

The Ranchos Independent



PRSRT STD
ECR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 14 Issue 2 2018

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Education Outside the Box

**A short visit to
EDUCATIONAL
OPTIONS,
GVUSD's
hidden gem**

By Christi McKinney



Picture courtesy of Christi McKinney

In This Issue

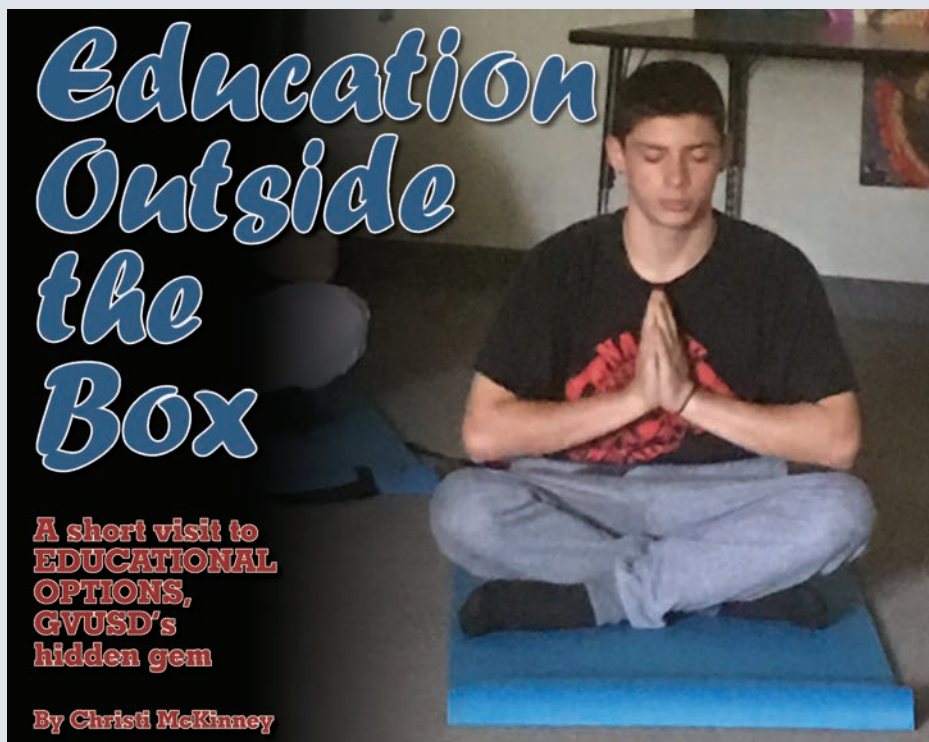
*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

“I wake up every day knowing I can make a difference in the lives of these students,” said Avo Atoian, principal at Educational Options, the continuation school for Golden Valley Unified School District.

Considered by some to be a hidden gem in our community, Educational Options, or “Ed Ops,” is located on the southeast side of the Liberty High School Campus. Educational Options actually consists of six different educational programs designed to be a second chance for at risk youth to complete their high school graduation requirements.

When arriving at the Educational Options campus you’d never think you were at a high school, much less a continuation school. Everyone you see makes eye contact, smiles and says good morning. As Principal Atoian, or “Avo” as his students and staff call him, walks around campus, you quickly see who sets the tone for this campus. Avo greets every student by name and takes a moment to ask them how they are doing or even how things are at home. Students seem happy to be here and seem to blossom in the casual but structured environment.

Atoian explains that the school motto, “One student at a time, where success is the only option,” outlines the necessity for these programs as they serve a wide range of students who have for one reason or another fallen through the cracks. “The traditional method of teaching didn’t work for these students so that’s why they are here. However, this is not a school for ‘bad’ kids. It’s for students who don’t learn well in the traditional school setting,” Atoian said.



Six Separate Schools

Educational Options consists of six separate and unique schools with approximately 100 students in total. All of these schools are unique in that the class size is smaller than normal classrooms and they have more face time with the teachers who get to know them personally, know their strengths and weaknesses and how they best learn.

The six schools are comprised of Independence Continuation High School, which is for students short on credits or who have not done well in the standard school setting. Students can come here to catch up then go back to their high school to graduate. Next is Centennial Independent Study School where students work online and meet with a teacher weekly to check in. It allows students the ability to work at their own pace and is ideal for students needing flexibility in their schedule or students with social anxiety.

Lincoln Community Day School is primarily for students that transfer to the district from other continuation schools, often for disciplinary reasons. They continue their studies here with the goal of eventually going back to their school to graduate. There is also Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School, a unique, all-

boy school for court-appointed rehabilitation whose residents are supported by GVUSD teaching staff.

There’s Golden Valley Adult School which is independent study programs for students 18 and over. It’s funded by grants from the state of California and students may take classes to study for their diploma, English as a second language, citizenship or basic technology. This program may also offer basic job skills needed in the community like bus driving certifications or forklift certifications and CPR classes at no cost.

Finally, there’s Children’s Hospital Central California School which is a program is for long-stay patients at Children’s Hospital. Again, classes are supported by GVUSD teaching staff.

Broad Support

Atoian points out that traditionally when school districts face budget cuts, continuation programs are often the first to be cut. However, he credits GVUSD Superintendent Andy Alvarado and the Board members with the success of Educational Options. “Thanks to the continued support of Mr. Alvarado and the GVUSD Board, they are determined that our district provides all

options possible so our students receive the best education possible and remain in the Ranchos community while doing so.”

The students say it best when they explain what brought them here and why this program is important to them. Noah S. was expelled from another high school in his freshman year and started Community Day School before returning to another continuation school before eventually ending up here. “When I came here, I was behind

on credits, but the teachers here are wonderful. They get to know you one on one as a person,” he said. “That is the big difference at this school. I honestly don’t think I would have ever graduated if I hadn’t come here.” Noah wants to attend community college after he graduates and then wants to be a project manager in the construction industry.

Taylor Y. attended Liberty High School before transferring to Madera South, a much larger school. Circumstances brought her back to Liberty but by that time she was behind on credits and ended up in the continuation program. Taylor enjoys it here explaining, “The teachers here teach differently; they have more time for you,” she said. “They make it fun and make me want to come to school. I like it here a lot!” Taylor points out that she’s able to go to the football games and enjoy all the activities at Liberty which is also a plus. She plans on going into the medical profession and hopes to eventually work in pediatrics.

Nathaniel K. had experienced a variety of difficulties in school and transferred from a continuation school in Madera to the Ranchos where he recognized a familiar face in Avo, an old

Please see **ED OPS** on P. 13

Co. Supervisors Settle ACLU Case

The County of Madera and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California settled a lawsuit today regarding California’s open meeting law, the Ralph M. Brown Act. The ACLU filed suit in July of last year, alleging the County violated the Brown Act during a closed session item at a Board of Supervisors’ meeting on March 7, 2017. The lawsuit was prompted in part by statements the Madera County District Attorney made to local media outlets and in a press release asserting the Board had taken action to expand the jail’s coordination with federal immigration authorities.

The ACLU’s lawsuit claimed that the Board violated the open meetings requirements of the Brown Act by taking an action impacting the jail’s cooperation with immigration enforcement behind closed doors. The County maintains the statements by the District Attorney were inaccurate and unauthorized, that no action was taken by the Board in closed session and no Brown Act violation occurred.

During litigation, the County argued that there was no Brown Act violation dur-

Please see **ACLU** on P. 13

County Wants Ranchos Input

The Madera County Transportation Commission is holding a Community Engagement Workshop in the Madera Ranchos on Thursday, March 8 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Webster Elementary School at 36477 Ruth Ave.

Under the question of “Do you live, work, or play in Madera County?” the Madera County Transportation Commission is looking for local people to “Help us plan for the future of the County,” by providing their opinions regarding which future land use and transportation scenarios they would prefer to help formulate the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Madera County Transportation Commission is hoping the Sustainable Communities Strategy will identify how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our County by the year 2042, considering land use changes and transportation improvements. Topics to be considered will include expanded transit use, making more space for bicycles and pedestrians, and linking land use and transportation.

Click on “Local News” at

COMPLETE CAR CARE

SINCE 1985, WE ARE YOUR LOCAL, FULL SERVICE NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER



We are an **AutoVitals 4.0 Digital Shop**
We use video and pictures taken during service and repairs to inform and better communicate with our customers.



We are an **ASE CERTIFIED HYBRID REPAIR FACILITY**

What are Your Neighbors Saying?

Facebook 6 Reviews **5 Stars** • Google 50 Reviews **4.8 Stars** • Demand Force 319 Reviews **4.9 Stars**

1 month ago -- Google Review
Complete Car Care did a great job with our smog check.
Did everything until it passed.
Jacob/Madera Ranchos

1 month ago -- Google Review
I've been to a lot of car repair shops over the years and the service at Complete Car Care is the best. I highly recommend them.
Daezie/Madera Ranchos

1 month ago -- Google Review
Customer care can't be beat! Thank you Billy and Warren for taking care of my old 1999 Toyota and for the peace of mind that I have somewhere to get my

repairs and maintenance done right, at a reasonable cost, repaired quickly AND for teaching me so much about my car's needs over the years!
Laura/Fresno



Free Daily Pick Up and Delivery from 93636

RANCHOS RESIDENT SINCE 1992 • GOOGLE CCC
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK
WWW.COMPLETECARCAREFRESNO.COM
CALL FOR AN ESTIMATE OR APPOINTMENT AT 559-275-0157



5787 W. BARSTOW, FRESNO • 275-0157
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ISLAND WATER PARK ON THE EAST SIDE OF HWY 99

Dear Editor:

In Madera County, it is estimated 600 residents will be diagnosed with cancer this year and for many of them getting to treatments can be their biggest roadblock. A successful transportation assistance program can be a tremendous, potentially life-saving asset to the community. That's why volunteering for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program is so important.

Volunteer drivers can provide as many rides as they want, creating their own schedules. All drivers must have a valid driver's license, good driving record, access to a safe and reliable car, regular desktop, laptop or tablet computer access, and proof of car insurance.

As a Road to Recovery volunteer driver, I understand that when cancer hits, it hits from all sides, and lacking transportation to treatments should not be one of them. That is why I volunteer with the American Cancer Society and help them attack cancer from every angle.

It is a great feeling to know that I am literally giving someone a ride that is helping to save their life. I encourage everyone to consider becoming a volunteer driver today.

To learn more about the Road to Recovery program, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org/volunteer.

Sincerely,
Karen Kale, American Cancer Society Volunteer Driver
Madera

Dear Editor:

Thank you for printing the letter/editorial from Ruth Verrinder, "Actions for Keeping Speech Free." There was no information on her, so not sure if she is local or not, but her written overall historical and Constitutional perspective is appreciated. I have little confidence that such truth is presently taught in California schools. The present liberal-dominated government, media and academia demonstrate that their only adherence to the First Amendment is in promotion of their own ideology. Ms. Verrinder expansively and earnestly details many aspects of arguably the most important amendment to the Constitution, along with the Second Amendment, providing mainly civil, political and democratic perspectives that would and should be sufficient to maintain a maximum level of free speech consideration in this country, but is increasingly becoming stressed by anti-Constitutional, anti-republic ideologues who reject the most important attribute of citizen

rights under a law-based republic.

The reason for this letter is to focus on that most important attribute of citizen rights: objective morals and their derivatives. Ms. Verrinder approaches the topic "of preserving moral values in free speech," but it cannot be overstated or over-emphasized. All of the laws, principles, statutes and civilized values of this country are based on Judeo-Christian Moral Law, given by God's command, regardless of the historical revisionism demanded and post-modern deceits by liberals and progressives. The fundamental principle early in this country for defining the Constitution was written by the second president, John Adams: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Increasingly, this country, including the government, is less moral or religious, the latter, in viable religions, being a foundational belief system embracing the former. The growing anti-religious, amoral agenda feeds the attack on the First Amendment and the "persistent verbal violence" increasingly found everywhere. Expecting through education, politics, argumentative logic, or generic moral claims that this country will properly balance the free speech of its citizens is hopeful, but delusional, as all these means, either personally or communally, are and have been easily manipulated for ideological purposes. Without change in each human that rejects selfish gain, greedy intent, self-absorption, or subjective morality and logic, the situation will worsen. This kind of change is produced though a change of heart, mind and spirit; a spiritual rebirth, topics of metaphysical understanding that are increasingly denied or ridiculed.

Stewart Hough
Madera Ranchos

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

Send your letters to:
email:
ranchosnews@yahoo.com
mail:
The Ranchos Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93636
fax:
559-645-4002

How do you get free tank rent for the first year, prompt friendly service, free leak tests and competitive prices?

you call ...



VALLEY PROPANE

559-645-5324

the ONLY locally owned propane company in the Madera Ranchos

WIN FREE PROPANE!

WIN 125 GALLONS OF PROPANE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Drawing to be held the first week of July, 2018. Delivery must be by August 31, 2018. Must be a Valley Propane customer.

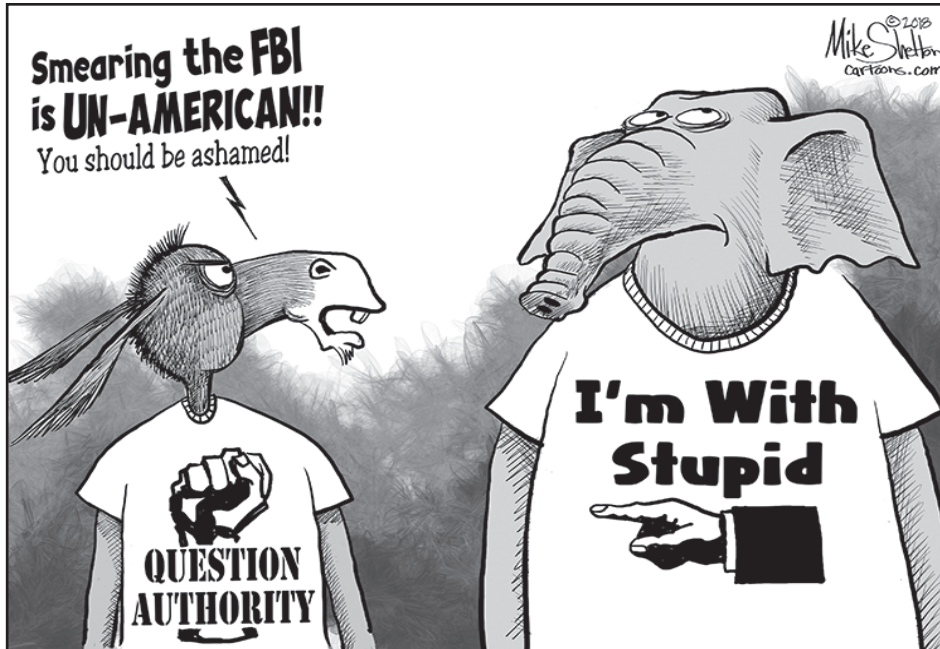
**MAIL TO: Valley Propane • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D
Madera, CA 93636**

VALLEY PROPANE

"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"

645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D

Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center



Editorial

Are Guns Really the Problem?

By Randy Bailey

With the recent Florida school shooting, out came the opponents and proponents. The anti-gun crowd didn't even wait for the smoke to clear before they started their tirade against guns. The pro Second Amendment folks quickly pointed out that guns don't kill people, *people* kill people. It's a scene we've sadly seen before.

One of the problems I've noticed about the debate is trying to get truthful, factual information. Because this issue is a passionate one, more often than not the debate becomes impassioned; unfortunately it usually becomes impassioned beyond the point of common sense. When a debate gets to THAT point, little can come from it other than both sides grabbing their ball and going home.

I'm a Constitution guy. I believe it's the greatest instrument written by man and deserves its title as the "Supreme Law of the Land." The Constitution was never intended to be a buffet or a smorgasbord where we get to stroll by and pick out the laws we like -- and follow them -- and then pick out the laws we DON'T like and ignore them. That's not how it works. I am continually amazed at people fully embracing their First Amendment right to free speech, using that right to attempt to destroy every one else's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. It's like the First Amend-

ment's prohibition of establishing a national religion. The "separation of church and state" crowd is all over that one -- it's the law! However, the very next line says that when it comes to religion, Congress is forbidden from "prohibiting the free exercise thereof." It's the law!

The Second Amendment is only 27 words: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." There are those that argue that "militia" means the Army or Marines or National Guard, while others point out that the context of "militia" when written was anyone who could grab their gun and fight a foe.

Because of our Constitutional right, guns are pervasive in America. It is estimated there are approximately 300 million weapons in the United States right now. That's virtually enough for every American man, woman and child.

In 2007, Grant Duwe of the Minnesota Department of Corrections, wrote a book called *Mass Murder in the United States: A History* in which he went back 100 years looking at the data on "Mass Public Shootings." See if you notice a trend (through 2005):

Mass Public Shootings per Decade

1900s :	0
1910s :	2
1920s :	2
1930s :	9
1940s :	8
1950s :	1
1960s :	6
1970s :	13
1980s :	32
1990s :	42
2000s :	28

Up until the 1970s, mass shootings really didn't happen even though there were just as many guns relative to the population. So what was different?

The value of life.

It started in the 60s, grew up in the 70s and came to fruition by the 90s into today. In modern day America, life is cheap. Whether it's aborting unborn babies or wasting away from drug abuse or gang shootouts because someone has the wrong color bandana or assisted suicide, there are people who won't flinch at taking your life. Until that paradigm changes, you, me, schools -- everyone -- had better figure out how to defend ourselves.

And posting "Gun Free Zone" signs isn't it.

The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.
All contents of this publication are copyright 2018, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales

559-645-0634 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636
ranchosnews@yahoo.com

www.TheRanchos.com

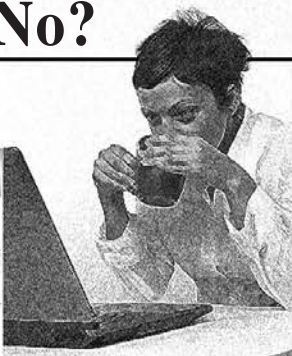
THE RAY GUN
SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"... FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION. YOU AND I MUST PROTECT AND PRESERVE FREEDOM HERE OR IT WILL NOT BE PASSED ON TO OUR CHILDREN."

RONALD REAGAN
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Less Work, Same Pay. No?

**GEN
ERA
TION
WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



If this job has taught me anything it's that I never know what off the wall, wacky thing someone is going to come into my office and say to me. I also never know what they will be wearing when they say it. Sometimes it's a full-on Zoot Suit complete with a fedora; occasionally it's shorts and a bathing suit that may or may not be a couple of sizes too small. And at least once it was footie pajamas. But that's a topic for another day. Whether they are dressed like a normal person, a crazy person – or a time traveler – what they say is often infinitely funnier than how they look, if you can believe that.

Just today, for example, someone walked into my office and demanded to know why we couldn't have a company-wide "down day" regularly to help every-

... to her a down day is a day each week that the employees are allowed to take it easy, not stress themselves out, and maybe even have a movie playing in the conference room they can watch ...

one cope with the stress of their jobs. First, I had to ask what a down day was, exactly. If you thought it was a day once a month that is set aside where the employee can catch up on administrative tasks with minimal interference or disruption, then you were thinking exactly what I was thinking. And you would be just as wrong as I was. No, no ... to her a down day is a day each week that the employees are allowed to take it easy, not stress themselves out, and maybe even have a movie playing in the conference room they can watch (and yes, that was a real suggestion). Basically, a lazy day at home except it would be in the office so you can still get paid. She was not amused when I explained we actually give everyone two whole down days every single week ... it's called the weekend. Evidently that's not enough down time

and my suggestion of putting in for vacation was met with irritation because then she would have to pull from her vacation bank, and that's just ridiculous. This down time should come at the cost of the employer, not the employee. I'm just silly.

Since clearly 40 hours a week is just a shade too much to handle for some people, I asked her if she would prefer to work part-time moving forward. She sure would, just so long as that doesn't impact her paycheck. What a delightful suggestion, except here in the real world we only pay you for the hours that you actually work. Rude, I know.

Now, usually it is the field employees that come up with the real doozies. The caregivers that work for us out in the client's homes, many of them family members of the clients, don't often see this little arrangement as an actual, honest to goodness job (despite the fact that they get paid and everything). I've heard everything from, "why do I have to prove what time I worked, just pay me the hours I'm supposed to work," to "what do you mean I can't take the client to the casino and liquor store, I'm going there anyway." Every day here is a wild and crazy adventure,

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

BEDROCK

ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

For a free consultation, visit our Madera Rancho's office!
36961 Avenue 12
559.645.4849
www.bedrockeng.com

INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

- Save money on flood insurance with an elevation certificate
- Verify your property line locations with a boundary survey
- Reconfigure your property lines with a lot line adjustment
- Improve your property with a grading and drainage plan
- Divide your property with a parcel map

Dedicated to serving the land surveying and civil engineering needs of Madera Rancho's and the Central Valley

2/18

NOW RENTING

Madera Rancho's Professional Office Complex

36914 Avenue 12 • Madera CA 93636

BUILDING 1

BUILDING 2

PARKING

Brand new construction in Madera Rancho's

- 16 unit Professional Office Complex
- Month to Month tenancy
- Units range in size from 243 square-feet to 426 square-feet
- Great exposure on the corner of Avenue 12 & Loren Way
- Close proximity to both Highway 41 & Highway 99
- Common area men's & women's restroom
- Rent starting at \$425 per month
- Rent includes: PG&E, Water, Trash & Site Maintenance

LOREN WAY ELEVATION

AVENUE 12 ELEVATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: **JASON SOBAGE**
(559) 647-1104 jason@buildcontinental.com

*Disclaimer: Project information is presented here with the possibility of changes or withdrawal without notice.

2/18

Say you saw it in the *Rancho's Independent*

Mike's Country Clippers Barber Shop
Haircuts only \$12
 37184 Ave. 12 #104 • Directly Behind Pizza Factory
 HOURS: Mon 9-4, Tues - Fri 8-5:30, Sat 8-3:30
 call 439-2004
 SENIOR DAY Every Thursday, all SENIOR haircuts are just \$10!

PETE & MARIA'S
 ITALIAN BISTRO
 559-645-5545
 NEW DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
 We now deliver to the Ranchos, Bonnadelle & Rolling Hills areas.

CALL 645-0634 TO ADVERTISE

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

but hearing my in-house employee suggest she be allowed to work less hours for the same money was so ridiculous it was actually kind of funny.

But this is the world we live in. There's no accountability anymore, no sense of pride and accomplishment. Kids are taught that they don't have to work hard to improve, they just have to show up to the field wearing a jersey and they get a participation trophy regardless of their effort. Hey, they showed up, what more can we expect of the delicate little darlings. We should all be proud of their very presence. What's so unfortunate is that it's those kids that turn into adults who think they should be praised just for deigning to come in to work. And heck, if they manage to make it on time every day then they should get an award. They showed up for work just like they showed up to the soccer field and their employers should be grateful they didn't have something better to do that day.

The quality of their work is not what we should judge them on – that might damage their self-esteem. These are the same kids that turn into adults who think they are being picked on whenever anyone points out any opportunity for improvement. Improvement is for fascists, we like our employees mediocre at best. I just can't tell you how refreshing it is to finally have an employee who actually wants to come in and do the bare minimum while being paid full wages. Dedicated employees with a strong work ethic are so last season. Get with the times, man. If I can't get my job done using Snapchat, then is it really a job worth doing?

Needless to say, there will not be a companywide down day. She and all of the other employees will just have to make do with weekends and vacation time like their parents and grandparents before them. I'm quite comfortable with my decision, though I'm pretty sure I won't be winning the favorite manager award at the next company banquet.

Health Care Services In Your Area

Call for an appointment today!



COMMUNITY CARE - MADERA RANCHOS

11976 Road 37 • 559-645-4191

Family Practice; Behavioral Health

Services:

- Child immunizations
- Laboratory

*Medi-Cal and Medicare welcome
 Same-day appointments available
 Discount program for the uninsured*

Now Open on Saturdays!

**Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Saturday: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

www.MaderaRanchosCare.com

Rice Rice Baby!

Before we started studying rice in school, I thought rice was only grown in China. I found out differently when I was in about the fifth grade. Our dad took us kids to Los Banos to see rice fields. What a surprise! Vast fields of water with little plants peeping through. I called the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce to see if the rice fields were still there and the man I spoke to said there weren't any there anymore, however he thought there were some out near Firebaugh and northeast of Merced. With the water shortage we are having I was wondering how they are surviving. According to what I read on the internet, the fields are flooded to slow the weed growth. They can irrigate by rows, but it is more economical to flood the fields because that way they don't have to take care of the weeds separately.

Rice has been grown in the southern United States since the mid-19th century. Rice cultivation began in California during the California Gold Rush, when Chinese laborers immigrated to the state and grew small amounts for their own use. Commercial production began in 1912 in Butte County. By 2006, California produced the second largest rice crop in the United States only behind Arkansas. Most of California's rice is grown in six counties north of Sacramento. The United States provides about 12 percent of the world rice trade. Of the rice grown in the United States, 58 percent is for direct food use, 16 percent is used in processed food, 16 percent for beer and 10 percent for pet food.

Growing up, we had rice more than pasta. I don't remember having spaghetti too often, but we did have rice. I remember mama's yummy rice pudding. I went through her recipe cards and not surprisingly, I didn't find one. A lot of her cooking she would just put things together and it would come out delicious. So I went online and with the many recipes I read, this one sounds the closest to hers. I know she did not put it in the oven; it was cooked on top



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

of the stove. Hope you enjoy.

Rice Pudding

- ¾ C Uncooked White Rice
- 2 C Milk, Divided
- ⅓ C White Sugar
- ¼ tsp Salt
- 1 Egg, Beaten
- ⅔ C Raisins
- 1 T Butter
- ½ tsp Vanilla

In a medium saucepan, bring 1½ C water to a boil, add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

In another saucepan, combine 1½ C cooked rice, 1½ C milk, sugar and salt. Cook over medium heat until thick and creamy, 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in remaining ½ C milk, the

beaten egg and raisins. Cook 2 minutes longer, stirring constantly (if you don't stir, it might scorch). Remove from heat and stir in butter and vanilla.

In the book of dates I told you about a couple of articles ago, I read that National Rice Pudding Day is August 9. Happens to be my baby brother George and my sister-in-law JoRene's wedding anniversary – Congratulations!

I've told you before about the mini truck farm my mom had every summer in our back yard. Every year we had zucchini "coming out our ears." Mama would always try to get them picked when they were small, but once in a while one would hide and grow to be too large for regular cooking. But she wouldn't let it go to waste. When she'd bring one of these monstrous squash into the house, we knew what we were going to have for dinner:

Zucchini Stuffed Spanish Rice

- 1 Large Zucchini
- 1 Can Chopped Tomatoes
- 1 C Uncooked Rice
- 1 T Butter

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

Rice cultivation began in California during the California Gold Rush, when Chinese laborers immigrated to the state and grew small amounts for their own use ... By 2006, California produced the second largest rice crop in the United States only behind Arkansas.

GET PAID AT

RECYCLING
 GLASS • PLASTIC • ALUMINUM
 37357 AVE. 12 • NEXT TO LEE KITCHEN 2/18

Aluminum Cans
20¢/lb. MORE*
 (25 lbs. or more)

**SPECIAL RATES WITH THIS COUPON ONLY!
 COUPON GOOD THROUGH 3/25/18*

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Rodents destroying your property?

Over 15 years of experience
 Licensed by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 Cal. Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
 Nuisance animal trapping

CALL FOR AN INSPECTION TODAY!
ALLIED RODENT CONTROL • 312-5441

2/18

www.theranchos.com

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.
 Get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006). Learn how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site!

www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com
www.theranchos.com

2/18

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.
 645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
 Lic. #PLS 5815 36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

2/18

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

"If you can dream it, Marty can pour it!"

2/18



- Borders
- Driveways
- Walkways
- Patios
- Pool Decks
- Large & Small Slabs
- Stamped Concrete
- Stained Concrete

**Marty Owen -
The Concrete Guy**

Marty has a passion for creative concrete design. Marty has been laying concrete for 32 years and has extensive experience in every area of concrete, from residential to commercial.

Licensed & Bonded SCL#991137

Marty the Concrete Guy • 559-718-9952

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

- 2 T Oil
- ½ C Chopped Onion
- 1 Clove Garlic – Crushed
- 1 tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp Black Pepper
- Preheat oven – 350

Wash zucchini and cut off stem end. Cut in half length wise. Scoop out and discard seeds. Set aside.

Drain tomatoes, reserve liquid. Add enough water to liquid to make one cup.

In saucepan, combine tomato liquid, rice and butter and bring to a boil. Turn heat down and simmer covered 5 minutes. Set aside.

In skillet heat oil, sauté onions and garlic until golden, about 5 minutes. (Sometimes mama would add a pound of hamburger here, breaking it up with a fork and browning it). Add reserved tomatoes, rice mixture, salt and pepper. Heat until heated through, takes about 5 minutes.

Fill zucchini halves with mixture, dividing evenly.

Arrange zucchini halves in 13x9 baking pan. Pour ½ C water in bottom of pan.

Cover tightly with foil. Bake 1 hour or until zucchini is tender.

My favorite rice recipe I got from a

girl that worked in our office. I gave it to my mother and she took it to several potlucks. I know Campbell's has a recipe similar to this one and only cooks in half the time, but believe me it is not as good. This recipe calls for a whole chicken but not every family likes all the parts. When I've cooked it for the family, I like thighs and wings, and most all the rest of the family prefer breasts – so use whatever your family prefer.

No Peek Chicken

- 1 Fryer – Cut Up
- 1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 Can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- ⅔ Can Milk
- 1 Pkg. Lipton Onion Soup Mix
- 1¼ C Uncooked Rice
- Paprika
- Preheat oven 325

Mix cream soups and milk. Add uncooked rice. Pour in bottom of 13x9 baking pan. Lay chicken parts on top of rice mixture. Sprinkle onion soup mix on top of chicken and rice. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover pan tightly with foil. Place in heated oven for 2 hours.

NO PEEKING!

This article originally appeared in the June 2011 issue of the Ranchos Independent. -- Editor

How's your fence?



chain link



wood



wrought iron

FREE Estimates • 7 Days a Week

**chain link • wood fence • wrought iron
privacy plus • gate operators
security windows • security doors • barbed wire**

Advanced Fence
for all your fencing needs

559-260-2116
Lic. #867283 & Bonded

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

- It was English novelist Eric Arthur Blair -- better known by his pen name, George Orwell -- who said: "During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

- Are you a cacographer? If you spend any time online you've certainly run across a few. A cacographer is someone who can't quite grasp the rules of spelling.

- It was in 1943 that Thomas Watson, then chairman of IBM, said: "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

- The English word "velvet" comes from a Latin term that means "shaggy hair."

- Thought for the Day: "The simplest questions are the most profound. Where were you born? Where is your home? Where are you going? What are you doing? Think about these once in a while and watch your answers change." -- Richard Bach

© 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.



Lose 30 Pounds in a Day!

Most of us could do it. Maybe even more. All it takes is time, determination, honesty and a little ruthlessness. I helped two clients do it last month. In fact, they each had more than five garbage bags of clothes to donate when we were done. Oh, did I fail to mention I was referring to 30 pounds of clothes?

How many times do you enter your closet and think, "I don't have anything to wear," while the closet rod is sagging under the weight of all your clothes? I'm convinced that in those cases, we don't need more, we need less. What if you were able to walk into your closet

What if you were able to walk into your closet knowing that everything hanging there is something that you enjoy wearing — it fits you well, it's the style you like, and it looks good on you?

knowing that everything hanging there is something that you enjoy wearing — it fits you well, it's the style you like, and it looks good on you?

You CAN have a closet like that! The first step is to schedule a time. Block out 3-6 hours depending on the size of your closet. Schedule break times so you don't have a melt-down before finishing. Determine that you're going to finish the project. Plan a reward (other than shopping) to enjoy at the end of the day.

Before your scheduled date, catch up on your laundry so you're not missing anything in the process. Consider purchasing matching hangers. I prefer the slim-line velvet hanger for most tops. T-shirts and frequently worn sweatshirts work best on the slim-line plastic finish. The open-ended hangers for pants are great — so easy to use.

Decide how you want to categorize the clothing you keep. You may choose to sort by type (pants, shirts, jackets, dresses), use (work, casual, dressy, workout), color, or season. I prefer by type and color to make it easy to retrieve.

Clear the floor of other items such as shoes, purses, bags of purse contents, etc. Save the purging process of these for another day but get them out of the way so you can easily move in and out of the closet.

On the day of, make your bed so you can use it as a staging area. Pull out all your clothes (off the closet rod, floor, chairs, etc.) and lay them in piles on the bed. Use a sheet on the floor for the over-

flow, if needed.

Make sure your closet has adequate light. If your bulbs are dim, it can lower your mood and make choosing what to wear in the morning more of a chore. If it's not a walk-in closet, and didn't come with a light, install a battery-operated stick-on light.

Now comes the time for honesty and ruthlessness. Most of us are equipped with excellent rationalizing skills that can sabotage the purging process. Remember, you're on a treasure hunt for only the items you'll be anxious to wear. Pick up one item at a time. If it's something you love, and you've been regularly wearing it, it gets an automatic pass back to the closet.

As you're re-hanging your treasures, use the most accessible area of the closet for the clothes you use most. Hang them in your predetermined categories with the hangers facing backward. After an item is worn, you may hang it the right way. This will help you identify clothing you thought you wanted, but never wear, because they'll still be hanging backward at the end of the season.

As you continue the purge, beware of faulty reasons to keep things like, "it still has the tags on it." Apparently, that means you aren't wearing it. Even if it was expensive, it's not adding value to your life by taking up space in your closet and someone else could get good use out of it. Donate or consign it.

Limit the number of items you keep in a size that you're planning to wear again, but not fitting into at present. Place a few favorites of that size(s) in a bin and put them under the bed or on a shelf, so they're not mixed with your current size.

Place items you love, but need repair, in a bag or bin. Give yourself one month to make the repairs. Whatever's left at the end of the month, goes. Clothing, even items beyond repair, can be dropped off at H&M clothing store for repurposing/recycling.

You'll probably run into items that you're just not sure about. Don't just ponder them on the hanger, try them on. Then, ask yourself, would you buy it again if you were trying it on in the store? Would you be happy to wear it the rest of the day, or out that evening? Remember, you're on a treasure hunt.

One more tip: look at the items you've already returned to the closet. What makes them treasures? Style, color, fit, easy maintenance? Identifying what you love about them will help as you filter through the rest of your clothing.

Bag and label the donate/sell piles. Enjoy your predetermined reward and relish in the joy of waking up to a wardrobe you love.

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

5th Annual Palm Sunday Celebration

Easter Spring Festival

Saturday March 24th
9am – 2pm

Free
Food ~ Games ~
Bounce Houses

Craft Fair
Free Booth Spaces
Available

FUN

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Corner of Road 37 & Cloverleaf

To reserve your FREE Booth Space or for more information
MESSAGE or CALL
goldenvalleybaptistchurch@live.com
559-645-1700

Sunday School 9AM * Sunday Worship 10:30AM

Wednesday Life Apps 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7AM with free pancake breakfast

12414 Road 37 * Madera Ranchos * (559) 645-1700

www.goldenvalleybaptistchurch.org goldenvalleybaptistchurch@live.com

CALL 645-0634 TO ADVERTISE

Upcoming Class

Septic Safe Landscaping

March 14, 5:30 - 6:30pm

Learn how to safely plant around your septic system...and what you can plant over it besides grass!

Source: <https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/graphics/roots.jpg>

Kid's Craft

Leprechaun Garden

March 17, 10am - 11am / Cost: TBD

Make a welcoming place for your leprechaun to hang out!

Hours

Tues.-Fri. 8am-6pm
Sat. 9am-4pm
Sun. 10am-4pm

Spring Hours start March 20

Location

12090 Fernwood Dr.
Madera Ranchos
Ph. 645-767

Facebook.com/FernwoodGardensMadera

Fernwood Gardens



**Sago Key
Palm Plantation!**
More than 20,000
Palms & Sagos in stock.
We also have a wide selection of
Shade & Fruit trees.
call Juan and Maria at
559-268-6650
6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

2/18



**Colgate At Home
Teeth Whitening Kit**
comes with custom trays, holder
and six cartridges
only \$199

2/18




**Ranchos Dental Care
& Orthodontics**
37144 Ave. 12, Suite 104
Madera Ranchos

**Dr. Matthew Pia and the staff at
Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics**

559-645-5320
www.ranchosdental.net

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN
the Ranchos Independent**

www.TheRanchos.com

The Bookshelf

“Cleaned Up” Look for Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

We are well underway with re-organizing the shelves around here, making the whole place a bit more user-friendly in the long run for all of our wonderful patrons. It may take some adjustment, but now there's room for our collection to grow even more in the years to come.

I know it seems far off, but we've gotten our Summer Reading Program all planned out for the 2018 year, and it will be a fun one for sure! This year's theme is "Reading Takes You Anywhere" and we have events planned for every week starting June 21 and going on each week on Thursdays at 11 am. More information is available in the branch if you have any questions about the event itself. This is a community event and we do depend on our community to make these things happen. We are accepting donations for the program to make sure it is as well-rounded as possible. Any donations made are tax deductible and will be applied directly to the performers, prizes and supplies for the Summer Reading Program itself.

We also have been chugging along with the planning for the Flatlander's Day Craft Fair and Parade. It will be taking place on Saturday, May 12 and I have been hard at work making sure not only our usual vendors are there but new and exciting additions to the Ranchos family as well. Spaces are limited and available on a first come,

first serve basis so if you are interested in having a booth as a sales or food vendor, please come get an application from the branch and we will help you get it all set up.

I've been here for three months now and am really getting excited at how well this little branch is cleaning up and absolutely love how much I've gotten to know the local community thus far. It's starting to feel like my own little home away from home and I have to thank you all for the welcoming atmosphere this town provides. Spencer and I are working to get a balance between the regular patrons as well as trying to open up the collection in ways that should appeal to people who may not always come in and see us. If you don't think the library is the place for you, I challenge you to give it a try. We've got books that should please just about any walk of life and are thrilled at the chance to share them with you.

The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12 • 645-1214

Sun-Mon Closed

Tue 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wed - Thu 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fri-Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

SEMCU speaks

By Jeff McGrath

Our first check from the state for our Washing Machine Grant has come in. With that, SEMCU was able to reimburse 21 applicants that have purchased new Energy Star High Efficiency Washing Machines. This puts \$7350 back into our pocket books and helps us save water. There is still money available so if you have purchased or are thinking about purchasing a new Energy Star High Efficiency Washing Machine, please see the back page of the Ranchos Independent on how to get reimbursed.

Our first grant was for low flow devices for the kitchen faucets and bathroom faucets and shower heads. We still have some available and they may be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 to 3. They are yours simply by filling out some paper work.

I noticed recently on Facebook there was an article about water meters having to be placed on all new wells, well repairs, well reconstruction and or well pump replacements. I realize this is a burden to the owner and it is being mandated by the Board of Supervisors under Ordinance no. 674. However, it should be noted that the State of California in 2004, passed AB 2572 which closed the loopholes in SB 229 by requiring urban water utilities to meter all municipal and industrial users by 2025. The drought is prompting a closer look at the use and management of the state's water resources. California has no idea how much ground water is being pumped or how to manage the use of it. While the county is not monitoring the meters at this time, they are taking corrective action to get ahead of the power curve.

Again, SEMCU is offering a rebate program to those that have had to install meters on their wells. Please refer to the back page of the Ranchos Independent to see how you can qualify.

Please plan on attending one or more of our meetings held at the Pizza Factory every third Monday of the month starting at 6 p.m.

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

The 15th Annual Chamber

CRAB FEED



Friday, March 2 • 6 p.m.



At the beautiful DANTE CLUB
No-Host Bar • Music • Auctions

Your \$50 ticket includes Crab, Salad, Pasta, Bread and Dessert!

Tables of 10 are available for your Business or Group. Business Sponsorships are also available. Call for info.

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.



2/18

Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

Be a Crab Feed Sponsor

Is your business going to the Crab Feed? For \$550 you get a table for 10, get to put your company banner up at the event, have your name listed at every table, have your table introduced at the event and be listed in the Ranchos Independent. Call 645-4001.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month. Join us on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos. Call us at 645-4001.

New Members

Reitz Team Realtors -- Greg Reitz
Christie's Place -- Christi M. Profera

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

Planning a Yard Makeover?

Need inspiration, ideas
...a **PLAN?**

FREE on site consultation

480.231.3988 ~ DIY—yards.com ~ Facebook.com/diyyards



Do it yourself... but not alone.

2/18

ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING
645-0634

LHS Senior Strikes Decathlon Gold

Liberty High Senior Holly Hiatt was the top-scoring senior from Liberty High at the 36th Annual Academic Decathlon and earned \$100 for that distinction. Overall, Liberty High came in third in the annual competition that pitted students from Liberty, Chawanakee, Chowchilla, Madera, Madera South and Yosemite high schools. Yosemite came in first and Chowchilla finished second.

Decathlon teams are comprised of up to 25 members competing in three levels of competition: Honor (A), Scholastic (B) and Varsity (C) students.

A total of 121 medals were handed out at the awards ceremony, with Liberty High being awarded 20 medals: 8 gold, 3 silver and 9 bronze medals. Liberty High students scored medals in the following categories:

Economics

Varsity Gold: Cody Williams

Essay

Honors Bronze: Holly Hiatt

Varsity Bronze: Camden Crawford
Interview

Honors Silver: Aaliyah Razvi

Varsity Silver: Camden Crawford

Mathematics

Honors Gold: Holly Hiatt

Honors Bronze: Katie Glover

Scholastic Silver: Israel Mendoza

Scholastic Bronze: Sadie Vasquez

Varsity Gold: Adam Pearce

Music

Scholastic Gold: Graciela Ruiz

Varsity Gold: Zet Corpus

Varsity Bronze: Adam Pearce, Cody Williams

Social Science

Scholastic Silver: Aspen Poodry

Scholastic Bronze: Israel Mendoza

Varsity Gold: Nicholas Lovering

Varsity Bronze: Camden Crawford

Speech

Honors Gold: Aaliyah Razvi

Varsity Bronze: Thomas Caruso

Compare Our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

1-year	1.85	% APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000
2-year	2.35	% APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000
5-year	2.55	% APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 02/06/18. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Paul Wright

Financial Advisor

Madera, CA 93637
559-871-2492

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

2/18

ACLU cont. from P. 2

ing the closed session. Ultimately, the ACLU and the County agreed to resolve the matter and enter into a settlement agreement. As part of the settlement, the Madera County Chief of Corrections will prepare a staff report describing existing jail policies with respect to communications with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and include an analysis of Senate Bill 54 (California Values Act). The Chief of Corrections will present the report to the Board of

Supervisors in an open session on March 13, 2018. At a second public meeting on March 27, 2018, the Board may take any further action on the staff report, provided such action is within the scope of the agenda item.

“The ACLU commends the Madera County Board of Supervisors for entering into a settlement and for its commitment to comply with the Brown Act and to ensure transparency in its Board meetings,” said Angelica Salceda, Staff Attorney for the ACLU.

ED OPS cont. from P. 2

acquaintance of his father’s. “I enjoy the small school and the fact that everyone is together. It lets you focus on school work and not other things going on in school,” Nathaniel said. He wants to be a firefighter and has already begun studying via online courses.

Mrs. Konkle, a guardian for her grandson, has been a Ranchos resident for 30 years and raised two children here. She now has seven grandchildren and says that she is blessed that most of them live out here too. “This has been a wonderful opportunity for kids who deserve a second chance,” she said. Konkle praises Avo for treating every one of the students as if they were his own. “I have Avo’s cell phone number and if there’s ever a problem, day or night, I can pick up the phone and call him.” She is also a fan of smaller class size and the personal attention that the teachers give their students. “If I have a question about an assignment, I call and the teachers will call me back the same day. They truly care for their

students and not just whether they pass or fail,” she said. “I don’t think my grandson would have ever finished school if it wasn’t for this program. It’s so nice to see my grandson be thrilled about school again!”

“When you have over 200 students it’s impossible to get to know them personally and what they respond to best. Not everyone learns best the same way,” said Art, Career Exploration and Adult Education teacher, Mrs. Cowger. “I think this is the best kept secret for both students and teachers.”

Out of the Box

Field trips, yoga classes, food classes and all the normal high school activities are part of the curriculum here, however Atoian explains, “Everything we do here is out of the box. We don’t have Back to School Night where you’d get two or three parents to show up. Instead we had Octoberfest where we served root beer floats and Bratwurst prepared by the foods class and music,” he said with a smile. “We had close to 100 people for a school of just 30 students and everyone had a great time.”

IN GOOD HANDS

with Warren Parr



Fun with Diagnostics

Hello 93636,

Last month I had a couple of very odd vehicle diagnostics and repairs I thought you might find interesting and entertaining. The first diagnostic was very difficult, taking several days, but the second was much easier taking about an hour or so to diagnosis.

The first case study was a 2002 Ford F150 pickup with a 5.4-liter engine. It had the check engine lamp illuminated with a P0171 (Bank 1 lean exhaust) trouble code set. P0171 and P0174 (Bank 2 lean exhaust) are the most popular trouble codes I deal with for this vintage of Ford. I have considerable experience with this problem, but never before have I diagnosed a valve cover gasket as the cause for an illuminated check engine lamp.

The mass air flow sensor (MAF) is located in the engine's air intake ducting and its job is to measure incoming air. A typical MAF sensor incorporates a "hot wire" that is maintained at a constant 200 degrees F above ambient air temperature. When the engine speed changes, the air flow passing over the "hot wire" changes and the "hot wire's" temperature is affected. The powertrain control module (PCM) varies the electrical current (flow of electrons) through the wire to maintain that constant temperature. That current is used to calculate the mass of air entering the engine at any given time. The air is calculated into grams per second.

The perfect air to fuel ratio for a modern gasoline engine is 14.7-1. For every 14.7 grams of air entering the engine, 1 gram of gasoline is needed. How do we consistently achieve a perfect air to fuel ratio? We use air/fuel ratio and oxygen sensors to monitor the oxygen content in the exhaust. If the oxygen content is high (unused), there was too little gasoline injected for the available air. In that case the PCM will "trim up" and increase fuel delivery. If the oxygen content is low, too much gasoline was injected for the available air and the PCM will "trim down" and decrease fuel delivery. When the perfect 14.7-1 air to fuel ratio is achieved, complete combustion occurs and all the fuel (oxygen and gasoline) will be consumed and no tailpipe emissions created. The oxygen content in the exhaust is EVERYTHING with regard to exhaust emissions

and fuel mileage. The bi-product of complete combustion is carbon dioxide and water vapor, what we humans exhale.

Here's where things got difficult. The positive crankcase ventilation system (PCV) is a vent for the engine's crankcase. Sixty years ago, we just vented the crankcase gases into the air, but with emissions concerns the PCV system was invented. Now the intake manifold is the crankcase vent.

The crankcase is the lower portion of the engine block that houses the crankshaft. The engine oil pan is a component of the crankcase. When cruising down the freeway, lots of pressure and air currents are generated in the crankcase. The largest contributor to crankcase pressure is "blow by" or compression leakage past the piston rings. If it's not depressurized, engine oil will be pushed past the engines gaskets and seals.

TECH TIP: If an engine is leaking oil, test the PCV system first.

When the vacuum (negative pressure) created in the intake manifold is applied to the crankcase (positive pressure), those gases are drawn into the intake manifold where they are mixed with fresh incoming air. The blended air enters the cylinders where it is mixed with gasoline and combusted.

When the PCV is functioning properly, the crankcase, oil pan, timing cover and valve covers are in a state of vacuum. When one of those gaskets fail, a vacuum leak is created and unmeasured air is drawn into the intake manifold. Any air that finds its way into the intake manifold and does not pass through the MAF, is unmeasured. When the PCM sees the unmeasured air/oxygen in the exhaust, the PCM "trims up" fuel delivery. If the vacuum leak is large enough, the check engine lamp will be illuminated and a trouble code P0171 and/or P0174 will be set. Now I know it's possible for a valve cover gasket to leak vacuum without leaking oil and illuminate the check engine lamp. Installing a new valve cover gasket stopped the PCV vacuum leak and the correct air to fuel ratio was achieved.

Unbelievable.

The process used to discover the valve cover vacuum leak was to connect a smoke generator to the intake manifold and fill it with pressurized smoke. The smoke was forced through the defective gasket seal.

The second vehicle was a 1995 Dodge Ram 2500 with a Cummins 5.9-liter diesel engine. The customer's complaint was the automatic transmission

lost overdrive. I connected my scanner and displayed the transmission information. During my test drive, the overdrive function was normal. I did notice that torque converter lockup did not occur. When that does properly occur, it feels just like another gear.

Inside the transmission's torque converter is an impeller and turbine. The impeller forces transmission fluid through the turbine causing it to spin. The turbine in turn spins the transmission input shaft which through a series of events turns the vehicle's drive wheels. At best, that fluid coupling is 90 percent efficient. Somewhere around the early 1980s a torque converter clutch (TCC) was incorporated to lock the impeller to the turbine. The torque converter coupling efficiency increased to about 98 percent, increasing fuel efficiency. When coming to a stop the TCC needs to be unlocked or the engine will stall. The brake pedal level position is monitored by the PCM so that when the brake pedal is depressed, the TCC is unlocked. During the test drive I noticed the brake pedal level was low and soft. The scanner indicated the brake pedal was depressed. I stuck my toe under the brake pedal and raised it up. The brake pedal position indicator changed to released and TCC lock up followed. The transmission is fine. It's the low

brake pedal level that's keeping the transmission from shifting.

When I checked the brake fluid level, I noticed a new master cylinder and power booster. As I've mentioned before, guessing is the most inefficient and most costly way to diagnosis. The rear brake reservoir in the front of the new master cylinder was empty. I topped it off and inspected the rear brakes. The left rear wheel cylinder was leaking. Replacing the rear wheel cylinders and bleeding the air out of the brake system raised the brake pedal to its normal height and brake and transmission functions were restored. Really – a leaking brake wheel cylinder caused the transmission not to shift?

Yes ... it did.

OK everyone, that's all for now. I hope you found these case studies as interesting as I did. As usual, I'm looking for interesting automotive industry topics to write about. If you have any suggestions, ideas, comments or a general or specific question about a vehicle, please send me an email to complete_car_care@hotmail.com or text me at 559-907-7661.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636

Warren Parr, ASE Master, Advanced Level and Hybrid Certified Technician

YES, AMERICA.

★

DESIGNED, ENGINEERED & ASSEMBLED IN THE USA

YORK YORK.COM

Locally owned and operated
37082 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93636
559-662-0336 | www.huckabeeshvac.com

Got Water?

*Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?
Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?*

CALL US!

Bubba's Water Truck Service
call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

2/18

LICENSE #932435

TIM DE MERA
Owner/CEO
Madera Ranchos Resident

FREE ESTIMATES

ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM

2/18

dōTERRA

What can dōTERRA Essential Oils Do For You?

How's your health? Improve it naturally.
(...and make extra money doing it!)

ALL Diffuser Jewelry ON SALE! call for details

Doterra Certified Pure Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils
can improve your health, increase your energy, fight viruses and so much more.

Contact me today for a FREE sample or if you'd like like to attend a FREE class on essential oils and products.

Tina Shannon -- Wellness Advocate

call **645-4948 or 430-7131**

Call Tina TODAY to get YOUR all-natural TriEase allergy pills.

Visit my online store at mydoterra.com/tinashannon

2/18

Senior Report

Upcoming Events and Honoring "Joann"

By Margaret Tynan

There is a lot going on at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Get out your calendar and mark the dates so you don't miss out on the fun.

The Bake and Boutique Sale and the Treasure House Sale is Saturday, March 3. Come and take advantage of the great bargains. On March 15 the regular Thursday potluck will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. It begins at 6 p.m. Bring something to share, your own dinner service and your appetite. Carol Wood and others are busy making lovely Easter Baskets that will be for sale all during the month of March. Drop by the Center to get yours.

Be sure you plan to come to the Annual Ranchos/Hills Home and Garden Festival on Saturday, April 7. It is always a great time. Watch for details. Dates are set for the popular Improvisation Acting Class with Mike Beevers. Class will be held at the Center from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on four consecutive Mondays: April 30, May 7, 14 and 21. Adults are welcome to sign up at the Center for this free event. Plans are also in the works for a group to go to Roger Rocka's Theater in Fresno for the May 6 matinee show of "Mamma Mia." Contact the Center for more information.

A luncheon was held on January 27 to honor and thank Joann Blancett for her contributions and many years of service to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. She stepped down as Site Coordinator of the Nutrition Program at the beginning of this year, but we are delighted to report that she will continue to volunteer at the Center. Many members paid tribute to Joann, sharing stories of humorous

things that happened over the years. She was presented with a lovely memory album by Helen Lowell and a gift certificate by President Verlaine Elinburg. Joann and guests were entertained by a delightful musical performance by the Mitchell Sisters who are also members of the Center.

In the late 1990s Joann heard about the Ranchos/Hills Seniors through a friend who suggested she might like to join. She was a bit taken aback. "Me? A senior?" But she started to bring her mother to the Center and in 1996



Joann Blancett, right, goes over the exhaustive Ranchos/Hills Senior Center event calendar with Jo Chase.



Ranchos/Hills Senior Center member George Hager, standing, tells a humorous story about Joann Blancett at a luncheon in her honor as his wife Judy, far right, laughs.

she and her mother joined. She became Coordinator of the Center's Nutrition Program when it began in 1998 through a contract with the City of Madera under the Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging. The program is now under contract with the Community Action Partnership of Madera County. Joann recalls that in the beginning of the program, meals were served in boxes and that a special oven was used to heat them up to serve at lunch. At the time, meals were also delivered to homebound seniors in the community. Currently, the homebound delivery program is separate from congregate meal service. In the early days of the pro-

gram, Joann conducted reassessment of participants for eligibility in the homebound program.

For over 21 years, Joann has served both in the nutrition program and in the day-to-day operation of the Center. We are grateful for all she has done for seniors and the community. She contributed to the formation of many of the past and present activities and has worked to encourage community engage-

Please see SENIORS on P. 16

SENIORS cont. from P. 15

ment. Many of these activities are still going on today, one of which is the exercise program. Through the efforts of a committee on which Joann served, exercise equipment was procured through a state grant. Many travel opportunities for seniors were made possible through a contact Joann made with a tour company and provided a way to fundraise on behalf of the Center.

Joann's commitment to community engagement over the years is evident. She gave presentations on the services and activities of Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at various organizations and churches in the community. She was instrumental in bringing health-related presentations to the Center through Madera County Health Department and the Nursing Program at Fresno State University. Joann, in

cooperation with Liberty High, helped to setup opportunity for students and seniors to meet at the Center on a regular basis for intergenerational socialization and communication.

When I asked Joann what was something she would like the community to know, she said, "A lot of people don't know what we do here at Ranchos/Hills Seniors. We are an activity center. Our members are vibrant, active adults living in the area. We want others in the community to join us." Membership in the Center is open to all adults age 50 years and older. The Nutrition Program offered at the Center is open to adults 60 years and older (Preregistration required). Contact the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, 37330 Berkshire Dr., Madera, 559-645-4864 for more information.

Thought for March: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." -- Winston Churchill

Cost of feeding your child to age 18:

\$43,758

Cost of driving your child to age 18:

\$36,918

Knowing your child will still be alive the day after high school graduation:

Priceless

The Sober Grad 2018 committee and LHS Senior parents are currently selling raffle tickets for a 55" Smart Television on display at Pizza Factory. The drawing will be held on MAY 12 after the Flatlanders Day parade. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds go to the lock-in celebration for the Class of 2018 graduating seniors.


There is also a separate raffle for a small upright refrigerator on display at Pizza Factory.

Tickets are \$1 and are only being sold at the Pizza Factory location. Again all proceeds are going to LHS Sober Grad 2018. Please email jbkoop@comcast.net if you need more information, would like to volunteer or donate to this very worthy cause.

Thanks for your support.



2/18



DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

Family Owned Since 1976

674-1663
23338 Ave. 14
Madera

2/18

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great



Quick, Fast Results CALL NOW!

- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO

WE KNOW LOW CARBS!

\$20 OFF

1st visit only

DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

2/18

www.chadstrucking.com



TRUCKING

CA #441782

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

559-645-5363

ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL • HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK • LANDSCAPE MATERIAL • FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK • CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK • ROCK DUST • COBBLESTONES • DRIVEWAY BASE • CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •

2/18

STOP THE PAIN!

"We've got your back"

D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
Sports Physicals only \$35!



HANEY
CHIROPRACTIC
& rehabilitation center

36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262

2/18



Specializing in
AUTO ACCIDENTS

Click on "Local News" at

SPREAD THE NEWS!

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



SUBSCRIBE!

to the Ranchos Independent local news • local events • local happenings editorial • games • real estate • columns

The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12, #5C
Madera, CA 93636

645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: \$20 Cash Check Credit Card Bill Me

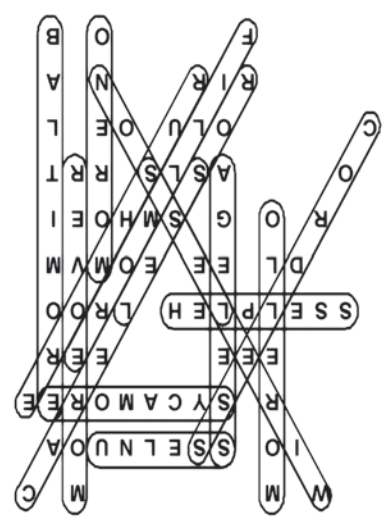
The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera CA 93636 Fax 559-645-4002

ANSWERS

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

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

2	÷	1	+	8	10
+	+	+	+	+	+
1	×	4	×	7	28
×	×	+	+	+	+
6	÷	3	+	9	11
18		15			24



Classified

Child Care

Child Care - Susan Ryan Day Care. Newborn to 5 years old. Licensed. Call 661-4725 or 706-0424.

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean dryer vents. **REMEMBER THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY!** Call 559-908-9332.

Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Lic. #719500. Call 559-970-4476.

Elderly Care

CNA & HOME HEALTH AIDE offering care for errand running, light house-keeping, meal preparation or doctor visits. Call Sheri 706-4766.

Firewood

For Sale - Seasoned Almond firewood. Round or split. Call 259-7122 or 645-5523.

For Sale

White Whirlpool 28-inch self-cleaning electric oven - used. Good condition. \$450. Used T-Posts \$2.50 each. Call 559-312-0891.

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor. Repair Maintenance. 12 years working in the area. ****NEW PHONE NUMBER: 559-908-0759****

Princess House

Your healthy cooking = Your healthy lifestyle. For the best in your home food preparation, cooking and serving, it's Princess House. NOW IN THE RANCHOS. Call Blanca at 559-916-0733 for more info.

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Call Diana at 999-6832 or 645-1048.

Funds support Ranchos community organizations and schools.

Tractor/Trenching Services

BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. Call John at 908-1066.

Tractor Work - House Pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Lic. #719500. Call 559-970-4476.

Wanted

Cash paid for old advertising

by Jo Ann Derson

- "If you're changing out a door, save the old hollow-core door. If you balance it on two sawhorses, it's a perfect work surface, and the door is light enough to tote around." -- T.F. in Texas
- Rub a magnet along the shaft of your screwdriver to magnetize it and keep screws from dropping, which can be a real pain if you're working in a tight spot or up high on a ladder.
- "Here's a nifty trick for spots where you need a nail but there's no room for a hammer. If you can wedge a C-clamp in, hold it steady on the nail head and tighten to drive the nail into the board." -- L.W. in Oregon

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

© 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

signs and antiques and old police and firemen's badges. Also buying vintage watches and jewelry. Call anytime 916-544-0322.

Window Cleaning Services

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

Ask about our SENIOR DISCOUNT!

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2018 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

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.

	÷		+		10			
+		+		+				
	×		×		28			
×		×		+				
	÷		+		11			
18		15		24				
1	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9

©2018 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

top ten

BED BUG CITIES

1. Baltimore
2. Washington, D.C.
3. Chicago
4. Los Angeles
5. Columbus, Ohio
6. Cincinnati
7. Detroit
8. New York
9. San Francisco metro
10. Dallas/Fort Worth

Source: Orkin

© 2018 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Real Estate



Nancy Watson

The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

645-5000

www.nancywatson.net



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

2/18

WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR. EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE.

Call me today if you would like to sell your home quickly for top dollar.

559.970.6555

guarantee.com/samanthaphebus

G GUARANTEE REAL ESTATE
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate




SAMANTHA PHEBUS
REALTOR®
CalBRE 01823578

2/18



DAVID PARKER, Realtor®

Real Estate Sales - sellers & buyers:

www.davidparker.info

Property Management -
we can rent your home:

www.parker-properties.info



A Ranchos resident for over 30 years, I am a full-time professional agent working Madera, Fresno and Clovis. We offer first class service for sellers and buyers. Unable to sell at current prices? We offer full property management and will rent your home for top dollar and handle all the details. Call me today! 490-1989 • DRE#: 01323109

2/18

Real estate is our life! We make real estate dreams a reality.



Maria
Fotopoulos - Cercone



BRE Lic. #01454566

I'm ready to assist you with all of your real estate needs. Whether you're buying or selling, moving across town or out of state, I'm here to help. Your housing needs deserve the care of a specialist.

Cell 559-250-6740 • Office 559-645-1212
maria@ossrealtor.com • Ranchos resident for more than 30 years!

2/18



How many People Could That Corvette Feed?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Occasionally a simple example or story illustrates a fundamental concept better than a lengthy essay. Months ago, I read such a blurb from Facebook that illustrated the advantages of capitalism, and apparently it went viral. A copy of it just made it to the top of my never-ending stack of stuff, and even though you may have read it, it might be worth a second look and you might want to pass it on to others who could use the quick lesson. The version I read was attributed to a Tom Nicholson and goes:

"A guy looked at my Corvette the other day and said, 'I wonder how many people could have been fed for the money that sports car cost?'"

"I replied that I wasn't sure. It fed a lot of families in Bowling Green, Ky., who built it; it fed the people who make the tires; it fed the people who made the components that went into it; it fed the people in the copper mine who mined the copper for the wires; it fed people at

Caterpillar in Decatur, Ill., who make the trucks that haul the copper ore. It fed the trucking people who hauled it from the plant to the dealer and fed the people working at the dealership and their families. But I have to admit, I guess I really don't know how many people it fed."

The story was followed by these truisms, again condensing complicated ideas to a few words:

That is the difference between capitalism and welfare mentality.

- When you buy something, you put money in people's pockets and give them dignity for their skills.

- When you give someone something for nothing, you rob them of their dignity and self-worth.

- Capitalism is freely giving your money in exchange for something of value.

- Socialism is taking your money against your will and shoving something

d o w n
y o u r
t h r o a t
for which you never asked.

Mr. Nicholson should condense more lessons for the millennials and others who haven't been taught free-market capitalism, history, economics or real-life money management. Unfortunately, they have been conditioned —

through education, the media, social media, government and entertainment — to believe that anyone who is self-sufficient is necessarily taking away from others, and they look to government to control outcomes and/or to provide their sustenance. Thus, Bernie Sanders' version of socialism and wealth redistribution is alarmingly appealing and the fictional (I assume) Corvette question might not seem so far-fetched to them.

Other questions might be asked based on ignorance of and hatred for our free-enterprise system.

Question: "How many people does the tax break for greedy corporations feed?" Mr. Nicholson

might answer: "I don't know how many, but more people are employed and therefore are able to feed themselves when companies have more money to invest in growing their businesses and hiring more people."

Question: "Who does a booming stock market feed besides the dirty capitalists?" Answer: "I don't know how many, but average Americans eat and live better in retirement when their stock market investments grow. I don't know how many parents invest in col-


lege funds, but their children reap the rewards if the market booms and they can certainly afford to eat better while in college, and better still with good jobs afforded by a college education. And I don't know how many teachers, firemen, government workers and millions of others will eat better when cashing in their pensions, partly funded by investments in the stock market.

How ironic it is that many of the folks who are guaranteed generous pensions haven't a clue that their funds might depend upon the very stock market they so revile. They might be concerned to learn, from CNBC no less, that "... state governments are not setting aside enough money to keep up with the rising liability of paying public worker pensions and other retirement benefits. States ... have been underfunding their pensions for years ... leaving taxpayers on the hook." So much for trusting the government to provide.

Scholars could, of course, point out that differing forms of government are much more complicated concepts than indicated here. Anyone interested is encouraged to research and find the glaring differences in living conditions under free-enterprise capitalism vs. the top-down control of socialism, fascism or communism.

Visit the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com for more information.

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

CHANNEY'S

 Lic. #899496
Bobcat Service
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call Beau
559-301-1613

CLARK'S

 559-645-1578
**General & Custom
 Auto Service
 & Repairs**
PERFORMANCE

PAINTING CONTRACTOR
 TEXTURED COATING • PAINTING
 VINYL SIDING • VINYL WINDOWS
 ROOFING
 since 1970

**FRANK KRAMER
 EXTERIORS**
(559) 645-4113
 TEXTURED COATING SPECIALIST
 FRANK KRAMER LIC. #273099

**THE COMFORT
 AND RELAXATION
 YOU DESERVE**

BRIAN'S
HEATING & COOLING
675-1681

**NEW & USED
 CARS & TRUCKS
 All Makes & Models**
**J.H. Sanders
 Sales & Leasing**
822-4500
 41453 Ave. 14 1/2
 Madera Ranchos
www.jhsanders.com

**BUBBA'S
 WATER TRUCK SERVICE**

 We Fill
 Holding Tanks
 Swimming Pools
 Potable Water
 Dust Control
 Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley
 Call Gina at 559-289-3401
 email BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

CENTRAL VALLEY

HUMBLE TREE CARE
 ESTABLISHED IN 2005
**Tree pruning, shaping & trimming
 Tree Cabling • Tree removal**
559-347-8408 • www.cvhtc.com
 Fully Insured • 8+ Years Experience • Trained Arborist

**Notary in the
 Ranchos!**
 Mobile Notary and
 Loan Document Signing
 Daytime • Evening • Weekends
Diana J. Tucker
 Serving Madera & Fresno Counties
381-5879

**HIGH QUALITY
 GATE SYSTEMS**

559-454-8060

**TOUCH OF GREEN
 LANDSCAPE**
 CA LIC. #934774
 commercial and industrial
 landscaping
 call **559-242-6352**
 info@TouchOfGreenLandscape.us

**Do you have a rental
 or are you buying?**

 We do any type of
 repair and cleaning,
inside and out! Let
 me take care of it
 for you! We do it
 all. Call us
 for a **FREE**
 estimate. 15+ years
 experience.
559-514-9816
**R&L Home Remodeling
 and Housecleaning**
Inside and Out!

INAPA **B&M**
 Auto & Truck Parts
 Store hours:
 Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30
 Sat 8:00-4:00
 Sun 10:00-3:00
 Madera Ranchos Plaza
 37405 Ave. 12, Ste. 801
645-1570

**PERSONAL
 TOUCH**
 Lic. # B0008113
 Landscaping & Gardening Services
 Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control
 Lawn & garden service • Maintenance
 Weekly & monthly service
 (not a licensed contractor)
 call Mag Anaya Jr.
559-974-1357
 Rancho Resident

Mitchell L. Vick
 GENERAL CONTRACTOR
 Lic. #563698
 • Custom Homes • Concrete •
 • Remodeling • Additions •
559-970-4635
mlvconst@gmail.com

**MARION POOL
 SERVICE & REPAIR**
 • Weekly Service
 • Equipment
 • Supplies
 • Residential
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial
 • Locally Owned
 251-2514 351-1605 645-4799
 office cell after 5 p.m.

Huckabee's
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 LIC. #837274
559-662-0336
559-438-8260
 Sales and Service - Free Estimates
 Duct Testing & Certification
 Locally owned
 and operated!

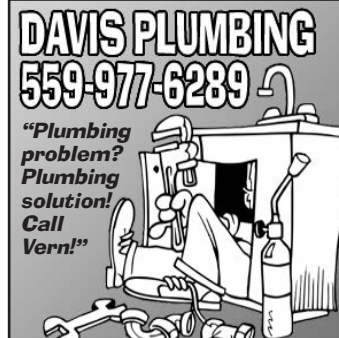
Aleman's Painting
 SINCE 1980

 Interior & Exterior
 Specializing in
 Repaints
 Rental, Residential
 & Commercial
 Drywall, Stucco,
 Redashing & Ac-
 coustical Removal
 Color Matching
559-974-2268

"We've got your back"
 D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing
 Sports Physicals only \$35!

**HANEY
 CHIROPRACTIC**
 & rehabilitation center
660-5262
 36754 AVE. 12 • Madera Ranchos

How's your fence?
Advanced Fence
 for all your fencing needs
559-260-2116
 Lic. #867283 & Bonded

DAVIS PLUMBING
559-977-6289
 "Plumbing
 problem?
 Plumbing
 solution!
 Call
 Vern!"

 Lic. #842676

**MADERA
 Barber Shop
 RANCHOS**
559-363-1851
**Barber Shop
 & Shave Parlor**

Get Involved!

645-4001
 2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.
 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

for MORE sales tomorrow, call
JEAN BRINER
Today!

(559) 645-0634
 The Ranchos Independent

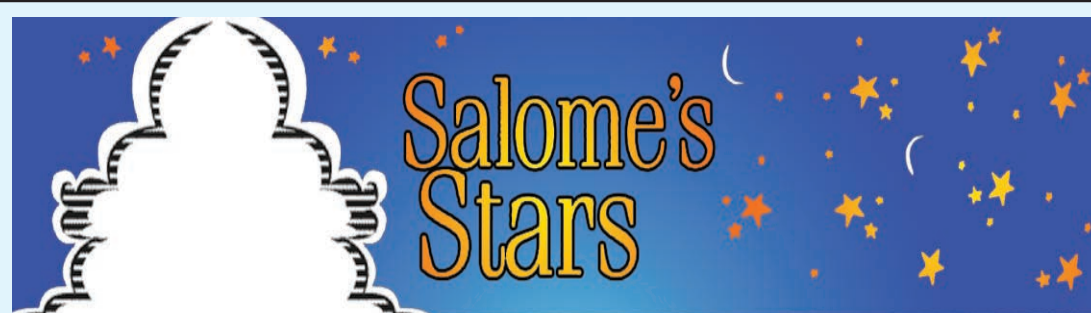
**WHAT CAN YOU GET
 FOR \$25?**
 How about 10,000
 Ranchos residents each
 month who look at
 Business Directory ads?
 The Ranchos Independent
(559) 645-0634

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2018 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your soft-hearted self is drawn to a tempting offer. But your hard-headed half isn't so sure. Best advice: Do it only after every detail is checked out to your liking.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your inventive mind should help you find a way to get around an apparently impassable barrier and make yourself heard. Your efforts get you noticed by the right people.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're enjoying this creative period. But by midweek, you'll need to emphasize your more pragmatic talents as you consider a risky but potentially lucrative move.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An unexpected rejection could turn into something positive if you pocket your pride and ask for advice on how you can make changes that will make the difference.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your Lion's heart gives you the courage to push for answers to a job-related situation. Stay with it. You'll soon find more believers coming out the ranks of the doubters.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your curiosity pays off this week as you push past the gossip to find the facts. What you ultimately discover could lead you to make some changes in your plans.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A new sense of enthusiasm helps get you out of on-the-job doldrums and back into a productive phase. Family matters also benefit from your more positive attitude.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A bit of nostalgia is fine. But don't stay back in the past too long or you might miss seeing the signpost up ahead pointing the way to a new opportunity.

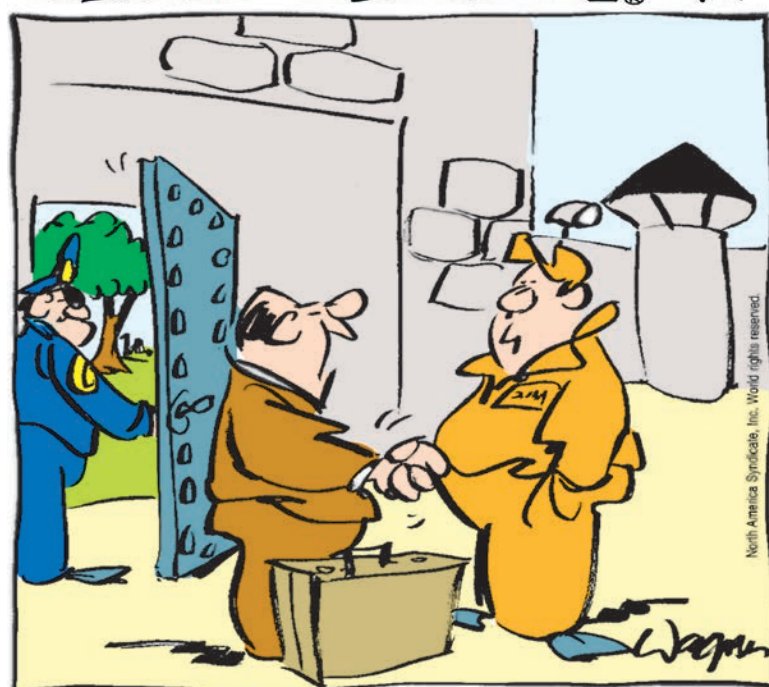
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) If you feel you need to take more time to study a situation before making a decision, do so. Don't let anyone push you into acting until you're ready.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As the Great Advice Giver, the Goat really shines this week as family and friends seek your wisdom. Someone especially close to you might make a surprising request.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Spiritual concerns dominate part of the week before more worldly matters demand your attention. An old promise resurfaces with some surprises attached.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're in a highly productive period and are eager to finish all the projects you've taken on. But don't let yourself get swamped. Take a breather now and again.

**Plumbing problem?
Plumbing solution!
Call Vern!**
DAVIS PLUMBING • 559-977-6289
Lic. #842676

GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner

North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

"Play along. ... They think I'm getting out today."

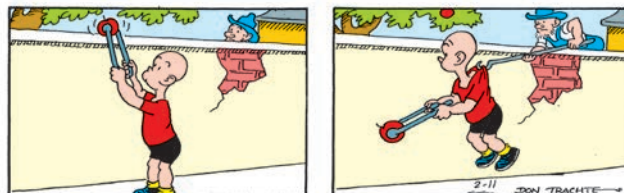
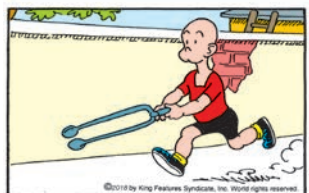
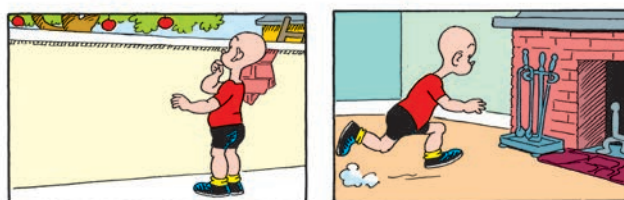
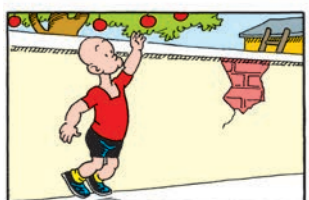
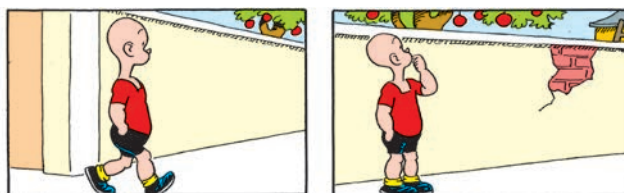
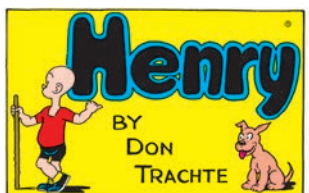
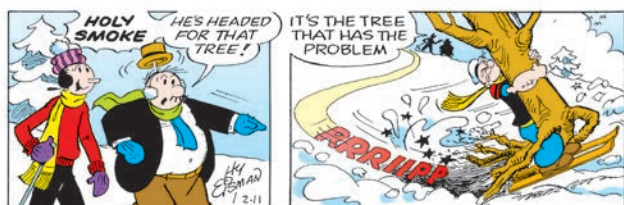
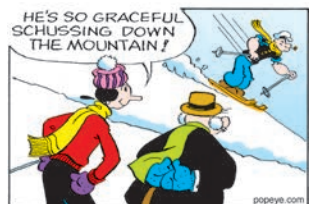
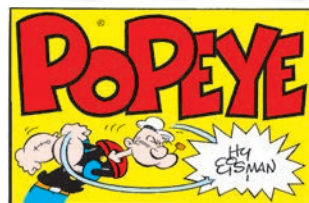
www.TheRanchos.com

Born this Week

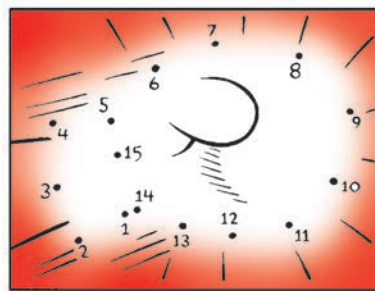
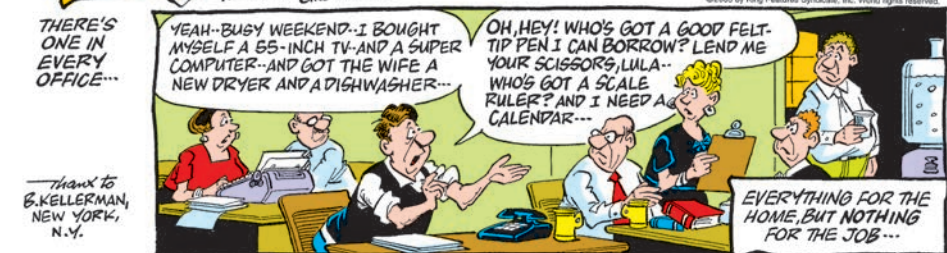
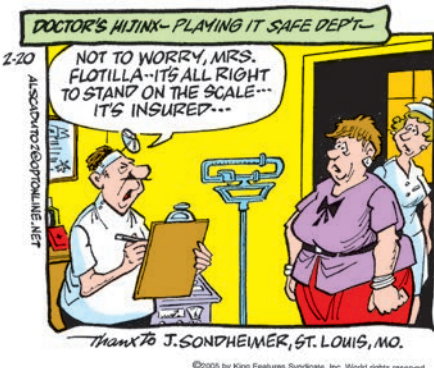
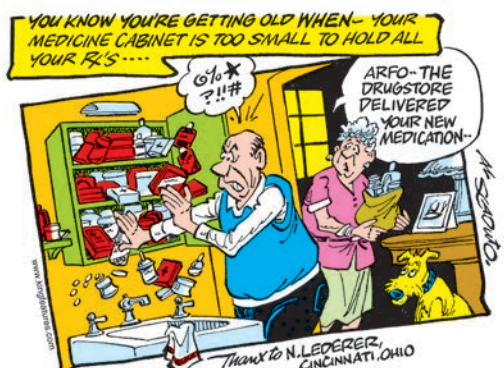
You have a gift for learning new things quickly and applying your knowledge to best advantage where needed.

© 2018 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

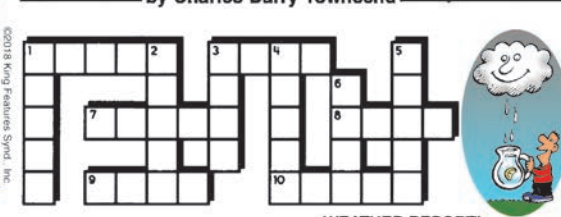
FUN PAGES



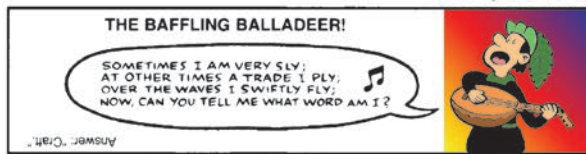
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what soft-drink prizefighters like best!



WEATHER REPORT!



LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 small words that are divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from a word in the left column to a word in the right column.

Below are 12 words you might use year-round when talking about the weather. Use these words to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method; erasers are optional.

4-letter words	5-letter words
ARID	FROST
BLEW	FROZE
BURN	MOIST
GALE	RAINS
MIST	SHADE
	THAWS

Wishing Well®

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

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

© 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● MORE OR LESS WORDS

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

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

Ageless	Fillmore	Morello	Sycamore
Baltimore	Helpless	Moreno	Unless
Careless	Lesson	Moreover	Wireless
Cordless	Lessor	Rushmore	

© 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

TRIVIA TEST

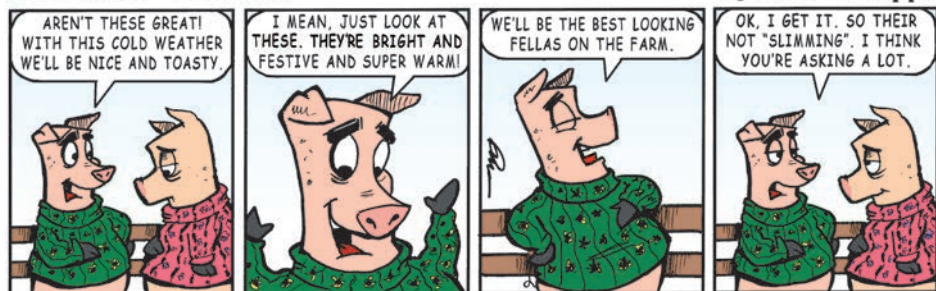
- By Fifi Rodriguez
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the word for "W" in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
 - LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story titled "The Monkey's Paw"?
 - GOVERNMENT: Which one of the amendments to the U.S. Constitution forbids double jeopardy?
 - ROYALS: Who was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII of England?
 - MYTHOLOGY: What is the Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Minerva?
 - TELEVISION: Which member of the "Our Gang" cast was shot to death in a dispute at age 31?
 - LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "prima facie" mean?
 - U.S. STATES: Which state's official song is "Roll On, Columbia, Roll On"?
 - GEOLOGY: What kind of gemstone is actually fossilized tree resin?
 - GEOGRAPHY: What is the modern name of the country of "Cymru"?

- ### Answers
- Whiskey
 - W. W. Jacobs
 - Fifth
 - Queen Elizabeth I
 - Athena
 - Carl Dean Switzer, who played "Alfalfa"
 - Based on the first impression
 - Washington
 - Amber
 - Wales
- © 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

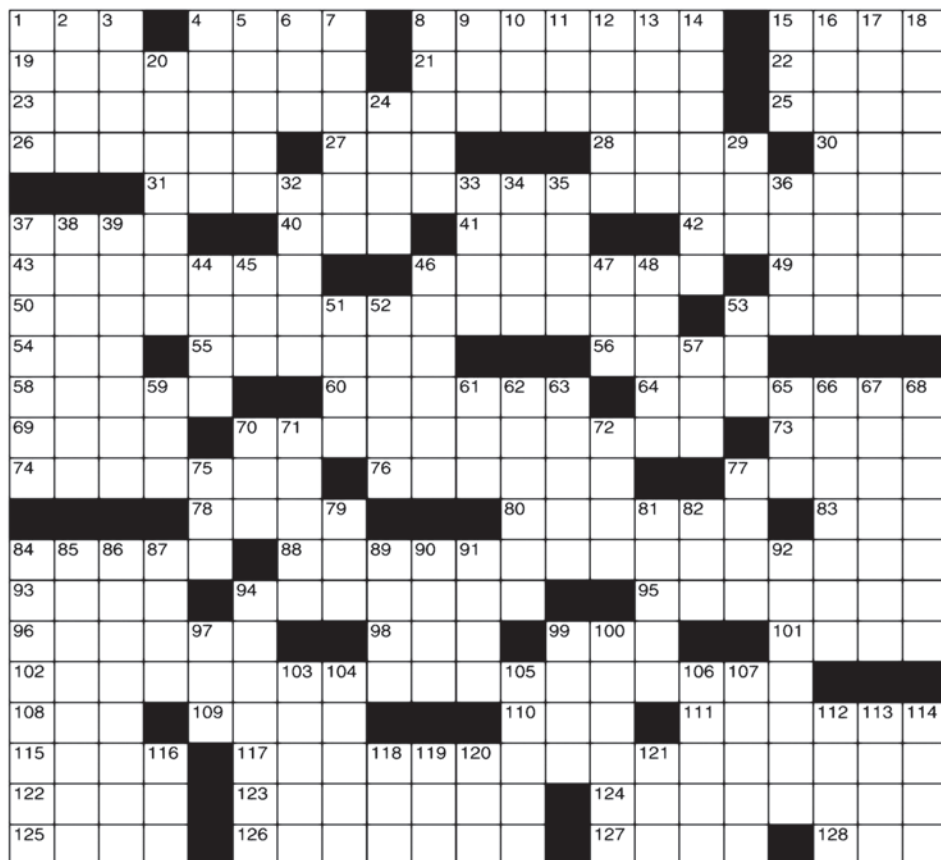
©2018 King Features Synd., Inc.



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Window is broken. 2. Football is missing. 3. Switch is missing. 4. Puff is missing. 5. Picture is smaller. 6. Drawer is missing.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 — Mart (retail giant)
 - 4 Hushed "Hey!"
 - 8 Part of PETA
 - 15 Some snakes
 - 19 Extra refrigerator convenience
 - 21 Pre-euro Greek coin
 - 22 Scrutinize, with "over"
 - 23 Extremely bad weather, e.g.
 - 25 Deep purple
 - 26 Skating great Yamaguchi
 - 27 Canton-born architect I.M.
 - 28 Big cracker brand
 - 30 Drink name suffix
 - 31 Offering at a memorial service
 - 37 Org. for Michelle Wie
 - 40 '60s psychedelic
 - 41 Nero's 1.006
 - 42 Apply an oily liquid to
 - 43 Folding art
 - 46 It glances off the bat and counts as a strike
 - 49 A while ago
 - 50 Prevention of a blaze from spreading
 - 53 Madden director
 - 54 "Dracula" director Browning
 - 55 "— doin'!" ("Forget it!")
 - 56 Melt
 - 58 Dunne of movies
 - 60 Slow, tempo-wise
 - 64 Not less than
 - 69 To be, at the Louvre
 - 70 Longtime tech ad slogan (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
 - 73 Essence
 - 74 Actress Dawson
 - 76 Hip-hop record label
 - 77 "— suggest that ...?"
 - 78 About
 - 80 African land
 - 83 Some vinyl records
 - 84 Philately item
 - 88 Clash between social groups
 - 93 Beseech
 - 94 Husky-toned
 - 95 Ominous director Carl
 - 98 Little hotel
 - 99 Notable time stretch
 - 101 One writing briefs: Abbr.
 - 102 Efforts to protect ecosystems, say
 - 108 Simile middle
 - 109 — avis
 - 110 Existential declaration
 - 111 How very close games are won
 - 115 Mixed breed
 - 117 Calamitous effects
 - 122 Love god
 - 123 Deep green
 - 124 Repeat
 - 125 Desiccated
 - 126 Late-night flights
 - 127 Draws on
 - 128 Here-there linkup
 - 5 Yarn bundle
 - 6 Minute div.
 - 7 Recurring themes
 - 8 Murphy of "48 Hrs."
 - 9 Prefix with glyceride
 - 10 Toque, e.g.
 - 11 Here, in Arles
 - 12 C minor, say
 - 13 Prenatal test, briefly
 - 14 Track racer's windup
 - 15 iPhone extra
 - 16 Comforting in sorrow
 - 17 Discretion
 - 18 College term
 - 20 Text or email
 - 24 Dweeby sort
 - 29 Buddhism school
 - 32 Film director Eastwood
 - 33 "Hurry up!"
 - 34 Half of a zygote
 - 35 Cairo's river
 - 36 When morning ends
 - 37 More exalted
 - 38 In advance of
 - 39 Bridge parts
 - 44 Skin ailment
 - 45 Dairy sound
 - 46 Conclusion
 - 47 Blowup stuff
 - 48 "— to Be You"
 - 51 "Imagine —!"
 - 52 Helped
 - 53 Saddlery tool
 - 57 Supped
 - 59 School lobby gp.
 - 61 Many a PC image file
 - 62 Bite, break or bruise
 - 63 "August: — County"
 - 65 Mileage rating gp.
 - 66 Send in via helicopter, maybe
 - 67 Diamond-shaping method
 - 68 Abounding in prickly plants
 - 70 Grafton's "— for Innocent"
 - 71 Saw edge
 - 72 Apple desktop
 - 75 Hip-hop music
 - 77 Stupid
 - 79 "— Day Will Come"
 - 81 Jack Sprat's dietary rule
 - 82 Genetic cell stuff
 - 84 Family appellations
 - 85 Value highly
 - 86 Rabble-rouser
 - 87 Diner list
 - 89 Beef cut
 - 90 Sunbathes
 - 91 — Reader
 - 92 Tilting
 - 94 One walking
 - 97 Flub up
 - 99 Gabor and Mendes
 - 100 French composer Jean-Philippe —
 - 103 Felon's deed
 - 104 Competed in a regatta
 - 105 Fruit coats
 - 106 "— hope so!"
 - 107 Butter substitutes
 - 112 Thom —
 - 113 "Mr. Nobody" star Jared
 - 114 River of Flanders
 - 116 Mao — -tung
 - 118 In advance of
 - 119 Low coral reef
 - 120 Bullring shout
 - 121 Victims of NFL sacks
- DOWN**
- 1 Laundry detergent brand
 - 2 Aspire PC maker
 - 3 — Strauss jeans
 - 4 Trilogy start

FUN PAGES



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

QUALIFY FOR FREE WELL WATER METERS

*A limited number left. First come, first served.**

NEW State Grant Awarded*
to residents of South East Madera County

**UP TO \$350 REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH
Washing Machine certified as:
“Energy Star Qualified”**

2/18

FLOODED AREA ON YOUR PROPERTY?

A FREE Drywell/Drainwell will help!*

*For qualified locations. Sign up for more information at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos or email info@semcu.com. You can also call 559-363-9095.