

The Ranchos Independent



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*Long may she wave
Happy 4th of July, 2010*

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Ave. 12 Planning Moving Forward, Workshops Coming

Phase 2 of the Madera Ranchos Enhancement Plan has begun in earnest by the Madera County Planning Department. The participation by Ranchos residents over the past year created the Draft Vision for Avenue 12 in the Ranchos. There are two final workshops on the Plan that are completely open to the public.

On Wednesday, July 21, there will be a presentation of Transportation Plan #1. Then on Wednesday, Sept. 22, will be the presentation of Transportation Plan #2. All workshops will be held at the Liberty High School cafeteria at 6 p.m. The cafeteria is located in Building "B" beside the Theatre. It's the first large building on the right as you enter the parking lot from Road 36.

Corridor Redesign

The Corridor Redesign workshop was held on Wednesday, June 23. With the community's Vision as the starting point, a design team from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo,

began in April to build design concepts for Avenue 12 in the Ranchos. You may have seen students walking Avenue 12 earlier this spring. The team includes urban design and landscape architecture faculty and students. We are very excited to have the design team on board. Public Input on several design options will be taken.

Transportation Plan

The Transportation Workshop will present likely impacts on circulation in the area and the final workshop will present the recommended circulation plan for the area. Elements of the Transportation Plan will reflect results of analyses and accommodate community aspirations and technical recommendations from the Visioning and Corridor Redesign portions of the Avenue 12 Enhancement Plan.

Please note that Phase 2 will be developed based from the Vision developed last summer and fall by the community:

1) The Madera Ranchos Avenue 12 DRAFT Vision was made available for public review and comment December 2009. It is still available at the following locations:

a. On the internet: www.madera-county.com/rma/planningdept/planning_dept_docs.html#MADERA%20RANCHOS%20-%20AVENUE%2012%20ENHANCEMENT%20PLAN

b. At the Madera County Resource Management Agency (2037 W Cleveland Avenue, Madera, within the Wal-Mart shopping center)

c. At the Madera Ranchos Library (37167 Avenue 12 # 4C, Madera Ranchos)

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Scott R. Harmstead, Planner III, Madera County Planning Department at 675-7821 ext.3217 or email him at scott.harmstead@madera-county.com. You can also contact him at the Madera County Resource Management Agency, 2037 W Cleveland Avenue, Mail Stop G, Madera, CA 93637.

Four More Years - Bigelow Wins

In a decisive victory, incumbent Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow won the June 8 election against rival Tom Kellner with 66.2 percent of the vote to Kellner's 33.6 percent. The victory marks the beginning of Bigelow's fourth term as Supervisor for District 1, the district in which the Madera Ranchos is located.

Voter turnout for the election was particularly light with less than half of the registered voters in Madera County casting a ballot. Of the 54,357 registered voters in Madera County, only 20,402 ballots were cast, 12,756 in the form of absentee ballots and 7,646 cast at precincts.

In other Supervisorial races, Tom Wheeler held on to his position in District 5 in the Oakhurst area by earning 58.6 percent of the votes while challenger Joe Alberta ended up with 41.3 percent of the votes. Down the hill in Chowchilla, there's going to be a runoff in November for District 2 Supervisor between David Rogers and Justin White, the top two vote getters in that contest.



Frank Bigelow marks the beginning of his fourth term as Supervisor for District 1 with his June 8 victory.

In the race for County Superintendent of Schools, Cecilia Massetti was the big winner, taking 65.9 percent of the vote, more than the next two candidates combined. Gwendolyn Stewart received 19.4 percent of the vote and Maria Velarde-Garcia received 14.5 percent.

In the race for Superior Court Judge Office #3, incumbent Judge D. Lynn Jones won with 60.7 percent of the votes, leaving challenger Brian Austin with 38.9 percent.

For the Assessor's seat, incumbent Assessor Tom Kidwell got the nod from the voters with 60.6 percent of the vote to Kenneth Russell's 39 percent.

Madera County's Sheriff-Coroner position was also up for election, pitting incumbent Sheriff John Anderson against fellow Sheriff's Deputy, Sgt. Betty Barker. At the end of the balloting Anderson won with 67.6 percent of the votes to Barker's 32.2 percent.

The only other race was for County Clerk-Recorder with incumbent Rebecca Martinez winning over Desirae Divine, 70.3 percent to 29.4 percent.

All other elections were unopposed.

"Bottle Bombs" Look Harmless, Can be Deadly

A device usually planted as a prank can prove to be deadly if handled at just the wrong time.

An email was received by the Ranchos Independent telling of "bottle bombs," basically benign looking 2-liter soda bottles with liquid in them. By mixing two very common -- and I mean *very* common -- items from your kitchen, once the mixture is agitated, within a matter of moments the device expands and explodes with devastating effect.

What is happening in other parts of the country is people are going out on their front lawns or to their mailboxes and are finding what looks like a soda bottle with a small amount of liquid inside of it. Mistaking it for garbage, the homeowner picks it up to throw it away but the agitation of picking it up and carrying it cause it to activate. You can go to YouTube and search for videos of bottle bombs and you will see it all.

Often email warnings are bogus and not worth the time to read them, but this one is for real. There is even a page on snopes.com, the urban legend and hoax-busting website, that verifies it.

Recently in Austin, Texas, five males were charged with bottle bombing their teachers' homes and there are reports of others losing hearing and other damage.

It seems silly, but if you see a soda bottle with liquid and metal in it or if it's swelling, call the police. DO NOT TOUCH IT!

Summer Fun Begins With Pool Safety



This summer, let's keep the Madera Ranchos safe, one pool at a time.

By Jon Heffernan

As summer fast approaches, it is becoming more important to take a few precautions before you open your pools or spas to swimmers. Please take these few steps to help make sure your pool is safe for the summer season:

- Check fences and gates to make sure they properly latch and close.
- Have a licensed contractor inspect your light, GFCI outlets, and electrical to make sure they're safe.
- Make sure filter clamps are in good condition.
- Make sure valves and pumps are properly mounted and positioned correctly.
- Inspect deck lids and diving boards for cracks or brittleness.
- Make sure your drain cover is correctly in place and is not cracked or broken. If it hasn't been updated to the new ASME drain cover which helps prevent entrapment, Wight Water highly recommends you do so.
- Check doors and gate alarms to see if they are working properly.
- Check safety covers for rips, tears and make sure they close properly.
- Have a professional check your heater for proper venting and gas leaks.
- Remove weeds and grass away

Please see **POOLS** on P. 15



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Fireworks, Fourth of July and the Ranchos Library - Summer Must Be Here!

By Ellen Mester

Here is your chance to help the Ranchos Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce while stocking up on fireworks for the 4th of July. Our fireworks booth will be on the parking lot entrance between the Ranchos Café and the Ranchos Town and Country Liquor Store. There will be a great selection including several sizes of family packs. We know there will be a lot of competition from other clubs in town but we hope you purchase fireworks to support the Library and the Chamber.

The "Make a Splash—Read" Summer Reading Program is off and running, or rather swimming. It is so much fun to see so many children in our community participating in the activities plus turn in their completed reading logs for prizes. We are so grateful to all the local businesses and groups that have made this program possible. Here is our list of proud supporters:

Friends of the Ranchos Library • Ranchos/Hills Seniors
Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce • Ranchos Pizza Factory • Subway
Ranchos Café • Ranchos Town and Country Liquor Store • Wight Water Pool Supply
Continental Realty • Ranchos Valero • B & M Auto and Truck Parts • The Headliners
Math Crazy/T.O.P.S. • Hurst Hardware • Ranchos Market • Island Water Park

What a great and generous community we have here in the Ranchos.

Library Concerns

Over the Memorial Day weekend someone maliciously destroyed books in our book drop by dumping a soda on top of the books. Many of the books belonged to other libraries. Water, soda or food absolutely ruins books. We lost hundreds of dollars in books at a time when we can ill afford to lose anything. On another sad note, someone is stealing the recycling that we place at the back of the library. The money that we get from Recycle 4 Kids, goes toward our new library fund. How desperate some people must be to steal recycling! If you see anyone taking rather than adding to our recycling, please tell them to stop or call the Sheriff's Department at 675-7976. A new sign will be posted at the back of the building warning violators that the recyclables are not there for the taking.

Join the Friends of the Ranchos Library

The Friends meet the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Library. Come, join us, and be welcomed into an eclectic group of library supporters. Help us plan for the future.

Book Recommendations

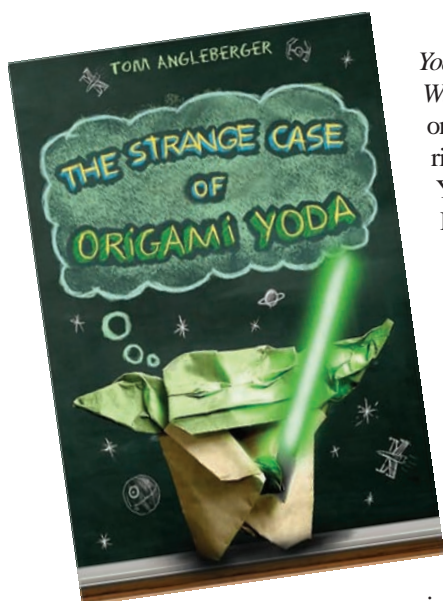
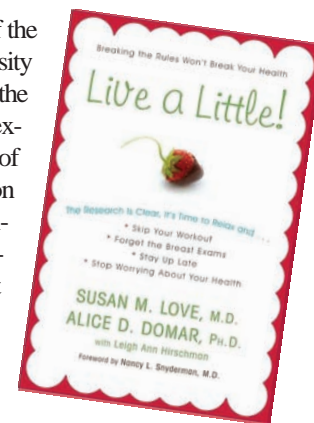
Juvenile Fiction: *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger. If you liked *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, you will enjoy this book. It is a similar style only written in many voices—all the kids in McQuarrie Middle School who were helped by the Origami Yoda who resides on the index finger of Dwight. Dwight is the kind of guy who eats 13 servings of canned peaches at lunch and then barfs in class. He may be a loser with no social graces, but when he has Origami Yoda on his finger he becomes the wise one. Everyone is skeptical at first, of course, until they too seek Yoda's help and find success, peace, pride, and all things wise. It is cleverly written and extremely entertaining. A must read for those reluctant readers or for those seeking a good laugh.

Adult Non-fiction: *Live a Little!: Breaking the Rules Won't Break Your Health* by Susan M.

Love, M.D. and Alice D. Domar, Ph.D. For those of us who become anxious over our lack of exercise, diet and sleep, this book gives license to relax and remember that perfect health is not achievable. Yes, it's important to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but not to the degree that we're guilt-ridden every time we eat something "bad" or sleep in when we should be exercising. We're just adding more stress onto our already stressed lives. While there is no new information in this book, it offers realistic advice for maintaining a semblance of balance. One of

the best tidbits, I think, was to question the relevance of some of the tests that are pushed upon women. One example, the bone density test, has not been proven to be a predictor of fractures. It measures the density in comparison to a woman in her twenties. One would expect an older woman to have less-dense bones. It's a natural part of aging like gray hair or loss of estrogen. So do we really need this on a regular basis? Short quizzes help the reader to find the appropriate areas that need attention for each age group. Above all, the advice is to cut yourself some slack and enjoy life. Who wouldn't want to take that advice?

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

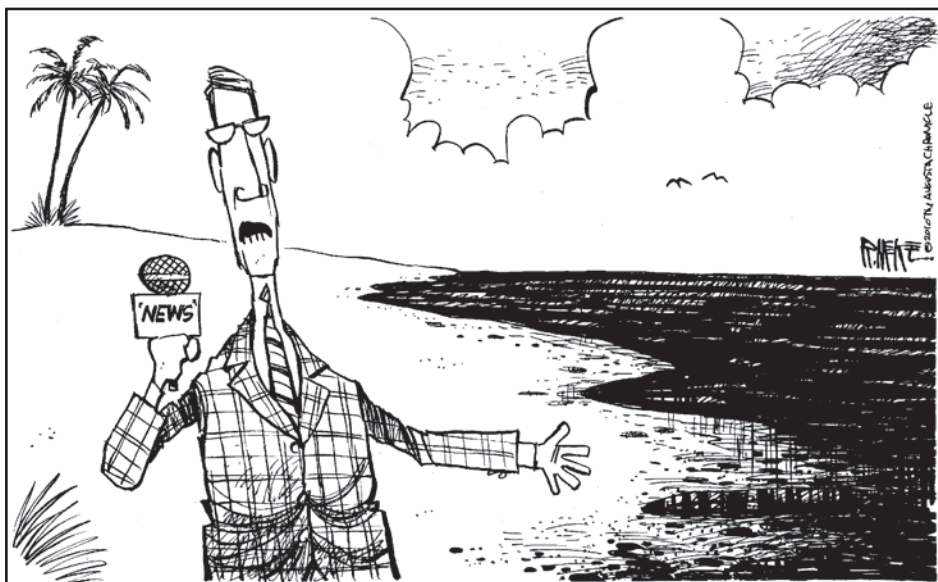


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 & Friends of the Ranchos Library

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6/10



"...SO, WHO IS AT FAULT FOR, POSSIBLY, THE WORST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN U.S. HISTORY? THERE'S NO EASY ANSWER. IN SIMPLER TIMES, WE'D JUST BLAME BUSH AND BE DONE WITH IT."

Guest Editorial

Don't Waste a Crisis

By Rich Lowry

President Barack Obama said at his BP press conference that when he was shaving the other day, his daughter Malia asked him, "Did you plug the hole yet, Daddy?"

If Obama wanted to give her a quick lesson in how the world works, he might have said: "No, dear, that's beyond my capacity. I can't stop oil from gushing from a well 5,000 feet beneath the ocean's surface. Now, did you do your homework?"

Malia can be forgiven for not understanding the limits on her daddy's power. She's 11 years old. What's everyone else's excuse? If the presidency of the United States is the most powerful and majestic office on Earth, it does not confer omnipotence on the mere mortal who happens to occupy it.

Perhaps Obama himself needs to be reminded. A White House aide told a reporter that the president, in a fit of frustration, barked to his aides during one meeting, "Plug the damn hole." That's a meaningless order with the world's best engineers already desperately trying to solve a hellish technical problem.

Since the Obama administration's ethic is never to let a crisis go to waste, Obama says the BP disaster means Congress should pass his energy bill and "answer this challenge, once and

for all." As with much of Obama's agenda, this is a convenient non sequitur posing as an urgent response.

A cap-and-trade bill could have passed years ago and we'd still be drilling offshore. The Outer Continental Shelf had 4,000 oil and gas facilities as of 2002. Obama proposed even more offshore drilling just a few weeks before the BP spill, an acknowledgment that drilling will be necessary even if he gets his way on an energy bill.

Cap-and-trade will increase the cost of petroleum, but not enough to end its usefulness. As Jerry Taylor of the Cato Institute points out, we use 70 percent of our petroleum for transportation, simply because nothing else is as efficient in powering our cars and trucks. In Europe, gas costs \$7 a gallon; people still put it in their cars.

At his presser, Obama sought to appear in charge, knowing that anything short of that is politically deadly for a president. But he muddled his message. At times, he acknowledged that BP is taking the lead in the response. And he admitted that he didn't know whether the head of the Minerals Management Service -- the agency at the center of the controversy over whether BP was properly regulated -- resigned or was fired.

Obama can sound analytic to the point of detachment, establishing a critical distance between himself and his own team. Sometimes he referred to his own administration as "they" and "the current administration," as if his role is only to grade the blue books and offer constructive criticism.

In the light of his BP experience, one hopes Obama regrets his slam of President Bush for his "unconscionable ineptitude" in responding to Hurricane Katrina, a larger and more rapid-moving, unforgiving crisis. If nothing else, it'd be karmic payback if critics began accusing Obama of failing to stop the spill because he hates brown pelicans.

"Daddy, why haven't you saved the birds yet?"

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2010 by King Features Synd., Inc.

The Ranchos Independent

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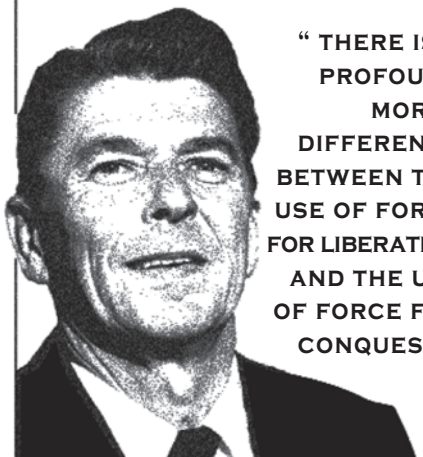
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THE D.O.G. HOUSE

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Let the arm twisting begin!

Item #7: Discussion and consideration of approval to rescind action taken on June 15, 2010 regarding Item 14c, approval of Resolution Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue, in the amount of \$753,960.00, derived from the Criminal Justice Facility Construction Fund to Building Program - Jail Expansion Project, for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

It was a 3-2 vote again.

How many times can we rescind a vote because we did not get the result we wanted? Try placing the prison in Oakhurst, the Madera Ranchos or Madera City and see who will stop voting to accept it. You can call a pig a dog all day long but in the end you still have a pig.

The argument being put forth is that this has nothing to do with the 500 bed prison; it is only about the jail expansion. When you sell out your County to the California State Department of Corrections in writing and give them sole power to complete the deal or not and where to place the facility, spending the money before the deal is done may not be such a great idea.

The cat is out of the bag: no area of Madera County wants this monster in their back yard.

The State will back out if enough citizens speak into the right ears. Our board is famous for being selectively deaf. The Department of Corrections is controlled by state elected officials, maybe they will listen.

Yes we need the jail expanded, but at what price? Have you ever wondered where the California Department of Corrections got the \$30 million they are offering the Board as a bribe?

“The American Republic will endure, until politicians realize they can bribe the people with their own money.” – Alexis de Tocqueville.

Item #15: Development of service related fee.

The Board voted to spend \$33,893.00 to study a new fee/assessment/tax on every parcel in Madera County outside of the cities. I spoke against spending almost 34 grand on a study to put a new tax/fee on the ballot. I was immediately rebuked, by the chair, because this money could only be spent on this and not the current financial issues.

In the first place I don't think it is even legal to spend the money on this study.

Development fees can only be used to mitigate the need caused by the development that paid the fees. Using the fees to figure out how to collect more fees from every improved parcel on the County somehow seems a bit of a stretch.

Our Board has a history of stretching, bending, and breaking, the rules when it helps them spend money.

The Fire Mitigation fees have collected \$6-8 million over the past 10 years but when it came to building the new fire stations in Oakhurst and North Fork the fund was tapped out.

Where did it all go? Can you show me \$6 million in growth in our fire department?

Money in the hands of our Board disappears like so much flatulation in a hurricane. Ask any local volunteer what your fire department has gotten that was not paid for by community fund raisers.

Every time I mention the “Granite Palace,” the obscene monument to the arrogance and self serving opulence of our local government, I am reminded it was built so large so it would serve for many years in to the future. Decks are so far apart they need to call each other to communicate. The entire third floor sits empty. At least

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 15

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT

Click on “Local News” at

Ranchos 2010 Graduations Over, Reflections on Last 10 Years

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Another school year has ended. It was both an honor and a privilege to be asked, with the other original school board members, to hand out diplomas to the Liberty High year of 2010 graduates. Bruce Blair, Teresa Carter, Mark Huddleston, myself and Mona Diaz were all on the first school board that set the foundation for the new Golden Valley Unified School District 10 years ago. I am proud of the honors that the schools and students in Golden Valley Unified have received in the last 10 years. Liberty High graduated 136 students this year. When I look back over the last 10 years, it is truly amazing what Golden Valley Unified has accomplished.

I also attended the graduation of our Educational Options students. Ten years ago Independence High School was Golden Valley Unified's only high school. This school has graduated students from the very first year that Golden Valley has been in business. When Principal

Dr. Jim Green was hired he took on all of the different schools that students have the option to attend in Golden Valley Unified. These schools are: Centennial Independent Study School, Golden Valley Adult School, Independence Continuation School, Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School, Children's Hospital Study School and Lincoln Community Day School. For the first time there was a sixth grade and an eighth grade promotion ceremony for the Lincoln Community Day School students this year. The other schools are high school age or older students. Watching the 19 students in their caps and gowns walk in front of the microphone and tell about their teachers and parents who held them up through good

times and bad in their high school years was very emotional for me. Jim Green has become a friend to me and others in the community. This is his last year with us and he will be missed. Good bye Jim and God bless you for all of the work

that you have done for the students of Golden Valley Unified.

The last graduation that I attended was at the Ranchos Middle School on June 4. The last 10 years have seen Golden Valley middle school students bounced around. Their first years were when the seventh and

the middle school students were moved on to the Liberty High Campus and became Liberty Middle School in 2003. Liberty Middle School stayed on the Liberty High Campus until the June promotion ceremony in 2005. During the summer of 2005 a temporary school was built for our middle school students. When they finally had a space to call their own the name was changed to the Ranchos Middle School, home of the Mustangs. From 2005 to 2009 the middle school students lived in their temporary school. In the mean time another school bond had been passed and the building of a permanent middle school was being built and it opened for students August of 2010 just 10 years after Golden Valley Unified became a school district. Golden Valley now not only has a comprehensive high school but can also brag about the new comprehensive middle school. On June 4, 161 proud middle school students were promoted to the ninth grade in their

I remember Principal Jim Volkoff, the first principal of Liberty High School, saying, "Success is a journey, not a destination." This certainly applies to creating a school district. Another school year is over and Golden Valley has to get ready for the 2010-2011 school year, which will be a challenge.

eighth grade was a part of Webster Elementary School. Webster was our only school building when we separated from Madera Unified and became Golden Valley Unified. When Liberty High School opened

Please see **STOCK** on P. 12

"Doctor, I Can't Live Like This"

Dear friend,

Yeah, this isn't the best thing to hear from your patient on a Monday morning, but that's what I get. You see, I get the worst of the worst. Patients that have tried other methods without favorable results have ended up in my office.

Hi, my name is Dr. Lien T. Dao, DC, the lady in the white lab coat next to my wonderful patient Edith. Let me give you an idea of the kind of patients I see in my office, here in Fresno.



You see, the patients I take care of, experience severe stabbing or electric like pain all the time, disturbed sleeping patterns, Restless Leg Syndrome, fatigue, depression, numbness Spinal Stenosis, Peripheral Neuropathy, Fibromyalgia, and a host of other ailments. **These, my friend, are a lot of symptoms.**

That's why I've put together the **"Ultimate Pain Treatment Program"** for anyone who is suffering from pain and wanted to do something about it because when the pain is resolved, it's not just improvement in quality of life, it's really **peace**.

These types of results happen in my office a lot. You see, people hear about this chiropractor, who also uses **NEUROLOGY** to diagnose and treat. Now because of this I am sent the hardest people possible! What a great way to spend a day in the office!

For one, it has to do with the advanced training that I have. I am one of only a handful of doctors with specific training using High Power laser treatments for patients in pain. I am, as of now the only Doctor in town with the **Avicenna High Power Laser**. This gives me an unfair advantage to help patients with all kinds of PAIN. The other thing is that I use tools and instruments that are cutting edge technology for getting patients better.

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Thank you,
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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Who Wants Grunt?

Mama always told us to “keep your mind going – try to learn something new every day. Don’t let your mind dry up.” Well, I learned something just the other day; in fact I learned two things that I never knew before.

I received an e-mail from Debra suggesting I do a column on cobblers, crisps and grunts. She must have been reading my mind because I had intended doing this one on cobblers – but she stopped me with a “grunt.” So I went to the internet (I don’t know where I’d be if it weren’t for the internet). First I went to the dictionary and looked up grunt. The familiar definitions were there – A sound made when lifting; an infantry man; an unskilled worker, and then there it was: New England cooking - a dessert, made with fruit and topped with biscuit dough. Then my curiosity was really going, so I went to Google and typed in Peach Grunt and wow, there were all kinds of recipes. Not only that, I found another word I’d never heard of and that was a “slump.” So, back to the internet to find the difference between a grunt and a slump. They both come from New England and one site said the grunt was cooked on top of the stove and got its name from the sound the fruit was making while cooking and a slump was baked in the oven. Both with bubbly fruit with biscuits or dumplings dropped in on top of the fruit. Well, there you have it – if you are like me, you learned two new words today to add to your vocabulary.

Peach Grunt

5 C Sliced Peaches
¾ C Sugar
1 T Cornstarch
1 C Flour
2 T Sugar
1 t. Baking Powder
2 T Butter, softened
½ C Milk

Combine first three ingredients in saucepan. Cover and cook over low heat until mixture comes to a boil. In a mixing bowl, combine dry ingredients and cut in butter with a pastry blender. When crumbly, add milk, making a dough that is soft but not sticky (you may not need all the milk). Uncover the pot and drop the spoonfuls of dough into bubbling fruit, spacing evenly. Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes, cover and cook an additional 10 minutes without lifting the lid. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

I don’t have a recipe for my mom’s boysenberry cobbler, but I can remember how she made it – saw her make enough of them. She would make her pie crust for a two crust pie.

Pie Crust

2 C Flour
1 ½ t. Salt
2/3 C Shortening
½ C Ice Water

Mix flour and salt. Cut in shortening until like meal. Add water and mix into a ball. This may be a little moist but when you put it on a floured board and sprinkle a little flour on the dough ball, it should be alright. Cut ball in half and roll each piece into desired shape. Should be enough for a two-crust 9-inch pie or a 9x13 pan for cobbler.

She would line the bottom and sides of a 9x13 pan with half the rolled out pie dough. In a bowl, she would mix whatever amount of berries it took to fill the baking dish (probably about 5 cups of berries) a couple of tablespoons of flour and enough sugar to sweeten the berries. Sugar would depend on the tartness of the berries, but close to a cup of sugar. Pour the berry mixture into the prepared pan and top with the other half of dough and seal the edges. Score the top with holes to let steam escape. Bake in 350 oven until fruit is bubbly and top is golden.

If you don’t want to fool with making and rolling out pie dough:

Batter Topping

1 C Flour
1 C Sugar
2 t. Baking Powder

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

- ¼ t. Salt
- 2 T Butter, softened
- 1 Egg, slightly beaten
- 3 T Milk

In large bowl mix all ingredients and beat with a spoon until batter is smooth. Drop batter over fruit mix. Bake 25-30 minutes in 350 oven.

I found a recipe in her cards that sounds real easy and good – I'll pass it on:

Easy Fruit Cobbler

- 1 Stick Butter
- 1 C Flour
- 1 C Sugar
- 2 T Baking Powder
- ¾ C Milk
- 4 C Canned Fruit (peaches)

Melt butter in 9x13 pan. In mixing bowl mix sugar and flour together, add baking powder, then add milk and beat well. Pour over the melted butter DO NOT MIX TOGETHER WITH BUTTER. Pour canned fruit with juice over batter. DO NOT MIX FRUIT WITH BATTER. Bake at 375 for 45 minutes.

Debra included a couple of recipes for homemade ice cream that I will save for another time, but she did tell me about a quick "freeze" that sounds real good:

Take a two liter bottle of root beer and mix in the ice cream freezer can with two cans of sweetened condensed milk (Not evaporated milk). Whisk to blend thoroughly, and then freeze according to the manufacturer's directions. If you like root beer freeze, you will really love this concoction. Use orange soda in place of the root beer and it

will bring back memories of a 50/50 bar (or an Orange Freeze at Foster Freeze).

Well that does it for another month. I really want to thank those of you that sent emails, or called. I really appreciate the feedback. One suggestion was that I include our e-mail address in the column. I took it for granted that since it was in the paper a couple of times, that wouldn't be necessary but perhaps I'm wrong – sorry about that! You can contact me by phone at 645-0634 (If I'm not there, leave a message on the answering machine) E-mail me at the paper ranchosnews@theranchos.com, or better yet, come into the office and talk to me. We're in the Chamber of Commerce office between the liquor store and Wight Water Pool Supply. I'd love to talk to you. Until next time ...

Fake Marine Cpl. E-mailing Trouble

Sheriff John Anderson is warning Madera County residents about an email (complete with an attachment) sent from someone posing as a Marine Corps Corporal.

"Do NOT open it, and do NOT respond to the sender," Anderson said. "Delete it immediately!"

The email, authored by a man who calls himself Bill, would have recipients assume that he's affiliated with the US Marines by virtue of his fabricated domain name. Here is the content of the email:

-----Original Message-----
 From: Corporal Williams Barnes [mailto:williams.barnes@infantrymarine.com]
 Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 1:58 PM
 Subject: CORPORAL WILLIAMS BARNES
 Hi there, I am Corporal Williams Barnes of the US Marines currently serving in Afghanistan. I got your email from a reliable source and would like to send you a very important information. However, I'd rather send it via fax because I don't trust the security of the email system. Please provide a secure fax number where you can be reached.
 ~Semper Fi.
 Bill.
 williams.barnes@infantrymarine.com

Savvy recipients might find humor in Bill's "security warning," but there's nothing funny about his phony pitch.

"This email, like countless others, is merely another attempt to breach YOUR computer system's security," Anderson said.

Again, if anyone receives an email like this, Sheriff Anderson says don't be fooled into thinking it's legitimate and DON'T try to find out who this individual really is by responding to it.

"Just delete it," Anderson said. "It's your best defense."

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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...for the opportunity to serve as your County Supervisor again. The next four years are going to be some of the toughest in our history, but together we will get through it. I will need your help and prayers to make the right decisions to keep our county as strong as possible. Please have patience and remember I will have your best interests in mind.

Frank Bigelow

Frank BIGELOW

SUPERVISOR

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Discipleship Not Membership

By Bob Crabb

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"
(Matthew 9:13)

According to Matthew, Herod the Great was King of Judea at the time of the birth of Jesus. Herod's ruthlessness in defending his throne against any threat forms the background for the massacre of the children of Bethlehem at the birth of the Messiah (Matthew 2:16ff). Herod the Great was a rough character. He was everything that Jesus was not. Jesus had compassion; Herod was incapable of compassion. Jesus had mercy; Herod was incapable of mercy. Jesus served His Father and loved God's people; Herod was incapable of serving anyone but himself. Jesus sacrificed himself for the Kingdom of God and the people of God; Herod sacrificed others. Herod was a serial killer who was made king. I think he met the psychology definition of a murderous psychopath. He completely lacked empathy and compassion of any kind. He could murder adults, children, family and friends without any remorse. Herod was a madman. He could see suffering and he could inflict suffering and he could create suffering and it didn't seem to bother him. For the people who lived and suffered at the hands of Herod the Great, he represented another aspect of a world that was too often out of control. Who could control a force like Herod the Great? Herod was the world that Jesus was born into and because there was Herod, there was great suffering and grieving.

But because there was Jesus, there was a counterpoint to suffering. Because there was Jesus, there was and is the hope of a God who is stronger and more merciful than the Herods of the world. In our world today, we need all the hope of a loving God that we can get. We live in a world that sometimes seems filled with real Herods and there are even amateur Herods. Every uncarving word, every action without the compassion of Christ, without the mercy of Christ, without the service of Christ and without the sacrifice of Christ can plant the seeds of suffering, war and conflict that can match and exceed even the violence of Herod. In a planet of more than 6 billion people where an uncompassionate act or

thought can be multiplied by billions of times, the momentum of suffering is like a juggernaut that cannot be stopped. The bible says that even creation suffers from this uncompassionate juggernaut of self-will run riot. Somehow in the rebellion of human kind, in our propensity to offend each other and even God, the whole creation suffers. Paul makes the point in Romans (8:22): "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

In a world of modern day Herod the Greats, having the hope of Christ is the good news of God. We live in a world we don't control. Pearl Harbor and 9/11 demonstrate that we don't have everything under control. Unemployment and Bernie Madoff indicate that we don't have everything under control. Cancer and illness and even children are signs that we don't have everything under control. So in a surprising way, those of us who follow Christ are really ambassadors of hope in a wonderful loving God who rings out a message of Good News: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11).

Trying to control Herod or whatever Herod metaphorically represents today, may be a worthwhile endeavor. Membership in an organization, social group, political party or club provides a certain amount of comfort in a world of turmoil and opposition. I think that the church in the world is also influenced by this desire to belong to an organization that is based on membership. There are denominations, factions, divisions, wings and off-shoots of faith everywhere and many seem to have a heavy emphasis on membership. Sometimes these divisions become hurtful and antagonistic.


My proposal of faith today is that when it comes to following Christ, that it is not about membership in a church or even about trying to control the volatile nature of our world, but rather it is about our discipleship in Jesus. Jesus told the religious rulers one time when they were criticizing him for not following their rules, he said (Matthew 9:13): "... go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 12



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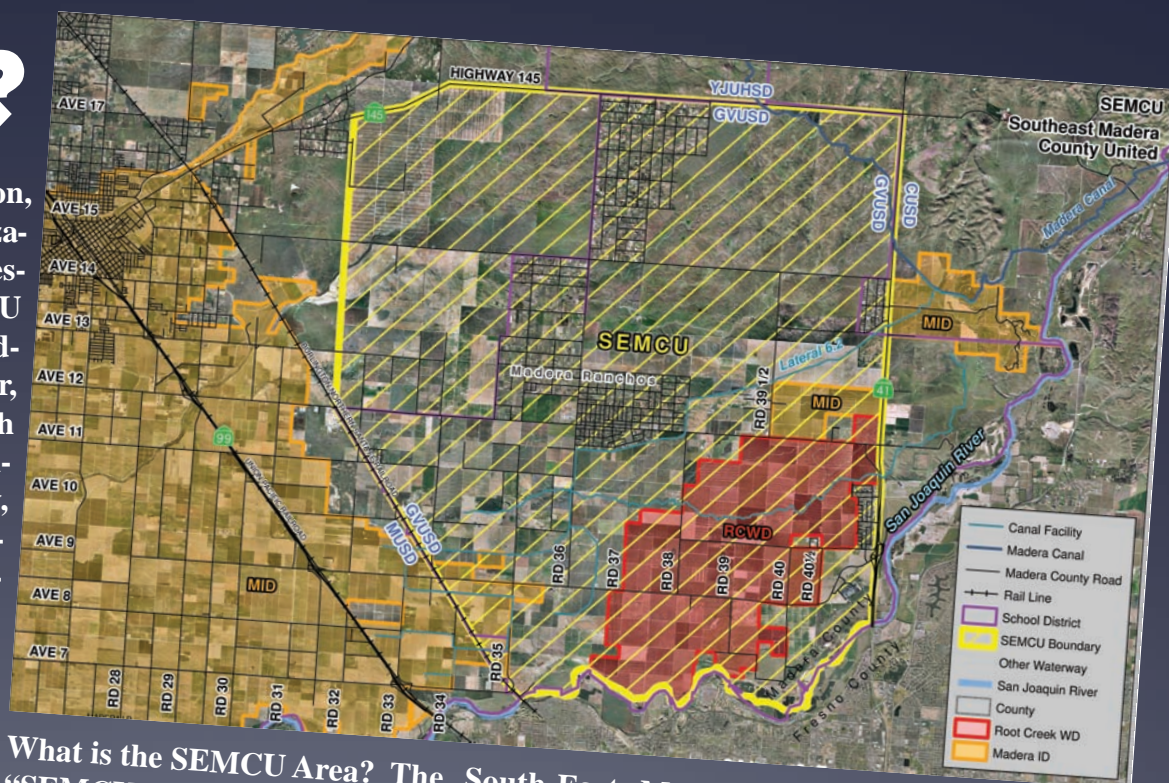


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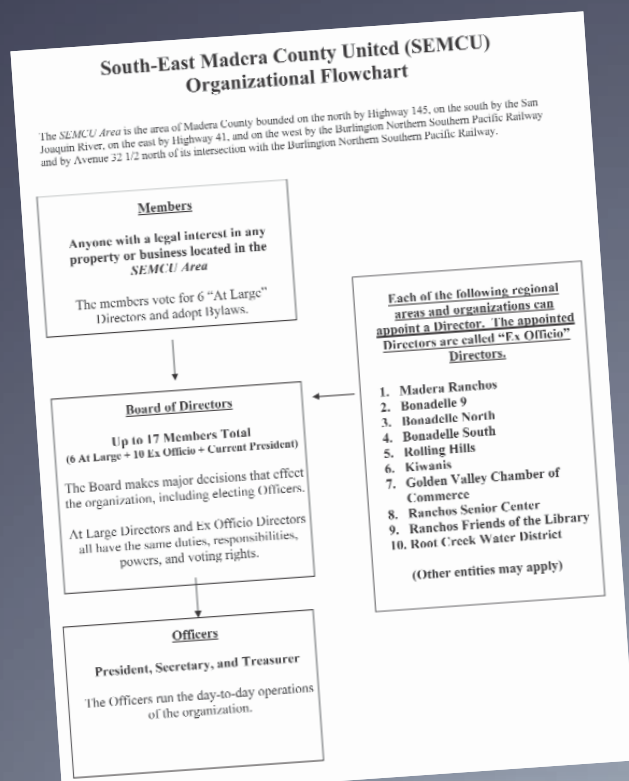
by the community ... for the community

What is SEMCU?

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



6/10



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

Why Should You Join SEMCU?

If you are a resident, landowner, or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

COMMITTEES ARE NOW BEING FORMED! If you have an area that you are passionate about for the Ranchos, here's your opportunity to get something done.

For more information, call **559-363-9095**



STOCK cont. from P. 7

new gym. It was a special ceremony as it was the first class to use the new gym but it was all so sad as we said goodbye to Principal Shane Pinkard who had shepherded middle school students through their difficult middle years for the last five years. Shane will be missed. Goodbye Shane and God bless you for all of the work you have done for the students of Golden Valley Unified.

I enjoy learning something new every day. How about you? To create Golden Valley Unified has been such a challenge. It is hard to see it struggle through the up and downs of growing pains. There have been so many new Superintendents, teachers, principals, administrators and school board members in the last 10 years and yet Golden Valley Unified has made a name for its self

in Madera County. When you accept that life is a constantly changing and learning process it is so worth all of the hard work. I remember Principal Jim Volkoff, the first principal of Liberty High School, saying, "Success is a journey, not a destination." This certainly applies to creating a school district. Another school year is over and Golden Valley has to get ready for the 2010-2011 school year, which will be a challenge. The school district administrators and the school board members have their hands full figuring out where the limited amount of dollars will be spent to best provide an education for the new crop of students that will show up in August, 2010. And here we go again. Remember that one great idea shared, can change the world. The community created Golden Valley Unified. Have a great summer!

PASTOR cont. from P. 10

It was not membership or qualifications or associations or even following the rules. What Jesus asked them to do was to go and learn what their God desires. The Herods of the past and the present and the future sometimes scare me. Sometimes I want to seek safety in membership to something rather than discipleship in my Savior. But then Jesus said to go and learn what God desires. When you see me or my family or the community of believers who worship on Sundays, I hope you don't see someone who is a member of a particular church or a member of a particular religion or even a political party. I hope when you see me or my family or the community of believers that you are able to see an authentic human who is trying

to be a disciple of Christ. When you see a follower of Christ, I hope you are able to see a disciple of Hope in what God has done and is doing and will do in Jesus Christ. We worship as disciples, we study the Word of God as disciples, we pray as disciples, we speak as disciples, we live as disciples and we treat others as if we were disciples of the Christ who said: "...go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"

In a world of brutal Herods, our claim is the hope of what a merciful God has done in Jesus Christ. At the end of the day that's discipleship ... not membership.

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

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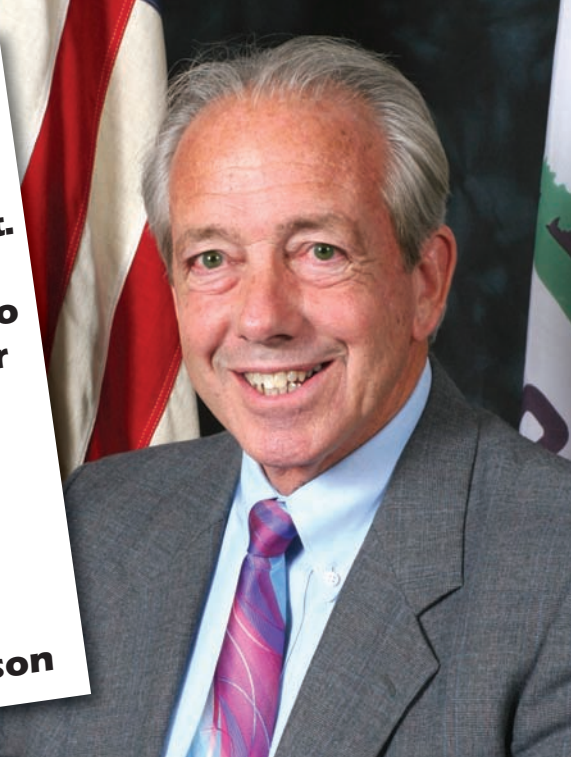
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Senior Report

Monopoly: A Different War Game

By Eleanore Burchell

Many seniors remember and lived through Pearl Harbor, WWII, and the events surrounding those years. So hopefully the following information will interest you as it did me. Starting in 1941, an increased number of British Airmen found themselves as involuntary guests of their enemy and the English were casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously one of the most helpful aids to that end was a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where things were, but also showing the locations of "safe houses" where POWs on the run could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks. They made a lot of noise when they were opened and folded, they wore out rapidly and when they got wet they turned into mush.

Then someone in the MI-5 (similar to America's Office of Strategic Services) had the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, could be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed and made no noise at all. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technique of printing on silk and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. Purely by coincident, Waddington was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. Waddington produced many escape aids which were sent to Nazi prison camps, but these were always sent via private, often fictitious organizations like the License Victuallers Prisoner Relief Fund. Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency, all hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a "rigged" Monopoly set by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to

look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square. Of the approximately 35,000 POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.

Our thanks must go to the men and boys from Flipside Christian Church who have been volunteering at our facility to help us with some gardening and other chores. These men are available to help our seniors and friends who need batteries changed in their smoke alarms, transportation to doctor appointments and similar needs. For more information about them, please call Joann at 645-4864.

Travel with Us

Our Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center is located at 37330 Berkshire and our members have really been traveling around, seeing interesting places and having lots of fun. The February 23-25 Snow Train Trip to Reno was enjoyed by 52 of our members and friends. In April, 32 of our members and friends boarded a train and traveled to Stockton for the 25th Anniversary of the Asparagus Festival. On June 14-15, we went on a great bus trip, stopped to have lunch in Pismo Beach at Fins Restaurant, spent several hours at Chumash Casino, stayed at Corque Hotel in Solvang and ending up in Simi Valley at the Reagan Library and Memorial. We were served lunch under the wing of Reagan's Air Force One Presidential plane. GREAT TRIP! The next trip is planned for October 4-17 and will be a European Riverboat cruise and tour. Everything is included:

- a) 14 days total: 2 nights in Paris plus deluxe 10-night cruise from Luxembourg to Amsterdam
- b) Deluxe hotel in Paris with breakfast included
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- d) All meals included on 10-night cruise
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- f) Roundtrip air from San Francisco
- g) Fully escorted from beginning to end, including luggage handling
- h) All ground transfers, government fees and airport taxes included
- i) Additional: Port taxes at \$140 per person, gratuities aboard the ship and personal expenses

For more details, please come in to talk with Joann or call her at 645-4864.

Unfortunately, we lost Helen Rice who passed away last month. Our sincere sympathy goes to her daughter Rae Mohr and other family members.

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 23



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POOLS cont. from P. 2

from pump and other electrical devices where fires can start.

- Make sure chemicals are properly stored and vented. Chemicals such as chlorine and acid, if placed together, can produce a potentially lethal gas. Certain chlorine products mixed with water or oils can cause fires. Check with your local pool store or fire department on how to properly store chemicals.

- Remove attractive, appealing toys from water after use to prevent curious kids from possibly reaching in after them.

For more safety tips please check out our website at www.wightwaterpools.com. Always remember that even with all the best safety equipment in the world installed on a pool or spa, nothing can replace a good set of eyes watching out for small children in and around any body of water.

I hope with your help this month we can make pools and other bodies of water a safer and more enjoyable place for families here in the Ranchos and across the United States.

Jon Heffernan is the owner of Wight Water Pools, Inc. in the Madera Ranchos and can be reached at 645-1969.

D.O.G. cont. from P. 6

25 percent of this granite-clad monster was created to serve future development. Development fees should be used to make the \$1.2 million payments from this point on, not general fund money.

We paid our share. Now it is time development fees pay their fair share. We don't need more new offices; we need our government to make do with what they have.

Funny how these things work. Immediately after the election, the process ends and the process begins to implement a new tax. For now, the fee is being promoted on the promise it will pay for fire, sheriff, library, parks and recreation. Unfortunately, even if it were to pass, much of the money would be diverted to other uses. With this new fee on every home and business in the County, our Board would be free to redirect the general fund money, now going to these services, to pet projects and expenses they know we would not vote a penny to support.

It is called a shell game.

Madera Man Jailed for Road Rage

Parking lot bump turns into gunfire and attempted murder charge

Forty-year-old Larry Allen Shores remains behind bars facing attempted murder charges. He's accused of shooting at a driver for backing into his van by mistake on the evening of June 7.

According to reports, Madera County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call at around 6:42 p.m. Monday, June 7. The caller said a brown van was chasing a grey sedan and shooting at the driver.

The incident started outside Bill's Quick Stop on Avenue 13½ and Wood Street. The driver of the grey sedan was backing out of the parking lot when he bumped the brown van by mistake.

The driver of the brown van responded by bumping into the grey sedan. The driver of the sedan looked back to see the driver of the van, and realized the

van driver was armed with a gun.

The sedan sped off with the van right behind and a number of shots were fired, shattering the sedan's windshield.

The road rage incident ended in a subdivision across the street from the Sheriff's Office on Avenue 14 and Road 28.

Shores was taken into custody without further incident and booked into Madera County Department of Corrections on suspicion of attempted murder, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, under the influence of a controlled substance

and possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm.

Bail was set at \$1 million.



Forty-year-old Larry Allen Shores now faces attempted murder charges for responding with a gun when his vehicle was bumped.

**“Come and You Will See”**

- Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30am
- Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon
- Youth Group: After Church on Sundays
- Sat's Share & Care Bible Fellowship: 10:30am

Sundays 10:30 a.m.

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2010 – A Celebration of Accomplishments at Golden Valley Unified



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

Taking stock in student and staff accomplishments and time for self-reflection are critical components to moving an organization forward and continuing to strive for excellence. I asked each site and department to take a few minutes to take stock in their school site or department's accomplishments before we head into summer to rest, relax, and recharge our batteries for a new school year. Listed below are

some of the accomplishments submitted by our schools and departments that have been organized into our District Strategic Plan Goals; Instruction and Assessment; Communication; Safety; Facilities; and Finances. This is not an all-inclusive list but it certainly captures many of the school and district accomplishments for the year. Congratulations to all of our sites and departments for a productive year and a job well-done!

Instruction and Assessment

- **Sierra View Elementary**

- 1) API Growth of 13 points to 849
- 2) Successful Destination Imagination Team

3) Sierra View - Successful Physical Fitness Testing Results for all grades

- **Webster Elementary**

1) Highest API score to date – 862
2) California Business for Educational Excellence 2009 Honor Roll Award

3) Reading Incentive Awards: Over 90 students earned a medal for reading 500 books (Primary)/5000 pages (Intermediate), 26 students earned a gift card to Borders for reading 800 books/8000pages

4) Implemented school-wide Physical Fitness Testing

5) Approximately 70 students earned Perfect Attendance for the entire 2009-2010 school year

6) Received \$25,000 Chuckchansi Grant for new computer lab

- **Ranchos Middle School**

1) API scores: 803 this year; the first year to break 800.

2) Increased library book check out from 102 books last year to 2,147 this year

3) Academic Pentathlon: Second year to sweep both grade levels at the county level. Winnings recognized by MCOE.

4) Sports: Four 1st place championships this year: Boys' baseball, Girls' softball, Boys' basketball (8th grade), & Boys' basketball (7th grade)

5) Two outstanding drama productions: The Seven Selfish Princesses and The Adventures of a Comic Book Artist

6) Scholarship money raised by Booster's Club as of January 2010 despite difficult economic times

7) Record numbers of Honor Roll students at each grade level

- **Liberty High School**

1) API Score reaches 821 – highest score to date

2) California Business for Educational

Excellence 2009 Honor Roll Award

3) All seniors pass CAHSEE and maintain minimum 2.0 GPA or higher - 100% graduation rate

4) Ben Cowger: Full 4-year Athletic scholarship to Sacramento State University

5) Jared Smith: Full 4-year scholarship to Fresno State Engineering Program

6) Steven Hickman: ACSA Award

7) Samantha Nielson: California Library Association poster contest winner

8) Academic Decathlon places 3rd overall in Madera County

9) Carolina Warner 1st place in Decathlon Essay category

10) Katherine Williams- Top Decathlon Senior for LHS

11) Drama had 2 outstanding performances- Helen Keller in the fall and Little Shop of Horrors musical in spring

12) Band and Choir Concerts in fall and spring and 2 students performing in the Honor Choir

13) Presentation of Rigor, Relevance and Relationship Model at CVELI Conference at FSU and 9th Annual Literacy Conference

14) Football: League Champions and

Please see **GVUSD** on P. 20

A Celebration of Golden Valley Accomplishments in Pictures



Liberty High School Graduating Class of 2010.



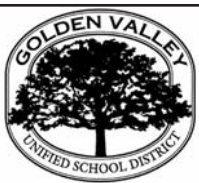
Educational Options Graduating Class of 2010.



Ranchos Middle School 7th Grade Academic Pentathlon Team.

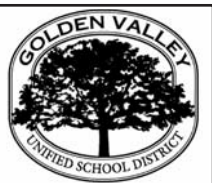


Webster Elementary Destination Imagination Team.



Mission Statement

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.



Click on "Local News" at

B.O.N.E.S. (Biological Odyssey – Naturally Exploring Science) at Ed Opts

By Joy Hurt


This year, with the help of Niranjala Kottochiki from Cal State Fresno, Madera County and the blessing of the San Joaquin Valley Paleontology Foundation (SJVPF), a unique and very free opportunity presented itself. Last spring, I contacted the SJVPF to see if an alliance with Educational Options (Ed Opts) would be possible. I was aware of fossils in need of preparation. Since 1994, these fossils have been stored on shelves, awaiting discovery of what these orbs of dirt held. It seemed like the perfect tool to be used as an incentive program for improvement in behavior and academics. To participate, stu-

dents are required to have preauthorization from core teachers and be an Ed Opts student. Through this activity, I have learned so much about my students as we have brushed away dirt that is over 650,000 years old, revealing treasured bones falling under human gazes for the first time at Ed Opts. Our students have been thrilled to have been entrusted to work on this amazing project, educational dreams have grown from there.

Due to the success of this collaboration, I have written a course outline for a new class to be offered for the Fall 2010-2011 school year here at Ed Opts. The course, entitled B.O.N.E.S. (Biological Odyssey—Naturally Exploring Science),

will be one in which the students will explore what life was like in the San Joaquin Valley during the Ice Age. Along with fossil preparation, the students will be involved in doing research while creating art

and museum displays and writing reports on the subject. The adoption of this course for our site is a huge success for us, one that will bring hours and hours of discovery and exploration to our little school.



Thank You Madera Ranchos for your confidence in me as your Madera County Assessor. Your support for me is truly appreciated.

Tom Kidwell
Madera County Assessor

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom Kidwell Assessor 2010 • I.D. No. 1324889



On May 25, Sierra View took 53 students to Grizzly Stadium for achieving Principal's Honor Roll. It was a beautiful day and a great group of kids.



Webster Leadership students painting poles with colors to represent the Six Pillars of Character from the Character Counts Program.



Liberty High School and Webster Elementary School are recognized as California Business for Educational Excellence 2009 Honor Roll Schools

SCHOOL'S OUT! GOLDEN VALLEY LAST DAYS OF 2010



During the week of May 24 to May 28, Sierra View's 6th grade students performed multiple puppet shows for all classes and grade levels. The students had to have achieved their goals in Accelerated Reader to participate in the show. The puppet stage and the puppet costumes were created by Sierra View parents. The puppet heads were created by the 6th grade students. It was a great way to wrap up the school year!



Sierra View Superintendent's Physical Fitness Performance Award Recipients.



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GVUSD Summer Schedule Updates

The Golden Valley USD Board of Trustees will hold their Regular Board Meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month instead of Tuesday. This change went into effect beginning Monday, June 14. Board Meetings will continue to be held in the Liberty High School Theater with open session beginning at 6 p.m. Listed below are the 2010/2011 Regular Board Meeting dates through the summer.

June 14 • June 28 • July 12

August 9 • August 23

Summer School started at Liberty High

School for all grades on June 8. Elementary students will complete their summer school schedule on July 1 and secondary students will be done on July 15. The District staff began their four 10-hour-day summer schedule on June 14 and offices will be open to the public Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Staff will go back to regular hours beginning the week of Aug. 2.

If you have any questions regarding the Board Meeting calendar or the school district summer schedules please feel free to contact the District Office at 645-7500.

Classified

Alteration Services

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

Construction

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

For Rent

For Rent - 4BR/3BA Home in Madera Lakes. \$1,300. Call 650-771-0267.

For Rent - 3/BR 2/BA Newer custom home on 2 1/4 acres. Family room, living room, dining room, interior laundry, with 2-car garage. \$1,400. Call 824-1223.

For Sale

For Sale - Buckskin Colts - Reg. qtr. Call for info. 645-5290 or 304-5073.

For Sale -1 Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Never Used - In plastic. Cost \$700. Sacrifice \$245. Call 230-0248.

For Sale - All New King PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box, In Pkg., Cost \$900. Sacrifice \$350. Call 275-8813.

For Sale - BDRM SET Solid Cherrywood Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser, Chest, Armoire, dovetail drawers, Never used, In crates. Cost \$8K, Sacrifice \$2,375. Can split up. Call 438-0248.

For Sale - POOL TABLE Genuine 1" Slate Top, professional model, solid wood rails, tournament bumpers, leather pockets w/accessories. Never Used. Cost \$4K, Sacrifice \$1,150. Can arrange moving. Call 277-2511.

Gutter Services

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

Housecleaning Services

Housecleaning Services - Ranchos Area. Reliable, references, reasonable rates. Job includes: All house duties except windows. Call for rates or have questions? 559-776-6790.

Painting Services

Painting Services - 40 years of experience. Licensed and insured. Frank Kramer Exteriors. Lic. #273099. Call 645-4113.

Tractor Services

Tractor work, discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees, trenching and clean ups. Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.

Tractor work, house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.

Window Cleaning Services

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1989 Kawasaki Mule 1000

only \$1,500

- New left-side brakes
- New drive pulley and belts
- New axle • New cover
- Carburetor needs adjustment

for more info call Tina at 645-4948



6/10

For Sale

2004 Prowler Regal AX6 5th Wheel

- 36.5 feet long with four slide outs
- Upstairs living room with fireplace
- Surround sound stereo
- Both sofas make into beds plus queen side bed
- Hardwood flooring and carpeting throughout
- A/C and solar



6/10

**paid \$69,000
asking \$35,000!**

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TACK N SADDLE AUCTION

Over 400 Lots



After 25 years in business, state of the economy forces liquidation!!

Due to the state of the economy, Murphy Auctioneers has been asked to sell at public auction a complete inventory of western saddles and horse equipment from: **A Giant Wholesale Saddle Distributor!!**

Complete Inventory

This is a great business liquidating a very nice collection of high end top quality saddlery, including:

- Over 60 top quality saddles: Billy Cook, Big W, Texas Saddlery, Saddle King, Silver Royal, Outback, and More (seat sizes from 12"-17")
- Over 100: Wolf Creek and Yucca Flat wool saddle blankets, EquiSport memory core saddle pads, winter blankets: Canvas and Storm Buster.
- Leather goods of all kinds; over 100 bridles by Billy Cook, McPherson, Billy Martin, Silver Royal, and others.
- Nylon and leather halters, lots of nice roping breast collars, Cowboy Up bridle and breast collar show sets, and lots of silver bits and spurs.

To be sold to the highest bidder, piece by piece!

Terms of sale: cash, all major credit cards, ATM & debit. Sorry no checks.

Wednesday July 7th • 7pm • Preview Starts at 6pm

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6/10

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- Fresno Association of Realtors • Ranchos resident for 25 years

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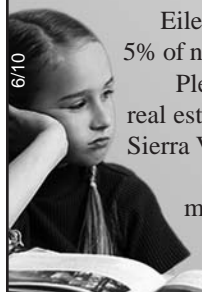
Our Schools Need Financial Help

Eileen Tiso, owner of *The Real Estate Network*, has made a pledge to donate 5% of net proceeds from each home/lot sold in the Golden Valley School District.

Please let your family, friends and community know that if they list or buy real estate from *The Real Estate Network*, owner Eileen Tiso will donate to Sierra View, Webster, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School.

Donations will be made for the following programs: Reading labs, music programs, field trips and supplies for students.

Call *The Real Estate Network* at 645-1102 or Eileen (Burgess) Tiso at 706-0301.



6/10


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.

	+		÷		4
+		-		x	
	+		-		9
-		x		+	
	-		x		3
2		5		9	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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GVUSD cont. from P. 16

Div. 5 Runner Up

15) Girls' Tennis: Jamie Mathews N. Sequoia League Singles Champion

16) Wrestling: League Champions – Austin Baughman, Karl Reichmuth

17) Girls' Soccer: Undefeated League Champions, Div. 5 Section Champions

18) Boys' Tennis: League Champs and Div. 5 Runner Up

19) Girls' Softball: Undefeated League Champs - Div. 5 Section Champions

• **Educational Options**

1) Miranda Harr received two scholarships one from CSEA (1st time for an Ed Opts student) and the other from the Madera County School Boards Association

2) New Course Approvals for the "Bones" and "Creative Writing" classes

• **Special Education**

1) Workability - Liberty students are working in businesses in the Ranchos, Fresno, and Clovis

2) 11 staff members participated in the Polar Plunge at Millerton Lake on Feb 29, 2010 to benefit Special Olympics

• **Educational Services**

1) Implemented District-wide Physical Fitness Testing (Handbook, Inservice, Baseline Goals)

2) Implemented Extended Day Enrichment Program (Handbook, Inservice)

3) ELA Curriculum Matrix Revisions

4) Implemented Middle School Benchmarks

5) CAIS Categorical Program Monitoring - conversion to electronic review process

6) Central Valley's Region VII Literacy Conference and CVELI Conference - Presentation on Rigor and Relevance/Cross Curricular Project

7) Course approval of Virtual Enterprise ROP

• **Technology Services**

1) Phone System upgrade was successful

2) Ranchos Middle School opening with all the high tech items

3) High Speed Connection to MCOE was established

Communication

• **Sierra View**

1) Earned their 2nd Bonner Character Award

2) Teacher, Crissy McElhaney – GVUSD Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2010

3) Principal, Scott Tefft – GVUSD and MCOE Administrator of the Year for 2009 and 2010 ACSA Elementary Principal Honoree

• **Ranchos Middle School**

1) Well attended annual Community Breakfast for parents and community

2) Successful summer home visits to incoming 7th grade students

3) Annual college trips for both grades; students visited CSUF, FPU, Cal Poly, UOP, and CSU Monterey.

4) CJSF Marian Huhn Award winner Andrea Hammond

5) Outstanding leadership group providing successful events including dances, assemblies, rallies, and other activities

• **Liberty High School**

1) Prom on the Bay

2) Military Memorial created by Mr. Panian's Cadet Corp class

3) Suzie Dunn GVUSD Classified Instructional Employee of the year

4) Kuljeet Mann GVUSD Administrator of the year

• **Educational Options**

1) Joy Hurt, GVUSD Secondary Teacher of the Year

• **Ed Services**

1) Webfeedback Survey revision—distributed to staff, parents, students

2) Administrator of Special Education, Kristi Fisher, 2010 ACSA Special Education Administrator Honoree

Safety

• **Liberty High School**

1) Every 15 minutes- first production is a huge success!

2) CHP collaborates with LHS for the Distracted Driving project

• **Webster & Sierra View Elementary**

1) Implemented Second Step Anti-bullying curriculum - Students were actively involved, enjoyed it, and made many appropriate changes

2) Successful Red Ribbon Week

• **Health Services**

1) Development of pandemic flu plan (with the assistance of Andy Alvarado)

2) Implementation of the Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs Policy

3) Implementation of a Asthma care plan

4) Assisted the Madera County Public Health Department with the administration of the H1N1 vaccine to our students

• **Food Services**

1) 55,994 breakfast meals and 137,965 lunches were served to students, with a smile and service that every child deserves

2) Each and every meal meets the National School breakfast and lunch program nutritional requirements.

3) Started a business partnership with a local company to bring fresh valley grown produce to use in meal preparation

• **Transportation Services**

1) Maximized the capacity of our buses to reduce home to school transportation costs

2) In January, the Transportation department modified the districts bus routes in efforts to become even more efficient

3) Community buy-in played a major role by understanding the districts need to reduce costs

4) Bus Driver Mary Lou Castro – GVUSD Classified Operational Employee of the Year

• **Ed Services**

1) Distribution and Completion of Healthy Kids Survey

2) Received TUPE (Tobacco Use Prevention Education) Grant Award \$15,000 and implementation

Facilities

• **Ranchos Middle School**

1) Successful opening of RMS at the new school site, Cornerstone celebration presented by the Masons and unveiling of the bronze Mustang donated by Igal Treibatch

• **Business/Facilities/Maintenance/Operations**

1) Opened New Ranchos Middle School

2) New HVAC Unit on multi-purpose bldg at Sierra View

3) Broke Ground on New Science Bldg at LHS

4) Began Phase II of Athletic Stadium Completion

5) Installed new fence along Ave 12 1/2 for student safety

6) Expanded playfields to include the Ponding Basin

7) Switched to Direct Access for Energy Procurement Savings

8) Installed New HVAC Unit at LHS

9) Created Activity Room at Educational Options Site

10) Moved Ed Ops to Interim site.

11) Maintenance Dept. completed over 1,177 work requests in the past 3 school years

12) Replaced leaking water pipes, Webster MPR.

13) Installed water meters to well site at Liberty and Sierra View (state mandated)

14) Completed additional electrical circuits for new computer lab at Webster Elem.

Finances

• **Business Office/Human Resources**


1) Balanced budget during financial crisis and kept the district financially solvent

2) Had multiple stakeholder meetings to disseminate budget information to staff, parents and community.

ANSWERS

2	5			
8	-	5	X	1
-		X		+
3	+	8	-	2
+		-		X
7	+	9	÷	4

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




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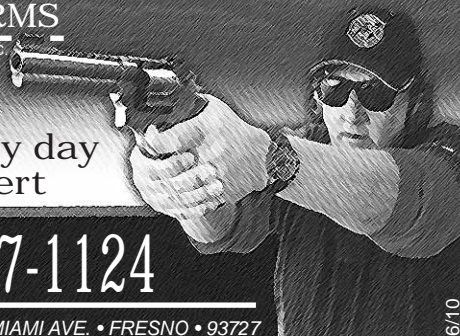
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Where Have the Parents Gone?

A strange thing appears to be happening to the 20-something, MTV, born-in-the-eighties generation; my generation. We seem to be missing a crucial component of the social structure: the parent. Many, if not most of the people my age that I know, are parents and I have noticed a disturbing common thread among them: they all seem to have adopted a "hands off" approach to rearing their children.

Most parents from my generation that I come into contact with sit their children down in front of the TV rather than read to them. Most have let their children point and grunt to "communicate" rather than interact with them and teach them to speak. Most do not monitor or screen what their young children watch. And a few, amazingly enough, seem to think that as long as there is an adult body under the same roof as their young child, it makes no difference whether that adult is awake, coherent or even sober.

It would appear, at least to this observer, that these 20-something, MTV generation parents do not have the foggiest idea of what it takes to raise a child. Not that I have a clue either, but I at least know better than to knock back a few tequila shots while my toddler lies sleeping in the next room without a sober adult present to care for him if necessary. However, I suppose if common sense was truly common, we wouldn't have to constantly remind people to use it.

It seems that parents in their twenties, at least as far as I have witnessed, have not come to understand the idea that parenting is a 24-hour, full-time commitment and, unfortunately, there is no pause button to press when they miss having a life of their own. So, instead, they opt to take their children with them to adult parties, keep them locked up inside because they are too busy visiting with friends to go outside and play with them, and allow the TV to occupy their child because they, themselves, are too engrossed by the television to peel themselves away long enough to maybe help shape their child's intellect and behavior. Clearly, successfully getting through the first four years of a child's life without accidentally putting the kid in the dishwasher is tantamount to having raised the child. The rest is up to the public school system.

An example of this "correspondence parenting" (where you don't have to show up, as long as you send the toddler a text once in a while) is my roommate, the single mother of a 2-year-old boy. The other day I walked through the door and found her sprawled on the couch watching a horror movie with her toddler on her lap. This was not just any horror movie, it was one of the stomach-churning, vomit-inducing installments of the "Saw" series. I am not sure which was more appalling, the fact she seemed blissfully unconcerned that her son was engrossed in that movie, or the movie itself.

Never missing a chance to stir the proverbial pot, I asked her why she was letting her toddler

**GENERATION
WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



son watch such a thing, to which she responded, "He likes it." Oh, well, in that case, what was my problem? Never mind the fact that the next day he was kicking, punching and even choking his mother while they played together. Gee, where did he learn that? If there are any scientists out there looking for proof of correlation between violent entertainment and aggressive children, come on down to my house.

Another stunning example of the new parenting style: While at work recently, I overheard a co-worker telling a story of a recent Friday evening she had arranged with her husband. Evidently, her husband and she really wanted to go out to the bar, but couldn't find a babysitter. So they put their heads together and came up with this gem of an idea. Since the bar was right across the street, they figured, they could both walk there and back, thus eliminating the need to drink and drive. Well, there is a relief. Since they couldn't leave their young children at home alone, they decided she would walk to the bar, spend a few hours, have a few drinks, then walk home, providing the alcohol didn't impair her sense of direction landing her somewhere in Texas with a new husband and pet goat. Once she returned home, her husband would then walk to the bar, thus completing the cycle. Brilliant! One problem . . . if both of you are both drunk, who is taking care of your three children? Which is exactly what I asked her, and her response? Either she or her husband were always home, the kids weren't alone. Home, sure, but certainly not fully functioning. Heaven forbid either of them would have had to defend their home, rush a child to the hospital or dial 9-1-1, which could have proved difficult if they were both seeing double. But hey, they were physically there, and there is no reason their life should be put on hold just because they couldn't find a responsible sitter for their children, right?

It is interesting to me how many parents seem to leave so many decisions up to the child. The mindset seems to be that there is no need to teach your children because that's why we have school. There is no reason to read to your children, that's what the television is for and all the good books are made into movies anyway. There is no reason to discipline your children, it stifles their artistic growth and the little children need to be individuals and express themselves. Gone are the days of active, involved parenting. Besides, who has time to be a parent when there is so much good reality TV on right now?

Madera Farmers' Market Reopens

The world's tastiest fruits and vegetables are grown in California and in Madera County. Many of these local farmers will be bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to the Madera County Farmers' Market every Thursday evening, starting June 17 from 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Courthouse Park. This is a certified Farmers' Market, meaning the farmers are offering only agriculture products they grow themselves. Consumers are getting fresh products directly from growers.

The Madera County Farmers' Market is an annual event for families featuring local growers, craft vendors, food vendors, children's activities, food demonstrations, free healthy food recipe giveaways, informational booths and live entertainment. The market accepts cash, EBT, WIC vouchers and senior vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetable purchases. A variety of "in season" fruits and vegetables will be sold. Live entertainment on the first day will feature the "3 Guys playing the Blues" band and

the First 5 Hands on Health Van. Future live entertainment will include Parker, Glamour Tronic, Friday Night Live and Madera South High School Band.

The Madera County Farmers' Market began in 2006 through partnerships of First 5 Madera County and the Madera County Public Health Department as an effort to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and offer health and nutrition education to local families.

"Through this event, we hope to support our local growers and inspire families to create healthier meals by incorporating more fruits and vegetables into their daily lifestyles," said Chinayera Black-Hardaman, First 5 Madera County executive director.

For more information about the Madera County Farmers' Market, please call 559-661-5155 or visit First5Madera's website at www.first5madera.net.

"Smoking" Car Scam Targets Seniors

An age old scam has surfaced again in Madera County and again Senior Citizens are being targeted.

Two women recently have been approached in Madera and Chowchilla parked outside of a business. Once they turned on their ignition, a man suddenly appeared informing them their car was smoking and advised them to turn the engine off. Checking under the car, he tells the victims their catalytic converters have failed, offers to fix

them but needs cash to purchase the parts.

One of the victims drove away but the other woman believed the man, drove to her bank and withdrew the money to pay for the part. The scammer followed her, took the cash, and then took off.

Neither victim could provide law enforcement with a description of the man.

Call Madera County Sheriff's Department at 675-7770 if this happens to you.

Save this date! call 559-801-7703 for more info

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6/10



Organizing for Summer Survival

The kids are out of school! That statement can stir relief and panic at the same time. A break from the school schedule is great, but what do you do when the inevitable "I'm bored!" happens? A little planning and organizing can go a long way to creating a summer you can all enjoy.

For starters, plan a Summer Launch Event. Serve pizza, plan a fun activity and sandwich between a few minutes for a Family Council Meeting. Ask for your kids' input on summer ideas such as:

- Things to do
- Places to go
- People to see
- Interests/skills to pursue

Just like any other well-managed organization, a family needs defined expectations and guidelines. Before the meeting, write out a list for each of the following items and include consequences and rewards where applicable. Share these at your Family Council Meeting.

- House rules (schedule a "Tattling/Complaining Time" to cut down on the endless flow)
- Chores (free downloadable chore charts at www.chorecharts.com)
- Summer Safety

Continue your summer activity research by checking with the library, San Joaquin River Parkway, zoo, local churches and other community groups that provide programs for kids.

Consider networking ideas. Plan a "Swapping Party" and invite your kids' friends to bring a few toys or video games they'd like to swap. Moms and dads can join in the fun and swap costume jewelry, clothes, tools, etc.

Based on your skills and interests, take turns with other parents offering kids' classes. You might teach a class on baking and another parent might teach gardening, golfing or some type of craft.

When my kids were young we liked to plan summer field trips. Together with other parents and kids, we toured a fire station, pizza parlor, saw mill and took the train to Superior Dairy in Hanford.

Include a few educational activities

that will stimulate your children's minds during their time off.

- Practice writing skills by writing letters or emails to grandparents, cousins or friends.

- Give your child a list of 20 things to find in the newspaper. See how long it takes them.

- Have a "Kids in the Kitchen" night. Kids can be responsible for finding recipes (www.allrecipes.com), creating a grocery list and adult-supervised cooking.

- Read a book aloud together as a family.

- Create and send out a summer newsletter telling what your family is up to.

Finally, create a summer plan that blends your goals, kids' wishes, budget and availability. Schedule specific activities and events on the calendar or else your good intentions may go undone. Make sure to have some "hang out at home" days as well.

Create a list of boredom busters. Gather all the supplies needed and store them in a designated place. Here are a few ideas:

- Make a Frisbee golf course in your yard. Draw large numbers on paper plates and attach them to trees or shrubs to designate each "hole" they have to hit.

- Set up a bicycle obstacle course on your driveway or grass.

- Take turns hiding a ticking timer and see who can find it first.


- Cut a hole in a refrigerator box and load clean sponges with whipping cream. Take turns being on the throwing/receiving end of the "pie" toss.

- Tie a string between two chairs to make a balloon volleyball court; a safe indoor game for really hot days.

One last tip: Stay flexible! If something doesn't work out like you planned, move on to plan B or just go with the flow. The relationships and memories you make are more valuable than implementing the plan.

Many of these ideas came from *The Family Manager's Guide to Summer Survival* by Kathy Peel. For more great ideas you can purchase a copy at www.barnesandnoble.com.

Brenda McElroy established Organized By Choice in 2006. She helps people discover life beyond clutter and chaos through hands-on organizational services. She is a Certified Family Manager Coach, helping moms who are feeling overwhelmed. She is a 30-year Rancho resident who's raised her family here. You can visit her website at www.OrganizedByChoice.com or contact her at 559-871-3314 or email her at info@organizedbychoice.com.



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Kid's Church.....10 a.m.	Worship Service
Worship.....10 a.m.	Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.	Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
Youth.....6 p.m.	Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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SENIORS cont. from P. 13

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, July 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to greet you. There is still time to plant tomatoes and other vegetables so plan to attend the sale and check out what is available. The boutique has many fine novelty articles for you to see. There are also nice jewelry items available. The bake sale and Treasure House will have many new items. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are also available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We currently have jellies, plenty of lemons, and freshly harvested beets for sale.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging) and you are invited to come in and check with Joann about programs which can help you.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE check-ups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at different places each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. On Saturday, June 19, we had lunch at the Japanese Kitchen in Clovis. On Saturday, July 17 we will go to The Golden, a Chinese restaurant located at 1135 N. Fulton in Fresno. The time has yet to be determined. Our August luncheon will be held at Black Bear Diner, 1209 E. Almond Ave., Madera, and the time is not firm at this time. If you're interested in joining us for these or any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. All of our members enjoy eating and having fun so we urge you to come and join us.

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you and many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us.

Wishing Everyone a Happy 4th Of July

Senior Thought of the Day

"An unkind word can never be forgotten, so it is best unsaid."

In the senior years, many need someone to laugh with so come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterward. There is a lot of fun here and remember,

laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does not mean everything is perfect, it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. However, we have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweat-shirts. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, here is your opportunity to learn while having fun! Card BINGO meets on Fridays, noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: You! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

July 3, monthly sale, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 19, Birthday luncheon, 11:30 a.m., The Golden Chinese Restaurant, 1135 N. Fulton, Fresno
 August 7, monthly sale, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August, Birthday luncheon, Black Bear Diner, 1209 Almond, Madera

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864)

Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (Please bring your own plate and silverware)

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?

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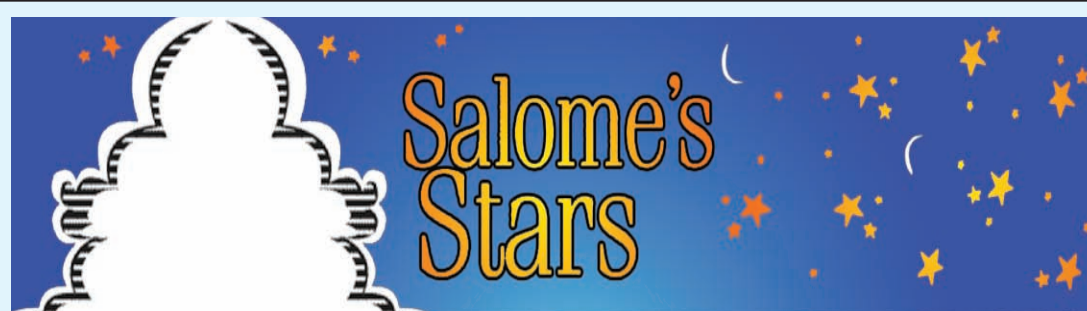
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A plan you've kept on hold for a long time finally could be greenlighted. But in typical Aries form, you'll need to be sure that everything is in place before you hit the "start" button.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Others might urge you to act more quickly on your ideas. But you'd be wise to follow your Bovine instincts and get more facts to bolster your position when you finally present it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be tempted to accept the well-meaning offer of a friend to act as an intermediary in a dispute. But you know best what it's about, and you can handle the challenge. Good luck.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Entertainment can play an important role this week. Enjoy some well-earned diversion with people you care about. Something especially wonderful might come from this well-spent time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Catnaps and playtime are in order for Leos and Leonas who need to take some time off from their hectic schedules to restore their energies and rebuild their mental muscles. Have fun.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Virgos will need to keep an open mind this week about choices that seem improbable. A closer study might well reveal possibilities that might have been overlooked. Stay with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A disappointing outcome of a well-intentioned effort should be seen as a lesson in how to do it right the next time. Note all your changes and have your new plan set up by week's end.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Travel plans might need readjusting because of changes in the costs previously agreed to. Deal with the problem as quickly as possible to minimize any delays that might result.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your honest approach to an unsettling experience draws admiration from others. Use their positive feedback to build support for your program to introduce needed changes.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Travel is strong in your aspect this week, and so is nostalgia! You might want to consider planning a trip to a place that holds some very special meaning for you. Bon voyage.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A job-related situation could provide an opportunity you hadn't considered before. Look it over carefully and see where and how you can tailor it to fit your needs.

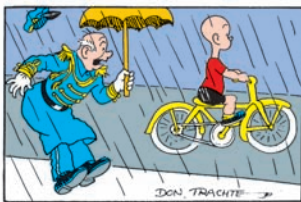
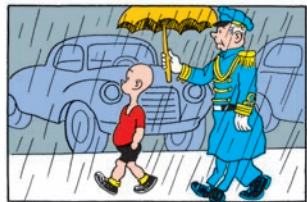
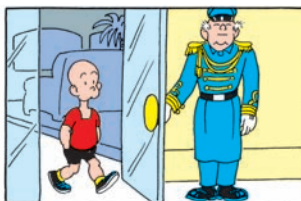
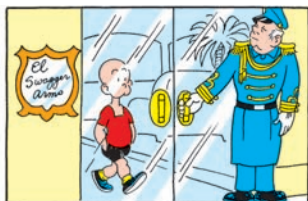
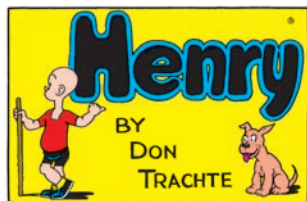
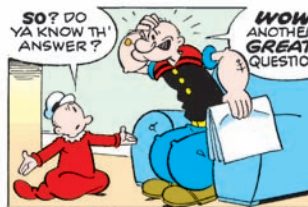
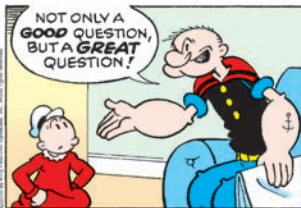
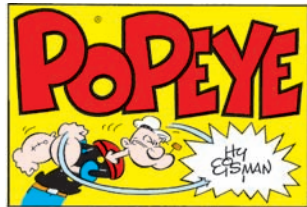
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Showing strength as well as sympathy helps you deal with a difficult personal matter. It also helps you set an example for others when it's their turn to get involved in the situation.

Born this Week

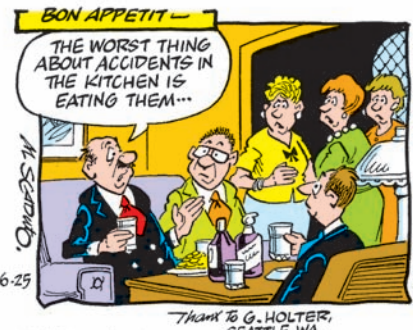
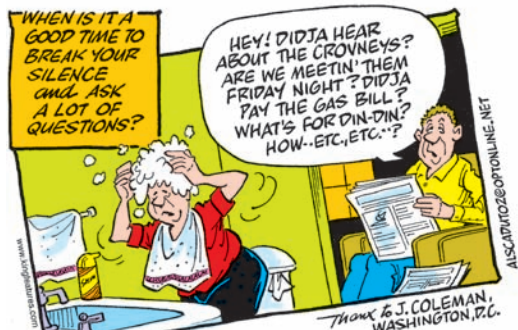
You have a way of making people feel comfortable without losing one whit of your own dignity in the process.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



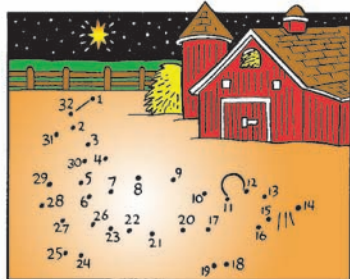
WHEN IS IT A GOOD TIME TO BREAK YOUR SILENCE AND ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS?

THE JOYS OF WORKING AT HOME #1,763 - EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

Thank to W. HERSFELD, OAKLAND, CA.



BY AL SCADUTO



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out why a star and an old barn are alike.

Answer: Because they both contain r-a-l-s.

A PUNCTURE PROBLEM! Try nailing down the answer to this AlphaMath puzzle before the tire is fixed. Replace the letters in our sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 to get a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.



Our answer: T=1, =4, R=0, E=2, N=7, A=5, L=9, F=8 (1402+7549=8951).

DON'T GET TURNED OFF BY THIS ONE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with OFF. Some hints are:

1. OFF (in place).
2. Goes away from.
3. To present for consideration.
4. Out of pitch.
5. Transfer data.
6. Behind the scenes.

Answers: 1. Off 2. Off-key 3. Offer 4. Off-key 5. Offload 6. Offstage.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE

BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

REBYVSQNKWHEBYW
 TROLJGEBAYWURY P
 RNKELTTILOODRYB
 TEDKENNEDYSAIN G
 DBVZXWVMSHEQOEM
 KIGORECOAPMSYRW
 USQIKPNSLRLJLRH
 FEGCACYSXUOTFAT
 VHUSQPIINMHKMWH
 TKYELDARBAJHFFE
 CBZYXREGRBVUJT

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| A. Murphy | Doolittle | Peary | Ted Kennedy |
| Bradley | Grissom | RFK | Wainwright |
| Burger | Halsey | Rickover | Warren |
| Byrd | JFK | Taft | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

You won't solve this one by sticking your head in the sand. Starting with the given word OSTRICHES at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. You have three minutes. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with OSTRICHES.

1. Large, flightless African birds.
2. Most resembling a thoroughbred.
3. Found in libraries.
4. A female relative.
5. Rows in a stadium.
6. A building's location.
7. Part of railroad tracks.
8. A player in the game of tag.
9. Symbol for iodine.



Illustrated by David Coulson

Answers: (from the bottom up) 1. Ostriches 2. Horses 3. Stores 4. Sister 5. Tiers 6. Show 7. The 8. It 9. I.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In currency, what is a watermark, and why is it used?
2. TELEVISION: What TV show featured the neighbors named Lenny and Squiggy?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes is located entirely within the United States?
4. MOVIES: What book is the movie "Clueless" loosely based upon?
5. MEASUREMENTS: What measurement is used to determine the height of a horse?
6. SCIENCE: What instrument is used to measure atmospheric pressure?
7. MATH: What are congruent angles?
8. TRADITIONS: Traditional Chinese brides might wear which color of dress on their wedding days?
9. MUSIC: Which Christmas carol features the phrase "the weary world rejoices"?
10. MEDICAL TERMS: What's a common name for deglutition?

Answers

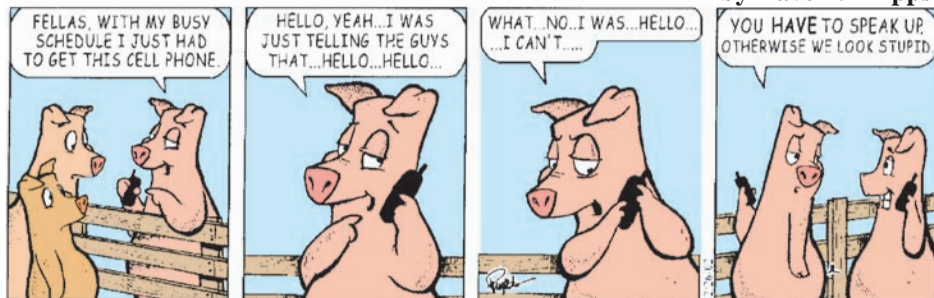
1. A distinguishing mark on paper money to prevent counterfeit
2. "Laverne & Shirley"
3. Lake Michigan
4. "Emma," by Jane Austen
5. Hands (one hand equals 4 inches)
6. Barometer
7. Angles that have the same measure in degrees
8. Red, for good luck
9. "O Holy Night"
10. Swallowing

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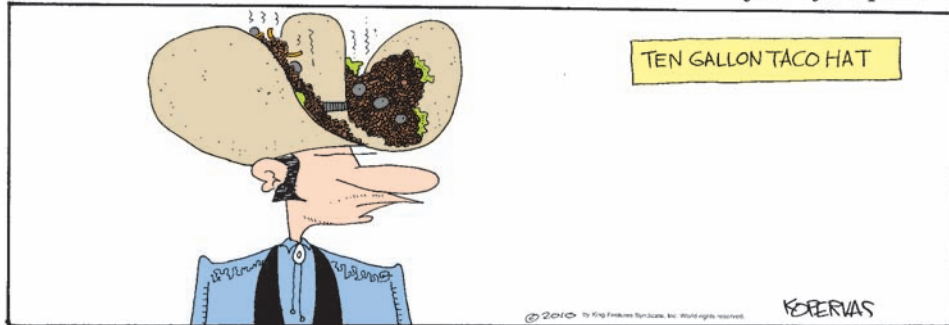
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



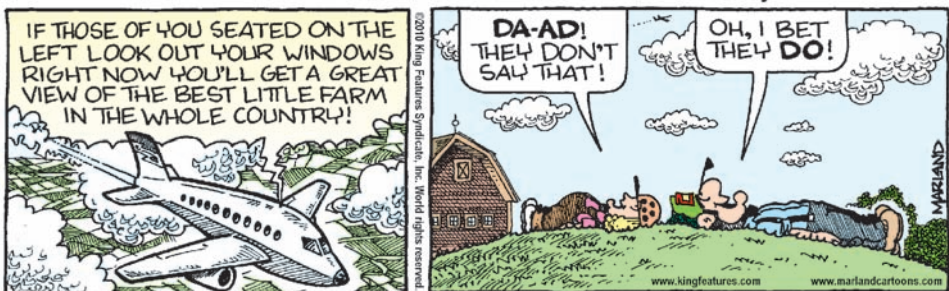
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

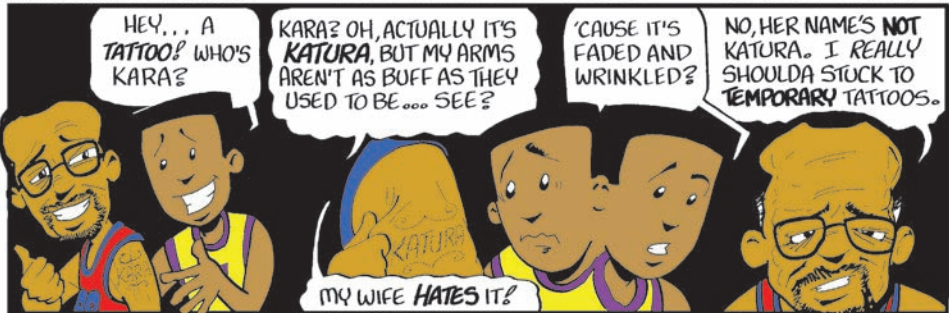
by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



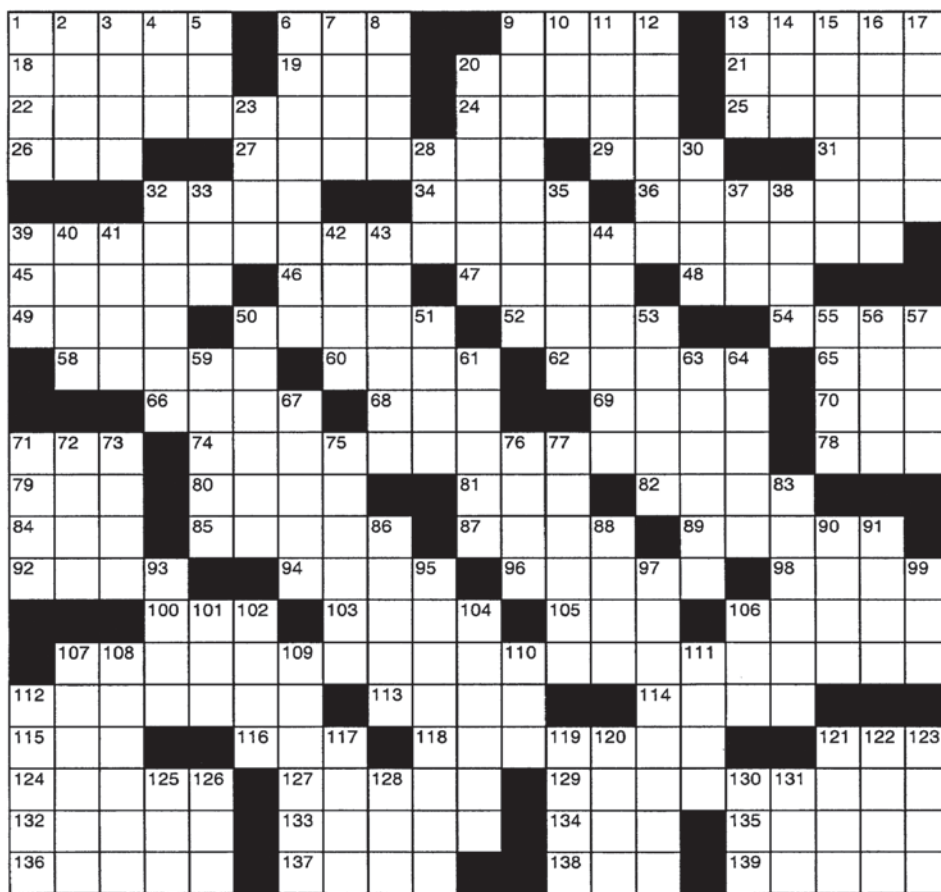
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Sign has buttons. 3. More fruit in box on floor. 4. Awning is missing. 5. Display near register is gone. 6. Man's right hand is hidden.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 50 Famed futurologist | 98 Actress Ward | DOWN | 38 One of the Marches | 91 Fiorucci of fashion |
| 1 Ivanhoe's creator | 52 Stoltz or Severeid | 100 Pecs' partners | 1 Wound covering | 39 The end? | 93 Generic grade? |
| 6 Corn holder | 54 Mist | 103 Bronte heroine | 2 Good place for a dip | 40 Cheat | 95 Hog hair item |
| 9 Wild child | 58 Socialite Perle | 105 Velvet finish | 3 Evangelist Roberts | 41 Spice-rack item | 97 Bewitch |
| 13 Talk out of Jazzman Chick | 60 "Stop!" | 106 Conform | 4 Word with take or hang | 42 Tough | 99 Clause connector |
| 18 Russell of "Gladiator" | 62 Overact | 107 Part 4 of remark | 5 Make lace | 43 Look the other way | 101 Campy grp.? |
| 21 Florida city | 65 Sports-caster Allen | 112 Unimaginative | 6 Flirt | 44 Muppet drummer | 102 "It Up" ('73 hit) |
| 22 Start of a remark by Franklin P. Jones | 66 Throw a party | 113 Tivoli's Villa d' | 7 Burden | 50 Retainer | 104 Steak or lobster |
| 24 Type of primate | 68 Caviar | 114 Pull the Trigger? | 8 Exemplar of redness | 51 Adam's grandson | 106 Memo letters |
| 25 Morticia's man | 69 Field of study | 115 Fireplace fuel | 9 Swarthy sort | 53 French painter | 107 Paradoxical |
| 26 — canto | 70 "— pro nobis" | 116 Sgt. Wagner | 10 Computer acronym | 55 Out of control | 108 Type of fastener |
| 27 Janitor's item | 71 Singer Secada | 118 hero | 11 "Up-Up and —" ('67 hit) | 56 Actor Mostel | 109 North Pole sight |
| 29 Asian ox | 78 "— Tiki" | 121 Sp. lady | 12 Lodger | 57 Spirit | 110 I.M. the architect |
| 31 Broad st. | 79 Thurman of "Dangerous Liaisons" | 124 TV's "Touched by an —" | 13 Kuvasz or Komondor | 59 Promotes Works in the lab | 111 Man the bar |
| 32 Colorless | 80 Prepare to fly | 127 Nautical rope | 14 Author Umberto | 61 Works in the lab | 112 Student of Socrates |
| 34 Angers | 81 Skater Babilonia | 129 End of remark | 15 Hot stuff? | 63 The 3 — | 117 Kid at court |
| 36 Munched like a mouse | 82 Spilled the beans | 132 Diacritical mark | 16 Soccer team | 64 Bald bird | 119 Barge |
| 39 Part 2 of remark | 84 Fool | 133 Think alike | 17 Brought down the house | 67 Where to find Alice | 120 Ripped |
| 45 Profit from tickets | 85 Casual speech | 134 Tolkien villain | 20 Pay with plastic | 71 Impartial | 121 — up (evaluate) |
| 46 Playground game | 87 Luxurious fabric | 135 "Splendor in the Grass" director | 23 At rest | 72 Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star | 122 Colt color |
| 47 School founded by Henry VI | 89 Actor Christopher | 136 Humpback's home | 28 Brooch | 73 Oenophile's mecca | 123 Psychoanalyst Freud |
| 48 Fast way to the UK | 92 Pitfall | 137 Soup veggies | 30 Ghoulish rockers | 75 Architectural feature | 125 Author LeShan |
| 49 Christmas visitors | 94 Use a poniard | 138 Minuscule | 32 Coming from Krakow | 76 Leave port | 126 Deighton or Berman |
| | 96 Fortifies with fleece | 139 Actress Verdugo | 33 Current unit | 77 More obsequious | 128 Bikini part |
| | | | 35 Musical Dinah | 83 Emulate Ungaro | 130 Presidential nickname |
| | | | 37 Small shots | 86 Crystal of country | 131 Chess champ Mikhail |
| | | | | 88 Pants part | |
| | | | | 90 Reject | |

FUN PAGES



6/10

Now it's time to get to work

Now that South East Madera County United (SEMCU) has been formed in the Madera Ranchos to help with the pressing concerns of water issues in the Ranchos, and with an eye to the future to help resolve issues of transportation, noise, energy and other services provided by the County and other public agencies, we are still looking for willing hands and minds to help.

If the Ranchos is your home and you are concerned about its future, this is the organization for you. Call the number below or send an email for more information and discover just how badly you are needed.

SEMCU exists to advocate for, and act on behalf of, SEMCU members and the region by working with private granting agents and other parties to attain the above-stated purposes and to provide other services beneficial to SEMCU members and the region.

If we don't get together, outside forces will take it into their own hands. Guaranteed.

559-363-9095
ranchos.community@gmail.com