete the Liberty High School improvements. The new science building; consisting of two classrooms, one teacher work room and one room for chemical storage, is designed to accommodate chemistry and biology classes. Each class-

room will be outfitted with fume hoods for mixing chemicals and chemical resistant casework with acid resistant counter tops. The athletic stadium completion will consist of new home side bleachers (approx. 1858 seats) with a press box, relocating the existing home bleachers (approx. 845 seats) to the visitor side, widened track (8 lanes), relocating and raising the scoreboard and a new concession building with a ticket booth and restrooms. Construction is set to begin at the end of the current football season and scheduled to be complete in time for the 2010/2011 season of Liberty Hawks Football.

Rick A. Diaz is Manager of Facilities for Golden Valley Unified School District.

Help Sheriff Find Man's Next of Kin



The Madera County Sheriff's Coroner's Division is asking for the public's help in locating relatives of a Madera man who passed away Nov. 12.

Carlos Enrique Galindo, 64, was found inside his home located on Columbia Street in the city of Madera. The Sheriff-Coroner so far been unable to find family members and is therefore turning to the public for assistance. Anyone who may have information concerning the decedent's next of kin is asked to call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at either 559-675-7770 or toll free at 1-800-560-4911 and ask to speak with Deputy Hank Baugh.

Deadline for Adjusting Property Tax

Deadline is Nov. 30 for Requesting Value Drop

The Madera County Assessor's Office conducted a countywide review of values for property tax purposes for the 2009-2010 tax year in order to enroll any decline in value that a property may have experienced. This is known as a Proposition 8 value reduction, recognizing when a property's market value falls below its assessed value.

If the market value of a property was lower than its assessed value as of the January 1, 2009, lien date, the assessed value was reduced to reflect the decline. Over 15,000 property values were lowered for the 2009-2010 tax year in Madera County. If your property qualified you would have received a letter in the mail telling you of the value reduction, and your property tax bill this year should have been less than last year's bill.

While Proposition 13 continues to protect all real property taxpayers throughout Madera County and the State of California by putting a ceiling on increases in assessed

value, and while, in most cases, the Proposition 13 factored base year value is still well below the current market value, as an owner you may want to request to have your value reviewed by the Assessor's Office. To do so, call 675-7710 and ask to speak to the appraiser assigned to your area. Please have your Assessment Number available (the Assessment Number can be found near the top of your property tax bill). You will be asked to complete a one-page form to assist the Assessor's Office staff in this process. This form can be mailed or faxed to you, or you may download the form from the Assessor's Office website at:

www.madera-county.com/assessor/pdf/PROP8WEBREQ.pdf

The completed form must be received by the Assessor's Office no later than November 30, 2009, in order to be considered timely for the current tax year.

The review will be conducted free of charge. This is one of the responsibilities of the Assessor's Office, so there is no need to pay for this service.

Graffiti Vandal Sentenced

Madera County District Attorney, Michael R. Keitz, announced that Elisberto Daza Castillo was sentenced to two years and eight months in state prison on Nov. 19 following his conviction for maliciously defacing property with graffiti.

Daza, an admitted gang member, was already on felony probation at the time he committed the vandalism. Daza's probation was terminated and he was sentenced on the

violation with the vandalism charge. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the victim for damages to the property in addition to fines of \$970.

Daza was arrested by the Madera Police Department while he was spray painting an apartment wall on West Cleveland Avenue in December 2008. He was prosecuted through the District Attorney's Graffiti task force, which was launched in July 2009.

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THE D.O.G. HOUSE
 DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



At the last board meeting me and the Fresno Bee were taken to task by Supervisor Tom Wheeler for focusing on “negative” instead of the “positive” of what the county has done. We were chastised for trying to get “inside information.” *The Brown Act begins with: “54950. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.”*

This is a biggie: what is being referred to as “inside information” is actually public documents and public records.

We were told we should focus on the positive. One example used as something to be proud of – and built without any dollars from the general fund – was what I refer to as the “Granite Palace.”

Now for the rest of the story.

The tobacco funds were like a structured settlement so that we would receive so much money every year for so many years. Did our Board choose to build or repair fire stations, sheriff facilities, parks, libraries or anything else in which we were in desperate need?

No!

The Board chose to build the “Granite Palace.” Grand offices on the fourth floor to sit in as they rule over us peasants.

Imagine you are driving down the street, your kids have no food, you don't have next month's rent and your car is riding dangerously on bald tires. Now imagine someone offers you \$1,000 a month for the next two years.

I figure that as \$24,000 over time.

Then this other guy steps up and says he will give you \$20,000 today if you sign over the rights to the monthly payments to him. You, in the glow of your new found cash, decide you need to have your backyard redone. The new pool and five-hole putting green will cost \$40,000 so you put up the \$20,000 you just got, put another \$20,000 on the old credit card and now have a great place to relax. The old car still has bald tires, the kids are still hungry and who knows about the rent, but visitors are impressed when they come over to see you.

Our county leaders decided they wanted the money right then so they took the lump sum payment by selling the fund at a greatly discounted price to get cash in hand. From what I am told, the tobacco settlement buyout yielded about \$20 Million but the building cost \$40 million, so the rest was put on the Madera County “credit card.” If you look on page 148 of the recommended proposed budget the Board just passed, you will see \$1,632,381 next to “retire long term debt.” What you see is this year's credit card payment on the “Granite Palace.” One point six million right off the top of this year's general fund budget.

Note to supervisors: As you sit in your fourth floor offices, try imagining what \$1.6 million could have paid for this year and next year and the years after, all payment right off the top of the general fund budget What will that reoccurring line item force you to cut in essential services next? How many Raymond and Ahwahnee homes will be lost to fires because of long responses? How many Raymond and Ahwahnee citizens could die because the budget cannot afford to provide fire protection? One year's payment on the “Granite Palace” could pay for almost six years of winter fire protection for Raymond and Ahwahnee – but then on the other hand the Palace is a nice place to work.

TLC Fellowship Annual Victory Conference
December 2-6, 2009



11/09

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
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Santa will arrive early
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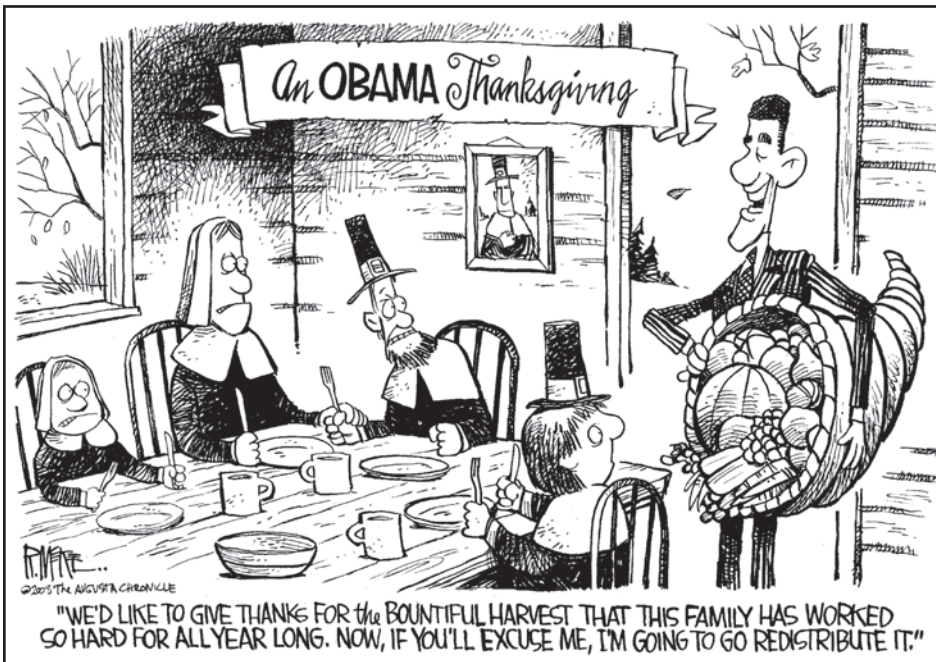
11/09

for more information, contact
 the Golden Valley Chamber at

645-4001

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera Ranchos

goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com



Guest Editorial

The Bankers and the Bureaucrats

By Rich Lowry

Members of AIG's financial-products unit should take heart. Yes, Obama administration pay czar Kenneth Feinberg is coming down on them with the awesome power of his czardom, dictating that their pay not exceed \$200,000 a year. In Wall Street terms, this is so draconian, they might as well be forced to earn whatever they can get by begging on street corners and finding leftover change in pay phones.

Feinberg's compensation crackdown on the country's seven most bailed-out firms is foolhardy yet understandable. Since all employees of Bank of America and Chrysler owe their jobs to the government, Feinberg is justified in bending them to his whim. And whim is the right word — Feinberg is not omniscient enough to know what traders or executives should ideally be paid. The most talented employees in Feinberg's fiefdom will pick up and depart for better compensated pastures. Banks like JPMorgan, Chase and Goldman Sachs, as well as hedge funds, will reap the talent windfall. Besides placating the aroused gods of anti-Wall Street populism, Feinberg's crackdown is motivated by the belief that out-of-control compensation rewarded recklessness and caused the financial crisis.

It'd be nice if this were true.

Then we could limit pay and derive not just psychic satisfaction from it — take that, Masters of the Universe! — but tell ourselves we're making the system sounder.

Alas, it's not so simple.

By and large, executives didn't blow up their firms in the hopes of grabbing world-shaking bonuses and then leaving; they blew up their firms because they got caught up in the bubble mentality and thought their risks weren't as dangerous as they proved. Jeffrey Friedman, the editor of Critical Review, points out that bankers were usually compensated in stock as well as bonuses and had no interest in seeing their stock wiped out. They managed to flush it anyway.

In general, it's not a good idea to run a financial system on the basis of inflamed popular sentiment. For a while, Citigroup was saddled with an employee on track to become America's most-hated man, Andrew J. Hall. A standout in Citigroup's trading division, Hall was due a \$100 million bonus after earning \$2 billion for Citigroup over five years. That's a deal most any firm would want to take, but not TARPed-up Citigroup. In a senseless business decision but shrewd PR move, it simply sold off the entire trading division that had at one point been responsible for 10 percent of its net income.

All that said, it doesn't take Barney Frank to find it unseemly that Goldman Sachs and others are already back to boom-time levels of compensation. Things wouldn't look so cheery at firms like Goldman if it weren't for all the direct and indirect government aid. The Economist writes: "They got public capital (much of it now repaid), short-selling bans on their shares and rescues of counterparties ... Today they enjoy laxer accounting, loose collateral rules at central banks, explicit debt guarantees and asset-purchasing schemes. And, critically, they can borrow cheaply because they are deemed too big to fail."

If the bankers have a secret plan to spread ill-considered Feinberg-like rules throughout their industry, it's progressing nicely.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Wasted resources are only one of the concerns with flood irrigation. Consider the risk to public health. When water stands for more than three days, it becomes the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. Over the past few years, California has had numerous human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV). The virus is spread by mosquitoes when the female bites and feeds on the blood of humans. Just this summer there were two deaths from the virus right here in the Central Valley – one in Fresno County and the second in Merced County.

Let us ask ourselves: do we really want this potential health risk adjacent to our schools?

Sandra Torry
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

(Note: This is a copy of a letter sent to Bradley Phillips with the Madera County Road Department about sidewalks projected for Avenue 12. Editor)

Bradley Phillips
Madera County Road Department

As per our phone conversation, this is a written request for information regarding the proposed sidewalk installation on Avenue 12 between Road 36 and Road 38.

In the spring and summer of 2009, Frank Bigelow, Johannes Hoevertsz, Ray Beach and other Madera County employees told the Madera Ranchos community on several occasions that the sidewalk construction starting at Road 36 on the north and south curbs of Avenue 12 would be put in due to funding from a grant. At the time I was curious as to what grant they were able to secure funds from when there was no mention of a specific grant for the sidewalks referenced. We were told that the funds were secured and construction would start soon.

Johannes Hoevertsz told me in person that because the bids coming in on this project were lower than the Road Department had anticipated that there could be enough money in the secured funds to continue the sidewalk on the north side of Avenue 12 from the projected end at Road 37 to Road 37 1/2. In all of the talk of this funding for this sidewalk project I do not remember any

talk of selling bonds being a requisite for the money. I remember hearing that the funds were secured and that it was a done deal.

When I asked at a community meeting of Frank Bigelow, Johannes Hoevertsz and Ray Beach if they would be applying for the Safe Routes to School Grant from the federal government, Ray Beach said that every avenue would be used to find lending to complete the sidewalks on Avenue 12 to Road 38.

For two years I have tried to get the Golden Valley School District, the Madera Ranchos Chamber of Commerce or anyone else in this community to apply for the non-matching fund grant available from the federal government for the Safe Route to School program. Now, only after me inquiring about the current status of the sidewalk construction on Avenue 13 between Road 36 and Road 38, do I find out that this project has been stopped. Frank Bigelow told me on the phone that the politicians in Sacramento had taken the funds back that were scheduled to be used on this project. Bradley Phillips told me that the funds for this project were dependent upon sale of bonds that did not take place. I spoke with the two top representatives for this project – the County Supervisor and the Road Department – and received two different answers as to the funding that was supposed to have been secured months ago before the Madera County Road Department began receiving bids for this construction project.

I formally request the identification of the grant or funding that was secured for this project in the spring of 2009.

I request information on the disposition of that grant or that funding.

I request to know who transferred those funds away from this sidewalk project and on what date this action took place and under what authority that person or persons took that money.

I believe the information I am requesting is of public record concerning a public works project. As a concerned citizen I ask that you answer my requests for that information and any other information concerning the funding of this sidewalk project that I may not have specifically asked for that you may have available to Madera County employees regarding this funding for the sidewalks on Ave 12 between Road 36 and Road 38 in Madera County, California.

Chuck La Rue
Madera Ranchos

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Should Indian Gaming Stay on Indian Lands?

Highway 99

It's a twisted story.

A bankrupt Las Vegas gambling company (Station Casinos) purchased 305 acres of land off Highway 99 in Madera to build a mega-casino.

But, Station had a problem. California law only allows casinos to be built on tribal lands.

Station's solution: They recruited the North Fork Rancheria based in the Sierra foothills, nearly 50 miles away from the Highway 99 casino site to petition the federal government to declare the Highway 99 casino site as their tribal reservation.



North Fork Rancheria Tribal Office
Sierra Foothills off Route 41

The Station/North Fork project is just wrong for many different reasons:

"...This casino would be off-reservation and its location along Highway 99 would create a badly congested urban area in what is now a largely rural setting. That's why we've opposed this plan from the beginning and continue to do so"

Fresno Bee Editorial, 4-8-08

"But while I fully support Tribal Sovereignty, I join many California Tribal Governments in the belief that off-reservation gaming activities are not consistent with what the voters approved..."

Fresno Mayor Ashley E. Swearingin

"Taking land into trust, miles away from already existing tribal lands, for the sole purpose of conducting Class III gaming sets an objectionable precedent that could result in a grand race to place other major casinos along Highway 99"

State Senator Dean Florez

"I do not support the expansion of gaming to off-reservation sites. Opening this door sets a dangerous precedent for the future of our State. New casinos would impair local communities, area residents, local governments and other Native American tribes and impact the environment."

Senator Dianne Feinstein

"The public supported Indian gaming on Indian land. They did not support the unbridled expansion of gaming on land NOT included within a tribe's historical homeland or held in trust for the purpose of gaming."

Former Assembly Republican Leader Michael Villines

Station Casino Proposed Location
Highway 99, Madera



Or Move Where Las Vegas Wants It To Be?

Please Help Stop The Highway 99 Off-Reservation Casino

The federal government will be making a decision on this project in the next few months. You can help stop this dangerous, precedent-setting project. Please join our coalition by going to www.NoOffReservationCasino.com.

Thanks to the Chukchansi Economic Development Agency who paid for this ad.



When I sat down to write this month's column, I thought of Thanksgiving, but then I realized some of you wouldn't get this paper until after Thanksgiving, and those of you that did get it before would have already made all your preparations for the big day. But I decided to do it anyway.

Those of you of my generation do you remember getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to get an 18 pound turkey stuffed and in the oven so it would be ready for dinner at 2 o'clock in the afternoon? And remember how the frozen turkey would sit on the counter to defrost? And we're all still alive!

On the day before Thanksgiving we would toast the bread in the oven on big sheet pans and mama would always make a pan of corn-bread for the stuffing. And in-between toasting the bread she would make the pies. It was a busy time. I was my mom's official stuffing "tester." I'd get up when she did so I could help her fix the turkey. Did it have enough salt? Or enough sage? Too dry? I loved doing it as I love "raw" stuffing as much as I like cooked. Mama's recipe was simple: we would chop an onion and about a head of celery and sauté them in butter with some salt and pepper. We'd break up the bread and pour the vegetables in on top and add enough salt and pepper

and the only other seasoning she would use was dry sage. She preferred rubbed sage instead of chopped (it is very hard to find rubbed sage today). Then add chicken broth and water and mix it up with our hands until it was just right.

I do the same thing today, except I don't defrost the turkey on the counter. I do it in the sink. I usually fill the sink with real hot water and add a cup of bleach and let it sit for about half an hour to sanitize it: then let the water out and rinse the sink good, then start the defrost. I do it just as it says to: fill the sink with cold water and leaving the turkey in the bag it comes in, put it in the sink and about every half hour to 45 minutes change the water. It is a tedious job, takes about 8 to 10 hours for a 16 to 20 pound bird, but it sure beats defrosting it in the refrigerator - the same size turkey would take three or four days. This is done on Wednesday, but while that is going on you can do other preparations. Make your pies, make the fruit salad or whatever else can be made ahead of time. When the turkey is defrosted, I put it in the roasting pan and put it on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator awaiting Thursday morning. With the perfection of the turkeys over

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 21

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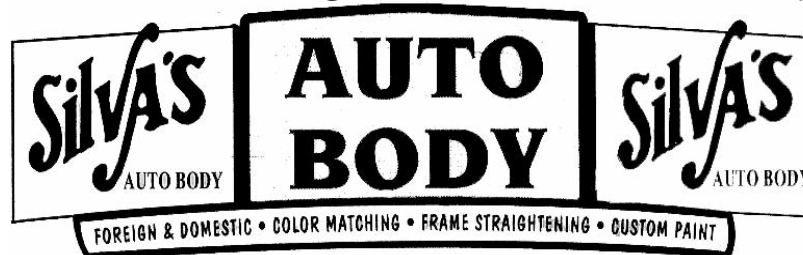
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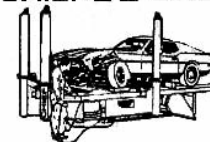


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The Stock Report

Holidays Heading Toward Ranchos

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Madera Ranchos has a good neighbor called Chukchansi Resort and Casino. Each year the Chukchansi tribe has given out grants to various organizations in Madera County. Several years ago the Ranchos Hills Senior Center received a grant that gave us money to put in new flooring, paint the outside and inside of the center and repair the roof. This year I just heard that Fire Station 19 received two grants in the amounts of \$95,000 and \$25,000 for their projects. Also Golden Valley Unified received a grant for \$25,000 for a new computer lab at Webster Elementary. Thank you Chukchansi tribe. We that live in the Ranchos are very grateful. I understand that Valley Children's Hospital also received a grant for \$93,000.

As we move into the holiday season there is so much going on that it is hard to keep up with it all. My calendar is already full for December. I have already done some Christmas shopping but more Thanksgiving dinner shopping. I will be cooking for about 10 members of my family this Thanksgiving. I also feel like Thanksgiving dinner is getting me prepared for Christmas when I have about 18 family members in and out of my house. There is lots of cooking and dish washing. The cooking I do for Thanksgiving is different. I will be making a pumpkin pie, apple pie and pumpkin rolls for dessert. My family likes turkey for both meals. I bake a cake that is called St. Nichols Cake and a variety of homemade candies and nut breads for Christmas. Christmas morning breakfast at my house is homemade cinnamon rolls, scrambled eggs, ham, fried potatoes, orange juice, coffee and tea. I don't change traditional dishes anymore. For years I made white bread stuffing for the turkey so one year I decided to make cornbread stuffing. I had tried it and liked it but my kids have never let me forget the year of the

cornbread stuffing. The next year I was given a box of Stove Top stuffing mix and I decided this is easy and if this is what the family likes it saves me a lot of work.

Do you write a Christmas letter? I send out about 100 Christmas cards with a Christmas letter to all of my relatives and friends. I often say if you want to know what I am doing since I retired from teaching, read my Christmas letter. I try to make it a thumbnail sketch of my year. I started keeping a copy of my letters about 35 years ago. It is fun to read them and see how the family has grown and changed. I love to get

As we move into the holiday season there is so much going on that it is hard to keep up with it all. My calendar is already full for December.

Christmas cards and letters and it gives me a chance to catch up on the people that are important to me.

I just got an Email from Kayla Hodges; she is our Liberty High student who is attending West Point Military

Academy. She is in her sophomore year at West Point. I am so proud of her making it through her tough freshman year. She has chosen International Relations as her major and Terrorism Studies as a minor. I don't think those studies were available when I was in college. She has to take a language class so she chose Farsi, a language spoken in Iran and Afghanistan. I certainly wish her all the best. Kayla ran in the Marine Corps Marathon in October in Washington, D.C. She must be in really good condition.

Don't forget the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 4 at the Maywood Center at 6 p.m. There will be cookies, hot coffee and hot cider, and Santa will be there for your Christmas Photos. Pick a star for a veteran at the Fresno Veterans Hospital. Items needed are: instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, tooth brushes, large and extra large white tee-shirts and new books. Items may be brought to the tree lighting and left at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Please see **STOCK** on P. 23

Looking at America's National Symbols

By Eleanore Burchell

Last month the Constitution was reviewed. This month let's critique several of the United States' National symbols.

The Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America. The lyrics came from the poem, "Defence of Fort McHenry," written in 1814 by the 35-year-old amateur poet, Francis Scott Key, after witnessing bombardment of Fort McHenry by the Royal Navy ships in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889 and the President in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931 and signed by President Herbert Hoover.

The American Bald Eagle was adopted as the official emblem of the United States of America in 1782. The bald eagle was chosen because of its majestic beauty, great strength, long life and because it's native to North America. In the wild, an eagle will live 30-35 years and up to 50 years in

*"God bless America,
land that I love,
Stand beside her,
and guide her,
Through the night
with the light from above.
From the mountains,
to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam.
God Bless America,
My home sweet home."*

God Bless America
Irving Berlin

captivity. A full-grown bald eagle has up to a seven foot wingspan. By the 1800's eagles were starting to becoming scarce so finally in 1940 the Bald Eagle Act was passed and eagle population began to recover. Young birds are all black; only a mature adult eagle has a white head. On a trip to Alaska, we personally were fortunate enough to see 75 to 100 eagles perched in a huge tree. When we parked under this tree, the birds felt uneasy so flew a few yards away to sit on the masts of boats docked in a harbor near Sitka. What a sight to remember!

The song "God Bless America" was originally written by Irving Berlin in 1918 while he was in the service and stationed in the U.S. Army at Camp Upton in New York. At that time, he felt it was not appropriate for the times so he tucked it away. However, in 1938 with the rise of Hitler, he felt he should revive it as a peace song. Many considered it the national prayer song. Let's review the

words:

*While the storm clouds gather far
across the sea,*

*Let us swear allegiance to the land of
the free,*

*Let us all be grateful for a land so
fair,*

*As we raise our voices in a solemn
prayer.*

*God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from
above.*

*From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam.*

*God Bless America, My home sweet
home.*

A Sad Passing

Many of you will remember Ken Robinson who worked as an office assistant here at the Senior Center a few years ago. Sadly we must tell you he passed away several weeks ago. He will be missed by all of our members.

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to help also. Please remember

that the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. George has been bringing in large, beautiful, prize-winning onions by the boxful. We also have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently there are huge onions, some tomatoes at times, zucchini and some corn and okra (if you come at the right time). The fresh corn on the cob and okra both sell quickly!

The Christmas boutique will be open Monday through Fridays starting Nov. 30 and on Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. We have pomegranate jellies as well as jewelry, novelty items and much more. Need a nice Christmas gift for someone? Come and visit us and we just might have what you are looking for.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 18

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The Bookshelf

Christmas Open House Coming to Madera Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

The Friends of the Ranchos Library will host their annual Christmas Open House on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Library. Traditionally the children decorate the Library Christmas tree while enjoying Christmas music and homemade refreshments. It's a good opportunity to meet the Friends and to find out what we are all about. Everyone is welcome.

Children's Programs

I've often talked about our Wednesday afternoon children's programs that begin at 2 p.m. Here is a photo of one of our regular readers, Annisa McConnell, reading a story to Katie the Dog. Notice how focused Katie is on the story. Dec. 2 will be the next time that Katie visits the library. She will be in her Christmas regalia and will be ready for any photo opportunities that arise.



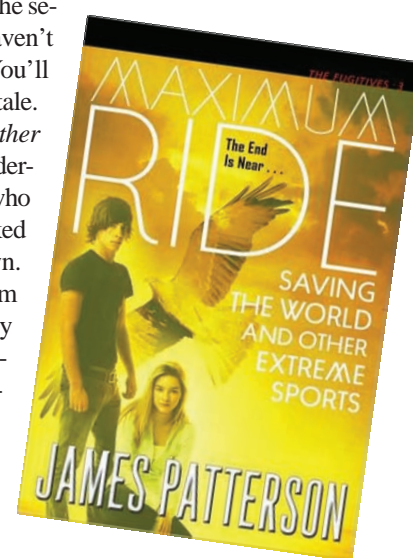
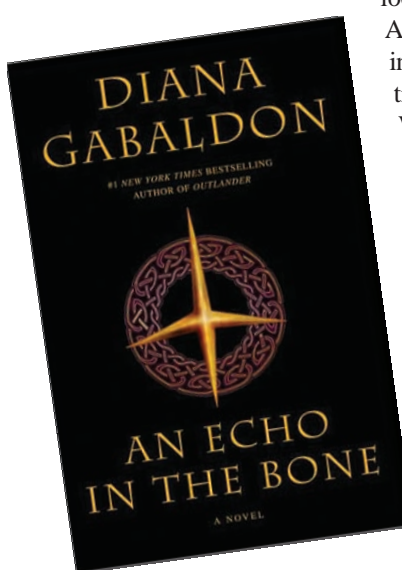
Our other Wednesday programs include crafts, games and act up/dress up. And don't forget our regular Pre-School Storytime with Mrs. Anderson which has a new time: 1 p.m. on Monday.

Book Recommendations

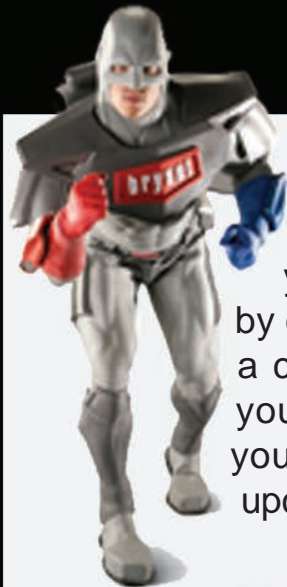
Adult Fiction: *An Echo in the Bone* by Diana Gabaldon. This is the seventh book in this fascinating *Outlander* series of Claire and Jamie Fraser, who give us a most realistic, detailed look at life during the 1700's in Scotland, France and America as they face natural and unnatural adversaries in actual historical incidents. Oh, and did I mention the time traveling part? Claire, a British nurse on leave from WWII in Germany during the 20th century, "falls" through a circle of stones in Scotland and ends up in the 18th century, leaving her husband, British officer Frank Randall, behind. As luck would have it though, she meets and falls in love with Jamie Fraser, a Highlander and Jacobite whose leadership and battle skills are already honed at a young age. That's just a little background from the first book. Now in book seven, Claire and Jamie are grandparents, sad to leave their home on Fraser's Ridge in North Carolina after a fire, but compelled by incidents that they know occur in the future in Scotland where their children and grandchildren have traveled in time in order for their granddaughter to have a life-saving operation. It sounds complicated,

but for those who have followed the series it is like catching up with old friends. If you haven't read any of the books yet, start with *Outlander*. You'll soon find yourself caught up in a very entertaining tale.

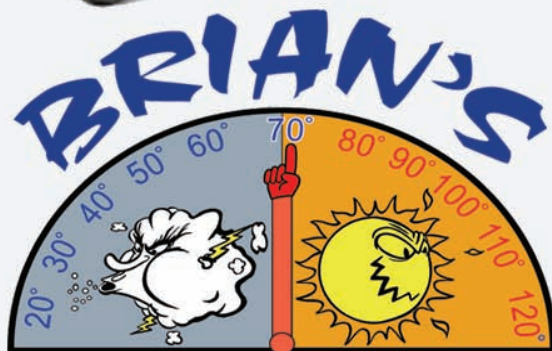
Young Adult Fiction: *Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports* by James Patterson. It's easy to understand why James Patterson is such a popular author who appeals to a wide range of readers. His action-packed stories laced with humor are too good to put down. This book, also part of a series, focuses on Maximum Ride, whose DNA was recombined with a bird of prey when she was an infant. She not only has the capability of flight up to 30,000 feet but has excellent vision and hearing. When her wings are folded in she looks like any teenager. Max, along with other children who like her were raised by scientists in a laboratory; were poked, tested in inhumane conditions and have now broken free from their captors and are attempting to



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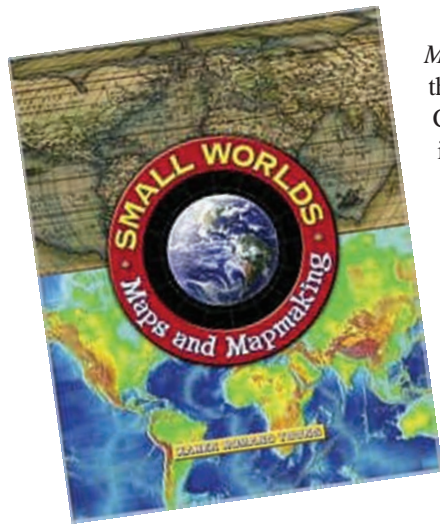
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LIBRARY cont. from P. 11

disclose the evil plan the scientists have to control the world. Max at 16 is the leader and her closest friend, Fang, is her most trusted confidant. The other four kids are Gazzy, Iggy, Nudge and Angel. And there is a talking dog named Total. It's a laugh-out-loud story one minute, then a nail-biter the next. Perfect for teens but adults will enjoy it too. This book doesn't require the need to start with book one in the series. You'll be able to pick it up and catch on at almost any point.



Juvenile Non-Fiction: *Small Worlds: Maps and Mapmaking* by Karen Romano Young. Interestingly, the book begins with a map of O'Hare Airport in Chicago. The author brings a familiar practical map into focus for young readers. She talks about how frightened she was the first time she had to make her way through the airport, but with the help of the map she was able to navigate and end up at the right gate. Then she moves into the process of making a map and reasons for making them. One new thought: by making a map you could preserve memories of your favorite places. I hadn't thought about that before. Young also includes the three dimensional aspect to maps. They don't have to be from an overhead viewpoint but can be vertical, layered or angled. Using keys, legends, and orientation, Young shows how anyone can create a map of anything.

Without the help of GPS or radar, the early cartographers used the constellations to guide their way. But even then they often sailed into uncharted areas with no idea what lay ahead. Today, maps are everywhere: from DNA maps to satellite imaging, from subways to brain scans. Every map has a story to tell. I've heard many people say they don't really know how to read a map. This book will get you interested in learning how.

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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11/09



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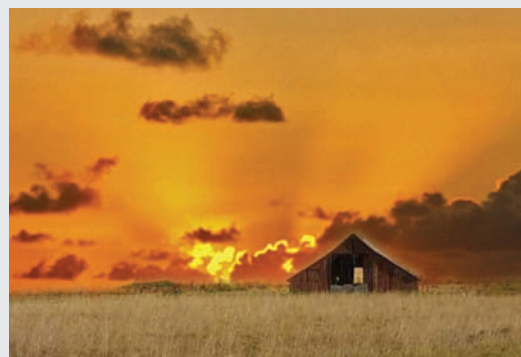
The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

*I saw Old Autumn in the misty morn
 Stand shadowless like silence,
 Listening to silence.*

Yesteryear poets oft penned melancholy autumn lines such as these from Thomas Hood in 1827. There was a quality, a mood in their writing that could send one off into a fairy dance, turn thoughts to love and hope, indeed stir the cold ashes of passion into flame again.

Poets of the likes of Shakespeare and Richard Greene and Matthew Arnold, and later Amy Lowell, penned literary verse that was balm for a troubled soul, and so it was for me in my growing up time – which did not come until middle age and when I suddenly became aware that I was



drowning myself in John Barleycorn and stumbled to my first A.A. meeting.

In autumn, a sort of melancholia, or deep nostalgia, often grips us. Perhaps it is because autumn is filled with wistful days and long sighs, sometimes even gloom, I think, and pain too as we wrestle with what was, what is and what might have been.

Verily, though we may still dream the old dreams, as we grow older it is not with the same fervor as it was in summers and autumns past, the sand in the hourglass all too soon receding. Autumn traditionally arrives at my homely

diggings at dawn on a mid-September morn on a sudden wisp of cool, damp breeze, unmistakable redolence of old harvests, musty places where I have dwelled, old faces and seemingly muffled whispers from beyond the grave.

Summer has finished her work and marches into oblivion.

Darkness in the days ahead will settle in the neighborhood early, one barely having enough time after work for a turn around the yard. The rose bushes are stingy with blooms, and the petunias, marigolds and zinnias are turning brown and soon will not flower at all.

During the lingering hours between dusk and bedtime I often ask myself what was I doing in autumn in years long gone by, and then recall it was spinning dreams and fantasy in

smoky barrooms or flitting hither and yon like the season's last grasshopper, unaware that the summer and autumn of my years were already well on the wane.

Youth indeed was a fleeting thing, here one day and gone the next, like summer turning into autumn, and one comes to realize that the dreams and fantasies of yesterday are only mocking monsters as the new world passes us by, leaving us with the question:

"Will we see another spring?"

(Dedicated to Vivian L. Peterson)

Get Away to Alaska

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is coordinating TRAVEL TRIPS for Ranchos residents that range from a trip to Reno to a cruise to Alaska next June/July.

For more info call 559-474-0505 or email Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

11/09

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11/09



Services on Sunday:

<p>9:30 & 11:00 AM Flipside Liberty at Liberty High School Theater</p>	<p>12:00 noon Flipside 13 Locations TBA check website, myspace, facebook or call Jon (718-0049) for updates.</p>
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11/09

Ranchos Community Christmas Tree Lighting
December 4th, 6-8pm at the Maywood Center

Children's Christmas Play & Dessert
December 6th, 6-7:30pm at Liberty High Theater

Christmas Memory Tree Service
December 7th, 7-8pm at Flipside Activity Center

Youth "Where's Maldo"
December 12th at Fashion Fair Mall
 Jr. High - 12-3pm
 Sr. High - 4-7pm

Children's Christmas Craft Night
December 14th, 5-8pm at Flipside Activity center

Christmas Caroling in the Ranchos
December 19th, 6:30pm Location TBA

Christmas Eve Services
December 24th, 4pm & 6pm at Liberty High Theater

For more information on church activities visit our website at www.acts176.com or E-mail info@acts176.com



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Webster Elementary Receives \$25,000 Grant for New Computer Lab



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

Webster Elementary will soon be receiving a new computer lab thanks to the recent \$25,000 grant award received from the Community Grant Program of the

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians and the County of Madera. The grant was written and submitted by Superintendent Sarah Koligian at the end of June, 2009. Golden Valley Unified worked in partnership with Joe Alberta, the community liaison from the Picayune Rancheria Tribe in submitting the grant. The district is appreciative that the Tribal Council funded this grant to enhance the Golden Valley Unified School District education community.

Webster Elementary School teachers and students have long desired a computer lab for their campus, but there was no room. Modernization and a reconfiguration of the campus took place during the summer of 2007, so there is now a room that can be dedicated to a computer lab. The computer lab will provide students with the ability to extend the curriculum and research topics of study in greater depths. It will provide intensive remediation for students having difficulty in a subject and expand the world of gifted and talented students beyond their classrooms and community. The lab will also provide

for parent technology training in the evenings. The lab will be equipped with 35 desktop computers to accommodate the size of Webster's upper grade classrooms.

Webster Elementary is on the leading edge in Madera County in reading intervention and having a well-defined curriculum. It boasts high scores on student achievement tests in all areas and for having very supportive parents. Their current Academic Performance Index (API) Score of 862 is the highest API for all elementary schools in Madera County. Webster has been the recipient of the prestigious California Distinguished School Award and the Golden Bell Award for their successful Wolverine Reading Lab. The computer lab will greatly enhance education for students and parents and cause Webster to soar to even greater heights.

On Nov. 12, Webster Elementary, along with several other worthy community grants awarded throughout Madera County, were honored at a festive celebration event at the Chukchansi

Event Center. Golden Valley Unified was honored to attend this event with Webster Principal Kevin Hatch, Superintendent Sarah Koligian and Board

members,

Roger Schuh and Steven Lewis.

The evening was highlighted by a performance of the native Chukchansi Drummers, a wonderful dinner followed by a presentation by Tribal Chairman, Morris Reid. He shared the philosophy re-

garding the Community Grant Program, reiterating that as citizens of Madera County, they share the same goals for their own families as they share for their community.

This grant program is one way the Tribal members can give back to the community and offer support to those people whose mission is helping the citizens of Madera County achieve their goals.

Golden Valley Unified School District and Webster Elementary School are grateful for the \$25,000 grant award that will give all Webster Wolverines the additional 21st century technology tools to better prepare them for their future.



Webster Principal Kevin Hatch (left) is flanked by Golden Valley Unified Trustees Steven Lewis, Roger Schuh and Superintendent Sarah Koligian as they anticipate receiving a \$25,000 grant for Webster Elementary from Chukchansi.



Webster Principal Kevin Hatch (left) receives a plaque from Joe Alberta, community liaison for the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Tribe, as GVUSD Superintendent Sarah Koligian beams.

New Liberty High Activity Room

The Golden Valley Unified Board of Trustees and district staff are continually analyzing the facility needs within the district. They have assessed the need for more space at Liberty High School, especially for after-school co-curricular programs that are all vying for the same space at the same time. To that end, district staff has facilitated a simple retrofit



to two unused classrooms at the interim site which also now houses the Educational Options programs. Staff created an "activity room" at the interim school site by taking down the non-weight bearing wall between two classrooms on the east side of the campus to create one open space that is

almost 2,000 square feet. The benefit of completing this will allow multiple groups, such as, the LHS wrestling team to use the expanded room for daily practices without having to roll/unroll the mats every day.

The room will also be available for use throughout the year for activities such as Folklorico, Pep and Cheer, Color Guard and other groups that compete with the theater space at the high school.

Liberty High Senior Wrestlers were asked what they thought about the new room. CJ Dizney said that the facility is "super cool" and Garrett Doss said he was "... very happy they will not have to ruin the mat by moving it every day."

Ranchos Middle School Drama Presents *The Seven Selfish Princesses*

Ranchos Middle School Mustangs are kicking up their heels as they plan for another great holiday treat. The esteemed drama department under the direction of Mrs. Shellie Roth will present *The Seven Selfish Princesses* on Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the RMS Theater.

The Seven Selfish Princesses is a delightful fairytale narrated by two witches and their nieces and nephews. The witches relate a tale about seven sisters who all want to marry Prince John and they will stop



at nothing to ruin each other's chances. These seven self-centered princesses each have a unique quirk, which makes them lovable yet malicious as they go to any length to win Prince John's heart. As the princesses vie for the prince, the witches learn a valuable lesson from Father Christmas and Mother Nature about the opportunity to become a better person. *The Seven Selfish*

Princesses will charm audiences young and old.

The cast of *The Seven Selfish Princesses* in-

cludes: Vanessa Arellano, Katie Bennett, CJ Cambra, Henry Coulthard, Siera Cullins, Cassidy Estabrooke, Lilly Hernandez, Haylee Hoelzel, Jordan Lewis, Morgan Lusk, Becca Mayfield, Kayle Mulrenin, Olivia Neal, Lukas Newcomb, Juliet Olsen, Kasey Penner, Travis Ratzlaff, Macy Reagan, Ashley Romine, Anishia Romo, Ryan Rousey, Corrie Talbert, Cassidy Tefft, Agustina Villanueva, Seth



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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

(Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging) and 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 checkups? 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 Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our latest birthday and anniversary luncheon was celebrated midday on Saturday, Nov. 14 at Olive Garden in Fresno. If you did not attend, you really missed a GREAT time and EXCELLENT food! The October birthday and anniversary celebration was held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Farnesi's restaurant in Madera. We like to get together and have fun. On Thursday, Nov. 14, we celebrated our pot luck Thanksgiving dinner. It, too, was good food! Our Christmas Dinner and installation of the new officers for 2010 will be held on Dec. 14. Be sure to mark your calendar and if you want to join us for any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. Can't you tell we enjoy eating and having fun?

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you and many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us at 645-4864.

SENIOR THOUGHT OF THE DAY
"Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale, and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested, exiled or hanged."

President Abraham Lincoln

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 and 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 is offered 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. The Line Dancing class has started up again and meeting on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Call Joann at 645-4864 for more information. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweatshirts. However, if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, here is your opportunity to learn while having fun! Card BINGO meets on Fridays from 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.

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, Line Dancing at 1 p.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 from 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday, Card BINGO from 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?

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

the last 50 years you don't have to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning it get it in the oven. We would figure about 22 minutes per pound of stuffed turkey, taking about 7 ½ to 8 hours. It only takes 4 to 5 hours to cook a stuffed 18 to 20 pound bird today as opposed to all morning 50 years ago.

As for the stuffing, I do it the same way mama did 50 years ago, except I don't toast the bread. I cheat and buy three boxes of Mrs. Cubison's – two boxes of bread

and one of the cornbread. Add the sautéed vegetables, salt, pepper and even though the bread is somewhat seasoned, I usually add some more sage. Then start mixing in chicken broth and water until it tastes just right. I don't use the giblets but sometimes I do cook the neck and take off the meat and add to the stuffing. Take the bird out of the refrigerator, rinse it out and pat dry, cover inside and out with butter (or margarine), salt inside and out and you're ready to stuff. A lot of people don't stuff the bird but we think the stuffing is better

that is cooked in the bird than in a baking pan. But, whatever you or your family prefers.

I hate the smell of a turkey cooking for the first hour or so. I don't know what it is, but it just smells yucky to me. But after it gets cooking, the smell changes, and I love it. It smells like "home."

Some people call it stuffing and some dressing but do you know the difference? I read somewhere that if you put the mixture in the bird it is called stuffing and if you cook it in a pan it is called dressing. As far as I'm concerned, whatever it is called I love it.

As for the dinner, we serve about the same thing everyone else does and the same thing mama served: Turkey and stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, fruit salad, cranberry jelly and rolls. However, we have added one thing: Zucchini Casserole. As I've told you in a previous article, my mom loved to get recipes wherever she went. This one she got from a cousin from Tennessee. Mama passed away in October 1988 and when we were cleaning out her deep freeze we found one she had made so we cooked it for Thanksgiving that year. My sister Maxine has taken over the duty of bringing one (sometimes she brings two so that there can be some taken home) to all our family dinners. In fact, everyone likes it so much that you would think sometimes she wouldn't be allowed into dinner unless she brought the casserole. Here's the recipe, hope you like it as well as we do.

Zucchini Casserole

6 C thinly sliced zucchini
½ large onion chopped
1 C grated carrot
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 C sour cream
2 boxes Stove Top stuffing (Chicken or Turkey)
2 cubes of butter or margarine

Cook the zucchini and onion for about 5 minutes or until al dente, and drain as much liquid off as possible before adding the carrots, cream soup, and sour cream. Set aside.

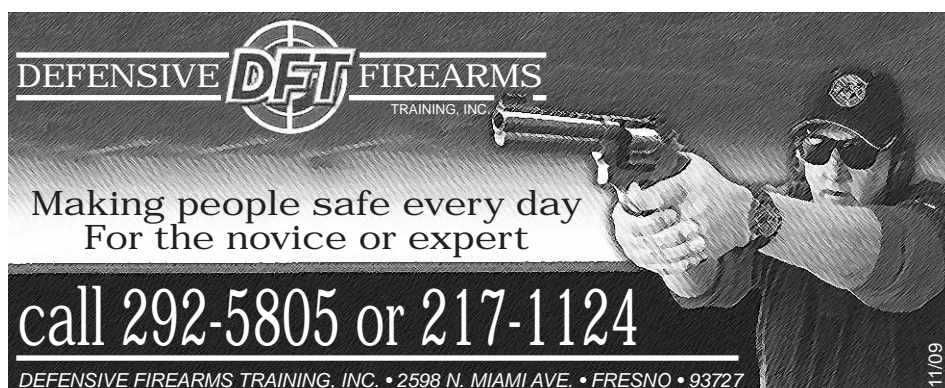
In a separate bowl, mix one box of Stove Top with one cube of melted butter. Lay this evenly in the bottom of a 9 x 12 baking pan. Pour in the zucchini mix. Mix the second box of Stove Top with the other cube of melted butter and cover the zucchini mix. Bake in preheated 350 oven until lightly brown and bubbly.

Do NOT mix the Stove Top as directed on the package – only put the melted butter in the dry mix. People would complain to my mom that when they made the casserole, it didn't taste like hers and the first thing she would ask them was, "Did you use the Stove Top dry with only the melted butter, or did you cook it like the package directs?"

Fruit Salad?

Do you like fruit salad? Our family loves it, but there are a lot of different ways to make it. With or without nuts, marshmallows, sour cream, coconut, apples ... I could go on and on and never say them all. In fact, I went on the Food Network web site and they had 1,019 fruit salad recipes and Cooks.com had 850. One recipe I read used various kinds of canned fruit, all drained except the pineapple chunks. Mix the fruits together and add a box of (dry) vanilla instant pudding. As the salad sits, the pudding will absorb the juice and thicken. That one sounded good, but I think I like ours better. I don't use the canned fruit cocktail because I think the fruit all tastes alike, no individual fruit flavors. Last year, I used two of the large cans of sliced peaches, and two of the sliced pears. Two cans of pineapple chunks (or

Please see RECIPES on P. 23



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Group Forming

A local Christian Business Group is being formed in the Ranchos. The group, made up of local business people, will meet for lunch and discuss biblical principles as they relate to modern life, specifically in the Ranchos. Lunch will be held at the Ranchos Cafe on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, Dec. 11 at 11:30 a.m. **For more info call Bob at 324-1144 or Randy at 645-0634.**

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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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STOCK cont. from P. 9

Don't forget that there are military women also in the Veteran's Hospital. While you are at Maywood Center check out the five small trees decorated by our five Golden Valley Schools.

Sierra View Elementary school will have their holiday program on Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. Webster Elementary will have their winter holiday program on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. These programs are always outstanding and the students are so cute. Liberty High will have their winter drama production on two nights, Dec. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7. Liberty High Winter Formal will be held on Dec. 5 and there are a lot of excited Liberty students looking forward to this formal dance. The Ranchos Middle School winter drama is called "The Seven Selfish Princesses." It will run on Dec. 9 to 10 and the price is only \$3 at the door. Come see the first play at the new middle school Multi-purpose Room stage. I am sure that having their own stage must be exciting for both the teachers and the students. The Ranchos Middle School band concert will also be on the new stage on Dec. 14 at the Multi-purpose Room stage.

OK, if you haven't filled up your calendar yet here are some of the things going on at the Ranchos Hills

Seniors. If you do your Christmas shopping at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center you will save money both on gas and frustration from crowded stores. Our talented seniors have been busy sewing, crocheting, knitting, baking, making homemade jam, jellies and candy for the Christmas boutique at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center. The Boutique will open at 9 a.m. on Nov. 30 at the center and will be open Monday through Saturday each week until Dec. 19. If you want unique and beautiful Christmas gifts and want to help out the seniors who work hard to keep our Senior Center in operation come by 37330 Berkshire Drive.

Want to do something different? How about joining the tour of five Christmas decorated homes in the Ranchos and Rolling Hills area? The tour is on Dec. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. The tickets are \$7 and can be purchased from the Senior Center or the Chamber of Commerce office in the Maywood Center. Don't forget the Treasure House sale on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Senior Center. I have lots of treasures.

If you have one day left on your calendar don't forget to add the Golden Valley School Board meeting on Dec. 8 at the Liberty library at 6 p.m. Your school board members are hardworking people and I am so proud of them. They need your support.

RECIPES cont. from P. 21

tidbits) and a couple of cans of mandarin oranges. Drain all the fruit, and reserve a couple cups of the juice. I used the big Tupperware bowl to mix the salad. Cut the fruit into bite size pieces and add some red and green grapes (that have been washed). At this point I divide the fruit into two smaller bowls. In one I add enough sour cream to cover the fruit. For the other salad, I put the reserved drained juice in a pan and add about half a small container of frozen orange juice concentrate. Add a couple of tablespoons (to taste) of sugar and bring to light boil. In a cup or small bowl, mix two or three tablespoons of cornstarch with some of the fruit juice and mix to a runny paste, adding to the boiling juices, cooking until thickened. (I usually do this as soon after I have

drained the fruit so it can cool.) After the sauce has cooled, stir it into the salad without the sour cream. Put both of these salads in the refrigerator in covered bowls until time to serve. When ready to serve, to the one with the sour cream, I add miniature marshmallows and a couple of sliced bananas. To the one with the orange juice dressing, I only added a couple sliced bananas. Put in pretty serving bowls and enjoy. The reason to wait until ready to serve before putting in the bananas is they have a tendency to turn dark and you don't want that. You want your salad to look pretty.

For those of you that read this before Thanksgiving, I hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving. And for those of you that read this after Thanksgiving, I hope you had a glorious day and you have lots of leftovers.

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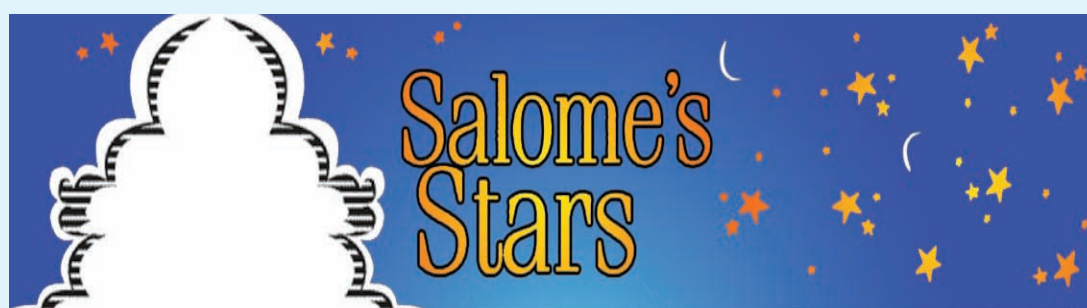
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) While it seems that chaos is taking over, you get everything back to normal, even if it means being more than a little assertive with some people. Expect to hear more job-related news soon.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect to be able to move ahead with your workplace plans now that you have a good idea of what you might have to face. You also can anticipate a welcome change on the home front.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A quieter period settles in, giving you a chance to catch your breath, as well as allowing for more time to handle some important family matters. The arts dominate this weekend. Enjoy them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The frustrations of last week have pretty much played themselves out. You should find things going more smoothly, especially with those all-important personal matters.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Once again, you find a creative way to resolve a pesky problem in short order. However, a matter involving a possible breach of confidence might need a bit more time to check out.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Reuniting with an old friend could lead to the sharing of some great new experiences. But be careful you don't find yourself once again being super-critical or overly judgmental.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You should be seeing some positive results following your move toward repairing that unraveling relationship. There might be some setbacks, but staying with it ultimately pays off.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Encouraging a friendlier environment in the home could go a long way to help dissipate anger and resolve problems, especially those affecting children. It won't be easy, but you can do it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent act of kindness is beginning to show some unexpected (but very welcome) results. On another note, expect to hear more about a possible move to another locale.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The good news is that the sure-footed Goat can rely on his or her skill to get around obstacles in the workplace. The not-so-good news is that new impediments could turn up later.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A change of pace is welcome but also confusing. Before you make decisions one way or another, be sure you know precisely what it is you're being asked to do.

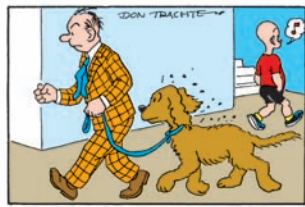
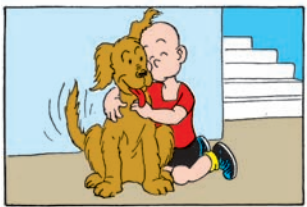
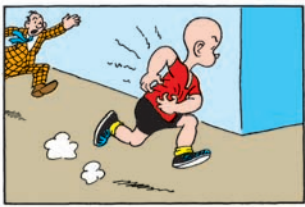
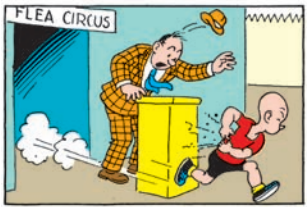
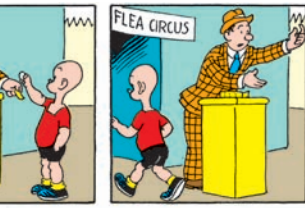
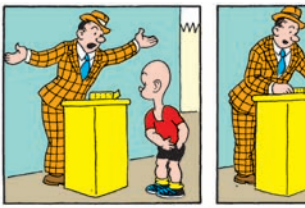
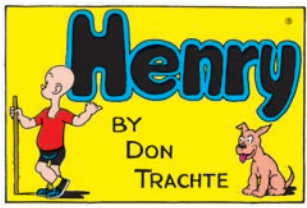
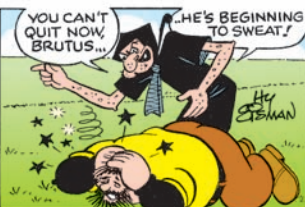
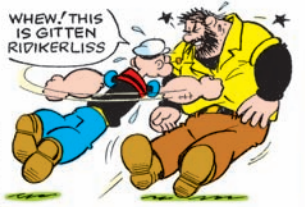
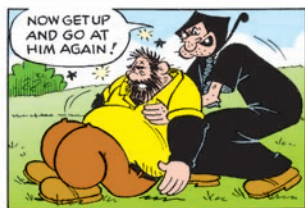
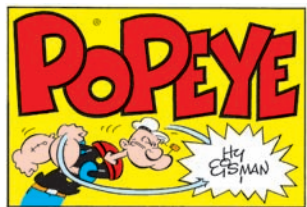
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Don't fret if you don't get the gratitude you think you're owed for doing a nice thing for someone. There might be a good reason for that. In any event, what's important is that you did it.

Born this Week

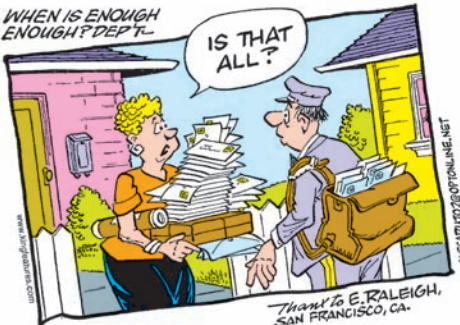
You have a way of making the sort of wise decisions
that lead to shedding new light on dark situations.

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FUN PAGES

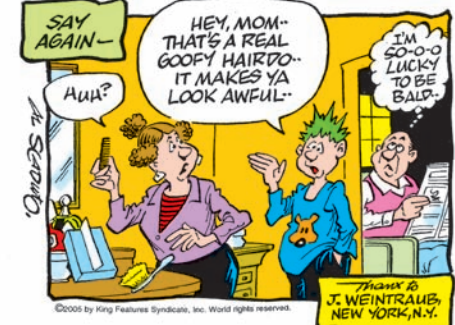


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



TRAFFIC TRAUMA DEPT. A FOX ON THE DRIVER WHO GETS INTO THE LEFT LANE AND THEN MAKES A RIGHT TURN...
—Thank to G. HARLINTON, ATLANTA, GA.

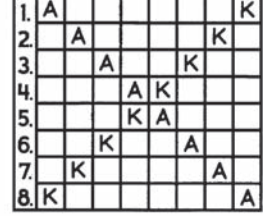
BY AL SCADUTO



AUNT FLO'S FLAMINGO FRENZY! See if you can add up all of the pink flamingoes that Aunt Flo has put in her front yard. (Count them with a friend and see if you both get the same total.)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



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

MESMERIZING MATH!
The swami has discovered that if you multiply 99 by any number from 1 to 100, the product will always contain digits that total 18. Try it out: (99 x 9 = 891; 8 + 9 + 1 = 18), (99 x 4 = 396; 3 + 9 + 6 = 18).



LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

LEG LACE
MALE ATE
NEED ION
REP LED
NONE MUTE
PAL VENT

Answers: Legion, Legion, malemate, needed, needed, replace, nonvent, palate.

Wishing Well

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

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 ● FLOWER GIFTS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- Aster
 - Calla
 - Carnation
 - Daffodil
 - Dahlia
 - Daisy
 - Freesia
 - Hydrangea
 - Iris
 - Lilac
 - Orchid
 - Peony
 - Rose
 - Sunflower
 - Tulip

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the only Central American country that doesn't have a coastline on the Pacific?
- MOVIES:** Who played the role of Boo Radley in the movie "To Kill a Mockingbird"?
- MYTHOLOGY:** In Norse mythology, what is the name of the goddess of the past?
- SCIENCE:** What is the only known metal that turns to liquid at room temperature?
- TELEVISION:** Which long-running variety show featured a fictitious radio station named KORN?
- LANGUAGE:** What is the American equivalent of the British term "braces"?
- RELIGION:** Who served as the first pope of the Catholic Church?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Who was the founder of the online auction service eBay?
- ENTERTAINERS:** What actor uttered the movie line, "The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed -- for lack of a better word -- is good"?
- LITERATURE:** What is the subject matter of the book "Ten Days That Shook the World"?

Answers

- Belize
- Robert Duvall
- Urd
- Mercury
- "Hee Haw"
- Suspenders
- St. Peter
- Pierre Omidyar
- Michael Douglas ("Wall Street")
- The Russian revolution

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Click on "Local News" at

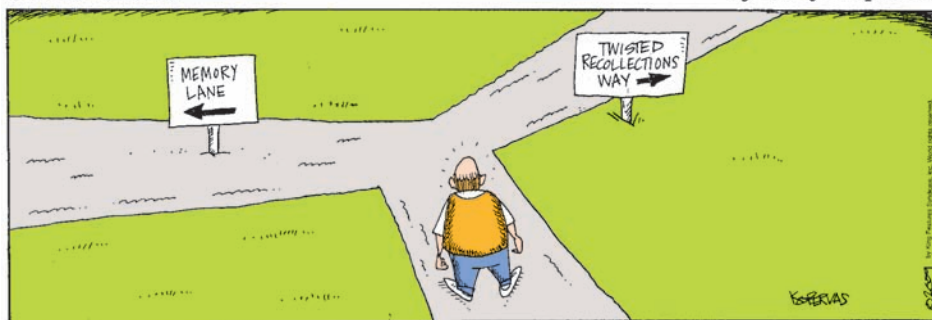
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



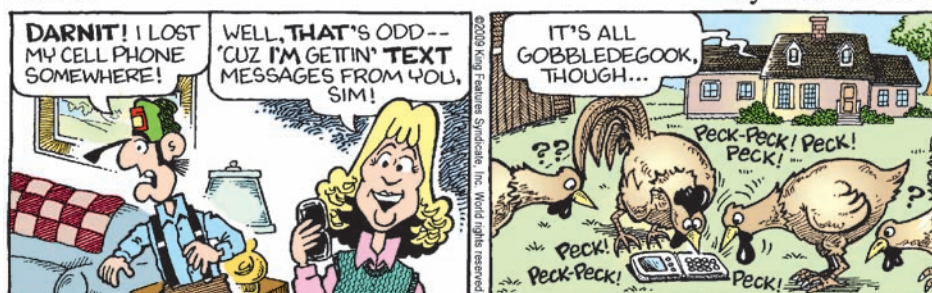
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



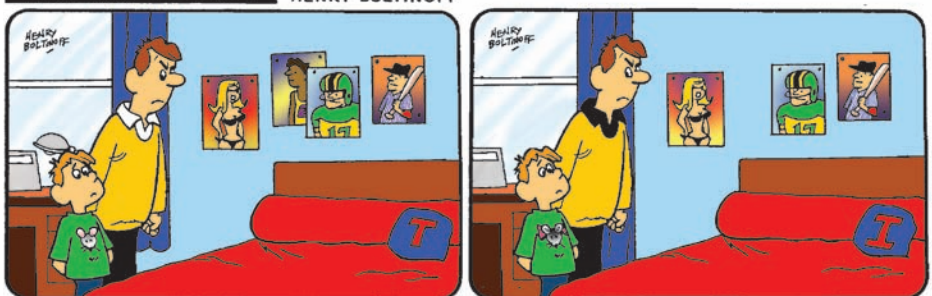
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



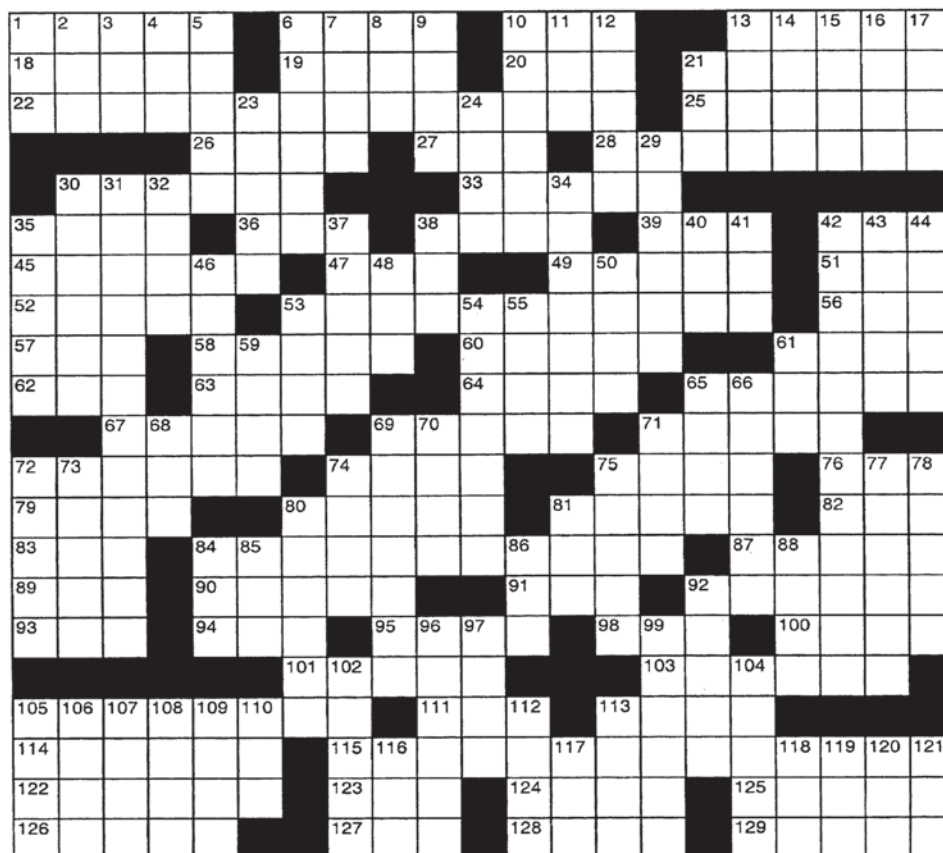
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Letter on pillow is different. 2. Man's shirt is longer. 3. Mouse design is different. 4. Lamp is missing. 5. Picture on wall is missing. 6. Curtain is longer.

Super Crossword



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- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 53 Dislike of a relative? | 89 Mythical monster | 2 Shiba — (Japanese dog) | 38 Moisten | 81 Triangular sail |
| 1 Williamson of "Excalibur" | 56 Branch | 90 Danger | 3 Mongrel | 40 Letters of desperation? | 84 Mimic |
| 57 Swiss canton | 58 "— Dawn" ('73 song) | 91 UK honor | 4 Rink legend | 41 Machine part | 85 Word with on or off |
| 6 The — Brothers | 60 Moving man? | 92 Steven of "Exit Wounds" | 5 Bowe blows | 42 Kremlin tomb? | 86 — degree (somewhat) |
| 10 Urban transport | 61 Strait-laced | 93 Comic Louis | 6 Charge | 43 Hawk's home | 88 Skater Lipinski |
| 13 Get the lead out | 62 71 Across feature | 94 JFK info | 7 Reformer Lucretia | 44 One of the Yokums | 92 Forms a dart |
| 18 Harden | 63 Support | 95 Literary lioness | 8 Lilly or Mintz | 46 "Swingin' School" singer | 96 Trudge |
| 19 Stallion's son | 64 Not quite adult | 98 Edinburgh veto | 9 Command at a corner for one | 48 Claire or Balin | 97 Big rig |
| 20 "Agnus —" | 65 Kevin of "American Beauty" | 100 Westover or Tamblin | 10 Perry White, for one | 50 — impulse (suddenly) | 99 Come to |
| 21 Mason's tool | 67 Renown | 101 Emit | 11 Meyerbeer's "—" | 51 — (suddenly) | 102 Employees |
| 22 Cat-show judge? | 69 Board game | 103 Indiana river | 12 Lucknow lute | 53 Landed | 104 Ms. Midler |
| 25 Puts aside | 71 Casals' instrument | 105 Wood-chopping mishap? | 13 Art Deco name | 54 Centipede's sensor | 105 With 51 Across, central Asian lake |
| 26 Carpenter's item | 72 Messenger | 111 Married Mlle. | 14 Carrot or parsnip | 55 Departs | 106 Lucy Lawless role |
| 27 Cavity | 74 "Younger — Springtime" ('49 song) | 113 Identical | 15 Crooked | 59 "My word!" | 107 Shrewd |
| 28 Model boat? | 75 Exceptional | 114 Use logic | 16 Trickle | 61 Chum | 108 Land in the ocean |
| 30 Degrades | 76 Be a buttinsky | 115 Like a quick-fingered poker player? | 17 In addition | 66 Kindly | 109 Action figure |
| 33 Mongoose's enemy | 79 So be it | 122 Chased rainbows? | 21 "For shame!" | 68 Pantry item | 110 Greene's "The — of the Affair" |
| 35 Bungle | 80 Wallace of "The Princess Bride" | 123 Competitor | 23 "Sleeping with the —" ('91 film) | 69 Atlas or Aznavour | 112 Falco or Adams |
| 36 One of the Marches | 81 Type of orange | 124 "Dies —" | 24 Mediter-ranean port | 70 Actress Goldie | 113 Injury after-effect |
| 38 "If I — you . . ." | 82 Bray beginning | 125 — cotta | 29 Foul | 71 Java joint | 116 Herd word |
| 39 White House grp. | 83 Lion's lair | 126 Stratum | 30 Charm | 72 Wore | 117 Significant years |
| 42 Beret kin | 84 A different place to get married? | 127 TV's "Too Close — Comfort" | 31 Aggressive-ness on Wall Street? | 73 Abrasive substance | 118 Gun the engine |
| 45 Queen of mystery | 87 Newscaster Lesley | 128 Deserve | 32 Genesis figure | 74 Bangkok native | 119 Nev. neighbor |
| 47 Tell it like it isn't | | 129 Occurrence | 34 Suits | 75 Poe crow ground | 120 Decorative vase |
| 49 Winter warmer-upper | | | 35 Disgusted | 77 Cover old | 121 Tended a tot |
| 51 See 105 Down | | | 37 Fills to the gills | 78 Bellows | |
| 52 Sluggishly | | | | 80 Athlete's injury | |

FUN PAGES

What can the Ranchos do about the emptying of the Ranchos' water?

How can we help ourselves? How can we manage our resources?

Where will the Ranchos be without water?

Where will we get water we don't have?

The Ranchos has no representation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Madera County, the group that holds the future of the Ranchos' water -

Will we be left behind?

Are we in or are we out?



There are answers!

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