

# The Ranchos Independent



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The men and women who volunteer for Madera County Fire & Rescue Station 19 were on hand as the 22nd Annual Fire-B-Q raised thousands of dollars for sorely needed equipment.

## Station 19 Fundraiser BBQ Smokes Other Years' Totals

By Randy Bailey

"I just want to give a big 'Thank You' to the Ranchos from all of the volunteers and myself," said Chuck Hoover, Station 19 Volunteer Fire Captain and honoree at the 22nd Annual Fire-B-Q Dinner, Dance

See additional pictures of the Fire-B-Q on page 2.

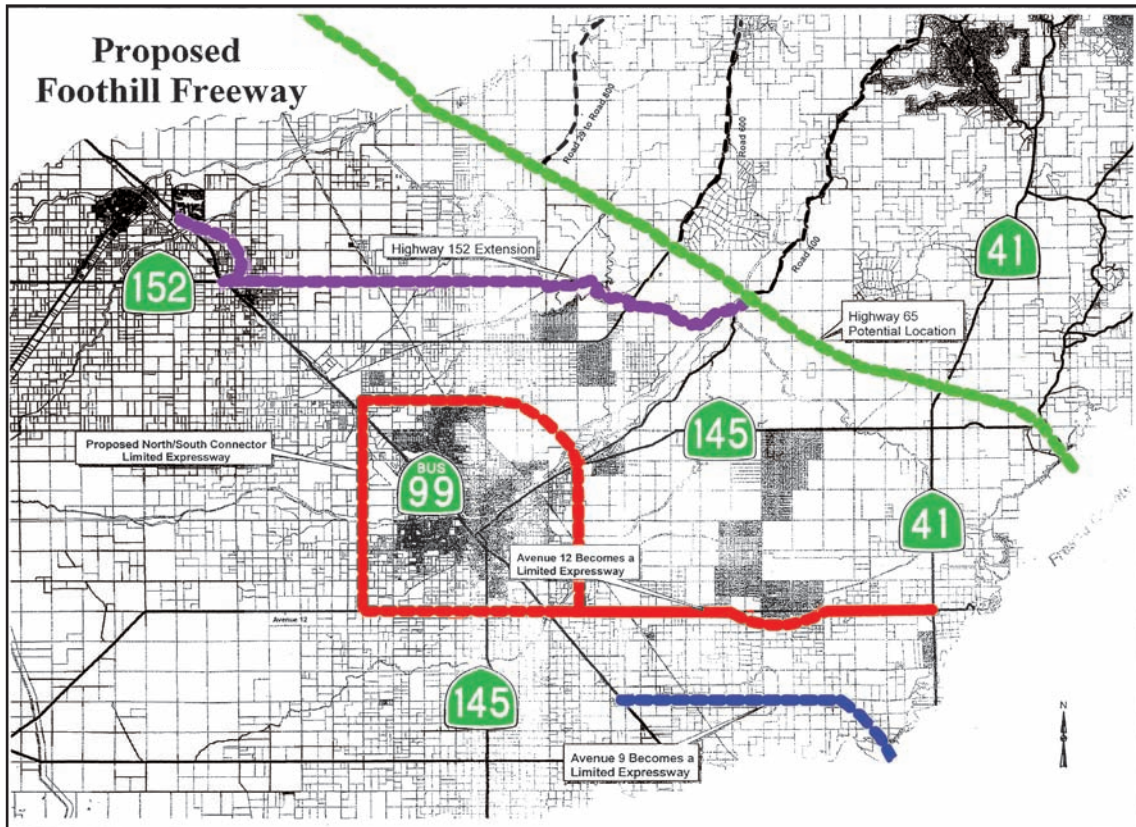
and Auction sponsored by Madera County Fire & Rescue Station 19 and held at Cobb's Ranch on Saturday, Aug. 18.

Hoover's "thank you" is well deserved. This year, the annual event broke all records for attendance and consumption. "We usu-

ally limit the tickets to 500," Hoover said, "but this year we served almost 650 dinners." Hoover further stated that for the first time ever the concession selling beer and wine sold out early. "We had to make a beer run," Hoover joked, stating that the heat mixed with the 23 percent increase in attendance probably had something to do with the increased demand for beverages.

It was a night for firsts. It was the first time the event was

Please see **BBQ** on P. 14



## Dramatic Changes to Ranchos Area Roads Proposed

Under the leadership of new Resource Management Agency (RMA) Director Ray Beach, a memo was circulated regarding our area roads entitled "Transportation in the Region." Presented here are the key questions that memo raised and the solutions Beach wants to implement. - Editor

Madera County and the San Joaquin Valley's economic health are directly tied to their transportation systems. Failure to understand the area's road system, to maintain it in an advanced state of repair and to strategically invest in new infrastructure will commit the Valley to diminishing opportunities for economic and social growth.

### What are the key links that must be preserved?

- Highway 99 - currently experiencing major capacity deficiencies in the communities of Fresno, Madera and

Merced.

- Highway 41 - currently experiencing major capacity deficiencies along its Madera County right-of-way as well as within the City of Fresno.

- A network of local regionally significant roads such as Highway 152, Avenues 9 and 12, Roads 400, 415 and 600, Manning Avenue and Friant Road, etc.

- Preservation of the concept of a multi-modal corridor along Highway 41 and the northern portion of Highway 65.

- Enhancement of local circulation systems within

and adjoining both the Cities of Madera and Chowchilla.

### What restrictions currently exist for the development of new transportation networks?

- Preserving the regions Prime Ag-Land.

- The lack of connectivity to existing road networks in the region.

- Resistance from the existing urban development in the region.

- The presence of extensive biological issues that exist throughout the region

Please see **ROADS** on P. 14

## Proposed Business Corner Gets Public Input, Concerns

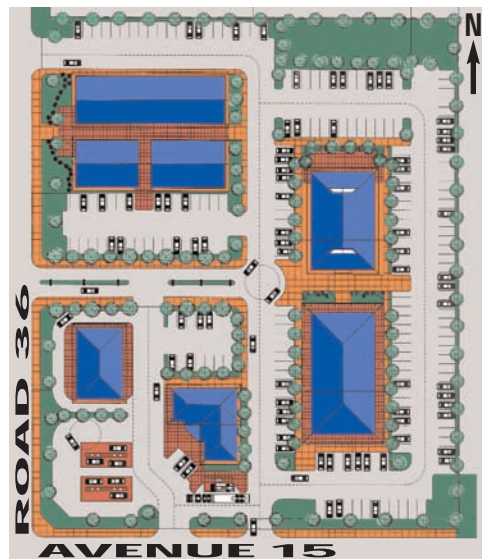
By Randy Bailey

A proposed business site on the corner of Avenue 15 and Road 36 received much public input as the result of a poll that was inserted in the June issue of the Ranchos Independent.

The company behind this proposed development is called Triple J Enterprises, a local company owned by Ranchos Residents Nancy and Scott Jordan who also own Jordan Construction. "We're not looking to change the community's country style," said Nancy Jordan. "We're hoping to create a country plaza with minimum lighting. A place where families can meet."

The poll that was distributed contained a copy of some very preliminary plans (see above) and a series of questions regarding potential uses for the loca-

Please see **PLANS** on P. 8



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## County Seeking Water Commission Applicants

During its regular meeting Tuesday, the Madera County Board of Supervisors approved the formation of a Water Advisory Commission and is now seeking applications from qualified individuals.

Qualifications include education in water issues or employment where the candidate gained knowledge in water issues, political experience, and lay experience.

Education can include employment within a water agency, district, canal district, or as a water contractor, attorney or consultant. This would include extensive course work in recognized institutions or institution-sponsored seminars on California's water issues.

Political experience can include

an elected membership to a water district board of directors that would have granted the applicant a strong understanding of water issues.

Applicants must also have experience and knowledge of water issues gained through interest or necessity, such as those working in the agricultural, commercial, industrial, or recreational fields. These fields require assessment of water issues and interface with the water industry, which are also means of acquiring knowledge in California's water issues.

Five commissioners will be chosen.

Those chosen would serve for a term of four years. During

that time, commissioners will study and discuss all water and flood issues in Madera County and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners will also report to the board and the citizens of Madera County on water and flood-related issues.

Applications are available in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors' office or on the county's Web site, www.madera-county.com. Deadline to return applications to the Board of Supervisor's office is Sept. 14.

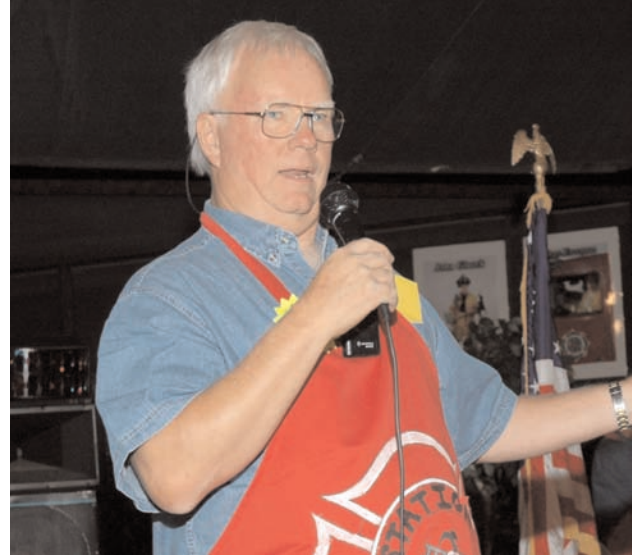
For more information call Tanna Boyd, Chief Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, at 675-7700.



# 22nd Annual Station 19 FIRE-B-Q



The reason for the 22nd Annual Fire-B-Q Dinner, Dance and Auction: the men and women volunteers of Madera County Fire & Rescue Station 19. The charity event was designed to raise money to purchase a \$9,000 thermal imaging camera.



The focus was on the firefighters but Fire Captain Chuck Hoover's more than 30 years of service was recognized as well.



Retired New York firefighter and owner of New York Family Deli in Clovis, Andy Isolano, praised Station 19 in his address.



The auction had attendees bidding fast and furiously, ultimately raising over \$16,000 for equipment for Station 19.



If the spirit moved you and you could make it out to the dance floor you could dance the night away.



Two Fire-B-Q attendees check out the same type of thermal imaging camera that the proceeds from the event will purchase.



People, people and more people. The event had averaged approximately 500 attendees annually in the past, but this year 650 dinners were served and for the first time ever a "beer run" had to be made to refill a depleted beer and wine concession.



One of the more touching moments was when Pat and Maria Knobloch praised the firefighters for saving the life of their son Gavin.



Firefighter Bill Morrison received an award for Volunteer Firefighter of the Year as his wife Thelma proudly looked on.

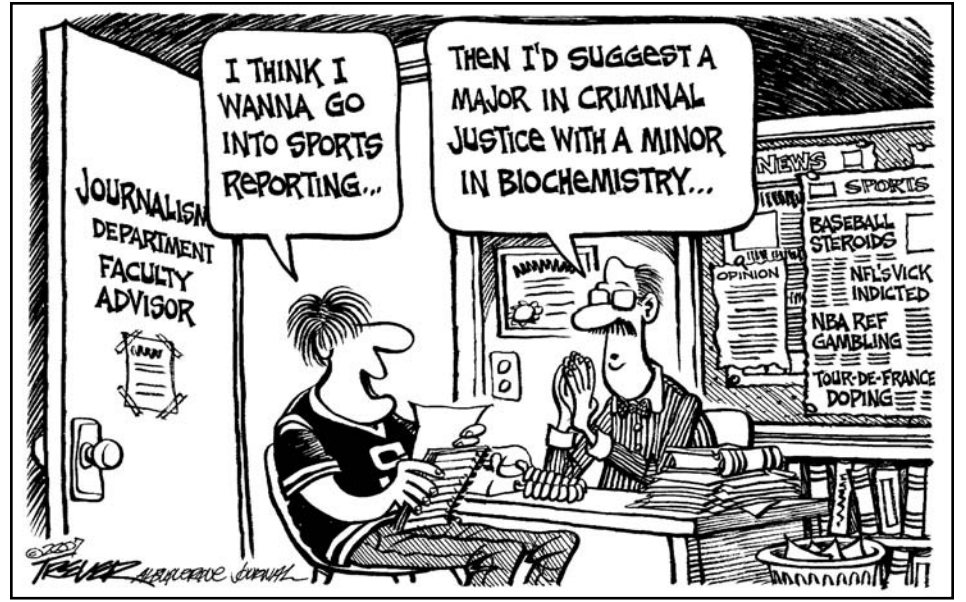
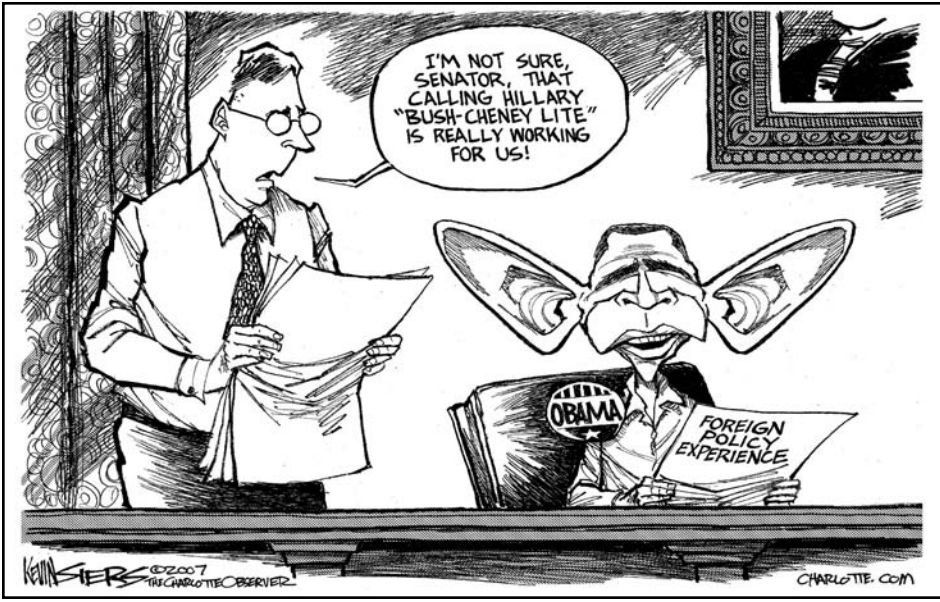


The sign guarding the entrance to Cobb's Ranch - and which was fully visible from Highway 41 - said it all.

Pictures Courtesy of John Glueck

# Cobb Ranch - Saturday, Aug. 18





**Editorial**

**How to Read a Newspaper 101**

By Randy Bailey

The great author George Orwell once said, "Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper."

Now, I don't know if I agree with that 100 percent, but it's probably not too far from the truth. One of the main reasons that it has the opportunity to be true is that it's rare (like, never) that a reporter is on the scene at the exact moment something happens with tape rolling, camera clicking and notebook flying. What happens in 99.9 percent of the cases is the reporter follows up on a story that has already happened and tries to put the pieces together.

One of the main tools that a reporter uses is the "reliable source." Reliable sources are those people who have done this all before. They're the ones who have seen it a thousand times. They're the ones that if they hear hoofbeats in the distance they don't automatically assume it must be zebras. They've done this enough times, they've seen it so many times before, that they know with a high degree of certainty that the hoofbeats instead belong to horses, not zebras. Their expertise is what tells them approximately how long a body has been decomposing in the forest and allows them to estimate how fast a car was travelling when all is left at the scene is a hubcap. That's how they know - to an incredible degree - that the attacker was right handed, walked with a limp and weight around 185 pounds, even though no one was there to see the attacker except the victim, who is now quite dead.

For example, when a story reports that speeds were "estimated" at a certain level, the story does not lose all validity because the reporter was not on hand with a radar gun to report the "fact" that the

vehicle was travelling at exactly 37.5 miles per hour. The reality is that the difference between reporting someone was "estimated" at travelling 40 miles per hour when they were actually going 37.5 doesn't somehow negate the story because their "facts were wrong." Based on the evidence, the conditions and the expertise, the estimate of the reliable source is - if not exact - close enough to not materially change the thrust of the story. In a court of law it's rare you actually get the "smoking gun." Usually you have to rely on circumstantial evidence and the testimony of "reliable sources" to figure out what happened.

The other thing you need to know about a paper is that there are news stories and then there are opinion pieces. The two should not be interchangeable. News stories should be based on fact (see above) while opinion pieces are based on ... well you know what they're based on. Writing in a news story that someone assumes something doesn't change the story to an opinion piece. It doesn't mean that the writer has suddenly thrown all the facts under the bus and is now wildly speculating. When the national press reported that Senate leader Harry Reid assumed President Bush's "troop surge" wouldn't work in Iraq, that didn't make the story automatically an opinion piece. And if the troop surge proves to be successful it doesn't mean the story was inaccurate, it just means Reid's assumption was wrong. He heard zebras.

Lastly, let's not "kill the messenger" here. Sometimes when news happens it's painful. There is always a human side to a story and for a variety of reasons it doesn't always get told, but that's rarely (like, never) because of malicious intent.

Now you can sit back and enjoy this and other newspapers with a fresh perspective. Good luck and happy reading.

**Random Notes**

If you're a regular reader of the Ranchos Independent, you know I'm a big fan of Ronald Reagan. I created the "Ray Gun" feature as an ongoing homage to one of our great presidents. I had a reader contact me who misunderstood the thought behind the feature, thinking I was - *gasp* - making fun of President Reagan. I explained to her that "Ray Gun" was a play on "Reagan" and meant that, like a laser, he could say something that was short and sweet and so completely focused that it was capable of burning a hole right to the truth of a matter. She - and I - were both quite relieved to clear the air on that one.

And speaking of our 40th president, my dad sent me a brochure about the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum down in Simi Valley, Calif. We gotta' put together a road trip for this one! The have an actual Boeing 707 that is a retired Air Force One flying White House. How cool is that? They also have an exact replica of the oval office as it looked when Reagan was president, an actual section of the Berlin Wall and a White House rose garden. Oh ... and there's 55 million pages of personal and presidential documents, 1.6 million photographs, 20,000 videotapes, 25,000 audio tapes and 670,000 feet of preserved film. Can you say "FIELD TRIP!"???



We're trying to put together a comprehensive Community Calendar for the Ranchos. I cannot tell you the number of times I've had someone come into the Ranchos Independent office asking about upcoming events and I've sat there like a deer in the headlights. I've had different people volunteer to put one together over the last 2 1/2 years that I've owned the paper but what always begins with great expectations usually fizzles out. Now, the lovely and talented Linda Brisee has volunteered her time to create the un-creatable; to catalog the un-catalogable; and to coordinate the un-coordinated (this is starting to sound like a telethon).



If you have information about an upcoming event - regardless how small or large - CONTACT US! We'll put it in the Community Calendar in the paper for FREE! Linda has even gotten a special email address just for this purpose. You can send all of your community calendar information to [communitycalendar1@theranchos.com](mailto:communitycalendar1@theranchos.com) or mail it/drop it by to us at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera, CA 93636 or fax it to us at 559-645-4002 or even just call us at 559-645-0634 and tell us about it. Linda will thank you, I will thank you and once we have an exhaustive list YOU will be thankful too.

I don't know what you're doing Sunday, Sept. 2, but we're all going to be over at Cobb's Ranch for the Annual Labor Day Community Picnic. Think of everything you can do at a picnic and then multiply it by about a thousand or two people and you've got what has become one of the best local events in the Ranchos. There are games for the kids, a fantastic CHEAP BBQ and, for the second year in a



**The Ranchos Independent**

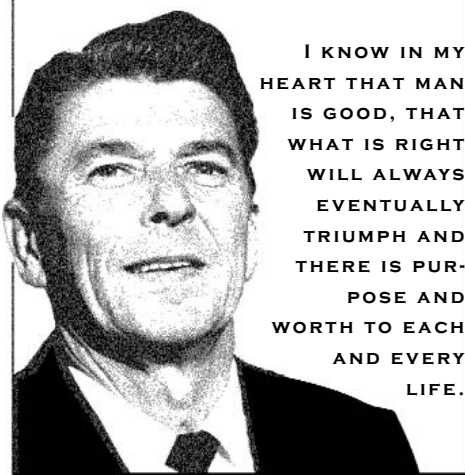
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**THE RAY GUN**



I KNOW IN MY HEART THAT MAN IS GOOD, THAT WHAT IS RIGHT WILL ALWAYS EVENTUALLY TRIUMPH AND THERE IS PURPOSE AND WORTH TO EACH AND EVERY LIFE.

**RONALD REAGAN**

row, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is featuring its Annual Business Extravaganza. Local businesses will be on hand to answer your questions and fill your head full of information. No pressure, no stress, just a truly great time. It doesn't cost a penny to go have fun and it's only \$6 for the BBQ if you want to eat (and trust me, you'll want to eat). It's the one event that officially says "goodbye" to summer and "hello" to fall. Hope to see you there.

By the way, it has come to my attention that several readers are trying to guess the identity of the author of Yosemite Sam, the column that we have resurrected from the good ol' days. Although the column has been resurrected, it is NOT the same author who wrote the column for Bill Bell.

**THE D.O.G. HOUSE**

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



Our County has been, and is still giving MILLIONS of your general fund \$\$\$ to special districts. My attorney and I believe illegally.

Lots of meat on this bone!

Monday, Aug. 27 the Board of Supervisors met to set the budgets for the "Special Districts." During the public comment period prior to the hearing I got a chance to speak and I asked why we were using general fund dollars in special districts and when these special districts were going to repay the "LOANS."

I was quickly shot down by the "Chair" when I finished.

He said he agreed that there is a problem – it has been happening for years and the County is trying to fix it by having hearings as fast as it can and trying to raise rates. Then he said we can't just shut off their water – a lot of the people that live in these special districts are low income, and can't afford to pay more.

Here is a glaring example – one of the problem district's budget losses:

Budget year	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
	<\$28,292>	<\$34,460>	<\$60,358>

Those are shortages that were made up with your general fund tax dollars. That is a total of \$123,110 of your general fund taxes that were used to subsidize this water/sewer district over just the past three years. There are 36 current customer homes in this district so that is \$1,140 each year per home we gave them to help with their water and sewer bills.

Nice gift huh?

I doubt any of you have driven through this little subdivision because it is a very exclusive gated community on the bluffs, full of multi-million dollar homes. It is called Sumner Hill. You can see it from the overpass on Highway 41 overpass just South of Avenue 12. Wave to your money as you drive by.

That was one example – now for the big picture:

County losses for special district services for just three years is listed below.

2004-2005	\$482,023
2005-2006	\$649,648
2006-2007	\$771,079
	\$1,902,750

This is not the beginning or the end, it is just the years for which I have the num-

Please see **DOG** on P. 19

**CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!**



**WANT TO MEET  
OVER 1,000  
RANCHOS RESIDENTS  
IN ONE DAY  
AND HAVE FUN DOING IT?**

be part of the Golden Valley Chamber  
**BUSINESS EXTRAVAGANZA!**

**Sunday, Sept. 2 from Noon to 5 p.m.  
at the Annual Labor Day Community Picnic  
at Historic Cobb Ranch**

for more information call

**645-4001**

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera Ranchos, CA • 93636



email us at [goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com](mailto:goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com)



**Yosemite Sam**

**Something Good?  
Maybe so ...**

I'm not sure that I completely believe it yet, but it's entirely possible that the County of Madera is finally starting to get its act together. Not only will the County soon be bringing forward a balanced budget with no discernable funding shortfalls, it also appears that the "new and improved" County staff and our elected officials are finally starting to find ways to help county communities and residents. It may not be "business as usual," back room, good-old-boys politics anymore.

I know, I know. "What evidence do you have to support such outlandish claims?" you may ask. Well, consider the following:

The proposed 2008 Madera County Budget, which begins public hearings next week before the Board of Supervisors, has no discernible funding shortfalls and no particular county agency is "clamoring" for additional funding that isn't there. It seems that even our county Sheriff is happy with what is being proposed. More importantly, there is no looming "budget crisis" over previously negotiated pay and benefits packages for county employees. Fresno County only wishes that it was so lucky. Cudos to County Chief Administrative Officer, Stell Manfredi, for a continuing "job well done." It is Stell and Stell's office that is responsible for guiding the county's budgetary ship.

More importantly, the County is finally starting to fill previously vacant key staff positions, and, lo and behold,

things are starting to get done! For those who don't already know, the following people have recently been hired or appointed to their key positions at Madera County:

Ray Beach is now our Resource Management Agency (RMA) Director. All of the key county departments report to Ray, including Engineering, Planning, Roads and Environmental Health. Ray is the one that has been personally responsible for getting the County "off dead center" in terms of making the county more user-friendly.

Ray has personally been out in the community solving problems and advocating for long-needed community improvement projects. It was under Ray's leadership that the County recently adopted a new "Public Facilities Fee" on new development. What this means is that any new project within the County, whether it's commercial or residential, will pay a fee at the building permit stage to pay the cost of new community facilities, including libraries, sheriff sub-stations, fire stations and parks. It will take some time, but these dollars will ultimately find their way back into our existing communities – yes, even including the Ranchos!

Ray is also currently working with Pam Glueck and Dr John Kim to finally

Please see **SAM** on P. 9

It's a  
**"Mess of Jeans" Sale!**

(Madera location only)

**Startin' August 25<sup>th</sup>,  
We'll have a pile of jeans for only \$11 ea!**

(Assorted sizes so paw through 'em til you find yours!)

**Wrangler Deal!**

Buy 4 pieces of Wrangler apparel and get a \$20 rebate coupon!

Offer good on mens, womens and kids, shirts and pants.

(Expires Sept. 8, 2007. See Evans for coupon offer details.)



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## Letters

Dear Editor:

Tuesday night I witnessed a great injustice.

Item 8 on the agenda was S2005-002: John Reed Tentative Subdivision Map.

I do not know John Reed or for that matter anyone that spoke that night, I have no interest in the immediate area of the subdivision. The subdivision is within an area of the County General Plan that calls for 2.5-acre parcels. The proposed subdivision was to be 5-acre parcels. From the testimony that was given it appears that the County put a number of conditions and or requirements on his proposal. Mr. Reed appears to have satisfied every one of them. Testimony against the proposal included:

"I look out across that area and don't want to look at a bunch of power poles."

"We will run out of water."

"There is a grove of historic olive trees on my property, and the road easement goes right through the middle of it. If he extends the road I am afraid he will cut down the trees."

"Here is a picture of a tiger salamander."

Mr. Reed owns his land. He has just as much right to use it as any of the people that spoke against him.

If the sight of power poles can stop a development then the County needs to pass an ordinance requiring all power lines to be put underground. If water conditions are so bad in the area that it will not support homes on 5-acre parcels the county needs to stop all building (a single family residence will have almost no effect on water in the area – no matter how much they pump – because nearly every gallon goes back into the ground through the septic system). As for the olive trees, if there is an easement for a road through the grove, someone at sometime had to have sold the rights to it. Move the easement or move the trees. And last, but not least, is the tiger salamander. If it

is that important I am sure every person that spoke against the project would be willing to tear down their homes and have the area declared a wilderness to save the little critter!

This is a case of "I built my place now let's close the gate behind me and not let anybody else in." Why is it that when folks buy a few acres they think they have also purchased the right to everything they can see from their front porch?

To the Board of Supervisors: Do the right thing. Grant Mr. Reed's appeal when it comes before you.

To the Planning Commission: Shame on you if you help a group of greedy residents take away Mr. Reed's rights.

To the residents of the area: If those that were here before you had your attitude, you wouldn't be here either.

Respectfully,  
Dale Drozen  
Raymond

Dear Editor:

I want to recognize two people whom I consider the "forgotten heroes" of the car accident of July 8. These two are responsible for preventing further tragedy on that fateful night.

My heroes are Alex Rodriguez and Dustin "Missouri" Simpson.

Alex Rodriguez was able to focus on the need at hand and immediately checked on the other victims. In doing so, she was able to enlist the assistance of "Missouri" to recheck their friend Donovan. Even when they both confirmed a lack of pulse and agreed their friend was gone, Alex had the clarity of mind to kneel over Donovan's body to pray. As his mother, this brings comfort to my heart to hear that she sent Donovan's soul off on the wings

of prayer. Rather than act emotionally or become hysterical, she placed her friend's need ahead of her own feelings. It is my understanding that this is a trait that Alex has demonstrated to many of her friends. I have had the opportunity to look Alex in the eyes and voice my gratitude. However, I want the community to also recognize the heroism she demonstrated in keeping calm enough to evaluate the situation, check on the needs of all the others, and then be able to react in a selfless manner.

Even after "Missouri" realized he had just lost his closest friend, his heroism took the form of running one-half block to the street sign to instruct the 911 operator where the accident had occurred. The responsible act of quickly seeking emergency assistance is heroic enough considering the other victims had suffered injuries which were time sensitive, but then consider he had three broken ribs at the time. Missouri pushed through his own excruciating pain to focus on what the others needed. Such heroism needs to be recognized by all of us and reflected on with the respect it so well deserves. The final outcome of the car accident could not be changed, but what this hero did was prevent the outcome from being worse than it already was. His timely reaction may well have saved the lives of the other injured friends.

As a community there has been such an outpouring of love toward the Tessmer, Knobloch and Lacy families. However, next time you see Alex and Missouri, share some of that love for these "forgotten" heroes. I know that all of our hearts are grateful for the healing of Danica and Gavin, but let me put into words for both Alex and Missouri our gratefulness for their lack of injury: We are thankful that you were both able to walk away from this terrible car accident and thank you for being the heroes you do not consider yourself to be. God be with you both during the

healing of your hearts.

Martha Tessmer, Donovan's Mom  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The request for rezoning to commercial the corner of Ave. 15 and Rd. 36 is a terrible idea. Madera County road money would have to be stretched to fix up that corner for the developers. Furthermore, a commercial enterprise out there would be a "Stop 'N Rob," which our law enforcement folks and the neighbors don't need.

A strip mall would add more asphalt, traffic and light pollution out here. Avenue 12 is where the commercial enterprises and conveniences belong and it's plenty close enough for us.

Chris McCullough  
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.*

Send your letters to:

**The Ranchos Independent**  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C  
Madera, CA 93638

OR  
FAX 645-4002

OR  
ranchosnews@theranchos.com

# Castle & Cooke invites you to a Public Hearing before the Madera County Board of Supervisors concerning The Village of Gateway

The hearing is for the certification of the Environmental Impact Report and the approval of the project, including the Specific Plan, Area Plan and IMP. Your participation would be appreciated.

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007**  
**1:30 p.m.**

Hearing to be held at the Board Chambers  
at the new Government Center • 200 W. 4th Street • Madera



# Summer Reading Program Ends, Locals “Get A Clue” at the Library

By Ellen Mester

We have had a blast this summer with our Summer Reading Program, “Get a Clue @ Your Library.” I’m sorry to see it end already. We had outstanding attendance for each of our final guest performers: the Fratello Marionnettes, San Joaquin River Parkway and Randel McGee and Groark. They were all wonderful programs sponsored by our local Kiwanis, Seniors, Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the Library. Thank you so much for all your support and thanks to all the kids and parents who participated! You make it all worthwhile.

The winner of our Mystery Writing Contest is Allyson Wingert for her mystery entitled, “The Case of the Disappearing Sapphire.” Look for it in this issue of the Ranchos Independent. Good job, Allyson!

More thank you’s ... a special thank you to Don DeBey of A-1 Copier Service who cleaned and repaired our typewriters free of charge. It’s wonderful to have skilled members of the community who fill a need that often goes unmet due to budget constraints. The Ranchos is fortunate to have such dedicated and willing people like Don and many others who aren’t always recognized.

I hope everyone will attend our Community Picnic at Cobb Ranch on Sept. 2. The end-of-the-summer event will have music, bounce houses, water slides, old fashioned tug-o-war contests and egg tosses, local business booths and excellent food. The Ranchos Library and the Friends will have a booth with library card applications, information about the new library and a free drawing for a prize basket. Anyone who needs a replacement library card can stop by the booth and pickup a special coupon that will allow them to get a new card for free instead of the normal fee of \$2. How’s that for an incentive?

### New Library Planning Committee Update

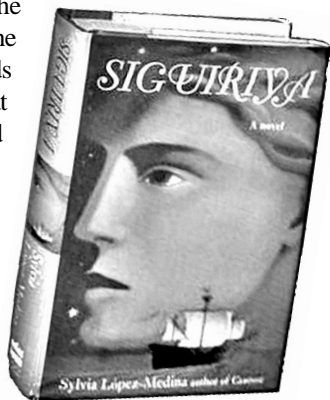
The NLP Committee will be selling T-shirts as a fund-raiser for the new library. We hope to see the whole town wearing them as a sign of support. Stop by the library and pick one up.

The Town Hall Meeting at the Senior Center regarding the possibility of building a community center that could include a library, park, pool and more was very informative. We need to discuss this idea with our friends and neighbors in the community. We will need a strong consensus for this idea to take shape. Don’t grumble – speak up! And more importantly, listen to all the issues before you make up your mind.

Reminders: Bring your children to Monday Story Time at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. The Friends of the Library meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The New Library Planning Committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

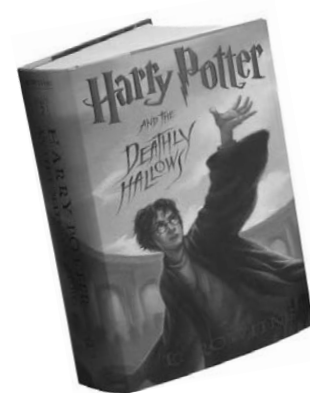
### Book Recommendations

**Adult Fiction:** *Sigüiriya* by Sylvia Lopez-Medina. This is a really interesting novel about a family in Spain during the Spanish Inquisition of the late 1400’s. It begins on the coast of Spain with a wealthy Moor who returns from war to find his castle and grounds in disarray. He falls in love with the daughter of his neighbor who is a Sephardic Jew. Although the Moor is a devout Muslim, they raise their children in the Jewish faith. They form strong friendship and business bonds with the Catholics of the community but in the end, even that will not protect them from the wrath of the church and monarchy that are bent on expelling all Jews from Spain. The tension builds as the family struggles to survive the inevitable and remain true to their faith. The Spanish Inquisition is not a common epoch for novelists to use as a back drop to their story. That’s what caught my attention in the beginning and throughout the book. There have been other books about religious and ethnic persecutions, but this family’s tragedies and successes accentuate a particularly evil time in the history of Spain and the Catholic Church. My only criticism is that the author could have



included more historical facts to add depth and real drama with which to embellish an otherwise good story.

**Juvenile Fiction:** *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling. What more can I say than that Joan Rowling has done it again – written a spell-binding (excuse the pun) completion to Harry Potter. As a big fan of Harry and his friends, I loved the way Rowling tied up a lot of loose ends by explaining things from past books that weren’t yet revealed. The Snape question of whether he was good or evil in particular made sense at last as well as relationships between characters that I had always wondered about. Keeping track of which was a horcrux or a hallow was a bit tricky and I wondered if children (or anyone else) had trouble with that as well. The epilogue describing the characters 19 years later sending their children

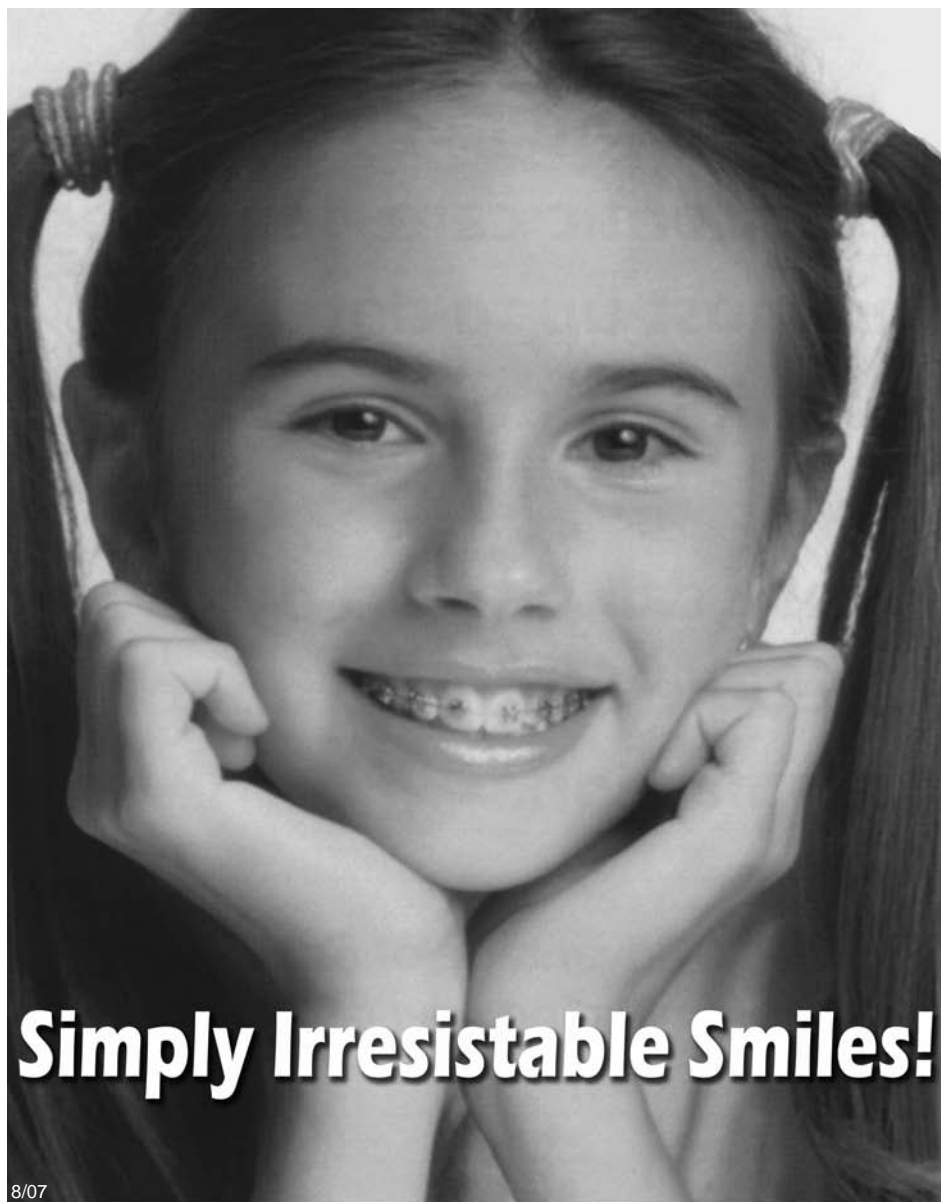


off to Hogwart’s was an especially nice touch. Overall I think it was the most enjoyable read of the summer.

**Juvenile Non-fiction:** *Neighborhood Odes* by Gary Soto and illustrated by David Diaz. Twenty-one poems grace this slim volume of wonderful childhood memories brought to life in the masterful language of Gary Soto. My favorite is entitled “Ode to the Sprinkler,” in which he describes himself running through the sprinkler “como un chango,” like a monkey, “the helicopter of water slicing our legs.” Such great visualization is what makes Gary Soto a highly acclaimed writer and cultural icon. The illustrations are interesting in that they look like wood block carvings in black and white. This lovely book of poems would be especially good to read aloud and perhaps have children draw pictures of the images they see when they listen to the words.



Check out these books and more at the library and remember your library card: Don’t leave home without it!



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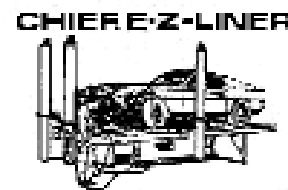
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# Wouldn't you rather deal with your neighbors than with strangers?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce knows that the Madera Ranchos is a great place to live, but what truly makes it such a special place are the people here who call it home. Many of those people - your neighbors - are business owners here as well. Business is the backbone of a growing community and these are the people and businesses that are helping to make our community thrive.

## When you need to do business, consider your neighbors first!

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| AAA  | Floral Affair                                 | Nicole Lerno                          |
| Act Construction                                     | Fred & Polly Mathes                           | North Fork Rancheria                  |
| Ajlouny & Tantoco, LLC                               | Friends of the Library                        | One Stop Shop Home Loan               |
| Alliance for Affordable Services                     | Gauss Ranches                                 | Parents United                        |
| ANK Quality Exteriors, Inc.                          | Golden Travel of Madera                       | P&E                                   |
| Assemblyman Mike Villines                            | Golden Valley Unified                         | Pistoresi Ambulance                   |
| Avenue 12 Auto Sales                                 | Greenleaf Orchards, LTD.                      | Primary Care Consultants              |
| Baker, Manock & Jensen                               | Guild Mortgage                                | Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group |
| Better Business Bureau                               | Gunner Ranch                                  | Purl's Sheet Metal                    |
| Bill Whyman  | Gus & Company                                 | R.H. New Insurance Services           |
| Birdstone Winery                                     | Harold Grant                                  | Ranchos Auto Repair                   |
| Bricker Construction                                 | Hurst Hardware                                | Ranchos Dental Care                   |
| C M & N Nursery                                      | Jan DeWoody                                   | Ranchos Hills Seniors                 |
| California Association of Independent Business, Inc. | Jaxon Enterprises                             | Ranchos Independent                   |
| Captain Kirk's Wireless                              | Jerry Eddings Realtors                        | Ranchos Mini Mart                     |
| Castle & Cooke                                       | Jim & Debbie Farr                             | Ranchos Mortgage                      |
| Central Valley Community Bank                        | Jim Miller                                    | Ranchos Pizza Factory                 |
| Central Valley Wireless                              | Jo Raviscioni                                 | Rio Del Sol Madera                    |
| Childrens Hospital Central California                | Karz for Kidz                                 | S&J Ranch                             |
| Chuck Hoover   | Kellner & Sons                                | Sam's Club                            |
| Chuck & Sherry Rovenstine                            | Kent & Ollia Ridge                            | Sharry Rivas                          |
| Classic Painting                                     | Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos                   | Shaun Schaefer                        |
| Cobb Christmas Tree Farm                             | Knight & Day Computer                         | Silva's Auto Body                     |
| Creative Catering                                    | Laura LaPorta                                 | Sol Development Associates            |
| Cronin Marine  | Legal Assistant Services                      | Steeltile                             |
| Curves for Women                                     | Lynn Sanderson Photography                    | Steve Krueger                         |
| Danel Roofing  | M & D trucking                                | Stuart Concrete                       |
| Dave Bruno Electric                                  | Madera Center SCCD                            | Subway Sandwiches                     |
| Delk Pest Control                                    | Madera County Economic Development Department | Sunbelt Rentals                       |
| Delk's Quality Exteriors                             | Madera County Office of Social Services       | The Real Estate Network               |
| Diane Tucker-Notary                                  | Margaret Thomas, CPA                          | Tina Ratto                            |
| Dobra Sela Properties                                | Mary Kay - Angelina Rodriguez                 | Touch of Class Limousine              |
| Dog Gone Cute Store                                  | Master Dave Johnson                           | TP& Consulting                        |
| Elaine's Animal Inn                                  | Math Crazy                                    | Valley Propane, Inc.                  |
| Engine 19 Volunteers                                 | McDonalds Crop Insurance                      | Valley Yellow Pages                   |
| Exterior Designers                                   | MPS, Inc.                                     | Virginia Vick                         |
| Fernwood Nursery                                     | Mr. Fixit A/C & Heating                       | World Leadership Group                |
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tion. As the plans were presented, the project would sit atop two 2.25 acre lots on the northeast corner of Road 36 and Avenue 15. The proposal contains seven buildings: five marked "commercial/retail" ranging in size from 3,159 square feet to 12,248 square feet; one marked "multi-purpose" measuring at 5,996 square feet; and one marked "mini-mart/gas station" measuring at 3,542 square feet.

For those seven buildings, Triple J presented 12 options for their use as well as a write-in area for other suggestions. The 12 uses Triple J suggested were:

- Gas/Diesel Station
- Office space
- Convenience Store
- Coffee Shop
- Fast Food
- Retail Shops
- Ice Cream Parlor
- Oil Change
- Automotive Repair
- Restaurant
- Community Building
- Farmers Market

Triple J had over 400 people respond to their questionnaire. The number one concern expressed by those opposing the project was a concern that a commercial operation would change the country "feel" of the Ranchos, but Nancy Jordan says that's not what they're wanting to do.

"We are locals - we live in the Ranchos," she stressed. "We figured the community would rather have a local developer develop the property, as opposed to someone who lives in San Francisco or L.A."

The returned questionnaires fell into two categories: 1. People who circled what

*The number one concern expressed by those opposing the project was a concern that a commercial operation would change the country "feel" of the Ranchos.*

or did not want to see in the Ranchos; and 2. People who wrote comments telling specifically how they felt. Of the 405 respondents,

152 expressed their views in writing. Of those 152, three people said they were neutral and didn't care either way. Fourteen wrote that they hadn't ruled out being either for or against the project, but rather that they had questions and concerns they wanted answered first. Forty-one wrote "no" in no uncertain terms. They didn't want anything of this nature anywhere in the area of Road 36 and Avenue 12. Finally, the largest group of the 152 who wrote back expressing a preference said that all 94 of them liked one aspect or another of the project.

The number one thing that respondents wrote in was a preference for a major market or grocery store, followed closely by a pharmacy. After that, having a Starbucks tied with having a bank as what was most desired for the Ranchos. The top choices rounded out with a post office tied with an activities center offering skateboarding, martial arts, basketball and other activities.

"We are not wanting to attract customers that would not normally travel in this area," Jordan said, rather she says they want to address what residents out here are asking for.

On the other side of the coin, residents who feel strongly about not developing this corner parcel have formed the Committee Against Avenue 15 Rezone. Headed by Roberta Buttles and her husband Jerry, their concerns are basic:

1. Increased traffic.
2. Increased noise.
3. Topography of the lots (primarily because of water flow in rainy years).
4. Commercial lots available elsewhere.
5. Crime.

At this stage of the game, the land in

question is not zoned for what Triple J wants to do. They will have to go before the Planning Commission and convince them that the area is better served with a commercial zoning than a residential one and then, if they are successful, convince the Board of Supervisors of the same.

As stated in a letter from the Committee Against Avenue 12 Rezone to Ray Beach, Director of the Resource Management Agency for Madera County, they are stressing that all of the lots in the area of Road 36 and Avenue 12 are zoned residential and need to stay residential. Their opposition strategy is simple - if the property isn't zoned for what Triple J wants to do, the battle is over.

But county governments are looking at things differently now than when the Ranchos were created 40 years ago. In a conversation with Ray Beach he said that the concept of small commercial zones near residential areas make good sense. He pointed out that they reduce pollution by giving the example of someone in the Bonadelle area who realizes he or she needs a gallon of milk and a loaf of bread won't have to drive into the Ranchos anymore, or worse, all the way into Fresno or Madera. He also said that properly created areas can become focal points for communities and can bring neighbors together. A few comments from the questionnaire support this view:

"I think it's a good idea so we can save money on gas and go shopping over here."

"How about an equestrian center? A community center where horse lovers of all ages can socialize and utilize it for events."

Of course the opposition to the project offers up comments of their own:

"We did not move out to a rural area to be next to convenience stores. Avenue 12 is 5 to

10 minutes away. We do not need more congestion or water usage in our area. This belongs on Avenue 12."

"Please do not degrade our neigh-

borhood with gas stations and automotive repairs. Keep it upscale. We can go to Madera or Fresno for repairs. We don't need any more corners to look like Highway 145 and Tozier Road!"

On the survey itself, respondents were asked to rate each of the different business suggestions from 1 to 5 with 5 meaning "love the idea" and 1 meaning "hate it!" The results proved interesting.

Twenty more people loved the idea of having a gas station than hated it (148/128) and 19 more thought the same about a convenience store (139/120). Fast food was the hands down winner, however, at more than 4 to 1 (134/28). An ice cream shop was a dead heat (104/106) but an automotive repair shop was a 3 to 1 loser (52/189). A community building got more noes than yeses (97/122) and office space really took a beating (48/168). A Starbucks-style coffee shop was a hit (152/79) but other retail shops were pretty even (108/101). An oil change facility was a no-go (74/164) as was a restaurant (63/102), but the single biggest vote getter? Would you believe a Farmer's Market (195/65).

Remember that there were also people who voted 4 "I like that," 3 "It's OK either way," and 2 "I don't really care for that." When all the numbers for the survey were totalled, there were only 60 more people who rated everything "3 or higher" compared to those who rated everything "3 or lower," meaning that you just can't please all of the people all of the time.

The battle lines for this project are being drawn and if Castle & Cooke is any indication of how long it can take to get a green light for a project in the Ranchos, then the process is just beginning for Triple J and the Committee Against Avenue 15 Rezone.

## New Marquee Greets Webster Kids

By Linda Bresee

On Thursday, Aug. 16, the students, teachers and staff of Webster school were welcomed back to their newly remodeled facility. There to greet them was a brand new marquee that was donated by the Webster Parent Teacher Club as part of the new modernization.

A big thank you goes out to the wonderful students of Webster for helping to make this marquee possible. Welcome back principal Hatch, vice principal Hammack, students, teachers and staff.



The Webster Parent Teacher Club made sure everyone would get the message with a new marquee.

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**SAM cont. from P. 4**

get our local children's park and playground funded with County money! Wow! It's starting to look like this little park project may actually really happen! Stay tuned ...

In addition, if you haven't noticed, the county recently went in and rebuilt Avenue 13 right here in the Ranchos. This was a badly needed repair. It also appears that there will be other road projects undertaken, both new road construction and repair and maintenance of existing roads. Much

of this work is the result of the passage of "Measure T" during the last election. Measure T was the extension of the 1/2 cent sales tax to go to county road improvements.

In addition to Ray Beach's recent confirmation as RMA Director, the county has also hired a new Road Commissioner, Johannes Horvertz, and a new County Engineer, Greg Farley. It was Greg Farley who recently represented the County at the meetings with the Rolling Hills Citizen's Association at which the Rolling Hills water supply enhancement program was finalized. This was another long overdue project that had been bogged down for months.

I don't know if you noticed, but the County and CalTrans have recently announced plans to start the reconstruction of the Avenue 12 and Highway 99 interchange! Yes, the effort is actually underway. Fortunately, the County has their new Road Commissioner on board to make sure the County deploys its resources effectively. This project is a direct result of the passage of Measure T and has attracted significant "matching funds" from the State of California to pay for the renovation and upgrade.

What is happening in Madera County? I am pleased that we are seeing positive progress being made on several fronts. Let's hope that we see more of the same in the near future. Let's also give a hearty "Thanks" to Stell Manfredi, Ray Beach, Greg Farley and Johannes Horvertz for jobs well-done.

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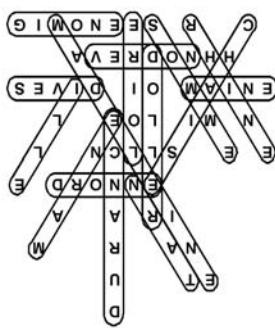
**Puzzle Answers**

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**SUDOKU**

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

**MAGIC MAZE**



**The Case Of The Disappearing Sapphire**



**By: Allyson Samantha Wingert**  
**Age 9**

One fine Wednesday old and crippled Mrs. Katerina M. Bloomfield went out for a stroll through Central Park in New York City with her cat, Sapphire. Sapphire was an orange Tabby cat who was about 4 months old and she was extremely energetic. She loved Central Park because she had other cats of whom she played with whenever she was there. Her favorite cat was Timothy. They were best friends. She also loved to dodge from the dogs that would chase her. One day when she was dodging from a dog, Sapphire stepped on a big, circular orange button which activated a piece of heavy-duty, scientific equipment that was left on the sidewalk. Sapphire disappeared into thin air as soon as the button had been tripped.

When Mrs. Bloomfield saw that she had vanished she went all bazzurk. She contacted the police right away. When she reported that her cat had disappeared the police man started cracking up. The police man said, "I'll send out our finest detectives. Good luck Looney Bird." When she hung up she was steaming red hot. She was so red she thought she was going to explode. Then the police actually sent detectives. But they were kid detectives. They all greeted old Mrs. Bloomfield with heartwarming smiles. The first detective said, "Hello. Are you Mrs. Bloomfield? I'm Hermione Jane Dyne. These are Rodrik Frank Stane and Franny Kaitlynn Krust. They're my detective helpers." The old, crabby lady was astonished and waiting to crack up. "This is a joke right? You guys really aren't detectives." Actually we are Level 1 detectives. Level 1 is the highest level there is." Mrs. Bloomfield thought that these kids could actually help her. So she decided to give the young kids a chance.

The kids then started asking her questions about what she had seen and were trying to jot every word down on their notebooks as possible. Then she brought how the equipment was scientific Franny said after she was getting all her notes they should visit the Association of Scientific Equipment. They went by the association and the scientists said they think they left a piece of equipment called the Inviso-ray that had a large circular orange button that makes the object that touches it turn invisible. They asked where is sends that object to and the scientists didn't know where the objects were transported to.

Then they went looking all over the city to look for Sapphire. Finally they went back to Mrs. Bloomfield's house at 4:45p.m. Her husband got home at 5:10 p.m. Mrs. Bloomfield baked cookies for the kids and her husband. Mrs. B. clued in Mr. B. about the day she had had. They had a long day the next day was so much better than the first. The moms and dads of Hermione, Rodrik, and Franny called to make sure each of them was okay. They were relieved to see that the kids were helping others with their

unusual problems. The kids had a great breakfast at Mrs. Bloomfield's. The kid's didn't even go hungry for 5 hours! They got to work right as soon as Mrs. Bloomfield stopped crying because she missed Sapphire so much. The next day wasn't even as horrible as the first. Mrs. Bloomfield was so relieved that they had gone to association again today. The association said, "We are on your cat's trail Mrs. Bloomfield. We should have her tracked down in no time." "Sir, we got her." "Where is she then?" "Uhhh.....She's at your own house. Mrs. Bloomfield did you by any chance hear a MREEEOOOOWWWW besides in your own noggin?" "Yes I did now that you mention it. I heard it coming from the master bathroom. Maybe we should go back and check it out." Sure enough they went back home and Sapphire was in the bathroom. Mrs. Bloomfield was so joyful she had been reunited with her favorite kitty. That was very tragic 2days this week for Mrs. Bloomfield.

**The winner of the Ranchos Library "Get a Clue @ Your Library" Mystery Writing Contest is Allyson Wingert. This is her winning entry, "The Case of the Disappearing Sapphire."**



# Information Night to be Offered For All U.S. Military Academies

## Event for High School Students Seeking a Nomination

Congressman Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, along with Congressman George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, will sponsor "Academy Information Night" on Sept. 18 to familiarize high school juniors and seniors, their parents and high school guidance counselors with educational and career opportunities available at the U.S. military service academies. This informative seminar is an opportunity for all high school students within the 18th and 19th Congressional Districts to discuss the requirements and procedures for seeking a nomination to the academies.

Representatives from the U.S. Air Force Academy – Colorado Springs; the U.S. Military Academy – West Point; the U.S. Naval Academy – Annapolis; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be available to answer questions of persons attending this open house.

Members of the Congressmen's staff will also be available for consultation and

will provide service catalogs, application kits and other descriptive materials. There will also be a PowerPoint presentation and a video presentation.

Each member of Congress is allowed a total of five appointees in each service academy. For each vacancy, Congressman Cardoza can nominate ten individuals. If you are interested in applying you may download a copy of the application at [www.house.gov/cardoza](http://www.house.gov/cardoza).

Academy Information Night will be held Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harvest Hall located at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto. All interested parties are invited to attend.

*For more information on the application process or to reserve a spot for the information session please contact Lisa Mantarro Moore with Rep. Cardoza's office at (209) 527-1914 or by email at [Lisa.Mantarro@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lisa.Mantarro@mail.house.gov).*

# Sheriff's Operation Lost & Found Finds "Wanderer" in Record Time

No sooner had Madera County Sheriff John Anderson received a sizable donation from the Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club than a 911 call came in to dispatch reporting that Operation Lost & Found client number #53 was missing.

The call came in at 3:12 p.m. and by 3:31 p.m. client #53 was found and returned safely to the arms of his loving family.

"It's fortuitous that we should be honored by Rotary and within just hours after that meeting find ourselves showing this organization and all of Madera County why 'Operation Lost & Found' is so very critical," Anderson said.

Search & Rescue Volunteer George Stillman was on hand at the Rotary meeting that morning demonstrating how the system works. It was his client, #53, who turned up missing. Dispatch contacted Stillman within seconds of receiving the missing persons call. The details of the search cannot be released for medical pri-

vacy reasons, but client #53 was found and returned home within 20 minutes.

The Madera County Sheriff's Department monitors a list of nearly 60 clients suffering from everything from Dementia to Alzheimer's and even Autism.

"In order to help our clients they must first find us," Anderson said, because medical privacy laws don't allow the Sheriff's Department to know who is in need of the program. It's for that reason that Anderson and other members of the Madera County Sheriff's Department routinely give presentations to community organizations to get the word out that there is help and hope for families caring for someone who is prone to wander.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Operation Lost & Found and its tracking system can either call Sergeant Jim Bernardi at 559-642-3201 or Public Information Officer Erica Stuart at 559-675-7976.

# Group Halts Prison Construction

## Anti-Prison Lobby Files Suit, Seeks Early Release of Criminals

Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto), Vice Chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee, released the following statement in response to the announcement by Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety (TIPS) of a lawsuit to prevent the issuance of lease revenue bonds to construct new prisons and jails, pursuant to Assembly Bill 900:

"California is still facing a serious prison overcrowding crisis and preventing the construction of new prisons and jails will not remedy the situation. This is just another example of the lengths certain extremists groups will take to make sure we do not put criminals in jails, where they belong.

"Additionally, this runs parallel to the recent announcement that three of California's most liberal federal judges plan to create a panel tasked with setting a population cap for California's prison system. This panel has the power to require

the early release of thousands of prisoners, thousands of convicted criminals, thousands of people who broke the law and ought to receive their just deserts. Given the liberal credentials of these judges, one can expect the outcome of this panel would be the release of more than 35,000 prisoners. By enjoining the sale of the bonds that would finance the construction of additional prison and jail beds, the courts would essentially guarantee the panel's direction.

"If we do not construct new beds for prisoners and this 3-judge panel is allowed to order the early release of tens of thousands of prisoners, what message are we sending the people of California? How can we ensure the safety of all California residents if we are not able to deal with our criminals appropriately? If the early release of prisoners results in the harm of one single person, these anti-public safety groups and individuals must bear the responsibility."

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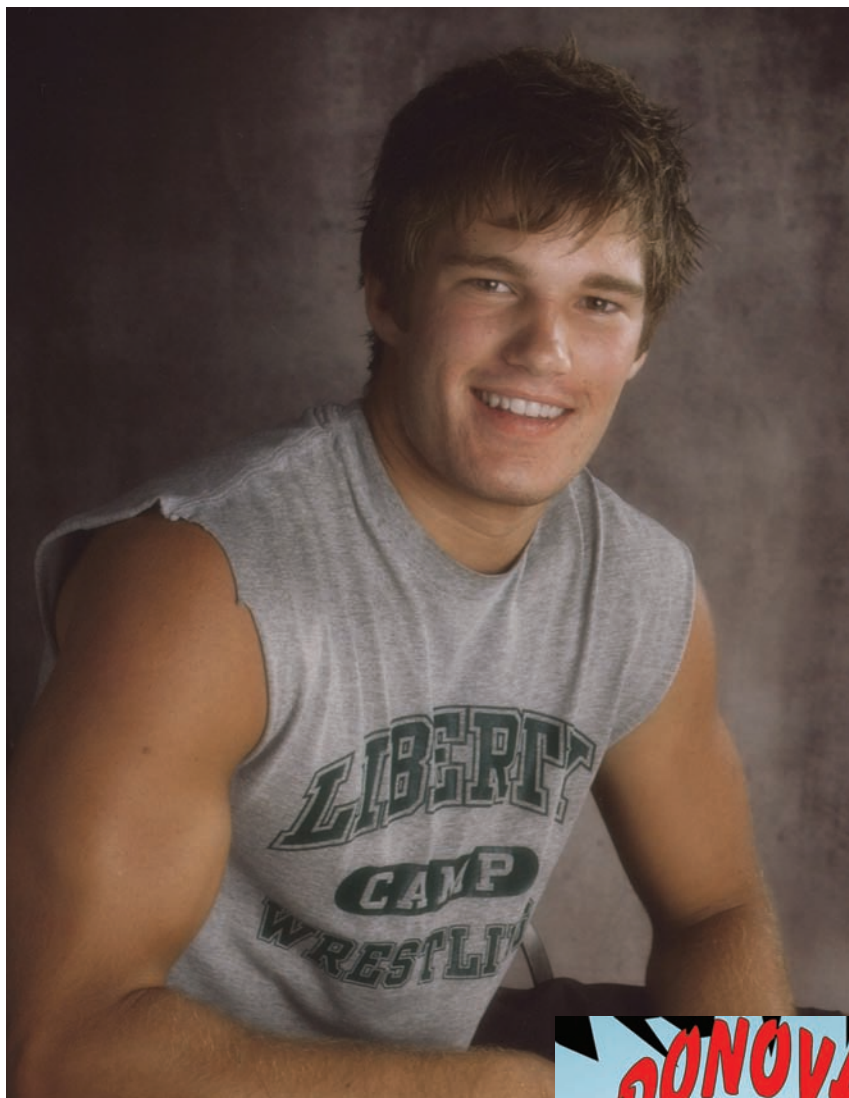
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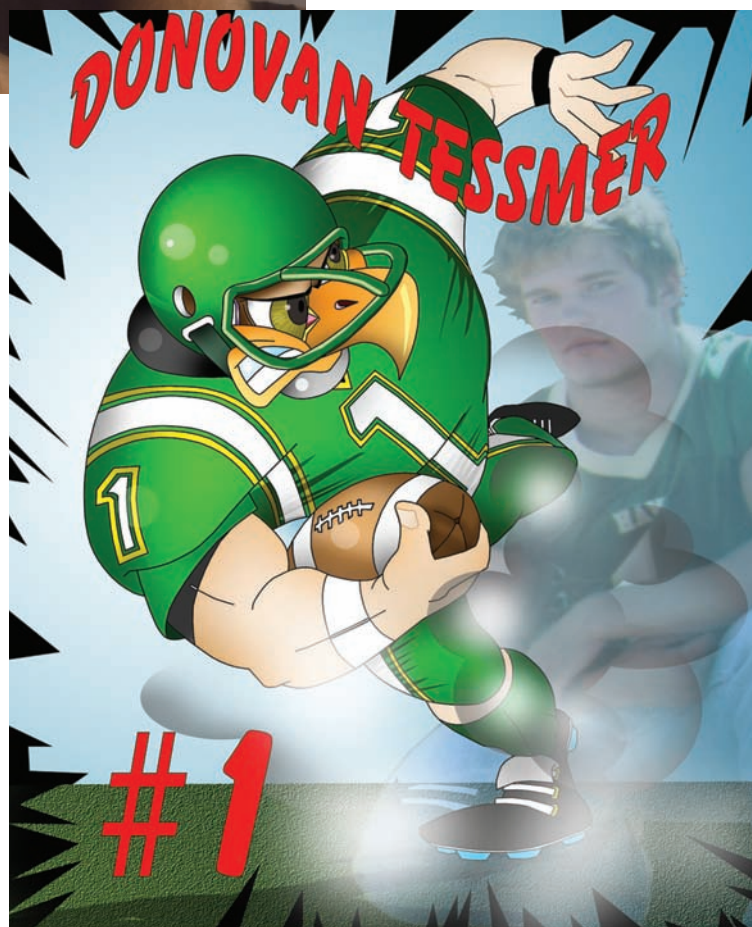




**A** single moment has changed our lives forever. The death of our precious Donovan certainly is the most devastating change; however, the events that have followed over the last six weeks have permanently touched our hearts as well. The outpouring of love started on the first day and has continued since then. This community has shown such honor to Donovan and our family through the public events as well as the private home visits. Each contact with the community left us feeling even more secure within the support net that surrounds our lives. We thank all of you for the support that came in the form of food, prayer, flowers, gifts, contributions or hugs – each one has been a blessing during this time. That same single moment in which we suffered a loss, we also gained a greater awareness of this community's ability to “love thy neighbor.”

*With love from the Tessler Family*

**We Cherish  
The Many  
Ways  
You Have  
Honored  
Donovan's  
Life**



**Thank You  
For All  
The  
Kindness  
And  
Support**

*So much done by so many, we thank you for:*

- the heroism shown by Dustin “Missouri” Simpson when he ignored his own painful injury to focus on getting emergency help for his friends thereby preventing further tragedy
- the thoughtfulness of Alex Rodriguez to send Donovan's soul off on a wing of prayer which started a prayer chain that still touches our lives
- the use of the high school to pay tribute to Donovan through a Memorial service and funeral reception
- the food donations by local businesses and Children's Hospital Central California which fed so many
- the food donations from the Flipside Church congregation and neighbors
- the Foundation's support in helping us create a scholarship fund in memory of Donovan and for collecting the numerous contributions from throughout the valley totaling up to thousands of dollars which will allow us to dedicate scholarships in his name for many years to come
- the bracelet campaign headed by Tyler Melvin and supported by many friends which has earned thousands of dollars toward Donovan's scholarship fund
- the community birthday party hosted by Alex Rodriguez and her family in which those of you who participated provided a generous gift toward Donovan's Memorial Garden
- the football coaches of Pop Warner and Liberty High School for choosing to honor a good play during games with a gold #1 for the player's helmet in order to salute Donovan's love of the game
- the LHS students who remembered their friend through a Blood Drive on August 27 and by planning on having #1 symbols added to their shirts or jerseys throughout this school year
- California Embroidery for the gift of the T-shirts and lettering to give to our family
- Tyler Takada who has donated numerous hours and photos to capture the life of Donovan
- Richard Lacy who is designing and will construct a Memorial Garden for Donovan in our backyard which will include gifts of plants from such groups as the Ranchos Kiwanis Club

*There are more to list than space allows so please just know that each and every act is special to us.*







**22nd Annual FIRE BBQ**  
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**THANK YOU!**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MADERA RANCHOS FOR SUPPORTING FIRE STATION 19. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**

8/07

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8/07



*Taryn Denise Smith  
 Jeremy Phillip Waddell*

The parents of Taryn Smith are happy to announce her engagement to Jeremy Waddell. The couple will be married on June 7, 2008 at Sunnyside Country Club in Fresno.

The future bride is the daughter of Ken and Julie Smith of Madera Ranchos. She is a graduate of Sierra High School and is attending Fresno State University as an English major. She is employed by Clovis Unified School District.

The future groom is the son of Phil and Donna Waddell of Friant. He is also a graduate of Sierra High School and is attending Fresno State University as a business management major. He is employed with David Barrios Designs.

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**SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

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9			2					7
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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**Our Heartfelt Thanks**

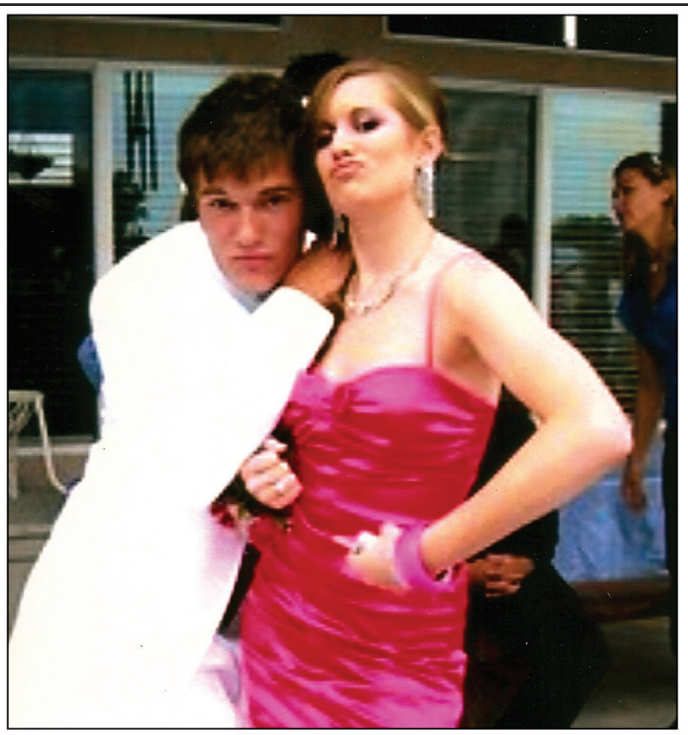
*This is written on what would have been Donovan's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday (7-31-07) and there is much sadness and grief that overwhelms our family and the surrounding community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Madera Ranchos Community for their support and comfort through this most difficult time. There have been so many people who have prayed for all the families involved and we would like to sincerely express our gratitude for the prayers and comfort that has been sent our way. We care and love very much the people who are immediately involved.*

*Duane, Martha and Megan are remarkable people and the graciousness that they have shown our family has been beyond belief. Their actions have shown their steadfastness in their faith and each one of them projects the character that all of us strive to attain. We are forever indebted to them for their spirit of true compassion and empathy to which they have exhibited to us and all involved. We continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as we continue to grieve the loss of their very special and talented son, Donovan.*

*As of this writing, we have been informed that Gavin is continually improving and we are so very very thankful for this progress. We know that the recovery will be long and difficult and, again, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with him and his family.*

*Pat, Maria and Kristin have also demonstrated their true characters through their faith and through the compassion they have shown our family. We are deeply grateful.*

*Alex and Missouri have shown their true strength in all of this and we are thankful for their stamina in dealing with this unfortunate accident. Our hearts and prayers go out to them and their families with the hope that they will soon heal from this ordeal and continue to live productive lives.*



*It is unfortunate that some people, more specifically, the article in the Rancho News, chose to make assumptions concerning the accident instead of reporting the facts, even though most people knew the identities of the parties involved.*

*However, as we continue to deal and cope with the tragedy we have been dealt, we do want to give our heartfelt thanks overall to the community of Madera Ranchos for their loving support.*

THE LACY FAMILY

**Rest in Peace Donovan- You will always be in our hearts!**

8/07

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# Back to School Special

- 8/26 English: How you and God talk to each other
- 9/2 Home Ec: A healthy home
- 9/9 History: Remember...
- 9/16 P. E.: Taking care of yourself
- 9/23 Math: What to add; what to subtract
- 9/30 Lunch: Friends Forever

High School Youth Group Wednesdays  
 Jr. High Youth Group Tuesdays  
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Good News Club 2:45-4pm  
 @ both elementary schools begins Sept. 17



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8/07



**ROADS** cont. from P. 1

like federally and state protected species and habitat.

*What measures can be taken to enhance local circulation infrastructure to a brighter economic role for the future?*

- Designate for immediate development a new Highway 65 (Foothill Highway) connecting the cities of Clovis and Fresno with the new UC Campus and the northern section of Freeway 99.

- Initiate a series of plan amendments to designate a series of circulation upgrades on several of the Counties General Plans.

- Modify the region's road impact fees to fund the proposed changes.

- Seek state and alternate local funding to pay for needed regional improvements.

- Seek regional commitments both in support and funding for tile new infrastructure.

*What benefits can be anticipated with the advent of the proposed improvements?*

- Congestion on 99 can be reduced with the construction of a new Highway 65.

- City of Clovis and eastern Fresno County will have a more

direct route to the northern 99 area and by extending Highway 152 it will allow increased goods movement into the Bay Area from the City of Clovis and Fresno.

- The upgrading of local roads paralleling Highway 41 will reduce traffic on 41 as well as allow for new focused development within the eastern areas of Madera County.

- Construction of a new Highway 65 alignment will facilitate the potential for new higher paying employment centers near Chowchilla and adjacent to Highway 41's intersection with Highway 145.

*What other options should be considered for preservation of new transportation corridors?*

- Option to extend Highway 152 further east into the Sierra.

- Option to connect Highway 180 to Interstate 5.

- Option to extend Highway 145 east to Highway 168 in Fresno County.

- Upgrade and enhance Highway 145 south from the Fresno River to Kerman.

- Preserve parallel east-west corridors throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

- Begin planning for a fourth north-south corridor serving the entire Central Valley for a 100 year planning horizon.

**BBQ** cont. from P. 1

held at Cobb's Ranch. "We thank Jim Cobb very much," Hoover said. "There were a few bugs in the system, but for a first time at this location, it went great." Hoover also noted that changing a venue can cause attendance to dip, but having the event at Cobb's Ranch increased attendance. "I think we have the potential to grow even bigger next year."

It was the first time for having a dessert sale. "The dessert sale was a big hit," Hoover said. Donated cakes and pies and other forms of dessert were



Orlando Vigil, the Number 2 man at Rolling Hills Station 9, shows off the new thermal imaging camera purchased by funds raised at the Station 19 Fire-B-Q.

tender and a super high-intensity light system that can turn the black of night into the light of day. Other pieces of equipment have been bought for Station 19 over the years, but this year the goal was to give rather than receive. "We wanted to give our sister station, Rolling Hills Station 9, a thermal imaging camera," Hoover said.

The thermal imaging camera, or TIC, is used to "see" through a smoke choked room to find either people who can't be seen with the naked eye, or to possibly find the source of a fire. The TICs cost approximately \$9,000 and the event generated plenty to cover its cost.

In addition to raising money and honoring Rancho firefighters in general, Chuck Hoover was singled out by Madera County Battalion Chief Lisa Anderson for his more than 30 years of volunteer service. In addition, volunteer firefighter Bill Morrison received a plaque for being Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. He and his wife Thelma were honored for their service, dedication and support of Station 19.

Rancho volunteer firefighters are **C h u c k Hoover, Jack Shannon, Orlando Vigil, Anthony La Notte, Peter Flores, Mark Kellner, Marc Koontz, Ray Freeman, Bill Morrison, Anthony**

**Myers, Ken Badger, Nick Sciaqua, Dennis Barrett, Jay Ford, John Glueck, Dawn Davies, John Davies, Kal Orcutt, Julie Adams and Jim Farr.**

offered up for sale at the beginning of the night and people eagerly snapped them up. Then, after dinner, the desserts were shared with the other people at each table.

"We also want to thank Gavin's parents," Hoover said referring to Pat and Maria Knobloch's kind words for the Station 19 firefighters. After the devastating accident in which Gavin was involved on July 8, the Knoblochs publicly thanked the volunteers of Station 19 for saving the life of their son and the other teenagers involved in the accident.

"We really appreciate hearing from the family," Hoover said. "It's not often we get that."

The purpose of the annual event is to raise sorely needed funds for firefighting equipment for the Rancho's volunteer staff. Past Fire-B-Q dinners have led to the purchase of four squad trucks, a water



The thermal imaging camera, or TIC, allows firefighters to see through a smoke-filled room to find people or to pinpoint the source of a fire. A real lifesaver.


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**Gardening Tips**

**Goodbye Heat - Hello Growth**

After Summer Comes a Flush of Garden Growth  
 Get Ready with Your September Garden Tips

By *Thea Fiskin*

Now that the record breaking heat is over, our plants should start to recover and push out another flush of growth. Early autumn is a great time to perk up your fescue lawn, plant a winter vegetable garden, divide perennials, and make room for spring bulbs. Perennials and shrubs planted now will grow roots before winter comes and be ready to take off next spring.

**Garden Chores**

**Lawns:** Many fescue lawns are looking pretty sad; to bring them back to health, here is what you need to do. First aerate (aerify) to alleviate compaction and enhance water penetration; aerators can be rented by the day. Afterward apply a complete lawn fertilizer and a preemergence herbicide to prevent annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and other winter weed seeds from popping up, then water deeply. If your lawn has dead spots, rake away the dead grass, work in some organic matter, firm the soil, scatter seed, firm again, and cover lightly with a humus topper. Remember anywhere you used a preemergence herbicide; the grass seeds will not come up. Water several times a day to keep the seedbed moist to get maximum germination.

**Water:** Check your irrigation timer and reduce watering as the weather cools. Deep water citrus, stone fruit and landscape trees.

**Flowers:** After mid-month you can start planting your winter color like asters, calendula, chrysanthemums, Iceland poppies, ornamental kale, pansies, primroses, Shirley poppies and stock. Keep soil moist and use temporary shade if the heat refuses to go away. Plant seeds of alyssum, bachelor buttons, calendula, California poppy, forget-me-not and sweet peas. Be sure to soak sweet-pea seeds overnight before you plant.

Divide crowded perennials and spread them to some bare spots. Lift and loosen clumps then divide into sections, removing any old dead parts. Amend the soil with compost, then replant and water in well. This can be done to agapanthus, coreopsis, daylilies, Echinacea, phlox, society garlic, yarrow and most other herbaceous perennials.

**Vegetables:** It's time to change the vegetable garden to cool season veggies, but don't pull out summer veggies too soon. If we have mild weather, you may still have fresh tomatoes for Thanksgiving. It's time to plant garlic. Break bulbs into individual cloves then plant each clove with the pointed end up, space about 4 to 6 inches apart and about 2 inches deep.

Seed beets, carrots, lettuces, radishes, snow peas and spinach. Set out seedlings

of artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and strawberries. Garden greens just like tomatoes always taste better when they are home grown.

**Herbs:** Catnip, chamomile, cilantro, dill, Echinacea, fennel, oregano, marjoram, parsley, rosemary and thyme can be planted now. Sorry, no basil at this time; it needs heat.

**Bulbs:** Look for firm healthy bulbs in the nurseries. Buy quality bulbs. Usually larger bulbs mean larger flowers. Don't be in a hurry to plant, they need cool soil. Store them in a cool, dark place until planting time in November. Remember crocus, hyacinths and tulips require at least eight weeks of "precooling" to bloom well. I put mine in the vegetable crisper of the refrigerator in a paper (not plastic) bag. Be sure to keep bulbs separated from fruit in the refrigerator. Most fruits (especially bananas, apples, and tomatoes) release ethylene gas as they ripen and this prevents bulbs from blooming.

**Critter Control:** Clean up all debris around trees like fallen fruits and nuts. Remove any fruit mummies from trees to reduce the source and possible infection of pests and diseases in the future. Whiteflies will soon be causing problems again. Blast the little critters with water to knock the population down. They won't disappear until our first frost.

Protect broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale from white cabbage butterflies that lay their eggs on seedling plants. These eggs hatch into caterpillars and start eating holes in leaves. Bigger plants can easily sustain a few holes but seedlings can be eaten alive. Try row covers, hand picking or spraying with *Bt*, also known as caterpillar killer.

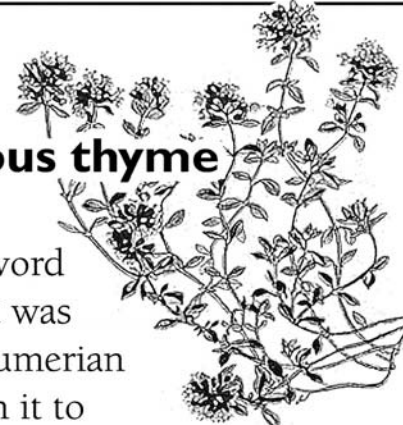
Lastly, when it comes to choosing your fall color this year, try to think outside the box! This is the time that nurseries and garden centers offer a good selection. Besides winter annuals there are many wonderful perennials, shrubs, trees and vines that are adapted to our Mediterranean climate that add a lot of color, texture, and interest to a garden. Get creative!

*Thea Fiskin is a UC Master Gardener with Tulare/Kings County. Master Gardeners are members of communities who are trained by UC Cooperative Extension experts in different aspects of plant science and then volunteer to extend that information to their community. The mission of the Master Gardener program is to provide research-based information for gardening practices and technologies of home horticulture, integrated pest management and environmental resource conservation.*

**The Garden Bug**

**Tenacious thyme**

Its name comes from the Greek word *thymon*, meaning "courage." It was used as an antiseptic by the Sumerian armies. The Romans bathed in it to prepare for battle, and Scottish Highlanders drank a tea of it for the same purpose. During the Middle Ages, it was embroidered on tunics worn by knights.



# The Definition of Insanity

By Dave Johnson

Day in and day out via T.V., the Internet and face-to-face interaction with wonderful people, I hear about the ongoing frustrations regarding the crime rate, child behavior, gangs, lack of respect and integrity, school bullies, weight loss, weekly senseless shootings across our nation and about another real estate agent violently attacked. I developed the Nation's First "Realtor Safety Course" (www.SafeRealtors.com) after the last Central Valley realtor was viciously attacked and violently beaten. Out of approximately 4,000 Fresno/Madera realtors and six months of promoting this unique, custom tailored, hands-on, six-hour course, I only had approximately 150 Realtors successfully complete course.

Now, after restraining myself from screaming, I calmly ask my fellow concerned citizens what they are doing about these things that are the cause of great frustration - then I gently remind them about the Definition of Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. After this statement evokes a sense of enlightenment, I offer a wonderful solution: martial arts training for the whole family! After all, it's an absolute fact that martial arts training instills respect for oneself and others, integrity and confidence. There is also NO better way to safely get into shape. Great Shape! Not spending enough quality time with your children or spouse? Training together is not only the epitome of quality, it's productive.

Want to feel safer? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Prevention is the key. Prevention starts

with preparedness. Preparedness comes about by consistently practicing until the appropriate reaction is instant, subconsciously driven and delivered with confidence and lacking hesitation. Golden Valley Martial Arts offers an "Accelerated Black Belt Course" providing training in Mixed Martial Arts, Seieido, Taekwondo, Jujitsu, Multiple Opponent Defense, Weapon Disarms, Anti-Abduction and Bully-Proofing skills.

Worried about the rise in Gang activities? Gangs are comprised of kids who long for a sense of belonging, who need to know that they are valued. A good martial arts school creates and sustains a sense of community, support, friendship and mutual admiration among its members. It's "Back to School" time. Let's learn and demonstrate one important lesson: Change only comes by way of action.

See you in the Dojo.

September is "FREE TRAINING MONTH." Become a member by Sept. 1, 2007 or sooner and train tuition-free until Oct. 1, 2007.

Master Johnson is a world recognized security and self-defense expert specializing in executive protection, hand-to-hand, multiple opponents, and weapon disarms. He is listed in the "Who is Who" in Martial Arts and was named "Master Instructor of the Year" 1996 by the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He is the owner of Golden Valley Martial Arts, Tactical Training International, Dave Johnson Real Estate, and operates the World's only online self-defense and Black Belt training course at www.masterjohnson.com. He can be contacted at info@masterjohnson.com.

*I gently remind them about the Definition of Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.*

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**\$127M in Marijuana Plants Pulled From Madera County, Yosemite**

The Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) completed a four-day mission in and around Yosemite National Park on August 16 pulling a record number of plants out of Madera County.

Forty agents from CAMP, the California Department of Justice, the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team and members of the U.S. Forest Service pulled marijuana plants out of the following three locations in Madera County:

- Rock Creek - 3,356 plants picked.
- Slide Creek - 7,217 plants picked.
- Fish Creek - 2,400 plants picked.



Sunday, Aug. 12, CAMP launched its eradication mission targeting areas throughout the Sierra National Forest, including Kinsman Flat, Saginaw Creek, Minarets Rock Creek, Slide Creek and Fish Creek, all located above North Fork; Miami Motorcycle Trails located above Oakhurst; and Big Meadow, located in Yosemite National Park. Total number of plants eradicated so far this season is 42,419 with a total street dollar value of more than \$127 million. Of the 42,419 plants, 35,001 came from Madera County and 7,418 came from Yosemite National Park.

The plants were taken to an undisclosed location and buried.

**Golden Valley Martial Arts**

September is "FREE TRAINING MONTH" Call for details!



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## In Memoriam

### Randy Belt



1953 - 2007

Longtime Madera Ranchos resident Randy Belt, age 54, passed away on Monday, July 30, 2007 at Clovis Community Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Belt was a resident of Madera County for 28 years.

An Army veteran from the Viet Nam War, Belt was a graduate of Merced Community College, earning an AA degree in Criminal Justice in 1983. He served as a Madera County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy from 1981 to 1985 and also worked in the Madera County Department of Corrections from 1984 to 1985. He became a member of the Chowchilla Police Department in 1885 and joined the Madera County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy four years later. Belt remained with Madera County until his retirement in June of 2007 and was honored as Madera County Sheriff's Officer of the Year in 2005.

Belt was preceded in death by his father, Harle, and by a brother, Harlen Belt. He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Collette Belt of the Madera Ranchos, his Mother Edna Belt of Pampa, Texas, his sons, Jeremy Benton Belt and Brandon Davis Belt, both of Chowchilla, Step-daughters, Brittany Michelle Nan and Danielle Alexandra Nan both of the Madera Ranchos, his siblings Dolly Watts of Alabama, Stanley Belt of Texas and Vickie Tippit of Missouri, two grandchildren, Emilee Michelle Belt and Nathan Randall Belt, both of Chowchilla.

A member of the First Southern Baptist Church of Chowchilla, Belt was interred Friday, Aug. 3 at Arbor Vitae Cemetery in Madera.

Donations may still be made to PanCan, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 2141 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 7000, El Segundo, CA 90245.

## Special Pheasant Hunting Offered

The California Department of Fish and Game is sponsoring a series of special pheasant hunts during November and December. The hunts are categorized as:

- Junior Pheasant Hunt
- Women's Pheasant Hunt
- Family Pheasant Hunt
- Dependent Upon a Wheelchair Hunt

The Junior Hunt is limited to 24 participants under the age of 18 who must be accompanied by an adult. The hunt is free. The Women's Hunt is limited to six participants and costs \$15.75. The Family Hunt is going to be available to 20 families and will also cost \$15.75. The Dependent

Upon a Wheelchair Hunt will be open to just four participants and will also cost \$15.75.

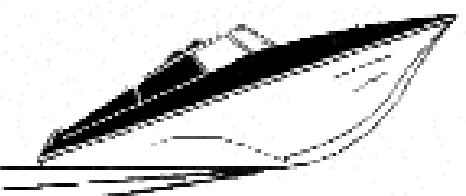
In each hunt the successful hunters will have been drawn from a random, computerized drawing. The hunts will take place between Nov. 11 and Dec. 9, 2007 in 13 different locations throughout the central San Joaquin Valley.

For more information on how to enter and where the specific hunts are to be held, call 559-243-4005 Ex. 133 or by visiting the California Department of Fish and Game Website at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

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# The August Month of August

By Eleanore Burchell

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, offers painting classes, exercise and line dancing classes, potluck dinners and games for those who are alone and need the comfort of getting out of the house and into the company of others. If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come and see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

In an attempt to keep the senior mind thinking and active, an effort is made to include a section of history in each issue. In this one, the history of the month of August has been researched, but really we need to review the month of July first.

The Roman Senate named the month of July after Julius Caesar to honor him for reforming their calendar, which had

degenerated into a chaotic embarrassment. Bad calculations caused the months to drift wildly across the seasons. January, for example, had begun to fall in

*After Julius' grandnephew Augustus defeated Marc Anthony and Cleopatra and became emperor of Rome, the Roman Senate decided that he too should have a month named after him*

autumn. The high priest in charge of the calendar had become so corrupt that he sometimes lengthened the year to keep certain officials in office or abbreviated it to shorten an enemy's office.

The new calendar went into effect on January 1, 45 B.C. and this put an end to the arbitrary and inaccurate nature of the early Roman system. The Julian calendar became the predominant calendar throughout Europe for the next 1,600 years.

After Julius' grandnephew Augustus defeated Marc Anthony and Cleopatra and became emperor of Rome, the Roman Senate decided that he too should have a month named after him, thus the month of August was proclaimed by the senate with a resolution.

Our next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1. Our garden staff has been busy keeping the plants and trees watered during this time of extreme heat. There are several Japanese maple trees still available and looking for a happy

home as well as many other varieties of shade and fruit trees. Many, many, pretty flowering plants are also available. After a month without our bake sale, it is BACK with homemade

*A Panama Canal cruise is in the planning for April 14 - 28 with a flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. then stops in Jamaica, Columbia, Costa Rica and Mexico aboard a cruise ship.*

cookies, candies, pies, cakes and quick breads. The cookbooks and produce, as well as boutique items, may be purchased in the main building. What is one person's discard is another person's treasure and our Treasure House has everything you might be looking for so please come in to find your personal treasure.

### The Up Side

"We must always have old memories and young hopes."

We don't want you to forget us during the week so remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday 6 to 9 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Our next travel adventure will be Oct. 9 through Oct. 22. We will fly to the East Coast then board a bus in order to see the

fall colors of the Eastern United States and Canada plus many other sights in the area. For more information, or if you're interested in joining the group, call Joann 645-4864 as an immediate deposit is needed to hold a spot for you.

A Panama Canal cruise is in the planning for April 14 - 28. A flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. will be made and then we will be boarding the ship with stops in Jamaica and Cartagena, Columbia, S.A. Then it's through the locks of the canal and exiting into the Pacific Ocean with dockings in Costa Rica, three in Mexico - namely Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas - and on to San Francisco to disembark. This is really a spectacular cruise. For more information call Joann 645-4864 or come in for a flyer.

The August Birthday and Anniversary commemoration was held Saturday, Aug. 11 at Carrows, 1484 E. Shaw, Fresno. There were 17 in attendance. The September celebration will be held

on Saturday, the 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Japanese Kitchen, Shaw and Willow.

Another reminder to mark your calendar and remember to bring

your blanket and lawn chairs to Cobb's Ranch for the Community Annual Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 2 from noon to 5 p.m. There will be lots of games and prizes as well as live music and plenty of food. The price for the BBQ is \$6 per person with lots of activities for the kids, too.

Remember Bingo Tuesday nights 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

If you need someone to laugh with, come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterward. There is a lot of fun here. Remember laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does not mean everything is perfect - it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

### More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is offered Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on

**M o n d a y s ,** Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and they share laughs. There is

still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is also a great way to exercise. They meet on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a good group, but there is always room for one more: you! Come to think of it, there is room for two more - you and your friend. Come in and check these classes out!

Our watercolor classes held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. are open and free to the Ranchos community adults. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. Starting soon, we will be holding a mini-series of painting classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more

Please see SENIORS on P. 19

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SENIORS cont. from P. 18

information on these classes, call Joann at 645-4864.

Up and Coming Events

Sept. 1, Monthly Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Sept. 27, Thursday Night Potluck

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann 645-4864)

Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Tuesday, Bingo, 5:30 to 9 p.m. (Hot dogs, hamburgers, desserts and more available.)

Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card Bingo

Wednesday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (please bring your own plate and silverware).

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing Class

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation – hope to see you soon?

DOG cont. from P. 4

bers. Can you think of a better way to spend \$1.9 million?

*The Problem: Some of the districts were just plain wrong from the beginning; some areas started ok and just didn't raise rates when they needed to and, yes, some of it was caused by our County Government over many years from dropping the ball.*

At this point I don't think any of that matters - JUST PICK UP THE DAMN BALL!

Somebody! Anybody! This must stop now. One option would be for me to file another lawsuit. Another option might be for enough people to show up or contact your supervisor and demand that this stop today.

Every dollar that is "given" to these special districts (or taken by them) comes right off of the top of the budget. Those dollars come from all of our other County budgets. Fire, Sheriff, Roads – anything funded by the County is being hurt by this. All day today I heard department heads asking for more money and being turned down because there wasn't enough to go around.

If there is no money in your pocket you better look for a hole in the bottom. We found the hole now we need to close it before we lose any more money.

For anyone out there that does

not know what a special district is, here's an example of the down and dirty:

I create a subdivision of 30 homes. I drill one well and build a water system. None of the new owners want to keep it going and I want to move on so I form a special district. We make a contract with the county to use County staff to manage it and keep it going. In return, the owners pay a water bill to reimburse the County for all costs of running the district.

Can be a good system – when it works.

We, the county taxpayers, do not benefit from the services of these districts and the law is written to protect us by not allowing general fund dollars to be used to subsidize or help special districts. So how did this happen?

Good question.

Why is it in the budget to happen again this year?

Even Better Question.

YOU NEED TO ASK THE BOARD WHY IT IS STILL GOING ON!

What has happened in the past needs to be put into the past. We need to try to recover the money, but I think looking for someone to blame will be a waste of time. What is on the budget and planned to continue next year is quite another matter. We need to hold this board's collective feet to the fire until it stops.

Pass this along to your fellow taxpayers.

Rep. Radanovich Offers Internships For Valley and D.C.

Rep. George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) is now accepting applications for the Fall Internship Program in his Fresno, Modesto, and Washington, D.C. offices. Those wishing to receive an internship in the Fresno or Modesto offices must have achieved college sophomore year status or beyond; Washington D.C. internships require college junior year status or beyond.

Congressman Radanovich's Internship Program offers the opportunity to interact with federal government agencies while learning about the Congressman's role in representing California's 19th Congressional District. Responsibilities include providing phone support, assisting constituents, processing constituent mail, conducting research and working with the staff on special projects.

Consideration will be given to reliable, motivated individuals with excellent written and verbal communication skills. A strong work ethic and the ability to handle multiple tasks are essential qualities. Priority will be given to those with a demonstrated interest in the political process.

Interested individuals must send a cover letter and resume to Congressman George Radanovich's Office, attention Sarah Ditrich, by Sept. 7 at 1040 E. Herndon, Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93720. Interviews will be scheduled for the top applicants.

# SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?

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# Classified

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## Babysitter Needed

**Need great babysitter** for one toddler. Prefer in our home. Part time in Madera Ranchos. **Call Eileen at 559-706-0301.**

## Day Care

**Tina's Day Care** - Where learning is fun!!! Morning enrichment program has openings for your preschool child. Call to reserve your spot now! **645-0834.**

## For Sale

**For Sale - Horses AQHA Registered horses for sale. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.**

**For Sale - 2007 Pool Table.** Never used w/accessories. Solid wood, 1-inch slate, leather pockets, can deliver. Cost \$4K sacrifice \$1,375. **Call 559-277-2511.**

**For Sale - To good home two Spanish Mustangs.** 1-year-old filly and 5-year-old gelding. Both need training. \$800 each or best offer. **Call 559-871-4109 or 559-645-5117.**

**For Sale - Hot Tub 2007.** Brand new, loaded. 40 jets, 10 h.p., never used. Full warranty. Cost \$8K sacrifice \$3,250. **Call 559-360-9047.**

**For Sale - DIRT!** \$30 per load. Bobtails only. We load. **Call Neal at 645-1200.**

**For Sale - Bedroom Set.** 7-pc. solid cherrywood. Sleigh bed, 2 nightstands, dresser/mirror. All dovetailed, new in boxes! Cost \$7K sacrifice \$1,675. **Call 559-438-0248.**

**For Sale - Twin PILLOWTOP mattress/box,** new in plastic. Cost \$300 sacrifice \$125. Full cost \$400 sacrifice \$175. **Call 559-230-0486.**

**For Sale - \$195 Queen PILLOWTOP mattress/box,** cost \$599 sacrifice \$195. Never used w/ warranty. King cost \$699 sacrifice \$295. **Call 559-447-5066.**

## Gutter Services

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## Housecleaning Services

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## Handyman Services

**Rancho Handyman** - when you need a helping hand then you need the Rancho Handyman. Whether the job is big or small the Handyman can do it all. Call Ohan for estimates. Now available: house painting. **Call 645-6924.**

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**Texture Coat Painting - Call Frank at 645-4113.**

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**Looking for outdoor Little Tykes playhouses,** new or used. **Call 352-5441.**

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**Spa repair,** maintenance, service and transport. Jet tub repair also. **Call Dave at 474-3224.**

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**Tractor discing,** grading, mowing, trenching, drilling, home irrigation systems. **Call Tomas at 645-4932.**

**Tractor work,** discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees, trenching and clean ups. **Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.**

**Tractor work,** house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching and concrete work. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-1500.**

**Tractor work,** lot discing, mowing and scraping. **Call Thomas at 645-6068.**

## Utility Services

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# Real Estate



## Nancy Watson

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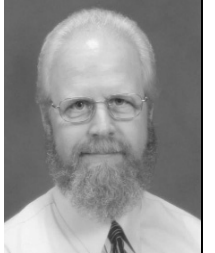


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**36206 Ruth Ave.**  
Beautiful 3BD/2BA Ranchos home w/ open floor plan. Laminate flooring, granite countertops, Jacuzzi, walk-in closet, dual pane windows and tons of cabinets. Too many upgrades to list!  
**\$379,000**



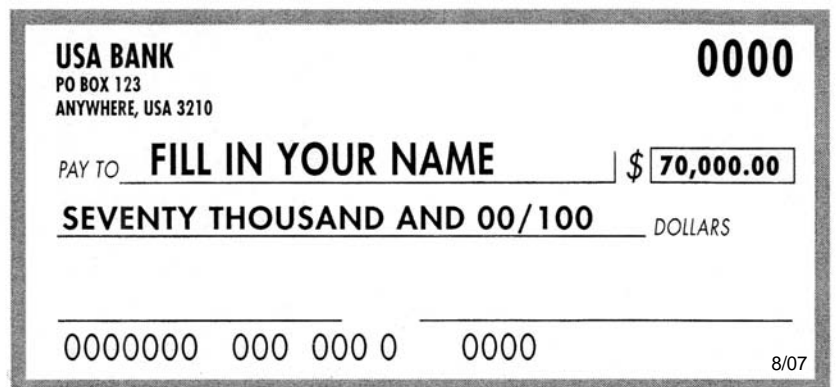
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## Continental Realty PRESENTS



**4 Bed  
2 Ba.  
\$459,000**  
16449 Rd. 36

2.25 ac. zoned for horses. Home features large, open great room with vaulted ceilings and fireplace. Deluxe kitchen with granite island, tiled counters and pantry. Master suite has vaulted ceilings, soaking tub. Extras include extensive tiling, crown molding, Milgard windows, ceiling fans and alarm system. Covered patio.



**4 Bed  
3 Ba.  
\$739,000**  
35179 Marciel

Beautiful former model home with pool. Great room with built-in cabinets, soaring ceilings and fireplace. Two sets of French doors. Formal dining room, deluxe kitchen with granite island. Master suite has huge walk-in closet, spa tub. Isolated bedroom off laundry for office, mother-in-law. 3-car garage with office, large covered patio. Pool is must see!



**4 Bed  
3 Ba.  
\$429,000**  
35340 Avenue 13 1/2

Sharp home zoned for horses. Vaulted ceilings, brick fireplace, spacious kitchen with lots of counter space, breakfast bar and walk-in pantry. Isolated bedroom and bath with walk-in closets, carpeting and tile flooring throughout. Large covered patio and yard is completely fenced. Located near schools and 15 minutes from Riverpark.

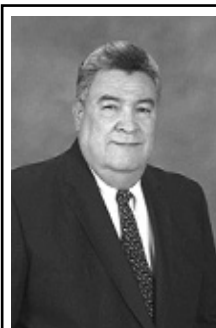


**4 Bed  
2 Ba.  
\$429,000**  
36020 Blossom

Open floorplan on 1/2 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, spacious kitchen and dining nook. Master suite has double closets, tub and shower and double sinks. Laundry room, pantry and 3-car finished garage. Milgard windows, wiring for DVR and satellite, alarm system. Large covered patio with gas BBQ access. Landscaping, fenced and RV parking. Located near Ranchos schools.

Call the listing office for all of the amenities of any of these properties 8/07

call Paul Sobaje at Continental Realty  
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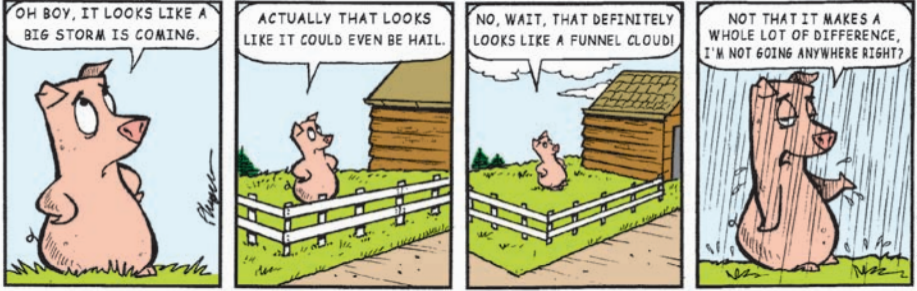
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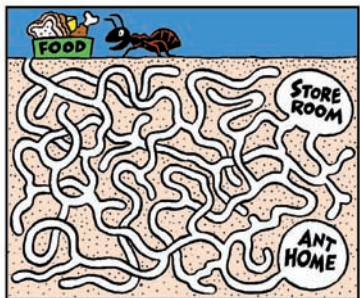
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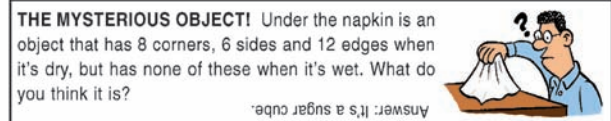
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Picture has been added. 2. Boy's sleeve is different. 3. Man has a bow tie. 4. Napkin dispenser is larger. 5. Number of flavors has changed. 6. Partial window sign is missing.

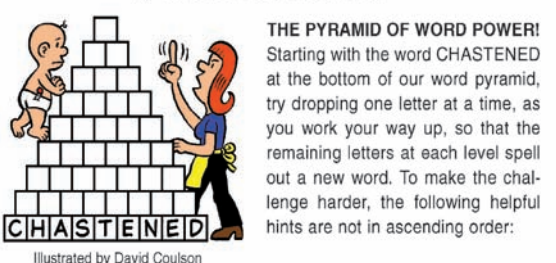


DON'T GET ANTSY trying to solve this ant maze. See if you can find the route from the food to the ant home in one minute.

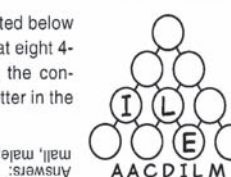


CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight 4-letter words can be read top to bottom, left to right, and diagonally.

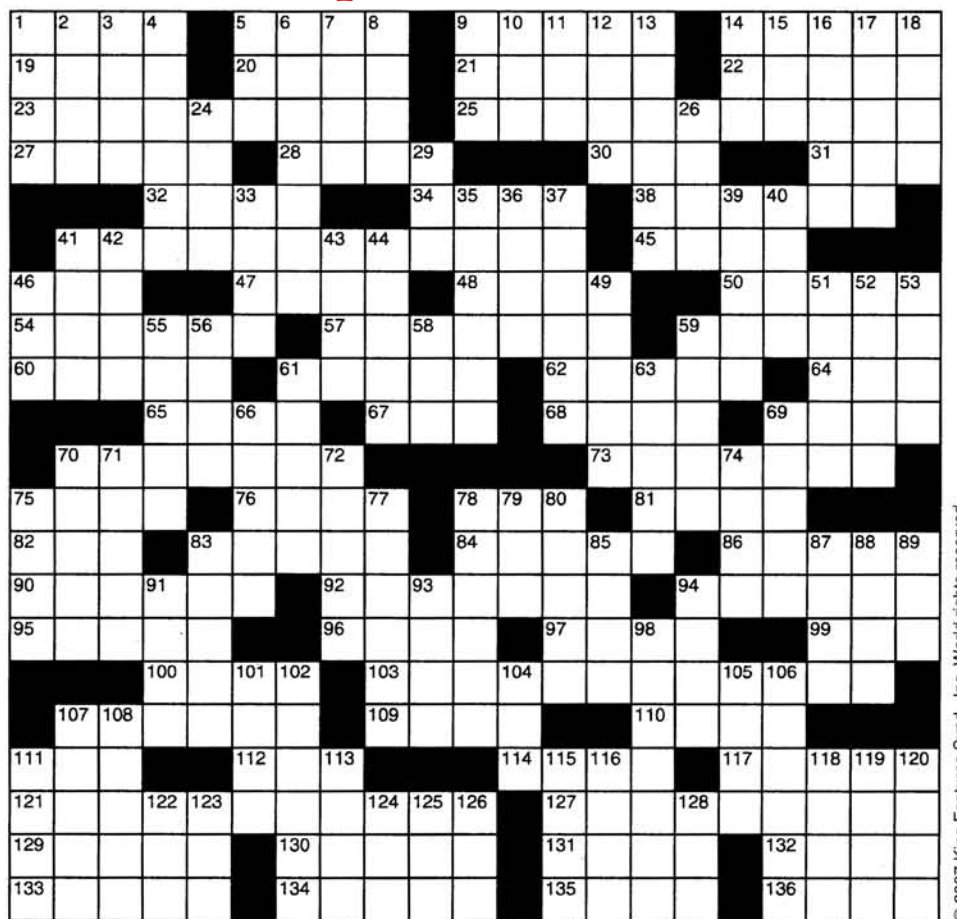
Junior Whirl by Charles Barry Townsend



- 1. A small amount. 2. To be punished. 3. Seized hastily. 4. To have done something. 5. Highest rank. 6. Shouted monotonously. 7. To remove from. 8. Sweet, edible fruit. 9. Present during.



Super Crossword



- ACROSS: 1 Dollops, 5 Russian ruler, 9 '87 Peace Prize winner, 14 Incur, as bills, 19 "Thanks —!", 20 Dingy digs, 21 Jargon, 22 Crop up, 23 Clothing store?, 25 Gary Cooper in "High Noon?", 27 Asian nation, 28 Jab, 30 Genetic info, 31 Poetic preposition, 32 Stoltz or Severeid, 34 Actress Periman, 38 Brazier bits, 41 Seats picked up in the Senate?, 45 Bank (on), 46 Tai — (martial art), 47 Recruit-to-be, 48 Baseball's Sammy Coaxed, 54 Plane place, 57 Bedroom furniture, 59 Elbow —, 60 Available, 61 Photo finish, 62 Bright, 64 Part of MST, 65 Mediocre, 67 Mason's need, 68 Any, 69 Deplores, 70 Scandinavian computer?, 73 Puts another worm on the hook?, 75 Composer Janacek, 76 Chip off Woody's block, 78 Archaeological site, 81 Class ring?, 82 Galley feature, 83 Absolutely adored, 84 "— Gay", 86 Socialite Perle, 90 Anti-knock stuff, 92 Glisten, 94 Chaos, 95 Puppeteer Lewis, 96 Israeli dance, 97 Counterfeit, 99 States, for short, 100 Mighty mite, 103 Marina furniture statistics?, 107 Corelli, 109 Macpherson, 110 Word form for "minute", 111 Salon request, 112 La-la lead-in, 114 Castle material, 117 Contaminate, 121 NBA hand-cappers?, 127 "One really thick steak, please?", 129 Simpson of fashion, 130 Paul of "American Graffiti", 131 Carrier's partner, 132 Siegmeister or Wiesel, 133 Greek sandwiches, 134 Atlanta campus, 135 AMEX rival, 136 Take-out order, 8 Stink, 9 "— of You" ('84 hit), 10 — Branco, Brazil, 11 Caravansary, 12 Like fine wine, 13 Tulsa type, 14 Brit. fliers, 15 Psychic Geller, 16 More congenial, 17 PC enthusiasts, 18 Parisian papa, 24 Mata —, 26 Singer Georgie, 29 Significant years, 33 "Take — leave it!", 35 Sounded like a serpent, 36 Seth's son, 37 Evaluate, 39 Divulge, with "out", 40 Bronte heroine, 41 Detective Charlie, 42 Nonstandard contraction, 43 A swan was her swain, 44 Country star Brooks, 46 Comic Margaret, 49 Strong suit, 51 Entire range, 52 Senator Kefauver, 53 Cozy rooms, 55 Pants, 56 Each, 58 Monty's milieu, 59 Loon's relative, 61 Demi or Dudley, 63 It multiplies by dividing, 66 Declare, 69 Bendix role, 70 TV host Robin, 71 Major artery, 72 Swanky, 74 Soprano Gluck, 75 See, 83 Down, 88 "Guarding —" ('94 film), 89 Flock o' docs, 91 Irish island group, 93 Inland sea, 94 Big, 98 Ignites, 101 Conductor, 102 Christie sleuth, 104 Bandleader Brown, 105 Till, 106 Laughed loudly, 107 Disreputable, 108 Aquatic animal, 111 Unexpected obstacle, 113 "Excuse me", 115 Exiled dictator, 116 Dark blue, 118 Run in neutral, 119 Sedaka or Simon, 120 Dendrologist's concern, 122 Arafat's grp., 123 Part of USA, 124 Funnyman Philips, 125 Prepare to feather?, 126 Farm feature, 128 Nationality suffix.

TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. SYMBOLS: What is the international radio code word for the letter "F"? 2. MATH: How do you find the area of a rectangle? 3. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "somato" mean in English? 4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Dinner at Homesick Restaurant"? 5. FOOD & DRINK: What are the basic ingredients in the drink called Cuba Libre? 6. GEOGRAPHY: Which Canadian province lies directly east of British Columbia? 7. HISTORY: In more than 100 years of the history of Wimbledon tennis tournaments, there were only two periods in which the singles championships were suspended for a number of years. What were those two periods? 8. THEOLOGY: What is the field of eschatology concerned with? 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many colors of Crayola Crayons were available when they were introduced in 1903? 10. MUSIC: Who composed the ballet titled "The Firebird"?

Answers

- 1. Foxrot, 2. Multiple length by width, 3. Body, 4. Anne Tyler, 5. Rum, lime juice and cola, 6. Alberta, 7. W.W. (1915-18) and W.W.M. (1940-45), 8. The study of final things such as death, resurrection and immortality, 9. Eight (black, blue, brown, green, orange, red, violet and yellow), 10. Igor Stravinsky.



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