

# The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

**LINES ARE BEING DRAWN**

**SIDES ARE BEING TAKEN**

**THE BATTLE OVER THE FUTURE OF AVENUE 12 HEATS UP**

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# “Road Wars” Sides Being Drawn: Ranchos Wants Ave. 9; Co. says No

By Randy Bailey

Almost 70 Members of the Ranchos community met with representatives of Madera County’s various governmental arms on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Ranchos Pizza Factory to discuss possible solutions for the onslaught of traffic that planners say is heading straight for the Ranchos.

“You’re going to see a whole lot of traffic on Avenue 12,” said Ray Beach, manager of Madera County’s Resource Management Agency. “Growth is going to occur but it doesn’t have to destroy the Ranchos.”

Although Ollia Ridge, president of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce that sponsored the Town Hall meeting, called for civility at the beginning of the meeting, several community members raised their voices, interrupted and spoke over other people at the meeting who were trying to get their questions answered. A contentious air hung over the course of the meeting.

“We have created the problem on Avenue 12,” said District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow. “By closing down Nees-Palm [on the Fresno side of the San Joaquin River], Fresno had plans to bring the road across the river but we shut it down.”

The mood changed quickly as community members became adamant about keeping Avenue 12 a two-lane road through the heart of the Ranchos.

“Why can’t we start Avenue 9?” asked Velvet Car Wash owner Chet Selmon. His question was the overwhelming consensus

of the night. Speaker after speaker stressed that if Avenue 9 were developed into a major east-west corridor of at least six lanes, the traffic on Avenue 12 would disappear. Most drivers from Fresno looking for a fast access to Highway 99 are using Avenue 9 now, although it’s not designed to handle such heavy traffic.

“Avenue 9 is not happening,” said Bigelow, much to the disappointment of the crowd. Bigelow explained that the only money available for the development of Avenue 9 would have to come from matching funds from development. “Have you seen any development on Avenue 9?” he asked.

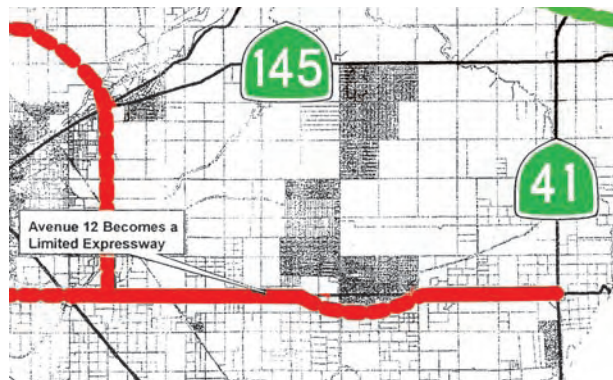
At present, from a myriad of sources, there is money for the development of Avenue 12 at Highway 41 from Castle & Cooke and for development of Avenue 12 at Highway 99 from state funds. Bigelow also said there were funds to begin work in the Ranchos on a bypass.

What has many community members concerned is that according to the General Plan that was created in 1995 for the Ranchos, the

county has the right to make Avenue 12 a four lane tomorrow and a six lane after acquiring additional property to which the county lays claim.

“It’s going to be about 18 months before we move on any of this,” Ray Beach said. Beach further stressed that he wants to hear from the residents of the Ranchos before the county takes final action.

Additional Town Hall meetings are planned for the future.

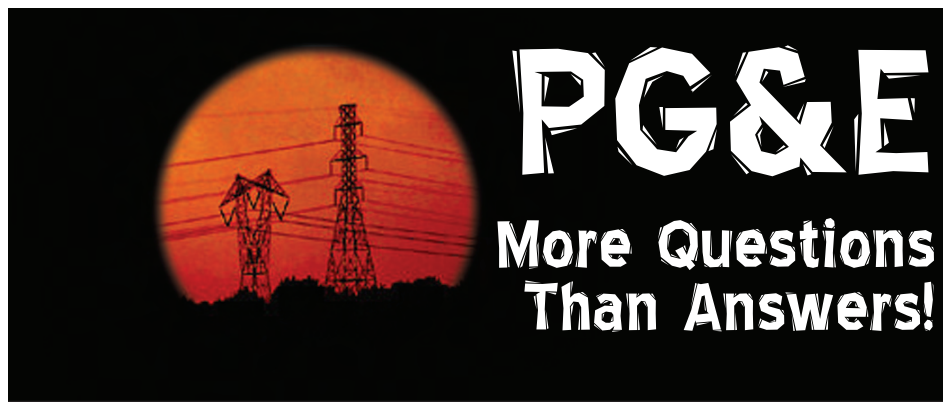


## Ranchos Pianist Wins Triple Awards

Seventeen-year-old Madera Ranchos pianist Michael Delfin added three state level titles to his resume within the span of a single week.

At San Jose State on Feb. 7, Delfin became a first place winner in the 22nd Annual Celia Mendez Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition. On Feb. 23, he won audition privileges for the

Finals of the Young Artists Guild of the Music Teachers Association of California. And on Feb. 24 the Fresno-based trio of Delfin, violinist Kevin Chen and cellist Jean Kim were selected as one of only three trios in the state to participate in the premiere performance of composer Paul Chihara's new work “Fantasy.”



By Christi McKinney

Greg Parker, Principal Planner with PG&E, addressed a group of approximately 60 people including a number of PG&E representatives and concerned Ranchos citizens at the Ranchos Pizza Factory on the afternoon of Feb. 20. The meeting addressed potential expansion of PG&E’s electrical transmission infrastructure to meet customers’ growing demand but was also a response to residents who said they knew nothing of PG&E’s plans.

After a member of PG&E’s legal staff commented that they had “... reached out to this group and the community by having this meeting,” landowner Igal Treibatch took exception to the comment. “PG&E did not reach out to me!” Treibatch said. “The effort of this group is the direct result of one letter I received. I’m not inclined to wait until the recommendation has been made and it’s too late to have input on the issue so I put pressure on PG&E to have this meeting.” Treibatch went on to say that those present were fully aware of how harshly some Madera Ranchos residents have been treated in past dealings with the PG&E decision making process. “Hard working people have been taken advantage of by PG&E,” he said.

Representatives from PG&E insisted they worked from property ownership records, however Greg Parker offered to meet personally with any landowner who would like a private analysis of how their property could be affected by this proposal. He can be reached at (800) 422-0841. PG&E states they began notifying property owners of this project by mail in October 2007. They estimate they’ve sent out 2,500 notifications to property owners and to others within a quarter mile to a half mile of the project corridor. This struck a nerve with many attendees who insisted they’d only heard about this project and meeting only by word of mouth within our community. Attendees requested a copy of property owners and others within the corridor so that those who’d been missed could be advised of future meetings. PG&E declined to release such a list, citing confidentiality concerns.

Attendees also questioned the accuracy

of planning maps PG&E displayed at the meeting. It was pointed out that there are several filed development plans in the Ranchos that are not outlined on their planning maps. This includes the proposed total bypass of Avenue 12. PG&E insists they’d worked directly with the planning commission but that any omissions need to be brought to their attention. This brought the discussion full circle since there are no maps of PG&E’s proposed route available to the public.

The Western route proposed by PG&E would directly affect residents and property values in the Madera Ranchos. This route is estimated to be 170 miles long and passes near Harris Ranch, crossing Avenue 7 and the San Joaquin River then hooks up to the existing Helms Gregg substation. This project includes two 500 kilovolt transmission towers that would stand between 10-16 stories high and is expected to cost between \$800 Million to \$1 Billion. Costs will vary depending on the route chosen and costs associated with the potential corridors.

Questions to PG&E regarding any known health hazards with these very powerful power 500v lines went unanswered.

“This is real early in the process and residents shouldn’t be too concerned about their opportunity to voice their concerns,” said Jeff Smith, spokesman for PG&E. Although PG&E will be making their recommendation to the CPUC in April 2008, the PUC will have public hearings before finalizing their decision. They may accept the recommendation or they may offer an alternative one.

Although informative, the meeting left the group with more questions than answers.

“Take us with a grain of salt, but take us seriously as this group will get larger and stronger,” Treibatch said. He warned that if this project is placed in the Ranchos “... a community vastly different that what we have today will be created”.

PG&E suggests any questions or concerns be submitted to them in writing so they can be logged into their system and responded to. The contact information for PG&E is (800) 422-0841 or PO Box 27918 Fresno, CA 93729-7918.



Editorial

# I Beg Your Pardon ... Jerk!

By Randy Bailey

Ever have one of those moments of clarity? When certain things fall into place and all of a sudden you're Johnny Nash singing, "I can see clearly now ...?"

I had one of those moments the other night at the Town Hall meeting where members of Madera County's various road departments were on hand to answer questions posed by members of the Ranchos community about the future of Avenue 12. If you've been reading the Ranchos Independent, the issues were pretty well laid out prior to the beginning of the meeting. Build a loop around Avenue 12? Turn Avenue 12 into a 4-6 lane mini-expressway? Develop Avenue 9 into an expressway? Kill all the businesses on 12 if there's a loop built? Enhance the businesses on 12 now that people could actually get across the street if a loop were built? And on and on and on.

My greatest concern - and what often happens at public meetings - was hearing the same questions asked over and over and over, as if by asking it for the tenth time it would magically get a different answer *this* time. But that is to be expected. It's what happens at public meetings.

What's not expected is the "jerk" factor at meetings like this. Oh, you know what I'm talking about. The guy in the corner with the hat who never raises a hand and never waits to be recognized and then just starts talking. He's the same guy that will talk over you while you're trying to make a point that you patiently waited to share, because his point is more important than yours. Everyone else quietly sits on their

hands until he's done (probably the result of some form of upbringing) and then the meeting goes on.

There's the person that never has anything substantive to say but every time there's a lull they throw in their own little zinger for effect. The zinger de jour is anything with "Castle & Cooke" in the sentence.

"I bet Castle & Cooke would like that!"

"Castle & Cooke probably did that!"

"It's probably because of Castle & Cooke!"

These are always followed with a smug little look and a few knowing nods from those who don't have enough courage to say "Castle & Cooke" themselves - and they're not sure what it means - but they were sure thinking it too!

There's the guy with the beard who doesn't ask any questions on his own but as soon as you're about to get an answer to your question he chimes in with something that changes the direction of the question and your question never gets answered because the speaker is now directing his attention to Rudebeard the Pirate.

You'd think at a gathering of adults - I saw no children at the gathering of approximately 70 people at Pizza Factory's new facility - there would be no need to put your fingers to your lips and go "shhhh," but we did. Chamber president Ollia Ridge started off the meeting by asking people to please take turns, speak when called upon, respect the others who were speaking and, above all else, keep it civil. I guess compared to a WWE Smack Down it *was* civil, but all I could think was, "I beg your pardon ... jerk!"

Democrats can blame Bush and Republicans can blame Clinton for the downfall of Western Civilization, but the reality is it all starts with each and every one of us. The self control to wait until called upon. The ability to disagree without equating the disagreement as tantamount to calling your mother a streetwalker. The composure to listen to both sides and not throw out snide remarks (even when the other person is obviously common-sense-challenged).

It's not a big deal. We used to do it all the time. Before the days of reality TV and YouTube we actually "agreed to disagree" and we seemed to get along just fine. Now it's all a competition to be heard loudest, longest and most often.

OK, I get it. It's a competition. But what I don't get is that the only thing they've been successful at doing is convincing the rest of us that they're jerks. Here's some advice: It's better to have people think you're a jerk than open your mouth and remove all doubt.

See you at the next Town Hall.

# The Ranchos Independent

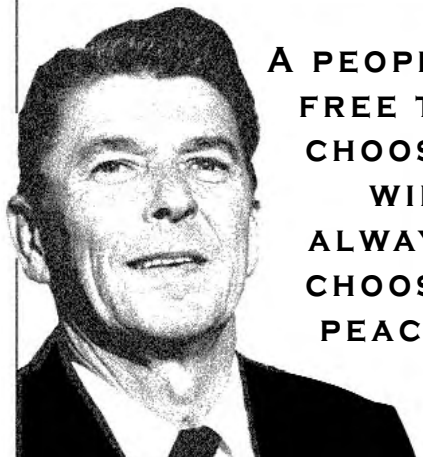
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## THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



A PEOPLE  
FREE TO  
CHOOSE  
WILL  
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CHOOSE  
PEACE.

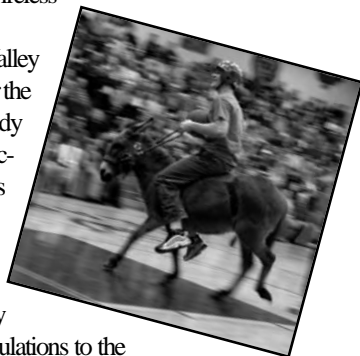
**RONALD REAGAN**  
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE  
THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

## Random Notes

Looking for something to do in the Ranchos that's a real hoot? The Liberty High School Girls Basketball Team is sponsoring the school's first-ever Donkey Basketball Game. If you haven't seen one of these you'll laugh your butt off. It's going to be the Faculty & Students vs. the Varsity Girls Basketball team and it's going to be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHS gym. You can get there early and get some great food before you watch the Buckshot Burros do their on-court magic. There's also going to be raffles and prizes at halftime.

Donkey Basketball tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door and you can get your tickets early at Madera Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware, Central Valley Wireless and Mearl's Grocery on Road 26. Hee haw!

As is the custom every year at this time, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has elected new officers to its board. For the next 12 months the president will be Cheryl Hurst with Randy Bailey serving as her vice president. Bev Delk is the elected secretary and Virginia Vick is handling the money at the treasurer's position. The Chamber also has three new three-year board members with Tom Kellner, Don Foster and Hall Parks. Two-year board members are Debbie Farr, Nicole Lemo and Kent Ridge. The three remaining board members are Jim Cobb, Mary Ann Parks and Cathy Burford, all one-year members. Congratulations to the new cabinet!



Speaking of the Chamber, they're putting on a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The guest of honor is our own District 1 Supervisor, Frank Bigelow. He's going to be talking about the state of the county and where the Ranchos fits into its plans for the future. You can ask him questions and find out what the latest is about Avenue 12, PG&E and other issues of interest to the people of the Ranchos. If you need more info, take a look at the ad on page 5 or call the Chamber at 645-4001.

If you've got a fever for AG and AG education, a local group is starting up an organization calling itself the Ranchos AG Boosters. The founding members are parents of kids active in AG programs in school, but if you've got a love for all things AG, you don't need to have any children in the program to get involved. They're going to have an organizational meeting in the real near future and you can reach them for more information via the internet by emailing ranchosag@gmail.com. Sounds like a ground-floor opportunity to me - or maybe that's barnfloor.



Of course - how could I forget - this weekend is the Fifth Annual All-You-Can-Eat Crab Feed put on by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. It's going to be held at the Liberty High School Theater and features all the crab you can stuff down your gullet and pasta, salad, bread and dessert, all for just \$35! We heard of a crab feed in Fresno that was charging \$65 for the exact same thing! There's also going to be a live and silent auction (always good stuff there), as well as other fun and festivities. Best part is all the money raised goes to the Chamber for its operations over the next year. Talk about win-win! I hope to see you there.

On a final note, our good friends at Cat's Diner have closed up shop. In the words of Don Corleone, the owners were given an offer they just couldn't refuse. We wish them all the best, but I can't tell you how much I'm missing that new 'Cho Daddy hamburger they just introduced. The restaurant already has new owners cleaning up and repainting and I think once they get settled in I might just take a picture of the 'Cho over to them and grovel. It'd be worth it.

## 1st Dad-Daughter Dance at Webster

Webster Elementary Holds its First Father-Daughter Dance on Feb. 15. The Webster Parent-Teacher Club transformed Webster's Multi Purpose Room into a Grand Ball Room. Over 230 fathers and daughters attended "The Ball" and were treated to dancing, photos, a raffle and plenty of snacks. It was a magical evening that was enjoyed by everyone who was asked. A big "thank you" goes to all those who attended, donated and helped making it a memorable night.



## THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



### Board of Supervisors. Interesting Board meeting.

The consent calendar once again was used as the Trojan Horse to smuggle the goodies by the citizens.

Item "D" was a letter from the Board giving their support to the choice of the sixth street location for the new Courthouse. I got myself in trouble for misquoting Chairman Dominici so I will just paraphrase instead of quoting. This is what I got from the meeting:

The Board claimed the "Committee" only gave them three locations to pick from.

I wonder how that happened. The Committee was made up of Dominici (from the City), a city councilman, (the same one that made the pitch that got our \$3.2 million last year), someone from the city's redevelopment agency, two judges, three people from the Court administration office that were here from out of town to get suggestions and the County CAO.

Let's see how this figures out: Two unbiased Judges; Two out of town Court admin people; One representative from the County and three from Madera city. Gee I wonder why all three sites were in Madera city? Out voted again!

Then several Supervisors: "If we (the Board) don't send this letter in support of the sixth street location the courts will think we don't want it and give the money to somebody else."

That one reminds me of a scam a used car salesman used on me. BUT what the heck it is a lot like is the story that two of the supervisors sucked up about how the cities were going to take their trash to Fresno if we didn't lower the prices for them. Max Rodriguez at least had the integrity to say he thought the location next to the jail seemed like the logical choice but he would vote for the sixth street location because it would help the city's downtown.

It looks like the city will get the Courthouse downtown (the elevator) and the County will get the bill for security and transporting prisoners back and forth from the county jail forever (the shaft). I am starting to see a pattern here.

Losing the battle to put the courthouse in the most logical spot bothers me. What is however most troubling is the appearance that there was this obvious behind the scenes planning and maneuvering to come up with the pre-arranged position. It is truly amazing how skillful some in our government have become at letting us see, and hear only what they believe is good for us to see or hear. Permitting us to think we are participating in decisions, after and only after the issue has been maneuvered to a position where there is only one choice.

It looks like it was out of our hands all along from the selection of the committee, through the selection of the three site choices, through it passing at the meetings, up to and including the Board's decision to send the support letter. When Supervisor Dominici was put on the Committee back in September I asked him for contact information and if the meetings were public and I was told that it was not subject to the Brown Act and not public.

### *This is what I think happened:*

The committee was first stacked with members from the City of Madera. Three sites were put forward. Two were in areas with obvious plans to be developed as lucrative commercial enterprises and the third was an area that the city wants to invigorate (drive out the folks that are there). The meetings were held. Property owners from the three sites and selected individuals were invited.

Here is where the big surprise comes in.

The folks that were from the two rejected sites put up an organized and logical objection to the selection of their property.

What a marvelous show it must have been for the two judges and the three representatives from the Courts administration Office.

Let's pick door number three! The Sixth Street site.

Like the landfill fee issues, this only became open to the public after all

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 19

Click on "Local News" at

## *The Olde Cowboy* by Woody Laughnan

*Those evening bells, those evening bells,  
How many a tale their music tells,  
Of youth and home and that sweet time  
When last I heard their soothing chime.*

*Those joyous hours have passed away,  
And many a heart that then was gay,  
Within the tomb now darkly dwells  
And hears no more those evening bells.*

*And so 'twill be when I am gone,  
The tuneful peal will still ring on,  
While other bards will walk these halls  
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells.*

*Anonymous*

“What’s your favorite song?” I inquired of a friend during band intermission at a dance.

“Hands down, probably the most beautiful song since the dawn of time was, ‘At Sundown,’” he said, and hummed a few bars.

“No way,” disagreed another man at the table whose favorite was “Stardust.”

For a moment, I thought his wife was about to bean him.

“You know better than that,” she said, rather haughtily. “‘Misty’ is the most beautiful song ever written.”

I don’t know that I have a favorite song, but I suppose it would be any one that I can dance to.

Papa liked “In the Gloaming” and “Annie Skinner’s Chicken Dinner,” while my piano and organ-playing mama leaned toward hymns. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and “The Old Rugged Cross.”

One will no doubt find that different generations are bent to different beats, for instance, “Feelings,” “Get a Job,” Elvis Presley’s “Heartbreak Hotel.” A Hammer rock tune, so-called “Metallic Rock” and today’s generation with its Hip Hop and Gangsta Rap which is so hot that one should not listen to them unless

there’s a fire extinguisher in reach.

In truth, having been born on a Montana cattle ranch and “... ridden the ranges where luck never changes ...” as an old song of the era put it, I’ve always more or less liked cowboy songs, a genre that eventually melded into what we call country and western swing music that is still popular today. Especially in Fresno where, when Billie Ray Cyrus came to town singing his “Achy Breaky Heart” his fans almost tore host Wal-Mart down trying to get in.

Perhaps you remember some of these old songs: Gene Autry’s “Here

Please see **WOODY** on P. 25

# The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Invites you to a **TOWN HALL MEETING**

with Guest Speaker

## Madera County

## District #1 Supervisor

## Frank Bigelow

Be on hand to hear Frank explain what’s happening both in the county and especially right here in the Madera Ranchos. Have your questions answered. Please attend for an interesting and informative evening with our own locally elected representative!



2/08

# Wednesday Evening, March 12 at 7 p.m.

Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center • 37330 Berkshire, Madera Ranchos  
Refreshments • Call 645-4001 for More Information

## Letters

Dear Editor,

I am writing to tell you how grateful I am to live in a community that is more than willing to give to people in need. Last May I discovered a needy family living almost in my own back yard that I was completely unaware of. My children had occasionally mentioned them to me, but I guess I wasn't paying attention caught up in my own harried world of raising eight children.

Speaking of eight children, it just so happened that this family also had eight children.

But as I got to know them better and their situation, I realized how much they needed help. Especially for the children. Some of them had been in trouble and I really didn't want that trickling down to the younger ones, who made up the largest part of the family.

At first I ran home and told my children to go gather up what they didn't use in their closets. I'll never forget how the nine year old boy hugged those clothes when we delivered them. I knew we couldn't afford to help this family on our own so I turned to my friends. Twenty-two families agreed to donate used and new school items. I drive an Excursion and delivered four huge loads to this family just for school.

In the course of my visits I discovered a 15-year-old boy who wasn't going to school. I asked him why and he explained the circumstances. His mother showed me his GPA. when he had attended school, and just so you know, the boy is smaaaaamrt. So I began driving him to school. From September to December he received straight A's and had a 3.83 GPA. In the meantime, I discovered the family hadn't had hot water for two years. A kind neighbor fixed it for them. Three of their windows are broken, which makes it very cold in the winter and we are still working on how to solve that problem.

Then I found out they had never had a Christmas tree and I knew all of those children would wake up to nothing on Christmas day. I didn't want to place the burden on the same people's shoulders over and over, so I thought a classified ad might do the trick.

I put the first ad in the Ranchos Independent in October. One sweet lady called right away and had all of her Christmas gifts bought, wrapped and delivered. She knows who she is and may God bless her forever and ever.

Then I heard nothing. I was beginning to get nervous that there would only be the one donation. But it wasn't! In December things really started jump-

ing and when the sparkle and glitter of generosity settled a husband and wife had donated a beautiful live fresh Christmas tree and even came and set it up for them. And many people donated nine cases overflowing with canned food, a turkey, a ham and large gifts for each individual. There were large family gifts, candy and oranges for stocking stuffers, and \$705 to buy additional gifts.

The pile just kept getting bigger and bigger, and my little children's eyes kept getting bigger and bigger as more and more things were delivered to our home for this family. They asked why they couldn't have some of those toys too. I wanted them to learn what it felt like to give instead of receiving all of the time, but a twinge of sadness pricked my heart, because I knew this year my own children would wake up to nothing on Christmas day. Some things had come up unexpectedly and so I had warned the older kids there would be no Christmas. We've always had nice Christmases, so this announcement startled and surprised them.

I whispered to my five year old, "How would you like to be Santa this year?" and he smiled in delightful agreement. So silently we went on Christmas Eve tip toeing into the living room of this family's house and carefully placing each gift in a pile for each person. Their stocking with name attached left sitting nicely in front. Then we quickly, silently slipped away back to our house.

You are probably wondering if my own children woke up to nothing on Christmas day, and the answer to that is no! A few days before Christmas a miracle occurred. One of the people donating came by to bring a turkey they were donating, which was in addition to the money they had already donated. I wasn't home, but when I arrived my husband informed me this person had brought two turkeys and said one was for us. And that she brought a Christmas card she said I was to open alone when I got home.

So I went and sat alone in my room and opened the card. It said the gift inside was only for the beautiful children in my home and there inside was \$400. Alone I wept, for the depths of my soul had been touched by the spirit of more Christ on Christmas. A spirit which continued to fan the dying embers of my faith back to light.

Many times in my quiet contemplations I have pondered over the series of events that have transpired

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 17

*What does it take to have the most beautiful yard in the Ranchos?  
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## The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship

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15048 Monreal Rd. Madera, CA 93638 559-645-0722  
Senior Pastors Bernard & Linda Morris/ Resident Pastors Stoney & Amy Berna

Join Us for a Special **EASTER SERVICE**  
Sunday, March 23 • 10 a.m.

### Service Schedule

Sunday 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Tuesday 7 p.m. Life Connections Home Groups • Thursday 7:30 p.m. Family Night • RE-Generation Youth Group - Generation NeXt Children's Ministry Nursery Provided Ages 0-3 yrs. Sunday and Thursday Services

2/08

2/08

The RANCHOS AG BOOSTERS is being formed!

You mean by the parents of Ranchos youth?

Yep. They're going to be the single source for activities to support AG Education in the Ranchos.

Support for facilities and financial support for individuals and groups?

Yep. All local money will stay local.

When and where do they meet?

Their very first meeting is coming up. You can email ranchosag@gmail.com for more info. You want to go?

Ranchosag@gmail.com, huh? I'd really like to go but ...

But what? Aren't the kids worth it? Isn't AG important to you?

Yeah, it's just that ... I'm a pig.



2/08

## Golden Valley Baptist Church

There has only ever been one Truth,



that is why God sent Him personally

*"I am The Way, The Truth and The Life ..."*

*Jesus in John 14*

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service 10:15 A.M.

Thursday Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 P.M.

12414 Road 37

Madera, CA 93636

559-645-1700

In the Madera Ranchos (NW corner of Road 37 and Cloverleaf)

2/08

www.TheRanchos.com



# KIWANIS KORNER



Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos. However, some of you may not know who or what we are. The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos is a service club collectively united by local community members looking to volunteer their time and resources to enhance the lives of children in their local community and worldwide. We help sponsor many service projects throughout the world, but we pay special attention to our local community schools and children by holding fund raisers and sponsoring or co-sponsoring events that help children here in the Madera Ranchos.

What is on track for the club in the next few months? The first event we are hosting is another e-waste fund raiser, this one to help fund our administrative account. The last e-waste event we had was a huge success and we had e-waste from all over Madera and Fresno counties delivered to our collection site right here in the Ranchos. Please help our environment by bringing any electronic devices you have laying around the garage or house that you've been waiting to discard. Let your friends and neighbors know it's time to bring in those unwanted electronic items. Let's recycle this stuff instead of putting it into our land fill. When: March 29 and 30. Where: Ranchos Market on Avenue 12. We look forward to seeing all of you there.



Got any old electronic trash sitting around the house? Bring it to the Ranchos Kiwanis E-Trash days at Ranchos Market March 29-30 and recycle it instead of sending it off to the landfill. Do a good deed, de-junk your life and help the Kiwanis raise some cash all at once.

The next event we have planned is a rummage sale. This event is going to be held in conjunction with our e-waste. When you come to drop off your e-waste you can also shop for some really cool stuff at our rummage sale. When: March 29 and 30. Where: Ranchos Market on Avenue 12.

Next on the list is our first – and hopefully an annual – event, the Wine and Garden Tour. The tour is set for Saturday, April 26 and it will start at 10 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. The tour will start at Fernwood Nursery and we will then tour five or six local area gardens. We will then end up at Birdstone Winery with a brunch and wine tasting. Any homeowners in the Ranchos area who would like to showcase their gardens and landscaped yards please contact any of the Kiwanis officers or board members.

Also, we have planned a contest for a new logo. We would like community involvement in designing a new logo that would incorporate the Kiwanis with our community. A \$100 award will be given to the winner who creates the best design. Applications are available at various locations throughout the community and on our webpage at [www.ranchoskiwanis.org](http://www.ranchoskiwanis.org).

One more announcement to make for our club is our meeting place has changed. The club is now meeting at the Pizza Factory. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their meeting room for our use. We now have delicious breakfast pizzas along with all the other morning goodies. Our meetings are every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. at the Pizza Factory except the last Thursday of the month when it is held at 6:30 p.m. to help accommodate our members who have a hard time attending the morning meetings. Thanks again to the Parks for donating the meeting room at the Pizza factory.



The new banquet facility at the Ranchos Pizza Factory is the new home of the weekly meetings for the Ranchos Kiwanis. Meetings are held Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m. and then at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month for the late risers among us.

Photos Courtesy of John Glueck

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect any of our new officers for 2007-2008. They would be happy to answer your questions.

President - Pam Glueck  
 President Elect - Steven Monk  
 Vice President - John Herrera  
 Secretary - Sandy Monk  
 Treasurer - Charisse Stindt  
 Past President - Chris Parks  
 Board Member - Marie Cameron  
 Board Member - Ollie Ridge  
 Board Member - Virginia Vick  
 Board Member - Bruce Blair  
 Board Member - John Glueck

# Reading Readiness Starts on Day 1 with Your Child (and Other Tips)

By Ellen Mester

Important Information for Parents and Caregivers: reading readiness doesn't just begin during the pre-school years; reading readiness begins at Day 1 in the life of a child. Read to your infant. They learn language skills, vocabulary and enunciation right from the beginning when you read and talk to them. Play rhyming games when they become talkers. Sing the alphabet song and point to letters and make the sound of the letter. Have board books around for toddlers to look at. This gives them print awareness and print recognition. Bring them to the library for story time and to check out books. Let your child see you reading often. Your precious little darling will have the necessary skills to be successful in school and to be a lifelong reader and learner. Aside from good health, it's the best gift you can give a child.

## Flatlanders

Registration for a craft or food booth has begun for the 2008 Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show. The 12x12 ft. booths are \$30 for crafts and \$50 for food. The date is Saturday, May 10. It is first come, first served. Don't wait! Parade applications can be picked up at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office. Craft show applications can be picked up at the Ranchos Library.

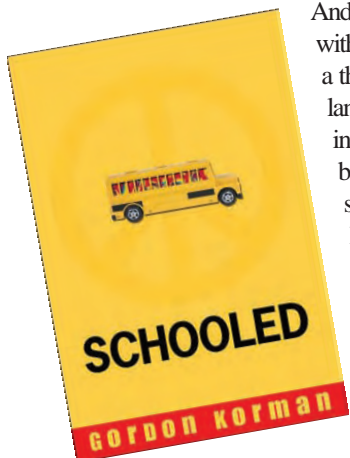
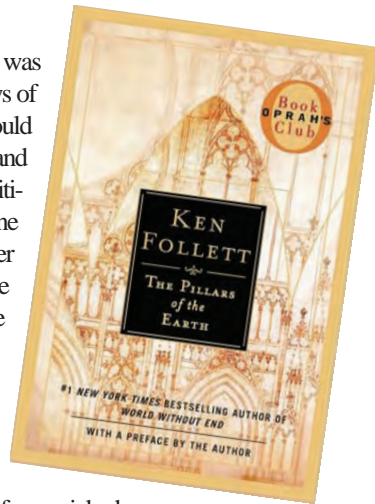
## New Library Planning Committee Update

If you haven't filled out the survey in last month's Ranchos Independent, then please take the time to do so. Drop it in the Library drop box. It is so important for the Library and the Community Center Committee to hear from the community in regard to the possibility of building a new library, a community center and ball fields. If you don't have the newspaper any longer, then stop by and pick up a survey at the Ranchos Library.

Coming Soon: Bilingual Story Time! Keep Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. open for kids of all ages who want to sing and listen to stories in both Spanish and English. Head to the library on those early release Wednesdays for some multicultural fun. Regular Story Time for pre-school age children is every Monday at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. Craft and Story Night is the third Thursday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## Book Recommendations

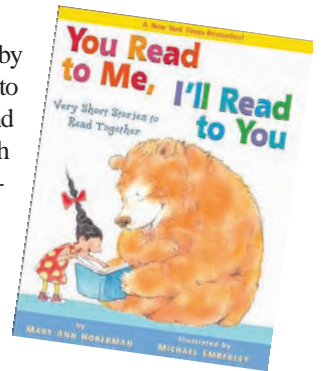
**Adult Fiction:** *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. Life was really hard back in 12th Century England. There were the laws of the church and the laws of the king and sometimes one would supersede the other. People of title and those who owned land changed alliances faster than a blink of the eye. The regular citizens, however, like Tom Builder and his family, moved from one town to the next looking for work. Tom was a master carpenter who possessed an engineer's mind and an artist's design. He wanted to build a cathedral. Unfortunately, times were hard, the country was in a royal struggle to see who would become king, and there was no work for Tom. When they arrive in Kingsbridge, starving and homeless, the kindness of Prior Philip and his monks turns into a serendipitous encounter. Tom and Philip are of like minds in regards to building the cathedral and over the years fend off one assault after another from wicked members of both the church and royalty. The few acts of love and kindness amidst the brutality and wanton disregard for all that is good and just make this such a compelling story. It is well-written and powerful, albeit not an easy read. If you want a book you can really sink your teeth into, this is the one.



**Juvenile Fiction:** *Schooled* by Gordon Korman. Capricorn Anderson is not your typical home-schooled 14 year old. He has lived with his grandmother, Rain, all of his life alone on a farm that once was a thriving hippie commune. Rain has brought up Cap to live off the land, practice Tai Chi and avoid the rest of the commercialized, uncaring society like the plague. When Rain falls out of a tree and has to be hospitalized, Cap must live with a foster family and go to middle school. In his homemade tie-dyed clothes and long hair, Cap is totally unprepared for the world he is now thrown into. He is mercilessly singled out as a nerd, and makes only one friend — Hugh Winkleman, the current class nerd title-holder to whom he is now replacing. But what no one knows is that Cap is for the most part immune to their pranks and their snickering. He has an inner peace and self-confidence that begins to look appealing to some of the peer-stressed drama queens. Plus he knows how to drive!

This one "totally-awesome-dude" skill elevates his status and saves a life. If you enjoyed Gordon Korman's humor in *No More Dead Dogs*, you will really enjoy this book. It is funny, bright and thoroughly enjoyable.

**Juvenile Poetry Book:** *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* by Mary Ann Hoberman. This is a great book to introduce children to poetry while they practice reading out loud. It has rhyme, rhythm and repetition and is meant to be read by two people in a back and forth manner. The words in the poems are simple and the different colored text helps keep the two voices distinct. The illustrations by Michael Emberley are also very pleasing in soft muted colors with happy memorable characters. Great for bedtime reading with children.



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

**Luke 24:6-7**

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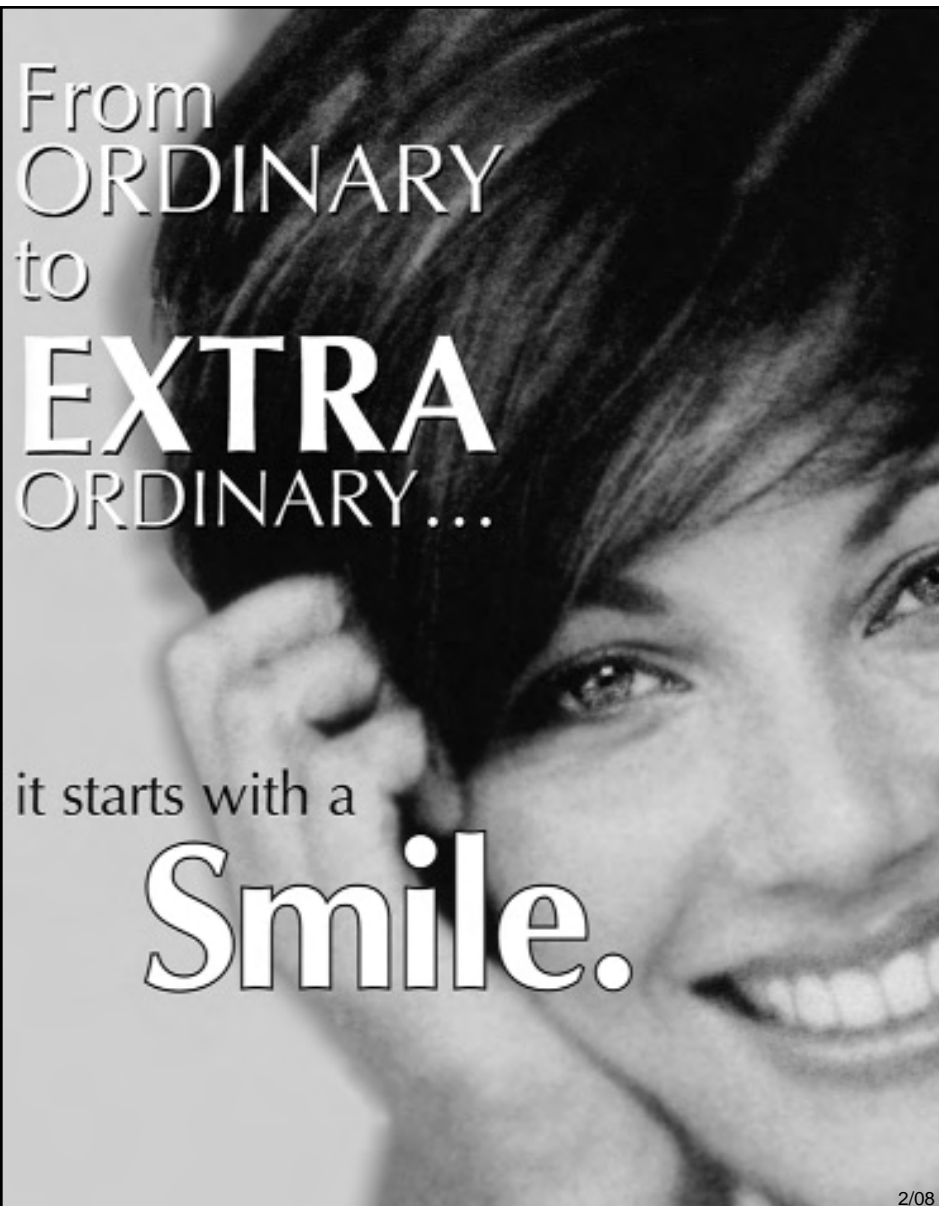
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## The Pastor's Desk

# The Month of Love - and Beyond

By Karl Roth

February is the month we focus on love and in these busy days the ones who need to experience love the most are our kids. From the moment Shellie and I began raising our kids, older parents encouraged us to "enjoy this time because it would go by too quickly." As the years passed and I've spoken to numerous parents who were further down the parenting road than we were, they continue to say the same thing. I sat with an individual at the Pizza Factory this week whose kids are now in their twenties. I asked him the same question I ask most moms and dads with grown children: "How quickly has it gone by?" His response was the same as every other parent. "Too quickly."

It seems to me the older our kids become the faster it appears it has happened. The older we become the greater this "accelerated aging" seems. One dad recently confessed to me that when his kids were young the days often seemed long and tiresome but now he has no idea where those years have gone. It all passes too fast.

It is a proven fact that children need their moms and dads. Moms and dads meet their children's deepest emotional needs. It is crucial that moms and dads express love to their kids while their kids are living under their roof. Soon these days will be but a memory. During this "month of love" I want to share with you a few fast facts about expressing love to your kids. Moms usually do this more naturally than dads, so Dads pay attention and be a man. Learn how to express love to your kids and make it a regular part of their life.

**Fast Facts about showing love to your kids**

The first five minutes you spend with your child are always the most important. Those focused moments together can set the tone for the rest of the morning, afternoon or evening. Smile, give your child a word of encouragement and a hug. Slow down and don't multi-task for that brief period of time.

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health surveyed 11,572 teenagers and discovered that the four most important times of the day for parents to interact with their children are:

- early morning
- after school
- dinnertime
- bed time

Find ways to connect with your kids as a family during those times.

The same researchers discovered that the three most important feelings for moms and dads to convey to their children (in order to protect them from unhealthy emotional pressure) are:

- warmth
- love
- caring

If your son or daughter feels a deep sense of connection and bonding with you, you've made a world of difference in his or her life!

During the month of February and every other month, focus on showing love to your kids. Many adolescent problems can be navigated well with heavy doses of love from mom and dad. Love much and live well. Remember, because God has loved us greatly we can love others greatly. It begins at home.

Blessings, Pastor Karl  
Flipside Christian Church



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## Snow Train - Just for the Fun of it

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Have you ever driven to Reno, Nev. and looked up on the side of the mountain and seen the train winding up the mountainside and through the tunnels? For many years as I made that drive I would say to myself, "Someday I am going to take that train just for the fun of it." Some of the Ranchos Hills Seniors decided that this was the year to take the Snow Train trip to Reno. I decided that this was my opportunity to take the train trip to Reno, so I signed up to go also. On Feb. 12 my Snow Train adventure began with a 6 a.m. trip to the Fresno Amtrak Station (with 11 Ranchos Hills Seniors). We had a wait at the Fresno Station because the train was late. Finally we were on the first leg of our journey; next stop Stockton where we piled off the train and onto a bus. We were driving to the Sacramento Amtrak Station on a bus because the Fresno train doesn't come to Sacramento for some reason. Well there we were ready to catch the Snow Train which only runs from Emeryville to Reno for four months from December through March, and is often booked a year in advance. The Ranchos Hills Seniors had tickets for the last car on the train so it was a hike dragging our suitcases for about 1/2 mile to our car.

We were welcomed onboard a 1950s Santa Fe Dome Private Car with another group from Murphy, Calif. We are not sure how we lucked out and got seated in this beautiful car. Once we left Sacramento and stated up the mountain we had pretty snow all of the way to Reno. Our trip included two nights at the hotel Circus Circus. We got to our room at 6:10 p.m., which made it a long day for us. Our group leader was George Hagler, the past president of the Ranchos Hills Seniors. George took good care of us and got us all where we needed to be to get to Reno and back home again. Herding a bunch of seniors is not an easy job. I learned that Helen Rice, our oldest senior on this trip, was a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II building airplanes for the war. We got back to the Fresno Amtrak Station at 10:30 p.m. We all

felt like Snow Train survivors when we finally fell into our own beds Thursday night. If you are not in a hurry to get to Reno this is the trip for you. It is an adventure.

On Feb. 22, I was invited to Sierra View Elementary to watch their three first grade classes put on one of the best patriotic programs I have ever seen. Teachers Crissy McElhane, Stephanie Wagner and Anita Ford are to be congratulated for working together as a team with their students to put on such a professional show. It was hard for me to believe that first graders could read lines and remember the words to so many patriotic songs. One of the mothers that I was sitting next to said that all of the students were asked to bring a white shirt to school and then the teachers had an American flag printed on the shirt. Can you imagine the picture of 51 first graders with American flag tee-shirts and red, white and blue hats all standing together? They behaved so well and entertained us for over an hour. If I ever need a shot of patriotism I will just remember this wonderful patriotic show put on by these very talented Sierra View first graders. Principal Scott Tefft, how proud you must be of these teachers and students. Parents, how proud you must be of your students. I watched you take a lot of pictures.

I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting with officials from PG&E at the Pizza Factory. The PG&E staff presented the "west" side and "east" side corridor alternatives that are being researched for the potential expansion of a 500 kilovolt transmission line that would go through the Ranchos from Kern County to a new substation to be constructed in the foothills. Based on PG&E's studies, they will make a recommendation to the California Public Commission who will then make the final decision. Not everyone in the Ranchos received this notice that PG&E had to legally send, if they want to go on someone's property. It seems that everyone in the Ranchos will be affected if the choice is the "west" side corridor. People are just waking up to the fact that this is

Please see STOCK on P. 11

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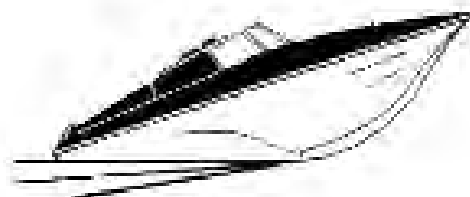
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**STOCK** cont. from P. 10

happening. For more information you can call 800-422-0841 but there is no website for you to go to. Even after I saw the maps I am not sure where exactly from Ave. 7 through the Ranchos the electric towers and lines would go.

Don't forget the March 1 annual Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed at Liberty High Cafeteria at 6 p.m. Price is \$35 dollars each. Also on March 1 the Ranchos Hills Seniors will be having their first Saturday monthly sale of the New Year from 8 a.m. to noon. The plants and trees for your spring planting will be on sale, the Treasure House will be open for you to find the latest fashions, and the bake sale will be going on in our newly remodeled senior center. Come by and check us out.

There will be no school from March 17-24 for Spring Break. This is the time to enjoy Easter, which is on Sunday, March 23 this

**February 2008**

**Page 11**

year. Then you can plan on attending the Fourth annual Foundation for Golden Valley Schools "The Night the Stars Come Out" dinner and awards gala. Star Educator and Star Service awards will be given to honor elementary and secondary teachers, instructional and operational staff members and a District leader. Would you like to be a Foundation member or make a donation to the foundation? If so call 559-645-3555 or Email foundation@gvusd.k12.ca.us. The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools provides additional financial support for our students in the areas of academics, athletics, agriculture and the arts. I am pleased to be one of the founding members.

We are only having one school board meeting in March because of Spring break. The board meeting is scheduled for March 11 at Liberty High Cafeteria at 6 p.m. I just got word that a board workshop is being considered for March 25 at 4:30 p.m. I am sure I will see you at some of these events.

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Preliminary artist rendering - subject to change.

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## The Lesson Held in a Cup of Coffee

By Eleanore Burchell

A large group of alumni graduates had gathered together for a visit with their former professor. The conversation soon turned to complaints about their endless stresses at work and in life. With several pots of fresh coffee, the professor offered a diverse assortment of cups ... exquisite china, rustic, stoneware, fine crystal, plain glass. He also had a stack of Styrofoam cups on the table.

When each person had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor commented, "You may have noticed that many of the nicest cups were taken first. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the beverage. What you all really wanted was good coffee! Now consider this: Life is the coffee. Jobs, money and position in society are the cups. The type of cup you have does not determine the quality of life you can live. Don't concentrate on the cup, enjoy the coffee. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best cup, they may have a chipped cup or a Styrofoam cup, but they know how to have the best lives by being joyful people. The richest people are rarely those who have the most, they are usually those who live the most, they are usually those who love the most.

Do you want less stress? Give of yourself to others. Live simply. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Find a cause bigger than yourself and relish the good coffee you pour into your cup.

The members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. want to extend our sincere sympathy to Howard and Ruth Baker for the passing of their son, Doug.

Our 16th Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival, to be held on April 5, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., is well into the planning stage. Please mark your calendars and plan to spend some time here. As last year, the day will start with a biscuit and gravy breakfast and for lunch there will be BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs, maybe salmon patty

sandwiches and sodas. The Master Gardeners will be in attendance to help identify plants and help with other garden suggestions. It is a GREAT occasion for us and we would like to share it with you.

The Ranchos/Hills couple of the month is Patricia and Emery Brunett. They have been married 30 years. Emery's life profession was in the line of mechanics. After retirement, he has done some work in the security business. Pat was born in Colorado, lived in Arizona for many years but in 1952 moved to the Fowler area of California. She has four children, three boys and a girl. Pat is now the 2008 President of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. She has taken this to heart and is really doing a great job.

Doll making has been Pat's passion for 25 years and she makes them from scratch by pouring porcelain heads, bodies, legs and arms then firing them in her kiln. However, some dolls have cloth bodies, arms and legs on a porcelain head. Pat personally has a priceless collection of dolls. She has also taught classes on this art AND Pat is a GOOD cook. Never having done this professionally, her potluck dishes are quite evident of this fact. Many thanks go to Pat and Emery for their endless hours donated to the Ranchos/Hills Seniors.

Unfortunately, our February monthly sale was canceled. This was due to the extensive remodeling of our building plus the rainy weather. Please accept our apology to those who came to see us but we were not home! The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, March 1.

The garden area has many nice trees for you to plant in your yard. With spring on its way, this is the perfect season for planting trees, shrubs and flowering plants as they will be well settled in by the time summer comes again.

The Treasure House will also be open and waiting to wish you a belated Happy

Please see SENIORS on P. 13



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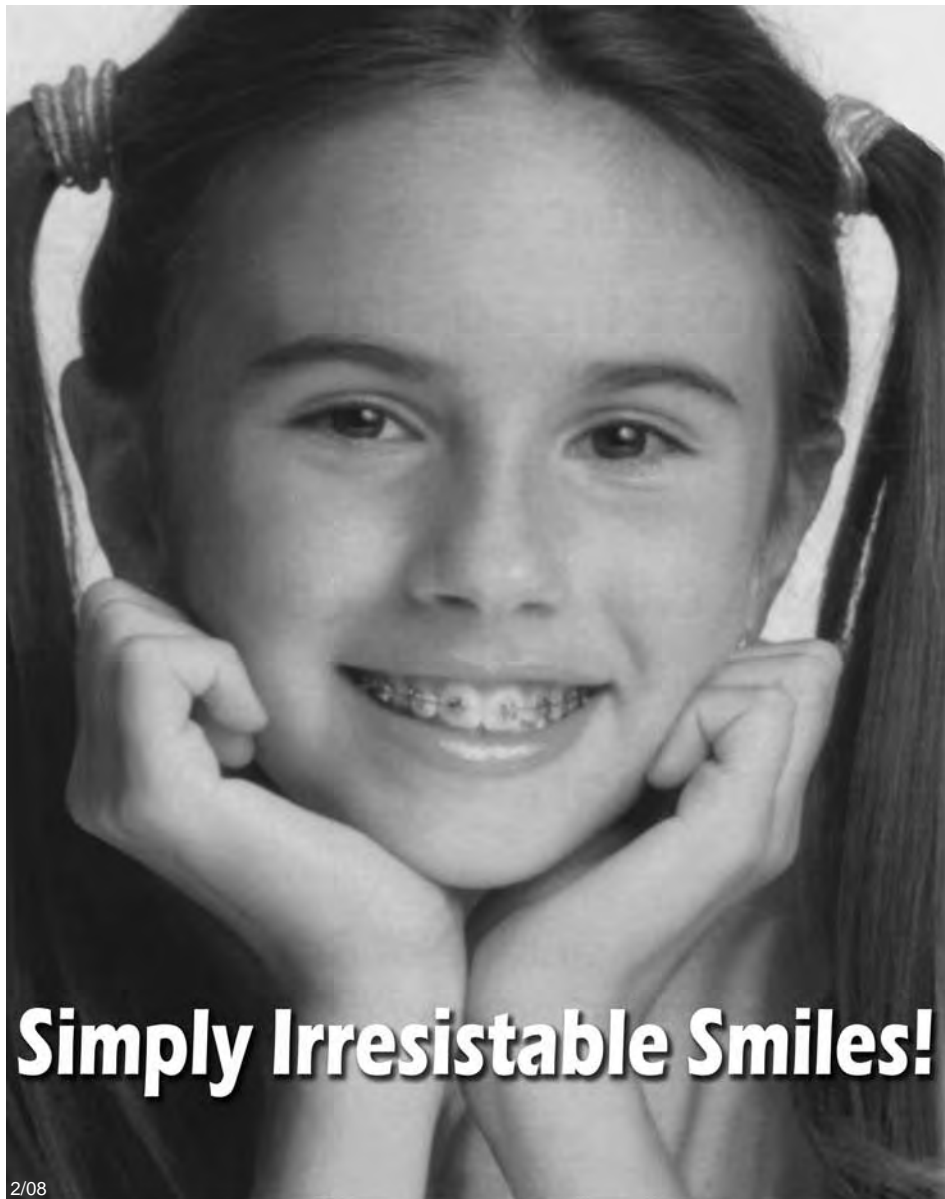
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## SENIORS cont. from P. 12

New Year. Since Pat Brunett took over as our new President, we have some members filling in as chairmen of our sections. Mary Ellen Naples and Audrey Stock have now become co-managers of the Treasure House since Norma Williams was elected Assistant Treasurer. The bake sale, produce and boutique sections are held in the main building. Joy Hansen has now become chairman of the bake sale while Ada Forbes is in charge of the boutique. Come in and check out the displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings, antiques, China items, etc. The produce section still has some persimmons, oranges, tangerines, grapefruits and lemons. However, that may change daily so come in to check out what is there. Also please come in and visit us and see our new kitchen, tile floor, etc.

Remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department periodically come to the center to give FREE check ups? They will be at the center on March 20 at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services on March 20, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come to see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

### THE UP SIDE

*A positive anything is better than a negative nothing!*

A Panama Canal cruise is ready to go on April 14 - 28. A flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. will be made and then board the ship with stops in Jamaica and Cartagena, Columbia. Then it's off through the locks of the canal and exiting into the Pacific Ocean with dockings in Costa Rica, three in Mexico, namely Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas. The trip concludes in San Francisco where we will

disembark. This is really a spectacular cruise. And now, hot off of the press, we have a Nov. 1 - 8, 2008, 7-Night Eastern Caribbean cruise which has just been announced. This leaves Miami on Carnival's new "LIBERTY" ship with dockings at San Juan, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. The flyers may be picked up in our office or for more information - on either cruise - call Joann 645-4864. Just remember, you need NOT be a member to participate in these cruises.

Our January Birthday and Anniversary celebration luncheon was held at Yukon Jacks. There were 39 members and guests in attendance. Nice place! February's celebration was held on President's Day, February 18 at 11 a.m. at Carrow's Restaurant, 1484 E. Shaw in Fresno. The following month is already planned for Saturday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Shanghai Chinese Cuisine, 4011 N. Blackstone in Fresno.

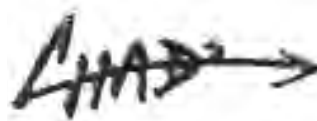
There will be NO BINGO held until our remodeling is complete.

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

### More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 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 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class has changed to Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. The Water Coloring Painting class has also changed. It is now scheduled on Thursdays from 3-5

Please see SENIORS on P. 19



Chad Harr



2/08

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## LEGAL NOTICE

"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2008."

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARD grow back.

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*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.*

*By Superintendent Sarah Koligian*

The 45 day clock is ticking since Governor Schwarzenegger declared a “fiscal emergency” in California in January 2008. The Governor’s Budget reflects a deterioration in current-year revenues and a weakening California economy for 2008-09. In addition, the state has failed to close its structural

## The Best Way to Weather California’s Fiscal Crisis? Plan for the Worst, but Always Hope for the Best

Budget gap, compounding the fiscal challenges for the 2008-09 Budget. The Governor’s Budget proposed numerous reductions to current-year expenditures, including reducing funding under Proposition 98 by \$400 million.

### What is Proposition 98?

- Voters passed Prop. 98 almost 20 years ago to ensure our students and schools have a minimum funding guarantee and reaffirmed their support during the 2005 special election. Any proposal to suspend Prop. 98 undermines the will of the voters to fund our schools.

- A state budget proposal that cuts funding to schools is not a real solution because it does not address California’s underlying problem of inadequate and unstable revenue sources. Prop. 98 was designed to protect our students from instability so they have the reliable resources they need to learn and succeed.

The 2008-09 proposed budget cuts

for California schools total \$4.8 billion which would severely damage the quality of education in our state, forcing school districts to lay off teachers and support staff already working in overcrowded classrooms in some districts.

Statewide statistics show that a \$4.8 billion budget cut is equivalent to the following:

- Laying off more than 107,000 teachers
- Cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom
- Reducing per-student spending by more than \$800
- Laying off over 137,000 bus drivers, janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers and other education support professionals
- Increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35%

What could these proposed budget cuts force Golden Valley Unified to do?

- Issue layoff notices to some teachers in the event that class size

reduction is no longer funded in grades K-3. Class sizes in these grades could increase up to 34 students.

- Reduce support staff
- Reduce per student spending by approximately \$200/student
- Reduce school and district operating budgets by approximately 10%

Our hope is that the proposed budget cuts for education will be seriously and thoughtfully reviewed before any legislative action is taken. Our students did not create this budget crisis and their education should not be ransomed to save it with proposals that don’t just mortgage their academic futures, but amount to a foreclosure of hope for generations of families. We will do our best to weather this storm, planning for the worst but hoping for the best. Your voices as concerned parents and community members could make a difference.

**What can we do to have our voices hear in Sacramento? Call on our Governor and Legislators to notify them that California should put our students first. Reject the across-the-board cuts that would damage our public schools and protect the voter-approved minimum school funding law, Proposition 98. Following is a format for a sample letter if you are interested in writing to our Legislators:**

*Dear (LEGISLATOR),*

*I’m a (PARENT) of a student at (SCHOOL NAME) here in (CITY NAME), and I’m very concerned about how the Governor’s proposed \$4.8 billion education funding cuts will impact our local schools. These cuts are equivalent to \$24,000 less for every classroom, or increasing class sizes by more than a third.*

*I know first-hand how important class sizes are to improving student learning, and I don’t want to see us turn back the clock on our kids’ education. Smaller classes have helped my child excel in math and reading, and to deny that opportunity to other students would be a terrible mistake.*

*Voters passed Proposition 98 twenty years ago to ensure a minimum funding guarantee for our schools. Over the years, we’ve reaffirmed our support for this law. It’s time for the politicians to listen to the voters and stop trying to siphon money away from our students.*

*I want to urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposed budget cuts for education and invest in California’s future.*

*Sincerely,  
(NAME)  
(CITY)  
(CONTACT INFORMATION)*

*Send your completed letters to:*

Senator Dave Cogdill	Assemblyman Michael Villines
State Capital Room 3048	State Capital Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001	Sacramento, CA 94249-0029



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LETTERS cont. from P. 6

in the last five months with this family. I keep asking what was it that touched me the most? Was it the family that chose not only to give to the needy family, but went the extra mile and gave to a second family in need – my family? Was it the lady who called way back in October and had everything ready to go within that month? Was it the husband and wife who not only donated a Christmas tree, but came to the people's home and set it up for them? Or was it the family whose house burned down and had so many donations that when they heard of this needy family they passed eight Hefty garbage bags of little girl's clothes on for them to use? Or how about the family who came and gave to every person in that needy family knowing their own home was going into foreclosure in December? And then I think long and hard about the woman whose daughter was killed in a hit-and-run and came to give money while she was still grieving, sweetly telling me her daughter would have wanted the circle of love and giving to continue. And that there had been such an outpouring of love from the community that she wanted to give something back. Was it her that touched me? There were so many acts of kindness and I figured out what it was that touched me unforgettably. It was the change taking place inside of me. Two years ago I really didn't know what I thought of Christ anymore. But in every person who came and gave, there He stood. Over and over Christ came to my door this holiday season and made me a believer once again. So thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of the friends and strangers who came to my home and continued to revive the faith I thought I had lost, and delivering the best Christmas ever.

K. Camahan  
 Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for being the announcer of the meeting at the Pizza Factory. You are the Paul Revere of our community! I really appreciate all you do to keep us informed.

I didn't vote for Measure T, and wrote an editorial in the Independent as to why. It was not because I vote NO on every proposition. I have voted for every bond issue for the schools. It was because when I was presented with information about Measure T it outlined what we are dealing with right now. I called someone on the "Vote Yes on T" Committee and told her I could not support this measure, but would be happy to support it if they widened Avenue 9 instead. I told her you couldn't widen Ave. 12 from 41 to 38 and 35 to 99 and expect people to slow down through the Ranchos. Voila – Measure T passed and now we have what we have.

It appeared many people are now favoring the Avenue 9 Expressway over the Avenue 12. I didn't move out here, and many of my neighbors didn't move out here, to live on Herndon Avenue. I am not against progress, but this will ruin our rural & small town area.

No more Flatlander's Parades if this goes through.

I cannot express my appreciation for your assistance in getting the community involved.

Thanks,

Bob Campbell  
 Madera Ranchos

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## Community Calendar of Events

By Linda Bresee

(all events in the Madera Ranchos UNLESS stated otherwise)

Annual Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed  
Sat. March 1st 6:30 p.m. • Liberty High  
School Ave. 12 & Rd. 36 • Ticket info 645-  
4001

Flipside Church  
Every Sunday, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. meetings  
Liberty High School Ave. 12 & Rd. 36

Flipside Church After School Youth  
Program • MON. Thru THURS. after  
school to 6:00p.m. • Maywood Center, old  
Game Room Suite

Organizational Committee meeting to  
build a Community Center/new Library  
Mon. March 3rd 7:00 p.m., Chamber of  
Commerce office 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. # 5 •  
Open to the public

Friends of the Library meeting  
Thurs. March 6th 7:00 p.m. • Chamber of  
Commerce office • Open to the public

Kiwanis meeting  
Thurs. March 6th 6:30 a.m. • Pizza Factory  
37184 Avenue 12 • Public welcome

School Board meeting  
Tuesday March 11th 6:00 p.m. • Liberty  
High School Library • Avenue 12 & Rd. 36

Ranchos Library Bilingual Story Time & Crafts  
Wed. March 12th 2:00 p.m. Every other  
week • 37167 Avenue 12, Ste 4-C. Info call  
645-1214

Kiwanis meeting  
Thurs. March 13th 6:30 a.m. • Pizza  
Factory • Public welcome

Spring Break GVUSD  
Begins Mon. March 17th thru Mon. March  
24th • Return to school Tues. March 25th

Committee to Build a New Ranchos  
Library meeting  
Wed. March 19th, 7:00 p.m. Ranchos  
Library • 37167 Ave. 12, Ste. 4-C. • Open to  
the public

Ranchos Library Story Time & Crafts  
Thurs. March 20th 5-7 p.m. • Everyone is  
welcome

Kiwanis meeting  
Thurs. March 20th, 6:30 a.m. • Pizza  
Factory • Public welcome

Webster School Kindergarten Registration  
Monday March 24th begins at 9:00 a.m.  
First come first served basis for A.M. or  
P.M. slots • The purple Webster Newsletter  
has all the info needed to complete the reg-  
istration process.

Flipside Church Community Easter Egg  
Hunt  
Sun. March 23rd 11:00 a.m. • 10 a.m. reg-  
ular service only • Liberty High School Ave.  
12 & Rd. 36

Webster Parent Teacher Club meeting  
Tuesday March 25th 7:00 p.m. • Webster  
School Library

Ranchos Library Bilingual Story Time & Crafts  
Wed. March 26th 2:00 p.m. • Ranchos  
Library, everyone is welcome

Coffee with Principal Pinkard  
Ranchos Middle School • Thurs. March  
27th 8:30 a.m. • RMS is located next to  
Liberty High School

Kiwanis meeting  
Thurs. March 27th 6:30 p.m. • Pizza facto-  
ry, public welcome

Golden Valley Foundation Dinner • "The  
Night The Stars Come Out" Adult event  
Saturday March 29th 7:00 p.m., doors  
open at 6:30p.m. • Birdstone Winery.  
Evening attire • Info. 645-3555 or  
www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/foundation

Kiwanis Electronic Recycling  
Sat. March 29th & Sun. March 30th • 8a.m.  
to 4p.m., Ranchos Market, Avenue 12 •  
Public event



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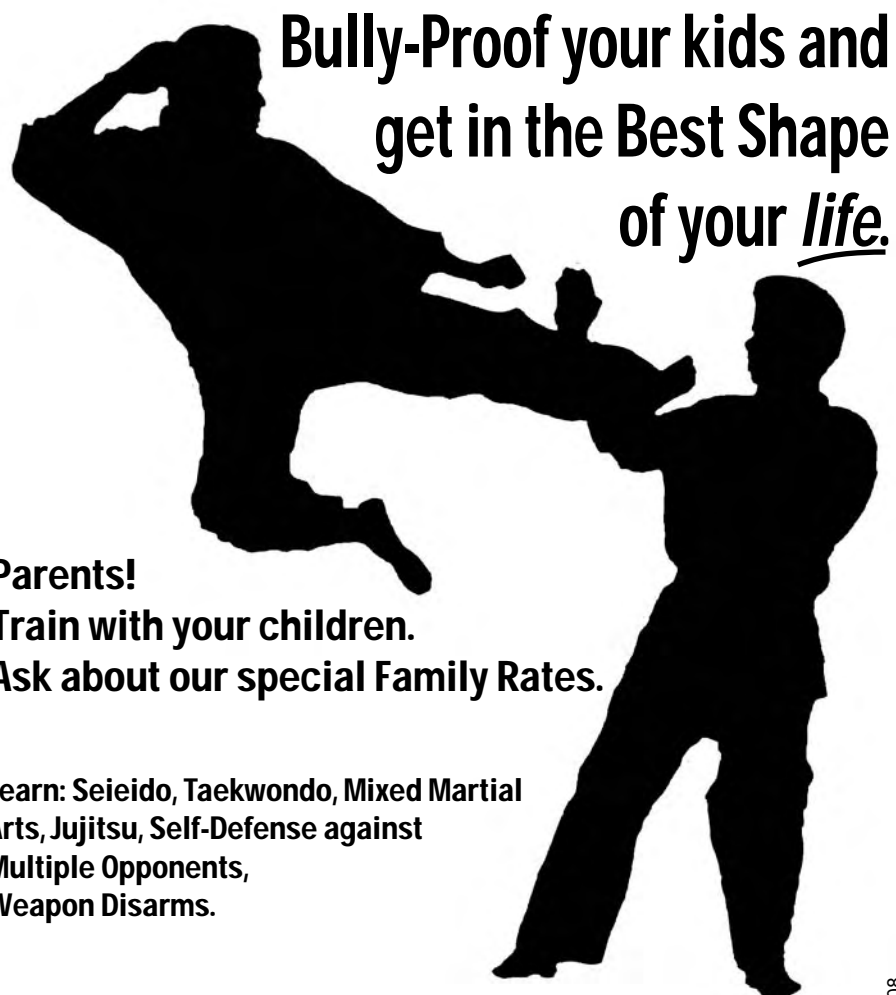
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## SENIORS cont. from P. 13

p.m. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more – you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors, they will enjoy finding new friends here, too! Come in and check these classes out.

### Up and Coming Events

March 1, Monthly Sale, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
April 5, 16th Annual Spring Home & Garden Festival, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Panama Canal Cruise, April 14–28  
Eastern Caribbean Cruise, November 1–8

### Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864)  
Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15–11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

## D.O.G. cont. from P. 4

of the debates and decisions were already made. Yesterday the Board said we have to do this or we will lose the money. Then we were permitted our right to comment.

I don't think this is the voice our founding fathers had in mind.

I don't think this is the public comment the writers of the Brown Act and our state constitution had in mind either.

I believe the intent of the writers was to have our comments actually be a part of the decision making process rather than a formality at the end of a forgone conclusion.

### Further Items

Item "H" isn't very interesting by itself, but if you want to see what county employees make there are 99 pages of backup that gives the salaries. Some are very interesting reading.

Item "5" was Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue of \$900,000. One might be confused about how you don't anticipate that much revenue, until you read a bit deeper and find out it is a loan.

Item "6" is the beginnings of developing a Habitat Conservation Bank Committee. This one is going to be a bit hard to explain, and may be even harder to live with. Let's say you are building a road. It needs to go through a vernal pool (mud puddle). To be able to pave over your mud puddle you need to buy another one (mud puddle) someplace else and promises to keep it safe and happy forever (conserve). Or you can pay somebody that

Tuesday, no BINGO at this time.  
Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO  
Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.  
Thursday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class  
Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (Please bring your own plate and silverware.)

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.  
Friday, 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing Class  
Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?

has a supply of mud puddles in their private mud puddle farm/bank that you can buy or lease forever. They don't even have to be natural mud puddles. If you dig a hole, it fills with water and you are unlucky enough to have a bird and bunny cop see it. You just lost control of your property.

If you think that all sounds a bit ridiculous, remember the levy system that is about to be decertified? Part of the problem is arundo, a tall perennial reed growing in fresh and moderately saline waters, and part of the problem is trees that have grown on the levies. Seems simple – just cut the weeds that have grown on the man-made levies. Unfortunately, a bird and bunny cop saw the trees. For every tree we cut down we need to plant three to replace it someplace else where they can grow and be happy.

I am not sure where all of this will stop. When will mold become a protected organism? If you have moldy cheese in your fridge you will have to either let it be or you can throw it away if you pay someone that maintains a mold conservation bank to keep a mold colony just like yours to make up for the one you removed.

We have set aside millions of acres of public lands, wilderness areas, parks. None of that counts. We have to create the conservation banks on private lands. At what point will there be no private land left, or is that the real goal? Or could it be some enterprising opportunists finding a new way to fill the old pork barrel with money from these new and ridiculous regulations?

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Congratulations, Lamb. The end of the month brings good news in the workplace, thanks to all the efforts you've made to get your projects off the ground and running.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Don't let yourself be cowed into thinking you're not up to the challenge you've taken on. Keep reinforcing your self-confidence, and no one and nothing can stop you.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Positive responses to a recent workplace move should give you added assurance that you're on the right track. Celebrate the good news with family and/or friends.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) There's still a little emotional fuzziness you have to work through before you can feel really certain about your recent decisions. But you're on the right track. Stay with it.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You're tempted by an offer that seems close to what you've been looking for. But before you pounce on it, see if you can coax out some added perks to sweeten the deal.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to settle a volatile situation should prove successful. Now could be a good time to analyze what might have created the problem in the first place.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A once-close associate re-emerges with news that could cause you to reconsider a recent decision. But don't make a move before consulting a trusted adviser.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You might feel pressured to reveal a colleague's secret. But you can rely on your strong Scorpion sense of rectitude to help you continue to do the right thing.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) That pesky situation is still creating problems. But you are moving ahead with it, and it should soon be successfully resolved in your favor.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A spate of indecision leaves you susceptible to doubt. But you'll soon regain your emotional sure-footedness and be back leading the way, as usual.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Love rules the week with new romances favored for single Aquarians looking for partners. Cupid also targets renewed commitment for wedded Water Bearers.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A surge of creativity keeps you happily busy through the week. But leave some quiet time to share with loved ones. Some long-awaited news finally comes through.

**Born this Week**

*People rely on you whenever they need someone they can trust to be caring, considerate and also discreet.*

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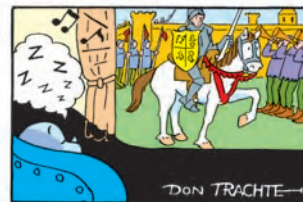
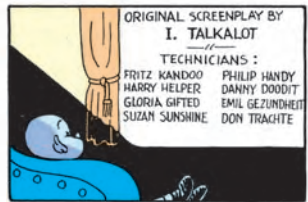
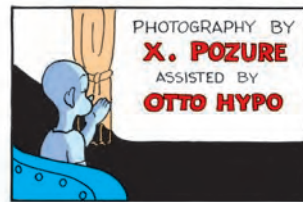
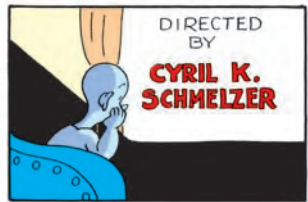
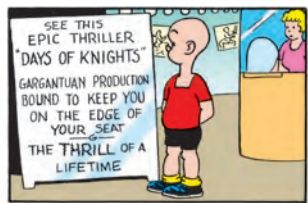
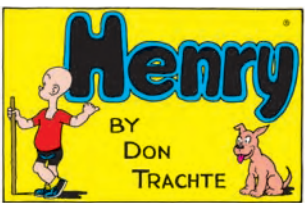
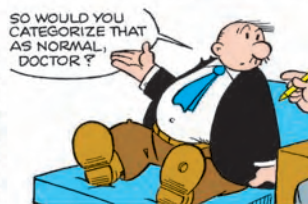
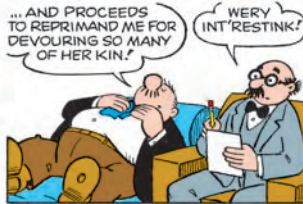
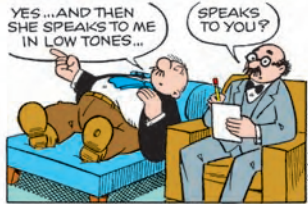
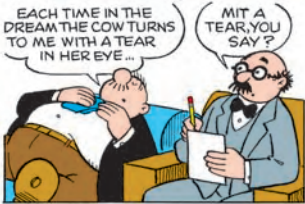
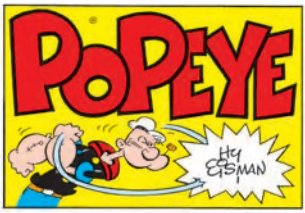
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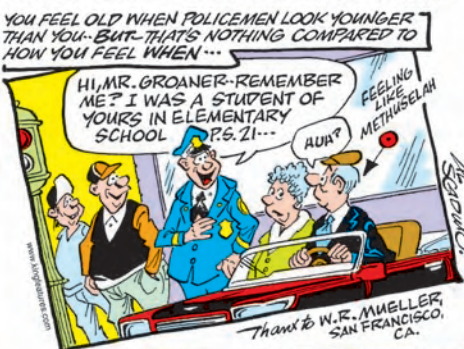
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# FUN PAGES



**THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME**



**BY AL SCADUTO**



HIDDEN in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "O" in the lower right-hand corner: "Out of sight, out of mind."

**WHAT COMES NEXT?** Someone has written a series of letters on this fence. What letter comes next in the sequence?

TTTFFSSE-

Answer: The letter "N," which stands for the first letter in "Ninky." The other letters stand for ten, twenty, thirty, etc.

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. A vessel containing oil. 2. Found at rock concerts. 3. Found in the ocean. 4. (slang) When crooks run.

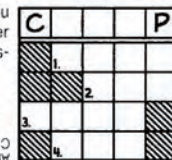
Answers: 1. Lamp 2. Amp (amplifier), 3. Clam, 4. Lam. Mystery word: Clamp (used to grip objects).



**THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!**

Starting with the word MACINTOSH 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. The following hints are from the bottom up:

1. A raincoat (MACINTOSH).
2. "The Last of the \_\_\_\_\_"
3. A soft polishing cloth.
4. Coffee/chocolate drinks.
5. A state of great confusion.
6. Money, coins and currency.
7. Type of tree.
8. Expression of surprise.
9. Highest in rank.



Illustrated by David Coulson

Answers: (From the bottom up) Macintosh, Mochicas, chamots, chaos, cash.

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

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

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

- Bye-bye
- Choo-choo
- Chop-chop
- Dum-dum
- Fifty-fifty
- Gee-gee
- Go-go
- Itty-bitty
- Mumbo-jumbo
- Riprap
- See-saw
- Tidbit
- Tip-top
- Wingding
- Zig-zag

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**TRIVIA TEST**  
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In what body of water are the Maldiv islands located?
2. COMICS: What is Superman's dog named?
3. ROYALTY: In what famous church were Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer wed?
4. MOVIES: In what movie does the character Popeye Doyle star?
5. ENTERTAINERS: Which comedian came up with the character called "the hippy dippy weather-man."
6. MUSIC: What is Elvis Costello's birth name?
7. ADVERTISING: What company's products are associated with Elsie the Cow?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president pledged a "New Deal" for the United States?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Dr. Zhivago"?
10. ANATOMY: What is a sarcoma?

**Answers**

1. Indian Ocean
2. Krypto
3. St. Paul's Cathedral
4. "The French Connection"
5. Gene Hackman
6. Declan Patrick McManus
7. Borden
8. Franklin Roosevelt
9. Boris Pasternak
10. A malignant tumor in connective tissue, bone or muscle

Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



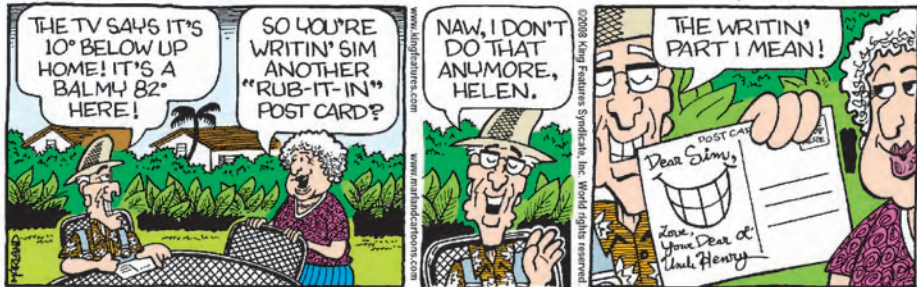
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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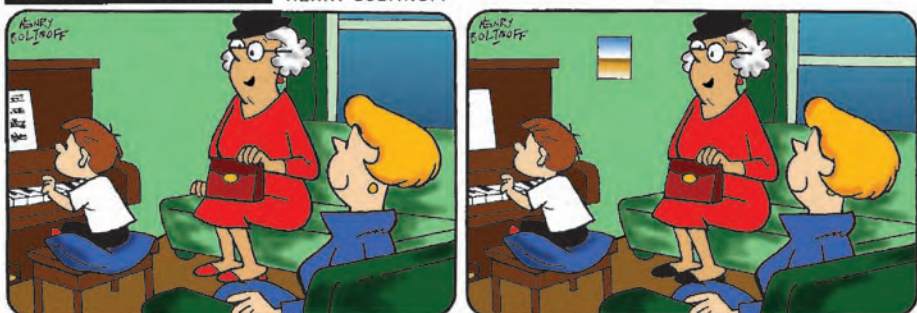
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



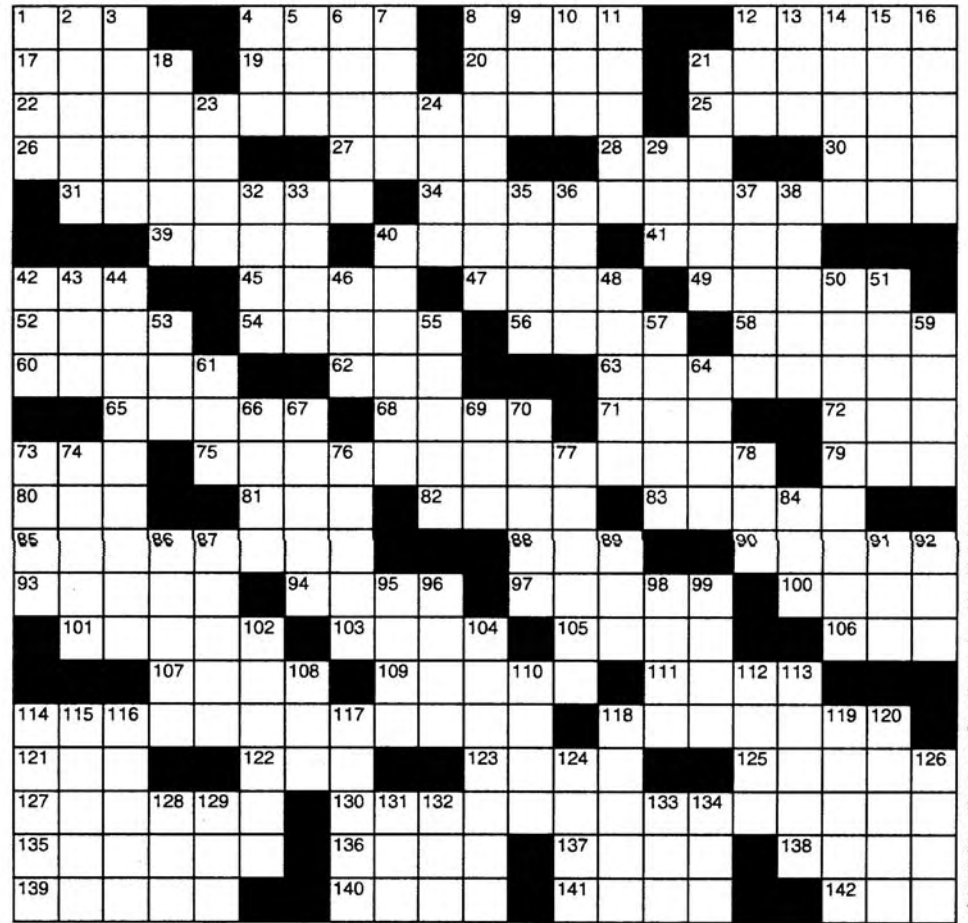
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Visitor's shoes are different. 2. Sheet on piano is blank. 3. Mom's hair is longer. 4. Picture is added to wall. 5. Window is lower. 6. Visitor's right hand is not visible.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Buddy
  - 4 Verne hero
  - 8 Cantata composer
  - 12 Goo
  - 17 "— corny as Kansas ..."
  - 19 Orenburg's river
  - 20 Literary pseudonym
  - 21 Like Schoenberg's music
  - 22 Like Felix Unger?
  - 25 Act like Holmes
  - 26 "— Card" ('90 film)
  - 27 Comic Orson
  - 28 Bungle
  - 30 Sweater letter
  - 31 On the nose
  - 34 Skinny novelist?
  - 39 Get on
  - 40 Rocker Tom
  - 41 Curly coif
  - 42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras
  - 45 Maffo or Magnani
  - 47 Reggae's Peter
  - 49 Offer an apple?
  - 52 Pinnacle
  - 54 Dawns, to Donne
  - 56 Coarse flour
  - 58 "— on My Pillow" ('58 song)
  - 60 Stiller's partner
  - 62 Tread the boards
  - 63 Man from Munich
  - 65 Ponderosa, for one
  - 68 Mrs. Zeus
  - 71 Mineral suffix
  - 72 Sgt., e.g.
  - 73 Gamble
  - 75 Extremely encouraging
  - 79 Kitten's comment
  - 80 Sharpton and
  - 81 Hockey great
  - 82 A sweeping success?
  - 83 Calliope's sister
  - 85 '66 Tommy Roe tune
  - 88 Merino male
  - 90 Shiva worshiper
  - 93 Throw forcefully
  - 94 "The Ramayana" heroine
  - 97 Actress Samantha
  - 100 Jury member
  - 101 Economize
  - 103 Calligraphy supply
  - 105 Land in the sea
  - 106 Longing
  - 107 Jets, Mets, or Nets
  - 109 Release
  - 111 Hideaway
  - 114 Dishonest anchorman?
  - 118 New Jersey's Pine —
  - 121 Port: abbr.
  - 122 Director
  - 123 Lupino
  - 123 "Dies —"
  - 125 Be of use
  - 127 Bring to light
  - 130 Corrupt college official?
  - 135 Acid's opposite
  - 136 Bronte heroine
  - 137 Ice-cream thickener
  - 138 Writer Hunter
  - 139 June birthstone
  - 140 Paper quantity
  - 141 Stink
  - 142 Prior to, to Prior
  - 5 Part of NATO
  - 6 Hayes of westerns
  - 7 Crafter's need
  - 8 Publisher
  - 9 Cerf
  - 9 Ginger —
  - 10 Security grp.
  - 11 Couldn't stand
  - 12 Canonized
  - 13 Mile.
  - 13 King's "Salem's —"
  - 14 Motionless
  - 15 "— Man" ('78 song)
  - 16 Singer John
  - 18 Farm sight
  - 21 Directionless
  - 23 Native Peruvian
  - 24 Yarn
  - 29 Singer Chris
  - 32 Soho streetcar
  - 33 Carson's successor
  - 35 Particle
  - 36 AMEX rival
  - 37 Scacchi of "The Player"
  - 38 Seascape painter
  - 40 Cisco's chum
  - 42 Pin
  - 43 The —
  - 44 Einstein's chair?
  - 46 New Deal
  - agcy.
  - 48 Convent wear
  - 50 Dentist's fee?
  - 51 Vestige
  - 53 Geologic division
  - 55 Cook
  - 57 Leggs
  - 59 Chilly powder?
  - 61 Social worker?
  - 64 Swerve
  - 66 Word with pork or karate
  - 67 Toast start
  - 69 Dietary abbr.
  - 70 TV's "Hearts —"
  - 73 Big party
  - 74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
  - 76 Bit of a beach?
  - 77 Leisurely, to Leoncavallo
  - 78 Team scream
  - 84 Palm oil?
  - 86 Lloyd Webber musical
  - 87 Principle
  - 89 Booker T.'s group
  - 91 Billy —
  - 92 Fancy planter
  - 95 Slope
  - 96 Cain's victim
  - 98 — breve
  - 99 Bring up
  - 102 Gauguin setting
  - 104 Feminist Gloria
  - 108 Pie ingredient?
  - 110 Greek sandwich
  - 112 Neighbor of Turkey
  - 113 Variety show
  - 114 Tight
  - 115 Actress Berry
  - 116 Slezak or Alexander
  - 117 Consumer advocate
  - 118 Stocking shade
  - 119 Credulous
  - 120 Indian instrument
  - 124 Way over yonder
  - 126 Director Adrian
  - 128 Roller-coaster unit
  - 129 Under the weather
  - 131 Hook's mate
  - 132 Southern constellation
  - 133 Scottish refusal
  - 134 Annoy
- DOWN**
- 1 BB-gun sound
  - 2 "That's —" ('53 tune)
  - 3 Paint ingredient
  - 4 Lots of laughs

# Real Estate



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Bunkhouse Tonight" and Bob Wills' "San Antonio Rose." How about Tulare-based musicians Maddox Brothers & Rose, Tipton's David Frizzle and right up to Merle Haggard's "Okie from Muskogee" and Willie Nelson's "Blue Eyes Crying In the Rain."

However, I must admit that this music form has veered off into a stupid sphere that tends to give the entire genre

a bad name, and I am speaking about such songs as, "Thanks to the Cathouse I'm in the Doghouse with You," "How can I Love You when You won't Come Home" and "My Wife Ran Off with My Best Friend and I Miss Him."

I wish that I could assure you that this latter and crude development in the country music field is fading, but the opposite is true as attested by dozens of other hits, such as: "I've Finally Hurt Her More than

She Loves Me," "If I Kiss You will You Go Away?" "I won't Set Out the Silver for a Man Who won't Say Grace," "You Feel Better All Over than Anyplace Else," "I'll Love You Forever or Until the Sun Comes Up and it's Motel Check-out Time," "Tonight She Gave Me More than I've Been Missing," "You Must Think My Bed's a Bus Stop the Way You Come and Go."

And who can forget: "I'm

Going to Put a Bar in My Car and Drive Myself to Drink," "You Used to Call Me Kitten Before You Started Treating Me Like a Dog," "The Woman Who Walked into My Heart Just Drove Out in My Pickup Truck," "My Old Flame is Burning Down Another Cathouse Tonight," "Give Your Soul to Jesus but Save the Rest For Me," and "I've Been Flushed from the Bathroom of Your Heart."

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**For Rent - House** for rent on Avenue 12. 2,200 sq. ft. \$1,600 per month. Call 999-9005.

**For Rent - House** for rent. 3 bed/2 bath. \$1,250 per month. \$1,300 deposit. Near Road 36 and Avenue 16 1/2. Call 1-800-806-4169 for details. Ask for Mel.

## For Sale

**For Sale - Black Sonar drum set.** 2003 w/crash & ride cymbals - \$300. Like new **stationary bike** - \$100. Like new **Ride Snowboard** 143 cm w/bindings, bag, & helmet - \$200. **TSA weight bench** excel. cond. - \$50. Days 559-645-0679 or eves. 232-4801.

**For Sale - Horses** AQHA mares in foal, will produce only Palomino or buckskin only. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

**For Sale - Pool Table 2008.** Never used in crate. 8' Professional, leather pockets. 1" slate. Cost \$3,500, sacrifice \$975. Can deliver. Call 559-230-0486.

**For Sale - 2008 Hot Tub.** Brand new! Loaded, ozonator, therapy seats, full warranty. Sacrifice

\$2,475. Can deliver. Call 559-360-9047.

**For Sale - Bedroom Set.** Solid wood. Chest, dresser/mirror, nightstand, sleigh bed. New in boxes. All dovetailed! Cost \$8K sacrifice \$1,875. Call 559-438-0248.

**For Sale - Queen PILLOWTOP mattress/box.** Cost \$600 sacrifice \$195. Brand new with warranty. King cost \$700 sacrifice \$295. Call 559-447-5066.

**For Sale - \$295 all new King PILLOWTOP mattress/box.** Never used w/warranty. Cost \$700 sacrifice \$295. Call 559-438-0248.

**For Sale - Dining Room Set** - Beautiful solid cherrywood double pedestal table w/2 leaves, 6 chairs, 4-door china cabinet w/touch lighting. Cost \$8,000 sacrifice \$1,950. Matching buffet \$450. Call 559-277-2511.

## Gutter Services

**The Gutter Doctor** specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. Unusual jobs. Air conditioning service also available. Yearly cleaning. 29 years working in the area. Call 559-822-2759.

**Gutter Cleaning Service** - Call for estimate. 559-479-6216 or 559-474-3829.

## Help Wanted

**Help Wanted - Student** for approximately 4 hours per week for yardwork in Madera Ranchos. \$8.50 per hour. Call 645-4201.

## Handyman Services

**Rancho Handyman** - You need the Rancho Handyman. Call Ohan for estimates for fencing, electrical and plumbing jobs. Call 645-6924.

## Housecleaning

**Jeannie's Housecleaning - Ranchos area.** Business owner over 10 years. Reasonable rates, good references. Will do blinds, fans and laundry. Fast and thorough. Call 801-2391 or 645-4117.

## Investment & Loans

**Money To Loan Service** - Oro Financial. Able to loan today. Credit not a problem. Cash for trust deeds. Mobile home on land. Call 438-9999.

## Painting Services

**Gerald Scheffing Painting.** "Best in the West" for over 35 years. Call 674-2320. Lic. #313070.

## Spa Service

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

## Tractor Services

**Tractor work**, discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees,

trenching and clean ups. Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.

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

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

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

## Window Cleaning Services

**Window cleaning special.** Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen and track included. Prices may vary for non-standard windows. Hard water stain and cobweb removal available. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
The Ranchos  
Independent

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## 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.

	+		÷		8
-		÷		x	
	÷		+		7
+		+		-	
	+		÷		1
2		11		1	

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 9

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2/08

ANSWERS

2	11				
1	9	÷	8	+	1
		-		+	
6	5	+	3	÷	6
		X		÷	
7	2	÷	9	+	7

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

GAZGIZ	GNIDGNIMW
CE	GSCTTIBYTTI
HEDEH	IF
OGUEO	RDT
BOEMSP	IBY
YCE	DAC
EH	UMH
MUMBOJUMBOD	RTI
YO	POTPIT
E	

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