

# The Ranchos Independent



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The Sharp Knife of  
a Short Life.

Alexis "Lexi" Delgado  
February 18, 1998 - March 1, 2012

**ESTRONG LEXI**

## *In This Issue*

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# The Sharp Knife of a Short Life - The Passing of Lexi Delgado

By Christi McKinney

The Madera Ranchos lost a true angel when Alexis "Lexi" Delgado, age 14, passed away on March 1, 2012. Lexi succumbed to the effects of a hard fought, two year battle with a very aggressive and rare form of leukemia. Lexi attended Webster Elementary School where she was happy to be a Girl Scout and where she made long lasting friendships. More recently Lexi attended Ranchos Middle School as a proud 8th grader.

Lexi loved keeping in contact with her many friends and family. When she couldn't be with them giggling about something she kept in touch by texting and posting to her Facebook page. Lexi enjoyed scrapbooking, watching movies and doing fingernails and often treated nurses to manicures on their breaks. Lexi loved pink! Her room was pink and she customized her room at the hospital with pink flourishes. She even preferred pink yogurt and smoothies. Lexi also loved spending time with her Shih-Tzu "Oliver" who aspires to one day be a volunteer himself at Children's Hospital with the help of her beloved Aunt Alicia.

Lexi spent the better part of the past two years at Children's Hospital where she received chemotherapy treatments. Her teacher during her stay at Children's

Hospital was a familiar face and fast friend. Joy Hurt had been Lexi's 3rd grade teacher at Webster Elementary and was now the hospital teacher. "Lexi was determined that REAL school was just around the bend for her and she would not be left behind after cancer," Hurt said. "On good days she would ask if we could go over two math lessons instead of one, so that on her bad days she wouldn't get behind. Lexi dreamt of Ranchos Middle School and the day she'd be back in school with her beloved friends. 'Mrs. Hurt? Do you think they would let me enter a Science Project? Do you think they'd let me be on the Yearbook Staff?' Or more commonly, 'Mrs. Hurt, are we where we should be? You know I don't want to be behind my friends!'"

Lexi's story transformed the Madera Ranchos community on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011 when during just six hours residents opened their hearts and their wallets to help then 12-year-old Lexi. "Operation Love for Lexi" raised over \$12,000 to help her family. The Blood Mobile was on hand and 71 pints of blood were donated in Lexi's name. So many people wanted to donate blood that 47 people registered for a second blood drive. That day 56 people also signed up for the bone marrow registry to try to help in the search for a matching donor. Ranchos res-

idents and businesses rallied around the Delgado family to find any way they could be of help. Car washes, bake sales and "Team Lexi" friends and family who participated in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual "Light the Night" fundraiser.

In March 2011, a matching bone marrow donor was found and Lexi was off to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford where she received a bone marrow transplant. Lexi was so happy to come home to the Ranchos to a shower of fireworks on July 4th to celebrate her cancer being in remission. However sadly, only weeks later Lexi awoke in severe pain and returned to Children's Hospital to battle cancer once again.

Susie Hernandez, Lexi's cousin recalled, "One day while visiting Lexi, I praised her for her strength and I told her I admired her for being such a fighter. I found her a pair of pink boxing gloves and added my personal touch to them in rhinestones saying: "Live Strong." Lexi loved it and "Live Strong" will always be one way her friends, her family and our community will remember Lexi's strength and her pure love of life.

Lexi was thrilled to return to Ranchos Middle School for a short time last fall. "That was Lexi's goal," her father Alex Delgado said. "All she wanted to do



*Lexi loved the pink boxing gloves cousin Susie Hernandez made for her as a testament to Lexi's strength and for being such a fighter. The concept of "Live Strong" resonated with Lexi and is one of the ways her family and friends remember her.*

is to get well enough to go back to school so she could enjoy the life of an 8th grader with her friends."

Lexi's wish to visit Disney World was granted by the "Make A Wish" Foun-

Please see **LEXI** on P. 9

## CBS47 "Race to the Altar" Winners from the Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

The Madera Ranchos' very own Aubray Trittler and her fiancé Ryan Joneson have won the wedding of their dreams in a contest titled "Race to the Altar" sponsored by Fresno television station KGPE, CBS47. The estimated prize value is over \$17,000 with more prizes still to be announced.

And It certainly has been a race in all senses of the word.

Aubray and Ryan became engaged on Feb. 26 in Cambria, Calif. after dating for two years. They had planned on getting married sometime around June of next year after they'd saved up for the wedding and they returned home from the coast excited to share the news with their family and friends. It was then that mother of the bride Michelle Trittler explained, "They had just gone to sleep about 10 p.m. when I saw a commercial about the contest and



*If you didn't know what this sign meant then you obviously didn't help Aubray and Ryan win their dream wedding through Channel 47.*

I had to wake them up to tell them about it." The contest had already begun on Feb. 13 and was over by March 14. "They had to act fast because the deadline for entering was midnight the very next day. They talked about it that night and raced to download the rules and complete the application," Trittler said.

Lots of Valley couples had entered the contest and the station had interviewed 15 couples on camera so they could share their stories. The contest was designed to be narrowed down to three finalists who would compete by having people vote for their favorites online.

When they were announced as one of the three finalists Aubray and Ryan had been engaged only three days so the next stage of the race began and they had to get the word out to everyone quickly because they had only eight days to get the most votes. Aubray and Ryan say they won by using Facebook telling friends and friends of friends to put the word out that they wanted their votes. They also painted it on car windows, put up fliers and overnight signs popped up all over the Ranchos. Aubray is a student and works two jobs, one being at Yosemite Falls where she

Please see **ALTAR** on P. 11

**FLATLANDERS DAY  
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**PARADE ENTRY FORM  
ON PAGE 7  
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**CORRECTION**

In the February issue of the Ranchos Independent a letter from Igal Treibatch stated that he has been farming in the Ranchos area since 1998. Mr. Treibatch has been farming here since 1988. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Click on "Local News" at



# Low-Interest Loan Boosts Golden Valley's School Solar Energy Project

The Golden Valley Unified School District's goal of producing its own electricity by harnessing the rays of the sun got a major boost. The California Energy Commission approved a low-interest Energy Conservation Assistance Account (ECAA) loan of \$3 million for the Madera County school district, helping it finance the installation of solar arrays on site.

Most of the panels will be

ground-mounted in fenced-off open spaces, with a few panels installed on shade structures over parking lots at the District's main office and schools.

During the 2010/2011 school year, Golden Valley Unified School District began exploring ways it could generate budget savings without negatively impacting the District's educational mission. After interviewing several firms, the District Board selected Terra Verde Re-

newable Partners as its energy advisor to help create a cost savings strategy through the use of solar energy to reduce escalating PG&E electricity bills.

In January, after conducting a bid process that involved evaluating proposals from four installers with extensive experiencing implementing solar on school campuses, the District entered into a contract with Cupertino Electric, Inc (CEI). While CEI is

headquartered in San Jose, most of the work on the project will be done with labor from Madera County.

By converting sunlight to electricity, the photovoltaic system will have a combined capacity of 1.12 megawatts, or 1,725,111 kilowatt-hours of electricity, that will take care of all the school district's power needs.

Please see SOLAR on P. 11




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## Events Coming at Warp Speed

By Garin Gonzales

As I write this, it is raining outside. The farmers in this area must be ecstatic, but while farmers may be jumping for joy because of spring showers, I am stressing out a little. The Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair is approaching like Ichabod Crane's horse and the Summer Reading Program is rearing its head—also like the aforementioned horse—and we still need your help to make sure both programs go off without a hitch. (And if you didn't get the references to the horse and rider previously mentioned, you need to come into the library more ... just saying).

By now anyone still interested in renting booth space for the Flatlander's Parade and Craft Fair should be scrambling to get their applications in by April 30. Sure it seems like a lot of time, but don't be caught off guard. Be ahead of the curve and submit that stuff soon. And if any kids out there want to help decorating the Ranchos Library's float, give us a call at 645-1214. Your help is always appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed for the Summer Reading Program. The program promises to be a lot of fun for participants, but to make it go smoother more help is always welcome. Due to shrinking budgets, a decline in workforce and not enough hours in the day, we are forced to scale back a little from last year's wildly successful program, but we hope to have a terrific time regardless. Whether you're a participant or a volunteer come on out and be a part of it.

### Book Chat: Mr. Librarian picks a book that is actually in the Ranchos library!

In the last article, I realized I wrote about books that weren't available in our local library and that isn't fair, is it? So this time around I definitely want to spotlight a book that is already in the library.

In high school and in college I played guitar in bands. I knew roughly three chords, but with the kind of music we played that was all you really needed. My parents were great about indulging me in my fantasies of world domination, but alas, our band sucked. Still, we had a great time. Over the years I've probably learned a couple more chords and can even fake my way through a couple of songs.

One of those songs I can sort of fake my way through is "Waiting on a Friend" by the Rolling Stones. The Stones are one of those bands that were a huge influence on me even though by the time I got into them they were past their prime. But their back catalog was incredible. So when Stones guitarist Keith Richards finally got around to writing his memoir, simply and awesomely titled *Life*, I couldn't wait to read it.

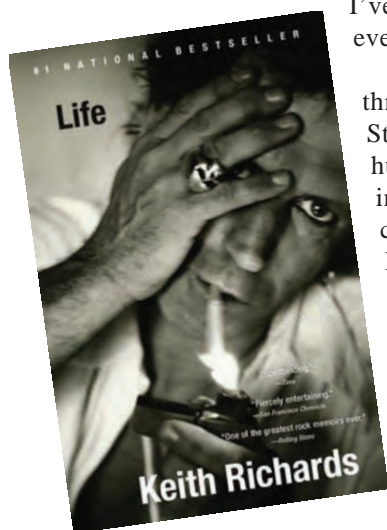
The memoir doesn't disappoint. Richards once had the reputation of being the world's biggest heroin junkie (he's been clean for over 20 years), but the man is smart and perceptive. Yes, he still tries to defend his wild years by saying he wasn't that much of a junkie, a statement that is almost

assuredly going to make some readers roll their eyes and say,

"Suuuure Keith, you weren't that big of a junkie." But his writing (tidied up with the help of James Fox) is great and his memory is clear. He writes lovingly about his childhood, his fateful meeting with Mick Jagger and the rest of the Stones, his crazed, debauchery filled touring schedule in the 1970s and the making of masterpieces like *Exile on Main Street*.

One of the biggest surprises of the book is how lovingly he writes about his guitar technique. I've always wondered why my versions of Rolling Stones songs always sounded so ... wrong. I'm embarrassed to admit that I was 40 before I figured out that Richards was using a different tuning on his guitar. It's that subtle difference in tuning that makes a Rolling Stones song discernable from everything else you hear on a classic rock station. *Life* is one of those memoirs that you would expect to be self-congratulatory and shallow, or just flat-out boring, but Richards delivers the goods. He's funny and self-deprecating, cranky and honest. Any music fan should check this out.

*Life* is available right at the Ranchos Library. So tune up your axe and come on in. And don't forget your library card – in fact, don't leave home without it!



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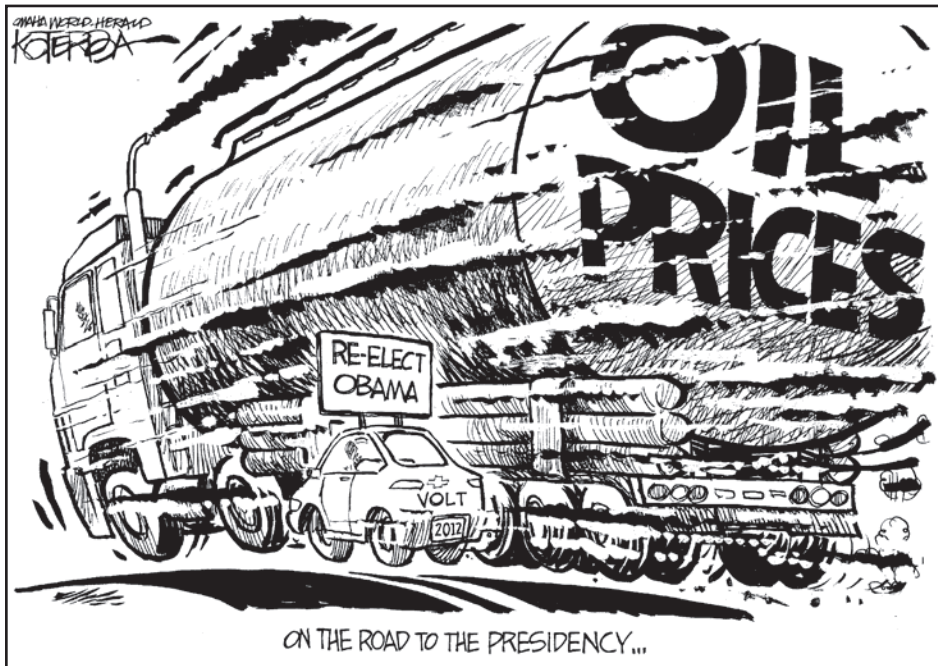
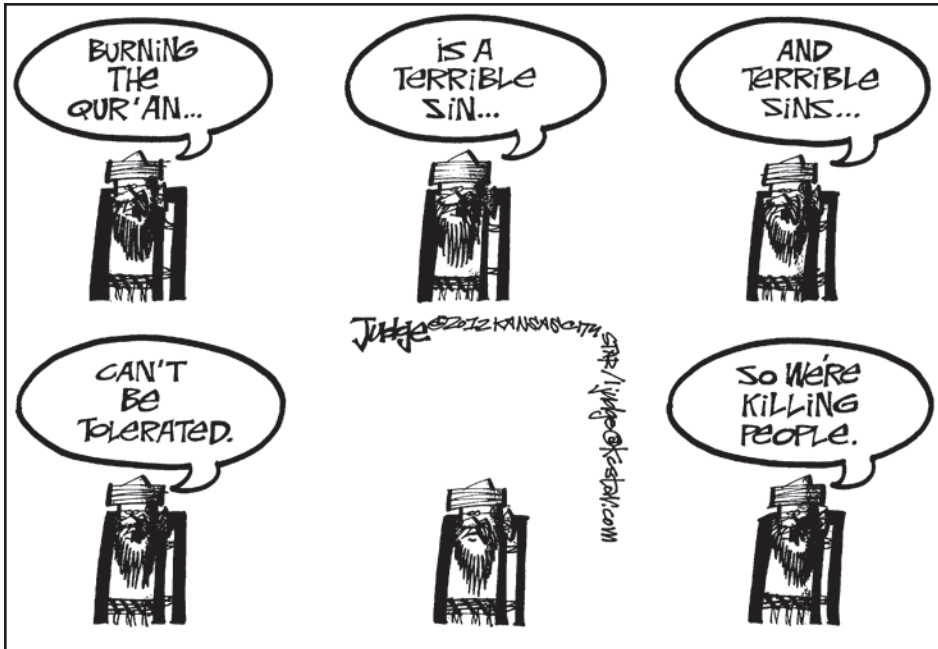
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Guest Editorial

Iran's Terrible Rationality

By Rich Lowry

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, thinks that Iran is a "rational actor." He is indisputably correct.

Tehran couldn't have made itself into the world's foremost exporter of terror and extended its tentacles throughout the Middle East without resorting to rational calculation. That's obvious. What Dempsey is implying, though, is that a regime capable of such calculation can necessarily be deterred if it gets a nuclear weapon. That's an unsupportable leap.

If the Soviets, the famous "evil empire" bristling with thousands of nuclear weapons, could be deterred, why not Iran? The Soviet leadership became more pragmatic over time. After Nikita Khrushchev renounced Josef Stalin, it didn't believe that war with its enemies was imminent and inevitable. Iran's religio-ideological fire, in contrast, is still burning hot.

From our perspective, there is no point in establishing a theocracy, killing innocents abroad, pursuing sectarian war, crushing protesters, denying the Holocaust and threatening Israel with annihilation, either. From the point of view of the Western liberal tradition, the Islamic Republic itself makes no sense. Yet there it is, withstanding punishing economic sanctions to pursue the weapon that the

regime wouldn't want in the first place if it accepted international norms.

A highly ideological leadership with a sense of desperate urgency is the enemy of deterrence. In 1941, Dean Acheson rightly said: "No rational Japanese could believe an attack on us could result in anything but disaster." Except the Japanese -- driven by a sense of honor alien to us -- believed that they only had two choices: getting squeezed out of China by the U.S., or launching a risky war.

Even in the Cold War, deterrence almost failed. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the airstrike and invasion pushed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff might well have unwittingly prompted a nuclear exchange. The defense secretary at the time, the late Bob McNamara, maintained that "we lucked out." Ah, yes, that crucial backstop to deterrence -- luck.

The Israelis can be forgiven for not feeling very lucky. Do we think Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will establish a "red telephone" to smooth out misunderstandings after Iran goes nuclear? The Iranian regime is factionalized, and it is sure to be the most fanatical elements that control the nukes. It also is prone to bouts of popular unrest threatening its existence. If the regime ever believes it is going down, national martyrdom might look gloriously alluring.

In March 1945, Adolf Hitler gave his infamous Nero Decree, essentially calling for the destruction of Germany. After the first U.S. atomic attack on Hiroshima, the Japanese war minister mused about how wonderful it would be if his nation were destroyed "like a beautiful flower." It is in this tradition that former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani -- a relative pragmatist -- said that "even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything. However, it will only harm the Islamic world. It is not irrational to contemplate such an eventuality."

On his own perverse terms, Rafsanjani's reasoning is unassailable. He's just another "rational actor."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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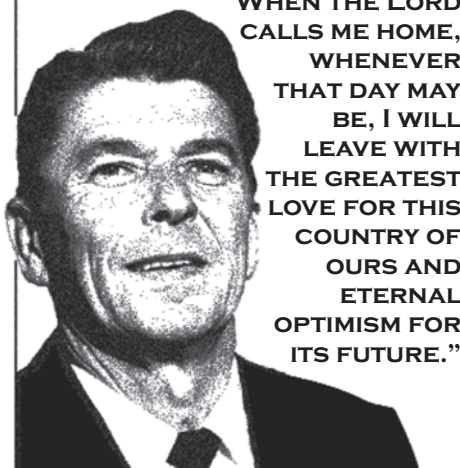
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# An Open Letter to President Obama



Dear President Obama,

Am I being bad? I retired as a Police Lieutenant after nearly 30 years in law enforcement and after 32 years as a reserve Colonel in the Army, but I am beginning to have the distinct feeling that my life has gone terribly wrong. You see, I started a business after I retired 12 years ago.

I know that all public servants are supposed to go off into the sunset, travelling and resting until dementia and death, but I had this insuppressible compulsion to build a manufacturing business. I know it was probably a latent expression of the ideals of my foolish youth, from a time when people were less sophisticated than they are today and believed that private companies actually contributed to society.

We manufacture racks for pickup trucks and ship them throughout the U.S., but after a dozen years we are still a very small business struggling in difficult economic times and in a highly competitive market. What worries me is not so much the present state of our economy but the prevailing sense, which you have so brilliantly and sharply brought into focus, that the whole direction of my life is wrong. Here I had thought that providing work to support 10 employees and their families was of value, but I see now that my actions may be just a rationalization for greed and the first steps down that slippery slope.

What I mean is this. At present we are making very little money from our business. Since my wife and I have invested nearly all of our life savings in the business, we no longer have the assets to expand and hire more employees. Even if we did, since customer demand is so low, expanding right now would simply result in more inventory in the warehouse and would leave us with so little cash we might not be able to make payroll. But when things change and the economy improves in 2013, the company might start to make a profit. By 2014 or 2015 we might even start to make a significant profit, and that is what puts me on the horns of a moral dilemma. Since my wife, a retired public school teacher, and I now receive a total of over \$150,000 annually from local, state and federal governments in retirements, if our business makes an additional \$100,000 profit we're likely to reach a combined income of over \$250,000 in one year! That would be very bad, because that would mean that we

would become rich, and as you have implied with such understated eloquence time and again, being rich is being evil.

What I'm not sure about is whether evil starts like zero on a graph with evil increasing in a straight line in proportion to the income or whether it increases on a parabolic curve where the increase in evil compounds geometrically as income increases. An even deeper question is what happens as the income goes down below the level of \$250,000. Does the wickedness of income stop at \$250,000 or does it only stop when it goes all the way to zero. Perhaps some sort of counter-acting virtue begins to spontaneously generate below \$250,000 ever increasing as income goes down so that those who generate no income at all are found to be sublimely virtuous.

I've speculated that there may be some sort of a Rasputin factor in play. As you recall the Russian monk Gregory Rasputin preached that one must first do evil in order to be forgiven and redeemed. I supposed this is who Vice President Biden was channeling when he said that the rich all need to be patriotic and pay more taxes. Perhaps by paying a higher portion of their income into the Federal government, instead of into job-creating private sector investments, the rich can find redemption and wash away some portion of the immense evil they have created in the first place.

Although I have pondered these important questions, they are certainly beyond my feeble powers to answer. That is why, Mr. President, I am looking to you and your Federal Government to answer them. I was hoping you might consider asking one of your czars to commission a Federal study to examine these issues and publish guidelines that could help millions Americans like me who have one foot on that slippery slope.

I will be listening for helpful indicators in your upcoming sound bites that I'm sure will guide my future decision to either continue my business or just cede the market to Chinese imports, lay off my employees, and enjoy my golden years with a clean conscience.

Christopher Green  
GM/CEO  
U.S. Rack, Inc.

### Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The March meeting presented guest speakers, Jonathan Keller of Right to Life of Central CA and the Honorable George Radanovich speaking on The Four Institutions.

Meetings are now held on the third Monday of each month, 6 pm at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. The next meeting is Monday, April 16. Confirm meeting dates and speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com).

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*The Stock Report*

**Walk Safe and Right in the Ranchos**

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
I was driving to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center the other day and I met people walking on the wrong side of the road. This really bothers me. Our roads in the Ranchos are not very wide and have no sidewalks. Many people walk their dogs or walk two or three abreast and don't seem to realize that a car is coming behind them until that car is almost on top of them. It is even worse when they walk on the wrong side at night since our roads are so dark. Please people walk facing the cars on the left side of the road since cars drive on the right side of the road. Also wear white clothes at night so that drivers can see you. Parents teach your children the right way to walk and parents set the example for your children. Most of the people I see walking in the day time are adults. Please walk safely. I am so afraid that someone is going to get run over. If you see someone walking on the wrong side of the road, do them a favor and tell them that they should walk on the left side. If you have music in your ears you can't even hear a car coming.

The annual Ranchos/Hills Home and Garden Festival will be held on April 7 at 37330 Berkshire Drive in at the Senior Center in the Madera Ranchos. This is the Ranchos Hills Senior's major fund raiser to keep the Senior Center in operation for the seniors of our area. We have a variety of vendors from local businesses, churches and garden specialty items. Plus the usual senior sale items from our Treasure House; plant, trees and flowers from our garden; inside the building is the Boutique, bake sale, local produce stand and handmade Easter baskets. The Senior Center will open its doors to the public at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and a BBQ lunch will be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for your convenience. There will be entertainment and the Gun Slingers will put on their action-packed drama for you. Come spend the day with us and support the seniors of your community.

Fourteen Ranchos Hills Seniors took off on an adventure on March 9. One big white van and one small white car loaded up and headed out on Friday morning. Jolene Mason and Mike Thomson were the drivers as we headed for Mariposa, Calif. and a weekend at the Mariposa Storytelling Festival. These storytellers are professional performers that use music, dance, poetry and puppetry to enhance their different kinds of stories. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors got a special tour of Mariposa including two wonderful museums, shopping and of course we found the best places to eat. We even found a Rite Aid Pharmacy and got ice cream cones. The trip to Yosemite National Park on Sunday was the perfect place to end a perfect weekend with the storytellers. A tired but happy bunch of seniors arrived home about 9:30 p.m.

Do you want to go on a nice bike ride? This busy bunch of seniors will be putting on the 4th Annual "Cycle for the Seniors" event on April 21. There will be four different routes: a 10 mile, a 25 mile, a 65 mile and a 100 mile. There will be fully supported rest stops and Support and Gear, or "SAG," drivers on the routes. Lunch will be provided by the Ranchos/Hills Seniors at the end of each route. Registration fees are \$35 before April 15 and include one route, one free gift and lunch. Registrations received after April 15 must add \$5, including the day of the event. Riders must be 18 years old or older. All rides start and end from the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. For more information call 559-645-4864. Helmets are required for all riders. You can also find us on the web at [www.rhseniors.org](http://www.rhseniors.org).

Now for the sad news: Russel Lowell died at home of cancer on Thursday, March 15. Russ was one of our very active Ranchos Hills Seniors. His wife Helen is a Past President of the RHS Center and our heart goes out to Helen at this sad time. Russ and Helen had been married for 65 years. They are longtime residents of the Ranchos. Russ was a WWII veteran. A memorial service was held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on Saturday, March 24 at 1 p.m.

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

Golden Valley Chamber

## 2012 Flatlander's Day 3/12

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Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No  
 Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

*Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):*

Horses (Single)  Horses (Group) Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Band/Music Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Non-profit) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Business) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Floats (Other) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dance Groups Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Children) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Entry (Adult) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Novelty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!  
 Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.  
 Parade route: Avenue 12 from Topper to Kensington

*The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 1** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
**37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001**

Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.



## 1 Potato, 2 Potato

Baked, boiled, broiled, fried, hashed, mashed or even raw – potatoes. Can't think of a way you can do a potato (aside from burning it) that I wouldn't like. I love potatoes. And for as many ways to cook the potatoes, there are as many varieties and colors. Colors from white to deep purple and all kinds of varieties.

Potatoes are the fourth largest food crop behind rice, wheat, and corn. The Inca Indians of Peru were the first to grow potatoes around 200 B.C. Potatoes arrived in the Colonies in 1621 when the Governor of Bermuda sent two large cedar

chests containing potatoes and other vegetables to the Governor of Virginia at Jamestown. The first permanent potato patches in North America were most likely in New Hampshire by Scotch-Irish immigrants. From there, the crop spread across the country. Potatoes were planted in Idaho around 1838; by 1900 the state's production was over

a million bushels (about 27,000 tons). U.S. potato production has increased steadily; two-thirds of the crop comes from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Maine.

I can remember as a little girl out at my grandpa and grandma's farm "helping" them plant their garden. They would have gone to the feed store (where most garden supplies were purchased) and buy seed potatoes. Grandpa would cut these little potatoes in quarters and dust them with something (I think it was sulphur) before planting, making sure each piece of potato had an "eye" to grow the plant.

Growing up just out of the depression, we would have potatoes quite often because at that time they were cheap, could be cooked to feed a big family and were somewhat of



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

a comfort food. I can remember my mom would peel and cube enough potatoes for a family of seven and fry them with chopped onion. Just as they were done, and ready to be served, she would open a can of corned beef and we would have Corned Beef Hash for dinner. Mighty tasty! Recently I was in the store and potatoes were on sale so I bought a 5 pound bag. Remembering mama's hash, I thought I'd buy

*I can remember as a little girl out at my grandpa and grandma's farm "helping" them plant their garden. They would have gone to the feed store (where most garden supplies were purchased) and buy seed potatoes. Grandpa would cut these little potatoes in quarters and dust them with something (I think it was sulphur) before planting, making sure each piece of potato had an "eye" to grow the plant.*

a can of corned beef. I noticed it was in a different shape can (more like a can of Spam), but a lot more expensive. I bought it even though it was almost \$5, reasoning that I could make two or three meals out of it. Oh, was I wrong! It was awful – nowhere near the old corned beef. I went ahead and cooked it hoping it would cook up

better but it didn't.

Do you remember potato pancakes? Leftover mashed potatoes mixed with an egg, patted in little sized pancakes, dredged in flour and fried. I've heard of potato latkes so I looked it up on the internet. I discovered that they are traditionally eaten by people of the Jewish faith during the Hanukkah festival. I also learned that potato pancakes are made by most every country in Europe, all by a different name - some with and some without the egg.

### Potato Latkes

- 1 Lb. potatoes
- ½ C finely chopped onion
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ to ¾ C oil
- Preheat oven to 250 degrees

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 21

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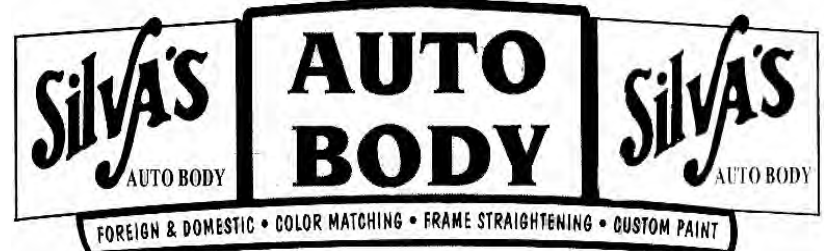
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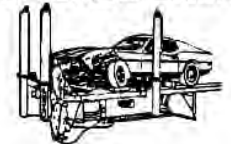


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all proceeds for purchasing medical equipment for Madera Community Hospital

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Madera Community Hospital



## New Start for Ranchos Lutherans

The Christian Mission Center, the Lutheran Ministry in the Ranchos, moved the last week of December, 2011 to 37398 Berkshire Drive, located in front of Hurst Hardware where it shares its parking lot. The Christian Mission Center began with a small group of people brought together to study the Bible in the Rolling Hills area under the guidance of Pastor Robert Crabb in 2006. In May of 2007 the group rented space at the Math Crazy building at 36320 Ave. 12 and started Sunday Services on July 29, 2007. We moved again in 2008 to 36875 Ave. 12 under Pastor Crabb's leadership until Dec. 30, 2010 when the United States Navy Chaplain Group recruited Pastor Crabb back into military service to serve as a Navy Lieutenant Chaplain.



Pastor Gary Gould (right) and his wife Mim have taken over the reins at the Christian Mission Center at their new location in front of Hurst Hardware.

The year of 2011 was one of praying to find our way to stay together as a unit,

or church, with leadership and to fill the gaps for Sunday Services with a pastor. We also faced the loss of a place to carry out those services as the building we rented on Avenue 12 was no longer available after Dec. 31, 2011.

We prayed for our Church and we tried to face reality and with the help of others and an answer to our prayers we suddenly found a pastor and a building: a miracle in downtown Ranchos. We are grateful to still be together.

Thanks Be To God.

You are all invited to visit Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 a.m. to hear our new pastor, Gary Gould, deliver the message. We offer a

weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Grief Share Class on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please call Linda Hough at 559 645-5236 or Tony Palazzo at 559-435-7438.

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

## LEXI cont. from P. 2

dation last November and Lexi took her first-ever plane ride. Lexi and her family flew to Orlando, Florida and during their 7-day stay visited all of the parks as well as Epcot Center. They stayed at the "Give Kids the World Village" where Lexi met other children from all over the world that were also there to live their wish to visit Disney World.

Lexi celebrated her 14th birthday on Feb. 18 at Children's Hospital, first being serenaded by doctors, nurses and staff, then celebrating surrounded by her family and friends. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Lexi while she opened presents and ate cake, so happy to have everyone there for her. Lexi's cousins recalled, "When we left we kissed her little bald head and said see you later! Little did we know that for some of us, we were not going to see her again."

Lexi's funeral service was a packed house, many familiar faces and many who she either met at Children's Hospital or who had just heard about her and turned out to support her family. Lexi was truly a very special young lady. It was amazing to

see how many lives were touched and inspired by her. Lexi's incredible spirit and beautiful smile touched the hearts of everyone she met. Lexi fought the battle against cancer with such grace and determination, always staying positive and hopeful despite her pain. Although everyone is heavy hearted having just lost someone they loved so much, the love for Lexi will go on. Ranchos resident and Lexi's Girl Scout Leader Candy Hall has been busy selling girl scout cookies with all the proceeds going to the Delgado Family. She is also organizing a blood drive for the upcoming Flatlanders Day in Lexi's memory.

Lexi's father Alex and the entire Delgado family would like to thank family, friends, the Ranchos Community and the doctors and nurses who cared for Lexi at Children's Hospital for all the prayers, love and support. "We truly appreciate and love our community for supporting our family and for uplifting our spirits," He said.

The Madera Ranchos Community would also like to thank the Delgado Family for sharing Lexi with us. Remember how Lexi lived and how she would want everyone to "Live Strong!" and cherish every day.



# Keeping Peace, Pitbull Style

I sleep in on Saturday mornings. Sunday is church and chores, the rest of the week is work, but Saturday morning I get to just sleep until my prince charming rides up on his white steed and wakes me with true love's first kiss, or until my internal alarm buzzes. Either way, I cherish it. Unfortunately, not everyone is privy to my schedule and this causes me great distress.

I was recently house-sitting for one of my cousins for the weekend – well, really I was dog sitting – I was just taking up residence at the same time. They have a huge dog and I love him, plus they have a beautiful home with a hot tub and a big-screen TV. It is my personal vacation resort whenever they go

out of town, and I wish they went out of town more often.

I was thoroughly enjoying myself until about 6 a.m. on Saturday when a loud, almost guttural sound forced itself into my dreams and startled me awake. I checked the clock, assuming it must have been at least 9 or 10. No, it was two minutes after 6.

I looked out the window to find the next door neighbor mowing his lawn. You have got to be kidding me! Never one to avoid confrontation, I grabbed my shoes and my sweatshirt, tore downstairs and out the front door. I stomped up to him and tapped him on the shoulder. He turned to me and I, as politely as I could muster, asked him to please stop mowing, I was trying to sleep. I was proud that I managed to say please, I refrained from calling him names, and I didn't hit him with my shoe, not even once. His answer? "Get some earplugs."

Furious, I stood there, mouth agape, eyes wide. The sheer, unconscionable attitude this twit exhibited was making my blood heat

## GENERATION WHY by eryn b. nyre



to a rolling boil. As I stood there, the man without manners smacked into me as he returned to his mowing. Then an idea came to me. I rushed back to the house, grabbed a leash and called for the dog. It is always a good idea to bring along back-up when engaging in intrigue.

I strolled back to the front yard, catching the curious glance he cast my way. It could have been

the horse-sized canine that caught his attention, it also could have been the fact that with all the commotion, I hadn't so much as run my fingers through my hair, which, I'm sure, resembled some sort of mane-shaped mop. I shouted toward him,

"You have inspired me to do a little yard work of my own," to which is only reply was an exaggerated eye roll. I grabbed the hose, turned it on and began to water the lawn. Long, broad passes the length of the yard, each time I squeezed the nozzle a little tighter, each pass a little closer to the man who would not be quiet. I could tell he wasn't sure what my ultimate plan was because he kept cutting his eyes to me.

Will she spray me?

Would she really douse me with the hose?

Yes, I would. As his and the water's paths crossed, I lifted the hose ever so slightly, just enough to give him a little spritz. Oopsie.

He didn't flinch and I knew then that this would be a test of

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 19

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**SOLAR** cont. from P. 3

Through a net metering arrangement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company, electricity produced by the PV arrays in the summer when schools are out will be transmitted to the utility for use by its customers and credited toward the district's winter energy consumption.

With the PV system, the school district of approximately 2,000 students will not have to pay for electricity. Energy cost savings close to \$300,000 annually, plus \$973,531 in rebates for five years provided by PG&E will allow the district to pay for the solar panels without impacting its general fund. With a renewable source of power, it will also reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by over 1,000 tons of CO2 annually.

Total development and installation cost of the PV system is \$5.105 million, financed with the combination of the Energy Commission loan and School District bond issued through a certificate of participation by in-

vestors in the project.

Just from the yearly savings in energy costs and the PG&E rebate, Golden Valley Unified would be able to repay the ECAA program within or before the payback period of 10.2 years, based on the amount of the loan. However, to maximize savings, the District plans to pay off the loan over the 15 year term.

The project is currently in the design phase, with construction scheduled to begin by April 1 and project completion by the end of June. Given this schedule, there will be a lot of activity at each of the District's schools sites. Parking and drop off zones will be affected. More information will be coming based on plan being prepared by Cupertino and District Staff.

Students will also have access to educational displays with "real time" information about the production of solar electricity from the District's solar panels. Students will also be able to gather historical information from a website that displays this information, for use in school research projects.

**ALTAR** cont. from P. 2

started asking her customers to vote.

Ryan, an internet marketer, met Aubray on Facebook through a mutual friend. They share common interests in their love of animals, wine and the outdoors. They shared with the television audience that they had brought two charms with them: an angel that said "faith" on the back to remind them to keep the faith and hope in everything they do; the other charm says "breathe" to remind them to stop, take a breath and be grateful for everything they have.

Aubray grew up in the Madera Ranchos, the youngest daughter of Wayne and Michelle Trittler. She attended Webster Elementary and Liberty High School where she was part of the first graduating class in 2005. Her father Wayne was lead custodian at Liberty High School until his passing 17 months ago at the age of 55 from complications of a stroke. Wayne was well liked by students and staff and his passing was a great loss to the community.

After her father's death Aubray made a pact with her uncle, Mike Guthrie. He

had lost his daughter who had been Aubray's age exactly one year before Aubray lost her father. Since Uncle Mike wouldn't have the honor of walking his own daughter down the aisle, the two of them agreed that it would be perfect for Uncle Mike to walk Aubray down the aisle.



*The winners, and bride and groom to be, are Aubray Trittler and Ryan Joneson.*

Aubray wants to say thank you to the Ranchos for helping them win this contest, with a particularly special "thank you" to everyone at Liberty High who helped their fellow Liberty Hawk.

The next phase of the race has been thrown into high gear. Wedding plans are well on their way. The wedding will take place on May 18 at Wonder Valley Resort and it will be televised live on Channel 47. Karl Roth of Flipside Church in the Ranchos will officiate.

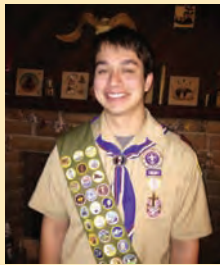
Michelle Trittler says her husband Wayne, "Would have been so happy to see that his daughter had the wedding of her dreams." Since this all came together so perfectly after having been engaged for less than two weeks, some are suggesting that father may have had a hand in seeing his little girl is happy.



**Ranchos Boy Scout Update**

By Rosemarie Coulthard

Troop 118 has been keeping busy with camping trips and service in the community and we began the fall season with helping one of our own Scouts with his Eagle Project. Daniel Hernandez took on the task of designing, planning and finally installing a Par Course at Liberty High for all of the community to use. He completed this task with the help of friends, adults and Scouts from the Troop. Daniel completed his Eagle Board of Review and is the Troop's newest Eagle Scout.



*The newest Eagle Scout in the Ranchos, Daniel Hernandez.*

We began 2012 with a Troop hike to Dewey Point in Yosemite. Due to icy trails which made the going slow, we realized we would be running out of daylight and did not want to travel in the dark on icy trails. We did get some great views and pictures.



*Dewey Point in Yosemite. Icy, yes ... but spectacular and a sight to be remembered.*

February found us helping Kiwanis with their annual e-waste event as we have been doing since it was started by one of our Scouts as his Eagle Project. Next we took part in the 87th Annual BSA Thunderbird Civics Day in Madera. Three of our Scouts attended and learned what it takes to run a city. Some of the Scouts attended a Mock Council Meeting and



*Nothing like camping in the snow to let you know that you know what you're doing.*

took part in questioning people that were presenting projects. Some of the Scouts went with the Department of Corrections and learned the ins and outs of that department and even got to go into the armory.

The other big event for Scouts that choose to go was the Annual Camp Chawanakee Klondike Derby and Campout. Four of our Scouts attended along with two of our adult Scouters. They built their own dog sled which the camping gear and supplies were pulled in on while they carried their personal supplies in their backpacks for two nights of camping in the snow, with sled races, snow canons, first aid, tug of war and more. All of the Scouts that attended said they would do it again.

In March the Troop camped and hiked at Pinnacles National Monument and in April we will be helping the Ranchos/Hills Seniors with their Annual Spring Home and Garden festival. While the Scouts help load plants the adults from the Troop will be manning our Rummage Sale booth. The money raised will help fund our trip this summer to the Redwoods in Humboldt County. We will be spending five days in the area.

**Polar Bears in Madera Ranchos**



*The Golden Valley Unified School District Special Education staff participated in the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Millerton Lake on March 12, 2012. All proceeds benefit the Special Olympics. Taking the plunge are Sandy Monk, Jan Weldon, Curtis Monk, Kristi Fisher, James Brannon and Wendy McCully.*



**Artistic Ability Runs in the Family**

*Artist Lisa Woodard (right) is hugged by her musician son, Allen Woodard on March 16 during the "Meet the Artist" series held monthly at The Coffee Spot. Allen sings for soft rock band "51 Aces" playing originals and old favorites. Their schedule is posted at 51 Aces on Facebook. Both are Madera Ranchos residents.*

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**Letters**

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the article "To Burn or Not to Burn." My blood is now boiling. I could not believe that this was written by someone that lives in our air polluted valley - and published. I think it is great that you informed people to not burn trash. However, I was outraged by the way this article leads people to believe that polluting the air that everyone breathes is their right. The article suggests that the Air Pollution Control District is trying to prohibit burning for no apparent reason. However, the reasons are very clear! Our air is not safe to breathe. The schools acknowledge this and every news station reports the air quality every day so people can protect their families. Our children aren't allowed to go out on the playground, and older kids have to have P.E. indoors. Even sporting practices get cancelled. The APCD is trying to improve our air quality and protect people from irresponsible people that insist on burning. My question to you is why on earth would you tell people to "burn away." Yes there is a loophole in the law, but that does not make it right to go ahead and burn. You

should be writing articles that inform people that burning contributes heavily to our poor air quality. This article is completely irresponsible. They may have a right to burn, but my children and I have a right to breathe.

Catherine Smith  
 Madera Ranchos

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

Send your letters to:

email:  
**ranchosnews@yahoo.com**  
 mail:  
**The Ranchos Independent**  
**37167 Ave. 12 #5C**  
**Madera, CA 93636**  
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**Easter Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Sunday, April 8 @ 10:00 AM**  
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**Full program for kids ~ birth-6th grade**  
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For more information on these events and other church activities visit our website at [www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) or email [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)

**FULLY FOLLOW**

3/12



## 9th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed



The star of the show! Crab, crab and more crab! No one went away hungry this night.



The Dante Club in Fresno received rave reviews and handled all the diners that night.



Audra Damore was one of the many volunteers who kept the food flying.



There was a great assortment of silent auction items as well as live auction items.



Talk about something for everyone! The live auction included some impressive weapons.



Dr. Lisa Haney convinces Supervisor Frank Bigelow to buy some raffle tickets.



Igal Treibatch checks out the vintage V-Twin being raffled off by the Chamber this year.



Randy Bailey, left, congratulates Vince Guthrie as Chamber Volunteer of the Year.

## New Transitional Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Readiness Act, a historic reform to kindergarten education, gives California an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that 120,000 more children every year are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. The new law creates transitional kindergarten (TK), the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience for those students who are born between September and December. It also changes the kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1, so children enter kindergarten at age 5.

Transitional Kindergarten is a program blending preschool foundations and kindergarten standards with high expectations creating a bridge to success in kindergarten and beyond by giving the gift of time.

Golden Valley will begin the Transitional Kindergarten Program in the fall of 2012. Children who are 4-year olds born between September 2 – December 2 will be eligible for TK program. Golden Valley Unified School District will be holding informational parent meetings regarding Transitional Kindergarten between April and June.

## Photos Next Art Show in Ranchos

### Next Coffee Spot Art Show Switches from Paintings to Photography

By Ramona Frances

Next in line to showcase talent at the Coffee Spot is photographer Nina McDonald. She is one of a half dozen or so Madera Ranchos residents who will be displaying art this year at the business owned by Daniel and Audra Damore at 37164 Ave. 12. Her work will be hung in early April with a "Meet the Artist" event April 17 from 4-7 p.m. The current show, colorful paint on metal by Lisa Woodward is concluding.

Recognized for versatility, Nina's work today highlights agriculture in its many seasons of beauty and change, although her upcoming show will emphasize springtime. Nina recently had two large seasonal works depicting grapes and almonds installed in the office of Kuckenbecker Tractor in Madera this month and, earlier this year, a photograph of pomegranates was selected and shown in the Reveiller Exhibition, a well-attended show that coincides with the Madera Wine Trail. She is also a member of Madera's local camera club. Her work has also been featured in nationwide crop insurance publications.

Influenced by her father and grandfather, a camera has always been a part of Nina McDonald's life, but the subjects she has chosen to focus on have changed.

"At first it was only about friends, family and fun," she said. Her interest turned to agriculture when she met her husband, Brad Mc-

Donald and moved to the Madera Ranchos where he had grown up. Since Brad sold crop insurance to farmers, it was natural for Nina to become increasingly familiar with what growers do and how they do it and also to gain knowledge of her husband's business. "This was my way of learning about stuff Brad already knew," she said. "I am enjoying learning about the immense varieties and stages of the Valley crops from planting to consumer consumption."

Nina said a good photograph can visually transport you to the place where it was taken. Along with this, she has committed to keeping her camera pointed within Madera. "I decided I will not travel to photograph. I believe I can find everything I need right here," she said. "I try to photograph only in Madera or at least Madera County." Nina believes there is a plethora of photographic opportunities when you watch for them.

As Nina has photographed seasons of beauty and change, her own life reflects dramatic contrasts. Two examples are having been raised on a sailboat in the South Pacific to overcoming Hodgkin's disease and later recognizing an internal force that prompted her to take a closer look at life through a lens and bring the beauty of life close and personal. She said she finds photography both therapeutic and challenging. Her work can also be viewed at [www.PhotographyByNina.photoshop.com](http://www.PhotographyByNina.photoshop.com).

"Every crop has its own little window where it peaks," she said as she keeps on the lookout for plums, peaches, nectarines, apples, grapes and revels in nature as it unfolds.

For more information about this showing call The Coffee Spot at 645-1225.

Click on "Local News" at

## Ranchos Mayor Tosses Softballs

Tom Hurst, Honorary Mayor of the Madera Ranchos, threw out the first pitch at the LRSL (Liberty Ranchos Softball League) Opening Day Activities on Saturday, March 10. The day started with announcements of Board Members and then all teams which included around 100 Ranchos girls. Every team had its first game that day



Honorary Mayor Tom Hurst, center, lets a fast ball rip as he throws out the ceremonial first pitch on opening day for the Liberty Ranchos Softball League on March 10.

with the 10 and under teams tying and Team Santoro winning against Team Morris. Great softball played by all

eight teams. The snack bar sold out twice and thank you to the Pizza Factory for sending out 10 pizzas at the last minute. Thank you to all the families and friends who stayed all day and made our Opening Day a huge success. We look forward to a great season of softball. More information coming about the Softball/Baseball

Dinner dance, Cinco de Mayo lunch and Closing Day Ceremonies on Saturday, May 12.



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*Building a better Madera, together!*

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## LHS Students get Grim Reminder Every 15 Minutes

Liberty High School juniors and seniors saw first-hand the effects of the effects of drinking and driving with Every 15 Minutes on March 8-9.

Every 15 Minutes is an educational experience that reminds students, teachers and parents of the dangers associated with driving while impaired.

The juniors and seniors, who were let out of school to observe the event, came across a two-vehicle accident that left two saw four students involved, including Tyler Cookson, who was the drunk driver.

In the mock crash scene, Amy Chavira was a sober driver involved in the collision. Her vehicle lay on its side with Chavira pinned in. She would later die on the way to the hospital. Connor Kirk lay on the asphalt dead on the scene. Jordan Moineau was pinned in the passenger seat and would be paralyzed. Meanwhile Cookson walked around the scene perplexed by what he was watching.

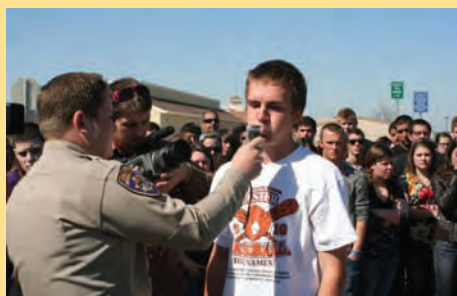
Members from CalFire, the Madera County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, Pistoresi Ambulance and Smith Manor participated in the event. The event was staged so real that three students watching the scene unfold needed medical attention.

"This is crazy," junior A.J. Leon said. "It shows anything can happen. The possibility is there."

"This is hitting home for the kids,"

mother Michelle Aviles said. "They were joking and laughing coming onto the scene and now they are quiet."

"Just from the looks on the faces, it's hitting hard," principal Kuljeet Mann said. "It's really important for the kids to get this message. This is our effort in educating the



Tyler Cookson breathes into a breathalyzer during an Every 15 Minutes event held at Liberty High School.

students and parents. Saying is one thing, but actually seeing is another."

After Moineau and Chavira were taken away by ambulance, Cookson took sobriety tests administered by the CHP. After he was taken away in the back of a patrol car, Smith Manor came in to take away Kirk.

Cookson was given the full treatment by the Madera County Department of Corrections.

"We booked him into jail and went through the whole process," Corrections

any sport. They won their previous two titles in Division V. The Hawks last won a title in 2009.

"The defense came through for us," head coach Ed Benavente said.

The victory capped the career of four-year starters Jordan Moineau, Kyle Hoelzel, Taryn Smith and Leiasa Horanic.

"I started with these four and we wanted to finish it," Benavente said. "We deserved it. This was a great ending."

"This is even better for my senior year," Moineau said. "It's about time we got the top seed. We earned it. We worked so hard all year for this."

Despite chances in the second half, the Hawks couldn't get on the scoreboard.

officer Chris Rodriguez said. "We made it as real as possible. He was shocked."

"The worst part was hearing that jail door slam," Cookson said. "You've never heard a door slam until you hear that. It was eye-opening."

The next day, students filed into the Liberty High School auditorium to observe a mock memorial for Kirk and Chavira.

"This is one of the things we dread the most," CalFire captain Tom Shevenell said. "To work in the community, it's the most difficult thing for us to come across, seeing a kid on the scene."

After pastor Paul Krob Jr. spoke to the students in attendance, a video was shown. The video also showed parents' reactions to Chavira, Moineau and Kirk. After the video, Moineau, her mother Shannon, Kirk's mother Kimberly, Chavira's parents and Cookson spoke to the audience. Although the event was staged, everyone was in tears and those were real.

"We want you, the students, to be safe," activities director Sarah Burress said. "We want you to make good choices."

"This was for the kids, for them to see what we go through," Kirk said. "We want them to make good choices."

"I think this had an affect on my classmates," Connor Kirk said. "It felt real to me. You can definitely see the impact. They are going to rethink their decisions."

However, the Cavaliers mounted an attack on Saether and the rest of the defense, but Saether made key saves down the stretch for the win.

"I kept hoping for the referee to blow that whistle," Saether said. "I just wanted to hear the whistle. We have a strong defense. We are focused and work hard. See what happens when the defense works hard."

In the 10th minute, Moineau sent a shot on goal, but it was blocked out to the right. Olsen came in, settled the ball and shot from 18-yards out. The ball went just over the head of the goalkeeper and into the back of the net for the goal.

"I was trying my hardest not to kick it

## We Want to Hear from You!

Throughout the month of May, Golden Valley Unified School District will be conducting surveys for students, parents and staff. The surveys will be anonymous and available through the district website at [www.gvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvusd.k12.ca.us).

Thank you in advance for participating in the survey process.

### *Queremos escuchar de usted!*

*A lo largo de mayo, Golden Valley Unified School District va a realizar encuestas para estudiantes, padres y personal. Las encuestas serán anónimas y disponibles a través del website del distrito de [www.gvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvusd.k12.ca.us).*

*Gracias de antemano por participar en el proceso de estudio.*

## GVUSD Calendar

### *District wide*

April 2-9 - Spring Break

April 17 - GVUSD board meeting

### *Sierra View Elementary*

April 19 - Parent club meeting

### *Webster Elementary*

April 17 - Parent club meeting

### *Ranchos Middle School*

April 13 - Civil War Ball

### *Liberty High School*

April 12-14 - Spring drama performance

## Hawks Capture Third Valley Title

With a 1-0 victory over the No. 2 seed Central Valley Christian on Feb. 24, the top seeded Liberty Hawk girls soccer team captured the school's third Valley Championship and first in Division IV.

Juliet Olsen scored the eventual game-winning goal 10 minutes into the game and freshman goalkeeper Allison Saether held off the Cavaliers in the second half to hold onto the lead.

The Hawks captured the school's first-ever Division IV Valley Championship in

over the goal," Olsen said. "I always do that. I felt like we needed the goal for Valley. It feels amazing to win it, especially in our first year in Division IV."

A week later, the team won the school's first-ever state playoff game when the No. 3 seeded Hawks defeated No. 6 Viewpoint-Calabasas of the Southern Section at Liberty on March 5 in the Division III Southern California Regional quarterfinals.

Moineau delivered the game-winner in the second half and Saether recorded her second-straight shutout in goal.

After setting the school record for wins in a season, the Hawks lost to Marymount-Los Angeles, 3-0, on March 7 to end the season.

*Click on "Local News" at*



## Willhoite - Babcock

Shannon Willhoite and Earl Babcock IV are engaged to be married. They have not set an official date but have hopes for 2014-15.

The groom is the son of Earl Babcock III and Shelli Sebring. He is working toward transferring to California State University, Fresno in the fall of 2012 to earn a degree in business



administration with an option in information systems.

The bride is the daughter of Jerry Willhoite and Chandra Drake-Cunning. She will graduate from CSUF, majoring in English.

The two met while students at Liberty High School and began dating in March of 2009 as freshmen in college.

## Golden Valley School Libraries Hurting

While more children are enrolling in Golden Valley Schools, funding for library resources is disappearing. According to the California Department of Education, a school library should have 28 library books/materials per student. Schools like Liberty High School, however, only have approximately 11 books per student, far below the standard.

Both teachers and students are feeling the effects of a lack of adequate library resources. Gerardo Enriquez, a junior at Liberty High School and a member of the Bibliophiles, the Liberty High School book club, calls the library "sad" and "empty," and says that "It would be nice to have more variety in books than we already do."

Melanie Lewis, the Liberty High School Librarian, also demonstrates concern, stating that none of the GVUSD libraries has been able to purchase new materials due to the lack of funding the State of California has provided the District over the past three years. All school libraries have been dependent upon fundraisers and donations to purchase new materials. Ms. Lewis believes that dedicated funding for school libraries would give students more of a chance to succeed in school, and that additional funding is needed to aid schools in the district with the impending transition from print to digital resources such as ebooks and online research databases.

As library resources continue to dwindle, both students and staff members are working together to make a difference. All GVUSD Libraries are holding an online Titlewish fundraiser beginning on April 9 and ending on April 22, which coincides with National Library Week and School Library Month. According to the March 12 issue of School Library Journal, the average cost of a hardcover children's title is \$19.40 and a hardcover young adult title is \$27.04. The goal for this fundraising program is to raise enough money to purchase at least one

book per student at each of the schools in the Golden Valley Unified School District, which amounts to \$43,000.

Why is this important? A substantial body of research since 1990 shows a positive relationship between school libraries and student achievement. The research studies show that school libraries can have a positive impact on student achievement—whether such achievement is measured in terms of reading scores, literacy, or learning more generally. A school library program that is adequately staffed, resourced, and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socioeconomic or educational levels of the community.



*The bookshelves at Liberty High School are sadly understocked and years of budget cuts from the State of California has made the situation worse.*



*For students to operate at their best, a fully stocked library is essential, yet Liberty High has less than half the number of books per student than a competitive school would have.*

Parents and interested community members are encouraged to help the libraries in the Golden Valley Unified School District provide its students with the best education possible by visiting one of the following websites during April 9 – 22 and clicking the

Donate button. 100 percent of donations made will go directly to the purchase of new materials for these libraries.

- Liberty High School Library: [www.titlewish.com/102115](http://www.titlewish.com/102115)  
Current stats: 11 books/student  
Goal: \$14,000
- Ranchos Middle School Library: [www.titlewish.com/102191](http://www.titlewish.com/102191)  
Current stats: 17 books/student  
Goal: \$8,000
- Sierra View Elementary School Library: [www.titlewish.com/102158](http://www.titlewish.com/102158)  
Current stats: 28 books/student  
Goal: \$7,500
- Webster Elementary School Library: [www.titlewish.com/102143](http://www.titlewish.com/102143)  
Current stats: 12 books/student  
Goal: \$13,500

*For more information, contact Melanie Lewis, Coordinator of Learning Resources, at 559-645-3500 ext. 2014. You can also reach her by email at [mlewis@gvusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mlewis@gvusd.k12.ca.us).*



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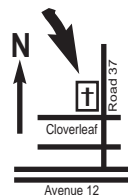
# "He has risen!"

# Happy Easter

## Golden Valley Baptist Church

Join us for Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on April 8. There will be no regular services on Easter Sunday. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately following.

12414 Road 37 · Madera Ranchos · 559-645-1700





**Kiwanis Korner**

# LHS Students Shine at Kiwanis

By Perry Watkins

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

So many good things happen at Kiwanis Club meetings. It becomes an ever greater and greater pleasure to attend meetings and share life experiences. We get to meet the most interesting members of the community and learn about their passions and the good work they are doing in the community. Occasionally we



*Virtual Enterprise members from Mr. Tim Hayes' class (from left) Megan Talbert, Kavan Carberry, Haylie Ardner, Patrick Meyers and Kiwanis Treasurer Perry Watkins.*

are able to help them in their endeavors. When the focus is children and especially when a relatively small financial grant can make a large impact on the lives of kids then you can bet that Kiwanis are all ears. We feel blessed that we

have been able to assist some local families in times of hardship and lend our hearts, and sometimes our backs to labors of love to help our neighbors. Sometimes it's a bit of group therapy for ourselves as we share every week our blessings and our pain. We begin every meeting with sincere prayers for one another and for all members of our community who might need a kind thought and prayer. If you have never attended a Kiwanis meeting then maybe you should check it out some time.

Kiwanis has picked a Mayor candidate. Mr. Brian Lee is our man in the top hat and we challenge every group, school, business and club to nominate a "Mayor of the Ranchos." C'mon schools, c'mon Childrens Hospital, c'mon local service clubs you - know who we're talking about. You've been officially challenged. We've publicly thrown down the gauntlet. Find a mayor and raise some charity vote dollars for your group. Around the 4th of July we will count votes and "elect" our "New Mayor of the Ranchos."

We were so very pleased to have member of the Virtual Enterprise class visit us and conduct one of our meetings. The kids did such a great job. Our hearts nearly burst with pride as we watch these future entrepreneurs and business people learn and share the crafts of business and networking. We were joined by Patrick Myers who acted as meeting President, Haylie Ardner, Kavan Carberry, and Megan Talbert. These young people were a joy to have among us as their enthusiasm and energy

are infectious. Mr. Tim Hayes does such a great job with the Virtual Enterprise classes at Liberty High School. We are always eager to meet the elite members of his classes.

We were blessed to have Connie R. Clendenan, CEO Valley Teen Ranch come out to talk with us again. We always look forward to her visits because she brings us such amazing energy, humor, wit, and charm. She brings stories of hope, success, unfolding dreams and monumental challenges. She is a wonder speaker and advocate for youth in our valley. They have so many success stories and could

always use a little help. If you have ever considered being a foster parent then hear your personal angel speaking softly in your ear "there is never a good time to do it ... but now is a great time to make a difference." Stedman Graham will be speaking at

a benefit for the Valley teen ranch. (Yes, Oprah's boyfriend). He is an amazing motivational speaker and speaking from the perspective of a Masters Level Educator he will have some interesting things to say about youth and education. Check out their website [www.valleyteenranch.org](http://www.valleyteenranch.org).

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

[www.ranchoskiwanis.com](http://www.ranchoskiwanis.com)

**Board Members:**

- President: John Glueck
- Past President: Mona Diaz
- Vice President: Marie Cameron
- Secretary: Pam Glueck
- Treasurer: Perry Watkins

**Board of Directors:**

- Debbie Farr
- Virginia Vick
- Ollia Ridge
- John Herrera
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V E N D O R S

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3/12



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**SAY YOU SAW IT ...**  
**... IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

## GOP Candidates' Q&A Forum

The Republican Party of Madera County is presenting a "Candidates' Night Forum" on Wednesday, April 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the VFW Hall at 2026 Granada in Madera.

Candidates invited include all of the Republicans running for U.S. Congressional District 16 and State Assembly District 5, as well as all candidates running for non-partisan offices, such as Madera County Superior Court Judge, Seat 1 and Madera County Supervisor, District 3.

The question format will be in the form of pre-written and selected questions from the audience and from editors of the Madera Tribune and Ranchos Independent.

Light refreshments will be served and you can get further information by calling Bobbie Atkisson, Secretary of the Republican Party of Madera County, at 559-683-0719, or by emailing her at [batkiss@sti.net](mailto:batkiss@sti.net). You can also find information at [www.maderagop.org](http://www.maderagop.org).

### GEN-WHY cont. from P. 10

will. When he made his way back around I unleashed the full power of the water right in his face. Drenched, he stopped and turned toward me. The sight of the monster at my side gave him a moment's pause, but his obvious aggravation won out and he took a step, and I tugged at the leash bringing the beast to full attention which made this guy stop in his tracks.

Did I mention I love this dog?

The man shouted at me, I only caught the words "wet and clumsy," but his mower was drowning him out. I pointed to my ear and shook my head, giving him the international sign for "Sorry ... can't hear you." Then I blasted him again. Darn hose, just keeps getting away from me. Finally, he stumbled back and killed the mower and I clipped the water.

Many angry words sprinkled with more than a few expletives were ex-

changed, but in the end I was able to drive the point home: common courtesy dictates that 6 in the morning was simply an inappropriate time to engage in loud yard work that was certain to wake up the entire neighborhood. I further suggested that if he would like me to be a little more considerate with my aim, then he, in turn, should show me the same consideration and stow the mower until a more reasonable hour, and if he needed a place to stow it, I had several suggestions. Owing to my exceptional argumentative skills (okay, maybe the dinosaur on a rope had a little to do with it). Mr. Drippy Pants retreated with his mower and I was free to go back to sleep.

The moral of this story? Alienating your neighbors by way of auditory torture before the crack of dawn can have negative results. And two, a little creativity can solve any conflict, especially if you bring a 100-pound sack of teeth and muscle with you as a visual aid.

*Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County*  
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY SEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 7	Home and Garden Festival	Ranchos/Hills Seniors
April 14	Ribbon Cutting at Now & Again	Chamber of Commerce
May TBA	Ranchos Farmer's Market (at Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
May 12	Flatlander's Day	Chamber of Commerce
May 18	Friday Night @ the Movies	SEMCU
- Aug 17	(at Maywood Center)	
May 31	LHS Graduation and Sober Grad	Sober Grad Committee
June 2	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
Aug 18	Fireman's BBQ Dinner	Station 19
Sep 8	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
Oct 6	October Feast	SEMCU
		Chamber of Commerce
Dec 7	Christmas Tree Lighting	Chamber of Commerce

To add items to the Community Calendar contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or SEMCU at 363-9095. Items must be submitted AT LEAST one month in advance and are subject to editing.





### In 'N Out

I walk into one of the craft stores (JoAnn's male counterpart) to purchase some poster board and, "Oh look, I didn't know those were on sale!" I'm drawn to the spring sale items, which adds time and dollars to my shopping trip. Finally with poster board in hand and a few other "great deals" I wind my way through the maze of dollar items that border the checkout line. "Oh look, those are cute note cards and only \$1.00!"

Do you think maybe they're intentional about what they position at the entrance and exit of their store? Yeah, me too. We may not increase our annual income, but I believe we too can benefit from being intentional about what we position at the entrance and exit of our homes.

That may be the door going into the garage or, if you didn't read my garage organizing article yet, it may be the front door leading to the driveway. In either case it's important to design an in and out space where you're intentionally and strategically creating homes for things.

If the space near the door is too small or inappropriate you may need to create this space in the laundry room, hall closet, kids' rooms or a combination of them all. Just remember that the urge to empty our arms and fling off our shoes is strong the moment we walk in, so try to keep it as close to the door as possible.

Get your family hooked on the idea of hanging up coats and backpacks by providing each member with his or her own hooks or pegs at a height he or she can reach. Shoes should have floor level (remember easy access is key) shelving, preferably with dividers so you can designate whose shoes go where.

Assign a cubby, cube, or basket to each family member. Place them on the shoe shelf or a shelf above the hooks to catch miscellaneous items that are coming in or need to go out the next day.

These hooks, shelves and cubbies then become the boundary for each person's belongings. If the space holds two pairs of shoes per person, then when the third pair arrives, one of them must be taken to the bedroom closet.

You may want to add a container for library books, dry cleaning or pet leashes. A message board and charging station can also be useful in this area. If losing keys is an issue, place a decorative key hook next to the door. Finally, a mirror for that last minute check.

Now that there's a place for everything, the trick is to get everything in its place. Have a family meeting to demonstrate where each item belongs and how the boundary idea works. Consider having a reward for individuals or the family when a successful week of use is achieved.

Benefits include not having to push backpacks off the kitchen table at dinner-time, not tripping over shoes strewn across the family room, and not rushing around the house looking for a coat or library book in the morning. Sounds like a more peaceful and productive environment, doesn't it?

For more great organizing tools and strategies contact me for information regarding my *Ranchos - Organize Your Paper, Space, and Life Class!* Deadline for registration is April 7.

## LEGAL NOTICE

"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2012."

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

3/12

**Ranchos/Hills Seniors Present**  
**Cycle for the Seniors**  
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**ANSWERS**

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**RECIPE** cont. from P. 8

Peel potatoes and coarsely grate by hand, transferring to a large bowl of cold water as grated. Soak potatoes 1 to 2 minutes after last batch is added to water, then drain well to a colander.

Spread grated potatoes and onion on a kitchen towel and roll up jelly-roll style. Twist towel tightly to wring out as much liquid as possible. Transfer potato mixture to a bowl and stir in egg and salt.

Heat ¼ cup oil in a 12-inch non-stick skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking. Spoon 2 tablespoons potato mixture per latke into skillet, spreading into 3-inch rounds with a fork. Reduce heat to moderate and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes. Turn latkes over and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes more. Transfer to paper

towel-lined pan to drain and season with salt if needed. Add more oil to skillet as needed. Keep latkes warm in warm oven.

Latkes can be topped with a variety of toppings, ranging from the savory such as sour cream or cottage cheese, to the sweet such as apple-sauce or powdered sugar – or just served plain.

Another thing my mom would cook, especially during the cold months was potato soup. She would serve it with buttered toast or crackers.

**Potato Soup**

- 2 to 3 slices bacon
- 3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped (optional)
- 2 medium carrots, diced (optional)
- ½ tsp. salt

- Dash of pepper
- 2 T flour
- 2 C milk \*

In small fry pan, cook bacon until crisp – set aside to drain.

In large pan of boiling water, cook potatoes, onion and celery and carrots (if using) until potatoes are done. Drain off water. In a small bowl mix flour with a small amount of milk until dissolved. Add to potato mixture along with remaining milk. Cook over medium heat until soup just comes to a boil. Be careful as milk is hard to cook; if cooked at too high flame it can scorch. Garnish soup with the bacon. If not using the bacon, add a dollop of butter.

*\*My mom used a lot of evaporated milk. She would dilute it half and half – it just made whatever she was cooking richer. We still use it in mashed potatoes and cream sauces and gravies.*

A quick way to have a “baked”

potato is to wash the potato and cut into bite size pieces. Put into a microwaveable bowl add some chopped green onion, a dab of butter and salt and pepper. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Microwave for a couple of minutes until potatoes are done. Enjoy!

Don't want to buy a bag of potatoes for fear of them spoiling before you can use them? Buy frozen! You can buy them ready for French fries, steak fries, cubed, hash browns, mashed, or just about any way you would want to cook them. If you buy a bag and are afraid you won't use the whole bag use what you need and wrap the remainder up in the bag and wrap with a rubber band until you need to use some more.

I'm always looking for new ideas and would love to hear from you. Let me know what you would like to hear about and we'll put a story together about it.

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## Painting Services

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**Painting Services** - **Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting.** 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. Call **674-2320.**

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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## top ten

### Most Common IRISH Surnames

1. Murphy
2. Kelly
3. O'Sullivan
4. Walsh
5. O'Brien
6. Byrne
7. Ryan
8. O'Connor
9. O'Neill
10. O'Reilly

Source: IrishCentral.com

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## 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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# Real Estate

## Who's got 1980's prices?



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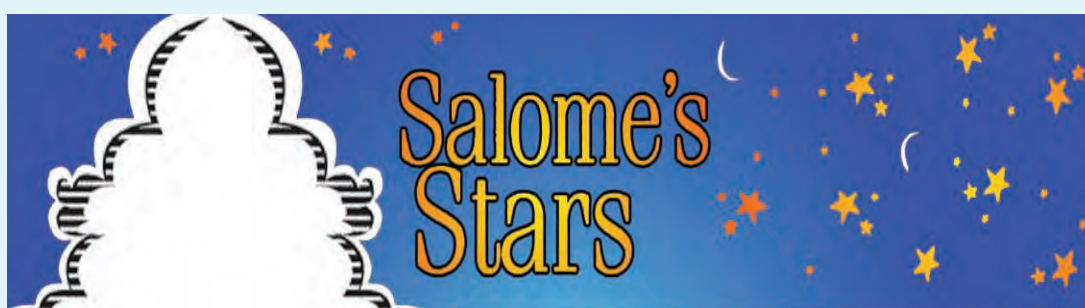
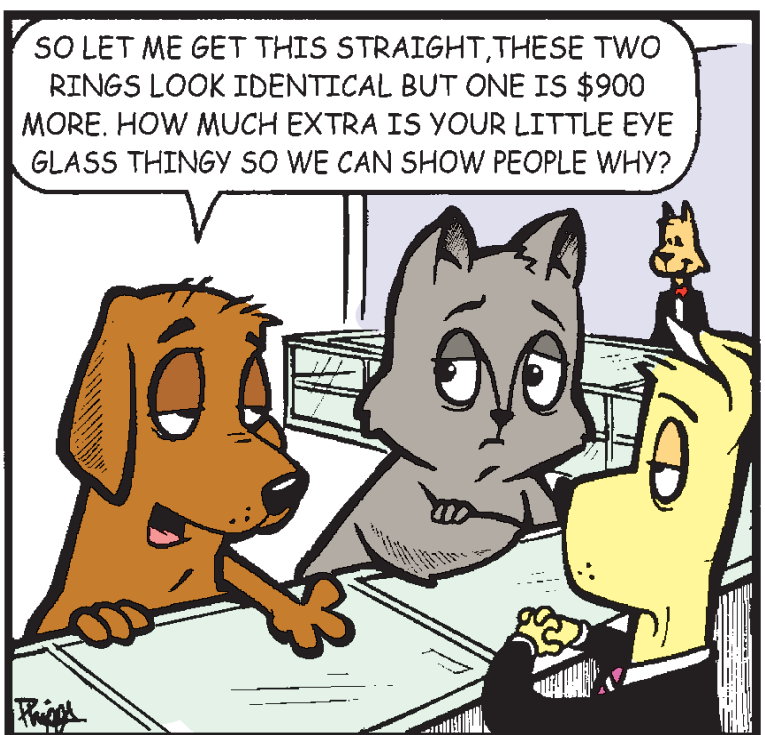
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** This is a good time to reassess important relationships, both personal and professional, to see where problems might exist and how they can be overcome. Keep communication lines open.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** It's not easy to bring order to a chaotic situation, whether it's in the workplace or at home. But if anyone can do it, you can. A pleasant surprise awaits you by week's end.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Be careful that you don't make an upcoming decision solely on the word of those who might have their own reasons for wanting you to act as they suggest. Check things out for yourself.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** A personal relationship that seems to be going nowhere could be restarted once you know why it stalled. An honest discussion could result in some surprising revelations.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** That unexpected attack of self-doubt could be a way of warning yourself to go slow before making a career-changing decision. Take more time to do a closer study of the facts.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** A workplace problem needs your attention, now, before it deteriorates to a point beyond repair. A trusted third party could be helpful in closing the gaps that have opened.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** A recent family situation could give rise to a new problem. Keep an open mind and avoid making judgments about anyone's motives until all the facts are in.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Rely on your always-sharp intuition to alert you to potential problems with someone's attempt to explain away the circumstances behind a puzzling incident.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Although you still need to do some snipping off of those lingering loose ends from a past project, you can begin moving on to something else.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** With your self-confidence levels rising, you should feel quite comfortable with agreeing to take on a possibly troublesome, but potentially well-rewarded, situation.

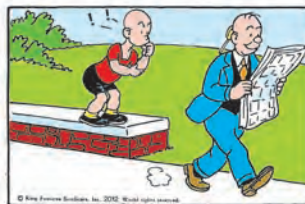
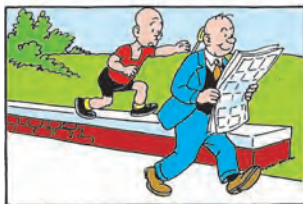
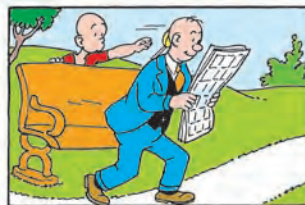
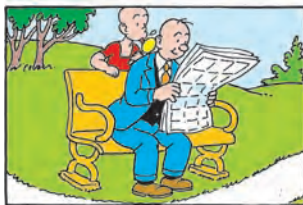
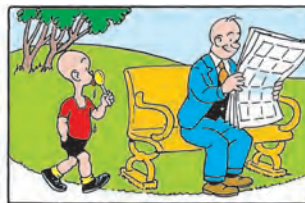
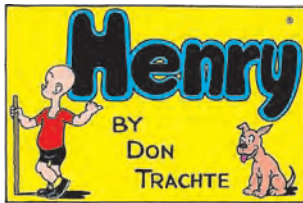
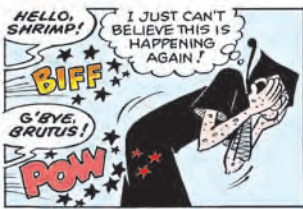
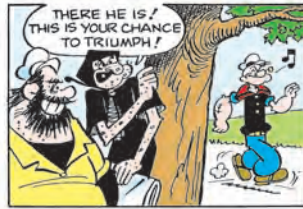
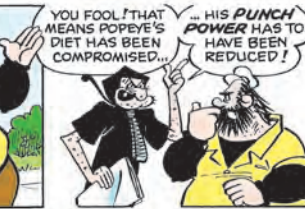
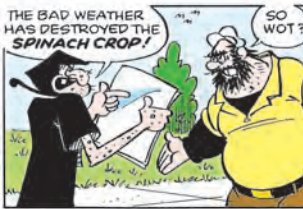
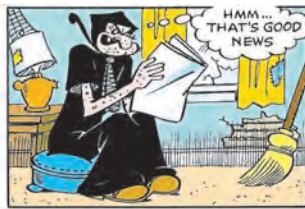
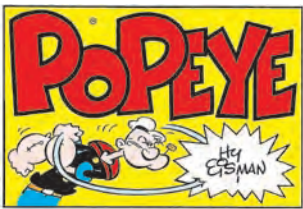
**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Travel is favored, both for business and for fun. The end of the week brings news about an upcoming project that could lead toward that promised career change.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** You might feel suddenly overwhelmed by a flood of responsibilities. But if you deal with each one in its turn, you'll soon be able to hold your head above water and move on.

**Born this week**  
 You have a wonderful way of offering comfort as well as guidance. You would do well in the healing arts.



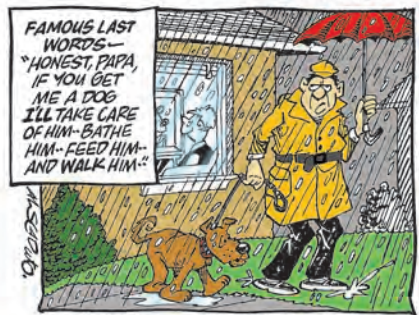
# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**SIDE LINER!** Study the configuration at right carefully, and you will discover that only the outer equilateral triangle has exactly six circles per side, and only the center equilateral triangle has exactly four circles per side. Now, add three straight lines, A-F, B-E, C-D, draw circles at intersections, and you will devise an additional equilateral triangle having exactly two circles per side.

**WORD SEARCH**

L	U	O	H	O	J	N
T	D	R				
T	A	L				
T	U	T	H			
E	S	T				

**BODY LANGUAGE!** "I have something in my eye," said the needle. "My ribs are broken," said the umbrella. "Take my hand," said the clock. "My teeth are shot," said the gear. Can you think of any to add?

**LINE OF MARCH BLOWOUT**

TAKE note of letters being expelled from the instrument above. They are to be used in blanks of the diagram to form words in accord with the following definitions (top down, respectively):

- An elbow, for one.
- Rose bush hazard.
- Medicine container.
- Spring garden bloom.
- One of the poles.
- A literary work.
- Alakazam, read in the order in which they are to appear, these letters will spell the name of an American composer who is familiar to every marching band. Who's that?

Words, top down, left to right: 1-15

**WHAT'S UP!** Something is caught up in strong March winds above. What can it be? Draw lines dot to dot to find out.



**DOUBLE DIP!** Task No. 1: Find twins. Task No. 2: Add the following colors by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Purple.

**SPELLBINDER**

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

VISCERAL

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

## Wishing Well

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

EUQNJFCPYVROLHE

BXUROLIMEBYVSQN

KHEBYWTAAROLJGEB

YWURPNKRIGDBZXV

SQOMKIYKEGESCB

YWUSSQPENTLTIJH

FECASYLRKXSRVGV

SQPELASKCNDANMN

KJNHFFREICODMBZ

YIAOXOVGTUODTRR

LQMPWOMLSKGIHGA

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

Arm	Goods	Marker	Sale
Bird	Grass	Master	Stick
Darts	Lines	Of ale	Work
Donkey	Man	Ramp	

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What term refers to a type of patterned sock or sweater and a region within a country?
- LOGOS: What is the official logo of the Atlanta Braves baseball team?
- HOLIDAYS: When was Father's Day first celebrated officially?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the color of sulfur at room temperature?
- ANATOMY: What human organs are responsible for cleaning waste from blood?
- HISTORY: In what year did U.S. law require cars to include turn signals?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which vegetables are used primarily in succotash?
- BIBLE: What is the longest book in the Old Testament?
- U.S. GOVERNMENT: Which Constitutional Amendment deals with self-incrimination?
- MOVIES: What new category was added to the Academy Awards in 2001?

- Answers**
- Argyle (sock and sweater) and the Argyll region in western Scotland
  - A tomahawk
  - 1910
  - Yellow
  - Kidneys
  6. 1954
  - Corn and lima beans
  8. Psalms, with 150 chapters
  9. The Fifth
  10. Best Animated Feature
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Click on "Local News" at



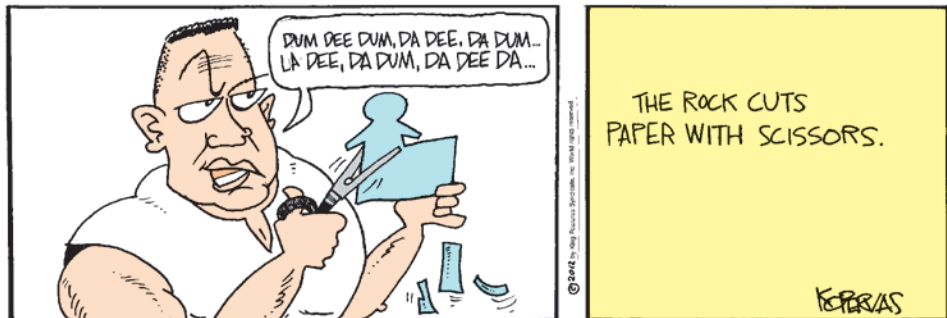
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

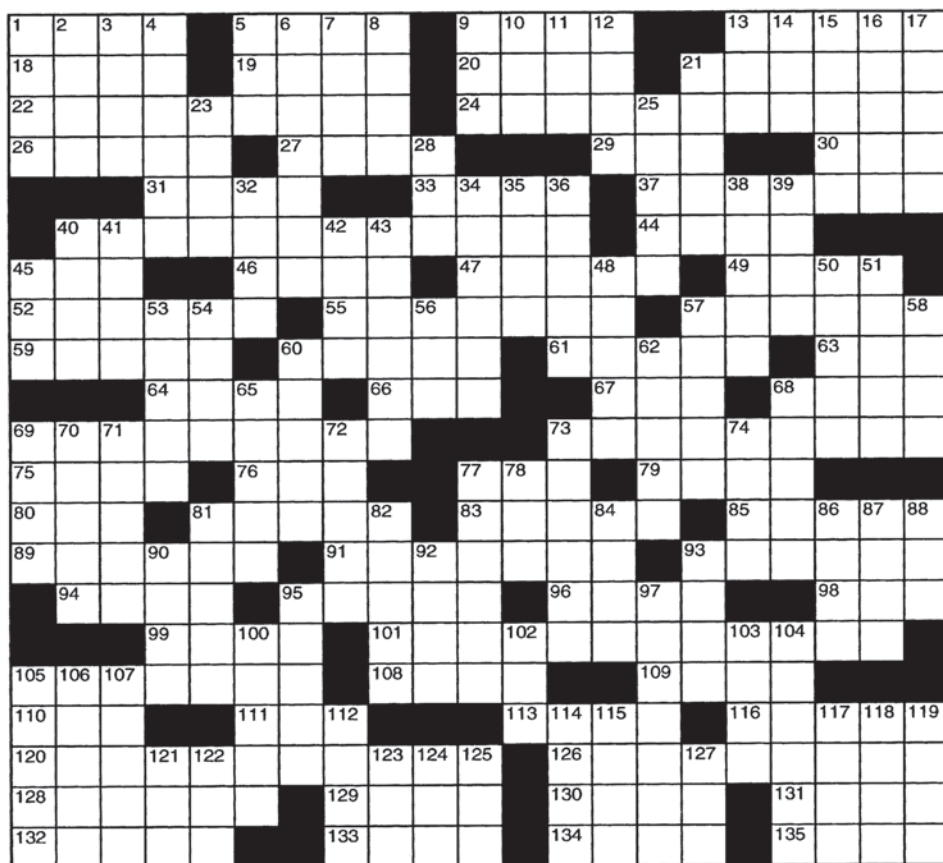


# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



# Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Summer stinger
  - 5 Sailor's quaff
  - 9 In the sack
  - 13 Master, in Madras
  - 18 "Dies —"
  - 19 Melodious McEntire
  - 20 — Valley, CA
  - 21 Walked confidently
  - 22 Tenured?
  - 24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
  - 26 Roman official
  - 27 Umps
  - 29 Bus, bigwig
  - 30 Plant part
  - 31 Writer Blyton
  - 33 Tabula —
  - 37 At full tilt
  - 40 Violin bows?
  - 44 Evils
  - 45 Terry-cloth inscription
  - 46 Cookbook author Rombauer
  - 47 Deed
  - 49 Wraps up
  - 52 Incompetent
  - 55 Neighbor of Latvia
  - 57 TV's "The — Game"
  - 59 Melo-dramatic
  - 60 Progress
  - 61 Chaka Khan's group
  - 63 Pigeon English?
  - 64 To boot
  - 66 Spud
  - 67 Bulldog, for one
  - 68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
  - 69 Capone impersonator?
  - 73 Hire a private eye?
  - 75 Landed
  - 76 Palm
  - 77 Humbug lead-in
  - 79 Act like an antelope
  - 80 Oxford figure
  - 81 Vote in
  - 83 "Watership Down" author
  - 85 Defy a dictator
  - 89 Salad veggie
  - 91 Geronimo's birthplace
  - 93 Draw
  - 94 Donated
  - 95 Swedish currency
  - 96 Mardi —
  - 98 It may be white
  - 99 Signor Ferrari
  - 101 Stock-brokers?
  - 105 Petite pet
  - 108 Blood components
  - 109 Kid at court
  - 110 Former govt. agcy.
  - 111 Carpenter
  - 113 Wine valley
  - 116 Exit
  - 120 FDA-approved snack?
  - 126 "Equus," for instance?
  - 128 Inventor Otis
  - 129 Dinky digs
  - 130 Pat on the buns?
  - 131 Kuwaiti ruler
  - 132 Blackboard
  - 133 Type of chalcedony
  - 134 Holler
  - 135 Odense denizen
  - 6 Keep the shelves stocked
  - 7 Crumhorn cousin
  - 8 Sail support
  - 9 Furniture wood
  - 10 Jacket info
  - 11 Big bird
  - 12 — brakes
  - 13 Canonized Mlle.
  - 14 "— you for real?"
  - 15 Was an optimist
  - 16 Unimprovable
  - 17 Juicy fruit
  - 21 Toast word
  - 23 Await judgment
  - 25 Macabre
  - 28 — Lanka
  - 32 Tennis pro Nastase
  - 34 Moss Hart's autobiography
  - 35 "— Game" ('71 film)
  - 36 Up and about
  - 38 Requests
  - 39 Ain't right?
  - 40 Spanish sherry
  - 41 Author Dinesen
  - 42 "Peter Pan" pirate
  - 43 Tried a mouthful
  - 45 "What?"
  - 48 Crack up
  - 50 Proclamations
  - 51 A nose that shows
  - 53 Coat-of-arms figure
  - 54 Lovett or Waggoner
  - 56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
  - 57 Ignoramus
  - 58 Used up
  - 60 Gaggle gal
  - 62 Wood and gas
  - 65 Sedimentary stuff
  - 68 Force
  - 69 Lose luster
  - 70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
  - 71 Dano or Darnell
  - 72 Messy Madison
  - 73 Nickels and dimes
  - 74 Designer Lagerfeld
  - 77 Church sale
  - 78 Bustle
  - 81 Happening
  - 82 Latin class no-nos
  - 84 Scratches the surface
  - 86 Zodiac animal
  - 87 Buffalo waterfront
  - 88 Actor Horsley
  - 90 Currier's partner
  - 92 Memo start
  - 93 On a whale watch, perhaps
  - 95 Asian nation
  - 97 Clothes
  - 100 African equine
  - 102 Quayle or Blocker
  - 103 Eye appreciatively
  - 104 Acted like a chick
  - 105 Garden supplies
  - 106 In the slightest degree
  - 107 "GoodFellas" group
  - 112 Return address?
  - 114 "Hi, sailor!"
  - 115 Battery part
  - 117 — mater
  - 118 Self-smitten
  - 119 Thornfield governess
  - 121 Cornerstone abbr.
  - 122 "Evita" character
  - 123 "— -Tiki"
  - 124 TV Tarzan
  - 125 King's handle?
  - 127 Costa del —

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# FUN PAGES



# **SEM CU**

**south east madera county united**



*The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is having a drawing for a vintage Suzuki 800 Intruder V-Twin, donated by SEMCU. Drawing tickets are only \$5 apiece and are available at the Chamber office. The drawing will be held during OctoberFeast this October. Watch for more information. Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for tickets and information. Good luck!*

## **SEM CU REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory**

*Everyone is welcome!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**