

The Ranchos Independent



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Photo courtesy of Nancy Finley

Former Madera Ranchos resident Natalie Finley Garcia at one of the checkpoints at the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, less than one hour before two bombs exploded, killing three and injuring hundreds.

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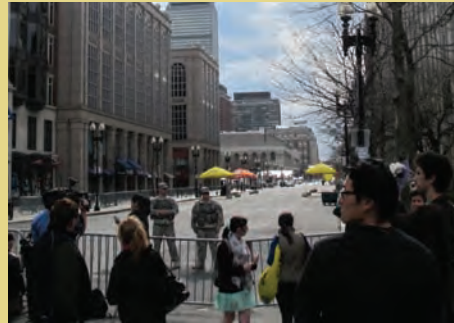
RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE



The 26 mile marker was visible from the Finley's hotel room just .2 miles short of the finish line. Note the time stamp.



Historic Trinity Church wasn't damaged but the dark spot on the road to the left was the site of the explosions.



In the aftermath, all access to the site of the bombing was closed off to the public and was guarded by soldiers.



Thrilled to survive such a potentially devastating event are (from left) Eddie Garcia, Natalie Garcia and John Finley at Boston Commons.

By Christi McKinney

At 1:56 p.m., Boston time, on Monday, April 15, former Madera Rancho resident Natalie Finley Garcia finished the 117th annual Boston Marathon. Proudly cheering her on at the finish line was her father, John Finley, and her stepmother, Nancy Finley, owners of CM&N Nursery in the Madera Ranchos. Less than an hour later, two bombs exploded 5 seconds apart near the finish line killing three people, including an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 100 others.

Thankfully, Natalie was resting in a hotel room with John and Nancy and her husband, former Madera resident Eddie Garcia, approximately two blocks away from the explosions. Nancy said that she had heard a noise from their 22nd floor hotel room but didn't give much thought to it, thinking it was possibly the sound of trains in a nearby train yard. However, a cell phone call from her sister in Texas was oddly disconnected mid-conversation and was followed by an email from Texas telling her of "explosions" and asked if they were all ok. Nancy said it was only when they got into the hotel elevator with a man who told them about the two bombs who was frantic to find his wife and daughter that it sunk in. "When we heard about the bombs we were all together," Nancy said, "otherwise I seriously doubt we would have been so calm. Just knowing we were all together and safe was a blessing for us. Our biggest concern and effort was in contacting all of our family before they heard, just to let them know we were all ok and not to worry."

Raised in the Ranchos

Runner Natalie was raised in the Madera Ranchos with her siblings, Chad and Melissa. She attended Webster Elementary, Ranchos Middle School and Madera High School. She was on the 1998-1999 Girls Cross Country Team at Madera High School and she's been run-

ning ever since. She now lives in San Diego with her husband Eddie, also from Madera, and works for a non-profit organization.

Natalie's husband Eddie had Natalie's qualifying time mapped out at different places in the 26.2 mile marathon and the hotel concierge had managed to hook the family up with a limo service that drove them to five different points along the route so they could cheer her on the entire way. But it was at the midpoint of the marathon course that tragedy struck. The explosions went off on opposite sides of the street about halfway through the marathon and it was there that chaos ensued as everyone screamed and started running frantically, pushing over the barricades lining the street for the marathon's route, or in many cases scrambling to get over them to escape. As people either ran away from the scene or ran toward the area to try to help, thousands of spectators later reported seeing horrific images of injuries normally reserved for war zones. Many said the images would haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Twenty-seven thousand runners participated in the 117th annual marathon however 5,000 runners didn't get to finish because they were forced to get off the course because of fears that there might be other undetonated bombs. This caused chaos because runners were initially unsure of why they were being stopped and then panic set in because they had friends or family waiting at the finish line to see them. At present, officials are working to determine the finish times for runners who were unable to cross the finish line because they had been diverted or asked to stop. By Friday, April 26 marathon officials anticipate being able to provide adjusted times for these runners and send awards to them by mail.

There is a huge financial prize of more than \$800,000 distributed among the top finishers plus an additional \$220,000 in bonuses if records are broken in specific divisions. John

Please see **BOSTON** on P. 3

Recent Bloodshed Tied to Underground Parties

Text Party Teen Latest Homicide Victim



During a news conference Monday, April 22, Sheriff John Anderson announced a disturbing local trend among teenagers and young adults who continue

to organize huge underground parties that are turning deadly. In the past two months two men have died while attending "Fusion Parties," a title coined by teenagers for underground parties, organized through social media and text messaging, for underage kids to consume alcohol and narcotics.

The victim in the most recent shooting has been identified as 18-year-old Drakkar Lewis of Fairmead. He is the same young man who hosted the previous "Fusion Party" at a home in Fairmead where a 19-year-old Chowchilla man was gunned down.

The night of March 30, 19-year-old Eleazar Iruegas of Madera was killed when shots rang out. Another young man

was critically wounded but survived and a third young man was also struck by gunfire but was not critically injured. On April 5, two Chowchilla men, 23-year-old Antonio Michael Ybarra and 20-year-old Jose Pulido-Perez, were captured. Both are facing murder charges for that March 30 shooting.

So far the homicides have occurred in the unincorporated areas of Madera County. Both killings were carried out during "Fusion Parties," large gatherings consisting of at least 100 girls and boys between the ages of 16 and 22, where alcohol and drugs were being consumed by revelers. Both times, following hours of

Please see **FUSION** on P. 22

**FLATLANDER'S DAY
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SATURDAY, MAY 11**

**PARADE ENTRY FORM
ON PAGE 15**

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BOSTON cont. from P. 2

Hancock Financial Services provided the first-ever prize money and bonus awards in 1986 and has continued the support for the prize purse. Over the years, the top finishers have received nearly \$15 million in prize money and course-record bonuses.

Trying to Make Sense

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack, the nation struggles to understand how two young men, who immigrated to America

from a war-torn section of Russia as children and were educated as American citizens, could have possibly planned this attack on innocent citizens. How could they download directions for making highly effective bombs from the internet and then heartlessly place the bombs at the feet of children, all before calmly walking away from the scene. Then to go on to kill a campus police officer in cold blood, throw bombs at police officers during a high speed chase and lead Boston on a manhunt to not only capture the surviving terrorist but to also try to understand

some warped motivation for their actions, or if they were part of a larger group of terrorists.

The investigation continues.

When asked if she would run the Boston Marathon again, Natalie said, "The people in Boston are great and they love their marathons. I'd certainly go back and run there again. There are irrational people everywhere you go. You can't live your life by what they may, or may not, do."

Over a cup of coffee in the heart of

the Ranchos, Nancy reflects on the events of the previous few days and the bigger picture, as she sees it. "I've thought about the countries where generations of families have grown up with their towns and neighborhoods being bombed and military being a daily fixture on their streets how thankful we are that we've been relatively shielded from that lifestyle," Nancy said. "It's so hard to understand hurting someone you don't even know. The Golden Rule we grew up living by is getting lost and forgotten."

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Mr. President: The *Permissive* Parent



By Christopher Green

Just as a permissive, divorced parent on a child custody visit manipulates the favor of a child with extravagant gifts and privileges to make the other parent look less caring, our president has shrewdly crafted a conflict that casts conservative lawmakers as greedy, mean-spirited obstructionists.

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama proposed raising the federal minimum wage to \$9 per hour, presumably

to uplift those in poverty to a living wage. This recycled idea certainly appeals to the many on the lower economic rung who believe they would benefit from the president's largess. Unfortunately, there is broad agreement among economists that raising the minimum wage in today's economy would ultimately cause more harm to the poor than good, especially to those most in need.

How is this so?

First, no one should expect to live for long on a minimum wage. A low, basic wage will work only for entry level employees or part-time workers such as students or retirees who are seeking supplemental income. Seasoned and willing workers will soon be paid more than the minimum because employers know that paying a higher wage to a good worker

is cheaper than hiring and training a new one paid at a lower wage.

Second, employers wishing to hire even minimum wage workers must pay much more than the wage. What many people overlook is that because of social security, workers' compensation, medical insurance and other costs, employers have to pay somewhere between 20 and 50 percent in benefits on top of every dollar they pay to the employee. That means that every new \$9 hire would actually cost the employer between \$10.80 and \$13.50 per hour. Small business employers with limited revenue that have traditionally provided most jobs must determine if the productive value of each new hire is at least equal to the total cost borne by their business. Making the right determination is particularly important because if the em-

Unfortunately, if the president's political machinations result in an increase in the minimum wage, collateral consequences will be inflicted upon all of us, but most of all upon those most in need of help: the unskilled who are earnestly seeking that job that is no longer there.

ployer guesses wrong and then has to lay the employee off, the state government will punish the employer through unemployment taxation penalties.

Third, since it was first established in 1938 at 25 cents per hour, the ever escalating minimum wage has inflicted an accumulating amount of economic and social damage on our country. Along with other government regulations, the minimum wage has helped in recent decades to drive low skill jobs overseas, sent formerly full-time jobs to temporary agencies, and compelled business owners to eradicate jobs in favor of automation. It has also fueled inflation by escalating the cost of virtually every common product or service, while simultaneously depriving the

Please see **TEA TIME** on P. 25

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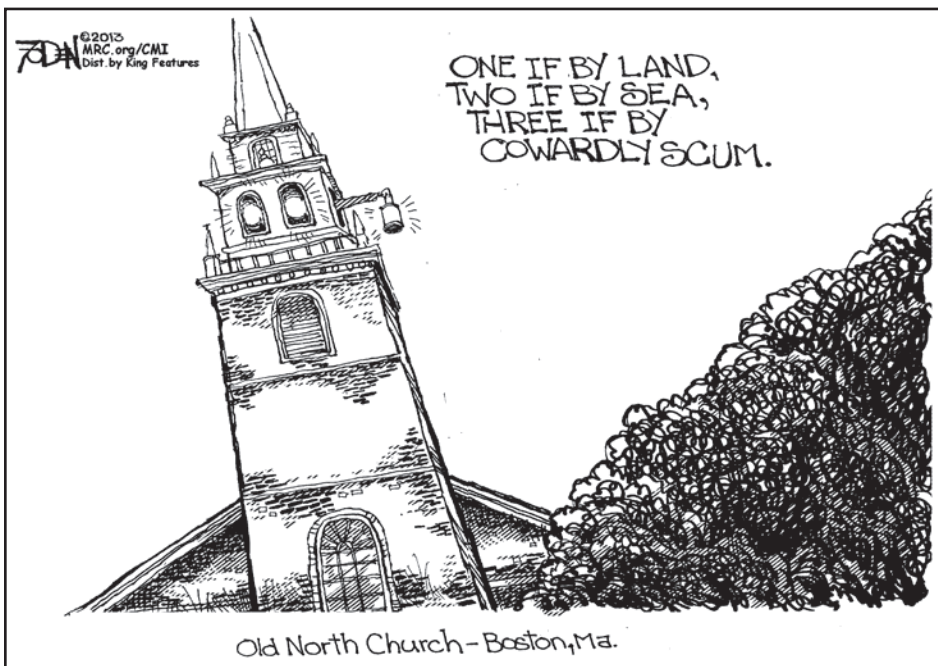
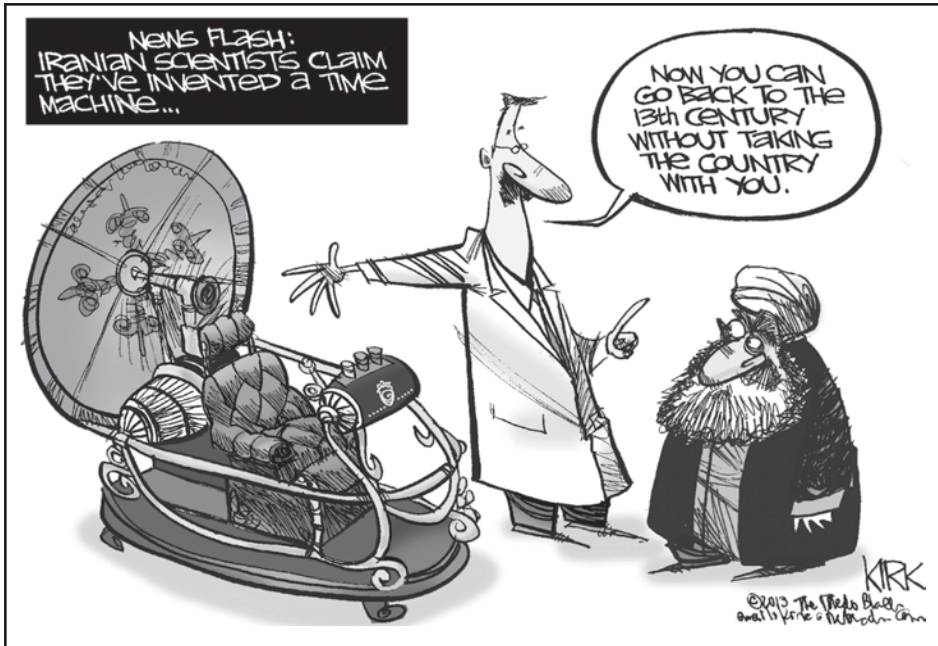
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Editorial

Reflections on Boston

By Randy Bailey

I sat with my mouth wide open when I heard the news about the Boston Marathon. I mean, you had to be kidding me. What was this, some kind of stupid joke? Who would bomb a marathon?

But therein lies the problem: I don't think like a terrorist.

Probably neither do you or anyone else you know. Or anyone any of them know. Normal, decent people just don't think like that.

My friend was watching a newscast right after they had pinpointed the two prime suspects, immigrant brothers from Chechnya, a Muslim country in the south of Russia where the only thing they appear to successfully export is terrorists, and watched in disbelief as the two talking heads on the TV quizzically looked at each other and wondered what the possible motive could be for the young Chechnyans wanting to kill Americans in America. He stood up, yelled at the TV and then called me.

"You know," he said, still breathing through gritted teeth, "these 99 percent of bad Muslims are sure making it hard on the good one percent."

And that's when Part I of this editorial hit me: Where's all the outrage from the "good" Muslims we're always hearing about? I mean, every time the Westboro Baptist Church performs one of its profane protests at a funeral for a fallen American soldier, the evangelical community can't get

out there fast enough to let anyone who will listen know that the Westboro folks do not speak for the masses of good, decent Christians; they don't even speak for the bad Christians, so foul are their beliefs. But when have you ever heard a group of American Muslims, or French or Dutch or ANY nationality of Muslims, speak out against acts of terror? There certainly are acts of commission but make no mistake that there are acts of omission as well. Sure seems like that 99 percent is making it awful tough on that lonely one percent.

The second part of this editorial is an acknowledgment of the brave stance our president is taking in the gun debate. After the murders that took place in Newtown, and not wanting a serious crisis to go to waste, the full weight of the Obama administration has gotten behind several gun bans *d'jour* and stressed their importance if, for no other reason, "... there is a step we can take that will save even one child ... we should take that step."

Well, in Boston on that crisp morning, little 8-year-old Martin Richard lost his life as he stood with his family to watch a race. Knowing the president to be a man of his word and his desire to take any step that would save even one child, like little Martin, I eagerly await the president's next proclamation: The banning of pressure cookers.

Oh there'll be debate all right. There will be those who will claim they have a right to have any type of cooking utensil they want but, really, how many stock pots does a person *really* need? A frying pan *and* a sautéing pan? What are you, a nut job? The government knows best and will proscribe acceptable pots, pans and utensils. But pressure cookers? No way. Sayonara. They are out of here. We have to think of the children.

Some will voluntarily turn their pressure cookers in, amid the glares and finger pointing for being one of "those" kind of people, while others, not interested in taking three hours to cook stew meat when they can do it with their pressure cooker in 18 minutes, will be forced into the shadows. When voluntary surrender proves ineffective, government listening vans will drive through neighborhoods listening for that little rocker thing spitting and whistling on top of clandestine cookers.

But what am I talking about? This is silly, right? Just think, if we had a constitutional right to keep and bear pressure cookers, they'd be safe.

Wouldn't they?

The Ranchos Independent

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Festivals, Footloose and Flatlanders

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Wow! April has been a very busy month. I want to thank the community for the way you all supported the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' Annual Home and Garden Festival. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors have two fundraisers in April. These both keep we seniors working to juggle all of the details of both events. The Home and Garden Festival preparation starts in January. It was completed on April 6. Thank you for all of your help. We had more vendors than ever this year.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors were able to take a deep breath and then start working out the details on the next fundraiser, the "Cycle for Seniors" event on April 20. This event starts at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center. The cyclist could choose a 10 mile

ride, a 25 mile ride, a 65 mile ride or a 100 mile ride. Cycling clubs came from all over the Valley to participate. We had 115 riders this year. When the riders complete their route they return to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center to pick a prize and have a delicious lunch prepared by the Seniors. With all of the riders and workers we feed about 200 hungry people.

While the Ranchos/Hills Seniors were working hard on their fundraisers, a drama production was being put together over at Liberty High School. At Liberty High, one of the elective classes that students can take is the drama class with teacher Rebecca Harp-Sligh. This class was working hard to put together the many pieces of the musical "Footloose." What a great job they all did. The singing and dancing was just great and the speaking parts were well delivered. I was privileged to attend the opening night at the Liberty High Theater on April 18. What a talented group of students we have in the Golden Valley Unified School District. This production also drew from our elementary schools'

students, middle school students and the community. It takes a village seems to apply here. The artistic director of the musical is Andrew Toledo, a former graduate from Liberty High. The producer was Rebecca Harp-Sligh the drama teacher at Liberty High. There are two plays put on each year at Liberty High: one in the fall and one in the spring. Andrew Toledo says bringing live theater to the children and people of the Ranchos Community is the goal of the drama program. The Toledo's Mexican Restaurant serves dinner before each play and has supported the plays given at Liberty High. Our community should be very proud of the excellent plays that have been put on by this committed group of people. I for one look forward to the next play in the fall.

The next big event for our community is the Flatlanders Parade. I hope you have gotten a group together with your ideas to build a float for the May 11 parade. It only cost \$10 to enter your float or group. The entry form is in this Ranchos Independent. Just cut it out, fill it out and turn it into the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce with your \$10 to reserve your place in the parade line up. The Flatlanders Parade showcases children groups, commercial businesses, local politicians, schools, horseback riders, churches and others. So if you want the community to know who you are, get your float or group ready. There are trophies for all categories. If you want to be the sponsor of one of the categories let the Chamber know. The cost is only \$100 and is great advertising. Also don't forget the Ranchos Library is in charge of the Flatlanders Craft Fair. If you want to have a booth, check in at the Ranchos Library to register for a booth. The cost is \$20 for a space. This is a fundraiser for our local Ranchos Library Association so come out May 11 to cheer the parade and check out the Library Craft Fair. This is a special day in the Ranchos. Enjoy your community.

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Why Don't You Raise My Kids?

A friend once asked me what the difference was between Republicans and Democrats, or liberals and conservatives, and at the time I had an exhaustive explanation prepared outlining the differences in topics ranging from taxes to gun control to balancing the budget. More recently, however, I have managed to condense my answer into a single sentence: Conservatives believe in taking responsibility for your own actions, liberals expect others to clean up their mess.

This is evidenced in a statement made by Melissa Harris-Perry, wherein she makes the claim that we need to start seeing all children as the collective responsibility of society as opposed to the individual responsibility of the parents.

Excuse me?

Are you saying that you have some sort of say in how I raise my children? Is this just financial or are you planning on putting your two cents into our daily lives? So if someone goes out, gets hammered, knocked up and pops out another child, then I should

happily accept partial responsibility for the raising of that child because we belong to the same society? I'm pretty sure I already do that on some level considering my taxes pay for public school and social programs that

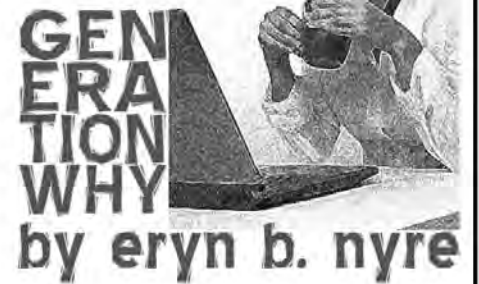
provide for some of these kids; now you want me to actively participate in raising someone else's child.

This is madness.

Who listens to people like this? Oh wait, I know, the leech on the couch with more children than she knows what to do with.

This woman, Harris-Perry, claims that seeing children as subjects of society as opposed to a private responsibility will force people to take a more active interest in the well-being of these children – as if there are people at home hoping all the schools shut down and the kids are left to fend for themselves in the street. Of course we want our children happy and safe, but who, in their right mind, would be willing to let the general populace participate in bringing up their own children? Here you go ... let me know where to send my share of the bill. Oops, I forgot, the people who would actually participate probably would default on their share.

Now, had she said that we need to be more family centered, more structured, more involved and present in the home, I



would agree. If she would have said that we should no longer rely solely on school to teach our children but instead make it a point to surround them with education in the home, I would have been on board. Silly me, I thought this was a call for parents to act more like parents. Instead, Harris-Perry basically believes that we need to approach raising our kids like a co-op would approach growing their wacky-tobacky in the back 40. I'll do the planting, you do the watering and Willow over there will do the harvest.

Right on brother.

Peace, love and jelly beans.

I don't deny that everyone has a stake in how children turn out. Obviously how a person turns out affects all of us: the criminals wreak havoc while the productive further the progress of

*Melissa Harris-Perry ... makes the claim that we need to start seeing all children as the collective responsibility of society as opposed to the individual responsibility of the parents.
Excuse me?*

society and, as a general rule, I would prefer the latter. But to go so far as to say that we need to take an “it takes a village” approach to bringing up baby is once again giving people an out to avoid taking responsibility.

I suppose it's a nice notion – everyone invested in the health and wellness of our offspring – but it won't work, for many reasons. First, it furthers the notion that we don't have to take responsibility for our actions and choices. I don't have to worry about being ready to be a parent, because society is raising my children. I don't have to worry about supporting them because society will foot the bill. It's a dangerous path, and as you can see in California right now, eventually there are too many people relying on the system and not enough people contributing to it.

Second, we have the differences in values. If society is raising our children as a collective then who makes the decisions? Is it put to a vote? Little Johnny wants to quit soccer, all those in favor? Jennifer wants to

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 25

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

Strawberry Time



What is your favorite sign of spring? Tulips and Crocus popping up out of the ground? All the beautiful trees blossoming? The wildflowers on the side of the road? April showers? Although I love the signs of spring I just mentioned, there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

According to a list of 25 low carb fruits, strawberries are second to lowest, only behind watermelon (believe it or not). Strawberries have 6.5g of carbs per half cup sliced serving and watermelon has 5.5g. Strawberries have lots of vitamins and minerals, so eat up.

Strawberries can be fixed so many different ways, and always good. There is strawberry pie or "pizza," strawberry shortcake – those of you that went to the Crab Feed, how about that shortcake we had for dessert? (Ollie told me the cake part was muffins). There are strawberry waffles, and last, but by no means least, strawberry jam.

My neice Vicki's late Grandma Henderson made strawberry freezer jam and I was the benefactor of a jar or two from time to time. Delicious! I understand great niece Lauren has been moaning the fact that she misses Grandma's jam. Well dear, now is the time to learn how to make it and continue your Grandma's tradition. I went through my Mom's recipe cards and found a recipe (not sure if it is the same one Grandma Henderson made, but it will work). So in memory of Grandma Henderson here is my Mom's recipe:

Quick No-Cook Fresh Fruit Jam

- 2 qts. Ripe Strawberries
- ¼ C Lemon Juice
- 1 pkg. (2 oz) Jam and Jelly Pectin
- 1 C Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 4½ C Sugar

Fully crush fruit. It should measure 3¼ C. In a 4 qt. bowl stir together the fruit and lemon juice. Slowly add pectin, stirring vigorously. Set aside 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add corn

syrup, mix well. Gradually stir in sugar until dissolved. Ladle into clean ½ pt. jars or freezer containers leaving ½" headspace. Cover tightly. Jams in use should be kept in refrigerator up to three weeks or stored in freezer for up to one year. Makes seven containers. This recipe can be used with peaches or nectarines – using 2½ pounds ripe fruit in the place of the strawberries.

We get a newsletter here in the park I live and there is usually a recipe someone has donated. I guess someone was thinking along the same lines I was because in the April newsletter the following recipe was in it. I haven't made it, but it sounds good.

- ### Special Strawberry Salad
- ¾ C sugar
 - 1 8 oz. pkg. Cream Cheese – room temp.
 - 1 C Chopped Nuts
 - 2 Bananas – sliced
 - 1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple – drained
 - 1 10 oz. Frozen or Fresh

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

Although I love the signs of spring ... there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

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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



The Demise of the Junk Drawer

Junk (n) – anything that is regarded as worthless, meaningless, or contemptible; trash. (Dictionary.com)

My question is: Do you really need a drawer, or drawers, to store “junk?” Okay, I’m sure there are some items in your “junk” drawer that aren’t junk, but when mixed thoroughly with real junk it’s often hard to distinguish and certainly hard to find what you’re looking for. So this month’s challenge (and it’s very doable) is to tackle your kitchen junk drawer.

Get to Work

The first step is to remove everything from the drawer. Clear off the counter near the drawer to use as a staging area. Place an empty shoebox on the counter for items that need to be relocated. Position a trashcan nearby for the real junk/trash.

Now proceed to take everything out and sort into either the trashcan, relocate box, or, if it’s a keeper, place on the counter. Trash items will probably include old receipts, expired coupons, half unwrapped candy, etc. An item qualifies as a keeper if it’s something you need and use and makes sense to be stored in a kitchen drawer. The rest goes into the relocate box. While the drawer is empty, give it a good cleaning.

Since the kitchen is often a centralized location, it’s wise to store in this drawer an assortment of supplies. In fact, in an effort to keep your newly organized drawer from getting junky, let’s re-name it the “supply drawer.” Your supply drawer may include items such as scissors, tape, stapler, staples, Chap Stick, superglue, a flashlight, pens, sticky notes, keys, and a small space for loose change and miscellaneous screws and things that randomly show up.

Once you have determined which items are needed in your supply drawer, use drawer

dividers to give everything a home. You can purchase a solid drawer divider that comes with compartments, or configure your own using square and rectangular baskets (available at most dollar stores). By giving each item its own space, or grouping them with like things together, it’s easy to see what you have and find what you need. You may even want to label each compartment, making it easy for family members to return items to their proper homes.

Finally

The final step is to relocate all the items you collected in the shoebox. Now, determine to be intentional about what you place in your supply drawer. If you’re tempted to put something else in there, ask yourself if it belongs somewhere else (if so, take it there immediately), if it needs to have a home created in your supply drawer, or if it qualifies as junk—trash it!

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

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Strawberries

1 Large Carton Cool Whip

If fresh strawberries are used, clean and slice and set aside. Mix sugar and cream cheese with electric mixer. Fold in nuts, drained pineapple, strawberries and Cool

Whip. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

If you want to make a strawberry pizza, you really don’t have to have a pizza pan. If you don’t have a pizza pan you can use anything you have on hand. The last one I made, I used a deep dish glass pie plate, but you can use anything. Use your ingenuity and your imagination. If you want to impress company coming, make it in a spring form pan and when ready to serve, put it on a pretty cake plate and pipe some whipping cream around the bottom.

I used a pie crust recipe, using butter and adding a little sugar, but here again you can use your favorite crust. I went on line to see what was used, and believe me, just about anything can be used. There were recipes using Bisquick, sugar cookie recipe, or even one recipe used a package of ready to bake sugar cookies. But the one I like the best was the one used for Republican Dessert.

Strawberry Pizza

**1 C Flour
1 Stick Butter-softened
½ C Chopped Nuts (optional)
2 T Powdered Sugar (optional)**

Mix together like pie dough. Press into pan with fingers and bake 10 minutes in 350 oven. Let cool before putting on second layer.

Second Layer:

1 Pkg. (8 oz) Cream Cheese – softened

½ C Powdered Sugar

2 C Sliced Strawberries

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Spread on cooled crust. Arrange sliced berries on top.

Top Layer:

1 C Sugar

¼ C Cornstarch

2 C Crushed Strawberries

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and crushed berries. Bring to boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool slightly. Spoon over strawberries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Well, that does it for this month. I still like to hear from you about the things you’ve made from the recipes here, or just to get your comments. Call me at the office, or e-mail me at the paper. But most of all thanks for reading.

This article originally appeared in the April 2010 issue of the *Ranchos Independent*.

Editor

SUDOKU

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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Kiwanis Korner

Our Footprint as Kiwanis, Individuals

By Perry Watkins

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

There has been much talk recently of our footprint. It is mostly in regard to the environmental impact we leave from our use of carbon burning, chemicals and the ability to use resources in an environmentally friendly way. It often uses jargon about environmentally sustainable resources. I would like to talk briefly about the footprint we leave with regard to our environment as well. The environment I speak of is that which we create for our children. Some people have a great deal of time to complain about gang violence, graffiti, school environments that they find lacking in one way or another, but do we take time personally to address the environment – our environment. Do we often take an hour out of our week to “Pay it forward?” How many of us appreciate our own blessings and in turn look for ways to bless the lives of others?

Yes, I know, we have our own children to care for, PTA meetings, work, house-keeping, family emergencies, grocery shopping, bill paying and much, much more. On the other hand, how much time does it really take to make a positive impact on the life of another person? How much time does it take when you have the help of 10 or 20 other like-minded friends and neighbors? How much can you do with one hour a week or even one hour a month? You might be surprised. Don't say you don't have enough time. *“You have exactly the same numbers of hour per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

What footprints will you leave behind? What will be your environmental impact? Will you impact the environment of the hopes and dreams of even a single child outside of your own family? It was the vision of our president, Marie Cameron, to increase the scholarship awards given by the local Kiwanis Club to the Liberty High Senior Class. It was an incredibly difficult task as there were many applicants and all were very deserving. We were able to increase our scholarship awards this year by 40 percent. The six recipients of those awards were very surprised and extremely grateful.

“All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.” Walt Disney.

Not only can we make our dreams come true but we can help realize the dreams of others as well. We can ensure that the parents of a critically ill child far from home are able to visit and stay in a safe hotel room. We can purchase the school books for a child who never thought that they could make it to college. We can give an accomplishment award to a child who was filled with self-doubt. We can make a sign to recognize a fallen veteran. We can give jerseys to a struggling new youth softball team. We can help make possible youth participation in a state or national competition. We can help buy prosthetic limbs for children who couldn't afford them. We can save thousands or maybe millions of babies from dying a gruesome death by tetanus. We can help support the many good works of a children's hospital that saves countless lives and prevents untold suffering.

The footprints we leave behind tell our story. Where did those foot prints stop to lend a hand, to lift someone up, to save a life, to change the course of someone's life? If you have ever wanted to do any of those things then maybe your footsteps will lead to a Kiwanis meeting one evening. Meet your neighbors. Have a free meal. Make some new friends. Make a difference.

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

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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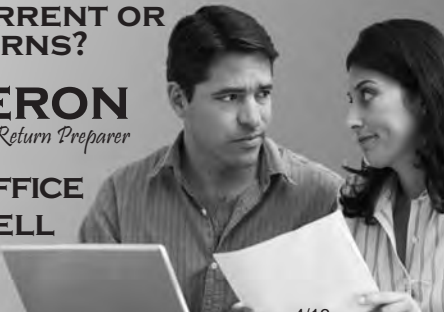
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Progress not Perfection

Disappointment and Peace Coexist

By Mike Bailey

First let me apologize for missing the last edition. You see, I had plans and an idea, but the Lord had something else in mind. And, as it turned out – as it usually does – His plan and idea were much better than mine. He just tends to take His time in revealing His plan to us, which is probably a lot better for us than we care to admit or prefer. I can't speak for all of us but on occasion a little "heads up" would be appreciated. Then again, I think I would just mess it up. I at one time felt that I needed to control or have some kind of input at what was best for me or my circumstance. I had to know what was going on and leave nothing to chance. I HAD TO BE IN CHARGE! The funny thing is God was there the whole time making sure that my stubbornness and self-centeredness did not get in the way. God was doing for me what I could not do for myself. Long before I had ever realized what He was doing and why He was doing it.

There is something to be said about the peace that I have in my life now but it is hard to understand and hard to understand why I have it, but I certainly know where it comes from. The book of James, which I might add is my favorite book of the bible, says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James also goes on to say, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord and HE WILL LIFT YOU UP!"

What James is telling us is until we completely submit, die to ourselves and surrender all, we will not have the understanding in us that allows us to enjoy or appreciate anything. No matter how much we try, nothing – and I mean nothing – can ever give us true happiness or peace unless we are humbled enough and know that all good comes from God; that God is always faithful and always has our best interest at heart. God has our back, no matter

the circumstance; God is always there.

I know many might be asking, "How do I do that?" We need to understand that nothing bad ever comes from God. Stop saying, "How could God let 'this' happen?" "Why does a loving God let a parent lose a child?" "How could God let a mother of three die in a car crash?" God did not "let" any, or make all of this, happen. All of the above and all that is to follow are the direct ramifications of man's love of sin. Sin is death. A three year old who dies of cancer did not die because he or she sinned. The child died because man sinned

You should not let an unanswered prayer or when something goes awry be a reason to be disappointed in God. God answers all prayers. Sometimes we do not agree with his answer, his timing or appreciate the outcome. Whose will are we trying to achieve? God's will or our will? You will find the peace that you are looking for when you finally understand that no matter what happens, God has our best interest at heart.

long before he or she was ever born. God's plan for us with Adam and Eve was that we would live forever with Him on this Earth. We all know how that ended. Left to our own devices we have – and will – ruin everything. The Old Testament shows us time and time again how man falls short and continues to hurt and destroy himself. Then 2000 years ago our Gracious Father gave us a Savior. His blood, His son; God

gave us Himself. And, what did we do? We in our great wisdom hung him on a cross. Us, not knowing that that was God's plan for us and Himself all along. Our Heavenly Father is much smarter than us ... we just need to get out of the way.

You should not let an unanswered prayer or when something goes awry be a reason to be disappointed in God. God answers all prayers. Sometimes we do not agree with his answer, his timing or appreciate the outcome. Whose will are we trying to achieve? God's will or our will? You will find the peace that you are looking for when you finally understand that no matter what happens, God has our best interest at heart. Even if we do not understand any of what He is doing for us, it is always for our best and His.

Next time you are disappointed in God remember this: How many times have you have disappointed Him? Also remember that He loves you – no matter what.

Stop asking God what He can do for you and start asking God what you can do for Him, then you will receive the peace for which we have all looked.

Until next time,
Mike B.

Ranchos/Hills Senior Success Sizzles

By Verlaine Elinburg

In the year 1989, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors purchased the building on 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos and made it their second home. In 1990 they had their first Home and Garden Festival, and this year on April 6 the seniors held their 21st Annual Home and Garden Festival. Working together as a team we celebrated another successful year. This year we added our Poker Game stall and next year we hope to add additional games and fun activities for children and adults, and for laughs we might invite some politicians to campaign for 2014 and sell us some true stories.

On April 20 we held our 5th Annual Cycle for Seniors. The seniors outdid themselves. As always, like true old-fashioned Americans, they gave their donated time, food, money, gifts and great enthusiasm back to the community. A special applause goes to Phyllis Fasshauer and Heidi Soult as they performed an outstanding task of obtaining donations from the

sponsors that were used as gifts. Additionally, the food gift cards they were able to procure purchased food and drinks for the bicycle riders. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors extend their thanks to our community and the communities around us for making our two fundraiser events successful with this year being our most successful fundraiser. Each year we increase our complement of riders, and in 2013 we set an attendance record of 115 riders. A special mention and farewell to one of our oldest and most faithful Cycle for Senior Riders: Fred Mathes. In 2009 he was 92 years old when the seniors had their first Cycle for Seniors event, but this year he was called away from us and in his place three of his children gave honor to his love for cycling. His motto in life was be truthful, keep

learning and keep loving. And he told great jokes.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

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

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have

fun, share laughs, meet new friends and get updates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

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

On Thursdays at 6 p.m. we have a great pot luck with poker and other great card games.

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



The children of Fred Mathes rode in his honor at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' 5th Annual Cycle for Seniors fundraiser.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors extend their thanks to our community and the communities around us for making our two fundraiser events successful with this year being our most successful fundraiser. Each year we increase our complement of riders, and in 2013 we set an attendance record of 115 riders.



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Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

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Valley Civil War Veterans Dedication

By Tim Desmond

If you've ever wondered if you've had an ancestor who was a veteran of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War in Texas, the War Between the States, the Spanish American War or any of the World Wars of the 20th Century, you are not alone. It would be of interest to know the actual numbers in Madera County, and the Ranchos. We've all come from these past migratory ancestors. More people are able to search online than ever before and more people are finding their ancestors. Ancestry.com is growing.

There has been growth also in Sons of

Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Sons of Confederate Veterans (surviving organization of the original "United Confederate Veterans"). Our national Memorial Day - Decoration Day, having been inaugurated two years after the "War Between The States" in May 1867, was first observed in May 1868 as a memorial to the Civil War soldiers. It should also be noted that Confederate wives, daughters and widows began doing memorials in Richmond, Virginia before the "War Between The States" was over.

This year there will be a particularly different and first-time-ever memorial event. It will be at Mountain View Cemetery on our National Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 at 2 p.m. It is an event to recognize both Union Veterans and Confederate Veterans who came to California. There are over 2,000 Confederate Veterans, and many are buried in the San Joaquin Valley and in Fresno County. There are over 80 Union Veterans buried at Mountain View Cemetery alone.

The marker being placed at Mountain View Cemetery is a double-sided block with a Union stone on one side and a Confederate stone on the opposite side. The Sons of Union Veterans organizations in California are providing the Union stone. The Confederate stone has been provided by the California Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the local General Tyree Harris Bell Camp 1804. General Bell is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Sanger.

This memorial being placed is in the center of California. No other veteran's memorial marker has both Union and Confederate memorials on it. No other memorial event is a reconciliation event of the north and the south; this one is. No other event has honored both Union and Confederates. It is an event of importance because Memorial Day was born out of the Civil War and this year is the mid-year of the 150th Anniversary of 1863 - the middle year of the war.

All are invited. It will be a memorable pageant of honor. Red, white and blue flags will unfurl in a warm breeze. Most important are the men being honored. They have thousands of deceased descendants, thousands of families, thousands of living descendants living in Madera, Fresno, the Valley and elsewhere. Many of you have connected with your past ancestors through the Madera or other Genealogical Societies. Many new connections await your new searches.

For further information on this event, you may contact Chuck Norred at chucknorred@comcast.net or by phone at 559-706-1565. Chuck is the commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1804 in the Fresno area.

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The Bookshelf

Get Ready for Summer Reading 2013

By Lori McClendon

The Summer Reading Program is just around the corner and this year's theme is *Reading is Soooooooooo Delicious*, and is available for children up to age 12. The schedule of events for the Summer Reading Program is:

- 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)
- Aug. 1** Grand Prize drawing and Ice Cream Party

All presentations will be on Thursdays at the Ranchos Library at 11 a.m. Flatlander's Day is going to be here sooner than you know it on Saturday, May 11. Contact the library for food and craft vendor applications if you'd like a booth at the annual event.

Come join us for the Pre-School Story Time to Read, Play and Learn with Diane Maxfield, Thursdays at 11 a.m. The children love it and parents seem to be enjoying it as well. Also, did you know free homework help is available at the Ranchos Library? It's available for grades k-5 on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. with Mrs. Taylor. Additional times may also be available by appointment; you just simply have to ask at the front desk.

For the month of May, Furlough Days for the Madera Ranchos Library will be May 10 and 24.

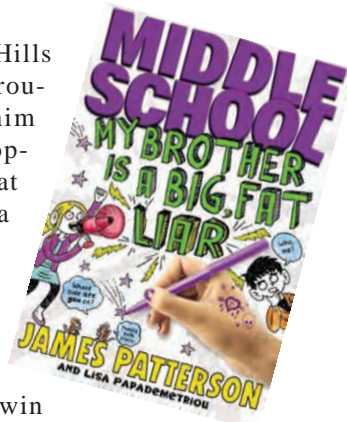
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Check out our New Arrivals

Middle School - My Brother is a Big, Fat Liar by James Patterson
From blockbuster author James Patterson comes the third installment in the #1 New York Times bestselling Middle School series!

Georgia Khatchadorian plans to excel at Hills Village Middle School in all the places her troublemaking brother failed. She's even bet him that she'll quickly become one of the most popular girls in school. But Rafe left a big mark at HVMS, and no one will give Georgia a chance. Even worse, Rafe has sneakily signed up her band to play at the school dance, and she's terrified to embarrass herself in front of the snooty "Princesses" who run the school and the boy who's caught her eye. Will she be able to overcome her fears and win her bet with Rafe? Find out THE TRUTH about Rafe Khatchadorian's sister in the first Middle School story from the point of view of the hilarious Georgia – a girl who's ready to speak her mind!

Visit our website at www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org and always remember your library card – don't leave home without it!



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Flatlanders Day is Coming



The 22nd Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 11 beginning at 10 a.m. The annual event showcases local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. The parade starts at 10 a.m. sharp and then there's a food and crafts fair at the Maywood Center sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library that will last into the afternoon. Flatlanders Day is always celebrated on the second Saturday in May and this year's theme is "The Ranchos: Local and Lovin' It."

An entry form for the parade is to the right of this article and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library. For more information call 645-4001.

Flatlanders Day Sponsors

This year the sponsors for the trophies for the 22nd Annual Flatlanders Day Parade are a "Who's Who" of local businesses and individuals.

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 Haney Chiropractic

New Chamber Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome these local businesses into the Madera Ranchos business community family. These are your neighbors so support local businesses whenever you can.

**Many Hats by Bryan Lee
New York Life - Stephanie Reeves
Alan T. Handry, Architect**

Golden Valley Chamber

2013 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 11, 2013 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No

Approx. number of participants _____ Approx. length _____ ft.

Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):

Horses (Single) Horses (Group) Explain: _____

Band/Music Name: _____

Floats (Non-profit) Name: _____

Floats (Business) Name: _____

Floats (Other) Name: _____

Children's Groups Name: _____

Dance Groups Name: _____

Single Entry (Children) Name: _____

Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____

Novelty Name: _____

Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!

Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parade route: Ave. 12 from Road 36 1/2 to Kensington

The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 6** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

New Chamber Board

Pres.: Verlin Dill - VDI Services

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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Sierra View Elementary School SPRING CARNIVAL

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GAMES

DJ

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Sat. May 4

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4/13



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Liberty High School Athletic Hall of Fame Announced, May Induction



Liberty's Chris Gonzales cuts down the net after leading the basketball team to a North Sequoia League championship. He earned 10 letters in his high school career and is one of three inductees in the inaugural class of the Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame.



Liberty girls tennis coach Greg Ruland holds the plaque for the 2011 Valley Championship. It was the third straight title for Ruland. Ruland, the longest tenured coach and teacher at Liberty, is a member of the first Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame Class.



Liberty softball outfielder Macaee Coleman helped lead the 2005 softball team to the school's first-ever Valley Championship and establishing many records. The team was named to the first class of the Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Liberty High School Athletic Hall of Fame committee announced its inaugural class to be inducted in May.

The inaugural Hall of Fame dinner/dance will be held May 4 from 6-11 p.m. at the D&D Ranch in Madera Ranchos. The cost of the dinner is \$75 per person or \$550 for a table of eight. The Hall of Fame will benefit the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. The committee, led by head Fidi Cuevas, selected three representatives as the first class into the Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame. Also on the committee was Liberty athletic director Mike Mazzone, Liberty coaches Leslie Wood, Ruland and Mike Nolte and community members Melinda Cullins and Stephanie McShane. In the first class of the Hall of Fame are:

Three-sport athlete Chris Gonzales - Gonzales earned 10 varsity letters his four years at Liberty before he graduated in 2006. When he graduated, "Gonzo" was the first Liberty quarterback to

Please see **FAME** on P. 19

Important GVUSD Dates

Sierra View Elementary

- 4/26 Star Rally
- 5/4 School Carnival (4:00 p.m.)
- 5/30 Open House

Webster Elementary

- 5/22 Open House

Ranchos Middle School

- 5/22-5/23 Drama Production (6:30 p.m.)

Liberty High School

- 4/26 Ballet Folklorico Spring Recital (6:30 p.m.)
- 4/29-5/1 Senior Exit Interviews

Golden Valley Battles at State DI Championships

Golden Valley Unified School District sent four teams to San Diego just before Spring Break to participate in the Destination Imagination State Championships and, after winning the regional competition, the Sierra View team received some help along the way from River View Elementary School which has participated in the State Championships the previous few years but couldn't attend the competition this year so they decided to help other teams. River View donated \$924 to Sierra View Ele-

mentary's Destination Imagination team and last year also donated to other teams and received the Spirit of Destination Imagination Award.

Team Jolly Ranchos, out of Sierra View, placed ninth in their division out of 14 teams.

The 5 Mustaches team from Ranchos Middle School placed 10th in the 8th Grade middle school division out of 13 teams. They were just five points out of ninth and 10 out of eighth.

The Misfits, out of Liberty High School, led by advisor Josh Koop, placed third overall, just .16 points in front for third place.

Team Nike, out of Webster Elementary, tied for fourth place out of 13 teams.

Team Nike, out of Webster Elementary, tied for fourth place out of 13 teams. The Ranchos Middle School 7th Grade team also placed seventh in the same division.



The 8th grade Ranchos Middle School team of 5 Mustaches, who placed 10th in the 8th Grade middle school division, were Vivian Montijo, Rebecca Mendoza, Rachel Koop, Willow Delgado and Kelsey Noble.



The Ranchos Middle School 7th grade Destination Imagination team placed seventh in a field of 13 teams.



River View Elementary's Cole Fleming, left, presents a check to Sierra View's DI team, which placed ninth in the state. From left are Maddie Wristen, Payton Poore, Samantha Ford, Camille Vestal, Logan Stephens and Troy Baker.

CORRECTION

In the March issue of the Ranchos Independent we ran a story about the 7th and 8th Grade Academic Pentathlon that was held in March and were proud to report that Ranchos Middle School defended their 2012 title and won again. However, the story failed to report that 7th grader Jazper Blancett won the gold medal for literature.

We're sorry for this omission and want to congratulate Jazper for his achievement.

Committee Members Needed

for the Golden Valley Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for a representative from a Taxpayers' Association to serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies.

If interested, please obtain an application from the Superintendent's Office

**37479 Avenue 12, Madera 93636
(559) 645-7500.**

4/13

FAME cont. P. 18

throw for more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He was also the starting forward on a league championship basketball team. He cut down the nets celebrating the North Sequoia League title.

He was also the starting pitcher and third baseman on the baseball team that won a North Sequoia League championship.

Liberty's first Athletic Director and Valley Champion coach, Greg Ruland - Ruland served at Liberty's athletic director when the school opened. He then went to the coaching ranks. He coached girls tennis and boys golf, along with dabbling with the boys basketball team.

His girls tennis team won three straight Valley Championship from 2009-2011.

Liberty's first Valley Championship team, the 2005 softball team - The 2005 softball team was led by seniors Kayce

Ashcraft and Desiree Midkiff and sophomores Macae Coleman and Jenny Barber.

Ashcraft batted .450 during the season and drove in 24 runs. She was also the starting pitcher of the team that went 19-3 and 13-1 as the West Sierra League champions. In the WSL, Ashcraft batted .444 and recorded a 0.44 earned run average with six shutouts.

The 2005 Hawks had five players with a .300 batting average or higher, led by Coleman's .466. Stacey Achelpohl batted .392, followed by Barber with a .382 and Jen Autry batted .333.

Coleman and Barber each hit 10 doubles to set school records at the time. Coleman also hit five home runs and Ashcraft had three. Coleman drove in 27 runs while Barber had 26 RBIs. Ashcraft had 24 RBIs and Autry recorded 21.

In the circle, Ashcraft pitched in every game and recorded a 0.70 ERA with 11 shutouts. She struck out 165 batters in 140 innings pitched.

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Pee Wees	8, 9 & 10 year olds	Seniors	12, 13 & 14 year olds

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\$120 RETURNING PLAYER • \$145 NEW PLAYER

SIGN UP AFTER FLATLANDERS PARADE
\$145 RETURNING PLAYER • \$170 NEW PLAYER

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Sending Local Girls to Science Camp

By Ramona Frances

Five Madera County girls will receive scholarships to attend a week-long camp called Tech Trek at Fresno State University this summer. The \$900 scholarships provided by American Association of University Women provides financial support for hands-on learning linked to science, technology, engineering and math designed for 8th grade students. Camp activities include outdoor learning opportunities such as water safety, canoeing and identifying and casting wildlife footprints found along the San Joaquin River.



Holly Hiatt and Brooke Yang of Ranchos Middle School, Lorena Camacho and Karina Hinojosa of La Vina Elementary, and Ariana Prudente of Desmond Middle School were selected out of 14 qualified applications. Alternates are Annaly Luna and Annie Martinez, both of La Vina Elementary School.

According to organizer Sue Thornton, the selection process and panel interviews were arduous for both the girls and the judges. "All the girls did a great job during the interview," said Thornton. "The judges had difficulty narrowing down the selection to only five; however, we were grateful to be able to send three

more to camp than last year."

The number of scholarships awarded varies from year to year. Several significant donations from the community made it possible to increase the number. "We are particularly grateful to Barbara Robbins Morris, Wanda Mortimer and Sally Roberts for their generosity, as well as some anonymous donors," said Linda Robbins Leach, AAUW president, Madera branch.

In December of each year, Thornton, retired science teacher and AAUW member, contacts all principals and 7th grade science teachers in Madera County Schools to ask science educators to make recommendations.

Desmond Middle School has been a consistent participant. La Vina and Ranchos Middle School participated for the first time this year with a positive outcome. Participating science educators linked to the winning schools are Jessica Escobedo, Nichole Ullrich and Will Wolff.

In addition, AAUW Madera branch annually gives scholarships to high school seniors. Four \$500 high school scholarships will be announced next month. A scholarship luncheon for the winners will be May 18, 11:30 a.m. A total of \$6,500 in scholarships will be awarded in 2013.

Liberty Misfits Qualify for Finals

Five students, two coaches, one competition: Destination Imagination, Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn.

Destination Imagination is an international tournament for students that encourages fun, risk taking and thinking "outside the box." Teams of students select a challenge and develop solutions and the Golden Valley Unified School District has competed in Destination Imagination for the last seven years. There are three levels of competition ranging from Local, State and Global. This is the first Golden Valley team to advance to the Global level.

The students who comprise the Liberty High School Misfits are Grace Hall, Michael Sassano, Brianna Higgins, Sam Glover and Sami Smith, and they are being coached by Candy Hall and Josh Koop.

The team is hoping to represent the Ranchos in Knoxville, Tenn. May 22 through 25. And be the first district team representing GVUSD to advance to the

Global Finals.

You can help the Misfits reach their goal to represent Golden Valley and the Ranchos with a tax-deductible donation made directly to Liberty High School at 12220 Road 36, Madera, CA 93636, or you can call the school for more information at 645-3500.

Think of it as Golden Valley, the school district that started local is now going "Global."

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Rabies \$5 • DA2PPV (Parvo/Distemper) \$12 • DA2PPV+C (Parvo/Distemper/Coronavirus) \$20 • Bordetella (Kennel Cough) \$10 • Puppy Package: Includes DA2PPV+C, Bordetella and Roundworm Deworming \$32 • Dog Package: Includes Rabies, DA2PPV+C and Bordetella \$27 • Cat Package: Includes Rabies, FVRCP and Feline Leukemia \$25

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Madera Ranchos / Southeast Madera County

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

May 11	Flatlanders Day Parade	Chamber of Commerce
May 11	Tri-Tip Sandwiches Booth (at Flatlanders Day)	Ranchos Kiwanis
TBD	Farmers Market (AT Hurst Hardware)	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 Liberty High School)	2013 Sober Grad Com.
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.

Bigelow Fighting State Fire Tax

Assemblyman Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals) has advocated for full repeal of the State Responsibility Area Fire Fee (tax). Bigelow said that rural property owners may have received notices from the California Board of Equalization stating the state is owed a fee to pay for fire prevention and safety services.

Bigelow contends that the fee is nothing more than a 2011 state budget gimmick burdening property owners in "State Responsibility Areas" – residents primarily living in rural and unincorporated parts of California.

"That is why repealing the fire tax is one of my top priorities in Sacramento and the reason I am coauthoring Assembly Bill 124 to do just that. Our state cannot attempt to balance the books on the backs of some Californians for the same services we all use and rely on," Bigelow said.

Bigelow said that proponents of this tax claim that it is only fair to have those who live in high-risk areas pay the higher costs of firefighting. Bigelow makes the

point, however, that when an earthquake causes damage in urban areas ALL California taxpayers are expected to fund the high costs of repair. "That same principle should apply across the state. Fire protection in unincorporated areas preserves the water, air quality, and forests everyone enjoys and from which we all benefit," Bigelow said.

The legislation that created the fire tax is legally suspect and being challenged in court. Voters approved Proposition 26 in 2010 to require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve new taxes, but the fire tax was passed by a simple-majority vote as a purported budget trailer bill.

"I will continue to push for the law's repeal, but until it is, property owners must still pay the fee assessed by the state. If you believe, however, that you should not be subject to the fee or you find a discrepancy in your bill, you can file an appeal with the Board of Equalization," Bigelow said. More information is available at www.firepreventionfee.org.

LHS Student Takes First Place in Regional Rotary Speech Contest

Chloe Doyle of Liberty High School in Madera won first place in a speech contest sponsored by Rotary International District 5220. Doyle competed against 11 other speakers, each of whom had won first place twice in seeded contests at Rotary clubs and multi-club areas covering seven counties. The event was held at Ceres Unified School District, 2503 Lawrence St, Ceres on March 30 with club members, families, and guests present. The recognition included a certificate and a check for \$1,000 to bring her total winnings for all three levels of the contest to \$1,300. Doyle was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Madera.

Tim Truax of Pittman High School in Turlock, sponsored by Turlock Sunrise Rotary, placed second, receiving an additional \$750 bringing his total winnings to \$1,050. Alauna Sessoms-Hall of Enochs High School in Modesto placed third, Sessoms Hall was sponsored by Modesto Sunrise Rotary and her \$500 prize brought her winnings to \$850

Other speakers included Bradley Wright of Lodi High, Daniel Valdez of St. Mary's High, Leah Bayers of Calaveras High, Haley Nieves of Lathrop High, Trevor Beach of Orestimba High, Thomas Dempsey of Oakdale High, Kimberly Petiti of Merced High, Allison Boyer of Yosemite High, and Joey DeAngelis of Sonora High.



Don Murphy, Salida Rotary (left), contest chairman; Alauna Sessoms-Hall, Enochs High, 3rd Place; Tim Truax, Pitman High, 2nd Place; and Chloe Doyle, Liberty High, 1st Place and Rotary District Governor Liz Hosmer, Ceres Rotary. Contestants at all levels won over \$20,000 including the three finalists who together garnered \$3,200.

Each of these contestants accumulated \$300 in prior wins. Dozens of other contestants received prize money for placing second or third at club or area contests. The total awards exceeded \$20,000.

"Peace Through Service," the Rotary International President's theme, was the

topic selected by Rotary District 5220 Governor Liz Hosmer of the Rotary Club of Ceres. Past District Governor Don Murphy of the Rotary Club of Salida is the contest chair and host of the event.

The Rotary district includes 54 clubs in communities throughout the northern San Joaquin Valley and the Mother Lode.

A Memorial Service



Fred Edward Mathes

Died April 9, 2013 at the age of 97

Family and friends of Fred E. Mathes, age 97 of Madera Ranchos, will gather at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center in Madera Ranchos on May 18, 2013 at 3 p.m. for a Memorial Service and to celebrate Fred's life. All are welcome.

FUSION cont. from P. 2

drinking and drug abuse, deadly violence has broken out. This latest "Fusion Party" was held near Avenue 18 1/2 and Road 21, located just west of the Pilot Truck Stop.

No suspects have been identified in this past shooting.

Sheriff Anderson says the growing number of shooting incidents at Fusion Parties – 14 in the unincorporated area of Madera County alone since January, 2013 – have been happening throughout the County, including at least two more shootings in the city of Madera that are believed to be related to these Fusion Parties.

From what Detectives have been able to glean so far, organizers of these parties are able to spread the word through social media and text messaging. In some cases a flyer is generated announcing a party, but with no address, only a phone number to call. The rule, as we understand it, is that they must either call that number or text that number to find out the location of the party.

While some of the attendees at these parties do have juvenile records, many of these kids have no ties to criminal activity but they all have one thing in common –



A sample of the type of flyer circulated to let kids know that a Fusion Party is happening. For more info you have to text to the number provided. No addresses here.

they like to party, especially when alcohol and drugs are involved.

"These are children," Sheriff Anderson said, "some as young as 16 years of age and even younger. Anyone of them could have also been shot. As it is, two other young men were struck by gunfire when Eleazar Iruegas was shot and killed last month in Fairmead."

Parents, do you know where your kids are? Do you know who's hosting an event your kids are planning to attend? Do you know where the event is taking place? Get informed.

Mansel Trimble, Pastor
Golden Valley Baptist Church

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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.

	+		÷		4			
×		÷		+				
	-		÷		1			
÷		+		÷				
	-		×		10			
6		8		2				
2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9

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“A Look At Business”



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Time and service have honored the name **JAY CHAPEL**, funeral directors, located at 1121 Roberts Ave. in Madera, phone **559-674-8814**.

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Using only the latest equipment and proper tools, this is one firm that combines the most up-to-date building techniques with a professional attitude to see YOUR job through to its entirety! The writers of this 2013 Look At Business commend this well respected construction company and suggest **GAMIZ CONSTRUCTION** to take care of your construction needs!



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Serving The Area For Over 30 Years

Your dealer for famous **John Deere** lawn mowers in the Madera area is **MIDLAND TRACTOR CO.** This respected garden and lawn care center features new models for 2013 and they're ready to make you a great deal on one of these fine machines. Choose from rotary, self-propelled, and riding mowers. There's one that's just right for your lawn, your need AND your budget! Stop in today at **MIDLAND TRACTOR CO.** at 1901 W. Cleveland Ave. in Madera, phone **559-674-8757** to find out more about these excellent lawn care products.

This well known dealer also specializes in such quality lawn care machines as rototillers, power rakes, yard tractors, and other power and hand tools to make a beautiful lawn and garden an easy chore. You'll like the friendly service, the competitive prices and the outstanding values in famous **John Deere** products.

Stop in at **MIDLAND TRACTOR CO.** and look over the fine lawn and garden equipment in stock. Everyone would like to thank their many customers throughout the area. It's always a pleasure to serve you.



Schoettler Tire Inc.

Since 1934

With two locations in Madera at 608 N. Gateway Dr., phone **559-674-4678** and at 22800 Ave. 18 1/2, phone **559-674-6236**, **SCHOETTLER TIRE INC.** is well known throughout the valley as being a tire store where quality is just as important as price. Your dealer for famous **TOYO, Michelin, Kelly, Goodyear, National Tire** and **BF Goodrich** tires, this community leader features tires for virtually every car, truck or tractor on the road or farm, and their huge inventory allows you to "re-tire" immediately! They have 6 service trucks and can keep your down time to a minimum.

From steel-belted radials to heavy-duty truck tires, these fine outlets have just what you need in stock. The friendly personnel will gladly explain the advantages of a particular tire, and will advise you as to the best buy for your needs. Of course, alignment, balancing, brake and shock work and other services are offered by this outstanding firm including a full line of custom wheels.

Stop in today and see just what kind of quality your tire dollar will buy at **SCHOETTLER TIRE INC.** The entire crew thanks all their friends and customers from the Ranchos area.

Saenz Pest Control

Luis Saenz – Owner & Operator

Is your mother-in-law bugging you? Is that leaking roof bugging you? Is the barking dog next door bugging you? **SAENZ PEST CONTROL** in Madera Ranchos can't do anything about those "bugs" but for everything else in pest control, **SAENZ PEST CONTROL** at 35765 Avenue 13 1/4, are the professionals to call.

They can handle any variety of indoor or outdoor pests and can do it quickly too! A phone call to Luis at **559-706-8237** will put you in touch with a person that can solve your pest control problems. Remember...if your relatives are being pests, don't call **SAENZ PEST CONTROL** but for anything else, call Luis at **559-706-8237** and make your pest problems disappear.

Luis appreciates all of his friends and clients and looks forward to your calls.



IRRIGATING THE VALLEY SINCE 1967

Let the experts at **AANONSON SPRINKLER COMPANY** help YOU plan a modern, efficient irrigation system for your farm or ranch. Centrally located at 19170 Hwy. 99 in Madera, phone **559-673-4261**, this reliable firm has been solving the water problems of the area growers for many years. Their reputation for quality equipment and dependable service is their best recommendation.

This company can furnish you with everything you need, from pumps to gates, to ditch liners, to pipe. They do the complete job from initial design and construction, to regular maintenance. Call **AANONSON SPRINKLER COMPANY** to find out for yourself just how easily YOU can have the convenience and increased profits that only quality irrigation can provide.

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business think you'll be able to make more from your land with custom-designed irrigation.



Locally Owned & Operated
By Chad Harr



When you need sand and gravel to complete a project, you need it right now! At **CHAD'S TRUCKING** located in Madera Ranchos, phone **559-645-5363** or visit www.chadstrucking.com, you'll never have problems with your order not being filled promptly and delivered on schedule! Chad is a qualified professional of the sand and gravel business, and he can offer you, the customer, more in terms of quality products and the fastest service! He can supply your material of humus, horse footing, crushed rock, fill materials, topsoil, cobblestone, road base, plaster sand, washed sand, river rock, or other related products. He also specializes in demolition, excavating, tractor work, land leveling and more.

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business recommend them to all of our readers!



Sago Rey Palm Plantation

3535 S. Temperance Fresno, CA 93725

It takes a while to walk through and view the entire plantation, because of the vast volume of inventory. We encourage you to come and see **SAGO REY PALM PLANTATION** for yourself. No matter what size, shape, or character of Palm or Sago you seek, you are bound to find the perfect specimen for your garden/landscape. We call our product "jewelry for the landscape" and you have probably already seen why.

Landscapes throughout California are using Palms and Sagos to add character and a sense of "Royalty" to their landscape, not to forget how much curb appeal and added value they give to an estate. **SAGO REY PALM PLANTATION** also offers a variety of shade trees and fruit trees. Often clients need to make several trips to the nursery, with so much to choose from both in Palms and Sagos, it is often difficult to make your selection of just the right plants in one trip.

Call **SAGO REY PALM PLANTATION** at **559-268-6650**.

Chuck's Transmission Service Ranchos Auto Repair & Chuck's Too

Terry, Lanny, & Robin Tucker – 2nd Generation Owners

Excellence in all phases of automobile, truck, RV and motor home transmission repair is what's featured at **CHUCK'S TRANSMISSION SERVICE** located at 4438 E. Belmont Ave. (east of Cedar) in Fresno, phone **559-255-1320** and **RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR & CHUCK'S TOO** located at 12090 Road 37 1/2 in Madera Ranchos, phone **559-645-4475**. They specialize in automatic and standard transmissions and differentials.

Transmissions of today are complex and precise machines requiring a thorough knowledge and the proper tools to repair and adjust it properly. These are transmission repair shops that have the knowhow, skill and the equipment to get the job done right the first time. **MasterCard** and **Visa** cards are welcome.

People from throughout the area speak highly of the quality workmanship that goes into every job that **CHUCK'S TRANSMISSION SERVICE** and **RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR & CHUCK'S TOO** do, and a job well done is the best possible recommendation one could have. We urge our readers to trust their cars to these professional shops. Terry, Lanny, and Robin appreciate your business.

“A Look At Business”

- continued -

Express Cash & Loan, Inc.

Aka Madera Pawn
Susan Green – Manager

Since ancient times, the institution of a pawn shop has always been a valued one, both to the buyer and the seller. Of course, the pawn shop is a good place to “get cash when you need it.” But here you’ll find real values in shopping too.

Before you purchase a new TV or diamond, watch, stereo or a quality hunting firearm “price it first” at EXPRESS CASH & LOAN, INC. located at 329 South C St. in Madera, phone 559-661-7296 or visit www.maderapawn.com. You will find outstanding values in tools, DVD’s and many other items that you must pay much more for in any retail store. EXPRESS CASH & LOAN, INC. is always a fun place to shop because you never know what you’ll find.

Like the respected institution they represent, EXPRESS CASH & LOAN, INC. has a quick loan service and honest value in shopping. We suggest that you stop in at this leading pawn broker soon. You’ll be glad you did!

Tom Harsh Appliance

Family Owned & Operated

Don’t trade that appliance off just because you’ve been having a little trouble with it lately, take it to the experts, TOM HARSH APPLIANCE at 110 E. 4th St. in Madera, phone 559-674-5723, who can expertly repair it and put it back in like new condition for many dollars less than a new one would cost.

This company is completely equipped with the latest tools and testing gear to professionally repair and service all of your major electric appliances. They have the experience and training to take care of the problem in the shortest time and at reasonable prices.

The next time you are headed to town, bring in that broken down appliance and let these experts fix it for you. Many times they can have it ready the same day. The writers of this 2013 Look At Business suggest to our readers that you make TOM HARSH APPLIANCE your headquarters for all major electric appliance repairs. We compliment them on their fair and ethical business practices.

Madera Blinds & Shutters

Locally Owned & Operated By Kevin Massetti

MADERA BLINDS & SHUTTERS is where you’ll find every imaginable type of beautiful window coverings for your home or office. This respected specialty shop features the area’s largest selection of window coverings for any and all windows.

Located inside MASSETTI APPLIANCE at 305 S. D St. in Madera, call for an appointment to 559-706-2459 or visit www.maderablindsandshutters.com. This well known shop specializes in many styles in window decoration including woven woods, Roman shades, shutters, venetian blinds and many others. They can custom design and install window coverings to fit any size window or opening. Check with them before you buy “just any window shade!”

MADERA BLINDS & SHUTTERS also features the latest in transparent and translucent window coverings to filter out heat and damage-causing sun rays.

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business are pleased to be able to suggest this fine merchant to all of our readers. Kevin takes this time to thank all his friends and customers in the area. Your business is always appreciated and he looks forward to serving you soon.



Tordini Insurance Agency, Inc.

Kim Tordini – Owner
Family Owned Since 1938 Lic. #0733352

Being backed by years of dedicated service and reliability are just two reasons why TORDINI INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. is known as one of the leading insurance companies in the area. Most people are more apt to place their trust in a company with this kind of reputation and when they find out that TORDINI INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. is the local agent for many top line companies...that’s about all they need to know! With offices located at 1834 Howard Rd., Ste. A in Madera, phone 559-674-5646, this well-known insurance person has won the admiration and confidence of many of the area’s leading citizens and business people. If you’ve been searching for an insurance company that will give you competitive rates, outstanding service, and complete coverage...this is the one for you!

When it comes to insurance for your home, life, business, farm, car or boat...remember the name TORDINI INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. They’re all you’ll ever need to know about insurance! The writers of this 2013 Look At Business suggest this fine agency to our readers. They thank their many valued friends and clients. It’s always a pleasure to serve you.

A & G Lock And Key Service

Kristina Hayes & Robert Milla-Leon – Owners & Operators

Fast service on all types of lock problems and key duplication is the full-time job of A & G LOCK AND KEY SERVICE. This well established locksmith specializes in all phases of lock installation and service and you can depend on them for the fastest finest service anywhere. Located at 515 4th St. in Clovis, this competent firm is available 24-hours a day for emergency lock-out service. Phone 559-297-8505 for fast service.

Locks for all types of buildings, changing of safe combinations, master key systems and other facets of the locksmith business are also handled with ease by this qualified company. Residential, commercial and automotive business is welcome.

Remember the name A & G LOCK AND KEY SERVICE for everything in locksmithing, from simple duplicate keys to complicated installations and repairs. The writers of this 2013 Look At Business think that you’ll like the speed, quality, and fair cost of their services! Give them a call at 559-297-8505; you’ll be glad you did.



Conveniently located at 1977 W. Cleveland Ave. in Madera, phone 559-675-9212, WALMART is both familiar and popular with the people of this area, and it’s the place where you can feel at home while you’re shopping. Its friendly atmosphere that predominates at all times has placed this store in an individual class by itself and is the shopping headquarters for this entire area! That much discussed word, “SERVICE” finds true expression in the friendly atmosphere that envelops every customer in this store. WALMART features items in all categories and each department is managed by well trained personnel and the latest merchandise is always seen on their well stocked shelves.

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business suggest WALMART to our many readers in this area. We know you’ll be pleased with the quality merchandise, the outstanding service and the low prices that go hand in hand here. The managers and the staff thank all their many valued customers; your business is appreciated. They look forward to serving you and greeting new customers in the future.

Dog Pause

Locally Owned & Operated

The place to have your pet groomed professionally is DOG PAUSE located at 126 W. Olive Ave., Ste. A in Madera, phone 559-660-5094. This well known grooming parlor features bathing, expert cutting and styling for all breeds of dogs, for looks and comfort. They also do excellent work on ears and nails and medicated baths are available as needed. No tranquilizers are used, and your pet will have a good experience in these gentle, caring hands.

Your pet doesn’t need to have a pedigree to enjoy the services of this fine grooming parlor. All breeds need regular grooming, and pets look and feel much better when their coats are trimmed at regular intervals. Whatever breed YOU own, make an appointment soon to have it cared for at DOG PAUSE! You’ll find the rates reasonable and the service excellent.

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business would like to make special mention of this fine pet grooming parlor.

George’s Auto Supply

Locally Owned & Operated

When you need auto parts in a hurry, do what leading garage owners and repairmen have been doing for years and see your friendly auto parts store, GEORGE’S AUTO SUPPLY! Located at 467 Pine St. in Madera, phone 559-673-5117, this reliable parts and supply house carries a full line of parts for all domestic autos. Their well known store and efficient personnel assure you of a quick stop whenever you need a part. Call GEORGE’S AUTO SUPPLY first!

Need custom accessories or speed equipment? They have that, too! Everything you need to make YOUR car look and run its best is featured here. There is also a fine selection of do-it-yourself repair books and factory service manuals available.

Regardless of what you need for the repair of your car...they have it! The writers of this 2013 Look At Business suggest that YOU visit GEORGE’S AUTO SUPPLY today and discover what SELECTION AND SERVICE are all about!

Silva Ford

Locally Family Owned

With so many of the new and used models being similar in features and price, how does the prospective car buyer know WHICH automobile is best for him? Well, as the saying goes, “If you don’t know cars...know the dealer you buy from.” In Madera, consumers are very fortunate in having dealer like SILVA FORD. Located at 200 Madera Ave., phone 559-674-6771 or visit www.silvaford.com, this well-known firm is your authorized dealer for famous new and used cars and trucks. Besides offering a full line of quality automobiles, this community-minded dealership bases its success on a simple fact of good business: KEEP the customer satisfied!

The business of customer satisfaction begins in the showroom and continues right on through to their complete service department where skilled technicians and the latest diagnostic test equipment assure you that your new or used car or truck will “keep you satisfied” for many years to come!

The writers of this 2013 Look At Business suggest you stop by SILVA FORD’s showroom very soon. We believe you’ll be satisfied!

"A Look At Business"

- continued -



Locally Owned & Operated By Ray Perez

Learn to drive the right way with certified instruction by R & D DRIVING SCHOOL. This well-known school of defensive driving will have you on the road...on your own...in just a few weeks, or, if you prefer, in just a matter of days with their special intensified program. You'll learn to drive properly, safely, and easily with the special training that this recommended school is capable of. Located at 106 N. Gateway, Ste. 105 in Madera, phone 559-664-1144, FAX 559-395-4945, or visit www.rddriving.com (online Drivers Ed is available), this is one driving school that realizes that safety is one of the absolute prime concerns of driving. Ray has over 16 years of experience for Class C Driver's License only, and drop-off and pick-up service is available. They are open Mon. - Fri., 10am - 5:30pm and Sat., 8am - 5:30pm.

R & D DRIVING SCHOOL features state licensed instructors, ultra-safe, dual-controlled brakes, dual mirrors, and many specialized classroom techniques so that you know all of the rules of the road and can get through the licensing test with ease. We are pleased to suggest R & D DRIVING SCHOOL to all of our readers.



"We Toss 'em, They're Awesome"SM
PIZZA FACTORY

Pizza Factory

Visit PIZZA FACTORY in Madera Ranchos at 37184 Avenue 12, owned and operated by Hal and Mary Ann Parks. While the signature pizza, the "Ranchos Special" is a favorite, guests can choose hundreds of combinations. They also offer calzone, subs, pasta, salad bar, soft drinks, beer and wine! "The All you can eat Lunch buffet," is a favorite at \$6.95.

Customer service is a top priority! When you stop by you'll see smiling faces, receive "Hello", "Thank You", and "Good-bye." Their friendly quaint restaurant is alive with excitement, Ranchos neighbors, Liberty sports teams, birthday parties, and club events all take place in the "Pizza Party Place." Relax and watch TV while the kids play the video games.

No time to cook? No problem. Friendly delivery drivers will bring your pizza right to your door. Call PIZZA FACTORY at 559-645-7011 and place your order. For weekend fun, visit their second location, the FRIANT PIZZA FACTORY, on your way to the lake or mountains. Daughter Chris Parks serves up the same great pizza and customer service.

Many thanks to the community of Madera Ranchos for your support over the past 17 years.

Mention this ad and get \$5 off your next extra large pizza.

TEA TIME cont. from P. 4

youth, particularly minority youth, of the buying power of the wage and, most importantly, the opportunity to learn skills while placing a foot on the first rung of the employment ladder.

Although thoughtful arguments supporting the minimum wage can be made, these often rest on the assumptions of a healthy economy and nearly full employment, not on the reality that today states like California have black unemployment of about 20 percent and teen unemployment of 36 percent. Instead of demanding an increase in the minimum wage enforced uniformly upon every community in the U.S., our president should call for the immediate suspension of the federal minimum wage until national unemployment goes down below, perhaps, 6 percent. This would allow states to tailor minimum wage rules to meet the employment conditions and needs of their own localities as they once were allowed to do.

Unfortunately, if the president's politi-

cal machinations result in an increase in the minimum wage, collateral consequences will be inflicted upon all of us, but most of all upon those most in need of help: the unskilled who are earnestly seeking that job that is no longer there.

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

Madera Chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive in Madera. The next meeting is May 20. The guest speaker will be Steve Brink, a U.S. Forest Service representative who will discuss current forestry issues. You can confirm meeting dates and guest speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

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

GEN WHY cont. from P. 7

dye her hair blue, any objections? We are all innately different. We all have different values and beliefs that we want to instill in children. We can talk about wanting our children to be safe, but beyond the obvious no physical harm, no drugs, no bullying, what do you consider safe? I consider safe to mean shielded from violent media, safeguarded from sexual perversion such as internet pornography and completely immersed in the word of God. That is part of what safe means to me. Others might disagree. Let's not forget the different traditions we all have. Wouldn't a vegan take issue with my tradi-

tion of roasting a turkey on Thanksgiving? Who makes that decision, another vote? That's a lot of voting. No one will have time for anything else. And for a society that boasts the need for diversity, you sure are trying to eliminate individuality.

Let's get back to basics and take things in another direction. Study after study shows that children who are raised in loving and nurturing, yet structured, homes produce emotionally stable and secure children who become thriving adults. Let this be the call to action. Shouldn't we be encouraging that type of parenting rather than a communal sort of approach where too many cooks will most assuredly spoil the child?



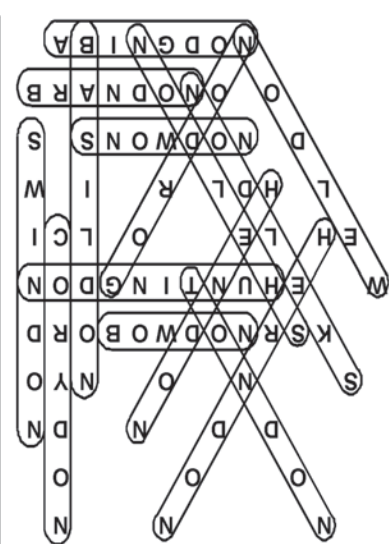
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ANSWERS

1	6	8	5	3	7	2	4	9
5	3	7	2	9	4	1	6	8
4	2	9	6	1	8	5	3	7
2	7	4	8	5	3	9	1	6
6	1	3	9	4	2	7	8	5
8	9	5	1	7	6	3	2	4
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PRORATA	WIT	RAM	WIT	RAM	WIT
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YARD	DRAG	ING	LOST	ART	PS
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LIMOS	ETE	ATE	ASE	BUS	HEL
OTOLE	HEM	THE	CHEEK	TRIP	LE
TALLOWS	ED	A	MAME	NEIGH	ATLAS

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4	8	3	+	8	4



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Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - 40 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:** 36027 Ruth Ave. Call 559-645-4583.

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Salesperson - The Ran-

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

Housecleaning

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

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Painting Services - Gerald Scheffing & Son **Painting**. 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. Call 674-2320.

Recyclables Pick Up

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

Salon Space Available

Spaces now available at The Beauty Club Salon in the Ranchos. For Esthetician and hair stylist. Call Irma at 645-6565 for more information.

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Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen, track and sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal available. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates. **SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

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Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?



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If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 24 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs.

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4/13

top ten

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- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
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| 2. Marlowe | 7. Severine |
| 3. Christian | 8. Bruce |
| 4. Nelly | 9. Wilder |
| 5. Mavis | 10. Phaedra |

Source: Nameberry, 2013



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4/13

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You've set a fast pace for yourself. But as you approach your goal, you might want to slow down a bit in order to take time to reassess your situation and make changes while you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Patience continues to be a virtue for the Divine Bovine. So as eager as you might be to get things moving, remember that time is on your side. Make good use of it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) There's a wee bit of uncertainty in the early part of the week. But things clear up as more facts come to light. Spend quality time this weekend with family and friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An old friend's return could open new possibilities for both of you. But don't let yourself be rushed into anything. There could be some factors you haven't yet explored.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This week offers a challenge you're raring to take on. And while eager to get started, do so slowly so that you can focus those sharp Cat's Eyes on every detail.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Put your skepticism aside and listen to advice from colleagues who've been where you are now. What they say could be helpful as you get closer to a decision.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family matter might again require your reassuring touch. Handle it, as always, with kindness and fairness, even if some of your kin prove to be especially difficult.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your ability to tackle even the most intricate details of a project is likely to impress some very important people. A relative shares news later this week.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The Archer's aim might be focused on the big picture this week, but don't overlook checking for those details you might have missed.

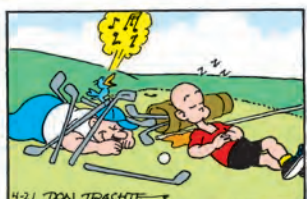
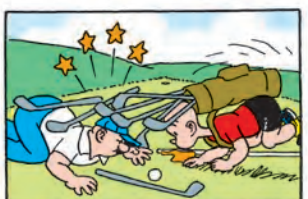
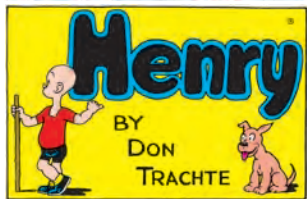
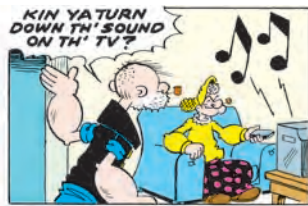
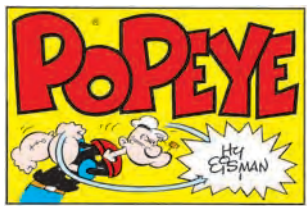
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might feel awkward asking for assistance, but who would refuse the charming Goat's request? Do it, then go ahead and enjoy a musical weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Pour some cold water on that simmering misunderstanding before it boils over. The sooner things settle, the sooner you can move ahead with your plans.

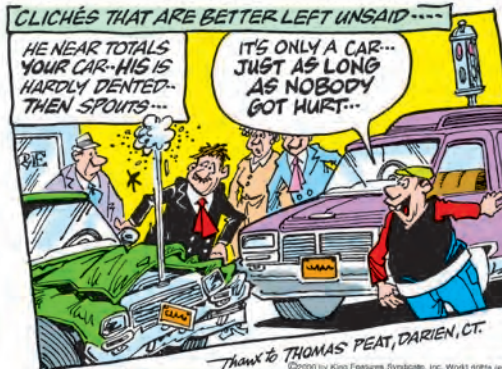
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're in a highly productive period, which you feel can go on forever. But you could be courting exhaustion. Take time out to relax and restore your energies.

Born this Week
 You can combine a sense of adventure with a penchant for practicality. Have you considered a travel-related field?

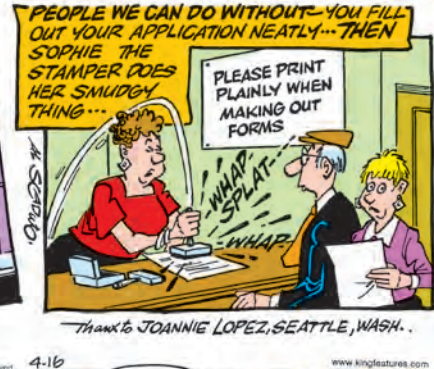
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



PUZZLE PIC
FIND THE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY WHO DOESN'T HEAR WELL...
Thank to R. MONTIEL, CHICAGO, ILL.



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

KNOW DICE! Place three dice side by side. Pick up all three at once between your thumb and forefinger. Squeeze dice, ease pressure, and shake them. The top die will fall (see inset), whereupon the other two are brought together. Secret: Moist fingers before you pick up dice. Moisture and pressure will cause outer two to adhere to fingers long enough to allow center die to drop. Give it a try.



SPY LINES! Spy A, after a wild goose chase, filed a one-word report: ALLG. Spy B, pursuing a hot lead, reported: Mr. Bigam. Can you decipher the reports? No fair peeking.

UPS AND DOWNS TO PONDER

ADD a four-letter word to each of six UPS (1-6), and to each of six DOWNS (7-12), to form 12 eight-letter words in accord with definitions below.

- On a high note.
- To modernize.
- Sustain, as a law.
- Cost of repairs.
- As a result.
- Rowdy commotion.
- Heavy rain.
- Sliding category.
- Make smaller models.
- Machine outage.
- Reduce hoops.
- Lower Manhattan, for instance.

Time limit: 2 minutes



BREAK POINT! Mom's had it with Junior, and baseball, too. To complete the picture, draw connecting lines dot to dot.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE • PLACES ENDING IN "DON"

WKNHEBYVNLSPNMJ
HEBOYVTOQOOLIG
DBYWDTRPNMKDNI
FSDBYNWUODSNYOQ
OMKSRNODWOBORDK
WIFE (HUNTINGDON)
BEHZLEXWUOSLCIQ
ONLLHDLJRHFDWC
AYWDVNODWONSTSS
QPNLOKONODNARBI
HFECBNODGNIBAZY

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

- Abingdon
- Basildon
- Bowdon
- Brandon
- Corydon
- Gordon
- Hendon
- Hemdon
- Huntingdon
- Sheldon
- Skeldon
- Snowdon
- Swindon
- Tondon
- Weldon

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PLANT LIFE! Plant that tree and watch it grow. Apply colors neatly by number. Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

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

OUTBREAK

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:** In what century did the Industrial Revolution begin?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What kind of bird is a harrier?
- MYTHOLOGY:** In Greek mythology, what gift was given to Cassandra by the god Apollo?
- ENTERTAINERS:** Who is actress Shirley MacLaine's equally famous younger brother?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name (and nickname) of the dad on the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"?
- NATURAL WORLD:** What color is the mineral malachite?
- INVENTIONS:** When was the modern zipper invented?
- U.S. STATES:** What state is home to Moosehead Lake?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Where would one find the Queen Elizabeth Islands?
- HIGHER EDUCATION:** What is Georgia Tech's official mascot of the student body?

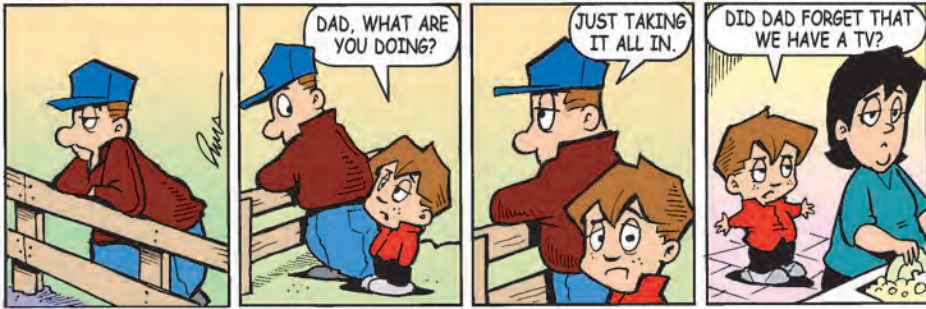
Answers

- 18th century
- A hawk
- Prophecy
- Actor Warren Beatty
- Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor
- Green
- 1913
- Maine
- Northern Canada
- The Rambler Wreck, a 1930 Ford Model A Sport Coupe

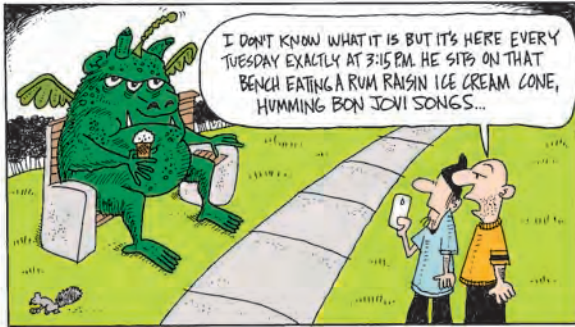
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Click on "Local News" at

AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

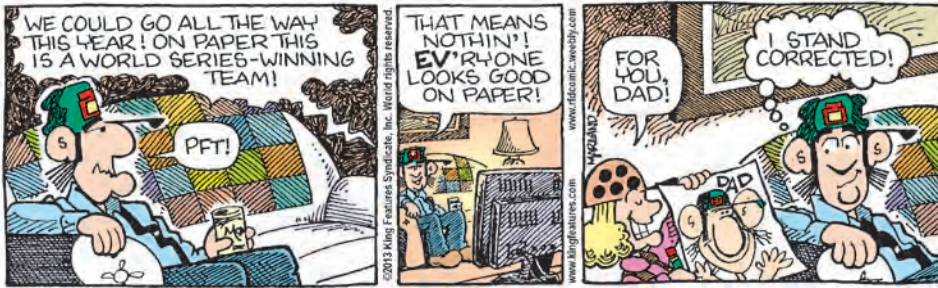


by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



DIFFERENCES: 1. Doll is missing. 2. Bow is missing. 3. Swing seat is smaller. 4. Pole is missing. 5. Neckline is different. 6. Tree stump is moved. 7. Tree stump is missing. 8. Girl is missing. 9. Girl is missing. 10. Girl is missing. 11. Girl is missing. 12. Girl is missing. 13. Girl is missing. 14. Girl is missing. 15. Girl is missing. 16. Girl is missing. 17. Girl is missing. 18. Girl is missing. 19. Girl is missing. 20. Girl is missing. 21. Girl is missing. 22. Girl is missing. 23. Girl is missing. 24. Girl is missing. 25. Girl is missing. 26. Girl is missing. 27. Girl is missing. 28. Girl is missing. 29. Girl is missing. 30. Girl is missing. 31. Girl is missing. 32. Girl is missing. 33. Girl is missing. 34. Girl is missing. 35. Girl is missing. 36. Girl is missing. 37. Girl is missing. 38. Girl is missing. 39. Girl is missing. 40. Girl is missing. 41. Girl is missing. 42. Girl is missing. 43. Girl is missing. 44. Girl is missing. 45. Girl is missing. 46. Girl is missing. 47. Girl is missing. 48. Girl is missing. 49. Girl is missing. 50. Girl is missing. 51. Girl is missing. 52. Girl is missing. 53. Girl is missing. 54. Girl is missing. 55. Girl is missing. 56. Girl is missing. 57. Girl is missing. 58. Girl is missing. 59. Girl is missing. 60. Girl is missing. 61. Girl is missing. 62. Girl is missing. 63. Girl is missing. 64. Girl is missing. 65. Girl is missing. 66. Girl is missing. 67. Girl is missing. 68. Girl is missing. 69. Girl is missing. 70. Girl is missing. 71. Girl is missing. 72. Girl is missing. 73. Girl is missing. 74. Girl is missing. 75. Girl is missing. 76. Girl is missing. 77. Girl is missing. 78. Girl is missing. 79. Girl is missing. 80. Girl is missing. 81. Girl is missing. 82. Girl is missing. 83. Girl is missing. 84. Girl is missing. 85. Girl is missing. 86. Girl is missing. 87. Girl is missing. 88. Girl is missing. 89. Girl is missing. 90. Girl is missing. 91. Girl is missing. 92. Girl is missing. 93. Girl is missing. 94. Girl is missing. 95. Girl is missing. 96. Girl is missing. 97. Girl is missing. 98. Girl is missing. 99. Girl is missing. 100. Girl is missing. 101. Girl is missing. 102. Girl is missing. 103. Girl is missing. 104. Girl is missing. 105. Girl is missing. 106. Girl is missing. 107. Girl is missing. 108. Girl is missing. 109. Girl is missing. 110. Girl is missing. 111. Girl is missing. 112. Girl is missing. 113. Girl is missing. 114. Girl is missing. 115. Girl is missing. 116. Girl is missing. 117. Girl is missing. 118. Girl is missing. 119. Girl is missing. 120. Girl is missing. 121. Girl is missing. 122. Girl is missing. 123. Girl is missing. 124. Girl is missing. 125. Girl is missing. 126. Girl is missing. 127. Girl is missing. 128. Girl is missing.



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!

Curve
REVIEWS

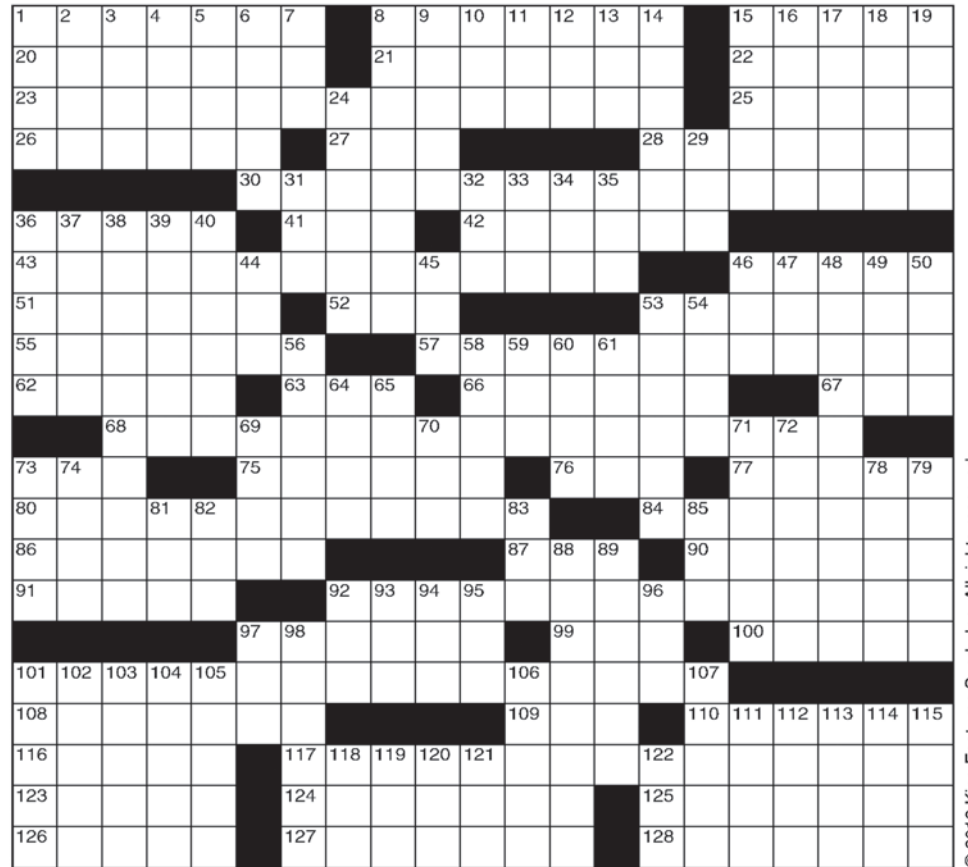
Bravely
MARTS

Fiery
TRIDOR

Basic
PANIL

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Requests at bar doors
 - 8 Liquid-filled vessel in which to clean things
 - 15 Map source
 - 20 Smears with animal fat
 - 21 Dish of soybeans boiled in their pods
 - 22 Horse sound
 - 23 Most valuable Scrabble square, reduced?
 - 25 Fish store favorite
 - 26 Peter of film
 - 27 Dress edge
 - 28 To that place
 - 30 Impersonal little kiss, enlarged?
 - 36 Celebs' rides
 - 41 Summer, in Québec
 - 42 Military order
 - 43 Very quickly, enlarged?
 - 46 "Casino" co-star Joe
 - 51 Williams of tennis
 - 52 Dog, often
 - 53 Time-stamps anew
 - 55 Jails
 - 57 NHL trophy, enlarged?
 - 62 Flight part
 - 63 Airport transport
 - 66 Tiny tot
 - 67 ROTC grads
 - 68 Alternate title of this puzzle
 - 73 Exec's deg.
 - 75 Food court pizza chain
 - 76 With 44-Down, Kenobi of sci-fi
 - 77 Cloverleaf components
 - 80 Failure to act promptly, enlarged?
 - 84 Now-rare skill
 - 86 Frequent downhiller's purchase
 - 87 Role-play
 - 90 — Butter (Nabisco cookie)
 - 91 Razz
 - 92 Harvard or Yale, reduced?
 - 97 Post-failure comment
 - 99 "— you ready?"
 - 100 Writer with morals
 - 101 Walk around looking for work, reduced?
 - 108 In proportion
 - 109 Thumbs-downs
 - 110 See 101-Down
 - 116 White wader
 - 117 Skeptically, enlarged?
 - 123 "The Cloister and the Hearth" novelist Charles
 - 124 "Free Your Mind" R&B group
 - 125 Nation next to Georgia
 - 126 Earnestness
 - 127 Wanted
 - 128 It has three-pointed antlers
 - 10 Blue
 - 11 Dr. provider
 - 12 La — (city in Bolivia)
 - 13 "Follow Me —" (Kipling poem)
 - 14 Final bowling frames
 - 15 Bit of hijinks
 - 16 Zipper parts
 - 17 Limber
 - 18 Feel similarly
 - 19 "Jaws" peril
 - 24 "All right, I get it!"
 - 29 Snicker bit
 - 31 One-eighty
 - 32 "— -di-dah!"
 - 33 Western Amerind
 - 34 Opposite of old, in Bonn
 - 35 La Brea stuff
 - 36 Talks like the cat Sylvester
 - 37 Not reactive
 - 38 2000 #1 hit for Santana
 - 39 Infant's bodysuit
 - 40 Spanish lady
 - 44 See 76-Across
 - 45 Some chess pcs.
 - 46 "At once!"
 - 47 — de vie
 - 48 Deadlocks
 - 49 Official doc.
 - 50 Cause adherents
 - 53 Fix, as a loose board
 - 54 They blink
 - 56 Swims with the fishes, maybe
 - 58 A couple of runners at the corners, in baseball
 - 59 — Lingus
 - 60 Sci-fi skipper
 - 61 Singer Lisa
 - 64 Limp as —
 - 65 Icy hazard
 - 69 Lith. and Ukr., once
 - 70 Workweek ender: Abbr.
 - 71 Address of "Dr. No"
 - 72 Infant's toy
 - 73 Hit 1990s computer game
 - 74 Scorch
 - 78 Spaghetti sauce brand
 - 79 Bug causing a sore throat
 - 81 They result in two outs: Abbr.
 - 82 "Lost" actor Daniel —
 - 83 Moo goo — pan
 - 85 Artist Yoko
 - 88 Raised a din
 - 89 "Mother" of Calcutta
 - 92 Mad feeling
 - 93 Big name
 - 94 "Truly"
 - 95 Cato's 1,505
 - 96 100-yr. span in baseball
 - 97 Hairy sitcom cousin
 - 98 Liquefied
 - 101 With 110-Across, where divas deliver
 - 102 Prodding person
 - 103 Santa-tracking org.
 - 104 Belief set
 - 105 One feeding
 - 106 Provide, as with a quality
 - 107 Extensive, for short
 - 111 "How stupid —!"
 - 112 Not new
 - 113 Lucid
 - 114 Author Wiesel
 - 115 Macy's logo
 - 118 Suffix with Carol
 - 119 Tellies
 - 120 — polloi
 - 121 Farming sci.
 - 122 Taint



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SEM CU

south east madera county united

SWAP MEET!



Got stuff to sell or looking to buy? **SEM CU** is sponsoring a **Community Swap Meet** on **Saturday, June 1** from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the lot at **Hurst Hardware**. Admission is **FREE!** You can sign up for a booth at **Hurst Hardware** so clean out your garage. If you want, you can donate your items to help your community by just calling 363-9095 to schedule a pick up. **For more information call 363-9095.** Future Community Swap Meet scheduled for **September 7.**

**For more Community Events
see the Community Calendar inside**

SEM CU Regular Meeting

Monday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza factory

**Come to the next SEM CU meeting
and give your input on projects
needed for the Community.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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