

The Ranchos Independent



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FMAS
the art of responsible
pet ownership in
Madera County

By Karen Petryna

In This Issue

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8
Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23*

The Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter (FMAS) is dedicated to educating people about responsible pet ownership and reducing overpopulation of animals in Madera County. FMAS members and volunteers continue to make progress, with cooperation and support from both the local and larger community of animal lovers, in reaching their goals through free spay and neutering, low-cost vaccination and worming, trap and release, and several different adoption programs.

The Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter is made up of 12 board members and approximately 75 volunteers and was formed as a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in 2002. FMAS accomplished so much in its first 11 years that they were approached by the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation in early 2013. The foundation, a local non-profit which does not entertain solicitations, originally approached FMAS with a plan to donate about \$500,000, but after auditing FMAS's books and good works, the foundation was so impressed that in September of 2013 they decided to make a donation in the amount of \$1.5 million. FMAS has since dedicated that money to making its low-cost spay and neuter program absolutely free.

Free Spay and Neuter Program for Madera County Pets

The free spay and neuter program, available to any Madera County resident who receives housing or other financial assistance, is accessed by simply calling or visiting the FMAS center of the Madera County Animal Shelter to obtain a voucher which contains a list of participating veterinarians. Pet owners need only bring their animal, with the voucher, to one of the identified vets to obtain the free spay or neuter service for their dog or cat. Since September 2013, 14,000 such animals have



been spayed or neutered in Madera County including 1,302 in the Ranchos. Approximately 5,000 vouchers, which expire after two months, are currently outstanding, said Kay Rhoades, FMAS founding director, treasurer, Ranchos resident and owner of Pecks Printery in Madera. Rhoades said that the free program is expected to last approximately six more months before the foundation funds are used up. After that, FMAS will revert to their previous low-cost spay and neuter program which Rhoades said had spent \$570,000 before September 2013.

Rhoades, who also donates printing services for FMAS and produces the familiar red and orange flyers that can be found in government offices and retail facilities all over the County, advertising the free spay and neuter program as well as the

low-cost shot clinics FMAS conducts, said that she writes checks totaling about \$50,000 every month to the participating vets who are located in Mariposa, Madera, Kerman and Fresno. That includes Hope Animal Foundation in Fresno and the newest participating facility, Valley View Veterinary, located in the Ranchos at 10266 Hwy. 41 and operated by Dr. Rene Brewer.

Low-cost shot clinics, available to anyone, are also sponsored by the FMAS volunteers on the first Saturday of every month at the Madera District Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to noon where anywhere from 200 to 300 dogs and cats are quickly and efficiently given rabies shots, parvo/distemper shots and wormer as needed. Dogs can also be licensed at the clinic. Elderly and disabled pet owners are served first, but as Rhoades pointed out,

the volunteers are so practiced at conducting this monthly event they have it down to a science. That doesn't mean, however, that volunteers take the rest of the month off.

About 20 volunteers also put in a 16-hour day on another Saturday each month to meet at the shelter at 6 a.m. and then escort about 50 dogs in kennels, along with tables and chairs, to several PetSmarts in the Bay Area. There, generally 25-45 are adopted out and the remainder are brought back by around 10:30 p.m. the same night. They use three vans that were purchased with funds from the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation. The vans, for which the FMAS donates gas and insurance and GT Auto Service of Madera donates maintenance, are also used by the volunteers to make trips every Friday back again to Bay Area PetSmarts to drop off 50 cats that PetSmart then adopts out.

"It's a great program for the PetSmarts we work with in San Carlos, San Mateo, San Jose and Gilroy," Rhoades said. "PetSmart is dedicated to pet adoption and it also makes good business sense for them." She said that people often spend upwards of \$500 in supplies then and there for their new "family members," and that's on top of the \$200 adoption fee they pay in the Bay Area for dogs and cats from Madera County.

Adoption directly from the Animal Shelter for Madera County residents, on the other hand, costs only \$100, \$75 of which goes to the low-cost spay and neuter program that will resume after the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation grant is expended.

But that's not the only way FMAS

Please see **FMAS** on P. 3

Who's Paying More than Enough For California Energy? You and Me

A new report on the San Joaquin Valley highlights the negative impacts of rising energy costs in California – resulting in Valley residents and businesses paying more than their "fair share." The report, "Impacts of Rising Energy Costs on the San Joaquin Valley" by Bill Watkins and Matthew Fienup from California Lutheran University, found that many characteristics of the Valley, including economic demographics, the makeup of the business sectors in the region, and the weather, among other factors, all contribute to the disproportionate impact of energy

costs in the area.

"By their nature, increases in energy prices have an impact that affects various groups disproportionately," said Bill Watkins, author of the report.

Residents of the San Joaquin Valley are poorer than most Californians and most Americans. Per-capita income for San Joaquin Valley residents is about 30 percent below that of the average Californian and almost 30 percent below the average American. About a quarter of San Joaquin Valley residents live in

Please see **ENERGY** on P. 16

3-Peat is Where it Ends for Hawks

In a season marked by highs and lows for Liberty High School's Varsity football team, their three-year Valley Championship reign was halted Nov. 13 by a 31-yard field goal with only one second left in the game at Exeter for the Division IV first round playoffs.

In unfamiliar surroundings, namely a playoff game on the road in Exeter, their first in four years, the Monarch's Ryan



Liberty's Chad Wallace finds a hole to score one of his five touchdowns in a loss to Exeter
Photo - Tyler Takeda

Buchanan sent the reigning Div. IV champions home with a game-winning field goal for a final score of 52-49 over the Hawks.

Although the loss ended the Hawks' seven-year streak of practicing on Thanksgiving morning, the

team set a school record of 649 yards in a single game.

Please see **HAWKS** on P. 16

Click on "Local News" at

FMAS cont. from P. 2

raises money. Profits from the low-cost shot clinics at the fairgrounds are used to pay for vaccinations and medicines for animals held at the shelter. Other donations, in the tens of thousands of dollars, have also been made by some of the founding FMAS board members, who altogether have raised and spent nearly \$3 million on animal care programs in Madera County.

Carrie Tuttle, FMAS secretary and

founding board member, shared another program FMAS operates to reduce the feral cat problem in the County. She said anyone in Madera County who notices feral cats around his or her neighborhood can obtain traps and vouchers for free spaying and neutering so that after the animals' capture and fixing, the cats can return to the wild without increasing their population. The program is run by Leticia Rhodes, known as Letty, who works for FMAS in the FMAS building at the Ani-

mal Services complex. "There are three buildings at 14269 Road 28, behind the jail," she said. "There is the shelter building, the Adoption Center, and the FMAS building." Letty has 20 traps available for loan. Those interested can come to the FMAS building, show they are a resident of Madera County with their driver's license, fill out a trap agreement and take one or two traps for up to two weeks along with a voucher for free spay or neuter of a feral cat by one of the participating vets,

she said.

Would-be trappers need only provide newspaper (an old Ranchos Independent, perhaps?) for the bottom of the cage and something yummy for the back of the trap and need to call the vet ahead of time to find out when they can bring in their quarry. Alternatively, every Thursday is feral cat day, Letty said, for those who want to drop off a caught cat or kitty by 8

Please see FMAS on P. 14

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Letters

Dear Editor:

As satisfied Ranchos residents for more than 25 years, my wife and I have always been proud to tell friends that we live here. I love my neighbors and enjoy patronizing the local businesses. My kids are well past school age, but I also appreciated the fine local school district.

That is, until the night of Nov. 6. You see, my grandson happens to play on the Chowchilla High football team. Our entire family, from the Ranchos, Clovis and Chowchilla, enjoyed a great game by both teams and celebrated our victory while sympathizing with our home town Hawks, and our neighbors, whose sons play here. All of the boys played their best and the girls cheered their hearts out on both sides.

I was very disappointed when my grandson told me that they returned to the locker room to pick up their gear after the game, to find that someone had sprayed water on their bags and even stole \$20 from one of them.

Needless to say, I'm a little less proud of the Ranchos now.

Perhaps the administration of Liberty might wish to offer an apology in this newspaper for what I hope was the act of a few misguided individuals.

Respectfully,

Tim O. Montgomery
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I would like to take a brief moment to respond to Golden Valley Teachers Association President Teri Malmstrom's recent Letter to the Editor. I will have much much more to say in upcoming editions. I would also like to state that my Letters to the Editor, including this one, are directed to the Golden Valley Teachers Association (GVTA) union and its leadership ONLY. They are NOT directed to Golden Valley Unified School District teachers. Also, I am speaking for myself only and do not represent the views of any others that I'm aware of.

In President Malmstrom's letter, she preceded her statement by listing actions by brave individual teachers. She then went on to state, quote: "How could this 'hinder' the recall effort is unclear." I'd like to clear that up a bit for you, madam president. YOU TOOK A RETROACTIVE RAISE. Is that clearer?

Every year school districts are required to submit a three-year budget. If budget reserves ever drop below 3 percent, action from the state and/or county school board will follow with necessary cuts. When GVTA negotiated their 2 percent retroactive raise, GVUSD's budget reserves dropped to 2.7 percent. If that condition had remained, Andrew Alvarado would not be the GVUSD superintendent today and I would NOT have considered the recall successful. The reasons that condition changed was because many of GVUSD's long-time staff resigned and were replaced by less costly individuals. Also, good financial management by Superintendent Hatch and strong budget skills by Chief Financial Officer Nolan were instrumental in the rehiring of Andrew Alvarado. GVTA union leadership was the greatest hindrance to the recall effort in my opinion.

GVTA used the recall to their own benefit. They put themselves in a much better negotiating position by not being seen as "pro" recall. GVTA traded non-recall support for a raise. What did YOU do again for the recall President Malmstrom? I was in the front row the whole time and I don't remember. I remember the great support from the California School Employees Association (CSEA). I will contrast their support to GVTA's support in future Letters to the Editor.

President Malmstrom, I am unclear on some other things also. Will you please clarify for me? Between 2008 and 2012, GVUSD's revenue decreased by \$6 million. Many teachers were lost as well as opportunities for students in lost electives, programs and classes choices. Do you think GVTA members were entitled to raises during that period? President Malmstrom, what does GVTA consider a fair wage? What does GVTA consider a fair benefits package? How much should GVUSD contribute to GVTA's benefit package? How much should GVUSD contribute to GVTA retirement compensation package? I would like to know what fair means to GVTA in dollars.

California's 2015 projected general fund budget was \$113.28 billion. Under Prop. 98, public schools received \$61.24 billion or 54 percent of California's general fund budget. How much money do you need? How much more should I be taxed? Public Educa-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

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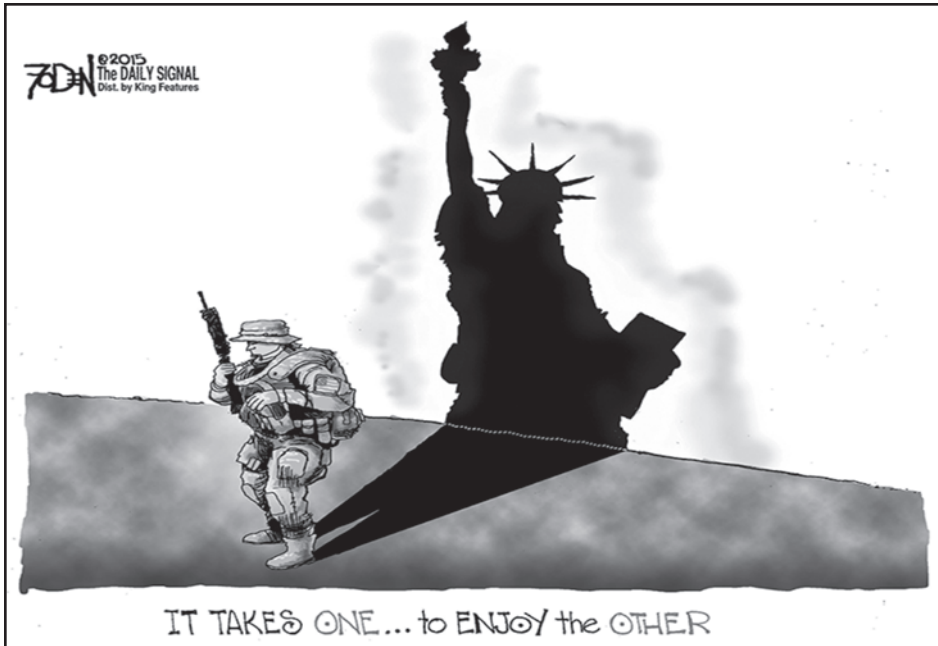
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Guest Editorial

Whining College Students

By Peter Scheer

There's nothing like the massacre of 129 Parisian civilians at the hands of jihadi sociopaths, utterly convinced that their barbarism manifests the will of God, to provide some perspective on the recent whinings of students at a number of America's most elite colleges and universities.

For the past few weeks, students across the country — at Yale University in Connecticut, Amherst College in Massachusetts, New Hampshire's Dartmouth College, the University of Missouri, and southern California colleges Claremont McKenna and Occidental — have been testing the limits of academic liberalism. Students have demanded official *mea culpas* for alleged institutional racism, sexism and other "structural" sins against "marginalized" groups (defined mainly on the basis of race, ethnicity and sexual orientation or gender), while expressing intolerance for criticism and outright hostility for the principle of free speech.

At Amherst, students calling themselves the "Amherst Uprising" demanded that students responsible for circulating "free speech" fliers be disciplined for their nonconforming views and given "extensive training for racial and cultural

competency." They also demanded that the college president apologize for the school's "institutional legacy of white supremacy, colonialism, anti-black racism, anti-Latino racism, anti-Native American racism, anti-Native/indigenous racism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Middle Eastern racism, heterosexism, cis-sexism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, ableism, mental health stigma and classism." (Disclosure: I graduated from Amherst several decades ago).

If there is a common denominator to the complaints, it is students' expectation that they are entitled to a campus that is a "safe place" — by which is meant an academic environment uncontaminated with ideas that they find "offensive." And by "offensive," students mean expression that deviates from a politically correct orthodoxy of received opinion. By this standard, any criticism, any dissent or disagreement, is not merely unwelcome, but actually threatening and harmful in a way that demands immediate protective measures by college administrators.

This is a new and disturbing phenomenon. While the current generation of college students is not the first to be seduced by the power of censorship, it may be the first to insist on that power as a means of protection from viewpoints that are insufficiently sensitive to their self-image as victims. When did college students become so fearful of competing ideas? When did they become so emotionally frail that even the hint of criticism is seen as a hostile act from which they must be shielded (and for which perpetrators must be re-educated)?

College students always say and do stupid things; it goes with the territory. But today's students' equating of hurt feelings with scarring wounds is a departure that leads to dangerous overreaction. When unwelcome ideas are decried in the language of pain and injury, the impulse to suppress them — rather than to challenge and debate them — can be irresistible. This is so because protection of students' personal welfare always trumps other considerations — even

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

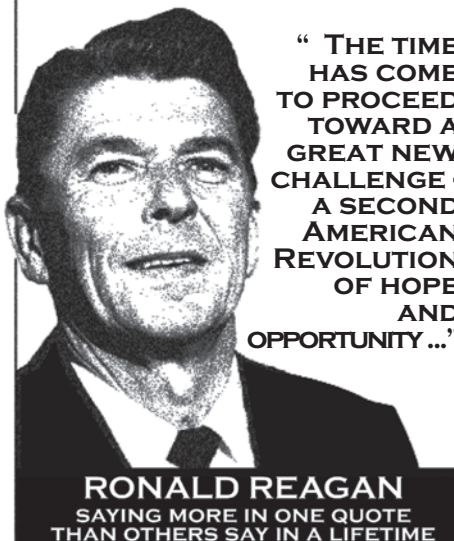
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Please see WHINING on P. 17

Giving Extra Thanks

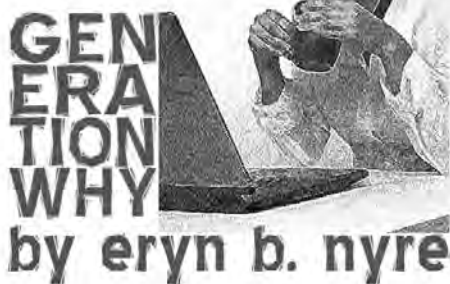
The world stands heartbroken and shocked in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Paris. Senseless bloodshed and violence has been unleashed on another city and many of us are left to wonder, when will it be enough? When will our President stand up, declare that he will unleash the full fury of the great American military on these vicious monsters who slay the innocent in the name of a war no one else wants to fight? I fear for our future with such a feckless degenerate at the helm of our great nation; I fear for the future of the world. I don't know what the answer is but I know that it does not include kowtowing to a bunch of leftist cowards who think the best way to stop the murder is to appease the murderers. Can we not all agree that radical Muslim terrorists are evil and must be

stopped? Can we not all agree that ISIS is the personification of evil and must be eradicated? People are dying. The world is bleeding. Surely we can at least agree on that.

The world is careening out of control and the death toll continues to climb and yet people are up in arms over petty things like a red coffee cup. I can't think of a better time in life to focus on being thankful for the blessings in my own life. As I pray for peace I also thank the good Lord for all He has given me.

I am grateful that my friends and family that have recently visited Paris made it home safely before this awful tragedy. Some came home as little as a week before the city was ripped apart and I can't possibly be more thankful that they were spared. For all those lost, and for all those who lost loved ones, my heart pours out to you. I pray that no one else knows that kind of suffering, that kind of sheer terror.

I am grateful that I feel safe. Though I have felt fear like most people, I go to bed each night comforted by my safe apartment nestled



in a decent part of town. I may not live in a high end area, and the park across the street is not the kind of place a woman walks around alone at night, but I come home each day and feel reasonably certain of my own personal safety. I don't wake up each morning with the expectation of blood and carnage at my doorstep. I am blessed to experience such a sense of security.


I am grateful that I have dreams and ambitions. So many people are forced to live each day just trying to stay alive. They don't have time to worry about superficial things; their lives are on the line. Instead, I am afforded the opportunity to pursue an education and a career. I wake up, shower, pick

out clothes from an ample wardrobe, put on make-up and drive my own car to work. I go to dinner with friends, spend time with family, study, and write. My days are not filled with war and death, with fear of avoiding explosives and gunfire. I don't worry about danger zones or high alerts. I don't expect a bomb to be dropped on my office building. I am lucky.

I am grateful for my freedom. Though I may feel the crushing weight of a president determined to shove a socialist agenda down our collective throat, I know that I am free to complain about it. I am free to write a letter, a blog or an article. I can even make a video detailing every grievance I have with the administration and send it out to break

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 17

It's tragic that it takes such a horrific event as a terrorist attack and the loss of innocent lives to put your own life into perspective. If only we all woke up every day thankful for our opportunities and grateful for our blessings.



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Who's got 1980's prices? 11/15





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We the People take a Breath

By Betty Van Valkenburg

and succumbed in treacherous waters trying to escape Communist Cuba and reach American shores. Downtrodden Mexican citizens by the millions, impoverished by their corrupt government, cross our border illegally. In lands without a semblance of "constitutional protections," Christians are beheaded for their faith.

America itself is now going through a perilous transformation from individual liberty to unlimited government control and many fear that we are on the verge of losing our freedoms.

This is where the soul searching comes in. How many of our rights are we willing to cede to government before enough is enough? Are we content to ask "Mother may I?" of the nanny state before every bite, every word, every thought, every action, every purchase, every doctor's visit and more?

Thomas Jefferson said: "I know of no safe repository of the ultimate power of society but the people. And if we think them not enlightened enough, the remedy is not to take the power from them, but to inform them by education."

We the People must save our country from the apparent march to despotism and third-world status. Politicians will not save us; they in most cases are the problem. But they can be made to listen. A new president won't save us, but electing the most principled constitutionalist is imperative in order to stop presidential usurpation of power through the "stroke of a pen." We must vote based on principle and knowledge.

Closer to home, We the People must pressure our school boards to abandon the top-down Common Core nonsense and return to local decision making. We the People must petition city councils, supervisors and planning commissioners to make zoning decisions based on local needs rather than top-down federal agendas that tell us where and how to live.

We the People must stop the madness in Sacramento – from the crazy train to nowhere, to releasing criminals prematurely, to purposefully mismanaging the forests and refusing to build more water storage to be used by homes and farms.

As individuals we have more clout by joining with like-minded groups to support action and education, remembering that there is no "We the People" without each of us. If you're so inclined, you can visit www.centralvalleyteaparty.com for further information.

May you have wonderful holidays that renew your spirit and redouble your dedication to faith, family and freedom.

At this time when the world seems to be on fire and our beloved country is awash in political, economic and racial strife, perhaps it is time to step back, take a deep breath and smell the roses – or the fragrant Christmas trees fresh from the farm. Pausing to celebrate the holidays gives us the perfect opportunity to cherish and hold our loved ones close and to ponder what is truly important in our lives and in our country.

It is the perfect time for some serious soul searching – a time to renew our commitments to family, freedom and faith. For this discussion, the focus will be on preserving freedom, for without it we cannot practice our faith, live our lives or raise our children as we see fit.

The history of the world is replete with oppression and destitution. Much of it chronicled a struggle for mere survival. But we in this country have enjoyed the advantages of a government born of "We the People" (not "They the Government"). Our Declaration of Independence acknowledged that our rights come from our Creator (not from any one person or any government); that our rights are unalienable (cannot be taken away or denied); and that they include but are not limited to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We the People have been free to create levels of innovation, prosperity and progress that have enriched or eased our lives beyond imagination.

The Constitution established a government to protect and defend these inborn natural rights with built-in checks and balances meant to assure that no one person or government entity would become all powerful. The learned framers warned, however, that We the People must be ever vigilant or lose our rights and our form of limited government. Will we prove them right through our inaction?

Contrast the liberty that made our country unique with the subjugation in other places. Desperate East Germans were gunned down trying to scale the Berlin Wall to freedom, some left dead or dying on the street as examples to others. Many have risked death

We the People must save our country from the apparent march to despotism and third-world status. Politicians will not save us; they in most cases are the problem.

Thanksgiving Ideas

Before I start my column, I want to congratulate the Liberty High FFA on their recent fund raiser. For \$35 you got a tri-tip, barbecued perfectly, beans, rice, salad and rolls and it was delicious. My only question is: When are you going to do it again?

Secondly, I want to apologize for not doing original articles the last two months.

My computer died. After getting a new hard drive, when things were back to working order, everything on my Word was lost. As it was explained to me, it went to never-never land. That and a couple of personal things are behind me and everything is back to normal I hope and pray!

Before everything happened a couple of months ago, I was telling you about the cook book Randy bought for me to use. It is the Good Housekeeping Cook Book, printed in 1961. I'll continue this article from that book.

Growing up I had heard of succotash and never knew what it was until I got older and found out what it was and realized that I had been eating it for years. My Grandma Drinnen fixed it for supper quite a lot, opening jars of vegetables that she had canned during the summer. I loved it.

Succotash

1½ C hot cooked or canned whole kernel corn
2 T. butter or margarine
1½ C. cooked or canned green beans or green lima beans
½ C. light cream
Salt and pepper to taste
Combine all ingredients, adjusting salt and pepper to taste. Heat.

I love rice dishes but hate to cook rice because it is so messy. You have to be so careful or it will boil over. This recipe sounded good and you don't have to pre-boil the rice.

Spanish Beef Rice

2 T. fat or salad oil
1½ C. packaged precooked rice



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

2 T. minced onion
1 C minced green peppers
3 T. diced celery
1 lb. ground chuck
1 T. salt
2 8 oz. cans tomato sauce
1 bouillon cube
1 C hot water
1 tsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. sugar
Snipped parsley

In hot fat in skillet, cook rice with onion, peppers, celery and beef until golden brown. Add salt and rest of ingredients except parsley; simmer, covered, about 10 minutes or until rice is tender. Sprinkle with parsley.

Need some nibblers to serve for an afternoon of TV football games?

Cocktail

Hash

1½ C packaged bite sized shredded wheat cereal
1½ C packaged bite sized shredded rice cereal

(Such as Wheat Chex or Rice Chex cereals)
2 C pretzel sticks

1 C pecan halves
¼ C salted peanuts
¼ tsp. garlic salt
2 T. melted butter or margarine
Start heating oven to 350. Place all ingredients on baking pan; toss together well. Bake 15 minutes. Can be served cold or warm. Even better if prepared a day or two early and stored in a tightly covered container to mellow the flavors.

Every family has their favorite recipe for turkey stuffing (or do you call it dressing?) Ours is just bread crumbs, sautéed onions and celery in lots of butter seasoned with salt, pepper and dried sage (Mama always insisted on rubbed sage) and chicken stock. There are a whole lot of things to be added to dressing that people like: oysters, pecans, dried apricots, raisins, prunes or

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 17

Here it is Thanksgiving. Whether you are having the traditional turkey and all the trimmings or ham, roast beef, tamales or barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, I sincerely hope you are having it with family or friends that you love and love you in return.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

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Give Me a Brake!

Hello again, 93636

One of the most common “do it yourself” automotive repair and/or maintenance jobs I know of is a brake job. With just a very few tools and a cell phone camera it should go pretty well.

Only take one brake apart at a time. Use the one you don't take apart as a reference – hopefully the person before you got it correct – and then just take pictures as it's disassembled.

Let's start off by diagnosing that vibration you feel when you apply the brakes, especially braking at higher speeds. The predominate cause of braking vibrations are warped brake rotors. This generally occurs from over-tightening the wheel nuts or overheating. Don't blast those wheel nuts on with an air gun. Look up the torque specs and torque them. This will save you some money as well as a redo.

To use the following diagnostic procedure, first check and see if your vehicle has front disc brakes and rear drum brakes. Most do. If so, here is the procedure I use to isolate a brake vibration. I drive the vehicle at 40 mph and then apply the parking brake. **DON'T APPLY ANY OF THE BRAKES HARD ENOUGH TO LOSE CONTROL, ESPECIALLY THE PARKING BRAKE!!!** By applying the parking brake, I'm applying only the rear brakes. If a vibration is present, the vibration is from the rear brakes. If a vibration is not present, I step on the brake pedal and add in the front brakes. If a vibration occurs now, the vibration is from the front brakes. I'd say 90 percent or higher brake vibration complaints are the front brake rotors. That's because the front brakes do 70 percent of the work and generate the most heat. Because the front brakes do most of the work they are larger but still wear out about 2.5 times as often as the rear brakes, depending on your driving style. The preceding procedure doesn't work with four-wheel disc brake vehicles. For those, when applying the brakes, if I feel the pulsation in

my hands, I think the vibration is from the front brakes. If I feel the pulsation in my tail bone, I think the vibration is from the rear brakes. This is very subjective and difficult if the vibration is light to moderate. Many times I have to use a dial indicator and measure the brake rotor runout, or “warp” in the rotor. Maximum runout is .002-.003. If a brake rotor is warped, I always replace it. Machining brake rotors make them thinner and more susceptible to heat and warpage. If your brake job doesn't have a vibration concern, don't touch those rotor surfaces. If they are thicker than the discard specification and are not damaged by cracks, gouges, etc., reuse them exactly the way they are. **TRUST ME** on this one. I will save you a lot of money and problems. I have not resurfaced brake rotors for nearly eight years. Usually the discard thickness is stamped into the metal. You will have to look for it. It may be covered by brake dust. **NEVER EVER EVER NEVER** breathe the brake dust. It is dangerous. Place a catch can under the brake assembly and spray off the brake dust with brake cleaner before disassembly. By the way, the stuff in the catch pan is hazardous waste. Treat it as such.

Ok, let's remove the brake caliper and remove the used brake pads. They will tell us what we need to know. If the outside brake pad is worn much more than the inside brake pad, the sliders are sticking. Get some sandpaper and remove the rust and road grime from whatever the caliper slides along. Lubricate the sliders with synthetic brake grease. If the inside pad is worn out more severely, the caliper piston is sticking and both calipers should be replaced. **REMEMBER, WHATEVER YOU DO ON ONE SIDE ALSO DO ON THE OTHER SIDE!** You do not want one side working more efficiently than the other side. This could cause a pulling condition during braking but more problematic is loss of control during a panic stop. Next, open the bleeder valve and push the piston back in until it stops. Reinstall the used brake pad and push against it, not the piston. Don't force it. It should push in easily with a clamp. Before you take the clamp off, close the bleeder valve. That way air is not introduced into the brake hydraulics. Lubricate with syn-

Please see **HANDS** on P. 16

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

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11/15

The Bookshelf

Holiday Party Coming to Library

By Amanda Judd

Please join the Ranchos Library for our Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. Friends of the Ranchos Library will be hosting our festive celebration. Refreshments will be provided. Be sure to come in and help us decorate our Christmas Tree. December is “Hi Neighbor” month and what a fantastic way this would be to get know people and participate in something fun in your community.

The Ranchos Library will also be having a Special Winter Presentation by Steve Riley. We will be presenting a fun interactive winter storytime on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 11:30 a.m. We invite you to feel free to come in your pajamas and slippers. Please contact the library for reservations prior to Wednesday, Dec. 16. December is also “Read a New Book Month.” What a perfect way to top off our performance than by checking out a new book and having your own family story time or relaxing with your own silent reading time. Books also make excellent gifts. Stop by our sale room and see if you can find a gently loved book that would be perfect for someone special on your gift list.

We have been receiving a lot of questions about our recycling program. The library does continue to recycle. We accept cardboard, paper, aluminum,

plastic, glass and cans. We do not accept styrofoam. For more information, please contact the library. We would be happy to answer your questions. All proceeds we receive go to benefit the Ranchos Library.

Thank you to all of you that have so far donated to our Bucks for Books program. These donations go a long way to help us bring in new books for our library. All of the donations stay local to the Ranchos Library. Just be certain to designate the Ranchos Library on your insert when you make your contribution. Also, thank you to all of you who have been diligently using your SHARES cards when you do your grocery shopping. If you do not have a SHARES card and would like information about the program or on obtaining a card, please call or come by the library and we will get one to you.



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Senior Report

Big Events Coming to Senior Center

By Patti Groh

I am sorry there was no Senior Report last month (hope *someone* noticed). October just got away from me with a couple vacations and eye surgery. But, that is not to say that the Ranchos/Hills Seniors didn't have a good and active month.

Of note in October, there was a Spaghetti dinner that I hear was delicious. Everyone was exclaiming about how much fun they had playing T.V. Games which included Senior's Feud (as in Family Feud) and Let's Make a Deal. You would be amazed at what people have in their purses and pockets. That event was chaired by Eva McAtee and thanks to her for putting it all together so well. The Halloween costume party and potluck was said to be a great success with imaginative costumes and, again, good food (which seems to be an ongoing theme). Josie Turner chaired that event so well.

Again, I'm putting this article together before some events in November, but I'll let you know how the Thanksgiving dinner goes. The turkey was provided by the Center with members providing the rest of the meal as a potluck.

People brought their own table service on Thursday, Nov. 19. I hope everyone read the November newsletter because new this year was that guests of members were asked to pay \$10 for this event. Then, on Saturday, Nov. 21, the month's birthdays were celebrated at the Shepherd's Inn. Please remember we do like to have you sign up at the Center before the events. If you missed these wonderful occasions, please keep them in mind to attend next year. The Center is always closed in honor of Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after.

The November General Meeting was held on Nov. 9 at which time the membership voted on new officers. Congratulations to our new leadership: President Ethel Hansen, Vice President Verlaine Elinburg, Correspondence Secretary Patti Groh, Treasurer Shirley Tickel, Assistant Treasurer Diane Maxfield and Recording Secretary Rita Selmon. The new Board of Directors is comprised of Bonnie Elia, Eva McAtee, Elva Earll, Nancy Koontz, Debbie Farr (past president) and Helen Lowell (Parliamentarian). Their installation will be at the December general meeting.

Okay, we have made it through the month of November and now the busy – but so exciting – Christmas season is upon us. The Center's Christmas Boutique will be held on the first two Saturdays of December, the 5th and 12th. You are all invited to come in for a hot beverage, a cookie and to shop for beautiful Christmas gifts, decorations and, of course, delicious homemade Christmas goodies. Members please keep working on your boutique items and get them in to Carol Wood. The Treasure House (our thrift store) will also be open and all will be open from 8 a.m. to noon.

The highlight of the season will be our Annual Members Christmas Dinner to be held on Monday evening, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. This is also our December general meeting and the officers will be installed. It will be a ham dinner with members again providing the potluck items to accompany the ham. A sign-up sheet is at the Center, required so we know how many tables we need. The guest cost will be \$10. There will be entertainment. A table centerpiece contest will be held with prizes. If you are interested in participating in that, please contact Caroline Reeves.

Please see SENIORS on P. 16

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11/15



Golden Valley Welcomes New Teachers, Administrators and Staff

Golden Valley Unified School District welcomed 21 new teachers, administrators and specialists to the district for the 2015-2016 school year.

In addition, three others were promoted: Katharine Cuttone is Liberty High School's new learning director; Michael Grossman is also new to Liberty as a counselor and is also Ranchos Middle School's guidance learning specialist; and Brenda Smith was promoted to a receptionist/accounts payable position.

Each of the new personnel were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Madera Ranchos community.



Name: Kelsey Dizney, Ranchos Middle School

Age: 27

Years teaching: First Year

Previous teaching experience: Substitute in GVUSD and MUSD for two years

Schooling: Fresno State: BA and Credential Program

Grade/Subject teaching: 7th and 8th grade Special Day Class at Ranchos Middle School

Kids: Abbagaell, 4

Hobbies: Reading, spending time with family, home improvement projects

Favorite sports team: San Francisco Giants

Dizney says that so far things are going wonderfully. "Our class is having such a great time and the kids (and I) are working really hard. It is going to be a great year!"

Name: Albert Pando, Liberty High School

Age: 42

Years teaching: 16 years in education/11 years as a guidance counselor

Previous teaching experience: Guidance counselor at Chowchilla Union High School

Schooling: BA: Liberal Studies; Masters in counseling and credentials in Pupil Personal Service

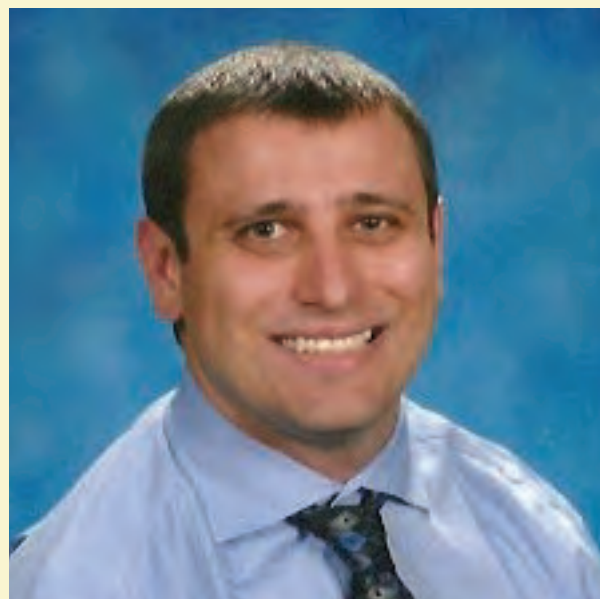
Grade/Subject teaching: Liberty High School guidance learning specialist

Spouse/kids: Three girls: Annika, 10, Lexi, 8, and Zoe, 4

Hobbies: Spending time with my kids

Favorite sports teams: World Series Champs San Francisco Giants, San Francisco 49ers, Golden State Warriors

Pando says that things are going great at Liberty and that students and staff have been welcoming and very helpful. He said something that not a lot of people know about him is that he has traveled over half the United States and 13 countries overseas. "I like to travel," Pando said.



Name: Michael Grossman, Liberty High School

New position: Freshman Counselor at Liberty High School

Old position: Guidance Learning Specialist at Ranchos Middle School

"This year I am 50/50 as the Guidance Learning Specialist at Ranchos Middle School and Freshman Counselor at Liberty High School."

Years at GVUSD: Two

Yeast teaching (overall): Two years as a counselor and 10 years total in various education roles

Grossman said the biggest difference between his new and old position was making the transition from middle school to high school. "Like my freshman students, we were both new to Liberty High School. The transition from middle school to high school is an important one," he said. "This unique experience gives me the opportunity

to work with each student for two years as 7th and 8th graders and then again in high school as freshmen."



Name: GeGe Drozen, GVUSD

Age: 48

Years teaching: 14

Previous teaching experience: Middle school and high school Special Day Class and Resource Specialist Program

Schooling: Fresno Pacific University with a BA in Management/Organizational Development and a MA in Educational Technology University: Special Education Mild/Moderate Teaching Credential

Grade/Subject teaching: GVUSD Program Specialist-Special Education

Spouse/kids: Been married to her high school sweetheart, Rich Drozen, for 29 years and has raised "three amazing sons" on their 60-acre ranch in Mariposa. Her sons are Devin, 28, who is learning disabled and volunteers at his church; Christian, 23, who is a firefighter for CalFire; and Nathan, 21, a professional union welder in Sacramento

Hobbies: Sewing and loves going to yard sales

Favorite sports teams: Denver Broncos

Drozen is a first-time grandma to the most precious grandson, Hunter, who is 7 months old

Melanie Williams, Educational Options

Greetings to the Madera Ranchos community. My name is Melanie Williams and I was hired at Educational Options to teach history. Living in this community for many years has given me the opportunity to get to know some of the kids that attend the Golden Valley Unified Schools. I had the privilege to be on campus as a substitute

Please see **PERSONNEL** on P. 13

PERSONNEL cont. from P. 12

tute teacher at every school site at one time or another over the years and enjoyed working with your kids. It is a challenge to fill the position of a well-respected teacher who the kids miss very much, but we are getting to know each other and hopefully building educational goals for the school year.

I started teaching in 1987 at Firebaugh Middle School. After six years, I had three children and decided to substitute part time to raise my family. They are now all in college, so I decided to try teaching full time again. I love working with kids and trying to get some history into their heads. My kids grew up here and attended Sierra View, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School. Jeff is 20, Emily is 18, and Matthew is 16. Scott Williams is my husband. He teaches at College of Sequoias in Visalia. Our family loves visiting the coast. Scott has taught us how to surf and ride the waves.

Name: David Poodry, Liberty High School

I've been teaching about 18 years, most of that at Hoover High School in Fresno, where I taught biology, ecology, earth science, zoology and environmental science. Before that I taught biology labs at Fresno State as a TA (many, many moons ago). I've worked in science for a few places before that: UC Kearney Ag research facility, US forest service at the Pacific southwest forest service laboratory and other field biology jobs. At Liberty High School I teach biology and AP biology. The students here are great. I can't say that strongly enough. I'm still learning the where, who and what things are. Being a newbie again feels awkward at times and I am having to apologize too often. My wife and kids are the reasons I'm here. I'm always grateful and in awe of all of them. We live in the district and love being part of the community. Some of my present students I've seen grow up through the years. Again what can I say? Wow.

Name: Jeannette Covington, Webster

Previous experience: Retired from Fresno City College after 32 years of teaching

Kids: Chris Imperatrice and David Imperatrice

Hobbies: Auto racing and football

Covington likes to travel. She drives a 40-foot motor home and tows a Jeep Wrangler and now travels by herself. "My husband and I used to travel throughout the U.S. and Canada in our motor home," she said.

Name: Leeann Lewis-Ramirez, Liberty High School

Age: 23

Years teaching: First year

Previous teaching experience: Vocational training in high school teaching; 7th grade English at Scandinavian middle school in Fresno; student teaching at Bullard High and Kingsburg High in Fresno and Kingsburg, respectively; and long-term subbing at Bullard for one semester

Schooling: Fresno State. BA: English Education

Grade/Subject teaching: 9th and 11th grade English and English Language Arts support

Spouse: Michael Ramirez

Hobbies: Reading, playing basketball, church activities

Favorite sports teams: "I don't watch sports. It's a little depressing watching people have fun playing a game,

while I'm just sitting on the couch."

Lewis-Ramirez says that things are going great at Liberty. "I love the students and the staff is wonderful." She also said that something most people don't know about her is that she collects comic books.

Name: Eric Whaite, Liberty High School

Age: 32

Years teaching: 2

Previous teaching experience: Pershing Continuation High School in Central Unified School District

Schooling: Fresno State. BA: History and teaching credential

Grade/Subject teaching: 10th grade World History and 11th grade U.S. History

Spouse: Married to wife Rhanda Rylant-Whaite

Hobbies: Football! "I absolutely love watching it and playing fantasy football."

Favorite sports teams: San Diego Chargers

Whaite says Golden Valley is an amazing school district. "So far I think that everything is going very well. Every day I work hard to make sure that I am continually getting better as a teacher." He says that something not a lot of people know about him is that he was in the Navy for five years as a Master-at-Arms and got out in 2008.

Name: Alma Jaimes, GVUSD

Age: 25

Years teaching: First year

Schooling: Fresno Pacific University: BA in Psychology and Spanish Language and Culture. Currently in her third year of graduate school at Fresno Pacific University, enrolled in the dual masters and credential program for school psychology and school counseling, and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst certificate.

Grade/Subject teaching: School psychologist intern.

Hobbies: Shopping, Zumba and traveling

Jaimes says she's keeping busy, striving to keep herself organized to get things done. "The community and schools are great. I am truly enjoying my internship experience," she said. She also said that most people don't know she studied abroad in Central America for her Bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Culture.

Name: Amber Bridges, Sierra View

Age: 38

Years teaching: 1.5

Previous teaching experience: I taught English and history at Gage Middle School in Huntington Park (Los Angeles Unified School District) in 2004 and 2005

Schooling: UCLA: BA in History. Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School. Bridges is also an attorney who practiced education law at Lozano Smith before coming to Sierra View. She also practiced civil litigation at Baker Manock & Jensen before Lozano Smith

Grade/Subject teaching: 5th grade at Sierra View

Spouse/kids: Husband of 11 years is Joey. Son Nathan is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at Webster

Hobbies: Exercising, reading, studying maps and taking road trips

Favorite sports teams: College - UCLA; Pro - San Francisco Giants, 49ers and the Oklahoma City Thunder

"Things are going well. The students, staff, and administration at Sierra View are amazing. I feel blessed to be a part of the Sierra View family," Bridges said. She also

said that most people don't know that she was one of the original employees of the Pizza Factory when it opened up in the summer of 1996.

My name is Therese George, and I have been teaching for 15 years in California. I hold a Masters in Environmental Sciences, and worked in private industry (primarily biochemistry and environmental engineering) prior to teaching. I currently teach chemistry and biology at Liberty High School and have taught almost every secondary science in the past 15 years including biology, chemistry, earth science, life science, anatomy and environmental science.

I have been an active member of the San Diego Zoological Society and Scripps Institute of Oceanography's Stephen Birch Aquarium for more years than I can count. I was also an active member of the Society of Toxicology for a few years and remain active in the field.

My interests are numerous and constantly evolving, but those that could qualify as hobbies would have to include entomology, arachnology, hiking, water skiing, snorkeling, reading and writing. (I was editor of "California Neighborhoods" many years ago, and have written two children's books, in addition to numerous science papers.)

Liberty High School is a wonderful educational environment for students and teachers alike. The other science teachers I work with on a daily basis are great - and what a wealth of expertise! The administration is genuinely supportive and available. The parents are involved. The campus is very well maintained. The students are active in the community, and more academically motivated than most California schools. What more could one ask for?

Promotions

Additional New Personnel:

- Kirk Delmas, Liberty High School principal
- Donna Ervin, library media
- Jordan Murphy, Liberty High School athletic director, athletic trainer and ROP sports medicine teacher
- Kristina Tatom, Liberty ag
- Anne Scott, Liberty English
- Elvira Ledezma, Liberty English
- Veronica Parnell, Webster special education
- Marissa Zamora, Webster
- Jennifer Hernandez, Webster reading lab
- Luanne Lopez, Webster yard duty supervisor



FMAS cont. from P. 3

a.m. and pick it up, fixed and ready for release, at 4 p.m. the same Thursday. Those cats are taken to the Hope Animal Clinic in Fresno. Similarly, for those who are interested in spaying or neutering their own pet, and who qualify, FMAS not only offers a free voucher but also free transportation to Hope Animal Clinic and back from the shelter two days a week for a refundable deposit of \$20 for dogs and \$10 for cats.

Bay Area Needs Adoptable Dogs and Cats

Tuttle, who works full-time as operations manager at a manufacturing facility in San Joaquin in addition to working shot clinics and adoption transport runs, said that while FMAS does hold and attend many local adoption events, including the annual Super Adoption event at Fresno Valley Animal Center in May, and at Petco and PetSmart stores in Madera and Fresno, animals are harder to adopt out in the Valley due to the overpopulation of homeless ones here. By contrast, the Bay Area, which has solved the problem of overpopulation of dogs and cats through an aggressive no-kill program, actually needs adoptable animals. Amazingly, Tuttle said, when asking for details about their new pets' background and told there isn't any since they were formerly strays, new pet owners, not seeming to understand the term "stray" will ask questions like, "What do you mean ... they were running around loose?"

Another board member of FMAS who participates in almost all their volunteer events and is also the Director of the Madera County Department of Animal Services, Kirsten Gross, answered questions about the Marin County Humane Society which was the first, starting about 13 years ago, to pick up animals at the Madera County Shelter. "They used to come down with a big van and take 20 to 30 animals back," she said, "because they don't generate enough themselves." But they've since connected with facilities that are closer than Madera's to meet their needs and so don't have to travel so far. Today, the Madera Shelter also benefits from organizations like New Beginnings, which ships animals to Utah, Oregon, and Idaho, and Wings of Rescue which flew 1,000 dogs coming from the Central Valley out of Van Nuys on Nov. 20 to multiple locations across the country.

Department of Animal Services Plans for New Shelter

Gross, whose department's shelter building of 8,000 square feet currently sees over 7,000 animals pass through each year, has also begun a campaign to raise money for a new \$20 million facility, which, according to the assessment conducted, needs to be 24,000 square feet in order to more

humanely house the animals and also accommodate the County's growth over the next 20 years. The tentative start date for building the new shelter is about five years away, Gross said, due to the fact that the County, which has many departments housed in very old buildings, must prioritize other projects such as the Health Department, first. In the meantime, FMAS has made arrangements to print and distribute flyers requesting donations for the new shelter in all the property tax bills that have been mailed throughout the County.

Valley State Prison Has Begun Very Special Puppies Program

Gross also answered questions about the Very Special Puppies Program, so named by new Warden Ray Fisher Jr. at the Valley State Prison for Men in Chowchilla. Begun in August, the program is being carried out at no cost to the penitentiary or taxpayers because FMAS provides for food, crates, vaccinations and spaying, neutering and all related costs for the dogs. And Ali Imel of Yosemite Bark Pet Services donates her time to train the prisoner dog trainers three days a week. Each session of the program, for which 200 prisoners volunteered and 10 were selected, takes 10 weeks during which time the dogs are given potty training and crate training, taught basic obedience and some cute tricks, and earn the American Kennel Club Good Citizen Ribbon and acknowledgement. Graduates of the course are adopted out at \$400 each due to their additional value, which helps defray the costs of the program.

Gross, who said the first batch of dogs had all graduated and been adopted, delivered a new group of six dogs to the prison on Monday, Nov. 16. She said she is hoping to expand the program to where they can be trained as service dogs. She also said that when she delivered the second batch she saw they brought big smiles to the faces of the inmates, some of whom have not had an opportunity to pet a dog since being incarcerated 15 or 20 years ago. Gross said the criteria for dogs are they can't be too neurotic or aggressive and they must weigh less than 40 pounds. But age is not an issue. And she said the State and Federal Leadership of the Correctional Units are encouraging these kinds of programs for the benefits of the inmates, the atmosphere at their facilities, and the public, who get to adopt the well-trained dogs because it is a win-win for everyone.

Whether you are interested in finding a new friend, getting a current friend or neighborhood acquaintance spayed or neutered, joining soon-to-be new friends for a day-long round trip to the Bay Area, helping process shots and worming for the furry friends of others, learning about volunteer opportunities or how to donate hard, cold

cash, you can check out the following numbers and addresses mentioned above and summarized below.

- For free spay and neuter services for those with financial need or for feral cats, call Letty at the FMAS building of the Madera County Department of Animal Services complex. She can also arrange feral cat traps, free transportation and can also add folks to the mailing list for the FMAS Quarterly Newsletter. Call her at 363-5106.

- For Low-cost Vaccinations, Worming, and Dog Licensing, attend the Clinics held on the first Saturday of every month at the Madera County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to noon.

- Those interested in adoption of a dog or cat should call Madera County at 675-7891 and ask to be connected to the Shelter. Or, for those with access to the internet, the FMAS website, www.FMAS.info, has a menu called ADOPTABLE ANIMALS which leads to pictures volunteers have taken with animals at the shelter that are available. The cost of \$100 to adopt a dog and \$60 to adopt a cat includes all vaccinations and spaying or neutering, which, by California law, must be done prior to adopting an animal out. The FMAS.info website also includes contact information, a volunteer form, a schedule of upcoming events and information about how to donate as well as lots of stories and pictures.

- You can send donations for the new Madera County Animal Shelter – or help pay for any of the services described above – to Friends of Madera Animal Shelter at P.O. Box 923, Madera, CA 93638. Checks should be made out to FMAS.

- You can also contribute to FMAS by designating online purchases through iGive.com and AmazonSmile or just go to the FMAS.info website to make a donation using PayPal.

- FMAS also has a Facebook Public Group called Dogs of the Madera County Animal Shelter, Official Rescue or Adoption Page, which posts stories and pictures about the dogs that are available for adoption.


- Hope Animal Clinic in Fresno also offers low-cost spay and neuter, microchip, dew claw and molar removal services to anyone who can bring in their own dog or cat. The main thing is to contribute however you can to the Madera County Animal Department's and the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter's goal of eliminating the homeless dogs and cats in Madera County and making the term "stray" just as strange here in the Valley as it is in the Bay Area and other parts of the country.

- For more on the Very Special Puppies Program at the Valley State Prison go to the Ranchos Independent Facebook post on Friday, Nov. 20 for the link to the CBS Channel 47 Eyewitness News story.

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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE
By Brenda McElroy

Yes, That Fits!

We were organizing my client's spare (catch-all) room and came across her Costco surplus supplies. I suggested putting them in the hall closet. "There's no room there," she said emphatically. I hear that a lot. Spaces seem full, so things are left out or clutter-up other rooms. Sometimes a mere rearranging of the closet creates the needed space. Other times after a quick purge of items no longer needed or used, a client is surprised by an open shelf.

Often times our lives are like those closets. We randomly stuff them full, not in any sort of order. Pretty soon, we can't stuff another thing in, and so things get left out. Sometimes important things. We can't see that with a little time and intentional thought we can let go of the less important and make space for what we value.

In my coach training we talk about creating "A Life That Fits." Sometimes that means letting go of or adding something like a habit or a system. Sometimes that means discovering your passions and strengths. "A Life That Fits" is unique to every individual.

There is one component, however, that I believe is essential to every person's life that fits. It is gratitude — the quality of being

thankful. Think about it. What does being thankful do for you and those around you? Have you ever regretted being appreciative or appreciated? Has there ever been a time when you didn't have one single thing to be thankful for?

This past weekend I sat with five people from three different families who were grieving the loss of a child. As they shared with one another how they were coping with the upcoming holidays, I was profoundly struck by the fact that two of them mentioned giving thanks. Intentionally choosing to ponder and give thanks for the blessings in life isn't removing the pain, but it is helping them cope.

In an article by John Tierney (www.nytimes.com) he says, "Cultivating an 'attitude of gratitude' has been linked to better health, sounder sleep, less anxiety and depression, higher long-term satisfaction with life and kinder behavior toward others." To top it all off, it's free and there's no mile-long list of negative side effects!

Maybe you're struggling with a life that doesn't seem to fit right now. May I challenge you to try on gratitude? If you're having a hard time getting started, Re-alSimple.com has a list of 100 things to be thankful for and LifeHack.org has another 60. If none of those seem to fit, you can always say the prayer that Mrs. King (my children's Kindergarten teacher) used to say, "...and thank You, God, for all the bad things that didn't happen." Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

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

There is one component, however, that I believe is essential to every person's life that fits. It is gratitude — the quality of being thankful. Think about it. What does being thankful do for you and those around you? Have you ever regretted being appreciative or appreciated? Has there ever been a time when you didn't have one single thing to be thankful for?

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ENERGY cont. from P. 2

poverty, compared to about 15 percent for California and the United States.

At the same time, energy consumption in the region is higher due to more extreme weather than other areas of the state. According to Pacific Gas & Electric, compared to Los Angeles, the city of Fresno has 85 percent more Heating Degree Days and more than double the number of Cooling Degree Days. Higher energy consumption means that Valley residents must allocate a greater portion of their budget for energy bills. Food processing plants located in the Valley are also particularly susceptible to the burden of rising energy costs.

“Policy-makers need to understand

HAWKS cont. from P. 2

Chad Wallace set a school record with 338 yards from scrimmage, rushing for 220 yards, third highest total in school history. He also caught three passes for 118 yards, fourth most all time. He also set a school record with five touchdowns with four coming on the ground and one through the air. Wallace also scored on touchdowns of 90 and 75 yards.

Quarterback Markie Brandt threw for

HANDS cont. from P. 9

thetic grease wherever there is metal to metal. That includes the back of the new brake pads also. It is metal to metal that causes brake squeal, not braking surfaces like a brake rotor or pads. Reuse or install those new funny metal clips. They prevent squealing. Reinstall the caliper tightly. Before you pump the brake pedal you should be able to easily slide the caliper back and forth. If not, the slider is still binding. Before you put the vehicle in gear, add an equal amount of brake fluid that was lost when the caliper was pushed in. Pump the brake pedal until it is high and

SENIORS cont. from P. 11

People attending bring their own Christmas table service and it is always so beautiful.

The Birthday Lunch in December will be held at Gabriela's in Madera. They have some Italian food and some Mexican food, with both cuisines being tasty. The lunch will be on Saturday, Dec. 19. Again, please sign up at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive or call the Center at 645-4864.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors' monthly newsletter is always available at the Center and can also be picked up at the Ranchos Market and other businesses around the area. In it you can find all of the regularly sched-

the ways that our regional economy is being impacted by aggressive energy and environmental policies,” said Ruth Evans, Government Affairs Committee Chair for the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. “The San Joaquin Valley has a much higher unemployment rate than the state average and is suffering from the impacts of the drought, and yet the struggling business and families in this area are forced to pay far more than their share. We should focus on addressing this inequity and implementing policies that promote economic growth and prosperity and avoid regulatory measures or legislative proposals that will drive away much-needed jobs and opportunity.”

208 yards, just the second quarterback to throw for more than 200 yards in a game in Hawks history. Running back Jackson Watts also rushed for 164 yards, the 11th best total in school history.

The Hawks' defense also scored their first safety of the season when Hunter Gray stuffed Exeter in the end zone.

After heading into halftime tied at 21, both teams scored 28 second half points before Exeter scored the game-ending field goal.

hard BEFORE YOU DRIVE. Make a few practice stops before driving on the road. You will not have to break in the new pads if you use good quality. If you have questions or run into problems, text pictures and questions to 559-907-7661 or email complete_car_care@hotmail.com. That email address can also be used to suggest future topics or ask other questions.

Thank You and God Bless 93636

Warren Parr
California Smog License
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uled events including Monday-Wednesday-Friday exercise, meetings and the special events. The Center will be closed Christmas Day.

Then we'll be moving into the new year and the seniors will bring it in right with all the hoopla one would expect for the night. Bring food and treats to share.

I want to remind everyone that Ranchos/Hills Senior Center membership is open to everyone age (only) 50 and over. Dues are \$40 a year (January through December). You are invited to join and participate in all of the fun and exciting activities the Center has and we also would love to have any ideas you have for new activities.

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

tion in California is BIG BIG BUSINESS. Probably the largest business. According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2012, the average salary for a teacher in California with only a bachelor's degree was \$62,010 plus benefits. The national average was \$46,340. With all the big money in California's public education, how are our students faring? According to the most current ranking that I know about, California ranks 41st out of 50 states in student testing. Looks like more money is not the solution to better student performance.

Let's look at GVUSD. Our annual budget is approximately \$18 million. Eighty-five percent of that revenue is paid in LABOR COSTS. About 10 percent goes to the maintenance and running of the school district. About 5 percent directly reaches students. Five percent of \$18 million is \$900,000. Divide \$900,000 by 180 instructional days for 1965 students. About \$2.54 reaches the students directly per day. In contrast, GVUSD payroll (not including benefits) is about \$1.2 million per month. WOW!!! No wonder we do not have opportunities like Career Vocational Training at Liberty High School. Students are greatly underfunded. If we don't decrease GVUSD labor costs and

increase student funding as a percentage of budget, I don't see how we will ever be able to move forward with electives and programs like CVT.

Looking forward to your response President Malmstrom,

Warren Parr
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

While some farmers are concerned about their exports, others of us are wondering if Madera County Government actually has a comprehensive protocol to detect and deter potential terrorist activities in our own backyard? Perhaps we are leaving it up to our Governor and our President to provide for our local safety and security.

Do we have a pro-active plan and a program (other than our unalienable Second Amendment rights which, thankfully, are defensive by nature)?

If not, may I please suggest that our new and highly qualified Sheriff be given the resources to develop one?

As we have witnessed, it's not that far-fetched an idea.

Ray Krause
O'Neals

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WHINING cont. from P. 5

intellectual diversity and freedom of speech.

College campuses, with their security guards and gated accommodations, are, in fact, very safe places. The world has no shortage of dangerous neighborhoods, but college classrooms, bulletin boards and student publications are not among them. The latter are overwhelmingly safe, both in absolute and relative terms, notwithstanding the occasional graffiti of insults and indignities that, regrettably, are part of the background noise of life in the age of social media.

Success in the real world demands a thick skin. Not every barbed comment is a *casus belli*. Not every fellow student born of "privilege" is an enemy. And while one should never have to suffer bigotry, there is a difference between uttering fighting words and expressing an idea, however distasteful. A successful liberal arts education equips students to recognize real bias, to contest it, and to use verbal skill to disarm those who would act on it.

Kids will be kids. But where are the adults? Students experimenting

with extremism need to be (and may even expect to be) confronted with limits prescribed by faculty and administrators committed to the rule of law and open debate. Instead, students discover that when they push, all restraints give way: deans resign; resistant teachers are discredited; college presidents beg for "dialogue." The message conveyed to students is that coups are much more efficient than having to prevail in a free market of ideas.

Faculty and administrators need to find some backbone. Their mission is not to be popular but to teach. The terrorist attack in Paris offers them a teachable moment, an opportunity to open students' eyes to the difference between truth and propaganda; between governing by fiat and governing by persuasion; between intellectual rigidity and intolerance, on one hand, and free and robust debate, on the other.

It's not too late.

Peter Scheer, a lawyer and journalist, is executive director of the First Amendment Coalition. These views do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the F.A.C. Board of Directors.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

the internet and I know that I will not be arrested and executed as a result. I may face an IRS inquiry, which is another matter, but I am free to voice dissent. There are those who do not have such a luxury, they remain silent for fear of their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

I am grateful for those who fight and die to protect all of us. The men and women of the armed forces carry an immensely heavy burden. They step out onto the battlefield knowing that they aren't just protecting the citizens of the country but the idea that freedom is worth dying for. Those in the military face unimaginable danger and endure excruciating circumstances for our benefit, never asking for adoration or acknowledgment. Their sacrifice is the most noble.

It's tragic that it takes such a horrific event as a terrorist attack and the loss of innocent lives to put your own life into perspective. If only we all woke up every day thankful for our opportunities and grateful for our blessings. Perhaps we can at least hope that these devastating events will bring us all together not only to fight the evil but to carve out a better future for all of us. So let's make this Thanksgiving season special; let's do something different. Do something nice for a stranger, go the extra mile for a neighbor and be extra kind to your loved ones. Terrorists may take our lives by force but can never break our spirit.

RECIPES cont. from P. 8

chopped apples, cranberries – just about anything your family would like. I found this recipe in the book and thought it a little different but someone may like it for their family.

Down South Stuffing

- ½ C Butter or margarine
- ¾ C minced onion
- ½ C minced green peppers
- ½ C minced celery
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 5 C day old white bread crumbs
- 5 C crumbled corn bread (made without sugar)
- ½ pound pork sausage links, cut up
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ⅛ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. poultry seasoning
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ¾ C chopped pecans

In hot butter in skillet, sauté onions, celery, and green peppers until tender. In large bowl combine bread crumbs. Dissolve bouillon cube in ⅔ C hot water; sprinkle over bread crumbs. Add sautéed vegetables. In same skillet, sauté sausages until browned. To crumb mixture, add salt, pepper, poultry seasoning, eggs, pecans then sausages with drippings and toss. Any stuffing left over after stuffing the turkey can be put in a buttered casserole and baked after the turkey comes out of the oven. Be sure to refrigerate the stuffing to be cooked while the turkey is baking.

Here it is Thanksgiving. Whether you are having the traditional turkey and all the trimmings or ham, roast beef, tamales or barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, I sincerely hope you are having it with family or friends that you love and love you in return.

Have a *blessed* Thanksgiving.

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ANSWERS

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7. Alaska
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9. Oklahoma
10. South Carolina

Source: Wallet Hub

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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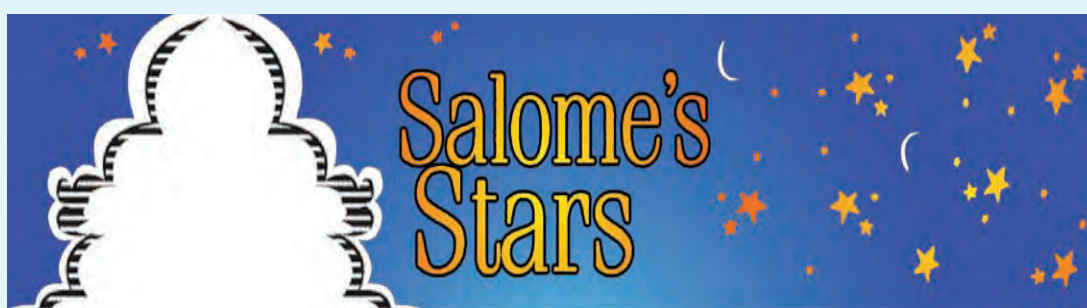
11/15

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



www.TheRanchos.com



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your ruling planet, Mars, allows you to assume a sense of command that can help you turn a chaotic workplace situation into one that's orderly, productive and, yes, even friendly.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting a relationship that's been stuck in a rut up and running again depends on how far you want to run with it. Be honest with yourself as you consider which decision to make.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be wary of rumors that seem to be coming from everywhere this week. Waiting for the facts before you act means never having to say you're sorry you followed the wrong lead.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A difficult personal matter might prompt you to turn to a trusted friend to help you sort through a maze of emotional conflicts. The weekend should bring some welcome news.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some of the new people coming into the Lion's life could play pivotal roles in future personal and professional matters. Meanwhile, an old friend might have an important message.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A delay in getting things moving on schedule can be a blessing in disguise. Use this extra time to do more research so you can buttress any of the weaker points with solid facts.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might need to get involved in a personal matter before it becomes a serious problem. Also, be wary of someone offering to mediate, unless you can be sure of his or her motives.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Taking sides in a workplace or domestic dispute could prolong the problem. Stay out and stay cool. Then you can be friends with both parties when things settle down.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friendship has the potential to become something more, and with this week's aspects favoring romance, you might feel that this possibility is worth exploring.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new job you want might require you to relocate. If so, keep an open mind and weigh all the positives and negatives before making your decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new relationship seems to be everything you could have hoped for. Congratulations. Meanwhile, it's not too early to get some feedback on that new project you're working on.

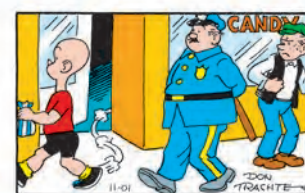
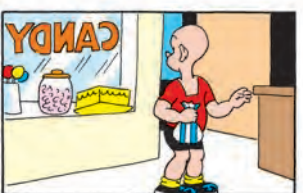
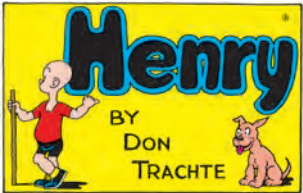
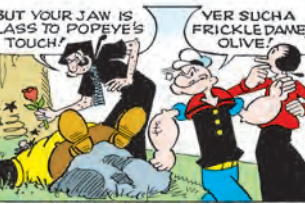
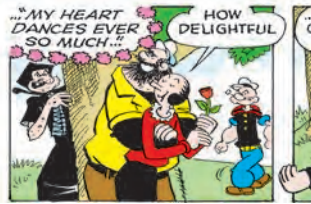
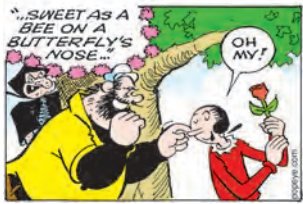
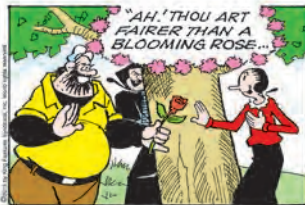
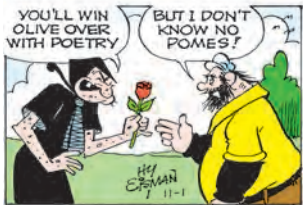
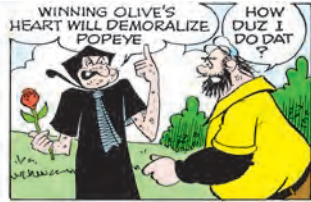
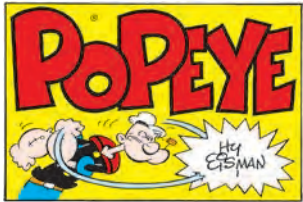
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might have decided to get out of the fast-moving current and just float around hither and yon for a while. But you might find that the new opportunity is too tempting to turn down.

Born this Week

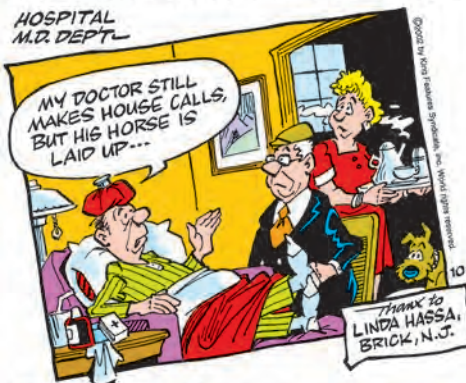
You believe in bringing out the best in people with kind deeds, loving words and recognition of their "special" selves.

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FUN PAGES

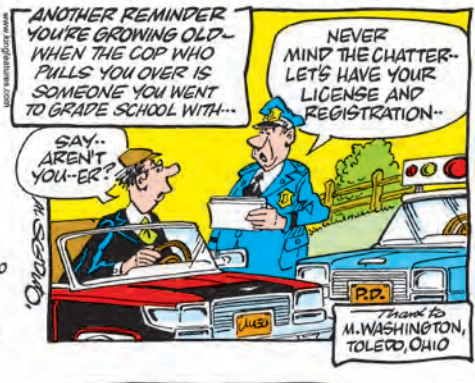


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



Puzzle Pic—FIND THE KID WHO, WHEN ASKED TO CLEAN HIS ROOM, ALWAYS WAILED "AW, GEE, MOM—IT'LL TAKE ME FOREVER TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS!"
 Thank to T. MEISNER, SILVER SPRING, MD

BY AL SCADUTO



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

HEADS UP! Introduce someone as your trusted ESP assistant. Announce that during your assistant's absence from the room, an onlooker is to pick any object in sight, which your aide will identify upon his or her return.
 Secret: By prearrangement, when you ask for the fourth time: "Is it this?" your aide is to answer: "Yes." In repeat demonstrations, vary it to third or fifth query.

SUM FUN Add 26, 63, 31 and 43, and what do you get? Let it sit down. Now, reverse each number, and add again—82, 36, 13 and 34. What is the total this time? Alakazam! It's the same amount.

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

IT'S A CATCHY WORD POSER

There is definitely a CATCH to this word poser, as you can see above. Letters of five five-letter words, beginning with CATCH, form a word square—that is to say, a square in which words read the same both across and down. You are asked to find these words in accord with these definitions:

- Happen to see, as a TV show. (In place).
- Informed.
- Hog-like creature.
- Shed tears.
- Cattle groups.

Remember, words read alike in two directions.

POOR FISH! This poor fish has escaped one hazard, but it is headed for another. Draw missing lines from dot to dot.



CAN DO: There are lots of chores on a farm—toy milk cans, for instance: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Dk. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Lt. green.

SPELLBINDER

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

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● NAVIGATION

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Altimeter | Chart | Latitude | Satellites |
| Azimuth | Compass | Longitude | Sextant |
| Beacon | GPS | Position | Triangulation |
| Bearing | Heading | Radar | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION:** In what 1990s television series did the character of The Log Lady appear?
- ANATOMY:** What organ in the human body produces bile?
- SCIENCE:** What is the science of classifying things called?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the first U.S. president to lose a re-election bid?
- HISTORY:** Who was the first African-American to be elected to Congress from Georgia since Reconstruction and later appointed ambassador to the United Nations?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What country's capital is Addis Ababa?
- MATH:** In geometry, what is a perfectly round ball called?
- AD SLOGANS:** What product was claimed in advertisements to be "good to the last drop"?
- MOVIES:** Who was the oldest performer to receive an Oscar for Best Actor?
- FAMOUS QUOTES:** What 20th-century humorist once said, "All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure."

- Answers**
- "Twin Peaks"
 - Liver
 - Taxonomy
 - John Adams
 - Andrew Young
 - Ethiopia
 - A sphere
 - Maxwell House coffee
 - Henry Fonda
 - Mark Twain

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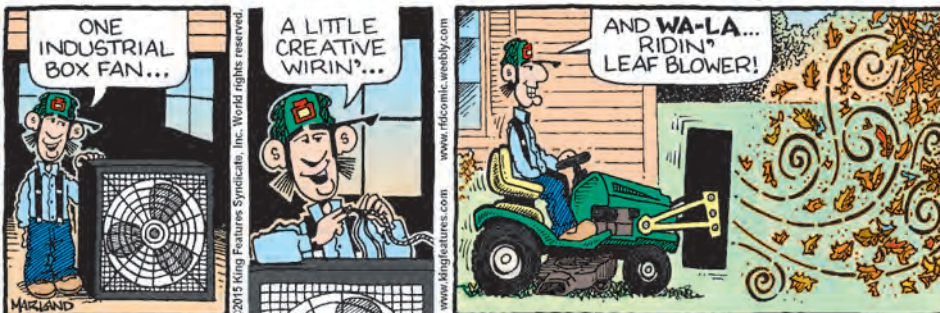
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

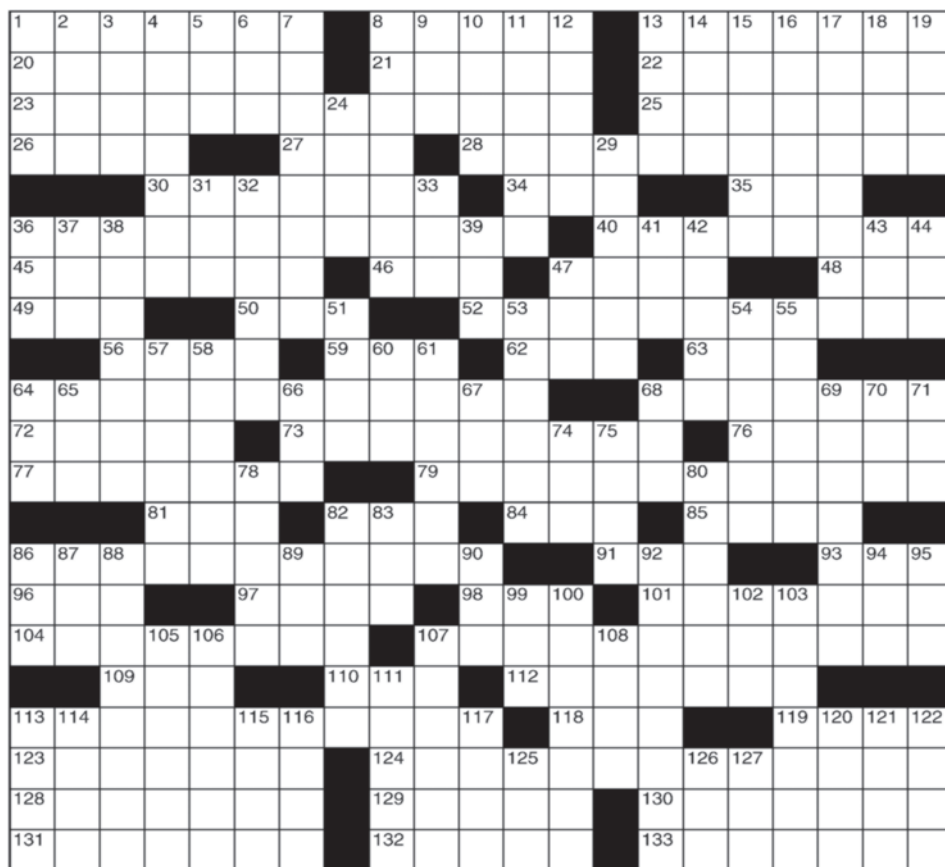
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: Sign is missing. 2. Backpack compartment is missing. 3. Shirt is shorter. 4. Cap is missing. 5. Can is missing. 6. Hot dog is missing. 7. Shirt is missing.

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Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Like a game-ending homer
 - 8 Fireplace residue
 - 13 Armani of fashion
 - 20 Raw metal for smelting
 - 21 Davis who played Thelma
 - 22 Caligula, e.g.
 - 23 She was one of the Spice Girls
 - 25 Arranged, as articles for display
 - 26 "Milk" director Gus Van —
 - 27 Kid in diapers
 - 28 "CSI: Miami" star
 - 30 Sea fed by the Volga
 - 34 Jail cell resident
 - 35 Perfect diving score
 - 36 "Turn On the Radio" singer
 - 40 More cagey
 - 45 Oil-catching receptacle
 - 46 Mileage rating org.
 - 47 — gras (goose-liver paste)
 - 48 Eon subunit
 - 49 "Oh yeah? — who?!"
 - 50 Q-U queue
 - 52 Grandson of Elizabeth II
 - 56 Actress Jessica
 - 59 Kennel cry
 - 62 Hen product
 - 63 "Red" or "White" team
 - 64 Comic known for her Tarzan yell
 - 68 Advanced study group
 - 72 George Jetson's son
 - 73 Items needed to make something
 - 76 Take flight to unite
 - 77 Record label since 1950
 - 79 "Always on My Mind" singer
 - 81 Me, in Mame
 - 82 Pres. on a 1970s dollar
 - 84 Suffix with Senegal
 - 85 As curious as —
 - 86 Big name in late-night talk
 - 91 It aired "Moesha"
 - 93 — Nabisco (old corporation)
 - 96 Band of two
 - 97 Pleasures
 - 98 Moist mo.
 - 101 Impersonate
 - 104 Writer Upton
 - 107 Grammy-winning diva
 - 109 Oreck offering, briefly
 - 110 Draw upon
 - 112 Flies of Botswana
 - 113 Scientology founder
 - 118 Goller's goal
 - 119 Femur, e.g.
 - 123 Make passé
 - 124 Bolshevism founder
 - 128 "Sweet" lady of song
 - 129 Duck variety
 - 130 Visual acuity exam
 - 131 Workers going to blazes
 - 132 Animal trap
 - 133 Trait shared by 10 people featured in this puzzle
 - 4 Ski mask or tuque
 - 5 Partner of "aah"
 - 6 Italian monk's title
 - 7 Sharpie and Flair products
 - 8 Rile up
 - 9 Use stitches
 - 10 Obey
 - 11 Interweave
 - 12 Loud salute
 - 13 Neuter, as a horse
 - 14 Apple choice
 - 15 Codeine, e.g.
 - 16 Sketched again
 - 17 Alternative to a fly ball
 - 18 Debt slips
 - 19 — put it another way
 - 24 Pork —
 - 29 Tuneful way to celebrate something
 - 31 Current unit
 - 32 Beetle type
 - 33 Itsy-bitsy bite
 - 36 Lines on city maps: Abbr.
 - 37 Sooner than, poetically
 - 38 Grotesque
 - 39 Jay-Z music
 - 41 Sound from a lush
 - 42 See 61-Down
 - 43 Act humanly
 - 44 Light shaft
 - 47 Source of Eve's leaves
 - 51 Banks on a runway
 - 53 Fix a mosaic on, e.g.
 - 54 Class using a fridge
 - 55 Ampit, anatomically
 - 57 "No hands!" precursor
 - 58 Kids' author Enid
 - 60 Cupboard pest
 - 61 With 42-Down, Hall-of-Fame Dodgers shortstop
 - 64 Middle mark
 - 65 100 percent
 - 66 Thurman of films
 - 67 More than bi-
 - 68 Wind dir.
 - 69 Afrin target
 - 70 Mil. address
 - 71 Nutty TV dog
 - 74 Two racing Uners
 - 75 In — of
 - 78 Spanish table wine
 - 80 Kerrigan and Sinatra
 - 82 Marinade alternative
 - 83 Bad-mouth
 - 86 PC inserts
 - 87 Yves' "yes"
 - 88 Election abstainer
 - 89 "Sk8er —" (2002 Avril Lavigne hit)
 - 90 No, to Burns
 - 92 More trifling
 - 94 I-M link
 - 95 Lo- — screen
 - 99 GI rank
 - 100 Breathe
 - 102 China's Lao- —
 - 103 "Millennium" series heroine Salander
 - 105 Vigil light
 - 106 "To life!" toast
 - 107 City divided until 1990
 - 108 Staples unit mark
 - 111 Socks away
 - 113 Loll around
 - 114 Designer Gernreich
 - 115 — Reader (magazine)
 - 116 "I've — had!"
 - 117 Baby's pop
 - 120 Most draft-eligible
 - 121 Not yet final, at law
 - 122 —act
 - 125 — Spiegel
 - 126 Seedy bread
 - 127 Steered
- DOWN**
- 1 British judges' wear
 - 2 Atlas statistic
 - 3 Forsaken, old-style

FUN PAGES

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 4 • 6 p.m.

The return of the original Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.
Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books. Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 11. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.
Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



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11/15

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring
"The Big One"
Christmas Chamber Mixer
Wednesday, December 9
6-7:30 p.m.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C
Madera Ranchos

Everyone is invited. Great food will be served.
Our Merry Christmas to you. Call 645-4001 for info.



Help a Foster Child this Christmas
through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 11.

Call 645-4001 for more information.




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