

# The Ranchos Independent



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Coming to  
a well  
near  
you  
... like yours.

Madera County  
Board of Supervisors  
Take Action on the Drought  
— But is it Too Little Too Late?

By Karen Petryna



The Sensus water meter that the state of California and Madera County says **HAS** to be on your next well.

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**Coming to a well near you ... like yours.**

**Madera County Board of Supervisors Take Action on the Drought – But is it Too Little Too Late?**  
By Karen Petryna

The County Board of Supervisors took action during their two meetings in February — to pass water metering and monitoring ordinances and to approve an interdepartmental loan to complete the Dublin Well project. But as the County, along with the rest of the Central Valley, enters into its fourth consecutive and record-breaking year of drought, the question remains whether these measures, or any measures, are too little too late. The board met on both Feb. 3 and 10, 2015 first to pass emergency ordinances to require metering of groundwater extraction outside the city and groundwater monitoring on the valley floor, and second, to move forward with connection of the Dublin Well, installed in Dec. 2103, to the Special Maintenance District 10A (MD-10A) Water System — results being that as of Feb. 3, all new and replacement groundwater wells, residential and agricultural, must include the installation of a specified Sensus-brand water meter or equivalent along with a groundwater level monitoring port on the wellhead,

and as of Feb. 10, there remain no impediments to adding a much needed third fully functioning groundwater well to the water system that serves approximately 3,000 people in southeast Madera.

**Initial Water Meter Costs**

According to Public Works Director Johannes Hovertsz, the Sensus-brand water meters were specified to establish an equipment standard that is familiar to and easily used by county personnel. It is also the meter brand that has been installed by the County throughout the city of Madera and also on Special District wells in the county. Sensus is therefore the water meter brand the County uses and prefers, and any substitutes would have to be both tamper-proof and also “meet the same requirement of measuring and accuracy,” Hovertsz said. The County also owns telemetry equipment to read Sensus meters remotely.

The two ordinance-specified residential-size Sensus units, for up to one-inch and up to two-inch diameter pipes, range in price from about \$300 (the smaller) to \$800 (the larger) before adding taxes, installation costs of approximately \$750, and a telemetry transmitter for another \$150 or so. Altogether, parts and labor for water meter installation will run \$1,200 to \$2,500 depending on the size of pipe to which it is connected. And, in addition to the well permit fee, which varies depending on size and other factors, there will be added another fee of \$146 for the water meter permit application review and installation inspection.

**Additional Costs**

Beyond requiring a water meter to be installed, the County is also requiring they be calibrated every two years — unless the warranty certifies its accuracy for a longer period — and read and reported monthly by the owner. What’s more, new water meter owners are also now required to measure the depth to groundwater in their wells

by a County-specified method twice a year.

In answer to questions posed by the board and three citizens who attended the Feb. 3 board meeting, Hovertsz said those with water meters could probably meet the requirement to get the groundwater level in their wells measured bi-annually by their well driller. A local well driller who was brought to the meeting by Hovertsz agreed and said that the cost would likely be about the same as a regular service call. Hovertsz also confirmed that the new ordinances require meter owners to make their meters accessible to county personnel during regular business hours so that, as Supervisor Tom Wheeler explained, “cheaters could be caught.”

**Supervisor Frazier Weighs In**

District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier questioned the Sensus meters distributor at the Feb. 3 board meeting to verify that the prices would not change after the board approved the Sensus-brand as the standard for the county. The Sensus representative Hovertsz had brought to the meeting assured Frazier that his company, Golden State Flow Measurement, the largest distributor of the Sensus meters in the area, offered everyone the same price. However, when the Ranchos Independent asked for a quote from another representative of Golden State, he accidentally provided the County prices and subsequently stated that those were not the prices that would be offered to individuals. When told this news in a later interview, Frazier said that that was exactly his concern and why he had raised the issue on record. Frazier also confirmed that the County was imposing the ordinance for water meters and groundwater monitoring specifically to comply with state legislation, to avoid the penalties of being ineligible for state

Please see **METER** on P. 3

## School Board’s Function Questioned, Clarified

What Constitutes the Roles, Duties and Responsibilities of a School Board? And has the Golden Valley Unified School District Board gone too far?

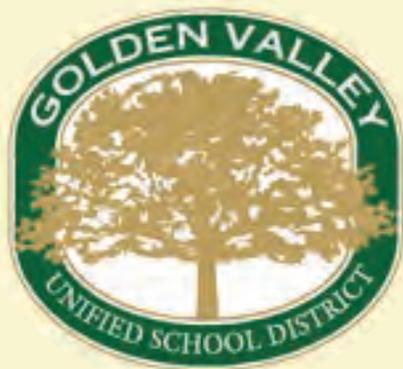
By Karen Petryna

On Feb. 3, 2015 the Golden Valley Unified School District (GVUSD) Board voted, by a three to two margin, to sever the District’s relationship with then Superintendent Andy Alvarado. The locally elected Board, tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the District’s responsiveness to the values, beliefs and priorities of the community, took this action despite the explicit request to the contrary of hundreds of community members in attendance that night. As currently acting Interim Superintendent Kevin Hatch said, the superintendent serves at the pleasure of the Board. But the decision to terminate Alvarado’s contract, as evidenced by the ongoing campaign to hold a recall election for the three Board members who voted

to oust Alvarado, was not entirely responsive to the community — if at all.

According to the National School Board Association there are five principles of public education in the United States:

1. A tuition-free education for all students
2. The promise of equal educational opportunities no matter of race, religion or ability
3. A commitment to high standards and high expectations for all students
4. A system of governance that ensures public accountability



5. A benefit to society by teaching democratic principles and common values

According to the California School Board Association (CSBA) and as displayed on the GVUSD website, the governance team, comprised of the superintendent and school Board members, is responsible to:

1. Set the direction for the community’s schools
  2. Establish an effective and efficient structure for the school district
  3. Create a supportive environment through behavior and actions
  4. Ensure accountability to the public
  5. Demonstrate community leadership
- Furthermore, individual members of the team are encouraged to be effective by being mindful, prepared, focused, committed and, where necessary, confidential. By way of qualifications, a Board member need only be at least 18 years old and a resident of the community. Neither a high school diploma nor any specific skills or knowledge are required for Board candidates.

Please see **BOARD** on P. 10

## History Repeats in Rolling Hills?

By Randy Bailey

Rolling Hills resident Jan DeWoody has uncovered some disturbing information regarding the Station 9 firehouse located in Rolling Hills.

Riverstone Development LLC, the company that at present is developing the corner of Avenue 12 and Highway 41 for homes and, in the future, businesses, is required by its agreement with Madera County to include construction of a functional firehouse for the safety of the development. In a letter dated April 16, 2015, the administrative office of Madera County’s General Services Division has contacted Rolling Hills Citizen Association President Ralph Tonseth stating, “The County has agreed to the utilization of the existing Fire Station No. 9 as the required temporary fire station [for Riverstone Development].” DeWoody said this was the first that she, or several of her neighbors, had even heard that

Please see **STATION 9** on P. 10

Click on “Local News” at

**METER** cont. from P. 2

loans and grants, and to avoid the state adjudicating non-compliance measures to the County and not for establishing prices and rates.

**Meeting State Requirements**

Frazier also commented that it's a good idea to start measuring groundwater levels and extraction rates in the Madera groundwater basin in order to determine its status

and how that's changing. In fact, the Madera basin is designated by the Department of Water Resources, which is administering the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CAS-GEM) program, as one of only four high-priority basins that is "fully unmonitored."

Despite the state's official designation, there is currently some monitoring of groundwater levels in the Madera basin according to Hoevertsz who said it would

probably be years before Madera County was considered to be in compliance with the requirement. Hoevertsz added that Madera County is ahead of some nearby counties in meeting some of the state's other requirements such as forming the Madera Ground Water Authority — though it has yet to create the required sustainability agencies.

**Dublin Well Nears Final Phase**

At the second of two February board

meetings on Feb. 10, Hoevertsz sought and received board approval both to accept the bid of Grizzly Construction, Inc. for \$1,022,695 to complete the Dublin Well connection to the MD-10A Special District Water System, and for a \$750,000 interdepartmental loan to pay for it. When asked by the board, he said the money was coming from a road mitigation fund account, no

Please see **METER** on P. 18

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I read this at the April 21 Golden Valley Unified School District Board meeting and wanted to share it with the community.

My name is Julia Kirkman and I am a 25-year Ranchos resident. I am a mother of three boys that went to school here in the Ranchos and I have been a teacher at Sierra View for 21 years. Quite frankly, I am up here to speak because I am insulted and angry by the untruths that you, John Mosley, communicated to countless people on the internet last week during an interview with Central Valley Business.

On one hand you describe this district as the district that gave your boys a great education, a magnificent education! And yet, you get on the air/internet and refer to Golden Valley as a district that is failing, declining; at one time the best district in the county, but we lost that status – it went away. Those are your words.

I am quite frankly appalled that you consider our district to be in such dire straits and that you don't have anything good to say as a trustee and representative of Golden Valley. You and all of the trustees should be our biggest cheerleaders! So here are some facts that need repeating:

Fact: You are comparing apples to oranges. To compare the present Golden Valley to Chawanakee and Madera Unified of 20-25 years ago is ridiculous and I guarantee you that our students and children are getting an excellent education, or to use your words, "a magnificent education!"

Fact: We still are the best district in Madera County. Our API scores are 800+ and the only reason we are in "program improvement" is because the federal government (No Child Left Behind) has made it impossible to sustain continued growth using a 5 percent per year growth model. We would need to have 100 percent of our student body test proficient.

Fact: Sierra View was the highest performing elementary school until two years ago, when Webster outscored us. Again the highest scores in Madera County.

Fact: Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School are the highest performing schools in Madera County and always have been.

Fact: In a comparison to other schools with similar demographics, we are in the top 20 percent in the state.

What I find truly amazing is that this is just test score stuff. This doesn't include all the other great things that are going on in our district every day. This school district is full of dedicated people; every employee is dedicated to the children of Golden Valley. Golden Valley is a Distinguished School District and for you to say anything less than that about the school district that you represent is one of the reasons why I support this recall movement.

Julia Kirkman  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the community for their support of the GVUSD recall and give an explanation as to why everyone did not get the opportunity to sign the recall petition. I know many more wanted to sign and experience the joy and satisfaction of exercising their rights and being part of the democratic process.

Speaking for the Recall Steering Committee, we are committed to removing Trustees Crumpton, Neal and Moseley in the most expeditious fashion possible. We started collecting signatures on a Saturday and finished nine days later on a Sunday. In that time the teams collected 1,362 signatures, more signatures than the trustees received votes during their election only four months prior. Only 916 signatures were needed. We used several days to prequalify the signatures and then submitted them on Friday, April 3. The following Friday the signatures were certified. From start to finish we only used 24 of the 90 days available. That moved the election forward 9 weeks and 3 days. I hope that restores a little of the satisfaction and joy lost in the rush.

During the time the recall teams were circulating petitions, the trustees mailed out several flyers. The last was mailed to every address in the three trustee areas. On the front, the trustees made their best arguments, gave a defense for their decisions and asked for community support. On the reverse side was an urgent explanation on how to remove your name from the recall petition if you had already signed. A form and phone number were provided with immediate pickup available to hand deliver your withdrawal form to the Elections Office. The flyer was valid for 7 days. For all the trustees' efforts, only four petition signers withdrew their names and none were from President Crumpton's trustee area. There was no support at all for the three trustees.

The GVUSD Board of Trustees received the notification of sufficiency on or about Monday, April 13, nine days prior to the April 21 regular board meeting. President Crumpton had 9 days to prepare for, and facilitate, a public board discussion with community input for the purpose of selecting a recall election date. The election period, as set forth in the statute, states the election shall be no less than 88 days and not greater than 125 days. An election date could have been set as early as July 28 if President Crumpton had been prepared and desired an early election. But that did not happen.

The recall committee wants the election to be concluded and the new board seated prior to the beginning of the new school year. Start the school year with stability instead of instability. What is accomplished by delaying? Let's finish and move on.

President Crumpton and her willing ac-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 11

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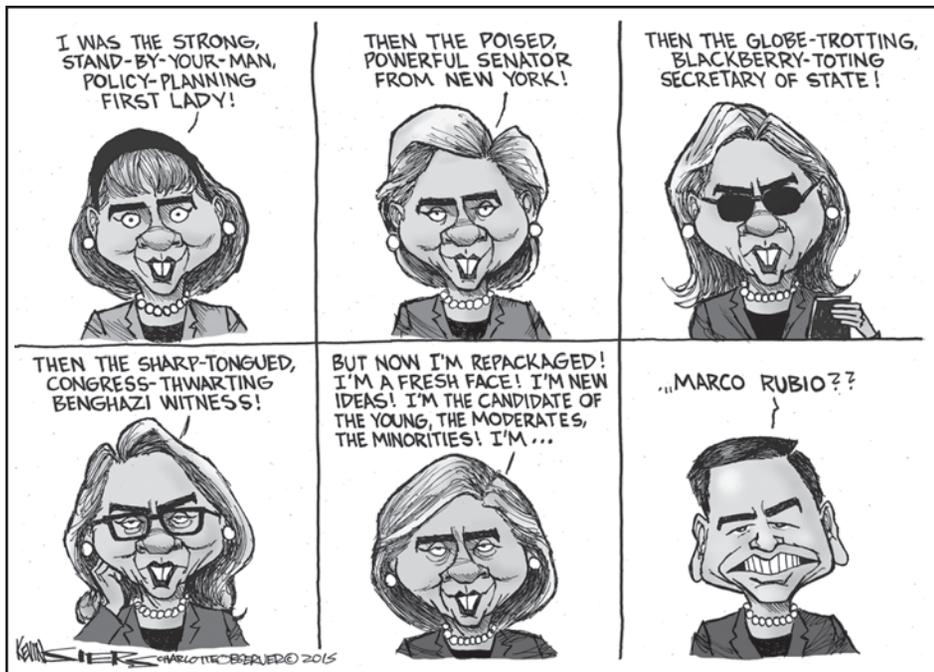
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## Editorial

### Wait ... What?

By Randy Bailey

Sometimes you're stopped in your tracks and you're left standing there wondering if you just heard what you thought you heard. That couldn't be right, could it? Didn't she just say ... ?

At the April 21 Golden Valley Unified School Board meeting at the Liberty High theater, it was a pretty full crowd (again). I was there for two reasons: 1. Were they going to make Kevin Hatch the new superintendent in the wake of Andy Alvarado's departure?; and 2. How was the Board going to handle the next phase of the Recall Election that had just been given the OK by Madera County's County Clerk? Inquiring minds wanted to know.

Kevin Hatch was indeed offered the position of Superintendent of Golden Valley Unified effective July 1, contingent upon contract negotiation and agreement between Hatch and the Board. So, for all intents and purposes, Hatch is in.

After a bit, the Board received the "Certificates of Sufficiency for Petitions for Recall" for Trustees Crumpton, Moseley and Neal. The Petition for Recall had been "certified as sufficient" by Madera County's Clerk, exceeding the number of signatures needed and containing virtually no invalid signatures from registered voters in the three districts.

Elections Code Section 11227 states: "... if the elections official finds the sig-

natures on the petition to be sufficient (she did), he or she shall submit his or her certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition to the governing body (GVUSD School Board) at its next regular meeting." The Board then issues an order calling for the election within 14 days after the meeting at which it considers the Certificates of Sufficiency.

So, here was the Certificate of Sufficiency from the County and members of the public wanted to know when the board was going to "call for the election." Board President Kathleen Crumpton said that the Board had 14 days to make that decision and implied that she planned to use all of those 14 days. That's her prerogative and she's within the law to take the full 14 days, but the crowd, and Trustees Lewis and Kelley, wanted to know why a decision couldn't be made now. In essence asking what would be different in 14 days from right now. After jockeying back and forth, Crumpton finally suggested that following the Board meeting that evening a meeting specific to the Recall could be held. That seemed to satisfy the crowd -- for now.

At least two more times in the course of the evening the Board was asked why it couldn't just call for an election right now and be done with it. Why did we need another meeting, they questioned. Each time Crumpton said that after the School Board meeting she would convene a meeting specific to the recall election.

Then something happened.

As it appeared the meeting was winding down, Crumpton said she wanted to schedule a meeting for the Recall (what happened to right after THIS meeting?) to which an outcry came from the crowd. In the spirit of transparency, it was loudly suggested that any meeting needed to be held at a time when parents and employees could participate, suggesting 6 to 6:30 p.m. Crumpton then suggested May 1 (what happened to right after THIS meeting?) at 9 o'clock in the morning. Several teachers in attendance called out, "I guess WE won't be there." Trustee Lewis said he couldn't attend on May 1 so Crumpton queried Neal and Moseley who said they could, then she commented that they only needed three. She had a motion and a second for adjournment, swung the gavel and by the time I looked up from my notepad, she, Moseley and Neal were out of the room.

Wait ... what?

# Listening ... Finally

It's a weird feeling when you hear one of your best friends have the same conversation with their kid that your parents had with you oh so many years ago. It was a weird, flip-floppy déjà vu and if you promise not to tell my parents, I'll admit that I really regret I never listened.

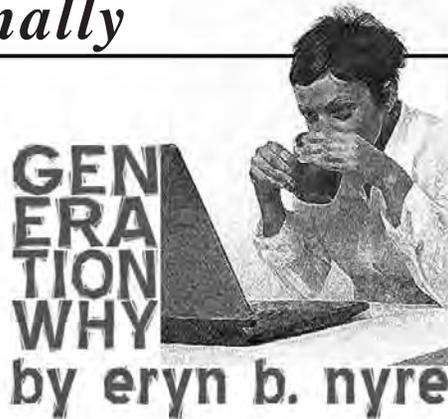
But that's youth right? You know everything, you have it all figured out, no one has been through what you're going through and even if it's similar it's still different because you're different. I'm really glad my parents never slapped me in the face, but I'd sure like to go back in time and give myself a nice high-five upside the head.

My friend asked me to help since my financial and educational paths at that age run pretty parallel to her daughter's. And since I've been on the better side of a credit score for a long time now and just a few classes away from walking across a stage and shifting a tassel, she thinks I can provide insight. I told her I would do it but I'm not sure it will work.

There are just some pieces of advice kids won't take. But if I could narrow it down, these are the top three things kids should listen to their parents about.

*You may think YOLO (You Only Live Once), but when you're cleaning up the same mess for the fifteenth time, that idiotic idiom will get really old.*

**1) Finish school now.** Sure, you can go back, but it will be 10 times as hard and 100 times more expensive. Maybe you don't know what you want out of life. Maybe you still need to figure out who you are. Great, do it at school. Community college was made for the barely legal crowd who have no idea what they want to do with themselves. Take a marine biology course. Sign up for a little philosophy and sociology. Major in time suck. As long as you are chipping away at your general education credits, use the electives to help nail down the person you want to be. This way when you finally do get it figured out you can declare a major and graduate. You come out



the other side with clarity, some great memories and a degree that will only help you as you stumble further into adulthood. Working full time at a dead-end job probably isn't living up to your potential, so before your life gets more complicated, and trust me it will get more complicated, go to college.

**2) Your credit matters.** I know it's tempting to use plastic to pad your wardrobe and your entertainment center, but I'm going to let you in a little secret ... credit card companies actually expect you to pay it all back – plus interest. And it's the interest that's going to kill you. You think you've hit the jackpot because you can pay it off at 20

bucks a month but you end up paying a heck of a lot more for that purse than if you would have just saved up the money to begin with. Not to mention, sending just the minimum amount means

you buy that high end, top of the line, flat screen TV when you're 22 and you're still paying it off when you turn 30. Then, when maxing out your cards and buying everything on credit gets to be too much, you decide to pay a few bills late, or not at all. No big deal, you'll catch up eventually – what can they do? So they report you to some mysterious bureau that claims to be keeper of the interest rate. What do you care? Allow me to break it down this way: the difference between stellar credit and toilet credit is about 100 bucks a month on a car payment, or more. Not to mention you can demolish your score in a

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 13

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## What Happened to the Tea Party?



By Betty Van Valkenburg

What happened to the Tea Party? I'm frequently asked that question by acquaintances who know that I've been active with the Central Valley Tea Party since it burst on the scene in 2009. What this usually means is that they haven't seen any splashy, media-covered demonstrations or protests lately. But what they don't see is the slow, painstaking work at the grassroots level that isn't noticeable and frankly isn't always fun.

The questioners are good folks who almost always share the values of the Tea Party: fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government and free markets. They decry the encroachment of big government into every facet of our lives, ponder how our country will dig its way out of more than \$18 trillion in debt, and fear that their children and grandchildren will not know the liberty and personal responsibility that we have enjoyed.

But they are not active in the Tea Party, so they wonder, "What happened to it?"

By not joining in, what they miss are opportunities to study important issues such as the Common Core takeover of education, the agenda behind new zoning laws and lack of water storage, or proposed legislation. They miss measuring candidates and ballot propositions by Tea Party core values. They miss the camaraderie and eventual friendships with like-minded people from all walks of life who come together for a common cause.

What they don't hear are the educational and inspirational speeches on such topics as the Constitution and history. They don't hear pleas for help from committees or groups that are educating the public and fighting to rein in governmental overreach. They don't hear pleas for donations needed to keep the all-volunteer group active.

What they don't do is attend meetings where local, state and national issues are discussed and where action plans are formulated. Therefore, they don't volunteer to help.

What they may not know is that there are 10 chapters from Porterville to Mariposa with which they can affiliate, and that the Central Val-

ley Tea Party (CVTP) works with other state and national groups for common purposes.

It occurs to me that perhaps those of us who are working within the Tea Party are so focused on issues that we neglect the obvious: actually inviting others to become active with us. So this is a shameless plug for like-minded people to check out the Tea Party and get to work. The last six years have taken a toll on our hard-working folks, and frankly we need new blood and more pullers at the oars. All activities are voluntary, so if one activity or issue is not one's "cup of tea," there are many others that need attention.

### Honor Veterans Month

CVTP celebrates freedom and honors those who have fought to preserve it and it has designated May as Honor Veterans Month. A variety of activities the next few weeks will offer opportunities for newcomers to sample what the Tea Party is all about.

We'll greet World War II veterans on April 29 as they return to the airport from the latest Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Guest speakers at our May 7 Action Night will include Al

*It occurs to me that perhaps those of us who are working within the Tea Party are so focused on issues that we neglect the obvious: actually inviting others to become active with us. So this is a shameless plug for like-minded people to check out the Tea Party and get to work.*

Perry, Executive Director of the Central Valley Honor Flight, and a World War II veteran who enjoyed a recent flight. And we encourage everyone to honor veterans on Memorial Day, May 26, by possibly visiting a national cemetery or someone in the Veterans Hospital or writing to someone on active

duty. Other ways to honor veterans will be discussed at the Action Night meeting.

Topping off the month will be a gala "Celebration of Liberty" May 29 at the Clovis Memorial District Building, a great evening of fun for everyone that will also raise funds for the Honor Flight. The event will include a tri-tip dinner, dancing to live music, entertainment, casino fun, a silent auction and more. Information on various issues will be available for anyone who's interested but will not intrude on the evening's celebration. Reservations are only \$25 and 80 percent of the net proceeds will be donated to the Central Valley Honor Flight. For those who can't attend, donations can be mailed to CVTP-Fun, P.O. Box 26131, Fresno, CA 93729.

For questions about the Tea Party or events, please leave a message at 559-412-5056 or visit [CentralValleyTeaParty.com](http://CentralValleyTeaParty.com) to make your reservation for the Celebration of Liberty or find a chapter near you.

If the next generation asks "What happened to our liberty?" what will we answer?

**Straaaaawberries!**



**Quick No-Cook Fresh Fruit Jam**  
**2 qts. Ripe Strawberries**  
**¼ C Lemon Juice**  
**1 pkg. (2 oz) Jam and Jelly Pectin**  
**1 C Karo Light Corn Syrup**  
**4½ C Sugar**

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

syrup, mix well. Gradually stir in sugar until dissolved. Ladle into clean ½ pt. jars or freezer containers leaving ½” headspace. Cover tightly. Jams in use should be kept in refrigerator up to three

weeks or stored in freezer for up to one year. Makes seven containers. This recipe can be used with peaches or nectarines – using 2½ pounds ripe fruit in the place of the strawberries.

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

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

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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

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

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

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

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

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**STATION 9** cont. from P. 2

the County was in negotiations for the use of the Station 9 firehouse.

At issue is the wording of the development agreement the County has with Riverstone, dating back to 2007 when Castle & Cook was planning on developing the property, then known as Gateway Village. In Section 2.11.1 of the agreement, Riverstone Development LLC, is required to provide a "... temporary facility capable of housing a two person engine company and one fire engine on lands owned by Developer."

Riverstone is prepared to make improvements of up to \$150,000 to the existing station and the wording of the letter to Tonseth says, "The improvements to the existing building will not increase the square footage or dimension of the facility, nor will they impact its ownership."

But this is where DeWoody gets gun shy. "About 40 years ago the homeowners purchased the land in a trade plus cash with S&J Ranch for the property you know as our firehouse," DeWoody said. "This building was built by the Rolling Hills homeowners' labor, donated building supplies and donations. The building at that time was for a meeting house not a firehouse. It was strictly for the homeowners' use and title was in Rolling Hills' name. Each and every homeowner owned a share in this building."

DeWoody said that later the homeowners were approached by Madera County to allow a volunteer fire station to be housed there and they agreed. But what happened next is why she's cautious of the Riverstone offer.

Rolling Hills was approached by Valley Children's Hospital in an attempt to have Station 9 be designated as their firehouse of record, but they refused, pointing out that their building development plan required them to build their own fire station. Valley Children's got around that by signing an agreement with Fresno County to attend any

**RECIPE** cont. from P. 8

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

If you want to make a strawberry pizza, you really don't have to have a pizza pan. If you don't have a pizza pan you can use anything you have on hand. The last one I made, I used a deep dish glass pie plate, but you can use anything. Use your ingenuity and your imagination. If you want to

emergency fire needs.

"Later we were again approached by Madera County in an attempt to let Gunnar Development [the developer of the Valley Children's Hospital property] designate our building as the Gunnar Development Firehouse so Mr. Gunnar would not have to build his firehouse as required by his development agreement, before he could develop," DeWoody said. "Mr. Gunnar has never developed his land adjacent to Rolling Hills; it is believed he is waiting for another developer to build the required needed firehouse."

Sometime later, DeWoody and a friend were doing a title search and accidentally came across the deed to the property now known as Rolling Hills Fire Station and discovered that Madera County had transferred title of the property to Madera County - illegally. She began a series of conversations with County Supervisor Frank Bigelow, County Counsel Jeff Khun and County Administrator Stell Manfredi. After months of assurances provided no results, she made a trip to a Board of Supervisors meeting and had a deed a week later.

"I had the recorded, corrected deed and the county counsel was no longer employed by the County of Madera," she said. "Now I am wondering if they did it again, transferring the deed to Madera County or whom?"

DeWoody asks if this "so called" agreement was agreed upon, why was Rolling Hills not notified of the meeting? Were they? "If our association signs to agree to this we stand a good chance of losing the property for all time, final," she said. "What is to keep them from saying they did improvements and occupied the building, etc., then take it by eminent domain? If we allow this to take place why would Riverstone want to ever build their own fire station as required by their development plans?"

DeWoody, a 40-year resident of Rolling Hills, is asking her fellow community members to be aware of what is going on. You can reach her at [jandewoody@yahoo.com](mailto:jandewoody@yahoo.com).

impress company coming, make it in a spring form pan and when ready to serve, put it on a pretty cake plate and pipe some whipping cream around the bottom.

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

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 19

**BOARD** cont. from P. 2

**Superintendent's Role and Qualifications**

According to Interim Superintendent Hatch, "... the superintendent's role is to ensure that the Board's policies are carried out and to create with the Board a vision for the district and carry it forward to the school sites and work with the Board to ensure fiscal solvency of the district." Hatch said policies range from whether facilities will be utilized for public meetings to hiring architects to design buildings to student discipline. He said he and his staff also make recommendations to the Board for things like whether to add a new class to the curriculum and which publisher's textbooks should be purchased in order to achieve coherent and legally compliant instruction in the classroom. Regarding qualifications, he said at a minimum a superintendent must have an administrative credential, though not a teaching credential. And while some districts, depending on their

size, may seek candidates who have a doctorate degree or certain experience, GVUSD is too small for that. Hatch said that both he and Alvarado had risen through GVUSD ranks as teachers and principals.

**School Board's Role**

Hatch said the purpose of the Board is to set policy and en-

*Kelly said he didn't know if the district's teachers fully understand that individual Board members do not have any authority over them or their classrooms and that he didn't believe either the teachers or the students should be subjected to any perceived interference or scrutiny by Board members.*

sure the superintendent is carrying out the policies that have been set. Executive Secretary to the Superintendent's Office, Aimee Beintker, said that when the GVUSD was first formed in 1999 it adopted all the CSBA policies and then began the process of going through them one by one to tailor them to the district. Also, as the state issues new policies and laws, the Board must address them to ensure compliance. Beintker, who began working in the district as a receptionist in 2002, rose to her current position in 2005, though the actual title has changed over the years. When asked about school Board training, Beintker said the district holds a workshop every election year (e.g., 2010, 2012, 2014) where the superintendent presents information to all the candidates.

**School Board Training**

In September 2014, former Superintendent Alvarado went through the district's Governance handbook with the candidates about items the Board had adopted in July, 2014. Also, Beintker said, the CSBA holds a three and a half day conference every year, which is particularly valuable for newly elected Board members, and which are alternately held in northern and southern Califor-

nia. She said for the 2014 CSBA event held in San Francisco, four of the five GVUSD Board members attended the full conference. Due to some scheduling issues, newly elected Board member John Moseley was only able to attend a portion. Beintker also said that in 2014 the district hosted a representative from CSBA to come to the Ranchos to conduct additional training. During the session conducted in March 2014, it was established that (among other things) the Board of Education for GVUSD:

1. Is a five-member Board of Directors of a \$16 million corporation
2. Members are elected (or appointed) to fulfill four-year terms and are responsible to more than 10,400 shareholders
3. Assumes responsibility for the education of 1,957 students during a 12-year education process
4. Is responsible for more than 222 classified and certificated employees at six different facilities that are all maintained by

district staff

5. Negotiates annually with two employee unions

6. Provides for BEFORE and AFTER school programs for 94 students

7. Provides for the serving of 1,571 meals every day

8. Sees that transportation to and from school is provided daily to 501

students

**Board Members' Positions**

Mike Kelly, who has been a GVUSD Board member for 10 years and is a former teacher and coach employed by the district, when interviewed for this article said that as an individual he has no more authority than any other member of the public, but the Board, as a governance team, has the ultimate responsibility. "The trick," he said, "is to hire a good superintendent who will work with the Board to carry out the Board's policies and not to get involved with day to day operations." Kelly said he didn't know if the district's teachers fully understand that individual Board members do not have any authority over them or their classrooms and that he didn't believe either the teachers or the students should be subjected to any perceived interference or scrutiny by Board members. In light of the upcoming recall election for the three Board members who voted Alvarado out, Kelly said he hopes voters will get to know the Board candidates better in the future because their impact on the community is potentially very high compared to other elected officials.

Kelly, who has attended about eight of

10 annual CSBA training workshops, said that according to the Brown Act, elected officials are not allowed to discuss district business privately in subgroups. Beintker, referring to the same issue in a separate interview, said this is a potential problem when

the Board members travel together, such as for training, and they have to be very cognizant of their legal requirements for conducting public business. And while Kelly

Please see **BOARD** on P. 17

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**LETTERS** cont. from P. 4

complices had other ideas. Instead of a regular board meeting, at regular times, so the greater community could participate, she ignored the community and called a special board meeting for Friday, May 1 at 9 a.m. at a location to be announced 24 hours prior. That's a perfect time for all concerned to attend, correct? She effectively blocked the teachers and other district employees from attending as well as shutting out most community participation. Their intention is to hinder access and block community input so they can delay the election by picking the latest possible date. They are trying to hide and justify the late date by hindering contrary public comment. They desire to make misleading statements like the late date was the most viable and there was little or no public dissent.

Isn't this the woman who promotes community involvement and participation? Isn't this the woman who claims to be a champion for the people and a voice for the community? Isn't this the woman who claims to be an advocate and representative of the children? YES, this is that woman. She is not the person she claims to be when she knocks on your door. She is a deceiver and untrustworthy. She says what she needs to say to gain the public's trust and confidence. I'm glad the community was able to witness first hand her on-going,

underhanded and deceptive tactics. This is the Trustee Crumpton that the board and I have observed for years.

Trustee Crumpton makes her many visits on campus to cultivate a public image of a devoted, caring and concerned public servant. That is a deception intended to divert attention away from her true motives. During the 4 1/2 years trustee Crumpton has been visiting school sites, she has not once offered any constructive suggestions or made any recommendations that would improve or increase efficiency of any department she has observed. I understand that. She is not qualified. So what is the purpose of her visits? She is not on campus to be constructive, but to be destructive by destroying Andrew Alvarado. Her visits originally were intended to find fault in any area she could and blame the superintendent. She also was trying to gain favor with the district's employees so they would support her in her effort to remove Andrew. Her tactic was and is to divide and conquer. If you support her, you have her loyalty and protection. If you support Andrew, she is there to intimidate.

Let me give you an example of her loyalty to her supporters from an event that occurred about two years ago this spring. There was a special education teacher at Webster who had been in his position with the district for about six years but was receiving poor per-

formance complaints from parents. The district placed the teacher on "improvement status" and the district worked with him to improve his skill sets, but he was unable to improve to the district's standards. The district was left with no alternative and began the separation process. As part of that due process, the teacher was scheduled for an in-class evaluation. During the evaluation the teacher's wife and Trustee Crumpton walked into the classroom. Trustee Crumpton was there to evaluate the principal evaluating the teacher - intimidate, really. The principle terminated the evaluation and rescheduled for a later date. That was going to be a big problem. The teacher and his wife had invested a lot of time and training into that particular lesson and rescheduling meant there was not enough time to prepare and rehearse a new lesson plan. After six years he should not need to rehearse. The superintendent rushed over to the site and confronted Crumpton and the wife; the teacher was not exposed to the confrontation. None the less, the teacher claimed he suffered great distress and trauma from that day's events and was unable to return to work the rest of that year and was unable to complete his evaluation. That was very unfortunate for him, correct? With Trustee Crumpton's intervention, the teacher survived the school year and could not be separated for cause. Did I mention that the teacher's family were Crumpton support-

ers? The district's choice was start the year-long dismissal process over again or buy the teacher out. The district did not want to sacrifice the students' school year again so they paid. Rather than go through litigation, GVUSD paid the teacher about \$100,000 for his pain and suffering and to separate from the district. Trustee Crumpton succeeded in protecting her supporter but put the district at great legal and financial risk. Her reckless and unwarranted intrusion caused the district to suffer a great financial loss.

Trustee Crumpton should be banned from all school sites. What is the benefit of Crumpton visiting campuses? There is none, only risk. After that incident, Andrew was doing his best to restrain Crumpton and then Moseley from campuses visits. He was requiring them to follow the existing board policy. Crumpton continued to be quite irritated about those restrictions. The difference now is that she was in the majority of board members and had power. She and John collaborated and wrote a new board policy exempting board members from the procedures of the existing board policy as to campus visits. By law, board policies must be approved by a majority of the board members in a Brown Act compliant meeting. If Andrew implemented the new board policy he would be violating the

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 12

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LETTERS cont. from P. 11

law. Crumpton emailed the new policy to Andrew but he continued to resist. Crumpton complained and Moseley threatened to fire Andrew if he did not immediately comply. At that time Andrew sought legal advice. Andrew was given an ultimatum, break the law and implement the illegal board policy or be fired for insubordination. That delay enraged Moseley. The attorney advised Andrew to comply and issue the new policy to the school sites to forego a firing with cause. If Andrew was fired with cause he would have to sue the district for breach of contract in court and the burden of proof and cost of the suit would be upon him. Also the firing would be on his employment record and could be difficult to overcome in future job interviews. Because of concern for his family, future and the risk to his career, Andrew decided to have his attorney draft a MUTRAL separation agreement, NOT voluntary separation, as Moseley and Crumpton would have you believe. The board accepted 3-2. The new hostile school board members created a poisonous working environment that caused the separation of the superintendent and started the dominos tumbling. The separation cost the district \$150,000. In two years, Crumpton's reckless and unwarranted actions cost the district over a quarter of a million dollars.

Trustee Crumpton and her allies would have you believe she is a victim of a zealous bully in Andrew Alvarado. They say trustees have a right and obligation to visit classrooms and sites unannounced. I agree, except in this case. Trustee Crumpton's visits are not virtuous, as she would lead you to believe. Every time she is on campus, she puts the district and community at great risk. She is not qualified to observe, manage or lead the district in any capacity. Help me stop this hostile takeover of GVUSD. Vote these three out.

There is no time for delay. Time is our enemy. They are attempting to delay the election. Please attend all school board meetings until the election date and help me block their destructive behavior. If you are able, please attend the May 1 special board meeting and support an AUGUST 4 ELECTION DATE. Don't let President Crumpton, Trustees Moseley and Neal get away with their deceptive tactics.

Thank you for your support,

Warren Parr  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

My wife and I attended the school board meeting when the issue of firing the Superintendent was on the agenda. It was clear that the public opinion was against that action. We were puzzled and surprised that the board, elected to represent the people, chose to reject the public will.

We had tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the

school board members to find out why they were considering firing the Superintendent. All we had heard of him was that he was doing a good job. Oh, we had heard that Board Member Kathleen Crumpton had ignored the basic rules governing access to schools and classrooms, with a following conflict with the Superintendent over the issue. But that appeared to be a petty issue. In fact, if Crumpton had exercised a little humility and acted like a public servant, she would have gained respect from the community and perhaps there would not have been conflict with the Superintendent. And there would not have been a Recall.

It appeared to me that the firing of the Superintendent was a blatant example of elected officials ignoring the expressed will of their constituency. In fact, it bothered me so much that I got in touch with Warren Parr (thanks for printing his informative letter) to see how I could help in a Recall effort. We can't do much about Washington D.C or about Sacramento, but we can do something to send a warning to all local elected officials. Represent the people with responsible actions or you can be removed.

While I am writing I can't resist commenting on the rebuttal to the Recall effort which John Moseley mailed out to our district. John, you had the gall to actually say that, "The previous Superintendent was not terminated or fired ... but voluntarily exercised his right to leave the District." Come on John. I am sure you are "technically" correct. But if he had not been under the threat of being fired would he have exercised that right? We voters may be dumb, but we are not that stupid. Hopefully you will learn from this sad Recall action, how to rightly represent future voters.

My Lord Jesus once said "... whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant." I have known some important people in my lifetime. And in them I observed that humility cloaks greatness. Let's vote together to remove the three non-representing board members in the Recall Election and select as their replacements

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 20

**SEMCU**  
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## ACT Helping Dumped Puppies

By Christi McKinney

A tiny puppy initially found by the side of the road in the Ranchos by a teenager who couldn't keep her, and couldn't quickly find her a home, resulted in the first six months of her life passing through five different people's hands.

This tiny pup that we're calling "Sweet Pea" is unfortunately just one of many dogs that had a very rough beginning after being dumped in the Ranchos. Thankfully the Animal Compassion Team (ACT) came to the rescue and took her in. They will see that she gets vetted, her shots, spayed and microchipped. In the meantime she'll be fostered to socialize her with other animals and then they will find her the perfect home.

ACT's largest fundraiser of the year, the "6th Annual Puppy Palooza" is being held on May 2. They are looking for donations of raffle prizes and auction items and I was

happy to help. There are many animal lovers in the Ranchos and there are many people fostering pets for various rescue groups. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following people for contributing: Artistic Pet Salon, the Branch and Vine, Jack Carter, Maria Fotopoulos Cercone of "Pete and Maria's Italian Bistro," Kim Davis of "Kim's Birthday Party Petting Zoo," Tammy Bailey Dickens of "Pebble Nest Jewelry," Cheryl Farnesi, Dawn Hilterbrand of "Dough Ray Mi Bakery," Alyson Lasgoity of "Chateau Lasgoity Winery," Lee Kitchen, Brad McDonald, Melissa Novak Face Painting, Dana Christo Oyler, Tucky Ramirez, Sandra Robbins of "Heavenly Host Stables," Michelle Stephens, Paula Bright Stuart of "Now and Again," and The Pizza Factory.

If you're interested in attending "Puppy Palooza," call me at 559 284-4586 or email me at christimckinney@comcast.net.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

minute but it will take years – I'll say it again: YEARS – to clean it up. So do yourself a favor, protect your credit

like you protect your smart phone.

3) *The decisions you make today most assuredly will affect tomorrow.* You want a tattoo, okay. But if you want to be a professional someday maybe don't get the tattoo on your face. Think it would be hilarious to post a picture on Facebook of yourself drunk and disorderly. It's all fun and games until your future employer does a little search and finds those pictures and decides you aren't the kind of person to best represent their company. Yeah, your profile is locked down. But I can think of more than a few celebrities who thought the same thing until the entire world saw proof of their naked escapades, and I'm not talking about the ones who leaked their own tapes and pictures just to get their name on the map. I'll admit it, life was a little easier for my generation: we took a picture and it went into a box somewhere or a photo album, not online to be shared and saved a million times over.

I really do wish I would have listened to my parents all those many years ago, but at least the lessons have managed to sink in now. The bottom line here is, what you choose to do, how you choose to present yourself can come back to haunt you. You may think YOLO (You Only Live Once), but when you're cleaning up the same mess for the fifteenth time, that idiotic idiom will get really old.

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*Fixing a Slow Leak*

One day when I knelt down to get a gift bag from the container under my bed, my knees got wet. Uh oh, I thought. Sure enough, there was a leak in

the pipe under the concrete. Not a “flood the house” leak, but one that, if left unattended, would definitely cause damage. Water belongs under the carpet and padding and concrete, and inside a pipe, not seeping through and messing up the bedroom.

If we chose to dry the carpet, replace the pad, but not fix the pipe we would soon be in the same soggy situation. Finding and fixing the leak proved to be the most difficult and costly part of the project, but essential.

When de-cluttering and organizing your bedroom the same is true. It’s often a slow leak of things seeping into your room that creates the problem. It may be stuff that gets dropped when you arrive at home — your bag of “treasures” from the Home and Garden Show; a packet of information from your doctor visit; or a shopping bag of gifts for an upcoming birthday. It may be clothes and shoes that seep out of your closet onto

the floor, bed, or chair. Books and magazines piled and waiting to be read. A half-finished sewing project ... you get the picture.

The end result is a catchall room instead of a bedroom. The bedroom’s main purpose is to provide a place to rest and sleep. When you walk into your bedroom, what message does it send to you? Is it, “Look at all the stuff waiting to be taken care of?” If so, then it’s not a place of rest.

To create an atmosphere that supports a restful environment we must dry the carpet (de-clutter) and stop the leak (establish new habits). Here’s what you’ll need for the first part: laundry bags/baskets for dirty clothes, trash bag for trash, a bag or box for donate and another for relocate. Make sure these containers are clearly marked so if you get interrupted half-way through your project, you know exactly what each bag or box is for

when you come back to it.

Start with the items on the bed. If they’re clothes ask yourself, “Do I love this? Is it something I feel good wearing?” If the answer is yes, and it’s clean, hang it. If yes and it’s dirty, put it in the dirty clothes container. If no, donate! Use your containers accordingly for the rest of the items on your bed, leaving only those things that belong in your room, but are homeless.

Next go to the doorway and move clockwise around the room, clearing the floor with the same process. Everything you wear must pass the “love it” and “feel good wearing it” test (including shoes, belts, hats, scarves, etc.) before being put away, otherwise they get donated.

Items that serve a purpose in the bedroom,

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 16



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# Golden Valley Chamber

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## 2015 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 9, 2015 • \$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 1** 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.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

FLOAT TO SPECTATORS • IF YOU HAVE GIVEAWAYS YOU MUST WALK THE PARADE ROUTE •

## The 25th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 25th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 9 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 of this article and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library.

### Chamber Mixer

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce our next mixer sponsored by the **Ranchos/Hills Seniors**  
**37330 Berkshire Dr. • Madera Ranchos**  
Wednesday, May 13 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is helping a new business open its doors with a **Ribbon Cutting**  
**The Branch & Vine Fruit Barn**  
**38802 Ave. 12 • Madera Ranchos**  
date & time to be announced

### Join the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Making our community attractive to businesses is crucial to making a better community for us all. Businesses bring jobs and money to our area. The increased tax base reflects in improvements for our schools and our community. You can be a part of directing the future of the community you live in through membership.

*The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce always meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.*  
**37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C, Madera Ranchos • Call 645-4001 for more information.**

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Senior Report

# Seniors Announce More Spring Events

By Patti Groh

Another year's Home & Garden Festival is finished. What a fantastic group effort of the seniors. To the individuals who worked so hard, I thank you immensely. It sure was a beautiful day. It is a very economical place to sell at only \$20-\$25 a space. If you have a craft or a product to sell, please consider participating next year.

Do you readers realize how busy and active the seniors are? Every week there is an exercise program on M-W-F from 10 to 11 a.m. On Thursday evening at 6 p.m. there is a potluck with poker and other games afterward. A newsletter is available every month with "all" the good information in it. It's available at the Seniors Center, the Ranchos Market and other businesses around the Ranchos.

Special activities in March included a St. Patrick's Day dinner. Lots of people enjoyed a great meal and good conversation. A group of seniors attended the "In the Mood" concert at the Tower Theater. We made and sold Easter baskets, too.

Lots of special happenings in April as

well. Of course, there was the Home & Garden Festival and "Oklahoma" at Liberty High. I think the Taste of the Ranchos at Branch & Vine on April 18 is going to be awesome. Then, to top it all off, a lot of us are going to the North Fork Fireman's BBQ fundraiser on April 25th.

Carol Wood is working up ideas for the seniors' entry in the Flatlanders Day parade, May 9. It is the 25th anniversary of Flatlanders and that is the theme this year. If you have any great ideas for our entry, contact Carol.

The Seniors Center is hosting the Chamber of Commerce mixer at the center on Wednesday, May 13 at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

I am very happy to have the seniors group to call my friends. Did you know that at 55 years of age, you are eligible to join? We would all love to meet you and call you friend.

If you would like any more information about the Ranchos/Hills Seniors or if you have any questions, please call at (559) 645-4864. The center is located at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos.

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ORGANIZED cont. from P. 14

but don't have a designated home, may be temporarily placed on the bed. All others go into the dirty laundry, trash, donate or relocate containers.

If your project is taking longer than an hour, stop at one hour and put away your relocate items and set a timer for a short break. Then come back and continue going around the room, first the floor and then the flat surfaces.

If one of the reasons you have left clothes out is because your drawers are jammed full, then continue the purge process with your drawers, eliminating the items you never use and the single socks that have lived without mates for years.

Designate specific drawers for underwear, socks, PJs, etc., so that you will know where to put and find these items. Also designate homes for the homeless items left on the bed, creating places in the closet or dresser. Label the top edge of drawers,

the front of shelves and containers to ensure consistency with item placement.

Once everything has a home, relocate the rest of the items, take out the trash and put the donate bags in your car for drop-off.

Now fix the slow leak. Remember that it's the daily "I'll just put this here for now" that creates the piles and costs you your restful atmosphere. Be mindful about what you carry into your room and if it belongs there don't put it down – put it away.

Start the day with making your bed and end the day with clearing your floor and flat surfaces. Sleep well.

Contact Brenda McElroy at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729. You can also call her at 559-871-3314 or email her at info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also visit www.organizedbychoice.com online.

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**BOARD cont. from P. 10**

didn't think a violation had occurred in the past, he was surprised when the subject of dismissing Superintendent Alvarado was raised at the Jan. 20, 2015 Board meeting. Regardless, Kelly, who considers himself a strong competitor, has as his main objective to see that GVUSD "remains headed in the right direction" in terms of both academic and athletic performance. He said you know when you're part of a successful organization and the district has been outstanding from the outset.

**Moseley's Motivation**

John Moseley, a newly elected Board member who began service on the Board last December, works as a private contractor by day to conduct investigations for the Public Employees Relations Board, a state government agency that helps protect the rights of public employees. Moseley, who has

*[Trustee Mike Kelly] said you know when you're part of a successful organization and the district has been outstanding from the outset.*

lived in the Ranchos for over 35 years, said that he was motivated to become a GVUSD Board member after he encountered inadequate middle school playground facilities. He said while in attendance at his daughter's soccer game at the play field in the nursery across the street from the school, he observed that there were no drinking fountains or toilets. Moseley raised his concerns at a school Board meeting, he said, but Superintendent Alvarado dismissed them. And so, at the encouragement and recommendations of friends and neighbors, he decided to try to get on the Board himself.

Moseley said that the focus of the job for Board members is to try to ensure the best education possible "for our students" by writing fair policies that respond to the district's constituencies while remaining within the confines of California mandates and "our budget." Regarding his main duties, he said, "Be accessible. My number is in the book and I will meet and talk about issues and complaints such as proper education, services, even bus stop safety." Like Kelly, Moseley said he didn't want to get into the details

of how a teacher instructs. He said, "Leave that to the professionals, the principals and the superintendent. I work with the management team, the superintendent and the Directors of Maintenance and Operations and of Transportation" on issues of safety and the like to "utilize their best advice."

**Crumpton Focused on Service**

Kathleen Crumpton, a Board member of more than four years in the GVUSD, wrote in an email response that her focus is on service for students and their families with the objective of "providing the best education for our students that our budget can provide." She wrote her main duties are "listening to the people who elected me, bringing their ideas and concerns to the Board table, as well as working with the other Board members and

the management team." In terms of her personal goal, she wrote, "To learn everything (I) can and interact with the people (I) serve to know their needs and make a difference." By example of how she has made a difference, she listed several repairs she had helped facilitate including broken curtains with missing slats and getting more wood chips placed on the playground. She also wrote, "We no longer have parking fees at our high school because I was able to bring student and parent complaints to the Board."

**Governance Team Remuneration**

In terms of compensation, the GVUSD superintendent earns \$130,000 per year and that is the additional amount that was paid in a lump sum to former Superintendent Alvarado as a condition of being dismissed for no specific reason.

All the Board members have been given electronic tablets in order to participate in electronic Board meetings. The Board members may also choose to accept \$240 per month as well as the same health and welfare benefits offered to all the school district employees. All five Board members have chosen to receive the \$240 monthly stipend. Mike Kelly and Steven Lewis have chosen to

Please see **BOARD** on P. 19

**FREE COMMUNITY ALERT!**

LOW FLOW FIXTURES TO BE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTH-EAST MADERA

SEM CU (South East Madera County United) has recently been awarded a grant for over \$200,000 from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the distribution and installation of low flow water fixtures for residences principally located within the SEMCU operating area of Madera County.

Qualified landowners receiving water from private, residential wells encouraged to contact us via email at [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org) as the award allows for the installation of 20 water meters free of charge. All installations will be completed by a license professional acting in accordance with all applicable local/state/federal codes.

The number of fixtures provided by this grant, including faucet aerators and shower heads, is limited and may only be distributed to qualified residents within the project's operating area. Distribution of these items will be made on a first come, first serve basis to qualified applicants.

Further information to be circulated to the community in the coming weeks.  
[www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) (559)363-9095

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METER cont. from P. 3

road projects would be delayed, and that it would take taxpayers five to six years to pay off the loan through collection of regular monthly water service fees (that would not be increased to pay for the loan). He also told the board he had worked out the loan with the County tax collector at a very good interest rate of less than 1 percent. In an interview afterward, Hoevertsz said his current estimate was to get the Dublin Well online by June — adding a couple months to the most previous estimate of April of this year — because of contractor disputes and having to obtain a loan for funding. Hoevertsz, who had also obtained consensus from the Madera Ranchos Water System Committee, met with a committee representative and all of the contractors at the well site the day after the board meeting to kick off the final construction project.

**Dublin Well Costs to Date**

Added to the cost of construction by Grizzly of the Dublin Well piping and electrical connections, control panel, Sensus water meter, variable frequency back-up generator, compound and perimeter fencing, are those that have already been paid by those on the Water System for construction and pump testing of the well itself, three monitoring wells onsite, mitigation analysis to determine and pay for impacts to nearby private wells, and purchase of the well site property all for \$710,420, a figure which includes \$210,000 for consultation by Wood Rogers and \$65,000 for their development of the property improvement and system specifications that were used for the bid that Grizzly won.

All told, rate payers are looking at a bill of about \$2 million, including a 10 percent contingency for Grizzly, all before a single drop of water is added to the antiquated 50-year-old system for which the County has sought a \$15 million grant or loan for from the state in order to replace it and add water meters at each connection. Hoevertsz said

he did not know the status of the Application for Construction Funds the county had made to the State Revolving Fund in 2013 or whether the County was still eligible for it. Nor did he know the status of either of the potential storage tank sources for MD-10A — either from a project for Valley Teen Ranch for which a grant is being sought and which includes a new well and a storage tank for MD-10A, or for the Liberty Village Shopping Center project, across from Liberty High School, which also includes a storage tank for MD-10A. Meanwhile, without any system storage, Hoevertsz is very mindful of the upcoming dry and hot season. He said his first priority is to make sure people can flush their toilets and then that they have potable water.

**If and When It Rains ...**

Both Hoevertsz and Frazier acknowledged that no progress had been made in the Ranchos for water banking, for when substantial rain does fall and there is an opportunity to capture it by creating recharge basins like they have in Fresno. Though Frazier did say he was working on a free project using both private and public resources. Frazier also plans to begin regular Town Hall meetings that will be held quarterly initially and then monthly after he gets fully up to speed in his new position and has more information to share. In the meantime, while his County provided website remains blank, he will also continue using his campaign website, [www.BrettFrazier.org](http://www.BrettFrazier.org), to communicate with his constituents.

More details about MD-10A, the Dublin Well, the new water metering and monitoring ordinances, and monthly Water System Committee meetings are available at the Committee website [www.ranchoswater.org](http://www.ranchoswater.org). Notices of these and other community meetings and events will be provided automatically to those who “like” the Ranchos Independent Facebook site and choose “Get Notifications” under the “Liked” menu.

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

**RECIPE** cont. from P. 9

Republican Dessert.

*Strawberry Pizza*

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

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

*Second Layer:*

- 1 Pkg. (8 oz) Cream Cheese – softened
- ½ C Powdered Sugar
- 2 C Sliced Strawberries

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

*Top Layer:*

- 1 C Sugar
- ¼ C Cornstarch
- 2 C Crushed Strawberries

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

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

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

*Editor*

**BOARD** cont. from P. 17

receive health benefits.

*Recall Election Status*

According to David Sullivan, Madera County Chief Assistant County Clerk-Recorder, the County Clerk's office received the required number of signatures on the recall election petitions for Board members John Moseley, Kathleen Crumpton, and Carla Neal on April 3 and issued Certificates of Sufficiency to all concerned parties on April 10, 2014.

According to "A Guide to Recall for County, School District, Special District and Local Judicial Offices," which was prepared by the Madera County Clerk-Recorder Rebecca Martinez and revised in March, 2015, within 14 days after the meeting at which the governing body (the GVUSD School Board) considers the certificate of sufficiency received from the Office of the County Elections Official, the governing body is to issue an order calling the election. If the governing body fails to act within those 14 days, the

County Elections Official shall call for the election within five days. The election must be held between 88 and 125 days from the date of the order.

When the recall election is held, possibly as early as the second week of August, 2015, it will cost somewhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000 according to Sullivan.

*Status of GVUSD*

*Superintendent Position*

On April 21, 2015 the GVUSD Board voted to hire Interim Superintendent Kevin Hatch as the permanent superintendent as of July 1, 2015. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Board can meet Hatch's terms particularly in light of the fact that he saw his former boss booted with no notice and only 12 months of pay as compensation. Commonly the compensation for cancelling a superintendent's contract without cause is more than 12 months of pay. What's more, as he contemplates the Board's offer, Hatch will have to decide whether he wants to be an ongoing part of GVUSD's current governance team.

*The Bookshelf*

**Library Says Get Caught Reading**

By Amanda Judd

Spring is in full bloom and the library has been beaming right along with the sunshine. We are coming to the close of April and bringing in the month of May with great anticipation. This is a very busy time for the library; it is very exciting.

May 9 is the annual Flatlander's Day and there are only a few available slots remaining for the Craft Fair. If you are interested in being a vendor, don't wait until it's too late. These spaces will be filled on a first come first serve basis. You may contact the library directly for information pertaining to the Craft Fair.

May is officially "Get Caught Reading Month." Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. It was launched in 1999 and is supported by the Association of American Publishers. What better way to celebrate than attending the Flatlander's Craft Fair, stopping by the Friends of the Ranchos Library Book Sale and stocking up on a vast array of books. You can make the celebration last through the whole year. So grab some books and see if you can get caught reading.

Tax season has now passed, however we still have tax forms available – but please remember the IRS did not

print federal instruction booklets this year. We will be placing the forms behind the Reference Desk and if you need the tax table for your income range it can be printed out for you at no charge.

We have been gearing up for our Summer Reading Program. If you will recall, this year we are going to Read to the Rhythm. We will be exploring music, movement and books. We will cover the links between experiencing tone, melody and lyrics and how it affects the acquisition of early literacy. Remember to focus on reading and prevent the backslide that can happen during those summer months while our minds sit idle and we focus on the pool and barbecues.

As always, the library staff is here to help you with any questions you may have and help you to find that book you have been looking for.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 12

people who will reflect their importance by a spirit of humility and responsibility.

Knute Hansston  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Five people resigned from the Madera Ranchos Water System Committee last week and all five of us gave the same reason why we were quitting. Simply put, it was because of bullying. No, this isn't a playground story – it just happened, right here in the Ranchos, among supposed adults.

The bullying began a year ago, and has only increased in volume and severity since. The Committee members are all volunteers with NO power beyond "advising" the County Supervisors. Bound by state law and rules of protocol, we became sitting ducks for those few among us who have no boundaries and have only hate and anger to share with their fellow citizens. Telephone calls and emails full of accusations, insults and even threats would come at any time of the day or night, sometimes five or six times within five minutes. Another trick for these abusers was to drive slowly past our homes (maybe hoping to catch us watering on the wrong day?) They actually seem to prefer to do their verbal assaults in public; they need an audience to see them "do their thing." These assaults often included repeating public accusations of wrong that had already been proven to be false; they seem to believe if you say a lie often and loudly enough it becomes "truth."

So insecure within themselves, some people must always be "right," no matter what the facts are. They have deemed themselves the only people in the Ranchos capable of "running things" around here and will go to great lengths to try and convince others of their "truth." "Secret video tapes," unseen but often quoted documents, "Someone told me . . ." - these are their tools and their "proof."

One of the harder "truths" Committee members were forced to accept was that the Supervisor of District 1, who had appointed the seven Committee members and formally created the Committee, condoned and excused this bullying at every meeting he attended. He preferred to meet and talk with this "grass roots support group" in private between regular Committee meetings; he rarely, if ever, had any contact with the actual Committee members. The bullies controlled the last five meetings because of this; the Committee had not accomplished a single business item on our agendas for four months before we resigned. We also had to watch citizens who came to our meetings for information and help get up and walk out when the abusive, hostile "speeches" began. They, like us, saw no value in wasting the

evening listening to rants and complaints, while never hearing one suggestion on how to move forward to improve our system.

The effects of days and weeks and months and years of this treatment tempted several of us to throw in the towel quite a while ago. None of us did though – we wanted to be able to stand the sight of ourselves in the mirror every morning. We have not lost our interest and drive to ensure a clean, reliable source of water for our community, but we did not plan on being victims of bullying either.

These bullies think only of "winning" and control; they do not speak for (or care about) the majority of ratepayers who just want to see stability and reliability returned to our system. What they forgot is that, with our resignations, we are again free to meet with others who actually listen, discuss and solve problems; not boast, take credit for the work of others and sow dissent, hostility and negativity wherever they go. We're not going away, we are simply free now to do what we believe is right.

I did not know either of my worst tormentors until I became involved with the Water Committee late in 2012, but I have come to learn this volunteer group is just the latest of several groups they have poisoned, subverted and destroyed in the Ranchos. Their anger is such that I fear there will be others they will continue to bully and harass. I, for one, do not plan to ever work with them again unless they drastically change their unacceptable behavior. There are so many good people in the Ranchos to work with and I look forward to helping make this community a better place to live.

Goodbye bullies – you are already in my rear view mirror. It is nice to step into the light again and I plan to enjoy it as long as I can. Someone asked me after my resignation how I felt after all the fuss was over with. My response was: "Free!"

Michele Roberts  
Madera Ranchos

*The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.*

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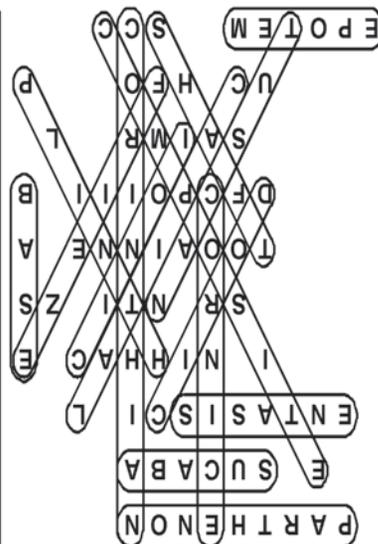
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9	1	3	5	4	6	7	2	8
8	5	7	2	1	3	6	4	9
6	9	1	4	3	7	5	8	2
3	8	4	1	5	2	9	7	6
7	2	5	9	6	8	4	1	3
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5	4	8	3	9	1	2	6	7

REPAVED	TRASH	LOCATED
EMOTIONAL	SASHA	IRELAND
HIPPERSONA	SPRINTS	THICKETS
ALFIPERSNA	SPRINTS	THICKETS
SILLO	ODD	ATMS
HEYPROTEIN	HATON	NEARTH
REP	SNO	ENRY
ASSAYED	EAR	LEVER
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HENINDO	UBT	HALES
MARLEE	TRAP	NAM
PALACE	ATRA	TIEA
REGULAR	HEEL	SAND
CREMONA	ALLOY	ENEMIES
ASSEMENTS	MYLES	MESTRO

2	x	7	+	6	20
+	-	-	+	+	27
9	x	4	-	9	13
x	x	x	+	+	23
1	x	5	+	8	15
11		15			



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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.

	x		+		20
+		-		+	
	x		-		27
x		x		+	
	x		+		13
11		15		23	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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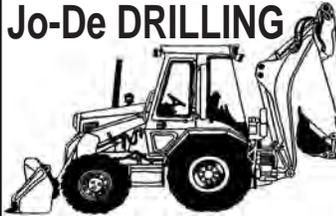
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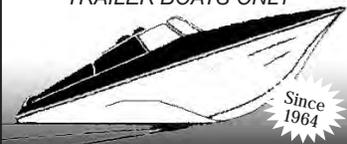
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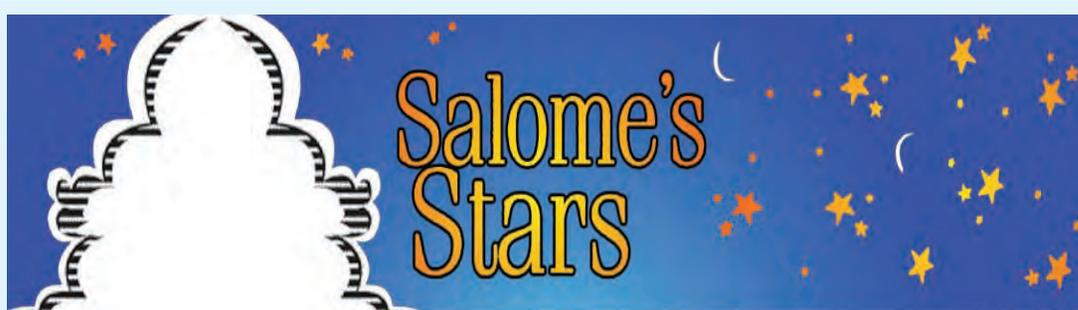
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The Lamb is usually excited about taking on a new challenge, but if that's a touch of doubt you're feeling, maybe it's you telling yourself to go slow until you learn more.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Accepting new commitments when you haven't yet finished the batch on hand could be a bit rash. Ease up on the new ones until you get further along the old ones.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Reward yourself for what's sure to be a dynamic week with a getaway to someplace wonderful, hopefully with a wonderful someone. You'll return refreshed and ready for what's ahead.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Some people might be anxious about your plans. So you need to take time to explain what you expect to do and how you expect do it. And don't forget to ask for suggestions.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Dealing with an unfamiliar problem can be difficult. The wisest course you can take is to ask for advice from those who have been where you are and have come through it. Good luck.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Tackle a frustrating job problem by considering possibilities you might have ignored before. This reassures colleagues you're serious about finding a solution, even if it's not totally yours.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your balanced approach to life proves to be helpful this week when someone you care for needs your spiritual comfort, while someone else benefits from your tough-love practicality.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Once again, you're likely to be asked to keep a secret for someone. But do you really want to do so? Be honest with yourself and with your needs before you make any such commitment.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Taking a more direct approach from the more diplomatic one you've used before could make a difference in finally resolving a too-long-held disagreement. Try it.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Being asked for advice is flattering to the Sea Goat, who habitually says the right thing. Expect to especially impress someone who'll act on that sentiment.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) With a number of pressures easing, your project could be making a lot more progress than you expected by this time. That's great news. But don't let yourself be distracted; stay with it.

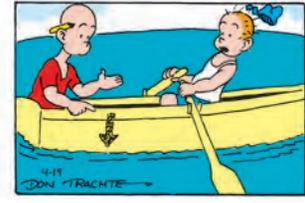
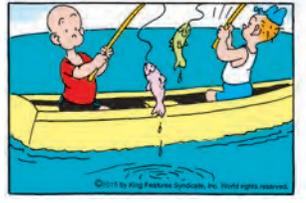
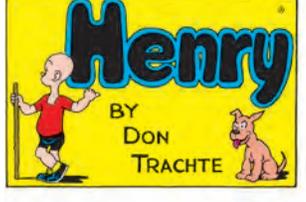
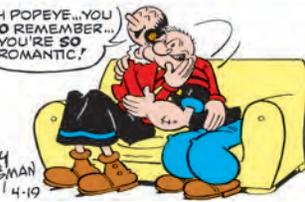
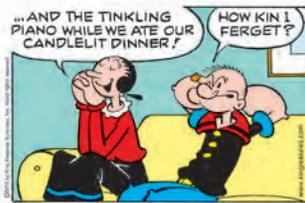
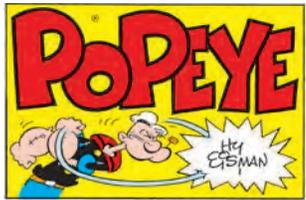
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) An interesting challenge looms that could be exactly what you've been looking for. Discuss this with colleagues who could have much to contribute and who might want to join with you.

## Born this Week

Your heart is always open to offer loving concern for others.  
And they, in turn, reach out to complete the circle.

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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



CARIBOU LODGE WENT BIG BUCKS TO BOOK FAMOUS GENERAL ARMAND ME MEDAL AS GUEST SPEAKER... BUT IT ALL GOES FOR NAUGHT WHEN BROTHER JERKLEY HOGS THE MIKE...

Thank to S. WARNER, KANSAS CITY, MO.



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**PIG DEAL!** Let's say you are a farmer and that you have two pigs in each of the eight pens shown at right. That is a total of 16 pigs, with six on each side. Now, let's say your stock is increased by four pigs for a total of 20. How is it also possible to house the 20 pigs with six on each side? Time limit: 2 minutes.

One pig in each corner, four in the center, will do it.

C	H	E	S	T
H	S	T		
E	S	T		
S	T			
T				

ALL A's! Five of the 50 U.S. state capitals have names that begin with the letter A. How quickly can you identify at least three of them?

Albany, NY; Annapolis, MD; Augusta, GA; Austin, TX; Atlanta, GA; Augusta, ME.

**WELL BEGUN EXERCISE**

Well begun is half done. 'Tis said, and indeed, more than half the letters of this word square are already in place. Let's see then if you can fill in the rest. Definitions in order, from top down, follow:

ice container (CHEST, in place).  
Proverbial waste-maker.  
Poly follower.  
Ups and downs of stairways.  
To the point.  
Remember, words of a word square read alike both across and down.

**FACE LIFT!** How many faces do you observe in and about the circus car above? Twenty, 24, as many as 27? Make a count.



**FISH TALE!** Gotcha! Or will this be the big one that got away? Add these colors: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Purple.

**SPELLBINDER**

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

MARIGOLD

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

## Wishing Well

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

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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**ASSOCIATED WITH COLUMNS**

MAGIC MAZE

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

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

Abacus	Corinthian	Frieze	Plinth
Base	Cornice	Ionic	Shaft
Capital	Doric	Metope	Tuscan
Composite	Entasis	Parthenon	

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## TRIVIA TEST

- By Fifi Rodriguez
- PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president graduated from Southwest Texas State Teachers College?
  - ASTRONOMY: Which planet rotates on its axis once every 243 Earth days?
  - TELEVISION: On "M\*A\*S\*H," what was the real name of the character called "Hawkeye" Pierce?
  - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which year's World's Fair had the theme of "The World of Tomorrow"?
  - LITERATURE: Who wrote the non-fiction book "Working"?
  - HISTORY: What was the date of the stock market's "Black Tuesday" in 1929?
  - MOVIES: What movie based on a Henry Fielding novel won the 1963 Oscar for Best Picture?
  - RELIGION: Which book of the Bible first describes how God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses?
  - GEOGRAPHY: Where is Prudhoe Bay?
  - MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Roman goddess of the hearth?

- Answers**
- Lyndon Johnson
  - Venus
  - Benjamin Franklin Pierce
  - 1939
  - Studs Terkel
  - Oct. 29
  - "Tom Jones"
  - Exodus
  - Alaska
  - Vesta
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Click on "Local News" at

### Amber Waves

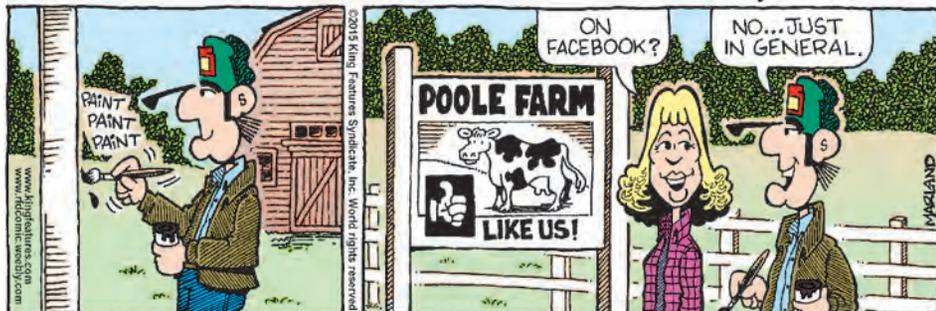
by Dave T. Phipps



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### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

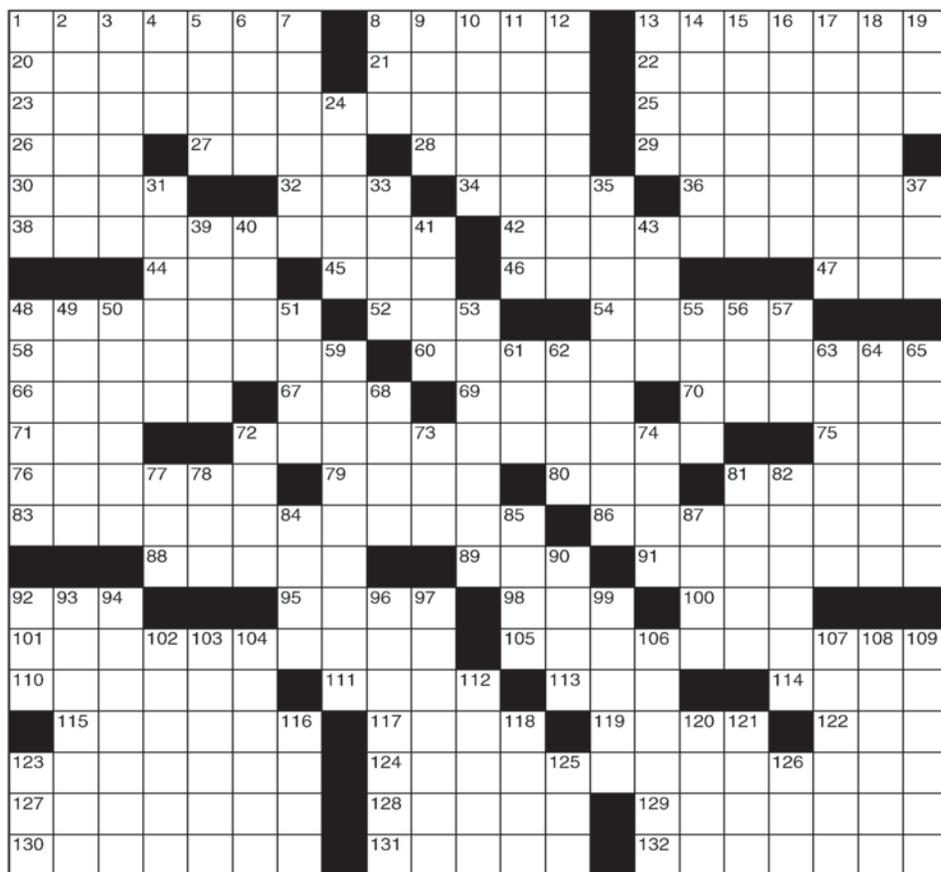
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

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Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Cornerstone is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Book is missing. 6. Freeping is missing.

## Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Laid fresh concrete on
  - 8 Waste
  - 13 Found
  - 20 Like gushing actors
  - 21 Malia's sister
  - 22 Kildare locale
  - 23 More with-it red fish?
  - 25 Runs fast
  - 26 1980s NBC sitcom
  - 27 "Teh" for "the," for one
  - 28 Jazzy singing
  - 29 "Growing Pains" actor
  - 30 Tower for fodder
  - 32 Uncanny
  - 34 24-hr. money sources
  - 36 Japan natives, e.g.
  - 38 "Lookie there, muscle-building stuff!"
  - 42 Terrestrial chapeau?
  - 44 Dem.'s opponent
  - 45 --cone (frozen treat)
  - 46 "Just you wait, -- 'iggins ..."
  - 47 Near-failing mark
  - 48 Analyzed
  - 52 Cochlea site
  - 54 "Will -- learn?!"
  - 58 Beer brand
  - 60 Microwave saltines?
  - 66 Orchestra section
  - 67 -- Moines
  - 69 Old Spice alternative
  - 70 Reagan speechwriter
  - 71 Cyberspace address
  - 72 Pars?
  - 75 Lose power
  - 76 "Later!"
  - 79 Arduous trip
  - 80 Suffix with Japan
  - 81 45 half
  - 83 "My gripe is as follows ..."
  - 86 Coup, e.g.
  - 88 Lay new turf on
  - 89 Not well-lit
  - 91 Crab claws
  - 92 Bullfighting cheer
  - 95 Gaudy scarves
  - 98 Be soaked
  - 100 Zool. or ecol.
  - 101 Skeptical egg layer?
  - 105 Disease-free sea
  - 110 Actress
  - 112 Mattin
  - 111 Rat catcher
  - 113 '60s conflict site
  - 114 "Star Wars" royal
  - 115 Royal home
  - 117 Gillette
  - 118 shaver brand
  - 119 "-- yellow ribbon round ..."
  - 122 Journalist
  - 123 Not unusual
  - 124 Things found at discount
  - 127 Italian city
  - 128 Steel, for one
  - 129 Adversaries
  - 130 Agrees (to)
  - 131 "Black Velvet" singer
  - 132 Orchestra leader
  - 2 Mrs. Oskar Schindler
  - 3 Easy-to-catch hit
  - 4 Org. for Rafael Nadal
  - 5 -- Cong
  - 6 "-- Time We Say Goodbye"
  - 7 Dictator
  - 8 Air marshal's org.
  - 9 Copies Dr. Dre
  - 10 U.S. humane org.
  - 11 Put away, as a sword
  - 12 "NewsRadio" co-star Phil
  - 13 Shopping aid
  - 14 Oliver Twist, e.g.
  - 15 Bright red
  - 16 Silverstone or Keys
  - 17 Tall ale mug
  - 18 International compact
  - 19 Cavity filler's deg.
  - 24 Branching-out points
  - 31 "-- Next Chapter" (Winfrey series)
  - 33 Eat in style
  - 35 Least lenient
  - 37 "-- loves me ..."
  - 39 California's Point --
  - 40 Astra automaker
  - 41 Biblical ark
  - 43 -- and terminer
  - 48 Waylay
  - 49 "Yes, --!"
  - 50 Peak climber, e.g.
  - 51 Dumbbell
  - 53 Chastised
  - 55 SUV cousins
  - 56 Prefix with warrior
  - 57 "Bringing Up Baby" studio
  - 59 Sang loudly
  - 61 Radius site
  - 62 Part of CRT
  - 63 Alternative to lettuce
  - 64 Oakland footballer
  - 65 Smiles villainously
  - 68 Dinar earner
  - 72hovels
  - 73 Once named
  - 74 Lop the crop
  - 77 "-- goin' down!"
  - 78 Suffix of sugars
  - 81 Pianist's seat
  - 82 Communal
  - 84 Boxcar rider
  - 85 Bait biter
  - 87 Smack
  - 90 Complain
  - 92 Unit of resistance
  - 93 Frogs and kangaroos
  - 94 Angers a lot
  - 96 Patriarch of Judaism
  - 97 Majestic
  - 99 Juan's silver
  - 102 Enlighten, in poems
  - 103 Kevin of "Saturday Night Live"
  - 104 Pour gently, as wine
  - 106 "Relapse" rapper
  - 107 Hang a new worm on
  - 108 Word with app or bee
  - 109 Makes the assertion
  - 112 Green shampoo
  - 116 Periods
  - 118 Burn balm
  - 120 Ferber or Krabappel
  - 121 Chick chaser?
  - 123 Nipper's co. Abbr.
  - 125 Procedure: lengths
  - 126 Dash lengths
- DOWN**
- 1 Go over again, as old issues

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