

The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 9 Issue 3 2013

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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THE FUTURE OF THE RANCHOS
RESTS ON THESE SHOULDERS

LAFCCO

In This Issue

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LAFCO: The Future of the Madera Ranchos is Being Decided Right Now

By Tom Zonsius

On March 13, 12 selected residents gathered at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center with several Madera County officials to study how the municipal services are administered and delivered to Madera Ranchos. This first meeting of the Madera Rancho's Local Agency Formation Commission, (LAFCo), was largely an orientation and a process formation meeting. There was a chance to ask questions with regard to how? Why here? Why now?

The local commission members learned the Ranchos LAFCo study is going to be the first time the County is attempting a "self-help process," based on previous lessons learned. The hope is that it will be more responsive to the Rancho's needs and wants, it will be more effective than a previous attempt, and it will save the County money. Since this is considered a self-help type study, the greater the participation by all residents, the more likely it will be the Ranchos will get the government and services it wants.

LAFCo is actually the county arm of the California Local Agencies Formation Commission, (CALAFCo). It was dreamed up and created in the 1960s to help slow the sprawl and conflicts of governing districts in California. In 1972, LAFCos were designed to decentralize the process and be more responsive to local issues. They are county based commissions working largely with, not for, county planning and engineering offices. Their authority is to assist in the creation or combining of districts, provide support to districts' administration,

regulate boundaries, and aid in resolving boundary issues. LAFCos cannot change land use issues, raise taxes, or make changes to laws or county policies.

In 2000, LAFCos were mandated to do a Municipal Service Review, which is a comprehensive study designed to better inform the commission, local agencies, and the community about provisioning of municipal services. This action is required by, and in conformance with, both the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and CALAFCo MSR Guidelines. Every five years requires the Review to be restudied to insure it is still an accurate and viable document for given area.

The City of Madera, Rio Mesa and Oakhurst areas have already had their Municipal Service Review completed. Yosemite Lakes Properties Community made some efforts to restore a Community Service District, with some valuable lessons learned. That leaves the Madera Ranchos in the middle, with no governmental community recognition, or a general growth plan in place to go after grants or municipal aid.

With that said, how and why should any Ranchos resident care? It sounds like more government interference. Actually it is an opportunity to lessen government, and to make it more effective. The County has some 120 Road and/or Water Districts, not including Irrigation Districts. Additionally, there are Mosquito Districts, a Cemetery District, Resource Conservation Districts, Hospital Districts, and the list goes on. Many of these districts may not be solvent and are actually costing us money. There are also about 20 Special Districts and sev-

eral mutual or private water companies which aren't regulated by LAFCo.

The question as to why this is happening now is because the Gateway Project at Highway 41 and Avenue 12 is getting ready to begin and some questions need to be answered, including those regarding the school location. These are but the first of many hard questions we all have to deal with. Change is coming, like it or not. We now have an opportunity to manage some of that change.

The City of Madera conducted its study about five years ago and is now in the process of reviewing the document. In the usual practice around the state, this is largely being conducted with city officials holding a public workshop or two. Part of all Municipal Service Reviews includes a Sphere of Influence Area as part of its conclusion. The review, or study process, is a state prerequisite in determining a Sphere of Influence. The Sphere of Influence is the expected growth area for the municipal services as they are now, or where they are planned. In the terms of a city, this is the planned area of future annexation. The combined Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence produces a "roadmap" for future goals, growth and development. That plan is referred to as the Community Service Plan. The City of Madera's current Sphere of Influence extends to the Santa Fe Rail Line which is the Ranchos' western border.

Rio Mesa's Municipal Service Review was largely done by a consultant, hired by LAFCo, approximately three years ago. The consultant looked at the various special

districts and recommended combining them. A boundary was drawn to define Rio Mesa's Sphere of Influence. A Community Service Plan should have been written in consultation with those effected, recommending goals, how to grow services, and administration of those services. Under the recommendation of the consultant and approved by the County LAFCo, Rio Mesa's Sphere of Influence came across to the west side of Highway 41 to take in Rolling Hills, Bonedelle 9, Business 41, Children's Hospital, and the Brickyard Industrial Park, or virtually all of the Madera Ranchos' eastern border. Did the consultant hold public meetings? Are the residents even aware of this? Are the documents public record? This represents a possible loss of allocated tax revenues to our interests at some point. It also does not provide river access for planning of parks, sewer treatment plant placements or possible well locations. These areas are currently in our Golden Valley School District, but could become part of some future school district in the Rio Mesa development. These areas also fall in SEMCU's service and planning area, currently part of a joint water study grant.

Recently, the residents of Oakhurst engaged in the process and considered a Community Service Plan. One of the goals of the Community Plan was to look into becoming self-governing as a municipality. A committee of people took approximately five years to technically answer the big three questions: How? What is going to Cost? Where is the money going to come

Please see LAFCO on P. 19

North Fork Casino Update

The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California recently became only the sixth tribe in the past 25 years to successfully navigate the Secretarial "two-part" process for acquiring new land for tribal-government gaming.

The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, with over 1,950 tribal citizens, engaged in this rigorous and lengthy federal process because, like other Indian people nation-wide, it had been denied a land base or "functional" reservation from which to conduct economic development for the betterment of its people due to numerous historical injustices.

Please see CASINO on P. 3

LAFCO Community Survey Questionnaire Available Online and at Ranchos Library

The Madera Local Agency Formation Commission is required by state law to periodically study service providers throughout the County to evaluate their performance and to determine if there are ways that they may be encouraged/reorganized to do a better job. In order to do the best possible job, the Commission hopes to conduct this study in close consultation with the community of the Madera Ranchos.

There are four different parts of our study area:

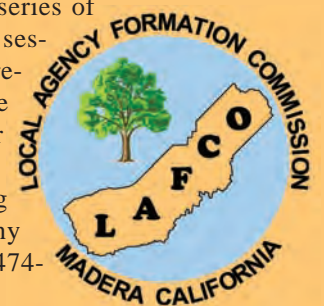
1. **Maintenance District 10 - Madera Ranchos** - Provides road maintenances only
2. **Maintenance District 10, Zone A - Madera Ranchos** - Provides road maintenance and domestic water service.
3. **Maintenance District 95 - Continental Estates** - Provides road maintenance and domestic water service.
4. **Surrounding Areas** - Outside any district which may or may not require services in the future.

The first step in the process is a community survey which we hope you will take the time to complete. The survey can be found online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCORanchosSurvey

Alternatively, you may obtain a copy of the survey at the Ranchos Library and submit it to this office. The survey process will be followed by a series of public meetings/brainstorming sessions where we can share our research and explore ideas with the residents on the future for your community.

We look forward to working with you and if you have any questions, please call (559) 474-3181.



Click on "Local News" at

CASINO cont. from P. 2

For over a decade, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians worked in a collaborative and transparent manner with local, state and federal officials to reclaim a small fraction of historical land base. The project was assessed and approved by two gubernatorial administrations, two federal administrations, four Interior Secretaries, nine Assistant Secretaries, and multiple local jurisdictions.

The Tribe now has 305 acres of tribal

land in Madera County in trust and its goal with this land is similar to the goals of other California tribes with trust land eligible for gaming. The ultimate goal is to seek to build a tribal-government gaming facility on sovereign land to provide economic self-sufficiency for the Tribe and its citizens and generate business opportunities and investment in Madera County.

The project, which is overwhelmingly supported by the local community, carries the added, and perhaps most important, benefit of being able to immediately gen-

erate thousands of local jobs in one of the most economically depressed regions of the state and nation.

The final remaining administrative step in this process is the State Legislature's ratification of the Tribe's State-Tribal Gaming Compact, which was negotiated with Governor Jerry Brown. Similar to other recently ratified gaming compacts, the compact provides substantial payments to mitigate local impacts and funding for non-gaming tribes across the state while lessening local and state fiscal obligations. Paired

with the Wiyot Tribe's compact, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians' compact also avoids large-scale economic development in ecologically sensitive regions near the Sierra National Forest/Yosemite (North Fork) and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Wiyot).

The Tribe is very grateful for all the local support it has received over the years from community groups across Madera County. The Tribe looks forward to being good partners in building a better Madera together in the years ahead

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Calling Sen. McCain on the Carpet



By Sandy Forbes

An Open Letter to Senator John McCain

Dear Senator McCain:

We recently heard that you and Senator Lindsey Graham think Rand Paul's filibuster was not helpful to the American people.

You could not be more wrong as you are finding out from phone calls, e-mails and Face Book messages. Publicly speaking against those like Rand Paul standing up for our freedom ... that is what will hurt America. Your

comments about Rand Paul's mention of Jane Fonda were the kind of snipes we hear from the liberal mainstream media. Rand Paul had spoken for hours for heaven's sake, with many discussions that were of a very serious nature and this is the comment you focus on?

We are CONSERVATIVE Republicans and voted for you for president, but we have to say you were not our first choice, even though we certainly admire your military service to our country. Sarah Palin is what really energized your campaign.

The GOP establishment has their heads in the sand if they think that the American people did not rally around all those Senators who were standing up on principal for our constitution and against what is really happening, which is Obama's continued transformation of this country inch by inch. We took the time to write to each one of those Senators, even the

"lone wolf" democrat Senator Ron Wyden to let them know of our full support.

Conservatives do not trust Obama or his administration, since you have doubts why the opposition for the use of drones was not brought up during President Bush's administration. Procedures have changed for the worse in Washington. Hasn't this "change" been the plan all along to move a radical progressive Marxist regime "forward"? Slogans for two campaigns, campaigns that Obama is still on as he continues to try and convince the low- to no-information voter.

We know the progressives want total control of all of us, the unaffordable healthcare "act" was a huge beginning and they will strive to take away our freedoms until they are all gone. Misuse of drones by this administration is certainly conceivable.

Don't think that those of us who are in-

formed voters are not aware of the charades, smoke and mirrors, shell games whatever label you want to call it) that continuously take place in this administration!

We are watching you all and are not pleased with those that take the easy road and choose not to fight for Amer-

ica. We applaud Senator Rand Paul and every single Senator who stood with him including Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Mike Lee of Utah, Jerry Moran of Kansas, Marco Rubio of Florida, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, John Cornyn of Texas, John Barrasso of Wyoming, John Thune of South Dakota, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania as well as all the House Congressmen who attended.

Those, who instead, attended Obama's dinner speak volumes. This was only a media

Please see **TEA PARTY** on P. 13

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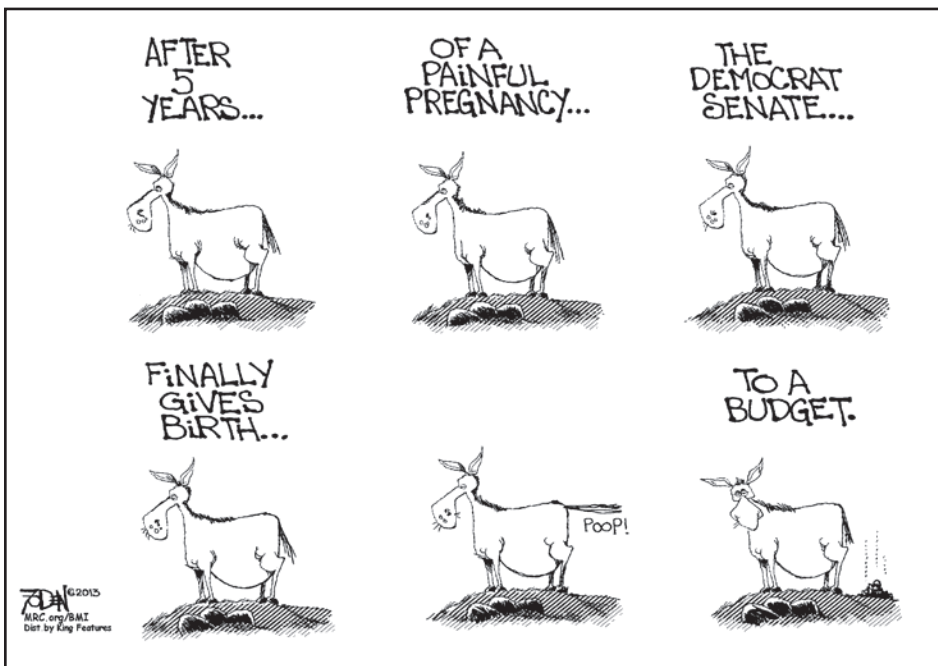
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Editorial

Let's Hear it for the Gutless Wonders

By Randy Bailey

There's an old saying, attributed to everyone from the ancient Chinese to Robert Kennedy, that goes: "May you live in interesting times." In all actuality it's really a curse since the person making this suggestion knows that *un*-interesting times are laden with peace and prosperity, making the "interesting times" being wished upon you fraught with calamity and unease. Nice, huh?

These are indeed interesting times. One of the hallmarks of this era is an uninterested, unconcerned, unresponsive media. Case in point is the attack on our U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya on Sept. 11 of last year. Four dead Americans later, including a U.S. ambassador, and here it is six months after the attack and we still know nothing about what really happened. Where are the Woodwards and Bernsteins of the new millenium? Is *anyone* curious about finding the truth? Of course the easy path at the start of the tragedy was the claim (put forth by the administration) that the attack was the result of an anti-Islam video -- which later turned out to be totally false. The press was all over the anti-Islam video story because it fit the narrative, but once it didn't pan out their natural curiosity didn't kick in to try and get to the bottom of what *really* happened. The story just died. A dead U.S. Ambassador killed on United

States land by a terrorist organization and what have you heard about it?

Nothing.

Very interesting.

Another interesting behavior of these interesting times is the "hit and run" attack used primarily by your garden variety liberals. They're the ones who'll sidle up next to you at the water cooler, announce, "That John Boehner, he's just like Hitler! Like Hitler I tell you!" and then scurry off leaving you to wonder what the hell just happened. They're not interested in conversation, primarily because it's not possible to support an untenable position. They simply want to make their point and get out. The other evening I was enjoying a cigar and reading a book in front of the Ranchos Independent office when a guy jumps out of his Lincoln (yeah, a late-model Lincoln), dashes into the liquor store and when he comes out he opens his car door and calls to me, "Find any liberals here in the Ranchos?" I look up from my book, smiled and said, "There's a few ..." and before I could finish my statement he yells back, "Have you killed them yet?" gets in his Lincoln and drives off.

Interesting. I never thought of killing liberals. I had always just hoped that at some point in their lives they would consider common sense to rule their actions. Oh well.

Another hit and run technique I get all too often is the unsigned letter to the editor. I always know when I'm getting one because the letter shows up with no return address which just so happens to match perfectly the missing name at the end of the letter. These people go on and on and on, trying to present a cogent thought and usually miss by a mile.

And then they go in the shredder.

An unsigned letter is nothing. It's what you put in the bottom of a hamster cage. It says that your ideas are so devoid of value that not even YOU are willing to stick your name on them. I usually chuckle as I shred them. They know who I am; they often quote Reagan or Limbaugh or Hannity in their rantings because they know who they are; everyone knows everyone except you, the coward. The gutless wonder. The hit and run liberal. The drive by progressive. Keep doing it (because I know you will).

Taking responsibility is a scary thing.

THE RAY GUN
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"... CHANGE WILL COME IF WE CONSERVATIVES ARE IN THIS FOR THE LONG HAUL - IF WE OWE OUR FIRST LOYALTY TO THE IDEAS AND PRINCIPLES WE DISCUSSED, DEBATED, DEVELOPED, AND POPULARIZED OVER THE YEARS."

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

Mental Olympics, Area Festivities

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I just got home from the Madera County 2013 Academic Pentathlon. What is a Pentathlon you ask? Let me tell you about a group (over 200 students) with which I spent most all day Saturday, March 16. Ever since Golden Valley Unified built our new Ranchos Middle School, the Madera County Office of Education has held the Pentathlon for all of the middle schools in Madera County on the Ranchos Middle School campus. Madera County has 13 different middle schools and students from all of them were here Saturday competing for certificates and medals. It was a full day for students and their coaches from 8

The Super Quiz is always fun to follow along on the audience participation sheet while the students are taking the quiz. I did a little better this time, I got 12 right answers out of 30 questions. Ranchos Middle School came in 2nd place on the Super Quiz. They got a lot more answers right than I did.

a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The students are exercising their minds and focusing on the different areas of competition. I work as a speech judge. After all of the students have been judged, the best 8th grade speech and the best 7th grade speech are awarded medals. I have volunteered as a judge for 13 years at either the Decathlon or the Pentathlon competitions. The students are great and I really admire them. The speech contestants give their speeches in front of three adult judges and one adult time keeper. The students give first a 4-minute prepared speech and then a 2-minute impromptu speech. In another room other students are reading their essays to judges. While other students in a separate room are being judged on a book that they have read and upon which they have given a report. This is an assigned book. The last contest of the day is the Super Quiz. The Super Quiz is always fun to follow along on the audience participation sheet while the students are taking the quiz. I did a little better this time, I got 12 right answers out of 30 questions. Ranchos Middle School came in 2nd place on the Super Quiz. They got a lot more answers right than I did. One of the eighth grade Ranchos

Middle School students won first place in the Literature competition out of 139 students. Isn't that great! A Ranchos Middle School seventh grade student won first place in the Speech contest out of 114 students competing. The Ranchos Middle School seventh grade team won first place in the 2013 Pentathlon. Wasuma was the eighth grade team that won first place in the 2013 Pentathlon. Congratulations to all of the contestants and their teacher coaches that have been working since January

2013 to get ready for this competition. I also want to thank the Madera County of Education and CeCe Masetti's team for all of their work to put together the Academic Pentathlon each year. I big thank you goes to all of the Ranchos Middle School teachers and the Principal Kevin Hatch for

hosting all 13 middle schools on their campus. It was such a fun day; I am glad that I was able to attend this year.

Easter is early this year. It is on Sunday, March 31. That means that both the students and the teachers have an Easter break starting Monday, March 25 through April 1. School starts again on Tuesday, April 2. This will be the last break before test taking and ending up all of the work so that students will be ready to advance to the next grade when school starts up again in the fall. All district schools will be out for summer by May

Liberty High graduation this year is on June 6. My great grandson Jacob Morrison will be graduating from Hanford High School this year and off to Humboldt State in the fall. Where have all of the years gone, seems like yesterday in 1948 I was graduating from high school and looking forward to going off to Humboldt State College in the fall.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are busy making Easter baskets to order. They come in small for \$5, medium for \$10, and large for \$15. If you haven't ordered yours yet call the center at 645-

Please see **STOCK** on P. 20

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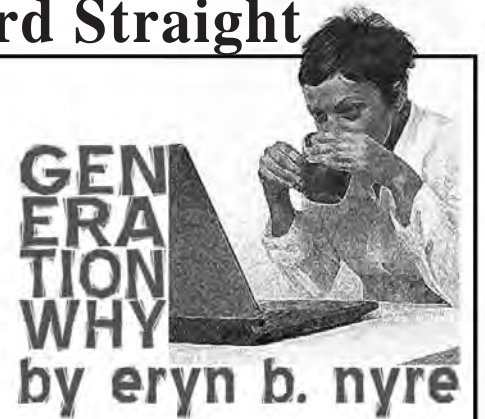
I caught a little flack after my last article, which surprises me a bit because I happen to think I was less harsh than in previous articles, but nonetheless it has inspired me to use this month to set the record straight for those who think I’m a little hard on the less fortunate.

First, I believe there is a very big difference between the less fortunate and people who make poor life choices and expect others to clean up their mess. I believe in helping people. I have filled up the gas tanks of those stranded; taken in people who had nowhere to go; and fed both friends and strangers when they are hungry. I give my money to charity and donate my time to my church. I believe it is my duty as a God-fearing woman to share my blessings with others and I support the idea that the government should help hard working Americans who have fallen on hard times. Allow me to illustrate my point with a few examples.

A man is driving home from work one evening and is hit by a drunk driver. He loses the use of his legs and sustains enough head trauma that his cognitive function is diminished. He is now permanently disabled and can no longer provide for his family. This man is a victim of circumstance, a victim of someone else’s indiscretion. I have absolutely no issue with this man taking financial assistance from the government, or with my taxes funding the program that makes it possible for him and his family to live.

Similarly, an elderly woman is struggling to survive. She is a responsible, law-abiding productive member of society who has worked her entire life and paid her taxes, and yet her income from social security barely covers her living and medical expenses and there is often not enough over at the end of the month to put food in her house. I would encourage this woman to apply for government assistance. I would applaud her courage to seek help through programs such as food stamps. I am happy that my taxes – our taxes – can help an up-standing citizen who has paid into the system for several decades live out her retirement more comfortably.

Finally, a couple suffers an unforeseen financial setback. The husband has been



swept up in his company’s downsizing, and both he and his wife, a homemaker, are unable to find work. They have always lived within their means and their modest savings account dwindles as the months pass without either being able to secure jobs. They cancel the cable and make all the cuts possible, but still they worry about providing for their children. The couple goes down to the local welfare office and signs up for several of the social programs. Eventually, they find jobs and once they have steady income again, they discontinue accepting financial

assistance. This is who the welfare program is meant to protect.

My issue is not with the people that need help because of circumstance or accidents. My problem is with the people who make poor life choice after poor life choice and just expect the American people to keep funding their bad habits

... I believe there is a very big difference between the less fortunate and people who make poor life choices and expect others to clean up their mess. I believe in helping people ... I support the idea that the government should help hard working Americans who have fallen on hard times.

and behavior. These programs were not intended as a way of life; they are a safety net. And the people who make pre-meditated decisions to live off the government must be stopped. A woman who cannot afford the children she has, yet she continues to have more, is not a victim. She is a woman who has not been taught that the children she brings into this world are not the responsibilities of the tax payers. If you want to have 10 children I have no issue with that. For that matter, I don’t care who you marry, what you drive or where you live. What I care about is whether or not you are expecting me and the American people as a whole to pay for your choices.

When my Dad first made the decision to move out after he graduated high school, he struggled financially. There were some weeks when the only thing on the menu at his apartment was a can of pork and beans,

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 18

Happy Easter

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed!"

Egg Dying Time

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always

end up with that many. There are the one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there is always egg hunts for the kids -

seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be found (until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.

Our Easter Feast is real simple - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about 10 minutes. After the



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

10 minutes I usually test one to make sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me - if you have a method you have used, then by all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can

handle them, cut them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a pastry bag with a pretty tip would

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

My favorite Easter Hymn is Christ Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!" Have a blessed Easter.

RANCHOS ORGANIZING CLASS

DATE: April 11, 18, & 25

TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM

PLACE: 37193 Ave 12
Flipside Church

COST: \$48/person
Senior Discount \$40/person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 6th Contact Brenda McElroy
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Tax Time - No Sweat!

If that's not your sentiment, read on. Does tax preparation mean piles of papers and receipts strewn all over the kitchen table or living room floor and hours of agonizing sorting? Or perhaps, paying your accountant to sift through grocery bags of documents scraped off your desk, countertop, and car floor? By following some simple steps, you can alter that scenario and breeze through next year's tax season.

First decide on ONE place where you will store all tax related documents. This might be a section in your file cabinet, or a separate portable file tote box. Some people prefer to use an accordion file. Just make sure it's easily accessible, since filing your documents regularly throughout the year will be essential to your success.

Create labeled folders for each of your tax-related categories. To determine your categories, you can look back at last year's tax filing to see what was required. You may also email me at info@organizedbychoice.com for a detailed tax guide from Janet Merk Mitchell, CPA at Bandy & Associates.

Here are some of the standard categories and items to file away for next year:

Income – You may put your paycheck stubs in this folder throughout the year. At the end of the year your W-2 should match the accumulative deductions, which at that point means you may shred the stubs. This is also where you would place 1099-MISC forms showing your gross earnings if you're an independent contractor. And for our senior folks, your Social Security Benefits form (SSA-1099).

Interest/Dividends/IRA/Pension Distributions – File your statements and end of the year tax forms from each account holder.

Sale of Property – File documents showing original cost and cost of improvements, escrow closing statement, and cancelled debt information.

Business/Farming/Rental Income – File your Profit and loss statement and capital equipment information.

Miscellaneous Income – This might include documents regarding income from jury duty, alimony, gambling winnings, Medical Savings Account, scholarships, etc.

Equally important are the documents required to reduce your taxable income. Make sure to create folders for these as well:

Donations – These include receipts for cash donations (if it's under \$250 a cancelled check or credit card statement will suffice), and donations of goods. Even your volunteerism can act as a deduction. Keep record of your mileage and you can deduct a specific amount per mile driving to and from your event.

Home Mortgage – Interest statements and forms for your primary residence as well as vacation homes and home equity loans.

Student Loans/Tuition – Let that education start paying off!

Unreimbursed Employee/Teacher Expenses – Keep these receipts separate from personal receipts right from the start. If need be, keep a labeled envelope in the car or on the desktop to make sure they don't get combined with personal and then transfer them to the tax file when the envelope is full.

Home Business Expenses – Include all receipts for business purchases as well as utility bills, etc. (Request Tax Guide mentioned above for detailed list.)

Taxes Paid – Real estate taxes and vehicle license fees.

Other categories may include: Childcare costs, medical expense records, energy credits, moving expenses, etc.

Once you have your folders in place, it will be much easier to process incoming receipts and documents because they now have a home. It will also help take the bite out of tax season – knowing where to find everything you need!

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is simply a starting point. You should always seek the assistance of a professional who knows your particular situation for advice on your taxes, investments, legal and business practices.

You're invited to attend the Organizing Your Paper, Space, and Life Class coming up in April – 11, 18, and 25th. The cost is \$48/person and \$40/senior (60 and up). Contact me for details!

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

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

make them more festive.

The Easter Ham

As far as the ham goes, I think everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and spoon the juice mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot

less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use 10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time.

The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever your family likes.

Like so many of our meals (we have seven households coming together) there are always a lot of desserts. My sister usually makes a coconut cake, I make a pineapple upside down cake (probably won't this year as my oven is on the fritz, and doubt if I can get it replaced before Easter), Adam will bring a couple of his apple pies and there will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner. But she made

real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

I'm looking forward to more recipes from the Ranchos', Rolling Hills' or Bonnadelle's good cooks. Or how about kids? I'd love to do an article on kids' favorite foods – anything from hot dogs to s'mores.

An Easter Favorite

My favorite Easter Hymn is *Christ Arose!* I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

This article originally appeared in the March 2011 issue of the *Ranchos Independent*.

Editor

Kiwanis Korner

Life's Meaning, Kiwanis and Beyond

By Perry Watkins

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

You may remember hearing of Abraham Maslow, a renowned behavioral psychologist who described levels of human growth and achievement. He studied not illness, but the healthiest 1 percent of individuals including people like Albert Einstein, Jane Addams, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Frederick Douglass.

In his depiction of the human condition, he postulated that here were five levels of achievement in which the lower levels had to be mostly mastered before moving up to a higher level of function. The base level of function was physical

of likeminded people in a service club such as Kiwanis gives us many opportunities to positively affect the lives of others. It gives us a sense of deep satisfaction and accomplishment as we strive to be of service to our community. It allows us to play a small role in world-changing events that affect the lives of millions. It might provide that missing cog that allows the wheel to turn in someone's life. It may not be "The Meaning of Life," but it certainly can add meaning to life.

We are "volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time." You are welcome to join us for one day a year or a hundred. The level of commitment is entirely up to you.

Don't forget: April 6 Booths Open at the Senior Center Home & Garden Show. April 11 Meet & Greet Kiwanis open

meeting at the Pizza Factory 6:30 pm. April 14 Cross River Run. April 20 Bike ride with the Cycle for Seniors. May 11 Flatlanders Parade so please visit the Kiwanis Tri-Tip Booth.

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.

We cannot all be great artists, scientists or philosophers. We can, however, reach beyond ourselves and touch the lives of others. Some of those we touch will be affected in ways that become life changing ... if we reach out enough it is bound to happen. If we do it enough times, then lives will be changed again and again.

needs like food, water, and breathing. At a higher level we achieve the safety and security of resources for ourselves and for our family and satisfy needs like property and establishing our morality. Above that level we establish lasting love, belonging and intimacy. A fourth level brings us greater self-esteem, confidence, respect and personal achievement. The highest level, the level he believed few ever mastered, was self-actualization. When achieving a self-actualized state a person is able to focus on becoming the best person that one can possibly strive for in the service of both the self and others. We move beyond meeting our personal day-to-day needs and desires or those of our family and begin to achieve things that in small ways, or perhaps profoundly, affect the lives of others.

We cannot all be great artists, scientists or philosophers. We can, however, reach beyond ourselves and touch the lives of others. Some of those we touch will be affected in ways that become life changing. We probably don't know which thing we do will have an impact. It can't be measured in time or money but if we reach out enough it is bound to happen. If we do it enough times, then lives will be changed again and again. Involvement in a group

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

Board Members:

- President: Marie Cameron
- President Elect: Mona Silva
- Secretary: Virginia Vick
- Treasurer: Perry Watkins
- Past President: John Glueck

Board of Directors:

- Debbie Farr, Mary Ann Parks, Mona Diaz, John Herrera and Ollia Ridge.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Friends and neighbors, during the midyear budget adjustments for the County, it was necessary for the Library to make cuts to stay within budget. This was a difficult decision to say the least, and most unfortunate for Garin Gonzales, the Branch Manager at the Ranchos Library. His position was cut and his employment with the Library ended on Feb. 28. We are sad to lose him. Fortunately, he was able to stay employed with Madera County and is now working for the Social Services Department.

Rest assured that this does not por-

tend the closure of the Ranchos Library. None of the Supervisors wish for any libraries to close. And as a member of the Ranchos community and as County Librarian, please know that I will make sure no libraries close, especially in the Ranchos.

The current staff and volunteers will, as always, carry on and provide the best service possible. If you would like to discuss any library issues with me, please call me at the Madera County Library, Monday through Friday, at 675-7871.

Sincerely,
 Ellen Mester
 County Librarian

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:
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The Bookshelf

Great New Titles at Ranchos Library

By The Friends of the Ranchos Library

Mark your calendar: Flatlander's Day is Saturday May 11 and planning has started. If you would like to help, please contact the library, or if you'd like a booth at Flatlanders, contact the library as well for food and craft vendor applications.

Furlough Days for Madera Ranchos Library are April 12 and 26 but you can still come join us for the Pre-school Storytime to Read, Play and Learn with Diane Maxfield on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Did you know free homework help is available at the Ranchos Library for grades k-5 on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. with Mrs. Taylor? Additional times may be available by appointment. Ask at the front desk.

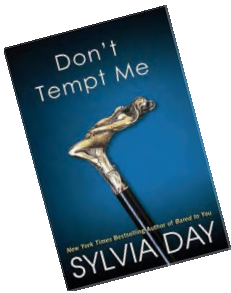


New Arrivals and Services

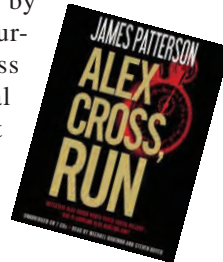
Come in and see our new arrivals and check out the services available at the library, including books, magazines, newspapers, books on CD and tape, DVD and VHS videos, access to ebooks, public computers with internet access, a typewriter, photocopier and system wide book requests.

New arrivals for adult audio books:

- Don't Tempt Me* by Sylvia Day
- The Unseen* by Heather Graham
- The White House Connection* by Jack Higgins
- Raylan* by Elmore Leonard
- Loving Jack* by Nora Roberts
- Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter



Available now is *Alex Cross, Run* by James Patterson. There's first one murder, then two, then three. Alex Cross doesn't yet know how many serial killers are on the loose, but he does realize that unless he solves the crimes quickly, Washington, D.C. will soon be the capital city of mayhem. James Patterson's most popular protagonist is both hunter and hunted in this fast-breaking thriller.



New arrivals for juvenile and teen books:

- Seven Wonders #1 The Colossus Rises* by Peter Legrangis
- Infinity Ring #3 The Trap Door* by Lisa McMann
- Dragon Breath #7 When Fairies Go Bad* by Ursula Vernon
- Dragon Breath #8 Nightmare of The Iguana* by Ursula Vernon



New on DVD

Ice Age Continental Drift



Visit our website at www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org and always remember your library card – don't leave home without it!

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

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

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ANNIVERSARY PARTY
Wednesday, April 10

Christi is celebrating the 18th anniversary of her 21st birthday with local band 51 Aces performing from 6 to 10 p.m.

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3/13

TEA PARTY cont. from P. 4

overture of the Pied Piper leading you all, like lemmings, down his destructive path keeping some of those Republicans away from the filibuster.

We are tired of politicians not working to save America, by really cutting the debt, maintaining our 2nd Amendment Rights, and not allowing illegal citizenship to be an easier path to legal immigration. Stop this political dance. We have not switched to an independent voter "yet" but many of our friends have.

We will not support "rhinos" anymore; we want true conservatives in our government. The GOP establishment is walking a very, very fine line here and they had better wake up soon. America can't wait any longer.

Sincerely, for the freedoms that our soldiers have been injured or endured the ultimate sacrifice and died for,

Sandy & Ryan Forbes
 Tea Party Patriots
 Fresno, CA

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The March meeting presented a showing of the documentary, "Zero Generation."

Madera Chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive in Madera. The next meeting is April 15. You can confirm meeting dates and guest speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

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

Say you saw it in
 the Ranchos Independent

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— but —

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 come find out why!

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Flatlanders Day is Coming



The 22nd Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 11 beginning at 10 a.m. The annual event showcases local groups, businesses and individuals from the Ranchos and beyond. The parade starts at 10 a.m. sharp and then there's a food and crafts fair at the Maywood Center sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library that will last into the afternoon. Flatlanders Day is always celebrated on the second Saturday in May and this year's theme is "The Ranchos: Local and Lovin' It."

An entry form for the parade is to the right of this article and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library. For more information call 645-4001.

VA Thanks Chamber



Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce members flank Mary Golden, center, Chief of Voluntary Service at the Fresno VA Hospital, as she thankfully receives gift bags generated from the annual Ranchos Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by the Chamber.

Your Chamber of Commerce

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

Golden Valley Chamber

2013 Flatlander's Day 3/13

Parade Day: Saturday, May 11, 2013 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

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: Ave. 12 from Road 36 1/2 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 6** 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.

New Chamber Board

Pres.: Verlin Dill - VDI Services

V.P.: Don Foster - Creative Catering

Sec.: Audrey Stock

Treas.: Virginia Vick

Past Pres.: Ollia Ridge

Board Members: **3-Year:** Randy Bailey - Ranchos Independent; Lisa Haney - Haney Chiropractic; **2-Year:** Cindy Ceja - Vulcan Materials; Paula Stuart - Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop; **1-Year:** Leann Fursman - Skin Elegance; Javier Felix - Madera Ranchos Barbershop

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LHS Starts Sports Hall of Fame

After 10 years in existence, Liberty High School will start an Athletic Hall of Fame with an induction ceremony set for May 4.

Liberty High School's learning director, Frank Panian, decided to begin an Athletic Hall of Fame to honor outstanding individuals who either excelled in athletics while attending Liberty or played a vital role in improving the athletic department.

The inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame dinner/dance will be held May 4 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the D&D Ranch on Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos. The cost is \$75 per person or \$550 for a table of eight. The Hall of Fame will benefit the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools.

"With so many outstanding individuals who have been a part of Liberty over the years, I feel a permanent place in our school is necessary so that they can be recognized for their accomplishments and continue to serve as positive role models for future generations of students," Panian said.

A selection committee has been established, led by Fidi Cuevas, who is the head of the Liberty Hall of Fame committee. Also on the committee are Liberty athletic director Mike Mazzoni, Liberty coaches Leslie Wood, Greg Ruland and Mike Nolte and community members Melinda Cullins and Stephanie McShane.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for induction, student-athletes must meet three of the following criteria:

- Superior accomplishments as a student-athlete at Liberty High School, including All-County teams, City/County or any other all-star teams.
- Graduation for Liberty High School eight years prior to nomination

(2005 or before for current year)

- Continuing academic/athletic excellence at the collegiate, national, amateur or professional levels
- Exemplified characteristics of integrity and sportsmanship, as well as citizenship before and after graduation.
- Academic and post college career accomplishments.

The Hall of Fame will also be honoring coaches, administrators and community members for a Green and Gold Award. Honorary contributors will also be honored by the Liberty Hall of Fame.

Coaches, Administrators and Community Members

Eligibility for a Green and Gold Award, coaches, administrators and community members are:

- Retirement from the position they once held at the school
- Significant contributions made to the overall athletic program, including longevity, overall record and championships

• Significant contributions to the community or professional organizations at the state or national levels that promote the ideals of the student athlete.

• Significant contributions to the community or professional organizations at the state or national levels that promote the ideals of the student/athlete.

Honorary Members

Honorary contributors are also eligible for the Liberty Hall of Fame. Their requirements are:

- Made outstanding contributions
- Offered extraordinary services to the student/athlete and athletic program
- Significant contributions to the community or professional organizations at the state or national levels that promote the ideals of the student/athlete.

For information, to purchase tickets, or to donate raffle items to the Hall of Fame dinner, contact Frank Panian or Mike Mazzoni at 645-3500.



LHS Girls Soccer goes to Championship



The Liberty Hawks girls soccer team advanced to the school's first-ever Div. III Valley Championship match. They lost a heartbreaker 1-0 to Highland in Bakersfield. The team picked up the program's second Central Section runner-up plaque after recording its seventh straight league championship and fifth straight North Sequoia League undefeated season.

RMS Soccer's Undefeated Season



The Ranchos Middle School Champion soccer team (front row, from left) are Lauren Alexander, Jamie Lewis, Raina Wristen and Vanessa Martinez. Back row, from left, are Holly Hiatt, Coach Steven Lewis, Ali Alvarez, Hailey Parks, Emily Koop, McKaelyn Malm, Zoey Richey, Renee Ramirez, Carli Duke, Johanna Lewis, Shelby Hershberger, Jordan Alexander, Brittnee Mee, Gabby Castro, Rebecca Mendoeza, Alexis Fringer and Coach Erik Kochackis.

The Ranchos Middle School hosted its first Westside Athletic League Championship. They defeated Wilson Middle School out of Chowchilla, 5-0, to capture the WSAL championship to cap an undefeated season. The Ranchos Middle School team was dominating this season, outscoring its competition 43-5.

The team, coached by Steven Lewis

and Erik Kochackis, consisted of Lauren Alexander, Jamie Lewis, Raina Wristen, Vanessa Martinez, Holly Hiatt, Steven Lewis, Ali Alvarez, Hailey Parks, Emily Koop, McKaelyn Malm, Zoey Richey, Renee Ramirez, Carli Duke, Johanna Lewis, Shelby Hershberger, Jordan Alexander, Brittnee Mee, Gabby Castro, Rebecca Mendoeza and Alexis Fringer.

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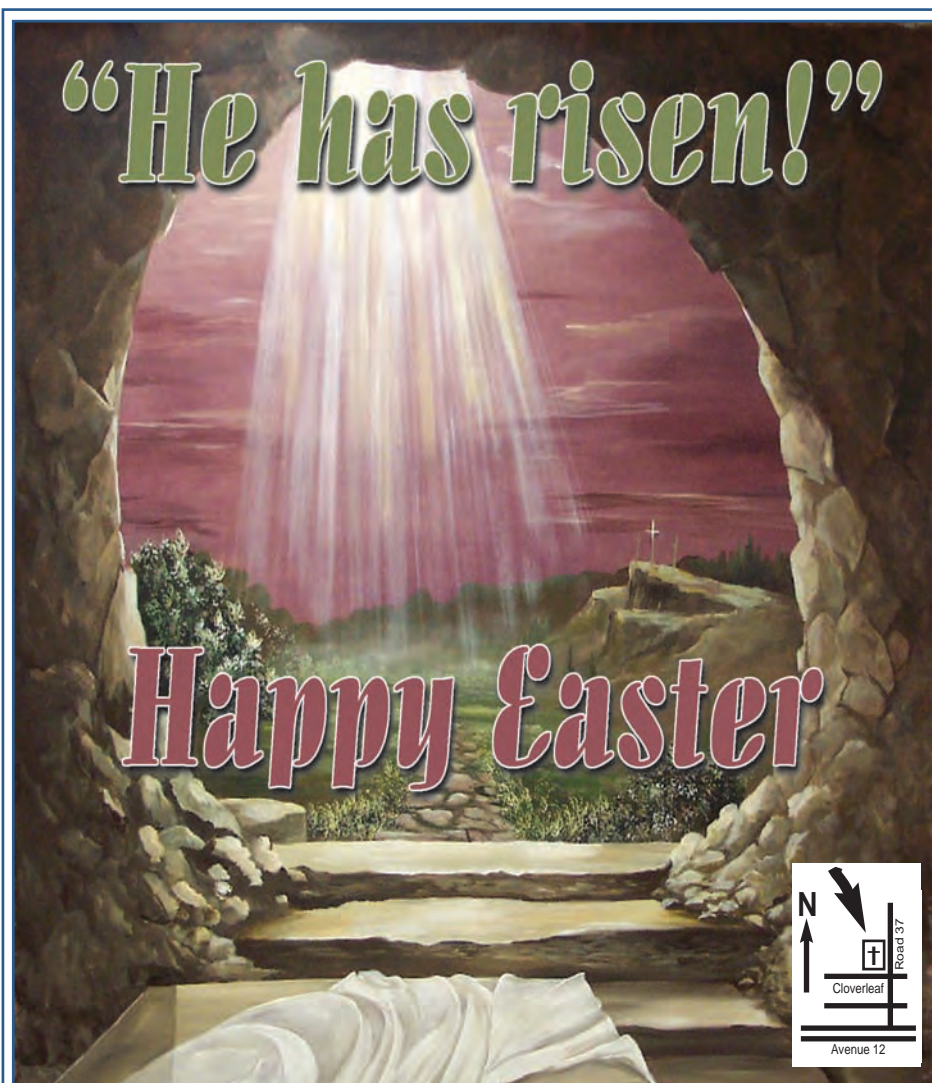
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3/13

www.theRanchos.com

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



Easter Egg Hunt for the children 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Mansel Trimble is the new pastor at Golden Valley Baptist Church. Come say "hello" to Mansel.

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos • 559-645-1700

3/13

Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY SEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 6	Home & Garden Show	Ranchos/Hills Seniors
April 6	Info Booth (at Home & Garden Show)	Ranchos Kiwanis
April 14	Cross the River Run (at Woodward Park)	Ranchos Kiwanis
April 20	Cycle for the Seniors	Ranchos/Hills Seniors
April/May TBD	Cleanup on Ave. 12 & RD. 36	Ranchos Kiwanis
May 11	Flatlanders Day Parade	Chamber of Commerce
May 11	Tri-Tip Sandwiches Booth (at Flatlanders Day)	Ranchos Kiwanis
TBD	Farmers Market (AT Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
TBD	Friday Night at the Movies (at Maywood Center)	SEMCU, Inc.
June 1	Swap Meet (at Hurst Hardware)	SEMCU, Inc.
June 6	LHS Sober Grad (at Liberty High School) (at Hurst Hardware)	2013 Sober Grad Com.
August 17	Fireman's BBQ Dinner (at Borba ranch)	Station 19
September 7	Swap Meet (at Hurst Hardware)	SEMCU
October 5	Chili Cook-Off/Car Show Festival (in planning stages)	Ranchos Kiwanis
December 6	Christmas Tree Lighting (at Maywood Center)	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.

Committee Members Needed

for the

Golden Valley Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

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

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

37479 Avenue 12, Madera 93636
(559) 645-7500.

3/13

It's Time to get Loose ... Footloose!



The cast of the Liberty High Drama Department's production of Footloose! practice a scene in preparation for the play's three-day run April 18-20. The play will be performed in Liberty High's state-of-the-art theater and tickets are available now through the school for only \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. At the door on the day of the show tickets will be \$7 and \$10, respectively. Picture courtesy of Candace Crumpton.

The Liberty High School drama class continues its 2012-2013 season with the high-energy dance musical, Footloose, directed by Rebecca Harp-Sligh and Andrew Toledo. The cast of the play will be led by David Garret as Ren McCormack and Kindle Cowger as Ariel Moore. Footloose will open on Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. and will continue through Saturday, April 20 at the Liberty High School Theater.

Inspired by the wildly popular 1984 movie, Footloose thrilled Broadway audiences for the nearly two years that it ran. It's a story of American spirit and a care-free city kid, McCormack, moving to a conservative rural town with his mother; a town where rock 'n roll and dancing are forbidden. McCormack takes on the authorities, makes all the right moves and wins the rebellious girl, Moore. Footloose has been called "... the perfect summer musical," and is packed with high-spirited dancing, eye-popping vintage '80s costumes and a score full of the music that defined the '80s.

"The music is challenging but channeling a character outside of my comfort zone is even more challenging," said Drama student Emily Zavala-Aguilar.

Footloose will open on Thursday, April 18 and will continue through Saturday, April 20. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$5 for K-12 and seniors and \$7 for adults. Prices are \$7 for K-12 and seniors and \$10 for adults at the door. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and refreshments and desserts will be served during intermission. An important note is that if you choose to leave the theater you cannot re-enter. There are no exceptions.

Liberty High School's 11-year-old theater is dedicated to bringing the finest quality theatrical productions to the Madera Ranchos. The theater is located at 12220 Road 36, right next to the administration building at Liberty High School. For further information, call (559) 645-350 or visit the school's website at www.gvusd.k12.ca.us.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 7

but he made the decision to move out. So he picked up extra shifts at work, disconnected the cable and lived as meagerly as possible to get by. The point here is that he didn't expect the government to pay his rent or fill his fridge with food just because he made a choice that turned out to be a difficult one.

The same applies to having children. It is a

choice you make, whether planned or unplanned; the stork didn't just drop a bassinette off on your doorstep with a big bow. So if your goal is to have children, I applaud you. Being a parent is a treasure and a miracle, and by far the most important job a person can have, but just like whatever it is you want in life, be it a new car, a new home or a child, it is your responsibility to work for it, save for it and provide for it, not mine, and not the American people.

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2013 Event Details 2013

\$5 Poker Hands!

Registration Fees:
 \$40 (includes 1 route & 1 free Gift)
 \$55 (includes 1 route, 1 T-Shirt & 1 free Gift)
 \$5 Poker hand - pay at Registration
 18 yrs and older only

Routes:
 10 Mile—flat (10am start)
 25 Mile—mostly flat (9am start)
 65 Mile—flat & foothill (8am start)
 100 Mile- Extreme Challenge (6:30am start)

Please Print!
 Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Age: _____ Emergency Contact: _____
 Email: _____

T-Shirt Size: Sm Med Lg XL XXL (circle one) Route: 10 Mi 25 Mi 65 Mi 100 Mi (circle one)
 Please cut and fill out above form to participate. Mail in with a check or money order made out to Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. 37330 Berkshire Drive, Madera, CA 93636. Participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability on the day of the event. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to route start time. Helmets required for all participants. All rides start and end at the Rancho Hills Seniors, Inc. off of Ave 12 and Fernwood in Madera, CA. Prizes donated by area sponsors. Lunch immediately following event.
 Find us on Facebook: Cycle For The Seniors or on the web: www.rhseniors.org

COME AND JOIN THE FUN ON
APRIL 6, 2013
 8:00am - 2:00pm
RANCHOS/HILLS SENIORS
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 559-645-4864 Fax 559-645-4830 www.rhseniors.org Email rhseniors@att.net

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 Cinnamon Rolls \$1.00 Coffee or Juice .50c

LUNCH 11:00 am- 2:00pm
 BBQ LUNCH & DRINKS
 Hot Dogs \$2.00 Sandwich Combo \$5.00

VENDORS

SPECIALTY ITEMS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, & HEALTH INFORMATION

\$5 Poker Hands

Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. 2013 SENIOR RAFFLE

Prizes: \$250.00 Shopping Spree donated by Madera Ranchos Market. \$200.00 Gift Certificate donated by Hurst Hardware. \$100.00 Four Tickets to Firemen's BBQ in July. Drawing - 07/04/2013. Need not be present to win. Winners, picked by sponsors. Tickets. Courtesy of Pizza Factory Madera Ranchos.

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3/13



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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

LAFCO cont. from P. 2

from? It became apparent toward the end of the process not enough information was communicated publicly throughout the process or public questions answered. Though technically and cost-wise the plan would have worked, groups of people confused residents in raising questions, spreading rumors and misinformation. Residents comfortable with what they had versus the uncertainty raised by change rejected the issue in an election. It is important that as Ranchos residents we all make the effort to be informed throughout the process to avoid this situation. The Community Service Plan being a "roadmap" is a set of goals and a direction, and should not be measured only by its conclusion. It may take years or decades to implement some of those goals, which may be changed if warranted. The plan needs to be studied in its totality.

At the conclusion of writing of the Ranchos' Municipal Service Review, we need to review and understand all of it, in context, before passing judgment. The time to raise questions is during the process, not at the end when you haven't participated. If 50 percent plus one registered voters file a written protest to the Ranchos Municipal Service review, it will fail. If less than 25 percent of all registered voters provide written protest to Rancho's LAFCo Community Service Plan, the County LAFCo will approve the plan. Between 25 percent and 50 percent providing a written protest will cause the plan to be put to an election for all voters within the affected territory. Any future proposal to establish a new district in the area will require a protest hearing.

A couple of years ago, Yosemite Lakes Properties started looking into changes of governance and going back to a Community Service District. Their issues were not with their goals or desire to meet those goals; they were in not resolving the next two big questions in the making a roadmap to get them there. The community was not prepared to answer what the development and operational costs were. How they were going to pay for them now and the later operation costs. Grants, if won, may pay part of the costs for studies, engineering, or even development costs, but not continuing maintenance and operation costs. They could not answer those questions adequately to satisfy the state guidelines or County's LAFCo. Their community did not have the size or the sufficient commercial or industrial diversity for a sustained tax base. Their Community Service District was eventually dissolved due to lack of activity.

Most of us live in a Maintenance District in the 93636 zip code, with two districts providing water and people needing

water living just outside those areas. Some want a Community/Library Center, parks, storm water control with recharge basins.

Can we keep our lifestyle here in the Ranchos?

Do we continue to operate as we do now, and let the developers and the County control our area? We need to be recognized as a governmental entity to help us get grants for water meters. Their projected costs are \$1,500-\$2,000 each by 2018 or will we pay for them ourselves? For the purpose of drinking water, with the lowering water table, how many more community wells do we need? How about considering what an eventual sewer plant is going to cost. How big? Where? Who is going to be allowed to hookup? Is there going to be a sewer tax?

At the rate we are going, with the limited involvement from residents, we will lose the Ranchos identity, independence and what little autonomy we have. The next thing to happen will be going shopping in the City of Rio Mesa followed by the City of Madera knocking on our door to annex us. These are just some of the questions the residents of the greater Ranchos area will need to start answering now and in the next few years.

LAFCo can help set the framework to get the Ranchos where it needs to go. The first step is to work on a Municipal Service Review and get help for our community to do that. Recently there was a call for volunteers to sit on a Local Agency Formation Commission for the Madera Ranchos. Twenty or so volunteered and, of those, 12 were chosen by the County and the Executive Officer, Dave Herb. These 12 neighbors came evenly from the various parts of the greater Rancho area of study. They are: Todd Chase, Vince Guthrie, Thomas Walsh, Jeff McGrath, Seth Thomas, Richard Hallert, Johal Sarbjit, Thomas Zonsius, Mark Tootle, Tom Kellner, Edmund Bergthold and Bill Prince, serving as an alternate.

The County LAFCos' study area for the Ranchos' Municipal Service Review does not include all of Gateway, but does include the Liberty Groves Development. In general terms, the study area is the western edge of Liberty Groves (Road 34), north to 145, east to roughly Road 38, then south to Avenue 10, then west again to Road 34. By the time of this printing, it is hoped the maps of the proposed Madera Rancho study area showing the service districts, subdivisions and other details will be displayed on the County's website.

The County LAFCo is defining the study area and guiding the review process. The main focus for the Ranchos study is to look at how municipal services are deliv-

Please see LAFCO on P. 20

Ranchos Middle School Brings Home Academic Pentathlon Awards

Ranchos Middle School defended their title and won the 2012 7th grade Academic Pentathlon. A new winner was named as Wasuma Elementary School won the 8th grade competition on Saturday, March 16.

More than 350 students participated in this year's five-event academic competition, held on two days. Math and essay tests were held on Friday, March 8 at SCCCD, Madera Center and literature, speech and super quiz were held Saturday at Ranchos Middle School.

Oak Creek Intermediate School came in second place in the 7th grade competition and Ranchos Middle School placed second in the 8th grade competition. Coarsegold Elementary School came in third in the 7th grade competition and Thomas Jefferson Middle School placed third in the 8th grade competition.

Ranchos Middle School's 7th grade team placed first in the Super Quiz and Thomas Jefferson's 8th grade teams placed first in the super quiz. Oak Creek Intermediate School placed second in the 7th grade super quiz competition and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School

placed third. Ranchos Middle School placed second in the 8th grade competition with Sherman Thomas Charter School coming in third in the competition.

"What a wonderful day for our students to showcase their talents," said Cyndy Dolph, Associate Superintendent, Madera County Office of Education. "The energy level was high and the competition stiff throughout all final events."

Each event contained a maximum of six students per team. Students were allowed to compete in as many tests as they wished. Teams had been practicing for this event since October.

Saturday's competition began with the speech and literature events. Participants delivered a four-minute prepared speech on the topic of responsibility and a two-minute impromptu speech in front of a panel of three judges.

Literature students took a test based on the required reading, *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan. Participants had 30 minutes to answer 50 questions based on the book, a poem and language skills.

The super quiz was conducted immediately following both events. Teams walked into the testing arena to face off in a series of questions on the topic "Physical Principals, Structure and Function."

Each super quiz team consisted of four to six members answering 15 questions out of 30. The four highest scores were added up to determine the winning team.

The awards ceremony was held immediately following the super quiz and lunch. Certificates and pins were handed out to all participating students.

Seventh grade winners included:

Essay:	Holly Hiatt	RMS	Silver
Literature:	Holly Hiatt	RMS	Silver
	Brooke Yang	RMS	Bronze
Math:	Jameson Frazier	RMS	Silver
Speech:	Kaleb Roth	RMS	Gold
	Greyson Hoelzel	RMS	Silver

Eighth grader winners included:

Essay:	Vivian Montijo	RMS	Silver
	Kelsey Noble	RMS	Silver
	Sarah Valdez	RMS	Silver
Speech:	Alexa Rosa	RMS	Silver

STOCK cont. from P. 6

4864. You might still have time to get a special basket made for that special child. Tell Joann at the center if the basket is for a boy or a girl and the child's age and the size that you want.

As soon as Easter is over it is time for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors to start setting up for the annual fundraiser the Home and Garden Festival which will be on April 6. There will be breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Many colorful vendors will be there, the Seniors' nursery is starting to burst with trees and flowers. Don't forget everyone's favorite place for bargains, the Treasure House. If you want it, we got it – you just have to find it. Inside the center you will find your favorite homemade pies, cakes, cookies, candied jam and jelly. Need a gift for that special person? The Ranchos/Hills Boutique has a wide variety of gift items. This is all happening the first Saturday in April. On April 6 the center will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Want a table space to sell your items? Call 645-4864 and Joann will get you to our Home and Garden Festival chairperson Verlaine Elinburg.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors will take one deep breath and start on our

next fundraiser which is our 5th Annual Bike Ride for Seniors on April 20. Yes, we do have some seniors that still ride bicycles, but most of the riders come from Fresno and other bicycle riding clubs. Last year there were 200 riders at the center. This is another fundraiser that keeps our center open. There are different rides from 100 miles to 10 mile rides. After the riders make their ride, they come back to the center for food and prizes. This is another full day for the seniors who are working this event.

Since I also work with the local Chamber of Commerce I go right from the Bike Ride for Seniors to working getting things ready for the Flatlanders Parade on May 11. The theme this year for the parade is "Ranchos: Local and Lovin' it." Since this parade shows the pride that we have in our community, it should be easy to build a float of something in this community that you are proud of. Cut the entry form out of this paper, fill it out and with \$10 drop it off at the Chamber office.

I always think of Easter as family time. I hope that you have the opportunity to spend some time with your loved ones this year. God bless you, each and every one.

LAFCO cont. from P. 19

ered now, and into the future, for the defined area. One of the options is to combine districts so we are only dealing with one Road and Water District. This could provide greater efficiency in sharing of resources, governance and working with the County. This is the next logical step from three separate Road and Water Maintenance Districts, plus whatever Liberty Groves bring to the table. The alternative would be to manage these issues as a County Service Area. There are about 20 of these in Madera County now. We then could have our own governmental structure to deal with parks & recreation, community facilities and other municipal services. As a Community Service Area we would be given the Governmental recognition making it easier to pursue Grants as well.

This is not making the Madera Ranchos a city.


There are actually two more hurdles to that process and the Ranchos is a long way from even considering that. We all need to learn more and talk responsibly about what this means in managing our issues. Finding answers and alternatives is why LAFCo is here.

We all have families, churches, work, sports and our own lives. People don't make a town; neighbors getting involved do. Your

local commission, by request, falls under the California Conflict of Interest laws and the Brown Act rules for conduct and openness of the members' proceedings. The commission needs your input. Call the members listed above; stop them on the street and come to the meetings. The Ranchos LAFCo meets every third Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire. The first step for everyone is to take a survey on the Internet. It asks some basic questions that will help point us in the right direction. The commission needs all of the Ranchos who have access to a computer to take the survey. It will take some thought, but only about 10 minutes of your time. The survey is at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCO RanchosSurvey.

Please get involved or the Ranchos will end up getting the type of community government others give us.

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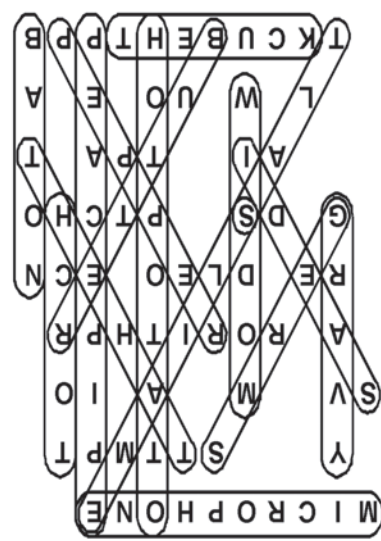
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ANSWERS

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

HERE	ORATED	URBANAREA	IRON	BOURNE	SELF	AWARE	POOL	POCKETS	STARTLING	STAIRS	ARIAS	MOVIES	FIERY	SEE	PALE	ENE	INSECT	LEGS	KLEE	EXPOS	BORG	SEE	PALE	ENE	STAR	WARS	MOVIES	POCKETS	STARTLING	STAIRS	ARIAS	MOVIES	FIERY	SEE	PALE	ENE	INSECT	LEGS	KLEE	EXPOS	HEIDI	READ	YCHIA	AVE	ALABAMA	BRADY	CHILDREN	SABERS	TEEM	COOPER	EAR	SWISS	SODAPACKS	PAPUA	ISLE	EAU	ALOE	BARREST	GUITARS	TRUSTEE	NIT	HANT	MURAL	STY	LE	ACLU	DOMINOTS	ARM	ALIBI	POD	ESAI	ICE	HO	KEY	TAM	DEMUR	LAP	ER	CANAL	GROU	PSO	FIX	UP	COUNT	RY	LAR	RUP	RENE	MESS	SIN	ESS	EM	ENDS	YSE	R
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3	-	9	2
9	-	7	5
10	÷	x	10
-	+	+	÷
4	÷	2	6
8	+	6	8
x	x	+	+
3	-	1	x
8	4	x	4



Classified

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Housecleaning - Get ready for spring! Get your house, yard and windows in order. Give us a call for a free estimate. **Call Linda at 559-645-0308 or Staci at 559-458-3248.**

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- Bleeding heart
- Goatsbeard
- Peonies

Source: www.hgtv.com

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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.

		-		×		8
×			×		+	
		÷		+		8
-			+		÷	
		-		×		10
3			9			2

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 9

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The Ranchos Independent classified rates are **crazy** cheap.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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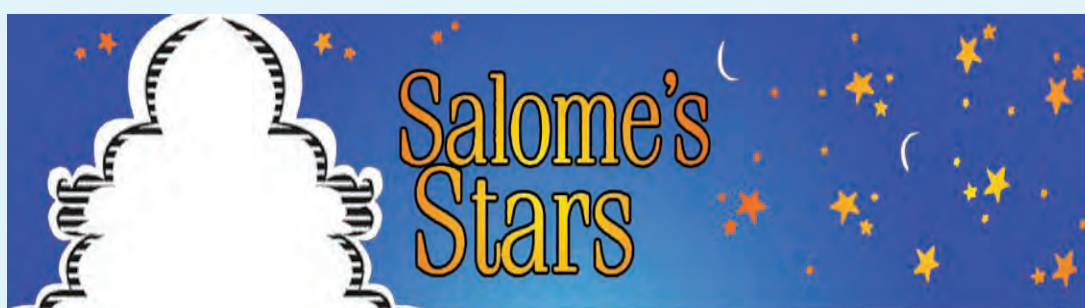


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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Rumors of a change in the workplace could make you a mite uneasy about going ahead with implementing your ideas. Best advice: Ignore the talk and proceed as planned.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Everyone has an opinion on how to handle a recent business suggestion. Thank them for their advice. Then go ahead and follow your own fine instincts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While home is your main focus this week, new issues in the workplace need your attention as well. Take things step by step. Pressures ease in time for weekend fun.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be less rigid when handling a relationship problem. You might believe you're in the right, but try to open your mind to the possibilities of facts you're currently not aware of.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas run at a hectic pace throughout much of the week. But by the weekend, the Lions' Dens become a purrrfect place for you Fine Felines to relax in.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Change is favored early in the week. This should make it easier for you to reassess your plans for handling a troubling professional relationship. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A suggestion from a colleague could give your professional project that long-needed boost. Meanwhile, someone close to you still needs your emotional support.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Before complying with a colleague's request, check to see that the action benefits all, not just one person's agenda. Continue firming up those travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your social life is on the upswing, and the only problem is deciding which invitations to accept. Enjoy yourself before settling down for some serious work next week.

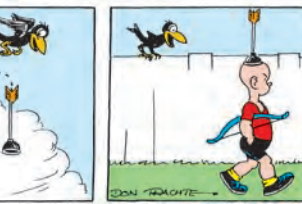
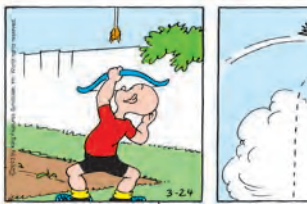
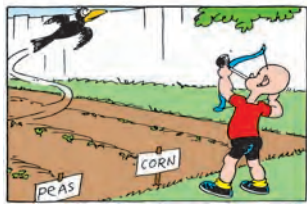
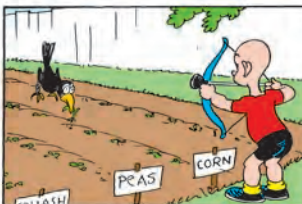
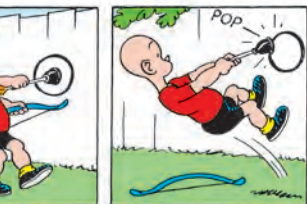
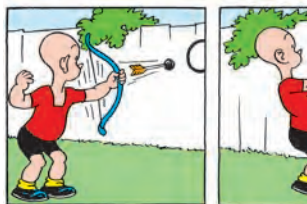
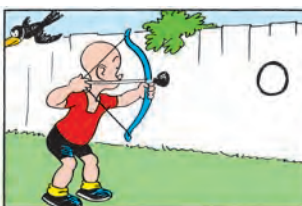
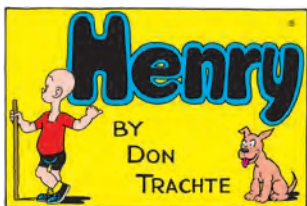
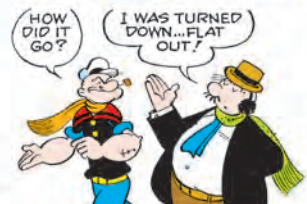
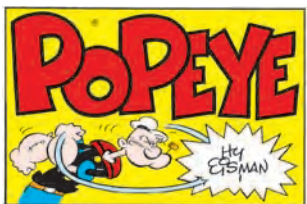
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With your creative aspects on high, you might want to restart your work on that novel or painting you put aside. Your efforts will bring a surge in your self-esteem.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) While you're generous with others, be sure you're not overlooking your own needs. Take time to assess your situation and make adjustments where necessary.

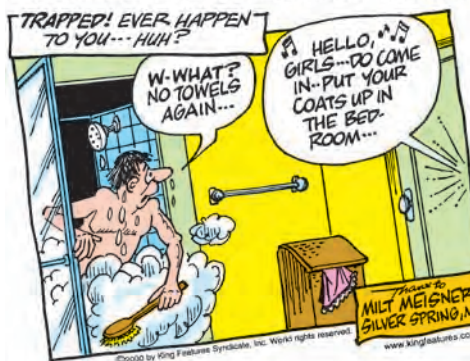
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Being applauded for your achievement is great. But watch out that you don't start acting like a star. It could lose your valuable support with your next project.

Born this Week
 Your strong belief in justice, along with your leadership qualities, help you protect the rights of others.

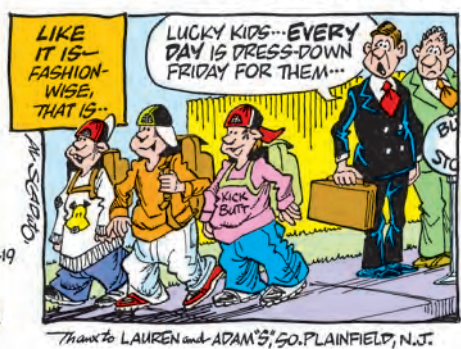
FUN PAGES



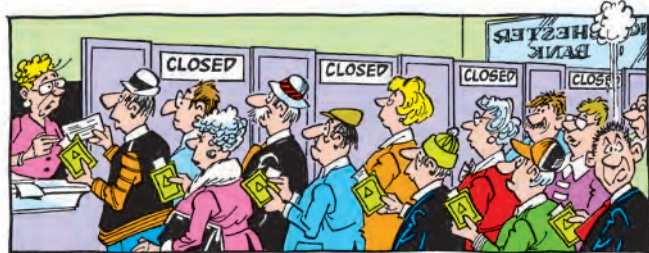
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



SIGN OF THE TIMES... LUNCH HOUR... 12 TO 1 IS WHEN THE WHOLE TOWN DOES ITS BANKING BUSINESS...



ER...UH... GUESS WE FORGOT TO MENTION... 12 TO 1 IS WHEN ALL THE BANK HELP GOES OUT TO LUNCH, TOO... OH, YEAH!

—Thank To JER HENDRICKS, DALLAS, TEXAS

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

CHECK MATES! Two checkmarks appear among the circles of the figure at right. You are asked to insert seven more checkmarks in such a manner that no two checkmarks appear in the same horizontal or vertical row, or on any of the numerous diagonal lines.

Remember, two marks are now in place. Insert seven more. Patience will help, as will an eraser.

No fair peeking below. Other answers may be possible.

Check that circle in 2nd row from top, 2nd in 2nd row from top, 2nd in 4th row, 6th in 5th row, 1st in 6th row, 3rd in 7th row, 1st in 8th row, 4th in 9th row, 5th in 10th row, 6th in 11th row, 7th in 12th row, 8th in 13th row, 9th in 14th row, 10th in 15th row, 11th in 16th row, 12th in 17th row, 13th in 18th row, 14th in 19th row, 15th in 20th row, 16th in 21st row, 17th in 22nd row, 18th in 23rd row, 19th in 24th row, 20th in 25th row, 21st in 26th row, 22nd in 27th row, 23rd in 28th row, 24th in 29th row, 25th in 30th row, 26th in 31st row, 27th in 32nd row, 28th in 33rd row, 29th in 34th row, 30th in 35th row, 31st in 36th row, 32nd in 37th row, 33rd in 38th row, 34th in 39th row, 35th in 40th row, 36th in 41st row, 37th in 42nd row, 38th in 43rd row, 39th in 44th row, 40th in 45th row, 41st in 46th row, 42nd in 47th row, 43rd in 48th row, 44th in 49th row, 45th in 50th row, 46th in 51st row, 47th in 52nd row, 48th in 53rd row, 49th in 54th row, 50th in 55th row, 51st in 56th row, 52nd in 57th row, 53rd in 58th row, 54th in 59th row, 55th in 60th row, 56th in 61st row, 57th in 62nd row, 58th in 63rd row, 59th in 64th row, 60th in 65th row, 61st in 66th row, 62nd in 67th row, 63rd in 68th row, 64th in 69th row, 65th in 70th row, 66th in 71st row, 67th in 72nd row, 68th in 73rd row, 69th in 74th row, 70th in 75th row, 71st in 76th row, 72nd in 77th row, 73rd in 78th row, 74th in 79th row, 75th in 80th row, 76th in 81st row, 77th in 82nd row, 78th in 83rd row, 79th in 84th row, 80th in 85th row, 81st in 86th row, 82nd in 87th row, 83rd in 88th row, 84th in 89th row, 85th in 90th row, 86th in 91st row, 87th in 92nd row, 88th in 93rd row, 89th in 94th row, 90th in 95th row, 91st in 96th row, 92nd in 97th row, 93rd in 98th row, 94th in 99th row, 95th in 100th row.

LETTER MIX EXERCISE

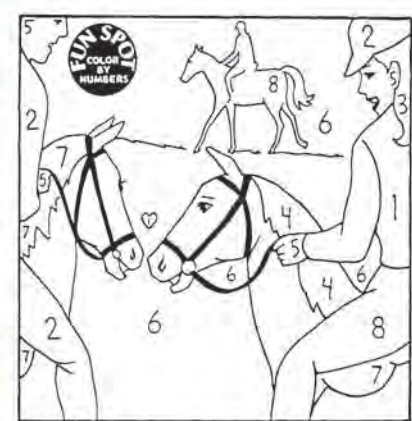
SEVEN letters in Panel 1, above, may be unscrambled to form three different seven-letter words, while six letters in Panel 2 will form three six-letter words. Clues to possible words are provided by these definitions:

Seven-letter words:
(a) Cutting back on calories, etc.
(b) Fixing typos.
(c) Applied a match.

Six-letter words:
(a) Smokey the Bear's hangout.
(b) Not as loud.
(c) Companion word to child or home.

What are the words?

FACE TRACE! Our artist says there are some 28 faces in the clown portrait above. How many of them do you find?



STABLE TALK! Well, fancy meeting you here! Use crayons or colored pencils to add these colors: 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.

ALLOCATE

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

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

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

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

Baton	Gravy	Peace pipe	The hat
Butter	Hot potato	Pepper	Torch
Emails	Ideas	Salt	Wisdom
Germ	Microphone	The buck	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Kentucky?
2. GAMES: What was the name of the victim in the board game "Clue"?
3. BUSINESS: Which fast-food restaurant chain once had a motto "Hot Eats, Cool Treats"?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Cousin Bette"?
5. MATH: What is another name for integers?
6. LANGUAGE: What does the latin phrase "ecce homo" mean?
7. MOVIES: Ingrid Bergman won her first Oscar for her role in which movie?
8. MYTHOLOGY: In Greek myth, what kind of creature was the Echidna?
9. ART: Which Renaissance artist was often called "Il Divino," the divine one, during his lifetime?
10. HISTORY: Who introduced the "Reign of Terror" during the French Revolution?

Answers

1. Frankfurt
2. Mr. Boddy
3. Dairy Queen
4. Honore de Balzac
5. Whole numbers
6. Behold the man
7. "Gashlight"
8. Half woman, half snake
9. Michelangelo
10. Maximilien Robespierre

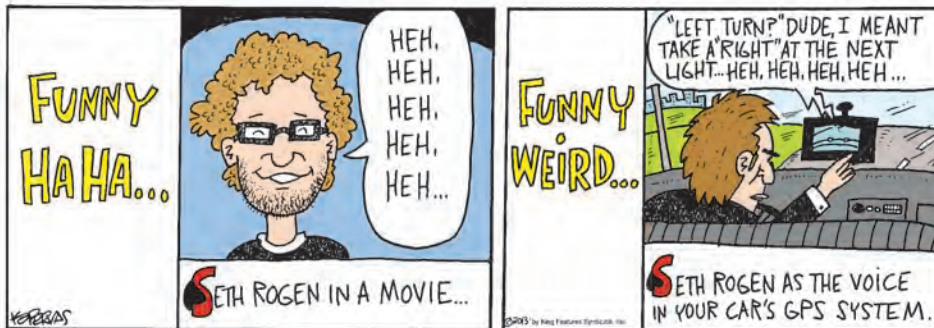
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



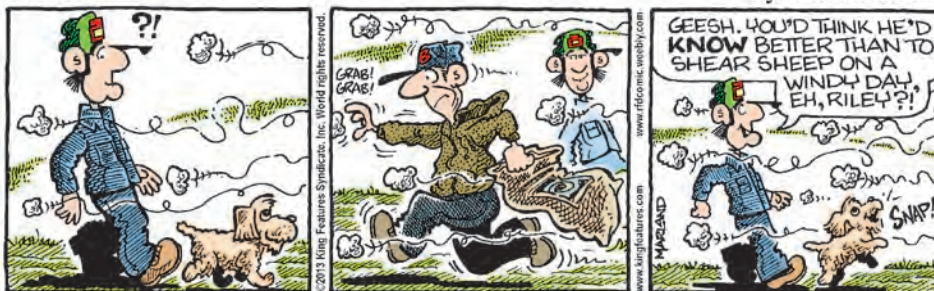
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers to the right.

SCRAMBLERS



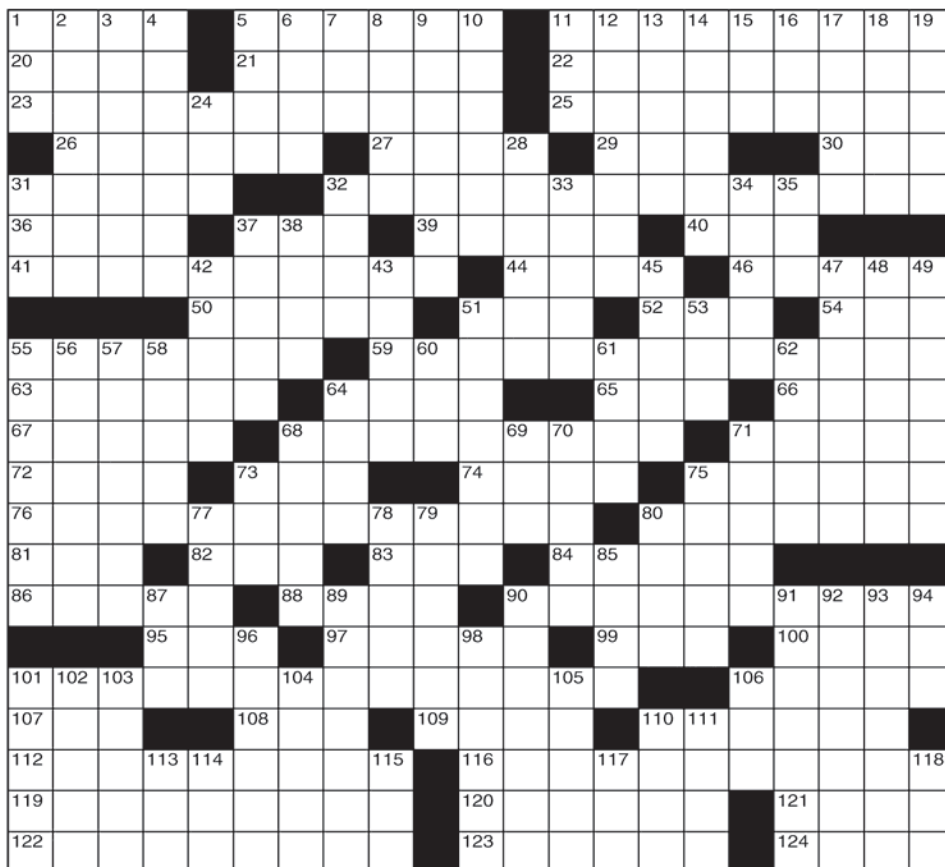
"Look at these awful grades! Think we can hit my with a malpractice suit?"

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Spoil **SWETA**
 Seek **CRASHE**
 Shut **SOLCE**
 Invent **TREACE**

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Epitaph start
 - 5 Spoke from a soapbox
 - 11 Inner city, e.g.
 - 20 Crease remover
 - 21 "The — Supremacy" (2004 film)
 - 22 In touch with who one is
 - 23 Billiards targets
 - 25 Astonishing
 - 26 Gazes
 - 27 Opera house song
 - 29 "... there — Santa Claus"
 - 30 Twice DI
 - 31 Flaming
 - 32 George Lucas collection
 - 36 Tennis Björn
 - 37 Attend (to)
 - 39 Norman Vincent — Billings dir.
 - 41 Some thorax attachments
 - 44 Swiss artist Paul
 - 46 Big fairs
 - 50 Literary 67-Across girl
 - 51 Vintage Olds
 - 52 Lead-in for la la
 - 54 "Hello, Hadrian!"
 - 55 Mobile site
 - 59 1970s sitcom siblings
 - 63 Dueling swords
 - 64 Swarm (with)
 - 65 Alley —
 - 66 "I'm all —!"
 - 67 From Zurich, e.g.
 - 68 61-Down purchases, e.g.
 - 71 — New Guinea (Pacific nation)
 - 72 Oahu, e.g.
 - 73 Water, to Fifi Lucas
 - 74 Salve plant
 - 75 Most plain
 - 76 Things to pick or pluck
 - 80 Fiduciary
 - 81 Thing to pick
 - 82 "Told ya!"
 - 83 Crawler with antennae
 - 84 Wall art
 - 86 Décor option
 - 88 Rights gp.
 - 90 Some pips
 - 95 Supply with guns
 - 97 Perp's out
 - 99 Seal school
 - 100 Morales of "Mi Familia"
 - 101 Stanley Cup contenders
 - 106 Hesitate due to doubt
 - 107 Race unit
 - 108 "— for Cookie"
 - 109 Starchy pudding ingredient
 - 110 Lethargic state
 - 112 Waterway with many locks
 - 116 This puzzle's theme
 - 119 Toward a nation's interior
 - 120 Wallop
 - 121 Descartes or Lacoste
 - 122 Slob's quality
 - 123 Corrects, as a manuscript
 - 124 River of Belgium
 - 7 Diving shorebird
 - 8 Yummy tidbit
 - 9 Catches in a web
 - 10 Yearn for
 - 11 Letters on a battleship
 - 12 Person on a pension
 - 13 Fashion designer Bill
 - 14 Ski chalet style, often
 - 15 Rebellious Turner
 - 16 Puncturing tool
 - 17 "The Gift" director Sam
 - 18 Golf's Els
 - 19 Patronage
 - 24 Snoop
 - 28 Stopped sleeping
 - 31 Dept. of Justice org.
 - 32 Sown thing
 - 33 Metal mixture
 - 34 Ryan or Tatum
 - 35 Irritate
 - 37 Mushroom parts
 - 38 Tony winner Kazan
 - 42 Singes
 - 43 Jeered
 - 45 Spirit of a culture
 - 47 Protective wall
 - 48 Make trite
 - 49 Having feeling
 - 51 Rife
 - 53 Cleave
 - 55 Hands out
 - 56 Court case
 - 57 Competence
 - 58 Attack from all sides
 - 60 Stephen of "Bad Behaviour"
 - 61 Popular pop
 - 62 Loved ones
 - 64 Talk up
 - 68 Olympic figure skater Cohen
 - 69 Math class: Abbr.
 - 70 Kramer of "Seinfeld"
 - 71 São —
 - 73 Important time
 - 75 Trademark
 - 77 "No man is — to his valet"
 - 78 Come from behind to win
 - 79 Arctic people
 - 80 Quartet minus one
 - 85 Strike callers
 - 87 — -di-dah
 - 89 Las Vegas' — Palace
 - 90 Explanatory drawing
 - 91 Cook, as onion rings
 - 92 Slow absorptions
 - 93 Red Bull ingredient
 - 94 Title for a knight
 - 96 Actor Chuck or singer Lila
 - 98 Hound breed
 - 101 Small intestine division
 - 102 "— diem!"
 - 103 Heroic poems
 - 104 Kunta — ("Roots" role)
 - 105 Demi of film
 - 106 Quartet minus two
 - 110 K.P. veggie
 - 111 Baking qtys.
 - 113 Canon camera option
 - 114 "— bono" ("To what purpose?")
 - 115 Fleur-de- —
 - 117 Capacious vase
 - 118 Gen — (post-'65 arrival)

SEM CU
south east madera county united

GET READY!

Community Swap Meet
June 1 and September 7

For more Community Events
see the Community Calendar inside

SEM CU Regular Meeting

Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza factory

SEM CU will be discussing Community Projects and needs volunteers to help with grants. Come to the next SEM CU meeting and give your input on projects needed in the Community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org