

The Ranchos Independent



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THE RANCHOS MULISHA
TAKES TO THE STREETS
DURING THE 22ND ANNUAL
FLATLANDERS DAY
PARADE

SEE MORE
PARADE PICTURES
ON PAGE 17

Photo Courtesy of John Glueck

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22nd Time for Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show

By Christi McKinney

The 22nd Annual Madera Ranchos Flatlander's Day and Craft Fair was met with sunshine and smiles from participants and spectators alike.

A group of Native American Veterans opened the parade as everyone stood to salute the stars and stripes. They were followed by this year's Grand Marshals, Maggie and Seth Thomas. The Liberty High School Band and Color Guard were followed by a variety of floats representing a number of church groups, the Boy Scouts, the Liberty Ranchos Soccer League, the library, the Madera Ranchos volunteer firefighters as well as a number of community groups and businesses. A horse wearing pink socks danced for the judges and an entire group of horses calmly waited their turn as the San Joaquin Gunslingers startled specta-

tors with an old fashioned shoot-out in front of the judge's stand.

One particularly touching entry was a trainload of smiling children with the title of "Papa Merv's Trainload of Joy!" a tribute to one of the Madera Ranchos founders, the late Mervyn Vick.

Igal Treibatch rode a vintage Suzuki V-Twin motorcycle in the parade which was donated by SEMCU to be raffled off as a fundraiser for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Tarzan and Jane even made an appearance on a stunning jungle float representing the new Beauty Club Salon and Spa in the Ranchos. The roar of a large group of ATV riders, the Ranchos Mulisha, was another real attention getter

There was certainly no doubt that election time is just around the corner with the number of politicians who were front and center both in the parade and in the many

booths shaking hands, handing out literature and even posing for pictures.

The blood mobile was on hand as Ranchos residents showed up once again to donate blood in memory of Lexi Delgado, the young Ranchos resident who succumbed to cancer earlier this year. Lexi's grandfather, Steve Delgado, was "... happy to see the turnout and grateful for the support from the community."

Both before and after the parade food was on everyone's mind. The morning started with pancakes then soon turned to a variety of tasty treats including BBQ Tri-Tip sandwiches and chicken skewers. The sweet, salty smell of Kettle corn brought many people in.

The Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Ranchos Library and is held on the second Saturday of May every year.



Madera Ranchos Resident Charged In Death of Ahwahnee Motorcyclists

Madera Ranchos resident Gary Ragsdale, 41, has been charged with two counts of vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence of alcohol for an accident that occurred on Saturday, May 19 that resulted in the death of Gary Andrew Smalz, 60, and Laura Smalz, 52, both of Ahwahnee.

The California Highway Patrol reported that at approximately 6 p.m. on May 19 Gary and Laura Smalz were travelling northbound on Road 600 near Road 31 on their 1989 Harley Davidson. Witnesses estimated their speed at approximately 55 m.p.h. as they approached



Gary Ragsdale, 41, has been charged with vehicular manslaughter.

Sunny's Market, a liquor store and gas station. It was at this time that Ragsdale, who was travelling southbound on Road 600, was reported to suddenly turn in front of Smalz to enter the driveway of Sunny's Market. Witnesses said that Smalz had no opportunity to react and slammed into the side of

Ragsdale's Dodge pickup. The impact caused Gary and Laura Smalz to be thrown from their motorcycle and onto the roadway. Bystanders, including Ragsdale, attempted to

help them until emergency personnel arrived. The motorcyclists were flown via the Lifeflight helicopter to Community Regional Medical Center. Laura Smalz was pronounced dead in route to the hospital and Gary Smalz died shortly thereafter.

Ragsdale and his female passenger told CHP officers that they were coming from Hensley Lake when the accident occurred. They suffered only minor cuts and some bruises from the crash.

Gary Smalz taught motorcycle safety in Selma and CHP officers said they believe he and his wife had been attending a motorcycle rally earlier in the day in Madera.

At present, Ragsdale is out on bail.

Ranchos Lions Plant Trees at LHS

By Christi McKinney

The Madera Ranchos Lions Club members worked to beautify our community by planting two trees at Liberty High School on April 17. "The International Lions Club President, Wing-Kun Tam, has challenged all Lions Clubs to work within their communities to plant trees and to help the environment," Lions Club member Annette Watkins SAID. "So far, over 8 million trees have been planted because of this challenge."

Two Blue Aptos redwood trees were planted between the stadium and the soccer field. Liberty High School Principal Kuljeet Mann was on hand to thank the Lions Club for their contribution. "I am happy to see the Lions Club involved in planting

the trees. The more trees the better!" Mann said. "These trees have been planted in an area where students like to hang out after both football and soccer games." Students will certainly enjoy the shade created by these trees which can grow up to 300 feet tall at maturity



Liberty High Principal Kuljeet Mann, right, looks on as a worker finishes planting a tree courtesy of the Ranchos Lions Club.

The Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization with 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members. The Lions Club is dedicated to help its communities wherever help is needed. Members work on projects to improve communities and to protect the environ-

ment. For information about the Lions Club organization please visit its website at www.lionsclub.org. For information about the Ranchos Lions Club contact Leslie at 559-645-6249 or visit their Facebook page at Ranchos Lions Club.

Grand Jury Looks At Library System: Makes Assessment

Final Report

Introduction: In its review of the Madera County Library System, the Grand Jury toured each of the libraries located in Madera, Oakhurst, Chowchilla, North Fork, and Madera Ranchos. Inter-

views were conducted with the County Librarian, four branch managers, and two members of the Friends of the Library.

The County Libraries subscribe to the San Joaquin Valley Library System (SJVLS). SJVLS provides computer equipment at all sites, an inter-library loan

system for most books and materials, web site services, and online access to informational data bases.

Each of the County libraries receives services and financial support from local

Please see **JURY** on P. 20
Click on "Local News" at

Madera Ranchos Volunteer Awarded COP of the Year

A Madera County Citizen on Patrol volunteer from the Madera Ranchos was awarded for her service the weekend of May 5 for her nearly decade-long service to the community and the County.

Jolene Mason is the recipient of this year's prestigious COP of the Year award. As a volunteer for the Ranchos Fleet, she averages between 300 and 400 hours each year. Add those hours

up and in her 8 years of service to Madera County, Mason has clocked close to 3,000 community service hours. Citizen on Patrol volunteers are only required to patrol a minimum of 8 hours per month for 96 hours a year.

But it's not just Mason's willingness to patrol her beat – which spans the entire east side of the Valley floor – she is also the area Team Leader and in that capacity is living proof that if

you choose to lead by example you can become the catalyst for positive change. Since 2004, Mason has played a pivotal role in shaping and molding this respected unit into what it is today.

Mason has always been, and continues to be, first in line to offer her services in any way she is needed; no



The Ranchos' own Jolene Mason, Madera County COP of the Year.

Please see COP on P. 20

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Fundamental Transformation: Believe It?



By Don Jans

On Oct. 23, 2008, Senator Joe Biden was asked how Senator Obama's statement to Joe the Plumber about sharing the wealth related to the statement by Karl Marx: From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs. Biden answered by saying, "Are you joking? Is that a joke?"

A few days prior to the election of 2008, Obama said for the second time in the campaign he was about to lead America in a "fundamental transformation." Biden never answered his question and Obama was never asked to explain what he meant by "fundamental transformation." Based on policies instituted through legislation and by executive order since the election, we now have a clearer idea of how the comments of Obama and Marx are related.

In order to understand this relation, we must understand who Karl Marx was and what he really taught. Marx was a philosopher. He also studied history and later in life read economics. Marx said society must become classless in order to be fair and equitable. This meant nobody would oppress and nobody would be oppressed. At that time, society would then operate on the premise of, "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs." Marx explained this in painful detail in his writings; we can explain it with a simple analogy.

Assume a race between ten participants will be held. The racers are given the same instructions at the same time. Four of the racers decide to prepare for the race by partying each night, sleeping all day and eating improperly. Three of the racers behave like the prior four, except they walk around the block once each day. The final three racers train for the race as if they were training for an Olympic race.

The day of the race arrives. Many people say the race would be fair if all racers start at the same time and at the same starting line and race to the same finish line. The racer who crosses the finish line first is the winner. According to Marx and Progressives, this would NOT be fair. The racers, who did not train properly, must have had good reasons for their training methods.

Their lack of proper training is not their fault.

Marx and Progressives say that in order for the race to be fair, we must have staggered starting lines. The less the racer trained, the closer they should start to the finish line. Marx

further stated that what would be fair and equitable would be to have the race started so that all racers cross the finish line at the same time. This would be "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs."

Marx realized his classless society would not be achieved in one revolution. He understood that a fundamental transformation would have to occur and Marx outlined the policies the fundamental transformation would have to follow to achieve a "fair and equitable society." These policies included the necessity to raise national debt so high that it caused bankruptcy, causing a crisis that would allow the Marx disciples to gain control. Marx warned his disciples that people ("radical extremists" according to Nancy Pelosi) would call for national debt reduction to avoid such a crisis. He said that his disciples must say and do whatever is necessary to add as much debt as fast as possible to bring about the bankruptcy and cause the necessary crisis.

Other policies Marx called for are similar to many that are currently being followed and achieved in this modern day quest of sharing the wealth and moving forward the "fundamental transformation" to achieve a "fair and equitable" society. The Marx disciples of today do not want the general public to understand his teachings, much less the results.

Joe Biden said in a statement made after the Oct. 23 interview that the interview was "ugly." The interviewer was fired before the end of that year.

Don Jans has written a book, My Grandchildren's America, that further explains Marx's classless society and his policies necessary for the fundamental transformation, the one Obama said he was beginning prior to the 2008 election. My Grandchildren's America is written in a straightforward style without spin just giving facts to the reader.

My Grandchildren's America is available on www.mygrandchildrensamerica.com or at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. It is available in Kindle form on Amazon.

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

On June 18 our guest speaker is Heather Gass, a Bay Area Tea Party Coordinator. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. Confirm meeting dates and speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com

Do you have comments or questions? Contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator, John Smedley, by e-mail at jsmedley@comcast.net or call 559-645-7031. You can also contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator, Rick Farinelli, by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net or call 559-706-5386.

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Editorial

A Kajillion Bajillion Dollars

By Randy Bailey

A lot of things come across my desk in the course of a month. A lot of it is what is called, in journalistic terms, "crap." There are the conspiracy theories, the out and out lies, and the claims that are so absurd you wonder how can any thinking human being *anywhere* possibly believe this, well, crap.

But every so often you get a little something that is just brilliant. It takes a difficult subject and frames it so succinctly that it satisfies the request Denzel Washington's character in the movie *Philadelphia* makes when he says, "Explain it to me ... like I'm a four-year-old."

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not an economics major. When the discussion turns to the budget and deficits and the debt my eyes kind of glaze over and I mostly smile and nod my head. I know it's important and I know it affects me and my children and my grandchildren, but when you talk about items in terms of billions and trillions it becomes indecipherable. It's like when Dr. Evil asks the president for a ransom of \$100 billion in *The Spy Who Shagged Me* and the president bursts out laughing.

"Dr. Evil, this is 1969! That amount of money doesn't even exist. [laughing] That's like saying, 'I want a kajillion bajillion dollars.'"

To me that's what it often seems like. So the other day I get this email from

a friend that says, "This is genius! Here's an economics lesson anyone can grasp."

He was right. Here it is:

- U.S. tax revenue: \$2,170,000,000,000 (2 trillion, 170 billion)
 - Federal budget: \$3,820,000,000,000 (3 trillion, 820 billion)
 - Amount borrowed: \$1,650,000,000,000 (1 trillion, 650 billion)
 - National debt: \$14,271,000,000,000 (14 trillion, 271 billion)
 - Recent budget cuts: \$38,500,000,000 (38 billion, 500 million)
- (Here's where the genius comes in) Let's now remove eight zeroes and pretend it's a household budget:
- Annual family income: \$21,700
 - Money the family spent: \$38,200
 - New debt on credit card: \$16,500
 - Outstanding balance on the credit card: \$142,710
 - Total budget cuts: \$385

Wow. Kind of puts it in perspective, doesn't it? Little easier to grasp? I know it was for me.

And although the absurdity of this family budget puts our national financial health into 20/20 clarity for even the most financially challenged, there's more.

USA Today did an analysis of the federal government's budget deficit (that would be the "new debt on credit card" part in the family budget example). Instead of being the \$1.6 trillion the congress said it was, it was actually \$5 trillion. That would make the new debt on the credit card \$50,000. Not bad for an annual income of \$21,700.

The reason? Congress exempts itself from including the costs of promised benefits for retirement, Social Security, Medicare and other programs. Of course, in the real world companies have to factor those things in when they produce a financial statement, but that's not how it works in Washington.

The best part? If those costs had been figured into the deficit it would have averaged \$42,054 per American household. That's great when you figure that the average American household's income was \$49,445 last year, meaning that the average household would have had to spend nearly its entire income in taxes just to balance the budget.

Hope and change indeed.

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

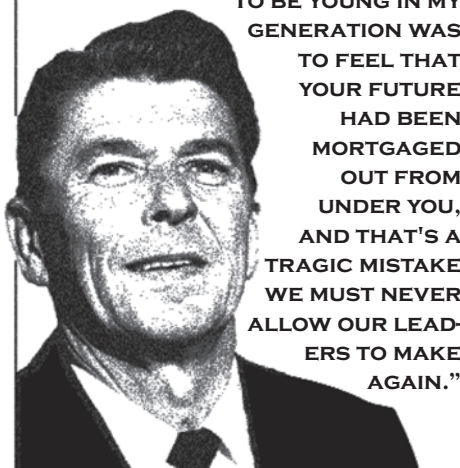
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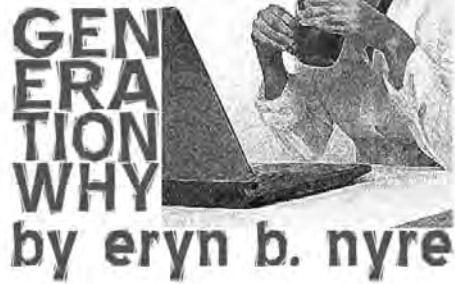
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PSALM 109:8 (KJV)

Vacation: Friendship Killer

I think vacations are silent relationship killers. With all the research done on causes of divorce, has anyone ever looked into the possibility that trying to take a vacation together might have a lot to do with it? I really think I am on to something. I never before understood how a vacation could be so stressful, how it could cause arguments and even destroy relationships. I can remember those family getaways with my parents and the tension and disagreements that would bubble to the surface. It always perplexed me. Then, I took a weekend road trip to Las Vegas with my best friend, and suddenly the pieces all fell into place.

Luckily there was no permanent damage done, but there is a lot to be said for needing a vacation from someone after you take a vacation together. The issue, I believe, stems from what a vacation means to the individual person. For example, I personally believe that a vacation is about relaxation, a break from a world of stress, pressure and anxiety. Work and school pushes and pulls me in all different directions, deadlines loom, work projects overlap into study time, study time then interferes with sleep. It is a vicious, exhausting cycle. A vacation, to me, is supposed to be about slowing down, taking your time and just enjoying yourself. To my best friend, a vacation is about getting up at the crack of dawn and hitting the streets early so as not to miss a thing. Three billion casinos in Las Vegas but no no, we must see them all, every last one. In fact, I must touch every slot machine in Vegas! Who needs sleep, we're on vacation! Clearly part of her vacation definition is to drive her co-traveler bonkers.

Bravo ... well done.



We first arrived Friday night, got some dinner and hit the Fremont Experience for some music and a light show. We strolled along, sang with the band and I made fun of the rampant displays of public intoxication. It was a fantastic night, lasting until the wee hours of the morning. Having finally stepped back into our hotel room and hitting the pillow at

For example, I personally believe that a vacation is about relaxation, a break from a world of stress, pressure and anxiety ... to my best friend, a vacation is about getting up at the crack of dawn and hitting the streets early so as not to miss a thing.

about three in the morning, I was more than a little shocked to have been awakened the next morning at 6 a.m. to her cheerful, sing-song voice beckoning me to grab a quick shower so we can get some breakfast and hit the hotels. Evidently the

first pillow I threw at her did little good, but the shoe that beamed her in the forehead shut her up until 7:30 a.m. It was then that I dragged myself out of bed and locked myself in the bathroom, if for no other reason than I could saw another log or two in the bathtub. An hour and a half later we left the room and started our exploration of the other city that never sleeps – so don't expect it to let you sleep, either. Why do they even offer beds? Closets, a toilet, a shower, that's all you need in Vegas. Catch a quick snooze in the elevators and you are ready for the next round.

You would think our problems stopped there, but no. My little busy bee buddy isn't one for moaning. No time to stop and appre-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 9

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I am currently serving as a Madera County Superior Court Judge. I have also served Madera as: City Attorney, Assistant District Attorney, and Deputy District Attorney. These experiences have earned the endorsements of the people on the front lines of justice.

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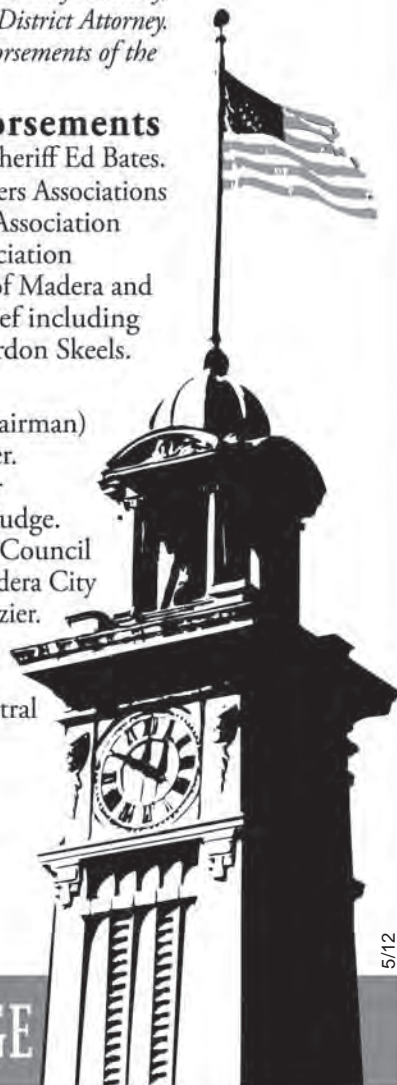
- Sheriff, John Anderson & former Sheriff Ed Bates.
- Chowchilla & Madera Police Officers Associations
- Madera County Deputy Sheriffs Association
- Madera County Prosecutors Association
- Michael Kime, Police Chief City of Madera and EVERY living former Police Chief including retired Chiefs Bill Colston & Gordon Skeels.

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- EVERY current and living former Madera County Superior Court Judge.
- Members of the Chowchilla City Council
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- Tracy Kennedy Desmond, Madera County Tax Collector.
- The Taxpayers Association of Central California

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The Stock Report

Dixie Beckons and Audrey Responds

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

What a trip! What a trip! I have been traveling since 1975 to different parts of the world and loving each adventure. On Saturday, May 19 I returned from a trip to the deep south of the U.S.A. with the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. I am sorry that I missed Flatlanders but I was in South Carolina while you folks were enjoying the parade and the craft fair. Since this was my first trip to South Carolina and Georgia I will try to give you some

of my impressions of this part of the country. The first thing that stands out is "green," the second thing is "water" and the third is the beautiful four- and six-lane freeways. If the south is so poor how did they build all of these beautiful highways? I'll get back to all of this later.

On any trip you have to be flexible because "Murphy's Law" often travels along with you. You know Murphy's Law right? "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." It started at the Fresno Airport. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors were all at the airport on time and excited to board the plane to start our trip to the East Coast. There was trouble with our United plane and they couldn't get it started. They tried and tried but finally gave up and brought in another plane for us. Finally we were on our way to the San Francisco Airport. By the time we got to the San Francisco Airport we had missed our United flight to Denver. Remember: be flexible. The whole group was put on another plane with a flight straight to Atlanta, Georgia. Sounds great right? Now the domino effect and Murphy's Law take over. At the Fresno Air-

port we were scheduled to fly on United Airlines all the way to Atlanta, Georgia. We were to board our United plane in Fresno, change planes in San Francisco, fly to Denver, Colorado, change planes and fly to Atlanta, Georgia. Are you following me so far? In San Francisco since we missed our United flight to Denver we were transferred to a Delta Airline flight straight to Atlanta with no stop in Denver. The reason I am telling you all of this is because with the change of flight plans and the change of airlines, our luggage had a hard time keeping up with us.

Since this was my first trip to South Carolina and Georgia I will try to give you some of my impressions of this part of the country. The first thing that stands out is "green," the second thing is "water" and the third is the beautiful four- and six-lane freeways. If the south is so poor how did they build all of these beautiful highways?

When we finally got to the Atlanta Airport to claim our luggage some of us had no luggage to claim. Well, being the large airline that Delta is they were prepared for this with an emergency kit of essentials to tide us over until our luggage could catch up to us.

The kit had a night shirt for sleeping, a tooth brush, tooth paste, deodorant, a razor, a hair brush, a pac of detergent, cotton balls and Q tips all in a compact little black bag with a note saying that they were sorry for our inconvenience and would get our bags to us as soon as possible. That little black bag saved our lives that first night without our luggage. I learned a valuable lesson about packing for a trip: We were told when we packed our bags to make a copy of the different hotels where we would be staying and put it into our checked luggage so if our bags were lost in flight, the bags would be able to catch up with us. This was a life saver for some who got their bags at the first hotel, some at the second hotel, some at the third hotel and one not until the fourth hotel because we

Please see **STOCK** on P. 15

Veggie BBQ

If you haven't yet, it is certainly time to get the barbecue out and get it going. You don't have to have one of the big fancy \$1,000 gas jobs – a kettle that uses charcoal briquettes will do as well. When I lived in an apartment, I had a hibachi that used charcoal and cooked what I wanted to cook or, if I had a guest, it would grill two steaks perfectly.

Do you only cook hamburgers, hot dogs and an occasional steak on your barbecue? How about corn on the cob, potatoes and just about any other vegetable from the garden or a farmers market?

When cooking corn on the cob, it can be cooked by cleaning it and putting it on the grill. That way you would have a little "crisp" on the corn. If you want to avoid the crisp, then grill it with the husks on.

BBQ Grilled Corn

Do not take the husks off yet. Lay the corn into a clean sink and fill with enough cold water to cover all your corn. Let the corn soak for at least 30 minutes.

Remove three or four outer layers of husks, but be sure to leave enough to cover the corn to protect it from burning during grilling.

Pull back remaining husks from cob, but do not remove from end of corn. Remove as much of the silk as possible.

Season the cob as you like. Melted butter, salt and pepper, or you can add whatever herb or seasoning your family likes. Those can be garlic powder, rosemary, oregano, or even dill. Since the corn is cold, the melted butter may not stay melted when you brush it on but don't worry because when the corn is grilled the butter will melt.

After the corn is seasoned the way you want it, pull the remaining husks back on the cob, covering the cob completely. Using one of the previously discarded husks, tie the end of the corn so that while grilling the husks will stay on the cob.



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Cook on medium to medium high heat for 10 or 15 minutes. Pull back the husks that are covering the corn and serve. You can serve with additional butter.

If you purchase the corn without husks, you can wrap it in aluminum foil for the same effect.

One last thing: If you want the corn to be hot when you serve dinner, be sure that the corn is the last thing you cook.

BBQ Potatoes

To cook potatoes whole, after scrubbing or peeling place on a piece of foil large enough to cover the potato. Using a brush or your fingers put oil on the foil and wrap the foil around the potato, sealing well. Grilling on a medium high heat will take about 45 minutes.

To cook potatoes faster and tastier slice them into about quarter inch slices, cut them into wedges or cube the scrubbed potato. Place on a piece of foil large enough to cover the potato that you have brushed with oil.

Brush the potatoes with oil, salt and pepper and seasoning or herbs of choice. You can use sliced red onions, green onions, bacon pieces (cooked), chopped bell pepper or just about anything that you would want on a potato except cheese because the cheese might burn while grilling. Seal the bundles tight and place on a medium hot grill. These packages should cook in 20 to 30 minutes. When you take these off the grill, poke a little hole in the foil with the tip of a paring knife to let some of the steam out. Be real careful opening these packages as the steam is extremely hot.

Do you only cook hamburgers, hot dogs and an occasional steak on your barbecue? How about corn on the cob, potatoes and just about any other vegetable from the garden or a farmers market?

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

5/12



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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Grilled Vegetables

3 bell peppers (red or green) seeded and halved
3 yellow squash**
3 zucchini**
3 Japanese eggplant**
12 cremini mushrooms
1 pound asparagus, trimmed
12 green onions, roots cut off and trimmed
¼ C plus 2 T olive oil
Salt and Pepper
3 T balsamic vinegar
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp. chopped parsley leaves
1 tsp. chopped fresh basil leaves
½ tsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves

** Sliced lengthwise into ½ inch thick rectangles.

Prepare the barbecue to medium high heat. Place the vegetables on a baking pan and brush them with the ¼ C olive oil and salt and pepper. Working in batches, grill the vegetables until tender and lightly charred all over – about 8-10 minutes for the bell peppers, 7 minutes for the yellow squash, zucchini, eggplant, and mushrooms, and 4 minutes for the asparagus and green onions. Arrange

the grilled vegetable on a platter. The key to getting the grill marks is don't move them very much once they've been put on the grill.

While the vegetables cook, mix the remaining 2 T oil, balsamic vinegar, garlic and herbs in a small bowl. Blend with whisk, adding salt and pepper to taste. Drizzle this mixture over the vegetables.

I was going to do fruits and vegetables in this article, but space has just about gotten away from me so I will have to do grilled fruit next month. I never thought of grilling fruit, but I have found some great ideas. Next month the fruit should be ready to be picked.

In case you aren't aware of it the Ranchos/Hills Seniors have a Farmers Market every morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. One of their members has a garden with the items going to the center. They are located at 37330 Berkshire, or call 645-4864 for more information. And on June 14 the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Farmers Market to be held in the Hurst Hardware parking lot from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for information.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

ciate anything, we have to keep going to fit it all in. By Saturday night I was exhausted, Las Vegas was starting to blur together and she kept chirping about so much more to see. You know what I wanted to see? The back of my eyelids!

We had purchased tickets to one of the Cirque Du Soleil shows, and come show time I was finally going to get to sit somewhere for more than 60 seconds. It was just before show time that my body decided the only way it was going to get the vacation it so desired was to flop itself onto the pavement and then swell in some area that made it extremely difficult to go on. Now, I applaud my body's creativity, but its timing needs a little work. Crossing the street to the theater, I tripped over what I am certain was an invisible rock and hit the ground. Right there in the middle of the street. Most people would have seen a swollen and purple ankle as a reason to slow down, my travel partner took it to

mean she needed to find the nearest wheelchair rental facility.

What I learned from this experience is that two people, no matter how much they have in common, don't necessarily view relaxation through the same lenses. To my friend, her mini-break was about seeing everything she could see, absorbing all of the experiences that Las Vegas had to offer. So the bottom line here is, if you find yourself frustrated on vacation, take a step back and examine why. What exactly is causing you to fight? If the arguments are surrounding schedules and sight-seeing, then what you have here is the same problem my best friend and I had. I have a suggestion: make sure to travel with several people so likeminded individuals can stick together. Some can remain poolside while others explore and no one is odd man out. I don't, however, recommend throwing shoes, it rarely shuts them up permanently and then you find yourself dealing with the same aggravating little twit, only now she is bruised and angry.

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Stop “Trying” and Start “Doing”

By Mike Bailey

Over the last couple years, the one major thing I have learned and desperately try – no, wait, try is not a good word. You either do or you don't. The one thing I am doing is doing for others. I do my best to always put others first. The program suggests that we get out of self and do for others. Step Twelve tells us to carry this message to alcoholics. My Higher Power says in the book of Matthew Chapter 25, verses 41-45 “Then he will say to those on the left, ‘depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not invite me in; I needed clothes and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’”

I reached into my pocket and pulled out \$5 again. This time I said, “What you do with this is not between you and me; it is between you and the Lord.”

“They also will answer, ‘Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’”

“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”

This is my Golden Rule, plain and simple: Someone asks for help, you help. That is it. You do or you don't – there is no try.

A couple weeks ago a homeless person had his shopping cart packed full of recyclables. My first thought was, “This guy is really working.” I walked over to him and

gave him \$5. Not a lot but enough for something to eat – or so I thought. His reply was honest: “Thanks man, now I can get me a bottle.” What the person does with the help you give them is between them and a much greater power than me or you.

Last week at work – now, understand that I work in downtown Fresno, south of Ventura on Van Ness – a man comes in and pleads his case for a little help for something to eat. “The Poverello House just stopped serving lunch and I missed it by a few minutes.” Little did he know I'm an easy mark. I was going to help and a story

was not needed. I reached into my pocket and pulled out \$5 again. This time I said, “What you do with this is not between you and me; it is between you and the Lord.” He asked me if was a be-

liever and I answered yes. Then he asked me to pray with him. Right then and there I grabbed both his hands at the front counter in front of everyone and proclaimed my faith. I prayed with him and the spirit was there, alive and in charge. I am just the vessel nothing more. About 15 minutes later he walks back in the door, just to show me that he indeed did buy something to eat.

A wise man once said to me, “You might be the only Bible a person ever reads.” Knowing that my job is to glorify him in all that I do makes my time here on this earth so much easier.

Until next time,

Mike

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Head of a Woman by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, 1916

...One evening... David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

2 SAMUEL 11:2

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Senior Report

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Why take a Driver Safety Course? Because driving has changed since you first got your license, and doing so could save you money. Cars have changed. So have traffic rules, driving conditions, and the road you travel every day. Some Drivers 50+ have never looked back since they got their first driver's license, but even the most experienced driver can benefit from brushing up on their driving skills.

By taking a driver safety course you will learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. You will learn how you can manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. In addition, you will learn how to maintain the proper distance following behind another car, safest ways to change lanes and make turns at a busy intersection, proper use of safety belts, air bags, anti-lock brakes and new technologies used in cars. Learn

ways to monitor your own, and others', driving skills and capabilities. Discover the effects of medications on driving and the importance of eliminating distractions such as eating, smoking and cell phone use.

After completing the course, you will have a greater appreciation of driving challenges and how you can avoid potential collisions and injuries to yourself and others. Call and make an appointment to take a class. When you have completed your Drivers Safety Course call your insurance company and inform the company that you have completed the course and it might earn you a discount. The AARP Driver Safety Course is available in classroom and online settings. The classroom is at 5624 N. Blackstone, Fresno. You can call them at 559-261-2525 or 1-800-30-DRIVE.

Free Checkups

The Department of Health comes

periodically to the Center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Lunchtime

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. A suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call

Joann at 645-4864 and also notify the center if you need to cancel or change your reservation.

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs, meet new friends and get up-

dates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

On Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. are a variety of cards games to be enjoyed. Come and learn new games.

Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware and several businesses along Avenue 12. The Farmers Market at the Senior Center has a variety of vegetables and fruits, and jams and jellies are available. The Boutique also has many "on the spot" needed gift items.

Remember: "Inflation is when you pay \$15 for a \$10 haircut you used to get for \$5 when you had hair."

Sam Ewing

Nancy Fuller Children's University Presents Class of 2012 Graduates



Graduates of Nancy Fuller's A.M. Pre-Kindergarten Class of 2012 - (back row) Sadie Myers, Savannah Heiger, Leigh Whaley, Madison Gates, Brenna Bosworth, Autumn Bain, Ell Haitt, Jordyn Rusalin, Elannah Prugh and Esmee Diaz. (front row) Anthony Rodriguez, Alex Bargas, Emilio Somilleda, Brady Adams, Jacob Ramirez, Jose Lopez, Jakob Lundgren, Jake Poore and Madix Adair.



Graduates of Nancy Fuller's P.M. Pre-Kindergarten Class of 2012 - (back row) Shaira Pelcastre, Jewelyssa Rodriguez, Brook Houghton, Kiley Howe-Higgins, Viviana Yanez. (front row) Gabriela Anaya, Cruz Garcia, Julian Juarez, Fabian Maciel, Blayk Brown and Jordyn Chaves.

Coffee Spot Continues Meet the Artist

May's featured artist, Nelina Vargas of the Bonadelle Ranchos, left, greets an art lover during her art show at The Coffee Spot on May 25. As part of The Coffee Spot's Meet the Artist event, Vargas will show her work until the end of June. Her show will be followed by the work of painter and teacher Rey Ruiz.

Photo Courtesy of Brenda Cervantes



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Metal Thieves Shoot at Farmer During Theft Near Ranchos

The Madera County Sheriff's Ag Crimes Unit is investigating a complaint of metal theft during which time the victim says the thieves shot at him before they were able to flee.

According to reports, the incident happened on Wednesday, May 16 when Deputies were dispatched to Avenue 9 and Road 33 near the canal bank. They were advised that

two subjects attempting to steal five metal pipes valued at \$100 each. When the suspects were approached by the farmer, they fired off a gunshot to stop from being interrupted during the theft.

The two men were seen fleeing in a newer model silver pick-up with a chrome strip along the bottom of the vehicle, and the vehicle was bearing Texas plates. The suspects are described as:

1. One suspect is a white male with blonde hair in his late 20's. Described as "very short" he stands maybe 5'5" or 5'7" tall. He was wearing a gray colored shirt with black writing.

2. Second suspect was described as a white male who looked very tanned with black hair. He appeared to be in his late 20's to early 30's and was wearing a black shirt.

Anyone with information is asked to call either the Madera County Sheriff's office at 559-675-7770 or Crime Stoppers at 498-STOP. An anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers could be worth up to \$1,000.



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911 Call Leads to Huge Pot Grow

Man's 911 Cry for Help Leads Deputies to Marijuana Grow. Over 10,000 Plants Found and Still No Sign of Injured Caller.

A man's cry for help on May 17 turned into a major marijuana eradication mission just 24 hours later after Madera County Sheriff's Deputies uncovered 11 plots of illicit vegetation in its early stage of growth. By 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 18 Deputies had removed nearly 11,000 marijuana plants.

At around 10:19 on the morning of May 17, the Madera County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a man claiming he broke his leg two days prior while tending a grow. He said he was in bad shape, and needed medical attention. Deputies found numerous plots but not the injured party.

Agents with the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET) responded to the area off Road 200 in North Fork on the night of May 17, spending the

better part of the night bagging 9,183 marijuana plants. By dark, Deputies had to suspend their search for the man who called himself "Jose." A second search team returned on the morning of May 18, only to find even more plots with an additional 1,600 plants.

The eradication mission carried out in the abandoned gardens has been completed with 10,783 plants destroyed. No arrests were made and "Jose" is still missing. Meantime, MADNET Agents believe evidence left behind by the growers indicate the operation was tied to a drug trafficking organization.

Sheriff John Anderson is urging anyone who may have information about this case to call MADNET's 24-hour tip line at 559-675-7776, or the Madera County Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770.

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STOCK cont. from P. 7

were moving so fast. Also be sure that you have the tour company's baggage tag, not just your personal tag on your luggage. Since we changed hotels seven times in 10 days, having that copy of our stops in our bag was really important. I learned another lesson from our lost luggage adventure: Never put your medicine in your check-on bag; never put money or your checkbook in your check-on bag because many different people go through your bag before you get it back. In your carry-on bag always put a change of clothes your medicine, camera, umbrella and anything liquid into a quart-size zip-lock bag for the security check. Wear slip-on shoes because you have to take them off at security check each time you board another plane. I wear socks because you have to walk until your shoes come though on the security belt. You can always throw those socks away.

Our Cosmos tour bus driver, Clarence Cotton, picked us up at the Atlanta Delta airport and stayed with us for the rest of the

trip. He was a great driver of that big bus and very kind helping people off and on the bus several times a day plus loading and unloading our luggage every time we stopped at another hotel. When we got to our Atlanta hotel our Cosmos Tour guide, Clinton Dunn, was there to welcome us with our hotel keys. Clinton was with us for the rest of the tour. He had a great knowledge of the areas that we traveled through and the cities and towns that we stopped at. Traveling on a bus with a tour guide that knows his business makes for a smooth trip and brings to life the area in which you are traveling.

The East Coast states are where America fought England for our freedom so there is a lot of history here. The South has had its ups and downs but seems to be doing well even in this depression. They are putting together their old downtowns, restoring old homes and buildings and making their towns tourist-friendly. Next month I will tell you about food in the south and some of the places that we visited.

And I won't forget the alligators.



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Liberty Softball Takes Title *Again*

For the fourth time in as many years, the Liberty High Girls' Softball team has claimed the Central Section Division V title.

On Friday, May 25 the Ladyhawks took on the Selma Bears and by the fifth inning had scored their tenth run to Selma's none, invoking the 10-run mercy rule and taking the championship title back home to the Madera Ranchos. Six of those 10 runs

came in the first inning alone.

Second-seeded Liberty went into the championship game with a record of 23 wins, 6 losses and 1 tie.

The big bats were provided by Renee Ortega, Randi Wallace, Shelby Johnson and Caity McShane, and the pitching talents of Hannah Shevenell limited Selma to only two hits and 11 strikeouts.

Students Beware of "Challenges"

Liberty High School learning director Frank Panian has found a disturbing trend in some of his students. They are experimenting with different types of "challenges." Sometimes these challenges can be dangerous.

"In most cases, the individual consumes seemingly harmless substances, but when combined or taken within these 'challenges,' they are often dangerous," Panian said in a letter to parents dated April 25. "While I am not saying this is a wide-spread problem at Liberty, I am concerned that the 'how to' guides to these are easily found on the Internet."

Listed below are some of the challenges in which students may be taking part:

Salt and Ice Challenge

In this challenge the participant coats his or her skin with salt then applies ice for as long as possible to that area. Salt lowers the freezing point of water and also removes water from the skin, causing severe burning and frostbite which could

have lasting, permanent health ramifications.

Vinegar Challenge

In this challenge you consume vinegar (often with other substances). This has been known to cause vomiting, gastric wall burning, and in extreme cases, can lead to cardiac issues.

Cinnamon Challenge

Here you try and consume a tablespoon of cinnamon in one minute. This can lead to choking, vomiting and airway obstruction.

Snorting of Pixy Stix

Here, the common candy is inhaled through the nostrils. The powder substance can cause nasal wall irritation, lung infections and elevated blood glucose levels, or a "sugar high," followed by the "low" or crash. Also associated are changes in behavior, rapid eye motion, sweating and a feeling of panic. Children can react to the color dyes that this candy contains and have an allergic reaction and or seizure-like activity.

Liberty High Places in FFA Event

In April, the Liberty High School FFA judging teams competed in the State Finals at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and placed for the first time in school history.

The team of Katie Bennett, Hunter O'Brion and Michelle Helm placed 20th and earned the State Silver Award Emblem against 51 teams and 204 students.

The specialty animal team competed against 32 teams and 117 individuals. Overall they ranked from seventh to 32nd and received the Gold Emblem for placing third as a team.

Jennifer Zenteno placed seventh individually. Alli Saether was 10th, Morgan Moore was 12th and Faith Quandt placed 32nd.

The team was the second high team in judging, second high team in reasons and Moore placed third, individually, in reasons.

Principal Awards Golden Apples

Liberty High School Principal Kuljeet Mann honored two people who have made significant contributions to her school over the past years with a Golden Apple.

The Golden Apple was created by the Mariposa/Madera County Charter Association of California School Administrators to award outstanding volunteers and partners in education. The winners were selected to attend a dinner and receive their award May 9 at the Madera Municipal Golf course.

Scholarship Recipient

Mann awarded a Golden Apple scholarship to Stephanie Nechay. She will receive a \$500 scholarship to help her pursue a career in education.

Nechay will attend Fresno State to get a bachelor's in education and get a multiple subject credential to teach elementary school. She plans to get an administrative services credential to become a principal. Her ultimate goal is to become a district superintendent.

"She has started working toward the goal by taking college classes concurrently while still in high school," Mann said. "Stephanie also volunteers at a private elementary school and is responsible for providing homework help and running outdoor activities for the kids."



Liberty High School Principal Kuljeet Mann (left) congratulates Golden Apple scholarship recipient Stephanie Nechay at an awards dinner on May 9 at Madera Municipal Golf course.



Craig Wylie of Farmco speaks to the crowd after receiving a Golden Apple award for his work with Liberty High School.

Plow Man

Mann also awarded a Golden Apple to Craig Wylie of Farmco. Wylie has been a partner with Liberty High School for the past five years.

He donated his team to assist the school in plowing fields over the years. In 2006, Wylie and his team cleared and leveled the field next to the football stadium to ensure adequate parking for spectators.

Since then, Wylie has contributed his time and energy to plowing the equivalent of 180 acres for Liberty ag students and their projects.

"Mr. Wylie's generous contribution has helped alleviate the charge of these types of services to the general fund," Mann said in her nomination form. "That has allowed the district to allocate funds as a direct service to students. The plowing of district vacant land has allowed our students to benefit from real-world type experiences. His partnership has been a true blessing to the Golden Valley community."

Scenes from the 22nd Annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair - Saturday, May 12



The crowds were as large as ever for the 22nd Annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair.



Kiwanis member Bev Delk gets the veggies ready for their awesome tri-tip sandwiches, a Flatlander's Day tradition.



In the Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Friends of the Ranchos Library, you could find just about anything your heart desired.



Kettle corn anyone? In addition to the crafts there were food items for all tastes at the big Flatlander's Day Craft Fair.



The voice of the Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair was the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's own Don Foster.



Cheryl Hurst (left) escorts this year's Grand Marshals Maggie and Seth Thomas to their position of honor at the judges' stand.



Liberty High's marching band put on a show for the crowds lining Avenue 12 that included its drum corps.



One of the great things about the Flatlander's Day Parade is you never know what you'll see. Like this.



Being the caboose isn't such a bad spot to be in, providing it's the caboose of the Papa Merv Fun Train.



Gunfire on the streets of the Ranchos can only turn out badly, as the San Joaquin Gunslingers illustrated.



Can't have a parade without Cub Scouts, can you? Flatlander's is no exception and Ranchos Pack 119 was happy to be involved.



Igal Treibatch rides the vintage Suzuki V-Twin that is being raffled off by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce this October.



When else to you get to see a restored 1949 Diamond T flatbed? Owner Lewis Forbes drove one of these as a teenager and finally got one.



The Ranchos sports teams are becoming legendary and the parade had some future superstars like these area soccer players.



The Ranchos Mulisha ATV Club let their presence be known as they swarmed Avenue 12 like locusts.



As noted above, you just never know what you're going to see at the Flatlander's Day Parade. This year Tarzan and Jane made an appearance.

All pictures courtesy of John Glueck

Kiwanis Korner

Ranchos Kiwanis Getting Busier

By Perry Watkins

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

Did you know that an award winning service club is right here in the Ranchos? The Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club is the proud owner of the giant Division Trophy Bell. Kudos to the Kiwanis who work so hard to make our community better. One of our members won a very special recognition as well.

Jolene Mason was selected as the COP (Citizens on Patrol) of the Year for all of her hard work and the hundreds of volunteer hour she has given to help keep our neighborhoods safe. She is an amazing person and we just love having her at our meetings on Thursday evenings.

There is so much going on in the Ranchos this time of year. Valley Teen Ranch celebrated their 25th anniversary on May 17 and the celebration was held at the Convention Center in Fresno. Stedman Graham was the keynote speaker and Kiwanis Club members attended in support of children and students of Valley Teen Ranch.

Recently, several Kiwanis showed up at the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36 to help give a little back to a community member who has generously helped our community. We do this every year to celebrate Total K Day. This year we chose to help Alice Blew, who has kindly allowed a large community bulletin board on her property across from Liberty High that has benefited so many community events and projects. Flowers were planted, weeds removed and sprinklers repaired to add a bit of color to a home right in the center of activity for our community. Thank you, Alice.

Three community minded people are in the lead for the Mayor’s Race. Tom Hurst for Liberty Golf is our current mayor and is going strong in this ballot effort. Diane Maxwell for Friends of Ranchos Library has her mug on donation cans all around town and Brian Lee is representing the Ranchos Kiwanis and promises to lower gas to \$1 if elected (is that \$1 per pint Brian?). We all know about campaign promises. Our

Mayor’s Race is all for fun and it helps raise money for local organizations. Please support these candidates.

Cross the River Run is fast approaching on June 3rd. It is a bargain as far as running events go. It is a part of the Runner of the Year series. Go to www.ranchoskiwanis.com for more info. The Children’s Hospital running event is also kicking off on June 9. This is a Greater Kiwanis Division level event – Miracle Mile of Quarters.

Please remember our Kiwanis Fireworks booth for your July 4th festivities. All profits from sales will help support scholarships and other activities that help Ranchos children.

Scholarships are to be awarded to Liberty High students. This year’s Mervin Vick award is to be given to a deserving student interested in the

construction trade. The Dale Lucas scholarship will go to a student planning to enter the military. More information can be found at www.jshc.infor.

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.



The Annual Fishing Derby will be held on July 14th at Wishon Lake. There are \$10,000, \$100, and \$25 tagged fish to be caught. It is a really great way to spend some family time.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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

Board of Directors:

- Debbie Farr
- Virginia Vick
- Ollia Ridge
- John Herrera
- Jolene Mason

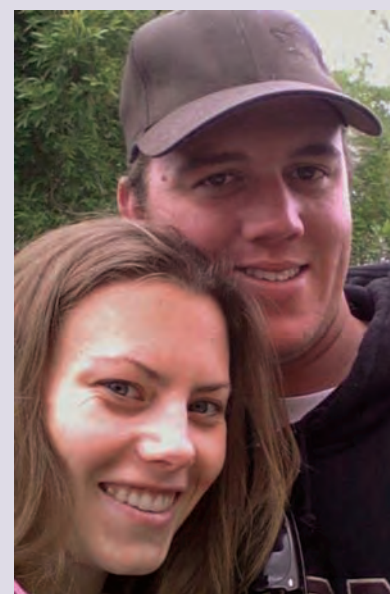
Wedding Announcement

Bailey - Easley

Sheila R. Bailey and Ryan C. Easley are engaged to be married. They have set their marriage date for June 30, 2012.

The couple were among the first graduating class at Liberty High School and their families live in the Madera Ranchos. Ryan is a sous chef at Pismo’s in Fresno and Sheila works at Twilight Haven in Fresno as the central supplier.

The ceremony will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno.



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Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Through Aug 17	Friday Night @ the Movies (at Maywood Center)	SEMCU
May 31	LHS Graduation and Sober Grad	Sober Grad Committee
June 2	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
June 14	Ranchos Farmer's Market (at Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
Aug 18	Fireman's BBQ Dinner	Station 19
Sep 8	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
Oct 6	October Feast	SEMCU
Dec 7	Christmas Tree Lighting	Chamber of Commerce

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

Madera Support Unit Q and A

The Madera Support Unit is now over a year old. Here is some information on its history, who the people are who staff it and what their mission is

What is the Support Unit?

The Support Unit was established to serve all emergency service personnel, both fire and law enforcement. The Support Unit serves all areas of Madera County and surrounding areas. The primary function is to provide rehydration, nourishment, restrooms, and a rehabilitation area. This Unit was purchased with a grant from the P i c a y u n e Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indian Tribe.



Here's the Madera Support Unit at work, offering firefighters and other emergency personnel a break from their stressful work environments.

crowaves, a freezer, a refrigerator, a fully functioning restroom, a 12,000 watt generator, an awning, canopies, chairs and two special rehabilitation chairs. The unit is capable and self-sufficient to provide breakfast, lunch or dinner for 50 personnel.

Where Does the Support Unit Respond?

The Support Unit will respond anywhere in Madera County and surrounding areas seven days a week, 24 hours a day as a need arises for incidents such as structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, training events and any other emergency incidents involving public agencies.

Who Are the Support Members?

The Support Members are residents of Madera County who volunteer their time and effort.

What Does the Support Unit Offer?

The unit is equipped with two mi-

How is the Support Unit Funded?

The Support Unit was donated to the Madera County Fire Department. The Unit is staffed by volunteers. All operational funding is provided by donations from our community, Madera County.

Rookie Dodgers Beat Rookie Giants To Be Liberty Ranchos Champs



The Rookie Liberty Ranchos Cal Ripken League Championship game was played Monday, April 30 at Webster Elementary in front of a capacity crowd. The game featured two teams of familiar foes: the Dodgers vs. the Giants.

The game was back and forth the entire way with both teams playing solid, entertaining baseball. In the final inning with the game tied at 9-9, Rookie Dodger 2nd baseman, Rylan Herrod, stepped up to the plate and with an eventual count of 3 balls and 2 strikes, Rylan smashed a hard-liner to right center field with the ball traveling all the way to the fence. With the crowd on their feet and cheering, Rylan rounded third base and was waved to home plate. Giant pitcher Mikey Hershberger's throw to catcher, Zach Medina, was ruled safe by umpire and LRCR League President, John Stephens, giving the Dodgers the Liberty Ranchos Cal Ripken Rookie Championship.

task has ever been too big or too much.

Every year for as long as anyone can remember, Mason organizes traffic control for both the annual Mother's Day run for Kiwanis of Greater Madera and the Flatlander's Parade. Her day will start at 6 a.m. at the Sheriff's Office. The run ends by 10 a.m. and from there she will jet off to the Ranchos where she will have barely half an hour to brief her colleagues and prepare for the Flatlander's day event.

Mason can be as demanding of others as she is of herself, but she's never raised her voice, always has a smile and is described as being generous to fault. Time and again, it's Mason who can be counted on to do whatever it takes to set projects in motion and stick with them until they are complete.

Referring to the men and women who volunteer their time to help keep their neighborhoods safe, Sheriff Anderson said, "They continue to provide a vital role to us, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed. In the course of their service to our citizens, together they have earned both state and national recognition.

"Our COPS program has become one of the most successful programs in the nation."

Citizens on Patrol is currently recruiting citizen volunteers. If you are 18 years or older and want to know how you can volunteer your time to helping the Sheriff's Department patrol our community, you are encouraged to attend monthly meetings. For more information about the COPS Program log on to the Madera County Sheriff's web site at www.maderacounty.com/sheriff/ and click on Community Outreach.

Friends of the Library groups. These groups provide volunteer services in the libraries, and sponsor the summer reading program in addition to purchasing new books, magazine subscriptions, and audio and video equipment. The Oakhurst Friends group raised thousands of dollars to remodel the old fire station and expand the library. In Chowchilla the Friends group also raised thousands of dollars to purchase and remodel an old building, creating a new library for the community.

Findings:

1. The Grand Jury found that all library facilities are County-owned except the Madera Ranchos branch.
2. The Grand Jury found that in addition to books and other reference materials, library patrons have access to:
 - a. free usage of computers;
 - b. free internet access;
 - c. printing and copying;
 - d. CDs and DVDs; and
 - e. space for tutoring.
3. The Grand Jury found that three of the libraries have specially dedicated and designed stand-alone computers with numerous learning programs for young children.
4. The Grand Jury found that the children's summer reading program:
 - a. is popular and well attended by 2 to 12 year old children;
 - b. is educational;
 - c. promotes reading;
 - d. recognizes reading achievement; and
 - e. offers fun activities based upon the chosen theme.
5. The Grand Jury found that the libraries have increased utilization of volunteers.
6. The Grand Jury found that SJVLS provides:
 - a. home access to the data bases;

- b. the ability to borrow books and materials from any library that belongs to SJVLS;
- c. online access to the index of library books and materials; and
- d. the convenience of borrowing and returning books and materials to any library in the SJVLS.

7. The Grand Jury found that membership in SJVLS has an annual cost of \$70,000.

8. The Grand Jury found that the State has reduced and may eliminate all public library funding.

9. The Grand Jury found that budget reductions impacted the libraries by:
- a. reducing staff;
 - b. reducing public access hours; and
 - c. eliminating funds for purchase of new books and periodical subscriptions.

10. The Grand Jury found that the libraries are not currently able to provide the following services requested by the public:

- a. faxing;
- b. e books; and
- c. wireless internet access.

11. The Grand Jury found that some of the libraries are not equipped with smoke detectors and a sprinkler system.

12. The Grand Jury found that some of the libraries lack security, outdoor lighting, and alarms.

13. The Grand Jury found that the current library administration:
- a. has restored some of the previously reduced hours of public access, with Board of Supervisors approval;
 - b. has implemented weekly meetings to increase staff communications; and
 - c. is looking for ways to improve the appearance and functionality of the library facilities.

Conclusions:

1. The Grand Jury concluded that

without membership in SJVLS the library would be little more than a book repository with very few services to offer.

2. The Grand Jury concluded that the inadequate safety and security systems of the library facilities place the library, patrons, and County at risk.

3. The Grand Jury concluded that the library is successful in providing excellent learning opportunities for children.

4. The Grand Jury concluded that the Friends groups provide significant and vital support to the libraries.

5. The Grand Jury concluded that the libraries are evolving into a more service-oriented organization.

6. The Grand Jury concluded that the budget reductions have impacted the library's ability to provide some technical and requested services to the public.

7. The Grand Jury concluded that the current library administration has brought positive and effective leadership to the library system.

Recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the County continue to fund the libraries' membership in SJVLS.

2. The Grand Jury recommends that the County evaluate the safety and security issues at all library facilities.

3. The Grand Jury recommends that the libraries provide access to faxing and wireless internet services to the public.

Respondent: written response required pursuant to PC 933(c)

Madera County Board of Supervisors
200 W. Fourth St.
Madera, CA 93637

Informational: response optional
Madera County Librarian
121 N. G St.
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Risk Manager
200 W. Fourth St.
Madera, CA 93637

ANSWERS

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

7	5	+	6	+	10
18					
-	x		+		
9	4	x	5	-	16
x			x		
3	8	x	1	-	16



Got Rhythm?

Part I

I loved playing the piano in the Jazz Band in Junior High. Sometimes the rhythm was tricky, but the correct combination of rhythm and the right notes was imperative to keep the audience from grinding their teeth. The more I practiced, the better it flowed.

We all have varying degrees of rhythm in our lives. We sometimes call these routines. Dictionary.com defines routines as "... commonplace tasks, chores, or duties as must be done regularly or at specific intervals."

With some routines timing is everything, like bill paying and buying gas. There are significant consequences when we miss the timing on those. With other routines it's all about keeping a steady rhythm, like brushing twice a day. In all, life tends to flow better when we don't miss a beat.

When we haven't established routines for the "have to," "should do," or even "want to" things in our lives, we often experience added stress due to the natural consequences or guilt that accompanies our negligence.

For many people it's dealing with paper. While working through a pile of mail with one client, I opened an envelope with the Christmas card I sent her, six months

earlier! For others it's laundry, or yard work, or emptying the dishwasher.

Even really important things can easily slip through the cracks when they're not part of our rhythm of life. How many marriages could be saved or greatly improved if spending quality time together became a regular event? How would consistent family dinners or a Saturday breakfast routine enhance your relationship with your kids? How might getting to work on time everyday benefit your career?

So, why don't we just do all the things that we know we should? Because changing our behavior is stinkin' hard! In their book, *Switch - How to Change When Change is Hard*, authors Chip and Dan Heath suggest that the things we do automatically, like putting the milk away and brushing our teeth, don't require much thought or energy. But, to begin a new behavior or stop an old one is draining. They use the illustration of an elephant (our emo-

tions) and its rider (our rational side). Making a change requires careful attention from the rider and cooperation from the elephant.

Personally, I'm glad they used an illustration that, from what I've seen on TV and at the circus, actually works — riders and elephants working in cooperation. You might have a list a mile long of things you'd like to change and routines you know you should create, but right now I'd encourage you to narrow it to one or two. In the next issue I'll share some practical tips on incorporating them into the rhythm of your life.

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, email her at info@organizedbychoice.com, visit her website www.organizedbychoice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		5		7			2
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	9			6	3		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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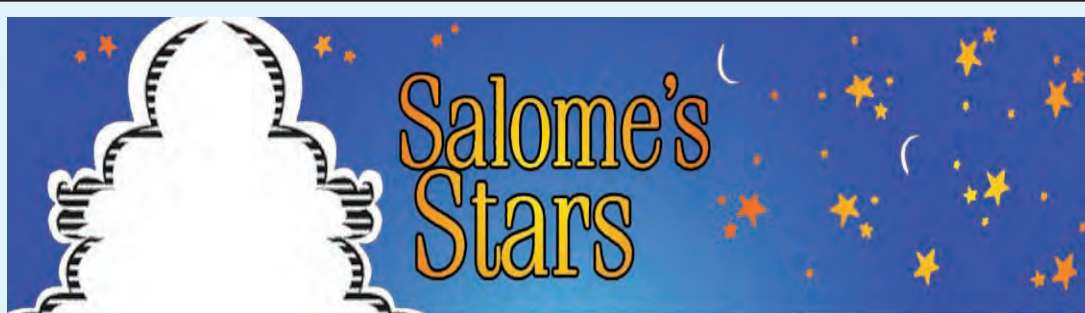
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A stubborn refusal to go ahead on a project mystifies colleagues who expected more flexibility. But once you explain your position, they'll understand and even applaud you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A relationship seems to be stuck in the same place. Now it's up to you, dear Bovine, to decide how far you want it to go and how intense you want it to be. Choose well and choose soon.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A relationship progresses more slowly than you would prefer. Best advice: Insist on a frank and open discussion. What is learned could change minds and, maybe, hearts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's all right to be grateful to a workplace colleague who has done you a good turn. But gratitude shouldn't be a life-long obligation. The time to break this cycle is now.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's going to be especially nice to be the King of the Zodiac at this time. A recent money squeeze eases. Plans start to work out, and new friends enter Your Majesty's domain.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Before you make a commitment on any level (personal, professional, legal), get all the facts. There might be hidden problems that could cause trouble later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Personal relationships improve. Professional prospects also brighten. A job offer could come through by month's end. An old friend seeks to make contact.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your senses detect that something is not quite right about a matter involving a workplace colleague. Best advice: Follow your keen instincts and don't get involved.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A prospect offers rewards, but it also demands that you assume a great deal of responsibility. Knowing you, you're up to the challenge, so go for it, and good luck.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A favor you did a long time ago is repaid, as a trusted colleague steps in to help you with a suddenly expanded workload. A family member has important news.

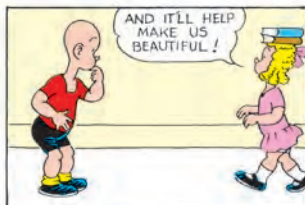
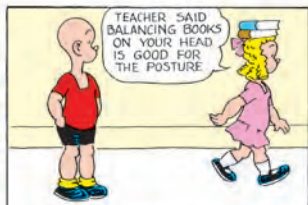
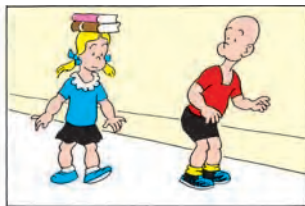
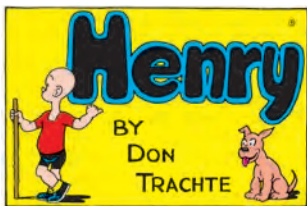
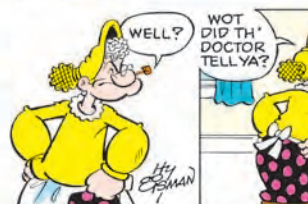
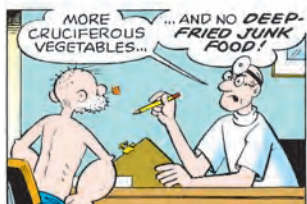
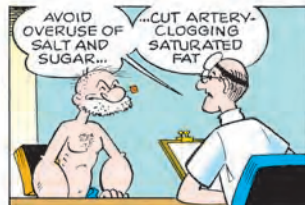
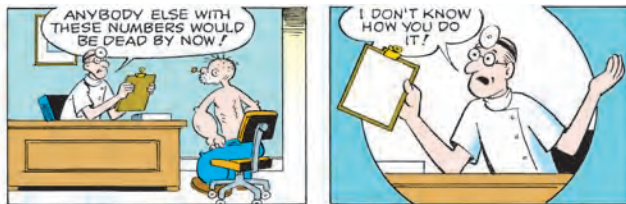
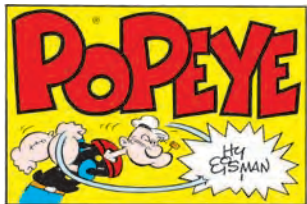
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new job offer could require moving across the country. But before you let your doubts determine your decision, learn more about the potentials involved.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your sense of fair play doesn't allow you to rush to judgment about a friend who might have betrayed you. Good! Because all the facts are not yet in.

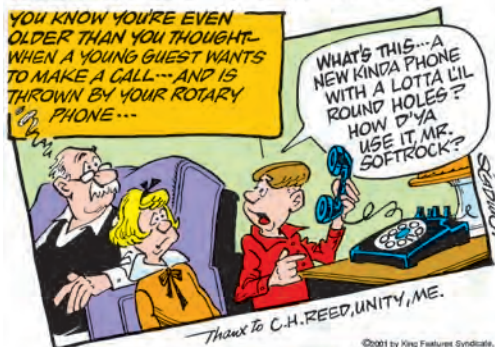
Born this Week

You have a romantic nature that allows you to find the best in people. You would excel at poetry and drama.

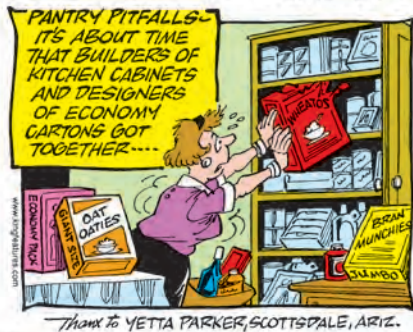
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



BIG DECISION—EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? YOU'RE A NEW PUPPY OWNER AND YOU GO TO THE SUPERMART—IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME PICKING WHICH FOOD TO GET FOR THE L'L PURP...



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SPELL OUT! Find a word of three letters to complete each of two sets of seven longer words in the exercises at right. Example: In No. 1, insert the word ALL, and the result is ball, pall, nail, stall, and that's all for ALL.

In No. 2, by ORE, and you have bore, core, tore, spore, whereupon the string runs out. Clues: For No. 1, think of a celebrated vessel of old. For No. 2, think of a product that's sold by the barrel.

What are the two words? Answers: No. 1—ALL, and No. 2—ORE.

TALLY HO! Ask someone to think of a number, multiply it by three, add one, multiply result by three, add the original number, and subtract three. Result will always be ten times the original number. Give it a try.

IT'S A FLAT-OUT EYE TEASER

SEEING is believing. It is said, but there are occasions when what our eyes perceive may be illusory. A good example is in the design of the inverted pyramid depicted above.

Hold this drawing at a customary reading distance and fix your gaze somewhere in the middle. Alakazam, the pyramid appears to divide into a stack of individual rectangles of graduated size. To dispel this illusion, simply start at the bottom and trace your way (if you can) to the top. You will discover that the design consists of a single continuous line.

It's an amusing design and flat-out eye teaser.

DOG GONE! Cops, Rover is running away. See if you can find the path he takes to point marked X, top left corner.



PICTURE SHOW! "Just hold that pose," says the artist. Add these colors by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Lt. gray, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

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

MAGNOLIA

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

Wishing Well

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

MAGIC MAZE • ONE-ACT WORDS

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

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

Abstract	Bacteria	Exact	Playact
Action	Cataract	Olfactory	Practical
Actors	Compact	Overact	Subtract
Actress	Distract	Pacts	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- CHEMISTRY:** What two elements are combined to make bronze?
- MEASUREMENTS:** How many furlongs are in a mile?
- HISTORY:** What was the first permanent English settlement in America?
- ANATOMY:** In which part of the body would you find the metatarsal bones?
- GEOGRAPHY:** In which city would you find the famous Carnaby Street?
- LANGUAGE:** What common item used to be known as "India rubber"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What does the Apgar Scale measure?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the only U.S. president to be sworn into office by his father?
- SPORTS:** Who was the first person officially to run a mile in less than 4 minutes?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which species of big cat cannot retract its claws?

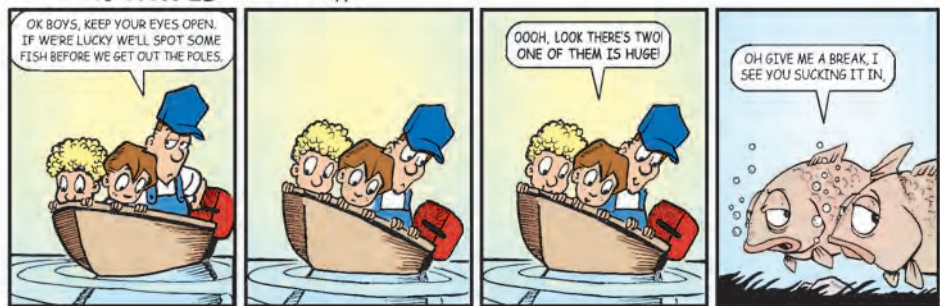
Answers

- Copper and tin
- Eight
- Jamestown, Va.
- The foot
- London
- An eraser
- Newborn's conditions
- Calvin Coolidge
- Roger Bannister
- Cheetah

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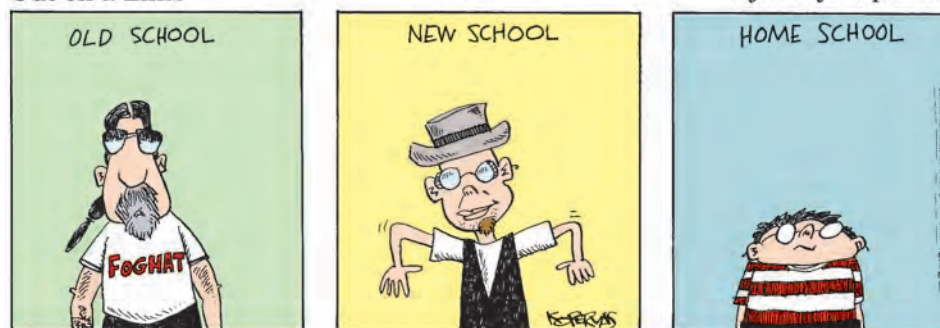
Click on "Local News" at

AMBER WAVES *by Dave T. Phipps*



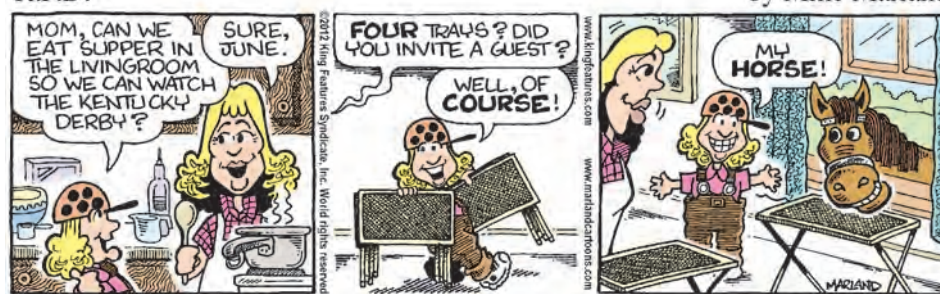
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



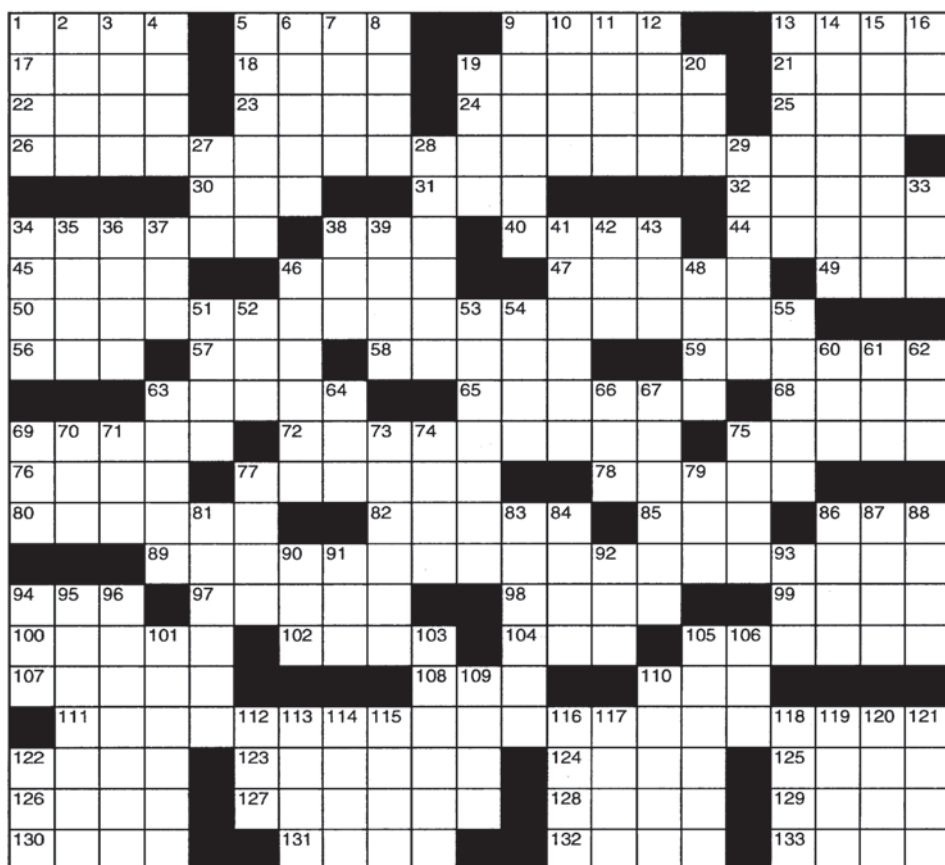
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Word with dance or hero
 - 5 — Pet
 - 9 Play thing?
 - 13 Rushes
 - 17 Destroy
 - 18 "You —?" (Lurch's line)
 - 19 Merchant
 - 21 "— partridge in ..."
 - 22 Dermatological problem
 - 23 Foot part
 - 24 Event of 622
 - 25 Fancy
 - 26 Start of a remark by Roseanne
 - 30 "Sheila" singer
 - 31 Echidna's tidbit
 - 32 Account entry
 - 34 Arthurian knight
 - 38 Dunce
 - 40 Scandinavian capital
 - 44 Susan Lucci role
 - 45 Beige
 - 46 Burly Burl
 - 47 Black and white delight
 - 49 Neighbor of Okla.
 - 50 Part 2 of remark
 - 56 Way to satori
 - 57 Team scream
 - 58 Light metal group?
 - 59 Spouse of Isis
 - 63 Football's Lavelli
 - 65 "The Scarlet Letter" heroine
 - 68 Curtain fabric
 - 69 Agricultural inventor
 - 72 Part 3 of remark
 - 75 Tucker or Roberts
 - 76 Land measure
 - 77 Crops up
 - 78 Montezuma, for one
 - 80 Peat's place
 - 82 Forster's "— With a View"
 - 85 "To be sure!"
 - 86 Shorten a skirt
 - 89 Part 4 of remark
 - 94 Carry to class
 - 97 Intuit
 - 98 Green land
 - 99 Kruger or Gluck
 - 100 Clumsy
 - 102 Prune a paragraph
 - 104 Present for pop
 - 105 Writer Rushdie
 - 107 Pigeonhole
 - 108 Glowing
 - 110 Private reply?
 - 111 End of remark
 - 122 Meter reader?
 - 123 Journalist
 - 124 Where to speak Farsi
 - 125 Emilia's husband
 - 126 "— take arms against a sea ..."
 - 127 "The Compleat Angler" author
 - 128 Arrogant
 - 129 It may be bitter
 - 130 Govt. agents
 - 131 — -do-well
 - 132 Actress Joyce
 - 133 Toboggan
 - Rossini
 - 10 Frenzy
 - 11 Garfield's pal
 - 12 Gilpin of "Frasier"
 - 13 Nautical rope
 - 14 Check
 - 15 Impressive building
 - 16 TV's "My Sister —"
 - 19 Dilute
 - 20 Sneaky sort
 - 27 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 28 Ornamental dangler
 - 29 Principles
 - 33 Duty
 - 34 Saxophonist Stan
 - 35 Need a rubdown
 - 36 Small bird
 - 37 Great bird?
 - 38 Actress Gardner
 - 39 Doris Day refrain
 - 41 Cavort in the pool
 - 42 — Cruces, NM
 - 43 Can.
 - 46 '87 Warren Beatty film
 - 48 Last name in fashion
 - 51 "Dies —"
 - 52 Rowan or Rather
 - 53 Truman
 - Cabinet member
 - 54 Movie mogul Marcus
 - 55 Whitman's bloomer
 - 60 Fled
 - 61 Frigid
 - 62 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
 - 63 Night vision?
 - 64 Inventor Whitney
 - 66 Actress Leoni
 - 67 Pepsin or lipase
 - 69 Barrier
 - 70 Word form for "environment"
 - 71 Goof
 - 73 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
 - 74 Ralston or Miles
 - 75 Hardy woman
 - 77 Tennis legend
 - 79 Golfer's gadget
 - 81 Nervous —
 - 83 "Swan Lake" heroine
 - 84 1,102, to Calpurnia
 - 86 Ian of "The Borrowers"
 - 87 Role for 27 Down
 - 88 Nasty
 - 90 Sturm —
 - 91 Compass pt.
 - 92 Mine find
 - 93 Lyricist David
 - 94 Coal
 - 95 Doughboy's container
 - 96 Conceal
 - 101 Light quantum
 - 103 Poet Wylie
 - 105 Burnt —
 - 106 Branch
 - 109 Terrible name?
 - 110 Periwinkle, for one
 - 112 "Would you look at that!"
 - 113 Algerian port
 - 114 Vex
 - 115 Winslet of "Hamlet"
 - 116 Jackknife, e.g.
 - 117 — surgery
 - 118 Puppy protests
 - 119 Monopoly destination
 - 120 Stare salaciously
 - 121 Daring
 - 122 Ample abdomen

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FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Family Movie Night

The return of **Community Family Movie Nights** is here! Every Friday night through August 17 SEMCU is sponsoring **FREE family movies** at the Maywood Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available courtesy of student clubs from Liberty High School. **Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket to spread out on the ground** and be a part of a great tradition that has returned to the Ranchos.



Community Swap Meet

Got stuff to sell or looking to buy?
SEM CU is sponsoring a **Community Swap Meet** on **Saturday, June 2 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the lot at **Hurst Hardware on the corner of Berkshire and Fernwood.** Booths are open to all and are only \$20. **Admission is FREE.** You can sign up for a booth at Hurst Hardware and get all the information you need or call 363-9095. **(Next Swap Meet: Sept. 8)**

SEM CU REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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