

The Ranchos Independent



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Getting the Sun to Pay Some Golden Valley Bills



Bernadette Del Chiaro, fourth from right, from Environment California, honored Golden Valley Unified School district and its partners, Terra Verde Renewable Partners and Cupertino Electric, for their use of solar panels.

From left are Dave Baughman, Manager of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation; Mike Kelly, Trustee; Brian Freeman, Trustee; Mark Toole, GVUSD President; Kris Fabing, Cupertino Electric; Bernadette Del Chiaro, Director, Clean Energy and Global Warming Programs Environment California & Environment California Research & Policy Center; Andy Alvarado, GVUSD Superintendent; Dr. Rick Brown, Terra Verde Renewable Partners; and Kathleen Crumpton, Trustee.

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Photo courtesy of Tyler Takeda

Social Media in the Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

There's no way to escape it: social media is big, so big that it has the power of making or breaking not only an organization but an individual as well. In this day and age, every move we make can be documented by anyone carrying a cell phone and can be Tweeted or posted to Facebook for everyone's viewing pleasure. Despite objections from privacy advocates, it's also not uncommon for potential employers to view a prospective employee's Facebook page before offering him or her a job.

Be it good or be it bad, we need to realize the importance of creating our own personal brand – the first glimpse people see when they're forming an opinion of us or our business. Here is a short list of Facebook sites dedicated to the Madera Ranchos and examples of the type of things posted on each Facebook page:

Keeping the Ranchos Safe – Theft, vandalism, break-ins or suspicious activity.

What's up in the Ranchos – Special events, fund raisers, performances.

Madera Ranchos – Restaurant and Coffee Shop specials, scores for the home team, etc.

Madera Ranchos Bulletin Board – Yard Sales, missing pets, anything you'd normally pin on a bulletin board.

Madera Ranchos Photos – Photos taken in the Madera Ranchos.

The Ranchos Independent – News, feature stories.

Social Media's Power

The power of social media is at work here in the Ranchos in both big and small ways. Gone are the days of neighbors talking over the fence. These sites have been the reason many lost dogs and cats have been found, some more than once. Some dogs are known to be escape artists in the community and have gotten out and been found several times.

"Oh there's Scooter's picture again. Let's call to see how far he got this time."

There is even the tale of the runaway turtle that has been lost and found twice.

Yard Sales and Estate Sales are announced on Facebook sites and when specific items are listed offers to buy often come in before the sale even takes place. When schools or teams are selling tickets or are raising funds a well-placed

announcement on Facebook can make a huge difference. When Girl Scout cookies are being sold, orders can be placed via Facebook and they may even deliver your order to you.

Restaurants and coffee shops can post their menus or their daily specials complete with pictures or they might even offer specials to people who say they saw it on Facebook. Bars and wineries can announce who the entertainment is going to be on any given day.

If you see a suspicious car casing the neighborhood you can put your entire community on alert. If a souped-up, 1980s grey Mustang is racing down your street doing at least 90 m.p.h. every day, at the same time every day, you can put him on notice here or maybe make his parents aware of the problem. Or you can try to call the Sheriff's office. They may come out if you're reporting that your garage has been broken into or your gas has been siphoned out of your car in your driveway. A deputy may come out to take a report but more commonly these days they may just take a report over the phone.

Arguably the strangest "suspicious activity" post seen on Facebook was of a woman in a bikini who showed up at people's front doors to see if they had a pool and if she could go for a quick swim. Nobody knows who this woman was but it happened several times over the summer.

Facebook can also work in other wonderful ways. When friends found out that a Madera Ranchos girl, Lexi Delgado, was in urgent need of a matching bone marrow donor and that she'd need to be treated at Stanford for an extended period, "Operation Love for Lexi" was quickly launched. Word went out

Please see **FACEBOOK** on P. 15

Madera County "311" Service Puts You in Charge



By Christi McKinney

You may have seen all the new colorful signs throughout the Madera Ranchos that say "Madera County 311 At Your Service." The 311 Service Center is a new service that allows you to either call 311 from your mobile phone or you can access the system at www.madco311.com.

Hawks in Championship Game



Picture courtesy of Tyler Takeda

Just a part of the North Sequoia League Champion Liberty Hawks that are playing for the Central Valley Division V Championship Friday night, these seniors gathered in the end zone after a Senior Night 28-0 victory over Kerman on Oct. 26.

By Randy Bailey

The Liberty Hawks Boys' Varsity Football team is just one game away from the title of Central Valley Division V Champion. They play their championship game Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at Hawks Stadium at Liberty High School in the Ranchos against the Corcoran Panthers.

After completing one of the best seasons in school history, the Liberty Hawks football team was awarded the second No. 1 seed in school's history by completing a 9-1 season and a 4-1 run through the North Sequoia League. Their 20-14 victory over the Chowchilla Redskins on Nov. 2 allowed them to lay claim to the school's first North Sequoia League football title. The only other time the Hawks have gone through the season with one loss was 2006 when Liberty also received a No. 1 seed in Division V.

The Hawks opened the Division V football playoffs with a first-round bye

and then hosted Immanuel on Nov. 16 whom they beat 67-14. Next was Lindsay on Nov. 23 who also went down to defeat with a final score of 34-17.

The championship game brings with it a bit of history. The Hawks have already played Corcoran earlier this year on Sept. 21 and beat the Panthers 13-10, but in 2009 the then 8-5 Hawks ended up in the playoff game with Corcoran and lost 28-31. In 2010 Liberty defeated Corcoran in the first round of playoffs before losing to Lindsay and last year Corcoran had a tough year amassing only a 4-5 record while Liberty, with a 6-7 record, went all the way to the Division V Championship against Fowler in a 21-17 heartbreaking loss. This year Corcoran brings a 7-5 record versus Liberty's 11-1 record.

Liberty High has been playing exciting football all this season. You don't want to miss this championship game. Get there early and dress warm and be prepared for the possibility of some rain as well. Football weather!

This will connect you to the Madera County 311 Service Center who accepts the following types of service requests:

- Animal Complaints
- Animal Licenses
- Constituent Issues/ Citizen Complaints
- Public Records Request
- Road Hazard/Repairs

When you use this service you will receive a request number, allowing you to track the status of your request. This also creates a record of your call or report so that managers of the 311 Service Center can track response to all reports coming in. This is very helpful because if you've had experience in contacting

the county to tell them about a huge pothole or a dead animal in the middle of the road your call may or may not be addressed as quickly as possible. In the past we've made the call then assumed it was being handled only to find at times that you might have to call again and hope to speak to a different person.

The Madera County 311 Service's goals with this new system are to deliver greater customer service by:

- Improving responsiveness and efficiency
- Empowering citizens and increase productivity
- Personalizing and enhancing delivery

This sounds like a great step forward for the County of Madera but only if we use the system and then let each other know how it's working.

Click on "Local News" at

Golden Valley School District Recognized for Smart Solar Energy Use

The non-profit organization, Environment California Research and Policy Center, released a report that highlighted GVUSD's solar panel project and the program's director, Bernadette Del Chiaro, honored Superintendent Andy Alvarado with the release of, "Greening the Bottom Line 2012," pointing to the district's plan to go green with the use of solar power.

"Golden Valley invested in clean energy solutions to help green up the bottom line,"

Del Chiaro said Friday. "We are releasing a report to highlight clean energy solutions within the school districts and other areas. The district will save \$250,000 over five years and 2.3 millions pounds of carbon dioxide waste."

Terra Verde Renewable Partners was the project manager that teamed with Cupertino Electric to install the panels, completed in June. A parking lot canopy solar project that will add 1.2 megawatts for the district was

also completed.

Nearly 4,000 solar photovoltaic panels were installed, creating approximately 1.7 million-kilowatt hours of electricity annually which will account for more than 80 percent of total electricity consumption.

With the energy prices on the rise and state education dollars on the decline, Alvarado wanted to maintain the bottom line with energy prices. With financing from the California Energy Commission and school district bonds, the annual cost

of electricity will not rise for the district.

"Our annual cost of electricity will be no greater than what we paid for last year before we converted to solar," Alvarado said.

"Terra Verde has found that school districts like Golden Valley are getting crushed by increasing energy prices and that taking control of these costs through energy efficiency programs and solar is one way to move money back into the classroom," said Dr. Rick Brown, president of Terra Verde Renewable Partners.

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No Lamenting - Take Action Now



By Don Jans

This is not a time for lamenting or mourning, but a time for action. We were promised a fundamental transformation four years ago. This is the only honest promise that was made and the only one kept. In order for this transformation from a capitalistic society to a "fair and just" classless society to take place, division of the populace must occur. Everybody knows the best way to conquer is to divide. We have seen this administration and their surrogates perform this to perfection.

Another necessary task was to destroy the opponent in any way they could. The fact that the opponent was a good and honest person simply meant the art of deceit and distortion had to be employed to the maximum. This was done. It was okay to call this opponent a murderer and a felon. The next task was to create this divided populace. It was mandatory to demonize hard working and honest business owners as villains. Remember, Marx told his people that all the problems in society are because of different classes in society, and the capitalist class is the source of all problems. To demonize them is good. The more division and demonizing the better, even race against race and sex against sex. The ends always justify the means. Honor and truth have no place in the struggle for a "fair and just" classless society.

It was also necessary to deceive. The press enabled this deception as to the true economic condition of the country as well as the failings in foreign affairs. The true unemployment conditions and the true economic conditions of business were intentionally distorted.

These are facts. If you are of the Marxist/Progressive persuasion, you will justify them. After all, the ends always justify the

means. If you are of the individual freedom and self-reliant persuasion, you will cry "foul." The fact is the Marxist/Progressives have always operated in this manner. If you do not believe this, study previous elections and Supreme Court appointment hearings.

Any lamenting over this election is just a replay of the past. It will do no good and will just delay any positive action. The first action that must be taken is to look honestly at what is happening. The Marxist/Progressives have a definite agenda. They are very determined to implement this agenda. It is an agenda to change the country from a capitalistic economic society to a "fair and just" classless society. The Marxist/Progressives believe government reliance of the populace is superior to self-reliance of the individual. Community is superior to the individual. This has never worked, and yet the academic community, which leads the Marxist/Progressives, continues to insist on its implementation.

The public has been educated to believe in this system. Most people believe the policies of FDR were good and eventually produced economic recovery. This is one of the major deceptions employed by the Marxist/Progressives. The public must be enlightened. Marx knew his policies did not bring about economic prosperity. He said economic prosperity was bad because it benefited only the capitalist, and rather than benefiting the capitalist, only enough growth to keep up with population growth should be the goal.

These truths are not just misunderstood by many good-meaning people on the left, but also most people on the right. We freedom and opportunity loving Americans cannot begin to educate the left, until we are educated as to how this fundamental transformation really works. It is always sad to hear good-meaning people of the right tell me they understand the Marxist/Progressive agenda. When asked a simple question, their answer indicates they do not understand. The freedom loving and self-reliant-believing population must become

Please see **TEA PARTY** on P. 11

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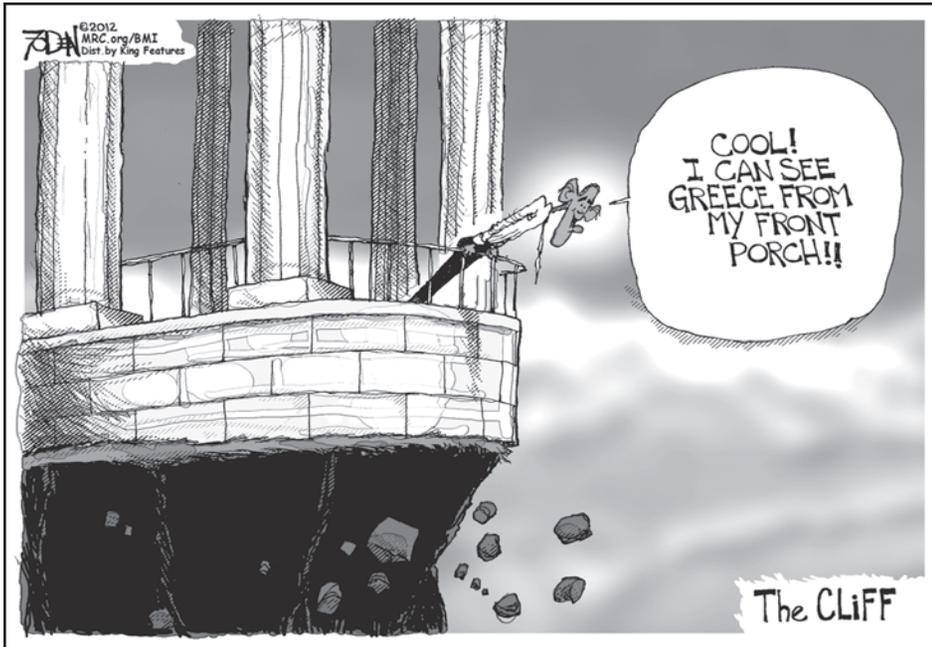
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Guest Editorial

A World of Gifts

By Rich Lowry

Eventually social science works its way around to confirming eternal verities. So it is with gratitude.

An article in a psychological journal a few years ago noted that "throughout history, religious, theological and philosophical treatises have viewed gratitude as integral to well-being." Psychology has recently worked to quantify the wisdom of the ages and confirmed -- sure enough -- it was correct.

A raft of recent research has established that grateful people are happier people. They are less depressed and less stressed. They are less likely to envy others and more likely to want to share. They even sleep better. As the journal article put it, empirical work "has suggested gratitude is as strongly correlated with well-being as are other positive traits, and has suggested that this relationship is causal."

Gratitude constitutes what philosopher David Hume called a "calm passion." It doesn't have the theatrical potential of anger and hatred, or courage and sacrifice. Nonetheless, there's a reason it has been considered central to the good life and a

good society by all major religions and by thinkers stretching from Cicero ("Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others") to Oprah ("Whenever you can't think of something to be grateful for, remember your breath").

Gratitude acknowledges our dependence on others and the debt we owe because of it. Grateful people want, somehow, to return the favor of their undeserved windfall. It is a sentiment that, in the jargon, is "pro-social." A leading figure in its study, Michael McCullough of the University of Miami, maintains that it binds us to others beyond the ties of family and of commercial transactions.

"Griefs upon griefs! Disappointments upon disappointments. What then? This is a gay, merry world notwithstanding."

John Adams

Gratitude is at the root of patriotism, of the impulse to preserve and improve our patrimony. In a culture that tends to celebrate self-glorification, gratitude points us beyond our own demands and discontents. It inclines us to see all around us a world of gifts.

What did we do to inherit a country that is free and prosperous? To deserve Charlie Parker or Mark Twain? To build the Golden Gate Bridge or the Chrysler Building? To measure up to the beauties of the Catholic mass or the Mormon Tabernacle Choir? Or simply to prove worthy of traffic lights and potable water?

Without gratitude, William F. Buckley Jr. wrote, "We are left with the numbing, benumbing thought that we owe nothing to Plato and Aristotle, nothing to the prophets who wrote the Bible, nothing to the generations who fought for freedoms activated in the Bill of Rights." He called for "a rebirth of gratitude for those who have cared for us, living and, mostly, dead. The high moments of our way of life are their gifts to us."

John Adams captured the grateful attitude when he acknowledged the hardships of this vale of tears while celebrating it all the same (if in anachronistic language): "Griefs upon griefs! Disappointments upon disappointments. What then? This is a gay, merry world notwithstanding."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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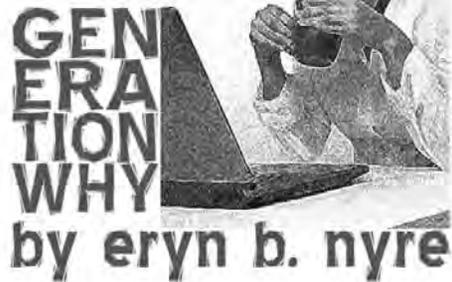
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Please Lower It ... or Lose It

For the life of me I will never understand the appeal of the pounding and reverberating sound of an over-amped car stereo system. It just seems ridiculous. How can you even hear the music through the incessant thumping of the bass that completely drowns out every other note that the music might possibly have to offer? What is worse is when that incessant thumping can be heard down the street and around the corner. Is that necessary? Are you so proud of someone else's musical contribution that you find it necessary to play it on a sound system that not only completely distorts it, but raises it to a decibel level that rivals a jet engine? More importantly, what makes you think that the rest of us want to hear whatever it is currently ripping through your eardrums? Most of us don't. We want to be able to hear our own car stereo system, or our own television, even our own

family sitting around the dinner table without being violated by the noise vibrating out of your over-worked speakers. But no, all of that is drowned out as you creep through the neighborhood hoping to make as big a spectacle of yourself as possible. Mission accomplished, everyone heard you, and yes, we all think you are over-compensating.

What I hate more than sitting in my living room trying to read or watch television only to have my focus interrupted by the loud pulsating of a bass system that does nothing for the music being spewed out of it, is when I am trying to sleep and that same creep makes his same pass through the neighborhood in the middle of the night. Don't worry



GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**

about all the people that may be trying to sleep, you clearly have already destroyed your hearing with years of that unrelenting drivel spewing from the cabin of your overpriced stereo on wheels, and if it isn't turned up to maximum level, you can't even hear it anymore.

There is no consideration for

I don't blame the music, although I am not a fan of this jerk's auditory preference; it's the decibel level at which he finds it necessary to enjoy his music, and the hour at which he chooses to showcase his car stereo volume capabilities that offends me. How about a little common decency, a little respect for your fellow citizens?

others, you want to listen to your music and you want it to be loud and disturbing; never mind the thousands of other citizens you encounter that might not be a fan of your style choices, or a fan of preventable hearing loss, it's your world, obviously - we are all just bor-

rowing space.

And as much as I would like to call the police and report these people, by the time I manage to stumble out of bed from a dead sleep and get to the window to get a good look, the car is too far away to be able to make out the license plate. Don't worry - I can still hear it loud and clear. What I would like to do is obtain some sort of device that will shut down every computerized mechanism in the car by simply pointing and pulling the trigger, leaving the car practically useless for a small period of time. I would begin by shutting the offender down for a half an hour. I would gladly chase the twit down the street if

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 17

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Senior Report

Remembering Our Veterans Daily

By Verlaine Elinburg

On November 11, we celebrated Veterans Day. I always thought that Veterans Day was honoring American servicemen and women that died in past wars, but that is the purpose of Memorial Day.

On Veterans Day we honor all the extraordinary troops who served in the United States armed forces whose determination, courage and sacrifice have given us a more secure and peaceful world. In August 2001, Senate Resolution 143 designated the week of Nov. 11 through 17 as National Veteran Awareness Week to emphasize the importance of the need to develop programs to educate our children about our veterans who have served our country in war and during peace.

I had my grandson ask me what Veterans Day was. As grandparents, parents and teachers we need to get behind our veterans and share with our children the contributions that our veterans have given to our country. We also need to do what we can for our homeless and disabled veterans. It's estimated that 20 percent of the United States homeless population are veterans. In America today, 33 percent of all men are veterans and half of them are Viet Nam veterans. For the upcoming holidays let's show our appreciation and do something special for veterans and disabled veterans, and for the rest of the time you can go to websites like www.OperationAmped.com to find different ways to help.

We have a Veterans Hospital in Fresno and we can make a difference in a

veteran's life. Our veterans have been there for us keeping us safe, now it is our turn to be there for them. Find a charity or an organization that help our veterans and volunteer your time which is the most precious commodity you have.

Upcoming Senior Events

The Senior Center Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale will begin on the first Saturday in December and will be held on Dec. 1, 8 and 15 from 8 a.m. to noon and during the weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The baked cakes, cookies, pies, jellies, jams and pickles all make great Christmas gifts. Several of the Boutique items make interesting and unique personal gifts.

Christmas Dinner and Installation of new officers will be held Monday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

Snow Trip to Reno – Feb. 26–28, 2013. \$365 per person. Contact 559-645-4864.

National Parks – Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone Park, Air/Bus 10 days, June 20, 2013. Contact 559-645-5337.

The Community Christmas tree lighting, sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, will be at Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 7 from 6–7:30 p.m. Pick up your STAR and purchase the requested items (or as many as you can afford – dollar store for some items, local library for good condition books) and then leave your items at the Chamber by December 15. These items will be inserted into gift bags for our Veterans that will be delivered to the Fresno VA Hospital on Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.

Letters

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the Aunt Jean's column in the Ranchos Independent. Last month I made the recipe for the "Taco Soup."

I had eight guests in my home and served the soup. Everyone here thought the soup was delicious and each of them asked for the recipe.

It made a large amount and I had a serving left so I gave it to my son-in-law, and he gave it a "thumbs up."

Thanks again for the well-written column. Keep them coming. I love to read them.

Nina Heffington
 Chowchilla

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

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 37167 Ave. 12 #5C
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From One Aunt to Another

A few years ago I was talking to my Aunt (my Mom's only sister) and told her I would like to put Mama's recipes into a book. She said to me, "Oh Jean, be sure to include your Mom's Applesauce Cake and the Prune Cake recipes."

In going through my Mom's recipe cards, I found three Applesauce Cake recipes – actually four if I included one titled "A Man's Favorite" that takes one cup of apple sauce – so I'm going to use the one from the cards that looks like it has been used the most. We had a neighbor named Hazel, so this might have been from her.

Hazel's Applesauce Cake

- 1 C Shortening
- 2 C Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 C Applesauce
- 3 ½ C Flour
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Cloves
- 1 tsp. Nutmeg
- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 C Raisins
- 1 C Nuts (optional)

Cream together shortening and sugar; add eggs one at a time. When well creamed, add applesauce. Sift together in a separate bowl the dry ingredients. Mix dry ingredients into a creamed mixture until all mixed. Pour into a 9x13 pan that has been greased and floured and bake in preheated 350 oven for about 45 minutes.

This applesauce cake will have a deeper flavor as it takes molasses. Sounds good.

Applesauce Raisin Cake

- 2 ½ C Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- ½ tsp. Salt
- ½ C Butter
- 1 Large Egg
- 1 C Molasses
- 1 C Applesauce
- ½ C Raisins
- ½ C Chopped Walnuts

Combine flour, soda, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter to resemble coarse crumbs. In another bowl stir together the



egg, molasses and applesauce. Blend into flour mixture just until moistened. Stir in raisins and nuts. Pour into prepared 9x9x2 pan. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool in pan.

Mayonnaise Prune Cake

- 1 C Sugar
- 1 C Mayonnaise
- 1 ¾ C Flour
- 3 T Cocoa Powder
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1 C Chopped Prunes
- 2/3 C Prune Juice
- 1 C Chopped Nuts

Cream together the sugar and mayonnaise in a large mixing bowl. In separate bowl sift together flour, cocoa, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add to sugar mixture making sure everything is mixed well. Add prunes, prune juice and nuts. Pour into a prepared 8 x 12 pan. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 40 minutes.

None of these cakes call for frosting. If you prefer frosting, a simple powdered sugar/cream cheese one could be used, or if you prefer just a glaze, mix some powdered sugar and liquid (either milk or orange or lemon juice) and pour on the warm cake.

In going through my Mom's recipe cards I found some that Aunt Alma had sent her. The first one I am going to use says, "These make delicious Christmas cookies."

Fry Pan Cookies

- 1 Cube Butter or Margarine
- 1 C Chopped Dates
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 1 C Chopped Nuts
- 1 C Sugar
- 2 Eggs well beaten
- 4 oz. Maraschino Cherries (optional)

(optional)

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 16

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The Stock Report

Of Voting Results and Holiday Joy

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
I am sitting in front of the TV and watching the election returns come in. I have voted in every election since I was 21 years old. When I grew up you had to be 21 years old to vote. Since I am 82 years old that means that I have been voting for 61 years. The demography of the country has changed dramatically since my first vote in a presidential election. Women were expected that they would vote as their father voted and when they married the way that their husband voted. Women were not supposed to be intelligent enough to figure out whom or what vote would be the best for women as a whole. This always rubbed me the wrong way. Social issues are important to most women. Men don't like tough women since men like to be in charge. I hope that I live long enough to see a woman in the White House. Hey guys, 50 percent of the population are women. Women have been considered a minority just as Blacks, Asian and Hispanics when voting is counted. It appears that at this election the minority stepped up and was heard.

How can we the people change the huge amount of money that is spent on a political campaign? It is a crime that presidential candidates have to spend so much money to get elected. When people are hurting from storms, unemployment and losing their homes, it seems like such a waste of so much money. There must be a better way to solve the many problems that the U.S.A. faces. I believe in America and I believe in the right to vote.

Even though the Presidential election is over, here in the Golden Valley Unified School District there are still questions about the five trustee areas. In my last article I talked about how our school district had been divided into five trustee

areas. The school district office provided me with a colored map with numbers given to each trustee area. I finally know that I am in trustee area number 2 which is Kathleen Crumpton's trustee area. Mona Diaz is number 1 trustee area, Kathleen is trustee area 2, Mike Kelly is in trustee area 3 and will keep his seat on the board. Brian Freeman is in trustee area 4 and I just found out that Steven Lewis won the election for trustee area 5. I have been told that the school district was divided so that each trustee area had about the same amount of registered voters. I will have to wait for two years to see if Kathleen Crumpton is on my ballot. I found out when I ran for a trustee spot on Golden Valley Unified School Board that even though the numbers show that you have won the election you still have to wait for 28 days before the election numbers are legal. During these 28 days the election board is counting all the absentee ballots and making sure that the official count for each person on the ballot is correct. It will be during the first week of December before Steven Lewis and Mike Kelly will be officially installed as members of the Golden Valley Unified School Board.

Everyone seems to be gearing up for the holidays. You can feel it in the air. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce thanks the Ranchos/Hills Seniors for hosting their Nov. 7 mixer at the Senior Center. There was a good turnout of local business owners. We all enjoyed the good food brought by the members and the prizes that are always part of a mixer. I actually won one of the prizes.

The next weekend will be Saturday, Dec. 1 and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' monthly sale and the opening of the first Seniors' Christmas Boutique. The Christmas Boutique will be open the first three Saturdays in December from 8 a.m. to Noon. We hope to see you there. Be careful and have a wonderful holiday season.

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I'm Not Organized ... Yet!

I don't play the bass guitar ... *yet!* A few weeks ago that sentence would have read, "I don't play the bass guitar." It wasn't that I didn't want to, it's been my dream since Jr. High, but I needed a series of events to make that change.

So, what do you not do ... *yet?* It may be speaking a different language, yoga, scrap-booking, golf, etc. Or maybe, since you're reading this article, it has to do with organizing. Lucky for you I just happen to have some tips from my guitar experience that can help you achieve your organizing, and other goals.

1. Know what your goal is. I didn't want to play just any stringed instrument. I wanted to play the bass. Identify and define a specific organizing goal.

2. Acquire support. While strolling through the SEMCU Community Swap Meet I found a bass guitar for sale. A local musician was walking by, so I grabbed him for his advice. I never would have made the purchase without my husband and him saying, "Go for it!" Find a friend, family member, or colleague who thinks your organizing goal is a great idea and will cheer you on.

3. Make yourself accountable. Posting my purchase on Facebook made me feel more accountable to do something with it. Write down your next action step, give your-

self a deadline and ask someone to check up on your progress. At one of my speaking events a woman shared that she and a friend text "before" pictures to each other of an area they're going to organize. After a specified amount of time, they text each other the "after" shot. Great accountability!

4. Jam with friends. My friend Julie, who in recent years took up the drums, said, "Let's jam," and gave me a song to work on. Another friend Frayda, of the musically gifted Bluestein family, chimed in and said she'd join us on the electric guitar. The thought of "jamming" with my friends was a great jump start for me. Consider making your organizing project a family affair, or find a friend to help. My sister and I give each other a Lunch 'n Labor gift each birthday. The birthday girl gets to pick a project that she would rather not do alone. We work on it together and treat ourselves to lunch.

5. Obtain the proper tools. An electric bass without an amplifier is not much good.

Fortunately I already had one, but I'll need to purchase a case. Having the right organizing products can help tremendously. But before running out to purchase them, take stock of what you have or what

might become available as you de-clutter.

6. Seek good instruction. I bought the Hal Leonard Bass book and DVD, but I think it's going to take the commitment of lessons with a professional to keep me on task. I see many clients with a plethora of organizing books. If it works for you to read and apply - great! Another option is to attend my organizing classes or schedule a session and let me help you get moving toward your goal.

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

The thought of "jamming" with my friends was a great jump start for me. Consider making your organizing project a family affair, or find a friend to help.

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2012 Christmas Events

- Care Connection Workday - Dec. 1st @ 8:00 AM**
- Marriage Tune-Up Seminar - Dec. 1st @ 7:00 PM &
 Dec. 2nd @ 3:00 PM (Date Nite @ 5:00 - 8:00 PM)**
- Children's Crafts - Dec. 2nd @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**
- Children's Musical - Dec. 9th @ 6:00 PM**
- Memory Tree Service - Dec. 17th @ 7:00 PM**
- Christmas Eve - Dec. 24th @ 5:00 PM**
- ONE Service on Dec. 30th @ 10:00 AM**

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TEA PARTY cont. from P. 4

truly enlightened. The Marxist/Progressives are winning. This trend will not be reversed until positive action is taken by freedom, self-reliant-believing Americans. Take the first step; become enlightened.

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

A Note from Sandy Forbes

During this dismal November 2012 election, our country lost a battle but not the war. It is uncertain the election was won fairly since many things do not add up. This deceit is extremely hard to prove since it was planned. The fox IS in the henhouse. America's future in the next four years will be bleak and a continued struggle.

However, now the holidays are upon us and it is time to enjoy family and friends and make plans for the future to keep our loved ones protected and provided for as best we can manage. We (the Tea Party) will certainly NOT give up the fight to save America from the current destructive path upon which she has been placed. But for now, indulge in some quality time with the ones you love. We thank everyone

for your support.

Season's Greetings to you, your family and friends.

Madera Chapter Tea Party Meetings

The November meeting presented guest speaker Devone Boggan, Director of Neighborhood Safety from Richmond, Calif. Boggan introduced the City of Richmond's Gang Intervention/Neighborhood Safety Program.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2026 Granada Drive, Madera.

For our meeting on Dec. 17 we are pleased to host Kristin Olsen, a State Assemblywoman, re-elected to the 25th District in the California State Assembly. Kristin, endorsed by Presidential Candidate and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, as well as the Latino Times, earned the reputation for reform, transparency and hard work. She was twice elected to the Modesto City Council. Kristin was born and raised in the Central Valley where she resides in Modesto with her husband, Rod, and their three children.

For comments or questions, contact Madera Ranchos Tea Party Coordinator, John Smedley, by e-mail at jcsmedley@comcast.net or call him at 559-645-7031. Or contact Madera Tea Party Coordinator, Rick Farinelli, by phone at 559-706-5386 or by e-mail at richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net.

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 7 • 6 p.m.

Santa will arrive early at the ceremony and photos will be available for only \$10! • Cookies - Coffee - Hot Cider • Join in singing Christmas carols with area Girl Scouts

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.
Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books. Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 15. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. Items may be brought to the tree lighting!

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Welcome New Members

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Annual Crab Feed

Dante Club
Friday, March 1
6 p.m. - Midnight

The biggest event of the year is coming this March. Want to get involved? Contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 and ask for Crab Feed Chairman, Randy Bailey.

Chamber Mixer

Annual Chamber Christmas Mixer
Wednesday, Dec. 12 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Come join your neighbors as you mix and mingle with fellow Ranchos residents at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce offices at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C in the Maywood Center. Find out about the Chamber of Commerce as you enjoy snacks and beverages. Admission is free.

Your Chamber of Commerce

This information is brought to you by your Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses and individuals in the Madera Ranchos and beyond. Find out more about your Chamber at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C or call them at 645-4001.

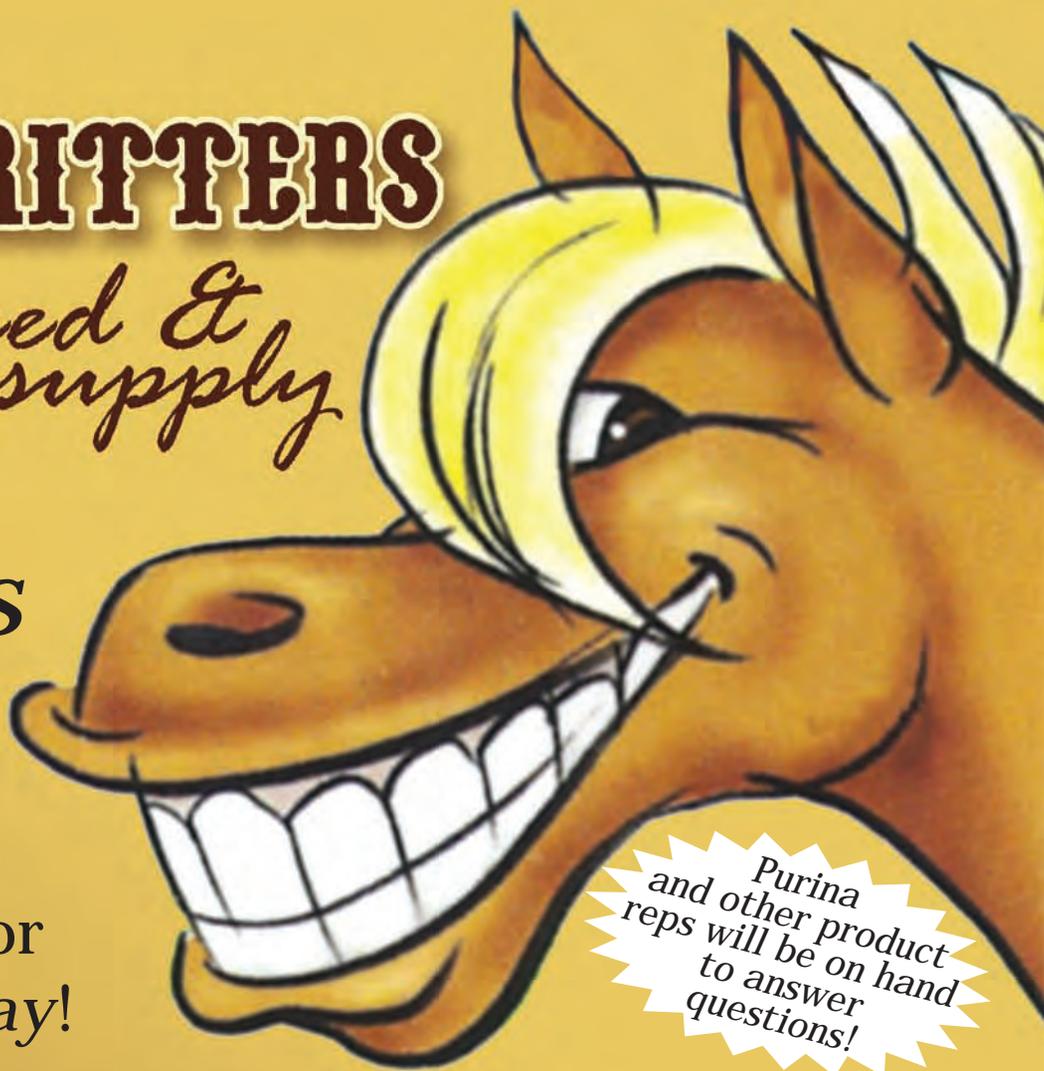
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Liberty High Girls' Tennis Wins Third Straight Title

The Liberty tennis team capped a third straight North Sequoia League championship with their second straight undefeated league season.

In the past three years, the Hawks have gone 29-1 for the three titles. Along the way, Liberty has won two Division V Central Section championships.

This year, with a narrow victory over Strathmore in the semifinals, the Hawks were in line for their third straight Central Section title, this time in Div. IV.

The No. 2 seeded Hawks faced the top-seeded Taft Wildcats and were leading 4-2 after the s i n g l e s matches were completed.

All the Hawks needed was a win in doubles for their third straight section title. Then, the sun went down and the lights went on, kind of.

The Taft lighting wasn't up to par and the Hawks never adjusted and lost all three doubles matches and the section championship.

"The lighting on the courts was poor, at best, and that was all Taft needed for an advantage over us," head coach Greg Ruland said. "Two matches had to be moved because the lighting went out. They definitely had the home court advantage with

such crappy lighting."

Seniors Annie Erickson, Jordyn DeChamplain, Bethany Buchnoff, Chloe Doyle and Jocelyn Hernandez were looking for their third straight section title, but ere denied by the lighting.

Erickson, DeChamplain, Buchnoff and Doyle won their s i n g l e s matches with Erickson and Doyle winning in the third set.

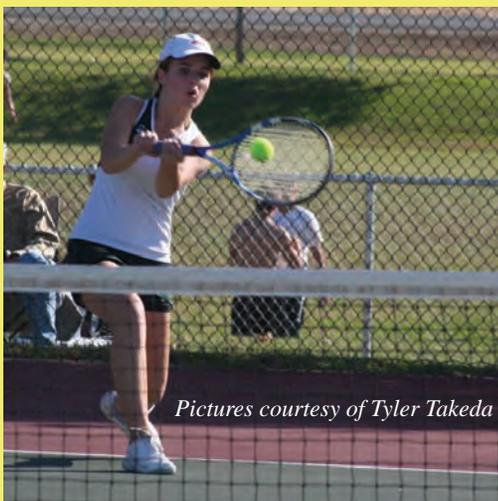
"Steady Jordyn did very well, as usual," Ruland said. "Annie and Bethany did very well in their singles m a t c h e s . Chloe managed to pull out a victory being as sick as she was."

Needing just one win in doubles, the

Hawks went to a tiebreaker in all three matches and lost all three.

"There were many tiebreakers in this match and those are always a crap shoot because it's anybody's ball game in those," Ruland said. "They won all three tiebreakers in doubles and that's the way it goes.

"The girls had a great season and have nothing to be ashamed of. This is a great group of girls who played extremely good tennis through many adversities. My hat is off to them because they are a tremendous group of athletes."



Pictures courtesy of Tyler Takeda

Liberty No. 1 singles player Annie Erickson returns a hit for the Hawks. Despite missing three weeks with an injury, Erickson led the Hawks to their third straight North Sequoia League championship.



Jordyn DeChamplain helped lead the Hawks to their third Valley Championship match in No. 2 singles. She also filled in at No. 1 when Annie Erickson missed time with an injury.

Foundation Aids GVUSD Schools

Since 2005, the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools has contributed more than \$113,000 to the staff and students of GVUSD through its grant program. The money raised by the district has affected approximately 1,100 students over that time. But the foundation would not have the ability to help students and educators without the help of donors.

The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools is looking for "Business Wall of Fame" donors. Businesses get on the Wall of Fame by committing a five-year annual pledge ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

The mission of the foundation is to enhance and encourage the star potential and full experiences of all students in their educational environment with GVUSD.

Since 2007, teacher classroom grants have totalled approximately \$57,000 for everything from cow eye dissection projects to incentive programs to increase student attendance and achievement. New teachers also benefit from the foundation. They receive a \$150 grant to help set up their classrooms.

In 2008, the foundation received a \$50,000 donation from the Smith family as a special grant project to assist with the replacement of the HVAC unit at Sierra Elementary School.

The foundation also recognizes GVUSD employees of the year in five categories — administrative/management, elementary teacher, secondary teacher, instruction employee and operational employee.

To donate, contact Aimee Beintker at the GVUSD office at 645-7500.

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Kiwanis Korner

A Poinsettia Cuetlaxochitl by Any Other Name ...

By Perry Watkins

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

Poinsettias are native to Mexico. The Aztecs called them Cuetlaxochitl. They made a reddish purple dye from the bracts. It was also called the “Crown of the Andes” in some parts of South America. In some places they may still be referred to as “Lobster Flowers” or “Flame Leaf Flowers.” They are a member of the family *Euphorbiaceae*. Many plants in this family ooze a milky sap. Contrary to popular belief, the Poinsettia is not poisonous but large quantities may cause a tummy ache or vomiting. Skin irritation from the sap is also possible for some folks.

If conditions are right the Poinsettia can grow to 10, or in some cases, even 20 feet tall. Poinsettia trees are seen in some parts of California and in Mexico where it is native. The flowers of these plants are actually leaves called “bracts.” There are at least 100 varieties with showy bracts of yellow, red, pink or white. They were first introduced to the U.S. in 1825 by Joel Poinsett. They are now grown in all 50 states but the Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows 80 percent of the plants for the wholesale market. The U.S market exports 90 percent of the world commercial supply each year. Poinsettias are also the best-selling potted plant in America, even though most are sold in a brief six week period each year.

Kiwanis of Madera Ranchos will be making Poinsettias available in time for National Poinsettia Day on Dec. 12. Of course, any money raised will benefit local children. They are very affordable at \$10 per plant and they are large, 6-inch potted plants about 20-inches tall. Last year’s plants were very beautiful and showy. They are Grade A plants which are usually reserved for top commercial sales. They will be available in



A rose by any other name ... OK, how about “Poinsettia?” Ranchos Kiwanis are selling them to brighten up your holidays and help the community at the same time.

the Ranchos by Dec 6, but orders need to be completed as soon as possible. You can contact Debbie Farr at 645-1549 or MaryAnn Parks at the Pizza Factory 645-7011 or any Kiwanis member.

President Marie Cameron is already galvanizing the local Kiwanis Board and general members toward greater endeavors and higher levels of community service. Her aim is to carefully review all fundraisers, give some a face lift and perhaps add a new one or resurrect a good one in order to keep our fundraising goals on track. There are so many exciting things we want to do for our

little community. She also plans to have us even more involved in school beginning in K-6th grades in order to recognize and reward student achievements. We hope to increase scholarships if our budget allows. So it all starts with fundraising. We will create those events that add to our community and promote the camaraderie, friendship and the good old fashion fun we all enjoy. Please watch for our events throughout the year.

(Thanks to The University of Illinois Extension and University of Ohio for the fun facts used in this article.)

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

Board Members:

President: Marie Cameron
 Vice President: Mona Silva
 Secretary: Virginia Vick
 Treasurer: Perry Watkins

Board of Directors:

John Glueck, Mona Diaz, Ollia Ridge, Debbie Farr, John Herrera, MaryAnn Parks, Joliene Mason.

via Facebook that a fundraiser – a blood drive and a bone marrow registry – were being planned in the Madera Ranchos. The community came together to raise over \$12,000, donated over 100 pints of blood and had 56 people register with the National Bone Marrow Registry – all in just six hours.

When word went out that Aubray Tritler, who was raised in the Madera Ranchos, had entered a contest to win a dream wedding and that she had just 17 days to get the most votes to win a prize package valued at over \$17,000, overnight posters appeared everywhere saying “Vote for Aubray and Ryan!” Aubray and fiancé Ryan used Facebook extensively, encouraging their network of friends and family to “Share and Repost!” They won the contest and would tell you that Facebook was the clincher that led to their win. Fittingly, Aubray and Ryan met – you guessed it – on Facebook.

Old Glory and Facebook

In February 2012, an article appeared in the Ranchos Independent Newspaper regarding “Old Glory,” a barn located on Highway 41 at Avenue 12 that had been painted like an American Flag by owners Robert and Karen McCaffrey right after 9/11. The barn had been badly damaged during a windstorm and at the time the story ran, no decision had been made as to whether or not the barn would be repaired. In June 2012, after riding past the barn day after day, Vietnam Veteran Tom Baum became frustrated that no progress was being made. He took it upon himself to contact the McCaffreys and he convinced them to let him take on the project of refurbishing the barn in honor of veterans and the Wounded Warrior Project. As press coverage increased, companies and individuals came forward to offer their help to the project and celebration plans changed from day to day. Facebook was instrumental in keeping the community up to date on the project. The result was that the barn was repaired, local veterans held a flag raising on July 4th and the story was picked up by CNN and Fox News.

Of course, as with most anything in life, there can be a dark side to all of this. Gossip can be spread at the speed of light; bullying can be an issue and a business can be ruined with inaccurate rumors. Pictures can be posted if your neighbor thinks your property is not up to neighborhood standards or you may just not approve of something going on in your neighborhood. Please think about what you’re posting before you post it and be sure it reflects how you want your image portrayed in the community. If in doubt, please feel free to use the delete button.

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11/12

LHS Students Invade Normandy

Over the summer, a group of Liberty High School students past and present, traveled to Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery in Normandy. The group was led by Liberty High Arts teacher Jason Napier. Before departing, students were reminded of the events of the D-Day landing invasion on June 6, 1944. Also on tour, history teacher Todd Welch helped by searching the internet for information regarding soldiers from Madera County who were enlisted, died and had been buried at the Cemetery.

With these names, the student travelers were able to find each grave marker



Pictured with the rubbings are Liberty High students Annie Erickson, Josiah Richard, Kinsey Carlson and Juliana Liuba.

and create a rubbing to bring home to Madera Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1981. The names that were located were: PFC William D. Edwards, PFC Samuel L. Murray, Private Eldon W. Neal, PFC Joe M. Martinez, PFC Frank E. Poston, Sergeant Jack A. Wiegand, Corporal Sheldon M. Shaubach, PFC Leonard F. Gann, PFC Clifford V. Jump, Private Clarence E. Black, Jr., Private Peter G. Contreras, Tech. Joe J. Perry and Sergeant John W. Price.

This is Jason Napier's fifth trip abroad with approximately 100 students making their way to see Europe's art and culture. It was the first trip to the Normandy Region.

RECIPES cont. from P. 8

2 C Rice Krispies

Put all ingredients except the Rice Krispies into a large frying pan over medium heat. Stir until mixture begins to thicken – about 3 to 6 minutes. Take off heat and stir in the Rice Krispies. When cool enough to handle, roll into small balls and roll in flake coconut.

Another of her recipes:

Cracker Jacks

Heat oven to 250

Pop 4 quarts popcorn adding NO salt. Put on a large metal baking pan. Pour on 1 or more cups salted peanuts. Set aside.

Into a medium sauce pan put:

- 1 C Light Brown Sugar
- 1 Cube Margarine
- ½ C White Corn Syrup
- ½ tsp. Salt

Stir and bring to a boil. Boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add:

- 1 tsp. Soda
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

Stir and pour over corn and nuts. Handle this mixture carefully as it will be very hot. Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

Cool. Store in airtight containers such as glass jars.

She says the pan will come clean by adding water and boiling it.

When you can't find a recipe that you want, where do you look for it? I have all my Mom's cards and several cookbooks, including *Good Housekeeping*, *Pillsbury* and a *Better Homes and Gardens* that looks like it has been through the mill. And then there is the Internet; there are thousands of recipes there. But my two favorites are the "homemade ones." They are a book of recipes put together by the Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital and my absolute favorite is one put together by the women of a church I attended several years ago. So if you belong to a church or organization that has printed a recipe book from their members I urge you to get one as you know these people who donated the recipe, and may have even eaten the dish.

Aunt Alma was born and raised on a little farm in Chowchilla (as were a lot of us Drinens and Briners). She quit high school to marry Uncle Clyde (the only person I ever let get away with calling me Jeanie) and they lived a long married life. They had two children, and from that union she left this world with oodles and oodles of grandchildren, great grandchildren and even some great-great grandchildren. Aunt Alma passed away in August at 94 years old, so this article is dedicated to her.

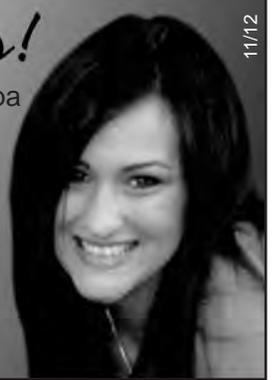
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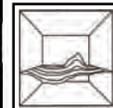
Pastor K. Milton Higgins is bringing the 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service December 1 - Holiday Fair from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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CORRECTION

Last month the Ranchos Independent inadvertently listed *Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop*, located at 37184 Ave. 12, as having operating hours from 1:30

p.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. They are actually open from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you have any questions you can call *Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop* at 645-0013.

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

necessary, and if they continue to offend, I would increase the increments of time the car remains mechanically useless for up to eight hours, so I may then get uninterrupted sleep. No permanent damage would be done to the vehicle, and one would hope, through classic conditioning, that the perpetrators would get the hint: blast your music at inappropriate hours and now you are walking home. Seems like the perfect punishment to fit the crime to me. Anyone know where I can procure such a device, because I have one such individual on my block that has made a nightly habit of this behavior, and this consistent sleep deprivation has made me grumpy.

I don't blame the music, although I am not a fan of this jerk's auditory preference; it's the

decibel level at which he finds it necessary to enjoy his music, and the hour at which he chooses to showcase his car stereo volume capabilities that offends me. How about a little common decency, a little respect for your fellow citizens? The people that have to work the next day now get to go into work a little extra-tired tomorrow; children get to go to school a little less-rested all because you couldn't deign to lower the volume and give the rest of the world the same break for which your eardrums are no doubt crying. You've heard the old saying, "... the right to swing your fist ends at the tip of the other person's nose ..." well the right to listen to your music ends when a sleeping neighbor can mistake it for an earthquake. Get a clue, get some respect, and for Heaven's sake, TURN IT DOWN!



4H is on the Move

This past month has been filled with fun and excitement for the Sierra Shadows 4-H club.

Our Project Updates

The rabbit project has been having some great meetings. They are working on showmanship and the anatomy of a rabbit in preparation for the Small Animals Expo • The community pride project is preparing 20 fleece blankets which will be completed at the next community club

Congratulation to Nathan Doyle and Deme Marical, they both received medals at the Horse Expo.

to Joann's for material. They have made some baby blankets and are in the process of making their flannel jammies • The public speaking project is jumping into its project with both feet! We will have six presentations and one demonstration to present at our January and February Community Club meeting • Our sheep, beef and swine projects are taking a short break until it is time to purchase animals for the Chowchilla Fair.

Congratulation to Nathan Doyle and Deme Marical, they both received medals at the Horse Expo.

Achievement Night/Officer Installation was held on Oct. 10 at the VFW Hall in Madera. Officers were

installed to their club positions and members received special recognition awards. Several Sierra Shadows 4-H members celebrated National 4-H week during the week of October 7-13. Each member of the Community Pride group mailed out several "thank you" notes to 4-H sponsors during that week.

The Sierra Shadows 4-H club is preparing for its annual Christmas party on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at Sierra View Elementary. Members will participate in an ornament/gift exchange while they enjoy a pot-luck dinner.

Youth between the ages of 9 to 18 years old may join 4-H. The Sierra Shadows 4-H club leader is Terri Fernandez, who can be reached at 645-4836 or at trrfernandez@yahoo.com.

meeting. The blankets will be a community service project for the Sierra Shadows 4-H club. The club will be donating 20 blankets to the Madera County Victim Services agency • The cooking project has made some great foods. At one of their meetings they made fresh french fries, sloppy joes and milkshakes without using a blender • The arts and crafts project learned about different artists, technical terms and then the group made a picture where all the members participated • Our wildlife project is planning a visit to the Cat Haven • Our sewing project members are making great strides with two visits

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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.

	+		×		25
×		×		+	
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5. New York
6. Florida
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Source: State Farm

*cooking-related insurance claims



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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9			8	7				
		6	7					1
3	4			9	8			
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		3	8					6

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

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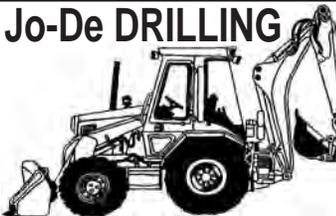
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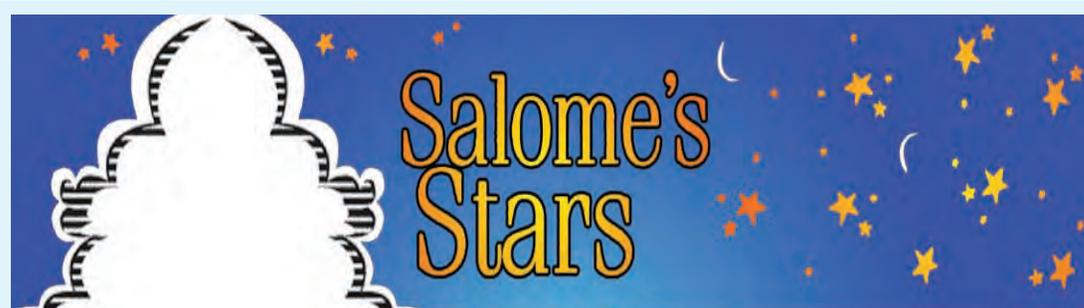
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Restless Rams and Ewes might want to let others finish a current project while they start something new. But if you do, you could risk losing out on a future opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's creative forces start revving up as you plan for the upcoming holidays. Some practical aspects also emerge, especially where money is involved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Moments of doubt disrupt your otherwise clear sense of purpose. Don't ignore them. They could be telling you not to rush into anything until you know more about it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A planned trip might have to be delayed. Plan to use this new free time to update your skills and your resume so you'll be ready when a new job opportunity opens

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A flood of holiday party bids from business contacts allows you to mix work and pleasure. Your knowledge plus your Leonine charm wins you a new slew of admirers

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected act by a colleague complicates an agreement, causing delays in implementing it. Check out the motive for this move: It's not what you might suspect.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might want to cut ties with an ingrate who seems to have forgotten your past generosity. But there might be a reason for this behavior that you should know about. Ask.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be careful not to set things in stone. Much could happen over the next several days that will make you rethink some decisions and maybe change them.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your plans to help provide holiday cheer for the less fortunate inspire others to follow your generous example. Expect welcome news by week's end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're in your glory as you start planning for the holiday season ahead. But leave time to deal with a problem that needs a quick and fair resolution.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The upcoming holiday season provides a perfect setting for strengthening relationships with kin and others. A new contact has important information.

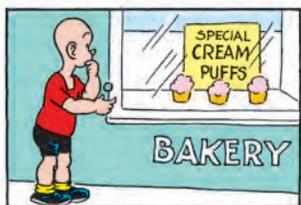
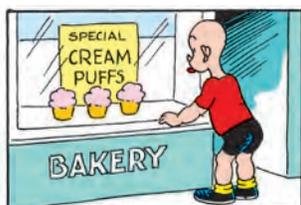
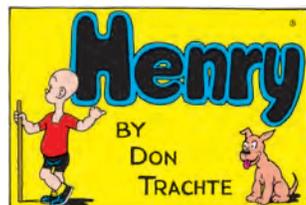
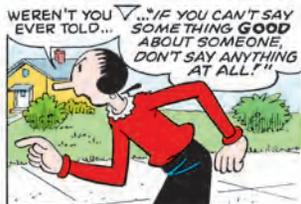
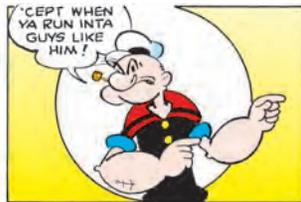
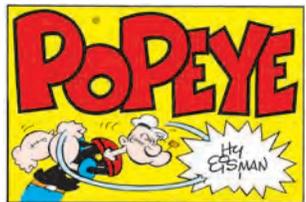
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Instead of fretting over a cutting remark by a co-worker, chalk it up to an outburst of envy of your well-respected status among both your colleagues and superiors.

Born this Week

You instinctively know when to be serious and when to be humorous -- attributes everyone finds endearing.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY! AFTER MONTHS OF STICKING TO YOUR DIET RELIGIOUSLY AND EXERCISING REGULARLY... YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE SLIMMED DOWN AND THEN...



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? WHEN YOU DO FIND A PARKING METER SPACE... THAT'S WHEN YOU'VE GOT NO CHANGE...

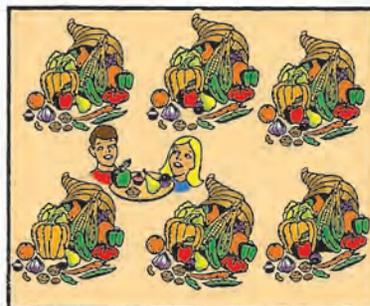


Thank to T. DELANEY, CINCINNATI, OHIO

BY AL SCADUTO



Thank to BRUCE HANDLER, LITTLE NECK, N.Y.



HORN SWOGLER! Two of these six horns of plenty look enough alike to be twins. Which two is for you to decide.

SUM AGE! Take a half, a third and a fourth of this preteen's age, and the total will be one more than the age itself. What age is that? Time: one minute.

WASH OUT! Unlikely as it may seem, each grouping of letters aired out at right is taken from an English word: No. 1, HTH, for instance, is taken from the word EIGHTH. Just for fun, see if you can discover a source word for at least one of the other seven. That's right, just one. Perhaps you can do better, but be forewarned it is far from easy. More than one answer may be possible in some instances.

1. Eighth; 2. Footscap; 3. Hardtack; 4. Blackmail; 5. Cheatin'; 6. Ringworm; 7. Awkward; 8. Snowflake. Or did you find others?

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE • STANDARD

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

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

- Accepted Average Benchmark Classic
- Common Conventional Gauge Model
- Orthodox Reference Regular Staple
- Stock Textbook Touchstone

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Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



FUSS & FEATHERS DRAWING CARD

It may seem like a lot of fuss and feathers, but it's worth it to see what's hidden in the diagram shown. A sharp pencil and ruler will help.

Begin at intersection 9-D, draw to 9-G to 10-J, 9-I, 9-J, 8-I, 8-J, 7-I, 7-J, 4-G, 4-E, 5-C, 4-D, 3-D, 2-B, 4-A, 5-B, 8-B, to 9-D.

Draw from 6-D to 9-G, 10-F, 9-F, 10-E, 9-E. Add 10-E to 11-E. Add 10-F to 11-F.

Begin at 2-B, draw to 1-D, 1-F, 2-H, 4-J, 5-J, 6-I, 5-I, 3-G, 3-C. Add 1-D to 3-E, 4-E, 3-D. Draw 2-H, 3-G, 4-G. Add 1-F to 4-F. Draw 3-I to 4-H, 5-H, 5-I, 4-J.

Add 5-F to 6-G, 6-F, 7-G, 7-F, 8-G, 8-F. Draw 6-H to 7-I. Add 7-H to 8-I. Also 8-H, 9-I. Add 4-A to 4-B. Then 4-D to 4-E. Also 3-C to 4-D.

Draw small circle below 3-C.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: Variety magazine coined the term "oater" to describe what kind of entertainment?
- MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral LXXX?
- STYLE: What is the function of furniture called an etagere?
- FOOD: What is the chief ingredient in caponata?
- MEASUREMENTS: What did the Binet-Simon Scale measure?
- GEOGRAPHY: On which continent is the country of Paraguay located?
- MEDICINE: What is digitalis used to treat?
- ENTERTAINMENT: Which humorist created the fictional town of Lake Wobegon?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is an aqueduct?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Portrait of a Lady"?

Answers

1. A Western film
2. 80
3. It's a stand with open shelves for display
4. Eggplant
5. Intelligence
6. South America
7. Congestive heart failure
8. Garrison Kelllor
9. An artificial channel to bring water to a town
10. Henry James

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

www.jerrycraft.net

JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



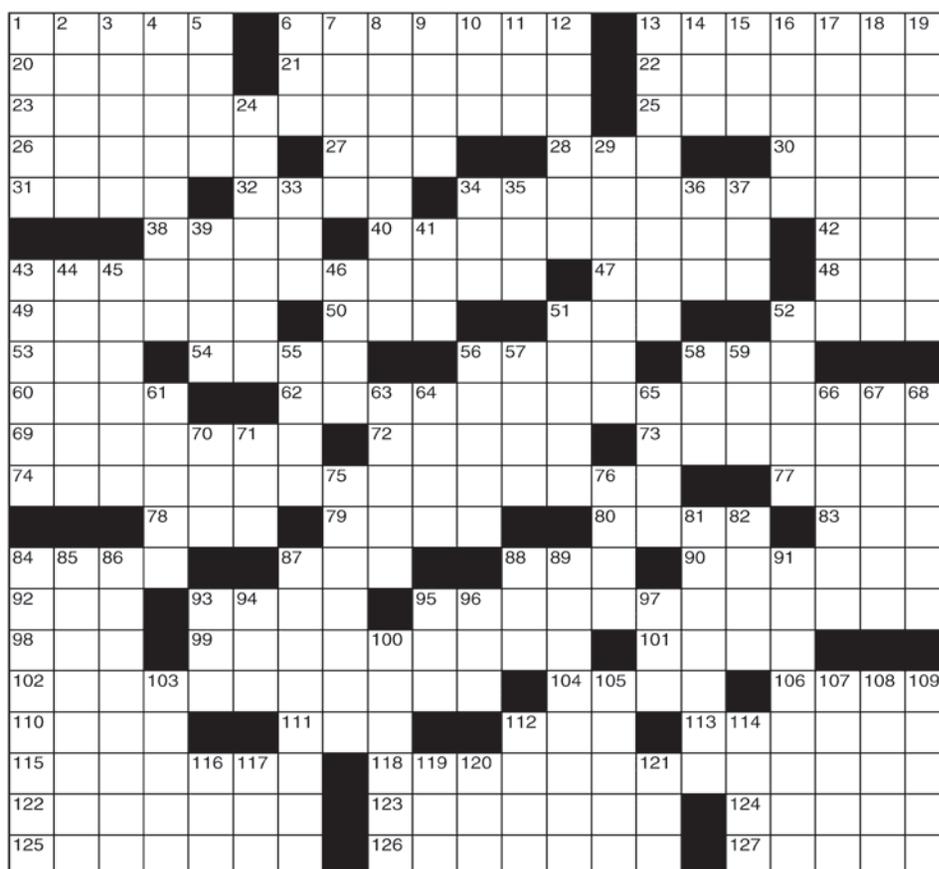
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 9 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Spoon is missing. 3. Paper towels are missing. 4. Socks are shorter. 5. Handle is missing. 6. Box is different.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tree with chocolate-yielding seeds
 - 6 Shoulder blade
 - 13 Attempted
 - 20 Stop prematurely
 - 21 Emmy winner
 - 22 Program that blocks pop-ups
 - 23 Person used to increase a candidate's popularity, e.g.
 - 25 Found a radio station on the dial
 - 26 Inventor who rivaled Tesla
 - 27 Caviar source
 - 28 "Wild Thing" rapper
 - 30 "Zip — Doo-Dah"
 - 31 Bumper flaw
 - 32 Radiance
 - 34 "It" novelist
 - 38 "Ah, OK"
 - 40 "The Dukes of Hazzard" co-star
 - 42 Zeta follower
 - 43 Singer with the Pips
 - 47 "You've Got Mail" director
 - 48 Tiny amount
 - 49 Acting in place of a ruler
 - 50 Punker/folkie
 - 51 Huge
 - 52 Aruba, e.g.
 - 53 English rocker
 - 54 Writer John Dickson —
 - 56 Yemeni port
 - 58 Inclined
 - 60 "Look —!"
 - 62 High fortress in Scotland
 - 69 Attend as a visitor
 - 72 Wood shoe
 - 73 1959 Neil Sedaka hit
 - 74 "Filling Station" poet
 - 77 Agreeable
 - 78 Prefix with center or dermal
 - 79 Watering aid
 - 80 Golda who succeeded Levi Eshkol
 - 83 Kind of acct. that accrues interest
 - 84 Give guff to
 - 87 Stage design
 - 88 "There's no — team"
 - 90 Stinging plant
 - 92 — to the test
 - 93 U.S. gas brand
 - 95 Hit for Abba
 - 98 Ending of ordinals
 - 99 "Kung Fu" star
 - 101 City laws: Abbr.
 - 102 Theme of this puzzle
 - 104 Western lily
 - 106 Valet for the Green Hornet
 - 110 Highway cost
 - 111 Marne "Mrs."
 - 112 Precursor of reggae
 - 113 Li'l tyke
 - 115 Tourist guide
 - 118 1959 romantic comedy appropriate for this puzzle?
 - 122 Campsite shelters, collectively
 - 123 Attributed
 - 124 French playwright
 - 125 "Roots" Emmy winner
 - 126 People painting, e.g.
 - 127 It merged with Kmart
- DOWN**
- 1 Like Batman
 - 2 Residence
 - 3 Actor Farrell
 - 4 Three-time president of Haiti
 - 5 Artist Dix
 - 6 Baglike part
 - 7 Light cigar
 - 8 Lets enter
 - 9 Hookah, e.g.
 - 10 D.C.'s land
 - 11 Like valleys
 - 12 Shakers founder in America
 - 13 Furry guard
 - 14 School Web site suffix
 - 15 Indian flatbread
 - 16 Adjust a bit
 - 17 Trendy weight-loss plans
 - 18 Of the East
 - 19 Outlaw type
 - 24 Things eaten
 - 29 Expressing views
 - 33 Albanian currency unit
 - 34 "Zip it up!"
 - 35 Blast creator
 - 36 Ending for auction
 - 37 Gun lobby inits.
 - 39 'N — (pop boy band)
 - 41 Hi-tech film effects
 - 43 Oily stuff
 - 44 Soup bean
 - 45 Rabbit's tropical lookalike
 - 46 Quaint ointment
 - 51 Sailor's bed
 - 52 "— uphill climb"
 - 55 Surrealist
 - 56 Hoffman of the Yippies
 - 57 Bands of two
 - 58 Frau's cry
 - 59 With 116-Down, classic arcade game
 - 61 T-shirt data
 - 63 Strike while the iron —
 - 64 Catches
 - 65 Wish (for)
 - 66 Mournful
 - 67 Place
 - 68 Ten plus one
 - 70 Brief sleep
 - 71 Sendai sash
 - 75 Axiom's kin
 - 76 Hotel chain
 - 81 Like some painful hairs
 - 82 Necessary: Abbr.
 - 84 Watch from the stands
 - 85 Penned
 - 86 Brit. island in the Atlantic
 - 87 Penny pincher
 - 88 Hospice
 - 89 Bladed boot
 - 91 Alabama city
 - 93 Elec. coolers
 - 94 Séance reply
 - 95 HST follower
 - 96 "— for Alibi" (Grafton novel)
 - 97 Drink with 114-Down
 - 100 Kind of acid in vinegar
 - 103 Thin boards
 - 105 Bistro patron
 - 107 "32 Flavors" singer
 - 108 Less savage
 - 109 "Golden Boy" playwright
 - 112 Dirty stuff
 - 114 Hen's clutch
 - 116 See 59-Down
 - 117 Grow mature
 - 119 Med. service
 - 120 Air quality gp.
 - 121 Bouncers check them

FUN PAGES

SEM CU
south east madera county united

Happy Holidays!

We wish you MORE water

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

**SEM CU's December Regular Meeting
has been Rescheduled!**

Monday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory