

# The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 6 Issue 8 2010

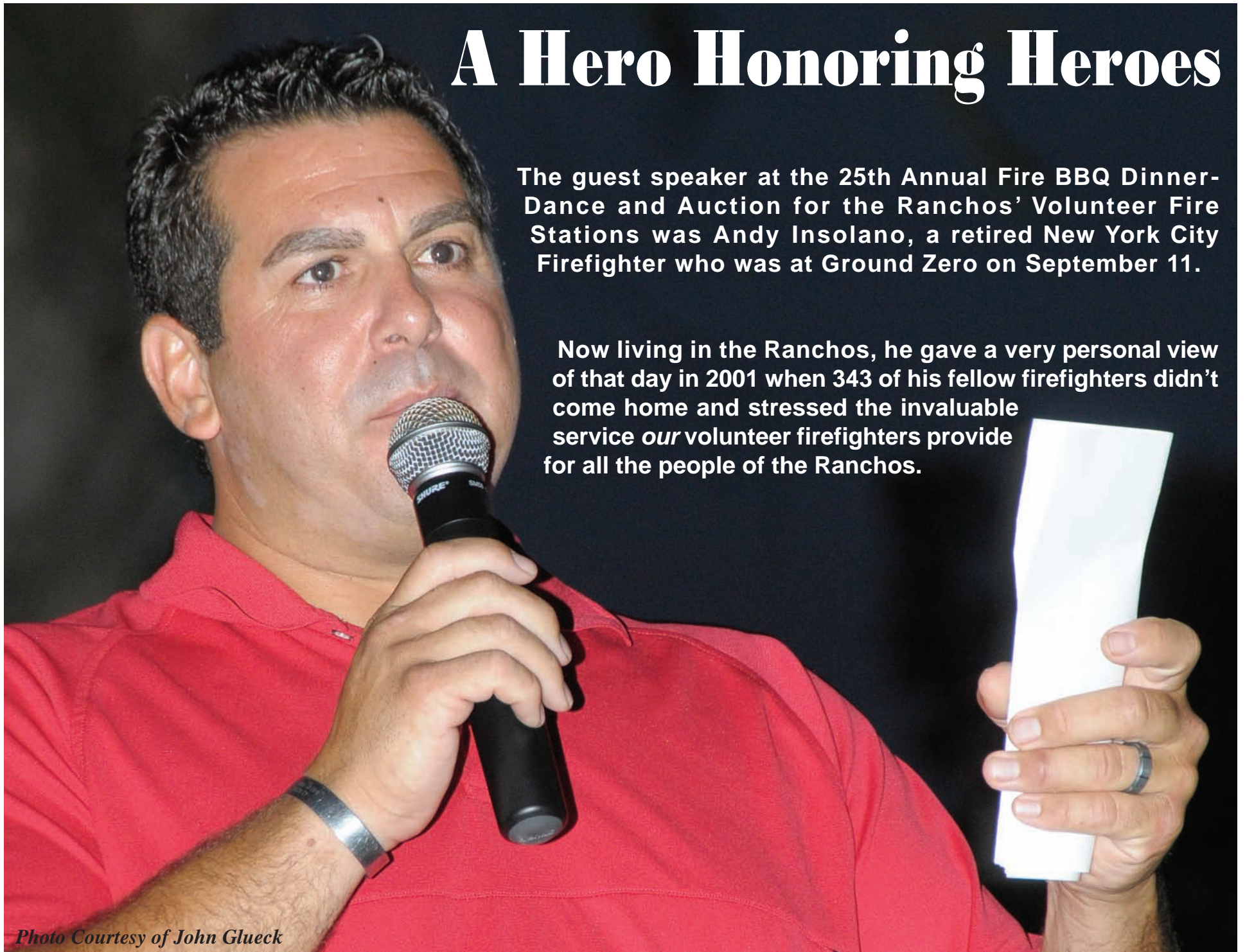
The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## A Hero Honoring Heroes

The guest speaker at the 25th Annual Fire BBQ Dinner-Dance and Auction for the Ranchos' Volunteer Fire Stations was Andy Insolano, a retired New York City Firefighter who was at Ground Zero on September 11.

Now living in the Ranchos, he gave a very personal view of that day in 2001 when 343 of his fellow firefighters didn't come home and stressed the invaluable service *our* volunteer firefighters provide for all the people of the Ranchos.



*Photo Courtesy of John Glueck*

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# 25th Annual Fire BBQ Draws Huge Crowd, Donations

By Randy Bailey

On a cool summer night next to the gurgling San Joaquin River, area fire stations #19 and #9 celebrated their 25th Annual FIRE-B-Q Dinner-Dance and Auction at Borba Ranch off of Avenue 7, just west of Highway 99. On Saturday, Aug. 21 from 5 p.m. to midnight, over 650 people attended the annual event designed to raise money for our two local volunteer fire stations.

“Our mission as volunteer firefighters is to serve our community in a time of need,” said Chuck Hoover, volunteer Captain for Station #19, “[attendees’] generous contributions give us the training and tools to do the job.”

This was the second year that the event was held at Rancho Vista del

Rio, courtesy of Mark and Peggy Borba, and consisted of the usual evening full of food, drinks and fun. This year, a new twist was added with the “Stop, Drop and Chop Salsa Contest.” Individuals entered their best salsa recipes and BBQ attendees got to vote for their favorites. The competition was so intense that the vote ended in a three-way tie for the best salsa.

On a somber note, the guest speaker for the night was Andy Insolano, a retired New York City Firefighter who has relocated to the Fresno area, who gave a very personal view of that day in September, 2001 when 343 of his fellow firefighters were killed at the hands of terrorists.

The meal consisted of tri-tip and chicken with all of the necessary side dishes and was provided by Outlaw Catering. Desserts were sold as

Please see **BBQ** on P. 19

# School Facilities Right on Schedule



The new state-of-the-art Science Wing is scheduled for completion by October, 2010 and has been worked on continuously for the past 10 months.

Work continues on the “Measure S” bond-funded site improvements at Liberty High School. For the past ten months, Harris Construction, Inc. has diligently been building the new state-of-the-art Science Wing which is scheduled for completion by October, 2010. The LHS Athletic Stadium project is near completion. The field will be ready to host the first home football game on September 10, 2010. Despite a very wet winter and spring and a rain delay of almost 37 days, the project has been on schedule. The biggest hurdle for the project was the recent news that the bleacher manufacturer for the home-side grandstands would not be able to meet the deadlines as previously scheduled. The revised timeline to expect the new grandstand bleachers will be toward the end of October. In the meantime, the interim plan is to host our LHS Hawk fans temporarily on the Visitor side of the stadium (east side) and the visitors will be temporarily seated on the west side of the stadium, situated away from the construction zone. The LHS Concession Building/Ticket Booth/Restroom/Storage facility is also underway and should be completed in September. Funds for these projects have been designated by the citizens of Golden Valley through the approval of the 2006 “Measure S” bond funds. These Proposition 39 funds are restricted for projects or upgrades specified on the voter’s ballot in 2006. These funds cannot be used to offset any general expenses for operating the school district or paying for salaries.

Also, this summer, the Governing Board held a District Facilities Workshop at Sierra View Elementary School. The Board discussed the Sierra View Modernization project, as well as other “Measure S” bond funded projects throughout the district. Specific attention was given to the Sierra View Administration Building. The Governing Board approved replacing the existing Ad-

Please see **PROJECTS** on P. 17



Having dessert after dinner wasn't the hard part; deciding which to choose was.



For those who brought their dancing shoes, there was plenty of music (and partners).



Now that's how to sample salsa! The “Stop, Drop and Chop Salsa Contest” was new this year.



One of the many donated items was this barrel smoker that brought a good price for the firefighters.



All pictures courtesy of John Glueck. If you wanted to bid in the silent or live auction, you had to have a bidder's number.



The Cadillac Cowboys played both types of music - Country and Western - to great response.



Hosts, the Borba family, seated, really got into the spirit and bid \$1,000 for a truffle delicacy.

# 250 Gallons of Propane Won by Ranchos Family

By Randy Bailey

In these tough economic times, a Ranchos family is breathing a sigh of relief when it comes to their propane bill. Ron and Sally Flores have won 250 gallons of propane from Valley Propane, a Central Valley propane supplier that has just recently opened an office in the Maywood Shopping Center in the Ranchos.

“We are based out of Mendota but we service most of the Valley,” said Vince Guthrie, director of sales for Valley Propane. In early July, the com-



Valley Propane's Vince Guthrie, left, tells an ecstatic Ron and Sally Flores that they have just won 250 gallons of propane in valley Propane's first drawing for the Ranchos.

pany expanded into the Madera Ranchos with its second location at 37221 Avenue 12 in the former Sheriff's substation. “The Ranchos is overflowing with nice people, friendly faces and loyal customers – not to mention there are more than 4,000 homes, most of which run on propane,” Guthrie said. The company's decision to set up shop in the Ranchos was based on wanting to offer services for local residents as well as the outlying areas. “We feel that it would be a great service to the Ranchos community to have a

Please see **PROPANE** on P. 19

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## Summer Reading Program Winners Receive New Bikes for Their Efforts

By Ellen Mester

While on vacation this past week I visited the Eugene Public Library in Eugene, Oregon. Built only seven years ago, this library has all the modern, state-of-the-art library features in a well-designed, attractive building. After spending a few hours there and talking with several of the library staff, I came away with ideas for our new future Ranchos Library as well as an appreciation of library uniformity and kinship. To clarify a bit, it is always good to know that certain methods and operating standards meet expectations. Professionalism among peers is indeed important and, in regard to the kinship part, even in a large library that is funded by a local city tax, the budget has been cut and positions have gone unfilled — albeit not as severely as Madera County has cut our library budget. Still it is good to commiserate and to feel a sense of determination that we will survive this crisis and surely the situation will improve at some point. As in our library and in most of the nation's libraries, the Eugene Public Library was busier than ever. The need for and usage of libraries has actually increased over time, contrary to what was predicted 20 years ago. They are an important part of our society.



Annisa McConnell, one of the Ranchos Library Summer Reading Program winners, picks up her new bike from the library.



Kolby Warnock, right, with his sister Hailie, was the other Ranchos Library Summer Reading Program winner and gets ready to take his new bike for a ride.

### Successful Summer Splash!

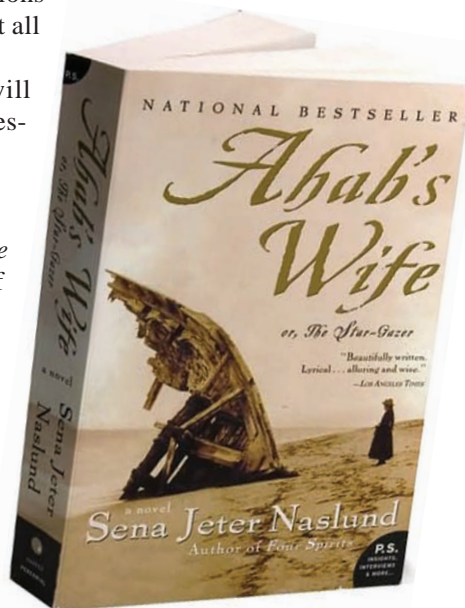
All of the Summer Reading Program winners have picked up their prizes. The happy recipients of the bicycles were Annisa McConnell and Kolby Warnock. Kayley Sutherland won the tickets for Island Water Park. For the Water Conservation Expressed in Art contest, the winner was Logan Flores for his original drawing on display in the li-

brary. Congratulations to all of the Ranchos readers who participated in the 2010 Make a Splash — Read! Program. Thanks again to our local businesses and organizations for your generous donations which made it all possible.

Our fall after-school programs will begin next month at 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Call the library for details.

### Book Recommendation

**Adult Fiction:** *Ahab's Wife or, the Star-Gazer* by Sena Jeter Naslund. A brief passage in the classic novel, *Moby Dick*, inspired Naslund to create a spin-off tale about Captain Ahab's wife, Una. The story opens midway in the life of Una Spenser, as she is giving birth to Captain Ahab's and her first child—alone in her mother's cabin in Kentucky. Her mother had left in a blinding blizzard to fetch



Please see **LIBRARY** on P. 13

# MADERA RANCHOS



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**Editorial**

**When to Zig ... When to Zag**

By Randy Bailey

Choices, choices, choices. Choices are great when you're at the buffet or at the department store or when you're looking for a movie at the video store. Sometimes the choices are easy; other times the choices are tough.

Thank God for choices. In the Ranchos there are a handful of organizations that you can join if you feel so inclined. There's a service club, if that's the way you want to go, or there's an organization specifically for seniors. You can join the Chamber of Commerce or you can be a Friend of the Library. You can even join a group that looks at the interests of Madera County's taxpayers. Great choices all.

But there's a new organization that's just getting started in the Ranchos that you really need to consider. The organization is called South East Madera County United, or "SEMUCU" for short. (By the way, so you don't feel like a tourist, it's pronounced "sem-cue" as opposed to "sem-coo" or "sem-cuh." Just thought you'd like to know.)

One of the problems that I've written about over the years here in the Ranchos is one of representation. Frank Bigelow does a great job for us at the County Supervisorial level, but his is an area that stretches from North Fork and O'Neals all the way out to Firebaugh. That means we're not the only item on his plate.

The above-mentioned groups all have their areas of expertise and the interests of

their respective groups right at the forefront of everything they do, and that's great for both the members of those groups and often for the Ranchos as a whole, but the problem arises when there are things affecting the Ranchos that fall between the cracks. Things that affect us all, but for which a piecemeal approach would prove totally ineffective.

The absolutely BEST example is what drew the individuals of SEMUCU together to say, "Hey! We need to do something about this or we're in trouble!"

That issue was water. Water in the Ranchos, or the growing threat of lack of water in the Ranchos, has been discussed for some time. The reality is that while Madera County is overdrafting about 6 inches of water per year as a whole, the Madera Ranchos is overdrafting about 5 FEET per year. That is simply unsustainable. We need to get our water situation under control.

Loosely translated, the state of California has decided that all future water decisions must be integrated with all of the areas of California (no more flying solo) and they're going to accomplish that by creating an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Great idea, right?

Wrong! Guess who doesn't have a place at the table to discuss IRWMP goals or have the ability to try for state grant money for water projects for the Ranchos?

Us. And why don't we? Because we have no organization representing the Ranchos as a whole to sit at the table and say, "What about us?"

That's where SEMUCU comes in. Made up of local citizens, business owners and property owners (the elected Board of Directors members are Tom Hurst, Tim Jones, Nancy Koontz, Brock Moore, Jim Powell, Bill Prince, Ethel Pronin, Seth Thomas and Igal Treibatch), we now have some representation for our water situation and in the future SEMUCU could help lead the way in fighting PG&E's plans for us, putting pressure on the County for road improvements and other issues we, as a community, face.

This is America at its most fundamental, grass roots best. Check out SEMUCU, find out what it's all about, get involved and become part of the solution.

**The Ranchos Independent**

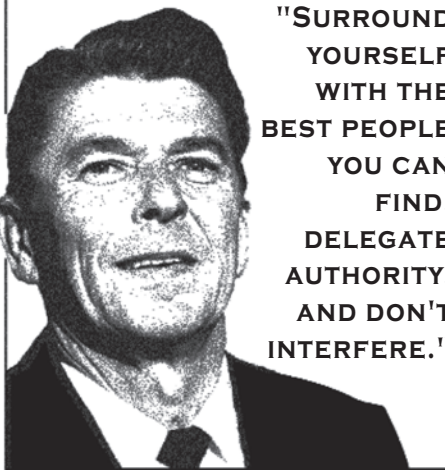
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**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**  
Christi McKinney -- Reporter • Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales

**559-645-0634** 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636  
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# Real Life Math? Yeah, Right

I could have sworn, though I may have been mistaken, that math was a required course in school. I seem to remember sitting in a classroom each and every year, with numbers on the board arranged in various patterns, and a teacher standing in front of us showing us how to manipulate them appropriately. Was I dreaming?

While patronizing a local fast food chain recently, my excellent timing brought me up to the register at the exact moment that the entire system crashed and we were thrust into register system black-out. The situation reminded me of many trips to the DMV and I thought to myself, "I wouldn't be surprised if this register was a state employee, waiting until the lobby was full of customers to take a break."

I stood there while the young woman behind the counter struggled to come up with my total. She stared at the menu board, then at my food, then back at the menu board. She finally spouted out a total of \$6.16. I handed her a \$10 bill and dug out 16 cents, my intention was to keep things as easy as possible. As amusing as it had been to watch the staring contest she had with the menu board, I just didn't think she had it in her to go another round with the cash register.

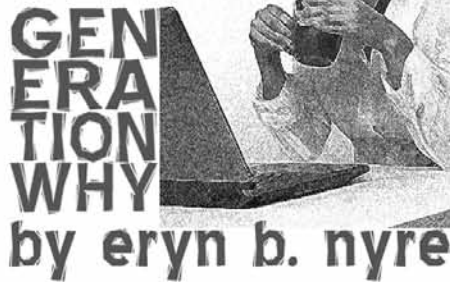
She took my cash and counted it, twice, then began her frantic search for some component obviously critical to the completion of this transaction. At the time, I presumed it was the key to the register. As the sounds of fidget-

ing and mumbling arose from the people in line behind me, her search became more frenzied, and if I am being honest, more amusing.

It was at the addition of the second crew member that I realized it had to be something other than the register key. After a third crew member had been drafted in to help with the situation, I inquired as to what they were all searching for?

The calculator.

Seriously? I had been standing there for five minutes, watching a poorly acted representation of the Keystone Cops, because this little girl couldn't subtract six from 10? I was seriously disturbed that such simple arithmetic was incomprehensible to not one, not two, but three separate employees. What has happened to the education system? We seem to have lowered the bar to such a degree that the only challenge it presents is not tripping over it. Do we really think that society is best served by allowing people to obtain a mediocre education? We have become so intent on circumvent crushing a child's spirit, so determined to avoid denting a child's self esteem that we end up with adults working cash registers who can't do the simplest of math problems without a calculator, and without enough deductive reasoning skills to at least use their fingers.



Isn't a wounded ego a small price to pay for a superior education? Wouldn't it be better for the child in the long run, and society as a whole, to hold the child back until they have a firm grasp of the curriculum? As I stared at these crew members, both appalled and disgusted, I thought to myself, "... didn't I learn this type of math in elementary school?"

I have never been the type to hide my imitation well, but I still made the obligatory attempt to keep my tone in check and advised them that I needed \$4 back. I could see the cogs turning, but nothing appeared to have registered. I looked at the man standing in line behind me; he shook his head and

scoffed quietly. At least he could count—maybe he went to private school. In an attempt to "show my work" as my math teachers always required, and to prove I wasn't just spouting hot air, I held up 10 fingers, then I tucked six into my fists, leaving four. Did you know that you could adequately depict

sarcasm using just your fingers?

Realization finally dawned, and they quickly opened the registry drawer to retrieve my change. At this point I was afraid they wouldn't be able to count to four. Evidently it was the 16 cents that had thrown them all off. Of course, that was a tough one, 16 minus 16 equals ... quick, get the calculator!

Finally, with change in hand, I walked away, overwhelmed with feelings of imitation. I wanted to find their teachers and scream at them; how a child progressed to the next level without ensuring they had a handle on the current material is beyond me. It was difficult to feel sorry for young people like this, because clearly they either didn't care to improve themselves, or were too uninvolved in their own personal development to notice.

My question is, what is going to happen when my generation gets to that scary, middle-aged benchmark and we, and our younger counterparts, are completely running the country? Do we have a back-up plan if the national calculator gets misplaced and someone needs to subtract six from 10? To whom do we turn? Certainly not the youth of America. How can we count on a generation who can't count?

At least, not without a calculator.

*I was seriously disturbed that such simple arithmetic was incomprehensible to not one, not two, but three separate employees. What has happened to the education system? We seem to have lowered the bar to such a degree that the only challenge it presents is not tripping over it.*

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## Senior Report

# Burma Shave: Signs of the Times

By Verlaine Elinburg

Most people of today's generation have never heard of Burma Shave, but ask anyone who lived in America from the 1920s into the 60s, and you will bring up an extraordinary fixture of their past.

Burma Shave was one of the world's first brushless shaving cream manufacturers and spawned heavy competition for their product, but this certain company had an upper hand in winning over customers. Burma Shave signs were the precursor to modern billboard signs on America's earliest roads. They were an interesting diversion from long drives and began to spring up all over the country throughout the mid-twentieth century. The signs were often humorous jingles that were placed at intervals along the road, each sign showing one line of the four-part rhyme until the last sign which concluded the clever advertising scheme with "Burma-Shave."

**1927: Shave the modern way / No brush / No lather / No rub-in / Big tube 35 cents / Drug store BURMA SHAVE**

### The History

It all began during the Roaring Twenties when the Odell family conjured up the formula after looking for a more profitable product that would be used daily by customers. Their previous product, the Burma Vita, could only benefit the ill, so the family decided to pursue a wider market. After repeated experimentation on the new brushless shaving cream, the product was finally born and ready for sale.

Several poor marketing ploys were used at first which forced the family business to try new alternatives. Alan Odell came up with the idea of the signs, which would relieve him of his tiring travel duties, but his father did not accept the idea immediately. After some persuasion, the first signs were put up in 1925 and remained as American landmarks until about 1963.

The original signs did not rhyme, but were usually a series of four signs, each having something to say about the product. Travelers began requesting for the product after seeing the funny lines on the road and Burma Shave began to expand production for the demanding druggists. Sales were going through the roof, and signs spread from Minnesota to

the surrounding states. Here was a company that was virtually unaffected by the Great Depression due to mass appeal from their uplifting advertisements!

**1928: Every shave / Now can snore / Six more minutes than before / By using / BURMA SHAVE.**

**Does your husband / Misbehave / Grunt & Grumble / Rant & Rave / Shoot the brute some / BURMA SHAVE.**

### The National Recognition

Long journeys became something to look forward to as the catchy sign sprang up all over roads of the U.S.A. Audiences began to include more than just farmers, who had been the ones receiving the most exposure to the signs. The jingles were short and cute, and attracted more attention than other ads.

Youths were big fans of the ad campaign, as many of the jokes catered to them. It was somewhat of an addiction, as people loved to see the new signs and collect the rhymes. These jingles were a nice departure from the other hygienic ads that became commonplace. While Madison Avenue was the hub of the industry, Burma Shave was doing rather well independ-

ently. It was even molding and shaping the industry itself. From the success of the signs, there was no need at this point in time for any other advertising media. Burma Shave was even known to be ingrained so much in the heads of Americans that when one went off to fight, homesick GIs posted Burma shaves signs all around the world wherever they went. This was similar to the "Kilroy was Here" graffiti sprouting up all over the place during the war.

Ordinary folk could even interact, as contests for the most creative jingle were held to allow for a more continuous supply of verses. Thousands of high quality entries poured in. Promotional Burma Shave bottles at sporting events made news when emotions stirred. Sometimes signs disappeared near college towns for room decorations.

**Cheer up your face / The war is past / The "H" is out of shave / at last / BURMA SHAVE.**

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 23



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

### Super School Lunches

It has really been a hectic month. We are rejoicing in the progress my sister (who is also Randy's mother) is making after her open heart surgery (quadruple bypass). She was to be in surgery six hours; she was out in four hours and home in five days. And today she went to the surgeon for her first check up and he released her to do just about anything except run the marathon and vacuum her house (she has grandkids that can do that). Thank you to everyone who has asked about her. I know she had some excellent doctors (thank you Lisa) and a lot of people praying for her - God is so good!

Well, school has started - where did the time go? Vacation is over, but summer won't be over until Sept. 22. It is still hot - I think it was 101 today. As I've said so many times, the best thing about summer is I know winter is on its way. Yes, I like the fog and rain.

For you families with school children that are up in the morning trying to get them fed and lunches fixed, I have seen the menu for the local cafeterias and some of them look quite tasty. For those days your child doesn't want to eat in the cafeteria, there is always the box lunch from home. When we were in school, most everyone ate in the cafeteria. The food was excellent. It was cooked on the premises and almost like home cooking. The only time I remember taking my lunch was the three years we lived in San Francisco during WWII. I can still remember my mom's

bologna sandwiches. I don't know what was so special about them, but I loved them. Thinking back it just may have been the bologna that we bought at a meat market. It was a stick that you sliced at home and it had a wrapping on it that you had to peel off before eating it. We didn't have the plastic wrap or the sandwich bags we have today. Everything was wrapped in wax paper, even potato chips and cookies. And did you get an orange in your lunch? Mama always "scored" it (run the tip of a paring knife in a circle around the top and strips down the sides) so it would be easier to peel.

Have you had trouble in the past with someone stealing your child's sandwich out of his lunch bag? I have the solution! There is

a site on the internet for Anti-theft Sandwich bags. After looking at them, I can understand why no one would want to eat the sandwich they just stole. This sandwich bag is made to look like the sandwich in it is all moldy. I know some kids that would think it a blast for someone to try to steal their sandwich.

#### Sandwich Ideas

There are so many combinations available today for sandwiches. There isn't just white or brown bread; there is pita bread, mini croissants, sandwich rolls (cut to the size your child can handle), and tortillas for wraps. Or how about peanut butter on raisin bread? And so many different kinds of fillings. Not just bologna, ham or cheese, or combinations thereof. My mom would take the leftover Sunday roast and put it through the food grinder (they didn't have food processors in those days), added Miracle Whip - of course you could add mayo - and use it as a spread for sandwiches.

I love a good tuna fish sand-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 22

*Or how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sandwich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat.*

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The Stock Report

# Principals? Princes and Pals

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
School has started so that means that summer is over! Oh my, where did summer go? School started early this year on Aug. 12. Webster Elementary really started with a bang. They started the school year by having their Open House for parents on the first day of school. Principal Scott Tefft welcomed parents and the teachers handed out their year's expectations for their students. This way parents know right away how to get their students off to a good start. Sierra View held their Open House on Aug. 19 for parents. Ranchos Middle School held their Open House for parents on Aug. 18. Educational Options Open House was held on Aug. 26 and Liberty High School will be held on Sept. 1. If you have missed one of these Open Houses and need the information, stop by the office at the school that your student is attending and pick it up. It is important that parents know what is expected of their child.

keep order. The biggest boss of all are the students themselves who want the principal to make their school safe and to make sure that they are learning what they need to know to pass on to the next grade with a little pat on the back for work well done. All in all, the principal sets the tone in how a school runs either smoothly or bumpy." You can usually tell how smooth a school is running when you walk into the school office. This is the job of a principal and so much more, in my way of thinking.

Now there are the school board members and how they figure into making Golden Valley Unified School District schools all meet California State, Federal, Madera County and

our Golden Valley School District standards. Sounds like a big job doesn't? Since I served on the school board for two four-year terms, I can tell you that it is a 24/7 job. It is so much more than those two monthly

*Since I served on the school board for two four-year terms, I can tell you that it is a 24/7 job. It is so much more than those two monthly night meetings which go on from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and beyond.*


night meetings which go on from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and beyond. I remember one meeting that didn't finish until one in the morning. A school board member is voted in for a four-year term. On Nov. 2, Golden Valley Unified will be voting for three seats on the school board. The people who are running are Mona Diaz (who has been on the board since we became a school district), Steven Lewis (who's a board member now), Brian Freeman, John Grauer, Edward Moseley and Kathleen Crumpton. I hope that they are all running for the right reasons and have the time and energy to continue to make Golden Valley Unified School District the best school district in Madera County.

The principals at Golden Valley schools have all been changed this school year except for Principal Kuljeet Mann at Liberty High. Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary have Principal Scott Tefft doing double duty for both schools with Vice Principal Chris Imperatrice at Sierra View and Vice Principal Aaron Black at Webster. Principal Kevin Hatch will be at Ranchos Middle School. Principal Kristi Fisher will be at Educational Options. Someone asked me the other day what does a principal do except keep the students in line? I had to think a minute before I said, "Well, principals have four bosses. The district office hires a principal and has a list of expectations for him or her to meet. The teachers at those schools look to their principal for leadership and help to do their job. The parents of the students at the school look to the principal to educate their students and to understand the student's age group and


All of the schools in Golden Valley Unified are California Distinguished Schools and that didn't just happen. Many people don't realize how California's budget problems have affected your school district. When you are on the school board the school budget is before you all of the time. There is a lot of reading that is

Please see **STOCK** on P. 22

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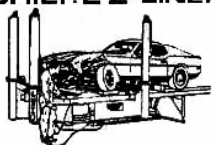
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## When Things Don't Turn Out Right

By Bob Crabb

*(Jesus) asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (Luke 24:17-18 NIV)*

The days must have been difficult days for that group of Christ followers, after the crucifixion. I suppose there may have been a sense of doom and hopelessness and failure. After all, the so-called Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel had been executed. Wouldn't it seem reasonable that the followers would be sad and downcast?

Maybe it would also be reasonable to expect that there was a sense of unbearable loss on the part of others. What happened next must have been completely baffling to them.

Some women of the group had visited the tomb of

Jesus and had come back with some amazing stories! They had gone to the tomb and could not find the body of Jesus. They returned and reported they had seen a vision of angels and these angels had told them that Jesus was alive! After hearing these amazing stories some of the companions of Jesus ran to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. The tomb was empty (Luke 24:1-12) and so there were some questions left unanswered. At one point (Luke 24:13-35) after this amazing report, a follower of Jesus named Cleopas was walking with an unnamed disciple to the town of Emmaus. These two guys summarize the situation clearly: "... our chief priests and leaders handed Jesus over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:20-21)

Have you ever been in a situation in which you said: "I had hoped that things would have turned out differently"? I think having experiences in life in which someone says, "I had hoped that it would have turned out differently," is a universal experience. So many times we hear

on the news somebody reporting that they had hoped for something different than what they got. Surely all of us know somebody in a situation who is saying, "I wish things had turned out differently." The bible reports that Cleopas and the other disciple were downcast and they were unable to comprehend the meaning and the significance of the death of Jesus.

Every loss and disappointment has the potential to be another "Journey to Emmaus" experience. For people who lost their job or their house or their loved one or their health, surely there must be times when they identify with these two followers of Christ and wished that things would have turned out differently.

On the other hand, sometimes when

we remember those cherished people, places and things that were lost to us, we can also feel like those disciples: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 34:22)

In the Gospel of Luke, the word "heart" is probably the most important anthropological word in its pages. The "heart" in Luke is the center of emotions, moods and passions. Luke uses it to equate with joy, grief, love, courage and fear. Luke uses the word "heart" to describe the source of thought and reflection. The "heart" understands, it provides wisdom and discerns good and evil. The "heart" is the center for decisions, obedience, devotion and intentionality. For Luke the "heart" represents the total person. Within the "heart," human beings meet God's word and are drawn to Jesus.

The disciples reported, "Were not our hearts burning within us while Jesus talked with us?" (Luke 24:32) What makes your "heart" burn within you? Using the word "heart" in this way, we can say that the church of Christ is motivated by the "heart." It is this faith that Jesus is alive right now in our midst and in our hearts that gives us the courage to reach out to those who are downcast. As followers of Christ, we share our "heart"

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 22

*For people who lost their job or their house or their loved one or their health, surely there must be times when they identify with these two followers of Christ and wished that things would have turned out differently.*



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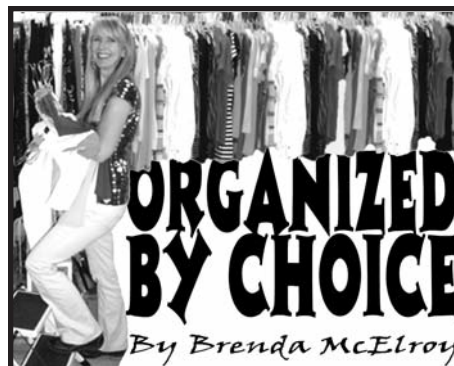
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### Making Successful Students

We all want our students to succeed and that means putting some thought, time and effort into preparing them properly. Here are four categories to consider in the process.

#### Supplies

1. Start with a list from the teacher
2. Check your stock-on-hand before purchasing new supplies
3. Label everything with your student's name

#### Create Homes

1. Backpack Supplies
  - Use zippered or lidded container for pens, pencils, etc.
  - Prepare a binder with labeled pocket dividers designated for each subject
  - Use odd and even day binders for students on block schedule
  - Label a special folder "Parent Papers" for all papers needing to be seen/signed by parents
2. School Desk Supplies (for Elementary students)
  - Use open-topped drawer dividers to store desk supplies so they can easily find what they need
3. Home Organizing
  - Equip a drawer or cabinet with

a container of pens, paper, scissors, etc. near homework area

- Designate a hook or shelf for each student's backpack, lunch box, etc.
- Designate an In/Out tray or basket for the "Parent Papers" folder; students (even young ones) should be responsible for placing the folder in the designated place and returning it to his/her backpack

• Have students pack backpacks with completed homework, clean PE clothes, etc. the night before

- Create files (by subject or month) for completed work that needs to be saved and place in a plastic file tote; purge files after each semester

• Store school keepsakes in an under-bed container for long-term storage

#### Calendar

1. Purchase and instruct Middle and High School students on using a paper or electronic assignment calendar
2. Create a master family calendar for the wall or use an online calendar (Cozi.com)

#### Rules and Routines

1. Establish boundaries for computer, video games, TV, study time, bedtime, etc.
2. Clearly define expectations using chore charts, homework schedule, reward plan, family meetings, etc.
3. Schedule a weekly family time (Sunday night) to view and discuss upcoming activities and schedule

*Want more information? Call Brenda at 559-871-3314 or email her at [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com). Her website is [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com).*

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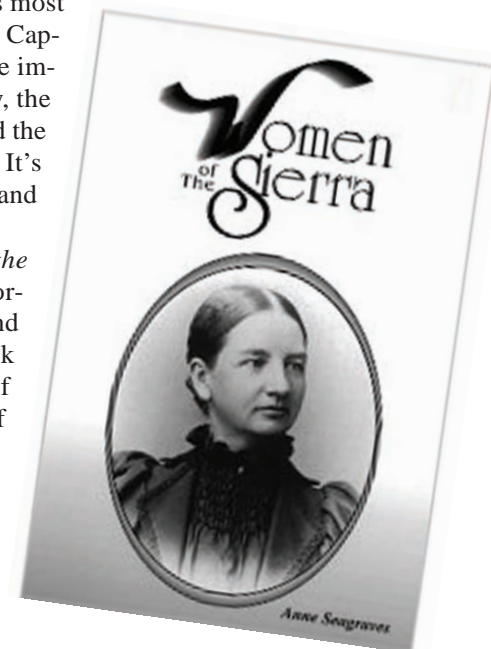
**Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent**

LIBRARY cont. from P. 4

the doctor and did not return. Hardships were not new to Una for she had been to sea on a whaling ship at 16, dressed as a cabin boy. And after being only one of three survivors of the whaling ship broken in half by a whale, she had secrets not best shared with anyone. After a brief marriage to her first love, Kit Sparrow, she finds her true soul-mate in Captain Ahab, many years her senior. But this is not a simple love story by any means. Una's life begins in a cabin in Kentucky, but travels to a lighthouse in Massachusetts, out to sea and then to Nantucket Island where she feels most at home watching the sea for the Pequod, Captain Ahab's ship. Along the way there are important issues of the day, such as slavery, the beginning of the women's movement and the necessity and gore of the whaling ships. It's a spell-binding adventure rich in history and pathos, with many twists and turns.

**Adult Non-fiction:** *Women of the Sierra* by Anne Seagraves. Several historical societies of Northern California and Nevada contributed to this amazing book which focuses on memorable women of the northern Sierras during the period of 1840-1900. Dr. Eliza Cook, Nevada's first woman physician, was not only a dedicated doctor in Carson Valley, but she excelled in crocheting, tatting and often made gifts for her patients and their families. She was known to be a terrific cook and homemaker, although she never married. Juanita (no last name), was the first white woman to be lynched by a mob in Downieville in 1851 after stabbing a man in self-defense. Then there was Lillie Langtry, America's first superstar, who made a lasting impression in the Sierras, and eventually purchased a ranch and settled in Guenoc Valley. These stories and many more accompanied by wonderful photographs, grace this collection with the flavor of the Wild West, and the ladies who tamed it with style, beauty and pure gumption.

Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library and don't forget your library card: Don't leave home without it.



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# By the Community

## What is SEMCU and what does it do?

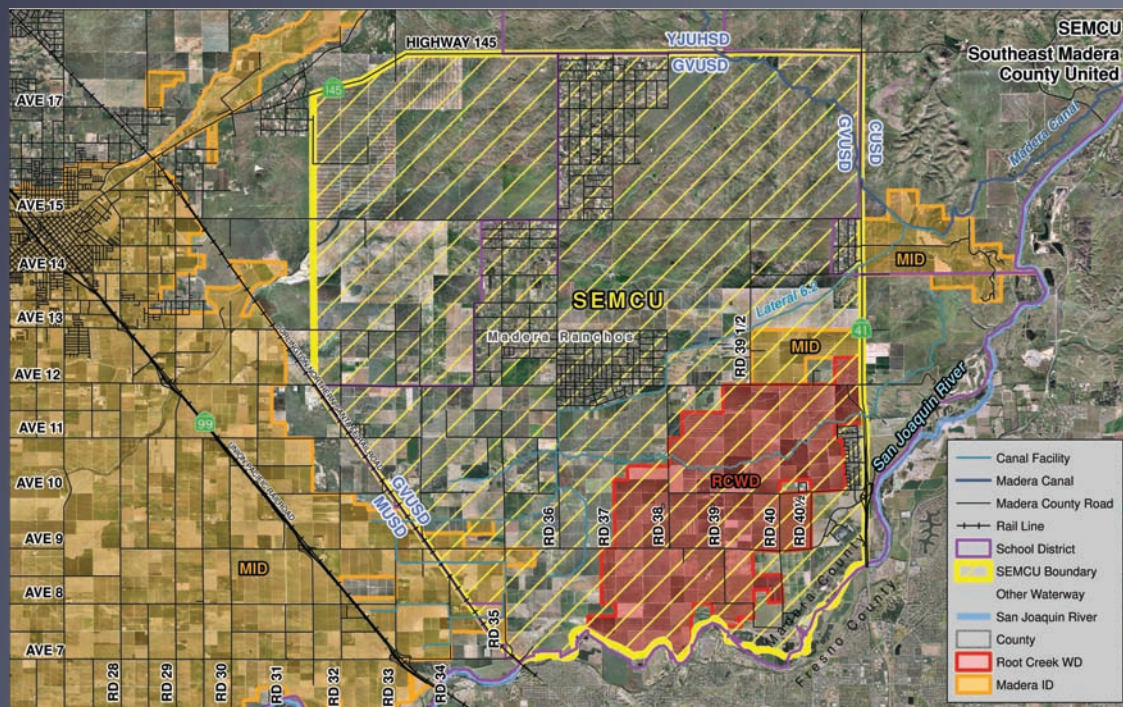
The South East Madera County United organization, or SEMCU, is a nonprofit, mutual benefit organization dedicated to representing the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in the SEMCU Area. In representing local interests, SEMCU studies issues facing its members, such as access to water, transportation, schools and energy, and works with local governments and private entities to find working solutions to regional problems. Additionally, SEMCU strives to advocate for its members wherever and whenever the opportunity arises and to obtain grant funding to help address area needs.

## Who should join SEMCU?

If you are a resident, landowner or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

## Who is on SEMCU's Board of Directors?

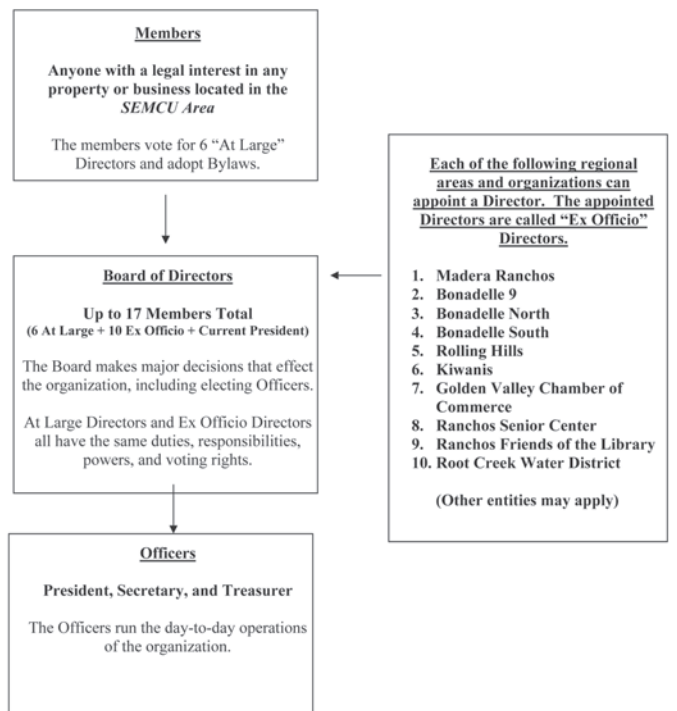
Your neighbors. Tom Hurst, Tim Jones, Nancy Koontz, Brock Moore, Jim Powell, Bill Prince, Ethel Pronin, Seth Thomas and Igal Treibatch.



What is the SEMCU Area? The South East Madera County United, or “SEMCU,” Area covers the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.

### South-East Madera County United (SEMCU) Organizational Flowchart

The SEMCU Area is the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by the Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway.



# ◆ For the Community

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**to obtain copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit [www.semcu.com](http://www.semcu.com)**

**the next SEMCU meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 20  
at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory  
37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos**





# Making “Back to School” Mean the Most for Golden Valley Unified



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

Happy new year to our students and staff as we begin the 2010-2011 school year. Our year began on August 12 welcoming students back with great energy and excitement. Campuses and facilities were well-groomed by the maintenance, grounds and custodial staff; bus drivers test-drove their new transportation routes; cafeteria menus were carefully planned; teachers created warm and welcoming classrooms; and principals were busy greeting their new and returning students and parents.

To set the direction for the school year, I met with the Golden Valley Management Team this summer for the Annual Management Charge Session, where we focused on

the motivational, leadership, and management goals for the year. All team members read the book, “Soup: A Recipe to Nourish Your Team and Culture”, by Jon Gordon, as a frame of reference for the motivational charge for the year. Throughout the year, staff and student accomplishments will be recognized by presenting them with “Soup” appreciation certificates.

The academic emphasis of the year will continue to focus on providing all Golden Valley’s students with a high quality educational program in a safe and caring environment. Staff will incorporate curriculum and instruction practices that are both rigorous and relevant. What does that mean? Rigor does not necessarily mean harder, rather it is exposing our students to challenging class work with academic and social support. Relevance is teach-

ing students how to apply what they have learned in real world situations. Our goal is that all students will graduate and have the options to either successfully continue their education, enter a career or join the military.

Teaching staff will continue professional development focusing on Explicit Direct Instruction, where teachers are frequently checking for understanding to ensure that students are grasping the curriculum. Teachers will also utilize a new data management system that will allow for more timely and efficient analysis of test data, in addition to new and improved benchmark assessments. The purpose of this type of testing is to inform staff of which students need additional time and inter-

Please see **SCHOOL** on P. 17



Sierra View Administration Team: Sara Gorman, Registrar/Attendance, Chris Imperatrice, Vice Principal, Scott Tefft, Principal and Cheri Adams, School Secretary.

## WELCOME BACK FROM ALL OF THE SCHOOLS IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



New Ranchos Middle School Principal, Kevin Hatch, left, and Vice Principal Aaron Black make sure the Mustang is ready to go for another school year.

## LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR IN 2010-2011!



Liberty High School Administrative Office Staff: Karie Hannigan, Counselor, Tonya Hudson, School Secretary, Kuljeet Mann, Principal, Dora De La Cruz, Registrar, Suzie Dunn, Financial Secretary and Felipe Piedra, Learning Director.



New Webster Elementary Principal, Scott Tefft, inspects the state-of-the-art equipment as he tours the new Webster Computer Lab. The computer lab was made possible through the generous Chuckchansi Grant received last year.



Webster Reading Lab staff Becky Reynolds, Nola Neely, Ursula Newcomb, Margaret Sharp, Michelle Ochiner and Mary Helen Garcia, prepare for a new year of reading adventures at the kindergarten through 6th facility.



New Educational Options Principal and Director of Special Education, Kristi Fisher, prepares the marquee of the Educational Options Department at Golden Valley Unified with the latest information for Back to School.

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**PROJECTS** cont. from P. 2

The Board approved Harris Construction, Inc. as the Lease-Leaseback Developer for the project and is currently analyzing exact costs of the project in addition to other enhancements to the project, such as an improved parking lot, in addition to modernized classrooms and a new Administration Building. The next steps of the modernization project will be to work with the Developer to determine the Guaranteed Maximum Price, (GMP) for the project which includes value engineering to get the most "bang for the buck". Following this the plans will be submitted to the Department of State Architect (DSA) for approval in October with plans to go to bid in March and start construction in June 2011, completing the project by August, 2011.



*The concessions stand is nearing completion and is on target to be open by the first home football game on Friday, Sept. 10.*

**Facility Updates**

Regular Facility Updates will continue to be shared at the bi-monthly meetings on Monday nights. Meetings typically begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held in the LHS Library, unless otherwise specified. The Board meeting schedule for the 2010-2011 school year is as follows:



*Since these pictures were taken, the roof has been completed and the concessions stand looks like it's ready to start serving sodas.*

- September 13
- September 27
- October 11
- October 25
- November 8
- December 13
- January 10
- January 24
- February 7
- February 23
- March 14
- March 28
- April 11
- May 9
- May 23
- June 13
- June 27

**SCHOOL** cont. from P. 16

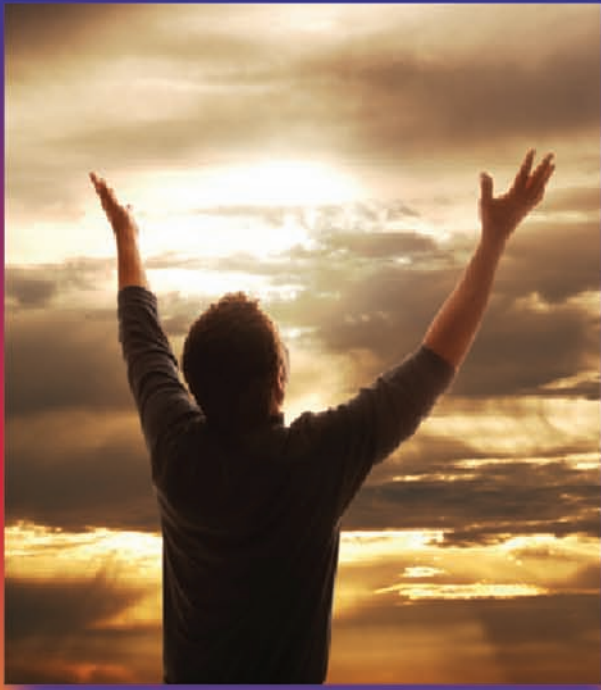
vention and which ones grasp the concepts. If students are in need of interventions, the goal is to provide timely support to facilitate the students' learning.

A student-focused goal this year will be the implementation of the Count Me In Attendance Campaign. Each school will actively chart their overall monthly attendance with the goal of increasing last year's district attendance rate by at least 1%. Last year's district attendance rate was 96%. Did you know that a 1% increase in attendance can increase the district revenue by approximately \$100,000? Students will help decide the type of incentives that will offer encouragement and motivate students to be in their seats everyday and ready

to learn.

Positive student engagement in school can also increase positive relationships and attendance. Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities such as, athletics, music, drama, agriculture, leadership and club participation. These opportunities outside of the classroom setting tend to develop a student's character leading to more well-rounded individuals. Please check with your child's school site for available extra-curricular opportunities.

We anticipate a great year for students both academically and through their participation in extra-curricular activities. The school and district look forward to partnering with our parents as we go Back to School in Golden Valley Unified.



# “Come and You Will See”

- Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30am
- Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon
- Youth Group: After Church on Sundays
- Sat's Share & Care Bible Fellowship: 10:30am

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8/10

## Someone's heart is breaking ... HAVE YOU SEEN US?



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 of Road 37 and Avenue 16

**If you have, PLEASE call**  
**559-975-9226**

8/10

Click on "Local News" at

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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## BBQ cont. from P. 2

part of the fundraising and the meal was followed by both a silent and live auction. An incredible highlight of the auction was when a delicacy entitled "Three Layer Truffle Cookies," created by Ollia Ridge, sold at auction for \$1,000. Incredible!

The auction was comprised of donated items from people throughout both the Ranchos and adjoining areas and raised sizeable amounts of money for the fire stations. The event began earlier this year than in past years, primarily to accommodate the salsa contest, but also to allow attendees more social time to mingle. The 5 p.m. start time was welcomed by those asked about it.

The evening finished up with music provided by the Cadillac Cowboys for dancing or just listening. As always, the event sold out of tickets and had to turn people away. Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011. If you'd like to see all the pictures of the event, visit the Station #19 website at [www.Station19.org](http://www.Station19.org).

## PROPANE cont. from P. 2

local company that is fair priced, friendly and accessible," he said. "We are here to cater to the needs of the community."

Valley Propane has been offering to give away 250 gallons of propane to one lucky customer through a drawing that has been featured in its local advertising. The only requirement was that the winner needed to be a Valley Propane customer.

"Our family is always looking for ways to save money," said Sally Flores, winner of the 250 gallon drawing. "When we first met Vince Guthrie with Valley Propane and heard what he had to offer, we knew that we had to make the switch to his company for all of our propane needs." Sally said that she has received outstanding service at the Ranchos office from office manager Sheryl who welcomed Sally's family, set them up with a brand new tank and even offered her referral credit for every person she tells about Valley Propane's service.

Guthrie says that Valley Propane is family owned and has been servicing the San Joaquin Valley for more than 15 years. As a part of the business for the past six years, Guthrie says that his company is ready to provide propane service for everything from residential to agricultural, and new constructions to renovations.

"Many residents of the Ranchos are starting to realize that they have options when it comes to propane providers and it is usually free to switch if you are unhappy with the service you currently have,"

Guthrie said. The benefit of having a local office for the Ranchos where residents can go and talk to a real human being when there are questions or concerns about propane is, in Guthrie's words, "Priceless."

Valley Propane is not insensitive to the current economy and how it's impacting Ranchos residents and is offering a series of beneficial programs and deals. "We have learned to work with people and their finances," said Guthrie. "We are very fair priced and we feel that our services speak for themselves. We don't believe in locking people into a time-based contract. We are confident enough in our staff to give the customer the option to change services if ever unsatisfied with our performance." Some of those specials he's referring to include free tank rent for the first year, free pressure/leak tests, customer referral programs and payment plans to aid those with financial difficulties.

"I am very confident that our new location will be a great addition to our company," said Guthrie. "We have hired a great staff made up of Ranchos locals, and we are all working together to offer the best service around. Valley Propane is here for the customer. If someone needs to talk to us about anything propane related, we are just a phone call away – or they can just stop by our office and talk to our friendly staff."

And the best part? Valley Propane is starting up the raffle for next year's drawing so that possibly that next 250 gallons of free propane could be yours.

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ANSWERS

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**For Sale - BDRM SET Solid Cherrywood Sleigh Bed**, Nightstand, Dresser, Chest, Armoire, dovetail drawers, Never used, In crates. Cost \$8K, Sacrifice \$2,375. Can split up. Call **438-0248.**

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### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

wich, but I want to eat it as soon as it is made, because I don't like to let it sit and make the bread soggy. When I worked, I would fix the sandwich as usual, only not put the tuna on. I would put the tuna in a separate container then put it on the bread when I was ready to eat lunch.

I was on the internet looking for ideas for this article and I found some excellent sites. I Googled "school kids lunches" and "school kids sandwiches."

Having trouble getting your child to eat a good whole wheat bread because he or she only wants white bread? How about using one slice of white and one slice of whole wheat with a design on each. Put the two slices of bread together before putting in the filling, and using a cookie cutter, cut a design from the center of each slice. Then take the design from the brown

slice and put it in the spot that was cut from the white bread and do the same with the white slice. At least you'll get them to eat half brown bread.

Or how about a wrap? Put a flour tortilla in the microwave for about 20 seconds so it will be easier to roll. Using your choice of fillings: lettuce that has been sliced very thin, grape tomatoes, sliced olives, red bell pepper that has been chopped, grated cheese, and sliced turkey or ham lunch meat. Spread the tortilla with ranch dressing and layer each ingredient on half of the tortillas. Fold in each side of the tortilla and roll the wrap from the end with the filling, making sure to tuck in the filling as you roll. You can cut the roll in half if you wish to make it easier to handle.

***Sandwich on a Stick?***

Or how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sand-

wich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat. Slide onto a skewer with other foods your child will eat. Olives, pickles, grape tomatoes or a piece of lettuce. You might want to add a little container of ranch dressing for dipping. Also, I would suggest not using the skewers that look like big toothpicks – don't think the school would appreciate a child playing with them after they eat their lunch. I've seen packages of the sticks used for candy apples in the grocery store that might work better than the skewer.

Who says lunch has to be a sandwich? There are all kinds of things you can use for box lunches. How about a thermos of warm left-over stew or soup from the night before dinner? Or a piece of left over pizza – yes, I know kids (and adults) that will eat cold pizza. Or a spaghetti sandwich – yes, spaghetti! Butter two slices of bread, put the spaghetti on one and

top with the other and Viola! A spaghetti sandwich. I know adults that will eat that!

I hope I have been able to give you some ideas for lunch boxes or bags. And I didn't even get into the desserts available. There all kinds of prepackaged cookies and some just 100 calories, and there are all of the prepackaged gelatins, puddings and fruit that are available. If you are afraid to send one of your good spoons (I know they can be tossed with the wrappers), why not purchase a package of disposable spoons so you don't need to worry?

***BBQ is Coming***

Audrey Stock suggested I do a column on barbeque, so next month that's what it will be. Do you have a favorite BBQ sauce, or baked beans or a favorite dish that you would like to share? I'd love to include it. Call me here at the office at 645-0634 or e-mail me at ranchosnews@theranchos.com.

**STOCK** cont. from P. 9

required of a board member. Teachers, principals, office people, bus drivers, gardeners, librarians, cafeteria food service people, custodians and the superintendent and her staff who keep the schools running and make sure that the bills are paid all count on the school board to do its job. I am sure I have left out some important people and I am sorry. The people that started this school district, of which I am one, put their blood, sweat and tears into laying a firm foundation so that Golden Valley Unified is a smoothly run school district for the community's children. School board members are responsible to always ask themselves, "Is the vote I am taking going to be good

for the students?"

***Get to Know the Candidates***

Start getting acquainted with the school board candidates and find out what their agendas are for running for Golden Valley School Board. This is the most important vote that you can make for our community and your children and grand children. You have September and October before the vote on Nov. 2.

School board members do not run as a democrat or a republican. Party affiliation should have nothing to do with school board members. I want the best people for our students to win the election. I will miss Roger Schuh who will be off the board Dec. 1. He has been a faithful school board member and

has worked under difficult budget years. Thank you. I know you have a couple of months to go so keep up the good work. Both Mike Kelly and Mark Toole have two more years on their terms of office left on the school board. They will help teach the new school board members what is expected of them.

The most interesting story is Steven Lewis. He was on a mission to Mexico with his church group and mistakenly believed the filing deadline for the school board seat he holds at present was the Friday *after* he returned; in actuality it was the Friday *before*. He is now running a "write in" campaign for his seat on the board. Write in campaigns are tough because your name doesn't appear on the ballot and must be written in by the voters. Those of you who support Steven

have your work cut out for you. It should be interesting.

I want to thank the Ranchos Hills Seniors exercise class for the surprise birthday party, beautiful cake, cards and gifts. Thank you all so very much, you make me feel very special. If you are a senior and would like to join our exercise class it is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. at the senior center. Come on over to 37330 Berkshire Drive. The class is free. I am the leader and would love to see you there.

September school board meetings are on September 13 and 27, which are on Mondays now. They are held at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m.

I understand that all of Golden Valley Unified schools got off to a good start. See you at the school board meetings.

**PASTOR** cont. from P. 10

for Christ with anyone who is on their own modern day road to Emmaus.

Do you believe that God can do more than just raise the dead? Salvation after we die is not enough, heaven after we die is not enough. Forgiveness of our sins after we die is not enough, eternity after we die is not enough. After is not enough! Now is the time! It is in the fierce urgency of "now" that salvation is being accomplished ... right now! The Kingdom of God is being built right now, forgiveness is being worked out

right now in the love of God in Jesus Christ. Eternity does not begin after we die, it starts right now with a burning "heart" for the presence of Christ.

We have been put here for more than just waiting for the end of our days. We are the breath the God breathes, we are the hands that God works with and we are working right now on the Kingdom of God. We are not waiting for salvation, but salvation is waiting for us, right now, by the grace of God we are free to reach out to everyone with a message of God's love to change from doubters to believers; from captives to liberators; and from

wounded to healers. From lost to found; from blind to sight and from hopeless to hoped for.

Sometimes what is going on in the world makes it easy to retreat like the disciples behind locked doors. The report says the disciples' eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus and he disappeared from their sight. It is the same with us. When we are finally able to open our eyes and see Jesus we are shocked when he disappears and in his place we see our neighbors! Maybe you will see Jesus in the prayers you pray today, maybe you will feel him in the scriptures you read

today, maybe you will experience him in the church you attend or the bible study you belong to – maybe you will even see him in your neighbor.

Were not our hearts burning within us? Yes Lord they were! Holy Spirit let our hearts burn within us so that we may bear witnesses to your presence in the world – right now!

*Rev. Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.*

Click on "Local News" at

## The Olde Cowboy

We've lost some animals recently at the Bailey home and this Olde Cowboy column from June 2008 seems very appropriate.

-The Editor

They were inseparable, Wil Seymour and dachshund Rambo, who was acquired when a divorced couple left him a doleful ward at the dog pound. Dog lover Seymour at the time was recovering from major surgery and somewhat doleful himself, and to brighten his day, Dianne surprised him by adopting four-month-old Rambo, whose job was to give him aid and comfort during his long and lethargic recovery and absence from the hustle and bustle of a busy dentist's life.

It seemed almost miraculous how quickly the two bonded, and it wasn't long before Rambo began sitting on his lap during much of the recovery time and offered a friendly lick on the face when Seymour seemed down in the dumps. And now and then when a sudden noise echoed from outside, he'd bark, apparently considering this also part of his job. He actually looked forward to his new master giving him a weekly bath.

One might have thought Rambo was also the family chauffeur because at the slightest inkling that Wil and Dianne were going somewhere he beat them to the car.

"He loved nothing more in this world than a spin around town," recalls Dianne, "sitting on my lap and looking from the window."

One morning sometime later, Wil and Rambo made their customary morning visit to the patio to assess the progress of the backyard flora. When they didn't return to the house for what seemed too long a time, Dianne went to check on them and there on the patio floor laid her husband, dead of a massive heart attack and anguished Rambo only a few feet away.

His death was a heart-breaking blow to both Dianne and Rambo. Indeed, she employed a young woman to keep her company because she couldn't face night alone, and faithful Rambo every morning for several weeks dutifully searched every room of the home in search of his beloved master.

When the woman companion left after a year, Dianne found herself fearful of the thought of driving, which Wil had always done. But in desperation one morning, she grabbed the ignition keys and with Rambo at her side braved the streets she hadn't driven for years,

Life seemed to proceed ever so slowly for Rambo and her, the hands on the clock sometimes seemingly never moving at all. And during this time, Rambo gradually turned his affection to her.

Six and one-half years later, Rambo, who had slept with her since her husband's passing, for the first time one night was unable to make the jump to the bed, and slept on the floor beside it. But the next day he seemed to snap back, but it was only temporary and she took him to the veterinarian. After a thorough examination, the veterinarian looked at her, and said ever so softly, "You'll help me out here."

"Knowing that I would be heart-broken if he died, he was reluctant to tell me it was time. There simply was nothing else that could be done for him and although it broke my heart, I had to let him go. Crying, I mumbled, 'Cremate him.' My husband told me to mix his ashes with his. I cried for weeks over my love of poor Rambo, and sometimes I still do," Dianne says. "And so much makes me remember him: the car rides he loved so dearly; the squirrels he chased; the shade of the pine tree he so loved in summertime; and every time Wil and I visited Starbucks on Bullard and West where we often took him in late afternoon and he basked with the friendly petting of patrons."

Several times the veterinarian's office called, asking her to pick up Rambo's ashes, but it wasn't until the third or fourth call that she pulled herself together enough to pick them up and put them in the trunk of the car. Entering the mortician's office and requesting that Rambo's ashes be mixed with his master's, she was told no, that California law prohibits such practice.

So what has become of them?

Well, they're in the trunk of Dianne's grey Cadillac in which he loved to ride and where they'll remain until who knows when.

## SENIORS cont. from P. 7

### *The End of an Era*

With the diminishing countryside and the expansion of America, Burma Shave could no longer keep up. Faster automobiles, huge billboards, superhighways, decreasing sales and increasing costs to keep up the signs led the Odell family to sell its business to Phillip Morris, Inc., a division of the conglomerate American Safety Razor Products, who no longer viewed the ad campaign to be a smart business venture.

Similar to the craze of the unconventional practical Volkswagen Beetle, Burma Shave had set itself apart and became commonplace. Burma Shave also set precedence for other advertisers to follow with similar serial ads. The small family business was well known. Everyone knew Burma Shave. Approximately 7,000 verses had been made on signs across 45 states. It had become a part of the culture, and made one feel at home.

### *Seniors News*

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center is located at 37330 Berkshire and our members travel to different locations each month. During the month of July, Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino and Forestiere Underground gardens were visited. The Great Trip, a European riverboat cruise and

tour coming up Oct. 4 through 17, is still available. For more details, visit with Joann at the senior center or call 645-4864. She will give you the information.

As always, our monthly sale is the first Saturday of each month. Cakes, cookies, jams, breads and all the good stuff. The boutique has many fine items, including jewelry, linens and many other crafts. The produce market and boutique are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Need a gift? Swing by the Senior Center.

Our center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA). We are located at 37330 Berkshire and invite you to come in and check with Joann about programs which will help you.

### *Nurse Visits*

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost

blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending; they have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays, there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-

4864. We have started a new craft section on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and the next project will be sweatshirts. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, here is your opportunity to learn while having fun. Card Bingo meets on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m.

We have a large group but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with friends and neighbors and enjoy finding new friends here. Come in and check these classes out.

### *September Events*

Sept. 9 Getting Ready for the Holidays. New ideas, crafts, obtaining revenue for materials, brain storming, etc.

Sept. 18 Birthdays and Anniversaries. Phoenician Gardens. Mediterranean Cuisine.

### *Weekly Events*

Monday through Friday Lunch Program 11:30 a.m. (reservations needed – call Joann at 645-4864)

Exercise class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday – Pinochle, noon until?

Thursday 12:30 p.m. Crafts, laughs and fun. Pot Luck, Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (bring your own plate and silverware).

Friday Card Bingo noon – 1 p.m.

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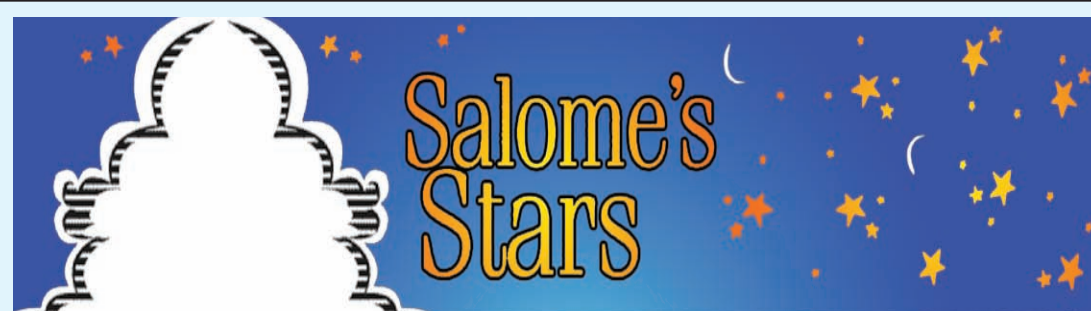
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A relaxed mood early in the week could give way to high-temperature disputes. The Aries Lamb should resist being pulled into heated quarrels that could really singe your wool.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Satisfy that practical obligation first, then you can feel free to indulge in your creative endeavors. Also, check for hidden or overlooked areas where repairs might be long overdue.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Home is still the Twins' major focus this week. But outside matters begin to take on added importance, especially those involving possible career moves. Stay alert for signs of change.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A travel plan might need to undergo some considerable adjustment because of unexpected changes. Keep an open mind and let the facts guide you on how you want to handle this.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Playing cat and mouse with a matter you don't really want to tackle wastes time, energy and, most important, an opportunity. Ask someone with experience to help you get started.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A shift in policy might not please you, but before you put up a "No Go" wall of resistance, examine the circumstances. You might be quite pleasantly surprised by what you find.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Yesterday's critiques about your methods might have already evolved into today's praise for your achievements. Good for you. Now go on and continue to build on your credibility.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) An occasional temperamental flare-up might occur as you continue to help get things back to normal. Stay with it. You should soon get some idea of where to take things next.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A negative reaction to what you believe was a well-deserved request might mean that you need to reconsider your position and make changes accordingly.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) There's always room for someone new at the Sea Goat's table. And the someone new this week could bring a message you've been waiting a long time to hear.

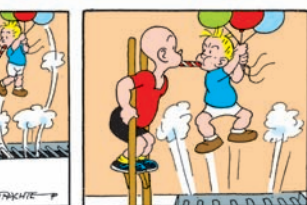
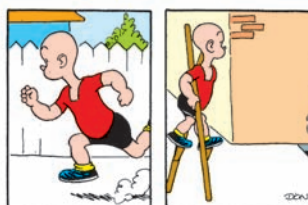
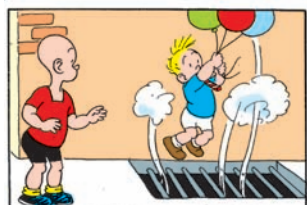
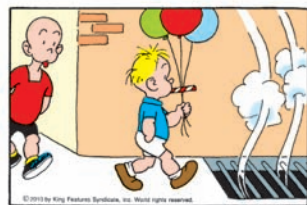
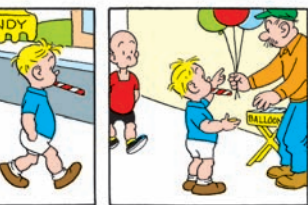
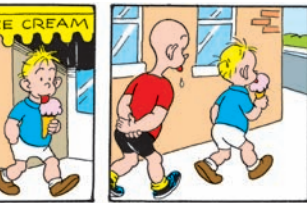
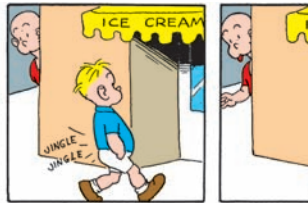
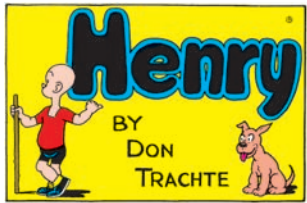
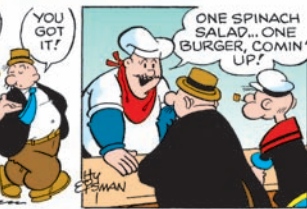
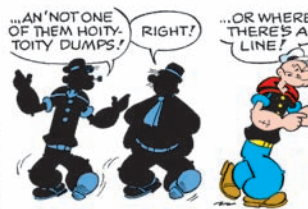
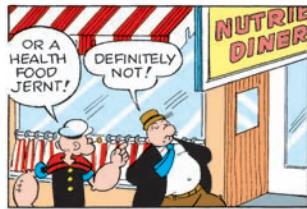
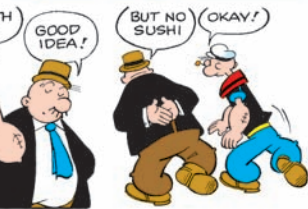
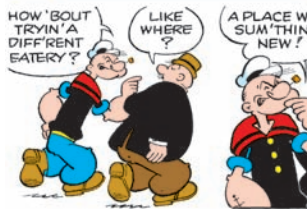
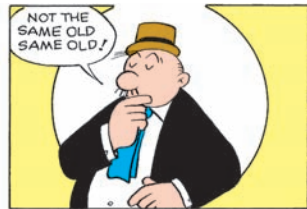
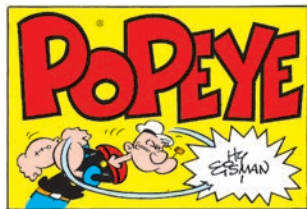
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A pile-on of personal matters this week might seem too overwhelming to deal with. But handling them on a one-by-one basis could have you out from under it by the weekend.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need your good advice regarding a matter. Be supportive. But unless you can be absolutely sure you have all the facts, be careful about any suggestions you might be asked to offer.

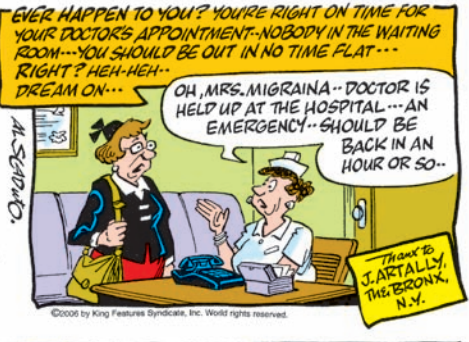
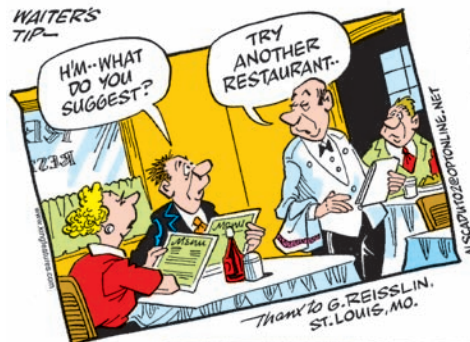
## Born this Week

*Few things make you happier than bringing people together and helping to forge new friendships.*

# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



RIGHT QUESTION--WRONG ANSWER--

THANK TO SEVERAL MOMS ALL OVER U.S.A. WHO ARE STILL WAITING FOR A DATE



## BY AL SCADUTO

### Riddle Card

- Who goes to bed with his shoes on?
- What gates are like church bells?
- What old weapon is like an angry lover?
- How can you make a tall man short?
- What is the hardest key to turn?

Answers: 1. A horse; 2. Toll gates; 3. A cross-bow; 4. Borrow a hundred dollars from him; 5. A donkey.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE!

In the old days, an untruth was rewarded with a soap sandwich. In the grid shown here, we have room for eight words, each of which contains a "LIE." Using the following hints, see if you can find them before the young man above gets a second helping.

### A BETCHA!

Place an empty bottle and a straw on the table and bet your friends that, using only the straw, they can't pick up the bottle and take it into another room. Only the straw may touch the bottle and you can't tie a knot in it.

Solution: Bend the straw and insert it into the bottle, where it will wedge itself in, as shown in fig. 2. You will then be able to lift the bottle and win your wager.

- Type of baseball pitcher.
- Politicians speak at them.
- He wastes his time.
- Goats or clubs.
- Soft, semisolid sandwich fillers.
- Small, lace table napkins.
- Old-time public transportation.
- An Italian boatman.

### IMPROVE YOUR AURA WITH A QUICK SOLUTION!

Using the definitions below, can you find the four five-letter words missing in the grid shown? All words must read the same across and down.

- A haunted house sound.
- A Cuban dance.
- A glowing piece of coal.
- At right angles to.
- Fate or destiny (given).

Answers: 1. Creak; 2. Fumba; 3. Ember; 4. Abeam; 5. Karma.

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

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

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L S J H B G F E E C V A Y G X

V C U G W L P I S L Q P N O M

K R N A S J O G O L H P H L F

E I L D C B S G N I K S I F Z

P B E M E H T O Y X V U T R Q

P E R A W G O L B L I M O M L

F K I H G O L B R A W G E D C

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- |          |         |           |         |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Blawg    | Fisking | Phlog     | Theme   |
| Bloggies | Flog    | Pingback  | Vlog    |
| Blogware | Milblog | Post      | Warblog |
| Feeds    | Moblog  | Subscribe |         |

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Arkansas?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Captains Courageous"?
- MOVIES: Who plays the title character in "Nanny McPhee"?
- ANATOMY: The temporal bone would be found in what part of the human body?
- MEASUREMENTS: How long is a cubit?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is closest in size to Earth?
- MUSIC: What is a doxology?
- INVENTIONS: Who invented Velcro?
- LANGUAGE: What does the phrase "a skeleton in the closet" mean?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What kind of product did the animated character Toucan Sam sell?

### Answers

- Little Rock
- Rudyard Kipling
- Emma Thompson
- The skull
- The length of a forearm
- Venus
- Hymn of praise
- George de Mestral
- A scandal that is kept secret
- Kellogg's Frost Loops

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### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

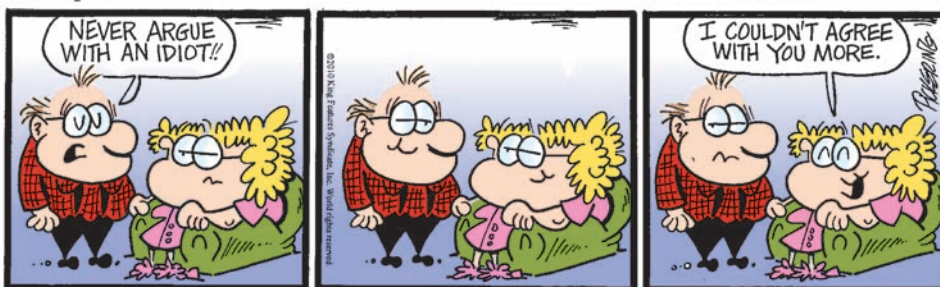
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### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



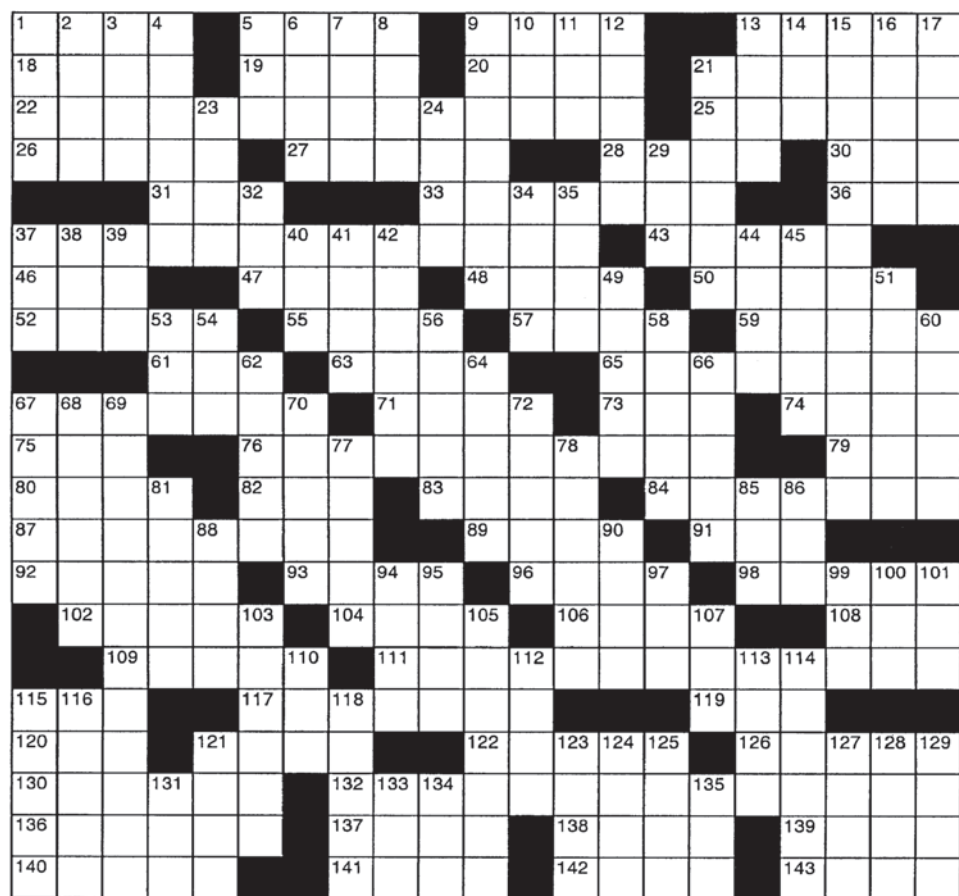
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Stripe on shorts is gone. 3. Two skis instead of one. 4. Rope is black. 5. No land on horizon. 6. Boat trim is black.

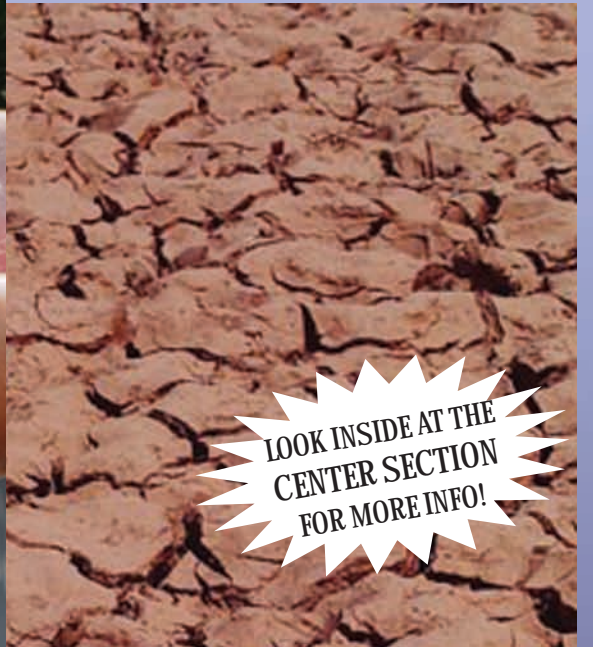
## Super Crossword



- |   |                               |                                   |                                       |                                       |                            |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                     | 48 Blue hue                   | 102 Have — over one's head        | 143 Prophet                           | 40 Vinegar's partner                  | 90 Menial laborer          |
| 1 Applies lightly                                 | 50 The very bottom            | 104 "My Sweet —" ('70 smash)      | <b>DOWN</b>                           | 41 Dejected                           | 94 Tiberius' threads?      |
| 5 Helicopter sound                                | 52 Tijuana title              | 106 Debtors' letters              | 1 TV's " — Shadows"                   | 42 Detergent ingredient               | 95 A Great Lake            |
| 9 Swedish rockers                                 | 55 "Star Wars" Skywalker      | 108 Indefinite pronoun            | 2 Bum remedy                          | 44 Actress Gertz                      | 97 Sister                  |
| 13 "Whole — Love" ('69 hit)                       | 57 Fawn's father              | 109 Baal and Elvis                | 3 Neuwirth or Daniels                 | 45 Saying                             | 99 Lad                     |
| 18 Guinness or Baldwin                            | 59 Pride of lions?            | 115 Funnyman Phillips             | 4 Picturesque "Alice"                 | 49 Linda of "Alice"                   | 100 Bed and breakfast      |
| 19 Actress Skye                                   | 61 Be a pest                  | 117 Hailing from Haifa            | 6 Car part                            | 51 Join the leisure class?            | 101 Pigskin prop           |
| 20 Chrysler competitor                            | 63 Actress Helgenberger       | 119 Paw part                      | 7 Memo start                          | 8 Scuba site                          | 103 Poorly made            |
| 21 Toils  | 65 Alaric, for one            | 120 Once around the track         | 9 Insult                              | 10 Derisive cry                       | 105 Costello or Del Rio    |
| 22 "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Ragazzo" star? | 67 Easily read                | 121 "Peter Pan" pirate            | 11 "It's freezing!"                   | 11 "It's freezing!"                   | 107 Use a straw            |
| 25 O'Neill's "The — Cometh"                       | 71 Kedrova of "Torn Curtain"  | 122 Pound the podium              | 12 Confuse                            | 12 Confuse                            | 110 Compass pt.            |
| 26 New Hampshire city                             | 73 Unwell                     | 126 Stallone role                 | 13 Tablecloth fabric                  | 13 Tablecloth fabric                  | 112 Neighbor of Tenn.      |
| 27 Postpone                                       | 74 Gulf ruler                 | 130 Puts up                       | 14 UK honor                           | 14 UK honor                           | 113 Weft's opposite        |
| 28 Leaf part                                      | 75 Part of EEC                | 132 "How the Ovest Was Won" star? | 15 "Riders of the Purpleo Sage" star? | 15 "Riders of the Purpleo Sage" star? | 114 Modifies               |
| 30 Married Mlle.                                  | 76 "The Tin Stella" star?     | 136 Actress Tyson                 | 16 Vagabond                           | 16 Vagabond                           | 115 Vote in                |
| 31 Tarbell or Lupino                              | 79 Wrath                      | 137 Poker stake                   | 17 Ed of "Lou Grant"                  | 17 Ed of "Lou Grant"                  | 116 Lanza or Lemieux       |
| 33 Theft  | 80 Fateful 15th               | 138 Peter and Gordon              | 18 "King Lear" role                   | 18 "King Lear" role                   | 118 "King Lear" role       |
| 36 Spring mo.                                     | 82 Demolished a Danish        | 139 Small combo                   | 21 Tripoli native                     | 21 Tripoli native                     | 121 WWII site              |
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# FUN PAGES

By the Community, For the Community!  
**SEMUCU's up and running ...**



**LOOK INSIDE AT THE  
CENTER SECTION  
FOR MORE INFO!**

**... and the future is in your hands  
Now it's time to get to work**

Now that South East Madera County United (SEMUCU) has been formed in the Madera Ranchos to help with pressing concerns and issues of water, transportation, noise, energy and other services provided by the County and other public agencies, we are still looking for willing hands and minds to help.

If the Ranchos is your home and you are concerned about its future, this is the organization for you. Call the number below or send an email for more information and discover just how badly you are needed.

SEMUCU exists to advocate for, and act on behalf of, SEMUCU members and the region by working with private granting agents and other parties to attain the above-stated purposes and to provide other services beneficial to SEMUCU members and the region. If we don't get together, outside forces will take it into their own hands. Guaranteed.

**SEMUCU**

South East Madera County United

**559-363-9095**

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

[info@semcu.com](mailto:info@semcu.com)