

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

County's Trash Problems Dumped on Ranchos

Landfill lawsuit results
in unexpected changes.



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Madera County's Trash Problems Dumped on Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

Madera County has filed a lawsuit for more than \$2.9 million dollars in damages alleging the county was overcharged by Waste Connections, a Texas-based corporation that purchased locally owned Madera Disposal Systems 15 years ago.

The lawsuit seeks \$2.9 million plus 10 percent interest from Waste Connections which was operating as Madera Disposal Systems, the company that had the contract with Madera County to run the Fairmead Landfill near Highway 99 and Avenue 15, and also handled the County's trash hauling services. Additionally, they were responsible for running the Materials Recovery Facility to handle recycling.

The money in question is tied to the county's Materials Recovery Facility at the Fairmead Landfill. Trash is run through a conveyor at the Materials Recovery Facility and materials that are recyclable are plucked out to sell to companies that make products with recycled items. The suit alleges that Madera County overpaid the company for more than four years because the company withheld profits from the sale of recyclable materials. The money owed to the county comes from \$725,000 in excess recycling revenues that Waste Connections retained above their cost for operating the materials facility plus a 10 percent profit allowed under their contract. That breaks down to \$1.60 per month per customer or \$19.20 per year for Madera County residents over the



Just another day at the Fairmead Landfill, until the County figured out that everything was not quite as it seemed.

past four years. The county is limited to demanding four years of overcharges under the law despite findings of evidence that overcharges began well before that and that other financial issues were found in other Waste Connections operations, said Eric Fleming, County Administrative Officer. "The Materials Recycling Facility was the only issue we could find a solid legal position on," he said.

In the Madera County Grand Jury's 2010 - 2011 Final Report on the subject of Madera County Solid Waste Management and Recycling, the Grand Jury report said:

"The contract has been renewed and extended several times without bid until the year 2017 resulting in a no-bid, contractual relationship in excess of thirty-six (36) years. The Board of Supervisors justified a single

consolidated provider of services as being in the best interest of Madera County and used that argument to grant contractor a no-bid contract. The Grand Jury could find no objective evidence which would have supported such a sweeping finding that this contractor was the only or the best company to accomplish such a service. Clearly many other companies could service consolidated operations. The argument that this contractor was a local was no longer valid. The Grand Jury finds this history highly suggestive of unacceptable 'expediency' at best and of cronyism and a lack of due diligence in contracting for the management of the landfill. The Grand Jury finds the existing contracts continue the appearance of impropriety. The Grand Jury finds that utilization of the competitive bidding process will likely result in lower costs of operations which can be passed on to County residents. The Grand Jury finds that the landfill fees are significantly higher than those of surrounding counties. The Grand Jury finds that the landfill is not being operated as a bale-fill landfill. Trash is dumped directly into the landfill and compacted there without baling because it saves the contractor time and money. The contractor stated that baling in the Materials Recovery Facility did not compact the trash as well as compacting the trash at the landfill face. The Grand Jury finds that the contractor appears to disregard contract intent and provisions by adopting procedures that reduce the contractor's costs to a mini-

Please see **TRASH** on P. 23

Credit Card "Skimmers" Found At Madera Ranchos Shell Station

By Christi McKinney

Madera Sheriff John Anderson has issued an alert to all Valley residents about a credit card skimming device that was used to commit identity theft at a Shell Station on Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos. Unknown to the station someone attached a card reader or "skimmer," as they're called, on the pumps sometime on Aug. 30 then removed the skimmer on Sept. 10. Use of the pumps was likely heavy because this included the Labor Day weekend.



Held on with double-sided tape, the skimmer looks like any other credit card machine, just usually not quite as sturdy.

The skimming operation may have victimized hundreds of gas station customers in the Madera Ranchos. Erica Stuart, spokeswoman for the Sheriff's office said, "Many victims of credit card or debit card theft deal directly with the credit card company to reverse any unauthorized charges and never report the crime to the Sheriff's office, so the exact number is unknown."

This scam has been a problem at other Shell Stations in the area. The identity theft reportedly started a couple of months ago at a Tulare Shell station and then a Shell Station in Fresno was hit, making the Madera Ranchos station third in line. This can happen at any gas station or any ATM anywhere, however, despite rumors, owner

Please see **SKIMMER** on P. 21

Red Rock Environmental Named County's Waste Disposal Service

By Christi McKinney

Effective Nov. 1, Madera County has contracted with Red Rock Environmental Services as the new waste disposal service for Madera County residents. Although Red Rock Environmental is a new name used specifically for Madera County, the company does business under the names Industrial Waste and Salvage and Caglia Environmental Services Inc. and they are located in Fresno. They currently provide disposal services in Fresno and Clovis as well as to a number of hospitals in the area.

"The Caglia family is proud to have been doing business in Madera and Fresno County for many decades. Red Rock Environmental is especially proud to now be serving Madera County residents for their waste and recycling needs," said Richard Caglia. Caglia and his wife Cheri recently took it upon themselves to visit with some

Madera Ranchos residents at their homes after residents had called expressing concern about the change in service. The Caglias wanted to reassure Ranchos residents that they were ready, willing and able to service our needs. "I personally look forward to meeting more of my new Madera family as we integrate further into the community," Caglia said.



Alan Davis, General Manager of Red Rock Environmental said, "For the time being we are working to provide the same serv-

ices Madera County residents and businesses are accustomed to and to make the transition as smooth as possible. In the long run there will be changes that will include providing residents bins that can be picked up automatically by garbage trucks and providing separate bins for recycling and for biodegradable or green waste."

Please see **RED ROCK** on P. 23

Click on "Local News" at

Get to Know the GVUSD Trustee Candidates for Area 5 (Sierra View)



STEVEN LEWIS AGE: 42
OCCUPATION: *Businessman*

I have been married to Lori for 21 years and we have four children, all attending GVUSD schools. We made the decision to move to the Ranchos 12 years ago, seeking a community and school district that would match our family values and Christian faith.

My wife and I are active volunteers

Please see LEWIS on P. 21



MARK TOOLE AGE: 62
OCCUPATION: *Farmer*

I am running for reelection as a GVUSD Trustee because I feel that I can provide ongoing financial stability and continued curriculum growth.

During the last four years which included two years as board president, the football stadium and science wing were completed at Liberty High School, modernization was started at

Please see TOOLE on P. 21

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A Crystal Clear Election Choice



By Sandy Forbes

America faces a major fork in the road. Which path will citizens of the United States choose our country to tread? Today more people are seeing Obama as he truly is and how the progressive mainstream media struggles to cover up the facade. Most of us have always known the tangled web of radically left, big-government agendas Obama has woven, but he would have never been able to proceed as far as he did without the protection of the progressive mainstream media.

Obama's threads are unraveling which reminds many of the Danish fairytale written by Hans Christian Andersen, The Emperor's New Clothes. During the first debate with Governor Romney, Obama was uncomfortably unclothed, unveiling his narcissistic persona by showing a face of contempt and irritation that he had to attend. Add to this the VP debate with Joe Biden laughing, smirking and constantly interrupting Paul Ryan's serious comments as a disgrace to the office of Vice President. An obvious distraction by Obama's court jester hopelessly trying to hide Obama's fallen mask of deceit. This four-year period in our American history is an embarrassment of ignorance as to how such a man, who no one really knows, could have ever been elected.

When listening today to John F. Kennedy's speech at the end of 1962, which can be watched at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEdXrfIMdiU, President Kennedy sounds like a modern day republican because the current democrat party has certainly morphed from what it was so many years ago.

The crystal clear choice now for America's survival is the Romney/Ryan path toward the Tea Party's core values of free markets, fiscal responsibility and constitutionally limited government. Voting is a privilege, not a duty, so please be informed and VOTE!

Forward!

By Don Jans

From the perspective of the progressives: "Our motto is 'Forward to the completion of the Fundamental Transformation from Capitalism to a fair and equitable classless society,' as proclaimed by Obama in 2008. Our rule for re-election: Distort, deceive and lie, but always do it consistently and convincingly.

"The American people believe we want to raise taxes on the wealthy to raise revenue to reduce the national debt. We tell them it is a fair and balanced approach. We know this has never worked. When taxes are lowered, revenues are increased. This rule has never failed. That is why JFK and others lowered the marginal tax rates.

"JFK, and others, had as their real goal to raise revenues and stimulate the economy; this is why they lowered the marginal tax rates. Our goal is not what we lead the public to believe. Our goal is to redistribute wealth and punish those who strive to be financially successful. We know nobody can be successful because of their efforts. Individual financial success is achieved because of the total efforts of the community. The successful must be punished and the wealth shared.

"The American public must also believe that government stimulus brings long-term economic growth, government regulations protect the public and central planning is necessary for a less volatile economy. We know government stimulus is detrimental to long-term growth, this has been proven every time it is tried. FDR's spending programs and Obama's stimulus reinforces this unfailling economic truth. We must remember, however, that the true goals of FDR and Obama were not to stimulate an economy, but to place more of the economy under government control and supervision. Both were successful in achieving their real goals, which the public must never understand.

"We also tell the American public that government regulations protect them. We know these regulations are to control the economy and

Please see **CRYSTAL** on P. 11

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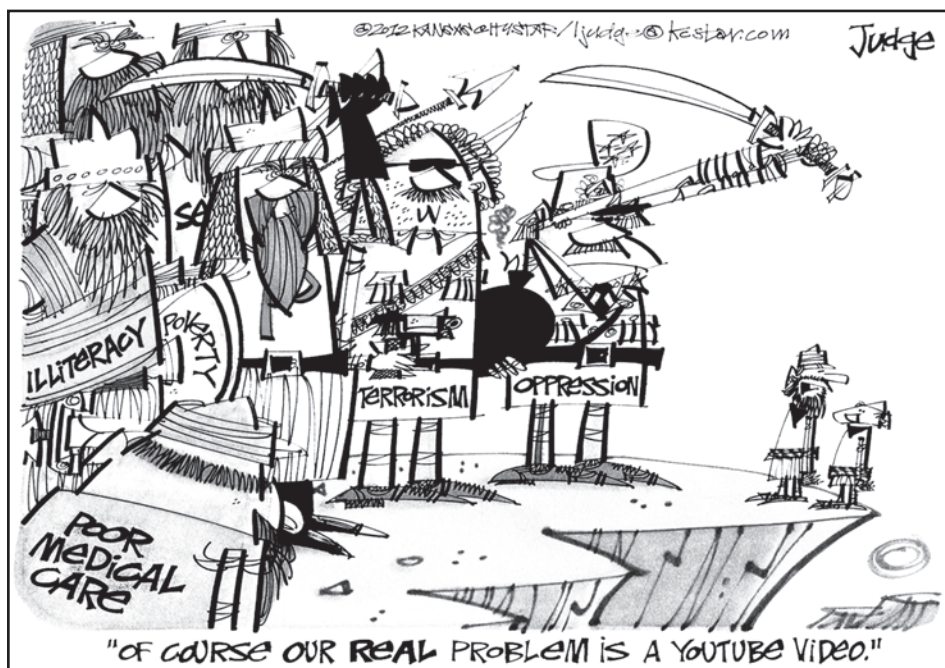
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Editorial

Before You Vote ... Think

By Randy Bailey

Every election year at about this time, the talking heads come out and implore you that *this* election is quite possibly the most important election of your entire life. If you're a Republican, that election is usually when a Democrat is in office and if you're a Democrat it's more than likely life or death when a Republican holds the top spot. This year the Republicans think it's important to de-throne President Obama, although I'm pretty confident the anti-George Bush crowd felt the same way about George around this time.

Along with the importance of "this" election versus "that" election, we also hear a lot about "... just vote. Exercise your right and just get out and vote."

This is where we have to part company.

If you don't know the issues, if you don't know the candidates, if the first time you've seen the wordings for the propositions on your ballot is in the voting booth, don't vote.

If the depth of your understanding of a candidate's position is the 15-second sound bite you heard as you drove over to your polling place, don't vote.

If all you know about a proposition is what the better-funded organization financing the campaign *against* the proposition wants you to know, don't vote.

And here's something that most people don't understand: When you're in the

voting booth there is no requirement that you have to vote for EVERYTHING on the ballot. If there are 10 propositions on the ballot and you've done your research and nine of them are clear cut, black and white, no-questions-asked decisions, but you can't wrap your mind around "Number 7," guess what? You don't HAVE to vote for Number 7. It's that concept that so infuriated me during the 2000 election between George Bush and Al Gore. Down in Florida, where counting ballots is an acquired taste, much like eating 'gator, the people who were intent on getting to the bottom of things in an election that seemed to be not turning out the way they had in mind took it upon themselves to count "questionable" ballots. One of the things that made a ballot "questionable" was if everything was punched but one or two items. They then took it upon themselves to try and discern the "intent" of the voter. After all, if the voter had voted "no" on everything else but left Number 7 unmarked, OBVIOUSLY it was just an oversight and the sloppy voter had meant to vote "no" on Number 7 as well.

Stupid voter ...

But I digress. The point I'm making here is that EVERY presidential election IS an important election. I try to impress upon people that even if you have a consummate, do nothing, benign president who does little more than play golf for four years, there more than likely is one thing he or she will do that truly is the gift that keeps on giving: Supreme Court justices. We will have Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor until they're as old as Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

You don't have to be psychic to know the type of judge different candidates are going to suggest, you simply have to know the candidates. You get to know them by reading about them, by listening to what they say and what others are saying about them; by looking at their records in other positions they have held in the past and then, and ONLY then, you make a reasoned decision to support them with your vote. If their past is murky, if, as Bill Clinton said, "There's no 'there' there," then don't vote for them. But you can't do all that 15 minutes before you drive over to vote on Tuesday, November 6. Please, for the sake of the country, if you can't invest a minimum amount of effort before you head out to do your civic duty, don't vote.

The Ranchos Independent

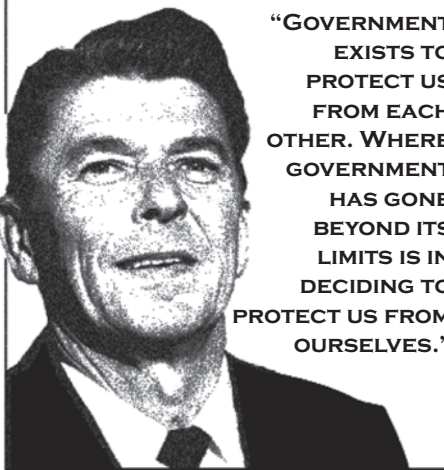
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EBT - Responsibility Required

It struck me as odd when I saw the sign in the convenience store window announcing they happily accept EBT cards.

Seriously?

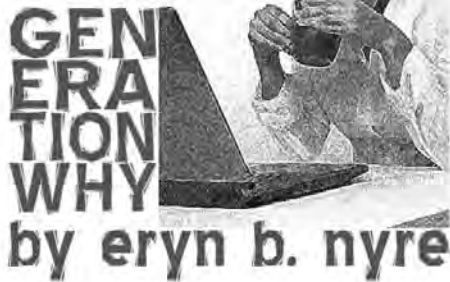
Other than a quick stop to grab a gallon of milk, what exactly is the state saying by allowing the food stamp cards to be used at the local 7-11, besides the obvious message that they do not care one tiny little iota about how the recipients are spending our money. I don't care what people spend their own money on, but it seems like an abuse of taxpayer dollars to allow them to grab a quick-stop burrito, some nachos and bottle of cola on the state's dime. This money should be going to feed

their families, and there are certainly better and more nutritional ways to feed your families than convenience store junk food.

I imagine the popular counter argument is that we don't stop parents who are not on the government dole

from feeding their children fast food and junk food of all kinds, why are we putting limits on the family that is on government assistance? Well, the answer is easy; I don't have to help support people who aren't on government assistance. Plain and simple.

Throughout my life, my father has always passed on to me a golden bit of advice that his mother-in-law gave to him right after he married my mom, he would say to me, "Eryn, if I don't have to pay your bills, I won't tell you how to live your life." Sound piece of advice, and he has held to that. As an adult, other than the occasional fatherly inquiry, as long as he wasn't writing my rent checks, he didn't tell me how to spend



my money.

When I was younger, though, I did come to my parents for some financial help. Like so many other teenagers before me, I made the catastrophic mistake of opening my first credit card, before I truly understood what that meant. Why pay cash when plastic is less cumbersome, why save for it when you can swipe a

card and pay later. And just like that I joined the ranks of all the other teenaged twits racking up debt for new shoes and a fancy television. Living beyond my means eventually caught up with me. Luckily for me, my parents had a lot more finan-

cial wherewithal, so they were able to come to my rescue, and I was blessed that they were willing. They bailed me out, paid off my debt and got me back on track, but you better believe they watched my money like a hawk, because now that they had given me money, I lost the freedom to spend anyway I saw fit, after all, at that point, I wasn't really spending my own dough anymore, it was my parents'.

This same basic concept applies to the food stamp program. For whatever reason, if you have asked for help, be it from your parents or the government, then you have to expect that whoever is footing the bill deserves to have a say in how you are spend-

For whatever reason, if you have asked for help, be it from your parents or the government, then you have to expect that whoever is footing the bill deserves to have a say in how you are spending their money. And hot dogs and candy bars at the corner store is a gross misuse of community funds.

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

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The Stock Report

Confusion Looms as Seasons Change

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Are you confused? Well I am! I helped to establish Golden Valley Unified School District. I even was on the school board for two full 4-year terms. Everyone in the district had a chance to vote for me or anyone else that ran on the ballot. Now they tell me that I can only vote for the person or persons who run from the trustee area that Golden Valley Unified has been broken up into. I don't even know what area I am in. Golden Valley has been broken up into five areas,

one for each trustee seat on the school board. Two trustee seats are up for re-election on the November ballot. If Mike Kelly (who is running again) is on your official ballot it means that you are in his area. I understand that he is running unopposed. He will be the only one

on your ballot that you can vote for. If Mark Toole and Steven Lewis are on your official ballot it means that you have a choice between these two men. It also means that you are in their area. The other three trustee seats held by Mona Diaz, Kathleen Crumpton and Bryan Freeman will be coming up for election in two years. I guess we will find out whose area we are in then. I know that Mike Kelly, Mark Toole or Steven Lewis are not on my official ballot.

The next thing that I am confused about is this change in our garbage company. According to the letter that I received from the County of Madera Resource Management Agency, it said that starting November 1 a new company, Red Rock Environmental Group, will be picking up our garbage but only if you call 1-855-665-7817 to be put on their list. This seems like a strange way for Madera

County to be doing business. What are these innovative services they will offer for garbage and recycling collection? I hear that this new company will be putting a lot of people out of work with little notice. With jobs so hard to come by, is this a good time for Madera County to be putting people out of work?

Some upcoming events put on by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce are: November 7 the Chamber Mixer at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 6 p.m. All Chamber members are invited. The Chamber Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon will be

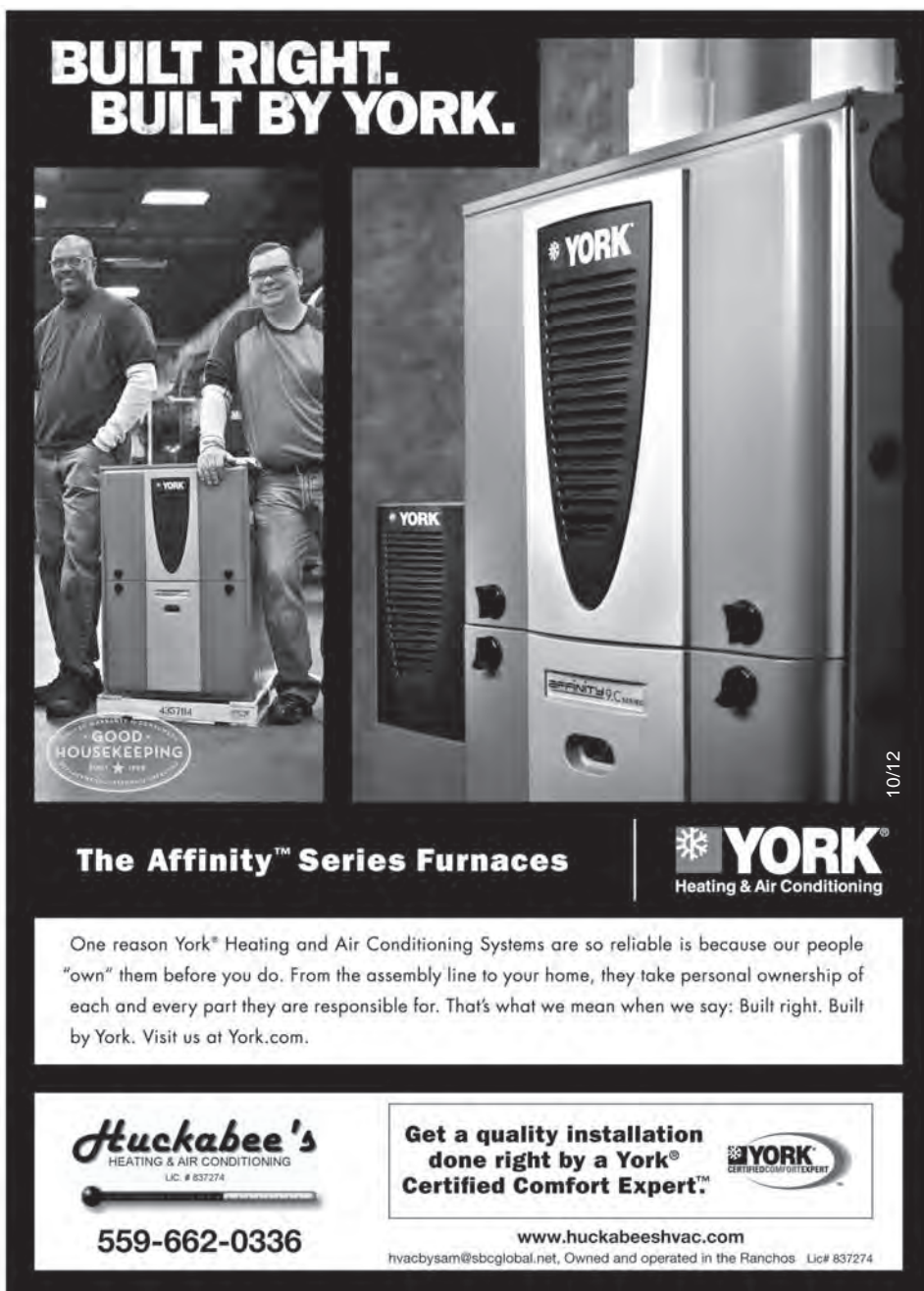
Now they tell me that I can only vote for the person or persons who run from the trustee area that Golden Valley Unified has been broken up into. I don't even know what area I am in. Golden Valley has been broken up into five areas, one for each trustee seat on the school board.

held on Saturday, Nov. 10 in Virginia Vick's backyard at 11:30 a.m. Fashions will be featured by Coldwater Creek. Price of the ticket is \$25 with a portion of the proceeds to benefit Golden Valley Unified Scholarships. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber of

Commerce office in the Maywood Center. Last, on December 7 will be the annual Christmas tree lighting at 6 p.m. at the Maywood Center. Santa will be there and pictures will be taken.

The way that the days fly by Christmas will be here before you know it. Two enterprising young ladies (Rebecca and Rachel Black) who have been traveling overseas with the New America Singers have come up with this idea. They have to pay their way when they travel. The girls are planning a Holiday Gift Fair at the Golden Valley Baptist Church on Saturday, December 1. There will be spaces to rent to vendors to sell their Christmas goodies. Santa Claus will be there so that kids can have their picture taken with him. Call Carl at 645-4016 for more information. Also check out their ad in this paper about this event.

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Soup it Up

I was beginning to think we weren't going to have a fall season, going from summer right into winter. Then we had those few beautiful 70+ degree days, but here we are back into the 80's and projecting to get to 90 over the week-end. I do love the fall weather. In addition to the beautiful weather, we don't have to turn the A/C on and it's not chilly enough yet for the heater.

As I said in last month's article, another thing I love about the fall is we can start cooking in the kitchen and not worrying about heating up the kitchen, or worse, the whole house. Comfort foods we can cook are stews, soups and roasts. This month I'll continue from last month with soups - I think most everyone likes soup, especially the good homemade kind.

This first recipe was my sister Faye's. I've never made it, but my sister Maxine did and she informed me it not only made a big pot, but it was delicious.

Dear readers, remember that recipes (except baking recipes) are just suggestions. If you or your family doesn't like something, substitute something else. They don't like carrots? Don't use as many as called for and add an extra potato - or surprise them and put in a turnip. If you don't like a particular seasoning, avoid it, or put something else in. Personally, I hate the flavor of cilantro so I just don't put it in and maybe use parsley instead.

Taco Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can Rotel
- 1 can chopped tomatoes
- 1 package ranch dressing mix



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

- 1 package taco seasoning mix
 - 1 can ranch style beans
 - 1 can creamed corn
 - 1 can kidney beans
 - 1 can black beans
 - 1 can pinto beans
 - 1 can navy beans
 - Water
 - Grated cheese
 - Sour cream
 - Tortilla Chips
 - Brown ground beef with onion
- in 6 quart soup pot. Add Rotel, tomatoes, ranch mix, taco mix, ranch style beans and cream corn to beef and onion.

Drain and add remaining cans of beans. Add 2 cans of water. Stir together and simmer for 10 minutes or until the consistency you like. Serve over tortilla chips, and garnish with grated cheese and a spoon of sour cream.

The following recipe is also from my sister Maxine. There are a couple of notes written on the side of the recipe. If you can't find dry mint, use fresh. And she says she prefers red cabbage to the green.

Armenian Cabbage

- Fill soup pot $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water
- Add:** 1 head cabbage cut in eighths (1/8)
- 3 medium diced onions
- 2 closed handfuls pearl barley
- 6 ounces beef base
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. white pepper
- 1 serving spoon diced tomatoes
- 1 serving spoon tomato sauce
- 2 T dry mint

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 13

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Dog Gone Cute Store

call **645-PETS** to make your grooming appointments now
37221 Ave. 12 #1C • in the Maywood Center

THANK YOU!
 Everyone that helped us
 celebrate our 7-Year Anniversary.
 It was a wonderful turnout.

10/12

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I'm back in the Ranchos!

Kristin Knoblock is now at the Beauty Club Salon & Spa located in the Maywood Center next to Atzlan.

Here are some of my specials to welcome you to the salon:

\$10 Wednesdays - Men/Boys Haircuts • Waxing - \$5 OFF
FALL SPECIAL - Book any color service and get FREE haircut
to ALL RETURNING CLIENTS: \$10 OFF SERVICE

For more details regarding the SPECIALS call me at 645-6565. See you soon!

10/12

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Golden Valley Baptist Church

Pastor K. Milton Higgins is bringing
the 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service message
to the congregation. Join us.

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
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10/12

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I have investigated thoroughly, both Steven Lewis and Mark Toole, running for GVUSD Trustee Area 5. While both seem capable, I have some strong concerns that have warranted me writing this letter to you.

In Mark Toole's ad in the Ranchos Independent, he lists his accomplishments and goals. One of the accomplishments he claims is the building the football stadium. I had heard through several close acquaintances that Mr. Toole had a history of voting against the stadium, so I wanted to verify this information for myself. I accessed Golden Valley Unified School District's website (www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us) and went to the Board of Trustees tab and then "board meeting." In the Nov. 12, 2009 meeting minutes I found that Mr. Toole was the sole vote against the science wing and stadium build out. I am really struggling with why he would boast about his involvement in the construction of those two projects when he voted against them. In fact, he was the ONLY board member who voted against the projects. Over the last few weeks, I have witnessed Mark attending LHS football games claiming to be a candidate who is for football and our athletic programs at LHS. Mark's voting record, has proven otherwise.

We need a candidate who will fight for the needs of all students, including athletics, Ag, vocational education, and performing arts. We need a board member who will support ALL our programs. I believe Steven Lewis is that person.

Sincerely,

Peter Flores
Bonadelle Ranchos

Dear Editor:

On November 6, voters will decide Proposition 36, which is touted as a reform of the Three Strikes and You're Out law. Proposition 36 would radically water down Three Strikes, and negatively impact public safety. For this reason I, along with the California District Attorneys Association, oppose this measure.

Three Strikes was enacted in 1994, from a grass roots effort spearheaded by Mike Reynolds, following the murder of his 18 year old daughter in the streets of Fresno. The murderer was a 25-year-old man who only two months previously had been released from state prison after serving time for auto theft. The Three Strikes sentencing law was intended to stop habit-

ual felons such as him from continuing to commit new crimes.

As Three Strikes stands now, when a criminal who has previously committed two or more serious or violent felonies commits any new felony (the "Third Strike"), that criminal becomes eligible to be sentenced to state prison for 25 years to life. The rationale behind this is those who have previously been convicted for two or more serious or violent felonies, yet choose to commit additional felonies of any type, are habitual offenders and thus a substantial risk to public safety.

Proposition 36 would change sentencing requirements so that only the commission of a "serious or violent" felony (not any felony) will be eligible as the Third Strike. You may ask, why would anyone propose to give habitual felons the opportunity to commit more crime? The answer, according to the voter ballot and initiative backers, is to reduce the costs of incarceration by sending fewer criminals to prison, which is overpopulated with those sentenced under Three Strikes, and to prevent the state from having to pay medical costs as they grow older. Also, the supporters of this initiative believe too many are committed to prison for life when their Third Strike was merely a petty theft. These arguments however, are flawed when the true facts become known.

A review of the statistics from California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation pertaining to the inmates sentenced under Three Strikes ("Third Strikers") is helpful. Currently, the total state prison population is 134,868 inmates. Of these, the number of Third Strikers is 8,873, or just 6.6 percent. Clearly, the Three Strikes law is not the main source of inmates in our prisons. Neither are Third Strikers responsible for an aging population within the prison system. Of the Third Striker population, only 10.2 percent are 60 years old or more. Commission of a petty theft can only be charged as a felony if the person has a history of prior petty thefts. Currently, only 327, or less than 4 percent of Third Strikers are committed for petty theft.

The justice system has adequate safeguards, from the discretion of the District Attorney through the court system, to ensure only the most deserving of felons are sentenced to a 25 year to life sentence in state prison.

There are serious consequences of Proposition 36. If the proposition passes, the discretion of the District Attorney to utilize Three Strikes to remove from the

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

Fall Reading Program + eBooks = Fun

By Garin Gonzales

Ahhhhh...October! The weather is finally getting cooler and everything seems to be calming down in this quiet, serene community. But things are just getting busy around the Ranchos Library. First, Diane Maxfield is back and already doing Story Time every Thursday at 11 a.m. Story Time is a great way to get your pre-school-aged child interacting with other children while fueling their imaginations. And moms, it's also a good way to ease them into nap time.

Do you have a child in need of homework help? Our esteemed tutor, Ginger Taylor, is here every Wednesday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. She specializes in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, but she's also available for adult literacy tutoring. Additional times may be available by appointment. Ask at the front desk.

We would also like to announce that our (unofficial) Fall Reading Program is well under way. Sure, the Summer Reading Program gets all of the attention, but we like to help children learn a love for reading no matter what season it happens to be. So come on in and grab a reading log for your child. The rules are simple: Read the required number of pages for your child's age range (listed on the reading log), list the title of the book(s), the number of pages read and have a parent initial the log. Then bring it in and you're eligible for prizes, including books from our "For Sale" room, personal pizzas from our friends at the Pizza Factory and whatever else we have lying around. Start making a reader today.

The kind folks at Barnes and Noble and the Cheesecake Factory help us do a fundraiser each year. Just in time for Thanksgiving we'll have yummy cheesecakes for sale and the library gets to keep a "slice" of the profits. (See what I did there? That's called a pun.) Also in November we set up at the Barnes and Noble in Fresno and if you get a sticker from us, when you check out we get a percentage of the sale, which we use to buy materials for the library. So you get books and we get books. It's

a win win.

Madera County is finally introducing 3M eBooks on eBook readers and Mobile devices. This is great news for people who have been patiently waiting. eBooks are absolutely FREE with your Madera County Library card and you can check out 3 eBooks for up to 14 days. And there are no late fees or charges. There are two ways to do it: You can download eBooks directly to your mobile device (Android™, iPad®, iPhone® or iPod Touch®) with the free 3M Cloud Library app or (with the 3M app), eBooks can be transferred from a PC (with Mac® coming soon) to an eBook reader using your Adobe ID. Unfortunately, the offer isn't good with Kindles®. Also, the 3M Cloud Library App is now available in Barnes & Noble's NOOK Apps store, making it easier for owners of NOOK tablets to borrow eBooks from our library. Anyone with a NOOK HD, NOOK HD+, NOOK Tablet or

NOOK Color can download the 3M Cloud Library App directly from the NOOK Apps storefront, and then transfer digital content wirelessly to their device without having to physically connect to a computer. So come on in and we'll get you started.

Finally, a huge piece of news. After 20 years of dedicated (and awesome) service, our beloved librarian Barbara Cosner is retiring. I've only been here a short while, but without Barbara's help I would have been lost. She was instrumental in helping me find my

footing at this library and her patience with me was (and is) tremendous. I have to say I am a little scared to be here without her. Her last day is scheduled for November 29.

If you'd like to come into the library and wish Barbara well, please do. We'll have a card (probably a poster more like) for you to write your well-wishes, but if you just want to stop in and say your fond farewells to her in person, even better. I know that Barbara might be a little uncomfortable with all of the attention, but I'm sure we can make this a nice send-off for an incredible friend and colleague.

Well folks, until next time, keep on rockin' in the free world.

Finally, a huge piece of news. After 20 years of dedicated (and awesome) service, our beloved librarian Barbara Cosner is retiring ... her last day is scheduled for November 29. If you'd like to come into the library and wish Barbara well, please do. We'll have a card (probably a poster more like) for you to write your well-wishes, but if you just want to stop in and say your fond farewells to her in person, even better. I know that Barbara might be a little uncomfortable with all of the attention, but I'm sure we can make this a nice send-off for an incredible friend and colleague.

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(beginning with April 2006).
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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Click on "Local News" at

CRYSTAL cont. from P. 4

the lives of the individual citizens. If we give a citizen a fish for dinner, they must come back to us the next day if they wish to eat. The citizen becomes less self-reliant and more government reliant. This is good, because the government is better at running the economy and the lives of each individual citizen. Plus, we not only stay in power, we gain more power.

“We Marxist/Progressives (liberals and leftists) must continue to distort, deceive and lie. If you need a great example, use

Harry Reid. He is the best because he never lets the truth be a part of his statement. We know we can do this because the media will protect us. They are leading our team. Keep the faith, and never forget that we are morally and intellectually superior.”

Unfortunately this is not a dream, nor is it fiction. It is the real world in which we live. It will become much worse if the Fundamental Transformation proclaimed is allowed to continue. This is a statement of fact based on history and not conjecture.

Rise up America! Reclaim your nation, your lives and your economy.

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

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

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The October 15 meeting presented guest speaker, Bill Coate, who spoke about the loss of American history.

Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. Confirm meeting dates and speakers on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com

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

New Waste and Recycling Provider for Madera County



The County of Madera has selected a new Waste and Recycling service provider, RedRock Environmental Group, to begin service November 5, 2012. RedRock, a newly formed company by the local Caglia Family, encourages everyone to register online or by phone.

www.cagliaenvironmental.com

TEL: 855-665-7300 (Toll Free)



Yarbrough - Smith



Kellie Yarbrough and Will Smith were married on Aug. 4, 2012 in Fresno.

Kellie is a 2009 Sierra High School graduate and at present is attending the Madera Community College Center pursuing a degree in business. Kellie is on target to graduate in 2013.

She is currently employed at Chick-Fil-A in Fresno.

Will is a 2007 graduate of Modesto High School and at present is employed at Central California Mennonite Residential Services.

The newlyweds are now residing in Clovis.

Link - Garcia



Kayleigh Link is now Mrs. Alex Garcia. The Ranchos couple were wed on October 6 in a beautiful wedding with the Pacific Ocean serving as the ultimate backdrop at breathtaking

Sunny Cove in Santa Cruz.

The newlyweds are now settling into married life here in the Ranchos where they grew up and graduated from Liberty High School.

Call 645-0634 to ADVERTISE NOW!



**They are our future...
Let's keep their education
our top priority.**

Proudly Endorsed By Scott Tefft

"I know Steven Lewis to be a person of the highest integrity and sound character. We need Steven's proven leadership to keep Golden Valley moving forward in a positive, successful way and to keep the best interest of all children at the forefront."

SCOTT TEFFT - Former Principal at Sierra View Elementary



"We will face many challenges over the next two years. It is critical we have the right leadership in place. If you vote for me, I will work hard to place the needs of our children first, support our teachers and serve the whole community. Together, we can keep GVUSD schools great."

STEVEN LEWIS - Trustee Area 5 Candidate

I SUPPORT:

- VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**
- TRACK & FIELD**
Completion of stadium events. Funded through existing bond.
- AG/ARTS PROGRAMS**
- GOING DIGITAL**
Supply Laptops/Tablets. Funded through existing bond.
- EXPAND ELECTIVE OFFERINGS**
- AQUATICS FACILITY**
Funded through existing bond.



Please join us by electing
STEVEN LEWIS
to GVUSD School Board



“Steven Lewis has leadership with integrity! Steven is committed to students’ success and he cares deeply about the GVUSD community. He is passionate about all aspects of the educational process, and he is approachable and available to students, parents and staff.”
GWEN WOLLEY - Retired Teacher at Sierra View Elementary

“Steven has the capacity to build a team. I have watched him selflessly collaborate to get the job done. I am convinced he is best suited for the job of bringing a community together for the sake of our kids.”
DOUG BAKER - RMS & Sierra View Elementary Parent

“Steven is the only candidate with children in our schools. He has an invested interest to insure that all students have the tools they need to succeed.”
DAWN RATZLAFF - LHS & Sierra View Elementary Parent

- PROVEN LEADER**
- INVOLVED PARENT**
- 4 CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOLS**
- CONSERVATIVE FAMILY VALUES**



10/12

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

Cook 30 minutes or until barley and cabbage are tender.

I think I have told you before about going over to the Yturi (I know that isn’t the way to spell it, but I couldn’t find it on the internet) Hotel for lunch and eating in the dining room with the sheepherders. They served soup, salad, entrée, side dishes and desserts all family style. The food was outstanding. A special soup I always liked was the Beef Barley Soup. I went on line looking for a recipe, and wow, there are as many recipes and differences as there are colors in a big box of Crayola’s.

Beef Barley Soup

2 lbs. beef – Oxtails, stew meat, chuck steak or roast – any meat that can be boiled.

- 2 Qts. Water
- ½ C Pearl Barley
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 3 carrots, cut in ¼ inch slices
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. thyme
- ½ C chopped fresh parsley

Brown beef with a little oil in the bottom of a large kettle or Dutch oven. Add balance of the ingredients except the parsley. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer 2 ½ to 3 hours, or until meat is done, and barley is tender. Cut meat to bite size pieces and skim any fat from top of soup and remove bay leaves before serving. Stir in parsley, and serve.

In last month’s article I told you I would include Randy’s Corn Chowder recipe, so here it is:

Randy’s Corn Chowder

- 2 cans condensed Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 Qt. Half and Half
- 3 cans Whole Kernel Corn, drained
- 6 Potatoes
- 2 T sugar
- ¼ C Butter
- 2T Parsley Flakes

Put a large pot on medium heat and empty the two cans of cream of chicken soup into it. Instead of adding water to the soup, use the full quart of half and half. Start stirring. You don’t want it to stick to the bottom or it will burn. Drain the three cans of corn and add them to the pot and keep stirring. Peel the potatoes and then dice them into approximately 1/2” squares and add them to the pot as you cut them. Once all the potatoes have been added, add in the butter, sugar and parsley flakes. Cook until the potatoes are tender, usually around 30 minutes. The smaller you cut the potatoes the faster it cooks. Pair this soup with sliced sourdough bread that has been buttered and then put under the broiler. It melts the butter into the bread and toasts it, but only on one side, making the other side soft, chewy and buttery.

Before I close, I wanted to tell you one more of my favorite things about the fall season. I know there are a lot of people out there that won’t agree with me – one of those was my sister Faye. She hated Daylight Savings Time – but I like it. It will go into effect Sunday morning, Nov. 4 at 2 a.m. So, before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 3, set all your clocks BACK one hour. If you don’t, you will be quite early for church the next morning.

Outdoor “Art Affair” Festival Planned

The Madera County Arts Council is hosting its 6th Annual Holiday Art Affair Outdoor Festival on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured will be 30 artists and fine crafters selling original works. The event will be held at Circle Gallery, located at 1653 N. Schnoor Ste. 113, Madera. The Blackberry Blossom Ensemble and the Madera High School Choir will provide music and carols throughout the day while Valley Pistachio Country Store will be selling gourmet food products and gift baskets. Campfire USA will be selling their delicious candies in time for holiday giving.

The Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts show will be on exhibit in the Circle Gallery through Nov. 17. Originally funded by a 1994 California Arts Council grant, the agriculturally themed art competition and exhibit is an annual event open to all California artists.

Works include all paint media, fiber arts, sculpture and, for the first time, there is now a category for photography entitled “Celebrate Agriculture ... The Human Factor.”

For more information call 661-7005 or visit the website at www.maderaarts.org.

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Second Annual Holiday Fashion Show & Luncheon

November 10 11:30 a.m.

\$25 per person



Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce • Proceeds toward Liberty High School Scholarships
11068 El Capitan, Rolling Hills • Call 645-4001 or 970-7035 for more information • Tickets sold in advance only
Featured fashions provided by Coldwater Creek

10/12

Chamber Mixer

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center

Wednesday, November 7

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Come join your neighbors as you mix and mingle with fellow Ranchos residents at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive. Find out about the Senior Center and the Chamber of Commerce as you enjoy snacks and beverages. Admission is free.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Maywood Center

Friday, December 7

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy our Community's annual event as we light our tree and welcome Santa Claus to the Ranchos. Interested in being a vendor and having a booth at the event? Call the Chamber at 645-4001. Admission to the tree lighting is free.

Welcome New Members

- AXA Advisors • Verlin Dill
- Mercer Architecture • Scott Mercer
- Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop • Paula Stuart
- Future Fashions • Ronnie Gill
- Madera Ranchos Barber Shop • Javier Felix
- Country Villa-Madera Rehab. • Joseph Aliotti
- Ranchos Cafe • Rigo & Juana Rivas
- Madera Values Quarterly • Steven Rios
- Pete & Maria's Italian Bistro • Pete Cercone & Maria Fotopoulos
- Country Critters Feed & Supply • Melissa & Traci

Your Chamber of Commerce

This information is brought to you by your Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses and individuals in the Madera Ranchos and beyond. Find out more about your Chamber at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C or call them at 645-4001.

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Action ... Not Just Promises

Proven financial leadership during challenging economic times

Mark Toole, Golden Valley Unified School District Board President 2011 and 2012, has proven financial leadership during challenging economic times. He has over 20 years of active participation with the local educational system and community organizations. Additionally, he has served on the District Budget Steering Committee and School Facilities Committee.

Accomplishments

- Implemented District-wide solar project to avoid electricity price hikes - First year savings - \$4,700; Projected savings by 2023 - over \$1 million
- Liberty High School Improvements - Approved new policies for usage of personal technology devices for learning; Constructed science wing/football stadium; Approved approximate 10 acre ag farm site; Hired second ag department teacher; Introduced *Intro to Ag Mechanics* class (masonry, electrical, plumbing, welding, small engines); Donated hay baling services to ag booster for first year crop project (\$1,000 savings)
- Exceeded required state cash reserves by at least 18%
- Decreased overstaffing/inefficient costs in district office to increase available classroom funds
- Completed Ranchos Middle School
- Modernized Webster Elementary School
- Approved Sierra View Elementary School's modernization

Goals

- Continue District financial stability
- Complete Sierra View's modernization
- Develop Liberty's vocational education facilities (auto shop, wood working, metal fabrication)
- Enhance Liberty's sports facilities

Supporters

Endorsed by County and Local Community Members

Sheriff John Anderson • Cheri Adams • Frank Bigelow • Brian Freeman
Ronn Dominici • Howard McFarland • Dale Evans • Aimee McFarland
Virginia Vick • Ollia Ridge • Mary Tucker • Terri Fernandez • John Mosely
Martin Fernandez • Catherine Mosley • Esmeralda Lopez • Chad Harr • Art Fringer
Betsy Cardoza • Don Foster • Jason Button • Toby Sheehan • Darcel Button
Matt Bullis • Larry Wolford • Steve Wingert • Audrey Stock • Ollia Ridge
Michael P. Cardoza • Rick Channy
Cheryl Cardoza • Chris Kemp • Bob Hill
Ryan Rocca • Brenda Bradford
Dan Bradford • Robert Styles
Chris Norwood • Verlin Dill
Virginia Vick • William Whyman
Nancy Finley and many more ...

Re-Elect Mark Toole for GVUSD Trustee

Action ... not just promises

**Remember to VOTE
Tuesday, Nov. 6**

10/12

Kiwanis Korner

Tetanus Kills Children - \$1.80 Prevents

By Perry Watkins

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

Tetanus is a devastating disease. The death resulting from tetanus is a tortuous one. You have probably heard of "lockjaw" resulting from tetanus. Lockjaw and the inability to tolerate light may herald the beginning of the illness. It also results in muscle spasms all over the body, most notably the spine causing a backward arch. Muscle spasms can be so severe that bones sometimes break in the process. Once it progresses it is irreversible. A disease that is almost



New Kiwanis President Marie Cameron, right, takes care of business with Virginia Vick at Marie's first Kiwanis meeting as president.

unknown here in the United States kills a child every nine minutes worldwide. There are still 50 to 100 cases a year here in the States, though most tetanus is prevented with common childhood immunizations.

This disease is still quite common in 38 other countries where it kills an estimated 60,000 children a year. It often occurs near child birth and sometimes takes the life of the mothers as well. Due to efforts of UNICEF and others it has been nearly eliminated in 20 countries in recent years. One of the saddest facts surrounding this tragedy is that only \$1.80 prevents this disease in the mother and that immunity is passed along to newborn babies. This immunity may last for five to 10 years.

Most of the money Kiwanis raised locally stays here to help our very own community. In fact, almost all the money we raise is returned to the community through scholarships, awards, gifts to schools and to families in need. Our annual member dues go to Kiwanis International. In turn Kiwanis International supports larger projects to help children worldwide. One project recently nearly eliminated Iodine Deficiency Disorder which has affected millions. This campaign was enormously effective and improved the lives of millions. When we raise money for a specific campaign we advertise those efforts. All other fund raising activities stay in our community.

Kiwanis International is teaming up

with UNICEF to battle tetanus in THE ELIMINATE PROJECT. If you would like to learn more you can do a web search. Pictures, Powerpoint presentations and videos can be viewed at UNICEF.org, Kiwanis.org, and also at The Eliminate Project. Our goal is to distribute 387 million doses of vaccine by 2015. Imagine how much suffering that would alleviate.

If you are interested in serving the local community or children of the world please join us at the Pizza Factory on Thursday evenings at 6:30. A few days a year is all it takes to make a difference. A few dedicated members attend meetings every week but that level of dedication is not required. Any level of participation is a step in the right direction.

Kiwanis has a new President.

Marie Cameron will lead Kiwanis of Madera Ranchos to new heights. We would dearly love to increase scholarships and other good works for the Ranchos Community. Our reward is the smiles of our local children and of one another. This past year we have been amply rewarded.

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

Board Members:

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

Board of Directors:

Debbie Farr
Virginia Vick
Ollia Ridge
John Herrera
Jolene Mason

LETTERS cont. from P. 9

streets criminals who pose significant risks to society will be lost, just because the most recent felony was not serious or violent. This would mean that the habitual offender (who has already been convicted of two serious or violent felonies) will be given yet another opportunity to rob, murder or rape more victims before being sent to prison.

Further, Proposition 36 allows those already incarcerated under Three Strikes to petition the courts for early release, if the Third Strike they were sentenced on was a non-violent, non-serious offense. Based on the prison Three Strikes population, some 4,300 inmates would stand to be released early. While the release of more habitual criminals to the streets will indisputably result in more crime, the supporters of the proposition have failed to account for, or even acknowledge, the cost and burden of this to victims and society.

In 2010 the San Francisco-based Golden Gate University published a Law Review article entitled "Career Criminals Targeted: The Verdict is in, California's Three Strikes Law Proves Effective." This independent study concluded that Three Strikes has served to deter the commission of crime and incapacitate habitual offenders. In fact, in the first 10 years following passage of Three Strikes in 1994, crime decreased approximately 45 percent. So successful is the track record of the Three Strikes, other states followed by enacting similar laws.

The bottom line is that the Three Strikes law is working and should remain in effect "as is" to protect the people of California. Please join me in voting "NO" on Proposition 36.

Michael R. Keitz
Madera County District Attorney

Dear Editor:

The Senior Center is enjoyed by all ages. The thing that stops people to join the center is the title "Senior Center." We are getting on in years and need 50+ to join and participate in the center. The building was paid for by the far-sighted Ethel Pronin saying, "Let's buy this building," and make it a place where Seniors can get together. They had sales and started monthly sales and paid for the building.

I know all of you have enjoyed the fruit of their labors. The jams, pickled items, George's garden, the Treasure House, Boutique, handmade items – especially at Christmas – and the big April Garden sale with all the vendors. All of you

who have come have enjoyed the BBQ at that event.

Now it's time to step forward and join and help. Some of our bodies are getting tired and we need new members to keep the Center going. Just think of a place to have fun, get all the local information about things going on in the Ranchos, and great planned trips.

Someday you will be sad when YOU could have joined and kept it going and it fades away because of your stubborn pride of the term "SENIOR CENTER."

The people who put this Center together were the glue; slowly, we are coming "unglued."

Join, help, be a member and meet your friends here.

Mary Thompson
Madera Ranchos

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



Pete and Maria's Italian Bistro
Home of Dina's Famous "Upside-Down" Pizza

Introducing **Express Lunch Specials**
Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. til 2 p.m.

SPAGHETTI } only \$5.99
PENNE }
RIGATONI }

LASAGNA..... } only \$6.99
BEEF or CHEESE RAVIOLI . }

The above lunches include SALAD and 1 MEATBALL!

ANTIPASTO SALAD only \$6.99

Football Fans!!!
Pete & Maria are proud to announce that they will be offering the NFL TICKET beginning September 9 for the ENTIRE Regular Season. We will be offering breakfast Strombolis in addition to our regular menu. We will open at 9 a.m. every Sunday during the NFL Regular Season.

Serving Lunch & Dinner Every Day

Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Closed on Mondays

Pete and Maria's Italian Bistro
37275 Ave. 12, Madera Ranchos • 645-5545



HUGE PARKING LOT SALE
Saturday, Oct. 27 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We have NEW, used, vintage, retro, antique and collectable items.
Furniture • Appliances • Kitchenware • Glassware • Home Decor
Clothing • Books • Material & Yarn • Jewelry and much more!

Lots of Christmas Decorations & Items (New & Used)

We currently have collectable Old English dishes, Red glass and Hobnail glass. Lots of great gift ideas.
We also carry gift bags, ribbon, tissue and gift cards.

Come in and find your Treasures - you will be pleasantly suprised

Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop • 645-0013
37184 Ave. 12 Ste. 104 (next to Pizza Factory) • *Not your ordinary thrift shop*
Closed Su-Tu • We & Fr 1:30-5 p.m. • Th 12:30-7 p.m. • Sa 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Madera Ranchos' Inaugural
**Holiday
 Gift Fair
 & Breakfast
 with Santa**



10/12

December 1 • 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Beautiful gifts and decorations for the Holiday Season.

Breakfast with Santa is only \$7 per ticket for breakfast and a picture with Santa (must be purchased in advance).

Vendor space is available • Call 645-4016 for info

Proceeds to support Rachel & Becca Blacks' mission trip to Singapore.

Golden Valley Baptist Church • 12414 Road 37 • 645-4016

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

ing their money. And hot dogs and candy bars at the corner store is a gross misuse of community funds. That money should be spent on healthy foods, fresh fruits and vegetables. If the state is going to put food on your table, then at the very least it should not be ding dongs and potato chips.

I'm not against ding dongs and potato chips, but we can all agree they aren't healthy, and certainly where children are concerned, they should be avoided and only consumed in moderation. It's important to remember that this state is broke, every dollar counts, so in my opinion, if you have managed to use all of your food stamp funds putting healthy food in your kitchen to feed your family and there is enough left over to run to a convenience store to pick up some junk food, then clearly the state needs to reduce your monthly allowance and put that money to better use. If, on the other hand, your refrigerator

is empty and your cupboards are bare and yet you still insist on blowing part of the tax payers' hard earned money on crap, then maybe you shouldn't be allowed to participate in the program because you clearly abuse it.

In a time when every dollar is needed, every penny important, why are we allowing money to be wasted on the unnecessary? Times are tough, and deserving families need every bit of help the state can afford, but can the state really afford to allow its welfare recipients to waste money at the 7-11? If there is enough in the budget to open up the gates to allow junk food havens to accept money slotted to help families survive, then why are we cutting so many other places? I understand this won't come anywhere close to fixing the budget, but it certainly wouldn't hurt. And in my opinion, any step taken to keep abusers out of the welfare pool leaving only honest families that just need a little help to get back on their feet, is a step in the right direction.

FLIP SIDE
 CHRISTIAN CHURCH
"turning the world upside down"

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 **October 31st from 5:30-8:30pm** in the
Flipside Church Parking lot in the Maywood Center...don't miss it!!
 For more information or questions about this event,
contact Heather at heather@acts176.com.

For more information on church activities visit our website at www.acts176.com or E-mail info@acts176.com

10/12



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

On October 12, the California Department of Education released the annual Accountability Progress Reports (APR) to districts statewide. The APR is a document consisting of the Federal and State accountability systems. This document includes the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), Academic Performance Index (API), and Program Improvement (PI) status of districts and schools. A presentation to the GVUSD Governing Board is scheduled for the November 6 Board meeting.

Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

The AYP is a Federal accountability requirement enacted by No Child Left Behind

GVUSD Highest Performing K-12 in Madera County

(2001). The criteria used in determining a school's AYP status are:

- Participation Rates in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups
- Percent Proficient in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups
- California High School Exit Exam (high schools only)
- Academic Performance Index.

After reviewing the results: For the AYP, GVUSD met 17 of the 22 criteria set for us by the state. We made all targets except for percent proficient in English Language Arts and Math for some of our subgroups. Under NCLB (No Child Left Behind) the AYP targets are continually moving upward and even though our schools continue to make growth if they do not hit the target set by the feds under NCLB, then we receive a "not met" on that criterion.

Academic Performance Index (API)

The API is the State's accountability system which was created by the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) in 1999. Every year in the spring, California schools are given a Base API. The Base API released in the spring is the "measuring stick" used to determine the API Growth released in the fall. District trends show the following:

- The API for the District remained at

833, same score from the previous year.

- The District exceeded the State's mark of 800.
- The API score for Golden Valley USD is higher than the County average and higher than the State average.
- Liberty High School represented an 8-point gain, increasing their API to 829, and ranking fifth in the Central Valley in comparison to other high schools.
- Webster Elementary represented an increase of 7 points bringing their 2012 API score to 856.
- Sierra View Elementary experienced an increase of 9 points bringing their 2012 API score to 872.
- Ranchos Middle School reported a decrease of 21 points to 828 (RMS reported a growth of 38 in 2011).

The State's goal is an API of 800. Any score above 800 is commendable.

Program Improvement (PI)

Program Improvement is part of the Federal accountability system and applies to all schools receiving Title I funds from the Federal Government. Schools are identified and enter PI status after missing AYP for two consecutive years in one of the following criteria:

- Same content area (ELA or math)
- On the same indicator (API or graduation rate)

A school or District entering PI status is given three years to successfully remove

itself from PI status by meeting its deficiency. Sierra View is listed as Program Improvement Year 1, but this is being contested as we feel the reporting from CDE is inaccurate.

Overall, the APR brought great news and reasons to celebrate throughout the District. This is a true testament to the quality of instruction taking place at all of our schools. Golden Valley Unified School District still ranks among the top echelon of elementary, middle and high schools within the County and State. All of our comprehensive schools have exceeded the State's mark of an API of 800. 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. I would like to thank all of our Board members, administrators, staff, students, parents, and community for valuing the importance of a quality education. Go GVUSD!

**GVUSD Educational Options schools, Independence High School, Lincoln Community Day School, Home Hospital, Valley Teen Ranch and Centennial Independent Study did not have a significant number of students test in the 2011-2012 school year, due to school size, to be included in this report. Even though their numbers were not large enough to receive an API, they met all of their ASAM targets and state goals.*

Supporting Teachers at STAR Gala

The Foundation for Golden Valley School held their eight Annual Stars event on Sept. 14 at Birdstone Winery.

The Foundation recognized the 2011 Grant Award winners along with the 2012 Grant Award winners and the 2012 STAR Employees of the Year. One of the Foundation's major goals is to give back to the educational community in the form of new teacher grants and classroom grants. To date, they have given back over \$113,000 to support our teachers and students, which is quite an awesome contribution for our fledgling

Foundation.

The funded 2012 Grants are:

- Vickie Baughman, WES, ELMO Wireless Slate
- Nicole Canales, WES, ELMO Wireless Slate
- Michael Erickson, LHS, Virtual Robotics
- Laura Fox, WES, ELMO Wireless Slate
- Rose Freeman, Ed Opts, Dress to Learn
- Jessica Green, WES, Smartboard
- Christine Hallett, RMS, Enhance Art Program
- Kelly Hardcastle, SVE, ELMO Document

Camera & Projector

- Carolyn Hernandez, SVE, ELMO Document Camera & Projector
- Melissa MacPherson, WES, ELMO Wireless Slate
- Lori Massoni, WES, ELMO Wireless Slate
- Valerie McDougald, SVE, ELMO Document Camera & Projector
- Christine Panian, LHS, ELMO Document Camera
- GiGi Raymond, WES, Smartboard
- Dennis Ready, SVE, Classroom Novels
- Larissa Sobieralski, LHS & RMS, Music Technology

Congratulations again to our five 2012 STAR Employees who were honored at the

Foundation event.

- Ruben Negrete, Instructional Employee of the Year
- Tony Hernandez, Operational Employee of the Year
- Christine Panian, Secondary Teacher of the Year
- Kelly Hardcastle, Elementary Teacher of the Year
- Chris Imperatrice, Administrator of the Year

Additional congratulations to Imperatrice, who will be recognized as the Administrator of the Year for Madera County at the "Madera County Excellence in Education" awards ceremony.

Senior Report

Burma's Lesson: Can it Happen Here?

By Verlaine Ellinburg

Burma, the country I grew up in, was and is a resource-rich country with abundance of rice, teak-wood, oil, gem stones of rubies, jade and sapphires, and copper. It was eager to strike out from the British Empire. Burma became independent in 1948. From 1948-1962 Burma enjoyed a democratic freedom. I remember having fun, moved around freely, enjoyed food, Burmese and English movies, outside Burmese stage shows and celebrated different religious festivals. The country was filled with Burmese, Anglos, Indians, Chinese and Muslims. We had afternoon tea dances with rock and roll music, ball room dances and dance competitions, and different sport events and competitions. The Roman Catholic religion had four schools run by the different orders of Catholic nuns left by the British. The majority of the people spoke the English language; the Catholic school's education was in English.

Constitutional disputes and persistent division among political and social groups contributed to the democratic weak hold of power (this is where we are now). In 1958 the prime minister invited the military to restore and strengthen its power. In 1962 the head of the military General Ne Win led a coup, took over the government and abolished the constitution and replaced it with a military socialistic economic government which caused a devastating effect on the country and business. It was the beginning of the exit of foreigners; all the foreign religious orders, nuns and priests were asked to leave the schools and churches, businesses were taken over by the government. I was a British Subject and left in 1964 and have not returned.

I want to remember Burma's best days.

In 1988 the military disposed General Ne Win's government and established a new ruling junta, calling it the State Law and Order Restoration, also known as the dictatorship. They had elections in 1990 and the Democratic Party led by Aung San Suu Kyi, (a Noble Peace Prize winner of 1991, she is the daughter of Burma's assassinated general who was instrumental in obtaining the independence of Burma from the British) won the election, but the ruling government put her under

house arrest.

The Burmese people were among the poorest in the world. Life was a nightmare, child soldiers were treated as slave workers, the EU, United States and Canada imposed sanctions for their human rights violations, including genocide, child labor and human trafficking. The government had cut itself off from the world except with China and news of the country was not attainable and had to be smuggled out of the country. Outgoing and incoming mail was censored or never received. According to my family who were still in Burma, food was very expensive, electricity was available for only two to three hours a day, generators had to be used if you could afford it.

When the strong tropical cyclone Nargis caused the worst natural disaster recorded in Burma's history the government refused assistance from the world. The United Nations interceded and managed to get the government to allow some assistance, but according to my family little or nothing reached the people. The government set up road blocks to their own people who were trying to reach the devastated area with food and shelter.

Burma after five decades of oppressive government finally opened her doors to the world. Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest in 2010 and many of the political prisoners were set free. Burma had another election in 2010 and allowed Aung San Suu Kyi to participate. She won and was given a seat in parliament. The present government is using her to mend issues with the outside world. This is a country destroyed and is trying to claw its way back. During my elementary school days Aung Sun Suu Kyi and I were school mates and hung out together.

This short history on Burma can happen here, maybe not in our time, but it changes a little at a time and we do nothing. We do not pay attention until it is too late. Remember the bedtime story of Jack and the Beanstalk? The giant says, "Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum ... I smell the blood of an Englishman." I fear for my present country and the direction it is heading. A flick of a pen can mandate you to obey a policy. What is it that I smell? It is election time, do your duty

Please see **SENIOR** on P. 21

www.TheRanchos.com

The Ranchos Independent RECOMMENDS

A HANDY VOTING GUIDE THAT YOU CAN TAKE WITH YOU TO THE POLLS ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6

Proposition suggestions are courtesy of the Fresno Lincoln Club

PROPOSITION 30: Vote NO

Proposition 30 will raise California's combined income and sales tax rates to the highest in the nation and almost double of our neighboring States. Brown uses children as props in the debate, but schools will get their required funding no matter what the Governor says.

PROPOSITION 31: Vote NO

Well intentioned plan to require two year budgeting and a more thoughtful process has too many exemptions and loopholes to be effective. Too complex! How about a balanced budget amendment instead?

PROPOSITION 32: Vote YES

The undue influence of public employee unions and corporations on California public policy needs to end. This initiative will require the permission of employees before their pay can be deducted to fund political campaigns.

PROPOSITION 33: Vote YES

Appears to solve a problem that isn't very widespread. Will allow additional auto insurance discounts for those continuously insured for five years.

PROPOSITION 34: Vote NO

Repeals death penalty – continues practice of warehousing death row inmates for life, providing shelter, food and healthcare - takes the death penalty off of the table forever.

PROPOSITION 35: Vote YES

Another puzzling ballot item. We recommend yes, but don't view human traffick-

ing as an emerging problem. Nothing wrong with making a strong statement for tougher penalties for this offense.

PROPOSITION 36: Vote NO

Liberals have been trying to weaken 3 Strikes since its original passage and this is an effort to do so again. With crime on the rise, can we really afford to weaken sentencing laws against felons?

PROPOSITION 37: Vote NO

This is your classic ballot initiative. Sounds great on the outside, but when you look inside, you find opportunities to litigate against farmers, food processors and retailers. While the goal of labeling genetically engineered food properly makes sense, this initiative will ultimately increase the cost of our food by creating a litigious environment now where none exists.

PROPOSITION 38: Vote NO

Another billionaire funded tax to increase education funding. See our argument against Proposition 30.

PROPOSITION 39: Vote NO

Raises taxes on out of state businesses based on their percentage of sales in California. Will keep business from wanting to do business here, further reducing our competitiveness against neighboring states.

PROPOSITION 40: Vote NO

A no vote rejects the new boundary lines for State Senate districts which were drawn by a partisan redistricting commission.

PRESIDENT
US SENATOR
US REP. 16th
CA ASSEMBLY 5th

Mitt Romney
Elizabeth Emken
Brian Whelan
Frank Bigelow

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Liberty High Drama Matures With Powerful, Classic New Play

Heartbreaking THE GLASS MENAGERIE takes student actors to new depths as they bring classic play to life.

The Liberty High School drama class' first production of the 2012-2013 season is the Tennessee Williams masterwork, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, directed by Rebecca Harp-Sligh and Andrew Toledo. As a unique twist, the Liberty High production of THE GLASS MENAGERIE features two separate, full casts providing a different interpretation of the play each night of its two-night run. THE GLASS MENAGERIE will open on Friday, Nov. 2 and will continue through Saturday, Nov. 3 at the state-of-the-art Liberty High School Theater. THE GLASS MENAGERIE will begin both nights at 6:30 p.m.

"I want to challenge these talented students with a play that will not only make their souls ache but will make them shine," said Co-director Rebecca Harp-Sligh.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE ticket prices are \$5 for everyone, however due to the mature nature of the play it is not recommended for children. Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

Liberty High School's theater is an 11-year-old facility dedicated to bringing the finest quality theatrical productions to the Madera Ranchos. The theater is located at 12220 Road 36, just east of the administration building. For further information, call 559-645-3500.

Progress not Perfection

Understanding Why We Were Chosen

By Mike Bailey

Every once in a while something comes along that I feel a deep desire to share; this is one of those. The first time I heard this it was at a time when I truly needed to hear it. It was at low point in my sobriety. Yes, being sober even has low points. God new the exact date and time when I was supposed to read this, hear this and listen. It reminded me that God had a purpose for me no matter how dubious or honorable. I now have a nation that I can reach. That is our job, is it not? Go to all the nations and spread the news. Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This letter or article or wherever it came from is anonymous. Its words are not - they can speak to everyone one of us.

*Till we meet again,
Mike B.*

WHY WE WERE CHOSEN

By Anonymous

God in His wisdom selected this group of men and women to be the purveyors of His goodness. In selecting those to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous, nor the brilliant. He went, instead, to the humbly and the unfortunate. He went to the drunkard -- the so-called weakling of the world. He might well have said to us: "Unto your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the mothers, not even to my priests or ministers have

I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I entrust to you. It must be used unselfishly. It carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long - no effort too great. It must be used with tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed, and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect. Lack of appreciation will be common. Ridicule will be your lot. Your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must ascend rung by rung - toward spiritual perfection; and remember, in the exercise of this power, I shall not exact from you beyond your capabilities. You are not selected because of your exceptional talents.

Be careful anyways, if success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority to which you can lay claim only by virtue of my gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the power would have been entrusted to the physician and the scientist. If I had wanted eloquent men there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all the talents which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better-qualified men than you who would be available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your experience as drunkards has made (or should make) you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere. Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of profession in Alcoholics Anonymous - that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life and will unto my keeping that relief came to you."

Ranchos Café has Grand Opening

By Christi McKinney

Rigo and Juana Rivas are the proud new owners of the Ranchos Café and had a Grand Opening on Saturday, Oct. 20 with free hamburgers, desserts and door prizes. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce also performed a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Although the Rivas' are the new owners, Rigo has been the cook at the Ranchos Café for six years and he has attended culinary school in Chicago and San Francisco.

"Thank you to the Madera Ranchos community and a special thank you to Virginia and Mervyn Vick for all the support," they said. The Rivas' moved here from San Jose to raise their four children.

The Chamber also raffled off a vintage Suzuki at the party. The winner was Luis Delgado of Madera.



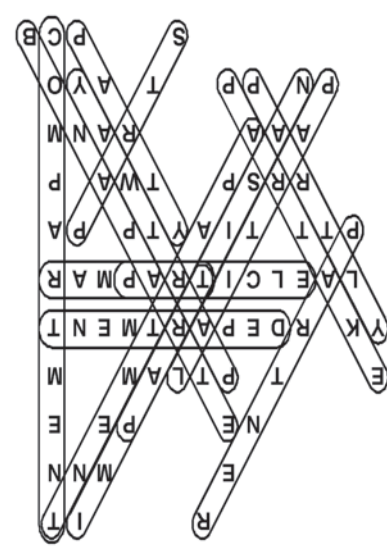
Photo Courtesy of Bill Whyman

ANSWERS

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EDC Economic Summit Coming

The Madera County EDC is planning its Economic Summit luncheon for Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The luncheon will be held at the Madera Municipal Golf Course, 23200 Ave. 17, and the speakers will be John Stewart, CEO of Grubb & Ellis /Pearson Realty and Mike

Winn, CEO of the California Building Industry Association (CBIA). Stewart will give an economic forecast and Winn will discuss the housing industry and key indicators for growth. Reservations are \$30, please contact or email Lois Grow at lgrow@maderacountyedc.com or call 559-675-7768.

SENIOR cont. from P. 19

and vote. Remember what you ask for you might get. The senior center will be open until 3 p.m. to accept your absentee ballots.

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 low cost blood tests are available. The health screenings are for 50 and above and 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. with a suggested price for 60 years and older of \$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 and meet new friends and get updates on their fellow members, and get current news and updates on what is happening at the Center. There is room for you. You may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

SKIMMER cont. from P. 2

of the Valero Station on Avenue 12 Manmohan Dhillon reported that, "No customers or credit card companies had reported any problems at his station."

Many cardholders weren't aware of the theft until they received their monthly statement. "We've been able to track down some of the purchases they've made. They're buying high dollar items in the Los Angeles area," said Sheriff Anderson. In this period of time, those involved in the operation made off with thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise purchased with the stolen credit card information. Unfortunately, skimmers don't just read credit card account numbers or debit card numbers. They also have access to social security numbers,

On Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. a variety of cards games are enjoyed. Come and learn new games. On Thursdays at 6 p.m. we have a great pot luck, with poker and other great card games. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and at many businesses on Ave. 12.

The Farmers Market at the Center is toning down for the winter, but jams and jellies are still available. The Boutique has many on the spot needed gift items.

There are concerns about the privatization of our water system. The Board of Supervisor voted 3-2 in favor of going forward to see if it would be feasible for a private company to take over, even thought statements were made by the community members to oppose the takeover by a private company. The Board of Supervisors was elected by we the people and not the private company. Remember that next election. More to come on this subject.

Snow Trip to Reno Feb. 26 – Feb. 28, 2013. \$365 per person. Contact 559-645-4864.

National Parks – Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone Park, Air/Bus 10 days, tentatively in June. Contact 559-645-5337.

account numbers and addresses that thieves can use to open up fraudulent credit cards and bank accounts.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, which reports on consumer complaints, credit card fraud was ranked second among the highest and most prevalent complaints.

It's difficult to know whether a skimmer is in place, but experts warn that criminals usually plant skimming devices through the front panel of gas pumps. Skimmers are designed to be put on quickly and to be removed quickly and for that reason they're often put on using double-sided tape. Look at the area where you insert your credit or debit card and if it looks battered, feels loose or looks like someone tampered with it or tried to pry it

Next Coffee Spot Artist is Puzzling

The next Meet the Artist event held at The Coffee Spot will feature Elaine Blake, an artist and instructor trained in several genres. Blake draws, paints, designs and builds wooden educational puzzles for children. Her art is not limited to puzzles, however. The curriculum she applied while teaching children through Club Yes after school program last year, demonstrated other skills such as teaching, pencil drawing and watercolor painting. "She is a very good teacher and a wonderful person," said Sherril Royse, educational programs manager with



Ranchos artist Elaine Blake shows some of her educational works of art that help children learn.

Madera County Art Council.

Blake specializes in school-age child educational puzzles and crafts and offers her work through shows and consignments. The Madera Ranchos resident's work will be on display at The Coffee Spot, Nov. 1 through Dec. 14. Saturday workshops are in the planning stages. The photography of Jim Quaschnick, owner of All Action Shots, will be on display at The Coffee Spot from Dec. 15 through January. For more information, contact Audra Damore at 645-1225.

LEWIS cont. from P. 3

within the community and our schools. From Girl Scouts to Christian Club to coaching soccer and softball, we know it takes a village to raise a family.

Over the last 22 years, I have owned my own business, served on two school boards, and managed five offices of one of the largest corporations in the US. I understand what it will take to lead us through these difficult financial times.

If the Governor's tax initiative on the November ballot does not pass, GVUSD can expect to lose approximately \$2,000,000 over two years. I am the only candidate with children in our schools and I truly understand what the wrong cuts will do to our children.

If you vote for me, I will work hard to place the needs of our children first, support our teachers and serve the whole community. Together, we can keep GVUSD schools great.

TOOLE cont. from P. 3

Sierra View Elementary School, and solar power installed to stabilize electricity costs at all sites.

The Ag Program has seen tremendous growth, which included several acres for a farm. We are starting an Ag Class that will introduce industrial arts to the students.

We have made several tough decisions regarding the restructuring of the District Administration in order to keep money in the classrooms.

I am retired from the CHPMCSU, in addition to having been a truck mechanic, welder, and a safety and compliance manager of a trucking company which included all phases of the business side of that company. I am currently involved in some farming operations. I have lived in the district for 34 years, and been involved with several community organizations and school district committees.

I look forward to your vote and serving you on a second term with the GVUSD governing board.

open, don't use it. Some gas stations, like Shell stations, apply a tamper-proof seal across the opening of the credit card door. When a door is broken into, the sticker is lifted revealing the words "VOID" on the sticker. If you see anything like this, alert the authorities rather than notifying the attendant. This removes the possibility that the person on duty may have planted the skimmer.

Just in case you weren't already paranoid anytime you enter a pin number into any gas pump or ATM, cover it with your hand. In this day and age when small, inconspicuous cameras are everywhere, you might not realize that a camera is put somewhere designed to read your pin number. If they have read your personal information with a skimmer and now they know your

PIN number they may be able to withdraw funds directly from bank accounts

When in doubt, use cash. While credit cards lend convenience, if a situation just doesn't feel right, go with your instincts and just use cash. It often saves you money and it saves you the hassle of disputing a credit card charge in the future

If you're worried that your credit information has been compromised or even if you're just curious, every resident of California is entitled to a free credit report from each of the three national credit reporting agencies once a year. To receive your free credit report visit the credit reporting agency websites at their websites:

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		×		16			
×		+		+				
	×		-		24			
+		÷		÷				
	÷		+		11			
15		4		1				
1	2	3	5	6	6	7	8	9

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top ten

Jingling Double-Barrelled Phrases

1. Hugger-mugger
2. Hurdy-gurdy
3. Tip-top
4. Higgledy-piggledy
5. Hocus-pocus
6. Tit-for-tat
7. Topsy-turvy
8. Harum-scarum
9. Roly-poly
10. Rump and stump

Source: Hobson-Jobson

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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TRASH cont. from P. 2

mum thereby maximizing its profits with impunity."

On March 27, 2012, the Board of Supervisors contracted with consulting firm Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. to perform a business needs assessment, develop a scope of work to be sent out to bid, and solicit/select a new contractor(s) to assume responsibility for the various operations. Madera County's Grand Jury recommended that the county terminate the contract with Texas-based Waste Connections. Waste Connections is estimated to be the country's third largest disposal service. The Board of Supervisors later

voted to end the county's Waste Connections contracts. Calls for Madera County Supervisor Frank Bigelow's office for comment have not been returned.

After putting out a request for proposal and reviewing several bids the Board of Supervisors awarded the new contract to Red Rock Environmental of Fresno, a subsidiary of Fresno-based Caglia Environmental. Red Rock will handle hauling services under a 10,000 foot elevation, operate the landfill, the Materials Recovery Facility and North Fork trash transfer station.

The lawsuit that was originally filed in Madera County earlier this year by the County was granted a change of venue and the lawsuit was refiled in Fresno County.

RED ROCK cont. from P. 2

The biggest challenge the new vendor has is that they're starting from scratch. They don't even have a customer list so they don't know what type of service each resident wants, whether it's a commercial bin or pickup from one's own trash cans. They are faced with building their own new database for each and every customer in Madera County. "I just ask that residents be patient and rest assured that Red Rock Environmental will be doing everything we can to make the transition as smooth as possible," Caglia said. Red Rock is asking for everyone's assistance by either calling their office toll free at 855-665-7300 to provide your name, address and answer a few simple questions as to what type of service you want. Or you can go online at www.cagliainvironmental.com, select the "Start Service" link and answer the same questions.

You can also view pricing on this website.

In general, residents North of Avenue 12 are located in Zone 3 as are residents located East of Road 36. Residents South of Avenue 12 and West of Road 36 are located in Zone 2. All of Red Rock's prices are less than what we have been paying. They will be billing all customers quarterly in advance.

As you can imagine, Red Rock's phone has been ringing off the hook. They are working to call everyone back but Davis wants to assure everyone, "The important thing is to put your trash out on the day trash is normally picked up and we will pick it up. However, if possible, please save your yard waste a week or so until we catch up."

A number of employees from Madera Disposal have already been hired by Red Rock Environmental and they are still hiring. Please visit their website for information on employment opportunities www.redrockenvironmental.com.



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're eager to Ram headfirst into that new project. But before you do, find out why some of your colleagues might not appear to be as gung-ho about it as you are.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) All that dedicated hard work you've been putting in pays off better than you expected. So go ahead, reward yourself with something befitting a beauty-loving Bovine.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to take on that new challenge. And if your self-confidence is sagging, instead of telling yourself why you can't do it, list all the reasons why you can.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is one time when you might want to put some distance between you and the job at hand. It will give you a better perspective on what you've done and still need to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Resist that occasional lapse into Leonine laziness that sometimes overtakes the Big Cat. Don't cut corners. Do the job right at this time, or you might have to redo it later.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You know how you like to do things. And that's fine. But watch that you don't impose your methods on others. A current financial crunch soon eases.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone might try to take advantage of your generosity. But before your sensitivity toward others overwhelms your good sense, check his or her story out carefully.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your strong Scorpion sense of fairness lets you see all sides of a dispute. Continue to remain impartial as you help each person work through his or her particular grievance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Trust your keen Sagittarian insight to help you see through an offer that might not be all it claims. A closer look could reveal disturbing elements.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With the Goat exhibiting a more dominant aspect these days, you could find it easier to make your case in front of even the most skeptical audience.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Take things nice and easy as you continue to build up your energy reserves for a big change that's coming with the full Hunter's Moon on Oct. 29.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Recent news from someone you trust could help you make an important decision. Also, be prepared to confront an upcoming change in a personal situation.

Born this Week
 You can be firm in your own views, but also flexible enough to welcome the views of others.

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FUN PAGES

POPEYE
BY ELSMAN

YEAH! GO ON, YA BIG OAF!
WHA! HAPPEN'D, SWEETIE?
I WAS JUST STANDING HERE MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS...
...WAITING FOR YOU TO SHOW UP...
...WHEN THAT RAT IN THE TRUCK WHISTLED AT ME!
I'LL KETCH 'IM AN' PUNCH OUT HIS LIGHTS!
NO, POPEYE!
I DIDN'T MIND THE WHISTLE...
YA DINT?
IT WAS THE APOLOGY WHEN HE GOT UP CLOSE!

Henry
BY DON TRACHTÉ

REMEMBER, HENRY--TEACHER SAID TO BRING SOMETHING FROM OUR GARDENS TO SCHOOL TODAY!
NOW WE WILL SHOW THE BEST THING WE GREW IN OUR GARDENS THIS SUMMER, HENRY--WHAT DID YOU BRING?
I'VE BRUNG A BUNCH OF CARROTS!

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME BY AL SCADUTO

PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT-- ON RAINY DAYS, HE SAYS...
BUT-- ON SUNNY DAYS...
DID YOU ORDER THIS WEATHER?
WHAT...?
NOT A WORD!
SAY AGAIN--
F'CRIN' OUT LOUD! WHY CANTCHA DRESS NEAT? WHERE DID YA LEARN SUCH SLOPPY WAYS? CLEAN UP YOUR ACT, Y'HEAR?!

SIGN OF THE COMPUTER TIMES
MINE DOES ALL MY TAXES-- ALL MY BILLS AND BUSINESS FILES-- AND I DO ALL MY SHOPPING, TOO...
I USTA SPEND ALL MY SPARE TIME IN MY WORKSHOP-- NOW I PARK MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER...
I HAFTA BRIBE MY GRANDKIDS TO SHOW ME HOW TO USE MY COMPUTER-- I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT...
HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE HIS VCR PLAYER YET...
Thank to ADRIAN ALLEN, ROSSVILLE, GA.



UP A TREE! Our artist claims there are 16 faces among branches of this family tree. How many do you see?

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

IN IT TO WIN IT CHALLENGE

YES, you have to be IN it to win it—or, in this case, to solve it. Six seven-letter words shown contain the word IN in progressive stages. You are asked to fill in these words in accord with the following definitions:

- Due to arrive, as a plane or train.
- "A horse! A horse! My — for a horse!"
- Hanger-onner of sorts.
- Gone but not forgotten, as the dinosaur, moa, etc.
- Astonishingly hard to believe.
- Bad guy hissed by old-time audiences.

How quickly can you puzzle them out? Time: 2 minutes.

1. Inbound 2. Kingdom 3. Clinger 4. Extinct 5. Amazing 6. Villain

SPORTS CAST! Name a sport with which each of the following B-words is associated: 1. Bunt. 2. Bogey. 3. Butterfly. 4. Bootleg. 5. Blueline. 6. Blinders. Time limit: 1 minute.

1. Baseball 2. Golf 3. Swimming 4. Football 5. Hockey 6. Horse racing

QUICK PICK! Place 14 toothpicks on the table. In turn, you and an opponent are to pick up one, two or three. Object is to force opponent to pick up last toothpick.

Here's how: If you go first, you can't lose. On first turn, take one. On next turn, pick up fifth toothpick in removal order. On next turn, see that just five toothpicks remain.

If opponent goes first, try to proceed similarly, but this method may not always succeed.



Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE PARTED WORDS

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

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

Apartment	Impart	Partisan	Partway
Bonaparte	Partake	Partly	Party
Compartment	Partial	Partner	Rampart
Department	Particle	Parts	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- ART: Where is the world-famous Prado museum located?
- ANATOMY: Where are muscles known as triceps found in the body?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What breakfast cereal did Sonny the Cuckoo Bird promote?
- NATURAL WORLD: Where would stalagmites be found in a natural cave formation?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where was the ancient city of Persepolis located?
- SCIENCE: What was the first elementary particle to be discovered?
- MUSIC: What is the national anthem of Canada?
- COMPUTERS: What does the acronym DOS stand for?
- FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "I worked my way up from nothing to a state of extreme poverty."
- LANGUAGE: What is an atelier?

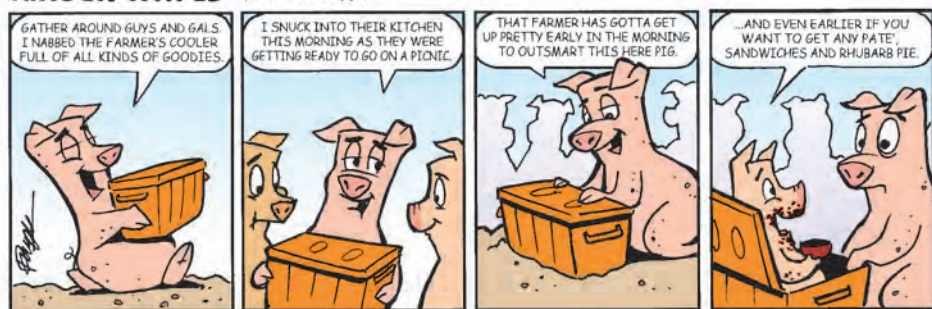
Answers

- Madrid, Spain
- Upper arm
- Cocoa Puffs
- The cone-shaped deposits rise from the floor of a cave
- Modern-day Iran (formerly Persia)
- The electron
- "O Canada"
- Disk Operating System
- Groucho Marx
- Artist's studio

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AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



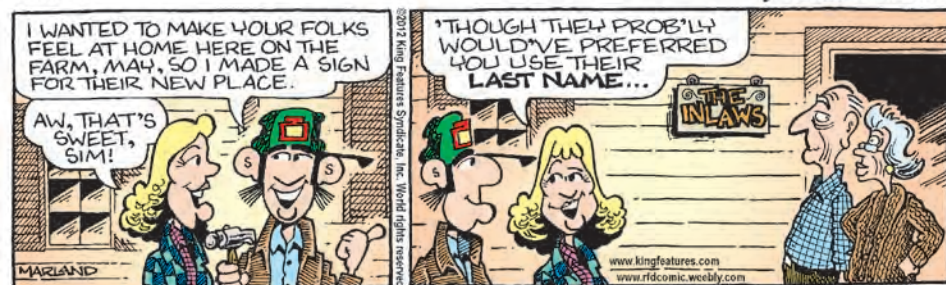
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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MAMA'S BOYZ

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



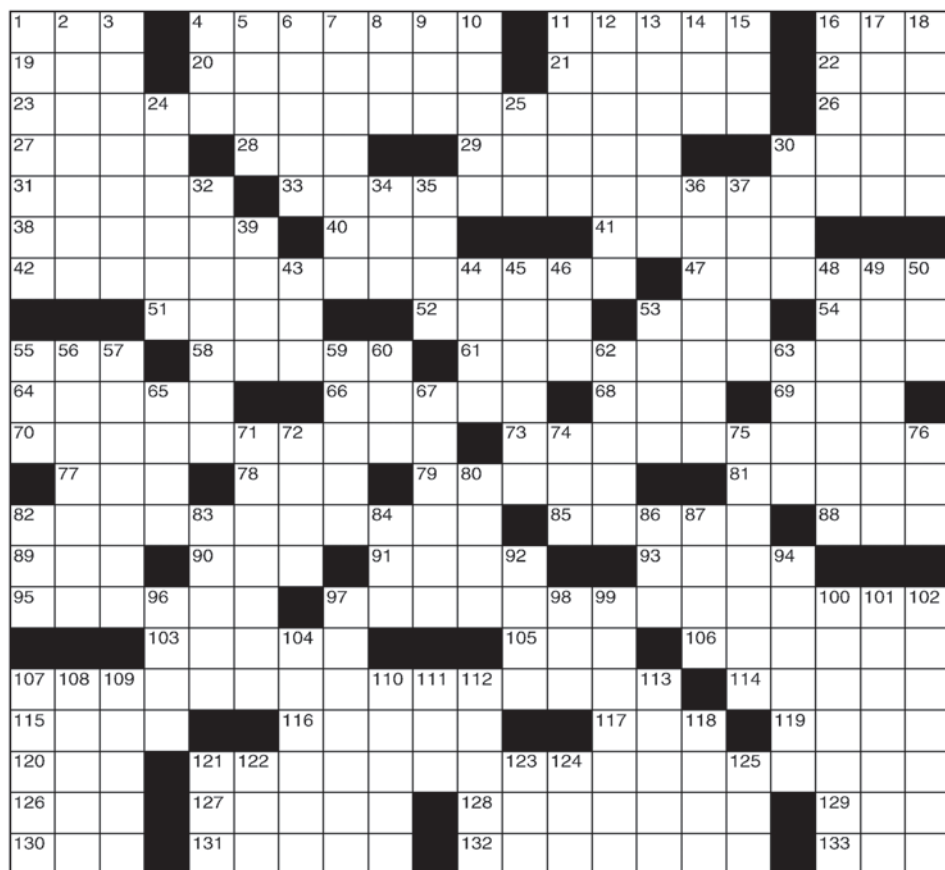
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. The is different. 2. Lamp shade is smaller. 3. Teapot is reversed. 4. Hair is different. 5. Earring is different. 6. Ribbon is missing. 7. Ribbon is missing. 8. Ribbon is missing. 9. Ribbon is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Learning ctr.
 - 4 Puts garments on
 - 11 Jim-dandy
 - 16 Place for a jacuzzi
 - 19 Man-mouse middle
 - 20 One using twisted humor
 - 21 Spanish for "nine"
 - 22 Bath fixture
 - 23 1995 Denzel Washington neo-noir film
 - 26 Round figure
 - 27 Church shout
 - 28 Comic punch response
 - 29 Royal rule
 - 30 Thus
 - 31 — City, Oklahoma
 - 33 1987 Stanley Kubrick war film
 - 38 Low tie score
 - 40 Wade's rival
 - 41 New York village on the Hudson
 - 42 1942 Abbott and Costello comedy
 - 47 Like liquid splashing
 - 51 This, in Peru
 - 52 "Me neither"
 - 53 Ostrich's kin
 - 54 Actress Sara Myers
 - 55 Din-din wear
 - 58 Ethical
 - 61 1964 Avalon/Funicello musical
 - 64 China's Chou
 - 66 The Home Depot rival
 - 68 RR bldg.
 - 69 — for trouble
 - 70 With 73-Across, 1985 Tom Hanks comedy
 - 73 See 70-Across
 - 77 Suffix with malt
 - 78 Grain morsel
 - 79 Owner of the dog Sandy
 - 81 "Who can — to?"
 - 82 1988 Christopher Walken children's comedy
 - 85 Maul lightly — -dog (stray cur)
 - 89 Resort to
 - 90 — Dawn Chong
 - 91 Broiling spot
 - 93 One way to store data
 - 95 Total chaos
 - 97 2003 Mike Myers comedy
 - 103 Lend — (be attentive)
 - 105 Black goop
 - 106 Madrid misters
 - 107 With 121-Across, 2005 dramedy with four lead actresses
 - 114 Silklike fabric
 - 115 Talk wildly
 - 116 "Sin City" actor Rutger
 - 117 Rapa — (Easter Island)
 - 119 Lose flab
 - 120 "How — you doing?"
 - 121 See 107-Across
 - 126 Belief suffix
 - 127 Cupid's boss
 - 128 Bill modifier, e.g.
 - 129 Summer, in Aix
 - 130 Your, biblically
 - 131 Spanish for "the sun"
 - 132 Really wishes one could
 - 133 Mates of pas
- DOWN**
- 1 Fizzy drink
 - 2 City in Italy
 - 3 New — (certain Connecticut resident)
 - 4 Feel malaise
 - 5 Small combo
 - 6 Like a — bricks
 - 7 Totally raging
 - 8 Cut of meat
 - 9 Subj. for some aliens
 - 10 — und Drang
 - 11 "— came to pass ..."
 - 12 The Little Rascals
 - 13 With acuity
 - 14 Colorado NHLers
 - 15 "Affirmative"
 - 16 Baby bird?
 - 17 Cleanse
 - 18 Top monk
 - 24 Encrypted
 - 25 Wide foot-wear spec
 - 30 Marc of fashion
 - 32 Inability to smell
 - 34 L.A. part
 - 35 Show bias
 - 36 Pale yellow
 - 37 "I met her in — down in old Soho" ("Lola" lyrics)
 - 39 Within: Prefix
 - 43 Injure
 - 44 Judicial garb
 - 45 Prayer
 - 46 Ending for beat
 - 48 Major wreck
 - 49 Smoking wood
 - 50 Slangy affirmative
 - 53 —'acte
 - 55 Vegas stake
 - 56 Done by its own staff
 - 57 Sanctified
 - 59 Bush nominee Samuel
 - 60 Whole bunch
 - 62 "— bad moon rising"
 - 63 Dawnward
 - 65 Spy Aldrich
 - 67 "— you been up to?"
 - 71 Unfamous folks
 - 72 "... gyre and gimble in the —": Carroll
 - 74 Pinch lightly
 - 75 Excavating machine
 - 76 Propyl ender
 - 80 Tiny div. of a minute
 - 82 Soho saloon
 - 83 Tehrani, e.g.
 - 84 Cry of delight
 - 86 Got the title
 - 87 Social pests
 - 92 Alliance since '49
 - 94 "Don't mention it," in Durango
 - 96 Concluding
 - 97 Give, as a free meal
 - 98 Small amount
 - 99 Laundry job
 - 100 Ad — attack
 - 101 Short opera piece
 - 102 Frightful flies
 - 104 Greek capital
 - 107 Idiosyncrasy
 - 108 Stringent
 - 109 Hostile party
 - 110 Backwoods
 - 111 "Isn't — bit like you and me?" (Beatles lyric)
 - 112 1955-67 Arkansas governor
 - 113 Subsidiizes
 - 118 "— the idea"
 - 121 Lao- —
 - 122 "2001" name
 - 123 Rock genre
 - 124 Barry or Deighton
 - 125 Big-league

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