

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢



California's Newest Assemblywoman Talks with the Ranchos

*With the big shoes
of Mike Villines to fill,
Dr. Linda Halderman
steps in to represent
the Ranchos and all of
California's State
Assembly District 29*

Photo by Randy Bailey

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Dr. Linda Halderman, left, the new Assemblywoman for the Ranchos, answers questions with the help of Frank Bigelow, Madera County District 1 Supervisor.

By Randy Bailey

"I made the decision to run based on a great love for California," said Dr. Linda Halderman, the newly elected Assemblywoman for the 29 District that encompasses the Ranchos. And with those opening words began a 90 minute talk with area residents at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Assemblywoman Halderman Speaks

"I think this is the greatest place in the world; no place I'd rather be," she said, "but it's hurting now."

Stating that she is basically an optimist, Halderman began by suggesting that perhaps what California needs at this time is "different" people in the Assembly, as opposed to the same old crowd that has gotten us where we are today. Citing, as an example, California's bureaucracies that waste time and money by putting up hurdles to people who want to start businesses in the state and prevent new jobs from being created. "Bureaucracies that create regulations; regulations that we don't need and that we don't benefit from and that cost us a great deal of money," she said. "I don't think that's the purpose of my government."

Halderman has an insight to the workings of Sacramento that other new Assembly members may not share, having worked there as a policy advisor in the area of medicine. What she finds the most alarming about Sacramento is that there is so often the opportunity to good for the people of the state, but often decisions

are made that end up hurting the majority of the people while a select few benefit. That is what she wants to do something about.

Halderman's talk encompassed everything from her disdain for A.B. 32 to the California Air Research Board's overstepping of its mandate to the job lobbyists do for seniors (a mighty good job, Halderman states). In the end, she stressed that it was important to remember who was working for whom.

"I know who I work for ... I work for you," Halderman said, stressing that a key element for her is that all of the money that comes into Sacramento is not the government's money. "It's your money." She stressed that having been a business owner, she understands that every dollar that comes in reflects that somewhere, someone had to go to work to generate that dollar.

Looking forward to her future in the Assembly, she feels she has selected very good people to work with who will be responsive to us, her constituents. But her bottom line never changes. "I work for you."

It's Official: Board Sworn In



Golden Valley Unified Superintendent Sarah Koligian, left, presents School Board members Mark Toole, Mona Diaz, Mike Kelly, Brian Freeman and Kathleen Crumpton.

By Randy Bailey

As a result of the November election in the Ranchos, one incumbent and two newcomers were sworn in to the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees on Monday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

Outgoing board member and board president Roger Schuh swore in incumbent Mona Diaz and freshmen trustees Brian Freeman and Kathleen Crumpton and then Schuh and outgoing trustee Steven Lewis vacated their seats and the new members were seated.

Trustee Mark Toole was elected board president and Mike Kelly was elected board clerk.

Trustees serve a four-year term and are responsible for shaping the direction of Golden Valley Unified School District.

Ranchos Pee Wee Hawks New Underdog Champs



By Christi McKinney

"It felt amazing after we won the championship. We came into the playoffs as the underdogs but came out as the champions," said Jerrod Weldon, quarterback of the 2010 Madera Ranchos Tri County Youth Football team Pee Wee Division Champion Hawks, who won the Division Championship by defeating the Firebaugh "Falcons" 26-6 on Nov. 20.

"This is the first championship won by a Madera Ranchos team for any division since the Tri County league began in 2002," said Head Coach Jim Santa Cruz.

The Pee Wee division is for Ranchos Youth, ages 8-10, and there are 16 teams in the league. Going into the finals, the Ranchos "Hawks" were seeded eighth, or the bottom seed. They were pitted first Please see **CHAMPS** on P. 7

Ranchos Vet Posts Anti-War Message with Profanity

By Christi McKinney

"We didn't learn s#*t from Vietnam. Bring our troops home now!"

The uncensored version of this sentiment is currently displayed on a billboard on Road 36 just north of Avenue 15 in front of the Madera Ranchos home of retired Vietnam Veteran Sam Conductor. When asked why he chose to use this arena to so eloquently utilize his First Amendment rights, Conductor said, "I'm tired of picking up the newspaper every day and seeing another body coming home from the war." When asked whether he was concerned about exposing children to this profanity every day on their way to and from school, Conductor said, "They see and hear worse things than that on TV every day and they often speak like that at school."

"The sign had been on the property for quite awhile," said Conductor, however the day that the current message was posted Madera County received complaints. This caused the County Road Department to require that the sign be moved further back onto their property because the County had a 40-foot easement. Conductor added dozens of flags to the display for Veteran's day but just three days after Veteran's Day the sign was vandalized with paint balls and a hammer. Conductor said the vandalism had been reported to the Sheriff's department, then noted, "We can watch groups of people burning the American flag and spitting on it, and I get chastised from posting my opinion!" Despite a number of detractors, Conductor says he's had a solid six people stop to

thank him for putting it up. There are also people who honk when they go by to express their support.

Conductor retired to the Ranchos 23 years ago after 25 years of decorated service in the Navy. He states that he fully understood the reason for the current war. "We were there with one mission - that was to capture Osama bin Laden. But now we're over there trying to save people that don't want our help. We should have gone there but using a much heavier hand, then we would have accomplished our mission and gotten out of there!"

Conductor did several tours in Vietnam. He retired with a Vietnam Service Medal with four stars and a Navy achievement Medal with a combat Medal of Valor and a Gold Star.

Local News & Corrections

1. The story *Family Tragedy Finds Comfort in Ranchos Community* in the November issue was written by Christi McKinney. Her name was inadvertently left off the story. She also **did not** take the picture of Sgt. McKenna arriving by helicopter. That picture was provided to her.
2. **Beginning in January**, Ken May from Assemblywoman Linda Halderman's office will be in the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office on **the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Take advantage of this opportunity.**
3. **There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.** at the Madera County Board of Supervisors to consider the **adoption of the Avenue 12 ENHANCEMENT plan.**

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Letter to the Community

North Fork Rancheria Resort Project Update

December 2010

'Tis the Season for our Annual Progress Report

Madera and the North Fork Rancheria have work side-by-side for nearly 7 years to build a destination hotel and casino resort that will generate JOBS, COMMUNITY FUNDING, and BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY. It's time again to update our community partners on our progress.

What's the Project Status?

Awaiting final approval. With the release of the Final Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in August, we crossed a major development milestone. At this time all of the necessary federal applications and paperwork are complete and in the hands of the decision makers in Washington DC.

Will the Project happen?

Yes! We remain convinced that the project will move forward based on its strong technical merits including its favorable impact on the community, strong local support, and historical connections to the land, adherence to the letter and spirit of the law.

The favorable decisions we expect and need to begin construction could be made at any time. At the same time, our project has experienced delay at the federal level due to political forces unrelated to our Tribe or the merits of our project. We hope to see real progress in 2011 – stay tuned!

What can You do to help?

Support us! Go to our web site and complete a support form. Let your elected representatives know - seven years of federal review is long enough, it is time to approve the proposed North Fork project. The citizens of both the tribe and Madera County have waited long enough and deserve this opportunity.

We seek the same rights and opportunities enjoyed by other tribes in California to use Indian gaming as a means to improve both our community at large and the lives of our citizens. In return, we promise to continue the North Fork Mono tradition of constructive, collaborative, and transparent partnership!

As always, we welcome your questions, suggestions, and support to improve our project and community.

May 2011 be the year when all our dreams are realized. Happy holidays.
The Tribal Council of the North Fork Rancheria



The North Fork Rancheria is a sovereign tribal government of over 1,800 tribal citizens based in Madera County, California.

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- \$30 million in annual public funding

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Building a better Madera, together!

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Editorial

Houston, We Have a Problem

By Randy Bailey

With the swearing in and installation of our new school board members, I thought Monday night would be a good night to go to the school board meeting and see how the new members handled their maiden voyage. I fully expected there to be a few rough edges and a few gaffes because two of the members, Brian Freeman and Kathleen Crumpton, have never done this before and even seasoned members of the board can often stumble when it comes time to navigate through the harsh seas of state-dictated budget amounts and unfunded mandates. So it seemed like a good time to sit down with pen and paper and just observe.

And observe I did. The first thing that was obvious to anyone who was there was the sense of stifled jubilation of the Crumpton supporters. They could barely contain themselves as they came up to Kathleen, one after another, and hugged and embraced her. There were those knowing glances among supporters, who could not keep from grinning, that somehow, something was finally going to be done about Golden Valley School District. Their Joan of Arc was now on the job and it would just be a matter of time.

Of course, the other two victors, Brian Freeman and Mona Diaz, were getting none of this adulation. After being sworn in by outgoing board president Roger Schuh, they took their seats that were vacated by Schuh and Steven Lewis and quietly started their new terms. Obviously the giddiness was not there for them.

Existing board member Mike Kelly was

elected board clerk and Mark Toole was elected president of the board after an "oops" by Crumpton. Bruce Freeman had nominated Toole for the position of president and Toole had accepted the nomination when Crumpton announced she wanted to nominate Mark Toole for president as well. After a brief moment of stunned silence she was informed that he had already been nominated and had accepted and that a second nomination wasn't necessary. Like I said, a few gaffes were to be expected.

But then something else happened. Under the Action Items on the agenda was approval of the first interim budget. These guys have to do three budgets in the course of the year per the dictates of Sacramento, but they're basically a joke because Sacramento can call up tomorrow and change all of the parameters upon which the budget was based. When it was time to accept the budget, all of the members said "yea," except Crumpton who voted "nay." The weird thing was that Crumpton didn't weigh in during the discussion about why she was against the interim budget or what she found so disagreeable. She sat there and didn't say a thing except "nay."

Next on the agenda was what to do about Measure S Bond funds. The consensus was the modernization of Sierra View Elementary, where problems range from dilapidated buildings to mold in certain classrooms. Again the vote was all "yea" until it got to Crumpton who voted "nay." AGAIN there was absolutely no discussion by Crumpton about why Sierra View was underserving or where the funds could be better put to use, just silence culminating in a "nay."

Then it hit me. During the campaign Crumpton made a big deal about the unanimous votes from the board, inferring a lock-step mentality with the administration. So here was her chance to prove that she wasn't someone who just went along for the ride. By God, she was voting "no!"

Personally I don't care if she ever votes "yea" for anything – that's not the point. If you're going to be a good board member – a responsible board member – you've got to let us in on your thinking. You've got to open your mouth and tell us why this item is bad, in your estimation, and why that one is good. Otherwise, we've just got someone going through the motions and that is what we need *LEAST* at this time.

Houston ...

The Ranchos Independent

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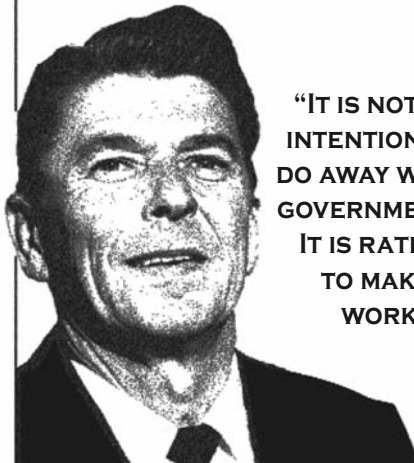
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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's Wish from Madera Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Ranchos Library!

The Library will be closed from Dec. 18 until Dec. 29 then we will be open through Dec. 30 but closed again on Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. The reason for so many days of closure is that the County gave employees our two December furlough days together right before our normal Christmas holidays of the 24th and 25th. Combine that with our regular days that we are closed and it makes quite a long stretch. We understand everyone's frustration and trust me when I say it is not easy on the staff either. We work at other libraries when the Ranchos Library is closed, but no need to worry: items that are checked out in December will show a due date of 12/29 which is our next open day. You can renew your items on line at www.maderacountylibrary.org by clicking on the "catalog" tab, then the "my account" tab. Enter your barcode from your library card and your pin number. You can also return items at any Fresno library or place them in the drop box with the exception of DVD's and books on CD. These two items get broken when heavy books are dropped on top of them. If all else fails, leave a message on the answering machine.

Birds of Prey Program

Cat Krosschell, a falconer and naturalist, brought three of her magnificent birds of prey to the library for a special program on Nov. 18. Her great-horned owl, peregrine falcon and red-tail hawk were a delight to see up close in all their feathered glory. We learned many new facts about these birds and were able to ask Cat questions about habitat, feeding and parenting. And because the birds are accustomed to groups of people flashing cameras at them and making bothersome human noise and movement, they politely cast their piercing eyes upon us and spread their wings as if to remind us of just how amazing they truly are. Hopefully, Cat will return next year. We are grateful for her time and effort to bring this program to our community.

Friends Christmas Party

Children and adults alike really enjoyed the holiday spread of food and fellowship at our annual Friends Christmas party. Watching the children decorate the tree was the most fascinating for many of us. They were all quite patient in taking turns on the ladder to reach the highest part of the tree with their selected ornaments. Amazingly, it ended up being a beautifully decorated tree — as it is every year!



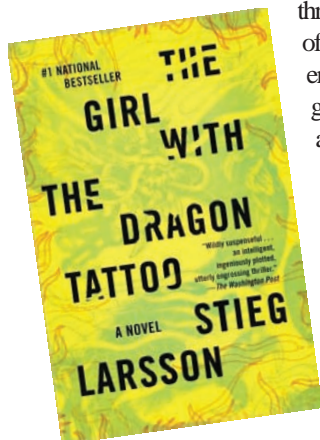
The Mercer family hard at work.

Regular Library Activities:

- Preschool Story Time every Thursday morning at 11 a.m. with Diane Maxfield.
- After school programs every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
- Knitting group every Monday evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friends of the Library Meeting the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.
- Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.
- Friends Books Sale room open every day during regular library hours.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. Set in Sweden, this fascinating thriller draws the reader in right from the start with unusual characters and plot twists. Mikael Blomkvist, journalist and co-owner of the magazine, Millennium, is contracted to sift through decades-old material surrounding the disappearance of the niece of a wealthy industrialist. In return, Mikael will get information to exonerate him in a libel judgment that included jail time. During his investigation, Mikael unexpectedly teams up with Lisbeth Salander, an anorexic, tattooed, unemotional computer hacker. Her strange intensity and technical skills along with Mikael's thoroughness and non-judgmental personality mix together, uncover a twisted serial killer and family secrets that are shocking. Even when the mystery is solved and the story is seemingly wrapped up, the author leaves the reader wondering what will happen next to the unlikely pair, Mikael and Lisbeth. Fortunately there are two more books in this popular series that have become runaway bestsellers. Recommended for seasoned adult readers.



Juvenile Picture Book: *Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present*

Present by John Buringham. A weary Santa and his reindeer return home on Christmas Eve for much needed rest, only to discover that one present didn't get delivered. What is Santa to do? His reindeer are fast asleep and he's already in his pajamas. Santa knows the present is for

poor little Harvey Slumfenburger, and it's the only present he will receive. So Santa throws a coat over his pajamas, pulls on his boots and off he goes walking through the snow to deliver Harvey's present. It's a long way to Harvey's house on Roly Poly Mountain. Fortunately Santa is aided by many people along the way who help him travel via plane, car, motorbike, skis and mountain climbing gear to reach his destination. This older story is endearing and reassuring for children who worry that Santa might forget them or might have trouble getting to their house. Santa's determination and love for children wins out once again!



Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library and don't forget your library card — don't leave home without it!

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12/10

CHAMPS cont. from P. 2

against the number one team in the league, the undefeated Memorial, and beat them. Then they went up against the number two team, Dos Palos, and beat them, setting up the championship game with Firebaugh. When asked what differentiated this team from others he's coached, Santa Cruz said, "This is one of the best teams I've ever coached or even witnessed. This is a smart group of boys who studied really hard." Santa Cruz also gave credit to his four assistant coaches that he said were instrumental in the team's success: Adam Bailey, Terry Carson, Mike Brogdon and Jeff Evers.

"This team had an amazing group of coaches," said parent John Stephens. "They taught our kids that each and every one of them had a job to do in order to prepare for each week's game. It was the team as a whole that worked together and shared in the success of their hard work"

That preparation was reflected in the attitudes of the kids on the field.

"I felt more comfortable this year in my position and playing with my teammates," said Jerrod Weldon. "Most of us have played together for at least two years and I knew they would be there when I needed them. My coaches this year were awesome; they taught me how to be a better player."

Teammate Logan Stephens, receiver, agreed. "I was glad they had the chance to play

so many different teams and beat them!" he said. "We played very hard and coach Santa Cruz taught us how to use our hearts to win."

Defensive back Nick Yasunaga was also on the bandwagon. "I felt excited to be part of the team," Yasunaga said. "We practiced a lot and studied about how the other teams played."

Ken Yasunaga, Nick's father and team photographer said, "I can't speak highly enough about Jim Santa Cruz. He's such a great coach and he worked so well with the boys. They enjoyed practices and enjoyed playing for him. He's such a role model for these boys. Jim has dedicated so much time to the Pee Wee team when his own son is now in high school."

The 2010 Madera Ranchos Tri County Youth Football Pee Wee Division Champion Hawks was comprised of: #1 Logan Stephens; #4 Blake Workman; #16 Jerrod Weldon; #19 Trevor Evers; #21 Derek Quintero; #23 Angel Leon; #24 Nick Yasunaga; #30 Bradley Miller; #32 Christian Miller; #34 Kurt Kobzeff; #36 Junior Rodriguez; #40 Ethan Carson; #44 Trent Woodell; #48 Vincent Aguilar; #51 Wyatt Roth; #52 Austin Mann; #53 Nick Hayes; #56 Spencer Hobbs; #57 Anthony Aguilar; #58 Sean Garvin; #60 Francisco Rojas; #63 Cole Cowger; #66 Tahner Green; #67 Josh Bailey; #72 Colby Woods; #74 Chris Hersberger; #76 Dakota Luce; #77 Zac Pia; #79 Michael Hamman; #80 Chase Schellenger; #81 Harrison Caetano; #84 Drew Blythe; #85 Morgan Alexander; and #88 Bryce Harlow.

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Where are the Clothes?

Has there been a shortage of clothing of which I have been unaware? Was there a run on all the synthetic and natural materials available to make a full range of clothing? Or are the clothing makers engaged in some sort of “under the radar” fashion strike? Maybe, rather than conserving water and energy and natural gas, there is a movement to conserve material. It would appear that way, because everywhere I seem to have gone lately, people, namely young girls, are running around with half their clothes missing, and I don’t know about you, but I am concerned.

Although it’s always been there in the back of my mind, the very seriousness of the clothing drought hit me while celebrating Halloween at Disneyland. It has become a sad fact – well, sad for me because I have no interest in ogling girls in short shorts and low cut tops, not so sad for the hormonally charged boys in the world – that Halloween has become the one day a year when women can dress like a street-walker and I am supposed to reserve my judgment until November first. To each his own, but what happened to the days when a costume was an event? Ghosts, goblins, witches, monsters, zombies ... now it would seem that no young woman will don a costume if they can’t tack on the word “sexy” into the title. Now the zombies run around in fishnets, the monsters are wearing tube tops, and the witches are strutting their stuff in mini-dresses that barely cover their cauldrons. Even at Disneyland, girls walked around half dressed and called it a costume. Next year I anticipate that these twits, in order to top themselves, will trick or treat in their underwear.

Even though there was a sign posted at the entrance that instructed patrons to avoid inappropriate outfits, clearly Mickey’s definition of unsuitable and mine differ, and to be quite honest, I’m not sure that half the female visitors that day could have defined the word inappropriate. I personally would say, at a family establishment such as the Land of Disney, if you can make out a dimple in the cheek of someone’s hind parts, I would not consider that appropriate.

For me, though, the costume that took that cake was that of Snow White, whoops, I mean “Sexy” Snow White – I forgot the first rule of thumb in costuming for the 21st century. I first caught sight of her while standing in one of the many attraction lines, and the

GENERATION WHY by eryn b. nyre



full view of her attire was, at first, obstructed. There she stood a vision in yellow and blue. She had all the details right, the black hair, the red bow, the puffy sleeves, the high, white collar. Then the line moved and I caught a glimpse of the rest of her costume, or at least, what should have been the rest of her costume. The skirt of her dress stopped just past her derriere and where the rest of the dress should have been, instead there was a pair of thigh-high stockings and a blue and white

garter. In what alternate dimension was this an accurate representation of the classic character of Snow White? Did they realize the Princess actually lives there and might be offended by the tawdry likeness? It would appear that the only defining rule that was upheld that day was that body parts rule. As long as the unspeakable body parts were covered, all else was fair game. I also noticed that there were a slew of young girls dressed as Lady Gaga sauntering around the park. Of course, at the time I had no idea who they were supposed to be. I just thought “woman in her underwear” was a popular costume option this year.

I made the assumption, and we know where that got me, that once Halloween was over, women would return to their everyday wardrobes and fully cover their jiggy parts. However, my experience over Halloween caused me to pay a bit more attention and I am not entirely sure what has happened to all the clothes, but they have appeared to have gone missing. My jaw about swept the floor one day when I saw a female shopping in shorts that were tinier than most underwear, a shirt so low-cut I almost saw navel, and knee-high boots with 4-inch heels. I thought, well, that’s where all the material is going – to make the boots.

I realize I am old-fashioned, but I’ve always preferred being dressed in public,

Please see GEN WHY on P. 9

I realize I am old-fashioned, but I've always preferred being dressed in public, reliving the nightmare of showing up to a public venue in my underwear has never held a lot of appeal for me.

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12/10

GEN WHY cont. from P. 8

reliving the nightmare of showing up to a public venue in my underwear has never held a lot of appeal for me. Underwear is not meant to be worn alone, unless of course you are cleaning your bathroom, and clothes are intended to cover body parts not meant for the entire population to see. Modesty is not a sign of prudishness or insecurity, I just don't think there is enough mystery left in the world, but clearly I am in the minority here. Gone are the days of modesty and propriety – why leave anything up to the imagination when you can put it all on display, like a cow at auction? Of course, no one is buying the cow anymore, we just rent to own, but that's a topic for another article.

Lola Smith Hallett

April 27, 1938 - November 25, 2010



In Memoriam

Lola Smith Hallett of Madera Ranchos, Calif. passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010 after a battle with lung cancer.

Lola was the daughter of Fred Smith and Lottie Agnes Rowsey. She was born in Newell, W.V. on April 27, 1938 and moved to East Liverpool, Ohio when she was four years old. She graduated from East Liverpool High School in 1956. She was married to Robert Earl Hallett for 27 years.

Lola was preceded in death by

her sisters Juanita Smith Hoener, Bertha Smith Rhodes and her brother Wilmer Kenneth Smith.

She is survived by her sister Phyllis Smith Palmer of Fresno, Calif. and by her children Kenneth Lee McElhaney of Chester, W.V., Kelley Lynn McElhaney Morgan of Woodstock, Ga., Laura Leigh Hallett Fisher of Portland, Ore. and Robert Earl Hallett Jr. of Madera Ranchos, Calif.

Lola is also survived by her 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The clock is ticking....
 What's your New Year's Resolution??

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In Memoriam

Lisa Marie Casner

December 18, 1964 - November 17, 2010

Loving wife, wonderful mom, loving friend, an amazing woman we will never forget ...

Lisa was born to Bobby Joe Ball and Diane Phillips in Mariposa, Calif. She attended Mariposa High School and graduated in 1983. Lisa and her husband, David Casner, were childhood friends that reunited in 1995. They married in 1997 and together they ran Castech Pest Services. Lisa was the voice on the phone after hours for many a client and friend. In 2000, they built a home in the Ranchos and raised their six children and a few extras. David and Lisa have two children, Connor and Courtney, and David has two children Lisa loved as her own, Lindsie and Clayton. Lisa also had two children, Matthew and Miranda, from a previous marriage. They now share six wonderful grandchildren.

Lisa was a free spirit who loved life, adventure, people and nature. Her selfless acts of kindness and friendship will always be remembered by many. Her love for Jesus was always on her sleeve and she was never



afraid to share it with anyone in need.

Lisa loved camping, beaches, warm ocean waters and traveling to new places. Lisa loved gardening, animals, wine and her bunco buddies. She could always light up a room with her contagious smile and vibrant energy, and she always saw the silver lining, even in the darkest of days. The world was a brighter place with her in it. We will all continue to love and miss our beautiful, spunky Lisa.

Our family would like to thank the Ranchos community for all their love and support in this difficult time. The prayers, friendship, phone calls, hard work and meals have been great reminders of the love she shared with all, and have helped to sustain us through the hardest tasks that we have ever had to undertake.

Thank you all.

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12/10



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Luke 2:12

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Dear Readers- It looks like this month's article will be a repeat of Dec. 2009 but that is OK. I still don't have a computer, BUT one of Santa's elves brought my tower back the other night knowing that it worked when he took it from the shop. After about an hour of pushing plugs, and a few swear words in between, he finally determined that my monitor is shot! Must have happened at the same time the tower bombed. I miss writing the article, but I'm hoping to start the new year with a new computer. Until I talk to you again, Have a Blessed Christmas and the Happiest and most Prosperous New Year ever!

Jean

Soup Time

Have you ever heard "It's sandwich weather" or "It's dessert weather"? I haven't either, but you probably have heard, "It's soup weather." It got below freezing a couple of nights and it has been raining off and on now for the past week, so it is definitely "soup weather."

Soup can be made with or without meat and just about any kind of vegetables. It can be made with water, stock or milk. Putting all that together, the possibilities are limitless.

After Thanksgiving there is always turkey soup, but you don't have to wait until the turkey is devoured and only the ugly bones are left. I'm not fond of cooking the carcass for soup anyway – it is just too much work. I'm always afraid of those little bones getting into the broth so we take as much meat off the bones as possible, toss the carcass and freeze the meat until time to make soup. If I were to use the bones, I would definitely strain the broth before using it.

This is my favorite way to make turkey soup without using the stock from the turkey carcass.

Turkey Soup

2 cans chicken stock
1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes
1 16 oz. pkg. frozen mixed vegetables

Half medium onion – chopped
1 cup diced carrots
Couple of potatoes peeled and diced

½ cup alphabet or star macaroni

1 can cream style corn
Half small head of cabbage sliced & chopped

Leftover turkey pulled into small pieces

Salt and pepper to taste

Pour the stock into a large soup pot. Add the tomatoes and mixed vegetables and the chopped onion. Add enough water to cover vegetables well. Add salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil and turn burner down to simmer for about 25 minutes. Add the carrots and simmer another 10 minutes before adding the potatoes. Taste to see if more salt & pepper is needed. Add more water (or another can of stock) as you go to cover the vegetables well. Let this simmer until the tomatoes have broken down and the frozen vegetables have softened – this should take about 45 minutes to an hour. Turn the heat up to a low boil and add the macaroni. You should stir this because the macaroni tends to stick to the bottom of the pot. As soon as the macaroni is done, turn the fire back down to a simmer and add the cream corn, and the cabbage. When all this is cooked, add the turkey and simmer until the meat is hot.

I know you could throw everything into the pot all at once, but I feel it just tastes better cooked in layers. And remember, this is my recipe so I want you to personalize it as you like. I love cooked carrots, that's why I add additional carrots. If you or your family doesn't like something I have listed, don't use it. If you like something else – put it in. Another thing, if you don't have any leftover turkey use a couple of boiled chicken breasts. If you boil chicken for the soup, be sure to use that liquid in your soup instead of water.

We also had a ham for Thanksgiving. When most of the meat was trimmed off, I got the bone to make split pea soup. One of the simplest soups to make except you have to

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 26

To Serve My Country for Christ

By Bob Crabb

Dear friends, I am writing this note to give you an update on my call as Pastor of the Christian Mission Center. As some of you know, I had applied over a year ago for accession into the Naval Reserve as a Navy Chaplain. I found out on last Wednesday that the Navy has agreed to give me an age waiver and an opportunity to go back on active duty (not the reserves) with the Marines. This opportunity to serve has exceeded my wildest dreams as I never thought that I would be an active duty candidate at my age. I hardly thought that a reserve commission was even possible, but several Navy and USMC officers and senior SNCO's have really gone to bat for me (and I also lost 50 lbs and got in shape!) But now I have been give an

Only an absolutely real and powerful call from God could move me from serving my beloved friends of Christ at Christian Mission Center. This call to serve the Marines as a chaplain is such a call. I grieve my departure from my congregation.

incredible opportunity to return to serve our combat forces. The chance to serve with the Marines during this time of our nation's life is far beyond what I thought could ever be possible. As many of you know I was an officer of Marines for over 13 years

of my life serving as an infantry officer. In many ways, I never left the Marine Corps after my discharge in 1989. I cannot say no to this chance to serve the Corps. The astonishing series of events that have led to this occasion and my heart say this is a call from God to serve my country with the mercy, compassion, service and sacrifice of Christ.

I love this community and my calling as a Madera Cal Fire Chaplain, an on-call chaplain at Children's Hospital, a member of the County Critical Incident team and the Station 19 Mobile Support Unit. I love everyone at my church, the Christian Mission Center, from the bottom of my heart. The people at the Christian Mission Center are a loving, caring and grace-filled part of God's wondrous kingdom. Only

an absolutely real and powerful call from God could move me from serving my beloved friends of Christ at CMC. This call to serve the Marines as a chaplain is such a call. I grieve my departure from my congregation. I will so miss them and their loving care for each other and for me and my family. The Christian Mission Center has occupied almost of all of my thoughts and prayers and efforts for close to six years. It is hard to imagine not being their pastor. It is a tearful time for me and my family.

I will report for duty at Officer Development School in Newport, RI on Jan. 2, 2011. At some point soon, my Regional Mission Director will meet with the Christian Mission Center's steering committee to arrange for a pastor to be called. A new pastor will be assigned fairly quickly. I know that

God will send the right pastor to complete this mission start. In the meantime, Rev. Gilbert Barr, the senior chaplain at Children's Hospital, will act as a supply pastor in preaching the Word of God on Sundays and providing emergency pastoral care until a new pastor is called to CMC. Between now and Jan. 2, I will continue to serve CMC and work with the steering committee on the transition plan. I will be preaching every Sunday in December.

My family and I love our church and this community and only a call from God such as this could move us. We ask for your prayers of support and we continue always to pray for you.

Truly Yours in the Compassion, Mercy, Service and Sacrifice of Christ,

Reverend Bob Crabb, Pastor

Pastor Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

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The Stock Report

Ranchos Christmas Goings-On

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

In the last issue of the Ranchos Independent I talked about the closeness of the Golden Valley Unified School Board election numbers. I called to get the final numbers for the people that ran. Kathleen Crumpton 2135 votes, Mona Diaz 1967 votes, Brian Freeman 1426 votes, John Grauer 1390 votes, Edward Moseley 987 votes and Steve Lewis 1289 votes. When I called the Madera Elections Office last month they still needed to count 560 mail in votes and 100 provisional votes, so things could have changed but it didn't. Kathleen, Mona and Brian were declared elected on Dec. 1, 2010 and they were officially installed at the Dec. 13 Golden Valley Unified School Board Meeting at the Liberty library.

Superintendent Sarah Koligian, Mona Diaz, Kathleen Crumpton, Mike Kelly, Brian Freeman and Mark Toole all went to the CSBA Conference in San Francisco, California. This is where all the school board members of the state of California can go once a year to hear what is working at various schools throughout California. It is also the time that you can talk to both old and new school board members and see how other school board members handle the job. When Golden Valley Unified was a new school district, the CSBA conference helped us to understand how Sacramento worked and how to get help for our school district. School board members need to learn how to work together, and with Sacramento, to keep the Golden Valley Unified District moving forward in these short budget times.

I was able to attend the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 3. Sergeant Raul Moncado, who was killed in Iraq last year, was honored with his father pulling the switch to light the Christmas tree in the Maywood Shopping Center. The "Pick a Star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital" stars were on the tree and were available for community members that attended who wanted to fill a bag for a veteran. Members of the Chamber of Commerce took the star donations to the veterans in the Fresno VA hospital. The Girl Scouts

sang Christmas songs; the Liberty High Choir sang songs and the program ended with the Flipside Church Choir singing songs. It was a joyous time and if you missed it, try to make it next year.

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. This is always the busy time of the year as I am getting ready for Christmas and for out of town relatives to arrive. The outside lights are up thanks to the help of my daughter and my son-in-law and then they assembled my artificial Christmas tree so that all I had to do was to put the decorations on. Next I got busy writing my annual Christmas letter and took it to get 100 copies made to put into my Christmas cards. Now all I have to do is have the time to address the envelopes and remember to get stamps.

Oh, I also have to get this article written and off to Randy at the Ranchos Independent.

I am doing holiday baking and wrapping gifts in-between everything else. All of the Christmas parties have started. I always wonder how I will get everything done. I love this time of the year and I try to relax and enjoy it.

Things over at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center are really buzzing. We had our Christmas dinner on Dec. 13 and after dinner we had the installation of our new slate of officers for 2011. Mike Thomson is our new president. On Dec. 18 we will have our annual Christmas Home Tour and Tea. The Tea will be held at our beautifully decorated Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The Christmas Boutique has been held on the three December Saturdays before Christmas. If you didn't do your Christmas shopping at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center you really missed out. The Seniors will be celebrating the New Year at the Center on Dec. 31 with a potluck and card games.

I wish for the people of this community a Christmas that is rich with family love, warm with friendship, happy with life's goodness and blessed with the joys of the season. Remember that the birth of JESUS CHRIST is the reason for the CHRISTmas Season. After Christmas comes a brand NEW YEAR, 2011. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and everyone.

A Primer on the American Economy

By Verlaine Elinburg

At the end of a hard day's work, 10 workers go out for beer and the bill for all 10 comes to \$100. If they pay the bill the way we pay our taxes, it would be something like this:

The first four workers (the poorest) would pay nothing; the fifth worker would pay \$1; the sixth worker would pay \$3; the seventh worker would pay \$7; the eighth worker would pay \$12; the ninth worker would pay \$18; and the tenth worker (the richest) would pay \$59, so, that is what they decided to do.

The 10 workers drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement until one day when the owner threw them a curve. "Since you are all such good customers, I am going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20," he said. "So now the drinks for the 10 workers cost \$80."

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes, so the first four workers were not affected. They would still drink for free. But what about the other six workers – the "paying" customers? How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his "fair share?" By dividing the \$20 by six, which came to \$3.33 each? But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth and sixth worker would end up being paid to drink the beer. The bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each workers bill by roughly using percentages, and proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

The fifth worker, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings). The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% savings). The seventh now paid \$5 instead of \$7 (28% savings). The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings). The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% savings) and the tenth now paid \$49 in-

stead of \$59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before and the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant the men began to compare their savings. "I only got a dollar out of the \$20," declared the sixth worker while he pointed out to the tenth Man, "but he got \$10."

"Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man. "I only saved one dollar, too. It's unfair that he got 10 times more than I did."

"That's true!" shouted the seventh man. "Why should he get \$10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!"

"Wait a minute," yelled the first four workers in unison, "we did not get anything at all. The system exploits the poor."

The nine men surrounded the tenth man and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man did not show up for the drinks, so the nine workers sat down and had beers without

him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important: they did not have enough money between all of them for even half the bill.

This is how the tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy and they may not show up any more. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

The monthly sale for January has been canceled. Just like America, everyone will be broke.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education, and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above and for referrals to medical

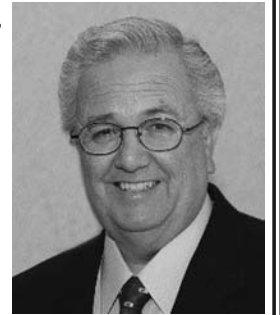
Please see **SENIORS** on P. 25

This is how the tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy and they may not show up any more. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

Merry Christmas from your friends at Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9 a.m.
12/10 Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

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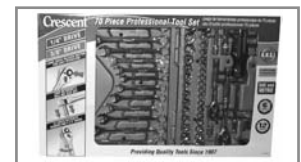
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By the Community

What is SEMCU and what does it do?

The South East Madera County United organization, or SEMCU, is a nonprofit, mutual benefit organization dedicated to representing the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in the SEMCU Area. In representing local interests, SEMCU studies issues facing its members, such as access to water, transportation, schools and energy, and works with local governments and private entities to find working solutions to regional problems. Additionally, SEMCU strives to advocate for its members wherever and whenever the opportunity arises and to obtain grant funding to help address area needs.

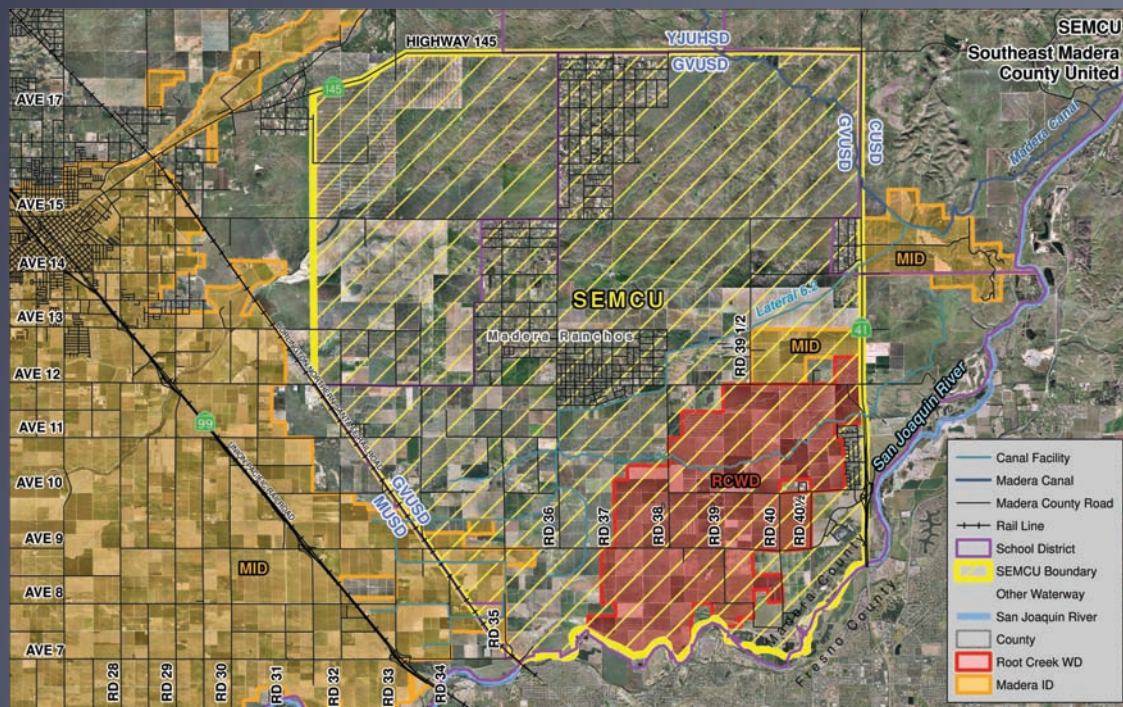
Who should join SEMCU?

If you are a resident, landowner or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a

member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

Who is on SEMCU's Board of Directors?

Your neighbors. Tom Hurst, Tim Jones, Nancy Koontz, Brock Moore, Jim Powell, Bill Prince, Ethel Pronin, Seth Thomas and Igal Treibatch.



What is the SEMCU Area? The South East Madera County United, or “SEMCU,” Area covers the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.

South-East Madera County United (SEMCU) Organizational Flowchart

The SEMCU Area is the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by the Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway.

Members

Anyone with a legal interest in any property or business located in the SEMCU Area

The members vote for 6 “At Large” Directors and adopt Bylaws.

Board of Directors

Up to 17 Members Total
(6 At Large + 10 Ex Officio + Current President)

The Board makes major decisions that effect the organization, including electing Officers.

At Large Directors and Ex Officio Directors all have the same duties, responsibilities, powers, and voting rights.

Officers

President, Secretary, and Treasurer

The Officers run the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Each of the following regional areas and organizations can appoint a Director. The appointed Directors are called “Ex Officio” Directors.

1. Madera Ranchos
2. Bonadelle 9
3. Bonadelle North
4. Bonadelle South
5. Rolling Hills
6. Kiwanis
7. Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
8. Ranchos Senior Center
9. Ranchos Friends of the Library
10. Root Creek Water District

(Other entities may apply)

◆ For the Community

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to obtain copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit www.semcu.com

**the next Annual SEMCU meeting
is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 24
at 6:30 p.m. at
the Ranchos Pizza Factory**

37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos



Sierra View Elementary School Earns a *Second* Statewide “Golden Bell” Award



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

Congratulations to the staff and students at Sierra View Elementary School for earning the California School Board Association’s (CSBA’s) distinguished Golden Bell Award at the annual CSBA conference held in San Francisco earlier in December. This is the second Golden Bell earned by Sierra View Elementary School; their first Golden Bell was earned two years ago for their outstanding “Character Counts” pro-

gram. The application was written by former Sierra View principal, Scott Tefft, this past June. The onsite validation visit took place this past October with a visit from one of the CSBA state board members. Vice Principal, Chris Imperatrice and Reading Lab Teacher, Emily Muccianti, participated in the onsite validation visit and were able to highlight the many accomplishments of the Panther Reading Lab. Notification of Sierra View’s selection to receive the Golden Bell award occurred in November.

The Golden Bell Awards program promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs in school districts and county offices of education throughout California. It reflects the depth and breadth of education programs necessary to address students’ changing needs. Now in its 31st year, the program contributes to the developments and evaluation of curriculum, instruction and support services by:

Seeking out and recognizing innovative, exemplary and sustainable programs which have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators;

Recognizing and supporting educators who invest extra energy and time to make a demonstrated difference for students;

Promoting models which can be repli-

cated by districts and county offices throughout the state; and

Focusing on the commitment to ensure the needs of all students are met.

Identifying Programs

Identifying exemplary programs serves as a way to share information about effective educational strategies. The Golden Bell Awards program also serves to boost confidence in public education by focusing attention on success in our schools. Finally, it enables the California School Boards Association, on behalf of school governing boards throughout the state, to express appreciation to dedicated educators who strive to provide a high-quality education that challenges all students to success.

This year, nearly 200 entries in 19 categories were received. Experts from school districts and county offices of education comprised the judging panel. On Dec. 4, Sierra View was one of 62 schools districts and county offices selected to receive the distinguished Golden Bell award. Golden Valley Unified School Board members, Mona Diaz, Mike Kelly, Mark Toole, Kathleen Crumpton and Brian Freeman, joined Superintendent Sarah Koligian, Sierra View Vice Principal, Chris Imperatrice, Sierra View Reading Lab Teacher Emily Muccianti and former Sierra View Reading Lab Teacher, Nola Neely, at the Golden Bell Showcase and Awards Luncheon. Mr. Imperatrice, Ms. Muccianti, and Ms. Neely participated in the Golden Bell Showcase highlighting the many achievements of the lab over the past five years.

Outstanding Highlights

Some of the outstanding highlights of the Panther Reading Lab are as follows: The program is exemplary in the results it

has achieved in terms of increased scores with Title I students, a narrowing of the achievement gap, an increase in Academic Performance Index (API) scores, the number of students it serves, the positive school climate it helps to perpetuate, and its sustainability despite decreases in funding. Sierra View’s overall school API has grown from 773 in 2005 to 860 in 2010 – a gain of 87 points. California has set the API target for all schools at 800. The high-



On hand to receive the distinguished Golden Bell award for Sierra View for the second time are, from left, Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian, former Sierra View Reading Lab Teacher, Nola Neely, Board member Brian Freeman, Sierra View Vice Principal, Chris Imperatrice, Board member Mark Toole, Sierra View Reading Lab Teacher Emily Muccianti, and Board members Mike Kelly, Mona Diaz and Kathleen Crumpton.

est possible API a school can achieve is 1000. Another feature of its exemplary status is focused around the classroom teachers in the school. The whole school is focused on reading. Collaboration between the teachers and the lab reading specialist is continuous, so the student’s learning in the Reading Lab complements what they are learning in the classroom.

The Golden Bell award earned by Sierra View Elementary school is one more example of living the district vision: Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community based in excellence. The district and Board extend their appreciation to Sierra View Elementary. Thank you for helping us “Grow a District of Excellence.”

Click on “Local News” at

Webster Student Wins Spelling Bee

Fifth Grader Brandon Inahara Nabs 1st Prize from Pismo Contest



Brandon Inahara won the 64th Annual Clam Bake Festival Spelling Bee for his grade level (5th) in early October, 2010 in Pismo Beach, Calif. in an annual contest sponsored by the Pismo Beach Five Cities Rotary Club.

As the Fifth Grade Champion, he also won \$300 for Webster Elementary School.

Inahara was recognized by the Madera County Office of Education on Nov. 9, 2010 and will be recognized by the Golden Valley Board of Trustees on Jan. 10, 2011.

Congratulations Brandon!

LHS Senior Bonnie Paul Signs Volleyball National Letter of Intent

Liberty High School is proud to announce that Bonnie Paul has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball at the University of Nevada-Reno. Liberty High hosted a signing party for Bonnie on Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the career center.

Bonnie was a captain on this year's team and she also led the team in kills and kill percentage. Bonnie is also the all-time kills leader at Liberty High. During Bonnie's remarkable ca-



reer she was a Scholar Athlete in 2009 and 2010, has been a 1st and 2nd Team All League selection along with being voted Underclassman of the Year and Most Inspirational. Recently, Bonnie was recognized by the GVUSD Superintendent and Board of Trustees for being named ESPN Athlete of the Week for Sept. 17. Bonnie has been an outstanding student in her four years at Liberty High where she has maintained a 4.17 GPA.

LHS Choir's Sweet Notes at Concert



LHS Band and Choir had its winter concert on Dec. 9. Student performance was outstanding and the concert was really well attended. The band boosters provided desserts which were sold at intermission to raise money for the program. Students would like to thank Ms. Christine Williams the long term substitute for Mrs. Sobieralski who is out on maternity leave. Liberty High school would also like to thank the Band Boosters for their support of the music program. Special thanks to Mrs. Anne Esterada and Mr. Matthew Phillips for going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate the after hours band activities in the absence of their regular teacher.

Middle School Beseiged by Pirates



The Ranchos Middle School drama class presented *Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen* on December 8-9 at Ranchos Middle School. The play was a great success due to the hardworking cast and dedicated parents and volunteers who created sets, costumes, programs, decorations and refreshments. From the moment guests entered the lobby, they were greeted with a pirate-themed night which captivated the young and young-at-heart with an adventurous romantic comedy! The cast included Jyllian Ahart, Vanessa Arellano, Makenna Avakian, Katie Bennett, Rachel Black, Dierra Burgess, Jake Faccinto, Cami Fynaut, Taylor Gorman, Sami Grant, Michaela Hammond, Ana Hayes, Brianna Higgins, Haylee Hoelzel, Sydney Horanic, Adan Jauregui, Mikayla Mosier, Riley Painter, Katie Ragsdale, Macy Reagan, Mackenzie Santoro, Michael Sassano, Sammy Smith, Trevor Stephens, Emmanuel Torres, Josh Torres, Dillon Tucker, Brockton Wheeler and Emily Williams.



**Committee Members Needed
For the
Golden Valley Unified School District
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for several openings on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies.

**If interested, please obtain an application from the Superintendent's Office
37479 Avenue 12, Madera 93636
(559) 645-7500.**

Deadline for applying is Friday, February 18, 2011.

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Tea Time

The Train to Nowhere

By Serafin Quintanar

If you ever thought of going nowhere fast, then your wish may come true sooner than you think. That is if the spend-a-holics in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. continue to have their way with your grandchildren's tax dollars. Forget about the reality that there seems to not be a dime for improving our water delivery systems, that the state is basically broke or that we would have to borrow tens of billions of dollars from the Chinese or run the presses at the mint for endless days to print the money to pay for this monstrosity; the powers that be think that a new toy train will be the state's economic engine for decades to come. Obviously, they are dead wrong. This boondoggle will be the end of the line for the California economy.

For the sake of brevity, let's focus on three issues surrounding high speed rail. I will present them here in the form of three questions that will be answered below. First, how useful would a high speed rail system be to California residents? Secondly, when would it go into service? Lastly, who will pick up the tag?

To answer the first question, let's start in the Madera Ranchos. Let's say you needed to get to Los Angeles or the Bay Area for a business meeting. So, you drive to the nearest high speed rail train station in Merced or Fresno and park your car and hop on the next train heading in the direction you want to go. After a few hours, you get to your destination. Now what? Do you rent a car? Take a cab? Walk? How do

you get to where you ultimately need to be? Aside from that, how often would you actually need to travel to one of the few stops that the rail makes? What if you needed to go to Phoenix, Las Vegas or Portland instead? The point is that demand will be very low and that the system will never break even or turn a profit. That means that taxpayers will have to make up the difference, like we do for Amtrak, to keep this piece of work running.

That brings us to the second question: When will this crown jewel of the California utopia be up and running? This one is really easy to answer: no one knows and maybe never! That's right; it may never be started, let alone completed. Right now,

Now the best question of all: Who will pay for this mess? You may have guessed it by now that you, your children and grandchildren will be paying higher taxes to pay off the massive debt that this rail system will incur, or paying more for goods and services because of the inflation caused by the feds printing more money to pay for it.

Republican members of the House of Representatives, including Devin Nunes, are trying to cut off federal funding for the project. They actually realize that we don't have the money to spend on these kinds of risky pet projects. Politicians, like Jim Costa and many local officials, are looking to this pork project as a way to

create temporary jobs to boost their political futures at the expense of our children's and grandchildren's livelihood. Even if this first leg from Fresno to Hanford is built, there is no plan to fund anything beyond that. To top it all off, the Rail Authority acknowledges that rail service will not run until much larger portions of the system are completed. Even by their rosy best estimates, that would not be until at least 2017 before you could ride a train and will not be fully completed until about 2050!

Now the best question of all: Who will pay for this mess? You may have guessed it by now that you, your children and grandchildren will be paying higher

Please see TEA on P. 25



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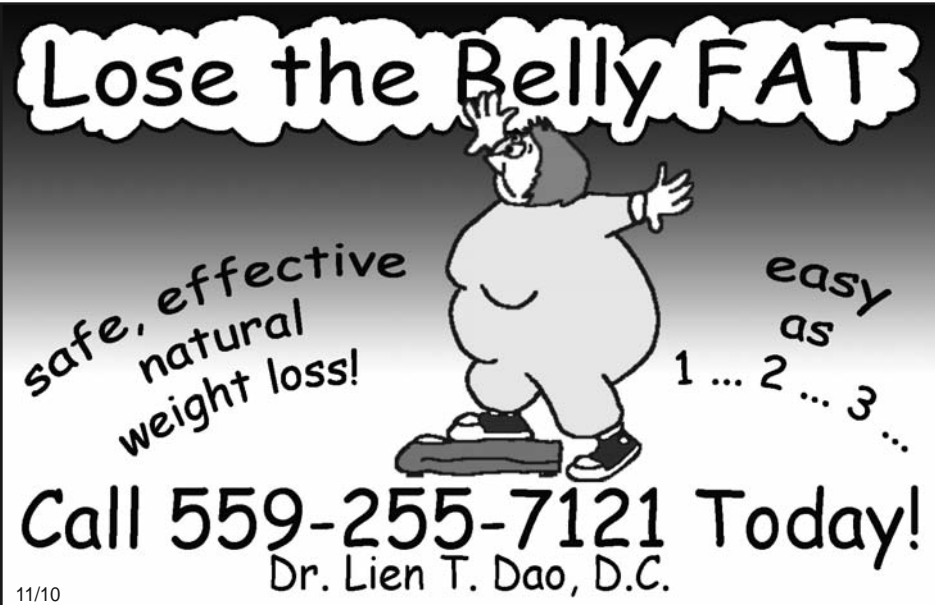
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“Word from Home” for Troops Sends Message the Ranchos Cares



Word From Home has sent 55 Christmas Boxes to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq Wednesday, Dec. 1. We sent them to 12 women and 33 men. We had several families bring their home-schooled children to the packing session and they made Christmas cards to send. This brings us to nearly 2,000 packages sent. These last boxes should get to the troops around December 15th, just in time for Christmas.

For more information, contact Pam Hansen at 559-474-2330.

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Community Christmas Tree Lit; Fallen Local Serviceman Honored




The Ranchos family of the late Sgt. Raul Moncada were the guests of honor at the annual lighting of the community Christmas tree at Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 3. A live tree was planted and dedicated to the memory not only of Moncada but of all area servicemen and women who have died in the line of duty.

The tree was planted through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the annual event, and was the result of coordinating various Chamber members to make it happen. CM&N Nursery donated the tree and the labor to remove the old tree and plant the new tree, a California Redwood. Ajlouny & Tantoco, the property managers for the site, gave their blessings and the entire process took less than one afternoon.

On the evening of the event there were Christmas carols provided by area Girl Scouts, the Liberty High Choir and Flipside Church. Hot coffee, cocoa and cider was provided along with tons of cookies and Santa arrived via Station 19 fire engine to the delight of the children present.

The main focus of the tree lighting event is to raise awareness and gifts for veterans at the Fresno VA Hospital. Attendees are encouraged to take a star off of the tree, representing a veteran at the hospital, and then donate necessary item for the veteran, such as socks, t-shirts, books, toothbrushes and more.

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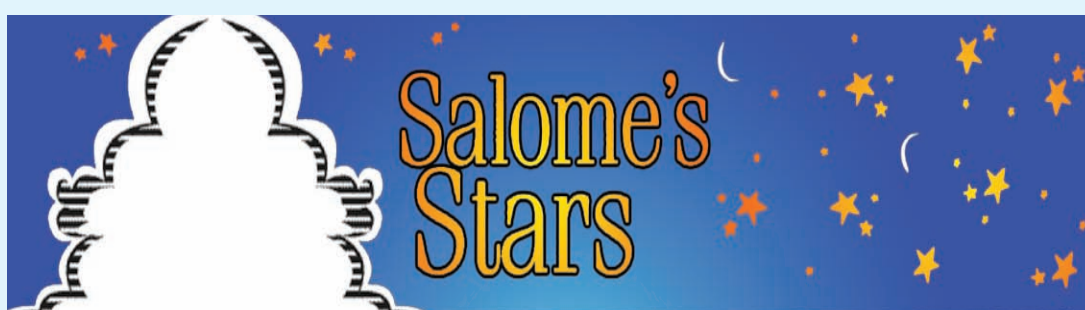


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although taking advice isn't always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new offer is tempting, but don't be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week's hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove helpful.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you've made.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should be.

Born this Week

*Your personal warmth helps you make friendships,
and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.*

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for your gift
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SENIOR cont. from P. 14

providers and community services the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a suggested price for 60 years and older of \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you, and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy, additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and the Golden valley Chamber of Commerce.

Events for December/January

Monday: Exercise, lunch; First Monday of the month is the general meeting at 7 p.m.; Planning, last Monday at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Lunch, pinochle at noon; Board meeting, first Tuesday of month at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Exercise, lunch and

recycling

Thursday: Garden clean-up, lunch, crafts at 12:30 p.m.; Social at 5:30 p.m., Pot luck and card games.

Friday: Exercise, lunch, Card Bingo at noon.

Reminder: First Saturday Monthly Sale for January has been canceled.

Center is closed Dec. 24-25 for Christmas celebration.

Special Events for December

Christmas Boutique and Tea Tour - Dec. 18, 1 - 4 p.m.

Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale, Saturday: Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - Noon.

Events for January

Board meeting - Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.

General meeting - Monday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Jan. 15 at Huckleberry's, 1083 E Champlain Dr., Fresno at 11:30 a.m.

Martin Luther King Jan. 17 Center is closed.

As a reminder, in December's newsletter an updated membership application and membership dues for 2011 was attached. Please return the request to the center, or by mail. The address is Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc., 37330 Berkshire Drive, Madera, CA 93636.

TEA cont. from P. 20

taxes to pay off the massive debt that this rail system will incur, or paying more for goods and services because of the inflation caused by the feds printing more money to pay for it. This first small segment will cost over \$4 billion and the initial estimates for the entire project are at over \$40 billion. How many times has the government stuck to a budget? Maybe it's better to ask how many times has a government budget doubled or tripled before a project was completed far behind schedule.

Folks, we have to keep both eyes on the people in Sacramento and D.C. The good news is that the Tea Party is working for you to keep politicians in line and accountable; however, your help is always welcome. If you'd like to learn more about important issues or lend a helping hand, please come to the next Tea Party meeting.

Meetings are held at the Ranchos Café on the first Sunday of the month, usually from 4 p.m. to about 6 p.m. Contact John Smedley at 645-7031 or email jcsmedley@comcast.net for more information.

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The Stress-Free (well ... almost) Holiday Plan Part II

If you have your Holiday Notebook up and running as outlined in last issue's article, good for you! If you missed Part 1, let me know, and I'll make sure you get a copy. Here are a few more quick tips to ensure a more organized and "stress-free" season.

Budget Your Time - Budget your time as well as your money. Prioritize your holiday events, traditions, chores and projects. If you're having out of town guests, prepare the guest room. If not, close the guest room door and focus your energy elsewhere. Don't fret over sending out Christmas cards if it's lower on the list. A New Year's greeting can be a fun post holiday surprise for your family and friends. Don't be afraid to say no to requests that don't fall in line with your priorities.

Check What You Have - Check what you have before you buy. This goes for decorating items, wrapping supplies, food and gifts. Designate a place where you store gifts you buy throughout the year and keep an inventory of what you have so you don't duplicate purchases.

Think of Gifts - Think of gifts that are non-cluttering and meaningful for the lives of those you love. Give certificates for dinner out, babysitting, massage, theatre or movie tickets, or even a session with a professional organizer!

Create a Home for Incoming Christmas Cards - A basket or wall-hanging display works well for this.

Play Christmas Music - Play Christmas music on your computer while at work or play. Pandora.com has a great "Peaceful Christmas" station.

Plan Meals - Use a weekly meal planner during the holidays, or better yet, all year long! Make sure you have everything on your shopping list needed for that week's meals. That will be one less thing to think about at 4 p.m. each day!

Donate - Donate the Christmas decorations you store, but never use, to your favorite charity Thrift Shop or to a needy family. At the end of the season only repack those items you love, use and enjoy.

Christmas Savings - Set up a Christmas Savings Account. It may not reduce stress this year, but it will the next!

Stay Focused - Keep your focus on that which is most meaningful to you and yours and enjoy the holiday season!

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

RECIPE cont. from P. 11

watch it closer than most as the peas have a tendency to stick.

Split Pea Soup

- Ham Bone
- 1 lb. bag split peas
- Chopped Onion
- Chopped carrots
- Chopped, peeled potato
- Salt & Pepper

In a large pot boil the ham bone in plenty of water to cover. As it cooks, foam will form on the surface of the liquid; just spoon it off and discard. In another pot I put the peas that have been rinsed and picked through to take out any small rocks. I cover the peas with enough water to cover well and cook on a medium flame. Do not season at this point but be careful as they will stick if cooked too fast. When the ham bone has cooked for about 30 minutes take it out of the water and trim what meat may be left on the bone. Discard the bone and set aside the meat. In the broth from the ham, put the onion, carrots and potato and a little salt and pepper. Cook only until the vegetables are done. As soon as the peas are soft, drain any excess water and pour the peas into the pot with the vegetables and add the ham. Simmer until peas are completely softened and soup is thick. Check for seasoning. I've read that you shouldn't salt the peas when they are first cooking as it will make them tough. Don't know how true that is, but I've always waited until they are cooked to add salt - just in case it is true.

Don't Forget Dessert

What would a soup dinner be without dessert? I'm leaving you with one of our family's favorite. When my niece Eryn, who lives in southern California, is planning to come for a visit she will call my sister and in the conversation will say, "Grandma, will there be Republican Dessert?" Well of course there will be. We asked one time why they call it Republican Dessert - the answer was "It's so rich, the Democrats can't afford it."

Republican Dessert

- 1 C flour
- 1 stick margarine - softened
- ½ C Chopped nuts
- Mix together like pie dough and press into bottom of 9x13 pan. Bake for 10 minutes in preheated 350 oven.
- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 C. Powdered sugar
- 1 large container Cool Whip
- Cream together the cream cheese and powdered sugar. Fold in the container of cool whip. Put on top of cooled crust and freeze.
- 2 small pkgs. Instant chocolate pudding mix.
- 2½ C milk

Mix pudding mix and milk as directed on package but do not add any more milk. Spread over second layer and freeze.

1 small container Cool Whip
Spread this over the pudding layer and freeze. If desired, toasted coconut can be sprinkled over the top.

I hope you have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New Year. Talk to you next year!

ANSWERS

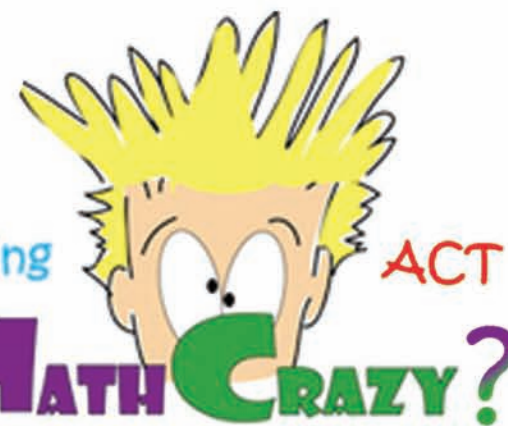
15									
8		24							
1	+	4	+						
13	8								
X		-							
6	X	7	÷	2	21				
+		X							
9	-	4	X	3	15				

K J N Y
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3	9	1	7	5	4	2	6	8
7	2	6	8	3	1	9	5	4
5	4	8	2	9	6	1	3	7
9	8	7	6	1	3	4	2	5
6	5	3	4	2	8	7	9	1
2	1	4	9	7	5	3	8	6
1	7	5	3	6	9	8	4	2
8	3	2	5	4	7	6	1	9
4	6	9	1	8	2	5	7	3

Algebra I English CHSEE Algebra II Spanish
 Calculus Geometry Statistics
 SAT Pre-Algebra Chemistry Trigonometry Reading ACT

Are your kid's grades driving you **MATH CRAZY?**



12/10

Math Crazy owner and tutor Tom Filer, right, helps a student understand high school geometry.

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Your child is unique and at Math Crazy we treat him or her as such. Our evaluations go far beyond State Standards. We also evaluate your child's learning style to determine the method by which he or she absorbs the maximum amount of information in the minimum amount of time. Finally, we compile all of this information to create a customized learning plan specifically for your child. We look behind the numbers to tell you what the state tests don't.



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FLIP SIDE
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Christmas Eve Services

December 24th, 4pm & 6pm

*37193 Avenue 12, Suite 34,
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Services on Sunday: 9:00AM & 10:30 AM
 For more information on church activities visit our website at www.acts176.com or E-mail info@acts176.com

12/10

Classified

Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - 35 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12. Call 559-645-4583.**

Business Opportunity

Car wash tunnel, detail bay and vacuum. For rent or lease. **Call for details. 645-6630.**

Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy - 19 years experience. Wood Stove Inserts & Fireplaces. Remember - **THINK SAFETY - BURN SAFELY! CALL 559-908-9332.**

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For Rent - 5BD/2BA 2,400 sq. ft. on 10 acres. Barn for horses. \$2,000. per mo. **Call 908-4289 for particulars.**

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For Sale - 1 Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Never Used - In plastic. Cost \$700. Sacrifice \$245. **Call 360-9047.**

For Sale - All New King PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box, In Pkg., Cost

\$900. Sacrifice \$350. **Call 275-8813.**

For Sale - POOL TABLE Genuine 1" Slate Top, professional model, solid wood rails, tournament bumpers, leather pockets, w/accessories. Never used. Cost \$4K, Sacrifice \$975. Can arrange moving. **Call 277-2511.**

For Sale - NFL Blankets - Any size, Baby to King. Disney, animal prints, flower prints too. Also, some costume jewelry. **Call Blanca at 559-916-0733.**

For Sale - One horse sleigh \$1,500. Carousel horse \$1,500. Gun Safe \$350. Tables and much more. Call Joyce for more information. **645-1770.**

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The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 29 years working in the area. **Call 559-822-2759.**

Handyman Services

Handyman Services - O. HANDYMAN - Need fans installed, sprinklers, light electrical, plumbing, or any handyman chores? Call Ohan for free estimates. **559-645-4583.**

Happy Birthday

Diana Tucker's birthday is December 19 and she is accepting gifts and lunches. **Please call 381-5879 or 645-0543.**

Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Part time office help. Experienced with Microsoft word, phones, some collections. Quick Books a plus. Flexible hours. **Call 645-4730.**

Landscaping

Luke's Landscaping - Lawns, gardens, weeds & trees. Maintenance, clean ups and repairs. **Call today for free estimate. 559-240-8203.**

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classified rates are
crazy cheap. Only \$10
for each 25 words.**

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		15
+		x		-	
	x		÷		21
x		-		x	
	+		+		13
15		24		8	

1 2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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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Real Estate

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A Ranchos resident for over 27 years, I am a full-time professional agent working the Madera, Fresno and Clovis areas. Inventories of homes for sale are at a long term low. Now is a great time to sell as competition is low. And it is a great time to buy with record low interest rates and multiple tax incentives. Call me today!

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Realtor, Century 21 C. Watson

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covers or shop buildings
many sizes and colors
from which to choose**



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559-269-1956**
CCL #526211

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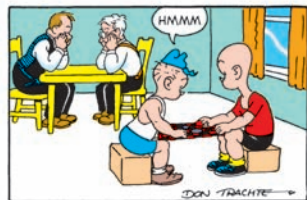
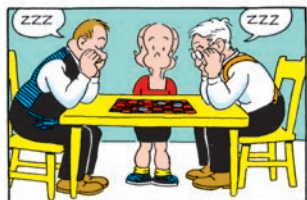
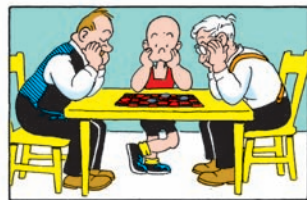
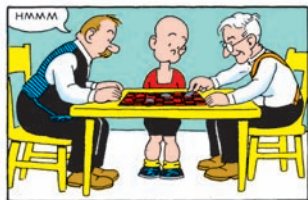
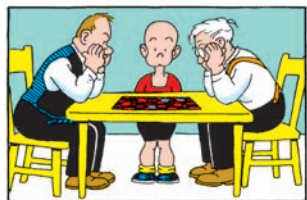
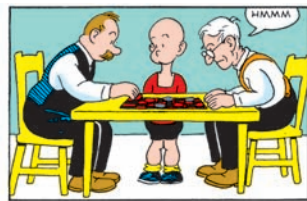
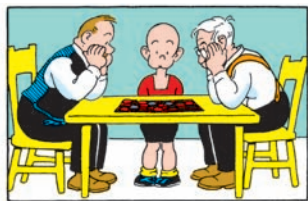
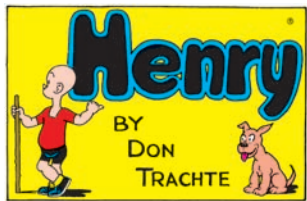
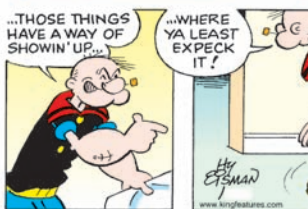
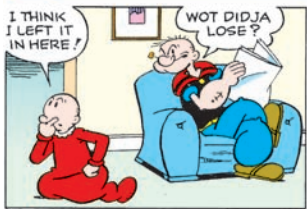
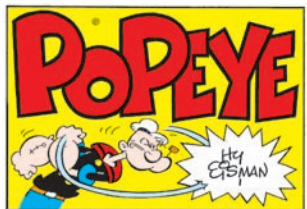
Let us celebrate Christ's birth, give thanks for His death, rejoice in His resurrection and share in His eternal peace. May the Prince of Peace bring joy to all your Christmas celebrations.



Continental Realty
431-7060 or 645-5450

12/10

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

J'EVER NOTICE? IT'S THIS TIME (THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER, THAT IS) THAT SOME NERD WILL THINK THEY'RE FUNNY--AND ALWAYS, BUT LIKE, WE MEAN WILL ALWAYS SAY--



BY AL SCADUTO

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? YOU'VE WRAPPED A GIFT EVER SO PRETTY--THEN YOU REALIZE--



WINTER FUN! Don't duck this challenge. See if you can correctly count all of the snowballs pictured above in 15 seconds.

Answer: We counted 38.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	A								E
2.	B								E
3.	C								E
4.	D								E
5.	E								E
6.	F								E
7.	G								E
8.	H								E



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

CAN YOU FIELD THIS TRACK PROBLEM? Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle before the New Year begins. You must replace the letters on the event board with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.



THE "R" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown below, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the R's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Movie rating (given).
2. Egyptian sun god.
3. A period of time.
4. Title or name.
5. A loud noise.
6. Less covering.
7. Worked for wages.
8. Delightful; charming.

Answers: The words are: R1. Ra, Ra, era, Ear, Ra, era, ra, balder, labored, adorable.

DEFINITION:

1. Harsh and rough in manner.
2. A puritanical person.
3. A soft fabric.
4. To remove the king.
5. A paper container.
6. Popular, unfounded belief.
7. Type of rain spout.
8. A vulnerable computer program.

ANAGRAM:

- bias + rave
- slue + bone
- hems + care
- rode + then
- pole + even
- rook + fell
- loge + gray
- back + heal

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Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN --- ?

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

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

- Ben Blue
- Daisy Duck
- Kid Rock
- Tom Cruise
- Bob Hope
- Earl Grey
- Norman Lear
- Tom Mix
- Buddy Rich
- Helen Hunt
- Sally Ride
- Zane Grey
- Chris Rock
- John Hurt
- Stu Cook

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEASUREMENTS: What is the measurement of time called?
2. SCIENCE: What kind of metal is bauxite used to create?
3. GAMES: Which is the strongest hand in a poker game?
4. HISTORY: Who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president born in a hospital?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Where would one find the popular tourist spot called "Vieux Carre"?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of a creature is a gibbon?
8. ASTRONOMY: Rhea is a moon of which planet?
9. TELEVISION: Which comedians were famous for the "Who's on First?" vaudeville routine?
10. MOVIES: In "The Silence of the Lambs," what was Hannibal the Cannibal's last name?

Answers

1. Chronometry
2. Aluminum
3. Royal flush
4. Aaron Burr
5. Jimmy Carter
6. New Orleans (The French Quarter)
7. Ape
8. Saturn
9. Abbott and Costello
10. Lecter

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Click on "Local News" at

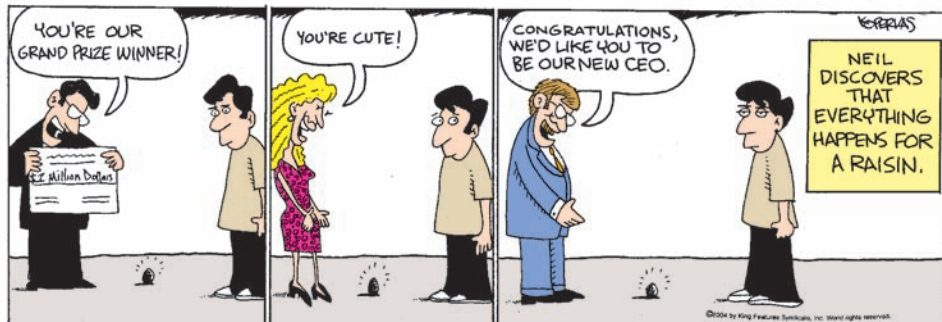
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



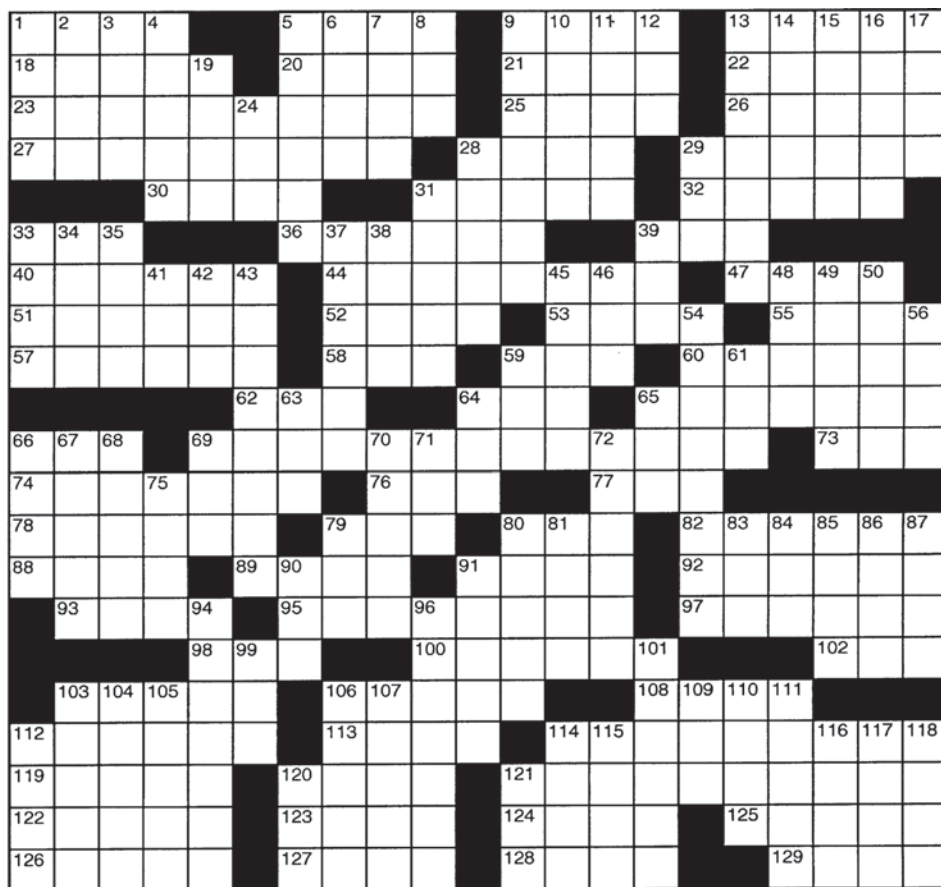
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Man has a baseball glove. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Box is black. 4. Paper has writing on it. 5. Boy has short sleeves. 6. Boy's shoes are plain.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Zhivago's love
 - 5 Touch up the text
 - 9 It should be square
 - 13 "Don't — it!"
 - 18 Act like Etna
 - 20 Birdbrain
 - 21 Garfield's pal
 - 22 Fragrance
 - 23 Tennessee cry of denial?
 - 25 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)
 - 26 Long walks
 - 27 Pleasant
 - 28 Jeroboam contents
 - 29 Way up
 - 30 Vend
 - 31 Get — (be successful)
 - 32 Mikita and Musial
 - 33 Find the sum
 - 36 Spring holiday
 - 39 TV's "— Sharkey"
 - 40 Mature
 - 44 North Carolina cry of encouragement?
 - 47 Seizes suddenly
 - 51 Join the leisure class?
 - 52 Item for 37 Down
 - 53 Live on lettuce
 - 55 Coasted
 - 57 Texas cry of sympathy?
 - 58 Feel wretched
 - 59 Writer Rand
 - 60 Second Triumvirate member
 - 62 EMT's skill
 - 64 Everything
 - 65 Dickens character
 - 66 Yak
 - 69 Pennsylvania cry of disgust?
 - 73 — Moines, IA
 - 74 He'll bend over backward for you
 - 76 Grazing ground
 - 77 Permit
 - 78 Witch doctor
 - 79 Hoopsters' org.
 - 80 Exec's deg.
 - 82 Utah cry of revulsion?
 - 88 Chihuahua dough
 - 89 Chihuahua snack
 - 91 Italian port
 - 92 Dwell
 - 93 "Scat!"
 - 95 Illinois cry of surprise?
 - 97 Sampras
 - 98 Weeding tool
 - 100 Duration
 - 102 Chemical suffix
 - 103 Buy off
 - 106 See
 - 129 Across
 - 108 Orient
 - 112 Uproar
 - 113 Mr. Diamond
 - 114 Least liberal
 - 119 Gravel-voiced
 - 120 Thailand, formerly
 - 121 Michigan cry of chagrin?
 - 122 Senator Kefauver
 - 123 Cultural grp.
 - 124 Nautical adverb
 - 125 Concluded
 - 126 Hackneyed
 - 127 Big man on campus
 - 128 Cunning
 - 129 With 106 Across, legendary drummer
 - 6 Barbie or Ken
 - 7 Unemployed
 - 8 Sock part
 - 9 "Le Misanthrope"
 - 10 Minneapolis suburb
 - 11 Helped
 - 12 Composer Delibes
 - 13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?
 - 14 Author Jong
 - 15 Symbol
 - 16 Forebodings
 - 17 "Boss" Tweed's nemesis
 - 19 What you used to be
 - 24 Actor Kilmer
 - 28 Baby basset
 - 29 Egyptian viper
 - 31 Playwright Fugard
 - 33 Taj town
 - 34 Sleuth Nancy
 - 35 Kids connect
 - 37 Jockey giant
 - 38 Darjeeling dress
 - 39 Revolutionary Guevara
 - 41 Drollery
 - 42 Psychic
 - Geller
 - 43 Inclination
 - 45 Tennyson tale
 - 46 — rummy
 - 48 About
 - 49 Bank deposit?
 - 50 Burn a bit
 - 54 Quiet
 - 56 Colors
 - 59 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
 - 61 Pro-gun grp.
 - 63 Saucepan
 - 64 Drillers' org.
 - 65 TV's "Murder, — Wrote"
 - 66 Huff and puff
 - 67 Feels sore
 - 68 Impertinent
 - 69 Cops' org.
 - 70 — grease
 - 71 Indeed
 - 72 Grievance
 - 75 "Typee" sequel
 - 79 Sgt. or cpl.
 - 80 — Carta
 - 81 Improve oneself, in a way
 - 83 Turn right
 - 84 DDE's predecessor
 - 85 Tiny coin
 - 86 Genesis setting
 - 87 Hawaii's state bird
 - 90 Veneration
 - 91 Freeway
 - 94 Idaho cry of excitement?
 - 96 Jack of "The Odd Couple"
 - 99 Poetic preposition
 - 101 "Hiroshima" author
 - 103 Good time
 - 104 Dread-locked one
 - 105 Set in motion
 - 106 Kevin of "In & Out"
 - 107 Range rope
 - 109 Actress Meyers
 - 110 Seafood selection
 - 111 Accent feature
 - 112 Mus. directive
 - 114 — contendere
 - 115 Summit
 - 116 "The Never-Ending Story" author
 - 117 WWII gun
 - 118 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
 - 120 Crestfallen
 - 121 LummoX

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FUN PAGES

Mark Your Calendar!
SEM CU
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, January 24th
Ranchos Pizza Factory

**Everyone is welcome
and encouraged to come.**

**If you care about your community,
you won't want to miss this meeting.**

12/10

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SEM CU
south east madera county united