

The Ranchos Independent



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Avenue 15 Rebuild First Co. Project Under “Stimulus”

Construction on Avenue 15, Madera County’s first project paid for by the federal stimulus funds aimed at jump-starting the economy, is starting.

Madera County Road Commissioner Johannes Hoevertz began putting together a list of needed projects that could be started when the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was proposed. Once the bill was approved by Congress, Madera County was ready to start the process for Avenue 15 reconstruction between Road 29 and Road 35. Avenue 15 is one of the County’s four east-west, two lane major arterial roadways serving Bonadelle Ranchos and the Southeast area of the City of Madera.

Supervisor Bigelow thanked Commissioner Hoevertz for stepping up to the plate and putting road projects on the fast track to take advantage of the stimulus dollars. “It has been a great challenge competing for these funds as everything came down to last-second situations. However, even with our limited resources and capabilities, Johannes stretched us to the max to perform under federal rules.” Said Supervisor Bigelow.

In order to be able to construct the project, the Road department requested permission to obtain a loan from Measure A in the amount of \$2.2 million. The Board approved that request during the Sept. 15 meeting.

Stimulus fund projects are like most federal aid projects in the sense they are reimbursable, meaning Madera County must front the monies to build the project and request reimbursement during and/or after construction. The \$2.2 million advanced construction funds will come from Measure A and will be reimbursed once the federal funds become available. The Department consulted with the Chief Administrative Officer and no negative fiscal impacts were expected.



Mysterious Hwy. 41 Orange Fences House Vernal Pools

By Randy Bailey

The land to the east of Highway 41 approximately across from Avenue 14 ½ has generated a lot of interest and subsequent calls to the Ranchos Independent regarding exactly what is going on there. Of particular interest are the depressed areas cordoned off with orange plastic fencing. One caller said he had called CalTrans and was told they could not give out information on the project. However, a source within Madera County government has revealed to the Ranchos Independent that those depressed areas are vernal pools that are being protected by the state.

A vernal pool is a seasonal wetlands that occurs in depressions in the soil here in California. They range from having water in them during periods from winter to spring but usually are completely dry for summer and fall. These off of Highway 41 are about the size of big rain puddles and can usually fill and drain several times a year.

Vernal pools provide a unique habitat for numerous rare plants and animals. Those animals are able to survive these harsh conditions. Often these plants and animals spend the dry season as seeds or eggs but when the ponds are again filled with

water come back to life.

Scientists estimate that more than 90 percent of California’s vernal pools have already been lost.

The California Environmental Quality Act, a state law, requires public agencies to consider the effects of proposed actions on



A mystery no more, the areas bounded by orange fences on Highway 41 are vernal pools, protected by the state of California and the federal government.

biological resources. Environmental laws and policies that pertain to vernal pools in California include:

1. The federal Clean Water Act (US Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency), Endangered Species Act (US Fish and Wildlife Service), and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (US Fish and Wildlife Service);

2. Wetland provisions of the Food Security Act (Natural Resources Conservation Service);

3. The state Endangered Species Act and California Fish and Game Code (California Department of Fish and Game), California Environmental Quality Act (County Planning Departments); and

4. County General Plan Policies and Habitat Conservation Plan Policies.

The bottom line is that these environmental laws and policies require agencies and landowners to consider the effects of a proposed action on the environment; determine if a less damaging alternative is available; obtain and comply with necessary wetland permits; and comply with endangered species laws (for vernal pools that support endangered species). Compensatory

mitigation may be required by local Planning Departments or regulatory permitting agencies to help ensure that the project does not result in a loss of wetland functions. The source within the County government stated that what we are seeing off of Highway 41 today are mitigation measures in anticipation of development of that area in the future by CalTrans.

Sheriff’s Tips to Handle Unwanted Solicitations

In an effort to arm Madera County with some important information to guard against unwanted solicitations, Sheriff John Anderson has compiled a list of complaints and tips on what YOU can do to protect your pocket and your identity. The following list has been compiled from warnings Sheriff Anderson has issued just in the past six months.

1. LOTTERY & SWEEPSTAKES – They say you are a winner and either send you a check and tell you to return a portion of it, or offer to hand deliver the prize to your door.

2 GRANT MONEY CHECKS – They’re issuing grants by way of a check claiming you got picked. All you have to do is cash it then wire the sender his/her “commission fee.”

3. MILLION DOLLAR GIVE-AWAY’S – **HERE’S THE NUMBER TO CALL** – If you call the number one of two things might happen: They keep calling back and badger you to cash the check they issued you and

wire back a portion of it. They go so far as to threaten you, that if you don’t cash the check and wire the said amount back they’ll turn you in for theft! Or they provide you with a 900 number to call in order to claim your prize. You call that number and they put you on hold for up to 10 minutes forcing you to listen to lengthy recorded messages. All the while, the meter is running and you could be paying up to \$25 a minute.

4. CRAIG’S LIST – Don’t think someone isn’t watching your every move when you surf the internet. A resident received a check in the mail offering a work at home deal after she completed some unrelated work on Craig’s List.

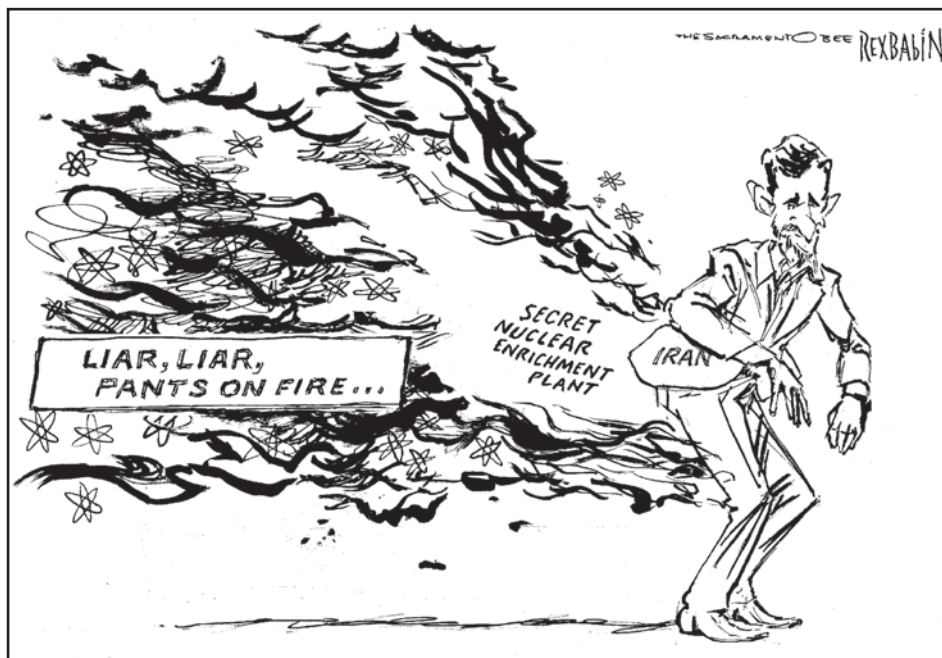
5. PROPERTY DEED SOLICITATIONS – Companies are offering to help you obtain property records for a fee. The Madera County Recorder’s Office already provides this service. Anyone who wishes to obtain a certified copy of his or her property deed only has to contact the Madera County Recorder’s

Office. Log on to this site for more information: www.madera-county.com/county-clerk/recorder/

6. PROPERTY TAX REASSESSMENT – Companies are offering to help you obtain a copy of your Property Assessment, but you can do it yourself with one click of the mouse or a simple phone call. To find out about the value of your property log on to the following website: www.madera-county.com/assessor. You can also call their office at: 559-675-7710.

Sheriff Anderson is certain there are plenty more solicitations out there but believes this list alone highlights various methods used to take your money and in some cases steal your identity. He also stresses that in cases where you have been scammed, “little can be done to recoup your loss or track down the suspect. Most of these letters, emails and phone calls originate and end outside of the United States, where no one has jurisdiction, not even the FBI.”

Click on “Local News” at



Editorial

Unnecessary Wasted Water

By Randy Bailey

I am a firm believer in individual property rights. If you buy a piece of property you should be able to do with it as you please. Now of course, there are often certain limitations that go with your property. If you own a nice piece of the Mojave Desert it will probably be tough turning it into a sea-port. Likewise, if you've always wanted to own a ski resort then that piece of land you just bought in Atascadero is probably not going to work for you. These are limitations placed on the land by the land itself.

Then there are limitations placed on land by governing bodies, ostensibly at the will of the people. We don't really want porno shops next to elementary schools. Building a drag strip next to a hospital seems a bit much. These rely on common sense and say we don't mind if you want to open a porno shop ... just not there.

But when the issue of water comes into play, particularly here in

the Ranchos, the rules have to be changed. As I've written here before, the Madera Ranchos area is overdrafting our aquifer to the tune of five feet per year. It is the highest consumption level in Madera County. It means that in 10 years our water table drops 50 feet.

The problem is it's ALL of our water. Water doesn't pool under Mr.

Smith's property in a neat little bucket so that when Mr. Smith depletes his water that's it. He's done. It means that Mr. Jones who lives next to him is ALSO done and so is Mr. Johnson on the other side. Mr. Jones could be the king of conservation, and Mr. Johnson is a model for others to emulate, but it really doesn't matter if Mr. Smith goes out every day and just turns the



spigot on until there's nothing left.

Where is all of this leading? In agricultural land there are no rules about the type of irrigation you're allowed to do in Madera County. You are free to use your water rights in any way necessary to get your crop growing and feed a hungry world. One would hope you would use the water in the most reasonable, judicious way possible because it is a limited resource. Remember? It's ALL of our water?

In the property to the west of Liberty High School, the owner of that property has been growing alfalfa for years. Now, alfalfa is an important crop, but it's also one of the thirstiest. On a chart put out by California's UC system, water consumption for alfalfa is among the highest. As I stated above at the beginning of this editorial, I fully support the property owner's right to grow whatever he wants, but the question must be begged: Is a high water consumption crop the best idea for the Ranchos' limited water resources?

Then there's the second part of the watering question – and the rea-

The Ranchos Independent

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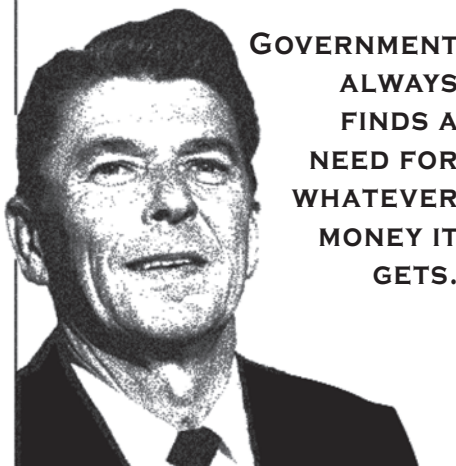
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Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 18

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



I neglected to comment on the high speed rail report.

It seems the high speed rail system is on the fast track. In these unprecedented times of stimulus money floating in from the sky, our leaders are looking a bit like kids charging in after the piñata has burst open. They really don't have time to decide what candy they want or even if it is candy – anything within reach is scooped up.

Enough of my metaphors now back to the rail system.

We were told the magic number is "220," that is two hours and 20 minutes from one end to the other. It seems that as long as that goal is met the rest is up for grabs. Fresno can put their station downtown as the latest very expensive wild stab in the dark to revitalize their dying core. Madera can cut a swath through prime ag land, or split the city in two. The Environmental Impact Reports we were told have been split, writing one for each of what I thought they said were five segments.

Like the train itself, if you don't get on board at the beginning of a run you are just going to be left next to the tracks watching it fly by.

Route options are being added and taken as I write this. At the Board meeting we were told our local government cannot even find out for sure who is making the decisions. This is a big one – your children and grandchildren will be paying the bill for what we do. How about getting involved? Let's build something that makes sense 50 years from now not just a way to get more stimulus money to our coffers.

The Chukchansi grants were announced but I can't write as fast as they talked so I had to wait until it was posted. Madera Ranchos Station 19 looks like it made out like bandits, but when you do the Paul Harvey "rest of the story" thing and take a closer look, you get a different picture.

The \$25,000 for "lab equipment" is actually what is needed to set up and equip the training facility built by Company 19 to be used by any and all fire companies County wide. The \$95,000 grant will nearly complete the state-of-the-art support unit. The support unit will serve as the old "bread truck" used to do and will respond with food and beverages to any incident in the County when police or fire are in need of support. Company 19 and their supporters work tirelessly to make the operation better and these are but a couple of examples of how they are not just taking care of their area but working for the whole County.

County screws up, and more taxpayer dollars are about to be flushed.

The timing is amazing: budget cuts and then loans to balance the budget. Programs in all areas seem to be affected except in the "Granite Palace." Essential services are being cut to rural communities and as if all of this is not enough, now we hear the County is getting called on another of our infamous "Stumble, Bumble and Flush" projects.

It seems we (the County) are being charged \$510,600 by the Water Quality Board for the issues caused by the widening of Road 200 last year. From what I read in the complaint it appears our County decided to treat the Water Quality Board with the same disrespectful, arrogant foot dragging and "rules don't apply to us" attitude they use when dealing with citizen's requests for information.

I am a bit confused about the liability and who actually dropped what balls here.

When the County writes a contract for a major road widening project don't we put something in there requiring the contractor to follow

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 9

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Hours Change at Ranchos Library but Programs Remain in Place

By Ellen Mester

Last month's library article in the Independent indicated that we were only losing two hours on Monday. Since that time the hours have changed and in fact may very well change again. Please note our Saturday hours which have changed the most.

For now our current hours are:

Monday – Thursday: Noon until 7 p.m.

Friday: Noon until 5 p.m.

Saturday: Noon until 3 p.m.

Unfortunately we no longer have any morning hours. Our story time with Mrs. Anderson has been moved to 1 p.m. on Monday. Staff members are hard at work at 10:30 a.m. but we can't open the door for business until noon. All changes for the library must be approved by the Board of Supervisors so remember it's not that we are just being inflexible. Please use our book drop at the curb if you need to return materials when we are not open. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Library Programs

Our group of Monday Night Knitters is going strong. Aside from being a lot of fun, we actually learn from each other too. Come join us from 5 to 7 p.m., if you like to knit. Crochet is welcome too! Our Wednesday afternoon children's programs are going well. Eight children last week read to Katie the dog. They practiced reading aloud while Katie gave them loving encouragement. Children who visit our library regularly are able to experience a wide variety of educational, social, artistic and enjoyable activities.

Friends of the Ranchos Library

Our Friends are preparing to wrap up the book sale so if anyone is interested in making last minute purchases — big or small — please do so now. We will have our regular books for sale inside the library as always, but the rest will be packed away until next year. If you would like to join the Friends group, please come to any of our meetings which are held the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome.

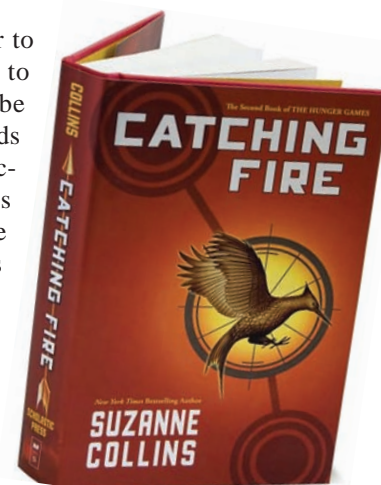
Book Recommendations

Juvenile Fiction: *The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo. Instead of purchasing bread and fish in the market, 10-year-old Peter Augustus Duchene cannot resist using the money given to him by his benefactor, the old soldier, to pay a fortuneteller to find out if his baby sister still lives. The fortuneteller tells him that an elephant will lead him to his sister — who yes, is indeed alive. Peter, excited by this news but yet puzzled about where in this city in the winter he might find an elephant, overhears ladies in the market discussing a magician and an elephant. Much to his surprise, apparently the night before a magician created havoc when he conjured up an elephant which came crashing down onto a wealthy woman in the audience at the opera house. Both the elephant and the magician are in custody now and the poor woman is in a wheelchair. Peter turns to his neighbor, the kindly policeman Leo Matienne for help and thus begins an amazing journey to find the elephant and his sister. I love the old feel of this story and the European setting. This author has a way of drawing together unlikely characters into unusual turns of events. Her stories always have a touch of pathos yet with a comforting outcome.



Young Adult Fiction: *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins. This sequel to *The Hunger Games* is equally impressive in style and content as the first book. Katniss and Peeta are forced to make the Panem tour to all 12 Districts culminating in an ex-

travagant week of festivities in the Capitol. Prior to the event however, President Snow visits Katniss to inform her that her family and friends will be harmed if she does not use this tour to make amends for the rebellion she has incited by her clever tactics during the Hunger Games. Terrified, Katniss eventually alerts Peeta and Haymitch, who devise strategies that unfortunately fail. Because of this failure, a new game is concocted by the Capitol that brings back the former victors of all the previous games to compete against each other. Although some of these victors are quite frail and elderly, they are not exempt. By now Katniss is



Please see **LIBRARY** on P. 8



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 for more information, contact
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645-4001
**Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera Ranchos**
goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com
The Stock Report

Golden Valley Scores Rival Clovis

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

The API scores are in for our Golden Valley Schools. I am so proud of each school for reaching their target and beyond. All of our California Distinguished Schools have used methods to increase student learning. When students feel safe and treated fairly they will give their best to their teachers on their tests. Golden Valley is indeed "a district of excellence." Sierra View Elementary scored 849, Webster Elementary scored 862, Ranchos Middle scored 803 and Liberty High scored 821. This put the Golden Valley Unified at a district score of 820 in the state scoring system.

When we started Golden Valley Unified 10 years ago Clovis Unified stepped up and helped us to get started so we chose Clovis Unified as the school district to compete with. This year Clovis Unified scored 857 as a district so Golden Valley is closing the

gap. I hope it is not just about scores but also that Golden Valley Schools are producing curious learners and lifelong readers. Isn't that what everyone wants?

So here we are in November. This means that the holiday season that seems to have started with Halloween on October 31 is already here. I have already let my family know that I will cook Thanksgiving Dinner this year. It is not hard to plan the menu because I learned years ago that you don't change traditional foods without getting into all kinds of trouble. Last year was the first year that I wasn't home to cook Thanksgiving Dinner since 1950. That was the year that I got married. Last year I was with my daughter's family and friends in Mazatlan, Mexico. We had a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner with a Mexican flavor in a Mexican restaurant. I had gone on the trip so

that I could bring my grandson Nick Morin home for school and my daughter and son-in-law could have another week of vacation. Nick graduated from Liberty High last June 4. He is attending Fresno City College now.

Recalling and recapturing memories seems to be easy at this time of the year. I guess that you could call me a memory keeper as I put together albums for Golden Valley School District, the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools, my sorority history albums, the many albums of my family and my worldwide travels. It certainly keeps me busy. We live in a constantly changing world, which I try to capture in my history gathering.

On Friday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. This takes place at the Maywood Center on Avenue 12. There is a program with Christmas music, a Christmas tree with stars to be

You are in for a treat because some of our very talented Ranchos Hills Seniors will be opening up their Christmas decorated homes for a Home Tour on Dec. 12. It will only cost \$7 and will end back at the Senior Center with a dessert tea.

taken and completed for Veterans at the Veteran's Hospital in Fresno. The Golden Valley Chamber delivers these bags of goodies to the hospital just before Christmas. I was surprised how many Veteran women were in the hospital. Santa will be at the Christmas tree lighting to take pictures with the children. Also there will be five small Christmas trees on Avenue 12 decorated by our five different Golden Valley schools. Yes, we have our own Christmas tree lane.

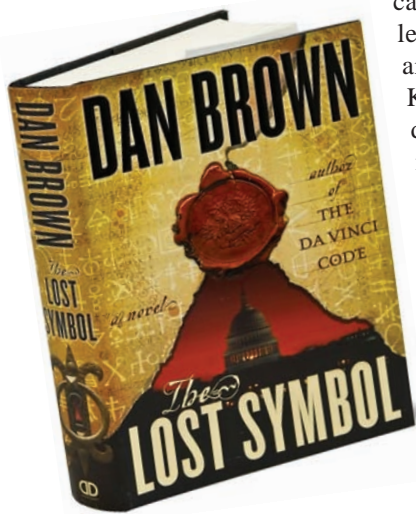
You are in for a treat because some of our very talented Ranchos Hills Seniors will be opening up their Christmas decorated homes for a Home Tour on Dec. 12. It will only cost \$7 and will end back at the Senior Center with a dessert tea. I am sure you will get some decorating ideas, so come and

 Please see **STOCK** on P. 18

LIBRARY cont. from P. 6

aware that several of the districts have begun open rebellion and therefore have been severely punished by the Capitol. Then when her own dear friend and true love, Gale, is nearly whipped to death in the town square by a Peacekeeper, she resolves to fight to save her family and loved ones. The imagination and fast pace of the story are spellbinding. I can't wait for the next book in the series to be published!

Adult Fiction: *The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown. Robert Langdon is once again called upon to solve the meaning of an encoded object. Unfortunately the object is his friend Peter Solomon's tattooed severed hand, sitting in the middle of the U.S.



Capitol Building. The CIA's Office of Security is called in, superseding the Capitol Security which leads Langdon to wonder just who the good guys are. This becomes clear when Peter's sister, Katherine, a brilliant scientist, narrowly escapes death at the hands of a man who murdered her mother 10 years ago while trying to rob Peter of a sacred pyramid belonging to the Freemasons. A lot of the symbolism and mystique revolves around the Masonic Brotherhood and their connection to our nation's capitol. It is an exciting wild ride through the underground of Washington D.C. Dan Brown does an excellent job of keeping up the suspense and making the villain appear to be a real monster, while incurring the reader's fascination with hidden meanings that we may have taken for granted for centuries. Although this is a

novel, Brown states in the beginning that the organizations, rituals, artwork, and monuments in this novel are real. It makes me want to go to D.C. and check it out.

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

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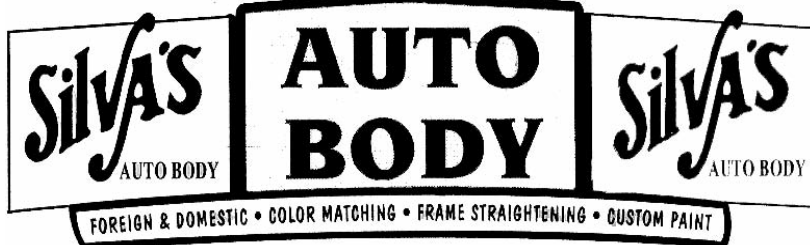
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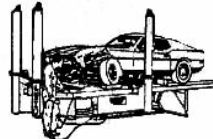


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The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

Every now and then, even after 39 years of sobriety, I attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting to remind myself that it's a narrow path I tread, especially as I grow older and loneliness frequently engulfs my four walls, and the only solace is my cat, Lady Bug.

Last night as I entered a meeting room the secretary was in a rather heated discussion with a young man attending his first court-ordered meeting.

"If anybody mentions God I'm outta here," he threatened, but finally took a seat when he was informed that his appearance would not be verified unless he remained for the entire meeting. This was almost a replay of a night 39 years ago when I attended my first meeting in a musty, weary old church after spending a night in the county jail drunk tank where I lay puking, passing gas and heaven only knows what else, and a disheveled wino lying on the floor next to me got to his hands and knees, held his nose and told me, "Man, you stink!" and crawled across the room to lie by someone who didn't.

Like the newcomer at last night's meeting, I'd told the secretary the same thing at my first AA meeting, that so many family members, friends, acquaintances and preachers had thrown the word "God" at me that I never wanted to hear it again and if I did, would hastily walk away. Reluctantly, I

sat next to an Indian, a Mono or Chukchansi I presumed, as one by one the gathered men and women were called upon to relate their stories, or "drunkalogues" as they're often called, and everything went smoothly until a burly, red-faced man looked at the ceiling, clasped hands and began hollering that he'd been saved by "My good buddy God, upstairs!"

Well, that was it. But as I was getting up to bolt the meeting the Indian placed a hand on mine.

"Don't leave," he said, softly. "I know how you feel. I was like you when I first came in."

Then, squeezing my hand, he too looked at the ceiling and told me, "My good buddy up there is the sun. Your good buddy up there can be the moon."

I thought about his suggestion for a moment, shrugged my shoulders and told myself, "Okay, I can do that."

Not long ago in one of the restaurants in the casino up the road, a waiter came to my table to take my order. As he headed toward the kitchen he turned and grinned.

"Glad you made it, Moon."

But it wasn't him who brought my order back out but a young lady. And she didn't know a man named "Sun," nor did anyone else I spoke with. I made countless inquiries, all fruitless.

I never knew his other name.

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

the rules established for erosion control? I am almost tempted to stand up and cheer for the Water Control Board for having the resources to hold the County accountable.

Almost ... but as always it is a lose/lose situation for we taxpayers.

The agenda for the Board of Supervisors has two items I am wondering about.

One is a resolution to create a Business Improvement District (BID). This is a lot like the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) but this time the merchants agreeing to pat the new fee/tax are writing it so the money can only be used to promote their business. I am not sure this is the time to raise any taxes but when the County robs Peter to pay Paul, Peter needs to get the money someplace. It seems a large portion of the TOT was to go for the same purpose but once the money was collected it somehow slipped into the general fund, never to be seen again.

The second resolution has me taking a very unpopular position: The state cut funding for the Williamson act and we taxpayers just cannot afford the \$1.3 million out of the general fund to subsidize farmers and ranchers, including two of our supervisors. The Board's response to my objection now appears to be to further expand the program to include parcels under 100 acres that were unable to qualify in the past.

I am still surprised by the willingness of politicians to throw citizen/taxpayers to the wolves to give special interest supporters a leg up.

The Constitution: A Civics Lesson

By Eleanore Burchell

What have we forgotten about our country's Constitution? Let's review it and also find some interesting facts many have never known: First there is the preamble, remember?

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I: The Legislative Branch, which covers the House of Representatives, the Senate, which together makes congress.

Then it explains the powers granted congress and the power forbidden to congress.

Article II: The Executive Branch

Article III: The Judicial Branch

Article IV: Relation of the States to each other

Article V: Amending the Constitution

Article VI: National Debts

Article VII: Ratifying the Constitution Interesting Facts

Patrick Henry was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but declined because he "smelt a rat."

The Constitution contains 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

The Constitution was "penned" by Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk for \$30 (\$661 today, no typewriter nor computer).

James Madison, "the father of the Constitution," and George Washington were the only two presidents who signed the Constitution.

Of the spelling errors in the Constitution, "Pensylvania" above the signers' names is probably the most glaring.

In previous years, Constitution Day was celebrated on Sept. 17, the anniversary of the day the framers signed the document.

Of the 42 who attended most of the meetings, 39 actually signed the Constitution, several refused to sign due in part to the lack of a bill of rights. When it came

time for the states to ratify the Constitution, the lack of any bill of rights was the primary sticking point.

The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81), the youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).

The state with the most signers (8) was Pennsylvania.

Senior Center News

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our workers will also be there to help. Please remember that the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. George

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

has been bringing in large, beautiful, prize-winning onions by the box full. We also have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently, there are huge onions, great tomatoes, zucchini, some corn and okra (if you come at the right time). The fresh corn on the cob and okra both sell

quickly!

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging). We are located at 37330 Berkshire and you are invited to come in and check with Joann about programs which will help you.

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

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our September birthday and

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 25

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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

on the days they came back to the school after their trip to the Pumpkin Patch. What excitement! They were so protective of their precious treasure. They hung on to it like the star football player running with the ball to the goal line. Hopefully they all had someone at home that could help them make that all important Jack 'O Lantern.

Pumpkin Anyone?

Here we are in autumn already. I love the fall time of the year – not real cold yet, and a lot cooler than what we have been through. Probably the only people that don't like this weather are at PG&E. We can open our windows and doors and enjoy!

What do you usually think of when this time of year gets here? Football games? Beautiful orange and red leaves on the trees (and then you have to rake the lousy things up)? Halloween? Pumpkins! For the past 14 years I have picked up Randy's, and then Adam's, kids after school at Sierra View and I loved to sit there and watch the little ones

And what are you reminded of when we say "Pumpkin"? Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Bread and lots of other desserts made with pumpkins. Most people don't bother with seeding, peeling, and cooking a pumpkin any more, they just buy a can.

Although pumpkin pie is not my favorite, my mom did make delicious ones. She usually made two for Thanksgiving except when she knew her grandson Steve would be there, then she would always make a couple extras. She didn't have any secret recipe, not even one written on her cards. Her recipe was on the back of a can

of Libby's pumpkin. Each large can will make two pies.

In going through mama's recipe cards, I found this one. She has cut it out of a newspaper and taped it to one of her cards so I will copy it as it is. If you can't make good pie crust (like me) or just don't like to make pie crust, this recipe would be ideal. And, it sounds good too!

No Crust to Screw Up

Stick it in the oven and forget it for an hour and half. Easy, peasy. My 11 year old could have made it last year or the year before! But wait, Sara's recipe is as good as her story:

Make the pumpkin-pie mixture from the large can of Libby's pumpkin. Pour it into a large deep casserole. (I'd say she used about a 3 quart Corningware dish.)

In a large bowl blend a packaged spice cake mix with two cubes melted butter.

Drop this mixture by spoonfuls on top of the pie mixture in the casserole dish.

Bake at 350 for about 1 1/2 hours.

Now I ask you – doesn't that sound good? How about a big spoon of this with a blob of whipped cream on it – or a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yummy!

The following pumpkin bread recipes are for everyone, but especially for the lady that called the office and requested them and before I could get back to her, I misplaced her phone number. The first one is my mother's:

Pumpkin Nut Bread

1 C margarine
3 C sugar
3 eggs
1 large can pumpkin
3 C sifted all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp vanilla
2 C chopped nuts
1 C raisins

Cream together margarine and sugar. Beat in eggs, add pumpkin and vanilla, mixing well. Sift together dry ingredients, blend with pumpkin mixture. Add nuts and raisins.

Bake in loaf pans for 40 to 45 minutes in preheated 350 oven.

The following recipe is my sister Faye's (Randy's mom). You will notice it doesn't take any eggs.

Faye's Pumpkin Bread

Oven 350 Yield – 3 loaves

1 can pumpkin
4 C sugar
1 C oil
Mix together, then add to pumpkin mixture:
2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp salt
5 C flour

Bake in prepared pans 70 minutes

I have a very dear friend living in Chowchilla that we went to school together since the seventh grade. She took over as manager of the high school cafeteria when my mother retired. Every year she invites my sisters and me up to her house for a Christmas luncheon. A couple of years ago she served a pumpkin roll that was really delicious. I ask her for the recipe and I'll pass it on to you.

Pumpkin Cake Roll

3 eggs
1 C sugar
1 tsp lemon juice
2/3 C pumpkin
1 C chopped nuts
3/4 C flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
Filling:
1 C powdered sugar
6 oz. pkg. cream cheese- softened
1/4 C butter - softened
1/2 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven at 375. Grease a 15x10x1 inch baking pan and line with waxed paper. Grease and flour the paper. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs on high for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar until thick and lemon colored. Add pumpkin and lemon juice.

In another bowl (I use a large piece of wax paper so you won't have another bowl to wash) mix flour, cinnamon, bak-

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 24

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A Place for Solving Life's Problems

By Bob Crabb

"In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.' Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you.'" (Exodus 16:2-4)

Can you imagine the praise and the thanksgiving and the singing that the Old Testament Israelites gave to the God who delivered them from

captivity and slavery? We get a glimpse of this gratitude to their savior God, in Exodus 15:1ff. The Israelites have just been delivered out Pharaoh's cruel slavery. Right after their liberation, we have this report: (Exodus 15:1-2 NIV) "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: 'I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.'"

Can you imagine the enthusiasm and excitement of this song! Liberation at last! What a great noise they must have made! There are many of us today who can celebrate our God who has liberated us from the task masters in our lives. Task masters, not of a king or a Pharaoh, but task masters none the less: Drugs and alcohol, loneliness and illness, separation and grief, anger and fear are some of today's task masters. Being liberated by God from these things can make you feel like shouting with joy and praising God who liberates and frees. Of course there is always the problem of what happens after the liberation.

In Exodus 16, the Israelites are beginning their second month of freedom and they are walking in the wilderness after their deliverance. The dangers of the wilderness are real. The Israelites have already faced thirst (Exodus 15:22-25), now they face hunger and later they will face attack (Exodus 17:8-13). They do not exaggerate their predicament. They are suffering from hunger and there is no apparent way out. They are not even clear about their relationship with their God. Exodus 16 offers a glimpse of this emerging relationship. The complaints and the fear of present circumstances are not constrained to the pages of Exodus.

Life can break many of us, but the church can be the location where there is strength in the broken places. That strength is the love of God in Jesus Christ. People sharing faith, people sharing forgiveness, people sharing their relationship with Jesus and people practicing the presence of Christ. That is the church.

Their situation may be the same for many in our world today. People possibly could be free from some harsh circumstances of their past, but that does not mean that their problems are over. Exodus 16 offers the assurance that even in the wilderness of liberation God will not forsake His people. Moses instructs

Aaron to say to the Israelites: (Exodus 16:9) "Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling."

In our struggles and difficulties, God is near and listening, even to our complaints. But even a legitimate complaint does not always contain a legitimate solution. In their complaining, the Israelites also declare a solution to their problem! Their solution to the problem is that it would have been better to have died in slavery! Maybe they even wanted to go back. Thank goodness, God did not accept their solution to their problem. God gave them a different solution by sending quail meat in the evening and bread in the morning. What an awesome sight it must have been in the morning (Exodus 16:14) when the ground was covered with God's answer. But God's solution was so strange to the Israelites that

Please see PASTOR on P. 13

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PASTOR cont. from P. 12

they did not understand it and they had to ask each other: "What is it?" (Exodus 16:15). Maybe you can relate to them. Have you ever looked at God's answer to your prayers about a problem in your life and said "I don't get it ... what kind of answer is this?"

The story of God listening to His grumbling people in the wilderness and the story of God feeding His people in the wilderness is the story of the church. For sure, Jesus comes to this world and joins us here in many ways. But one of the ways that Jesus comes to us is in the church and it is so often misunderstood. All of us from time to time have problems; we have issues and difficulties and sometimes we do not even have a backup plan. We sometimes cry out to God for answers and sometimes we even propose solutions to our problems. To some folks God's answer could never ever be the church. Some folks have been hurt by the church, others do not see its purpose. The church is sure enough filled with imperfect people. Even

so, the church is one of the places where God is working things out. God's answer to your circumstances may be right in front of you like that bread that was on the desert floor in the wilderness. Like the liberated slaves, you may be asking "What is it?" God's answer may not be immediately clear, but you may find it in the most surprising place: The Church!

Life can break many of us, but the church can be the location where there is strength in the broken places. That strength is the love of God in Jesus Christ. People sharing faith, people sharing forgiveness, people sharing their relationship with Jesus and people practicing the presence of Christ. That is the church. It is more than a building. While you are looking and proposing solutions for your life, why not take a chance and go to church – you may be surprised to find some of God's answers there.

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

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Autumn is a special time of year: School started again, the leaves are changing, and new activities begin. At *Flipside* we're starting a new season of activities for the whole family, and we'd like you to join in. Our church has upbeat music, awesome kid's activities and a casual atmosphere that will make you feel at home. So add us to your "to-do list" this season – together we'll have a great season!

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Yeah, this isn't the best thing to hear from your patient on a Monday morning, but that's what I get. You see, I get the worst of the worst. Patients that have tried other methods without favorable results have ended up in my office.

Hi, my name is Dr. Lien T. Dao, DC, the lady in the white lab coat next to my wonderful patient Tina. Let me give you an idea of the kind of patients I see in my office, here in Fresno.

You see, the patients I take care of experience severe stabbing or electric-like pain all the time, disturbed sleep-



ing patterns, Restless Leg Syndrome, fatigue, depression, numbness and tingling in the toes, and pain in the legs when they walk. These, my friend, are a lot of symptoms.

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For one, it has to do with the advanced training that I have. I am one of only a handful of doctors with specific training to care for patients with Peripheral Neuropathy. I am a member of the Neuropathy Treatment Centers of America. This gives me an unfair advantage to help patients with tingling, burning, numb and PAINFUL feet. The other thing is that I use tools and instruments that are cutting edge technology for getting patients better.

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Anne H. Dinuba, CA

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Tina S. Madera Ranchos, CA

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Thank you,
Dr Lien T. Dao, D.C.

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GV Staff Wins Excellence Awards



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

On October 15, 2009 Madera County Office of Education (MCOE) held their 3rd Annual “Excellence in Education” Awards Ceremony at the Madera Municipal Golf Course. This year’s nominees for Golden Valley were; School Employee of the Year, Lisa Huddleston – Library Technician, Webster Elementary School; Teacher of the Year, Kim Cowger – Independent Study/Continuation High School Teacher, Educational Options; and Administrator of the Year, Scott Tefft, Sierra View Elementary School principal, who was also named Administrator of the Year for ALL of Madera County.

Madera County Office of Education did an outstanding job honoring the nominees from all of the Districts in the County. At the awards ceremony, each of our three nominees received a beautiful framed “Excellence in Education” poster. Principal Scott Tefft received very special accolades as the Administrator of the Year for all of Madera County. The black-tie event hosted by MCOE and Educational Employees Credit Union presented each winner with a special, customized sculpture depicting “excellence in education.”

The ceremony also included a high-

light video for each of the winners. The video included statements describing why Mr. Tefft is a special educational leader, as reflected by Sierra View staff, students, parents and Superintendent Koligian. It was an honor and a privilege for me to reflect and share Mr. Tefft’s accomplishments over the past four years. Following are some of the highlights that I included in my recommendation for Mr. Tefft’s prestigious recognition.

“Mr. Tefft is a dynamic instructional leader who has created a positive school culture by truly understanding the needs of his students, staff and parents. He has a special connection and relationship with all of his students. He personally greets his students by name as they enter school in the morning and as they exit in the afternoon. He is highly respected amongst his staff and parent community. He is the type of leader who will roll up his sleeves to get the job done. In the past four years Mr. Tefft has increased the school’s API score by 77 points, has earned the California Distinguished School recognition, the Golden Bell Award, the Bonner Character and Virtues Award and the Madera County “School of Excellence” Award.

“Mr. Tefft is a strong advocate for building positive character traits within his students. He has implemented the Character Counts! program at his school and weaves the six pillars of good character all throughout the school. One of Mr. Tefft’s best displays of character building is through his own example of living each day modeling the highest moral and ethical values. Mr. Tefft has created a positive, productive school culture that brings out the best in his students, staff and parents. He is conscientious in all that he does and brings a level of enthusiasm, energy and humor to the job at hand.”

The Madera County Awards Ceremony was truly an evening to celebrate and honor our “shining stars” of Golden Valley Unified. Congratulations again to Lisa, Kim and Scott! Our students and staff are better people because of their continued commitment and dedication to “excellence in education.”

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- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

For more information, or to let us know about a child, please call Kristi Fisher, Administrator of Special Education, at 645-7533. You may also access the Child Find program through your local school or your school district office.

GVUSD District Office – 645-7500
 Liberty High School – 645-3500
 Ranchos Middle School – 645-3550
 Sierra View Elem. – 645-1122
 Webster Elem. – 645-1322
 Educational Options – 645-358

Golden Valley Facilities Update

By Rick Diaz

The new Ranchos Middle School campus is now complete. The campus opened on Aug. 13, 2009 to 320 seventh and eighth grade students and the Ranchos Middle School Staff. The 19 acre campus is much larger than the previous interim facility and affords the middle school physical education department and sports teams their own playfields, gymnasium and ball

courts, while the new classrooms offer the latest in modern technology, such as document cameras and Smartboards. The Ranchos staff is pleased to have their permanent facility “Home of the Mustangs.”



With Ranchos Middle School moving to its new site, the Educational Options Program under the supervision of Dr. Jim Green has now been relocated from its previous home near Sierra View Elementary to the site vacated by Ranchos Middle School next to Liberty High School.

Sierra View Elementary School now has a new Air Conditioning system in the multi-use building thanks to a generous donation from a local family. The new system was installed over the summer break and is very appreciated by the students, staff and parents.

Rick Diaz is the Manager of Facilities for Golden Valley Unified School District.

Click on “Local News” at

Clearing the Air About Foggy Day Schedules for Golden Valley Schools

The Madera County Schools Office and most school districts in the Valley are again cooperating in reporting "Foggy Day" School Bus Schedules. During the 2009-2010 school year, the following procedures will be used in the Golden Valley Unified District on extremely foggy days:

1. A decision will be made no later than 6 a.m. as to whether or not the departure time of buses must be delayed.

2. If departure times of school buses must be delayed, an announcement will be made on KMPH Fox 26, KVPT-TV Channel 18 and KMJ 580 Radio starting no later than 6:15 a.m. There will be continuous broadcasting on these channels. Other TV stations do broadcast foggy day schedules, Channel 24, 30, and 47.

3. If buses within Golden Valley Unified School District need to be delayed due to extreme foggy conditions, the following delays will be posted. "one hour delay, two hour delay, three hour delay, four hour delay, etc will appear after the name of the district.

4. GVUSD will use a specific time frame the buses schedule will be delayed!

5. Remember that the broadcast can be updated through out the morning!! Please stay tuned to the broadcast during the morning hours.

6. ALL CLASSES IN THE DISTRICT WILL OPERATE AS PER THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULE. FOGGY DAY INSTRUCTIONS

APPLY ONLY TO BUS TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES AND RIDERS.

Students who walk or have their own transportation to school should arrive at the regular time. However, parents are advised to exercise discretion relative to particular conditions in a around their respective school attendance areas.

Unless an additional announcement is made, afternoon bus runs and athletic runs will operate on a regular schedule.

Please realize that foggy days are called on a District-wide basis, and due to the size of the District, 85 square miles, not all areas in the Golden Valley Unified School District have the same fog density. Therefore, while it may or may not be foggy in a particular area, the decision to delay schools is made in the best interests of the students District-wide.

We request that you do not call the schools, the District Office, or the Transportation Department on foggy days. It is important that these telephone lines be kept open for bus driver reports and other emergency calls.

Hopefully, the above procedures will not have to be implemented during the upcoming foggy season. If a foggy day schedule must be called, your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

If you have questions regarding the "Foggy Day" procedures, please contact your child's school or the District Transportation Department at (559) 645-7521

Minarets High School Joins Annual Academic Decathlon

For the first time Minarets High School will be joining the list of teams competing at the 28th Annual Madera County Academic Decathlon competition. Seven schools will participate in this 10-event competition centered on the topic "The French Revolution."

Madera County Office of Education will host the event on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010. Other teams include: Chawanakee Academy, Chowchilla High, Liberty High, Madera High, Madera South High, and Yosemite High Schools.

Teams will take tests in the areas of art, economics, essay, language and literature, math, music, science and social science. Students will also participate in a speech and an interview event. As part of the literature test, participants will read the book *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

Team members will be announced in December. Donations and volunteers are needed. Call Kristi Winter, Events Developer for Madera County Office of Education at 662-3873 for more information.

"Rural Home" Program Eases Buying

By Patty Grissom

Jenny and Paul Rauschenberg have lived in the Ranchos for 18 years. They have been married five years. They both attended Sierra View Elementary. Paul went to Independence High School and Jenny went to Sierra High. They have two wonderful boys, six-year-old Sam who is in first grade and attends Sierra View, and Colton who is two years old. Jenny and Paul both work in the Ranchos with Paul working at Sierra View and Jenny working at the Real-Estate Network.

When the Rauschenbergs decided to buy their Ranchos home, the loan program that they used was the USDA Rural Home Program that requires no down

All of the homes in the Madera Ranchos qualify for this loan program.

Because the boundaries of this program are loosely defined, many properties qualify for this program, even some within certain city limits. The average tenant renting a home doesn't realize that this program even exists. Many of the local counties in

the San Joaquin Valley qualify, and if more people knew about it, they could purchase a home. In addition, the income limits are higher than other first-time home-buyer programs, allowing more families to qualify. Because of these income levels, many people can fit into USDA mortgage program.

If you're looking to buy your first home in a

rural or semi-rural area, this type of mortgage loan is definitely worth investigating. The U.S. government has traditionally recognized that it is beneficial to the country as a whole to encourage rural development, especially in this economy.

There is no down payment required, interest rates are usually well below market, and there are 30-year, fixed-rate loans.



The Rauschenbergs, (from left) Sam, Jenny, Paul and Colton, were able to buy their Ranchos home by using the USDA Rural Home Program, a program available to everyone.

Cowger, Tefft Named Tops in County



At the Madera County Office of Education 3rd Annual "Excellence in Education" Awards Ceremony, two of Golden Valley's nominees were (from left) Teacher of the Year, Kim Cowger, and Administrator of the Year, Scott Tefft, joined by Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian.



Golden Valley Unified School Board members (from left) Roger Schuh, Steven Lewis and Mike Kelly flank Kim Cowger and Scott Tefft, winners of the Madera County Office of Education 3rd Annual "Excellence in Education" Awards. To their right is Board member Mona Diaz, Superintendent Sarah Koligian and Board member Mark Toole. Cowger, Independent Study/Continuation High School Teacher, Educational Options, won for Teacher of the Year and Sierra View Principal Tefft was the winner for top Administrator of the Year.

Annual Fireplace Program Begun

The annual residential fireplace program that dramatically reduces harmful airborne particulates kicked off its new season Sunday.

Check Before You Burn, which runs from November through February each year, determines when residential wood burning will add dangerous levels of particulate matter – tiny pieces of soot, ash, dust and other materials – to the Valley's air, and prohibits the use of residential wood-burning devices. Wood-burning forecasts are issued by county each day.

High levels of particulate pollution can have serious health effects, including bronchitis, lung disease and increased risk for heart attacks and stroke. Young children, elderly people and people with existing respiratory and coronary disease are especially vulnerable.

There are two forecast levels – "Wood burning Prohibited" and "Please Burn Cleanly" – depending on expected air quality. When a

prohibition is declared, burning any solid fuel in a residential fireplace or wood-burning device is not permitted and violations may result in fines. Backyard chimineas and fire pits are also subject to the prohibitions. There are two exceptions, however: If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is available; or if burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence.

Daily wood-burning forecasts will be available by county each day at 4:30 p.m. beginning Saturday at www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/Wood-BurnPage.htm, by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), or by subscribing to the Air District's daily air quality forecast at www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm.

For more information about Check Before You Burn, call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).

EDITORIAL cont. from P. 3

son I wrote this editorial.

Irrigation.

So here we have a high water consumption crop. What's the best way to get massive amounts of water to a thirsty plant? If you drive by the property you can see the choice the owner has made: Flood irrigation.

Flood irrigation is exactly what the name implies. At the end each row is a small standpipe with two holes on either side and down inside is a valve, or faucet, that allows the water to be turned on or off. To flood irrigate you turn on the faucet until the field is flooded and then you turn the water off. The problem with it is that it's crazy inefficient.

Cheap, but inefficient. In flood irrigation approximately 50 percent of

the water never gets to the crops. It is wasted.

Let's put the pieces together here and see what we've got. A highly water consumptive plant and the most inefficient means of irrigating it resulting in 50 percent of the water used to be wasted.

I think we can do better.

This is one of those times that if an individual grower doesn't take some responsible steps, government is going to step in and tell him what to do.

And we don't want that.

As a community I don't know what we can do. It is the property owner's property and there's no law against what type of irrigation he's installing or what crop he's decided to grow, but jeez, how about a micron of common sense on this one?

Business Profile

A Familiar Face, An All New Place

By Randy Bailey

With the soft rock music playing in the background amid the new gleaming stainless steel countertops surrounding each haircutting station, you can barely hear the steady "clip clip" of the scissors. In what seems like only a matter of minutes, another perfectly crafted hairstyle appears where there was a "bad hair day" just moments earlier.

This is the artistry of Jennifer Sewell.

Many in Southeast Madera County know the name because she has spent the last 10 years doing hair in other salons in the Ranchos. Now, Jennifer Sewell has decided to venture out on her own and create The Edge salon.

"We remodeled the salon with the intention of bringing a modern touch to the Ranchos," Jennifer said as she described the transformation of the former A Delightful Touch of Beauty salon at 37164 Ave. 12 #103 in the heart of the Madera Ranchos, right next to Alfresco Coffee and directly across from the Ranchos Pizza Factory.

Jennifer and her husband, Richard, took over the salon on Oct. 1 with an eye toward offering many amenities such as a spa pedicure chair, color services, haircuts and facial waxing.

"It's important to stay up to date on style and trends," Jennifer said. "The goal of the salon is to bring innovative styles with the family friendly service that the Madera Ranchos is known for."

As an experienced hair stylist, Jennifer understands the latest styles but also is more than capable of producing a "classic" style if called upon. "The bottom line is to give the customer what he or she wants."

Jennifer and Richard have lived in the Ran-

chos for over 15 years and they have three children who attend Sierra View Elementary.

"More than anything I'm just grateful for the opportunity to serve in this community," Jennifer said.

Give Jennifer at The Edge a call at 645-8323 and change your outlook when you see what world-class styling is all about.



Eye-brow waxing is only one of the many services offered by pro Jennifer Sewell at The Edge salon on Avenue 12.

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STOCK cont. from P. 7

enjoy. You can buy tickets at the Senior Center or from any Ranchos Hills Senior.

The Ranchos Hills Seniors have been putting their heads and hands together and making items for a Christmas Boutique. The Boutique will be opened on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The Senior Center is opened from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every weekday. This is a great place to do your Christmas shopping. Save your gas and shop local!

Here are more dates for your calendar. On Saturday, Nov. 7 and

Saturday, Dec. 5 these are shopping dates at the Ranchos Hills Treasure House. There are many new and gently used items. The Treasure House is overflowing with lots of wonderful deals. Mary Helen and I have a great crew of Seniors to serve you. Come by and say "hi" while you shop.

Golden Valley Schools will be closed for the whole Thanksgiving week from Nov. 23 to 27 and on Dec. 21 to Jan. 8. The Golden Valley School Board meetings are on Nov. 10 and on Dec. 8. They are both held at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m.

Hope to see you there.

Letters

Dear Editor:

As many of you know there was a rumor around town that the library was closing. We have lost some hours and extra help staff but we are still open. Supervisor Bigelow has assured library supporters and me that there are no plans at this time to close any of the libraries. But as I watched the September 15th Board of Supervisors meeting as a supporter of Station 19 and heard what some of the members of this community said about the library, I felt compelled to write a response.

Undoubtedly when it comes to fire protection and emergency services, there should never be cuts made to that budget. If anything there should be increases. I imagine that the majority of us are in agreement here. Station 19 and all the volunteer firemen do an outstanding job over a huge area in Madera County. And I applaud and support them always in any way I can. What I can't quite fathom though is why the Ranchos Library was singled out by members of our community to be the sacrificial lamb in order to keep the fire department going.

Perhaps there are those in the Ranchos that don't know how valuable a resource the library truly is. Perhaps they haven't visited the library recently to see that we offer way more than just checking books in and out. First and foremost the library is a place where information is collected, organized and disseminated in an orderly, equitable manner. Important County, State and Federal public documents are regularly sent to the library so that any citizen can view them freely. This complies with public notification laws. Some of these documents are plans for new developments or for upcoming hearings or projects that affect our County. The County budget, the Grand Jury Report, the County Board of Supervisors Agendas, the Golden Valley School District agendas and much more are sent to the library. Federal income tax forms and college funding sources are at the library. Town Hall Meetings are posted, Agricultural Reports, Election information, County Fair booklets are at the library. And so much more!

It is the one place that people who have lost their home or job (and therefore their internet connection) can access the internet. Do you know that most employers now require job applications to be filled out online? If you are out of work and are looking for a job, you need to have access to job postings and applications via the internet. Or maybe you're looking for information on short sales or bankruptcy procedures. Or health care or tax forms or

Craigslist to buy or sell your stuff to make ends meet. The library is the place you can do all that for free. And how about being able to read the newspaper or a magazine or check out a DVD or book on CD, or music CD for yourself or for your children. All for free. If you are on a limited budget or temporarily have no income, then this is a wonderful service. Even if you have a decent income, it is a wonderful service that does not discriminate by income, job, sex, age, ethnicity or disability. We pride ourselves on serving all of the public equally.

Most of what I have talked about is primarily for the adults. What about the children? They are our most precious resource for the future. Does our Summer Reading Program and regular children's programs have no value? Of course not. They are proven bellwethers of successful, intelligent and productive communities. These programs not only encourage reading but help to foster lifelong learning. They keep children engaged in positive activities during the summer that augment regular education. Libraries are the connection between school and the community. When children and parents are in need of materials for school reports or the school reading program where do you think they go in the evening or on the weekend when the school is not open? Our dedicated staff has spent countless hours helping children and frantic parents acquire all the information and photos they need for reports that are due the next day. We have helped kids and adults unfamiliar with word processing or formatting on a regular basis. We go above and beyond the call of duty to help any individual find the material or information they need, because that's our job and we are as dedicated as any firemen. Lives may not be at stake in the same way but we do change lives. We help people. We serve our community. Many of the people who worked hard to create our library in the Ranchos 19 years ago are still active in the community. We have come a long way since then. From a business standpoint, we are an established presence in the Maywood Shopping Center. Can you imagine what a hole there would be if we ceased to exist? How will other businesses be affected? How will the Ranchos children and adults be affected? How attractive will our community be to newcomers without a library? It would be a huge loss to the Ranchos Community and that grieves me greatly.

Ellen Mester
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

A big thank you!!!

To all of our 600+ new and old friends who attended the 24th Annual FIRE-BBQ, Dinner, Dance and Auction, we thank you. The Borba Rancho Vista del Rio Ranch was a great place to hold our event. Our grateful appreciation goes to Mark and Peggy Borba for the use of their Ranch for our fundraiser. Another big thank you to our major sponsors: the Smith Ranch, Vulcan Materials, Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino and Pistoresi Ambulance Company.

The weather was almost perfect. The location and the space needed to set up the event were perfect. The food was once again outstanding and we fed 600 hungry folks in 27 minutes. Our silent and live auctions were great money makers for us. The dessert sales and the wine tasting from Fresno State were a big hit. The Ranchos Dancing Stars was new and the young Tony LaNotte and his date danced their way to victory to win the contest. The Beretta shotgun sale was also a great money maker. One wife got her happy husband a shotgun he had always wanted for a birthday present in the live auction.

Next year will be out 25th Annual FIRE-BBQ. The tentative date will be Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010 and we hope to be back at the Borba Ranch. So mark your calendars so you can join your Volunteer Fire Fighters in another great evening of dining, dancing and fun filled auctions.

Speaking of calendars, the NEW 2010 Station #19 and #9 calendars will be on sale in our local stores for \$5. A great and cheap gift for Christmas and any other event. We ask you to do one thing for us: when you shop at or talk to any of our sponsors, thank them for supporting your Volunteer Fire Companies. Without their contributions, events like ours would never take place.

Your Volunteer Fire Fighters
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

In the Ranchos we have long been accustomed to seeing our roadsides lined with a variety of weeds: wild oats, mustard, dove weed, wild lettuce, horse tail, telegraph weed, vinegar weed (has a lovely little blue flower), pig weed, field bindweed, lambs quarter and fid-

dleneck in the spring. And we can live with these weeds. We used to have a lot of *Caltrop* (puncture vine) along Road 36 but someone who rides a bicycle went along Road 36 several years in a row with a hoe and reduced puncture vine considerably. We used to have wild flowers, *Brodiaea* and Indian Paint Brush, but we have pretty well lost these.

But in the last several years a new weed has found root along our roads and open fields. And it is a bad one! Star Thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*, has arrived in the Ranchos. In an article of Aug. 19, 2009, the Madera Tribune stated, "The plant can be a real danger to local flora and fauna ... it is estimated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to cover more than 12 million acres in California (italics mine) ... it is toxic to horses."

One of my sons owned 40 acres west of Yreka in Northern California. The whole area was lost to grazing by this weed. It is growing along Avenue 12. It occurs freely along Kensington Road and has almost filled up a vacant lot at the corner of Eddings Road and Kensington. It may be found almost anywhere where there is not regular care and cultivation.

The County has a program to combat Star Thistle on agricultural property, but is doing nothing about residential areas. Please learn what it looks like and chop it down when it occurs on or near your property. It cannot be quickly terminated, but we really should get serious about this pest, because it has the potential to ruin our vacant areas and roadsides.

In all seriousness,

Fred Mathes
Madera Ranchos

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

Send your letters to:

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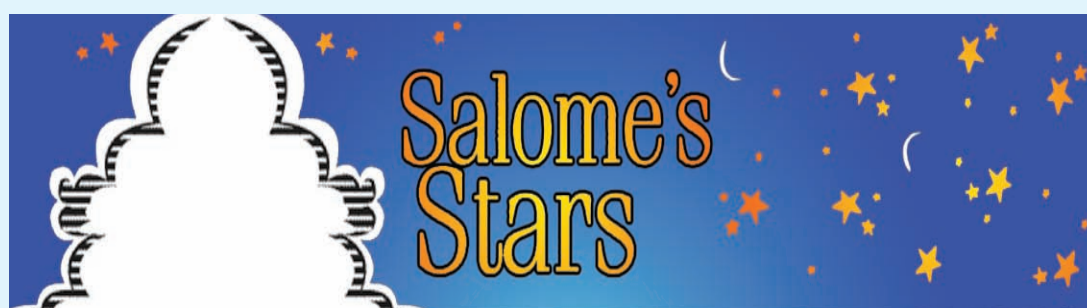
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could be caught in a torrent of advice from well-meaning friends and colleagues this week. But remember, Lamb, you are at your best when you are your own inimitable self.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect strong efforts to get you to accept things as they are and not question them. But ignore all that and continue your inquiries until you're sure you have all the answers you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Heavier than usual family and workplace duties compete for your time this week. Try to strike a balance so that you're not overwhelmed by either. Pressures ease by week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good time for the Moon Child to show off your uniquely inspired approach to the culinary skills -- especially if they're directed toward impressing someone special.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might be happy about the re-emergence of a long-deferred deal. But don't pounce on it quite yet. Time can change things. Be sure the values you looked for before are still there.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Try to rein in your super-critical attitude, even if things aren't being done quite as you would prefer. Remember: What you say now could create an awkward situation later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you can expect on-the-job cooperation from most of your colleagues this week,

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Creating another way to do things is commendable. But you could find some resistance this week from folks who would rather stick with the tried-and-true than try something new.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You usually can keep your aim focused on your goal. But you might need to make adjustments to cope with unsteadiness factors that could arise over the course of the week.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) News arrives about a projected move. Be prepared to deal with a series of possible shifts, including starting and finishing times, and how much the budget will actually cover.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new relationship needs time to develop. Let things flow naturally. It could be a different story with a workplace situation, which might require faster and more focused attention.

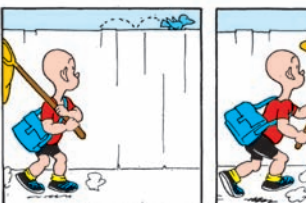
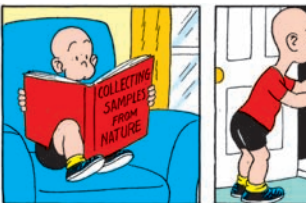
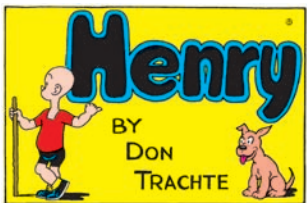
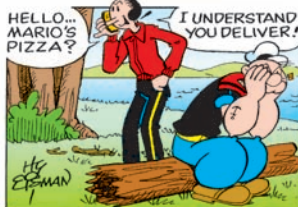
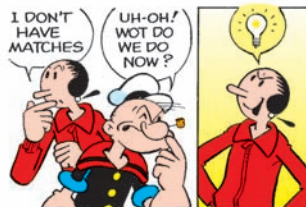
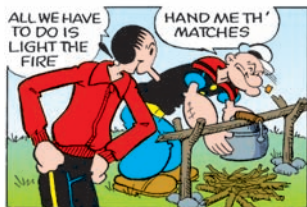
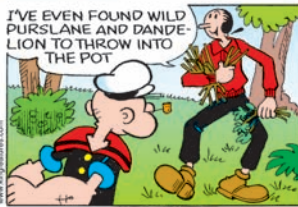
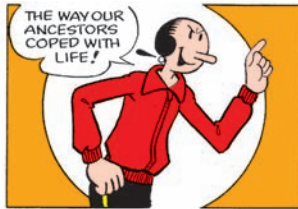
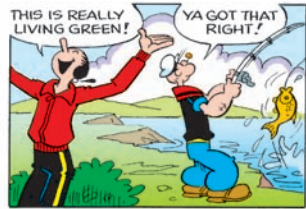
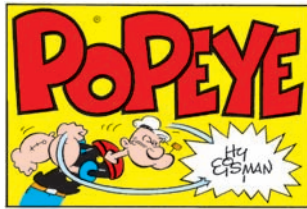
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Accept a compliment without trying to troll for any hidden reason beyond what was said. After all, don't you deserve to be praised every now and then? Of course you do.

Born this Week

You like to weigh all possibilities before making a decision.
You would be a fine judge, or even be a star in a jury room.

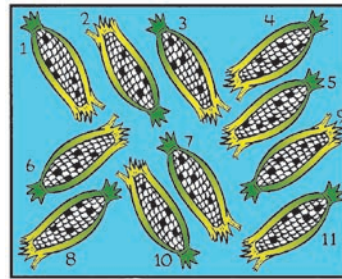
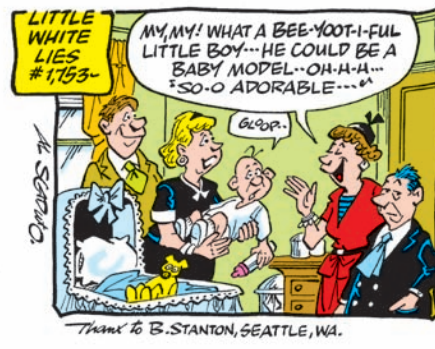
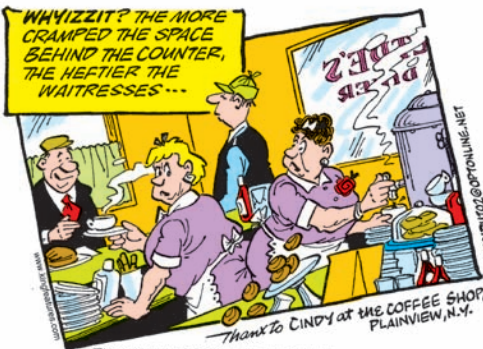
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



IT'S HARVEST TIME! Two of the above ears of decorative corn are exactly alike. Can you "pop" up with the answer in 30 seconds?

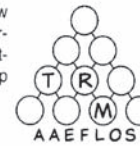
Answer: Ears 2 and 8.

A WISE OBSERVATION! All right, students, you have two minutes to solve Professor Flunkum's rebus complaint.



Answer: "I have to overwork because I am underpaid."

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Fats, foal, foam, foal.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE — UNDER

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

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

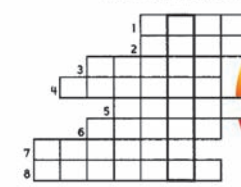
All	Going	Out from	Six feet
Bob	Knuckled	Over and	Snowed
Buckle	Lit a fire	Plow	Went
Driven	One	Pop	

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FALL IN THE COUNTRY!



It's time for you to do your chores. In our grid there is room for eight words pertaining to this time of year. The following hints should help you celebrate the season.

- Often seen with just one horse.
 - This is enjoyed by man or beast.
 - This is what apples turn into.
 - Large, colorful squash-like fruits.
 - You see your breath when he arrives.
 - Field robbers.
 - Type of leaves.
 - What the time on the farm is.
- There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly solve the puzzles, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out how farmers celebrate when work is done.

The dark framed column spells "Holidays".
Answers: 1. Hay, 2. Corn, 3. Cider, 4. Gourds, 5. (Jack) Frost, 6. Crows, 7. Autumn, 8. Harvest.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the tallest mountain in Western Europe?
- LANGUAGE:** What does the Latin phrase "in media res" mean?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** What famous writer said, "I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me"?
- AD SLOGANS:** What products were sold with the advertising slogan, "Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't"?
- MUSIC:** In musical notation, what does it mean to play notes in a "staccato" style?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** What was the Secret Service's code name for John F. Kennedy?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** How many official languages does the United Nations have?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** People who suffer from misopedia have an abnormal dislike of what?
- TELEVISION:** Which actress, upon winning an Emmy for best supporting role, shouted "This is for all the fat girls"?
- MEDICAL TERMS:** What is the common name for monochromatism?

Answers

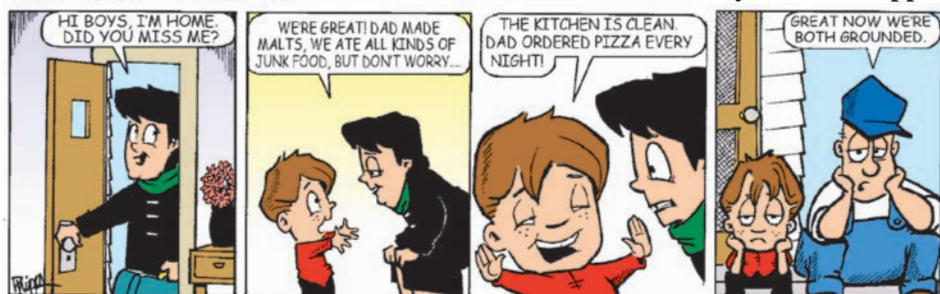
- Mont Blanc
- In the middle of things
- Hunter S. Thompson
- Mounds and Almond Joy candy bars
- Playing craps, disconnected notes
- Lancer
- Six (English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, French and Russian)
- Children
- Camryn Manheim of "The Practice"
- Complete color blindness

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Click on "Local News" at

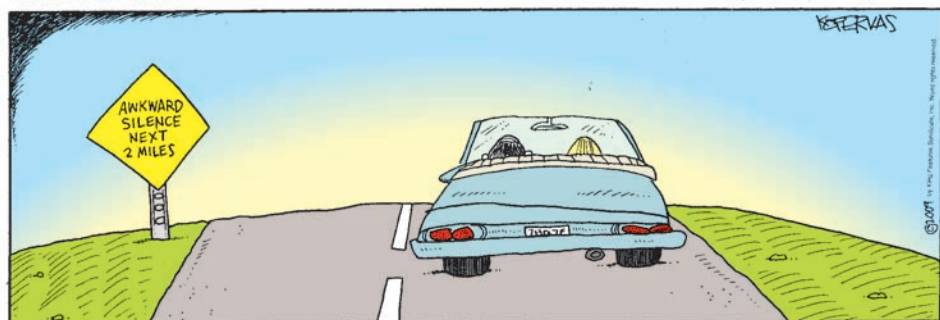
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



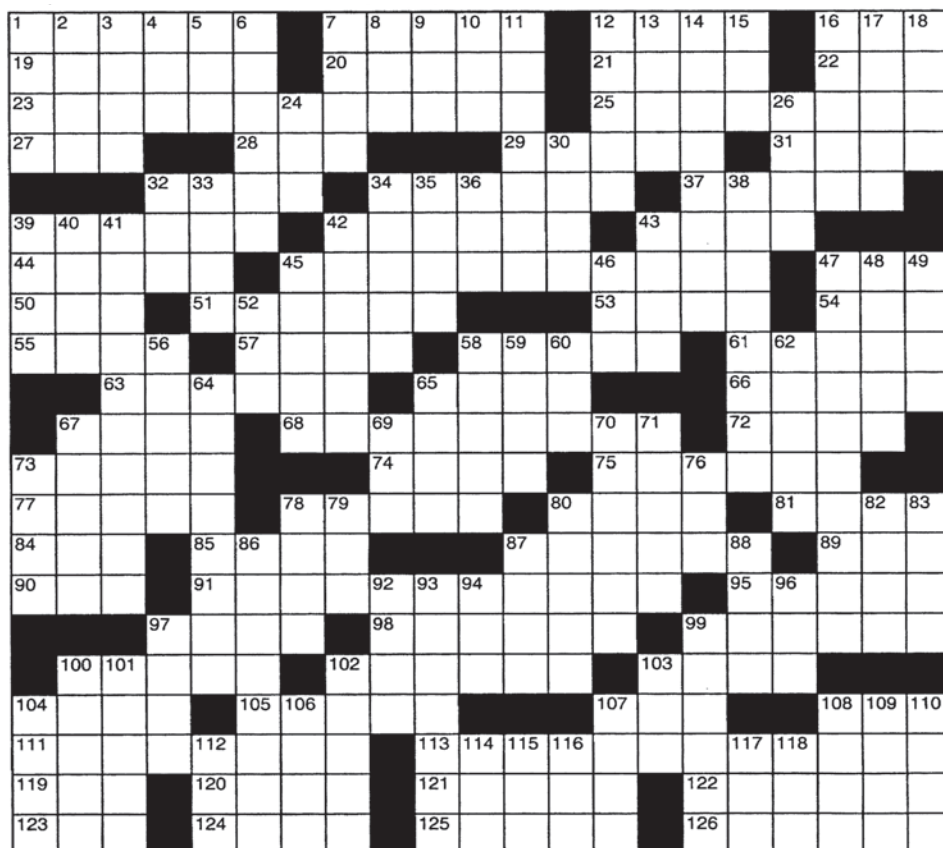
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. Boy's hat is different. 3. Boy's jacket has buttons. 4. Tree has extra branch. 5. Leaves missing from tree on left. 6. Gun stock is longer.

Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Yankee
 - 7 Pool shot
 - 12 Dictates
 - 16 Make cheddar better
 - 19 Diverted
 - 20 Cara or Castle
 - 21 Tennis pro
 - 22 New Deal agcy.
 - 23 SLOT MACHINES
 - 25 Traces
 - 27 Paleozoic
 - 28 Aye
 - 29 Remove
 - 31 Artist
 - 32 Prepare pancakes
 - 34 Sewed a toe
 - 37 Ruhr Valley city
 - 39 Victorian ornaments
 - 42 Capitol gang?
 - 43 Loyal
 - 44 Maine town
 - 45 HMS
 - 47 Drill
 - 50 "O Sole —"
 - 51 Advantage
 - 53 Drainpipe part
 - 54 New Haven collegian
 - 55 Prohibits
 - 57 Coup d'—
 - 58 Opening remark?
 - 61 Automaton
 - 63 Halloween decoration
 - 65 Content completely
 - 66 Let out the lava
 - 67 Comic Laurel
 - 68 DORMITORY
 - 72 Philosopher
 - 73 Got
 - 74 Commanded
 - 75 Lions and tigers and bears
 - 77 Concur
 - 78 Con-
 - 80 Finish filming
 - 81 "Good gracious!"
 - 84 Woody herb
 - 85 Fiber source
 - 87 Connected
 - 89 "— pro nobis"
 - 90 Part of MPH
 - 91 ENDEARMENTS
 - 95 Snowy fisherman
 - 97 — vu
 - 98 Stilted
 - 99 Singer
 - 100 Garden tool
 - 102 Last name in fashion
 - 103 Act catty?
 - 104 Put on a happy face
 - 105 Hold fast
 - 107 Clerical garb
 - 108 Luau neckwear
 - 111 Siberian monk
 - 113 THE MORSE CODE
 - 119 Qty.
 - 120 Golfer
 - 121 A great composer?
 - 122 Lacking principles
 - 123 Salon supply
 - 124 Paradise
 - 125 TV exec
 - 126 Bean
 - 8 White House spokesman
 - 9 Stimp's pal
 - 10 "Johnny — Note" ('37 song)
 - 11 Keepsake
 - 12 Enraged
 - 13 One of the Waughs
 - 14 Showy shrub
 - 15 Jell
 - 16 Actress
 - 17 Word with tea or pepper
 - 18 — India Company
 - 24 Fool
 - 26 "— dixit"
 - 30 Swerve
 - 32 Marsh
 - 33 Crochet unit
 - 34 Resign
 - 35 Without — (daringly)
 - 36 Brit. fliers
 - 38 Hold back
 - 39 Fowl feature
 - 40 "Turandot" tune
 - 41 ASTRONOMER
 - 42 Pay hike?
 - 43 "Comin' — the Rye"
 - 45 Prominent
 - 46 Missouri airport abbr.
 - 47 GEORGE BUSH
 - 48 Take the honey and run
 - 49 See 104 Down
 - 52 Chianti color
 - 56 Show mercy
 - 58 "Surprise Symphony" composer
 - 59 Raison d'—
 - 60 August one?
 - 62 Spout like Cicero
 - 64 Beholden
 - 65 Forest father
 - 67 Smooth transition
 - 69 Slugger's stat
 - 70 Edmond of "The Barefoot Contessa"
 - 71 Capital
 - 73 — seal
 - 76 "Tarzan" extra
 - 78 Actor Ashbrook
 - 79 Complete
 - 80 Lawrence's "— in Love"
 - 82 Olympic warmonger
 - 83 Base stuff?
 - 86 Tossed aside
 - 87 Jewelry material
 - 88 "The — Hunter" ('78 film)
 - 92 Actor McGregor
 - 93 More turbulent
 - 94 Scand. nation
 - 96 Weimaraner's warning
 - 97 Clammy
 - 99 Abolitionist
 - 100 Disreputable
 - 101 Ersatz emerald
 - 102 It may suit you
 - 103 Arafat's grp.
 - 104 With 49 Down, "Spy Game" star
 - 106 Reside
 - 107 43,560 square feet
 - 108 Feudal superior
 - 109 List ender
 - 110 Vacation location
 - 112 Manipulate
 - 114 Ike's domain
 - 115 Sweater letter
 - 116 Sundown, to Shelley
 - 117 Comic Philips
 - 118 TV's "Scooby- —"

FUN PAGES

RECIPES cont. from P. 11

ing powder, salt, ginger and nutmeg, fold into pumpkin mixture.

Spread batter into prepared pan, sprinkle with nuts.

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Be careful not to bake too long or it will be too dry to roll.

Immediately turn out on a clean towel that has been dusted with powdered sugar. Peel off paper and roll cake up in the towel starting with the narrow end. Cool

Meantime, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla until fluffy.

When cake has cooled, carefully unroll the cake. Spread filling over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up again (not in towel). Cover and chill until serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

CORRECTION

Last month I printed a recipe for Italian Lentil Soup. I erred on the very first ingredient in the recipe. I printed 1/4 pound mild Italian sausage and it should have been 3/4

pound mild Italian sausage. For any of you that cut that recipe out, be sure to correct this ingredient. I'm truly sorry Linda.

I try to be so careful in these recipes. I knew a man years ago that won lots of blue ribbons at the fair with his baking and I found out the hard way that he never gave his recipes out correctly. He was overheard bragging about not giving the correct recipe. He continued winning blue ribbons but no one ever asked for his recipes again. I won't do that. I'm too proud of our recipes and I respect the time and expense people put into their cooking.

In closing, I'd like to pass on an e-mail I received a couple of weeks ago. Hope you like it.

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed, then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

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10/09

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the Ranchos Independent

Get Away to Alaska

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is coordinating TRAVEL TRIPS for Ranchos residents that range from a trip to Reno to a cruise to Alaska next June/July.

10/09

For more info call 559-474-0505 or email Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

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Burning trash is illegal!

Trash often contains plastics, metals and synthetic materials. When burned, trash creates dangerous chemicals and toxic pollutants, creating unhealthy air. Fines will be issued to anyone who burns trash and harms our air quality.

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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.

10/09



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A ranchos resident for 20 years, I am a full-time professional agent dedicated to serving our community's Real Estate needs. Allow me to show you how stress-free selling or buying a home can be. I worry with the details so YOU don't have to! Call me today or visit me on the Web and allow me to demonstrate how I can serve you.

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10/09



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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

anniversary luncheon was celebrated mid-day on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Japanese Kitchen in Clovis with 32 in attendance. Our BBQ dinner at the Center on Sept. 26 was a also a great success with more than 90 who enjoyed their meal. If you did not attend, you really missed a GREAT time and EXCELLENT food! The October birthday and anniversary celebration was held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Farnesi's restaurant in Madera at 11:30 a.m. On Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. we will be back in the Fresno area at the Olive Garden at 389 E. Shaw in Clovis. Be sure to mark your calendar. If you want to join us for any of our events call Joann at 645-4864. We enjoy eating and having fun.

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you and many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us at 645-4864.

SENIOR THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale, and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested exiled or hanged."

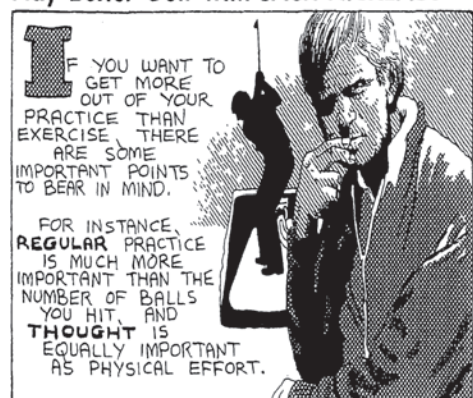
-- President Abraham Lincoln

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending; they have fun and share laughs and

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays, there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. The Line Dancing class has started up again and is meeting on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Call Joann at 645-4864 for more information. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweatshirts. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet here is your opportunity to learn while having fun. Card BINGO meets on Fridays, noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more: You! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

Saturday, Nov. 7, monthly sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.

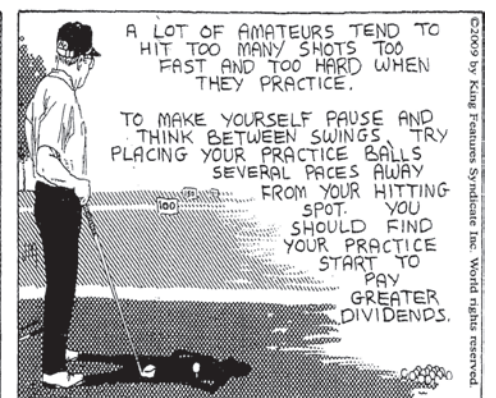
Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (Please bring your own plate and silverware)

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Friday, Card BINGO, noon - 1 p.m.

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?



Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Classified

Alteration Services

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

Chimney Sweep

CHIMNEY SWEEP - Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy - 18 years experience. Wood Stove inserts & Fireplaces. Call 559-908-9332. **Remember - THINK SAFETY - BURN SAFELY!**

Construction

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

Firewood

Firewood - Dry, seasoned almond firewood for sale by the bin. Almond wood 13" to 20" in length. 1/2 bin - \$25, 1 bin - \$45, 2 bins - \$90, 3 bins - \$130, 4 bins - \$170. **Will Deliver - Call 559-259-712.**

For Rent

For Rent - 3BR/2BA - With pool on 1/2 acre. \$1,700. per mo. Call 905-7780.

For Sale

For Sale - 21' 2000 Tahoe Lite RV Trailer, fully self contained, good condition. \$5,000. Call Bill at 559-645-0229.

For Sale - Antiques! 20 china cabinets, antique beds, dining room sets, brass statues, 9 1/2 foot armoire, Chinese furniture and much, much more. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!** Call 645-1770.

For Sale - Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Brand New In Package. Cost \$700. Sacrifice \$225. Call 230-0486.

For Sale - BDRM - Thomasville Quality! Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser, Chest. Solid Cherrywood! Cost \$8k Sacrifice \$1,750. New in Boxes! Call 277-2511.

For Sale - All New King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, In Plastic W/Warranty, Cost \$900. Sacrifice \$325. Call 438-0248.

For Sale - Pool Table - Solid Wood W/Carved Legs, 1" Slate, Leather Pockets, Never Used/W/Accessories. Cost \$5k Sacrifice \$1,475. Can Deliver. Call 275-8813.

Group Forming

A local Christian Business Group is being formed in the Ranchos. The group, made up of local business people, will meet for lunch and discuss biblical principles as they relate to modern life, specifically in the Ranchos. Lunch will be held at the Ranchos Cafe on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, Nov. 13 at 11:30 a.m. **For more info call Bob at 324-1144 or Randy at 645-0634.**

Gutter Services

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

Handyman Services

O. HANDYMAN - Need fans installed, sprinklers, light electrical, plumbing, or any handyman chores? Call Ohan for free estimates. 559-645-4583.

Help Wanted

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

Home/Yard/Ranch Services

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

Housecleaning Services

House Cleaning Service - Have your house Spring-cleaned all year long. Experience, responsible, honest. Fair prices. Call 363-2615.

Housecleaning - 20 years experience - Honest, reliable, references. Call Rachael at 822-3330.

Housecleaning Services -Ranchos Area. Reliable, references, reasonable rates. Job includes: All house duties except windows. Call for rates or have Questions? 559-776-6790.

Painting Services

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

Tractor Services

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

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

Window Cleaning Services

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

**TO ADVERTISE
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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+		10
X		X		+	
	X		-		7
-		-		÷	
	+		+		17
10		13		3	

2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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ANSWERS

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

9	÷	3	+	7	10
X	X	X	+		
2	X	6	-	5	7
-	-		÷		
8	+	5	+	4	17
10		13		3	

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

What can the Ranchos do about the emptying of the Ranchos' water?

How can we help ourselves? How can we manage our resources?

Where will the Ranchos be without water?

Where will we get water we don't have?

The Ranchos has no representation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Madera County, the group that holds the future of the Ranchos' water -

Will we be left behind?

Are we in or are we out?



There are answers!

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