

The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

ZERO WATER the farmers' side of the story

By Alan Heathcock
Photographs by Matt Black

*South Valley
farmer Eric Barlow
walks his water-strapped
field of garlic*



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Station 19 Awarded \$9,000 Grant

By DJ Becker

A resident's concerns for the Madera Ranchos volunteer fire station recently resulted in a \$9,100 grant award from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in conjunction with local agency Dibudio & Defendis Insurance Brokers, according to station 19 Cal Fire captain Vance Killion.

The resident was concerned and motivated after the June fire that destroyed a house on Bonadelle Avenue, Killion said, and she wrote a letter requesting the funding for firefighters' new protective gear.

"This money will purchase five new sets of protective gear, what we call turnouts – the heavy tan and yellow coats and pants firefighters wear to structure fires and major vehicle collisions. They are heavy duty and protect [firefighters] up to about 550 degrees," Killion said.

Killion said he was very grateful for the community support.

"These kind of grants are essential for our station. It helps a lot, and everything ...

from the community, or residents helps. We couldn't do what we do so well, without our community support," he said.

Due to County funding decisions, all Madera County fire stations are operated with one paid firefighter to respond to structure fires, vehicle collisions and medical aid calls, with volunteers supplementing the emergency response as they are available.



Kathy Anderson and Matt Defendis, left, present Fire Station 19 Captain Vance Killion with a grant check for \$9,100 for new protective gear as CalFire Battalion Chief Matt Watson looks on.

"Sometimes I get a great response from the volunteers [to a fire or other emergencies], and sometimes it's just me. If it wasn't for the [county fire] volunteers we couldn't do our jobs," Killion said.

Thanks to the active and motivated Ranchos community, Volunteer Fire Station 19 is the best equipped and staffed fire station in Madera County.

Killion, 34, is a long-time Ranchos resident and started as a volunteer firefighter in 1998. He was promoted to the rank of Cal Fire captain at Station 19 in November of 2013.

Anyone wishing to volunteer as a paid call firefighter is encouraged to apply at Cal Fire Station 1 at 14225 Road 28.

Ranchos Vet Takes Honor Flight

By Christi McKinney

Madera Ranchos resident John Matthews was pleased to participate in the Central Valley Honor Flight in September. Matthews and his son Mark Matthews flew with 190 other Veterans from Central California and their guests to Washington, DC.

In early 1944 Matthews fought in the Battle of Peleliu Island in the South Pacific. In 1945 he was sent to Okinawa. Just before leaving they were told the first several



John Matthews Then and Now

visit Washington DC to see all the history and all that our Veterans have done for our country. He was especially touched by the Honor Flight celebrations that were held at the airports where water cannons greeted their flights.

Upon arriving back in Fresno our Veterans were greeted by family and friends and even a bagpipe corp. to celebrate their return.

The Honor Flight Network consists of over 100 independent non-profit hubs across the United

States. Our Central Valley chapter is currently raising funds to charter planes that will send our veterans to Washington D.C. in commemoration of their sacrifice, and in honor of their service to our country. One hundred percent of all donations go toward funding these flights. Visit their website at www.cvhonorflight.org for more info.

waves of troops would most likely not make land because fighting was so intense. However, Matthews hit the beach in the first wave. Visiting with other Veterans brought back memories of some of the more famous heroes that fought in WW2; Lou Diamond, Pappy Boyington and Audie Murphy.

Matthews would encourage everyone to

ZERO WATER the farmers' side of the story

By Alan Heathcock
Photographs by Matt Black



I speed along highway 99, the asphalt bleary under the high scorching sun. I'm heading to Kingsburg to speak with farmers about one of the worst recorded droughts in California history. I'm running late, a little lost. My GPS screen flickers. The electric-lady-voice instructs me to turn right, but there's nothing on the right except for ditch weeds and fallow fields. Flats brown to the horizon. Dust devils swirl out there, disappear, rise again in another spot.

Miles later I exit. I think I've driven too far. I turn right and then right again and find myself at a four-way stop. I take out my phone, hoping for a cell signal.

It's then I hear the dirt bike. A young and shirtless man coasts in from the west. His eyes turn to my silver Nissan with the out-of-state rental plates. He revs his engine, lurches into a wheelie then speeds in front of me, his middle finger thrust in my direction.

Welcome to the Central Valley, ground zero of the water war. Outsiders take heed for this is a troubled land.

The Valley's Value

Before we get to what this drought means—the anger and paranoia, the heartbreak and bitterness—it's important to remember the Central Valley isn't just any valley. It's one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Our country's breadbasket. Our primary source for tomatoes, almonds,

grapes, cotton, and dozens of other products. I'm scheduled to see all of it, on what I'm told will be a "tour of destruction." My first stop is a beer with a man named "Mule."

Mule is the patriarch of Olson Family Farms. On hot summer evenings, locals congregate on a spit of river-side land deep in the Olsons' stone-fruit orchards. Guinea fowl wander the edges of the lot. The river-banks shoulder a Lakota tepee, a cabin, a smokehouse, a bungalow on stilts they call the "inner sanctum," and a deck where a group of men drink beer and watch the river's brown water roll.

Mule has a long gray beard, wears a military jacket and a leather tricorne hat. He looks like a prospector straight from the gold-pan era, and chastises me when I call him "sir." As I find a spot on the deck, Mule says, "We're family

The drought is now killing off century-old California farms. People here don't blame the weather gods for not bringing rain—they blame the rest of us for not giving a damn.

Please see **ZERO** on P. 3

ZERO cont. from P. 2

down here. Down here we look after each other." He glances around at the farmers gathered. "This here's my family."

He says it like a warning—battle lines are clearly drawn around this drought, every outsider a potential spy—and I know he's telling me to watch my intentions.

"Yes, sir," I say, and Mule cracks the slightest grin and rears a hand as if he

just might hit me.

Two of my main expectations are immediately dispelled. One, I expect the farmers I meet on this trip to be blighted and sorrowful, a bunch of Tom Joads just trying to make ends meet. But these guys are irreverent and cocksure. Tired, maybe. Clearly they listen to a lot of talk radio. I also expect ceaseless talk of the weather. Having grown up in farm country, I know every farmer looks helplessly to the sky hoping the weather gods will

be kind. Even in the best of years, the weather is a weight. But in this current catastrophic cycle—three years of near-record rainfall deficits putting most of California at least one full year of normal rainfall behind recovery, some areas closer to two years, all while record-breaking heat has currently left 58 percent of the state in "exceptional drought" conditions—I'm thinking I'll hear nothing short of the lament of the forsaken.

Instead, a man named Jeff Yarbro

hammers on about who they see as enemy #1: environmentalists. As Yarbro has it, these particular environmentalists have fought to make sure whatever precious water is released from the state's reservoirs goes first to facilitating salmon runs. The problem is that most of this water heads out into the ocean with no attempt to reuse it. "They want this valley all jackrabbits and sage brush," he

Please see **ZERO** on P. 6

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Letters

Dear Editor:

We have an important job of electing a county supervisor in the upcoming election. I am supporting Brett Frazier for county supervisor. I feel Brett is the best candidate because he has the qualities and proven experience we need in a local leader. He is a man of integrity as shown by how he has maintained his campaign and in his own business.

We need someone to represent us that is willing to stand up and fight for the Ranchos, not someone who will follow the majority. Brett has already proven that he will stand up for what he believes in when he served on the Madera City Council. His leadership and vision carried over when he served as Madera Mayor. He is the only candidate with government experience.

I believe his age is also an asset. He relates well with constituents of all ages. He has the energy it takes to do the demanding job of the county supervisor.

Brett is committed to making decisions that are in the best interest of our future, not just for the short term. I like that Brett is committed to serving in the future and will be accountable for decisions he is making now.

He lives in the Ranchos and is very visible in our schools and community. I have been impressed at how informed he is on many subjects that affect the Ranchos and how hard he is working on finding solutions.

Brett Frazier is a man of integrity and the candidate with the most experience and leadership needed for the County Supervisor job.

Sincerely,

Cindy Landes
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

We need leadership in Madera County. I am voting for Brett Frazier because I think he will provide that leadership.

I am voting for Brett Frazier for Madera County Board of Supervisors. Leadership in America is unique to the world. What we hope for is for our leaders to be open, fair and trustworthy – a representative who has a commitment to listen to “ordinary” people and who searches for the best ideas. We cannot serve all the people without having knowledge, wisdom, and real feelings for people on both sides of issues. Everyone is entitled to due process. That means our representatives must listen with an open mind, must gather information and facts, must objectively analyze all input and THEN make informed decisions. That is “due process.” I believe Brett is committed to due process.

Brett is old enough to have proven his leadership ability and his commitment to realistic problem solving. He is young enough to tackle problems with energy and enthusiasm. He re-

spects his parents and values their influence in his life. From his mother, a highly-respected educational leader, he has gotten a strong sense of responsibility for community involvement. Dr. Sally Frazier, former Madera County Superintendent of Schools, was one of the most important participants for the establishment of GVUSD. From his father, a successful business owner in Madera, Brett has received guidance and hands-on experience in real world business.

Brett has demonstrated character in all of the following:

- Served in civic leadership as City Councilman and as Mayor of Madera
- Is father of two children in local schools – is committed to exemplary education for all children
- Grew up under the influence of exemplary educational leadership – Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County Superintendent of Schools, 1986 – 2010
- Coached Liberty High School football for one year
- Worked with his father in business – gained practical understanding of free enterprise system
- Supportive of and supported by Deputy Sheriffs, Madera Police and Madera County Firemen.

I see in Brett Frazier a hard-working and honest candidate. Brett looks you in the eye, asks good questions and listens to what you are saying. I believe he wants to serve Madera County with a commitment to the kind of leadership so very much needed for our community and county.

The guiding light for all that we do was so clearly stated long ago, that government is “of the people, by the people, for the people.” I am voting for Brett Frazier because I see in him a hope and intent to hold to that idea.

I don’t know how to win an election against Big money, Big connections and Big political machines. I do know that there is a right way and a wrong way to offer your service to the public. I believe that Brett Frazier has chosen the right way.

Tom Kellner
Former Planning Commissioner for Madera County
Former candidate for Madera County Supervisor Administrator, GVUSD – 1999 to 2004
Business Owner/Kellner Properties

Dear Editor:

I am writing my response to a political mailer I received yesterday, authored by Tom Kellner and paid for by the Brett Frazier for Supervisor Campaign.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 27

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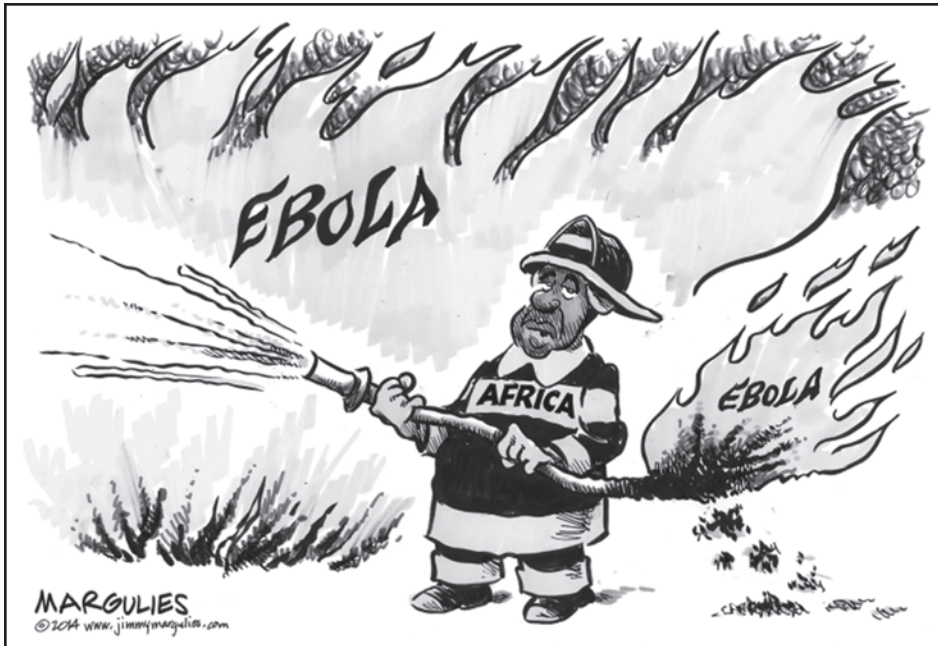
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Editorial

The Independent Recommends ...

By Randy Bailey

The road to hell is paved with good intentions. I know of few truisms that are more accurate than that one. You intend to do something ... you start moving in that direction ... you're really meaning to get going ... and then nothing. It's not just laziness or procrastination, although those are prime culprits, but sometimes it's when you get going that you realize, as President Bill Clinton said, "There's no 'there' there."

So I fully intended to do my usual election issue specialty and tell you what the Ranchos Independent recommends. Just like the Bee does and the L A Times does and on and on. The local stuff you're on your own. They're all good people, they're all neighbors and friends. Let your conscience be your guide. I'm talking about statewide offices and the propositions. THAT'S where I had full intentions of laying it all out and parsing the language and making the difficult understandable ... then I started looking at them. I have never seen a more pathetic collection of wannabe laws in my life. We have officially, with this ballot, moved beyond "the lesser of two evils" to "which evil do you like best?"

Let me get the only proposition that I feel strongly about out of the way. Vote YES on Prop 48, the Indian gaming proposition. Know why? Because North Fork Rancheria followed all of the rules. If you

don't want Indian nations to be able to "reclaim" land that was once theirs and put it in trust for future development, you should have made a law that says that. But you didn't. If North Fork Rancheria was out there doing backroom deals and sneaking around, I'd be the first to yell "Foul!" But they're not. Get over it. Yes on 48.

Take Prop 1. A water bill. We sure need that, right? \$7 billion of which less than HALF is for water storage. You know in 2006 we passed Prop 84 authorizing \$5.4 billion for water projects, don't you? In 2005 there was Prop 50, authorizing \$3.4 billion for more water projects. Between 1996 and 2006 we approved \$11 billion in water project bonds. How's that water system working?

Prop 45 is a nightmare. It gives the state insurance commissioner -- one man -- sweeping authority over your health care. Instead of having a free marketplace where you can shop and get the best deal, the State will tell you what that deal is. And you will like it.

Prop 47 ... really? Why is it we go out of our way to accommodate criminals? The day Three Strikes passed there were (and still are) people trying to un-do it. Just too hard on criminals. I would agree except for one thing: They're criminals! The felonies that this law would redefine as misdemeanors are mind boggling. Who are these people? I love the one argument that by sending "low grade" criminals to prison they come out better criminals so their rationalization is let's just keep them out of prison and then they'll only be amateurish criminals. Can't argue with that one.

I think what's got me so despondent is even if we feel strongly about a proposition and pass it in resounding numbers, all it will take is one activist judge to overturn it and we're done. Can you say Prop 8? I think I'm going to vote no on all of them (except 48) and see what happens.

You'll never guess what I heard the other day. There's someone running against Jerry Brown for governor! He claims to be a Republican, although he's pro-abortion and pro-gay marriage and pro just about anything else that Jerry Brown is "pro" on ... except the train. He doesn't like the train. The election is in a week. I figure he's saving it all for the day before the election. He's going to come on like gangbusters on November 3 ...

... and then go back to his job at McDonalds on November 5.

THE RAY GUN
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"LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GO TO WORK, AND PUT AMERICA'S ECONOMIC ENGINE AT FULL THROTTLE."

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

ZERO cont. from P. 3

says, meaning the environmentalists. “They don’t believe we should be here. They’d like to turn the valley like it was a hundred years ago. And for us to go elsewhere.”

Andy Vidak, cherry farmer and senator for the 16th district, piggybacks Yarbro’s passion, and for the next 20 minutes goes deeply and conspiratorially political. He educates me on a long series of decisions made by a “small percentage of politicians who also hold the most power” in collaboration with radical environmentalists who have worked to destroy the farmers of the Central Valley. “This is perfect politics,” Vidak says. “The perfect war. This valley is conservative.” He contends big-city liberals are aware they can save the salmon, don the hero’s crown for environmentalists, all while eliminating conservative political opposition.

I respectfully suggest that one of the most productive agricultural valleys in the world couldn’t possibly be sacrificed in the name of politics—there’s a population base, functioning towns.

“No,” Vidak counters. “People in New York or Boise, Idaho, don’t care where their produce comes from.” The valley of farmers could go away, and so long as the product came from elsewhere no one would care.

Carrots from China

He tells me a story of a local food bank. It was mid-summer and the men in line would be working if so much land wasn’t left unfarmed due to the water crisis. If that wasn’t bad enough, he noticed the food bank was handing out cans of carrots grown in China.

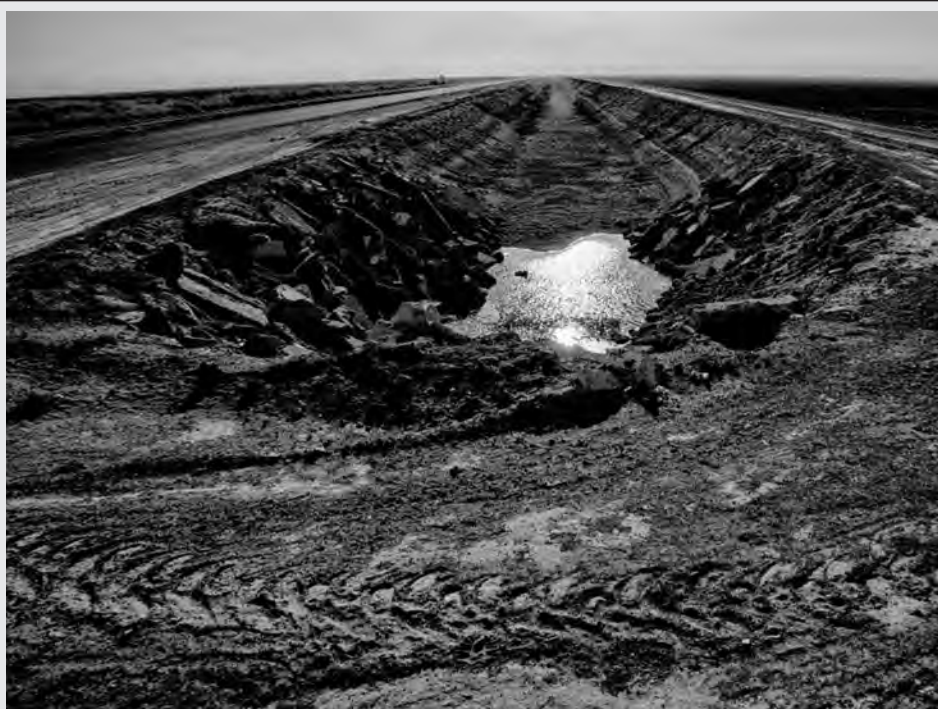
“Carrots from China,” Vidak says. “All while we have two of the largest carrot growers in the world down here. That’s just wrong.”

I ask if he thinks there’s any hope for the Central Valley farmer. Vidak believes they’re going to win eventually because the country needs good, nutritious food. He fights on hoping the balance of power can again be shifted back to the valley, back to the farmer.

Mule crosses over to crouch beside me, his tricorne hat almost piercing an eye. He holds up a smartphone and shows me a photo of a man, Burdizzo pincers in hand, castrating a bull.

“That’s Andy,” Mule says.

No one talks for a time. The deck is still. Clearly these men are angry, desperate. I sympathize, but also wonder if maybe these conspiracy theories and salmon-supervillains aren’t a sign



A dry canal near the Tulare Lake basin in Corcoran, Calif.

they’ve been driven a little mad.

Mule gives me a horse blanket and we bed down for the night on the deck. The “family” snoring all around me, I try in vain to sleep, the river sparkling, the moon oddly bright in the sky.

The next morning I meet with the two men who, I’m told, will make sense of all of this for me. My guides on this tour of destruction. Jim Verboon is a big man, a walnut farmer and fisherman, with a friendly demeanor and a great jolly laugh. Russ Waymire is kind but serious. Hair oiled and shirt tucked, Russ is all business.

We meet in a little café and the two of them offer me a crash course in Cali-

fornia Water 101. Even in non-drought years the logistics are complex. Snow-pack runoff is captured in reservoirs. Rivers and lakes are dammed. Canals snake across the state. Some water is managed at the federal level, some at the state. There are 500 public water districts, each with local ordinances. There are senior water rights, junior rights, riparian rights. As difficult as it is to understand water collection and distribution, Russ and Jim simplify the crisis by reiterating what I heard the night before: Radical environmentalists have effectively lobbied to have water diverted away from the Central valley.

Beyond the salmon runs, Jim and



Ducks fly from a mound of cattle feed.

Russ tell me about the delta smelt, a three-inch fish on the edge of extinction. Environmentalists claim the powerful pumps that send water to the Central Valley are killing the smelt. The plummeting fish population, and a lawsuit through the Endangered Species Act, has all but shut down the pumps. From the perspective of both environmentalists and the state, they’re managing for the longterm. As in, if they divert water from salmon or smelt, they may never recover. Ever. While the farmers will eventually be okay. For a time, they’ll have to make do with less.

No Fight with Fish

Jim and Russ have no fight with the fish. They simply believe blame is misplaced. In their argument, Jim and Russ speak like professors, evenhanded and thorough. They show me maps and graphs, articles highlighted and annotated, findings from a scientist at U.C. Berkeley, attempting to validate their theory that it’s not the pumps killing the fish, but raw sewage from Sacramento’s regional treatment plant.

No matter the reason behind the pumps being shut off, one thing is irrefutable: The water isn’t coming to the valley. Much of California relies on surface water collected by state and federal water projects. This year’s snow pack was a dismal 29 percent. The winter and spring rains didn’t come. After farmers struggled through receiving only 40 percent of their surface water allotment in 2012 and 20 percent in 2013, the Westlands water district that delivers water to the west valley received an unprecedented 0 percent of their 2014 allotment. Before this year, receiving zero surface water was inconceivable to the valley farmer. But now it’s happened. Now anything’s possible.

We drive through Jim’s walnut orchard, his trees full and healthy. But the river behind his land is a deep canal of sand. I’m confused. This is the Kings River, the same river I slept beside the night before. Turns out this isn’t the work of Mother Nature. A weir alters the water’s flow a few miles to the northeast. Those who live above the weir have a river. Those to the south look upon a ghost-trench of silt and banks of dying woods.

Jim’s keeping his operation going with well water. He doesn’t want to deplete his land of groundwater, but has no choice. Wells are expensive, using groundwater dangerous. Natural aquifers are drying up, the land subsiding, as lit-

Please see **ZERO** on P. 10

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~ Brett Frazier



Brett Frazier, fiancé Elizabeth Kent, and children Wyatt and Hallie

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- MADERA COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION
- CAL FIRE LOCAL 2881
- MADERA POLICE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION
- City of Madera Mayor Robert Poythress
- Madera County Assessor-elect Gary Svanda
- Madera City Council
- California Hospitals
- AFSCME Local 2703
- Ray Krause, Jr.
- Rochelle Noblett
- Tom Kellner
- Gary & Cindy Landes
- Art & Vickie Hughes
- Greg & Nancy Kent
- Steve & Sally Frazier
- Former Fresno County Sheriff Steve Margarian
- Don Nielsen, Former GVUSD Trustee
- Ron Haro, Former Chawanakee School District Trustee
- Rachel Martin
- Dale Overbay
- Pete Cercone
- Maria Fotopolous
- Corky & Tina Napier
- Dennis & Diane Lingo
- Mike & Le Ann Fursman
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- Jennifer & Wayne Whittemore
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- *Partial list: For list of all endorsements, visit brettfrazier.org/endorsements



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The Magic Words

A few weeks ago, a reader came into the office to talk about an article I had written. In the course of our conversation I discovered she was a member of the Russian Molkan Christian Church. Randy and I had never heard of that particular faith, so we were full of questions. She very graciously explained their belief. They follow the Christian faith; however they follow the Jewish food laws. In talking about their food laws, which included nothing from the pig and no shellfish, she said the magic words: "I have a recipe book I can let you borrow to see some of our recipes." I love to read recipe books, especially those written by people that I know have fed their families the meals found in them, so I jumped at the opportunity to read this book.

After she left, Randy said, "You know, the Ranchos is a mixture of all nationalities. There are probably more countries represented than we think about." We are all Americans, but our ancestors

came here from somewhere. Mine are German (in fact we have a street in Hamburg, Germany named after us) and Irish. Where are yours from? Do you still carry on some of their food traditions? I'll bet if we put a map of the world up and put a mark on the country your family came from, probably every country in the world would be marked.

After Sarah brought me her cook book, I couldn't get over the size of it. I was thrilled with it. I spent almost nine hours reading it before I set down at the computer to start this article. There is everything in it from soup to nuts, believe me! There is a paragraph in the forward that I thought was worth repeating here: "In our homes today, as always, life is centered around our kitchens. The joy of cooking for one's family is ageless. The warm atmosphere it creates, the aroma of dinner cooking,



and most rewarding of all ... the expression of love from a child when you give him a freshly baked cookie. These are treasures each mother (or Grandmother or Aunt) locks in her heart."

I told you there was every kind of recipe from soup ...

Spinach Soup

5 C. water

1 med. Onion, chopped (optional)

1 med. Potato, chopped

1 bunch spinach, coarsely chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

1/3 cube butter or margarine

1 C. Half and half

Boil the potato and onion gently with seasonings about 20 minutes. Wash and chop the spinach

and add to broth. Also add the butter at this time. Cook 5 to 8 minutes longer. Turn off burner; add the half and half. Enjoy.

To nuts ...

Spicy-Sugared Walnuts

1 C. Sugar

1 tsp. salt

2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cloves

1/2 C. water

2 C. walnut halves

Combine sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and water. Boil together, stirring often to 236 degrees on candy thermometer (soft ball stage). Remove from heat and add walnuts, stirring until creamy. Turn out on waxed paper and separate walnuts.

Who doesn't like to mix some ingredients together in one pan and have dinner? There is a chapter in this book for casseroles, so I picked a couple that really sound good.

Chicken Enchilada Casserole

1 can Cream of Mushroom soup

1 C. Milk

2 - 7 oz. cans Ortega Green

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 25

... she said the magic words: "I have a recipe book I can let you borrow to see some of our recipes."

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We must protect the future of our community and our economy, and right now that means finding both short and long term solutions to our water crisis.

Short term solutions are difficult. We are already taking conservation measures, but for those of us in the Ranchos community, that is not enough.

Our top priority is providing for the water needs of homes and businesses here in the Ranchos and in Supervisorial District One.

I have begun to look at desert states such as Arizona and Nevada, to see what they have implemented and what worked for them for both short and long term strategies.

The construction of the Temperance Flat dam project is a necessary part of any long term solution.

Another need is for repair of the pipes in our water delivery system, to stop wasteful leakage and to prevent contamination. I am exploring state and federal assistance to help with funding to repair the pipes as soon as possible. The grant money that has been accepted involves a possible two year wait. **That repair must take place much sooner than two years!**

Bottom line – the water issue has been discussed for too many years with no results. **I will continue to work on our water needs until we have true results, so we don't have to go through this crisis again.**

We must look at the big picture, in order to fairly balance the needs of residents, farms and businesses. As your next Supervisor, I will work full time to better serve the people of District One.

Mona

VOTE
MONA DIAZ

FOR
SUPERVISOR

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mona Diaz District One Supervisor 2014 - FPPC#1364339 - (559) 333-1913

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**Deputy Sheriffs
have chosen...**

Jay Varney
for Sheriff

...to be our next Sheriff

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ZERO cont. from P. 6

tle as an inch in most areas, as much as a foot in others, the land collapsing as the water is siphoned out. How will he make it through this year? How does he sustain the land for the future? This is the balancing act Jim and every valley farmer must painfully confront.

For years, Russ owned a custom farming business and has helped harvest acreage in every corner of this valley. As we start to drive, he points out fallow land his crews once worked. We pass pistachio trees and Russ notes that the leaves are yellowing, the trees failing. The farther west we drive the larger the plots of unfarmed land. Signs mark the road's shoulder: NO WATER = HIGHER FOOD COSTS; NO HAY AGUA, NO HAY TRABAJO!; CONGRESS CREATED DUST BOWL.

I take out my camera, but it's impossible to convey the amount of fallow land with a photo. On one stretch, we drive for 35 minutes with unfarmed land on either side of the road for as far as the eye can see. This year, there's an estimated four hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand acres left idle, or 1,250 square miles of land on the high side, a landmass larger than Los Angeles, San



A road leading to fallowed fields in the Central Valley.

Diego, and San Francisco combined.

We drive for miles through nothing but dirt and tumbleweeds and then, like an oasis, a dot of green emerges in all that brown. Trees surround a little house. David and Sharon Wakefield have lived outside of Mendota, California, for thirty-eight years. For most of those

years, this land would be planted with row crops. With this year's 0 percent water allotment, his land is fallow, and the land surrounding the farm has been sold to a solar company. Where once was cotton and alfalfa will soon be fields of panels.

"I have no problem with solar

farms," David tells me, standing in his little yard. "I just don't want to live in the middle of one."

The Last of a Legacy

The ten acres that holds the Wakefields' house is the last scrap of a legacy of farming that started when Sharon's family moved out from Oklahoma to escape the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Jim introduces Sharon as "Dust Bowl Sharon," and she smiles but gives Jim a playful glance like maybe he's in trouble.

David and Sharon have been fighting for years to stay in business, have successfully made it through past droughts by abandoning land and shrinking their acreage. They describe what the land used to look like, the rows of cotton, green plants tufted white, the fields teeming with workers at harvest time.

Sharon shows me an old illustration from the Encyclopedia Britannica, a barnyard and farmhouse, crops in neat rows in the distance, a farmer harvesting wheat. A boy rides a brown horse. A woman in a white apron feeds the chickens.

"This was my dream since I was a girl," she says. "This is all I ever wanted."

Please see **ZERO** on P. 12

HE IS FIGHTING FOR OUR WATER

Click on "Local News" at

Who likes Mike?????

Sheriff John Anderson likes Mike



Sheriff's and Chiefs like Mike!

Mike Boudreaux, Tulare County Sheriff
David Robinson, Kings County Sheriff
Doug Binnewies, Mariposa County Sheriff
Ed Bates, Madera County Sheriff (retired)
William Leist, CHP Central Division Chief (retired)
Michael Kims, Chief of Police (retired)/former opponent

Elected officials like Mike!

Patty Manfredi, Madera County Board of Supervisors (retired)
Sally Bonprezzi, Madera City Council
Cathie Bustos, Madera County Board of Education, Trustee
Al Galvez, Madera County Board of Education, Trustee
Ray Seibert, Madera Unified Board of Education, Trustee
Robert Garibay, Madera Unified Board of Education, Trustee
Jose Rodriguez, Madera Unified Board of Education, Trustee
Ric Arredondo, Madera Unified Board of Education, Trustee

Community Groups like Mike:

Grow Elect PAC
Madera Realtors Assn

Former Opponents like Mike:

Dennis Fairbanks
Greg Noll

Community Leaders like Mike:

Angelo Pizelo, Oakhurst
Carlos Beckelt, Madera
Sherry Colgate, Oakhurst
Mike Perreira, Coarsegold
Jerry Smith, Raymond
Bill Williams, Raymond
Mike Reynolds, Author Three Strikes Law
Corina Lopez, Gun Rights Activist

Newspapers like Mike:

Sierra Star

My Wife and Family likes Mike (I could not do this without them).....

Why should you "Like Mike":

27 Years of Law Enforcement Experience, 21 years serving the citizens of Madera County.

Worked his way through the ranks from Deputy Sheriff to Undersheriff

Managed budgets from 10 million dollars to 145 million dollars

Produced projects that enhanced the Sheriff's Office's technology and increased efficiency

Ready to go on DAY 1 attacking the safety issues that face the County

I am asking for your vote on November 4, 2014

Michael Salvador

10/14

Paid for by:
Michael Salvador for Madera County Sheriff 2014, 25742 El Vado Dr, Madera CA, 93638 FPPC# 1359634
Salvador4sheriff@gmail.com www.salvador4sheriff.com

Hit and Run ... to Where?

I find it hard to believe that in this day and age someone would risk a hit and run. With a camera plastered on nearly every building, and most cell phones equipped with high-definition video capabilities, why would you risk an additional charge on top of an at-fault accident? Some people's capacity for stupid never ceases to amaze me.

Last week at work I was sitting at my desk when I received a company-wide email. It was alerting us to an accident that had happened on the street right out in front of the complex, it described the car involved and urged the owner to go survey the scene, the police were on their way. The car happened to belong to a colleague in my department. She jumped up and ran outside, and of course we all followed because, hey, we're human. Her car had been plowed into with such force that it was pushed up onto the sidewalk and into the retaining wall.

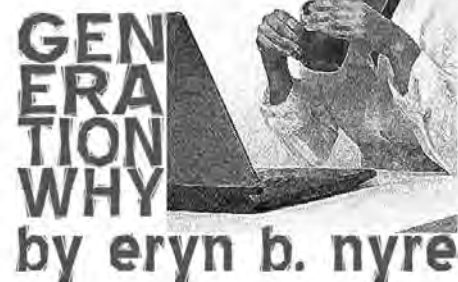
I immediately looked around, expecting to see some nervous looking person, chewing their nails and yanking at their hair as they waited for the police to arrive, but there wasn't anyone around but my freaked out colleague and the rest of us looky-loos.

So they already had their man, they had his car, his address, his identity, his record, his credit report, and his High School transcripts all before the tow-truck arrived.

She immediately pulled out her cell phone to take pictures and call her insurance company when the first police car slid to a stop in the middle of the street. At this point we should probably have all gone back inside, but who can resist a little real-life reality TV?

One cop took her statement, while another started asking everyone if they saw anything, and all I could think was, what kind of grade-A jerk would plow into a car and just take off? I mean, this is why we have insurance, to take care of situations like this. The only conclusion I can come up with is that it must be some loser driving around without insurance. I immediately started searching our building and the building across the street for surveillance cameras. There ... there ... there ... this creep didn't stand a chance. I was beginning to feel a little better about the situation when I saw a gentleman walk up to one of the officers and hand him a cell phone.

Curiosity is not foreign to me, so I



moved closer and turned my eavesdropping ears on. The man apparently worked somewhere in the complex and was taking his break in his car when he saw it happen, so he whipped out his camera and got the perpetrator on video and he was waiting until they had arrived so he could hand over the evidence. I now love this man. We are erecting his statue as I write this, and the parade is next week. My colleague threw her arms around him and squeezed him nearly to death. I think I heard her propose.

I was, unfortunately, not close enough to see the video myself, but my co-worker told me later that there was a clear shot of the license plate and a pretty good shot of the moron's face. So they already had their

man, they had his car, his address, his identity, his record, his credit report, and his High School transcripts all before the tow-truck arrived. Ah, the wonders of modern technology – you can't hide from big brother ... idiot. I wish I could be there when the cops show up at his door with the cuffs. Maybe he will try and run again and the police will get to use the Taser.

It's not that I don't understand the urge to flee. You do something stupid, you know you are going to get in trouble, so you run and hide. I can think of many an afternoon I spent hiding under the kitchen table, hoping my parents didn't notice the mess I made, or the thing I broke. Of course, I was seven, but hey, that instinct to run doesn't go away, you just learn to ignore it when you grow up, at least, that's the hope.

When I was first learning to drive I hit everything, I thought my dad was

Please see GEN WHY on P. 22



Sharon and David Wakefield in fallowed farmland near their home.

ZERO cont. from P. 10

They bought the land in 1976. They raised their kids here, made it a special place for the grandkids. At the edge of the yard sits a line of tractors. They've kept them all, dating back to a tractor Sharon's grandfather once used, a tractor they take pride in saying still runs. Sharon says they planted every tree. A eucalyptus towers above us, and I begin to realize this land won't just be sold, but all of this—the trees, the tractors, the house—might soon be gone.

We've circled the house and stand back in their little yard. I ask what they'll do now. David steals a glance at Sharon. "When we go I'll never look back up that drive again. It'll just be too hard."

Sharon says that when as kids they'd see a house and land being sold her father would say, "That's someone's broken dream." She peers out beyond the green of her trees as the sun sets hard over the dusty, barren land. "This is our broken dream."

Just downriver from Jim's orchard sits Bill Son's pistachio farm. Bill is Russ and Jim's friend, and is struggling with cancer. They've stopped to check on him because despite his illness he's still trying to farm, working as many hours as he can in his weakened state. Bill and his wife have mounting expenses and need to bring in a good harvest despite the drought.

Bill's already been working several hours. Shoulders stooped from exhaustion, he's still a tall man. His eyes are bright and alive though he keeps apolo-

gizing because he can hardly talk. Russ and Jim check on his well. His orchard is only hundreds of feet from the Kings River, which would naturally replenish his well if the river wasn't dry. It's bad news. Bill's well is shallow, the water dwindling.

His eyes full of worry, Bill excuses himself and retires to the house. We walk into his orchard. Russ plucks a bunch of nuts from a branch, uses shears to clip away the shells. Russ finds too many shells empty, a bad sign for this harvest. It means the trees are damaged and spells disaster for years to come.

They tell me that for 33 years Bill had a thriving custom farming business, but as the agriculture economy slowed he had to work longer hours and drive longer distances to work. He knew he was sick, but couldn't stop working to get proper care. The cancer was diagnosed late. Even when it was clear he needed a bone-marrow transplant, Bill couldn't spare the time for the required 30-day quarantine. Bill waited until after the harvest. The transplant didn't take, the cancer returned with a vengeance.

"You won't find a better farmer or friend than Bill," Russ says.

"He was such a strong man," Jim adds. "Could outwork anyone."

For 14 hours I drive around with Russ and Jim, seeing land, meeting people. Not once did we talk about my wife and kids. No idle chitchat. Only long discussions on the need for reservoirs, fear of groundwater regulation, ad-

Please see **ZERO** on P. 13

Dear Voters of District 1

My name is Elizabeth Kent and I am a proud resident of Madera Ranchos. I was born and raised here in the Ranchos, during which time I was instilled with certain qualities which I believe are alive and strong today: family, hard work, personal responsibility, and strong community pride. My fiancé, Brett Frazier, recognized the foundation Madera Ranchos instilled in me. I am happy and proud that we decided to make our home and raise our family here.

I quickly recognized that Brett and I share similar qualities and experiences. We both come from families deeply rooted in education. Both of our mothers have dedicated their careers to education. My mother, Nancy Kent, has taught at Webster Elementary for 23 years. Brett's mother, Dr. Sally Frazier, served as Madera County's Superintendent of Schools for 24 years, working alongside community partners in the formation of Golden Valley Unified School District, where Brett's children, Wyatt and Hallie, attend today. Brett understands the vital role of a great education in every child's life, and Brett and I enjoy volunteering and contributing to the schools in our district.

Brett is following in the family tradition of public service and business entrepreneurship. Brett values youth mentorship, and volunteers his time engaging with students at Madera South High School and Liberty High School. Brett loved his time coaching junior varsity football at Liberty High School during the 2006-2007 school year, and recalls that it was during that season that he knew he wanted to raise his family in the Madera Ranchos, where old-fashioned school spirit and community pride still exist. As owner of Papa Murphy's Pizza, Brett has been able to employ young people from our area and prepare them not only for their job at Papa Murphy's, but for life and future careers.

This is what I can guarantee you about Brett: he is an active, supportive, loving father and fiancé who is always willing to put others first. I am confident that he'll bring these same values while representing the Ranchos as our Supervisor. Brett welcomes the responsibility to tackle our challenges head-on, facing difficult decisions instead of avoiding them, especially as it pertains to our water infrastructure.

Brett and I are proud to make our home and future here. Like most families, Brett and I have endured the challenges that life brings, learning from those experiences to pave a way for a better future. Now more than ever, we deserve new leadership to strengthen our county's future. I know deep down that Brett will work hard to fight to preserve the same quality of life that I grew up loving, ultimately leaving our children and future generations with a community that we can all be proud of.

Most Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kent



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November 4th

Stationary design in honor of
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10/14

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10/14



An irrigation ditch on Eric Barlow's farm.

ZERO cont. from P. 12

vancements in irrigation technology, how what's happening in the west valley is beginning to happen in the east, too, with accompanying predictions of destruction and woe.

From what I've seen and heard I'm confused why the human tragedy has largely been ignored. It's puzzling why a valley of such agricultural importance is shown so little respect. I post photos on Facebook, one of a vast field of withered grape vines, one of unfarmed land not far from the Wakefields' home. Though I know many of my Facebook friends are the eco-conscious types the folks in this valley claim are pining for their demise, I'm convinced the photos will receive unanimous sympathy.

The comments on the photos begin as expected, folks thanking me for covering the story, outraged because they had no idea things were so bad. Then the first negative comment pops up. On the picture of the unfarmed land a "friend" posts: "Just saying—these must be really shitty farmers." Another comment follows saying that one person's tragedy and is another person's call for change. The next claims this is what happens when you "over-farm" land. Yet another suggests my story isn't about a water crisis, but about a "failed colony."

Before my eyes these "friends" become exactly what Andy Vidak and Russ and Jim claimed, unsympathetic partisans hurling knee-jerk accusations, validating what just last night I'd passed off as wild-eyed hysteria.

Everything's politicized these days:

our schools, our churches, our music and fashion, even our food. Has political segregation disabled our desire to empathize? Must every problem pass political approval before sympathy is offered? What does this mean for America if suffering is so easily cast off with indifference or hostility?

If only they could see the land for themselves, I muse. If only they could meet Bill Son, meet the Wakefields. I decide not to engage the comment thread. I delete the photo and all the comments from my page, and even that feels like a betrayal.

Russ and Jim pick me up at day-break, and I tell them about the Facebook comments. "It doesn't feel good to be right about destruction," Jim assures.

Not a Failed Farmer

That morning I meet Paul Sihota, whose abandoned vineyard I photographed, a haunted scene of withered vines and tumbleweeds littering the rows. Paul grew up on a grape farm and believes farming instills values that affect the "the quality of that person." He has three kids, all of whom he raised on the values of farming, all of whom actively helped on these 680 acres he's been forced to sell.

Sihota's main resentment is that he didn't fail as a farmer. His vines were healthy, the soil good. He had to lay off the six men who worked for him, a hard task made harder by the fact they'd done everything required as stewards of the land.

Sihota details his financial hardship.

Please see **ZERO** on P. 14



A tractor tills dry land near the Tulare Lake basin.

ZERO cont. from P. 13

Because there are water rights attached to the land, he has to pay a yearly per-acre assessment. He pays this assessment regardless of the percentage of water delivered. On his 680 acres he was to pay over \$400,000, in a year when he'd already been told he'd receive zero water. In turn, to farm he'd have to buy water on the open and inflated seller's market. Just from the assessment and purchase of water, Sihota estimated a loss of \$700,000 for 2014, a number he simply couldn't carry.

"It's a scary feeling looking at the numbers," he says. "It's like telling your kids you don't have enough to eat."

Sihota sold the land to a housing developer, and worries this land may never be farmed again. I ask how he's dealing with the vineyard being bulldozed. He rubs his knuckles, looks away. "I'm just trying to keep busy," he finally says. "I planted it. I don't want to watch it get destroyed. It's like a part of you that's gone away."

At the edge of a vast fallow field, cotton farmer Todd Allen takes up a handful of dirt and explains this is Class 1 soil, the highest grade given by the USDA. With this soil and the "Mediterranean climate," there's hardly a better place in the world to farm. But he can't farm without water, has already sold off land, and is only farming 150 of his 600 acres.

Being the Villian

Allen says he's being worn down by environmentalists "villianizing" farmers. Environmentalists claim farm-

ers waste water, though he's invested huge sums of money for the most efficient water-metered underground-drip irrigation. They claim farmers use dangerous fertilizers and pesticides, though he uses as many organic treatments as possible.

"I get depressed," he says. "I have a wife and two daughters. We're just a target, and we're being punished for something we didn't do anything to cause. I don't know how long I can keep going."

Allen's sentiments are echoed at El Rancho Café, a little lunchroom in the west valley town of Five Points. The café's front room has one large table, around which are seated 15 farmers. One man tells me his theory that the government is looking to take over the valley completely. Another is frustrated that fish have more political clout than farmers. Yet another says he has no problem with the fish, but he just wants his water.

"I feed millions of people," Joe Kastner, a big man in a white straw hat, says from the end of the table. "I get a deep sense of satisfaction from that. I won't be made to feel bad about that."

A walnut farmer named Tim Larson says his biggest concern is that nothing will change until "there's flies on the baby." He explains they just keep making do with less and less. Their ability to persevere and innovate is harming them, in that the politics won't change until the farmers, like the fish, are on the endangered species list.

Legacy is a theme with most farm-

Please see **ZERO** on P. 15



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BRETT FRAZIER'S OPEN LETTER IN RESPONSE TO OPPONENT'S CLAIMS

I am disappointed by my opponent's decision to take this campaign in a negative direction, highlighting a singular portion of my fundraising efforts; I have worked extremely hard to raise funds across a wide range of industries and individuals representing Madera County.

These different entities have competing interests and are as diverse as our district; the common bond is that they have made an investment in good governance. They understand that their interests are best served by a stable, transparent and strong county government.

Upon the start of this election season my opponent and I agreed to make our respective campaigns stand on their own merits without tearing the other down. My opponent disregarded that agreement when she paid for a "robo-call" and mailer attacking me.

Her allusion that I will have "strings attached" once I take office is a direct attack on my character that my vote could ever be bought with a campaign contribution. If anyone looks at my record on the City Council you will plainly see that I always voted on issues based on their impact to the community and not who contributed to my campaign.

This serves as a reminder that now more than ever, our community deserves new leadership to correct Madera County's old ways. I ask you to join me in moving Madera County in a positive direction.

This is a paid political advertisement.

10/14

ZERO cont. from P. 14

ers. The office walls at Barlow Family Farms are lined with photographs of the Barlows' history on the land: a father holding a baby in a field of cotton; two smiling boys, one in red swim trunks, the other blue, in the muddy water of an irrigation ditch; a faded photo of a man in a tilted white fedora, proudly standing beside golden shoulder-high wheat.

This year the Barlows have fallowed 80 acres and rented off 300, all while their wells are faltering, the water quality suffering. Eric Barlow, the third generation to farm this land, rues that the values of his upbringing might now be harming them.

"Farmers trust people," Barlow says. "Maybe to a fault."

If the Barlows continue to be denied their allotment of surface water, Eric's afraid they won't last much longer. "I go to bed panicked our wells won't make it through the night, and wake up panicked wondering if they're still running."

He just wants to farm, and tells a story of taking his kids to New York City. They stayed in a high-rise hotel. He peered out his window and saw a man across the road on his balcony, watering



Eric Barlow checks an irrigation pump on his farm.

a single plant. The man looked so happy doting on his plant, but Barlow couldn't believe he had just one.

"That's all he's got?" Barlow says. "I just couldn't live like that."

I understand Russ and Jim are helping me because they have an agenda.

With every stop, they linger behind. Russ hands out bags of pistachios and pamphlets about water issues. The talk is serious and urgent. Even affable Jim turns outraged, tracing a big finger down maps to show the route of sewage into the delta.

Part of the problem, they explain, is that the water crisis has pitted farmer against farmer. To have political clout they need to speak with solidarity. While I do my work, meeting people and collecting their stories, Russ and Jim are trying to unite the valley.

"Why don't you bring one of the environmentalists down here on a tour of the valley," I say as we head back to my hotel in Hanford. "Let them see the land for themselves."

Russ peers off at the passing land, clearly bothered by the suggestion. I meant well, but know trust is hard to win and easy to lose. Russ calls a farmer friend and puts him on speakerphone. They proceed to have a conversation about yet another parcel of farmland being sold for non-farm use. This farmer, unaware I'm listening, speaks with a frankness reserved for insiders. I've never heard a farmer use so many curse words, his bitterness and anger not a show for some writer holding a digital voice recorder, but just a friend venting to a friend about the onslaught of calamity affecting their lives.

It's been another long day. As we

Please see **ZERO** on P. 16

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10/14



George Turegano, the Chief of Police in Huron, Calif., in the processing area of the town's jail.

ZERO cont. from P. 15

come into Hanford, Jim says he grew up here, that there's an ice cream parlor I have to try. I tell Jim I'm exhausted and it's too late for ice cream. He's disappointed, but I assure him we'll go tomorrow.

In my hotel room, I check my Facebook page. Though many "friends" offer words of support, one sends a note suggesting farmers are getting what they deserve because they decimated the bee population. Like a cruel joke, the "ALS ice bucket challenge" has kicked into full viral-gear, and I watch video after video of people dumping buckets of water over their heads. After the shortest shower of my life, I lie in bed, unable to sleep with the day's voices roiling in my mind.

Impact Beyond Farmers

I'd like a sense of the collateral damage, the ways the water crisis is affecting those who aren't farmers. Russ and Jim take me to visit with Harlin Casida, mayor of Avenal. This town of 14,000 has carried unemployment as high as 25 percent this summer, with those numbers not accounting for under-employment or those who've left town to seek work elsewhere. Though the city's initiated two strict phases of conservation, and even employs a "water cop" to monitor people's lawn-watering, it's looking at running out of water by November, with the next water year not beginning until March, 2015.

Avenal is already selling some poor-quality well water to its citizens for non-consumption use, and soon has to broker

a deal for clean water on the open water market. The town has to decide what to do with parks and the high school's new football field. Even the Avenal police department is affected, out front they've left two narrow strips of grass on either side of the walkway, but otherwise removed the lawn.

Huron Police Chief, George Turegano, describes a more urgent scenario. Huron, like Avenal, may also be out of water by mid-November. Turegano has already seen an increase in crime this summer, but says they also need to broker a water deal quickly because people are already agitated and, "If toilets don't have water then things will change quickly."

We head to a garlic harvest so I can speak with field workers. This particular grower has historically employed a thousand workers, but this year has only 250 on the crop. The workers, some in their 20s, some much older, men and women alike all wearing long sleeves, hats, and bandanas to protect them from the brutal sun, tell me this summer they've had to drive much longer distances to find work. They have friends and family who've already left for better work in Oregon and Washington. It's hard for them to see their families and communities broken apart. Every last one of them is considering leaving the Central Valley.

I speak with labor contractors, store and restaurant owners, gas station clerks and mechanics and teachers. The water crisis is a net closing around the valley

Please see **ZERO** on P. 20

Leaders in our communities have the confidence that I can make a difference by giving me their endorsement:

Madera County Supervisors
 Tom Wheeler, Chairman
 Rick Farinelli, District 3
 Ronn Dominici, District 3, Retired

Chamber of Commerce Leaders
 Todd Miller, President, Oakhurst
 Lisa Curry, President, Coarsegold
 Laura Young, Vice President, Coarsegold
 Ollia Ridge, Past President, Madera Ranchos
 Angelo Pizelo, Past President, Oakhurst

Madera City Council
 Robert Poythress, Mayor
 Derek Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem
 Sally Bompreszi
 Andrew Madellin
 Donald Holley
 Gary Svanda

Community Leaders
 The Madera Association of Realtors
 Donna Pride, Realtor
 Rosanne Bonilla, Latinas Unidas
 Dr. Julie O'Kane, Superintendent, MUSD, Retired
 Ron Flores, President, Florestone Products
 Stell Manfredi, Madera Co. CAO, Retired
 Ron Manfredi, Kerman City, CAO, Retired
 Jack & Paula Parialas, Former Business Owners
 Don McKinney, Farmer
 Rick Cosyns, Farmer

Past Madera Mayors
 Bud Sanders
 Herman Perez
 Margaret Medellin



10/14

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By Brenda McElroy

The Easy/Hard Way

The other day I went into my office to put some folders away. They belong in a bin on the top shelf of the closet. They didn't land there. I didn't feel like getting the stool that would allow me to reach the top shelf so I stuck them where they didn't belong on the shelf below. I blew off my "If it takes less than two minutes, do it now" mantra and rationalized that I was saving time and energy because I'll wait until I have more to put up there. But will I remember there are some things waiting below? Probably not.

One of my clients creatively calls this the "Easy/Hard Way." You put something away wherever you can reach, or cram, or maybe not at all. That's easy. But, some-

where down the line, it transforms to hard. You can't find it, or can't reach it, or have to dig through a pile to get to it. Let's take a look at some other common Easy/Hard scenarios and some practical strategies to reverse them.

Scenario #1 — You and your kids are in the car. They're having snacks and tossing the trash on the floor (easy). By the time you're home everyone's tired and rushing inside. You decide not to create more stress by making them clean up their mess in the car (easy). After a week of similar car trips the car is trashed and it's a lot bigger job (hard). You lose your cool and yell at the kids for being such pigs ... and then apologize (hard).

The Hard/Easy scenario would look something like this. You purchase a car trash bin (check Amazon or Target.com), not too hard. You instruct and demonstrate to your kids where the car trash must go and then follow-up throughout the next month or so with reminders until they get it (kinda hard). You assign cleaning out the trash bin to one of the kids and create a routine (with accountability) so that it's accomplished on a regular basis (hard). The next time you're picking up your girlfriends for a girls' night out, you get in the car and go — without having to clean out the car first (easy)!

Scenario #2 — You come in from work, fling the mail onto the pile of papers on the kitchen counter, and turn on the news (easy). A few nights and a few handfuls of mail later, you get some unexpected company. The pile, now a bit larger, gets shoved into a grocery bag and stuffed into a closet (easy). The next month, with the bag forgotten, you spend an hour looking for tickets you ordered by mail (hard). When opening bills, you notice a couple late fees for statements that were tucked away in the grocery bag (hard).

The Hard/Easy answer starts with processing the mail nightly (harder than watching TV, but not as hard as you might think). Designate folders, stacking trays or wall pockets for bills to pay, events (tickets, invitations, etc.), and other papers that need your attention. Discard or shred the junk mail immediately. Now it's easy to be prompt with payments and find what you need. Company coming? No problem, you're good to go!

Scenario #3 — You're in a hurry to change clothes and get to an event. You drop what you were wearing on the floor and get dressed (easy). When you get home you're really tired and add to the

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Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

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

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Jim Verboon, left, and Russ Waymire in an empty field near Kettleman City, Calif.

ZERO cont. from P. 16

No one is spared. The only person I speak with who's prospering is a professional "water witch," a man named Louie who's been gifted the innate skill of finding water. Armed with his divining rods, Louie's typically been hired to dowse an average of three wells a summer, but is now doing that many a week. He's busy but worried—the groundwater's not being replenished, and while he was once able to find water 60 feet beneath ground he now sees wells drilled as deep as 2,500 feet.

Along the way, Russ and Jim pass out pistachios and pamphlets, bulldogs for their cause. Late in the day, Russ gets a phone call that Bill Son has been taken to the hospital. For the first time, Russ's water-and-crops lectures halt. Quiet permeates the truck. We switch vehicles at Russ's house. Jim drives me back to Hanford and again offers to take me out for ice cream. Though I'm tired and haven't yet had dinner, I can't say no.

Superior Dairy is like stepping back in time. Striped awnings, pink booths, a long U-shaped soda counter—I expect to hear Fats Domino on the jukebox, see girls in poodle skirts.

Dusky light slants into the parlor and over Jim, who sits across from me drinking a banana milkshake. He buys me a strawberry sundae with a scoop of ice cream the size of a cantaloupe. I have him take a photo of me with my colossal treat.

Jim's worried about the dairy. Dairy producers have to drill expensive wells,

too. Hay fields have been laid fallow and prices have skyrocketed. He drinks his milkshake and says he's sat in this very booth, drinking a banana milkshake, his favorite, since he was a boy. "In high school we'd come here after football games," he tells me. "It looks exactly the same. The ice cream has never changed."

Like magic, Jim is transformed. His heavy face glows in the fading light and I can see him as a boy, his crew-cut hair, white T-shirt with the sleeves rolled up.

The Depth of Passion

The depth of his passion suddenly makes sense. This battle he's waging isn't about water and politics, but about fighting for everything he's ever known, not just every crop harvested, but every spoonful of ice cream. He sees it all disappearing, farmers idling and selling off land, businesses boarded over, farm workers going elsewhere. What could be more unsettling than seeing your life erased? His outrage is the fear of vanishing, the selfsame story of everyone I've spoken with while in the valley.

Jim intently watches me eat. "It's good, isn't it?"

"Delicious," I say. "About the best I've ever had."

On my final morning in the valley we drive toward Riverdale, where I'm to meet a priest at St. Ann Church. Last night, I posted the photo of me and my Superior Dairy sundae on Facebook, and I show Jim it's gotten a huge number of "likes."

Jim holds my iPad, clearly pleased.

Please see **ZERO** on P. 21

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The last four years have been productive. With the dedication of parents, the community and our district employees, we are better at what we do. Golden Valley USD continues to be the highest-performing school district in Madera County. We are navigating California's economic challenges without compromising quality education for our students.

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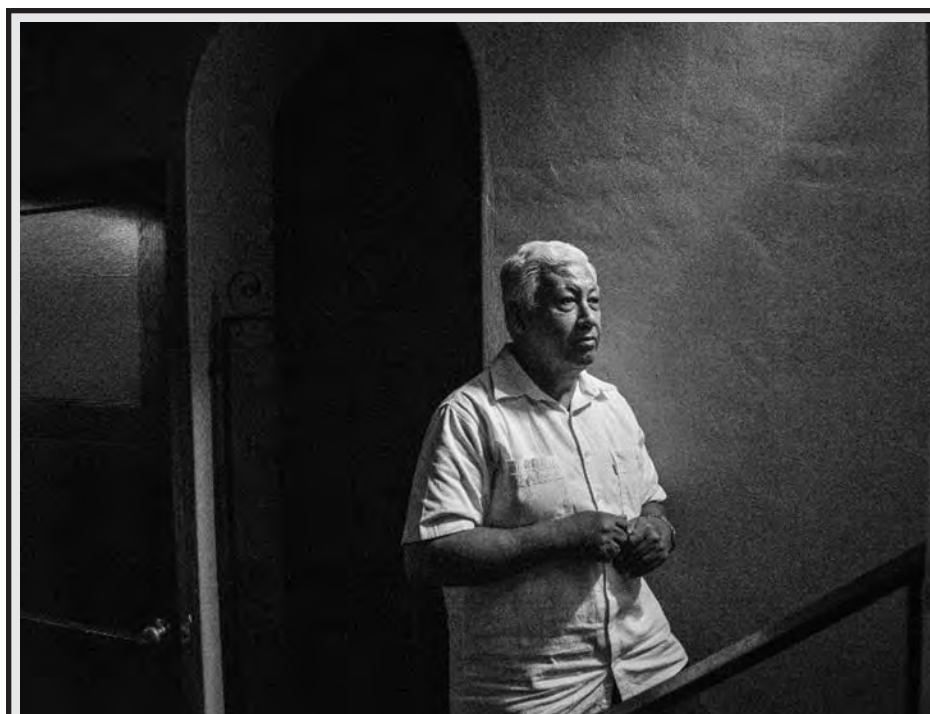
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Rev. Kado, the parish priest of St. Ann Church in Riverdale.

ZERO cont. from P. 20

“How many ‘likes’ did the photos of the land get?” Russ asks.

He’s grinning, but the scathing truth behind his remark isn’t lost on me. “It takes a lot to make people care,” I say.

“And mistakes have been made,” Russ concedes. For years the farmers have been labeled “water hogs,” using up to 80 percent of the state’s developed water supply. “Some are still overwatering, farming unsustainable crops.”

The few bad farmers punish the majority trying to do right.

I feel badly, not just because others don’t care, but because I was reluctant to care, too. It’s hard to make people care because there’s a general mistrust of desperation, as if a desperate person has replaced logic with emotion, truth with exaggeration. Each night I’ve gone through my notes and fact-checked the farmers, doubting what they told me. Even after seeing the land and meeting the people I second-guessed their claims and statistics, only to find, time and again, they were telling the truth.

We drive by a field heaped with rows of bulldozed olive trees, then pass a pistachio orchard. As he’s done countless times over the past few days, Russ points out that the leaves are yellowed, that the harvest will be meager.

I hesitate, but ask, “How’s Bill Son doing?”

Russ straightens his back. “I went to see him last night. His wife had me stand witness as they signed his D.N.R. papers.”

At St. Ann, a beautiful Spanish-

style church in Riverdale, I meet Father Paul Kado, a soft-spoken man who exudes gentleness. With so many unemployed or underemployed, the church is in the difficult position of seeing a rise in those using the food pantry, while collections on Sunday decrease, which makes the church less capable to keep the food pantry stocked to feed the increase of those in need.

“If we don’t get water soon we’ll have to cut back on services to the community,” he says.

He talks at length about his hopes that politicians can move away from their own pet projects and see the more urgent human problems of the state. I ask if he struggles as a religious leader to keep politics out of his sermons.

The Truth Sets You Free

“I believe the truth will set you free,” he says. “Whether it sounds good or not, I have to tell the truth.”

It’s his job to stay hopeful, and he tells a story from the book of Exodus, when Moses and the Israelites, wandering the desert, cry out for water. Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? God provided for the faithful then, and will now, too.

The interview done, I shake Father Paul’s hand. He looks me in the eyes and says, “I will pray for you if you pray for us.”

Only once I agree does he release my hand.

Russ asks if I can find my own way to the airport. He’d like to stay and chat

Please see **ZERO** on P. 26

GVUSD District 4 Candidate Moseley Answers 5 Questions

In last month's Ranchos Independent we asked five questions of all of the major County candidates. Conspicuously absent was John Moseley, candidate for GVUSD's District 4 Trustee seat. A mixup in emails kept his answers from the people of the Ranchos. Here they are, in their entirety.

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the Board of Golden Valley Unified School District?



John Moseley

I am a retired law enforcement officer and was an instructor in the Butte County Sheriff's Office Police Academy. I possess a Lifetime Community College Teaching Credential and have been a substitute teacher at Chowchilla High School and Elementary, Madera Unified, Yosemite and other local districts. I am trained as an arbitrator and mediator, and possess unique skills to get people to work together to solve problems despite their diverse ideas, beliefs and backgrounds.

I am a private contractor with the State of California who is appointed by the State to audit school district, city and county budgets to insure that they remain fiscally sound and are able to work cooperatively with their teachers, parents and employees in the best interest of their constituents and/or children. I bring these unique skills to the Board position and will utilize them to assist in making our schools the finest in the Valley and our students' education the finest that our tax dollars can provide.

2. What are your thoughts on Common Core?

I am not a fan of Common Core. I

view it the same way I viewed No Child Left Behind – as another experiment in educating our children, which was devised by a group of politicians. That said however, it is the law of the land and I will work to implement it and to assure that our children get the quality education they deserve. As a Board member, I will listen to and work with our District Common Core Coordinator and local professional educators to help implement what they deem to be the most effective application of this new method of learning. Additionally, I will not hesitate to take my concerns about Common Core to the appropriate State and Federal elected officials in an effort to ensure that it is modified to be more efficient and effective. I will work hard to regain as much local control over the education of our children as possible.

3. If you could make just one change to the Golden Valley Unified School District, what would it be?

I will work hard to return this district to the ideals and value of service; service in the form of a great education for our children, service delivered by maintaining our facilities, so that when you attend a softball or soccer event, there is actually a working water fountain available and restroom facilities that are accessible; service in the form of transportation that provides sufficient bus stops where they are needed or requested for practical reasons; service by being visible on school campuses and maintaining communication with my fellow Board members, the electorate, parents and students whom we represent to maintain the public voice in solving problems, and dealing with concerns; service that shows everyone who lives in the Ranchos, or comes to visit, that in our community the schools, facilities and the education are not only the centerpieces of

Please see **FIVE** on P. 24

GEN-WHY cont. from P. 11

going to chain me to my bedroom and I would be a 60 year old without a driver's license. It got to the point that only the days that I came home without having bumped into something elicited any sort of reaction from my parents. Okay, I'm exaggerating quite a bit, but I was in several fender benders the first year I had my license, most of which were with parked cars. But I never left the scene. I never ducked out. I never ran away. I found the owner, admitted my mistake, and paid for

the damage. I spent that year of high school broke (and grounded), but that's what you do when you cause an accident. And at that time there wasn't a camera in every pocket. I probably could have gotten away with it, but I didn't, because I was taught better, and I was a punk kid at the time. This person, from my co-worker's description, appeared to be a middle-aged adult. I hope they arrest him, I hope he gets convicted, I hope he gets at least a hefty fine, and I really hope that the man who recorded everything puts the video up on YouTube.

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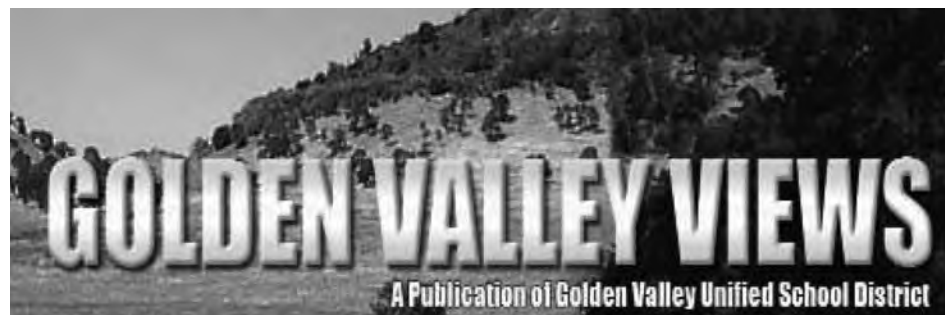
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Foundation Helps School District



Liberty High School administrator Sarah Marshall, center, holds an Excellence in Education plaque at the Madera County Educator of the Year awards ceremony.

For the past nine years, the Foundation for Golden Valley School has helped supplement Golden Valley Unified School District to help them become one of the top districts in the Central Valley.

Since 2005, the foundation has contributed more than \$113,000 to the staff and students of the district through their grant program. The foundation's vision is to be recognized as a viable entity that provides ongoing resources for the students of GVUSD. The foundation enhances and encourages the star potential and full experiences of all students in their educational environment within GVUSD.

The foundation has several fundraisers, including a simple contribution form where donors can be put on a Wall of Fame with a five-year commitment pledge with an annual contribution of \$100-\$1,000 (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels).

To date, the foundation has awarded almost \$57,000 in teacher requested classroom grants. They have also given each new teachers within the district \$150 to help set up their classrooms. The money raised through the foundation has reached more than 1,100 students within the district.

Also, the foundation has been the leader in GVUSD's employee recognition program. Each year, employees are nominated by their peers, students or community members. A panel reviews the nominees and names the Employee of the Year in five different categories — administration/management, elementary teacher, secondary teacher, instruction employee and operational employee.

The winners of each category are eligible for the Madera County Educational Employee of the Year awards ceremony, which was held this year on Oct. 10 at the Madera Municipal Golf Course.

Sierra View Pumps Ups Attendance

Since student attendance is a direct factor in student achievement, Sierra View Elementary School has developed multiple incentive programs to reward students for coming to school every day.

Weekly, the school draws names of students who didn't miss school and hands out a \$5 Target gift card or two tickets to Edwards Theater. Top attendance class in the primary and intermediate grades wins a barbecue from principal Chris Imperatrice.

At the end of the year, the top 100 students with the best attendance will attend a private screening of a movie at Edwards. Previous years, students have seen *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *Epic*, *Pirates Adventure* and *Maleficent*.

Last year, the school-wide attendance was 96.9 percent, which is one percent better than when the program was started four years ago. Sierra View's goal this year is to have a 98 percent attendance rate.

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LHS FFA Impresses at Madera Fair

The Liberty High School Future Farmers of America club had an impressive showing at the Madera District Fair in September. The students showed seven different animals and brought home many different awards.

Five students showed single fryer rabbits. Michelle Helm placed second in advanced showmanship and Lauren Flores placed fifth in novice.

Liberty's FFA had three students show chickens and five others show market turkeys. Colton Ferreira won a first place ribbon in market chicken showmanship.

Four students showed market goats and another showed a breeding doe. Alley Harvey and Kyler Davis each won in their classes. Davis also had the championship heavyweight and reserve FFA champion goat.

Market lambs were represented by 13 Liberty students. Alexis Yandell, Alissa Tenorio, Calle Casey, Anthony Yandell and John Rodriguez each won their classes. Casey also won the FFA reserve champion for all other breeds. Anthony Yandell also won the FFA reserve champion for commer-

cial cross.

Christian Napier was second in intermediate showmanship and Emily O'Brion took third in the same class.

Thirteen Liberty students showed market hogs and two others showed feeder hogs. Scott Ghidelli and Taylor Sefton won their classes. Sefton also won an FFA champion for cross bred and overall grand champion.

Chris Sefton took the FFA reserve cross breed and the reserve FFA champion. Nick Rousey took fourth in advanced showmanship.

For the first time, Liberty had a horse exhibitor. Karie Mangiez ran four events in the Gymkhana and placed fourth in pole bending.

Shayne Hartley exhibited her lamb in the bred and fed class (meaning it is a lamb out of her own ewe that she bred and raised) and placed fourth.

Jenna Pfingston qualified for the rate of gain class with her lamb, a special class for exhibitors that get their lambs to gain more than 2/3 of a pound average a day within 60 days of the fair and placed second.

FIVE cont. from P. 22

our community, but reflect the pride we have in our students and families.

4. Do you think zero tolerance programs serve a purpose, or act as a barrier to exercising common sense?

I agree with the zero tolerance programs. As a parent who has had children, my own natural children and foster children, who have gone through our school system with zero tolerance as the stated policy, I believe it has worked well.

Zero tolerance requires common sense. I think all of us would agree that we would not want fighting or weapons on campus, however, if your daughter was being bullied by another student, whether male or female, and another student came to her aid to prevent physical harm, common sense dictates that the punishment issued to the aggressor be more severe than that issued to the individual who was the protector.

5. Why should we vote for you?

I have been a resident of this area for 34 years. My children were among the first classes to go to Sierra View Elementary School. My foster children have attended these schools. My daughter is a freshman at Liberty High School. I have remained an active parent in both school and community activities. I was a supporter and an active participant in organizing and unifying Golden Valley Unified School District.

My friends and neighbors will tell you that I am an honest, hard-working individ-

ual with a great deal of integrity, and that I will bring an understanding of instruction in the classroom and a unique ability to get people to work together as individuals and a group in achieving the education of our children. I possess the specialized skill of reviewing school district budgets and administration, and will use that skill to assure that our tax dollars are spent wisely. I have training in dealing with collective bargaining and human resources issues.

I am a father with a child in the schools, a taxpayer who pays taxes, and am an individual who believes that giving our children the best education possible is paramount. Of the candidates running for the position in Area 4, I believe that these qualifications make me the best qualified candidate with the strongest skills for this position. I will devote my time to representing you fairly and honestly, will be available to answer your questions and address your concerns, and I ask that you please vote for me on November 4th.

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

chili salsa or 1 can green chili salsa and 1 can tomato sauce.

- 1 C. Chicken broth
- 1-1/2 doz. Corn tortillas
- 1 large can olives, sliced
- 4 C. grated longhorn cheese
- 1 T. chopped onion
- 1 cooked chicken

Combine first four ingredients together. Cut tortillas and chicken into bite-size pieces. Butter a large baking dish. Starting with the tortillas, layer tortillas, chicken, cheese, olives and sauce. Repeat layers. When complete, top with onions. Refrigerate four to five hours or overnight. Bake at 350 for one hour 15 min.

Chili Rellenos Bake

- 1-1/2 lb. hamburger
- 1 C. chopped onion
- 2 cans 7 oz. green chilies
- 2 1/2 C sharp cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 2 1/4 C milk
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 C. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- Several dashes hot pepper sauce.
- Brown beef and onions; drain off fat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Remove seeds from chilies and dice. Place half the chilies in baking dish and sprinkle with the cheese. Top with meat mixture. Place remaining chilies over meat.

Combine remaining ingredients and beat until smooth. Pour over meat. Bake in moderate 350 oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean. Cool five minutes before serving. This dish

should serve 10.

Date & Nut Cookies

- 1 C. butter or margarine
- 3 eggs
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 C. light brown sugar
- 4 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 C. milk
- 1 C. chopped dates
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Cream butter, eggs and both sugars until light and fluffy. Sift together flour, soda, cream of tartar and salt. Blend sugar mixture and flour mixture and milk. Add dates, nuts and vanilla. Drop by teaspoon on cookie sheet. Bake in 350 preheated oven for 10-15 minutes or until light brown.

Hint – Let stand 15 minutes before baking.

Well there you have it – four recipes from a book of hundreds. I want to thank Sarah and her church family sincerely for the use of their recipe book. I truly enjoyed it.

If you have a recipe book from your church or organization that you would like to be highlight here, please let me know.

Before I close, I want to remind you that the end of daylight savings time is coming up. Sunday morning, Nov. 2 at 2 a.m. set your clock BACK one hour. But if you are like me and will be asleep at that ungodly hour, set your clock back an hour on Saturday evening before you go to bed. Be sure to do it, or you will be late for church.

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 17

pile of unhung clothes while getting ready for bed (easy). After a couple weeks of similar situations, you now have to stand and reach across the pile for hanging items (hard). It takes extra time to find the shoes you want because they're buried under clothes (hard). You have to shop for a belt because, even though you know you have one in there somewhere, it can't be seen (hard).

The Hard/Easy answer starts with timing how long it actually takes to hang up a pair of pants and a shirt. Sometimes the things we don't want to make ourselves do aren't really as hard as we think. I just did it in under 30 seconds without rushing. Now, decide that for one week you're going to hang up all your clothes, or put them in the dirty laundry container if that's where they belong. Now, do it (hard). Do it for a second

week (not quite as hard), and a third week (easier). By the end of the month you'll be enjoying the ease of walking into your closet and finding what you need, when you need it. Yay!

If these scenarios aren't an issue in your household, maybe it's something else. Observe what causes you stress and give it the Easy/Hard test. Decide for yourself if the hard consequences (stress, frustration, etc.) might warrant a Hard/Easy answer.

Now excuse me while I go move those folders to the top shelf.

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

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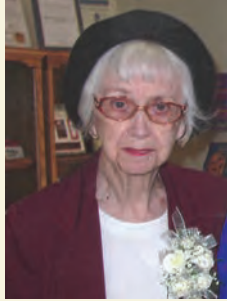
With the Holidays fast approaching, Sheriff John Anderson says now is the time to consider submitting a request to have a Citizen on Patrol (C.O.P.) volunteer keep watch while you're away. This is a free service to all Madera County homeowners. Vacation House Check forms should

be turned in at least seven days prior to your leave date.

Forms are available at Sheriff's Headquarters at 143 Road 28, Madera.

For more information, contact Community Service Officer Jo Ann Evans at 559-658-2555.

In Memoriam



Esther Anderson Passed away October 8, 2014

Our beloved Esther Anderson passed away at home on October 8, 2014. She had celebrated her 94th birthday in August.

She leaves behind her husband Merle and her son Roger.

Esther was a retired school teacher. She

volunteered as the Story Telling Lady at the Ranchos Library and was a member of the Friends of the Library. She volunteered many hours to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. She served on both the FMAAA and the Council on Aging.

There will be no services.

In Memoriam



Robert "Bob" Wolsey Naden February 7, 1930 - September 22, 2014

The Ranchos lost a great and amazing man, husband, father, uncle, cousin and friend on Monday, Sept. 22, 2014.

Bob Naden was born to Wolsey Naden and Ladia Landers in Clovis, Calif. on Feb. 7, 1930. He was raised on a ranch in the Dry Creek area in Clovis and graduated from Clovis High School in 1948 then enlisted in the United States Army in 1953. Bob met the love of his life, Vera, and wed soon after in 1956. They had two children, Lynn Marie and Robert "Brent." In 1956, Bob and Robert Wilson began a steel fabrication plant, Steel Structures, Inc. in Pinedale, Calif. After retiring from Steel Structures in 1980, Bob began Steeltile, Cor-ten steel roofing, which he invented and produced in eastern Madera at the Brickyard Industrial Park, which he also developed.

Bob was an advocate, mentor, and member of the Madera County AG Boosters, St. Peter's Serbian Men's Club and Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Wolsey and Ladia Naden; and sisters, Betty Taylor, and Gladys Bushey. Bob is survived by his beloved wife Vera; daughter, Lynn Marie Naden of Homer, Ark.; son, Brent Naden of Sanger, Calif.; niece, Janice Bushey of Alaska; and nephew, Dale Bushey of Fresno.

Bob has been interred at Clovis Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to Madera County AG Boosters, 800 S. Madera Ave., Madera, CA 93637; or to the St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church, Men's Club, 3502 N. First St., Fresno, CA 93726.

ZERO cont. from P. 21

with Father Paul. I say my goodbyes and watch Russ, bag of pistachios in one hand, pamphlets in the other, stroll with the reverend back into the church.

I study the churchyard, the statue of the Virgin Mary, the prayer grotto crowded with unlit candles. I think of Father Paul's request, and know that "pray" can mean "care": I will care for you if you care for us.

So I pray for this vanishing valley. I pray for vanishing crops, may the land flourish. I pray for vanishing groundwater, may it be replenished. I pray for vanishing smelt and salmon and bees, may they thrive. I pray for politicians and the vanishing desire to empathize, may solutions be found. I pray for the vanishing dreams of farmers who've already lost, and for those frightened for the future, may they find peace. I pray for vanishing field

workers and the businesses closing and cities desperate for water, for all those made to feel invisible and silenced, may they be seen, may they be heard.

These are our cares, with a dry wind blowing. The problems of the Central Valley are many, most not easily turned. But one thing might grant a respite from suffering, and perhaps enough hope to carry on. Rain. I turn my eyes to the simmering blue and pray for a long season of steady and gentle rain.

for Bill Son
2/23/1953-08/24/2014

This story was written by Alan Heathcock. It was edited by Mike Benoist, fact-checked by Ben Phelan and copy-edited by Lawrence Levi. Photographs are by Matt Black. This article appears courtesy of Matter, an online magazine.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

In this political mail, Mr. Kellner poses the question of how Brett Frazier can win the forthcoming election for Supervisor of District 1 against "Big money." What "Big money" is he referring to? Brett Frazier is the candidate for Supervisor of District 1 with the big money in his campaign coffers, including several thousand dollars donated by the residential developers who want to build along the Highway 41 corridor.

Brett Frazier is also supported by public employee unions, who in turn rely on our Board of Supervisors for their wage and benefit packages.

Mr. Kellner also commends Brett Frazier for his commitment to leadership to the people of Madera County. Mr. Frazier's commitment to leadership in serving the County of Madera? I pose the question: What about the commitment Mr. Frazier made when he ran for Madera City Council? Mr. Frazier vacated that position before his term was up, breaking his contract with the same Madera County voters. How long would he remain on the Board of Supervisors before jumping to the next rung on the political ladder? It is common knowledge in the Ranchos that Mr. Frazier moved to the Ranchos area in order to position himself for his current campaign for Supervisor of District 1.

Mr. Frazier seems to be ghost as I never see him at our local meetings or participating in same. Mona has been in attendance at every local meeting I have attended held in our area with regard to our water issues, proposed upcoming mandates, reminding our Supervisors we should be given the right to express our views and solutions and other issues facing the voters/residents of District 1. I am aware Mona attends the Board of Supervisor meetings also, to obtain knowledge of the procedures, proposed future mandates and solutions taken by the Board of Supervisors, of the issues facing Madera County.

I have no doubt that Mr. Kellner is very sincere in his support of Brett Frazier, but maybe a little bit misguided with regarding his information.

I am supporting Mona Diaz for Supervisor of District 1. Mona Diaz is a long-time resident, 34 years. Mona Diaz is and has always been very active in our area. Mona worked tirelessly with many of us with regard to obtaining our own school district, namely Golden Valley Unified School District.

Mona Diaz has business experience, as she and her family own and operate a trucking business and also owned the nursery located on Avenue 12. She has worked hard with our local committees to help our area obtain recognition of the problems, such as the current water issues, and also the solutions to those same problems. I personally have worked with Mona Diaz on many issues that face our area and the forthcoming issues of our County. Mona Diaz will work tirelessly for the voters of District 1 and residents of Madera County.

Please, no matter who you support, please

get out and vote your choice for Supervisor District 1.

I support Mona Diaz for Supervisor of District 1, Madera County.

Jan DeWoody
 Rolling Hills

Dear Editor:

On October 8th, 2014 I texted Michael Salvador, candidate for Sheriff, to pull my name from his campaign media releases as endorsing him as Madera County Supervisor. On October 9th, Mr. Salvador texted me back and insured me that, "It's already done. You will not be mentioned in any future ads."

I wish candidate Michael Salvador for Sheriff well in his endeavor but wanted the public to know I did not endorse Mr. Salvador as Madera County Supervisor or gave him permission to do so.

Regards,

Rick Farinelli, District 3 Supervisor
 County of Madera

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to answer an email sent to you by Mr. Farinelli. In February of 2013, I contacted Supervisor Farinelli and asked for his support in my run for the Office of Sheriff. He granted that and I received a signed endorsement card [attached in original]. Note this card allowed for my use of his name in all political advertising and the use of his home for promotional and fundraising activities. On October 8th, 2014 I did receive an unexpected request from Supervisor Farinelli to remove his name from future political advertising. I informed him that there were mail pieces and advertising out with his name on them. I immediately pulled back unpublished ads, printed materials and removed his name from the website. I also informed Supervisor Farinelli that his name would no longer appear in any future advertisements.

I was happy to accept the request to remove Supervisor Farinelli's name and for him to no longer be involved in the Sheriff's race as of October 8th, 2014.

Sincerely,

Michael Salvador
 Candidate for Madera County Sheriff

Dear Editor:

I am supporting Michael Keitz for re-election as our Madera County district attorney. Mr.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 28

LETTERS cont. from P. 27

Keitz' 22 years of service as a prosecutor makes him a clear and obvious choice.

Mr. Keitz' opponent, David Linn, has 40 years of absolutely no prosecutorial experience and expects us to turn the leadership of a 41-person office over to an inexperienced slip and fall attorney from a tiny country office.

David Linn is not running on any kind of record whatsoever. In a leadership style only he can appreciate, he has whipped up an undeserved frenzy of hostility toward a fine public servant that actually became an attorney specifically to join the Madera County District Attorney's office and after 16 years as a prosecutor was elevated to his current position.

In addition to Linn's lack of prosecutorial experience, at 65 years of age and in uncertain health due to excessive weight, we cannot have a district attorney that may or may not be able to meet the demands and challenges of the position.

Don't turn our public safety over to an inexperienced slip and fall lawyer. If David Linn truly wants to serve the citizens of Madera County he will withdraw from the race and concede the election to Mr. Keitz.

On November 4th, please keep Michael Keitz as our Madera County District Attorney. Thank you,

Eric N. Loos
Oakhurst

Dear Editor:

The Madera County District Attorney's Department is one of the most problem-ridden departments in our County. Our current DA, Michael Keitz, has cost the taxpayers more than \$1.5 million. Let me explain:

Madera County has been sued in two separate lawsuits by three Madera County employees. The cost to settle these lawsuits, including attorney's fees, was more than \$1.4 million.

Madera County Counsel authorized an investigation on the District Attorney's operations (known as the Rowley Report) in re-

sponse to hostile work environment and discrimination complaints. The report cost the County \$27,000.

Mr. Keitz sued the County and our Board to prevent the release of the results of the investigation, costing the taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees.

Following the judge's ruling not to release the report due to attorney-client privilege, Mr. Keitz then sued the County and our Board for his legal fees, costing the taxpayers an additional \$40,000.

Combined, Mr. Keitz's lack of leadership has cost the taxpayers more than \$1.5 million.

In my opinion, Mr. Keitz lacks in leadership abilities as well the management skills necessary to foster loyalty and effective communication with his staff. His absence in the courtroom is maddening, especially considering his regular presence at ribbon cuttings.

Madera County needs leadership, integrity and honesty in our District Attorney's Office. We need Dave Linn.

Vote for Dave Linn on Nov. 4.

Tom Wheeler, Madera County District 5 Supervisor
North Fork

Dear Editor:

This is in support of Keitz for DA.

As Election Day approaches, Madera County voters have choices to make and one of the most important votes they cast will be for District Attorney. Having attended numerous debates and events where both candidates, District Attorney Michael Keitz and Attorney David Linn, have sparred. During these debates many accusations were made and defended. Much of what has been said, I believe, has distorted truths and facts, in particular the accusations regarding the Rowley Report.

A recent letter to the Editor of the Sierra Star questioned why Mr. Keitz refused to make the report public. The simple fact is that releasing the report would violate the confidentiality of whistle blowers, and the courts agreed and ruled with Mr. Keitz' position.

It is time to put aside accusations, mis-

representations and whisper campaigns and focus on overall qualifications. I have examined each candidate, their backgrounds and their qualifications. Without a doubt, I believe the best person for the job is our current District Attorney, Michael Keitz. He is the only candidate with an extensive law enforcement background, which I feel is essential to the office, and the only candidate with years of prosecuting experience.

We need a District Attorney with a proven record which is why I am supporting Michael Keitz and encourage Madera County voters to do the same.

Dennis Fairbanks
Coarsegold

Dear Editor:

Election time: It is time to watch the ads, signs and the debates. This year we have the Sheriff candidates and others. I want to talk about the Madera County District Attorney Office candidates, current incumbent DA Michael Keitz and David Linn.

Of all things about these two men, they must have integrity that is beyond a shadow of doubt for the position of "Chief Law Enforcement Officer" for Madera County. The current District Attorney, Michael Keitz has a proven track record of prosecution and has never been a defense lawyer.

On the other hand, the opponent, David Linn has been working as a defense lawyer and we all know that criminal defense lawyers work for the bad guys.

A point that I would like to make is that during the September 18th, 2014 debate in Oakhurst, the candidates were given a chance to speak to the people about various topics. One question that was asked was, "How much money have you loaned to your campaign and how much money have you raised?"

I remember hearing David Linn reply to that question and his answer was that he had loaned his campaign \$50,000 and had raised \$70,000 in campaign contributions.

I have in front of me the State of California form 460, (Recipient Committee Cam-

paign Statement & Campaign Disclosure Statement), filed by David Linn. In review of this disclosure statement, I see that Mr. Linn had a total of approximately \$120,000 in total contributions.

To me, that means that he used his own money and loaned his campaign \$50,000. Mr. Linn wants us to believe that supporters gave him \$70,000 for his campaign. As per the 460 form, (Mr. Linn self-reports) approximately \$36,470 of the \$70,000 came from himself and/or wife and not campaign contributors as we were lead to believe.

After reviewing FPPC Form 460, Campaign Disclosure Statement, it appears that candidate David Lynn was misleading and/or untruthful in his statements to the audience during the Oakhurst debate. If Mr. Linn can twist this to make it appear that campaign money is flowing in for him, which it is not per the Disclosure Statements, what else is there, that may not be true?

I will feel very sad for Madera County if David Linn is elected to public office.

Lucy Cliby
Madera

Dear Editor:

Formerly I worked for the Riverside County District Attorney's office. At the time of my retirement I was a Supervising Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Gang and Homicide Units for the Southwest part of the county. Since March of this year I have been employed as a Senior Deputy District Attorney working on certain special circumstance murder cases for Madera County. During my work in Madera I have read comments in the press regarding District Attorney Keitz which are completely at odds with the facts as I have observed them. From what I have seen, far from there being a "morale" problem in the office, all of the attorneys I have interacted with, from the bottom to the top, share a collegiate camaraderie and a happy, good-natured disposition that comes from hard work and col-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 29

ANSWERS

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LETTERS cont. from P. 28

lective sharing of the burdens and stresses of a difficult and demanding job. Yes, it is true that there is a high turnover rate in the Madera District Attorney's office. That is not due, however, to any lack of respect for Michael Keitz, the District Attorney. Rather, the high turnover is attributable to two factors: (1) the fact that the compensation of Madera County Deputy District Attorneys is substantially below that of neighboring counties; and, (2) the fact that Madera Attorneys have an extraordinarily high work load with limited resources as compared to other neighboring District Attorney offices. In contrast to Michael Keitz, a career prosecutor, I understand that his competitor advertises as an "accidents and personal injury" attorney and has no prior experience in prosecution. Those who would criticize Michael Keitz would do well, in truth and in honesty, to consider whether they would do any better in dealing with the same high crime rate and limited resources inherent in the job. From what I have observed, Michael Keitz, a career prosecutor, is a person of high honesty and integrity who is sincerely and wholeheartedly doing his best for the community and who shares and understands the hard times and the good of the Deputy District Attorneys under his employ.

Robert Olson, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Madera County District Attorney's Office

Dear Editor:

During District Attorney (DA), Michael Keitz' re-election campaign we have heard and seen him talk about his conviction rate being 17 percent higher than "prior to his tenure" as well as touting the number of completed jury trials for the last couple of years. In doing so, DA Keitz is trying to make the public and voters believe he has made the District Attorney's office tougher on criminals and project the image his administration is superior to the previous District Attorney, Judge Ernie LiCalsi, making Madera County safer in the process.

My review was done of the same Judicial Council report(s) DA Keitz says he used to obtain his conviction rate as this rate seemed over-inflated and, frankly, unbelievable. The review compared five years of reports in which Mr. Keitz has been district attorney to the immediate five years under DA LiCalsi and used the averages of the five-year periods to make the comparison somewhat equal.

The review looked at several categories including, felony convictions, felonies reduced to misdemeanors, guilty plea rate for non-traffic misdemeanor cases, completed

felony and misdemeanor trials, and the percentage of felony and misdemeanor cases closed in specific time periods.

The first category compared the number of felony convictions and felony charges being reduced to misdemeanors. A second category provided the number of guilty pleas obtained in non-traffic misdemeanor cases. These reports identified DA LiCalsi's administration as having a 1 percent higher felony conviction rate than Keitz and Keitz' office having an approximately 11 percent higher rate over DA LiCalsi's for felony charges being reduced to misdemeanors. DA LiCalsi's office was found to have a 1.8 percent higher guilty plea rate for the number of non-traffic misdemeanor cases compared to DA Keitz'.

We continually see press releases issued by DA Keitz regarding convictions obtained by the District Attorney's office through trials. In my opinion, DA Keitz is releasing so many press releases this year because of the election, trying to make it appear he is tougher on criminals by reporting the trials wins. However, data identifying the number of completed felony and misdemeanor trials showed under DA LiCalsi there were 17.8 percent more felony trials and 15.4 percent more misdemeanor trials completed than DA Keitz, or the completion of 30 more trials by DA LiCalsi's office.

Additional data identified the percentage of felony and misdemeanor cases closed within specific periods of time. The main, and probably the most important category, was the total percentage of felony cases closed by the end of 12 months. A secondary category was for the number of misdemeanor cases completed within 120 days or less. These two categories seem to be benchmarks used for the courts for resolutions in cases and make a useful tool to establish how efficient a District Attorney's office is for closing cases. DA LiCalsi's administration had a closing rate for felony cases of nearly 4 percent higher, or 90 percent of all felonies in 12 months or less, compared to DA Keitz'. And for the 120 days or less benchmark for misdemeanor cases, DA LiCalsi closed 6.3 percent more than DA Keitz.

These statistics speak volumes about the documented staff turnover which has resulted in less experienced attorneys in the courtrooms resulting in a less efficient district attorney's office. By the end of this year Michael Keitz will have been Madera County's District Attorney for six years. He claims to have a 17 percent higher conviction rate than "prior to his tenure" and continues to bring up how many trials have been completed as well as the convictions from them all in an effort to get your vote. The problem with DA Keitz' assertions that he has been tough on crime, in reality, do not match data which shows his lower felony conviction rate, more felony charges being reduced to misde-

meanors, a lower guilty plea rate for non-traffic misdemeanor cases, completion of less felony and misdemeanor trials, and a lower percentage for closing felony cases within 12 months and closing misdemeanor cases in 120 days or less.

Please, before voting on November 4th, ask yourself if Michael Keitz has truly been tough on criminals and his policies have made Madera County safer. We need a change in the District Attorney's office. That change is David Linn.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Engstrom, District Attorney Employee
Coarsegold

Dear Editor:

Re: David Engstrom's Madera Tribune letter of 9-25-14 about District Attorney Michael Keitz.

First, thank you Mr. Engstrom for having the integrity to stand behind your comments instead of making them anonymously.

After writing more than 500 words about statistics, numbers, etc., Mr. Engstrom did not state one single qualification that would make DA candidate David Linn suitable for the role as the next Madera County DA. So let's compare DA Keitz and Mr. Linn.

At age 59, DA Keitz has 19 years of law enforcement experience as a reserve deputy sheriff and 22 years of experience prosecuting criminal cases.

At age 66, Mr. Linn has 0 years of law enforcement experience and 0 employment as a prosecuting attorney. Mr. Linn is a 38-year criminal defense attorney who describes himself as a "Personal Injury, auto accident and slip & fall" specialist in his law firm's Oakhurst phone book advertisement. It seems a little late in his career for Mr. Linn to stop protecting criminals from the consequences of their actions and begin prosecuting them.

Mr. Linn has received the endorsement of several law enforcement associations. Please remember that those associations are the employees' union and do not necessarily represent the choice of each individual member. Also, Mr. Linn is a member of the Madera County Civil Service Commission that rules "for or against" those employee associations when they represent law enforcement officers in employee matters. It's to the associations' advantage to give Mr. Linn their endorsement.

As the current District Attorney, Michael Keitz has the proven experience of leading a staff of 40 to handle 8,500 new cases per year. He administers an annual budget of \$4.4 million. Under his leadership, his office has delivered results in the form of conviction after conviction, many for serious and violent crimes.

Mr. Linn handles the checkbook of a small private law firm.

Mr. Linn may be a very good criminal defense attorney but does not have the prosecutorial, administrative or leadership experience necessary to protect us, the public.

Barbara Thomasson
Madera

Dear Editor:

In reference to Bobby Kahn, candidate for Trustee, Area I, State Center Community College District, November 4, 2014 election, my spouse, Betty, and I support Bobby Kahn for the Area 1 Trustee Seat, State Center Community College District (SCCCD). The college campuses in Madera, Oakhurst, Clovis, Fresno City and Reedley comprise SCCC. I have been a long-time leader and supporter of SCCC, having served four terms as your elected Trustee from 1985 to 2002, followed by nine years as a commissioner on the District's Personnel Commission.

When Betty and I heard that Mr. Kahn was seeking the Area 1 seat in the November 4th election, we were excited and hopeful. Excited because Bobby is a truly exceptional individual with an extensive background in community leadership, business development and civil affairs. Hopeful because State Center, especially Madera County, needs the trustee leadership it has been lacking in recent years. The election of Bobby Kahn will bring a strong and solid Madera County voice to the SCCC table.

Betty and I sincerely encourage you to support and vote for Bobby Kahn, SCCC Area 1 Trustee on November 4th.

Ron Manfredi, Former SCCC Trustee and Personnel Commissioner
Madera

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.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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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.

	-		×		27
÷		×		-	
	×		+		17
×		-		×	
	×		÷		14
21		10		16	

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could be caught in a torrent of advice from well-meaning friends and colleagues this week. But remember, Lamb, you are at your best when you are your own inimitable self.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect strong efforts to get you to accept things as they are and not question them. But ignore all that and continue your inquiries until you're sure you have all the answers you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Heavier than usual family and workplace duties compete for your time this week. Try to strike a balance so that you're not overwhelmed by either. Pressures ease by week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good time for the Moon Child to show off your uniquely inspired approach to the culinary skills -- especially if they're directed toward impressing someone special.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might be happy about the re-emergence of a long-deferred deal. But don't pounce on it quite yet. Time can change things. Be sure the values you looked for before are still there.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Try to rein in your super-critical attitude, even if things aren't being done quite as you would prefer. Remember: What you say now could create an awkward situation later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you can expect on-the-job cooperation from most of your colleagues this week, some people might insist on knowing more about your plans before they can accept them.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Creating another way to do things is commendable. But you could find some resistance this week from folks who would rather stick with the tried-and-true than try something new.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You usually can keep your aim focused on your goal. But you might need to make adjustments to cope with unsteadiness factors that could arise over the course of the week.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) News arrives about a projected move. Be prepared to deal with a series of possible shifts, including starting and finishing times, and how much the budget will actually cover.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new relationship needs time to develop. Let things flow naturally. It could be a different story with a workplace situation, which might require faster and more focused attention.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Accept a compliment without trying to troll for any hidden reason beyond what was said. After all, don't you deserve to be praised every now and then? Of course you do.

Born this Week

You like to weigh all possibilities before making a decision.
You would be a fine judge, or even be a star in a jury room.

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FUN PAGES

POPEYE

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

STATE LINES! See how quickly you can place the full names of three U.S. states in the boxes at right so that each box contains a set of four common three-letter words reading downwards.

1				10
				11
2	2		1	9
	3			11
1			1	8
10	11	9	11	8

Only three states out of 50 qualify, which is to say, have names consisting of four letters. To clue you in, they are the Buckeye State, Beehive State and Hawkeye State. Which state fits in which boxes for you to decide.

NAME GAME! Dee Dee-duces, Matt Matt-riculates, Sara Sara-nades, Belle Belle-y-aches, Shelly Shelly-shal-lies, Percy Percy-venes. Have you any to add?

IT'S AS EASY AS 1,2,3

YOU are challenged to insert numbers 1, 2 and 3, as necessary, in vacant squares of the diagram above so that each horizontal and vertical row totals the amounts indicated at right and below.

One catch: No number is to appear beside itself. Number 1 cannot be adjacent to another 1, or 2 to 2, etc., up or down or to either side.

There are seven numbers already in place. For starters, place the number 3 in both blanks of the first vertical row. See if you can work it out from there.

FALL OUT! No, Henry Perry, the sky is not falling, but something else is. What's that? Draw lines to find out.

Wishing Well

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

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

BEGIN AND END WITH "D"

OROLHEBXUROLIDE
BYVSQNKHEBYWOTR
OLJGEBYWURPGDDD
NKIGDBDDZXWRIVN
SQOM(DOWNLOAD)VKU
IGECTRAEOHYWAUH
SQPTNLUDEMANDJS
HFEECAYIXVADAUH
SDQPNMDVDKJIEHC
FEUCBZYIXVUTDEA
RQPDAERDNAHKCED

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

Dachshund	Demand	Dividend	Dread
David	Diamond	Dogwood	Druid
Dead	Did	Dotted	Dud
Deckhand	Diehard	Download	

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SUN SPOT

COLOR BY NUMBERS

RIM SHOT! Hikers are admiring the view from a lofty canyon wall. Coloring code: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. purple.

SPELLBINDER

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

STEADILY

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

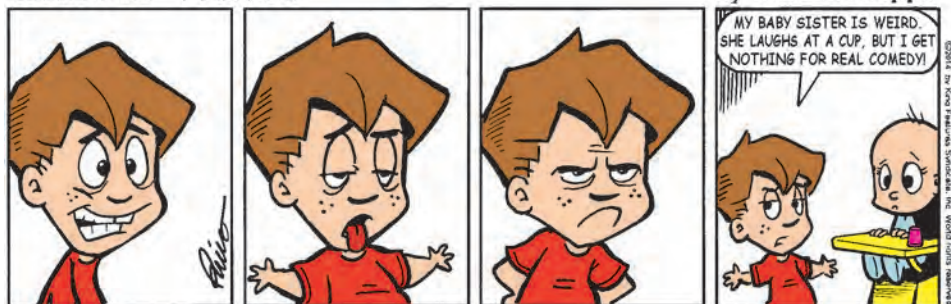
- GAMES: How many squares are on a chess board?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the common name for sodium bicarbonate?
- MEDICAL: What does the acronym stand for in the term "CAT scan"?
- MUSIC: What nationality was Chopin?
- GEOGRAPHY: The Dolomites mountain chain is located in what country?
- HISTORY: Which U.S. state was the last to secede in the Civil War and the first to be readmitted to the union?
- PHOBIAS: What fear is represented by the condition called astrophobia?
- LANGUAGE: What are "bangers" in British slang?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of rhinoceroses called?
- TELEVISION: What were the names of the two main characters in the "Gilmore Girls"?

Answers

- 64
- Baking soda
- Computerized Axial Tomography
- Polish
- Italy
- Tennessee
- A fear of outer space
- Sausages
- A crash
- Lorelai and Rory Gilmore

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

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

Feat SKORTE
Pierce PARSE
Ache NEARY
Believe STRUT

"Roast beef? I thought you said we were having a _____ for dinner!"

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

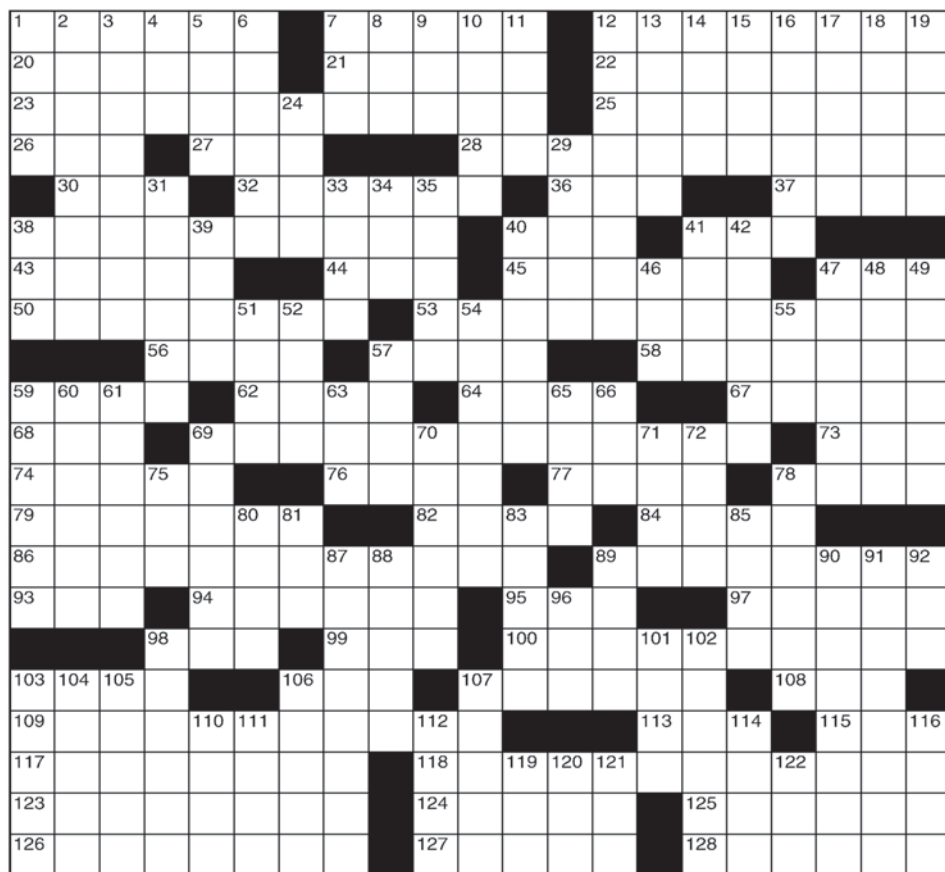
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Glasses are missing. 2. Bracelet is missing. 3. Curtain design is missing. 4. Bath mat is missing. 5. Shower head is missing. 6. Boat is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Decorated military pilot
 - 7 Teacher of Jewish law
 - 12 Enter private land
 - 20 More wicked
 - 21 Israeli leader — Sharon
 - 22 Puerto — (Mexican resort)
 - 23 Take part in a Halloween tradition
 - 25 Dollar, in slang
 - 26 Big —, California
 - 27 Wilt
 - 28 Stage lighting technique
 - 30 Dovish
 - 32 Barely visible
 - 36 Porkpie, e.g.
 - 37 Actress
 - 38 Thick-piled 96-Down
 - 40 Partakes of
 - 41 Runway guess: Abbr.
 - 43 Prolific inventor
 - 44 Pindar's H
 - 45 Ends early, as a mission
 - 47 Suffix with priest
 - 50 Rough figure
 - 53 Developing fetus, slangily
 - 56 Captain of Verne's Nautilus
 - 57 "E:60" ailer
 - 58 Tidal mouth of a river
 - 59 "Gosh darn!"
 - 62 Arabian nation
 - 64 Dr. Seuss' —am
 - 67 One — (biased)
 - 68 —-Z
 - 69 What a burnt child does, in an old proverb
 - 73 Propyl ending
 - 74 Not a single soul
 - 76 Pet dog in "The Thin Man"
 - 77 Like pets
 - 78 Title in Uncle Remus stories
 - 79 Not stored on disk, say
 - 82 Mystery writer — Stanley Gardner
 - 84 It flows to the Rhine
 - 86 Nickname of Utah
 - 89 Berate loudly
 - 93 Wood and Wynn
 - 94 Wrist-related
 - 95 Quadri- less one
 - 97 Wipe the chalk from
 - 98 Singer Folds
 - 99 Toys — (kids' chain)
 - 100 Second man on the moon
 - 103 Moneyless
 - 106 100-yr. stretch
 - 107 Sea east of Greece
 - 108 Former jet to the U.K.
 - 109 Like the languages
 - 113 Gear part
 - 115 Astonishment
 - 117 Yardstick
 - 118 Region between the Adirondacks and Catskills
 - 123 Prison term
 - 124 Utah city
 - 125 Realm
 - 126 Give rise to
 - 127 Skulking sort
 - 128 Not as great
- DOWN**
- 1 Bug trappers
 - 2 Affirms
 - 3 Hearty beef cut
 - 4 Sitcom ET
 - 5 Co. biggies
 - 6 Typo list
 - 7 Ice-T's music
 - 8 Dada artist
 - 9 Cartoonist
 - 10 Muscular
 - 11 She visited
 - 12 Premiere-to-finale period
 - 13 "Something to Talk About" singer
 - 14 Salts' saint
 - 15 Untidy sort
 - 16 Ashy-faced
 - 17 "You're — pal!"
 - 18 Inventory
 - 19 Kraft coffee brand
 - 24 Golden — (senior)
 - 29 Abu — (emirate)
 - 31 Leering
 - 33 Foil's relative
 - 34 Fish snarer
 - 35 Skewers, e.g.
 - 38 Mlle. who's canonized
 - 39 Showed up
 - 40 TV's "— Montana"
 - 41 Ordinal number suffixes
 - 42 Menacing fly
 - 46 No. on a map
 - 47 Dodgy type?
 - 48 Tranquil
 - 49 Beat poet
 - 51 Love, in Lima
 - 52 Bulky book
 - 54 Suddenly rich
 - 55 Yes, to Yves
 - 57 See 72-Down
 - 59 Ulm's river
 - 60 Made right
 - 61 Snaring loops
 - 63 Motorist's gp.
 - 65 Allot
 - 66 "— tree falls ..."
 - 69 Contraption
 - 70 Pilfers
 - 71 Computer since 1998
 - 72 With 57-Down, bangs into from behind
 - 75 "Ixnay"
 - 78 Vandykes and goatees
 - 80 Politico Bayh
 - 81 Article in Ulm
 - 83 Stop bugging
 - 85 Film segment
 - 87 Butter knife, frequently
 - 88 Tease
 - 89 Shirt tag info
 - 90 Trumpeter
 - 91 So to speak
 - 92 A fifth of fifty
 - 96 Wall-to-wall, for one
 - 98 "Jane Eyre" novelist
 - 101 Baseball Hall of Famer
 - 102 Words after many fiction book titles
 - 103 Out-of-date
 - 104 Many a time
 - 105 Chimp cousin
 - 106 Mythical enchantress
 - 107 Oak starter
 - 110 Yemen port
 - 111 Shore grains
 - 112 Little demons
 - 114 Clue is one
 - 116 Leering sort
 - 119 Sod buster
 - 120 Gardner of films
 - 121 Moo shu pan
 - 122 Hi-fi platters

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