

# The Ranchos Independent



PRSR STD  
ECR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADERA, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 7 Issue 5 2011

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



As part of a fundraiser for Madera Ranchos charities, Tom Hurst (center) is elected the Madera Ranchos Honorary Mayor and is flanked by Kiwanis member Debbie Farr (left) and Kiwanis President Mona Diaz.

Photo by John Gluck

## Hurst Hardware's Tom Hurst becomes the Madera Ranchos' Honorary Mayor

### In This Issue

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8  
Classifieds • Page 22 / Fun Pages • Pages 26 & 27



The Madera Ranchos' new Honorary Mayor, Tom Hurst of Hurst Hardware.

## A New Sheriff, er, Mayor in Town

Now that the dust has settled and the campaigning is done, the voters of the Madera Ranchos have spoken with their pocketbooks and elected Tom Hurst of Hurst Hardware as their official honorary mayor. The entire election was conducted in good fun through the Ranchos Kiwanis club and gave local non-profits an opportunity to raise money for their causes. Hurst was representing Liberty High School Golf and was competing against 10

other candidates. Each vote cost \$1 and the candidate who raised the most money won. Afterward, 75 cents of each dollar went to the charity and 25 cents went to the Kiwanis. The final top six were:

- |                  |          |            |
|------------------|----------|------------|
| 1. Tom Hurst     | LHS Golf | \$1,951.54 |
| 2. Carla Hart    | Kiwanis  | \$1,396    |
| 3. Audrey Stock  | Seniors  | \$1,045    |
| 4. Mike Nolte    | LHS F.B. | \$160      |
| 5. Bill Cosner   | Library  | \$122.27   |
| 6. Vince Guthrie | Chamber  | \$107      |

## Liberty Hawks “ACE” Competition



Receiving awards for their role with the ACE competition, Lauren Bailey and Halee Sabourin (center) are flanked by (from left) Larry Hill, Dawn Church, Renee Harris, Stephanie McShane and Kuljeet Mann.

On Friday, April 8, the Liberty High School Hawks outshined the competition at the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) presentations held at CSUF. They competed against four other schools, namely Edison High, Clovis High, Hoover High, and Kerman High. ACE team members are: Lauren Bailey, Kylee Ford, Leiasa Horanic, James Owens, Halee Sabourin, and Elizabeth Smith.

The program also gives out scholarships. Usually, one \$1,000 scholarship per school site is given. However, this year, the mentors felt that two were needed and deserved, so they raised the money themselves to fund the second scholarship, increased the amounts of each to \$1,250, and left LHS with a small nest egg to help with next year's expenses. The deserving scholarship recipients this year are Halee Sabourin and Lauren Bailey. These fantastic young ladies are leaving this fall, Halee for Cal Poly SLO to study architectural engineering and Lauren for Cal Poly Pomona to

Please see ACE on P. 20

## Mary Ellen Naples: Milestones in the Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

Long time Madera Ranchos resident Mary Ellen Naples just celebrated two milestones, her 20th anniversary as a Yard Duty Supervisor at Webster Elementary School and her 80th Birthday on April 19. Students, coworkers, administrators and even a local TV station turned out to congratulate Mary Ellen for her 20 years of service at Webster Elementary School and to wish Mary Ellen a Happy Birthday. The children had a wonderful time laughing, singing Happy Birthday and eating cake too. Mary Ellen was flattered but a bit confused by all the attention commenting, “I don't know why everyone is making such a big deal out of this. I'm just doing my job.”

Mary Ellen was pleasantly surprised when she received many phone calls and cards after Channel 24 aired a segment on the evening news. Many of the calls were from the parents of current Webster students who remembered Mary Ellen from their own days at Webster years ago. Others were from people thanking Mary Ellen for being there for them when they were students at Webster. Mary Ellen says she'd recognized some family resemblances, especially with the boys who often look just like their fathers did at their age.

In many ways Mary Ellen is a grandmotherly figure to the chil-

dren of Webster Elementary, especially the little ones. She definitely has some old fashioned values. Mary Ellen says “I'm a little bit tougher than others when it comes to manners.” Calling herself “old school” she explains “saying please and thank you should be common courtesy by the time children are in school. Children should be taught to be good listeners and to care about other people's feelings.” There is one word that the children all know will push Mary Ellen's buttons every time. That word is “gimmee!” as in “gimmee that!” “The children all know that I hate that word and I won't respond to it until they ask for something properly.”



Mary Ellen's day starts at 9:30 a.m. each day when she assists the kitchen staff with breakfast then sees that the children eat and get off to class on time. By the time breakfast is over and cleaned up it's time to start getting ready for recesses and the lunch shifts. Maria DeSoto, Cafeteria Lead Person, says, “I really enjoy Mary Ellen as a friend and as a coworker. She does so many little things for people without ever being asked.” Maria's three children, ages 29, 24 and 23 all remember Mary Ellen fondly from their days as students at Webster.

Mary Ellen, a native of Wisconsin, moved to the Ranchos 23

Please see MILESTONE on P. 13



Golden Valley Unified School District's soon-to-be ex-Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

## Koligian Leaving GVUSD for Tulare's Greener Pastures

The following is the official press release issued by the Golden Valley Unified School District regarding Superintendent Sarah Koligian's departure and appointment to Tulare.

Editor

As new superintendent of Tulare Joint Union High School District for 2011-2012, Sarah Koligian, the current superintendent of Golden Valley Unified School District was recently appointed as the new superintendent of Tulare Joint Union High School District beginning July 1, 2011.

Sarah Koligian has been the superintendent of the K-12 Golden Valley Unified School District in Madera County for the

past four years and prior to that spent 20 years in Central Unified School District in Fresno County as a teacher, administrator, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services.

During Ms. Koligian's tenure as superintendent of GVUSD she has led the district to new levels of academic excellence; all traditional schools are California Distinguished Schools; the district Academic Performance Index (API) has grown from 787 to 820; the district's schools have won several prestigious recognitions such as CSBA Golden Bell awards, Bonner Virtues in Character Education awards, and California Business Excellence in Education Honor Roll School status.

Ms. Koligian is a graduate of the 2009 CSBA Master's in Governance class; a nominee for the 2010 ACSA Region IX “Superintendent of the Year,” and a winner of the California School's Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) “Excellence in Communication” award for the 2010 GVUSD Annual Report. She has also been an invited speaker at the Annual CSBA conference, ACSA Superintendent's Academy, Madera County School Board's Association, and the CSUF Annual Liberal Studies Conference. She has been an adjunct professor at Fresno Pacific University teaching a Master's level course in

Please see LEAVING on P. 11



Nearly 5 million U.S. homes already rely on clean, safe propane ...



# What are YOU waiting for?

Propane is used for furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, outdoor grills, fireplaces and appliances.

Propane fulfills energy needs by burning cleanly and efficiently, giving you more value for your energy dollar.

Propane is one of the cleanest burning of all fossil fuels, is nontoxic and is not harmful to soil or water.

Propane is an approved, clean fuel listed in the 1990 Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.



## VALLEY PROPANE

### (559) 645-5324 (800) 736-0407



Service you can trust at prices you can afford! We are locally owned.

- **FREE LEAK TEST** • **FREE TANK RENTAL FIRST YEAR** •



### WIN FREE PROPANE!

#### WIN 250 GALLONS OF PROPANE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AVAILABLE BETWEEN JULY 1 - AUG. 31, 2011 • MUST BE A VALLEY PROPANE CUSTOMER

**MAIL TO: Valley Propane • PO Box 125 • Mendota, CA 93640**



5/11

# Summer in the Ranchos Means Lounging, Travel, Vacation and ... Reading!

By Ellen Mester

School is almost over and that means a summer of relaxation for some, or baseball road trips for others. Whatever summer means to your family, remember to take several good books to read. Reading keeps your mind active while giving you a relaxing escape from your busy life. It's a bit of an oxymoron actually. If you fall into a good book, you're immersed in a different world. This gives your mind a rest from your normal worries, while still keeping all the neurons firing. It's especially good for students who tend to relax their minds so much that they forget most of what they learned the previous school year. And that's why public libraries across the country have Summer Reading Programs, offering reading incentives and entertainment at the library. This year, at the Ranchos Library, our summer program is entitled "One World, Many Stories." The theme is a multicultural, travel and adventure-based program for children ages 3 to 12. The kick-off party on June 16 will have games or activities representing 14 different countries. Reading logs and prizes will be given to all participants. Then each Thursday at 2 p.m. for the following six weeks, there will be an entertainer or activity as well as our Dragon Drawing. Here is the schedule of events:

<b>June 16</b>	<b>Kick-off Party</b>	<b>noon</b>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>English Renaissance</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Omnipresent Puppets</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>July 7</b>	<b>Cat Haven's bobcat</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>Multicultural Music</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>July 21</b>	<b>African Storyteller</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>July 28</b>	<b>Prizes and Pictures</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>

Mark your calendar! We look forward to seeing you at the library.

Note: Our regular programs will be on hiatus during the summer.

### Flatlander's Day

Another successful Flatlander's Day has come and gone. It's kind of like Christmas ... all the preparation and planning, then in a blink it's over. Many thanks to the Friends of the Ranchos Library, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Girl Scouts for decorating the Friends' float, law enforcement, firemen, blood mobile, the vendors, the businesses, and all those who attended for making it such a wonderful day for our community. Community Pride was certainly the right theme for the Ranchos and we certainly have a lot to be proud of. Congratulations to our new Honorary Mayor, Tom Hurst. In the words of Mr. Spock, "Live long and prosper."

### Book Drop Reminder

With the summer heat it is especially important not to put items in the book drop that could melt, such as cassette tapes or VHS tapes. We also ask that you don't place DVD's, music CD's, or books on CD in the book drop because they can be damaged if heavy books land on them. Please place items for donation at the door and not in the book drop. We have had problems with the donations filling the book drop so full that there was no room for library books.

### Book Recommendations

**Young Adult Fiction:** *City of Fallen Angels* by Cassandra Clare. After discovering her Shadowhunter skills and winning the mortal war, Clary and her friends are settling into a new routine back in New York City. Her best friend, Simon, is now a vampire with the unusual ability to withstand sunlight (hence the name Daylighter) and with the Mark of Cain on his forehead, nothing can harm him. He still abstains from human blood, and his mom is beginning to notice that he isn't eating solid food. (Hmmm...she doesn't know yet that he's a vamp?) Meanwhile, Clary is in training class to learn the official Shadowhunter combat skills with her boyfriend, Jace. But something is wrong. Jace is being tormented and someone or something is stirring up trouble again with the Shadowhunters and the Downworlders. This is the fourth in the Mortal Instruments series, and after the cliffhanger ending, let's hope this definitely is not the last. I suggest that you read the first three to know what's going on.



**Adult Non-fiction:** *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. This is the story of Christopher McCandless' short adventurous life as told through his writings and from those whom he met on his journeys. Christopher was born into an affluent family in 1968, graduated from college in 1989, then embarked on a cross-country trek in his little Datsun, to commune with nature and explore a minimalist lifestyle. After ditching his Datsun in

the desert, Chris takes on the name of Alexander Supertramp and continues hitchhiking and riding the rails to traverse the western part of the U.S. Despite shying away from relationships, Alex makes a huge impression on those with whom he comes in contact. He's likeable, hard-working, and doesn't ask for anything. He lives by his own high standards and doesn't fall to the usual temptations of young men his age. His one big goal is to go up to the Alaskan wilderness and live off the land. No one can dissuade him from this goal, however, and right from the beginning we know what happens to Alex. It's a fascinating story and for anyone who has a similar wanderlust ... a must read.

Check out these books and more at the Ranchos Library and don't forget your library card – don't leave home without it.



## THE RIGHT WELL COMPANY NO MATTER WHAT YOU NEED!



**Domestic Pump Units • Complete Pumping Units  
Residential & Agriculture  
REPAIRS & NEW UNITS**

*we can often rebuild your parts and offer a warranty • solid warranties on all new products*

**Serving the San Joaquin Valley for over 50 years  
focused on saving YOU money!**

*for help with your well today call:*

**Sean Naffziger  
Anthony Galvan  
Ryan Jones**

**559-217-0500  
559-917-0553  
559-351-4513**

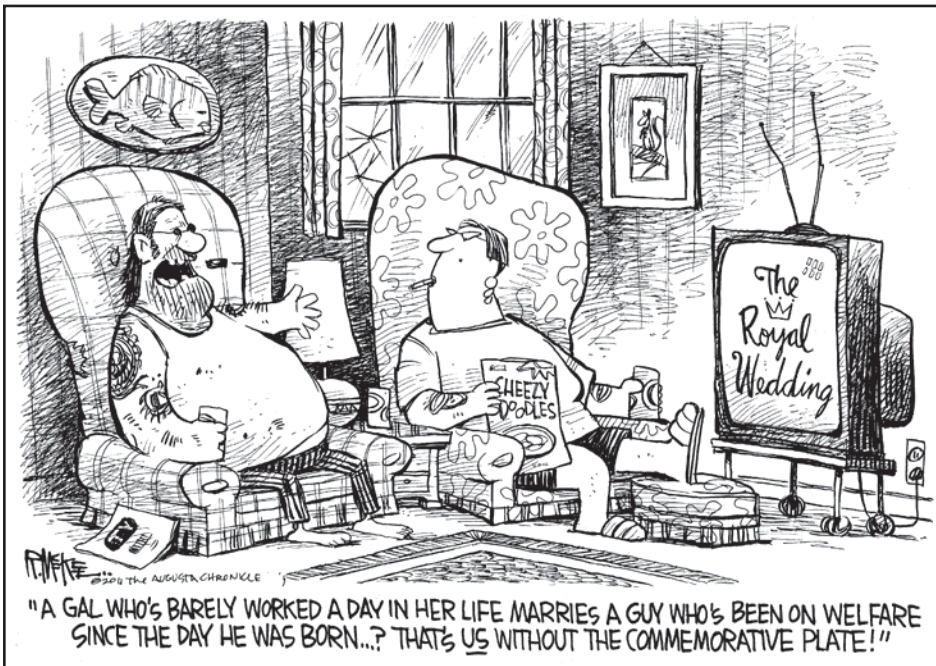
**email: [cwdmanager@hotmail.com](mailto:cwdmanager@hotmail.com)**

**fax: 559-441-1894**

**CLOVIS WELL DRILLING  
500 S. Dickenson, Fresno • 441-1851**

5/11

Click on "Local News" at



Editorial

# Another One Bites the Dust

By Randy Bailey

They say that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome each time.

I guess that would be pretty insane.

My little brush with insanity always seems to come at the hands of Golden Valley Unified superintendents.

I remember when Marilyn Shepherd, the superintendent before Sarah Koligian, announced that she was leaving Golden Valley Unified back in late 2006. Here we were, a new school district going through the obligatory growing pains, and Shepherd was instrumental in getting us on the right track. This was 2006, well before all of the economic bubble bursting that was on the horizon in 2007-2008, and we were on the fast track to a world-class education system for our kids, which is what we all wanted from the beginning. And there we were, right on top of the wave, and Shepherd announces that she was taking a similar position in Monterey.

Gee, who *wouldn't* take a similar position in Monterey? But after all of the pats on the back and the cursory, "Well, good for her!" that seemed to flow from everyone, the feeling of being a jilted lover started to kind of sink in. I guess the kids in Monterey were better than our kids. I guess they deserved the best, which is what we thought we had with Shepherd. We sure didn't want to hold anyone back on their career track, but using our kids for stepping stones just

didn't sit well with a lot of people, me being one of them. I mean, she couldn't even wait till the end of the school year! She bugged out in February for God's sake, leaving us high and dry. I asked her why she made the move and she told me, "Monterey came looking for me, I didn't go looking for them."

"Yes," I said, "but you could have said 'no.'"

The word among administrators is that the average superintendent is usually only good for about four years and then they take off. My mother-in-law was the secretary to the superintendent of a Valley school district who had been the superintendent for something like 20 years. Obviously he had never heard of the "four and run" program.

Neither had I.

Now we get the word that effective July 1, Sarah Koligian will get on the bus and take off for Tulare Unified. Not exactly Monterey, but it obviously has some kind of attraction. And here I sit expecting a different outcome.

During the last School Board election, some of the candidates made it clear that they didn't think much of Sarah Koligian. They didn't say it out loud, but there were the quiet nods between supporters and knowing glances after the election that she was on the chopping block. I always thought that school of thought was garbage, the result of simple minds looking for quick, simple answers and a pound of flesh in the process. And I always thought Koligian was enough of a fighter that, providing it never hurt the kids, she was not going to let *them* win.

But I guess everyone picks their own battles.

This way she can go out on her own terms and not have to deal with the petty backbiting when it came -- and it was coming. But what now? The lunacy of change for change's sake is as moronic as it is short-sighted. Change for the *better* is always welcome, but it had better be based on more than the likes and dislikes of a handful of people. Changing horses in the middle of the stream is never a good idea and as much as I hope and pray for Sarah's success, I hope and pray for the success of our little school district more.

And I'm hoping for a different outcome.

Again.

# The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.

All contents of this publication are copyright 2011, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

Christi McKinney -- Reporter • Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales

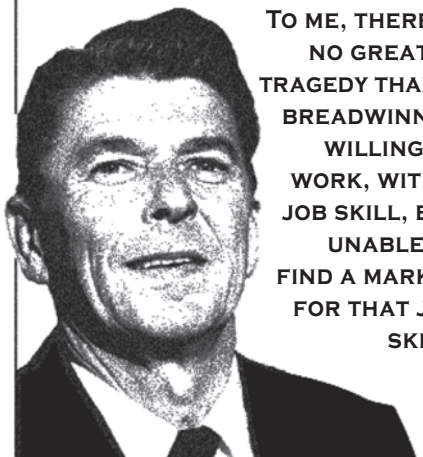
Rachael Bailey -- Advertising Sales • Tina Shannon -- Advertising Sales

**559-645-0634** 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636  
**ranchosnews@yahoo.com**

www.TheRanchos.com

## THE RAY GUN

SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



TO ME, THERE IS NO GREATER TRAGEDY THAN A BREADWINNER WILLING TO WORK, WITH A JOB SKILL, BUT UNABLE TO FIND A MARKET FOR THAT JOB SKILL.

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

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR PRESIDENT  
 PSALM 109:8 (KJV)

# Turning UPS into a Hobby

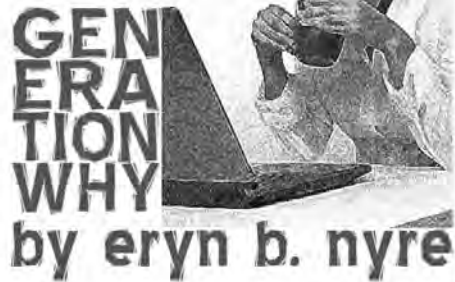
For Mother's Day, since my parents jumped ship and high-tailed it out of California and into the Land of Enchantment, I had to send my Mom's present via UPS. Not a strange action in and of itself, but the process opened my eyes to a new feature ... live package tracking.

For those unfamiliar, and I am relatively certain I was in the minority, this feature gives you live updates regarding the delivery status of your parcel from pick up to delivery via email, text message, pop-up, smoke signals, sky writing and coming soon, osmosis. The point, I'm certain, is to instill confidence that your precious cargo is safely en route to the desired destination. What it does, however, is turn an otherwise normal woman

into a crazy haired, wild-eyed UPS stalker that checks the website obsessively every five minutes to see if the package has moved. I couldn't pry myself away from the tracking page, desperately asking, "Why hasn't it moved? It says it's at the airport yet it doesn't appear to be on a plane? Is the flight delayed? It was rerouted

from Ohio to Virginia, what in the world was it doing in Ohio? Since when is Virginia or Ohio situated between California and New Mexico; were these states recently relocated? Have Utah, Arizona and Nevada ceased to exist or is UPS simply unfamiliar with their proximity to New Mexico? Would it be helpful if I sent UPS a map?"

The obsession continued for three days until the present had finally made its way from California to New Mexico, by way of Virginia, because everyone knows that the shortest distance between two points is the entire Eastern Seaboard. The packaged arrived in



Albuquerque just before five in the evening, and from there remained immobile for the remainder of that night until well into the next morning, and I know this because by this point I hadn't slept in three days and was carrying around my lap top like a security blanket, eyes locked on the UPS tracking page just in case some ambitious UPS employee felt like

*" I learned three things from this experience, though: First, I really need a hobby; Second, the entirety of the UPS Corporation evidently doesn't own a map and is in severe need of a geography lesson; and Third, up-to-the-minute information is not safe in the hands of a slightly obsessive personality that will sacrifice sleep and sanity to track a package through the different stages of delivery for the simple thrill of it."*

made someone very rich.

Finally, a little before noon, the status changed, the pop-up "ding"-ed, the email beeped and the text message buzzed. The package was on the truck and heading out to be delivered. Hallelujah! Now, here is where the tracking page fell short of completely enabling my newly formed stalker habit. Once on the truck, there are no further updates until the delivery is complete. I couldn't see where the driver was, what street he was on, in what city or if he was even actively making de-

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 15

## BEDROCK

### ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project  
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!  
36961 Avenue 12  
559.645.4849  
www.bedrockeng.com

### INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!

- Save money on flood insurance with an elevation certificate
- Verify your property line locations with a boundary survey
- Reconfigure your property lines with a lot line adjustment
- Improve your property with a grading and drainage plan
- Divide your property with a parcel map

Dedicated to serving the land surveying and civil engineering needs of Madera Ranchos and the Central Valley

5/11

## The Ultimate Riding Experience

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

accepting all ages • riding lessons • boarding • training  
summer camp coming June 2011 • Spanish instructors  
gift certificates available

BUY ONE LESSON  
GET ONE LESSON

FREE!

first 25 people  
limited space  
call **CODIE CANTRELL**  
**513-6172**

Owner & Riding Instructor - Kim J. Andersen • Ranch Manager - Brad Stefani  
Trainer - Caleb Hatfield • Spanish Riding Instructor - Aura Partridge  
Appointments - Codie Cantrell - 513-6172 • Spanish Appointments - Aura Partridge - 363-9459  
Andersen Performance Horses • 17063 Bonita Rd., Madera • 479-8562

## To Advertise in the Ranchos Independent

call **645-0634**

**The edge**  
a full service salon

37164 Ave. 12 #103  
Madera Ranchos  
(next to Alfresco Coffee)

**645-8323** 

CONGRATULATIONS!  
CLASS of 2011

5/11

Save this date!


call 559-801-7703 for more info

**AUG. 20, 2011**


**Fire Station 19's Annual  
FIRE-B-Q DINNER & DANCE  
AUCTION • SALSA DIP & RANCHOS HAT CONTEST**

 5/10

5 p.m.  
to  
Midnight

 **FIRST 5**  
MADERA COUNTY

First 5 Madera County is recruiting for:  
**Commissioner- Unincorporated Valley Area  
(BOS District 1)**




Madera County's children of today will be our leaders of tomorrow...

...Help First 5 Madera County invest in the future of our children.

First 5 is recruiting for a Commissioner - Unincorporated Valley Area - to participate in the distribution of \$2 million annually to fund programs that focus on getting Madera's youngest children ready for school.

If you live in the Unincorporated Valley Area and are interested in shaping the community, contact Mang at 661-5155 or pick up an application at 525 E. Yosemite. Applications are due: May 31, 2011.



5/11

## The Stock Report

# Strong End to Ranchos Mayor's Race

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
Hallelujah, it is over! The Honorary Mayor's race is over. Tom Hurst from the Hurst Hardware Store is the winner. Tom was the candidate for the Liberty High School Golf Team. The top 3 winners in the race were:

### Liberty High School Golf Team

Tom Hurst with \$1951  
**Ranchos Kiwanis**  
Carla Hart \$1396  
**Ranchos Hills/Seniors**  
Audrey Stock \$1045

I want to thank the community for getting behind all 10 of the candidates. The best thing about this fundraiser is that the money that was raised will stay in our community. The Ranchos Kiwanis club was the sponsors of the Honorary Mayor race and received 25 cents from each \$1 raised. They made over \$2,000 for their children's programs that they support. The best part is all of the good work that this money will do in our community.

### More Winners

I personally want to thank everyone who gave their dollar votes to me and the Ranchos Hills Seniors in the Mayor's Race. For those who bought the blue raffle tickets from me here are the winners:

**1st Place \$100 at the Ranchos Market** Mike Smith  
**2nd Place \$30 at Headliners** Ruby Drew  
**3rd Place \$20 at China Wok** Rick Morin  
**4th Place \$20 at B&M Auto and Truck Parts** Ruth Baker

John at the B&M Auto and Truck Parts store was the one who pulled the

winning four tickets for me.

I rode in the Flatlanders Parade on the Ranchos/Hills Seniors golf cart even though I did not win the Mayor's race, I did make money for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. The golf cart was driven by Russ and Helen Lowell. Our theme was "Ranchos Hills Seniors, the pride of the community." The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce theme for the Parade this year was "Community Pride." Guess what I just found out? The seniors' golf cart won a 3rd place trophy in the community group category for the Flatlanders Parade. How sweet is that?

### Graduation Time

Well it is that time of the year again, when Liberty High seniors are getting ready for graduation. It is also scary for the seniors. It is important that they keep a check on their grades in each class and make sure that they keep their grades up. If they need to catch up any missed work be sure that they do it now because they are running out of time. The commencement exercises will be held on Thursday, June 2 at 6 p.m. in the Liberty High School

Football Stadium. You will need a ticket to give at the gate to get in to see the graduation this year. This will be the first graduation ceremony to be held in the new football stadium. I pray that this crazy weather that we have been having will have settled down and be a good day. There will be about 128 seniors graduating this year. Each commencement is special for the students and their parents and family. Some students seem to believe that if they can just get through high school all of their problems will be over. Reality is a little different but graduation from High School is a big step in the right direction.

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

www.TheRanchos.com

## Dating Yourself

Recently while “web surfing” I came across a website with all the fruits and vegetables that are in the Bible. Of course we all know about the apple that started all the trouble, the grapes that were turned into wine, the olive oil and many others, but the one on the list that surprised me the most was the cucumber. If I had read that passage previously, I hadn’t thought much about it at the time, but now it seems strange that they were in bible times.

Two of the fruits on the list that we still have today are the fig and dates. They aren’t as popular as most other fruit – you either like them or you don’t; no in-between. My Aunt Alma (my mom’s only living sister – she’s 93 years old and still able to send me a three to five page typed – yes typed on an old typewriter – letter every month) loves figs. In fact, when she moved in with her daughter and son in law, she had a fig tree planted in their back yard.

I’m not that fond of figs, but I do like dates. A few years ago I discovered Randy likes dates also so I decided to do some research on the date.

### A Little History

Since before the existence of Man, over 50,000 years ago, date palms and other fruit have been instrumental to humans. The Mesopotamians recognized the tree’s versatility and value; its sweet fruit became an essential part of their diets and the palm offered “three hundred and sixty” uses, including needles, thread, lumber, mattresses, rope, baskets and other household items, as well as food and beverage. According to Purdue University there are approximately 1,500 varieties of dates.

The majority of dates grown today are in Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. In the United States, California leads the nation in date production with its 5,100 acres, mostly in the Inland Empire, the southeastern counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial. These produce 18,900 tons for a value of just under \$29 million. According to 2008 figures, dates rank 43rd in California exports, right below apri-



cots and grapefruit and above olives and sweet potatoes.

Growing up, when we were going to have company - especially during the holidays - mama would always put a tray of “goodies” out. It would usually include toasted almonds (almonds put in boiling water just for a minute so the husks could be removed, then the almonds fried in a little oil until brown and put out on paper towels and sprinkled with salt); sugared walnuts (walnut pieces dipped in a pan of boiling sugar and milk then drained and put out on waxed paper to dry); and stuffed dates (a pitted date with a piece of walnut in it, then the date rolled in either sugar or coconut that had been chopped).

### Date Nut Bread

Grease a bread loaf pan and pre-heat oven to 325

- 1 C Chopped Dates
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 C Boiling Water

Mix together in bowl and set aside to cool.

- 1 C Brown Sugar
- 1 Egg Beaten
- 1 T Shortening
- 2 C Flour
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 1 C Chopped Nuts

In large mixing bowl cream together the brown sugar, egg and shortening. Add flour and vanilla. Mix in date and water mixture and fold in nuts.

Pour into greased loaf pan and bake in 325 oven for 1 hour.

Can be sliced thin and made into sandwiches with softened cream cheese.

### Betsy Ross Date Pinwheels

- 1 C Chopped Dates
- ½ C Sugar
- ½ C Water
- ½ C Chopped Nuts
- ½ C Shortening
- 1 C Brown Sugar

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

## Piano Lessons

\$15.00/Lesson

559-645-8947

Located in Madera Ranchos. Please call for more info.



5/11

## THE CLOCK IS TICKING ...

*it's time to get in shape!*

*What are you waiting for?*

**JOIN TODAY AND PAY NO INITIATION FEE!\***

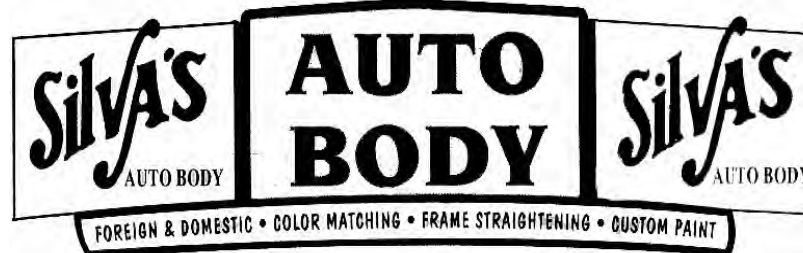
\*with a 12 month agreement

**CALL FOR MORE INFO 559-479-8282**

**RANCHOS FITNESS UNLIMITED • 37193 AVE. 1274A • MADERA RANCHOS**

5/11

## Fine Quality Craftmanship

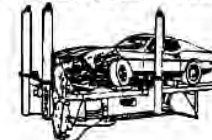


### Specializing In:

- Foreign & Domestic Car Repairs
- Custom Paint
- Color Matching
- Insurance Work
- Frame Straightening
- Unibody Frame Repairs
- Chroma Vision Color Matching



CHIEF E-Z-LINER



Precision Collision Repair



5/11

Insurance Claims Welcomed



**FREE ESTIMATES**

**674-8591**





# DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

674-1663  
14794 Hwy 41  
Madera

Family Owned  
Since 1976

5/11



LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY

**559-645-5363**

CHAD HARR  
CA #142100

SAND & GRAVEL •  
CRUSHED ROCK •  
LANDSCAPE MATERIAL •  
FILL DIRT •  
TOP SOIL •  
HUMUS •  
BARK •  
CHIPS •  
RIVER ROCK •  
BASE ROCK •  
ROCK DUST •  
COBBLE STONES •  
DRIVEWAY BASE •  
CONSTRUCTION  
CLEANUP •

## Letters

Dear Editor:

I know how much the flag barn on 41 and 12 means to so many in the Ranchos and the surrounding area -- especially to our local men and women that make the choice to enter the military -- to know that they are loved and supported by their community.

I was wondering why the yellow ribbon on the barn has been painted over and hasn't been replaced. That ribbon gives so much to those that are deploying to fight for our freedoms as well as to their loved ones. I know how it affects me every time I drive by it.

The ribbon being removed coincided with the troop withdrawal from Iraq. There are still 50,000 troops in Iraq and they are doing the same missions as before. It hasn't changed. I have first hand knowledge of this as I am one of the managers of an Army Mom's group and we have soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan where we are still fighting a war and losing our sol-

diers that still need our love and support.

My youngest son, Joshua, fought in Iraq for 15 months, has been home for two years going to college and has been part of the National Guard. In October of 2010 he went back to active duty Army and is stationed out of Kentucky. He has been deployed to Afghanistan since January and I know he desires the support of the Ranchos area and commented on the barn before he left.

If the matter of the ribbon is because of finances I would be honored to pay for the paint to put the ribbon back up.

I do want to send my thanks and gratitude to the owners of the barn for the many years that the flag has been on the barn and to state how much it means to me, my family and those that drive by it on a daily basis.

Thank you,

Sandi Orcutt  
Madera Ranchos

### RECIPE cont. from P. 8

- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 1 Egg Beaten
- 2 C Flour
- ½ tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp Baking Soda

Cook together the dates, sugar and water until thick. Stir occasionally to keep from sticking. Add nuts and set aside to cool.

In large mixing bowl, cream the shortening, brown sugar, vanilla and egg.

Sift together the flour, salt and baking soda, add to creamed mixture.

This will make a stiff dough. Turn out on board and divide in half. Roll each half into an oblong 1/8" thick. Spread each oblong with half of the cooled date mixture. Roll each like a jelly roll and wrap in waxed paper. Refrigerate until cool. When ready to bake, slice in ¼" slices. Bake on greased cookie sheet at 350 for 10 to 12 minutes. Allow to stand a minute or two before removing from cookie sheet.

In one of the articles I read, there are several places in the Inland Empire of Southern California that make Date Shakes, however there is a fruit stand in Thermal that makes the best. They are a true California specialty but can be made at home.

#### Date Shake

- ½ C Pitted Dates

- 1 C Non Fat Milk
- 3 C Vanilla Ice Cream or frozen vanilla yogurt

Combine the dates and milk in a blender and blend. Add the ice cream and blend until smooth. Pour into glasses and enjoy!

Makes about four servings.

This recipe comes from my Aunt Alma – I spoke of her earlier in this article. She says they make nice Christmas Cookies.

#### Date Balls

- Preheat oven to 300
- 1 ¼ C Sifted Flour
- ¼ tsp Salt
- ½ C Butter
- 1/3 C Powdered Sugar
- 1 Tbs. Milk
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2/3 C Chopped dates
- ½ C Chopped Nuts

Sift flour again with salt. In mixing bowl cream butter, gradually adding powdered sugar. Add milk and vanilla, then stir in flour mixture. Blend in nuts and dates.

Roll mixture into 1-inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 300 for 20 minutes or until light brown. (DO NOT over bake or they will be hard).

While still warm, roll in powdered sugar. Makes about three dozen cookies.

## Considering Cremation? \$1,799.81

Smith Manor Grace Chapel is offering a Direct Cremation Package for **\$1,799.81**. Our Direct Cremation Service Package is designed specially for families who have chosen to have a simple cremation. This package includes a durable plastic urn, a cardboard cremation container, removal from place of death to mortuary within 50 miles, basic services of director and staff, refrigeration, 1-hour private family viewing, one death certificate, disposition permit and sales tax.



Creating Meaningful Funerals  
That Celebrate Life

We also have many funeral plans to choose from. To discuss payment options on this plan or any of our other funeral plans please contact Pre-Arrangement Specialist Heather Thomas at

**662-8825**

801 E. Yosemite Avenue, Madera

or call 375-6396 for a direct line to Heather  
Lic. #OG40878

5/11

## Let's Hear It for Fathers Everywhere

By Verlaine Elinburg

The idea came to light in 1909 to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash. Her father raised her and five siblings after the death of her mother at childbirth. The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson supported the noble idea, and in 1924 President Calvin Coolidge was the first to recognize Father's Day. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. In 1972, President Nixon established it as a permanent national observance of Father's Day. It took 62 years to pay tribute to fathers. Over the years the concept of celebrating Father's Day spread beyond geographical boundaries. Today, millions of children across the world express gratitude to their dads as they celebrate Father's Day.

Father's Day is extremely important as it helps acknowledge the contribution of fathers to individual families and to society. It provides children an opportunity to express their love and respect for their fathers. The sentiment goes a long way in strengthening father-child relationships and consequently in the development of a child.

Fathers are the biggest source of strength for a child. The innocent eyes of a child perceive father as the all-powerful, most knowledgeable, truly affectionate and most important person in the family. For daughters, fathers are the first men they adore and fall in love with. While for sons their fathers are the strongest person they know and someone they aspire to emulate. In today's world, the significance of a stepfather is the greatest in the life of children who are not blessed with the love and affection of their biological father. Even for the grownups, fathers are whom they look up to for the most experienced and honest advice that is always in their best interest.

### *The Genesis of Fathers*

From a biblical standpoint, over 6,000 years ago God sat majestically on his throne and thought, "I must have an heir who can enjoy his own domain. What is my glory without man?" He wandered throughout the universe he had created, then at planet earth he made up his mind to transform the shapeless and void dark earth into a space of light and His man would be a product of light. The sun for the day, season and yearly count; the seas, rivers, sky and earth He filled with creatures: fish, birds and beast, and every creation capable of reproducing itself. Then on the sixth – and most glamorous – day, the reason

for all the work was realized when God reproduced himself onto the earth. The First Father.

For this great figure in life that we know as Father, give thanks to Dad on Father's Day. Children blessed with loving fathers consider themselves fortunate for they have someone to take care of their needs and interests; someone to stop them when they are diverting to a wrong path and someone who can guide them onto a road of success and virtue.

The flower for Father's Day is the white or red rose – symbols of love, commitment, companionship, friendship, loyalty and fidelity, all concepts of intimacy bound up with a person's love. A young child might say the flower for Father's Day is a dandelion, because it is a flower he or she can go out and pick, "For my Daddy. And I did it."

The Ranchos/Hills Third Annual Benefit Bike Ride held on April 16 was a huge success. This year we had a record high of 103 riders with an age range from 18 to 95 years. We added a route of 100 miles and had 14 participants. Our oldest rider was Fred Mathes who rode the 10 mile route. Our grand prize, a specialized woman's road bike donated by Stevens' Bicycles of Fresno, was won by Barbara Ann Horanic of Madera. The Ranchos/Hills seniors appreciate and thank all the sponsors and the volunteers that cooked and assisted with the lunch that was enjoyed by the riders and their families.

The Madera County Department of Health comes periodically to the center for free check-ups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test; nutrition and health education and low cost blood test is available; the health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a suggested price for 60 years and older of \$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 at 10 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you, and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy, additional copies

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 21



### Toy Troubles?

Is your house besieged with toys? Does it resemble one big playroom? Is there a way to have children and order under the same roof?

When I first saw the room where my daughter, Candice, teaches preschool I was impressed with the design and organization I found there. I have visited her classroom before, after, and during school. Apparently there is a way to have children and order under the same roof.

Let's look at a few tips that we can apply to our homes from a well-organized preschool.

**Create zones** – Designate places to play, read, do crafts, build with Legos, etc. Toys or craft supplies don't need to roam freely through the house. Make sure that these zones are well-equipped and communicate to your children that these are the boundaries for those activities. Of course you can make exceptions, but first clearly define and practice the use of those zones.

**Containerize everything** – Get rid of the big toy box. Yes, they do make cleanup easy, but the next time your child wants something from the bottom of the box, it's going to be a frustrating, messy experience. Use

sturdy open shelves with open-topped bins clearly labeled with words or pictures as to what belongs in each one. Make sure toy storage is easily accessible at your child's height.

**Consistent Cleanup** – Training required! Unfortunately, just because you have your zones and containers doesn't mean things will automatically fall into place. Children will have the tendency to move from one activity to the next without cleaning up. Hmmm, I wonder where they learn that? First we need to train ourselves and set a good example. Then, train them so that when they go play outside, they don't have a mess to come back to. Or, if they're still in the process of say, building an amazing Lego creation, they can at least containerize the unused pieces and have them out of the way of traffic. (Check out [www.box4blox.com](http://www.box4blox.com) for a great Lego storage idea.)

**Reduce the Quantity** – Too many toys can create overload for both parents and children. To help make the organizing task more manageable, try rotating the toys and keep some in a bin in the closet or garage storage cabinet. Before your child's birthday or Christmas go through their toys and help them choose some to donate to a favorite charity thrift store, or family in need. Consider giving your children gifts of events and experiences instead of toys.

*You can contact Brenda McElroy to have questions answered at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, email her at [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com), visit her website [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.*



## TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

**Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at**



**Michael Sutherland  
& Associates, Inc.**

**645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815**  
**36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos**

5/11 Lic. #PLS 5815

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



**Easy Does It Farms**

- Summer Camps
- Riding Lessons
- Serving the Ranchos since 2004

5/11

**559-994-3963**



**WHY WASTE GAS ON YOUR GLASSES?**

**FINALLY, GLASSES MADE ON-SITE IN THE RANCHOS!**

contact lenses & fittings • sunglasses • sports glasses • repairs  
designer frames • since 1973 • ALWAYS free adjustments!

**FREE GAS CARD W/ PURCHASE**

- \$10 CARD WITH \$75 to \$99 PURCHASE
- \$15 CARD WITH \$100 to \$149 PURCHASE
- \$20 CARD WITH \$150 or MORE PURCHASE

(can't be combined with any other offer or some insurance plans • expires 6-30-11) 5/11

**Paquette Optical** 37398 BERKSHIRE DR. STE. C  
MADERA RANCHOS • 645-4700

**LEAVING** cont. from P. 2

Curricular Leadership and she is currently completing her Educational Doctorate Degree through California State University, Fresno, on track to graduate in spring 2012.

Ms. Koligian will begin her superintendency in Tulare Joint Union High School District on July 1, 2011, leading a district of 5200 students where she will oversee Tulare's three comprehensive high schools, Tulare Union, Tulare Western, and Mission Oak. The district also includes a full array of alternative education options for students with a tech prep continuation high school, a small continuation high school, a community day school, an independent study school, a strong adult education program, and is entering into a joint venture with the College of the Sequoias Community College to build a 21st century agricultural education facility.

"I am very excited and honored to have been selected as the next Superintendent to lead the prestigious Tulare Joint Union High School District," said Superintendent Koligian. "As a product of the San Joaquin Valley, I value the many opportunities that surround us and provide our students the ability to build a promising future. It will be my honor and pleasure to be a catalyst to connect our students of today into the future successes of tomor-

row. It will be my privilege to work hand in hand with Tulare's well-established community and staff, and to become part of the very proud 120 year history that is the solid foundation of this district. I look forward to this new opportunity and to meeting the staff, students, and parents of my new community."

Cathy Mederos, Tulare Joint Union High School District Board President stated, "The Board is excited that Mrs. Koligian has accepted our offer to become the next Superintendent of our district. When we met with her and visited her community we were impressed with her experience, leadership skills, and professionalism. We look forward to her working with our staff, students and community for years to come."

Mark Toole stated, "As the Golden Valley Unified School District Board President, I would like to congratulate Ms. Koligian on her new position as superintendent of Tulare Joint Union High School District. The board is ready to enter into negotiations with her replacement and will announce her replacement as soon as the negotiations are complete. It is our intentions that the new superintendent will be someone that will continue to lead the school district forward with the same level of excellence that has been achieved in the past."



**SAVE MY HOME! Contact NORA "NOW" for free information on working with your mortgage company to save your home from foreclosure or worse! 559-706-6048**

**Specializing In: Short Sales - Please call for a no-cost, discreet, short sale evaluation of your home or business property.**

**Foreclosures - Free list of distressed and foreclosure properties that meet your personal criteria.**



Nora works with buyers and sellers and is a dedicated and caring full-time agent who lives in, and supports, the Ranchos and surrounding areas. 5/11

**"I look forward to working with you."** *Nora M. Hall*  
DRE# 01731544

**Nora Hall • Guarantee Real Estate Services • 559-706-6048 • info@fresnohotlist.com**

**Kiwanis Korner**

# Ranchos "Mayor" Race Ends; Ranchos Community Benefits

*"Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."*

By Carla Hart

The Ranchos Kiwanis Honorary Mayor's race was a huge success with nearly \$5,000 raised for local nonprofit organizations here in our community. Congratulations to Tom Hurst who is our new Honorary Mayor! Tom brought in a whopping \$1,951 for his organization, of which \$1,464 will go directly to LHS Golf Club. Thank you to all the candidates who worked so hard to raise money for our respective clubs and to all the generous donors who supported us. Besides supporting your favorite candidate, your efforts raised nearly \$2,300 for the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis of which 100 percent goes back to the kids in the Ranchos and because of that, there are no losers. I would personally like to thank Joe Alberta and Chukchansi Gold Resort Casino, Igal Treibatch of SEMCU, Travis Hart of ACT Construction and everyone who so generously gave their hard earned dollars to my campaign with a final tally of \$1,396. Your contributions will be felt far and wide throughout our community.

The 21st Annual Flatlanders Day Parade was held on Saturday, May 14. Hopefully, everyone had a chance to get out and watch our new Mayor ride on the Kiwanis float and grab a delicious sandwich or two from our Tri-tip booth. Thank you to all the members who donated their time, money, equipment and efforts into making

an award winning float and a successful food booth.

On Monday, May 16, three outstanding Liberty High School seniors were presented the Kiwanis Scholarship Award totaling \$2,000 to further their educational needs after graduation. Congratulations to Ethan Blair, Axia Vang and Alma Santiago who demonstrated both high academic achievement and dedicated community involvement. We will also be presenting four students from Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary with bicycles for their outstanding citizenship throughout the past year.

Two Ranchos Middle School students will receive the Kiwanis Hope of America award and Mustang of the Year award and further recognition will also go to two outstanding students from Golden Valley Unified Ed. Ops. and two Valley Teen Ranch graduates.

In other news, Kiwanis is currently looking for sponsors for the annual Cross the River Run being held on Saturday, June 4. Anyone interested

in sponsorship can contact President Mona Diaz. Also, the Miracle Mile Run/Walk at Valley Children's Hospital will begin at 6 a.m. on June 11.

The Ranchos Kiwanis would like to thank Jordan and Sheila Schiacqua of Alfresco Coffee for opening your hearts and your wonderful establishment to us these past few months. Our



*The Madera Ranchos' new Honorary Mayor, Tom Hurst (left) gets to sit on the Flatlanders Day float constructed by the Ranchos Kiwanis as Kiwanis President Mona Diaz and Kiwanis member Debbie Farr look on. Hurst was the top vote getter among 10 candidates from various Ranchos nonprofit organizations.*

monthly morning meetings won't be the same without your beautiful smiling faces and that wonderful aroma of espresso. Ladies, you will be missed beyond words. Our members also continue to extend thoughts and prayers to Dale Lucas, Wayne Scott and Bruce Blair. We wish you all a speedy recovery.

Did you know: Aside from your local Kiwanis chapter supporting your community, the international goal of over 600,000 chapters is to work to eradicate certain preventable diseases and afflictions in children worldwide. Our first global campaign was to virtually eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD), the world's leading preventable cause of mental retardation. Kiwanians raised

more than 100 million U.S. dollars and the campaign has been heralded as one of the most successful health initiatives in the world. Today, those dollars are at work in more than 103 nations with 70 percent of households now consuming iodized salt, up from only 20 percent in 1990.

The Ranchos Kiwanis meets at the Ranchos Pizza Factory the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. and each Thursday thereafter at 6:45 p.m. If you are interested in having fun while giving back to the community, contact President Mona Diaz at 333-1913. Come join us at a meeting to see what we're all about. Have dinner on us and "discover why some of the richest people in the world are not millionaires, they are volunteers."

[www.ranchoskiwanis.com](http://www.ranchoskiwanis.com)

**Board Members:**

President: Mona Diaz phone: 333-1913  
 Past President: John Herrera  
 President Elect: Charles Diaz  
 Vice President: Chris Parks  
 Secretary: Pam Glueck  
 Treasurer: Perry Watkins

**Board of Directors:**

Marie Cameron  
 Bev Delk  
 John Glueck  
 Carla Hart  
 Virginia Vick

**SWEET FLOWER FRUIT STAND**  
 53480 Ave. 9 at Road 33 1/2  
 call 645-4253 or 662-5363  
**GET YOUR FREE ONION!**  
 Just for visiting Sweet Flower Fruit Stand we'd like to give you a FREE onion to say "thanks" and to give you an example of just how good our produce is. One per customer per day. Exp. 6-30-11  
**"The only way to get fresher produce would be to pick it yourself."**

**The Third Eye Working for You**  
**SPY KATZ**  
 surveillance  
 • Extreme Surveillance  
 • Personal Protection  
 • Spying Equipment Available  
 call Alex Albert • Security Consultant  
**4787 kings canyon, fresno • 353-2088**

**Come in Your Blue Jeans!**

- Wednesday Bible Study: 10 am
- Youth Group: Sundays After Church

**Sundays 10:30 a.m.**  
**Music, Message, Prayer and Praise**

**Christian Mission Center**  
 36875 Avenue 12 (at Loren Way) • (559) 324-1144  
[www.cmcraichos.com](http://www.cmcraichos.com) • [www.myspace.com/cvlymyouthgroup](http://www.myspace.com/cvlymyouthgroup)

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

Click on "Local News" at

**BEST SERVICES**  
**BEST SELECTION**  
**BEST PRICES**

**RANCHOS TOWN & COUNTRY LIQUOR**

5/11

37167 AVE. 12 • 645-1306

TECATE LT. 18-PAK (cans) .....	\$9.99
BUD, BUD LT. 18-PAK (cans) .....	\$10.99
BUD LT. LIME 12-PAK .....	\$10.99
COORS, COORS LT. 18-PAK (cans & btls) .....	\$10.99
CORONA 12-PAK .....	\$12.99
KEYSTONE LT. 30-PAK .....	\$12.99
NATURAL LT. 30-PAK .....	\$13.99
SIERRA NEVADA 12-PAK .....	\$13.99
REX GOLIATH ALL VARIETIES 750 ML .....	\$4.99
JACOB'S CREEK ALL VARIETIES 750 ML .....	\$4.99
COLUMBIA CREST ALL VARIETIES 750 ML .....	\$4.99
BARTON or TAKKA VODKA 1.75 L .....	\$10.99
SAUZA GOLD or SILVER 750 ML .....	\$10.99
ABSOLUT 750 ML .....	\$17.99
PATRON TEQUILA 375 ML .....	\$19.99

Mon-Sat 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
PRICES +TAX, CRV • PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • EXP. 6-30-11

Say you saw it in  
the Ranchos Independent

## MILESTONE cont. from P. 2

years ago with her two children Sandy, now 54, who resides in Oregon and Jeff, 50, who lives with Mary Ellen to help her take care of her place in the Ranchos. Mary Ellen also has three grandchildren who all attended Webster Elementary during the time that she's worked on yard duty there.

Mary Ellen also volunteers for the Madera Ranchos Library. She's volunteered there ever since they opened years ago. In her free time Mary Ellen loves working in her yard and participating in activities at the Senior center.

When asked how children today compare to children years ago? "Children don't seem to enjoy life as much as we did. We didn't have much to play with but we used our imagination, we made do and we had fun. Now days children are given a lot of things, but they don't value everything they have at this age. Children should earn what they want or they won't value it." On the subject of computers, Mary Ellen responds, "Computers have their place but they can't replace human contact. Children need to learn how to communicate and interact with each other face to face." Mary Ellen also has strong feelings about the idea of dropping cursive writing from school curriculum. "There won't

always be a computer around. It would certainly be a shame to not be able to understand something because you never learned how to handwrite."

Attendance Clerk and Secretary Cindy Landes who also had grown children who remember Mary Ellen from their days at Webster, recalls, "Mary Ellen has a wonderful attendance record and she's hardly ever missed a day of work. However there was a Columbus Day one time when Mary Ellen didn't show up and she didn't call. This was highly unusual for Mary Ellen. Cindy tried reaching her by phone to check on her however there was no answer so she went to her house to check on her. Mary Ellen had thought the School District observed Columbus Day, but they didn't. "I'm sure Mary Ellen is still living that one down."

Shortly after the Anniversary/Birthday celebration Mary Ellen tripped and fell against the side of her house breaking a rib. She was off work for a few days but she was back to work as soon as she could convince the doctor to release her. Before her return the children were warned to not run up and hug her or jump on her. Mary Ellen said she can't believe how good the kids have been at not running up on her or knocking her down. "I enjoy my work and I enjoy the kids. I'm happy to be back to school."

**FLIP SIDE VBS 2011**



**PANDAMANIA**

Where God is Wild about You!

Psalm 139

June 12th-16th from 5:30-8:30 pm

At Flipside Christian Church in the Maywood Center

Call 559-274-8211 for more information. Registration begins now!!!

Go to [www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) to Register your child NOW!!!

**FLIP SIDE**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
"turning the world upside down" acts 17:6  
37193 Avenue 12, suite 3H  
Madera, CA 93636

### Services on Sunday:

9:00 & 10:30 AM

With full Children  
and Youth Ministries

For more information on church  
activities visit our website at  
[www.acts176.com](http://www.acts176.com) or  
E-mail [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)

# from Grads



# to Dads

*New Location • New Name • New Inventory*  
same great quality, prices and friendly service since 2007

*Trophies, Gifts & Awards by Hart Photography*  
simply the finest selection of gift items in the madera ranchos  
**36734 Ave. 12 • Madera Ranchos • 645-1918**  
**Tuesday-Saturday 10-4 • [www.ranchostga.com](http://www.ranchostga.com)**

**GEN WHY** cont. from P. 6

liveries. For all I could tell, the twit was sitting in a dive somewhere munching on some pretzels, nursing a beer and crying over the fact that he might be losing his job because his boss says he never makes his deliveries on time. Still, I checked the website religiously to see if it had been delivered, as if the call from my mother exclaiming she had received her gift would not be indication enough. No, I needed to see it on the tracking page. This was now about bringing things full circle.

Then it happened: my phone rang. It was my mother; she received the package and was tearing it open as we spoke. She excitedly described each part of the gift as she opened it, but my mind was elsewhere: Why didn't I get alerted that the package was delivered? I checked my email: empty; my phone held no text message and there was no pop-up or status change on the website. Despite the fact that my mother physically held the package in her hand, the world according to the UPS package tracking page told me a different story. I was astonished. I had spent

three days watching the parcel's every move. I had given up sleep and sanity to be a part of the journey; every departure, every arrival, every soul-sucking, slowly changing step along the way, I was committed, I was dedicated and I was robbed. The moment of truth came and there was no triumphant notification, no climactic ending, no glorious final update that proclaimed: IT HAS ARRIVED! The journey was over, the end had come and I was left with just a blinking icon that indicated the package was still in transit. So much for live information. After

all that, the website was a failure and a disappointment. I learned three things from this experience, though: First, I really need a hobby; Second, the entirety of the UPS Corporation evidently doesn't own a map and is in severe need of a geography lesson; and Third, up-to-the-minute information is not safe in the hands of a slightly obsessive personality that will sacrifice sleep and sanity to track a package through the different stages of delivery for the simple thrill of it.

Next time I'm springing for next-day air.



# FEED

## &

# GARDEN SUPPLY



**Open: Monday - Saturday 8am - 7pm; Sunday 9am - 5pm**

<p><b>WHOLE CORN ON SALE</b> \$9.49 50 lb. bag WHEN YOU BUY 100 LB. OR MORE</p>	<p><b>ALL CHICKEN FLYING PENS</b> \$5.00 OFF WHEN YOU BUY 5 OR MORE</p>	<p><b>WE CARRY ALL NAME BRAND FEED.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;">          </div>		
<p><b>HORSE D-WORMER IVERMECTIN ON SALE</b> <b>BUY 2 GET 1 FREE</b></p>	<p><b>We Sell All Quality Hay</b> Alfalfa, Oat, Forage, Orchard Grass, Wheat Hay, Straw, &amp; Others</p> <p>Cattle, Sheep &amp; Goat Hay ..... \$5.99 per bale Alfalfa Hay ..... \$15.99 per bale Forage Hay ..... \$10.95 per bale Oat Hay ..... \$10.75 or \$11.95 per bale Orchard Grass "Best In Town" ..... \$15.95 per bale</p>		<p><b>EVERY THURS. &amp; FRI. 1 LB. OF CHICK STARTER FREE WITH EVERY CHICK YOU BUY. WE ALSO SELL GOATS, PIGS AND OTHER PETS</b></p>	
<p><b>FREE 32 OZ. FLY SPRAY WHEN YOU BUY \$100 OR MORE OF MERCHANDISE (excluding hay)</b></p>	<p><b>"WE SELL PROPANE"</b> All size bottles welcome. \$10.00 minimum. RVs &amp; Motorhomes Welcome <i>"Quality &amp; Customer Service Is Our Motto"</i> We Also Deliver</p>		<p><b>EQUINE SENIOR DELIGHT FROM KING FEED BUY 3 BAGS GET \$5.00 OFF</b></p>	
<p><b>SUPER HORSE MASK ON SALE \$2.00 OFF ANY SIZE</b></p>	<p><b>TARTER FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT ALL HORSE WALK-THRU GATE/PANELS ON SALE 15% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>TARTER FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT SELECTED GALVANIZED STOCK TANKS 20% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>TARTER FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT 5 FT. T-POST &amp; 6 FT. T-POST AND ALL FENCING ROLLS 10% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>3V FANCY GAME BIRD FEED 16% PROTEIN AND NEW 80 LB. BAGS \$26.75 EA. (BEST IN TOWN)</b></p>

5/11 **559-661-0038 • 28342 HWY. 145 (East Yosemite) • MADERA** Exp. 06/17/11



## Sierra View Elementary Modernization Project Moving Forward



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

*By Sarah Koligian and Chief Business Official Jim Monreal*

Golden Valley Unified's Governing Board of Trustees finalized the scope of the Sierra View Elementary School Mod-

ernization project. The modernization project is part of the ongoing district Measure S Bond funded projects. Earlier this year the Measure S Bond funds were used to complete the Liberty High School Athletic Stadium, Concession Building and the new Science Wing. The \$70 million dollar Measure S bond was part of the 2006 Ballot Measure which voters approved for new facilities, modernization projects, acquisition of land, and to help pay off existing debt. The school district has sold approximately \$18 million dollars worth of bonds to date. The sale of bonds is based upon current assessed property values. The decline of the economy has negatively impacted property values which have limited the ability to sell more bonds. However, the bid environment for building facilities with existing bond funds has been favorable and has enabled the district to maximize and stretch the balance of the funds to cover as many projects as possible.

Measure S has provided Golden Valley Unified students with the following new or improved facilities since the ap-

proval of the bond; modernization of Webster Elementary School, the new Ranchos Middle School, Road 36 and Avenue 12 ½ road improvements in front of Liberty High and Ranchos Middle School, Liberty High School Athletic Stadium, Concession Building, Science Wing; the pay off of some of the existing long-term debt; and the Sierra View Modernization project. The Measure S Bond funds are restricted dollars that may only be used for items supported by the Measure S Bond language. By law, these funds may not be used to cover the district's general fund obligations and expenses, such as employee salaries, benefits, transportation costs or supplies.

The plans for the Sierra View modernization project are moving forward with an aggressive timeline to complete much of the project during the summer months while students and staff are on summer vacation. Plans are in place to begin construction immediately upon the conclusion of the school year in June, 2011. Construction will take place in two phases. Safety and ADA (American with Disability Act) require-

ments will be the emphasis of Phase I beginning immediately. The scope of work will include the replacement of a portable restroom near the 500 wing, an upgraded fire system, revamped parking lot, removal of the existing administration building, roof replacement on permanent buildings and incorporating topographical slope and grade safety requirements. The goal is to have the project complete prior to the return of students in the 2011-12 school year, pending DSA (Division of State Architect) Plan Approval in early May, 2011. The campus will be fenced off during the summer to allow the heavy machinery and construction crews to have access to the entire campus. The remainder or Phase II of the modernization project will be completed subject to the release of state modernization funds geared towards the Sierra View site. Harris Construction Company Inc., the Lease-Leaseback Developer, will be managing the construction of the project.

For more information, please contact Sierra View Elementary School at 645-1122 or Golden Valley Unified District Office at 645-7500.

## Golden Valley Unified ASCA Golden Apple and Scholarship Recipients

Mrs. Stephanie McShane was recently nominated by Golden Valley Unified School District for the prestigious ASCA (Association of California School Administrators) Golden Apple Award. This award recognizes the partnership between school districts and volunteers. This year, Superintendent Sarah Koligian and LHS Principal, Kuljeet Mann, nominated Mrs. McShane for the Golden Apple.

Stephanie McShane was honored as the GVUSD parent volunteer for her untiring work for the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. Additionally this year she helped to bring the ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) mentoring grant to Liberty High school. These mentors from architecture, construction and engineering firms worked with LHS students in designing a multipurpose room for an elementary school. Students had



*Stephanie McShane (left) is the recipient of the Association of California School Administrators Golden Apple Award for her volunteer work with Golden Valley schools.*

to take on real life roles and visited the workplace sites as well. Liberty High School participated in the challenge for the first time and won the competition.

Additionally she was able to secure two scholarships of \$1,250 each for two senior students – Lauren Bailey and Hailee Sabourin. The students received a high quality real world experience in the process of creating a winning building design.

Jessica De Champlain was also honored with an ASCA scholarship. Jessica is a 4.0 student with impeccable attendance and behavior. She was a member of the Valley Champion Tennis



*Jessica De Champlain (left), a 4.0 senior at Liberty High School, is the recipient of the Association of California School Administrators Scholarship.*

team and has participated in softball and basketball in prior years. She intends to attend The Master's College and pursue a degree in education. Jessica's career goal is to teach second grade.



**Dry Cleaning for the Ranchos**  
 Dry Cleaning • Alterations  
 Laundry • Suits & Dresses

One Day Service  
 Mon - Fri 7 - 7  
 Sat 8 - 4  
 Closed Sundays

**Signature Cleaners** 435-0902  
 Blackstone at Nees right off of Highway 41 132 W. Nees, Fresno

Owner Sook Hong  
 35 years experience

4/11

**Pete's new deal!**

**GIANT 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$11.95**

**Pete's Drive In**  
 645-6039 • 37357 AVE 12

5/11

**FULL SERVICE AUTOMOTIVE SHOP**

**TRANSMISSIONS AUTOMATIC & STANDARD Foreign & Domestic Rebuild & Repair**

Serving the Valley for Over 42 Years

**FREE TOWING WITH OVERHAUL**

**HOT WEATHER IS COMING! FREE HEATING/COOLING INSPECTION**  
 call for appt. • exp. 6/30/11

**WE ALSO DO:**  
 Brakes • Tune-ups • Diagnostic  
 Oil changes • Service work  
**AND NOW: A/C SERVICE AND REPAIRS**

**CHUCK'S TRANSMISSION & RANCHOS AUTO REPAIR**  
 12090 37 1/2 • MADERA RANCHOS  
 Just off avenue 12

645-4475

VISA  
 MASTERCARD  
 DISCOVER  
 5/11

follow us on Facebook

## Golden Valley Summer School FAQs

Golden Valley Unified School District will be offering summer school to our high school students for credit recovery only. No original credit will be offered. Unfortunately, due to the State of California's fiscal crisis, our elementary and middle schools will not offer summer school this year. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 645-7500.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SUMMER SCHOOL 2011

**Q. Who is eligible for High School Summer School?**

- Student has NOT passed one or both parts of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in 11th and/or 12th grade.
- Student is designated as a Special Education student and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) provides for an Extended School Year (ESY) program.
- Student needs to repeat a failed core course in order to graduate in Summer 2011 or meet graduation requirements.
- Students in need of Review and Enrichment (need to improve a D or F grade)
- Some courses may be offered as original credit.

**Q. Who is NOT eligible to attend Summer School?**

- Students who have successfully passed the California High School Exit Exam in grades 11 and 12.
- Students who are on track to graduate
- Students who have not received any D or F grades.

**Q. What can I do for my child who is NOT eligible for Summer School?**

There are enrichment activities/programs/camps within the Golden Valley School District through the Summer Enrichment Program (SEA Program) during the summer months. A list of many wonderful programs for your child will be available through your school in April. The SEA program is a fee-based program and is contingent on the program funding itself.

**Q. How are High School students assigned?**

Counselors will assign students to appropriate courses.

Counselors will send parents a letter stating the courses where a student may be currently deficient. Parents will be given the option as to whether or not the student will take Summer School. Parents will then sign and return a form to the counselor to approve the child's assignment and commitment to attend Summer School.

**Q. What grade levels will be offered for High School?**

- Current 9th graders who qualify for intervention
- Current 10th grade who qualify for intervention
- Current 11th grade who qualify for intervention
- Current 12th grade students who did not graduate in June 2011
- Grades 9-12 Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)

**Q. When is Summer School?**

June 7 – July 14, 2011  
 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Q. What will my child learn in Summer School?**

- California High School Exit Exam – English and/or Math
- Remediation in core academic classes necessary for graduation

**Q. Is there transportation provided?**

• Transportation is provided for Special Education students only who have it written in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

- Buses are not provided for other students.

**Q. Who do I call if I have questions?**

• For general questions, call the Educational Services Office at 559-645-7533.

• For High School assignment questions, talk to your child's Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Karie Hannigan at Liberty.

• For Special Education questions, call the Educational Services Office at 559-645-7533.

• For Independent Study questions, call the Educational Options Office at 559-645-3580.

**Q. Where is Summer School?**

Liberty High School  
 12220 Road 36  
 Madera, CA 93636  
 559-645-3500  
 Fax: 559-645-4769

## Sierra View Rewarding Students

Sierra View students have even more reason to do well on California's STAR Test, May 2 - 10. We have set up multiple rewards for our students for just trying their best each day. Students will be rewarded with daily raffle prizes, a Nintendo DS as a grand prize, and a STAR carnival with bounce houses, food and games. Also, we will be rewarding all students who improve or maintain proficiency on the state test next fall with a t-shirt and certificate. And we will have a community night full of

games and food if Sierra View hits its goal of an 875 API score.

Also, we would like to congratulate our 6th and 5th grade students for putting on an outstanding drama production on April 14. The production of *Monster in My Closet* was a huge success. Also, thank you to Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Mayer for their leadership in putting on the production. We had over 275 people attend the show. The event is a fundraiser for next year's 6th Grade Science Camp.

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

# Scenes of the 21st Annual Flatlanders Day Parade



A parade has to have a Grand Marshal and this year it was Hal Parks riding in the convertible Cadillac.



The Liberty High band sounds better and better every year and the drum corps keeps everything nice and tight.



It just wouldn't be a parade without horses and the Lord's Cavalry provided plenty of beautiful animals.



And it just wouldn't be Flatlanders without the San Joaquin Valley Gunslingers shooting up the Ranchos.



Probably the biggest draw each year is the Craft Fair sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Everything you could imagine was there.



Food, food and did I mention ... food? In addition to the great restaurants in the Ranchos, several organizations were selling food too.



Cool cars are always a hit at Flatlanders and a whole PT Cruiser car club made the trip out to the Ranchos to show off a little.



There were several floats in the parade from both non-profit organizations and local businesses like this one.



For parade goers who were feeling a little down, the Amp girls at Ranchos Town and Country Liquor got hearts pumping.



The Ranchos now has an honorary mayor, Mr. Tom Hurst, who got to ride on the Kiwanis float as the victor in a field of 10 candidates.



A surefire way to get the crowd's attention is to start throwing ice cream bars at them. The Schwans guy used it to his advantage.



The SEMCU float had an actual waterfall as it made its way down Avenue 12, pointing out the importance of water to the Ranchos.



I guess you could have a parade without cheerleaders, but why? The local youth cheering squad was in great form for the parade.



A mini train pulled by a garden tractor was done in honor of the late Merven Vick and it was filled with Vick's great grand children.



Of course a parade would be nothing if it weren't for the throngs of folks lining the street to get a peek at the festivities.



Boy Scouts and Old Glory -- what a winning combination for a parade in the Ranchos or anywhere else for that matter.

## See you next May!



**Sago Key Palm Plantation!**  
More than 20,000 Palms & Sagos in stock. We also have a wide selection of Shade & Fruit trees.  
call Tom and Maria at  
**559-268-6650**  
3535 S. Temperance • Fresno • www.sagorey.com

**Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds**  
**Look Good and Feel Great**



- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

**LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO**

**WE KNOW LOW CARBS!**  
**\$20 OFF**  
1st visit only

**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**  
"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744** OPEN: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM  
4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

**Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics**  
37144 Avenue 12 #104 Madera Ranchos  
**559-645-5320**  
www.ranchosdental.com



**Who's got 1980's prices?**





You can do it yourself or have the pros at Madera Glass & Mirror take care of your window repairs. Got broken screens? Madera Glass & Mirror has the expertise to make quick work of any screen repair. Glass for picture frames is a specialty at Madera Glass & Mirror. Fix a broken one or complete a project.

**Madera Glass & Mirror, that's who!**  
Madera Glass & Mirror's repair services are close to the prices charged in the 1980's. Give them a call today for unbelievable prices on incredible quality work and products for all of your glass and screen needs.  
Madera Glass & Mirror Co. • 1825 Howard Rd., Madera • 559-673-3583

## The Pastor's Desk

# A Drinking Problem and a Solution

This month we have a guest writer for the Pastor's Desk. He is not a pastor but he has a message. With approximately 17.6 million Americans adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent, his message is timely and relevant.

Editor

By Mike B.

Hi, my name is Mike and I'm an Alcoholic.

I introduce myself this way so you know the difference between what I am now, compared to what I was (a freakin' drunk) not too long ago. A lot of people in my group use the term "Grateful Alcoholic." You ask yourself, "How can someone be grateful if they are an alcoholic?" Well, I now know that drinking is not my problem -- it has always been my solution.

There is a difference: my past, my failures and my will kept me drinking. When I stopped living in the problem and began living in the answer, my problem went away. I was my problem, others were the answer.

I wish I could say I came from an alcoholic family, I had a bad upbringing and nobody loved me, but I can't. I do not have the luxury of that excuse. Somewhere on my own, I learned that chemicals relieved my self-induced pain. Alcohol and other things took away my feelings and that felt great. You see, if you stay drunk or high you never have to fix anything. It just magically goes away. That is where Step One comes in -- realizing I was powerless over alcohol (feel free to put any addiction in there) and my life had become unmanageable. We never managed anything, we found a softer easier way, namely, neglecting it.

Selfishness -- self centeredness! We come first. What we want is all that matters. It does not matter what everybody else wants or needs. Our pure self-will drives us to do whatever it takes to feed our habit. To do things that are unthinkable, to hurt others in a way that no normal person can comprehend. What you need to realize is that in the world of the Drunk you are interfering with their ability to drop out of the conscious world. Drunks don't want to be around others. All they want is to be left alone so they do

not have to deal with reality, once again Selfishness -- self centeredness. What I used to say when I was drinking was, "All I want is to be left alone."

Well guess what? I got my wish.

Nobody wanted me. I would go to see family and friends and with their hearts breaking they would tell me to leave, I wasn't welcome there.

Then one day I walked into a place where they would say, "Keep coming back!" The only requirement was a desire to stop drinking. A desire was all I had; I did not have the ability. I tried on my own many times, broke many promises and many hearts. But, here was a place that loved me until I loved myself. They opened my eyes that I could not do it alone. And, I did not have to. They taught me that I was worth it. I did not have to live like this anymore, it's not too late.

*How can someone be grateful if they are an alcoholic? Well, I now know that drinking is not my problem -- it has always been my solution.*

Somewhere inside of me was a loving, caring person who wanted to not take from people, but to give back. They told me that I was not a bad person, just a person lost in his own will.

It took me quite awhile to put all the pieces together. To figure out how it works, and lucky for me there is a chapter in the Big Book of A.A. that shows me how to do it. Titled "How it Works" they really do make it simple for us complicated people.

If by chance you are reading this and you have someone in your life that is battling a substance abuse problem, realize that their problem is not the substance, it is their solution. They can be helped but that help does not come from you. It comes from God and the people of the Twelve Step Programs.

The Madera Ranchos has meetings every Tuesday at the Golden Valley Unified School District offices at 7:30 p.m., located at 37479 Ave. 12 at Road 37½. You can email the good people of the Fresno A.A. at A.A. @ fresnoaa.org, or reach them by phone at 559-221-6907, 24 hours a day .

I hope this is the beginning of a monthly correspondence. I'll keep writing as long as you will have me.

I will surely meet you as we trudge the road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you until then.

Mike

ACE cont. from P. 2

study architecture. Very impressive.

This year, one student was awarded the opportunity to attend a six day ACE camp held at Sacramento State University. That deserving recipient is Leiasa Horanic. She is one of only two students chosen from our Central Valley region to receive this valuable gift.

The ACE program is a school year long program that teaches fundamentals in all three areas, exposing students to the enormous spectrum of career opportunities within the architecture, construction, and engineering fields. It included a field trip to school site currently under construction with some expert guides so that they could see and touch the actual construction process. This after school program was a tremendous success.

The students were partnered with a team of mentors who represented a wide cross section of the industry. Mentors included: Stephane McShane, electrical contractor and lead mentor, Ken Eynaud, New England Sheet Metal, Yee Vang, Turner Construction, Richard Hallett, Architect, Larry Hill, Target Constructors, Richard Jones, Garland Roofing, and Scott Tunnell, Taylor Teter Architects. The students spent the first part of the school year learning about the differences between these three fields, and also learning how they must work together to successfully design and build a project. Did you know that 12 nails can be balanced on the head of just one nail? It can be done, and these kids know how. This was

just one of the exercises done this year.

The second half of the year. The students designed a new multi purpose building for the Dakota Armstrong Elementary School project. The students learned concepts in space planning, learned to use a cad sketch program, and literally designed the building from the site plan to the floor plan. In addition, they made some beautiful elevations to use in their proposal document. The focus was for the students to be their own "design/build" contractor for this project and to "pitch" or sell their project during the end of year presentation to the prospective "owners," or, in this case, judges. Their PowerPoint presentation was beautiful and their written proposal very well done and comprehensive. Their design carefully incorporated design elements from the existing school site while making this focal point building really stand out. Mc-

Shane says, "I am so very proud of these students. They were extremely motivated and very creative. Each had specific tasks to accomplish. As mentors, we really just helped point the way and let the kids be the architects, designers, corporate heads, and contractor. It was a great learning experience for them. They presented themselves very professionally in front of that large group of people."

There are definite plans to have the ACE program at LHS again next year. After all, there is a title to defend now! If you are interested in mentoring, contributing, or helping in any way, please contact Ms. Church at LHS.

*"I am so very proud of these students. They were extremely motivated and very creative. Each had specific tasks to accomplish. As mentors, we really just helped point the way and let the kids be the architects, designers, corporate heads, and contractor. It was a great learning experience for them. They presented themselves very professionally in front of that large group of people."*

*Stephane McShane*

ESTATE PLANNING • FAMILY LAW  
... AND MORE

JUDY'S LEGAL DOCUMENT SERVICE

SELF-HELP LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT

JUDITH L. LOCATELLI

LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT/NOTARY PUBLIC  
Madera County CDA Reg. 2010001 • Exp. 8/10/12

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

559-395-4640 OFFICE • 559-908-4600 CELL  
WWW.JUDYSLEGALDOCUMENTSERVICE.COM

11874 ROAD 36 1/2 • MADERA, CA • 93636

*"I am not an attorney. I can only provide self-help services at your specific direction."*



5/11

Say you saw it in  
the Ranchos Independent

It's time to give yourself extra credit.



Now get a smart deal, plus a \$500 Federal Tax Credit.

There's never been a better time to buy York® heating and cooling products.

- **Up to \$500 Federal Tax Credit** for up to 10% of the installed cost of qualifying products installed after December 31, 2010 and before January 1, 2012.
- **Up to 50% energy savings** on utility bills with select ENERGY STAR® approved models.
- **Low-interest financing plans**—see your dealer for details.

Huckabee's  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

LIC. # 837274



www.huckabeeshvac.com  
hvacbysam@sbcglobal.net  
559-662-0336

SPECIAL OFFER

Save 10% off your next home comfort system maintenance.

Expires 06/15/2011

5/11

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Plan ahead for Golden Valley Baptist Church Vacation Bible School  
Save the dates: June 20 - June 24  
6 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.  
Ages 4-11

Any questions? Call the church!

Sun. School - 10 a.m. • Sun. Worship - 10:15 a.m. • Tue, 7 p.m.  
Youth 13-18 • come meet new friends!

www.GoldenValleyChurch.com  
12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos • 559-645-1700



Golden Valley Baptist  
Pastor David Jones

5/11



## Paying for Beer Instead of Mortgage?

By Serafin Quintanar

How many people do you know that would go out and buy beer when they don't even have enough money to pay their bills? Would you buy beer, candy or lotto tickets before making sure you could cover the mortgage or the rent? Wouldn't you make your car payment before going off to the movie theater and buying a \$10 tub of popcorn?

Of course, the vast majority of us would do the responsible thing and pay for our priorities before anything that is not absolutely necessary, even if that meant no fun stuff for a while. It's far more important to have a roof over your head, food on the table and a way to get back and forth from work than to go out and live it up. However, we all know folks who do things backward or are addicted to booze and keep digging themselves into a deeper hole.

Folks, our federal government falls into that last category. Our representatives in Washington D.C. are so addicted to spending that they are willing to take our country right over the edge because they just can't, or won't, stop. They've spent every single penny that they take in as taxes and every dollar that they could borrow. Now, they

want to raise their own credit limit so that they can borrow trillions more dollars to feed their spending addiction!

As of the writing of this article, the national debt was at \$14,358,658,676,127. That's \$128,971 per taxpayer! That's also \$46,122 per person; men, women and CHILDREN! So, what can one person do? What can you do out in the Ranchos to make a big difference? Believe it or not, you can do a lot.

First of all, you can be informed about the "debt ceiling." The most important thing to remember is that not raising the debt ceiling does not equal the US government defaulting on its debt payment. Just like you and me, if we don't have enough money to pay for all the bills and all the things we want on top of that, WE DECIDE what gets paid and does not. So, the President and the Treasury Secretary have the authority to decide what gets paid first with the cash that flows into the treasury in the form of tax dollars. As it is right now, interest payments on the debt are at about \$225 billion per year. Tax revenues are over \$2.2 trillion, so there is more than enough to cover the debt payments. If the President decides not to make debt payments, he ALONE is responsible for ruining the credit rating of the federal government.

Secondly, you need to know that many unnecessary programs will not be paid for. Things like High Speed Rail and other

wasteful pork projects will have to sit idle. That actually is a good thing!

Most importantly, you can contact your member of congress and let them know how you feel about raising the debt ceiling. As a matter of fact, a few senators are even thinking about filibustering the legislation required to raise the debt ceiling. If just one of these senators (Rand Paul, Jim DeMint and Mike Lee) follows through on a filibuster, the debt ceiling will not be raised. You may want to let these senators know how you feel as well. The Madera Ranchos can make a difference.

### Madera Tea Party Meetings

We had a great turnout for our April meeting with guest speaker Kirk MacKenzie. It was a real eye opener about the Federal Reserve. Our Tea Party meetings are still on the third Thursday of each month at DiCicco's, 516 "I" Street in Madera. The next meeting on June 16 will be a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please join us for the meeting in June!

For more information you can contact John Smedley at 645-7031 or e-mail John at [jcsmedley@comcast.net](mailto:jcsmedley@comcast.net). Rick Farinelli's email is [richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardfarinelli@sbcglobal.net). For current information and events please visit the Central Valley Tea Party website [www.centralvalleyteaparty.com](http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com).

## Berryhill to Speak At GOP Dinner

The Republican Party of Madera County (RPMC) will hold their next regular monthly meeting as a Dinner/Meeting on Monday, June 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Madera Muni Golf Course Clubhouse Restaurant located at Avenue 17 at Road 24 in Madera. Cost for the dinner is \$11.

The guest speaker will be State Senator Tom Berryhill. He will be speaking about the state budget. Newcomers are welcome.

The RPMC represents Madera County as one of the 58 county political committees of this state, each of which is represented with delegates at the statewide California Republican Party Conventions held twice each year. The purpose of this committee is to register citizens to vote, get qualified Republican candidates elected to office, and to get out the vote on Election Day.

The RPMC represents all of Madera County, meeting the first Monday of each month (unless that falls on a holiday) with the exception of July when there is no meeting scheduled. Two of the regular monthly meetings are held in Oakhurst each year with the other regular meetings held at the Madera Muni Golf Course Clubhouse Restaurant unless otherwise announced. On occasion, the regular lunch-meeting will be replaced with a dinner/meeting.

Please RSVP for the dinner at least three days prior to Bobbie Atkisson, RPMC Secretary at 683-0719. Make your check payable to "The Clubhouse Restaurant."

For more information see our website at [www.MaderaGOP.org](http://www.MaderaGOP.org).

### SENIORS cont. from P. 10

are available at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and the Golden valley Chamber of Commerce.

#### June Activities

Monday Wednesday Friday - 10 a.m. Exercise  
Tuesdays - Pinochle

Wednesday - Card Bingo  
Thursday - 5:30 p.m. Pot Luck and Card Games.  
June 4- Saturday, Ranchos/Hills Treasure House, bake goods, boutique and plant sale.  
June 7- Board Meeting 6 p.m. First Monday of the month. The membership is invited.  
June 13 - Tuesday, pot luck and general meeting, second Monday of the month. Pot luck 5:30 p.m. and general meeting 7 p.m.

June 18 - Birthdays and Anniversaries, Ranchos Café, Ave. 12, Madera Ranchos 11:30 a.m. Phone 645-5155.  
June 20 - Planning meeting 12:30 p.m.  
For lunch Monday through Friday, reservations are required 24 hours in advance prior to noon. Call the center and join us at 559-645-5337.  
Watch for an upcoming day trip on June 23. Additional information pending.

ANSWERS

26	25	32		
2	+	5	+	8
X		X		X
7	-	4	X	5
+		+		-
6	÷	1	+	9
15		9		15

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

# Classified

## Alteration Services

**Madlin's Alterations** - 40 years experience - Tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER: 36733 Ave. 12. Call 559-645-4583.**

## Construction

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

## Floor/Upholstery Care

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery.** FREE estimates. FREE stain protection with any purchase. **Tile, aggregate, showers, Pebble Tec.** Golden Valley Chamber Member, BBB, references. Call **Bruce** at **676-0760**.

## For Lease

**For Lease - 3400 Sq.Ft. Beautiful home** at 36898 Ave. 16, Madera. 3 car garage, 4BD/3BA, landscaped, pond, horse property on 2 1/2 acres. \$2,300. month. Available 7/01/11. Call **Tim** (559)301-0033.

## For Rent

**For Rent - 4BD/2BA Newer home** on Ave. 12. \$1650 per month. Call **908-4289**.

**For Rent - 3BD/2BA on 1/2 acre** with pool. \$1650 per month. Call **905-7780**.

## For Sale

**For Sale - Cherry Wood China Cabinet.** \$300. Call **645-0106**.

**For Sale - \$330,000. 36898 Ave. 16 Madera. Beautiful 4 BD/ 3 BA home** - Vaulted ceilings, wood fireplace. 2 1/2 acres. Horse set-up, pond,

pool, fully landscaped, sprinklers. 3 car garage. Built in 1992. Call **Jan Waegle** (559) **326-5129**

## 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**.

## Housecleaning

**Housecleaning Service - Have your house spring cleaned all year long.** Experience, responsible, honest. Fair prices. Call **416-2585**.

## Painting Services

**Painting Services - 40 years of experience. Licensed and insured. Frank Kramer Exteriors.** Lic. #273099. Call **645-4113**.

**Painting Services - Gerald Scheffing & Son Painting.** 40 years experience. Interior & Exterior. Licensed, insured and bonded. Lic #313070. Call **674-2320**.

## Tractor Services

**Tractor Work - Discing, ro-**

**totilling, weed cutting, stump grinding, roll-off bin. 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**.

**Tractor Work - Mowing, discing, light scraping.** Call **Tomas** at **645-0864**.

## Weight Loss

**LOSE WIGHT - and keep it off** with Alkaline Water. Call **559-213-4470**.

## Window Cleaning Services

**Most windows \$5 inside/out.** Screen, track and sills included. Remove hard water stain on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal available. Fully insured. Call **Nick** at **285-1723**. Free estimates. **SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

## Yard Tractor Implements

**Scraper and Discer for Sears**

yard/garden tractor. Discer used once. Scraper NEVER used. \$100 each or both for \$175. Call **Randy** at **905-8311**.

**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3, 4

© 2011 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

**TO ADVERTISE  
CALL 645-0634**

The Ranchos Independent classified rates are **crazy** cheap. Only \$10 for each 25 words.

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

©2011 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

## 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.

	÷		+		15
+		+		-	
	-		×		15
×		×		×	
	+		+		15
26		25		32	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

© 2011 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

# Real Estate

## NEED MORE SPACE?



**barns big and small,  
covers or shop buildings  
many sizes and colors  
from which to choose**



**POLE BARN BY  
S.J. LEACH CONSTRUCTION**

**559-269-1956**

**ccl#520211**

5/11

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.  
Get fully downloadable back issues of  
the Ranchos Independent  
(beginning with April 2006).  
Learn how you can add your  
Ranchos-area business to this site!

5/11

**www.theRanchos.com**  
**www.theRanchos.com**  
**www.theRanchos.com**

www.TheRanchos.com



## Nancy Watson

The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

**645-5000**

www.nancywatson.net



If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 20 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs.

5/11



## DAVID PARKER

Realtor®

[www.davidparker.info](http://www.davidparker.info)

**490-1989**

DRE#: 01323109



A Ranchos resident for over 27 years, I am a full-time professional agent working the Madera, Fresno and Clovis areas. Inventories of homes for sale are at a long term low. Now is a great time to sell as competition is low. And it is a great time to buy with record low interest rates and multiple tax incentives. Call me today!

5/11



**Don't wait until the last minute. You can be pro-active!**

If you're facing the possibility of losing your home to foreclosure and are not sure what might be available to you, please call me. As a CDPE (Certified Distressed Property Expert) I will go over the latest information to help you make a good decision.

**LIZ KUCHINSKI, CDPE, CRS, GRI, SFR**

Realtor, Century 21 C. Watson

5/11

Century 21 C. Watson  
7520 North Palm • Fresno

Direct: (559) 364-1000 • Fax: (559) 440-7608  
liz@LizKuchinski.com • www.LizSellingHomes.com

## Continental Realty

PAUL & SUE SOBAJE

*Covering the Ranchos since 1976  
Handling Lots, Homes, Ranches  
Representing Buyers & Sellers*



CONTINENTAL REALTY • 36815 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS  
MADERA 559-645-5450 • FRESNO 559-431-7060

5/11

**"Buy land! They ain't making anymore!"**

## Ethel Eddings Pronin

Owner - Broker



Jerry Eddings, Realtors

Direct Line: 559-435-3366 Madera: 559-645-1890  
Fresno: 559-435-1890 FAX: 559-645-5417


www.maderahomes.com DRE #00329063

**37144 Ave. 12 Ste. 102 • Madera Ranchos**



5/11

**Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory**

**CHANEY'S**  
  
 Lic. #899496  
**Bobcat Service**  
 • DRILLING • TRENCHING • DIRT WORK •  
 • efficient • reliable • cost-effective call Beau  
**559-301-1613**

**Clark's Performance**  
 • GM, H1 & ASE Master Certified  
 • General Automotive Repairs  
 • Hot Rod Customizing & Lowering  
  
 Jeff Clark  
**645-1578**

**PAINTING CONTRACTOR**  
 TEXTURED COATING • PAINTING  
 VINYL SIDING • VINYL WINDOWS  
 ROOFING  
  
**FRANK KRAMER**  
**EXTERIORS**  
**(559) 645-4113**  
 TEXTURED COATING SPECIALIST  
 INSURED  
 FRANK KRAMER LIC. #273099

**VELVET TOUCH**  
**CAR WASH & DETAIL**  
  
 37075 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS  
**645-6630**

**B.M.T.**  
**Computer Repair**  
**(559) 917-4507**  
 • Sales & Service  
 • In-Home Service  
 Sé Habla Español  
 Thomas Valdez Computer Tech.  
 Retired FPD 26 yr. Certifications:  
 Ca. Lic.#79328 A+/Network +  
 Microsoft Certified Pro

  
 Since 1973  
**Interlocking Pavers**  
*nothing outlasts pavers!*  
 www.rlacyinterlockpavers.com  
**442-1999**  
 Lic. #306511

**Jo-De DRILLING**  
  
**& TRACTOR SERVICE**  
**HARDPAN DRILLING**  
**674-7770**

**Notary in the Ranchos!**  
 Mobile Notary and  
 Loan Document Signing  
 Daytime • Evening • Weekends  
**Diana J. Tucker**  
 Serving Madera & Fresno Counties  
**381-5879**

**HIGH QUALITY GATE SYSTEMS**  
  
 AUTOMATED ACCESS  
**559-454-8060**

**ROGER PRATER CONCRETE**  
 Residential & Commercial  
 38 years experience  
 Lic. # 599235  
  
**(559) 645-0911**  
**(559) 645-0916**

**Need Construction?**  
 Lic. #932435  
 • Concrete  
 • Rough Framing  
 • General Building  
 • Steel Buildings • Shop Buildings  
 • Room Additions • New Construction  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
**All Stage Construction, Inc.**  
**559-681-8947**

**Hart Photography**  
 Gallery & Unique Gifts  
  
 • Professional photography  
 • Personalized unique gifts  
 • Gift certificates  
**645-1918**  
 www.hartphotographs.com

**TRANSMISSIONS**  
**AUTO REPAIR**  
 + A/C SERVICE  
**Ranchos Auto Repair & Chuck's Transmission**  
**645-4475**


**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
 Landscape & Gardening Service  
  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 LIC. #B0008113  
**559-974-1357**

**CARTER DRYWALL SERVICE, INC.**  
 Call us for all  
 your drywall needs  
**645-1914**  
 Lic. #393449

**Huckabee's**  
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
 Lic. #837274  
**559-662-0336**  
**559-438-8260**  
 Sales and Service - Free Estimates  
 Duct Testing & Certification  
 Locally owned and operated!

**Aleman's Painting**  
 SINCE 1980  
 Interior & Exterior  
 Specializing in Repaints  
 Rental, Residential & Commercial  
 Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal  
 Color Matching  
 BONDED & INSURED  
 Lic. #589140  
**559-974-2268**

**THE COMFORT AND RELAXATION YOU DESERVE**  
  
**BRIAN'S**  
**HEATING & COOLING**  
**675-1681**

**Robyn's Day Care**  
 559-645-5047  
 Pre-school program  
 Part-time and full time  
  
 Lic. #200408145

**MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR**  
  
 • Weekly Service  
 • Equipment  
 • Supplies  
 • Residential  
 • Drains - Upstarts • Commercial  
 • Locally Owned  
 251-2514 351-1605 645-4799  
 office cell after 5 p.m.

**CERTIFIED ARBORIST**  
 • Artful Pruning  
 • Removals  
 • Disease Management  
  
**UPRIGHT TREE SPECIALISTS**  
**645-TREE (8733)**

**INAPA B&M**  
 Auto & Truck Parts  
  
 Store hours:  
 Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30  
 Sat 8:00-4:00  
 Sun 10:00-3:00  
 Madera Ranchos Plaza  
 37405 Ave. 12, Ste. 801  
**645-1570**

**ECONOMICAL WELL REPAIR**  
  
**AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY**  
**474-3021**

**WE MAKE & REPAIR WINDOW SCREENS!**  
 • Aluminum Screen  
 • Fiberglass Screen  
 • Pet Grilles  
 • Specialty Screening  
  
**HURST HARDWARE**  
**645-5680**

**KNIGHT & DAY COMPUTERS**  
 • NEW AND USED LAPTOPS •  
 • PRINTERS • PARTS •  
**645-0122**  
 B.E.A.R. #74561  
 repairs experience



## Business Directory

**WIGHT WATER pools**

• 5-Star Rated Company • Supplies • Tile Clean  
• Flat Rate Pricing • Green Cleans • Service  
• Repairs • Portable

MON-FRI: 9AM-6PM SAT: 9AM-3PM SUN: CLOSE  
Located in Madera Ranchos in Maywood Center  
37167 AVE. 12 #5D (559) 645-1969  
WWW.WIGHTWATERPOOLS.COM

**Professional Pet Care  
When You Can't Be There**

**Pets, Plants, Plus+**  
Specializing in Livestock

call  
Sandra Oliver  
559-240-3556  
or  
Jackie Jones  
559-232-1352

**PSI**  
Pet Sitters  
International  
MEMBER

Accredited • Insured • Bonded

**CRONIN MARINE REPAIR**

ENGINE AND OUT-DRIVE REPAIR  
INBOARDS AND OUTBOARDS  
TRAILER BOATS ONLY



Since 1964

**645-1977**

**MZC**

- Industrial
- General
- Farm
- Mig
- Tig
- Stick
- Certified
- Portable

**Welding & Fabrication**  
call **JERRY CLARK • 706-3865**

*Dog Gone Cute Store*

**Pet Nutrition  
Novelties & Necessities  
Grooming**

37193 Avenue 12 #3A • Madera Ranchos, CA 93636  
**645-PETS**  
Open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

for MORE sales tomorrow, call

**JEAN BRINER**

**Today!**

**(559) 645-0634**  
The Ranchos Independent

### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Home conditions still demand attention. Also, keep an open mind about a sudden question of trust involving a close friend. All the facts are not yet in.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) With summer just around the corner, travel begins to dominate your sign. Make plans carefully to avoid potential problems in the first half of June.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A romantic Libra sets a challenge that your "sensible" side might question, but your idealistic self finds the prospect too intriguing to resist. The choice is yours.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Those tense times in your personal life are just about over. Concentrate on reaffirming relationships. Your love of travel opens a surprising new opportunity.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat usually loves to be in the center of things. But this week it might be wiser to watch and learn from the sidelines. A Pisces wants to make you purr.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) "New" is your watchword this week. Be open to new ideas, both on the job and in your personal life. A romantic Aries or Sagittarian beckons.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Some difficult family decisions have to be faced, but be sure to get more facts before you act. Be careful not to neglect your health during this trying time.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You still need to support a loved one through a difficult time. Meanwhile, things continue to work out to your benefit in the workplace.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Aspects continue to favor expanding social opportunities. A Gemini reaches out to offer a chance for re-establishing a once-close relationship.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) There's a potential for misunderstanding in both your job and your personal life. A full explanation of your intentions helps smooth things over.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might be feeling restless on the job, but delay making any major moves until all the facts are in. A Scorpio has a surprising revelation.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your business sense works to your advantage as you sort through the possibilities that are opening up. A Libra is Cupid's best bet for your romantic prospects.

**Born this Week**

*You have a gift for being open-minded about people. This helps you make friends easily. You do very well in public service.*

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

# FUN PAGES

## POPEYE

WOT'S WRONG, SWEETIE?  
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!  
TRY ME... MAYBE I KIN HELP!  
REMEMBER?... I PROMISED TO STOP WATCHING THE SHOPPING CHANNEL...  
...IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I BOUGHT ANYTHING!  
BOO HOO  
I KNOW, OLIVE... YA MISS SHOPPIN'  
MORE THAN THAT...  
...I MISS SENDING THINGS BACK?  
SOB

## Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

TV WALK-A-THON...

ER... DEAR... L'I'L WOMBO ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ON THE REMOTE CONTROL AN BROKE IT...  
WHA...? Y-YOU MEAN I'LL H-HAVE TO GET UP EVERY TIME I WANT TO C-CHANGE CHANNELS?! OH, NO-O-O-O...  
...WE CONTINUE WITH OUR 24-HOUR "THREE MORONS" MARATHON...  
AA-AA! WHAT A RIOT!

## BY AL SCADUTO

ER... DEAR... L'I'L WOMBO ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ON THE REMOTE CONTROL AN BROKE IT...  
WHA...? Y-YOU MEAN I'LL H-HAVE TO GET UP EVERY TIME I WANT TO C-CHANGE CHANNELS?! OH, NO-O-O-O...  
...WE CONTINUE WITH OUR 24-HOUR "THREE MORONS" MARATHON...  
AA-AA! WHAT A RIOT!

## SCHOOL DAZE

SCHOOL CLOSED BECAUSE OF A BAD STORM... YOUNG HEKKIE DREAMS OF ALL THE FUN THINGS TO DO ALL DAY... IS HIS DAY FULL OF FUN? WELL, NOT QUITE... Y-SEE, A SHORT WHILE LATER THERE'S A POWER OUTAGE... NO TV... NO TV GAMES... NO COMPUTER GAMES... A FULL DAY TO DO NOTHING...

YAWN... WHAT A LON-N-NG BORING DAY... SIGH...

## OPTICALS

WHAT DO YOU SEE when you look at the intersections of white lines above?  
Answer: You see gray dots. If you look at any one dot, it will disappear.

## HERE'S ANOTHER BETCHA!

Bet your friends that you can prove that half of eight is three. When they give up, print the number "8" on a sheet of paper (fig. 1). Then cover the left half of it with another sheet of paper (fig. 2). The "8" has now been changed to a "3."

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's. Here are some hints from the top down.

- \$1,000 (sl).
- A Monopoly square.
- A ship's diary.
- Of great duration.
- A strange language.
- Charitable giving.
- A computer getting data.
- A slanted line.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### SHORT-NAME EUROPEAN CITIES!

Below are the names of 15 European cities that you will need to complete the puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy.

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ARLES | DEAL  | PALMA |
| BADEN | EDAM  | PARIS |
| BERN  | LILLE | RYDE  |
| BREST | METZ  | SIENA |
| DERBY | ORLY  | SELBY |

Answers: (Across) 1. Palma, 4. Baden, 6. Bern, 9. Ryde, 11. Siena, 12. Selby, 13. Metz, (Down) 1. Paris, 2. Lille, 3. Arles, 5. Derby, 6. Brest, 7. Edam, 8. Orly, 10. Deal.

## Wishing Well

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

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.

## WORD FARE

MAGIC MAZE ●

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- |              |                |              |          |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------|
| Bill of fare | Fahrenheit     | Fieldfare    | Wayfarer |
| Bus fare     | Fanfare        | Taxi fare    | Welfare  |
| Cab fare     | Fare-thee-well | Thoroughfare | Workfare |
| Carfare      | Farewell       | Warfare      |          |

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GOVERNMENT: What do FICA taxes pay for?
- LANGUAGE: What is a wonderkind?
- HISTORY: To what royal house did England's King Henry VIII belong?
- U.S. STATES: What is Hawaii's state flower?
- ANATOMY: In what part of the body is the sternum located?
- MEASUREMENTS: On what type of scale are wind forces measured?
- ROYAL TITLES: How should one address a duke in greeting?
- GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. city is known as the "City of Brotherly Love"?
- LITERATURE: What is doggerel?
- MEDICINE: Who is credited with discovering the polio vaccine?

- ### Answers
1. Social Security
  2. A prodigy
  3. Tudor
  4. Yellow hibiscus
  5. Chest
  6. Beaufort Scale
  7. Your grace
  8. Philadelphia
  9. Crudely written poetry
  10. Albert Sabin

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



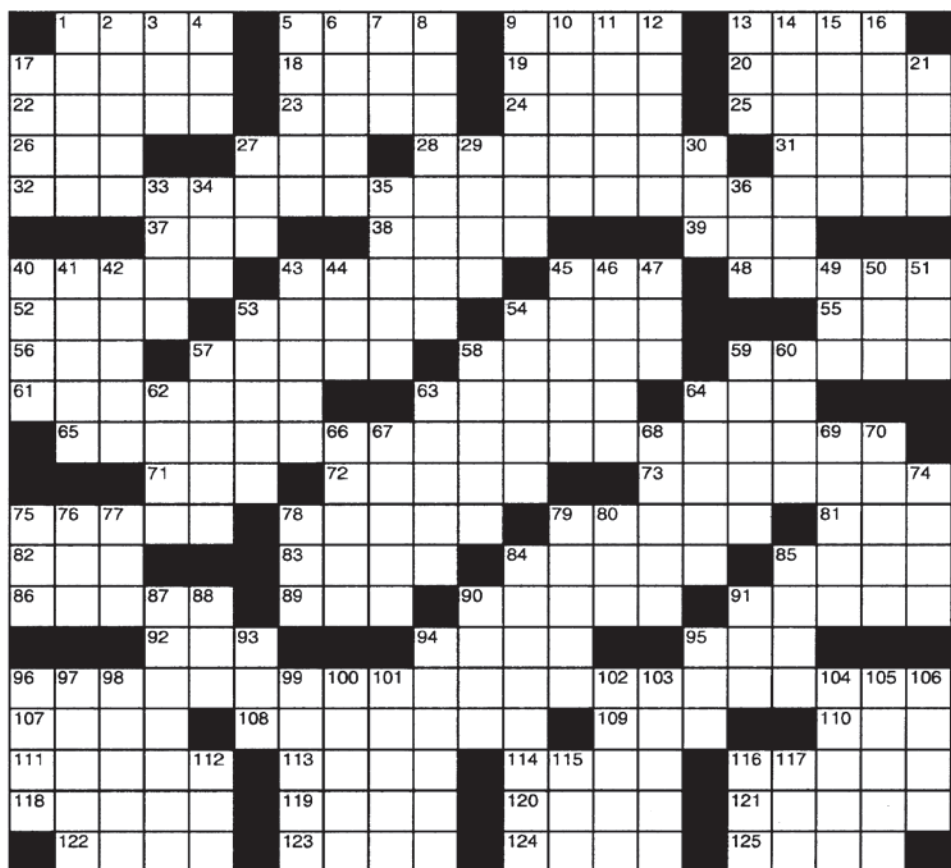
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Sign is wrong 2. Hat is different 3. Eyeglasses are gone 4. Man has a walking stick 5. Pine trees are missing 6. Carteen is with backpack

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Interrogate
  - 5 Took a dip
  - 9 Engineering course
  - 13 Theater collection
  - 17 Government group
  - 18 The Fates, e.g.
  - 19 Akbar's city
  - 20 Madonna role
  - 22 Moral man?
  - 23 Pianist Lupu
  - 24 Unwelcome visit?
  - 25 Plot
  - 26 Narcs' org.
  - 27 Roberts or Robertson
  - 28 Took in
  - 31 Dress size
  - 32 Start of a remark by Marguerite Whitely
  - 37 Malamute medic
  - 38 Eaves dropper?
  - 39 "— whiz!"
  - 40 Assumption
  - 43 "Tosca" tenor
  - 45 "Veronica's Closet" item
  - 48 Haggard
  - 52 Surrounded by
  - 53 Cook's cry
  - 54 Wilbur
  - 55 Curly poker?
  - 56 Crony
  - 57 Eisenhower, for one
  - 58 African capital
  - 59 Mansfield or Meadows
  - 61 Author France
  - 63 It comes from the heart
  - 64 Weep
  - 65 Middle of remark
  - 71 "Make — double!"
  - 72 Crack up
  - 73 "Evil Ways" group
  - 75 — salad
  - 78 Pennsylvania sect
  - 79 Rock's Tears for —
  - 81 Squash shot
  - 82 Garage supply
  - 83 — in (yield)
  - 84 Beetle Bailey's boss
  - 85 1,760 yards
  - 86 Put on hold
  - 89 Vane letters
  - 90 Composer Gabriel
  - 91 '78 Peace Nobel
  - 92 Actor Cariou
  - 94 Downs a donut
  - 95 Antlered animal
  - 96 End of remark
  - 107 Aphrodite's son
  - 108 Jeeves' master
  - 109 Say please too often?
  - 110 Buddy
  - 111 "The Full —" ('96 film)
  - 113 Guitar kin
  - 114 Author Dinesen
  - 116 "What — Bob?" ('91 film)
  - 118 Poet Sanchez
  - 119 Level
  - 120 Mall event
  - 121 Quiet partner?
  - 122 Singer Lonnie
  - 123 Start a crop
  - 124 Blabbed
  - 125 Conductor Jeffrey
  - 6 Post's confidant
  - 7 Pitch in
  - 8 Peak
  - 9 Kind of swallow
  - 10 Once more
  - 11 Treat alternative
  - 12 Hot spot?
  - 13 Mo
  - 14 First name in boxing
  - 15 Shinbone
  - 16 Berle sidekick
  - 17 Pinkett of "The Nutty Professor"
  - 21 Nautical adverb
  - 27 Favorite
  - 29 Kentucky neighbor
  - 30 Westminster winner
  - 33 Roman poet
  - 34 Aerialist's fallback
  - 35 Senator Hatch
  - 36 Spear-headed
  - 40 Mama's boy?
  - 41 Muscat native
  - 42 Mamer or Lapham
  - 43 Diverse
  - 44 Khan
  - 45 Actress Ekland
  - 46 Broadcast in July
  - 47 Bustle
  - 49 One of the Marches
  - 50 Finished first
  - 51 Born
  - 53 Perry's secretary
  - 54 Swamp
  - 57 Reggae's — and the Maytals
  - 58 Cold sound
  - 59 Pop Art pioneer
  - 60 Blind as —
  - 62 Relief
  - 63 Tickle
  - 64 Gawk
  - 66 Violinist Mischa
  - 67 Inexperienced
  - 68 Inedible fruit
  - 69 Sound
  - 70 "— Gay"
  - 74 Facilitate a felony
  - 75 Fare for a fry
  - 76 Hurry
  - 77 Sprite
  - 78 Mr. Lucky's card
  - 79 Gounod opera
  - 80 Drop a brick
  - 84 Juvenal or Swift
  - 85 Certain
  - 87 Stretchy
  - 88 Gun the engine
  - 90 Mirror image?
  - 91 Crafty
  - 93 Contemporary
  - 94 Hold out
  - 95 Word with good or bad
  - 96 Clears one's throat
  - 97 Forster's "— With a View"
  - 98 Singer Summer
  - 99 Parts
  - 100 "— Got a Friend" ('71 hit)
  - 101 Cosmetician Lauder
  - 102 Everything considered
  - 103 Bare
  - 104 Kapitan's command
  - 105 Armistice
  - 106 Table d'—
  - 112 Flap one's gums
  - 115 — Tome
  - 116 Prone
  - 117 Arthur or Benaderet
- DOWN**
- 1 Chess piece
  - 2 Retract
  - 3 Skater Midori
  - 4 Use a phaser
  - 5 Scarecrow

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

# FUN PAGES

**SEM CU**  
south east madera county united

**SEM CU**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
Monday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
Ranchos Pizza Factory

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO COME!**

**Got water problems? • Got traffic problems?  
Got a Community Center? • Got a park?**

**GET INVOLVED!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@semcu.org](mailto:info@semcu.org)**

**SEM CU • FOR THE COMMUNITY! BY THE COMMUNITY!**

**The Ranchos Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos  
For copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org)**