

The Ranchos Independent



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

Volume 11 Issue 9 2015

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Ranchos Recall Landslide



After a resounding recall election, the new Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees is comprised of (from left) Mona Diaz, Mike Kelly, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Hatch, Brian Freeman, Steven Lewis and Maria Knobloch.

Voters remove board members by 80% margin



After a long and often contentious recall process, the voters of the Ranchos have spoken and have elected (from left) Mona Diaz to Area 1; Brian Freeman to Area 4 ; and Maria Knobloch to Area 2. They are seen here having the oath of their office administered to them by Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools. Pictures courtesy of Leslie Parr

In This Issue

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

GVUSD Board Recall Landslide

By Randy Bailey

After months of debate between the two sides of the recall movement in the Madera Ranchos regarding Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees Carla Neal, Kathleen Crumpton and John Moseley, on Sept. 1 the voters spoke loud and clear and voted for the recall by a margin of 82.7 percent.

M a d e r a County's official election results listed voter turnout at 41.4 percent of the registered voters in Areas 1, 2 and 4 for a total of 1,557 voters. Of these voters, 1,265 voted for the recall, removing the Board members.

In Area 1, Carla Neal was defeated by a vote of 435 to 56, or 88.6 percent of

the vote. She was replaced by former Trustee Mona Diaz. Kathleen Crumpton's area, Area 2, voted her out by a vote of 452 to 90 or 83.4 percent. She was replaced by newcomer Maria Knobloch. Finally, in Area 4, Trustee



Picture courtesy of John Glueck.
The newest members of the GVUSD School Board are (from left) Mona Diaz, Area 1, Brian Freeman, Area 4, and Maria Knobloch, Area 2.

John Moseley was defeated by a vote of 378 to 118, or 76.2 percent. This was the only area where voters had a choice between replacement candidates and they chose former Trustee Brian Freeman over Dale Overbay by a vote of 333 to 107, for 75.5 percent of

the vote.

The three new members were sworn in on Sept. 10 by Dr. Cecilia Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools. Their first School Board meeting was on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

“Dry Wells” Approved by Board

Supervisors Streamline Process in Hopes of Capturing El Niño Water

By Karen Petryna

On Tuesday, September 15, during their regular weekly session, the Madera Board of Supervisors approved measures to expedite and streamline the installation of potentially thousands of “dry wells” in Madera County. In light of our emergency drought conditions and in hopeful anticipation of a wet El Niño winter, the board agreed to allow the Environmental Health Department to expedite the permitting of dry wells in the county and also to waive the permit fees.

The terms “dry well” and “drain well” are used to designate wells that do not make but rather take in water. They are typically used with septic tanks, where water that is definitely less than pristine is allowed to trickle back into the ground, again, where it is ideally filtered and cleaned by the soil and its microbes before it reaches the groundwater table. Dry or drain wells are also typically used to reduce surface flooding and have been used in the Ranchos, for example, at both the Dublin Well site on Dublin Avenue and also at the Dollar General Store on Avenue 12. The overall goal is to allow pooling surface water to quickly seep into the ground and recharge the groundwater, thus raising the groundwater table.

Discussing a host of drought-related topics on the 15th, the board heard and approved recommendations for straight-forward design specifications and installation requirements and also a waiver for the normal \$265 dry well permit fee based on a memo of the same date from the Community and Economic Development Director, Norman Allinder, and Public Works Director Johannes Hoevertsz. The memo said: “In an ongoing effort to update, improve, and develop County Standards to keep up with the continually developing changes throughout the County, the Public Works and the Community and Economic Development Departments have been collaboratively working to promote water conservation efforts in Madera County.”

How the Project Started

Explaining the germination of the project, Madera County Chief Administrative Officer Eric Fleming said it began with a discussion among a few big farmers and others about what can be done right now to take advantage of anticipated

heavy rains this coming winter. Hoevertsz told the board the paperwork and process was jointly created by the County's Public Works Department, its Environmental Health Division and the Building Division, members of which all participated in the board meeting to explain the process and answer questions.

One of the big farmers who was instrumental in promoting the emergency procedure was Igal Treibatch, President of the local non-profit Southeast Madera County United (SEMCU). On behalf of SEMCU, Treibatch also met with several supervisors prior to the Sept. 15 board meeting to apprise them of the timely opportunity. Treibatch, who will be offering up locations on his own farmland for the dry wells, explained that it was a straightforward process for a driller to drill 30- to 50-foot deep holes and fill them with about a dump truck each of river rock in order to facilitate the drainage of rainwater through the hardpan.

Drain Well Application and Components

At the Sept. 15 meeting Hoevertsz described what is now a two-page Drain Well Construction Application that will be processed by the Environmental Health Division for the dry wells. The first page simply consists of some blanks for the property owner, the location of the well, the Assessor's Parcel Number, the drilling contractor's name and license number, and some Worker's Compensation information. It also specifies “NO excavation shall extend within 10 feet of the water table.” The second page is essentially blank to allow for a plot plan of the well location and to “show exact location & distances of proposed well or septic system from existing wells, road-right-of-way, property lines, water courses, lakes, ponds & animal enclosures within 500 ft.”

An information sheet that accompanies the application form lists the minimum horizontal distance required for seepage pits and drain wells from buildings or structures (8 ft.), front property line (25 ft.), side and back property lines (75 ft.), domestic and public wells and large streams (150 ft.), and large trees (10 ft.), among other surface features as established by Madera County Code. The dry well itself must be composed of 15 feet of corrugated metal pipe that is 3 feet in diameter and have either a steel pipe inlet with a grate or a side opening and steel cover in conformance with Caltrans Standard Drainage Plans. In addition, it

Please see **DRY** on P. 3

Alvarado Back at Helm of GVUSD

By Randy Bailey

When the newly impaneled Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees, consisting of Mona Diaz, Brian Freeman, Maria Knobloch, Mike Kelly and Steven Lewis, met for their first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, one of their first orders of business was the rehiring of Andy Alvarado as superintendent of the school district. The rehiring, although practical, was also symbolic as



Andy Alvarado returned to Golden Valley Unified School District as its new superintendent on Monday, Sept. 21.

The Board first moved to reinstate the position of assistant superintendent, the position previously held by interim Superintendent Kevin Hatch that was eliminated by the previous Board. With the position recreated, Hatch agreed to resign as superintendent and was then offered his old position as assistant superintendent. With the superintendent position vacant, the Board then moved to hire Alvarado for the position. Alvarado had been GVUSD's superintendent since July of

2011 and had been with the District since 2002.

Through Feb. 1 of next year, Alvarado

it closed the loop begun by former Board members Kathleen Crumpton, John Moseley and Carla Neal in February of this year when their actions led to Alvarado's separation from the school district.

Please see **ANDY** on P. 20

DRY cont. from P. 2

must contain a one foot inner diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe of type SDR-35, which is often used for gravity sewers and is 1/2-inch thick.

Purpose of Specifications

The specifications for the well and its component parts and location are all designed to ensure the public and environmental health and safety — so that no one

gets injured and the groundwater is not contaminated — again all with the overall goal of allowing pooling surface water to quickly seep into the ground and recharge the groundwater, thus raising its surface, called the groundwater table.

In Madera County the groundwater is mainly located within soil structures that are porous enough to hold it, generally hundreds of feet below the ground surface. So in the event that surface water that is

less than pristine does enter the dry or drain wells, it will be filtered by the intervening layers of sand and soil lenses that also contain a plethora of microorganisms that have evolved, depending on their diet, to consume everything from dead plant and animal matter to artificially created chemicals to nuclear waste.

Dry wells are generally installed in low-lying areas where surface water from rainfall collects and pools and can also be

used in conjunction with recharge basins such as the one in front of Liberty High School, also on Avenue 12. Recharge basins can be more expensive to build and to maintain, however. Nevertheless, they are also very effective and have been strongly campaigned for in particular by one Ranchos resident, Chuck LaRue, who has been instrumental in both getting the

Please see **DRY** on P. 20

3VFeed.com • facebook.com/3VFeed • Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto • 3VFeed.com

3-V FEED & GARDEN SUPPLY



Business Hours: Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Lay Pellets

\$10.99

50 LB. Bag

WE CARRY ALL NAME BRAND FEED.

Hen Scratch

\$7.99

50 LB. Bag

Madera Ranchos We are YOUR Store!

3V Feed is your premier hay supplier!
Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto
We Deliver -- Ask About Our Volume Discounts

3-V Feed would like to thank all the hardworking 4-H and FFA members for exhibiting livestock at the Madera Fair.

Don't forget - you still get **2% CASH BACK** on ALL purchases with your **3-V FEED REWARDS CARD®**. Activate your card **TODAY!**

it's 3-V Feed's SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE!

ALL In-Stock Show Supplies & Feed

20% OFF

ALL Western Boots & Hats

20% OFF

Stock Tanks 20% OFF
galvanized & plastic

Diamond Extreme Athlete Dog Food

\$6 OFF

40 LB. Bag

When it's COLD outside, Golden Fire Pellets make a DIFFERENCE!

Get READY for WINTER!

AMOUNT OF ASH COMPARISON

2-5 TIMES LESS ASH	
Golden Fire	Other Premium Grade Pellets

do you want **HEAT** or **ASH**? Simply the **BEST** wood pellets made!

only \$299 per ton when you buy a ton or more

559-661-0038 • 28342 HWY. 145 (East Yosemite) • MADERA

3VFeed.com • facebook.com/3VFeed • Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto • 3VFeed.com

3VFeed.com • facebook.com/3VFeed • Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto

3VFeed.com • facebook.com/3VFeed • Quality & Customer Service is Our Motto

Letters

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank you for the Ranchos Independent's "Letters to the Editor" section of your newspaper. The free press as well as the recall process are essential components to our system of self-governance. For me, the Ranchos Independent was the home of the recall and it certainly was where it began with the January edition. Without a free press we would not be a free people. The Ranchos Independent is an option where those of us with dissenting opinions can go and have a voice. If enough people agree, we can act. A check and balance system is what our founding fathers envisioned. The Madera Ranchos is a special place with special people and our founders would be proud of us. We are a healthy role model of our constitutional republic system of self-governance. "We the people"!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the community for all of its support. We could not have been successful without you. For those of you who don't already know, Andrew Alvarado returned to his job as superintendent of GVUSD on Sept. 21.

At present there are three other school districts I'm aware of in our area that are in different stages of their recall processes. Power to the people – someone just had to stand up and lead the way. Who better to lead than us? We have a great community that has overcome every obstacle placed in our way to becoming a school district. We are a conservative community who will fight to preserve, protect and defend our freedoms and our way of life. Great Job Madera Ranchos. Let's not stop with one victory. We've got bigger things ahead to accomplish.

Sitting in front of me I have an "Official Election Summary of the GVUSD Special Recall Election." Just some quick

statistical information for those of us not much into Facebook. Registered voters were 3,771. Total Ballots cast 1,557. Turnout was 41.29 percent. That's a good turn out for a special election. Yes on Recall, 1,265. No on Recall, 264. The recall was approved by over 80 percent of those who voted on the recall. It is interesting to note that Area 4 (John Moseley) had the greatest number of registered voters but had the lowest turnout. I think I know why: It was ugly over there. Thank you Area 4 for hanging in there. I know it was difficult.

I would like to refute a couple of the claims made during the election. The recall WAS NOT paid for by developers. Some people were able to contribute financially and others contributed their time. We needed BOTH. If we didn't walk door to door gathering signatures, no recall. I didn't see a single developer at our meetings, training sessions or walking door to door collecting signatures. The recall was generated from the community, supported by the community and voted on by the community. It was a grassroots effort from our community. Let me take this opportunity to thank the CSEA (California School Employees Association) Union for all their assistance. They did all they said they would and more. They were very helpful to our effort. The Golden Valley Teachers Association (GVTA) was the exact opposite. They didn't do what they said and what they did do hindered the recall. Someone said, "Follow the money." They took a retroactive pay raise before the recall could remove Crumpton, Moseley and Neal. I'll talk a lot more about it in the future.

The recall committee was made up of three different recall groups who merged together to form one. The recall committee was comprised of 10 members who for the

Please see LETTERS on P. 11

We locate well water BEFORE you drill

Finding Water is what we do WELL!



National Groundwater SURVEYOR
1-800-980-7429
CaliforniaGroundwaterSurveyor.com

National Groundwater Surveyor works with R.A. Sorensen CA License PGP # 957

Taking the guess work out of where to drill ... so all you hear is the sweet sound of flowing water.

9/15

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

you call ...



VALLEY PROPANE

559-645-5324

the ONLY locally owned propane company in the Madera Ranchos

9/15

WIN FREE PROPANE!

WIN 125 GALLONS OF PROPANE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Drawing to be held the first week of July, 2016. Delivery must be by August 31, 2016. Must be a Valley Propane customer.

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

VALLEY PROPANE

"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"

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

Click on "Local News" at



Editorial

Can We Heal?

By Randy Bailey

Thankfully, the recall is over. I don't say thankfully as in it was a hard burden to bear and the pressure of the recall was overwhelming. I say thankfully as in swallowing some bitter medicine -- it's sour now but you'll get better after you go through with it. It was a temporary inconvenience to get us to a better place. The end justified the means.

During the months leading up to the election there were those hand-wringing types who were going full Rodney King on us asking why we couldn't just get along. They asked why such a big deal was being made over "a petty squabble." And others couldn't understand what the big deal was, after all these people could be voted out of office -- four years from now. Thankfully the people of the Ranchos saw the bigger picture and acted.

But no sooner had the polls closed and it appeared that the recall of Crumpton, Moseley and Neal was going to happen when the hand-wringers reappeared. Now they were posing the question of whether or not the Ranchos could "heal" from our recall ordeal. To them it was on a par with the end of the Civil War. Cities burned, millions dead, famine, pestilence -- would we be able to put the pieces back together and move forward?

In journalism school they teach you to always get opinions from both sides. If one person thinks "X," find a person

who thinks "Y." Although this seems ostensibly right and fair, it's misleading. When you find someone who's in favor of the recall and then "balance" it with someone who's against the recall, it gives the impression that the sides are equally split, 50-50. It looks like half the folks are for it and half the people are against it. It's not a question of whether there are two opinions -- there are -- but rather a question of proportion. To put it in perspective, on the night of the election a news reporter from one of the Fresno TV stations popped her head into the Chamber of Commerce and frantically asked, "Do you know where I can find ANYONE who's against the recall?"

According to Madera County's Official Election Results, it's easy to see why the frantic reporter was having such a hard time. In a non-election year 41.4 percent of the registered voters in Areas 1, 2 and 4 showed up to vote. There are places where you don't see that kind of turnout for a presidential election. All told, 82.7 percent of the voters in the Ranchos voted "yes" for the recall of the three school board trustees. In John Moseley's Area 4, 76.2 percent of the people voted "yes." In Kathleen Crumpton's Area 2, 83.4 percent voted "yes." And in Carla Neal's Area 1 was the largest majority where 88.6 percent voted "yes" for the recall. That's only 1.4 percent away from 90 percent of the voters saying "recall!" When the three areas are averaged together you get passage of the recall by a margin of 82.7 percent. Of every 10 people who walked into a voting booth, eight were voting "yes." Of every 100 people putting stamps on their absentee ballots and dropping them in the mail, 80 were voting "yes." Of the total 1,557 people who voted September 1, 1,265 voted "yes." This wasn't a majority, it was a movement.

I think what you're seeing is a response to our national dissatisfaction with elected officials. The people of America have sent messages in the form of majorities to the House of Representatives and then the U.S. Senate, only to watch nothing get done. So here, in our tiny corner of the world, the people said "enough!" and acted. They removed a non-responsive elected body and replaced it with one they hope gets the message.

Can we heal? I think we already have.

The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing. All contents of this publication are copyright 2015, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law. All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Karen Petryna • Christi McKinney -- Reporters

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales • Tina Shannon -- Advertising Sales

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

www.TheRanchos.com

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

"PEACE IS MADE BY THE FACT OF STRENGTH — ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND STRATEGIC. PEACE IS LOST WHEN SUCH STRENGTH DISAPPEARS OR — JUST AS BAD — IS SEEN BY AN ADVERSARY AS DISAPPEARING."

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

Stick a Fork in Chivalry

I know the whole equality among the sexes thing basically means that I should open my own door and be happy about it, but does anyone else miss chivalry? Anyone?

No? Just me then.

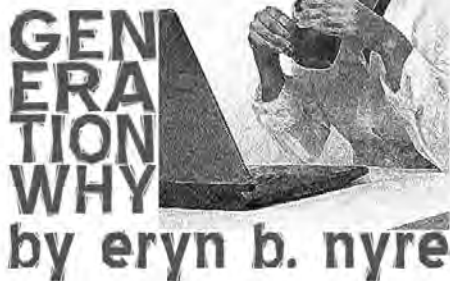
Personally, I'm more of the "woman can do anything they want" type, but nowhere in my contract does it say that in exchange for fair treatment, equal pay and respect I must give up the archaic institution of chivalry. I was raised to be a strong woman, to pursue my dreams and know that my gender isn't the defining factor in my success, but I appreciate certain aspects of being a woman that maybe I'm not supposed to talk about. Why can't a man still hold a door open for me, or pull out a chair, or pick up the check? Does that really

set back the women's liberation movement? Are there really women out there that believe this? If so, wow. If not, then where have all the gentlemen gone?

I don't know if it is a matter of

parents not raising gentlemen or perhaps the general overbearing nature of the more extreme feminists have beat the gentlemen out of the younger generations. Whatever the case, I would like to call a nationwide vote to bring it back.

Just the other day I was walking up to my apartment building with my arms full of groceries and these two guys, very early twenties, unlocked the building door walked in and let it shut behind them. I know they saw me because we made eye contact and even though I was merely a few steps behind them there was no sense of common courtesy so I had to put my grocery bags down and unlock the door, load up and make my way down the hall. Thanks guys. If that wasn't bad enough, I reached the elevator just as it was ascending to the next floor. They couldn't even be bothered to wait for a woman with her arms full of bags. A gentleman would have held both the



door and the elevator. Heck, a gentlewoman would have done the same. Obviously this has more to do with just a lack of common courtesy but I see it every day. Countless times I've come to a door at the same moment a man has reached it and unless he is in his forties he usually just walks through it without a second glance my way.

This carries over into dates, as well. In all honesty I've never really been a "pull the chair out for me" kind of girl, but I would like him to open my car door for me. That's not just chivalrous, it is romantic. I can't remember

the last time that happened for me. The last time I was on a date he beeped the car door open for me while I was climbing in. I know it probably seems silly to many girls today, the thought of a man opening the door for you to get into the car, but I miss those days. I enjoy being treated like a lady, and I don't think that you have to give that up to be thought of as an intelligent and productive member of society capable of contributing every bit as much as a man.

This all sort of hit me when I had a "damsel in distress" moment where the white horse-riding knight had to save the day. Spoiler alert, it turns out I was the white knight. Once again the scene is set at my apartment complex where I was coming home after a girls' night out. If you know me at all you know I don't like bugs and during the summer I am never

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

BEDROCK

ENGINEERING

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

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

INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

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

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

9/15

Certified DOT/CDL Examiner

Specializing in:

- Auto Accidents
- Neck & Arm Pain
- Lowback, Hip & Leg Pain
- Migraines/Headaches

We also Perform:

- DOT/CDL Exams
- Sports Physicals
- Drug Testing
- Nutritional Response Testing

- State-of-the-Art Facility
- Computerized Spinal Analysis/Treatment
- Laser
- Decompression
- Rehabilitation

Hablamos Español

HANEY

CHIROPRACTIC

& rehabilitation center

Most Insurances Accepted

36754 Ave. 12, Madera Ranchos • 559-660-5262

9/15

\$10 OFF

DOT/CDL Exam

One coupon per person • Expires 10/31/15

FREE Computerized Spinal Analysis

- \$85 VALUE -

One coupon per person • Expires 10/31/15

SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

Look Good and Feel Great

9/15



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

**LOSE WEIGHT
AND INCHES TOO**

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



DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP

"We Are Very Affordable"

224-6744

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

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

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN
the Ranchos Independent**

Who's got 1980's prices?



9/15

You can do it yourself or have the pros at Madera Glass & Mirror take care of your window repairs. Got broken screens? Madera Glass & Mirror has the expertise to make quick work of any screen repair. Glass for picture frames is a specialty at Madera Glass & Mirror. Fix a broken one or complete a project.

Madera Glass & Mirror, that's who!

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

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

Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics

559-645-5320

www.ranchosdental.net



9/15



Matthew Pia, D.D.S.

**37144 Ave. 12, Suite 104
Madera Ranchos**

"like" us on  facebook.

www.TheRanchos.com

The Bookshelf

Go Go Go to the Ranchos Library

By Amanda Judd

cookbook.

Thank you all for helping the Ranchos Library celebrate Library Card Sign-Up month all through September. We love providing our community with access to invaluable resources. Remember to put those cards to good use and that you must have your library card with you in order to utilize the public computers and to check out library materials.

October is Computer Learning month. What better way to help our little ones learn basic computer skills than by letting them play on our AWE learning stations? These computers feature over 4,000 localized learning activities. The fun, interactive and engaging content spans all seven curricular areas: math, science and nature, social studies and geography, reading, art and music, writing and computer skills, and reference. They are certain to be a big hit.

Celebrate your family during Family History Month which is also observed during the month of October. Take time to educate and play by drawing a picture of your family, trace people-shaped cookie cutters onto paper, cut out the shapes and decorate to look like your family. Discuss your family genealogy, family health history and share stories. You could also preserve family photos and better yet, create a family

These weeks have been passing by very quickly and in a short time there will be lots of holiday shopping and planning going on. Did you know that AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Madera Ranchos Library every time you shop, at no cost to you? Simply go to smile.amazon.com and use the same account as Amazon.com. Your account settings are all the same. Select Friends of the Ranchos Library as your organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation of 0.5 percent of the purchase price.

As always, thank you for your continued and devoted support to the Ranchos Library. Be sure to come in and check out our new selections, there is something for everyone.

The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12

645-1214

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

without bug spray in my purse. Yes, I carry a big purse. As I made my way to the complex door there was a man I didn't know standing there, apparently waiting for someone to let him in. (As a side note, I am not afraid to use my bug spray on humans either). As I approached him I saw a giant beetle just taking up space on the concrete step. I asked the dude if he would step on it, to which he replied, "Ewww." Never one to leave the enemy free to attack, I whipped out my bug spray and blasted the beetle who immediately ran toward us. I will never understand this about bugs: they always run toward the bug spray. Are they suicidal? Is it a last minute ploy to scare their attacker into

dropping the bug spray and running in the opposite direction? Someone should look into this.

So there I am in a dress, heels and a huge flower in my hair with my bug spray and a determined expression. As the bug makes its advance, the dude squeals like a three year old and jumps behind me.

Now, seriously.

You don't want to kill a bug, fine. I'll think less of you, sure, but what do you care. But jumping behind the girl like a human shield, this is not gentlemanly. Once the bug keeled over I put the bug spray back in my purse and made sure the princess was okay. Lesson here is, we really need to start teaching our sons to be gentlemen again, and also, using a lady as a human shield will never get you the girl.

From Soup to ... Soup!

Have you had just about enough of this hot weather? I know we haven't had some of those 115 degree days I remember from the past, but I understand we broke some kind of record for the longest stretch of days at 100 or more. Well, I for one don't like those kinds of records.

Looking at the calendar, the first day of fall was Wednesday, Sept. 23. Doesn't that sound great? Makes me think of being able to cook and not worrying about heating up the kitchen or the whole house. I think just about everyone likes soup (I know some people who could eat soup any day of the year).

So, looking forward to the cooler weather, let's talk soup this month.

Basic Vegetable Soup

- 1 T olive oil
- 1 onion – chopped
- 2 ribs celery – sliced
- 2 carrots, peeled & chopped
- 6 cups vegetables, chopped
- 4 C Liquid
- 15 ounces canned diced tomatoes

- 1 T dried herbs
- ½ tsp. kosher salt

In a large pot or Dutch oven heat olive oil on medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and stir and well coat with oil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables turn golden. Stir in vegetables, let cook for a few minutes, stirring often. Cover with liquid; add tomatoes and dried herbs and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat until a slow simmer. Cover and let cook for about 30 minutes or until vegetables are done.

This recipe is so versatile you can do just about anything



by Jean Briner

with it – the varieties are endless:

The 6 cups of vegetables can be anything you or your family like. With the summer gardens winding down, there are different varieties of squash, okra, green beans, potatoes (including yams or sweet potatoes) or bell peppers. Or

Dear readers: I would love to hear from you! Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share? An idea that I can expand on? I would love your input and help on the next batch of recipes. Call me at the office at 645-0634 or email me at ranchonews@yahoo.com and let's talk.

from the farmer's market, how about turnips or cabbage. If you don't have fresh vegetables available, how about canned corn, or green beans. Or how about frozen green beans, corn, peas or even a package of mixed vegetables. If you

are going to use baby spinach or Swiss chard wait until the last five minutes of cooking before adding them.

Liquid can be water or vegetable broth for you vegetarians, but the rest of us can use either chicken or beef stock. I read one recipe that used V-8 for a liquid – but that would be your choice.

Be careful when adding dried herbs. Remember that they are stronger dried than fresh. You can use dried basil, Italian seasoning, or anything you prefer.

Carrot Soup

- 4 C hot water
- 4 tsp. instant bouillon (or 1 bouillon cube)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 onion, chopped (about 1 ½ cups)
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 2 T butter or olive oil

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

PETE & MARIA'S

ITALIAN BISTRO

559-645-5545

We now deliver to the
Ranchos,
Bonadelle &
Rolling Hills
areas.

www.chadstrucking.com

TRUCKING
CA #441782

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

LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

559-645-5363

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

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

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.

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

SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

GROOMING • GROOMING • GROOMING • GROOMING • GROOMING • GROOMING

Dog Gone Cute Store

SHOT CLINIC
Sept. 26
10 - Noon

call **645-PETS**
to make your grooming
appointments now

37221 Ave. 12 #1C
in the Maywood Center in the Madera Ranchos

9/15

Bradley & Sons
Lic. 414178

DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

674-1663
23338 Ave. 14
Madera

Family Owned
Since 1976

9/15

Summer Clearance

Over 10 Sets on Display
Lifetime Warranty
DEMO Clearance Pricing

431-1311

Swings 'n Stuff
10130 HWY 41, Madera
(prices subject to change • exp. 10/31/15)

9/15

Transitions
Children's Services
LIC. #107206625

Foster Parents Needed

We are looking for nurturing and loving homes for children placed in foster care. We provide support, training and reimbursement to our foster families. For more details, please contact Michelle at (559) 222-5437.

1945 N. Helm, Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 222-5437
www.transitionschildrenservices.org

9/15

FIVE TWO
ADVERTISING

ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING

645-0634

RECIPES cont. from P. 8

1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced

1 large potato, chopped

½ tsp. thyme

¼ tsp. ground dill

2 tsp. kosher salt

¼ tsp. black pepper

1 ½ C milk

Heat water and bouillon in the microwave until hot. Meanwhile, sauté garlic, onion and celery in butter until tender in a Dutch oven. Add water and all remaining ingredients except milk. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to maintain a slow simmer. Simmer until the carrots are done – about 30 minutes. Puree in small batches in a blender or food processor. Or, if you have an immersion blender it would work right in the pan. Return mixture to pan, add milk and return to temperature without letting it boil. The milk can be whatever you choose. To keep the calories down use skim milk but for a creamier soup use whole milk – or anything in-between.

Quick and Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

1 T Butter

½ C chopped onion

½ C chopped celery

1 C chopped carrots

4 (14.5 ounces) cans chicken broth

1 (14.5 Ounces) can vegetable broth

½ pound chopped cooked chicken

1 ½ C egg noodles

½ tsp. dried basil

½ tsp. dried oregano

Salt and pepper to taste

In large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion, celery and carrots in butter until just tender. Pour in chicken and vegetable broths and stir in chicken, noodles and seasonings. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes until everything is done.

Do you have a favorite soup or a traditional soup? I read that Ruth Graham wrote that when her family was in China as missionaries her mother always served Oyster Stew for Christmas morning breakfast. After they came back to the United States they brought the tradition with them. Then after she and Billy were married she continued the tradition with her family. I have spent the last two Christmas Eves with Randy and his family and he has served his Corn Chowder for dinner.

Dear readers: I would love to hear from you! Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share? An idea that I can expand on? I would love your input and help on the next batch of recipes. Call me at the office at 645-0634 or email me at ranchosnews@yahoo.com and let's talk. And don't forget flu shots at Liberty High on Friday, Oct. 2. You drive through the parking lot, stick your arm out the window, get vaccinated and give the fine people \$5. What a deal!

This article originally appeared in the September 2012 issue and has been updated for this issue.

-- Editor

Low-Cost Flu Vaccinations at LHS

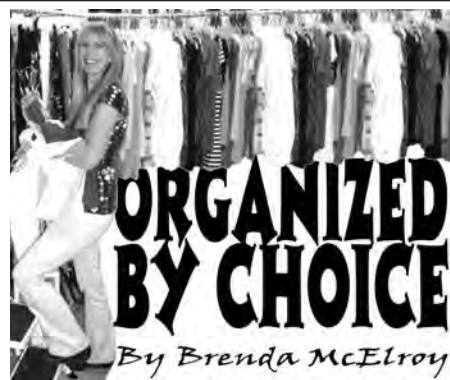
The Madera County Public Health Department has announced its annual low-cost flu vaccination program for the Madera Ranchos. Vaccinations will be available Friday, Oct. 2 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Liberty High School. The charge is \$5.

As in years past, the Madera County Public Health Department will set up its portable clinic on the east side of the LHS campus in the circular driveway on Road 36, just south of the football stadium. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. people in their cars usually form two lines. A health aide from the Public Health Department asks a few questions, takes your \$5 and then you simply stick your arm out the window of your

car. The flu vaccination is administered, a band-aid is applied and you're on your way and you never even have to get out of your car.

The flu shots are for persons 12 years old and older. Most doctors agree to the benefits of flu shots, including lessening of doctor visits, protecting seniors, children and pregnant women, and lessening the impact of the flu, should you get it anyway.

Liberty High School is located at 12220 Road 36, on the corner of Road 36 and Avenue 12. For more information you can call the Madera County Public Health Department at 675-7893 or toll free at 800-427-6827.



Functional Families

The other day I thought I was having serious computer problems. When I tried to guide the mouse, the cursor seemed to have a mind of its own. It certainly wasn't going the direction I intended. Fortunately it didn't take me too long to realize I had the mouse upside down. Do you ever feel like family life is like that? You're doing your best to guide it along, but instead of running like it should, it's all over the page?

The beginning of the school year can be challenging, but also a great time to take steps toward order. One of my clients has four kids in four different schools. The driving schedule alone can drive a person crazy. Add to that sports, music, gymnastics, homework, etc. and it's a recipe for fast-food Fridays every night of the week.

There's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to family management, but here are a few tips and tools to consider if creating peace and productivity is a priority in your home.

Family Mission – What's your overall goal for your family? Does your family have a clear sense of what's most important in life? When this is defined, written out and talked about as a family, it serves as a plumb line for where your family feeds its energy and time, and how you interact with each other and those outside your family. If you don't choose your priorities as a family, there are plenty of outside influences that will.

House Rules – When I was teaching Sunday School we had one rule: Respect. That's a great place to start in a family, too. Respect needs to go in all directions – children to parents, parents to children, respect for one another's property and your own. A family that values respect can't help but create more peace and unity.

Collaborate with your children about other house rules, homework time, video games, curfews, etc., and what rewards and consequences to establish. When everyone is

very clear about the expectations, it thwarts a lot of arguing and stress.

Chores – After picking up her kids from daycare, one of my clients tries to think of as many stops as she can make before heading home. Home is a big mess. She grew up with a nanny and a housekeeper and admits she doesn't have a clue how to begin to keep order in her own home.

Besides providing our kids with opportunities to learn academics, sports, music, dance, etc., it's our job as parents to give them the skills they need to manage their own households someday. Good managers don't do all the work themselves. They equip a team that works together for the common good. As your family's manager, be clear on what, how and when chores need to be done. Even if your kids buck the idea, and they will, they will experience an increased sense of self-worth and belonging as they contribute to the family in this way.

Routines – When my daughter taught preschool her three year olds learned routines such as putting things in their cubbies as they arrived and cleaning up their stations before leaving them. These simple practices can be duplicated at home. Don't underestimate the power of routines to maintain order, or the ability of your family to learn them. Even three year olds can do it.

Plan and write out routines for before school, after school and bedtime. Of course you're going to have to be flexible, but as you practice these and they become habits, the nagging can subside and kids become more responsible.

Family Fun – Be sure you build in some fun routines too. Maybe Saturday morning pancakes, or Sunday night pizza and game night. Collaborate about your next family vacation or let the kids each pick an activity and destination for a day trip. Volunteer together at a charity function or local non-profit that benefits those less fortunate. These practices help establish strong family relationships and reinforce values.

It's easy to get caught up in the non-stop activities that are available for kids. Take some time this week to consider which activities best support your family's mission and which are equipping them best for adulthood.

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

What's your overall goal for your family? Does your family have a clear sense of what's most important in life? ... If you don't choose your priorities as a family, there are plenty of outside influences that will.

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

MD-10A Ratepayers Community Meeting

“LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND AND START MOVING FORWARD”

Supervisor Brett Frazier is going to hold a community meeting for MD-10A ratepayers Wednesday, October 7 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Liberty High School. This will be an interactive meeting to listen to ideas from the ratepayers.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas for moving forward toward improving the MD-10A system.

“This is your opportunity to have your say on how we renew and re-energize the community so that we can make the advances we wish to see in the coming years. It's time to leave the past behind and start moving forward on plans for the future.” **Brett Frazier**

**Wednesday, Oct. 7 • 6:30 p.m.
Liberty High School Cafeteria**

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” **Henry Ford**

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

9/15

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

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

9/15

NOW is the time to treat for WEED CONTROL!

*Landscape Pest Control • Organic-based Fertilizing
Bare Ground Treatment 1 Time for WHOLE Season
Have a CLEAN WEED FREE Property*

Get Scheduled BEFORE El Niño!

10% OFF 1st Application
(new customers only • exp. 10/31/15)
**FREE Analysis
FREE Quote**

GOT WEEDS? CALL US • 559-245-2273
Monday - Friday • 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. • ValleyGreenSolutions.net  Valley Green Solutions

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

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

most part did not live in a recall area and were not eligible to vote. Initially each group had its own ideas about the recall but we were able to work through that and come together. The recall committee was the "Dream Team." We were a diverse group with many talents. We had everything we needed within the group and each individual stepped up and did his or her part at the right time. The steering committee raised some money from within and spent that money during the entire recall process. Initially the recall was totally funded by steering committee members. It wasn't until we were organized and were moving forward that contributions in any significant amounts were received. We were not bought by anyone. Although I have not studied the recall contributor list, I'm certain the developers did contribute in a significant financial way. Our recall consultant and attorney cost us between \$16,000 and \$20,000 as I remember it. The purpose of the consultant and attorney was to make sure we didn't make any mistakes that could cause the nullification of the election. We didn't want to give Crumpton, Moseley and Neal any legal grounds to challenge the recall and that's the way it worked out. The consultant and attorney did not tell us what to do but more what not to do. All the strate-

gies were ours. For the most part their job was to guide us through the legal process. Because we had the revenue to pay for their services, we were able to protect the integrity of the process and follow the law. We were able to ensure due process and a correct and fair election. In my opinion both sides were protected equally because of the revenue that in part was contributed by the developers. The developers' interests were the same as ours: quality schools.

The second claim I'd like to address is the alleged tax increase. I was unable to determine what was meant by this claim and as far as I was able to determine they never gave specifics or clarified their claims. The following is my best attempt to explain, so here it goes.

The voters within the GVUSD in the past approved two General Obligation ("GO") bonds which authorized GVUSD to borrow about \$70 million for the general purpose of building schools. That money is paid back from property taxes collected from property owners within GVUSD boundaries. (By the way, about half of that is unspent because of the decline in our property values. As property owners our property does not have enough value to collateralize the full amount. That will change of course as property values increase and

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

COMMUNITY ALERT!

FREE WATER SAVING AERATORS & SHOWERHEADS

AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTH-EAST MADERA

Register Now at Hurst Hardware - 37398 Berkshire Drive

SEM CU (South East Madera County United) has been awarded a grant for over \$218,000 from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the distribution and installation of water saving fixtures for residences of South-East Madera.

The number of fixtures provided by this grant is limited. 20 water meters will also be available **FREE OF CHARGE** for qualified applicants.

For more information:
www.semcu.org (559)363-9095

 **SEM CU**
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED

By the Community, For the Community!



Getting Electric

Hello 93636.

Liberty High Football 2015 version is here. Every Friday evening I put on my short pants, T-shirt, grab my NAPA hat and sun glasses, two or three grandsons and we're off to the game. Just around the bend when playoff season arrives, it will be a very different routine. I'll put on my thermals, long pants, wool socks, sweatshirts, coat, stocking cap, gloves, grab a heavy blanket or two, find the umbrella and backpack, do the same thing with my grandsons and finally we're off. Hope we make it before the end of the first quarter. Winter can be tough on the old body. After the game, we jump in the Grandpamobile, start the engine, turn on the front and rear window defrosters, mirror and seat warmers, the headlights, windshield wipers, the radio (talk radio) and if I had it, the entertainment center. Just for fun, I will let the grandsons sit in my lap and celebrate the drive home by laying on the old horn. Little boys really know how to celebrate with the horn.

Winter weather is also tough on vehicles. Your vehicle is about to enter its most stressful period of normal operation. Because of the change in weather, huge electrical loads will be common for your vehicle's electrical system. Systems usually fail during their greatest loads and for the electrical system that's cold, rainy weather.

Winter weather is also tough on vehicles. Your vehicle is about to enter its most stressful period of normal operation. Because of the change in weather, huge electrical loads will be common for your vehicle's electrical system. Systems usually fail during their greatest loads and for the electrical system that's cold, rainy weather.

To increase fuel mileage, today's vehicles have been placed on mega diets. As a result, the alternators and batteries were down sized. At the same time electrical demands have increased. Alternators manufacture electrons and pump them to the battery. The battery is a warehouse where those electrons are stored awaiting use. In my opinion, the most important component of your vehicle's electrical system is the battery. Weak batteries destroy electrical components. Here's an example: When a battery is weak the alternator swings into action thinking the

battery just needs a charge. If the battery is in poor condition it never fully charges, the alternator is over worked and fails prematurely. Semi-weak batteries do not usually display big symptoms until they are about to die, so let's check out those batteries.

Sometimes the most difficult thing is finding the battery. Get out the owner's manual and look up the battery's placement. If you can't find the manual, Google it. If you still can't find it send me an email.

Today's discussion is about Flooded Lead Acid (FLA) batteries which are the most common type in the automotive world. A Prius, for example, has a 12 volt battery in addition to the high voltage battery pack, which is an Absorbent Glass Mat (AGM) battery. AGM batteries can be installed to upgrade a vehicle's FLA battery. Be sure which one you have – AMG batteries are different and are recharged and serviced differently.

Let's get started. BE CAREFUL! Take some precautions. This little guy can be dangerous. Don't get battery acid on you. I recommend rubber gloves and eye protection. Don't breathe the stuff either. Make sure you are in a well-ventilated area and there is plenty of water next to you for immediate use. If you get acid on you, neutralize it with water and wash it off. Remove ALL metal from your body. No conductors please!

OK, consider yourself warned.

First, visually inspect your battery. AMG or FLA? There should be NO corrosion on the battery cable ends or the battery posts. If you find corrosion, get out the baking soda and water. Mix it up and pour. It will dissolve the corrosion. If you break down, 7-Up works well also. If you have the tools, you may want to disconnect the battery cables (negative post first ALWAYS!) and wire brush the corroded connections. Let me WARN YOU here. You can get yourself into a lot of trouble by disconnecting the battery if you don't know your vehicle. Make sure you email me before you break it, that's free. If I have to fix it, it's not (\$\$\$). Vehicle manufacturers can have some pretty odd battery replacement procedures. Failure to follow their procedures can be a very expensive mistake, especially on new and higher end cars. I use

Please see **HANDS** on P. 18

Got Water?

*Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?
Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?*

CALL US!

Bubba's Water Truck Service
call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

Surgery is NOT the only answer!

VALLEY HEALTH CENTER

**Solutions for: Fibromyalgia • Degenerated Muscle
Carpal Tunnel • Tennis Elbow • Spinal Arthritis
Shoulder/Knee Joint Injuries • Sports Therapy**

call or text **559-332-3313 • 36733 Ave. 12**
visit us online at ValleyHealthCenter.weebly.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL

10/24/15 11A - 2P

Food~Fun~Fellowship
Bounce Houses
Candy give-away
Free Snacks & Drinks
Baking Contest
A Great Family Day!
Golden Valley Baptist Church
Cloverleaf & Road 37

Come Learn the TRUTH about Halloween

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Complete Car Care

A Full-Service Dealer Alternative Facility Celebrating 30 Years

Factory level—and above—diagnostic and repairs

We do most repairs on most vehicles •
Google Complete Car Care Fresno and read the 150+ 5-star reviews and see what Fresno and the Madera Ranchos are saying about Complete Car Care • We are your local NAPA Auto Care Center • California Star Certified Smog Check Station Go Hawks!



9/15

Pick Up & Delivery Available • 275-0157

Complete Car Care • 5787 W. Barstow, Fresno

Hwy. 99 at Barstow, just east of Island Water Park
 M - F 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • complete_car_care@hotmail.com

Senior Report

Crab Cakes and Bunco at Senior Center

By Patti Groh

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors had a FUN August. I promised to tell you about the end of the month activities which included the Golden Chain Theatre in Oakhurst. You may remember the movie and TV series, "The Odd Couple." We watched a musical, female version of that. It was entertaining and some went on to enjoy eating at the Crab Cake restaurant there in Oakhurst.

Then, on Aug. 29, at the Center, we had a Bunco party. Juanita Guynn chaired the committee and it was successful and lots of fun. Now, if you are not familiar with the game of Bunco, it is a game using three dice. It is super simple, throwing first for 1s, then 2s, then 3s and so on, adding up each of these you roll. A Bunco is when all three dice come up the number you are rolling for. (It is much easier to play than to explain.) Everybody had a good time and we also had good food. The prize winners were those with the most Buncos, the most wins, the most losses, and the person getting the last Bunco of the day. We are planning on having the event again next year so keep an eye

open for it.

On Sept. 12 a Polynesian Luau was held at the Center. We had wonderful food (especially the cake for dessert). Good food seems to be a rule rather than an exception at the Center. Ruth Baker deserves kudos for cooking and decorating and chairing her committee to a successful party. The patio and back yard were decorated with lights and flamingos, nets and fish. Bobbie Farina made the centerpieces which included a pineapple and seashells. Some lucky winners went home with these.

At the general meeting in September, the revised By-laws were distributed. Members were asked to give them a look. These are redone every three years but any major changes or amendments can be entertained before that. The By-Laws are available at the Center and the general meeting is held on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. All members are invited.

All the usual activities will be going on for Seniors in October. Exercise on M-W-F at 10 a.m. is very popular. It would probably be a good idea to get in the habit of exercising before the cooler winter months start and we can't get out too much because of all the rain that is coming due to El Nino (I am ever the optimist). Again with the food, every Thursdays at 6 p.m. is potluck followed by cards.

On Thursday, October 29, there will be a special Halloween potluck and party. Come in costume! It is always fun to see how creative people are in their costumes and prizes are awarded. Sure hope you can all attend.

Also planned in October on Friday, the 23rd, is a spaghetti dinner. This is a fundraising event and is open to the public. I have not been informed of the cost yet. M-m-m, I am already anticipating the garlic bread. Further information will be available at the Center.

Don't forget our first Saturday of the month sale at the Center. There are baked goods, the boutique, the Treasure House (lightly used treasures) and the garden. Please invite friends and neighbors to come visit us. They can pick up the monthly newsletter at the same time. The Center is located at 37330 Berkshire Drive and the phone number is 645-4864.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of two members who have passed during September: Mary Amuroso and Irene Edmondson.

How's your fence?



chain link • wood • wrought iron

FREE Estimates • 7 Days a Week

**chain link • wood fence • wrought iron
 privacy plus • gate operators
 security windows • security doors • barbed wire**

Advanced Fence

for all your fencing needs

559-464-5286

Lic. #997265 & Bonded

9/15

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

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

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

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

*Date subject to change to Saturday, Dec. 5 based on Liberty High School football post-season schedule.



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring

“The Big One” Christmas Chamber Mixer
Wednesday, December 9 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C, Madera Ranchos
Everyone is invited. Great food will be served. Our Merry Christmas to you.

Looking to get involved?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is always looking for good people who are interested in helping to make the Ranchos a better place to live, work and play.

Come to a meeting. Always the second Wednesday of the month at 37167 Ave. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Call 645-4001 for more info.



Help a Foster Child this Christmas

through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

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

Call 645-4001 for more information.



shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

Make the hard days easier with performance and versatility.

Check out our HUGE selection of John Deere Compact Utility Tractors to help you take on any job!



1 FAMILY SUB-COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS

- 22.1-23.9 hp⁴ engines
- AutoConnect™ deck compatibility
- Easy operation 4WD and power steering

3E SERIES COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS

- 31.2-37.3 hp⁴ engine
- Powerful diesel engine delivers plenty of power under heavy loads
- Easy-to-use hydrostatic transmission increases tractor performance

3R SERIES COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS

- 32.2-45.3 hp⁴ engines
- PowrReverser™ or E-hydro transmission with Twin Touch™ pedals available
- Cab or open-station configurations available

0% for 60 months
- PLUS -

\$750 off

when you buy 2 implements¹

0% for 60 months
- PLUS -

\$2,200 off

when you buy 2 implements²

0% for 60 months
- PLUS -

\$500 off

when you buy 2 implements³

MADERA • 1901 West Cleveland Ave • 1-800-948-7228 (across from the Madera County Fairgrounds)

9/15

¹Offer ends October 30, 2015. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Fixed Rate of 0% for 60 Months. \$750 OFF implement bonus is in addition to Low Rate financing and requires the purchase of 2 or more qualifying John Deere or Frontier implements. In lieu of financing offer, get \$1,250 OFF on 1 Series Tractors. ²Offer ends October 30, 2015. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Fixed Rate of 0% for 60 Months. \$2,200 OFF implement bonus is in addition to Low Rate financing and requires the purchase of 2 or more qualifying John Deere or Frontier implements. In lieu of financing offer, get \$2,750 OFF on 3E Series Tractors. ³Offer ends October 30, 2015. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Fixed Rate of 0% for 60 Months. \$500 OFF implement bonus is in addition to Low Rate financing and requires the purchase of 2 or more qualifying John Deere or Frontier implements. In lieu of financing offer, get \$1,500 OFF on 3R Series Tractors. ⁴Manufacturer's estimate of power (ISO) per 97/68/EC.



JOHN DEERE



LETTERS cont. from P. 11

more development occurs within the district boundaries).

The former Gateway Village property development at Avenue 12 and Highway 41 is within GVUSD boundaries. The school board back in about 2005-2010 did not feel that developers fees were high enough to offset the District's cost to house the students generated by that development. The board determined that present GVUSD property owners (us) would have to supplement the new development by assisting in the building of new schools and access the GO bond money. In order to protect us, GVUSD entered an agreement with Gateway Village to build their own schools and house their own students. Part of that agreement was a Mello-Roos District for the new development. The Mello-Roos District would be used only by the development to build and maintain the schools within the development. Because of that agreement there would be no financial impact on GVUSD existing GO bonds.

The developer requested to be exempted from any future obligations from the GO bond. To me that's fair. Why should they be obligated to pay for a bond they did not vote for and were not eligible to use? An agreement was reached back around 2008 that protected our community from higher property taxes. As I remember, the district agreed to enforce this agreement with all developers and all new developments so that Gateway Village would not be at a competitive cost disadvantage.

If we hold to the original agreement I don't see how we incur higher taxes. I think Moseley and Neal were insinuating that while the development is being completed, it will generate students who will attend GVUSD schools who are not financially obligated through their property taxes to pay their share. I personally don't see it that way. I see these new students as a benefit to the Madera Ranchos. Each new student generates about \$7,000 annually to the district. If 300 new students were to arrive, that would be an increase of just north of \$2 million dollars annually to our budget. If we protect that money from GVTA, it can result in a lot of new programs, electives, vocational training classes and more. This is our greatest chance to grow student opportunities since the beginning.

At this present time, Liberty High School attendance is about 575 students. As it sets, Liberty can house about 800. Ranchos Middle School is also below its maximum capacity, as is Webster. The old Ranchos Middle School can be put back on line also. Bottom line, we have room for a lot of new students. That was done in the past knowing that a development boom was

headed our way sometime. Because of forward thinking past GVUSD board of trustees, we are in a good position to benefit financially from these students. I have NO idea what Moseley and Neal were talking about. They were just trying to confuse the issues. (PS – I know of no liberal politician who does not like tax increases. They are liberal). The tax increase issue was just a diversion tactic. The only politicians who are opposed to tax increases and MEAN IT are Tea Party. Liberals always run to the right (conservative) during the election and govern from the left (liberal) once elected. That's how this group initially got elected and that's exactly what they did. Sooner than later the Tea Party will return to the Madera Ranchos. I just need to catch up with a few things prior.

Warren Parr
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I am so proud of our District for doing what was necessary to maintain the level and quality of education for our children. We have always been "Children First!"

Unfortunately, today I spoke to a young high school lady who explained she was transferring out of the District because her parent is one of the three recently recalled. Maybe this is the price we have to pay for righting a wrong, but we have always stood by the principles of keeping the kids out of the grownups' business. This principle has been failed, but it's not too late. She explained to me that other children have threatened her. This is not the GVUSD way.

Please talk to your children and ask them to take the "extra step" of making these children (of these three recently recalled adults) feel welcome. The past is the past and it is time to mend this fence.

Please talk to any friends or acquaintances you may know that could potentially influence these three adults to give their kids a little more time at GVUSD as this will blow over in no time. There is no reason to disrupt their children's education, social circles, etc.

Thank you for listening.

Robert Hallett
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

On June 9, 2014 the reality of near non-existent fire protection in Madera

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 19



ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING

645-0634

LICENSE #932435

TIM DE MERA
Owner/CEO
Madera Ranchos Resident

FREE ESTIMATES

ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM

9/15

WANT TO CUT YOUR COOLING COSTS?




YORK

We can help.

With a highly efficient York® system, you can lower your cooling costs up to 50% while enjoying more consistent temperatures throughout your home. Every York unit is backed by the best warranties in the industry and affordable financing options are available.

Quality Installation
Done right by a York® Certified Comfort Expert™

Ask us about our **Affordable Easy Financing**
Through Synchrony Financial.

Huckabee's
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
LIC. # 837274

Locally owned and operated
36141 Avenue 12 #103, Madera, CA 93636
559-662-0336 | www.huckabeeshvac.com

9/15

Own your own Business ... in the Ranchos!

On
Ave. 12,
in the
Madera
Ranchos.

For rent,
lease or
purchase

Full
service
car
wash
tunnel

Call 559-645-6630



9/15

"If you can dream it, Marty can pour it!"

- Borders
- Driveways
- Walkways
- Patios
- Pool Decks
- Large & Small Slabs
- Stamped Concrete
- Stained Concrete

**Marty Owen -
The Concrete Guy**

Marty has a passion for creative concrete design. Marty has been laying concrete for 32 years and has extensive experience in every area of concrete, from residential to commercial.

Licensed & Bonded SCL#991137

Marty the Concrete Guy • 559-718-9952

9/15

Kiwanis Korner

Who can Spin a Tale?

By Perry Watkins

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

A number of communities have storytelling traditions. Mariposa has a daylong storytelling festival in the spring of each year that is sold out before the event begins. Fresno has hosted storytelling events at both Fresno City College and at Fresno State. Oakhurst had its very own storytelling festival that ran its 28th annual event in the Mariposa High School earlier this year.

NPR radio has StoryCorps which allows individuals to tell their own personal story, which may be broadcast and saved to an archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for future generations to hear. StoryCorps is an American non-profit organization whose mission is to record, preserve and share the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. To date, StoryCorps has recorded more than 45,000 interviews, among more than 80,000 Americans in all 50 states.

Storytelling is a rich tradition. There are a number of

stories about our very area that are begging to be retold. Did you know that Madera Ranchos was once designed as a retreat away from Hollywood for movie stars? Look at some of the signs around the Ranchos and you will have some clues about who was once involved in the beginnings of our community. Storytelling brings the past alive, it carries important messages for others or for the next generation. Storytelling can help us relive and remember the past. It can empower us and others to remember some of the challenges and obstacles we have successfully negotiated and to face new challenges with that indomitable faith and courage. Perhaps there are messages of faith you need to share. Storytelling has long been a method for many millennia to share information, to share values and ideals, to reinforce traditions and to build and unify communities.

There are a wide variety of storytelling methods as well including poetry and stories set to music. Don't you know someone who has a story to tell? There may be a story of your childhood, a journey, a funny tale, a tale of hardship, of emigration, of faith, love or lost love, empowerment or inspiration. Everyone has a story. Doesn't your story deserve to be told? Who knows, maybe you'll be on your way to a storytelling festival one day or on your way to publish a book of poems. Perhaps there is a budding young artist in our midst who would like to share a page or two of a book they are writing. Maybe there is an artist with a guitar who would like a chance at their first non-judgmental public performance.

If you have a story to tell we would love to hear it. In fact, we will be awarding prizes and trophies to the best ones this year. We are inviting you to tell your tale right here in the Ranchos. Don't you know a storyteller, musician or poet who needs to stretch their wings a bit? We will gladly welcome those with more experience as well. Join us on a Thursday night, come and tell your story. Win a prize, a gift certificate, a trophy. Maybe get your story published if that interests you.

We want to hear your story. Make us laugh make us cry, share your opinion. Bring it!

Pizza Factory on Thursday evenings at 6:30.
Call KIWANIS at 209-761-5968.



www.ranchoskiwanis.com

Board Members:

President: Perry Watkins
President Elect: John Glueck
Vice President: Bryan Lee
Secretary: Virginia Vick
Treasurer: Cody Barger
Marie Cameron
Past President: Marie Cameron

CALL 645-0634 TO ADVERTISE

Bailey - Cheslik



Sheila Bailey of the Madera Ranchos and Doug Cheslik of Visalia.

Sheila Bailey of the Madera Ranchos and Doug Cheslik of Visalia have set a date to be married on Nov. 13, 2016. Sheila is the daughter of Jan and Lee Bailey of the Madera Ranchos and Doug is the son of Katie and Steven

Cheslik of Visalia. Sheila is a graduate of Liberty High School and at present works at Valley Children's Hospital. Doug works at the Contract Club in Visalia and is going to school to become a welder.

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

HANDS cont. from P. 12

a battery replacement manual and a memory saver so I avoid most problems. When power is interrupted to the vehicle's computers, the computer's adaptations and memory can be lost. If this happens, the best case is the vehicle will return to its base settings. If the vehicle is not running correctly, take it out and drive it until it relearns and runs normally again. On some vehicles, like BMWs, some modules may have to be reprogrammed. If the radio doesn't work, you will have to reload the anti-theft code and reset its presets. When finished make sure the connections are good and tight.

If the battery has removable caps, top off the six cells with DISTILLED WATER only. By the way, ONLY DISTILLED WATER in the Cooling System also. Check and make sure the battery is secure. Don't want it sliding around and tugging on the battery posts. That's about all you can do at home. Make sure at your next service you have the electrical system properly load tested.

Next find the alternator (electron pump) and give the belt a tug. The belt should flex approximately 1-2 inches. A loose belt is a slipping belt. If the drive belt is slipping, the electron pump is not pumping electrons efficiently. Check the headlights, running and brake lights, the emergency flashers and turn signals, wind-

shield wipers and fluid.

OK, had a lot more to say but I've used up my 750 words. If you need more information you can always send me an email at complete_car_care@hotmail.com. That address can also be used for suggestions about future topics.

God Bless.

Warren Parr
California Smog License
#EO139887
California Star Station #117312

Ready for the Pumpkin Patch?

It's coming in October to the NEW Branch & Vine!
Meanwhile, planning an event?
Book your wedding or next party
at the Branch & Vine. Call today: 559-708-0862

the Branch & Vine • 38802 Ave. 12
Madera Ranchos • 559-708-0862

Want to reduce stress? Increase Energy?
Lose weight? Regain health?
NEW CLASSES ARE FORMING NOW!

- Yoga • Zumba • Core Conditioning
- Bodyweight Conditioning • Mobility • Boot Camp

9/15

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

559-416-8531
37167 Ave. 12 #4A • Madera Ranchos
One Week FREE Membership
with this coupon or mention this ad • expires 10/31/2015

I have an oil for that!

HEADACHE, EARACHE, NAUSEA, SORE THROAT, RISING BLOOD PRESSURE, HOARSE, UPSET STOMACH, ULCER

Do you suffer from:
Headaches • Pain • Allergies • Seizures • Arthritis
Heartburn • Weight Issues • Sleep Problems • Stress
Depression • Asthma • Colds & Flu • Indigestion
Menstrual Issues • Acne • Eczema • Skin Disorders
And Much More ...

Then I can help you!

dōTERRA
Certified Pure Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils
100 percent All Natural • No Fillers or Harmful Additives

Tina Shannon • Wellness Advocate

call **645-4948 or 430-7131**
www.mydoterra.com/tinashannon • damaw3@yahoo.com

LETTERS cont. from P. 16

County was on full display in the Bonadelle Ranchos. The unimaginable happened: a family's home burned just six lots away from County Fire Station 19.

A single career firefighter, aided by two "paid call" firefighters quickly responded. An aggressive attack on the fire was initiated but within minutes came to an abrupt halt. The 500-gallon water tank carried on the fire engine was empty. A few hundred feet away a water tender with 4,000 gallons of water remained parked. There was no "qualified" driver-operator available to bring the large truck to the fire. Eventually, additional trucks and personnel arrived. By that time, the home was a near total loss.

This incident received attention in the local press. The shortcomings in the fire department are very apparent. The Board of Supervisors quickly responded – with nothing but talk. Fifteen months later, the "status quo" remains. Five of six county fire stations are staffed with only one career firefighter and two of 10 volunteer stations (Dairyland and Bass Lake) are either closed or considered unstaffed. Water tender response remains unreliable. Approximately 67 percent of county fire engines are at least 15 years old. Often it takes only one working fire to deplete nearly all resources on the valley floor or mountain area.

Homeowners in Madera County, particularly the mountain area, are being punished with fire insurance premiums that can cost thousands of dollars per year. Property values and commercial development may decline if fire protection is not improved.

While the county's population has surged, the county budget funds fire protection at the same level as 40 years ago. Take a moment and imagine calling for help – your house fire, cardiac arrest, car wreck with pin-in – and no immediate help being available to respond.

The cities of Madera and Chowchilla fare no better. Both cities have annexed considerable land. Madera city's fire coverage remains frozen at two stations, while Chowchilla depends entirely on volunteers (except for a paid fire chief) just as they did in the 1970s.

On April 28, 2015 the Board of Supervisors took a bit of action. A report by CAL-FIRE (Madera County's contracted fire department) pointed out numerous deficiencies in fire department staffing, equipment, infrastructure and response times. Several corrective proposals were offered, all at the cost of millions of dollars. The Board decided to consider additional funding measures, most likely a ½ cent dedicated public safety sales tax. Skepticism was voiced by one board member: We are "taxed enough already" and you would be

www.TheRanchos.com

"better off" with an insurance claim if your house fire resulted in a total loss.

In August, Madera City Council said they would engage in talks with the county to consider taking a tax measure before the voters.

The sad reality is years of neglect have led to a quiet, simmering crisis. Government budgets, which rely on local revenue for public safety, have no room left to right this wrong.

Our elected officials' effectiveness will be put to the test. Then it will be up to voters to determine pay now or pay later. How much, and at what cost, are we prepared to lose?

Meanwhile, as the fires roar on, we wait ...

Bill Ritchey
Raymond

Dear Editor:

Are Central Valley farmers sacred cows regarding the water conservation effort?

As I look around throughout the Valley in all directions, I see that farmers have planted thousands of new acreages of almonds, figs, pistachios and grapes within the last five years in the midst of the worst drought we've had. In every case they have installed 10- or 12-inch wells with powerful pumps that are certainly depleting the groundwater table.

I live in the Bonadelle 5 development and me and several of my neighbors have experienced problems with our private water wells. Once I had to lower my pump when it started sucking air and then again I had to dig another well because I couldn't go any deeper with my present well, at a total cost of \$20,000. Several of my neighbors have done the same.

We blame the farmers immediately to the east who planted hundreds of acres of figs and pistachios and also the farmer immediately to the west who planted more acreage of almonds. We cannot compete with them in pumping water. Their pumps are bigger, deeper and more powerful than ours. My neighbors and I are doing our best in conserving water by letting our lawns go dry, but it bothers me to see new lands being developed for agriculture use at this particular time of drought season. It seems to me that the County Board of Supervisors should consider putting a moratorium on any new development where additional water use would be required until such time that this drought trend is improved.

Sincerely,

Elias Escoto
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

To the water system users of the Madera Ranchos: Our Supervisor for District One, Brett Frazier, has suggested having an MD-10A ratepayer meeting in the first week of October here in the Madera Ranchos. This meeting will be advertised and for the first time in many years the people paying for this water system will be notified by mail of this meeting. It is important for all ratepayers to attend this meeting. Why is it important? Because our MD-10A is not only broke, but we owe Madera County \$750,000 toward the cost of the Dublin Well that was put online in July, 2015. Madera County employees have liquidated at least \$1.3 million of MD-10A ratepayer funds from our ACO (Accumulated Capital Outlay) account that also went into the Dublin Well. Hopefully by this meeting Mr. Frazier will be able to tell us just how much this Dublin Well has cost the 1,000 ratepayers of MD-10A.

With malice toward no one, it is a reality that our water system is in need of immediate and serious consideration. Madera County employees over the last 20 years have not been able to make the improvements necessary for our water system to be efficient and cost effective. During these last two years while Madera County employees have offered no option to the continued mismanagement of this community water system, there is one option for the rate payers of MD-10A: form a ratepayer owned non-profit corporation with each ratepayer having a vote to manage the improvements that this water system requires. This option has been successfully functioning for another community water system in Madera County for over 33 years. Continuing to pay Madera County to manage our water system means continuing to pay union and prevailing wage contracts as required by law. The option of a ratepayer owned and operated water system would mean that we would receive possibly three times the dollar power that we have under the current system. In order to make the improvements necessary, primarily installing new pipelines so we do not continue to lose 25 percent of the water out of our existing 50-year-old piping, rates will need to be raised and a bond will probably need to be passed for working capital.

It has been my concern over the last two years that the 1,000 ratepayers of MD-10A will be looking at an obligation in the thousands of dollars per parcel and if we continue to pay the Madera County Special Districts to manage our community water system we will continue to be getting about 25 cents on the dollar spent. The option of the ratepayer owned and operated system I propose would give us about

75 cents on the dollar of buying power. Do a little math. How does an extra water bill of \$10,000 to \$20,000 fit into your home budget for the next five years?

Again, every rate payer of MD-10A should take their mailed notice of this meeting from Brett Frazier and tape it on the inside of your front door so you will remember the date and time and attend this meeting. I find the management of this water system by Madera County over the last several years to have been unacceptable and I do not believe the property owners of this community can afford to continue paying for the required consultation fees, union and prevailing wage contracts and Madera County administration fees that are not itemized or shown on paper. MD-10A ratepayers are currently paying about a half million dollars a year in water bill payments, with half of that money going to PG&E to cover the electricity to run the pumps on our four functioning wells and the other \$250,000 a year is eaten up by undisclosed administrative expenses.

Please attend this upcoming meeting for MD-10A ratepayers and take an active interest in how much money you will be spending in the next 10 years for your water and how that money will be spent.

Another item of concern is the continuing sewage seepage from the 2,000 or more septic systems out here that are adversely affecting our water supply. Again, additional large sums of money billed to these property owners will be forthcoming. The lack of transparency and accountability by Madera County employees that have been spending our ratepayer money is more of a concern to this community than you have been informed of.

Chuck La Rue
Madera Ranchos

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

Send your letters to:

email:
ranchosnews@yahoo.com
mail:
The Ranchos Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93636
fax:
559-645-4002

3 Sisters Garden Theft Cuts Deep

In late August on a Saturday night, burglars broke into the container at the Three Sisters Garden behind the Madera Community College Center on Avenue 12 at Highway 99 by cutting through the north side of the chain link fence and knocking the lock off with a rock, stealing \$2,000 worth of equipment and tools. "Everything is either donated or paid for with volunteer time and effort," said Madera Master Gardener Barbara Mattice. "So it's very disheartening that the valuable tools and equipment we've worked so hard to obtain and pay for are gone."

The burglars sneaked around the back and found and dumped several containers of tools into one of the small wheelbarrows, making off with those items and a \$540 chipper shredder, a four-gallon back pack sprayer worth \$97, over \$100 worth of rolled black plastic, heavy-duty 50- and 100-foot hoses and electric cords and much more.

When the incident was brought to the attention of the local non-profit Southeast Madera County United (SEMCU) by one of the garden's volunteers, Katie Bennett, SEMCU offered a \$500 donation to ad-

dress the most pressing needs so that the work at the garden could continue. Bennett, a SEMCU member who earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by working over 1,000 hours in the Children's section of the Three Sisters Demonstration Garden, continues to volunteer her time there, despite the setback. Another SEMCU member and owner of Hurst Hardware, Tom Hurst, will be giving the Madera Master Gardeners a discount on the replacement tools and equipment purchased at his store. The Hursts' home garden was featured on the Master Gardener's 2015 Spring Glorious Garden Tour, which is held each year to raise money for the Three Sisters Garden.

If you can help the Master Gardeners with cash to replace any of their tools and equipment, go to Hurst Hardware and use the discount. Or if you have any good, useable tools or landscaping equipment you can donate, please contact Master Gardener Karen Petryna at (559) 706-2445. Karen will be very happy to come and collect your much needed and greatly appreciated donations so the Master Gardeners and their friends can continue their good community work.

ANDY cont. from P. 2

will be working for the same pay as when he left the District, just over \$130,000 per year plus benefits totaling \$25,000. He and the District negotiated a new contract that will begin Feb. 1, 2016 and will total just over \$147,000 per year.

The move to oust Alvarado by the recalled Board members ultimately cost the District, and ultimately taxpayers, over \$135,000 to buy out his contract. Then, in an effort to recoup some of that money, the three recalled members eliminated the \$115,000 assistant superintendent position. The problem with that move was the assistant superintendent was responsible for curriculum, particularly as California prepares to mandate the Common Core system. Many felt the move was shortsighted and unnecessarily left teachers high and dry by taking away a critical resource. In addition, the District amassed between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in legal fees related to Alvarado's exit.

Alvarado was also considering legal action against the three recalled Board members, saying they had violated the terms of the separation agreement. Since they were Board members, the action would have been brought against the Board. Upon rehiring, Alvarado agreed not to pursue that action and, as a result, netted a \$19,000 rebate to the District from the in-

urance carrier.

At the Sept. 15 Board meeting, Alvarado said, "It's great to be home again." He continued, "Just so the community knows, I never had any intention of going anywhere. I planned to stay here at Golden Valley and it never even crossed my mind until the last election. With that being said, this has been a very humbling experience. I think there's a lot to be learned from this process. I think it's going to take a strong superintendent in the long run."

Alvarado then concluded by saying, "To the community I want to thank you for your unwavering support."

DRY cont. from P. 3

Liberty High recharge basin built and also having it maintained, which involves keeping it free and clean of weeds and debris.

You can learn more about the County wide dry well installation project in the months to come by "Liking" the Rancho's Independent on Facebook for ongoing news. And if you're interested in having a dry well installed on your property, potentially at no cost, you can contact your supervisor's office or the office of Environmental Health at 675-7823.



Valley Tea Party Donates Constitutions to Schools

By Betty Van Valkenburg

As we know, or may have forgotten, delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time on Sept. 17, 1787, to sign the United States Constitution they had hammered out so raucously during that scorching summer in Philadelphia. But what most of us might not know is that a 2004 federal law designated Sept. 17 as Constitution Day and that, according to a 2005 Department of Education notice in the Federal Register, "... educational institutions receiving Federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year."

In 2010, some astute educators who were active in the Central Valley Tea Party noted that schools were ignoring or perhaps did not know about the law and the designated day and so the local grassroots organization took action. Each year since then, in order to help schools comply with the law and to encourage students to learn about their country's important founding documents, the local Tea Party has offered free pocket-size Constitutions (including the Declaration of Independence) along with teaching materials for use in the classroom. Surprisingly some schools or teachers have refused the offer, but many thousands of Constitutions have been distributed to Valley schools willing to take them and at events and meetings up and down the Valley. You can help to purchase Constitutions for this worthwhile effort by participating in an Oct. 3 pancake breakfast fundraiser. For information and to purchase tickets online, please visit www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

Sadly, according to the California State Social Science Content Standards, most California public school students are not taught U. S. history until fifth grade and then in grades eight and 11, with world history taught in grades six and seven. Twelfth graders are apparently taught "Principles of Economics and Democracy" ("Democracy" of course is not mentioned in the Constitution, which established a republic instead. Perhaps we should be teaching founding principles to our misguided legislators – or electing only those who know and respect them).

In contrast, this writer learned Ameri-

can history and the Constitution in the earliest grades, as did others of the same seasoned-citizen status, I'm sure. In my case, education was comprehensive enough in poor rural and later urban Arkansas that by eighth grade I was "arguing politics" with my parents: "How can the government force you to send tax money to Washington for your retirement when that is your responsibility and you can do it better. It's like they're calling you too stupid to take care of yourself, and it isn't even Constitutional!" Today I take no pleasure in "I told you so" while watching Social Security treated as a political football and threatening bankruptcy with billions of unfunded liabilities. But I digress.

Please note that nowhere in the Constitution is the federal government given any power over education or schools (or retirement or health care, for that matter). The Tenth Amendment states that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." While acknowledging this fact, the Tea Party is willing to point out the law, such as it is, and provide Constitutions to students for their edification.

So why teach the Constitution anyway, since it is so obviously ignored? Because without a return – soon – to its guarantees of individual rights and limitations on government control, our children and grandchildren will lose their freedom to an increasingly arrogant and dictatorial government. What recourse do they look to if they haven't been taught the document that protects their rights and established the most free and prosperous nation on Earth?

Edwin J. Feulner on Heritage.org, after asking why we have bureaucratic overspending, over-regulating and limits on freedom, wrote: "The answer ... is mostly rooted in ignorance. They've either forgotten what they once knew about the U. S. Constitution and the clear, necessary limits that it places on government – or they never really knew it in the first place."

Then he suggested another option: "[Politicians] know what the Constitution says, but deliberately work around it, confident that few of their constituents know it ... or they're too busy to notice or too apathetic to do anything about it."

Our school children need to learn the Constitution. How will they hold politicians to account if they don't know what to hold them accountable to?

If you need to refresh your knowledge of our founding documents, as I do, Hillsdale College teaches a free online course and the Heritage Foundation is a good resource.

SPREAD THE NEWS!

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

SUBSCRIBE!

to the Ranchos Independent!
 local news • local events • local happenings
 editorial • games • real estate • columns



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: \$20 Cash Check Credit Card Bill Me

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

The Ranchos Independent

37167 Ave. 12, #5C
 Madera, CA 93636

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

ANSWERS

8	7	5	4	1	2	3	9	6	ALERO	THESE	TANGENTS	ARBORDAYS	7	+	4	x	1	11	Y	T	S	M	R	O								
2	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	1	HUNTER	WOODDENS	STATUE	LAI	X	÷					U	V	O	N										
3	1	4	6	9	5	2	8	7	SPUR	PEI	OSE	ESC	LAI	6	x	4	-	8	16	D	I	C	N	A	R	O	M	A	T	I	C	N
1	2	7	5	6	8	4	3	9	HASAN	IRK	LIR	IRV	JETE	X	÷					K	H	I	U	T	E							
6	4	3	9	2	7	8	1	5	ARCH	BIZ	MESA	SOC	÷	+					L	E	S	C	X	F	S	E	G					
5	9	8	3	4	1	6	7	2	STERN	TUT	EVA	IT	CHY	2	x	9	-	5	13	U	E	N	O	R								
9	3	1	8	5	6	7	2	4	RANK	LOA	COAX	SHY	LEE							O	R	R	E	N	E	U						
4	8	6	2	7	9	1	5	3	ABRES	ACT	FIG	DOERS	21		10				F	D	I	R	T	U	P							
7	5	2	1	3	4	9	6	8	HÄUNT	ED	TO	FOURTEEN							B	A	N	N	E	R	A	D						

Classified

Alteration Services

Madlin's Alterations - 45 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36027 Ruth Ave. Call 559-645-4583.**

Auto Detailing

Mirror Image Mobile Auto Detailing - Full Service Auto detailing, also RV's, Boats and Motorcycles. We use our own water. Headlight restoration. Wax, polish, cut and shampoo. **Call 559-676-2877.**

Business Opportunity

For rent, lease or purchase - Full service car wash tunnel on Ave. 12, Madera Ranchos. **Call 559-645-6630.**

Child Care

Child Care - Susan Ryan Day Care. Newborn to 5 years old. Licensed. **Call 661-4725 or 706-0424.**

Construction

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

For Sale

For Sale - Craftsman Chipper Shredder. 7.5 HP, reduce Volume 14:1. Good condition with transferable service contract (4/28/2016) \$250. **Call 645-0103.**

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 32 years working in the area. **Call 559-822-2759.**

Housecleaning

Housecleaning - Get ready for

spring cleaning. **Call Linda or Staci at 559-458-3248.**

Housecleaning Service - Have your house spring-cleaned all year long. Experienced, Responsible, Honest. Fair prices. **Call 416-2585.**

Painting Services

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

Recyclables Pick Up

KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLABLE PICKUP - KIDS 4 RECYCLING offers pickup of all recyclable materials including paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard. **Call Diana at 999-6832 or 645-1048, Funds support Ranchos community organizations and schools.**

Tractor/Trenching Services

BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding - Roll-off Bins. **Call John at 908-1066.**

Tractor Work - House Pads, lot leveling, drive-ways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. **Call 559-970-4476.**

Window Cleaning Services

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

Yard Sales

YARD SALE - Expandable Entertainment Center, 1946 full size Bedroom Suite, Camping and fishing equipment - bedding - men's clothing, & Lots more. **Saturday, October 3rd. 8AM - 4PM - 36572 Franklin Ave.**

Real Estate



Tom Thayer, Broker
R.E. License #01105315



Your Ranchos Home Sold Guaranteed

Or I'll buy it for cash*

NO Gimmicks! Order a **Free Report** on my exclusive Guaranteed Sale Program, by visiting:

www.TomsGuaranteeSale.com

For FREE Recorded Message Call:
1-866-254-3814 ID#1072
Or you can call me direct at: 559-706-3820

Not a solicitation of active listings

*Seller and Tom must agree on price and closing date.

9/15

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		×		11
×		÷		×	
	×		-		16
÷		+		+	
	×		-		13
21		10		13	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

©2015 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

1. Meeteetse, Wyo.
2. Kaunapali, Hawaii
3. Saguache, Colo.
4. Skaneateles, N.Y.
5. Champaign, Ill.
6. Pflugerville, Texas
7. Worcester, Mass.
8. Ketchikan, Alaska
9. Winnemucca, Nev.
10. Aquebogue, N.Y.

Source: Ipsos survey

© 2015 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2015 King Features Syndicates, Inc.


Click on "Local News" at

Real Estate



Nancy Watson
The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

645-5000
www.nancywatson.net




If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 24 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs.

9/15

Continental Realty
PAUL & SUE SOBAJE

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



CONTINENTAL REALTY • 36875 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS
MADERA 559-645-5450 • FRESNO 559-431-7060

9/15



DAVID PARKER, Realtor®
Real Estate Sales - sellers & buyers:
www.davidparker.info

*Property Management -
we can rent your home:*
www.parker-properties.info



A Ranchos resident for over 30 years, I am a full-time professional agent working Madera, Fresno and Clovis. We offer first class service for sellers and buyers. Unable to sell at current prices? We offer full property management and will rent your home for top dollar and handle all the details. Call me today! 490-1989 • DRE#: 01323109

9/15

Your Local Realtor Since 1969
Ethel Eddings Pronin
Owner - Broker

Jerry Eddings, Realtors
Madera: 559-645-1890 • Fresno: 559-435-1890
DRE #00329063



37144 Ave. 12 Ste. 102 • Madera Ranchos



9/15

GUARANTEE.com REAL ESTATE



TWYLA SMITH

Your neighbor in the Ranchos since 1987
Your friend in Real Estate since 2003
BRE# 01397023

559-709-2349
twylasmith@guarantee.com

9/15

Want to Buy or Sell a Home?

Ask about our **FREE** home warranty program.

We Have Pre-Approved Buyers!

Call Today!

Maria Fotopoulos - Cercone
Office • 559-645-1212
Cell • 559-250-6740
maria@ossrealtor.com

Ranchos resident for over 30 years!



DRE Lic. #01454566

9/15



LIZ KUCHINSKI, CDPE, CRS, GRI, SFR
Realtor, Century 21 C. Watson • DRE Lic. #01263332

"A Ranchos resident since 1985."

The Ranchos is a great place to call home ~ call, text or email me for any questions you may have regarding your home or property values.

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

9/15

Find Out What Your Ranchos Home is Worth On-line

You will receive information on what comparable homes have sold for in your neighborhood and which homes are currently listed, how long they've been on the market and what the prices are. Based on this information you will know what your home is worth. This Complete Confidential Market Analysis is absolutely **FREE!**

For a Free, Quick On-line Home Evaluation Visit:
www.ranchoshomevalues.com

Tom Thaver, Broker; Realty World Real Estate Professionals. DRE Lic#01105315. Not a solicitation of active listings

9/15

SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

CHANEY'S

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

CLARK'S

 559-645-1578
**General & Custom
 Auto Service
 & Repairs**
PERFORMANCE

PAINTING CONTRACTOR
 TEXTURED COATING • PAINTING
 VINYL SIDING • VINYL WINDOWS
 ROOFING

 Since 1970
**FRANK KRAMER
 EXTERIORS**
(559) 645-4113
 TEXTURED COATING SPECIALIST
 FRANK KRAMER LIC. #273099

**THE COMFORT
 AND RELAXATION
 YOU DESERVE**

BRIAN'S
HEATING & COOLING
675-1681

**NEW & USED
 CARS & TRUCKS**
All Makes & Models
**J.H. Sanders
 Sales & Leasing**
822-4500
**41453 Ave. 14 1/2
 Madera Ranchos**
www.jhsanders.com

**BUBBA'S
 WATER TRUCK SERVICE**

 We Fill
 Holding Tanks
 Swimming Pools
 Potable Water
 Dust Control
 Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley
 Call Gina at 559-289-3401
 email BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

**Jo-De DRILLING
 & TRACTOR SERVICE**

HARDPAN DRILLING
674-7770

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

**HIGH QUALITY
 GATE SYSTEMS**

559-454-8060

CENTRAL VALLEY

HUMBLE TREE CARE
 ESTABLISHED IN 2005
 Tree pruning, shaping & trimming
 Tree Cabling • Tree removal
559-347-8408 • www.cvhtc.com
 Fully Insured • 8+ Years Experience • Trained Arborist

How's your fence?
Advanced Fence
for all your fencing needs
559-464-5286
 Lic. #997265 & Bonded

WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR \$25?
 How about 10,000
 Ranchos residents each month who
 look at Business Directory ads?
The Ranchos Independent
(559) 645-0634


 call for
FREE ESTIMATE!
 • Clean Up
 • Monthly Service
**BRENT TATUM
 LAWN SERVICE**
559-871-3529

**Brannon's
 A/C & Heating**

 • Preseason Service
 • Emergency Repair
 • New Installations
 • Water Heaters
 • Senior Discounts
559-706-1368
 Lic. #961690

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

Aleman's Painting

 SINCE 1980
 Interior & Exterior
 Specializing in
 Repaints
 Rental, Residential
 & Commercial
 Drywall, Stucco,
 Redashing & Ac-
 coustical Removal
 Color Matching
 BONDED & INSURED
 Lic. #589140
559-974-2268

**CRONIN MARINE
 REPAIR**
 ENGINE AND OUT-DRIVE REPAIR
 INBOARDS AND OUTBOARDS
 TRAILER BOATS ONLY

 Since 1964
645-1977

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

**MADERA
 Barber Shop
 RANCHOS**
559-363-1851
 we also have P.O. BOXES available
 ranchosbarbershop@yahoo.com

**PERSONAL TOUCH
 LANDSCAPE & GARDENING
 SERVICE • Lic. #B0008113**

 Rancho Resident
 Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control
 Lawn & garden service • Maintenance
 Weekly & monthly service
Mag Anaya Jr.
559-974-1357

**Mitchell L. Vick
 GENERAL CONTRACTOR**
 Lic. #563698
 • Custom Homes • Concrete •
 • Remodeling • Additions •
559-970-4635
 mlvconst@gmail.com

*Housekeeping
 & Cleaning
 by Rosalia*

 We clean houses,
 offices, rental
 houses, windows -
 - including hard
 water stains
 and shower
 doors. 10 years experience.
 Many Ranchos references.
559-514-9816

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

**MARION POOL
 SERVICE & REPAIR**

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

Business Directory

WIGHT WATER POOLS
Service • Supplies • Repair
FREE ONLINE DELIVERY
WWW.WIGHTWATERPOOLS.COM
MON-FRI: 9AM-5:30PM SAT: 10AM-3PM SUN: CLOSED
37167 AVE. 12 #5D (559) 645-1969

for MORE sales tomorrow, call
JEAN BRINER
Today!
(559) 645-0634
The Ranchos Independent

FIVE TWO
ADVERTISING
ADS
LOGOS
PR
MARKETING
645-0634

Plumbing Problems?
Davis Plumbing
LIC. #842676
559-977-6289

DAVIS PLUMBING INC
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, REMODEL & REPAIR
VERNON DAVIS, Owner
CA LIC #842676
438 E. Shaw Avenue #217
Fresno, CA 93710
559-977-6289
559-645-1864
davisplumbco@aol.com

9/15

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Personal matters claim a good deal of the Lamb's time in the early part of the week. But by midweek, pragmatic considerations (work, school, job-seeking, etc.) begin to take priority.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The seasonal shift ignites the Bovine's creative aspects. You could do well if you try to combine your penchant for innovation with the more pragmatic demands of the week.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Ideas come easily to you this week. And never mind that some might suggest they're unworkable and/or impractical. It's your vision that counts. Work them out and see what turns up.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Personal matters continue to dominate the early part of the week. By midweek, more workaday issues once again begin to emerge. Balance your time to give both the attention they need.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A new contact could provide an expanded opportunity. But be sure you get all the facts before you consider signing on. Ask questions, and be wary if you don't get the right answers.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected development could cause some supposedly resolved disagreements to reignite. Deal with the situation before it leads to some really serious problems.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A clash of work-linked viewpoints needs to be discussed openly, honestly and calmly by all concerned before it can impede progress on an ongoing project.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The Scorpion's pragmatic side helps you accept the possibility that a change of plans might be the wise thing to do. Be sure to weigh all your considerations carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Some people might not take no for an answer. Never mind. Keep your resolve if you're sure you don't want to be involved in a potentially sticky situation.

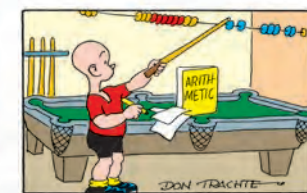
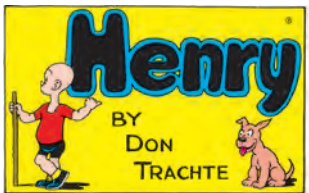
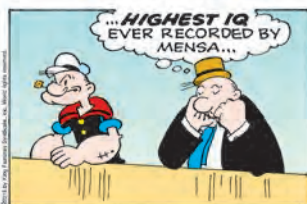
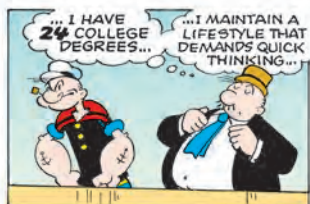
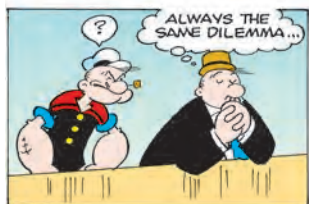
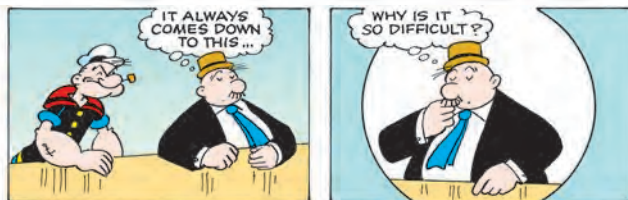
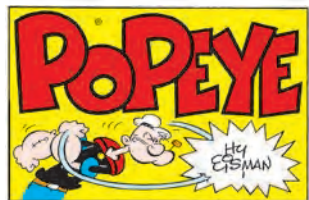
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) All other facts and figures aside, it's what you learn about potential colleagues that can be most helpful in assessing any decisions you're likely to make regarding a new project.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to reconsider some of your outside commitments if they continue to demand more time than you can spare. Be honest with yourself when making a decision.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Pay attention to that inner voice of Piscean wisdom counseling you to remove those rose-colored glasses and take an honest look at any decisions you might face this week.

Born this week
You have a penchant for persuasion that would make you a fine candidate for a political career.

FUN PAGES



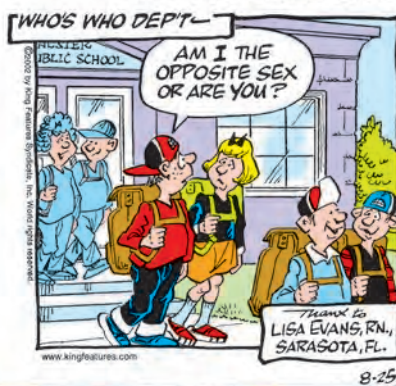
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

CLICHÉS WE CAN DO WITHOUT



MR. QUEASY GOES TO THE LUNCHEONETTE AT AN OFF HOUR SO HE CAN EAT WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED... THEN ALL BEDLAM BREAKS LOOSE...
Thank to K. WYCK, LOS ANGELES, CA.

BY AL SCADUTO



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

WATCH OUT? A birdwatcher on a quiet day decided to liven things up with some simple mathematics. Each robin he sighted scored two points.

At day's end, he had sighted 35 birds, four times as many robins as wrens, totaling 91 points. Question: What number of robins did he see, and what number of wrens? Can you answer?

WELL SAID! Let us not throw the — after the bucket," said Cervantes, and one can't help but string along with his words. What four-letter word is missing? Answer quickly.

OUTWITTING THE DESERT SAND

Traveling through the desert, your right front tire blows out. You are fortunate to be carrying a jack and a spare. However, just as you are about to change wheels, a sandstorm blows up and delays you. Luckily, the storm is over quickly, but alas, it leaves the lug nuts from your wheel buried forever. Without reattaching the wheel, of course, you are not able to continue on your way. What to do? Askakazam, you think of a temporary measure to get you rolling. What's that? Time limit: 1 minute.



SOAP HAPPY! How many make-believe soap-star faces appear on this TV screen — 20, 25, more? Take a guess, then count.

Wishing Well

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

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

(c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE • WORDS OF SMELL

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

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

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|--------|
| Aromatic | Musty | Putrid | Stench |
| Damp | Noxious | Rancid | Stinky |
| Foul | Perfumed | Reek | Sweet |
| Fresh | Pungent | Rotten | |

©2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



SWAN LUCK! It's snack time for a friendly swan. Simply apply these colors by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

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

LINESMAN

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: In what country is the city of Sao Paulo located?
- MUSIC: What singer made the song "Mack the Knife" famous?
- HISTORY: When were the anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti executed for crimes that they may not have committed?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Charlotte's Web"?
- EDUCATION: Which field of study has been described as "the dismal science"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president's nickname was "Old Hickory"?
- MATH: What is the decimal equivalent of the fraction 3/4?
- MOVIES: What film features the theme park "Walley World"?
- ASTRONOMY: In which constellation is the Big Dipper located?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does a sphygmomanometer measure?

Answers

- Brazil!
- Bobby Darin
- 1927
- E.B. White
- Economics
- Andrew Jackson
- 7.075
- "National Lampoon's Vacation"
- Ursa Major
- Blood pressure

(c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

Click on "Local News" at

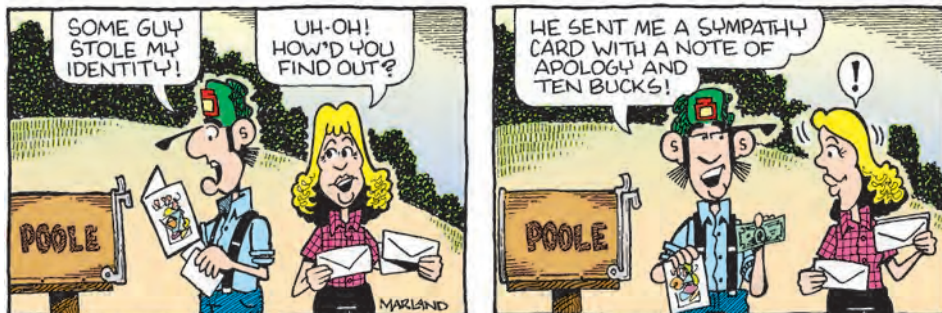
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



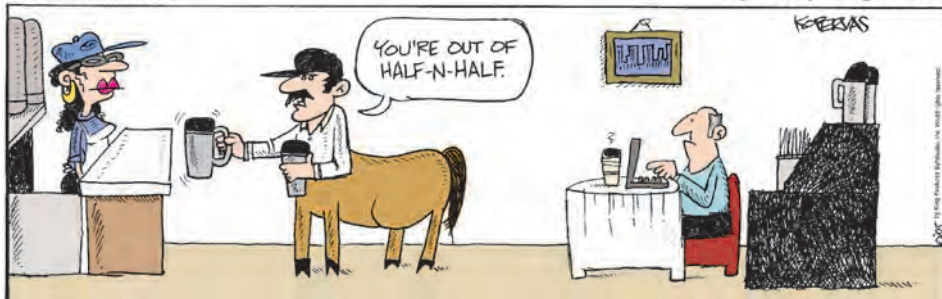
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Intelligent Life

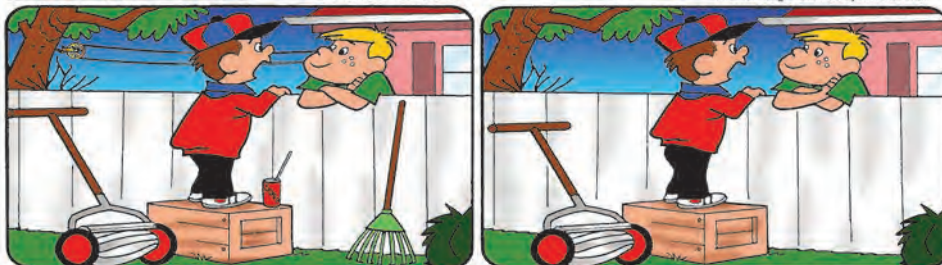
by David Reddick



HOCUS-FOCUS

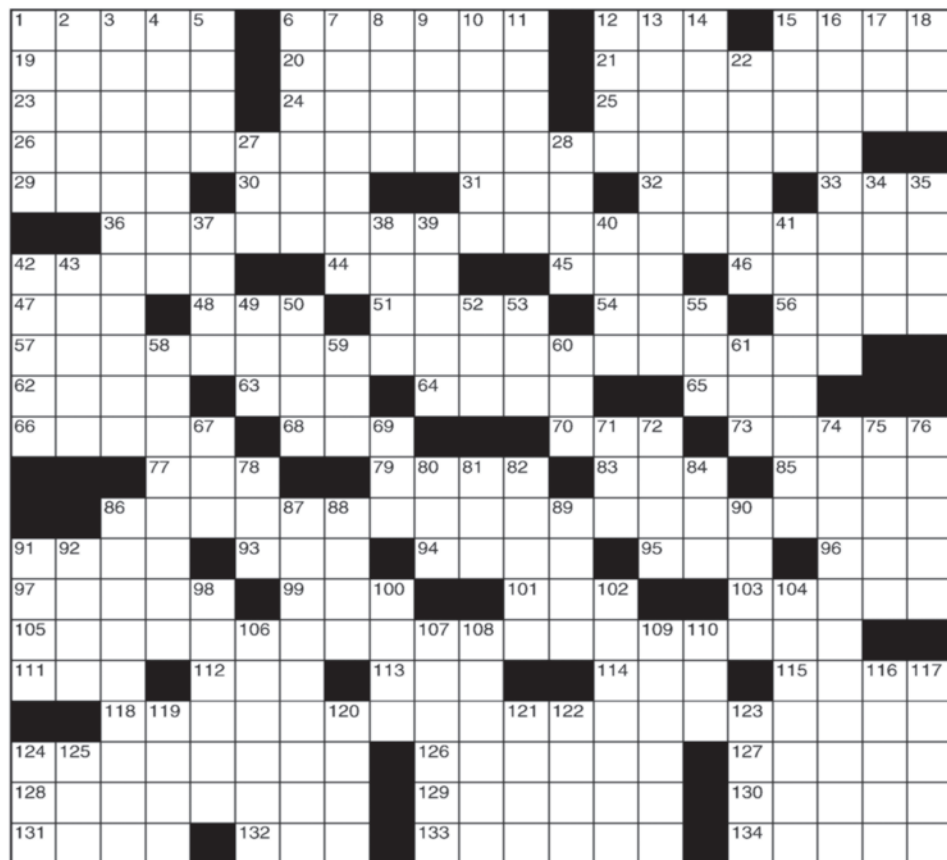
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

©2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Clothing is missing. 2. Handle is shorter. 3. Sweathirt is shorter. 4. Can is missing. 5. Brake is missing. 6. Hat is missing. 7. Hat is missing. 8. Hat is missing. 9. Hat is missing. 10. Hat is missing.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Not live, as a TV show
 - 6 Flight in a building
 - 12 Nature lover's prefix
 - 15 Service station fixture
 - 19 Old Olds
 - 20 Chicken of — (tuna brand)
 - 21 Digressions
 - 23 "The Cosby Show" wife
 - 24 Wild-animal tracking aid
 - 25 Tree-planting observance
 - 26 Try to find a figure of a person carved in oak?
 - 29 Goad
 - 30 Architect I.M. —
 - 31 Ending of sugar names
 - 32 Key next to F1
 - 33 Chou En —
 - 36 Avid fan of German computer programs?
 - 42 — effect on (impacts)
 - 44 Divine being
 - 45 Compass pt.
 - 46 Singer Paula
 - 47 Jurist's org.
 - 48 Really bug
 - 51 One fibbing
 - 54 R&B producer
 - 56 Ballerina's jump
 - 57 Promoter of Texas' largest city was
 - 62 Foot support
 - 63 "That's show —!"
 - 64 Butte's kin
 - 65 Pt. of SSN
 - 66 Not lenient
 - 68 Sound of rebuke
 - 70 Zsa Zsa's sister
 - 73 Relievable by scratching
 - 77 It's south of Can.
 - 79 Eyes a bull's-eye, say
 - 83 Fess (up to)
 - 85 "Of — I Sing"
 - 86 Hapless thugs caught in the rain?
 - 91 Prioritize
 - 93 Mauna —
 - 94 Sweet-talk
 - 95 Like Bashful
 - 96 Writer
 - 97 French ecclesiastics
 - 99 Drama part
 - 101 — Newton
 - 103 Active types
 - 105 Nonlocals visited by ghosts?
 - 111 Mil. bigwig
 - 112 Viral gene material
 - 113 Light blow
 - 114 Myrna of film
 - 115 "... — extra cost!"
 - 118 New year of which there are five anagrams in this puzzle
 - 124 More eerie
 - 126 Liken
 - 127 Buenos —
 - 128 Promotion at the top of a Web page
 - 129 Sled feature
 - 130 "Johnny B. —" (1958 hit song)
 - 131 Abbr. before "D.A."
 - 132 Sullivan and O'Neill
 - 133 Detects
 - 134 Pitch-dark
 - 4 African republic
 - 5 Tim Conway's "— on Golf"
 - 6 Audio system
 - 7 Deicing
 - 8 Sleekly designed
 - 9 "What — be done?"
 - 10 Learn about via print
 - 11 Most sapient
 - 12 LGA guesses
 - 13 Period after Ford's presidency
 - 14 Safely at first or second
 - 15 Lima's locale
 - 16 Not duped
 - 17 NYC bus insignia
 - 18 —Ops
 - 22 "You fell for it!"
 - 27 Choose, with "for"
 - 28 The latest
 - 34 "What are you, some kind of —?"
 - 35 Not in use
 - 37 Army squad
 - 38 By oneself
 - 39 Hatred
 - 40 "Not likely!"
 - 41 Disapprove of
 - 42 Responses to puns
 - 43 End a mission early
 - 49 Lowe of "Breakaway"
 - 50 Purf's partner
 - 52 Munched
 - 53 — ipsa loquitur
 - 55 Beetles and Golfs, briefly
 - 58 Shriveled up
 - 59 Shih —
 - 60 Singer Carly — Jepsen
 - 61 With 119-Down, "Absolutely not!"
 - 67 Bounced check abbr.
 - 69 Greek letter
 - 71 Wedding part
 - 72 Blows away
 - 74 Egg yolks are high in it
 - 75 "Napoleon Dynamite" star Jon
 - 76 Positive RSVPs
 - 78 ISP of note
 - 80 Mag with an annual "500"
 - 81 "Little Red Book" author
 - 82 Work crew
 - 84 Utmost
 - 86 Loosens, as some shirts
 - 87 Future path snack
 - 88 Saltillo
 - 89 Take off
 - 90 Jekyll's antithesis
 - 91 School cheers
 - 92 All that and — of chips
 - 98 Hit from a 102-Down
 - 100 Ballerina's skirt
 - 102 Links peg
 - 104 Formal talk
 - 106 Not partial
 - 107 Electroshock weapons
 - 108 Not transparent
 - 109 Romantic hopefuls
 - 110 Big Apple sch.
 - 116 "— remind you that ...?"
 - 117 Advent
 - 119 See 61-Down
 - 120 Municipal laws: Abbr.
 - 121 U.S. Senate alumnus Sam
 - 122 Marino and Rather
 - 123 Prego rival
 - 124 Fed. loan agency
 - 125 Mas' mates

FUN PAGES

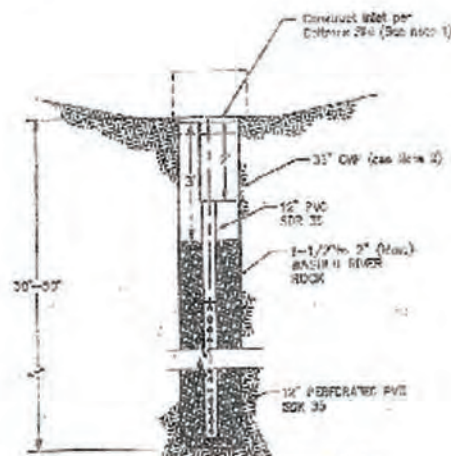
EMERGENCY NOTICE!!!

FREE Drain (Recharge) Well Installations Being Considered for Qualified Locations in an Emergency Effort to Help Curb the Drought Effects!

- Do you have seasonal creeks running through your property that floods?
- Do you have storm water flooding your property?

Madera County has approved the issuance of permits to begin projects in **qualified and approved locations on privately owned parcels.**

Well construction consists of a 24-36 inch diameter well down to 50 feet filled with river rock. The well fills with storm water during the rainy season and helps to recharge the aquifer below.



For Illustration Purposes Only

Madera County and SEMCU want to hear from you!

A public-private partnership effort between Madera County and SEMCU is on the way which will allow property owners to capture seasonal storm water for groundwater recharge without having to pay the installation costs

For Further Information Contact:

www.semcu.org (559)363-9095



SEM CU
SOUTH EAST MADERA COUNTY UNITED