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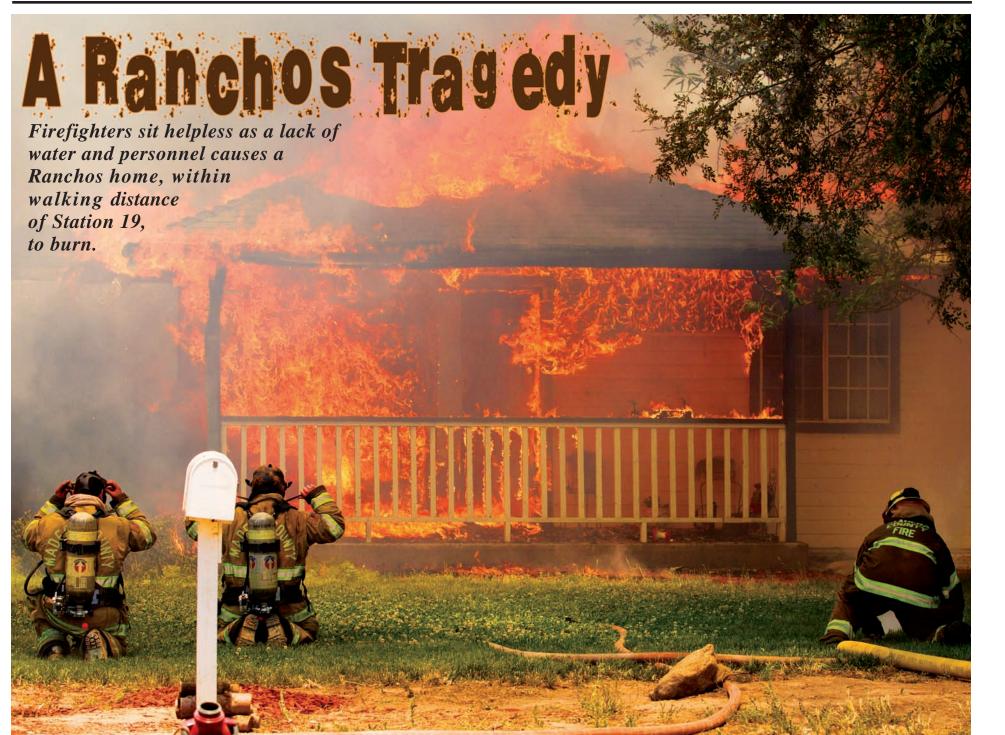


Photo courtesy of Jim Quaschnick

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How a home down the street from the Ranchos' Station 19 burned and couldn't be saved in time and what, if anything, is being done about it.

By Karen Petryna with Randy Bailey

Friends and neighbors of the Ranchos have been asking how a house at 34921 Bonadelle Avenue could have burned down in the middle of the day on June 9, especially with Fire Station 19 located just six lots down the street. Station 19 is equipped with fire engines, a "water tender," and a support unit, among other equipment — a good deal of which has been bought and paid for by generous donations of Ranchos residents and others – yet it sat unused.

The next day, the Madera Tribune ran an article entitled, "Volunteers Blame Cal Fire, County for Fire Response." The story was written by DJ Becker and former Paid Call Firefighter (PCF)/volunteer Anthony LaNotte spoke to the Madera Tribune for the article. This led CAL FIRE Division Chief Don Stein to report to the Madera County Board of Supervisors the following day to address not only the article's provocative title but also several raised points. Recently retired PCF/volunteer Captain Chuck Hoover, who volunteered at Station 19 for 36 years, spoke to the Ranchos Independent about the fire, the Tribune article and the state of Madera County's firefighting capabilities.

The title, "Volunteers Blame Cal Fire, County for Fire Response," did not come out quite right, Hoover said. He spoke to both LaNotte and Becker after the article came out and said LaNotte was just "fired up" when he spoke to Becker, never intending to blame the career firefighters of CAL FIRE for the tragedy. And, Hoover said, LaNotte and Becker got their signals crossed in a section of the story about the PCF/volunteers paying for their own equipment. Hoover said the County pays for their uniforms and all the equipment and training instruction that have not been donated.

The Source of the Problem

"It's not a CAL FIRE or PCF or Ranchos problem," Hoover said, "but rather a long-time County problem." Annual Ranchos fund raisers have paid for all kinds of specialized training and equipment including a \$45,000 training facility at Station 19 and two \$10,000 thermal imaging cameras — one for Station 19 and



a second for sister Station 9 in Rolling Hills. A grant from the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indian Tribe also paid for a \$95,000 support unit, essentially a "catering truck" containing food, water and a bathroom for the use of firefighters, sheriffs, CHP officers and others who respond to extended emergency operations in Madera County. It is normally housed at Station 19 and was also brought to the battle waged at 34921 Bonadelle.

"Despite the increases in population and structures, Madera County is only now back up to 1977 standards, in terms of career firefighters."

-- Chuck Hoover

Fire Breaks Out

After the 911 call at 12:28 p.m., CAL FIRE Engineer Rigo Ramirez was first on scene within three minutes, before the "structure fire dispatch call" was even complete. Using water from the 500-gallon tank on his engine, he immediately began fighting the fire and was quickly joined by two PCF/volunteers who, together, almost got the fire contained to the area of the garage.

But then, they ran out of water.

Unfortunately, neither PCF/volunteer was additionally qualified to operate the heavy, cumbersome water tender sitting idly at the station, mere walking distance from the fire. Having not heard a response on the radio for the dispatched water tender truck driver, Ramirez requested another even as he battled the fire.

Fire Gets Upper Hand A second fire engine arrived less than five minutes later but by then the fire had flared up and spread through the attic of the home and firefighters were required to mount a defensive attack. CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Matt Watson arrived on the scene at about the same time as a third fire engine and ordered two additional engines and two additional water tenders from other stations, reportedly as far away as Bass Lake. The firefighters once again started making progress on the fire until they were thwarted by power lines running from the power pole to the house that started arcing, thereby limiting access to one corner of the house. Watson said PG&E quickly arrived on scene and disconnected the power line to allow firefighters to re-attack the fire.

At that point, with enough personnel and water, firefighters were once again able to take the offensive and managed to save a portion of the second floor and a larger portion of the first floor. "There were a total of five engines, five water tenders and 14 personnel on scene to finally bring the fire under control," Watson said. So, while residents escaped safely, without sufficient water at critical points during the short-lived campaign the combined career and volunteer firefighters, working together, were not able to beat back the fire adequately to save a significant portion of the home.

Actions have Consequences

Hoover, who was in contact with support truck personnel on scene during

Please see FIRE on P. 3

New Role for 41: Airport?

A man piloting a small plane made an emergency landing shortly before 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 8. The landing area he chose was Highway 41 just north of Avenue 12.

The pilot, whose name was not released, walked away from the incident unharmed. He was heading north to Reno from Carlsbad, near San Diego, over Madera County when he suddenly smelled fuel. Realizing he was losing fuel, the pilot turned his plane south, looking for a place to land. The pilot spotted a path alongside the pistachio orchards north of Avenue 12 and skidded and crashed through the orchard's barbed wire fence, successfully landed the airplane and coming to rest with one of the wings just three inches from the white line on the side of the road. No one was injured but traffic on Highway 41 was backed up for over two hours as emergency crews eventually successfully were able to load the plane onto a tow truck.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident.



Now that's a landing. With his plane in trouble, a Southern California pilot safely brought it down within three inches of the traffic lane on Highway 41.

SoccerFest Returns Professional Soccer Coaches Teaching Ranchos Youth

Soccer, or futbol, is by and large the most popular sport in the world, and with the FIFA World Cup underway in Brazil, Madera County is no exception. Anyone can play the sport and it can be played anywhere, all you need is a round ball, an open space and the desire to compete. The rest can come later.

With the wellbeing of our local youth in mind, SEMCU Foundation and other partners have arranged for the coaches of the Major League Soccer team Chivas USA to come to Madera on an annual basis since

Please see SOCCER on P. 7

FIRE cont. from P. 2

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the fire, said that Madera County and CAL FIRE Risk Management made the decision one or two years ago that volunteers that were only qualified to drive water tenders but not fight fires were too big a risk. That decision caused the loss of two volunteers and that was what bothered LaNotte, Hoover said. Currently, water tender drivers need to have two years of experience and an additional 100+ hours of training. So both water AND qualified personnel were in short supply at the most critical juncture of the fire. Yet the problem remains.

CAL FIRE has instituted a new policy requiring new stations to be manned by two firefighters at all times, but only one of the six staffed stations in Madera County currently meets that requirement, leaving the others manned by only one individual, 24/7. To this point the County has not allocated the funds for additional staffing and so firefighting efforts still rely heavily on volunteers. Station 19 CAL FIRE Captain Vance Killion said a long time ago volunteer firefighters lived and worked nearby, but such is no longer the case. Today, most volunteers work full-time jobs in Fresno and elsewhere and cannot get to a fire in Madera County in a few minutes during the workday.

Volunteerism in Decline Disagreeing with the Tribune article that talked about the younger generation not wanting to volunteer, Battalion Chief Watson said lack of firefighting volunteerism goes much deeper, starting in the days after WWII. However, Watson said, "In the last year the Madera County Board of Supervisors have been supportive of the Fire Department and have approved procedural changes introduced by Fire Chief Kerperich and Division Chief Stein ... that have resulted in 30 new PCF/vol-

Please see FIRE on P. 11





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Page 4 Letters

Dear Editor: Hello, my name is Shawn Rey Williams, Jr. I am 15 years old and have just completed my sophomore year at Liberty where I was one of two sophomores that made the Varsity Baseball team. I had set a goal last summer to make the Varsity team and

with hard work and determination, I did just that. I began playing baseball at the age of four. I struggled with this complicated sport. At such a young age, I didn't really know a lot about it nor did I know how to play. I just showed up, did what I was told and ran around the bases. I began to play baseball not only for entertainment, but because I had a passion for the game. When I played for the Madera Ranchos Youth League, I wasn't the best player, but I sure did put my whole heart into the game. I couldn't have done all of this without my family's support and encouragement. My Dad built my brother and me a baseball diamond in our front yard where he helps us work on our skills. Baseball continues to be a great experience and my passion.

My parents and I were approached by Michael Mazzoni, Liberty's Athletic Director, to represent the United States in the 33rd Annual International Boys League Baseball Tournament in Oahu, Hawaii, from August 5-15, 2014. I was chosen for my playing ability as well as my citizenship and moral character. The following countries will participate in the tournament: Australia, Japan, Mexico Verde, Mexico Rojo, Korea, Guam, Singapore and also from the U.S. – San Diego and Hawaii.

Although my family and I are honored that the organization has offered me the opportunity, traveling will be expensive. Therefore, I am respectfully asking for your help in my fundraising efforts to get to Oahu, Hawaii. If you would like to sponsor me, you could drop off your donation to the Ranchos Café or the Pizza Factory. We are also holding a raffle for a 50° Vizio flat screen TV. If you have questions, or need information from me, please contact my mom, Charlotte S. Williams at 559-977-5373.

Shawn Rey Williams, Jr. Madera Ranchos

District Attorney's office. At the time of my retirement I was a Supervising Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Gang and Homicide Units for the Southwest part of the county. Since March of this year I have been employed as a Senior Deputy District Attorney working on certain special circumstance murder cases for Madera County. The comments in the Madera Tribune's May 16th article regarding District Attorney Keitz are completely at odds with the facts as I have observed them. From what I have seen, far from there being a "morale" problem in the office, all of the attorneys I have interacted with, from the bottom to the top, share a collegiate camaraderie and a happy, good-natured disposition that comes from hard work and collective sharing of the burdens and stresses of a difficult and demanding job. This very day I attended the monthly staff meeting where 16 attorneys, including Mr. Keitz, sat around a conference table laughing and joking about some tongue and cheek good natured "atta boys" directed to their fellow colleagues. Yes, it is true that there is a high turnover rate in the Madera District Attorney's office. That is not due, however, to any lack of respect for Michael Keitz, the District Attorney. Rather, the high turnover is attributable to two factors: (1) the fact that the compensation of Madera County Deputy District Attorneys is substantially below that of neighboring counties; and, (2) the fact that Madera Attorneys have an extraordinarily high work load with limited resources as compared to other neighboring District Attorney offices. Those who would criticize Michael Keitz would do well, in truth and in honesty, to consider whether they would do any better in dealing with the same high crime rate and limited resources inherent in the job. From what I have observed, Michael Keitz is a person of high honesty and integrity who is sincerely and wholeheartedly doing his best for the community and who shares and understands the hard times and the good of the Deputy District Attorneys under his employ.

Robert Olson, Senior Deputy District Attorney Madera County District Attorney's Office Fresno

Dear Editor:

Formerly I worked for the Riverside County



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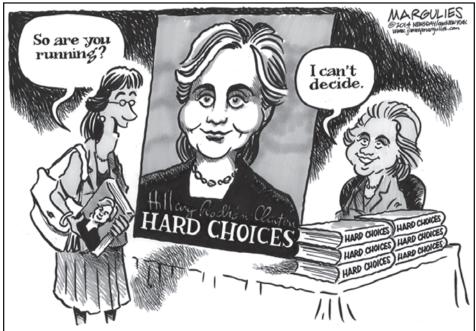
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Editorial

I Told You So ...

By Randy Bailey

So, what'd you do on Tuesday, June 3? Watch some TV? *Storage Wars? The Colbert Report? Celebrity Wife Swap?*

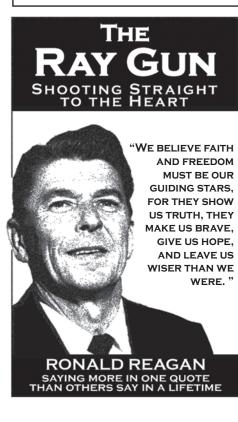
I know none of you did that. "That was election day. I voted! I've still got the sticker!"

Prior to the election, I wrote an editorial about how your vote does count. Now it may not amount to a whole hill of beans in a national election, but my point was in a local election it can come down to just a handful of votes. And that's EXACTLY what happened in this election.

We have primary elections to sort of thin out the herd. Five people running for one office is a little bit of overkill so we like to winnow it down to two candidates. Actually, the way our system is set up, if we have a superdynamic, head-turning, attention-grabbing candidate that in the primary can score 50 percent of the vote -- plus one -- we say, "Good enough. You win," and the contest is over. Ask CeCe Massetti and Frank Bigelow about that. But usually we like to get it down to a good, old-fashioned horse race between the top two.

What I talked about in my previous editorial was that in a local contest, with a limited number of people turning out to vote, every vote counts. Let me tell you a story.

In Madera County there are 52,817 registered voters out of a population of 152, 389 people. Almost three-quarters of that population, or approximately 110,000 people, are over 18 and *could* legally vote, yet only



52,817 bothered to register to do so. So on June 3, how many of those 52,817 people showed up to vote?

19,206.

That's 36.4 percent for you statisticians out there. Out of 150,000 people, 110,00 *could* vote; 53,000 *registered* to vote; 19,000 actually *did* vote. That means less than 13 percent of Madera's population decided what the rest of Madera is going to have to live with for the next four years.

But I digress. Back to the story.

The battle for Supervisor for District 1 was a hard-fought campaign. There appeared to be some frontrunners but it was all just too close to call. Nobody, and I mean *nobody*, was willing to lay it all on the line and announce that "... so-and-so is the clear leader in this race." It all was coming down to personal preference. If you liked Gary Johns, then Gary Johns was the frontrunner. If you liked Mona Diaz then Mona Diaz was the frontrunner, and so on and so on.

On election night, when the last of the 76 precincts had been counted, Mona Diaz was out in front with Gary Johns in second place and Brett Frazier in third. The separation between Gary Johns and Brett Frazier was a whopping five votes.

That's not a typo.

Five votes.

Provisional ballots still had to be counted, as did absentee ballots, but at that moment the difference between staying home and going to the show was five votes.

It wasn't much of a lead but it was enough to assure a spot in the November general election ... until June 17 when Madera County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, Rebecca Martinez, released her certification for the election. The last tally. The final score.

When all the dust had settled, Mona Diaz was still the top vote getter with 950 votes, or 24.4 percent of the vote. Gary Johns, who had gone into the final count with a five vote lead, now had a total of 843 votes for 21.7 percent of the votes. Brett Frazier, third place heading into the final count, now had 853 votes, 10 more than Gary Johns. Frazier's percentage was 21.9 percent, meaning he beat Gary Johns by .2 percent. What do you want to bet there were 11 people out there in the Ranchos who really liked Gary Johns and really thought he would do a great job as a Supervisor and really supported him to everyone they talked to and really were going to go vote for him .. and then *really* stayed home that day?

Your vote doesn't count? Tell Gary Johns that.

Page 6 Walk Away from the Phone ...

Hi, my name is Eryn, and I am addicted to my iPhone. There, I said it. That's the first step, right? Admitting there is a problem? Hang on, I'm getting a call.

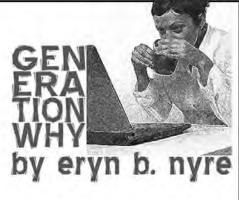
As a teenager I can remember diving for the phone every time it rang. I would mow down anyone who stood in between me and the person calling. The day my parents put a phone in my room was the day I truly saw beauty in the world. Colors were brighter, music was richer and fudgecicles became almost passable as Jell-O pudding pops.

I spent hours upon hours locked away in my room chatting on the phone, barely seeing the light of day. I'm convinced this is what contributed to my inability to tan. I was a teenage recluse, until my parents disconnected my phone and hid it from me. They did this often. But even with all of that, I have plenty of memories of being away from my phone. I didn't feel separation anxiety when I was more than three feet from it. I didn't turn around halfway to my destination just to go back for my phone. I loved it, I cherished it and I'll even admit it often played a starring role in my adolescent dreams, but I wasn't addicted to it. I could stop anytime I wanted. I miss those days.

At this point I might as well just glue my cell phone to my hand because even stepping into another room without it makes me feel like I wandered outside without my pants on. I take it with me everywhere, I never took my old princess phone into the bathroom with me.

The moment I upgraded to a smart phone, oh those many years ago, it was love at first swipe. I knew I would never be the same. A world of knowledge and entertainment at my fingertips. Suddenly I want to know what the most common baby names are ... BOOM! Asked and answered. Didn't have time to watch my favorite show last night ... tap, tap, slide ... it's magically in my phone. How could I not become addicted to this thing? Sometimes when I'm home watching a movie by myself I'm overwhelmed with the desire to learn everything I can about the cast, the writer and how they managed to bring everything to life. Before the final credits roll, I'm engrossed in the web browser on my phone. That's what I call multi-tasking.

I have known about my problem for a while, but it really hit me at a family barbecue. Twenty people in a room and not a one of them interacting with another living person. Music was playing, food was cooking and every human being was zombie status, hypnotized by the displays of their phones. A new level of ridiculousness was reached



when we all started commenting on the same Facebook post, as if we weren't all within inches of each other. It's not just me; this is a pandemic. You can't walk down the street without spotting hordes of people face deep in their smart phone or some other kind of delightfully advanced gadget.

I'll be honest; I don't really want to do anything about it. An entire wealth of information tucked into my back pocket. A phone, a camera, a music player, a computer, a navigation device (just to name a few) all combined into one tiny, lightweight device. "Phenomenal cosmic powers in an itty bitty living space." Spot on, Genie, spot on. Why would anyone give that up?

Life. Life is why you want to give that up.

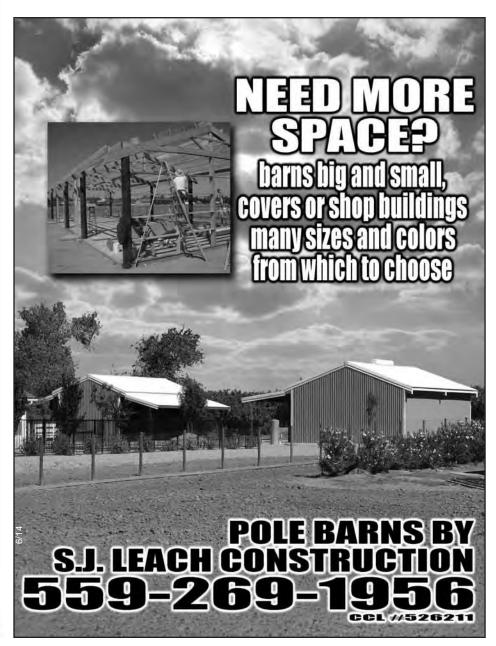
Experience the togetherness of a family gathering in real time, not through pictures and witty comments on social media. Experience a concert by watching the act, and not through the lens of your camera phone. Experience a great piece of television without being distracted by trying to come up with the funniest tweet or the trendiest hashtag. Bottom line: experience life first hand. That's why you give it up ... okay, maybe not give it up, but put it down for extended periods of time ... scary.

I'm surrounded by technology all day. My work is almost exclusively done on computer, my classes are online and as for my writing, I stopped using a typewriter years ago. I can't escape technology, but I can occasionally distance myself from it. The next time I go for a swim, I am going to leave my phone in my apartment. The next time I am out to dinner with my friends, I am going to turn my phone off completely and leave it in my purse. The next time I'm on vacation, I will leave the phone in my hotel room at least once. I know, what if there is an emergency? How did the world deal with emergencies 30 years ago? I'm not saying that I am going to wander around Brooklyn in the middle of the night without my phone, or some sort of large weapon, but I am going to slowly untether myself from Siri.

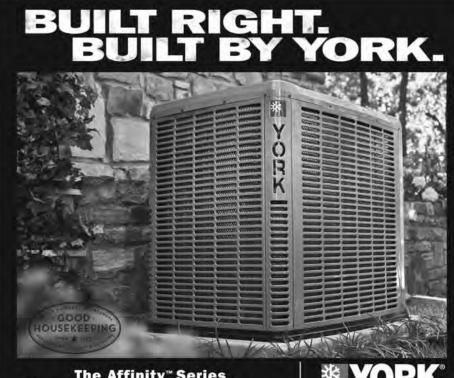
Do you think there's an app for that?



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SOCCER cont. from P. 2

2009 to provide free, age-appropriate instructional clinics to our local youth. The number of participants in attendance has increased each year, with clinics occurring in both the City of Madera and Madera Ranchos through funds received solely from donations within the community. This year, over 2,000 kids will have the chance to participate free of charge in the Madera County Soccer Fest 2014 set to take place July 29 - 31 at locations in the City of Madera and Madera Ranchos. The involvement of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, Madera County EDC, City of Madera Parks and Community Services, Golden Valley Unified School District, Madera Unified School District, Chivas USA, Fresno Fuego Futbol Club, Liberty Ranchos Youth Soccer League, Madera Youth Soccer League, Central Valley Vipers Futbol Club, and others, has created a tremendous opportunity where the entire community is able to participate in an annual festival that will provide our local youth a place to develop confidence, teamwork, discipline, and the benefits of hard work through a positive outlet.

The event will begin Tuesday, July 29 at Liberty High School in the Madera Ranchos. It will then move on to Madera Unified's Memorial Stadium on Wednesday, July 30 and Thursday, July 31. There is also a lunch Q&A session conducted by Chivas USA for our local coaches

Pre-registration for the event is currently

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

Dear Editor:

As the owner of Velvet Touch Car Wash and a 37-year Ranchos resident, I want to point out four important points of water conservation during these drought — ridden times:

1. First, thank you to this wonderful Ranchos community which has supported this business.

2. Velvet Touch Car Wash can be an answer for saving water in the Ranchos and throughout the state. If you wash your vehicle in our self – serve bays, it takes approximately 8 gallons of water. If you wash your vehicle through the tunnel, it uses approximately 46 gallons of water with 60 percent of it being recycled water. If you wash your vehicle in your driveway or parking lot, it underway and space is limited. Parents may pre-register their children for the event online through the City of Madera Parks and Community Services website at goo.gl/Kp1CXJ. Participants may also pre-register at the following physical locations:

Zabe Mortgage Group – 1609 Howard Road, Madera, CA 93637

Clark's Performance – 12271 Topper Road, Madera, CA 93638

City of Madera Parks and Community Services – 701 E. 5th Street, Madera, CA 93638

All youth residing in Madera County are invited to attend this free event that includes up to three days of live soccer, food and drink vendors, games, giveaways such as team-signed balls and jerseys, plus more. There will even be a raffle where up to 400 kids may receive a chance to win a free ticket to attend the Chivas USA vs. San Jose Earthquakes mid-day game (noon) on Sunday, Oct. 26 at StubHub Center in Los Angeles via free charter bus.

More information will be posted on this event as it becomes available at www.facebook.com/MaderaCountySoccer-Fest. Also feel free to contact SEMCU Foundation at 559-363-9095 or City of Madera Parks and Community Services at 559-661-5495 for further details.

This event is a production of SEMCU Foundation, Inc. (South East Madera County United), a California 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization.

takes approximately 64 gallons of water and discharges the oil and soap residue into our ground water.

3. Velvet Touch Car Wash wishes to once again support our community by offering and assisting all groups and organizations to have car washes at our facility. Please see Chet Selmon for details in order to help you and the Ranchos water conservation program.

4. I would like to request that every Ranchos resident support our local businesses to ensure their survival and growth within this great community. Thank you,

Chet Selmon, owner. Velvet Touch Car Wash Madera Ranchos



Be a Zucchini Houdini

Aunt Jean has been hobbling around a little bit lately thanks to a persistant, aching knee. The good news is the doctor thinks it's repairable without surgery and Aunt Jean is relieved about that. She's been pretty busy with doctor visits and such and asked if we could re-run her article from last June about how to be a Zucchini Houdini. Here it is. Get better Aunt Jean.

-- Editor

For those of you that have a summer garden, I imagine the zucchini has just about taken over. Your friends, relatives and neighbors are almost tired of seeing you arrive with a bag of the stuff. So what to do with it?

For one thing, you can freeze them but you must plan on doing it the day they are picked, or no later than the next day. Have everything ready before you start as it should be done as quickly as possible. This can be done with any summer squash.

Begin by washing the squash thoroughly and slicing it the way they will be cooked next winter: length wise into "spears," into rounds or chunks, ,but be sure they are all the same size so they will blanch and freeze in the same time.

Put a large pot of water on to boil. Have a large bowl of ice water ready and a colander ready for draining. Get a slotted spoon, a large cookie sheet and several zip-lock bags.

Add the squash to the boiling water (do NOT salt the water, as that will break down the enzymes and cause the squash to be soggy when thawed). Only leave in the boiling water until they are crunchy "al dente,: about two minutes, but start testing after a minute.

As soon as the squash is blanched, spoon into the ice water, then into the colander. Drain well before storing in the freezer bags. If you have a large freezer, you can put the squash on the cookie sheet (lined with parchment paper makes it easier) and put it in the freezer until all is frozen then put it into freezer bags. This way the squash is frozen individually and you can take out only what you will need rather than using the whole bag when everything is frozen together.

I was looking for different ways to use zucchini than steaming, frying



or baking with Spanish rice. My favorite way is using a nonstick frying pan, put about a teaspoon of butter in the pan and add sliced zucchini and some chopped onion. Put a lid on it and on medium heat only cook until just done. Do not overcook because then you have mush – ugh!

Zucchini Cake

- 2 C. Flour 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¹/₄ tsp. baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 2 C granulated sugar
- 1 C. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. lemon zest (optional)

2 C. grated un-peeled zucchini. Place grated zucchini in sieve to drain out excess moisture before measuring.

1 C. chopped nuts – walnuts or pecans.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ C raisins – either dark or golden.

Preheat oven to 350. Butter a 9x12 or 9x13 pan – set aside.

In mixing bowl, mix together the flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and baking powder, set aside.

With a mixer, beat the 3 eggs on high speed until frothy. Lower the speed and beat in the sugar, vegetable oil, vanilla, and lemon zest (if using). Stir in the flour mixture, about a third at a time. Stir in the zucchini and chopped nuts and raisins.

Pour mixture into baking pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely before frosting.

Frosting

3 ounces cream cheese softened ¹/₄ cup butter, room temperature 1 ¹/₂ to 2 C. powdered sugar

Beat together the cream cheese and butter. Add the powdered sugar and beat until smooth.

I'm going to take my "recipe hat" off now and put on my "nostalgia hat."

When my mom passed away al-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9



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If you have *anything* for sale call:



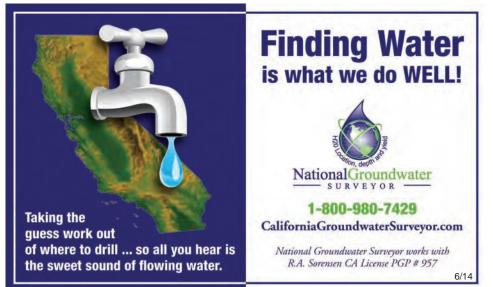
or bparker@lightspeed.net We live in the Ranchos and can come to your place *or* meet you.

THANK YOU

6/14

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

most 25 years ago, she had boxes of genealogy information on all four sides of our family. I took them and started putting them together and added to it with information from cousins in Tennessee, Iowa and Oregon and ended up with three large binders of information, which I have called "Our Story." I've told everyone in the family what I have and that someday I would like to make a book, but due to the lack of funds and knowhow I have put it on the back shelf and "someday" has never come. Recently, one of the boys called me and wanted to know some information about a cousin that was in WWII. It got me to thinking – I have played life's 18 holes and am headed for the clubhouse – and I'm still sitting here with all this information and doing nothing about it, and that is idiotic of my part. So I made a few phone calls, and talked to Randy and with God's help, we are going to put it together. I have funding, and Randy has said he would help lay it out



- after all, that is his business. What I am saying here is please, if you have any background on your family, write it down now, while you still can. Maybe your family won't be interested today, but what if after you have made it to the clubhouse your kids will want to know who Uncle Ralph's second wife was, or where did our family come from? Remember, our ancestors all came from somewhere.

Anyway, in with the papers was a newspaper clipping that I found interesting. I thought you might like to read some of it. It is all about the 40's.

1940: A&P Supermarkets sell the first precut, cellophane wrapped meat. 1940: The first Dairy Oueen

opened in Juliet, Ill.

1942: Americans hoard coffee, leading to a coffee ration of 1 pound every five weeks. Sugar has already been rationed; the weekly allowance is 8 ounces per person. Meat is also rationed.

1942: The Wrigley Co. packs military K-rations that contain canned meat, four cigarettes and compressed graham biscuits,

1943: A Trumanburger, named after Harry S. and made with baked beans, is concocted in the dying days of meat rationing.

1944: Meat rationing, except for steak, ends after D Day.

1945: Earl W. Tupper invents resealable food containers.

1946: Frozen french fried potatoes are introduced.

1947: Reynolds Metals Co. uses surplus aluminum from WWII to make aluminum foil.

1947: Refrigeration and suburban growth are responsible for the creation of supermarkets where all food stuffs can be found under one roof.

1947: Cake mixes from Betty Crocker and Pillsbury make their debut. The first mix is for a single layer ginger cake.

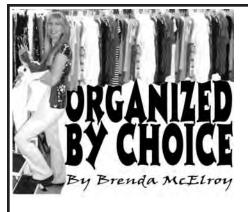
1948: V8 Cocktail Vegetable Juice is introduced by Campbell Soup Co.

1948: The process of condensing and freezing orange juice is developed but the Minute Maid Co. needs help in getting the word out. Investor John Whitney offers a glass of the juice to his golf partner Bing Crosby. Crosby loves it and buys 20,000 shares of the company and hawks the juice on radio and television. Demand for Florida orange juice quadruples.

1949: Sara Lee Cheese Cake is introduced by baker Charles Luken, who names the product for his daughter.



www.The Ranchos.com



Ladies and Gents

I love the "Name-Your-Own-Price" feature on PriceLine.com. When we travel down south, we stay at really nice hotels at Motel 6 prices, or just about. I'm confident the hotel's restroom will be stocked daily with all the soaps, shampoo, conditioner, towels, tissues and toilet paper we need without being cluttered with unneeded supplies. When I enter a "Ladies" room in a public place I expect similar service – at least that there will be adequate toilet and washroom supplies.

For many, the Ladies/Gents room in their home is a different story. The shower floor is strewn with near-empty

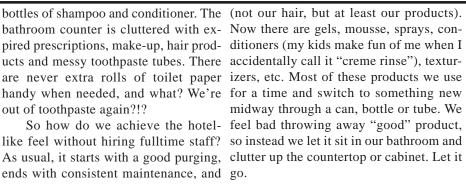
out of toothpaste again?!?

ends with consistent maintenance, and go, is enhanced with some well-chosen organizing tools.

liner at six months, and powders and "just in case" up in a closet, so you're not lipstick at two years. Keep a permanent marker in your bathroom drawer and mark the month/year on each item when opened.

Medications, toothpaste and first aid items are a little easier to purge because they have expiration dates. But they tend to accumulate and stick around longer than you might imagine. So even if you think you don't have expired or no longer used items, be sure to check.

Back in the day when Prell and Breck were the only two hair products on the market, it was easier to manage



Move your hair crimper to your dressup bin so you can pull it out for your next First, the purge. Most make-up ex- 80s party. If you're done with your hot perts will agree on purging mascara at rollers, let them go too. At the very least three months, liquid foundation and eye store the items you rarely use or are saving

taking prime real estate for those things.

Purge your hair accessories — yes, scrunchies can go in the dress-up bin too. Let go of combs and brushes you've replaced but never purged. If feminine products are from a former phase, put a few in your guest bath and pass along the rest. When you come across a pile of old tooth brushes, put two of them with your cleaning products and toss the remaining.

Now you have a manageable amount of supplies that need specific homes. Use drawer dividers to compartmentalize make-up, hair accessories, combs and brushes.

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 17

HANK





I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the residents of District 1 for welcoming me into your homes, sharing your family's concerns and offering your ideas on how to move Madera County forward. This was a hard-fought primary election and I extend my appreciation to all of the candidates for running competitive and spirited campaigns. Working together, I am confident that our community's future is strong and our best days are yet to come.

YOU

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FIRE cont. from P. 3

unteers.

"The current sitting members of the Madera County Board of Supervisors are looking at additional ways to help improve the [Madera County] Fire Department," Watson said. That improvement is in the form of a combination fire department utilizing both career and PCF/volunteer firefighters at both the six staffed stations and eight PCF/volunteer stations in the County.

No Staffing Improvements Since 1977

These efforts come none too soon according to Hoover. In 2008 he reported to the Madera County Board of Supervisors that there had not been improvements to the Fire Department's capabilities since 1977. Due to prisoners suing, the Court required Madera County to build a new jail in 1987 and the Board closed five staffed fire stations in order to pay for it. "It took 20 years for the County to put four career-staffed stations back in service," Hoover said. Despite the increases in population and structures, Madera County is only now back up to 1977 standards, in terms of career firefighters. Hoover said a second career firefighter (stationed on the Valley floor) who is licensed to drive a water tender would be a

big improvement, but he said the ideal situation is, "Three people — two on the engine and one on the water tender." Hoover also said that an engine was more important than a water tender, and that the 4,000 gallon water tender housed at Station 19 is not even a real water tender since it doesn't carry an adequate pump, hose, ladder or breathing apparatus. CAL FIRE Captain Killion agreed. "[The water tender's] task is to supply water, [it's] not [for] fire attack," Killion said, adding that the most important thing to have on hand at a fire is people. Both Hoover and Killion said separately that other elements, such as CAL-OSHA safety requirements mandating that there must be four fighters on scene just to enter a burning building - two to go in together and two to maintain water supply and backup - can create an obstacle.

Ultimately, the responsibility for the fire at 34921 Bonadelle Avenue in the Madera Ranchos on a sunny day in June, that displaced a family and put other neighbors at risk, rests solely on the shoulders of the Madera County Board of Supervisors. They alone have the power to direct where County money is spent and the ability to prioritize that spending for improving County firefighting capabili-

Please see **FIRE** on P. 17



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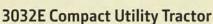


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6/14

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Liberty Hawks Bash at the Beach

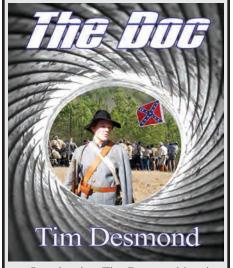


Liberty High School took first place out of 57 teams at the annual Bash at the Beach Lineman Challenge sponsored by Morro Bay High School at Morro Bay over the weekend of June 20 - 21.

Coach Mike Nolte was joined by fellow coaches Chad O'Brion and Randy Melvin as they watched their team of Austin Del Toro (above), CJ Cambra, Trevor Stephens, Hunter O'Brion and German Valdez push, pull and stretch their way to victory. Last year the Hawk team came in 7th but went the extra mile to pull out a decisive victory this year.

The Bash at the Beach Lineman Challenge gives high school football players a chance to work on team building and to give them the opportunity to compete against other schools and other players via a series of "strongman" style events.





Local writer Tim Desmond has just produced his second novel, *The Doc*, published by Black Opal Books.

Desmond, a Madera native who now resides in Fresno, wrote his first novel, *For Thou Art With Me*, a World War II love and war story, in 2006. His latest book, *The Doc*, circulates around California physician Hank Houston whose dying friend, a fellow Civil War re-enactor, asks Houston to find his daughter's killer. His snooping ultimately uncovers a murder squad being run by the Department of Homeland Security.

The Doc is available through Amazon and select booksellers.



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Senior Report Some Catching Up with the Seniors

By Verlaine Elinburg

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors did not have articles for April or May so here's a short version of what happened for both months. We celebrated the success of our Home and Garden Spring Festival on April 5, and most successful was our Garden Area. We thank Mary Thompson, Diane Maxfield and Fred Knorr who accomplished their mission of bringing back a dying section of the Senior Center. Eagle Scouts Henry Coulhard and Garrett Lee obtained their Eagle badges by performing the renovation and up-grading of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' Garden Center. Thanks to all

volunteers: Seniors, Boy Scouts, Sierra Shadows 4-H Club and Liberty High School students who helped with the setup, acted as runners for the garden area and food, and the clean-up at the fect in California on July 1 include: The minimum wage goes to \$9 per hour. Look forward to price increases at all levels and paying more social security and income taxes; Family leave now includes taking care of grandparents, grandchildren, siblings and parent-in-laws; Workers compensation – employee criteria is changing.

Upcoming Events

Celebrating 4th of July. Ice Cream Social & Pot Luck July 3.

July 4 the drawing of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' yearly raffle. Tickets are still available. \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. Contact Joann at 645-4864 or



the clean-up at the *The Madera Ranchos Eagle Scouts admiring their* end of the day; to *completed project atthe Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.* the vendors, busi-

nesses, private entities and the community that contributed their time and donations; and all the Seniors that headed the different departments: Bakery, Breakfast, Lunch, Boutique and Treasure House. Finally, thanks to Phyllis Fasshauer for obtaining donated prizes and Patti Groh for holding it all together.

In May at the Flanders Parade, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors were honored with the First place trophy for 2014. In May we were all listening to the candidates for the June 3 primary elections and voted for our personal choice. Seniors at 37330 Berkshire. The PRIZES: \$200 Gift certificate at Ranchos Market; \$200 Gift Certificate at Hurst Hardware; Rent-A-Bin from Red Rock Environmental Group; and a Camp Chef single burner from Valley Propane.

the Ranchos/Hills

Saturday, July 19 Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries at Macaroni Grill, 7650 N. Blackstone, Fresno. Call 645-4864 and make your reservation.

Saturday, Aug. 16, Fireman's BBQ at Borba Ranch.

Saturday, Sept. 6, Doll & Collectable Show at the Senior Center.

Members are always invited to attend meetings to be informed on what is happening at your "home away from home." Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, contact Joann at 645-4864 and we will get one to you.

The upcoming new laws that go in ef-

Ranchos Lions Look to Help, Grow

Recent events for the Madera Ranchos Lions Club include our very successful Lions Roar fundraiser at Christi's Place and our Student Speaker Contest won by Claire Copher.

We are a small group of Lions, part of Lions International, wanting to help our community by serving you and your needs. Our plan is to reach out to the local school leaders and other local organizations for the purpose of learning what is important to them and our community. We want to contribute our time and talent by lending them a helping hand in order to make good things happen. Our desire is to encourage our youth to perform community service, and to pursue their athletic, artistic and academic talents. We further desire to help our local senior citizens wherever and whenever we can in order to make the Ranchos area a better place for them to live.

Please visit us at the Pizza Factory at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. You will be glad you did. For more information call Paul Cameron at 645-5136 or Annette Watkins at 355-6111. We will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Kiwanis Korner **Kiwanis Strike "Gold" in the Valley**

By Perry Watkins

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

We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding local high school in Liberty High. In fact, our Golden Valley high school has been rated the highest among all Madera County schools for academic achievement. Perhaps more impressive is the fact that Golden Valley Unified School District rated higher on Standard API Achievement on average than all Fresno County schools combined. [Weighted and Non-Weighted 3-year averages, California Department of Education]. According to Learning Director Sarah Marshall, Liberty High School was named one of the Best High Schools in America for 2013. She calls it a jewel of our community. Liberty High also recently achieved a graduation rate exceeding 99 percent. The impact of these achievements cannot be understated. The outstanding performance of our school district has a direct impact on our community, on our children's futures as well as our property values. Thank goodness for those pioneers who worked so diligently and fought so hard to conquer all barriers in order to create our very own Golden Valley Unified School District. It was no simple task. In a few short years our own Golden Valley Unified School District has begun to rival the accomplishments of the revered Clovis Unified School District. The people of Southwest Madera have created a school district and neighborhoods that provide the kind of education and community we can all admire.

These accomplishments are part of the reason the local Kiwanis club so greatly enjoys supporting our schools. Kiwanis supports local schools and programs involving children in a variety of ways. Recently we were among the largest donors for scholarships at Liberty High School. The most difficult thing in that process was narrowing the field to a few of the most deserving candidates. There were so

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many accomplished graduates among those 131 graduates this year. Several Kiwanis members had the honor of presenting five scholarships. Some of those students, including Anthony Hall, received several awards. Also honored were Sarah Smart, Jordan Serpa, Juliet Olsen and Austin Shipley. It has been our great pleasure to work with these and other outstanding young people. Many of them worked with us as in their Junior and Senior vears to serve the community in a variety of community service projects. They not only represented their school as leaders of academic achievement, but also exhibited extraordinary leadership in our community by participation in charity events and other local efforts.

Thanks to Kiwanis members Mona Diaz, John Addington and the leaders and students of Valley Teen Ranch for the recent community cleanup June 14 along Avenue 12. You made a tremendous difference. You are such dedicated energetic and tireless workers. Kudos to you all.

Kiwanis supports so many local agencies such as scouts, sports, youth leadership, fire stations, Children's Hospital, special education, veterans and many others. Amazingly, it is all accomplished by a handful of dedicated people. If you know someone who wants to help our local community, especially local schools and children's programs, then send them our way. The commitment can be quite small, the impact often quite large. If you love our community then we definitely want to hear from you. We meet Thursday evenings at The Pizza Factory.

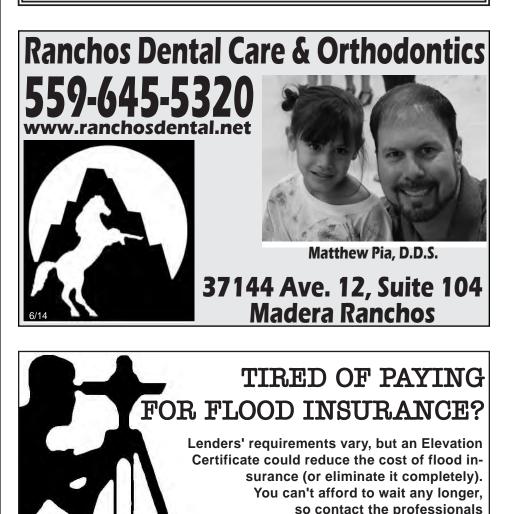
www.ranchoskiwanis.com

Board Members: President: Perry Watkins Marie Cameron

come meet friends! Golden Valley Baptist Church

Mansel Trimble is the pastor at Golden Valley Baptist Church. Come say "hello" to Mansel.

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m. 12414 Road 37 · Madera Ranchos · 559-645-1700 6/14



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FIRE cont. from P. 11

ties. Supervisors must answer the question that if their legislative decisions can result in a home down the block from a Madera County fire station burning down, what are the prospects for everyone else?

A Calling

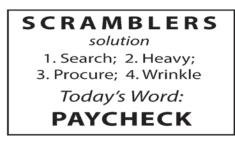
"They did a helluva job and I'm very proud," Hoover said about the battle waged by all the firefighters at 34921 Bonadelle. "Firefighting is not an occupation but a calling."

Hoover said that what volunteers offer is their time. They donate it for their initial 80 hours of Basic Operations Training as well as ongoing training, not to mention the time they devote to actually fighting fires and responding to other emergencies. What's more, despite being

ORGANIZED cont. from P. 10

Consider slide-out drawers, Lazy Susans or open-topped plastic bins for cabinets and under the sink areas. Reserve a spot under the sink for a carrying caddy with the basic bathroom cleaning products.

Keep countertops neat by using a clear caddy for makeup, nail supplies and other frequently used items. Store them



called Paid Call Firefighters, they still have to donate their vehicles (and gas) to get them to the calls. Vehicle Driver Operators are paid \$12 per hour while regular PCF/volunteers are paid \$10 per hour for their time, starting when the 911 Dispatch is issued, and only if they respond to a fire or a vehicle accident. They receive no compensation from the County for responding to non-fire or vehicle emergencies, which account for about 70 percent of calls, he said.

If anyone would like to become a PCF/Volunteer in the Bonadelle/Ranchos area, they can stop by Station 19 at 35141 Bonadelle Avenue and pick up an application from Captain Killion or Engineer Ramirez, or they can talk to one of the dedicated PCF/Volunteers that reside in the community.

in a cabinet or drawer when not in use. Use wire mesh magazine holders in the cabinet for curling irons, straighteners and hair dryers.

Make or purchase cubbyhole shelves or an over-the-toilet cabinet to make use of the vertical wall space for toilet paper and other supplies. Use handled baskets for a more uniform look.

If towels are re-used, make sure each one has a drying bar or hook. Sew colored tags on towels to identify to whom they belong.

Keep a sticky-note pad and a pen in the drawer to make note of items that need replacing. Jot them down and place the note on the mirror so you'll be sure to take it with you.

Before leaving the bathroom each day, quickly and easily place everything in its home.



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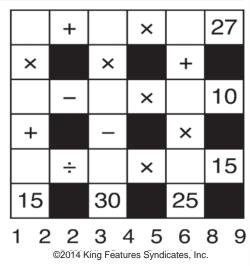
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that each row across. each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine ©2014 King Features Syndicates, Inc.



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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



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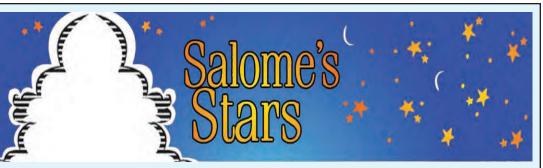
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ARIES (*March 21 to April 19*) Get your facts together and become familiar with them before you have to face up to that interview. The better prepared you are, the easier it will be to make that important impression.

TAURUS (*April 20 to May 20*) New information might warrant changing your mind about a recently made decision. Never mind the temporary confusion it might cause. Acting on the truth is always preferable.

GEMINI (*May 21 to June 20*) Creating a loving atmosphere for those you care for could pay off in many ways. Expect to hear some unexpected but very welcome news that can make a big difference in your life.

CANCER (*June 21 to July 22*) Stepping away from an old and seemingly insoluble problem might be helpful. Use the time to take a new look at the situation and perhaps work out a new method of dealing with it.

LEO (*July 23 to August 22*) You're still in a favorable goal-setting mode. However, you might need to be a little more realistic about some of your aims. Best to reach for what is currently doable. The rest will follow.

VIRGO (*August 23 to September 22*) A setback is never easy to deal with. But it could be a boon in disguise. Recheck your proposal, and strengthen the weak spots. Seek advice from someone who has "been there and done that."

LIBRA (*September 23 to October 22*) Coming up with a new way of handling a tedious jobregulated chore could lead to more than just a congratulatory memo once the word reaches the "right people." Good luck.

SCORPIO (*October 23 to November 21*) What you might call determination someone else might regard as stubbornness. Look for ways to reach a compromise that won't require a major shift of views on your part.

SAGITTARIUS (*November 22 to December 21*) You're still in a vulnerable mode vis-a-vis "offers" that sound too good to be true. So continue to be skeptical about anything that can't be backed up with provable facts.

CAPRICORN (*December 22 to January 19*) Thrift is still dominant this week. What you don't spend on what you don't need will be available for you to draw on should a possible (albeit temporary) money crunch hit.

AQUARIUS (*January 20 to February 18*) Staying close to home early in the week allows for some introspection about your social life. Sort out your feelings before rejoining your fun-time fellows on the weekend.

PISCES (*February 19 to March 20*) It can be a bit daunting as well as exciting to find yourself finally taking action on a long-delayed move for a change. It helps to stay with it when others rally to support you.

Born this Week

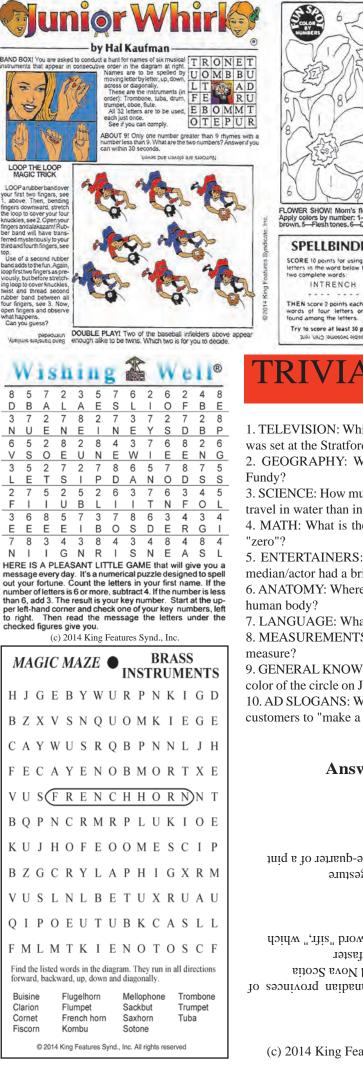
Your love of home and family provide you with the emotional support you need to find success in the outside world.

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| SPELLBINDER - | |
|---|---|
| SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words: INTRENCH | _ |
| | |
| THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters. | |
| Try to score at least 50 points. | |
| | |

⁹ Fifi Rodrigue

1. TELEVISION: Which television sitcom was set at the Stratford Inn?

2. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Bay of

3. SCIENCE: How much faster does sound travel in water than in air?

4. MATH: What is the origin of the word

5. ENTERTAINERS: Which famous comedian/actor had a brief boxing career?

6. ANATOMY: Where is the macula in the

7. LANGUAGE: What is a "beau geste"? 8. MEASUREMENTS: What does a "gill"

9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color of the circle on Japan's national flag? 10. AD SLOGANS: Which company urged customers to "make a run for the border"?

Answers

Ilo. Taco Bell

- 9. Red
- 8. Liquids, about one-quarter of a pint
 - 7. A magnanimous gesture
 - 6. The eye

5. Bob Hope

- means empty
- 4. Arabic, from the word "sifr," which
 - 3. About four times faster
 - New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
- 2. Between the Canadian provinces of

"rishwart" .I

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