

The Ranchos Independent



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SCIENCE STOPS A PREDATOR



an ankle monitor catches an offender in the act

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Meth and Stolen Scrap Leads Back to Ranchos Home

By Randy Bailey

Sheriff John Anderson announced on Thursday, Feb. 21 the arrest of two Madera residents and a Fresno man all believed to be connected to a case involving crystal meth and stolen metal. A fourth suspect has avoided custody.

Deputy Luis Padgett and Ag Crimes Detective Adam McEwen took 35-year-old Buryl Patrick Acosta and 24-year-old Sabrina Marie Smith into custody at a recycling yard Wednesday, Feb. 20. Both suspects are from Madera. Smith is accused of selling nearly 5,000 pounds of stolen metal, reaping more than \$500 before she and Acosta were captured.

With help from Sergeant Mark Stritzel, a third suspect, 38-year-old Clint Serrage of Fresno was captured Thursday, Feb. 21 and taken into custody at a home located on Manon Avenue near Road 35 in the Madera Ranchos while a fourth suspect, 26-year-old Michael Anthony Luna remains on the loose.

In their search to find Luna, Deputies hit a number of homes overnight, including one in the Madera Ranchos the morning of Thursday, Feb. 21. That's where they found numerous bags of crystal meth, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and cash. Deputies discovered Clint Serrage had been staying at this home for about a week before his arrest. Sheriff Anderson said theft and meth go hand in hand and it's not impacting just Madera County. He says the entire Valley is affected by it. In fact, a Fresno woman wanted in Fresno on a \$50,000 felony drug warrant was found hiding under a car parked on the Manon Ave. property.

According to the scrap metal victim several pieces of metal equipment started disappearing from his work shop located on Avenue 10 near Road 35. Roughly two weeks after the theft, the victim stumbled upon his stolen property at a recycling yard in Madera. The scrapper, identified as Smith, claimed it came from her "Grandpa's Farm."

The victim and the suspect are NOT

related.

Sabrina Smith, remains behind bars, booked on suspicion of receiving stolen property with her bail set at \$10,000. Buryl Patrick Acosta, who is currently on felony drug probation, was also booked on the same criminal complaint, and is being held without bail. Clint Serrage, who is on felony drug probation out of Fresno, reportedly with two pending court cases, was booked on suspicion of possession for sales. He sits behind bars with bail set at \$10,000.

Michael Luna is wanted for possession and transporting stolen property. He stands 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighs roughly 175 pounds, has black hair, brown eyes and sports a mole on his cheek, just to the left of his nose. Tattooed across his forearm, is the word, "Crossroads."

Anyone with information is urged to call the Madera County Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770 or CRIME STOPPERS at 498-STOP. An anonymous tip that leads to Luna's arrest is worth up to \$1,000.



Sabrina Marie Smith, 24, and Buryl Patrick Acosta, 35, were taken into custody at a recycling yard Wednesday, Feb. 20 trying to sell 5,000 pounds of allegedly stolen scrap metal. Their arrest led to the capture of 38-year-old Clint Serrage of Fresno the next day at a home located on Manon Avenue near Road 35 in the Madera Ranchos. The final suspect, 26-year-old Michael Anthony Luna, is still on the loose. He can be identified by a large tattoo on his right forearm that says "crossroads."

Area Child Predator Behind Bars Now



High Risk Sex Offender Was Wearing Ankle Monitor

Frank Charles Reddell, a 38-year-old Madera resident and convicted sex offender who was out on parole, is back behind bars accused of possessing child pornography and manufacturing child pornography, even with an electronic monitor strapped to his ankle.

Arresting Reddell was the result of a joint investigation with Homeland Security, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Parole, Madera Police, Madera County Sheriff's Office and the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, said Madera County Sheriff John Anderson. "Authorities have, in large part, the electric monitor to thank," Anderson said.

While electronic monitors are designed to capture a parolee's every move, it's up to parole agents to keep vigilant as to what those who wear the monitors are up to at each location.

One day after Christmas, Reddell was seen sitting in his car viewing images on his laptop while parked outside a Starbucks in Madera. He was reportedly in plain view of those who patronize the place, including his agent, who was keeping tabs on him. According to reports, when parole agent John Hagler walked up to the car he could see sexually explicit images of children on the suspect's computer screen. He confronted Reddell and attempted to take the computer, but Reddell resisted and tried to put his car into gear to take off. Agent Hagler jumped into the car to keep Reddell from fleeing and Reddell physically attacked Hagler.

Madera Police showed up to assist Ha-

Please see **PREDATOR** on P. 3

LHS Students Finish 1,2,3 at Speech



Rotary Speech Contest contestants (from left) Jaycob Rousey, Chloe Doyle and Claire Copher, all from Liberty High School, and Aqsa Khalil from Madera High School.

Jaycob Rousey, Chloe Doyle and Claire Copher of Liberty High School and Aqsa Khalil of Madera High School competed in the annual Madera Rotary Club Speech Contest during the club's weekly meeting at the Madera Golf and Country Club. Each student presented a five minute talk on Rotary International's theme "Peace Through Service."

"Our contest was very inspiring," said Speech Contest Chair Sue Thornton. "Many Rotarians commented on how impressed they were with these students. Not only were they excellent speakers, each with a distinctive style, but each student is already actively involved in community service and

truly capable of contributing to Rotary International's dream of achieving world peace through service."

First Place winner, Chloe Doyle, was awarded \$125. Rousey placed second and Copher was the third place winner. On Feb. 26 at 6 p.m., Doyle will have an opportunity to compete for additional cash prizes at the Area Level competition with the winners of the Madera Sunrise and Chowchilla Rotary Clubs.

The Rotary Speech Contest is open to all high school students. Participants receive monetary awards and certificates. Seniors Rousey and Doyle told club members about their future college and career plans.

PREDATOR cont. from P. 2

gler and they took Reddell into custody, and booked him into Madera County Department of Corrections on suspicion of Battery on a Peace Officer, Resisting Arrest, Obstruction and Parole Violation. Parole agents seized the computer and a search warrant was written. It was then that Madera Police contacted Lt. Tyson Pogue, the Madera County Sheriff's Task Force representative with Internet Crimes Against Children, to help with the investigation. The investigation, which began on Dec. 26, 2012, has resulted in additional

felony complaints filed against Reddell.

During the course of that investigation, Pogue has discovered thousands of sexually explicit images of children and in addition to images found on Reddell's computer, Pogue also found equally disturbing images on the suspect's cell phone. It is alleged that the suspect was not only downloading child pornography on his computer, but capturing explicit images of children on his cell phone as well. Reddell, who works as a heavy equipment operator for Cal Trans, based in Fresno, was also moonlighting as a handyman doing repair work at homes in Madera. Using ad-

vanced forensic techniques, investigators were able to extract information from the photographs leading authorities to places where he was hired to conduct handyman work.

Reddell is currently listed on California's Megan's Law Website as a registered sex offender, convicted in 2004 of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years of age. At the bottom of that same screen, it reads, "The registrant may have subsequently relocated."

He has.

Frank Charles Reddell remains jailed

without bail, facing additional felony charges, which include possession of child pornography and manufacturing child pornography. Based on evidence gathered by authorities so far, they believe there may be more victims.

Because the case originated in the city of Madera, the Madera Police Department is the lead investigating agency. They ask that anyone in the Ranchos who may have possibly had work done by Reddell and who might have additional information should call Detective Brent Cederquist with the Madera Police Department at 559-675-4244.

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Gun Control and Assault Weapon Truth



By Peter Friedman

As Rahm Emanuel stated when Chief of Staff for Obama, "Never let a good crisis go to waste!"

While the massacre of the innocents in Connecticut is horrendous, the gun control advocates are out in force with specious and egregious lies, deceptions, and outright Marxist politics. Obama has failed to address the Fort Hood massacre of our soldiers or the 500 plus American citizens gunned down in his hometown of Chicago just this year. These murders and acts of terrorism do not figure into the Marx-

function of the assault rifle was that it had to be able to fire like a machine gun in fully automatic fire – hold the trigger rearward and the rifle would continue to fire until you released the trigger or you ran out of ammunition. Google the St. Valentine's Day Massacre back in Chicago 80 years ago and you will find the gangsters using Thompson sub-machine guns that fired the .45ACP cartridge. They used detachable cartridge drums that held lots of rounds, much more than any magazine. During WWII the Thompson was a premier assault rifle used to breach defensive positions. It was also modified to use a 30-round magazine instead of the drum, which was subject to failing.

In 1965 the U.S. began to issue M16 full-auto assault rifles for use in Vietnam. The M16 replaced the M14 and was in use once the M1 (eight rounds in a clip loaded from the top of the receiver, and not full-auto) was phased out in the

late 1950s. The M14 was a main battle rifle using nearly the same powerful long-range cartridge as the M1, but the M14 was able to fire full-auto. It was magazine fed at the base of the receiver. The M16 was designed specifically as an assault rifle used in

close quarters of the Vietnam jungle. It was short and light using small powerful .223 ammunition, the bullet being nearly equal to the normal .22LR used in target rifles and pistols. The .22 cartridge equals 22 thousandths of an inch, or nearly 1/4 inch in diameter, but the .223 cartridge used in the M16 and the M4 carbine, a shorter version of the M16, is more powerful, but basically the same bullet.

Most assault rifles have a selector lever on the receiver that designates what rate of fire the user wishes such as Auto (continues to fire like a machine gun if the trigger is held rearward), Burst (only fires a three-round burst to save ammunition), Semi-Auto (will only fire when the

Please see **TEA PARTY** on P. 16

Hitler, Mao, Stalin, Mussolini and all other dictators involved in attempting full government control over their citizens knew that the nullification of the citizen's right to bear arms in case the government turned rogue was a priority.

ist agenda of gun confiscation as the precursor to total government control. Hitler, Mao, Stalin, Mussolini and all other dictators involved in attempting full government control over their citizens knew that the nullification of the citizen's right to bear arms in case the government turned rogue was a priority. So, let's take a hard look at the problem by the numbers.

1. Assault Rifles

What is the legal definition of an assault rifle? The word "assault" in military or law enforcement parlance is the breaching of a defensive position to achieve possession of it. Several generations ago specific rifles were designed to achieve this. The requirement was that they be light, shorter for close quarters than main battle rifles such as the M1, and use smaller and lighter caliber ammunition because they would be used in close quarters. Aside from heavy machine guns requiring multiple personnel, the assault rifle had to be individually carried. The primary

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Guest Editorial

President Obama's Re-Founding

By Rich Lowry

For the left, this is what winning looks like. President Barack Obama gave a second inaugural address that just as easily could have been delivered by progressive darling Elizabeth Warren.

If the president didn't repeat the phrase that Republicans threw back at him so often during the 2012 campaign -- "you didn't build that" -- the speech was a meditation on the same theme of the limits of individual action. The address was a paean to collectivism, swaddled in the rhetoric of individual liberty and of fidelity to the founding.

He began and ended with the Founding Fathers and threaded the Declaration of Independence throughout. This gave the speech a conservative sheen. He used the words "timeless," "ancient," "lasting" and "enduring." He sounded like Republican Sen. Marco Rubio in invoking "what makes us exceptional," namely "our allegiance to an idea, articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago."

But this framing of the speech only served to amplify the ambition of President Obama's larger political project. He hopes to reorient the American mainstream and locate conservatives outside it. He wants to take the founders from the right and baptize the unreconstructed entitlement state and the progressive agenda in the American creed.

In Obama's telling, the high points of our national life are found in collective action, in the growth of government, in teachers trained and roads built. "Now, more than ever," he declared, "we must do these things together, as one nation and one people."

He presented his agenda as the logical consequence of the Declaration of Independence's enunciation of the equality of all men and our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For Obama, that means equal-pay legislation, gay marriage and amnesty for illegal immigrants. He included a long passage on the necessity of fighting climate change with transformative energy policies. "That's what will lend meaning," he said, "to the creed our fathers once declared." (One wonders what Thomas Jefferson would have made of the argument that his handiwork is meaningless absent federal subsidies for the likes of Solyndra.)

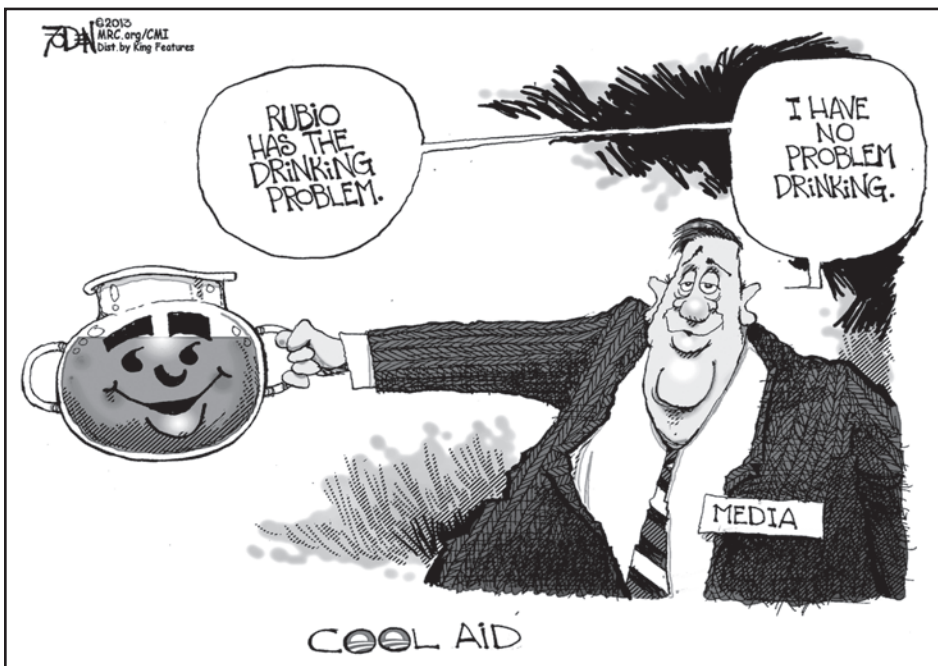
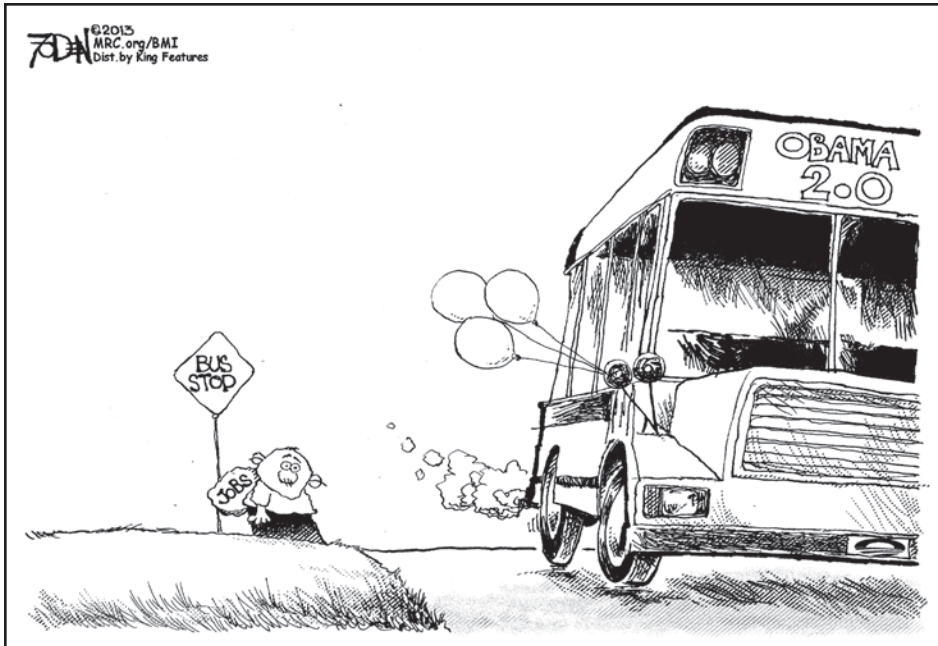
According to President Obama, entitlements like Medicare and Social Security don't merely represent a necessary safety net for the vulnerable. "They free us to take the risks that make this country great," he maintained, in a highly imaginative interpretation of these programs.

All of his bows to modesty were formalistic. He mentioned "outworn programs," without even promising to eliminate any. He said we have always had a suspicion of central authority, but of course he didn't endorse it. He said we don't have to settle the debate over the size of government once and for all, while insisting that we keep expanding it on his own terms.

All in all, it was a brazen performance, as audacious in intent as it was banal in its expression. He used the founders' authority to advance an expansive conception of American government that would have been unrecognizable to them. Amid the pomp and the circumstances, Republicans should have heard a direct challenge. The president did them, and everyone else, the favor of enunciating the battle lines and the stakes of the fights to come.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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Ranchos Plate Already Filling Up

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
February is a short month to have so much going on. We kicked off the month on Feb. 2 with Groundhog's Day. By the way, the Groundhog didn't see his shadow this year so we are supposed to have an early spring. Next we had President Lincoln's birthday, followed by Ash Wednesday, then Valentine's Day (I hope you had the chance to tell someone that you loved them) and the fairly new federal holiday called President's Day on Feb. 18. This is a special year for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors because we end the month of February with a trip for 93 seniors on the "Snow Train" to Reno, Nevada.

The theme this year for the [Flatlanders Day] parade is "Ranchos: Local and Lovin' It." So get your thinking caps on and put your ideas together for your float for the parade that will be held on May 11 this year. Save that date and make the Ranchos proud with your float.

Now that February is almost over are you ready for the month of March? We always wish for rain in March and April for our gardens and flowers. We just have to wait and see how that turns out. This year we start with Friday, March 1 bringing the annual local Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed. I hope that you have all bought your tickets to this great fundraiser. Tickets are only \$45 or if you get a table for 10 tickets are only \$40 each. Check out the big ad in this paper for more details. March 10 is when Daylight Savings Time begins, then it is time for St. Patrick's Day (when we should all wear green on March 17) then three days later on March 20 is the first day of spring. We end the month of March this year with Easter Sunday being on March 31. Easter is early this year and I have never figured out why it can't be the same time each year.

I just found out something that was a complete surprise to me. I wonder if you know about this? Liberty High football players this year will get Valley Championship rings. This is just like the Super Bowl football players who receive a ring when they win the Super Bowl. Congratulations again to the Liberty High football team for being the Football CIF Central Valley Division 5 Champions. Liberty High has had so many winning

teams to be proud of. A group of teachers and parents want to establish a method for honoring Liberty High's top student athletes and individuals who have made a positive impact on the local community. These students would provide the role models for today's and tomorrow's student athletes. This group believes that as a result, there will be an increased awareness and pride in Liberty High athletes of the past and present. To make this happen

this group wants to establish a "Liberty High School Hall of Fame." I think this is a good idea if it includes both boy and girl athletes in all of the sports.

I believe that in the last Ranchos Independent I told you about the new slate of officers for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors so now I will

tell you about the new slate of officers for 2013 of the local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce:

- President:** Verlin Dill
- Vice President:** Don Foster
- Recording Secretary:** Audrey Stock
- Treasurer:** Virginia Vick
- Past President:** Ollie Ridge

Board Members include Randy Bailey, Lisa Haney, Cindy Ceja, Paula Stuart, Leann Fursman and Javier Felix.

These people have been working to organize the Annual Crab Feed on Friday, March 1. As soon as the Crab Feed is over the members will start working on the details of putting on the Flatlander's Day Parade. The theme this year for the parade is "Ranchos: Local and Lovin' It." So get your thinking caps on and put your ideas together for your float for the parade that will be held on May 11 this year. Save that date and make the Ranchos proud with your float.

Happy Easter everyone it is just around the corner. If you would like to have an especially made Easter basket for that special child, you can put in your order at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Just come by the center at 37330 Berkshire Drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and sign up if you want a basket for a girl or a boy, or you could call 645-4864 and give Joann your order.

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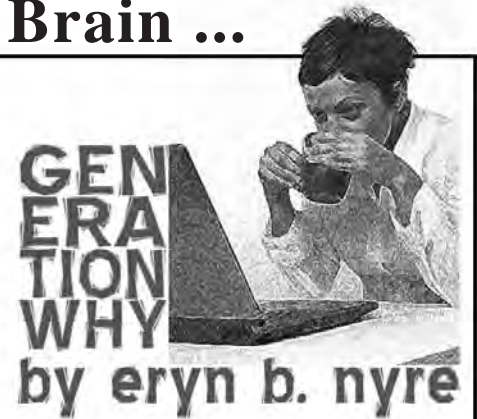


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If I Only Had a Brain ...



It warms my heart when I can be witness to that glorious moment when logic and reason dons on someone for the first time. Whether you have spent just moments laying out your argument, or even years trying to get through to someone, when everything finally clicks into place, birds sing, flowers bloom, a halo of light surrounds the person and a distant choir singing "Hallelujah" fills the air.

They get it. They finally get it.

I have a friend who always thought I was a little on the cold-hearted side for being a card carrying, conservative member of the Republican Party. She calls me the Tin-Man, which is fine with me, because at least I have a brain. In any event, her biggest beef with me was always the issue I take with the idea of redistribution of wealth and the vast number of social programs that take my money and pass it out among the masses, many of whom are taking advantage of the system to avoid

cocted these thieves and hooligans from my own twisted imagination, only good and honest people were accepting help from the government. Then she went to work for the county in the welfare department. She works as an intake officer, which basically means she is on the front lines in the war against my paycheck. Every day she deals with a large number of people attempting to get on the government dole. After only a few months in her new position, I could see the tide starting to turn. Suddenly she was face to face with

working for a living. I believe in helping your fellow man. I believe in giving to charities and donating your money and time to those less fortunate. I believe there are many people who only use social programs to provide

And there it was.

That moment when all the stars aligned and she finally got it. There wasn't much to say, so I simply smiled at her. It looks like the scarecrow had a brain all along.

very real people taking advantage of the system; these same people she thought didn't exist, or at least existed only in miniscule numbers, were now crossing her desk weekly – sometimes daily. It didn't take long for her

demeanor to change and next thing I know I'm getting texts and calls complaining about the hordes of people she has to deal with that are trying to bilk the system. Interesting ... I could have sworn that I had made the whole thing up. She started telling me stories about what she had to deal with. The woman who wanted the government to pay for day care for one of her children because two at home was just too much for her to handle. The woman who wanted food stamps for her family, even though she had a two income household, because there wasn't enough left over to pay her new car payment or cable. Or the woman who wanted to be paid a caregiver's fee for staying home to raise her own children. And these are the people honest enough, or perhaps someone would say naïve enough, to tell the welfare office the whole story. Those lowlife miscreants who lie and cheat to keep their hands in the welfare pie aren't so easily caught and cut off. But still, the point is that she started seeing these people

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This friend of mine truly believed I had made up this world of twits and trolls stalking me in the night, waiting for just the right moment to pounce and run away with half my paycheck. That I had con-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 11

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

An Apple a Day



An Apple a Day Will Keep the Doctor Away – We have heard that all our lives, and I have often wondered where that saying came from so I went searching on the internet. Sure enough, I found it. According to “Phrase Finder” the original phrase was “Eat an Apple Upon Going to Bed, and You’ll Keep the Doctor From Earning His Bread,” originated in Wales in Feb. 1866. In 1913 it was changed to the version we know today.

I can remember my grandpa would always buy a couple of lugs of apples from the fruit peddler in the fall every year. They would then store most of them in the fruit

Topping:
 ½ C Flour
 ¼ C granulated sugar
 ¼ C packed brown sugar
 ½ tsp cinnamon
 ½ tsp nutmeg
 1/8 tsp salt
 6 T butter, cut into pieces
 1/3 C old fashioned oatmeal
 1/3 C chopped nuts (optional)
 Butter or spray an 8 inch square baking dish.

Put all the topping ingredients in bowl and mix with two forks (or your hands) until mixture resem-

bles coarse meal. Set aside while preparing the filling.

Place prepared apples, lemon juice and sugar in large bowl and toss until apples are coated. Pour evenly into prepared baking dish. Spread the topping evenly over apples. Bake 30-40 minutes until top is golden

brown and apples are done. Let sit about 30 minutes before serving.

Adam's Apple Pie

Pie Crust:
 2 C flour
 1 ½ tsp salt
 2/3 C shortening
 ½ C ice water

Mix together flour, salt and shortening with pastry cutter until like meal. Add water and mix into a ball. This will be a little moist, but when you put it onto floured board and flour before rolling, it should be perfect. Cut in half, and roll each piece to a circle just larger than the 9” pie plate.

Filling:
 3 to 3 ½ pounds peeled and sliced tart cooking apples

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

a large supply in the house. Applesauce, apple pies – both baked and fried – apple butter, and especially peeling and slicing or scraping them by the fire in the living room before going to bed.

Do you serve the same side dishes every time you

serve a certain meat dish? My mom always served creamed peas and carrots and “broasted” potatoes with meat loaf; canned spinach with fish; and with pork – either a roast or chops – there was always applesauce.

I’ve told you I don’t like to make pie crust. I like apple pie if someone else cooks it – especially my nephew Adam. If I have apples to cook, I will make an Apple Crisp.

Apple Crisp

Preheat oven to 375

Filling:

6 cups peeled and chopped tart apples
 (this will take about 2 ½ pounds)

Juice of ½ lemon

3 T granulated sugar

There is a website that gives “Nine Reasons Why an Apple a Day Really Does Keep the Doctor Away.” Among the reasons are: Apples contain Vitamin C; they help prevent heart disease; they are low in calories; they help lower bad cholesterol and increase good cholesterol; and they help prevent tooth decay.

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

- 2 T flour
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 C Sugar
- 4-5 pats butter

Mix together apples, flour, cin-
namon and sugar in large bowl.
Pour into pie plate on top of bottom
crust. Add butter randomly on top of
apples. Put top layer on and crimp
edges to seal. Cut air vents in top
(before putting on top of apples,
you could be fancy and cut apple
shapes in top crust)

Bake in preheated 350 oven for
1 hour.

Ollia Ridge gave me this recipe

– sounds wonderful and you don't
even have to peel and slice apples.

Vonda's Apple Cake

Preheat oven to 350

Mix the following ingredients
together:

- 2 C flour
- 2 C sugar
- 1 can apple pie filling
- ½ C oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ C raisins
- 1 ½ C chopped walnuts

Pour into 9x13 pan and bake for
about 45 minutes.

There is a website that gives
“Nine Reasons Why an Apple a Day
Really Does Keep the Doctor
Away.” Among the reasons are: Ap-
ples contain Vitamin C; they help
prevent heart disease; they are low
in calories; they help lower bad
cholesterol and increase good cho-
lesterol; and they help prevent tooth
decay. So keep eating those apples.
You have lots of choices: yellow,
green and all shades of red and all
the way from tart to sweet.

Before I close this article, I
want to put on a different hat. I
want to talk to the residents of the
Ranchos (this includes the
Bonadelle, and Rolling Hills areas)
about the Golden Valley Chamber of
Commerce. As you have no doubt
heard by now, the annual Crab Feed
is coming up on March 1. It is the
one big annual fundraiser for the
chamber. You can purchase a ticket
or a book of tickets from any mem-
ber of the chamber and for \$45 you
get huge amounts of salad, pasta
and crab. PLUS, you get to see old
friends and meet new ones. Oh,
there's one other thing: YOU GET
TO HELP THE CHAMBER! Trust
me, it is money well spent.

While I'm on the subject of the
Chamber, I want to let you know
that the Chamber could use your
help. With the Crab Feed coming up
this Friday, March 1, there is a list
of “chores” that need volunteers to
fill. Just call the Chamber at 645-
4001 and ask how you can help. In
addition to the chores, the Chamber
also needs items for the two auc-
tions.

*This article first appeared in the
February 2010 issue of the Ranchos
Independent.*

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Laundry - Loads of Fun!

Whether you find satisfaction in putting away warm towels fresh from the dryer, and clean, neatly folding T-shirts or your clean laundry stays in piles that look very similar to your dirty piles (but smell better), laundry is a necessary part of each of our lives. Here are a few tips to make your laundry experience even better, or if you're of the second category, just a little more bearable.

First, make your laundry room or area of the garage a pleasant place. Paint it a fun color, and add some cute decorations. For ideas go to Google Images and search "cute laundry rooms."

Get the basics (detergent, fabric softener or sheets, bleach, etc.) off the dryer-top or floor and create a home for them. Since we're more likely to put stuff away if it's easy, I recommend an open shelf just above the washer and dryer. If you prefer it hidden, a cabinet with doors works too.

I refill a medium size detergent bottle with my Costco-size supply and keep the smaller one on my shelf and the refill in the garage. It's easier to handle and fits nicely on the shelf. I also have a small basket for my fabric softener sheets and keep the big box in the cabinet above.

Your supply shelf is a good place for a small container for the ChapSticks, hair accessories, coins and bills retrieved from pockets prior to washing. (Remember – finder's keepers!)

Create a boundary for storing single socks. This might be another container placed on the shelf or in the cabinet. A cute Pinterest idea is tacking a two-foot string to the laundry room wall and clothes-pinning the single socks there. That way family members can easily see and retrieve them. Stenciled on the wall above string it read "Department of Missing Socks" and underneath "no sock left behind."

If single sock prevention is your goal,

consider "sock locks" or use large safety pins to secure socks together. An even better idea is giving each family member his/her own labeled, zippered mesh laundry bag, like those used for delicates. Each person's socks run through the washer and dryer in his/her own bag. Eliminates extra sorting too.

If you have front loading machines, consider placing a countertop over them. This makes a great folding station, portable ironing station and work-space for school or home projects.

To air-dry delicate clothes consider a retractable drying rack that mounts to the wall, or a retractable clothesline. If your shelf extends beyond your washer and dryer, mount a bath towel bar underneath the shelf to hang clothes. For extended hanging space install a closet hanging rod wall to wall, or if the space is small, a shower curtain rod will work. Placing a row of hooks on the wall also provides a place for hanging clothes and saves space because they hang flat against the wall.

Fortunately we're not living in the age of ironing sheets and tea towels, but there are still times when an iron and board are useful. The over-the-door fold-down ironing board simplifies the process. I have mine on the closet

door since I first like to give our clothes a chance to reach a "good enough" state hanging on their own. Keep your iron and any other ironing supplies within reach of your board.

Another cool online idea is the "laundry basket dresser." This stores

three laundry baskets like drawers so you can sort your laundry and not take up a lot of floor space. You can find pictures and how-to instructions at www.infarrantlycreative.net/2012/02/laundry-basket-dresser.html.

Finally, set a laundry schedule. Some prefer a laundry day or days so there are days when they don't have to think about laundry at all. Others prefer the routine of doing a load a day. Figure out what works best for you and stick with it.

To ensure that the clean laundry is put away, place everyone's on their beds and make putting it away part of the bedtime routine, rather than a separate chore.

Wishing you "loads" of fun!

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

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"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2013."

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

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Progress not Perfection

The Luckiest Man, and I Mean it, Ever

By Mike Bailey

For most of my adult life, I have always believed in the definition of luck being this: Luck is where preparation meets opportunity. There is a whole lot of truth to that, however there is another side to luck. Be it the 10 percent grey area that comes with everything or just dumb luck, not until recently have I realized that luck does play a part in everyone's life.

On Super Bowl Sunday, luck did rear its head on my behalf. Now believe me, I know the 49ers lost, but this is where the luck comes in as

pointed out by my cousin and friend, someone I hold very dear to my heart. He has been through a lot lately and he made the sacrifices where needed, chose discipline over his own desires and his wants and needs were put way behind those of others. Right after the game I

was a little bent out of shape, to say the least. But, I happened to peruse one of my Super Bowl pools and realized that when the Ravens stepped out of bounds for the safety, that gave me the winning score. There was not one hint of preparation in that. It was by all ways and means dumb luck. Shortly after I noticed this, I went around and shared what just happened with my family and friends who were all still there. That is when my cousin said, "There it goes again,

your team just lost the Super Bowl and you come out smelling like a rose. Mike Bailey the luckiest man ever." That got me to think, and think I did for the next few days of just how lucky, or blessed, I truly have been.

While I was in rehab, there was a supervisor at the Salvation Army that I would talk with. She would try to get across to me that my situation could have always been worse. Being stuck in my own personal pity party I could not quite see her point. In retrospect I see now exactly what she was talking about.

Through the years of my abuse of myself I

have been very lucky. Things could have been a lot worse. I believe this with everything in me that God was doing for me what I could not do for myself. All those mornings when I awoke and had zero memory of how I got home something or someone saw to it that I had arrived

"There it goes again, your team just lost the Super Bowl and you come out smelling like a rose. Mike Bailey the luckiest man ever." That got me to think, and think I did for the next few days of just how lucky, or blessed, I truly have been.

safely. All the times I took handfuls of pills and washed it down with vodka, God was there to make sure I made it through. Driving drunk thousands of times and never once hurting anyone. How else do you explain it? I had to be incredibly lucky or was bestowed a huge blessing.

My supervisor at Salvation Army would also tell me that God had a great plan for me.

Please see **LUCKY** on P. 17

GEN WHY cont. from P. 7

ple for herself. The massive amounts of people who just wanted money they didn't earn.

Little by little reality was sinking in: her money, that she had worked so hard for, was being shipped by the sackful into a government program that was so flawed it barely knows where all the money is going. The moment finally came over lunch one afternoon. She was complaining about one of the cases she had to deal with, a woman who had no business being on welfare so bitter and angry with being denied that she stood there yelling at my friend for a half hour, and then she said it, "Why does she think she deserves my money? I work for it, you work for it. Why do I have to pay her bills? No one pays mine."

And there it was.

That moment when all the stars aligned and she finally got it. There wasn't much to say, so I simply smiled at her. It looks like the scarecrow had a brain all along.

Kiwanis Korner

Quietly Helping a Community

By Perry Watkins

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

Autumn Brantley is no ordinary 10-year-old. Since she was two, she has lived with a rare autoimmune disease called sideroblastic anemia which requires her to obtain blood transfusions every two weeks. While she awaits her second bone marrow transplant in two years, the Kiwanis Club sought to make the time she spends at home as magical as possible.

After seeing an episode of the television show “Secret Millionaire,” a show in which millionaires visit impoverished communities and provide assistance, past club President Roseann Jones conceived

of the idea to conduct bedroom makeovers for children with debilitating diseases. The club connected with Autumn, whose disease forces her to spend nearly all of her time at her family’s small home where her immune system is less likely to be compromised.

Jones’ astonishment at the community’s receptiveness to Project Pleasant Dreams’ first annual recipient is overwhelmingly evident. “The community is really coming together,” she said. “Autumn is a wonderful girl with such a wonderful personality.”

Designed with Autumn’s input, the boldly colorful new bedroom will truly be the result of a community’s generosity. At a benefit dinner held in her honor, the club raised \$3,500, more than tripling its goal. Businesses and individuals have donated their time and supplies, offering flooring, murals and compassion to a family that has endured a difficult journey.

This is an example of the direct generosity of Kiwanis Members and community members in one club. Our local Kiwanis Club in the Ranchos has also helped local children and families directly, particularly when faced with hardships like serious illness or sudden

economic devastation. We don’t often publish the names of families or individuals we help because the purpose is not to advertise their personal issues. Our goal is simply to help them when they need it most. As the young people would say, “We don’t put them on blast.” We also love to recognize the positive efforts and achievements of kids in our community. Many things, large and small, become the focus of our attention from assisting sports teams to planting flowers. If you have any ideas to make our little community better for our children please let us know. We might be right there with you.

If you know of any local garden that might be featured in a Garden Show coming up early this summer, then please let Kiwanis know about it. We are looking for outstanding local gardens for recognition.

Flatlanders Day is coming to the Ranchos May 11. We are already making plans for the Ranchos Flatlanders Day Parade and Event. There will be a lot of food and fun at the annual event, Saturday, May 11.

Kiwanis exists solely for the purpose of making a difference in

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

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early!

You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.

Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001



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Your Chamber of Commerce

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

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School Safety Review at Golden Valley Unified



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

The Nation has been shaken with the recent Connecticut school shooting and, more recently, the incident at Taft High School near Bakersfield. High profile acts of violence, particularly in schools, can confuse and frighten children who may feel in danger or worry that their friends or loved-ones are at risk. They will look to adults for information and guidance on how to react. Parents and school personnel can help children feel safe by establishing a sense of normalcy and security and talking with them about their fears.

With the swell of media attention, we all struggle to understand why these events happen and, more importantly, how they can be prevented. Be assured, the schools in our community are very pro-active in regards to dealing with school safety and crisis prevention issues. A regular review of communication systems within the school district and with community responders is conducted.

The National Association of School Psychologists indicates the importance of emphasizing that our schools are very safe. Recent trends have found that school violence nationwide is declining.

Statistically, less than one percent of violent acts are “school associated.” It is reassuring to know that the schools in Golden Valley are very safe.

Some suggested points to emphasize when talking to children may include:

1. School staff work with parents and public safety providers (local police and fire departments, emergency responders, etc.) to keep you safe.

2. Drills are conducted regularly at all of the school sites to prepare for emergency situations.

3. School safety policies and crisis prevention efforts are annually updated and reviewed by school safety committees which include parents, district administration, the School Board and the leaders of local response agencies.

4. We all play a role in school safety. It is important to be observant and let an adult know if you see or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened.

5. There is a difference between reporting, tattling or gossiping. You can provide important information that may prevent harm either directly or anonymously by telling a trusted adult what you know or hear.

6. Don’t dwell on the worst possibilities. Although there is no absolute guarantee that something bad will never happen, it is important to understand the difference between the possibility of something happening and the probability that it will affect our schools.

7. Senseless violence is hard for everyone to understand. Doing things that you enjoy, sticking to your normal routine, and being with friends and family help make us feel better and keep us from worrying about the event.

8. Limit television viewing of these events. Developmentally inappropriate information can cause anxiety or confusion, particularly in young children. Adults need to be mindful of the context of conversations that they have with each other in front of children, even teenagers, and limit their exposure to vengeful,

hateful, and angry comments that might be misunderstood.

Below are selections of prevention activities currently taking place and regularly reviewed in our schools:

1. Limited access to school building (designated entrance with all other access points locked from the exterior).

2. Monitoring and supervision of people entering and leaving campus.

3. Strong partnership with the local law enforcement.

4. Monitoring of school guests (report to main office, sign in, wear badges, report unfamiliar people to school office).

5. Crisis plans and preparedness training (regular review of plans and simulation drills; training teachers and other staff in how to respond to students’ questions, crisis awareness).

6. Creating a safe, supportive school climate that provides school-wide behavioral expectations, caring school climate programs, positive interventions, counseling support, and violence prevention programs (bully-proofing, social skill development, conflict mediation).

7. Threat assessment and risk-assessment meetings conducted with the local law enforcement and agencies.

8. Regularly scheduled school preparedness drills (lock down, duck and cover and fire).

Open communication between home and school is critical to the safety and well-being of the students and your children. Be assured that our number one priority is the safety of your children. Let us know if you have concerns, questions, or suggestions about school policies or your child’s safety.

At this time, our goal is to reassure students that although there is always a possibility of violence occurring in a school, the probability of a school experiencing a high profile violent act is extremely low. It is important that we focus on maintaining our normal routines and activities. Keeping to regular schedule can be reassuring and promote physical health.

Sign Ups Begin For GVUSD Kindergarten

Parents are encouraged to bring their child to registration because assessments will be given during the registration process.

In order to register your child, parents need the following:

1. The child must be five by September 1, 2013. Parents will need to bring in the child’s birth certificate to verify this.

2. The child’s immunization record showing that the child is up-to-date on all shots.

A. TB Test (A GVUSD Requirement)

B. Polio (4)

C. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (5)

D. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2)

E. Hepatitis B (3)

F. Varicella (Chicken Pox) (1)

3. Proof of residency within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries.

A. This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.

4. A completed registration packet.

Webster Elementary -- 645-1322

March 1, 2013 beginning at 9 a.m. — Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Webster Office beginning Feb. 12. If they are to be filled out and ready to bring in March 1. In addition, if there are any concerns about immunization records and would like to verify that the child has all of the necessary shots before March 1, please feel free to bring the immunization card to the office.

Sierra View Elementary -- 645-1122

March 1, 2013 – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or contact office for an appointment on that day. Please call the school office at 645-1122 to schedule an appointment and pick up a registration packet. In addition, if there are any concerns about immunization records and would like to verify that the child has all of the necessary shots before March 1, please feel free to bring the immunization card to the office.

Click on “Local News” at



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

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Senior Report

Question: To Wheat or Not To Wheat

By Verlaine Elinburg

As I grow older and am at the last quarter of life, I am fighting the bulge of the belly, and am on a quest to challenge Mother Nature. The latest fad is "Wheat Belly," so I am researching wheat. The subject is whether wheat is good for you. The latest argument has been around since about 2000. There are many articles both pro and con and it is amazing the different views that are presented, reminding me of the arguments of democrats and republicans.

Who do I believe? The "pro" is you have to make sacrifices and work hard to accomplish what is good for you. The "con" is go with the flow and government will decide what is good for you.

What it all comes down to is the wheat today is not the same stuff that was grown in earlier years. Recent hybridization, or crossbreeding of plants – among other things – has

increased the amount of protein in wheat. Some of the protein is gluten, which is difficult to digest. Also, modern agricultural practices rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides that produce a much less nutritious product than grain raised in ancient times on more natural fertile soil. Last comes the fact that while going

through my food items, I've discovered wheat is being added to an unimaginably wide range of products. I think I will be able to handle this task of avoiding wheat for six days, but what am I going to do about Thursday night Pot Luck, the night that the seniors bring their delicious dishes to share? You can still come join us and after the pot luck you can play poker, pinochle, hand and foot, and thirteen cards.

The senior center is taking orders for Easter baskets and March 18 is the closing date. To order your Easter baskets contact Joann at 645-4864. We are looking forward to our Annual Home & Garden Festival on the April 6. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, call Joann at 645-4864 or email me at verlaine10@yahoo.com for a space. We also have Cycling for Seniors which is on April 20 and if you would like to be a contender call Joann at 645-4864. Login on our website, www.rhseniors.org, and fill out an application and mail in your interest for either the Home & Garden Show or Cycle for Seniors events.

On March 5 at 11 a.m. the student nurses from Fresno State will be at the Senior Center giving a presentation on Balance, High blood pressure and Diabetes. On March 13 at 11 a.m. the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA) will give a presentation on Elder abuse. On March 16 at 11:30 a.m. March birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated at Plaza Ventana Mexican Restaurant at 5088 N. Blackstone in Fresno.

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

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30

What it all comes down to is the wheat today is not the same stuff that was grown in earlier years. Recent hybridization, or crossbreeding of plants – among other things – has increased the amount of protein in wheat. Some of the protein is gluten, which is difficult to digest.

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

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs, meet new friends and get updates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

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

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

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

The Farmers Market at the Center is toning down for the winter, but jams and jellies are still available. The Boutique also has many "on the spot" needed gift items.

In Memoriam
Mary Thurber



June 23, 1934 - January 27, 2013

Mary Thurber was born in Fowler, Calif. on June 23, 1934 and passed away in Fresno on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Eugene Thurber; her faithful dog Charlie; her brother and sister-

in-law, Art and Noreen Woodfin; her brother-in-law and his wife, Don and Edith Thurber; and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at Lisle Funeral Home in Fresno on Feb. 8, 2013.

TEA PARTY cont. from P. 4

trigger is pulled rearward one at a time), and Safe (that prevents the rifle from firing at all).

The two most used assault rifles ever produced are the Russian AK47 and the American M16/M4. Because of their military popularity the manufacturers decided to produce civilian versions that are not full-auto or burst as the military versions are. They only appear cosmetically to the full-auto military versions. In the U.S. you may not own or purchase any full-auto firearm without a specific license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), and these licenses are highly controlled and supervised. Civilians cannot purchase full-auto firearms, including assault rifles, without a license.

2. Civilian rifles cosmetically appearing to be Assault Rifles

There are several civilian copies of military assault rifles. One of these is referred to generically as the AR15. The AR stands for the Armalite Company who produced the first M16 rifle issued to our troops in Vietnam back in 1965. Once it was approved, Colt purchased the rights and produced the majority. However, the AR15 is a civilian version of the M16 military model, but with a significant difference: it is not full-auto! There is a firing selector lever on the receiver, but it has only two positions: fire and safe. In all other respects it cosmetically mirrors the military model. In the fire position the rifle will only fire one round each time the trigger is pulled. This is identical to many other rifles in use today as well as shotguns. They are termed semi-auto because it requires the pull of the trigger for each shot. Most law enforcement pistols are also semi-auto such as the Sig-Sauer, Glock, H&K, etc. Semi-auto only means that each time the trigger

is pulled it fires a bullet until the ammunition is completely depleted. Therefore, an AR15 rifle is not an assault rifle.

You can modify AR15 rifles in various ways such as adding a flashlight, a laser aiming light, scopes of varying types, but the only modification you can't legally perform is a modification that allows it to fire full-auto. That is a felony.

So, what did the Assault Weapons Ban issued under Clinton in 1994 really accomplish? Nothing. It expired in 2004 with no great fanfare. In California we still have an Assault Weapons Law codified in the Penal Code. It has achieved nothing with respect to controlling true assault rifles that are controlled by federal law. If you actually read the penal code sections they all refer to cosmetic differences except for high-capacity magazines, which will be discussed shortly. The California Penal Code section 12276.1(a) defines "Generic Characteristics Defining Assault Weapons." It exempts AR15 rifles unless they have installed any one of these listed "characteristics" such as a "pistol grip," a "thumbhole stock," a "folding or telescoping stock," a "flash suppressor," or a "forward pistol grip" to name just a few. If you compare the AR15 to an M16/M4 cosmetically they are identical in appearance. The main difference again is the M16/M4 is full-auto while the AR15 is not by federal law. There are several semi-auto rifles, .223 caliber, that do not fall under this California law such as the Ruger Mini-14. This rifle has a normal rifle stock without any of these listed features. It fires the same .223 cartridge, operates in an identical manner, but it just isn't scary looking.

If you purchase an AR15 with any of the above-described installed characteristics, then the law states you MUST have to use a tool to push the detachable magazine release button. There appears on the right side of the receiver a normal-looking release button, but it has a hole in

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the center of it. That hole is where you must insert the tool to depress the interior spring releasing the magazine. If you just push on the button itself nothing happens. The idea is that if it takes a tool it requires more time to change magazines and therefore gives more time for law enforcement to arrive and prevent the shooter from inserting a new magazine.

In short, the idea is ridiculous.

This button has been referred to from the outset as the "Bullet Button" because you can use the pointed nose of the .223 cartridge by inserting it into the hole in the button and push the release.

Reviewing the "Generic Characteristics Defining Assault Weapons" in California, it is very simple to modify an AR15 from one with the described features and a "Bullet Button" to one not requiring the "Bullet Button." All you need to do is remove the pistol grip, unscrew the flash suppressor and change the folding or telescoping stock to the fixed M15 stock, etc. If you do all this, about \$125 in parts, you can remove the "Bullet Button" and install a regular spring-loaded magazine release button that can be pushed without using a tool. You have now converted your scary-looking AR15 into a simple rifle not covered in the law.

3. High-capacity magazines

California Penal Code section 12020 prohibits anyone person from using any firearm, rifles, pistols, and shotguns, having an ammunition capacity of more than 10 rounds. What is most interesting is that the code states, "Possession of large capacity magazines . . . by private citizens is not (emphasis in the code) controlled." The code merely states that a person is prohibited from "manufacturing, importation into the state, offering for sale, keeping for sale, exposing for sale, giving, and lending of a large capacity magazine." In other words, you may possess a large capacity

magazine, but don't try to lend it or sell it to someone else. It would appear that, if you modified your AR15 to remove any scary features, and you possessed a high-capacity magazine, you could use it. (Check with an attorney first).

In conclusion, an assault rifle is one that is capable of firing full-auto. The AR15, by federal law, is not capable of firing full-auto and therefore does not meet the definition of an assault rifle. It is high time to discuss problems using the truth.

Peter Friedman's credentials:
NRA Certified Pistol Instructor
NRA Certified Rifle Instructor
NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor
NRA Certified Refuse To Be A Victim Instructor
NRA Certified Chief Range Safety Officer
CAL/DOJ HSC Certificate Instructor
CAL CERT Instructor
Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor
www.FriedmanHandgunTraining.com

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The February meeting presented guest speaker, Neil O'Brien, a Fresno State Student Activist. Neil informed us of the current affairs at Fresno State.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. Confirm meeting dates and speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com

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

Click on "Local News" at

The Bookshelf

Help Your Library with This Year's Flatlander's Parade and Crafts Fair

By The Friends of the Ranchos Library

Furlough Days for Madera Ranchos Library are March 1 and 15.

Come join us for the Pre-school Story time to Read, Play and Learn with Diane Maxfield Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Did you know free homework help is available at the Ranchos Library? For grades K-5 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Mrs. Taylor. Additional times may be available by appointment, just ask at the front desk.

Mark your calendar: Flatlander's Day is Saturday, May 11. Planning has started and if you would like to help, please contact

the library at 645-1214. You can also contact the Ranchos Library for food and craft vendor applications for Flatlander's Day.

Take some time to stop by and see our new arrivals, and while you're there check out the other services available at the Ranchos Library, including:

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Wednesday and Thursday

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Friday and Saturday

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

Ranchos Lions Flag Ceremony

On Friday, Feb. 15 at 8:15 a.m., a flag ceremony was held at Webster Elementary School. It was conducted by the Madera Ranchos Lions Club in which the administrators, teachers and student body were presented with an American flag sticker worn by all. This was followed by a few words which illustrated the significance of our flag representing our freedoms and equalities we embrace in America, and then there was a resounding Pledge of Allegiance.

Traditionally, Americans celebrate Flag day in June, but the Lions International established an observance on the third Friday in February in accordance with Presidents Day. This program was established to promote patriotism and respect for the values represented by the American flag in elementary schools across America.



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LUCKY cont. from P. 11

The book of 1st John says, "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the son of God." I have in no way, shape or form overcome this world but I know without his blessings I would be a lot worse off than I am today.

When I talk to people in the program about faith I try to remind them that everyone has some kind of faith in them. Faith is belief in the unseen, like when you sit down in a chair you have faith that the chair will keep you from falling down. As minute as that faith is, it is still faith. If you struggle with faith then stop struggling. Give everything over to a power greater than yourself. If you are an alcoholic you already have: Alcohol. Alcohol's power over you is tremendous; it will tell you over and over again that you

are not inflicted with its disease.

So, am I lucky?

Yes - lucky to have a faith in a God who loves me,

Yes - because without his faithfulness in me I would have given into the world a long time ago.

Psalms 84:5 says, "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage."

I do not why I am so lucky or blessed. I can tell you this: I am grateful. Because left to my own devices I would be neither. God was there for me long before I wanted him to be there or thought I needed him there.

And for that, I am THANKFUL.

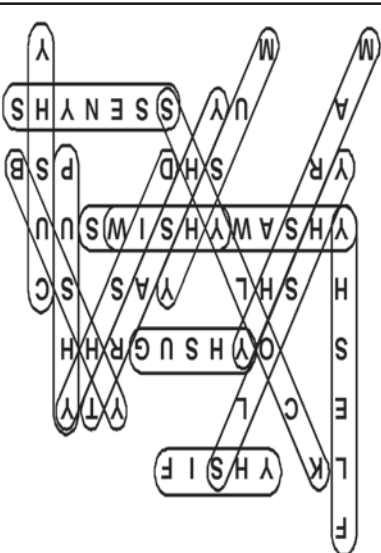
Till the next time,
Mike B.

ANSWERS

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by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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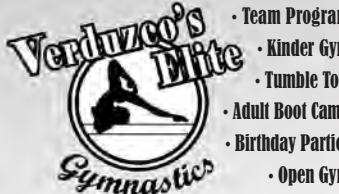
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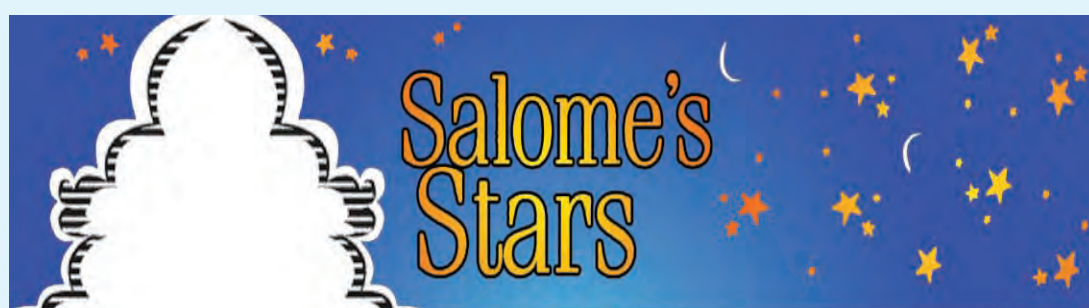
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could have some problems with doubters who don't share your enthusiasm for that new project you're supporting. But use the facts to win them over to your side.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Someone is impressed by how you managed to get your case to the right people, despite attempts to keep you on the outside looking in. Expect to hear more about this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Good for you -- your gift for seeing both sides of a dispute helps cool down a potentially explosive workplace situation. Some family-related tensions also begin to ease.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your determination to prove yourself is put to the test by midweek. Counting all the positive factors you have going for you will help you get over your self-doubt. Good luck.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Several co-workers are still determined to resist coming over to your side. But don't let that stop you from presenting your proposal to the people who count. Stay the course.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might prefer to be taken on faith and not have to prove yourself. But the truth is, you need to offer more facts if you hope to persuade people to accept what you say.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family situation takes an unwelcome turn. While others might be looking around for answers, you'll soon sort it all out logically, and the matter will be resolved.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone might try to create doubt about your reliability for his or her own agenda. But your reputation and your colleagues' long-standing faith in you saves the day.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected change of plans forces you to come up with an alternative by the end of the week. Look for colleagues to offer valuable suggestions.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Nothing upsets the Goat as much as broken promises. But before you vent your anger, consider that this could ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An old workplace problem you thought you had solved for good resurfaces. But this time, co-workers will take a more active role in helping you deal with it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful not to be misled by a negative reaction to one of your more important projects. If you believe in it, then it has worth and is, therefore, worth staying with.

Born this Week

Everyone appreciates your gift for finding beauty,
even where it seems least likely to exist.

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FUN PAGES

POPEYE

WOT'S UP? I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT I BOUGHT!

GET A LOAD OF THIS!

TA DA! THA'S A PURTY FUR JACKET, OLIVE!

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT... ...IT'S CHINCHILLA!

I BOUGHT IT ON LINE... ...A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE BIDDING ON IT...

I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE WON WOW! IS YA SURE IT'S GENYOOWINE CHINCHILLA?

IF IT AIN'T SWEETIE... ...I'VE BEEN CHEATED OUT OF TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

GYMNASIUM

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME BY AL SCADUTO

TEENAGE MATH

AFTER WAITING 20 MINUTES FOR A WAITER TO SHOW UP... YOU GET THIS...

THE SERVICE HERE IS TERRIBLE! HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY YET...

IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE I'VE TOLD YOU 100 TIMES-- CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM!

NO, MOM-- YOU'VE TOLD ME EXACTLY 76 TIMES-- YOU'VE GOT 24 MORE TIMES TO GO TO MAKE IT A HUNDRED...

WHAT'S IN A NAME? SEZ S. KAME, PORTLAND ORE. ARE YOU THE DOG-CATCHER? NO... I'M THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER!

Thank to EDVA PLESA, BRADENTON, FL. Thank to ALLIE HASSARD, SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MASS.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

WORD WATCH!

Lots of words contain the names of animals and other creatures spelled out within them. There's an 'o' in box, for instance, a cat in scat, a rat in rat, a bee in beet, an ant in rant, a bat in batch, an otter in potted, a bear in beard, a hare in harem, etc.

Names of the four subjects pictured at right contain the names of certain birds. How quickly can you identify the subjects and name the birds?

1. Crown, 2. Comb, 3. Balloon, 4. Ball

TRICK TAKES SOFT SOAP

THREE toothpicks, a dish of water and some soft soap are required to perform this magic trick. Carefully place the three toothpicks in the water to form a triangle (see small inset above). Now, gently stick an index finger straight down into the water at the center of the triangle. Alakazam, not! Nothing happens; the triangle remains intact. Next, coat the same index finger with soap, and again gently insert it into the triangle. Alakazam, zot! This time the toothpick strands immediately disband. Give it a try.

STAGE SHOW!

What can you draw to complete the Western stage show above? To find out, insert lines dot to dot.

Wishing Well

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

SHY WORDS

MAGIC MAZE

WEBXUQRNJGDZWTQ
 NKHDAXUERPMJGDA
 XFVVSQNKITFDAXVT
 QLKQYHSIFSMJHFC
 AEYCWLURPNYTYLJ
 HSFDOYHSUGRHHBZ
 XHVSHLTRYASQSCO
 MYHSAWYHSIWSUK
 IYRHFDSDHDBZYPBS
 WAVTRUYQSSSENYHS
 MONLMKIHFDCAZYX

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

Bushy	Fleshy	Pushy	Swishy
Cushy	Gushy	Shylock	Trashy
Dishy	Marshy	Shyness	Wishy-washy
Fishy	Mushy	Sloshy	

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HAT CHECK!

Three cheers for our pal in the three-cornered hat. Coloring code: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

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

TEASPOON

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible answers: Spoon, Spoon.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was the name of the estate in the gothic soap opera "Dark Shadows"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eyes does a bee have?
- ENTERTAINMENT: Which actress was married to Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw and Frank Sinatra?
- INVENTIONS: When was the first coin-operated pinball machine invented?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to be born an American citizen?
- QUOTATIONS: Who said, "It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens."?
- U.S. STATES: What does the name of Hawaii's capital, Honolulu, mean?
- LITERATURE: Which one of Shakespeare's plays contains the line, "The course of true love never did run smooth."?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of cowboy actor Roy Rogers' dog?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a gherkin?

- ### Answers
1. Collinwood
 2. Five -- two compound eyes and three simple eyes
 3. Ava Gardner
 4. 1931
 5. Martin Van Buren
 6. Woody Allen
 7. Sheltered bay
 8. "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
 9. Buller
 10. A type of pickled cucumber
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

www.jerrycraft.net

JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



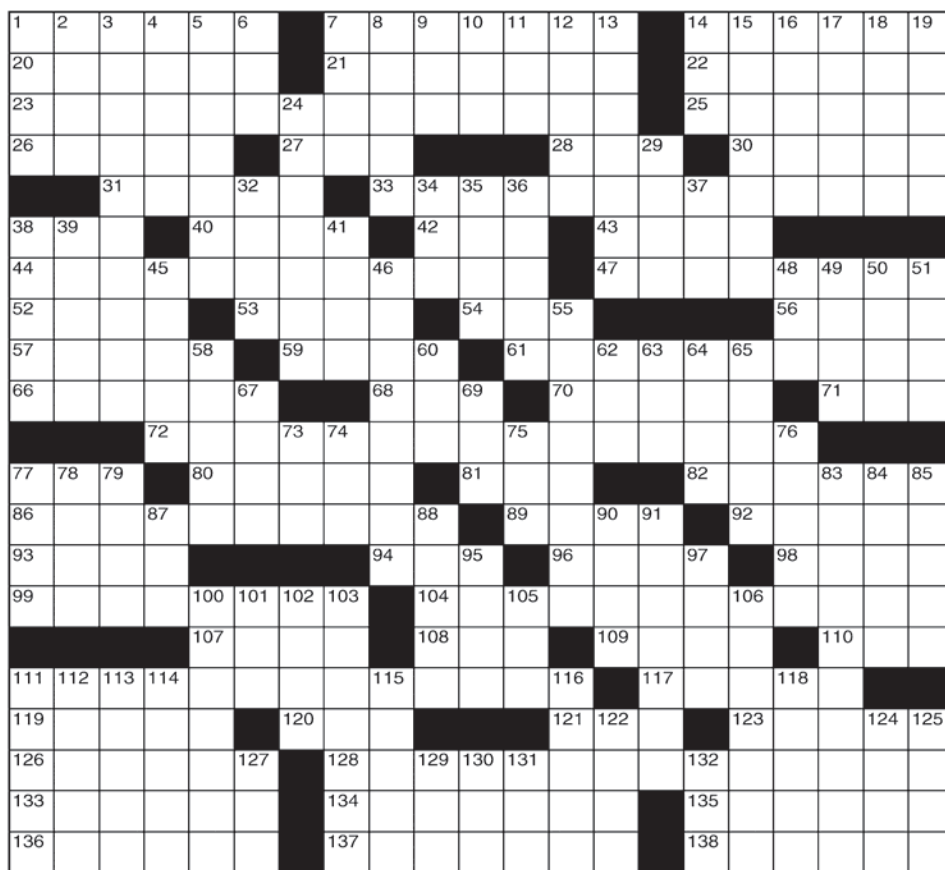
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.
DIFFERENCES: 1. Tree is missing. 2. T-shirt is missing. 3. Shovel is smaller. 4. Sail is different. 5. Hat is different. 6. Camera is missing. 7. Wheel is missing. 8. Towel is missing. 9. Hat is different. 10. Hat is different. 11. Hat is different. 12. Hat is different. 13. Hat is different. 14. Hat is different. 15. Hat is different. 16. Hat is different. 17. Hat is different. 18. Hat is different. 19. Hat is different. 20. Hat is different. 21. Hat is different. 22. Hat is different. 23. Hat is different. 24. Hat is different. 25. Hat is different. 26. Hat is different. 27. Hat is different. 28. Hat is different. 29. Hat is different. 30. Hat is different. 31. Hat is different. 32. Hat is different. 33. Hat is different. 34. Hat is different. 35. Hat is different. 36. Hat is different. 37. Hat is different. 38. Hat is different. 39. Hat is different. 40. Hat is different. 41. Hat is different. 42. Hat is different. 43. Hat is different. 44. Hat is different. 45. Hat is different. 46. Hat is different. 47. Hat is different. 48. Hat is different. 49. Hat is different. 50. Hat is different. 51. Hat is different. 52. Hat is different. 53. Hat is different. 54. Hat is different. 55. Hat is different. 56. Hat is different. 57. Hat is different. 58. Hat is different. 59. Hat is different. 60. Hat is different. 61. Hat is different. 62. Hat is different. 63. Hat is different. 64. Hat is different. 65. Hat is different. 66. Hat is different. 67. Hat is different. 68. Hat is different. 69. Hat is different. 70. Hat is different. 71. Hat is different. 72. Hat is different. 73. Hat is different. 74. Hat is different. 75. Hat is different. 76. Hat is different. 77. Hat is different. 78. Hat is different. 79. Hat is different. 80. Hat is different. 81. Hat is different. 82. Hat is different. 83. Hat is different. 84. Hat is different. 85. Hat is different. 86. Hat is different. 87. Hat is different. 88. Hat is different. 89. Hat is different. 90. Hat is different. 91. Hat is different. 92. Hat is different. 93. Hat is different. 94. Hat is different. 95. Hat is different. 96. Hat is different. 97. Hat is different. 98. Hat is different. 99. Hat is different. 100. Hat is different. 101. Hat is different. 102. Hat is different. 103. Hat is different. 104. Hat is different. 105. Hat is different. 106. Hat is different. 107. Hat is different. 108. Hat is different. 109. Hat is different. 110. Hat is different. 111. Hat is different. 112. Hat is different. 113. Hat is different. 114. Hat is different. 115. Hat is different. 116. Hat is different. 117. Hat is different. 118. Hat is different. 119. Hat is different. 120. Hat is different. 121. Hat is different. 122. Hat is different. 123. Hat is different. 124. Hat is different. 125. Hat is different. 126. Hat is different. 127. Hat is different. 128. Hat is different. 129. Hat is different. 130. Hat is different. 131. Hat is different. 132. Hat is different. 133. Hat is different. 134. Hat is different. 135. Hat is different. 136. Hat is different. 137. Hat is different. 138. Hat is different. 139. Hat is different. 140. Hat is different. 141. Hat is different. 142. Hat is different. 143. Hat is different. 144. Hat is different. 145. Hat is different. 146. Hat is different. 147. Hat is different. 148. Hat is different. 149. Hat is different. 150. Hat is different. 151. Hat is different. 152. Hat is different. 153. Hat is different. 154. Hat is different. 155. Hat is different. 156. Hat is different. 157. Hat is different. 158. Hat is different. 159. Hat is different. 160. Hat is different. 161. Hat is different. 162. Hat is different. 163. Hat is different. 164. Hat is different. 165. Hat is different. 166. Hat is different. 167. Hat is different. 168. Hat is different. 169. Hat is different. 170. Hat is different. 171. Hat is different. 172. Hat is different. 173. Hat is different. 174. Hat is different. 175. Hat is different. 176. Hat is different. 177. Hat is different. 178. Hat is different. 179. Hat is different. 180. Hat is different. 181. Hat is different. 182. Hat is different. 183. Hat is different. 184. Hat is different. 185. Hat is different. 186. Hat is different. 187. Hat is different. 188. Hat is different. 189. Hat is different. 190. Hat is different. 191. Hat is different. 192. Hat is different. 193. Hat is different. 194. Hat is different. 195. Hat is different. 196. Hat is different. 197. Hat is different. 198. Hat is different. 199. Hat is different. 200. Hat is different.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Takes without right
 - 7 Actress Alba or Tandy
 - 14 Fine, rare violins
 - 20 State in Mexico
 - 21 Newspaper sales pitch
 - 22 Present but not active
 - 23 Fruit tossed from a ship?
 - 25 Batting posture
 - 26 Manitoba Indians
 - 27 Topic in psych 101
 - 28 A, in Austria
 - 30 Torch's crime
 - 31 Beehive State dweller
 - 33 Always avoid mentioning muralist Rivera?
 - 38 Gentle touch
 - 40 Whit
 - 42 Mauna —
 - 43 Clock or cat preceder
 - 44 Where old freight is sold?
 - 47 Lacking firmness
 - 52 — Croft: Tomb Raider
 - 53 "The World According to —" (1982 film)
 - 54 G3 or G4 computer
 - 56 Chilean child
 - 57 Mantel, e.g.
 - 59 "All untrue!"
 - 61 Where some tourists in Africa travel?
 - 66 Large ducks
 - 68 Teachers' union: Abbr.
 - 70 High, wispy clouds
 - 71 President pro —
 - 72 Italian cheese sold in Florida or Georgia?
 - 77 "... man — mouse?"
 - 80 A nephew of Donald Duck
 - 81 Cam output
 - 82 Battlefield docs
 - 86 Periods spent using a batting-practice bat?
 - 89 Part of PS
 - 92 "Vive —!" (French cry)
 - 93 Polar chunk
 - 94 Livy's 502
 - 96 Oral history
 - 98 Big top, e.g.
 - 99 Málaga miss
 - 104 Fled from — Brazzaville?
 - 107 Elvis Presley's middle name
 - 108 Brief slumber
 - 109 It may be permed
 - 110 Ending for Ecuador
 - 111 Change the location of a North Dakota city?
 - 117 Stiffly formal
 - 119 Occurrence
 - 120 11th mo.
 - 121 ETs' craft
 - 123 Show shame
 - 126 Champion
 - 128 Being green with old cards for a numbers game?
 - 133 Tolerate
 - 134 Stimulates
 - 135 Crude shed
 - 136 Cease
 - 137 109-Across salon worker
 - 138 Most unusual
 - 139 Most unusual
 - 140 Part of PS
 - 141 "Vive —!" (French cry)
 - 142 Polar chunk
 - 143 Livy's 502
 - 3 Not spayed, say
 - 4 Thesaurus author
 - 5 Humdrum
 - 6 — Paulo
 - 7 PC image file format
 - 8 — the side of caution
 - 9 Sis, e.g.
 - 10 — -cone
 - 11 Give — shot
 - 12 Concerned person
 - 13 Steele's collaborator
 - 14 Yankovic and Gore
 - 15 Bullfighter
 - 16 1980s game console
 - 17 Edgy
 - 18 Wearing a disguise, for short
 - 19 Office scribe
 - 24 Not dorsal
 - 29 iPod type
 - 32 Novelist Tami
 - 34 Building add-on
 - 35 "Va-va- —!"
 - 36 Really rankle
 - 37 Appetite
 - 38 Beat of life
 - 39 Japanese brew
 - 41 Prefix with culture
 - 45 Valleys
 - 46 Watchful
 - 48 Political poll abbr.
 - 49 Talent
 - 50 Pertaining to
 - 51 Dire destiny
 - 55 Sprite maker
 - 58 Tolkien hero
 - 60 Island locale
 - 62 Mil. enlistees
 - 10 — -cone
 - 11 Give — shot
 - 12 Concerned person
 - 13 Steele's collaborator
 - 14 Yankovic and Gore
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 - 35 "Va-va- —!"
 - 36 Really rankle
 - 37 Appetite
 - 38 Beat of life
 - 39 Japanese brew
 - 41 Prefix with culture
 - 88 West-central Italian city
 - 90 Not yet a jr. abbr.
 - 91 Crime of disloyalty
 - 95 "— Three Ships"
 - 97 Cut film, e.g.
 - 100 Roof boards
 - 101 Radio's Glass
 - 102 Ripped up
 - 103 Silky goats
 - 105 Tax prep expert
 - 106 Bellyached "My Name Is —"
 - 111 Copied a cat
 - 112 Sheeplike
 - 113 Hawks
 - 114 Listlessness
 - 115 Plain to see
 - 116 Christmas seasons
 - 118 Homeric epic
 - 122 Boxer's weapon
 - 124 Bosses of cpls.
 - 125 Owl's cry
 - 127 No longer practicing: Abbr.
 - 129 Shy
 - 130 Brynner of Broadway
 - 131 Hit CBS procedural
 - 132 Shine, in some product names
- DOWN**
- 1 Jarhead's org.
 - 2 Fly like a kite

SEMUCU
south east madera county united

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SEMUCU
Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Ranchos Pizza Factory

**Come, elect new board members and make
your vote count for your community.**

**SEMUCU is working on grants
to help our Community**

**SEMUCU would like help and input from
the Community about projects you think are
necessary. Volunteers to help with these
grants are needed.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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