

# The Ranchos Independent



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MADERA, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 61

May/June 2009

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



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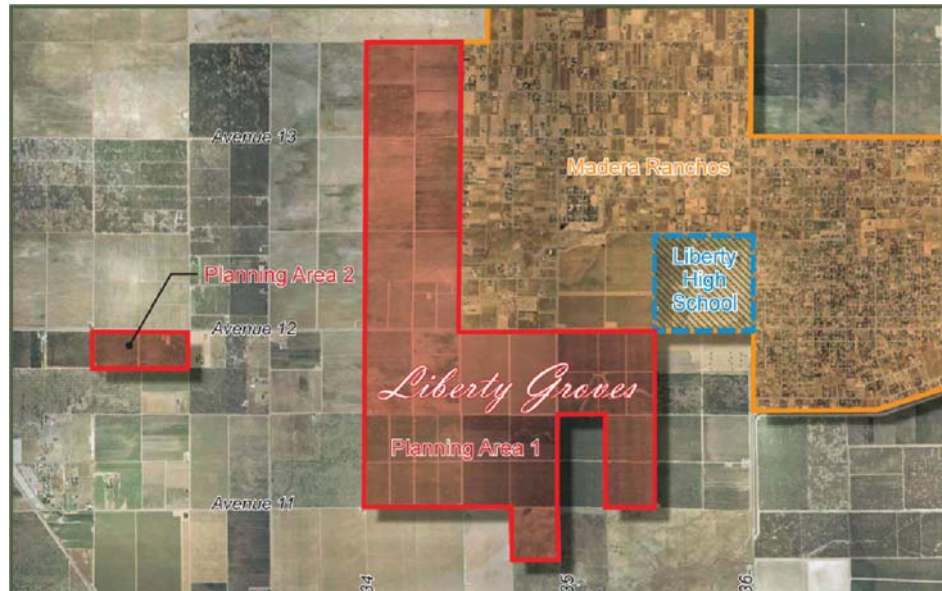
# New Development Announced for Madera Ranchos

By Randy Bailey

A new housing development called Liberty Groves is being proposed through Greenleaf Orchards, Pegasus Orchards and Silverdust and is planned for the land that at present is being farmed just west and south of Liberty High School.

A comprehensive plan for the long-range development of the 1,393 acres has begun and will comprise a master planned, mixed use community. The developers say that Liberty Groves will serve as a logical expansion of the Madera Ranchos community and will have a guiding plan that will ensure that Liberty Groves is unique in providing a sense of community for its residents, visitors and the surrounding neighbors.

A preliminary project application has been submitted to the County to start the multiple year entitlement process, however, they have engaged experts in land planning, infrastructure, water resources, transportation and natural resources. This team is hoping to develop a creative and sustainable plan for our community, respecting neighbors and the heritage of the Madera Ranchos. The developers are asking the community to become engaged in a dia-



logue throughout the process to ensure transparency.

Madera County has experienced significant growth, evidenced by a 40 percent increase in population between 1990 and 2000, compared to 14 percent for all of California. This has required Madera County to reassess its future.

The development partners have farmed in the Madera Ranchos area for over 20 years and the local residents and businesses

are their long-time neighbors, to whom they have expressed a deep commitment.

“We have a vested interest in this community and therefore share a common desire to preserve its well-being,” said Igal Treibatch, one of the partners.

Due to the length of time a project like this involves, the developers will still be planting trees and anticipate farming the

Please see **HOUSING** on P. 14

# Three Dedicated Ranchos Women Hit 1,000th Workout



Working hard for 1,000 workouts at the Ranchos Curves are (from left) Michele Hodgson, Marcella Weed and Joan Forester. They were recognized with a party and their very exclusive T-shirts.

By Randy Bailey

A milestone has been reached in the Ranchos by three hard-working women who are members of Curves fitness center located in the Maywood Center. Michele Hodgson, Marcella Weed and Joan Forester have all just completed their 1,000th workout at the Ranchos location at

37167 Ave. 12 #4A.

“They are the only three in the Ranchos to ever reach this point,” said Jennifer Romine, owner of Curves.

As anyone who’s ever made a New Year’s resolution knows, most people sign up for about one year and then stop going, but Michele and Marcella signed up in the summer of 2002 and

Joan joined them in December of 2003 and all three have been exercising ever since.

Curves has a unique 30-minute workout program that mixes cardio with strength training, negating the need to go to the gym for hours at a time.

“Their accomplishment equals about three workouts a week for all the years they’ve been coming here,” Romine said.

In addition to exercising, the Ranchos Curves has also gotten involved in helping out the community. In March, Romine said the ladies at Curves collected nearly 500 lbs. of food for a food drive.

Sadly, Romine is in the process of looking for a new owner for her business. Outside concerns are pulling her in too many directions, she said.

“I’m not desperate to sell,” she said. “There are good days and then there are bad days.” The demands of family are putting the most pressure on Romine. “I love the work, I just don’t want to run the business part.” She said further she would even be happy to run the place if someone else would just take care of the business side.

She assured the ladies that she will not close prior to selling Curves.

# Water Without Borders Update

By Igal Treibatch

You may remember we sponsored a visit by a group of water-related scientists and engineers from Israel to the Central Valley in March. Many of you had the chance to meet and hear from them and other local experts at the Town Hall meeting that took place at the Liberty High School auditorium on March 19.

The main point of bringing the Israelis to the Valley was to establish a working relationship that will allow for an exchange of knowledge, experience and technology and to find projects of common interest to work on. To help the Israelis understand the Valley’s problems and challenges, we travelled to visit areas which manifest the type of prevailing problems in the Valley so the delegation can assess the conditions here and meet with our own experts.

We did not look just at problems, we visited cutting-edge projects such as the joint project of the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District, which filters and treats sewage and returns it to the groundwater aquifer where it can be later pumped out as drinking water.

We ended our visit in Sacramento, meeting with several Assembly members who sit on water-related committees, including Mike Villines, and had some frank discussion about the observations of the visitors.

One of the most striking facts that came out of this visit:

- In the U.S. we “reuse” LESS THAN 2 percent of our current water.
- As number one in the world, Israel, due to their advanced technology, “reuse” OVER 75 percent of their water.
- Within 5 to 10 years, virtually all of Israel’s drinking water supplies will come from desalination, either of sea water or of brackish (mineral and salt laden) groundwater.

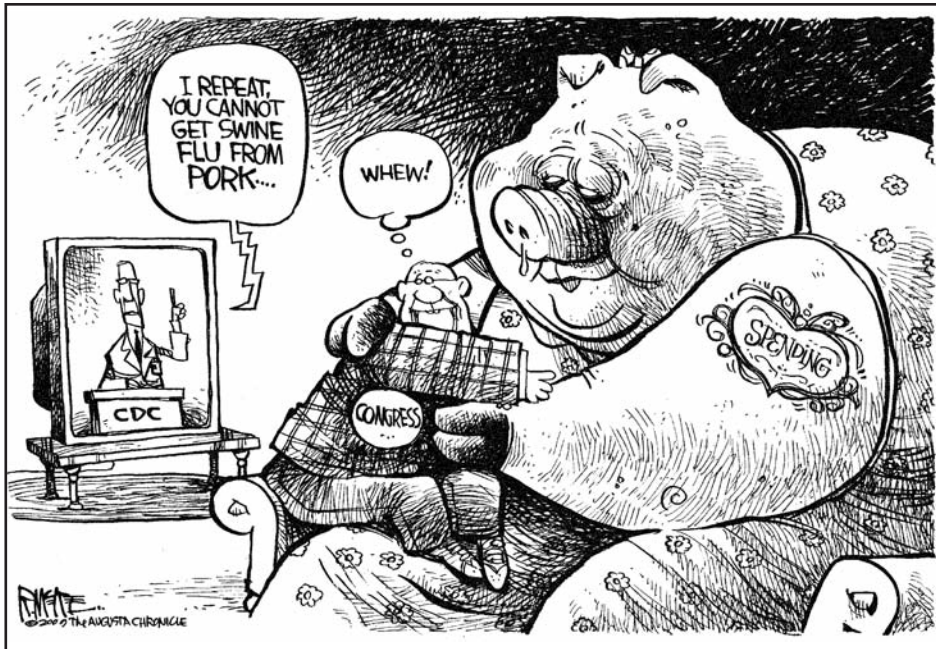
The visitors, who represent Mekorot, the Israeli national water company, invited our experts and politicians to a reciprocal visit in Israel so our people can assess for themselves the conditions, challenges and solutions found by the Israelis and thereafter decide how to proceed with enhancing the relationship.

Several of us, will be traveling to Israel in mid-June. We will tour a number of the Israeli water supply and treatment facilities, and have the opportunity to meet with experts in all aspects of water supply, groundwater recharge, irrigation and most importantly “management.” Our delegation will include staff from the California Water Institute at Fresno State, a representative from Assembly member Mike Villines’ office, a member of the Regional

Please see **WATER** on P. 27

**SEE FLATLANDERS DAY PICTURES ON PAGE 9!**

Click on “Local News” at



**Editorial**

**The Silence of the Lambs**

By J.B. Williams

After trillions in taxpayer debt has been foolishly poured into the bottomless black hole of leftist wealth redistribution programs under the guise of economic “stimulus” or “stabilization” legislation, the new “ONE World” government running Washington DC announces: “Geithner, Bernanke Call for New Wind-Down Powers After AIG” ... and the people still sit silent as they watch “Obamanation” grow in unbridled power.

Geithner asks Congress for even broader power to seize private firms as the average American stumbles through their daily routine as if nothing is happening. Canada Free Press managing editor Judi McLeod writes, “No cheerleader for propping up greenback at G20 summit,” asking, “Is the table being set for One World Government rather than speeding the recovery of the worldwide recession at next week’s G20 London summit?”

Obamanation has taken the nation from a trillion in debt to over \$4 trillion in debt in the first 60 days, with even more federal spending promised, which could put the nation \$10 trillion in debt before the 2010 mid-term election cycle. Amnesty for illegals and ACORN-

led redistricting will make 2010 and beyond a moot point.

Still, beyond the movement to mail tea bags to members of congress or file another legal demand for proof of Obama’s constitutional eligibility for the office he holds, both of which are like whistling in the breeze, the people remain largely silent.

**Threatened with a Soup Line Existence**

The American people would never trade personal freedom for the false promise of federally redistributed free-stuff under some ill-fated socialist experiment, unless they were first threatened with a soup line existence.

And so it shall be...

Fifty percent of their life savings and 30 percent of their home values have already evaporated into thin air. National unemployment is driving toward double digits as home foreclosures continue to mount.

With their backs against the wall, confused by a daily diet of media-manipulated headlines aimed at scaring the public into submission, convinced that our nation’s complex woes demand a solution far too complicated for the average peasant to comprehend, the people find themselves in a state of terminal paralysis.

**Incompetent Evil in Charge**

The same people responsible for the many disasters now surrounding every American household were elected in 2006 and 2008 to fix what they broke. Instead of reversing course and placing their faith in the principles of freedom, they are installing more of the same failed entitlement policies that created the problem and they are doing so at a fever pace.

The folks currently in charge of the nation don’t like anything at all about the nation that once was. They have a very different vision for America, one based on redistribution of free-stuff, not equal access to freedom.

At the foundation of personal freedom is the right to make your

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 26

**The Ranchos Independent**

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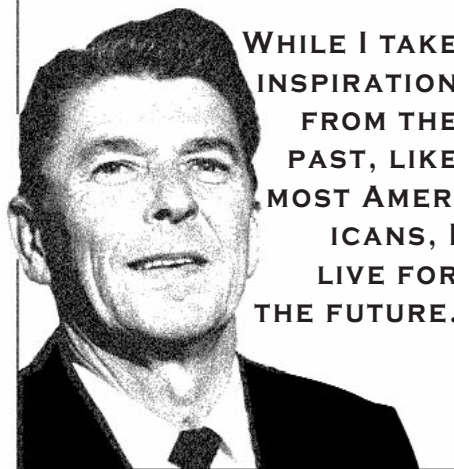
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# U.S. Capitalism Gone with a Whimper

*Editor's Note: This article appeared in Pravda Online, a remnant of Russia's original official newspaper. An interesting take from a country that knows what socialism, communism and Marxism looks like up close and personal.*

By Stanislav Mishin

It must be said that like the breaking of a great dam, the American descent into Marxism is happening with breathtaking speed, against the backdrop of a passive, hapless sheeple, excuse me dear reader, I meant people.

True, the situation has been well prepared on and off for the past century, especially the past 20 years. The initial testing grounds were conducted upon our Holy Russia and a bloody test it was. But we Russians would not just roll over and give up our freedoms and our souls, no matter how much money Wall Street poured into the fists of the Marxists.

Those lessons were taken and used to properly prepare the American populace for the surrender of their freedoms and souls, to the whims of their elites and betters.

First, the population was dumbed down through a politicized and substandard education system based on pop culture rather than the classics. Americans know more about their favorite TV dramas than the drama in DC that directly affects their lives. They care more for their "right" to choke down a McDonald's burger or a Burger King burger than for their constitutional rights. Then they turn around and lecture us about our rights and about our "democracy." Pride blinds the foolish.

Then their faith in God was de-

stroyed until their churches, all tens of thousands of different "branches and denominations," were for the most part little more than Sunday circuses and their televangelists and top protestant mega-preachers were more than happy to sell out their souls and flocks to be on the "winning" side of one pseudo-Marxist politician or another. Their flocks may complain but when explained that they would be on the "winning" side, their flocks were ever so quick to reject Christ in hopes for earthly power. Even our Holy Orthodox churches are scandalously liberalized in America.

The final collapse has come with the election of Barack Obama. His speed in the past three months has been truly impressive. His spending and money printing has been a record setter, not just in America's short history but in the world. If this keeps up for more than another year, and there is no sign that it will not, America at best will resemble the Wiemar Republic and at worst Zimbabwe.

These past two weeks have been the most breathtaking of all. First came the announcement of a planned redesign of the American Byzantine tax system, by the very thieves who used it to bankroll their thefts, loses and swindles of hundreds of billions of dollars. These make our Russian oligarchs look like little more than ordinary street thugs in comparison. Yes, the Americans have beat our own thieves in the sheer volumes. Should we congratulate them?

These men, of course, are not an elected panel but made up of appointees picked from the very financial oligarchs and their henchmen who are now gorging

Please see WHIMPER on P. 7

## THE D.O.G. HOUSE

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First off the commercial: July 4, 2009 there will be a **TEA Party at the Tulare Ag Expo grounds.** Info at

[www.CentralValleyTeaParty.com](http://www.CentralValleyTeaParty.com). Now the disclaimer: Yes it is a conservative movement. No, I do not agree with everything everybody involved stands for or advocates, BUT the concept of Taxed Enough Already Party I am behind 100 percent.

### California High Speed Rail

I saw on the news this week the new plan for the high speed rail will be to take care of the Bay Area and LA and Connect the Valley sometime in the future. (THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL)

The maintenance facility in Madera County just disappeared as again we get the shaft and the high density areas get the elevator ride. (Maybe Madera and Chowchilla Cities can understand how unincorporated areas of the county feel when we get the shaft.)

They needed our votes to pass the bond. It comes down to integrity, and holding folks accountable for their words. I am getting a bit tired of the old bait and switch. As we are being courted for our votes we hear one story but when the issues passes or they are elected, WE THE PEOPLE fail in our job of holding them accountable. When LA and the Bay Area have their rail systems in and running how many of their residents will vote for the next bond to build the Valley portion?

### On to Tuesday's Board Meeting for June 2nd

Recently the order of the agenda was changed. Supervisor and staff reports were moved up in front of closed session items. It sounded like a great idea at the time but now I am wondering if they shouldn't have gone even farther with the move. As the meeting begins there is often a packed house. Lots of citizens and staff waiting for their item to be heard. As the day progresses the crowd dwindles to a very few. Why not have the Supervisor's and staff reports just after the flag salute? After all the idea is to disseminate information to the public - why not do it when they have the biggest audience?

### Item 5: Quarterly Report by Water Advisory Commission Chairman Ed McIntyre on activities of the Water Advisory Commission. (09600)

I am hopeful we can finally have an open and honest debate about what the Water Commission is allowed to do and what they are doing and have a discussion about what the new Integrated Water Management Group will have the authority to do and who will be represented by the members.

**My concerns are:** In the instance of the subcommittee to form/create/develop, the name of the subcommittee has been changed several times in an effort to split some legal hairs. When "We the People" spoke to our Board of Supervisors during the creation of the Water Advisory Commission, they seemed to listen. The Water Advisory Commission (WAC) morphed from a 13-person panel heavily favoring special interests of the water purveyors in the Valley to a five-member panel representing the entire county. One provision stressed over and over was the absolute limitation holding the WAC's power/authority and mission to advising the Board of Supervisors. As I understand it, when the subcommittee's activities are complete they will have created the Integrated Water Management Group. The IRWPG at this point in the process is slated to have the authority to: 1) Amend the Integrated Water Management Plan covering all areas and citizens of Madera County; 2) Create a priority list of and be the only avenue to apply for grants through the Department of Water Resources, the tax dollars collected from all areas and citizens of Madera County.

And in one version of the proposed Memo Of Understanding the panel was proposed to have 13 members with the majority being from groups representing special interests of the water purveyors in the Valley.



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

*The Stock Report*

**Being Grand Marshal Suits Her Fine**

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
 Hello from the 2009 Grand Marshal of the Flatlanders Day Parade. I had a wonderful time riding in the gold 1985 Chrysler La Barron convertible owned and driven by George Hagler. People have told me that this year's parade was the best ever. If you were not part of the parade, which is a true showcase of our community, start planning to build a float for next year's Flatlanders Day Parade. It will be year 20 for the parade. There were 32 trophies given out this year plus the plaques given to all of the motorcycle riders who paid their entry fee and rode in the parade. There were some beautiful motorcycles in the contest after the parade. Maybe more riders will enter next year. There are some really nice motorcycles in this community.

I didn't have a clue what a Grand Marshal was supposed to do. After I was chosen by the Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Vick asked me to write a short biography of my accomplishments. I will share with you what I wrote. My name is Audrey Stock. I have lived in the Madera Ranchos for 21 years. I am a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. I am a retired Fresno Unified school teacher. When I retired in 1996 I became involved with five young businessmen from the Madera Ranchos who were interested in building a high school in the Ranchos. We worked as a team for three years to separate the Golden Valley Unified area from the Madera Unified School District. I worked on two school bond committees so that we could build Liberty High and the Ranchos Middle School and repair our two Elementary Schools. I served two 4-year terms on the Golden Valley Unified School Board. I am proud to say that Liberty High, Ranchos Middle School, both Webster and Sierra Elementary are all California Distinguished Schools. I am currently serving on the Golden Valley Unified Bond Oversight Committee and serve as the historian for the Foundation for the Golden Valley Schools.

I am the past president of the Ranchos Hills Seniors and I currently lead the Senior exercise class three days a week at the Senior Center. I also am the chairman of the Senior Treasure House monthly sale. I represent the Ranchos Hills Seniors on the local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. I was honored by the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos as Community Service Person of the Year in 2003. In 2005 I was honored as the Madera County Volunteer of the Year.

I have been a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for 49 years and past president of BSP Fresno County Council Sorority. I have been a member of California Retired Teachers Association for 13 years. Last but not least I have written "The Stock Report" for the Ranchos Independent for 13 years. I started writing for the Ranchos Independent when it was operated by Bill Bell. I can now add to my resume that I was chosen by the

*I can now add to my resume that I was chosen by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce to be the Grand Marshal of the 2009 Flatlander's Parade. I loved the experience!*

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce to be the Grand Marshal of the 2009 Flatlander's Parade. I loved the experience!

There are just a few days left before graduation and promotion from all Golden Valley Unified schools. Dr. Jim Green's Education Options senior graduation was held on June 3 at 6 p.m. at the Sierra View Multi-Purpose Room. Liberty High senior graduation will be June 4, 2009. The time will be 6 p.m. and the graduation will be held on the lawn behind the Library/Administration building. Sober Grad Actives will follow the graduation ceremonies and is an all night event for the graduating seniors.

The Ranchos Hills Seniors had their first ever benefit bike ride. It was so successful that they are talking about doing it again next year. Our own Fred Mathes, who is only 92 years young, completed his ride. Put it on your list of things to do next year.

Next school board meetings will be held June 9 and June 23 at Liberty High library at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there. Have a careful Memorial Day weekend and don't forget Father's Day is on June 21.

# Who Today Truly Is "Worthy"?

By Bob Crabb

Few words can match the simple power of John the Baptist when he speaks about Jesus in Luke 3:16: "I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals."

What are the chances that we will ever hear any political candidate say, "I am not worthy"? How many marketing ads have you ever seen where the product was described as not being "worthy"? No one ever applies for a loan, or interviews for a job and starts the process by saying, "I am not worthy." Can you imagine trying to sell a luxury car with a sales strategy based on humility? Look at some of the past marketing slogans of luxury cars that have recently suffered such a drastic setback in standing.

"... the new measurement of greatness."

"... universal symbol of excellence."

"... World's Best Synonym for Quality!"

"It's a 'Who's Who' of the Highway!"

"More Eloquent Than Words!"

"Those who want the finest want - the Standard of the World!"

These luxury cars were the standard of greatness and the symbol of status and class. One thing that they did not advertise for was an option for humility as a desired feature.

I propose to you today that humility opens the door to accepting the Grace of God. In story after story in our book of faith, we have heard how humility brought strength out of weakness. The humility of Mary the mother of Jesus who said with an unshakable conviction, (Luke 1:38) "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to thy word."

The humility of the Son of God born as a baby in a manger and announced by angels to the shepherds, (Luke 2:12) "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,

lying in a manger."

The humility of Son of God who said, (Mat 8:20) "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

The humility of Jesus' obedience to God and the humility that comes from being betrayed by your friends when Jesus said to Peter before he was arrested, (Mark 14:37) "Simon, are you still asleep? Could you not keep awake with me for just one hour?"

The humility of human trauma and distress when Jesus said, (Mark 14:34) "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

And finally the humility of the cross with a message of Love from God himself, (Luke 23:34) "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

*It is this kind, divine humility that argues against the idea that God is some kind of bush-league pinch hitter, called upon only in emergency.*

It is this kind, divine humility that argues against the idea that God is some kind of bush-league pinch hitter, called upon only in emergency.

Humility argues against concept of self-sufficiency. Look at the disciples in Mark 9:38 when they tell Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

The disciples are so human! Where does it tell us that we are supposed to follow the disciples anywhere? Four times in Mark, Jesus says, "Follow me." Never does He say, "Follow the disciples." I wonder how the disciples tried to stop that person from casting out demons? Did they yell at him? Did they threaten to take away his bible, or did they become violent and self righteous?

Devine humility is the strength to point to Jesus and say, "I am not worthy to be followed, but Jesus is worthy. Let's follow Him together. Let's follow Him and cast out

Please see PASTOR on P. 13

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# SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT

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WHIMPER cont. from P. 4

themselves on trillions of American dollars, in one bailout after another. They are also usurping the rights, duties and powers of the American congress. Again, congress has put up little more than a whimper to their masters.

Then came Barack Obama's command that General Motor's president step down from leadership of his company. That is correct, dear reader, in the land of "pure" free markets, the American president now has the power, the self given power, to fire CEOs and we can assume other employees of private companies, at will. Come hither, go dither, the centurion commands his minions.

So it should be no surprise that the American president has followed this up with a "bold" move of declaring that he and another group of unelected, chosen stooges will now redesign the entire automotive industry and will even be the guarantee of automobile policies. I am sure that if given the chance they would happily try and redesign it for the whole of the world, too. Prime Minister Putin, less than two months ago, warned Obama and UK's Blair not to follow the path to Marxism, it only leads to disaster. Apparently, even though we suffered 70 years of this Western-sponsored horror show, we know nothing, as foolish, drunken Russians, so let our "wise" Anglo-Saxon fools find out the folly of their own pride.

Again, the American public has taken this with barely a whimper, but a "freeman" whimper.

So, should it be any surprise to discover that the Democratic controlled Congress of America is working on passing a new regulation that would give the American Treasury department the power to set "fair" maximum salaries, evaluate performance and control how private companies give out pay raises and bonuses? Senator Barney Franks, a social pervert basking in his homosexuality (of course, amongst the modern, enlightened American societal norm, as well as that of the general West, homosexuality is not only not a looked down upon life choice, but is often praised as a virtue) and his Marxist enlightenment, has led this effort. He stresses that this only affects companies that receive government monies, but it is retroactive and taken to a logical extreme, this would include any company or industry that has ever received a tax break or incentive.

The Russian owners of American companies and industries should look thoughtfully at this and the option of closing their facilities down and fleeing the land of the Red as fast as possible. In other words, divest while there is still value left.

The proud American will go down into his slavery without a fight, beating his chest and proclaiming to the world how free he really is. The world will only snicker.

*The article has been reprinted with the kind permission from the author and originally appears on his blog, Mat Rodina.*

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## 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) **July 3 or July 3-4, 2009 Kings River White Water rafting trip (1 day or 2 day trips). Ages 7 years and up.**
- 2) **Oct. 9-11, 2009 Reno charter bus trip to Italian Festival. 3 days/ 2 nights. Ages 10 years and up.**
- 3) **Feb. or March 2010 Reno Amtrak Snow/Fun Train for 3 days/2 nights. Ages 21 and over.**
- 4) **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).**

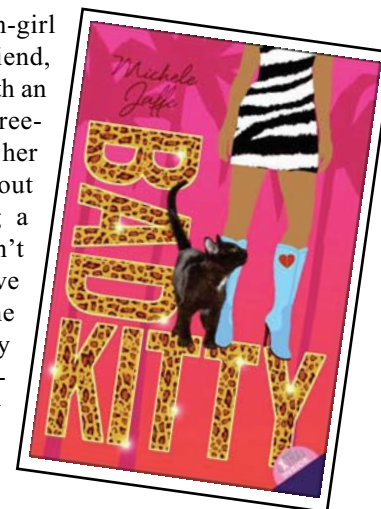
We are currently taking reservations for all of the above trips and some payment plans can be set up for trips 2,3 and 4.  
 Rafting trip needs to be A.S.A.P. to determine if enough are signed up to be able to go.  
 Questions can be answered by calling 559-474-0505 or emailing Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

# “Be Creative” with Summer Reading Program at Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

Summer is almost here! The Summer Reading Program, “Be Creative @ the Ranchos Library!” will begin Thursday, June 18 with our annual kick-off party from noon until 5 p.m. We will have game and activity stations throughout the library (monitored by Liberty High School TAG volunteers) that guarantee to keep the library jumping. There will be face-painting, crafts, puzzles, creative games, and of course snacks for children ages 3 to 12. Then each week we will have a special entertainer that will demonstrate a new way in which to be creative. There are many ways in which to be creative. We will be covering music, art, puppetry, storytelling and science, with take-home writing and art projects. The purpose of the program is not just to entertain but to encourage children to keep reading throughout the summer. Each child will have a reading log to record either the amount of time read (30 minutes per day) or number of books read per week. Prizes will be awarded accordingly.

proved form of Homo sapiens”) and her mean-girl cousin, Alyson, who has an even meaner friend, Veronique. Just as Jasmine relaxes by the pool with an eye on the cute snack bar guy, suddenly a three-legged orange cat flies through the air and sinks her claws into Jasmine’s chest, causing her to shout which draws the attention of a guy wearing a Speedo and a gun, an 8 year-old who shouts “Don’t let them take my kitty,” and a bride leaping to save her wedding cake as the cat’s leash catches the table leg and the cake slides into the pool. Security hauls Jasmine away even though she tries to explain that it was all the cat’s fault. As the story



Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15

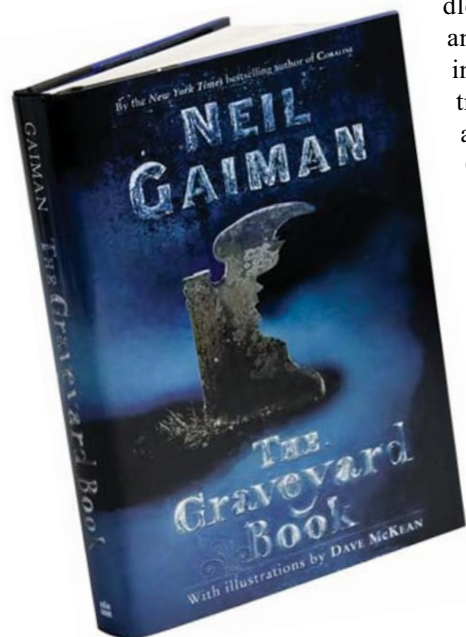
Summer Line-up		
Kick-off party	June 18	Noon to 5 p.m.
Music: The Resistance	June 24	2 p.m.
Art: Mural painting	July 1	2 p.m.
Science: Mr. Bubble Man	July 8	2 p.m.
Puppetry: Matt McGee	July 15	2 p.m.
Paper/Story art: Randel McGee	July 22	2 p.m.
Movement: Electronic games	July 29	2 p.m.

The Teen Summer Reading Program, “Express Yourself @ the Ranchos Library!” begins on Monday, June 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for ages 13-18 with a pizza party and electronic game night. We will also have prizes, board games and crafts, and take-home art and writing contests. It’s going to be a great summer at the library!

### Book Recommendations

**Juvenile Fiction:** *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. As the winner of this year’s Newbery Medal, this very interesting but somewhat dark book is sure to capture the hearts of readers of all ages with the exception of the very young. The beginning

is rather gruesome with the murder of an entire family ... all but the baby. This little boy, a toddler, miraculously wanders out of the house and up the hill to a cemetery where he is taken in by the ghosts just in time before the killer tracks him down. After much consultation among the ghosts, it is decided that the Owens, a childless ghost couple from the mid 1700’s, will raise the boy as their own. The task of obtaining food for the child is taken on by Silas, who is neither living nor dead, and who offers to be the boy’s guardian. From then on the boy is named Nobody Owens, Bod for short. He has the protection of the cemetery but is not allowed to leave as long as the killer lies in wait. Bod enjoys a somewhat classical education from those who made or at least lived what we only know as history. But as Bod grows up and begins to explore outside the cemetery gates, danger and mystery follow close behind. What appears to be an innocent friendship has



sinister motives and a breathtaking climax. There remain many unanswered questions with this story yet it fortunately has a good ending.

**Young Adult Fiction:** *Bad Kitty* by Michele Jaff. Seventeen year-old Jasmine is on vacation with her dad, his new wife Sherri (“who could very well be some new, im-

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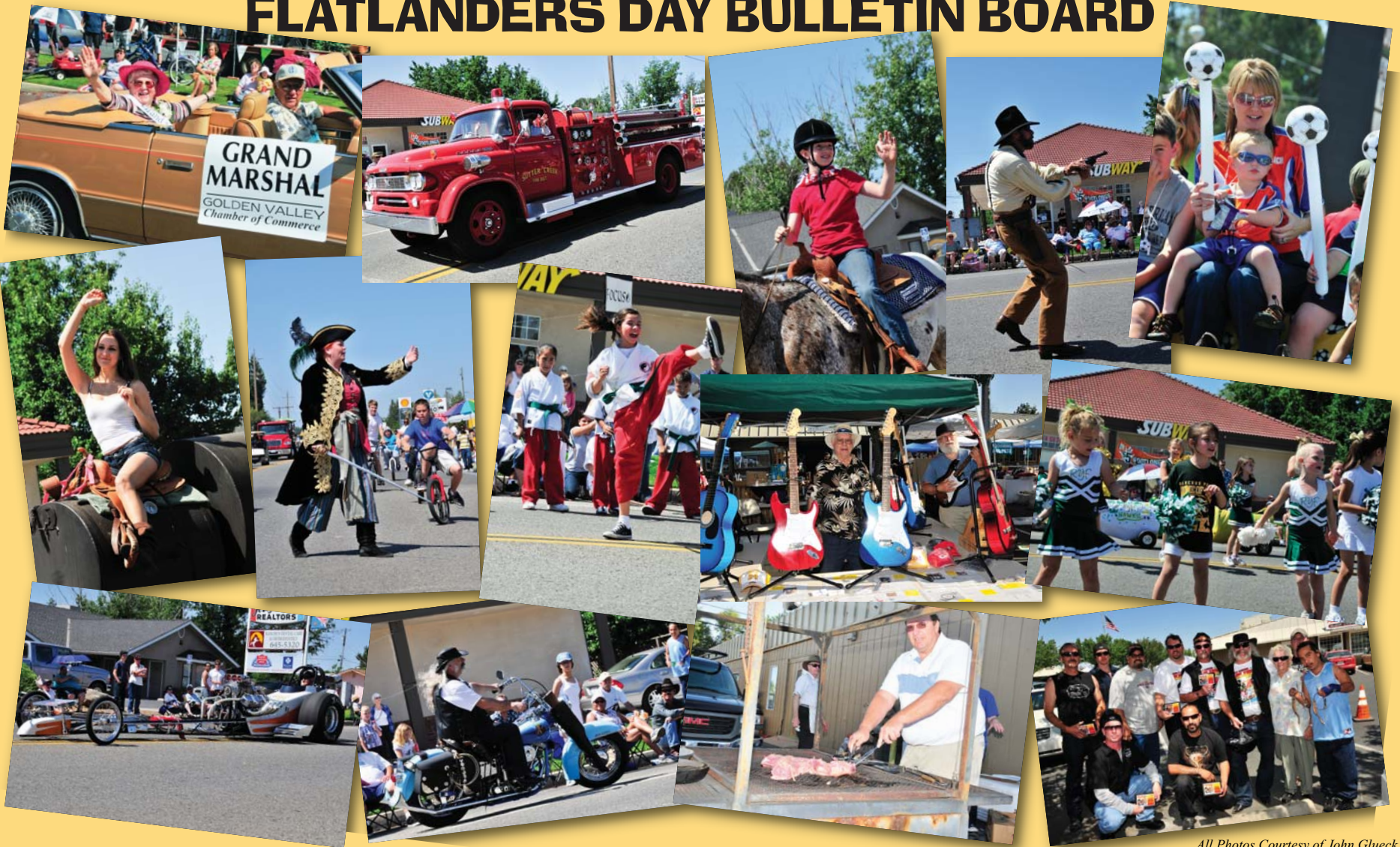
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## Girl Scouts Wrap Up Dads



**Back Row:** Katie Bennet, Kelsey Noble, Alexis Delgado, Nathalie Corpus, Grace Hall, Rachel Koop, Jessica Vived. **Middle Row:** Allison Stemple, Grace Hepner, Zoey Richey, Kristen Butler, Bradyn Bronkowski, Katie Glover. **Front Row:** Ashley DeMera, Lindsay Noble, Tessa Smith, Jaclyn Smith, Emily Koop, Anna Harr, Eva Stemple

Local Girl Scouts enjoyed a Father-Daughter Scavenger Hunt at Woodward Park on Saturday, March 14. The highlight of the "hunt" was when each daughter wrapped her dad in toilet paper in front of a hardware store. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fun, even the freshly wrapped Dads.

If your daughter is interested in becoming a Girl Scout or if you're interested in being a Troop Leader, please contact Shelynn Bonnet at 291-5078 x31.

## Flatlanders Day Parade Trophy Tally

For the first time in the 19-year history of the Flatlanders Day Parade, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce made this year's parade trophies available for sponsorships. A total of 13 categories were available with anywhere from one to three trophies awarded per category. The week prior to the parade there were fewer than 10 entries, however by parade day there were a total of 53 entries vying for trophies in their 13 categories. By the end of parade day, this is how the judges awarded the trophies, complete with the categories and their sponsors:

1. Band Trophy	<i>Audrey Stock</i>	1st The Liberty High School Band
2. Grand Marshal Trophy	<i>Pistoresi Ambulance</i>	1st Ranchos Youth Football/Cheer
3. Horse Trophy (Single)	<i>Evans Feed &amp; Livestock Supply</i>	1st Jennifer Bader; 2nd Valley Teen Ranch
4. Horse Trophy (Group)	<i>GVUSD Board Trustee Mark Toole</i>	1st The Lord's Cavalry; 2nd Too Hot to Trot; 3rd Mimosa Tree Riding Academy
5. Float Trophy (N-profit)	<i>Hart's Photography</i>	1st The One & Only San Joaquin Gunslingers; 2nd Golden Valley Baptist Church; 3rd Ranchos/Hills Senior Center
6. Float Trophy (Business)	<i>Pizza Factory</i>	1st Smokin' Coal/Chasers; 2nd Liberty Ranchos Softball League; 3rd EverythingRanchos.com
7. Children's Group Trophy	<i>Purl's Sheet Metal &amp; Air Conditioning</i>	1st Ranchos Youth Football/Cheer; 2nd Renteria's Martial Arts Studio; 3rd Madera Ranchos Cub Scout Pack 119
8. Motorcycle Trophy	<i>Dr. Pia, Ranchos Dental Care &amp; Orthodontics</i>	1st Knight & Day Computer Service; 2nd Todd Larson; 3rd Jason Barnett
9. Local Church Trophy	<i>Alfresco Coffee</i>	1st Flipside Church; 2nd TLC Fellowship
10. Dance Group Trophy	<i>Star Force Dance Headquarters</i>	1st Star Force Dance Headquarters; 2nd Liberty High School Color Guard
11. Antique/Custom Car Trophy	<i>Ranchos Independent</i>	1st Tom & Jan Treeleaven
12. Novelty Trophy	<i>Pinnacle Carpet Care</i>	1st Queen Bess and the Pirates; 2nd Madera Historical Firefighters; 3rd The One and Only San Joaquin Gunslingers
13. Car Trophy	<i>Greenleaf Orchards</i>	1st Tom Nelson Construction; 2nd Delk Pest Control; 3rd Just Because Quilting

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and a special thank you to all of our great sponsors. Remember, next year is the 20th Anniversary of the Flatlanders Day Parade. There are going to be plenty of surprises and events for this special anniversary so make sure you're part of it. If you've been toying with the idea of being in the parade, next year would be a great jumping in point. And if your business was thinking about being immortalized on a trophy, the 20th Anniversary trophy wouldn't be a bad one to choose!

## The Old Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

How a ridiculous looking 40-inch tall flamingo in a gaudy Santa Claus suit could be misplaced for nearly a decade had puzzled me for years. Oh, most people winning such a stupid-looking and worthless prize in a Las Vegas contest would have dumped it in the nearest receptacle, but my late wife fell in love with it at first glance and said, "Like it or not, we're taking it home."

"Okay," I told her, realizing she'd want to give it to a grandchild if one ever came along, and actually two did a few years later, a Gabriel and a Clarissa.

"I knew it, I knew it," she said ecstatically. "Clarissa will love it when she's old enough to play with it."

But we couldn't find it and believed it was inadvertently thrown out with some other things when we made a move from a house to a condo. Well, my wife passed on to the other side a year and one-half ago and it seemed as if little Clarissa would never get "Old Repugnant" as I'd nicknamed the ludicrous flamingo Santa Claus.

"Don't this beat all," mama would have said the other afternoon when it

turned up in the trunk of my daughter's car which I'd given her some years ago. She'd driven me to the grocery store and when I opened the trunk to stack them in, who peered up at me from beneath the spare tire but "Old Repugnant!"

Indeed, at this very moment he's looking at me with that silly grin from

a corner of my bedroom, awaiting Clarissa, now three years old, to claim him.

Actually, I don't really know if it's a him, nor do I have the slightest idea how to tell, but truthfully, I've of late become quite attached to the old buzzard, recalling how difficult it was to fly him home. Of course this was long before all the regulations on airplane flights during which passengers and their luggage are closely inspected as "possible terrorists" bent on destroying our "homeland," a word that if I'm not mistaken Mr. Bush borrowed from Mr. Hitler who used it so often during his rise to power.

Anyhow, after getting through inspection procedures, I carried it onto the aircraft with one hand while attempting to conceal my embarrassment with the other as the pre-seated passengers snickered over the ludicrous bird. Unfortunately, as well as unforeseen, there was considerable uproar over the seating of the critter.

I held the old buzzard on my lap until the aircraft was in the air and then deposited him on one of the vacant seats in front of us and he appeared content, leaning his stupid-looking head on the window.

"Oh, my no, this simply won't do!" said the chief stewardess who came hurrying down the aisle, scrutinizing passengers and inquiring, "Whose flamingo is this?"

I hesitated for a moment before timidly raising a hand.

"I'm sorry," she replied with a repulsive wrinkle of the nose, "but you'll have to hold him because every passenger must have a ticket."

A man in the seat behind me asked her, "Why can't the damn thing sit

there? You don't intend to pick up any more passengers do you; I mean we're not going to stop for fares on the peaks of the Sierra, are we?"

"Don't be ridiculous," she countered, "but airline regulations demand that every passenger have a ticket."

"Look at those regulations again," he replied with a sardonic grin, "and see what they say about a flamingo that doesn't have a ticket and is sitting in an unoccupied seat minding its own business."

"Well," she said haltingly, obviously flustered by now, "the regulations probably don't even mention flamingos, but regulations are regulations."

An old fellow sitting directly across the aisle glanced at me glumly, as if telling me to stop all this dumb, disturbing bickering and put the flamingo back on my lap, but then an elderly woman behind him got out of her seat

Please see **WOODY** on P. 29

*"Don't be ridiculous," she countered, "but airline regulations demand that every passenger have a ticket."*

*"Look at those regulations again," he replied with a sardonic grin, "and see what they say about a flamingo that doesn't have a ticket and is sitting in an unoccupied seat minding its own business."*



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Worship.....10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.	Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
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**Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes**  
 by Jean Briner

Wow, the weather has sure taken a turn for warm! I can't say it is hot, because as my mom would say when we would complain, "It isn't even hot yet!" Even though I was born in the Valley, I still don't like the hot, but I know we have to have it for the crops. Of course, we also need water for the crops, but that is a whole different column. We live through it every year, and here we are again, ready to go through another one. I've always said the best part of summer is I know winter is on its way.

One of my favorite meals, either to eat out or at home, is a salad. Lots of greens, maybe some ham or chicken, tomatoes, cucumbers, green onions, some cheese and some chopped boiled egg, some good salad dressing and a glass of iced tea! There are all kinds of different "stuff"

*I want to sincerely thank those people who have called or e-mailed about this column. At least I know someone is reading it. But I have to admit I'm getting a little disappointed that I haven't received any recipes from YOU! As I've continually said, I didn't mean for this to be an autobiography of our family's recipes. Hope to hear from you soon!*

Italian, French, Thousand Island – anything, and everything from any of the bottled (shame on you) to "made from scratch." So see, you could have a salad several times and no two would be alike and I didn't even mention the crackers, chips or toast to serve with the salad.

**A Non-Salad Story**

The following story has nothing to do with salads except when I was looking through my recipes for the French Dressing that Randy and his brother

loved, I remembered the time with the lasagna and thought you might be interested in what your Independent publisher doesn't like to eat.

When Randy was ready to go to college, he decided on doing it at Fresno State – so he came to Fresno and lived with me. I learned a lot

about what he liked and didn't like to eat that year. Ask him about scrambled eggs sometime. I'll tell you about a meal that I cooked for dinner one night. I was going to make lasagna and was ready to put it together when I realized I didn't have enough Ricotta cheese for the amount of noodles I had cooked and the sauce I had made. I didn't want to go to the store just for a tub of cheese, so even though I knew Randy HATED cottage cheese and I love it and always have it on hand, I decided

about what he liked and didn't like to eat that year. Ask him about scrambled eggs sometime. I'll tell you about a meal that I cooked for dinner one night. I was going to make lasagna and was ready to put it together when I realized I didn't have enough Ricotta cheese for the amount of noodles I had cooked and the sauce I had made. I didn't want to go to the store just for a tub of cheese, so even though I knew Randy HATED cottage cheese and I love it and always have it on hand, I decided

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 12

**RECIPES cont. from P. 11**

to mix the cottage cheese with the Ricotta but not tell Randy. The lasagna was baked – Randy got home from school, and we sat down to eat. After he had said how good it was, I couldn't keep my secret any longer. He had just taken a fork full of lasagna when I said, "It is good, even if it is made with part cottage cheese." He stopped chewing, looked at me and looked down at his plate and I thought for a minute he was going to spit it out ... but he continued eating. I didn't try to trick him anymore.

Randy's youngest brother Adam also lived with me when he attended Fresno City College (not the same year Randy was at Fresno State). I knew both boys' favorite salad dressing was French. I was invited to some friends' home for dinner and she served a salad with French dressing that was wonderful, so I asked for the recipe. With both boys I made the dressing so often I knew it by heart. I don't know it by heart anymore, but we still make it when the boys will be there for dinner. In fact, Adam and his daughter Jessie made it for Easter dinner.

**Deluxe French Dressing**

- 3 T. Sugar
- 4 T. Catsup
- 2 T. Vinegar
- ¾ C. Oil
- ½ t. Salt
- 1 t. Worcestershire sauce.
- Dash of Garlic powder.

Combine all ingredients in a pint jar and shake vigorously or use a hand blender, "boat motor" mixer, to get mixed. Store in covered container in refrigerator if you have any left over. (I find this just a bit sweet, so I don't use as much sugar as it calls for. But here again it's all about your personal taste.

When we say salad, in addition to the standard green salad, we also immediately think of potato or macaroni salads. There are as many different ways to make these as there are food items to put in them. Mayonnaise or Miracle Whip; dill or sweet pickles; lots of vegetables or a few. I'm sure you all have your favorite ways to make these salads so I won't spend time with them. What I want to do is introduce you to some different salads.

As I've said before, my mom had

more than a box full of recipe cards. She wasn't afraid to ask for a recipe for something that she liked. She got the following recipe from one of her cousins on our trip "back home" to eastern Tennessee.

**Extra Special Salad**

- 1 Large pkg. Lime Jell-O
- 1 Container Cool Whip
- 1 Can Crushed Pineapple (well drained – reserve juice)
- 1 8 oz. Pkg. Cream Cheese
- ¼ C. Chopped nuts

Prepare the Jell-O as directed on the box. Add the pineapple and nuts. Pour into loaf pan and put in refrigerator to set.

With a whisk, whip the softened cream cheese into the Cool Whip. Spread on the set Jell-O.

**Topping for salad**

- 1 C Reserved Pineapple juice
- 1 tsp. Lemon juice
- 2 Tbs. Flour
- ¾ C Sugar
- 2 Eggs – beaten

Mix together all ingredients in pan and cook until thick – stirring constantly, not letting the mixture scorch. Let cool before spreading on the Cool Whip layer. Sprinkle with ¼ C chopped nuts.

The following recipe is a variation of the above salad, but thought I might include it as it sounds good. It's just labeled:

**Marguerite's Jell-O Salad**

In the first layer, replace the lime Jell-o with any flavor Jell-o your family likes. Add the drained crushed pineapple then add 1½ C miniature marshmallows and 3 cubed bananas. Pour in 9 x 13 loaf pan and chill till firm. The second and third layers are the same as the recipe above.

**You say "Cole," I saw "Slaw"**

When you say cabbage to a lot of people they just wrinkle their nose or pretend to gag. I have always loved cabbage, raw or cooked. I'm not fond of boiled cabbage, but I love steamed. Have you ever tried frying a pork chop and when it is done, removing the grease from the pan and putting in enough water to scrape up the drippings off the bottom of the pan, then put in the shredded cabbage with some salt and pepper and just let it steam – fire not too high, and you

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 13



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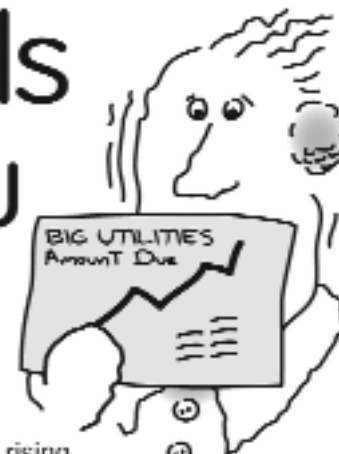


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**PASTOR** cont. from P. 6

demons with His authority; let's follow Him and heal with His power and let us follow Jesus and forgive with His compassion and let us 'agape' love others as He commanded us to do."

To be able to say "I am not worthy" to God is surely a moment of grace. Grace changes guilt into repentance and shame into courage. There is something triumphant in the words "I am not worthy" when they are spoken to Jesus.

Deep down inside of us and in our relationships with each other there is often a struggle between saying, "I am not worthy," and saying to someone else, "You are not worthy." TV shows are often based on the unworthiness of the bad guys when compared to the worthiness of the star. Commercial and political programming seems to thrive on identifying who is not worthy in our world so that they may be rejected with great animosity. There is a difference between the divine unworthiness we experience in the presence of the Holy, and the destructive un-

worthiness we get in the human contexts. We are bombarded everyday by messages of destructive unworthiness: "You do not measure up!" "Your thinking is not good enough!" "Your appearance is not complete enough!" Ultimately the message ends up saying - as the TV show says - "You're fired!"

God isn't like that. By the Grace of God you are accepted today, just as you are, even if you are not worthy. God knows who we are and we are accepted. We are just folks who are part of the Kingdom of God. Never can it be that we exchange the humility of faith for the arrogance of the world.

Let the hope of Christ lead us. Let the faith in a loving and healing God triumph. Let Christ be the worthy one in our lives and everything else will make sense.

May God bless you all. Amen.

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

**RECIPES** cont. from P. 12

might have to add more water, but just a little at a time.

Back to salads. I knew that the word "slaw" meant salad but I thought it was German. Tonight I looked it up on the internet and found it is Dutch. It said: "The word 'cole slaw' comes from the Dutch 'koolsla,' which means 'cabbage salad.' The name for the salad doesn't give a clue about what, besides cabbage, goes into cole slaw." It goes on to say you can have any variation of dressings, from mayonnaise or vinegar or both. Other recipes can call for yogurt and/or citrus juice in lieu of mayonnaise and/or vinegar. And, in addition to the shredded cabbage, there can be an array of other ingredients, such as almonds, apples, grated carrots, chunk or crushed pineapple, and even one recipe I saw called for toasted ramen noodles. My mom made the best cole slaw but I can't find any recipe. I know she made a dressing of Miracle Whip, a little milk to make it creamy, apple cider vinegar, salt and pepper and a little sugar. It was yummy!

Several years ago, I went on a weekend retreat with some ladies from my church. Another group of ladies from the church did all the cooking and, as they say about church women, could they cook! At the end of the retreat as we were leaving, we were each given a bundle of 3x5 cards with all the recipes that were cooked over the week-end. One was for salad they served called:

**Overnight Salad**

- Layer in glass salad bowl:
- 1 head Iceberg Lettuce, torn into bite size pieces
  - 1/2 C chopped Celery
  - 1/2 C chopped Bell Pepper
  - 1 pkg. Baby Peas (thawed and

drained)

1 can Sliced Water Chestnuts - drained

Optional: Grated cheddar cheese, grated carrot, sliced radish. 1/2 small red onion chopped

Spread one cup mayonnaise over top, sealing completely. Sprinkle 1/2 cup parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup bacon bits over top. Cover bowl with Saran Wrap and refrigerate overnight or 24 hours. Toss just before serving.

For the last salad recipe, I've asked our editor Randy Bailey to give you his recipe for Broccoli Salad:

**Broccoli Salad**

- 2 Bunches of Broccoli (raw, washed)
- 1/2 c. Red Onion, chopped
- 1/2 c. Raisins
- 1 Jar Bacon Bits

**Broccoli Salad Dressing**

- 1 c. Mayonnaise
- 1/2 c. Sugar
- 2 tsp. Rice Vinegar

Break up the broccoli into bite-size pieces. Mix together with the chopped red onions, raisins and bacon bits. Add the Broccoli Salad dressing and gently mix it all together. IMPORTANT: You've got to refrigerate this before you serve it, at least for 30 minutes.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank those people who have called or e-mailed about this column. At least I know someone is reading it. But I have to admit I'm getting a little disappointed that I haven't received any recipes from YOU! As I've continually said, I didn't mean for this to be an autobiography of our family's recipes. Hope to hear from you soon!

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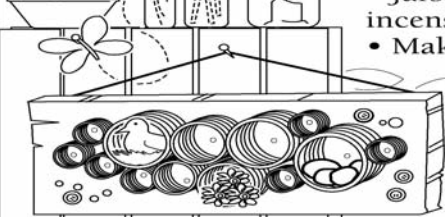
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### Recycling food containers

It's easy to throw out food containers once they're opened, but many items can be used further - in your garden!

- Plastic containers can be flower vases or starter pots, egg trays for seedlings.
- Jars can hold tealight candles and/or incense burners for subtle ambience.
- Make a funky garden art/birdhouse/collectables display by nailing tin cans to a board - paint the cans different colors, decorate with beads, buttons or dried flowers.



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# Madera DA Knows Law, People

By Randy Bailey

It's funny the directions a life can take. One of those times you should have "zigged" and the next thing you know you're "zagging" into something else that changes everything.

Michael Keitz, Madera County's present District Attorney, graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo back in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science, so he went out and did what any other graduate with just such a degree would do; became an assistant Vice President at Bank of America. For the next 13 years it was budgets and risk management and loans and foreclosures – typical banker duties.

But in 1980 Keitz got the opportunity to become a Madera County Reserve Deputy Sheriff. He volunteered for approximately 20 hours per month and a "Batman" lifestyle began to exist: By day he was the quiet bank executive; at night he was face to face with the dregs of society. He must have liked it because he remained a Reserve Deputy for the next 19 years.

So here's where the zigging and zagging come together. At the bank he's increasingly working with the legal problems bank contracts can generate. As a Reserve he's getting the opportunity to work with the law where it's not a theory in a book but real, in-your-face decisions that can mean safety or harm to innocent citizens. Round about 1987 he puts the two together and enrolls at San Joaquin College of Law and by 1991 he's graduating with a Juris Doctor degree and the

following year he passes the California State Bar. In June of 1992, same month he passes the bar, he applies and gets hired by the Madera County District Attorney's office.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

After 16 years with the department and obtaining the position of Senior Deputy District Attorney, in October of 2008 Keitz was selected by the Madera County Board of Supervisors to take over the position of District Attorney that was being vacated by the election of former District Attorney Ernie LiCalsi to the position of judge with the Madera County Superior Court. Keitz was selected

from among a group of four contenders for the position – including former Fresno County District Attorney Ed Hunt – and was voted in by a vote of 4 to 1.

One of the best aspects of Keitz is that he lives in Madera and has since 1979. He actually said in an interview that he had decided he would never live anywhere else.

Good for us.

What else that's good for us is his track record. He's got an 89

percent conviction rate, was named "Prosecutor of the Year" by the Madera Elks Lodge, has indicted 32 defendants through the Madera Grand Jury and has gotten assets from druggies equalling nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

Are we getting our money's worth or what?

I don't know where he finds the time but he also belongs to Kiwanis, is a Cub Scout leader and is a judge for academic decathlons and mock trials.

If you get a chance, get to know our District Attorney, Michael Keitz.



Out there among the people, Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz enjoys a ride down Avenue 12 during the Flatlanders Day Parade.

## HOUSING cont. from P. 2

area for the next 20 years or more.

A very positive sign for the Ranchos is the development group's proactive work on water issues that will impact the Ranchos in addition to their project. It is their group that has made contact with the Israeli Department of Agriculture and have created a core group of Israeli and Central Valley scientists to exchange information and work together on problems common to both regions. Through this exchange both groups can learn about cutting-edge technology and find ways to implement techniques to

overcome the water problems that we are facing and address the problems of recharge, salinity and reuse of treated wastewater.

A Specific Plan for the project is next followed by an Environmental Impact Report prepared by the County. For more information they have a website at [www.libertygroves.com](http://www.libertygroves.com) or they can be contacted at: Kimiko Lizardi

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BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

unfolds, there is a mystery involved and Jasmine, the budding forensic scientist, and her friends try to solve it. This funny and delightful story is just the right antidote for stress. The carefree style and dialogue keep the reader totally engaged. "It is so MasterCard!" as Alyson and Veronique would say.



**Adult Non-fiction:** *Getting Green Done: Hard Truths from the Front Lines of the Sustainability Revolution* by Auden Schendler. Schendler has been an advocate of the green movement and sustainable businesses for 15 years. He argues that buying compact fluorescent bulbs and driving Priuses isn't enough to save this planet. We need to make some hard choices and really get serious if we want to sustain life as we know. He states that, "... business is both the cause and the victim ... cannibalizing the climate we depend on to stay in business, eating our own tail to stay alive." He describes a new movement from DuPont to Wal-Mart called the sustainable-business movement that posits that business and environmentalism is a sure-fire win. But it needs to be in all areas of business for it to be successful. And there needs to be grass roots support as well as government leadership. We all need to be on the same team, or the "analysis paralysis" will kill us.

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



**DINING FOR DONO**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Fundraiser for the Donovan Tessmer Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
**Friday, June 26, 2009**  
**4:00 pm – 10:00 pm**



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*\*Donovan loved to eat so what better way to honor him than to enjoy a meal.*

5/09

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5/09

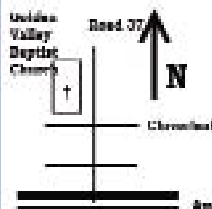
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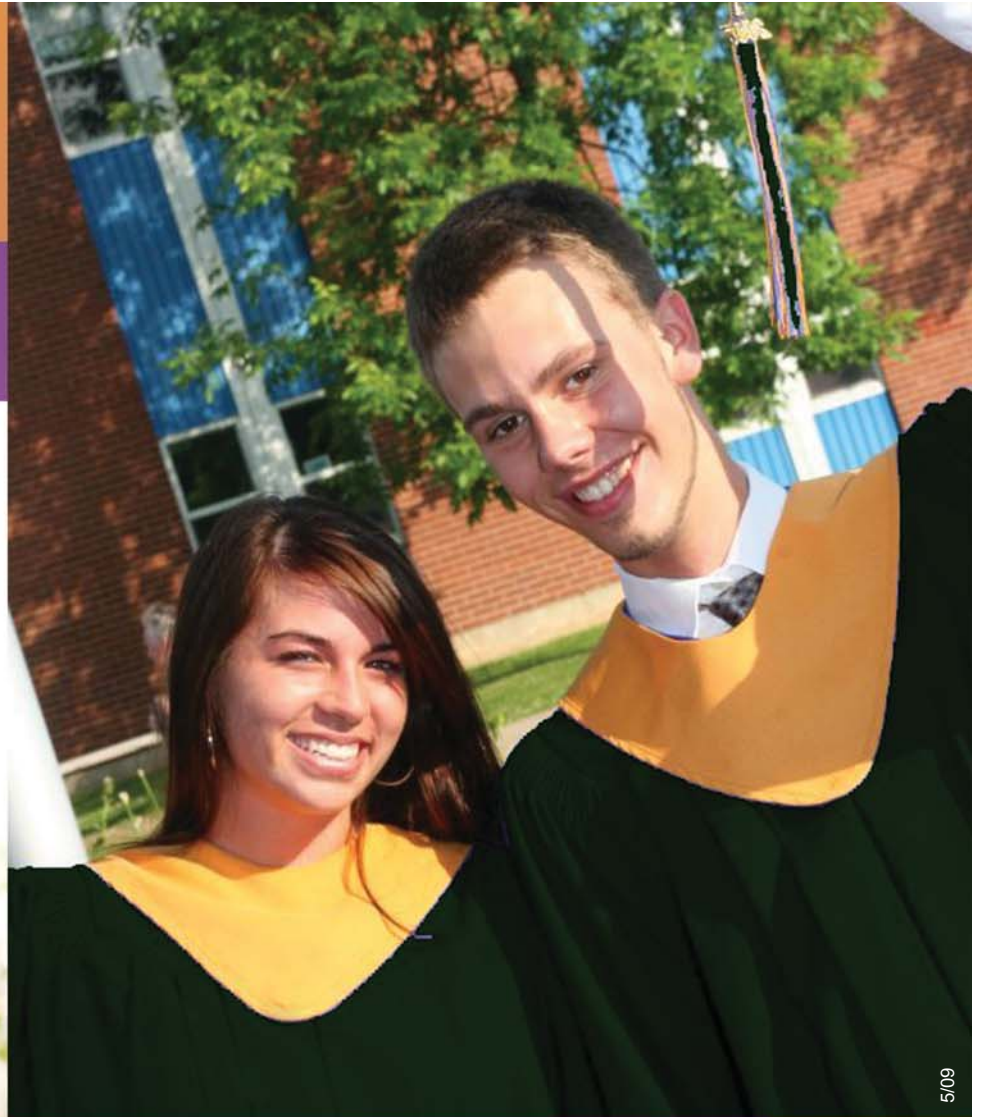
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5/09

# from Grads



5/09

# to Dads

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# Local Businessman, Sober Grad Committee to Give Away Saturn

By Jim Tangrady

On June 4 the Senior Class from Liberty High School will join a collection of Americans that hold a High School diploma. They should feel a sense of accomplishment that so many other High School Seniors will feel in the month of June. No doubt there will be plenty of laughs, some tears and many handshakes, but for one lucky senior at Liberty High it will also mean new transportation.

The Liberty High Sober Grad program this year, like others in the past, will encourage seniors to have fun on graduation night without the risk of alcohol and the consequences that so many times have turned a night of celebration into a night of DUI's, and in a worst case scenario, death. Thanks to local businessman Tim Grizzell, one lucky senior will win a 1996 Saturn SC2. This isn't some throwaway, 13-year-old clunker. Grizzell, a Saturn mechanic since the company started back in 1991, completely rebuilt the engine in this car. He also put a brand new bright red paint job on the car, new tires, new tinted windows, a Pioneer CD with new speakers and new brakes. And, if that wasn't enough, Grizzell is going to guarantee the power train (the big stuff: the engine, transmission and drive train) for two years or 24,000 miles.

As stated, Grizzell has been a Saturn mechanic since 1991 and for years has been known as the best mechanic in the shop. A few years ago he built a few cars for friends and the word got out how dependable his vehicles were. With zero advertising, the demand grew so greatly by

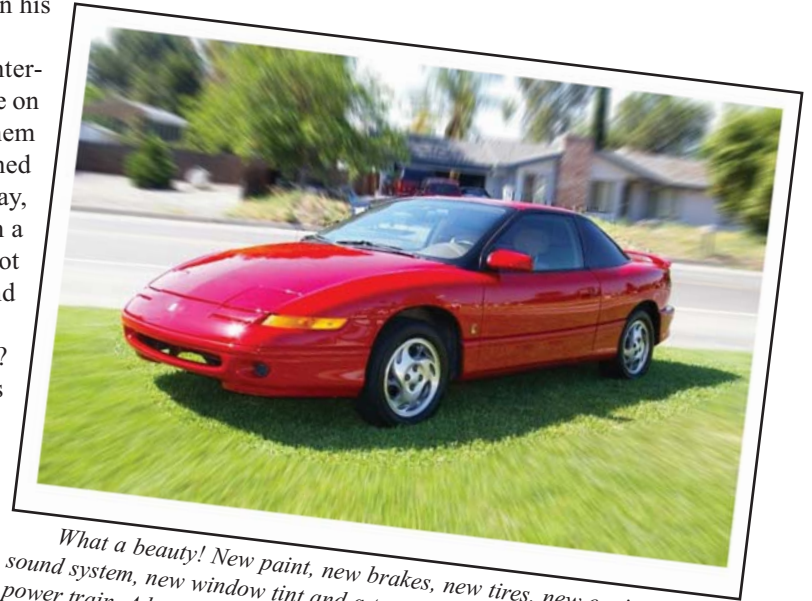
word of mouth that Grizzell decided to open his own shop.

How successful is he? When we interviewed him for this piece, he had five people on a waiting list for vehicles. "I can't build them fast enough," said the busy owner. "I learned how to treat people by doing it the Saturn way, treating everyone with respect, giving them a good product and value for their money. Not only will they come back to you again and again, they will refer their friends."

How loyal are Grizzell's customers? One of his owners lives in Idaho, and brings his vehicle to Tim. "He also has friends in the area, so I don't think I'm the sole reason he drives 700 miles for service ... but he is pretty adamant about me working on his car."

When asked about his involvement with the Sober Grad Program Grizzell said "It was a no-brainer. When Randy Bailey asked me to donate a car I was on board immediately. Graduation night should be a celebration and anything I can do to enhance the program, I was happy to help. The way I approached it was I wanted a vehicle that either of my twin daughters would be proud to be seen in."

To qualify to win the car there are three things you have to do: 1) You have to be a graduating senior at Liberty High School. 2) You have to go to Sober Grad on



*What a beauty! New paint, new brakes, new tires, new engine, new CD sound system, new window tint and a two-year, 24,000 mile warranty on the power train. A lucky Liberty High Grad will go home with the top prize at the end of the 2009 LHS Sober Grad festivities.*

Thursday, June 4. 3) You have to be present when they draw for the grand prize, sometime around 5:30 or 6 a.m.

If you aren't the lucky winner but you'd like reliable transportation at an affordable price you can contact Tim Grizzell at 871-7343, or 673-9900.

## Flipside's 3rd Annual Father's Day

### Car and Motorcycle Show June 21, 2009

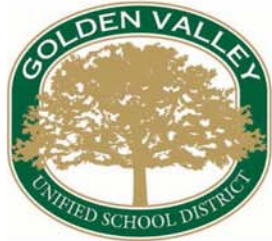
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5/09 For more information on this event and other church activities visit our website at [www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) or email [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)

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## Successes Abound as Golden Valley Nears First Decade



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

*By Superintendent Sarah Koligian*

It is so hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our 2008-2009 school year. This has been an incredible year of successes for Golden Valley Unified and I cannot think of a better way to lead into our district's 10 year anniversary that we will be celebrating in August 2009. This past

month has brought Golden Valley more successes that continue to "grow a district of excellence". Listed below are a few of the highlights for the past month.

Golden Valley Unified nominated Greenleaf Orchards owned by Mr. Igal Treibatch, for the Madera Business Compact Crystal Tower Award, for his generous donations to the students and programs at all of our schools. Greenleaf Orchards was one of two businesses that were selected and honored by the Business Compact throughout all of Madera County. Owner, Mr. Treibatch, has donated well over \$40,000 for library books, microscopes for the high school biology classes, sponsorships for students to attend the fee-based Summer Enrichment Program, STAR student testing incentives, the donation of the Liberty Bell monument at Liberty High School and the newest donation of the 9 foot tall bronze mustang statue that will become the newest focal centerpiece at the new Ranchos Middle School which is opening in August 2009. Golden Valley is fortunate to have the support of local business owners such as Mr. Treibatch. Con-

gratulations Mr. Treibatch!

Golden Valley Unified nominated local community member and volunteer, Mrs. Joyce Smith, for the ACSA Golden Apple Award for volunteering above and beyond the call of duty to support our schools. Mrs. Smith is a grandparent and community member of Sierra View Elementary School. Last year, she was attending a school event at Sierra View to watch her granddaughter perform in the multipurpose room. She was concerned that the swamp cooler was not keeping the room cool enough for the many parents, grandparents and children in attendance. She decided that she would like to give back to her community and to help create a more comfortable environment for students, staff and community members. She graciously donated \$50,000 through the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools earmarked for Sierra View to purchase a new air conditioning unit for the multipurpose room. The new unit will be installed this summer. Congratulations Mrs. Joyce Smith!

The ACSA Awards Ceremony also recognized outstanding senior students in

Madera County who have diligently worked to achieved successes that set them apart academically and socially. Liberty High School nominated Miss Gabby Gutierrez for this prestigious honor. She was recognized as an outstanding senior student who not only overcame her language barrier when she entered Sierra View Elementary in the 6th grade speaking only Spanish but has excelled in school, sports, and on the Academic Decathlon team, and is now graduating with a 4.1 GPA. Gabby will be addressing the Class of 2009 as one of Liberty's Valedictorian's addressing the audience in both English and Spanish. Congratulations Gabby!

Golden Valley Unified was recently invited to the Madera County Board of Trustees Meeting to receive recognition on behalf of Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School for earning the prestigious title of California Distinguished School. LHS Principal, Ms. Darlea Livengood, and RMS Principal, Mr. Shane Pinkard, were recognized with special plaques honoring

Please see **KOLIGIAN** on P. 21

## LHS Seniors get Magical Graduation Party at Disneyland Grad Nite

Liberty High School seniors joined other high school seniors from across the nation on Wednesday, May 27 to celebrate the "end of an era" at the ultimate party of the year: Disneyland Resort's Grad Nite, presented by Honda. On this select night from 11:30 p.m. until the break of dawn at 6 a.m., Disneyland became an after-dark, thrill-park packed with high energy, the hottest dance clubs in town, thrilling rides and memories to last a lifetime.

The Class of 2009 was thrown into an exclusive experience where Disneyland does a complete 180 degree turn from its daily park environment. The night rocked with a unique brand of Disney entertainment, dance clubs and deejays from Southern California's most popular radio stations.

With Disneyland park all to themselves, grads had one last all-night bash with their high school friends while they enjoyed exclusive, unlimited access to world-class theme park attractions. Adventure and thrills included conquering the Indiana Jones Adventure, speeding down the slopes on the Matterhorn Bobsleds, racing through Space Mountain

and posing for photos with some of their favorite Disney Characters along Main Street, U.S.A. The "Grad Nite Explosion!" a pyrotechnic show complete with lasers and lights, rocked several times per night to the beat of the best tunes of 2009, created especially for Disneyland Grad Nite.

Liberty High School seniors got the party started right by participating in the Grad Nite "Blast Off" in Disney's California Adventure park, which added an extra shot of fun before Grad Nite began. This pre-party was two hours of white-knuckle excitement starting at 9:30 p.m., where seniors launched from zero to 55 miles per hour on the California Screamin' rollercoaster, blasted up 180 feet in two seconds on the Maliboomer and then dropped into the creepy fifth dimension on the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror.

Grad Nite at the Disneyland Resort was a private event exclusively for graduating seniors of Liberty High School and other graduates from throughout California. Liberty High's Grad Nite Chairperson was Chris Imperatrice and its Activities Director was Sarah Burress.



## Crystal Tower Award Winners



Present for the Crystal Tower Award were (from left) Jim Monreal, Mark Toole, Sarah Koligian, Award winners Mr. and Mrs. Igal Triebatch of Greenleaf Orchards and Darlea Liven-good. In the rear (from left) are Andy Alvarado and Shane Pinkard.

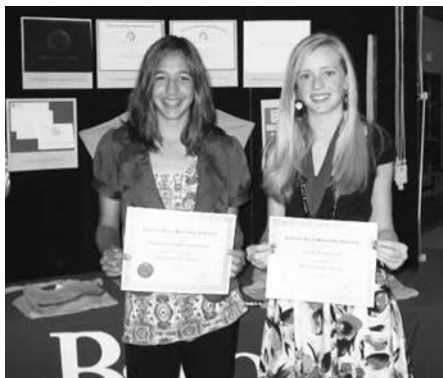


Liberty High School students celebrate the Prom on April 25 at Wolf Lakes.

## Middle Schoolers Win CJSF Awards

By Joan Forester, RMS CJSF Advisor

On Saturday, April 18, the Central Region California Scholastic Federation/California Junior Scholastic Federation (CSF/CJSF) Conference was held in Chowchilla. For the first time, Ranchos Middle School had nominees for the prestigious Marian Huhn Award. They were Hannah Shevenell and Chloe Doyle. Each candidate received a certificate and a pin. Out of the 14 nominated for the Central Region, only five were honored with a medallion and a check



For the first time at a California Scholastic Federation/California Junior Scholastic Federation Conference, Ranchos Middle School had nominees for the prestigious Marian Huhn Award. They were Hannah Shevenell (left) and Chloe Doyle.

for \$250. Our own Chloe Doyle was one of the winners.

The CJSF Huhn Award recognizes 25 outstanding students from 600 state Chapters. In 1989 the CJSF Honor Award was renamed in remembrance of the former CJSF Registrar, Marian Huhn. The Marian Huhn Award recognizes junior high school students for their academic excellence and service to the school and community. CJSF chapters nominate their top two students for the Marian Huhn Award.



The cast for the the Ranchos Middle School production of *Charleston*, which ran May 14 and 15 and was directed by Shellie Roth, pose in their Roaring 20s costumes.



GVUSD Superintendent Sarah Koligian (center) checks out the Liberty High FFA livestock at the Chowchilla Fair in May.

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5/09

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

**KOLIGIAN** cont. from P. 19

their schools as “Madera County Schools of Excellence”. Both schools were also honored by State Superintendent Jack O’Connell at the California Distinguished School’s ceremony in Anaheim at the end of May. Congratulations Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School!

The performing arts are alive and well in Golden Valley. The Ranchos Middle School drama students, under the direction of our talented RMS teacher and drama coach, Mrs. Shellie Roth, performed a well rehearsed and commanding performance of “Charleston”. Approximately 30 students were involved with this humorous and entertaining roaring twenties production. The acting, singing, choreography, costumes and sets were a sight to behold. Mrs. Roth has built an incredible drama program that definitely took “center stage”. Congratulations Mrs. Roth and the RMS drama students!

The LHS FFA agriculture program is prospering as students participated in two major events this past month. LHS FFA students attended the State Leadership Convention in Fresno where students honed their leadership skills with hundreds of other FFA students throughout the state. The Liberty FFA students also participated and did well in the Chowchilla Fair. Teacher, Ms. Kariann Torres and her students prepared many livestock entries ranging from hogs, cattle, goats, sheep and

rabbits. FFA students also submitted digital photos for the visual arts competition of the fair. Congratulations Ms. Torres and the Liberty FFA students!

These are just a few of the highlights of success over the past month and there are many more, such as the successful school carnivals, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, LHS Hawks Baseball NSL Championship, LHS and RMS Band and Choir performances, Senior Scholarship night...

We invite our community to celebrate our end of the school year successes with the following upcoming events:

- Educational Options Graduation Ceremony – June 3rd at 6:30 p.m.
- Liberty High School Graduation Ceremony – June 4th at 5:30 p.m.  
(invitation only due to limited seating, please call #645-3500 for more information)
- Webster 6th Grade Appreciation Ceremony – June 5th at 8:15 a.m.
- Sierra View 6th Grade Appreciation Ceremony – June 5th at 8:30 a.m.
- Ranchos Middle School 8th grade Promotion Ceremony – June 5th at 5:30 p.m.

I want to thank our Golden Valley Unified Governing Board of Trustees, our outstanding staff, parents, students and community for supporting our district and giving our students many opportunities for success.

Golden Valley Unified - “Growing a District of Excellence”

## LHS Photography Students Win Big

Liberty High Junior Roxana Espinosa was selected as one of 10 winning finalists in the 2009 California Streaming Digital Photography Contest. Liberty High Senior Adam Hugues was also selected and was awarded an Honorable Mention. Liberty High School submitted multiple photographs and these two from ROP Digital Photography were selected as finalists in the digital photography contest entitled “LIFE!”

The competition, sponsored by the California County Educational Technology Consortium, was looking for photographers who best took into consideration the theme, LIFE!, as well as the composition and appeal of the individual photographs. It also sought a distribution of photographers to represent a variety of ages and locations from across California. The contest judges were impressed not only with the quantity of entries, but also the remarkable quality of photographs from photographers of all ages.

The winning photographs will be incorporated into the collectable California Streaming poster and each student received a 16GB iPod nano while their teachers received AFI’s 100 Top Film collection. Teacher winners received a 16GB iPod touch.

Espinosa’s photograph “Big Words” and Hugues photograph “El Gato” may both be viewed at [www.k12hsn.org/resources/showcase/gallery/gallery.php/ccetc/?cmd=vi&typ=mda](http://www.k12hsn.org/resources/showcase/gallery/gallery.php/ccetc/?cmd=vi&typ=mda) along with the other finalists from throughout the state.

The California County Educational Technology Consortium is the largest buying and licensing consortium of instructional media in the country. Operating under a Joint Powers Agreement among 15 county offices representing hundreds of thousands of California students, CCETC welcomes the participation of California County Offices of Education to participate in a variety of collaborative efforts, including California Streaming.

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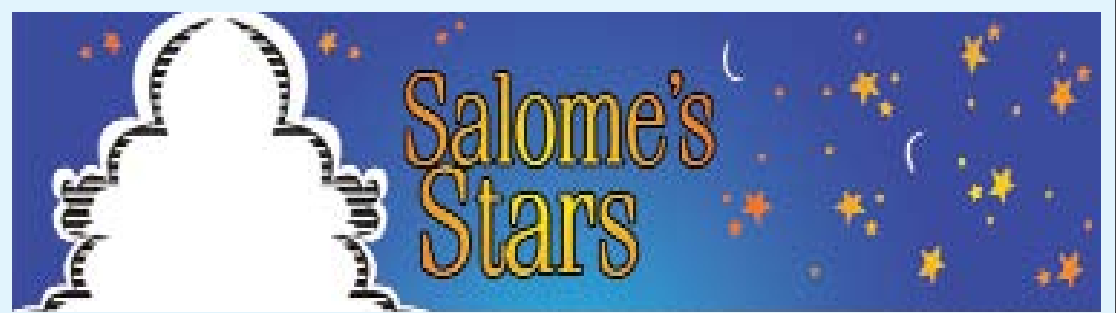
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) An unexpected development could change the Arian's perspective on a potential investment. Keep an open mind. Ignore the double talk and act only on the facts.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A surge of support helps you keep your long-standing commitment to colleagues who rely on you for guidance. Ignore any attempts to get you to ease up on your efforts.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Family continues to be the dominant factor, but career matters also take on new importance. You might even be able to combine elements of the two in some surprising, productive way.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A realistic view of a workplace or personal situation helps you deal with it more constructively once you know where the truth lies. Reserve the weekend for someone special.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) As much as you Leos or Leonas might be intrigued by the "sunny" prospects touted for a potential investment, be careful that you don't allow the glare to blind you to its essential details.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A friend's problem brings out the Virgo's nurturing nature in full force. However, don't go it alone. Allow others to pitch in and help share the responsibilities you've assumed.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A business decision might need to be put off until a colleague's personal matter is resolved. Use this time to work on another business matter that you've been anxious to get to.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Relationships (personal or professional) might appear to be stalled because of details that keep cropping up and that need tending to. Be patient. A path begins to clear soon.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A promotion could cause resentment among envious colleagues. But others recognize how hard you worked to earn it, and will be there to support you if you need them.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Handling a delicate personal matter needs both your wisdom and your warmth. Expect some setbacks, but stay with it. The outcome will more than justify your efforts.

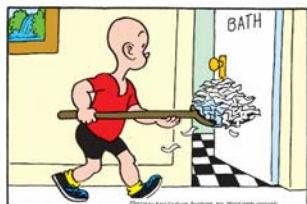
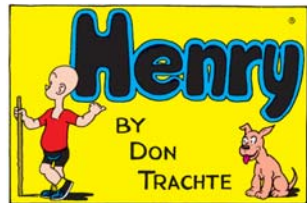
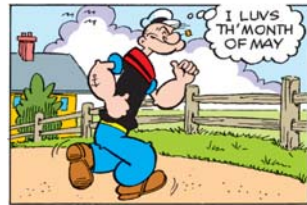
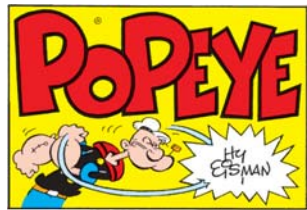
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Resist the temptation to cut corners just because time is short. Best to move ahead step by step so you don't overlook anything that might later create time-wasting complications.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Use the good will you recently earned with that well-received project to pitch your ideas for a new project. Expect some tough competition, though, from an unlikely source.

## Born this Week

Your love of family extends beyond your personal life to include others to whom you generously extend your care and affection.

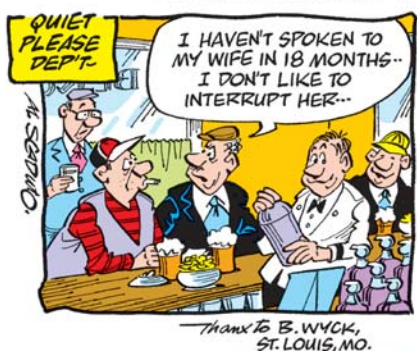
# FUN PAGES



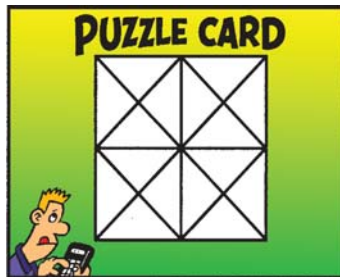
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



LIVING ON THE BRINK— A FOX ON THE TOWN FATHERS FOR PUTTING THE BIG POLE AND THE FIRE HYDRANT AS CLOSE TO YOUR DRIVEWAY AS POSSIBLE—



**PUZZLE CARD**  
A PUZZLE WITH AN ANGLE TO IT! There are more than 30 triangles in the drawing above. They come in four sizes. You have five minutes to find the total number.

Answer: There are 44 triangles. From the smallest to the largest, there are 16, 16, 8 and 4.

**LUNCH AT THE MALL!** Can you solve this AlphaMath puzzle in under five minutes? You must replace the letters to the right with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try for the highest sum.

**LINK-UPS!** Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

Answers: Napkin, scarcity, ranking, rankling, warged, tabled, amenable.



Answers: F=7, A=5, S=2, T=8, O=4, D=0, C=1, U=9, R=6, W=528 + 7440 = 14968.



## PYRAMID OF WORD POWER



Don't get lost looking for these words! Starting with the given word NAVIGATES, at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with NAVIGATES.

1. Follows a planned course.
2. Fine wines.
3. Original inhabitants.
4. What rich people do.
5. Found on pitchforks.
6. What billy goats are supposed to eat.
7. To pose for a picture.
8. A player, as in tag.
9. Roman numeral 1.

Answers: (from the bottom up) Navigates, vintage, natives, invest, lines, sit, it, i, l.

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE • OIL DRILLING RIG TERMS

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

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

- Accumulator
- Casing head
- Catline
- Catwalk
- Crown block
- Drill collar
- Drill pipe
- Kelly
- Mast
- Monkeyboard
- Mud pits
- Mud pump
- Rathole
- Shale shaker
- Top drive

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEDICINE: Which vitamin is essential in blood clotting?
2. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. State has a license plate that proclaims, "Land of Lincoln"?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which one of the seven dwarfs in the film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" did not have a beard?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Interview With the Vampire"?
5. LANGUAGE: What were known as "liberty steaks" during World War I in America?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many arms does a squid have?
7. HISTORY: Who tried to assassinate George Wallace while he was campaigning for president in 1972?
8. GAMES: What is also known as skeet?
9. MOVIES: How many roles did Peter Sellers play in the movie "Dr. Strangelove"?
10. MEASUREMENTS: How many tablespoons are in one-fourth cup?

## Answers

1. Vitamin K
2. Illinois
3. Dopey
4. Anne Rice
5. Hamburgers
6. 10
7. Arthur Bremer
8. Trapshooting
9. Three
10. Four

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Click on "Local News" at



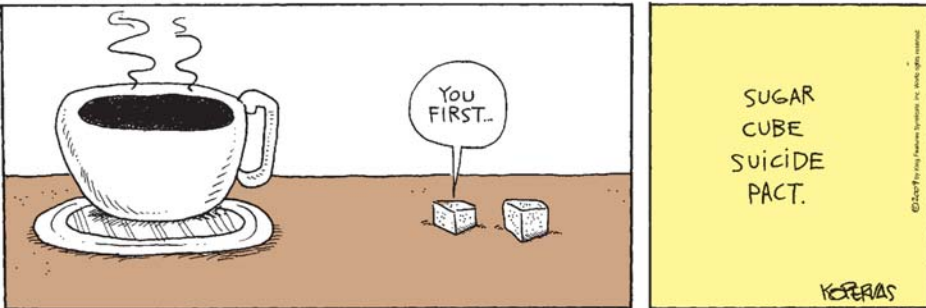
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



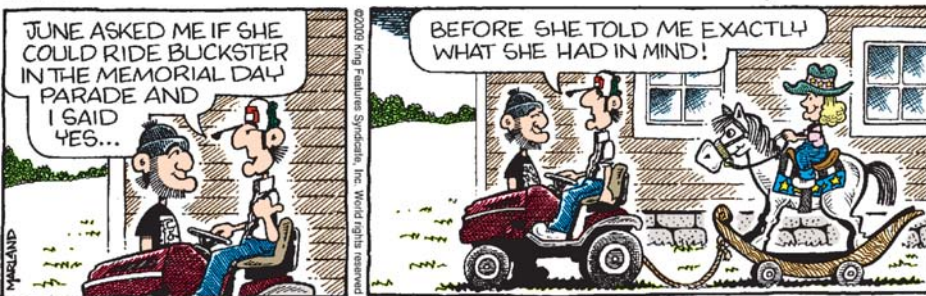
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



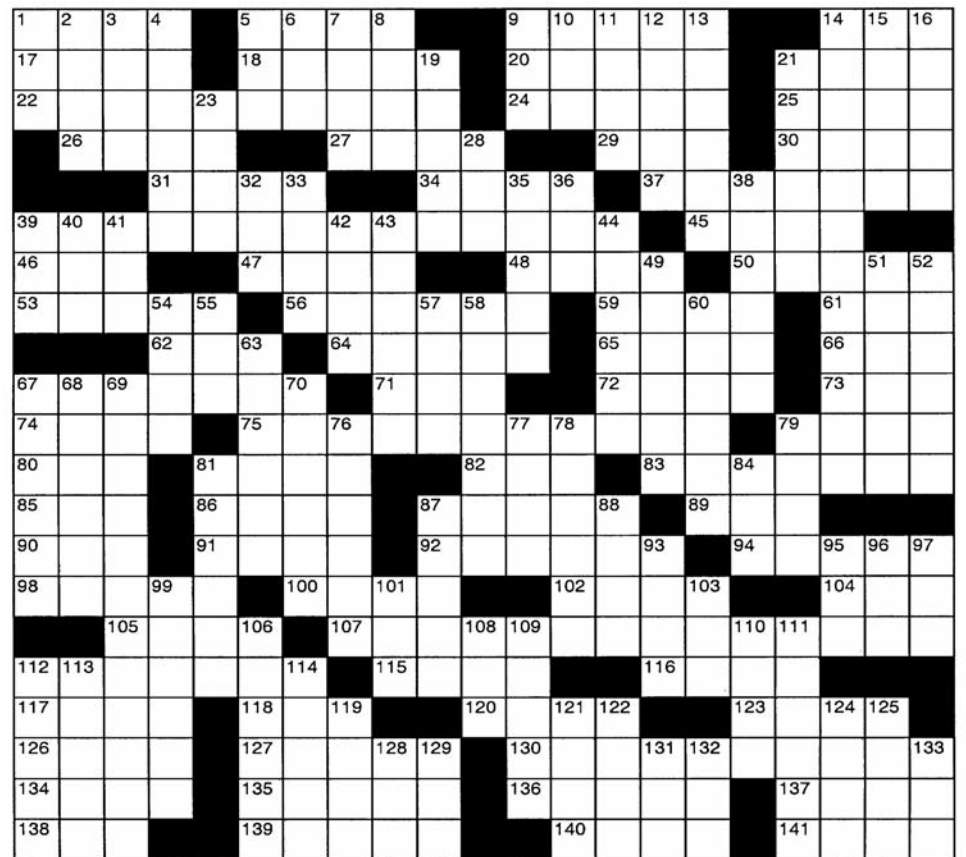
## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Man's sweater is different. 2. Boy has hat. 3. Cloud has been added. 4. Additional flowers are on the ground. 5. House has siding. 6. Tree has a second branch.

# Super Crossword



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### ACROSS

- 1 Ruth's husband
- 5 Approximately
- 9 Analyze a sentence
- 14 Postal abbr.
- 17 Tennis pro
- 18 Sri —
- 20 Humpback's home
- 21 Geometric figure
- 22 President who was a male model
- 24 Electrical inventor
- 25 Shortly
- 26 European capital
- 27 Part of Indonesia
- 29 Flat hat
- 30 It's good in a pinch
- 31 Adequate
- 34 "Picnic" playwright
- 37 '68 Tom Jones hit
- 39 President whose first language wasn't English
- 45 Alight
- 46 Out — limb
- 47 Debut recording
- 48 Shake — (hurry)
- 50 Trunk
- 53 Black and white delight
- 56 Petrarch product
- 59 Cleanse
- 61 Musical sensitivity
- 62 Inventor
- 64 Climb
- 65 Art deco designer
- 66 Writer
- 67 Bug barriers
- 71 Vein
- 72 TV's "Search"
- 73 Actress
- 74 Couple
- 75 First president born in a hospital
- 79 Gasp
- 80 Business abbr.
- 81 Crooner
- 82 Adjust an ascot
- 83 Settle a score
- 85 Super Bowl sound
- 86 "Mila 18" author
- 87 Biblical city
- 89 Aachen article
- 90 Drillers' org.
- 91 Conveyed
- 92 Machine tool
- 94 Annual award
- 98 Coniferous tree
- 100 "Bhagavad —"
- 102 Aphrodite's son
- 104 Mellow
- 105 Comic
- 107 President born on July 4th
- 112 Apple variety
- 115 Smile
- 116 "Entre —"
- 117 In the thick of
- 118 Insert dialogue
- 120 "Shane" star
- 123 Binchy's "Road"
- 126 Prepare to fly
- 127 Sheer fear
- 130 President who was a fighter pilot
- 134 Jogger's gait
- 135 Rent
- 136 Tropical tree
- 137 Singer
- 138 Brickell
- 139 A la King?
- 140 Soho streetcar
- 141 "— on Me" ('72 hit)

### DOWN

- 1 Giant
- 2 Bread spread
- 3 Pretension
- 4 Fanatic
- 5 Word with hat or hand
- 6 Brit. fliers
- 7 Social climber
- 8 Creole veggie
- 9 Ample abdomen
- 10 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
- 11 Take five
- 12 Tuna concoction
- 13 Pottery protection
- 14 President who worked as a life-guard
- 15 "Gay"
- 16 Fractional amount
- 19 Improvise
- 21 Vegas place
- 23 Valhalla villain
- 28 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
- 32 Link letters?
- 33 Monsieur Montand
- 35 Prepare the Parmesan
- 36 Sushi candidate
- 38 Foam
- 39 Lave the linoleum
- 40 Santa —, CA
- 41 Hightailed it
- 42 Grandpa McCoy
- 43 Sarge, e.g.
- 44 Most recent
- 49 Elastic band
- 51 Adage
- 52 Elaborate beauty
- 54 Forest
- 55 Kensington quaff
- 57 Not any
- 58 College member
- 60 Rubber-necked
- 63 Harm
- 67 Pasta shape
- 68 London's location
- 69 President portrayed in an opera house
- 70 It's on the house
- 76 Occult
- 77 — -de-camp
- 78 Start again
- 79 Uruguayan currency
- 81 Running plays
- 84 Delivery truck
- 87 Trite
- 88 Artist
- 93 High time?
- 95 Spoiled
- 96 Quiche ingredient
- 97 Poe's "Annabel —"
- 99 Recognition
- 101 Zipper part
- 103 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 106 Act like a duck
- 108 Kilmer or Bisoglio
- 109 Persona
- 110 Serenade accompaniment
- 111 Actress Sanford
- 112 The Rolling Stones' Charlie
- 113 Japanese porcelain
- 114 Blender setting
- 119 Grumpy guy
- 121 Obligation
- 122 "Stage —" ('37 film)
- 124 Impolite
- 125 Kuwait's continent
- 128 "— live and breathe!"
- 129 Singer Joey
- 131 Genetic letters
- 132 Room for improvement?
- 133 Female fowl

# FUN PAGES

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 3

own decisions, invest and risk your own capital, own your own property and keep that which you are willing to work and sacrifice to earn. It's called economic freedom, aka capitalism.

But capitalism is public enemy #1 in America today, thanks to decades of class warfare and the art of division via social envy, all for purpose of political gain.

Life, Liberty and the right to individually define and pursue Happiness has been replaced with the right of some to take from others against their will, in the name of a greater common good, better defined as the entitlement mentality.

**The Change Agents**

**New World Dictionary**

Old concepts have been redefined. Capitalism is now referred to as Fascism. Personal ambition is now called greed. Those who seek access to other people's rightful earnings are called charitable and those who demand a right to only that, which they earn, are called greedy.

It isn't just the words that have new definitions. The concepts have new meaning as a result.

Words like socialism and commu-

nism no longer have a negative connotation attached to them. Most Americans have no idea what they are anymore, or why they don't want to find out the hard way.

The concept of liberal interpretations limits the meaning of words only to one's individual imagination. The Constitution means only what someone imagines it to mean. If the shoe doesn't quite fit, a new definition will solve the problem.

What are Americans Waiting For?

I don't know what it will take to wake up the average American, but whatever it is, it hasn't happened yet.

The people currently stocking up on food, water, guns and ammo in record numbers, causing shortages in all the above at the retail level, are clearly awake and anticipating something, but what? Meet the "extremists."

The people still trying to get a court somewhere in America to hear the arguments concerning the most secretive, corrupt president in US history, have been awake for a long time. Meet the "birthers." But they continue to have trouble waking anyone else up, including in the so-called halls of justice.

Is it a bankrupt dollar and a new international currency that will get

their attention? A North American Union? An ACORN Army on their doorstep? What will be the final straw that breaks the proverbial camel's back?

I don't have the answer. Frankly, I expected the people to revolt long before now. Clearly, I had underestimated the depth of apathy and tolerance for anti-American nonsense in the average modern American. But then, so did our nation's founders, whom I'm certain are rolling over in their graves in disgust by now.

**The Silent Consent Continues**

Nobody knows for how long or at what expense, but so far, the people remain silent and Washington continues to profitably interpret that silence as broad-based consent.

At this late date, I have no idea what will wake up the average American or how they might react once finally awake and ready to engage in self-governance. However, I am sure about two things: When they finally do awake, they are going to be really angry and; the anti-American left won't let up until then.

The clock isn't just ticking. Time has already run out as of the 2008 election. Washington DC is currently dismantling America, individual right by individual right, in an unprece-

ented massive multi-faceted assault on all things American.

If you are not familiar with the Democratic Socialists of America or their legislative branch, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I strongly suggest that you take time to learn them well. They are in charge of your nation. This is who the average American is up against and they are a very well funded and organized enemy of the state.

You will not be able to take your country back without putting these two organizations out of business. The longer you wait, the tougher the battle, the higher the price.

Clearly, the organizational skills of the average American are equal only to that of the stumbling bumbling Republican Party. Fragmented, distracted and disorganized, the people are no match for the leftist juggernaut running roughshod in DC.

The people are lost, so they are losing. The most complex problems require the simplest of solutions. But the average American is so baffled by a daily diet of elitist B.S. that they cannot even see daylight. When all else fails, return to the basics!

Here's to the average American waking up in time: Good luck!



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**WATER** cont. from P. 2

Water Quality Board and a member of the California Department of Water Resources, as well as the engineer for our Liberty Groves project.

We expect this ongoing relationship to result in new ideas and opportunities for different ways to extend our precious water supply here in Madera County.

Recent weeks have been exciting times for us as we stay progressive and work to develop water resources for Southeast Madera County.

Last week, after reviewing the concept with Madera County staff, we received permission to begin preliminary study and design of a new water recharge facility for Southeast Madera county. The purpose of this project is to start mitigating the over-drafting which is tak-

ing place in the area by all of us who work and live around Southeast Madera. This project (if it gets final approval) will be a collaborative between Madera County and several of the landowners, ourselves included. There's not a lot to say about this project yet, as it has not been designed, but it will allow the County to recharge water for the benefit of southeast Madera County as it becomes available. We will be consulting with the Israelis from Meko-rot, Fresno State and others in order to maximize the positive effects.

Lastly, the County announced completion of its Integrated Regional Water Management Plan about a year ago. This broadly-scoped document looks at many aspects of groundwater and recharge throughout the County and identifies possible ways to enhance the situation, but stops

short of recommending individual projects or planning a schedule of improvements. That level of detail is left to future work. Part of that future work is the establishment of a governing board and gaining approval of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) from the state.

A board has to be selected and I believe it must have within it a member which will represent the needs and interest of the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos, Rolling Hills and other stakeholders representing the large population in the immediate area.

Although the County has proposed and suggested a panel for the board, the members must be selected by a subcommittee which is working at present on establishing the Governing Board.

Now we wait to see if the state will approve

the regional plan, or if there is more work to be done to gain a more "regional" perspective by including other agencies. In any case, there is work to be done to plan projects and begin taking real steps toward improving the groundwater situation in our area.

So there is much being done, and even more to do. As there is more to report we will provide additional articles right here, and will set up additional Town-Hall Meetings as they make sense to get feed-back from the community.

For now, we in Southeast Madera must be vigilant about our future and if we don't look after our water needs obligations and rights, NO ONE ELSE WILL! GET INVOLVED!

With comments or questions: Telephone: 559-363-9095 or E-mail: ranchos.community@gmail.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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Senior Report

# Think Life Begins at 40? Try 80!

By Eleanore Burchell

There is good news for you as life really begins at 80! The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or someone else's name, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have the perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everyone is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis (they used to call it lumbago), and you ask everyone to stop mumbling because you

*If you survive until you are 80, everyone is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.*

can't understand them when actually your hearing is about 50 percent gone.

If you survive until you are 80, everyone is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So please folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for everything. If you ask me, life begins at 80.

### Mark Your Calendars

Please mark your calendar for the next Ranchos/Hills Senior's monthly sale on June 6th at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are located at 37330 Berkshire Drive. There will be trees, shrubs and flowering plants in the garden section. New summer articles are coming in daily for the Treasure House sale. The bakery goods and boutique sales are held in the main building. New boutique items arrive often. Fresh produce is ripening so come in and check what is available. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are also available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging).

You are invited to come in and check with Joann about what programs would help you.

Saturday, May 9 was a busy day as we participated in the Flatlanders Day Parade and activities. We won second place on our float! We also had a booth which sold cookbooks and raffle tickets. Our Senior Center's float carried Joy Hansen, President, Doyal Thompson, Vice President, along with Russ and Helen Lowell.

Our world travelers have returned from their trip to Ireland with many interesting tales and huge envelopes full of photos. If you are interested in traveling with our group of seniors, please keep in contact with Joann, 645-4864, to learn of upcoming plans.

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.

On Thursday, June 18 at 11 a.m. a representative from Congressman George Radanovich's office will be at the center to talk with us. Anyone interested is welcome to attend this meeting.

On June 23 at 11:30 a.m. we will be celebrating the June Birthdays and Anniversaries at Huckleberry Restaurant located at Champlain and Perrin in Fresno. In May we celebrated at Sal's Mexican Restaurant in Fresno. Our members and friends go out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month. If you want to come just for 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 at 37330 Berkshire Drive. Many of our

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 29

5/09



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# FIVE TWO

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## SENIORS cont. from P. 28

members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us, 645-4864.

### The Up Side

Choices come daily;  
let your heart lead you into wisdom

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 is held on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with your

friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

### Up and Coming Events

June 6, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monthly Sale

June 18, 11 a.m., Representative from Congressman George Radanovich's Office

June 23, 11:30 a.m. June Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, Huckleberry Restaurant, Champlain & Perrin, Fresno

### Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.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 to 11:30 a.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?

## WOODY cont. from P. 10

and waved a hand toward the stewardess.

"Give the flamingo my seat," she smiled. "I really don't mind standing. The poor, dear thing looks exhausted."

"I'm sorry," barked the stewardess, obviously disgusted with all the fuss over a damned flamingo, "but it is not permissible for a passenger to stand in the aisle or anyplace else."

And then a quite proper-looking young man in a pinstripe suit got up and identified himself as an attorney at law.

"I object to all of this," he told the stewardess. "You are obviously depriving this poor bird of its Constitutional Rights"

She was quite angry now, and embarrassed because people all over the plane were giving her dirty looks, except the glum fellow across the aisle shaking his head in disgust, as if ques-

tioning why everyone was giving her a bad time.

"All right," she finally told me, "the flamingo can remain on the seat but if it falls off you'll have to hold it and that's final!"

A few minutes later when it was announced that we would be landing in about 10 minutes, the glum-looking guy across the aisle summoned the stewardess.

"Can you radio ahead for a wheelchair?" he asked.

"Of course," she said. "Is your wife having difficulties?"

"No," he said, guffawing loudly, "but I don't think that damned flamingo can walk."

The old faker had been waiting ever since we left Las Vegas, waiting for his chance to jump into the fray.

Well, the upshot of all this is that little Clarissa will be united with her grandmother's gift the next time she's in town.

# Classified

## Alteration Services

**Madlin's Alterations** - 35 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12 - 559-645-4583.**

## Business Opportunity

**Curves** in the Madera Ranchos is for sale. **Please call Jennifer at 645-6193 or 232-1801 for more info.**

## Construction

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

## For Rent

**For Rent - FRESNO HOME** - near St. Agnes and CSUF. 3BR/2BA 1,500 sq. ft. **COMPLETELY RENOVATED.** New appliances, tilework, RV parking. Corner lot w/yard service. New carpets, paint. \$1,300 rent plus security deposit. **Call 213-2275.**

**For Rent - 3BR/2BA 1,648 sq. ft. home in the Ranchos.** \$1,200 rent with \$1,300 security deposit. Extra deposit for pets. **Call 681-7695 or 681-7685.**

## For Sale

**For Sale - Antiques**, quality furniture, glass and china. **Call 645-1770.**

**For Sale - Production Horse Sale.** 26th Annual at Lazy K Ranch in Chowchilla. Sat. June 6., 55 head AQHA and APHA. Price range of \$575.-\$975. Photos on line at [www.lazykranch.com](http://www.lazykranch.com). **Call 559-665-2908.**

**For Sale - All New King PILLOWTOP** Mattress/Box, Brand New W/Warranty, Cost \$900. Sacrifice \$350. **Call 438-0248.**

**For Sale - Bedroom Set - Solid Cherrywood!** Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser,

Chest, Dovetailed Drawers. Cost \$7K Sacrifice \$1,750. New in Boxes! **Call 275-8813.**

**For Sale - Pool Table** - 1" Slate, Leather Pockets, Brand New With Extras. Cost \$4K. Sacrifice \$1,175. Can Deliver. **Call 277-2511.**

**For Sale - DINING ROOM SET** - Beautiful Solid Cherrywood, Double Pedestal Table W/2 Leaves, 6 Chairs, China Cabinet With Touch Lighting. Never Used, Cost \$8k. Sacrifice \$1,775. Matching Buffet \$450. **Call 230-0486.**

**For Sale - Queen PILLOWTOP** Mattress/Box, Never Used in Plastic, Cost \$700 Sacrifice \$195. **Call 447-5066.**

## Found

**Collapsible canvas lawn chair** left in Chamber of Commerce/Ranchos Independent Office after Flatlanders Day Parade. **Come in and identify.**

## Gutter Services

**The Gutter Doctor** specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 29 years working in the area. **Call 559-822-2759.**

## Handyman Services

**O. HANDYMAN** - Need fans installed, sprinklers, light electrical,

plumbing, or any handyman chores? **Call Ohan for free estimates. 559-645-4583.**

## Help Wanted

**Help Wanted - The Ranchos Independent** is looking for a solid worker to call on advertising accounts to maintain relationships and develop new business. **Please call 645-0634.**

## Home/Yard/Ranch Services

**NEED AFFORDABLE, BUT RELIABLE HOME, YARD OR RANCH HELP?** Landscaping, hauling, tree and brush trimming/removal, home improvement, general labor, etc. **Call Luke today! 559-367-5881.**

## Housekeeping Services

**Housekeeping - Ranchos Area business owner** - 12 years. Good references. For more information call **559-776-6790 or 559-645-4117.**

## Painting Services

**Painting Services - 40 years of experience.** Licensed and insured. **Frank Kramer Exteriors. Call 645-4113.**

## Room for Rent

**Ranchos Room for rent on 1/2**

**acre. Share House - Details, Call 559-681-6355.**

## Tractor Services

**Tractor work**, discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees, trenching and clean ups. **Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.**

**Tractor work**, house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

## Trash Hauling

**Trash Hauling** - Yard cleanup, Lawn mowing, Sprinkler repair. **Call Alex at 559-479-1402.**

## Window Cleaning Services

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

**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.

	-		x		16
÷		+		-	
	+		x		18
+		x		x	
	÷		+		10
11		9		14	

1 2 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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**SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## PG&E vs The Ranchos

PG&E is 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.

Watch The Ranchos Independent  
next month for a  
**PG&E Survey** where you can share your thoughts  
and then **SIGN A LETTER** to tell the Power Company  
just how you feel.

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