

# The Ranchos Independent



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35¢

## Water Use/Supply Conference Third for Madera County

Under the ominous theme that Madera County's water supply doesn't equal the demand placed upon it by its growing population, water officials held a conference Friday, Feb. 9 at the Madera Center to inform residents on the state of water in Madera County. This conference was the third in a series hosted by the Madera County Farm Bureau in an attempt to get residents of the community to interact with members of agriculture over water issues.

One speaker at the conference, Dave Hopelain, a member of the Madera County Oversight Committee and responsible for overseeing a \$770,000 grant to research groundwater, said Madera County's goal is to balance the demand for water with

the supply. Hopelain stressed that now is the time to start planning to bring consistency to water supply and demand.

Representatives of Madera County's Planning Department hosted a presentation on growth expectations for the Central Valley. Within the next 20 years the Valley is expected to swell by approximately 10 million people. One key element the county is looking at is requiring developers, as they build and develop for this huge influx, to restore all groundwater that they removed.

An update on the waterbank project, spearheaded by Madera Irrigation District Chairman Ron Pistoresi, was also given.

**Within the next 20 years the Valley is expected to swell by approximately 10 million people.**

## Taxpayers Claim Fraud

At the Feb. 19 meeting of the Taxpayers Association of Madera County, President Jim Cobb presented a CD to Madera County District Attorney Ernie Licalsi that Cobb claimed contained recorded testimony alleging insurance fraud between Madera-Chowchilla Power Authority, Chowchilla Water District and Madera Irrigation District.

In a subsequent email sent to the Ranchos Independent, Cobb said that Madera Irrigation District (MID) is not telling the truth, pointing out that MID says we are overdrafted in several documents, creating a water shortage, yet at the same time they are involved in transferring water out of the county to Kern County, saying that there is surplus water.

The Taxpayers' lawsuit against MID continues.

At the same meeting, the Taxpayers stepped into the fray around Gateway Village developers Castle & Cooke and the Golden Valley Unified School District. The group voted unanimously to recommend Castle & Cooke accept the terms presented by the school board, and then voted 10-6 to recommend Castle & Cooke offer geothermal energy in their development. Opponents said that raising the geothermal issue could further delay Castle & Cooke, already in their 12th year of waiting to begin their project. Others suggested it was unfair to force Castle & Cooke to pioneer the process.



Taxpayers Association of Madera County President Jim Cobb, left, presents a CD to Madera County District Attorney Ernie Licalsi, alleged to contain recorded testimony and records of insurance fraud between Madera-Chowchilla Power Authority, Chowchilla Water District and Madera Irrigation District. Photo by E. LaRochelle

## County Approves New Facilities Fee

Current Residents Protected from Financial Impacts of New Development

The Madera County Board of Supervisors is beginning to brace for the impact of an estimated 175 percent increase in population countywide by 2026. The Board approved a new impact fee schedule that is tied to new development that is attracting new residents. Starting May 1, 2007, the new fees will be charged each time a permit is pulled for a new construction project in the county. The fee revenues will be restricted to financing the construction of new and expanded county-owned public facilities such as libraries, fire stations, sheriff substations, detention facilities, and regional parks.

About a year ago, the Board of Supervisors hired the firm MuniFinancial to complete a study that analyzed the County's current and future service populations, budget and public facilities inventory. A key fiscal analysis contained in the study showed that new residents coming into Madera County are generating just enough new revenues from property and sales taxes to cover the costs for the basic services that they will require. The study also showed that there is not enough new revenue being generated to fund the expansion of the public facilities that are needed to deliver the additional services.

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Based on these findings, the study recommended the new impact fees. The fees, commonly called "public facilities fees" are allowed by a State law passed

in the early 90's. Other cities and counties throughout the State are using this approach to protect their current residents from some of the financial impacts of new development.

In Madera County, for example, the proposed public facilities fee for a single family residence in any unincorporated area will be \$4,342. Of that amount, allocations are made within six specific project categories including Libraries, Countywide Public Protection, Sheriff Patrol and Investigation, Fire, Regional Parks and General Government. These fee revenues are deposited into six separate restricted accounts that are limited to funding the construction of projects identified in the county's capital improvement plan.

You can obtain a copy of the study by contacting Eric Fleming, Assistant County Administrator, 675-7703.

## Community Center Idea Proposed through Chamber



Although purely for illustrative purposes, a community center for the Ranchos similar to the one pictured above could become a reality with adequate community support.

A community center for the Madera Ranchos, complete with seating for 300, an Olympic-sized pool, surrounding park area and after-school activity center, was proposed to members of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce as a feasible solution to the Ranchos' desperate need for a community facility that could accommodate banquets, town hall meetings, receptions and general recreation needs. This initial proposal would provide a location for after-school activities for the youth of the Ranchos and would also house an Olympic-sized pool that could be utilized by the high school, saving the Golden Valley Unified School District the expense of building a pool facility on campus. When not in use by the school it could be used as a neighborhood "plunge" in the heat of summer for residents of the Ranchos. Also factored in would be a surrounding public park area.

The proposal was suggested

by a member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce who requested that it be a Chamber project from its inception.

Depending on the size and amenities, the project could conservatively be built for between \$7.7 million and \$13 million. Financing for the project could come from different sources, but if it were to be financed solely by the people of the Ranchos, the obligation per household would be approximately \$12 per month on a 25 year bond, or about 40 cents per day for the least expensive of the three proposed designs.

Where the proposal goes from here will depend entirely on the community. If there is absolutely no interest, the proposal will die on the vine. Ditto if financing can't be secured. Community members who would be interested in seeing such a facility come to pass should contact the Chamber at 645-4001 and help get the ball rolling.

**INSIDE**

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**LET'S BUILD A LIBRARY IN THE RANCHOS!**

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY**

**INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE**

*see page 6 for details*





"THEY COULDN'T TELL US FOR SURE THAT IT WOULD RAIN TODAY, BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THEY CAN ACCURATELY PREDICT THE WEATHER 50 YEARS FROM NOW!"



Random Notes

Well, it's that time of year again. On Saturday, March 3 it's the one day of the year that you can head over to the Liberty High Theater, stick your head in the door and ask: Do you serve crabs here? To which you will get the unanimous answer: We serve ANYONE here!



It's the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's 4th Annual Crab Feed. This is a heck of a deal for you crab lovers out there (and you *know* who you are). You get salad and pasta and bread and a beverage and some dessert - and did I mention all the crab you can eat? There's both a silent auction and a live auction as well as entertainment and it all goes to a very good cause: the Chamber. I heard that there was just a charity/non-profit crab feed in Fresno that charged \$60 per person and was packed. Our crab feed is only \$35 a head with the same crab, same bread, same pasta ... just nicer people. Get your tickets at the Chamber office or call 645-4001 for more info.

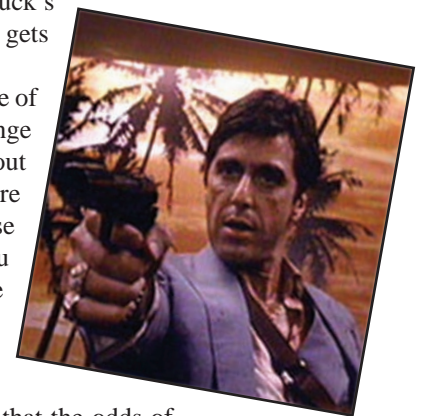


Everyone talks about getting involved but no one ever does anything about it, right? Wrong! Here's your chance to get involved, make your voice heard, DO something for the Ranchos and it's about as painless as it gets.

You may or may not know that the Ranchos Library is undertaking an ambitious plan to relocate to newer surroundings. Before they make that giant leap, they want input from the Ranchos (that's YOU) about what you want from a library. What do you like? What do you hate? What would you

like to see at a new library? Overstuffed chairs? Private reading rooms? A Starbucks? It is completely wide open and it's completely up to you. Look for the library's insert in this issue of the Ranchos Independent, fill it out (perhaps over a cup of Starbucks coffee?) and turn it in and when the new library gets built you can say, "I helped make that happen!"

There are some crazy people out there. For those of you who own firearms, you probably go to the range from time to time and shoot at a silhouette from about 10 to 20 yards or so, but if the time ever came where you had to draw your weapon on an attacker at close range, would you know what to do? Would you know *how* to do it? There's a group called Defensive Firearms Training that's offering courses in practical handgun, defensive shotgun, combat revolver and a special women's program to the public. They also teach kids the proper handling of weapons so that the odds of tragic accidents can be greatly reduced. Jordan Owen is the operations manager for



DFT and would be glad to help you out with any questions. He's got a Website you can visit and watch a video of what he teaches at [www.dfttraining.com](http://www.dfttraining.com). Give him a call at 283-5515.

After you recover from the crab, the Madera Community Hospital Foundation is putting on their annual Spring Blues & BBQ event at the Madera Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 17 from 6:30 p.m. till midnight. In addition to tri-tip and chicken, they're offering microbrews, cigars and the music of the Tommy Castro Band and Ron Thompson and the Resisters. Blues, brews and BBQ's ... how can you lose?

On a personal note, thank you to all of you who expressed your sympathy on the passing of my Aunt Helen Bailey. She was a wonderful woman, but the sadness we feel here on earth is inconsequential compared to the joy she's experiencing right now in the presence of God. Thank you all again and do me a favor: Go tell someone you love how you feel about them.

Editorial

Brrrr Baby, It's Fraud Outside

By Randy Bailey

Did you get your snow shovel in time? What about the snow tires on the car or the storm windows up on the house? Did you get to build a snowman? What about a good old-fashioned snowball fight? Didn't you get to bring your ice skates down to Maywood Center and spend a couple of hours carving lazy figure-eights on the frozen pond?

weather pattern brought it cataclysmically closer and closer, minute by minute. And yet - surprise - there was no snow.

Oh it got cold. So cold it *could* have snowed, but it didn't. It acted like it wanted to snow, but it didn't. All the indications at that exact moment told them all to predict snow and they did.

And they were all wrong.

Just like they all sat around and looked at a computer model of a moment in time, and based on that miniscule snapshot predicted the heavens would open, they're doing the same thing to us right now with their "so-called" global warming. (I love saying "so-called." It's a liberal trick they use on anything they disagree with. "The 'so-called' War on Terror," "Bush's 'so-called' tax cuts.")

Relative to the age of the earth and all of the warming and cooling cycles it has endured, a geologic time period of the last 30 years is not even a drop in the bucket. The last 100 years doesn't even scratch the surface. Doesn't anyone remember that just 30 years ago "so-called" scientists, with the exact same degree of certainty, told us we were heading for global cooling? In April of 1975 Newsweek reported on the coming Ice Age and five years before that scientist Kenneth E.F. Watt said at the first Earth Day, "If present trends continue, the world will be about 4 degrees colder for the global mean temperature in 1990, but 11 degrees colder by the year 2000 ... this is about twice what it would take to put us in an ice age."

Here's what it comes down to: If you didn't rush out to buy snowshoes and a sled last month, maybe you should use the same judgment every time someone tells you "this" and "that" are the result of global warming ... I mean "so-called" global warming.

Huh? Why not?

Oh yeah ... there *wasn't* any snow.

In January of this year, from the 12th through the 19th, we had temperatures for eight days that ranged from 3 degrees to 9 degrees *below* freezing. Area citrus growers prepared for a bloodbath. On the night the mercury was poised to hit 23 degrees Fahrenheit, every meteorologist worth his or her salt predicted snow flurries for our area. They were working with the absolutely latest, most up-to-the-minute computer models, satellite imaging and high-priced gadgetry known to man and were able to predict - without hesitation - that there would be a dusting of the white stuff in a matter of *hours*. Not Days. Not weeks. Not months and certainly not 10 to 50 years from now.

Hours.

Based on the reliability of their technology, only a fool would have not prepared for the eventual flakes that were going to fall. Based on their assurances you would have to be an idiot to expect absolutely anything other than white, puffy piles in the morning. The only responsible thing to do would be to fall into lockstep and prepare for snow. I mean after all, it was just hours away.

How could they possibly get it so wrong? Every indication said snow. Every model. Every computer. Every shifting

The Ranchos Independent

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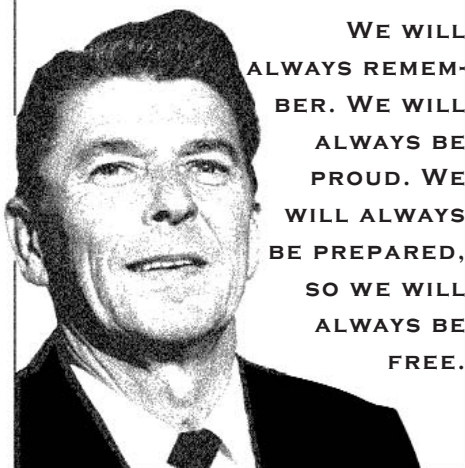
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## The Olde Cowboy *By Woody Laughnan*

Ever since the caveman era parents have made every attempt to protect their children from exposure to what has come to be known as "porn." While I go back a long way – to the 1920s in a homely two-room shack on my squatter father's farmstead – never has such a copious amount of lascivious material (much of it then unheard of) become so readily obtainable for young eyes.

Oh, I'm not saying that youngsters of my time were entirely free of a certain amount of lickerish exposure. For instance, mama ripped out the girdle, petticoat, brassiere and bloomer pages from the *Monkey Wards* and *Sears Roebuck* catalogs before placing them in the backyard privy. And on Monday – washday

– on the way to school when we passed the neighbor who had five daughters, she admonished my brothers and me to duck heads and held a hand over whichever one was riding in the front seat so our carnal senses would not be aroused.

Furthermore, we were not permitted to bear witness to the goings on in the barnyard corral when a cow came into heat and the bull was turned loose on her. And I still recall, after all of these years, the postmaster being chastised for putting a pan of water and scraps of food from boarding house tables out front for the town dogs that would usually result in a female or two getting in a libidinous mood.

And I remember that en route to the town hall on autumn Saturday nights Papa turning to the back seat where my

two brothers and I were seated and admonish, "Remember boys, if you wrong a girl you have to do the right thing by her."

Well my little brother and I were only four and six at the time and when I asked what the wrong and right things were, Papa didn't answer, but glowered at my 13-year-old brother. Not for several years was I to learn that the "wrong thing" a boy did to a girl caused her to suffer a hernia and she had to move to Los Angeles and live with an aunt for nine months while it was being taken care of by a doctor, and that it generally weighed about 6 lbs. and 9 oz.

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In comparison to yesteryears, the abundance of porn today runs so rampant in movies, radio, newspapers, VCRs and especially on television and computers, that responsible parents have to block objectionable programs from young eyes. And as far as that goes, a juvenile can visit any drug or grocery store magazine section and read and see pictures of sex stuff that if I attempted to describe on this page it would catch on fire and burn your hands.

Indeed, I mean to tell you that even at my age I am learning new things which if I put into to practice would likely result in a heart attack, stroke or worse.

As a matter of fact, girls no longer even have to leave town because of hernias. Indeed, or so I understand, they can buy a "morning after" pill that eliminates the possibility of having one.

Well, I do not know what the world is Please see **WOODY** on Page 5

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Elections are a very serious obligation. From the Presidential election all the way down to the local school board elections. Nowhere is that point more clearly illuminated as in the election of the Golden Valley Unified School District board. The people have elected five very nice, community minded people – friends of the neighborhood if you will – however, totally unqualified to govern GVUSD. With a budget in the multi million-dollar level, and growing, the board is preoccupied with finding people to hire, at huge expense I might add, to make decisions for them. That in my opinion is not why a board is elected. Two of the present board members were on the board a few years ago when a similar attitude was prevalent with the board. By the time the situation had gotten out of control two members of the board were voted out and the superintendent was fired at great expense to the district.

Déjà vu, here we go again. The board has hired a carpetbagger who makes his living out of making issues where there are no issues. He was hired to get as much out of Castle & Cooke and Village at Gateway as can possibly be extracted. I would like to point out that this hire comes at great expense to the district, and this misguided endeavor does not come without risks to the district, such as the developer could elect to pull back to the statutes on developer fees and mitigations, which are substantially less than what they are offering. They also have the option of forming their own school district, time consuming, but possible. And there are others, but the point is there is a limit on how far they will go.

Since Castle & Cooke came to the Ranchos some 12 years ago, they have been open and up front with this community and

everyone in it. Everyone was kept aware of what was going on with the project and the progress as it occurred. Town hall meetings were held frequently to inform the residents of everything that was going on in the development. Mona and Audrey, you were at these meetings so you know this is true. I'm not sure the other three board members attended any of these meetings but everyone in the community was invited.

Castle & Cooke has been open and forthcoming on every question and issue put to them by the people of this community. Castle & Cooke has also gone beyond being a good neighbor and has become a friend of this community, donating time and money to every service and civic group in the Madera Ranchos including Golden Valley Unified School District. Audrey have you forgotten all they've done for the Ranchos Hill Seniors? Mona do you remember how much Castle & Cooke has done for GVUSD? Do you think Castle & Cooke, a true friend and benefactor to this school district, one of the premier developers in the world, who is emulated from Clovis to throughout the United States, deserves this kind of treatment?

From the very beginning Castle & Cooke has been very clear that they would provide schools (grammar, middle and high schools) for every student in their project. Just to be clear, *all* schools needed for *all* students at Village at Gateway. Mona and Audrey, I have sat with you at many of the meetings and presentations and you have heard all of these proposals the same as I have. It is time for you two to stand up and assume a leadership role in this matter. Inform your fellow board members and bring them up to speed.

We don't need an outsider coming in here taking thousands of dollars from the Please see **LETTERS** on Page 5

# When was your last family portrait?



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# Library Poll: Fill Out and Return!

By Ellen Mester

Good News! Several people in the community have called to volunteer their time and effort to ensure that the Flatlander's Parade and Craft Show happen this year. We still need more volunteers so please call the Ranchos Library at 645-1214 or call the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001. A special meeting of volunteers will be called closer to the May 5 Flatlander's Day. If you can't volunteer then participate by attending the craft show and watching the parade. We need the whole community to support this special Madera Ranchos event.

Check your Ranchos Independent for a "Let's Build a Library" survey. This is a very important questionnaire that the Ranchos Library needs filled out and returned to the Library. It adds an important piece of information to all the documentation we need in order to build a new library. The New Library Planning Committee has been diligently gathering information by researching all the aspects of building a library. The Committee has made amazing progress but we are still at the very beginning stages of this exciting process of planning and building a library. If you would like to be a part of this please come to our next meeting. Our meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month.

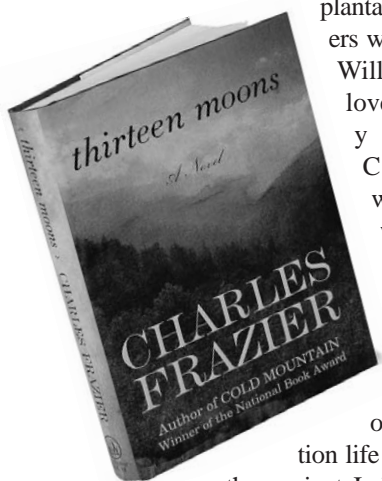
More good news! The number of library patrons has increased by 17 percent in the past nine months. This is phenomenal in comparison to the other libraries in Madera County. What does it mean? More people moving into the Ranchos? Probably – but also more people are realizing the importance of a local library to our community and that's the kind of example we should be showing our children and grandchildren. Become a lifelong reader and supporter of your library! We have the current bestsellers in print and on CD and if we don't have it in our library we can request it from another library for 50 cents. We have videos, music CD's and internet access for anyone over the age of 11 who has a library card. If you haven't been to the library recently, stop by and check it out.

Monday Story Time is 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. The Friends of the Library meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

TAX FORMS are now available! We can also print any of the other tax forms for you free of charge.

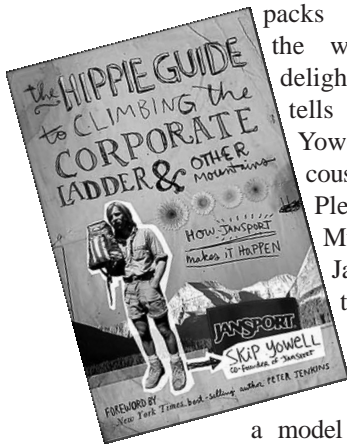
### Book Recommendations

**New Adult fiction:** *Thirteen Moons* by Charles Frazier. If you read his first book, *Cold Mountain*, you'll recognize the setting for this book, the mountains of North Carolina and Georgia during the early 1800's. Will Cooper, a 12-year-old orphan is bound to a master who sends him to the mountains to manage a remote Indian trading post at the edge of the Cherokee Nation. Over time Will learns the Cherokee language and ways of the people. He becomes adept at trading and studies law on his own. Many of the Cherokee are mixed blood and have become plantation owners with slaves. Will falls in love with a young Cherokee woman who is comfortable in the gentle ways of plantation life as well as the ancient Indian ways.



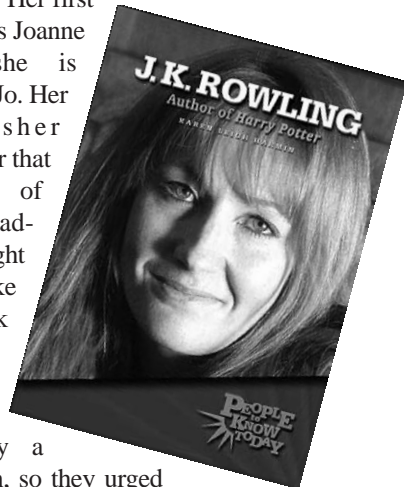
A great Cherokee Chief, Bear, becomes a father to Will. Will is adopted by Bear's people who teach him the ways of the world. As the years pass, we see the growth of our country and the demise of the Cherokee Nation. Through Will's eyes we see raw beauty and inevitable destruction – all in the name of progress.

**New Adult non-fiction:** *The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other Mountains* by Skip Yowell. Have you heard of the company JanSport? You might have seen the name on about a million back-



packs throughout the world. This delightful book tells how Skip Yowell, his cousin, Murray Pletz, and Murray's wife Jan started a tiny company in the 60's which grew to be a model of success built on a good product, hard work and determination. Hippies at heart, the threesome designed and sewed the first backpacks by hand out of a little space upstairs from their Uncle Norm's transmission shop. As orders started coming in, eventually other family members helped out. Pouring their heart and soul into every pack, they fussed over every detail making each one perfect. Their big break came when Eddie Bauer ordered 300 packs. Today, JanSport has operations in several countries and employs over 400 people, but the owners have stayed true to their original goals of working hard and having fun making a quality product. This is another non-fiction book that reads like a novel.

**Juvenile Biography:** *J.K. Rowling: Author of Harry Potter* by Karen Leigh Harmin. Just to set the record straight, her last name is pronounced with a long O as in "boat." Her first name is Joanne but she is called Jo. Her publisher told her that some of her readers might not like a book about a boy written by a woman, so they urged her to use her initials instead. She had a wonderful, loving childhood in a small town with two parents and a sister. Her family loved books and she began writing and telling stories at a young age. She spent five years passionately writing Harry Potter and knew from the beginning that it would take seven books to write the whole story. Her adult life was a tremendous struggle before she became successful. Her friends and family helped her out in the bad times and she was able to pour a lot of her emotions and humor into Harry Potter because of it. The first Harry Potter book was handwritten and then typed on an old typewriter. She couldn't afford copying fees so she retyped the whole manuscript so she would have one to keep and one to send to publishers. Several publishers returned that first manuscript saying that they weren't interested (I bet they're sorry now). Jo is a fascinating person and although this is a Juvenile Biography, adults will find it an interesting read as well.



Check out these books and more at the library and always remember your library card ... don't leave home without it!



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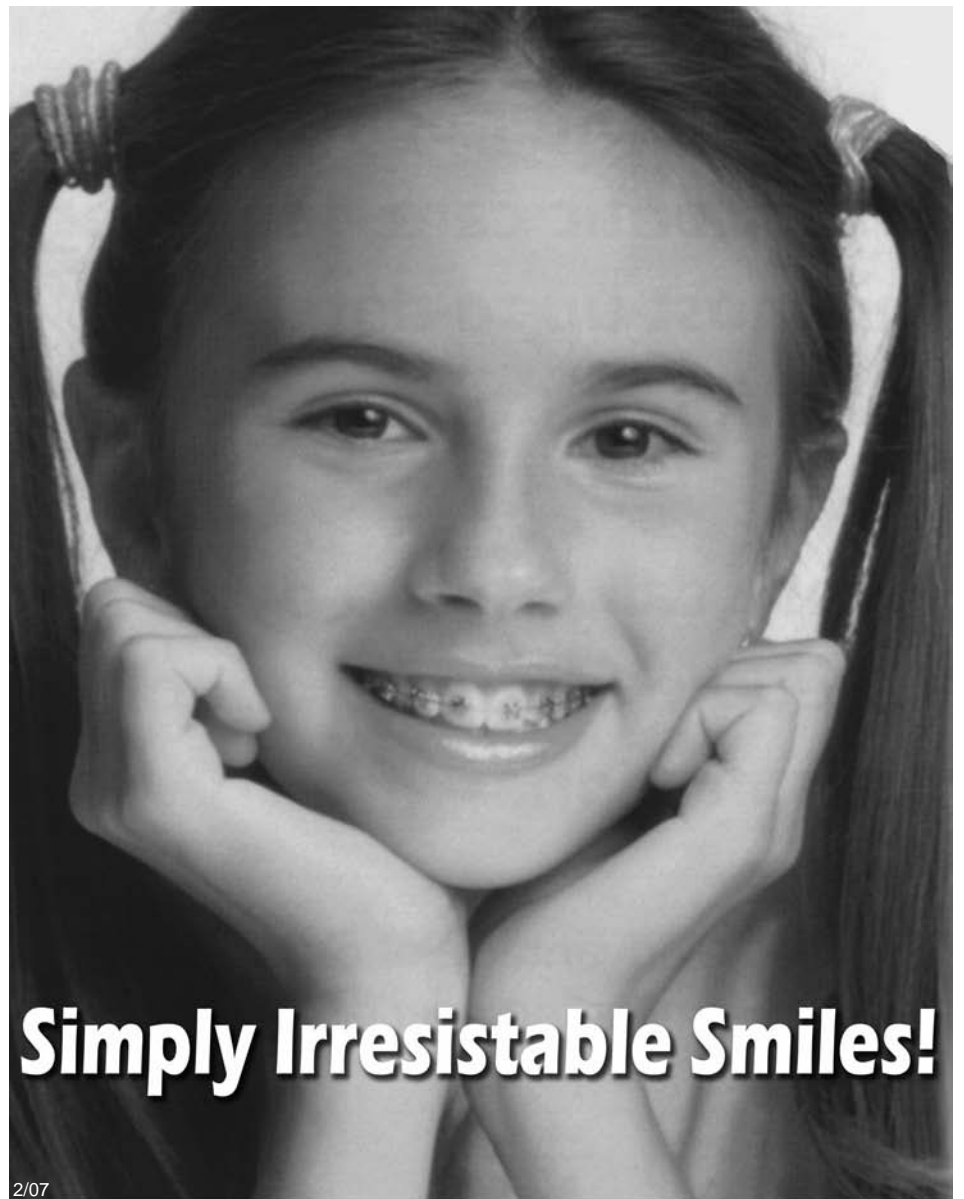
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**Saturday, March 17, 2007**

6:30 p.m. – Midnight  
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Silver: Muhammad Anwar, M.D., Mohammad Ashraf, M.D., Madera Pulmonary & Sleep Disorders Center, Inc., Pistorasi Ambulance, Purf's Sheet Metal, Warnock Foods

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2/07

LETTERS cont. from Page 3

district for something the board can do with the help of the legal staff you already have on retainer. Take what is offered to the table and negotiate for the things you think are important.

Important reminders: Castle & Cooke paid for all the consultants and the feasibility study to separate GVUSD from Madera Unified and start this school district. Since the passage of the bond, Castle & Cooke has been paying GVUSD in excess of \$90,000 a year in taxes without one student attending a class.

Kent Ridge  
Rolling Hills

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your editorial on the "Golden Valley School Board Stumbles." It was correct and to the point regarding negotiations with Castle & Cooke and their future development.

Castle & Cooke has been a member of this community for the past 12 years. Castle & Cooke has helped many non-profit community groups within GVUSD for all of those 12 years and also has furnished water to Rolling Hills community – on a hand shake – for most of those 12 years, at no charge and with no strings attached regarding their future development.

Castle & Cooke is trying to pave the way for its development and future development in GVUSD. If Castle & Cooke freely provides more than the state requires, maybe the other developers will follow suit also. With their current strategy, GVUSD could cause Castle & Cooke to sit on the sidelines – as the other developers are doing – and GVUSD would be the loser.

I attended the GVUSD School Facilities Committee meeting on Feb. 6 and came away with more of an understanding of what GVUSD is up against with future development in Southeast Madera County. Marshall Krupp, GVUSD consultant, is very knowledgeable regarding which direction this committee should take and what the bottom line would be if we do not get all our ducks in a row. The committee is made up of various community members, including business owners, homeowners, parents, school teachers, etc., and is doing an excellent job. The committee members have a very good understanding of the negotiations GVUSD is facing and I am positive they will prevail with an excellent agreement with Castle & Cooke and other future developers.

The agreement with Castle & Cooke will set the standard for all development now and in the future and if GVUSD does not find middle ground for an agreement, the existing property owners and future property owners will be the ones making up the deficit regarding costs of schools. I know it is a lot to ask of the developers to contribute more than the state requires by law. I also know the developers are in business to make a profit and will most likely pass along the costs to the future property owners in their development and

WOODY cont. from Page 3

coming to. A drug store clerk the other day told me a boy about 13 came in and wanted to re-order a Viagra prescription for his father that he'd just filled two days earlier. Well, the pharmacist knew the family and advised the youth to return in a few hours and the prescription would be ready, and in the meantime reported the incident to his father.

The mortified father told him, "When he comes back for the prescription, tell him I picked it up an hour earlier. I can assure you he'll never try this again."

"Maybe you ought to block the suggestive shows from your TV and comput-

er," the pharmacist advised. "I did," the father said, "but I just remembered that I forgot to block the TV in my home workshop in the garage."

On grilling his son, the boy admitted he'd discovered the TV in the work shop hadn't been blocked and that he'd invited some friends over for a "Porn Party" and sold them the Viagra pills for \$2 each.

Well, the upshot of all this is that I told the missus, "Look at how much fun we've been missing out on. Maybe I ought to get some Viagra pills for myself." "You do that," she said, "and not only will I block your Jerry Springer and Lawrence Welk shows from the television set, but also knock your block off!"

I could not attend the Nov. 30 Castle & Cooke Town Hall meeting or the Jan. 17 meeting for the Castle & Cooke presentation to the school board. I was informed that certain persons at both meetings were in the back of the room "saucing the audience." If these persons are allowed to continue their actions at future meetings, GVUSD will lose credibility. For those who do not know what "saucing the audience" entails, these persons were instructing other audience members as to what questions to ask on their behalf. I wonder if these persons were afraid that if they asked the same questions that they might be seen in a different light by the other audience members? If the questions were important and honest, why couldn't they just ask them? This is nothing short of deceitful and dishonest. I have also been informed that there are people that have resorted to "extortion or blackmail," with regard to Castle & Cooke. Those types of tactics will cause a black mark against GVUSD and our residents.

I attended the workshop on future development in Madera County a few weeks ago and believe me almost all of those attending are against development. It is my opinion that we cannot survive on farming alone. Being a fourth-generation family member of Madera County, I am all for farming, but we need some additional tax revenue. New development is the way of the future, especially in Southeast Madera County, and can help pave the way for economic growth.

I have seen a lot of changes in Madera County. As an example, we used to have two indoor theaters, a drive in theater and clothing, shoe, grocery, and drug stores when I was growing up. We did not have to shop in Fresno during those years. Unfortunately, Madera proper has not changed for the better, but we in Southeast Madera County have the opportunity for a better future through quality developments like Castle & Cooke's. Our community should do whatever it can to help Castle & Cooke get underway.

I am suggesting to GVUSD, Castle & Cooke and our community members, that we hold an open joint meeting between GVUSD and Castle & Cooke to present the status of an agreement, and for each side to be able to present their respective positions. We could then have a question and answer period for the residents to answer any questions they have, without "saucing" the audience.

Jan DeWoody  
Rolling Hills



# Kindergarten Registration Time

Spread the word! GVUSD Kindergarten registration for the 2007-2008 school year is just around the corner. If you or your neighbors have Kindergarten-age students, help the schools by getting the word out about Kindergarten Registration.

The following items will be required to register a child for kindergarten:

1. Your child must be 5 years old by Dec. 2, 2007. You will need to bring in his or her birth certificate to verify this.
2. You must bring your child's immunization records showing that your child is up-to-date on all of his or her shots:
  - TB Test within 1 year prior to entering school (A GVUSD requirement)
  - Polio
  - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis
  - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
  - Hepatitis B
  - Varicella (Chicken Pox)
3. Proof of residency within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries. This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.
4. A completed registration packet.

Please see the following for specific school site registration information.

### Sierra View Elementary School

Sierra View Elementary School will be having their annual Kindergarten Round Up to pre-register, acquaint and assess Kindergarten students for next year. This event happens on April 16 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sierra View

is now scheduling appointments for Kindergarten Round Up. To Schedule an appointment, call the Sierra View office at 645-1122 and ask for Cheri.

### Webster Elementary School

Webster Elementary School's Kindergarten Registration will begin on April 9 at 9 a.m. in the Webster Multi-Purpose Room. As much as possible, and within the parameters and guidelines of maintaining balanced class ratios, we will be assigning slots for a.m./p.m. Kindergarten on a first come, first registered basis. Therefore, if you need your child to have one of the 40 a.m. Kindergarten slots you will need to be one of the first parents to register.

Kindergarten readiness pre-assessments will be held on Monday, April 23 and Tuesday, April 24. Appointments for this pre-assessment will be made during the Kindergarten registration on April 9. If you cannot make the April 9 registration date, you will need to come into the Webster Elementary Office after April 9 to register your child and sign up for a pre-assessment appointment. Early registrations will not be taken.

Registration packets for Webster can be picked up during office hours beginning March 19. It would be helpful for you to have them already filled out and ready to bring in on April 9. In addition, if you have concerns about your medical records and would like our health clerk to verify before April 9 that your child has all of the needed shots, you can bring your immunization record into our health clerk ahead of time.

## Let's Build a Library in the Ranchos!

Help by Completing the SURVEY Inserted in this Issue

A new library is in the making for the Ranchos Community and the Madera County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed its support for this effort at its Aug. 25, 2006 meeting. The current library is leasing space in the Maywood Shopping Center where it has grown since its inception in 1990. The Ranchos Community that it serves has grown too and a new, larger, well-designed library would better serve the community now and in the future.

A committee has formed and has begun working on getting land, funding, a design and your input. There is a survey form inserted in this copy of the Ranchos Independent so please let the committee know what you think. The survey is anonymous so please give us your opinions and ideas for the new library. The results from this survey will help with the planning process as well as help to justify the need for the library to potential funding sources.

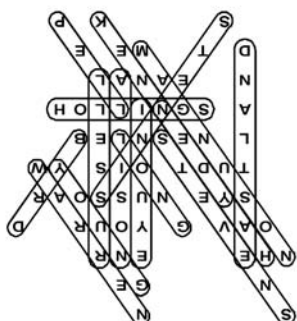
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## Puzzle Answers



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1	5	6	4	2	8	9	3	7
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## Safe & Sound

# A Family that Kicks Together ...

By Dave Johnson

"A Family That Kicks Together Sticks Together." I'm sure you could have guessed that this is one of my favorite sayings. Today Martial Arts training has become a "Family Affair" with moms, dads and children of all ages. Almost half of the sport's 6 million participants are kids between the ages of 6 and 17 and women comprise one-third of the student body, according to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. There are many styles of Martial Arts, including Taekwondo, Seieido, Jujitsu, Judo, Aikido, etc. Each style, if taught correctly and attended regularly can deliver a great workout and teach good self-defense, but these aren't the only reasons families sign up. The Martial Arts industry is booming because it offers something for all ages. Martial Arts instruction helps preschoolers develop social skills and improves their attention span. It gives grade-schoolers and teenagers a confidence boost while teaching them self-control. Parents find that they gain greater stamina, improved endurance, and a trimmer, toned body. Some of the top reasons for joining cited by participants are:

**1. It helps to "bullyproof" kids** – Bullies often torment kids who unknowingly send messages that make them become targets. It is as simple as how they stand, their posture or their lack of eye contact. In martial art classes, participants are constantly challenged and then praised for doing their best, building confidence. Kids learn that their bodies and minds are strong, powerful and worthy of respect. Once a child discovers this, his or her whole attitude changes. Children begin to carry themselves with an ease and assurance that tells bullies to move on. Because martial arts are generally non-competitive, kids can set their own pace for earning the next belt or being promoted to the next level. Classes provide a safe environment for kids with fragile egos to heel and become stronger, mentally and physically. They learn to look aggressors in the eyes, to think through hostile situations calmly, and to take a positive, no-nonsense stance when threatened.

**2. Bullies benefit too** – Not because they learn to kick harder. A 2001 study in Adolescence found that violent behavior decreased among middle-schoolers when they were participating in martial arts training, while their confidence levels rose. Bullies act the way they do because they have low self-esteem, poor social skills, or little respect for themselves or others. The focus on respect and courtesy within the martial arts sends the message that you don't have to be mean to earn a person's respect.

**3. It sharpens focus for kids with ADHD** – All martial arts emphasize concentration, so it might seem like an inap-

propriate sport for a child with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, yet some experts say that the highly structured approach and repetitive patterns of movements (called Katas or Poomsae) actually help ease symptoms of the disorder. Impulse control is a huge challenge for these kids but in a martial arts class, they learn to focus, clear their minds of distractions and take control of their body movements. These kids are always being told that they're doing something wrong; in martial arts they aren't. They're constantly encouraged to give their best effort.

**4. It empowers mothers and daughters** – Most women experience a feeling of vulnerability at some point in their lives, but once they are properly trained in martial arts they know they can defend themselves. Learning defensive techniques is one of the most common reasons parents enroll their daughters in martial arts classes. In the past, girls were discouraged from being assertive, but now moms and dads say they want their daughters to be able to protect themselves.

Golden Valley Martial Arts currently has a small population of grade-schoolers, teens and adults, but we also have complete family units training together. Remember, "The WORST time to start self-defense training is AFTER an attack." Contact me. I would love to hear from you. E-mail me at info @ masterjohnson.com. Your participation is vital and appreciated. Remember, since we are all in this together, let's make it a community project, have some fun, and increase our level of safety.

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE:** Spend some time with your children reviewing the following sites and KNOW what they do and who they do it with! [www.amw.com/kids](http://www.amw.com/kids), [tcs.cybertipline.com](http://tcs.cybertipline.com) and [www.missingkids.com/adCouncil](http://www.missingkids.com/adCouncil).

**SELF-DEFENSE TIPS: SEEK PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION.** If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, turn and look them in the eyes with confidence and tell them so. Protect your space. Always stand at a slanted angle with one foot back spaced at about shoulder width. Hands should be relaxed and held between waist and chest level. **KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT.**

*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](http://www.masterjohnson.com). He can be contacted at 559-917-5262.*

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2/07



## GV School Board vs. Developers?

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
I want to formally introduce Vi Chuck as Golden Valley interim superintendent to you, the community. Vi will hold the reins in her capable hands while Golden Valley Unified is searching for a new superintendent. Vi has stepped into the district office and has kept Golden Valley operating smoothly since Dr. Shepherd left us to take up her new job at Monterey Unified School District. Vi has an open door policy if you need her. Thank you, Vi.

Golden Valley is a small school district that has only been in operation since 1998. Protecting the future of Golden Valley has not been easy and it has just gotten harder. It has required vision, leadership and community support. Every day problems keep the district office personnel, the administration and your school board members scrambling to keep up. The members of Golden Valley School Board keep asking each other, "... is what we are doing good for kids?" That is the bottom line for us. Golden Valley has been lucky so far. We have had successful programs and have been very progressive in building an exemplary school district from scratch. Webster Elementary School is a California Distinguished School, Liberty High and Ranchos Middle Schools are both applying to become California Distinguished schools in 2007. Our API scores are all up and all of this in just nine short years. Along with success comes crowding. Webster Elementary is already full. Liberty High is filling up quickly. I believe this is all due to being a small school district but this could all change as the developers start building in our area.

Golden Valley was founded on the idea of local control and community involvement. I believe that the public education system is an essential part of the American democratic system. Therefore I am disappointed in Castle and Cooke. From the time that I worked to establish Golden Valley Unified as a school district, I have been a supporter of the Gateway project. I was on the Golden Valley School Board on July 10, 2001 when we passed Resolution #01-01-02 to support Castle and Cooke in their Gateway project. At that time Castle and Cooke said that they would provide for the educational facilities needed by the children of their Gateway project by locating one high school, one middle school and four elementary school sites within Gateway. Now Castle and Cooke says that they will only provide four elementary school sites in their project. Why have Castle and Cooke taken out both the high school and middle school site from the Gateway project? When I asked that question I was told that Castle and Cooke is not in the business to build schools. Yet they say that they can build schools cheaper than Golden Valley can. If they are not in the business to build schools how can they know that? Liberty High was designed for 1,200 students at full build out. This is the Liberty High that was built with the bonds passed by the Golden Valley community. The Gateway project will generate 1,200 high school students and now Castle and Cooke wants to put 1,200 more students at our Liberty High, resulting in Liberty having a future enrollment of 2,400 students. What would that do to the small high school that the community voted to have? The \$70 million bond that the community just passed will build our new Ranchos Middle School for 700 students. This is a manageable number of 7th and 8th grade students. Castle and Cooke's Gateway project will generate another 700 middle school students but they don't want a middle school built in their Gateway project. Do they expect to dump their middle school students into our new Ranchos Middle School that isn't even built yet with a potential enrollment in excess of 1,400 students? Ranchos Middle School would be overcrowded before it was even

built. Even if new schools are built in the future, Castle and Cooke has provided no interim facilities to accommodate the students generated by the project prior to new schools being built. Where will these students be enrolled in the interim of new schools and who is to pay for the support facilities that will be required for these new students, such as busing and administrative services?

The local portion of the cost of school facilities alone (not including interim facilities and District-wide support facilities) will exceed \$139 million dollars. Castle and Cooke have offered a proposal to fund approximately \$65 million dollars. Where will the difference of \$74 million dollars come from? Is the rest of the community going to have to tax itself in order to subsidize the schools required for the Gateway project? Who is to subsidize the other projects that are on the horizon in the Rio Mesa area and the other areas of the eastern portion of the District? Are the current residents the ones that will have to carry the load of financing school facilities on their backs for the benefit of future developer profits?

I ask Castle and Cooke to come to the table with real numbers and step up to the good neighbor that they have offered to be. Do what is right for the students that the Gateway project will generate! It is not the responsibility of the rest of the community to tax themselves in order for developers to make their profit margins. The good people of this community have already put their money where their mouth is by passing two bonds to build schools for their children. Now it is Castle and Cooke's turn to put up the money for the children in their Gateway project.

At the beginning of this article I mentioned that the school board is ready to start looking for a new superintendent for Golden Valley. To do that we have to hire a company that can search out and bring us the right person for the job. The next superintendent needs to match the beliefs, vision, values and priorities of the Golden Valley Unified School District. The new superintendent will have to work with the School Board members, community, teachers, administrators and the media. This new person needs to understand school budgeting and school finance at the federal, state, district, county and school levels. This will take a person with stamina, vitality, courage, integrity, good people skills and a passion for students. I know that this is asking a lot. I pray that the person we need is out there and is ready to go to work.

I am excited to tell you that at the Academic Decathlon on Feb. 3, 2007 the Liberty High Team came in second only to Yosemite High. The Liberty High Academic Decathlon team will be traveling to Los Angeles March 15-18 with the Yosemite team to compete in the state competition. The Liberty team has been invited by the state as one of the highest-ranking teams in Division III who did not win the county competition. Congratulations to both the Yosemite High Academic team and the Liberty High Academic team and I wish both teams success at the state competition. Go Hawks!

Is the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed on your calendar? It will be held at Liberty High Cafeteria on March 3 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 and can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce office.

A must attend event is being put on by the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. It is a fundraiser for the Foundation called "The Night the Stars Come Out." The dinner is on March 24 and will be held at the Birdstone Winery at 6 p.m. Price for adults is \$40 prepaid and \$45 at the door and can be reserved by calling the Golden Valley District office at 645-7500.

I hope to see you at the next regular school board meeting. As usual there are a lot of things going on.

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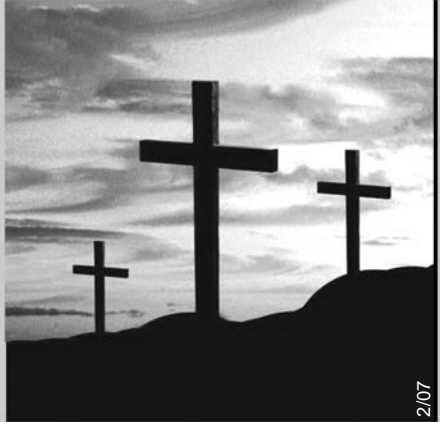
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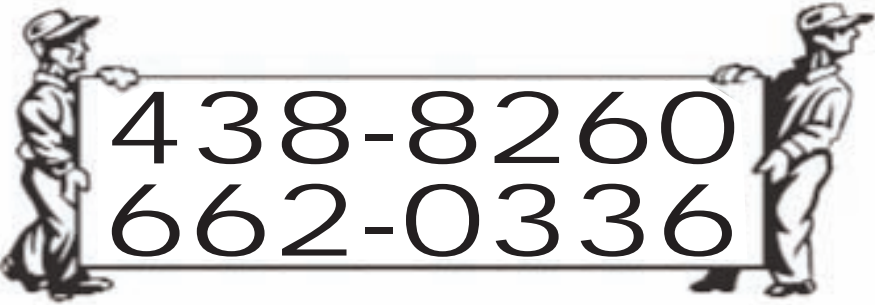
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**Mandatory Pet Spay/Neuter Law Lobbied by Madera Animal Chief**



Kirsten Gross, director of Madera County Animal Shelter, comforts "Lil' Girl," a 6-week-old pitbull-mix puppy. A good example of the pet overpopulation problem, "Lil' Girl" has less than a 30 percent chance of being adopted, and will probably be euthanized. Photo by D.J. Becker

By D.J. Becker

*Part I of a two-part series.*

If enacted into law, the Healthy Pets Act would make the spaying and neutering of all cats and dogs over four months of age mandatory. Madera County animal shelter director Kirsten Gross joined the effort to lobby state legislators in Sacramento, along with the Healthy Pets Act founder Judie Mancuso.

The proposed law would carry a penalty of a \$500 fine for not spaying or neutering any dog or cat over 4 months of age and or allowing them to breed. The bill was introduced in the state legislature Friday, Feb. 23, 2007.

According to figures gathered by Mancuso from the California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section, 841,000 dogs and cats entered state shelters in 2005. Of those, 430,240, or approximately 51 percent, were euthanized at an estimated cost of \$132,513,899. "When so many healthy lives are being lost, something has to change," Mancuso said.

Shelter statistics show Madera County euthanized more than 5,000 dogs and cats in 2006. Shelter director Gross said, "I'd say that's education policy failure. We in animal control make the hard choices. We do a good job of making the public's problems disappear, but the awful

truth is that the problems - the unwanted and excess dogs and cats - are euthanized and disappear into freezers and trucks for disposal. That includes puppies and kittens."

The law provides exemptions for persons with purebreds registered with the American Kennel Club, or other recognized purebred dog or cat breeding groups. Those in the pet breeding industry will be able to obtain "intact permits" allowing registered breeding animals to remain unspayed or unneutered. Police dogs, rescue and guide dogs would also be exempt. Other exemptions would also be allowed due to age, illness or poor health of an animal, as determined by a veterinarian.

Fees, fines and intact permits would be determined by each county animal control agency. Fees and fines collected would be returned to local animal control departments according to the proposed bill.

According to Mancuso, the language of this law was crafted by a diverse group of experienced animal control officers, veterinarians, government officials and animal lovers from rural areas to the largest cities and counties in the state. "It meets California's needs and begins bringing this huge fiscal impact down in the most ethical manner. It's the right legislation at the right time. The needless killing

Please see UNWANTED on P. 14

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**SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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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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2/07

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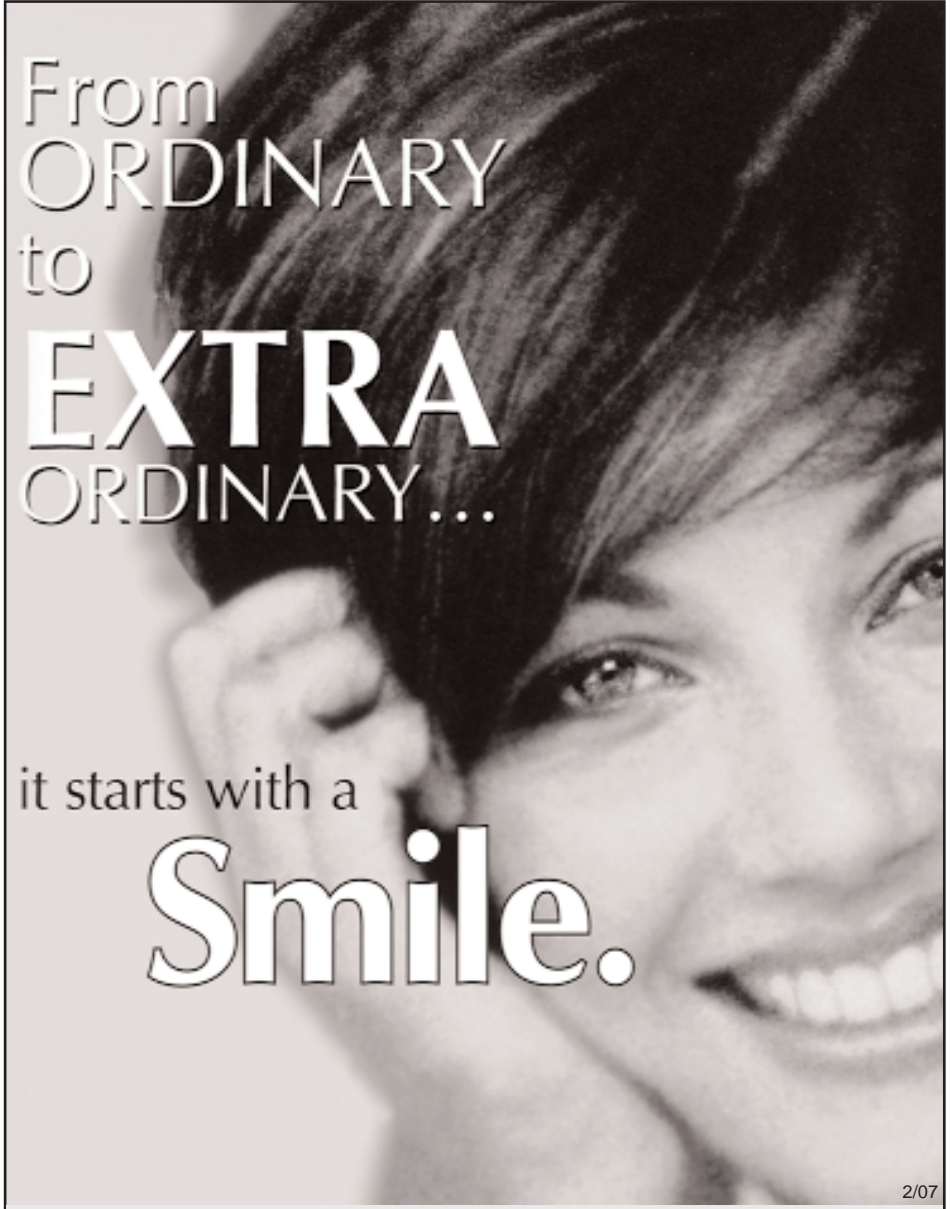
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**Flipside** Christian Church Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 and 11:00 A.M. @ Liberty High School (Ave. 12 & Rd. 36)

For more info contact: Flipside Christian Church info@acts176.com (559) 790-0061





## Juniors Hand Seniors 50-26 Loss

The Liberty High School Juniors defeated the Seniors 50-26 in the Fourth Annual Powder Puff football game held at Liberty High. The game raised more than \$1,500 for the Marjorie Mason Center

*The Night The Stars Come Out*  
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(includes a commemorative wine glass)  
For more information regarding any of these events call the  
GVUSD District Office 645-7500.



### LHS Band Room Opens To Valley Teen Ranch

Valley Teen Ranch students try the LHS Band Room as part of GVUSD's extended day activities.

## Extreme Makeover For Sierra View Field



The work being done here is evidence of the Ranchos Community coming together on behalf of Sierra View Elementary School and the kids of the community. Thanks to Robert Bresee, Chad Harr, Scott McCoy, Action Rental, Vulcan Materials and Mark Ward Trucking for their generous donations.

## RMS Science Fair Winners



Congratulations to Ranchos Middle School Science Fair winners. "The students have been working really hard on their projects since November, so it was nice to see the final display boards," said Ms. Ullrich, 7th grade science teacher. Go Mustangs!



### Roosevelt Musical Production Calls Indy, Lincoln Teens

Independence High and Lincoln High students attended the production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" at the Roosevelt School of the Arts in Fresno.

### GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POSTING FOR CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Governing Board of the Golden Valley Unified School District is seeking qualified, interested individuals to serve on a committee of community leaders which will serve as the independent Citizens' Oversight Committee ("COC") for the implementation of the Measure S School Facilities Bond program.

#### Proposition 39 Bond Election

On June 6, 2006, voters residing within the Golden Valley Unified School District passed Measure S. Measure S is a \$70 million bond measure that was approved on the June 6, 2006, ballot which authorizes funding for needed repairs, upgrades, and new construction projects to the schools within the Golden Valley Unified School District. Proposition 39 requires a 55% supermajority for approval; this bond was passed by 58.2%.

#### Establishment of a Citizens' Oversight Committee

After a bond authorized under Proposition 39 is passed, state law requires that the Golden Valley Unified School District Governing Board appoint a Citizens' Oversight Committee to work with the district.

#### Committee Responsibilities

In accordance with Education Code Section 15278(b), the Citizens' Oversight Committee shall:

- Inform the public concerning the District's expenditure of Measure S bond proceeds;
- Review the expenditure reports produced by the District to ensure that Measure S bond proceeds were expended only for the purposes set forth in Measure S;
- Present to the Governing Board of the District, in public session, an annual written report outlining their activities and conclusions regarding the expenditure of Measure S bond proceeds.

#### Appointment of Committee Members

All appointments will be made by the Governing Board from applications submitted to the district.

#### Time Commitment and Term

Initial appointments will be staggered, such that some of the initial appointees will be appointed to serve one full two-year term. The other initial appointments will serve a one-year term, but will be eligible for reappointment by the Board for a second two-year term.

#### Would You be Interested in Serving?

If you wish to serve on this important committee, please contact Aimee Beintker at the Golden Valley Unified School District Office for more information about the committee bylaws and the committee's role and responsibilities.

**Golden Valley Unified School District**  
37479 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93638  
Tel. (599) 645-7500, Fax (599) 645-7144

## Girls Hoopsters Keeps Eye on Prize

By Chris Gonzales

Fresh off a winning season from last year, the girl's basketball team has been trying to keep that reputation. Although the girls have had an up and down season so far, they are still within reach of a league championship. With the way the leagues are split up now, the Hawks are the favorite.

The girls' record is currently above .500, including wins over Fresno Christian and Riverdale. The girls have recently changed leagues but the change hasn't hindered their performance.

"The league that we are in is the smaller - but more competitive league - than the other one," senior point guard LaRasha Smith said.

There are only four teams in the Northwest Sierra League: Caruthers, Fowler, Riverdale and rival Fresno Christian.

"One loss can make a difference in this league," Smith said. "We need to work harder every practice and in games if we want to



be the outright champs."

Coach Rick Tarango is very pleased with his team's performance. "The season is going very well and I am very proud of my girls," he said. "I am very fortunate to coach such an excellent group of student athletes."

Coach "T", as his players call him, has no doubts about his team's abilities. "We will play hard every game and continue to live up to our reputation of competitive basketball," he said.

The Hawks will continue to compete for a League Championship and even a Valley Championship.

### Starbucks with the Superintendent

First Week of the Month

GVUSD District Office Room 2

7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Open agenda for parents and community members to ask questions and share ideas.

For more information contact


Aimee Beintker at 645-7500.

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Senior Report

## St. Valentine, Man of Legends

By Eleanore Burchell

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, would like to wish you and yours a Happy Valentine's month and would like to share the following history with you.

Every February we celebrate Valentine's Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of Saint Valentine. You may be wondering, "Who is Saint Valentine?"

Legend has it that Saint Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. At that time, there was an Emperor by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided single men made better soldiers than those who were married. With this thought in mind, he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine decided this decree wasn't fair and chose to marry couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions, he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first valentine himself when he wrote a letter to her and signed it, "Your Valentine," words still used on cards today.

Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure, February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating clear back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines rank second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent.

Our next travel adventure will be Oct. 9 through 22. We will fly to the East Coast then board a bus. We plan to see the fall colors of the Eastern U.S. and Canada plus many other sights in the area. For more information, or if you're interested in joining the group, call Joann at 645-4864. An immediate deposit is needed to hold a spot for you.

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. Spring will be right around the corner so this would be the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs as they absorb the shock of transplanting best when the weather is cooler. We would like to encourage you to come in and check out the varieties.

Bake, cookbook and boutique sales are found in the main building. The Treasure House will be open and filled with new sale items. New produce is coming daily. As of today, we have various citrus such as lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruit. We still have pomegranate jelly. We don't want you to forget us during the week so remember the plants, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

We are well into our plans for the 15th

Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival to be held on Saturday, April 7. Please mark your calendar and make plans to be with us.

The February Birthday and Anniversary celebration was held Monday, Feb. 19 at Tony Roma's at Bullard and West in Fresno.

**REMEMBER TUESDAY BINGO 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.

**More Facts and Fun**

A nutritionally balanced lunch program 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. There is still room in the well-attended exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Line Dancing class is Thursdays at 1 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You need not be a member to attend these classes. The attendance has been growing but there is always room for one more ... you! Come to think of it, there is room for two - you and your friend.

**Up and Coming Events**

March 3, Monthly Sale, 8 a.m. to noon.

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until???

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

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

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

Thursday, 1 p.m. Line Dancing Class

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

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

Please feel free to come 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?



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# Tutoring Ranchos Students *Digitally*

Math Crazy is branching out in the Madera Ranchos community and not in the way one might expect. In order to reach out to students in the Madera Ranchos, Math Crazy has decided it needs to go where the students are, and that means "online." "We felt that education should be online where students spend their time to make learning more exciting" said Paul Savala, co-owner of the Madera Math Crazy. "More than anything we don't want students to get discouraged about their education and we want kids to know that help is out there if they need it."

Three of the Websites that young adults and kids alike frequent are MySpace, YouTube and Wikipedia. During a meeting at the local Math Crazy the question came up, "How can we reach a wide range of students and help them with their schoolwork?" Math Crazy's answer to that question was to put school resources for kids out on the Internet where students can access them with ease. Research papers, bibliographies and book reports are all commonly researched online, but what about the student who needs some quick help with his or her math homework? Or a student who needs tips on an upcoming job interview? Until now, most students had to wade through out-of-date and irrelevant materials in order to find what they were looking for. Not anymore.

YouTube was the first step. YouTube is Math Crazy's flagship online resource for students. Here students can view videos created by the Math Crazy team that can assist them in not only their schoolwork but also their day-to-day lives. There are instructional videos on Algebra 1 and 2, Pre-Algebra, Geometry and accelerated reading, as well as practical videos

like "Secrets to a Good Interview." New students at Math Crazy can also view a short video introduction by their tutor, this way students know who their tutor is going to be prior to showing up at Math Crazy. Jared Osborn, an 8th grade student at Math Crazy, said upon viewing content on YouTube, "Wow, that's pretty cool." Both Jared and his sister attend Math Crazy for tutoring services and now they will be able to receive help online as well. You can view all of Math Crazy's videos at [www.youtube.com/user/mathcrazytutoring](http://www.youtube.com/user/mathcrazytutoring).

Next, Math Crazy created a MySpace page, which can be viewed at [www.myspace.com/mathcrazy](http://www.myspace.com/mathcrazy). This page links Math Crazy students to one another. Students from Math Crazy can meet online and get help with their homework or find out what's going on at their school the next day by messaging other students that are connected to the Math Crazy MySpace homepage. The MySpace page will also show information about the company like contests, programs and other business activities. It also has links to Math Crazy's YouTube and Wikipedia web pages.

Lastly, Wikipedia - an online encyclopedia - was designed for parents. Here they can read about the history of the company and find articles that have been written about the company. "We wanted people to know what kind of company we were prior to signing up with us. Parents should know who we are and what we represent, that way when they do business with us they know the quality they can expect," Savala said.

Math Crazy continues to look for ways to help students with their education and what better way to do that than to meet them where they already enjoy spending their time.

## UNWANTED cont. from P. 9

of over 500,000 healthy animals and the waste of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars each year must end." said Mancuso, who is also Campaign Director for the California Healthy Pets Coalition.

The California Healthy Pets Coalition includes the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Animal Services, California Animal Control Directors Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, California State Humane Association, Riverside County Animal Control, Stanislaus Animal Control, Madera County Animal Control, Clovis Animal Services, Laguna Beach Animal Control and many others.

The purpose of the lobbying trip for Gross was to voice support for the Healthy Pets Act and to point out to legislators the failure of the current education-only efforts by animal shelters to get people to spay and neuter their dogs and cats. "I felt it was important to bring the perspective of those working in animal shelters and in rural counties to the discussion," Gross said. "The way we have been handling pet overpopulation in the last decades is morally and ethically wrong, and fiscally irresponsible.

"The current method of requesting people to voluntarily spay and neuter their pets, and encouraging them through reduced licensing fees, is just not working," Gross continued. "Our efforts to get people to do the right thing with their animals hasn't been effective. The tremendous number of animals put to death statewide each and every year reflect that."

Mancuso, the bill's founder, has spent the last year working with LA Animal Services General Manager Ed Boks and more recently with the bill's author, Assembly Member Lloyd E.

Levine (D-Van Nuys), drafting the proposed law and pulling together support from groups like the California Animal Control Directors Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, California State Humane Association and others.

"Judie [Mancuso] has done a fabulous job of pulling all the facts and people together," Gross said. "She made the connection of the terrible waste of taxpayers' dollars and all the pets' lives lost. It's an obvious and logical solution."

Gross says the public tends to think of having puppies and kittens as no big deal, and views the animal shelters as the solution to their unwanted or surplus animal problem. A lot of people avoid shelters because they are viewed as depressing, crowded and smelly places.

According to shelter statistics from the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the Madera County shelter took in a total of 8,436 animals. Of those 1,296 were adopted, 1,159 went to other rescue groups and 5,071 of those were euthanized or destroyed. "This number is continuously climbing each year," Gross said. "That's way too many that don't make it. In spite of all our efforts, 5,000-plus animals still lost their lives here in 2006."

On average Madera county shelter takes in at least 650 animals each month. This includes animals abandoned, captured by animal control officers or those dropped off at the shelter at all hours of the day and night. The shelter has spaces to house 150 animals, and has an average of a 70 percent euthanasia rate.

Next month, Part II looks at the toll on animal shelter workers and how the law, if enacted, will impact pet owners and a runaway animal population in Madera County.

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**5 Bed  
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17194 Mark Road


Beautiful brand new home on 2.25 acres zoned for horses. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, double door entry, vinyl windows and more. Open floor plan with great room, dining room and huge kitchen. Master suite has two huge closets and a spa tub in bath. Covered rear patio and front porch. Large 3-car garage. MUST SEE!



**4 Bed  
3 Ba.  
\$519,000**

11911 Trieste Dr.

Beautiful home on 1/2 acre lot featuring vaulted ceilings in living room and large kitchen with breakfast bar and nook. Granite countertops throughout. Formal dining room and great room with columns and large, custom tile. Master suite has coffered ceilings and spa tub. Nine-foot ceilings throughout and finished 3-car garage. Wow!



**5 Bed  
4 Ba.  
\$649,000**

16212 Road 37

Beautiful new custom on 2.25 acres of horse property. Five bedrooms plus office lead into deluxe kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel sink and island. Formal dining room and separate family and living room with fireplace. Two closets in master suite with spa tub in bath. Tile floors, tile roof and finished 4-car garage.

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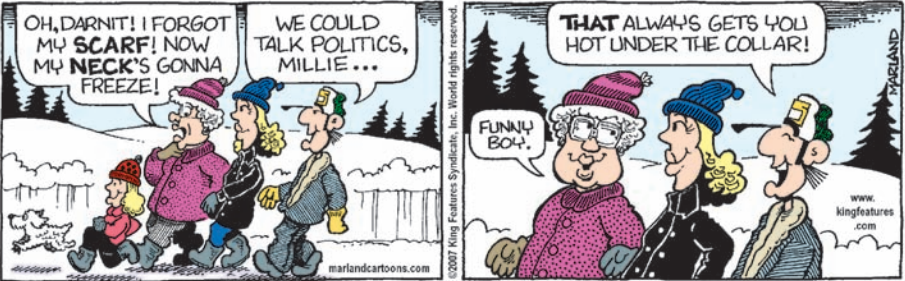
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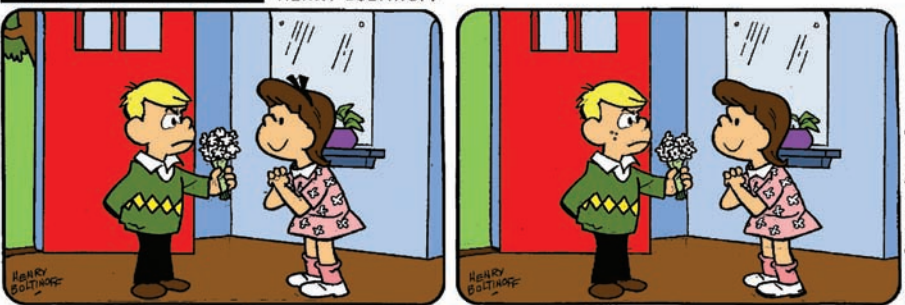
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FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. 1. Bow is missing. 2. Plant is different. 3. Freckles are added. 4. Girl's shoe has changed. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Flowers are different.

RIDDLE CARD

- 1. What jack is a sailor? 2. What jack is a game? 3. What jack tastes good? 4. What jack clouds your windows? 5. What Jack is seldom hit? 6. What Jack has no body?

WHAT KIND of a puzzler will you be if you solve all of these riddles? Answer: You will be a Crackerjack puzzler!

DON'T STEW OVER THIS ONE! The label on the basket has nothing to do with ounces or the Wizard of Oz. What does the basket contain? Answer: Turn the page on its side and read down. The

A COLONIAL PUZZLE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids. Each grid contains 4 words which the reader must discern. Hints are given for each word and the words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

- 1. Superman has one. 2. Told a falsehood. 3. Found in a church. 4. Affirmative votes.

Grids A and B for the colonial puzzle.

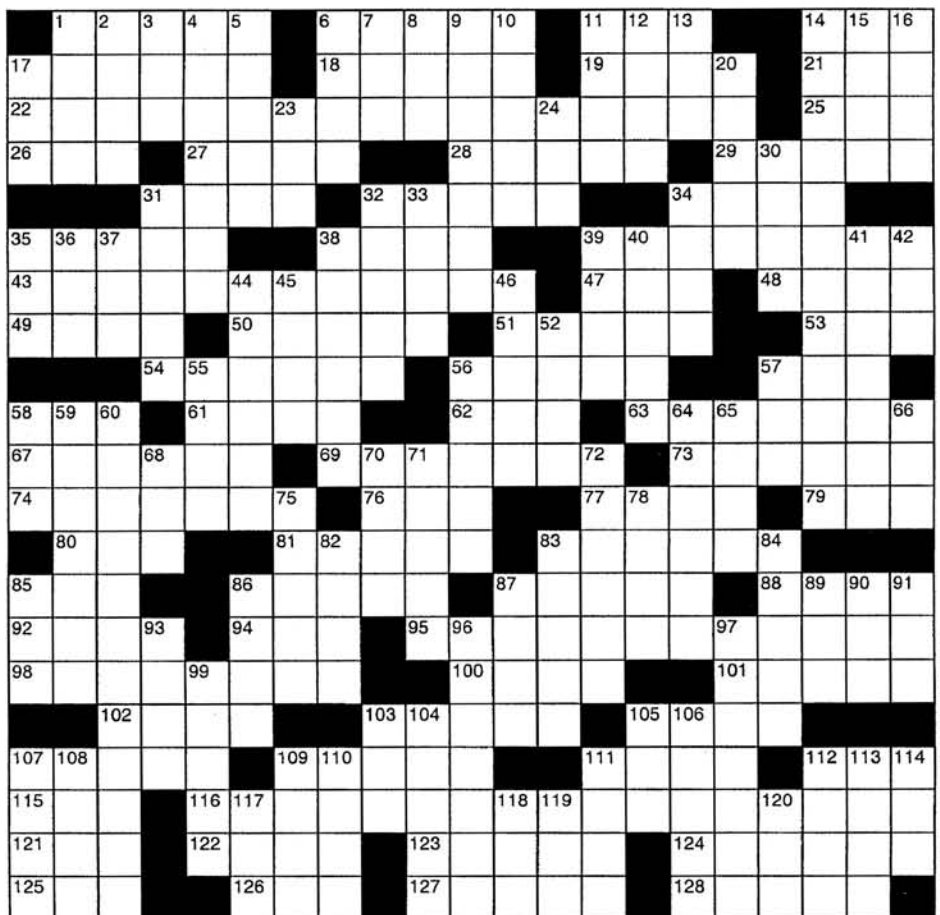
Junior Whirl

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER! Starting with the word ABROGATE at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time, as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. To make the challenge harder, the following helpful hints are not in ascending order.

- 1. A period of time. 2. To speak formally. 3. An airplane stunt. 4. An Egyptian sun god. 5. To abolish. 6. To pull apart. 7. A straw hat. 8. A blood type.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS 1 — France 6 Literary genre 11 One of the Bushes 14 Unrefined 17 Chemical compound 18 More advanced 19 Basilica area 21 Paleozoic 22 RYE 25 New Jersey fort 26 Where the buoys are 27 Article 28 To the point 29 Lightheaded 31 High-pitched instrument 32 Detective Vance 34 Delhi wrap 35 Mrs. Kramden 38 Zip, to Zola 39 Cyd of "Silk Stockings" 43 HARRISON 47 "Doll" ('64 hit) 48 Food fish 49 Chaplin prop 50 Come up again 51 Go 53 Bikini half 54 Gratitude 56 One of the Hobbits 57 Murcia Mrs. 58 Wine word 61 Concerning 62 — -tzu 63 "The Godfather" director 67 TV's "Ensign —" 69 Downfall 73 Warmed up 74 Infant 76 Caustic stuff 77 Soprano Dal Monte 79 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film) 80 Slugger's stat 81 Let up 83 Coarse 85 Year, in Yucatan 86 "The Merry Widow" composer 87 Tendon 88 Composer Nino 92 "Martha the Mouth" 94 Altar answer 95 BUFFALO 98 Barge 100 All nerves 101 Public 102 Susa's locale 103 Actress Moorehead 105 Lot size 107 Symbol 109 Fancy fiddle 111 Like molasses 112 Wee one 115 Blazer part 116 ROCH-ESTER 121 — bind 122 Balder's dad 123 Willow 124 '59 Marty Robbins hit 125 Cariou or Deighton 126 Prone 127 Stand out in the crowd 128 Use rollerblades DOWN 1 Acknowledgment phrase 2 "Damn Yankees" siren 3 RCA competitor 4 Unit of loudness 5 Melpomene's sister 6 Believe 7 "Treasure Island" monogram 8 Commercials 9 Rendez-vous 10 Synthetic fiber 11 Pantry stock 12 Duel tool 13 Youth org. 14 AUBURN 15 Parched 16 Like some buildup 17 Drivers' lics., e.g. 20 Painter 23 Peg for Palmer 24 Buddy 30 Author Murdoch 31 Mid-size band 32 Devout 33 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune) 34 Wise guy? 35 Easy as — 36 Massari or Thompson Janis 37 Singer Janis 38 Calculate 39 Seashore sidler 40 Devastation 41 Universally liked one? 42 Author LeShan 44 Pencil topper 45 Fellow 46 Inventor Howe 52 "The Time Machine" people 55 Sign of sanctity 56 Run in the wash 57 Mineral spring 58 Offspring 59 Likely to last? 60 TROY 64 Canada's capital 65 Crooner Collins 66 Find the sum 68 Ben — -Wan Kenobi 70 Lohengrin's love 71 Powers' portrayal 72 Cheap 75 "I — vacation!" 78 Carry out orders 82 "Cat on — Tin Roof" 83 '39 Wimbledon winner 84 Transmission setting 85 Pound sound 86 A roaring success? 87 Mean Marquis 89 Cockney's abode 90 Pitch 91 Cockpit fig. 93 Raison d' — 96 Woodstock performer 97 Connecticut city 99 It's played with a plectrum 103 Exist 104 Crystal of country 105 Pie — mode 106 Prepares pears 107 Sheep's shaker 108 Sarah — Jewett 109 Cut a cuticle 110 Nomad pad 111 Cartoonist Silverstein 112 "L —, c'est moi" 113 — majesty 114 To and — 117 Periodontists' org. 118 Catchall abbr. 119 — Guevara 120 No. cruncher



TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. ARCHITECTURE: The Georgian style of architecture is based on the principles of which Renaissance architect? 2. LAW: What is double jeopardy? 3. PLANTS: What is a corm? 4. MUSIC: What kind of instrument is a cor anglais? 5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which tennis tournaments make up the Grand Slam? 6. LANGUAGE: What is a torch in Great Britain? 7. GEOGRAPHY: Prague is the capital of which country? 8. SLOGANS: Whose trademark signoff was "That's All Folks!" 9. MEDICINE: What is the medical name for the childhood disease known as mumps? 10. ASTRONOMY: Halley's Comet is visible in our night sky how often?

Answers

MAGIC MAZE SERVED MORE THAN 35 YEARS IN THE SENATE. A word search maze with the word ABROGATE highlighted.

- 1. Andrea Palladio 2. Being tried a second time for a crime after the first case has been decided. 3. Underground shoot containing food reserves 4. Woodwind 5. Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open 6. A flashlight 7. Czech Republic 8. Porky Pig, at the end of Looney Tunes cartoons 9. Parotitis, swelling of the parotid gland 10. Every 75-76 years



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