

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

24th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade

Local Scouts lead the annual parade
down Avenue 12 on Saturday, May 10.
Pictures on P. 22.



Photo courtesy of John Glueck

keeping the tradition alive in the Ranchos

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Seeking Still More Answers About Ranchos Water

By Karen Petryna

As reported in the February issue of the Ranchos Independent, meetings began in January 2014 for community members to try and figure out what the water situation is in the Ranchos. In addition to regular meetings of the Ranchos Water System Oversight Committee, South East Madera County United (SEMCU), the Local Agency Formation Commission for the Ranchos Area (LAFCo), and the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG,) there have been three ad hoc meetings to discuss the new Dublin Drive Well specifically and the Ranchos water system in general — results of which show our water situation is nearing an historically critical point.

Ranchos Water System Meetings

Subsequent to an initial meeting held in January, more information has come to light at meetings held at the Liberty High School cafeteria in March and April regarding the Maintenance District 10A (MD10A) Madera Ranchos water system, which continues to limp along as new wells are added every few years to a network of more than 50-year-old undersized, leaking and potentially harmful pipes and equipment that are maintained by the County.

At the first meeting held at Liberty High School on March 31, attendees — mostly private well owners in MD10A — learned that the latest well, installed last December, is scheduled to be connected to the system sometime this year. Dubbed the Dublin Drive Well and discussed in the February issue of the Ranchos Independent, it was the first to be located outside both the system piping network and also the Assessment Boundary of “Water System Owners,” primarily to eliminate the potential for contamination from all the septic tanks in the Ranchos.

The good news, as described by the County’s consultant, Larry Ernst of Wood Rodgers, who gave a presentation on the Dublin Drive Production Well Groundwater Impacts Analysis report he wrote, is that the new well, built to last 50-70 years and capable of pumping 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm), produces high quantity, high quality water and will accomplish the goal of replacing lost volume from the municipal wells of the Ranchos water system that have gone offline, meaning no increased production is planned.

Ernst described the pump tests that were done on the Dublin Well last De-

cember to determine what impact use of the new well would have on nearby private wells. During the tests, including a 48-hour constant rate pumping of the well at 1,000 gpm, data collected both from monitoring wells installed within 65 feet of the production well and also from 15 nearby residential wells were used to run a computer model to predict the behavior of the groundwater aquifer, which is the more sandy area of soil where water collects in the area. According to the report, the model showed, “... that impacts of greater than 10

feet will not reach any existing domestic wells as a result of pumping the Dublin Well 18 hours per day at 800 gpm for 90 consecutive days.” And during the summer, “... a flow rate of 650 gpm would only result in a significant impact (five feet or more) for two existing domestic wells.”

Private Concerns

Most of the concerns raised at the March meeting were by private well owners who reside inside MD10A but outside

Please see WATER on P. 15

Man Caught Demolishing Property

By Randy Bailey

Richard Newman of the Madera Ranchos has been accused of stealing an excavator and then going on a rampage at a vacant home at 16120 Montreal, destroying a mobile home and 800 yards of expensive chain link fencing. Newman is being held inside the Madera County Department of Corrections with bail set at \$45,000.

Early Wednesday, May 21, the Madera County Sheriff’s Department received a call from a concerned Ranchos citizen reporting that a man in an excavator was playing “demolition derby”



All that remains of a mobile home after a Ranchos man took a stolen excavator to the vacant property.

with the property at Montreal. Deputies Steven Robinson and Luis Padgett were dispatched to the residence where they saw 51-year-old Newman inside a \$45,000 John Deere excavator demolishing a mobile

home on the property. In addition to the destroyed mobile home, the deputies were shocked to see that a fence that surrounded the property was now bare. Every inch of the 800 yards of 6-foot chain link fence, with privacy slats, had been torn off galvanized posts. Deputies later reported that a missing set of rolling gates were recovered

Please see DEMO on P. 23

PG&E Partially Unveils New 230kV Plan of Attack

By Karen Petryna

At a “Stakeholders’ Outreach” open house held May 7 at the Madera Community College, representatives of “Central Valley Power Connect” comprised of PG&E employees, partners and consultants, were on hand to answer general questions and solicit feedback regarding a new 70-mile-long, 230,000 volt (230kV) transmission line that will run north to south through central Fresno County and augment the 230kV line already in place. The line is scheduled for construction in 2019.

Central Valley Power Connect

Consultants for communication (Southwest), planning (CH2M Hill), and culture and biology (Garcia and Associates) as well as employees of MidAmerican Transmission and PG&E offered handouts about the steps involved in routing the new line from the Gregg transmission substation, located in southeast Madera County on Avenue 7 near Children’s Hospital, to the Gates substation located south of Highway 198 near Huron.

Ann Kloose of PG&E said an additional 230kV line is needed between the two transmission substations to meet fu-

Ranchos Water Restrictions

The Madera County Board of Supervisors has authorized Special Districts, such as MD10A, to implement Stage 3 prohibitions which began on March 4 of this year. The targeted water use reduction is up to 25 percent. Here are the restrictions:

- No watering on Monday, Thursday or Friday
- No outdoor water use between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- No washing down paved driveways, parking lots or sidewalks
- No person shall use water through any hose, pipe or other discharge for the purpose of watering gardens, trees, lawns, flowers or plants or for other irrigation or agricultural purposes without the use of a restricting nozzle or sprinkling device
- Water leaks will immediately be repaired
- Even numbered addresses water on Wednesday and Sunday
- Odd numbered addresses water on Tuesday and Saturday
- Violations are increased to \$75 (first violation), \$125 (second violation), \$175 (third violation) and are strictly enforced

If the drought persists and the conservation efforts enacted in Stage 3 are not adequate to maintain water reliability, the Board may enact Stage 4.

The target goal for reductions is 25 percent and based on the water productions by the wells for month of April, MD-10A has only reduced its water usage by 8 percent when compared to April 2013. More conservation is encouraged by the community.

ture expected power needs in the Valley. Denny Boyles, also with PG&E, said the electricity on the power lines could be compared to traffic on the highway and that when the traffic gets too heavy the highway has to be widened.

Clues Emerge

Boyles agreed that the Gregg substation also connects to the Helms Pumped Storage Plant, located between the Courttright and Wishon Reservoirs about 50 miles northeast of Fresno in the Sierra National Forest, via its own 230kV line along the southeast corner of the Madera

Please see PG&E on P. 13

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Dear Editor:

We have five candidates to choose from in the election of a new County Supervisor in Madera County's District One. Only one of those candidates can point to a successful record of dedicated community service. Mona Diaz's successful leadership abilities enabled effective negotiations to include the establishment of a California Distinguished School (GVUSD) District, not just a school or two, but a district, and the highest performing API schools in all of Madera County. Her dedication and commitment to the Ranchos goes back more than 30 years, which shows her passion for this area and the people who live here.

Mona Diaz is a woman of dedication, passion and resilience succeeding at whatever she sets her mind to do, and her successful work has produced lasting benefits for those who live in Supervisorial District One.

I am voting for Mona Diaz because I know she will continue with her successful work on our behalf as our next Supervisor.

Pamela Glueck
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have lived in Madera Ranchos for 28 years and Rolling Hills for three years before that. We raised our two daughters here and my wife chose to teach in this school district. We are supporting Brett Frazier for District 1 Supervisor.

Brett is smart. And refreshingly honest. And humble. He's energetic, organized and optimistic. You'll never hear an arrogant or condescending word from Brett. He's approachable and accessible. He's the one who has come (or will come) to your house and is listening more than he's talking. And Brett is the only candidate who has experience absolutely related to this position. As the youngest elected Madera City Council member and Mayor, he's the only candidate who's balanced a budget of more than \$80 million. For the first time in many years, they spent less than they brought in while he was Mayor.

Brett served as Vice-Chair of the Madera County Transportation Commission. He was

Chairman of the Madera Redevelopment Agency and the Madera Housing Authority. He served on the Board of the Community Action Partnership and the Madera County Economic Development Corporation. In addition, Brett currently sits on multiple educational advisory committees.

He has chosen this community to raise his family. He knew this is where he would live when he coached the football team at Liberty High School. The parents, the school district, and the rallying community, touched him and he knew he wanted to be a part of it. Now his two children are proud Golden Valley students and Brett's very present in all of our schools, giving of his time and resources.

Brett has a deep desire and a goal, which is to serve his chosen community. And Brett is the most qualified with his experience, communication skills, knowledge and ability to work with others.

Brett Frazier is the only candidate looking not only at the next election, but the next generation!

Greg and Nancy Kent
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I've lived in Eastern Madera County since 1985 and I am a past member of the Board of Supervisors (1998-2006). I am proud to make an informed decision for the District Attorney and highly recommend the only candidate who has the experience and background for this office, Michael Keitz, incumbent.

At candidate debates District Attorney Michael Keitz stated his qualifications to remain in office including his law enforcement experience and the increase in his office's conviction rate. He was quick to praise the work done by all members of his staff and said it is not all about him. It is unfortunate that his opponents have no record to stand on and therefore simply attack the good work that Mr. Keitz has done in the District Attorney's office.

Michael Keitz understands the need for sensible prosecution, will continue to focus on homicide, gang and drug prosecution efforts, and will represent and serve our mountain communities as

Please see LETTERS on P. 14

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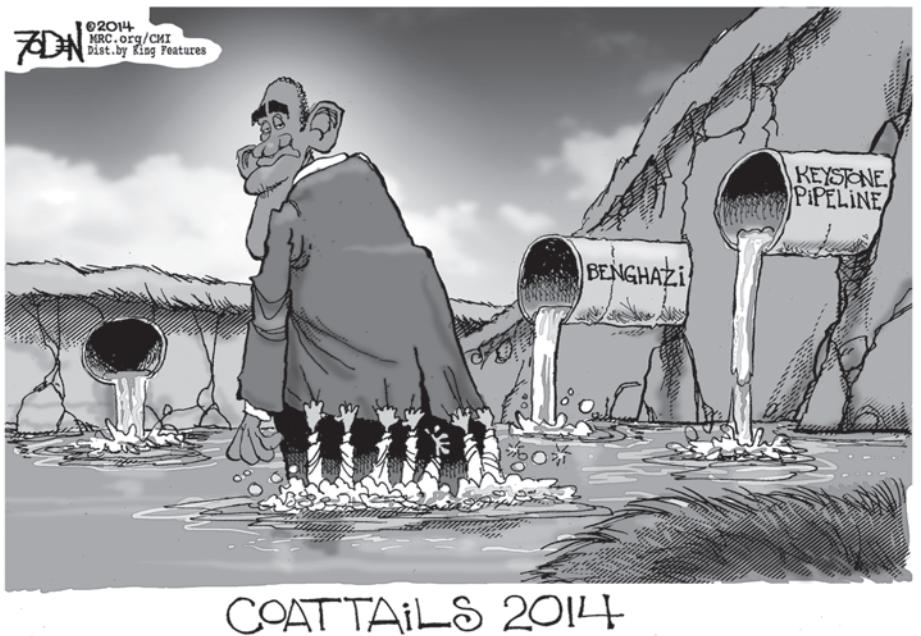
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COATTAILS 2014



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Guest Editorial

The Benghazi Deniers

By Rich Lowery

At last we have a Benghazi scandal that Democrats are willing to acknowledge -- House Speaker John Boehner's decision to form a select committee to investigate the administration's handling of the 2012 terror attack in Libya.

This has been the occasion for outrage that Democrats haven't been able to summon for any aspect of Benghazi to this point, including the lax security at the compound. The Democrats and their allies are in denial. Yes, a mistake was made here or there, but otherwise, nothing to see here.

The deniers evidently believe:

An administration should be able to make erroneous statements about a terror attack that killed a U.S. ambassador in the weeks before a presidential election and expect everyone to accept its good intentions afterward.

An administration should be able to withhold a bombshell White House email from congressional investigators and expect everyone to greet its long-delayed release with a yawn.

An administration should be able to send out its press secretary to abase himself with absurd denials of the obvious and expect everyone to consider its credibility solidly intact.

No opposition party would ever accept these propositions, and of course Republicans (and a few intrepid re-

porters and organizations) haven't. We presumably would never have learned of the email from White House national-security official Ben Rhodes to then-ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice prior to her notorious Sunday show appearances if Benghazi "obsessives" at Judicial Watch hadn't zealously pursued records through a lawsuit.

It has long been the contention of Rice's defenders that she was merely tripped up by bad intelligence. It is true that the Central Intelligence Agency wrongly maintained initially that the Benghazi attack grew out of a protest. Yet, there wasn't any doubt from the outset that it was a terrorist attack.

In his April testimony before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, former deputy director of the CIA Michael Morell emphasized, "The critically important point is that the analysts considered this a terrorist attack from the very beginning. They were not slow coming to this judgment."

But Rice took her cue from Rhodes, who didn't mention terrorism. It was all about the video, and "people who harm Americans" and "challenges," including "difficult challenges."

Clearly, the White House considered the Rhodes email damaging, or it would have released it long ago. It then would have spared Jay Carney the exertions involved in maintaining that the email isn't rightly considered a Benghazi email, even though it was part of Rice's preparation to go on shows where she would be asked repeatedly about ... Benghazi.

Not every scandal is Watergate, and it's foolish for Republicans to invoke it here. The party also shouldn't be fundraising over the deaths of four Americans. But the unearthing of the Rhodes email discredits the argument that everything to do with Benghazi is "old news."

If there is nothing left to learn, then the White House and Democrats can cooperate with the select committee without fear and watch it hang itself. Instead, every indication is that they will stall, mock and disrupt. Because there's nothing to see here.

Rich Lowery is editor of the National Review.

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Law enforcement officers throughout Madera County work very hard to make our communities safe. It is vitally important for the District Attorney to demonstrate leadership and effectively manage the office in the pursuit of justice.

With nearly 100% turnover of prosecutors since the incumbent was appointed, it is an unprecedented loss of experience and a blow to the criminal justice system.

David Linn was an officer in the United States Navy. He understands leadership, and is a respected trial lawyer with business experience. Police and Sheriff Deputies request the voters support David for District Attorney.

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"Duke's Mixture"

This article is going to be sort of a "Duke's Mixture" of recipes. No theme, no rhyme or reason, just recipes. A couple of them have been given to me and the rest are just ones that interested me.

Have you ever wondered where the phrase "Duke's Mixture" came from? Dog lovers may think it is from a dog – as a mongrel. Then others think it might be from your fists, as "put up your dukes." Then there is another theory that it originated when King George V's butler spilled several containers of tea and swept it all up into one container and the "Duke" approved of the brewed tea. None of these are correct – it actually comes from tobacco. A

man by the name of Washington Duke owned a tobacco company in Durham, North Carolina. His first tobacco was mixed, ground and bagged and labeled "Duke's Mixture."

With summer coming on and fresh fruit more available – and with the heat we have been having, doesn't a frozen yogurt pop sound good? – this is a fun recipe with which the kids could help.

Fresh Fruit Frozen Yogurt

2 (6 oz. each) containers 99% fat free vanilla yogurt.

2 C cut up fresh fruit (Your choice – cherries, grapes, blueberries, bananas, peaches, or raspberries)

1 T Honey

Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth. If you don't have the molds specifically for pops, you can use paper cups. Pour the mixture into six 6 oz. paper cups. Cover firmly with foil, inserting a craft stick in the middle of each cup. If you don't have any sticks, how about using a plastic spoon or fork? Freeze until

frozen, about 6 hours. When ready to eat, if difficult to remove from cup, dip bottom of cup in warm water (NOT hot) for just a couple of seconds and it should come right out.

Use your imagination with this recipe – If you like a special fruit, use that yogurt – blueberries with blueberry yogurt; strawberries with strawberry, pineapple with pineapple, etc. – Have fun!

I love stews and casseroles that can be cooked in one dish. Just add a green salad and maybe some crusty French bread and you have dinner.

Sour Cream Noodle Casserole

1 1/4 lb. ground chuck

1 – 15 oz. can tomato sauce

1/2 tsp. salt

Freshly ground black pepper

8 oz. package egg noodles

1/2 C. sour cream

1 1/4 C. small curd cottage cheese

Pinch red pepper flakes (optional)

1/2 C. sliced green onions – or to taste.

1 C. grated sharp cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350

Brown the ground chuck in a large skillet. Drain the fat then add the tomato sauce, 1/2 tsp. salt and plenty of pepper. Stir and simmer while preparing rest of ingredients. Cook the noodles in salted water until al dente. Drain and set aside. In a medium bowl mix the sour cream and cottage cheese. Add some black pepper and the red pepper flakes. Add this mixture to the noodles, add the green onions and stir.

In the bottom of the baking dish pour half of the noodles, pour on half of meat mixture and top with half of the cheddar cheese. Top with the noodles, the rest of the meat mixture and then the rest of the cheese. Bake until the cheese is melted and bubbly – about 20 minutes.

I love fruit salads, but it seems like we only have them at Thanksgiving. With the fresh fruits com-

Please see RECIPE on P. 10



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- Make Madera County more attractive to job creators
- Eliminate wasteful spending and protect taxpayers



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June 3, 2014



EXPERIENCE

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LEADERSHIP

I believe in leading by example, that's why I **have committed to return 75% of my compensation back to the Sheriff's Department.** This will fund more deputies and make Madera County a safer place to live.



RESULTS

As the Chief of Police, I created the Gang and Graffiti Task Force and decreased the gang population by 45% and graffiti by 85%. I put more cops on the street, which led to a decrease in violent crime.

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Ranchos Pianist Performs June 7



Multiple award-winning Ranchos pianist Michael Delfin will be performing at Fresno State on June 7.

Praised for performances of "great warmth" (Classical Voice of North Carolina), pianist and Ranchos native Michael Delfin will present a concert in early June exploring the intersection of experience and time in music. In a program of music by Beethoven, Chopin and Prokofiev, and an original composition, Delfin will perform at the Fresno State Music Department Concert Hall on Saturday, June 7 at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Versed in repertoire from the early to the new, Delfin has soloed for the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and numerous festivals across the country, performing works that illustrate the human experience in history and literature. A seasoned competitor, he has captured top prizes in over a dozen international, national and state competitions. He made his solo debut with the Eastern Music Festival Young Artists Orchestra performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2. His frequent collaboration with other musicians led to founding the award-winning Trio INUENDI and receiving the Sidney Friedberg Prize in Chamber Music from the Peabody Conservatory.

Delfin holds a Bachelor of Music from the Peabody Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the Johns Hopkins University. In the fall of 2014, he will begin graduate studies in piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His teachers include Yoshikazu Nagai, Boris Slutsky, and Fresno native Carol Oaks.

The Fresno State Concert Hall is located at 5241 N. Maple Ave. on the CSUF campus.

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

ing on the market, what's wrong with having one now?

Summer Fruit Salad

- 1 C 99% Fat Free yogurt
- 1 T. Mayonnaise or salad dressing
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. grated orange peel
- 2 T. fresh squeezed orange juice
- 1 pint (about 2 cups) strawberries, sliced
- 1 kiwifruit, peeled cut up
- 1 small bunch green grapes cut in half
- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin orange segments, drained

In large glass or plastic bowl, mix yogurt, mayonnaise, orange peel and orange juice. Gently stir the fruit into the yogurt mix. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour – but no longer than 4 hours.

Any fresh fruit can be used in this salad other than the ones listed. Whatever is fresh or what your family likes. Different colored grapes, peaches or any of the melons that are ripe.

The next recipe is for my vegan readers. I have never eaten kale, but from what I have seen on the cooking shows on television, it is certainly a popular vegetable. I've seen it prepared just about every way possible. Baked Kale chips, sautéed, steamed like spinach, or added to stews and soups, and this one for Pesto:

Kale Pesto Pasta

1 Box (14 oz.) uncooked multi-grain or whole-grain rotini or rotelle pasta

1 bunch (about 8 oz.) fresh kale, ribs removed – should be about 8 cups

- 1 C packed fresh basil leaves
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 T Olive oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ C reduced sodium vegetable broth
- $\frac{1}{3}$ C lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ C toasted pine nuts
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C shredded Parmesan cheese
Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well, reserving $\frac{1}{4}$ C pasta water.

Place all remaining ingredients except cheese in a food processor. Cover and process about 1 minute. Stopping occasionally to scrape down the side, until smooth.

Return pasta to saucepan. Stir in pesto from food processor and reserved pasta water. Toss to mix. Serve immediately with the cheese sprinkled on top.

The last recipe is for my readers that are chocolate lovers. The recipe makes about 3 dozen cookies, and are about 110 calories each.

Doubl e Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

- 1 C packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C margarine or butter, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ C 99% fat free creamy vanilla yogurt.
- 1 egg or $\frac{1}{4}$ C fat free egg products.

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/3 C unsweetened baking cocoa
- 2/3 C all-purpose flour
- 2/3 C whole wheat flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
- 3 C old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats
- 1/3 C miniature semisweet chocolate chips or white chocolate chips (or mix them)

Heat oven to 350. In large bowl, mix together sugar, butter, yogurt, egg and vanilla. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons (or your ice cream scoop) about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 11 to 13 minutes or until almost no indication remains when touched. Do not over-bake. Remove from cookie sheet to a cooling rack immediately.

Thank you to those who sent me their recipes. I really appreciate them and would like to hear from anyone that has a favorite family recipe they would like to share.

If you haven't already voted, don't forget to vote next Tuesday.



CHIEF



Jay Varney

for Sheriff

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5/14

**Tea Party:
Dead or Stronger?**

By Sandy Forbes

Absolutely, the Tea Party is alive and well.

Today the general public may not hear as much about the Tea Party because the mainstream media isn't reporting it, other than deceitful stories. The truth is, since its conception in early 2009, the grass roots Tea Party has evolved from event-driven protests to election-driven activism focused on candidates who support the Tea Party's Core Values: Limited government, fiscal responsibility and free markets.



We have all heard the saying, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language the definition of sound is, "Vibrations transmitted through an elastic solid or a liquid or gas ... capable of being detected by the human organs of hearing. According to Wikipedia, the tree does make the vibrations for sound if there is a receptacle to receive it; of course the fact that the tree is known to have changed state from "upright" to "fallen" implies that the event must be observed to ask the question at all – even if only by the supposed deaf onlooker. The mainstream media is the deaf onlooker not allowing the Tea Party any sound or "voice."

The comparison between this saying and the Tea Party is while the angry public organizes against the ruling classes and the media ignores the phenomenon, the rebellion does not die. Initially, mass demonstrating helped public awareness but the Tea Party knows real reform comes through the ballot box. Our Central Valley and Madera Chapter Tea Parties have focused on educating the general public and infiltrating local government by members running for local city offices, such as Rick Farinelli, Madera County Supervisor, District 3. Farinelli has coined a phrase in taking back our government: "One City, one County and one State at a time."

Since the Tea Party doesn't need political strategists to plan future pathways, nor financial support from the established GOP, it was not necessary for the Tea Party to get permission or to be led by controlling judgmental authority to determine its course. The Progressives realize that the Tea Party represents a real threat in their agenda of the fundamental transformation of America. One response to this threat has been the IRS and other governmental agencies targeting the Tea Party and Conservative groups.

We do have their attention.

But we will not allow our freedoms to slip away because a controlling government can make "we the people" very small indeed, which has been the Progressives' intent all along. The public has grown weary of the words "change," "transformation" and "hope." The word change only indi-

MONA DIAZ FOR SUPERVISOR

When you cast your vote for County Supervisor, ask yourself:
Which candidate has a record of accomplishment?

One candidate for this position points to service when he was appointed
in 1987 to the County Planning Commission.

Another candidate points to his election to the Madera City Council,
where he served only a few years.

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS: WHAT DID EITHER ACCOMPLISH WHILE IN THOSE PUBLIC POSITIONS?

Mona Diaz has the most governmental experience of any candidate. She is the only candidate who can point to a record of significant accomplishments for the people of Madera County.

Mona Diaz' vision and hard work have created benefits for our community now and for generations to come.

**IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE
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MONA DIAZ FOR SUPERVISOR

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5/14

Their ... I Done Did It

My co-workers are giving me an eye twitch. I work in an office that is largely made up of people with advanced degrees who have the written and oral communication skills of sixth graders. English is still a requirement as part of your undergrad, right? The majority of them have, at best, a tenuous grasp of the English language, and at worst, a severe disdain for it that makes them want to bludgeon it to death.

Some people don't put a lot of stock into grammar. I get it – it's a tough language. There are a lot of guidelines, and in many cases there are more exceptions to the rule than instances where the rule actually applies. But hey, as long as you get the gist of what they are trying to say, who cares whether or not it is correct? It doesn't really matter, does it?

Yes.

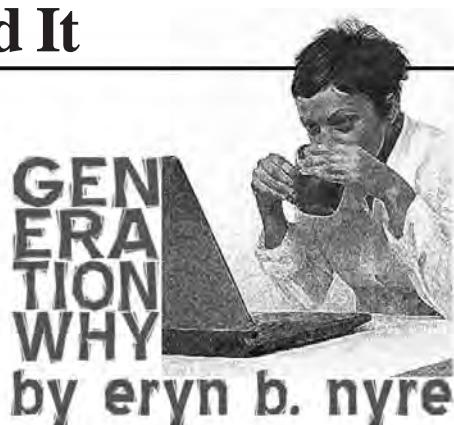
It absolutely matters.

Grammar is important because superior communication skills signify a certain level of knowledge and professionalism. If your doctor reviewed your chart and said, "You don't got good blood work. Don't eat sugar no more," are you actually going to look me in the eye and tell me you wouldn't question his capability? Most people wouldn't hire a lawyer whose ad read, "I seen it all. If you been convicted, you should of called me first." Proper grammar may not be an accurate way to measure intelligence, though there is a correlation, but it is a good indicator of education. Well, at least it used to be.

Obviously I'm in the minority here, but getting an email in a professional setting with incorrectly conjugated verbs, superfluous apostrophes and a complete inability to distinguish between "your" and "you're" is about as painful as the sound of a fork scraped across a plate. It makes my teeth hurt. It makes the author look stupid. It makes me doubt the accuracy of the information he or she is giving me. You aren't posting on your friend's Facebook wall; you aren't leaving a love note for your significant other. You are sending formal communication via a professional forum to colleagues. Have some respect for that. I think managers should require their employees to polish their communication skills. They should strive to have the best representation of their company at all times and in all forms. Moreover, I think people should WANT to sound articulate and eloquent ...

No, they don't want that. They don't want to be corrected.

I don't know what frustrates me more: the blatant disregard for the language itself, or the fact that I'm a giant horse's behind for trying to make them sound a little smarter.



What I would love to do is pop offenders on the knuckles with a ruler and make them stand in the corner with a sign around their neck that says: "Please do not speak to me until I learn basic sentence structure." But I don't do that. I don't call them out in front of the office because there's no audience. I very quietly, and privately, pass on a little information. Apostrophes are not used to indicate plurals. There, their, and they're are three different words. Orientate is not the root word of orientation. It doesn't matter how badly you want it to be a word, irregardless is wrong. It's just wrong. Go sit in the corner.

Here's what I don't get: Evidently it is perfectly acceptable to send an email that says, "Jane will not be available by phone tell 4. By then she should of got her phone fixed," but I'M the bad guy for pointing out the flaws. My 5-year-old niece is capable of constructing a better sentence. People are laughing at you. You are being mocked on social media. Don't you want to know so you could make steps to improve yourself?

Yesterday I heard one woman say, and I quote, "She's so stupid. She don't know how to do nothing." I asked her if she understood irony. She did not. I have also heard these nuggets around the office:

"Did you squeeze a lemon in your water?"

"What he had done was ..."

"I can't stay woke."

I may or may not have taken to posting some of the better examples on Twitter. I'm not expecting perfection, Lord knows I have a tendency to overuse the commas, and that whole "who and whom" thing throws me sometimes. I just think you should know how to properly indicate plurals, why to avoid double negatives, and how to accurately identify possession and contractions. These are not unreasonable standards. If you want people to trust and respect you, if you want to avoid having mockery, if you want to communicate with authority, then pick up a book and learn some grammar. If for nothing else, it could save you from having your illiteracy posted on social media for the world to see.

WATER

Save our Homes, Farms and Businesses by...

1. Stop flushing our water down the river for fish! People come first.
2. Build Temperance Flat (triple the San Joaquin's water storage).
3. Create a South East Madera Water Bank.
4. Construct groundwater recharge basins.
5. Assist M.I.D. in filling the Water Bank.

Gary Johns

SUPERVISOR 1



5/14

Pointocracy Committee to Elect Gary Johns for Supervisor (204-4499) 313-5533

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE REDWOODS IN THE RANCHOS?

**"DO YOUR REDWOODS LOOK LIKE THIS?
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HELP THIS PROBLEM ..."**



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PG&E cont. from P. 2

Ranchos and along the Madera Canal, so that power generated at the plant can reach the Central Valley and parts south. But he had no information about increasing the capacity of that segment of the line in order to carry the additional 230kV of power that will run along the new line of the project. He said that segment to the northeast of the route is not part of the Central Valley Power Connect project.

Locations of Open Houses Questioned

The four open houses held at Fresno Central High School, Caruthers High School, Madera Community College and Lemoore Community College in April and May were intended to provide answers to and seek input from stakeholders. Yet, when asked why an open house for a project that was to be carried out well south of the Ranchos was being held at the Madera Community College, Kloose said it might be because the college was the only place in the vicinity with large enough accommodations.

More Information

All of the information available for the project, including the Project Area map and details about the Helms Plant, is available at www.cvpowerconnect.com.

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5/14



A Vision for Madera County's Future

My plan to address issues affecting Madera County:

First, is to make sure our personnel have state of the art equipment and support systems. I would like to adjust our budget to provide more officers and less overtime, providing alert and well-rested deputies to respond to your needs.

Second, we need to upgrade our computer systems to provide an interactive awareness of high crime areas and ways to position deputies to have faster response times in those zones.

Third, we need to enhance our anti-gang enforcement including using this to remove marijuana growers, whose use of valuable water in this drought and whose use of lethal force to defend their territory results in innocent county citizen's lives being lost.

"As your Undersheriff, I have the knowledge of the County, the Department and its processes. I am the only internal candidate that can start working for you on day one to implement my vision. I am asking for your vote on June 3rd. Together we can make Madera County a safer place."

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Experienced:

26 Years of Law Enforcement Experience, 20 years serving the citizens of Madera County • Promoted by Sheriff Anderson through the ranks from patrol deputy to Undersheriff • Six years serving the community as a trustee for the Madera Unified School district • Balancing budgets from \$10 million to \$150 million • 1000's of hours of Law Enforcement training • Fresno State Graduate

Active in the Community:

Member of the Madera Rotary Club • Member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Madera (Vice President 2012-2013, President 2013-2014)

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

shown by the recent wild land arson convictions.

The facts speak for themselves: 1) As the District Attorney's Office budgets decreased, his office's convictions went up 17 percent; 2) During his 16-year tenure as a Deputy District Attorney, prosecutor Keitz conducted 78 jury trials with a successful conviction rate of 89 percent.

Join me on June 3rd and vote for Michael Keitz, District Attorney. He is a proven crime fighter, not someone who decided six months ago they wanted to be District Attorney.

Gary Gilbert
North Fork

Dear Editor:

It is said that, "Character is doing the right thing even when no one is looking."

According to the current records of the Madera County Tax Collector, only one District One Candidate for Supervisor is legally conducting their business from District One. In fact, Ray Krause, dba Westbrook Wine Farm, shows as the only one to hold a valid Madera County business license.

I would call that "leading by example."

Laura LaPorte
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

At a recent water meeting I spoke to Ray Krause (District 1 Supervisor candidate). I asked him if elected would he be willing to propose a moratorium on new ag wells and water-intensive crops till the overdraft of our groundwater was stopped or at least slowed. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "I am 100 percent pro ag," and, "People that complain about agriculture and their water usage are like people that move next to an airport and then complain about the noise."

In fairness to Mr. Krause, he did say begrudgingly after I pressed him on the issue that, "Maybe there should be a balance."

Well, I'm sorry Mr. Krause, but when I moved to the Ranchos 12 years ago orchards and vineyards did not run continuously from 41 to 99 and there wasn't 1,000-plus-acre ranches west of Road 36. Now with drip irrigation advances land that was never meant to be farmed is being cultivated. So I guess you could say that the "airport" moved next to me and therefore I think I do have the right to complain. As it turns out, Mr. Krause lives in North Fork and raises grapes. I guess he doesn't have a problem with water and therefore doesn't understand the issues us "flatlanders" have.

My family and I love this area and I am not against agriculture, but there has to be a balance. All these new orchards are not being put in by a family farm that has been here way before the ma-

jority of us. They are corporate farms owned by hedge funds, investor groups and large farming corporations. And before you say, "Well, we need to eat," the majority of new crops are almonds and two-thirds of those are shipped overseas.

I urge everyone to get engaged in water issues regarding Madera county and stop thinking that the local government leaders will come up with answers and do the right thing. They haven't yet, and apparently if they have the mindset that Mr. Krause does, they never will.

Paul Eddings
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

This letter is an account of my experiences in this wonderful community of which I have been a part of for my entire life. I find myself thankful for such a wonderful community. During this year I had some interesting circumstances occur and would like to share them with you.

2013 was a very interesting year. We had numerous changes in the Ranchos. I would like to discuss two distinct ones that concern me.

The first is the traffic on the streets. I live on Berkshire Drive (a main thoroughfare with few stop signs or speed bumps). I find the drivers are speeding in-between each for some unknown reason. This concerns me greatly because we have so many children in the Ranchos. I have many pleasant memories as a child playing in the front yard and am very hesitant to let my child play in the front yard as I once did. I think as Ranchoans we need to appreciate the life we have here away from the city and do something to stop this speeding issue. I am open to suggestions and am more than willing to personally pay for speed bumps or stop signs.

The second change is just as disturbing to me – the apparent racism which made an abhorrent appearance in 2013. The first at the high school, the second to me personally from a lifelong friend. I find as people age and gain experience, our lives often change even though some people may not. Again, as a father and a person who married a Mexican-American woman, I find that some people are not as evolved as us in the Ranchos, and this ugly viewpoint is rearing its ugly head. It must be stopped now. Personally, I do not understand why people see people of different skin color, ethnic origin or culture as different; we are humans, period. There is enough strife and negativity in the world for us as humans to be against each other, especially in such a small community; something that is rare in today's global lifestyle.

My experience was disheartening to say the least; it utterly disgusted me. When I nicely brought it to my friend's attention, I was the bad guy and attacked with the statement, "... the same or similar words have come out of your mouth."

Please see LETTERS on P. 24

LOCAL.

28yr.



Gary Johns has lived in the Ranchos for 28 years & contributed to...

- **SCHOOLS:** Coached 3 different sports, designed the Webster "Wolverine" logo, bumpers stickers, clothing, promotional material for the FIRST School Bond, Helped select candidates to run for School Board, ran campaigns.
- **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Graphics for Fire B. Q. signs and mailers.
- **Chamber of Commerce:** Designed their logo, Crab Feed art, signs, Plaques, and Banners

Gary Johns
SUPERVISOR 1

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5/14



Matthew Pia, D.D.S.

**37144 Ave. 12, Suite 104
Madera Ranchos**

WATER cont. from P. 2

the Assessment Boundary and wanted to know how impacts to their wells would be addressed, whether they could hook up to the water system and how much it would cost. Several residents said that their wells had been severely impacted by pumping of the Dublin Well.

Ernst said that only groundwater level measurements from private wells that were not undergoing pumping while being measured could be used for analysis, since the model needed data for background or undisturbed conditions for comparison. He also said that the most obvious influence on the groundwater observed during the pump tests was the effect of the line of agricultural wells south of Avenue 12 that ran all night to mitigate frost damage during the below-freezing temperatures at that time.

Ernst also said only the private wells on the two adjacent properties on Dublin Drive would likely experience a groundwater level drop of five feet or more and confirmed that the report recommended those property owners be paid about \$1,400 each to mitigate their potential additional electricity costs and shortened wells' lives, estimated at approximately 10 percent.

Chuck LaRue, the MD10A resident who facilitated the meeting, also wanted to know how much money was in the water system budget and when the Dublin Well would go online. He said he felt the location of the Dublin Well was disadvantageous to his fellow MD10A residents outside the Assessment Boundary and it had not been appropriate for the County to install the well where they did on behalf of those who use the water system, including him. He said his goal was to increase water service to everyone.

Prop 218 Procedure Described

County Engineer Kheng Vang said the Dublin Well is currently expected to go online toward the end of the year and that the MD10A water system's \$1.2 million budget was comprised of five "buckets": the original bond accounts (now paid off); operation and maintenance (about \$400,000); capital outlay (about \$800,000); and capital improvements, explaining only \$350,000 has been spent so far, primarily on the Dublin Well.

Vang also explained the Proposition 218 process to create a new assessment boundary: First, a study to determine the additional infrastructure and capacity of the system to accommodate the additional hook-ups and the associated cost would need to be undertaken. The cost of the study itself would be risked by those hoping to be repaid if a vote by those to be assessed additional property tax passed by 50 percent plus one. If a vote passed, a bond would be

purchased to build the new infrastructure, and the taxes would be collected over a period of 15 to 20 years to repay the bond, which is how the original assessment boundary was formed.

Private well owners within the new assessment boundary would still need to pay a connection fee and have a pipeline installed onto their properties. At that time their private wells would have to be decommissioned to prevent contamination of the aquifer, Vang said.

Outgoing District 1 Supervisor Manuel Nevarez acknowledged his constituents' concerns and apologized for ineffective communication from the County. He said he continues to try to determine the best way to reach people. He also spoke about the larger issues facing not only the Special Districts, of which there are over 30, but the whole County. He referred to the March 4 meeting of the Madera County Board of Supervisors which included an Informational Water Workshop that was held to "discuss the development of a strategic response to drought conditions as well as future countywide water policies," according to the meeting agenda.

Nevarez said if we wait to be told what to do by the State or the federal government, it will not be very palatable, and, "We can come up with a solution together to have a positive impact for the masses ... citizens need to push all their supervisors to address the County problem [of ineffective water management]."

Latest Meeting

The second meeting held at Liberty High on April 28, began with La Rue reading a statement about the condition of the Ranchos water system and his efforts to get more information from the County. "In 1996 the privately owned water system of MD10A was purchased by three members of this community and subsequently put up for all ratepayers to be assessed \$3,500 to take over the existing system," he said. "The system is now owned by the ratepayers but the management, income and expenditures of this system are controlled by Madera County employees."

La Rue also said the County had met with several private well owners outside the Assessment Boundary and discussed with them a potential option of paying \$25,000 to hook up to the water system. County Engineer Glen Estes confirmed that that was an option being discussed but that the Board of Supervisors would have to vote on it. Vang also confirmed the quote the County had given La Rue of \$81 per linear foot to install new pipeline, explaining that that figure included tees and other fittings and was based on union wages that would

Silva Endorses Krause for Supervisor



Supervisorial candidate, Ray Krause, Jr. has received the personal endorsement of well-known former Madera County supervisor, John V. Silva. "After nearly a year of watching, listening and vetting the candidates running for supervisor in District One, I am supporting Ray as the most qualified and capable person for the job", said Silva. Silva served two terms on the Madera County Board of Supervisors representing District Four from 1997 through 2004. Krause is a past president of the Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau and the Madera Vintners Association. He recently served over three years as District One Planning Commissioner. "I believe that the survival of our county's agricultural superiority will depend upon planned water recharge, additional storage, a locally controlled ground/surface water delivery management program, conservation and, yes, Mother Nature. Environmental water usage must also be held to the same sustainable standards of accountability as are all other users", Krause said. "I want to help preserve our independent rural, agricultural way of life while encouraging employment and investment through responsible, attractive and sustainable economic growth."

www.krauseforsupervisor.com

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5/14

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5/14

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Please see WATER on P. 23

A Simply Organized Kitchen

There are times when I think I would have liked to live 100 years ago ... in simpler times. And then I step into my kitchen with hot running water, a refrigerator, an oven that doesn't require wood and a contraption that heats my leftovers in seconds.

Yeah, that sounds a lot simpler to me too. But some kitchens don't function in a way that simplifies life. If you can't find an open space on the countertop, match a lid to a pot, or reach your mixing bowls without moving a plethora of mismatched mugs, it's time to put things in order. Here are some tried and true organizing tips for the kitchen:

Workspace:

Clear your countertop of everything. Give it a good cleaning. Return only the things you use at least twice a week. Determine if the rest of the items need to be tossed/recycled, given away, washed and put away, or relocated to some other part of the house.

Bread makers, food processors, and other large appliances should be stored in a cabinet or pantry unless used frequently. If a microwave is taking up countertop space, consider placing it on a sturdy wheeled cart and use the space below for cookbooks, or pantry items. Appliances that mount under the cabinet such as can openers and coffee makers also help restore countertop space.

Yes, you can keep a few decorative items, but save the majority of countertop space for preparing food.

Purge:

It's time to let go of empty yogurt, cottage cheese and lidless containers. Determine the realistic number of containers you need for leftovers and food storage. Match that number of containers with lids and get rid of the rest. I prefer glass containers so that you can easily see what you're storing. That way the leftovers are more likely to get eaten before becoming a science project.

Purge your pots, pans and bakeware. If finishes are worn or rusty, replace them. If you have duplicates and never use both at the same time, keep your favorite one and give away the other.

Relocate sentimental items that you want to keep but aren't using (kids' old baby dishes, mugs from all the states you've visited, etc.)

Remove boxed or canned food items that you haven't used in the last six months. Chances are if you haven't



used them yet, you probably won't. Check expiration dates on vitamins and medicines. Toss if expired.

Storage Space:

Store the things you use frequently in the most accessible cabinets and drawers. Save the low, deep corner, and extra high cabinets for holiday dishes, your fondue set and other rarely used items.

Store your everyday dinnerware and glasses in a cabinet near the sink or dishwasher to make the process of washing and putting away more convenient. Resist stacking bowls on plates, which requires an extra step to reach what's underneath. If need be, adjust shelving or add a shelf to eliminate wasted space and create more storage. Hang coffee cups under shelves with mug hooks.

Choose a location for such items as food wraps and plastic containers based on where you tend to use them.

Keep cookware near the stovetop. Nest your pots and pans inside one another and use a pot lid rack to keep lids neat. A slide-out cabinet tray is a good investment for your pots and pans cabinet, eliminating the need to remove what's in front to get to items in the back.

Store cookie sheets, muffin pans and serving trays upright with a tray divider.

Personal Favorites:

Sliding wire baskets make retrieval of lower cabinet items easier. Plastic grocery bag holders keep bags confined to a small area and handy for use. Tiered cabinet organizers make back row cans and spices visible.

Turntables are good for storing medicines and spices. Or, lay spices in a shallow drawer with labels facing up for easy retrieval. Expandable partitions and interlocking drawer organizers are great for grouping drawer contents by type.

Follow these guidelines and you'll be well on your way to cooking with comfort and ease.

MOST QUALIFIED

Gary Johns has the most **COUNTY** experience. He's served us on the **County** Planning Commission, **County** General Plan Committee and as Chaplain at the Juvenile Hall. The Planning Commission and General Plan Committee are the two training grounds to becoming a **County Supervisor**, because they perform the same duties Supervisors do. No one else comes close to being this prepared.

Gary Johns

SUPERVISOR 1



5/14

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5/14

Pot Grower Arrested in Ranchos



Just part of the more than 300 marijuana plants growing at a home on Blanca Avenue in the Ranchos. The suspect was also wanted in Pennsylvania on a felony narcotics warrant.

In early April, a 43-year-old Laotian man was arrested following a search warrant served at a house on Blanca Avenue in the Madera Ranchos. The several-weeks-long investigation led agents to the house where 314 marijuana plants and three pounds of processed marijuana were seized.

Phouphet Homesombat was arrested at the residence by agents with the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET) who later discovered he was on the run from Pennsylvania authorities for narcotic trafficking there. How Homesombat found his way to Madera is still under

investigation but he is now behind bars in Madera County, booked on felony drug charges and awaiting extradition to Scranton, Penn. on an outstanding felony narcotic warrant for intent to distribute. He is being held without bail.

Madera County Sheriff's Deputies assisted MADNET in the operation.



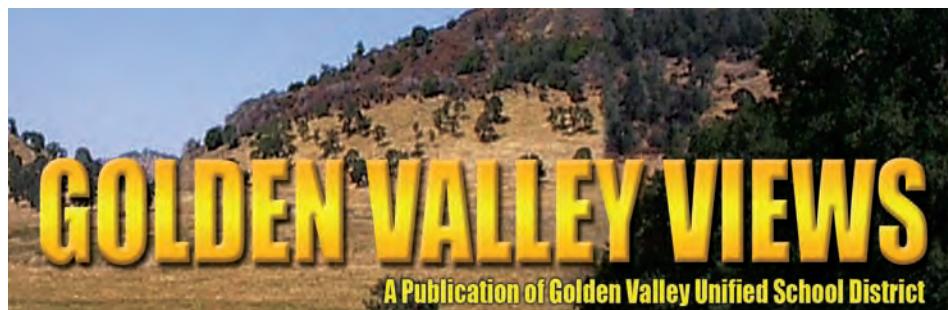
Phouphet Homesombat, 43, was arrested by MADNET agents who later discovered he was wanted by Pennsylvania authorities for narcotic trafficking there.



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Sierra View Golden Ticket Drawn



Sierra View Principal Chris Imperatrice, dressed as Willy Wonka from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," hands a check for \$5,000 to Gail Allen as the winner of the Golden Ticket drawing to benefit a new playground at the school. Imperatrice drew the Golden Ticket on Friday to end the three-month-long fundraiser for the playground.

Graduation/Promotion schedules

End of Year Promotion/Graduation Activities

June 4 - Ed Opts Graduation at RMS time (TBD) typically around 5:30 or 6 p.m.

June 5 - Liberty High School graduation 7 p.m.

June 6 - Sierra View* 6th grade promotion 8:15 a.m.

June 6 - Webster* 6th grade promotion 9:30 a.m.

June 6 - Ranchos Middle School promotion 6 p.m.

*Sierra View and Webster also have K-5 award assemblies during the week around 8:15 a.m.

Sierra View Special Summer Events

Summer Enrichment Activities (SEA) is a fun-filled, six week program (Monday-Thursday), consisting of physical activities and visual and performing arts for students. The sessions are taught by credentialed teachers and qualified specialists. All elementary age students completing kindergarten through sixth grade in the 2013-2014

school year are eligible for the program. The classes will be held at Liberty High School and the program will run from June 10 through July 17. This is a fee-based program and the cost is \$200. Registration fliers were sent home. Extra copies of the form are in the Sierra View Elementary office.

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Gary Johns Endorsement Verified

In the April issue of the Ranchos Independent, a letter to the editor from local Farmers Insurance agent Charisse Stindt stated, in no uncertain terms: "I would like to notify everyone that I never was asked to endorse Gary Johns. I met him last year when he stopped by my booth at the Flatlanders Parade. He introduced himself and spoke for about 5 to 10 minutes. Prior to that I didn't know he existed. It appears he went down Avenue 12 and took a picture of my sign, then kept it – as it is my old sign prior to February of 2014 – then he put it in his advertisement as an endorsement.

"As a business owner for over 25 years, I have never publicly endorsed or posted advertisements for political candidates."

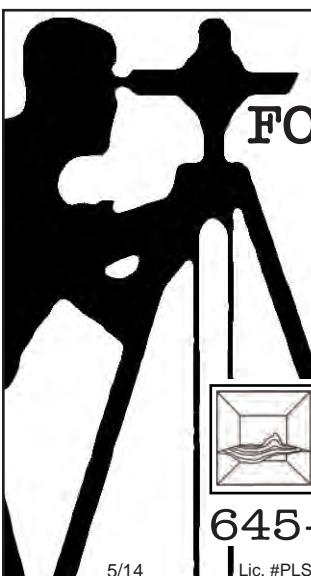
When candidate Johns read this letter he was perplexed and came to the Ranchos Independent with a copy of his business endorsement list which has been reproduced here. At the top of the list (which Johns has underscored in red) on the left it clearly reads "Business Endorsements & Sign Locations." At the top on the right it reads, "Endorsement Approvel (sic)" above a series of boxes and a place for initials. On Line 23, enclosed in a red box, is a signature in blue ink that reads "Charisse Stindt – Farmers Insurance." Immediately after that is an "x" in the "endorsement" box followed by initials in the "approvel (sic)" column.

Once presented with the signed form, Stindt issued the following letter which appears in this issue of the Ranchos Independent: "As a local business owner I make it my policy not to publicly endorse candidates for political office. Gary Johns, candidate for Madera County Board of Supervisors, has publicly indicated my endorsement of his candidacy. When I responded that I had made no such endorsement, Mr. Johns produced a document with my signature providing this endorsement. I don't recall signing the document. I bear no ill will to Mr. Johns; I simply don't make it my business to publicly endorse political candidates."

Gary Johns
SUPERVISOR 1
NAME / Location

1. Pete & Maria's Italian Restaurant SUPERVISOR 1
2. St. Kiki Mini Mart (HAPPY)
3. Cobb Ranch Parties & Events
4. Aztec Restaurant
5. Ranchos Cafe SICMA
6. New & Again Thrift & Gift Shop
7. The Office Spot
8. Sunbury
9. MADERA Pancake Market
10. The Rice Bowl
11. Mango Kelly (THE HEADLINE'S SISTER)
12. MADVIR'S ALTERNATIVES
13. CHIC'S FLEET, TACO
14. Lee Kitchen
15. The Beauty Club, Salon & Spa
16. Chris Taylor (Lucky Seven) 3101 Ave 12
17. Acoustik Valors
18. Anything & Everything BIGGIE PHAROS (JANUARY 2014)
19. Continental Realty OTHER LOCATIONS
20. Henry Chiropractic Michael & Elizabeth Henry
21. HeartString
22. Ranchos Auto Repair
23. Charisse Stindt - Farmers Insurance APPROVAL
24. Dynamic Tech Designs Inc.
25. RANCHOS BAKERY (Felix CORTES)
26. Greene's ATM PM Shawna Shearin
27. CASTECH PEST SERVICES
28. Shaw Auto Sales

Endorsement Approvel Lg / Sm
<input type="checkbox"/> PC <input type="checkbox"/> CA
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24th Annual Flatlanders Parade Scenes

Photos courtesy of John Glueck



The 24th Annual Flatlanders Day Parade kicked off on Saturday, May 10 with a color guard provided by local Scouts.



This year's Grand Marshal was area grower Igal Treibatch, accompanied by his wife Kathleen.



Floats were dotted throughout the parade, like this one from LifeTree Church featuring members of its MOPS group.



Wouldn't be a Flatlanders Parade unless groups of bad guys were getting dispatched by good guys from the San Joaquin Gunslingers.



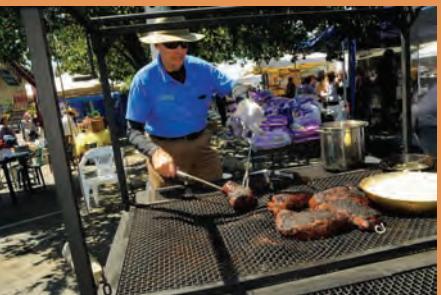
Liberty High's award-winning cheerleaders strutted their stuff for the judges and took home a First Place trophy for the effort.



Most were in agreement that this was one of the largest crowds to turn out for the parade and Crafts Fair in recent memory.



The SEMCU float stressed water and drove the point home by having this young man take a shower for the duration of the parade.



Before, during and after the parade, food and crafts booths were working overtime for the attendees.

Save this date!

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AUG. 16, 2014 Fire Station 19's Annual **FIRE-B-Q DINNER & DANCE** **Sponsors & Auction Items Needed**



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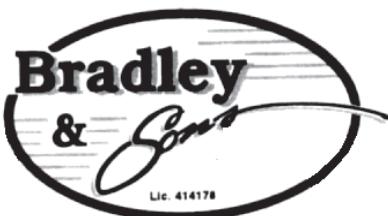
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WATER cont. from P. 15

have to be paid per Prop 218 requirements.

The County's Assistant Auditor Controller, Carl Noyes, said that although La Rue had been asking him for details about expenditures for the Ranchos water system, he had not yet been able to procure them. He agreed that of the approximately \$1,500 spent per day, half of it goes to pay PG&E for electricity. Interestingly, he could not say where the other \$750 goes. Currently about 920 rate payers contribute \$150 per quarter to achieve the \$552,000 in annual revenue to operate and maintain the water system. To date, Noyes has not provided any additional information on where the Ranchos money is going.

Seth Thomas, Ranchos resident, said that our aquifer is currently experiencing a 40,000 acre-foot per year deficit, of which residents contribute only a small percentage. He also said that 31 new agricultural wells have been installed in the area in the last year to depths of 1,200 feet and more.

Planning Director Norman Allinder addressed questions about the new development at Gateway Village, as described in the March issue of the Ranchos Independent, and urban versus agrarian water use. He said new developments are held to the highest standards for minimal water usage and to maintain a "water balance" of replacing all the water that is used and for conservation. And while new requirements kick in when land use changes, California law allows private well owners to essentially pump an unlimited amount of water. He said Madera County is a "pro-property rights" county such that people can currently grow what they want and the Board of Supervisors would have to vote to change this.

Nevarez said that the County has not been able to bring its books up to date for many years but is in the process of trying to

do so. He also said we're going to have to regulate the aquifer and set goals for reducing the overdraft in order to begin to heal it.

System Ownership Questioned

So far, at meetings this year of the Ranchos Water System Oversight Committee, there has been much discussion about who owns and controls the system. At the last meeting, held May 14, contrary to previous reports, County Engineer Vang said that according to recently solicited opinion from the County's legal counsel, residents who are hooked up to the water system and pay a quarterly fee do not own the system but rather the County does. Vang went on to say that it is County counsel's opinion that the County has the right to sell the water system and confirmed that there have been recent offers made by private companies to do so. Meanwhile, despite repeated requests by LaRue and others, the County has not been able to track down any documentation regarding water system ownership.

At SEMCU meetings, one of the main topics of discussion has been obtaining grants for water-related projects. SEMCU is currently in the process of applying for the Madera Chukchansi Community Grant, contracting with a grant writing company and submitting drought-related water project proposals for Southeast Madera County to the RWMG as part of the emergency round of applications for grants funded through Proposition 84 and administered by the Department of Water Resources. SEMCU is also moving forward with a Water Demonstration Project on the reuse of water that will involve Liberty High School, Fresno State and other stakeholders.

The Ranchos Water System Oversight Committee meets every second Wednesday of every other month at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on Berkshire Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

SEMCU meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the Pizza Factory on Avenue 12 at 6:30 p.m.

DEMO cont. from P. 2

at Newman's house also.

Newman claims that he had been hired to tear it all down, but the realtor who is managing the property, which is owned by the bank, said otherwise. According to Zillow.com, the house was built in 1994, is approximately 4,000 square feet with a heated pool and has a value of approximately \$400,000.

It was later determined that the excavator was a Hertz rental and had been stolen. When Hertz recovered the excavator they said it had "vanished" off a lot near Avenue 17 and Road 26 the previous week. Newman told deputies that he hadn't stolen it but rather had borrowed it, with full intentions of returning it once his job was complete.

Sheriff John Anderson credits a concerned citizen who phoned in a tip stating, "... something's not right."

Indeed.



Richard Newman, 51, was discovered by Madera County Deputy Sheriffs demolishing property with a stolen excavator.

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LETTERS cont. from P. 14

Now, let me state I have never spoke ethnic or racial slurs, but I also may not have stated that to do so was wrong – and for that I am guilty and I do apologize. With that, having someone state one culture is less than another, when not only am I married to a Mexican-American woman (this person was in my wedding and has been over to my house for dinner numerous times), this person is in a relationship with a Mexican-American woman, and to top off this person has children who are part Mexican-American. This person has apologized to myself and my wife via text message and tried to call, but when has this form become the norm for something so nasty? Since this happened I have not spoken with this person. I am okay with this. I do not honestly miss nor hold ill will toward him. I feel sorry for him because when we last spoke I do not think he understood the magnitude of his statements.

I do know this person's reasoning for doing this. As with most people who have this "de-evolved" viewpoint, this person is egotistical, unhappy and so deeply sad. Instead of understanding this, striving to overcome this — in a word, "evolve" — he chooses to attempt to bring people down to his level by making them feel bad about themselves.

Do not give in.

People like him are simply sad, scared, insecure and so incredibly mad at themselves because their lives did not turn out like they wanted them to so they bring misery wherever they are and to whomever they interact with.

Please understand this situation did not just happen; it occurred about one year ago. I waited to write this because I wanted to give the person

the chance to "evolve" and to make sure I did not write a letter with malice toward him. In writing this I am not looking for anything, simply to bring to my fellow Ranchoans attention that this viewpoint is obviously present in the Ranchos and must be stopped before it becomes an epidemic. I am not sure how to affect others' viewpoints or foundational feelings, I am simply asking for everyone's help. Let us join together to combat this before it becomes an epidemic. If ever you hear, see, or read any viewpoint that puts another ethnicity, culture or person down in such a way that makes us perceive a person is treating someone like a lesser valued person than they are, combat this. Let us band together as a community to let everyone know this type of viewpoint is not welcome in our community.

James Jackson
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

As a local business owner I make it my policy not to publicly endorse candidates for political office. Gary Johns, candidate for Madera County Board of Supervisors, has publicly indicated my endorsement of his candidacy. When I responded that I had made no such endorsement, Mr. Johns produced a document with my signature providing this endorsement. I don't recall signing the document. I bear no ill will to Mr. Johns; I simply don't make it my business to publicly endorse political candidates.

Charisse Stindt, Farmers Insurance
Madera Ranchos

TEA cont. from P. 11

cates a difference. Different does not always mean better. I would prefer to use the word "reform," meaning the improvement and amendment of what is wrong, corrupt and unsatisfactory. It would be good for us to leave "change" in the dust for proper reform.

The meaning of transformation is "... a change or alteration, especially a radical one; the act of transforming or the state of being transformed." Here again, nothing states that transformation is for the better – this is only assumed. And we all know the pitfalls of assumption.

From the history section of Wikipedia's description of the word "hope," Alfred Adler, an Austrian medical doctor and psychotherapist said, "We cannot think, feel, will, or act without the perception of a goal. The determination to achieve this goal is the measure hope."

Wikipedia continued that, "Hope appears in ancient Greek mythology with the story of Zeus and Prometheus. Prometheus stole fire from the god Zeus, which infuriated the supreme god. In turn, Zeus created a box that

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Shane Stonacek

New Chamber Board

Pres.: Virginia Vick

V.P.: Ollia Ridge

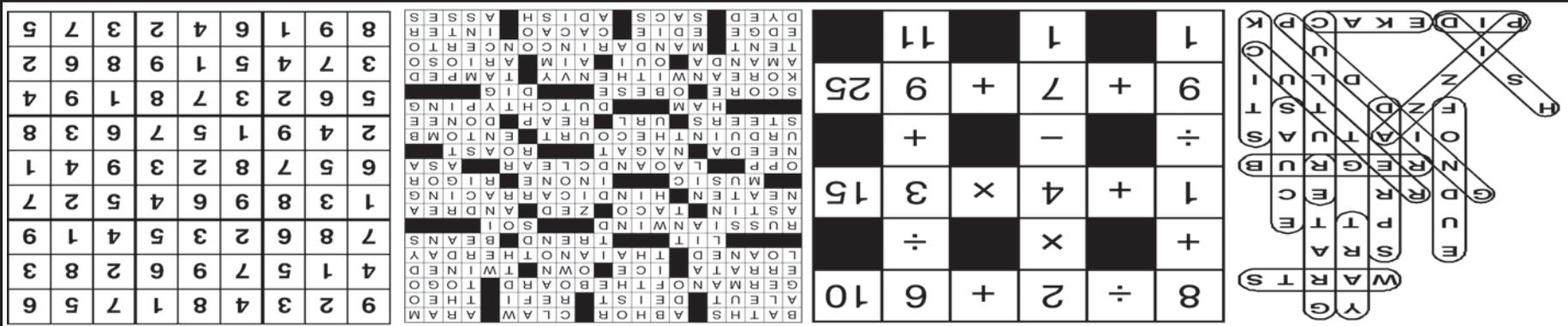
Sec.: Paula Stuart - Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop

Immediate Past President: Verlin Dill - VDI Services

Your Chamber of Commerce

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C. Call us at 645-4001.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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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.

	÷		+		10
+		×		÷	
	+		×		15
÷		-		+	
	+		+		25
1		1	11		
1	2	3	4	6	7
8	9	9	9	9	9

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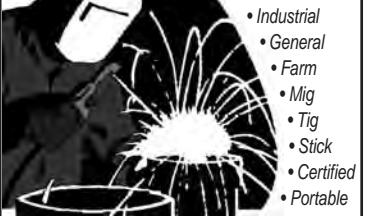
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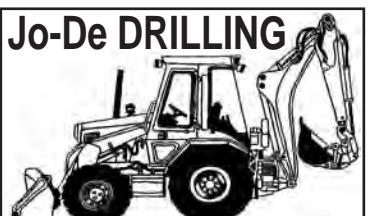
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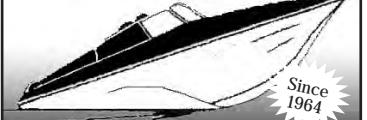
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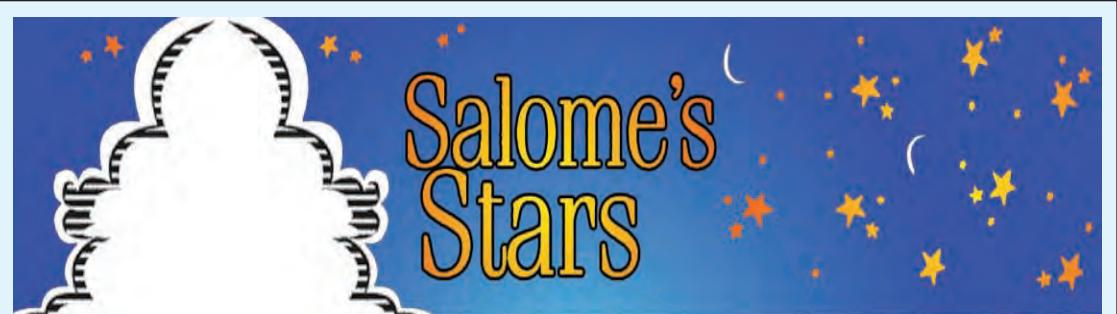
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) There's nothing an Aries Lamb likes less than having to tackle a humdrum task. But finding a creative way to do it can make all the difference. A more exciting time awaits you this weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Finishing up a job on time leaves you free to enjoy your weekend without any Taurean guilt pangs. A romantic attitude from an unlikely source could take you by surprise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Moving in a new career direction might be seen by some as risky. But if you have both the confidence to see it through and the facts to back you up, it could prove rewarding.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Holding back on a decision might be difficult, considering how long you've waited for this opportunity. But until you're able to resolve all doubts, it could be the wiser course to take.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You still need to move carefully where financial matters are concerned. Better for the Lion to move slowly than pounce on a "promising" prospect that doesn't keep its promises.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A rejection of an idea you believe in can be upsetting. But don't let it discourage you. Get yourself back on track and use what you've learned from the experience to try again.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The early part of the week could find you looking to balance your priorities between your family obligations and your career responsibilities. Pressures begin to ease by week's end.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An associate's problem could cause unavoidable delays in moving ahead with your joint venture. If so, use the time to look into another project you had previously set aside.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although a financial problem could be very close to being resolved in your favor, it's still a good idea to avoid unnecessary spending for at least a little while longer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Support for some unwelcome workplace decisions begins to show up, and continues to build, so that by week's end, the gregarious Goat is as popular as ever.

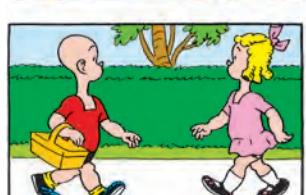
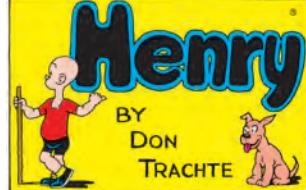
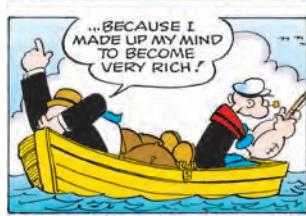
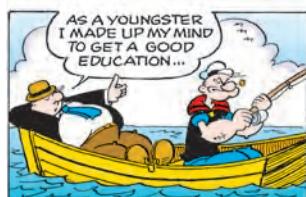
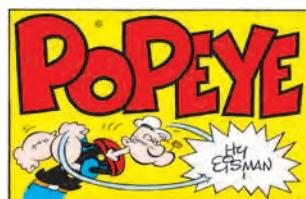
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Congratulations. Deciding to attend a social function you might have earlier tried to avoid could turn out to be one of the best decisions you've made in a long time.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting into a new situation could prove to be a more difficult experience than expected. Don't hesitate to ask for advice in coping with some of the irksome challenges.

Born this Week

Your strong sense of duty makes you a valued and trusted member of your community. Have you considered a career in law enforcement?

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Thank you,
HANK PEARSON,
LACEY, WA.



BY AL SCADUTO



Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

FAR OUT! Let's say a rocket ship loaded with fewer than 100 animals has landed on Planet Z. When a Z-man counts them, he finds that the total, when divided by 3, leaves a remainder of 1; divided by 4, leaves a remainder of 2; divided by 5, leaves a remainder of 3. How many animals are there altogether?

Clue: Answer must end in 8. Can you puzzle it out?

SAYWHAT! For some reason, Grandpa's words have run together: "Mightyachesfromlittledetoeconsnow." See how quickly you can read them. Time: 1 min.

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WELL SEASONED X-WORDS

YOU are challenged to find six three-letter words whose letters intertwine with those of SUMMER and SEASON, which appear diagonally in the diagram above. Definitions:

1. Ringed planet.

2. Who wrote the book (any book).

3. Fair maiden of old.

4. Extremely hard tooth substance.

5. Portable signal device used by police, firemen, EMS, etc.

6. Barnacle Bill or Popeye, for instance.

Afterwards, see if you can find an alternate list of similar words.

Time limit: 2 min.

Answers & Solutions 5

1. Sun 2. Author 3. Moon 4. Diamond 5. Signal 6. Popeye

NICE SIGHT! Something she sees pleases the viewer above. What can it be? To find out, add lines number to number.

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

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

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

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

Burger	Dip	Pizza	Stick
Cake	Dish	Pudding	Straw
Culture	Fondue	Sauce	Tray
Cutter	Grater	Spread	

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SPELLBINDER

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

RIVERBED

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

possible answers: ride, wild,

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is a sheet of printed stamps called?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby bat called?
- MUSIC: How many holes does the musical instrument called a recorder have?
- LANGUAGE: What is a lazaretto?
- ARCHITECTURE: What is adobe made of?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek god of medicine?
- DISCOVERIES: Who is credited with discovering the air brake?
- BIRTHSTONES: What is February's traditional birthstone?
- MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral CMX?

Answers

- A pane
- Yellowknife
- A pup
- Seven in the front and a thumbhole in the back
- The black
- The building material is made of dried earth and straw.
- A place to quarantine people with infectious disease, such as leprosy
- George Westinghouse
- Asclepius
- Amethyst
10. 990

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Amber Waves

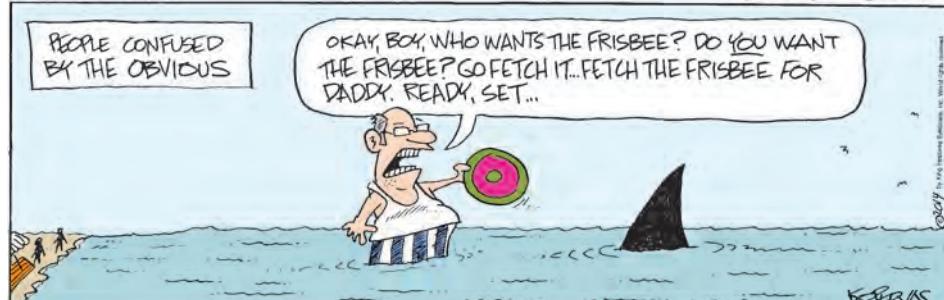
by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

Out on a Limb

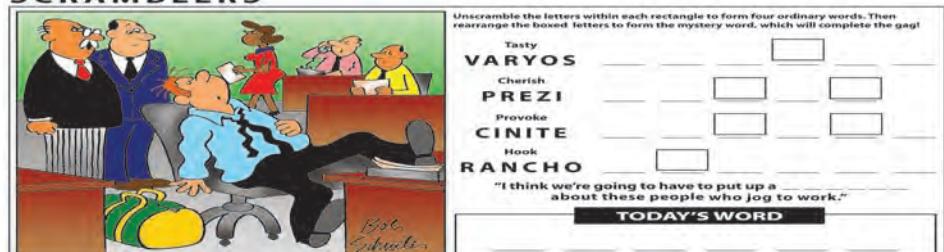


by Gary Kepervas

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

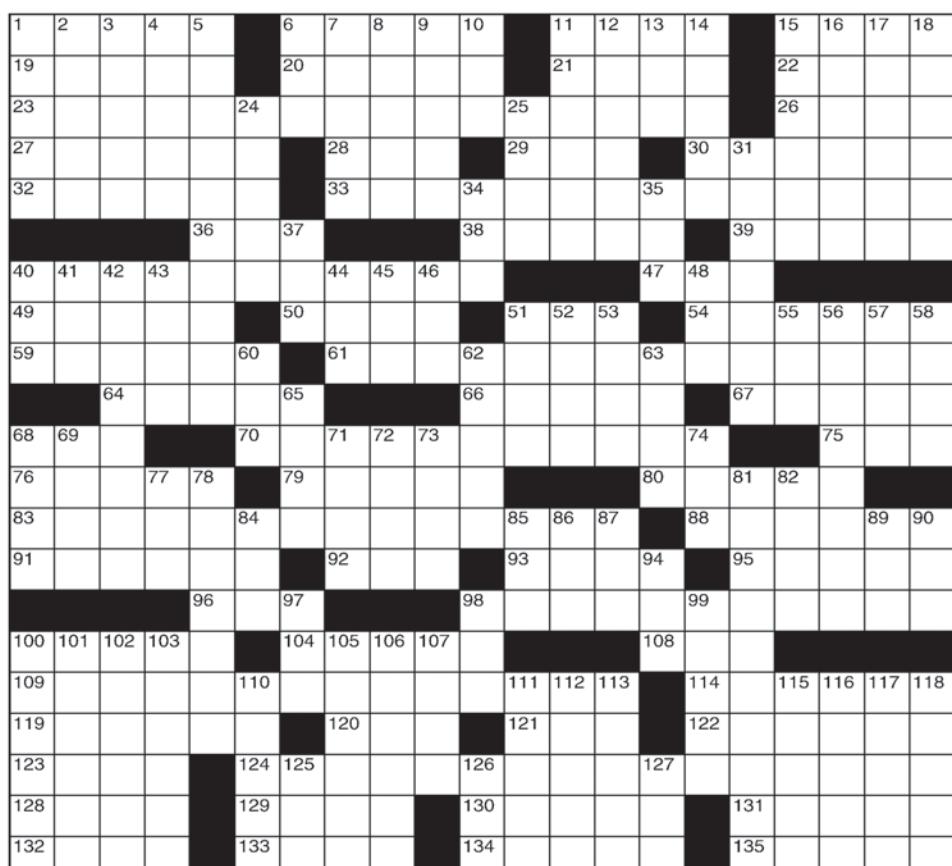
TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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

Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Boards are missing. 3. Seats are different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. License number is different. 6. Flag is missing.

Super Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Occasions to use tubs
50 Tostada kin
51 Z, to Brits
54 Painter — del Sarto
59 Straighten up
19 Igloo builder
20 Believer in God, of a sort
21 Mortgage adjustment, for short
22 "Vincent & —" (1990 film)
23 Firm bigwig, in a first language?
26 Not "for here"
27 Misprint list
28 With 100-Down, did an axel or a lutz
29 Hold the title to
30 Coiled about
32 Gave temporarily
33 2002 Bond film, in a first language?
36 Illuminated
38 Pollster's prediction
39 Heinz canful
40 Gust, in a first language?
47 "— see" ("Evidently")
- 49 Actor Sean
50 Tostada kin
51 Z, to Brits
54 Painter — del Sarto
59 Straighten up
61 Oval circuit specialty, in a first language?
64 Pop or rock
66 — lump sum
67 Severeness
68 Right, to left: Abbr.
70 Without uncertainty, in a first language?
75 Thick — brick
76 "I — vacation"
79 Plague
80 Meat dish
83 Bailiff's cry, in a first language?
88 Lay to rest
91 Directs
92 Dot-com address
93 Collect, as benefits
95 Charity recipient
96 Pig product
98 Keying-in skill, in a first language?
47 "— see" ("Evidently")
- 104 Past chunky
108 Form a hole
109 Very jealous, in a first language?
114 Packed down firmly
119 "What a Girl Wants" star Bynes
120 Yes, to Luc
121 Archer's need
122 Melodic
123 Tepee
124 1725 Vivaldi work, in a first language?
128 Fringe
129 Falco or McClurg
130 Tree that's a source of chocolate
131 Prefix with 30-Across
132 Like many Easter eggs
133 Animal pouches
134 "Revenge is — best served cold"
135 Obstinate equines
- 4 Earthling
5 Places for "Welcome to ..." signs
6 Big flap
7 Suit adequately
8 Snag
9 Milo of stage and screen
10 I-85, e.g.
11 "Larry —" (2011 Tom Hanks film)
12 Rest against
13 One of the seven conts.
14 Side-to-side extent
15 Raiment
16 Beach Boys title girl
17 Naxos' sea
18 Big name in bond credit ratings
24 Comaneci of gymnastics
25 Wild tusker
31 Live online lecture
34 "— be nice if ..."
35 NFL stats
37 Blasting inits.
40 Did a dash
41 Practice
42 Pasture peril
43 In — (as first placed)
44 Infant's cry
45 Here, to Luc
- 46 Prefix with interference
48 Crew tool
51 Element in brass
52 Sci. of the environment
53 Fyn citizen
55 Roman 601
56 Ribbed pasta
57 Cain's nephew
58 Home of the Taj Mahal
60 Zilch
62 Inflicted on
63 Back
65 Lacks what it takes
68 Burden
69 Impudent
71 Waikiki's island
72 New — (artist like Enya)
73 Table salt, symbolically
74 Mass of eggs
77 Yet to be paid
78 Ditz
81 "The Lost City" director and co-star
82 Arrest
84 Top-secret gp.
85 S. Amer. country
- 86 On Soc. Sec.
87 Tic- — toe
89 Grown boys
90 Solicit alms
94 Prof's deg.
97 Manicure, as a lawn
98 Subpar mark
99 Cronus, e.g.
100 See 28-Across
101 Humor
102 Like carrots
103 Chartered
105 Like the "Six Million Dollar Man"
106 Pianists' dexterity improvers
107 Actor LaBeouf
110 Species
111 Greek water nymph
112 "The Da — Code"
113 Some urban rec facilities
115 Bearings
116 PC jacks
117 Socialite Lauder
118 They may be slammed
125 Tooth doctor's org.
126 JVC rival
127 "Lo-o-ovely!"

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