

# The Ranchos Independent



PRSR STD  
ECR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADERA, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 7 Issue 10 2011

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## Liberty Homecoming 2011

a community supporting its future



*In This Issue*

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8  
Classifieds • Page 22 / Fun Pages • Pages 26 & 27*

## Convicted Felon Caught in Ranchos

A convicted felon wanted in the state of Nevada is behind bars in Madera County after the Madera County Regional SWAT Team and narcotic agents served a search warrant at the home of Cory Hopkins at Avenue 13 1/2, just west of Road 36 on Wednesday morning, Oct. 5 at around 7 a.m. The 25-year-old Madera Ranchos man, wanted in Nevada for domestic violence, was apprehended without incident. During his arrest authorities seized firearms and two vials of steroids



Felon Cory Hopkins, arrested 1 1/2 miles from Liberty High.

from inside the home.

Records show Hopkins was convicted of domestic violence and cruelty to animals in Fresno County in 2005.

At approximately 10 a.m. on Oct. 5 Hopkins was booked for being a felon in possession of a firearm, possession of an assault weapon, being a felon in possession of a firearm, traffic violations, as well as the warrant for domestic violence issued out of Nevada.

Cory Hopkins remains behind bars at this hour on a no-bail hold.

## Madera Ranchos Couple Linked to Numerous Mountain Burglaries

Mountain Deputies have tied a Madera Ranchos couple to a number of mountain break-ins and thefts – specifically in the areas of Ahwahnee, Oakhurst and Bass Lake.

The investigation started in September after a stolen credit card had been used to purchase gas and fast food. Behind bars are 40-year-old Marcus William Southwood (also known as John Dennis



In custody are Madera Ranchos residents Jennifer Lerma and Marcus Southwood who are accused of a string of burglaries throughout area mountain communities. Their storage unit in the Ranchos and their home on Road 35 were both searched for stolen goods.

Troy), and 23-year-old Jennifer Michelle Talbot Lerma (also known as Jennifer Southwood).

Among the many items reported stolen: vehicles, license plates, credit cards, iPods, a digital camera, flat screen TV's, computers, air cards, U.S. currency, a calculator, 150 keys, a GPS unit and a handful of wireless remotes. The Madera Ranchos couple is accused of breaking into homes, vehicles and have even been implicated in the theft of a stolen trailer.

Deputies say their break in the case came by way of a stolen credit card – used to make several purchases, including gas and fast food. During one of those buys, the truck and its occupants were captured on

video tape.

On Friday, Oct. 14, an off-duty CHP Officer called the Sheriff's Department stating that he saw the suspect's vehicle at Dorstan Drive and Road 222 near Bass Lake. Deputy Michael Gordon caught up with Southwood's truck and pulled it over near Roads 220 and 222. Inside the vehicle was found numerous pieces of burglary tools, three wireless remotes, a digital camera, 150 keys, and a license plate that

belonged to a stolen trailer.

In addition to the stolen items deputies also seized a meth pipe, a hypodermic needle and a plastic container that contained narcotics.

A tip led Deputies to a storage facility located off Avenue 12 in the Ranchos. The next morning Sergeant Tyson Pogue secured a search warrant and was given access to a storage unit rented to Southwood and Lerma. Inside the unit contained numerous pieces of stolen property. Sergeant Pogue then secured a warrant to search Southwood's home located on Road 35 in the Ranchos, where ad-

Please see **CRIME** on P. 18

## Former Liberty Grad Preparing For Senior Year at West Point

What an adventure it has been for Liberty High School 2008 graduate Kayla Hodges.

Hodges graduated from Liberty as one of the most decorated students to ever wear the green and gold and represented Golden Valley Unified School District with dignity wherever she went.

Her education and endeavors have taken Hodges to West Point with the United States Army. She is currently in her last year at West Point and will be graduating in 2012.

She is currently a cadet lieutenant. She was a member of the Army Nordic cross country ski team and the West Point Cannon Crew, which gave Hodges the opportunity to shoot the cannon at all of the home football games.

Over the summer, Hodges continued her Army training with a special operations unit at Fort Bragg North Carolina.

"They were a very neat group of people," Hodges said in an e-mail. "They were so interesting to learn from and work with. I stayed and trained with them for three weeks."

While at Liberty, Hodges was able to accumulate skills needed for her to succeed.

"The wide variety of opportunities allowed me to work toward becoming a

well-rounded individual, which earned me a congressional nomination and appointment to West Point."

She spent two weeks of summer leave visiting friends in different states and even returned to the Madera Ranchos for a few days.

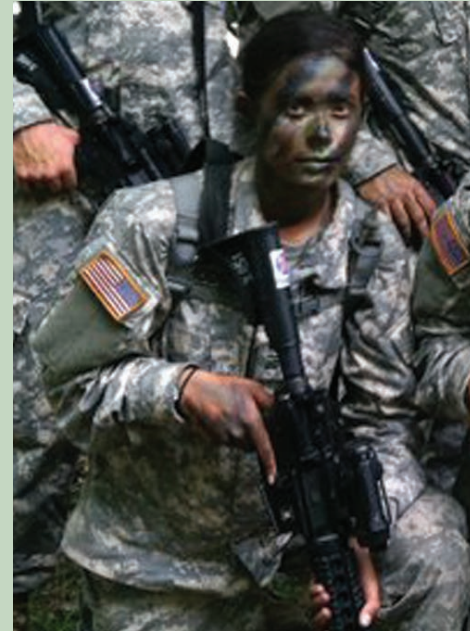
When Hodges returned to West Point, she went back to Cadet Basic Training. However, instead of a new cadet, a high school graduate when she last did basic training, Hodges was a platoon leader.

"What a fun, challenging, rewarding and tiring learning experience it was," Hodges said "I had 40 new cadets in my command and had a fantastic time."

The culminating event of basic training is a 12-mile march, known as the march-back.

"We all had our ruck sacks and full uniform, helmets and gear on," Hodges said.

In her senior year, Hodges is now called a "firstie." That allows her the chance to get into her major, which is international relations as opposed to solely taking the required courses at the academy. She recently finished her last year of her language class, Farsi, and is still taking classes in environmental engineering. She hopes to write a senior thesis in the next few months.



Liberty High Class of 2008 grad Kayla Hodges is in her final year at West Point and is eagerly looking forward to life in the U.S. Army.

## Barnes & Noble Sales Promotion To Help Madera Ranchos Library

The Barnes & Noble bookstore located at 7849 N. Blackstone in Fresno is supporting the Madera Ranchos Friends of the Library on Nov. 5 – 6. A percentage of all sales, anywhere in the store, will benefit the Ranchos Library when you mention the Ranchos Library at every checkout station. This percentage of sales will even ex-

tend to online sales at www.BN.com from Nov. 5 – 11.

You can also buy a "presale" cheesecake from the Friends by Oct. 30 and then pick it up at the Fresno Barnes & Noble Nov. 5 and 6 between 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Ask your Ranchos Library librarian for all of the details.

# Area Road to be Dedicated to Ranchos Serviceman

On Nov. 17 at 11 a.m., a very special unveiling will take place in the Madera Ranchos at Avenue 12 and Road 37. This segment of Road 37 will be dedicated to the memory of Sgt. Raul Moncada who lived on Road 37 with his family but sadly was killed in action on April 13, 2009, by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

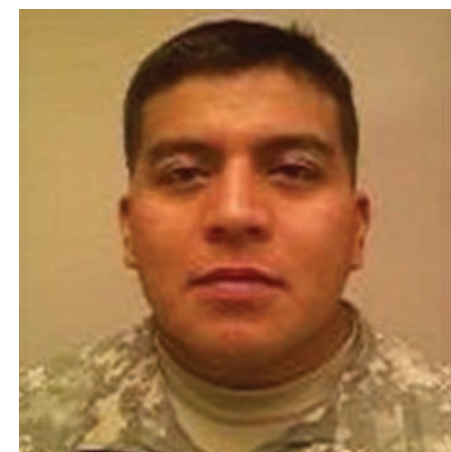
His family continues to live on Road 37.

As a lifelong Ranchos resident, Moncada played sports in the Ranchos and attended Madera schools. He was a highly decorated and dedicated soldier serving in the Marines and then the Army. He served two campaigns in Iraq and it was on his second tour that he was killed in the line of duty.

One sign will be placed at Road 37 and Avenue 12 and a second sign will be placed at Road 37 and Avenue 13.

Community funds were raised for the cost of the signs through the Ranchos Kiwanis, Vulcan Materials and members of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony which will be led by Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow.

All Ranchos-area veterans are also invited to attend. For more information, call John Herrera at 559-217-8947.



## 3-V FEED & GARDEN SUPPLY



**OPEN LATE  
MON-SAT  
FOR WORKING  
PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU!**

**Open: Monday - Saturday 8am - 7pm; Sunday 9am - 5pm**

**POULTRY LAY PELLETS**  
**\$2 OFF PER BAG**

*selected*  
**PET TOYS & CLOTHES**  
**25% OFF**

**WE CARRY ALL NAME BRAND FEED.**

**RAINY SEASON IS HERE!**  
**ALL TARPS**  
**15% OFF**  
*WE CARRY ALL SIZES*

**MADERA RANCHOS**  
*we are your feed store!*

**RANCHOS CUSTOMERS ONLY!** **\$5 OFF\*** \*any purchase of \$50 or MORE with this coupon ONLY!

**PREMIUM QUALITY WOOD STOVE PELLETS**  
**\$4.99/BAG\***  
\*WHEN YOU BUY 1 TON OR MORE

**DOG KENNELS HEAVY DUTY 10'X6'X6'**  
**20% OFF**

**We sell QUALITY hay • We sell PROPANE • We DELIVER**

Oat Hay .....	\$10.85 per bale
Sudan Grass (Horse Quality) .....	\$11.95 per bale
Alfalfa Hay (Horse Quality) .....	\$15.75 per bale
Oregon Orchard Grass (Best in Town) .....	\$16.99 per bale

(All hay prices subject to change)

**ALL HORSE FLY MASKS**  
**20% OFF**

*all* **FLY SPRAYS**  
**20% OFF**

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**  
*from your friends at 3-V Feed*

**"Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto"**

**EQUINE FEED ALFALFA or ALFALFA & OATS CUBES**  
**\$10.99/** PER 50 LB. BAG WHEN YOU BUY A TON OR MORE

**ALL STABLE MIX BARRELS**  
**\$3 OFF**  
WE SELL ALL VARIETIES!

*all* **HORSE BLANKETS**  
**15% OFF**

**EQUINE SENIOR from King Feed**  
**buy 2 @ regular price 3rd BAG \$5 OFF!**

*all* **FRUIT & SHADE TREES**  
**25% OFF**

10/11 **559-661-0038 • 28342 HWY. 145 (East Yosemite) • MADERA** all prices exp. 11/30/11 except where noted and are subject to change

# Library Donations are Great *BUT* ...

By Garin Gonzales

Well, the fall breeze just seems to get cooler by the day and so do you when you visit the Ranchos library. There are a couple of great events coming our way and I'll get to those in a moment but first I have to do a little bit of fall cleaning ...

**Donations are great...**

But please don't put your donations in our drop-off box. The fact of the matter is we love donations; however we have to make sure that the donations can be used in this library. James Patterson books check out like crazy, but we already have a plethora of Patterson. Patrons are keen on Stephen King. People are nutty for Nora Roberts, but when those authors are donated to us, more often than not (unless of course it's their newest work) we can't use them. We just don't have the space. So those old books by Nora Roberts or James Patterson will just be taking up prime real estate.

We appreciate donations – and we put as many as we can in circulation – and if we can't circulate them we can always try to sell them in our "For Sale" room, but a lot of books just tend to take up valuable space. So please, before you shove books into the already bursting drop-off box, ask yourself if your donation might be better dropped off at Goodwill. If you still want to donate them to the library, please bring them in. Just let me have a look at them first. Thanks.

**Upcoming Events**

Story times are underway, so bring the kids every Thursday at 11 a.m. So far, there have been great turnouts and I'm sure they're only going to get better. Story time leader Diane Maxfield usually reads a story or two, sings a song and even brings in snacks. It's a perfect way to entertain the kiddies. It also gets them worn out enough that naptime is a breeze. So come be a part of it.

**Book Chat**

I've been so busy acclimating myself to the new library that I haven't actually finished a book in months, which is a shame because I love to read. But I wanted to recommend a few titles so you can check them out when you get free time. Please remember some of these titles are in our library and some aren't. We can always request titles for you, so come on in and we'll set you up.

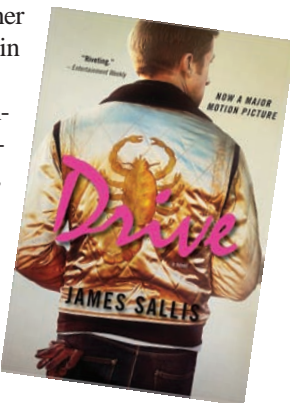


*Moonlight Mile* by Dennis Lehane is a welcome return to the mystery genre and characters that made Lehane's name back in the '90s. His first four books, *A Drink Before the War*, *Darkness Take My Hand*, *Sacred* and *Gone Baby Gone* (which was turned into a really terrific movie, directed by Ben Affleck. Who would've thought?) featured hard-nosed Boston detectives Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro. *Moonlight* picks up 12 years after the action of *Gone Baby Gone*, and it features a lot of the same skuzzy side characters featured in that potboiler, so it might be in your best interest to read that one first. But any Lehane is good Lehane,

as you may well know from another book of his adapted into film by Martin

Scorsese, called *Shutter Island*.

Speaking of good books adapted into movies, *Drive*, the wonderfully atmospheric short novel written by James Sallis, was recently adapted into a film featuring that hunkasaurus of the day, Ryan Gosling. I haven't seen the movie, but I hear it's great. The book is cool and calculated, quite a bit like the main character, only known as "Driver," a stunt driver by day and a wheelman for heists by night. The book could've been clichéd, what with the "one-last-heist-and-then-I'm-done" plot, but Sallis' voice and lean-constructed plot will hold your attention from the first page to the last. I stayed up all night finishing this one. And I can't wait to see the movie.



**And Finally ...**

We've settled on a date for our book signing/reading/presentation with children's book author Jean Chaffee. Ms. Chaffee, who is the widow of Dr. Paul Chaffee (for whom the zoo is named), will entertain us all with her True Zoo to You presentation and stories related to the zoo on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. This is going to be a fun, educational and entertaining time for kids and adults alike, and it's free! Be sure to mark it on your calendar. And don't forget your library card. In fact, don't leave home without it!

**How do you get free tank rent for the first year, prompt friendly service, free leak tests and competitive prices?**

**you call ...**



**VALLEY PROPANE**

**559-645-5324**

**the ONLY locally owned propane company in the Madera Ranchos**

**WIN FREE PROPANE!**

**WIN 250 GALLONS OF PROPANE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing to be held the first week of July, 2012. Delivery must be by August 31, 2012. Must be a Valley Propane customer.

**MAIL TO: Valley Propane • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D Madera, CA 93636**

**VALLEY PROPANE**

*"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"*

**645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center**

Click on "Local News" at



Guest Editorial

# The Ubiquitous Scourge

By Rich Lowry

There are few things more inescapable in American life than the TV screen.

Sitting at the lounge at the airport, there is CNN Headline News overhead, invariably blaring. In the back of New York City cabs, there is a little screen playing stale TV news clips. In waiting rooms, in elevators, in the back of people's cars and in practically every room in the American home, there it is -- insistent, noisy, the background track to our lives.

Television is the most ubiquitous and insidious force in everyday American life. If it were a drug, it'd be illegal, and federal agents would be raiding the studios of the networks.

Ben Berger of Swarthmore College notes that in 1950 less than 10 percent of U.S. households owned a television. Today, in the average American household, TVs outnumber people. It's now considered a deprivation to be limited to watching "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" only in the family den. As of 2009, we were watching more TV than ever -- on average, more than five hours a day. (Which makes you wonder: How does that leave any time to play video games?)

TV can be entertaining and even informative. At times of national

tragedy -- the JFK assassination, Sept. 11 -- it draws us together in a web of immediate shared images. As a general matter, though, TV is the Love Canal of our culture. It's a conduit for all that is low and toxic.

If there were ever a concerted public campaign against TV, its architects could legitimately claim to wage it -- in that inevitable rationale for all do-goodism -- "for the children." The University of Michigan Health System reports that kids ages 2-5 spend on average 32 hours a week in front of a TV. Among 8- to 18-year-olds, 71 percent have a TV in their bedroom (and they spend on average 1.5 hours a day more watching TV than kids without a TV in the bedroom).

Watching TV is worse than a mindless activity, since mere mindlessness needn't be harmful. "Excessive TV viewing can contribute to poor grades, sleep problems, behavior problems, obesity, and risky behavior," according to the University of Michigan.

Berger cites a 2010 study from Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine that found that among toddlers "every additional hour of television exposure" eventually means decreases in "classroom engagement ... math achievement ... time spent doing weekend physical activity ... and activities involving physical effort," and increases in "victimization by classmates ... consumption scores for soft drinks and snacks ... and body mass index." The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that kids 2 and younger avoid TV -- and everything else on a screen -- altogether.

For the rest of us, that is all but impossible. It speaks to the power of TV that even when what's on doesn't truly interest you, it's hard to take your eyes off it. It literally demands our attention. The only defense is fewer TVs and more of them turned off. That's surely too much to hope for in a culture long ago utterly conquered by the TV screen.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

(c) 2011 by King Features Synd., Inc.

# The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.

All contents of this publication are copyright 2011, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

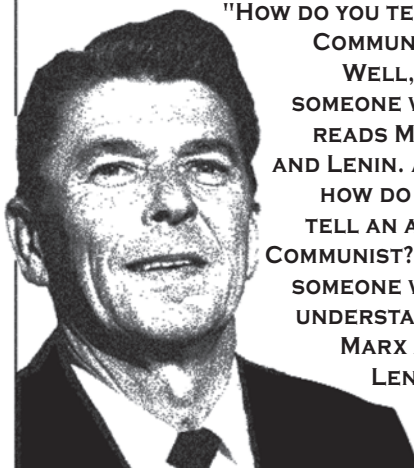
**Christi McKinney -- Reporter • Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales**

**Rachael Bailey -- Advertising Sales • Tina Shannon -- Advertising Sales**

**559-645-0634** 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636  
**ranchosnews@yahoo.com**

www.TheRanchos.com

## THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



"HOW DO YOU TELL A COMMUNIST? WELL, IT'S SOMEONE WHO READS MARX AND LENIN. AND HOW DO YOU TELL AN ANTI-COMMUNIST? IT'S SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS MARX AND LENIN."

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

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR PRESIDENT  
 PSALM 109:8 (KJV)

# Banshees for Birth Control

I think I have the answer to the teenage pregnancy problem in the country: one night with a hysterical 12 month old. I'm not a teenager, but a recent babysitting experience with one such child has given me pause about having children of my own, especially without being married so I can hand her off to my husband every other hour to give my ears a break.

First, let me clarify: I love children – even the banshee that my baby cousin turned into once her parents were out of sight and earshot – but the light at the end of the tunnel was that I knew I was able to give her back the next morning. You're not really supposed to return your own children. They don't come with receipts or a refund policy. After the second hour

of the screaming that can only be likened to that of a screech owl combined with a mariachi, I contemplated making an audio recording of their daughter's howls just to prove that the sweet little baby they assured me was coming to visit had been left at home, and instead I was walking the floors holding Beelzebub's love child with

Axle Rose. I tried everything to calm her down and the only thing that worked was walking in circles in my back yard in the 100 degree heat. I was pouring sweat, but she was calm and quiet, so I kept walking.

When I finally got her to bed that night, I began writing a letter to my mother professing my sincere apologies in advance for refusing to give her grandchildren. She was just going to have to resort to borrowing the neighborhood kids because I was not about to subject myself to months and months of nights like the one I just had. As I penned my letter, an idea was born. I was going to gather an army of

**GEN  
ERA  
TION  
WHY**  
by **eryn b. nyre**



ill-tempered infants and take them on a tour of all the high schools, and maybe some junior high schools, across the nation and have the students take them home for a sleepover. One night of the howler monkey antics I had to endure and no twit with half a brain would get pregnant. Of course, the downside of this would be the lack of potential cast members for the next season of MTV's 16 and Pregnant.

We would have to find a way to keep the enabling, crutch-toting parents out of the house for the night, though, because they might interfere with the entire "make this an unpleasant experience" angle I'm going for. If they step in and walk the floors with the baby instead of letting the

*In the end, I still want children someday and I will gladly walk in circles, pouring sweat for my children to make them happy, just as I did my baby cousin, but I can't deny that a two-day headache where her incessant screams rang in my ears was enough to make me think twice about when I might be ready to have children, and fear is nothing if not a good deterrent.*

teenagers suffer, the entire experience will be for naught. Nevertheless, I think the point will come across loud and clear: If you aren't ready to lose sleep for an indeterminate amount of time, walk the floors nightly with a screaming child and sacrifice your time, comfort and sanity for the sake of your baby, then you are not ready to be a parent. The target demographic will of course be the teenagers that mistakenly assume raising a child is easy; one night that results in severe hearing loss might be enough to persuade them that parenting is not the road they want to go down,

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

## BEDROCK ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project  
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!  
36961 Avenue 12  
559.645.4849  
www.bedrockeng.com

### INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

- Save money on flood insurance with an elevation certificate
- Verify your property line locations with a boundary survey
- Reconfigure your property lines with a lot line adjustment
- Improve your property with a grading and drainage plan
- Divide your property with a parcel map



Dedicated to serving the land surveying and civil engineering needs of Madera Ranchos and the Central Valley



10/11

## NEED MORE SPACE?



**barns big and small,  
covers or shop buildings  
many sizes and colors  
from which to choose**



**POLE BARNS BY  
S.J. LEACH CONSTRUCTION  
559-269-1956**

**ccl#520211**

10/11

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

Click on "Local News" at

Scooter may not care, but we do!

**ARE YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES DIGITIZED?!**

Get your color slides, movie reels, and video tapes preserved onto DVD or computer

343-3444

ME MAKEEDITS.COM

10/11

Guess what's BACK in the Ranchos?

**FRESH ROASTED COFFEE**

New Owners • New Management • New Times

645-1225

The Coffee Spot • 37164 Ave. 12 #102 by Subway

10/11

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

Saving energy by keeping your home at a steady, accurate temperature makes their home a better place.



The eco-friendly York® Affinity™ Series Furnaces.

The more efficient a system, the less fuel it uses, and the better it is for the environment. ENERGY STAR®-qualified York® Affinity™ Furnaces have an off-the-charts efficiency rating of up to 98%.\* As a matter of fact, the York® Affinity™ Modulating Furnace is one of the most efficient gas-fired residential furnaces on the market today. Rather than simply switching on or off, it works like a dimmer switch—evenly replacing the amount of heat leaving the home and automatically adjusting itself to maintain the desired temperature setting. Quiet, eco-friendly Affinity™ systems save energy, money, and the planet. Now that feels nice.

\*Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings up to 98% on select models, no lower than 97.5% on all models with variable speed motor.

**YORK**  
It's time to get comfortable.®

**UP TO \$500 TAX CREDIT**

Available on select systems. Call your York® Dealer for details.

**Huckabee's**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
LIC. # 837274

559-662-0336

www.huckabeeshvac.com

10/11

## The Stock Report

# From Flu Shots to Arizona Burros

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Did you get your flu shot yet? On Oct. 13 200 people from the Ranchos area took advantage of the free flu shots in the drive-through at Liberty High School. It was much quicker than going to a doctor and having to wait for an hour to get seen. By getting the flu vaccine you can protect not only yourself from getting the flu you may also avoid spreading the flu to others. Remember that it takes up to two weeks for protection to develop after the shot. Protection lasts about a year. All people six months of age and older should get the flu vaccine. The flu can occur at any time, but most flu occurs from October through May. Flu can cause high fever, pneumonia and make existing medical conditions worse. Each year thousands of people die from the flu and even more require hospitalization. The viruses in the flu vaccine have been killed, so you cannot get

the flu from the shot. Some people have gotten the flu after they had gotten the shot but they already had been exposed to the viruses before they had the shot or during the two week period after they had the shot before virus protection could develop.

On Nov. 11 the nation will be celebrating Veterans Day. With all of the past wars that we have had in my life time there are many veterans who are alive that Veterans Day remembers with parades, speeches and songs. For the many fallen heroes of the many wars, cemeteries around the nation will be decked out with flags and flowers. Here in the Madera Ranchos we have three fallen heroes from the Iraq war. Brandon Paul Ramey was killed in Iraq in 2004. Elizabeth Jacobson was killed in Iraq in 2005. Raul Moncada was killed in Iraq in 2009. A friend of the Moncada's has gone through the process of having a memorial sign placed on Road 37 and Avenue 12 and a second sign on Road 37 and Avenue 13. The

segment of Road will be dedicated to Sgt. Moncada who lived on Road 37 with his family. The Madera County Road Department will be installing the signs soon. Individual members of the Ranchos' Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ranchos Kiwanis organization and Vulcan Building Materials put up the money to have the signs made.

I had an Email from Kayla Hodges the other day. She is a Liberty High graduate that went to West Point Army Academy. She has completed her first four years of study and has graduated as a Second Lieutenant. I am so proud of her. She is now working on her Special Operations qualifications. She is an active Army member. See if you can find her Email with pictures that I sent to

*... Jolene, our fearless leader, has arranged an excursion to the Hoover Dam/Colorado River Bypass Bridge and a trip to Oatman, Arizona on old Route 66 to see the wild burros.*

Randy to put into the Ranchos Independent. I know that there are other active military members from the Ranchos that are serving. Please send their names to the Ranchos Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-

4001 so that they can be recognized.

Now moving on to the Ranchos/Hills Senior news. I had to get a 2012 calendar because I already have some next year dates entered in it. As always the Ranchos Hills Seniors are busy planning fun actives. On Nov. 5 there will be the Senior's monthly sale. This sale will be a special pre-Christmas Sale so come buy your Christmas decorations at a really good price and to get a good start on your Christmas shopping. The next day, Sunday, Nov. 6, the bus will be at the Senior Center to pick up those of us that will be going to Laughlin, Nevada for a five day adventure. We will be staying at the Edgewater Hotel and Casino. I hope to take a ride on the river if it isn't too windy. Also Jolene, our fearless leader, has arranged an excursion to the Hoover Dam/Colorado River Bypass Bridge and a trip to Oatman, Arizona on old Route 66 to see the wild burros. There is one room at the

Please see **STOCK** on P. 19

## What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered if there was someone out there in this big world with a name the same as yours? In doing our family's genealogy for the last 20 years (I've been able to trace three of my grandparents' families back to the 1700's. I'm having a little trouble with my dad's mother's family. She always told us we were related to John and John Quincy Adams but haven't been able to prove it yet). Growing up, I always thought Briner was not a common name – but in doing the genealogy, I found out differently. One of the problems is when our families came from the old countries, their names were not written correctly, or ineligibly and got recorded incorrectly. An example of that is my Great Great Great Grandfather came over from Germany as Petrus Breiner, Sr. but his son is recorded as Peter Briner, Jr. I also found out that the name has been spelled Breiner, Bryner and Briner – and they are all related.

If you would like to find out if there are other people out there with the same name as yours, look it up. The website I use a lot to look people up is zabasearch.com and click what state you want to search. If your name is Tom Brown, or Nancy White, it might tell you there are too many to list, but if your

name is not that common, you might be surprised what you find. Another way to look your name up is Google it. You might also find that names may

*... so I thought I'd Google "Aunt Jean's Recipes." Wow, what a surprise. So here are a few of the Aunt Jean's Recipes that aren't even mine.*

not be spelled the usual way. I have four nieces with names we hear quite frequently, but the girls names are spelled different: Our girls are Eryn (Erin), Sara (Sarah), Rachael (Rachel) and Savanna (Savannah). Even Randy's name – his full name is Randahl (it is said his dad had a 'thing' for the movie star Arlene Dahl), so take that into consideration when researching names.

A week or so ago, I was sitting here wondering what to write about and didn't have anything else to do (Now that isn't quite the truth – but who wants to clean out a closet or mop the kitchen floor when you can sit at the computer looking up interesting



stuff?). So I thought I'd Google "Aunt Jean's Recipes." Wow, what a surprise. So here are a few of the Aunt Jean's Recipes that aren't even mine.

When I told Randy what I had found and was thinking of writing my article about, he Googled the site and was reading some of the recipes. He copied this one and said it sounded interesting.

### Aunt Jean's Easter Rice Pie

- 8 Eggs
- 1 ½ C rice, cooked and cooled
- 3 lbs. ricotta
- 1 ¾ C sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 (9inch) unbaked pie shells
- Cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, add the rice, ricotta, sugar and vanilla, stir thoroughly. Turn the mixture into the pie shells and sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 1 hour. This recipe makes two pies, but if you want to make only one pie, just divide all the ingredients

in half. Half of 1 ¾ C sugar is 1 C less 2 Tablespoons. Randy's daughter Rachael made this recipe that night and they all really liked but said next time they would add more sugar. Seems it just wasn't quite sweet enough.

The following recipe sounds real good and I love both pork chops and rice so I am going to buy a can of onion soup when I go shopping and try it – I'll let you know. And another thing to like about it: it's done all in one pan!

### Aunt Jean's Pork Chops

- Pork Chops
- 1 can Campbell's French Onion soup
- 1 can water
- 1 cup uncooked long grain rice

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 19

## Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m.  
 Tuesday 7 p.m. YOUTH 13-18  
*come meet new friends!*

www.GoldenValleyChurch.com  
 12414 Road 37 · Madera Ranchos · 559-645-1700



Golden Valley Baptist  
 Pastor David Jones

## THE CLOCK IS TICKING ...

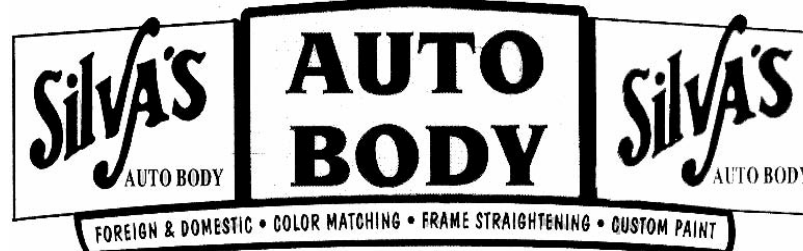
*it's time to get in shape!*

*What are you waiting for?*

JOIN TODAY AND PAY  
**NO INITIATION FEE!**  
 \*with a 12 month agreement!  
 CALL FOR MORE INFO  
**559-479-8282**

RANCHOS FITNESS UNLIMITED • 37193 AVE. 1271A • MADERA RANCHOS

## Fine Quality Craftmanship

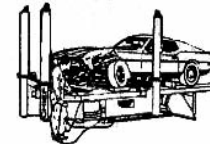


### Specializing In:

- Foreign & Domestic Car Repairs
- Custom Paint
- Color Matching
- Insurance Work
- Frame Straightening
- Unibody Frame Repairs
- Chroma Vision Color Matching



CHIEF E-Z-LINER



Precision Collision Repair



GENESIS 2  
 COMPUTERIZED MEASURING SYSTEM



10/11

Insurance Claims Welcomed



FREE ESTIMATES

**674-8591**



## GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

at least not yet, and certainly not without a spouse for help.

The next morning, however, when my little terror was replaced with an angelic little bundle of cuddliness, I nearly forgot the anguish of the night before. As I rocked her and hugged her, it all seemed worth it. We will have to be careful not to allow the teens to experience this side of things. The operation "banshees for birth control" team will be waiting outside at five in the morning to retrieve the babies before the cuddling can commence. Then, the teenagers awaken left with only the memory of the red-faced little one screaming and crying which, if it is anything like my experience, will haunt their dreams for months.

I truly believe this is the largest contributing factor to the teenaged and unwed pregnancy epidemic that we face. Many, if not most, of the girls getting pregnant think it's easy to raise a child. You let the

*That ought to make them more careful not to get pregnant; at the very least it will provide revenge for all the parents of the teenagers who remember walking the floors with them when they were babies. Either way, torturing teenagers or preventing pregnancy, seems like win-win to me.*

state buy you diapers and cheese, mom and dad watch the baby while you work or finish school or go out with friends, and you just have to give them a bottle every now and then. The grandparents are raising their children.

In the end, I still want children someday and I will gladly walk in circles, pouring sweat for my children to make them happy, just as I did my baby cousin, but I can't deny that a two-day headache where her incessant screams rang in my ears was enough to make me think twice about when I might be ready to have children, and fear is nothing if not a good deterrent. Maybe we could somehow bottle that fear, results being headaches, fatigue and a ringing in your ears mysteriously similar to that of a baby crying. We could dump the chemical into the water supplies of the nation's high schools. That ought to make them more careful not to get pregnant; at the very least it will provide revenge for all the parents of the teenagers who remember walking the floors with them when they were babies. Either way, torturing teenagers or preventing pregnancy, seems like win-win to me.

**JUDY'S LEGAL DOCUMENT SERVICE**

SELF-HELP LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT

ESTATE PLANNING • FAMILY LAW  
... AND MORE

**JUDITH L. LOCATELLI**  
LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT • NOTARY PUBLIC  
*Madera County CDA Reg. 2010001 • Exp. 8/10/12*

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

559-395-4640 OFFICE • 559-908-4600 CELL  
WWW.JUDYSLEGALDOCUMENTSERVICE.COM  
11874 ROAD 36 1/2 • MADERA, CA • 93636

*"I am not an attorney. I can only provide self-help services at your specific direction."*



10/11

**CHAD HARR TRUCKING**

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

**559-645-5363**

CHAD HARR  
CA #142100

- SAND & GRAVEL •
- CRUSHED ROCK •
- LANDSCAPE MATERIAL •
- FILL DIRT •
- TOP SOIL •
- HUMUS •
- BARK •
- CHIPS •
- RIVER ROCK •
- BASE ROCK •
- ROCK DUST •
- COBBLE STONES •
- DRIVEWAY BASE •
- CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •

10/11

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

www.TheRanchos.com

## Letters

Dear Editor:

I just wanted you to know that I totally agree with what you said in the last Independent you published. I went to the meeting over at LHS and was mortified by the behavior of many of my neighbors. I have lived in the Madera Ranchos for 29 years and have seen many changes. Change is inevitable. I have been mostly pleased with the many changes over the past 29 years. I went to the meeting on Liberty Groves because a number of people had told me that there was a plan to build low-income apartments. I found out at the meeting that this is not true. When I heard the plan for Liberty Groves, I was envious of the fact that this development actually has a PLAN. The Madera Ranchos is a hodge-podge of all types of housing, landscape design and levels of maintenance. It isn't for everyone, but we have grown to love it here. Ever since that meeting, I am painfully aware of the water I use going down the drain, never to be seen again. The attitude of the community saddens and infuriates me, but does NOT surprise me. I have found the members of this community to be a stubborn lot! It was clearly stated that the current use of the land on which Liberty Groves will be built uses 25 percent more water than will the actual finished community. Yet, people continue to use water usage as a reason to stop this development. This makes no sense!! I also learned that developers are very limited in their design options because of existing county and state regulations that govern all aspects of development. And, as you pointed out, aside from meeting that criteria, the property owner doesn't need our permission to use his land as he sees fit.

Finally, I would like to say that Igal

Treibatch has been nothing but supportive to the Madera Ranchos community. I could have just died of embarrassment when Mr. Triebatch referred to Israel's water management technology and some in the audience shouted out for him to take it back to Israel! Obviously, they are unaware that Israel is a world leader in innovative water technology. It is apparent to me that the community needs to focus efforts and enthusiasm on figuring out how we are going to manage our water supply. If the Madera Ranchos turns into a dried up ghost town at some point in the future, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

Debbie Sandhurst  
Madera Ranchos

P.S. I am amazed that there is something we agree on! And, I am disgusted with myself that I didn't get this letter to you prior to the printing of the most recent Independent. DS

*The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. The only rules? Sign it, be civil or forget about it.*

Send your letters to:

email:  
**ranchosnews@yahoo.com**  
mail:

**The Ranchos Independent**  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

fax:  
**559-645-4002**

# Seniors Prep for Coming Holidays

By Verlaine Elinburg

The month of October is almost behind us. The Senior Center began its fall season with its annual Craft Boutique Sale. It was a busy week preparing for the Craft Boutique Sale, which is spearheaded by Carol Reeves and her helpers.

During the year the Senior Center receives donations of craft items which are used to create craft objects, such as baskets, hats, blankets, aprons and similar items. At the October monthly sale the Senior Center has a clearance sale of excess craft items, which include ribbons, flowers, buttons, lace, pieces of yardage and other craft-related things.

Honoring and celebrating different holiday occasions during the year, our extremely talented Carol Reeves begins the year with the romantic Valentine's Day, creating beautiful baskets full of goodies representing the theme of that holiday.

In addition to the holiday theme baskets, she creates smaller baskets which are purchased by our members and the public. Our most profitable baskets are our Easter Baskets and if you are in need of a special basket for a gift, Carol will create a special basket just for you. Bring the items for your special gift and she and her helpers will create your gift basket for a donation. This is one of the departments that creates revenue in the form of donations that pay for the operating costs of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

As we move into the holiday season, Carol Reeves and her crew are now busy creating gift baskets, knitting, and sewing. Bobby Farina, who manages the bakery, is planning her baked items, including cakes, cookies, candy, jellies and jams, and different edible items. Beginning Saturday, Dec. 3, the Senior Center will begin its Annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale. The Senior Center will also accept special orders for the Gift Baskets and Bake items at that time, or any time. The Senior Center holiday public sale dates are on Saturdays in

December, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Special orders are accepted during the week from Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Place your orders by phone at 645-4864, drop us a note at 37330 Berkshire, Madera, CA 93636, or email us at rhseniors@att.net. If you own a business and want to have a gift basket created to promote your products or simply as a gift for a special someone, bring in your items and the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center will create a presentation for you for a modest donation.

The Laughlin, Nevada trip is nearing from Nov. 6 through 10 and will include four nights at the Edge-water Hotel and Casino, round trip motor coach, two extra side trips – Hoover Dam/Colorado River Pass Bridge and Oatman, Ariz. on the old Route 66. The Cost is \$180 per person, double occupancy, and \$210 for single. A few vacancies are still available so if you are interested call

the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

### Senior Center Activities

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

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.

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

Please see SENIOR on P. 12



Ranchos/Hills Seniors help a customer at the Center's last sale of craft and boutique items, one of many regularly held sales at the Center.

## ARE YOU OVER 65 ???

Losing your Health Insurance ???



**WE CAN HELP !!!**  
Plans Start at \$0.00/Month  
**CALL US TODAY !!!**

Vail Insurance Services  
Cindy Vail - Owner / Broker  
California Lic # 0E81172  
559-674-5450

10/11

## Considering Cremation?

for a LIMITED TIME only! **\$999.31**

Smith Manor Grace Chapel is offering a Direct Cremation Package for **\$999.31**. Our Direct Cremation Service Package is designed specially for families who have chosen to have a simple cremation. This package includes a durable plastic urn, a cardboard cremation container, removal from place of death to mortuary within 50 miles, basic services of director and staff, refrigeration, 1-hour private family viewing, one death certificate, disposition permit and sales tax.

We also have many funeral plans to choose from. To discuss payment options on this plan or any of our other funeral plans please call

**662-8825**  
801 E. Yosemite Avenue, Madera



10/11



To Advertise in the **Ranchos Independent** call **645-0634**

Who cares for your horse's feet more than you?  
**NOBODY!**  
 ... except John's Farrier Service

*Balance is the Key to Performance*  
 Specializing in ALL phases of farrier science  
 AFEC Certified  
 call **209-628-0991**

*"We keep our appointments because your horse deserves it." John Fissel, Farrier*

**GET YOUR FREE ONION!**  
 Just for visiting Sweet Flower Fruit Stand we'd like to give you a FREE onion to say "thanks" and to give you an example of just how good our produce is. One per customer per day. Exp. 11-30-11

**33480 Ave. 9 at Road 33 1/2**  
 call **645-4253 or 662-5363**

**"The only way to get fresher produce would be to pick it yourself."**™

**BEST SELECTION  
 BEST PRICES  
 IN THE RANCHOS**

**SPECIALS  
 RANCHOS  
 TOWN & COUNTRY  
 LIQUOR**

37167 AVE. 12 • 645-1306

TECATE LT. 18-PAK	\$8.99
SHOCK TOP 12-PAK	\$10.99
HEINEKEN, DOS EQUIS 12-PAK	\$11.99
CORONA, CORONA LT. 12-PAK	\$12.99
KEYSTONE, NATURAL LT. 30-PAK	\$13.99
REX GOLIATH, JACOB'S CREEK	
COLUMBIA CREST ALL VARIETIES 750 ML	\$4.99
BLACKSTONE ALL VARIETIES 750 ML	\$8.99
PAUL MASSON BRANDY 750 ML	\$7.99
SVEDKA, BACARDI LT., SAUZA GOLD or SILVER 750 ML	\$10.99
BARTON or TAKKA VODKA 1.75 L	\$10.99
KESSLER 1.75 L	\$15.99
CROWN ROYAL, JACK DANIELS, JÄGERMEISTER 750 ML	\$19.99
PATRON SILVER 375 ML	\$19.99

Mon-Sat 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 PRICES +TAX, CRV • PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • EXP. 11-30-11

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.  
 Get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006).  
 Learn how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site!

**www.theRanchos.com**  
**www.theRanchos.com**  
**www.theRanchos.com**  
**www.theRanchos.com**

The Pastor's Desk

**Recovery + Relapse = Insanity**

Again this month we have a guest writer for the Pastor's Desk. He is not a pastor but he has a message. With approximately 17.6 million Americans adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent, his message is timely and relevant.

Editor

By Mike B.

came and went and I had not heard a word. So, Saturday morning I got up early and I was there the minute they opened. I said hello and we went for a walk. While we were on our tour of the facility, we stopped and he looked at me and said, "I understand that relapse is part of recovery; when it happens let me know, I'll understand." I appreciated his candor and his compassion.

But relapse is not part of recovery. It cannot be.

Relapse is a rationalization made by many. Rationalization is a big part of insanity. In Step 2 it says, "Come to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to Sanity." If I rationalize anything I am still not sane. So, to rationalize is to give in to myself. That is something I cannot do. This is what I think about relapsing: I would

A few weeks ago I was in the middle of an interview for a new job. Not that big of deal – a job interview; been there, done that. This time was a little different, though. Not just honesty but rigorous honesty had to be a part of it (see my August 2011 article). I'm sitting there and my interviewer says, "You left your last job because of illness. What was your illness?" I shifted in my seat, looked left, looked right, cleared my throat and pondered what the next words out of my mouth would be. I looked at my hopefully-soon-to-be-employer and said, "I had been sober for three and a half years. I hurt my back at work, was

*... we stopped and he looked at me and said, "I understand that relapse is part of recovery; when it happens let me know, I'll understand." I appreciated his candor and his compassion.*

*But relapse is not part of recovery. It cannot be.*

*Relapse is a rationalization made by many. Rationalization is a big part of insanity.*

have to start at the backside of the cross, on my hands and knees. Climb up the cross with the wood scratching and gouging my hands, arms, chest, legs and feet. Climb over the top and slowly lower myself down the front, using Jesus' shoulders as a ladder. Clinging to the cross while

prescribed Vicodan for the pain and really enjoyed them. Then I found out that they seemed to work better when you washed them down with Vodka. A year later I was fired and went to rehab." He looked at me and smiled and went on to tell me that they were looking for someone who was honest and that they could trust. He followed that with this statement: "I guess if you can be truthful about that, you will pretty much be truthful about anything."

I said I really don't have a choice, but I really did. I could have said or spoken an untruth. Somehow I knew that truth was the only answer. I didn't get the job that day but he said he would let me know by Friday. Friday

the crown of thorns scraped my entire body and the blood of Jesus would drench me from head to toe, while I slowly climbed down. Then, when I reached the bottom of the cross I would pull out all the splinters and thorns, wipe the blood of Jesus off my entire body, turn my back and walk away.

This I cannot do!

Jesus has done too much for me for me to walk away from him ever again. There is no relapse in true recovery. When the obsession is gone, you realize who took it.

For that, I am thankful.

Until next time,  
 Mike B.

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

SENIOR cont. from P. 10

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

New to the agenda on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. are a variety of cards games to be en-



Just a sampling of some of the items available at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center's ongoing monthly sales here in the Ranchos at 37330 Berkshire.

joyed. Come and learn new games.

Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware.

The Farmers Market at the Center has a variety of vegetables and fruits, jams and jellies are available and the Boutique has many "on the spot needed" gift items.

**Dates For Your Calendar**

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 1 6 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting: Friday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m. at the Maywood Center.

Ranchos/Hills Treasure House, Boutique, Bake and Plant and Tree Sale: Saturday, Nov. 5.

Laughlin, Nev. Trip: Nov. 6 from Senior Center, 37330 Berkshire Ave at 8 a.m.

Veterans Day: Nov. 11 Ranchos/Hills Senior Center will be closed.

General Meeting: For all members, Monday, Nov. 14. Ranchos/Hills Thanksgiving Celebration: Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.

Birthday and Anniversaries: Saturday, Nov. 19 at Imperial Gardens, 6640 N. Blackstone, Fresno at 11:30 a.m. Call 435-4406 for information.

Planning Meeting: Monday, Nov. 21 at 12:30 p.m.

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center will be closed Nov. 24 and 25.

## Ranchos Church Sends "Flip Flops" to War Zone

Flipside Christian Church in Madera, Calif. has been on the frontlines in Afghanistan for the past several months. How, do you ask? Jon Ginn attends Flipside with his family. He is also a gunnery sergeant serving with 3rd Battalion 4th Marines in their weapons company stationed in Afghanistan. Before his departure, he and his wife Renee believed that God had a specific purpose for his deployment in addition to what was mission specific. Upon his platoon's arrival, he met many children who were without footwear of any kind in the 100+ degree heat. As Jon saw need, he knew this was the purpose of his deployment. Back at home,



While serving in Afghanistan, Gunnery Sergeant Jon Ginn (right) gets a "thumbs up" from a very happy little boy who has new sandals courtesy of the Ranchos.

Flipside and the community have donated over 4,000 pairs of flip flops to date. Because of shipping charges, a large parcel of the sandals will be sent to Jon later this month. In the meantime, Jon will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in Afghanistan.

# Madera Holiday Art Tour

**Come enjoy and give the gift of Madera art**

**Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, November 20, Noon – 4 p.m.**



**Annette Nordine**  
Photography & Painting



**Theresa Svanda**  
Original Painted Rocks



**Michelle Gonsalves**  
Custom Hair Bows



**Glenna Jarvis**  
Mystery Writer

**Featuring Five Exciting Venues**




**Rose Wheeler**  
Fine Art



**Felisha Rodriguez**  
MHS Art Student

**#1 - In Annette's Home Gallery**  
**801 Claremont Dr.**  
1 block East of Schnoor • 664-1142



**Joe Vega**  
Oil Paintings



**Eva Vega**  
Original Jewelry



**Angelica Perez**  
Colored Pencil Drawings

**#2 - In Rose's Open Studio**  
**1911 University Ave.**  
4 houses East of Schnoor • 675-0340

**#3**  
**Edgar's Italian Restaurant**  
**Banquet Room**  
**1922 Howard Rd.**  
661-0306



**Patti "Song Bird" Cline**  
Photography  
**Cal Crane**  
Hand Embroidered Linens

**#4 - 47th Place Carpet**  
**1717 Howard Rd.**  
Saturday only,  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
674-4621

**#5 Holiday Art Affair**  
30 Artisans, Crafters, Live Music  
**Circle Gallery**  
1653 N. Schnoor • 661-7005  
North Pointe Center  
(Saturday only, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

# Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping  
Center • Friday,  
Dec. 2 • 6 p.m.

**Santa will arrive early  
at the ceremony  
and photos will be available!**

**Cookies - Coffee - Hot Cider**

**Christmas carols by  
Flipside Church  
and area Girl Scouts**

**Pick a star for a Veteran at 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 may be brought to the tree lighting!**

10/11



for more information, contact  
the Golden Valley Chamber at **645-4001**

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera Ranchos

[goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com](mailto:goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com)

## Kiwanis Korner

# Ranchos Kiwanis 25 Years Old

By Carla Hart

Happy Silver Anniversary Ranchos Kiwanis! It was 25 years ago, in October 1986, that the Ranchos Kiwanis was formed and there's no better way to celebrate our milestone than to welcome new people to our team. A member appreciation BBQ in August brought in several new members. Congratulations Andy Alvarado, Bryan Lee, Cathy Lee, Randy Schrantz, Mona Silva and also Nelson Venegas who joined us prior to the event. An induction ceremony was held in September. We look forward to the renewed enthusiasm and ideas you will all bring to the club and it's our honor to welcome you. Kudos to Membership Committee Chairpersons, Marie Cameron and Bev Delk, for their hard work; to Paul Cameron who manned the barbecue; to the Camerons for generously opening up their home to the community; and to all the members who donated their time and efforts into making our inaugural Member BBQ a success.

October is also the month when our changing of the guard takes place as we say goodbye to our outgoing president, Mona Diaz.

Our club is fortunate to have had very dynamic leadership in our past presidents and Mona will certainly be one of the greats. Through her leadership, we gained new members and became a Distinguished Club. She challenged us to bring in at least eight new members and she would do something outlandish at the end of the year. The membership committee rose to the challenge and during her last evening meeting as president, Mona danced and sang to Beyonce's "Single Ladies" and flipped pizza dough while dressed like a pirate. What a good sport she was! It was a fun night and one send off neither she nor any of us will forget, I'm sure. Thank you, Madam President, for being an exemplary leader to Kiwanis and to the Madera Ranchos as a whole. Your legacy of hard work and dedication will continue to benefit our community in countless ways and will be felt for many years to come. Mona passes her gavel to incoming president, John Glueck, at the Ranchos Kiwanis Installation Dinner at the Ramada Inn on October 22. We welcome John and look forward to another successful, fun-filled year serving the kids in our community.

In other Kiwanis news, Sierra View ushered in their newest organization called K-Kids.

Through Kiwanis K-Kids clubs, elementary aged children learn responsibility by running their own club, develop leadership skills through fundraising for their school, and build character through service-based activities. There are more than 36,000 children in K-Kids clubs worldwide who are changing both themselves and the world around them. Thank you Principal, Chris Imperatrice, for your support in bringing K-Kids to your school.

At the high school level, LHS Key Club President, Andy Hart, reports that their member base is the highest it's ever been and is looking forward to an exciting year.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our friend and supporter of the Ranchos Kiwanis, Joe Alberta, and his family. Joe remains hospitalized due to injuries he suffered in an automobile accident on Aug. 28.

We would like to thank Audra and Dan Damore, owners of The Coffee Spot, for opening their business to us for our monthly morning meetings.

Kiwanis exists solely for the purpose of making a difference in the lives of others, particularly children. We are looking for people at least 18 years old

who are interested in serving the community, making new friends, and having fun with a purpose. If you are interested, contact President John Glueck at 559-706-5215. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at The Coffee Spot and every Thursday thereafter at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. Come join us at a meeting for fun and fellowship and see what being a Kiwanian is all about.

[www.ranchoskiwanis.com](http://www.ranchoskiwanis.com)

### Board Members:

President: John Glueck  
Past President: Mona Diaz  
President Elect: Carla Hart  
Vice President: Marie Cameron  
Secretary: Pam Glueck  
Treasurer: Perry Watkins  
Co-Treasurer: Carla Hart

### Board of Directors:

Debbie Farr  
Virginia Vick  
Ollia Ridge  
John Herrera  
Jolene Mason



Ranchos Kiwanis member induction ceremony. L to R: Randy Schrantz, Marie Cameron, Nelson Venegas, Debbie Farr, Bryan Lee, Cathy Lee, Lt. Governor Richard Wayne, Bev Delk and President Mona Diaz.

# Sick of Healthcare? Time for Real Discussion About Real Solutions

By Chuck Newcomb

I recently had the opportunity to watch a brief promotional clip of a video that had aired on PBS in 2008 which depicted the sorry state of healthcare in the United States. "Unnatural Causes – is inequality making us sick?" inferred that racism, income inequity and social status was responsible for the U.S. ranking 30th in life expectancy, behind Cuba. We also have a higher percentage of babies dying in their first year of life than in Cuba, Slovenia and Estonia. I was starting to wonder if this was public television's way of saying we need a healthcare system more like Cuba.

The questions presented were, "Is it because 47 million of us don't have health insurance? Or is it because of our American diet and personal health behaviors?" When I went to the Newsreel.org website to find the video I was not too surprised to note an association with a George Soros' Open Society Youth Initiative and [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org). Soros has been big on marrying media production and contemporary social movements. The buzz phrase is "social justice". Another associated group, The World Socialist Web Site claiming to be the leadership

of the world socialist movement, also had derogatory things to say about the statistics.

Population study data and statistics can be manipulated in ways that may support a particular agenda or another. Other information is available that helps explain some of the findings. A study done by the University of Pennsylvania concluded that the low longevity ranking of the United States is not likely a result of a poorly functioning health care system. They noted a high mortality rate above age 50. The U.S. survival rates for cancers of the lung, breast, prostate, colon, and rectum, were the highest of any of the 18 countries they investigated. The U.S. also does relatively well in treating cardiovascular disease.

Eileen Crimmins, co-chairwoman of the National Research Council reports that the life expectancy in the U.S. has grown (but) more slowly over the last two decades than in other high-income countries such as Japan and France. She believes this is largely due to obesity and the lasting effects of smoking. Consider also the tendency for many Americans to be sedentary.

The high incidence of infant mortality may in part be due to the fact that, as Americans, we

tend to care about life at all stages. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, preterm birth is a key risk factor for infant death. The impact of preterm-related infant mortality was high for all racial and ethnic groups. Fertility treatments and other forms of assisted reproduction probably play a role because they often lead to twins, triplets or other multiple births. Maternal obesity and smoking (again) have been linked to premature births and may also be a factor.

Some of the excess cost of healthcare in America can be attributed to money spent on malpractice insurance and legal costs that largely determine premiums. Doctors practiced defensive medicine by ordering unneeded tests, therapies and medications to prevent lawsuits. Also, the premium price of medications in America is used to offset price controls in foreign countries resulting in American consumers pay about half of all drug costs worldwide.

So are the evil rich people keeping the little guy from getting the health care they deserve? Of the reported 47 million without health insurance only 17 million are ages 19 to 35. That is less than 5% of the population. How

many of those have no coverage by choice – betting they won't get sick? So why not focus on the relatively few at higher risk between 36 and 64 years of age?

The poor in America have numerous options for health care. One is the Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) system, but there are numerous organizations and options that provide free or low-cost health care. Many communities have free walk-in clinics in places like community centers. Other organizations include: The California Healthcare Foundation; Health Resources and Services Administration (part of the Department of Health and Human Services); Federally Qualified Health Centers; Rural Health Clinics and others.

One problem is getting patients to show up for appointments. One Miami specialty clinic reports a no-show rate of greater than 30%. Even in California Central Valley there is a 35 to 50% or more chance patients will not show up for their appointments for diabetes management and education. Clinics double book patients knowing that they may not show up. Can you say, "personal responsibility?"

Please see **HEALTH** on P. 19



37193 Avenue 12, suite 3H  
Madera, CA 93636

**SERVICE TIMES:**  
9:00am & 10:30am

## CHILDREN PROGRAMS

**1st Service - "AMAZING JOURNEYS"** A Dynamic Approach to Disciple Children thru Amazing Programs!

**2nd Service - ACADEMY OF THE HEARTS"** A Creative Arts Program with a Biblical Foundation!

## YOUTH

Jr. High and High school students meet during the 2nd service Sunday and also during the week:

Jr. High Monday 7-8:30pm

High School Wednesday 7-9pm

Email Josh Huckaby at [josh@acts176.com](mailto:josh@acts176.com) for upcoming youth events and more information.

**For more information on church activities visit our website at [www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) or E-mail [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)**

# HARVEST PARTY

## FREE Community Event!!

Come join the fun at the **FLIPSIDE HARVEST PARTY!**  
There will be Games, Inflatables, Live Music, Food and, of course...  
**LOADS of candy for the kids!!**  
The fun happens on Monday, October 31st from 5-7pm in the Flipside Church Parking lot in the Maywood Center...don't miss it!!  
For more information or questions about this event, contact Kim at [kim@acts176.com](mailto:kim@acts176.com).



Jamie lost 36 pounds!



Craig lost 48 pounds!



Tammy lost 25 pounds!

Join the **WEIGHT LOSS RVLution** sweeping across the country!

**Get started today** and lose those extra pounds before the holidays! Imagine how good you're going to look and feel!

**SIMPLE** as 1-2-3!

- 1-Shake
- 1-Bar
- 1-Tablet



To **ORDER ONLINE** visit:  
[www.OrderRVL.com](http://www.OrderRVL.com)



## The First One Hundred Days of Superintendent Alvarado



*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.*

*By Andy Alvarado*

I have had the privilege for the past nine years of working with the community, families, School Board, teachers, principals, administrators and staff members of Golden Valley Unified School District. Few get the opportunities that I have had to serve, learn and grow in a District on the move on behalf

of students and to be as part of a school community on the rise.

The strengths of our school district resonate throughout Madera County — innovative, focuses on student achievement, rigor, relevance and relationships, making learning meaningful and practical to everyday living, private school education in a public setting, diversity and passion in the community.

### *The First 100 Days*

My first 100 days have been spent listening to various stakeholders of this community: parents, students, teachers, administrators, staff and community members. It is through these discussions that we have been able to make changes for betterment of this learning environment. Although at times, I feel a sense of urgency to get to all the necessary changes implemented district wide, I also recognize that it's important for me to take time to listen and to learn.

We have added support to various areas in our organization: General Education, Special Education, Library, and Health Clerk and Mechanic. The majority of the changes has had a direct affect to the classrooms and will have an im-

mediate impact on teaching and learning.

We have initiated our English Language Arts adoption with the hope of implementing an overdue English Language Arts program for the 2012-2013 school year. The staff has been working diligently analyzing various programs. Our hope is to select a program for approval in spring.

### *A Simple Philosophy*

My philosophy in education is simple. Our role as a school district is to educate our children by providing a rigorous, relevant course of study and develop positive relationships. Our leadership needs to be transparent and we need to be able to own our work and take responsibility for it. We, as educators, have the most important job in our society, educating the future leaders of this country. As a staff, we must embrace this challenge.

I want to thank President Toole and the members of the School Board for giving me the opportunity to lead this fine organization. And I thank our parents for entrusting our staff with your precious children.

## GV APIs Soar

Golden Valley Unified School district improved on its already high Academic Performance Index (API) score by 13 points in a report released by the Accountability Progress Reporting on Aug. 31. As a whole, the district improved its score from 822 points to 835 points.

"I would like to congratulate all of our schools for achieving the state's target of 800 in the API," Golden Valley Superintendent Andy Alvarado said in a statement. "Major kudos go out to Ranchos Middle School and Webster Elementary for their tremendous gains."

Ranchos Middle School jumped the most, going from 811 points in 2010 to 850 in 2011, a growth of 39 points while meeting all target growths. Webster Elementary improved 22 points, from 830 to 852, in the year. The district's highest scoring school, Sierra View Elementary, also improved on its score, going from 860-862.

Although Liberty High School's number fell from 828 to 821, the school still met the state's 800 goal and met growth target figures.

"Although there were slight drops, having all of our schools in the elite '800 Club' is a tremendous accomplishment and one that deserves commendations," Alvarado said. "The district will continue to emphasize the importance of providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum at all grade levels and the importance of meeting the needs of all students."

## Scenes from a Carnival: Webster's Annual Fall Fun Fest



*It just wouldn't be a carnival if you didn't get to dunk the Superintendent, Andy Alvarado, in a huge tank of water.*



*Food was an important part of the Webster Carnival and the Slushie Booth had a steady stream of eager customers.*



*You've got to have games at a carnival and this one had kids lining up outside of classrooms ... hey, wait a minute. Isn't that called "school"?*

### GVUSD Calendar

#### *District wide*

Nov. 11- No School - Veterans Day

Nov. 21- 25 - No School - Fall Break

#### *Sierra View Elementary*

Nov. 17 - Primary Awards Assembly

Nov. 18 - Intermediate Awards Assembly

#### *Webster Elementary*

Nov. 18 - Awards Assembly

#### *Ranchos Middle School*

Nov. 14 - Minimum Day

#### *Liberty High School*

Oct. 31 - Harvest Fest

Nov. 3-5 - Liberty Drama Production

Dec. 3 - Winter Formal

*Click on "Local News" at*





Queen Katie Hill and King David Imirian were crowned Homecoming royalty during halftime at the Oct. 21 football game against Sierra High.



The Sophomore float "Michael Jackson's Thriller," complete with ghouls running throughout the audience and zombies doing the "Thriller" dance, won the class float competition.

# Scenes from Liberty High's 2011 HOMECOMING



The Key Club's "Swingin' 60s" won the club float competition with its go-go dancers, peace signs and sound system blaring songs by the Who.



The Senior class float "Hip-hop" had students dancing under confetti shot out of hand-held cannons and striking various 50-cent-style poses for maximum effect.



The Liberty High Varsity Hawks sing the alma mater for the Homecoming crowd after winning a nail biting 27-14 victory over Sierra High School.

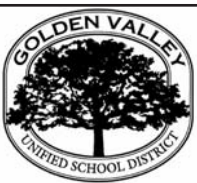


Students got into the spirit of Homecoming Week by starting off the week with "Messy Monday," followed by other interesting theme days for the rest of the week.



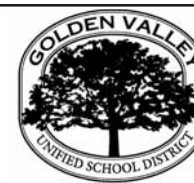
Disney Tuesday meant favorite Disney characters. Mark Talanoa and Ms. Katuin favored Little Mermaid while Bethany Buchnoff and Chloe Doyle chose Alice and Pocahontas.

# and HOMECOMING WEEK on Campus



## Mission Statement

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.



# Ranchos Artist Releases New Music

A local artist who has taken the single name Conrad has made a move to Los Angeles and has just released a new CD entitled *Takeoff* on Oct. 11. Here is the Conrad story.



After putting down roots in a town situated in the heart of California named the Madera Ranchos, Conrad packed a bag of clothes and caught the train to Los Angeles to follow his passion for music.

Growing up he attended Webster Elementary and graduated from Liberty High School. Conrad has repeatedly credited his education at these schools as the catalyst for his love of music and the dedication that has evolved into his work ethic.

"I'm blessed to have attended schools that have teachers who honestly care about students, and want everyone to succeed," Conrad said.

With \$40 in his wallet, Conrad made his way to Los Angeles, even though he was constantly questioned by others as to whether or not it was all worth it.

"Everyone's always scared of taking chances, and of course I was scared and I didn't know where I was going to stay but I didn't care," Conrad said. "I knew what I wanted to do, and I was going to make it happen. You never know what's going to happen, but you have to take the chance or you will never know."

After a year of struggling with a small indie record label and management company that ultimately didn't have his best interests at heart, Conrad decided to part ways and strive to complete his dreams the only way he knew: by

doing his absolute best and settling for nothing less.

Launching his own record label named Volumeline Entertainment, Conrad immediately started production on his first album. During that time he worked with world-renowned producers such as Drew Ryan Scott (Varsity Fanclub, Willow Smith, Hannah Montana, Jonas Brother), Sean Alexander (Avenue 52, Donny Klang, Hannah Montana), and Mario Marchetti (JoJo, Girlicious, The Black Eyed Peas).

"I wanted to be a part of everything. I wanted to sit and write on each song and I knew that that was the only way I could truly say these were my songs about my life," he said.

Now managed by RPK Talent Management, Conrad now has under his belt a successful first single, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, released in late 2010, and a new album, *Takeoff*. The album will be available on iTunes, Amazon mp3, rhapsody and at Conrad-Now.com. His first music video for his second single, *Namedropper*, will be released in late October.

Conrad will be performing at the world famous Whisky A Go Go on Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood on Nov. 20 before heading out on the road to other areas of the country throughout the rest of the year. You can follow Conrad's every move at [facebook.com/OfficialConrad](http://facebook.com/OfficialConrad) and twitter at [twitter.com/thatkidconrad](http://twitter.com/thatkidconrad).

## CRIME cont. from P. 2

ditional stolen property was recovered, however, not all property reported stolen has been found and Deputies do not believe Southwood and Lerma acted alone.

Anyone who may have information about the numerous break-ins in the mountains is urged to call either the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or CRIME STOPPERS at 489-STOP. A tip to crime Stoppers that will lead to an arrest could be worth up to \$1,000.

To help expedite the return of property that has been recovered so far, Deputies will need serial numbers of missing valuables as well as detailed descriptions, and if possible,

pictures of the stolen items. Whether you've been a victim or not, Sheriff John Anderson said it's recommended that citizens try to maintain a thorough record of their valuables. Again, the itemized list should include serial numbers, detailed descriptions and pictures of each item. And make sure that catalog of critical information is always stored in a safe place.

Both Southwood and Lerma remain jailed at this time. Southwood, who was out on bail for battery after being arrested in September, faces a number of charges including burglary, narcotics and committing a felony while out on bail. Bail has been set at \$25,000 and Lerma faces burglary and narcotics charges as well with her bail set at \$10,000.

FULL SERVICE AUTOMOTIVE SHOP

# TRANSMISSIONS

## AUTOMATIC & STANDARD

### Foreign & Domestic Rebuild & Repair



Serving the Valley for Over 42 Years

**FREE TOWING WITH OVERHAUL**

**GET A "HERE COMES WINTER" FREE 19-POINT INSPECTION w/ every OIL CHANGE**

call for appt. • exp.11/30/11

WE ALSO DO:  
 Brakes • Tune-ups • Diagnostic  
 Oil changes • Service work  
**AND NOW: A/C SERVICE AND REPAIRS**

**RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR & TRANSMISSION**  
 12090 37 1/2 • MADERA RANCHOS  
 Just off Avenue 12





10/11

**follow us on Facebook**



645-4475

ANSWERS

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

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

23	11	11		
5	6	+	8	+
7	5	x	3	-
4		x	9	+
13	1	x	1	

D A B D I C A T E D

T S E A I S

D U M D

R I

U R

A M

E R E H W E S T L E

O N A S I R O B N O

H I D R T H

G E V A E L N O Y

D A M A Y O

V A D N

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great

10/11



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

**LOSE WEIGHT  
AND INCHES TOO**

**WE KNOW LOW CARBS!  
\$20 OFF  
1st visit only**



**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**

"We Are Very Affordable"

**224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

## Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics

37144 Avenue 12 #104  
Madera Ranchos

**559-645-5320**

[www.ranchosdental.com](http://www.ranchosdental.com)



10/11



First 5 Madera County is recruiting for members to represent the following:



### Commissioner

Unincorporated Valley Area  
(Madera Ranchos - Board of  
Supervisors District 1)

### Commissioner

City of Madera Area (Board of  
Supervisors District 3 and 4)

**Madera County's children of today will be our leaders of tomorrow ... help First 5 Madera County invest in the future of our children.**

First 5 is recruiting for a Commissioner - Madera Ranchos Area and City of Madera Area, to participate in the distribution of \$2 million annually to fund programs that focus on getting Madera's youngest children ready for school.

If you live in the Madera Ranchos Area or City of Madera Area and are interested in shaping the community, contact Mang at 661-5155 or pick up an application at 525 E. Yosemite.

Recruitment is open until filled



10/11

## Republican 2012 Chances Discussed

Republican Party of Madera County (RPMC) will hold its next regular monthly lunch/meeting on Monday, Nov. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Madera Muni Golf Course Restaurant located on Avenue 17 at Road 24 in Madera. The cost for lunch is a very reasonable \$11.

The guest speaker for the Nov. 7 meeting will be Jon Huey, Campaign Chairman for U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock, CA District 4. Jon will be speaking on what is going on in Washington, D.C., and the Republican chances in the 2012 election.

You'll need to R.S.V.P. for lunch by the Wednesday prior to the meeting by calling Bobbie Atkisson, RPMC Secretary, at 683-0719. You can also visit the RPMC website for more information at [www.MaderaGOP.org](http://www.MaderaGOP.org).

Newcomers are always welcome and citizens from all areas of Madera County are encouraged to attend and become involved. RPMC is an official part of the California Republican Party. This Committee meets the first Monday of each month unless that falls on a holiday. Most regular monthly meetings are held at the Madera Muni Golf Course Clubhouse Restaurant unless otherwise announced. Each year, two of the regular monthly meetings are held in Oakhurst.

**HEALTH** cont. from P. 14

Until we have a real discussion about real solutions to the crazy healthcare system and out-of-control costs we are left to rely on shadowy organizations, crooked politicians and biased commentaries to turn the tide of healthcare

where it suits them best.

*Chuck Newcomb, MS, RD, CDE is a consulting Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator. He has a Masters of Science in Clinical Nutrition from New York University. His website is MySmartRD.com.*

**STOCK** cont. from P. 7

hotel left if you want to come along. Call the Ranchos Hills Seniors at 645-4864. We get back on Nov. 10 and the Senior Center will be closed for the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Holiday. The Center will also be closed

Nov. 24-26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Friday, Dec. 2 will be the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Maywood Center at 6 p.m. This event is put on by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and you can come pick a star for a Veteran at the Fresno Veteran's Hospital.

**RECIPE** cont. from P. 8

Season pork chops with salt and pepper and brown in large frying pan. Once browned, pour in soup and water. Cover and simmer 30 minutes. Pour in rice around chops. Cover and cook for 20 minutes or until rice is fully cooked.

I love rhubarb so this recipe really caught my attention. I'm anxious to try it.

### *Aunt Jean's Rhubarb Crumble*

Preheat oven to 350

- 1 C flour
- ½ C brown sugar
- ½ C melted butter
- ¾ C dry oatmeal
- 4 C chopped rhubarb
- ½ C white sugar
- 2 T cornstarch
- 1 C water
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the flour, brown sugar, oatmeal and butter together until crumbly. Press half into bottom and part way up sides of greased 9x13 pan. Set remaining crumbs aside.

Sprinkle rhubarb mixture over crumbs. In a saucepan, combine white sugar, cornstarch, water and vanilla. Heat to boiling. Cook and stir until thickened. Pour over rhubarb. Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Bake in preheated oven for 45-60 minutes. Serve warm. Maybe with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Before I close this article I want to remind you that Daylight Saving Time will end at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of November. This year that is Sunday, Nov. 6. But who wants to sit up till 2 a.m. to change the clock back? Before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 5, move your clocks back an hour. If you don't change your clock, you could be an hour early for church. Remember, Spring forward and Fall back.

Next month's article will be on cookies - in time to make a batch for family and friends for Christmas giving. I have a couple from the Aunt Jean's Recipes and I already have a recipe that was brought to me by a reader. I would sure like to include one from you - CALL ME at 645-0634!

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

# Putting Brakes to High Speed Rail



By David G. Valadao

Like many in the Central Valley, I was intrigued when I first heard about the California high-speed rail project. Although I did not support Proposition 1A, I understand and agree with the need to enhance California's aging transportation system.

In 2008, voters were told that high-speed rail in the Central Valley would follow existing transportation corridors with limited interruption into surrounding communities. They were told that the project would cost \$33 billion and that a one-way ticket from San Francisco to Los Angeles would cost \$55.

But now it is clear that taxpayers have become victims of a bait and switch.

Instead of being constructed along a true existing corridor, the High Speed Rail Authority wants to destroy local farmland and family homes to construct the rail line. Instead of costing \$33 billion, the Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that the project will cost \$67 billion. And instead of costing \$55 per ticket, it's going to cost about \$120 to ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

These estimates have all ballooned long before the first track has even been laid. Many involved with the high-speed rail cite the \$2.7 billion in federal stimulus funding that could expire if not spent in the coming months, as reason to rush the building of high-speed rail. Protecting 4 percent of the \$67 billion price tag does not justify the irresponsible implementation of this costly project.

The rush to spend federal dollars that make up a small portion of the overall cost of the project is no excuse for ramming through a flawed and expensive boondoggle that will hurt real people and our way of life.

While these costs are certainly disturbing, I am most frustrated with the speed in which they are pushing their misguided plans through and the disrespect they have shown to concerned local residents.

I understand that there are going to be impacts on the local community, but it is the responsibility of the project officials to be accountable, listen to the concerns of those impacted and making appropriate revisions to project plans to minimize disruption.

Unfortunately, the High Speed Rail Authority has pushed aside, ignored, and mis-

treated families, businesses and community leaders who are going to be substantially impacted by this project.

Take the experience from local Hanford dairy farmer Steve Gaspar, for example. When he was 12 years old, his father was injured and Steve took on the responsibilities of managing the family business. While other kids his age were playing sports, he was busy working 12- to 15-hour days milking cows. Steve didn't mind making these sacrifices because he was protecting his father's dream and the livelihood of his family.

But now rail officials want to take away everything Steve's family has worked to build. During a public meeting Steve attended earlier this year, he learned that the proposed rail route would go right through his father's house and much of his family's farm.

Steve expressed his concerns to the High Speed Rail Authority and they promised to set up a time to talk further about the impacts of the proposed route on his farm. As of today, the high-speed rail has failed to fully follow through on their commitment. Like many other Valley residents, Steve is unsure about the future of his property and is fearful of the day when someone shows up at his door to take away his father's dream.

What rail officials don't understand is that we are not just dealing with plots of land. Their proposed route cuts through properties that represent billions of dollars in investments, tax revenues and family history.

I refuse to stand idly by while these unaccountable bureaucrats ignore our concerns and refuse to accommodate our requests. We want answers and we want to know that our way of life here in the Central Valley is not being displaced. By standing together, we can slow this project to a slower pace and insure responsible development or scrap the project if we determine it will not work.

*David G. Valadao is the California Assemblyman for the 30th District.*

### Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Di Cicco's, 516 So. "I" Street in Madera. Next meeting is November 17. Confirm meeting dates on the Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com).

For more information contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator John Smedley by e-mail at [jcsmedley@comcast.net](mailto:jcsmedley@comcast.net) or call him at 559-645-7031. Or you can email Madera Tea Party Coordinator Rick Farinelli at [richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 559-706-5386.

**GIVE THE UNIQUE GIFT OF MEMORIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!**

Get your color slides, movie reels, and video tapes preserved onto DVD!

343-3444

ME MAKEEDITS.COM

**Sago Key Palm Plantation!**

More than 20,000 Palms & Sagos in stock. We also have a wide selection of Shade & Fruit trees.

call Tom and Maria at 559-268-6650

3535 S. Temperance • Fresno • [www.sagorey.com](http://www.sagorey.com)

**TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?**

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

**Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.**

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815  
36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

**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.

	+		×		13
×		÷		×	
	-		×		20
-		+		+	
	+		+		19
23		11		11	

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

© 2011 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



**4-H is On the Move**

This year is off to a fast pace for the members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club. The club officers have a new and exciting year planned out for this year. At the first club meeting, the Sierra Shadows 4-H club welcomed approxi-

mately 10 new members and three new projects were added to the list of projects in which members can participate. The club hosted a Car Wash Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Ranchos Market located on Avenue 12. We appreciate your support.

The Cooking Project had its first meeting and participants made pizza poppers and puzzling pretzels to snack on while they planned their year out. The Rabbit Group would like to thank the Pizza Factory for allowing them to have their first meeting there and plan out their year. The Horse Group also had their first meeting and they are studying very hard for Horse Expo where the members are judged on their knowledge, skill, horsemanship and showmanship of their animal. The Horse Expo

will be held at the Madera Fairgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m.

Achievement Night/Officer Installation was held on Oct. 5. Officers were installed to their club positions and members received special recognition awards. Our club's officer's for this year are as follows: President, Mikaela Fringer; Vice President, Olivia Fernandez; Secretary, Demetria Marical; Correspondent, Micaela Rivera; Treasurer, Lexis Hines; Reporter, Anahi Rivera; Historians, Hanna Chase, Gianna Paolinelli and Graciela Ruiz; Sergeant of Arms, Alexis Fringer; Song and Games, Taryn Cornell; and Host and Hostess, Regan Fringer and Samantha Waag. All 4-H members keep a record book in which members have an opportunity to reflect on their yearly

work. The members document their skill they have learned and experiences in a written report. This record keeping provided various members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club to receive special recognition awards in the following categories: Demonstration Proficiency, Communications/Public Speaking, Leadership, Meat Goats, Outstanding 1st Year Member, Photography, Pygmy goats, Rabbits and Sheep.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4-H. The Sierra Shadows 4-H club leader is Terri Fernandez who can be reached at 559-645-4836 or at trrfernandez@yahoo.com The next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School cafeteria on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

# SPREAD THE NEWS!

**Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?**



**SUBSCRIBE!  
to the Ranchos Independent!**

**local news • local events • local happenings  
editorial • games • real estate • columns**

**The Ranchos Independent** 37167 Ave. 12, #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

**645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com**

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \$20  Cash  Check  Credit Card  Bill Me

The Ranchos Independent 37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera CA 93636 Fax 559-645-4002

# Classified

## Alteration Services

**Madlin's Alterations** - 40 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12. Call 559-645-4583.**

## Construction

**New construction**, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Call **559-970-4476** or **559-645-4033**.

## Floor/Upholstery Care

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery** - FREE estimates. FREE stain protection with any purchase. **Tile, aggregate, showers, Pebble Tec.** Golden Valley Chamber Member, BBB, references. Call **Bruce at 676-0760**.

## For Rent

**Professional Office Space** - 143, 182, 325 and 535 sq. ft. Rent from \$140 to \$400 per month. Rent includes water, sewer, trash, alarm service. **Contact agent at 559-436-4016.**

**Home for Rent** - 2 bdrm, 2 bath mobile home. Rent \$800 per month. Corner of Ave. 11 and Colorado. Pets OK. **Call agent at 706-0301.**

## For Sale

**For Sale** - Pool Table - You move \$200; 8 ft. Camper shell, like new \$1,100; Registered 13-year-old mare \$900; '73 Jet Boat 19 1/2 ft. deep v-hull. Runs Great. \$1,500. **Call 645-8521.**

**For Sale - Fine Things Warehouse** has lots of gift choices. Christmas is coming - are you ready? Open

2nd, 3rd and 4th weekends from Noon to 8 p.m. **37341 Ave. 16. Call 999-6832.**

## Handyman

**Handyman and Landscaping** - Call for estimate or appointment. No job too big or too small. **Call 559-664-7422.**

## Help Wanted

**Salesperson Wanted** - **The Ranchos Independent** is looking for someone who loves the Ranchos and loves the Ranchos Independent and wants the world to know about it. If you're organized and love to talk to people you're half way there ... we can help with the other half. **Call Randy at 645-0634** and we'll set up a time to talk. **Look! You're talking already!**

## Housecleaning

**Housecleaning Service** - **Have your house spring cleaned all year long.** Experience, responsible, honest. Fair prices. **Call 416-2585.**

**Housecleaning** - 20 years experience. Honest, reliable, references. **Call Rachael at 822-3330.**

## Painting Services

**Painting Services** - 40 years of experience. Licensed and insured. **Frank Kramer Exteriors. Lic. #273099. Call 645-4113.**

**Painting Services - Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting.** 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. **Call 674-2320.**

## Pet Vaccinations

**Low Cost Vaccinations.** One Day

Only in the Ranchos. Sat., November 19 from 10 a.m. to Noon. **Dog Gone Cute Store 645-7387** for both dogs and cats.

## Recyclables Pick Up

**Free Recyclables Pickup -- KIDS 4 RECYCLING** offers pickup of household paper, plastics, tin, glass, aluminum and cardboard. Funds support Rancho's Seniors, library, schools and 4H. **Info call Recycle Gal 999-6832** or **645-1048.**

## Tractor/Trenching Services

**Bobcat Work - Drilling Post Holes - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. Tractor Work - Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding - Roll Off Box.** **Call Neal at 645-1200** or **285-8211.**

**Tractor Work** - House pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. **Call 559-970-4476** or **559-645-4033.**

**Custom Trenching - For Sprinklers, Plumbing, Electric Lines, Water Lines or Sewer Lines.** Reasonable Rates. CA. LIC. #548871. **Call 559-229-5407.**

## Window Cleaning Services

**Most windows \$5 inside/out.** Screen, track and sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal available. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723.** **Free estimates. SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

**TO ADVERTISE TODAY CALL 645-0634**

The Ranchos Independent classified rates are **crazy** cheap. Only \$10 for each 25 words.

**top ten**

**Foods to Fight Breast Cancer**

1. Carrots
2. Green Tea
3. Apples
4. Fiber
5. Omega-3 oils
6. Flaxseed
7. Walnuts
8. Pomegranate
9. Broccoli
10. Low-glycemic foods

Source: "Fight Now" by Aaron Tabor, M.D.

© 2011 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

**SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

©2011 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

# Real Estate



**Nancy Watson**  
The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"  
**645-5000**  
www.nancywatson.net



If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 20 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs. 10/11



**DAVID PARKER**  
Realtor®  
[www.davidparker.info](http://www.davidparker.info)  
**490-1989**  
DRE#: 01323109




A Ranchos resident for over 27 years, I am a full-time professional agent working the Madera, Fresno and Clovis areas. Inventories of homes for sale are at a long term low. Now is a great time to sell as competition is low. And it is a great time to buy with record low interest rates and multiple tax incentives. Call me today! 10/11


**Did you know you can own a home in the Ranchos for \$0 down ... through the USDA?**

- 100% Financing
- No Mortgage Insurance
- Seller Can Assist With Closing Cost
- 30 Year Fixed rate Loan


Patty Grissom • (559)256-0533 • cell (559)307-7611  
Loan Officer • hablo español • NMLS #350159 • DRE #01883473



Resource Lenders, Inc.  
7330 N. Palm Ave. Suite 106  
Fresno, CA 93711  
patty@resourcelenders.com  
www.HomeLoansByPatty.com



10/11



**Don't wait until the last minute. You can be pro-active!**

If you're facing the possibility of losing your home to foreclosure and are not sure what might be available to you, please call me. As a CDPE (Certified Distressed Property Expert) I will go over the latest information to help you make a good decision.

**LIZ KUCHINSKI, CDPE, CRS, GRI, SFR**  
Realtor, Century 21 C. Watson

Century 21 C. Watson Direct: (559) 364-1000 • Fax: (559) 440-7608  
7520 North Palm • Fresno liz@LizKuchinski.com • www.LizSellingHomes.com

10/11



**DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE**

Same Day Service

674-1663  
14794 Hwy 41  
Madera

Family Owned  
Since 1976

10/11

**Continental Realty**  
PAUL & SUE SOBAJE


Covering the Ranchos since 1976  
Handling Lots, Homes, Ranches  
Representing Buyers & Sellers



CONTINENTAL REALTY • 36815 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS  
MADERA 559-645-5450 • FRESNO 559-431-7060

10/11

**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.

**Madera Glass & Mirror, that's who!**

Madera Glass & Mirror's repair services are close to the prices charged in the 1980's. Give them a call today for unbelievable prices on incredible quality work and products for all of your glass and screen needs.

**Madera Glass & Mirror Co. • 1825 Howard Rd., Madera • 559-673-3583**

10/11

**Your Local Realtor Since 1969**  
**Ethel Eddings Pronin**  
Owner - Broker



Jerry Eddings, Realtors  
Direct Line: 559-435-3366 Madera: 559-645-1890  
Fresno: 559-435-1890 FAX: 559-645-5417  
www.maderahomes.com DRE #00329063


37144 Ave. 12 Ste. 102 • Madera Ranchos



10/11

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

**Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory**

**CHANEY'S**  
  
 Lic. #899496  
**Bobcat Service**  
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •  
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call **Beau**  
**559-301-1613**

**Clark's Performance**  
 • GM, H1 & ASE Master Certified  
 • General Automotive Repairs  
 • Hot Rod Customizing & Lowering  
  
 Jeff Clark  
**645-1578**

**PAINTING CONTRACTOR**  
 TEXTURED COATING • PAINTING  
 VINYL SIDING • VINYL WINDOWS  
 ROOFING  
  
**FRANK KRAMER**  
**EXTERIORS**  
**(559) 645-4113**  
 TEXTURED COATING SPECIALIST  
 INSURED  
 FRANK KRAMER LIC. #273099

**VELVET TOUCH**  
**CAR WASH & DETAIL**  
  
 37075 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS  
**645-6630**

**B.M.T.**  
**Computer Repair**  
**(559) 917-4507**  
 • Sales & Service  
 • In-Home Service  
 Sé Habla Español  
 Thomas Valdez Computer Tech.  
 Retired FPD 26 yr. Certifications:  
 Ca. Lic.#79328 A+/Network +  
 Microsoft Certified Pro

  
 Since 1973  
**Interlocking Pavers**  
*nothing outlasts pavers!*  
 www.rlacyinterlockpavers.com  
**442-1999**  
 Lic. #306511

**Jo-De DRILLING**  
  
**& TRACTOR SERVICE**  
**HARDPAN DRILLING**  
**674-7770**

**Notary in the Ranchos!**  
 Mobile Notary and  
 Loan Document Signing  
 Daytime • Evening • Weekends  
**Diana J. Tucker**  
 Serving Madera & Fresno Counties  
**381-5879**

**HIGH QUALITY GATE SYSTEMS**  
  
**AUTOMATED ACCESS**  
**559-454-8060**

**ROGER PRATER CONCRETE**  
 Residential & Commercial  
 38 years experience  
 Lic. # 599235  
  
**(559) 645-0911**  
**(559) 645-0916**

**Need Construction?**  
 Lic. #932435  
 • Concrete  
 • Rough Framing  
 • General Building  
 • Steel Buildings • Shop Buildings  
 • Room Additions • New Construction  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
**All Stage Construction, Inc.**  
**559-681-8947**

**Verduzco's Elite**  
  
 • Team Program  
 • Kinder Gym  
 • Tumble Tots  
 • Adult Boot Camp  
 • Birthday Parties  
 • Open Gym  
 • Field Trips  
 • Cheer  
*Producing the finest athletes in the world!*  
**559-447-1609**  
 www.verduzcoselitegym.com

**WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR \$25?**  
 How about 12,000  
 Ranchos residents each  
 month who look at  
 Business Directory ads?  
**The Ranchos Independent**  
**(559) 645-0634**


**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
 Landscape &  
 Gardening  
 Service  
  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 LIC. #B0008113  
**559-974-1357**

**TRANSMISSIONS & AUTO REPAIR**  
 + A/C SERVICE  
**Ranchos Auto Repair & Chuck's Transmission**  
**645-4475**

**Huckabee's**  
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
 Lic. #837274  
**559-662-0336**  
**559-438-8260**  
 Sales and Service - Free Estimates  
 Duct Testing & Certification  
 Locally owned and operated!

**Aleman's Painting**  
 SINCE 1980  
  
 Interior & Exterior  
 Specializing in Repaints  
 Rental, Residential & Commercial  
 Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal  
 Color Matching  
**559-974-2268**

**THE COMFORT AND RELAXATION YOU DESERVE**  
  
**BRIAN'S**  
**HEATING & COOLING**  
**675-1681**

**Robyn's Day Care**  
 559-645-5047  
 Pre-school program  
 Part-time and full time  
  
 Lic. #200408145

**MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR**  
  
 • Weekly Service  
 • Equipment  
 • Supplies  
 • Residential  
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial  
 • Locally Owned  
 251-2514 351-1605 645-4799  
 office cell after 5 p.m.

**CERTIFIED ARBORIST**  
 • Artful Pruning  
 • Removals  
 • Disease Management  
  
**UPRIGHT TREE SPECIALISTS**  
**645-TREE (8733)**

**INAPA B&M**  
 Auto & Truck Parts  
 Store hours:  
 Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30  
 Sat 8:00-4:00  
 Sun 10:00-3:00  
 Madera Ranchos Plaza  
 37405 Ave. 12, Ste. 801  
**645-1570**

*Dog Gone Cute Store*  
  
**Pet Nutrition Novelties & Necessities**  
**Grooming**  
 37193 Avenue 12 #3A • Madera Ranchos, CA 93636  
**645-PETS**  
 Open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**WE MAKE & REPAIR WINDOW SCREENS!**  
 • Aluminum Screen  
 • Fiberglass Screen  
 • Pet Grilles  
 • Specialty Screening  
  
**HURST HARDWARE**  
**645-5680**

**CRONIN MARINE REPAIR**  
 ENGINE AND OUT-DRIVE REPAIR  
 INBOARDS AND OUTBOARDS  
 TRAILER BOATS ONLY  
  
 Since 1964  
**645-1977**



## Business Directory

**WIGHT WATER pools**

• 5-Star Rated Company • Supplies • Tile Clean  
• Flat Rate Pricing • Green Cleans • Service  
• Repairs • Portable

MON-FRI: 9AM-6PM SAT: 9AM-3PM SUN: CLOSE  
Located in Madera Ranchos in Maywood Center  
37167 AVE. 12 #5D (559) 645-1969  
WWW.WIGHTWATERPOOLS.COM

Professional Pet Care  
When You Can't Be There

**Pets, Plants, Plus+**  
Specializing in Livestock

call  
Sandra Oliver  
559-240-3556  
or  
Jackie Jones  
559-232-1352

**PSI**  
Pet Sitters  
International  
MEMBER

Accredited • Insured • Bonded

**4for1**

Crazy Savings  
75% OFF  
entire warehouse  
(formerly *Fine Things*)  
KIDS 4  
RECYCLING

Private Shopper  
Purchase Power ...  
**BEST KEPT SECRET**  
Large variety of  
gift choices ...

BRING THIS COUPON  
Shop Til U Drop!

Beat the no \$\$\$ woes  
...more 4 less!

OPEN 2nd, 3rd and 4th  
SAT-SUN of each month  
Noon - 8 p.m.

37341 Ave. 16 • Madera Ranchos • 559-999-6832

**MZC**

- Industrial
- General
- Farm
- Mig
- Tig
- Stick
- Certified
- Portable

**Welding & Fabrication**  
call **JERRY CLARK • 706-3865**

**RANCHOS QUALITY MACHINE SHOP**

General  
Machining

- Cylinder Boring
- Cylinder Honing
- Cylinder Re-sleeve
- Valve Re-facing

Surfacing

- Motorcycles •
- ATVs • Jet Skis
- Boats • Cars

call  
559-355-4273

for MORE sales tomorrow, call

**JEAN BRINER**

**Today!**

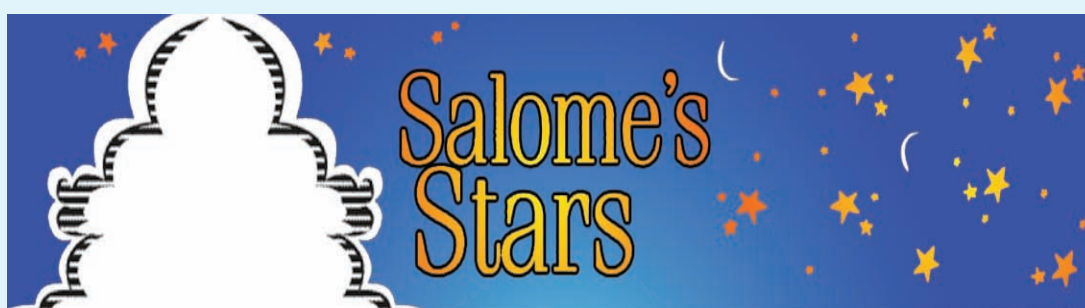
(559) 645-0634  
The Ranchos Independent

### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2011 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Mars, your ruling planet, begins a journey that will open up a growing number of possibilities. Put that surging Arian energy to good use and explore it to your heart's content.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) This is the time to prepare for a career move coming up next month. Update your resume. Get those proposals in shape. And don't forget to buff up that Bovine self-confidence.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Your Gemini instincts will guide you to the right people who might be able to help you get over that career impasse that has been holding you back. Expect to make changes.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You're getting closer, but you still have a ways to go before reaching your goals. Continue to stay focused, no matter how difficult it can be for the easily distracted Moon Child.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Your Leonine pride might be keeping you from getting to the source of a disturbing situation. Don't be shy about asking questions. Remember: Information is power.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to shake up your tidy little world by doing something spontaneous, like taking an unplanned trip or going on a mad shopping spree.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good week to get advice on your plans. But don't act on them until you feel sure that you've been told everything you need to know to support your move.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Be careful. You might be probing just a little too deeply into a situation that you find singularly suspicious. The facts you seek will begin to emerge at a later time.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) This is a good week to make new friends and to look for new career challenges. But first, get all those unfinished tasks wrapped up and out of the way.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Relationships need a fresh infusion of tender, loving care. Avoid potential problems down the line. Stay close to loved ones as the month draws to a close.

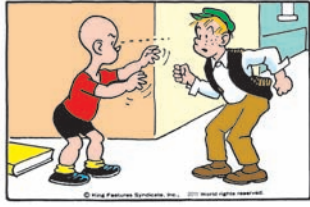
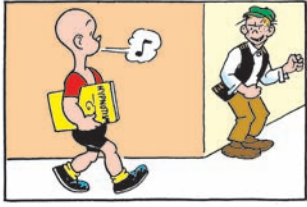
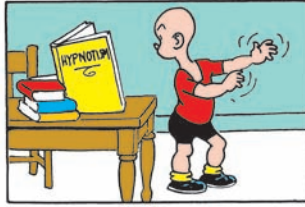
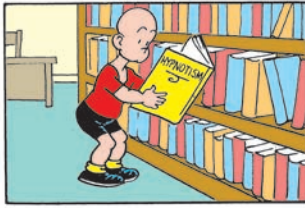
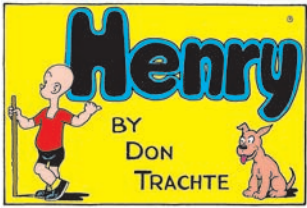
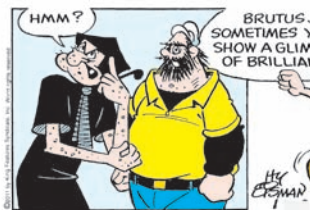
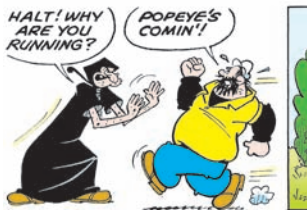
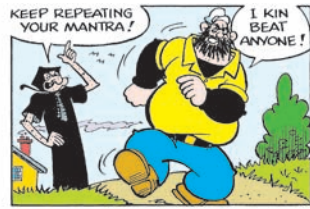
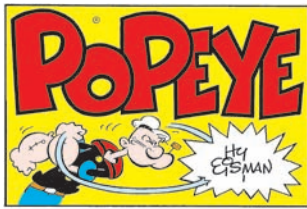
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Aspects favor relationships, whether platonic, professional or personal. On another note: Be a mite more thrifty. You might need some extra money very soon.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) This is the absolute right time to let those often-hidden talents shine their brightest. You'll impress some very important people with what you can do.

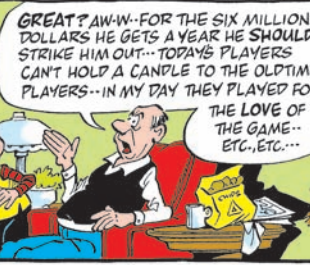
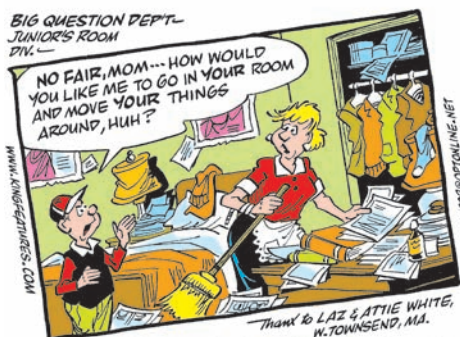
## Born this Week

You are impelled by a need to find truth, no matter how elusive. You would make a wonderful research scientist or an intrepid detective.

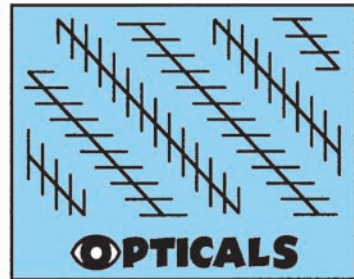
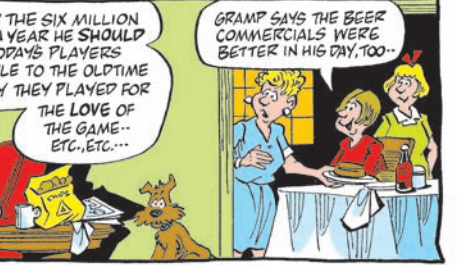
# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



**OPTICALS**  
ARE THE LONG diagonal lines shown above straight and parallel?

Answer: Yes. The short lines make them appear to be unaligned.

**A CROOKED CALCULATION!** A dishonest tradesman measured out 20 feet of rope for a customer. Using a yardstick that was 3 inches too short, how much rope "didn't" the customer get?

Answer: 18 inches. In measuring the first 18 feet, 3 inches were lost for each yard. There was no loss for the last 2 feet.

**IT'S MAGIC!** Use the numbers 4 through 13 to fill in our Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 47. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.

Our answer: First row: 11, 14, 18, 4. Second row: 17, 5, 10, 15. Third row: 6, 12, 9. Fourth row: 13, 8, 7, 19.

## Wishing Well

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

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.

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

## MAGIC MAZE ● ABSENT

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

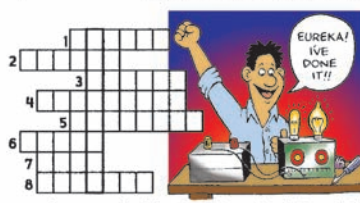
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- |           |             |            |          |
|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|
| Abdicated | Daydreaming | Gone       | On leave |
| Abroad    | Departed    | Missing    | Truant   |
| Away      | Elsewhere   | No-show    | Vanished |
| AWOL      | Excused     | On holiday |          |

© 2011 King Features, Inc.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



**AMERICAN GENIUSES!** In this puzzle grid there is room for the names of eight famous American inventors. Below are hints to get you started. There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly name all of the inventors, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of the man who made radio possible.

Answer: Yes. The short lines make them appear to be unaligned.



Answer: 18 inches. In measuring the first 18 feet, 3 inches were lost for each yard. There was no loss for the last 2 feet.

Our answer: First row: 11, 14, 18, 4. Second row: 17, 5, 10, 15. Third row: 6, 12, 9. Fourth row: 13, 8, 7, 19.

1. He had over 1,000 patents.
2. He perfected the sewing machine.
3. Made sailing in calm weather easy.
4. Made a wheat harvesting machine.
5. Invented bifocal eyeglasses.
6. Made a machine for sending messages.
7. Had his ups and downs.
8. Invented a machine to clean cotton.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: What was the name of the 1987 song and the movie starring Madonna?
2. WEATHER: What are the "sirocco," "mistral" and "Chinook"?
3. MEASUREMENTS: A triennial event occurs how often?
4. MOVIES: Who was the Oscar-winning director of the "The Silence of the Lambs"?
5. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "cyto-" mean?
6. COMICS: What famous comics character had a girlfriend named Dale Arden?
7. HISTORY: When did the USS Maine explode in Havana's harbor, an event that preceded the Spanish-American War?
8. LITERATURE: Henry David Thoreau's famous Walden Pond is nearest to which town?
9. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Norse goddess of love and fertility?
10. GEOGRAPHY: Cork and Limerick are major cities of which nation?

- Answers**
1. "Who's That Girl?"
  2. Names of winds that affect different regions of the world: (sirocco/Mediterranean; mistral/France; Chinook/western North America)
  3. Every three years
  4. Jonathan Demme
  5. Cell
  6. Flash Gordon
  7. 1898
  8. Concord, Mass.
  9. Freya
  10. Ireland

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Click on "Local News" at

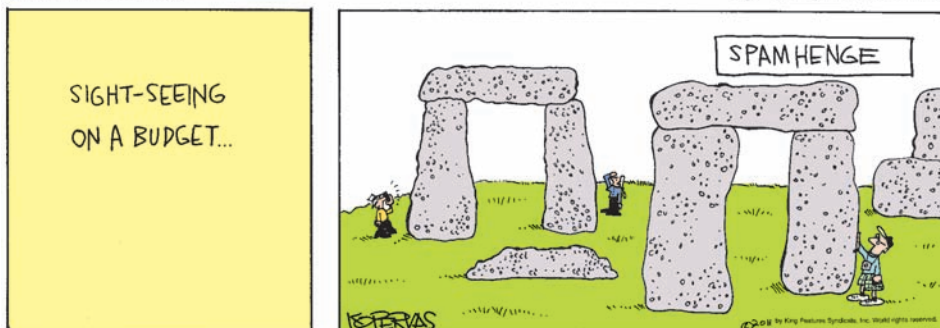
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



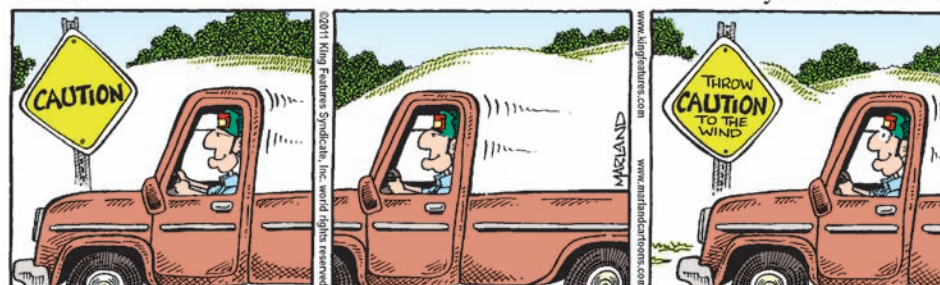
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



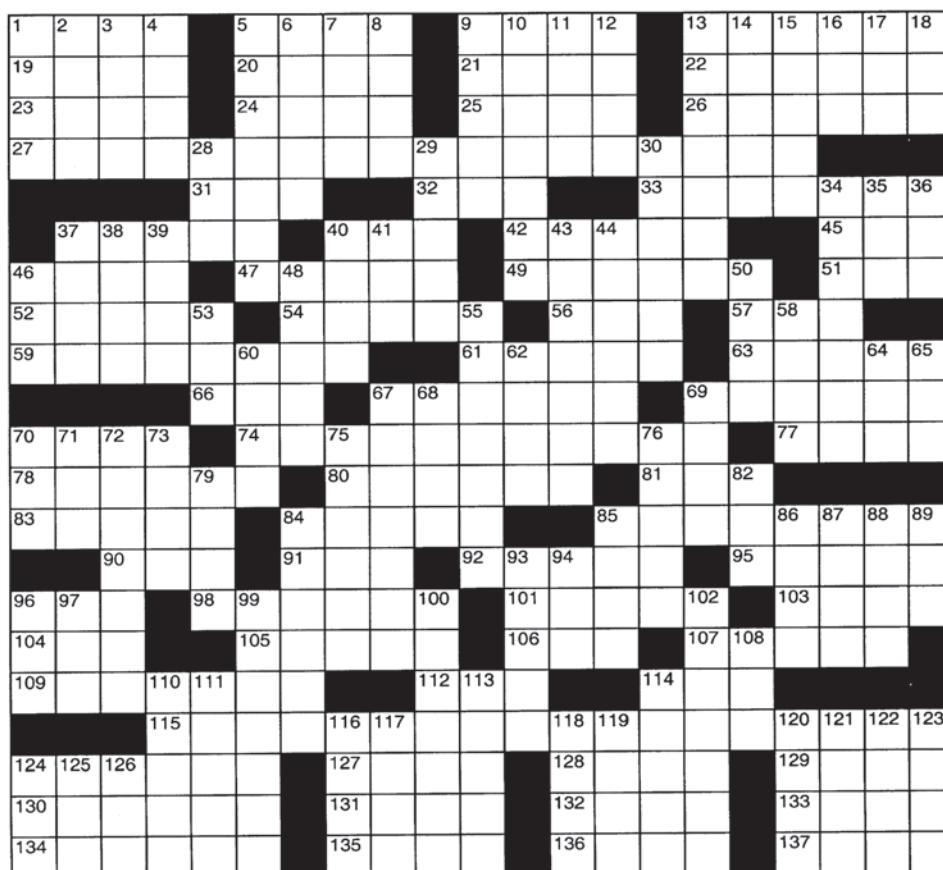
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Goalpost is black. 2. Boy has baseball glove. 3. Part of fence is missing. 4. Tree is different. 5. Boy has a helmet. 6. Shoe is different.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 "That was a close one!"
  - 5 Horror-film extras
  - 9 E-junk?
  - 13 Football team
  - 19 Troubadour's instrument
  - 20 Each
  - 21 Holy headgear
  - 22 Fill with fizz
  - 23 Taj town
  - 24 West. alliance
  - 25 Like — of bricks
  - 26 Cheese-maker's need
  - 27 Start of a remark
  - 31 Busy bug
  - 32 Initials of interest?
  - 33 Snuggled up
  - 37 Iraqi city
  - 40 — de deux
  - 42 Requirements
  - 45 Bristol brew
  - 46 Chalky cheese
  - 47 Tidied the terrace
  - 49 Word form for "bird"
  - 51 Compete
  - 52 Hotelier Helmsley
  - 54 Take in, perhaps
  - 56 Actress Thurman
  - 57 Fury
  - 59 Part 2 of remark
  - 61 Standish's stand-in
  - 63 Day or Duke
  - 66 Foreman's fortes
  - 67 French port
  - 69 Rap session?
  - 70 Dry run
  - 74 Part 3 of remark
  - 77 Encounter
  - 78 Diva Maria
  - 80 Plaza Hotel kid
  - 81 Ewe said it!
  - 83 Massenet opera
  - 84 Mistreat
  - 85 Part 4 of remark
  - 90 Diocese
  - 91 Fix a fight
  - 92 Spartan serf
  - 95 Pith helmet
  - 96 Make lace
  - 98 They're out of this world
  - 101 Early emancipator
  - 103 TV's "The Twilight —"
  - 104 Kimono closer
  - 105 Snowy bird
  - 106 Relative of -ator
  - 107 Mad general?
  - 109 Duncan's murderer
  - 112 Olive product
  - 114 Tighten the tent
  - 115 End of remark
  - 124 "On the Waterfront" star
  - 127 Gymnast Korbut
  - 128 Plunder
  - 129 Carry out orders
  - 130 Confer
  - 131 Singer Campbell
  - 132 Frank or Francis
  - 133 Forsaken
  - 134 Ringed orbiter
  - 135 Manuscript enc.
  - 136 Pilsner
  - 137 — ranch
  - 8 Primer pooch
  - 9 Like some cheddar
  - 10 Coaching legend
  - 11 Burn remedy
  - 12 Cadfael, for one
  - 13 Fervent
  - 14 Yorkshire city
  - 15 Surrealist Max
  - 16 Heflin or Cliburn
  - 17 When Paris sizzles
  - 18 Badminton divider
  - 28 Bend someone's — (yak)
  - 29 Dispatch
  - 30 Delhi denizen
  - 34 Shirley's sidekick
  - 35 Ransom — Olds
  - 36 Scottish river
  - 37 Complaint
  - 38 Perched on
  - 39 Rational kicker
  - 40 Brazilian
  - 41 Address abbr.
  - 43 Learned
  - 44 Snare
  - 46 Mr. Ziegfeld
  - 48 "America's Most Wanted" host
  - 50 Conceal
  - 53 NASA affirmative
  - 55 English explorer
  - 58 Wander
  - 60 Greenhouse items
  - 62 Miss Zebra
  - 64 "— Station" ('68 film)
  - 65 Salon request
  - 67 Toilet water
  - 68 Ever's partner
  - 69 Mikita or Musial
  - 70 Pt. of the whole
  - 71 Team scream
  - 72 Stretchy
  - 73 Ballet movement
  - 75 More mysterious
  - 76 Diminish
  - 79 Disoriented
  - 82 Tread the boards
  - 84 Flying brother
  - 85 Price
  - 86 Gloppy
  - 87 "Once — a midnight dreary . . ."
  - 88 Hawaii's state bird
  - 89 Place-kicker's prop
  - 93 Zola or Griffith
  - 94 Rock's — Lobos
  - 96 Hen's hubby
  - 97 "The — Daba Honeymoon" ('14 song)
  - 99 Disappoint
  - 100 Silly trio
  - 102 Fall fashion
  - 108 FBI employee
  - 110 Swahili, e.g.
  - 111 Witch's home
  - 113 Pointless
  - 114 Conversation piece?
  - 116 Grabs all the goodies
  - 117 Poet Wilcox
  - 118 Thick slice
  - 119 Actor Franchot
  - 120 Winter woe
  - 121 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
  - 122 Dweeb
  - 123 Actress Daly
  - 124 Small shot
  - 125 Stephen of "Ready to Wear"
  - 126 Nova Scotia hrs.
- DOWN**
- 1 Realty map
  - 2 O'Brian or Downs
  - 3 Raison d'—
  - 4 Put on
  - 5 '71 Woody Allen film
  - 6 Separately
  - 7 Shopper's sack

**SEMUCU**  
south east madera county united

**SEMUCU**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Ranchos Pizza Factory**

## **Want to be a Grant Writer?**

**SEMUCU (South East Madera County United) is sponsoring a grant writing class and is offering it to all South East Madera County residents. The class will be free to all members of non-profit organizations and public agencies, and \$25 for all non-members. There is a \$10 lifetime membership fee to join SEMUCU which will also get you into the class for free. Classes will be held at Liberty High and begin on Tuesday, November 1. There will be two consecutive courses on Tuesdays and Thursdays with each course having five classes. The classes will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**