

The Ranchos Independent

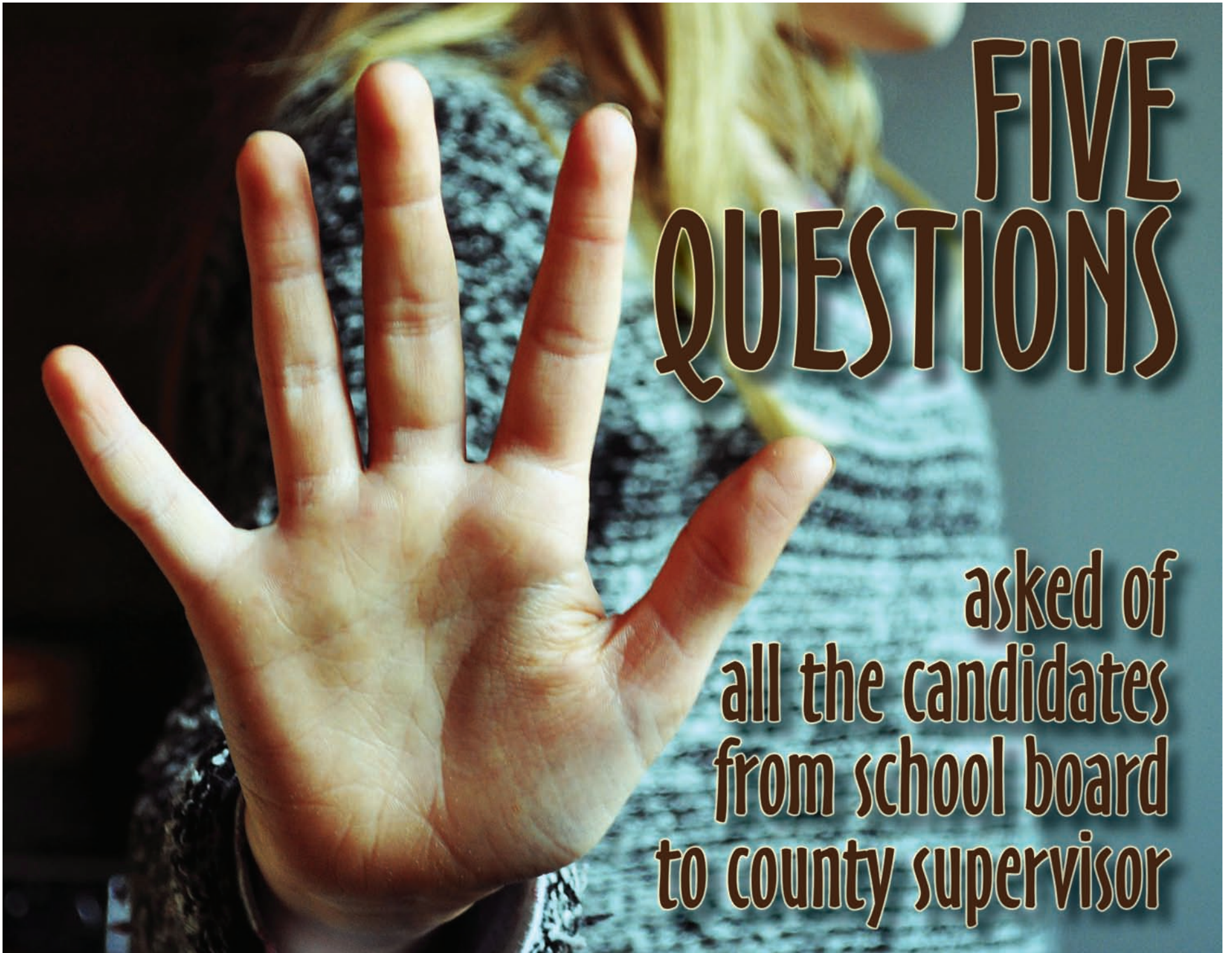


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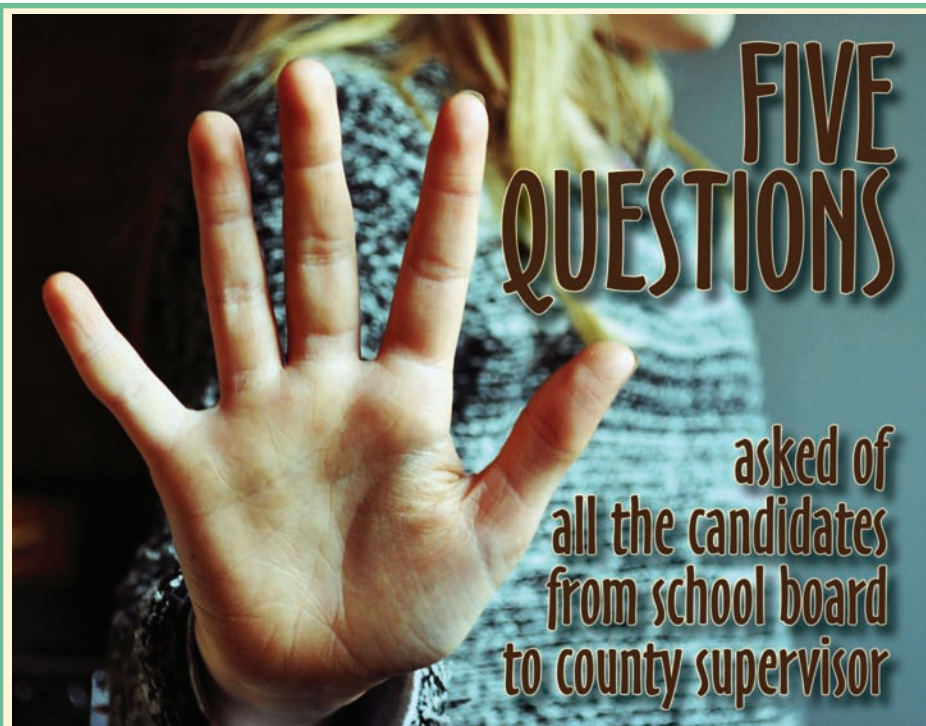


FIVE QUESTIONS

asked of
all the candidates
from school board
to county supervisor

In This Issue

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The concept is simple: Ask all the candidates five basic questions about themselves, about their abilities and why they should be our next elected official. There were no constraints put on their answers. They could be as brief or as detailed as they felt was necessary to answer the questions. The questions were sent to all those running for Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees, Madera County District 1 Supervisor, Madera County Sheriff and Madera County District Attorney. Here are their answers.

By Randy Bailey

Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees Area 1

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



Kimberly Kirk

I care deeply for the community I have lived in for over 26 years and where I raised my two sons. I have watched GVUSD evolve into a very dynamic school district. Over the years I have noticed that the students of our community have grown into vibrant adults and many of them have returned to our schools as teachers. With my many years of experience as a teacher, my involvement as a parent at Liberty High and as a longtime member of this community, I believe I am highly qualified for this position.

2. What are your thoughts on Common Core?

California has always had rigorous instructional standards and now we are seeing them across the country through the Common Core. The Common Core establishes clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know with a focus on developing the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that our students need to be successful. The Common Core standards are allowing our teachers to go deeper into the essential standards and be creative with their instructional approach.

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

I would like to see an increase of Career Technical Education offerings in GVUSD. I want to help to ensure that every educational need is met.

4. Do you think Zero Tolerance programs serve a purpose or act as a barrier to exercising common sense?

Zero Tolerance does serve a valuable purpose. GVUSD's Zero Tolerance policy is supported and enforced by all employees

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 3

NEWS FLASH • EXCLUSIVE

Possible New Ranchos Water Source

Source Could Produce Up to 10 Times Amount Currently Being Used by MD-10A

By Karen Petryna

There may be a new source of water that can be made available to the MD-10A Water District if certain details can be worked out. MD-10A's water needs equal about 300 million gallons over an 18 month period; this new source can provide upwards of 3 billion gallons over a 12-month period. On condition of anonymity, a source with intimate knowledge of this water supply said that the water could be made available to the Ranchos' MD-10A.

This separate source of water thought to be non-riparian was identified east of the Ranchos about 14 years ago. Non-riparian means that it has its own aquifer that is separate from the San Joaquin River's aquifer. This is key because river water is highly regulated and riparian rights allow the extraction of river water only for the private use of property owners, but any excess water cannot be sold. The source said that a geologist identified the water as being separated from the river-sourced water by hundreds of feet and many layers of clay,

also known as an aquitard. The potentially separate water source is located about 400 feet below ground in its own renewable aquifer, or water-containing region, and was initially estimated as capable of producing 7,000 to 10,000 acre-feet per year, which is somewhere between 2 and 3 billion gallons of fresh water, approximately 10 times what is needed by users of MD-10A. The source said that if the water is verified as separate, MD-10A will have first dibs to purchase it.

It is generally estimated that a three-person household will consume approximately one acre-foot, or 325,851 gallons of water, every 18 months. Since the MD-10A Water System has about 900 connections, even accounting for expansion, 1,000 acre-feet per year is more than enough water for everyone connected to the system, and then some. Therefore, if the non-riparian water source is verified and shown to produce 7,000 to 10,000 acre-feet per year, that would exceed the needs of MD-10A by more than seven to 10 times over.

Potential Obstacles

The first obstacle is proving that the

Please see **NEW H₂O** on P. 24

Ranchos Shopping Center Planned

By Karen Petryna

If all goes according to plan, residents of the Ranchos may be able to enjoy several more shopping amenities as early as 2016 according to Russell Shaw, whose clients' plans have been 10 years in the making. The project, to amend the County's General Plan and rezone 40 acres at the southwest corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36 across from Liberty High School from agricultural to commercial use, has already been approved by the County Planning Commission. Called "Liberty Village at the Ranchos," tentative plans presented by the Planning Department to the Planning Commission at their Sept. 9 meeting were approved in a 5-0 vote. And, according to Senior County Planner Matt Treber, the project will likely next go before the Board of Supervisors in November. If the Board also approves the entitlement, Shaw said C. G. Brown Developers, Inc. will then be in a position to seriously market for what they envision as an opportunity to provide the community with a wide variety of shopping choices including a drug store

and a drive-through restaurant.

Benefits

Shaw listed a number of benefits for the Ranchos community from a local shopping center including the ability to fill prescriptions without having to drive to Madera or Fresno, which would also benefit air quality. He said he had met with the schools who were also supportive — particularly of the idea that high school students wouldn't have to race to River Park on their lunch break for fast food.

Water Issues

Regarding water issues and the anticipated use of 6,700 gallons per day when the shopping center is complete, Tom Hurst, Planning Commissioner and owner of Hurst Hardware, said that if the owners wanted to, they could continue to have their property used to grow almonds and draw as much groundwater as they wanted — without any additional cost for rezoning or permitting using the agricultural well already on the property. Separately, Shaw also said, despite having been approached by many brokers

Please see **SHOPPING** on P. 28

Click on "Local News" at

QUESTIONS cont. from P. 2

in the district. Zero Tolerance helps to reinforce the community's expectations of our young people and prepares them for the real world.

5. Why should we vote for you?

If voted in, my plan is to support and help guide our employees in providing a safe and encouraging learning environment, with a continued focus on GVUSD's high academic expectations.

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

I am uniquely qualified because my story is the same as yours. I moved to the area in 1990 from the Bay Area. In 1991, I simultane-



Carla Neal

ously began my teaching career at Fresno State and as a teacher's aide in Fresno Unified in Special Education. Through determination I completed my student teaching at Webster and at Eastin Arcola and then started teaching Kindergarten at Sierra View in 1993. After five years, I stayed home to raise my daughter, and left the security of being a tenured teacher. I became an active parent volunteer more involved at Small Fry Nursery School in Madera at Howard Elementary and also began teach-

ing Child Development at the Madera Center. In the years that I was home from teaching, Chawanakee's Sierra View had changed to the current GVUSD. I have GVUSD insider and outsider perspectives as a parent and as a teacher in the pursuit of happiness and educational excellence for all students. Over the last 20 years, I have also started several small businesses: Arrow Food Equipment Service (w/Greg Neal)

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 16

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Guest Editorial

Full-Time Supervisors?

By DJ Becker

Will existing supervisors, and candidates in the upcoming board of supervisor race, take a pledge to work full-time for Madera County and earn their annual paychecks in excess of \$71,500?

Let's ask them to.

Many residents are angry and disillusioned with their board. They would love to be paid \$275 or more per day, plus benefits, to attend meetings, sit on committees, dictate to staff and occasionally make decisions – or meddle, as some claim.

A lot of residents say they have seen too few results and suspect they aren't getting their money's worth or even the best efforts of the people they elect and pay to represent their interests, especially when their repeated calls for improved County fire protection, public safety, action on more efficient water use or code enforcement go completely unanswered. And after decades of denial, the potentially catastrophic problem of overdrafting of groundwater by our own agriculture has also come home painfully to roost right over their door.

No denying those dry wells now.

Tax Dollars

Most voters would also like to know who sets the County priorities and where Madera's tax dollars go. Some current and former department heads say privately they should be allowed to run their own departments and not be micro-managed by elected officials without planning experience and little or no knowledge of their professional fields.

Several Madera County supervisors also own or operate their personal, full-time businesses, begging the question: "Where does *Madera County* business fit in that schedule?" A frequent glance at the County parking garage often reveals only empty spaces reserved for our elected supervisors. Sure, meetings and committees are great, but a look anywhere around the County clearly demonstrates the basics aren't getting done.

In years past, supervisors served part-time as dedicated public servants and received a small monthly stipend for their time, not unlike how the very efficient – and elected – Madera city council now serves. City of Madera council members make similar decisions, receive

a token payment of \$345 per month, plus health insurance, and still manage to attend meetings, sit on committees and review and balance a \$62 million budget. In my years of observing them at this work, they are dedicated, serious and get an excellent job done.

Increasing the pay for County supervisors statewide in 1970 was thought to attract a more professional level of experience and provide better management skills to local elected government officials. Instead, the opposite may have become the reality with ego, power, political connections and a predictable, hefty paycheck being the motivation, rather than public service. A travel allowance, health insurance and generous state pension benefits also sweeten the deal.

Connections and campaign money, in the form of advertising and yard signs – rather than actual experience and qualifications – often decide the winners of these heated races. City officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, have long said the unprofessional and amateur actions of past and present County supervisors have greatly contributed to the County disarray and large budget deficits, and the abrupt departure of many competent County personnel, most recently including even major County department heads. Those same department heads who have earned degrees in their fields have unrealistic budgets and long job descriptions and are expected to work as many hours as it takes. These very low local salaries also fuel the talent flight from Madera County to less acrimonious, better-funded and better-run counties or municipalities. I also hear the short-staffed County Resource Management Agency has just recently been reorganized or perhaps upended, again, with the departure of County engineer Ken Vhang.

Increasing Personnel

At the height of the 2007 economic boom, supervisors also increased the full-time positions of their personal legislative assistants from two to five, at the hefty price tag of roughly \$50,000 annually each, plus benefits. The assistants manage the supervisors' calendars, do the legwork on any proposed County legislation and field – or some would say

Please see **FULL-TIME** on P. 14

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Editorial

Priorities, Priorities

By Randy Bailey

I had the privilege and honor to moderate the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's "Candidates' Night" on Monday, Sept. 8 at the Ranchos Middle School. Here was an opportunity to listen to the final two candidates in the District 1 Supervisor's race as well as the two remaining candidates for Madera County Sheriff. After successfully surviving the primary in June, here were the finalists for the Nov. 4 General Election. Someone on the stage that night was going to be our next Supervisor and someone was going to be our next Sheriff.

At the event, I started things off by offering up a couple of quotes from semi-famous people. Actually they're only famous if you've heard of them, and, outside of the journalism world, I doubt few people have ever heard of George Jean Nathan or Bill Vaughan. Anyway, the purpose was to set the tone.

Nathan said: "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." Hmmm ...

I then followed that by Bill Vaughan's observation: "A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election." I emphasized that this rang all the more true when it was just a local, County election.

I made these comments to a packed crowd of about 35 people, which approx-

imately 10 of whom were from the Chamber of Commerce.

Now, just a few weeks prior, the Chamber had sponsored a community meeting with County officials to discuss the situation with MD-10A and the community's not being able to water their respective lawns -- right here in this same building -- and it was standing room only. There was no place to sit. People were standing all along the back of the auditorium and crowding around the exit, all vying to get a better view of the County employees and to hear what they had to say about their dying Coastal Redwoods.

Here's the irony: not one person on that stage was an elected official. Manual Nevarez was the closest, but he was a Jerry Brown appointee who's not running for reelection. What that means is that if you woke up tomorrow, turned on your faucet and had to take a dirt shower, every one of them would still have a job and there's not a thing you could do about it.

Fast forward a couple of weeks later and here are the people who, when elected, WILL tell those other folks who were on the stage that night what to do. They HAVE to because they're directly responsible to the voters who put them there. This is like arguing with the cop who gave you a ticket when ultimately it's the judge who will determine your fate. It's like complaining to the busboy about how bad your service is then smiling blankly when your waitress shows up. It's like focusing all of your attention on the sparkplugs of your car that's running poorly when the problem is the fuel injection.

I love the Ranchos, but we sure have a funny way of looking at things sometimes. If the people who showed up for the County/MD-10A meeting were truly that concerned and that incensed about our water situation, then there should have been twice as many people show up for the Candidates' Night than were at the County meeting. We should have had to relocate it to Hawk Stadium over at the high school to accommodate all of the people.

But we didn't.

So now, we'll have an election in about a month and those who actually do show up and vote will play eenie-meenie-miney-moe with their candidate selection on their ballots and then hope for the best, all the while saying, "If only there was some way we could have gotten some more information about the candidates ..."

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

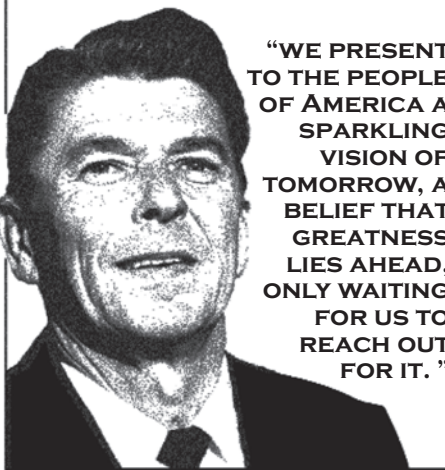
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9/14

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Support **David Linn**

for Madera County District Attorney



“I support David Linn for District Attorney because we need a strong leader who will rebuild the office and work closely with law enforcement to ensure that justice is being served. High turnover in the DA’s office and loss of our experienced prosecution team has made our jobs more challenging.”

Sheriff John Anderson

“Join the Madera County Deputy Sheriff’s Association and support David Linn for Madera County District Attorney.”

Mike Motz,
*President of the Madera County
Deputy Sheriffs Association*

“I’ve witnessed David Linn handle hundreds of cases in the courtroom over the years and I respect his expertise in criminal law.”

Richard Caldie,
President of the Madera County Probation Officers Association

“We support David Linn for District Attorney. We believe that David’s leadership experience, criminal law expertise, and commitment to public safety will make him an excellent choice for District Attorney. David understands the challenges that correctional officers face and is committed to partnering with law enforcement and corrections to ensure that hardened criminals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

Richard Delgado,
*President of the Madera County
Correctional Officers Association*

“We support David Linn for Madera County District Attorney. Correctional officers know that Linn will ensure that criminals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. David’s ability to lead and extensive experience as a trial lawyer will serve the people well.”

Central CCPOA President
Chad O’Brien

“I am confident in David Linn’s qualifications and leadership abilities. Our organization believes David represents the change needed to restore stability in the District Attorney’s Office.”

Dan Foss,
President of the Madera Police Officers Association

“We thank David Linn for his courage, passion, and energy in running for Madera County District Attorney. His experience as a military officer, attorney, and business owner provide him the foundation to be an effective leader in the District Attorney’s Office and the courtroom. We look forward to contacting the citizens and voters of Madera County to encourage them to make a change and vote for David Linn so we can restore the Public Trust.

**Chowchilla Police
Officers Association**



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A Souper Time of Year

According to the calendar, it's just a few days until the first day of fall, my favorite time of the year. Football has already started, the days will begin to grow shorter and cooler, and we can begin to cook in the kitchen and not worry about heating up the house. Recently I bought some hamburger to make a meat loaf, but I finally put it in the freezer, waiting for the weather to cool off a bit; I just didn't want to heat up the house.

When it starts to get cooler, what better way to warm up your house than to make a big pot of soup? I know people that would have soup just about every day, so with that in mind, let's talk about soup this month.

When the kids in our families were young enough to go Trick or Treating, we would all go to my sister's house or Steve's and have a "Souper Supper." We would all bring a favorite soup, maybe a pot of stew, stuff to make a salad and always loaves of French bread. The kids are all grown now, so we don't do it any longer and I miss it.

You people that had a big garden this summer that is waning as you pick the last of the vegetables, have a perfect ingredient patch for a pot of soup. Just about any vegetables you had in the garden can be put in soup, the only thing I can think of that I wouldn't put in the pot would be eggplant.

Garden Vegetable Soup

In a large pot, put some olive oil and a pat of butter, add chopped onion and cook for a few minutes, adding salt and pepper to taste. Add some chopped carrots, potatoes and anything else from the garden you have – tomatoes, corn or squash. Let this cook for a few minutes, then add enough water or chicken or vegetable stock to cover and simmer until the vegetables are done. Be sure



to add a little salt and pepper as you go – don't wait until the end or you will have a very bland soup. To take this soup up another notch, how about dropping in some pasta – small shells, alphabets, small egg noodles, or even some spaghetti broken into short pieces. Be sure to salt soup when you add the pasta if needed.

Do you have an abundance of carrots in the refrigerator, either from the garden or a bag of peeled carrots that have been in the refrigerator a while? How about making some soup out of them?

Carrot Soup

1 T Butter
 1 T extra virgin olive oil
 1 Medium onion, chopped
 1 Stalk celery, chopped
 2 Cloves garlic, chopped
 1 tsp. Chopped fresh thyme or parsley
 5 C peeled and chopped carrots
 2 C water
 4 C reduced sodium chicken or vegetable broth
 ½ C half and half
 ½ tsp. salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 Heat butter and oil in a Dutch oven (or big soup pot) over medium heat. When butter is melted add onion and celery, cook until softened, stirring occasionally. This should take about 5 minutes. Add garlic and thyme or parsley, cook, stirring until fragrant; this should take about 10 seconds.

Stir in carrots. Add water, broth and salt and pepper, bring to a low boil over high heat. Reduce heat to a high simmer and cook until very tender – about 25 minutes.

When carrots are tender, puree

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

When it starts to get cooler, what better way to warm up your house than to make a big pot of soup?

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

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 FOR
SUPERVISOR

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GETTING THINGS DONE FOR MADERA COUNTY!

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

soup in blender in batches, or use an immersion blender until smooth. Be careful when stirring hot liquid. Stir in half and half and adjust seasoning.

Most everyone likes chicken noodle soup. This is especially good for that leftover chicken in the refrigerator.

Quick and Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

- 1 T butter
- ½ C chopped onion
- ½ C chopped celery
- 1 C chopped carrots

4 cans (4.5 ounces) chicken broth

- 1 can vegetable broth
- 1 ½ C egg noodles
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- ½ tsp. dried oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 or 3 C cooked chicken, shredded

In large pot over medium heat melt butter. Cook onions, celery and carrots in butter, adding a little salt and pepper. Cook until just tender. Pour in the chicken and vegetable broth, and bring to boil. Add noodles, lower heat to simmer and cook until done. Add seasoning and stir in cooked chicken and con-

tinue simmering until hot.

There you have it – three easy soup recipes. To make any one of them for your evening meal, how about adding an easy dessert like a Dump Cake? If you have never made one, now is the time. Even your kids or grandkids can help you.

Dump Cake

1 can canned fruit – sliced peaches, crushed pineapple, fruit cocktail – your choice.

1 cake mix – any flavor

1 cube butter, sliced

In a 9 x 13 baking pan that you have buttered or sprayed with bak-

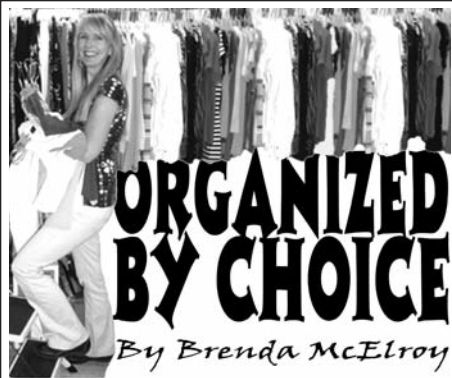
ing spray, pour in the fruit including the syrup. Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly on top of the fruit and place the sliced butter evenly over the top. DO NOT MIX! Bake in preheated 325 oven for about 45 minutes. Best served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top.

Not long ago, a lady came into the office and we talked about a recipe book she was going to loan me, and I have misplaced her phone number. All I know is her name is Sarah with an “H” and it was Russian recipes from members of her church. Please call me at 645-0634. I am anxious to see the book.

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 • Madera Police Officers Association
 • Madera Probation Peace Officers Association
 • California Peace Officers Association
 • California Police Chiefs Association
 • Fresno Deputy Sheriffs Association
 • Steve Magarian, Fresno County Sheriff (retired)
 • Chowchilla Police Officers Association
 • Gary E. Brown- Former Monterey Police Chief
 • Ruben Chavez - Chief of Police, Livingston
 • Jon Lopey - Sheriff, Siskiyou County
 • Central California Correctional Peace Officers Assoc.
 • Peace Officers Research Association of California

CHIEF
Jay Varney
 for Sheriff



Fall Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month. Normally this topic refers to getting prepared for emergencies and disasters. That's a really good thing to do, and if that's the information you're looking for, visit www.ready.gov.

But today I want to talk about a different type of preparedness. If you're like me and realize that when September hits Christmas is around the corner, then it's not too early to begin preparing for the holidays (which is hopefully quite unlike a disaster).

I'm not recommending shopping, baking cookies and addressing Christmas cards in September. I'm referring to creating a home environment that's ready for a

busy season. It's kind of like Spring Cleaning, only it's Fall Preparedness. This way when you have less time for routine chores and more stuff (decorations, gifts, food) and people coming into the house, you will be ready!

Start in the kitchen. Remove everything from the fridge and freezer. Toss items that have been in there too long and share the items you know you'll never use. Wipe down the shelves and sides. Return contents, grouping items in categories using drawers and shelves for specific things. This will help you to easily see what you have and what you need when preparing meals and entertaining.

If your house is normal, you probably have a pile of papers sitting on the kitchen counter.

Rather than waiting until you're expecting company, and quickly gathering and dumping the papers into a bag or box to be stored indefinitely, designate places for bills to pay, catalogs, receipts, school papers, invitations, etc. Install and label wall pockets, or use stacking trays, or folders in an open-topped container. Having homes for papers

will help tremendously as the mail increases during the holidays.

Clear the rest of your kitchen counter of unused or rarely used items so that you're prepared with space for additional baking and cooking projects. Do a quick purge of your kitchen cabinets. Remove excess and unused dishes, glassware, mugs and expired or unlikely-to-be-used dry goods.

Survey your living/family room. Does it have the feel of an inviting place to have a cup of hot chocolate? I'm not talking

about creating the resemblance of a model home, but if it's cluttered with too much furniture, magazines or whatever else has collected there, set aside some time to remove the items that need to be recycled, relocated or

donated. Now you'll be ready with room for the extended family and the tree.

If your guest room is used during the holidays, but not much during the rest of the year, it likely needs some de-cluttering as well. Guest rooms often become catch-alls so don't wait until your company is on their way to recycle, relocate and donate

items that have inadvertently landed there. Clear a spot in the closet for guests to use, as well as a holding place for Christmas gifts you purchase ahead of time.

Now that you're on a roll, continue into your guest bathroom. If it's also the kids' bathroom, purchase containers that can hold the frequently used items (normally stored on the countertop). Clear a spot in the cabinet below and store the containers there when not in use. Match up a couple nice sets of towels for guests and eliminate towels that are never used to create more space.

For some this list may seem overwhelming, but if you attack one area (kitchen, family room, guest room, guest bath) each week during October, your home will be holiday ready.

If you'd like more detail and ideas like these, join me at the Ranchos Organize Your Paper, Space and Life Class starting Tuesday, Sept. 30. See my ad on page 22.

I also make house calls!

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.

For some this list may seem overwhelming, but if you attack one area (kitchen, family room, guest room, guest bath) each week during October, your home will be holiday ready.



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*According to the Annual Report by the California Judicial Council.
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9/14

Considering Inconsideration

If I were to boil down my biggest pet peeves into one generalized complaint, I think it would be inconsideration. Nothing gets my blood boiling like a fool who wanders around without regard for other people. They mistakenly think their time, their needs and their problems are more important than anyone else around them. People who milk the system and live on the hard work of others are inconsiderate. People who hold up the line because they are fiddling with their cell phone are inconsiderate. People who refuse to parent their children and leave them to disturb and even wreak havoc on society are inconsiderate. I cannot stand people who are willfully inconsiderate.

Last week I was at Target, and there was a kid riding around on one of the electric shopping carts provided for disabled customers. I watched for a moment, wondering if he might be physically challenged, but when I noticed that he and another boy were taking turns driving the cart and running around in the aisles, my mouth dropped. Where in the world were the parents? Was no one seeing this? And if some poor disabled soul needed a cart, and these kids were

using it to joy ride around the cleaning product aisle, would someone notice then? I asked a woman near them if she knew whose children they were, she did ... because they were hers. If my mouth could have dropped any further, I would have been mopping the floor of Target with my tongue. I asked her how she would feel if some poor, physically challenged person needed the cart because she couldn't walk. Her response (and I hope it enrages you as it did me) was, "That's not my problem. I need them out of my hair while I shop or it will take all day."

Needless to say, I was not having that. I stormed off to track down the nearest employee and get these punks kicked off the scooter. Unfortunately, the first two floor associates didn't seem too concerned with the situation and the third was too timid to demand the cart back, so in my frustration I set off to find the manager. I explained to him that even if my mother, my aunt and my grandmother weren't disabled and reliant on

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



the motorized carts, I would have been just as appalled that this store was letting children run amok. You don't park in a handicapped spot, you don't steal wheelchairs and you don't let your little brats play on the motorized shopping carts for disabled patrons. They are not toys. They are not babysitters. If you don't want to watch your children, find someone to do it for you. If you can't arrange that, consider a muzzle and a leash if you have absolutely no control over the behavior of your offspring. Other people shouldn't have to suffer

because you and your children have no manners.

The manager, though not as outraged as I was (which was disappointing), was at least sympathetic to my plight. He immediately followed

me down the aisles until we found the jerk with her two jerks in training; the plan was to explain to her that children were not allowed on the motorized carts and to retrieve it, but we were too late. What we found was an angry, gray-haired woman shouting at the family and trying to knock the kids off the vehicle with her cane. I, of course, burst into a fit of laughter, the manager was horrified and clearly did not know what to do. The kids gave up and hid behind their slack-jawed mother and the lady slid onto the cart and rode away. The manager walked away and I stood there with a triumphant smirk.

The mother turned her shock and rage onto me, shouting at me for not minding my business and getting the manager. I quickly reminded her that although I came back with a manager, I had nothing to do with the awesome elderly woman who did the mother's job for her. She was still hollering as I turned on my heel and strode away, a feeling of

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

Letters

Dear Editor:

Just wanted to tell you how much my husband and I enjoyed "The Bogeyman" (The Ranchos Independent, August 2014). We are farmers southwest of Madera and our daughter and her family live in the Ranchos. That's how we happened to read your editorial on water.

We completely agree with your assessment of how we ended up in this big mess! I wish everyone in the state could read what you wrote and would appreciate it as much as we did!

Thank you so much,

Pauline and Steven Emmert
Madera

Dear Editor:

I decided to help conserve water until I noticed the corporate farm behind my house plant a plot of bare land with about 20 acres of trees. They did this about a month ago. They plowed, placed rows across the field and flooded the rows. They then planted the trees and flooded the rows again. I thought they were supposed to use drip? I read in the paper where people were not supposed to water their lawns, or flush their toilets. After

watching these rows being filled with water I am going to water my trees and lawn because I am not going to let my trees die while the corporate farm disregards our water situation. No matter what we do we cannot stop the overdraft of the groundwater used by ag. They are flooding the fields again as I am writing this. I live on Kensington Drive with an empty canal behind my house.

Thomas Moscatelli
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

(Attached is a request I made to the Golden Valley School Board at their meeting in May, 2014. I did not hear ANYTHING all summer. In August, I emailed the president of the board. She replied that she would look into it. Still no word. I am now running into problems with transportation for our kindergartners. The options are limited! I just wonder why this is so difficult in a small country school where community should be the priority.)

My husband and I have lived in the Ranchos for 36 years and have been foster parents for the past 15. We have housed over 150 children in our home, many of whom have attended Sierra View. Our daughter was in

the very first kindergarten class.

Now I have a small transportation problem and I am hoping the school board can help me solve it. My daughter is also a foster parent. Between the two of us we have 12 children. Because of the very unconventional life we lead, we have several appointments each week. Most of our kids visit with parents twice a week. We are required to take them to the dentist and the doctor often. At the same time, we can have kids who are in therapy once a week. All in all, we spend a lot of time in the car. One of the things that allows us to do this is that we share childcare between us.

In past years, our kids have been able to move back and forth between my daughter's bus stop and mine. Apparently, this was not actually sanctioned but it is what the school has done to accommodate us. It has been wonderful. Let me say that the school has been exceptional in taking in our kids and really caring about them. I can't tell you how many times I have had kids who are going back home to mom and they ask, "But, can we still go to the same school?" The kids love the school and the district and I tell people all the time how wonderful the district has been for my kids.

Now though, we have been told that we must choose one bus stop and use it exclu-

sively. My daughter has had a kindergartner for the past five weeks and this has been extremely difficult. There have been times when I have had to pack up six children in order to either pick her up at school or at my daughter's house. Once, she had to remain sitting in the office for an hour until one of us could go by and pick her up. This was not ideal as she could have easily gotten off the bus at my house.

Next year, between us we will have three kindergartners and both of us will not always be at home after school. Ninety-five percent of the time one of us is home and could be there when the kids get off the bus, but this changes each day depending on who has appointments. What I am asking from the board is for flexibility to have the kids get off the bus at either my daughter's house or mine depending on the circumstances of that day.

Shelley Halverson
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

There are several important issues and offices on the ballot in Madera County this No-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 13

Fresh Leadership & New Ideas to Correct Madera County's Old Ways.



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...I'll always be accessible and responsive to your family's concerns.



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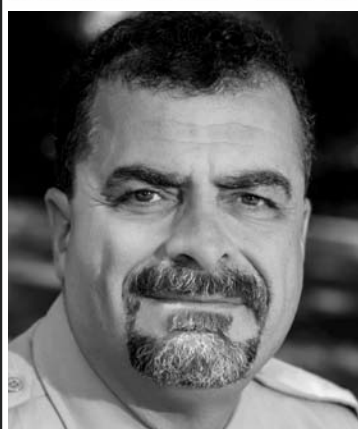
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9/14

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Michael is committed to attack the major issues facing Madera County in the future:

1. *Crime affecting Agriculture*
2. *Mitigating the effects of the future growth along the Highway 41 Corridor and enhancing the Department's presence in the Ranchos.*
3. *Mitigating the effects of Gangs and the hundreds of felons that will be released into our community by the State due to AB109, the early State prisoner release program.*

Michael Salvador qualifications:

26 Years of Law Enforcement Experience, 20 years serving the citizens of Madera County. Currently the Department's second in command and responsible for more than a \$10 Million annual budget.

Active in the Community:

Member of the Madera Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Madera.

Policy Experience:

6 years serving the community as a trustee for the Madera Unified School district.

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9-14

LETTERS cont. from P. 12

member, BUT we would like to bring to your attention the office of District Attorney. We would not be supporting or endorsing Michael Keitz for your District Attorney if we did not believe he is of the highest moral and ethical character, will serve our County with absolute dedication and conviction, and is the most qualified candidate. For those reasons we ask you to closely examine the individuals, their backgrounds and accomplishments prior to casting your vote for Madera County's District Attorney. Here are some basic facts:

Michael Keitz is the only candidate with experience as a prosecutor, spending 22 years in the Madera DA's office.

His record consists of a 17 percent increase in criminal convictions which have been achieved during his tenure.

There has been a 130 percent increase in criminal jury trials that have occurred during the same period of time, resulting in the successful prosecution, conviction and incarceration of many criminals.

These are only a few brief statements why we are vigorously supporting Michael Keitz for District Attorney. So please, examine the two candidates and ask yourself what individual would you want "Putting the Bad Guys behind bars"? We want the person that can most effectively do the job. Thank you for your attention and we hope that you join us in supporting and reelecting Michael Keitz for Madera County District Attorney.

Sincerely,

Stell and Patty Manfredi
Madera

Dear Editor:

My wife and I went to our first Candidates' Night last week. Not knowing what to expect, it was a nice experience. Finally, a

chance to see some faces that go with the names on the signs. We had one candidate that was delayed by his job (a fine excuse). He did appear near the end so those of us there now know what he looks like. If you haven't ever been to one of these events before, you should experience it at the next opportunity. Randy Bailey was directing the talking traffic and presenting the questions from the audience. I noticed that some of the questions were on MUCH larger sheets of paper than I was given at the door, and typed. My guess would be some people had more time to plan than I did.

There was no yelling or screaming between the candidates, or audience, which was a plus of course. The only thing I can say that was a disappointment for us was the audience should have filled the room.

Lee Bailey
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

My husband and I have lived in the Ranchos for the last 21 years. We met Mona Diaz back when she was working at her nursery. She was always helpful and informative, and very involved with the Ranchos community. She works very hard for our community and stands behind her words. We have found her to be very honest and forthright. It was clear from the statements she made during Candidates' Night that she puts the state of the community first. That's why she has our respect and our vote.

Having talked to Mike Salvador on Meet the Candidates Night, we found Mike to be very personable, honest and really cares about this community. He gave us his full attention and looked directly at us during our whole conversation. Michael Salvador has our vote.

Jan Bailey
Madera Ranchos

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FULL-TIME cont. from P. 4

dodge – all those pesky calls and complaints from their constituents. Residents questioned the expense and need for these positions, who only answer to the board and are in addition to the existing department of County Clerk, which has long-served the administrative needs of the board of supervisors.

Voters who stood in open council session during the five year recession and pleaded with the board to reduce their number of legislative assistants back to one or two were ignored, as many other essential County personnel were furloughed, or let go instead, including at least 16 sheriff's deputies and many fire fighters.

Looking Like a Landfill

Ron Rosa, a 20-year resident, retired volunteer firefighter and frequent County critic, has been attempting to get his Madera Acres neighborhood cleaned up for 10 or more years.

"This County looks like a landfill. It affects property values and all our neighborhoods. Drive down any rural road, even Road 26 just north of the city line. It's full of acres of debris piles and rusting cars. The County roads are a disaster," Rosa said. "It IS ... a leadership problem. And it's just an awful, embarrassing mess and sad we have to live this way. Nobody in the County [government] returns any calls or does anything unless you embarrass them in the newspaper first," Rosa said.

Rosa said he didn't know what the answer was, other than perhaps new County leadership.

"I don't know what they are doing, but this County should be able to [prioritize and] get these basic things done," he said. "That's what we pay them to do. Somebody should replace them all."

Madera County supervisors are well paid, by Madera County standards. Let's be

sure they are focused and earning that pay, and are listening to residents, the County staff and not treating their positions as a part-time effort.

And let's ask: just what have they accomplished?

Publishing their activities, calendars and accounting for their time as supervisors and that of their personal assistants would also go a long way toward restoring the public's trust. Supervisors could also learn from the well-run example of the city of Madera: hire competent people, pay and treat them fairly, listen to them, listen to the County Administrative Officer and then let them do their jobs.

Other residents suggest term limiting supervisors to one or two terms, to discourage people seeking well-paid careers as long-term politicians and to avoid the cronyism and entrenchment of special interests that often go along with it.

You Have Options

If you haven't already given up in disgust, don't forget you do have another option. Only approximately 4,000 voters' signatures on a petition will force a no-confidence, "grassroots" recall vote of any supervisor not performing or working full time for Madera County.

We and Madera County can do better. Let's start with the basics and see some results. Get involved. Speak up to be sure your voice is heard.

DJ Becker is a freelance news reporter and County resident with 10 years of local coverage of public safety, crime, CalFire, CHP and the Madera Police Department and city council, among other community issues. Her work has been published in The Madera Tribune, The Ranchos Independent, The Sierra Star and online at NewsMadera.com. She can be reached on Facebook at: Clean Up Madera County.



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Sit Down, Eat at Ranchos Market

Remodeled Ranchos Market Now Features Dine-In Eating

The Ranchos Market at 37405 Ave. 12 has recently added a new line of store-made deli goods conveniently packaged for take-out, along with a new dine-in area for customers, according to long time deli clerk Kevin Define.

Define said the ready to go, packaged products of crab, broccoli and chicken salads were designed to save customers time and have been well received. In the meat department, seasoned chicken and beef fajitas are available and tri-tip beef is custom cut and advertised at or below Costco pricing, he said.

“We also have the chicken, beef and cheese burritos, and enchiladas, all deli made. They have been very popular with customers as well,” Define said.

The new convenience items had been prompted by customers’ requests, he said.

The deli serves hamburgers and fries to order and also makes old fashioned, hand-scooped ice cream shakes in vanilla, chocolate and strawberry for \$2.99.

Define said he hoped more people would dine in the store, once they discovered the new seating area.

Hours for the Ranchos Market and the deli are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Their phone number is 645-1277.



Kevin Define of the Ranchos Market deli stands next the new line of convenience, prepackaged deli goods and salads designed to save customers time.

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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 3

and my own company called Green Footprint Company, LLC in 2008. As a single mother in 2005 trying to save money on fuel, I learned to make renewable biodiesel fuel in the summers at the American Legion and the Solar Living Institute in Hopland, Calif. as well as have sold residential solar in which I was able to “save my house” of 20 years in 2010, after the recession, and often work two jobs to make ends meet. Sometimes I hang on just by my fingertips but I never give up. This spirit of perseverance, dedication and an endless grace for the people of this community is what I hope to bring to the school board.

I am an avid hiker and live here largely because of our access to the beautiful and inspiring Sierra Nevada Mountains and to the coast, which are sacred ground to me. I have stayed because of my neighbors and dear friends who are part of our extended family all these years, even though most of my family is still in my birth state of Ohio. I have fought hard to work and maintain my home here and to raise my daughter peacefully and with the utmost care and respect of all our children in the community and the educational process. I support our teachers’ freedom to teach as they are trained professionals who deserve our respect as much as possible. When there are problems, the due process of an open discussion with administration should wisely listen to everyone involved to figure out facts, problem solve and to help calm storms; that is my philosophy rather than quick judgment of a child, family or teacher. I understand that parents are crazy in love with their children, and should be, and conversely that the schools have some professional information and input that can also help parents to better understand their children.

I believe together we are stronger because the long-term best interest of our community is for our children to have a great education. Adults that model civil problem solving whenever there are problems, innovation to keep moving forward and a community that loves all our children is possible. I care about an awesome public education for all, a healthy and sustainable environment (clean air and water) and good jobs. I am involved with the Sierra Club and our Madera County water and land use study group. I love our rural and farming lifestyle with access to major cities and how people help each other in times of need in our community. The Madera Ranchos has helped to make my family who we are today and I want to keep giving back, say “thank you” and fight for the good in this community and, most particularly, for our children, students and schools.

2. *What are your thoughts on Common*

Core?

I am still learning about Common Core and just read Mr. Hatch’s thoughts from the district on Common Core, which is posted on the GVUSD website, and have had two residents in the area ask me this same question. I will support and trust Mr. Hatch in his viewpoint. I learned at the last (September) board meeting that the district is holding off on adopting the Common Core books until more information is identified and discussed in the district, which could be wise. I have read that the University of California is supporting the Common Core and the San Francisco Chronicle posted that the 3rd grade math adds up to big changes.

Of course, I think our students need to learn all they can in their pre-adult years from the adults around them and from teachers in ways that increase their knowledge and life skills. This includes learning in developmentally appropriate ways beginning with concrete learning to more abstract learning as children grow older. I believe in helping students to grow physically, emotionally and cognitively through their brain-friendly multiple intelligences as proposed by educational expert Howard Gardner of Harvard. I also know teachers are required to teach according to the state standards for each subject and grade level with the ability to create and form ideas, analyze and solve problems, as well as learn social skills in a group setting at school. Sometimes learning is best from students’ interests and other times explicit teacher-directed lessons are most essential and are required teaching. I think those who are closest to students – parents and teachers and administrators and the students themselves – are in the best position to know what students need to learn, not necessarily the federal government and national standards. I think the national standards approach is to help avoid inequalities and social injustice, which is important in any community in the U.S. today. There are inequalities and we must inform ourselves and avoid any harm to children and their development and protect the human rights of all. The laws protect all children and every child has a right to a quality, free, public education, no matter their religion, race, gender or ability in this great country. It is a tremendous blessing and one I take very seriously with a touch of good humor.

So I am ok with the district moving slowly with or without Common Core until as a community and district we can educate ourselves enough to make the wisest decisions. Common Core seems to be political with the Gates Foundation, but I think we can all rise above as we have mutual interests. I don’t think we can turn back the clock on computer technology and its educational

Please see QUESTIONS on P. 17

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- ▶ **We Must Limit Sacramento's Power Grab of Our Water**, and adopt a local comprehensive water management plan that protects families and existing neighborhoods, preserves our family farms and ensures responsible growth.
- ▶ **Our Approach Toward Addressing Our Water Woes Has to Change**; political posturing must be replaced with active problem solving. The decisions we make today (or lack thereof) will ultimately affect our community for generations to come.
- ▶ **It's Time to Invest in Groundwater Recharge Projects** to replenish our aquifer while reducing our reliance on the State and Federal government for our water.
- ▶ **No New Development Without an Adequate Water Supply.** Period.
- ▶ **Support November's Water Bond** and invest in more water storage projects like Temperance Flat.

Ask questions and learn more about my plan to secure our water future:

Online Community Forum **Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00PM**

VISIT WWW.BRETTFRAZIER.ORG/ONLINE_COMMUNITY_FORUMTOLEARNMORE.

Vote for Our Water Future. Vote Early. Vote Brett Frazier for Supervisor.

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9/14

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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 16

benefits. I trust our teachers and staff who I believe have the students' best educational interests at heart and are trained usually by our local colleges and continue to develop professionally with district training and support. The majority of personnel have many years of experience. When I first started teaching, California was ranked top in the nation's schools but this has changed over the last decade and we must wake up and change this trend if we are to compete against Germany, Japan and other advanced world economies. I will be happy to keep everyone involved and in communications on curriculum and the Common Core, along with the district staff, county and state legislators. The battle in my mind lies most in reducing poverty and protecting children and their right to learn, safe and happy. My union, American Federation of Teachers and California Teachers Association, is supporting Common Core so it would be helpful if we all decided for ourselves and were unified. I would like to see more diversity of AP classes, gifted and talented programs, technical or vocational programs, as well as excellence in special education programs. I believe if we maximize collaboration and cooperation then we cannot fail, but that also includes involving everyone, no matter

their position on Common Core or any other initiative which is hard and can take time. I look forward to a lively debate and more information on the facts of the Common Core. Note: my daughter is now taking Physics at Sacramento State and it is tough, yet I am so proud of her for giving her best and she is seeking tutoring on campus. We need to keep our eyes on the ball. Together, we all have the answers.

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

The change I would make is for more open processes in education, justice for all and communications that include kindness, respect and greater citizen involvement and comment of more people. I also want to directly listen, look into and implement the interests of our tax-paying parents and community as well as protect the district and its continued goals towards excellence in education that I believe can be even brighter. Like my daughter in soccer, I am a powerful defender of education and of this community and a goal setter and achiever. I will work toward sustainability of our community as a great place to live, laugh and learn.

4. Do you think Zero Tolerance programs serve a purpose or act as a barrier to exercising common sense?

Please see QUESTIONS on P. 18

GEN WHY cont. from P. 11

victory rushing through me even though I had nothing to do with the final confrontation. I was thanking the good Lord for blessing me with the privilege of witnessing the exchange, though.

I don't think politeness and common courtesy are difficult concepts. I don't think it's too much to ask for someone to exercise good manners. I don't expect to never get bumped into, cut off or inconvenienced, but an "oops" and an "I'm sorry" go a long way when they are sincere. Sometimes your situation is critical, sometimes your needs should come first, but not wanting to keep an eye on your children in a department store is not one of those times. Being late for work but really wanting that Grande Frappuccino so you cut in front of eight people claiming an emergency is not one of those times. I can't think of a single emergent situation that can be solved with a Grande Frappuccino.

So, the message here is, let's all be kind to one another. Let's all show some consideration and compassion for our fellow human beings. And above all, let's not steal motorized convenience equipment for the disabled and elderly, because you never know when one of those feisty old ladies comes armed with a cane and an attitude.

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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 17

Before we had mass shootings and had to think more about safety in our schools, we established Zero Tolerance policies in our student discipline laws, which basically said no guns allowed on campus or knives or objects that could cause harm to other students and was also a direct link with student discipline to the law enforcement system. Unfortunately, our laws have not reduced school violence everywhere. It seems obvious to me that guns or weapons, drugs, etc., should not be allowed. The problem with the law is that in some areas such as Oakland, minority students were constantly expelled and referring growing children to law enforcement and giving them a record set them up for constant and perceived community failure, instead of the school leadership dealing with problems without law enforcement. Common sense should prevail and as I said those who know students best are in the position to help the most and if a minor student is violent (without a weapon) or has needs that require more support, then the district must respond and that is not always best with a police officer or a juvenile record for minor incidents. However, violence against children is too great in this country with a 60 percent increase of children harmed by gunshot wounds the last decade and we all must work to reduce it however we can with safety in mind and the children first. There is not a day or year that went by that I did not pray, trust and hope that my daughter's K-12th grades and all her friends and fellow students and teachers were safe and adult guns were locked at home. As we protect children, we must also protect teachers and adults. The Leave No Child Behind Act left many families behind, I think. Mental health from the effects of bullying can be devastating but there are much better ways to deal with these problems than with guns and the schools can help lead the way. I am proud of our community and its Zero Tolerance policies and that conversely we also teach, or should teach, more tolerance of individuals and acceptance of those who are different to stop bullying. Simply, hate hurts. I, as a teacher, always comfort the victim first in any student disagreement on the playground or in class where one seems to have been the victim of an aggressor. Sometimes, just listening and knowing a student is best and the proper support services are critical in our schools. There is probably room for improvement with the law. Kindness never hurt anyone and I also believe in the arts to heal. It is significantly cheaper to invest in education than in prisons. May compassion and intelligence always lead in this community and that is why I am stepping up as a GVUSD school board candidate.

5. Why should we vote for you?

My primary goal is to listen and support the citizens of Area 1 that I will represent so that our Madera Ranchos concerns, hopes and dreams of all the people and children/students in our area are realized in partnership with GVUSD education and the community we share. I hope to increase citizen participation in all ways possible and democracy for all. Our property taxes keep our schools growing and I want to see how this community wants to grow and so your words, ideas and concerns of your family are important to me. My door is open. You can reach me at abrightergvusd@gmail.com or on my Facebook community page at Carla for Madera Kids.

Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees Area 4

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



Brian Freeman

It isn't likely that a single trait makes a candidate uniquely qualified. A candidate's mix of experiences come together and make them unique. I've been an active community member in our schools for 25 years. The last four years I have served as your elected school board trustee. I felt strongly that I should not become involved at the trustee level until I had no more kids attending schools in our district.

As a Board member, I know that Golden Valley USD is much like a business – a non-profit business. Providing an education for the students of our district is our only product. All other activities' sole purpose is to support that mission. We receive public funds to carry out this charge and we answer to you, the tax-paying stakeholders on how we spent your money.

Students and parents define our educational mission. They are our customers. I understand that the board of trustees must consider the needs of all students in the district with an unbiased and fair approach. Balance is imperative. I know our budgets and I strive to make every dollar serve the most students with positive results. I understand the financial balance between short-term needs of today's kids and long-term fiscal responsibility that will ensure that future years' needs are met.

Please see QUESTIONS on P. 20

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Kimberly KIRK 4 KIDS
 Golden Valley Unified School District School Board - Area 1

- 26 year resident of the Golden Valley community
- Experienced special education and primary level teacher
- Successful business woman
- Foundation for Golden Valley Schools Supporter
- Mother of two Liberty High School graduates

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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 18

2. What are your thoughts on Common Core?

“Common Core.” Myth? Legend? Good? Evil?

Needless to say the words Common Core have become a cliché that provokes many different reactions. It would be safe to say you could go on the Internet right now and find a website to support any position on the subject. That said, without going into great detail, these are my thoughts.

I have a 4-year-old granddaughter that will start kindergarten in California next year. I am pleased that she will start her school years with Common Core teaching/testing methodology. Here are some reasons why.

Common Core is about a solid foundation. The building blocks at each level are to be mastered before moving on to the next. Building solid foundations drives future student success. Foundations with holes make for potential failure. Common Core isn't just about getting the right answer. It encompasses understanding how you arrive at the answer. The goal is to develop students with critical thinking skills throughout their educational career. We need young adults to emerge from our educational system with the skill to read text-rich documents and extract facts and information from them. They will make sound logical conclusions and will not fear decision-making.

The reality is that the “multiple choice” method were using right now isn't enough. If we are to expect our future graduates to be truly competitive in a global work force we have do more and the time to start is now.

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

If I could only change one thing I would return Golden Valley USD to district at large voting for school board seats. As most people know by now, GVUSD was forced by the state to divide into five voting areas. As a voter/stakeholder this change has resulted in taking away much of your voice, or vote if you like, on how a significant amount of your tax dollars are spent. If the opportunity arises I will see that voting at large returns to GVUSD.

4. Do you think Zero Tolerance programs serve a purpose or act as a barrier to exercising common sense?

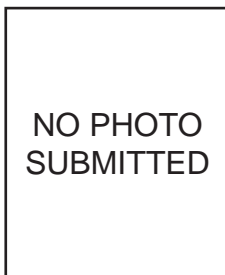
Zero Tolerance programs establish boundaries and structure. They are developed by people using common sense to identify unacceptable actions or behaviors that will have a predetermined consequence. Such a policy presents an opportunity for someone to exercise their common sense and stay out of trouble. Schools have to cre-

ate a learning environment. The rules are in place to protect that environment from actions and activities that cause distraction. The “this is a place to learn” culture must prevail. Daily life as a student on a school campus offers continuous opportunities to exercise and practice common sense.

5. Why should we vote for you?

A vote for me is a vote to continue building a strong future for Golden Valley Unified School District. We are a stronger district than we were four years ago. We have successfully reorganized at all levels. We are a district clearly focused on our mandate to offer a complete educational experience for every single GVUSD student.

John Moseley did not respond to this series of questions.



John Moseley

Madera County Board of Supervisors District 1

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the Madera County Board of Supervisors to represent District 1?

I am uniquely qualified by virtue of three decades of successful work in volunteer community projects, including the founding of Golden Valley Unified School District. Many of the tasks involved in that project provided me with experience that will apply to my duties as your County supervisor. These included working with state and local governmental entities, zoning, road access, financing, site selection, design and construction. I owned a business in the Ranchos for 20 years, an experience which gave me a first-hand understanding of the needs of our business community.

2. What do you see as a possible solution to the Ranchos' water situation, both in the short term and in the long term?

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

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 21



Mona Diaz

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BRIAN FREEMAN Vote 

SCHOOL BOARD



My name is Brian Freeman. My family and I have had the pleasure of living in this community for the last 28 years. I am currently your School Board Trustee for Area 4. It would be an honor to continue my role as a board member for another term and continue the work we have started.

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.

College Prep curriculum is strong and we are building Career Tech and Agricultural Career pathways. We are actively using current technology, such as tablets and computers, in our classrooms to ensure our students are competitive and prepared.

Together we can provide the same excellence and even greater experiences and opportunities for present and future students. 9/14

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9/14

QUESTIONS cont. from P. 20

conservation measures, but for those of us in the Ranchos community, that is not enough. My top priority is providing for the water needs of homes and businesses here in the Ranchos and throughout Supervisorial District 1. I have begun to look at desert states such as Nevada and Arizona to see what they have implemented and what worked for them for both short- and long-term strategies. The construction of Temperance Flat Dam is a necessary part of any long-term solution. I am glad to see that \$2.7 billion for storage funding is included in the water bond that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot. I will continue to advocate for storage and recharge projects.

Another need is for repair of the pipes in our water delivery system, to stop wasteful leakage and to prevent contamination. I have been making contact with state and federal officials to explore possible assistance with funding to repair the pipes as soon as possible. The grant money that has been accepted involves a possible two-year wait. The 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.

3. What are your thoughts on both commercial and residential development in the Ranchos and how would you guide those developments over the next four years?

I believe in smart growth. The primary consideration for approval of new growth is the assurance of adequate water.

4. Name one area where the present Board of Supervisors is "missing the boat" when it comes to the Ranchos, and what would you do differently?

Overall, my experience in dealing with the Board of Supervisors has been good. However, as I walk door-to-door and listen to the concerns of voters, I am hearing a lot of negative comments about the slowness of the board in coming to grips with the water crisis. That issue has been neglected for far too long, and the actions of the board appear to Ranchos residents as being too little too late. I would take a long-term proactive approach so that we are prepared to take action before such problems become crises.

5. Why should we vote for you?

I truly care about the people in the community. I have a proven history of getting things done as both a private citizen, business owner, and a founding board member of Golden Valley Unified School District. This will be my final term on the GVUSD School Board and I will be able to devote

full-time to providing excellent and effective representation to the people of Supervisorial District 1. I believe in maintaining communication with the people I represent, and I welcome comments and suggestions. My cell number is 559-333-1913.

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the Madera County Board of Supervisors to represent District 1?

I have real-world experience owning a small business and a proven record of managing local government. I know what it is like to meet a payroll and put people to work, and as a former councilperson and mayor, I know how to work with a multitude of different interest groups to advance projects in our community's best interest. I am proud of the fact that when I served as mayor, we were able to balance an \$80 million budget while spending less money than we took in.



Brett Frazier

On day one, I intend to bring my working relationships as well as institutional knowledge of past, current and future agreements and projects that the County has in the pipeline.

Most importantly, I will bring your voice through an open-mind and open-door policy to ensure that decision making is rooted in our local neighborhoods. I will hold mobile office hours bi-weekly to offer residents of South-Eastern Madera County the opportunity to contact me directly. Otherwise, you'll always be able to reach me on my personal cellphone at 559-395-3705.

Moreover, I am honored to be law enforcement's choice for supervisor. The Madera County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Madera Police Officer's Association and CAL FIRE Local 2881 have endorsed my candidacy, and as supervisor, I will see that we fully fund and support the men and women serving in harm's way. Most importantly, their courage and sacrifice should always serve as a constant reminder to us all – we can face great challenges head-on and find solutions by working together as a community. We face great challenges as a community and our old ways will no longer suffice. I ask that you join me in continuing the conversation for an Online Community Forum via Facebook on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. Residents deserve an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas on ways to move our community forward.

2. What do you see as a possible solution to the Ranchos' water situation, both in the short term and in the long term?

Our water issues did not develop

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 22

QUESTIONS cont. from P. 21

overnight and Madera County's old ways must change before we can begin to solve them. If we are to secure our water future, we must substitute political posturing for active problem solving. In the very short term, let's start with getting the new Dublin Well online as soon as possible. No more excuses! Residents deserve transparency and answers, not inaction and delay.

Second, with Governor Brown's signing of sweeping groundwater legislation last week, we must act now to limit Sacramento's power grab of our water and adopt a local comprehensive water management plan that protects existing neighborhoods and family farms, preserves property rights and ensures responsible growth. These decisions should be made at the local level and not left in the hands of Sacramento bureaucrats.

The drought has reminded us of one thing: continued overdraft of our water supply cannot and will not sustain our way of life. We must invest in recharge projects throughout the Madera Ranchos and South-Eastern Madera County to replenish our aquifer and provide our families with the most reliable water supply possible.

Lastly, I support November's Water Bond and the \$2.7 billion investment in storage projects like Temperance Flat. We desperately need it and it will ultimately benefit families and farms in our area, providing greater water stability while also creating needed jobs. To bring about these changes will require difficult decisions and a clear course of action. As your supervisor, I will welcome the challenge and responsibility.

3. What are your thoughts on both commercial and residential development in the Ranchos and how would you guide those developments over the next four years?

I have said before and I will say it again, "No new development without adequate water. Period."

With past and recent approvals by the Board of Supervisors, South-Eastern Madera County is slated to become one of the fastest growing areas in the Central Valley over the next 20 years. We can either be in control of that growth or we can be at its mercy. I choose to be in control while empowering existing communities to hold new development accountable. It is imperative that conditions placed on these developments are adhered to in perpetuity. I will challenge developers to take a long-term planning approach to work with existing communities and service districts to help fill infrastructure needs such as recharge basins and other connectable services.

4. Name one area where the present Board of Supervisors is "missing the boat" when it comes to the Ranchos, and what would you do differently?

Let's start with water and special districts. These services are that which a local governing body is primarily responsible for. Therefore, this is an area that cannot afford delay and political posturing. Residents in the Madera Ranchos have felt that our leaders have not upheld past promises. A present reminder is the unfulfilled signed court order requiring a new well for water users of MD95.

My father taught me that it is harder to gain back trust than losing it in the first place. I will keep my word and see that the Ranchos concerns are adequately being addressed.

Moving forward, as a supervisor and member of our community, I will see that the Madera Ranchos has the tools, discretion and authority to make decisions in the future at the local level. With the community's engagement and guidance, I will work as a partner to look at new opportunities to consolidate many of the water, roads and utility districts in form of a local governing body, like a community services district, that reflects our people and their needs.

Over the last decade, we have been reminded by Madera County's poor management of our finances and now our water. Now more than ever, we need fresh leadership and new ideas to correct Madera County's old ways.

5. Why should we vote for you?

I have a great deal at stake in this race. With two children in Golden Valley Unified Schools, I am constantly reminded of the challenges that have been left unattended to. I want our children to inherit a safe and strong community to be proud of. Now more than ever, we need to set forth a clear plan of action to tackle the greatest public safety concern facing our families — how to sustain a long-lasting safe and reliable supply of water to all of our communities.

I acknowledge that the answers may require tough choices in the near future. More importantly, as your supervisor, I will not only recognize the responsibility and challenges before us, I will welcome it. I would be honored to earn your vote on November 4.

Madera County Sheriff

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the position of Sheriff of Madera County?

My depth of law enforcement experience, education and leadership



Jay Varney

Please see QUESTIONS on P. 25

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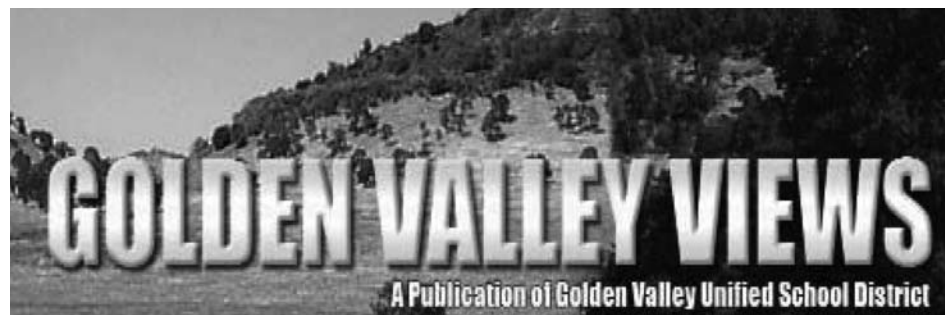
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Welcome to GVUSD 2014-2015



Golden Valley Unified School District
Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.

By Andy Alvarado

Welcome to Golden Valley Unified School District. On Aug. 21, GVUSD opened its doors to 1,934 students ranging from grades TK-12. We would like to thank our entire professional learning community for its preparation for the 2014-2015 school year. Because of your efforts we experienced one of the most successful starts to the school year.

We are excited in what this year has to offer. We truly believe in the importance of teaching and learning and have a committed staff that will ensure all of our kids are given the best possible education they are entitled to receive. With the support of our Governing Board and all of our stakeholders, Golden Valley Unified School District has established goals for the 2014-2015 school year. They are as follows:

- Students will reach high standards.
- All students will be engaged in learning state standards through a rigorous and relevant curriculum.
- All students will be taught by highly qualified professionals in a clean, caring and secure environment.
- GVUSD staff will find innovative ways to involve parents and community members in preparing our students for college and careers.

In order to keep our focus laser-like as we pursue these goals, staff has developed guiding principles which were derived from the GOLDEN VALLEY WAY!

As a Community of Leaders We Will...

- Guard the high expectations set by our professional learning community.
 - Vow to ensure rigorous learning, in every classroom, that is relevant and applicable to the real - world.
 - Unrelenting pursuit for victory with honor because competition is real and is important for learning and building character.
 - Shape trusting and collaborative relationships within our learning community
 - Develop the individual capacity of our students and staff in a respectful, safe and collaborative professional learning environment.
- These principles will provide staff a solid foundation to conduct our daily tasks as we pursue our goals for the 2014-2015 school year, all the while maintaining a focus on providing rigorous and relevant learning experiences for all of our students.
- We are fortunate to be a part of this wonderful community and together we will prepare student for careers of their choosing.

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Golden Valley Baptist Church

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

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9/14

Ranchos Neighbor: No R/C Flights

By Christi McKinney

For nearly 30 years, men, women and children from the Fresno Radio Modelers Club have been flying their prized remote controlled planes at "Guy Field" located just east of the Ranchos on Avenue 12. The club was founded in 1956 and members flew at various places in Fresno before finding a home here. At present there are 180 members in the club with 50 active members

Over the past nine months, Ranchos homeowner Rich Gilman has been upset about the noise generated by some of the airplanes. Gilman lives east of the field, past the canal and power towers which is 4/10 of a mile from the end of the runway. Gilman recently sent letters out to his neighborhood, basically stating: "I am asking for support in dealing with a noise problem which affects the quality of our lives here in the Ranchos."

Gilman states that the airplane noise is "egregious" and his attempts to talk with FRMC members have fallen on deaf ears. Matt Raymond, President of FRMC, says he has respectfully and diligently attempted to address Gilman's concerns, but to no avail. Allegedly Gilman showed up at Guy Field one day and confronted FRMC Member, Morris Fruit, who happens to be a neighbor of Gilman.

"Gilman confronted me about my plane saying it was too loud. He wanted me to stop flying," Fruit said. The next day Raymond called Gilman and advised him to not speak with the pilots on the property since everyone was very agi-

tated by Gilman's approach.

Gilman has called the Madera County Sheriff, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and a Madera County Code Enforcement Officer, all of whom took no action against Guy Field. A week ago he had inspector Dexter Marr from Madera County Environmental Health Agency out to do an inspection and Marr said, "I was impressed with Guy Field and FRMC. Several of the planes in question flew for me during my inspection. I went to a spot near the complainant's residence and found that neither the intensity of sound or the duration of sound [matched] a video provided by the complainant ... I found that the FRMC appeared to be well run and they had tried to address this complaint. The noise I heard measured lower than two people having a conversation. We actually had no idea that the airfield was here until we received this complaint."

The eight acres that Guy Field sits on is covered by a 10-year lease that runs through 2019. Members pay both for memberships and to fly plus they volunteer to do necessary work to take care of the grounds. People come from all over the country to fly here and the club brings in thousands of dollars in revenue to the Ranchos through members buying breakfast, having coffee and donuts, getting pizza or sandwiches, or buying snacks and gas.

At present there are "dueling petitions" being circulated representing both sides of the issue and the topic is getting play on the "What's Up in the Ranchos" page on Facebook.

NEW H₂O cont. from P. 2

potential additional source of water is indeed non-riparian. The source estimated that the cost of proving the water supply is in its own aquifer would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$165,000 for a 400-foot-deep well to draw the water out, along with another well to monitor what effect drawing on the first well, completed in the potentially separate aquifer, will have on the river aquifer. If there is no effect, that will verify the aquifers are not connected and water from the deeper aquifer, underlying the river aquifer, can be transported offsite and sold.

The second obstacle would be getting the water from the source to the MD-10A Water System, a distance of several miles. In addition to the cost of the conveyance system, MD-10A ratepayers would also have to pay for the water itself — at competitive rates — on an ongoing basis. The

source said that once word of this potential new water source becomes public, MD-10A could find itself competing with agriculture interests for the same water. However, the source felt strongly that if the water in question proves to be completely separate from the San Joaquin River, it may well turn out to be a long-term lifeline for the Ranchos.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Perch; 2. Legend;
3. Chasm; 4. Flaunt

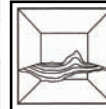
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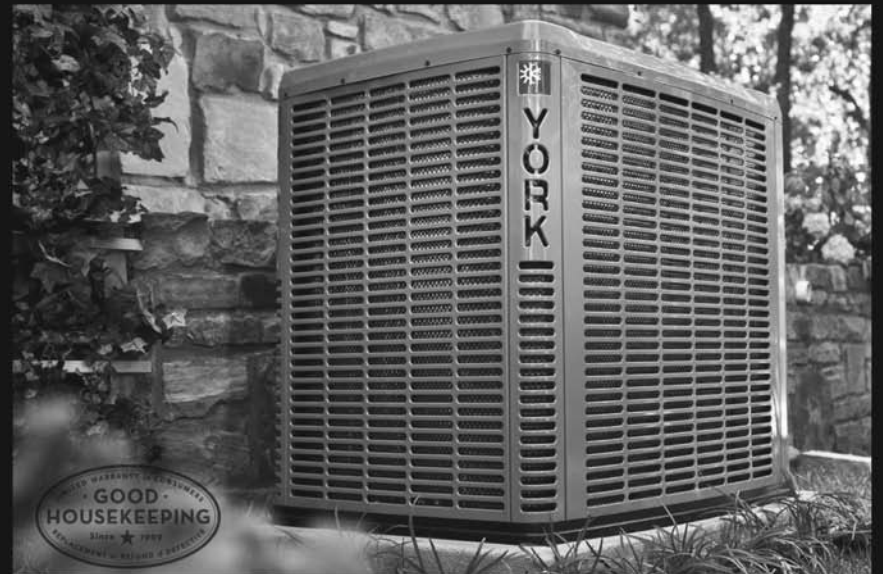


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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 22

style make me uniquely qualified to be your next Sheriff. I have served as the chief executive of my department for over 10 years. I have served for almost two years as the Acting City Administrator – the CEO of the City of Chowchilla – a position I have been selected to fill again since August 30 of this year.

I am the only candidate with the highest level of POST certification – Executive; a Master's degree in Criminology from Fresno State; and am a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI LEEDS program.

In the endorsement process, five of the five endorsing public safety associations have endorsed my candidacy. These are your friends, neighbors and relatives that provide your first line public safety services in Madera County. These endorsements include the Madera Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Madera Probation POA, the Madera Police Officers Association, Chowchilla Police Officers Association and the Central California Correctional POA. In addition, the Fresno Deputy Sheriffs Association has endorsed me.

2. Can a dedicated officer and a substation happen for the Ranchos?

Yes, a dedicated deputy and substation could happen for the Ranchos. I have already spoken with Superintendent Alvarado about placing an office at Liberty High School. I have also spoken with a Ranchos business owner about possible office space, as well as having a conversation with a Ranchos-area developer regarding providing permanent office/substation space in their development. All were very receptive to the ideas we discussed. Once elected I will continue to move forward with these discussions as well as reviewing staffing/budgeting that could allow for a Ranchos-based deputy.

3. Do you have a plan to deal with gangs and drugs in Madera County and specifically in the Ranchos?

Once I take office I will be reviewing how information from the Ranchos regarding criminal activity is gathered/reviewed/acted upon. I will be reviewing the drug/gang-related arrest history and who/what gang or criminal organizations are currently most active and actionable. I will then be working with staff to determine which actors receive immediate attention. Similar to medical triage, we will be acting first on those cases that should have the best return, meaning greatest likelihood of prosecution.

I will also be working closely with Chief Steve Frazier of the Madera PD to maximize the countywide impact of MAD-NET and the Madera SIU.

4. Ag crime is happening all around the Ranchos. Do you have any specific plans to attack ag crime and bring it under control?

After reviewing current efforts with existing ag crimes staff, I intend to have an intern gather information regarding well sites and other outdoor ag facilities that have existing internet accessible video equipment. We will then determine what if any level of monitoring (with permission granted by the owners) can be accomplished by the sheriff's office or by the landowners' own resources.

5. Why should we vote for you?

I have the experience, education, leadership ability, law enforcement drive and no preconceived ideas about how service should be delivered to the Ranchos.

Under my leadership we would not be retrofitting and leasing back a new multi-million dollar headquarters facility that is farther west when the sheriff's office call load continues to move north and east. At this time manpower is more important than a new building in the City of Madera.

My Ranchos focus will be on manpower, service delivery and communication with the public. That is my plan for the Ranchos, and that's why you should vote Jay Varney for Sheriff on Nov. 4.

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the position of Sheriff of Madera County?

For more than 16 years, starting off as a deputy sheriff patrolling the county roads and interacting with the populace, I have worked my way up by giving service to my fellow citizens of Madera County. One of the greatest honors for my hard work I received was appointment as undersheriff by Sheriff John Anderson. Because I started at the bottom and worked my way up, I have an understanding of how the Sheriff's Office in Madera County works. Many times I have been asked by Sheriff Anderson to represent him at community groups and when interacting with other governmental agencies.

I have also had a large part in creating a budget, one of the greatest challenges for the Sheriff. With the amount of limited funding, I have worked with Sheriff Anderson and the Board of Supervisors making decisions to get the most of the taxpayer's dollar to protect Madera County citizens' property and rights.

I have elected policy-making experi-



Michael Salvador

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 26

QUESTIONS cont. from P. 25

ence. My tenure on the Madera Unified School District Board of Trustees gave me the experience of working through the political process to solve problems. Our board successfully reduced spending during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. I was instrumental in setting the priorities of the district and positioning it for recovery.

I am a collaborator and an innovator. I have managed projects that have improved the department's equipment and technology. I believe that we are at our best when there is open communication between all levels of the organization. I do not accept the statement "we have always done it this way."

I believe that starting at the bottom and working my way up, having a working knowledge of the entire department and already a working relationship with the community and other law enforcement agencies makes me the best person the voters can elect to serve Madera County.

2. Can a dedicated officer and a substation happen for the Ranchos?

The original Ranchos service center was developed using grant money. That grant paid for the storefront location, a deputy sheriff and a community service officer. The grant was for three years. The department was fortunate that when Children's Hospital relocated to Madera County the grant was extended for an additional three years. Once the grant expired the department funded the rent on the service center plus the community service officer. The deputy was folded back into patrol and in 2009 the budget situation deteriorated and the center was closed.

Buildings do not protect people – deputies do. The easiest thing to do is to take the offer I received last year from a business owner, buy an \$85 sign and have a ribbon cutting declaring a substation in the Ranchos and mission accomplished. I don't work that way. I believe that it is more important to hire the five deputies necessary to provide the Ranchos 24/7/365 service and assign them to the area. We can do this in several ways. One way would be to have the Ranchos community come together using a benefit assessment district and contract for the service level that the community wants. This is successfully done in the Fig Garden district of Fresno. It provides dedicated service to the area. Another way is for the Board of Supervisors to increase the sheriff office's budget by \$300,000. That is probably not realistic in the current economic climate. Finally, the Board of Supervisors can facilitate the annexation of two residential areas that border the City of Madera: Parkwood and Parksdale. These areas, if incorporated, would free up sheriff's office

resources and allow for redeployment to the Ranchos. This is the least expensive way to get the job done. Once we have the dedicated personnel working the area, we can look at a place to house them. There are mitigation measures in the new subdivisions along the Highway 41 corridor that will provide for a public safety building that could be used as substation.

3. Do you have a plan to deal with gangs and drugs in Madera County and specifically in the Ranchos?

With California releasing thousands of convicted criminals, many of them gang members, the next sheriff must be equipped to think outside the box. I have been working with Supervisor Farenelli and his Gang Prevention committee to find alternative solutions to a growing problem. Any solution must involve schools, community groups and faith-based groups, along with effective directed enforcement. I have committed a deputy sheriff to the special investigations unit of Madera Police Department. This unit focuses its time in directed enforcement targeting gang members and their criminal activity. The sheriff's office is also participating in a grant application with the City of Madera to increase the size of the unit and hire an additional deputy sheriff. This will allow the multi-agency unit to spread its reach further into the County to stop the spread of gang activity. I will continue to support the efforts of the Department of Justice in drug enforcement in the County. Our staff is writing a grant that, if approved, will allow for additional personnel to interdict drug activity, provide a prevention piece and rehabilitate users.

4. Ag crime is happening all around the Ranchos. Do you have any specific plans to attack ag crime and bring it under control?

Ag crime is one of my two priority areas. Agriculture is the County's economic engine. Currently the department has one Ag Crimes investigator for the entire County. This is down from three in 2008. I will ask for the two deputy sheriffs needed to return the unit to full staffing. Once fully staffed, I will divide the valley floor into three zones. These zones will allow our investigators to learn the area and its specific problems. I will also use my expanded crime prevention unit to engage the farming community and reinstitute proven crime control methods like site surveys and Operation ID (the application of owner applied identification numbers).

5. Why should we vote for you?

I believe that my 17 years of experience working for you, the citizens of Madera County, makes me uniquely qualified to be your next sheriff. I can start on day one making a difference. I am proficient in all five

Please see QUESTIONS on P. 27

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QUESTIONS cont. from P. 26

phases of sheriff's office operations: Law Enforcement, Civil, Court Security, Coroner and OES. I know its people, processes, strength and weaknesses. You will have an advocate with the Board of Supervisors and in Sacramento for your public safety needs. I have the endorsement of five men that know what being a sheriff is all about:

Mike Boudreaux, Tulare County Sheriff
Doug Binneweis, Mariposa County Sheriff

Dave Robinson, Kings County Sheriff
Ed Bates, Madera County Sheriff (retired)

And the person you, the people, have elected four times to the job of sheriff of Madera County, John Anderson.

The most important endorsement is yours, the citizens of Madera County. I am asking for your vote on Nov. 4. Your safety is my priority.

Madera County District Attorney

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the position of District Attorney for Madera County?

I am uniquely qualified to be elected Madera County District Attorney because I have lived and practiced in Madera County for four decades and I am a nationally recognized attorney holding the prestigious American Juris Prudence Award in criminal law procedure. I have had jury trials on some of the largest criminal cases, such as the Mariposa Chainsaw Massacre and the Joseph Smith child molestation case. I also successfully handled the largest arson case in Fresno County history: the University Apartment Complex case. I have leadership experience being a combat Vietnam Veteran and have retired from the U.S. Navy as a commander. I have also run a very successful private practice law firm in Oakhurst.

2. What do you see as the number one job of the District Attorney and how will you tackle that job?

The biggest job the new District Attorney will have in Madera County will be to "Restore the Public Trust" in the District Attorney's office. Previous District Attorneys such as Ernest Licalsi and David Mahnier worked as Madera County District Attorneys serving the people and keeping them safe and functioned in such a way so that



David Linn

Madera County District Attorney's Office was one of the best in the State of California. The current District Attorney, since his appointment 5 1/2 years ago, has tragically destroyed the office's reputation, failed to properly serve the people and has essentially destroyed the District Attorney's office as part of our County's Criminal Justice System.

3. Without naming names, what was your most challenging case and how did it change you as an attorney?

The Mariposa Chainsaw Massacre case was the most challenging case that I have handled. It taught me the great importance of a strong winning closing argument in a case that is largely dependent upon expert testimony.

4. What are the top crimes facing Madera County and how are you uniquely equipped to prosecute them?

Drugs, crimes against public peace and welfare, and crimes against property. I am uniquely equipped to prosecute these crimes because my 40 years of legal experience has been in general practice. I have handled drug crimes in the court room, handled death cases in the court room and I am uniquely qualified to handle property crimes of all kinds. I have handled numerous crimes involving real and personal property such as arson, water control and water theft. I am the only candidate in Madera County running for any office that has been formally trained in Water Law and Water Shed Management.

5. Why should we vote for you?

I am possibly the most qualified person to run for Madera County District Attorney in the history of the County.

1. How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to the position of District Attorney for Madera County?

I agree with the premise of the question: I am the only qualified candidate in the race. In

order for a District Attorney to serve the residents of Madera County well, that person has to have experience in prosecuting criminal cases and managing other prosecutors. My opponent has no experience: zero in doing either of those functions. I was a Madera County Reserve Deputy Sheriff for 19 years. For the last 22 years I have prosecuted cases and, as District Attorney, managed other prosecutors. There is no substitute for experience and the safety of the people of Madera County is too impor-



Michael Keitz

Please see **QUESTIONS** on P. 28

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Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 5* • 6 p.m.

The return of the original Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.
Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books. Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 13. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.
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by Linda Thistle

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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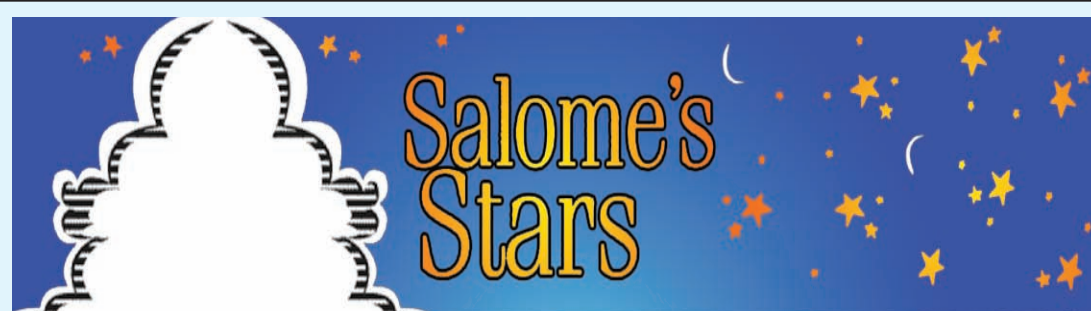
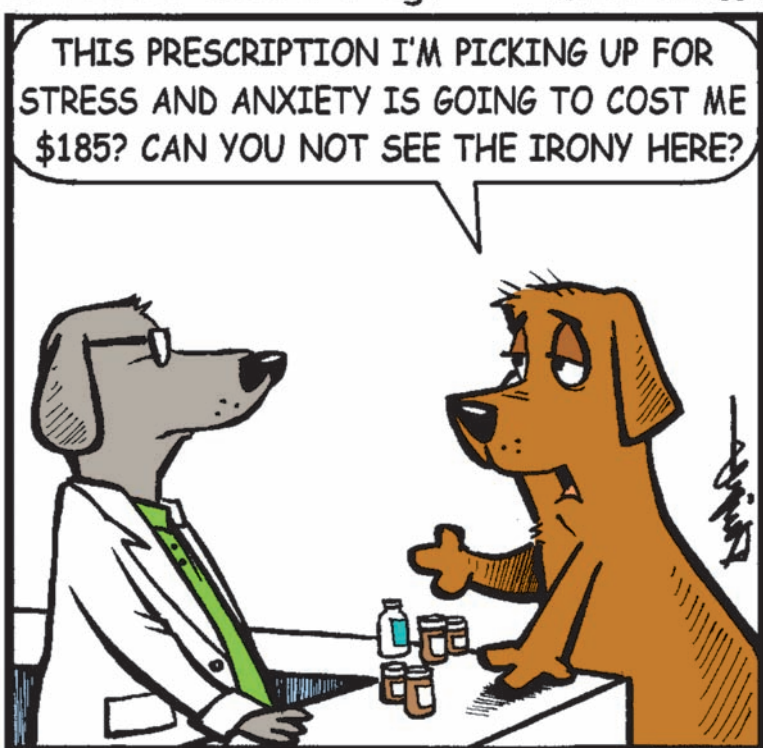
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An offer to help with a stalled project should reassure you that you have a workable plan in spite of the problems in getting it up and running. The week's end brings more positive news.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A past problem about a workplace situation re-emerges early in the week. Talking things out helps ease tensions by midweek, but some hurt feelings could linger a few more days.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Optimistic aspects dominate your efforts. However, expect to confront some criticism, some of which might be valid, so keep an open mind. But overall, it's your views that will count.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Social interaction with new people, especially on the job, could be a bit strained in the early part of the week. But the awkwardness passes as you get to know each other better.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Expect news about a follow-up to a workplace change that could make a difference in your career path. Meanwhile, new friends widen the circle for all you Social Lions who love to party.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Enjoy your well-earned plaudits for a job well done. But be aware that some people might not share your colleagues' admiration, and you might have to work harder to win them over.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good week to recheck your probably already overlong "to do" list and decide what to keep and what to discard. Lose the clutter and focus your energy on what's really important.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This is a good time to take a new perspective on what you've been offered. Expanding your view could help to uncover any pluses or minuses that weren't apparent at first.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Applying the usual methods to this week's unique challenges might not work too well. Instead, use your creativity to find a way to resolve any impasse that develops.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) So what if fate throws some obstacles in your path this week? Just keep in mind that the sure-footed and resolute Goat can get past any barrier by focusing on the goals up ahead.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This week calls for better communication with people in both your private life and the workplace. Start by asking questions, and then pay close attention to the answers.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Potentially beneficial workplace changes could be closer than you realize. Make sure you know what's going on so that you're not left high and dry when the good things happen.

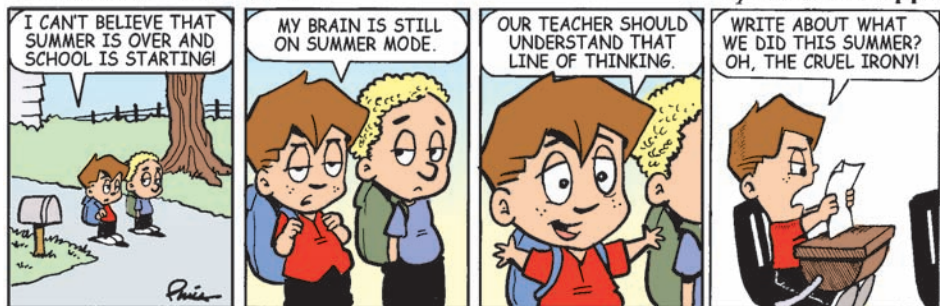
Born this Week

You're not timid about pushing to have your aims realized once you've set your mind to accomplishing your goals.

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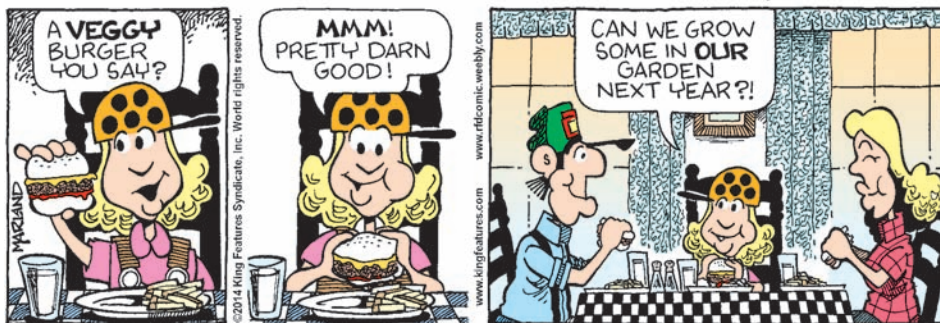
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



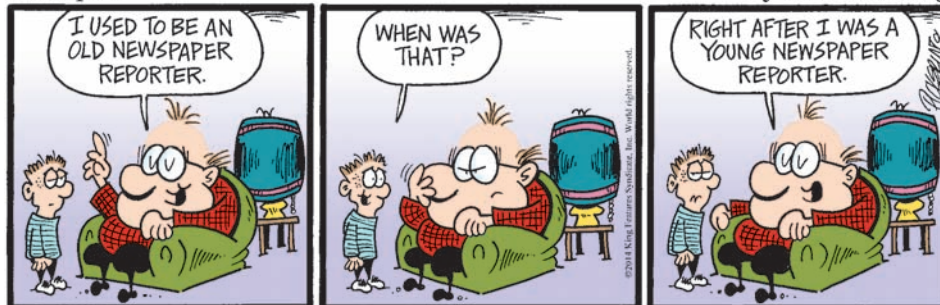
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

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

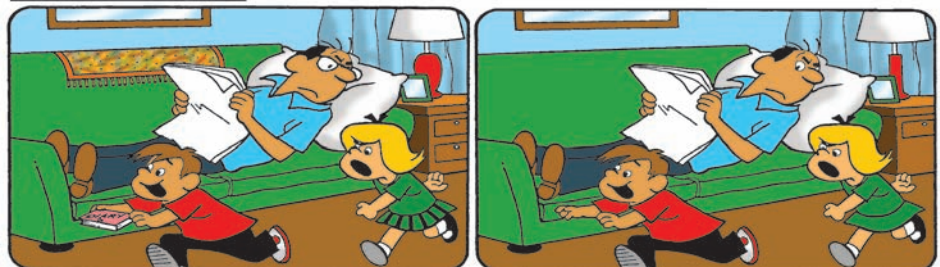
Roost	CHERP			
Fable	DENLE			
Crater	MACHS			
Roast	TAFLUN			

"If all those commercials you've seen tonight gave you a _____, try this new, fast acting..."

TODAY'S WORD

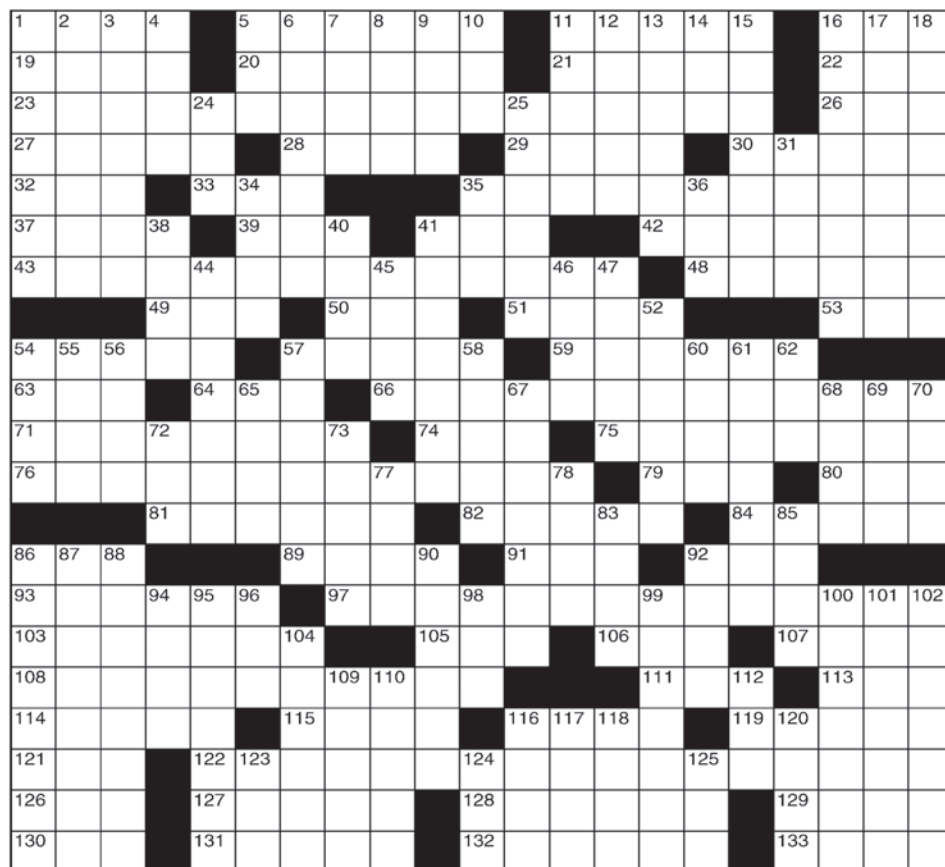
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers at the bottom. Differences: 1. Coverlet is missing; 2. Diary is missing; 3. Eyeglasses are missing; 4. Lamp base is missing; 5. Skirt is different; 6. Hair is different.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 "— la Douce"
 - 5 Neighbor of Namibia
 - 11 "Futurama" genre
 - 16 Tour vehicle
 - 19 Eye drop
 - 20 Luvs product
 - 21 Turkic people
 - 22 Transfer — (cell stuff)
 - 23 1972 Chicago hit
 - 26 Intent
 - 27 Is — (has a penchant for)
 - 28 Pop music's Bee —
 - 29 Isn't correct
 - 30 — Domingo
 - 32 Mischievous little laugh
 - 33 Soprano Sumac
 - 35 1986 Bangles hit
 - 37 "Take — face value"
 - 39 Mohawk-sporting star
 - 41 Hardly happy
 - 42 Big ornate cabinet
 - 43 1999 David Bowie single
 - 48 Saw or heard
 - 49 Suffix with proverb
 - 50 "— favor" (Spanish "please")
 - 51 — tide
 - 53 Owns
 - 54 Brick placer
 - 57 Douglas Hofstadter's "—, Escher, Bach"
 - 59 Bird on a baseball cap
 - 63 Rank below brig. gen.
 - 64 Imbibing site
 - 66 1977 Johnny Cash song
 - 71 Asian portion of Turkey
 - 74 Scull propeller
 - 75 Neolithic time
 - 76 1960 Oscar-winning Melina Mercouri song
 - 79 Cortés' gold
 - 80 Rodeo lady
 - 81 Sweaters with high, snug collars, for short
 - 82 Ohio city
 - 84 Cautious
 - 86 — -cone
 - 89 ICU locale
 - 91 J-N link
 - 92 Rapper — Wayne
 - 93 Pair
 - 97 1992 hit for the Cure
 - 103 Patriotic hymns
 - 105 Round geom. shape
 - 106 Stubbed digit
 - 107 Adopt — (shelter program)
 - 108 1967 Rolling Stones hit
 - 111 Lazy sort
 - 113 "— tu" (Verdi baritone aria)
 - 114 Put icing on
 - 115 Vocalist Vikki
 - 116 "Wellaway!"
 - 119 "Hardball" channel
 - 121 — Dhabi (sheikdom)
 - 122 What there are songs for in this puzzle
 - 126 With 100-Down, cutting kitchen tools
 - 127 Fingerprint feature
 - 128 Edict
 - 129 Ex-governor Carlson
 - 130 Conclusion
 - 131 Derisive look
 - 132 Not asea
 - 133 Exam for jrs.
- DOWN**
- 2 "One soweth, and another —": John 4:37
 - 3 Actor Walter
 - 4 Stuck in —
 - 5 Find the total
 - 6 American Falls locale
 - 7 Marvin of R&B music
 - 8 Andy Taylor's kid
 - 9 Fisheye, e.g.
 - 10 Prado pieces
 - 11 Boat back
 - 12 Italian resort island
 - 13 Lake that feeds the Mississippi
 - 14 Quite a way
 - 15 Annoying
 - 16 Wave around threateningly
 - 17 Square inch, say
 - 18 Siberian sled dogs
 - 24 Singer Clark
 - 25 Bury one's — the sand
 - 31 Ever and —
 - 34 Livy's 2,550
 - 35 — -jongg
 - 36 Bride's title
 - 38 Duo + one
 - 40 Editor's catch
 - 41 Secure by twisting
 - 44 Saxophonist David
 - 45 Scotch mixer
 - 46 Novelist Uris
 - 47 Has the guts
 - 52 Comet valve
 - 54 Thom — shoes
 - 55 High-caliber
 - 56 Bosnian, e.g.
 - 57 Seussian spoilsport
 - 58 — dog's life
 - 60 Lysol target
 - 61 Wool fat
 - 62 With 100-Down, surprising revelations
 - 65 Balm additive
 - 67 — Noir (men's cologne)
 - 68 Zoo pen
 - 69 Bacterial culture base
 - 70 Depend
 - 72 Vietnamese festival
 - 73 Request from
 - 77 Lenin's land
 - 78 Annual: Abbr.
 - 83 Forget to use
 - 85 Scatting Fitzgerald
 - 86 Al Capone's nickname
 - 87 Away from the city
 - 88 Away from the city, maybe
 - 90 Enterprise captain Jean-Luc
 - 92 Stead
 - 94 — ed (gym class)
 - 95 Missives
 - 96 Aussie avian
 - 98 Initialism for a handyman
 - 99 Al Capone, for one
 - 100 See 126-Across or 62-Down
 - 101 Hanging-basket plant
 - 102 Airport kiosk printout
 - 104 Leave the country?
 - 109 GI orderer
 - 110 Alternative to a clothesline
 - 112 Fr. lady's title
 - 116 Pro votes
 - 117 Scottish body of water
 - 118 Bushy '60s hairdo
 - 120 Barter
 - 123 Wine, in Nice
 - 124 City in central Oklahoma
 - 125 "— Haw"

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