

The Ranchos Independent



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A CRIME IN THE RANCHOS



an isolated incident or a trend?
by Karen Petryna

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At about 9:30 p.m. on March 3, Alex Aguirre was leaving work at Pete & Maria's Italian Bistro on Avenue 12 when the unthinkable happened: Aguirre was robbed at knife point by two young men who took his cell phone and car. As they left, they left Aguirre with a chilling message: "If you call anybody, I'm going to f***ing kill you." The two then drove off into the night.

It was later learned that the two were juveniles from Valley Teen Ranch (VTR), one who had been in residence for three months and the other who had only been there for about 36 hours. Only an hour earlier the Sheriff's Department had been notified by VTR that the boys had run away. When the Deputy Sheriff (for the robbery) and the California Highway Patrol Officer (for the car)

arrived at Pete & Maria's to speak with Aguirre, they already had pictures of the run-aways to show him, which he recognized. He told the officers he and a co-worker had just left the restaurant and Aguirre's co-worker had headed off to the S&K Mart while Aguirre headed to his car while checking his phone for messages. Noticing two boys approaching from across the dirt lot, Aguirre began to slip his phone in his pocket and reach for the door handle of his Oldsmobile Alero, but it was too late. One of the approaching boys had reached him and threatened Aguirre with his knife while the other had walked around to the passenger side of the car. The boy with the knife ordered Aguirre to give him the keys to the car. Aguirre complied and began to back off when he was ordered to turn over his phone. When he did the boys drove off in his car. At that point, Aguirre saw another co-worker leaving the restaurant so he ran back to the door and the two were left back in to call 911.

A rash of incidents have occurred in the Ranchos on Avenue 12 as of late, including a bomb hoax, vandalism of the mailboxes at both the Maywood Shopping Center and at the Ranchos Market, stealing the cash box on the water machine in front of the

Ranchos Market and an assault and robbery in front of the store just a couple days before last Thanksgiving.

Exiting the market with her son at 6:20 p.m. in late November after running in to make a quick purchase, Lisa Loera, a local resident, found a young man in his early twenties pulling her son's back pack out of her car parked right in front. She quickly approached him and tried to retrieve the backpack while shutting the robber's adjacent car door to prevent him from escaping, but he pushed her down hard on the ground. By then, Loera's son had come around to her side of her car and also attempted to take the backpack. But the robber kept the pack, got in his car with his two accomplices, a male and a female, and sped off.

When Loera and her son headed back into the market, a woman who saw the incident offered to follow the robbers, took Loera's son with her but they had no luck. Meanwhile, Loera, who called her husband to come and join her, waited for a deputy from the Sheriff's office for 10-15 minutes because she had been told someone had already called 911. She then called 911 and waited another 30 minutes or so for a deputy to arrive and take a report while her head began to hurt. Another bystander said he had seen her get knocked

down and hit her head.

The Sheriff's Office told the Ranchos Independent that they had carried out their due diligence and returned to the Ranchos Market to view surveillance camera footage, but learned that no camera had been pointed toward the location of the incident. David Hill, owner of the Ranchos Market, told the Ranchos Independent that there are four cameras at the store, one on each of the four sides, and that the one in the front points out toward the parking lot.

In the case of the stolen phone and auto in front of Pete &

Please see **CRIME** on P. 3



Maywood Center: New Owners, New Plans



By Brenda McElroy

With the purchase of the Maywood Center by Flipside Church, the tenant becomes the landlord.

Most think of an investment as something done to secure one's financial future, so what is a church doing purchasing a shopping center? The answer is as close as the family down the street and as far away as the slums of Guatemala.

Flipside Christian Church made its home in the Ranchos 10 years ago. Those with young families back in 2005 are now sending sons and daughters off to college, the military and the workforce. As the Flipside family has grown up physically, it has also grown geographically. Flipside has always had an outward focus. Karl Roth, pastor at Flipside, is a tough guy on the football field but a tender heart when it comes to real needs. He believes the bible where it says, "He defended the cause of the poor and needy ... Is that not what it means to know Me?" declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 22:16) Roth is quick to approach the Flipside family with opportunities to meet needs, both locally and around the world.

"End game, yes, we're landowners," said Roth, "but it's an investment in ministry, not to the staff or lining church pockets. We value, believe in and love our Ranchos community and we want to see God's grace spread, and the Maywood Center thrive!"

The purchase of the Maywood Center generates funds to support ministries in the Ranchos and others halfway around the world. For now, the income from the tenants covers the cost of Flipside's mortgage payments, providing even more of the church budget for generous giving. Eventually, when the mortgage is paid off, "Only the Lord knows the future impact of this investment," Roth said.

Tita Evertsz is known as the Mother

Please see **MAYWOOD** on P. 14

Ranchos Firefighters Help Children's Hospital Raise \$\$\$



Gary Lewis works Avenue 12 for Kids Day.

Hospital. This year the one-day event on street corners throughout the Valley on Tuesday, March 8 raised \$591,559, with over \$1,600 of that coming from the Ranchos alone.

The event is a partnership between Valley Children's Hospital, the Fresno Bee and television station ABC30. It is the 29th annual time it has occurred and involved approximately 6,000 volunteers throughout the Valley. This is the 28th year that Station 19 volunteers have helped out. This year they sold over 400 newspapers.



Jan Williams (left) and Jannel Miller work 36 and 15.

Nearly \$8 million total has been raised over the 29 years of the annual event.

CRIME cont. from P. 2

Maria's, Aguirre's mother – and owner of the Beauty Club Salon & Spa, Irma Alvarez – told the Ranchos Independent that the Sheriff called Sunday, March 6 to inform her son that his car had been found in Seaside, Calif. But when they went to retrieve it, they had to pay \$385 in police and towing fees including \$65 per day for the three days it had been impounded on the

towing company lot. Alvarez asked Connie Clendenan, CEO of Valley Teen Ranch, to reimburse her son. Clendenan, who said Valley Teen Ranch was not legally liable, nevertheless accepted responsibility for what the youth had done. "They also paid the \$200 insurance deductible for Alex to replace his phone," Alvarez said. "And Connie called to tell us the police had caught the boy with the knife."

Alvarez, who has had all the locks in

her house changed, said, "For the first few days, (her son) couldn't be alone." And, although his car had been trashed but not damaged by the boys who had stolen it, Aguirre immediately sold it, and is now looking for another. "He's having trouble sleeping," his mother said adding, "he's looked into attending a victim's support group, but I told him this is life."

When asked whether she was seeing a trend among youth, VTR CEO Clendenan

said, "I think our families in our society are having more struggles with relationships, with adult relationships, economically, with drugs and alcohol, with employment, and their kids get caught up in that, which is not their fault. So there are lots of challenges that families have and all of those factors play into the situation. It's not just one thing or one person. They are

Please see **CRIME** on P. 17

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Letters

Dear Editor:

As a generational family dairy farmer who grew up here in Fresno County, it has always been confusing to me why the industry that feeds the world has become the target of some in the environmental community who do not understand the close relationship and dependence we have as partners with the earth. Fortunately, we are now beginning to see the scientific community confirming that not only does the farmer need a healthy planet, but that the planet needs a strong agricultural industry to help revitalize our planet and keep global warming under control by offsetting CO² emissions with the natural cleansing that agriculture provides. With the loss of forests and plant life in other parts of the world, it has become apparent that agriculture is the key to filling the void to control greenhouse gases and maintain a stable and healthy environment.

Environmental activists must take into consideration the recent studies that show that the plant life and trees that are the hallmark of California's agricultural industry are an effective counter to global warming due to their ability to encourage plant-based aerosol formation that helps cool the atmosphere. Plants release gases such as water vapor and oxygen that combine with aerosols released from plants to help reflect sunlight and form cloud droplets. While this is not a "silver bullet" in solving this issue once and for all, it is becoming more obvious that the Central Valley should receive the necessary water needed for agriculture to thrive and prosper to safeguard the environment for Californians. It is a much more cost and job friendly solu-

tion that can bring the environmental and agricultural communities together to meet what was always thought to be competing challenges.

It is shocking to me that confrontation between both sides has left us in our current state. By damaging our farm economy, the environmental bureaucracy has encouraged global warming and minimized our ability to generate steady rainfall while focusing on areas like fish friendly water flows that would be minimized in the first place with adequate rainfall that a healthy farm economy helps generate. By taking acres of farmland out of production and reducing the output of gases that generate more rainfall and cool the earth, they are unwittingly a part of a vicious cycle that hurts both our food supply, the economy and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Last year hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland were left fallow and dry in California due to a combination of drought and misguided environmental policies that failed to take into account the critical importance of a healthy farming economy in the Central Valley. While part of the drought can be attributed to natural causes, it is also reasonable to say that with more plant and tree producing farms we could have expected substantially more rainfall.

While greenhouse gases are one part of this equation, we must also not forget that by encouraging farm friendly policies we will be able to make an impact in an area of concern for all Californians, air quality. While all Californians face this issue, the

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 17

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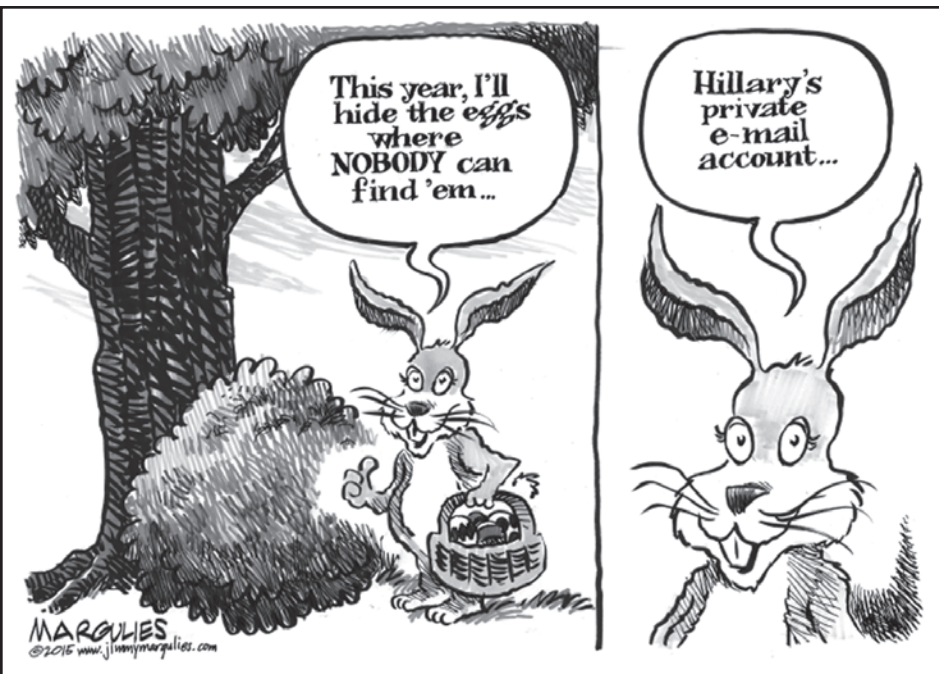
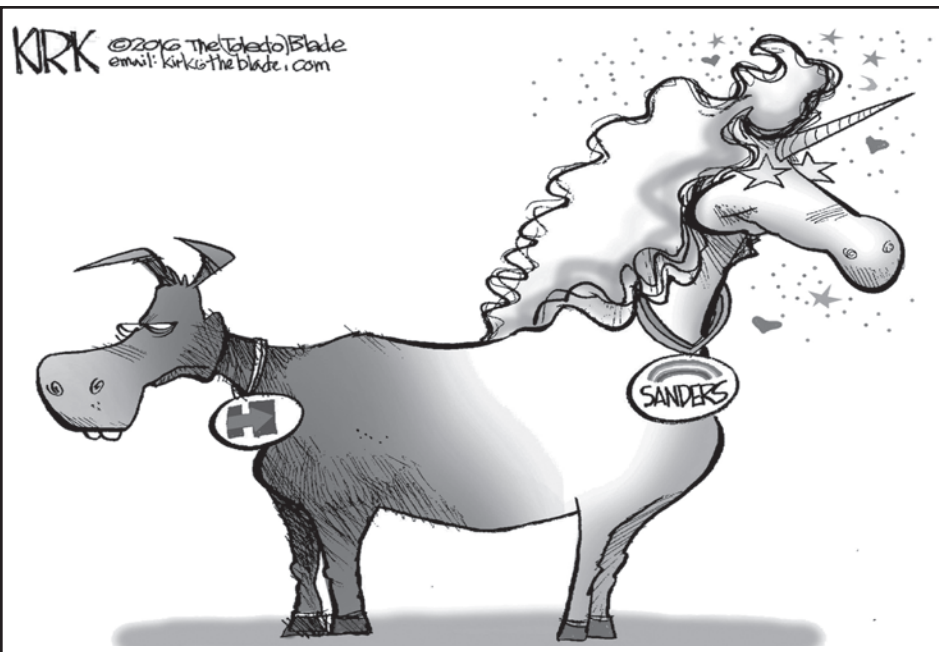
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Editorial

Unintended Consequences

By Randy Bailey

Unintended consequences are just that: Outcomes that are not what you had planned. It's like when you suddenly swerve the car to avoid that raccoon leisurely strolling across the highway and in the process you roll the SUV and send everyone in it to the emergency ward. You wanted the raccoon to be safe, but not at the expense of your car and passengers.

Unintended consequences.

Back when the Recall Election was gaining steam, one of the chief arguments against it was, "Who's going to pay for this?" With a price tag of more than \$20,000, those who were against the recall were making the argument that a recall shouldn't be had if for no other reason than the exorbitant cost. The school district couldn't -- nor should it be expected to -- cover the costs of what the opponents said was a frivolous exercise in little more than hurt feelings on the part of the proponents. Their rationale, therefore, was that regardless of the reason behind the recall, since they deemed it too expensive it should NOT go forward.

I've always had a problem with this line of reasoning. It's like saying just because the surgery would be painful, you shouldn't have that appendix removed. Or because it would

be embarrassing and impact your self-esteem, you shouldn't fess up and do the right thing when you've wronged someone. It's the rationale that we shouldn't build more prisons in California because we already have too many people in prison.

Huh?

Well, try this on for size: The new school board trustees, Mona Diaz, Brian Freeman and Maria Knobloch, working together with non-recalled trustees Mike Kelly and Steven Lewis, have figured out a way to make up the cost of that election by a factor of about 165 times.

Huh?

The current board has done its homework and has learned that, just like home mortgage refinancing, old general obligation school bonds can be replaced by issuing a new series of "refunding bonds" at lower interest rates, allowing the school district to refinance the outstanding 1999 Series C and D, and 2006 Series A and B bonds. The district could refinance a portion of its capital appreciation bonds without an increase to its tax rates and the term of the bonds would not be extended. All the costs associated with the refinance will be paid from bond proceeds and there will be absolutely zero cost to the general fund. When it's all said and done, it means a savings of \$3.3 million to Ranchos taxpayers.

Oh wait. There's one more thing: All savings will be passed on to taxpayers through lower annual tax assessments.

Now, I guess the old school board could have done the same thing -- but they didn't. It's funny, you can talk about doing something or you can actually do something. I prefer the latter.

I guess one way you could look at how this has played out is that a \$20,000 investment in people who have their collective heads screwed on straight has resulted in a \$3.3 million rebate in the pockets of Ranchos taxpayers, all without impacting the school district one penny.

As Forrest Gump said, "I'm not a smart man," but if I could invest \$20,000 and within one year realize a return of \$3.3 million I'd only have one question: Where do I sign up?

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

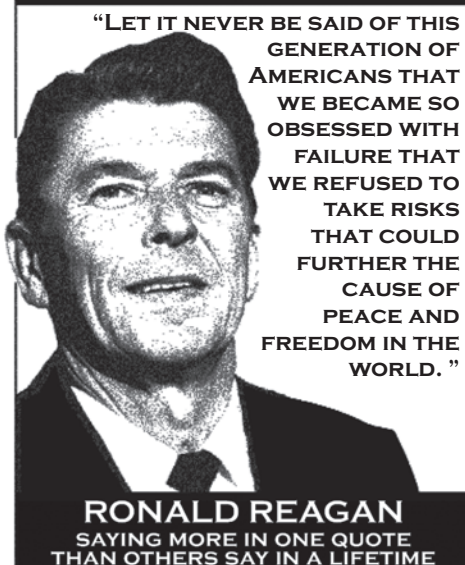
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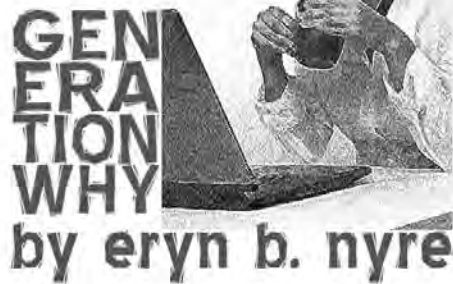
It's not a secret: I don't like rude people. I don't think it takes money or intelligence to exhibit a little decorum and civility in public. "Please," "thank you," "excuse me" and "I'm sorry" are all phrases that go a long way to show the world you understand it doesn't revolve around you and other people's time and efforts are just as important as yours. Coffee shops, grocery stores, movie theaters, theme parks, etc., are all filled with people who have somehow come under the impression that they deserve preferential treatment. I cannot stand demanding and impolite fools who steamroll over people because evidently their mom and dad never taught them to wait their turn, and I've had the misfortune of running into three of these people in the last two weeks.

It started when I was standing in line at one of my favorite lunch time sandwich shops. The place was slammed and I was waiting patiently with my head bent over my

I cannot stand demanding and impolite fools who steamroll over people because evidently their mom and dad never taught them to wait their turn ...

cell phone when I heard someone toward the back of the line holler above the crowd demanding to know how long it takes to get a sandwich because she had somewhere to be (I removed the expletives, of which there were three). The restaurant fell silent for a moment as all eyes whipped around to her. Oh, sorry ma'am. The rest of us are just gathering for our usual Tuesday afternoon stand-around-and-waste-our-time session. We'll just step out of your way and let you order before we go back to collectively loitering. I struggled internally with my natural instinct to round on her and verbally rip her apart, but since every other patron decided to ignore her, and the employees were too busy and frazzled to pay her any mind, I decided not to sink to her level. Against my better judgment I just focused on my Tetris game and silently hoped she would trip on her way out spilling her lunch and have to get back in line again.

A few days later I received a call from a patient who was livid that the nurse was unable to see her that day



GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**

(I work for a medical group in a division that sends nurses into patients' homes to provide skilled nursing care). The nurse was unable to see the patient because she wasn't home, she was out of town. Far out of town. The patient just couldn't understand why I couldn't have a nurse just drive the hour and a half to see her at her friend's house no matter how many

times I told her she was well outside our service zone. The patient told me she felt she deserved preferential treatment. Not because she was critically ill – she wasn't. Not because she was attending a dire family emergency – she wasn't. She felt she deserved preferential treatment simply because she had the good insurance. I don't know what she thinks the good insurance is, but she has the same insurance as about 60 percent of our other patients. After reiterating this, several times, she finally slammed the phone down effectively terminating the call. It was the best sound ever. Ever.

Then just the other day I was standing in our campus immediate care waiting to get some lab results for another patient when a woman came through the door pushing an elderly man in a wheelchair. She went straight to the counter and told the receptionist that he couldn't breathe. I'll be honest, he didn't look good and I have no idea why she brought him to the immediate care as opposed to the emergency room, but I'm sure she had her reasons. In any event, the staff hopped to and brought him straight back. As soon as the door closed behind him another

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 16

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Obama's Diaper Act

By Betty Van Valkenburg

"Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason."

-- Mark Twain

We might wonder if President Obama suddenly feels our frustration with government over-spending and over-regulating, because he is now proposing many "changes."

Does he want to change and simplify the tax code?

No.

Change or rip up the disastrous Iranian deal?

Heck no.

Change his mind on Obamacare? Change his stance on gun control? Change his expensive vacation habits?

No, no and hell no.

Instead, he wants to act on the nation's latest crisis, which is – wait for it – the great "Diaper Divide." His Domestic Policy Council director laments that "... there is no federal assistance for purchasing diapers, unlike other essentials like food or health insurance. Programs like WIC, SNAP, [and] Medicaid help provide nutritious foods and the supports [that] they and their babies need to stay healthy, but unless Congress acts, we don't have a program to help struggling families buy diapers for their children."

So Obama's 2017 budget includes \$10 million to "... test effective ways to get diapers to families in need." That \$10 million would buy a lot of diaper changes, right? Well, no. It wouldn't buy one diaper, but instead it would put lots of extra "change" in someone's pockets just to figure out how to buy diapers, which you or I could do for free. Is this just another example of the government corruption that we detest? Politicians inventing ways to reward friends or donors with taxpayer money for doing nothing?

You can read more blather about the dreaded "diaper disparity" (really!) at WhiteHouse.gov. Such as: "When families can't buy ... diapers ... they're faced with a choice between buying diapers and paying for food, rent or utilities like heat ..." "... Over time these kinds of stressors can contribute to the incidence of abuse and neglect of young children." Oh my gosh, moms in the poor rural area of my childhood sometimes cut up old sheets to make diapers and then secured them with those wicked diaper pins that unfortunately pricked kids' bottoms once in a while.

Surely there must be a Diaper-Pin Phobia Rehab Program for "victims" of such abuse. And if there isn't such a program, maybe someone could be paid a few million taxpayer bucks to study it. I would volunteer for the job and the paycheck, wouldn't you?

"Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives".

-- Ronald Reagan

OK, so this Obama diaper proposal is "small change" in the nanny state with astronomical debt. And we don't want innocent children running around diaper-less anyway. So what's the big deal?

The big deal is that it IS considered no big deal in today's world of overreaching government control and spending under the guise of "helping" the poor while making them dependent on government handouts rather than promoting self-sufficiency. It illustrates how far we have strayed from principles when one political party gets away with such nonsense, and worse, and the supposed-to-be opposition party promises reform but refuses to hold its nose and clean the proverbial dirty diaper.

The very big deal is that in the coming local, state and national elections we can vote to continue policies that are rushing us into both moral and financial bankruptcy or we can elect principled conservative candidates who prove to us by both words and deeds that they actually know the Constitution and its limits on the government and that they will take action to shrink the bloated bureaucracy and expand personal liberty.

This may sound easy, but it entails more than just voting based on feelings or listening to and believing candidates' sound bites, political ads and debate promises, some of which may be heartfelt and genuine and others mere hyperbole. It entails listening critically, investigating candidates' backgrounds and claims, reading their websites, talking face-to-face with any who are accessible or to their aides, attending debates or meetings and asking tough questions. And more. Whatever it takes to be sure that a candidate has real values and will actually follow through on promises.

We are, after all, thinking adults and should not allow ourselves to be spoon-fed empty rhetoric.

Our freedom and security may well be at stake so the next logical step would be to work tirelessly for candidates we trust: walk precincts, make phone calls, donate, call radio programs, tweet, email and more. Perhaps we can throw out the liberal/progressive/socialist agenda along with the taxpayer-funded dirty diapers.

For information and resources, please visit www.teaparty Patriots.org.

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 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

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.

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

Please see AUNT JEAN on P. 16

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Senior Report

Senior Center Garden Festival April 2

By Patti Groh

It is almost HERE and I am so UP for it! It is the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Home & Garden Festival on Saturday, April 2. This is a major annual fundraiser for the Seniors in our effort to support the Center and Senior activities. We are working hard to make it enjoyable and offer something for everyone.

The day will start at 6 a.m. with continental breakfast (vendors start arriving early). This will be available to all until 10 a.m. We'll have our usual bake sale, boutique, Treasure House of pre-owned goodies and garden sales, but this will be an amped up version. There will be outside vendors offering a diverse range of items. Forgiven Dog Rescue will be there with dogs available for adoption. Information booths will be there (health, educational, political). SEMCU will have free, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators available for 93636 zip code residents. There will

be a silent auction with great items. Take advantage of our poker hands that have wonderful prizes. BBQ lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. and you are all invited to enjoy the live music of Chuck Rovenstine and the Ranchos Country Band who will start playing at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Whew, it is going to be a busy day but oh so enjoyable. Please stop by and visit us.

*All the usual activities are going on at the Center ... All the goings-on are available in the monthly newsletter at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive, and at local businesses.
Happy April Fool's Day.*

We will also start selling our raffle tickets April 2 for the July 4th drawing. The first prize is four 1-day hopper passes to Disneyland (a \$620 value). Isn't that terrific? Second prize is a guided fishing trip for two

to three adults on Shaver Lake with Fish Box Charters. This is donated by owner Steve Santoro and is a \$375 value. Third prize is donated by Pizza Factory and is one free large pizza a month for a whole year. Yummy. (Approximately \$240 value.) Then, just for good measure, the fourth prize is a 3-yard Rent-a-Bin donated by Red Rock Environmental (a \$175 value). Great for yard and garage cleanups. Thank you to all our generous donors and tickets will be available at the Center and all Senior members, \$1 a ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. What a deal.

The new 2016 membership roster is available to all members at the Center. We did our best to have it all correct, but if you find a mistake let us know and we'll let members know what to change.

If you missed the Bunco blowout on March 19, make sure to get in on it next year. It was so much fun.

Birthday and anniversary lunch will be held on April 16 at the Spaghetti Factory on Shaw in Fresno. Sign up at the Center to attend. I haven't been there in a long time but I have good memories. It is time to try it again.

All the usual activities are going on at the Center. A lot of people are keeping themselves young by attending the exercise class M-W-F; a well-balanced lunch every weekday (don't forget to call in the day before); P&P (potluck and poker) on Thursday evening (each can be done exclusively and other games are played too). All the goings-on are available in the monthly newsletter at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive, and at local businesses.

Happy April Fool's Day.

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Kiwanis Korner

Madera Ranchos: Here We Grow

By Perry Watkins

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

Like it or not, the Ranchos area will soon be growing by several hundred residents. The infrastructure is complete and the first new homes will rise in the next few weeks. The first home foundation may be poured as soon as next week or two according to Supervisor Brett Frazier during a recent meeting with Madera Ranchos Kiwanis. This is the new Riverstone Village at Avenue 12 and Highway 41, where 6,600 homes are projected to be constructed growing to perhaps 30,000 homes in 30 years. In 30 years, The Ranchos, Rolling Hills, Bonadelle and now Rio Mesa areas will likely grow larger together than the City of Madera.

So fellow citizens, how would you like your future city to grow? We can band together to rally our resources and hopes and turn them into strengths and achievements, or we can become broken and

divisive or perhaps resentful of new growth. Either way, it is coming sooner than later; a new community in the middle of our three existing communities. A business park is already planned on the heels of housing developments. There are people who are invested in improving our communities constantly. They would surely welcome your participation. We can actively mold and shape our community with pride and dignity, or we can be armchair quarterbacks and grumble about how things “should-a-been” done. You could occasionally join others who are keenly interested and engaged in making our community something special.

In fact, you could join Kiwanis on May 1 from 3-7 p.m. at the Branch & Vine on Avenue 12, one mile east of the Ranchos. They are hosting “Taste of the Ranchos” with wine and beer tasting, live music with the excellent “Ranchos Cowboys” and samplings from at least five local food vendors and restaurants. These kinds of events directly support our community, schools, firemen, youth agencies like scouts, sports, Valley Teen Ranch, Valley Children’s Hospital and literacy. Your support assists in approximately 30

different ways in which Kiwanis supports the community. Tickets are being sold at the Pizza Factory, Now & Again Gift Thrift & Gift Shop or the Golden Valley Chamber office. Also, our “Cross the River Run” will be held on April 10 at Woodward Park. Register online at the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis website or register on the day of the run. Advance registration is recommended. Stop by our booth at the Flatlanders Parade on May 14 and grab a Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich. Stop in on Thursday evenings at the Pizza Factory to meet your neighbors and share your ideas to grow our community. We’ll even buy your dinner if you stop by at 6:30 p.m. (except for the first Thursday which is our Board meeting).

As our community grows, please grow with us. As new issues emerge we will need your help to build bridges and create a place where we would all want to live. Let’s make this a place where our children are safe and actively engaged. People are not the problem; people are our greatest asset. Perhaps we can actively bring folks together, make this a place of opportunity for all of us who work hard for a better life, support our excellent schools and move forward together.

We sincerely hope to see you soon at one of our community events. Help us even one or two days a year and together we will use that time to make a difference in someone’s life, to improve the community, to make this a place that we all are proud to call home.

Pizza Factory on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Call KIWANIS at 209-761-5968.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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District Attorney David Linn will host a Town Hall Meeting to discuss issues in the Ranchos.

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All residents of Madera County are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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Tech as Close as Your Phone

Hello 93636,
I am excited to tell you about a brand new technology for the automotive diagnostics world. You may have this technology in your pocket right now and don't even realize it. Although it's not a new technology, the automotive diagnostic application is. I can barely wait to demonstrate this technology to Liberty High School students at the next Career Fair Day. As recently as last fall this automotive diagnostic technology was undiscovered. After reading this article you will be equipped to perform some modern automotive diagnostic tests that most shops are not even aware of. Let me explain.

The modern automotive vehicle is the most complex, complicated, sophisticated piece of technology that you

interact with on a daily basis. The vehicle's electrical system is one of its most complex systems. Today, successful automotive technicians spend many hours per year in training to equip themselves for the task of diagnosing and repairing these modern marvels. Last month I attended another advanced electronics circuit diagnostic class. Dean, my instructor, is the lead diagnostic technician in his father's automotive repair business in southern California. His shop is very successful and employs 15 technicians. Because of the scope, quality and reliability of their work, many governmental agencies outsource work to him.

As Dean tells the story, he was attempting to diagnosis the infamous dreaded parasitic load complaint when a fireman entered the shop and began watching. A parasitic load generally manifests itself as a dead battery in the morning. The customer usually says something like, "I installed a new battery but I still have to jump start my vehicle every day." During the course of Dean's diagnostic routine, the fireman said, "I have something that may help you." When he returned from his truck he pointed his technology at the power distribution box that Dean was testing and

said, "These two fuses have a much higher heat signature than all the others." That's how it happened.

By happenstance a new technology was introduced into the automotive diagnostic world and you are among the first to know. The fireman used a Forward Looking Infrared Camera (FLIR) that he uses to look behind walls to identify a fire's location and determine if there are individuals trapped inside. The problem for us is his FLIR Camera has a hefty price tag of about \$10,000. With a little research, Dean discovered the Samsung 6 and the Samsung 6 GS cell phones already have a FLIR camera installed. Some of the guys in class had these cell phones and uploaded the FLIR App at break. Within a short time, we thought of many potential automotive diagnostic uses for this technology. Maybe we can use this technology to diagnosis a restricted radiator or AC condenser. Cur-

During the course of Dean's diagnostic routine, the fireman said, "I have something that may help you." ... That's how it happened.

rently we use an infrared thermometer for this purpose. On a properly functioning radiator or AC condenser there should be a minimum 30 degree drop in temperature between the inlet and outlet. Now I may be able to point a FLIR camera at these components and see the gradual transition in color. I wonder if I can aim the FLIR camera at a coolant thermostat housing and determine if the engine overheating problem is a stuck closed thermostat? I'm also thinking the FLIR camera might be useful for catalytic converter diagnostics. If a converter is efficiently oxidizing exhaust emissions, the exit temperature will be greater.

I'm certain it can be used to diagnosis vehicle braking problems. If a vehicle drifts during braking, I can use the FLIR image to see if one brake is performing more work than the others. If a vehicle seems to be blowing through front brakes like a NASCAR stock car at Bristol, maybe the brake master cylinder has failed and the rear brakes are not being applied. The heat signature will tell. As you can see, it's just physics and the diagnostic potential is endless. Hope this tip helps. At minimum it should be fun for you all to try.

Please contact me at complete_car_care@hotmail.com. OK, happy hunting and God Bless.

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The 26th Annual Flatlanders Day is Almost Here!



The 26th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, is coming Saturday, May 14 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.

An entry form for the parade is found to the left of this article and applications for booths at the food and crafts fair are available at the Ranchos Library.

New Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family

Tim Jones
Riverstone Development

Nathan Lee
CASA of Fresno & Madera Counties

Crab Feed "600" Sponsors

The 13th Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed was a huge success on March 4, and what really made the event possible was a group of special sponsors:

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Golden Valley Chamber

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM YOUR

2016 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 14, 2016 • \$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 Topper to Kensington

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 9** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Flatlanders is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

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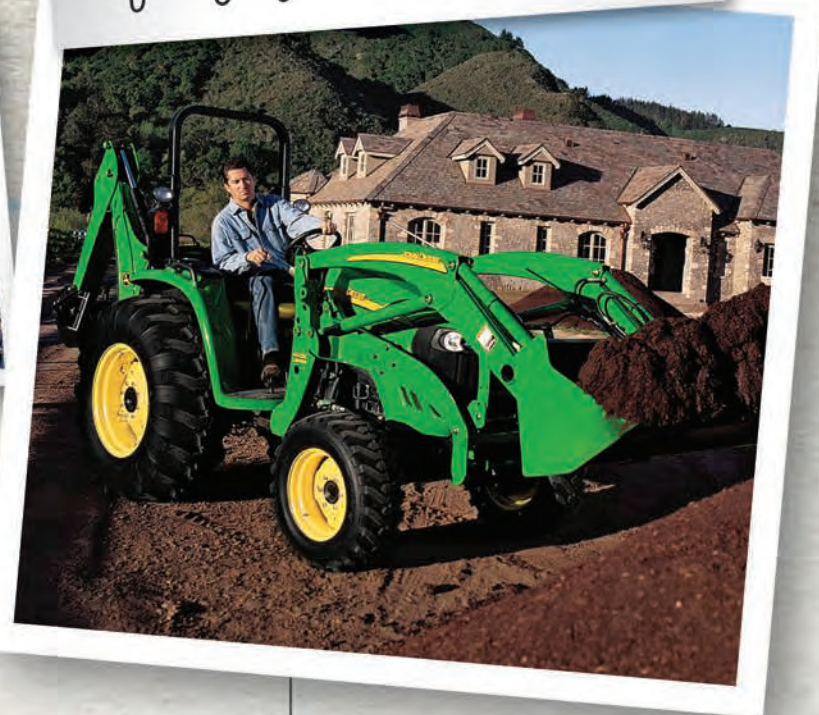
The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us on April 13 and help plan the 26th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Call us at 645-4001.

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JOHN DEERE



Midland Tractor

MAYWOOD cont. from P. 2

Teresa of La Limonada, Guatemala. She ministers in the largest urban slum of Central America where a river of sewage runs through the ravine. Seventy-thousand people live in this slum of Guatemala, one-mile long and half-a-mile wide. Fifty percent of the inhabitants are fifteen years and younger.

To dull the pain of malnutrition, physical abuse and sexual abuse the children are sniffing glue by age eight. Ten gangs rule the slum making it extremely dangerous to travel through the ravine and cross gang lines. Eight young children, nick-named "The Brave Ones," began crossing the lines in a desperate attempt to receive the love, education, nutrition and health care provided at Tita's academy. Two of them were recently shot and killed.

Tita's academies serve as a beacon of hope and an opportunity to break the systemic poverty. When Roth came to the Flipside family with Tita's request to open a third academy, the church responded by giving generously. With the dollar going so much further there, Flipside's \$50,000 gift renovated a building and is funding a program for 150 children for a year.

Teams of people, teens through adults, make bi-annual trips from Flipside to both Guatemala and Mexico bringing needed supplies and manual labor to support not only Tita, but others working in needy areas. When Lisa Casarez, Founder of Angels of Grace Foster Family Agency, shared the desperate need for diapers and formula, Flipside

donated \$10,000 along with handmade blankets to share with the babies and children who are removed from drug houses and extremely violent home situations.

Flipside also recognizes local needs and loves to reach out to the Ranchos community. In addition to the annual Harvest Party, Easter Celebration, Liberty High Tailgate and Vacation Bible School, there are other ways that Flipside cares for the community. The Butterball Project provides turkey dinners with all the trimmings for families who might just need a little extra help at Thanksgiving. Through its ministry called Care Connections, teams of men, women and young people reach out to widows, the elderly and others in need, providing general maintenance around the home and yard. The Flipside food pantry is another way local needs are met.

The six remaining "Brave Ones" now have an academy in their neighborhood, but there are still many who don't. Pastor Roth points out that when you shop at the Maywood Center, you are investing in much more than a meal, a haircut, a six-pack, or a tank of propane. You are investing in the lives of those in need both locally and around the world. The 2016 theme at Flipside is "Limitless."

"We believe that God is limitless in His ability to show people His mercy and grace and He does that primarily through His people in the world," said Roth. He extends an invitation to all those who don't have a church home to come and experience firsthand the Flipside family.

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"He has risen!"

Happy Easter

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March 27 Schedule:

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- 9 a.m. - Bible Study (for ALL ages)
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

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Liberty High Sober Graduation 2016 will be at Flatlanders Day on May 14 at the Maywood Center. If you've promised to donate or to help, come by and see us so we can finalize any arrangements. To see how you can help, give Diana or Stephanie a call.

3/16



call Diana Mendoza
at 559-355-6109
or Stephanie Workman
at 559-709-1477



Three Ingredients for an Organized Kitchen

Kudos to my son-in-law, Micah, and his generation of guys who are not strangers to the kitchen. As much as my granddaughters love to make food in their play kitchen, they will grow up expecting their husbands to have culinary skills as well. On the other hand, my husband and I are more of the generation that follows – he stays out of the kitchen and I stay away from the barbeque. One custom we've learned from our kids is one cooks and the other cleans up. I like that.

However the culinary duties are divided in your home, a well-organized kitchen is a happier place to be. There are three key ingredients to creating this happier place, but there's lots of room for experimenting and seasoning it to your own taste.

The first key ingredient is PURGE. When kitchen drawers and cabinets are crammed full, you're less likely to find what you need and more likely to go out and buy it, even though it's there somewhere. You're less likely to put things away, because there's no room, and more likely to eventually avoid the kitchen all together.

Purge the gadgets and utensils that haven't been used since — well, ever. Purge the plethora of coffee mugs and reduce to what you actually need and use. Determine how many left-over containers you would need on a good cooking week, and donate the rest. Purge the lidless containers, and containerless lids. If you replaced pots and pans, but never let go of the old ones, do it now. Same with mixing bowls, dishes, glassware, thermal mugs, water bottles, etc.

Are there items you've been storing "just in case" like your fondue set or punch bowl? If you have plenty of space, it's OK, but if not, let it go and post on Facebook if you need to borrow one. I'm sure there's someone out there who has saved everything. If your food processor hasn't been used since you made your own baby food, maybe it's time to pass it along. If your hand mixer is preferred over your KitchenAid, you can create more counter space by letting that go too.

If, during the purge process, you come

across some items that are questionable, place them in a box in the garage or high in a closet. If during the next six months you go there to get something out of the box, it's earned its keep. If not, let those things go too.

Cruise through your spices and check for expired dates. Do the same with other dry goods. Are there half-used boxes of cereal no one has touched in months? Are there specialty items you purchased for a recipe that you decided is too much work? Let the items and the guilt go.

Now you're ready to move on with ingredient two — setting up your zones. Think about where you stand when you prepare coffee, make lunches, put leftovers away, bake cookies, prepare dinner, etc. Designate zones for the items needed for these tasks based on where they're used and place like things together.

The countertops should only store items that are used daily or multiple times per week. The most accessible cabinets and drawers should be used for other items that are frequently used. Place the rarely used items in the high and low areas and in those deep corner cabinets.

Ingredient three is using organizing products that make your space more efficient. A three-tier cabinet organizer allows you to have food cans and spices three deep and still see what's in the back. Turntables also provide better access and are great for the corners. Another handy "see what's in the back" product is a wire or wood sliding drawer. They can be purchased and installed into most cabinets and are especially helpful for heavy items like pots and pans.

A cutlery and utensil drawer organizer allows you to separate your measuring spoons, spatulas, openers, etc. so you can easily find what you need. Keep the utensils used most often in a caddy near the stove.

Make good use of your vertical space by hanging mugs and stemware. You can also hang undershelf organizer baskets to fill the gap. Pan, lid and tray racks all keep things from having to be stacked so you can grab one without lifting the whole pile.

Undercabinet organizers include K-cup holders, cookbook and iPad holders, knife block holders and more standard items like can openers and coffee makers. These all help keep your counters clear.

For more kitchen product ideas and links you can visit the Resources page on my website at www.OrganizedByChoice.com/resources/. Bon appetite!

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

AUNT JEAN cont. from P. 8

way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would 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 there are always plenty of desserts. Usually a coconut cake, Adam brings his always welcome pies, and I sometimes make a pineapple upside down cake. 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 Bonnadelles' 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

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

woman jumped out of her chair and demanded to know why he was seen before her. Evidently she had been there for an hour and hadn't been called. Then she said, and I wish I were joking, she could pretend not to be able to breathe if that would get her seen faster. The receptionist told her (more calmly than I could have) that a man who cannot breathe takes precedence over non-urgent medical conditions. Then psycho lady, who was providing me with enough entertainment that I wished I had some popcorn, wanted to know who made such determinations. Whose job was it to review the waiting patients and decide who is and isn't important. The nurse who had just stepped into the waiting room when the chick started ranting said, without missing a beat, "The triage nurse. The clinician who spent two years in nursing school learning about sickness and the human body. The one who knows that a man not breathing is more critical than a woman who has

enough lung capacity to stand and shout and make a spectacle of herself in front of a room full of people." Crazy stood there with her mouth unhinged and I felt the urge to start a slow clap. People like that drive me insane, but knowing there are others like me who are not willing to tolerate this kind of behavior fills me with at least a little bit of hope.

Free Tax Prep in Madera County

Free income tax return preparation and electronic filing for both state and federal returns will be available again this year for Madera Ranchos-area residents, offered by the AARP Tax-Aide program. Services are provided free of all costs and charges. Tax returns are prepared by specially trained and certified volunteers. The returns are prepared on site, and then electronically filed the same day.

Tax help is offered to persons of all ages – you don't have to be a senior citizen, or a member of AARP. Last year Tax-Aide prepared first tax returns for several 17- and 18-year-old students who had their first jobs.

Tax-Aide Services for Ranchos residents are offered in the City of Madera at 711 Nebraska every Friday through April 12. Appointments are available there, and also for two Mondays in the City of Chowchilla, by calling Sarah at 559-675-7039.

In the mountains, this year the program is moving from the Sierra Senior Center, where it has always been hosted, to the community room at the Oakhurst Library. Services will be available Tuesdays through April 7, and some Saturday dates will also be available to make the services more accessible for families and working adults. Appointments for all of these dates and locations can be made by calling Brian at 559-285-1494.

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service available to taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Over 33,000 AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service now help over 2 million taxpayers file their federal, state and local tax returns each year at nearly 7,000 AARP Tax-Aide sites nationwide.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

cities. By allowing us to expand our agricultural footprint, we give nature the ability to take many dangerous particles out of our air, improve overall air quality and address a problem that was not of our making. All we ask is that California government leaders and bureaucrats look at the realities of science and let the people of Central California receive the necessary quantity of water that fosters an environment with cleaner air that controls greenhouse gases along with this air pollution.

I truly believe (and the recent scientific data supports) that with proper water storage and distribution policies that are driven by common sense instead of outdated environmental policies driven by politically motivated interests, our farmers can do far more to offset greenhouse gasses generated by Bay Area and Los Angeles traffic and industry than any High Speed Rail project which is really nothing more than a payback to political contributors and is vehemently opposed here.

I like to say that farmers are the first environmentalists and have more at stake than those who merely voice a concern for environmental issues. We know the earth, the weather and the ways to protect and sustain our food supply and rejuvenate our environment which makes all of these things possible. By providing my fellow farmers with the water we need to grow our crops, and our families with cleaner air, we can make a difference for not only a stronger economy for Californians now but for our children's future to live in a clean and sustainable environment.

Johnny Tacherra
Burrel, California

CRIME cont. from P. 3

teenagers.”

Describing the program at Valley Teen Ranch, Clendenan said, “We are here to help them with their choices and to try and help them be successful adults.” She said VTR had been in operation for 29 years during which time over 1,200 young men had been admitted to their program. “We call ourselves ‘Hope Dealers.’ Our motto is, ‘Building Young Lives.’” She also said, “Our oldest graduates are in their 40’s now, and we still hear from many of them. Social media and Facebook help keep us in touch. It’s all about relationships,” she said.

Clendenan, who has been with VTR for 28 of its 29 years, said in all 58 counties in California, boys who are under 18 and have committed what are called “Juvenile Offenses” are sent to Juvenile Hall. A judge then determines the consequence for each individual and they may order that the boy or girl be sent to a group home. VTR is considered for boys in about 28 counties, with priority over the San Joaquin Valley.

Valley Teen Ranch has 75 people on staff who care for up to 32 boys at the group homes. VTR works with over 100 children and youth every day in all of their programs.

The boys who ran away will be returning to lock down at the Juvenile Hall in the county they’re from, not Madera, and not to VTR.

Salon owner, Alvarez, who suggested the whole community should be alerted when boys at VTR run away, said for the three years she cut their hair she only met one who wasn’t polite and helpful. “They would offer to sweep up and they would answer, ‘Yes, ma’am,’ and ‘no, ma’am,’” she said.

Regarding the incident with Aguirre, Clendenan said, “VTR residents have never had an incident like this in our neighborhood before. We’re deeply sorry this happened.”

The Bookshelf

Here Comes National Library Week

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library loves this rain we have been getting. It makes for perfect reading weather. What better way to spend time indoors than with a good book? You can create an exciting story time at home with the little ones, spend time in a land of mystical creatures or delve into a thrilling criminal mystery. Rainy days and books go hand in hand.

There are a couple of reasons to celebrate reading and the Ranchos Library during the month of April. National Library Week will be observed April 10 through April 16. It is a time to celebrate

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11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries – school, public, academic and special – participate. April is also National Poetry Month. Every April, on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them and sharing it with others throughout the day at schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces and on Twitter using the hashtag #pocketpoem. Poem in Your Pocket Day was originally initiated in 2002 by the Office of the Mayor, in partnership with the New York City Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education, as part of the city’s National Poetry Month celebration. In 2008, the Academy of American Poets made the initiative national, encouraging individuals across the

country to join in and channel their inner bard. Poem in Your Pocket Day 2016 will be held on April 21.

We have been working very hard on putting together our Summer Reading Program. We are still searching for sponsors to help us with our performances, weekly giveaways and our grand prizes. In the coming months we will have our posted list of activities available.

The 26th Annual Flatlander’s Day is quickly approaching. Preparations are well underway and the library is filled with excitement. Craft Fair Vendor applications are still available. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact

the library. Vendor booth applications will be sent via email and there are some printed packets available for pick up in the library during regular operating hours. Remember that vendors are assigned spaces on a first come, first served basis. Craft Booths are \$40 and Food Booths are \$60. Payment is required at the time the application is submitted. Madera County Environmental Health procedures will be strictly enforced for all food vendors.

The Flatlander’s Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 in the Maywood Shopping Center. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact the library at 559-645-1214. Parade applications are provided by the Chamber of Commerce but are also available for pick up in the Ranchos Library.

ANSWERS

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4. Connecticut
5. Ohio State
6. UCLA
7. Michigan
8. Michigan State
9. Notre Dame
10. Wisconsin



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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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by Dave T. Phipps



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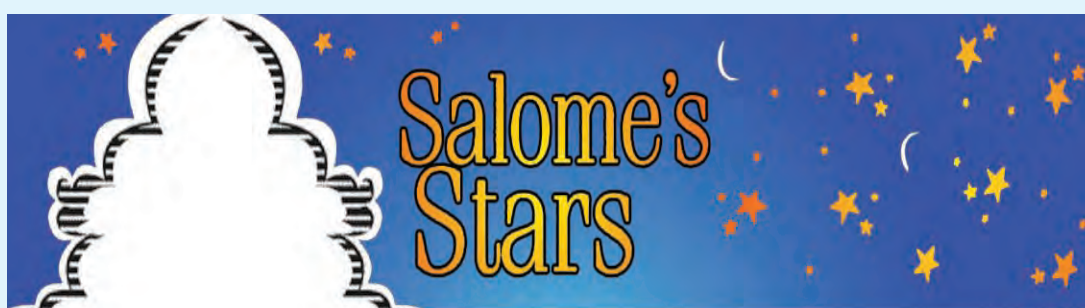
CA LIC #842676
 438 E. Shaw Avenue #217
 Fresno, CA 93710
 559-977-6289
 559-645-1864
 davisplumbco@aol.com

3/16



"We planned to grow old together, but he started without me!"

www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Regarding your upcoming challenges, the Aries Lamb should very quickly size things up and allow you to make the best possible use of whatever resources you have on hand. Good luck.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You rarely blame others for missteps that worked against you but this time you need to lay out all the facts and insist that everyone acknowledge their mistakes. Then start again.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to start making vacation plans. And don't be surprised by unexpected family demands. Maintain control. Be open to suggestions, but don't get bogged down by them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work with both your Moon Child and Crab aspects this week to keep both your creative and your practical sides balanced. Your intuition sharpens, giving you greater insight by the middle of the week.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat finally should have all the information needed to move on with a project. If not, maybe you'll want to give everything a new and more thorough check before trying to move on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Too much emotional pain caused by someone you can't win over as a friend? Then stop trying to do so. You have other things you need to work on this week. Go to it, and good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time to reassess where and how your strengths can help you build, and where your weaknesses can hinder you. Remember to build on your strongest foundation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That personal matter that seemed so hard to deal with should be less confusing now. Let things happen easily, without the risk of creating even more puzzlement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Change continues to be a strong factor in many important areas. Keep on top of them, and you won't have to worry about losing control. A personal situation takes on a new look.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A business offer sounds intriguing but if you don't check it out thoroughly, you could have problems. Take a set of questions to your next meeting.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your self-confidence should be coming back. That's good news. But it might be a bit over the top right now, so best to let it settle down before you start making expensive decisions.

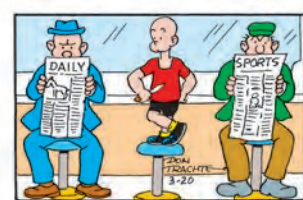
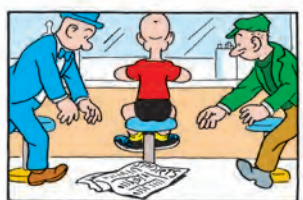
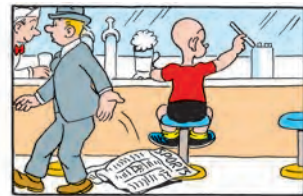
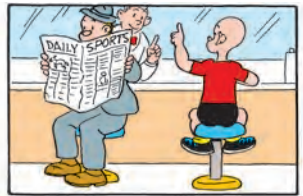
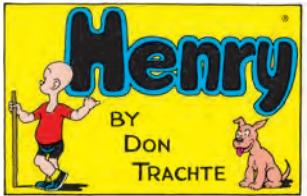
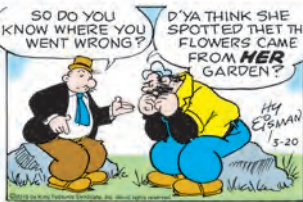
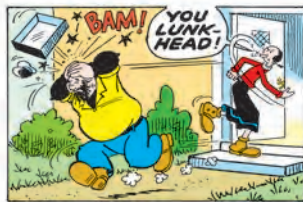
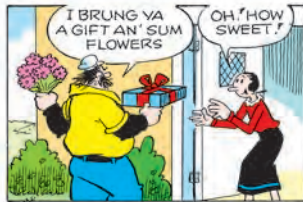
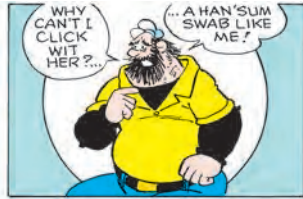
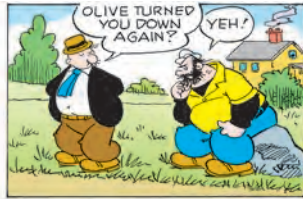
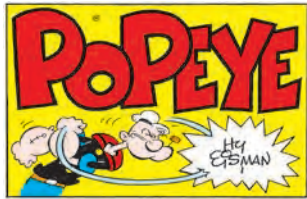
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your life, your decisions. Good enough. But be sure you have all the facts you need to put into the decision-maker mixing bowl and hope it will come out as it should.

Born this Week

You find much of your creativity with new people who give you much to think about.

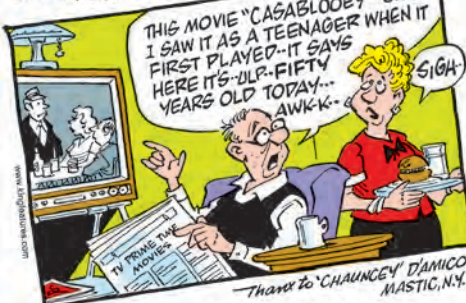
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FUN PAGES



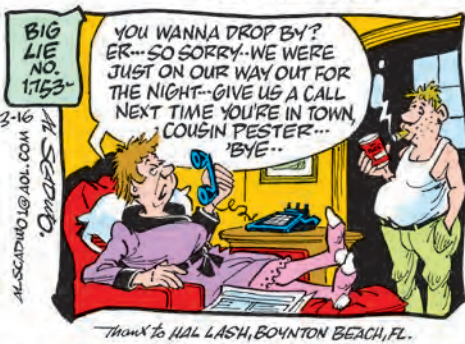
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN...



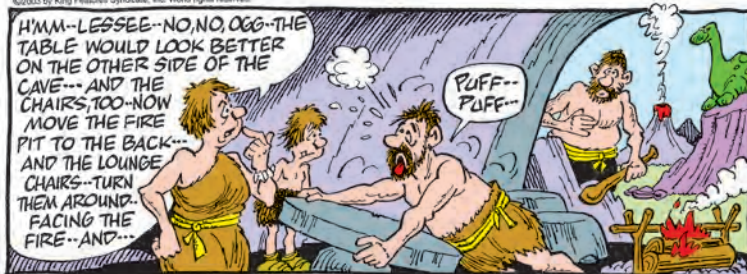
THANKS TO 'CHAUNCEY' DIAMICO, MASTIC, N.Y.

BY AL SCADUTO



THANKS TO HAL LASH, BOYNTON BEACH, FL.

CIRCA 3,000,000 B.C. THE FIRST WIFE TO GET THE FURNITURE-MOVING-AROUND ITCH--SO-O-TIMES HAVEN'T CHANGED SO MUCH AFTER ALL....



H'MM--LESSEE--NO, NO, OGG--THE TABLE WOULD LOOK BETTER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAVE-- AND THE CHAIRS, TOO-- NOW MOVE THE FIRE PIT TO THE BACK-- AND THE LOUNGE CHAIRS-- TURN THEM AROUND-- FACING THE FIRE-- AND...



FREDDIE FLUNKED STRAWS 101! See if you can remove eight straws from the 24 shown here and have three squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20 and 22, you will be left with two large squares and one small square.

A REVOLUTIONARY REBUS PUZZLE! What historic American event is represented in the rebus pictured to the right?

Answer: In the rebus, a "T" is being dropped into a "C". Therefore, this must represent the "Boston Tea Party."

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

1. MAN (in place).
2. Found on a lion.
3. Tropical fruit.
4. To control.
5. An aquatic mammal.
6. A musical instrument.

Answers: 1. Man 2. Mane 3. Mango 4. Manage 5. Manatee 6. Mandolin.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● — SHIPS

MBYVSC EQNKHEBYL
 WTRROALTJGEBYLW
 URPMERCHANTNAKI
 GGDBZGEGXRVT SQO
 MKNIGONNECIAYRW
 USQIPINEIPLPLEJ
 HFECLE RUSAERTPA
 YXVIUACOVSTSQPP
 NMAKJHHAFEANCIB
 ESIURCNWPZYPOLX
 VUTRQPRATSOHGCO

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Cargo | Hospital | Pirate | Tall |
| Clipper | Merchant | Sailing | Treasure |
| Container | Naval | Space | Whaling |
| Ghost | Passenger | Star | |

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CAN YOU SURVIVE THE FOLLOWING FIVE TESTS?



DARE
RARE
RASE
RISE
RISK

You have four minutes to solve these problems and move on to the next challenge. In this type of puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed DARE to RISK in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. LOAN to PAID
2. RATE to COST
3. SAND to PILE
4. TAPE to WORM
5. WAND to SILK

- Answers:
 1. LOAN, LOIN, LAIN, PAIN, PAID
 2. RATE, RASE, CASE, CAST, COST
 3. SAND, SANE, SALE, PALE, PILE
 4. TAPE, TARE, TORE, WORE, WORM
 5. WAND, SAND, SANK, SINK, SILK

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: How many words is Shakespeare credited with inventing?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What is the Irish dish called colcannon made of?
3. ASTRONOMY: What is the third planet from the Sun in our solar system?
4. HISTORY: Who was Britain's first female prime minister?
5. SCIENCE: What is the scientific study of fingerprints called?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the country of Palau located?
7. ANATOMY: Where are the three smallest bones in the human body found?
8. MATH: How many different ways can you make change for a dollar?
9. QUOTATIONS: What 20th-century mythologist made the observation, "We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us"?
10. FLAGS: What color is the maple leaf on Canada's flag?

Answers

1. More than 1,700
2. Cabbage and mashed potatoes
3. Earth
4. Margaret Thatcher
5. Dermatology
6. Western Pacific Ocean
7. The middle ear
8. 293
9. Joseph Campbell
10. Red

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Click on "Local News" at

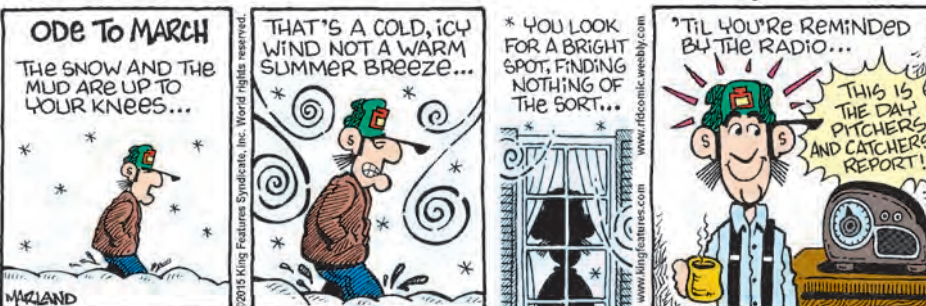
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

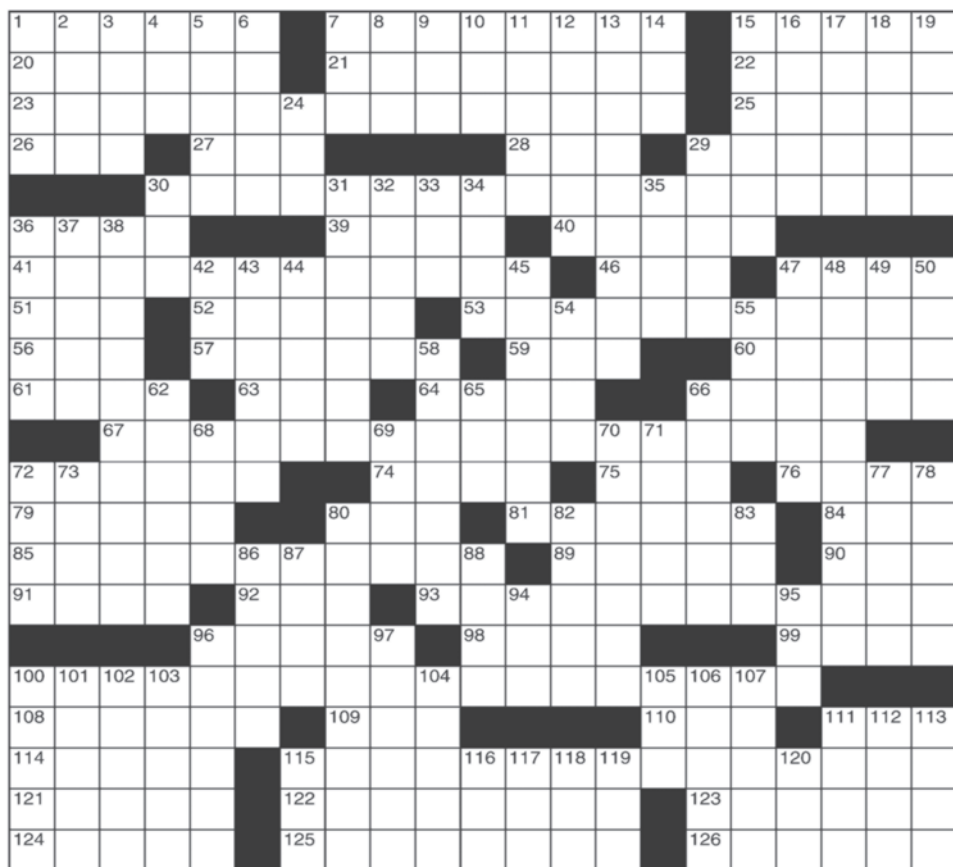
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

www.TheRanchos.com

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 NFL standout
 - 7 Treat kindly
 - 15 Costumes
 - 20 Like forests
 - 21 Tangles
 - 22 Be nuts over
 - 23 RED
 - 25 Entertainer Zsa Zsa
 - 26 — Caps (candy)
 - 27 Great Lakes' — Locks
 - 28 First full mo. of autumn
 - 29 Spurring (on)
 - 30 ELLE
 - 36 Russian ruler of yore
 - 39 German car make
 - 40 "— to say this, but ..."
 - 41 SAGE
 - 46 — -Z (thoroughly)
 - 47 Low-value wallet wad
 - 51 Pop lover
 - 52 Want badly
 - 53 RAN
 - 56 Luau bowful
 - 57 In the second-best category
 - 59 Insect-catching tool
 - 60 Having some benefit
 - 61 Filmmaker Preminger
 - 63 Critical hosp. area
 - 64 Empire until '91
 - 66 Places of learning, in French
 - 67 PORT
 - 72 Frosh's cap
 - 74 Plane feature
 - 75 "Not a word!"
 - 76 Watch sound
 - 79 Lou Grant
 - 80 Agent's take
 - 81 Malia and Sasha
 - 84 Cap for a bagpiper
 - 85 ACRE
 - 89 Allan—"Robin Hood" narrator
 - 90 "— Little Teapot"
 - 91 Chop —
 - 92 Nimble deer
 - 93 SEA
 - 96 Fuzzy fabrics
 - 98 One who has regrets
 - 99 Sonny & Cher's "— You Babe"
 - 100 SLAT
 - 108 Illusory
 - 109 "... bug — feature?"
 - 110 Biceps' place
 - 111 Actress Charlotte
 - 114 Lab vial
 - 115 HUM
 - 121 Like a prebirth body position
 - 122 One who quarantines
 - 123 Señor's nap
 - 124 Account
 - 125 "Cagney & Lacey" co-star
 - 126 Peddled
 - 10 Suffix in some pasta names
 - 11 Camp craft
 - 12 Swedish king between John I and Canute II
 - 13 Hang-up for an optometrist?
 - 14 —Kosh B'Gosh
 - 15 Flock of geese
 - 16 Old saw
 - 17 Redbreast
 - 18 Horse to be busted
 - 19 Suit fabric
 - 24 Turn bad
 - 29 "Daniel" singer John —Magnon
 - 31 Relaxes
 - 32 Corrodes, in a way
 - 33 — Mae Brown (psychic in "Ghost")
 - 34 Pear-shaped fruits
 - 35 "... could — horse!"
 - 36 Musical rate
 - 37 Stuck-up type
 - 38 Entry
 - 42 U.S. media watchdog
 - 43 Illinois city on the Mississippi
 - 44 Some rescue ops
 - 45 A long time in the past
 - 47 Decide not to join in
 - 48 Super-suspenseful
 - 49 Author — Stanley Gardner
 - 50 Beatified Milles.
 - 54 Smart-alecky
 - 55 "Yowie!"
 - 58 Interring individuals
 - 62 Very testy
 - 65 Amtrak stop: Abbr.
 - 66 Surround with a saintly light
 - 68 Suffix with zillion
 - 69 "I — lot to you"
 - 70 Dancer Duncan
 - 71 "Holy cow!"
 - 72 Low voice
 - 73 Favorite son of Isaac
 - 77 Wee role
 - 78 Rival of Target
 - 80 Have bad flu symptoms, say
 - 82 Swiss city on the Rhine
 - 83 Mo. in which autumn starts
 - 86 What hungry wolves do
 - 87 Ungulate feature
 - 88 Actress Hatcher
 - 94 Neighbor of Hung.
 - 95 One, in Ulm
 - 96 Feeble
 - 97 Pulpit speech
 - 100 Bits of wind
 - 101 Coastal arm
 - 102 Poetic Muse
 - 103 Hotelier Ritz
 - 104 Actor Clark
 - 105 Present label
 - 106 Like Dublin denizens
 - 107 "— vincit amor" ("Love conquers all")
 - 111 Hazard
 - 112 Poker post
 - 113 "Holy cow!"
 - 115 Collide with
 - 116 Young fellow
 - 117 LGA datum
 - 118 Ty-D- —
 - 119 Suffix with witch or trick
 - 120 Unlike reruns

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