

# The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

## A Scare in the Ranchos

by D. J. Becker



The California Highway Patrol and Madera County Sheriff's Department close Avenue 12 as the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Bomb Disposal Unit works in the background on a suspicious device that was found.

*Ranchos Independent Photo*

### *In This Issue*

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## Rescuing Lost Dogs in the Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

Karishma and Todd Blancett, long-time residents of the Madera Ranchos, have started a non-profit organization called Forgiven Dog Rescue. The group grew out of the couple becoming frustrated at watching so many dogs running loose in the Ranchos. “Over a holiday weekend last year two dogs found their way to me, one whose owner was quickly found and who was reunited,” Karishma said. “The other dog was in really poor shape, very thin with matted hair. It was after this experience I knew I needed to do something to help with this problem in our community.”



*Rescued in the Ranchos and ready for adoption.*

Forgiven Dog Rescue held its first Adoptable Day on Friday, Feb. 5 at the

Branch and Vine on Avenue 12. A number of adoptable dogs made their debut and local artists and vendors were on hand with a wide variety of dog items.

The event included homemade dog biscuits, a Valentine’s Day photo booth and food available from the Flying Pig food truck.

Karishma shared another very personal reason she felt led her to do something. She is a cancer survivor having just passed her 5-year mark fighting Stage 2 Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. “When I went through chemotherapy treatments I had every side effect there was,” she said. “I was taking over 50 pills a day and I still couldn’t sleep. One evening Todd

couldn’t sleep. One evening Todd

Please see **RESCUE** on P. 20

## Dry Wells: Ranchos Water Solution?

A natural way to get precious water back into our beat up aquifer.

By Karen Petryna

Midday on Feb. 17, between rain storms, a farmer, a County Supervisor and a County Planning Director met on the outskirts of the Ranchos to view first-hand how effective giving Mother Nature a helping hand can be.

The three gathered for a tour of the orchards owned by Igal Treibatch to take a look at a series of water recharge projects that have been in place on his property over the last



*District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier, left, gets a real-world example of how dry wells work from property owner Igal Treibatch, center, as County Planning Director Norman Allinder looks on.*

decade. District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier and County Planning Director Norman Allinder were there for a firsthand look at the results of the projects that served as the basis of the collaborative Dry Wells Project that has been proposed to Madera County by Southeast Madera County United, or SEMCU, of which

Treibatch is the current president. Starting at the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 35, just west of the Madera Ranchos where his property begins, Treibatch first showed where he has rerouted storm water that would normally cause some unintended flooding. By diverting some of that water into a couple of reser-

Please see **WELL** on P. 20

## A Scare in the Ranchos

by D. J. Becker



A realistic looking bomb composed of seven tan sticks of what appeared to be dynamite taped and wired together, turned out to be a hoax at a house in the 36700 block of Avenue 12 on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The incident prompted the closure of the major east west route to traffic for about three and a half hours, according to authorities. Homes and businesses within a several block radius were evacuated shortly after noon until about 3:30 pm. Residents, on-lookers and media trucks were kept far back as the Fresno County Sheriff’s Department bomb disposal used a robot to evaluate what appeared to be a large, improvised explosive device.

The California Highway Patrol had seven units on the scene to halt and reroute traffic around the incident through side streets and onto Roads 36 1/2 and 37 1/2, snarling traffic and startling residents in the normally quiet neighborhood.

Several Madera County fire engines were also present in the event of an actual explosion or resulting fire, and were standing by to triage and treat any injured personnel. Emergency crews said had the device been actual dynamite, any resulting explosion could have been significant.

Lt. Bill Ward of the Madera County Sheriff’s Department said the device was in-

tricate and did not appear to be a prank that could have been made by juveniles.

“It appeared to be multiple sticks of dynamite, with wires and a battery,” Ward said. “It was found in the driveway and called in by a man working at the vacant house. We don’t know how it got there. It could have been placed by the dumpster ... or possibly even thrown from a vehicle. We don’t know. We do get occasional bomb calls and [improvised] explosive devices in the county but



*“It appeared to be multiple sticks of dynamite, with wires and a battery,” said Madera County Sheriff Lt. Bill Ward. The device was discovered by workers renovating a house on Avenue 12.*

this was elaborate. It was completely realistic and well made, probably by an adult.”

The motivation is unknown at this time, according to Ward, but any improvised explosive devices (IEDs) – even the fake ones – are taken seriously.

“The investigation is ongoing. This device did not contain any explosives but we are asking for the public’s help and for anyone with information

about this incident to come forward,” Ward said.

Chiropractor Lisa Haney said the nearby incident was initially startling.

“A sheriff’s deputy came to the door and asked us to evacuate as a precaution, so we did,” Haney said. “Several blocks around us were also evacuated. I never saw it but everyone was relieved when it turned out to be fake. We ended up cancelling some after-

Please see **BOMB** on P. 3

**BOMB** cont. from P. 2

noon appointments but rescheduled them for later that day.”

Haney said she had not had any previous threats or problems with anyone that she knew of, and did not think the hoax device was directed at her personally or her business, but she had heard some of the wild rumors flying around.

“I am not on Facebook, but have heard some of the theories. I don't think it was directed at anyone. The house [near where the incident oc-

curred] had been vacant for several years after the man had died. His wife had moved to Fresno. It was full of belongings they had collected over the years. Some of the workers at the house that day were cleaning out the garage and the other rooms at the house. I don't know what else it could be,” Haney said.

In 2014, a 37-year-old Madera County man was arrested and charged on multiple federal explosives charges after he was found to have made and placed several working pipe bombs, specifically designed to injure or kill people, at a Chow-

chilla gas station and near a Madera church school building.

Authorities caution anyone who finds a suspicious looking package or other device to not touch or disturb it, clear the area and call authorities immediately.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 675-7770. Crime Stoppers, at 498-STOP, is also available to take anonymous tips and pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest in any crime.



Once deconstructed the device proved to be convincing, but harmless. Quite illegal, however.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

On Feb. 13, 2016 we practicing, true conservatives lost a friend from the U.S. Supreme Court: Antonin Scalia. His appointment was due to our great former president Ronald Regan. What a choice.

Justice Scalia was an "originalist." He interpreted the U.S. constitution as he believed it would have been understood when it was adopted. He opposed the idea of a "living" constitution. He opposed any modification to the constitution that might adapt to changing times.

I believe Scalia was a true federalist. His rulings were usually in favor of the states, instead of the U.S. government. He truly believed that no one was entitled under the constitution to have a right to an abortion. He usually was against any distinctions pertaining to race, gender or sexual orientation. What made him unique when it came to capital punishment was that he believed the death penalty was totally constitutional.

What truly made the justice a great man was his life; his character. He loved God and he spoke of Jesus Christ often. Most of all he was a family man. May God Bless his wife and nine children and my God bless the U.S.A.

Sincerely,  
James C. Bailey  
Fresno

Due to new rule GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) 68, implemented in 2015, for the first time in Golden Valley Unified School District (GVUSD) we have full disclosure with regard to the district's employee pension fund liabilities. I would like to discuss several matters contained in the 2014-2015 audit that were not included in my previous Letter to the Editor.

On page 44 and page 48 under the heading "Discount Rate," you will observe CalPERS (non-teacher pension fund) and CalSTRS (teacher pension fund) respectively need to reach a 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent Return on Investments (ROI) to meet its fiduciary obligation to its retirees. If not, the shortfall will pass to California's tax payers via the General Fund, local government agencies like our school district and the beneficiaries, state employees. For every 1 percent below the combined target ROI, GVUSD pension fund liabilities increase \$7.68 million according to the audit. The revenue lost due to pension fund liabilities directly reduce funding available to our students.

On page 45 and page 49, you will find the asset classes in which CalPERS and CalSTRS are invested at present. Sixty-six and 47 percent, respectively, of the pension funds are invested in global instruments. If you have been following global economic

Dear Editor:

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 17

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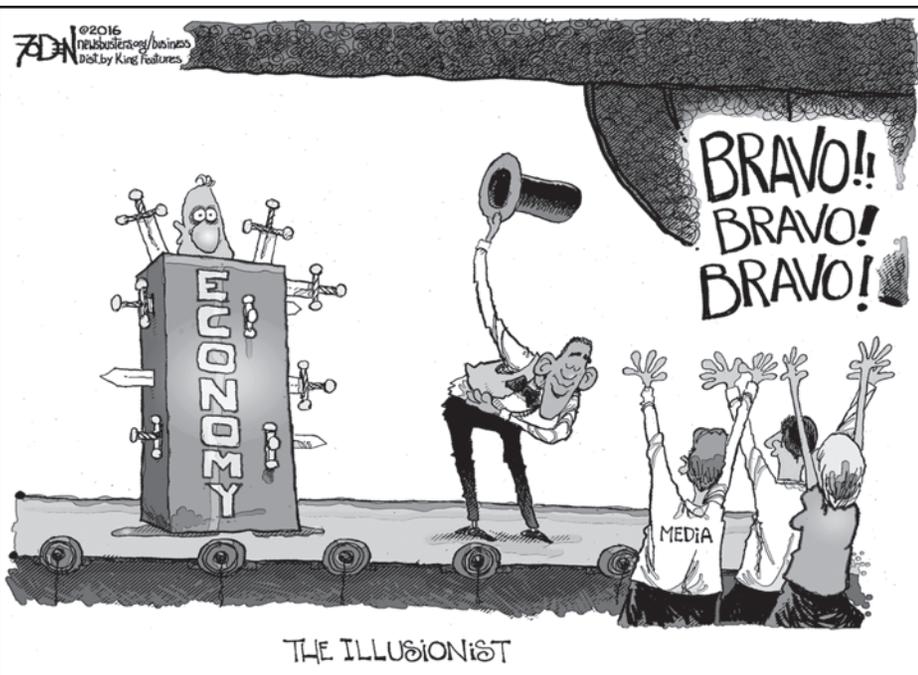
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PRO-LIFE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA DIES AT 79



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## Guest Editorial

# Block an Obama Nomination

By Rich Lowry

According to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the future of the republic teeters in the balance. Unless the United States Senate bows to the will of President Barack Obama and approves his replacement for Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court, everything we hold dear will be lost.

A refusal to get with the program, Warren insists, "would threaten both the Constitution and our democracy itself. It would also prove that all the Republican talk about loving the Constitution is just that -- empty talk."

This is the twisted view now prevalent on the left and in the media: It reads Article II of the Constitution giving the president the power to appoint justices with "the advice and consent" of the Senate as, in effect, an affirmative obligation on the Senate to consider and approve the president's nominees.

Might this wholly fanciful constitutional exegesis have something to do with a desire to replace Scalia, a giant of originalism, with another progressive rubber stamp? Back in 2007, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a giant of clever partisan manipulations, all but pledged his life and sacred honor to blocking any further George W. Bush appointments to the Supreme Court -- and somehow

democracy survived.

Of course, Barack Obama can nominate whomever he likes to the Supreme Court. Of course, the Senate can block him or her. And of course, Democrats can call Republicans heedless obstructionists and try to turn the public against them. This is the natural contest between the political branches, which is a feature of the U.S. Constitution, not a bug.

At the fault line between the two elected branches, the nomination process is inherently political, and, inevitably, tensions will be highest when a president is about to leave office. The Congressional Research Service looked at rejected Supreme Court nominees a few years ago and concluded, "Opposition to the nominating President played a role in at least 16 of the 36 nominations that were not confirmed. Many of the 16 were put forward by a President in the last year of his presidency."

No doubt, Republicans will take heat for simply saying "no" to another Obama appointee to the court. But there will be none of the faux drama of a government shutdown, when the national parks are shackled and the media acts as if America's national life is on the verge of collapse. The country will be able to survive some 4-4 Supreme Court decisions, which affirm the lower-court decision.

The Senate owes President Obama no deference or consideration. He has trampled on the legislative power at every opportunity, including attempting to deem the Senate in recess on his own say-so (he lost the resulting Supreme Court case 9-0). His unconstitutional immigration and clean-power directives both have been held in abeyance by the courts.

If President Obama wanted a collegial relationship with the Republican Senate, he should have thought of that long ago. Now, he will pronounce himself shocked and saddened that Congress doesn't want to hold his coat while he remakes the high court. The Senate should hold firm, and let Elizabeth Warren and her colleagues rend their garments and gnash their teeth.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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"YOU AND I, AS INDIVIDUALS, CAN, BY BORROWING, LIVE BEYOND OUR MEANS, BUT FOR ONLY A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME. WHY, THEN, SHOULD WE THINK THAT COLLECTIVELY, AS A NATION, WE ARE NOT BOUND BY THAT SAME LIMITATION?"

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

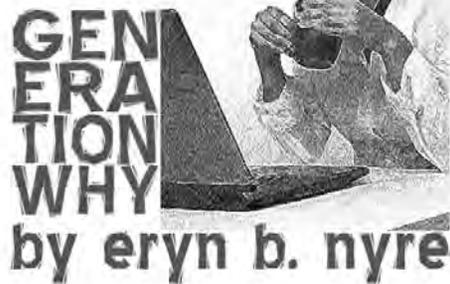
# “Free” isn’t Quite so Free

Free. I’ve been hearing this word a lot lately. Bernie Sanders wants college and healthcare to be free. Half the state of California wants their groceries to be free. Everyone in the welfare line wants their rent and utilities free. I want my life to be idiot free. And as long as they’re handing out free stuff I’ll take some free cable, a free BMW, free gas and a free lifetime supply of Rocky Road. Free is a very popular word but no one seems to get the concept.

In case you weren’t aware, Bernie, free means without charge, cost or payment. So, unless you plan on getting professors and doctors to work for free and hospitals and universities to donate their facilities to the government and a whole mess of other people to donate support staff, equipment, supplies, etc. then it most certainly is not free. Someone has to pay the staff, someone has to build and maintain the facilities, and someone has to keep the lights on. So if you aren’t going to make the patients or the students

pay, who will? The government? You know where the government gets its money, right? I mean, you’re running for president, I would hope you have at least a basic understanding of how the government functions. Oh that’s right, you’re a democratic socialist so probably not.

When I was a kid one of my favorite things to do in the summer was set up a lemonade stand. I was a cute kid with a bubbly personality and no fear of strangers. People found it nearly impossible to say “no” to me so these little business ventures always raked in the dough. Man I miss those days. Anyway, all I had to do was make a few pitchers of lemonade, set up a table, make up an adorable sign and I was in business, and business was good. Seriously, the profit margin was ridiculous, because it was all profit. I had zero overhead ... because mom bought the lemonade and cups and supplied the jugs, table and chairs. All I had to do was sit there and look cute and convince



strangers their day would be better after a sip of my lemonade. Had my mom made me pay for all the supplies I probably wouldn’t have been as eager to sit in the hot sun all day pushing cups of lemony sugar. But herein lies the lesson: Everything costs money, and just because you aren’t the one forking over the cash doesn’t mean that it’s free. Someone is paying. Thanks mom!

As much as liberal darling Bernie wants to spout ridiculous ideas like free healthcare and college to all, and as easily as those socialist sheep lap it up, it’s not rational. Medicine costs money. Education costs money. Welfare costs money. So I ask again, who is going to pay for it? Is he going to write an executive order that forces hospitals to just give away their services? Will the law demand that doctors simply work for free? I think there will be a lot less people willing to spend more than a decade in school to become a doctor if we take away the monetary incentive. Savings lives is great, but let’s get real – that’s a long, hard road of studying for the service of other people and let’s face it, not many are that selfless. I suppose we can just keep taxing the rich but eventually they are going to run out of money or leave the country, and now doctors and other high paid healthcare professionals are getting less wages so we are really starting to siphon the pool of available funds for all this free stuff we are giving away.

Sadly, it doesn’t end with health-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 20

*In case you weren’t aware, Bernie, free means without charge, cost or payment ... someone has to pay the staff, someone has to build and maintain the facilities, and someone has to keep the lights on.*

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## Why isn't Anyone Listening to Us?

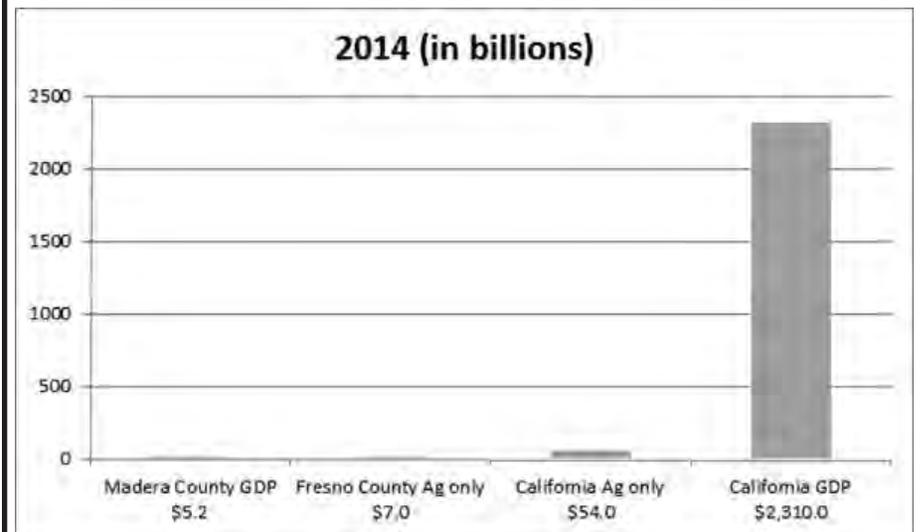
By Serafin Quintanar

You're not crazy. You're not the only one who thinks or screams out loud, "Why doesn't anyone listen to us?" If you wonder why neither Sacramento nor Washington, D.C. seems to care about Madera County or the rest of the Central Valley, you are definitely not alone and you are absolutely right. The next logical question is, "Why the hell not?"

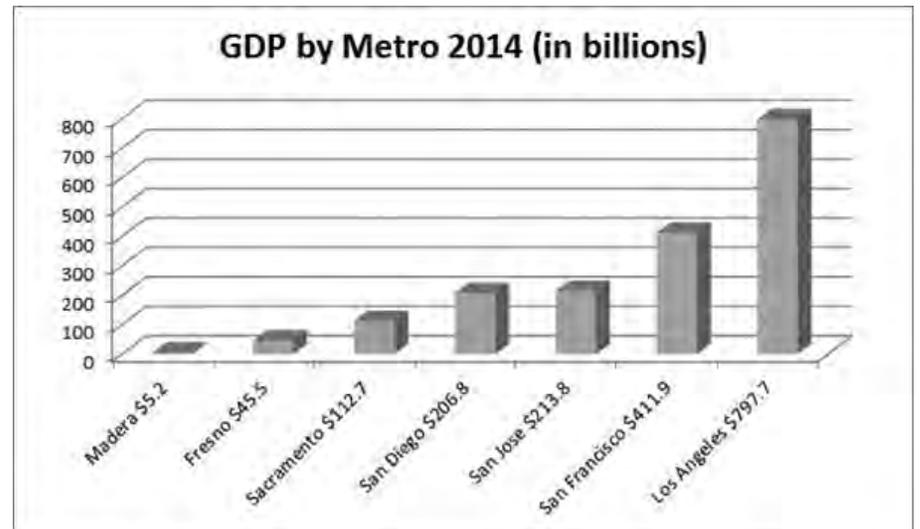
Isn't the Central Valley the "bread basket of the world"? Isn't Ag a multi-billion-dollar industry in California? Why can't our local politicians get things done?

Well, yes we are the bread basket of the world. Yes, Ag generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue each year in California. As for the effectiveness of local politicians, just follow the money.

You see when it comes to raw dollars, the Central Valley is simply out-matched, and Madera County is hardly a blip on the economic output of the state. So it's no wonder that the Central Valley is treated like a red-headed stepchild when it comes to power politics in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. For perspective, let's take a look at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Madera County and a handful of other metro areas in the state. As you can see, Madera ranks far below Ag powerhouse, Fresno County.



For another frame of reference, let's compare the economic output of Madera County against the total output for the state and a few other benchmarks.



It is sobering when you realize that Madera County's economic output is not only dwarfed by other metro areas, but the entire Ag economic output of California is dwarfed by individual metros and even by individual corporations (see page 18). So, if you follow the money, it's not hard to see where politicians will focus their attention and affection; in other words, "money talks."

However, hope is not lost. If we are willing to accept this reality, we can find ways to increase our political clout moving forward. What we must do is expand our economic base

Please see LISTEN on P. 18

## Super Time for Super Soups



by Jean Briner

Is there a right or wrong time of the year for soup? We eat ham at Easter, snacks for the Super Bowl party, turkey for Thanksgiving and beef or turkey for Christmas, so is there a “right” time for soup? I don’t think so. Soup can be eaten anytime of the year. However, I do think there is a good time to cook a pot of soup and that time is now. The weather is perfect for it – it’s cold and rainy outside and according to the weather channel we’ll be having some more of that before it starts to get warm.

When I was doing the articles on the *Good Housekeeping Cook Book*, I found a soup recipe I wanted to tell you about but I just didn’t have the room for. This is a perfect time for it.

### Knife and Fork Vegetable Soup

2 T. Salad Oil  
 1 large, or 2 small fairly lean, meaty short ribs, cut into 2” pieces  
 2 minced cloves garlic  
 2 ½ tsp. salt  
 1 coarsely chopped large onion (about 1 cup)  
 2 quarts hot water  
 2 bouillon cubes  
 2 stalks celery, cut into 1” pieces  
 4 carrots, peeled and cut into 1” pieces  
 4 zucchini, trimmed and cut into 1/2” pieces  
 1 ear corn, broken into 4 pieces or ½ C whole kernel corn, canned or frozen  
 Salt and pepper  
 Heat salad oil in large stock pot. Add meat and brown on all sides.  
 Sprinkle garlic with 1 tsp. salt and mash well with the side of knife; add with the onions to meat. Cook, stirring 2 or 3 minutes. Add hot water and bouillon cubes; simmer covered, 1 ½ hours or until meat is just tender.  
 Add 1 ½ tsp. salt, celery, carrots. Cook, covered 15 min-

utes. Add zucchini, cover and simmer for another 10 minutes. Add corn and simmer, covered, 5 minutes longer. Season to taste. Be sure to serve a piece of meat with each serving.

Patti Groh sent this recipe for soup she served at a Seniors Luncheon and from all reports it was a big hit.

### Tomato Tortellini Soup

1 pkg. (9 oz.) refrigerated cheese tortellini  
 2 cans (10 ¾ oz. each) condensed tomato soup, undiluted  
 2 cups vegetable stock  
 2 cups milk  
 2 cups half and half cream  
 ½ C. chopped canned tomatoes – drained  
 1 tsp. onion powder  
 1 tsp. garlic powder  
 1 tsp. dried basil  
 ½ tsp. salt  
 ½ C. shredded Parmesan cheese  
 Additional Parmesan cheese (Optional)  
 Cook the tortellini according to the package directions. Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, combine the soup, broth, milk, cream, tomatoes and seasonings. Heat through, stirring frequently. Drain the tortellini, carefully add to soup. Stir in cheese. Sprinkle each serving with additional cheese if desired. Makes about 10 cups. Thanks Patti.

This recipe I found in a magazine at the doctor’s office. It’s from the American Heart Association.

### Mexican Chicken Soup

1 14.5 oz. can low-sodium whole kernel corn, drained and rinsed  
 1 15.5 oz. can low-sodium kidney beans drained and rinsed  
 2 tsp. extra virgin olive oil  
 1 medium bell pepper, chopped

Please see **AUNT JEAN** on P. 9



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## An Information Session

For individuals interested in learning more about CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Fresno and Madera Counties.

### Where

Madera Redevelopment Agency  
 Meeting Room  
 428 E. Yosemite Ave., Madera, CA

### When

Wednesday  
 March 2, 2016  
 6:00 p.m.

Please attend to learn more about how to become an advocate for foster children.

To sign up for the Information Session contact:

Meghan: 244-6485 - meghanscott@casafresno.org

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We're three months away from our event and we need your help in gathering resources and bringing Sober Grad to life. Heartfelt thanks go out to our Ranchos family for all of its support. To see how you can help, give Diana or Stephanie a call today!

2/16



call Diana Mendoza  
at 559-355-6109  
or Stephanie Workman  
at 559-709-1477

## The Bookshelf

### Get Your Booth for Flatlanders Day

By Amanda Judd

Madera County Behavioral Health Services will be holding a Community Stakeholder Planning Meeting on March 22 from 5-6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library. You will have an opportunity to learn about the department's budget, mental health and substance use services. You will be able to provide planning input for next year's plan. Please RSVP with Eva at 559-673-3508 by March 18. Snacks will be provided.

2015 Tax forms have been received and are available for pick up in the library.

The 26th Annual Flatlander's Day is quickly approaching. Preparations are well underway and the library has all Craft Fair Vendor applications available. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact the library at 559-645-1214. Parade applications are provided at the Chamber of Commerce.

Vendor booth applications will be sent via email and there are some printed packets available for pick up in the library during regular operating hours. Remember that vendors are assigned spaces on a first come, first serve basis. Craft Booths are \$40 and Food Booths are \$60. Payment is required at the

time the application is submitted. Madera County Environmental Health procedures will be strictly enforced for all food vendors.

Please remember, we are always looking for contributors to help us fund our Summer Reading Program. You may contribute gift cards that can be awarded at weekly drawings, funds to help us with our weekly performances/activities and our grand prize. If you would like to donate, please contact the library for further information. Donors will be recognized on distributed program materials.

We also can always use volunteers during the Summer Reading Program. Volunteers help with preparations for our events and help prepare materials that are utilized. They help with registration forms and sign-up and sign-in sheets and help us clean up after events. We could not provide such amazing programs to the Ranchos children without the help of our wonderful volunteers. There are a few steps that must be completed prior to volunteering at the library, so if you are interested, stop in and pick up an application. We would love your help in making our Summer Reading Program even more successful that we were last year.

### AUNT JEAN cont. from P. 8

1 medium jalapeño, diced and seeded (use less to reduce spice or heat)

1 large onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 tsp. ground cumin

5 C. fat-free low-sodium chicken broth

1.5 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 inch cubes

1 large tomato, diced

½ C. chopped cilantro (optional)

Heat oil in large soup pot over medium heat. Add bell pepper, onion and jalapeño, cook 5-7 minutes, stirring often until vegetables are tender. Stir in garlic and cumin and cook another minute.

Add broth to saucepan, increase heat to high and bring to a rapid simmer. Add chicken and cook until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Stir in beans, corn, tomato and cilantro, cover and cook on medium heat for 10 minutes, top with extra cilantro

(optional). Serve hot.

Soup is usually served with a tasty loaf of your favorite French bread or a basket of crackers. I found a way to dress up crackers. This recipe calls for saltines, but I think just about any kind of cracker will work except flavored ones.

#### Seasoned Crackers

1 stick butter

1 tsp. Italian seasoning

½ tsp. seasoned salt

1 sleeve (4 to a box) saltine crackers

Preheat oven to 275

Melt butter in saucepan and add the Italian seasoning and seasoned salt. Dip the saltines in the mixture and place on a rack on a baking sheet. Bake for about 20 minutes.

Well there are three new recipes that would be good on a cold, rainy day. I'm not going out to the office for the next couple of days. I think I have all the vegetables I'll need for a pot of soup, just have to check my freezer and see what meat I have. Stay warm!



**IN GOOD HANDS**  
with Warren Parr

**Sermon of the Mount**

Hello 93636,

After what happened in the shop this week I decided to write about the exciting world of motor mounts. Just like everything else in the automotive world, today even motor mounts can be controlled by the Powertrain Control Module (PCM).

I'm going to categorize motor mounts into two basic groups: hydraulic and non-hydraulic (elasto-rubber). Before I give a basic

explanation of how they work, a short explanation of their purpose is in order. Motors and transmissions (the powertrain) can vibrate when spinning. Inside are large masses of reciprocating and rotating weight. If the heavy powertrains were mounted directly to the vehicle's frame, the vibra-

*The powertrain members need to be firmly held in place. If not, when putting the vehicle into gear or under hard acceleration the motor will rock. If the powertrain rocks, it can pull the wiring harness apart, break hoses, the cooling fan can strike the fan shroud, output shafts can become misaligned, just to name a few.*

tions would radiate through the frame and into you. Also, if the powertrains were solidly mounted, lack of rigidity would eventually crack the frame or powertrain member. Therefore, powertrains are mounted with rubber. The rubber is elastic and stretches and compresses to absorb powertrain vibrations. A traditional motor mount has an upper and lower steel member with a block of solid rubber sandwiched in-between. A hydraulic motor mount is basically the same except the solid rubber block is a rubber bladder filled with hydraulic fluid. The hydraulic mount is generally larger and more expensive. The upper steel member is bolted to a powertrain member and the lower is bolted to the frame.

Hard rubber motor mounts are cheaper but don't absorb as well. Hydraulic mounts do a much better job but they are less durable. Some problems with the solid rubber types of mounts are, depending on which type, the rubber sandwiched between the two steel members is eventually compressed by the

weight of the engine or the heat from the exhaust causes the rubber to harden and lose elasticity. Some rubber motor mounts are designed like suspension bridges. The motor is bolted at the mid-point of the rubber bridge. Over time and loads, the bridge sags and rests on the frame. It's almost like having no motor mounts at all. The main problem with hydraulic mounts is they tend to crack and leak. As I mention in the beginning of this article, some hydraulic motor mounts are controlled by the engine computer. Honda, for example, has a V6 variable displacement engine that when it's in "Eco Mode" drops out three cylinders. The motor becomes a three cylinder as the vehicle cruises down the highway. The three remaining cylinders are all in the same bank. This odd fire configura-

tion creates a motor vibration. The PCM creates a counter vibration in the hydraulic motor mount to counter balance the odd fire vibration.

Doesn't stop there.

The Body Control Module generates a noise that transmits through the radio speakers to cancel the offending exhaust noise. Crazy what engineers design to increase fuel economy. The modern automotive technician has to keep up with it all.

The powertrain members need to be firmly held in place. If not, when putting the vehicle into gear or under hard acceleration the motor will rock. If the powertrain rocks, it can pull the wiring harness apart, break hoses, the cooling fan can strike the fan shroud, output shafts can become misaligned, just to name a few. If you hear a thump during any of those conditions, test the motor mounts.

OK, let's test. Testing is much cheaper than guessing. Apply the parking brake. Idle the motor in park and take note of any vibrations. Foot on the brake pedal (vehicle should not move), shift into reverse, then into drive and see if the vibration lessens or disappears. If so, it's time to replace the motor mounts.

These next tips are what we do. WARNING! I'm NOT telling you to do what we do! If you do this, don't contact

Please see **HANDS** on P. 13

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"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2016."

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

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## Annual Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 21 • 6 P.M.

**Election of Board Members will be held**  
**PARTICIPATION and NOMINATIONS are WELCOMED**

Be a part of the exciting projects SEMCOU is working on by bringing Grant Money to the Ranchos.  
All members of the public are encouraged to participate.  
Come and provide input on the projects you think are necessary for our community.



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Water Issues



Local Schools



Area Infrastructure



Sustainability

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**Help make a positive impact on our community**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • www.semco.org • info@semco.org**

Senior Report

# Fitting Memorial takes Shape at Center

By Patti Groh

Rain + warm sun = WEEDS! I hear a lot of Seniors have been out working in their yards and pulling those darn weeds. The lawns greening up have been a joy to see, though.

Valentine's Day was on a regular Thursday evening potluck. I hear there were lots of sweets (as in cakes, candy and such) with appropriate decorations. There is a potluck every Thursday evening at 6 p.m. at the Center, with cards played afterward. St. Patrick's Day also falls on a Thursday this year, March 17. We might want to consider bringing Irish dishes or green foods (green Jell-O anyone?). Everyone is invited. It starts at 6 p.m.

The Center's monthly sale of baked goods, Treasure House items and Boutique things will be held on March 5 from 8 a.m. to noon. SEMCU representatives will also be there to provide low-flow showerheads and faucets. These are free of charge to all 93636 zip code residents. There is only a



The new landscaping around the flag pole is shaping up, complete with a bench in memory of the late Russ Lowell, an original member who was active in the group and put in a lot of work keeping up the yard and building. A fitting memorial.

short form to fill out. SEMCU plans to be at the Center every sale day (first Saturday of the month) so come shop and pick up your showerheads and faucets. March 5 is also the time to pick up your Easter baskets. It is an early Easter this year, so don't forget your baskets. They will be priced from \$10 to \$30, both for boys and girls.

Daylight savings time starts March 13 (as in spring forward). Change your clocks so you won't be late for the Second Annual Bunco Blowout the next Saturday, March 19. There are a limited number of tables available at this event. Please get your ticket at the Center beforehand as none will be available at the door. The cost is \$20. Finger foods will be served. There will be raffle opportunities and a 50-50 raffle. The winners at Bunco will, of course, receive prizes. If you are not familiar with Bunco, it is a very easy three-dice game. It can be learned in about 5 minutes or less, so even if you have never played before don't let that stop you from coming as you are sure to have a great time.

The Ranchos/Hills Home & Garden

Festival is also fast approaching. It is on April 2. There is a lot going on with the usual baked goods, Treasure House and Boutique but also a lot of vendors. There will be hand-crafted items, information booths, new household and decorating items. The Forgiven Pet Rescue people will be there with cute animals up for adoption. Continental breakfast will be available as well as BBQ lunch. Poker hands will be available and wonderful silent auction items. There will also be live music from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Chuck Rovenstine and the Ranchos Country Band. The fliers with the event details will be out soon around the area. I will also put more information in the paper next month. Just keep the date open for this annual event.

You may have noticed some changes/improvements at the Center. It was time to improve some things. First, we had to buy a new refrigerator. The old one wasn't keeping cold and repairing it would have been almost as much as a new one, so a new one was purchased. Then, the back air conditioner needed to be repaired. It has been fixed (didn't need a new one). The striping and handicapped markings in the parking lot have been redone. Nice and bright and easy to see now. Two motion sensor lights in the front and back have been replaced. The sun screens for the two east windows and the west door have been ordered and will be installed soon. Plans are being made to finish the new landscaping around the flag pole. The work that has already been done (the bench, the sago palm, the rock moved and the bark) was done in memory of the late Russ Lowell. He was an original member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. He was active in the group and put in a lot of work keeping up the yard and building. The bench and surrounding area is a fitting memorial to him.

Come by and check out the improvements. You are invited to become a member of the Seniors Center and participate in the many activities available. The monthly newsletter, as always, is available at the Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive and businesses around the Ranchos. You may also call the Center for more information at 645-4864.

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February 5, 2016

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20-inches tall, weighing in at a fit and ready  
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## HANDS cont. from P. 10

me later and complain I caused you to smash the oil pan or wreck the vehicle. Do this at your own risk. Don't hesitate to drive to the shop and ask for help. This one is a freebee.

With the motor still idling, we use a floor jack with a large flat piece of wood on the jack pad to distribute the weight of the motor over a large area. We raise the motor just enough (1-3 inches) to take the weight off the motor mounts. The motor weight should be resting on the floor jack. We repeat the diagnostic process above. If the vibration is gone, it's time to change the motor mounts.

Next, we go to an open space with nothing around to hit. We raise the hood, set the parking brake, place wheel chocks at every wheel and press as hard as we can on the brake pedal. If we have an automatic transmission, we "Power Jack" (step on the brake pedal and gas pedal at the same time) the motor. If you are doing what we do, be careful and start easy. Watch and see if the motor raises. CAUTION, if a motor mount is severely damaged the motor can raise so high it may look like it's going to leap into your lap. BE EASY, BE CAREFUL. Do the same in reverse and drive so you can load the motor mounts on each side of the

engine. The motor should not rise or twist. Also, if during the test you hear a thud, it's time to change motor mounts. If you drive a manual transmission, it's much harder to Power Jack. You will have to slip the clutch. This is tough to do. Just try it a couple of times and then rest before trying again. I don't want you to smoke the clutch assembly.

Changing motor mounts can be a very frustrating job. Lots of tight spaces, reaching around narrow corners, sharp edges and dirty. It's a real knuckle buster. Don't snap off any bolts or you will have a very, very bad week. That's what happened to us. Having a left hander available is very helpful. Lefties have no problem reaching around places backwards to us. I don't personally replace motor mounts any more, I pass that job off to my staff. I still have the hole in the wall inside my shop from 25 years ago when my wrench flew through the sheet rock and into the wall. Wrench is still there.

Guys, LISTEN UP: if anyone driving the vehicle you intend to replace motor mounts on is annoyed by little things, use the factory original equipment mounts. You don't want to do this job a second time. If it's your work truck and you want to save money, after market mounts should be fine. NAPA has a new line of quality motor mounts that have been successful for us. I still will not use anything but original equipment mounts if they are tough to replace.

OK, let's get to replacing. Raise the vehicle as high as you can and put it on four jack stands. Make sure you compare the new mounts to the old ones and make sure they are a match. If not, you can waste a lot of time trying to install a non-matched look alike part. Don't force the motor mounts in. They should fit. If you force them, they are in a bind and you will create a new vibration.

The basic idea is to take out only the motor mount bolts on one side of the motor at a time. Do not remove all the mount bolts at the same time. Rotate (jack or lift) the engine up, replace the mount and lower the engine back into place. The side you have not disassembled will hold the powertrain inline. Do the same thing on the other side. When you finish, repeat all the diagnostic tests to confirm the quality of the repair.

OK, good luck. That's about all from me. If you have questions regarding any vehicle or suggestions for future topics, please email complete\_car\_care@hotmail.com.

God Bless 93636 and Go Hawks,  
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# The 13th Annual Chamber

# CRAB FEED



Friday, March 4 • 6 p.m.



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Your \$50 ticket includes Crab, Salad, Pasta, Bread and Dessert!

Tables of 10 are available for your Business or Group. Business Sponsorships are also available. Call for info.

Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early! You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.



2/16

## Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001



### “They’re Baaaaack!”

Available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and Now & Again Thrift & Gift, the very exclusive *Flag Barn T-shirt*. Get yours before the Annual Flatlanders Day Parade. Only \$15 each. Hurry while supply lasts!

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C. Call us at 645-4001. Get involved!

### Be a Crab Feed “600” Sponsor

Is your business going to the Crab Feed? For \$600 you get a table for 10, get to put your company banner up at the event, have your name listed at every table, have your table introduced at the event and be listed in the Ranchos Independent. Call 645-4001.

### New Chamber Members

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the newest members to the Madera Ranchos business family

**Karishma Blancett** -- *Forgiven Dog Rescue*

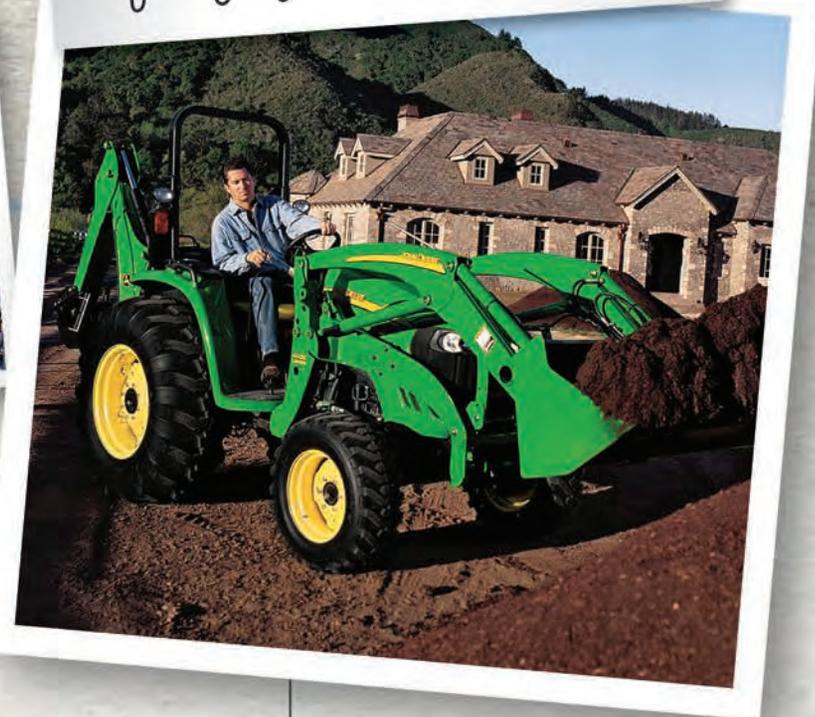
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<sup>1</sup>Offer ends 5/2/16. Fixed rate of 0% for 60 months. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Some restrictions apply, other special rates and terms may be available. <sup>2</sup>All Compact Utility Tractors purchased new from an authorized John Deere dealer come standard with a 6-year/2,000-hour (whichever comes first) Powertrain Warranty. See the Limited Warranty for New John Deere Turf & Utility Equipment at dealer for details. <sup>3</sup>Manufacturer's estimate of power (ISO) per 97/68/EC. MTC10X1110215RI-4C



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## LHS Academic Decathlon Shines

The Liberty High School academic decathlon team competed in the Madera County competition on Feb. 6. The following students received medals: Jenna Pfingsten with an Honors Bronze in Speech; Emily Koop with an Honors Bronze in Math; Jennifer Lind with an Honors Bronze in Science and an Honors Bronze in



Essay; Hattie Faccinto with a Varsity Gold medal in Interview, a Varsity Bronze medal in Speech, a Varsity Bronze medal in Mathematics and a Varsity Bronze medal in Literature; Vivian Montijo with a Varsity gold medal in Essay, a Varsity Silver medal in Literature and

a Varsity Silver medal in Math; Andrea Sandoval with a Varsity Gold medal in Music; Sam Park with Scholastic Silver medal in Literature and a Scholastic Bronze medal in Essay. Arturo Espinosa with a Varsity Gold medal in Math, a Varsity Gold medal in Science, a Varsity Silver medal in Economics, a Varsity Silver medal in

Literature, and a Varsity Bronze medal in Art. Chloe Metzger was voted the Liberty Spirit Award by her teammates. Bethany Samarin, who was the overall high scoring senior for Liberty High School and won a \$100 scholarship.

## Alvarado to Host Round Tables

Golden Valley Unified School District superintendent Andy Alvarado will host community round tables in March and April to discuss topics or concerns regarding the district. The first round table will be March 10 at 9 a.m. at the district office. The second round table will be April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Ranchos Middle School theater.

### LHS News



**Pennies for Patients** • Lexi Delgado would have been a member of the LHS graduating class of 2016. However, her life was ended during her eighth grade year at Ranchos Middle School by leukemia. Lexi is greatly missed by her friends who carry her in spirit as they look to graduation. The collection from Pennies for Patients will be donated to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society on behalf of Lexi.

**LHS Cafeteria Military Wall** • LHS is putting a facelift on the Military Wall in its cafeteria. A new American flag mural has been painted and all the current pictures are

being reframed and named. The community is being asked for information on any former LHS students who have or are currently serving in the armed forces to send us a picture of them in uniform – along with their name. Also, anyone who would like to donate to the restoration and maintenance of the LHS Cafeteria Military Wall need to contact the school.

**LHS Robotics** • The LHS Robotics team has applied for and received a \$250 Air Force Association 2016 Educator Grant. The club also will be promoting a healthy living school environment by having a “Walk, Bike, Bus to School Day,” in support of the Central California Asthma Collaborative organization, during the month of May. As a result, they were awarded a \$250 Central California Asthma Collaborative grant.

**NSL Talent Show** • LHS participants in the NSL Talent Show included Sarah Folsom and Sabrina Folsom (singing) and Alexa Rosa (dancing).

## Importance of School Attendance

Attendance is extremely important to a child's academic success. Children are in school to learn and grow as responsible adults as well as productive citizens. The Education Code requires that children between the ages of 6-18 attend school full-time. (E.C. 48200). Parents are responsible for ensuring regular school attendance of their children.

### *What reasons are considered appropriate for excused absence from school?*

Personal illness • Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer • Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments • Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family. i.e. mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Excused absence in this instance shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state) • Jury duty • The illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent.

Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including but not limited to: Appearance in court • Observance of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion • Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester • Employment conference or interview • Attendance at a funeral service for a person other than a member of the student's immediate family • Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302.

Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with District policy. In these circumstances: The student shall attend at least the minimum school day (E.C. 46014) and/or the student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four school days per month (E.C. 46014).

### *What is the legal definition of a truant student?*

A student who has been reported as truant and who is again absent from school without a valid excuse one or more days or tardy on one or more days. (Amend. Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010)

### *What is an habitual truant?*

A student is deemed an habitual truant

when he or she has been reported as a truant three or more times per school year. The school district must make a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with a parent or guardian of the student and the student himself, after the filing of reports (Section 48260 or Section 48261, Amend. Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010, E.C. 48262).

Truancy letters are sent to parents informing them that their child has reached three or six unexcused absences. This is a district-wide procedure that takes place at the end of an attendance period. The truancy notification letters are based on the attendance information that is entered in the district computer system. This information is based on the explanation provided by the parent for their child's absence. (E.C. 48260.5)

Although the district encourages parents to spend quality time with their children, the Education Code does not recognize a family vacation as an excused absence. The district recommends planning family trips when school is not in session. If that is not possible, we strongly suggest utilizing Short-Term Independent Study.

### *What is SARB (Student Attendance Review Board)?*

The purpose of SARB is to enforce the compulsory laws and to divert students with school attendance or behavior problems from the juvenile justice system.

In 1974, the Legislature enacted Education Code Section 48320 to enhance the enforcement of compulsory attendance laws. This legislation made way for the establishment of the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) that became operative in 1975.

GVUSD utilizes SARB to provide coordinated services between the school, community agencies and the home, in an effort to resolve attendance problems. If a parent, guardian or caregiver fails to respond to the directives of the SARB Board or refuses the services provided, the district is left with no alternative but to file a criminal complaint against a parent.

At GVUSD, the department of Student Services oversees Child Welfare and attendance programs. Please contact the Director of Student Services, Kuljeet Mann, if you have any additional questions or require assistance from student services regarding attendance or trancies. She can be emailed at kmann@gvusd.org or call her at 645-3580.

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3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Palm Sunday Celebration

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Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>

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2/16

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

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LETTERS cont. from P. 4

news this year you will know that China's markets have been in freefall since early January. Why is our district and students assuming the risk from poor investments? Like I say, students don't vote but employees do.

According to CalPERS' and CalSTRS' websites, in 2015, \$297,971 BILLION was invested in global markets. Overseas markets like China have a large competitive advantage since they are not located in California. That \$300 BILLION is more than double California's annual General Fund Budget. Imagine if that money was invested in California, it would create jobs and grow our economy. Jobs grow where money flows. Instead it goes overseas and competes against our businesses. CalPERS and CalSTRS not only put students at risk from poor investments, they place California families and our way of life at risk by destroying our economy. CalPERS, CalSTRS and the public employee unions they service are BAD for students, BAD for families and BAD for California.

Three strikes, YOU'RE OUT!

We need to break the unholy alliance between big government and big government employee unions like the California Teachers Association, the largest of all.

For the first time on record, in 2014 there were more business closures (470,000) than new starts (400,000) according to the US Census Bureau. According to the Jan. 13, 2015 issue of the Business Journal, "... the U.S. ranks 12th among developed nations in terms of business startup activity." Why wouldn't foreign markets have more business startup activity? They have plenty of money - ours!

On page 30 of the audit you will find school districts that have 55 percent of their students that are disad-

vantaged, foster youth, English learners or receiving free and reduced-price meals, receive 50 percent more funding per student than GVUSD. Our students have been profiled, targeted and discriminated against by Sacramento for having too many quality, hard-working two-parent stable families in our district. Most of the surrounding school districts qualify for the supplemental grant. Doing some quick calculations, this exclusion costs GVUSD \$9.62 million each year. This exclusion is responsible for GVUSD not being able to match the salary schedules of surrounding school districts.

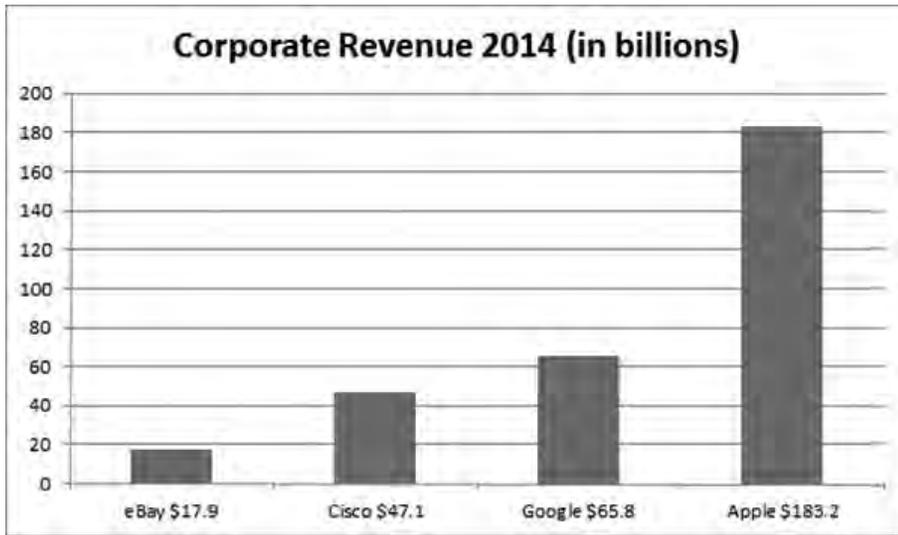
Return to the district home page, click Departments, Human Resources, Salary Schedules, and finally 2015/2016 Teacher Salary Schedule. In GVUSD a mid-schedule teacher receives an annual salary of \$57,462 plus benefits for a total annual compensation of about \$75,000. Teachers at the highest compensation level are paid about \$75,000 annually plus benefits for a total compensation of about \$90,000 plus. Please divide \$57,462 and \$75,000 by 180 (teaching days) and again by 8 (hours worked per day). A mid-schedule teacher is paid \$39.90 per hour while a senior teacher's hourly rate is \$52.08. Also, our high school teachers by contract teach 4:55 hours per day. The remaining three hours are available to complete other tasks and prepare lessons. I think our district is generous.

Public employee unions like the California Teachers Association and the Golden Valley Teachers Association (GVTA) are about one thing: themselves. Public Education in California is BIG BUSINESS and GVUSD trustees need to realize this and adopt their own BIG BUSINESS attitude as a counter measure.

For the past several years our superintendent has been the district's negotiator. I think that decision was short-sighted and a conflict of interest. The conflict lies in the fact that the superintendent's compensation is tied to negotiations. Whatever the superintendent negotiates the superintendent receives. Isn't that a disincentive to negotiate tough? Shouldn't the superintendent's compensation be based on performance anyway? I THINK SO. I think the superintendent should inspire district employees and promote work place morale, not negotiate it away. The superintendent should be his staff's greatest cheerleader and not placed in a contrary position.

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 18

LISTEN cont. from P. 7



by both building on our Ag traditions and expanding beyond Ag. You see, even if Ag production in the state were to double overnight, it would still be less than 2.5 percent of the state's GDP. So while we must do all we can to strengthen and grow the Ag industry in Madera County and the rest of the Central Valley, we must also expand into new industries with the potential for rapid growth. As much as we currently rely on Ag to fuel our region's economy, we cannot expect significant changes to our political influence without expanding the industrial base of the region.

In Valley politics, Ag is king. It will require bold, courageous and innovative leader-

ship to balance Ag-related needs and concerns while attracting and facilitating new industries; growing existing industries not tied to Ag.

The good news is that as we expand and grow our economic base, it will bring greater political power to the Valley along with jobs and higher wages. This will not happen overnight; if we are not deliberate in planning the direction of our region's economic growth, we will likely keep reaping more of the same political neglect with which we have grown frustrated.

*Serafin Quintanar is the co-founder of the Reagan League.*

LETTERS cont. from P. 17

Our superintendent is not a professional negotiator. I would like to see the new current board re-evaluate this policy soon. At this time, I think it's in the best interest of our students for GVUSD to retain a professional negotiator/labor attorney. Since the advent of public education unions, districts no longer negotiate directly with their employees. Personal feelings, relationships and friendships no longer matter. It's just business now.

It's time to change. As President Kennedy once said, "Never fear to negotiate and never negotiate from fear." Trustees, be courageous, bold

and strong; negotiate a better financial deal for our students. GVTA members, if it's monetary gain you're seeking, you will find it in Madera Unified and Fresno Unified School Districts. Those are the two highest paying districts in our area. Good luck.

If your primary motivation is teaching and inspiring young fresh minds, being respected and supported by great students and families, receiving the gratitude of a thankful community and working in a modern safe environment, WELCOME.

God bless 93636,  
Warren Parr  
Madera Ranchos

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# Got Water?

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## Do you know any Liberty High grads in the military?

LHS is updating its Military Wall and would like to include all of the men and women graduates who have served our country.

Please contact Josh Bailey at [joshuabailey@gvUSD.org](mailto:joshuabailey@gvUSD.org) or Rebecca Harpsligh at [rharpสลigh@gvUSD.org](mailto:rharpสลigh@gvUSD.org) by March 11.

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**EDC**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

MCEDC is authorized to provide long and short-term financing for new and existing businesses, through the program funded, primarily by the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

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**Lois Leonard**  
(559) 675-7768  
[lleonard@maderacountyedc.com](mailto:lleonard@maderacountyedc.com)

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### Downsizing for Everybody

I'm old enough now to see fashion trends come back around. Express.com has a whole 70s line on their "Trending" page. Looking at the styles brings back memories of my suede fringe vest and high-rise pants. As things circle around, designers usually add a little twist that makes your original item not quite in style. So, I'm not too sorry I didn't save all those bellbottoms.

My parents recently did a full circle from apartment living as newlyweds to apartment living as seniors. The twist is that this apartment provides lots of community activities and continuing care, if needed. They chose to downsize, or "rightsize" as I like to refer to it, paring down to the items they love, use and need at this stage in life.

I'm working with more and more people my age who are also choosing to rightsize. Maybe not making a move, but certainly reducing their stuff. Many have experienced clearing out a houseful of their parents' things — inheriting not only the items of value, but stacks of magazines, closets stuffed with old blankets, etc.

For some, the process of rightsizing is imposed on them when it becomes compulsory. This adds a great deal of stress to an already difficult situation. Some put it off because of a feeling of being overwhelmed or a misconception that it means throwing out all their stuff. Whether you're scoping out retirement communities, or simply wanting to right-size in the home you're in, here are some tips to help you accomplish your goal.

**Clearly identify what's most important to you now.** Maybe in the past you did a lot of skiing, entertaining or your own yardwork. Consider changes in your interests and abilities and identify your current priorities. The items that don't fit your current lifestyle could add value to someone else's life, create space in your home and reduce the amount of stuff you have to manage.

**Look around each room with a discerning eye.** Is the furniture useful? Does it fit your current taste and style? Is there too much of it? Is it there because of obligation? If you're storing Great Aunt Susie's dining set, give her the benefit of the doubt and assume

that she wouldn't want her stuff to be a burden to you. Keep the items that are most precious and useful and let the others go.

If you're moving into a smaller place, get the dimensions of your new home and sketch out where the furniture will go. There are websites like BHG.com that offer free tools to help you arrange your rooms. It may be stressful to reduce, but it's also stressful to move into a new place that's crammed with too much furniture.

My parents threw a "Pick 'n Choose" party before their move. They spread out the items they decided not to move with them and then we all got to pick and choose the things we wanted. It's always nice to give your children the option of saving the things that mean most to them without the obligation of taking it all.

**If there are sentimental items that family members aren't taking, consider photographing them for your own memory's sake, or keeping a portion of it.** Make a pillow out of a square from your old quilt, or keep one place setting of your china. Frame a piece of your grandma's handmade lace tablecloth if you no longer have a large dining table. Be creative in finding ways to have your cherished items visible and honored.

**For other items of value consider consigning them at Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop or selling them on Craigslist.** Remember that whatever you're holding on to is costing you something. Don't let the monetary value you have in mind for your things keep you from letting go and living a right-sized life. A donation to your favorite charity thrift store or the Ranchos Senior Center is also a viable option.

**Is storing your grown kids' stuff holding you back from having space to use for your own hobbies or rightsizing to a place more manageable?** With a couple clients I photographed their kids' belongings and emailed the pics for their "yay or nay" on what they'd like sent to them or saved for next time they're in town. If your kids are local, you can gather up their items and give them a deadline before the donation truck arrives.

If you're feeling paralyzed by the prospect of going through 30-60 years' worth of belongings, consider having a friend, family member, or professional organizer come alongside you in the process. Getting started is often the hardest. Once you've begun you'll discover the joy in lightening your load and living a rightsized life!

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](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). You can also visit their website at [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com).

**RESCUE** cont. from P. 2

brought home a Schnauzer puppy to cheer me up. That was the first time I slept through the night – with the puppy snuggled at my side.”

The rescue has been in existence since June and has so far been instrumental in rescuing 85 dogs.

Forgiven Dog Rescue is planning for Adoptable Day to be a monthly event

to be held on the first Saturday of each month. On

March 5, the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, will host the next Adoptable Day.

At that event, Forgiven Dog Rescue will be offering low

cost micro-

chipping for dogs of all sizes. In addition, Forgiven Dog Rescue will even come to your Ranchos residence to microchip your dog.

Though Facebook networking has done wonders for reuniting lost dogs with concerned owners, it has also highlighted a big problem with irresponsible dog owners whose dogs continuously run loose with no steps being taken to secure them. Sadder yet is the problem that has gone on for many years, namely many of these dogs being intentionally “dumped” here in the country by heartless owners.



*Ranchos volunteers get the stars of the show ready for Forgiven Dog Rescue's first Adoptable Day at the Branch and Vine on Feb. 5.*

It takes a lot of dedication to enter into the noble, yet often heart breaking, arena of dog rescue. It's often a thankless job – on good days your pay is in puppy breath and doggy kisses. Rescues are often run totally by volunteers and on donations. Forgiven Dog Rescue is currently supported by 10 volunteers from the community, many of whom are Liberty High School students looking to fulfill their community service credits.

Forgiven Dog Rescue is always looking for more volunteers, whether it is daily, help with special events, or special projects. Donations are always appreciated and can be made through their Facebook page or via PayPal or by contacting them directly.

Supplies that are always needed include dog and puppy food, bleach, paper towels, baby wipes, puppy pads and vaccinations.

For information on Forgiven Dog Rescue or future events sponsored by them, visit the Forgiven Dog Rescue site on Facebook. To view dogs currently available for adoption visit Forgiven Dog Rescue Adoptables, a separate page on Facebook.

The rescue is not open to the public but you can reach them by phone at 559-412-9582 or by mail at Forgiven Dog Rescue, PO Box 825, Madera CA 93639.

**GEN WHY** cont. from P. 6

care and education. A friend of mine the other day said she thought tampons should be free.

Tampons.

Free.

Why?

Because women didn't choose to have their monthly visitor so why should we have to pay for it? Well, I didn't choose for Sally Johnson to run around town contracting STDs but Mr. Sanders thinks I ought to pay for her antiviral medication because she deserves free healthcare. I think you can at least pick up the tab on your own feminine products. I'm not sure I can be her friend anymore.

I honestly don't understand why

this is such a foreign concept for most people. We have to be careful how we choose to spend the money that the government has collected from the hard working, tax paying citizens of the country. There is not a magic government money tree with an endless supply of cash. If people like Bernie Sanders and his ilk keep treating the treasury like that, first we will run out of hard working Americans who keep money flowing in, then we will run out of money. As my dad would say, there is no such things as a free lunch – just because you didn't write the check doesn't mean there wasn't a price. Education has a cost. Healthcare has a cost. Feminine hygiene products have a cost, but I'm sure you can find them on sale at your local drug store.

**WELL** cont. from P. 2

voirs, he's able to lift and pump it from there over to 140 acres of grapevines on relatively level land just west of Road 35 where it can slowly percolate into the ground without causing any damage. Using a water meter installed at the lift pump, Treibatch measured 21.5 acre-feet (about 7,000,000 gallons) of storm water that was ultimately recharged to groundwater from just the last three storms. The project has been operating for the last six years, he said.

The second project involves over 40 dry wells – which are essentially septic system wells – that have been installed within his orchards both south and north of Avenue 12 along the pathways of the storm water runoff and flooding areas. They have been designed to divert the water even more directly and without any pumping.

Drilled as deep as 50 feet below ground, the wells have clearly been doing their job: even after all the recent rain storms, there was no standing water because the wells had provided the storm water with a new route to percolate down through the hardpan and into the ground.

While the idea of flooding farmland for recharge purposes is relatively new to the Valley, as reported in the Capital Public Radio News on Sept. 22, 2015, it's not completely new.

According to the article entitled Flooding California Farmlands Might Restore Groundwater, Don Cameron with Terranova Ranch located about

30 miles southwest of Fresno has been doing just that for several years. Cameron, whose ranch is not located in any water or irrigation district, relies heavily on groundwater to water his crops. So he does what he can to maintain that groundwater – when it rains. And the last time that happened, before this year, was 2012 when he used storm water collecting in the north fork of the Kings River.

“At that time we [took] about 150

acres of wine grapes, we put water on those from January until May – for over five months about six inches to a foot and a half of water,” Cameron said. Farmers typically don't irrigate in the winter because there is usually enough rain water. There's also the fear that too much water could damage roots of permanent crops. “I think people thought we were crazy to be putting that much water on wine grapes for such a long period of time,” he said. But Cameron wasn't wasting the water. His goal was to replenish the groundwater. “We actually did measurements and we found that about 75 percent of the water we applied was moving down to the groundwater.”

Treibatch, who also represents the Israeli National Water Company in California and parts of Mexico, has taken the process one step further using dry wells. Echoing Cameron, he said, “The trees don't

need watering at this time of year, so the storm water that would normally be washed into creeks and travel out of our area and in some cases into the ocean, will instead go directly into recharging our aquifers.”

Touring through some of the more undulating farmland in the Ranchos, which is not irrigated, Allinder pointed out that the Ranchos subdivision was designed to have its own natural drainage, but there's no one in the District to maintain it. So people unaware of the plan have often built on, paved over and flattened the landscape contrary to the plan's design. “People that want help with addressing this issue on their property should call

Flood Control at 675-7811,” Allinder said. “That way we can give them advice on flooding and how to properly maintain the drainage on their property. We can also connect them with other resources.”

Meanwhile, working in collaboration, the County and SEMCU are looking for new locations for dry wells to address the most serious flooding issues and enhance



*So THAT'S a dry well ... The concept is very simple: instead of letting storm water run off to the ocean, the dry well directs the water down to the aquifer where it can recharge vital groundwater supplies.*

Please see **WELL** on P. 21

Click on “Local News” at

WELL cont. from P. 20

groundwater recharge. "The County has streamlined the process of applying for dry well permits," Frazier said. "And the permit fees have also been waived." But, for public property, the somewhat expensive design first introduced to and approved by the Board of Supervisors last September, and reported in the September 2015 issue of the Ranchos Independent, is still in effect. "It's a safety issue. We don't want anyone getting hurt," he said. What that really means is that a traffic-rated grate has to be used to cover the top of the well, adding thousands of dollars to the cost of construction, materials and installation for each well.

But a simplified design has recently been approved by the County for private property owners, making it possible to install two to three dry wells a day for about \$1,200 to \$1,500 each. The SEMCU-sponsored wells require both a licensed driller and a licensed well installer because, as Allinder said, "The basic concept is a septic system, so that necessitates the kind of contractors that must be employed."

Even with the newly approved engineered design, in order to perform the necessary due diligence, actually getting the wells installed involves several steps including using the correct licensed contractors, getting a release signed by the property owners, selecting the right spot where storm water collects and having United Service Alert perform a utilities survey.

So far about 30 private property locations have gone through the process and have been permitted for the dry wells, according to Treibatch. The only hold-up for installation is good enough weather and dry enough ground. "We expect this program to continue into the summer," he

said, adding there are another 60 or so volunteers in line to have their property surveyed and approved for well locating.

SEMCU, a nonprofit corporation, is not only collaborating with Madera County, but also local farmers and business who are also donating funds for the dry well project in order to provide them to property owners who qualify FREE of charge. "It's a collaborative effort whereby water users are giving back by working toward sustainability," Treibatch said.

The key to locating the dry wells is to find places where storm water tends to collect. Most areas can't tolerate flooding, though, and that's why storm water is usually diverted to routes that carry it away and eventually out to the ocean instead of trying to get it into the ground where it can be "banked."

Banking water is another technique that is getting more attention lately. In Fresno, for example, many recharge basins are visible along streets throughout the city. Affectionately referred to as Leaky Acres, the basins are part of a citywide project to get water back into the aquifer where it is naturally stored underground. Better than a tank or a reservoir with limited capacity and that can overflow or evaporate, the aquifer or "underground water bank" is where all the groundwater that is pumped comes from and what must be regularly replenished if it is to continue to be available to farmers and residents alike. And dry or septic wells are one way to help accomplish that. "It's another tool in the tool box," Allinder said during his tour, adding, "The dry wells are a great way to effectuate improvements to localized nuisance water and flooding situations, too."

For those who may know of a good location for a dry well, please contact SEMCU at 363-9095.

## Free Tax Prep in Madera County

Free income tax return preparation and electronic filing for both state and federal returns will be available again this year for Madera Ranchos-area residents, offered by the AARP Tax-Aide program. Services are provided free of all costs and charges. Tax returns are prepared by specially trained and certified volunteers. The returns are prepared on site, and then electronically filed the same day.

Tax help is offered to persons of all ages – you don't have to be a senior citizen, or a member of AARP. Last year Tax-Aide prepared first tax returns for several 17- and 18-year-old students who had their first jobs.

Tax-Aide Services for Ranchos residents are offered in the City of Madera at 711 Nebraska every Friday beginning February 5 and continuing through April 12. Appointments are available there, and also for two Mondays in the City of Chowchilla, by calling Sarah at 559-575-7039.

In the mountains, this year the program is moving from the Sierra Senior Center, where it has always been hosted, to the community room at the Oakhurst Library. Services will be available Tuesdays between February 10 and April 7, and some Saturday dates will also be available to make the services more accessible for families and working adults. Appointments for all of these dates and locations can be made by calling Brian at 559-285-1494.

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service available to taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Over 33,000 AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service now help over 2 million taxpayers file their federal, state and local tax returns each year at nearly 7,000 AARP Tax-Aide sites nationwide.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, March 12 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
 UCCE Master Gardeners  
 Garden Advice Clinic  
 Peters Brothers Nursery  
 1135 S. Granada Drive, Madera.  
**Call (559) 675-7879, extension 7210**

**Monday, March 14 • 5:30 p.m.**  
 Republican Party of Madera County  
 Madera Ranchos Pizza Factory  
 37184 Ave. 12 #101, Madera Ranchos  
**Contact Barbara at (559) 232-0566**

**Saturday, March 19 • 10 a.m. - noon**  
 UCCE Master Gardeners

*"The Buzz on Bees" Workshop*  
 Room R-3A, Madera Community College Center  
 30277 Ave. 12, Madera  
**Call (559) 675-7879, extension 7210**

**Thursday, March 31 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
 State of the County Luncheon  
 Madera Municipal Golf Course  
 23200 Ave. 17, Madera  
**Call Lois Leonard at (559) 675-7768**

**Saturday, April 16 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
 UCCE Master Gardeners Garden Tour X  
**Call (559) 675-7879, extension 7210**

ANSWERS

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

INTENT	ISLAND	DRSEUS	ROUTES	SPECIE	LEERIER									
PIRATE	SUMMERS	SOLSTICE	ANTIP	POOH	OSLO	WAX								
CUSTOMERS	SMILES	UPS	AGED	APRES	THREADY									
BASSET	IMMORTAL	CUSSES	USE	DISPUTES	HOT	SALSA	DEPOT	BORA						
CRUMMIES	ESTROLES	UBOLTS	ALOG	POSIT	A FAT									
DEFEAT	IMMERS	SEL	OCUSTS	DIET	SMEAR	GETS	AWAY	ENDORSE	EE	SOAS	REACTS			
RECLUSES	UMMITS	PEEL	DEBORAH	CELTIE	PEEL	REACTS	PEP	MILERS	CO	STUMES	ERS	HERO	RICO	CAVE
MOIST	ERMUS	LES	PEAL	ED	INSPIRE	BULOVA	PERSIA	TOP	LEFT	ARTLAB	OLDISH			

11	10	11	11		
4	x	5	-	9	11
-	x	+	+	+	+
8	x	1	+	3	11
+	+	+	÷	6	13
7	÷	1	+	6	13

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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.

	÷		+		13			
+		+		÷				
	×		+		11			
-		×		+				
	×		-		11			
11		10		11				
1	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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1. Russian Spetsnaz
2. British SAS
3. Navy Seals
4. French Naval Commandos
5. Army Green Berets
6. Israeli Shayetet 13
7. U.S. Delta Force
8. British MI-6
9. U.S. MARSOC
10. British Gurkhas

Source: shockpedia.com

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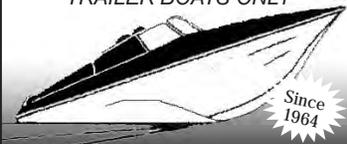
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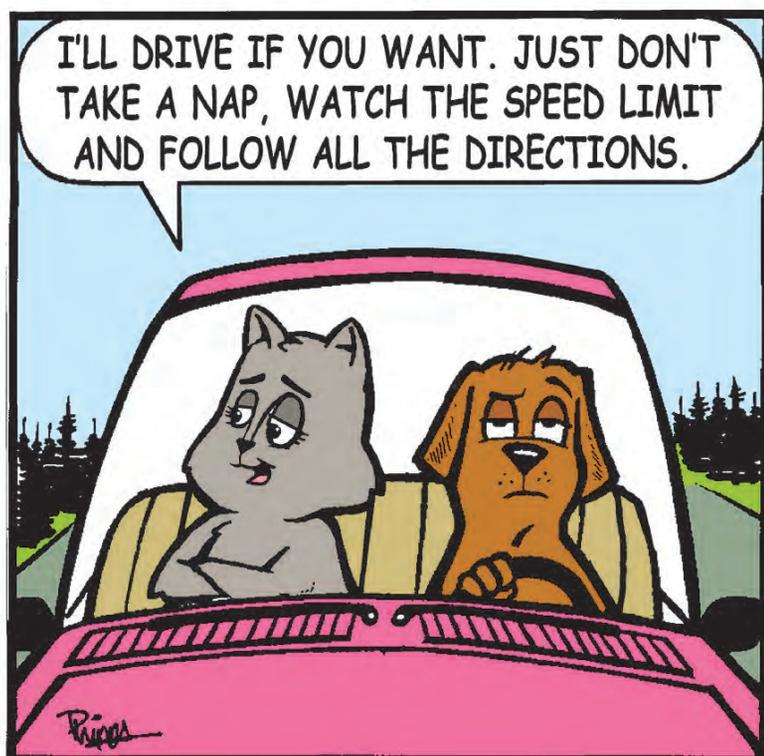
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## Just Like Cats &amp; Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Say you saw it in  
the Ranchos Independent

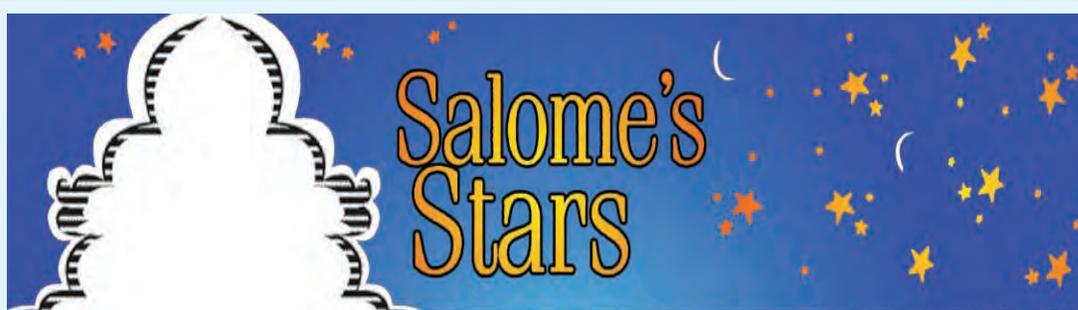
GRIN and BEAR IT<sup>®</sup> Wagner

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“Is that your final answer?”

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You might feel more encouraged about changes in your personal and/or professional life. However, it might be best not to rush things but rather work with them as they evolve.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's business sense is especially keen this week. But remember that it's always best to investigate before investing. Make sure there are no hidden factors that can rise up later on.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Working on a family project could create tension between and among those concerned. Your good sense and your patience can help reduce bad attitudes and raise positive feelings.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You should be seeing more progress in the development of your plans and more supporters joining in. News from the past could help change someone's long-held position.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) With personal aspects strong this week, Leos and Leonas might want to spend more time with family and others who are especially close to them. Also expect news of a possible career change.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Taking a strong stand can be helpful this week. But be careful you don't cross the line into obstinacy. Best to take a position on facts as they are, not as you want them to be.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You have a strong sense of the needs of others. This week, turn some of that sensitivity into an honest self-appraisal, and let it find places where you can help yourself.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Creating an emotional comfort zone handles a personal problem at first, but by midweek you'll realize you need to deal with it directly or it could linger longer.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Turning the page on a mistake to start fresh might not be the thing to do. Better to go over each step that led up to the decision you made and see which one misled you.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Goats enjoy a varied diet, but eating crow isn't on the menu -- at least not this week. An embarrassing situation might have gone wrong before you got into it. Check it out.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Your sense of honesty might impel you to speak up about a situation you disapprove of. That's fine. But do so without sounding accusatory. You might not know all the facts behind it.

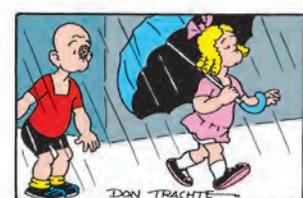
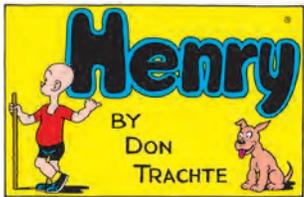
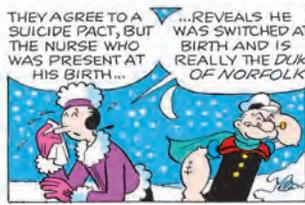
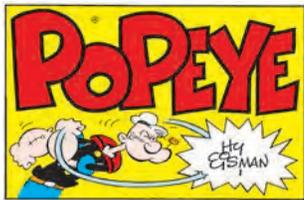
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Being asked to create a reassuring attitude in the middle of chaos isn't easy, but you can do it. Support for your efforts comes slowly, but it does come. Enjoy an arts-filled weekend.

Born this Week

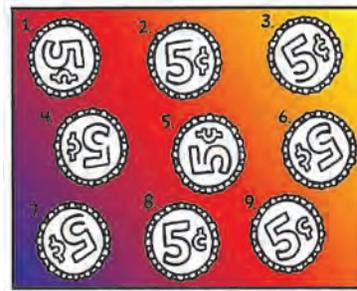
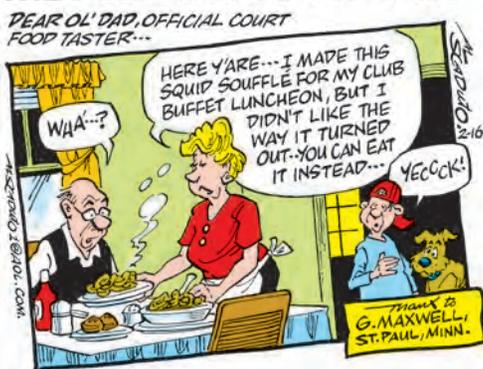
Your honesty about people and issues  
is expressed in a positive, not painful, way.

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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

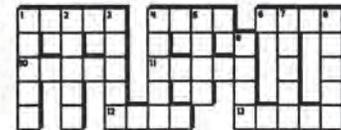


**DON'T FIZZ OUT!** Two of the old soda-pop bottle caps above are exactly alike. Can you find them in 30 seconds?

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

TRY BEING "DEFT" AT "DECIPHERING" THIS "DELIGHTFUL" PROBLEM!



Below is a list of 15 words that start with either "D" or "E." You must use these words to complete the puzzle grid to the left. Use the good old trial-and-error method.

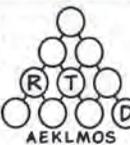
**"D" Words**  
DADO  
DEED  
DENSE  
DENTS  
DODGE  
DREAD  
DROLL  
DUDED  
DUPED

**"E" Words**  
EDGE  
ESPY  
EYED  
EASEL  
EAVES  
ENDED

**A CARD CONUNDRUM!** To the right are three facedown cards. Can you figure out their values using these hints?  
1. There is at least one queen just to the right of a king.  
2. There is at least one queen just to the left of a heart.  
3. There is at least one spade just to the left of a heart.  
4. There is at least one spade just to the right of a spade.



**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Mark, mars, mats, mate, mole, mots.

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ● THE — : MOVIE TITLES

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

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

- Alamo
- Blob
- Graduate
- Natural
- Babe
- Exorcist
- Hustler
- Piano
- Big Easy
- Full Monty
- Jerk
- Rose
- Birds
- Godfather
- Lion King

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: What was the name of the record company founded by the Beatles?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system spins the fastest?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which insect can indicate the temperature with accuracy?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the fastest known bird in the world?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the only metal that's liquid at room temperature?
- MOVIES: What was Baby's real name in "Dirty Dancing"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What country is bordered by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition "herpetophobia"?
- MEDICAL: What is the common name for hypoglycemia?
- TELEVISION: Where does Homer Simpson work?

## Answers

- Apple Records
- Jupiter, which rotates once in just less than 10 hours.
- Crickets
- Peregrin falcon
- Mercury
- France
- South Africa
- Fear of reptiles or creepy, crawly things
- Low blood sugar
- Springfield Nuclear Power Plant

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Click on "Local News" at

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Intelligent Life

by David Reddick



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

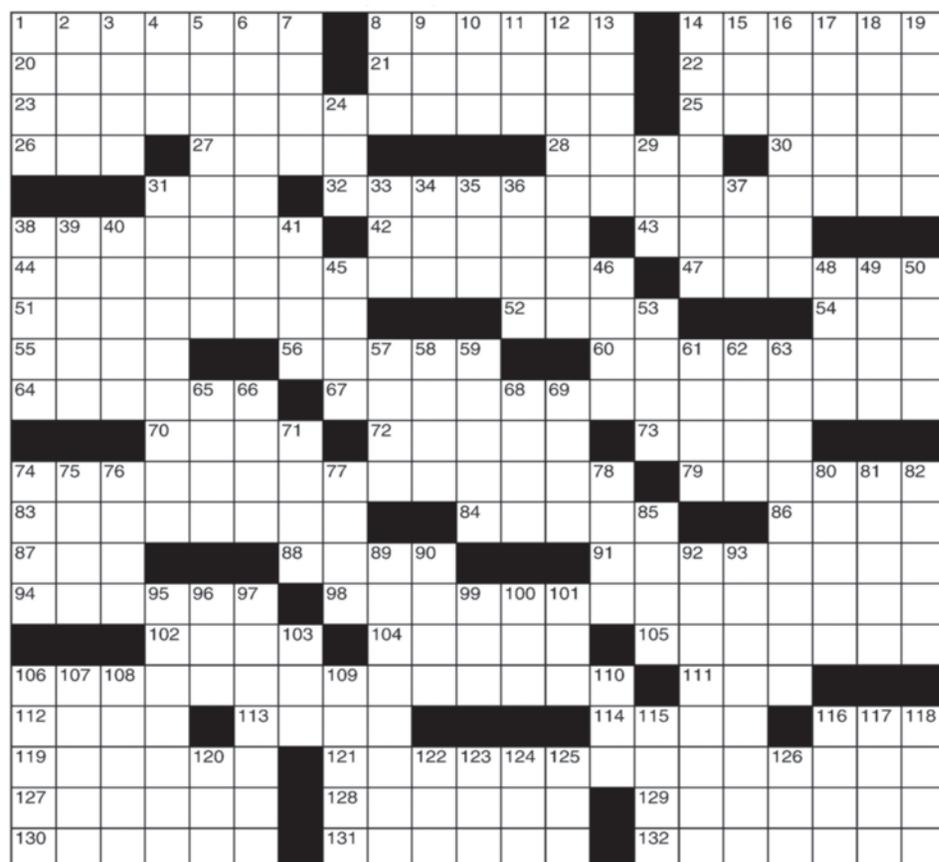
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

www.TheRanchos.com

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Escape key's position
  - 8 Schoolroom with easels, maybe
  - 14 Not very new
  - 20 Spur on
  - 21 Big name in luxury watches
  - 22 Darius' land
  - 23 Biceps with more sweat?
  - 25 Rang, as bells
  - 26 Hosp. triage sites
  - 27 El Cid, e.g.
  - 28 Puerto —
  - 30 Troll's home
  - 31 Zest
  - 32 Running specialists' outfits?
  - 38 Actress Kerr
  - 42 Whoopi's "The Color Purple" role
  - 43 Fruit coverer
  - 44 Shut down skiing peaks again?
  - 47 Finches or blinks, say
  - 51 Check beneficiary
  - 52 In order (to)
  - 54 "I figured it out!"
  - 55 With 78-Down, Coke Zero, e.g.
  - 56 Lipstick flaw
  - 60 Breaks loose
  - 64 Vanquish
  - 67 Put cica-das under water?
  - 70 Sleep like —
  - 72 Assume as fact
  - 73 "... to market, to buy — pig"
  - 74 Most inferior shoe bottoms?
  - 79 Fasteners threaded at two ends
  - 83 Zippy chip dip
  - 84 Railroad station
  - 86 Afghanistan's Tora —
  - 87 Application
  - 88 — Minor (Little Dipper locale)
  - 91 Altercations
  - 94 Hound type
  - 98 Never-forgotten four-letter words?
  - 102 Like sharp cheese
  - 104 After, in Amiens
  - 105 Filamentous
  - 106 What a store manager likes to see on faces?
  - 111 FedEx or DHL rival
  - 112 "No" voter
  - 113 Roo's friend
  - 114 Norwegian hub
  - 116 Bee product
  - 119 Sea robber
  - 121 June event
  - 122 "remade" six times in this puzzle
  - 127 GPS suggestions
  - 128 Hard money
  - 129 Less trustful
  - 130 Aim
  - 131 Atoll part
  - 132 Sam-I-am's creator
  - 9 Toys — (kids' haven)
  - 10 "Creep" trio
  - 11 IM snicker
  - 12 Not at all fond of
  - 13 Funda-mental
  - 14 Enemy
  - 15 "Life of Pi" director Ang
  - 16 Biting Count
  - 17 Hajji's faith
  - 18 Food strainer
  - 19 Pluto's realm
  - 24 Pop idol?
  - 29 Perp catcher
  - 31 Groups of athletes on horseback
  - 33 Hosp. area with IVs
  - 34 Sci-fi writer Stanislaw —
  - 35 Tree for a bark beetle
  - 36 "How the Other Half Lives" author Jacob
  - 37 With 41-Down, tittering laughs
  - 38 "Judge —" (1995 Stallone film)
  - 39 "— Meenie" (2010 hit)
  - 40 A-G linkup
  - 41 See 37-Down
  - 45 Long hauler
  - 46 Stuffing stuff
  - 48 Raven cries
  - 49 "I heard —!"
  - 50 Expresses
  - 53 Ward of "CSI: NY"
  - 57 Pre- (replace)
  - 58 "— 'n' Andy"
  - 59 Put new turf on
  - 61 Miso soup ingredient
  - 62 Labor pain?
  - 63 Motor coaches
  - 65 — mater
  - 66 Labor
  - 68 Really peeve
  - 69 Scale interval
  - 71 Central figure of Christianity, in Florence
  - 74 Bait fish
  - 75 Santa —, California
  - 76 Some Pac-12 athletes
  - 77 Indian wrap
  - 78 See 55-Across
  - 80 Plenty o' "
  - 81 Cornered, as a raccoon
  - 82 Smart-alecky
  - 85 Pinball no-no
  - 89 Bad wrecks
  - 90 Clock radio toggle
  - 92 Pulitzer-winning composer
  - 93 Reasons
  - 95 Surfeit
  - 96 Psyche part
  - 97 Big storm
  - 99 "... — quit!"
  - 100 Clergyman's field: Abbr.
  - 101 Mao — -tung
  - 103 "In excelsis —"
  - 106 Old Ford
  - 107 Grant's side
  - 108 Swagger
  - 109 TV actress Portia de —
  - 110 Salt's "Help!"
  - 115 Sotheby's cry
  - 116 2012 Nintendo console
  - 117 Deck quartet
  - 118 Children of boomers
  - 120 "Taps" hour
  - 122 Blanc of many voices
  - 123 Onetime big record label
  - 124 One, in Berlin
  - 125 M&M color
  - 126 Three, in Bari
- DOWN**
- 1 Proctor's cry
  - 2 — about (around)
  - 3 Omegas' preceders
  - 4 33 1/3 rpm discs
  - 5 "Doesn't matter which of the two"
  - 6 Ticket given gratis
  - 7 The "T" of NWT: Abbr.
  - 8 — Dhabi (emirate)

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# FUN PAGES

# FREE

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in the Maywood Shopping Center, across from the Library  
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**Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Bake Sale**  
at 37330 Berkshire behind the Maywood Shopping Center  
**First Saturday of each month • 8am to Noon**



For more information Email: [SEM CU.WaterFixtures@gmail.com](mailto:SEM CU.WaterFixtures@gmail.com) or Call: (559) 363-9095