

# The Ranchos Independent



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## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



*Liberty High's varsity football team makes history by playing on live TV for KFRE Channel 59's Thursday Night Showdown weekly high school football broadcast and beats an old nemesis in the process.*

*Photo Courtesy of Tyler Takeda*

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## Hawks TV Debut One Sweet Victory

By Randy Bailey

On Thursday night, Sept. 13, the Liberty High Hawks varsity football team made history by playing in a football game televised live from Hawks stadium. But to add the ultimate cherry on top of the cake, they played the Fowler Redcats, the team that just last November took the Division V title away from the Hawks in a nail biter in Fowler. When the dust had settled this time, Liberty High came out on top of this meeting by a final score of 35-25.

Liberty was featured in KFRE Channel 59's weekly "Thursday Night Showdown" program where area high school teams play a Thursday night game instead of the usual Friday night game, and the game is then broadcast live on Channel 59.

Emotions were running high on the Liberty side of the field and the stands were filled to capacity in anticipation of not only

being on TV but the rematch of last year's championship game.

The first half was pretty evenly matched with Fowler matching Liberty score for score, but Coach Mike Nolte lit a fire under the Hawks at halftime and there was no looking back. A



*It could have been called the Wade Wallace show. The Liberty running back, number 2, collected 231 total yards for the night that included three touchdowns, a 50-yard interception and 66-yard kick return. Wow!*

particular standout was 5'9", 165-pound sophomore Wade Wallace. Wallace had 231 yards on the night and was responsible for three touchdowns. Two of the three came from 110 yards of rushing and the third was from a 50-yard interception. Wallace also returned a kick for 66 yards that set up another touchdown.

Liberty's defense was also particularly stingy allowing only 126 total yards from Fowler in the second half. This year the Hawks are 3-0 and have scored 120 points while limiting their opponents to only 31 points. That's an average of 40 points per game by the Hawks to 10 for their opponents.

Next week the Hawks play Corcoran in

## Remote Control Racing in the 'Chos

By Christi McKinney

Feel the need for speed but don't want a speeding ticket? Woodward Raceway is a hidden treasure in the Madera Ranchos. If you've driven down Road 35 on any given Sunday you may have noticed dozens of canopies and cars surrounding the property of Randy and Lisa Woodward. Under those canopies kids of all ages and several generations work side by side to insure their electric remote control cars and trucks are charged up and ready to roll.

At race time the drivers take their place up on a platform so they have a clear view of the course. Up to 13 cars at a time race side by side zipping through the course at speeds of

up to 60 miles per hour maneuvering tight turns, sometimes on two wheels, often resulting in jumps that send the cars flying into the air. The day I was there, I watched two cars collide in midair only to get right



*Who knew? Remote control cars are racing in the Ranchos at speeds up to 60 miles per hour every Sunday at the Randy and Lisa Woodward home on Road 35.*

back into the race. Race monitors are stationed throughout the course to get wayward cars that may have jumped the track back into the race. The excitement is contagious on Sundays with crowds that average 50 people. Races take place every 10 minutes and each race lasts seven minutes. The racers are ranked on a point system and compete for trophies which are awarded every Sunday to the winners in

their class. Racers are categorized into the "Munchkin Class" for 4-6 year olds, the Kids Class for 7-12 year olds and the Adult

## Fireman's BBQ Brings Surprises

By Christi McKinney

The Madera Ranchos Volunteer Fire Department held its 27th Annual BBQ, Dance and Fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 18 at the beautiful Borba "Rancho Vista del Rio" on the banks

of the San Joaquin River. The very popular annual event gives the community the opportunity to have a nice evening, help with fundraising and meet and thank the men and women who give their time so selflessly. KMJ580's Craig



*After 35 years, venerable Station 19 Volunteer Fire Captain Chuck Hoover has decided to hang up the fire hoses and retire to Nevada and travel. Hoover used the 27th Annual Fireman's BBQ at Borba Ranch to make the announcement.*

Hansen served as the master of ceremonies for the event. Throughout the evening there was something for everyone to enjoy. Attendees had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items and to preview items that had been donated for the live auction. The event was attended by 700 people this year and \$15,000 was raised for low angle water rescue equipment and training. This equipment will help firefighters safely retrieve and secure people from rivers, canals, holes or bluffs.

The volunteer firefighters of Station 19 in the Madera Ranchos and Station 9 in Rolling Hills were hon-

ored for their hard work and dedication. Special recognition was given to honor veteran Volunteer Fire Captain Chuck Hoover for his 35 years of service as a Volunteer Firefighter in the Madera Ranchos. Hoover, a Ranchos resident, has been credited with

being the organizing force behind the largest and most well equipped volunteer fire station in Madera County - right here in the Ranchos. Hoover, who has been instrumental in the success of the annual BBQ, is retiring this year from both the

fire station and from his full time job as a cameraman for Channel 30 News. He and his wife Barbara have just purchased a new home in Nevada and are selling their home in the Ranchos. They are looking forward to spending time traveling around the country in an RV.

"When we started doing these dinners it consisted of a spaghetti dinner in the parking lot of the fire station," Hoover said. "As the annual BBQs grew they moved to D & D Ranch, then Coombs Ranch, then Cobb Ranch and now the beautiful Borba's 'Ran-

Please see **BBQ** on P. 3

Class.

The raceway was constructed by owner Randy Woodward and Father Dewayne Woodward. Together they built one of the smoothest dirt oval tracks around with a cool off road track in the center. "When we moved out to the Ranchos there wasn't a lot for families to do together, we wanted to build something that the whole community could enjoy" said Woodward

Please see **RC CARS** on P. 12

**Liberty High  
HOMECOMING**

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7 p.m.**

**Hawk Stadium**

Click on "Local News" at

BBQ cont. from P. 2

cho Vista del Rio.”

Over the past 27 years these events have made it possible for our fire stations to purchase a variety of equipment. The list of equipment includes a lightweight Jaws of Life, a support squad fire truck with high intensity lights as well as other repair tools. The equipment is used to support firefighters throughout Madera County at serious accidents, residential fires or large grass fires. Without these fundraisers

our firefighters would have to share equipment with other stations and response time would be significantly longer. These two stations cover Eastern Madera County and all the major roads – State Route 99, Highway 41 and Avenues 12, 15, 7 and 9. “We get some pretty serious accidents and need to be able to respond to them with the equipment we need,” Hoover said. “Lives can depend on it.” Hoover said Madera County volunteer firefighters respond to emergency calls at a moment’s notice, 24 hours a day.

“I’m very; very proud of what this company and the Madera Ranchos community has accomplished. I’m leaving knowing that you’re all in good hands.” Hoover said. “I’m not proud of what Madera County has done or rather hasn’t done for our firefighters and for the citizens of the County. When I started volunteering 35 years ago Madera County had six fire engines and one water tender [equipment] and there were seven paid firefighters. Today we have six engines county wide and seven paid firefighters in Madera County! The

county has got to recognize that the population of Madera has grown and needs to find a way to provide the protection that residents pay for when we pay our property taxes.”

At present we have 23 volunteers at Station 19 in the Ranchos to help the one county paid firefighter. Station 9 has four volunteer firefighters. “We are always looking for new volunteers, however the training for firefighters is extensive,” Hoover said. “New volun-

Please see BBQ on P. 10





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# Which American Dream for You?



By Don Jans

This weekend, amid all the typical campaign rhetoric and meaningless slogans, two comments were made that truly define why this election is so critical. I know we hear that every presidential election is the most crucial of our time; this one may just be the most important because it will determine which course America will take.

President Obama said, "... a new vision of an America in which prosperity is shared."

Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan said, "We promise equal opportunity, not equal outcomes."

This has been the age-old argument. It has been argued from the beginning of recorded history in one form or another. Is it society's responsibility to give somebody a fish to feed him today, or to teach him how to fish, so if he chooses, he can feed himself for life? This is the argument made by Karl Marx in his famous quote: "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs," or prosperity shared.

We heard Obama say when endorsing the Occupying Wall Street protestors in October of 2011, that these protestors were "... giving voice to a more broad-based frustration about how our financial system works." In November of 2011, Obama stated again, about the same group, "Young people like the ones here today, are the reason I ran for office in the first place."

What was Obama endorsing? Prior to his endorsement, a list of "demands" had been given by this group. These "demands" included restoration of the "living wage," which includes raising the minimum wage to \$20 and guaranteeing a living wage income regardless of employment; free college education; an end to the fossil fuel economy; \$1 trillion in infrastructure improvements; open borders migration so any-

one can travel anywhere to live and work; immediate across the board debt forgiveness for all; union elections at any time the union wants to hold them; and a universal single payer health-care system.

Karl Marx also endorsed these "demands" in his writings. In fact, most of these "demands" are at the heart of his call for a "fair and equitable classless society." In the "Critique of the Gotha Program," Marx stated that the economic system of wages should run based on his famous quote of "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs." He then went on to describe how the "total social product" should be distributed. Even before the worker receives his portion of the distribution, a livable wage is distributed to all those not working for any reason. He states that those who are working will produce to their maximum ability because, in this highest phase of society, labor has become not only a means of life, but life's prime want.

**THE AMERICAN WORKER WILL WANT HIS PROSPERITY SHARED?**

In the Gotha Program, Marx also said that not only should all elementary education be free and universal, but this free and universal education should be extended to include at least technical schools, both theoretical and practical.

The heart of the Fundamental Transformation to the classless society of Marx is internationalism. The closing statement in "The Communist Manifesto" calls for the workers of the world to unite. National identity and allegiance is counterproductive to a Marxist movement. The transformation, to be successful, must be international. Free and unrestricted movement of the worker between borders is a critical element.

Marx asserted that capitalists are responsible for debt. This is because the capitalist does not pay the worker the full value for his labor. The essence of capitalism is the capitalist keeping a portion of the worker's wage according to Marx. He calls this "surplus value." This value is received by the capitalist for which he did nothing. He also criticized the capitalist because he

Please see **TEA** on P. 15

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Guest Editorial

President "Incomplete"

By Rich Lowry

"Are people better off than they were four years ago?" is hardly a trick question. It's one of the most reliable cliches in American politics.

So Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat from Maryland, should have been ready with some handy dodge when he was asked the question by Bob Schieffer of "Face the Nation." Really, in the circumstance, any circumlocution would do.

Instead, O'Malley said "No," igniting a firestorm with his unadorned, monosyllabic honesty. Which didn't last. Within 24 hours, the skies had brightened, the malaise had lifted, and O'Malley was pronouncing the country "clearly better off."

O'Malley can be forgiven for his initial forthrightness. People who make their living coming up with creative ways to avoid questions inconvenient to President Barack Obama didn't do all that much better. Asked twice on "Fox News Sunday" if Americans are better off, David Axelrod pointedly wouldn't say "yes" or "no." Asked three times on "This Week," David Plouffe passed on a direct answer all three times.

After getting knocked around for their evasiveness, though, the Obama team recalibrated and decided to answer "absolutely" to the better-off question. The herald of the new message was none other than the man best-suited to bluster his way

through a not-particularly credible statement, Vice President Joe Biden.

"America is better off today than they left us when they left," Biden told a union rally, before adducing as evidence what he called a "bumper sticker": "Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive."

The catchy bumper sticker doesn't address the better-off question. The query has to do with personal economic well-being. It's a wonderful thing that bin Laden was dispatched, but it doesn't give anyone any additional income. It's terrific for GM's remaining workers that they are still working, but the cost of the car company's bailout -- some \$35 billion -- makes it a rotten deal for everyone else.

A clever bumper sticker can't obscure that real median income has declined \$4,300 since January 2009, the unemployment rate has been above 8 percent for 42 straight months, and long-term unemployment is up and labor-force participation is down. The Democrats can say all of this is an accident of timing: The aftereffects of the Bush recession are unfairly counted against their record. But the recovery that they take credit for is also an accident of timing. The economy wasn't going to keep shedding 800,000 jobs a month forever.

In fact, the recovery proved disappointingly lackluster. President Obama's signature initiatives -- a stimulus designed to sate pent-up congressional spending demands, ObamaCare, the hideously complex regulations of Dodd-Frank -- were irrelevant to or crosswise with promoting a sustained, robust recovery.

Now, the president gives himself a grade of "incomplete," as if he has much else yet to accomplish. Yet his stated second-term agenda consists only of a tax increase on the wealthy, and getting along with the same congressional Republicans he can't abide. There's evidently nothing for him to complete, except riding out the consequences of his misbegotten first term.

Eventually, American will be better off than they were in 2008. When that day finally comes, this president will have had nothing to do with it.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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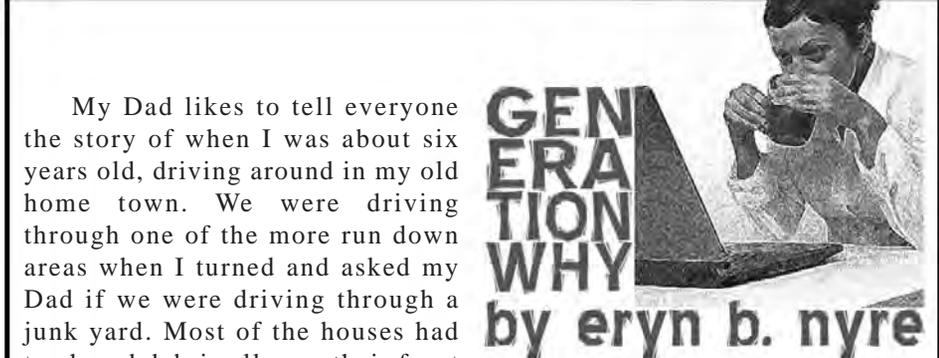
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# Taking Pride in Yours



**GENERATION WHY**  
by **eryn b. nyre**

My Dad likes to tell everyone the story of when I was about six years old, driving around in my old home town. We were driving through one of the more run down areas when I turned and asked my Dad if we were driving through a junk yard. Most of the houses had trash and debris all over their front yards like spare tires, broken down cars, car parts and even toilets. There was, however, one house on the street that stood out from the rest. Although it was clearly run-down and in desperate need of some repair, unlike the dilapidated dwellings that surrounded it, the front yard was clean and well kept, the weeds had been pulled, lawn mowed and there wasn't a scrap of trash to be found. I remember asking my Dad why someone would build a house in the middle of a junk yard, in response my father taught me a valuable and timeless lesson, this was an example of someone with little means taking pride in what they had, regardless of its age or what surrounded it.

*I just don't understand this particular behavior. What happened to pride in who you are, what you do and what you have? Just because your possessions aren't brand new and top of the line doesn't mean they aren't valuable. This idea that you just wear out the old until you can replace it with the new is a sad reflection of today's society.*

You can find similar instances of this everywhere, in the way people keep their homes, their cars, even their clothes. As your things age, people with a sense of pride still care for them as if they were new, while others simply give up on their possessions. Why take care of something that isn't fancy or fashionable?

I have a friend who is stricken with this same phenomenon, and she could have definitely benefited from that very lesson I learned with my father. She and her husband and their four children, like many Americans right now, are struggling to make ends meet. They rent an old house in the lower socioeconomic part of town. And unlike that one house in the

middle of the junkyard, she has completely blended into her surroundings. My biggest issue is the diapers. Obviously with young children running around, it is difficult to run out to the trash bins every hour to dump a dirty diaper, and who wants that smelling up her kitchen, but she has taken to littering her front walkway with the

dirty diapers, getting around to collecting and dumping them whenever she remembers. I can understand that she can't afford a diaper genie, but I am sure there has to be an inexpensive alternative to littering her front stoop with dirty, smelly diapers. Maybe move the trash bin to the back

yard so she can easily dispose of the mess without leaving her children alone. Perhaps she can tie them up in a plastic grocery bag to help keep smell out of her kitchen until she takes the trash out. In any event, tossing them out her front door is a disgusting habit and shows absolutely no pride in how she keeps her house. It certainly makes me think twice about whether or not I want to have a visit. I asked her about this once, and in her opinion, if she had a big fancy house she would be more concerned with finding a more suitable place for soiled diapers, but because she doesn't care about the house, she doesn't care about how it is perceived.

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 11

9/12



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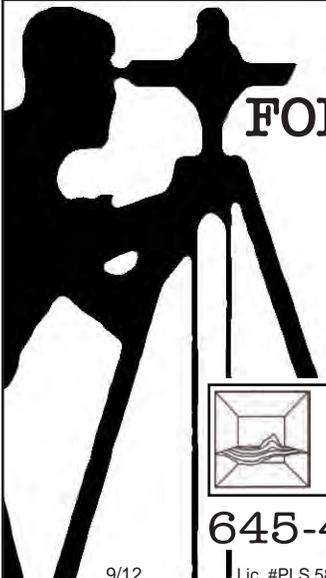
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**Sierra Shadows 4H Club**  
By Anahi RIVERA

**4H is on the Fast Track**

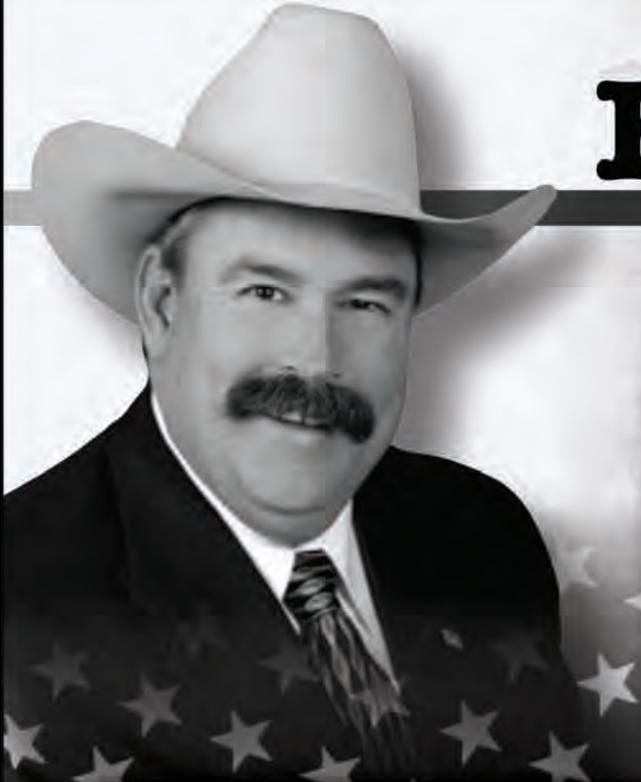
Sierra Shadows 4-H club has been very busy. The Madera County Fair was in full swing. The members of the Sierra Shadows 4-H club had worked hard all summer long in order to get their animals in good condition to make weight and with the hope when auction time rolled around, their animals would receive some top bids. Some members also entered still exhibits.

Sierra Shadows 4-H club has a lot to offer this year. The 4-H club is offering 20 different projects members can participate in. Sierra Shadows 4-H club is always looking for adults interested in becoming 4-H volunteer project leaders. Volunteers are the backbone of the 4-H program and in carrying out the 4-H program and activities. Here are a few basic requirements: be at least over 18

years old; have a desire to help youth learn by doing; time and energy to devote to the project. A minimum of six hours of instruction is required to complete a project with most projects occurring over a period of several weeks or months during a year. The 4-H has resources available to help assist you in becoming a successful leader. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer, call Terri Fernandez at 559-645-4836.

Our next big event the members are looking forward to is 4-H Achievement Night/Officer Installation which is held in October and will kickoff National 4-H week. Officers are installed to their club positions and members receive special recognition awards. During this week, the public may see window displays at various locations showing the various projects 4-H has to offer.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4-H. The Sierra Shadows 4-H club leader is Terri Fernandez, who can be reached at 559-645-4836. Her email is trrfernandez@yahoo.com. The next club meeting will be held at Sierra View Elementary School cafeteria on Tuesday, October 9, at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.



**Frank BIGELOW**  
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## 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 will be Saturday, Sept. 22. 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.



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 from the farmer's market, how

*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.*

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 1/2 cups)
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 2 T butter or olive oil

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 13

### 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
- 1/2 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

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

## Ranchos News Both Good and Sad

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
Did you miss my article in the last Ranchos Independent newspaper? Several people have said that they missed my article and wondered what happened. I really did write an article and I really did send it to Randy but my computer decided not to talk to his computer. I didn't realize that Randy had not received my emailed article until the paper came out. That is the way I send my article, by email. So long story short I am going to try this again. Part of this article will be what I wrote for last month and part of it will be new stuff.

At the local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting we were talking about the importance of having our own local Chamber of Commerce in the Ranchos. This brought to mind a similar conversation that I had with Bill Bell many years ago. I was starting to go to meetings to find out how to create a new school district in the Ranchos and I needed a lot of information. Bill Bell had gotten the local Chamber of Commerce started in the Ranchos and he told me it was very important that I attended Chamber

meetings and share with the business community what I was trying to do. The Ranchos community wanted its own high school and Madera Unified was not going to build it for us. So the community members took matters into their own hands. Before we could build a high school we had to form a school district and pass a bond. The community needed all of the help it could get. The local Chamber was a good place to start.

The following are some of the questions and answers about our local Chamber of Commerce that I received from Bill Bell and are still true today. I asked how does our local Chamber of Commerce operate and the answer was by volunteers from local business people. There is a board composed of a President, Past president, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, and nine board members. These are all local business people who devote their time, energy and dollars to op-

erate Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

My next question was why is having a local Chamber important to the people in Southeast Madera County? The answer was because it serves as a liaison between the people and the businesses, the professional community and the County of Madera. It also serves as an information center for the area by answering questions about local shopping, employment, housing, schools, recreation, community services, local businesses and many other questions that come in the local Chamber door.

What can the local Chamber of Commerce do for the business community? The Chamber provides a place for businesses to have a meeting. The local Chamber holds mixers for members and their friends to meet and network with other local business own-

ers. The local Chamber actively promotes new industrial and business growth within the Ranchos and surrounding area. The local Chamber puts together a ribbon cutting ceremony to introduce a new business to the community. There is a fax machine available to the community at the local Chamber office located in the Maywood Center on Avenue 12. You can call the local Chamber phone at 645-4001. If you get an answering machine just leave a

message and your phone number and we will get back to you. The office is staffed by volunteers. Would you like to volunteer your help?

The last question I asked was how does the local Chamber have money to operate, pay the rent for office space, pay the PG&E, and phone bill? The answer was that the local Chamber has fundraisers and membership dues from local businesses. The Flatlanders Day Parade is put on by the local Chamber to showcase the local schools, different children organizations, businesses, churches, local politicians and local active community members. The local Chamber also puts on an Annual Crab Feed as a major fundraiser. Each year the local Chamber partners with the Ranchos Library Committee to operate a fireworks stand during the

Please see **STOCK** on P. 11

# Action ... Not Just Promises

**Proven financial leadership during challenging economic times**

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

## Accomplishments

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

## Goals

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

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## Re-Elect Mark Toole for GVUSD Trustee

**Action ... not just promises**

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

9/12



**Be Prepared!**

One day when our daughter, Candice, was in second grade at Webster her homework was to create a fire escape plan for the family. We chose the three trees in the front yard as our meeting place, talked about “stop, drop, and roll,” and how to escape through doors or, if need be, windows. When it was dark we did a practice run. Everyone got into bed and Scott tripped the smoke alarm. The kids froze in their beds. Having never heard it before they were too scared to move! That experience taught us the importance of emergency preparedness and making sure everyone is trained and ready. Thank you, Mrs. Zinn.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Being prepared for fire and other disasters can save your life and the lives of those you love. Here are some tips that will help you prepare.

**Fire Emergency Preparedness:**

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in the hallways leading to the bedrooms, and on each level of your home including the basement.

Change smoke alarm batteries when

you turn your clocks forward and backward. Create and practice an escape plan. Place fire extinguishers in your kitchen and garage.

**Emergency Supply Kit:**

- One gallon of water per person per day (3-day supply)
- 3-day supply per person of non-perishable food and can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual

**Family Emergency Plan:**

- Record an emergency contact number in each family member’s cell phone and label it “ICE” (In Case of Emergency).
- Identify a local and out-of-town contact for family members to check in with, in case of disaster.
- Designate a family meeting place.
- Inquire about emergency plans at work, daycare and school.
- Use texting to connect with family members if phone networks are disrupted.

**Helpful Hints:**

Sesame Street helps take the “scare” out of preparing young children for emergency situations. Visit their website ([www.SesameStreet.org.ready.activities](http://www.SesameStreet.org.ready.activities)) for games, videos, and activity books. You can also find more helpful tools and tips at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or, contact me and I’ll send you a copy of their Family Supply List and Family Emergency Plan. It’s better to be safe (and prepared) than sorry!

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

**BBQ cont. from P. 3**

teers are required to go through 80 hours of training before they can start. It’s difficult in today’s world when many people have to work two jobs just to put food on the table.” Hoover encourages all residents to become involved and support their local fire stations. The “Sparklers” are an organization that supports our fire station with fund raising activities, the BBQ as well as other activities during the year. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Debbie Farr at 559-259-3325.

Event organizer Debbie Farr wants to thank the community for helping in such a tough economy. “All of the vol-

unteers, and sponsors: Vulcan Materials, Fresno County Credit Union and Marie Calendars among others and Mark and Peggy Borba for hosting the event,” Farr said. “Eric Wagner of Outlaw Catering did a wonderful job catering the delicious chicken and tri tip dinner and CJ Brantley was the lively auctioneer for the evening.”

These Ranchos volunteers are truly heroic for giving of their time to keep our community safe, whether it’s a fire, a car accident or a medical emergency. The people of the Ranchos want to wish Chuck Hoover all the best for 35 years of service and invite him to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. The Madera Ranchos will miss you.

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

There is a twit at my work who shares the same attitude with his car. His parents were kind enough to give him their old car when he needed one. It wasn't new, it wasn't sporty or sexy, but it ran well and got him to and from work. He obviously has no real regard for this car and it shows just by looking at it. His garbage from his fast food lunches has piled up in the back seat, coffee and soda stains that have never been cleaned up are splattered throughout, and I am quite certain that it hasn't been washed in at least a year. Even older cars deserve a little TLC.

I just don't understand this particular behavior. What happened to pride in who you are, what you do and what you have? Just because your possessions aren't brand new and top of the line doesn't mean they aren't valuable. This idea that you just wear out the old until you can replace it with the new is a sad reflection of today's society. Everything can be upgraded or replaced. We live in a disposable culture where people stop caring about things once the newer, better version is on the market. The bottom line is that even if you are of little means, you can still treat your possessions as if they mean the world to you.

Okay, so you can't afford a professional landscaper, does that mean you let the weeds overtake your lawn and garbage collect in the corners? So you don't drive a BMW, that doesn't mean that your 15-year-old car doesn't deserve to be clean and maintained. And finally, just because you don't live in your dream home or in your dream neighborhood doesn't mean you should feel good about disgusting and smelly diapers covering your front stoop. Take pride in what you have because it may not be new, but it is yours, and after all, there are people out there that would give anything for what you have, regardless of its age.

STOCK cont. from P. 9

4th of July celebration. Remember this is all done by volunteers. For the first time the local Chamber sponsored a professional Farmers Market in the Ranchos. The last one was held on August 30. I hope that we will have them back next year. So like when Bill Bell convinced me that the local Chamber of Commerce is important to the Ranchos and surrounding areas to hold the community together, I hope I have convinced you that we all need to support our local Chamber.

Now I have some sad news. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors have had two active members die in the last two months. Anna Jean Barrow passed away on July 20. She was born on March 2, 1925 in Oklahoma. Jean died at the home of her son Steve Barrow in the Ranchos. Jean was under the care of the St. Agnes Hospice at the time of her death. She was 87 years old. Jean and her deceased husband Jim Barrow were charter members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors organization. Jean and her sister Ruth Baker prepared many delicious meals that were fundraisers for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Jean and Ruth also prepared the food sold during the time that RHS played Bingo at our center. A graveside service for Jean was held on July 28. A celebration of Jean's life was held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center following the graveside service. We will miss our very active Jean Barrow at the Ranchos/Hills Center.

Then on August 15, Emery Joseph Brunett died at the age of 88 years old. Emery was in Clovis at the time of his death, at the Golden Care Home. Emery was born on February 23, 1924 in Santa Cruz, California. Emery and his wife Patricia Burnett have been very active members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors since they moved to the Ranchos in 2003. Emery was an Army veteran, who served in the Second World War. During the Battle of the Bulge in Germany he suffered from frost bite of his legs. When he came home from the war Emery worked on the Alaska pipeline. Emery worked on dams throughout California. His last job was at Helms Creek for PG&E. He and Patricia were at Helms Creek dam project for 10 years. Emery's sons were David, Mike, Tommy and he had one other son who was deceased, as well as his daughter Maria. Emery was a hard worker at the Senior Center and he loved playing cards on Thursday nights at the Center. The loss of these two members is felt by everyone at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

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RC CARS cont. from P. 2

who used to have a track in Clovis. Woodward is a custom pinstriper by trade and also manages his son's popular cover band, 51 Aces.

Father and son racers TJ Smith and son Jake, 9, who attends Sierra View Elementary School, are frequent visitors. In fact Jake has done so well that after competing for just six months he has advanced from the kids class into the adult class and he's still winning many races in that category. Father TJ Smith, who works for Madera Hobby – another Madera Ranchos business – said, "People will often stop by just to watch and pretty soon they show up with their own car ready to race." If you'd like to give it a try Madera Hobby will rent you a ready-to-race car for the day for just \$20 and bring it out to the track for you. To arrange for a rental call Tom at 559-822-5800 so he can have one charged up and ready for you. The price of these cars can range anywhere from approximately \$125 stock, on sale, to the \$200 range depending on how tricked out you want to go.



Nine-year-old Jake Smith is racing with the big boys and has his eye on the First Place trophy.

Woodward Raceway is located at 13062 Road 35 and is open to anyone and every-

one and spectators are always welcome. The track is open seven days a week, year round. Madera Ranchos residents are welcome to come out and practice on the track for free. Just call or email Randy to let him know you are coming so the track is ready. There is a \$5 fee for non-Ranchos residents. Races take place every Sunday from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. On race days wife Lisa Woodward runs a snack bar for donations. Racers pay a \$10 entry fee. Any money collected is used for trophies and maintenance and track improvements. Woodward can be contacted at Rwoody32@yahoo.com or by phone at 559-469-7117. If you'd like to watch some races, visit their website at www.woodwardraceway.com. It's great to see adults, kids and grandkids all enjoying the excitement of racing.



The elevated Command Center offers a birds-eye view of the action for the racers at Woodward's racetrack.

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

**RECIPE** 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 Eve's with Randy and his family and he has served his Corn Chowder for dinner. I asked him to give me the recipe to put in this article, but with getting the paper out, his daughter ready to go back to college next week, and going to the all-important Hawks football game, he just didn't have time. So I promise you I'll have it for you next month.

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.

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Sierra View Elementary Golden Bell Recipient "Character Counts & Virtues"

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## Getting to Know New Staff at Golden Valley Schools

With the new school year brings new faces to Golden Valley Unified School District.

The district hired seven new teachers for the 2012-2013 school year, three at Webster Elementary, two at Sierra View Elementary and two at Liberty High School.

Below is a closer look at the newest additions at the Golden Valley Unified educators.

### **Natalie Devany** School and grade/subject:

Sierra View Elementary, second grade

**Your high school:** Arrow-smith Academy

**College and**

**degree:** Bachelor's from Evergreen Washington State and multiple subject credential from St. Mary's College

**Years teaching:** 4th year

**Why did you want to become a teacher?**

I grew up watching my mother, who was a teacher, and was inspired to follow in her footsteps. I saw how she was making a difference in her student's lives, and I wanted to do the same.

**What is the best part about being a teacher?** You make a difference in student's lives, and you work with people who do the same. Also, as a teacher I am constantly trying to strengthen my skills to meet the needs of all students in the classroom. It is very rewarding!

**Marital status:** Yes I am married. This is our 4th year.

**Kids:** 1 daughter, 13 months.

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** Reading, running, and enjoying my family.

**Final question, what is an interesting factoid about you?** I ran a marathon a few years ago, and just ran a half marathon the other week in San Diego.

**Ashley Risenhoover**

**School and grade/subject:** Sierra View

Elementary, third grade

**Your high school:** Kingsburg Joint Union High School

**College and degree:** California State University, Fresno

**Years teaching:** First year.

**Why did you want to become a teacher?**

I have always had the feeling that being around kids was something I wanted to do with my life. I grew up in a home family daycare since I was born (24 years ago) so being around children was just another "norm" for me. Being in front of children comes naturally to me and watching the growth and development in them throughout the year is the most rewarding feeling I have ever felt.

**What are you looking forward to this year?** I am looking forward to building relationships with the parents of Madera Ranchos and the children, as it is my intention to make Sierra View "my second home."

**Marital status:** Not married.

**Kids, if any (with years old please):** Yes, I have a three and a half year old son named Landon.

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** I love playing softball. I am currently on a co-ed team that plays Tuesday nights at the Jensen and West Sports Complex.

**Final question, what is an interesting factoid about you?** I love to sing. I have auditioned and sang for Disneyland in the Christmas Candlelight Performance twice in my life, both while attending Kingsburg High School (sophomore and senior year.) I also sang for the Valley Honor's Choir in my junior year; both experiences were rewarding and something I will never forget.

**Tamar Bedoyan**

**School and grade/subject:** Webster Elementary, K-3 Special Day Class

**Your high school:** Bullard High School

**Years teaching:** This is my first class-



*Ashley Risenhoover, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary*

room ever!

**What is the best part about being a teacher?** The best part about being a special educator is that moment when a student understands a concept, story, or general education practice. I enjoy teaching my students skills that facilitate their inclusion in Webster's learning community. Being a special educator makes me appreciate and celebrate every accomplishment, no matter how miniscule it may seem to others. Small accomplishments add up to great victories for my students.

Nothing compares to the joy on my students' faces when they accomplish a new feat and knowing that our efforts (me and my paraprofessionals) are the reason that student worked to achieve that feat.

**Marital status:** Single

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** I enjoy playing basketball, spending time with my family, going to concerts, discovering new restaurants, and traveling with friends.

**Final question, what is an interesting factoid about you?** I speak three languages fluently: Armenian, Spanish, and English.

**Audrey Fulton**

**School and grade/subject:** Webster Elementary, first grade

**Your high school:** Bullard High School

**College and degree:** California State University Fresno, bachelors in liberal studies

**Why did you want to become a teacher?** Ever since I was a little girl, I have wanted

Please see **NEW STAFF** on P. 16



*Tmar Bedoya, Special Education Teacher, Webster Elementary*



*Audrey Fulton, 1st Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary*

## Attendance Rise Is GVUSD Goal

One of the major goals that Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Andy Alvarado wants the District to reach is a one percent increase in attendance numbers. With each percent increase in attendance numbers, the district will receive more than \$100,000.

"With the way the state continues to deficit our revenue limit, boosting our attendance is one way to maximize revenue," Alvarado said.

The current attendance rate at Golden Valley is 94.83 percent and Alvarado is hoping to raise that number. The personal lifetime cost to students who don't attend is very great, but the cost to sisters, brothers and others students in the District is also sizeable.

The State of California pays the District every day a student is present. The District does not get paid for students who miss school for family vacation, illness, doctor visits and dental appointments.

"Our most important goal is to give each student in the District the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed," Alvarado said.

The district has launched a public awareness campaign called "Count Me In!" to make people aware about the importance of attending school. The goal of the Count Me In program is to communicate to students, parents and the community the importance of student attendance. It will help them engage in understanding and spreading the message about the importance of regular school attendance.

The program will also offer incentives to reward students and schools with the most improved and highest attendance.

"Even if a student is going to be gone for five or more days, they can go into short-term independent study, which will count them in school to help their individual attendance number and the school's," Alvarado said. "Improving students' attendances is a top priority in Golden Valley this year."

The district also has an online attendance system for parents at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/studentparentinfo](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/studentparentinfo).

Click on "Local News" at

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## Link - Garcia



Miss Kayleigh Link and Mr. Alex Garcia are pleased to announce their plans to be married on Saturday, October 6.

The couple, who are both graduates of Liberty High School's Class of 2007, are planning a service at Sunny Grove Beach in Santa Cruz, Calif.

At present, Link is a Teacher's Aide

at Webster Elementary in the Ranchos and Garcia is working toward a career as a nurse anesthetist. Both Link and Garcia are 2010 graduates of the Madera Center Junior College located on Avenue 12.

Both life-long residents of the Ranchos, Link and Garcia plan to remain in the Ranchos after their marriage.

### TEA cont. from P. 4

would reinvest this “surplus value” to create even more capital. Marx asserted that the capitalist forced the worker into debt, because he forced the worker to consume more commodities than value he received. The worker is not responsible for his debt.

Marx, like FDR, Obama and the Marxist/Progressives, believed that the state should determine how the total proceeds of labor should be distributed, or what is commonly called “Central Planning.” It is the state who should determine what portion of proceeds should be allocated to public works, allocated for replacement of necessary productive equipment, and control use of all natural resources since they are after all the property of the people. We can view with 20/20 hindsight how this “Central Planning” process and governmental control of the economy in fact hinders economic recovery. An objective review of the 1930's can only reach the honest conclusion that these policies used by FDR, not only restricted recovery growth, but led to an even deeper recession in 1937 and 1938 than the one in 1929. FDR's policies also kept the unemployment rate in double digit figures. Are we making the same mistakes today?

Marx was the “party boss” of the first international workers union. He wrote in 1853, after a wave of workers strikes, how important the organization of workers is to ending the enslavement of the worker and abolishing the wage system. He called these strikes and struggles a war, and that the

trade union is the essential point around which the battle is built. Tactics in these struggles, such as strikes, demonstrations, protests and riots are not important. Only the result is important. The trade union is to the war on the capitalistic system, what the family is to the survival of society (this was not stated by Marx but is attributable to the author).

Yes, this election is crucial to America. Will we follow the path of shared prosperity called for by Marx, Obama, Occupying Wall Street, and all Marxist/Progressives, or will we REVERT to the concept of equal opportunity, not equal outcomes?

*Don Jans is the author of My Grandchildren's America: Will it still be the land of the free and the home of the brave? His website is located at www.mygrandchildrensamerica.com.*

### Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

Madera Chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive in Madera. Meeting dates can be confirmed on our Central Valley Tea Party website at [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com) for scheduled speakers and their topics of discussion.

For comments or questions contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator John Smedley by e-mail at [jcsmedley@comcast.net](mailto:jcsmedley@comcast.net) or call him at 559-645-7031. You may also contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator Rick Farinelli by e-mail at [richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 559-706-5386.

**NEW STAFF** cont. from P. 14

to be a teacher. I believe it is the most rewarding job out there.

**Marital status:** I am not married and I do not have any kids, (yet).

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** Traveling and reading.

**Final questions, what is an interesting factoid about you?** An interesting fact about me is that both of my grandmothers are named Dolores and both of my grandfathers are named Joseph.

**Sarah Marshall**

**School and grade/subject:** Webster, third Grade

**Your high school:** Washington Union High School

**College and degree:** Bachelor's from Fresno State

**Years teaching:** This is my 10th year in the classroom.

**Teaching experience:** Nine years in Mendota Unified and first year at Webster.

**What is the best part about being a teacher?**

The best parts about teaching are



*Sarah Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher, Webster Elementary*

those, "a-ha" moments. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing my students make connections and excel academically.

**Marital status:** I have been married for 13 years to my husband, Prince Marshall.

**Kids:** Jordan Marshall, 14, P.J. Marshall, 10.

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** I love getting out with my family and enjoying outdoor activities. You will often find the Marshalls running through Woodward Park.

**Final questions, what is an interesting factoid about you?** I am terrified of spiders.

**Kenneth Vossler**

**School and grade/subject:** Liberty High School, Special Education

**Your high school:** Bret Harte High School

**College and degree:** California State University, Fresno

**Years teaching:** This is my fifth year teaching.

**Why did you want to become a teacher?** I come from a family of educators and have seen many examples of



*Kenneth Vossler, Special Education Teacher, Liberty High School*

teachers changing students' lives. Some of my earliest memories involve my father and his interactions with his students or sports teams. Teaching allows you the opportunity to make an impact at the ground level. There is a quote in my yearbook written by one of my high school teachers, Mrs. Oneto. Inside she wrote that, "Once when you get your many talents in order can you go on and do anything you want. Until then you will always be stuck looking for what you need just to get by." She basically told me I was underachieving. This is what excites me about teaching. Just like Mrs. Oneto, great teachers look at the greatest potential each student possesses and inspires them to reach their potential.

**Are you coaching a sport or helping with any extracurricular activity?** I was also hired as the varsity boy's head coach after spending the past five years as the head varsity assistant at Central High School.

**Marital status:** I have been married to Marni Vossler for the past eight years

**Kids:** Four boys. Aiden (7), Micah (5), Kyler (3), and Toby (2).

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** Coaching basketball, watching game film for a living, and spending time with my family. Coaching my son's t-ball teams with my wife has been one of my favorite activities for the past three years.

**Josh Koop**

**School and grade/subject:** Liberty High School, English

**Your high school:** Sierra High School

**College and degree:** Biola University and Oxford University in England

**Years teaching:** 2 1/2 years

**Teaching experience:** I volunteered with the United States Peace Corps working with EFL learners and community members at national schools.

**What are you looking forward to this year?** I am very excited, and happy, to join the Hawk family this fall. I hope to instruct and mentor students as we seek to learn reading, writing, communication and critical thinking skills this year.

**Hobbies and favorite activities:** I have traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia. I also am an amateur marathon runner and triathlete. My hobby is mountaineering and have climbed the Alps, Rockies and Himalayas.

**Final questions, what is an interesting factoid about you?** I am a musician and play guitar, piano and harmonica.



*Joshua Koop, English Teacher, Liberty High School*

# Madera County Unveils Emergency Warning System

By Christi McKinney

Madera County has launched a new notification service that allows the County to alert you to an emergency situation when there is a threat to the health or safety of Madera County residents. You may also sign up to receive community alerts and you also have the option of receiving alerts in several languages. This state-of-the-art emergency notification system already houses home phone numbers, however you now have the option of having the system automatically contact you at the phone number, cell phone number, text message, email, fax or instant message that you specify when you register for the system. The automated system will attempt to contact you in the order that you specify. Once you receive an alert you must confirm that you received it. If you do not confirm receipt of the message, the system will continue trying to contact you until it receives a confirmation from you.

When you register you will also be asked if you'd like to receive non-emergency alerts relating to:



- Important Community Alerts
- Power Outages
- Water Outages
- Traffic Information and Closures
- Animal Control Information
- Air Quality Alerts
- Community Meetings
- Health Department Alerts

You will also be able to decide if you wish to receive alerts for the City of Madera and the City of Chowchilla Alerts

There is no cost to register. This is a free service provided by the Madera County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services in cooperation with the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians and participating cities. However if you request to be notified via cell phone or text messaging, your provider may

apply a service charge to your bill.

The system is only as good as the information you provide. If you move or change phone numbers or email address you want to be sure that you go into this system and update your information.

The information that you provide via this system will be used for notification purposes only. The County of Madera will not give or sell your telephone numbers or email addresses to any vendor or other organization. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

Register by visiting [www.mcalert.org](http://www.mcalert.org) If you don't sign up, you might continue to receive alerts at your existing home or business phone number with "might" being the operative word. It is suggested that you still go into the new system and at least list your home number or business number so that you'll definitely receive the alerts you request somewhere.

If you have questions about this new system contact Madera County Citizen Alert at 559-675-7775 or at [msalvador@co.madera.ca.gov](mailto:msalvador@co.madera.ca.gov) If you need assistance in registering you can call 559-675-7770.



**Committee Members Needed For the Golden Valley Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

**The Golden Valley Unified School District is now accepting applications for several openings on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to oversee Measure S Bond monies**

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Click on "Local News" at

Progress not Perfection

# What's the Best Way to Spell Grateful? Two Years of S-O-B-R-I-E-T-Y

By Mike Bailey

Last month I was lucky enough to celebrate two years of continuous sobriety. Yes, that includes weekends, holidays and vacations. When I look back to the time, my darkest and loneliest time before I went to rehab, two years without a drink is kind of hard to fathom. I could not go two hours without a

drink. My body would start to convulse, I could feel cramping in my stomach. I would shake and dry heave up until the moment I took the bottle (I say "bottle" because by this time there was no need for a cup, glass or mixer – all I needed was to unscrew the cap and tilt my head, swallow and let that eight to 10 ounces of liquid fire ease down my throat to my gullet and all my ills were cured). Back

to the bottle: when the alcohol entered my system the warmth would take away everything that was causing me pain. That would be internal and external pain. The unfortunate thing with this kind of cure is that the pain would be back in a couple of hours and I would repeat this process over and over all day long and the only time I would leave the house was to go to the liquor store to restock. This was a very dark and lonely three months.

I do not suggest this.

For good reason, all family and friends had lost faith, hope and trust in me and I was not welcome anywhere. They could not watch me kill myself anymore, they were DONE. From the whole of my heart I thank each and every one of you for the tough love you showed during this time. I now know how hard it must have been to watch me self-destruct. I will not say I'm sorry, I have said that too much. Hopefully you will see how sorry I am in my actions and daily walk (see 2nd Corinthians 7:10).

I have received a lot of congratulations, "good job," "way to go," so on and so forth. I have to be honest: I am grateful for the adulations, but it was not me who did this. When you see me sober please do not thank me. Thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am a true living and breathing testimony of His love, His mercy and His abundant grace. If you want, if you must see a true life miracle that was performed only by Jesus, just look at what he has done for me. That should be all the proof you need.

There are many others out there who have helped me along the way. There are way too many of you to name. You know who you are and with all that is in me I thank you.

So, how have I done this so far?

First I had to realize that I was different. Alcohol affected me differently from others.

I had to understand that there is not a cure for my disease. It is something that I need to watch daily. Second, I had to forgive myself. I realized that there was not a thing I could do about my past, but I could do everything about my future.

Third, I have to keep my eyes open to everything the Lord has put out there in our world to help humble myself and realize it is not about ME, so I could be with Him in this.

It is just that easy: I CAN'T, HE CAN, SO LET HIM.

You see, it is hard for me to take credit for something I have not done. You and Jesus have done it for me.

The AA Big Book on page 83 says it best: "If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word "serenity" and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them"

The key word is WORK

Until next time,

Mike B.

*come meet new friends!*

## Golden Valley Baptist Church

Pastor K. Milton Higgins is bringing  
the 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service message  
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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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	-		x		7
x		+		÷	
	÷		x		21
÷		x		+	
	-		x		8
3		20		9	

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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6. United Kingdom
7. Russia
8. France
9. Brazil
10. Italy

Source: [wiki.answers.com](http://wiki.answers.com)

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4				7	5	1
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		8	9		2	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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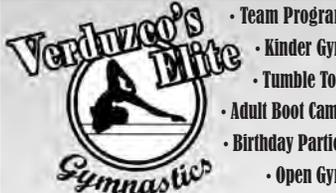
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 Since 1964  
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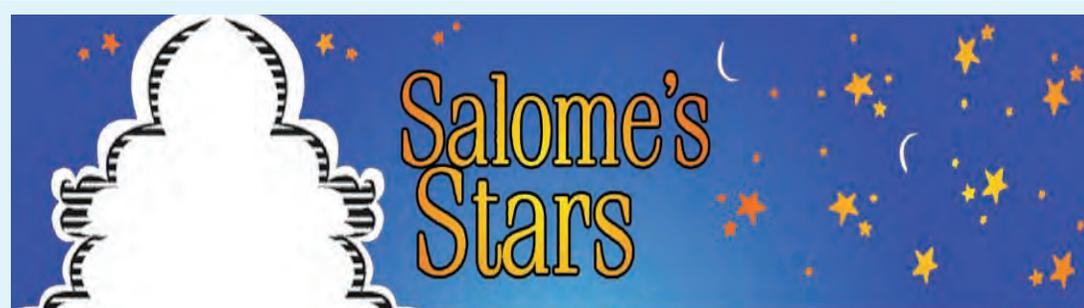
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**JEAN BRINER**  
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**(559) 645-0634**  
The Ranchos Independent

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time for the usually outspoken Lamb to be a bit more discreet. You still can get your point across, but do it in a way less likely to turn off a potential supporter.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Good news: All that hard work you put in is beginning to pay off. But you need to watch that tendency to insist on doing things your way or no way. Be a bit more flexible.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You might want to delay making a decision on the future of a long-standing relationship until you check out some heretofore hidden details that are just now beginning to emerge.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your reluctance to compromise on an important issue could backfire without more facts to support your position. Weigh your options carefully before making your next move.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time for ambitious Leos or Leonas to shift from planning their next move to actually doing it. Your communication skills help persuade others to join you.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Relationships -- personal or professional -- present new challenges. Be careful not to let a sudden surge of stubbornness influence how you choose to deal with them.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might need more facts before you can decide on a possible career change. But you should have no problem making a decision about an important personal matter.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You're respected by most people for your direct, no-nonsense approach to the issues. But be careful you don't replace honest skepticism with stinging sarcasm.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A newly emerging situation could require a good deal of attention and some difficult decision-making. However, close friends will help you see it through.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Family matters need attention. Check things out carefully. There still might be unresolved tensions that could hinder your efforts to repair damaged relationships.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Of course you deserve to indulge yourself in something special. But for now, tuck that bit of mad money away. You'll need it to help with a looming cash crunch.

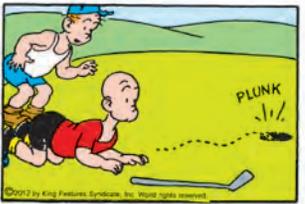
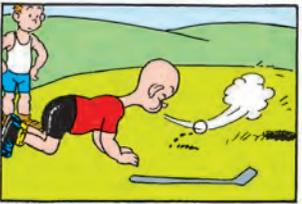
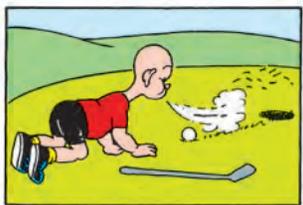
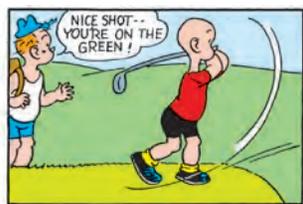
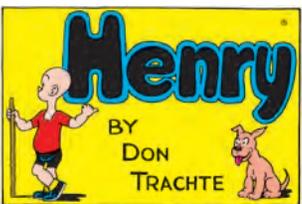
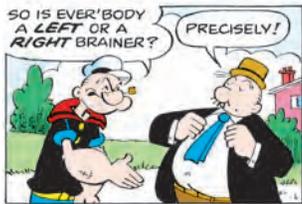
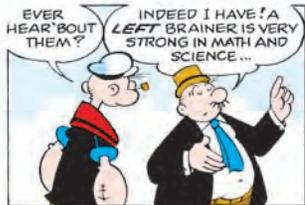
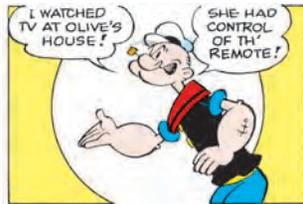
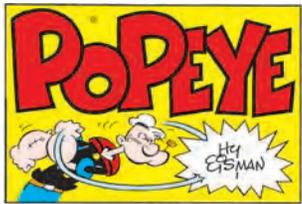
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A temporary setback in your financial situation is eased by changing some of your plans. You'll be able to ride it out quite well until the tide turns back in your favor.

## Born this Week

You have a gift for understanding people's needs. You have a low tolerance for those who act without concern for others.

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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



**FAMILY FROLICS—**  
**QUES.: WHO IS THE**  
**WORLDS WORSE COOK?**  
**ANS.: AUNT HEPATICA.**  
**QUES.: AND WHO IS**  
**IT THAT INSISTS ON**  
**PREPARING ALL**  
**THE FOOD FOR THE**  
**FAMILY REUNIONS?**  
**ANS.: YUP... OH, YEAH...**  
**OF COURSE YOU**  
**KNOW THE ANSWER...**  
**GOOD OL' AUNTIE H.**



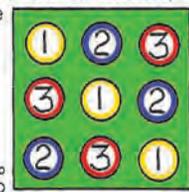
## BY AL SCADUTO



**UP FOR GRABS!** Which route — 1, 2, 3 or 4 — does the football take to reach receiver at point X? It's for you to decide.

**POST HASTE!** Quickly, name the M state designated by each of the following postal abbreviations. MA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT. See if you can name them all.  
 Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

**SIX PACK!** You will note that with the exception of numbers in a single diagonal row, all three-number rows in the diagram shown total six. However, it is possible to shift just one row of numbers and have all horizontal and vertical rows, and both diagonals, total six. Let's see how quickly you can make this adjustment.



Time limit: Two minutes.  
 P.S.: There is more than one way to achieve the desired result. Two answers are given below.

One way: Place bottom row of numbers at the top. Another way: Move column at left to the side at right.

## Wishing Well®

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE • UNIONIZED

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

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

- |             |             |             |          |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Actors      | Laborers    | NBA players | Teachers |
| Bricklayers | Miners      | NFL players | Umpires  |
| Firemen     | MLB players | Nurses      | Writers  |
| Jockeys     | Musicians   | Police      |          |

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## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### MUSING OVER HIGH POINTS

HOW did earth's satellite, the moon, go into orbit? Perhaps it just snowballed down a mountain as suggested at left. See if you can put these panels in a logical order.

And, speaking of mountains, each continent has its highest peak. See if you can match these continents with peaks listed below:

- Africa \_\_\_\_\_
  - Asia \_\_\_\_\_
  - Europe \_\_\_\_\_
  - N. America \_\_\_\_\_
  - S. America \_\_\_\_\_
- Peaks: Aconcagua, Elbrus, Everest, Kilimanjaro, McKinley.  
 P.S.: Which peak is highest?  
 Panel order: C, A, D, 1, Kilimanjaro, 2, Everest, 3, Elbrus, 4, McKinley, 5, Everest, 6, Everest is highest by some 9,000 feet!

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What was the name of Rocky's boxing nemesis in "Rocky"?
- MUSIC: Which 1980s rock band had a hit with the title "Roxanne"?
- HISTORY: Where did the Battle of Waterloo take place?
- SCIENCE: What does a mycologist study?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the boyfriend in the "Gidget" surfing series?
- COMPUTERS: What does it mean when you get the message "Error 404" on a computer?
- LANGUAGE: What does the acronym "radar" stand for?
- LITERATURE: When was "The Cat in the Hat" first published?
- TEAM SPORTS: How many members does a cricket team have?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Trinidad and Tobago?

### Answers

1. Apollo Creed
2. The Police
3. Belgium
4. Fungi
5. Moondoggie
6. Webpage not found
7. Radio detecting and ranging
8. 1957
9. Eleven
10. Port of Spain

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Click on "Local News" at

**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**Out on a Limb**

by Gary Kopervas



**R.F.D.**

by Mike Marland



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JERRY CRAFT



**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering



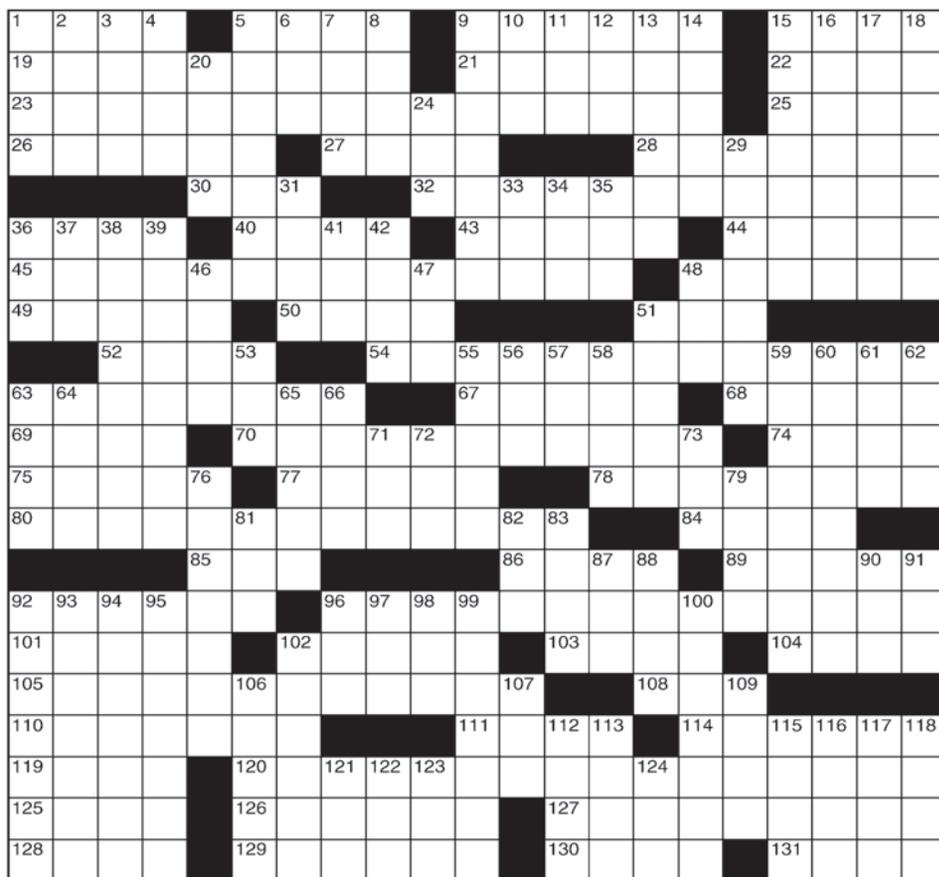
**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 9 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Sign is different; 2. Horn is smaller; 3. Desk set is missing; 4. Ceiling light is missing; 5. Book is missing; 6. Sign is missing; 7. Sign is different; 8. Sign is different; 9. Sign is different.

**Super Crossword**



- ACROSS**
- 1 Holier-than- —
  - 5 Cow sounds
  - 9 Blueprint, e.g.
  - 15 Not very much at all
  - 19 Procure off-site, as goods and services
  - 21 Novelist Waugh
  - 22 "Livin' La Vida —" (Ricky Martin hit)
  - 23 Bodybuilding regimen
  - 25 Dull, as London skies
  - 26 Buying places
  - 27 "Candida" playwright
  - 28 Declares
  - 30 That vessel
  - 32 Potential epidemic
  - 36 Post-shave splash-on brand
  - 40 Rowboat movers
  - 43 Arab rulers
  - 44 Utah's — Mountains
  - 45 Airline posting
  - 48 Bay — (Bostonian, e.g.)
  - 49 Juliet's guy
  - 50 New Mexico art mecca
  - 51 Biol. or geol. "Born Free" lioness
  - 54 Certain fruity liquor
  - 63 Spiel giver
  - 67 Fry a little
  - 68 "Rocky" actress Talia
  - 69 Tel —
  - 70 Excellent
  - 74 Have — with (know someone at)
  - 75 Credit card lure
  - 77 — few rounds (spars)
  - 78 Backed down
  - 80 Senior
  - 84 Auto pioneer
  - 85 With 56-Down, bigwig with big bucks
  - 86 Is hurting
  - 89 "— that hard to believe!"
  - 92 — frisé (toy dog)
  - 96 Large dog used in police work
  - 101 Broadcasting
  - 102 Actor Joe
  - 103 Emmy winner Falco
  - 104 Rosten and Sayer
  - 105 Penetrate suddenly
  - 108 Nose variety
  - 110 Pays a casual visit
  - 111 Vehemence
  - 114 Delineated
  - 119 "I — Song Go Out of My Heart"
  - 120 1952 Peace Nobel
  - 125 Ireland, in poetry
  - 126 Regret-filled
  - 127 Greeting in a locked book
  - 128 Nitwit
  - 129 1922-73 comic strip
  - 130 Gear teeth
  - 131 Whizzes
  - 9 Marine plant
  - 10 Livy's 106
  - 11 Barn clucker
  - 12 Yale Bowl cheerer
  - 13 Avian mimics
  - 14 Gloomy anxiety
  - 15 Neighbor of Libya
  - 16 Downpour
  - 17 Film overlay
  - 18 Bright planet seen before sunrise
  - 20 Some till fill
  - 24 Rally cry
  - 29 They're not able to get out much
  - 31 Part of NNE
  - 33 — Darya (river)
  - 34 Small, in Dogpatch
  - 35 Three, in Trieste
  - 36 15-Down loc.
  - 37 Polly
  - 38 Big name in books and records
  - 39 21-35 range, maybe
  - 41 Nipper's co.
  - 42 Buying place
  - 46 "Bonanza" brother
  - 47 Suffix with Taiwan
  - 48 Educ. inst.
  - 51 Venue
  - 53 Pooch sound
  - 55 Syrian president
  - 56 See 85-Across
  - 57 "Ben- —"
  - 58 Budge
  - 59 Some
  - 60 Small
  - 61 — dieu (pew add-on)
  - 62 Dispatch
  - 63 Filmmaker Gus Van —
  - 64 Declare
  - 65 Two cubed
  - 66 — rock (music genre)
  - 71 Homily: Abbr.
  - 72 Airport uniform abbr.
  - 73 Day- — paint
  - 76 Attempts
  - 79 Kazan of Hollywood
  - 81 Light brown sitcom
  - 82 Have dinner
  - 83 Move upward
  - 87 PC screen variety
  - 88 Armada unit
  - 90 Prefix with colonial
  - 91 "ER" figs.
  - 92 Winter Olympics event
  - 93 Not yet born
  - 94 Neck artery
  - 95 — -American (Latino U.S. resident)
  - 96 Hamburg loc.
  - 97 Prefix with propyl
  - 98 Start to puncture?
  - 99 During every evening
  - 100 Fixes, as Rover
  - 102 Chordata, for humans
  - 106 Some ski lifts
  - 107 Bulls, rams, and bucks
  - 109 Basic street system
  - 112 Flexible, electrically
  - 113 Mr. Kojak
  - 115 "Take — from me ..."
  - 116 Antidrug kingpin
  - 117 Architect Saanen
  - 118 Ones against alcohol
  - 121 The Andrews Sisters' — Mir Bist Du Schön
  - 122 New new
  - 123 Deep groove
  - 124 Turn tail?

# **SEM CU** **south east madera county united**

## **Water Problems Persist in Southeast Madera County**

*SEM CU Foundation is ready to apply and submit grant applications for water projects to help resolve water problem issues. SEM CU recently became a member of the RWMG (Regional Water Management Group) which has the ability to apply to, and receive money (grants) from, the California Department of Water and Resources. We are in the process of investigating and looking for such appropriate projects. SEM CU is soliciting the public's ideas and participation for such grant projects.*

**Interested in working on water problems?  
Come to the next SEM CU Meeting!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**

**SEM CU REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory**