

The Ranchos Independent



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PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 10 Issue 4 2014

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

The Election Issue

The future of Madera County is in our hands ...



... what will we do with it?

The five candidates vying for Madera County's District 1 Supervisor position, (from left) Ray Krause, Mona Diaz, Gary Johns, Rochelle Noblett and Brett Frazier, answered questions and met with voters at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Candidates' Forum held at Ranchos Middle School on Monday, April 7.

Photo courtesy of Bill Whyman

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The Election Issue

The future of Madera County is in our hands ...

In what has become a tradition at the *Ranchos Independent* at election time, we throw open the pages of the paper to the candidates to give you -- in their own words -- the reasons they believe they should earn your vote. Here are statements from candidates vying for the positions of Madera County District 1 Supervisor, Madera County Sheriff, Madera County District Attorney and Madera County Auditor/Controller. The candidates are presented here in random order. -- Editor

Supervisor



Rochelle Noblett

My name is Rochelle Noblett and I am running to represent District 1 on the Madera County Board of Supervisors.

I was born and raised in Madera County and have lived in District 1 for nearly 20 years. I raised my two sons, Garrett and Clint, in District 1. My parents, Pete and Flora Minneti, instilled in me the value of hard work and dedication. In 1979 I took over as owner and manager of the family business, "Pete's Sports Shop" of Madera, where I still work today.

I have served as President of the State Center Community College District foundation board, Co-Chair of the local Wounded Warriors club, President of the Kiwanis Club, and many other leadership positions in Madera County. I have always taken great pleasure in giving back and serving my community.

As the Supervisor for District 1, I will eliminate wasteful spending and protect taxpayers, work to make Madera County attractive for job-creators and long-term investment, protect agriculture and work to secure a reliable water supply for farmers and communities, and ensure public safety has the resources necessary to keep Madera County families safe.

I am proud to be endorsed by Madera County Sheriff John Anderson, respected agriculture leaders like Phil, Stan, and Gary Oberti, Steve and Susie Ficklin, and many, many more.

I love this community. It would be my honor to represent my friends and neighbors on the Madera County Board of Supervisors.



Ray Krause

How many of you are going to vote for the candidate with the most campaign signs? The best hair? The biggest smile? The most endorsements from government personnel? Many will because, after all, elections are just popularity contests, right? You may wish to consider the difference between a politician and a statesman before answering that question and casting your vote.

On the blustery evening of April seventh I had the privilege of speaking to and talking with a hundred or more Ranchos community stakeholders at the District One Candidates Forum which was kindly hosted by the GVCC. It was moderated by Ranchos Independent publisher Randy Bailey who posed the questions to each of the five hopefuls. My own first question to the audience was: "How many of you think water is the most important issue?" Most hands went up without hesitation. My reply was, "Yes water is the most important current issue but the overarching problem is an ambivalent voter base (none of whom were in this audience) and wishy-washy self-serving politicians." But for them, we could be well on our way to pro-actively managing our community and county-wide issues. I was not about to insult anyone's intelligence by parroting the evening's

preferred political rhetoric. It's one thing to regurgitate the obvious and quite another to be able to offer and apply real life solutions.

We all want a safe, economically healthy community with a transparent and pro-active government which works within its means and constitutionally legal authority. I am a California native living and working in District One since 1995. Since 1987 I have held the licenses required to create and preserve wealth for hundreds of clients and associates. I have found that my personal growth has always been a direct result of elevating those around me. I am a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Madera VFW Post 1981. As your District One Planning Commissioner my focus was on preserving our way of life while encouraging employment and investment through responsible economic growth.

I am a past president and current director for your Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau. Oh yes, and I am a winemaker in District One by profession and by choice.

My motivation is my respect for our diverse populace, rural atmosphere, agricultural superiority and natural resources. My goal is to help guide Madera County along an orderly, attractive and sustainable path. My trusted advisors are of greatly diverse nationality, race, politics, gender, occupation and economic status. They represent District One and Madera County as a whole.

I support Proposition 13 and our Second Amendment rights. I would like to see four year degrees conferred at the Community College level and I contend that all school curriculum choices should be made locally. I have vigorously and publically opposed the High Speed Rail scheme from its inception. Not only have we been bullied and deceived, we simply cannot afford it. The State's confiscation of private property is, in my opinion, just legalized theft. The right to farm must be respected and actively protected forever.

We need to fund expansions of our Public Safety personnel. New buildings are fine but it's the people out there taking the risks that get the jobs done and keep Madera County one of the safest in the state. I know the difference between an investment and an expense. Let's invest in our people first.

I hope that you all will take a really hard look at your candidate choices (and the choices that they have made) then hire the person you want supervising your family's freedom and financial future. Hire a person who can not only win in this election but who can also stand up and hold true to their (and your) values in the competitive arena of ideas after the election. I believe that my business experience, personal resolve and fiscal ethics will make a positive contribution to our journey into the future together. I have no doubt that when the smoke clears on June 4th, the good people of District One will get exactly the representation that they deserve. I'm hoping that it's me and would like to thank you in advance for your kind consideration and your vote.

Ray Krause, Candidate
Supervisor District One
www.krauseforsupervisor.com
559-281-5810



Gary Johns

It's time we had a supervisor who is from the Ranchos. I've lived here for 28 years. Only Mona Diaz and I have actu-

Please see **SUPES** on P. 13

The Election Issue

The future of Madera County is in our hands ...

District Attorney

It has been my personal and professional privilege to serve the people of Madera County as your District Attorney since 2009. I would like to tell you a little about myself and the Madera County District Attorney's Office.



Michael Keitz

The District Attorney is the county's chief law enforcement officer. Our office receives between 8,000 and 10,000 criminal cases annually, from over 30 different law enforcement agencies. With a total staff of 37, including deputy district attorneys, investigators and clerical staff, we are responsible for holding those who commit crimes in Madera County responsible for their actions, and protecting the rights of their victims.

I have been involved in law enforce-

ment in Madera County, first as a volunteer reserve deputy sheriff, and later as a deputy district attorney for over 34 years. During my tenure as your District Attorney, my steadfast focus has been on public safety. Our office aggressively prosecutes criminals who threaten the safety and our way of life in Madera County. I am very proud of the work my office is doing, and for the privilege of leading a staff of very talented and

Please see D.A. on P. 21

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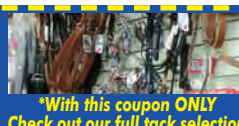
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Letters

Dear Editor:

Monday night I attended the Madera Ranchos Candidate forum for Supervisor District 1. I was impressed with the turnout, as there appeared to be about 100 people at the Ranchos Middle School for the event. I was not, however, impressed with some of the candidates. It sounded like a typical press conference; non-substantive platitudes filled the air. The only candidate, in my view, that was prepared to speak to the issues and answer questions with facts and experience was Ray Krause. He seems to be well versed on the water issues that plague our community and, even more important, was more visionary in his commitment to look for solutions. Most of the other candidates spent the majority of their comment time bloviating about mistakes that have been made and wishes and dreams about how things should be.

I want a representative that understands the issues, does his homework and is creative in his approach to dealing with issues that affect not only the Ranchos, but the county as a whole. I think the cream rose to the top last night and I feel better knowing I have at least one choice for Supervisor who doesn't need the paycheck, but truly wants to facilitate policy that will serve Madera County well into the future.

Laura LaPorte
Madera Ranchos

events as well – and I had never even heard of him.

Contemplating this letter, I resolved to write about my experience because I believe the Ranchos folks are a certain breed of people: good people, humble, respectful and down to earth, hearty “share-what-you-need” types. We deserve better than the same old type of politician again. We deserve to keep our Ranchos the great and awesome community it is. We deserve an intelligent man, well spoken, articulate, financially wise and witty; a kind man with a giving and humble spirit and an extraordinary sense of humor. We deserve to continue the Ranchos legacy with an exceptionally personable man for supervisor. That’s why my vote, which is NOT wasted because I am casting it for MY choice, will be for Ray Krause. He is the “red, white and true blue” man for the job. For our Ranchos Community, let’s protect our legacy and cast our vote for a fresh and “focused on us, not himself” face. If you have yet to meet this great guy, please do yourself a pleasurable favor and take the time to meet Ray Krause. You will also find the above description of Ray to be true. Your vote does matter and I am certain you will find Ray an exceptionally worthy candidate of that vote.

Sarita Johnson
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

You never get a second chance to make a first impression, so the saying goes. Well I had my “first impression” of a certain male candidate when he visited my home and I felt it was worth writing about. I was polite and allowed the introductions. It was obvious he wasn’t going to be a good listener from the start. Then, he came right out and told me: “Your vote is a wasted vote.” This was his response when I told him who had my solid vote for Supervisor District 1.

Can you imagine? My vote – a wasted vote. This candidate running to represent MY interests and MY concerns insulted me, interrupted me, was rude, arrogant, extremely boastful and even resorted to name calling of another candidate, right on my front lawn! And it was the first time I had ever met him! Each time I attempted to express a thought or opinion, he would talk over me, not listening to me at all. And when he was finished bragging about all of his accomplishments in the area, how “well known” and “involved” he was, I said that I had never met him – never even heard of him. Then, he proceeded to show me a list of all his endorsers and told me that there was no way he “couldn’t win.” In other words, he had this one in the bag. Well, I don’t know about that, but I do know that I have lived here for almost 20 years, raised four kids here, been involved in everything related to their lives – sports, education and many community

Dear Editor:

As a 14-year resident in the Bonadelle Ranchos and with the upcoming elections for board of supervisor, I’m a big supporter of Brett Frazier for District 1. With Brett Frazier’s experience from serving as mayor and on the Madera City Council, he brings youth and energy to the Madera Ranchos, something I haven’t seen in a board supervisor since I moved here. Brett won’t leave us with empty handed promises; he understands giving us his word when it comes to delivering what the Ranchos needs.

Brett is a big supporter of law enforcement and fire. When the City of Madera was looking into cutting these critical services, Brett firmly opposed these cuts. He knows what it means to protect the citizens and the vital role law enforcement and fire have in accomplishing that task. Our services in the Ranchos are poorly funded and understaffed and don’t meet the needs of the citizens. As a firefighter in the community I can’t tell you how frustrating it is to be on a fire engine by yourself and show up to a call that needs three to four firefighters. I have waited countless seconds and minutes for others to come help. I think we can all agree when you call for help every second counts and, although not utilized by everyone every day, it’s an essential service to the community to have and be properly supported. Bret supports more staffing on the fire

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 23

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Editorial

Save the Drama for your Mama

By Randy Bailey

OK, so maybe I got a *little* carried away with the headline on the cover of this month's *Ranchos Independent*. I ask the question, "The future of Madera County is in our hands ... what will we do with it?"

It seems like every election of my adult life, or at least for the last 20 years, has had some pundit somewhere calling it "... the most important election of our lifetime!"

I don't know about that. Pretty much seems like if you're a Democrat and the Republicans are in power, then *that* election is the most important of your lifetime. And of course if you're a Republican and the Democrats are in power, well *that* has to be the most important election of your lifetime. I guess an argument could be made by either side in either one of those scenarios that if you're a member of the party *in* power, *keeping* your party in power could make *that* the most important election of your lifetime. It just never ends.

The point I was trying to make is that in Madera County, particularly in District 1 where we reside, the Ranchos is THE voting bloc. We are the ones that all of the candidates know they have to get in order to win. The reason why? The people in the Ranchos get out and vote.

We actually *do* something about it.

Here's something that will blow your mind: We think of ourselves as this quiet little country community whose "downtown" is just a wide spot in the road. We've got to

drive 20 to 30 minutes in any direction just to go to a movie, the pharmacy or a post office for cripes sake. We can't buy a new set of tires, a new living room set or a brand new car anywhere out here, and yet in District 1, WE are the population center.

The population center?

I'll wait while your mind un-blows.

What that means, quite literally, is that for all intents and purposes, much of Madera County's future *does* rest in our hands. But here's where the mind blowing kicks into high gear. Let's assume, and these are purely ballpark figures, that there are approximately 10,000 people living in the Ranchos. We could probably safely assume that 50 percent of those people are of voting age, 18 or older, giving us a potential voting pool of about 5,000 people. Now, not all of them are good, dutiful citizens who are registered to vote. I'm sure they have their reasons. And I'm sure when things go in the political crapper they keep their mouths shut, right? Anyway, let's assume 70 percent of those eligible are registered to vote. That gives us 3,500 people in the Ranchos that can effect change and make a difference ... except all 3,500 don't get out and do their civic duty. In a non-presidential election, like this primary coming June 3, election prognosticators figure only somewhere between 30 and 40 percent will get out and actually vote. Using an average of 35 percent, that means that the future of Madera County rests in 1,225 peoples' hands.

Not bad, huh? Still singing that same old, limp song about, "My vote doesn't count"? How would you feel about your Lotto chances if the odds were 1,225 to 1? I don't know about you but I'd probably be out in the garage with the tape measure making sure the soon-to-be-purchased 'Vette was going to fit just right.

If the five District 1 Supervisorial candidates got to evenly divide this hypothetical Ranchos "Bloc," they would each get 245 votes. If two of them went crazy and one got 247 and the other got 246 votes, there are your two finalists for the general election in November.

Do the right thing. Read up on the issues. Ask the candidates questions. Hold their feet to the fire. Talk to your friends. Talk to your neighbors. Sign up for an absentee ballot if you think you won't make it on election day, or do like I do and show up at your polling place on election day so you can get that cool "I Voted" sticker to put on your shirt.

Just do it ... and save the drama for your Mama.

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David Linn was an officer in the United States Navy. He understands leadership, and is a respected trial lawyer with business experience. Police and Sheriff Deputies request the voters support David for District Attorney.

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Hamming Up Leftovers

So now that Easter is over, and assuming you had ham, what do you do with the leftovers? You can only make so many ham sandwiches.

Did you know that April is National Grilled Cheese Month?

Grilled Cheese and Ham Sandwich

A basic recipe for two sandwiches is:

Four slices of good sandwich bread – White, whole wheat, or even rye or sourdough.

Enough cheese for two sandwiches – your choice: cheddar, Swiss, provolone, or even brie.

Ham – as much as you want for the two sandwiches.

Heat a griddle or frying pan to medium heat. (Years ago we had a waffle maker that you could take out the waffle plates and insert flat plates, and it became a wonderful sandwich maker – awesome!) Butter one side of two slices of bread. With the buttered side down (might use a piece of waxed paper so you won't mess up your counter) start building the sandwiches. Begin with some of the cheese, then the ham and more cheese. Butter the two remaining slices of bread on one side and place on the cheese, with the buttered side up. Place sandwiches in the heated pan and cook until bread is toasted on both sides, and cheese is oozing out the edges. This should take about 2 or 3 minutes. How about making this your signature sandwich – add a couple of slices fried bacon – sliced tomatoes – or even raw or grilled sliced sweet red onion.

Ham and Potato Casserole

2 C Potatoes, cubed
2 C Ham, cubed
1 (15.25 ounce) whole kernel corn, drained
¼ C finely minced parsley
¼ C butter
1 T chopped onion
1/3 C all-purpose flour
1 ¾ C milk
1/8 tsp. Black Pepper
4 oz. cheese, grated
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large pot of boiling salted water, add the potatoes and cook until tender, but still



firm – about 15 minutes. Drain and cool.

In large bowl mix potatoes, ham, corn and parsley – set aside. In sauce pan with medium heat, melt the butter, add the chopped onions and sauté for about 2 minutes stir in the flour and blend well. Using a whisk, gradually add the milk and stir until smooth. Bring to a boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and pour over the potato mixture. Stir to mix well.

Pour into greased 11x7 greased baking pan. Cover with foil and bake for 25 minutes. Remove foil and cover potatoes with the cheese and bake for another 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Do you like pasta without a rich tomato sauce?

Pasta Carbonara

8 ounces pasta – spaghetti or linguine

3 slices bacon, chopped
½ pound ham, cubed
1 small onion, chopped
2 C sliced mushrooms
3 T Marsala**
3 T Butter

Salt & pepper to taste
¼ C grated parmesan

Cook pasta according to package directions.

In a large skillet, brown the bacon. When almost crisp, add the ham and cook 3 minutes. Using slotted spoon, remove the bacon and ham to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.

Add onions and mushrooms to pan and sauté for 3 minutes. Return bacon and ham to pan. Add Marsala to pan and simmer 2 minutes. Add butter and remove from heat.

After cooking the pasta, drain, reserving about a cup of the pasta water. Add drained pasta to skillet and adjust salt and pepper and toss. Sprinkle with the basil and parmesan cheese, and toss again. If you

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 13

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS
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There is only one person running for Madera County District Attorney with both the experience and dedication to put dangerous criminals behind bars where they belong.

I fully support and recommend the re-election of Michael Keitz for Madera County District Attorney."

4/14

*According to the Annual Report by the California Judicial Council.

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Gary Johns

FOR

SUPERVISOR 1



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Lee Brand
City Councilman



Steve Brandau
City Councilman



Andreas Borgeas
County Supervisor



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Phil Sancken
Kate Sancken
Muriel James
Cory File
Ann File
Gary Holand
Jennifer Downs
Armando Morales

LOCAL BUSINESSES

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Pete and Maria's
Italian Restaurant
S & K Mini Mart
Azatlan Mexican
Restaurant
The Ranchos Cafe
Now and Again
Thrift & Gift Shop
Subway Sandwich
The Rice Bowl
The Headliners Salon
The Coffee Spot
Lee Kitchen
The Beauty Club
Salon & Spa
Madlin's Alterations
Lucky Seven
Ranchos Valero
Anything & Everything
Continental Realty
Haney Chiropractic
Heart Strings
Ranchos Auto Repair
Farmers Insurance
Family A Auto Sales
Rancho's Fruit Stand
Dynamic Tech Designs Inc.
Ranchos Barber Shop
Fernwood Gardens
The Chimney Sweep Guys
Ranchos Fitness Center
Skinners Auto
Castech Pest services
Shaw Auto Sales
Cobb Ranch Parties &
Events
Public Auction R Us
Pacific Marine Center
Petrosyans Auto Repair
Spencer's Firearms
Cart Addictions
Madera Hobby
Renaissance Restoration
Bullet Fiberglass Inc.

Paid for by Committee to Elect
Gary Johns for Supervisor 2014
FPPC #1363720

Turns Out They Can-Can

It's the unfortunate burden of the, shall we say numerically mature, to be underestimated by the young. It's assumed that once you reach a certain age, your only place in society is running people over in the electric scooters at the grocery store or eating dinner at three in the afternoon, talking the server's ear off about what things were like in your day. You might as well hand in your car keys, find your favorite pair of slippers, turn on the weather channel and begin the slow transmogrification into the recliner, because it's all over but the complaining. As my own number ticks up each year, I gain a different understanding of what it means to be "old" but I'm not immune to the same misguided assumptions most young people make regarding what people of a certain age can and cannot do. I never really knew I exhibited that particular mindset because I've been telling my parents for years that they are only as old as they act, but evidently I just mean they can wait to have dinner until 7 and they shouldn't wear their pants up around their armpits.

My unrealized ageism came to light when I was invited to see a show called the Follies during a weekend trip to Palm Springs. I had heard of it, had seen the flyers – it's an old-fashioned variety type show where the women wear skimpy costumes with over-the-top headdresses and there are enough sequins on everyone to blanket the entire California coastline. The difference between this show and what you might find in Vegas is the collective age of the cast. I didn't do the math, but it is a pretty big number. The cast members, every one of them, are at least 55 years old. No thank you. Old people can do whatever they want, but I draw the line at watching them perform on stage in bedazzled bikinis. I can't wear a bikini, what makes grandma think she can? Pilates, that's what. But I digress. I've never had an interest in seeing this show because, honestly, I couldn't imagine it being any good. When my grandfather called me up and invited me to go with him to see it, as much as I wanted to politely decline, I reluctantly agreed to go. I figured it was only one afternoon, it was time with my grandfather, and he was paying.

I wasn't prepared for what I saw. Well, I sort of was, but I wasn't prepared to like it. I honestly thought I would be bombarded with visions of hunchbacks and sagging, wrinkled skin tucked into leotards. Let's be honest, a lot of skin on that stage was tucked, but in this case it was medically engineered. The cast looked amazing. Beautiful women, handsome men, all fighting against society's urge to put them on an iceberg and sail them off into the Pacific be-

GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**



cause they were on the downside of some imaginary hill Hollywood dreamed up that says your worth is inversely proportionate to your age.

Honestly, at first I had trouble believing that the cast was made up of a 55-plus crowd. They didn't look it and they most certainly didn't move like it. There was a moment when I thought maybe I had been hoodwinked. They claimed to only showcase entertainers 55 and older, but I started thinking, perhaps that was a marketing ploy. But as each cast member dropped their age on the audience like a bomb, I about fell out of my chair. There was no false advertisement here. There were people on that stage in their 70s and 80s. Let me say that again: 70s and 80s. Mind. Blown.

I had no doubt that the singing part of the event would be lovely, I mean, you don't really think of vocal chords aging, right? But watching people old enough to be my grandparents shimmy, shake, and gyrate was nothing like I imagined. Impressed isn't a strong enough word to describe the emotion that came over me as I watched these silver foxes and hens blow the stereotype of what "old" people can do out of the solar system. I spent most of the show either laughing to the point of crying, or sitting there with my jaw flopping onto my knees in utter amazement.

Of course, the downside to this new realization that you can do whatever you want at whatever age is that my parents now have to contend with me trying to dress them up in fathers and rhinestones so they can reenact the show for me. I keep telling them that since I've now seen people twice their age do it, they have no excuse.

They aren't buying it.

They're trying to argue that when you get older you just can't do what you used to do anymore. That's a bunch of hooey, because I have now seen that "old" people can, in fact, can-can. I'm a reformed ageist, there is no doubt in my mind now that age ain't nothing but a number. I have found the evidence, and it is dancing nightly in a vintage theater in Palm Springs.

CHIEF



Day
Varney
for Sheriff

ENDORSED BY

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- California Peace Officers Association
- California Police Chiefs Association
- Chowchilla Police Officers Association
- ★ Gary E. Brown - Former Monterey Police Chief
- ★ Ruben Chavez - Chief of Police, Livingston
- ★ Jon Lopey - Sheriff, Siskiyou County

MAYORS

Robert Poythress - Madera Mayor
Richard Walker - Chowchilla Mayor



Paid for by Committee to Elect
Varney for Sheriff/Coroner 2014.
FPPC# 1361251

4/14

Click on "Local News" at

Have You Seen This Man?



Hi. My name is Todd Miller and I paid for this ad so you will know who you are voting for on June 3. I am a candidate for the Office of Madera County Auditor Controller. You may have never heard of this office but it is vitally important to you.

THE PROBLEMS

- The County financial reports are issued a year late.
- The Auditor/Controller should be auditing all other County departments. Hasn't happened in years. No one is watching the store and your tax dollars.
- This office accounts for about 140 Special Districts. You may be in one. No information about these accounts.

THE RESULTS

- County services such as road repairs and criminal prosecutions are dropped or delayed for lack of money flowing from the State.
- Nobody is checking to see if County departments are properly spending your money.
- Lack of transparency to the people about how the County spends their money.

THE FIX

- Job 1 is to get the books in order to get the money flowing back to our County.
- Immediately implement an internal auditing group to be your financial watchdog!
- Put the income and expense records for every Special District on the internet.

MY STATS

- 37 years a Certified Public Accountant, Managing Partner
- Past Rotary President, Current President Chamber of Commerce
- Founder of Oakhurst Boys & Girls Club, Chairman Oakhurst Fall Festival
- Madera County resident for over 20 years
- Married 37 years, three Children, two Grandchildren

I'm a no nonsense guy and I don't make excuses. I find solutions and get results.

MILLER

★ Auditor Controller ★

No Nonsense, No Excuses!

From Chores to Success

You know those sayings you hated to hear from your parents like, “If everyone else jumped off a cliff, would you?!” The one I’m famous for with my kids is “...well, when you’re the mom, then you can decide.” This was a bummer for my son, who will never be “the mom” but the point was understood.

Despite the general rule that mom has the final say, my kids had a lot of freedom in their teen years. Often rather than giving them a curfew, I’d ask them what time they planned to be home. This gave them the freedom to choose, while I retained the freedom to veto. Fortunately for me, they earned my trust.

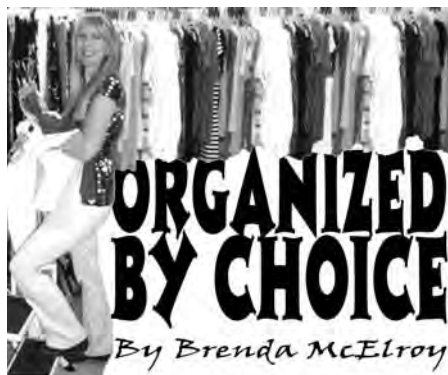
Eleanor Roosevelt said, “With freedom comes responsibility.” I believe the opposite is also true—being responsible promotes freedom. The more we build into our children the virtue of responsibility the easier it is to loosen our grip at the appropriate time. But that’s hard work!

Left to their own inclinations, kids come home and drop their stuff at the door. They leave snack debris all over. The bathroom counter is covered with their stuff, and there’s not a spec of carpet to be seen under the clothes and/or toys in their bedrooms. Is training our kids to be responsible with their stuff just about keeping a tidy house, or is there more to it? Marty Rossman, associate professor of family education at the University of Minnesota, conducted an in-depth study and found that involving children in household tasks can have a positive impact later in life. Assigning tasks to children as young as three years old, enhances and builds a sense of responsibility, competence, self-reliance and self-worth that stays with them throughout their lives.

If Rossman’s study is true, then by making our children’s lives easier now, by letting things go or doing things for them, we are creating incompetence, reliance on others, and a low self-worth — not to mention either living with their mess, or wearing ourselves out picking up after them.

So, if it’s time for a change in your household, here are some tips to make it happen.

First make sure you and your spouse are in agreement as to what “clean and organized” looks like. Having a partner in this



task is worth compromising your standards. It’s also important that you’re both committed to doing what you’re asking your children to do. The “do as I say and not as I do” saying just doesn’t cut it as effective parenting. If your children are of age to understand, have a family meeting where you talk about your new organizing plan and what Dad’s, Mom’s and the kids’ parts will be. You might start small with just having each family member put his/her backpack, briefcase, purse, coat and shoes in designated places before dinner. Talk about the benefits — like not having to search for your things in the morning or having to move them to sit on the couch, or eat dinner.

While I don’t advocate paying kids for every chore, you might want to set up a family goal such as, if everyone does it every day for a week, you have a special Saturday breakfast, or go out for ice cream. An alternative is to have a fine for anyone (even parents) who doesn’t follow through. Kids get a kick out of “catching” Dad or Mom messing up.

Consider having a weekly family follow-up meeting to review progress and eventually add new areas of organizing. Ask for your kids’ input as to what area the family should tackle next — bathroom counters, bedrooms? Give plenty of time for the family to have a few weeks of success with one area before introducing another. Whenever you introduce a new task, walk through the chore with your kids so that they are very clear on what is expected and how to do it.

The challenge is consistency. I like what Joanna Weaver says on this: “Consistency doesn’t mean perfection; it simply means not giving up.” The delayed gratification is worth it all when you’re able to release your children as responsible, competent, and self-reliant adults.



“One of my top crime fighting priorities as Sheriff is to increase the visibility of our Deputies in the community.”

As Sheriff Greg will:

- Stay fully committed to your second amendment rights
- Win the war on gangs and aggressively go after those who to choose to victimize the members of our communities and agricultural family.
- Utilize proven pro-active crime fighting methods
- Establish more community involvement and increased deputy visibility

PORAC Endorses Greg Noll

Greg Noll for Madera County Sheriff announced they received the endorsement from the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), the largest statewide public safety association representing more than 64,000 public safety members and 880 organizations.

Join the ever-growing list of community leaders and members who want the best law enforcement leadership for Madera County:

- Madera County Supervisor Manuel Nevarez
- Fresno Police Officers Association
- Madera County Democratic Party
- Manuel and Francis Olgin, Madera Ranchos
- Russ Ellis, Chief of Police (Ret.)
- L.H. McDaniel, Retired Deputy Chief (Fresno PD)
- Nick and Kirsten Miller, Oakhurst
- Paul & Susan Sobaje, Continental Realty
- Maria Butler, Combined Insurance, Ranchos resident
- Jerry Duncan, Former Fresno City Council Member
- Ron Shapazian, Shapazian Realty
- Brad Ditton, President, Century 21 Ditton Realty, Oakhurst
- Katherine Whitfield, President, Old Frontier Family - Oakhurst
- Christopher Murdock, A&A Security Services. Madera
- Barbara Nelson, Fairmead Community & Friends

www.nollforsheriff.com
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PREPARING FOR TOMORROW TODAY

Paid for by the Noll for Sheriff 2014
FPPC # 1353717

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4/14

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

feel it is a little too dry, add a little of the pasta water until it is the way you like it. Serve with additional parmesan.

**If you don't have Marsala, you might use chicken stock as a substitute.

I hope and pray that your Easter was blessed for each of you and your families. After church we went over to my sister's for dinner. We had a wonderful time even though all the family wasn't able to be there. As family members grow up and move away, or have families of their own, that is to be expected.

SUPES cont. from P. 2

ally been a part of this community longer than 9 months.

I have the most countywide experience. I have served you for four years on the County Planning Commission, five years on the County General Plan Committee and 10 years as a Chaplain at the Juvenile Hall. These are three of the toughest jobs in the County. The County Planning Commission and County General Plan Committee are the major training grounds to becoming a County Supervisor, since they are the same duties Supervisors perform. No one else comes close to being this prepared.

As proof I'm the local guy, I have the endorsements of over 40 local businesses, Chamber President Virginia Vick, three past Chamber Presidents, retired Fire Captain Chuck Hoover, two City Councilmen, a County Supervisor and finally I have the endorsement of State Assemblyman Jim Patterson.

The last qualification I believe you should consider is of the heart. I want to preserve for our children and grandchildren what I truly love about this area and that's our "rural way of life." My name is Gary Johns and with your vote I can do this.



Mona Diaz

I have been a Madera Ranchos resident for 34 years and owned a nursery business there for 20 years. I currently own and work as a Director of Marketing in our family trucking business and a founding and current Board President of Golden Valley Unified School District.

I have a long history of volunteer community service, and a reputation for getting things done. I wish to continue with that public service as your next County Supervisor.

I was the second President of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and President of the Madera County School Boards Association from 2005 to 2010 and past President of the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club. My experience in the massive undertaking of creating Golden Valley Unified School District proves me to be more

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE ...

When **MONA DIAZ** and several other community leaders in Madera Ranchos decided that our area needed its own school district to better serve our children, the response was always – "it can't be done." The fact is that such a thing HADN'T been done since 1919 in California!

BUT WE GOT IT DONE!

We, the undersigned, are founding Board Members of Golden Valley Unified School District. We were there with Mona when she was doing the hard work, and we can attest to her vision and leadership skills that brought about a successful new school district.

We now have a local, community-centered School District which provides superlative education to our children. Golden Valley is also a major employer and economic driver here in the southeastern part of Madera County.

This was a complex and difficult task, but **MONA DIAZ** proved herself up to the challenge. The process involved extensive work with state and local government. It involved all facets of land acquisition and entitlements, as well as infrastructure development and financing.

MONA DIAZ is the only candidate for County Supervisor who has successful experience working with government, developers and financial resources on a project the size and scope of GVUSD!

MONA DIAZ FOR SUPERVISOR – GETTING THINGS DONE FOR MADERA COUNTY!

Mark Huddleston

Teresa Carter

Bruce Blair

Audrey Stock

Paid for by Committee to Elect Mona Diaz District One Supervisor 2014 – FPPC # 1364339

4/14

Please see **SUPES** on P. 15

The Bookshelf

Everything is Around the Corner

By Kalani Torres

Flatlander's is coming. We are still looking for pop-up tents to use for our book sale. We are also looking for volunteers that day. We are super excited for this year and we hope you are too. We hope you all will come out on May 10 for the Flatlander's Craft Fair and Parade. For more information please feel free to call us.

It's now time for some business stuff.

One of the Library's big functions each year is our Summer Reading Program. Once a week for six weeks each summer, we bring in guest speakers to educate, entertain and promote reading skills for the children in our local community. Each child is encouraged to read as many books as possible during the program. Staff tracks the books read on a weekly basis. There are weekly prizes for participation and also several grand prizes for participation throughout the entire Summer Program.

The library relies on donations from local businesses and individuals to help cover the cost of prizes and performers. This year we are excited due to last year's huge response. If you or anyone you know would like to help sponsor the summer reading program please contact the library. Any and all donations toward the summer reading program are greatly appreciated. This year's theme is "Paws to Read." We are excited about the performers that will be coming out. This is such a fun and busy time for the library and we can't wait.

Let me tell you how cool and important I think the summer reading program is. When I was a little kid it was what I

looked forward to. We would go get our books and log our reading progress. It was always my favorite time of year for an excuse to read as many books as I could to get the hours or pages I needed to fill out the log. I'm pretty sure I found my love of reading during the summer. I can't say how important it is to encourage kids to read at a young age. This gives them a chance to find a favorite author, a favorite series, a favorite character or just fall in love with books. In an age where everything can be found online, finding your favorite book and getting lost in it during summer vacation cannot be found online, which I think shows you how awesome it is: the internet can't even capture it. I mean that's rare and a pretty amazing thing. Plus, parents, they can read inside where it's nice and cool this summer. Bonus: they can also read outside so you can have a quite house.

Please consider donating to the library for the summer reading program. It's an awesome opportunity to support the kids of the Ranchos community by encouraging them to check out the library and fall in love with reading.

Happy reading.

The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12
645-1214

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

LEGAL NOTICE

"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2014."

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.

4/14



Michael is committed to attack the major issues facing Madera County in the future:

1. *Crime affecting Agriculture*
2. *Mitigating the effects of the future growth along the Highway 41 Corridor and enhancing the Department's presence in the Ranchos.*
3. *Mitigating the effects of Gangs and the hundreds of felons that will be released into our community by the State due to AB109, the early State prisoner release program.*

Michael Salvador qualifications:

26 Years of Law Enforcement Experience, 20 years serving the citizens of Madera County. Promoted by Sheriff Anderson to Undersheriff.

Active in the Community:

Member of the Madera Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Madera.

Policy Experience:

6 years serving the community as a trustee for the Madera Unified School district.

*Paid for by: Michael Salvador for Madera County Sheriff 2014,
25742 El Vado Dr. Madera CA, 93638 FPPC# 1359634
Salvador4sheriff@gmail.com*

4-14

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4/14

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Ranchos Café 37193 Avenue 12 645-5155



Rigo and Juana invite you to meet Jay Varney, Madera Sheriff Candidate at a Bar-B-Que Fundraiser Saturday, May 3rd 11am-2pm at the Ranchos Café. Come join us.

4/14

SUPES cont. from P. 13

qualified. The scope of that project included finances, safety, land acquisitions, construction, negotiations and creating permanent jobs for over 200 people and many indirect jobs. Between being on the School Board and working with our family trucking business, I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues that arise with Local, State and Federal politicians and government officials on a regular basis. Golden Valley was once an idea and we as a community came together to build the best schools the Central Valley has to offer. For 16 straight years I was re-elected by our community because of the great progress we as a School Board made and I will carry this progress to the entire County of Madera if elected.

We have water challenges, safety concerns and a need to create more jobs that must be addressed with results. I have a strong desire to continue to make District One Madera County a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I look forward to serving you on the Board of Supervisors, and I welcome your concerns and suggestions to make Madera a

better place to live.

Mona Diaz
President and Founding Board Member
Golden Valley Unified School District

Auditor/Controller



Todd Miller

Dear Madera County Residents,

The office of Auditor Controller is charged with auditing the other county departments, preparing financial reports for the state and insuring that our county receives its fair share of state money. In years past, the Auditor/Controller's office has been late preparing its state-mandated au-

Please see AUD/CON on P. 16

AUD/CON cont. from P. 15

ditions and, as a result, Madera County has lost millions and been unable to apply for many state grants. That means we've lost out on funding for road maintenance, law enforcement and other vital departments. Enough is enough!

I've been a Certified Public Accountant for more than 30 years. I've built a business on helping people manage their finances, stick to a budget and plan for the future. I have a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and currently serve as a part-time college accounting teacher. I'm the president of the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce and a member of Rotary. As a CPA I have clients in every part of Madera County.

The Auditor/Controller is an independent office which is accountable only to you, the Citizens of our County. I am not beholden to politicians and bureaucrats seeking to consolidate power. Diffusion of power is a good thing, and I will hold my colleagues in government accountable.

My opponent maintains her CPA prac-

tice in Merced, pays her property taxes in Merced, owns a beautiful home in Merced, and, by her own admission, shows up late to work. Madera government code requires elected officials to be residents of MADERA COUNTY. After being threatened with forced resignation by County supervisors, she finally rented a house in OUR County. We pay the Auditor/Controller \$127,000 per year, and we deserve much better.

As your Auditor/Controller, I pledge to be your fiscal watchdog and take a no-nonsense, no excuses approach to running this department. Don't just vote for me – join me. The residents of Madera County are my clients, my friends and my neighbors. There is no way I will let you down. Together we can make Madera County a better place for all our families. I would be honored to earn your vote. Please visit www.miller4AC.com for more information.

Sincerely,
Todd Miller

Candidate for Madera County Auditor/Controller

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4/14

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

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YOU CAN REGISTER AT OUR BOOTH AT THE FLATLANDERS DAY PARADE & CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, MAY 10

DIVISION	AGE	DIVISION	AGE
Mighty Mites	6, 7 & 8 year olds <small>(6 year olds must be 6 by Nov. 30)</small>	Juniors	10, 11 & 12 year olds
Pee Wees	8, 9 & 10 year olds	Seniors	12, 13 & 14 year olds

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

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ACCOUNTABILITY



If elected, I'll be a strong voice for our community. As your neighbor and Supervisor, I will always be approachable and accessible.

As a business owner and elected official, I met payroll and balanced a city budget. As your Supervisor, I will make sure your government is working for you and accountable for every tax-dollar. I will utilize my experience to ensure that county government is business friendly, efficient and cost-effective.

To be accountable to the public, folks must know where you stand: **reliable water, good schools, public safety and responsible growth** are paramount to growing our economy and preserving our strong community identity.



With your voice, together we can accomplish much.
OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

www.brettfrazier.org

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Brett Frazier for Supervisor 2014 FPPC# 1362502

4/14

The Stock Report

Flatlanders ... and More Homes

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
I was surprised to read in the last Ranchos Independent that the Gateway Village project was actually getting started. It brought back a lot of memories about when I was on the first Golden Valley Unified School Board and the board members were dealing with Castle and Cooke. The school board members were trying to make sure that when the Gateway Village development went forward that there would be land set aside for a school to house the children that come with the 6,578 houses.

At that time the owner of the Gateway Village project was Castle and Cooke (from Hawaii) who put 10 years and a lot of money and work into getting all of the necessary permits needed from Madera County and the state of California to put together a master planned community. When the U.S. went into a depression and building stopped Castle and Cooke went into bankruptcy and sold the Gateway Village project to a group called the Gateway Village Development, LLC in 2010.

Water was always one of the big problems facing the Gateway Village project. Someone in the Castle and Cooke group decided that it would take 6,300 acre-feet of water a year to supply the water needed for 6,578 houses. They also figured that the number of trees that are in their 2,100 acre orchard at the present time, are using about the same amount of water as the planned 6,578 houses will use.

In 1987 I bought a lot in the Ranchos and built my house. Since my land was not in the Ranchos Water District, I had to drill a 300-foot well. Twenty five years later I had to drill another well. This time I had to go down to 500 feet. This happened when a new agricultural well was drilled in the vineyard across the street from my house. I was told at that time that the Madera Ranchos sits on top of an aquifer, which is a large underground lake of water. Every time a new well is drilled it is

like someone putting a straw into that aquifer.

So, getting back to the Gateway Village and the 6,578 new houses and where they are going to get water. Can you visualize 6,578 straws going down into that aquifer to get the water each house needs? It seems that Castle and Cooke realized that the development would need more water so they formed the Root Creek Water District. Root Creek's ground water is severely overdrafted and the district has no other surface supply of water. So Gateway Village developers came up with a plan by which Root Creek Water District would buy water from neighboring Madera Irrigation District (MID). The only problem is that Madera Irrigation District said that Root Creek could only have water if there was any extra water available. The Madera County Board of Supervisors and the powers that be in Sacramento said that there had to be a better backup plan. At this point Castle and Cooke went looking for a different source of water. Castle and Cooke first looked to Shasta County for water but that didn't work so they settled on Kern County which in a very convoluted way they found a source of water. Before the water from Millerton Lake can flow into the Root Creek Canal from the Madera Irrigation District, two turnouts have to be constructed. I don't know who is in charge to make sure that the turnouts are built by the time the development of Gateway Village is built. I know that people have worked hard to solve all of these problems. We really won't know how it will affect our area until we have to live with it.

I hope you are getting ready for Flatlanders Day on May 10. If you want to be in the parade there is an application in the Golden Valley Chamber's full page ad in Ranchos Independent. Fill it out then take it into the Chamber of Commerce office on Avenue 12 by the Ranchos Café and Library. It costs \$10 to be in this very special parade. If you want a vendor booth you need to go to the Ranchos Library for the application to reserve your space.



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Kiwanis Korner

Imagine: What Can One Hour Do?

By Perry Watkins

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

Imagine all the people ... living life in peace ... you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. Actually there seem to be very few of us lately. Are there any dreamers out there who want to make the world a better place? A small handful of people really can make a difference. There have been some very famous people who made really big differences by being volunteers. Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Tim Tebow, Dustin Hoffman, Brad Pitt, Greg Kinnear and many other stars have helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity. People don't want to be a part of community service anymore because ... well ... because of so many reasons, I suppose.

Ben Franklin created bifocals and was one of America's Founding Fathers. Did you know he also created the very first volunteer fire department? Franklin brought together a group of 30 men in 1736 to form the Union Fire Company to prevent massive fires in Philadelphia. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” he said. Famous writer Agatha Christie became a nurse in the Red Cross. She was a volunteer nurse and also worked in a Red Cross Hospital. Ella Fitzgerald, the “First Lady of Song,” is famous for her jazz and scat-style singing. She also sang on a public service announcement for the March of Dimes in 1958 to bring attention to the fight against polio. Sally Ride, America's first female astronaut, was a large supporter of the Girl Scouts. She co-founded the Girl Scouts' Camp CEO, which paired minority girls with professional women. She also founded her own organization, Sally Ride Science.

Imagine what you could accomplish in only one hour or a few hours a year. You probably think you would need to attend meetings every week or maybe you would be ostracized if you only attended intermittently.

NOPE.

A lot of people in service clubs show up when they are needed and attend meetings when they can. A few only show up to help out at events. Do they make a difference? Well if you ask a student who just received a scholarship, they would probably say, “yes.” Ask a family who was helped with transportation to see their child in the hospital; ask the firefighters who received new emergency equipment; ask kids who received new bicycles for academic achievement; ask high school students who are working to build robots from donated kits; ask teachers who have new classroom equipment; ask Special Olympians and their families who participated in local events; ask Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts.

Or ask yourself.

We sure could use some help. Honestly. What an impact an hour can make on the lives of another human. It might change their direction in life, save their life, empower them or motivate them on to greater accomplishments. Get to know a few of your neighbors. What's the harm?

KIWANIS meet at the Pizza Factory on every Thursday night except the first Thursday. Your first meal is on us as our guest. Don't let me be the only dreamer. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you will join us. Thank you, John Lennon. I love that song.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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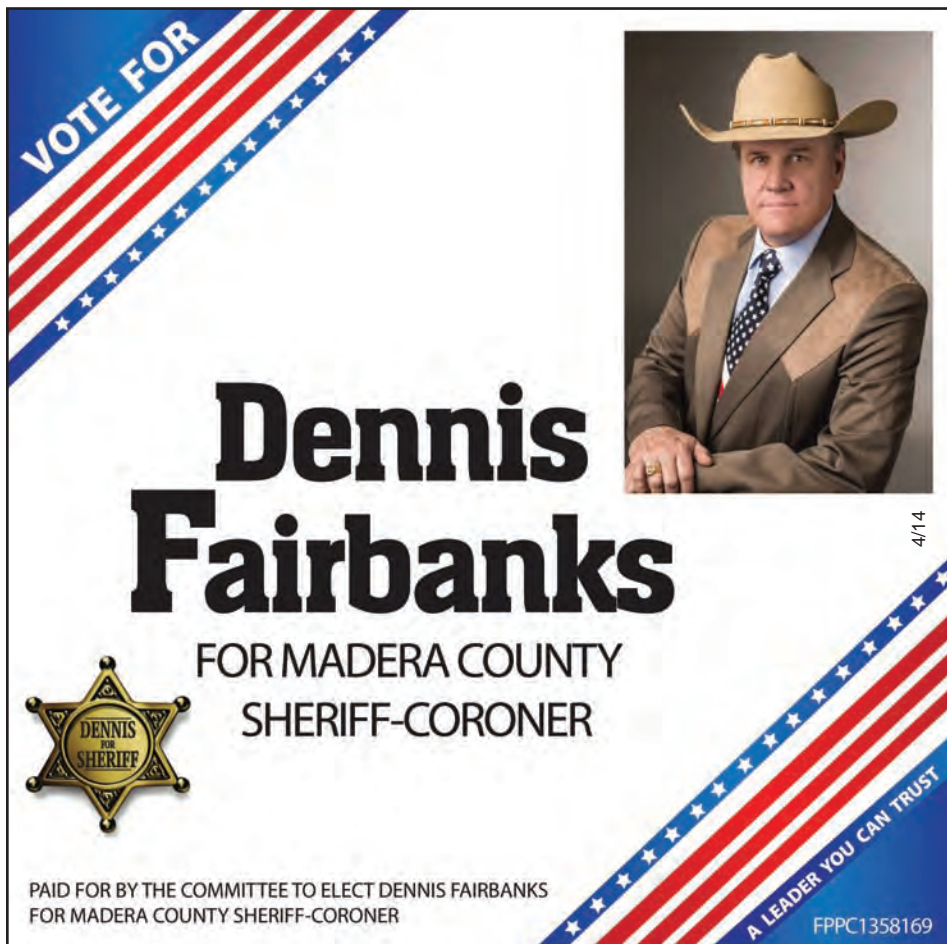
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4/14

D.A. cont. from P. 3

dedicated people in the pursuit of justice. We have achieved many successful convictions in prosecuting murder, driving under the influence, gang and animal abuse cases, and secured lengthy prison sentences for those who chose to violate the law. In fact, statistical reports published by the Judicial Council of California reflect that since I took office, criminal convictions in Madera County are 17 percent higher than the rate of conviction prior to my tenure.

Unfortunately, our work is not done, for there is still much to do for the people of Madera County, especially with the challenges brought on by prison realignment and the release of convicted felons into our communities. That is why I have decided to run again for election this June. In the recent past, the increasing and very serious challenges of slim budgets and the growth of violent crime across our state call for an experienced prosecutor. My track record demonstrates that I have the knowledge of how to "do the job" and a proven ability to address the issues facing law enforcement in our communities. Additionally, I am honored to have the endorsement of two of the authors of California's Three Strikes and You're Out legislation, Mike Reynolds and the honorable Bill Jones, former Secretary of the State of California, as well as the

Crime Victims United, a statewide victim's rights group. These endorsements are a testament to the fact that I am the only candidate with a proven track record, and the only candidate who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to the safety of our communities.

I would be honored to continue to serve as your District Attorney and would greatly appreciate your support. For more information about my campaign for re-election in 2014, please see my website: www.keitzforda.com.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Keitz
Madera County District Attorney



David Linn

I'm supported by the Madera County Deputy Sherriff's Association and the Chowchilla Police Officers Association, and have

Please see D.A. on P. 22

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Madera Crafts Fundraiser Event

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is sponsoring its 4th Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday, May 3 at Holy Spouses Hall, 310 North 'T' Street, Madera. This is a charity fundraiser.

The organization has invited 60 artists and crafters from throughout the Central Valley to participate. They will be offering a diversity of handmade, unique, high quality crafts and art pieces. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be offering hot food and beverages for sale and proceeds will go to Holy Family Table in Madera that feeds the hungry 365 days a year. Additionally, Doors of Hope in Madera, that helps pregnant girls and their babies, will also receive proceeds.

Please help the Catholic Daughters of the Americas make this a success and come support them. It is the weekend before Mother's Day and is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is an indoor event and there will be live entertainment. Admission is free.

For more information contact Norma at 559-481-2197.

D.A. cont. from P. 21

just been endorsed by Sheriff John Anderson. Madera's law enforcement officers believe I'm the right person to lead Madera County's District Attorney's Office as your District Attorney. I will restore the public trust!

I'm a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment and support concealed weapons permits to those who meet the qualifications.

I have nearly 40 years' experience practicing law and served our great nation as a Commander in the United States Navy and a decorated combat veteran. I have a law degree from Pepperdine University, MBA from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and BS from Purdue University.

I am running to be the District Attorney to restore the public trust in a once great office. Since the incumbent assumed office, the DA has lost nearly 100 percent of its prosecutors due to a hostile working conditions and poor management which cost taxpayers \$1.6 million to settle these cases. Furthermore, the incumbent sued the people of Madera County to keep the Rowley Report from being disclosed to the taxpayers which described working conditions in the District Attorney's Office. The criminal justice system has been damaged from lack of leadership and management.

As a result, according to Madera Superior Court, the conviction rate of the DA's office has fallen to 79 percent. The former District Attorney Ernie LiCalsi had a conviction rate of 95 percent.

As District Attorney, I will work with law enforcement to restore its partnership, improve working conditions for current prosecutors, ensure adequate training is provided, hire seasoned prosecutors, reestablish the Agriculture Crimes prosecutor, reorganize the office, improve budget and office management, and put hardened criminals in jail and off our streets.

I will treat the prosecutors, investigators and staff of the office with the dignity, professionalism and respect that they deserve. If I'm given the opportunity to serve Madera County, upon swearing in I will commence a complete systematic review of policies and procedures with the entire staff of the District Attorney's Office. We will reorganize, streamline and enhance and use technology when feasible. I will work with our government leaders to increase the budget and seek to fully staff the office when it's feasible. I will have an open door policy with my prosecutors, staff, investigators, law enforcement and, more importantly, you, the Citizens of Madera County.

Furthermore, I love the courtroom and will carry a caseload myself, to ease the burden on the prosecutors.

I would be honored and humbled to earn your vote on June 3rd. Please visit my campaign website, LinnforMaderaDA.com for more information.

David A. Linn

Sheriff



Michael Salvador

My Fellow Voters:

For more than 17 years, starting off as a deputy sheriff patrolling the county roads and interacting with the populace, I have worked my way up by giving service to my fellow citizens of Madera County.

One of the greatest honors for my hard work I received was appointment as Under-sheriff by Sheriff John Anderson. I have an understanding of how the sheriff's office in Madera County works. Many times I have been asked by Sheriff Anderson to represent him at community groups and when interacting with other governmental agencies.

I have also had a large part in creating

a budget, one of the greatest challenges for the Sheriff. With the amount of limited funding, I have worked with Sheriff Anderson and made decisions to get the most of the taxpayer's dollar to protect Madera County citizens' property and rights.

I have been a public servant for most of

Please see **SHERIFF** on P. 24

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

engines and more sheriffs. Brett will fight for the Ranchos to be better served.

Most of us know that development in the Ranchos has been planned on paper for the past 20 years and, though there is no stopping it, we can all at least play a vital role in how things grow. Brett Frazier will listen to our needs and be a voice for the Ranchos' future. If you haven't met Brett Frazier you should. You'll see he's a people person, a straight shooter and not a typical politician.

Danny Cesena, Fire Captain
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I would like to notify everyone that I never was asked to endorse Gary Johns. I met him last year when he stopped by my booth at the Flatlanders Parade. He introduced himself and spoke for about 5 to 10 minutes. Prior to that I didn't know he existed. It appears he went down Avenue 12 and took a picture of my sign, then kept it – as it is my old sign prior to February of 2014 – then he put it in his advertisement as an endorsement.

As a business owner for over 25 years, I have never publicly endorsed or posted advertisements for political candidates.

Charisse Stindt, Farmers Insurance
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Throughout the 15 years Pizza Factory has been in business we have always made it a point to NOT get involved in the politics of the community. We believe it is not our place to encourage the community to vote for a specific candidate, therefore, we have never endorsed any candidate running for any office.

I am very disappointed in the distributed publication of Rochelle Noblett claiming that I was endorsing her. In fact, I was only introduced to Ms. Noblett about three months ago. I was not asked for permission to release any publication that was distributed to each home in the Ranchos area and had no knowledge of its distribution prior to it going out.

If you received this advertisement, or have heard of its contents, please know that it contains untrue information in regard to Mary Ann Parks endorsing Rochelle Noblett. As a business person in this great community I believe that it is up to each and every person to make their own decision on who would have the best interests for their community and serve this great community to their full potential.

Mary Ann Parks, Pizza Factory
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I have made a decision to retire from my position on the Madera County Board of Supervisors at the end of my current term. This letter is to announce my wholehearted endorsement of Mona Diaz as the candidate I support to succeed me on the Board in the upcoming election.

My reason for supporting Mona is not that we agree on everything. She is very independent and we have differing viewpoints on many issues. What Mona and the rest of the founding and current Golden Valley Board Members have accomplished made my decision easy.

My support for Mona Diaz is based on her long history of committing to a community project, and then seeing that project through to successful completion. Other candidates may make promises, but only Mona Diaz has shown me that she consistently follows through and gets the job done.

One of the main reasons that I felt comfortable not running for election was the announcement that Mona Diaz was going to enter the race. Most of the other candidates do not have the actual governmental experience and successful track record that Mona brings to the table. Madera County faces many important challenges in the near and not too distant future which will require bold, decisive and proven leadership. As a private citizen, for a period that stretches more than three decades, Mona Diaz has devoted her time, energy and money to selfless public service. Mona has gotten a lot done for the people of Madera County already, and I know she will serve us well on the Board of Supervisors.

Manuel Nevarez, District 1 Supervisor
Madera

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4/14

SHERIFF cont. from P. 22

my working career. Madera is the community that my wife Wendi, a high school teacher, and I choose to call home. We appreciate the ethnic diversity of Madera County and love the flavor it gives to our lives. We love the interaction with our neighbors and friends here.

I have three goals when I am elected your Sheriff:

First, is to make sure our personnel have state-of-the-art equipment and support systems. We would like to adjust our budget to provide more officers and less overtime, providing alert and well-rested deputies to respond to your needs.

Second, we need to upgrade our computer systems to provide an interactive awareness of high crime areas and ways to position deputies to have faster response times in those zones.

Third, we need to enhance our anti-gang enforcement including using this to remove marijuana growers, whose use of valuable water in this drought and whose use of lethal force to defend their territory results in innocent County citizen's lives being lost.

I support a substation in the Ranchos and am creatively trying to find funding to establish one.

My name is Michael Salvador. I am asking you to put into place the most qualified individual you feel to represent protecting your life, liberty and property. I have humbly served this County for years. I believe that my progression from a patrol position to Undersheriff has given me knowledge of the entire department, and an interactive relationship with the community and other law enforcement agencies. This qualifies me as the best person you can elect to serve you. I can start immediately on making the decisions necessary to achieve our goals. I am not asking for a job. I am asking you, the voters, for a promotion. If you have ANY questions, feel free to email me. I am humbly asking for your vote on June 3rd.

Sincerely,
Michael Salvador, Candidate for Sheriff.
www.salvador4sheriff.com
salvador4sheriff@gmail.com



Dennis Fairbanks

I am a 25-year resident of Madera County and a 31-year California Highway Patrol Veteran, retiring in 2003, working the last 15 years of my career supervising CHP operations in Eastern Madera County. I proudly served 15 years in the military reserve – six years in the California Air National Guard and nine years in the United States Coast Guard. While serving in the Coast Guard I was assigned as a Special Agent in the Office of Intelligence and Law Enforcement. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration from the University of Redlands and I hold an advanced certificate from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

I have served with numerous community organizations and received many awards for this service, including “Man of the Year” from the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce. I currently sit on the Board of Directors of Sierra Ambulance and have done so for the past 24 years, serving as the President and Chairman of the Board for the past 22 years.

My observations and experiences as a member of the Madera County Grand Jury over the past two years were major factors in my decision to run for the office of Madera County Sheriff-Coroner. My Grand Jury duties gave me much insight into the future needs of our local government. Consolidating services and expanding volunteer programs are part of my plans to ensure that we are working as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I consider myself a constitutional sheriff. My oath is to support and defend the constitution. I believe the greatest, most powerful and a respected document ever written, next to the Bible, is our Constitution. As your sheriff I will support and defend these rights. With my background, experience, administrative and leadership skills, I am uniquely qualified to serve as your Madera County Sheriff-Coroner.



Greg Noll

In an age when crime is evolving and many solutions are dated, experience and innovation are valued commodities in law enforcement. Greg Noll can lay claim to both over a 29-year policing career. He has earned numerous commendations and

Please see SHERIFF on P. 25

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SHERIFF cont. from P. 24

recognition for the kinds of long-term crime-fighting tactics that can be invaluable to a community. Noll wants to apply those as the next Madera County Sheriff.

Noll currently is a police sergeant for the Fresno Police Department where he has modernized crime-prevention techniques developed as a supervisor in the state's fifth-largest city over the last 13 years. Helping run one of the most active police departments on the west coast has given Noll the necessary experience to serve Madera County well as old crime persists and new crime emerges.

"You try to come up with long-term solutions rather than immediate ones," Noll told Sierra News Online in a recent interview. "You can only arrest so many people. If you really want to impact crime, you have to get people willing to come out and work in the community."

Noll has developed and cultivated neighborhood outreach programs while working in both Fresno and Santa Cruz as an officer. He has raised citizen awareness of crime because he believes understanding a county's problems are key to preventing them in the future. In 2014, Noll was honored by Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life for organizing and facilitating community outreach.

Noll does not just sit at a desk. He puts on the uniform, goes out on calls and risks his life every day to keep this community safe. He is willing to become a known face in and around the community. Setting down those kinds of roots in the area he oversees can provide the kind of departmental transparency that earns trust within neighborhoods.

As a way to adapt to the current era, Noll has implemented social media into his arsenal in order to keep citizens aware of crime trends in their area and to help prevent them. It is his forward thinking that has made Noll a distinguished member of every department he has served.

Noll's qualities were polished at the distinguished Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, a program "designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership and ethical decision-making in California law enforcement front-line supervisors."

Before that, Noll earned degrees from Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno in criminology, and he is a graduate of Yosemite High School. He has been married to wife Leslie for 28 years. The couple lives in Oakhurst and have two adult children, Brittany and Daniel.

This kind of dedication, initiative and progressive thinking make Greg Noll the prime candidate for Madera County Sheriff.



Jay Varney

My name is Jay Varney and I ask for your vote of support in the June 2014 primary election. This election is not about the individual who is elected sheriff, but about what that person is prepared to do and accomplish with the physical, fiscal and volunteer resources available to the Madera Sheriff's Office. I intend to: 1) Expand the number of deputy positions currently funded, create a law enforcement cadet program and increase the use of reserve deputy officers countywide; 2) Emphasize increased use of technology to get the maximum effective use from our best resource: our employees. This will be accomplished by increasing public/private partnerships that improve law enforcement service delivery and access to technology; 3) Focus on citizen safety through the protection of our rights as provided by the California and United States Constitution; and 4) Improve efforts to stem the demand for enforcement through greater cooperation with our county and regional partners who assist in preventing our young people from entering into a drug and gang lifestyle.

My experience, education and current law enforcement service in Madera County makes me the best qualified to serve the Ranchos area and the rest of Madera County as your sheriff. During my 30+ years of law enforcement service, I have gained over 18 years of front line leadership experience in both rural and urban settings, including over 10 years as chief of police in Chowchilla. For two years I served as both acting city administrator and police chief during one of the most difficult financial times in recent memory. As acting City Administrator it was necessary to make difficult but necessary decisions to insure the continued financial viability of the city – a responsibility that none of the other candidates has held. I am proud to say that our actions during those years have helped the city begin to grow again.

In June 2013 I graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and have recently completed my Master's Degree in Criminology at Fresno State, making me the only candidate with a Master's Degree. I hold an Executive Certificate – the

Please see **SHERIFF** on P. 26



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Ray Krause For Supervisor District One

On your mail-in ballot this May or on June 3rd at the polls, I would sincerely appreciate your vote.

I hope that you all will take a really hard look at your candidate choices (and the choices that they have made) then hire the person you want actually supervising your family's freedom and financial future.

Hire the person who can not only win in this election but who can also stand up and hold true to their (and your) values to win in the competitive arena of ideas after the election.

I am a long-time District One resident and business owner who knows how to grow our county's employment, protect our environment, attract investment, keep taxes low, fill reservoirs and keep communities safe.

I believe that my business and management experience, personal resolve and fiscal ethics will make a positive contribution in our journey into the future together.

I am also a good listener so let's talk.

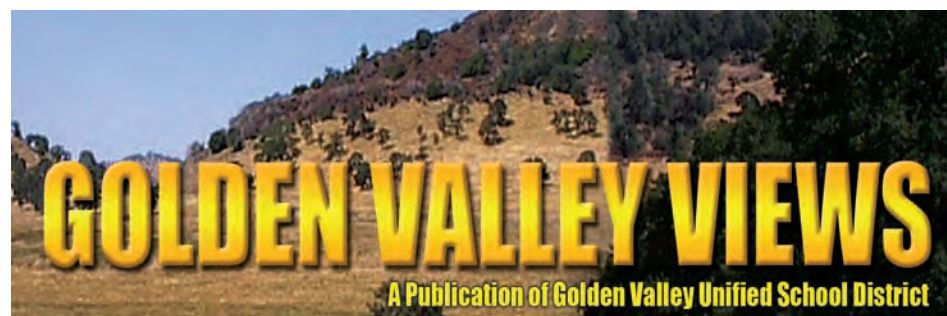
When the smoke clears on June 4th, the good people of District One will have exactly the representation that they deserve. I'm hoping that it's me and would like to thank you in advance for your kind consideration and your vote.

Ray Krause, Candidate
Supervisor, District One 2014

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4/14



LHS Mock Trial Earns State Awards

The Liberty High School mock trial team traveled to San Jose and came away with two individual state honors.

The Madera County champions competed in four courtroom competitions, accounting for six hours of competition with real judges in a tournament of 32 county champions and about 500 competitors. According to advisor Mac Blate, Liberty had a great day in front of a courtroom full of spectators in a San Jose courtroom that was built in 1866.

Sophomore defense attorney Claire Copher earned a perfect score. At the California Mock Trial awards banquet, Copher received one of two awards to name her the top defense attorney in the state. Junior Tyler Bird earned the state's outstanding clerk award, both firsts for Liberty and Madera County schools. Team

members include Bethan Samarin, Jordan Serpa, Alyssa Ghioldi, Samantha Smith, Michael Sassano, Makenna Avakian, Gloria Zarate, Vivian Montijo, Michaela Hammond and Carissa Miller.

"This would not have been possible without the support of Golden Valley Unified School District superintendent Andy Alvarado and Liberty High School administrators, Principal Frank Panian and learning director Sarah Marshall," Blate said. "Special thanks to attorney advisor Michelle Sassano and team volunteer Chelsea Ruland (Liberty teacher Greg Ruland's daughter). On a larger scale, this would not have been possible without every teacher at Liberty High School who encourages our students to think critically, especially our English department whose lessons in diction helped tremendously."

RMS Places 1-2 in County Pentathlon

At the annual Madera County Academic Pentathlon, Ranchos Middle School used home-gym advantage to its fullest. While hosting the competition, the Ranchos Middle School eighth grade team placed first and the seventh grade team placed seventh. The eighth graders also placed second in the super quiz. Additionally, the seventh graders were second in math and third in the super quiz.



Ranchos Middle School not only hosted the Madera County Academic Pentathlon, the eighth graders came in first place.

Individually, Holly Hiatt won the eighth grade competition in literature. Seventh grader Lindsay Nobel placed second in literature and eighth grader Lauren Alexander was third.

Sierra View Events and Happenings

The Sierra View Elementary School first graders hosted the 20th annual Patriotic Day. Students gave speeches on historical figures in U.S. history and sang patriotic songs.

"We dedicated our new military honor wall during the event," principal Chris Imperatrice said. "The honor wall has the names of past students and staff

that have served or are at present serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of those individuals and families were in attendance today."

In soccer and basketball, Sierra View battled Webster Elementary at Webster. Students that have been studying those

Please see **SIERRA** on P. 28

SHERIFF cont. from P. 26

have seen three U.S. Ambassadors safely home from Iraq and run war criminals to ground in Kosovo. In 2010 I was asked by my company, an ISO 9001 international service provider, to be a part of the management team on a major government program protecting Americans working in Afghanistan. As a PMP-certified, private sector, Deputy Project Manager and Project Manager, I now have 10 years of experience in the corporate security industry. As an "at will" employee, I have to prove my worth every year. I have been asked to continue my management of this program annually for three years. No other candidate has been successful at both law enforcement and this

level of private industry.

My uniqueness is derived from a long history and understanding of the diversity of our communities in Madera County. I have a demonstrated unique ability to bring people from diverse backgrounds together to work as highly motivated teams. I have the exclusive experience of being held fiscally and personally responsible for the success of my project in the private sector with no government employee protections to sustain failure and I have proven myself capable. With me you get the compassion of a hometown friend, the law enforcement experience of a cop that loves the street and the tenacity of a successful private business manager.

SIERRA cont. from P. 27

sports over the past three months competed in the games. Liberty High School students, who served as PE tutors during the school year, were the coaches. The two teams split in the four contests. Sierra View won in girls basketball and boys soccer while Webster won in boys basketball and girls soccer.

The Wild About Reading program received a visit from Parker, the Fresno Grizzlies mascot and Eddie, the EECU mascot. The Wild About Reading program requires students in grades kindergarten through third grade to read 10 books in two weeks and students in grades fourth through sixth

to read at least 300 pages in a chapter book. Students who achieve this goal receive tickets to a May 18 Fresno Grizzlies game.

The Sierra View Learning Community raised \$1,463 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through Penny Wars. Students brought in coins and dollar bills to either support their class or sabotage other classes. Each denomination is worth a certain number of points. Lori England's class received a pizza party from the ASB.

Sierra View has raised more than \$5,000 for non-profit organizations through the Penny Wars competition over the past four years. The Penny Wars exemplifies our commitment to the Character Counts program.

Successful Month at Liberty High

For the first time in 12 years, Liberty had a wrestler place in the CIF State Championships. Junior Richie Brandt won five matches in a row to advance to the 192-pound championships. He finished third in the CIF Masters championship at Madera South High School.



LHS junior Richie Brandt proudly displays his State wrestling medal.

competing in a "Family Feud-style" competition against four other valley schools and was tied for first, but lost to Sierra High School in the tiebreaker round.

At the Career Skills Challenge, Nick Simms took first in personal financing and the sports medicine team took first place.

Seven FFA members received their State FFA degrees. Less than three percent earn the honor in a year. Katie Bennett Calie Casey, Shayne Hartley, Hunter O'Brion, Logan Pierce, John Rodriguez and Anthony Yandell were all recognized.

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Golden Valley Chamber

2014 Flatlander's Day 4/14

Parade Day: Saturday, May 10, 2014 • \$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 Topper 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 5** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

New Chamber Board

Pres.: Virginia Vick

V.P.: Ollia Ridge

Sec.: Paula Stewart - Now and Again Thrift and Gift Shop

Immediate Past Pres.: Verlin Dill - VDI Services

Your Chamber of Commerce

This information is brought to you by your Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses and individuals in the Madera Ranchos and beyond. Find out more about your Chamber at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C or call them at 645-4001.

Flatlanders Day is Coming



The 23rd Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 10 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.

An entry form for the parade is found to the left and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available from the Ranchos Library.

Flatlanders Basket \$1



At this year's Flatlanders Day Parade the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is giving you a chance to win a gift basket stuffed with goodies from Ranchos businesses. It's valued at over \$200 and you have a chance at winning it for only \$1. **The Chamber Basket was created by Chamber member Paula Stuart of Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop and is filled with gifts supplied by Chamber members Combined Insurance - Maria Butler; Ranchos Café; Madera Ranchos Barber Shop; Madera Ranchos Subway; Pizza Factory; Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop; The Coffee Spot; Virginia Vick and Jay Varney.** Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing for the basket will be on May 10 at Flatlanders and you need not be present to win. Tickets are available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, or you can call 645-4001 for more info.

Flatlanders Parade Sponsors

The trophies for this year's Flatlanders Day Parade are being sponsored by the following Ranchos supporters:

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce thanks these loyal supporters of Ranchos activity. These businesses truly help make things happen in the Ranchos. Thanks again!

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FOR RENT - Office for rent on Ave. 12. Call **Ethel at 645-1890.**

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Don't Miss Rolling Hills' Annual Yard Sales! 20 to 30 homes selling miscellaneous treasures, like furniture, clothes, tools, sports equip., etc. Starts at 7 a.m., Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3. Off Hwy. 41 between Avenues 10 and 11.

Multi-family yard sale. May 4 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Located in the parking lot of Public Auction R Us. On Hwy. 41 frontage road and Ave 11. There will be New, Used and Estate sale items and much much more. Don't miss it!

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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.

	+		×		22
÷		×		×	
	×		+		15
+		÷		+	
	÷		+		8
13		21		17	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9 9

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ATTENTION: Madera Ranchos Community Property Owners

On April 28, 2014 at 6 p.m. there will be a meeting at Liberty High School cafeteria to address a unification of water issues for members of MD10A, the existing water district for this community, and the property owners that have their own private water wells on their property. Actions have taken place by Madera County and MD10A that, at this time, disadvantage private property owners who have their own water wells near MD10A.

Please attend this meeting on April 28, 2014

This is an opportunity for this community to act in its own best interest.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2	7		6	
8	6			2	9	
	5		4			2
7			9		5	1
	9		5			3
		3		6	7	
1		2				3
	4		7	3		1
		9		8		4

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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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be tempted to be more assertive when dealing with a job-related matter. But a carefully measured approach works best at getting the cooperation you're looking for.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) While others urge you to act now, you instinctively recognize that a move at this time is not in your best interests. You should know when to do so by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A busy schedule keeps you on the move for much of the week. But things ease up by the time the weekend arrives, allowing you to reconnect with family and friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Travel dominates the week, and despite some delays in getting to where you want to go, the overall experience should prove to be a positive one in many ways.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your Leonine self-confidence comes roaring back after a brief period of doubt and helps you get through a week of demanding challenges and ultimately emerge triumphant.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Virgos who have made a major commitment -- personal or professional -- should be able to tap into a renewed reservoir of self-confidence to help them follow through.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You soon could receive news from a surprising source that could cause you to change your mind about how you had planned to deal with an ongoing job-related problem.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A surprise move of support from a colleague who has never been part of your circle of admirers helps influence others to take a new look at what you've put on the table.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While a bold decision to take an "I know what I'm doing" approach impresses some colleagues, it also raises the risk of causing resentment among others.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A misunderstanding 'twixt you and a friend might not be your fault at all, despite what he or she suggests. Talk it out to see at what point the confusion might have started.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Getting into a community operation fulfills the Aquarian's need to help people. It also can lead to new contacts that might one day help you with a project.

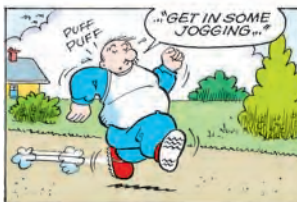
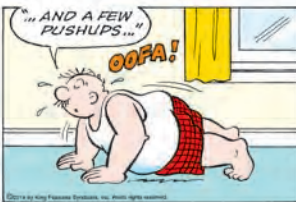
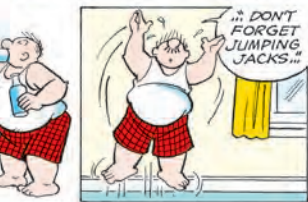
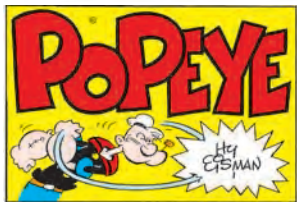
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A minor problem could delay the start of a long-anticipated trip for two. Use the time to recheck your travel plans. You might find a better way to get where you're going.

Born this Week

You are a dedicated romantic who seeks both excitement and stability in your relationships.

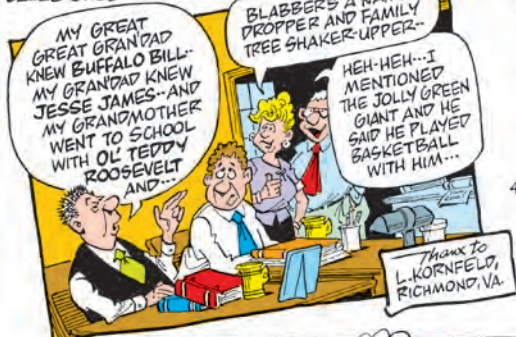
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

TUNING IN ON THE NOSTALGIC CELEB SNOB



WHY DO THEY DO IT? PUT IN A NICE STONE WALK-- BUT WHO USES IT? YOU'RE ASKING-- WE'RE SHOWING--

Thank to D. H. OERLICH, NEW HAVEN, CT

BY AL SCADUTO



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

LINK-UPS! Each of the seven-letter words at right begins and ends with a three-letter word, and is missing a letter at center. You are asked to insert the six missing link-up letters.

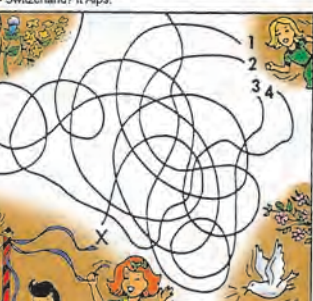


Some random examples: Three-letter words FAR and HER may be linked with a T to form FAT/HER, AIR and HIP may be linked with an S to form AIR-SHIP, etc. How quickly can you make the linkages in the diagram?

WHAT DOT? What's green and is played in a band? Give up? A pickie-o. What city is named for a boat? Sampansico. What fish drills holes? The borencuda. What does every little bit do in Switzerland? It Aps.

JURY MEMBERS' EYE-CUE TEST

An individual who had lost his left arm in an auto accident was accused of robbing a bank. At his trial, it was revealed that the bank's cameras had failed, but a patron was able to snap the bandit's picture reflected in a mirror on an opposite wall (see above). With this photo in evidence, the prosecution rested its case. Given the matter to decide on the basis of this evidence, jury members voted "Not guilty." Why was that? Time limit: 2 minutes.



HURRY CALL! Someone is running late for the May-pole dance. Which path should be taken to the site? Guess.

Wishing Well

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

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

SWITCHING FIRST AND LAST LETTER MAKES A NEW WORD

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

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

- Aunt
- Deal
- Deceiver
- Dwindles
- Epics
- Males
- Mood
- Prod
- Ramped
- Resigned
- Rusted
- Satchel
- Slump
- Surf
- Team

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DRAGON ALONG! Well blow me down — check out this boat with its dragon sail. Color code: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Gray, 6—Dk. Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Lt. purple.

SPELLBINDER

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

DOMICILE

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

- MYTHOLOGY: In Norse mythology, what is the name of the mischievous god who likes to play tricks?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the island nation of Nauru located?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the element sulfur?
- TRANSPORTATION: What is the name of France's high-speed rail service?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the Hollywood-based novel "The Day of the Locust"?
- GEOLOGY: What kind of rock is marble?
- ART: What outdoor school of painting was led by artists such as Rousseau, Corot, Millet and Daubigny?
- MOVIES: Which U.S. state was the setting for the 1971 film "The Last Picture Show"?
- TELEVISION: What was Radar O'Reilly's mom's name on the TV show "M*A*S*H"?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the abnormal fear represented in pedophobia?

Answers

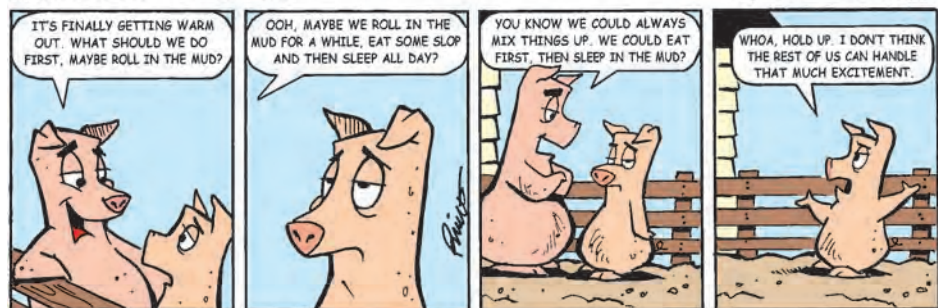
- Loki
- South Pacific Ocean
- S
- TGV or "Train a Grande Vitesse"
- Nathanael West
- Metamorphic
- Barbizon School
- Texas
- Edna
- A fear of children

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Click on "Local News" at

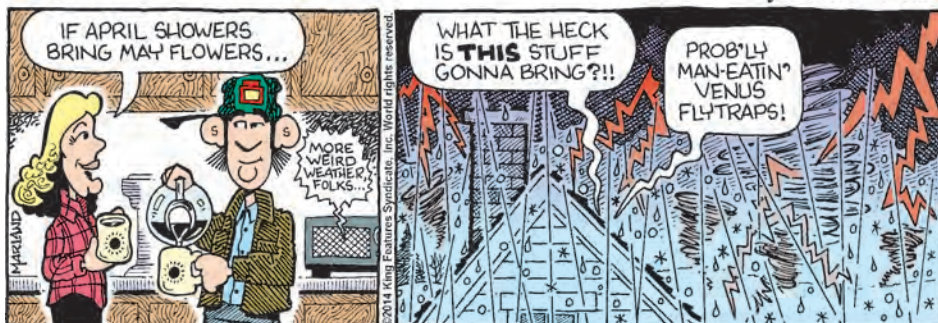
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

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

Measure **WHIGE**

Create **SIGNED**

Glide **FALTO**

Move **OCTOS**

"That's the trouble with hiring an idea man — I never know if he's working or off!"

TODAY'S WORD

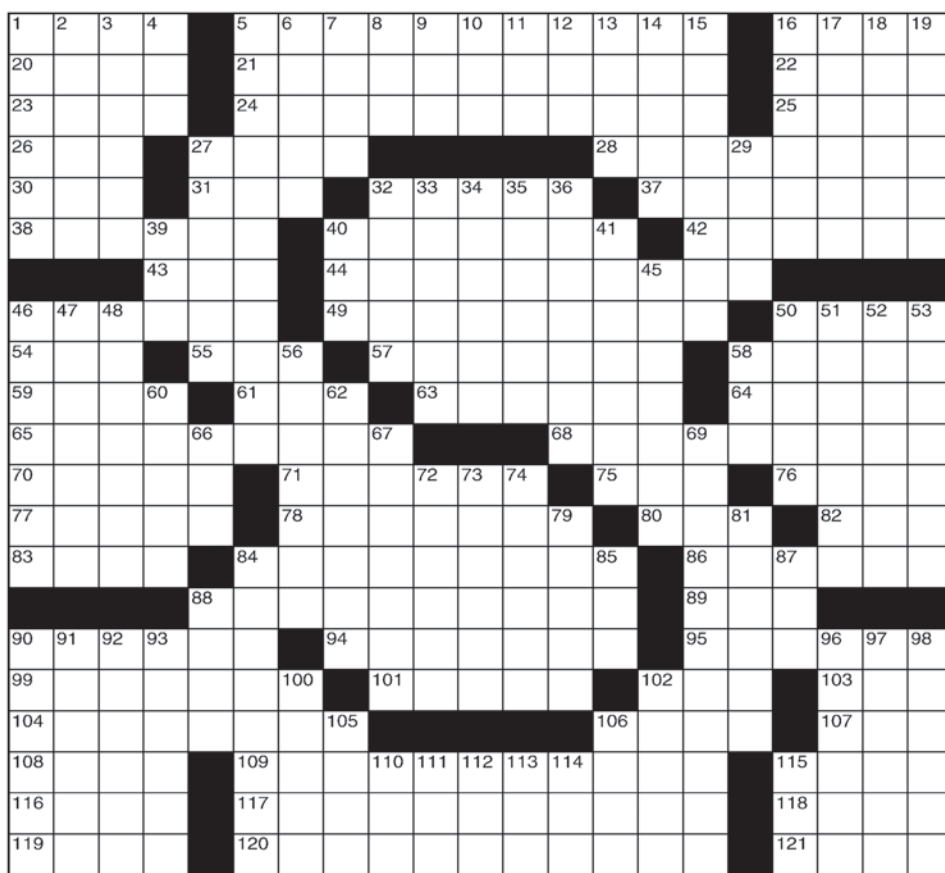
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.
 Differences: 1. Stick is shorter. 2. Jacket is shorter. 3. Binoculars are missing. 4. Cap is different. 5. Flashlight is missing. 6. Squirrel is missing.

Super Crossword



- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Hunch over | 1 Composer | 29 D sharp, e.g. | 81 Title |
| 5 Reading the same forward and backward | 2 Béla | 32 Adult female | 84 Spooking |
| 16 Ski resort in Utah | 3 Consider the same | 34 Employ | 85 King, in Spanish |
| 20 Sea color | 4 Nakedness | 35 Alligator lookalike | 87 China's Sun |
| 21 Cousin of techno music | 5 Of a dentistry branch | 36 — energy | 88 Faucet brand |
| 22 Hen housing | 6 1999-2004 Olds | 39 — -wee Herman | 90 Showing concern |
| 23 Singer Vallee | 7 Pipe material | 40 Waiter's 20% | 91 Sorry sort? |
| 24 Arrive at a peak | 8 Old trucking watchdog gp. | 41 In the future | 92 "Pest" of kiddie lit |
| 25 — d'état | 9 Ultimate | 42 "NYPD Blue" actress Kim | 93 Sort of |
| 26 — chi | 10 "— & the Women" (Richard Gere film) | 43 Grasping thing | 96 Christians' — Creed |
| 27 Encircle | 11 South Korea's — Tae Woo | 44 Kate | 97 Camel's kin |
| 28 Prestige | 12 Bill in a tip jar | 45 Nelligan film | 98 Word form made with the big letter depicted in this puzzle's diagram (this letter is entirely absent from the solution) |
| 30 Giant Mel | 13 Tiny parasite | 46 Met by accident | 100 Iraqi coin |
| 31 Pooh's marsupial | 14 "Ready or not, here —!" | 47 "NYPD Blue" actress Kim | 102 Grazing land |
| 32 Demolish | 15 Feature of "Rose" but not "rose" | 48 Grasping thing | 103 Vena — |
| 37 Prince Harry or William, schoolwise | 16 Stress | 49 Ultimate | 104 — shui |
| 38 Phone part | 17 Canadian dollar coin | 50 Like candlelit dinners | 105 Third bk. of the Bible |
| 40 Pedicured part | 18 Big-billed bird | 51 Positioned evenly | 106 Zeus, e.g. |
| 42 Show up at | 19 Annex | 52 See 101-Across | 107 Gun touters' gp. |
| 43 — friendly | 20 George Burns' Allen | 53 Crest rival | 108 Iraqi coin |
| 44 Not too far-fetched | 21 See 101-Across | 54 Deke or juke | 109 Grazing land |
| 46 Sidle through a doorway, say | 22 Seedless citrus fruit | 55 Sheet-slicing office gizmo | 110 Vena — |
| 49 Boundary | 23 Brontë's Jane | 56 French saint — d'Arc | 111 Cause to feel umbrage |
| 50 Comic Idle | 24 Sweet by-and-by | 57 Putrefied | 112 Adult male |
| | 25 Pooh's donkey pal | 58 Go for again | 113 Show — |

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