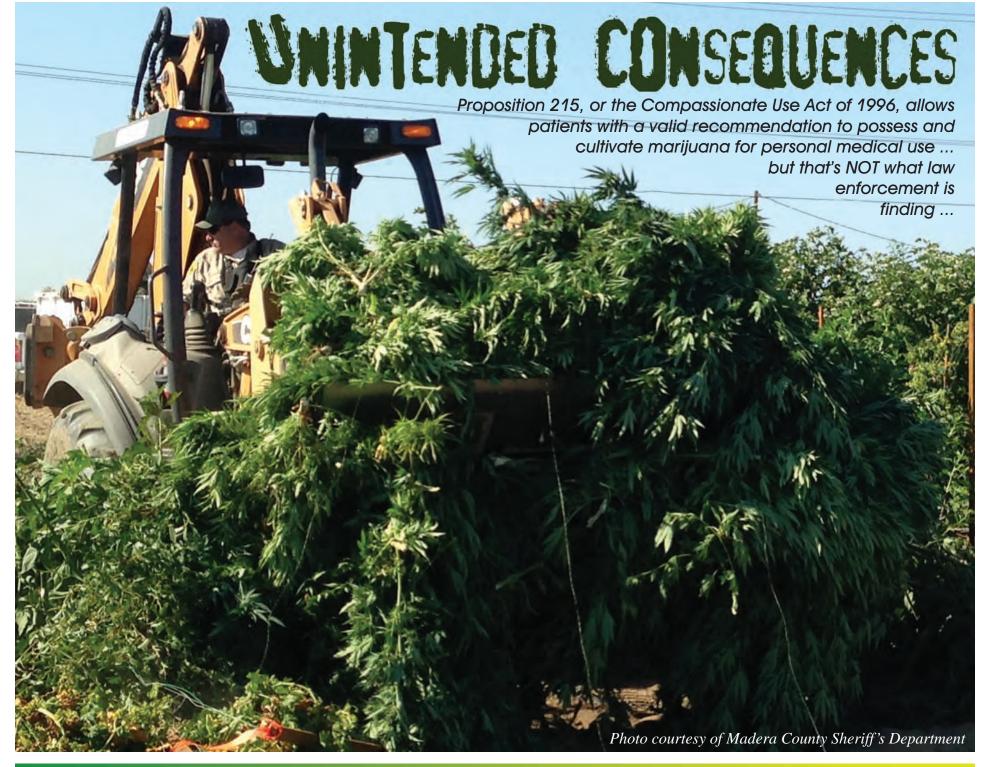
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# UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: A VEALTH OF DANGER GROWING WITH ADVENT OF PROP 215

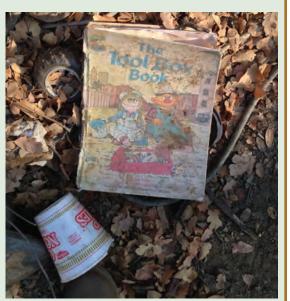
By Randy Bailey

In early September Sheriff John Anderson sent a team of Deputies to North Fork after receiving a tip about a "215 Grow" operating within whistling distance of a local church. The tip came from a concerned citizen who saw a group of people dragging marijuana plants to their vehicle parked along Road 200. What they saw were "Patch Pirates."



Sheriff John Anderson surveying a marijuana grow Highway 99 in Madera County.

The view just 75 yards from Coarsegold Elementary equivalent to 17 football fields just a stone's throw from school. Under the guise of being grown for Prop. 215 purposes, this scene is growing in Madera County.



The human impact is unquestionable. At the Coarsegold School bust, two children were found living in squalid conditions, but the pot was immaculate.

When Deputies arrived they discovered that the stolen plants had been yanked from a significant marijuana operation located approximately 500 feet from a North Fork community church. Deputies discovered two separate plots that contained nearly 400 fully budded plants and three recommendation cards. The garden was not enclosed which made it easy pickings for the pot thieves.

"The best intention of Prop 215, medical need, has given rise to blatant criminal activity," Sheriff Anderson said. "And in this case, carried out a mere 500 feet from a place of worship."

Proposition 215, or the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, allows patients with a valid recommendation to possess and cultivate marijuana for personal medical use. What Anderson and local, state and even federal agents are seeing are the growing number of illegal marijuana gardens operating throughout Madera County under the auspices of Prop 215.

"Marijuana growers have four basic needs," Anderson said. "They need water, sunlight, four months to cultivate their crop, and they need seclusion. With Prop 215, they no longer need seclusion."

### A HUGE Grow

Around the same time officers were dealing with the 215 Grow in North Fork, narcotics agents discovered an even larger grow, as they put it, "Just spitting distance from Highway 99."

The area was the size of 17 football

fields. More than 20 narcotics agents worked 18 hours eradicating marijuana plants. The exact location of the garden is not being released due to an ongoing investigation, as well as the days of clean-up that still follow this marathon mission.

The operation started on Wednesday, Sept. 4 with the seizing of 7,382 fully budded marijuana plants along with 467.4 grams of processed marijuana. The owner of the property reportedly leased the prime agricultural land to as many as six Southeast Asians – all unemployed and none of whom reside in Madera County. Records show their residency in Fresno and Sacramento counties.

Agents say it appears this group managed to maintain this grow for several months, not only paying rent but buying water to cultivate their 17-acre grow site. The garden was surrounded by a wall of corn stalks and inside was an operation that looked like a sophisticated labyrinth of wellnourished marijuana plants camouflaged by overgrown weeds, wild grass and a variety of shrubs and trees - none of which has any legitimate agricultural crop value.

To make matters worse, agents had to maneuver through this jungle-like environment reinforced with tripwire, and with no plumbing on the property, agents also had to sidestep open sewage on the acreage.

A make-shift kitchen inside a hut was housed near the front of the garden. Other plywood huts were surreptitiously positioned throughout the grow site – each one

Please see **PROP 215** on P. 10

# Liberty High Students get H.O.T.

After year of installing the infrastructure within Liberty High School, Golden Valley **Unified School** District will unveil its Hawks on Tablet (H.O.T.) program on Oct. 4 to Liberty sophomores.

"This is a big deal," said Melanie Lewis, dinator learning re-

sources. "This is huge. We've been working on it for the past year laying the groundwork on it.'

On Oct. 4 all Liberty sophomores will be leased a Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 tablet. The tablet will be used as a tool to enhance the educational program in English, world history and biology over the course of the 2013-2014 school

"This is something [GVUSD Superintendent] Andy [Alvarado] has



Melanie Lewis, GVUSD coordinator of learning re-GVUSD coor- sources, displays one of the new tablets that will be pro- the Common vided to all Liberty High sophomores this year.

been going on, getting one-onone with the device," said Lewis, who is in charge of technology, library and curriculum. "We've been lacking with the computers. The kids need to know how to use the technology and we can't team them without devices. With Core standards heavy on tech-

nology, there's a need for every student to have a device."

In 2012, there was an idea about giving tablets to all of the kids as a source for learning. "We wanted to relax the board policy on devices during the day,' Lewis said. "We wanted it so that students could use mobile devices during class time for instructional purpose. However, one of the concerns of the

Please see **H.O.T.** on P. 13

# Bogus Sweepstakes Call Sends Sheriff's Deputy to Victim's Home

Sweepstakes Scam **Targeting Senior Citizens** has a Terrifying Twist

Madera County Sheriff John Anderson has issued a countywide fraud alert after Madera County Sheriff's Deputies responded to what Sheriff Anderson describes as a terrifying

twist to a sweepstakes scam targeting Senior Citizens.

Those behind sweepstakes scams have graduated from convincing victims to wire money in order to collect a prize, to an even bigger enticement - they're now telling victims that a Police Officer has been retained (presumably for "their protection") who will personally escort them to their

bank. The victim called the Sheriff after learning that someone was actually coming to her home. She reports the caller told her that she had won a million dollars and a Police Officer would stop by this morning.

A plain clothes Madera County Sheriff's Detective went to her home to make sure she was safe and stayed with her well after the alleged designated pick-up time. Sheriff Anderson says the immediate clue that it's a scam is when people are told that a fee is required in order to collect a prize. Bona fide prizes do not come with monetary catches. If they are asking you to hand over money, you haven't won anything, he said.

Please see **SCAM** on P. 10

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Dear Editor:

Your volunteers at both Station 9 and 19 would like to send a heartfelt "thank you" to all of those who attended our 28th Annual Fire BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2013. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize all of the people who contributed to the event.

Debbie Farr has put thousands of hours into organizing the BBQ over the past seven years. She has sacrificed time with her family and friends in the name of our department and we can never thank her enough for this tireless dedication. Thank you to all of her loved ones who have supported her through these times and who have also had to sacrifice time with her.

Thank you to Mark and Peggy Borba for allowing us the opportunity of having such a beautiful setting for the event by permitting the use of your Borba's Rancho Rio del Vista.

We would like to thank all of the people who took on the extra workload in selling tickets for us. Thank you to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Vick, Hurst Hardware, the Ranchos Market, the Coffee Spot and the Ranchos Cafe who were all instrumental in the success of the BBQ.

Also, a huge thank you goes out to the many private citizens who sent in monetary donations although they were unable to attend. We truly appreciate your generosity and hope that you can make it next year.

We would like to thank our families and friends who helped out before, during and after the event.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the many corporate sponsors as well as local merchants and private citizens who came forward with products or services to assist us in our venture. They are as following:

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All donations were greatly appreciated and we apologize if we failed to recognize

Madera County Fire Stations 9 and 19 Madera Ranchos

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.

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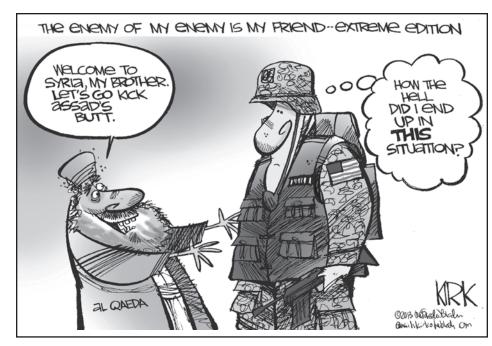


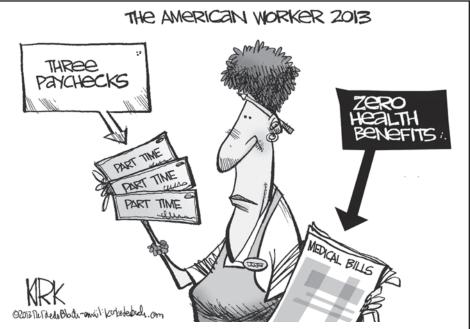
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### Editorial

# We in New School - God Help Us

By Randy Bailey

Philosopher George Santayana observed that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. With the passage of time, particularly in a society and culture that's not really up on lion murders in China and over 125 milhistory, this can be a painful lesson to learn -- of course the lesson is not learned because there is no remembrance of the face of the earth with absolutely no events that led up to it. It's probably best explained by Rachel Jeantel, Trayvon Martin's friend who, in response to the jury's decision in the Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman trial, said on CNN: "Well, the jury, they see their facts. My thoughts of the jury, they old, that's old school people. We in a new school, our generation, my generation."

The problem is that new school operates devoid of any connection with the old school. With the past. With history. Any guesses what happens next?

The new school didn't grow up in the shadow of Communism. They didn't do "Duck and Cover" drills in elementary school. Forget that ducking and covering would have done absolutely no good had a nuclear bomb gone off, we were doing it because we were being made aware and acknowledging an evil, ominous threat that had stood on the world stage and said, without hesitation, "We will bury you."

The new school doesn't know that one-party government is the embodiment

of how power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. One-party control in the form of Communism was responsible for 3 million murders in Cambodia, over 3 1/2 million murders in both North Korea and Vietnam, 110 million murders in Russia. Almost a quarter of a billion human beings wiped off the repercussions for doing it; done simply because the state saw that it was necessary in the best interests of the state.

New school has no concept of any of these old school facts.

Today in California one party runs the state. From the assembly to the senate to the governor's mansion. No, they're not herding people wholesale off to death camps, never to be heard from again. But what they are doing is passing laws reflecting one ideology, one mind set, one agenda.

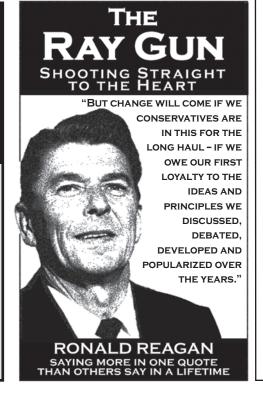
Last month I wrote about the passage of AB1266, a law allowing California school students to act upon their perceived gender, resulting in now allowing, among other things, boys in girls' bathrooms and locker rooms. Every Republican in the state legislature voted against it, plus two Democrats, and it passed unmolested. Every Republican could have stayed home and played online poker and it would have been the exact same result.

Now there's AB711. Written by Democrats, passed by Democrats and on its way to Democrat Governor Brown's desk, it bans the use of lead in ammunition -- approximately 95 percent of all ammunition out there. Say goodbye to hunting. Forget target shooting. Don't even think of home protection for you and your family.

What will Brown do? He's already on record saying, "California has the toughest gun laws in the country, and we're proud of that achievement."

The nation frets that the evil Republicans might "shut down the government" in the fight over defunding Obamacare. What I ask is: What have we got to do to shut down the government in California?

Shame on you Republicans who, on election day, stay home and don't get out and vote. And to all of you new school Democrats who have giddily given us one-party rule in the Golden State: Thanks for absolutely nothing.



# Always a Busy Week in the Ranchos

Last week I stopped by Sierra

View Elementary School. I have

been hearing about the new ad-

ministration building that was paid

for with Measure S bond money

and matching funds from the state

... Since I am on the Bond Over-

sight Committee I wanted to see

with my own eyes and hear if all

the work had been completed be-

fore I went to the meeting. I am try-

ing to make sure that our taxes are

spent in the way they are supposed

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I attended the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer on Sept. 11, hosted by John and Nancy Finley at their CM&N Nursery. It was a perfect night to have an outside mixer. Some of us were given a tour of the nursery. I saw an incredible sight. We were walking along and I looked up and saw a large round cantaloupe hanging from a tree branch. Now I am a farmer's daughter and I know that cantaloupes grow on a vine on the ground,

in fact my dad had them growing in my back yard when he was alive. Here my eyes are seeing a cantaloupe growing up a tree with cantaloupes hanging from tall tree branches. It just looked wrong to me. Nancy Finley explained that a bird dropped a seed into a container in which she was already growing a tree. She has put baskets around the cantaloupes to keep them from breaking

off. Nancy said that she had picked one of the cantaloupes to see if it was good to eat but that it didn't have any flavor.

to be spent.

Do you think that it tasted like a tree? A Chamber mixer is the time for the business community to socialize and network together. The food is always good and I even won a prize. Three other Ranchos/Hills Seniors were also at the Chamber mixer and they saw the cantaloupe tree also so I wasn't dreaming it.

The second week of each month is always my busy week. Monday night was the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' general meeting night, Wednesday night was the Chamber mixer night, Thursday night was two meetings: the Bond Oversight Committee meeting at 5 p.m. and then the Ranchos/Hills Seniors at 6 p.m. for potluck dinner and card playing until 9 p.m. Then I rounded off the week on Friday night by going to the Ballet Folklorico De Madera at the Liberty High School Theater. Saturday I cooked for a luncheon and meeting at my house for six of my sorority sisters and ended by having a group from

Golden Valley Baptist Church at my house on Sunday night. This is why I am late getting this article written.

The Ballet Folklorico De Madera was a very professional group of dancers. At Liberty High School we have a teacher by the name of Denice Lane who is the Folklorico Club advisor for students at Liberty High School who are interested in this form of dancing. Her students were in this dance production. There were students from Madera Unified, some as young as 8 years old up to 18 years. Also there was a group of Folklorico dancers from Oaxaca.

Mexico. They had traveled all the way from Mexico to be a part of this presentation. The local Ballet Folklorico De Madera was formed in 1982. The vocation of the group is to encourage and appreciate the Mexicultural can experience. The mission of this group is to be a resource for their community and to provide a forum for cultural exchange with the audience. The company in

Madera is directed by Cecilia Rios and is made up of children of all ages, from 8 years to 18 years old. There were many different costumes that the dancers wore for the different dances from the Mexican States. The different states were Campeche, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Vera Cruz, Tabasco and Jalisco. The music, costumes and dances were all from these different parts of Mexico. If you ever get the opportunity it is well worth your time and money to go see the Folklorico group dance

Last week I stopped by Sierra View Elementary School. I have been hearing about the new administration building that was paid for with Measure S bond money and matching funds from the state. I also wanted to ask about the repair work that was done on the classrooms. Since I am on the Bond Oversight Committee I wanted to see with my own eyes and hear if all the work had been completed before I went to the meeting. I am trying to make sure that our taxes are spent in the way they are supposed to be spent.









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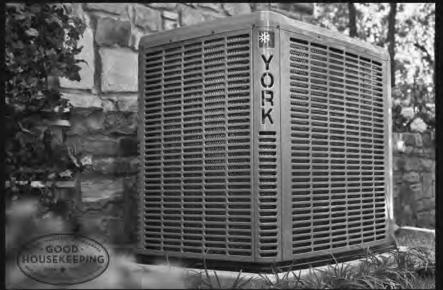
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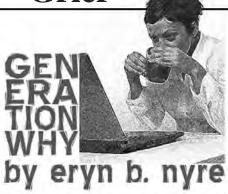
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hvacbysam@sbcglobal.net Locally owned and operated in the Ranchos lig# 837274 **Teens** + **Phones** = **Grief** 

Ah, the dulcet tones of a crabby teenager on the phone. Is there anything more beautiful, more soothing, more tempting to the eardrums? I spend nearly my entire work day on the phone for various reasons, tracking down employee documents, discussing schedules, begging people to pick up extra shifts. And when I am not making the calls, my phone screams at me nonstop, flooding me with a near constant barrage of questions, demands and call offs. When I was a teenager I might have enjoyed a full time job that centered around being on the phone. I am all grown up now, and I would like nothing more than to unplug the thing and toss it down the elevator shaft. But what makes an already irritating aspect of my job completely unbearable is when I call someone's home and have to deal with their petulant halfwit teen who doesn't know good phone etiquette from their own rear end.

It must be intimidating trying to work a phone that doesn't simultaneously surf the internet, stream a movie and broadcast the local radio station, but don't feel overwhelmed; it is actually quite simple. Just pick up the handset, press "talk" and say, "hello." At which point you need only pass the phone over or take a brief message because it's probably not for you anyway. It shouldn't take more than a minute or two and then you can go back to being face deep in your smart phone. There is absolutely no reason to scream to your mother, she has done nothing wrong, and there is no call to be rude to me for disturbing your afternoon of boob-tubing. If this is too daunting of a task, simply let the phone go to voicemail, you need not even get off your lazy behind. If only technology would advance enough for me to slap someone through the phone, but alas, at this point my only recourse is to roll my eyes and silently bang my head against the desk.

While making my daily round of calls the other day, a nasty little brat answered the phone. Instead of going to get his mother, or even just calling for her loudly, he screamed "Mom, it's some chick for you. Get over here and get the phone, hurry up or I'll hang up." And I mean screamed, so loud that his voice cracked. Puberty at least has a sense of humor. I've also deleted a few expletives. I wish I were joking. My mouth dropped, and it took more control than I thought I was capable of not to lash out at the ungrateful little snot. As I listened to him countdown the 10 seconds he gave his mother to reach the phone, not once did I hear her say anything to him about his attitude. I listened intently, hoping I would hear the sound of a hand making sharp contact with the soft skin



of his face, but nothing. She took the phone and from the distant background I could hear the little punk express his discontent with how long it took her. I wanted to ask her how her son managed to turn out like that, and if she needed me to check into a fitting military academy for him, but I uncharacteristically kept my mouth shut. She didn't seem fazed by him at all, it was if she either didn't hear him or didn't bother to care that he was rude and out of line with his own mother. Most teenagers give attitude to their parents, a lot of 20-somethings do too, but there is a line, man. You expect an eye roll here or there, certainly getting them off their duff to do a few chores is a never-ending fight. But to talk to your mom like that, I was appalled.

I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be able to answer the phone for a week from a broken hand and a wired jaw if I talked to either of my parents like that. Okay, maybe they wouldn't have broken bones, but I would be feeling the pain, there is no doubt in my mind about that. The woman who answered the phone was so sweet, either she has a heck of a nasty side that has caused her son to lash out so vehemently, or Mama needs to grow a pair and remind her kid who pays the bills.

I often deal with kids who just have no sense of phone etiquette, which irritates me on a visceral level. I was raised to answer the phone politely, inquire as to whom was calling and diligently take a message when necessary. I wasn't allowed to answer the phone if I couldn't manage to handle the responsibility. I cannot count the number of times some kid has been rude or completely disengaged and I know my message did not get to their parents. All of that is irritating enough, but this kid who flung obscenities at his mom because she didn't get to the phone fast enough for his liking, he takes the cake. I know it's a lot for a teenager to handle, being nice when there are so many more important things you could be doing; perhaps you should avoid such overwhelming tasks like answering the phone if it makes you this grumpy. Interesting, I'm going to have to pass that information on to my boss: If operating a phone takes that much out of a person, I'm seriously overdue for a raise.

### **Getting Comfortable**

As I've said before, I was raised as the country was coming out of the Great Depression when things were a whole lot different than they are now. Meals were cooked at home and the family all sat at the kitchen table together to eat. We didn't have iPods, cell phones, or fast food restaurants to keep us from eating with the family. We could be out playing or at meal she remembers the most is the library or over at a friend's house, but we were expected to be home in time to set the table for dinner.

I was looking through my mom's old recipe cards the other day and as I read some of them I could remember eating that dish or watching mama preparing it for her family. In going through the cards, I realized a lot of the meals mama cooked weren't written down on cards. She just knew how to cook them and fortunately, passed them on to us girls. I guess you would call some of the meals "comfort food," as they made me think of the times with family. What is comfort food? According to the internet, they are foods that remind us of comforting childhood memories. For most of us, these foods are a long way from gourmet. They bring on feelings of nostalgia, safety and security. Someone took a poll and listed the top 25 most popular comfort foods, and believe it or not, in this poll peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and grilled cheese sandwiches came out on top. I won't list all 25, but here is a partial list: apple pie, fried chicken, meatloaf, chocolate chip cookies, chicken and dumplings, chili, beef stew, tomato soup and tuna casserole. So I decided to take my own poll. On the top of the list were macaroni and cheese, pot roast, fried chicken and potato salad.

I'm going to list our family favorites and tell you how we best. cooked them. There won't be many recipes because it depends on the size of your family as to how much you cook. You don't want to cook a big four or fivepound roast for just two or three in the family. However, you might



want to cook more than your family can eat in one meal as some of these are just as good, if not better, warmed up for another meal

My sister Maxine said the what we called ...

### Smothered Steak

The ingredients are:

Round Steak

Potatoes

Onion

Oil

Flour Salt & pepper

1 can Bouillon Soup, or a couple Bouillon cubes

Have ready a large baking pan with a lid or aluminum foil. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Cut the steak into serving size pieces, salt and pepper to taste, and dredge in flour. Shake excess flour off and brown good in the frying pan and when meat is browned good, transfer to the baking pan. Scrub enough potatoes for your family and slice in quarter to eighth inch slices and lay on top of the steak. Peel and slice as many onions as you will need (one is usually enough) and put on top of the potatoes. Salt and pepper to taste. Add the can of soup or the bouillon cubes and enough water to just come up to the top of potatoes.

Cover and bake in a 350 oven for about an hour or until meat and potatoes are done. You can do this without the bouillon, but it just makes a more flavorful dish with it.

Randy's favorite is ...

Pot Roast

You will need:

1 good roast - I think chuck is

A couple of cloves of garlic Salt and Pepper

Red Wine, beef broth or

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 11

come meet friends!

# Golden Valley Baptist Church

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

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# Kicking It with Ranchos, Area Kids

By Igal Treibatch

Over 400 local kids participated in a special event over two weekends in August where the Los Angeles-based Chivas USA, a Major League Soccer club, presented professional coaches from their youth development program to hold clinics at Liberty High School and Madera High School over four days for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 18. The free event, which provided the highest quality learning experience for all participants, taught the fundamental components of soccer to the younger groups and provided deeper understanding and tech-

niques to the older ones, as well as fostering a positive, enjoyable learning environment.

Free of any charge to the community, SEMCU (Southeast Madera County United), with the assistance of the Madera County Supervisors Manuel Nevarez, Max Rodriguez and Rick Farinelli, Madera Unified School District, Golden Valley Unified School District, Madera Youth Soccer League, City of Madera Parks and Community Services Department, and Central Valley Vipers Competitive Soccer Club, put on the clinics as part of its committment of working with and educating the youngsters of our community. As part of its charter and mission statement,

SEMCU is working toward solidifying community relationships and community involvement on all levels, as well as working on obtaining grants which will help deal with challenging issues such as water, schools, safety, parks, a community center, the library and more.

SEMCU sponsored two chartered buses to take 100 of the participating kids to one of the Chivas' league games against the Red Bulls of New York. A drawing was held to determine who could go since there were not enough seats in the buses.

On Sunday, Aug. 25 the kids who won the tickets arrived at Liberty High and Madera High where the two charter buses picked them up and took them to the Stub-Hub Center in Carson, Calif. When they arrived, along with several caravanning cars full of family and friends, they were escorted onto the field parading, waving and shouting to the seated crowd.

After the game, the kids were given the opportunity to enter an essay writing contest about their Chivas USA experience as well as a best photo contest. Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place essay participants. A \$25 prize was also given to the best photo taken at the game. The 1st place essay and photo can be seen below.

It was not only fantastic to see the kids having fun and experiencing a great event, but the way the community came together in a last-minute effort to volunteer and help was something to behold as an achievement on its own.



Southeast Madera County United, with the assistance of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, Madera Unified School District, Golden Valley Unified School District, Madera Youth Soccer League, City of Madera Parks and Community Services Department, and Central Valley Vipers Competitive Soccer Club, presented special Chivas USA youth soccer clinics on Aug. 3 and 4 at Liberty High School and on Aug. 10 and 11 at MUSD Memorial Stadium.

The purpose of the clinics was to provide the highest quality learning experience for all participants ages six through 18, teach the fundamental components of soccer and fostering a positive, enjoyable learning environment.

The kids who attended the Chivas USA soccer clinics in August entered a drawing to receive a ticket to the Chivas USA vs. New York Red Bull Soccer Match on Sunday, Aug. 25 at the Stub-Hub Center in Carson, Calif. Transportation on a chartered bus was provided.

The kids then had the option to enter an essay writing contest about their experience at the game. Prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. A prize was also given to the best photo taken at the game. First prize for the essay was awarded to Jasmine Gonzalez and the winning photo entry went to Alyssa Flores.

# **Local Youth Win with Soccer Camp**

SEMCU and other local agencies make dream a reality

Vipers U-15 Clasmine Gonzale Chiva: Experience experience at this game was unlargetable. Starting from the con ride here till the end of the game. I am glad I got to have this experience with my societheam (central Valley Vipero) as well. Once we got our the bus I was all ready to see the game, and see CHIVAS USA Win, I have been a Chivas pans since who mass which my whole family is a big for of Chiva's Doccer deams! Anyways, one we got off we all got prepared with our states in our hands and smiles on our forces. It took us a conile to set in but we did with our converse ready for every shot. We got in and stood in the to high five the proper mands. As I heard the sociaming & welling I librero they were coming out-And when they did I had my hand out a wide open to high the every single are at them. the players were varmed up & ready to play my whose team sat dam, prepared to cheer. I was ready to even on my team but also I carn from them. I watered the and saw now they would wait and cover each forwards. I was able to see the nice wals they scored both Chiuas USA & There York - I had a great thre cheering with my scam. we would well a cerebrate each argue at each foul the ref miscalled, and laugh at now some players would pake their injuries/fours. This fan tastic experience and team bondins would have never vapper help as our coatch, who organized is I am just glad & greatful that I have a team like ( control valley unpers) to experience my unsurgestable moments with it

### PROP 215 cont. from P. 2

armed with motion detector systems so the growers would know if and when someone entered their illicit operation.

#### Near a School

Less than a week later, Sheriff John Anderson was faced with the discovery of another 215 Grow just 75 yards from Coarsegold Elementary School in Coarsegold. There, Deputies discovered 400 fully budded marijuana bushes, ready for harvest. A 12-man team was assigned to the eradication but the mission be-

came complicated by the discovery that a marijuana plant had been found on school grounds. MADNET (Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team) quickly secured a search warrant on the nearby property and held a briefing with both Sheriff Anderson and Coarsegold Elementary School Principal Bob Rose. Principal Rose was prepared to put his school on lockdown if the mission could not be accomplished before students were scheduled to arrive on campus. Since the safety and welfare of the children, faculty, and staff was paramount, agents were not af-

forded time to gather any information about who lived on the property, how many people occupied the property, if there were children, if they had dogs, and if any of them might be armed.

 $W \quad h \quad e \quad n$ agents, accompanied by SWAT officers, arrived at dawn they saw two men flee the marijuana grow and head into the same time a

pit bull suddenly appeared, charging at the deputies. For their safety, officers had no choice but to shoot the dog. The foot chase for the pair who had fled finally ended when they

were apprehended on school grounds. Deputies removed both men from the campus and whisked them back to the location that had been secured by additional officers on the

> Two children were found living complete squalor inside a house on the They property. were immediately placed in the care of Child Protective Services for their safety and welfare. It is estimated that as as five many adults occupied the residence and were reportedly sharing rooms in the home, as well occupying make-shift camps scattered through-

out the 5-acre lot. Ultimately four separate gardens were located and all of them were within 75 yards of the elementary school.

"No one was injured, and because of their swift timing, agents were able to complete this delicate mission before the first bus arrived at the school," Anderson said. "Therefore no lockdown was needed."

But Anderson's frustration lies in the total lack of consideration of innocent parties affected by these marijuana grows. "The Compassionate Use Act was not intended for a growing segment of society that is basically

> using Prop 215 financial for gain," he said.

MADNET's marijuana eradication season continues for at least another month, and so far agents have destroyed nearly 150,000 plants. Most of these eradication operations are run by MADNET agents, assisted by Madera Sheriff's Deputies, Madera Regional SWAT, California Department of

Fish and Wildlife Officers, United States Department of Justice/Drug Enforcement Agency agents and the Merced Mariposa Narcotic Task Force.



The amount of manpower required to keep these illegal grows in check is staggering.

Two children were found in deplorable living condidense brush. At tions in a grow just 75 yards from an elementary school.

## **SCAM** cont. from P. 3

#### Other Current Scams

In addition to the Police Officer scam, Anderson is also warning residents about a recent spurt of telephone scams targeting the elderly ... again. In one case, a mountain resident received over 40 calls in a two-day period from the same telephone number: 876-587-

Area code 876 is the local telephone area code of Jamaica.

Anderson said the 876 area code has become notorious with lottery and

sweepstake fraud calls announcing lottery winnings. In the mountain case, the victim was told that he had entered in a \$2.5 million drawing and had opted to receive \$2,500 worth of merchandise. In order to receive his winnings, the victim had to wire \$1,000 to Joe Campbell, 301 South Normandy Avenue, #201, Los Angeles, CA90084, to cover shipping, handling and taxes.

An actual "YOU HAVE WON!" lottery letter received by a local resident.

Anderson said no matter how convincing the person on the other end of the phone may sound, you can be sure there is no prize. "There was never any prize, because you never have to send any amount of money if you really won," he said.

Anderson also cautions residents

about counterfeit checks that arrive accompanied by a "YOU JUST WON!" letter. The amount of the check is often more than the alleged prize, with instructions to cash the check and wire back the overage to cover shipping, handling and taxes.

"That too is a scam," the Sheriff said.

After receiving numerous questions and complaints from citizens concerning the legitimacy of lottery letters, Anderson explains three simple ways to spot a scam:

First: No legitimate lottery will ask

for fee advances, much less personal information in order to claim the alleged prize.

Second: Legitimate governmentrun lotteries do NOT give deadlines to claim prize.

Third: Participating in a foreign lottery through the mail, or over the phone, violates United States Federal law.

Anderson says an influx of lottery scams are once again cropping up in Madera County - all targeting both Eng-

lish and Spanish speaking residents.

What can you do to protect yourself? If they attempt to reach you by phone, hang up. If you receive a letter like the one described in the mail, don't respond. Tear it up, and toss it in the trash.



### Madera Ranchos|Southeast Madera County COMMUNITY CALENDA BROUGHT TO YOU BY JEMCU AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 28 **Sierra View Harvest Carnival Sierra View Parents** & Craft Fair (Sierra View Elementary) October 3 **Drive Through Flu Shots Madera County** (Liberty High School) **Health Department** October 5 Chili Cook-Off/Car Show Festival **Ranchos Kiwanis** (at Maywood Center) October 26 3rd Annual Soccer camp **Liberty Ranchos Youth** Soccer October 26 **Low Cost Vaccination Clinic Dog Gone Cute Store** December 6 **Christmas Tree Lighting Chamber of Commerce** (at Maywood Center)

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



**RECIPE** cont. from P. 8

Carrots

Onion

Potatoes (optional - see note)

Pat the roast dry with paper towels. Peel and slice garlic, make slits in roast and insert the sliced garlic. Salt and pepper the roast. In the pot you will be cooking the roast, pour a couple of tablespoons of oil in bottom and heat well. Brown roast in pot on both sides. When roast is browned good, remove to plate. Add a little more oil and add sliced vegetables, stirring until well browned, Remove to plate. Pour about a cup of desired liquid into pan and using a wooden spoon scrape all the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Don't discard them as these are yummy and part of the flavoring. Put roast back in the pan and add the vegetables. Add additional liquid (about 2 or 3 cups) to come half way up the roast. Cover pot and put in a 275 degree oven. Cook a 3-pound roast for about 3 hours and a 4 to 5-

pound roast you should allow 4 hours. Do not peek during cooking until right at last when you make sure it is done. After taking the roast and vegetables out and placing on serving platter, make gravy with the liquid remaining in the pot, spooning off any surface fat. You may have to add more liquid, make a paste of a couple tablespoons of cornstarch and water. When liquid is boiling, add the cornstarch and whisk until mixed well and thick enough as you pre-

Note about potatoes: Some people don't like potatoes cooked with the roast, they prefer cooking them separate and making mashed potatoes.

And my favorite? I have been thinking about this for a couple of days and it is hard to pick just one. There is fried chicken, or meat loaf, or just about anything from the garden. How about a pot of pinto beans with fried potatoes and fried okra and a pan of cornbread? But I think the meal I remember the most is corned beef hash - this is one dish you definitely want left overs. Warmed up for breakfast with an egg cooked anyway you like it, a toasted English muffin delicious!

#### Corned Beef Hash

You'll need:

Potatoes - peeled and cut into cubes

An onion - chopped Salt and Pepper 1 Can Corned Beef Oil for frying

Pour a couple of tablespoons of oil in a frying pan and get it hot. Pour in the potatoes and onions with salt and pepper. Fry until done and golden brown. Don't use too much oil, you don't want to deep fry the potatoes. Open the can of corned beef and break it up and pour into potatoes. Continue cooking until meat is hot and well dis-

Before I close this one out, I want to remind you of the Drive through Flu shots the Madera County Health Department does each year. This year it will be Thursday, Oct. 3 at Liberty High School. I didn't get this year's

tributed in the potatoes. There you have it, some of our comfort food. What is yours? I hope whatever it is it brings back lots of good memories of home, family and love.

charge, but last year it was \$5.





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The Bookshelf

# WiFi Coming to Ranchos Library

By Lori McClendon

### WiFi Coming Soon!

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair is right around the corner on Saturday, Nov. 9 at Riverpark in Fresno and all proceeds benefit the Ranchos Library. If you would like to perform or participate in this year's event please contact Kalani at the Library at 645-1214. I hope to see you at the Bookfair.

Did you know free homework help is available at the Ranchos Library for grades K-5 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Mrs. Taylor? Additional times may be available by appointment, just ask at the front desk.

Check out our New Arrivals

Adult Fiction: The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith – After losing his leg to a land mine in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike is barely scraping by as a private investigator. Strike is



down to one client, and creditors are calling. He has also just broken up with his longtime girlfriend and is living in his office.

Then John Bristow

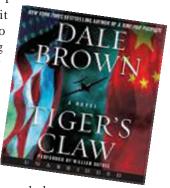
walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe that. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction and delusion known to man.

You may think you know detectives, but you've never met one quite like Strike. You may think you know about the wealthy and famous, but you've never seen them under an investigation like this. Introducing Cormoran Strike; this is the acclaimed first crime novel by J.K. Rowling, writing under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

Audio Book on CD

Adult Fiction: Tiger's Claw by Dale Brown - Former Air Force captain and New York Times bestselling author Dale Brown is an acknowledged

master when it comes to bringing military action to breathtaking life and he has r e ceived



glowing accolades since his debut publication, Flight of the Old Dog.

Tiger's Claw proves once again that every rave has been well deserved. Set in the near future, Tiger's Claw imagines a scenario in which tensions escalate between an economically powerful China and a United States weakened by a massive economic downfall, bringing the two superpowers to the brink of total destruction. Brown's popular protagonist, retired Air Force lieutenant-general Patrick McLanahan (of A Time for Patriots, Rogue Forces and other Brown bestsellers), is back and preparing for the impending apocalyptic clash of men and military technology.

The incomparable Dale Brown scores again with a frighteningly possible story of war and global politics that's ideal for fans of Vince Flynn and

Services available at the library include books, magazines and newspapers; books on CD and tape; DVD and VHS videos; access to ebooks; public computers with internet access; typewriter, photocopier and system wide book requests. And don't forget your library card -- don't leave home without it!

The Madera Ranchos Library 37167 Ave. 12

645-1214 Sunday and Monday Closed Tuesday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday  $11 \ a.m. - 3 \ p.m.$ www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org



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### **H.O.T.** cont. from P. 2

board was that all students may not have a device. Teachers couldn't require students to use them; teachers couldn't use it to teach. The goal was to provide a student with a device."

For this school year the district purchased 175 tablets for the sophomores. "Over the past year, we worked on upgrading our WiFi system, the asset management and mobile device management to be able to secure what they can and can't do with the device," Lewis said.

The district also updated technology policies, acquired digital resources and provided professional development to teachers specific to sophomores.

"In May, we began working with the teachers and professional development," Lewis said. "They got the device and took it home over the summer."

In addition, the district upgraded the website/learning content management system to where teachers have interactive websites. "That way students, on a device,

can take a survey, submit homework or take quizzes online," Lewis said. "All students are put into the website and it facilitates better communication with the school."

The district purchased monitoring software so teachers can see what the students are doing in class and give instruction. "We're assigning all the students Google accounts so they will have a school account and Google drive," Lewis said. "It's been a bit to put into place to make this happen. The teachers are getting development every Wednesday after school. We want to make sure the teachers are getting trained and we have the tablets ready to go."

Sophomore parents will have to attend a mandatory meeting where they will get the guidelines of how the tablets are to be used. The district is also creating disciplinary action for those in violation of the guidelines.

"The tablets are to be used for instructional purposes," Lewis said. "They are not to be used for gaming or TV. We have things in place when students violate the rules."

Lewis said the district wanted to start with sophomores because they have been at Liberty for a year. "It also gives the freshmen something to look for," Lewis said. "It seemed like a more stable grade to work for. We will add juniors next year, the seniors after that and then freshmen. The goal is to replace textbooks with the tablet. Even now, all of the English curriculum is available online."

For Lewis, this combines both of her areas of expertise. She received master's degrees in teaching, learning and technology, and school librarianship.

"This program integrates both of those," she said. "I'm very excited. This is like the best part of my job, but I haven't had time to work with it."

The district chose the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 tablet over other tablets and the iPad for a number of reasons. The android operating system is a little more flexible than Apple.

"We're a 'Windows' school," Lewis said. "We can go to a different device and

not have a program. It has a stylus so the kids can write notes. They can also multitask. They can take notes and read at the same time. The students will eventually be state tested on the computer and the state says it has to be on a 10-inch or bigger device."

The district will offer three parent meetings to go over the guidelines of the tablet. Each sophomore parent must attend one of the meetings. The first meeting is Oct. 2 during tutorial at Liberty High School from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. The other two meetings are during the evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the theater on Oct 2 and Oct. 3.

The students will receive the tablets on Friday and spend the day in "Tablet Boot Camp," receiving instruction in the theater all day. The district will also be offering parent training classes.

"The kids can't wait," Lewis said. "They are so excited."

For more information about the program, visit: www.edline.net/pages/liberty\_high/library/library\_media\_center/HOT\_program.



Date: Tuesdays, September 24 - November 19, 2013

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

**Cost:** \$100 Per Kit (couples share kit) **Location:** Flipside Christian Church

37193 Avenue 12, Madera, CA. 93636

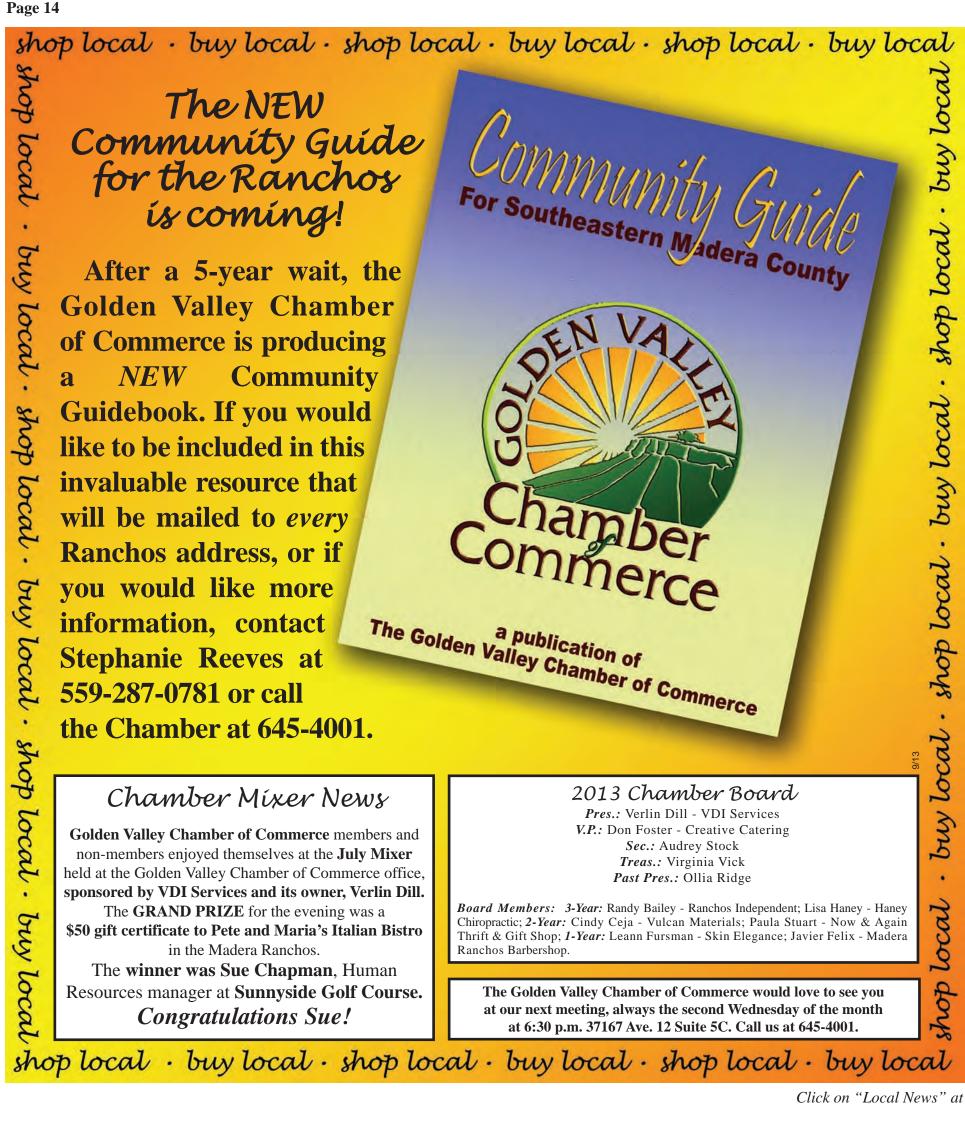
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Have a cool car you'd like to show off? There are NO ENTRY FEES to this year's Sierra View Harvest Carnival Car Show. Bring your hot rod or muscle car or low rider and wow the attendees and you just might take home a prize. For more info contact Tara Pires at 559-281-5422.

CAR

# SILENT AUCTION

Be sure to come and take part in this year's Silent Auction. Choose from a wide selection of items donated by local businesses and Sierra View supporters and be assured that all of the money raised goes right back into programs for our kids. Like to donate something? Call Tara Pires at 559-281-5422.

In addition to the Silent Auction there will also be a number of raffle items this year. Thanks to the generosity of Sierra View supporters you can take a chance at winning an exciting prize and help raise money for our kids at Sierra View. Like to donate a raffle item? Call Tara Pires at 559-281-5422.

RAFFLE PRIZES

# PRE-SALE TICKETS

Get your game cards early and save money. Tickets will be available the day of the Carnival but will be more expensive. Game cards are \$5 each for 20 tickets. Get a BONUS CARD with an additional FREE 5 tickets for each pre-sold game card you buy. Call Tara Pires at 559-281-5422.

for more info call Tara Pires at 559-281-5422



# New Teachers and Promotions Highlight New Year for GVUSD

As with every school year, there is movement among Golden Valley Unified School District and seven members of the district received internal promotions and the District hired 11 new administrators, teachers and classified staff.

Among the promotions are two new principals. Frank Panian, the former Liberty High School learning director, was promoted as the school's principal. Felipe Piedra, formerly Webster Elementary School's principal, was promoted to be the principal at Ranchos Middle School.

Kuljeet Mann, Liberty's principal last year, is now the Director of Student Services for GVUSD and former RMS principal Kevin Hatch is the assistant superintendent.

Taking Panian's place as the learning director at Liberty is former Webster Elementary teacher Sarah Marshall. Chelan Shepherd is the vice principal at Webster after teaching at Sierra View and Paul Rauschenberg is the newest technology technician.

GVUSD also welcomed Michael Diaz to the district as Webster's new principal. In addition, six new teachers were hired.

#### **Promotions**

Name: Kevin Hatch

*New Position:* Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

*Old Position:* Principal, Ranchos Middle School

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had with the district? I've been with GVUSD since it started in 1999. I was one of the Madera Unified teachers who stayed on at Webster when we became Golden Valley Unified School District. I was a 6th grade and 4th grade teacher at Webster. Then I was promoted to Vice Principal at Webster and then promoted to Principal at Webster. Then I was moved over to Ranchos Middle School as Principal

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? I'm looking forward to working with our amazing staff to implement the California

Common Core State Standards and continuing to grow a district of excellence.

How has the transition been to the new position? The transition has been great. I am on a very steep learning curve.

What are the some of the biggest differences from your old position to your new position? Biggest difference – I don't get to be with the kids.

What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? Because of the time that I am coming in, the newest thing I have to bring in are the new state standards. When Mr. Alvarado was in the Assistant Superintendent role, he did a great job supporting our school sites. I hope to bring that same level of support to our schools

What are you going to miss from your old school/position? Building relationships with kids.

Name: Kuljeet Mann

*New Position:* Director of Student Services

*Old Position:* Principal, Liberty High School

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had with the district? Seven years: Three as Learning Director of Liberty High School (2006-2009) and four as the Principal of LHS (2009-2013).

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? Planning, organizing and supervising student services programs. I look forward to establishing the Child Welfare and Attendance programs that needed attention in our district.

How has the transition been to the new position? Amazingly smooth so far, thanks to the outstanding atmosphere of teamwork in this district.

What are the some of the biggest differences from your old position to your new position? The biggest difference is that I work with a number of agencies beyond GVUSD like VTR, Childrens' Hospitals, Madera County office of Ed. Another difference is lack of hectic pace that I was used to as the Principal of a comprehensive high school.

What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? I am really excited about serving the needs of our underserved student and community population such as Homeless and Foster Youth, our students at Childrens' Hospital and focusing on attendance. One of the programs that I will bring to GVUSD this year is the Positive Behavior Intervention program, which will address the social/emotional behaviors.

What are you going to miss from your old school/position? Although I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to serve all the students and support all schools at GVUSD, I will definitely miss the students and staff at Liberty, which had been my home for the past seven years. I will miss the hustle and bustle of a comprehensive campus.

Name: Sarah Marshall
New Position: Learning Director
Old Position: Teacher at Webster

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had? I have 11 years of experience in education. I have enjoyed being a part of the GVUSD team since 2012.

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? I am looking forward to building new relationships with community members and students.

How has the transition been to the new position? The transition to Liberty has been phenomenal. The entire LHS team has been nothing but supportive and enthusiastic.

What are the some of the biggest differences than your old position to your new position? Well, the students are a lot taller. The biggest difference is the extracurricular activities. From sports to clubs, there is always something happening at LHS. It makes me miss my days as a high school basketball coach.

What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? I hope to bring my energy and positive attitude to LHS. Our campus is comprised of

focused, hard-working individuals. I hope to be a support and be resource to my team

What are you going to miss from your old school/position? I will always miss the classroom but I enjoy morning and lunch duties. It is my chance to interact with the students.

Name: Frank Panian

*New Position:* Site Principal Liberty High School

*Old Position:* Learning Director Liberty High School

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had with the district? I have been with the district for eight years. I have previously taught mathematics at LHS, was the Commandant for California Cadet Corps, Site Council member, WASC chair, Learning Director and now principal.

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? To continue to move the school toward its vision and to ensure LHS's legacy continues in academics, athletics and activities.

How has the transition been to the new position? Exceptionally smooth. I feel 100 percent supported by staff, students, the district and the community. I also had a great mentor in Kuljeet Mann who continues to support me in my new position.

What are the some of the biggest differences from your old position to your new position? It is such a team atmosphere at Liberty that we definitely share a lot of our duties and in return I do not feel there are many big differences. The biggest would be the responsibility to lead 40 staff members and 600 students and ensure success at all levels.

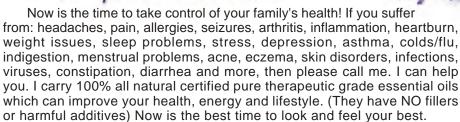
What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? My biggest goal is to bring an awareness of values and strong ethics. I know that all of the students at LHS can be successful and with a team effort by parents, staff, and

Please see **NEW** on P. 19

# Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinic Sat., Oct. 26 · 10 a.m · Noon







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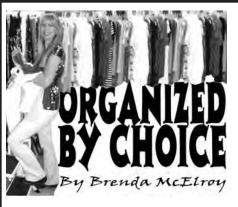
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### Fear of Filing Part I

When I started doing live TV organizing segments on KSEE 24's Central Valley Today, I was nervous, to say the least. Live TV... what's the worst that could happen? Well, fortunately outside of dropping a propor two, and showing up in a green jacket the day they used a green screen behind us (which made me invisible), it really hasn't been that bad. In fact, Alex Delgado makes it fun. I'm glad I didn't let my fear keep me from doing it.

If the fear of filing has created stacks and stacks of papers in your office or home, I can't promise I will make it fun, but I can offer you some tips on how to file fearlessly.

Most people's fear of filing centers around the idea that if it's filed, it's gone forever — never to be seen again. It is scary to think you might miss paying a bill, or forget to attend an event. But in reality, by the time your paper stack has more than one item, you've lost the visual reminder, except of course for whatever's lucky enough to land on top. There are, however, some other visual reminder methods that will clear the clutter and promote productivity.

Step 1 – Secure a calendar/planner that works with your preferred mode of operation. Is paper your enemy? Use the calendar on your phone or Outlook on your computer to track your to-dos. Not so techy? Purchase a paper calendar. I prefer one with a weekat-a-glance and enough space to record appointments and to-dos.

Step 2 – When you have a paper that

requires some sort of action, list that action on your calendar just like you would a dentist appointment. In other words, make an appointment with yourself to do it. For your bills, you might want to assign two dates per month to pay them (i.e. the first and fifteenth). If you saved a business card to remind you to call for an estimate on some service, write "Call \_\_\_\_\_\_" on a specific date on your calendar.

You still have a visual reminder for everything you need to do, but now you only have to look in one place: your calendar. And by nature, we're way more likely to actually do the task if we've scheduled time to do it rather than hope seeing a piece of paper will trigger that response.

Step 3 – Attack the paper piles! Sort through the piles and remove whatever is no longer current. List your current action items on your calendar and you're ready to file.

In their book ADD-Friendly Ways to Organize Your Life, Judith Kolberg and Kathleen Nadeau, Ph.D. say, "To keep things in view, remember horizontal equals hidden and vertical equals visual." Set up vertical files using a standard desktop file holder or even a rectangular basket that fits file folders. Label your folders with categories that best fit your active paperwork. Use language that will trigger easy retrieval ("Do this today!" "Bills to Pay" "Call or Write" "Check on This"). Remember, for papers with deadlines you're relying on your calendar, not the papers themselves to remind you. You simply need to be able to easily locate the papers when needed, without having to thumb through a foot-high stack.

Check the next Ranchos Independent issue for tips on fearless long-term filing.

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@organizedby choice.com, visit her website www.organizedbychoice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos' own Website. Get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006). Learn how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site! g

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### Why Plan?

Planning is a proactive process that establishes goals and policies for directing and managing future growth and development. Planning helps account for future demand of services, including water, sewers, roads and fire protection. In addition, planning saves money, sets expectations, improves economic development and quality of life, provides a forum for reaching consensus, connects people to the community, protects property values, reduces environmental damage and conserves resources.

As some of you already know, I replaced Ray Krause on the County Planning Commission. I accepted the appointment because, as a concerned citizen of Madera County, I hope to learn more about what it takes to make things happen in our District and in the County as a whole. By seeing the whole picture I hope to educate myself and our community so that some of the upcoming decisions will be made easier and with facts, not hearsay.

There is a lot of talk about water, so let's talk about water. Where does it come from? The Valley's water comes from our mountain watersheds. There have been studies done by UC Berkley and Fresno State which give an in-depth look and findings of water for Oakhurst, Coarsegold, Raymond, Hensley Lake and on down to the Fresno River. The UC Berkley study was of major vegetative plant evaporation from our meadows and forests which is an average of 20-25 inches per year. By not harvesting our forests we lose about 1.8 feet of water to evaporation through vegetation. This is large in land with natural vegetation compared to developed areas. In other words, 37 inches of rain will give us about 12 inches of runoff per year, with the rest sucked up by the large amounts of vegetation. This is in the Oakhurst basin area study (Fresno River). What is left is all we have for the recharge to our aquifer. At today's rate, we are overdrafting our area's supply by approximately 5 feet per

How do we slow this process? One is

to conserve. Two is to recharge with holding ponds built to catch storm runoff. Three is water treatment plants for re-use. How do we pay for these projects? Through fees, bonds and fines. Water systems are paid for with meters so as not to overcharge the ones conserving and put the cost on the water violators. But what about the private wells? We have no way of regulating that use of water. The State is looking at metering *all* water to collect fees to build and maintain our water supply, which is broken down into maintenance districts. For new developments the criteria is one gallon *out*, one gallon *in*.

Those of us who have our own wells basically have our own water district, so let's take the cost to maintain that well through the expected life of that well. Water in our area is at an average of 295 feet, so if our area loses 5 feet per year how deep do we need to drill for a 20 year well? Let's add it up - and for ease of adding let's say the water is at 300 feet. Twenty years at 5 feet per year is 100 feet which equals a depth of 400 feet. Now figure 25 feet of infill of dirt at the bottom of the well and to keep the pump out of the dirt let's place it 25 feet above the bottom. We need water over the pump to keep it pumping without air or agitation which adds another 20 feet so your well is now 470 feet deep to keep you in water for the next 20 years. The cost at today's price is \$16,000 to \$18,000 for a new well at that depth. That's \$800 to \$900 per year for 20 years, or between \$66 to \$75 per month. Then add PG&E and maintenance and your costs are now over \$100 per month for your water system.

It costs you less for a maintenance district or community water system than being on your own well.

If we pay into a program where the fee is collected to support our water table with recharge and maintenance then this is something to think about, because this water problem is everyone's problem. Mother Nature is going to drink first and we will get what's left. We all need to conserve, recharge and reuse what we can.

Being upset about the issue will not make it go away and doing 100 percent of nothing is still nothing. If we all do a little it can add up to a lot. Our maintenance district MD10A can be the model district with just a little effort from all of us.

Tom Hurst, owner of Hurst Hardware and a resident of the Madera Ranchos, is the Planning Commissioner for District One which serves the Madera Ranchos. He was appointed by District One Supervisor, Manuel Nevarez.

### Kiwanis Korner

# **Madera Ranchos Harvest Festival**

By Perry Watkins

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

What is a community? The community of old times, the kind of community where people knew one another, has faded. This may be due to technology with the internet replacing visiting friends and texting replacing calls. Communities are more likely to be defined by your favorite social media.

Does this kind of community really meet your needs? How about the needs of your children? Has face-to-face contact lost all of its value? Aren't the social values of meeting folks and sharing common experiences—joy, discovery, personal interests—holding any kind of personal value for us any longer? Researcher Robert D. Putnam found that over the past 25 years, attendance at club meetings has fallen 58 percent; family dinners are down 33 percent and having friends visit has fallen 45 percent.

How will we define our community? One researcher who wrote a book on the subject, *The Different Drum: Community-Making and Peace* by Scott Peck, found that one of the most significant community building tools was local festivals. Participation in such events helped to create a "true community" that "reflects a deep yearning in every human soul for compassionate understanding from one's fellows."

Our local Harvest Festival will promote our community by supporting local

Scouts and Explorers; local scholarships and academic teams; classrooms and special programs, including special needs, developmental disabilities and individuals in need. All funds earned at this event will directly build and promote our community. Your local organization is invited and welcome at this event. Come and take our trophies.

The Ranchos Harvest Festival will be a Chili Cook-Off, Car Show, artists, crafts, hands-on art, music, food, scarecrow contest, pumpkin carving contest, face painting, children's activities and lots of good oldfashioned family fun.

The event will be held at the Maywood Center on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 1 p.m. to sunset. For more information you can go online to ranchosharvestfestival.com or call 209-761-5968.

Help your community while having a ton of fun.

### www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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### **Board of Directors:**

Debbie Farr, Mary Ann Parks, Mona Diaz, John Herrera and Ollia Ridge.





### **NEW** cont. from P. 16

students, they can reach the goal of walking across our stage in four years.

What are you going to miss from your old school/position? I miss handing out the "red" passes. I really miss redirecting the students who make those small mistakes. It was always nice to help students problem solve and watch them learn from their mistakes.

Name: Felipe Piedra

*New Position:* Principal Ranchos Middle School

*Old Position:* Principal Webster Elementary

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had with the district? I joined the Golden Valley team as a high school counselor at LHS in 2006. I was promoted to Learning Director in 2009 and then promoted to Principal at Webster in 2011.

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? I look forward to working with all of our amazing middle school students, staff and families in our community in order to make RMS the highest performing school in Golden Valley and Madera County.

How has the transition been to the new position? It has been a smooth transition as I am able to draw on my nine years of middle school experience in Fresno Unified.

What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? I bring an incredible amount of energy and enthusiasm to our middle school campus.

What are you going to miss about your old school/position? I am going to miss all of the Webster students and families that I got to know over the years, but I am excited that I will be here to greet them when they come to middle school.

*Name:* Paul Rauschenberg *New position:* I work in the Information Technology Department as a techni-

Old position: Custodian.

How long have you been with GVUSD and what previous positions have you had with the district? I have been with the Golden Valley Unified school district for seven years, and before gaining a position with Golden Valley family I was a student within the district.

What are some new things you are going to bring to your new position? In my new position I think I bring a sense of the inner workings of the school district. I have gained many professional relationships and friendships through my career with Golden Valley and I think that helps a lot when a familiar face walks into a room to help you with an issue.

What are some of the things you are looking forward to in your new position? I look forward to learning new things and bettering myself in a career professionally. I hope to become a true, valued team member.

How has the transition been to the new position? The transition has been smooth and great. My co-workers are happy for me, and my family is loving that I'm home in the evenings to help with our three beautiful children. It has allowed me to continue my education and have more free time.

What are the some of the biggest differences from your old position to your new position? There are a lot of big differences from my old position as a custodian to a computer technician; cleaning and maintaining a site compared to meeting the technology needs of the staff. But one thing that is the same is that you are counted on as a team to meet the everyday busy goals of a growing school district.

What are you going to miss about your old school/position? I will miss seeing my custodian team members on a daily basis because of the friendships we built, but I will see them here and there traveling from site to site. I will also miss sleeping in a little bit.

Look for the conclusion of GVUSD new hire biographies in October's Golden Valley Views.

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ADS LOGOS PR MARKETING 645-0634

# **Liberty High Students Compete, Win in Landscape Competition**

Competing in a division usually entered only by adults and professional landscapers, two Liberty High Future Farmers of America members try their hands at competition at the Madera County Fair and come home with First, Second and Best of Show awards.





Liberty High junior Katie Bennett's "Cottage Vintage" entry at the Madera County Fair was good enough to not only take First Place but Best of Show as well. The FFA member competed in the "open" class that is usually populated with adults and professionals.





Also competing in the "open" class was Liberty High senior Anthony Escalante whose impressive "Rustic Vintage" display took Second Place overall. Both displays were completed with supplies from local nursery, CM&N Nursery.

Liberty High FFA (Future Farmers of America) students Katie Bennett and Anthony Escalante had entries at the Madera County Fair in Landscape Design, an "open" class where most of the entrants are adults, not students and not associated with the FFA. By the time the dust settled the two took First and Second Place and Best of Show.

Liberty High junior Katie Bennett's entry was a 10'x10' space with the theme "Cottage Vintage." Her exhibit was a three-dimensional exhibit starting with an arbor with wisteria climbing as the entrance to follow stepping stones to the front door of the "cottage." Some of the plants she used were pink cockscomb, purple chrysanthemums, yellow lantana, violets, variegated hydrangea, purple potato vine, pink bougainvillea, loropetalum (razzleberri), white iceberg roses and a

weeping willow tree, just to name a few. There was also a water pump display with water lilies, a sun dial, blue-glass oil lamp, a red lantern and a white iron chair. Katie took First Place for her efforts and was ultimately awarded the Best of Show award

LHS senior Anthony Escalante's Second Place entry was 10'x20' with a theme of "Rustic Vintage." His exhibit was a reflection of farming in earlier days using an old log cutter, stack of cut logs, wooden wagon, hand plow, iron and wooden wheel, old pump for water display, metal milk containers, lantern, boulders, slate stepping stones and a metal orange chair. The plants he used were grape vines (with grapes), purple flax, loropetalum (razzleberri), rosemary bush, strawberry plants, pomegranate tree and a deodara cedar tree.

Senior Report

# Summer Ends, Senior Business Begins

At the board and general meet-

ings a nomination committee was

selected to set up the new board

members for 2014. We need new

members ready to step-up and vol-

unteer in any capacity, we welcome

By Verlaine Elinburg

Summer is over and back to business for the Ranchos/Hill Seniors, kicking off with the monthly board meeting covering old and pending projects that are in play. The garden renovation was approved with a budget. The Eagle Scouts will plan and develop the project; hopefully it will be ready for our Home and Garden Show in April of next year. Upgrading of administration record keeping was approved and also awarded with a budget; the Center purchased a new computer and we are in the process of learning how to use it. We need some computer literate volunteers to help us through this; maybe some tech savvy student has a class project or needs a recommendation for a job application. Contact Joann at 645-4864 if interested.

Joy Hansen volunteered to head the

planning committee to plan the projects for the coming year and the holiday season is approaching and is almost on top of us. At the board and blood and ideas. Any interested general meetings a nomination committee was selected to set up the new board members for 2014. We need new

blood and ideas. Any interested members ready to step-up and volunteer in any capacity, we welcome your help.

your help.

The recreation and fun travel trips are a bonus for the Seniors. Joann Blancett, Joliene Mason, Phyllis Fasshauer, all members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors and the City of Madera, entertain us. The most recent travel was a trip to Morro Bay, the wonderful seaside village on California's Central Coast. We enjoyed the Morro Bay Avocado and Margarita Festival, the best of California avocados in all variations, specialty foods, refreshing Margaritas, beer and local wines, and of course arts and crafts. The trip included a walk along the busy harbor restaurants, shopping, browsing the art galleries, a boat cruise along the bay and a bus tour around the Village. A relaxing leisure Saturday.

Phyllis Fasshauer is in the process of coordinating a trip to Selma to enjoy the musical "The Sound of Music" presented by the Selma Arts Center. The City of Madera has a few entrainment trips set up for the near future. The Big Fresno Fair begins Monday, Oct. 7; the Oakhurst Fall Festival starts Oct. 12; and the Annual Christmas Charter Bus

Trip to San Francisco happens on Dec. 7. As of now these are a few of the trips planned by the Ranchos/Hills Seniors and there will be more to come. Keep checking at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 645-4864.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test, nutrition and health education and a low-cost blood test is available. The health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. A suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call

> Joann at 645-4864 and also notify the center if you need to cancel or change your reservation.

> We have a growing exercise program being held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise

by attending. They have fun, share laughs, meet new friends and get updates on old friends, their fellow members and get current news on what is happening at the Center and in the Madera Ranchos community. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them.

On Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. are a variety of card games to be enjoyed. Come and learn new games. On Wednesday we have card bingo at 12:15 p.m.

On Thursdays at 6 p.m. we have a great pot luck with poker and other great card games and you can come and join us for Movie Night on one Friday of the month.

Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy of the newsletter, stop by the Senior Center for a copy. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware and several businesses along Avenue 12.

The Farmers Market at the Center needs help so anyone wanting to volunteer is welcome. Jams and jellies are still available and The Boutique also has many new, handy and "on the spot" needed gift items.

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by Linda Thistle

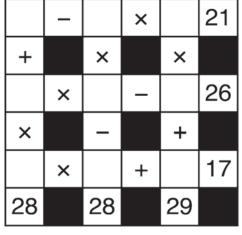


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#### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.



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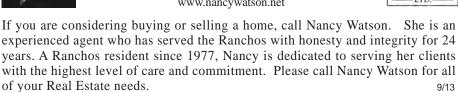
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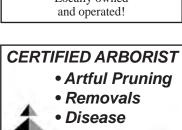
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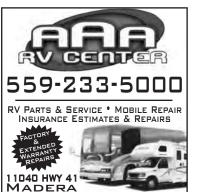
### **Business Directory**













### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





**ARIES** (*March 21 to April 19*) The changing season brings new experiences as well as challenges for the ever-adventurous Aries. Your social life expands, as do the opportunities at your workplace.

**TAURUS** (*April 20 to May 20*) That recent period of uncertainty has passed. You can now feel more confident about making decisions, especially those that relate to an important personal relationship.

**GEMINI** (*May 21 to June 20*) Although you might be faced with a number of tasks on your todo list, try to take time out to enjoy the arts. Music, especially, can be soothing to the sensitive soul of a Gemini.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A disagreement with a colleague or friend is best resolved with open and frank discussion. Trying to force the other party to see things your way is bound to backfire.

**LEO** (*July 23 to August 22*) That Leonine pride might be ruffled by a colleague's challenge to one of your pet ideas. But stop growling and listen. You could learn something that will work to your advantage.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Someone in authority might decide to select you as a candidate for a project that carries more responsibilities. Be prepared to show why you're the right choice for the job.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) That new workplace problem should be dealt with as soon as possible. Leaving it unresolved for too long could lead to an even more unsettling and time-consuming situation.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some fancy juggling to keep both your work responsibilities and personal obligations on track. But ultimately, you'll work it all out, as you always do.

**SAGITTARIUS** (*November 22 to December 21*) You might hear some upsetting things about a situation in your life. But don't be swayed by talk. Demand proof before making any decisions on the matter.

**CAPRICORN** (*December 22 to January 19*) Don't risk depleting those precious energy levels by taking on more tasks than you can realistically handle. Also, remember to ask for help when you need it.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) It might be difficult for the Aquarian who is used to giving advice to take counsel when offered. But it's a good idea to listen to what trusted friends feel you should know.

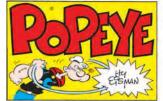
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Things might be a little unsettled as you move through a period of reassessment. But once you get your priorities sorted out, you should be ready to tackle an important decision.

# Born this Week

You're able to achieve a happy balance in your productive life by never feeling overwhelmed or underappreciated.

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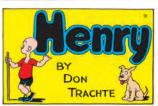




























### THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

### BY AL SCADUTO

OH, HELLO, YAKEENA-SO NICE OF YOU TO CALL-WHY, OF COURGE I WANT TO HEAR ALL-L ABOUT IT-YOU KNOW I DO-START AT THE BEGINNING-TELL ME EVERY THING-NO! REALLY? OH, NOW WAIT TILL I TELL YOU WHAT I HEARD-WELL-L-L-ETC, ETC.



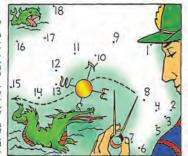


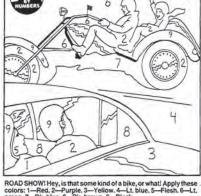
by Hal Kaufman

fin the diagram at right KAITMP
ertically or diagonally. KAITMP

I L ARHN OTRDCZ NSOOEE

IT'S A WIN-WIN RACE TO 100 HALLENGE a frien





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

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6	4	6	2	8	2	5	2	5	7	4	7	2
W	U	E	Ε	Υ	С	В	U	E	Α	Т	N	R
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Е	Ε	0	Т	S	G	S	Ε	U	- 1	С	U	С
2	4	3	5	7	5	4	2	5	4	8	5	2
L	Ε	Υ	0	-	M	S	0	Ε	R	S	С	V
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С	0	Ν	Ε	Ε	D	D	D	Ν	S	Τ	Ε	Ε
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Α	S	Е	Υ	F	S	Τ	Α	Ν	Υ	-	Τ	Ν
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HER	FIS	ΔP	1 FA	NAS	TIL	TIF	GAL	ME t	hat u	rill ai	vo v	011.2

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 up-per left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the to right. Then read the checked figures give you.

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### MAGIC MAZE •

### **FAIR** WORDS

BQEOMJHFCAYWSUR P N L R J H F D B Z X K E V X TR(FAIRGROUND)IQA OMKENALRIAFLRIF H F D B Z Y F W B V T E I R R Q O N L K N E R W Y R I A F I IHFDGNIRIAFFFCA YAWRIAFTNOMRIAF AZXWFVUSRQVIONN MKJFELATYRIAFIU H F A E S S E N R I A F S D F Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions

forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Affair Fairhanks Fairies Fairing Fairfax Fairlane

Fairmont Fairground Fairness Fairytale Fairywren © 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

Funfair Savoir-faire Unfair

1. LANGUAGE: What does the phrase "entre nous" mean?

2. TELEVISION: What was the name of "The Flintstones" family pet?

3. AD SLOGANS: What product uses the advertising slogan, "How do you spell relief?"

4. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek goddess of the hearth and home?

5. GEOGRAPHY: In which city would you find the famous Trevi Fountain?

6. MUSIC: Which recording artist had a 1970s hit with the song "Crocodile Rock"?

7. LITERATURE: What was Dorothy Parker's pseudonym?

8. MOVIES: Which blockbuster movie featured the character Jack Dawson?

9. CHEMISTRY: What is the Periodic Table symbol for silver?

10. COMICS: What is the name of the military base where Beetle Bailey and his friends reside?

### Answers

10. Camp Swampy 9. Ag (argentum) 8. "Titanic" (Leonardo DiCaprio) 7. Constant Reader 6. Elton John 5. Rome

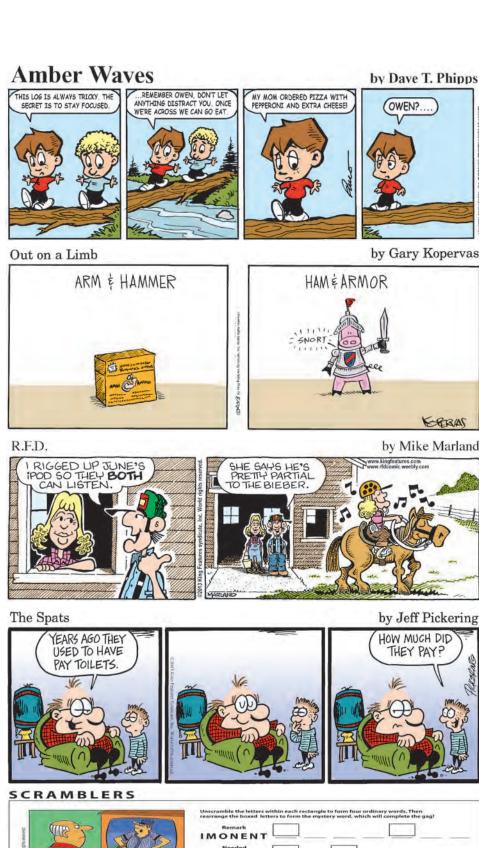
4. Hestia

3. Rolaids 2. Dino

1. Privately, between us

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Click on "Local News" at



# TAVIL GLAIN FINOTY why I only lasted three innings? I forgot to take my Che



# Super Crossword.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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125								126									127			
128								129									130			

ACROSS 1 Boxing banking punches giant **5** Bulk-buying **56** Notorious chain emperor 13 Professional **57** Curry of copyists

20 Balls 21 Represent as perfect 22 Ballerina

OWEN?..

KERAS

by Mike Marland

THEY PAYP

Galina 23 Something bad that has to be done 25 Kind of comb

26 Picnic crawler 27 PIN-taking dispenser

28 Sealant stuff 29 One-eighty on the road 30 One-named

Deco artist 31 Beastly 33 Actor on The Dick Van Dyke Show'

37 Samuel with a code 39 Act of keeping

watch 40 Arsenal stuff 43 Three-horse carriages

47 Complains 52 Longtime classroom magazine

55 Dutch Brazil 97 Court

"Today"

58 Wide-shoe letters 59 Very interested in **61** Turn into a

mummy 63 Thither in soccer 68 Bear, in

Mexico 70 Serving several functions - - K (tyke's 125 Neil of the class)

74 "Match 77 Joke-telling 79 Relaxing

resort

82 Actor Platt 83 Last Greek letters 86 Antique Olds 87 III-bred fellow

Cannes 89 Suffix with east or north 91 Engage in silly play

94 Intimidate

96 Rio de ---

partitions 98 Brazil's first emperor 100 Previously, in

poetry 103 Knighted English portraitist 110 Life forms

114 Suffix with launder 64 Not far from 115 Hardly rigid 66 18-yard box, 116 Yearbook bit 117 Grazing

> ground 118 Amazed cry 119 Call to mind 121 "Fosse," e.g.

Pet Shop Boys Game" host 126 Pep up **127** Put on, as cargo

128 Socks with diamonds 129 Like a fez **130** Word rearranged

and hidden in this 88 Head, in puzzle's eight longest answers

> DOWN 1 — Brothers (boy band)

2 Vying venue 41 "Ask questions ..." 3 "Doctor Who" airer 42 Akin to 4 Cleveland-Amish

to-Akron dir. 44 Acorn maker 5 Nun **45** Ending for 6 Eve's mate cyan 46 Continuing 7 Sea, to Simone

Down, erase

10 French for

"book"

11 Israeli arm

12 Air or ami

lead-in

indication

14 Thing shot

in skeet

shooting

17 Two-by-four

18 Title role for

19 Bay State

port

24 Starch-

29 Ballpark

arbiter

32 Crazedly

34 Pining type

35 Horse kin

38 Flowing

36 "Do Ya" gp.

steadily

40 See 9-Down

33 Paltry

Patti LuPone

yielding palm

15 — -a-tat

16 Entomb

13 Definite

48 Open, as a 8 "What do gate 49 Coast Guard vou — that?' 9 With 40-

coup 50 Detective novelist -Stanley Gardner

51 Cell body 53 Poe maiden "- -haw!" ("Whee!") 55 As a whole

60 Beatle bride 62 "I lost meatball .. ("On Top of

Spaghetti" lyric) 65 Apply, as ointment 67 Wary about

69 Break off 71 Abner's radio

partner 72 "Johnny -(1957)Disney film)

74 Attend 75 Height: Abbr.

76 "Is anyone else here?

78 Teachers' 80 Huff and puff 81 Appends

84 Gas suffix 85 Do moguls 90 New rough sketches

92 Periods 93 "Finally know!" 95 Cartoon

shopkeeper 96 Great elation 99 Critic Reed 101 Did as told 102 Hindquarters

Volkswagen 104 Additional **105** Wasp attack

103 Certain

106 Youngman of one-liners 107 Wind quintet instruments 108 Fibbers

109 Avoid slyly 111 Stellar phenomena 112 Mild cheese

**113** Utter 117 Lie around **120** — Kan (old dog food brand)

121 Track wager 122 Cell material 123 Wheaton of TV and film

124 TV Tarzan player Ron





# SEMCU is working on grants to help our Community!

SEMCU would like help and input from the Community about projects you think are necessary. Volunteers to help with these grants are needed!

# SEMCU REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. · Ranchos Pizza Factory

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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