

The Ranchos Independent

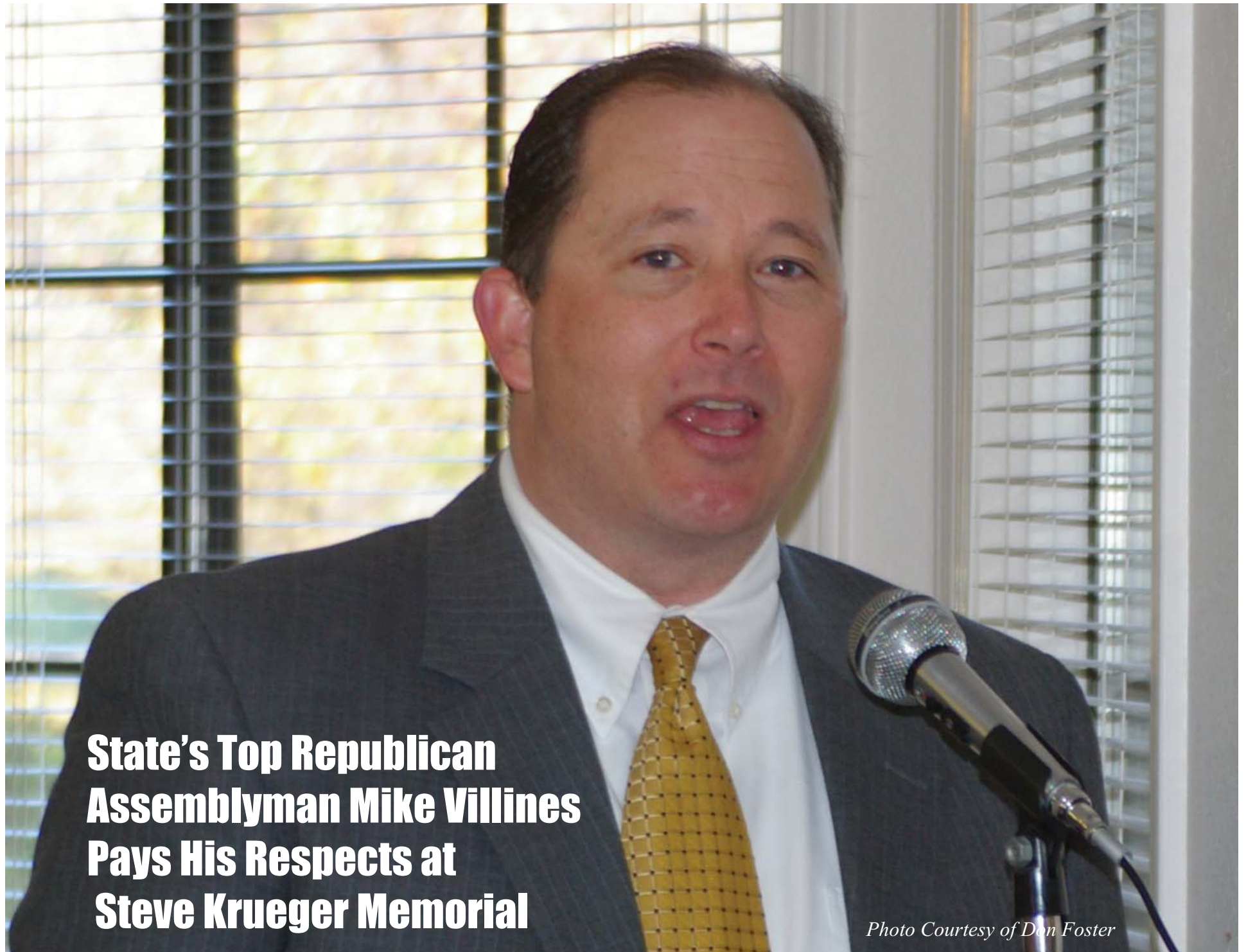


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**State's Top Republican
Assemblyman Mike Villines
Pays His Respects at
Steve Krueger Memorial**

Photo Courtesy of Don Foster

In This Issue /

*Editorial • Page 3 / The D.O.G. House • Page 4
Fun Pages • Page 20 / Real Estate • Page 25 / Classifieds • Page 26*

Remembering Steve - The Steve Krueger Memorial in Pictures Saturday, January 10 at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Activity Center



California State Assemblyman Mike Villines (right) shares a laugh with Golden Valley Unified School District Board Member Mark Toole as they reminisce about Steve Krueger at the memorial service sponsored by the Chamber.



Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow (center) talks with Ranchos resident Gary Johns about Steve Krueger at the conclusion of the memorial service held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Activity Center.



Friends of Steve Krueger enjoyed a potluck luncheon sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce prior to sharing remembrances of Steve and his impact on their lives and on the community.

On Saturday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m., a group of approximately 80 people attended a memorial service for the late Steve Krueger at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Activity Center. The event was sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The memorial service was conducted by newly elected Chamber President, Randy Bailey, and featured remembrances by Bailey, Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow and Madera County District 1 Planning Commissioner Tom Kellner. State Assemblyman Mike Villines made a special presentation to Steve's family of an American flag that had flown over the state capitol and a video of Steve's life set to music was viewed. After a bountiful potluck luncheon was served, the microphone was opened up to attendees who shared many wonderful memories of Steve and his life, and the impact he had on people and the community.

Board Tribute to Audrey Stock



At the Regular Golden Valley USD Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 9, 2008, the Board and Superintendent paid tribute to retiring founding board member, Audrey Stock. The original GVUSD Board Members, Mark Huddleston, Theresa Carter and Bruce Blair, were there along with community members, Bill Juhrend and Bruce Knight, who participated in the formation of the district.

The Board also conducted their annual organization meeting, which included electing a new Board President and Clerk. Roger Schuh will take over as Board President for 2009 and Steven Lewis will remain as the Board Clerk. Everyone in Golden Valley wishes Audrey a long and happy retirement.

Board Seeking Input on Groundwater

We recently reported on the newly-adopted Madera County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which assesses the groundwater situation throughout the county and makes general recommendations for future programs aimed at improving groundwater supplies. The County recently issued an invitation to interested parties to participate in modifying the IRWMP to conform with the most recent state regulations. The most significant addition needed is what is being called a "Governance Section," which will specify how the IRWMP is implemented.

In its December 22, 2008 letter to stakeholders, the Board of Supervisors invites input as to how this Governance Structure should be created and organ-

ized. We believe this is a real opportunity for the citizens of the Madera Ranchos to be heard, and to help assure that our priorities will be represented when the time comes to choose among competing priorities for groundwater improvement. To make this happen, we need the strong voice of this community to be heard.

The Board's letter states that stakeholder meetings, facilitated by the Center for Collaborative Policy and the Department of Water Resources, will be held throughout the County "in the next several weeks," but doesn't set any firm dates. The letter also states that comments can be made to Philip Toler at Madera County Planning, at his 675-7821 phone or via email at philip.toler@madera-county.com.

Radanovich Offers Madera Water Act

Madera Ranchos Congressman George Radanovich introduced the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act on Friday, Jan. 9. Identical legislation authored by Radanovich passed the House in the 110th Congress and is currently included in the Senate public lands omnibus bill S. 22, which was considered by the Senate on Sunday, Jan. 10.

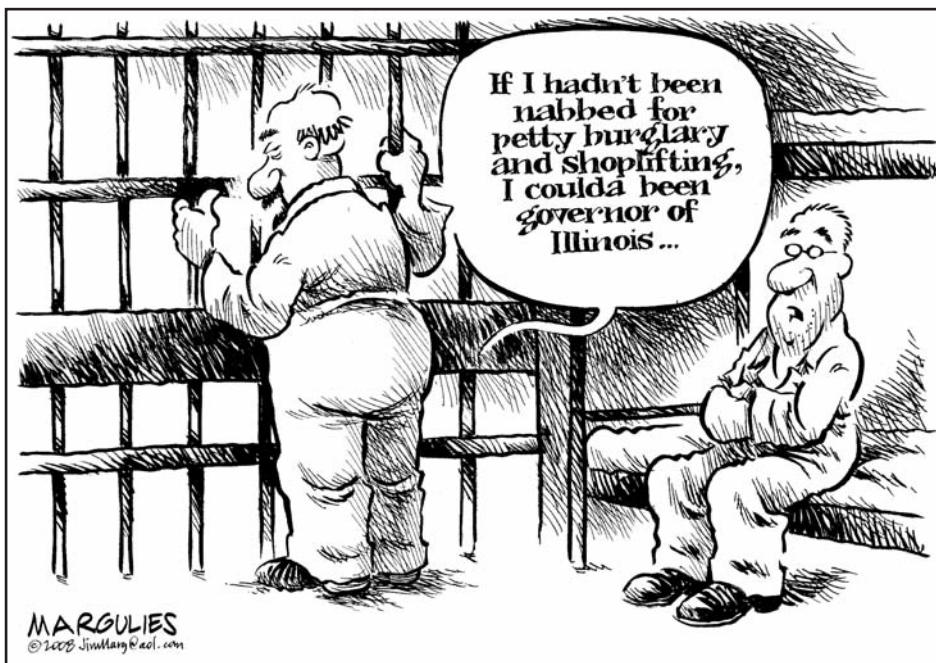
"The water problems in the Central Valley continue to grow," Radanovich said. "This water bank, by storing excess water in wet years, will provide a much needed source of water in dry years and facilitate the restoration of

groundwater levels over time."

Specifically, the bill authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the construction of an underground water storage project in Madera.

"Dangerous judicial decisions cloaked in environmental reasoning, an increasing population and water demand, and a shortage of supply make this legislation vital to the future of California water," Radanovich said. "I am pleased my colleagues in the Senate have recognized the urgency of California's water situation and am excited for the possibility of quick action on this legislation."

Click on "Local News" at



Editorial

Hail to the Hype

This editorial was mailed to me by a friend who said he saw it in a British newspaper. We are so often told by the Left about how we look to the rest of the world, and specifically how President Bush has tarnished America to the rest of the planet, and yet there are people out there in other countries that aren't quite so convinced of all that "tarnish."

I find it amazing that this British writer who does not have his vision clouded by the American media can have such an amazingly clear view of all of the politically correct sacred cows that we Americans tiptoe around.

Enjoy this "guest editorial" from somewhere across the pond.

Randy Bailey

A Victory for America?

A victory for the hysterical Oprah Winfrey, the mad racist preacher Jeremiah Wright, the mainstream media who abandoned any sense of objectivity long ago, Europeans who despise America largely because they depend on her, comics who claim to be dangerous and fearless but would not dare attack genuinely powerful special interest groups. A victory for Obama-worship-

pers everywhere. A victory for the cult of the cult. A man who has done little with his life but has written about his achievements as if he had found the cure for cancer in between winning a marathon and building a nuclear reactor with his teeth. Victory for style over substance, hyperbole over history, rabble-raising over reality.

A victory for Hollywood, the most dysfunctional community in the world. Victory for Streisand, Spielberg, Soros and Sarandon. Victory for those who prefer welfare to will and interference to independence. For those who settle for group think and herd mentality rather than those who fight for individual initiative and the right to be out of step with meager political fashion.

Victory for a man who is no friend of freedom. He and his people have already stated that media has to be controlled so as to be balanced, without realizing the extraordinary irony within that statement. Like most liberal zealots, the Obama worshippers constantly speak of Fox and Limbaugh, when the vast bulk of television stations and newspapers are drastically liberal and anti-conservative. Senior Democrat Chuck Schumer said that just as pornography should be censored, so should talk radio. In other words, one of the few free and open means of popular

expression may well be cornered and beaten by bullies who even in triumph cannot tolerate any criticism and opposition.

A victory for those who believe the state is better qualified to raise children than the family, for those who prefer teachers' unions to teaching and for those who are naively convinced that if the West is sufficiently weak towards its enemies, war and terror will dissolve as quickly as the tears on the face of a leftist celebrity.

A victory for social democracy even after most of Europe has come to the painful conclusion that social democracy leads to mediocrity, failure, unemployment, inflation, higher taxes and economic stagnation.

A victory for intrusive lawyers, banal sentimentalists, social extremists and urban snobs.

Congratulations America !

The Ranchos Independent

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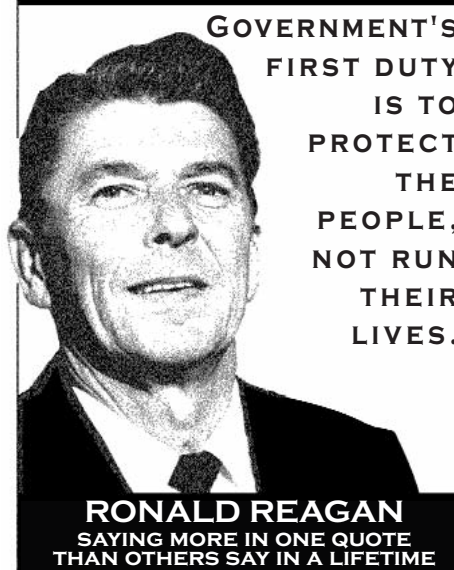
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Randy Bailey..... Editor
 Jean Briner..... Advertising Sales
 Christi McKinney..... Reporter

559-645-0634

37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • ranchosnews@theranchos.com

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



Letters

Dear Editor:

We wanted to say hello and Happy New Year! Pregnant Mare Rescue, Inc. has been working tirelessly for over three years keeping horses from going to slaughter. As we continue to grow and help more equines each year, we are very excited to share that we now have a facility in Madera! We wanted to introduce ourselves to the community, and extend an invitation to come and visit.

I am very pleased to share wonderful news of our new foaling barn presently under construction for our pregnant mares. The Eq-Wine Covers Company out of the Paso Robles area has graciously donated a four stall mare foaling barn. We are very close to completing this project of shelter for our moms-to-be before the foaling season is upon us.

This economy has been rough on all horse lovers across the nation. Our community is struggling as well. We are hoping that the media will be interested in helping us get

the word out, that there is help to be found. Horses do not need to go to the slaughter house in difficult times.

We are an entirely volunteer organization. All our donated cash goes directly toward equine care. We rely entirely on the generosity of the community to help these projects come to fruition and provide much needed care for pregnant mares and orphaned foals.

This springtime with babies on the ground we will be hosting a "Breakfast with the Babies Day". Visitors from the community can look forward to coming out to say hello, enjoy a hot cup of coffee and meet the beautiful foals! It promises to be a wonderful time!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hummer	Karie Harjo
Aptos Facility	Madera Ranchos Facility
408-540-8568	559-916-5677

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



Yesterday's Board meeting ran long and last night's Town Hall ran large.

Yesterday's Board meeting - Item 8 Amend a Williamson Act Agreement. This one passed but that is not the story I want to chew on. Everyone I have talked with thinks State funding of the Williamson Act is a thing of the past. The Williamson Act is a long and complicated issue, but in a nutshell: To help agriculture afford to keep their land in production they are given a tax break in return for signing an agreement to keep the land in Ag use for 10 years. If they want out they need to opt for non-renewal of the contract. Ten years later they can do what they want with their land. This is a State program so the State was giving the County the money we were losing in taxes we would have collected.

You guessed it folks – now the State is backing out on their commitment. Depending on who you talk to, we the General Fund taxpayers are on the hook for between \$1.5 and \$3 million per year for the next 10 years. Not long ago there was an item on the agenda to discuss how the County should move forward on the Williamson Act, considering the likelihood the State funds were going to stop. At that meeting the Board decided not to write any new contracts. This doesn't do us much good because most of the land that qualifies is already in the program. From what I heard County Staff were just about handed their heads for bringing the matter up and the phones were ringing of the wall in the "Granite Palace." It seems trying to gore a sacred cow causes quite an uproar.

Bottom line: when you look at County finances we cannot afford to carry this one. The County should opt for non-renewal on all Williamson Act Contracts. Let the 10 years it will take to run out our commitment begin now.

Item 14 Southeast Madera County Planning Area - This one got ugly.

I have been beating on the Resource Management Agency (RMA) and the Board because I want the Board we elected giving RMA and Planning direction and then RMA and Planning making it happen.

I think I saw RMA ask the Board for direction and got their heads ripped off.

They were told to "Do their job" and to put together a plan and the Board will vote up or down on it. I'm just a regular old taxpayer but it seems like a waste of money for planning to put together what they think the Board will pass and have to start over if they don't. We elected and are paying those guys a lot of money; you would think they could take a few minutes and give direction up front to our employees making the plan.

Now for the plan area itself.

One gentleman has had his application in for about five years. He seemed a bit concerned that the rules may be changing in a game in which he has made some substantial investments of time and money. Another gentlemen got up and actually admitted (I am paraphrasing here) that they put in their application because they heard the rules were about to change and wanted to get their foot in the door before that happened.

We have been doing patchwork development in the area for some time. It is about time someone decided we need to take a breath and do it the right way. If I heard correctly, we (the County) are about to create an area plan. This is an amazing process. Everybody gets a seat at the table and the debate begins. All open, all public.

Item 15 - Office of the Auditor/Controller. The Board voted to use the same open process that they used to pick the Interim DA in picking the interim Auditor/Controller. The problem comes with the rest of the resolution.

It seems three of our Board of Supervisors want to put an initiative on the ballot for the next election to change the Auditor/Controller from an elected office to a department head appointed by the Board.

The BOARD thinks they can do a better job picking someone than the voters can.

The BOARD wants the Auditor/Controller to work directly for them in-

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 25



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The Stock Report

Opportunities Abound for 2009

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Here we are in 2009. We have a brand new wonderful opportunity to make this year your very best year. For senior class members at Liberty High School and Independence High School, 2009 will always be remembered as the year that they graduated from High School. There will be reunions when you will remember the class of 2009. You will remember it as the time you got your first car, or your first serious boyfriend or girlfriend, your first job and the time when you didn't have to pay all those household bills like your parents. Some of you have already decided that college is your next step, others are looking for a job or the military and, yes, there are those of you that will be getting married. Life will be different once you graduate from high school. This school year will be over in four short months so students make the most of it. My wish for you is that you will be a lifelong learner. Remember the three "R's": respect for yourself, respect for others and take responsibility for your own actions

The California state legislature can't seem to get its act together which makes all school districts struggling to figure out what they have to work with this year and next year. I think we have too many lawyers and not enough business people in the California legislature. What do you think?

Golden Valley Unified will be opening the new Ranchos Middle School in time for the 2009-2010 school year. I thank you, the community, for realizing that your middle school-age children are worth building a comprehensive campus that they can be proud of just like you built at Liberty High School for your high school children. Golden Valley Unified has had challenges from the very beginning and this year will be no different as the board deals with budget problems. The California state legislature can't seem to get its act together which makes all school districts struggling to figure out what they have to work with this year and next year. I think we have too many lawyers and not enough business people in the California legislature. What do you think? It is too bad that politics always get in the way of passing a budget and leaves California hanging.

Hills/Senior Center to honor Steve Krueger. The service was a combined community effort from Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ranchos Kiwanis, the Ranchos Library and the Ranchos Hills Seniors. All of these and more felt the vision and had encouragement, backed up with money, from Steve Krueger. Steve's business was being the front man for Castle & Cooke Development Company but he was so much more. Steve liked the "Can Do" spirit of the Ranchos and Rolling Hills people. I remember Bill Bell and Steve talking about a vision for this community that seemed like an impossible dream to me. I became

a part of that dream when I volunteered to become a part of the reorganization committee that worked to separate from Madera Unified and become Golden Valley Unified. I joined with five young community men but we didn't really know what to do or where to start. Steve Krueger paid for two lawyers

from Sacramento to come and talk at a community meeting in the Ranchos that had been called by Steve. With the information that those two lawyers gave us we were able to lay the ground work to go to the Madera Superintendent of schools and Madera Unified School Board and then take the next step by going to Sacramento in front of the California School Board and asking permission to have the vote of our community. The community voters decided by vote that they wanted to become Golden Valley Unified School District. As you know we have built Liberty High, we are building Ranchos Middle School and we also have Webster and Sierra View Elementary and five programs at the Educational Options site and all this in just 10 years. I am so proud of this community and so was Steve Krueger. When I ran for the school board in 2004 I needed someone to put up and take down my election signs and I asked Steve Krueger if he would do that for me and he said yes.

Steve Krueger's vision was of a strong local Golden Valley Chamber of

On Saturday, Jan. 10, there was a memorial service held at the Ranchos

Please see **STOCK** on P. 15



Yosemite Sam

PG&E and the Protocol of Power

ALERT !!! ALERT !!! ALERT !!!

As some of you know, PG&E has proposed to build new 500kV transmission lines in addition to and alongside the existing 230kV power lines. That means an additional 200 foot easement in addition to the existing 100 foot easement, making it a total of 300 foot easement. The lines are proposed to cut right through the Madera Ranchos and the Avenue 12 corridor.

A joint meeting and "open house" was held by the ISO and California Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday, Dec. 9 in Fresno to discuss these transmission lines and the process which has to be followed by PG&E. The intent was to answer questions and educate the general public about the process. Below

is a brief overview of the meeting, but first some definitions:

1) The California ISO (Independent System Operator) plans and operates the majority of California's power grid. They bal-

ance the demand for electricity with an equal supply of megawatts. The ISO is the impartial link between power plants and the utilities.

2) Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) generates some of the energy and operates the transmission and delivery of energy. PG&E is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission.

3) The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned electric and natural gas supply and distribution companies. The five Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor, are charged to ensure consumers have safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates.

4) As part of PG&E's obligation, when they want to construct a new line, they must first make application to the

ISO, disclosing to them the starting and ending points. The ISO then conducts a study to determine what will be needed to be accomplished by PG&E.

5) In the meantime, PG&E is required to conduct a study and propose several different routes in which to build the transmission lines. As PG&E is studying the proposed routes, the ISO is also doing separate studies of these routes. Once their studies are complete, the recommendations from PG&E and the ISO are given to the CPUC, which then makes a final decision on route location.

"Stakeholders" Meeting

Approximately two weeks prior to the "open house," we participated in a meeting held by PG&E as part of their communication with "stakeholders." It

just happened that prior to the stakeholders meeting we came into possession of a PG&E map dated August, 2008, which showed the new lines running through the Ranchos and Ave 12 corridor. Here are

some interesting points:

1) Although we asked numerous times at several meetings over the past several months, including town hall type meetings in the Ranchos, about the process PG&E would have to go through and what entities would be involved in the process, it was never disclosed by PG&E that an application had already been submitted to the ISO. As a matter of fact, PG&E continuously insisted that a formal application would have to be submitted to the CPUC in the future but omitting the fact that an application was already being processed by the ISO.

2) Although on several occasions we were told that it is most likely that the new lines proposed to run through

Please see SAM on P. 10

This is just one more battle we are left with. What do we want our backyard to look like? If we care we must act and act now!

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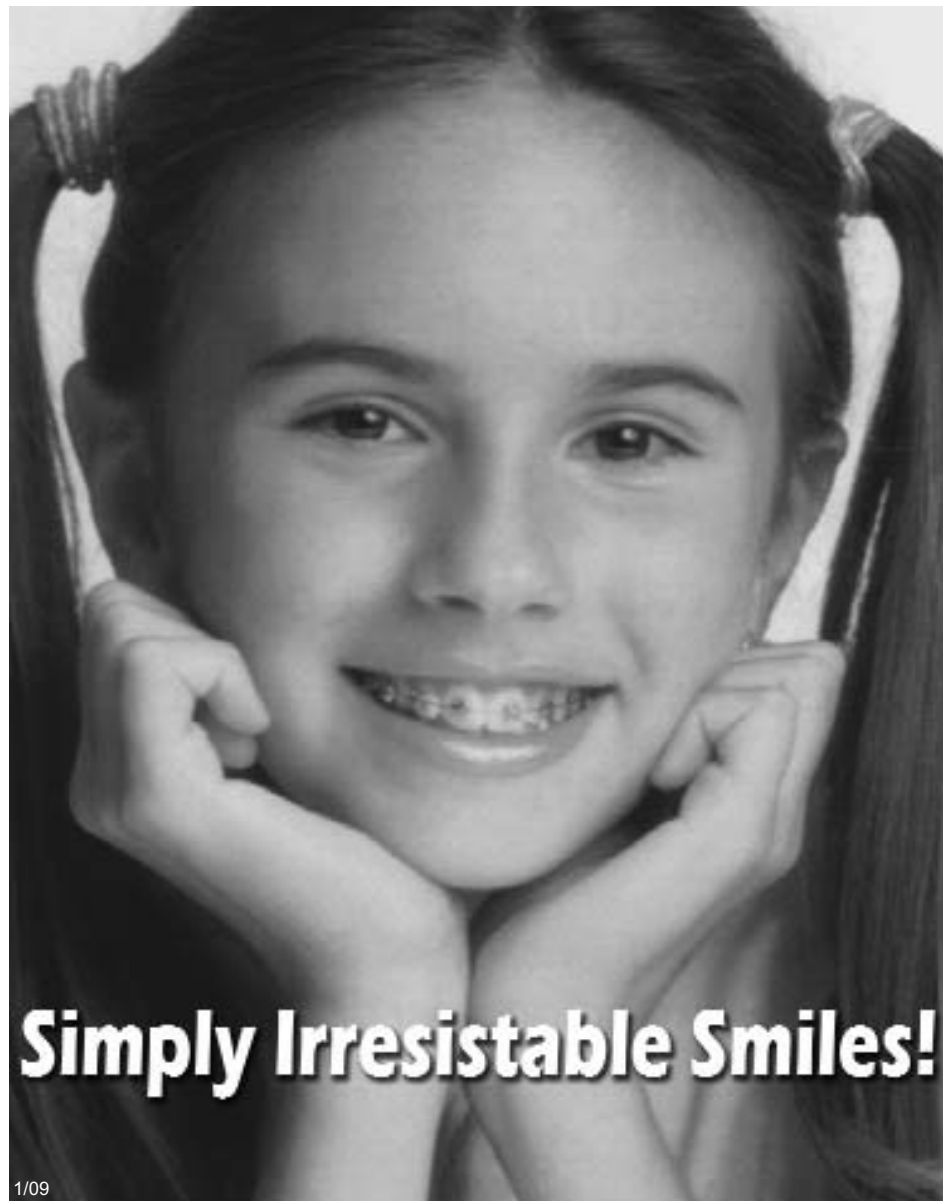
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Economy, Gov't Hit Preschools

By Chinayera Black-Hardaman, Executive Director First 5 Madera County

Research shows that a child's brain begins developing at birth and grows rapidly for the first five years of life. Studies demonstrate that the care and opportunities children receive during these years are crucial in shaping their ability to grow, learn and succeed in life. However, in today's economy, as unemployment rates rise and housing prices plummet, families face an increasingly difficult time providing for their children on all levels.

During these challenging economic times, more and more families are turning to local services to make ends meet. But as state lawmakers continue to grapple with a solution to the unprecedented budget shortfall, many of these services are at risk of disappearing.

In 1998, California voters approved Proposition 10, adding a 50 cent tax on cigarettes to generate the first-ever funding stream dedicated to the state's children age 0 to 5. First 5 Madera County invests nearly \$2 million of these funds annually to provide essential programs and services to families throughout the county – and they're having a positive impact.

In 2007-2008, more than 5,700 children and parents benefited from 26,000 services made possible by First 5 Madera County, with the following highlights:

- 96% of children involved in the school readiness program developed skills to help them enter school ready to learn

- With efforts supported in part by First 5 Madera, access to public preschool programming increased by 80%

- 64% of families receiving individual case management services showed marked decreases in exposure to risk factors

- 97% of first-time mothers participating in the home visitation program reported breastfeeding their babies

- 94% of parents who participated in parenting programs demonstrated increased knowledge of appropriate parenting techniques and 92% reported improved parenting behaviors

Leading economists, including Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman, have exten-

sively researched the value of early childhood programs and found each dollar invested in young children can yield up to \$17 in return and can improve children's performance in school and can reduce dropout rates and juvenile delinquency – which can prevent incurring costs associated with remedial education and welfare services.

Eliminating these funds during our current economic downturn would create a vacuum of unmet needs for families most at risk, further deepening our state's financial trouble. In the current fiscal crisis, it's more important than ever to continue to invest in programs that demonstrate the ability to offset costs in the long run.

For more information on available local children's services and other First 5 Madera County programs, call (559) 661-5155.

Business Profile

Bedrock Surveys the Future



The brains behind the business at Bedrock Engineering are, from left, Mike Hartley, Pete Mayne and Dave Hartley

By Randy Bailey

Most people would say that this is not exactly the best time to start a new business. So why did the Hartley brothers, Mike and Dave, along with partner Pete Mayne, open the doors on their engineering firm, Bedrock Engineering?

"This is certainly not the economic climate I envisioned for our new company, but we are genuinely excited about the future and the opportunities that lie ahead," said Mike Hartley. Mike likes what Donald Rumsfeld said when he was preparing to go to war in Iraq. "As you know, you go to war with the army you have. They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time." Mike says that often doing the right thing requires action now even

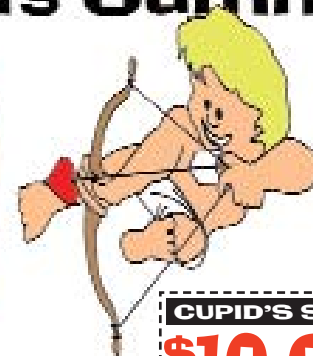
though the circumstances may not be completely favorable.

The name for the company, Bedrock Engineering, was borne out of frustration trying to describe what they intended the company to do.

"We considered hundreds of names, spent countless hours brainstorming and talked about it for months," Mike said. "We knew the right name was critical. We wanted a name we could be proud of and we wanted a name that identified us. Frustrated, I remember talking to Pete one night saying, '... we need something solid ... something people can count on ... something firm like ... bedrock.'"

"That's it - Bedrock!" said partner Pete Maynes. "Bedrock Engineering." From there the slogan "A solid founda-

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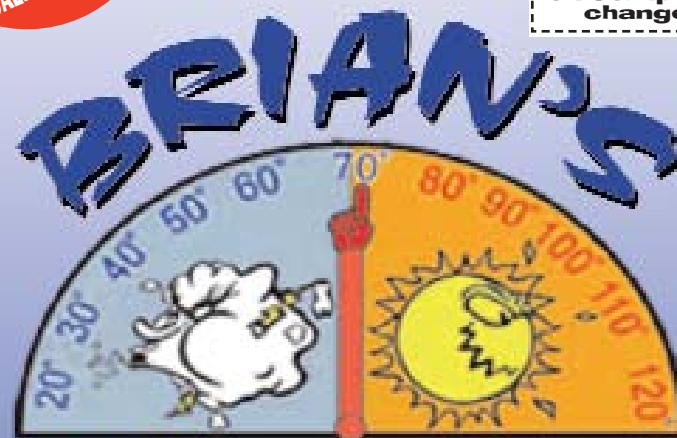


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Fresno, California 93728

SAM cont. from P. 6

the Ranchos would never materialize, the August, 2008 map showed a different picture.

3) At the "open house," we found out that in contrast to what PG&E told us, PG&E is not required to forward any comments submitted to them by the public to any entity, except for any public comment they select to forward. As the matter of fact, we were encouraged by the ISO to independently submit any comments to the ISO directly, since the ISO is asking for public comments "NOW."

Why am I not surprised?

During a recent meeting with our Assemblyman, Mike Villines, PG&E, a number of stakeholders and a Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce representative, an alternate route was proposed to PG&E which could minimize disruption and hardship to the Madera Ranchos. This proposal was to change the route and have it run north along Road 33 1/2 to a point north of the Madera Ranchos, then run it East, along a line where it will have minimal effect on the community and environment. In addition, even though this route would be a few miles longer, it would likely be less expensive since the cost of land will be so much less. PG&E representatives promised to add this alternative to their study.

Will they? Will they support it? Do they care?

This is just one more battle we are left with. What do we want our back yard to look like? If we care we must act and act now!

There is no time to lose; we must send our own message.

In the next edition of the Ranchos Independent, we will publish a form letter which any one supporting the opinion we printed in this article can use to send a message to the ISO and PG&E. The CPUC has not started their process yet, so they have no open files to accept any public comments as of now. Once the CPUC receives the application from PG&E and the results from the ISO, they will be open for public comments as well.

More in-depth information on the transmission lines can be found on line at:

ISO website

www.caiso.com/1f42/1f42daf7415e0.html

PG&E site

c3etproject.com/public/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=46

Comments regarding your concern with this project can be emailed to the ISO at:

Regionaltransmission@caiso.com

Or mailed to PG&E at:

Central California Clean Energy
Transmission Project
P.O.BOX 27918
Fresno, CA. 93729-7918
Phone: 1-800-422-0841

Madera Ranchos

For more information from our own people on the proposed transmission lines through the Madera Ranchos, please email: ranchos.community@gmail.com Or call 559-363-9095.

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Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.	Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
Youth.....6 p.m.	Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

I wonder how mama would view the world we live in today. Probably she wouldn't like it very much and say half the people in it are wicked and destined to spend eternity shoveling coal into the furnaces in Hellsville, Kansas, which she believed was the real Hell.

A God-fearing Missouri Baptist who migrated with her family to Montana on a boxcar with a couple of neighbors in 1909, bringing with them a cow for milk, a cage of chickens for eggs and fryers and an accent that would take a knife to cut through her twang and idioms such as; "I'll be swanned," "I'll pick cotton all day but won't sleep under the wagon at night," "Don't that beat all?" "I'll be switched," "Mark my words, God will strike that boy dead for what he did to that girl and made her fat. And I swan, his soul will wind up in that terrible devil's den in Hellsville, Kansas."

Back in that era when this happened to young girls their mothers put them on a train and sent them to an aunt's in St. Paul, Butte or Fargo, telling everybody they had tumors growing in their bellies. Usually, after nine months, when the tumors were removed, they weighed 6-1/2 to 7 pounds.

As a boy I always wondered if there was a Hellsville, Kansas and when I learned to read, looked it up in an atlas and found there is no such town, although I suppose the atlas people could have erred in leaving it out. Anyhow, I asked Mama what part of Kansas Hellsville is in and she told me, "What difference does it make; the whole state of Kansas is hell."

I do not know what she had against Kansas, although when I traveled through there in 1942 in the back of an Army truck in the blistering summer heat on the way to New York City for embarkation on a troop ship to Europe during the big war to turn the lights on again all over the world and make the world safe for democracy, I could see how someone could think that. I mean, the part of Kansas I passed through was kind of like the country between Bakersfield and Maricopa.

Mama was about as devout a Southern Baptist as anybody could be. "Lips that touch liquor will never touch mine," she often said when we rattled by the town tavern in our back-firing Model T Ford. And when we passed Mr. Saude's Barber Shop and saw him trimming a man's moustache, she'd say, "It ain't natural for a man to let hair grow on his face. If it was, God would have seen to it that all babies were born that way."

"Girl babies, too, Mama?" I asked.

She'd look around at me and said, "You're too young to think about girls."

Well, I suppose I was, I mean I was only 9 or 10, but I thought about girls quite a bit, actually a lot. That is why when we drove past the neighbor's place on wash day she'd quickly put a hand over my face and that of my little brother who was only about six so we wouldn't see their undergarments.

"If you look at them bloomers and petticoats blowing on the line God will strike you dead and you'll spend the rest of eternity in Hellsville, Kansas," she warned.

And just to make certain there was no other avenue that would expose us to girls - and women in girdles and brassieres for that matter - she always ripped out the women's underwear pages from last year's Monkey Wards catalogue before taking it to the backyard privy. She had no idea that papa had stashed some risqué magazines - at least for that time - The Police Gazette, College Humor and Esquire, in the tack room of the barn and which often I thumbed through.

One day she found them and wow, boy did papa catch you-know-what!

Papa and mama argued a lot, especially over his snooze chewing, refusal to go to church and for being a lecherous old man for looking at "dirty" magazines and corrupting her sons, as well as trying to look down the blouses of just about every comely girl he saw on the sidewalks of the county seat.

One day she became so angry when he told her that she was a nag and wouldn't be happy even if she got to sleep with Joe Louis, she slammed her coffee cup hard against the kitchen table and said, "Well, that's the final straw! You don't love me and the kids don't love me and nobody loves me and after all I've done for you all, working my fingers to the bone and elbows to the grease. So I'm leaving I'm going to pack my bag and walk to town and catch a train back to Shelbina, Missouri. And don't anybody try to stop me because my head is made up."

"I'm going to strike out across the meadow and if a wolf comes along and eats me up and all that's left of me is bones you'll be sorry. And I say, don't you try to stop me because I'm leaving and that's final and you can put that in your pipe and smoke it!"

Well, we didn't have to worry about a wolf eating her because there hadn't been one in these parts for at least 50 years.

Anyhow, she packed an old satchel and stood in the kitchen doorway and warned us again: "And I say, don't nobody try to stop me. Wild horses can't stop me now," and headed for the meadow.

In a few minutes she was back.

Please see **WOODY** on P. 12



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

As far back as I can remember (and that's a long time), my mother loved to cook. Whether it was for her family or friends – hers or any of ours – she would always make sure everyone had something to eat.

Even after they moved away, her grandkids weren't afraid to bring their friends home to grandma's and have them stay for a meal or two. If she knew you were coming, and she knew what you liked, she would make sure that dish was ready. When she passed away, Randy wrote a eulogy for her funeral and he told of her berry cobbler and his brother Barry, when he was coming to grandmas, knew there would be a peach cobbler waiting.

We weren't rich by a long shot, so she learned how to "start from scratch" with everything. Her pie crust was the best. In fact, Randy's youngest brother Adam has taken up the task of making pies for us for family get-togethers. He made two apple pies for Thanksgiving this year that I would put up against Marie Callender's any day.

In the summer we always had fresh vegetables because she loved to garden. In fact, a couple of years before she passed away, I told her she didn't have just a back yard garden, she had a mini-farm. With everything from corn to zucchini (yes, she even had okra), we always had fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant – just about anything.

Well, enough of how my mom liked to cook for this time. What I would like to do is start an article in the Ranchos Independent on our favorite recipes. Not just our family's but how about YOURS? I know there must be some good cooks in the Rancho's so let me know what you think. How about retired Home Ec teacher, Audrey Stock? I can only imagine the recipes she may have. You all know Ollia Ridge and her reputation for cooking. I know we could get some good recipes from her – how about her salad dressing on your salad at the Crab Feed – outstanding! Speaking of the G.V. Cham-

ber of Commerce Crab Feed be sure to mark Feb. 21, 2009 on your calendar for their next one. And our own Ranchos Independent Publisher has won two chili cook-offs with his fabulous chili recipe and he makes an outstanding broccoli salad, or ask his girls about his corn chowder.

I'd like to start it off with a few candy recipes. When I was a little girl, my paternal grandmother would make candy on her wood stove. She would walk to town to the dime store (for you younguns who don't know what a dime store is ask your grandma or grandpa) and purchase glass bowls and platters to put her candy on, and give these as gifts to her family and friends. As I remember, the three candies she would make was chocolate fudge, divinity, and loaf candy. I can't find her recipe for the fudge, but I have always found the recipe on the Hershey's cocoa box is good.

Loaf Candy

2 C. Sugar
1 C. Half & Half (Grandma sometimes used evaporated milk)
½ C White Karo syrup

Mix ingredients well – Cook slowly to soft ball stage, stirring often. When cooked to soft ball stage, take from fire and let stand 5 to 10 minutes (do not stir during this time). ½ C nuts can be added now. Beat until thick enough to pour into buttered loaf pan. Cool and cut into squares.

Ollia Ridges' Simple Fudge

3 cups chocolate chips
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 cup chopped walnuts

Melt chips and milk in heavy pan over low heat stirring to melt chips. When melted, stir in walnuts and pour into square pan.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 13

WOODY cont. from P. 11

"Well, I know you all want me to leave, but just to spite you I'm not going to and you can put that in your pipe and smoke it."

"It's a good thing you came back," papa guffawed, "you were going in the wrong direction. Instead of to Shelbina, Missouri you were heading for Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan."

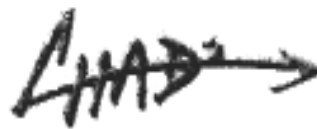
She was so angry she threw the satchel at him and he almost swallowed his snooze.

Well, to return to the premise of this dissertation, I don't think mama would like one

bit of what's going on in the world today – women wearing low-cut blouses and walking around all day with cell phones to their ears, girls having babies instead of tumors, young people with rings dangling from their tongues and heaven only knows where else and men with tattoos on their arms and chests with words so foul if I were to print them here this page would explode in your face.

Want to know what I think she'd say?

Well, something like, "I swan, one day God is going to strike everybody dead and their souls will end up in Hellsville, Kansas and put that in your pipe and smoke it!"



Chad Harr

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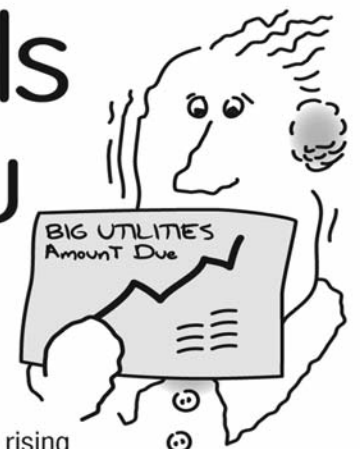


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RECIPES cont. from P. 12

Let set about 2 hours, and cut into squares.

Martha Washington Candy

(don't know where the name came from)

- 1 stick margarine partly melted
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 5 cups powdered sugar
- 1 pkg. fine coconut
- 2 cups nuts, chopped fine
- 1 t. vanilla

Mix these ingredients thoroughly, and put into refrigerator until firm. When well set, roll into small balls and place on cookie sheet that is lined with wax paper, and return to refrigerator. Melt in top of double boiler (or bowl that has been placed over pan of hot water) 3/4 stick margarine, 1 stick paraffin and 1 large bag chocolate chips. When well melted, and candy balls are firm, using a tooth pick, dip each ball into chocolate mixture and place on wax paper. Cool until set. I usually make two batches of these, one with and one without nuts, as there are members of our family that don't like nuts in anything! These candies freeze well.

And here's a couple of cookies we like.

Magic Cookie Bars

Preheat oven to 350 (325 if using glass)

- 1 1/2 C graham cracker crumbs
- 1 stick margarine – melted

Mix crumbs and melted margarine together and press firmly in bottom of 13 x 9 baking pan.

- 1 can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk
- 1 12 oz. bag semi-sweet chocolate pieces
- 1 1/3 C. Coconut
- 1 C. chopped nuts (optional)

Pour Eagle Brand evenly over crumb mixture. Layer with coconut and chocolate pieces. Press down with a fork or your clean hand. Bake 25 min. or until lightly browned. Cool and cut into squares.

Forgotten Cookies

Preheat oven to 350

Beat two egg whites until stiff. Add 2/3 C Sugar gradually, beating until real stiff. Fold in one 12 oz. pkg. of chocolate pieces and 1 cup chopped nuts (nuts optional). Drop by teaspoon on ungreased cookie sheet. Place in oven and turn oven off. Leave in oven overnight (do NOT open oven door to check on them).

OK, there you have it. What do you think? Please call me here at 645-0634 and give me your ideas.

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STOCK cont. from P. 5

Commerce. He was full of ideas on how to make that happen. Steve had a way of bringing the community together to share projects. Like the annual Crab Feed and the Flatlanders Parade and the Labor Day Picnic at Cobb's Ranch. Even though he lived in southern California, he spent a lot of time in the Ranchos these last 13 years. Steve's footprint is all over this community and he would have enjoyed over 80 of his political friends and his community friends that turned out to remember him at his memorial service. He will be missed.

At the first school board meeting in December the board elects the president, clerk and secretary for the coming year. For the 2009-2010 school year, Roger

Schuh will be President; Clerk of the Board will be Steve Lewis; Secretary of the Board will be Superintendent Koli-gian. Mona Diaz will represent Golden Valley on the Executive Board of Madera County School Boards Association. Mark Toole will represent Golden Valley at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Mona Diaz will represent the board at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and Small Schools District Association (SSDA) Legislative Network. Connor Coleman is the student representative from Liberty High serving on the board for the rest of the school year.

The February meetings for the school board will be Feb. 10 and 24 at Liberty High library at 6 p.m. Come out and cheer President Schuh on. It is not easy being president of a school board.

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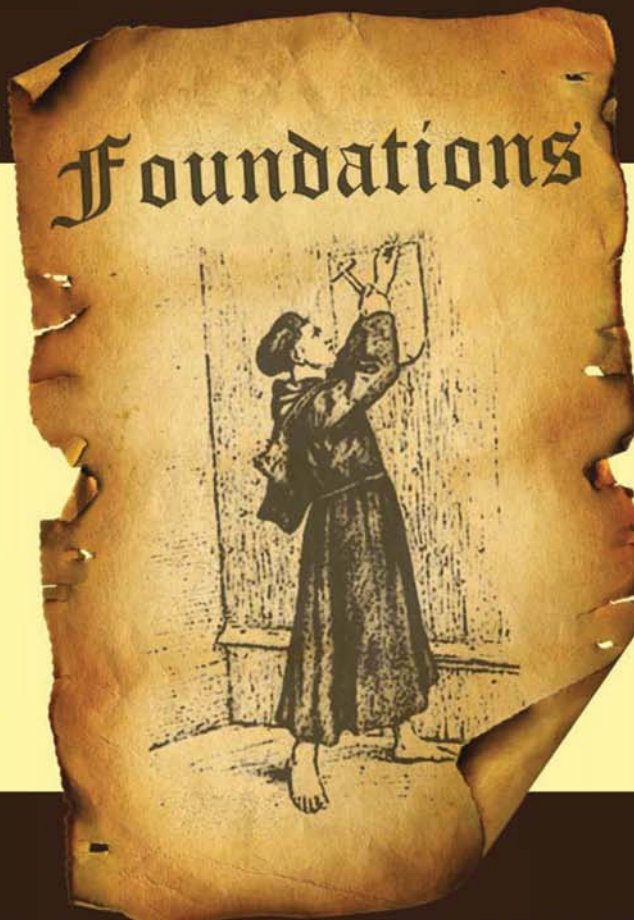
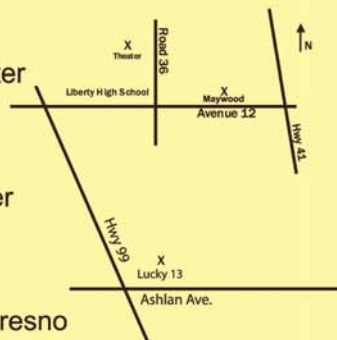
"the stewardship of God's grace... was given to me for your benefit" ephesians3/2nab

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10:00 AM
Flipside Maywood
at Flipside Activity Center

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Flipside 13
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Golden Valley Unified School District
Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

"Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans." Peter Drucker

Happy New Year and welcome back to our Golden Valley family after a long and well-deserved winter break. Hopefully, family and friends were able to spend quality time together during the holiday season. I was fortunate to be able to enjoy the holidays with my immediate and extended families and even

Growing a District of Excellence Goal for GVUSD in 2009

took care of some of the items on my to-do list at home. As we embrace the New Year and all the hopes and dreams that come with it, I want to take this time to share Golden Valley's progress as a school district and where we are headed as we begin 2009 and our tenth year as a district.

We kicked off the New Year with our newly elected School Board members and Cabinet staff engaged in a Board workshop on teamwork and board governance. Through this workshop we reviewed our "road map" for the district that helps guide our work as a district. Our District Strategic Plan embodies our vision, mission, goals and objectives for defining our areas of focus and how we plan to accomplish these goals. These goals are more than just ink on paper. They are truly a living document for all of us that we frequently revisit and evaluate how we are measuring up. This is important for two reasons. First, our Strategic Plan IS our road map. If we don't know where we are going, how do we know if we ever arrived? Second, it is a tool to hold all of us accountable to our students, staff and citizens of our community.

What are the components of Golden Valley's Strategic Plan?

Vision - Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community

based in excellence.

Mission - The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential with a caring, secure environment.

Goals - The five goals encompass the following areas: Instruction and Assessment; Communication; Safety; Facilities; and Finances.

Objectives - There are several objectives associated with each Goal and they can be accessed in full detail on our district website at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us. The following is a reader's digest version of the application of our objectives.

How do we apply these goals and objectives to "Grow a District of Excellence"?

In a nutshell, our progress this year unfolds as follows:

Instruction and Assessment - We are proud of the academic growth we have had to date but our work does not stop here. The statewide accountability system measures the academic growth of all districts in California through the Academic Progress Indicator (API). The target for every school and district on a scale of 200 - 1000 is 800. Golden Valley has an API of 804, which is the highest in Madera County and is the second highest for unified school districts in Madera and Fresno County. Additionally, Golden Valley met all

of its Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. The AYP is a Federal accountability requirement enacted by No Child Left Behind (2001).

The criteria used in determining a school's AYP status are:

1) Participation Rates in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant sub-groups

2) Percent Proficient in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant sub-groups

3) California High School Exit Exam (high schools only)

4) Academic Performance Index.

Golden Valley Unified School District, as a whole, met all the criteria for AYP. In addition, Sierra View Elementary School, Webster Elementary School, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School met all of their targets as well. This growth towards excellence happens through an ongoing focus on how we can move from "good to great". Our administrative staff and teachers constantly look at student progress through the lens of daily performance and data analysis. This is really no different than the private sector when it analyzes its business plan and its gains and losses.

As data is reviewed, we do not lose sight of the fact that our customers are not numbers but

Please see **SARAH** on P. 17

RMS Discovers Peril at the Pole

The RMS drama department presented *Peril at the Pole* at the LHS Theater on December 10-11. This fun-filled play followed the investigation of two reporters, Mary Christmas and Happy Holidays, as they looked for disgruntled individuals at the North Pole. Mary Christmas wanted the world to know that the North Pole is not the happy place that everyone believes it is!! After all, the elves are mad at Santa for hiring female elves, naughty kids are shipping themselves to the Pole to confront Santa, baby dolls are fighting, Barbie is leaving Ken for GI Joe, and there is a trial! Grandma got ran over by a reindeer!! As Mary Christmas and Happy Holidays investigated all the "peril" at the Pole, they discovered the true meaning of Christmas! The cast of the

show included: Patrick Aguirre, Brandy Bibb, McKenna Coats, Julie Cowger, Kindle Cowger, Cody Davis, Jordyn DeChamplain, Logan Doss, Chloe Doyle, Annie Erickson, Andrew Estrada, Travis Jordan, Samantha Krob, Jessica Lewis, Rebecca Mayfield, Olivia Neal, Lukas Newcomb, Hunter Qualls, Ashley Romine, Jaycob Rousey, Dailey Sanchez, Hannah Shevenell, Marcus Smith, Cassidy Tefft, Emma Tucker, Agustina Villanueva, Gracie Wall, and Clare Wardle. A special acknowledgement goes to the producer and teacher, Mrs. Shellie Roth, for her dedication, expertise, and community involvement.

The RMS drama department will have a spring show this May - you won't want to miss the fun!



Click on "Local News" at

RMS Special Olympics: Bowling 2008

By Ted Januse, SDC Teacher RMS

Due to the state budget cuts, funding for Special Olympics was reduced. Golden Valley's participation was questionable. However, that all changed when the people of Valley Bowl in Madera graciously offered their time, effort, and donations.

Patti and Terry Hovan, the proud owners of Valley Bowl for the past four years, have worked with Golden Valley USD for Special Olympics. In the beginning of this year, things were looking dim for us. However, when I was discussing the challenges with Patti, she said to me, "I know how much this means to these children." She began to weep and continued, saying, "... and they mean so much to me. It would hurt me horribly to see them miss out on this experience. I will donate the use of the lanes for the practice to the district." At this point, I felt so compelled that I had to step back and regain my own composure.

Patti Hovan is a very genuine person. The level

of love, care, and compassion that she shows our students is rare, especially during the budget crisis. As we worked to put this event together, the financial crisis continued to impact our ability to have a Special Olympics Bowling Team. Yet, Patti always came through with a positive outcome.

What began as a simple donation of the use of the lanes, ended up being a complete donation of everything that we needed... and more! Valley Bowl generously donated to GVUSD; the use of bowling lanes for 10 weeks, shoe rentals for 32 students for 10 weeks, tournament date and facility usage, and finally, the most unexpected and kind gesture, medals that were engraved for all of the students.

They gave all of our students memories that will last them a life time. I believe in community involvement. To me, this was the most selfless act that any person/people could ever do. Patti, Terry and all the staff at Valley Bowl are true heroes.

RMS Nominates Two to FATHOM

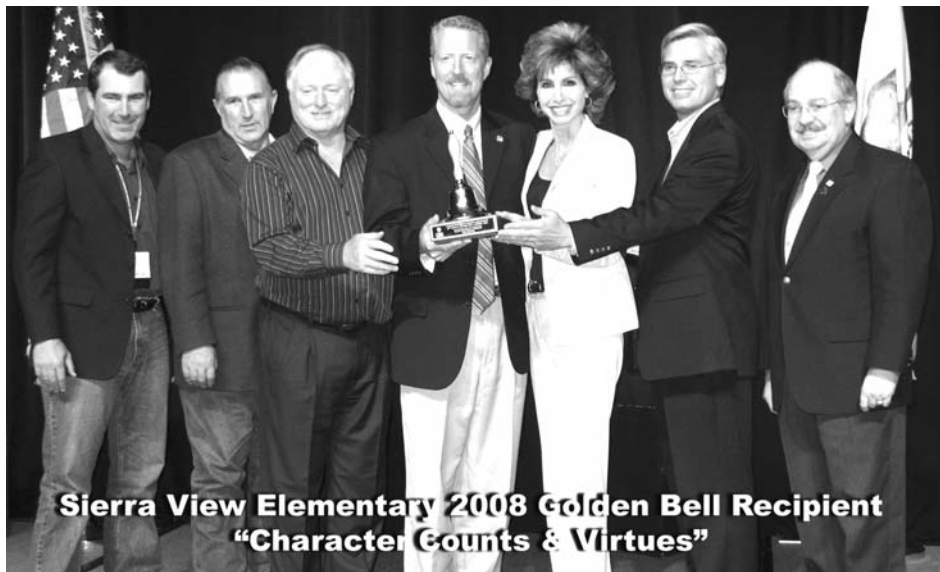
Ranchos Middle School nominated two students to FATHOM Force, a part of the Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Council. Each year the county office asks local schools to nominate two students who have overcome personal obstacles and whose accomplishments might be overlooked through standard school award ceremonies.



Ranchos Middle School is proud of our nominees.

They are Gerardo Enriquez and McKenna Andersen. We would also like to thank Mr. Ketter for attending this year's ceremony and accepting an award on behalf of the nominating teachers. Congratulations to the

extended families of our recipients. We love our Mustangs, I mean students!



Sierra View Elementary 2008 Golden Bell Recipient
"Character Counts & Virtues"

Updating Golden Valley Facilities

By Rick Diaz, Facilities Manager

Construction on the permanent Ranchos Middle School continues. The Administration, Science, Special Day and Regular classrooms are in the interior finish stages of construction. Work is proceeding well in these buildings.

The playfields at the permanent RMS are being constructed at this time also. Soil preparation, irrigation and backstops for playfields are well under way.

Sierra View Modernization plans are in the early stages. The topographical survey was recently completed. Walkways and slopes will be addressed during modernization. The committee will meet in January with the architect and

engineer.

Sierra View HVAC project is being funded by a community donor. This project is scheduled for advertisement late January with plans to be completed during spring break.

Plans are being reviewed and revised for the LHS Science Building. The District is looking at classrooms geared toward Chemistry.

Plans are being reviewed and revised for the GVUSD Football Stadium. The District is looking at an eight lane track in conjunction with permanent bleachers on the home and visitors side as well as a permanent press box.

Golden Valley is continuing to grow! Thank you for your support.

SARAH cont. from P. 16

rather children that we are educating and growing into successful, contributing members of society. We are constantly fine-tuning our skills to better reach all of our students. We still have room to grow on this path to excellence, but we have the right elements in place to move us forward.

Communication – Golden Valley has many opportunities, both formal and informal, to share the good news about our district, to keep our parents, staff and students informed, and to provide forums to hear from our community. The district website, school websites and automated phone systems are two modes of disseminating technology-based, real time information. Our schools also send out regular newsletters to parents and staff. Parents are kept abreast of their child's progress through the electronic PAMS (Parent Access & Monitoring System). Each principal in our district hosts parent meetings and School Site Council meetings to keep parents informed and to engage them in the school improvement

process. Each teacher within our district reaches out to parents to keep them informed of what is happening in their classrooms through parent conferences, progress reports, report cards and newsletters. At the district level, our Governing Board of Trustee meetings are one forum to keep the community informed of district business. The Superintendent attends school parent meetings – "Koffee with Koligian" to share updates regarding the district and to hear from community members. One of the results of positive communication and growing a district of excellence is the level of parent participation. Golden Valley has strong levels of parent support and participation. If there are those who may want to get involved but are not sure how to proceed, please give your school or the district office a call. We strongly encourage this type of partnership!

Safety – Golden Valley strives to keep our children and adults safe from the moment they enter our doorways to the moment they leave. In today's society, we are continually redefining our parameters to ensure that we are being

proactive regarding safety issues and concerns.

To further our quest for excellence, we have instituted a District Safety Committee that is reviewing and initiating safety protocols. Staff and students continue to practice emergency safety drills on a regular basis. Our Governing Board of Trustees also voted to install security cameras at all of our school sites via our Measure S Bond funds as another proactive measure.

Facilities – Golden Valley is proud to continue to grow a district of excellence as it builds facilities for the future. The Governing Board recently voted to approve the next Measure S bond-funded projects for the district. With approximately \$6.5 million dollars currently available for building projects, the district will begin the following projects: Liberty High School science wing building, LHS football stadium, concession building, and parking lots, Sierra View modernization, and security cameras at all sites. District staff will be reviewing the current plans for the LHS Career Technical Education building and the swimming pool facility to recommend revised

plans that better meet our growing needs.

Finances – Golden Valley is holding its own during these turbulent financial and economic times, through constant analysis and monitoring of revenues and expenditures. Golden Valley has approximately a \$17 million dollar budget with about 80% committed to personnel costs. That does not leave much room for potential cuts. We experienced some "belt-tightening" last year, and may need to tighten that belt even more depending on the final outcome of the state budget. On the revenue side, we are looking at how to increase our average daily attendance through increased enrollment and a diligent effort on positive attendance.

Through the implementation of the District Strategic Plan, Golden Valley has committed to educate all of our children, taking them from where they are when they enter our schools and moving them forward into academically proficient, well-rounded citizens. We appreciate the support of all of our education community to help "grow a district of excellence".

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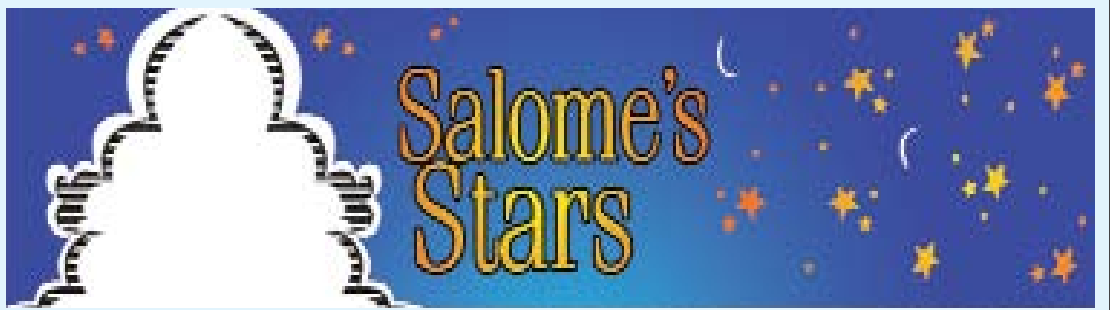
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking some time out of your usually busy social life could be just what you need to help you focus on putting those finishing touches on your plans for a possible career change.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A misunderstanding about a colleague's suggestions could create a delay in moving on with your proposal. But by week's end, all the confusing points should finally be cleared up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel overwhelmed by all the tasks you suddenly have to take care of. But just say the magic word -- help! -- and you'll soon find others rushing to offer much-needed assistance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Finishing a current project ahead of schedule leaves you free to deal with other upcoming situations, including a possible workplace change, as well as a demanding personal matter.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Turn that fine-tuned feline sensitivity radar up to high to help uncover any facts that could influence a decision you might be preparing to make. Devote the weekend to family activities.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A state of confusion is soon cleared up with explanations from the responsible parties. Don't waste time chastising anyone. Instead, move forward with your plans.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel obligated to help work out a dispute between family members. But this is one of those times when you should step aside and let them work out their problems on their own.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your ability to resolve an on-the-job problem without leaving too many ruffled feathers earns you kudos from co-workers. You also impress major decision-makers at your workplace.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Newly made and long-held friendships merge well, with possibly one exception. Take time to listen to the dissenter's explanations. You could learn something important.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be prepared to be flexible about your current travel plans. Although you don't have to take them, at least consider suggestions from the experts in the travel business.

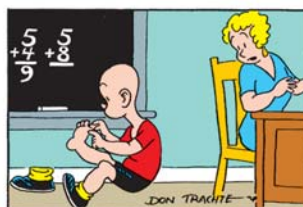
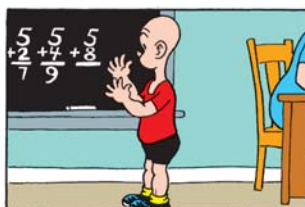
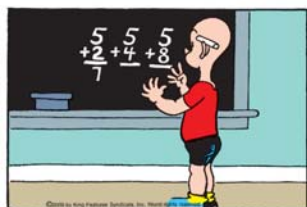
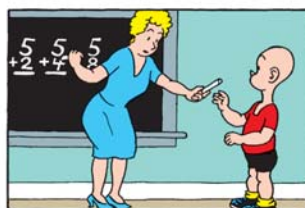
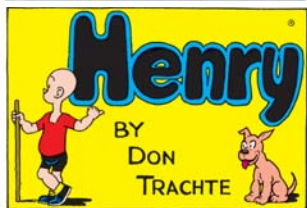
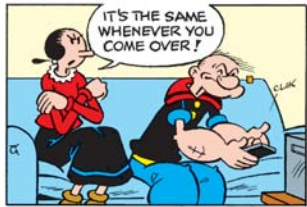
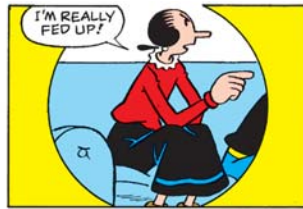
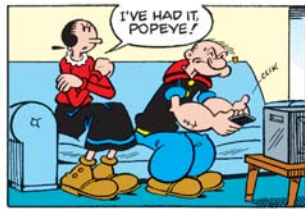
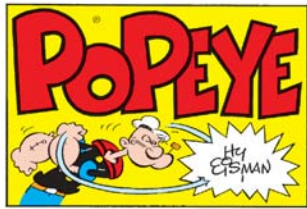
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A problem with a recent financial transaction could lead to more problems later on unless you resolve it immediately. Get all the proof you need to support your position.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Daydreaming makes it difficult to stay focused on what you need to do. But reality sets in by midweek, and you manage to get everything done in time for a relaxing weekend.

Born this Week

Your ability to reach out to those in need of spiritual comfort makes you a much-revered, much-loved person in your community.

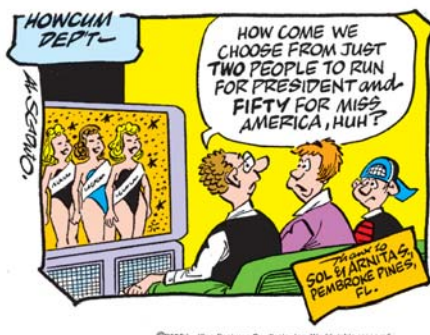
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



TODAY'S DUMBEST QUESTIONS AWARD GOES TO DAFFA and DIMMY DIMBULB, WHO ASK...



RIDDLE CARD

- When are boys like bears?
- What is history's favorite fruit?
- What hobby do broken bones take up?
- What nut has a hole in the middle?
- Why is a crossword puzzle like a quarrel?

Answers: 1. When bare-footed. 2. Dates. 3. They knit. 4. A doughnut. 5. Because one word leads to another.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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



A STEEPLE STUMPER!

If it takes six seconds for the town hall clock to strike four, how long does it take to strike twelve o'clock midnight?

Answer: Twenty-two seconds. After the first initial strike, there is a two-second interval between each succeeding strike.

A EUROPEAN TOUR!

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 16 European cities. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the cities you're looking for.

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.

- An inclined surface.
- Unit of electrical current.
- To study for a test.
- To force into place.

Answers: 1. Ramp. 2. Amp. 3. Gram. 4. Ram. Mystery word: Clamp.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Amsterdam | Grenoble |
| Belfast | Innsbruck |
| Berlin | Nice |
| Bern | Paris |
| Brussels | Plymouth |
| Bucharest | Seville |
| Dijon | Stockholm |
| Florence | Tours |

Wishing Well

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

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.

MAGIC MAZE THE WIZARD OF OZ

V	O	D	L	J	G	O	K	E	B	Y	W	U	R	P
N	K	I	R	Y	D	H	S	O	G	D	B	Z	X	V
S	Q	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W	O	M	K	I
G	E	C	N	A	Z	N	I	L	E	B	Y	W	U	S
Q	P	R	N	I	L	I	E	V	U	P	O	J	H	F
E	O	C	A	Y	K	X	W	H	O	G	P	O	V	U
T	S	Q	P	A	N	H	M	E	E	M	S	I	9	K
O	A	D	N	I	L	G	C	J	H	L	9	S	L	I
T	T	S	E	W	N	A	M	N	I	T	C	3	I	S
O	A	H	F	E	M	E	T	N	U	A	C	N	6	M
S	B	Z	Y	H	T	O	R	O	D	M	Y	X	U	I

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1900 book | Glinda | Scarecrow | Tornado |
| 1939 movie | Kansas | Slippers | Toto |
| Aunt Em | Miss Gulch | The Wizard | Uncle Henry |
| Dorothy | Munchkins | Tin Man | |

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the French phrase "entre nous" mean?
- TELEVISION: What kind of "dinosaur" was the Flintsones' family pet Dino?
- AD SLOGANS: What product used the advertising slogan, "How do you spell relief?"
- MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek goddess of the hearth and home?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which city would you find the famous Trevi Fountain?
- MUSIC: Which recording artist had a 1970s hit with the song "Crocodile Rock"?
- LITERATURE: What was Dorothy Parker's pseudonym?
- RELIGION: Who is the patron saint of artists?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the Periodic Table symbol for silver?
- COMICS: What is the name of the military base where Beetle Bailey and his friends reside?

- ### Answers
- Privately, between us
 - Snorkasaurus
 - R-O-L-A-I-D-S
 - Hestia
 - Rome
 - Elton John
 - Constant Reader
 - St. Luke
 - Ag Swampy
 - Camp Swampy

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

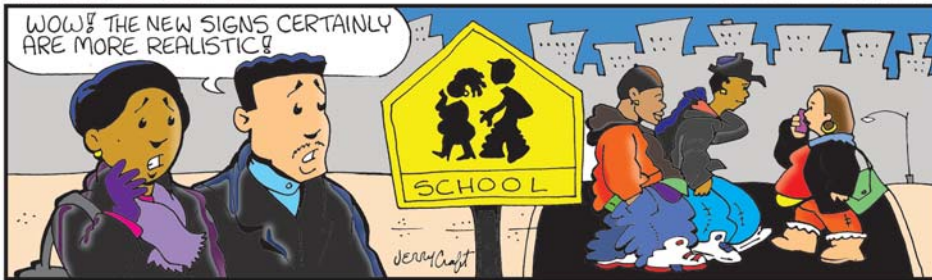
by Mike Marland



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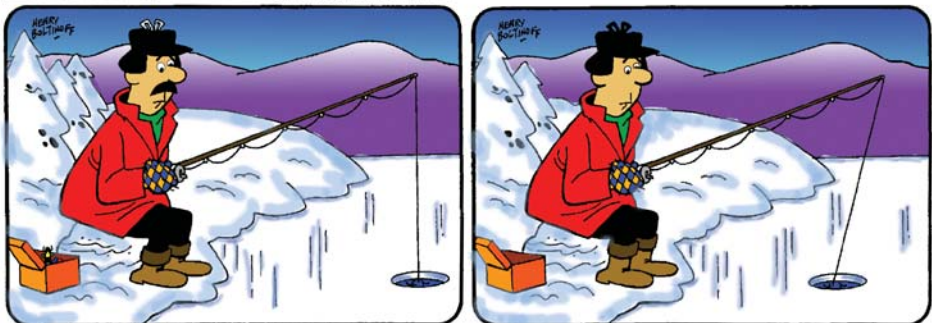
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



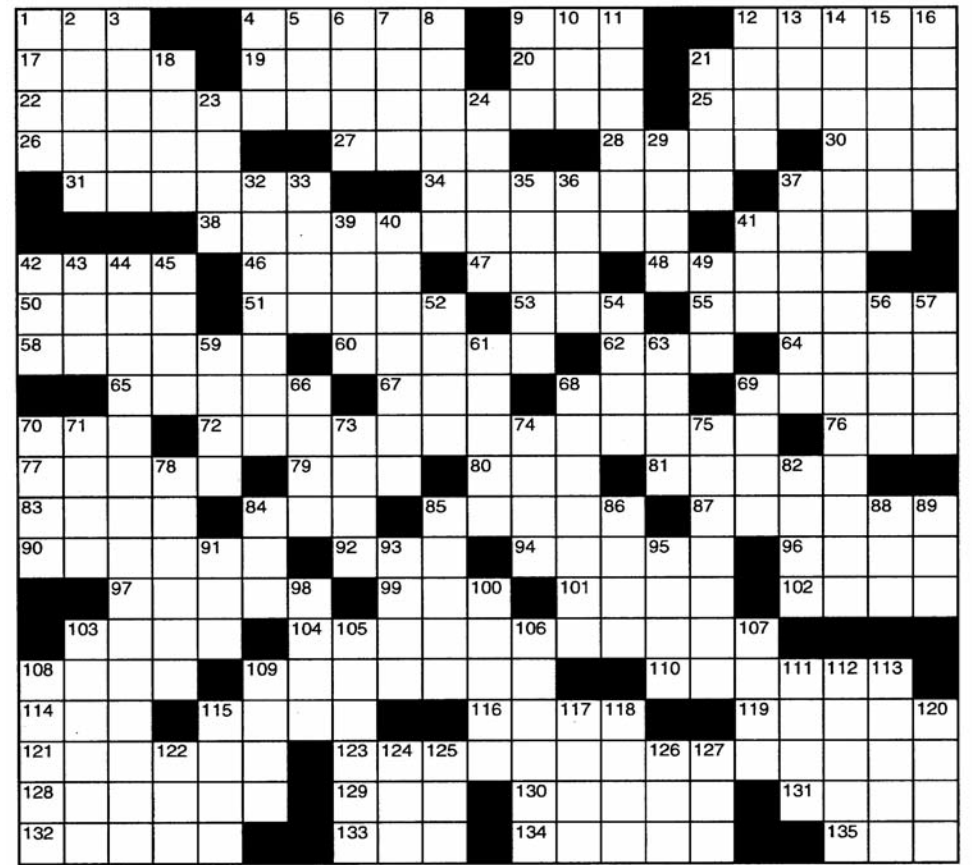
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Hat is all black. 2. Mustache is missing. 3. Fishing hole is moved. 4. Tackle is done from box. 5. Boots are higher. 6. Tree is missing.

Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Mineral suffix
 - 4 Awaited
 - 9 Two, in Tijuana
 - 12 Out of line
 - 17 Worthless
 - 19 Pad
 - 20 Journalist Tarbell
 - 21 Hapsburg capital
 - 22 Like a spy story
 - 25 Actress Jennifer
 - 26 Former Pentagon head
 - 27 Big name in locks
 - 28 Dweeb's cousin?
 - 30 Competitor
 - 31 Germ type
 - 34 Made likely
 - 37 Pumper's pride
 - 38 Harrison Ford movie
 - 41 With 68 down, "CHiPs" star
 - 42 Tenor Thomas
 - 46 Writer Hunter
 - 47 Turf
 - 48 Field marshal Rommel
 - 50 Chemistry info
 - 51 Gets slushy
 - 53 Seoul soldier
 - 55 Non-threatening
 - 58 Ms. Goldberg
 - 60 Act like Etna
 - 62 Fine stuff?
 - 64 Actor Everett
 - 65 Bring up
 - 67 Conger
 - 68 Look over
 - 69 "Superman" star
 - 70 Pitch in
 - 72 Somerset Maugham work
 - 76 Pale
 - 77 Gravy ingredient
 - 79 Prison pariah
 - 80 Rum sum
 - 81 Mead's milieu
 - 83 Eatery
 - 84 Snyder or Hanks
 - 85 Houston ballplayer
 - 87 Detest
 - 90 "Calendar Girl" crooner
 - 92 Fox's foot
 - 94 Desert schlepper
 - 96 Circus barker?
 - 97 Fight site
 - 99 Crank's comment
 - 101 Take risks
 - 102 Auto adornment
 - 103 Very, very satisfied
 - 104 Michael Ansara series
 - 108 Egg plant?
 - 109 Fondue ingredient
 - 110 Rifleman
 - 114 Business abbr.
 - 115 James of "Misery"
 - 116 Pearl Harbor's locale
 - 119 Hold back
 - 121 Flautist James
 - 123 The Searchers hit
 - 128 Private's posture
 - 129 Lodge member
 - 130 Carry on
 - 131 Joy Adamson's joy
 - 132 Hirsute Jamaican
 - 133 Occupy a cot
 - 134 Chutzpah
 - 135 Chariot bumper?
 - 3 Hitch in haste
 - 4 Quote from 41 down
 - 5 — Saud
 - 6 Comic Goodman
 - 7 Snorri's stories
 - 8 He moves cars
 - 9 Excavate
 - 10 Laudatory lyrics
 - 11 French philosopher
 - 12 Isn't completely wrong?
 - 13 Diocese
 - 14 Roman Polanski film
 - 15 Put behind bars
 - 16 Cardiff's country
 - 18 Where lions laze
 - 21 Nothing but space
 - 23 Handle
 - 24 Class
 - 29 Used to be
 - 32 Imperfection
 - 33 Roof edge
 - 35 Breathe like a bull
 - 36 Reverse
 - 37 Eventual monarch
 - 39 Chip's chum
 - 40 Beseech
 - 41 Fluffy female
 - 42 Mouth piece?
 - 43 Antique ending
 - 44 Impending peril
 - 45 Pericles' portico
 - 49 Mil. group
 - 52 De Lesseps' ditch
 - 54 Danny or Stubby
 - 56 Hot rocks?
 - 57 Early orchard?
 - 59 Essence
 - 61 Machinations
 - 63 Some wines
 - 66 Mr. Saarinen
 - 68 See 41 Across
 - 69 San —, Italy
 - 70 Basics
 - 71 "Dies —"
 - 73 Interstate exit
 - 74 Coll. cadets
 - 75 Armada member
 - 78 Shred
 - 82 Kind of kiln
 - 84 Prepare to be in "Baywatch"
 - 85 Vigilant
 - 86 Astronomer Khayyam
 - 88 "Bali —"
 - 89 New Haven hardwood
 - 91 Brew barrel
 - 93 "— Named Sue" ('69 hit)
 - 95 Slips up
 - 98 "—Ca-Dabra" ('74 song)
 - 100 Biblical tyrant
 - 103 Musical composition
 - 105 Stream
 - 106 Kevin of "SNL"
 - 107 Unrestrained
 - 108 Churchill trademark
 - 109 Motown's Marvin
 - 111 Organ part
 - 112 Boxer Griffith
 - 113 Hair coloring
 - 115 — Grande, AZ
 - 117 Present
 - 118 Weekend warriors (Abbr.)
 - 120 Autocrat
 - 122 Angkor — (Cambodian temple)
 - 124 Ivy Leaguer
 - 125 Manage, with "out"
 - 126 Off-rd. transport
 - 127 Formerly known as
- DOWN**
- 1 Peruvian of old
 - 2 Oklahoma city

Flipside Youth Help Save Lives One Drop of Water at a Time



By Brenda McElroy

None of us give much thought to seeing water flow freely from our faucets, showers and even in our toilets, but when the Middle School Students at Flipside Church heard that for more than 1 billion people around the world these “luxuries” are not standard, they decided to do something about it.

Two weeks before Christmas, the Flipside youth watched a video called The Advent Conspiracy (www.adventconspiracy.org). They were shocked to learn that the United States spends \$450 billion on Christmas each year and it would only take about \$10 billion of that to make clean water available to everyone in the world. Although the lack of clean water doesn't make headlines like tsunamis, earthquakes and wars, it kills more people every day than anything else. Every year 1.8 million children alone die as a direct result of chronic diarrhea — that's 4,900 every day.

When students learned that for just 98 cents they could provide clean safe water for one person for a year, their wheels began to turn. One student said maybe he could earn some money mowing lawns — \$10 would provide ten years of water. Sacrificing one Starbucks or Jamba Juice could provide three to four years of water. “We just don't hear much about the need for clean water,” said Ashley Robbins. “It's cool to be able to do something about it.”

The enthusiastic group set a goal of \$1,000 to be raised by New Year's. Students began looking for ways to involve others in their project. Some set up a table at church; others shared the need with their families. Cody Davis walked around school with a bottle of dirty water to bring awareness and demonstrate what drinking water looks like for millions around the world.

Rolled coins, dollars bills and checks began to trickle in. Even members at Fresno's Flipside 13 heard about it and got involved. In the end, not only did the students meet their goal, they exceeded it by raising \$1353.24.

The money was donated to Living Water International (LWI). By providing a cup of water in Jesus' name they are saving lives and offering hope of deliverance from the cycle of disease and poverty. They do this by helping establish community based water solutions in developing nations and have completed nearly 6,500 community water projects in 26 countries. These provide safe, clean water to 9.5 million people every day.

“It's opened our eyes to see what's happening in the world,” said Becca Black.

“I feel less greedy,” said Amanda Grazier. “I can't really describe how it makes me feel to help others like that.”

If you would like to join the Flipside youth in becoming part of the solution to this great need, go to www.water.cc and click on “Get Involved.”



Kirste - Soares

Samantha Rene Kirste will wed Andrew Ormellas Soares on March 14, 2009 at the People's Chapel in Fresno, California. The couple has been engaged since August 26, 2007.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Brian and Colette Kirste of the Madera Ranchos and is a 2004 graduate of Sierra High School. She is also a recent graduate from California State University, Fresno where she received a B.A.

degree in Art Design.

Her fiancé, Andrew, is the son of Alfred and Reis Soares of Chowchilla and is a 2004 graduate from Chowchilla High School. Andrew recently returned home from a tour of duty in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. He is employed by Alfred Soares Dairy, his family's dairy, and will continue to serve his country as a Marine Reservist.

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Feb. 1 - Randy McWhorter
Feb. 8 - Tom Belew
Feb. 15 - David Jones (potluck after)
Feb. 22 - David Jones
Feb. 7 - Sunday School Teacher Workshop - Area churches are invited to send teachers!

Young Ranchos Riders Gallop Off with Top Awards



A group of young Ranchos equestrians from Circle B Ranch in the Bonnadelle Ranchos won top honors at a recent competition in Fresno

In the above picture Megan Gentry is on the far left riding My Pal. Megan is the daughter of Scott and Kim Gentry and is a 2nd grade student at Sierra View Elementary. Pal is a palomino gelding owned by Vic Bruno. Megan and Pal won ribbons in each of their six classes. Next is Natalie Anselmo on Raja Boy. Natalie is the daughter of Mark and Stacey Anselmo and is a 2nd Grade student at Sierra View Elementary also. Raj is an Arabian Gelding owned by the Anselmos. They placed in all

their classes and Natalie also won a 1st Place in a jumping class aboard Pal.

Third from the left is Karsyn Woods on BaskaJim. Karsyn is the daughter of Stacey and Greg Woods and is also a 2nd Grade student at Sierra View Elementary. "Jimbo" is an Arabian Gelding owned by Mindy Morris and Karsyn and Jimbo also won high placings in all six of their classes.

Finally, at the far right is Olivia Kaczmarek and her horse, Lil' Bud. Olivia is the daughter of Ed and Lisa Kaczmarek and is also a 2nd Grade student at Sierra View Elementary. Lil' Bud is an Arabian Gelding owned by the Kaczmareks. She



and Lil' Bud placed in all their classes including winning a 1st Place in one of their jumping classes.

In the second picture, Tiffany Renna rides Oscar Wild to victory as together they won high point champion in their division at a recent equestrian competition in Fresno, competing in both jumping and on the flat. Tiffany is the Daughter of Monica and Mark Renna of Fresno and Oscar is a BLM Mustang owned by Mindy Morris, owner of Circle B Ranch in the Madera Ranchos where Tiffany trains. All of the horses and riders train with Mindy Morris at Circle B Ranch in the Ranchos. She can be reached at 474-7476.

Register NOW For Marathon

Registration is now open for the second running of the Eye-Q Two Cities Marathon and Half. The event, scheduled for Nov. 8, 2009, was sold out in 2008 and if early registration is any indication, the upcoming marathon will sell out as well.

"We expect early registration to be much larger this year due to the early sell-out of our 2008 event," claimed Mike Herman, Race Director.

Two Cities Marathon and Half is sponsored by EYE-Q Vision Care and benefits Central Valley California civic and charitable organizations.

For more info or to sign up, call 559-256-8464 or visit the Website at www.runfresno.com.

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Please call ASPIRAnet today to reserve your space! ASPIRAnet Post-Adopt Services 559-222-4969, or for further information visit us on the web at www.aspiranet.org.

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Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

BEDROCK cont. from P. 8

tion for your next project" was born.

What Bedrock does is surveying and engineering services. These services can be used for grading and draining projects on your property or proving to your insurance company that you're not in a flood plain so that you don't have to pay for costly flood insurance. Their services are also essential if you're involved in a property dispute with a neighbor.

Pete does all the field surveying which is where the process begins. After he gathers the important information in the field he turns it over to Mike who prepares elevation certificates, draws maps for splitting property, adjusting lot lines - in other words graphically showing the results of the survey.

The process can end with Mike or, if necessary, will continue on with Dave who determines elevations for actually building everything from houses and parking lots to curbs, gutters and storm drains.

Combined, the three partners have nearly 50 years of experience doing what

they do. In addition, they grew up in the Ranchos and still live here to this day.

"Our kids play with our clints' kids," Mike said.

All three stressed that there is still construction going on, in spite of what you hear on the news, and what makes Bedrock so competitive is keeping their overhead low and being super competitive in their bidding.

"Usually the lowest bid is someone who forgot something," the partners laughed in unison. The say their key difference is they bid low BUT they get the job done.

The other positive element for using Bedrock is their genuine concern and affection for the Ranchos.

"We're here to serve the community," Dave said.

"We want people in the community to know that they can rely on us and the services we provide," Mike said. "Whether we are surveying their property, designing a drainage plan or merely giving advice, we want people to know they can count on Bedrock. Dave and I grew up in the Ranchos. We own homes

here. Our kids go to school and play here. And even though Pete lives in Clovis, he has a vested interest in the Ranchos. Pete and I have worked in this area since 1990 and Dave started in 1995. We are also committed to, and eager to see, a Ranchos Community Center and Ranchos Library. When the time comes, we will gladly donate the surveying and engineering services needed for these two projects."

The Hartley brothers and Pete Mayne are what you look for in business people who work in our community. They're not here just to suck money out of the rest of us and then disappear into the night when all of the fat pigs have been stuck. They have a connection to the land, to the community and the people of the Ranchos.

If you have a surveying or engineering project coming up in the future, give the guys at Bedrock a call at 645-4849.

"This is a great place to live and we want to give back to our community. It's the right thing to do," Mike said as we wrapped up our interview.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

Another Scam Targets Seniors

Despite Sheriff John Anderson's warning to the public regarding a rising tide of moneygram scams that are targeting our senior citizens community, the department continues to receive calls for service from people with moneygram complaints.

Victims are being told that a grandchild is behind bars and money must be wired to bail the child out. How can Grandparents be sure that a loved has really been jailed? First: The call won't come from someone claiming to be a correctional officer, arresting officer or a bail bondsman. That seems to be the recent game these folks are playing.

Sheriff's Detectives have launched an investigation working with law enforcement in Canada where the calls started originating. Two websites address the latest moneygram scams: www.moneygram.com and www.phonebusters.com.

SPREAD THE NEWS!

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

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

stead of for "We the People."

The BOARD wants to be able to fire the Auditor/Controller if he/she doesn't do as the Board tells them to do.

The BOARD wants to have total control over the office that is charged with keeping an eye on how they are spending our money.

The Auditor/Controller is not just the County "Bean Counter." The office is our last line of defense when the Board tries to spend money it doesn't have - money that is in trust funds for specific purposes.

I have watched department head after department head in front of the Board - none of them "tell" the Board anything, they "ask," then the Board tells them how the cow ate the cabbage, as my old dad used to say. In these times of financial crises and mistrust of government, to remove one of our very important checks in the check and balance system is just wrong. Did I mention it will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to put it on the ballot? I'll bet if they would ask us we could find a better way to spend that money. We would find something.

The elected Madera County Clerk/Recorder spoke against the idea.

The elected Madera County Treasurer/Tax collector spoke against the idea.

The just-appointed interim Auditor/Controller spoke against the idea.

Every single citizen that spoke on the subject was against the idea. (sorry ... I was the only citizen speaker).

AND two of the board members voted against the idea.

Maybe the plan should just be dropped

Item J - Fire department Grant.

A resolution to allow Madera County Fire to apply for a \$216,986.56 grant for rescue equipment. The item was pulled so Madera City could apply for it instead of our County Fire Department. When I asked I was told the City was just taking the lead on the application and we would share all of the equipment with them.

I think that is called "The check is in the mail."

I don't know about you, but I am all warm and fuzzy knowing Madera City plans to share with us. I am working on a story about just how much Madera City Fire is dependent on Madera County Fire and how much Madera County Fire subsidizes the

City fire protection.

Town Hall Meeting. My guess is there were between 300 and 350 people there last night.

Most were concerned about AB-885, the septic tank tax.

I am not sure everybody understands AB-885 is over. It is a done deal.

AB-885 isn't all that bad. AB-885 is just a bill that requires regulations to be written. That is where we are now. It isn't AB-885 that is killing us, it is the regulations it has allowed some government employees to write; regulations that make no sense.

AB-885 is merely the truck that is hauling the garbage that is about to be dumped on our lives. AB-885 may as well be written in stone but the regulations we are fighting are not even in ink yet. The text of AB-885 is posted at www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/septic_tanks.

A lot of information was available both from speakers and from tables set up around the room. I am not going to try to report on what was said, but one thing that hit me very hard was when Supervisor Wheeler was talking about the resolution he prepared for the Board of Supervisors to send in as comment on the ridiculous piece of garbage that is being crammed down our collective throats. Supervisor Wheeler said all of his strong comments were removed from the letter because a strong letter just gets "filed" (then he gestured as if he was throwing it in a trash can.) I was under the impression we overthrew the tyrant king across the pond that we had to bow and humble ourselves in front of to be heard. I long for the days when a man said what he meant and meant what he said. Before we had politicians we had patriots that understood the concept: Of the people, for the people and by the people. I can never run for office because from the time you begin running you begin losing your passion and you begin controlling what you say. To get off on one of my DOG metaphors, it is like after you have a DOG fixed. It is the same DOG, the same brain, the same heart, but the spirit is somehow lacking.

I guess in some ways it is a good thing that Tom is becoming a better politician. Learning how to hold his temper, how to carefully craft his words, but in other ways it is sad to see the transformation beginning.

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New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. **Call 559-970-4476.**

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For Sale - Used Red Tubular Steel Bunk Bed. No mattresses. Top and bottom both twin size. Cost \$150 new, **\$25 takes. Call 645-6138.**

For Sale - King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Never Used in Plastic, Cost \$700. **Sacrifice \$295. Call 277-2511.**

For Sale - Bedroom Set - Thomasville Quality! Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser/Mirror, Chest. Solid Cherrywood-New in Boxes! Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,875. Extra Pieces Available. **Call 447-5066.**

For Sale - Pool Table - Brand New, Solid Wood, 1" Slate W/Leather Pockets & Extras. Warranty, Cost \$5K, Sacrifice \$1,375. Can Deliver. **Call 230-0486.**

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For Sale - \$195 Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, New in Pkg., Cost \$600. Sacrifice \$195. **Call 275-8813.**

For Sale - 1958 Ford Golden Jubilee Tractor. Includes Box Scraper, Disc and Spring Tooth. \$3,200 O.B.O. **Call 645-0438.**

For Sale - Used Pickup Truck Box. White Home Depot Tradesman. Was on Nissan. 60" Long x 20 1/2" Wide x 13" Tall. **Paid over \$100. First \$50 takes. Call 645-6138.**

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1	6			2	7	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8

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ANSWERS

15	17			
8	+	7	÷	3
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7	8	3	9	4	6	2	1	5
9	7	2	8	5	1	4	3	6
4	3	8	6	7	9	5	2	1
1	6	5	4	3	2	9	7	8



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