

The Ranchos Independent



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Professional Basketball in the Ranchos?

the ABA
California
Heatwave
now calls
the Ranchos
home

by silas verrinder

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Professional Basketball in the Ranchos? Believe it!

By Silas Verrinder

Basketball fans and sports enthusiasts in the Madera Ranchos will be excited to hear that the Ranchos is now home to a professional sports team. The new local basketball team, the American Basketball Association (ABA) California HeatWave, will be facing off against the Central Valley Titans on Saturday, Nov. 30 at Liberty High School at 6 p.m.

The California HeatWave is a member of the ABA, an association of semi-professional minor league teams throughout the United States. According to ABA CEO Joe Newman, the HeatWave is the ABA's oldest team with nine seasons under its belt. The ABA has its roots in an older league by the same name that eventually merged with the NBA in 1976. The current ABA was founded in 1999 and has no official affiliation with its older predecessor. Several familiar NBA teams such as the Denver Nuggets,

the Indiana Pacers and the San Antonio Spurs were once a part of the older ABA until the two leagues merged. The California HeatWave will compete in the ABA's Southern and Northern California divisions.

The California HeatWave was acquired by Reggie Davis and Greg Chambers in 2004 while it was still based in Fresno. The team moved to Sacramento, where it enjoyed moderate success in the basketball-enthusiastic city, but they never completely won the city's support, presumably due to the already popular and well-established NBA Sacramento Kings. The move was finalized earlier this year, along with the decision to change their name from the Sacramento HeatWave to the California HeatWave. Their first season in Madera will begin this month and extend into next March.

Several other locations were also considered for the team's new home but according to Davis, the decision to move to the Madera Ranchos was partially motivated by the proximity of the Ranchos to surrounding cities such as Madera, Chowchilla, Fresno and Merced. This means a greater pool of potential players as well as fans. "We're in a good place for a community to support a minor league," he

said. When asked why the Ranchos, Davis said, "Why not the Ranchos?"

A longtime resident of the Central Valley and a graduate of Fresno State University where he was heavily involved in sports, Reggie Davis describes the California HeatWave as "a community sports team" and explains that this means closer connection to the community than a major team. "We try to get involved with things that support the community," Davis said. An important goal of the team is to support the local community. According to its website, www.heatwavelive.com, the HeatWave seeks to serve the entire region with high quality basketball and entertainment, along with spreading the message of living a healthy lifestyle through community support "... for the issues that plague our society."

It remains to be seen whether this move will pay off. The lifeblood of any team, as Davis explained, is sponsorship. He hopes that local sponsors will emerge from the community and surrounding communities. While they have yet to find sponsors in the area, Davis said, "We are working on a short timeline to

Please see **B-BALL** on P. 10

News Briefs

Hawks Football -- The 10-1 Hawks are just two games away from their second-in-a-row Division V Championship. Their next game is at Hawk Field against Lindsay on Friday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.

Common Core -- The controversial new educational standards that the state of California has signed onto is coming to the Ranchos. It will be discussed at the next GVUSD Board meeting on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the LHS library.

Pro Basketball -- The Ranchos is the new home of the California Heatwave basketball team. For all of you who say there's nothing to do in the Ranchos, their first tip-off is Saturday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. at the LHS gym. Tickets at the door or from the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. 645-4001.

Brazen Burglary -- A garage on Kensington and 36 1/2 was broken into by two white males in a white SUV at 1 p.m. on Nov. 2 while the homeowner was present. If you have any info call 559-675-7770.

Community Tree Lighting Axed

By Randy Bailey

The annual lighting of the community Christmas tree at Maywood Center has been cancelled this year by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The reason given was lack of community participation.

At the monthly Chamber meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 13, the decision was made to not hold the event this year and see if there was interest next year.

At the heart of the issue is the reason behind the Christmas tree lighting. Since its inception, the Chamber of Commerce has used the event to gather items for veterans at the V A Hospital in Fresno. Every year, the Chamber has put paper stars on the tree. Community members are invited to take a star and by so doing "adopt" a veteran, agreeing to put together a small care package consisting of T-shirts, warm socks, a toothbrush, paperback books and a lap blanket. Last year, so few community members bothered to get involved that the sparse donations were barely adequate for a handful of veterans, prompting two Chamber members, not wanting to disappoint the hospital-bound veterans, to dig

into their own pockets.

The V A Hospital in Fresno houses hundreds of veterans. Sadly, many are at a stage in their lives where family and friends no longer visit, making the holidays a painful time for them. Chamber members who have taken the care packages to the hospital in the past unanimously speak of the tearful gratitude awaiting them for such a small offering. These men and women have become America's forgotten warriors and, up until last year, had always received a little something from the Ranchos.

The discussion at the Chamber meeting stressed that there was no interest in pulling the plug on the tree lighting permanently, but since the purpose of it was about the community getting an opportunity to, in a small way, say "thank you" to our sick and dying veterans, the ultimate decision would have to rest with the community.

If you would like to express your thoughts to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce about this, or other issues, they can be reached at 645-4001 or you can stop by at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hawk to CSUF



Liberty High School senior Stetson Woods, center, signs a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Fresno State with Liberty High School Counselor Karie Hannigan and school Principal, Frank Panian.

CORRECTION

In our October issue of the Ranchos Independent we said the young lady on the cover was Carla Helms. Her name is Ciara Helms. We apologize for any misunderstandings or confusion this may have caused.

Click on "Local News" at

Greg Noll Candidate for Sheriff

In June of 2014, the residents of Madera County will be given the opportunity to elect a new Sheriff in Madera County. With your help and commitment, I plan on being the next Sheriff in Madera County. Public safety and providing the best service possible to you, the taxpayer, is my number one goal. This can be accomplished by having a clear direction for the Madera Sheriff's Department and by

leading by example. I plan on doing both throughout this election each and every day I serve you, the citizens of Madera County. Growing up in Madera County (Oakhurst) and living in several areas within the County and the City of Madera, I know the challenges we face for providing a safer County for us to enjoy.

I am honored to work for one of the busiest police agencies in the State of Cal-

ifornia and am proud to be part of the Fresno Police Department. Being a Sergeant and supervising an investigation unit has provided me with an opportunity to fight crime on a daily basis. My experience is unique as I spend each and every day reviewing cases and making sure the most current policing strategies are being utilized to reduce crime rates. I plan on utilizing these same strategies in Madera County and look forward to building rela-

Please see **SHERIFF** on P. 9



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Letters

Dear Editor:

High Speed Rail (HSR) was a good idea. I do not oppose the idea of a useful High Speed Rail system. What I do vehemently oppose is the utterly arrogant and disrespectful manner in which the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) has shoved it down our collective throats. I oppose the "bait and switch" tactics, the criminal and unconstitutional disregard for property owners, agriculture, the environment, the voters and the taxpayers of our county and state. I am disgusted with the financial deceit and morally bankrupt non-elected individuals who have been placed in charge of our destiny. I am saddened over the irreparable pending effects on our farmland and rural communities such as Chowchilla and Fairmead.

Governor Brown and Washington D.C. are insisting that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is too restrictive and should be set aside for HSR but not for the development and delivery of more (new) water to Madera County and California. The California High Speed Rail Authority filed a brief with the 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento claiming that federal environmental laws – typically considered less stringent than the California Environmental Quality Act – supersede state regulations. Therefore, we are told to swallow that High Speed Rail is much more important than our environment or collecting and storing the water which will create thousands of real jobs and billions in economic benefits.

I would like to ask the local wonks who are still so loudly promoting the much talked about, but never pinpointed, jobs issue to step up and personally guarantee that there will be 1,500 high-paying, permanent HSR jobs which will all go to Madera County residents. "Put up or shut up," as my Grandfather was fond of saying to the posers.

Awarding construction contracts to a poorly rated company which just happens to have ties to a sitting Senator because

they were able to tender a low bid, knowing full well that they traditionally collect much more in cost overruns? What have they not learned by the Bay Bridge fiasco? They must know better than we commoners. After all, we elected them.

Ironically, whatever good there may have been in the original HSR idea has been morphed and marginalized by elitist and socially inept bureaucrats. I have heard it sometimes referred to as "criminal stupidity."

In 2008 the voters approved a \$10 billion HSR Bond against a \$40 billion total estimated projected cost. So much for another promise made to voters deciding whether to award the project \$9.95 billion in initial bond funding. That soon ballooned to nearly \$100 million and was "pared down" to today's favorite underestimate of \$68 billion by making compromises to their stated performance goals and promises. Some recent revised estimates have run as high as \$200 billion and the state hasn't yet secured all of the additional funds needed. The voters were told it would meet the highest environmental standards; that it would cost \$43 billion; that the ticket to go from San Francisco to Los Angeles would cost \$55 and the trip would take no more than two hours and 40 minutes.

Quentin Kopp chaired the state Senate transportation committee for years and co-wrote legislation that launched the bullet-train project. He later served as board chairman of the state agency overseeing construction of the system. In a recent legal declaration, he filed a civil suit seeking to halt the project. Kopp, a retired judge, said the project as now planned violates the law. "They have just mangled this project. They distorted it. We don't get a high-speed rail system. It is the great train robbery," Kopp said.

The HSR project is no longer anything like what Californians approved and

Please see **LETTER** on P. 13

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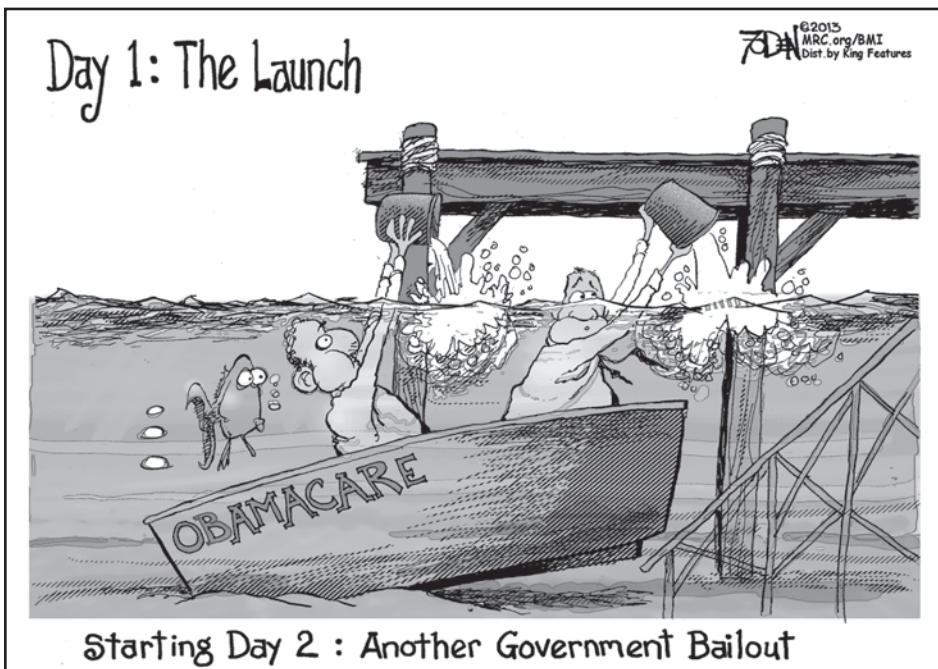
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Editorial

Just Stop It

By Randy Bailey

There are a lot of hot topics out there in the news these days. All of the stuff about Obamacare, or the shortcomings of the kickoff of Obamacare, leads the list. Iran, Afghanistan, NSA spying on our allies, Benghazi, using the I.R.S. as a political tool ... the list goes on and on. Then there are the goings on in California ranging from water shortages (artificially manufactured) to allowing school-age boys to shower with school-age girls at high schools because of their "gender identity" to the whole joke that is the state-sponsored high speed rail. Common Core is a new one that has reared its head. A lot to choose from and believe me, I have an opinion on all of them.

But we need to talk about a topic that is much closer to home and something that impacts us all, particularly here in the Ranchos. I'll broach the subject by asking a basic question: Do you know what "stop" means?

A comedian a few years ago said that God's 10 Commandments were not "the 10 'Suggestions'." Commandment means it's something you're commanded to do. Not something to think about or weigh the pros and cons of or pick and choose which parts you want to follow and which parts you'll have to pass on. Command means do it or else.

This brings us to the question I

posed above. Obviously, here in the Ranchos, "stop" means advance, crawl, cross, depart, drift, drive, exit, flow, fly, get away, get going, glide, hurry, leave, locomote, migrate, proceed, progress, propel, pull out, roll, run, scam, shift, skip out, split, take off, transfer, transport, travel or traverse.

Unfortunately, those are all wrong.

Just like the 10 Commandments, a stop sign is not a "suggestion." A stop sign means that you are supposed to stop. It doesn't mean stop only when people are around. It doesn't mean stop only when you think, "Gosh ... I'd better stop." It doesn't mean that you get to look around at the situation and decide that THIS time stopping just isn't necessary ... besides, you've got somewhere to be.

Stop means stop.

When I used to pick my daughters up from Liberty High, I would park where I could watch the stop sign before entering the roundabout. If 50 cars came up to that sign, two might stop. On my street in the Bonnadelle Ranchos we ought to change the writing on the stop signs to read "roll." That is, when they slow down enough to actually just roll.

What I don't get is when you go to Fresno and you pull up to the intersection of Blackstone and Herndon and the light is red, why don't you just roll on through the intersection? What's the difference?

The answer is, "nothing."

A cop stops a lawyer who has just rolled through a stop sign. The lawyer believes he can fast talk his way out of the ticket by making the point to the cop that there is essentially no difference between "stopping" and "slowing down."

"I know the law," the lawyer says. "There is no meaningful, definable difference between safely slowing down upon entering an intersection and coming to a complete stop for an intersection. I defy you to show me a difference."

The cop asks the lawyer to exit his car. Once he does he takes out his nightstick and begins beating the lawyer with it. Above the blows the cop calls out, "Do you want me to stop or just slow down?"

Stop means stop. And it means stop for all of us. When you pull up to a Ranchos stop sign, note that weightless feeling when your body is no longer travelling forward ...

Eureka!

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RONALD REAGAN
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Holidays are Here in the Ranchos

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Christmas is coming, Christmas is coming! This is my favorite time of the year. I am making my list and checking it twice. It is time to make three St. Nicholas cakes (family favorite) because they need to mellow for at least a month before Christmas. Then I need to put on my thinking cap so that I can recap 2013 for my annual Christmas letter. Yes, I am one of those who writes a Christmas letter each year. I only write one letter a year, so if my friends and family want to know what I have been up to they need to read my letter; if they don't want to know they can throw it away. They have my permission. I have been writing a Christmas letter for the last 40 years and I always keep one copy so that I can look back over the years.

After the St. Nicholas cake baking and the Christmas letter writing, it is time for more lists and shopping for gifts, wrapping gifts, putting up the Christmas tree, decorating the house and putting up the outside lights. It is so much fun to drag out the boxes marked "Christmas boxes." Each box is filled with memories. I am so blessed with a loving family that still wants to come to Grandma's house for the holidays.

Of course Thanksgiving comes before Christmas and starts the holiday season. I am happy that I can still put together a family feast. This year the family will include my great grandson, Jonathan Stock, who is home on an "R&R" before his next assignment in the Navy.

I am sorry that the local Chamber of Commerce will not be holding the annual December Christmas Tree Lighting for the Veterans Hospital this year. This has always been a community event to start the Christmas sea-

son in the Ranchos. Due to a lack of community participation it has been canceled this year. Also the Chamber will not be selling Sees Candy for Christmas gifts this year, but the Kiwanis Club will be selling Poinsettia plants as a fundraiser this year. Ask any Kiwanis member and they will tell you how to order a plant.

At the last Chamber of Commerce meeting our speaker was Harrison Caetano who

shared his ideas and asked for help. Harrison is working for his Eagle Scout badge. He is in Scout troop C102. His project is to put up two signs to welcome people to the Madera Ranchos. Several people have tried to do this in the past but always hit problems and gave up. Harrison seems to have all the right pieces in place to get the job done this time. One sign will be at Avenue 12 and Road 38 and the other sign will be at Avenue 12 and Road 34. Harrison is asking the community to help choose

which one of the three designs he has drawn up for this project. The three designs are in this copy of the Ranchos Independent then you go to WelcometotheRanchos@gmail.com to let him know your thoughts. Harrison hopes to have the two signs up by April of 2014. The local Chamber of Commerce has voted to have the Chamber coordinate and share in the cost of the upkeep of the two signs.

Reggie Davis also came to the local Chamber of Commerce meeting to say hello and to tell us about the California Heatwave, an ABA basketball team. Their first game will be played at Liberty High School Gym on Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. The tickets will cost \$5 and \$10 each. This is an ABA professional sports basketball team. Tickets will be on sale at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Have a wonder holiday season. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

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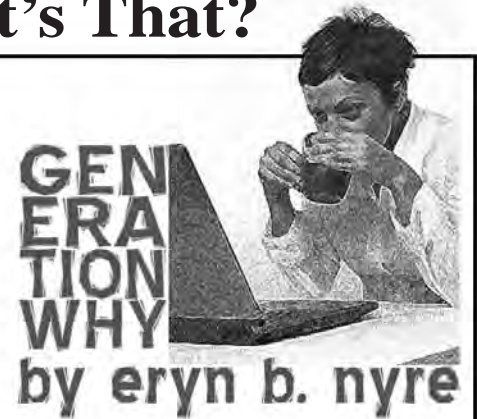
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Integrity? What's That?



Who would have thought that honesty and integrity were not popular virtues among the weekend afternoon shoppers at the dollar store? I made my way out last weekend, intent on picking up a few things and decided to poke around the dollar store to see what I could find. With a basket full of candles and other decorative items, I stood in a line for a time that rivaled a Sunday afternoon in Wal-Mart at the end of the month. When I finally made my way to the cashier, debit card in hand, something was fishy about the total. The thing about the dollar store is that it isn't too hard to estimate the charges. I had nine items so when my total came out to eight dollars and change I knew she had missed something. I could have just walked away, but see, that would be thievery, and as I am not Robin Hood and the dollar store is not Prince John, I couldn't just walk

away, so I told her that she missed something. Of course that led to her pulling all nine items back out of my bag and comparing them to the receipt. The people behind me immediately started grumbling and complaining, and hey, I get it. I was just waiting in the same line. Not wanting to hold everyone up any longer than I had to, I told her to just grab something and ring it up again so I could pay and go. She did just that, at which point I heard the man a couple of people back announce in an irritated and loud voice, “Are you kidding me? You complained because she didn't charge you enough? I hope she doesn't charge me enough.”

Never one to shy away from a moment where I can make an idiot aware of his idiocy, especially in this case when the man had a couple of young ones in tow, I took my receipt from the cashier, turned to the jerk in the line and said, “What a great lesson to teach your girls there, stealing is awesome, and don't do the right thing if it isn't convenient.” I spun on my heel and fumed the entire walk to my car and drive home. What a nasty human being. The exchange didn't add more than a minute to the entire transaction and I certainly wasn't going to walk away knowing full well that one of my items wasn't paid for.

What has this world come to that in front of your own children you would condone stealing? Would he have had a problem with it if I reached my hand into the purse of

Not everything is black and white, and the sheer amount of gray in this world is startling, but it seems pretty clear, when you knowingly pay less than what is due without the vendor's knowledge, that is unethical and I won't be a party to it.

the woman behind me and took a dollar out of her wallet to pay my bill? At that point would it have mattered that it was just a dollar? Perhaps he thought it would have been acceptable not to pay for something because it was the business that would lose the money, and not some poor customer. Big bad corporations and business can afford to lose a dollar here or there, so stealing from them

is perfectly fine. I wonder where the line is. Had it been five dollars, would I have been right to speak up then? Ten? We all know that if the business loses too many dollars, the dollar store will soon become the two dollar and fifty cent store. Theft is theft. And had I not noticed the discrepancy, then things would have played out differently, however, I did notice. I noticed before I even swiped my debit card and moving forward and knowingly not paying for all the items I was intending on purchasing is the very definition of theft.

I don't regret holding up the line for an extra minute in order to do the right thing. I don't regret making a big deal out of a single dollar, because if I would have dropped a dollar bill as I walked out the door I would hope that someone would have picked it up and handed it to me. Not everything is black and white, and the sheer amount of gray in this world is startling, but it seems pretty clear, when you knowingly pay less than what is due without the vendor's knowledge, that is unethical and I won't be a party to it. But apparently the man in line would not only have taken his ill-gotten discount, he would have raved about it to his young children, teaching them to take the money and run at any opportunity that crosses their path. What an upstanding dad. I'm a lucky girl: my parents taught me integrity. Guess he doesn't have time to teach his kids about that.

Gobbling Thanksgiving

It's Thanksgiving - hope everyone is ready for the big dinner. Of course I'm speaking of turkey and all the trimmings. But I know some people that don't have turkey - either they just don't like it or like something else better. I was watching a TV show the other day and the person on the show was cooking a pork loin roast that his family was going to have. Then I know a family that every year their daughter, their only child, chooses a different country and they have the food native to that country. The last time I talked to her they were going to have food from India.

To me, Thanksgiving isn't what you eat; it's who you eat it with: Family! Nothing better than sitting around a table of food and fellowship with the people in your life that mean the most to you. That being said, however, my favorite meal for Thanksgiving is still turkey with everything that goes with it and one of the things I like best about the dinner is the leftovers. Oh, I know you say, "I can't eat another turkey sandwich," but I never tire of turkey, especially with cranberry sauce.

How about something else to use the turkey in other than sandwiches? (Even though I don't know how you can beat hot open-faced sandwiches with mashed potatoes and gravy or cold sandwiches with cranberry sauce).

Most everyone I know likes soup of some kind. I found a couple of recipes I'll pass on to you.

Tex-Mex Soup

- 1 T Olive Oil
- ½ C minced onion



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- ½ tsp. oregano
- ½ tsp. cumin
- 4 C. water
- 1 can condensed tomato soup
- 1 (28 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 C Salsa
- 4 C shredded cooked turkey
- 1 T. dried parsley
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 C frozen corn
- ½ C sour cream
- ¼ C chopped fresh cilantro (optional)

Heat olive oil in large sauce pan over medium heat. Add minced onion and cook until onions begin to soften. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin and

oregano and cook, stirring for one more minute.

Stir in water, tomato soup, diced tomatoes, salsa, shredded turkey, parsley, and bouillon cubes. Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until bouillon cubes are dissolved.

Add black beans, corn, sour cream and cilantro (if using). Simmer for 20 to 30 minutes.

Top with your choice of any or all of the following:

Crushed corn tortilla chips, chopped green onions, shredded cheddar or Monterey jack cheese, sour cream and shredded cilantro.

If you're not in the mood for a spicy soup, how about chowder?

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

Who's got 1980's prices?



You can do it yourself or have the pros at Madera Glass & Mirror take care of your window repairs. Got broken screens? Madera Glass & Mirror has the expertise to make quick work of any screen repair. Glass for picture frames is a specialty at Madera Glass & Mirror. Fix a broken one or complete a project.

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come meet friends!

Golden Valley Baptist Church

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

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
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11/13

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If you have anything for sale call:

264-7980

We live in the Ranchos and can come to your place or meet you.

THANK YOU

10/13

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Turkey Chowder

- 1 T butter
- ½ C chopped onion
- 2 C water
- 4 medium red potatoes, scrubbed and cut into ½ inch cubes (about 2 cups)
- 2 cups milk
- 1 package creamy gravy mix
- 2 cups shredded cooked turkey
- 1 can (8 ¾ ounce) whole kernel corn, undrained
- 1 tsp. sage – rubbed

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and cook and stir 3 minutes. Add water and potatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

In separate bowl stir milk into gravy mix until smooth. Stir into saucepan. Add turkey, corn and sage. Bring to a boil on medium heat. Reduce heat to low cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Or, if soup doesn't strike your fancy, how about some enchiladas?

Turkey Enchiladas

- 2 C shredded cheese (Cheddar and Monterey Jack is recommended)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (2 ounce) can diced black olives
- 24 (6 Inch) corn tortillas

1 (19 ounce) can red enchilada sauce

4 cups shredded cooked turkey
Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish.

In a small bowl, combine the cheese, onion and black olives. Pour enchilada sauce into a shallow plate (pie plate works well).

In a small skillet, heat enough oil to lightly coat one tortilla, and cook until soft. Remove and dip in enchilada sauce to coat. Lay on plate.

Put some of the cheese mixture in center of tortilla and then some of the turkey. Roll and place in the prepared pan. Repeat until bottom layer of pan is covered with enchiladas. Spread enough sauce over bottom layer to cover. Repeat process with second layer. Spread remaining sauce on top of enchiladas and sprinkle with remaining cheese mixture.

Bake in preheated oven 20 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted.

In closing, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope you are able to be with as many of your family as possible. For those family members that we aren't able to be with, call them to tell them how much you love them and how thankful you are that they are in your life. We never know what tomorrow may bring.

Happy birthday, Diana J. Tucker!

SHERIFF cont. from P. 3

tionships with each one of you.

Recently, there has been an increase of gang violence including shootings and homicides that has impacted residents of Madera County and the Madera Sheriff's Department. My message is quite simply, "Gang violence will not be tolerated." Many of the gang-related issues are involving gangs whom I am familiar with but, more importantly, are gang members who I spend every day in my current assignment making cases against. The 28 years of experience I bring to the table will allow the Madera Sheriff's Department to be well prepared for future gang-related crime and have a leader in place that not only will talk about gang violence but a leader who will enact plans to deal with gang violence and prevent gang violence.

We live in a County with fantastic talent and terrific opportunities to improve our quality of life. This can be accomplished by increasing volunteerism and making sure information related to current crime trends are communicated to you. I will accomplish this by making sure current crime trends are available to you through internet access and open up Preventative Crime Prevention techniques through computers and mobile devices.

I announced my intent to run for this Office in December of 2012. I specifi-

cally chose to announce early for one reason: I felt it was critical to get to know as many of you as possible and spend my time learning what is important to you and the communities you live in. Since this announcement, I have spent time in Oakhurst, North Fork, South Fork, Chowchilla, Madera, Madera Ranchos, Coarsegold, Rolling Hills and Raymond. One question that continues to come up is my stance on the 2nd Amendment right and your right to carry concealed weapons. Being in law enforcement my entire adult life and carrying a firearm on a daily basis, I pledge to fight for your rights under the 2nd Amendment and your right to carry a concealed weapon. Just recently I wrote a letter to the governor expressing my concerns about current gun control legislation and expressed my displeasure with bills in the Assembly. Law abiding citizens in Madera County will not have to worry about restrictive gun control efforts from my office if elected.

Your support is my first priority. I will be honored to serve you and become the Sheriff of the People of Madera County. Together, we will continue to make Madera County a safe community and a place we are all proud to reside.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or would like to join the "Noll for Sheriff" team, please email me directly at nollforsheriff@gmail.com or visit my web site nollforsheriff.com.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		÷		11
×		×		+	
	÷		×		15
÷		-		×	
	×		÷		9
12		15		12	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 9

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

Miller Runs for Auditor Controller

Local accountant launches effort to be Madera County's Fiscal Watchdog.

Todd Miller, a local CPA, has announced that he will be a candidate for the office of Madera County Auditor Controller. Miller has outlined several failures by the department that have cost Madera County Millions.

"County officials estimate that \$3 million in road improvement funds are being delayed from last year with another \$3 million to be delayed this year. Published reports indicate that Madera County has also lost \$5.4 million in lost grants. That's \$11.4 million dollars lost to sheer incompetence and that's just the beginning," said Miller. Currently, the au-



Oakhurst resident Todd Miller, a local CPA, has thrown his hat in the ring for the position of Madera County Auditor/Controller in next year's election.

ditor's office is working on the 2011 audit when it should be working on the 2012 report. According to Miller, these late reports have cost Madera County millions of dollars in state funds and have forced the county to lay off 40 percent of its work force.

"That means cops and fire fighters are out there collecting unemployment when they would rather be patrolling our streets and keeping our families safe. With our financial house in such disarray, it's time for us to say enough is enough," said Miller.

Todd Miller is Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years of experience in managing budgets and helping clients plan their financial future. Miller is a partner at the accounting firm of Miller & White, he and his family make their home in Oakhurst.

B-BALL cont. from P. 2

get someone on board." Additional funding will come from concessions, ticket sales and merchandise. Tickets are currently sold at \$10 apiece for general seating with lower rates for kids and seniors.

Davis said the goal of California HeatWave is to really ground itself in the community. "We're just like any major city on a smaller level. The HeatWave is the Ranchos' team to support. We can be proud of the fact that we have a professional minor league sports team," he said. The team hopes to ignite local interest and believes that there is enough demand in the area to support professional sports. This support will be crucial for insuring the team's long-term success.

The ABA differs from the NBA in some of its rules. Most noticeably the "3-D" rule, which Davis described as the ABA's "signature rule." This rule states

that when a player steals the ball in the backcourt and successfully makes a shot, an additional point is added to the score for a total of four points as opposed to the NBA's three points. Along with other variations in rules, the ABA is known for its exciting and fast-paced game play. Also, their use of the red, white and blue striped ball is an iconic marker of the league.

California HeatWave's inaugural game is scheduled for Nov. 30 with pre-game festivities scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. and the game scheduled to start at 6 p.m. The game will be held at the gym at Liberty High School. Tickets are available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C. You can call 645-4001 for availability. Tickets will also be available at the door.

"It's a party," Davis said, "and everyone in the neighborhood is invited to come and attend the party!"



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11/13

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11/13

A THANK YOU FROM RAY KRAUSE

To all of the concerned residents of The Ranchos,
Rolling Hills, Hidden Lake, Bonadelle North and
Sumner Hill neighborhoods who have kindly pledged
their support of my candidacy for Madera County
District One Supervisor in 2014.

It is with you and for you that we shall win.

Let's talk 559-281-5810

Paid for by Krause for Supervisor 2014 FPPC# 1359463

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11/13

David Linn

Madera County District Attorney



Candidate for Madera County District Attorney in 2014

David Linn has built a successful law practice in Madera County with 37 years of litigation and appellate experience. David Linn is a licensed attorney and has been practicing law in California for 37 years. A veteran of the United States Navy, Linn received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Purdue University, a Master's in Business Administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills and a Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University. Linn has served as President of the Oakhurst Community Fund and as a member of the Oakhurst Park Association; he is member of the Oakhurst Sierra Rotary, Eastern Madera County Bar Association, and the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce. Linn and his wife Betty make their home in Oakhurst. As a former Commander in the United States Navy, David knows how to lead and earn the respect of his colleagues and build a culture of professionalism, team-work, and communication with the public.

Linn is ready to serve as Madera County's next District Attorney. As our DA, David Linn will:

- ✓ Improve morale in the District Attorney's office with leadership in the courtroom and respect in the workplace
- ✓ Work closely with our partners in law enforcement
- ✓ Strive to end the drug culture that destroys families and ruins lives
- ✓ Prosecute drunk drivers to the fullest extent of the law
- ✓ Protect our neighborhoods and our senior citizens by seeking harsh sentences for criminals

www.linnformaderada.com

(559) 683-7333

Restore the Public Trust!

Paid for by David Linn for Madera District Attorney 2014
FPPC# 1356171

Is it Enough?

If someone's trying to sell you a vacuum, or knife set, or any other great product that you really don't need right now, I'm the one to have by your side. I've never had a problem saying "no" to sales people.

But a few weeks ago I found myself wandering the isles of Kohl's looking for something to purchase with my \$10 reward certificate. I mean after all, that's free money, right? In my wandering I realized I had succumbed to consumerism. I didn't have a list of things I needed, but there I was, shopping. Realistically, even if I had a list, would they be things I really need?

As I work with people and their stuff, I find a repetitive theme: more stuff doesn't equal more happiness. In fact, it can be just the opposite. After working with one client, helping her let go of a lot of stuff she said, "You gave me my life back."

This time of year more than any other we're bombarded by reminders of all the stuff we don't have yet. May I take a stand for an age-old concept?

Contentment.

Plato said, "The greatest wealth is to live content with little."

In comparison to the world at large, very few of us live with "little." I read of a woman who traveled to Africa on a missions trip. She shared with some people there how she had raised money for her trip by having a yard sale. The concept of owning stuff that you didn't actually need was a foreign idea to them.

A Word About "Stuff"

In his essay titled *Stuff*, Paul Graham said, "Stuff used to be rare and valuable. You can still see evidence of that if you look for it. For example, in my house in Cambridge, which was built in 1876, the bedrooms don't have closets. In those days peoples' stuff fit in a chest of drawers. Even as recently as a few decades ago there was a lot less stuff. When I look back at photos from the 1970s, I'm surprised how empty houses look. As a kid I had what I thought was a huge fleet of toy cars, but they'd be dwarfed by the number of toys



my nephews have."

Now we fill up our closets, spare rooms, playrooms, garages, sheds and then take the rest of the stuff we aren't using to a storage unit which, I might add, is an industry that rakes in \$22 billion annually.

So when is enough enough? Does contentment have a place in our culture, in our lives?

Melody Beattie has a brilliant thought on this subject: "Gratitude turns what we have into enough."

Turn What You Have Into Enough

Today, before we move out of the season of Thanksgiving, I want to encourage you to give gratitude an opportunity to turn what you have into enough. Sit down and make a list of all the things, people, experiences, etc. for which you're grateful. Share your list with those you love and encourage them to do the same. In the process, if you should determine that you have more than enough, consider sharing out of your abundance. There are many charitable thrift stores that will make your donation a blessing to someone in need.

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough."

Melody Beattie

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



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What does it take to get a WELCOME SIGN for the Ranchos? YOU!

11/13



Design 1



Design 2



Design 3

Ranchos Eagle Scout Candidate Harrison Caetano is proposing a Welcome Sign for the Madera Ranchos and needs YOUR help.

Who: Harrison Caetano, Madera Ranchos resident, member of Boy Scout Troop 118 and an Eagle Scout candidate.

What: Two community Welcome Signs greeting travelers to the Madera Ranchos, complete with area service club signs.

Where: The two signs are planned to be placed on the north side of Avenue 12 at Road 38 for westbound cars and on the south side of Avenue 12 at Road 34 1/2 for eastbound cars.

When: The two signs are scheduled for completion by April of next year. Your input on the signs are required by December 31 of this year.

How: As an Eagle Scout service project with the help of the Ranchos Kiwanis, the project will be completed through community volunteer help and donations.

Why: The signs will serve as lasting emblems of the pride that all Madera Ranchos community members have in our home, the Ranchos.



Ranchos Boy Scout, and Eagle Scout candidate, Harrison Caetano, center, meets with two members of Madera County's Roads Department, one of the many steps necessary to place permanent Welcome Signs in the Ranchos.

What can YOU do? Please take a look at the three designs above that are being considered. What elements do you like? What elements do you dislike? Send your thoughts and suggestions to Harrison. All input received will be considered and will be instrumental in the selecting of a final design for the Ranchos Welcome Sign. If you do not have access to a computer, there will be boxes placed in area businesses for your suggestions.

Send all comments to **WelcometotheRanchos@gmail.com** no later than **December 31, 2013**

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11/13

The 12 Days of Christmas at Haney Chiropractic

Every day Haney Chiropractic is open between Dec. 2 and Dec. 23, enter to win a fabulous Christmas present. It's our gift to you. Merry Christmas!

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11/13

LETTER cont. from P. 4

should, at the very least, be brought back to the voters in its current bloated and divisive form for reconsideration. How many voters would have approved the initial HSR bond issue if they knew that it would trigger the Governor's 10 cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and the stripping of surface water storage language out of the water bond to help pay for it? It is the mid and lower income families which are now being penalized by higher fuel costs and lack of employment to finance an aging politician's attempt at a legacy to equal that of his late father, a former Governor.

We must also be reminded of the lessons of the recent threatened BART strike. The voters will have no say as to whether or when the train will run or not run. Depend on that.

Recently, Sacramento effectively influenced the 3 to 2 decision by our own Madera County Board of Supervisors to abrogate their solemn promise to participate in the Farm Bureau's lawsuit against the HSR. That kind of flip-flop almost assures that those responsible will not be doing as much future business based upon their word or their handshake.

The federal stimulus grants are scheduled to run dry in 2017. Which of our local social, educational and safety programs will

we have cut in order to pay for the continued expense of a train which will likely not stop in Madera nor make it over the Grapevine?

Jim Patterson, member, California Legislature Assembly District 23 states, "Proposition 1A promised existing rail routes would be used, prime AG land would be spared, average speeds would be 250+ mph and at least a third of the capital and operating expenses would come from private investment. None of those promises to the people have been kept by the High Speed Rail Authority. That is why thoughtful people ought to oppose this mess, re-think and re-vote on this entire proposition. Even Judge Quentin Kopp, one of the founding members of the High Speed Rail Authority, agrees. There is still time for cooler heads to prevail. We all want more jobs and a better economy, but this is not the way to do it."

We are told that we must swallow it or be forced to choke on it. I, and more than a few other clear-thinking folks, prefer to chew on it for a while, at least until we can wash it down with some new water.

Ray Krause
 O'Neals

Ray Krause is a candidate for Madera County Supervisor, District One.

Editor

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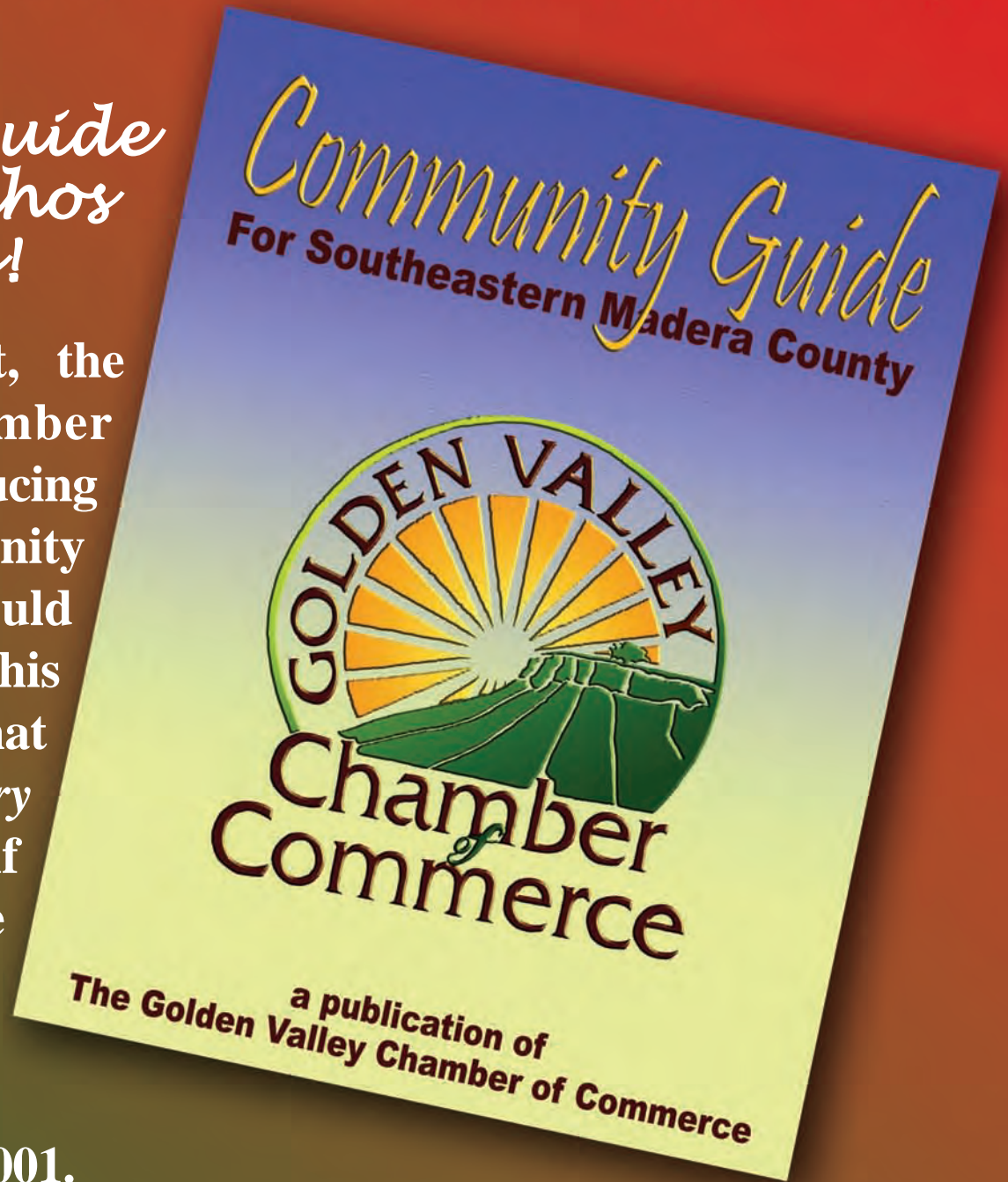
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- CONSIGNMENT

11/13

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

The NEW Community Guide for the Ranchos is coming!

After a 5-year wait, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is producing a **NEW** Community Guidebook. If you would like to be included in this invaluable resource that will be mailed to *every* Ranchos address, or if you would like more information, contact Stephanie Reeves at 559-287-0781 or call the Chamber at 645-4001.



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Everyone is Welcome!

Annual Christmas Party & Chamber Mixer

Wednesday, Dec. 11 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Come enjoy the final Chamber party of the year at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office. Call 645-4001 for more information and come join the fun.

37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos 645-4001

New Chamber Board

Pres.: Verlin Dill - VDI Services
V.P.: Don Foster - Creative Catering
Sec.: Audrey Stock
Treas.: Virginia Vick
Past Pres.: Ollia Ridge

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

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. Call us at 645-4001.

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ABA PRO BASKETBALL IS
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GAMES



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For Schedule & info go to HeatwaveLive.com



Food Services Meal Price Update

With limited funds available for educational programs and career technical education, providing a contribution from the general operating fund to the cafeteria fund to supplement insufficient food revenues further affects the district's ability to provide additional program offerings. For more than five years; however, the cafeteria fund has not collected enough revenues to support the district's food services operations requiring a contribution from the general fund. During the 2011/2012 school year the contribution peaked at \$70,146 (see chart below):

Annual Contribution from General Operating Funds	
Year	Contribution
2010/2011	\$16,051
2011/2012	\$70,146
2012/2013	\$24,674
2013/2014*	\$48,815
	*projected

The Golden Valley Unified District staff has closely reviewed all operational costs, including food and staffing and have ensured that the food services department is running efficiently. Much of the increase in expenses is attributed to new, stricter

state and federal nutritional requirements and rising fuel and food costs. The district has not raised prices in more than 10 years and meal prices have fallen behind the expense increases.

To support the needs of the food services department, keep up with expenses and provide more financial resources for educational needs, the governing board of GVUSD has voted to raise meal prices by 50 cents for breakfast and 75 cents for lunch. The new prices are comparable to neighboring districts at \$1.75 for breakfast and \$3 for lunch. The meal prices of neighboring districts are shown in the chart below:

District Name	Elem.		H.S.	
	Brfst.	Lun.	Brfst.	Lun.
Yosemite Unified	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$3.00
Chawanakee Unified	\$1.50	\$2.75	\$2.00	\$3.00
Clovis Unified	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$1.25	\$3.00
Raymond-Knowles	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$3.00
Bass Lake Joint Union		\$3.00		\$3.00
Sierra Unified	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$3.00
Golden Valley Unified	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$1.75	\$3.00

The new prices will be implemented in January, upon the return of students from winter break. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this price change, please contact LeAnn Nowlin, Manager of Business Services, at 559-645-7500 ext. 13.

LHS FFA Madera Fair Highlights

Rabbits

Jessica Ortiz placed fourth high meat pen out of 12 and Michelle Heim placed fourth high single fryer out of 18. In Advanced showmanship, Joely Bawcum placed third, Taylor Jones placed fourth, and Michelle Heim placed fifth

Goats

Jenna Pfingston placed first in her class and Kyler Davis placed second in his class as well as Reserve Champion Heavy Weight. In showmanship, Davis placed third in Novice, Pfingston placed sixth while Nathalie Corpus placed seventh in In-

termediate and Alley Harvey placed fourth in Advanced.

Landscape Contest

Katie Bennett entered a "Cottage Garden" landscape. She placed first in her category and received Best in Show for all landscapes. Anthony Escalante entered a "Vintage Garden" landscape and took second in his category.

Livestock Judging

Tasos, Calie Casey and Hartley were the three high scores making up Liberty's team. They placed third in Reasons, first in Sheep, second in Hogs, first in Beef and were the second

It's The Golden Valley Way for Us



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

Dear Golden Valley Unified School District students, parents and community,

On August 22, more than 1950 students, age Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade, walked through the front doors of their schools and began the school year.

In doing so, they are taking advantage of a multitude of wonderful educational opportunities provided by the taxpayers in our district.

The start of each school year is exciting because of the energy our students, staff, parents and community members bring to it — and all the possibilities that working together provides.

team overall. Tasos also placed third individually in Sheep and fifth overall.

Turkeys

Danny Cervantes placed third in the market turkey class.

Sheep

John Rodriguez placed second in his class and Shayne Hartley placed third in her market class. In Novice Showmanship, Alissa Tenorio placed

Our school district excels above many others because our parents, teachers, staff and community do a remarkable job of supporting our students and setting high expectations.

We are blessed to be a part of a professional learning community that values quality education, high expectations and a "yes, we can" attitude!

Our work in Golden Valley Unified School District is centered on providing a curriculum-rich education that is driven by real-world and real-life experiences. We will continue to stress to our teachers and administrators the importance of our core values of providing a rigorous curriculum, making learning relevant to our students and developing positive relationships with our children. This is the Golden Valley Way!

GVUSD's commitment to the community we serve is to love and care about our students and to do everything we can to ensure each student's academic and extracurricular success.

We want our students to know how much it matters to us that they possess character, integrity and purpose for their lives.

We know that our students will someday graduate and leave our district. In doing so, we want to have confidence that we have prepared them well to be trustworthy, hard-working, wise and capable of honorable service to their family, community and nation.

All the best as we navigate the 2013-2014 school year the Golden Valley Way!

fourth and Shayne Hartley placed ninth in Advanced Showmanship.

Pigs

Jesi Bailey placed first in her Feeder Class. Blake Tasos won his class, Breed Champion, FFA Champion and Grand Champion Overall. In Intermediate Showmanship, Trevor Lamley placed fourth and in Advanced Tasos also placed first and went on to place fourth in Master Showmanship.

Click on "Local News" at

Committee Members Needed

for the Golden Valley Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for a representative from the following areas: Taxpayers' Assn., Parent Representative, Senior Citizen and a Community Member at Large to serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies.

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

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

11/13

GVUSD Introduces New Teachers

In September, the Golden Valley Views profiled the educators that moved their way up through Golden Valley Unified School District and received promotions entering the new school year.

Below is an in-depth look at some of the new additions to the GVUSD family.

In addition to those featured here, GVUSD also welcomed Michael Diaz as the new principal at Webster elementary School; Mandy Kirby as a special education teacher at Ranchos Middle School; Erin Dahlem, a new elementary teacher; Kiranjit Gill, a school psychology intern; Jacob Martinez as the district's network and data systems analyst; and Cindy Lopez as a yard duty supervisor.

Laurie Canar is the new Kindergarten

teacher at Webster Elementary School. She has been in education for 9 years. Before GVUSD, Laurie worked for Madera Unified School District teaching both kindergarten and first grade.

"Golden Valley has been a huge, welcoming family," Laurie said. "From day one, I have felt the dedication that resides in the staff, teachers, administration and parents. With Golden Valley, I feel the strong values of a small country town. I feel truly honored and blessed to be a part of such an amazing school and district."

After growing up in Rolling Hills, Laurie said she has always wanted to be a part of the community that she grew up in and

Please see **NEW** on P. 20

Golden Valley Unified School District

Open Positions:

Classified Positions

Yard Duty Supervisor - Sierra View Elementary

1.5 Hours per Day and (1) 2 Hours per Day

Classified Substitute Positions

Custodian • EDEP Paraprofessional • Paraprofessional • Cafeteria

If interested: Please obtain application packets

at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us or contact Sabrina Malm at 559-645-0169 or email at smalm@gvUSD.k12.ca.us

To apply you must submit the following items. All Classified Positions require the following Documents:

1. Letter of Intent (Reason for Seeking Employment)
2. Completed District Application Resume
3. Three Letters of Reference (Professional Only)

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11/13

The Bookshelf

Happenings and Happy Holidays

By Kalani Torres

Success!

The Barnes and Noble book fair was a great success and we want to thank everyone for making it so. More great news: we officially have Wi-Fi. It is currently up and running, works great and we are excited to have it available for you so don't forget that it's here for all of you. Also, at this point in time we are having problems with our outside book drop. I am working on getting it fixed but for now here are some tips on how to operate it:

1. Pull down with regular strength and hope it opens.
2. ... or pull down with medium strength and pray that it opens.
3. ... or pull really, really, really hard and wish it to open.
4. If none of these options work, please call and renew. Just leave a message with your name and phone number as well as your library card number.
5. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ITEMS ON TOP OF THE BOOK DROP.
6. If you do get it open please do not slam it shut.

Please always remember that you can call and renew your books, working bookdrop or not. If we are not here just leave a message with all your information and we'll take care of it.

Party Time

The Friends of the Ranchos Library would like to invite you to its annual holiday party. It is a chance for us all to take time and enjoy the Friends, staff and holiday season. It's a potluck so please bring something to share with everyone. We would love to see you there. It'll be Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at the library.

Please note that we will be closed

The Madera Ranchos Library
 37167 Ave. 12
 645-1214
 Sunday and Monday Closed
 Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Wednesday and Thursday
 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Friday and Saturday
 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Nov. 28-29 and Christmas Holiday Dec. 24-25. From all of us at the Ranchos Library have a safe and happy holiday.

Check out our New Arrivals

Audio Book on CD Adult Fiction: *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford – From Jamie Ford, author of the beloved *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, comes a much-anticipated second novel. Set against the backdrop of Depression-era Seattle, *Songs of Willow Frost* is a powerful tale of two souls — a boy with dreams for his future and a woman escaping her haunted past — both seeking love, hope and forgiveness.

Twelve-year-old William Eng, a Chinese-American boy, has lived at Seattle's Sacred Heart Orphanage ever since his mother's listless body was carried away from their small apartment five years ago. On his birthday — or rather, the day the nuns designate as his birthday — William and the other orphans are taken to the historical Moore Theatre where William glimpses an actress on the silver screen who goes by the name of Willow Frost. Struck by her features, William is convinced that the movie star is his mother, Liu Song.

Determined to find Willow and prove that his mother is still alive, William escapes from Sacred Heart with his friend Charlotte. The pair navigate the streets of Seattle, where they must not only survive but confront the mysteries of William's past and his connection to the exotic film star. The story of Willow Frost, however, is far more complicated than the Hollywood fantasy William sees onscreen.

Shifting between the Great Depression and the 1920s, *Songs of Willow Frost* takes readers on an emotional journey of discovery. Jamie Ford's sweeping novel will resonate with anyone who has ever longed for the comforts of family and a place to call home.



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11/13

Senior Report

Holidays Arrive at Senior Center

By Verlaine Elinburg

The holiday season is already upon us; you can feel the cool morning air. Especially for seniors, our bones speak to us but we put it out of our minds for now as we think of past fond memories of our childhood. We think of our present days; the joy and sadness we experience with our personal and work families and connecting with family members and friends that don't necessarily stay in touch or don't live within our day-to-day circle. We try to bring back holiday traditions that we valued or relive them in our memories.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors are planning our holiday events and enjoying the utopian feeling that the holidays tend to bring and many remember the legend of the Poinsettia which dates back to Christmas Eve. There was a little Mexican girl who was very poor who wanted to give a fine present to the Christ child at the church service that evening and was informed by her cousin that a humble gift, given with love, would be welcome. She gathered a bouquet of common weeds from the roadside and entered the church. As she approached the altar, her spirits lifted. She forgot the humbleness of her gift as she placed it tenderly at the feet of the Christ child. There was a miracle, and the ordinary weeds burst into brilliant red blooms. In Spanish it was called Flores de Noche Buena – "Flowers of the Holy Night." This brings memories of the song Silent Night, Holy Night and midnight Mass celebrating the birth of Christ.

Holiday Planning

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors have their own traditions for the holidays that bring the members together. We begin in October by bringing our craft artists, our tailors and knitters, and the bakers together and begin planning for our Holiday Boutique and Bake sale, this is held on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 from 8 a.m. to noon. Come share with us the holiday spirit; besides, seniors always have the best homemade cakes, cookies, pies, jams and jellies. With all the vast and various experiences that time can accumulate, the Seniors present to you handcrafted items, aprons, quilts, afghans, hats, scarves and more, all made with love and make for excellent gifts. We also have a few crystal items and holiday decorations. Enjoy the wonderful time of the year with your local seniors.

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Coarse; 2. Bestow;
3. Stable; 4. Robust

Today's Word:

WORSE

Upcoming dates and events at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors

Christmas and Board Members Installation Dinner will be on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. Dinner is catered, so come in and sign up.

Our 25th Anniversary

The 25th Anniversary of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center will be on Sunday, Jan. 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Helen Lowell, our historian, has a story to tell and she will walk you through the history of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, beginning with its conception over a cup of coffee to the completed process. Helen will share all of the emotions that went into its growth and the final product. The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is a one-of-its-kind senior center. It is owned and self-sustained by its members. Like other seniors across the U.S.A., we believe in maintaining a budget; we work hard during the year with fundraisers to pay for maintenance of the building, monthly bills and taxes that each of us have in our own homes and businesses. Come and meet old friends and meet the seniors and the community contributors both past and present that made this happen in your community.

The seniors will be on the road again so pack your bags. The Snow Trip to Reno is on again and the bus leaves on Feb. 25 and returns on the 27th, spending two nights at Circus Circus. The cost is \$350 and includes round-trip bus and train transportation, baggage transfer, cancellation insurance and driver tip. Contact the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864, or you can email rhseniors@att.net or come and pay us a visit at 37330 Berkshire Drive. You can reserve your space for only \$50 with final payment due Dec. 30. Give or receive this trip as a gift for this holiday but hurry, there's limited space this year.

Ongoing Center Events

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. 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.

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. You may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

On Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. are a variety of card games to be enjoyed and at the same time on Wednesdays we have card bingo.

has been very interested in GVUSD.

Laurie has a teaching credential from Fresno State with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. She is married and has two children.

Mark Browning is the new Ag teacher at Liberty and has been in education for 15 years. He said that GVUSD is a great district to work for and the potential of the Ag department and the quality of administration, the teachers and the great students were what drew him to Golden Valley.

The Modesto native has a Bachelor of Science from both Cal Poly, SLO, and Fresno State, as well as his teaching credential from CSU, Fresno. Mark is married with two boys.

Becky Hart is the new Kindergarten teacher at Sierra View and she has been in education for the past 11 years. Her decision to teach here was based on personal experience. "I wanted to work for a great district and knew GVUSD was the one because my kids go to school here," she said. "I bring a love of learning that I pass on to my students," she said.

The Fresno native received her Bachelor's degree from Fresno State as well as her teaching credential. She is married and has three children.

Dominique Mackins is the new Coordinator of Nursing Services for all of the Golden Valley Unified School District.

This is her first job as an RN and previously she worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a Dementia-Care facility during nursing school.

"All of the employees are very friendly, the schools are wonderful, and the school district has a lot to offer to its community," Dominique said. "I have heard nothing but wonderful things about this school district. After meeting some of the staff and community members in my interview, I knew I could fit right in ... who wouldn't want to work at such an amazing place like this?"

"I absolutely adore the kids, and love being able to comfort and care for them. I cannot wait to build relationships with the students and their families and watch them grow throughout the years," she said.

She grew up in Lake Arrowhead, Calif. and earned her Bachelor's Degree at Portland State University. She is married with no kids ... yet.

Scott Simoni is the new 10th grade World History and 9th grade freshman requirements teacher at Liberty High School. This is his first year teaching and did student teaching at Fresno High and Kings Canyon Middle School before this.

"Before I even asked for help, it was more often than not already offered. On the first day of school it was evident that the staff's dedication had been imparted onto the students," he said.

Scott anticipates his passion and excitement in the subject of history will be his strongest attributes. "Since I am a new teacher, I am ready to put in the hard work necessary to make sure the students at Liberty High do not skip a beat."

An ex-Marine, the Clovis native earned his Bachelors in History and teaching credential both from Fresno State.

Business Profile

Public Auction House Bids for You

No Reserve Public Auction House Opens in the Ranchos

By Karen Petryna

Since Saturday, Nov. 16, the Ranchos has had its very own public auction house and every Saturday in the future will have over 1,000 items auctioned without reserve — meaning everything must go. Prices range from \$1 on up and items being auctioned consist of anything you can think of — with the exception of animals.

"We had over 100 people show up," said owner Amanda Florez about their first auction on that Saturday earlier in the month. Public Auction R Us, located on the frontage road for Highway 41 at Avenue 11, felt

it was a success despite being advertised only on Craigslist and by word-of-mouth. She said unusual items auctioned that first week included a rifle from the 1600s and an old slot machine.

Florez explained the auc-

tion starts at 10:30 a.m. and goes until everything is sold. People can survey the auction items from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. The auctioneer, Rick, who comes from the Bay Area, has over 30 years experience auctioning items from \$1 up to \$1.2 million dollars, which can be the case with high-end cars. "Rick didn't take a break from 10:30 when we started until around 5 p.m. when everything was sold," Florez said.

When asked why she decided to open the public auction house, Florez said she saw a need in the Fresno-Madera area. She also wanted to do something big, offer a place for consignment and be a part of the new auctioning fad. She mentioned she is planning to have Dan Dotson, from the A&E network reality T.V. show Storage Wars, conduct the auction in one of the next few weeks, adding that there would be a big announcement when the date was confirmed.

Florez explained that Public Auction

R Us obtains many of its items from stores like Costco, Sam's Club, Home Depot and Wal-Mart as well as the U.S. Government, and said that people can bring in any item, in any condition, that they would like to sell. Items need to be at the auction house by 9 a.m. on Monday for auction that Saturday.

For those wanting to sell an item, Florez explained that when you bring it in it will be inventoried and you'll get a receipt. Then, after your item sells, you will receive a check within a few days for 75 percent of the auction price. Additionally, Public Auction R Us will buy any item on the spot, if you prefer. And, for estate sales, they will come and pick everything up and bring it to the auction house for you.

Florez said she was surprised to see

how excited everybody was at the first auction. "People were getting lots of bargains and having a lot of fun," she said.

For those wanting to make a purchase, or at least make some bids, you

will receive a bid number when you arrive which includes a sheet to write down the inventory numbers of the items you're interested in, what they sell for, and which ones you've bought. And if you want to stay all day, there is a food truck with tri-tip sandwiches available.

Florez said she could guarantee there will be at least 1,000 items auctioned every Saturday because she keeps extra inventory. And she mentioned that in upcoming weeks she will have lots of toys and over 200 artificial Christmas trees with LED lights for auction.

Florez is a former San Francisco 49er cheerleader as well as former ballet, jazz and hip-hop dance teacher. Originally from Fowler, she is currently attending Fresno State University working on a business degree.

Public Auction R Us is located at 11040 Highway 41 on the frontage road just west of Highway 41. Their phone number is 439-9777 and their website is www.publicauctionrus.com.



Public Auction R Us owner, Amanda Florez, shows off one of the more than 1,000 items she has available for auction, all with no reserve meaning some items will sell for as little as \$1.

(Photo by Karen Petryna)

Great Start for 2014

Sierra Shadows 4-H is off to a great start this upcoming year. We have two new community club leaders, Dana Poore and Edna Rivera, who are volunteering to lead the club in another great year. Our new officers are: Micaela Rivera-President, Anahi Rivera-Vice President, Nicholas Provenzano-Secretary, Cody Jackson-Treasurer, Regan Fringer-Reporter, Lane Sheehan-Sergeant at Arms, Rebecca Shipman-Historian, Brianna Roth and Chris Bowe-Song and Games, and Payton Poore and Xavier Hughes as Hostess and Host.

We offer a wide variety of projects that include sheep, meat goat, swine, poultry, rabbit, horse, arts/crafts, cooking, sewing, floriculture, wildlife, community pride, consumer science and public speaking. Recently, our wildlife project went to Kings Canyon National Park and



explored Boyden Cave, the local wildlife and the giant Sequoia trees.

Our monthly club meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at the cafeteria at Sierra View Elementary school. Enrollment is open for anyone ages 9-19 years old. The end of November is our enrollment deadline for this year. If you are looking for something to do, have fun, learn, and make new friends, come check out the great things our club has to offer.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Dana Poore at 559-312-5440 or email Sierrashadows4H@gmail.com.

Sheriff Shares Staying Safe Strategies

The biggest shopping day of the year is fast approaching, so Sheriff John Anderson is asking citizens, "Are you doing your part to protect your family and your property?"

It's not even Thanksgiving and already Madera County has encountered a number of burglaries and car break-ins. With that in mind, Sheriff Anderson is releasing his annual list of safety tips, titled, "If I were a thief, you would now be a victim," and urges all citizens to take the Safety Check Test that he says should be followed year-round.

- Protecting your vehicles and valuables:**
- Don't leave your car unlocked even if you will be gone for just a few minutes.
 - Don't leave purchased items in plain view. Instead, store them in the trunk of your vehicle.
 - Don't leave your vehicle unlocked when gassing up. It takes a second for thief to jump in while you're focused on the pump.
 - Don't leave your car unlocked while driving. Thieves can easily open a door while you wait at a stoplight.

- Protecting you and your valuables when shopping:**
- Don't place your purse in your shopping cart when shopping for gifts or groceries. Turn your back even for just a second, and your bag may be gone.
 - Don't leave your purse in your cart when placing items in your car.
 - Don't place your personal effects on the hook of a restroom stall or on the floor where thieves can reach them. Instead, keep them close to you at all times.
 - Always park in a well-lighted area.
 - Always try to shop with a buddy.
 - Always prepare your children about what to do in the event you become separated.
 - Always have your keys in your hand when returning to your vehicle.

- Protecting you from online scams:**
- Beware of high-tech scams such as phony e-

card greetings. If you receive an e-mail card and are advised to download the latest software to view it, don't do it. You may be giving someone complete access to your computer.

- Phony lottery or sweepstakes notices that state you're a winner. You get an e-mail or phone message suggesting you visit a website or return the call to collect your prize. Don't respond. Delete the message.
- Phony sales found online. Be it eBay, Craigslist or any other venue, do your homework and find out if the company hosting these ads is legitimate.

- Protecting your home:**
- Create open lines of communications with neighbors and businesses within your immediate area.
 - Take outgoing mail and packages to the post office or courier. When away on vacation or for the holidays, request the post office hold your mail delivery and ask your neighbors to retrieve your packages.
 - Consider installing motion-detector lights around the outside of your home, and electric timers for your lights inside your home.
 - When at home or away, always draw your shades to keep outsiders from peering in.
 - Keep windows and doors locked at all times. If you need to leave an extra key, don't leave it in a flower pot or under the mat – leave it with a neighbor you know who you trust and can reach.
 - Secure all doors with quality deadbolts and latches on all windows and sliding glass doors.
 - Vehicles stored in the garage should be locked at all times. Don't leave your keys in your vehicle.
 - Let neighbors know if and when you may be gone. If a strange vehicle is seen in your driveway, neighbors will know to call 911. You can also ask the Madera County Sheriff's Citizens on Patrol Unit to patrol your street when you're away. Call 559-675-7770.

Kiwanis Korner

A Powerful, Prayerful Call to Action

By Perry Watkins

Millions of American pray each day. Many more pray less often. Most people pray to some higher power. We usually pray for ourselves and our families. I am certainly all for prayer, the more the better, but prayer alone is insufficient. There are folks who pray many hours a day. Even as they walk, work and play they are silently praying or murmuring prayers. You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink. – G.K. Chesterton

I would say even that isn't enough. You probably have heard the story of the man caught in a rising flood. He prayed for help. People drove by, later came in a boat and finally a helicopter trying to rescue him. Each time he would say "I'm OK, God will protect me." Finally he was swept away and died. On the other side he met God and asked, "I prayed so hard, why did you not protect me?"

"Well," said God, "I sent you a car and a boat and a helicopter ... what more did you want?"

Consider, how are prayers answered? I would submit many, or maybe even most are met through the actions of others. Prayer is great, but prayer and action are the magic keys. Even prayers for health are often met through the able hand of nurses or physicians. Prayers to provide are met in a variety of different ways. Recently, I have witnessed some of God's

work in action. I watched Kiwanis Key Club students and a group of volunteers with Catholic Charities feeding people in need. Many brought their children. Hundreds of meals were served. Some of the kids had started helping as a communion project but the personal reward was so great that months later they still get up early to arrive at 6 a.m. These are high school students and college freshmen! They smile, laugh a lot, tell stories and help people. That is very common; people have a great deal of fun doing this kind of work. We may dread our decision to volunteer the hour before but are really glad we did when in the middle of it. Some folks do this work only on Wednesdays, or maybe only on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but somehow the patchwork of volunteers manages to feed folks every day. Another patchwork of volunteers manages to find all the food each day, some of it from farmers' unsold fruit.

Who are the hands of God? How are people's prayers answered every day? You are the hands of God. Millions of prayers whispered most fervently, with tears and choked throats are awaiting an answer and sometimes that answer could be you.

Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action. – W.J. Cameron

I am richly blessed to work with fellow Kiwanis who often answer the prayers of others; small prayers and sometimes large prayers. They answer my prayer to be often with friends who have great hearts and warm hands. You are welcome to join us for dinner. We meet Thursday evenings at the Pizza Factory. I'm now praying for you and yours and for the year ahead.

ANSWERS

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

12	15	6	×	3	
9	2	÷	2	9	
×	–	–	–	÷	
15	5	×	3	÷	9
+	+	×	–	×	
11	1	÷	7	+	4

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Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Mark this on your calendar! Diana J. Tucker's birthday is December 19. She will be accepting lunch dates, gifts and phone calls. **Please call her at 381-5879 and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANA!**

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Child Care - Susan Ryan Day Care. Newborn to 5 years old. Licensed. **Call 661-4725 or 706-0424.**

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FOR SALE -- 1985 Prowler travel trailer - 20 ft. 11 in. \$2,800. Craftsman 3.5 HP edger, like new, \$150. **OBO. Call Don at 645-5248 or 974-0795.**

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although your energy level is high, be careful not to commit to too many projects at this time. You'll do better focusing on just a few tasks rather than spreading yourself too thin.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your heart might be leading you in one direction, but pay attention to your keen Bovine intellect. I'm cautioning you to think things through before making any commitments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your "serious" Twin has been dominant in your life for quite a while. It's time now to let that "wilder" half take you out for some good times -- perhaps with someone very special.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Career aspects are high for Moon Children who make a good impression. Show people not only what you can already do, but also how you can be more valuable to them in the future.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Things start to brighten for the Lion's immediate financial future. But be careful to resist the urge to splurge. You need to tuck something away to help you through another tight period.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Having to do too many tasks in too short a time could lower your mood to just above the grumbling level. But if you handle things one at a time, you'll get through it all soon enough.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your usually carefully made holiday plans could be subject to change later this month. Use this week to prepare for that possibility by starting a Plan B just in case you need it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be careful about joining a colleague's plan to solve a workplace problem. Investigate it thoroughly. Otherwise, you could find yourself in a predicament with other associates.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Slow down that high-paced whirl you've been on. Spending quiet time alone or with people you care for can be both physically and spiritually restorative.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Make suggestions, not demands. You'll be more successful in getting people to follow your lead if you exercise quiet patience instead of strong persuasion to get your ideas across.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You still need more facts before you can make an informed career choice. One note of caution: Be careful about whom you ask for that information; otherwise, you could be misled.

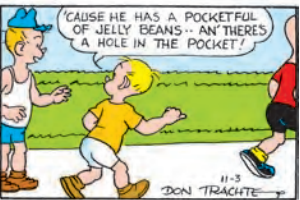
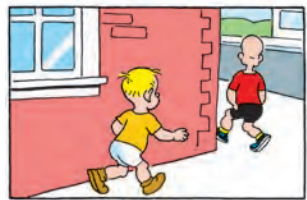
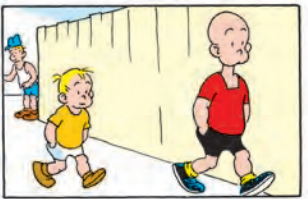
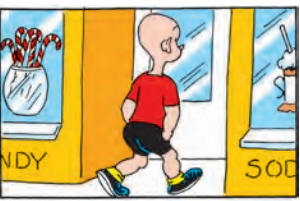
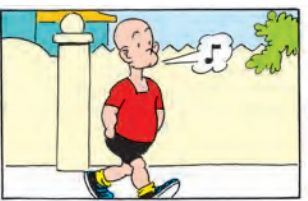
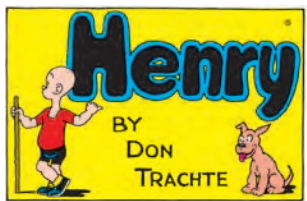
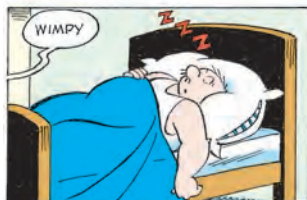
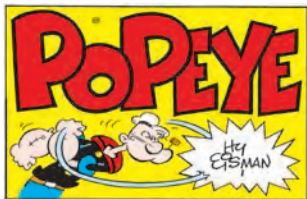
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Changing situations through the end of the week could lead to some challenging opportunities for those perspicacious Pisceans who know how to make them work to their advantage.

Born this Week

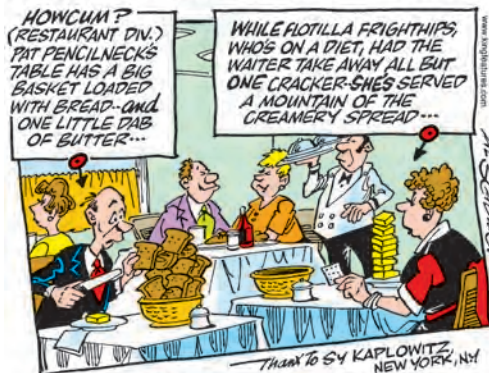
You have a way of being both daring and cautious, traits that could make you a research scientist or maybe even a rocket-ship designer.

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FUN PAGES



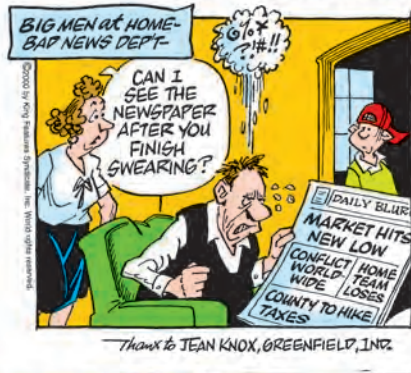
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY—THE COMPANY WAS LOW ON INVOICE FORMS—SO AS KEEPER OF THE STOCKROOM YOU ORDER 150 CARTONS OF SAID FORMS... THEN IN WALTZES BOSS HONCHO—AND WHAT DOES HE DECREE? YOU GOT IT!

—Thank to R. WINTERS, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

BY AL SCADUTO



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

TEST CASE! You are asked to restore missing digits represented by X's in the multiplication problem at right. To begin, take note that when X at top right is multiplied by 5, resulting amount ends in 0, and when multiplied by 7, resulting amount ends in 8. Also, take note that X at left in multiplier times 9 has a resulting amount beginning with 5. Can you puzzle things out? No fair peeking below.

9 8 X
X 7 5
4 9 X 0
XXX 8
5 X 0 X
X X 4 X X 0

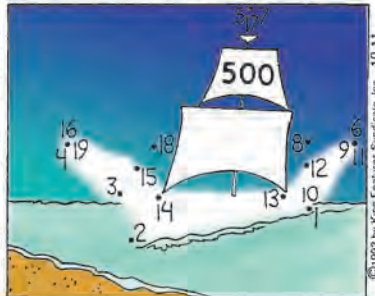
1	H	A	T	C	H
2	A				
3	T				
4	C				
5	H				

ANSWER: 98X multiplied by 5 is 490. X at top right is multiplied by 5, resulting amount ends in 0, and when multiplied by 7, resulting amount ends in 8. Also, take note that X at left in multiplier times 9 has a resulting amount beginning with 5. Can you puzzle things out? No fair peeking below.

HATCHED UP WORD PLAY

"Down the hatch!" say we, in an imaginary toast to those who complete the word square above. Give it a try. Missing words are to read the same both down and across, hatch, and are to be in accord with the following definitions:

- Deck opening (see diagram).
- In the know.
- One who records.
- Set of beliefs.
- Long-billed, long-necked, long-legged wading bird.



Time limit: 2 min. 1. Hatch, 2. Aware, 3. Tipster, 4. Circle 5. Heron.

Wishing Well

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

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 ● FILE —

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

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

- Away
- Clerk
- Extension
- Folder
- Footage
- Format
- Name
- Out
- Path
- Server
- Sharing
- Size
- Suit
- System
- Taxes

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HANDS ON! Hand to helmet to hands, touchdown — what a play! Add colors by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

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

BARNACLE

THEN score 3 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: How many countries does Hungary border?
- HISTORY: In what year did the United States establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the coming-of-age novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?
- BIOLOGY: How long does it take a red blood cell to circulate around the human body?
- DISCOVERIES: Who was the first to explain correctly how the circulatory system works?
- GENERAL TRIVIA: What are the names of Santa's reindeer?
- MUSIC: What was the theme song of "An Officer and a Gentleman"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the silkworm's sole source of food?
- ANATOMY: Where are the triceps muscles located?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the oldest president elected to office?

Answers

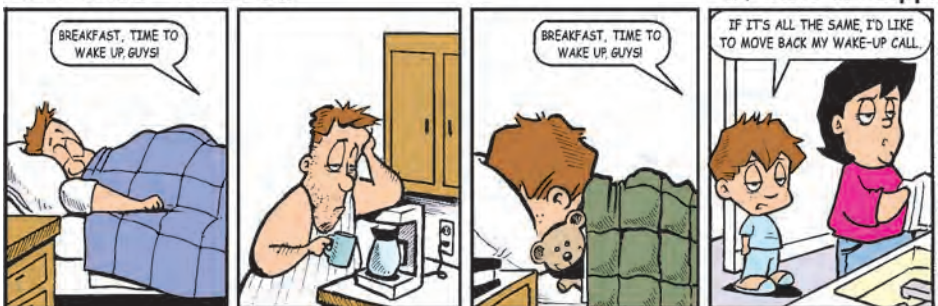
10. Ronald Reagan, 69
9. On the back of the upper arms
8. Mulberry leaves
7. "Up Where We Belong"
6. Cupid, Donner and Blitzen
5. William Harvey
4. 20 to 60 seconds
3. Betty Smith
2. 1979
1. Slovenia and Austria
- Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia
- Seven (Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania,

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Click on "Local News" at

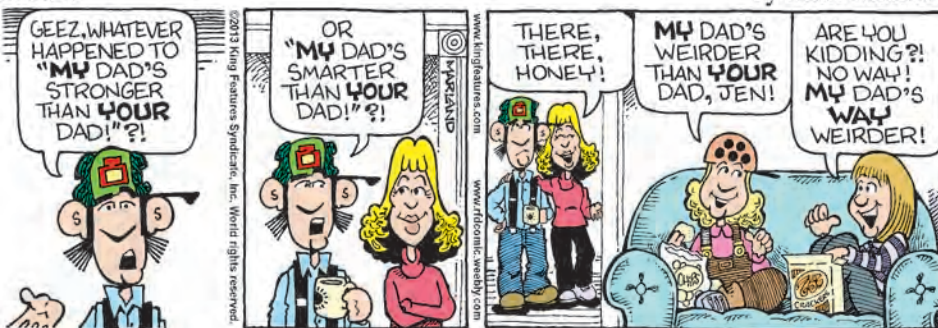
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



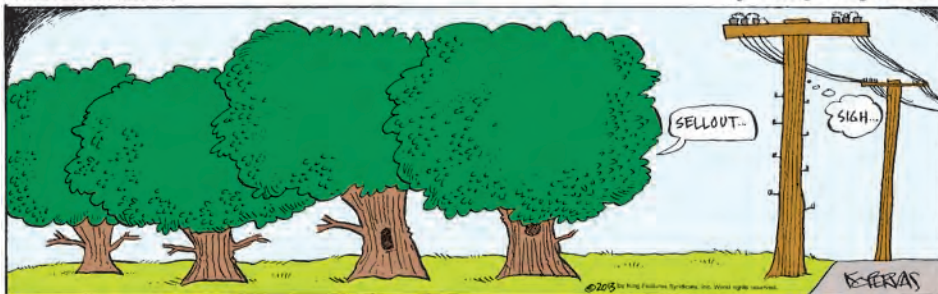
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



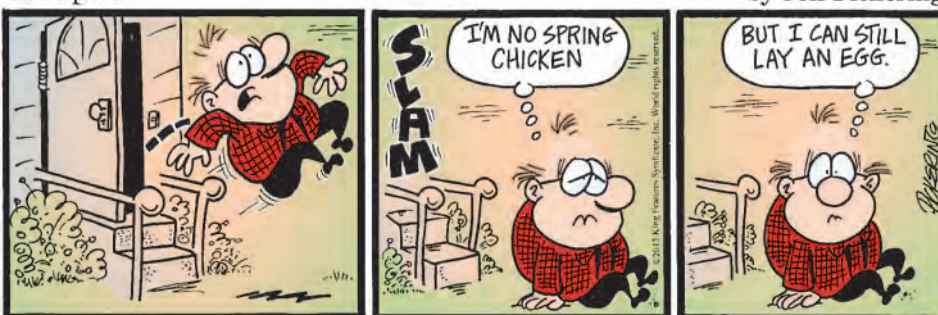
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

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

Rough
ESCOR

Give
WETSOB

Level
BLASTE

Hearty
TURBOS

TODAY'S WORD

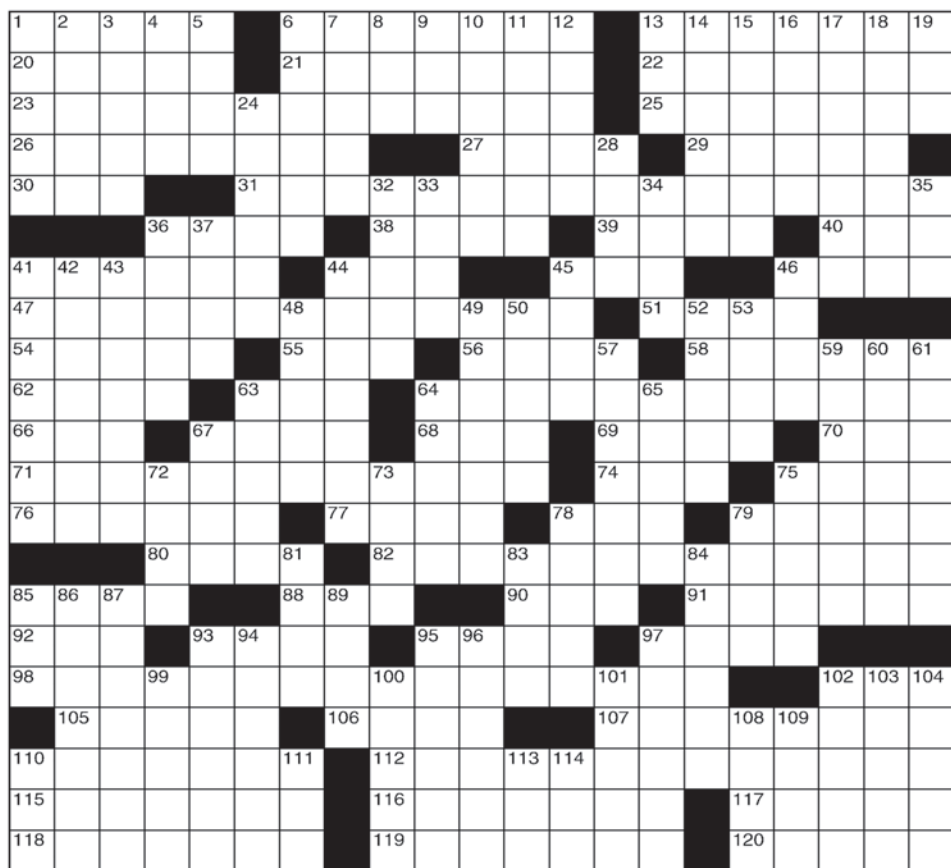
"My wife walked out and took just about everything I had — but believe me, Al, it could be _____!"



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

Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Zipper is missing. 3. Wagon name is missing. 4. Teddy bear is missing. 5. Fence board is missing. 6. Bottle is missing.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| ACROSS | 45 Suffix with Senegal | 78 Suited | DOWN | 36 Dolenz of the Monkees | 79 Reciprocals of siemens |
| 1 Insurance company with a duck mascot | 46 Lay eyes on | 79 Haven | 1 "Darn it" | 37 Seeks info counterpart | 81 Stun with a zapping gun |
| 6 Prepared by keying in | 47 Like a cause/effect dilemma | 80 The "I" of MIT: Abbr. | 2 Flora's | 3 Inventories | 41 1949-53 secretary of state Dean |
| 13 Long, narrow crack | 51 Syrup bases | 82 He played Sherlock Holmes | 4 Tennis star Arthur | 42 Clinton cabinet member | 83 Superlative of "y" |
| 20 Midsection | 54 Listens | 85 Apple tablet computer | 5 Lower-left PC key | 43 Steak type | 84 Occupied |
| 21 Flip side | 55 "Yikes!" to a texter | 88 Some plugs | 6 — of Cancer | 44 Antifungal brand | 85 "Sands of — Jima" |
| 22 Finger-pointer | 56 Journal on YouTube, maybe | 90 "Hold On Tight" rock gp. | 7 Aden's land | 45 Vain folks' problems | 86 Company that names a color of the year |
| 23 Atomic bomb formation | 58 Uno, dos, tres, — ... | 91 Ill- (doomed) | 8 Plastic pipe material, for short | 46 Favored son of Isaac | 87 Brief operatic solo |
| 25 Sports squad honoring Old Glory | 62 — May ("The Beverly Hillbillies" daughter) | 92 Combat | 9 Slithering fish | 48 Actress Kim | 89 Like many wet lawns |
| 26 "Home on the Range" creature | 63 Roman 506 | 93 Relieve | 10 Wilts | 49 Dodgers | 93 Intertangle |
| 27 Uttered by mouth | 64 Some thick hair ringlets | 95 Exxon, formerly | 11 Confiscates | 50 Cemented | 94 A Skywalker |
| 29 On one's toes | 66 Brazil's — Paulo | 97 Taskmaster | 12 Piano lever | 52 Amtrak train | 95 Revved thing |
| 30 — in "nobody" | 67 Potpie bits | 98 It won a 2008 Peabody Award | 13 Adipose | 53 Dark purple | 96 Confiscated |
| 31 2008 Seth Rogen comedy film | 68 Poem of laud | 102 So — (yet) | 14 Mountain climber's tool | 54 Dark purple | 97 Sulks |
| 36 Not fem. | 69 Lawn vermin | 105 Coil creator Nikola | 15 Hair bases | 55 Former mag for fans of PlayStation, Wii, etc. | 99 Writer Wilde |
| 38 Wimpy sort | 70 Dogma | 106 Toon bear may not step over it | 16 Ancient region in present-day Iraq | 59 Checks for fit | 100 Lethargy |
| 39 Has a balance due | 71 Having a yellowish-brown complexion | 107 A bowler | 17 Illicit lenders | 60 "Fear Street" series author | 101 Many times |
| 40 Tire snagger | 72 "Thanks — God" | 110 Flapjack | 18 Naps, e.g. | 61 Seeped in | 102 Helsinki |
| 41 St. Francis' home | 73 "— of the North" (1922 film) | 112 Theme of this puzzle | 19 History topic | 62 Rolltops, e.g. | 103 Dickinson or Harmon |
| 44 Rap music's — Romeo | 74 Zeno's H | 115 Tums, e.g. | 24 "— daisy!" | 63 Justice Sotomayor | 104 Make ready to use again |
| | 75 "God" | 117 Bottled spirit | 28 13 pontiffs | 64 Working stiff | 108 Org. for women with irons |
| | 76 "— of the North" (1922 film) | 118 Occurring on 12/31 | 32 Old TV's J.R. | 72 Totally empty | 109 Is supine |
| | 77 Woody's den | 119 Gets flushed | 33 Start of a 12/31 song | 73 Captures | 110 Cow chow |
| | | 120 Item of value | 34 Females with fleeces | 75 "— in Arms" | 111 Fielder Roush |
| | | | 35 Porky's place | 78 Authorize | 113 British letter |
| | | | | | 114 Passing call |

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