

The Ranchos Independent

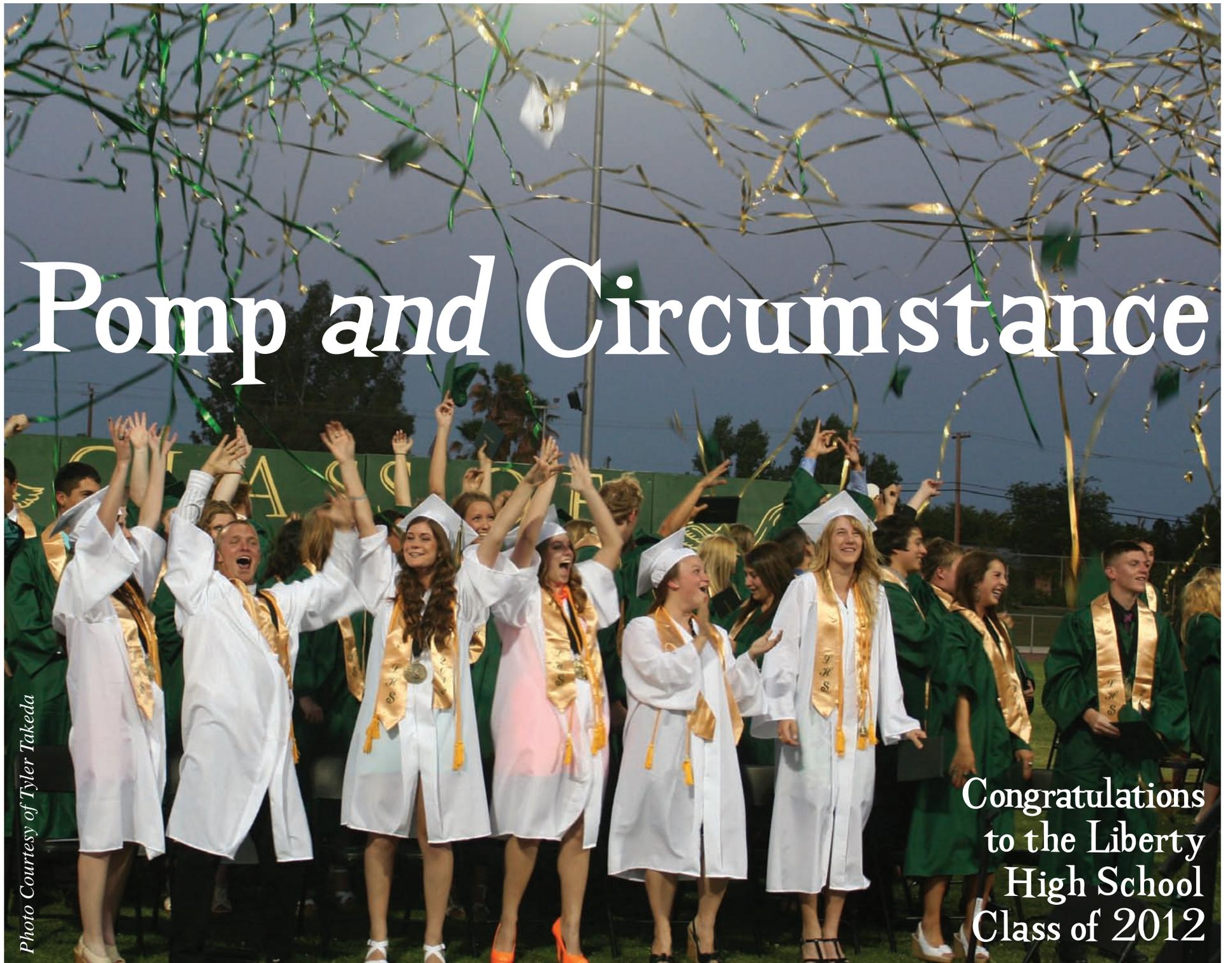


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Volume 8 Issue 6 2012

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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Pomp and Circumstance

Photo Courtesy of Tyler Takeda

Congratulations
to the Liberty
High School
Class of 2012

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Ranchos Business Wins UC Merced Business Award

Merced SBDC Regional Network awards Salter's Distributing the 2012 Entrepreneurial Success Award

The University of California, Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network held its fifth annual Small Business Recognition Program on May 22 at Tornino's Banquet Hall in Fresno. The Entrepreneurial Success Award, established to honor small businesses in Central California, went to Madera Ranchos-based Salter's Distributing.

Company owner, David Salter, comes from three generations of grocery store owners. He grew up visiting his grandparents' store in Riverbank, Calif. and remembers "helping" at his uncle's store in Modesto when he was 5 years old. Those experiences along with his parents running their own company for many years inspired him to eventually go into business for himself.

David got an opportunity to go into the distributing business when he was only 17 years old. After learning about the business, he opened his own distributing company in Modesto in 1990. He started the company with \$200 cash for inventory and traded his Chevy Chevelle for an old Dodge van.

In 1992, David moved the company to Fresno because of the opportunities he saw there. In 2000, he was able to buy his own warehouse and relocated the company headquarters to the Madera Ranchos. The company has grown to distribute to over 800 stores in Central California and currently has 18 employees. David began as a toy specialist and, over the past 20 years, has diversified into many different product lines. In 2011, Salter's Distributing added an additional 4800 square feet to its warehouse to make room for more product.

The growth of the company has been steady over the years. David attributes this to Salter's Distributing's emphasis on customer service. Salter's Distributing provides racks to the stores, the sales representatives clean and stock all of the racks, and all merchandise is 100% guaranteed to sell. The company recently rolled out its own work glove lined called El Toro Gloves and has just signed a contract to distribute candy to 30 Walmart stores in Central California.

Patriotism, Volunteerism Bring "Old Glory" Back

By Christi McKinney

A local landmark that you read about in the Ranchos Independent in February has received an outpouring of support from all over the world with many people volunteering their time, labor and materials to help restore the "flag barn" to its original glory. The flag barn, located on Highway 41 at Avenue 12 in Madera, is owned by McCaffrey Homes and it was painted in stars and stripes by Robert and Karen McCaffrey right after the 9/11 terrorist attacks as a symbol of patriotism, perseverance and hope. The barn was heavily damaged by a huge wind storm last year that ripped half the roof off and damaged the siding.

Long-time Madera Ranchos resident and Vietnam Veteran Tom Baum says he was inspired by the story he read in the Ranchos Independent in February and

after driving past the barn almost every day, felt he had to do something to fix it. "A site for sore eyes had become an eye sore. As a Vietnam Veteran, I don't like to see a flag destroyed, so this is a very worthwhile cause for me," Baum said. Baum approached McCaffrey Homes who gave him the green light to begin restoration and coordinate the volunteer effort. "It's all of us coming together as Americans showing that we believe in this country," Baum said that the first time he saw the barn painted as a flag after the terrorist attacks, he wanted to hug the person who painted it. And when nature tore the barn apart, he knew he wanted to help put it back together. "We all know anyone could have rebuilt it," Baum said. "We all needed to do it and celebrate the meaning behind it."

It is also important to the McCaffreys that this be a community project. "We're

so grateful for the support we've received. People have even posted handwritten notes and business cards on the barn offering their help and donations," Robert A. McCaffrey, CEO of McCaffrey Homes said. "It is heartwarming to see a community come together on this, and we're proud that the barn has become such an important local symbol."

Baum is quick to point out that although he is a proud Vietnam Veteran, this project is not about him. The McCaffrey trade contractors and vendors have been working side by side with dozens of residents, veterans, friends and neighbors helping him throughout the restoration now nicknamed "Old Glory." Anyone at the construction site is sure to notice people honking in support and cars stopping from all over the United States to donate

Please see **BARN** on P. 10



Now *THERE'S* your problem ... no roof as the result of some fierce windstorms in December, rendering the "Flag Barn" less than safe.



Step One: Get some supplies. As a result of stories in the Ranchos Independent and elsewhere, adequate money was raised.



Once you have the supplies there's nothing to it but to do it as these workers illustrate by returning the barn back to its former glory.

Ag Foundation Reaps Dollars, Helps Liberty High Ag

By Vince Guthrie

Fighting a dry winter and a short spring, the Golden Valley Ag Foundation has successfully completed their first oat hay project to benefit the Liberty High Ag Program. This project was started last October with the main goal of raising money to build a barn, animal pens and a shop to teach Ag Mechanics and Welding to Ranchos youth.

Liberty High School graciously sectioned off the 10-acre parcel just west of the school for the Ag Department to use. "Once we were offered the parcel we hit the ground running," said John Porter, President of the Ag Foundation.

Bob Samuelson, owner of Lockwood Seed in Chowchilla, donated the seed needed to bring this project to life. With this donation in place, local ranch foreman Craig Wiley was able to provide the labor and di-

rection needed to grow a bountiful crop producing over 1000 bales of quality oat hay.

Scott Chase and other members of the Ag Foundation then cut the crop, allowing Golden Valley Unified School District board member Mark Toole to bale it for sale. Evan's Feed of Madera gladly purchased the oat hay bringing the first season to an end.

The Ag Foundation plans to make this an annual fundraiser assuming the ground is available in years to come.

On top of the oat hay project, the Ag Foundation puts on two tri-tip dinners annually selling more than 300 roasts to the Ranchos community.

This year the Ag Foundation decided to give back to the youth by offering an inaugural scholarship. Brennan Cornell of LHS was chosen for the \$250 prize.

"We are always looking for more people to help out," said Porter. "We have a

long road ahead of us but with the continuing support of our community and local businesses our vision can become a reality."

The Golden Valley Ag Foundation is comprised of John Porter, President; Scott Chase, Vice-President; Betsy and Gary Cardoza, co-Treasurers; and Board members Kenny Warnock and Richard Sewell.

The Ag Foundation would like to thank LHS for the use of land; Bob Samuelson for his seed donation; Jose and Hector Tenorio for their help in planting; Mark Toole for his help in baling; Craig Wiley for helping with farm labor; Dave Noble for providing fuel; Evan's Feed for purchasing the crop; and Justin Chase and Trevor Porter for helping out.

For more information about the Golden Valley Ag Foundation and to learn how you can help support the Ag Program, please contact John Porter at 559-313-3578.

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Star-Spangled Banner Under Attack



By Sandy Forbes

What liberal talk show host, Bill Press, recently said about our National Anthem:

"Now, I know you're going to say I am not a true American—I'm not patriotic. I don't think patriotism has anything to do with it. The National Anthem is just absolutely, monumentally un-singable. But it's an abomination. First it ranges two octaves, most people can only do kind of one octave. I mean, when you think about it, it's bombs bursting in air, rocket's red glare—it all kinds of, you know, a lot of national anthems are that way: all kinds of military jargon and the land—there's only one phrase, 'the land of the free,' which is kind of nice, and 'the home of the brave'? I don't know ... are we [Americans] the only ones who are brave on the planet? I mean, all the brave people live here? I mean it's just stupid, I think. I'm embarrassed. I'm embarrassed every time I hear it."

Bill Press,

Dear Bill:

Why don't you just "press" on out of America?

We would never listen to your radical commentary in the first place, however your disgusting comments about our National Anthem have filtered through the news. Ratings must be terribly low to stoop to this level for such undesirable publicity.

Thanks for helping conservatives by showing the independents and misguided liberals, who do love this country, your true colors which are certainly not America's patriotic colors of red, white and blue!

My husband and I worked the polls during the recent California primary election and several people asked us for a voter registration form to re-register leaving the Democrat party, jumping the "liberal" Titanic ship, to join us and save America. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's victory is another example.

We get tears in our eyes every time we hear the Star-Spangled Banner, especially now with the sad shape America is in from the Obama administration's consistent attempts at tyranny. So when we hear this great National Anthem we think about all of the service people who have died in honor to preserve our freedoms, which sadly includes your sorry soul to sit there and condemn it.

Maybe it is a good thing the Star-Spangled Banner is hard to sing since only a real singer can properly sing it (and there are quite a number of them). Likewise, at times in history, it has

also been hard to maintain America's freedom against evil outside forces, including pathetic people like you who attack this wonderful country from within.

No freedom lover would want war but sometimes it is the only way to keep America safe from evil groups of people who will never properly understand America's earned freedom or even the concept of the word.

There are brave individuals all over the world and you are way too much of a radical, literal, liberal. It is a song for goodness sake, and A GREAT SONG.

Get over it or get out.

Sandy Forbes
Tea Party Patriot

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

Madera Chapter meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera. Confirm dates on the Central Valley Tea Party website at www.centralvalleyteaparty.com.

Questions? Contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator John Smedley by e-mail at jcsmedley@comcast.net or call him at 559-645-7031. Or you can contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator Rick Farinelli by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net or call him at 559-706-5386.

A very happy, patriotic July 4th to citizens of Madera. When the Star-Spangled Banner is sung remember how lucky we all are to be Americans, still the home of the brave and hopefully will always be the land of the free.

Congratulations to Rick Farinelli

Congratulations to Rick in the primary election win on June 5, moving forward to November's general election for Madera County Supervisor District III.

Many in Madera know that Rick supports the Tea Party's core values of fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government and free markets. Rick supports transparency within government, unlike what has been happening in Washington. He is aware of the need to roll back the intrusive size of government in our lives and we are confident he will strive to get government back to the basic needs of the public, such as providing public protection and safety instead of hampering job and business growth with governmental fees and taxes.

As a lifelong resident of Madera County, we thank Rick for his responsive pledge of leadership to be available and listen to public concerns, so those who live and work in Madera will truly have a voice.

After contacting Rick he said he would like to thank everyone who assisted in his primary campaign, including the most important piece of support: their vote!

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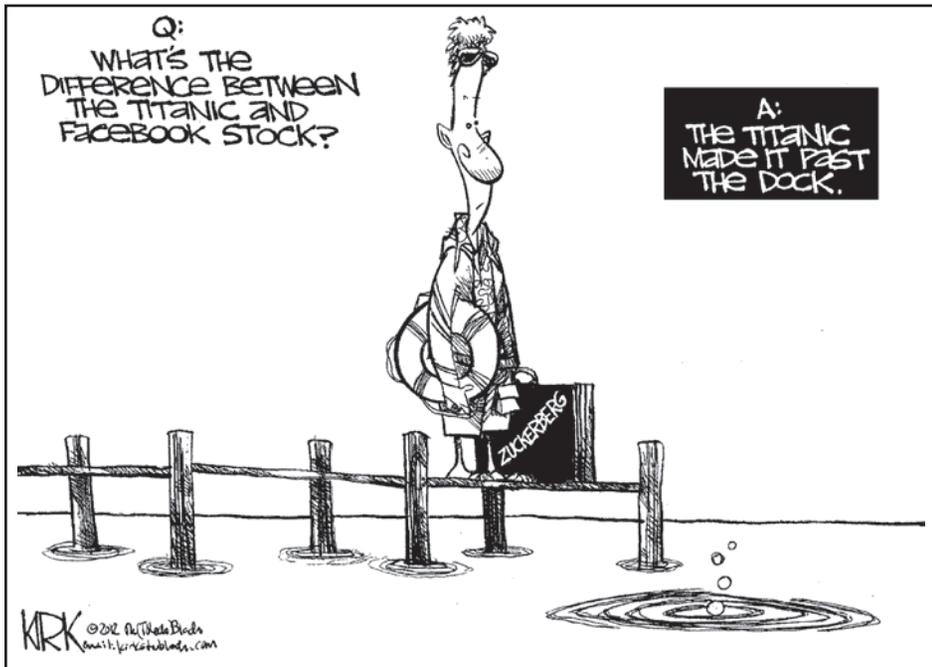
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Guest Editorial

Unleash Biden!

By Rich Lowry

Joe Biden is performing a public service, God love him. Out on the stump, he renders the case for President Barack Obama's re-election in all its populist crudity.

No dulcet tones. No faux sophistication. No charm. C'mon, man! There's no time for that when Mitt Romney is descending on America promising to commit the most heinous acts in the history of vampire capitalism.

The Obama re-election campaign must make Romney, a mild-mannered man with a sterling business record and a center-right record as Massachusetts governor, into a fiendish apparition too risky to entrust with the highest office in the land. That entails over-the-top attacks delivered with a cocksure shamelessness and little regard for nuance or truth. *Vice President Biden reporting for duty, sir!*

Biden's willingness to say anything makes him the ideal attack dog. If the Obama team didn't have Joe Biden, it would have to invent someone as hyperbolic and overeager.

Vice President Biden may make many mistakes, but insufficient demagoguery will never be one of them. In a speech at a manufacturing facility in Ohio, he said that at Bain "Romney made sure the guys on top got to play by a separate set of rules, he ran mas-

sive debts, and the middle class lost." Then, he moved in for the kill: "So what do you think he'll do as president?" Q.E.D.

The likes of Biden never explain what they would have preferred to happen to the troubled businesses that attracted the attention of Bain. Simply go out of business without any attempt at a turnaround? Even Biden stipulates that he has no problem, as a general proposition, with private equity. If so, he shouldn't be shocked that some acquisitions turn out better than others.

Of course, Biden can't help but lend an air of ridiculousness to whatever he touches. At the same Ohio campaign stop, he declaimed that "they" (rich Romney supporters) don't understand "us" (the struggling working class), before shouting about his parents dreaming that one day he could become vice president. Such Biden moments tend to provoke hilarity followed by concern -- i.e., once the chuckling stops, one wonders, "Is he unwell?"

Biden subsequently explained -- if that's the right word -- that "I get tired of being called 'Middle Class Joe,' like that somehow I'm just Joe and I don't dream. C'mon, man." Where to start? No one calls Biden "Middle Class Joe," except maybe his press flacks under extreme duress. And salt-of-the earth people don't usually refer to themselves in the third person. Biden was first elected to the Senate in 1972. After soaking up the working-class ethos of that deliberative body for 36 years, he decamped to the Naval Observatory as vice president of the United States.

If Barack Obama circa 2004 had known that his political fate would eventually be tied to a longtime senator famous for buffoonish outbursts, he might have reconsidered the audacity of hope. With an unpopular record and a disappointing recovery, the president needs every hatchet man he can get. So the battle cry has gone out, "Unleash Biden!" Hide the women and children.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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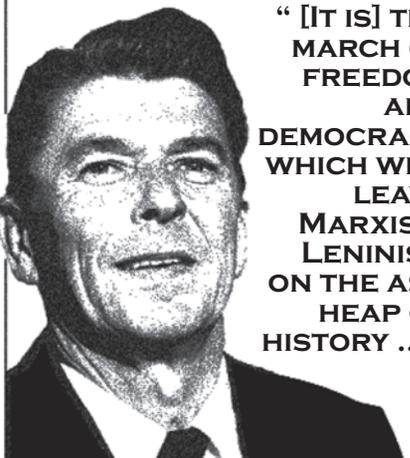
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OK ... Who Brought the Kids?

When did it become acceptable to bring your kids to adult parties? For the life of me, I cannot recall one single adult party where my parents allowed me to tag along. I can recall spending some evenings with babysitters as a child, but not one memory includes my parents dumping me in front of a television to be watched by some 10 year old while they tap a keg and break out the tequila shots at a house party. Am I dating myself here?

For my birthday recently, I decided to throw a little party of my own. Nothing earth-shattering, just some music, friends, margaritas. As it happens from time to time, a couple of friends ask to bring a couple of their friends and next thing you know

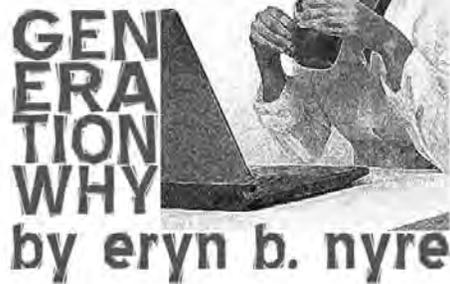
you are bumping into people in your living room with whom you have not been properly introduced. None of that bothers me, but at one point, late into the evening, a soft knock on the door comes and I open it to find a couple of people I have never seen before, and their three children. Turns out they fall under the "friends of friends" category, and didn't want to find or pay for a sitter, so

they figured they would just dump their kids in front of the old tele while they got plastered. That's a big negative.

I have two concrete rules whenever I invite friends over to my home and there is liquor involved. First, I confiscate keys. You can drink or you can drive, but there will be no double dipping in my presence; bring a designated or lay off the sauce.

Simple.

Two, no minors. If they wouldn't let you into the bar, I'm not letting you into my home when I'm serving liquor. I could not



even fathom these people strolling up to the club and asking the bouncer to just watch their kids so they can have a few drinks and hit the dance floor, but show up at someone's house and I'm supposed to say, "Of course you can come in and bring your children into an inappropriate and potentially dangerous situation where I am ultimately liable. Please, won't you join us?"

I stood there, eyes wide, mouth agape as they impatiently waited for me to step aside so they could make their deposit and hit the margarita fountain. A friend ran up to make introductions and inform me they were her guests. And then, because none of these so called adults had any sense, I had to put on my "no fun" hat and inform them that there are no children allowed at this adult party. Period.

And three adults stared at me like petulant, spoiled children and began to argue that they would stick [the children] in the bedroom, they wouldn't be in the way, they were only going to stay for a couple of hours while they had a few. It's not about the children being in the way, it's the fact that they shouldn't have been there at all. What really gets me is why I had to have this conversation in the first place? Shouldn't this be parenting 101? You don't take your kids with

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Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 19

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6/12

The Stock Report

Audrey Doles Out Dixie Drive Details

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

On Thursday, May 31 I attended the graduation ceremony for 116 members of the Liberty High Class of 2012. As I was setting there waiting for the ceremony to begin, I was thinking back to the year 2000 when Liberty High was still a dream. The slogan, "Team work makes a dream work," certainly applies to the first school board of five members that worked so hard to pass the first bond, jumped through all of the legal and political hoops that it took to get Liberty High built. Four of those first board members, Bruce Blair, Mark Huddleston, Mona Diaz and me, Audrey Stock, were here to witness this 2012 ceremony. It is great to see a dream come true in your lifetime.

There are so many places to go and places to see you just can't live long enough to do it all. In the May issue of the Ranchos Independent I promised to tell you about some of the places and food I experienced on the Ranchos/Hills Senior trip to South Carolina and Georgia. We were gone for 11 days with two of those days spent traveling from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Ocean and back home to the Fresno Airport again. In the nine traveling days left of the trip, we stayed in seven different hotels. We traveled by Grayline Bus for about 1,000 miles, from Atlanta, Georgia to the South Carolina Atlantic coastal towns all the way to Savannah, Georgia and then back up to Atlanta where we started. The hotels that served breakfast were "serve yourself" buffets with biscuits and gravy, grits, juice, coffee or tea and sweet rolls. Our first night was in Atlanta where we experienced our first hotel. The first

morning, May 10, we were up early, had breakfast and were on the bus to see the city of Atlanta. Our first stop was at the Atlanta Braves baseball park. Then it was on to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. I could have spent a lot more time here, there is so much to see and read. The building tells the story of the black people from slavery to the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

Our next stop was at the Margaret Mitchell House and museum. This is the house where Margaret wrote the book "Gone with the

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Wind." She was an interesting person whose life ended when she was killed by a taxi cab in Atlanta.

From here we had a stop at the CNN TV Center where we had time to have lunch at one of the fast food restaurants at the CNN food court. Atlanta is a very large city with no

graffiti. It has many large skyscrapers and shopping centers. It is the city where Coca Cola was invented and the corporate offices are still here as a financial foundation for the city.

Day 3 and after a breakfast of biscuits and gravy we were on the bus for a 240 mile drive. We had a stop at the little town of Harlem, Georgia. What a surprise to find the Laurel and Hardy Museum in this little out-of-the-way place. There were an amazing amount of curios from the lives of these two comedians. Next door was a pecan nut shop that we all enjoyed then it was on to Columbia, South Carolina. I am not sure where we crossed the state line into South Carolina but we arrived in Columbia in the afternoon and went to visit the South Carolina court house and the South Carolina State Museum. We finally

Please see **STOCK** on P. 20



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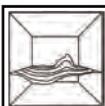
Golden Valley Baptist Vacation Bible School was a success and fun was had by all. Pastor K. Milton Higgins is bringing the 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service message to the congregation. Join us.

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Scream for Ice Cream

With the hot weather we've had a lot of requests for Aunt Jean's ice cream recipes. This is a reprint of her article from July, 2011. Enjoy!

Editor



the blanket that was used for our seat. Then we would have to wait. Have you ever had to wait for the mailman to bring you that package you ordered two weeks ago? Or even Christmas or your birthday? That was what it was like waiting for the ice cream to be ready to eat.

When I got older and was doing some of the kitchen chores, mama would let me make the ice cream mix. I remember it was 10 eggs, beaten until light colored, adding 3 cups of sugar, a half teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour this mixture into the can-

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! What is better than a freezer of home-made ice cream on a hot summer evening?

I remember when we were young we had a hand-crank ice cream maker. We kids would have to sit on the freezer so that it would stay in one place while they were cranking the handle. Daddy would put a folded blanket on it for us to sit on, but we would still gripe that our butts were getting cold.

But we loved it.

The ice cream always started out vanilla, but if there were fresh peaches or strawberries they were crushed and sweetened. Then when the ice cream was

I remember when we were young we had a hand-crank ice cream maker. We kids would have to sit on the freezer so that it would stay in one place while they were cranking the handle. Daddy would put a folded blanket on it for us to sit on, but we would still gripe that our butts were getting cold.

almost done, he would take the lid off and take some of the ice cream out and put the fruit in, and finish cranking until it just wouldn't crank any more. Of course we always got to eat the ice cream he took out, then when it was done, he would take the paddle out and "pack it" until it was ready to eat. He would fold up a piece of wax paper to fit over the top of the canister then put the lid back on, this way the ice and salt couldn't get into the ice cream. Then he'd drain off all the water and repack it with lots of ice and more salt and cover it with a gunny sack and

ister, and add a can of evaporated milk and enough whole milk to come up to the line on the canister. Then as I got older, and began to hear about eating raw eggs, I started making a custard. I would beat the eggs, adding the sugar, salt and vanilla.

Heating the milk (at this time, I started using some half & half in place of the whole milk) until it just comes to a bubble (don't boil it) and add some of the milk to the egg mixture, beating all the time to avoid having scrambled eggs, then add this mixture back into the milk. Be sure to cool this mixture before putting into the canister to freeze and crank until it's done.

In later years, I remember not using as much sugar but would add a large package of instant vanilla pudding to the

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9



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RECIPE cont. from P. 8

mix. After my brother got out of high school and went to work he bought an electric ice cream maker. It was a heck of a lot easier, but on the down side, it just didn't make the ice cream as hard as the old crank method.

As a "Reminisce" moment: Do any of you remember before crushed ice in a bag? We went to the ice house and would put a couple of quarters in the slot and this big block of ice would come out that had a strong twine wrapped around it for carrying. We would bring this block home and put it in a galvanized tub and start chipping it with an ice pick.

Randy's youngest brother Adam (the pie maker) made a freezer of ice cream for us for the fourth of July. It was delicious and I asked him for his recipe for a four quart freezer:

Homemade Ice Cream

- 2 C Whole Milk
- 1¾ C Sugar
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1½ T Vanilla
- 2 C Half & Half
- 4 C Whipping Cream

Put the milk in a pan to heat just to the scald stage. DO NOT BOIL! After the milk is hot, remove from heat and add the sugar and salt, stirring until dissolved. Add the vanilla and the two creams and put the mixture in the refrigerator until it cools. After it is cool, put it in the canister and freeze according to your freezer's directions.

I love sherbet – pineapple is one of my favorites. When we were all still at home I would make pineapple sherbet as often as I could. I made it so often; I knew the recipe by heart. There were seven of us, so I would always double the recipe – hope you like it too:

Pineapple Sherbet

- ½ C pineapple juice (canned)
- 1 T lemon juice
- ⅔ C sugar
- 2 C cold milk

Combine the pineapple juice, lemon juice and sugar, mixing to besure sugar is dissolved.

Put in refrigerator until it is cold. Pour this cold mixture into the cold milk – NEVER pour the milk into the juices or you will have one curdled mess! Pour into a shallow pan and put in freezer. Just before it is frozen solid, use a fork to stir it up then put back in freezer to freeze solid. When frozen, turn into a mixing bowl and beat lightly with a mixer. Return to pan and freeze until frozen.

Ice cream is always good eaten by itself, but if you want to make some cookies, I have a recipe for you. One of our readers Linda Autry sent me this recipe. She said she wishes she could take credit for developing the recipe but she couldn't, she got it off the TV from the Paula Deen Show. Regardless of where it came from, it still sounds OOEY GOOEY! She went on to say she took a platter of the cookies to a graduation party and the teenagers gave her a sitting ovation. Enjoy.

Chocolate Goopy Butter Cookies

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 stick butter, room temperature
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 box moist dark chocolate cake mix
- Confectioner's sugar

In a large bowl with an electric mixer; cream the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in the egg, the vanilla, then the cake mix. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or more to firm up so you can roll the batter into balls. Refrigerate overnight is best! Roll the chilled batter into tablespoon-sized balls and then roll them in confectioner's sugar. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet, 2 inches apart and bake for 12 minutes. Let them sit on the cookie sheet for 15 minutes until they are completely cool. These cookies will remain soft and goey, if they last that long! Linda said a lemon, spice or any flavor moist cake mix can be used instead of chocolate.

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 15

BARN cont. from P. 2

money or to take pictures. Baum said, "I was very touched after 9/11 when everyone had American flags flying everywhere. However, now that patriotism has passed and now people don't put their flags up very often. I don't want the men and women coming home now to feel like we did when we came home from Vietnam." Fellow veteran "Smiley" Dixon said he saw the initial news report and he showed up the very next day. "After serving in the Army for 30 years I felt compelled to get out here and see how I could help" Dixon said.

It was important to the McCaffreys that the restoration be completed prior to the upcoming 4th of July holiday to honor Independence Day and celebrate the meaning of the American flag. A "Salute to Patriotism and Volunteerism" will be held on the

morning of Friday, June 29. The exact time has not been set as we go to press but details will be posted throughout the community and on Facebook prior to June 29. Everyone is welcome to join the McCaffreys, their staff, Tom Baum, trade contractors, vendors, residents and volunteers for a dedication ceremony. Members of The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce will thank the McCaffreys for helping see this landmark restored to its "Old Glory." Local veterans are also working to pin down plans for participating in this ceremony.

In the past month the story has been covered by all local news station and newspapers. The story has even been picked up by CNN and Fox News as well as a number of stations throughout the United States. The world is watching the Madera Ranchos. Please show up to support our community, the restoration and dedication and even more importantly, our veterans.

Fred Mathes: Still Biking at 96

By Christi McKinney

Fred Mathes, age 96, participated in the Ranchos/Hills Senior's recent "Cycle for Seniors" on April 21. Mathes rode a little over 10 miles on one of the hottest days so far this year. One hundred and one riders participated in the 4th Annual event riding courses that range from 10 miles to 100 miles. Mathes has participated in each of the four annual rides, the first two in which he rode 25 miles.

Mathes was definitely the man of the hour with his quick wit and a joke for everyone he spoke to. Mathes said, "I don't usually do interviews but this is kind of an occasion for me because it



Have bike, will travel could be the motto of the Ranchos' 96-year-old Fred Mathes.

likely will be my last time in this ride. I'm starting to have some balance issues." However he's quick to point out that he, "... might just do it in a three-wheeled bike next year."

Mathes says he's been riding a bike since the age of 10, saying, "It's good exercise and it's fun." The bicycle Mathes rides is a 60-year-old Schwinn that he bought in 1952 to ride to work. He currently rides around the neighborhood three or four times a week but he rides a stationary bike quite a lot. "The great part about riding the station-

ary bike is I'm at home when I'm done," Mathes said.

Mathes recalled that 16 years ago he and his two sons, Richard and Donald, rode over 300 miles from Madera to Oxnard. He jokes that, "One son pushed and one pulled." The goal was initially to attend a family reunion in Los Angeles, however one of his sons developed a sore knee so they all rode in a car the rest of the way.

This year Mathes was accompanied by his daughter Karen Mathes and friend and neighbor Ken Browning. Mathes and his wife Polly have been married 70 years, 25 of those years here in the Madera Ranchos where they still have a home. They currently reside at the

Cedar Creek Retirement home in Madera where Mathes spends much of his time caring for Polly who has Alzheimer's.

As Mathes was about ready to start his ride he stopped to give wife Polly a kiss. Mike Thomson, organizer of the ride, said, "Those two hold hands all the time."

While his tires were given some last minute air, Mathes took the opportunity to tell the crowd a couple more jokes. Karen said she was going to start early so that he didn't pass her up and they began their ride to a round of applause from the crowd.

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Sunday, July 1st
Ages 6-12, 9am-11am
Ages 13-18, 1pm-3pm



New Artist has Coffee Spot Show

By the time this newspaper goes to print, the paintings of Rey Ruiz will be displayed on the walls of the Coffee Spot, which has become the Madera Ranchos' newest art hub. Art organizer Ramona Frances and the Coffee Spot owners Danny and Audra Damore are especially excited to host the talent of Rey Ruiz of Hanford who will greet people in person, Friday June 29. Although his formal degree is in commercial illustration, his life work has moved in another direction - fine art painting. A wide variety of his work may also be viewed on his Web site, www.reypaints.com.

Although previous exhibiting Coffee Spot artists have been exclusively from the Ranchos area, the organizer called Ruiz an exception due to his high level of talent. Even so, he is a former resident of the Madera Ranchos with family still living in the area. He definitely considers himself "a valley guy."

As a seasoned painter, Ruiz has much to offer his audiences in terms of experience and versatility. Although he is both an art teacher and art judge, he continues to offer both original and prints of his work. His prints are not mass produced he claims, nor are they made in "artist mills." They are printed, he said, "As they are ordered."

"But there is nothing like having a

chance to see the work in person. Here in the Ranchos, we have that opportunity but it's prudent to take note of the continually changing art exhibit schedule," said Frances. "Sometimes people come to the spot asking to see the work of an artist that has already left."

Ruiz also offers giclee printing (ink) on canvas with archival ink.

"One of the more important aspects of archival ink is that it has a long term fade

resistance property when not exposed to direct sunlight," Ruiz said. Prints are shipped in tubes or flat, depending on size. This allows the customer to have their canvas art stretched to match their own custom frames. Buyers can have stretching and mounting done at local outlets such as a craft store. Prints are offered in the size of the original painting but can be reduced one size for most works. In other words, Ruiz cus-



Rey Ruiz of Hanford will be the next artist showcasing his talent at the Coffee Spot on June 29.

tomized work for each customer.

Following Ruiz in the line-up will be work of the organizer herself. Her "Meet the Artist" even is scheduled for Friday, August 31 and will show her work for 4-6 weeks. Typically, her work is generated through local commissions.

For more information, call The Coffee Spot at 645-1225.

Mothers of Preschoolers = MOPS

By Christi McKinney

Melinda McKenna, a Ranchos resident and mother of four, has worked to bring a chapter of "Mothers of Preschoolers" (MOPS) to the Madera Ranchos. "MOPS is where I have developed great parenting skills and lasting friendships while strengthening my relationship with God and what he has for me as a mother. In the chaos of motherhood it has brought me sanity" McKenna said.

MOPS is an international organization that has chapters in 30 countries with over 4,000 groups in the United States.

The organization has been in existence for 35 years and works to create authentic communities where mothers gather to experience encouragement, support and hope for mothers of young children.

Meetings in the Madera Ranchos are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Life Tree Assembly of God Church on Road 36 at Avenue 13 1/2.

For more information about MOPS contact Melinda at 559-645-0716 or email her at melmcke04@hotmail.com. You can also visit the website at www.MOPS.org.

Praising Elmore Leonard's Work

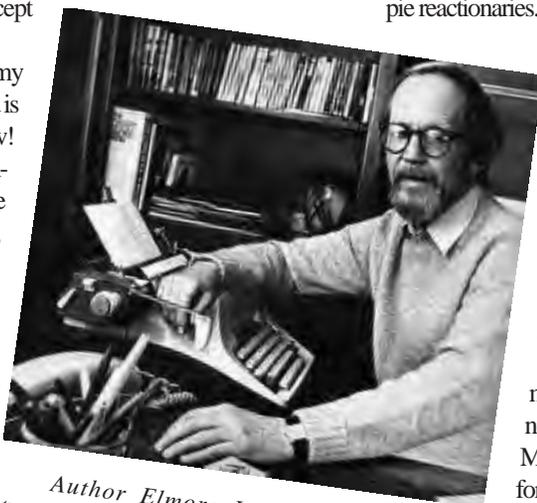
By Garin Gonzales

The Summer Reading Program is in full swing and so far it's been a great success. I hope that all of you parents have been able to come in and sign your child up for the reading program, but if you haven't, there's still time. There's lots of fun ahead, with weekly prizes given away and a grand prize (we're not giving away what that is just yet) for two lucky readers. And don't worry; there are still three great programs set for Thursdays in July, starting with animal expert and author Jean Chaffee July 12. Then on July 19 we have magician Chris Lopez to wow the crowd. Finally, on July 26 Rick and Linda Cole will present their art and music with the theme "Starry Night." All shows begin at 11 a.m.

Book Chat

One Day Elmore Leonard will be gone and we'll never have anyone like him again (except perhaps his son).

According to my math, Elmore Leonard is 87 years old. Holy cow! My math skills are terrible, but I'm pretty sure I got that right. Yes, he'll be 88 in October. For a guy in his late eighties, he sure doesn't seem to be slowing down much. Averaging about a book a year, Leonard isn't as prolific as say, James Patterson,



Author Elmore Leonard at his trusty typewriter banging out another bestseller.

but he's never really written a bad book (nor has he ever – at least to my knowledge – relied on a ghost- or co-writer, something of which Patterson is very much guilty).

Leonard started his writing career penning some very fine westerns including *Valdez is Coming*, *Hombre* and the short story *3:10 to Yuma*, all of which were adapted into films. But somewhere along the line Leonard realized that Westerns were a dying genre so he switched to crime thrillers. Suddenly the American West landscape turned into gritty Detroit. The scenery changed, but Leonard kept his heroes much the same: Lots of lawmen bound by a moral code, yet ready to draw down on the criminals with great vengeance and furious anger.

But Leonard sets himself apart from other crime writers in several ways: One, his dialogue is spot on. Interactions between characters never seem contrived. No matter the ethnicity, regional dialect or socioeconomic standing, it's as if Leonard has spent time hanging out with his characters. More importantly, every character, hero or scum-

bag, gets his or her moment in the sun. Back stories are fleshed out; motivations become more clear, flaws exposed. In *Out of Sight* you are rooting for the bad guy, fugitive Jack Foley, just as much as you are rooting for the good gal trying to capture him, federal marshal Karen Sisco.

So where do you start? I definitely have my favorites:

Swag (aka Ryan's Rules) Two small-time crooks named Stickley and Ryan plan to make a fortune robbing liquor stores. Although not completely clueless (they actually have the aforementioned going to run into a streak of bad luck eventually.

Glitz A psychopath wants revenge on the cop that put him away. It's just too bad that Miami cop Vincent Mora is one step ahead of him, and hard to kill.

Freaky Deaky Detroit is the setting for this explosive tale of ex-bomb squad cop Chris Mankowski trying to track down a couple of hippie reactionaries.

Get Shorty

Sure the movie was good, but the book is way better. This one introduces us to Chili Palmer, a mob enforcer who really just wants to shoot his way into the movie business.

52 Pickup When married Detroit businessman Harry Mitchell is blackmailed for an (ahem) dalliance, he just wants it all to go away. But when the blackmailers put the screws to him even more, he knows he's going to have to fight back. And get even.

Leonard's latest, *Raylan*, brings back Raylan Givens, the U.S. Marshal character from his previous books *Riding the Rap* and *Pronto*, as well as the short story *Fire in The Hole*. He's still a quick-witted smart-aleck who can't seem to keep his gun holstered for more than a couple of minutes at a time, and this unrelenting quality finally got him demoted to his former home in Harlan County, Kentucky. If all of this sounds mighty familiar, it could be because the TV show *Justified* on FX is based on Leonard's short, *Fire in The Hole*.

Now as I said, Mr. Leonard is getting up there. Luckily their might be an heir to his awesomeness in his son Peter. I've never read anything by Leonard Jr., but I've ordered a couple of his books through our library system (which, as a card-carrying member of our library, you can do also). So we'll see if son can measure up to the father. It seems like a tall order to me, but we'll see.

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Escape the Wrath to Come



If we honestly look at the world today, no one can deny that the world is in trouble. The news is filled daily with violence and murder. Disaster sweeps the nations, as we have witnessed storms, tsunamis, volcanoes, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes worldwide. The world is in chaotic turmoil.

Is there an explanation to all that's happening? Is there any hope? Can we find peace in the times in which we live?

John Reyna, pastor of Calvary Chapel Madera will be teaching

The Series: Escape the Wrath to Come

through the book of Revelation, the last days, verse by verse.

Questions like these and many other questions will be answered as John unravels the imagery and explains the significance of the events that will take place. In Revelation there is also hope and encouragement that will lift us up from the present day gloom to the promise of a bright and glorious future.

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Kiwanis Korner

Ranchos Scholarships Distributed

By Perry Watkins

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

The local Kiwanis are in the busiest season of the year. We have most of our events in the spring and summer of each year. It is also the most fun because it is the time of year when we give away most of the money we raise throughout the year. We have been extra busy visiting schools and graduations. Our Club President and his wife, John and Pam Glueck, were barely able to squeeze a Hawaii trip in between events. We missed them.

We honored Haley Ardner recently with a scholarship because she is such a generous person with her time and energy. We recognized her as our student volunteer of the year. A number of others were also recognized:



Haylie Ardner with some ladies we know.



Receiving the Dale Lucas Award for Military Service is Brennen Cornell, left, who is standing next to Jeri Lucas and Capt. Edward Planas.

Liberty High School Scholarships

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Brianna Higgins

Cassandra Garibay

Nathalie Corpus

Michael Sassano

We just finished our annual Cross River Run at Woodward Park and the Miracle Mile of Quarters at Childrens Hospital. Both events were well attended. We appreciate all of the participants and volunteers who made these fundraising events possible. Please remember to look for the Kiwanis booth at the Pizza Factory during the days leading to Independence Day on July 4th. We are already raising scholarship funds as well as a variety of other forms of support for our local children. Hope to see you Thursday evenings.

Kiwanis exists solely for the purpose of making a difference in the lives of others, particularly children. We are looking for people at least 18 years old who are interested in serving the community, making new friends, and having fun with a purpose. If you are interested, contact President John Glueck at 559-706-5215. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at The Coffee Spot and every Thursday thereafter at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. Come join us at a meeting for fun and fellowship and see what being a Kiwanian is all about.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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RECIPE cont. from P. 9

For those of you that make a lot of cookies and use the teaspoon or tablespoon method to drop your cookies on the cookie sheets, if you haven't done so yet, have you considered investing in an ice cream scoop? The old-fashioned kind with the thumb release. My mom had four or five of them – all the way from a tiny one, about the size of a melon baller, to a large one, the size for meat balls. She used them for lots of things – her Martha Washington candy, all sizes of cookies and making even-sized hamburgers. I don't know how expensive they are now, but you might want to look into them. I found many to choose from online, just search for "portion scoops."

I sincerely want to thank all the contributors. As I've said in each article, **THIS ARTICLE IS FOR AND ABOUT YOU – NOT OUR FAMILY.**

Until next month – Aunt Jean.

Baseball Full-Ride For Ranchos Boy

Nate Achelpohl, Liberty High School 2009 Graduate and recent West Hills College Graduate has signed his letter of intent to play baseball for the Doane Tigers of Crete, Nebraska. Doane College is a private college founded in 1872 and ranked nationally as one of the best Liberal Arts Colleges in the nation. Doane is a member of NAIA and plays in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. The Doane Tigers have been League Champions the last two years. Nate received a full ride baseball and academic scholarship worth over \$70,000.

While growing up in the Ranchos, Nate played tee ball, Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth divisions for Liberty Ranchos Baseball, including All Star Teams.

At Liberty High School, Nate played both basketball and baseball. He still holds the school record for most 3-pt field goals in a season. He was also a member of the Boys Division V Valley Championship Baseball team in 2009.

At West Hills, Nate played shortstop. During his two years there he was named "Defensive Player of the Year," and earned 2nd Team All Conference honors in the CVC. In addition, he received the "Falcon Excellence Award," which is the highest honor a West Hills athlete can receive. He was also one of only a dozen selected as a member of the "Community College Baseball Coaches Association 2012 All-American Academic Team."

Good luck to Nate and his future with the Doane Tigers. The Ranchos is proud to be called your home.

Grad Awarded Big Scholarship

Liberty High School graduate Amanda Matthews has been awarded a substantial scholarship for her college career based on her 4.3 grade point average at Liberty High School and for being selected as one of only 52 scholarship recipients from the Northern California Scholarship Foundation. The award amounts to \$8,000 per year for the next four years for a total of \$32,000.

The scholarship was based on Matthews' GPA, SAT score, financial need and community service. The NCSF is based in Oakland and allows more than 500 high schools to select one senior to compete for its scholarships. As an interesting side note, Matthews was the winner of the Saturn car at the annual Sober Grad party, but she gave the car to a classmate who she said needed it more.



Liberty High Softball Hawks Leave No Doubt with 4th Title



Liberty High's softball team and coaches flash the "four" sign signifying their fourth Division V title. More than likely they will be moved up to Division IV next year but the good news is that all players except one will be returning for the 2012-2013 season.

After winning its fourth straight Division V softball title, the Liberty Hawks softball team left no question who was the best team in the Division, despite its No. 2 seed.

The No. 2 seeded Hawks ran roughshod over the Division V playoff opponents. They opened the playoffs with a 7-0 victory over Central Valley Christian and followed that with a 13-1 victory over No. 3 Lindsay.

The Hawks capped the playoffs with a 10-0 mercy-rule victory over the No. 4 seeded Selma Bears to win their fourth straight title.

Juniors Hannah Shevenell, Bailey Graham, Danni Devine, Katie Pia and Randi Wallace will pick up their third softball rings in the fall.

The Hawks flexed their muscles in the first inning, scoring six runs in the bot-

tom of the first.

Renee Ortega and Caitlyn McShane each drove in three runs and Wallace highlighted the offense with a solo home run.

Shevenell tossed a two hitter against the Bears. She finished the playoff run allowing on run on seven hits with 30 strikeouts.

"We never get sick of this," coach Bob Barber said. "Nothing is more fun than watching the bats come alive. We don't ever let up. We preach that we are going to live for the here and now."

Although the Hawks will likely be moved to Division IV next season, thus ending their quest at a fifth straight Division V title, they will drive for a first Division IV title and their fifth straight Valley Championship. The Hawks lose just one player, Katie Hill to graduation, and return all nine starters.

Liberty Offers Ag Mechanics Class

In the fall, students enrolled at Liberty High School will get the opportunity to develop skills that will help them in the mechanics area.

Liberty will offer an introduction to ag mechanics class, which will offer basic skills that range from small engines to concrete and masonry.

The class wouldn't have been possible without a \$10,000 grant from the Madera Ag boosters, in addition to donating \$5,000 to purchase tools.

"The boosters are helping to purchase tools for a few components," ag mechanics teacher Francisco Diaz said. "The include small engines as well as tool kits, concrete mixers and finishing trowels. They also helped purchase equipment for electrical and plumbing as well as basic wiring essentials."

The class will be open to 24 students and will gain practical knowledge in mechanics.

"These are all skills they will be able to help them become familiar with for their own person self as well as to understand the types of tools needed for

certain jobs," Diaz said. "Some of these skills, they will build on through more use as well as their own personal projects that they will have in on their own home."

The Liberty Future Farmers of America program is rising in the amount of students and in credibility. Last month, they earned medals for the first time at an FFA conference.

"We are in the process of building a program," Diaz said. "These are classes that the students at Liberty are interested in. We have been fortunate to have received the grant."

Diaz has been a biology and ag teacher for most of

his educational career. He worked for a steel building contractor in the past and has a good understanding in all of the subject matter.

"I have an avid love and passion for ag," Diaz said. "I consider myself to be able to complete all of these components for the course and feel that the students will gain a very good foundation in this class and be able to be competent to build on these skills in the future."

The class wouldn't have been possible without a \$10,000 grant from the Madera Ag boosters, in addition to donating \$5,000 to purchase tools.

Alternative Ed Names Graduates

Centennial Independent Study School

Kortnee Cantrell
Anahi Garcia
Taylor Hoffman
Melody Mariscal-Teran
Brandon Wachter

Golden Valley Adult School

Brandon Bailey
Aron Harvey
Alvin My
Rosio Ramirez
Ashley Sharp
Tyler Sphar
Freddy Zarate

Lincoln Community Day School

Brenda Juarez



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6/12

CLASS of 2012

Scenes from Liberty Graduation



Valedictorian Jacquelyn O'Keefe gives her address at Liberty High School's commencement ceremony.



Yecenia Arellno sings during the commencement ceremonies.



Golden Valley District Superintendent Andrew Alvarado, right, gives No. 1 ranked Liberty High senior Nicole Ray her Liberty High School diploma as GVUSD Trustee Mark Toole looks on.

In Memoriam

He lived. He laughed. He loved.



Eric Steven Wingert
June 17, 1980 - June 7, 2012

Eric Steven Wingert was born on June 17, 1980. He was the second child of Steven and Mary Wingert, brother to Mick and Rachael Wingert, and beloved father to Allyson Samantha. He was a treasured grandson, uncle, nephew, cousin and father. Eric graduated from Sierra High School in 1998 and worked as a restoration technician. He was an avid outdoorsman, a loyal friend and everyone who knew him enjoyed his contagious cheerful attitude. Eric's trademark smirk brought a smile to even the grumpiest of faces. He was always the first to lend a hand to a friend in need; to jump in the pool and play with the kids; or to raise a glass with family and friends in celebration. In his short 32 years, he played a significant role in many lives. Eric made countless friends of the closest kind. He loved well and was well loved. He will always be missed.

"When someone you love becomes a memory that memory becomes a treasure."

Sheriff Accepts Sizable Donation From Oakhurst Veterans Group

For a second time in two years, the VFW 8743 has made a sizable donation to the Madera County Sheriff's much beloved program, Operation Lost & Found. The group donated \$2,000 to the Sheriff's Office following Sheriff John Anderson's presentation to members of the VFW and Marine Corps League – Griswold Mountain Detachment – in Oakhurst. Sheriff Anderson accepted the check from the VFW on Tuesday, June 19 at the Oakhurst substation located off Highway 49.

The meeting to update those who attended was organized by Michael Perreira who is a member of the Marine Corp league and also volunteers for Madera County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team. Perreira

is also the Team Leader of OLF (Operation Lost & Found) who, along with 12 volunteer technicians, are custodians to a number of clients currently enrolled in the program.

Operation Lost & Found was launched in the spring of 2004 following a seven-month long search for a woman with Alzheimer's disease, who vanished from her home in 2003.

When Sheriff Anderson launched the program, which uses state-of-the-art radio transmitters to locate people who are at risk of wandering away, he knew at that time it would be an uphill battle to find clients. It wasn't because there weren't people in

Please see **SHERIFF** on P. 19

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6/12

www.theRanchos.com

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6/12



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WANT A VINTAGE V-TWIN?



How about for 5 bucks?

6/12



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is having a drawing for a vintage Suzuki 800 Intruder V-Twin, donated by SEMCU. Drawing tickets are only \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20. You saw the bike on Flatlander's Day and now you may buy as many tickets as you like. They are available at the Chamber office. Call 645-4001 for more information and good luck!

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

you when you plan on drinking. You don't bring your children to adult events. As an adult, you are free to participate in such things as drunkenness, but as a parent, shouldn't you want to shield your child from that? Needless to say, parents of the year never got past the door and my friend is still holding a grudge.

When I tried to explain my thoughts to her the next day, she still didn't see the issue. And the following weekend she brought her child to that same couple's house for a party, where the adults were so

intoxicated that a massive fight broke out and the police were called. And of course, I'm the jerk that asks the blunt question, where was your kid? Oh, not to worry, he was "safe" inside being watched by someone's 10 year old. That is a pretty liberal use of the word safe, in my opinion.

What happened to society? What happened to parenting? Never once would my parents even contemplate dragging me to an event

that was unsuitable for children. An afternoon backyard barbecue to celebrate an Uncle's birthday, fine, but a house party with loud music and hard alcohol flowing into the wee hours of the night is not an appropriate place for children and it is just appalling that anyone, any adult, any parent would need to be reminded of that. Parenting is the

toughest job in the world. It is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year job.

And unfortunately, you don't get to just take a vacation from it, because even if someone else is manning the brood, you are still on call.

It is called responsibility;

your children's wellbeing is far more important than your need for a break, for fun, for stress relief. So if you can't find a babysitter, then you don't get to go. This is what you signed up for, this is what being a parent means. No one asked you to become a parent, no one asked you to take on that responsibility, you made that choice. So own up to it, stop being selfish, and put your children's welfare at the top of your list.

Parenting is the toughest job in the world. It is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year job. And unfortunately, you don't get to just take a vacation from it, because even if someone else is manning the brood, you are still on call.

Letters

Dear Editor:

I would like to apologize for my disparaging remarks about Madera in my May article for the Ranchos Independent. The tone of the article was supposed to be humorous, but I believe I crossed a line. For that, I am truly sorry.

Garin Gonzales
Manager, Ranchos Library

Dear Editor:

First of all, keep up the good work! I always enjoy reading your paper.

Some time ago you ran an article about the marijuana sales outlet (sic dispensary) on Highway 41 between Avenue 14 1/2 and Avenue 15.

I read about the yellow happy face that they have on the fence when they are open, but for a long period of time they were there infrequently. However, since Fresno and other counties south of Madera shut down such places, it seems that this place in our own backyard is now open daily with a flag as well as huge "happy face" in the window facing the highway.

What is wrong with our county officials that they do not do the same as Fresno and shut this place down? Do the other businesses as well as the residents in the subdivision behind them realize what is being sold here and that it is a violation of federal law which does supersede, I believe, the foolish California state law.

Please run more articles on this and help push our Board of Supervisors to take

action.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Les Persicke'
Madera Ranchos

Editor's Note: I have put a call into Michael Keitz, Madera County's District Attorney, about this very issue and he responded quite quickly. Unfortunately, we have been playing phone tag since the initial contact. At press time I still hadn't had a chance to talk to him about our Happy Face Group, but he at least now has a rudimentary feel for how some of us in the Ranchos feel about them and what they're doing. As soon as I get some one-on-one time with our D.A. I will report our meeting in the Ranchos Independent.

Editor

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

Send your letters to:

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

SHERIFF cont. from P. 18

need, he remembers, it was due to strict HIPPA laws, designed to protect individuals' privacy about health issues. "In order for us to find them, they have to contact us first," Anderson said.

In an effort to reach out to his community, Sheriff Anderson donated countless hours, making a number of public appearances, and giving presentations to civic groups.

Word quickly spread about this unique program and soon the list of clients began growing.

Now in its eighth year, Operation Lost & Found maintains a steady list of clients of all ages – not just catering to those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or Dementia, but residents who suffer from any form of brain injury due to an accident, sickness or acquired at birth.

In its eight years of operation, Operations Lost & Found has serviced as many as 91 clients. Currently, volunteers are working with 23.

"With Operation Lost & Found, we are providing a vital service to men and women in their 80s as well as to families with children as young as age 4," said Anderson.

Should a client go missing, the Madera County Sheriff's Office has the technological ability to track that person by both ground and air. What used to take days, even months, to locate someone, can now take our volunteers less than an hour.

Operation Lost and Found functions entirely on donations from the community.

For more information, citizens who live in Madera County can contact either Sergeant Jim Bernardi, Search & Rescue Coordinator at 559-642-3201, or Erica Stuart, Public Information Officer at 559- 675-7976.

Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County
COMMUNITY CALENDAR
BROUGHT TO YOU BY SEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Through Aug 17	Friday Night @ the Movies (at Maywood Center) MOVIES Date Movie June 22 Invincible June 29 The Adventures of Tintin July 6 Captain America: The First Avenger July 13 Dolphin Tale July 20 Batman Begins July 27 Zookeeper August TBD	SEMCU
Jun 29 - Jul 4	Fireworks Stand/Maywood Center	Chamber of Commerce
Aug 18	Fireman's BBQ Dinner	Station 19
Sep 8	SEMCU Swap Meet	SEMCU
Oct 6	October Feast	SEMCU
Dec 7	Christmas Tree Lighting	Chamber of Commerce Chamber of Commerce

To add items to the Community Calendar contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or SEMCU at 363-9095. Items must be submitted AT LEAST one month in advance and are subject to editing.

STOCK cont. from P. 7

got to our hotel and a good bed for the night.

Day 4 and our bags were out for another quick breakfast and we were on our way to the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort Hotel. This is a beautiful hotel complex on a pretty Atlantic Ocean beach front. We had time to rest before we got ready for a night on the town. Dinner was at Benjamin's Seafood Restaurant. There was a wonderful selection of seafood and other southern foods. Then it was on to the "Carolina Opry" which was a surprise because it had a 1960s sound and light show. The music and dancing were fun to watch. I would have liked to stay there another day but we had places to go yet.

On day 5 it was Mother's Day on the road. Our first stop was at the Brookgreen Gardens which used to be a rice plantation. It was raining and we were outdoors in a museum of majestic oak trees. Then it was on to a ride on a creek excursion boat to see how the plantation used the creek water for their crops in the old days and we saw our first alligators. The rain let up and we had a nice Mother's Day luncheon at the Pavilion Restaurant at Brookgreen Gardens. We were back on the bus and on our way to Charleston, South Carolina.

It was still day 5 when we arrived at Charleston and had a tour of the downtown. We had two nights at the hotel but we still were up early and on the bus to depart for the Magnolia Plantation which was just outside of Charleston.

This is an amazing place.

They are growing alligators and

turtles and other native flora and fauna of this area. This was a working rice plantation before the Civil War with many slaves working the plantation. You can still go to see some of the slave cabins. This plantation is still owned by a private family. We left the plantation to go back to the city of Charleston and we had time to rest before we were back on the bus to catch a dinner cruise boat. We were on the Excursion Spirit of Carolina boat for a trip around the bay. Dinner was excellent as it was raining, but the lights of the city were pretty.

We left Charleston Carolina on day 7 for the small coastal town of Beaufort, South Carolina. When we got to Beaufort there was a horse-drawn carriage waiting for us. The horse and driver were quite a team.

The driver took us through streets of old southern houses with oak trees dripping with Spanish moss. We had time for lunch after our ride then it was back on the bus for the ride to Savannah, Georgia. From Savannah the state of Georgia goes all the way to the top of Florida. As we approached Savannah we crossed a beautiful bridge that was South Carolina on one side and the state of Georgia with Savannah on the other. Since Savannah wasn't burned down during the Civil War like Atlanta and other Georgia towns, it still has

some Civil War-era buildings that have been restored.

After we got our hotel room we went on a Savannah Trolley tour of the city. This city was laid out in squares with a park in each square. That night we went to a theatre where we saw a show called "The Beat Goes On." It was a sing along with the music from the 60s, 70s, and 80's.

On day 8 we were on our own and my roommate and I had lunch at the Goose Feathers Restaurant, the home of the original Whoopie Pie. Our last evening was spent with a buffet at Paula Dean's Lady and Son's restaurant. I was a little disappointed; I am not sure what I expected.

Day 9 and we were on the bus traveling to a

string of islands off the coast of Savannah called the Golden Isles. We crossed a bridge to the island of St. Simons for lunch. My roommate found a cute little restaurant called "The 4th of May." Since this was my mother's birthday, we ate there. The lady who owned the restaurant sat at our table and talked about the island and the wild blackberries that grew there. We had to have the wild blackberry cobbler.

Back on the bus we crossed another bridge to Jekyll Island. This island has an interesting history.

The sky was getting dark so our tour around a group of millionaires' summer homes and beautiful club house was quick, however we were shown inside one of the houses.

It started to thunder and lightning so we made a run for our hotel. We made it just as the rain started pouring down. Fifty millionaires, mostly from New York, bought Jekyll Island in 1888 and owned the island until 1942 when the state of Georgia bought the island for use as a resort from the corporation that the millionaires had established. People still live on the island and have just built a new convention center that opened May 20, 2012. Fifty of the most powerful American financiers bought Jekyll Island as a hideaway for themselves and their families where they could relax and play in undisturbed isolation. The Thomas Carnegie family, the J.P. Morgan family, the William Rockefeller family, the Marshall Fields family, the William Vanderbilt family and the Joseph Pulitzer family were just a few that built summer homes there. Friday morning we had to leave this interesting island.

It was now day 10 and our trip was coming to a close. We were on the road again with our first stop at Macon, Georgia for lunch and a tour of the historic Hay House and the Cannonball House. We drove 320 miles that day to get back to Atlanta and to our same hotel from where we started our trip 10 days ago. We woke up to a trip to the airport and a long airplane ride across America. Many good memories and a good flight home brought our Ranchos/Hills Seniors home. We were tired but happy after another good Senior trip.

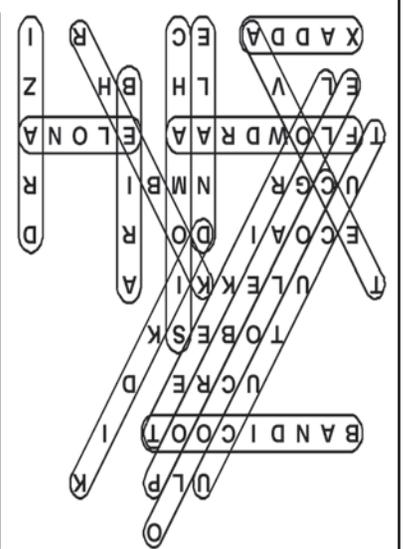
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ANSWERS

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ORGANIZED BY CHOICE

By Brenda McElroy

Got Rhythm? Part II

When's the last time you didn't put the milk away after you used it, or decided you were too busy to stop and get gas when your indicator was on empty? I'm guessing that doesn't happen much. In the last issue we talked about our rhythm of life and how some things we do as if on auto pilot.

Other things, even important things,

seem to rarely happen even with the best intentions i.e. exercising, family dinners, getting to work on time. So how do we incorporate new routines that will help us reap benefits and avoid pitfalls?

First choose a routine that aligns with your top life values and has clearly defined benefits. Record it on paper. Picture yourself successfully incorporating that into the rhythm of your life. Record the feeling of success and the natural consequence of not doing it.

Chances are you already have an idea of a routine you need to start in mind, but if not, consider a stressful area of your life—maybe it's getting out the door in the morning, fitness related, a lack of communication in the family, or feeling overwhelmed with paper clutter. Your stress can be reduced in each of these situations by introducing helpful routines.

Now get specific. What steps are required to establish this new routine? Give yourself no more than three clearly defined steps that you can begin this week. If morn-

ing chaos is your demise your steps might be:

1. Set my alarm 15 minutes earlier and get up when it comes on.
2. Decide what to wear, pull it out, and make sure it's ready to wear the night before.
3. Put everything I need to take with me by the door the night before.

Set yourself up for success by tweaking your environment. In this scenario, you might need to place your alarm clock across the room so you have to get up to turn it off. Organize your work clothes so that they're grouped together in your closet and you can easily see what you have to choose from. Designate a bag or container to store things that need to go with you, or be used to transport those things in your car.

In their book *Organizing for the Creative Person*, Dorothy Lehmkuhl & Delores Cotter Lamping say, "Deciding what NOT to do is almost as important as deciding what to do." Add to your plan a couple things you won't do – like taking time to check email

or Facebook before work, or taking a call when you know it will make you late.

Recognize ahead of time that you won't always succeed in maintaining your new routine. You'll get toothpaste on your tie and have to change at the last minute, or have a sick child to deal with in the morning. Choose now to not let those setbacks stop you from persevering.

Whether it's getting to work on time, or any other new habit/routine you want to develop, set yourself up for success by defining the commitment, steps, environment, and perseverance required to do so. And then, like Nike says, "Just Do It!"

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

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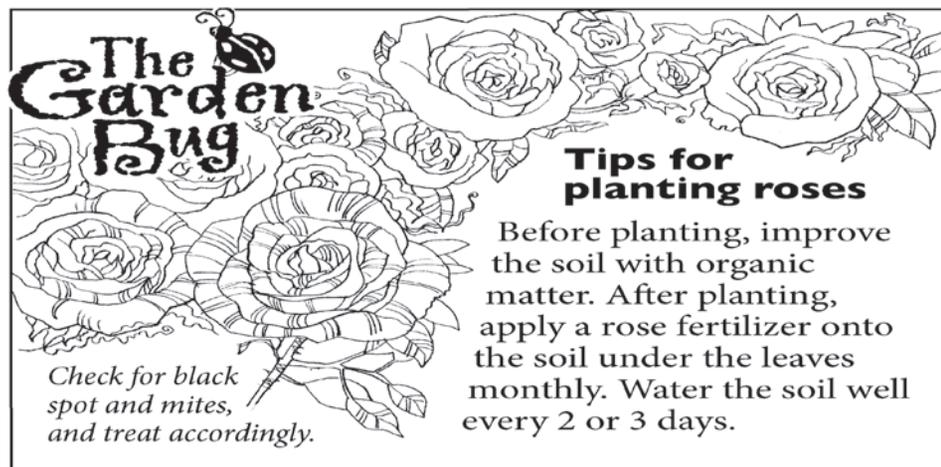
GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

	÷		+		17
+		×		÷	
	+		+		15
÷		+		+	
	×		-		13
5		12		10	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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The Garden Bug

Tips for planting roses

Before planting, improve the soil with organic matter. After planting, apply a rose fertilizer onto the soil under the leaves monthly. Water the soil well every 2 or 3 days.

Check for black spot and mites, and treat accordingly.

top ten

Father's Day Gifts

1. Yard service
2. Sports tickets
3. Meat
4. Driving gloves
5. Wine
6. Leather wallet
7. Golf club set
8. Fishing gear
9. Alcohol
10. Grilling tools

Source: AskMen.com

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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Real Estate

Who's got 1980's prices?



6/12

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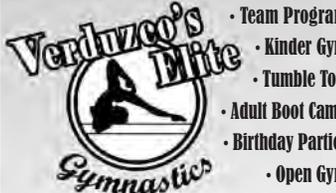
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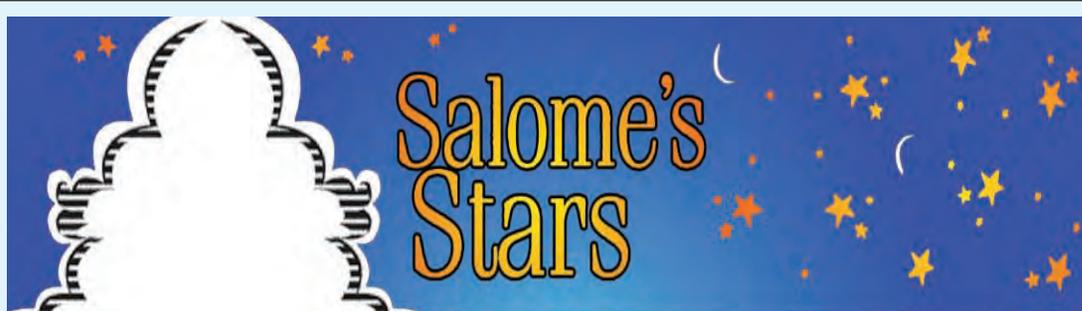
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Recently obtained information could open a new opportunity for a career change. But temper that Arian impatience and act on it only when all the facts are made available.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're moving into a more active cycle. So put your ideas back on the table, where they'll be given the attention they deserve. Expect a favorable change in your love life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A friend might ask for a favor that you feel would compromise your values. Best advice: Confront him or her and explain why you must say no. A true friend will understand.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A relationship continues to develop along positive lines. Meanwhile, a brewing job situation could create complications for one of your pet projects. Look into it right away.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your interest in a co-worker's project could lead to a profitable experience for you both. But before you agree to anything, be sure to get all your legal I's dotted and T's crossed.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be careful whose counsel you take about a possible long-distance move. Some advice might not necessarily be in your best interest. Stay focused on your goals.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone might try to complicate efforts in an attempt to work out that confusing job situation. But don't let that keep you from sticking with your decision to push for a resolution.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A disagreement on how to handle a family problem could create more trouble for all concerned. Look for ways to cool things down before they boil over.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected change in long-standing workplace procedure and policy could provide a new career target for the Archer to aim at. Start making inquires.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're finally able to get back into the swing of things, as those temporary doldrums begin to lift. Expect some surprising disclosures from a new colleague.

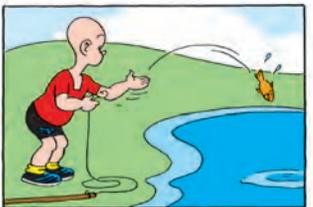
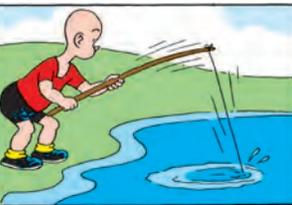
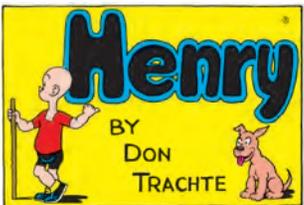
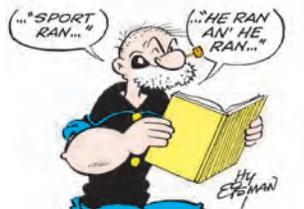
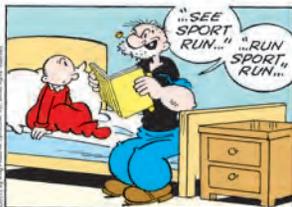
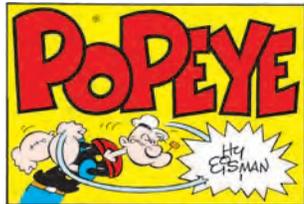
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Rely on your innate sense of justice to see you through a dilemma involving a family member. Other relatives who've stood back will soon come forward as well.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new friend seems to be pushing you into taking risks -- financial or otherwise. Best advice: Don't do it. She or he might have a hidden agenda that hasn't surfaced yet.

Born this Week

You love to see new places and meet new people. Have you considered working for an airline or cruise-ship company?

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

PUZZLE PIC-
FIND THE PASSENGER WHO INSISTED ON A WINDOW SEAT--THE BETTER TO VIEW THE SCENERY, RIGHT? PS. HE HAS THE CURTAIN DOWN THE WHOLE SIX-HOUR FLIGHT--



SIGN OF THE TIMES-- THE COMPUTER WAS DEVISED TO SAVE PAPER--SO-O-O WHAT GOES? PEOPLE SEND JOKES, STORIES, QUIZZES ETC., ETC. AND END UP PRINTING THEM ALL ON--AW-W-W-- YOU GUESSED IT...



WHYZZIT?
DOG EPSOM WILL NOT TAKE YOUR PHONE CALL WHEN HE'S WITH PATIENTS. HE MUST GIVE THEM HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, SEZ HE...



BY AL SCADUTO

Junior Whirl

WELL, VERSED! A one-word answer to this classic charade may be deduced from its descriptive verse and/or letters in the crystal ball at right:

My **FIRST** is won and never lost; reversed 'tis now, take heed, My **NEXT** reversed is red as wine, or yonder rose, indeed, My **WHOLE**'s so wondrous strange that I must candidly confess, Though you're ingenious, it will be, a wonder if you guess. What word am I?

(JAP '1000) BEGONOM DRAW AND BY JANSWAY

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

PLUS & MINUS BRAINTEASE

TRY this problem in simple arithmetic. You are asked to:

Rearrange positions of numbers 1-9 so that a three-digit amount in the 600's at top will equal three times the amount in the middle, and top row minus middle will result in amount at the bottom.

Each of the nine digits is to be used just once.

Remember, top row (in the 600's) is three times middle, and bottom row amount equals top minus middle. Simple?

How quickly can you arrive at answer?
Time limit is two minutes.

HANG OF IT! Find a path from artist, at lower right, to wall display, at upper left. Which route leads to goal?

Wishing Well

4	8	3	6	4	6	8	7	6	2	5	8	5
W	T	L	A	R	N	H	H	E	V	A	I	H
7	4	6	2	3	8	2	6	2	3	5	4	5
A	A	W	A	A	N	L	P	U	S	E	P	A
8	2	8	7	5	4	5	8	2	6	8	2	5
K	E	B	P	V	U	Y	E	Q	R	F	U	W
7	4	7	3	5	8	6	8	6	8	6	2	4
P	P	Y	T	O	O	I	R	Z	E	E	I	L
8	3	5	7	8	3	8	3	2	5	8	4	8
Y	I	R	T	O	N	U	G	E	K	A	O	C
4	8	7	4	2	3	7	2	5	4	5	2	4
O	T	I	S	T	L	M	T	L	E	O	I	E
7	4	2	3	2	4	2	7	3	4	5	3	5
E	N	M	O	E	D	S	S	V	S	A	E	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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SHIP AHOY! Ahoy there mate, what's on the menu? Code: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Purple, 9—Dk. blue, 10—Black, 11—Lavender.

SPELLBINDER

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

INURBANE

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

Positive Images: Ryan, Brian

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was the name of Tonto's horse in the series "The Lone Ranger"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the country of origin for the pop group The Bay City Rollers?
- COMICS: In the "Archie Comics," Archie Andrews has a hard time choosing between two young ladies. What are their names?
- INVENTIONS: What did Leonard A. Fish and Robert P. Cox patent in 1972 that was described as a "foamable resinous composition" that was propelled from a can?
- LITERATURE: What futuristic novel's first line reads, "It was a pleasure to burn"?
- MUSIC: What kind of instrument does musician Chuck Mangione play?
- MOVIES: What was Ron's patronus in the "Harry Potter" movie series?
- FOOD & DRINK: Farfalle is a type of what food?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands?
- HISTORY: What was the code name of Hitler's planned invasion of England?

Answers

- Scout
- Scotland
- Betty and Veronica
- Silly String
- "Fahrenheit 451"
- Flugelhorn
- A Jack Russell terrier
- Pasta
- Mau!
- Operation Sea Lion

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

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

Aardwolf	Bandicoot	Dik-dik	Porbeagle
Addax	Beira	Eland	Rhebok
Anole	Chamois	Izard	Tucu-tucu
Avocet	Colocolo	Lorikeet	

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by Jeff Pickering



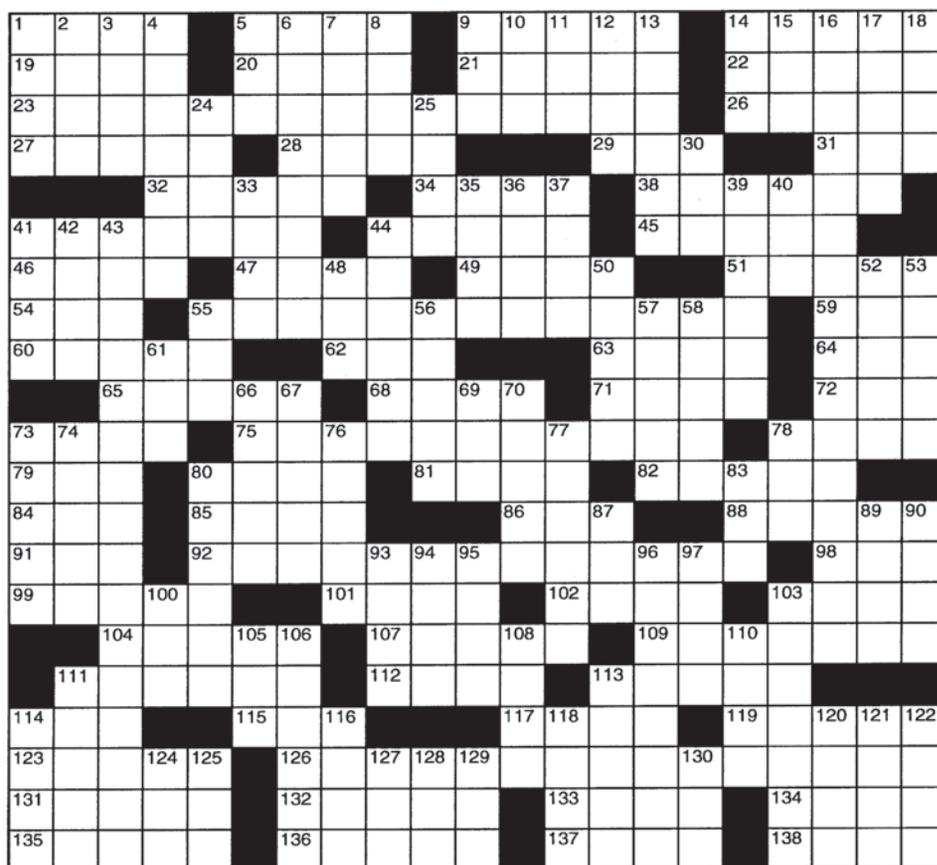
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are, at least, six differences in drawing details between panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with...

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bert of "Rose Marie"
 - 5 Decorate glass
 - 9 Tight
 - 14 Oven feature
 - 19 Hodge-podge
 - 20 "Star Trek" navigator
 - 21 Really big star?
 - 22 Florida city
 - 23 Legendary drummer?
 - 26 Boxer Roberto
 - 27 Alpha opposite
 - 28 Use the microwave
 - 29 — Pan Alley
 - 31 Cable channel
 - 32 Vote in
 - 34 Use a dagger
 - 38 Shadowy site?
 - 41 "La Traviata" tenor
 - 44 Musty
 - 45 Family car
 - 46 Dutch painter
 - 47 Spine start
 - 49 Fountain order
 - 51 Shoe measurement
 - 54 "Xanadu" rockers
 - 55 Revolution-ary War hero?
 - 59 Nest egg
 - 60 Madame Curie
 - 62 Gelid
 - 63 Rock's — Maiden
 - 64 Word form for "center"
 - 65 Wrapped up
 - 68 Gymnast Korbut
 - 71 Overdo a tan
 - 72 Caravansary
 - 73 Safe place?
 - 75 Syndicated film critic?
 - 78 Tizzy
 - 79 Circle section
 - 80 Paella ingredient
 - 81 Wordy Webster
 - 82 Actor Reeves
 - 84 Sprawl on the sofa
 - 85 Computer image
 - 86 "Winter of Artifice" author
 - 88 Terra —
 - 91 Aspin or Paul
 - 92 "It's Too Late" singer?
 - 98 Letters of credit?
 - 99 Move through mud
 - 101 Part of NB contraction
 - 103 A real Swede guy
 - 104 Nick of "Cannery Row"
 - 107 "The — Man" ('72 song)
 - 109 Most laconic
 - 111 Vietnam's — Van Thieu
 - 112 Painter Paul
 - 113 Baker's appliance
 - 114 Taradiddle
 - 115 Fall behind
 - 117 Coup d'—
 - 119 Gary of "The Buddy Holly Story"
 - 123 City on the Mohawk
 - 126 "I Dream of Jeannie" star?
 - 131 Flynn of films
 - 132 Psychedelic Timothy
 - 133 Poorly
 - 134 Sundance's sweetie
 - 135 Stick
 - 136 Violinist Mischa
 - 137 — majesty
 - 138 Groucho's gaze
 - 3 Lie low
 - 4 Hammerstein's partner
 - 5 Seer's gift
 - 6 Arnold or Brutus
 - 7 Influence
 - 8 Clean your ears?
 - 9 Alphabet sequence
 - 10 "Ben- —"
 - 11 Funnyman Phillips
 - 12 Be adjacent to
 - 13 Pocket flowers?
 - 14 Director Browning
 - 15 Hosp. area
 - 16 "Captain Ron" star?
 - 17 Serengeti springer
 - 18 Be bombastic
 - 24 81 Across' alma mater
 - 25 Gnat or brat
 - 30 Comic Louis
 - 33 — St. Vincent
 - 35 Rpm indicator
 - 36 South African plant
 - 37 Composer Bartok
 - 39 "The Perfect Fool" comic
 - 40 Chou En- —
 - 41 "Excuse me"
 - 42 Tra- —
 - 43 Famous nurse?
 - 44 Manatee or dugong
 - 48 Sweater letter
 - 50 Cover story?
 - 52 Singer Lopez
 - 53 Common contraction
 - 55 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
 - 56 Synthetic fabric
 - 57 Jack's place
 - 58 Mob
 - 61 Squid's squirt
 - 66 Author Jong
 - 67 Furnishings
 - 69 Moo — gai
 - 70 Hersey town
 - 73 "Great — of Fire" ('58 hit)
 - 74 Sharon of Israel
 - 76 Vacuum-tube gas
 - 77 Say neigh
 - 78 — -Cat (winter wheels)
 - 80 In full measure
 - 83 Rhine whine
 - 87 Angus' uh-uh
 - 89 Stocking stuffers?
 - 90 Cousin's mom
 - 93 Canal feature
 - 94 And more of the same
 - 95 Lion's pride
 - 96 Solo performances
 - 97 Essence
 - 100 Old French coin
 - 103 Potsdam pastry
 - 105 — Aviv
 - 106 Make feasible
 - 108 Graceful ruminant
 - 110 Melodious McEntire
 - 111 Safe-cracker's tool
 - 113 Syrup source
 - 114 Feed a fire pan
 - 116 Celt
 - 118 Sheep's shaker
 - 120 Location
 - 121 Punta del —
 - 122 1492 or 1776
 - 124 Machine part
 - 125 Kensington quaff
 - 127 Pound a portcullis
 - 128 Undergarment
 - 129 Writer Rand
 - 130 Deli loaf

FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

Family Movie Night

The return of **Community Family Movie Nights** is here!
Every Friday night through August 17 SEMCU is sponsoring
FREE family movies at the Maywood Center
beginning at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available
courtesy of student clubs from Liberty High School. **Bring your lawn
chairs or a blanket to spread out on the ground** and be a part of a
great tradition that has returned to the Ranchos.



**FOR ALL OF THE GOOD
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO
CONTINUE**

**WE DESPERATELY NEED
PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS**

SEM CU REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org