

# The Ranchos Independent

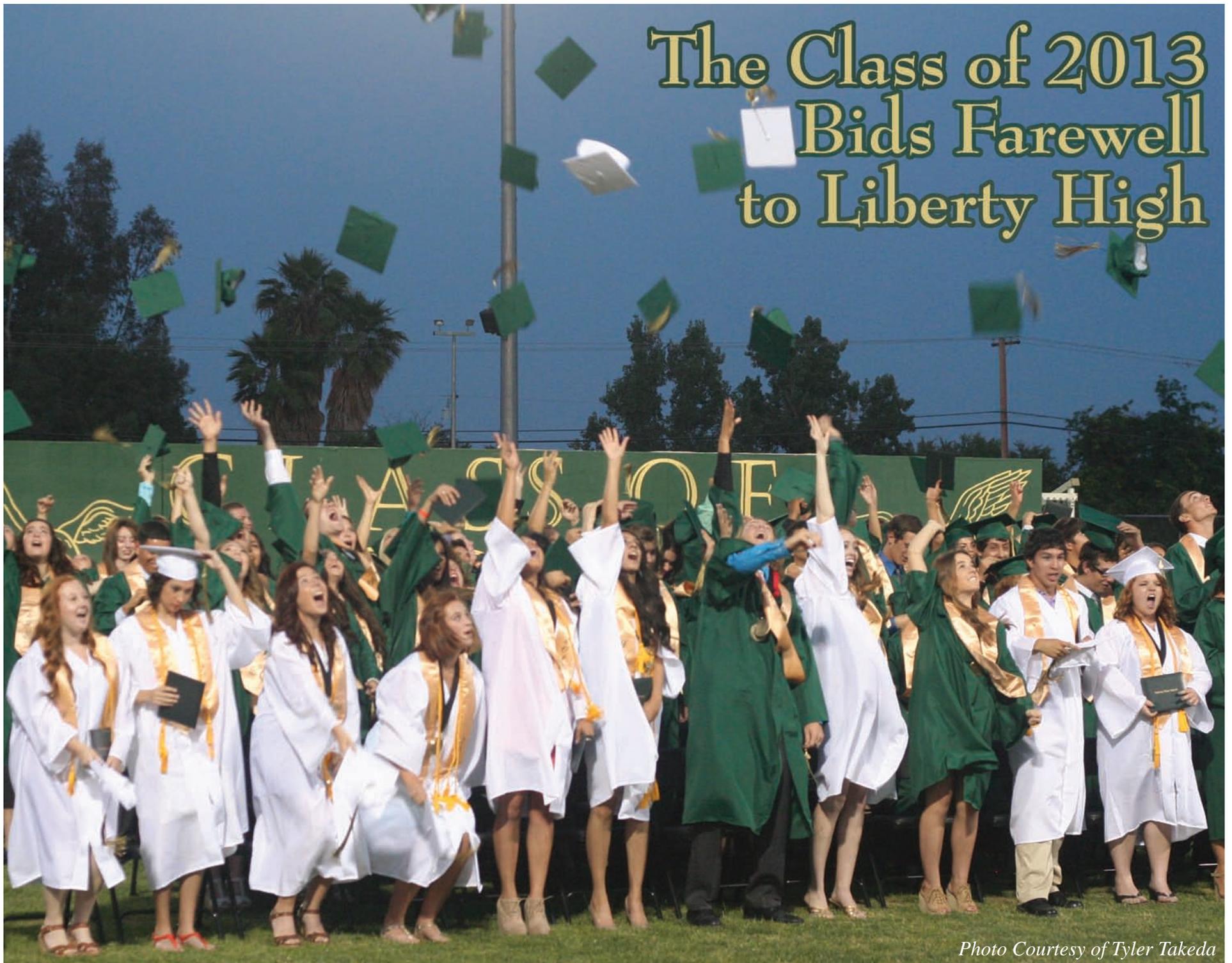


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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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## The Class of 2013 Bids Farewell to Liberty High

*Photo Courtesy of Tyler Takeda*

### *In This Issue*

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## Huge Pot Grow Site Off 11 & 41

A 39-acre grow site was discovered on Avenue 11, just west of Highway 41, where more than 1,600 marijuana plants were being cultivated. Had these plants been able to mature, the growers could have netted more than \$4 million. Thanks to a citizen's tip to MADNET, the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team, the plants were ripped out of five plots of prime agricultural land and were destroyed Monday afternoon, June 17.



Agents said that 10 acres of this 39 acre parcel were singled out specifically to grow marijuana.

Two people – one from San Diego, and the other from Fresno – were caught tending the gardens when agents arrived on the scene. The pair claimed they were growing marijuana under the auspices of medical need. Their names are not being released at this time.

Anyone with information about illicit drug activity in Madera County is urged to call MADNET's 24 hour tip line at 559-675-7776.

## Grand Jury Report Now Available

The term for the 2012-13 Grand Jury will end on June 30, 2013. All reports produced by the 2012-13 Grand Jury will be accumulated and published in the "Final Report" document as required by Penal Code Section 933. This year's Grand Jury produced a total of eleven reports, most of which are regarding Madera County Government,

Some investigations and reports were initiated by citizen complaints. Those include the allegations of the complainant as well as the facts discovered through interviewing witnesses, reviewing public documents and records, and by attending County Board of Supervisor, City Council and other various public meetings of boards and commissions.

Subject departments or agencies are required to respond to the reports by either agreeing or disagreeing with the facts and by addressing how or if they intend to comply with the recommendations. All responses received before the publication cutoff date at the end of May, 2013, are included in the Final Report and placed on the Grand Jury website. Responses received after the publication cutoff date are placed on the website and included in the following year's Grand Jury Final Report.

Here are some of the Grand Jury's 11 reports with a brief synopsis. Visit the website to see them all.

**Complaint regarding Madera County Department of Social Services:** Investigates a complaint alleging that the department is not diligently processing and

recovering over payments of cash aid and over issuances of food stamps.

**Citizens Complaint Regarding the Security Guard Contract for the Madera County Government Center:** Investigates a complaint of irregularities and inconsistencies in the awarding of the contract for Security Services.

**Madera County Fire Department:**

The Policy and Procedural Manual being formulated by Cal Fire is not following established County Ordinances and Resolutions outlining the makeup of the Madera County Fire Department.

**Madera County**

**LAFCO:** Commission could be better informed.

**Criminal Complaints within the Madera County Jail:** Guidelines and policy for the prosecution of inmates by the District Attorney's office for crimes committed in the County Jail had not been established prior to the Grand Jury investigation.

**Complaint regarding County Administration and Finance:** The County has lost or is late in the receipt of approximately \$3 million in state and federal road and grant funding due to late filing of the required annual audit the situation is further exacerbated by internal bickering and ineffective oversight.

These six reports and an additional five more can be found on the Grand Jury's website. You can access the website by Googling "Madera County Grand Jury" or by going to [www.madera-county.com/index.php/grand-jury-reports/2012-2013](http://www.madera-county.com/index.php/grand-jury-reports/2012-2013).



## Noblett Running for District One

Rochelle Noblett has announced her intention to run for the Madera County District 1 Supervisorial seat currently held by Governor Brown appointee, Manuel Nevarez.

Noblett was born and raised in Madera, graduated Magna-cum-Laude from California State University, Fresno, and has run the family business, Pete's Sport Shop (founded in 1959 by her parents) for 35 years. She, her husband and two sons have lived in their District 1 home for 17 years.

Rochelle's dedication to the betterment of her community is evident through her lifelong commitment to community service: For 11 years she has served on the State Center Community College Foundation Board of Directors, serving as President in 2005 and currently as a member of the executive board. Her focus has been raising scholarship money for students for whom a college education would be out of reach without financial help. "To make a difference in someone's life, to help them achieve their goals of a higher education or vocational training is by far the most rewarding charitable thing I do," said Noblett. "Hearing their stories can definitely bring a tear to your eye and you practically burst with pride when they are successful due to your intervention. I highly recommend it."

In addition to her work on the Foundation, Rochelle has been president of the Madera Downtown Association for over 10 years and currently serves on its board. She was the first female president of the Madera Kiwanis Club, founded in 1946, earning the distinction of Distinguished Past President. Rochelle has served on the design/development committees for two high school pools and was on the MUSD Bond Oversight Committee. She has judged Regional Speech Contests, coached an Academic Decathlon middle school team, and proctors the Madera County Academic Decathlon. Noblett spent four years teaching real-world business to high

school students, has co-chaired a Wounded Warriors program for our injured troops and helped to choose Real Heroes to be honored by the Red Cross. She has donated over 300 children's books to the Madera County Library and donated a sound system for its courtyard. Her artistic skills are evident in the street banners along downtown and throughout Madera, for which she donates her design time. She has also donated her time doing public relations for The Cat House on the Kings, the largest domestic cat rescue in the United States. National Geographic Wild is periodically running "The Lady with 700 Cats" in which Noblett appears.

All that community service has not gone unnoticed as Rochelle has been honored by the State of California as a Small Business of the Year. She won the Excellence in Business Award from the Fresno Bee, was one of the Top Ten Business and Professional Women of the Central Valley and the Business Journal has repeatedly ranked her in the Top 20 Women Owned Businesses in their Book of Lists. Some of Noblett's other awards include the Madera County Arts Council Community Service Award, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Woman of the Year, Business Supporter of the Year for Madera Center Community College and numerous local grade schools and the Crystal Tower Award from the Madera Compact Business and Education Alliance.

When asked why she is running, Noblett responded, "I want to be a true representative of the people in District 1. I have scaled back my business to allow me more time to serve the residents of Madera County, particularly my constituents in District 1. I am truly humbled by the support I've received from business and community leaders, law enforcement, education and local government. I strive to be the best at whatever endeavor I take on and I'm anxious to go to work as Supervisor in District 1."



*Rochelle Noblett has decided to throw her hat in the ring and take a run at being our next District 1 Supervisor. The position is being held at present by Manuel Nevarez who was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown after Frank Bigelow's election to the state assembly.*

the Excellence in Business Award from the Fresno Bee, was one of the Top Ten Business and Professional Women of the Central Valley and the Business Journal has repeatedly ranked her in the Top 20 Women Owned Businesses in their Book of Lists. Some of Noblett's other awards include the Madera County Arts Council Community Service Award, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Woman of the Year, Business Supporter of the Year for Madera Center Community College and numerous local grade schools and the Crystal Tower Award from the Madera Compact Business and Education Alliance.

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Monday night my car was vandalized again, egged in front of my home. This has happened before on numerous occasions over the years, and not always to the same car. But somehow the ones targeted are always the ones with political bumper stickers. Imagine that. There have been numerous eggings, and even a paintball attack. Both vehicles involved have suffered irreparable paint damage.

In this case the offending instigator was apparently a fading Obama sticker left over from the last election. I'm not alone in suffering such attacks by the way; other left-leaning friends of ours have had similar experiences from time to time. I'm assuming these are the acts of children, or if not, then adults with the mentality of children. So I'm going to assume that you are children and address you as such. I would suggest that you take a moment or two to educate yourselves. It's easy, do a Google search or two, or maybe actually pay attention in class. No, actually, such things are not usually addressed in school below the college level, and I think that alone probably negates that suggestion. Still, the information is out there if you actually care enough to search it out.

Yes, I am a proud progressive, and that puts me in among a very small minority in the Ranchos, or anywhere in the Central Valley, for that matter. And as a proud progressive (we used to say "liberal" until the radio conservatives turned that into a dirty word), let me state on the record that although I voted for President Obama and still support him overall, I am very disappointed in him on a number of different fronts. Since I would assume that the attack on my vehicle is in some way related to anger concerning the current NSA and IRS scandals, let me also make it clear that I too am disturbed by both. I don't know how far up the chain of command any knowledge of the IRS improprieties reached, and I would hope that it will come to light. But I do know that President Obama seems to support the actions of the NSA, and that highly

disappoints me, as it is a gross invasion of privacy against law-abiding private citizens. At one time in fact, it would have been illegal. To be sure, the current round of "whistle-blowing" does raise serious and legitimately disturbing concerns about national security. But that having been said, we should also all legitimately question whether national security should be attained at the expense of our most cherished rights and American values. If conservatives really stand for the things they claim to, they should feel the same way. But this is where the education part comes in.

It might interest you to know, if you cared enough, that the laws that allow such warrantless spying on American citizens to occur was instituted by the Bush/Chaney administration as part of the ironically titled "Patriot Act," in itself one of the most un-American pieces of legislation this country has ever seen. Both of them still support and defend it. And it was, and continues to be, supported by most within the Republican party as well as some Democrats. If you don't like the government spying on you, then don't blame President Obama for it in partisan, knee-jerk reaction. Look to the source. As for the improper IRS investigations, that too is hardly unprecedented. Republican president Richard Nixon, intentionally and with malice, used the same tactic against his own foes using both the IRS and the FBI. That doesn't excuse it now in any respect, but it does present another interesting example of certain folks living in glass houses. In reality there have been many transgressions on both sides of the political fence, and no party holds any patent on morality or ethical behavior. Nor, by the way, on religious devotion: "God" is not spelled "GOP."

So before you again decide to demonstrate your "God-given patriotic moral superiority" and exercise your "right" to vandalize the property of other patriotic Americans who happen to hold different political views than yourselves or your parents,

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 15

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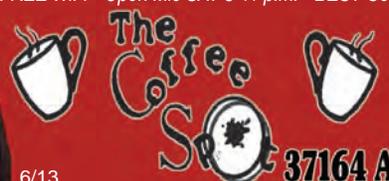
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Editorial

# Don't Confuse Me with Facts

By Randy Bailey

I read a recent article online that newspapers and nightly news programs were taking a huge hit in the credibility department from American viewers and readers. Seems they're just not buying what's being peddled to them. Gallup did a poll asking those being polled how "confident" they were in the information they received from both newspapers and TV newscasts. Both forms of media tied at 23 percent, meaning 77 percent of respondents had little or no confidence in either. What true followers of news find even more distressing is the growing number of people that state they get their news from The Daily Show and David Letterman.

Not very reassuring.

What I have started to notice here in the Ranchos is the number of people who are getting their news -- their "facts" -- from any of a number of Facebook pages specific to the Ranchos. Here's how it works: Someone posts something on Facebook that they are *positive* is gospel; absolutely above reproach. Someone else agrees with it and comments on the comments. By the time it's made its way through 10 different "friends" who all agree with what's been posted, it takes on a life of its own. It's at this point if someone happens by the posting who recognizes that something isn't quite right, and makes a comment to that end,

he or she becomes the object of derision and name calling and a host of other tactics available to Facebook faithful. Heck, you don't even have to post something to become a punching bag on Ranchos Facebook pages.

I know.

When I reported in last month's Ranchos Independent about the charges being leveled at GVUSD Trustee Crumpton by Warren Parr, I did just that: reported. I was a fly on the wall. I reported Parr's allegations, quoted school board findings and offered up my pages to Crumpton to respond, which she did in the form of a written statement.

The Facebook crowd swung into gear.

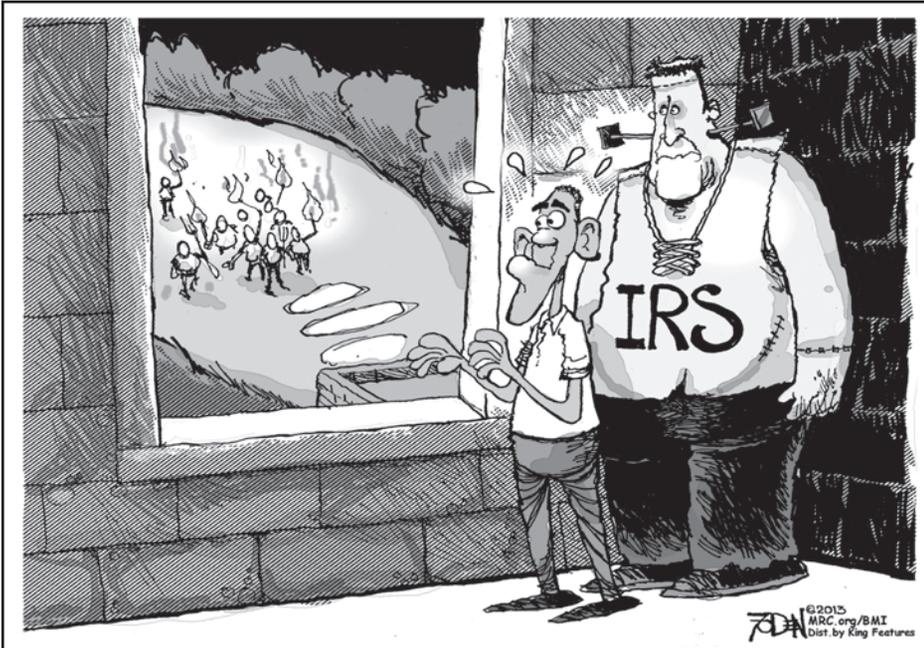
A friend who spends time on Facebook texted me saying I needed to see what was being said about me on Facebook, so I logged on.

It was all the Crumpton supporters having a field day. I was accused of "yellow journalism," "bias," "writing a hit piece," "sloppy journalism" and on and on. After the Madera Tribune wrote a similar story, Facebookers posted that the Trib got things wrong, but at least it wasn't so one-sided.

Here's the bottom line and will ultimately be what this whole sordid mess comes down to: Did Crumpton violate laws or didn't she? What she herself posted on Facebook indicates she did. None of the Facebook sycophants seem to want to come to terms with this prickly question in their incestuous cesspool. One person even suggested that so what if Crumpton had broken some laws? She has done so much good for the schools that she deserves a "pass" according to this poster.

The Facebook crowd wants to make this personal. They think I have an axe to grind with Crumpton (I don't); I have a problem with someone choosing to not follow the rules and impacting children's education in the process. I don't care who you are, you don't have the right to do that. Education codes and penal codes and Board policies are created to make this great school system we all love a safe, nurturing place where all of our kids can learn and grow. The rules exist so that no one person can ride roughshod over the system, regardless of his or her agenda.

But there I go ... confusing the Facebook crowd with facts.



# The Ranchos Independent

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# Close of School Year Brings Changes

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I was at the Liberty High Graduation on June 6. What an awesome experience that was. When Liberty High opened its doors to students for the 2002-2003 school year, we had 140 freshman and 63 sophomores. In the school year 2003-2004 we added a freshman class of 140 students giving Liberty three classes: a freshman, sophomore and junior class. During the 2004-2005 school year Liberty added another freshman class of 136 students giving Liberty all four classes: freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. In June, 2005 Liberty had the first graduating class of 59 students. On that foundation which was laid

*As you can see, summer is the time for changes. I am glad that we had candidates within the district that could fill most of the open spots at our schools.*

down by the first three Liberty principals, Kuljeet Mann became the Liberty Principal in 2005 with 578 students. It was obvious that Principal Mann had bonded with the graduating class of 2013. Principal Mann had the opportunity to watch the freshman class though all four school years until they graduated on June 6, 2013. Proud parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends were also able to watch the graduating class of 2013 as they walked up to get their diploma and receive a hug from Principal Mann. There were 17 Valedictorian students this year, all above a 4.0 grade point average. This is the largest group of such high grade points ever. The students this year were Academic Award recipients, Golden State Seal Merit Diploma recipients, California Scholarship Life Members and the recipients of many local scholarship program awards. This group of 146 students that graduated also included all of the athletic awards that Liberty students had gathered throughout the year.

It is with sadness that we will say goodbye to Principal Kuljeet Mann as this is her last year as principal of Liberty High. She will not be leaving the district but will be moving to become principal of the Educational Options Program for the district. Kristi Fisher, who has been the director of Special Education/School Psychologist and the Educational Options Program, will be leaving Golden Valley Unified School District to be married this summer. Congratulations Kristi, we wish

you the best in your marriage and wherever you will start your new life. Frank Panian will be the new principal of Liberty High. Principal Kevin Hatch from the Ranchos Middle School will be promoted to the Assistant Superintendent at the district office. Webster Elementary School Principal Felipe Piedra will move to the Ranchos Middle School as principal there in the 2013-2014 school year. The office of principal for Webster Elementary has not been decided yet. Principal Chris Imperatrice will stay at Sierra View Elementary. As you can see, summer is the time

for changes. I am glad that we had candidates within the district that could fill most of the open spots at our schools.

Something exciting is going to happen on June 29. Put it on your calendar. Four avid prize-

winning quilters from the Ranchos/Hills Seniors will be showing their quilts at the Harvest Community Church at 2001 National Avenue in Madera on June 29 at the annual Quilt Show. The quilters from the Madera Ranchos are Dee Case, Diane Maxfield, Dot Husted and Marie Sell. If there are other quilters in the area let these women know. You have heard the saying, "Seniors know how to have fun," well these quilters are having fun, being creative and are productive as well.

The week of June 10-14 was the time for the Vacation Bible School at our local Golden Valley Baptist Church. The theme this year was Galactic Blast. You should have seen Pastor Mansel Trimble in his orange astronaut suit. He looked like he was ready to blast off into space. On the first day of Vacation Bible School 61 students registered at the church. The students' ages were pre-K to the 6th grade. The students learned songs, learned bible verses, played games and much more. They also gave their mothers a little rest while they had fun. I had a 19-year-old missionary girl from Alabama for the week of Vacation Bible School. She worked at the church with the students in the morning and with the teens in the afternoon. Her name is Lynlee Tobias and it was a joy to share my house with her. She will be working with different churches in the Valley until it is time for her to go home and get ready for college.

Please see STOCK on P. 17



6/13

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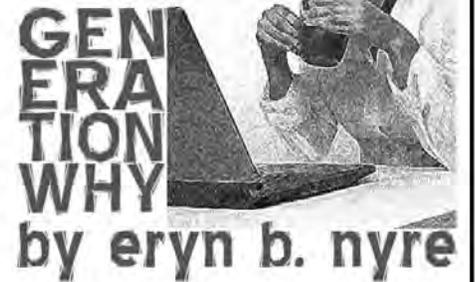
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## Tagging with Young Picasso



GEN  
ERA  
TION  
WHY  
by eryl b. nyre

I look around sometimes and see screaming tantrums being violently thrown about by spoiled little brats with no sense of respect and I fear for the future of mankind. A common thread today that seems to be everywhere is the idea that if you let your kids express themselves and be free then they will learn to rein themselves in on their own. The idea that too much discipline, too many “no’s” makes your child rebellious and stifles creativity. Well, the problem with that sentiment is that not enough “no’s” make children unruly and disrespectful. Not enough structure can make children disorganized and lazy. And not enough discipline makes children take a magic marker to the waiting room of the Intensive Care

Unit at the local hospital. A child with parents who have emphasized the importance of respecting property and public space and adhering to proper decorum would not have allowed a bored 12 year old to turn hospital walls into their own private sketch pad, but recently at the hospital where I work,

that is exactly what happened. Evidently the parents felt that in this situation, some discipline would have prevented their little cherub from becoming the next Picasso. So, instead, they allowed their child to put marker to stucco and turned a peaceful, serene waiting room into a mural of random pictures, shapes and misspelled words. But hey, that’s a small price for someone else to pay so your precious child doesn’t ever have to hear the word “no.”

The hospital had to completely repaint the entire room. There seemed hardly a square inch that wasn’t covered with her handiwork. And the mom’s response? She was napping and her child was bored and since the waiting room didn’t have enough toys to keep her kid occupied she found her own way to occupy herself, she is clearly not at fault as a mother and this is all the hospital’s doing. Never mind the fact that there was a large, flat screen TV in the corner for her to zone out to, or shelves of magazines for her to mindlessly thumb through, or cushy chairs to sit in and soft, comfy sofas to nap on.

There isn’t an Xbox or a giant toy box stuffed full of Santas to provide enough stimulation for a petulant tween so clearly the hospital is to blame for her obviously warranted act of vandalism. Having recently dealt with the pain of having a cherished family member in the ICU, I know what a heartbreaking time this can be for

*So, let me get this straight – you brought your children to the waiting room of the ICU unit of the hospital and can’t keep them under control so it’s now the hospital’s responsibility to keep track of your little pack of hooligans since we won’t let you lock other people out of a public space? This is why I love working in a hospital: You can’t make this stuff up.*

a family, but that doesn’t give you a blank check to destroy someone else’s property, or to let you children do it.

After the hospital re-painted and re-opened the waiting room, which I should add was a newly remodeled waiting room to begin with, as expected, there was an extra security presence roaming the hallways making sure children weren’t left unattended to destroy any more property. I happen to think that particular waiting room attracts a certain level of bad karma, since not long after its reopening they had another incident. This one didn’t involve property damage, but another family shut and locked the waiting room door, which in effect kept out any other visiting family member from resting or waiting. So when the security guard on duty passed by on patrol asked them to keep it open, they refused. Their reason? Well, the children, of whom there were four, would run out into the hall and the mom would have to chase them down, so if they wanted it open the hospital would have to take responsibility for her kids running amok in the hallways. She actually said this to the security guard and the director of the unit. So, let me get this straight – you brought your children to the waiting room of the ICU unit of the hospital and can’t keep them under control so it’s now the hospital’s responsibility

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

## Be a Zucchini Houdini

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Zucchini Cake

- 2 C. Flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon



- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 2 C granulated sugar
- 1 C. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. lemon zest (optional)
- 2 C. grated un-peeled zucchini.

Place grated zucchini in sieve to drain out excess moisture before measuring.

1 C. chopped nuts - walnuts or pecans.

½ C raisins - either dark or golden.

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

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

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

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

### Frosting

- 3 ounces cream cheese softened
  - ¼ cup butter, room temperature
  - 1 ½ to 2 C. powdered sugar
- Beat together the cream cheese and butter. Add the powdered sugar and beat until smooth.

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

When my mom passed away almost 25 years ago, she had boxes of genealogy information on all four sides of our family. I took them and started putting them together and added to it with information from cousins in Tennessee, Iowa and Oregon and ended up with three large binders of information, which I have called "Our Story." I've told everyone in the family what I have

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

and that someday I would like to make a book, but due to the lack of funds and knowhow I have put it on the back shelf and "someday" has never come. Recently, one of the boys called me and wanted to know some information about a cousin that was in WWII. It got me to thinking - I have played life's 18 holes and am headed for the clubhouse - and I'm

still sitting here with all this information and doing nothing about it, and that is idiotic of my part. So I made a few phone calls, and talked to Randy and with God's help, we are going to put it together. I have funding, and Randy has said he would help lay it out - after all, that is his business. What I am saying here is please, if you have any background on your family, write it down now, while you still can. Maybe your fam-

ily won't be interested today, but what if after you have made it to the clubhouse your kids will want to know who Uncle Ralph's second wife was, or where did our family come from? Remember, our ancestors all came from somewhere.

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

1940: A&P Supermarkets sell the first precut, cellophane wrapped meat.  
1940: The first Dairy Queen opened in Juliet, Ill.

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

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

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

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

1945: Earl W. Tupper invents re-sealable food containers.

1946: Frozen french fried potatoes are introduced.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*John Anderson*  
Madera County Sheriff

6/13

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**Kiwanis Korner**

**Kiwanis Increases LHS Scholarships**

By Perry Watkins

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

Because of the generosity of the Madera Ranchos community, the local Kiwanis Club has been able to increase the scholarships for Liberty High School graduating seniors. This is one of the primary events that the Kiwanis members work all year to create. We have a number of fundraisers throughout the year and all of the locally collected money goes directly to our local community.

Our members pay our own administrative expenses so all service funds can go to direct services in our area. If we ever do collect any funds earmarked for areas outside of our community or for administrative expenses, we will advertise that boldly at those events.

There were so many excellent candidates that we had great difficulty making the final selection. The students who were selected had made both academic achievements and were engaged in community events. These hard-working, awesomely intelligent young people managed to win our approval for the Kiwanis Scholarships. Seventeen students applied and, truly, each one was deserving. Naturally, we cannot give awards to everyone. The students who were chosen really put it all together with their applications. We could not give these awards if we did not have our incredibly generous Kiwanians and also so many caring supportive community members. If the folks out there did not bring recyclables to us, or buy our tri-tip sandwiches or run in the Cross the River Run then we just would not be able to do this. A big thank you to the Scholarship Committee and especially to Bev Delk for her management of the scholarship awards process. Congratulations one

and all to our wonderful students and teachers at Liberty High. We love making these awards. Kiwanis has been able to make the largest number of individual awards this year and also has become one of the largest overall donors for Liberty High School scholarships due to the help and support of the community.

We also have been able to support a number of other causes that support the community. We are overjoyed to be able to increase our annual support of our local fire station this year and will make a worthwhile contribution to the fireman’s picnic again in support of their awesome services. Thank you for your

support at the Flatlanders Day Parade and at our Cross the River Run. These events were very successful and enable us to give so much to the community.

The club appeared in strength at the Miracle Mile of Quarters in support of

Children’s Hospital of Central California. This event has raised thousands of needed dollars in support of this amazing hospital. We also are planning to clean up community signs at Avenue 12 and Road 36, and also Avenue 12 and Highway 41. Check them out.

You are always welcome to join a meeting. We are open, welcoming, and love to hear from the community. Come join us one time or 52 times a year. Thank you Madera Ranchos Community. We love you.



Hats off to the best of the best at Liberty High. Kiwanis President Marie Cameron, left, presides over this year’s Kiwanis Scholarship winners, Chloe Doyle, Andy Hart, Jacob Rousey, Jordyn DeChamplain, Lindsey Tucker and Claressa Wardle as Kiwanis member Beverly Delk looks on.

[www.ranchoskiwanis.com](http://www.ranchoskiwanis.com)

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- Treasurer: Perry Watkins
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By Brenda McElroy

### Organizing Old Cards, Letters

Last year my husband finished a 2 ½ year stint working in Mexico three weeks out of each month and flying home on weekends. Every Sunday night I'd "sneak" a card into his suitcase. Do I expect him to save those 100+ cards forever? Of course! Well ... maybe not all of them ...

With the advent of email and e-cards, hand-written notes, cards and letters are becoming less and less common, but many people of my generation are harboring bags and boxes of them.

The first step in dealing with these is to purge. Remember that the age of an item isn't what gives it its value. As you pick up that card or letter from the past, what kind of emotion does it stir – feelings of happiness and nostalgia, or something not so pleasant? Keep the ones that bring a smile to your face.

Cards without personal notes are good candidates for the can. Keep the meaningful, hand-written sentiments and let go of the "Love, Bob" cards. When I send birthday and anniversary cards, I really don't expect the recipients to find a place to store them for the rest of their lives. Give yourself permission to let go.

As further incentive to weed out some, consider re-purposing the discards. You can cut out cute poems or pictures and use them as scrapbooking embellishments, or punch holes in the tops and thread ribbon through for gift tags.

Once you've purged, the next step is to create a home for the (fewer) precious items you've saved. The craft stores have decorative storage boxes to match almost any décor, or finding an antique wood or metal box can be an attractive way to have them accessible in your bedroom or living room.

You may want to preserve and protect items in archival sleeves before placing them in boxes or albums. One of my clients likes to randomly place old cards and memorabilia in books on her library shelf. Later, they show up as a sweet surprise when picking up a book to read.

For some, scanning them into the computer is a good option. Others feel there's too much lost in not having the tangible item.

For a while, my criteria for saving Christmas greeting cards was "only if it had a photo." Now, 90 percent of the cards we receive are pictures. For these I recommend scanning and creating a folder on the computer as the best way to save them.

Finally, be intentional about the cards and letters you're saving from here on. Create a folder or container for the new items coming in and store it in an accessible place so you can file it away – right away.

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

### Progress not Perfection

## An Open Letter to the Enabler

By Mike Bailey

**en•abler** *vi-ˈnā-blər*: one that enables another to achieve an end; especially: one who enables another to persist in self-destructive behavior (as substance abuse) by providing excuses or by making it possible to avoid the consequences of such behavior.

Here is a small test to find the enabler in the group: In a group of 10 to 12 people, spill something – water, coffee, soda – it doesn't matter, just spill something. The first person who gets up to help you clean up YOUR MESS is your enabler.

I was a drunk, now I am an alcoholic; there is a difference. I see the true meaning of enabler everywhere I look. At one time, I would give change or buy a burger for any panhandler. I felt I was doing what the Lord asked of me. Then about two years ago I had the great

idea of instead of giving them a Filet-o-Fish I would teach them how to get their own Filet-o-Fish. When they would ask for change or whatever their desires were at that moment, I would not get rude or belittle them in any way. I simply would say to them that I would help them, but they had to be willing. (For those of you who don't know, in our group one of the favorite sayings is, "The key is willingness." It is so popular that they make keys that display that saying). I start by telling them that I'm in recovery, and I know a way that they can have a better life and they don't have to live this way anymore. Has this approach worked? Only the Lord knows. The point is even the slightest bit of enabling is a killer.

When I finally decided that a change was necessary, it was because all of my friends and

Please see **PROGRESS** on P. 14

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**Past Pres.:** Ollia Ridge

**Board Members:** **3-Year:** Randy Bailey - Ranchos Independent; Lisa Haney - Haney Chiropractic; **2-Year:** Cindy Ceja - Vulcan Materials; Paula Stuart - Now & Again Thrift & Gift Shop; **1-Year:** Leann Fursman - Skin Elegance; Javier Felix - Madera Ranchos Barbershop

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*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Andy Alvarado.*

By Andy Alvarado

**Part I**

Taking stock in student and staff accomplishments and time for self-reflection are critical components to moving an organization forward and continuing to strive for excellence. I asked each site and department to take a few minutes to reflect on their school site or department's accomplishments before we head into summer to rest, relax and recharge our batteries for a new school year. Listed below are some of

## 2013 – A Celebration of Accomplishments in GVUSD

the accomplishments submitted by our schools. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, it certainly captures many of the school and district accomplishments for the year. Congratulations to all of our sites and departments for a productive year and a job well-done!

In addition, I want to thank each and every parent, teacher, student, community member and booster organization for all of your support of Golden Valley Unified School District.

**Liberty High School**

API: 829- an eight point growth  
Nationally ranked school in US News Best High Schools in America! 245th in California!!!!

CAHSEE: 95% pass rate in Math, 92% pass rate in ELA (highest in school history)

Mock Trial: Madera County Champions, First school to represent Madera County; 8th in State

Destination Imagination: State Champions

WASC: Highly positive review – no areas of significant growth (waiting term)

Music: Six Choir students participated in the Fresno Madera County Honor Choir in January 2013.

Drama: Two successful productions. Footloose ran a full house for two days.

Softball: Danni Devine won the CIF

Central Section Student-Athlete award, a first for Liberty.

Finished the North Sequoia League 9-1 and won the league title. The junior varsity finished undefeated in league to win a championship.

Seniors Hannah Shevnell and Randi Wallace earned scholarships to play softball

Football: 2012 NSL Champions, 2012 Division 5 Valley Champions, 12 wins, 1 loss

NSL Defensive Player of the Year: Cody Sanders

NSL Utility Player of the Year: Logan Doss

NSL Underclassman of the Year: Wade Wallace

Madera Tribune Most Valuable Player: AJ Leon

Madera Tribune Defensive Player of the Year: Cody Sanders

Madera Tribune Coach of the Year: Mike Nolte

All Fresno Bee Team: Cody Sanders

First Team All NSL: Cody Sanders, AJ Leon, JJ Santa Cruz, Paul Vandergriff, Logan Doss, Rene Luis

Girls Tennis: Girls Tennis this year: Undefeated NSL Champions for the second straight year. Valley runner-up in Division 4. Individually: Jordyn DeChamplain/Bethany Buchnoff NSL Doubles Champi-

ons; Maritza Rivera/Renee Ortega NSL Doubles, second Place. Annie Erickson NSL singles, second Place.

Boys Tennis: NSL champs and Division V Valley Champions, first in history

Girls Soccer: NSL Champs, Runner-up in Valley

Boys Soccer: NSL Champs: Runner-up in Valley

Inaugural Hall of Fame: Inductees-Greg Ruland: Hall of Fame Coach, Chris Gonzales Athlete and 2005 Softball team.

Career Skills challenge: 1st place in Sports Medicine competition

Kinsey Carson 1st place medal for Graphic Design

Naraly Godinez 1st place Medal for Video editing

Young Writers' Conference: Max Reagan won the University Presidents Medal for creative writing. His short story is published in Young Writer's journal -Spectrum .Zachary Puente won William Saroyan Society award– a significant honor!

Grants: Secured \$24,000.00 in grants from the Picayune Rancheria – 40 station computer lab and 10 iPads

Mike Erickson secured a STEM K-12 Outreach Committee Grant for \$248.18 towards the purchase of Rockets

*Next Month: Part II*

**PROGRESS** cont. from P. 11

family were done. They displayed "Tough Love." I know it had to hurt them; it possibly ripped their hearts out. Even my boys had the courage to say "enough." Everyone who I was close to just said, "Get help or stay away, we are done." They could not watch what I was doing to myself any longer. They knew that helping me in any way was killing me. They knew that my continued actions were going to lead me to either jail, a sanitarium or the graveyard. They were all brave and showed tons of strength by finally saying, "NO!"

If you are living with someone who continues to stop, start, stop, break promises, stop drinking or using again, then start drinking or using again, you have to realize the reason the merry-go-round keeps running is they

need help and that help cannot come from YOU.

You need to stop helping.

Seriously, stop doing whatever you are doing because nothing will change until the addict or alcoholic truly sees the ramifications of his or her actions. If you continue to keep doing what you keep doing, you will keep getting what you keep getting. What you have always done will result in what you will always get.

Denial is not just suffered by alcoholics; denial is the biggest reason enablers keep doing what they do. You need to open your eyes to what is really going on around you.

Once again, an enabler is a person who by his or her actions makes it easier for an addict to continue self-destructive behavior by rescuing and always keeping the addict

from seeing what the addict's actions are doing to others.

Any time you assist/allow another person to continue in unproductive/unhealthy/addictive behavior, whether actively or passively, YOU ARE ENABLING! Ask yourself a couple of questions:

1) Have I ever had to make an excuse or lie about something the alcoholic/addict has done? Such as made the phone call to their boss and said that they were sick when they were really hung over or too drunk to work?

2) Am I supporting someone who can't work because of their addictions?

If you answered YES to either of these two questions, I'm sorry to say you really need to take a deep look at your relationship with the person for whom you are covering and making excuses. This will not be an easy

task but it needs to be done. I promise you it will be worth it in the end.

If you are currently enabling someone, remember it is not your fault. You love and care deeply for this person and all you want for this person is the best for them. Unfortunately, helping them is actually causing more destruction and harm.

The best help is when you say "ENOUGH." If my sons could do it at the ages of 13 and 14, then I think a grown, mature adult can make the correct choice. The choice is a hard one; it will not be easy. Ask yourself how easy your life is right now – if you love someone, do what has to be done. You may think it's the other person who needs all the help but, in truth, you both do.

Until next time, may God bless you and keep you,  
Mike B.

**LETTERS** cont. from P. 4

first educate yourselves about the numerous improprieties practiced by your own chosen political party. The list is extensive. I would suggest you begin with the Iran/Contra scandal during the Reagan/Bush administration, the "communist witch hunts" of Republican senator Joseph McCarthy (which were blatantly unconstitutional and destroyed many lives and careers), Richard Nixon's well known "dirty tricks," and/or the Watergate Scandal which led to his resignation in disgrace. Then take a good, hard look at the Patriot Act and its slash-and-burn of the 4th Amendment. Other examples abound, all you have to do is search them out. But then, you first have to care about the truth. And while you're at it, take a moment to remind yourselves of one of our country's most sacred principles, found in the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: the right to free speech. That means everyone's, not just yours.

Rick Hodgson  
Madera Ranchos

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Dear Editor:

My name is Warren Parr. I filed the complaint with the Madera County Grand Jury and I would like to explain my rationale to the Ranchos and Rolling Hills Community.

I would first like to explain WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and my experience with, and understanding of, that organization. My first encounter with WASC was in the mid-1990's. During their previous accreditation visit, WASC slapped Madera High School with a conditional three-year accreditation, as I remember it. A positive accreditation roughly means the diplomas and Carnegie units earned by the students will be honored by other schools and colleges. A negative accreditation could potentially mean the diplomas and units would not be honored. Toying with WASC is not something to be entered into lightly. A poor WASC evaluation is hard to recover from. Madera High School's conditional three-year accreditation from WASC was one of the contributing factors that led to the separation of the Ranchos Community from Madera Unified School District.

WASC is a non-biased, independent accreditation organization. They do not set learning standards, the California Board of Education does. WASC is concerned about the process used to meet those learning standards. If WASC doesn't accredit, for example Liberty High School, the diplomas earned from our high school may not be honored by other schools and colleges be-

cause there is no independent, non-biased verification (accreditation) that we meet industry standards.

While the Ranchos remained in MUSD, I was a member of the Madera High School Parent Committee that worked to restore Madera High School to a full six-year accreditation. I am very proud to say our parent group was very committed, determined and persuasive.

The WASC accreditation process happens in this way: A year or so prior to the WASC visit, the school performs a self-evaluation study and develops an action plan to correct its deficiencies. The school presents that plan to the visiting WASC Committee. WASC will study and evaluate that action plan. They will also conduct a review of the previous self-study and action plan. If the previous action plan has not been implemented and/or the deficiencies corrected, it is possible the WASC Committee could reduce the accreditation term to three years or less. WASC makes the school and district accountable to the community. I, for example, look at the Self Study Action Plan, make a list and prioritize those items. During the following years I continually remind the board of its obligation to address and correct those items. WASC and the Self Study Action Plan gives us authority to keep the administration and Board of Education accountable.

That's what I'm doing right now.

I'm holding the Board accountable for pages 61 and 62 of the WASC Self Study. Trustee Crumpton simply has ignored direction from the Board on this matter in the past. That should change now. I hope the community sees how much power we have through the WASC Self Study. I consider it an insult that Trustee Crumpton and her supporters are alleging that Superintendent Alvarado is controlling the Board. The community (me in this instance) is holding the board accountable and the board is responding appropriately to us and directing the superintendent. The Self Study is no joke. The GVUSD Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Library. Please come join me and let's work together as a community to make sure our schools reflect our community.

The 2012 Liberty High School Self Study Committee preformed their self-evaluation study and developed their new action plan and delivered it to the WASC visitation team. That report contained some harsh language toward the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. The action plan developed with regard to the Board of Trustees was this: "There does not appear to be any recourse for this."

Recourse for what? I'm glad you asked.

Neighbors please locate a copy of the Self Study Report and read it for yourself in its entirety. I'm only quoting a portion of page 61 and 62. Page 62 quote: "There have been instances of unannounced visits and inappropriate interactions between some Board members (Crumpton) and professional staff (teachers). The professional staff is uncertain as to the goals and agendas of certain Board Members. As a result, the staff often does not feel fully supported by the Board and at times feels that the instruction process is actually inhibited by their activities. Professional staff feels that the Board regularly violates their Code of Ethics and governance standards. There does not appear to be any recourse for this. It is not clear what the procedure is for submitting formal complaints regarding inappropriate conduct by Board members."

Let me interpret the self-study for just a moment. Liberty High School Self Study Committee, thank you for your work. I hear you. I am a member of the community. I know the procedure for submitting a formal complaint(s). The first of several complaints that I will file is called a Grand Jury Complaint. Nothing else has worked to date. I want to remove those distractions from you so you can return your full attention toward our students and their education. Thanks again.

Page 61 quote: "It appears that some Board members have personal agendas that supersede the LHS vision, purpose and ESLRs (Expected Student Learning Results). As a result, professional staff does not feel fully supported by the Board. There have been a number of instances where individual Board members have used personal social networking sites to discuss school business. This practice has resulted in inaccurate information relayed to the community, creating discord among parents, administration and staff."

WOW!

From my experience with WASC, that's NOT what I want them to hear. This 2012 Liberty High School Self-Study Report will be reviewed for compliance during the 2015 midway review and 2018 WASC visit. Inaction with regard to the teachers' complaints is NOT an option if we do not want to place our full accreditation at risk. If you desire to be involved in the 2018 WASC process, get involved now. Don't wait till 2017 1/2.

Superintendent Alvarado serves on WASC's accreditation committees. He evaluates other schools' "self-studies and action plans." He is very familiar with the process for those who do not correct deficiencies cited in their action plans. He HAS to act. Not only because our accreditation would be at risk but because the teachers feel trapped by Trustee Crumpton and not sup-

ported. His creditability with his teachers is in jeopardy.

Trustee Crumpton knows this. She knows the superintendent will eventually have to react if she continues to provoke the teachers. She also knows that any professional interaction between her, the superintendent and/or the teachers is private and protected information. The superintendent cannot respond to those kinds of events without violating many Board Policies and Education Codes. She has him trapped, or so she thinks. What she did not realize was that she was in violation of the law when she refused to leave the Webster Elementary School campus. So while she was baiting her trap, it closed trapping Trustee Crumpton instead. Her supporters are trying to convince us that it was not her trap and she is being unjustly persecuted. Hogwash. Isn't this the exact same method of operation and pattern of behavior the Liberty High School Teachers were complaining of in their self-study conducted six months to a year prior to the Webster incident? The teacher who invited Trustee Crumpton to the Webster classroom and sit in on her performance observation (conducted by the district administration) is a personal friend and they socialize together. Because Trustee Crumpton defied the principal's, and later superintendent's, request to exit the campus, a confrontation occurred challenging the superintendent's authority. It is alleged, as a result of that confrontation, the teacher friend suffered emotional distress (or something like that) and has been prevented by her trauma from returning to work since the incident (can anyone spell "lawsuit \$\$\$"?). This of course supports Trustee Crumpton's claim that it was a violent confrontation. It was very fortunate for Trustee Crumpton that her teacher friend was there to witness that traumatic event. A few days later at the GVUSD Board meeting, the teacher friend's mother-in-law (also a teacher in the district) stands before the school Board and speaks of a similar incident seven years prior when the superintendent allegedly bullied her. Again how fortunate for Trustee Crumpton these witnesses were available to verify her account of the confrontation and establish a pattern of behavior by the superintendent. The superintendent, by policy, cannot defend himself. Do these coincidences seem extremely fortuitous for Trustee Crumpton? What are the odds? Do these witness statements seem very self-serving? The confrontation seems staged, rather than "chance" to me. The more I peel layers off this onion the more rot I find.

Trustee Crumpton, please answer these six easy questions:

1) What were you doing on the Webster

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 16

Letters cont. from P. 15

Campus in that teacher's room on that day at that time?

2) Have you ever evaluated the performance of an administrator observing a teacher in the process of teaching prior to that day?

3) What qualifications do you have for evaluating the performance of an administrator observing a teacher in the process of teaching?

4) What standard did you intend to use in your evaluation of the administrator if the observation had been allowed to continue?

5) Did you refuse to leave the campus at the principal's request?

6) Is the potential settlement from a potential lawsuit the payback for assistance in the attempted entrapment?

For two and one half years you have been dogging and bullying the superintendent knowing that he could not speak out to defend himself without violating the law. You tried to entrap him but it was you who was trapped because of your boastful statements on Facebook. Thank you again for your Facebook confession. Trustee Crumpton please speak out again. Answer the questions. Tell us your side of that event. Facebook is fine but leave it up for all to read. Get on the record and make your own

statements so they can be scrutinized and verified. If you do not defend yourself, I am left with one logical conclusion: Your behavior that day is indefensible, NOT Alvarado's.

Trustee Crumpton, please resign. Don't put our community through a recall process and further divide our community.

Warren Parr  
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.*

Send your letters to:

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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.

	÷		+		11
+		×		-	
	+		-		12
÷		÷		×	
	×		-		6
4		6		12	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 7

ity to keep track of your little pack of hooligans since we won't let you lock other people out of a public space? This is why I love working in a hospital: You can't make this stuff up. Here's an idea ... find a babysitter. No babysitter? Then maybe a leash. I, personally, was proud of the guard and the Unit Director for telling the parents that as a public waiting room it must remain open and unlocked for other guests and her children will remain her responsibility and she can either keep them under control or she can leave with them.

The bottom line here is, you can let your children express themselves. You can let your children grow into individuals by allowing them a voice in your home and the

freedom to let their talents blossom and their passions develop, but you do not have to forego discipline in the process. A well-behaved child is not an emotionally stifled child. An artistic child doesn't have to be a tyrant. They can have the best of both worlds, structure and yet freedom to make their own choices, discipline and yet a sense of individuality. It doesn't have to be one or the other. But if you really can't bring yourself to tell your children to sit down and play quietly in the waiting room of a hospital, or force yourself to stop your kid from tagging up the joint, then here's an idea: let them doodle on you while you sleep. No property damage done and you get to proudly display your child's boredom until you can make it home and into the shower, or until the ink wears off. I think it's a win-win.

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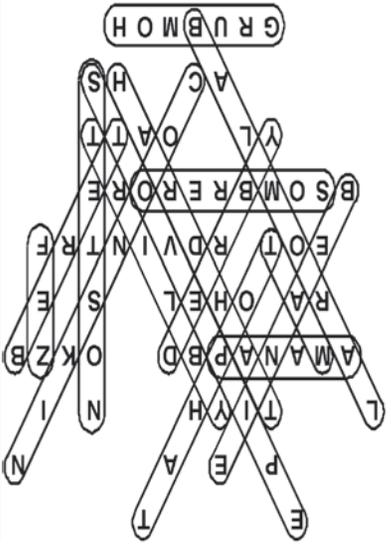
6/13

**ANSWERS**

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

ABOVE	ZERO	SHALOM	RING	NAVIGATOR	MANTRA	EDDER	ALLEXANDER	RODIN	FLIE	IRENE	EST	CHANCE	YHWH	ENDERSON	ORPHEUS	PITCHES	AFT	AE	TNA	GIMLET	TEYED	ISRA	JRS	ERN	AMORBA	INS	SP	OSMOPOLITAN	AMAGAZINE	SOS	WINDON	USHERIN	ENOLA	COCKTAILS	ADAPT	AMRADIO	IO	ISAACS	DEA	MANHATTAN	LAMCHOW	DER	SNOW	ASSORT	URE	RANS	SRI	MIMOSA	TREE	ARIES	GEM	EELTRAP	EMS	MARGARITA	ISLAND	SHERS	SCORPIO	ATL	ASTOR	TINE	GRASSHOPPER	MOUSE	ENOS	UNLIKE	TEETER	PERSON	POPLAR	AGREEMENT	LENS
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4	6	12	4	8	8	4	6
6	6	-	3	x	4	4	6
6	x	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷
12	5	-	9	+	8	8	12
12	5	-	9	+	8	8	12
11	7	+	2	÷	8	8	11



In Memoriam



**Cleo "Bird" Mitchell**  
**June 21, 1916 -- June 2, 2013**

Cleo "Bird" Mitchell passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at the age of 96. He was the youngest son of five children, born on June 21, 1916 in Pittsburg, Texas to Warren Prince Mitchell and Ida Hamilton-Mitchell.

Cleo loved fishing with friends and raising cattle, however, his greatest love was being a song leader in the Church of Christ which spanned over 50 years.

Cleo is survived by his children, Hursel Floyd Mitchell, Celetta Mitchell, Alice Faye

Mitchell, GERALD Dean "Gerrie" Mitchell and Cle Esthers Mitchell Canizalez all of Madera, and his God daughter, Rose Lee Rubio Jones of Turlock, and his God son by marriage, Ricky Jones of Turlock. He was the loving grandfather to Mitchell Ryan Canizalez, Marshall Albert Canizalez, and Morgann Rose Canizalez all of Madera and numerous loving nieces and nephews.

Cleo was buried Friday, June 7 at Arbor Vitae Cemetery in Madera.

STOCK cont. from P. 6

A group of Ranchos/Hills Seniors will be leaving for an 11-day trip to some of the National Parks. Our fearless leader Joann Blancett, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Cen-

ter manager, will be leading the trip through the National Parks. The Senior Center will be open and will continue to operate as usual with exercise classes, lunch and all of the other activities, especially the fun card games that happen at the Center.

Soon it will be the 4th of July. The Ranchos Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce will be opening their annual Fireworks Booth on June 29 through July 4th next to the Ranchos Café. Have a safe and sane 4th of July. We are already having a bad fire season with all of the dry grass around.

**SCRAMBLERS**

solution

1. Tactic; 2. Medium;
3. Singe; 4. Relate

Today's Word:

**AGENT**

# Classified

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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1. Name the song that has the subtitle "In a Rock and Roll Band."
2. Which band originally released "Smokin' in the Boys Room"?
3. Name the singer-songwriter who released the "Tea for the Tillerman" album.
4. Which band released "Sunshine of Your Love" and "White Room," and when?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "He's got a girl named Jane with no last name, Kinda homely and plain, but he loves her just the same."

### Answers

1. "I'm Just a Singer," by The Moody Blues in 1973. It was released as a b-side single with "For My Lady."
2. Brownsville Station, in 1973. The song went to No. 3 and was their biggest hit. Motley Crue's 1985 cover reached No. 16, but it was their first Top 40 hit.
3. Cat Stevens, in 1970. The 1971 film "Harold and Maude" contained four tracks from the album, including the single "Tea for the Tillerman."
4. British rock group Cream, in 1967 and 1968 respectively. Eric Clapton joined Cream after a stint with The Yardbirds.
5. "Gitarzan," a novelty song by Ray Stevens in 1969. The character lives in the jungle and forms a band with Jane and a pet monkey.

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## Madera Ranchos/Southeast Madera County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Every Friday Night	Friday Night at the Movies (at Maywood Center)	SEMCU, Inc.
Every Thursday Night	Farmers Market (at Hurst Hardware)	Chamber of Commerce
August 17	Fireman's BBQ Dinner (at Borba ranch)	Station 19
September 7	Swap Meet (at Hurst Hardware)	SEMCU
October 5	Chili Cook-Off/Car Show Festival (in planning stages)	Ranchos Kiwanis
December 6	Christmas Tree Lighting (at Maywood Center)	Chamber of Commerce

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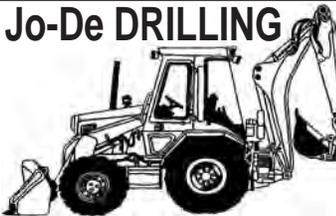
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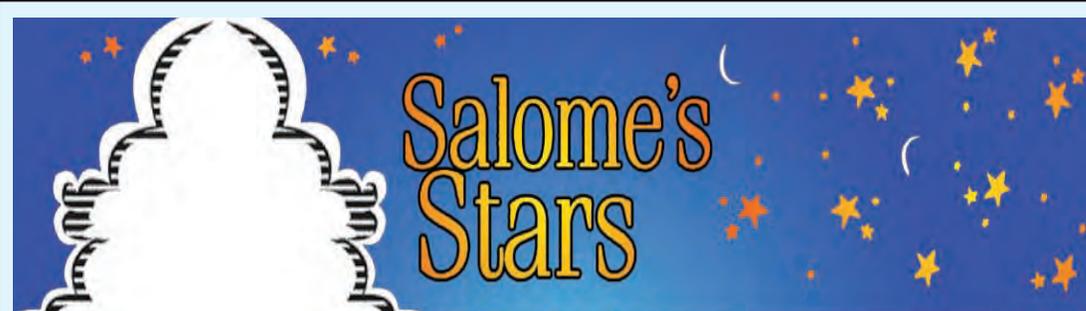
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### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Before you adventurous Arians charge right into those new projects, take a little time to learn where you'll be going so you can avoid getting lost before you get there.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your time is devoted to career demands through much of the week. But Venus, who rules your sign, might be planning how (and with whom) you'll spend your weekend.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Don't be put off by the surprising turn in the way your project is developing. You've invested enough time in it to know how to make all the necessary adjustments.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The work week goes smoothly for the most part. But a weekend visit to a place in your past could hold surprises for your future, especially where romance is involved.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A sudden attack of shyness for the usually loquacious Lion could be a sign that deep down you're not sure enough about what (or whom) you had planned to talk up in public.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Deal with that job-related problem on-site -- that is, at the workplace. Avoid taking it home, where it can spoil those important personal plans you've made.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time to let those favorable comments about your business dealings be known to those in a position to be helpful. Don't hide your light; let it shine.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Avoid added pressure to finish a project on deadline by steering clear of distractions. To put it somewhat poetically: Time for fun -- when your tasks are done.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You might be uneasy about an offer from a longtime colleague. But before you reject it, study it. You might be surprised at what it actually contains.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Deal firmly with a difficult family matter. It's your strength they need right now. You can show your emotions when the situation begins to ease up.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A recent dispute with some co-workers might not have been completely resolved. But other colleagues will be only too happy to offer support of your actions.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Let go of that Piscean pride long enough to allow someone to help you with a surprising development. That could make it easier for you to adjust to the change.

## Born this Week

Your willingness to open up to possibilities is why people like you are often among our most popular political leaders.

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# FUN PAGES

## POPEYE

HER CFSMAN

WOT WUZ TH' NAME OF THAT GAL YA ALMOS' HITCH'D UP WIT'?

YOU'RE SPEAKIN' OF MERLE

A LASS OF INCREDIBLE BEAUTY!

WHY DINT TH' WEDDIN' HAPPEN?

THERE APPEARED A SLIGHT IMPEDIMENT

IN FICTIONAL CHRONICLES OF THIS GENRE ...

LOVE CONQUERS ALL

LOVE OVERCOMES DISAPPROVING PARENTS ...

... TRIUMPHS OVER POVERTY, ILLNESS, EVEN WAR?

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE POWER OF LOVE!

HOWEVER, THE LOVE I HAD FOR MERLE COULD NOT OVERCOME THE OBSTACLE THAT STOOD IN OUR WAY!

WOT WUZZAT?

THE SIGHT OF ME MADE HER SICK!

THAT'S A BUMMER

## Henry

BY DON TRACHTÉ

HENRY'S RICH UNCLE DRILLER IS VISITIN'

WELL-GOTTA BE GOIN' HERE'S SOMETHIN' FOR YOU, HENRY

HEVY LADY--MOVE IT! YOU'RE SITTING IN MY CHAIR!!

AUH? W-WAA-??

NEVER NOTICE? THE HUMONGOUS 18-WHEELER HUMS ALONG SMOOTH AND QUIET...

WHA-- THE LIL SOUPED UP SPORTS CAR SOUNDS LIKE A BOILER FACTORY ON WHEELS!

POW! POW! POW! POW!

ROAR-- ROAR-- ROAR--

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

YOU'RE A HYPOCHONDRIAC WHEN: YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SEAT IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

IT'S THE SAME THING EVERY NIGHT. YOU COME HOME, HAVE DINNER AND THEN SIT THERE ALL NIGHT GUZZLIN' GROG GLUED TO THAT WALL. I'M SORRY WE EVER HAD IT DECORATED WITH PAINTINGS...

AW-YER ALWAYS CRABBIN'!

VIEWING HABITS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE 2000 B.C...

Thank to FRED GERMER, BRADENTON, FL.

Thank to R. PENZELL, SEATTLE, WA.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

### THIRTY SUM!

Twelve numbers between 0 and 15 are in place in the diagram at right, four numbers of this sequence are missing. How long will it take you to fill the vacant squares so that the four horizontal, four vertical, and two diagonal rows total 30?

Remember, missing numbers complete the sequence 0-15. Give it a try. Time limit is four times 30 seconds.

0	14	13	3
11			8
7			4
12	2	1	15

### HORSE OPERAS TO PONDER

THERE have been lots of singing cowboys. Singing horses? Who's to say? Nevertheless, let's pretend famed horses listed below wish to sing out the names of the respective owner/riders. Can you match them up?

1. Silver
2. Spark Plug
3. Trigger
4. Champion
5. Topper
6. Tony
7. Rosinante

Owner/riders: A—Roy Rogers B—Tom Mix C—Don Quixote D—Hopalong Cassidy E—Lone Ranger F—Gene Autry G—Barney Google

No fair peeking.

### SOCCER MATCH!

Two of eight soccer players above look enough alike to be twins. See if you can locate them.

## Wishing Well

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

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.

### MAGIC MAZE

### TYPES OF HATS

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

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

Balmoral	Derby	Panama	Tam
Beanie	Fez	Sombrero	Top hat
Beret	Hard hat	Stetson	Trilby
Coonskin	Homburg	Stovepipe	

### SHORE SPOT

COLOR BY NUMBERS

SHORE THING! Hit that beach, find that spot. Simply apply the following colors: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. blue.

### SPELLBINDER

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

SUPERIOR

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

Try to score at least 50 points.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

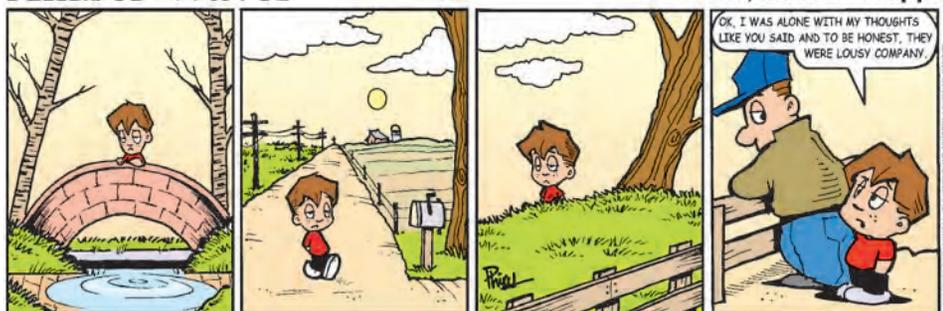
1. MOVIES: What was the charge debated by the jury in the movie "12 Angry Men"?
2. GOVERNMENT: What did the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution do?
3. SCIENCE: What does an oologist study?
4. QUOTATIONS: Who said, "Little strokes fell great oaks."?
5. ANATOMY: What is a verruca?
6. Geography: What is Europe's longest river?
7. MUSIC: Who composed music for the first three Harry Potter movies?
8. TRAVEL: Australia spans how many different time zones?
9. PSYCHOLOGY: If someone suffers from mysophobia, what is he or she afraid of?
10. COMICS: What is the name of Garfield's canine companion?

### Answers

1. Murder
2. Limited presidents to two four-year terms
3. Birds' eggs
4. Benjamin Franklin
5. A wart
6. The Volga
7. John Williams
8. Three
9. Germs
10. Odie

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### 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!

Scheme  
**CITCAT**

Midway  
**MUMIED**

Burn  
**GENIS**

Connect  
**TEALER**

**TODAY'S WORD**

"Strike three, you're out — and don't argue with me, have your see my agent!"

### HOCUS-FOCUS

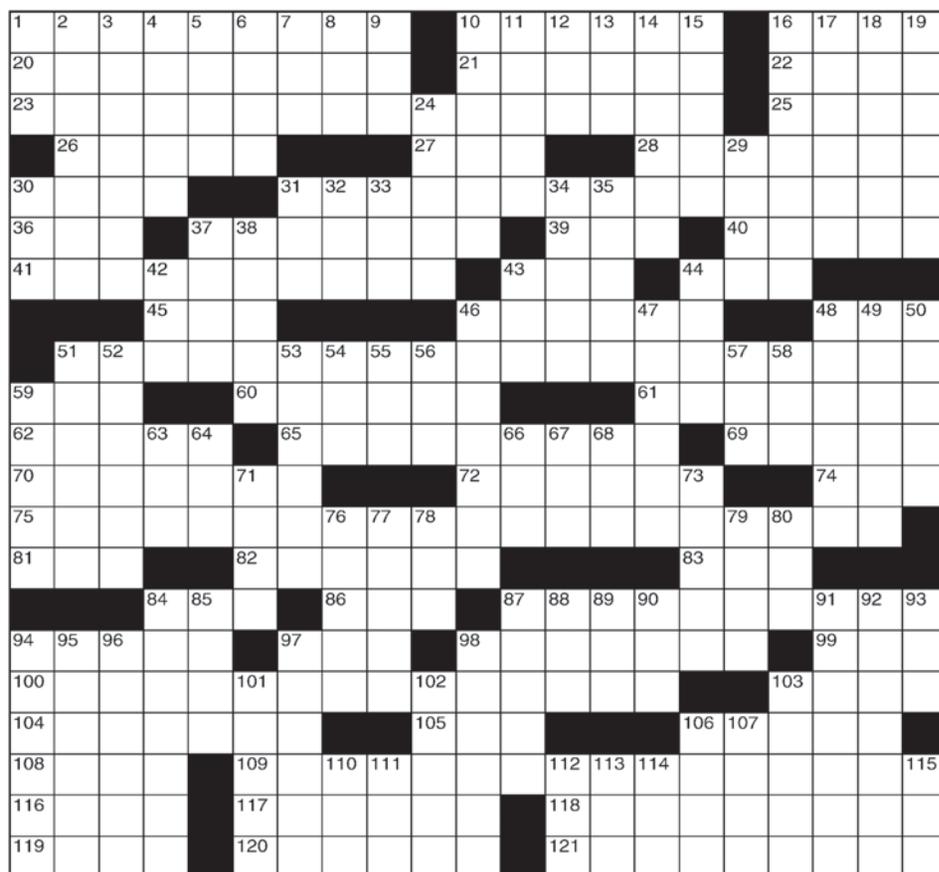
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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. Switch is missing. 2. Pendant is missing. 3. Sleeves are shorter. 4. Door knocker is missing. 5. Dog's ear is smaller. 6. Dog's tail is shorter. 7. Dog's collar is missing. 8. Dog's collar is different.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Like positive numbers
  - 10 "Peace"
  - 16 Toll, as a bell
  - 20 Person at the helm
  - 21 "Om," e.g.
  - 22 River of Hesse
  - 23 Composer of the opera "Prince Igor"
  - 25 Hightail it
  - 26 "Z" actress
  - 27 Musical reworking: Abbr.
  - 28 Most macabre
  - 30 Martial arts actor Jackie
  - 31 Baseball's all-time leader in stolen bases
  - 36 Boat rower's need
  - 37 Throws
  - 39 Ship's back
  - 40 Giant in insurance
  - 41 Glancing piercingly
  - 43 Syr.
  - 44 Next year's srs.
  - 45 Suffix with east or west
  - 46 Organism on a slide
  - 48 Fraction of a fl. oz.
  - 51 Longtime Hearst publication
  - 59 Call for help
  - 60 Ryder of "Heathers"
  - 61 Introduce, as a new year
  - 62 — Gay (old war plane)
  - 65 Theme of this puzzle
  - 69 Go with the flow
  - 70 Medium of many all-talk stations
  - 72 Asimov and Newton
  - 74 Anti-trafficking gp.
  - 75 Tomatoey seafood soup
  - 81 — -cone (cooling treat)
  - 82 Divide up by type
  - 83 Suffix with prefect
  - 84 Bolted
  - 86 — Lankan
  - 87 Acacia's kin
  - 94 Spring zodiac sign
  - 97 Onyx or opal
  - 98 Certain fishing pot
  - 99 "Yummy" pair
  - 100 Locale of the Venezuelan city
  - 103 "— a Lady"
  - 104 Autumn zodiac sign
  - 105 Ocean off FL
  - 106 Legendary furrier
  - 108 Prong
  - 109 Carnivorous North American rodent
  - 116 Right fielder
  - 117 Dissimilar to
  - 118 Rocks atop
  - 119 Camera part
  - 120 Willow family member
  - 121 Consensus
  - 8 Future fry
  - 9 Bruins great
  - 10 Campfire snacks
  - 11 Actor Hamlin
  - 12 "It's — -brainer"
  - 13 English "Inc."
  - 14 Situate
  - 15 Like horses
  - 16 Shoots a rifle again
  - 17 Least busy
  - 18 "Kinsey" star
  - 19 — Green, Scotland
  - 24 Dried by heat
  - 29 Raise
  - 30 Machine tooth
  - 31 U.S. 1, e.g.
  - 32 Bitterly cold
  - 33 Guerrilla
  - 34 Is sporting
  - 35 Violinist
  - 37 Salon option
  - 38 "I can just see —"
  - 42 French "the"
  - 43 "— bad boy!"
  - 44 Drinking binges
  - 46 Slanting
  - 47 — & Lomb
  - 48 Angry rant
  - 49 Hidden marksman
  - 50 Tetra- plus one
  - 51 Swindling guy
  - 52 City in south Chile
  - 53 Lace loops
  - 54 "Starpeace" singer Yoko
  - 55 Rapper Tone
  - 56 Fluid in a pen
  - 57 "Oh, clever!"
  - 58 Last British
  - 59 Clothing lines
  - 63 "Well, — -di-dah!"
  - 64 Boise's county
  - 66 Sly-fox filler
  - 67 "Take me as —"
  - 68 Body of eau
  - 71 Call — evening
  - 73 Composer
  - 76 It's a plus
  - 77 Shearer of the screen
  - 78 — de coeur
  - 79 Saran, say
  - 80 Clue seeker: Abbr.
  - 84 Backslide
  - 85 "And hurry!"
  - 87 — Yello (soft drink brand)
  - 88 Stevedores' org.
  - 89 Everest, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 90 Munic. law
  - 91 Put in a new home
  - 92 Writer Ralph Waldo —
  - 93 Quaint suffix with poet
  - 94 Dutch beer
  - 95 Wisconsin city
  - 96 Easy-to-attach patch
  - 97 "Buon —!" (Italian "Good day!")
  - 98 Nehemiah's Job linkup
  - 101 Equip for use
  - 102 "May — favor?"
  - 103 Squall, e.g.
  - 106 Skill, in Sicily
  - 107 Captain Hook's henchman
  - 110 High Swiss peak
  - 111 RSVP part
  - 112 K-12 org.
  - 113 Violin tuner
  - 114 Ballad's end?
  - 115 Doc with an otoscope

# FUN PAGES

# SEM CU

**south east madera county united**

## **Family Movie Night**

*The return of the **Community Family Movie Nights** is here!  
Every Friday night through August 23 SEMCU is sponsoring  
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**FREE** ice cold water for everyone. **Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket**  
**to spread on the ground** and be part of  
a great tradition that has returned to the Ranchos.*



## **SEM CU REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. • Ranchos Pizza Factory**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**