

The Ranchos Independent



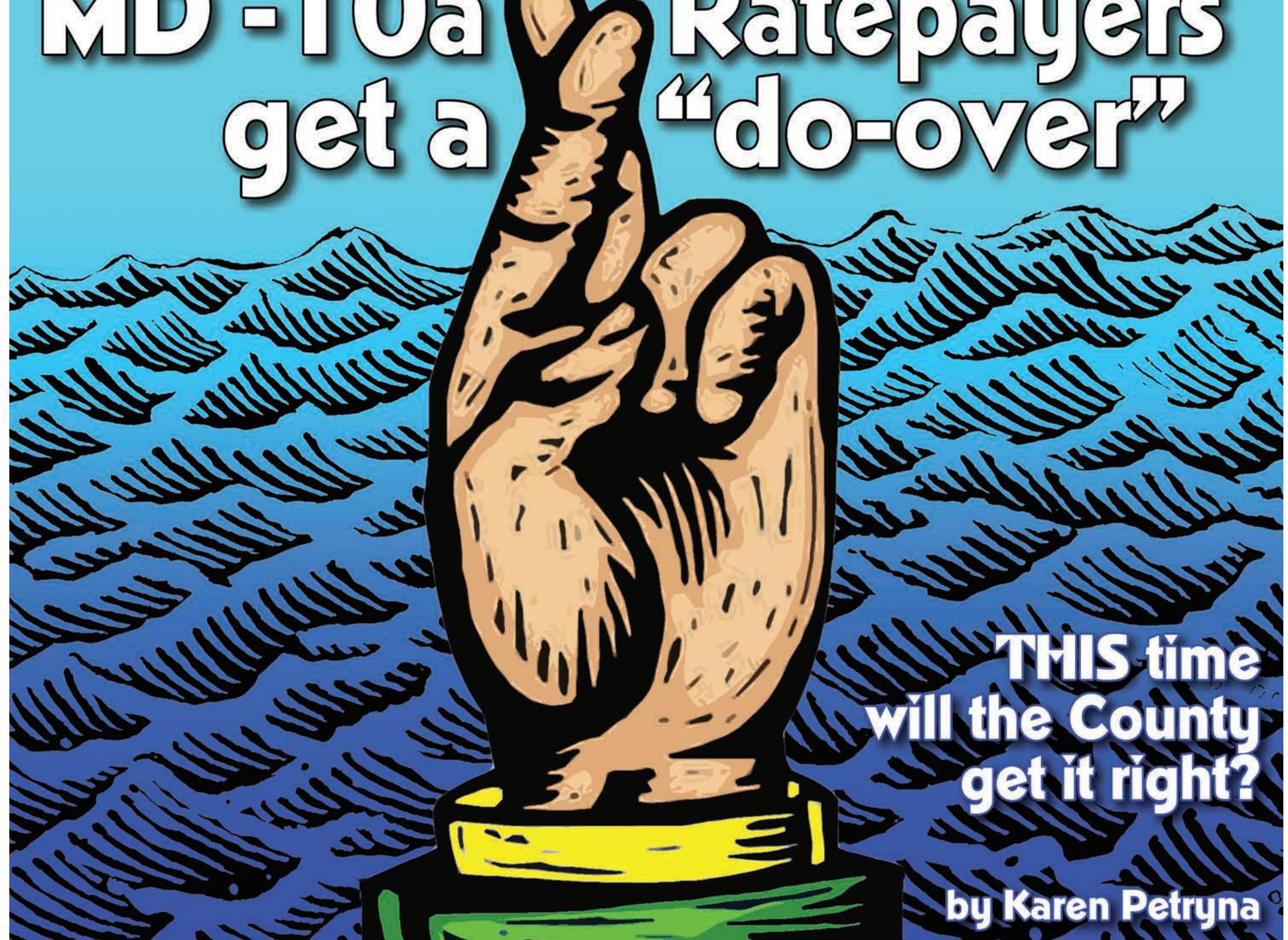
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MD - 10a get a Ratepayers “do-over”



THIS time
will the County
get it right?

by Karen Petryna

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MD - 10a get a Ratepayers “do-over”

THIS time will the County get it right?

by Karen Petryna

In October, Supervisor Brett Frazier held two meetings for ratepayers of Special Maintenance District MD-10a to get a fresh start on what has been a long-standing problem, namely: Where has all the money for the system gone and what should we do now? The first meeting, held on Oct. 7 at Liberty High School, was attended by about 45 residents. Whereas the second, held Oct. 27 at the same location, was called a “Do-Over” and was attended by about 60 residents. The reason for the second meeting? The invitation to the first, in addition to being advertised in the Ranchos Independent, among other places, was also

sent by regular mail to all 980 addresses in the MD-10a assessment district — and arrived a day or two after the meeting was held. That error was the fault of the company hired to presort the mailed invitations and get them to the post office. But, due to a change of ownership issue, the broken equipment needed for sorting didn’t get replaced in time, delaying not only Supervisor Frazier’s invitations but other County mail, including paychecks, as well.

Getting Down to Business

At both meetings Supervisor Frazier opened reading the ground rules for good conduct which had been circulated among

the tables beforehand. The rules served to remind everyone to be courteous and respectful of each other’s comments and everyone’s time and proved quite effective over the course of the two-hour meeting. Frazier then went on to characterize the purpose of the meeting as a time to brainstorm about “What we want MD-10a to be.” He brought applications for those interested in joining a new 5- to 6-person MD-10a Water Committee, and he asked everyone to help develop a wish list of goals. He also reminded everyone that the meeting was focused on moving forward, rather than dwelling on what had happened in the past, and said that by about Nov. 7 the comprehensive financial report that he had requested when he first came to office about where all the money had been spent on the water system since the County took it over in 1996 would be available and that it would be maintained electronically for easy access.

“Madera County wants MD-10a to succeed,” Frazier said in response to a question from the audience at the first meeting, taking several minutes to assure everyone. Then he introduced Public Works Director Johannes Hoevertz, who told the attendees there would be four quick updates and three presentations from other County staff members that he introduced. At the second meeting, however, Frazier introduced the speakers because Hoevertz had just announced he will be leaving the County to take another position with Sonoma County, and was not present.

Quick Updates

Engineer I Alvina Prakash, also with

the Madera County Public Works Department, spoke next and provided updates on the status of grant applications and other efforts to improve the MD-10a water system. Regarding the grant for the Valley Teen Ranch (VTR) consolidation project, she said the application to the State Water Resources Control Board was currently under review. The VTR consolidation project includes a new drinking water well at the VTR site, a mile and a half of 8-inch pipeline to connect from there to the MD-10a system, 1,600 feet of replacement 8-inch pipeline within the current system, and some new 4-inch distribution pipeline at the VTR site for a total cost of \$2.96 million. The state, which received the application in June 2014 from VTR’s consultant, after conducting a lengthy internal reorganization, put the County in charge of it in May of this year and began making further inquiries about the application in July.

The project, which will be 100 percent grant-funded if approved because VTR is considered a disadvantaged community by the state, will also include up to a 1 million gallon storage tank as an incentive to MD-10a to annex VTR, which serves 30 people, if the County’s efforts are successful. Such a tank would likely be placed at the new Dublin Well site, which has been in operation since June 1. County staff could not project a timeline for the project, however, as that is up to the State Water Board. If and when it is approved, the next step will be for the Board of Supervisors to approve it, and then it will go to a Proposition 218 vote

Please see DO-OVER on P. 3

Olsen Giving Keynote at EDC Event

Madera County’s Economic Development Commission (EDC) is planning its annual Economic Summit for Thursday, Nov. 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Madera Municipal Golf Course.



California Assembly Minority Leader Kristen Olsen (left) and Reedley College President, Dr. Sandra Caldwell, are to speak at the EDC Economic Summit.



speaker is Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, Minority Leader of the California State Assembly. First elected in 2010, Olsen was overwhelmingly re-elected to her third term in 2014 representing the 12th Assembly District.

Two guest speakers will be featured. Dr. Sandra Caldwell, President of Reedley, Madera and Oakhurst Community Colleges, will be discussing the importance community colleges play in economic development and the expanded class offerings at the Madera facility. The Keynote

Seats must be reserved and are \$30 each or \$300 for a table of ten. Tickets are available through the Madera County EDC at 675-7768 or by email at lleonard@maderacountyedc.com. Madera Municipal Golf Course is located at 23200 Ave. 17, Madera.

County Public Works Director Quits

Madera County Public Works Director Johannes J. Hoevertz announced Thursday, Oct. 22, that he will be leaving Madera County to pursue a new professional opportunity in Sonoma County.

“This decision was not easy as I love my job and the work that we have accomplished as a team in Madera County,” Hoevertz said. “However, this job opportunity presents a new challenge that will help me to further grow my professional career.”

Hoevertz, who has worked for the County for 15 years, stated that he leaves behind a staff that is prepared, capable and ready to move forward with the County’s numerous

ongoing and future projects.

“I have the utmost confidence that the Public Works team will continue to perform at the high level the Board Members and public have come to expect,” Hoevertz said.

Board of Supervisors Chairman David Rogers said he was sorry to hear about Hoevertz’s resignation, but wishes him the best in his new endeavors.



Johannes J. Hoevertz, Madera County Public Works Director, will be leaving to take a position in Sonoma County.

“Johannes has been a great leader of a strong team, and has accomplished an impressive number of County goals. We will miss him as a leader and a

Please see JOHANNES on P. 16

Click on “Local News” at

DO-OVER cont. from P. 2

by the rate payers, likely as part of a rate increase probably no sooner than a couple years from now.

Regarding the project to consolidate the drinking water well and the 1 million gallon storage tank at Liberty High School with MD-10a that was reported on in the August 2014 issue of the Ranchos Independent, Prakash said the state has determined it is ineligible for emergency drought funding

and the County has no further plans to pursue it, although the Golden Valley Unified School District may do so, if it wishes.

Prakash also provided an update in regard to the Liberty Village Shopping Center project which is scheduled to start construction in the fall of next year, subject to the discretion of the developer, Russell Shaw. Located across Avenue 12 from Liberty High School, the shopping center is also subject to approval for construction contingent upon installation of an additional water

storage tank at the Dublin Well site. An agreement between the County and the developer will trade allowance for the center's connection to MD-10a for a much needed and currently lacking storage tank, which would significantly increase system reliability and also lower costs by allowing electrical pumping of system at non-peak hours. The development will further contribute to the system, once connected, by paying a metered rate for water.

Regarding the project to replace all the

MD-10a water system pipes, a grant application for which was submitted by the County in December 2013, again subsequent to the Water Board's reorganization, they have begun reviewing the application and making inquiries, including to the County Auditor's Office, since July. Even though there is no timeline on this project from the State either, they have determined that since the medium household income, at

Please see **DO-OVER** on P. 17

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Dear Editor:

After reading the latest *Generation Why* column, it's obvious that Eryn wants it both ways: to have her cake and eat it too. She wants us to "... teach our sons to be gentlemen again." It seems to me that the women's movements and political correctness has pretty much done away with all of that. Women want to be police, firemen, (fire persons, firewomen? Gee what do you call them?) fighter pilots and at least be considered man's equal, but then expect to have a man get a door for them or pull their chair? I will hold a door for a man with his arms full as fast as I will for a woman out of politeness, but not out of chivalrous behavior. That ship sailed (women did it to themselves). Maybe we should start teaching our daughters (the fairer sex) to be ladies again, dressing nicely, wearing some make-up, wearing their hair in more feminine ways and stop feeling the need to compete with men who generally do the jobs that they wouldn't want their women to have to do in the first place. By your column, it would appear that the women's movements have been a mixed blessing and need to be re-thought due to their unintended consequences.

Just sayin' ...

Greg Gustafson
Rolling Hills

Dear Editor:

A recent publication in your newspaper included a letter that painted a less than stellar view of Golden Valley teachers with regard to their level of participation in/with the recall election. The teachers of GV are disappointed that a time of healing and reuniting was not allowed as someone is attempting to politicize the decisions we

make for our students and our families.

We, the teachers, have been accused of not "doing what we said and what we did do hindered the recall." Our leadership determined that 86 percent of our membership was in favor of the recall effort. This figure was freely reported to the community and news media alike. I gave statements to local news agencies regarding faculty support. Many of us do not live in the district and therefore do not have a right to vote. But, some of those who do assisted in the recall effort by posting signs, gathering signatures, attending fundraising events and donating money. How could this "hinder" the recall effort is unclear.

It is important to note that in our positions as teachers, our main obligation is to the teaching and learning of students. Our obligation and responsibility is to maintain a safe, distraction-free learning environment. We have met that obligation during an emotionally charged political climate by keeping our personal feelings out of the classroom. What many don't realize is that we have the children of board members in our classrooms. In some cases, children of board members on both sides of the recall are in the same school, the same grade and the same classroom. Our obligation and responsibility is to the teaching, learning and safety of all students – no matter who their parents are and no matter what our political views.

It is true that GV teachers asked for and took a 2 percent raise after seven years of nothing on the salary schedule, nothing additional to retirement. It is also true that ALL GV employees benefit from our negotiations. Certificated, classified and administration are 2 percent closer to where we should be. GVTA will continue to negotiate for a fair and competitive wage no

Please see LETTERS on P. 17

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Guest Editorial

Carly - Terrifying Feminists

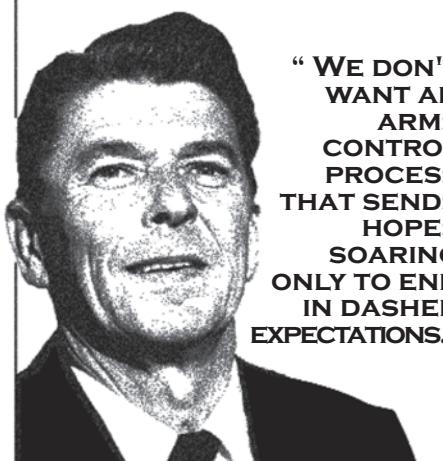
By Rich Lowry

Carly Fiorina is a no-nonsense former business executive who is showing she can play – and throw elbows – with the big boys in the Republican presidential nomination battle. Feminists have noticed, but their admiration is tinged with dread – and it should be. An eloquent, fearless critic of abortion, the latest outsider to climb into the Republican race is a clear and present danger to what feminists hold most dear. Even if she had said nothing else at the CNN debate, Fiorina would have stood out for her gut-punch of a statement about the horror of the guerrilla Planned Parenthood videos capturing the ghoulish organ harvesting that is an important side business of the organization (the main business, of course, is aborting babies). The novelist Jennifer Weiner told The New York Times for a story about the conflicted feelings of feminists, "It's so weird – she looks like one of us, but she's not." The managing editor of the feminist website Jezebel tweeted the night of the debate, "I'm in love with and terrified of her." Yes, be afraid, very afraid. Fiorina already may be the most effective, high-profile woman that the pro-life movement has. At the debate, she captured the enor-

mity of the Planned Parenthood scandal, for which there are almost no words, speaking of it in the harshly indignant terms that it deserves. No sooner had she made her statement than the media fact-checkers got to work. Fiorina had described a video of a living fetus and a technician working to harvest its brain. This was wrong. The video was stock footage of a briefly living victim of an abortion that played while a former technician described – in a different case – her horrifying experience cutting an aborted baby's face open to preserve its brain for sale. Fiorina should have been more precise, but her electric condemnation of Planned Parenthood has inevitably gotten the attention of the pro-abortion sisterhood. In Iowa, protesters chanted and threw condoms at her, even though Fiorina had said nothing about birth control. At the same event, a woman accosted Fiorina to ask, "How can you as a woman not support our health care?" Fiorina probably left the woman determined never to try that again. "Oh, I support your health care," she shot back. "I don't support butchering babies." Fiorina is so formidable because she has a tough-as-nails public persona, together with an ear for the music of public speech. At their best, her riffs are pungent, memorable – and persuasive. "Liberals and progressives will spend inordinate amounts of time and money protecting fish, frogs and flies," she said after a visit to a pro-life pregnancy center. "They do not think a 17-week-old, a 20-week-old, a 24-week-old is worth saving." Hillary Clinton's fans can be forgiven for wishing their candidate had some of Fiorina's flare as a communicator. A writer at Cosmopolitan lamented, "Carly Fiorina is the candidate I wanted Hillary Clinton to be." She and others ought to get used to feeling envious and chagrined. Even if she flamed out as a candidate, in Carly Fiorina conservatives and pro-lifers have discovered a formidable champion.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



RONALD REAGAN
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE
THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

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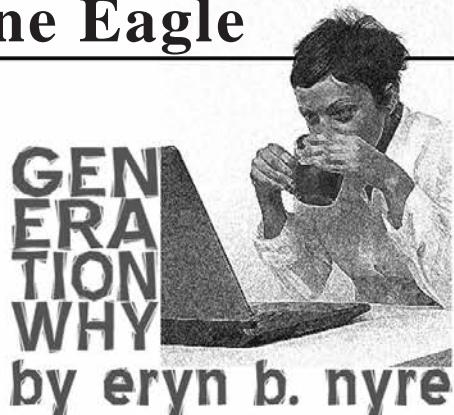
Soaring with One Eagle

I remember it like it was yesterday. My dad popped in an old cassette into the tape deck of his car stereo and my life would never be the same. As the surreal poetry of *Hotel California* and poignant heartbreak of *Wasted Time* filled the air around me I finally understood how music could be more than just a great beat and catchy chorus; music could touch you.

Don't get me wrong, it's not that I don't like contemporary music; some of it is sweet and fun and the boy bands are usually cute, but the best music in my opinion was made before I was. Though I like many musicians from decades past, the Eagles have remained my favorite band since that moment in the car with my dad so many years ago. They are the band I turn to in moments of extreme happiness or deep despair. I love them as a group

but it is founding member Don Henley who really sparks a fire in my ears. A lead vocalist and drummer, not all that common, I've often dreamed of what it would be like to see such an amazing musician in person.

Sadly, one of the problems with harboring a love for music of the past is that it isn't as easy to see them perform live. Sometimes you can get lucky and see pieces of the band like Foreigner without their lead singer or Journey without their lead singer but because you weren't around in their heyday you miss out on seeing them as a whole. I'm not saying I want to be older or anything, but perhaps my music tastes would suggest I was born in the wrong decade. The Eagles still tour occasionally, (well, most of them, but they are missing a couple of original members too), I just haven't managed to be in the right place at the right time with the right balance in my bank account to actually get to see them. A couple of years ago they came close enough for a mini-road trip but I couldn't find anyone else willing to spend the money on them. Evidently in my friendship circles they like to keep things a little more



recent. I might need new friends.

When I heard on the radio that Don Henley was coming I did two things: First, I swore to myself I would not miss the concert this time because who knew how many more chances I would get. Second, I asked every friend, semi-friend, co-worker and acquaintance to go with me. Yes, the Eagles are my first love but the man I named my first car after is a close second and I was

going to be there, and I wasn't above begging. Prospects of a concert buddy looking pretty bleak I made the decision that I was going to see Don Henley even if I went alone. I

figured that even if I was kidnapped and murdered by a serial killer it would be worth it as long as he waited until after the concert. I'm sure I would be able to negotiate. I found a date in the end, but let's face it, my real date was going to be up on that stage singing to me all night like no one else existed.

The experience of seeing the musician you have always loved is almost impossible to describe but I'm going to give it a try anyway. It's like all of the dreams you've ever thought of having come true at the same moment, all while riding a magical unicorn with a leprechaun on your lap. Listening to his hauntingly beautiful a cappella rendition of End of the Innocence rendered my speechless; I couldn't even sing along. I could barely clap when it was over I was so moved. Let me put it this way: I was so entranced I couldn't even people watch. I have no idea who was around me, but I

Please see GEN WHY on P. 9

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Change the National Anthem?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Some people want us to scrap the *Star-Spangled Banner* because it is too hard to sing or too warlike or too patriotic. May I suggest the perfect replacement that should make these misguided folks happy? It's easy to sing and is already popular. More importantly, it depicts to a "T" the current United States government's relationship with "We the People." And it doesn't have any of that patriotic, love-of-country stuff that some find so objectionable. Ladies and gentlemen, the 1983 hit song *Every Breath You Take* might – sadly – be the perfect anthem for what our country has become.

*Every breath you take
Every move you make
Every bond you break
Every step you take
I'll be watching you*

*Every single day
Every word you say
Every game you play
Every night you stay
I'll be watching you*

*O can't you see
You belong to me ...*

For some inexplicable reason I recently heard this old song and really listened to the lyrics. A light bulb went on, with an accompanying slap of the forehead and a feeling of foreboding. "Omigosh, that's exactly the way the government and politicians treat 'We the People.'" Watching us, controlling us, owning us. Because they want to. Because no one stops them. All for our own good, of course. Because they "love" us so much. Because they know best. Cradle to grave. Dependency. Subservience. Twenty-four/seven.

The patriotic *Star-Spangled Banner*, on the other hand, came from the 1814 poem titled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," penned by Francis Scott Key to celebrate that the fort in Maryland still stood after an overnight bombardment by the British. "The rockets' red glare" and "bombs bursting in air" "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." What a relief to Key! The country and our flag were worth fighting for. The price of victory was not cheap.

When the poem was set to music and

then adopted as the national anthem in 1931, it was perfectly acceptable – even desirable – that America's official song reached soaring high notes that were challenging and inspirational, rather than easy and predictable to all who sang it with hands held proudly over their hearts. Americans were known to be up to any challenge, made of hardy stock, and willing to take risks, work hard and defend their country. The idea that the nation's anthem should be purposely "easy" and not reflect the strength of its people would have been unthinkable.

The lyrics of *Every Breath You Take*, if taken seriously, depict a controlling, and by today's standards possibly abusive, relationship. The object of the song's overbearing affection, if real, would have three choices: Accept being watched and owned; try to change the possessive lover's actions; or walk away and find someone else.

We who cherish liberty and object strenuously to being watched or "owned" by our government have only one choice. We do not acquiesce, and we do not walk away. (And where would we go?)

The only option is to reclaim our constitutional republic by limiting government control and maximizing individual responsibility and liberty as enshrined in the founding documents.

But how do we do that? That's a long story for another article, but the short version is to: 1) Educate ourselves and others through accurate information on issues, government policy and politicians; 2) Study candidates under a microscope and elect only those trusted to protect liberty; 3) Build relationships with and positively influence elected officials; and 4) Work with trusted like-minded groups. And maybe, 5) For those who have the stomach for it: Run for office and/or encourage others to do so.

It won't be easy. But if we don't reverse course, our kids and grandkids will "belong" to the government with "every breath they take."

Is this wild exaggeration? Consider that Common Core tracks students from Kindergarten to career. The Secretary of Education proposes government boarding schools to keep children 24/7 and "cradle-to-career" education reform. Congress wants to increase federal funding to "community schools" to cover academic, physical, social, emotional, health, mental health and other needs. Zoning codes limit where and how we live, according to a national plan. Pompous, overbearing politicians see the need to ban certain team names and smokeless tobacco at pro sports and goes after school bake sales and kids playing tag. Watching every move we make, every step we take, every single day!

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Pump Up the Pumpkin

Here we are in autumn already. I love the fall time of the year – not real cold yet, and a lot cooler than what we have been through. Probably the only people that don't like this weather are at PG&E. We can open our windows and doors and enjoy.

What do you usually think of when this time of year gets here? Football games? Beautiful orange and red leaves on the trees (and then you have to rake the lousy things up)? Halloween? Pumpkins! Over the past years I used to pick up Randy's, and then Adam's, kids after school at

Sierra View and I loved to sit there and watch the little ones on the days they came back to the school after their trip to the Pumpkin Patch. What excitement! They were so protective of their precious treasures. They hung on to it like the star football player running with the ball to the goal line. Hopefully they all had someone at home that could help them make that all important Jack 'O Lantern.

Pumpkin Anyone?

And what are you reminded of when we say "Pumpkin"? Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Bread and lots of other desserts made with pumpkins? Most people don't bother with seeding, peeling, and cooking a pumpkin any more, they just buy a can.

Although pumpkin pie is not my favorite, my mom did make delicious ones. She usually made two for Thanksgiving except when she knew her grandson Steve would be there, then she would always make a couple extras. She didn't have any secret recipe, not even one written on her cards. Her recipe was on the back of a can of Libby's pumpkin. Each large can will make two pies.

In going through mama's recipe cards, I found this one. She has cut it out of a newspaper and taped it to one of her cards so I will copy it as it is. If you can't make good pie crust (like me) or just don't like to make pie crust, this recipe would be ideal and it sounds good too.

No Crust to Screw Up

Stick it in the oven and forget it for an hour and half. Easy, peasy. My 11 year



old could have made it last year or the year before! But wait, Sara's recipe is as good as her story:

Make the pumpkin-pie mixture from the large can of Libby's pumpkin. Pour it into a large deep casserole. (I'd say she used about a 3 quart Corningware dish.)

In a large bowl blend a packaged spice cake mix with two cubes melted butter.

Drop this mixture by spoonfuls on top of the pie mixture in the casserole dish.

Bake at 350 for about 1 1/2 hours.

Now I ask you – doesn't that sound good? How about a big spoon of this with a blob

of whipped cream on it – or a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yummy.

The following pumpkin bread recipes are for everyone, but especially for the lady that called the office and requested them and before I could get back to her, I misplaced her phone number. The first one is my mother's:

Pumpkin Nut Bread

1 C margarine
3 C sugar
3 eggs
1 large can pumpkin
3 C sifted all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp vanilla
2 C chopped nuts
1 C raisins

Cream together margarine and sugar. Beat in eggs, add pumpkin and vanilla, mixing well. Sift together dry ingredients, blend with pumpkin mixture. Add nuts and raisins.

Bake in loaf pans for 40 to 45 minutes in preheated 350 oven.

Please see RECIPE on P. 9

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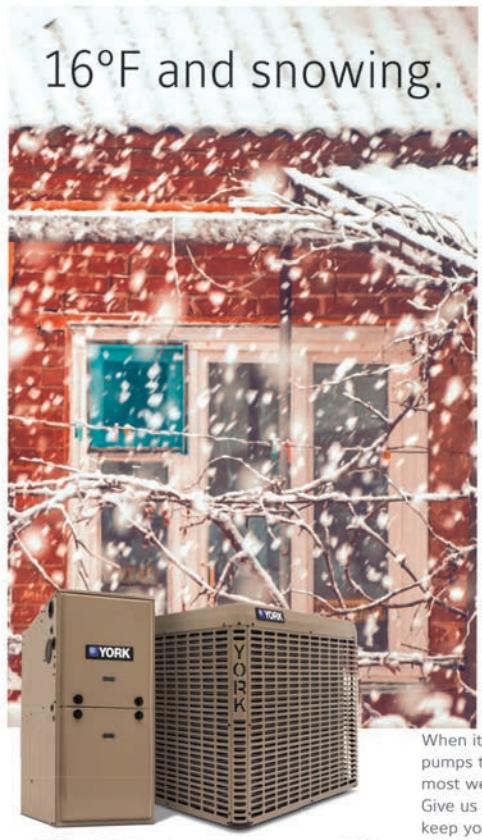
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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

The following recipe is my sister Faye's (Randy's mom). You will notice it doesn't take any eggs.

Faye's Pumpkin Bread

Oven 350 Yield – 3 loaves
1 can pumpkin
4 C sugar
1 C oil
Mix together, then add to pumpkin mixture:
2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp salt
5 C flour

Bake in prepared pans 70 minutes

I have a very dear friend living in Chowchilla that I went to school with since the seventh grade. She took over as manager of the high school cafeteria when my mother retired. Every year she invites my sisters and me up to her house for a Christmas luncheon. A couple of years ago she served a pumpkin roll that was really delicious. I asked her for the recipe and I'll pass it on to you.

Pumpkin Cake Roll

3 eggs
1 C sugar
1 tsp lemon juice
2/3 C pumpkin
1 C chopped nuts
¾ C flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp ginger
½ tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
Filling:

1 C powdered sugar
6 oz. pkg. cream cheese- softened
¼ C butter - softened
½ tsp vanilla

Preheat oven at 375. Grease a 15x10x1 inch baking pan and line with waxed paper. Grease and flour the paper. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs on high for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar until thick and lemon colored. Add pumpkin and lemon juice.

In another bowl (I use a large piece of wax paper so you won't have another bowl to wash) mix flour, cinnamon, baking powder, salt, ginger and nutmeg, fold into pumpkin mixture.

Spread batter into prepared pan, sprinkle with nuts.

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Be careful not to bake too long or it will be too dry to roll.

Immediately turn out on a clean towel that has been dusted with powdered sugar. Peel off paper and roll cake up in the towel starting with the narrow end. Cool.

Meantime, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla until fluffy.

When cake has cooled, carefully unroll the cake. Spread filling over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up again (not in towel). Cover and chill until serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

Fall Back

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time will end Sunday Nov. 1 at 2 a.m. Before going to bed Saturday evening set your clocks back (remember spring forward, fall back) one hour.

This story originally appeared in the October 2009 issue of the Ranchos Independent.
-- Editor

GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

can describe Don's every move.

The hour and a half flew by and before I knew it he was leaving the stage for the second time. I wanted to run after him but the very large men in very tight T-shirts looked like they could take me. My date had a good time, which is nice but honestly I forgot he was even there for a while. It was the best concert I have ever been to and easily the most incredible experience of my life. I think one of the hard parts about seeing your favorite musician perform live for the first time is expectation. Spending 20 years devouring every song he has every written sets the bar pretty high. I've

been to many concerts where the musicians clearly rely heavily on modern technology to achieve their sound, and for the most part I stop buying their albums after that. But that's the thing about older music – they had to sound good because there weren't a lot of fancy tricks some dude in a booth could do to make you sing or play when you really couldn't. Don didn't disappoint. Even as he stares 70 in the face, his performance was every bit as extraordinary as I had hoped. I don't think the night could have been any better. No, I'm wrong – I wish my dad would have been there, after all he is responsible for this particular obsession of mine. It would have been nice to experience it with him.

The Bookshelf

Picture This: It's Picture Book Time

By Amanda Judd

The Ranchos Library will soon be celebrating picture books. November is officially Picture Book Month. Picture Book Month was established to remind us of the importance of picture books and the connection that we make emotionally, physically and socially when we take the time to slow down and read stories aloud. Picture books spark imagination and creativity and they provide the listener/viewer an opportunity to make connections that pertain to aspects in their own life. During these read aloud sessions we are gifted with a bonding experience that cannot be achieved by any other manner. Picture books bring about fun entertainment because the reader and the listener(s) get to be active participants in the story and the development of the story. Picture books were developed for children aged newborn to children over 100 and are great for everyone. Each Thursday at 11 a.m. Mrs. Diane Maxfield provides an educational and fun story time that always features some of our picture books.

The Ranchos Library has a wonderful collection of picture books. We have books that help you learn about your feelings, your achievements and disappointments, manners, holidays, changing of the seasons and so much more. Take the time to stop in and pick up a picture book to read with those that you love or just enjoy one yourself. Get lost in the world of SkippyJon Jones; a Siamese cat that believes he is a Chihuahua. Take a trip across the ocean or fly through the clouds with an adventure story. Grab a nice relaxing bedtime story or maybe try one that helps with learning our ABCs and 123s. Select something that has only illustrations and create your own story as you go or better yet have children create the story. Despite your choosing, you will leave completely satisfied.

We would also like to invite you all to stop in and see our new rocking chair. Our beautiful chair has been dedicated by Friends of the Ranchos Library in the memory of Mrs. Esther Anderson. It is an exceptional reminder that honors all of her service and her remarkable devotion to shar-

ing her affection of reading with our children. It sits in the children's area and frequently has little dangling legs snuggled up with a teddy bear and a great book.

Ranchos Library wants to give just a couple of quick friendly reminders:

Keep your eyes peeled for those Bucks for Books inserts that will be inside of your County Property Tax bills. Bucks for Books is a program that allows you to contribute directly to your very own library. The proceeds go to Friends of the Ranchos Library and stay right here in your own community.

Next, with Thanksgiving just around the corner and the official start of the Christmas shopping season, picture books make fantastic gifts. They can be shared and enjoyed over and over again. Please remember that if you are an online shopper and utilize Amazon for your purchases, be sure to sign up for AmazonSmile. You will then simply select Friends of the Ranchos Library as your organization. This will allow the Ranchos Library to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

The Madera Ranchos Library

37167 Ave. 12
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GOLDEN VALLEY VIEWS

A Publication of Golden Valley Unified School District

Welcome Back



By Andy Alvarado

tricts. We have many reasons to be excited for this upcoming school year.

One initiative in particular is our one-to-one mobile device program at Liberty High School. This year we will be completely one-to-one in grades 9-12, which is one year ahead of schedule. We feel it is a moral imperative to make sure students are prepared for what the 21st century will be expecting of them as they enter the real world. Our ultimate goal is to have devices available district-wide in all grades and with your support we can accomplish this goal in the near future.

I have been asked if it is going to require a lot of rebuilding after the challenges we have faced during the past eight months. To that, I say no. "We are not going to rebuild, we are going to reload." I mean this wholeheartedly for I believe when you have principles and values that are as embedded as they are here in Golden Valley, it's not necessary to start over. It is necessary to make sure those who have signed on to the challenge of educating our children understand what they have agreed to. Our core values and principles will remain the same.

Our work here in Golden Valley Unified School District is centered on providing a curriculum-rich education that is driven by real world and real life experiences. We will continue to stress to our teachers and administrators the importance of our core values of providing a rigorous curriculum, making learning relevant to our students and developing positive relationships with our children; this is the Golden Valley Way.

Our community expects us to prepare our students for the real world. We understand, in order to accomplish this task, it truly takes a GVUSD community. We take this responsibility wholeheartedly and vow to bring our best day in and day out. Our children need to be able to compete globally and we are committed to being increasingly proactive in preparing students for challenges that do not yet exist. We must recognize the paradigm shifts in education and adjust our systems to properly and proactively address an ever-changing society. Our past is not a prelude to our children's future.

We have set the highest standard of what we expect from our students and staff. Our students and staff will be re-

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center • Friday, Dec. 4* • 6 p.m.

The return of the original Community Christmas Tree Lighting is coming to the Maywood Center on Friday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. Come join in the celebration that raises badly needed supplies for our Veterans at Veterans Hospital in Fresno while you get to enjoy snacks, beverages, Christmas carols and a visit by Santa Claus himself.*

Pick a star for a Veteran at the VA Hospital.

Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books.

Items need to be returned to the Chamber office by Dec. 11. Gifts will be delivered to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Fresno on Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.

Call the Chamber at 645-4001 for complete details

*Date subject to change to Saturday, Dec. 5 based on Liberty High School football post-season schedule.



The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring

"The Big One" Christmas Chamber Mixer
Wednesday, December 9 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Avenue 12 Suite 5C, Madera Ranchos

Everyone is invited. Great food will be served. Our Merry Christmas to you.

10/15



Help a Foster Child this Christmas

through the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and CASA

Bring a little sparkle of joy to a foster child this Christmas by stopping by the Chamber office and selecting an ornament with a child's name, age and gift request. The requests range from everything from a Barbie doll or soccer ball, to simple hair ribbons. Unwrapped items must be turned in to the Chamber office by December 11.

Call 645-4001 for more information.



Our Newest Member

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Get involved. Come to a meeting. Always the second Wednesday of the month at 37167 Ave. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Call 645-4001 for more info.

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Think Before You Toss

When I was a kid we had a plum orchard across the street and a big field in back. We would sculpt dirt clods after the orchard had been plowed and make forts in the field. Daniel Boone was our hero and we'd find long sticks to use as our rifles. You might say we were masters at repurposing.

I suppose the depression era folks were the true masters and many people still hang on to things — just in case. As an organizer I'm not against saving things, as long as you know where to find them when you need them and they're not getting in the way of what you currently need and use. Better yet, I'm all for reducing, reusing and recycling.

With our new Redrock recycling bins we can now see just how much of what we

discard can be recycled. Here are some interesting recycling facts from Redrock's website (www.CagliaEnvironmental.com):

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours — or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

- If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25,000,000 trees a year.

- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or a compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours. It also causes 20 percent less air pollution and 50 percent less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

- Out of every \$10 spent buying things, \$1 (10 percent) goes for packaging that is thrown away. Packaging represents about 65 percent of household trash.

- A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers — make sure they're recycled.

In addition to using our Redrock recycle bins there are other things we can do to reduce our contribution to landfills. Here are some additional recycling places and a list of what they accept:

Neighborhood Thrift (353 E Olive Ave, Fresno) — Stained/ripped clothing/linens, bat-

tered books and electronic waste (TVs, monitors, computers, kitchen/household items, anything with a cord).

SpeeDee Oil Change (6504 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno) — Used oil.

Lions Recycle for Sight (Lions Clubs) — Eyeglasses

Clovis Police Department (1233 5th St, Clovis) and Fresno Co. Sheriff's Office (2200 Fresno St, Fresno) — Medicine — DEA authorized collectors.

The Madera County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (21739 Road 19, Chowchilla) — Motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, grease, batteries, ammonia-based cleaners, drain cleaners, deodorizers, aerosol cans, spot removers, oven cleaners, moth balls, photographic chemicals, wood preservatives, art supplies, paint remover, paint, solvents, insect spray, weed killers, pool chemicals and pesticides. Items not accepted are medical wastes, radioactive material and large compressed gas cylinders. Quantities limited to 15 gallons of liquids or 125 pounds of solids per trip.

O.S.H. (5445 N. Blackstone Ave, Fresno) — Fluorescent tubes, CFL bulbs, one-use batteries and rechargeable batteries. Small, household quantities (unbroken).

Marjaree Mason Center (1600 "M" St., Fresno) — All cell phones, including non-working cell phones and those without chargers.

Best Buy (7550 N Blackstone Ave, River Park, Fresno) — TVs, VCRs, computers, cell phone batteries, laptop batteries, rechargeable batteries, tablets, appliances, ink and toner, CDs, video games, cameras and camcorders, care audio, video and GPS.

For things that are still usable, you have more options. You can sell your items online at Madera Ranchos Yard Sale Facebook group, Craigslist and www.ThredUp.com. There are places to donate and sell here in the Ranchos like the Ranchos Hills Seniors (37330 Berkshire Dr.), and Now & Again (37184 Ave 12 #104) and a plethora of other consignment and thrift stores in Fresno and Madera.

If you're not receiving value from items in your home, garage, or storage, consider what they might do for someone who can't afford to purchase new, or who might benefit from your donation to Hospice Thrift, SPCA Thrift, or Fresno Rescue Mission Thrift.

Who could argue with Mother Teresa? "*I only feel angry when I see waste; when I see people throwing away things we could use.*"

Contact **Organized by Choice** (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can also visit their website at www.organizedbychoice.com.

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Let's get Gassed

Hello, 93636.

Last week I was at my regular gas station topping off my fuel tank. I noticed a tanker truck also there dropping off his fuel load. Like always, I walked over to the driver and entered a conversation with him concerning his batch. One of the questions I always ask is, "What is the alcohol content of your batch?" It's important information I may need when diagnosing customer complaints like, "My fuel mileage and/or engine performance has declined." Of course one of the first things I will look at is the vehicle's "fuel trim adaptation." Is the PCM (Powertrain Control Module/engine computer) adding more fuel than its base program setting? By law, the gasoline we purchase at the pump can contain up to 10 percent alcohol without notification. Anything greater than 10 percent must be posted. As I understand it, gasoline is gasoline. When gasoline is manufactured at the refinery and loaded into delivery trucks, different additive packages can be added to the gasoline to meet the different retailers' requirements. Generally the lower the price of the gasoline the less additives and/or greater the content of alcohol by volume. Alcohol costs less than gasoline and therefore decreases the cost per gallon at the pump.

The driver said there is talk to change to consumer batching at the pump. We would have a choice to add 10 percent or 15 percent alcohol to our batch with 15 percent being the lowest per gallon price. I gave him my suggestion which is a third option. My suggestion is alcohol free. My choice would always be 100 percent gasoline. I don't have a particular bias against alcohol, I'm just interested in keeping my fuel costs down. Alcohol contains about 50 percent of the energy of an equal amount of gasoline and alcohol can weigh up to a half pound more per gallon. Both of these details are detrimental to fuel mileage. If your vehicle is able to travel 400 miles on a tank full of gasoline, that range will decrease to something closer to 200-250 miles with 100 percent alcohol in the tank. This fact seems to have been left out of the public conversation when the benefits of E85 (85 percent ethanol) are discussed. The greater the content of alcohol in gasoline, the lower your fuel mileage will be and the more often you will be at the pump refueling.

As you may have noticed, some vehicles are flex fuel vehicles. A flexible fuel ve-

hicle basically means it's a dual fuel vehicle. A flex fuel vehicle can run on pump gas or E85. E85 will decrease fuel mileage by about 30 percent. In order to use E85 fuel in General Motors vehicles, an extra layer of software and hardware were incorporated. Before the fuel is injected into the cylinders, it passes through a sensor (analyzer) which takes some capacitance measurements and then performs some complicated math to determine the ratio of gasoline to alcohol. That information, along with fuel temperature and other relative information, is transmitted to the Flex Fuel Module. The Flex Fuel Module processes that information and sends its recommendations to the PCM so the proper adjustments can be made. A greater concentration of alcohol will require the PCM to hold the fuel injectors open longer to facilitate the increased need for fuel. The secondary ignition timing curve will also need to be adapted from its base programming.

Chrysler vehicles use oxygen sensors to determine the gasoline to alcohol ratio. If more than three gallons of fuel is added to the tank, a recalibration process is triggered. After the oxygen sensors reach proper operating temperature, the PCM will start "trimming up or down" the base fuel calculation. That means if the oxygen sensor sees a lean fuel condition due to increased alcohol content, the PCM will "trim up," or add more fuel. Vice versa if the fuel added has a lower concentration of alcohol. These vehicles need a functioning fuel level sensor to properly trigger the recalibration process.

Sorry folks, I just don't see the need. Due to the advent of the modern catalytic converter, I often see vehicles exhausting less carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrous oxides (laughing gas) from their tail pipes than is present in our air. I don't understand why we need to convert farmland and water into corn so we can then process the corn into ethanol. It takes land out of production which could otherwise be used to grow food and uses precious water to grow fuel. Wouldn't it be better to drill past the water and into crude oil or natural gas deposits? Gasoline costs less per unit of energy, it's clean burning in the modern day vehicle and we have an abundant supply. Just for your information, natural gas is even cheaper, cleaner and in greater abundance.

You can reach me by email at complete_car_care@hotmail.com for comments, questions about your vehicle or suggestions for future topics. There is no charge to ask me for help or ask questions about a vehicle.

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An advertisement for "Dog Gone Cute Store". The top half features the store's name in a large, stylized, cursive font. Below it, a bold, sans-serif font displays the phone number "645-PETS" and the text "to make your grooming appointments now". At the bottom, the address "37221 Ave. 12 #1C" is given, followed by the location "in the Maywood Center in the Madera Ranchos". To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a brown dog standing in a large, foaming puddle of water. The dog has a white tuft of hair on its head and is looking towards the viewer. The background of the ad is a light beige color. The word "GROOMING" is repeated vertically along the left and right edges of the ad.

The logo for Bradley & Sons Drilling and Pump Service. It features a large oval border containing the word "Bradley" in a bold, serif font at the top, and "& Sons" in a cursive script below it. The oval has horizontal hatching lines. At the bottom left of the oval is the license number "Lic. 414178". To the right of the oval, the words "DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE" are written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, "Same Day Service" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text "Family Owned Since 1976" is displayed in a cursive script.

A black and white photograph of a wooden playground structure with a large slide. A child is at the top of the slide, and another child is at the bottom. To the left, there is a logo for "Swings 'n Stuff" featuring a stylized tree and a swing. Below the logo, the slogan "Dream Big. Play Big." is written. The date "10/15" is in the bottom right corner of the photo. To the right of the photo, the text "Summer Clearance" is written in a decorative font. Below the photo, the text "Over 10 Sets on Display Lifetime Warranty DEMO Clearance Pricing" is displayed. A large phone number "431-1311" is prominently shown, followed by the company name "Swings 'n Stuff" and the address "10130 HWY 41, Madera". At the bottom, a note states "(prices subject to change • exp. 11/30/15)".

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Low-Flow Showerheads, Aerators Free for Ranchos Area Residents

By Karen Petryna

If you live in the 93636 zip code, you are entitled to free water-saving hardware, comprised of bathroom and kitchen sink faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads, distribution of which is scheduled to begin early next year. This is because of the three-year, \$220,000 Water-Energy Grant Award by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to South -East Madera County (SEMCU) Foundation on July 1, 2015. Currently SEMCU and DWR are working out the grant agreement details with an updated and comprehensive work plan, a detailed budget and a schedule of implementation. DWR Project Manager Mike McGinnis said that he anticipates everything will be in place by the end of the year — after which SEMCU can begin billing DWR for purchase of thousands of aerators and showerheads for everyone who lives in the 93636

zip code area

*Where is
SEMCIU?*

SEMCU President Igal Treibatch noted that SEMCU serves the precise geographic area, southeast Madera County, that is both congruent with the 93636 zip code area and also the area that is served by the Ranchos Independent. "It's very convenient for us," Treibatch said, "because we can reach all our constituents with our local paper. And who wants the free water only verify their address or driver's license or, for example, that they're physically, the SEMCU bounded on the south by the Joaquin River and on the north and west by the Burlington Northern

How Good is Free?

The SEMCU Grant Committee has already obtained quotes from several vendors for the hardware. "The next step is to test all the samples we've received," said committee member Jeff McGrath, adding, "We're going to compare them to one another in terms of quality and price, so we

can make a recommendation to the Foundation Board.” Tom Hurst, owner of Hurst Hardware, who is also a grant committee member and who will be distributing the water-saving devices from his store, is particularly concerned about quality. “We want to make sure folks that install the free hardware are really satisfied with it and continue to use it for many years to come,” he said.

Adam Lee, another grant committee member and a licensed civil engineer, is helping the committee find qualified contractors to install water meters as part of the Water-Energy Grant. "First we have to identify contractors who can meet the state's labor compliance requirements," he said, "and then we have to decide exactly how to fairly select people that are interested in having part or all of their water meter installation costs paid for in exchange for providing regular readings to

SEMCU and DWR. Our goal is to obtain a better estimate of water usage and reduction of those not already on a metered system.”

How to Sign Up

Sign-up forms are available now at Hurst Hardware and they are soon to be available all over the Ranchos. Grant Committee members are also developing plans to reach everyone in the 93636 zip code area multiple times in multiple

ways over the next couple of years to ensure everyone who wants their free water-saving hardware devices will be able to get them. Arrangements will also be made to help people get the hardware installed if needed.

Get Involved and Learn More

Please feel free to join your neighbors at the next SEMCU monthly meeting held on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Factory. You can also learn more about SEMCU by checking out their website, www.semcu.org, or on Facebook under "South East Madera County United." And, as always, reminders about SEMCU and other community meetings and events are sent regularly to those who "Like" the Ranchos Independent on Facebook.

Kiwanis Korner

Making a Difference, One at a Time

By Perry Watkins

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

One of the reasons I love living in the Ranchos is the people. There are several other reasons as well. Think of some other places where you might have had the good fortune to be born and raised.

A little girl, not yet a teenager, walks everywhere she goes in Guatemala. Her feet are dried and cracked and look like they belong to someone of a far greater age. Sadly walking a rock strewn road cracks them and walking through putrid water allowed parasites to infest and soon her body is bloated and she appears as though pregnant with a death pall. About \$150 could save her but it might as well be a million. A pair of shoes that costs less than a fast food burger would save other lives from this fate, but none arrives. Oh well, not my problem not your problem either. I want that burger.



A church is 11 miles away and the dedicated parishioners walk it at least once a week for church services. Some walk it more often and many have no shoes. Sadly, the barrios along the way are not always friendly. Old rivalries that have little to do with the parishioners occasionally cause a few to be murdered along the way. Death does not discriminate. It welcomes children and mothers into its cold arms. Oh well, a country far away – not my problem and not yours.

A church is full of the most pious people you could meet. They go to church two or three times a week, sometimes more. There is nothing else around – the church is the center of everything: culture, religion, celebration and deaths. Too bad the roof is falling in and not a dollar among them to replace it. Plaster falls off and even though they would be safer outdoors they continue to come and pray. It is certainly not our problem.

A widower in the Madera Ranchos isn't able to change the light bulbs so she lives in partial darkness. The furnace filters which were once helpful are probably now more of a hazard since they haven't been changes in two years. A light fixture hangs dangerously exposed out of its housing. Those things might as well be 40 feet high. It is all she can do to make it down the hall

way with her walker without tripping in the half light. Don't tell anyone, but the back door doesn't even lock anymore. Broken.

The pastor's wife is a widow now. She has to make hard decisions. Abandoned by her own church, she has only a small tortilla press and must decide whether to make a few tortillas to sell or a few more to feed her children – its half a dozen of one and six of another. The price of a meal at River Park would feed her kids for months and buy the babies medicine too. But there is no check in the mail, no medicine except prayer. Well, mail doesn't even arrive here very often, certainly not for her.

There are people right here that make the world's problems their own. That widower got her lights repaired. The little girl got the medicine in time to kill the parasites. The church in Mexico got a new roof. The pastor's family was adopted. Some very good folks at Flip Side Church ate fewer meals at River Park and forgo some other fine things money could buy to save lives instead. Saving souls and saving lives – a pretty good calling. There are lots of good folks here in the Ranchos. Come visit some of them at Pizza Factory Thursday evenings, or at the Flip Side Church. They'll probably talk a lot more about life and living and the local football team than about God or Jesus but you can feel it move you if you stand too close. If you stand too close for very long you might even save the life of a hopeless 10-year-old girl in South America or maybe one right here in the Ranchos.

Pizza Factory on Thursday evenings at 6:30. Call KIWANIS at 209-761-5968.

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In Memoriam



Richard G. Richards

May 8, 1933 - September 24, 2015

My Grandpa said "farewell" to this world this morning. My heart breaks as I realize I will never see his smile again except for in pictures and in memory. As a child, this man was a superhero to me. As kids, my cousins and I would spend summers at his house in Long Beach. His home was a magical place to be. So many amazing childhood memories that I will cherish forever.

Rest in peace Grandpa. You have been delivered from your suffering. May God greet you at the gates and may you live a rich and eternal life in heaven. Until we meet there, love you forever ...

JOHANNES cont. from P. 2

dear friend."

District 5 Supervisor Tom Wheeler agreed. "Johannes is one of the best Road Commissioners this County has had. Projects such as the widening of Road 200 had been sitting on the shelf for years until Johannes came on board. Words cannot express how appreciative I am for his leadership and hard work."

District 4 Supervisor Max Rodriguez

echoed the same sentiment. "Johannes has attracted and inspired an excellent team and created a solid foundation in the Public Works department. He has been an integral part of our County team and will be sorely missed."

Hoeverts' last day is Nov. 6. The Board of Supervisors will discuss the recruitment of Hoeverts' replacement and the appointment of an interim Public Works Director at the Nov. 3 Board Meeting.

Andy cont. from P. 11

spectful. Our students will represent themselves, their family and their school community with pride. Our students expect to be guided in this way. It is our duty to embrace this challenge and hold our students to the highest standard, especially when it comes to dress and grooming and behavior. We believe in addressing the "little" things each and every time, so they do not become "bigger" things. Our learning environments will be such where students and teachers are respected. Our administrators are charged with making sure the classroom remains protected and sacred in order for teaching and learning to be optimized; this is non-negotiable. We will not compromise these core values.

We are committed to providing your children the very best education possible. It is our job to make sure this

is the expectation and we surround ourselves with staff capable of carrying out this mission. Over the next few months, I plan on meeting with the many new and returning staff members on our team so they clearly understand The Golden Valley Way. Our core principles have been unwavering for many years; these are principles that have guided Golden Valley USD as one of the top performing school districts in the state of California. We plan to stay committed to those core principles with intentional efforts.

We personally wish all of you a remarkable school year. If you have any questions regarding our district programs, please don't hesitate to give me a call; my door is always open.

Sincerely,
Andy Alvarado, GVUSD Superintendent

Click on "Local News" at

DO-OVER cont. from P. 3

\$75,480 in southeast Madera, exceeds the state average, if approved, support for the project will be solely in the form of a low-interest loan. The total cost estimate for the project in the application was \$15,508,940 which also includes a water meter installation cost of \$634,500. And again, the project would have to be approved by both the Board of Supervisors and also a Proposition 218 vote by the rate payers.

**State of the Water System,
County's Finances**

At the first meeting, Director Hoevertsz said the MD-10a system is working smoothly with four wells: Dublin, Charlton, New Fender and Kensington, in operation while maintaining a pressure ranging from 40 to 60 psi with a target of 50 psi. Upon inquiry from an attendee, Frazier acknowledged that at some point, rates will go up for system users, but he doesn't anticipate that until sometime after water use restrictions are lifted. He added that right now users are paying a relatively low rate for rather large lots with unlimited water use, and a new engineering rate study will likely be needed in order to begin the process of determining how to pay for new water works. Frazier spoke at both meetings about how financial management at the County has been completely inadequate partly because, "The state mandates no negative balance so public finance is insane." He also elaborated at the second meeting that the new Auditor/Controller, Todd Miller, is nearly caught up on over three years of financial records.

Presentations

After the updates, a presentation was made by Engineer I Mohammad Alquatami, also of the Public Works Department, about the dry well program the County has established. In anticipation of the El Niño predicted for this winter, the County has recently established new standards and

waived the permit fee for the dry wells, as reported in last month's issue of the Ranchos Independent. Alquatami said that the dry wells were designed to help with storm water run-off as well as to recharge the groundwater by penetrating through the hardpan and that they would work best in locations of lower elevation where the water naturally drains. Permits for the wells, which the County will expedite, have been simplified to a two-page form and the design is being placed on the County website, Madera-County.com, under the County Forms menu as E-6 Drain Well Detail.

Plans Examiner John Quigley, with the Environmental Health Department, gave the last two presentations of the evening at the first meeting, on the use of "gray water" and on rainwater harvesting. Regarding gray water, he said it is used both for surface irrigation for landscaping as well as groundwater recharge and includes, "... waste water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs, but does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or toilets." Regarding rainwater harvesting, Quigley said, "A simple gravity flow system with a holding tank of less than 5,000 gallons would not require a building permit" to harvest rainwater. But a holding tank of more than 5,000 gallons and "a more complex system using pumps, switches and electrical connections to pressurize the system," will require permits for both the tank and the electrical system. Quigley recommended that those interested first calculate and estimate their water use and needs and design an approved gray water method and then contact the County to determine if and what permits are needed. He invited everyone to call the Building Department at 675-7821 or the Environmental Health Department at 675-7823 with any questions. Both of Quigley's presentations are available at the County website on Supervisor Frazier's page.

By the end of both meetings, Rhonda Cargill, Supervisor Frazier's soon to be former legislative assistant, had collected the following wish list items from those present:

- Create alleys (between properties to access the water system pipeline more easily)
- Move the system pipeline to the front of the property lots
- (Produce good) financial management and accountability
- Develop options to hook up residents surrounding the assessment district
- Create options for (potential) privatization (of the system)
- Green lawns
- (Good and consistent) water pressure and an effective system
- (A new) advisory committee
- A wastewater treatment plant
- Municipal Service Review recommendations
- (Create more) surface water delivery (to recharge groundwater)
- Full (system) build-out (to accommodate) future connections
- (Obtain more) grants
- (Install) agricultural dry wells
- Check Road Funds to see if any were, or are, still to be taken from MD-10a
- (Develop) 3, 5, 10 and 20-Year Plans for Sustainability for MD-10a
- (Create an) "impacts of developments" timeline
- Halt the Liberty Village development
- Delay the Riverstone development
- (Conduct) further study of water impacts
- Waive the fee for gray water systems

At the end of the second meeting, which ran about 15 minutes over schedule, Supervisor Frazier thanked Rhonda Cargill for coming to the meeting on her birthday and congratulated her on her promotion to Chief Clerk of the Board.

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

matter who is sitting on the board.

With that being said, the majority of GVTA is thrilled with the outcome of the recall elections and are so pleased to have Mr. Alvarado back at the helm. It has been a rough year. It is not time to point fingers or lay blame – we need to bring back the GVUSD family stronger and better than ever. We look forward to achieving the success and regain the impressive stature that GVUSD has become known for.

Sincerely,

Teri Malmstrom, Teacher, Coach, GVTA President
Fresno

Dear Editor:

Sir, I would like to congratulate the voters of the Ranchos. What a victory for the Golden Valley Unified School District. In the words of Jackie Gleason, "How sweet it is!" I know it took hours of work and dedication for the conclusion of this election to be made possible.

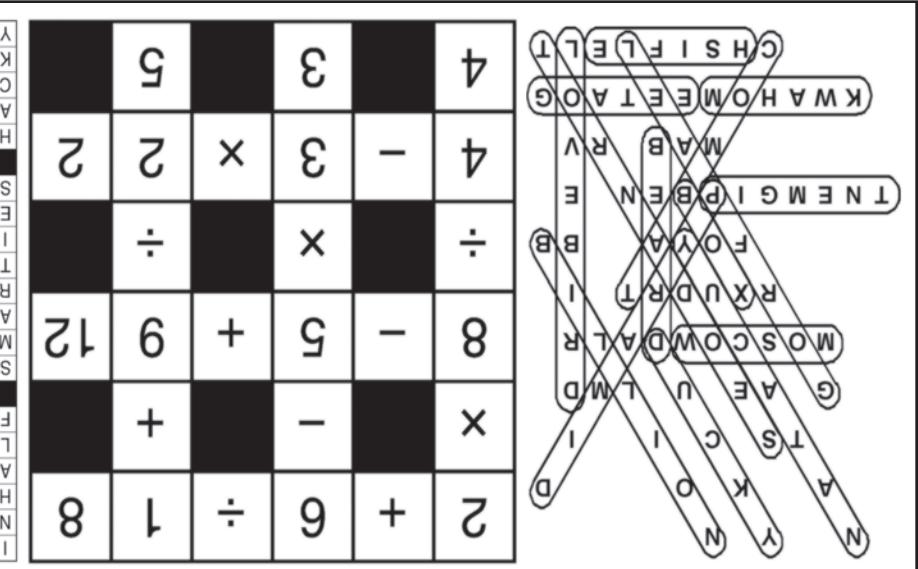
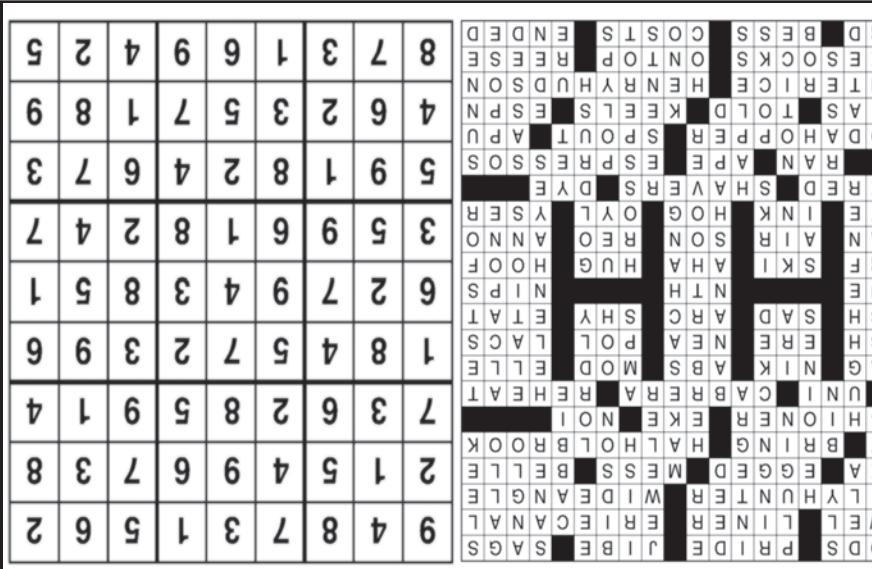
This recall is a good example of democracy. As Andrew Jackson said, "To the victors go the spoils." I'm sure the Board is only one step away from being back to normal.

There's no doubt in my mind the pen is mightier than the sword. The community is so fortunate to have a local paper. I'm sure the results would have been different without it.

I enjoy reading the Independent. My hat's off to all connected with the paper. So, to the whole staff, if I may paraphrase "Bill" Shakespeare, "All is well that ends well."

Name withheld upon request
Clovis

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	+		÷		8
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6	8	9			

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by Linda Thistle

9			3		6
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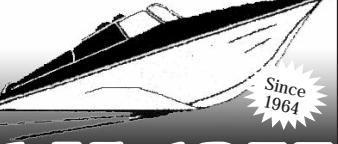
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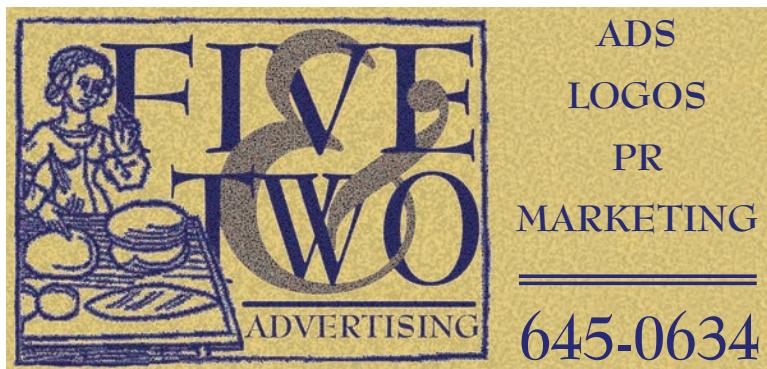
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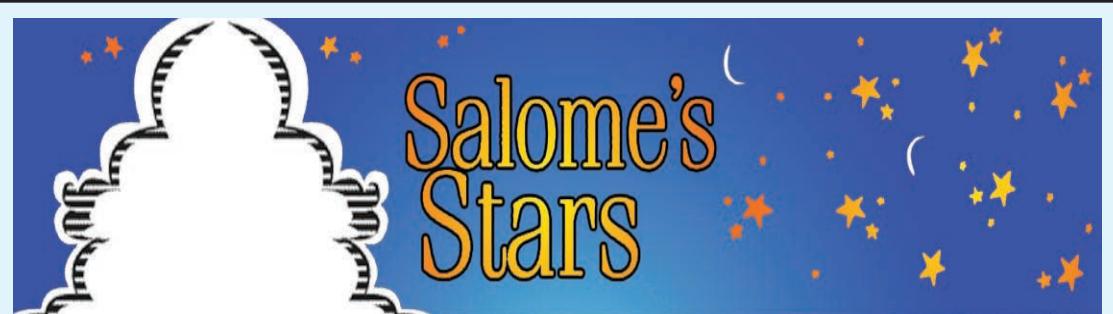


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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ARIES (*March 21 to April 19*) Some flashes of Aries ire might erupt as you confront an unusually bewildering situation. But you should be able to keep your temper under control as you work through it.

TAURUS (*April 20 to May 20*) That marriage 'twixt the arts and practicality that Taureans excel at once again highlights your enjoyment of much of the week. However, you need to watch any sudden urge to splurge.

GEMINI (*May 21 to June 20*) Even with all the pluses apparently outweighing the minuses, you still might want to defer an important decision to make sure you have all the facts you need.

CANCER (*June 21 to July 22*) One or two problems might threaten to derail otherwise smoothly running work or home situations. A few well-placed words should help get things back on track quickly.

LEO (*July 23 to August 22*) This could be a good time for all you Leos and Leonas in the spotlight to open your generous Lion's hearts and share the glory with those who helped you accomplish so much along the way.

VIRGO (*August 23 to September 22*) You might want to get advice from someone who's been there and knows these situations better than you do, before investing time or money (or both) in a questionable matter.

LIBRA (*September 23 to October 22*) Be careful how you handle a workplace matter that seems out of place in the schedule you've prepared. Before you act, one way or another, find out who set it up and why.

SCORPIO (*October 23 to November 21*) Your entertainment aspect is strong this week. Besides providing a wonderful break from everyday obligations, sharing fun times brings you closer to those you care for.

SAGITTARIUS (*November 22 to December 21*) Having a weekend fun fest? Your friend or relative who's down in the emotional dumps could perk up if you find a way to include him or her in your plans.

CAPRICORN (*December 22 to January 19*) If you're in one of those "the Goat knows best" periods, you might want to ease up and try listening to what others have to say. You could learn something.

AQUARIUS (*January 20 to February 18*) That new challenge is getting closer, and you should be out there now showing facts and figures to potential allies to help persuade them to rally to your support. Good luck.

PISCES (*February 19 to March 20*) Getting a head start on holiday plans could help free up some time later for other projects. Meanwhile, a colleague has some ideas that you might find worth discussing.

Born this Week

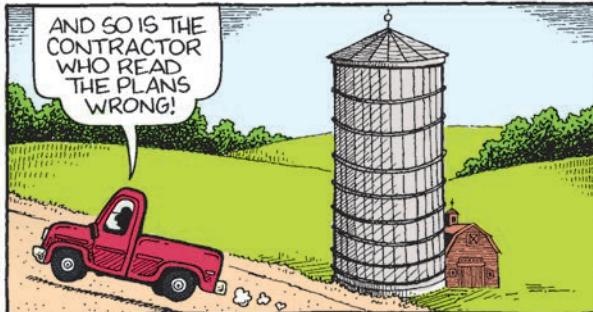
You are always there for others, and sometimes you need to be reminded that you need to be there for yourself as well.

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Amber Waves

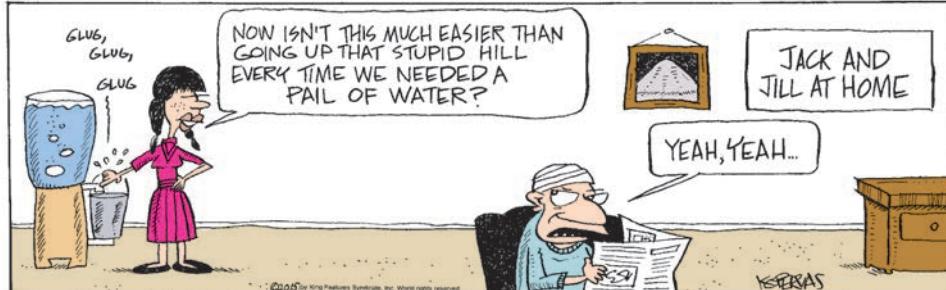
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Intelligent Life



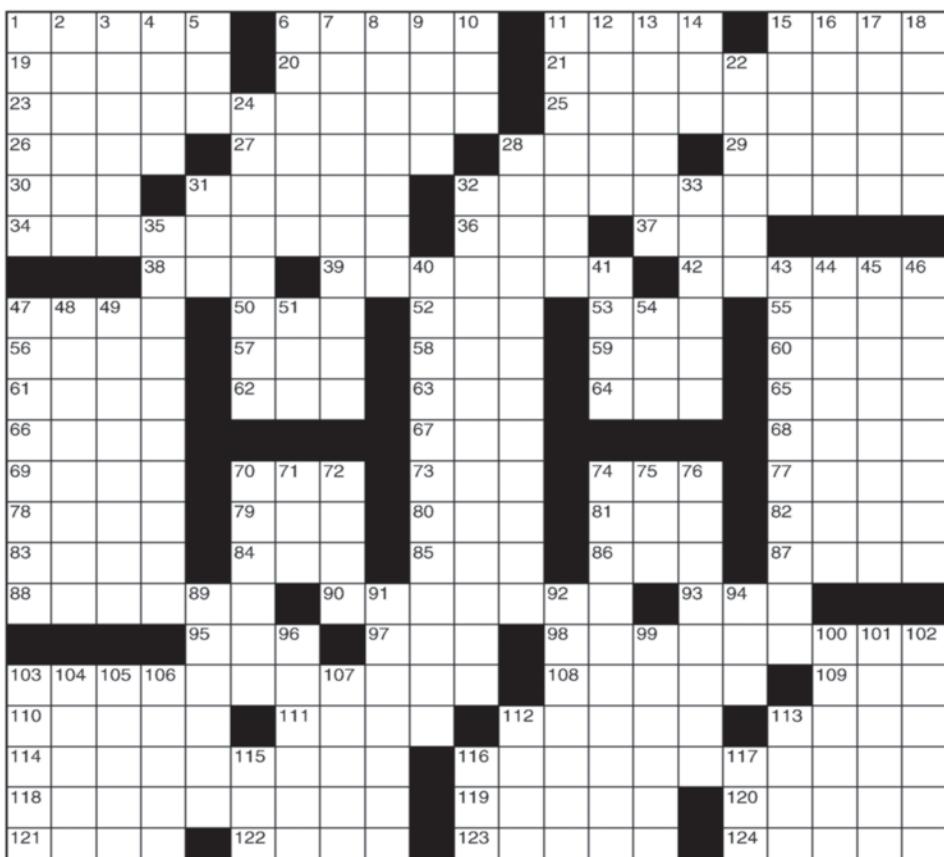
by David Reddick

HOCUS-FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Super Crossword

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Nano and Shuffle
 - 38 Lateral or cycle lead-in
 - 73 Whodunit cry
 - 111 "I — you sol!"
 - 13 Tries to buy at auction
 - 49 Precise
 - 51 S&L holding
 - 54 "— -la-la!"
 - 6 Lion group
 - 39 2012-13
 - 74 Greet warmly
 - 112 Parts of hulls
 - 14 Fat foot spec
 - 113 Alternative
 - 11 American
 - 77 Horseshoe's place
 - 59 to Fox Sports
 - 15 More stable
 - 11 League MVP Miguel
 - 114 Hockey face-off spot
 - 16 -Saxon
 - 61 Be in accord (with)
 - 70 71 72
 - 80 81
 - 71 Next of —
 - 15 Loses firmness
 - 84
 - 85
 - 72 Perturbs
 - 19 Stairway post
 - 89 90 91
 - 86
 - 74 75 76
 - 77
 - 20 Eyelid makeup
 - 95 96 97
 - 92
 - 87
 - 21 Albany-Buffalo waterway
 - 107
 - 93 94
 - 74 75 76
 - 23 "The Piano" star
 - 110 111
 - 100 101 102
 - 112
 - 113
 - 25 Like a lens for seeing the big picture?
 - 114
 - 115
 - 116
 - 117
 - 26 Environs
 - 118
 - 119
 - 120
 - 121
 - 27 Goaded (on)
 - 119
 - 120
 - 121
 - 122
 - 28 Clutter
 - 121
 - 122
 - 123
 - 124
 - 29 Southern beauty
 - 123
 - 124
 - 125
 - 126
 - 30 Ignited
 - 125
 - 126
 - 127
 - 128
 - 31 Fetch
 - 127
 - 128
 - 129
 - 130
 - 32 "All the President's Men" actor
 - 128
 - 129
 - 131
 - 132
 - 34 One who designs something
 - 129
 - 130
 - 132
 - 133
 - 36 Barely obtain, with "out"
 - 130
 - 131
 - 133
 - 134
 - 37 "— certainly will not!"
 - 131
 - 132
 - 134
 - 135
- DOWN**
- 82 — Domini
 - 83 Italy's Villa d'
 - 84 Writing fluid
 - 85 Sty animal
 - 86 Olive — (Popeye's gal)
 - 87 Belgian river to the North Sea
 - 88 Be livid
 - 89 Illinois city
 - 90 Little birds with big eyes
 - 91 Indigo, e.g.
 - 92 Mimicker
 - 93 Operated
 - 94 Starbucks orders
 - 95 Old Los Angeles Times
 - 96 Joan of —
 - 97 Dejected
 - 98 Coup d'— (revolution)
 - 99 Hoya
 - 100 Oscar —
 - 101 Connect to get power
 - 102 Like some pheasants and ducks
 - 103 Former Acura model
 - 104 Steal from basis
 - 105 Know-it-alls
 - 106 Big name in French lexicography
 - 107 Pitted scars
 - 108 Lotto relative
 - 109 Early garden
 - 110 Phony name
 - 111 From Erin
 - 112 Sack (footbag brand)
 - 113 Kagan of justice
 - 114 Beanery
 - 115 Outmoded
 - 116 Puffed scars
 - 117 "Scarface"
 - 118 Joyful feelings
 - 119 "Airport" Oscar winner
 - 120 Winner
 - 121 "The Simpsons" merchant
 - 122 "Simpsons" merchant
 - 123 "Simpsons" merchant
 - 124 "Simpsons" merchant

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