

The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 5 Issue 7 2009

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

New Ranchos Middle School Opens August 2009

"So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable."

Christopher Reeve

Golden Valley Unified School District prepares to introduce the Madera Ranchos to the all-new Ranchos Middle School, the newest, state-of-the-art accomplishment of a young school district turning 10 years old this year.



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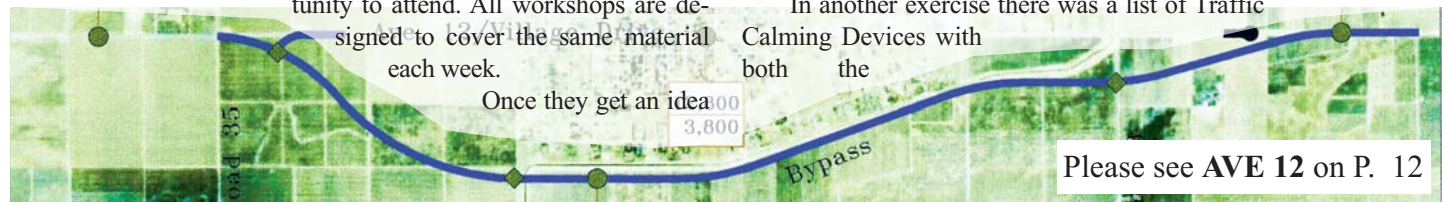
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Voice Your Opinions on the Future of Avenue 12

By Christi McKinney

Homes in the communities of the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills recently received an invitation in the mail to "... help shape the future of Avenue 12." The Avenue 12 Project has gotten to the phase where it's time for public input. Representatives of Madera County recently held two workshops at Liberty High School on two consecutive Thursdays with a final workshop to be held Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. to insure that everyone has an opportunity to attend. All workshops are designed to cover the same material each week.

of what we want in our community, Madera County Planning Department and Roads Department have enlisted the assistance of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and RBF Consulting to try and implement the ideas. At the first meeting maps and plans were on display and planning exercises were conducted by all attendees. The first exercise had every attendee create two lists. One titled "I'm glad Avenue 12 has ..." and another titled "I wish Avenue 12 had ..." Everyone created their own list then a designated spokesperson for each table read the suggestions aloud.



In another exercise there was a list of Traffic Calming Devices with both the

Valley Water Improvements Approved but Fall Short

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed two amendments by Congressmen Dennis Cardoza (D-Atwater) and Jim Costa (D-Fresno) aimed at increasing water flows for agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley. They were included in the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that passed the House Friday, July 17.



sue other workable options. These practical, common-sense amendments are a significant means to help us address our water needs in the Valley."

"We all would like to see the pumps turned on and water flowing from the Delta to our farmers. I have fought for many years in the hopes that we could do just that," said Cardoza. "But when it becomes abundantly clear that one way doesn't work, we need to be open-minded and pur-

The first amendment will make it easier for water to be transferred from one county to another. Currently, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation restricts such transfers, creating an impediment to efficient and practical water movement during times of need. The amendment also directs the Secretary of the Interior to implement a recovery plan for the giant

Please see WATER on P. 22

24th Annual Firefighter BBQ Dinner Almost Here



Picture by John Glueck

Dawn Davies, Station 9 Volunteer Captain (right), crawls through the Entrapment Chamber, a simulation of walls that have fallen down with various wiring exposed as would occur in a fire.

By Christi McKinney

Preparations are well underway for one of the Madera Ranchos' most popular and most well attended fund raising events of the year. The Madera County Fire & Rescue's Station 19 is proud to announce that their 24th Annual Fire Department BBQ Dinner-

Dance and Auction will be held on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 15. To accommodate the ever-growing crowd, this year's event will be held at the historic Borba's Rancho Vista del Rio at Highway 99 and Avenue 7. This year's event will include wine tasting, a tri-tip and chicken BBQ, a desert auction, a silent and live auction, a ceremony honoring our firefighters as well as dancing with a live band.

The purpose of the annual fundraiser is to raise money for desperately needed equipment for our primarily volunteer fire department. Chuck Hoover, Volunteer Captain of Madera County Fire & Rescue's Station 19, has been a volunteer fireman for 32 years. "The Madera Ranchos community has been overwhelmingly supportive of our local firefighters and our fundraising activities," Hoover said.

In recent years these fundraisers have enabled the fire stations to pur-

chase thermal imaging cameras for both Station 19 and "sister" Station 9 in the Rolling Hills. These cameras can quickly locate people inside smoke-filled buildings and pinpoint the source of a fire. In addition, squad trucks, a water truck, high intensity

Please see FIRE on P. 23



Picture by Christi McKinney

Volunteer Firefighters at Station 19 prepare for additional training that will help them overcome the dangerous obstacles they will encounter while fighting Ranchos fires and emergencies.

Keeping Cool in Madera County

Madera County Operational Area Cooling Center Sites – 2009

Madera Ranchos Ranchos/Hills Senior Center
37339 Berkshire Dr.
Madera, CA
559-645-4864
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

City of Chowchilla Chowchilla Senior Center
820 W. Robertson Blvd.
Chowchilla, CA
559-665-4781
Mon – Fri 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

City/County of Madera Frank Bergon Senior Center
238 South D Street
Madera, CA
559-673-4293
Mon – Fri 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Madera Rescue Mission
332 Elm Ave.
Madera, CA
559-675-8321
Daily beginning "as need" basis
Pan Am Community Center
703 E. Sherwood Way
Madera, CA
559-675-2095
Mon - Fri 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

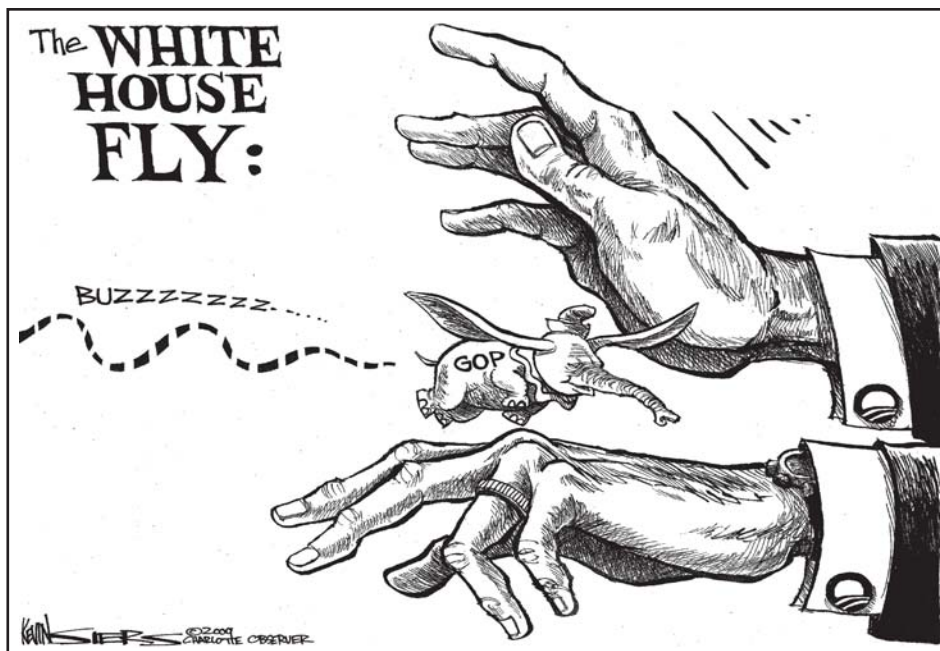
Mountain Communities Coarsegold
Coarsegold Community Center
35540 Highway 41
Coarsegold, CA 93614
559-683-7953
Mon, Tues & Thurs 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Oakhurst
Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Lane
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559-683-3811
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

North Fork
Grace Community Center
56442 Road 200
North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2653
Mon - Fri 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Yosemite Lakes
Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse
30250 Yosemite Springs Parkway
Coarsegold, CA
559-658-7466
Daily 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Water available Mon - Fri 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Clubhouse Office

Click on "Local News" at



Editorial

Waterboarding California

By Randy Bailey

Water, or at least the discussion of water, seems to be everywhere.

It's being discussed on talk radio. It's being debated in the statehouse and at the federal level. And it's always a topic of conversation around the Ranchos.

As we've reported here before, Madera County is overdrafting its water supply resulting in an average drop of about half a foot a year in the County's water table. Of course, that's an average. To get an average you have to have some places higher and some places lower.

Welcome to the Ranchos.

We're dropping at the rate of approximately 5 feet per year. Someone else somewhere must really be increasing their groundwater for the County to end up with only a drop of half a foot overall when they average us in. They've got to be increasing by 4 feet per year for us cumulatively to end up with only a half foot drop.

Talk of water tables dropping immediately suggests one inescapable conclusion: A water shortage. Obviously there's not enough water and that's why we're acting like water vampires, sucking the very life out of Madera County, one faucetful at a time.

The only problem with arriving

at that conclusion is that you'd be wrong.

Dead wrong.

I have said it before and I'll say it again: California does not have a shortage of water. What California has is a shortage of STORAGE for water.

I recently wrote an article for another publication about our water situation and I did some research, all culled from the State of California's various water Websites.

The research blew me away.

We each use about 258 gallons of water per day for a total of 9.5 billion daily water gallons for California's 36.8 million residents.

Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? That's because it is. That equals 10.6 million acre-feet of water used by us in just one year. Wow!

But here's the joke: Nearly 200 MILLION acre-feet of water lands on California via rain or snow every year. Wet years, dry years, it doesn't matter. The average is 200 million acre-feet per year. At 326,000 gallons of water per acre-foot, that's ... well a lot!

Sure half of it soaks into the ground, evaporates or is used by plants, so how much is left over? How about 82 MILLION acre-feet of usable surface water. Have you done the math yet? In an average year God drops 72 million MORE acre-feet of water on us than we can use.

So why don't we sock that extra water away somewhere? Maybe save some for a "sunny day"? Here's why: Our 200 biggest reservoirs only hold about 41 million acre-feet of water so even at FULL CAPACITY half of California's water is lost.

Now here's a clue to see if you can figure out the source of infection: The bulk of those reservoirs were built between 40 to 60 years ago and most independently owned reservoirs were built 80 to 100 years ago. We decided to stop creating a way to store water when California's population was half what it is today.

Everyone has a right to their own opinion, however they don't have the right to their own set of facts. If we don't start storing the water we're wasting we'll be more than dead wrong; California will just be dead.

The Ranchos Independent

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Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor

Christi McKinney.....Reporter

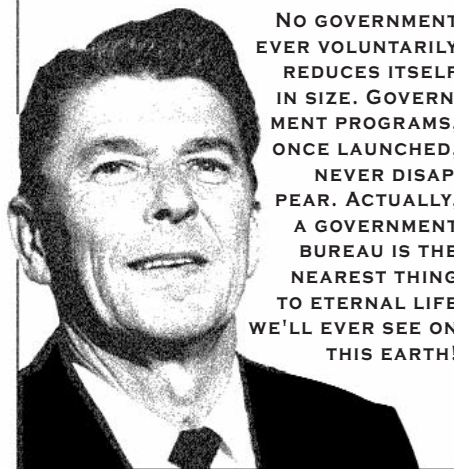
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RONALD REAGAN
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Letters

Dear Editor:

The City of Ranchos or Ranchos City? Very nice ring to it.

Would not we be at a better bargaining position against PG&E's building ambitions should we incorporate into a city? We would have more "sovereignty" and say to what goes on within our city limits.

Doing this would also ensure more money is kept here and not at the county where the City of Madera has been known to have unfair influence to our funds. As we have distinguished schools, increased business-friendly environment, bigger challenges and changes ahead, the time may be more than ripe to incorporate into a city in order to protect our interests.

Name Withheld Upon Request
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The people of the Madera Ranchos are invited to help shape the future of Avenue 12. The County wants your input.

The County of Madera is embarking on a visioning process for the Avenue 12 corridor redesign in The Ranchos. To kick off the process, the County will host a series of workshops designed to explore what the Avenue 12 corridor means to you and what you want to see in the future. These workshops will include a variety of activities for you to participate in the planning process and share your ideas. From multi-media presentations to interactive exercises and small group breakout sessions, you'll explore opportunities and constraints for the future of the Avenue 12 corridor redesign in The Ranchos. To better understand the opportunities for improvements, the County

wants to hear your thoughts and create a community-based vision for the future of Avenue 12 in The Ranchos. This vision will be the backbone for the enhancement plan and will carry through the remainder of the planning process. Come to our final workshop and make your opinion count.

**YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR VOICE
YOUR FUTURE**

Mark your calendars for the one visioning workshop that remains on July 30. The workshop starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Liberty High School cafeteria at 12220 Road 36, Madera, CA. The cafeteria is located in Building B beside the Theatre. It's the first large building on the right as you enter the parking lot from Road 36.

Contact Scott Harmstead at scott.harmstead@madera-county.com or (559) 675-7821 ext. 217 for more information.

Scott Harmstead
Madera

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. There's only one rule: Be civil or forget about it.

Send your letters to:

The Ranchos Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93636

or
FAX 645-4002

or
email to:
ranchosnews@theranchos.com

THE D.O.G. HOUSE
DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



The joint meeting began between the Board of Supervisors and the Water Advisory Commission with the usual niceties.

I had no idea how things would turn out.

In the past few weeks the Board has been told I led them down the primrose path; I was confused; nothing was happening that the Board didn't know about. As the meeting began it was a real love fest for everyone but the old DOG.

One of the audience said to me he thought they were going to sing "kumbaya" at any moment. Then the attacks began as the old DOG obeyed the rules and "sat and stayed" while being, insulted, beat and kicked, and pronounced completely wrong. Just before lunch the chair released me and took off the muzzle after limping up to the podium beat and bloody.

The Board had just been told the process was to have the Memo of Understanding checked by the Water Advisory Commission (WAC) and then on to the Board with the WAC recommendation. The Board was given an email complete with a distribution list that did not support or even come close to what was presented to the Board as what was planned.

It was gratifying to see the Board's collective eyes being opened, as the meeting progressed.

The Board learned their only choices would be to join the Group or not join after they had an opportunity to "suggest" any changes, before making their decision. Then the board learned of the Department of Water Resource's (DWR) preference for a plan that would wipe out anything Madera has done so far. I can only imagine what was going through their minds or if they had any idea why none of this had been passed on to them. I would have been humbled by learning the insults and accusation thrown at the old DOG that had dug up this bone and dropped it at their feet were wrong and there really was an issue, but not these guys. Egos and arrogance I guess shield you from the concept of being wrong. Once the truth was out, it went from a flickering match to a grass fire on a windy day. My guess is they had no idea I accomplished every goal I had on the issue.

The Board now knows what is happening with the Department of Water Resources. DWR likes a plan that would completely engulf and control Madera's plan with the Mariposa County proposal. They now know what is at stake, namely about \$100 million in grants. The Board now knows and has taken ownership of the entire process. The Board can no longer claim they did not know or did not authorize what is happening. By waving as the wagon flies by, headed for the cliff, they have implied consent. The only real action they took was to have a nasty letter prepared to send to DWR complaining about the process.

Here is what I see through my blackened old DOG eyes.

Imagine the application, and interviews for the Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) with DWR, is a job interview. The interviewer – prospective boss – tells you they interviewed another guy they really liked. It may help you vent but I'm not sure writing a nasty letter to the interviewer before they make the decision is the best course of action.

I will sit and accept being beaten, berated and insulted at every meeting if they all turn out this good. My goal is to make sure the information is out there for all to see. Picture the old DOG sprawled out in the living room licking the wounds with an occasional wag of the tail.

The next day at 10 o'clock sharp I was trotting off to the Water Advisory Commission Meeting in the Board chambers.

If you missed the meeting, the video will be posted on the Board's website soon along with the email that was introduced.

The transition from being all-knowing, slapping-down-the-DOG-who-brought-the-bone, to discovering for themselves that there was a lot of meat on that bone is something to watch.



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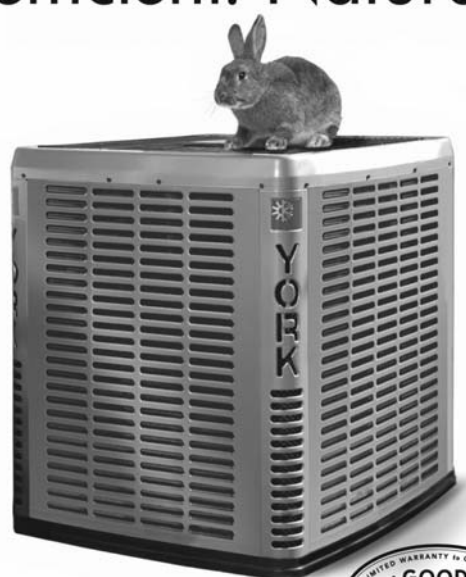
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The Stock Report

Chance for Input on Ave. 12 Future

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
 Parents and all adults that live in the Ranchos, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to your children and your neighbors. Tell them that the rules of the road in America are that cars drive on the right side of the road while walkers, joggers, skateboarders and dog walkers are to walk on the left side of the road facing the traffic. If you are walking on the right side you cannot see and often can't hear cars until they are right on you. This has happened too often to me as I drive the Ranchos roads. Also, walkers and joggers please wear something white at night. The small side roads in the Ranchos are very dark at night. I don't know how many times I have been coming home at night after a meeting and there was a walker or a jogger in dark clothes that I couldn't see until I was right on top of them. I am surprised that there haven't

been more accidents. Not everyone in our community is a slow driver.

I have lived in the Ranchos for 22 years. For the first eight years I was commuting to my job in Fresno as a lot of other Ranchos residents do. When I retired I started getting involved in our community. I found out the people here really care about their children's education and about the seniors that live in the area. Now the County of Madera says that they want the Ranchos community to help redesign the avenue 12 corridor, which is our shopping area. The County says that our ideas will help them with a community based vision of the Ranchos when this area begins to grow. You need to get involved so that your voice can be heard. The County has held two workshops in July with a third scheduled for July 30 at Liberty

High School at 6:30 p.m. The stakeholder advisory committee will be working from July to October 2009 to finalize a vision of the Ranchos and submit the plan to Madera County for approval. If you want to get involved and you missed the first two July workshops you can email Scott Harmstead at scott.harmstead@madera-county.com or call 675-7821 ext.217 and ask for Scott. This is our community and everyone has a right to be heard. What is your vision for the Ranchos? I like the village idea.

Summer school is over and the fall semester at all Golden Valley schools will be starting on Thursday, Aug. 13. I know that the New

Now the County of Madera says that they want the Ranchos community to help redesign the avenue 12 corridor, which is our shopping area. The County says that our ideas will help them with a community based vision of the Ranchos when this area begins to grow. You need to get involved so that your voice can be heard.

Ranchos Middle school will be all moved in and ready for the students. I am excited that the middle school students will have a brand new school with their own gym, baseball and softball fields and a multi-purpose room with a stage. Since I was a middle school teacher in

my other life, it makes my heart feel good to know that this school was built with input from the middle school teachers. Superintendent Sarah Koligian has planned a grand opening event so the community has a chance to go through the new Ranchos Middle School on Aug. 4 at 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Superintendent Koligian will preside over the Ranchos Middle School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Golden Valley's 10 year Anniversary celebration. When you go to the New Ranchos Middle School go to the Theater for the celebration. Hope to see you there.

Independence High and Community Day School also moved from the buildings next to Sierra View Elementary, into the interim school space that the middle school

Please see **STOCK** on P. 7

Listening to "Distant Thunder"

By Bob Crabb

In John 12:27-29 Jesus said, "Now my heart is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.

Jesus had been on his ministry and some "Greeks" had come to see Jesus. They had apparently approached Philip about the matter. Philip received the Greeks and gave their request some thought and took the matter to Andrew. Andrew and Philip talked

A troubled heart is an opportunity to glorify God and put the Good News of Christ into an active and living witness. Time and time again, we find that we are the first responders of God to a troubled heart. It is God's work and our hands.

about it for a minute or two and then the two of them brought the issue to Jesus. Jesus' reply to his erstwhile disciples is a proclamation of God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is right after Jesus' proclamation that this "... voice came from heaven." The translation

quoted above has it that some of the folks standing there thought the voice was thunder.

Some many years ago I was camping out in the Grand Canyon and there was a storm on the other side, far away from where I was. I could hear the distant thunder and see the lightning, but it was so far away from me it seemed like it was irrelevant to my circumstances. I think sometimes life is like that. Sometimes there is a situation in someone else's life and it seems to have so little to do with me. It seems like distant thunder and I have no clear connection with it. It could be someone else's health problem or money problem or employment problem or even someone else's family problem. It could be in the

newspaper or TV or by word of mouth and it can seem like a far off storm that cannot affect anyone except the persons directly involved.

These people in the Gospel (reported in the text above) mistook the voice of God for thunder. Some of them might have thought the noise was irrelevant to them. Jesus cries out in verse 27, "Now my heart is troubled." His troubled heart seems irrelevant to everybody. Jesus understands his situation and he knows what is going to happen. He is going to be arrested, beaten, tortured, falsely charged and convicted and then executed on that old rugged cross. Fresh pain is looming in his future. His message of salvation and

His troubled heart seems irrelevant to everybody... except God.

In the report noted above, Jesus cried out, "Father glorify your name!" The responsive voice of God is unintelligible to the folks standing there and the words of God are treated like the sound of

distant thunder: worthy of note, but of no intrinsic value. The plan of salvation is not received and the testimony of a troubled heart is not a matter of concern. Jesus lives in a tough and cynical world. Are the cries of the children of God irrelevant to God? Are the cries of a troubled heart irrelevant to God? If we can believe that a troubled heart is important to God, then shouldn't a troubled heart be important to all who follow Christ?

I remember another time when I was camping out on top of a mountain up in Nevada and I had this little tiny shelter built up against a tree. All of a sudden a tremendous storm came up and

Please see PASTOR on P. 7

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7/09



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Youth.....6 p.m.

Wednesday

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Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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7/09

Chamber Offering Travel Plans

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is coordinating TRAVEL TRIPS for Ranchos residents that range from a Kings River whitewater rafting trip on the Fourth of July to a cruise to Alaska next June/July. The trips being offered at present include:

- 1) Oct. 9-11, 2009 Reno charter bus trip to Italian Festival. 3 days/ 2 nights. Ages 10 years and up.
- 2) Feb. or March 2010 Reno Amtrak Snow/Fun Train for 3 days/2 nights. Ages 21 and over.
- 3) June/ July 2010 10 day Alaska Cruise on Princess cruise line round trip from SF. All Ages (special programs on board for children of all ages).

We are currently taking reservations for all of the above trips and some payment plans can be set up for all trips.

Questions can be answered by calling 559-474-0505 or emailing Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

www.TheRanchos.com

PASTOR cont. from P. 6

there was wind, lightning and a lot of thunder. The thunder seemed like it was right on top of me and it was loud.

I mean it was really loud!

I was afraid that I might get hit by lightning, I was afraid a tree might fall on top of me, I was afraid there might be a flash flood and I would drown! It was not a distant thunder without intrinsic value, but it was a thunder that was overwhelming and intensely personal. The significance of the voice of God glorifying His son can have no less an impact than the value of a powerful storm breaking right on top of our lives.

The awesome intensity and power of the voice of God so often comes to us today in the report of a troubled heart and troubled life circumstances. A troubled heart, like the troubled heart of Jesus and the circumstances that created it, are a matter of concern. The troubled hearts and circumstances in our neighborhoods, in our communities and even in our families are the powerful voice of God calling us into action. A troubled heart is an opportunity to glorify God and put the Good News of Christ into an active and living witness. Time and time again we find that we are

the first responders of God to a troubled heart. It is God's work and our hands. The lack of concern for a troubled heart today can turn into the crucifixion of Christ tomorrow.

In Mark 12:29-31 (NIV) Jesus told his follower, "The most important (commandment) is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

For those who follow Jesus Christ, we are called to be unconditionally concerned for the people who God calls "neighbor." It is a concern that begins in the present and stretches into eternity with Christ. The distant thunder of a troubled heart can seem so unconnected to our lives, but it may also be the voice of God, calling us to respond with the concern of God. As we know, the voice of God is not distant at all, but it is very near; it is in your heart.

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

STOCK cont. from P. 5

just left. Dr. Jim Green, the administrator of the Educational Options program will be located at this new location.

One thing about Golden Valley Unified is it is always moving and improving our facilities for the students we serve. Watching Golden Valley grow has been the most incredible 10 years of my life. I have put together a picture book made up of photos and articles taken during the first 10 years of Golden Valley Unified's life. It has been a labor of love for me and has taken about six months to complete. It is incredible how many members of the community have helped put Golden Valley together. When I first heard the slogan "Local Control" I wondered if the busy people of our community could work together for an extended period of time but I am delighted to watch people step up when needed. I re-

member that at the first strategic planning session the district had hired an outsider to bring the community members together to put together a mission statement for the district. There were many ideas put forward and I could see that not everyone was on the same page and some people were in a whole different book. That was when the facilitator said, "... you people are 'flying this plane' while you are still building it." He said that we hadn't decided what Golden Valley Unified would look like in 10 or 20 years because we were still putting the pieces of the district together. I have often wondered if he has followed Golden Valley's progress.

The next school board meetings will be held August 11 and August 25 at Liberty High library at 6 p.m. This is the start of a new school year and the eleventh year Golden Valley Unified will have been in business. I hope you had a good summer.

Live Snakes Invade Library as Part of Summer Reading Program

By Ellen Mester

The Summer Reading Program has been a huge success this year breaking all previous attendance records. We had 103 children on the kick-off date in June and an average of 40-60 kids each week for our Wednesday afternoon programs. We have had lots of fun with music, art, puppets, storytelling and science. The "Be Creative @ Your Library" theme has really sparked imaginations and tapped unknown creativity in Ranchos children. Art projects have been turned in and are on display in the library. The art is part of our art-in-a-bag competition. Kids selected bags of a single material such as coat hangers, tissue paper, plastic boxes, cardboard and such with the instructions to create a work of art without using any other material except glue, staples, colored markers or a base with which to attach it. The work that has been returned is awesome. We hope all the contestants will turn in their creative works by Aug. 1 for judging and for display in the library. Other "Be Creative" and "Express Yourself" contests are for writing and board or electronic game design.

Snakes Alive!

July 13 was an evening of live snakes at the library, thanks to the Dana Epps family and their Exotic Reptile Program. We learned about how to care for snakes and how to respect them in the wild. There was quite a collection and we were able to see and touch the snakes up close. This is a great program for children and adults and we hope to repeat it again soon.

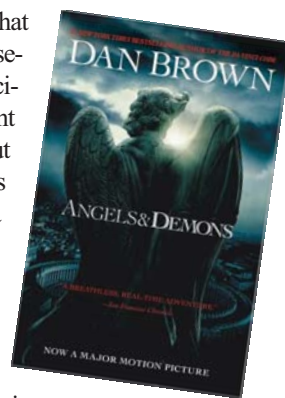
Future Programs

We love offering a variety of programs at our library and are always open to suggestions for new ones such as:

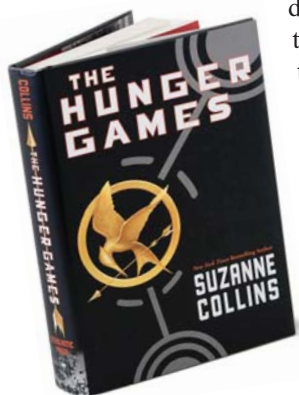
- Anyone interested in participating in an evening knitting group once a week at the library?
- Or how about a family game night with electronic games or board games?
- Or book talks about books we recently read and want to share with others?
- Or specialty topics with guest speakers? (Preferably free speakers)
- If any of these ideas appeal to you please contact the library.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown. If you haven't seen the movie yet, read the book first. There are a lot of details that can't be included in the film that are important. The story begins with Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor who specializes in symbology, hastily flown to Switzerland to examine a symbol that has been burned into the chest of a murdered scientist who has been secretly working on the production of anti-matter with his daughter, scientist Vittoria Vetra. The symbol is that of the Illuminati, an ancient organization that once was persecuted by the Catholic Church but since has remained underground and long-forgotten. It soon appears that the target is the Vatican itself, which leads Langdon and Vetra on a frantic search for the anti-matter, the four missing Cardinals and the Illuminati all while the clock is ticking down. It's very exciting and similar to *The Da Vinci Code*, only better written.



Young Adult Fiction: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Imagine a dystopian North America (now called Panem) divided into 13 districts with one district – the cruel victor of the power struggle – controlling all the other districts in every way imaginable. And just to keep them all in line, they require that once a year each district send one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 to fight to the death in a reality game that is broadcast live throughout Panem. When a name is drawn it is considered a death sentence. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen does the unimaginable by volunteering to take her younger sister's place when her name is drawn for the Hunger Games. The odyssey that follows is a wild ride for the reader of terror, intrigue and brutality in a fantastically crafted story. It is one of the best reads for teens and adults since *Twilight*, yet has more thought-provoking substance and discussion possibilities. I believe it is destined to become an all time classic like 1984 or *Animal Farm*. But don't take my word for it ... find out for yourself.



Juvenile Fiction: *Ranger's Apprentice Book One: The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan. Will has grown up as a ward of the castle with no last name and no idea of who his parents were. At age 15, he and the other wards are chosen for apprenticeship into various professions. Will's heart is that of a warrior but his small frame is unfortunately not suitable according to castle standards. Therefore, he is chosen by Halt, a dark and unsmiling Ranger, to begin his apprenticeship. Will quickly discovers that he has the keen senses and abilities to become a Ranger and thrives under Halt's tutelage. As the evil Morgarath builds his forces and prepares to attack the kingdom, Will's new spy skills become crucial to the protection of the kingdom and his friends. The story is reminiscent of *King Arthur* and *Lord of the Rings* with all the excitement and mythical creatures. It is an excellent story for ages 9 and up.



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



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KIWANIS KORNER



By President Steve Monk

Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to thank all of the Ranchos residents who helped support our club by purchasing fireworks at our July 4th Fireworks booth. It was another very successful fundraiser that will go right back to our local kids here in the Ranchos. We hope everyone had a great holiday and played safe and sane. We also wanted to thank all of our members who donated time to help out, in 100 degree heat, at our fireworks booth. A special thank you goes out to John Herrera who was the chairperson for the event. Also, we were very thankful to have the 4H volunteers who donated time to this fundraising event. We would also like to thank some of the staff at Pete's Drive Inn: thanks again for all your help.

Now let's talk about what the Kiwanis is all about. 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 fundraisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, events that help children here in the Madera Ranchos.

We just finished volunteering our time in helping to support a Fishing Derby with proceeds going toward Special Olympics. It was held at Wishon Lake where there were tagged fish of different denominations from \$25 up to \$10,000. Three years ago a gentleman caught the \$10,000 fish. It is a fun time for all with the funds raised going toward a great cause.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to remind everyone about the Firemans' Barbeque coming up on Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Rancho Vista Del Rio, or Borba Ranch, on Highway 99 off of Ave. 7. Bring your appetites and dancing shoes for a great time. The proceeds from this event go to help fund our local firefighting departments; Station 9 and Station 19.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, **please feel free to contact any of our officers for 2009 at 559-645-4735.** They would be happy to answer your questions. You can also visit www.ranchoskiwanis.org to reach us online or you can write to us at:

**Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos
37221 Avenue 12 1-C #29
Madera, CA 93636**

One more announcement to make: our club is now meeting in the evenings. The club is still meeting at the Pizza Factory which has graciously donated its meeting room for our use. Our meetings are every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Factory, except the first Thursday of the month when it's held at 6:45 a.m. to help accommodate our members who have difficulty attending the evening meetings. Thanks again to Hal and Mary Ann Parks for donating the meeting room at the Pizza Factory.

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The Old Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

My longtime friend in nearby Madera County is cleaning out three generations of accumulation from his farmstead preparatory to holding a farmyard sale this month, and his missus is going through boxes and trunks that have not been opened for years, in fact she's been emptying closets in upstairs rooms whose doors have not been open in 20 years, as is the case in many rambling old farm houses that pre-date the 1920s.

Her sorting job is taking much more time than his. "Sometimes I come into a room and find her holding an object to the cheek and crying, for instance an old doll that we bought for our oldest daughter on her first Christmas 40 years ago, and a pitcher and knickknacks that her grandmother brought from Ireland more than a hundred years ago," my friend reminisces. "I don't know, but sometimes it is more difficult for a woman to look back on yesterday, although I was all but moved to tears when I found my son's tricycle in what was once the tack room in the roofless horse barn that hasn't been used in nearly 40 years. I suppose that I'm the exception to the adage that men don't cry."

Anyhow, he put his place up for sale a couple of months ago, not that he was doing much with it anymore except running a few head of cows and putting up some hay, and the wife and he had a few chickens, a couple of hogs and a garden that didn't get much tending this year, At one time theirs was a busy farm, even employing a year 'round hired man, and until a labor camp was built nearby, put up migrant farm workers and their families in the cow barn that is now only a skeleton exposed to the sky, while others lived in their cars or pitched tents under a cluster of oak trees in the hollow.

"This was a long, long time ago," he says, "back in the time when on Saturday nights

in Mendota, Firebaugh, Madera and nearby rural villages there were more than a thousand cotton pickers on the streets on Saturday night. Those old and all-but-forgotten villages were really booming then, but nowadays they've deteriorated to perhaps a filling station and a grocery store owned by an Indian fellow who cashes checks for farm workers who buy necessities.

"And I recall going to barn dances in the mows of cow barns that were new then, and a pickup band of piano, drums, saxophone and banjo playing polkas and old-time waltzes and at 2 in the morning we took up a collection for them to continue playing until dawn," he recalls. "Indeed, I met my wife while dancing with her at a barn dance and basket social while the band was playing an old-time waltz. I bought her basket and we had midnight supper together.

"And in those olden days we had Sunday gatherings down at the river, men pitching horseshoes, dozens of kids at play and womenfolks exchanging recipes and local gossip. Well, the Missus and I never thought of leaving the old farmstead until we were hauled off to Shady Oaks for Older Folks or the Grim Reaper made a call to our bailiwick. Nor in our wildest dreams visualized the city would so insidiously encroach this far into the countryside, all the

way to Avenue 12 and beyond. I mean back in our day, there were times when we would have been indeed fortunate to sell open land out here for a relatively few thousand dollars if we could sell it at all. But the time has come that we can no longer even afford to live on it. We realized that not long ago when a big billboard went up on a pasture in our bailiwick alongside Highway 41:

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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner



I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! What is better than a freezer of homemade ice cream on a hot summer evening?

I remember when we were young we had a hand-crank ice cream maker. We kids would have to sit on the freezer so that it would stay in one place while they were cranking the handle. Daddy would put a folded blanket on it for us to sit on, but we would still gripe that our butts were getting cold. But we loved it. The ice cream always started out vanilla, but if there were fresh peaches or strawberries they were crushed and sweetened. Then when the ice cream was almost done, he would take the lid off and take some of the ice cream out and put the fruit in, and finish cranking until it just wouldn't crank any more. Of course we always got to eat the ice cream he took out, then when it was done, he would take the paddle out and "pack it" until it was ready to eat. He would fold up a piece of wax paper to fit over the top of the canister then put the lid back on, this way the ice and salt couldn't get into the ice cream. Then he'd drain off

all the water and repack it with lots of ice and more salt and cover it with a gunny sack and the blanket that was used for our seat. Then we would have to wait. Have you ever had to wait for the mailman to bring you that package you ordered two weeks ago? Or even Christmas or your birthday? That was what it was like waiting for the ice cream to be ready to eat.

When I got older and was doing some of the kitchen chores, mama would let me make the ice cream mix. I remember it was 10 eggs, beaten until light colored, adding 3 cups of sugar, a half teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour this mixture into the canister, and add a can of evaporated milk and enough whole milk to come up to the line on the canister. Then as I got older, and began to hear about eating raw eggs, I started making a custard. I would beat the eggs, adding the sugar, salt and vanilla. Heating the milk (at this time, I started using some half & half in place of the whole milk) until it just comes to a bubble (don't boil it) and add some of the milk to the egg mixture, beating

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! What is better than a freezer of homemade ice cream on a hot summer evening?

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 13

AVE 12 cont. from P. 2

pro's and con's of each device along with a visual photo of each device. Participants were asked to select any devices they felt would suit the Avenue 12 plan. For example, traffic circles (also known as a turnabout): the pros were that it "... moderates speed and improves safety." The cons were listed as "... difficult for emergency vehicles and loss of on-street parking."

The results from these exercises will be totaled and studied to see how they can be implemented into our community.

There are a number of County projects currently involving the Madera Ranchos and Avenue 12. Those projects include:

The Southeast Madera County Area Plan (which will begin later this year)

The planning area covers the entire region surrounding the Ranchos, from Highway 41 in the east, to the Santa Fe railway in the

west; the San Joaquin River in the south, and portions of the Bonadelle Ranchos in the north (35,000 acres).

The Area Plan is a response to development pressure around the Ranchos and Avenue 12, including 7,000 acres in proposed development. The Plan will ensure the planning for the area is done in an efficient and comprehensive manner.

Avenue 12 Sidewalk and Striping Improvements (which will be initiated within the coming year)

The project will be conducted by the County Road Department and includes sidewalk improvements to both sides of Avenue 12 from Road 36 to Road 37. The same stretch of Avenue 12 will also be restriped to accommodate two lanes of traffic, plus a left turn lane. The project is funded through State Proposition 1B.

The Madera Ranchos Avenue 12 Enhancement Plan

This plan will focus community driven planning efforts on the stretch of Avenue 12 from Road 36 to Road 38.

Meetings were held at various locations in the Ranchos beginning in the Winter of 2008 through the Spring of 2009 concerning the Avenue 12/Madera Ranchos Bypass. By the final meeting this past April, the majority of participants favored an Avenue 12 bypass, rather than widening Avenue 12 to four or six lanes. There are currently three bypass alignment options.

The project assumes that the bypass will relieve the Ranchos of regional traffic impacts in the future. The project is made possible through a \$147,813 grant from Caltrans in order to achieve land use and transportation planning that is based on community values.

There is one more "Visioning Workshop" which will be held Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Liberty High School Cafeteria. At the conclusion of that meeting, which

will have been the third Visioning Workshop, the subsequent Enhancement Plan will be broken down into three parts:

Additional Visioning Community Workshops (July 2009 – October 2009) To inform and develop the look and feel of the project.

Transportation Plan (July 2009 – September 2010) Extensive traffic studies to address traffic issues.

Corridor Redesign (April 2010 – September 2010).

For more information on the above mentioned planning projects, you may find the "Madera Ranchos" and "Southeast Madera County Plan Area" sections at www.madera-county.com/rma/planningdept/planning_dept_docs.html.

Watch your mailbox and your newspaper for more information. This project will change the face of the Madera Ranchos and we want everyone to have input into the decisions being made in our community.

An Open Letter from Your Area Firefighters

Dear Friends,

Your Volunteer Firefighters need you to attend our fundraising dinner, auction and dance, Saturday, Aug. 15. This year we are moving to a new location, the Borba's Rancho Vista del Rio Ranch on the west side of Highway 99 just south of Avenue 7. This beautiful horse ranch sits on the Madera side of the San Joaquin River and it is home to some of the best fundraising events in the valley.

Last August, we had a great fundraising event. We wish to thank our host Jim Cobb for the use of his ranch. Our chairperson, Debbie Farr, has worked long hours to make sure that this year's event will be even better than last year. All we need is you and your friends to attend. We feed 550 folks a great dinner in just 30 minutes.

The dessert auction and the live and silent auctions all went well last year. As you know, the silent and live auctions are the real money makers for us. We will have the dessert auction again along with other fun-filled events. This evening will have great food, a lot of live and silent auction items to take home with you and just a good old-fashioned time to enjoy with your friends. Your MC this year will be Monte Pistorresi.

Your generous financial support in the past has paid for the following: we sent four of our Volunteer Firefighters to a three day Auto Extraction class in Clovis at a cost of \$1,250. One of the newer rescue tools that was used in the class is now a part of our Rescue Squad at a cost of \$447. We have converted our old water tender building into a new training room for use by our folks and it will also be available for use by small community groups. The remodel cost \$35,000. The above items, plus other firefighting, rescue and safety tools, are all made possible by the funds raised at this event.

We hope to see you and your friends on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Your Volunteer Firefighters.

PS: Thank you for a FIRE SAFE 4th of July!!!

Volunteer Firefighters Honored

Volunteer Firefighter Don Chase received a big thank you from Madera County Supervisor Frank Bigelow for his 30 years of service with the Station 19 Volunteer Fire Company. Don is a long-time Ranchos resident. He was a pioneer in the business community when he opened the first small grocery store in the Ranchos on Avenue 12. Over his 30 years of service, Don has been our "Jack of all trades" and when something breaks, he gets it fixed. Don is now our Number 1 water tender driver and day or night, he brings 4,000 gallons



of water to the fire scene. Don was presented his 30 year pin and a Fire Department watch at a recent Madera County Volunteer Firefighters luncheon. When not behind the wheel of his big red truck, he and his charming wife, Jo Anne, can be found on a golf course. A big "thank you" to Don for all the time he donates to the Fire Department and this community. You can say "hi" to Don on Aug. 15 at the 24th Annual Firefighters' BBQ Dinner, Dance and Auction at the Borba's Rancho Vista del Rio on Highway 99 at Avenue 7.

Volunteer Firefighter Bill Morrison, or Mr. Bill as he is known, stands on the corner of Avenue 12 and Road 36 collecting money for "Fill the Boot," the annual Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser. This year, members of your local volunteer and paid firefighters stood at two intersections in



the Ranchos and the 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. collection drives were outstanding. The Ranchos folks filled the big rubber fire boots to the tune of \$2,500. The money collected in this drive funds ongoing programs of patient care and research. A big thanks to all who helped "Fill the Boot."

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RECIPES cont. from P. 11

all the time to avoid having scrambled eggs, then add this mixture back into the milk. Be sure to cool this mixture before putting into the canister to freeze and crank until it's done.

In later years, I remember not using as much sugar but would add a large package of instant vanilla pudding to the mix. After my brother got out of high school and went to work he bought an electric ice cream maker. It was a heck of a lot easier, but on the down side, it just didn't make the ice cream as hard as the old crank method.

As a "Reminisce" moment: Do any of you remember before crushed ice in a bag? We went to the ice house and would put a couple of quarters in the slot and this big block of ice would come out that had a strong twine wrapped around it for carrying. We would bring this block home and put it in a galvanized tub and start chipping it with an ice pick.

Randy's youngest brother Adam (the pie maker) made a freezer of ice cream for us for the fourth of July. It was delicious and I asked him for his recipe for a four quart freezer:

Homemade Ice Cream

2 C Whole Milk
1¾ C Sugar
½ tsp Salt
1½ T Vanilla
2 C Half & Half
4 C Whipping Cream

Put the milk in a pan to heat just to the scald stage. DO NOT BOIL! After the milk is hot, remove from heat and add the sugar and salt, stirring until dissolved. Add the vanilla and the two creams and put the mixture in the refrigerator until it cools. After it is cool, put it in the canister and freeze according to your freezer's directions.

I love sherbet – pineapple is one of my favorites. When we were all still at home I

would make pineapple sherbet as often as I could. I made it so often; I knew the recipe by heart. There were seven of us, so I would always double the recipe – hope you like it too:

Pineapple Sherbet

½ C pineapple juice
(canned)
1 T lemon juice
⅔ C sugar
2 C cold milk

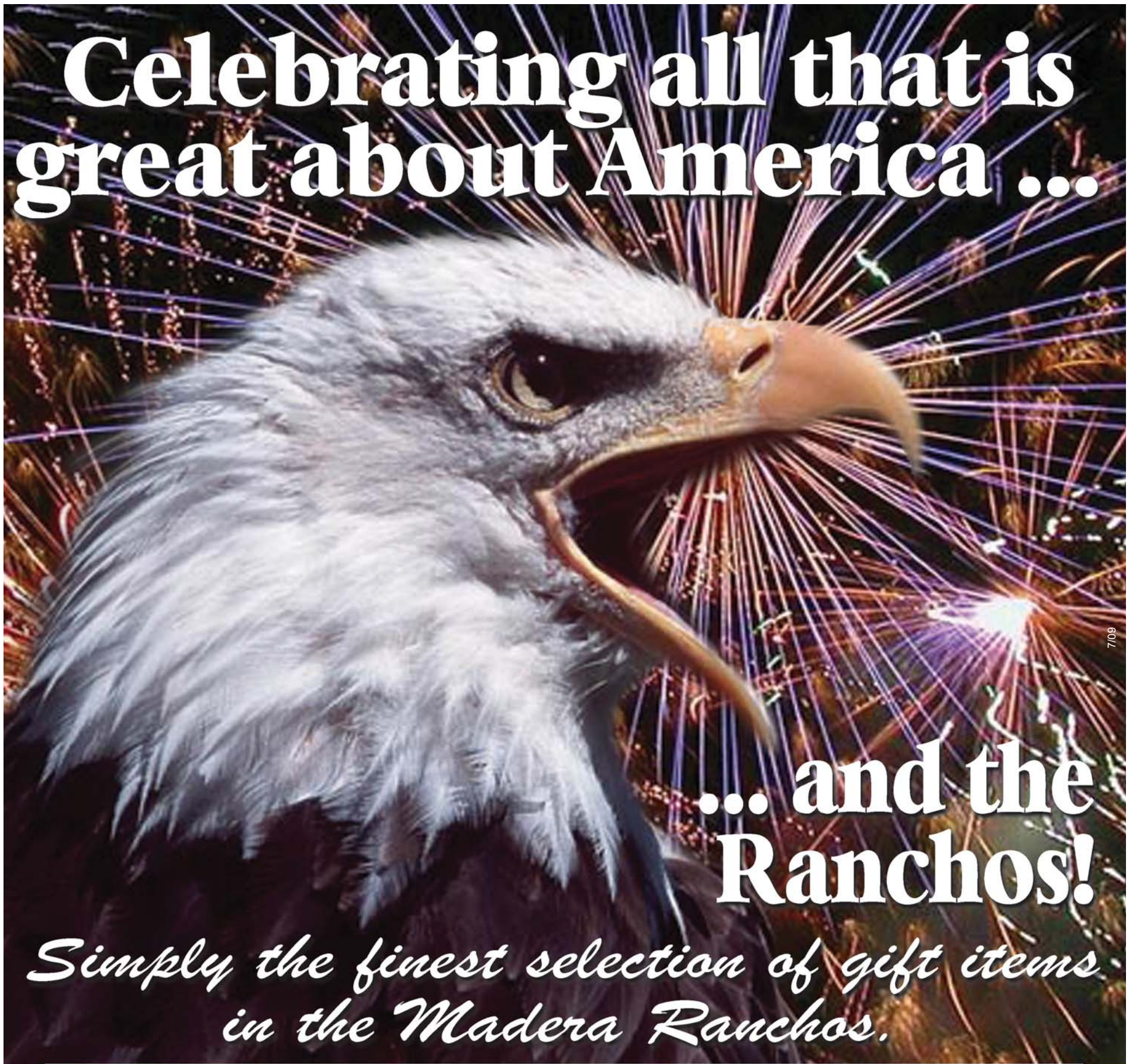
Combine the pineapple juice, lemon juice and sugar, mixing to be sure sugar is dissolved. Put in refrigerator until it is cold. Pour this cold mixture into the cold milk – NEVER pour the milk into the juices or you will have one curdled mess! Pour into a shallow pan and put in freezer. Just before it is frozen solid, use a fork to stir it up then put back in freezer to freeze solid. When frozen, turn into a mixing bowl and beat lightly with a mixer. Return to pan and freeze until frozen.

Ice cream is always good eaten by itself, but if you want to make some cookies, I have a recipe for you. One of our readers Linda Autry sent me this recipe. She said she wishes she could take credit for developing the recipe but she couldn't, she got it off the TV from the Paula Deen Show. Regardless of where it came from, it still sounds OOEY GOOEY! She went on to say she took a platter of the cookies to a graduation party and the teenagers gave her a sitting ovation. Enjoy.

Chocolate Goopy Butter Cookies

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, room temperature
1 stick butter, room temperature
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
1 box moist dark chocolate cake mix
Confectioner's sugar

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 15



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RECIPES cont. from P. 13

In a large bowl with an electric mixer; cream the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in the egg, the vanilla, then the cake mix. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or more to firm up so you can roll the batter into balls. Refrigerate overnight is best! Roll the chilled batter into tablespoon-sized balls and then roll them in confectioner's sugar. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet, 2 inches apart and bake for 12 minutes. Let them sit on the cookie sheet for 15 minutes until they are completely cool. These cookies will remain soft and gooey, if they last that long! Linda said a lemon, spice or any flavor moist cake mix can be used instead of chocolate.

For those of you that make a lot of cookies and use the teaspoon or tablespoon method to drop your cookies on the cookie sheets, if you haven't done so yet,

have you considered investing in an ice cream scoop? The old-fashioned kind with the thumb release. My mom had four or five of them – all the way from a tiny one, about the size of a melon baller, to a large one, the size for meat balls. She used them for lots of things – her Martha Washington candy, all sizes of cookies and making even-sized hamburgers. I don't know how expensive they are now, but you might want to look into them. I found many to choose from online, just search for “portion scoops.”

Linda Manter sent me two recipes for soup that sounded absolutely delicious. I wanted to include one of them in this article but I have run out of space. I promise to use them in next month's article.

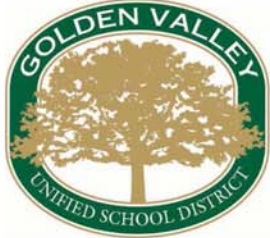
I sincerely want to thank all the contributors. As I've said in each article, THIS ARTICLE IS FOR AND ABOUT YOU – NOT OUR FAMILY. Until next month – Aunt Jean.



EXCELERATE!
 THEY WERE FOUND TO BE TEN TIMES BETTER... DANIEL 1/20

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Golden Valley Unified School District
Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

Ahh ... the summer months, the time of the year to tackle our “to do” list, to become more involved in recreational activities, to travel and to catch up on recreational reading. Summer is also the time that Golden Valley Unified is gearing up for the new school year. We will hit the ground running the first week in August with the Golden Valley Unified Management Charge Session at Scout Island in Fresno on Aug. 3, followed by the new Ranchos Middle School Ribbon-cutting Ceremony and

Recharging Batteries for Golden Valley’s New Year

GVUSD 10-year Anniversary Celebration on Aug. 4, followed by the high school and middle school pre-registration days on Aug. 5 and 6. School employees return to work on Aug. 10 to prepare their rooms for their newest group of students. All staff will participate in a half day district inservice on Aug. 12 and we will welcome our students back to an exciting 2009-10 school year on Aug. 13.

So where did the summer go? Hopefully, our students, staff and families spent some quality time recharging their batteries and enjoying some rest and relaxation. July is typically the month that I am planning for the new school year with the logistical back to school planning in areas, such as, registration, bus schedules and back to school meetings for staff. It is also the month that I am reflecting on what we accomplished in terms of our district Strategic Plan goals from the previous year and redefining new goals to prepare for the State of the District for the upcoming year. I also value the importance of recharging my batteries mentally and physically. As a life-long learner, I am committed to growing personally and professionally by traveling the path of continual improvement and excellence. I recharged my batteries this summer by spending time with my family, time at home entertaining extended family and

friends, and time diving into my favorite books. In addition to the reading recreational books by one of my favorite fictional authors, Michael Crichton, I discovered a new motivational and inspirational author by the name of Jon Gordon.

The books, *The Energy Bus* and *Training Camp – A Fable About Excellence* by Jon Gordon were two excellent quick reads that definitely charged my batteries and provided me new ways to create positive energy within our organization and to discover what “... the best do better than everyone else.” *The Energy Bus* provides an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment at work and at home. No one goes through life untested and the answer to these tests is positive energy – the kind of positive energy that consists of the vision, trust, optimism, enthusiasm, purpose, and spirit that defines great leaders and their dreams.

Training Camp is based on a story of an undrafted rookie trying to make it in the NFL. He’s spent his entire life proving to the critics that a small guy with a big heart can succeed against all odds. Through this story Gordon reveals the deep truths and proven strategies that take the very best to the top, in any field. There are common

qualities and traits that the best do better than everyone else, such as maintaining a big-picture vision while taking focused action, being mentally strong, seizing the moment and inspiring excellence in the people around them.

Concepts and philosophies from both of these books will provide the foundation on which our Governing Board and staff will set our goals and priorities for the upcoming school year. Golden Valley has had a focused vision and mission for the past 10 years – becoming its own school district, passing two local school bonds, building a new state-of-the-art high school and middle school, renovating older campuses and achieving California Distinguished School status for all of its schools. We have been traveling the path of accomplishments and excellence for the past 10 years. I look forward to supporting and leading our organization onward and upward through the new school year and I am confident that the next 10 years will provide new challenges and excitement. Congratulations and many thanks to all of the founding fathers and mothers who made a dream a reality! Our batteries are charged and we are ready to go! Welcome back!

Golden Valley Unified - “Growing a District of Excellence.”

It's Back to School At Golden Valley!

On Aug. 13 students will return to class and begin a new year. It is also time to celebrate the opening of our newest facility, Ranchos Middle School. Please join our staff and community at our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and 10 Year GVUSD Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the new site on 12455 Road 35 ½ here in the Madera Ranchos.

The following information is being

provided to assist parents and students to ensure a positive start.

Liberty High School

Registration packets will be available for pick up in the front office on Aug. 3. Registration day is Aug. 6 and times are as follows:

Seniors	8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Juniors	9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sophomores	12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Freshman	2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

There will be a Freshman Parent/Student Meeting Night on Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHS Theater.

Ranchos Middle School

Registration packets will be available for pick up in the front office on Aug. 3. Registration day is Aug. 6 and

times are as follows:

8th Graders 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

7th Graders 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Back to School Night is planned for Friday, Aug. 18 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Educational Options

The Educational Options site will be relocated to the previous interim middle school site and registration packets will be available at that site on Aug. 3. Back to School Night is planned for Aug. 28.

Sierra View Elementary School Webster Elementary Schools

The Sierra View office will re-open on Aug. 3 and will have registration packets available. The

Sierra View Back to School Night is planned for Aug. 20 and Webster’s is planned for Aug. 13.

General Information

GVUSD Bus Routes will be posted on the GVUSD web site and will be included in your registration packets. Please contact your school sites for bell schedules.

Board Policies

In your registration packets and back to school information you will receive any updated information or changes to current board policies. To view any and all current policies within GVUSD please go to our website at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/Board of Trustees/Board Policies.

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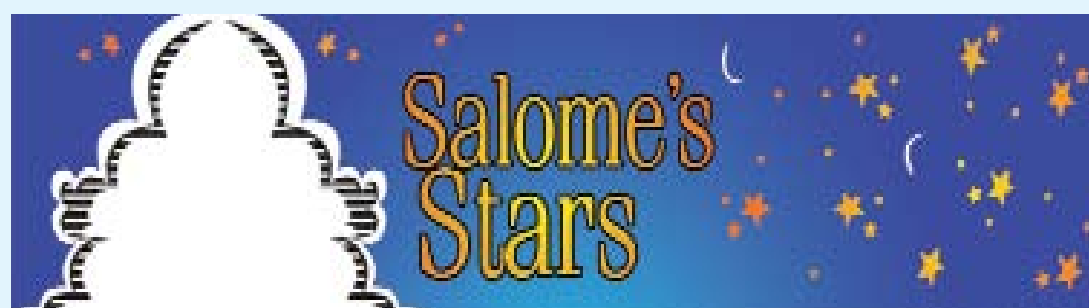
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Aries leadership qualities can help bring order out of all that confusion, whether it's on the job or in the home. But be careful to guide, not goad, others into following you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Applying a more personal view to a job-linked issue could help provide better insight into those persistent problems. Use your keen Taurean logic to cut through the double-talk.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Taking some time off could be the best way to get through that seemingly endless round of demands. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle things from a new perspective.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Restoring a sagging professional relationship takes a lot of effort. By all means, state your position. But also make sure you pay close attention to the other person's point of view.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A hot prospect intrigues the Big Cat, who is always on the prowl for a promising investment. But be careful that this "promise" has a chance of being kept. Check it out more carefully.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A friend could use some of your compassion and concern. If he or she doesn't ask for help, be sure you step up and make the first move. Also, check out a new career possibility.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might have difficulty getting your opinions heard because of all the noise being made by the other side. But hang in there. Others should line up with you once they learn the facts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Offering to help a colleague is commendable. But before you commit your time and effort, check to see if that person's situation is all that he or she has led you to believe it is.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should soon be seeing positive results from your recent efforts on behalf of a family member. On another matter, check that you have all the facts regarding a job assignment.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your aspects favor closer family relationships this week. Take time for visits, whether in person, by phone, by mail or in cyberspace. Let them know how important they are to you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A missed opportunity isn't always a negative. Maybe your instincts are telling you not to rush into something you "thought" was worthwhile. Make time for family this weekend.

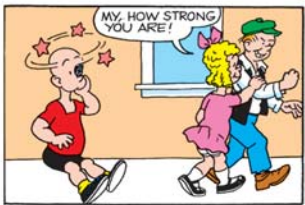
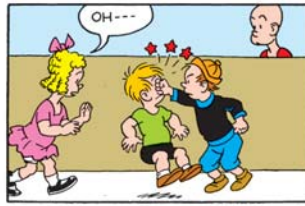
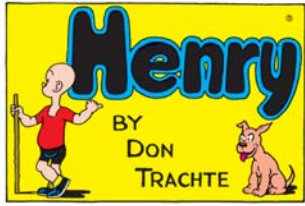
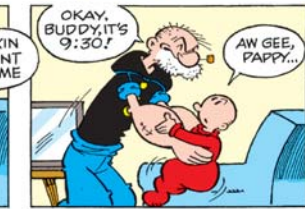
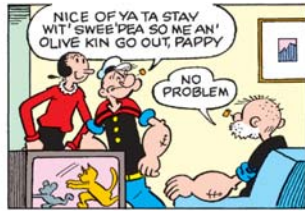
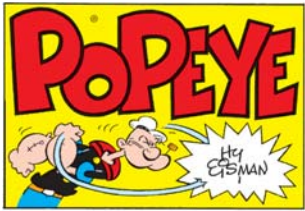
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your sense of humor helps you get through a tricky situation. But some stick-in-the-muds might not be so willing to make the changes that you and others agree are necessary.

Born this Week

You have a gift for making everyone you know -- or even just met -- feel important and welcome in your life.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



ODD MAN OUT! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counter-clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the bottom "T" in the left rail: "Two's company, three's a crowd."

A HIRAM HAYSTACK PROBLEM! If Hiram has 25 haystacks in one field, 14 in another, 9 in yet another, and 5 in his smallest field, how many haystacks would there be altogether?

Answer: If he had them altogether, he'd have one very large haystack.

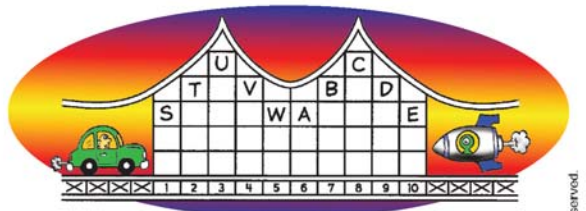
A TIGHT SQUEEZE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with BOA. Some hints are:

- BOA (in place).
- Has tusks.
- To brag.
- A straw hat.
- Summer sport.
- Type of house.

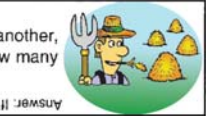
Answers: 1. Boast 2. Boat 3. Boar 4. Boater 5. Boating 6. Boarding



by Charles Barry Townsend
A WORD BRIDGE!



Illustrated by David Coulson



- BOA
- BOA
- BOA
- BOA
- BOA
- BOA

- The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus the following hints:
- How you drink hot liquids.
 - Found on new clothes.
 - Found in a Broadway theater.
 - Second to the president.
 - A type of museum.
 - A hole-in-one.
 - To cheat or swindle.
 - A monotonous, rhythmic call.
 - To show how to do something.
 - A large, flightless bird.

Answers: 1. Sip 2. Tags 3. Usher 4. Veep 5. Wax 6. Ace 7. Bilk 8. Chant 9. Demo 10. Elm

Wishing Well

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

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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MAGIC MAZE FROM WHERE WE SPEAK

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

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ambo | Pedestal | Roof tops | Stands |
| Bandstand | Platform | Rostrum | Steps |
| Dais | Podium | Soapbox | Upon high |
| Mountain top | Pulpit | Stage | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- HUMAN ANATOMY:** What is the common name for tarsi?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is the average lifespan of a housefly?
- MOVIES:** What was the name of the volleyball that became Tom Hanks' companion in "Cast Away"?
- MEASURES:** How much beer would a firkin hold?
- MYTHOLOGY:** What area of life did the Roman goddess Discordia rule?
- BIBLE:** Which of the Ten Commandments forbids thievery?
- U.S. CITIES:** What is the capital of Vermont?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the basic currency of North Korea?
- ASTROLOGY:** What is Libra's symbol?
- LITERATURE:** What famous author went by the pseudonym of "Boz"?

Answers

- Ankles
- About two to three weeks
- Wilson
- Nine gallons
- Strike or disorder
- "You shall not steal"
- Montpelier
- The won
- The scales
- Charles Dickens

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



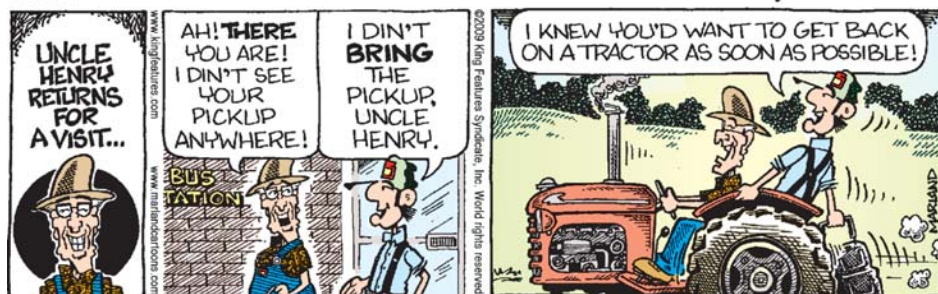
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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The Spats

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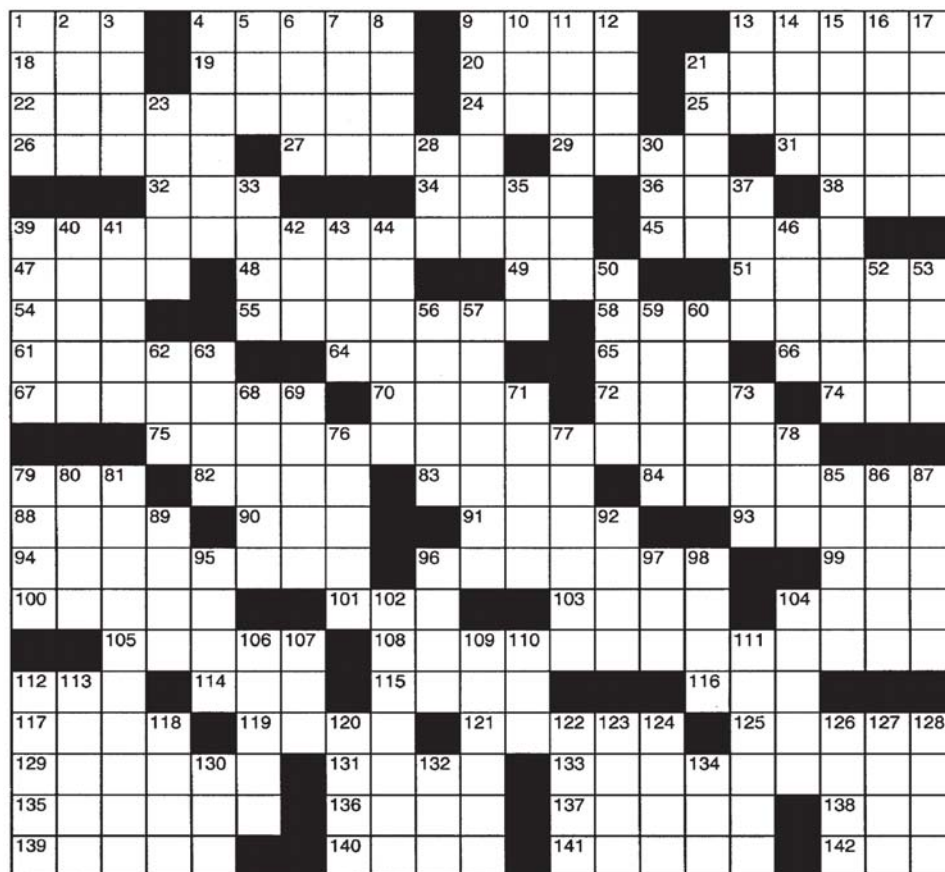
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Doll's dress has polka dots. 2. Girl's skirt has ruffle. 3. Bow is missing. 4. Boy's shirt has buttons. 5. Bag is moved. 6. Sofa leg is missing.

Super Crossword



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- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 51 "Taras Bulba" author | 99 Winter hazard | DOWN | 41 Sib's kid | 87 McCarthy's trunkmate |
| 1 Pugilistic poke | 54 Emulate Pinocchio | 100 Trattoria treat | 1 Secure spot | 42 On the — vive (alert) | 89 West. alliance |
| 4 Silenced a squeak | 55 Brandy cocktail | 101 TV chef Martin | 2 — mater | 43 Summer coif | 92 Brace |
| 9 Fuel source | 58 Protect with plastic | 103 "— Shuffle" ('77 song) | 3 Rosary part | 44 Tristan's tootsie | 95 Asta's mistress |
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FUN PAGES

WATER cont. from P. 2

garter snake, an endangered species. A recovery plan will remove the bureaucratic red tape that prevents water transfers from Northern California from moving forward.

The second amendment seeks to increase funding for the California Bay-Delta Restoration Program. It provides a \$10 million down payment on important water projects such as the Intertie and Two Gates Project as California struggles to store, move, and transfer water to the people and farms most impacted by the shortage.

Although helpful, Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) questioned whether Cardoza and Costa's efforts were too little, too late.

Radanovich spoke on the House floor during debate on the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill and applauded the amendments offered to help alleviate the San Joaquin Valley's regulatory drought but acknowledged there is still much work left to be done.

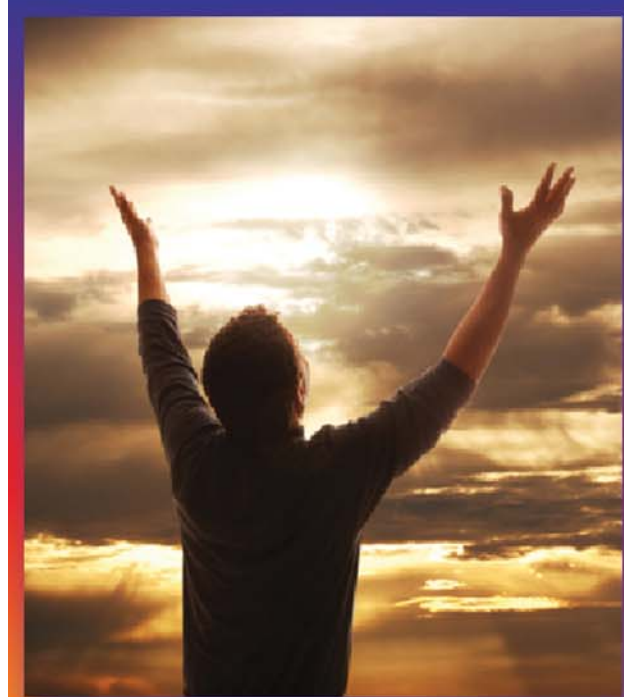
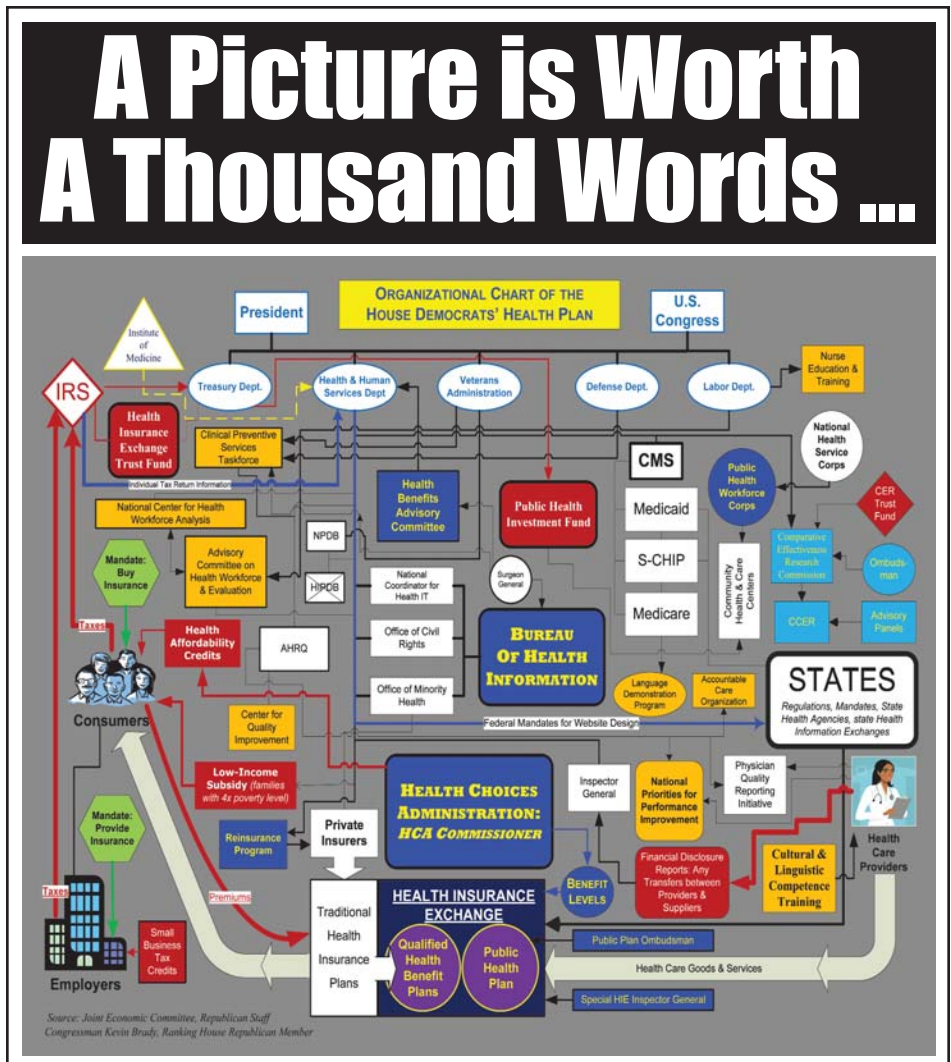
"I appreciate the amendments by

Mr. Costa and Mr. Cardoza because any action to help alleviate this man made drought is needed. Facilitating transfers of water from areas of California that have water to spare to the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley is a good start but this is just a drop in the bucket. We must have increased pumping out of the Delta.

"Temporary solutions such as the Two Gates and the Canal Intertie projects in addition to the voiding the biological opinions are necessary to keep our farmers in the San Joaquin Valley farming. These projects must be constructed and on-line by this fall in order to provide any relief to this terrible drought.

"Unfortunately, yesterday House Democrats on the Rules Committee denied consideration of three additional amendments offered by Devin Nunes (R-Tulare) that would have gone a long way to helping fix our regulatory drought.

"Solving one of the worst crises the San Joaquin Valley has ever seen should not be a partisan issue and I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to allow all solutions to our current problems to be debated and voted on by the full House."



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FIRE cont. from P. 2

emergency lights and other equipment necessary to do their firefighting job efficiently and safely have been purchased over the years as a result of the annual BBQ dinners. This year's goal is to complete a new Community Training and Meeting Room at Station 19. The structure has been completed however funds need to be raised to install a TV, computers and other technology and to furnish the room. Once completed, the room will also be available for use by community groups and individuals.

Volunteer Event Coordinator Debbie Farr says they will also be demonstrating how to go flameless with

decorating this year showing how beautiful flameless candles can be when used in centerpieces. "This thought came as the result of a recent candle fire in the Ranchos area," she said.

Station 19 has responded to 625 calls for assistance over the past year. This includes calls for medical assistance, accidents and fires within the boundaries of Highway 145 to Road 39 1/2 to the



Picture by John Glueck

The training room at Station 19 has been completed but needs to be furnished with computers, equipment and furnishings from proceeds of the 24th Annual Firefighters' BBQ.

San Joaquin River and to the Railroad tracks. Despite tremendous growth in the Madera Ranchos, staffing levels for Station 19 has not increased in over 20 years. The station is staffed with one full-time paid Fire Captain and is supplemented with approximately 25 trained volunteers. It's an understatement to say that volunteers are essential to the operation of the station. Most of these men and

women work full time jobs and have families, yet they wear pagers so they'll be able to respond to calls in often life or death situations. These volunteers are paid a flat rate of \$10 per hour or per call, just enough to cover gas and mileage if they're lucky.

For ticket information call 559-801-7703 or for tables of eight call the Chamber of Commerce at 559-645-4001 Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by Aug. No tickets will be sold at the event. If you are interested in volunteering at this event or if you have any items or services to donate to the auction, please contact Debbie at 559-801-7703.

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“Soup to Nuts” at July 4th Party

By Eleanore Burchell

A 4th of July Celebration was held at the Rancho/Hills Seniors, Inc., located at 37330 Berkshire Drive on Thursday evening, July 2 at 6 p.m. It was one of our famed potlucks, from “soup to nuts” and more food than really necessary. A drawing for our raffle was made with Jeannie Rollins winning the TV donated by Igal Treibatch. Tom Pearson won the Madera Market Shopping Spree donated by David and Lynn Hill and Ethel Pronin. June Manter won the one-night stay for two at Yosemite Gateway Inn. There were more than 60 members in attendance. Games were then played until the close of the evening at 10 p.m.

Are you being annoyed by LOUD TV ads? Normally, political events are not mentioned in this article, however, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) states, “I’ve had it with these loud advertisements. If I’m not close to my remote control to push the mute button, it practically blasts me out of the house.” Her two-page Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act would direct the Federal Communications Commission to write new rules within a year setting limits on the volume of ads. This may end up on our ballots someday so watch for it. After receiving complaints, British regulators approved similar rules last month that require broadcasters to limit the “maximum subjective loudness” of TV ads.

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please also remember that 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. We have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently, there are huge onions, zucchini, red and white potatoes, and more. Fresh corn on the cob sells quickly.

Our center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA). You are invited to come in and check with Joann about the programs which would help you.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our July celebration was held on Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m. at Black Bear Restaurant in Madera. This is located near Madera Hospital and next to the Marriott

Spring Hills Suites hotel. On Aug. 22 at 11:30 a.m., we will go to the West Shaw Sizzler in Fresno. If you want to come to eat and have some fun, you are welcome to join us. If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us, 645-4864.

Senior Thought of the Day

No one needs a smile more than a person who fails to give one.

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 and 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 at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun 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 been suspended for the summer. Card BINGO meets on Fridays, noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

Saturday, Aug. 22, 11:30 a.m., Sizzler, 3121 West Shaw, Fresno

Sept. 19, 11:30 a.m., Japanese Kitchen, Shaw at Willow, Clovis

Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m., Famesi’s, Madera

Nov. 14 11 a.m., Olive Garden, 389 East Shaw Ave., Fresno

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

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, Card BINGO, noon — 1 p.m.

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?



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Keeping Kids Safe This Summer

Family Fun in the Sun

By Chinayera Black-Hardaman

Summer is a great opportunity for families to spend quality time together. Whether it's playing in the park, hiking or building sandcastles on the beach, summer days can create memories that last a lifetime. But the hot season can also put young children at greater risk of injury.

To help parents protect their children from potential dangers, First 5 Madera County reminds parents and caregivers to always supervise young children and offers the following summer safety tips.

Be Sun Smart

A young child's skin is sensitive to the bright summer sun so be sure to avoid sunburns.

- Apply sunscreen with at least 30 SPF (sun protection factor) on your child's skin 15 minutes before going outside and apply again every two hours - especially right after your child has been in water or is sweating.
- Encourage children to play in the shade as much as possible, especially during peak sun hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Make sure your child wears lightweight clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses that offer 100 percent UV (ultraviolet) protection.
- Keep babies younger than 6 months of age out of direct sunlight.

Watch Out for Water Dangers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the second leading cause of death for children. As a parent, be water wise.

- Swim with your child in calm water without waves, and always know where the nearest life-guard is before getting in the water.
- Don't completely rely on flotation devices like life vests or floating baby seats to keep children safe; they can shift position, lose air or slip out from under a child.
- Never leave children unattended near water as kids can drown in just a few seconds, even if they know how to swim. Remember to supervise your child near bathtubs, toilets and buckets of water, too.

Survey the Playground

Kids love playing on swings and slides, but parents should first look for potential safety hazards.

- Playground equipment often warms up in the sun and can burn a child's skin. Before your child plays, touch the metal bars and surfaces to make sure they aren't too hot.
- Check playground equipment for rusted parts and loose splinters. These hazards could pinch your child's skin.
- Be careful on slides. Make sure your child holds the slide's rails when climbing the ladder or sitting at the top. Also look for split or cracked plastic that could break if your child sits on it.

Banish the Bugs

Insects can be really annoying, their bite can be painful and even dangerous sometimes. Parents can help protect their child by using insect repellants.

- Only use products that are approved for children; follow the instructions carefully and wash off the repellent once your child is back inside.
 - Avoid using scented soaps or lotions on your child because perfumes can attract insects.
 - Dress your child in light-colored clothing - it doesn't tend to attract bugs.
- First 5 Madera County encourages all parents and caregivers to learn about local resources that can help their young children. For more information, please call (559)661-5155.

Chinayera Black-Hardaman is Executive Director of First 5 Madera County.

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Madera County distributes Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

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For Rent - 4BR/2BA 2,200 sq. ft. home on Ave. 12. \$1,400 per month. **Call 999-9005.**

For Rent - Horse Property - 3BR/2 BA on 10 acres. # stall horse barn. \$1,900 per month. **Call 999-9005.**

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For Sale - USED BRICKS - Excellent condition, \$0.90/per brick. **Call John at 559-974-2117.**

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For Sale - King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Brand New in Package. Cost \$700 Sacrifice \$295. **Call 438-0248.**

Found

CD Briefcase - Rolling Hills Area. **Call to identify - 559-824-0979.**

Group Forming

A local Christian Business Group is being formed in the Ranchos. The group, made up of local business people, will meet for lunch and discuss biblical principles as they relate to modern life, specifi-

cally in the Ranchos. Lunch will be held at the Ranchos Cafe on the second Friday of each month. The first meeting will be Friday, Aug. 14 at 11:30 a.m. **For more info call Bob at 324-1144 or Randy at 645-0634.**

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by Linda Thistle

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

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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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PUBLIC NOTICE

Thank You Ranchos!

PG&E is still getting closer to selecting a path for their high-power transmission lines and the Madera Ranchos is still a PRIME LOCATION for placement of the lines.

But your participation in mailing PG&E helps.

If you didn't get a chance to SIGN A LETTER to tell the Power Company just how you feel, there are still copies of the letter available at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos.

559-363-9095
ranchos.community@gmail.com

7/09