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Volume 12 Issue 10 2016

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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the lawsuits begin ...

Vulcan's Austin Quarry enters the next phase of its controversial life with a lawsuit filed against it and Madera County



Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8 Classifieds • Page 18 / Fun Pages • Pages 22 & 23

Feeling Lucky?

Ally Bank is leaving 10 "lucky pennies" worth \$1,000 each in the cities of Austin, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Diego and Washington, D.C. They are all being placed in high-traffic, pedestrian areas.

The Ally pennies are slightly larger than typical pennies, feature the bank's logo on the front and bear a redemption code on the back that the finder can use by visiting AllyLuckyPenny.com by Dec. 31 to claim the \$1,000 prize.



Homecoming King, Queen Crowned at LHS



Brett Cazares (left) and Jamie Lewis were named the Liberty High School Homecoming king and queen at halftime of Liberty's 35-20 victory over Washington Union on Oct. 21. Photo by Tyler Takeda.

Low-Cost Flu Shots

Annual low-cost flu shots, sponsored by the Madera County Department of Public Health, are coming to the Ranchos Thursday, Oct. 27 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Ranchos Market, 37405 Ave. 12. The cost is only \$5 or FREE with a Medicare card. You must be 12 years old or older. For more info call 675-7893.

By Randy Bailey

A lawsuit was filed on Oct. 12 against Madera County, the Madera County Board of Supervisors, Calmat Company (d.b.a. Vulcan Materials Company), and landowner William Michael Urruitia. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Madera Oversight Coalition.

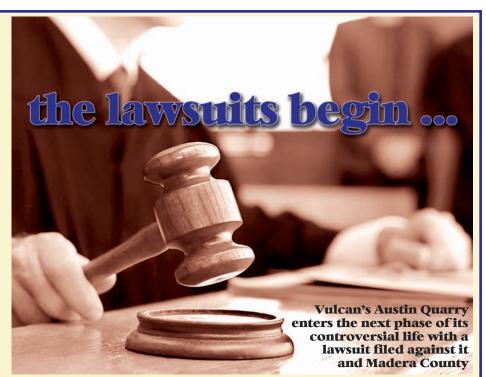
At the heart of the lawsuit is the ultimate disposition of the Austin Quarry which is being proposed by Vulcan for the southwest corner of Highway 41 and Highway 145. After being approved by a 3-2 vote by the County's Planning Commission in July, the project moved forward to a Board of Supervisors Meeting on Sept. 12. At that meeting, in excess of 200 concerned citizens showed up to present their reasons for having the Board vote "no" on the quarry. After an all-day, and often contentious, Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors ultimately voted in favor of the quarry project by a vote of 3-2 with Supervisors Brett Frazier and Max Rodriguez casting the "no" votes.

Lawsuit Filed

One month later, the Madera Oversight Coalition (MOC) filed the lawsuit with the Superior Court of Madera County. In Part 10 of the Introduction, MOC contends: "Because of the FEIR's [Final Environmental Impact Report's] numerous flaws, and other errors in the deliberation process, the County abused its discretion and violated CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] and the Government Code when it certified the FEIR and approved the Project and related approvals. Additionally, there was insufficient substantial evidence to support the approval and/or findings with respect to the other related County approvals. Petitioners are therefore asking this Court to issue a Peremptory Writ of Mandate directing the County to set aside its certification of the FEIR and its related decisions and findings regarding the Project. Petitioners further ask the Court to issue an injunction or a stay concerning any construction related activities at quarry site." A Writ of Mandate that MOC is seeking is defined as a final order of a court to any governmental body, government official or a lower court to perform an act the court finds is an official duty required by law. In this case, the ultimate goal is to shut the whole Austin project down.

Remedies Exhausted

Further in the lawsuit MOC explains that it had "exhausted all of its administrative remedies" by stating "Petitioners



participated actively throughout the administrative process that led to Madera County's decision to certify the FEIR for the Project and make the related land use approvals. Petitioners submitted their comment letters ... Described in those letters and further addressed by Petitioners in their oral comments were deficiencies in the DEIR [Draft Environmental Impact Report] and the FEIR. These letters and comments were presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before or at the various public hearings on the Project. Petitioners raised the issues with the County which are described in part in this Petition and in their comment letters ... and thereby exhausted their administrative remedies pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21177."

Ultimately what the lawsuit states is that the County made bad decision based on faulty information. In Part VI Section 27 MOC contends: "The fail ure to adequately mitigate many of the significant impacts of this Project, the insufficient facts and data due to erroneous information, inaccurate conclusions and mitigation, make it impossible for the County to make the findings necessary to approve a Statement of Overriding Consideration, the findings necessary to approve an Environmental Impact Report under CEQA, or the Conditional Use Permits and Variance approved as part of this project."

Bottom Line

The whole thrust of the lawsuit was summed up in Part VIII in Section 58. "The FEIR was fundamentally flawed because *The o* meaningful public review was precluded, and thus should have been revised and recirculated. The Respondents have proceeded without, or in excess of, jurisdiction; and there was prejudicial abuse of discretion because the Respondents have not proceeded in the manner required by law, decisions are not supported by the findings and the findings are not supported by substantial evidence. Additionally, Petitioners allege that they were deprived of a fair trial and due process because of the way the hearing was conducted and the bias of the members of the Board."

In a separate legal action, Shimmick Construction Company, Inc., the parent company of the Madera Quarry, also filed a lawsuit on Oct. 13 against Madera County and Vulcan. The contents of its suit mirrors the MOC suit.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has announced that 38 of its members have belonged to the 20-year-old organization for nine years or more. Four members, Virginia Vick, Bill Whyman, Ollia Ridge and Kent Ridge, have been with the Chamber since it opened 20 years ago. After them the longstanding members are: 15 YEARS: Cobb Ranch • 14 YEARS: Pizza Factory • 13 YEARS: Delk Pest Control, Madera Center Community College, Bricker Construction, Dobra Sela Properties, Elaine's Pet Resort, Golden Valley Unified School District, Greenleaf Orchard, Gunner Ranch, Jerry Eddings Realtors, Ranchos Kiwanis Club, Madera County Department of Social Services, Madera County Economic Development, Margaret A. Thomas CPA, Paramount Agricultural Management, Pistoresi Ambulance, Provost & Pritchard Inc., Ranchos Dental Care, Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Rio Del Sol Madera Ranch, Sol Development, Valley Childrens Health Care • 11 YEARS: California Association of Independent Business, Diana Tucker - Notary & Massage Therapist • 10 YEARS: Fernwood Gardens, North Fork Rancheria, Now & Again Thrift & Gift, PG&E, The Ranchos Independent • 9 YEARS: Silvas Auto Body, Valley Propane, Valley Yellow Pages, Vulcan Materials.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the business climate for area businesses as well as being an organizing entity for the betterment of the Madera Ranchos community. The Chamber can be reached at 645-4001.



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Dear Editor:

I am a parent in the GVUSD school system with children at Sierra View, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High Schools. I've known Andy Wheeler for approximately 10 years and support him for GVUSD Area 3 School Board Trustee. Andy is a man of character and his commitment to his family is a reflection of his values.

Andy, like many of us, has been busy raising children while others kept an eye on the issues of the GVUSD school board. Much to our disappointment things had become sorely in disarray and required an increased focus and engagement from all of residents of the Ranchos. Andy stepped up and was an active participant in bringing things back into order, pushing forward the agenda of the community. Andy is now willing to take an even bigger step on behalf of our community and serve on the Board of Trustees. Andy has shown a consistent commitment to our community and exhibited the tenacity to engage with, and challenge, our district to meet the needs of all of our children

While needing additional supports in specific areas, our smaller district consistently raises the bar at all local academic levels. GVUSD continues to send graduates out into the world engaging in the finest learning environments toward success. Most of us know that Common Core requirements and the transition of learning systems has created a log jam for teachers and students alike. These state-mandated requirements will require some experienced advocates working at the larger, state level while our board's responsibilities lie within advocating for our kids in the present.

In the past Andy rolled up his sleeves and advocated passionately for his children. This process has not been easy, sometimes feathers get ruffled and compromises need to be made, but in the end our district becomes better for the process. Andy's tenacity, grit and willingness to put it all out there on behalf of his child's educational experience is honorable. Andy fought hard for his child; I am convinced he will do the same for your child, and mine.

Sincerely, Kevin Alvey Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Proposition 57, the "Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016," is bad law. Its proponents claim that it focuses resources on keeping dangerous criminals behind bars, when in fact it lets them out of prison early.

If Proposition 57 passes, it would allow the immediate release of 16,000 dangerous criminals. These criminals will be rapists, human traffickers, hostage takers, sex offenders and arsonists, all who have caused great injury to citizens in California. The list of inmates who will be let out of prison early under Proposition 57 include violent persons who have committed crimes against all types of victims in California. The victims of the soon to be freed inmates include children, homeowners, business people and senior citizens. The proposition does not limit the release of murderers, drive by shooters, or individuals causing injury through hate crimes (if you really think about it, crime all crime - is really hate crime). It appears from this proposition that the Governor does not believe that serious crime exists in California.

The people who support Proposition 57 point out that these inmates would be let out for good behavior and rehabilitation. However, I say that if they first displayed good behavior and attempted to educate themselves by taking advantage of our public school system, they never would have been put in state prison in the first place.

Since January 2014, I have found that my going to parole hearings and sending seasoned prosecutors to the hearings that I cannot attend, has resulted in denial for almost every Madera County inmate that has come up for a parole release. I believe inmates should serve their original sentence as punishment. That would act as a deterrent for the good of society.

The second practice Proposition 57 changes, is direct filing complaints against juvenile defendants. It would require a court hearing to determine if the youth may be transferred to adult court, no matter what his or her age. This concept will not provide any additional justice for the juvenile and will further clog our overburdened criminal courts. Direct filing in appropriate juvenile cases should be determined by the elected County District Attorney.

It is ridiculous to file against an individual who is 18 years and one day old in Superior Court when his or her friend, who is three days younger, gets a full hearing in Juvenile Court, before the case ever goes to trial.

Bad laws, such as Proposition 57, will only hurt victims and put innocent individuals in jail, when at the same time letting the truly violent criminals out of jail.

Please join me in protecting my family and yours by voting NO on Proposition 57. David A. Linn, Madera County D.A. Madera

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 9

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Guest Editorial

Riot First, Ask Questions Later

By Rich Lowry

The Charlotte rioters didn't know whether the controversial police shooting of Keith Scott was justified or not, and didn't care.

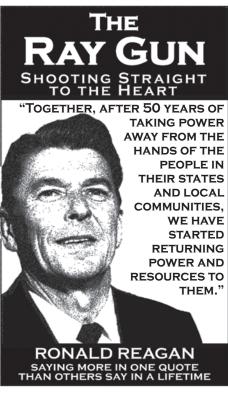
They worked their mayhem -trashing businesses and injuring cops, with one protester killed in the disorder -- before anything meaningful could be ascertained about the case except that the cops said Scott had a gun and his family said he didn't.

Charlotte is the latest episode in the evidence-free Black Lives Matter movement that periodically erupts in violence after officer-involved shootings. The movement is beholden to a narrative of systematic police racism to which every case is made to conform, regardless of the facts or logic.

It doesn't matter if the police officer is an African-American with an unblemished record and numerous character witnesses. This describes Brentley Vinson, the officer who fatally shot Keith Scott.

It doesn't matter if the victim disobeys the police in a tense situation and acts in a potentially threatening manner. Despite cops with guns drawn yelling orders at him (and his wife shouting, "Don't you do it"), Scott exited his vehicle and approached officers without raising his hands.

It doesn't matter if the allegedly



unarmed victim turns out to have been armed. Everything points to Scott having had a gun, even though the family insists he had a book (the police didn't find one at the scene).

The police dashcam and bodycamera video of the Scott shooting is inconclusive but broadly supportive of the police story. The police recovered an ankle holster and a pistol at the scene. Lab results showed Scott's fingerprints and DNA were on the weapon.

It doesn't necessarily mean he did anything wrong in this instance, but Scott also has a long rap sheet including weapons offenses, lending additional credence to the idea that he had a gun.

These facts didn't penetrate the Black Lives Matter narrative of the Scott shooting. Such facts never do. The narrative is immune to complication or ambiguity, let alone contradiction. Every police-involved shooting of a black man is taken, ipso facto, to confirm that the police are racists. When the evidence in any particular instance makes it obvious that the narrative is a lie or a gross oversimplification -- e.g., in Ferguson or the Freddie Gray tragedy -- the movement simply moves on to the next case, as reckless as before.

It is increasingly hard to deny that the movement is anti-police. When any evidence supporting the police is disregarded, and rioters hurl insults and objects at officers whose only offense is trying to maintain public order at a protest, the agenda is clear.

After an event like Charlotte, a more responsible movement would keep the pressure on for more facts and wouldn't indict police conduct without them. It would have a healthy skepticism about both the official version of events and the version of bereaved relatives. It would embrace peaceful protest as warranted, and avoid anything to bring discredit to itself or endanger wholly innocent police officers.

But that movement would be something else entirely. In Charlotte, as in so many other places, it was riot first, and ask questions later.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2016 by King Features Synd., Inc.

I stumbled across an article the other day, written about a year ago, about the implementation of trigger warnings in the classrooms of American universities. For those who don't know, trigger warnings are warnings a professor gives to students prior to a lesson or lecture when the material being covered might illicit a strong, emotional response from students. This gives the student an opportunity to avoid the material so as to not find themselves in a situation that may have them reliving their past trauma. The article rails against this initiative and explains how such a practice actually harms students intellectually and psychologically, and is basically

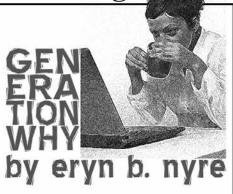
producing а graduating class of whiny, overly sensitive little babies. Still, the authors are men after my own heart.

а where the professor issued a trigger warn-

ing. We were going to watch a if I happen to be taking a Home documentary with intense im- Economics class and the teacher agery and foul language, specifically about female anatomy. A couple of people left. I thought the warning was unnecessary; we were all adults in the room and it was a Women's Studies class after all and truthfully it wasn't any more offensive than rap lyrics or just about every bigbudget Hollywood film made in the past decade. Actually, it seemed rather tame in comparison. In that same class we also studied gender mutilation and were required to write a research paper on the subject. There was a trigger warning for this as well.

Did I mention that the professor was one of those hippie, liberal types?

In any event, again there were a couple of students who opted



out. I've often wondered what they were allowed to use as the topics of their research papers since they didn't have the stomach to handle the serious stuff. Perhaps they wrote a diatribe about Disney and how the misogyny found in all Disney movies is figurative genital mutilation and we should immediately disband

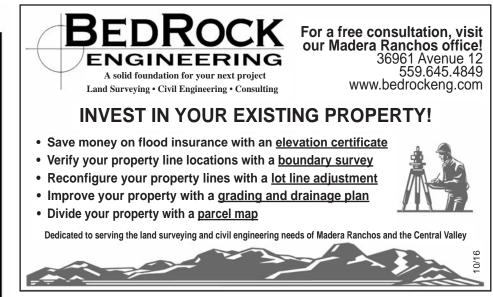
Sadly, you can't avoid being offended in or out of I'm college, and trigger warnparaphrasing ings only serve to coddle stu- into a sanctuary that last part. dents and ill-prepare them for for a life outside of mother university's protective womb. The real world doesn't come I've been in with trigger warnings, so classroom suck it up, buttercup.

the Disney company, a11 conglomerates, put the CEO behind bars and turn Disneyland everyone who has ever had their feelings hurt by someone who self-identifies as a man.

I can see the benefit of a trigger warning

decides to play the movie Saw in order to demonstrate to the class how not to butcher a carcass. I would say that's a little off topic, wouldn't you? However, when you're in a Women's Studies class you are going to study issues relevant to women, and some of those issues are difficult. War is agonizing ... I wonder how those students handled the history requirement? Hope none of them want to be gynecologists, or practice law, or even journalism lest they take only sissy stories and avoid homicides, assaults, or heck, any stories involving crime or basically anything where they might have to deal with something yucky. Education is not

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



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SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Ranchos Independent

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

about avoiding disturbing topics; it's about learning to critically think about them and use these lessons as opportunities for growth and advancement.

What's that old saying? Don't teach students what to think, teach them how to think. Where has that gone? Here we are in the 21st century and colleges seem to be too busy trying to turn out the next many times at the hands of fellow generation of lefty activists to actually turn out free-thinking individuals. I guess diversity doesn't count if you disagree with the liberal university system. Where did these supposed educators get the idea that students need to be protected from anything that might be painful or difficult? Instead, let's let them find out the truth about the big bad world when they work for a boss who doesn't give a flying-trigger-warning about whatever traumatic event makes them tive womb. The real world doesn't hate the word "violate." (That's an come with trigger warnings, so example in the article, by the way, that professors have been advised to avoid using the word "violate" because it may distress some students. That ought to be a fun chal-

lenge for law professors). Can we really not expect college students to put on their grown up underoos and deal with the tough stuff? We are allowing millions of young people to go into crippling debt just to come out the other side a bunch of spineless jellyfish that can't take criticism, or a joke apparently.

I get that people go through disturbing and horrendous things, human beings. Most people have trauma of some sort or other in their lives, but the idea that professors have to be careful of how they teach because it might set someone off is ludicrous. If you are that sensitive, perhaps college isn't the place for you. Sadly, you can't avoid being offended in or out of college, and trigger warnings only serve to coddle students and ill-prepare them for a life outside of mother university's protecsuck it up, buttercup. You're paying an arm and a leg to get a college degree, you might as well learn something while you're there.

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Page 7

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Recipes that are a Crock!

Have you been out running errands all afternoon and get home with only half an hour to get something ready for dinner before going to get the kids from their practices and at two different fields? You only have a couple of choices: Open a can of soup and sandwiches or go buy take out. If you had put something in the crockpot before you left this morning, dinner would be ready.

Do you have a crockpot, or what some people call a "slow cooker," and it's in the back of the cabinet? I challenge you to get it out of the cleaned and quartered (optional) cabinet and get it to use.

I have two crockpots: A small 1 ¹/₂ quart and the standard 5 quart. I love both of them but most of the time, with just me, I use the smaller one. The only thing with the smaller meat, soup, onion Worcestershire

one is it only cooks on high, but that isn't a problem when I know I won't be away from the house more than three or four hours.

love Ι corned beef and cabbage. Every

sale I buy one and put it in my big crock pot. However, I don't cook the cabbage in the crockpot because I like crispy cabbage not overcooked from the crockpot. I cook the corned beef in the crockpot for 8 - 10 hours and when it is done, I slice the cabbage and put it in a large frying pan with salt and pepper and some juices from the crockpot. Put a lid on the pan and let the cabbage steam. This doesn't take long and I can control the doneness of the cabbage.

For my last month's article, remembering Brenda, my late niece, her daughter sent me a list of her favorite meals. On that list was Beef Stroganoff but I wasn't able to include a recipe in my article because I just didn't have the space. The other day Randy was telling me how good a Beef Stroganoff recipe was that they cooked in the crockpot. I



thought that was perfect - I'll do my article on crockpot recipes, and include one of Brenda's favorites.

Crockpot Beef Stroganoff

1-2 lbs. cube steak, cut into one-inch pieces or 1-2 lbs. stew beef, cut into 1/2 inch pieces.

2 cans condensed golden mushroom soup (no substitutes!)

1 C chopped onion

1 Tb. Worcestershire sauce 1 14 oz. can beef broth

8 oz. button mushrooms, Salt and pepper to taste

4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream

In the crockpot, combine the

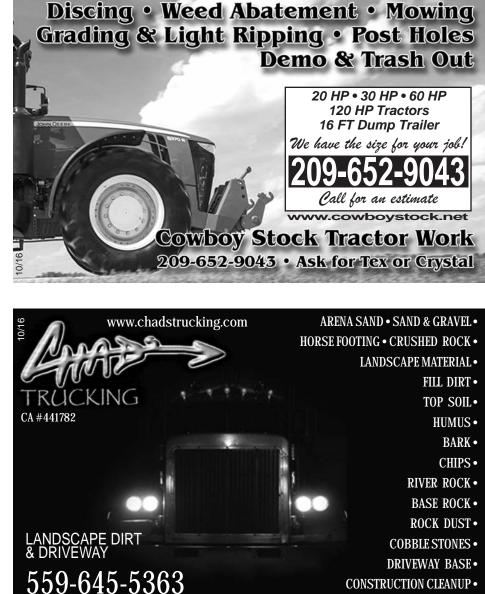
Do you have a crockpot, or what some people call a "slow cooker," and it's in the back of the cabinet? I challenge you to get it out of the cabinet and get it to use.

sauce, beef broth, mushrooms, salt and pepper. Cook on low for 5-6 hours. Stir in the cheese cream and sour cream about half an before hour serving, stirring every 10 minutes

March when corned beef goes on or so to break up the cream cheese. Serve over cooked egg noodles or rice. (After the egg noodles have cooked, I like to add them directly into the crockpot for about half an hour for the flavors to mingle and thicken up a bit.) If the sauce is not thick enough for you, add some cornstarch and water. (Randy said it will come out PLENTY thick. Also, he used stew meat instead of cubed steak and said it was awesome!)

I know you can cook most things faster on the top of the stove or in the oven, but you have to be there to stir it or watch it while it is coking. Just think of the things you can or should be doing while your food is cooking. The other advantage to crockpot cooking is the clean up after. When I make spaghetti sauce on top of the stove my pretty white stove looks like a

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 13







"I support Ag, Vocational Education, Local Control, Financial Accountability and Traditional Values. The best indicator of what someone will do in the future is what they have done in the past. I HAVE A RECORD!"

Warren Parr's message is simple: • I'm time tested Experienced 31 years in private business • 24 years of participation as a community member in the public school system I have vision I want to bring Vocational Education to GVUSD • Dedication Attended hundreds of **GVUSD Board Meetings** Leadership
 Led and managed the successful 2015 GVUSD recall

Warren Parr with U.S. Congressional candidate Johnny Tacherra

Be sure to visit Warren Parr for GVUSD School Board on Facebook



LETTERS cont. from P. 4

Dear Editor:

I am writing in support of Golden Valley Unified School board candidate Andy Wheeler. Andy has lived in the Ranchos for 18 years with his wife Cari, sons Brockton, Maxwell and niece Marquette. Andy is a professional working in finance. As a professional financial advisor for the last 17 years, Andy has worked with budgets and bonds experience he can directly apply to our district. His business background will be an asset to the board and our schools. He understands the growth that will be happening as the new subdivisions are built and his background in finance will aid the district with this growth and its challenges.

Andy has coached sports in the Ranchos for eight years which is where I first met Andy. My daughter Grace was on his soccer team as a four year old. I was impressed even then by his patience and willingness to listen to the players and parents. He has a calm and positive attitude that is reflected in his coaching. Over the years, Andy and his wife have been involved in and supportive of football and soccer booster clubs here in the Ranchos. Andy has been involved in the local schools as his sons have attended Webster, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School. Brockton graduated two years ago from Liberty High School and attends Fresno State. Maxwell is a student at Liberty now. Andy has served on several interview panels for hiring teachers for GVUSD, especially those involving special education.

Andy has been following board meetings for several years by reviewing board minutes and attending faithfully for more than a year. He has studied how the board works together and wants be a part of that collaboration. He has a great desire to see our Ag program grow, as it teaches not only science and agriculture, but leadership and responsibility – skills that will take our students far. Andy supports our teachers. He wants to see quality teachers stay so we can continue to improve programs and academics, providing a quality education for our students. He also wants to develop new teachers so they become the quality teachers of our future.

Andy Wheeler is a professional who will bring years of financial experience to the board. His sons have attended Golden Valley schools and he has firsthand knowledge of how the district works. Andy will listen to the community and work with the board to do what needs to be done. I see him as a positive addition to our board. I trust his conservative values and his ability to do what is the best for our district. I believe Andy to be a thoughtful and considerate man willing to look at and listen to all sides in any matter before making a decision. My experience with Andy is that he has a great love for our community, our kids and our schools. His experience in finance as well as being a parent of a past student and current student make him well suited to be on the GVUSD school board.

Please consider him when you vote for GVUSD school board on Nov. 8.

Sincerely,

Candy Hall

Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

This is an open Letter to Madera County District 5 Supervisor Tom Wheeler.

The hearing on Monday, Sept. 12th to assess the planning commission's July approval of the Austin Quarry was a travesty. When hydrologist and geographic experts for the citizens opposing the project testified, they were interrogated about their credentials, where they'd received their educations and how much experience they had. During testimony concerning likely fractures in the rock adjacent to the 400-foot pit and how they might adversely affect water quality and availability, you interrupted: "I've witched for water in that area for years and I know where water is and where it's not."

Local residents' opinions were met with equally condescending comments and gestures. Why were you testifying? Your job is to listen and only then make your decision. Your testimony should have been stricken from the record. We'd all been told, "Only those registered to speak would be allowed to do so." There were no such queries of proponents of the project.

By your demeanor, you appear to have had some previous conflicts with Bruce Gray and the Madera Oversight Commission. My thanks to M.O.C. for alerting me to the proposed Austin Quarry. Madera County had not. Not until after the planning commission's approval.

You made it clear you felt we were just lemmings to M.O.C.'s "fearful and misleading tactics." Few of us attending the Board's hearing were M.O.C. members, just citizens wishing to air concerns over the project's effects on our health, safety and quality of life in rural southeast Madera County. Contrary to your apparent opinion, we are quite capable of independent observation and making educated decisions, one of which is that you have no respect for the concerns of your constituents. As public servants on the Madera County Board of Supervisors, you've all taken oaths to act in the best interest of the County and its residents. From where I sat, that did not happen. Some supervisors had made their minds up before the meeting began. Several acted as though we were just

Please see LETTERS on P. 17



Broccoli, Kale, and Politicians

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Broccoli

It's been said that when conservatives don't like broccoli, they just don't eat it. When liberals/progressives don't like broccoli, they outlaw it.

Since many folks - both conservatives and otherwise – actually *want* to eat or grow broccoli, liberals/progressive would say they aren't really outlawing it, they're just regulating it (for our own good, of course). First it must have a warning label that it's bad for our taste buds. If that doesn't work, it must be sold only with a prescription because some people may be allergic to it. Or it cannot be sold across state lines, because ill-informed states may not regulate the das-

tardly vegetable. Or farm subsidies must be withheld from broccoli growers to restrict the amount grown. Or grants must be given to hate-broccoli groups. Or broccoli farmers must be taxed out of exis-

tence. Or broccoli must be massively taxed at the grocery store. Or "scientific consensus" must state that broccoli causes global constipation.

Kale

Conversely, if liberals/progressives happen to like kale – or decide that it is good for us, or get big donations from kale growers, or claim that kale cultivation is somehow "good for the environment," or come from kale-producing areas whose voters support growers, or trade votes with politicians from kale-producing areas for their own pet projects -THEN they will make sure that we ALL buy and eat kale.

Of course, they would not really force us to buy kale (as Obamacare forces us to buy insurance). After all, that would be un-American and maybe even unconstitutional. They just might require that all other green veggies carry health warnings. Or increase subsidies to kale growers. Or make kale the entire bottom section of the government's food pyramid. Or fund Public Service Announcements on the health *please visit www.teapartypatriots.org.*

benefits of kale and the dangers of all other green vegetables. Or lower the tax on kale while increasing it on alternative vegetables. Or give grants to grocery stores that sell only kale or to kale producers. Or find scientists who will state that kale is the salvation of the universe. Or promise free kale to everyone, much like free education.

Politicians

Surprise! Politicians find ways to manipulate us like puppets in matters much more consequential than favoring one green vegetable over another, and then they not only lie about it but insist that it's all for our own good. We are, it would appear, too dumb to think for ourselves and too blind to see the strings attached to their feel-good policies. For sure we are too busy trying to make a living to keep up with the politicians' shenanigans.

And, another surprise, so-called conservatives play the same tricks as liberals/progressives and even socialists. It's hard to tell the difference as Republican and Democrat labels become more and more meaningless. Few in number are the true conservatives who fight for Constitu-

national indigestion for which a

healthy dose of conservative activism

is the only cure. Pass the carrots and

Maalox, please.

principles, tional limited government and individual lib-We could be in for a bad case of erty

> As this is written, the presidential election is still in the future, but regardless of the outcome not much is likely to change unless by

some miracle "We the People" stand up and demand our right to be free from the whims of political executives, legislators and regulators. Hillary voters expect free kale and Supreme Court Justices who will insure it. Donald voters expect the freedom to eat foods of their own choosing, as long as he governs by the rule of law and not by his own whims.

Regardless of the elected president, unless we pull the plug on the political machines in Washington and Sacramento, they will continue to grind out laws, regulations, grants, corruption and tax policies that keep us subservient to them. Hillary is knee-deep in corruption and Bernie-type socialism, and while Donald makes some conservative proposals, he seems to be consumed with his own ego.

We could be in for a bad case of national indigestion for which a healthy dose of conservative activism is the only cure. Pass the carrots and Maalox, please.

For information and resources,



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California District Attorneys Association

Keep dangerous prison felons off our streets and out of our communities



VOTE NO ON PROP 57

Paid for the Committee to elect David Linn for Madera County District Attorney 2018 FPPC 1356171

10/16



Senior Report **Thanksgiving Right Around the Corner**

The monthly sale at the Center is

By Patti Groh

What's going on with the Ranchos/Hills Seniors? Great stuff, of course. Our Luau in September was a great event. There was a video showing us how to shake our hips. Funny, though, we didn't do it quite as well as the pretty Polynesian girls. We had good food, gorgeous decorations and the cake and

punch were delicious. If you missed it, plan on coming next year.

There was a large Nov. 5. We continue to ask members to group of seniors that atbring in their baked goods and goods for tended the Oddfellows breakfast in October. The the boutique and Treasure House, and profits from the month's plants for the garden. Unfortunately, the event were given to the *Center has come up with monthly* Ranchos/Hills Seniors. income less than expenses in some The Oddfellows designate months of this year. You can help, please. a different nonprofit each month to receive their donation. The food is great,

cooked and served well for only \$6. The coffee was awesome. It's held the third Sunday of each month at the southwest corner of Avenue 15 and Road 29. Hope to see you there.

Halloween potluck/party coming up on Thurs-

George Fries

day, Oct. 27. Bring your best "boo," your own table service, potluck dish and come in costume for fun and prizes. Members are working on jack-o-lanterns for table decorations, each one will be a custom-made masterpiece. These are not to be missed.

On Tuesday mornings, about 9:30 or so, members are getting together at the Cen-

> ter to work together on their craft projects maybe crocheting, making cards, whatever. It would be a great time to finish projects you may have started months or years ago.

The monthly sale at the Center is Nov. 5. We

continue to ask members to bring in their baked goods and goods for the boutique and Treasure House, and plants for the garden. Unfortunately, the Center has come up with monthly income less than expenses in some months of this year. You can help, please.

The Center's Thanksgiving dinner will be Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. This is a members' only event with a \$10 charge for one guest. The turkey and gravy is provided. Attendees should bring a potluck dish to share (should feed 12 to 15) and don't forget to bring your own table service. Don't forget to sign up at the Center so we have an idea of how much turkey we need and what diversity of foods we might have.

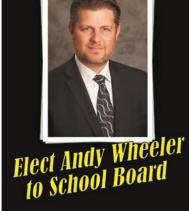
The Center will be closed on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11. It will also be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and also Friday, the day after Thanksgiving.

Members need to be sure and attend the General Meeting on Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. We will be voting on new Board Members for installation at the December General Meeting.

If you have questions about the Ranchos/Hills Seniors or our events, please call the Center at 645-4864.

We have a couple of new members to welcome: Sheri Williams and her motherin-law, Shirley Williams. We welcome you with open arms and hearts and please introduce yourselves to all.

The birthday and anniversary celebration lunch for November will be at Luna's in Clovis on Nov. 19. Remember to sign up at the Center, be at the restaurant by 11:15 so lunch can be served at 11:30.



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10/16

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Kristan Laurenti



10/16

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community ristmas Gree ghting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 2 • 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.

Veterans need 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. 9. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual Chamber Christmas Mixer Wednesday, December 14 6-7:30 p.m. 37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C Madera Ranchos Everyone is invited. Great food will be served. Our Merry Christmas to you. Call 645-4001 for info.

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Ranchos Area Upcoming Events

Nov 3 Library Meeting, 6:30 at Library Nov 5 Monthly Sale 8 -12 at Senior Center Nov 8 Senior General Meeting, 6:30 at Senior Center Nov 9 Chamber Meeting, 6:30 at Chamber Office Nov 10 Kiwanis Meeting, 6:30 at Pizza Factory Nov 11 Senior Center Closed, Veterans Day Nov 17 Kiwanis Meeting, 6:30 at Pizza Factory Nov 21 SEMCU Meeting, 6:30 at Pizza Factory Nov 24 Kiwanis Meeting closed Thanksgiving Nov 24 Senior Center closed Thanksgiving Nov 25 Senior Center Closed Nov 26 Small Business Saturday, 8 Have an event to add? Call the Chamber at 645-4001



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.Unwrappea items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 9. CASA Call 645-4001 for

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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

tomato exploded on it.

- Crockpot Spaghetti Sauce
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 small onion chopped
- 1 clove garlic minced 2 cans diced tomatoes
- 2 cans tomato sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning

1 envelope Spaghetti sauce seasoning mix

Heat some oil in the bottom of a frying pan. Sauté the onions and garlic until soft, add the beef and cook until browned, making sure to crumble the meat as it cooks. With a slotted spoon, spoon the mixture into the bottom of your crockpot. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Place the lid on the pot and cook on low for 8 hours. Serve over cooked spaghetti pasta. If you have any sauce left over, it can be stored in zip lock bags and frozen until you want spaghetti again.

One thing with a crockpot, you can cook almost everything from nuts, but desserts for sure.

While doing my research on this



article I came across this recipe for Piña Colada Bars. Thought it looked yummy and who doesn't like coconut and pineapple. Well, I know two girls that don't, and one of them doesn't even eat meat - so go figure!

Piña Colada Bars

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 C sweetened shredded coconut

1 C (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

- 2/3 C granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 large egg
- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple
- ¹/₄ C. brown sugar
- 1 Tbs. cornstarch
- Preheat oven to 375.
- Line stoneware with foil. Spray with nonstick spray.

Spread coconut evenly on baking sheet, toast in oven 10-15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

With your mixer on medium soup to nuts in it. Well, maybe not high, beat butter, sugar and salt until well combined. Beat in egg and vanilla. On low, beat in flour and half of toasted coconut, scraping side of bowl occasionally. Spread dough evenly in stoneware. Place small chunks of cream cheese over dough.

> Drain pineapple and press firmly into strainer to remove all excess liquid, transfer the drained pineapple to a medium bowl. Add brown sugar and cornstarch to pineapple, stir to combine. Spread pineapple mix over dough. Put cover on crockpot and cook on LOW 4 to 5 hours or on HIGH 3 hours, until edges are crisp and golden brown. Remove stoneware from base and cool on a wire rack. Holding edges of foil, lift bars from stoneware. Sprinkle with remaining coconut. Cut into bars – enjoy!

> Before I close, I want to remind you to get your flu shot Thursday, Oct. 27t. Remember new time and place this year - Ranchos Market parking lot from noon to 1:30 p.m. and it is not a drive-through this vear.

> Also, daylight savings time will end. This year it will be the first Sunday in November. So, on Saturday, Nov. 5 before you go to bed set your clocks back (spring forward and fall back) one hour or you might have to sit in the parking lot waiting for the church to open Sunday morning.

2016 VOTER'S GUIDE ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump

Both Democrats, the lessor (and not by much) of these two evils is Loretta Sanchez. Hold your nose on this one. Choose NOT to vote and you elect Kamala Harris. You DON'T want that.

US REP., Dist. 16

Johnny Tacherra CAL. ASSEMBLY, Dist. 5

Frank Bigelow

GVUSD TRUSTEE, Area 3 Warren Parr or Andy Wheeler. PROPOSITIONS 51 - 67

51: NO Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for schools. Kill the High-Speed Rail and you'd have enough money for this 7 times over.
52: YES Requires voter approval to change use of hospital fees or funds.

53: YES Requires statewide voter approval before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for certain projects if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion.

54: YES Require that every bill is published in print and online at least 72 hours before each house of the legislature can vote on it.

55: NO Extends by 12 years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000. Instead of a fair tax system we get this.

56: NO Increases cigarette tax by \$2 per pack, with increases on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Government's cash cow. Enough!

57: NO Reducing criminal sentences, juvenile criminal proceedings and sentencing. The WORST prop. on the ballot. Their sollutiuon to too many criminals in jail? Turn them loose on us.

58: NO Repeal 1998 Proposition 227, the "Eng-

lish in Public Schools" Initiative.

59: NO Overturn Citizens United Supreme Court ruling.

60: NO Require condoms in porno films. Really? Is this what we're spending our time on?

61: NO State prescription drug purchases tied to V.A. pricing. There goes your availability.

62 & 66: 62:NO, 66:YES Both death penalty related. 62 wants to ban it, 66 wants to enforce it. Sometimes you've got to take out the trash.

63: NO Permit to buy ammo and no large magazines. They HATE the 2nd Amendment.

64: NO Legalizing recreational marijuana. The argument is always, "But alcohol is legal." Have you seen the damage alcohol does to lives? Guess what the number two substance people go to rehab for, after alcohol? Marijuana.

65 & 67: NO on BOTH Both have to do with grocery store "one use" bags. 65 wants to keep the ban in place but take part of the money charged by grocers and give it to environmental groups, while a "no" vote on 67 will overturn the ban.



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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



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Don't Anti-Seize the Day

Hello 93636,

Two weeks ago, I had a 2000 Jeep Wrangler with a 4.0L engine come into the shop with misfire codes. When I walked out to greet my new customer I could hear his Jeep running poorly. Joe was referred to us by a "Big Box" automotive repair chain. After questioning Joe, I raised the Jeep's hood to investigate. I saw lots of expensive new parts so I knew there was more to this story.

He told me the "Check Engine" lamp was on before he went to a corner Quick Lube Station to have his oil changed. While the Jeep was being serviced, the service advisor retrieved trouble codes P0301 (misfire cylinder #1) and P0302 (misfire cylinder #2). After some discussion, Joe decided to have the corner Quick Lube Station replace his spark plugs. After the work was completed there was no improvement in the Jeep's performance and the "Check Engine" lamp returned. Now, instead of trouble codes P0301 and P0302, P0304 (misfire cylinder #4) and P0306 (misfire cylinder #6) replaced them. The corner Quick Lube Station threw all those new parts at the Jeep but they could not solve the problem. I have told you guys many times, the most expensive diagnostic strategy is replacing good parts with new parts. The most cost efficient diagnostic strategy is testing and replacement of only the defective part(s). Several other shops attempted to fix this Jeep but also were unable to solve the mystery misfires.

Before I ran my normal diagnostic routine, I searched Jeep's Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) library hoping to narrow my search. I discovered a TSB that matched the symptoms of Joe's Wrangler. The TSB talked about carbon buildup on the engine's valve stems and especially if the vehicle is not warmed up properly before driving and/or if the Jeep is mainly driven around town. The carbon buildup causes improper closing (sticking) of the valves.

I decided to remove the spark plugs so I could send a camera

through the spark plug hole into the engine to verify carbon build up. As it turned out I didn't need the camera. The corner Quick Lube Station exacerbated the original problem by adding anti-seize compound to the spark plug treads when they installed the new ones.

Do it Yourselfers: When you do a tune up and replace your spark plugs, put them in dry. NO ANTI-SEIZE!!!

Anti-seize on spark plug threads creates resistance in the secondary ignition (high voltage) ground path. The high resistance restricts the flow of electrons to ground. Instead of 15,000 volts jumping across the spark plug gap on their way to ground, maybe only 4,000 volts make it across. That's not enough voltage to convert ALL the fuel in the cylinder into pressure. By the way, the secondary ignition voltage that does not jump the spark plug gap finds an alternate path to ground. That can also cause misfires.

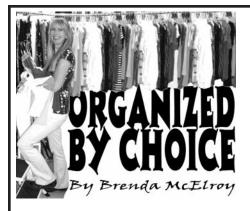
Make sure you install your new spark plugs when the engine is at ambient temperature and torque them. If the engine is warm, the metal is expanded and it's easier to overtighten the spark plugs. When the engine cools down, metal contracts and the spark plugs can become too tight and seize. Anti-seize may reduce seizing but it certainly is a hindrance to secondary ignition performance. Also, if you are going to save money by doing it yourself, make sure you use the manufacturer's original spark plugs only. It doesn't matter how well you do your job if you use inferior parts. The quality of your service or repair is NO BETTER than the parts you use, PERIOD. Make sure you check that the spark plug gap is set to the specification on your vehicle's emission label which is usually located on the hood or fan shroud area.

Once my secondary ignition grounds were clean it was time to find the original cause. Since I had the spark plugs out I installed a pressure transducer into the cylinder #1 spark plug hole. When I cranked the engine over the compression waveform showed a variation in compression by up to 30 percent from compression stroke to compression stroke. That's the smoking gun I was looking for. I'm now convinced the valves are sticking as Jeep's TSB indicated.

I followed Jeep's TSB recommendation and performed a fuel system

Please see ANTI-SEIZE on P. 17

www.The Ranchos.com



Dirty Laundry Secrets

The laundry room. Not my favorite room, but one that I would fight to keep if we were to make a move. At times it's a rather mysterious place. Things disappear – mostly socks. Things show up – sometimes when you least want them to, like Chap Stick in the dryer. It's a place where at some point we've all laundered money, literally.

A hundred years ago people would have thought it a magical place. You put dirty clothes in a contraption and they come out clean. Then you move them to another, and they come out dry. You would think with the advent of such wonderful inventions, plus the fact we no longer have

to make our own soap, laundry would be considered a breeze.

Quite the contrary. Laundry is the demise of many who struggle to manage a household. According to Erin Doland of

Unclutterer.com, a typical family of four probably generates between eight and 10 loads of laundry per week. If you ask my daughter, a mother of three (two and under), it would no doubt be more. Are there some tips and tools that can make it a breeze? Probably not. But here are some practical helps that will put you on a good course.

dryer.

Since everyone in the family creates dirty laundry, make sure each bedroom closet has a clothes hamper. Instruct everyone how to effectively use it. Yes, even the little tots and older folks can learn this routine.

To eliminate the disappearance of socks, assign a zippered mesh bag (normally used for delicates) to each family member. These can be clothes pinned to a hanger (positioned away from clean clothes), or hung from a hook on the wall. Each person's dirty socks are stored, washed and dried in his/her own separate bag. This will keep them from getting lost and make the return to the original owner much easier. To alleviate more of the sorting-after-washing challenge, consider assigning a specific underwear color/style to each child.

Have a supply of mesh bags handy in each closet for delicates, or items that need to hang dry. Before placing such items in the hamper, place them in a zippered mesh bag so it's obvious to anyone handling the laundry that they need special care. Hang a nylon bag in the closet to collect items for dry cleaning.

Create homes for supplies and other things that land in the laundry room. Use the space above the washer and dryer for built-in cabinets and/or open shelves — especially for items used the most. Use a large beverage dispenser for liquid detergent or a glass penny candy jar for detergent pods (keep out of reach of children). This will be decorative as well as informative so you can easily see when you're running low.

Place a jar or piggy bank on the shelf to collect money left in pockets. Have a small basket for other pocket items to be retrieved when needed, or distributed when full. Use a small trash can or lidded container for the dryer lint. If partnerless socks are still an issue, have a container handy

Don't let your family's dirty

laundry get you down. And remember,

"normal" is just a setting on the

until their "sole" mates are discovered.

Use the inside of the laundry room door for hanging a supply rack or ironing board. Other options for ironing include a magnetic

ironing pad or a tabletop ironing board to use on the dryer, or simply purchase wrinkle-free clothing.

For hang-dry items, consider a retractable clothes line that stretches from wall to wall, or hide it in a cabinet. Foldable drying racks that stand or mount to the wall are also an option. I hang items on hangers and place them on the shower curtain bar.

To hang items as they come out of the dryer, attach a fold out clothes bar to the wall. I prefer relocating the clean load to the master bedroom where I sort the hanging and folded items on the bed. I immediately hang the clothes to keep them from wrinkling.

Children may be assigned specific laundry tasks from sorting and washing dirty clothes to folding and putting away the clean items. My children were always required to put away their own clean

Please see LAUNDRY on P. 17









Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

ANTI-SEIZE cont. from P. 15

cleaning. Before I completed the BG Fuel Injection System service, the engine was purring like a kitten. Because of Joe's driving style I recommended the use of a can of "44K" in the fuel tank every six months or so. I'm not a big fan of "mechanic in the bottle" stuff, but BG Systems has some very powerful additives that work well.

OK everyone, I hope this helps.

It's gratifying to know that so many of you recognize my name and read this column. What ISN'T so gratifying is that EVERYONE seems to think my NAPA Auto Care Center is located in the Madera Ranchos. Complete Car Care is located in Fresno, three miles south of the San Joaquin River on the 99 freeway. I am located on the east side of the freeway across from Island Water Park. We are the closest official NAPA Auto Care Center to the Madera Ranchos, just a short 15-minute drive.

As always I'm looking for ideas to write about. If you have specific or general questions about your vehicle or the automotive industry, give me a shout at complete_car_care@hotmail.com or on Facebook at Complete Car Care.

God Bless America and God Bless 93636,

Warren Parr

and drawers.

Two-time California NAPA/ASC Technician of the Year

2013 National NAPA/ASC Technician of the Year Second Runner Up

LAUNDRY cont. from P. 16

clothes, rather than simply pull from a clean pile.

Here are a few tips to simplify the actual laundry process: Check washing instructions when purchasing clothes and look for easy-care items. Talk with your family about how often things need to be washed, so they're not putting things in the laundry pre-maturely.

After washing new dark-colored clothing by itself a few times, you can mix whites with colors by adding a cup of distilled white vinegar to the load. According to Reference.com, the vinegar absorbs and neutralizes the pigmented mineral compounds of the dyes, keeping them from discoloring the whites.

Have you ever forgotten a load of clean clothes in the washer during the summer? Yuck! Use the cycle signal and/or timer on your phone to make sure you remember to move items from the washer to the dryer and from the dryer to the closets Choose a laundry routine that works for you and your household. Here are a few ideas:

Assign types of laundry to specific days, i.e., Mondays/Thursdays – clothes, Tuesdays – towels, Wednesdays – sheets, etc.

Assign specific days for parents' laundry and kids' laundry.

Have a laundry day dedicated to staying home and doing it all.

Have a specific daily schedule for starting and completing laundry. Don't let your family's dirty laundry

get you down. And remember, "normal" is just a setting on the dryer.

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 their website at www. organizedbychoice.com.

The Bookshelf

Picture This: Picture Book Month

By Amanda Judd

With the incoming of November, the Ranchos Library will be celebrating picture books. November is officially Picture Book Month. Children learn early the importance of connection, color, sound and story. Stories and illustrations shape our minds, our hearts and our lives.

Picture books are not only for our youngest readers. Teachers, parents, counselors, educators and organizations use them to engage, inspire and motivate their audiences. We utilize stories and metaphors to explain big issues, like bullying, self-esteem, blended families, sibling rivalry and empathy. Stories allow us to experience different viewpoints, results, struggles and solutions of which we may not always think.

I want all children to be lifelong readers. I want them to retain a love of reading that is all their own. How do we do that? Slow down, read to children constantly and give children opportunities to discover books. Picture books are the first step in that process. Picture books open children to thoughts and

LETTERS cont. from P. 9

wasting their time.

Your vote is going to play havoc and bring heartbreak to our community for years. Your animosity toward M.O.C. alone made you incapable of impartiality. You should have abstained, excusing yourself from the vote. It was another sad display in the Board's long history of disregard for Ranchos residents. You've disgraced yourself and your position.

It's been a tiresome fight for the opposi-

help them discover new worlds. They help children use their imagination and enhance their vocabulary. More importantly, they give tremendous joy.

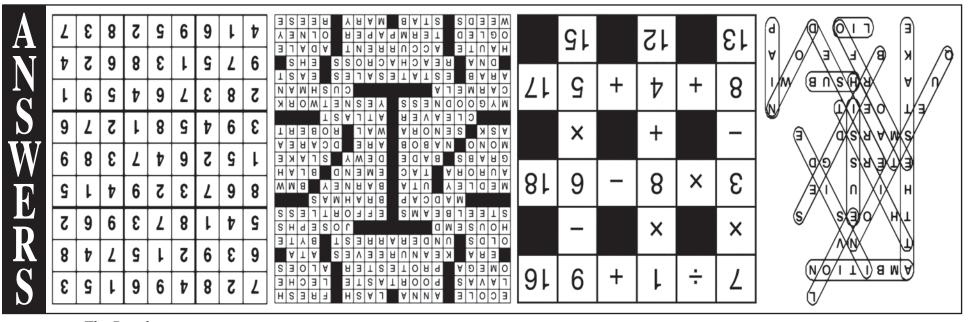
Each Thursday at 11 a.m. Mrs. Diane Maxfield provides an educational and fun story time that features our picture books. We explore the pictures and the story and proceed to a craft/activity to be followed by snack time. It is surely a treat that you do not want to miss.

Please remember that if you are an online shopper and utilize Amazon for your purchases, be sure to sign up for AmazonSmile. You can then simply select Friends of the Ranchos Library as your organization. If you have not registered with AmazonSmile you may type in an exclusive address to get started and it will automatically choose the Ranchos Library as your organization. Simply type smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0298991 in your web browser and this will allow the Ranchos Library to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation. Registering has never been easier.

tion. My thanks for all those who gave of their time and effort to get the attention of our community and its representatives. Stand proud.

I spent 12 hours waiting for a fair discussion of the project. As I left the hearing at 7 p.m., I somehow felt I was returning from a long, arduous journey. Not unlike that journey to consult the all-knowing, all-powerful, "Wonderful wizard Of Oz," and all I heard was, "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!"

Kenneth D. Helms Madera Ranchos



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

Chimney Sweep

Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean dryer vents. **REMEMBER THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY! Call 559-908-9332.**

Construction

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

For Sale

MOVING SALE - Maroon velvet chair, dark wood, 80+ years old. Large chair and ottoman light mauve. Couch, flowers light pastels. Coffee table marble base 36x36+ glass top. 2 Brass and glass lamp tables and lamps. Dinette set iron and glass with 4 upholstered chairs. Please come and see, prices negotiable. **Call 645-0103.**

White Whirlpool 28-inch self-cleaning electric oven - used. Good condition \$400. Also have peacock tail feathers \$1 each. Call 559-312-0891.

Guitar Lessons

Guitar, Mandolin or Ukulele lessons. Trained instructor. Call for available time slots. All ages. **Call Yolanda 577-4423.**

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Tractor/Trenching Services

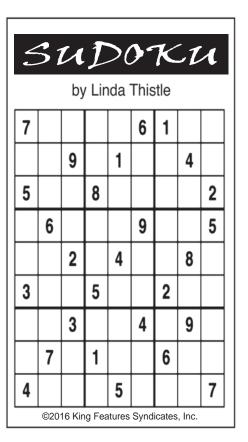
BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST HOLES - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. TRACTOR WORK Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding - Roll-off Bins. Call John at 908-1066.

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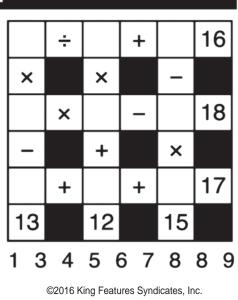
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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



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say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



• It was farmer and author Wendell Berry who made the following sage observation: "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

· Those who study such things say that size does matter -- at least to proboscis monkeys. It seems that among these primates, females show a significant preference for males with larger noses.

• If you've ever been to a major sporting event, or even watched one on TV, you've seen costumed characters representing schools and sports teams. However, unless you've been to Japan, you don't understand mascots' true potential. There, the mascot industrial complex is so large that in 2015, the Finance Ministry launched a campaign to reduce spending by cutting the number of unnecessary mascots in the country. According

to one estimate, there are 10,000 mascots employed by the government alone. Some examples: Prince Pickles and Princess Parsley represent the Defense Ministry; Wakayama Prison is represented by Waka-P, a bright orange creature with a huge head; and Toilet-kun, who has a toilet-seat lid for a face, is the mascot for City of Yokohama's waste recycling bureau.

· Have you ever wondered why the green room -- the waiting area just offstage where actors stand-by before and after stage appearances -- is green? Well, evidently it's

believed that the color green is soothing to eyes that have been exposed to the glare of stage lights.

• The game of billiards first appeared in the New World in St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the contiguous United States. It was in 1565 that Spanish explorers started playing the game here.

• Thought for the Day: "Contentment is, after all, simply refined indolence." --Thomas Chandler Haliburton (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

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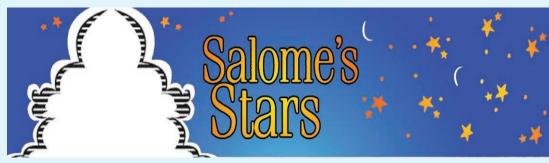








"I have a job waiting for me ... as an expert witness on illegal activities."



ARIES (*March 21 to April 19*) You're moving from a relatively stable situation to one that appears to be laced with perplexity. Be patient. You'll eventually get answers to help clear up the confusion around you.

TAURUS (*April 20 to May 20*) A vexing situation tempts you to rush to set it all straight. But it's best to let things sort themselves out so that you can get a better picture of the challenge you're facing.

GEMINI (*May 21 to June 20*) Financial matters could create some confusion, especially with a torrent of advice pouring in from several sources. Resist acting on emotion and wait for the facts to emerge.

CANCER (*June 21 to July 22*) That goal you've set is still in sight and is still in reach. Stay with the course that you're on. Making too many shifts in direction now could create another set of problems.

LEO (*July 23 to August 22*) It might be time to confront a trouble-making associate and demand some answers. But be prepared for some surprises that could lead you to make a change in some long-standing plans.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You're making great progress in sorting out all that confusion that kept you from making those important decisions. You're on your way now.

LIBRA (*September 23 to October 22*) A difficult experience begins to ease. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is a possible complication that could prolong the problem awhile longer.

SCORPIO (*October 23 to November 21*) Your self-confidence gets a much-needed big boost as you start to unsnarl that knotty financial problem. Expect some help from a surprising source.

SAGITTARIUS (*November 22 to December 21*) Congratulations. Any lingering negative aftereffects from that not-so-pleasant workplace situation are all but gone. It's time now to focus on the positive.

CAPRICORN (*December 22 to January 19*) Your self-confidence grows stronger as you continue to take more control of your life. Arrange for some well-earned fun and relaxation with someone special.

AQUARIUS (*January 20 to February 18*) As usual, you've been concerned more about the needs of others than your own. You need to take time for yourself so that you can replenish all that spent energy.

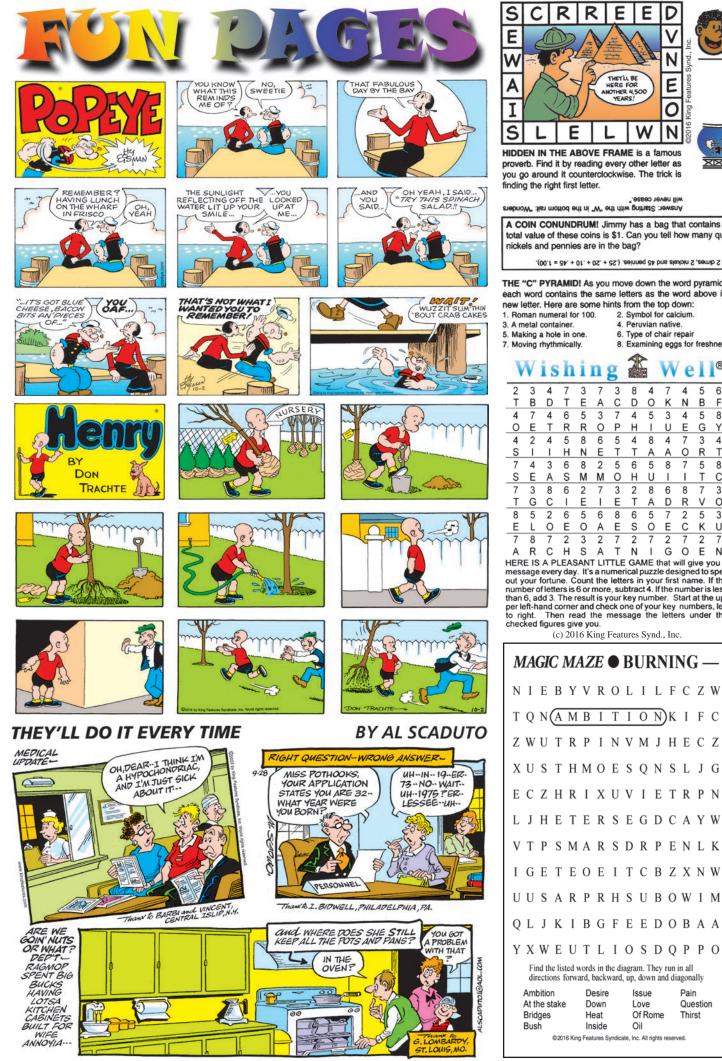
PISCES (*February 19 to March 20*) Stronger planetary influences indicate a growing presence of people eager to help you navigate through the rough seas that might mark your career course.

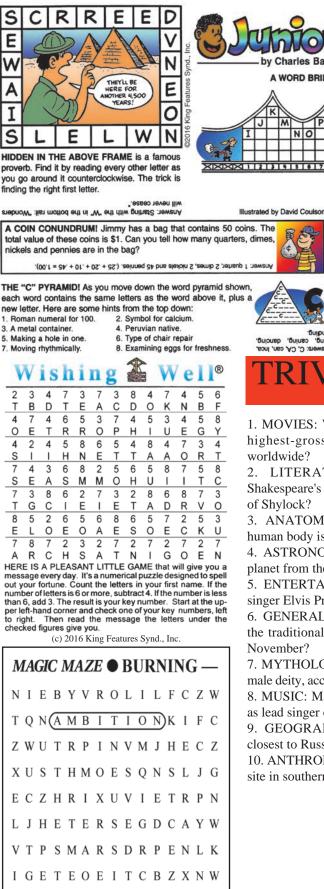
Born this Week

You can balance emotion and logic, which gives you the ability to make choices that are more likely than not to prove successful.

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all

Desire

Down

Heat

Inside

Ambition

Bridaes

Bush

At the stake

directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

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Issue

Love

Oil

Of Rome

Pain

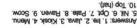
Thirst

Question

Charles Barry Town A WORD BRIDGE! The bridge to the left contains 10 supporting words. We have given NO you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

> 1. Anger; wrath. 2. Brewed coffee (sl).

- 3. Small, covered newsstand.
- 4. Found in all restaurants.
- 5. Zero, or nothing 6. To make a choice or decision.
- 7. Top of the head.
- 8. A large, black bird
- 9. A large, flat-bottomed boat. 10. A type of hat.



By Fifi Rodrigue

1. MOVIES: What two movies were the highest-grossing films of all time worldwide?

2. LITERATURE: Which one of Shakespeare's plays features the character of Shylock?

3. ANATOMY: In which part of the human body is the stirrup bone located?

4. ASTRONOMY: What is the seventh planet from the Sun in our solar system? 5. ENTERTAINERS: In what year did

singer Elvis Presley die? 6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the traditional birthstone associated with November?

7. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the first female deity, according to Greek mythology? 8. MUSIC: Mark Knopfler is best known as lead singer of what rock group?

9. GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. state is closest to Russia?

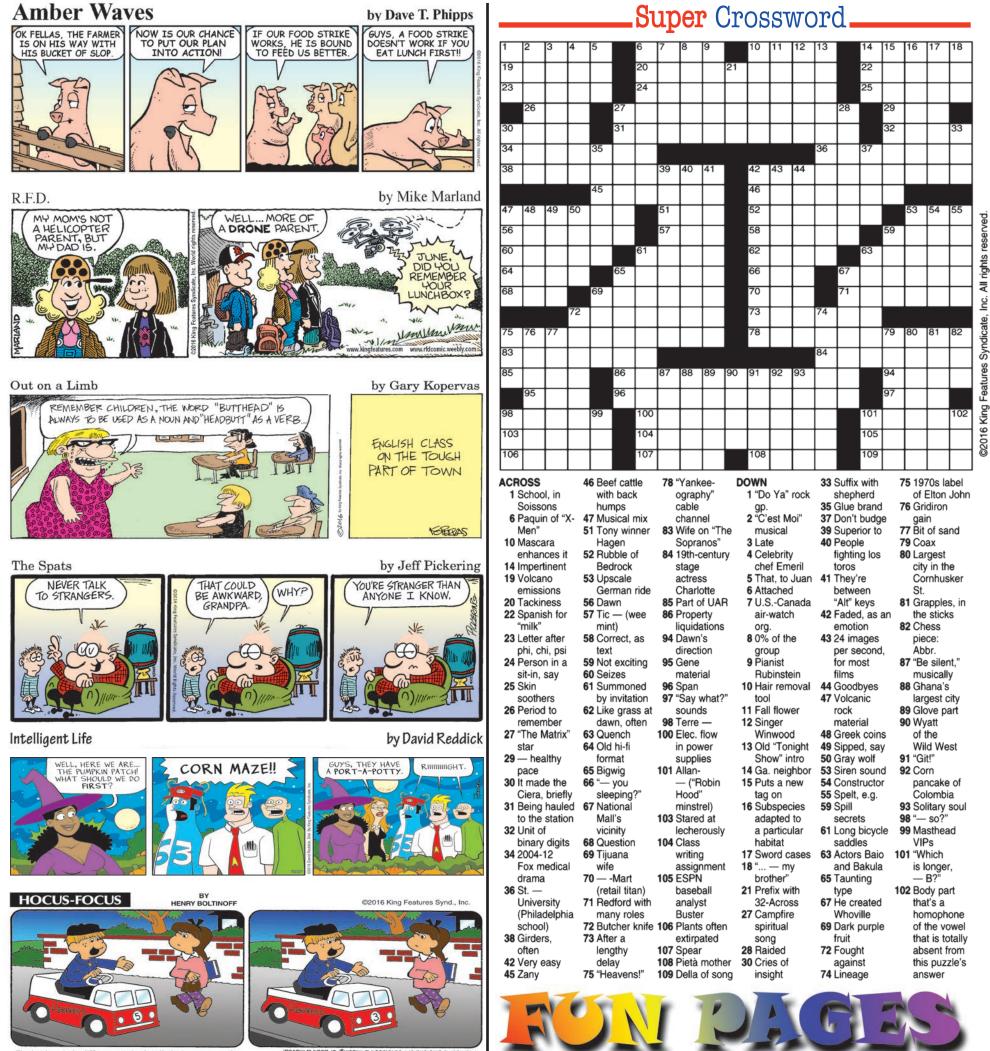
10. ANTHROPOLOGY: What is Lascaux site in southern France famous for?

Answers

10. Ancient cave paintings 9. Alaska 8. Dire Straits

- 7. Gaia
- 6. Topaz or citrine
 - LL61 .2
 - 4. Uranus
 - 3. The ear
- 2. "The Merchant of Venice"
- ">instiT" bus "rataric". I

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Find at least six differences in details between panels. www.The Ranchos.com Differences: 1, Hat is reversed. S. Car body is different. 3, Arm is moved. 4, Number is different. 5, Pocketbook is missing. 6. Book is moved.



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