

# The Ranchos Independent



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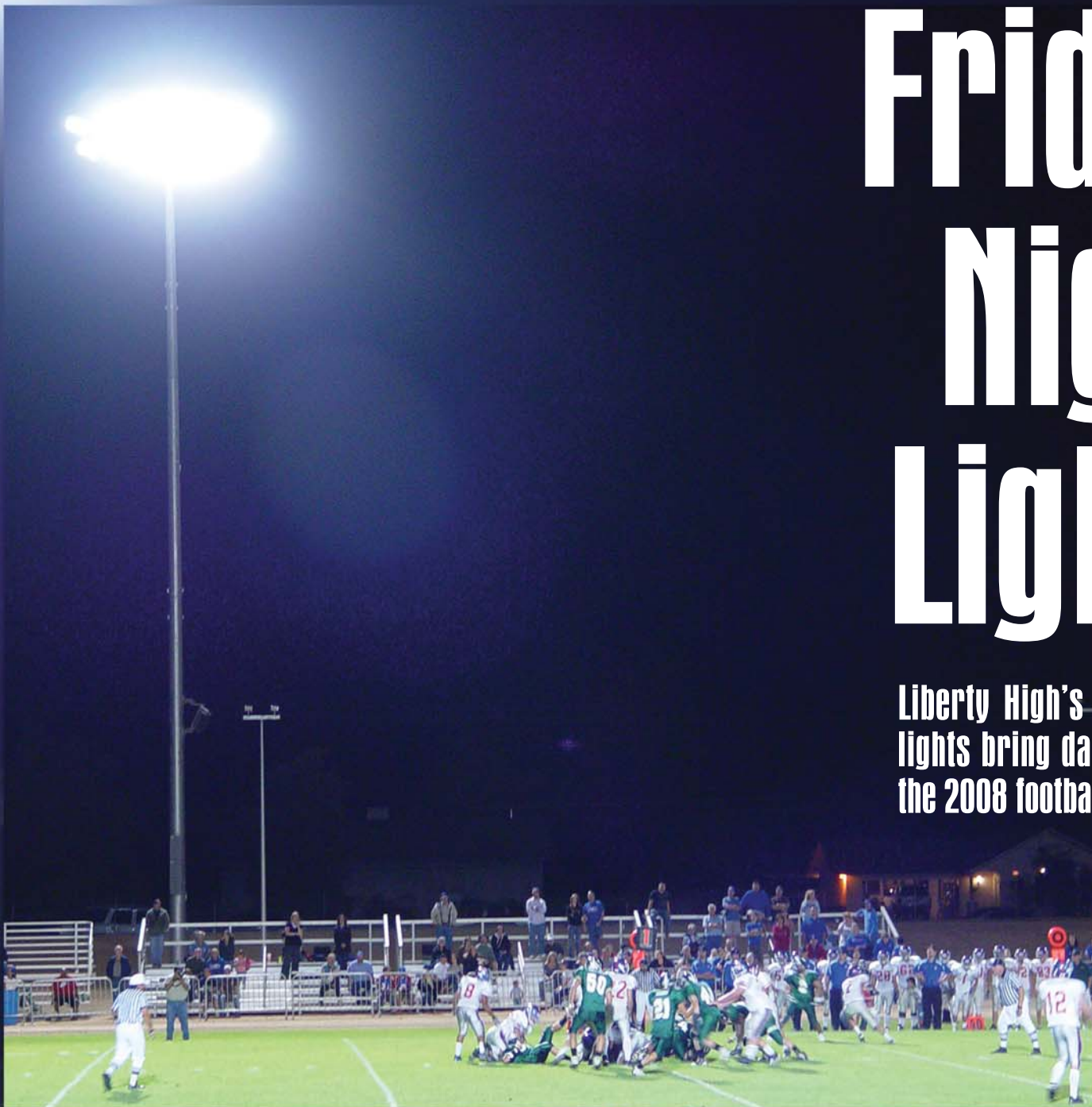
September 2008

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## Friday Night Lights

Liberty High's new stadium lights bring day to night for the 2008 football season.



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Fun Pages • Page 24 / Real Estate • Page 29 / Classifieds • Page 30

# Golden Valley Board Candidates

## A Snapshot of the Men Seeking Your Vote Nov. 4



**John Grauer**

When asked what are your qualifications and reason to run for the school board, one first thinks of replying with a chronological list of schooling, jobs and offices held along with feats conquered. Philosophically, my life experience has altered my view of these questions.

Look back at your first job "go mow the lawn" or "do the dishes." Simple easy task. Now add your first real job at the department store or filling station. Looking back, still easy one-task assignments. Add school, college, military service, marriage, kids, house mortgage, several different jobs, starting a business and all the rest of the growing up, getting older and retirement – now you have me! I finally feel that now I have the ability to look at the landscape or the big picture of making decisions.

The school district is run by a very professional and proficient staff lead by a talented school superintendent. I see the board member's job as having to find a way to

Please see **GRAUER** on P. 14



**Mike Kelly**

Hello, My name is Mike Kelly  
Four years ago I asked you for your support, and you honored me by electing me to the Golden Valley School Board. Since then I've worked hard to justify your confidence in me.

As President of this school board I am proud of all we have accomplished, and feel that I have fulfilled my promise to you, to work tirelessly toward the goal of making this an outstanding school district.

During those four years this Board has put a tremendous district leadership and management team in place, allowing the District to move forward at an incredible pace. We have continued to build out our beautiful high school, most visibly by improvements to our sports complex. We have embraced the wonderful addition of the Sierra View

Please see **KELLY** on P. 14



**Mark Toole**

My name is Mark Toole and I have resided in the Ranchos since 1978.

My son went to elementary school at Sierra View Elementary School and then to Sierra High School where he graduated in 2004. I was involved with 4-H, FFA and I was an assistant soccer coach for my son's soccer team.

I worked 20 years as a mechanic and then almost 16 years with the California Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Safety Unit. The position with the California was to perform audits with the bus and trucking industry. During this time, I worked with several school districts to ensure that their buses and drivers were in compliance with all of the state and federal regulations.

I retired from the California Highway Patrol and now I am a Safety Compliance Manager for a trucking company that employs about 45 employees. This position consists of ensuring that the company complies with all the state and federal

Please see **TOOLE** on P. 6



## Cancer Survivor's "Roping" Party Total Surprise

There was a team roping event held on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Ranchos home of Ken and Julie Smith in honor of Patty Garcia, a Ranchos woman who has successfully beaten breast cancer.

The idea started with Scott and Julie Adair of the Ranchos and included 16 roping buddies of Tony and Patty Garcia along with their families and many other friends.

The roping was a total surprise to Patty as she was greeted by all of the ropers wearing "Patty's Pink Roping" hats, donated by Gary Holcomb, owner of California Embroidery. The ropers also wore pink shirts and by the end of the event were all presented pink ropes.

Trophy buckles donated by the Smith's and Adair's were won by Steve Jackson and Jim Black of the Ranchos. Scott and Julie Adair presented a check for \$500 on behalf of Sony to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Art and Esther Rosales also donated \$100. Patty also received gift certificates and money from her friends and ropers.

To cap off the event, Earl and Kim Hogue of the Ranchos donated and cooked two wild boars.

"I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers. God bless you! This was a very special event that was not only fun but a community effort that took a lot of time and love and won't be forgotten," Patty said.



Patty Garcia (in black tank top) surrounds herself with a sea of pink ropers.

Click on "Local News" at

## State Approves Grant for Ranchos Planning

In late August, Madera County's Resource Management Agency Director Ray Beach received word from Will Kempton, director of the State of California's Department of Transportation, that the Madera Ranchos has been selected to receive a \$147,813 Planning Grant for development of a plan for Avenue 12. This was the grant that was applied for in the Ranchos' behalf by grant writer Elissa Brown almost one year ago.

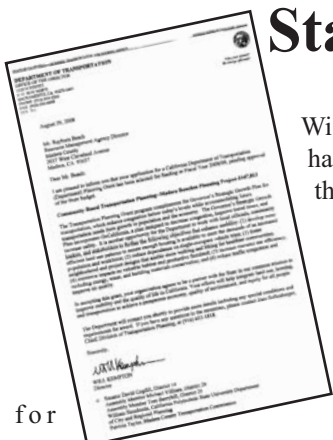
The actual language of the approval letter is as follows:

I am pleased to inform you that your application for a California Department of Transportation (Department) Planning Grant has been selected for funding in Fiscal Year 2008/09, pending approval of the State budget.

**Community — Based Transportation Planning—Madera Ranchos Planning Project—\$147,813**

The Transportation Planning Grant program complements the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan

Please see **PLANNING** on P. 4



for



Editorial

# Getting Off the Slippery Slope

I mentioned to someone the other day what a slippery slope redefining marriage was and why I thought Prop 8 was so important in the upcoming election. I was just about to make my incontrovertible, irrefutable conclusion when they stopped me and said, "What's a slippery slope?"

For those of you who don't know, a slippery slope is a metaphor. Just like its namesake that has confronted many a hiker and mountain climber, it's a precarious situation that no matter how hard you try, it gradually, eventually leads to disaster. Proposition 8 is a slippery slope stopper.

Understand what I'm saying here. Prop 8 is not an "anti-gay" issue, it's a pro-marriage issue. What two people do in the privacy of their homes is none of my business and I could care less. I have relatives that are gay. My best friend in law school - and the only one I still have any contact with - is gay. Be gay all you want, I don't care.

Just don't redefine marriage. That's where the slippery slope starts and it's where it must end.

If we elect to allow marriage to be defined any other way than the union of one man and one woman, prepare for the worst. Right now marriage has been redefined to include the union of two men or two women, in addition to one man and one woman. The argument is made that how can we deny the joining together of people who truly love each other. Who are we to decide what's right for someone else? But there's the rub. If marriage is acceptable between a man and a woman and two men or two women, what

happens when two men who really love each other decide there's another man they both truly, genuinely, equally love? What about the man and wife who both equally fall in love with another woman? Can we really say that polygamy is wrong? After all, it's just people who really, truly, deeply love each other. Incestuous relationships would have to be allowed in cases where there was a similar depth of love between the parties.

See where this is going? If you don't you've turned a selective blind eye to the reality of what's happening.

The best part of this is that the people of California have already spoken their collective minds on the issue. In 2000, 61% of the vote said "yes" to Prop 22 and "one man, one woman" stood as law until four activist judges from San Francisco overturned it.

Proposition 8 is about as simple as it gets. It contains the same 14 words that were previously approved in Prop 22: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California," but it does it as a constitutional amendment, thereby making it part of California's constitution. On the Internet, the pro-Proposition 8 Website ([www.protectmarriage.com](http://www.protectmarriage.com)) explains that, "... we need to pass this measure as a constitutional amendment to restore the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman."

According to the Website, Prop 8 will do three simple things:

1. Restore the definition of marriage to what the vast majority of California voters already approved and what Californians agree should be supported, not undermined.
2. Overturn the outrageous decision of four activist Supreme Court judges who ignored the will of the people.

3. Protect our children from being taught in public schools that "same-sex marriage" is the same as traditional marriage, and prevent other consequences to Californians who will be forced to not just be tolerant of gay lifestyles, but face mandatory compliance regardless of their personal beliefs.

Number 3 of the above list particularly caught my attention. In the course of the last few years alone there has been a barrage of legislation in California aimed at our kids, culminating in last year's passage of SB777 which allowed students - among other things - the ability to "pick" their gender, regardless of their sex. It set up punishments for people who didn't fall into lockstep with the "progressive" tenets of the legislation. Over the past few years it seems that the social activists have set their sights on our kids and the best way to get to our kids is through legislation that schools must adhere to.

And once that slippery slope is started down, there's no climbing back up it.

# The Ranchos Independent

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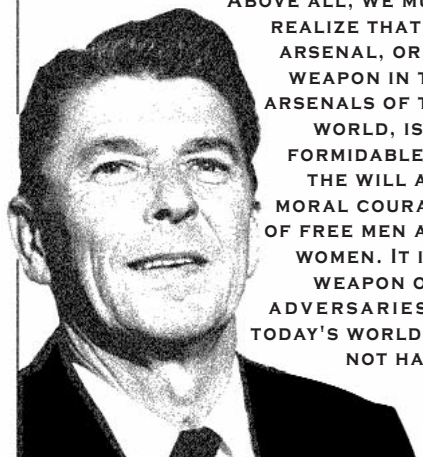
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## THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



ABOVE ALL, WE MUST REALIZE THAT NO ARSENAL, OR NO WEAPON IN THE ARSENALS OF THE WORLD, IS SO FORMIDABLE AS THE WILL AND MORAL COURAGE OF FREE MEN AND WOMEN. IT IS A WEAPON OUR ADVERSARIES IN TODAY'S WORLD DO NOT HAVE.

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

## County OKs 5,000 New Homes

County Planning Commission gives Green Light to McCaffrey Group Development, Board of Supervisors Tackle Project Next

The Madera County Planning Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday, Sept. 23 to recommend approval of Tesoro Viejo, a 5,000-home development on just under 1,600 acres of ag land located east of Highway 41 and south of Avenue 15. The project is being developed by a partnership between the McCaffrey Group and Fresno builders Lyles Diversified and Gary McDonald. In addition to the homes, the developers will be bringing commercial office space and stores to the project.

Present at the meeting was Marshall Krupp, reprising his role this time as a consultant for the Chawanakee School District. After assessing that the developers were woefully inadequate in the amount of space they had allotted for

schools, commissioner got a re-run of Krupp's tactics he used against the Castle & Cooke development in favor of the Golden Valley Unified School District. An attorney for the McCaffrey Group, John Sanger, thought Krupp's assessment was nothing more than a disagreement over state law requirements for builders concerning schools and Planning Commissioner Larry Wright said, "We can't hold up a project because he doesn't go above and beyond what is required."

Want to make a bet?

Water issues were another concern of attendees at the meeting. The project now will go before the Madera County Board of Supervisors but no date has been set for that yet.

## Man Throws Pit Bulls at Deputy

An Oakhurst man remains jailed at this hour facing numerous charges including assault with a deadly weapon – namely throwing his two pit bulls at an officer.

According to K9 Sergeant Tyson Pogue, dispatch received an emergency call at around 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept 22 regarding a family disturbance in Oakhurst. When deputies arrived on scene the suspect, later identified as 37-year-old Christopher Robesky, refused to talk to authorities. Instead, he reportedly

grabbed one of his pit bulls, picked it up, shook it in a violent manner then threw the animal toward the deputy then yelled some inaudible command. Just as that dog was captured without incident, the suspect opened a kennel where there was yet another pit bull. As before, he reportedly picked up the second dog, shook it and threw it toward the deputy.

Robesky was finally taken into custody after a brief struggle. His bail was set at \$50,000.

### PLANNING cont. from P. 2

transportation, which reduces congestion below today's levels while accommodating future transportation needs from growth in population and the economy. The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan incorporates GoCalifornia, a plan designed to decrease congestion, improve travel times, and increase safety. It is another opportunity for the Department to work with local officials, community leaders, and stakeholders to further the following objectives that enhance mobility: (1) develop more efficient land-use patterns to assure enough housing is available to meet the demands of an increased population and workforce; (2) reduce dependence on single-occupant vehicle trips; (3) foster neighborhood and project designs that enable more walking and biking for healthier communities; (4) minimize impacts on valuable habitat and

productive farmland; (5) increase resource use efficiency, including energy, water, and building materials conservation; and (6) reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

In accepting this grant, your organization agrees to be a partner with the State in our common mission to improve mobility and the quality of life in California. Your efforts will help integrate land—use, housing, and transportation to achieve a prosperous economy, quality of environment, and equity for all people.

With the recent passage of a state budget, funding should be made available for this project. Grant writer Brown originally partnered the Ranchos with the City and Regional Planning Department of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo to give the project more feasibility. It is assumed that with acceptance of this grant that Cal Poly will be called upon to begin the design process for the Ranchos.

## THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



### Special Districts

*Special Districts* - Special Districts Director Brett Richards resigns. Mr. Richard's job was to manage the Special Districts. The Board of Directors of the Special Districts (AKA Board of Supervisors) job is, was and will be to manage and direct the Special Districts Managers, past, present and future.

The Board has failed miserably at that task.

The Districts have been pretty much left to run themselves with an occasional poke or jab from the Board when it was politically expedient, with very little follow up to see if what was directed was actually done. The result has been hundreds of thousands, even millions of our general fund tax dollars having been lost by the Special Districts Department. The Special Districts budget has grown from just under \$1.2 million to over \$1.9 million in the past five years.

The Board of Directors has opted to relinquish their direct involvement in favor of a long, cumbersome and expensive chain of command established within the growing RMA Department. Chairman Dominici decided it was more important to get through the budget a day early than to actually look at what is in the various budgets.

The Special Districts Department is a runaway train crashing through our county general fund budget.

Year after year our board wrings their collective hands and demands that someone fix the Special Districts mess. Each time the blame is put on the ghosts of Boards and managers past. Supervisors can then beat their collective chests and talk about how they cleaned house or how now the problem will now be fixed. Someone needs to tell the five men we elected to represent us that if they want to see who is responsible for this continuing mess in Special Districts they will need to look in a mirror.

I keep saying there is no "they" in government, it is WE THE PEOPLE.

It is the peoples' responsibility to be informed and involved in the selection of our elected officials. We must strive to keep our elected officials informed about our opinions. Every day in office adds another layer of insulation between them and the people that voted them into office.

*Secure Reentry Facility* - After my last D.O.G. Report I got my butt chewed for not understanding what the board was doing, and spreading misinformation. Read the agreement and the Board letter online at [madera.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=608093d215fac90c38aafb81221cd52.pdf](http://madera.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=608093d215fac90c38aafb81221cd52.pdf).

The concept of the secure reentry facility is that it be in the community that the inmates are going to be released into. The idea is that the inmates will already have relationships with the local agencies that will manage their parole. Whereas, the legislature has found and declared that: (a) the continuity of service provided both before and after an inmate's release on parole will improve the parolee's opportunity for successful reintegration into society (Penal Code 6270 (a)); and (b) placing an inmate in a secure correctional facility within the community prior to parole into that community provides the opportunity for both parole officers and local law enforcement personnel to better coordinate supervision of the parolee.

The entire premise, and promises of the program is based on the placement being in the community where the inmate is to be released. Without that concept being honored, the Secure Reentry Program becomes a way for the state prisons to open up bed space a year earlier and nothing more.

Read the agreement and the Board letter. It is an interesting experiment, it might even help if the basic concept is followed BUT the facility needs to be in the community that the inmates will be released into.

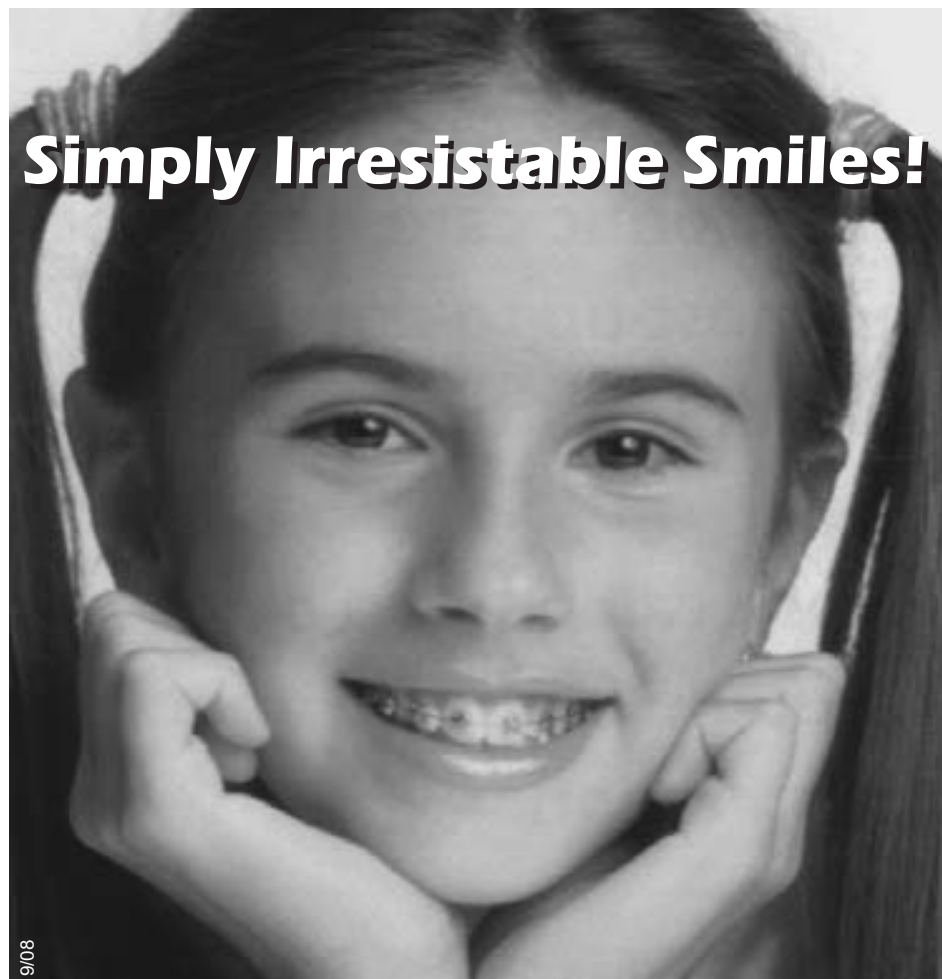
Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 9



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## The Stock Report

# “World Class Education” Sought

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

As I start this article I have been asking myself some questions. Maybe you have some of the answers because I realize that there is not one correct answer. So here goes and I would like your input. The newest educational buzzword or catch phrase is “World Class Education.” The education community (school districts, administrators, teachers, students) is being told that all American students need a World Class Education. What they don’t tell you is what that includes in time, money or curriculum. As the world changes our schools need to change to keep up. I was told that it takes 20 years to come up with a new school book, have it printed and get it in the hands of students; if this is true we will always be behind. In the age of technology what we teach from is already out dated. I was

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told by a wise man that if you always do what you always did, you would always get what you always got. This is not change. Do we look outside the box? Do we look to see what other countries are teaching? Do we look at the colleges to see if they are teaching our future teachers what and how the rest of the world is teaching their children? Maybe it needs to be all of the above. I have traveled the world enough to know that Americans can learn from other countries just as other countries learn from us. In Europe, China and Australia students go to school six days a week where here in the USA some schools have gone to a four-day school week to save money. Will this help our students have a World Class Education?

I know that our students will be competing on a world stage and that is something that I never had to worry about when I was growing up. For our students to be able to

compete academically, socially and emotionally, our schools need to prepare our students for the choices they will have to make after high school. Some students will go to college as their first step out of the nest; some students will join the military and get a different kind of education. Others will go to a trade school and join the work force which is changing all of the time. I believe that everyone can be a lifelong learner and I am grateful that as I age, I have resources to help me adjust and cope in this fast-changing world. If you have thoughts about this World Class Education idea, jot them down and share them with me.

When I helped to create Golden Valley Unified I was told one of our goals should be to be as good as or better than Clovis Unified because Clovis was the best school district in the San Joaquin valley. At the time I thought, “gee you are not asking much ...” because here I

am trying to put a school district together, get settled up with Madera Unified and build a high school which some people were telling me I was nuts for even trying. I was determined that we would have that high school so that our community children would not have to leave us to find a high school education in the five different school districts as they had been doing. Well I am glad to say that in 10 short years Golden Valley’s API score of 804 is closing in on Clovis Unified API score of 841. Golden Valley Unified has the second highest API score right next to Clovis Unified in the San Joaquin valley. How about that?

What did it take to get there? Well, it was a matter of setting goals, establishing priorities and taking care of details. This community helped Golden Valley every step of the way. We couldn’t have

Please see **STOCK** on P. 7

## Letters

Dear Editor:

THANK YOU to our 550 friends and neighbors who joined your Station #19 and #9 Volunteer Firefighters for our 23rd Annual Fire BBQ on August 16. The Dinner-Dance and Auction were a great success. Our thanks to all the sponsors, the folks who worked long hours getting all the Live and Silent Auction items ready and the 550 folks who spent the evening with us. The cooks did an outstanding job with dinner. We fed all the hungry folks in about 30 minutes. The bar never went dry and the dancers danced until midnight.

As for the fundraiser part, we did very

well. With \$5 gas and all the rest of the problems you folks had, we thank you for your generosity. The plan to build a Training Room at the station is still a go. We hope to send several of our volunteers to training classes to expand their knowledge and training.

So until next year, you be fire safe, healthy and we will see you again for another fun filled event.

Chuck Hoover  
Madera Ranchos

P.S. - If you'd like to see pictures of the event, go to [www.station19.org](http://www.station19.org) and take a look. CH

### TOOLE cont. from P. 2

transportation regulations. I also run the company's Human Resource Department, which does all of the employee hiring, background checks, worker's composition issues, accidents, developing Injury Prevention Plans, all of the Risk Management responsibilities and other items as the need arises.

I served as a board member of the Madera County Sheriff's Working Posse, including one year as President.

I have been very active in developing an agricultural site on school property that can be used by all of the youth in our district. At this point, there has been no cost to the school district.

I have served as chairperson for two years on the school district's Career Tech Committee and now I am the co-chair person for the Ag. Advisory Committee. I have also served on the Budget Steering Committee and Facilities Advisory Committee.

I regularly attend the school board meetings at least twice a month in the evenings and other board meetings that have been held during the day. I have also attended board budget and facility workshops.

I have been a participant in the 2006 and 2008 Career Fairs that were held at Liberty High School. I saw the interest that the students have in vocational training. The 2006 Career Fair revealed a large number of students that want welding, automotive, and wood shop classes.

Liberty High School held an Elective Fair in 2007 which revealed 119 students at Liberty High School and 27 students from the Ranchos Middle School wanted an automotive shop. The middle school students were last year's freshman students at Liberty High School. In addition, there were

72 students from the high school and 22 students that wanted wood shop. There were 69 students at the high school and 12 students from the middle school that want welding classes. The list goes on and on with other popular classes such as Animal Science Veterinary with 44 students from the high school and 22 students from the middle school that want to take that course. When I participated in the 2008 Career Fair, I had students come up to me and say that they were going to be large animal vets and were going to another high school that has established ag programs.

We are losing students to other schools over the lack of elective classes. The district saw that happen when they announced that they did not budget for a full time ag teacher. The next day, transfers to other schools were submitted. The district went ahead and hired a full time ag teacher and we had most, but not all, the students return.

I am willing to make the tough decisions and explore different ways to make things happen. I have several ideas on ways to start different shop classes. The decisions will have to be made soon.

I had requested the district to explore the Proposition 1-D money for building shops and I never got a solid answer on why we could not receive any funding when other districts receive millions of dollars.

This district was formed about 10 years ago and the people said that they wanted shop classes. The district has now indicated that it will be about 2014 before the shops can be built. That is about 16 high school graduating classes without shop classes being made available. I don't think that is acceptable.

I believe that I am the best qualified person to serve on the school board.

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done it without the community support and encouragement. The school board members, the superintendents, the administrators, the teachers and the students should all be proud of what Golden Valley Unified has accomplished. We cannot rest on our laurels yet. An API score of 805 still has a way to go to reach the score of 1000, which is the California goal for all California schools. Yes we can do better and we will.

Golden Valley Unified has hired a professional development team called "Dataworks" to train site administrators and teachers to develop short-term goals to strengthen the quality of their instruction. This training will go on all year and I hope that this training will help strengthen the best teaching practices and eliminate some of the poor ones. There is always room for improvement and I hope our teachers will accept this challenge and feel good about it. The next training day for all teachers to be trained is Nov. 10, which is a non-student day so mark your calendars.

The football field is ready for the season. The new lights are up and working, the field has been upgraded for a better playing surface and for the fans the new bleachers are installed and, glory be, we even have a new bathroom trailer so we only have a couple of port-a-potties for emergencies. Folks we are getting there! I want to thank Tom Hurst of Hurst Hardware for donating money for the Liberty High Football Field flagpole. It will complete the look of the field and was much needed. A platform has been built for the announcer, the photographers and the coaches who will work the football games.

It is interesting how things come to Golden Valley Unified. A grandmother was attending a function in the Sierra View Elementary multi-purpose room and said to her son, "It sure is hot in here. I think this room could use an air conditioner." Guess what? At the Sept. 3 Foundation for Golden Valley Schools open house, there was Mrs. Smith ready to hand Principal Tefft of Sierra View a check for \$50,000 to put air conditioning in the multi-purpose room. This is what makes this Golden Valley

Please see STOCK on P. 13

# Regular Library Programs Return to the Madera Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

We are getting back into our regular programming at the Ranchos Library which means after school programs on Wednesdays. For our first Wednesday we had our Craft and Story Time on Sept. 17 in which we made “green cars” that were powered by air and then raced them to see who had the most hot air! Then on Sept. 24 we had our Bilingual Story Time program. We read Goldilocks and the Three Bears using stick puppets, all while learning Spanish. This fall we will be focusing on classic fairy tales in Spanish, using crafts, songs and food to learn new words. Bilingual Story Time happens every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Also beginning on Nov. 5, Katie the Dog and Grandma Penny will be back. Katie is a licensed therapy dog who loves to have children read to her. She is our special friend and we are so glad she will be back the first Wednesday of each month. Regular Craft and Story Time will be on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. so come and join us after school on Wednesdays where there’s always something fun happening.

### Each Month

- 1st Wednesday Read to Katie the Dog
- 2nd Wednesday Bilingual Story Time
- 3rd Wednesday Craft and Story Time
- 4th Wednesday Bilingual Story Time

### Friends Book Sale Room

The Friends Book Sale room at the Library is now cleaned up and organized, which makes shopping for great deals on used books a more pleasant experience. Our plan is to keep it that way and to move out any books that have been in residence too long. Every Saturday at the end of each month we will have a Last Chance book sale outside in front of the Library from 10 a.m. to 2 pm. This will be the last chance to purchase books at fantastic prices before they are relocated to a charity organization.

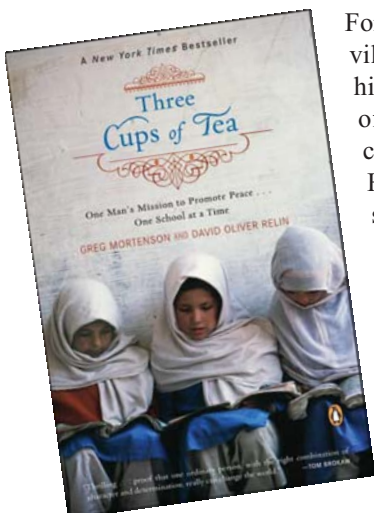
The Friends of the Ranchos Library meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Preschool Story Time is every Monday morning at 11 a.m. at the Ranchos Library with Mrs. Anderson.

### Book Recommendations

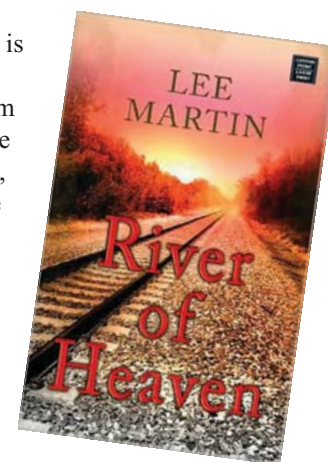
**Adult Non-Fiction:** *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Greg Mortenson lived for mountain climbing, working long enough as an ER nurse to save just enough for his next climb. In 1993 he nearly died while attempting to climb K2, a mountain in Pakistan known for its treachery. Fortunately the people at the edge of the glacier in the village of Korphe nurtured him back to health. During his time in this isolated barren region with the people of Korphe and especially with Haji Ali, the village chief, Greg felt a strong need to help them somehow. He vowed to return the following spring to build a school for the children. He wrote many letters, spoke to whoever would listen and sacrificed every penny he made to save for the school. Finally a generous benefactor stepped forward and thus began what turned out to be a phenomenal life changing experience not only for Greg but for everyone he met along the way. He went on to build 45 schools throughout the Baltistan region with his primary emphasis on the education of girls. He also helped to pipe fresh water to remote areas and to build

bridges to connect people with civilization. This story has touched my heart like none other because it is an ongoing true saga in a country that has now become a battle zone. Greg himself has been captured by Taliban, interrogated by U.S. agents and come close to death on numerous occasions. Despite the hardships, he has grown to love the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan even more. Even the U.S. government has come to appreciate Greg’s understanding of the complexity of the cul-



ture and its many different tribes of people. His hope is that those who read his book will also.

**Adult Fiction:** *River of Heaven* by Lee Martin. Sam Brady has a secret that has filled him with regret for the past 50 years. The secret revolves around Dewey Finn, a young boy who died on the railroad tracks a long time ago. Everyone assumed it was suicide. Only a few people know the truth. Sam has lived alone with his dog stump in the same small town in Illinois where he grew up. His older brother Cal who has stayed away for decades, suddenly shows up on the run but won’t tell Sam who is after him. Meanwhile his neighbor



Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 26

# BRIAN'S

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# To Advertise Call 645-0634

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

I understand the Board wants to get some free money from the State of California (possibly \$30 million) to expand our jail.

*What bothers me* - To get that free money we are making a deal with the devil. We are being bribed to allow a facility to process Fresno County inmates. Limit the facility to Madera County inmates and I will shut up and sit down. Fresno inmates should be sent to Fresno for reentry. Fresno does not want the facility parked in the middle of their tax base or their communities.

Let's look at the prisons in Chowchilla. What a boon it was to be, for the community and the tax base. The propaganda was the same for the prisons as it is for this facility. New jobs. Lots of money coming to Madera County .

We are burdened with the loss of tax base on the property, the relatives that visit, or move here to be closer. As the water table sinks under our feet, do you know how much water the facility will use per inmate? The numbers will amaze you.

Areas around Madera city and the Ranchos may have no problem

September 2008

Page 9

filling low cost rentals with low income family members on assistance just wanting to be close to their incarcerated loved ones. Are the citizens of Chowchilla fighting for another prison to help them with this grand influx of jobs and prosperity that was promised? When someone mentioned putting this reentry facility near the prisons in Chowchilla Supervisor Moss screamed like a stuck pig.

I agree we need to expand the jail, but our board is seeing only the dollar signs but not the strings attached. I was told, "There will be 4, 5, 6 more times this will appear on the agenda before a nail is driven, or more, so nobody is trying to hide anything."

*Again I must say* - Read the agreement and the Board letter. What is on the agenda is consideration of entering into an agreement. My dictionary defines that as a contract. No nails driven but a commitment may be made. When will our politicians realize there is no such thing as free money? Money may come with different names or in different ways but it all originally came from the taxpayers' pockets, or will have to be repaid by the same taxpayers.

# Mark TOOL Education & Vocation GVUSD School Board

9/08

Endorsed by Sheriff John Anderson, Ollia and Kent Ridge, Tom Hurst, Bill Whyman, John and Pam Glueck, Audrey Stock and The Taxpayers Association of Madera County. Website to be activated soon.



## KIWANIS KORNER



As most of you have seen by now, the new banners along Avenue 12 are in place and brightly display our welcome to visitors as they pass into our community. These banners were a joint project between our club, the Ranchos Kiwanis, and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The old banners were pretty much tattered and torn since they have deteriorated over the years from the sun and elements. We hope members of our community enjoy the new banners.

Our club is in the process of changing officers, as their terms are ending on Sept. 30. Our President, Pam Glueck, has done a commendable job with two new projects that were brought to the club, and thus the Ranchos: Electronic Recycling and the Garden Tour and Wine Tasting Event. The proceeds from these events have gone, and will continue to go, toward our community, helping to support our local school, sports and civic needs. These projects along with all of the Kiwanis events are a team effort and it is through the hard work of our Kiwanians that these events are made possible, thus the monies raised can be given to members in our area.

We have a local run coming up next month called the Ranchos Run. It will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Liberty High School. You can pick up a flyer soon at the schools, Fernwood Nursery or at the Ranchos Market. This run is a collaborative effort between our local Station 19 Firefighters and us. Together we have raised funds in the past to buy automatic defibrillators for each school site. Since this run pays special attention to the schools, we have a section of the run set aside just for kids. Come join us for some fun that morning, see the fire engine up close, talk to some firefighters and take a short run. There will be awards and food.

Remember, the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos is a service club collectively united by local community members looking to volunteer their time and resources to enhance the lives of children in their local community and worldwide. We help sponsor many service projects throughout the world but we pay special attention to our local community schools and children by holding fund raisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, events that help children here in the Madera Ranchos.

### You can also write to us at:

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

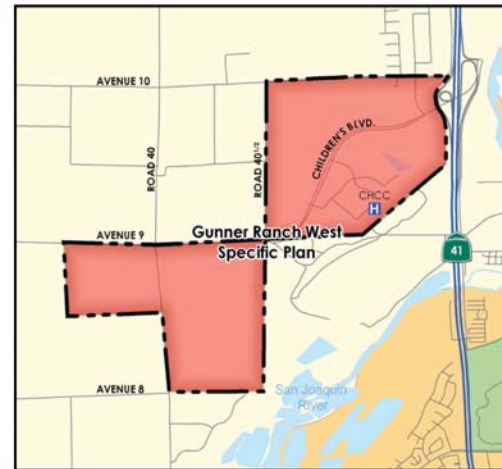
Our club meetings are at the Pizza Factory and are open to the public. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their meeting room for our use. Our meetings are every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. at the Pizza Factory, except the last Thursday of the month which is held at 6:30 p.m. to help accommodate our members who have difficulty attending the morning meetings. Thanks again to Hal and Mary Ann Parks for donating the meeting room at the Pizza factory.

Huge thanks to our outgoing officers for all of their hard work and dedication to the mission of Kiwanis; Changing the World One Child and One Community at a Time.



*Travis Hart attaches one of the new welcome banners to a pole along Avenue 12. The banners were a joint project of the Ranchos Kiwanis and Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.*

The Gunner Ranch West project team is pleased to be hosting a community meeting to provide information regarding the proposed **Gunner Ranch West Specific Plan.**



Please join us:

**Monday, October 6, 2008**

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Children's Hospital Central  
California  
9300 Valley Children's Place,  
Room G140A  
Madera, CA 93636

Your participation is important to us. We encourage you to attend this meeting, provide your thoughts on the plan, and voice any questions that you may have regarding the planning process.

To learn more visit [www.gunnerranchwest.com](http://www.gunnerranchwest.com)  
or email [info@gunnerranchwest.com](mailto:info@gunnerranchwest.com).

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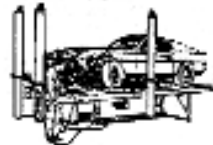
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## The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

Retired, a widower, lonely and often at wit's end, frequently I ask my cat on awakening, "What's it all about, Lady Bug?" and her soft blue eyes look at me as if apologizing for not knowing the answer and then romps outside as she sees a robin light on the patio fence.

I do not seem to know anything anymore, except to get up in the morning and go to bed at night with the day interspersed with visits to places in town and surrounding countryside that I've visited a hundred times. I once thought about moving to New York City where I would never run out of new places and things to see, but I'm afraid my Stimulus Package money would run out in two or three weeks and then what? Probably I would end up being a plastic bottle and aluminum can scavenger and live in an alley or sewer to afford my morning gruel.

Perhaps you've noticed that one of the most discussed subjects around town nowadays is what people plan to do with their Stimulus Package money that Mr. Bush is sending us to spend to get the American economy off its knees. Sitting on a bench in front of a barber shop the other morning, an acquaintance who local folks look upon as the "town drunk," (and from the looks of his beard and rumpled clothing likely had spent the night in the jailhouse) asked me how I intended to spend my upcoming Stimulus Package money to help bolster the national economy and I replied that I had really not thought much about it.

"What are you going to do with yours?" I asked.

"I'm going to the city and stay drunk for two weeks," he said.

For a moment I wondered just how much that would stimulate anything, including his brain. But on second thought, he'd have to buy gasoline to get there, but then I'm not certain just which country that would stimulate. But I suppose in a minuscule way he'll be helping Jack Daniels Distillery workers and the nation's barley growers, although the latter will be depleted of some grain to make ethanol.

Because it is a rather interesting question how folks intend to spend their Stimulus money, I spent part of the week querying folks around town.

A fellow standing in front of a travel agency told me he was taking his whole wad (\$1,200) and boarding a steamship sailing for the Mexican Riviera and lie in the sand, learn how to cha-cha and have a

roaring good time.

"How about your wife, isn't she going?" I asked.

"Nah," he said, "she sunburns too easy. Anyhow, somebody has to hold the fort down while I'm gone. But I promised to take her to a football game or boxing match this fall if we ever get another Stimulus check."

A middle-aged woman told me that her husband and she are going to spend their Stimulus money vacationing in Canada.

Here are other answers on how other locals are going to spend their Stimulus checks to help get the US economy out of the doldrums:

- "Make a down payment on a Japanese-made car that looks like a shoe box but gets good gas mileage."

- "Oh boy," said a tired-looking woman of about 35, "I'm going to hire a lawyer and file for divorce against the no-good bum I married."

- A man in his mid- 60s told me; "I saw an ad in a travel magazine the other day that said that if you are an older gentleman looking for a young woman come to the Philippine Islands. And that's how I'm going to spend my Stimulus money. And man oh man, am I going to be stimulated!"

- "This Stimulus money is really a God-send to us," said a middle-aged couple. "We have been on Welfare for seven years. We're going down to Santa Rita Beach in Mexico and it could last us a year or more if we live on tacos and beans. Then when the Stimulus money is all gone we'll come home and go back on Welfare. Wow, is this a great country or is this a great country?"

- "I'm heading to Tijuana with my Stimulus money and stock up on Cialis and Viagra," said a young, footloose fellow ogling women from a mall bench.

- An elderly couple sitting in a café thought at some length about what they will do with their \$1,200 Stimulus Package to help the faltering American economy. "Probably," said the woman, "we will send it to our niece to help her get through the last year at the University at Vancouver, British Columbia where she is majoring in Hieroglyphics."

Well, this has me pondering on what I'm going to do with my \$600 Stimulus check and at the moment, I'm leaning toward joining that fellow going to the Philippine Islands.

## Open House and You are Invited!

By Eleanore Burchell

The members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. cordially invite you to their Open House on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to be held at the center located at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos. This facility has recently been remodeled and updated of which we are extremely proud.

This center is unique, unlike any other senior facility in the State of California as it is owned and operated completely by the membership and entirely void of any Federal or State funding. However, it does house a senior nutrition program funded through the City of Madera, County of Madera, Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging and donations. This program serves a mid-day meal Monday through Friday for persons 60 years of age and older.

Again, your presence at the Open House is requested.

**Attention seniors: Just a reminder that it is the time of year to receive your flu shot.**

Our next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden area still has many varieties of trees including Japanese or Trident Maples, as well as a variety of new shrubs and flowering plants. The Treasure House will be open and it has received many new items to show you. The bake sale is back after a month off due to the heat of ovens on our homes. The produce area has many different types of tomatoes so come in. You just must see George's huge onions! We have had plums, nectarines, grapes and other fruits also. At times, George has brought his home-grown watermelons so just stop in to see what we have now. Also the boutique section has displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings and antiques.

Remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

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, nu-

trition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come to see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

### THE UP SIDE

*When the world pushes you to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray.*

October's Birthday and Anniversary celebration is scheduled on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Japanese Kitchen, Willow at Shaw in Fresno. We have been there in the past and the food is GREAT and fun to watch the chefs.

Our celebration for September was held on Saturday, Sept. 20 at Yukon Jack's and the gathering was very enjoyable. Twenty-one members attended and enjoyed the wonderful food.

BINGO is being held on the FIRST and THIRD Tuesdays each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Come join the fun!

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

### More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class

Please see SENIORS on P. 13



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9/08

**STOCK** cont. from P. 7

Unified so special. A million thanks Mrs. Smith.

Here are some dates for your calendar:

Oct. 3 is the annual Webster Carnival. Time is 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 4 is the monthly Ranchos Hills Senior sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then from 1 to 4 p.m. the center will hold an Open House to show off the improvements that we have made to the center.

Oct. 14 and 28 are the regular school board meetings at Liberty library at 6 p.m.

**SENIORS** cont. from P. 12

meets on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. The Watercolor Painting Class has also changed. It is now scheduled on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

**Up and Coming Events**

Oct. 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monthly

**Sale**

Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m. Birthday & Anniversary Celebration, Japanese Kitchen, Willow at Shaw, Fresno

Nov. 1-8, Eastern Caribbean Cruise

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Tuesday, BINGO, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1

p.m.

Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class

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

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

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

# Run for Life!

*The 15th Annual Ranchos Run  
TO SAVE LIVES AT OUR SCHOOLS  
Sponsored by the Ranchos Kiwanis  
and Station #19 Volunteer Fire Company*

## Sat. Oct. 11

*Registration at 6:30 a.m. - Runs begin at 7:30 a.m.*

## Liberty High

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- T-shirts to all entrants
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- 40 different classes available

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*or visit [www.station19.org](http://www.station19.org)*

*This annual family fun event will raise funds for badly needed defibrillators for our local schools. Runners, walkers, rollers and crawlers are all invited to join in the fun for such a worthy cause. Sponsors are also still needed. Call 559-275-5937.*



9/08

meet and fill the many changing needs of the district by looking at the big picture and thinking outside the conventional box.

The community is divided into two types of taxpaying voters: users and non-users. The taxpaying users are the parents of the students, working staff and special interests groups like sports, ag, music, art and others. The non-users are the other tax payers that have no one using the school facilities but still help pay the bills. One hand says "we want this" and the other hand says "how much will it cost?" I surely believe that by being able to look at the big picture I can represent both sides fairly. Will everyone be happy? No, not really, but the decisions will be based on affecting the least number of people and keeping the district financially sound.

An important quality to think about when you vote for a school board member is where does he – or can he – fit into the needs of the current sitting school board members? It's like putting a new piece of a puzzle in place.

Assessing the current board members I observe that Mona Diaz is the "hands on" person, in the class rooms touching and feeling the teacher/student needs. Mike Kelly is a retired teacher with the experience to know what works in the class room teaching environment. Roger Schuh has the amazing ability to mentally calculate, with computer speed, the body of contracts, proposals and interest rates while listening to the presenter. Steven Lewis is a private business administrator bringing the common sense approach of how to run the district as a business.

So where do I fit in?

I am a retired general building contractor/business owner, still holding a valid contractor license from the State of California. I worked 13 years as the department head in charge of maintenance, construction and building inspection for the County of San Luis Obispo. With this experience I feel I can fill a need of being able to assist in the many construction projects underway and in the future bond expenditures. At present we have the challenge of working through the dreaded change orders of projects in progress. My experience in preventative building/grounds maintenance can be shared with our staff to help develop a long-range program to lessen the potential equipment/building breakdowns and cost over runs.

For more information, please look at my website [johnschoolboard.com](http://johnschoolboard.com). Remember to type the site into the address line of your internet browser. If you think I fit in, I'd appreciate your vote.

Thank you for your consideration,  
John Grauer  
18 year resident of the Ranchos

KELLY cont. from P 2.

students and parents to our district, while improving on facilities and implementing more rigorous standards. During my term on this board, we built an interim middle school facility and are just months away from completion of our permanent Ranchos Middle School.

As Board President, I helped negotiate a fair mitigation agreement with developers to assure that future growth in our district would continue to provide the same high quality of schools our children deserve, without encumbering existing residents with increased taxes. During this same time, we have completely modernized Webster Elementary and Sierra View's modernization is currently underway.

Of utmost importance is the fact that this Board has continually focused our attention on student achievement. Our District test scores have steadily risen, and are now the highest in the county, and second in the Valley. I am extremely proud of the fact that Sierra View and Webster elementary schools have been recognized as "California Distinguished Schools." This year we expect Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School to join them.

I am also proud of the fact that we've increased our course offerings at Liberty High School, including implementing a full time Agriculture program. This Board has accomplished this in spite of an extremely tight budget, with uncertain state funding.

Furthermore, I am happy to say, we have balanced our budget each of the four years I've served you. During this same time the District's bond rating has gone from a B+ to an A+ rating, the highest in the county. This is based on the financial soundness of the District, and has the potential of saving the District, and local tax payers, in excess of \$980,000 over the life of the bonds.

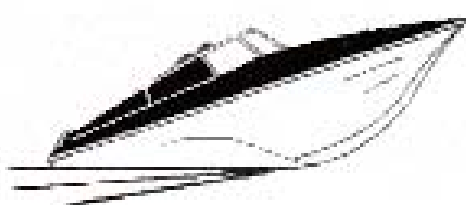
When running for office, it can be easy to promise what you will do if elected; as the incumbent, I stand on my four year record of successes and promise to continue more of the same.

Now I ask for your vote again, to allow me to continue working for you and the children of our District.

Thank you,  
Mike Kelly

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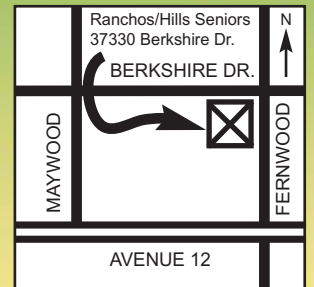
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# What's Going on at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors' Activity Center?



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and  
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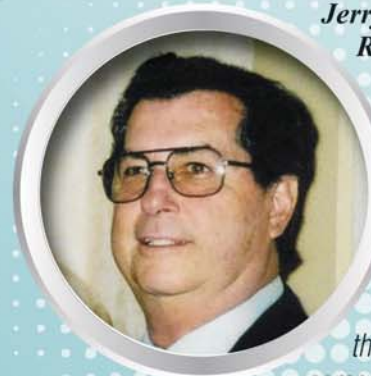
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# GOLDEN VALLEY VIEWS

A Publication of Golden Valley Unified School District

## “Drops for Our Buckets” Move Golden Valley School District Forward

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

As we begin a new school year in Golden Valley, the question that I constantly ask myself is how can we effectively move our organization, Golden Valley Unified School District, forward in some way every day? I was recently reading an article in one of my professional journals by management consultant, James Lukaszewski titled, *The Ingredients for Good Leadership*. He made several interesting points regarding moving people and organizations forward by intentionally being positive, constructive, outcome-focused and relentless. The four main ingredients for success that the author focused on were as follows:

- Grow and learn every day.
- Help those we serve to achieve some positive incremental progress daily.
- Identify and talk about those positive increments with those we work with, supervise or lead, every day.
- Assess what we have learned, and then teach others to assess themselves.

To that end, I am constantly researching best practices for being intentional in moving myself and those around me forward on a daily basis. This year our Management Team read and incorporated the concepts of the book, *“How Full Is Your Bucket”* by Tom Rath and Don Clifton, to reinforce the messages of being intentionally positive on a daily basis. The book is based on the following concepts:

- Each of us has an invisible bucket. It is constantly emptied or filled, depending on what others say or do to us. When our bucket is full, we feel great. When it is empty, we feel awful.



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

Each of us also has an invisible dipper. When we use that dipper to fill other people’s buckets-by saying or doing things to increase their positive emotions-we also fill our own bucket. But when we use that dip-

per to dip from others’ buckets-by saying or doing things that decrease their positive emotions-we diminish ourselves.

- A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy. Every drop in that bucket makes us stronger and more optimistic.
- We face a choice every moment of every day: We can fill one another’s buckets, or we can dip from them. It is an important choice-one that profoundly influences our relationships, productivity, health, and happiness.

How are we “intentionally” filling one another’s buckets in GVUSD? We are constantly recognizing one another with “drops” for each other’s buckets. “Drops” are personal messages written on a drop-shaped note that shares kind words with others, is given unexpectedly, and helps fill up someone’s bucket.

Our new school year has started out with many “drops” in our bucket. These “drops” can be highlighted in relationship to the District’s Goals outlined in the District Strategic Plan.

### Goal - Curriculum & Assessment

- Every School exceeded their API Growth Targets!
- The API for the District grew from 787 to 804 and exceeded the State’s mark of 800 for the first time.
- The API score for Golden Valley USD was higher than the County average (722) and higher than the State average (742).
- Liberty High School represented an 11 point gain, increasing their API to 791, and ranking 5th in the Central Valley in comparison to other high schools.
- Webster Elementary represented an increase in their 2008 API score of 13 points; Webster’s API for 2008 is 845.
- Sierra View Elementary experienced a major increase of 29 points bringing their 2008 API score to 837.
- Ranchos Middle School reported an increase of 12 points growing to 790.
- Educational Options schools met all of their Alternative School Accountability Model (ASAM) targets

### Goal - Facilities

- LHS opened its first home football game in a new

and improved stadium!

- New permanent lights installed on the football field
- Newly seeded and groomed playing field
- New 10-row high elevated bleachers erected on the Home side
- New announcer’s platform added to the Home side
- Upgraded restroom facilities
- Upgraded concession area with awning

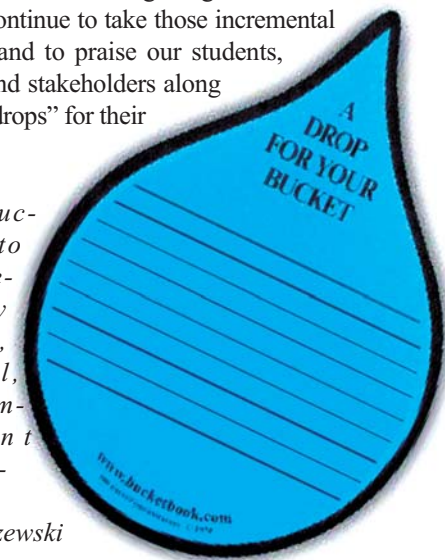
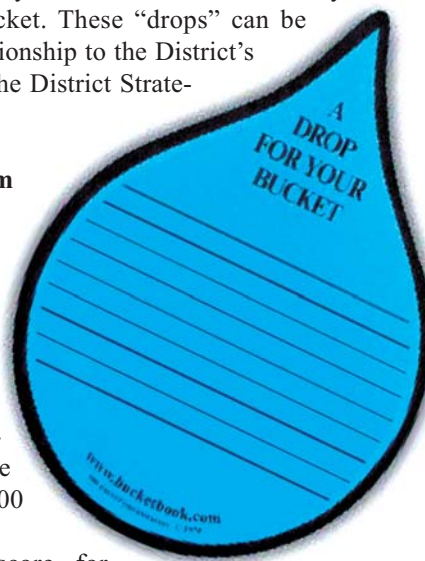
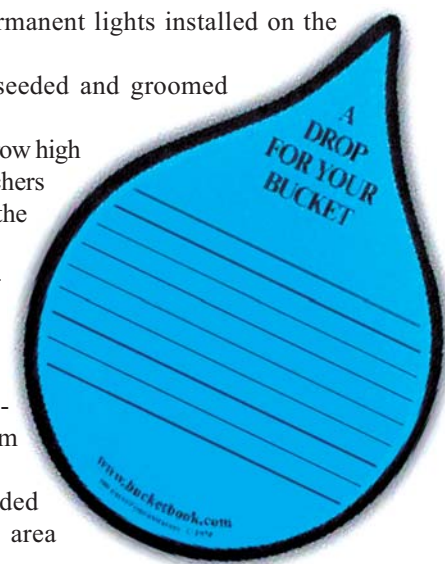
### Goal – Finances

- Golden Valley Unified’s 2008 Year-End Budget Met Reserve Targets!
- Approved the Unaudited Actuals Budget Report which met the 5% Board-directed reserve
- Increased the district’s bond rating by two levels, from an A- to an A+
- Refinanced Series B & C Bonds at a lower rate
- Paid off some of the outstanding Certificate of Participation (COP) debt

These are just a few of the “drops” that have filled Golden Valley’s bucket this past year through our relentless focus on moving our organization forward. Our goal for this year is to continue to analyze where we have been, where we are going and to map the direction for getting to our destination. We will continue to take those incremental steps forward and to praise our students, staff, parents and stakeholders along the way with “drops” for their buckets.

*“True success comes to those who relentlessly seek positive, incremental, personal improvement every day.” -*

James Lukaszewski



Click on “Local News” at

# Golden Valley Progress Report

By Andrew G. Alvarado, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

On Sept. 4, 2008, the California Department of Education released the annual Accountability Progress Reports (APR) to districts statewide. The APR is a document consisting of the Federal and State accountability systems. This document includes the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), Academic Performance Index (API), and Program Improvement (PI) status of districts and schools. To view the PowerPoint presented to the Governing Board of the Golden Valley Unified School District on September 9, 2008, please visit the Education Services link on the GVUSD website at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us).

### Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

The AYP is a Federal accountability requirement enacted by No Child Left Behind (2001). The criteria used in determining a school's AYP status are:

- Participation Rates in Mathe-

tics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups

- Percent Proficient in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups
- California High School Exit Exam (high schools only)

### Academic Performance Index.

After reviewing the results, we are excited to announce that the Golden Valley Unified School District, as a whole, met all the criteria for AYP. In addition, Sierra View Elementary School, Webster Elementary School, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School met all of their targets as well.

### Academic Performance Index (API)

The API is the State's accountability system which was created by the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) in 1999. Every year in the spring, California schools are given a Base API. The Base API released in the spring is the "measur-

Please see **PROGRESS** on P. 28

# LHS Rally Draws Diverse Crowd



Liberty High's freshman class got in the spirit by donning sports jerseys ...



... while the sophomores went all out with their punk look for the rally.



Not to be out done, Liberty's junior class took their assignment to dress like hicks to heart ...



... while the seniors made sure there was no shortage of tape on the glasses for their nerd look.

Liberty High School celebrated its first official school rally honoring the Fall Sports Season by asking each class to dress according to a chosen theme. The Freshmen were Jocks, the Sophomores were Punks, the Juniors were Hicks and the Seniors were Nerds. Participation in the event was at an all time high as many students and staff dressed their parts for the day.

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# Liberty High Reaches 791 API

School's score surpasses Yosemite High for the first time and is within striking distance of Clovis, Buchanan and Clovis West.

For the third consecutive year, Liberty High School students exceeded their previous year's API scores, much to the delight of the administration.

"I am thrilled and amazed at how close we are to the 800 mark," Liberty Principal Darlea Livengood said.

The students scored a 791 on their API test scores. As a reward for their scores, Livengood gave the students a minimum day on a Friday. Last year, Liberty scored a 780, again, a high watermark up to that point.

"I think it was exceptional to improve by 11

points," Livengood said. "I also think we could do much more. Many schools posted much more growth. Our initial projections showed that we had not achieved this much growth so I was tremendously surprised to see the actual numbers."

Liberty ranked fifth in the valley in API scores. For a school of 600, they are getting closer to the likes of Clovis, Buchanan and Clovis West. Liberty's score was just eight points behind Sierra High School and 12 behind Clovis High School.

"This is the first time we have passed Yosemite in the API scores," Livengood said.

Although the scores were higher, the expectation for last year was 800 and now Liberty's closer to that goal. At present, Livengood and the rest of the Liberty staff are working hard to get the students over the 800 mark.

"The most important thing is to help students understand how important these tests are to the schools," Livengood said. "The school is here to help every student be more successful in life. We need to work on helping everyone understand that LHS is a team and the team

cannot succeed if some of the players are not working for the win."

One of the things that Livengood pointed out was the attitude of the students. She said that some students just didn't understand why they had to take the test. She also said that some students didn't even take the test seriously. "Last year, our testing climate was not as good as it could have been," she said. "Students don't seem to know how incredibly important each and every one of them is to Liberty High School."



For hitting an API score of 791, Liberty High got some new decorations on its front pillars and students got out of school early as a reward.

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### New Facilities Manager at GVUSD

The new Manager of Facilities for Golden Valley Unified School District is Rick A. Diaz.

Rick has worked as a self-employed contractor for the past five years. He is originally from the Bay Area but has been a Central Valley resident since 1982. Rick has more than 20 years of experience in the construction industry. Along with his wife and three sons, Rick currently resides in Chowchilla where he is actively involved with the community.

## Chad Harr

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---

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## Middle School is on the MOVE!



Ranchos Middle School ASB elections selected (from left) J.J. Santa Cruz, athletics; Randi Wallace, president; Juliet Olsen, secretary; Abbey Burman, treasurer; Elyse Thompson, vice president; and Elizabeth Smith, activities director.

School is well underway! To date, Ranchos Middle School has had our first dance, our first spirit rally, our ASB elections (President, Randi Wallace, Vice President, Elyse Thompson, Secretary, Juliet Olsen, Treasurer, Abbey Burman, Activities Director, Elizabeth Smith and Athlet-

ics, J.J. Santa Cruz) and we are anticipating a great year. Our scores went up to 790 and with our three year plan in place, we anticipate continued growth. Ranchos community, when you hear a loud roar, turn around, it is the mustangs on the move!

# HEAVEN'S GATES -and- HELL'S FLAMES

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ages 9 yrs and under do not attend.

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## G-parents' Day Breakfast at Webster



Families celebrating Grandparents' Day Breakfast at Webster School on Sept. 5.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Golden Valley Unified School District  
to Dispose of Obsolete Textbooks**

The Governing Board of Golden Valley Unified School District will conduct a public hearing at its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 6 p.m. to consider the disposal of obsolete textbooks in mathematics, literature, writing, and computers. All persons interested may address the Board on that date regarding the disposal of these textbooks.

Notice of Public Hearing Posted: September 23, 2008.

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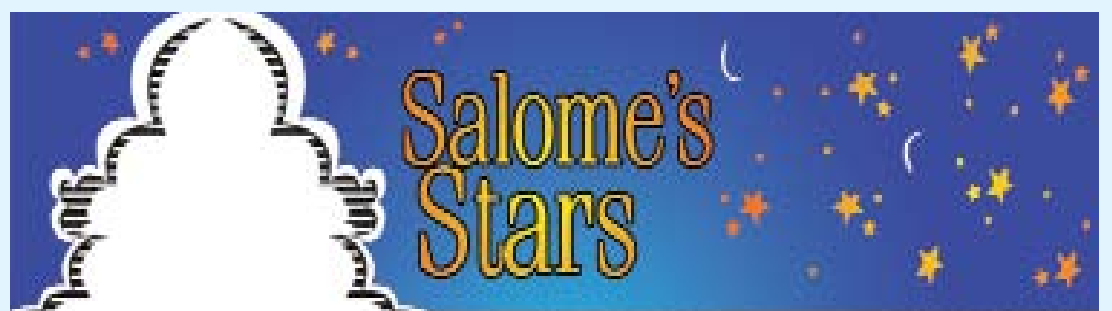
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**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) That recent period of uncertainty has passed. You can now feel more confident about making decisions, especially those that relate to an important personal relationship.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Although you might be faced with a number of tasks on your to-do list, try to take time out to enjoy the arts. Music, especially, can be soothing to the sensitive soul of a Gemini.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A disagreement with a colleague or friend is best resolved with open and frank discussion. Trying to force the other party to see things your way is bound to backfire.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) That Leonine pride might be ruffled by a colleague's challenge to one of your pet ideas. But stop growling and listen. You could learn something that will work to your advantage.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Someone in authority might decide to select you as a candidate for a project that carries more responsibilities. Be prepared to show why you're the right choice for the job.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) That new workplace problem should be dealt with as soon as possible. Leaving it unresolved for too long could lead to an even more unsettling and time-consuming situation.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some fancy juggling to keep both your work responsibilities and personal obligations on track. But ultimately, you'll work it all out, as you always do.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You might hear some upsetting things about a situation in your life. But don't be swayed by talk. Demand proof before making any decisions on the matter.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Don't risk depleting those precious energy levels by taking on more tasks than you can realistically handle. Also, remember to ask for help when you need it.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) It might be difficult for the Aquarian who is used to giving advice to take counsel when offered. But it's a good idea to listen to what trusted friends feel you should know.

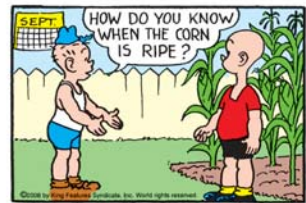
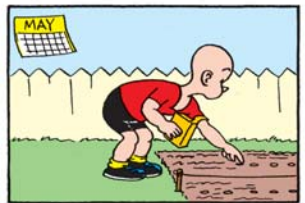
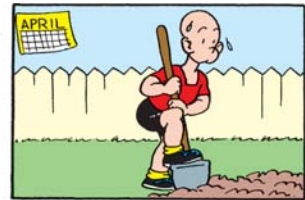
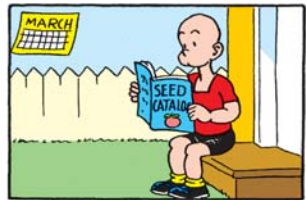
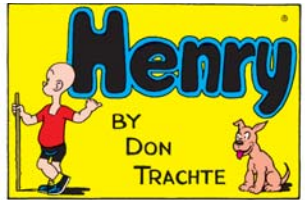
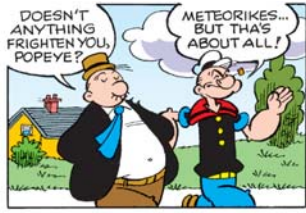
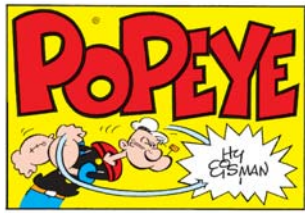
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Things might be a little unsettled as you move through a period of reassessment. But once you get your priorities sorted out, you should be ready to tackle an important decision.

*Born this Week*

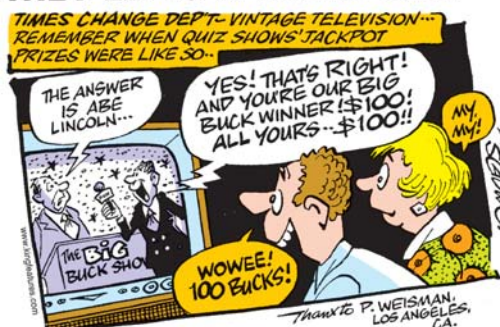
*You're able to achieve a happy balance in your productive life by never feeling overwhelmed or underappreciated.*

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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



J'EVER NOTICE ? THE DINER FOOD IS GOOD AND TEMPTY... BUT THE NAPKIN HOLDER IS USUALLY EMPTY...



AND THE DAYS WHEN IT ISN'T, WITHOUT A DOUBT... THE HOLDERS SO FULL YOU CAN'T PULL ONE OUT!

## BY AL SCADUTO



**HIP, HIP, HOORAY!** The pennant seller is having a "banner" day. How many pennants can you find in the above picture?

Answer: If you found 30, then you're on the winning team.

**ODD MAN OUT!** Can you help this lad figure out which of the five words doesn't belong on the list pictured here?

Answer: The word ADDEE doesn't belong. In all of the other words, every other letter is a vowel.

**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: Sags, same, sank, sink, silk, still.

## Wishing Well

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

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 • OUTER BANKS

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

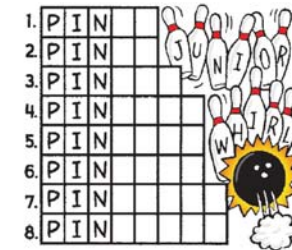
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Avon
- Bodie Is.
- Buxton
- Corolla
- Duck
- Frisco
- Hatteras Is.
- Kill Devil Hills
- Manteo
- N. Carolina
- Nags Head
- Ocracoke Is.
- Roanoke Is.
- Salvo
- Waves

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## Junior Whirl

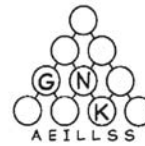
by Charles Barry Townsend



### A STRIKING PUZZLE!

Try bowling a perfect word game by identifying all of these "PIN" words. Each one contains the word PIN. Using the following hints, see if you can "mark out" in less than five minutes.

1. Type of horse.
2. Longed for things past.
3. To hold down; shackle.
4. A popular action game.
5. A grasping tool.
6. Type of notched scissors.
7. A sleeveless dress.
8. Precision accuracy.



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Answers: 1. Pinto 2. Pined 3. Pinion 4. Pinball 5. Pincers 6. Pinking (shears) 7. Pinator 8. Pinpoint.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which major poet published only seven poems during her lifetime?
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What is someone who suffers from amathophobia afraid of?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who said, "We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world."
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many states border the state of Tennessee?
5. INVENTION: Which early American leader invented the dumbwaiter?
6. ASTRONOMY: What is a maria?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city's transportation system was designated as a special moving National Historic Landmark?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Where did Orpheus have to visit in his attempt to rescue his wife Eurydice?
9. ANATOMY: What is manufactured in bone marrow?
10. GAMES: How many points does a traditional star-shaped Chinese Checker board have?

### Answers

1. Emily Dickinson
2. Dust
3. Helen Keller
4. Eight
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. A dark region on the surface of the Moon.
7. San Francisco, for its cable cars.
8. Hades
9. Blood cells
10. Six

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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



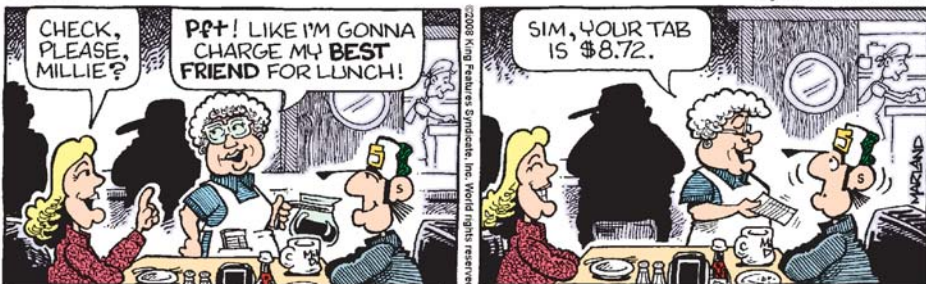
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



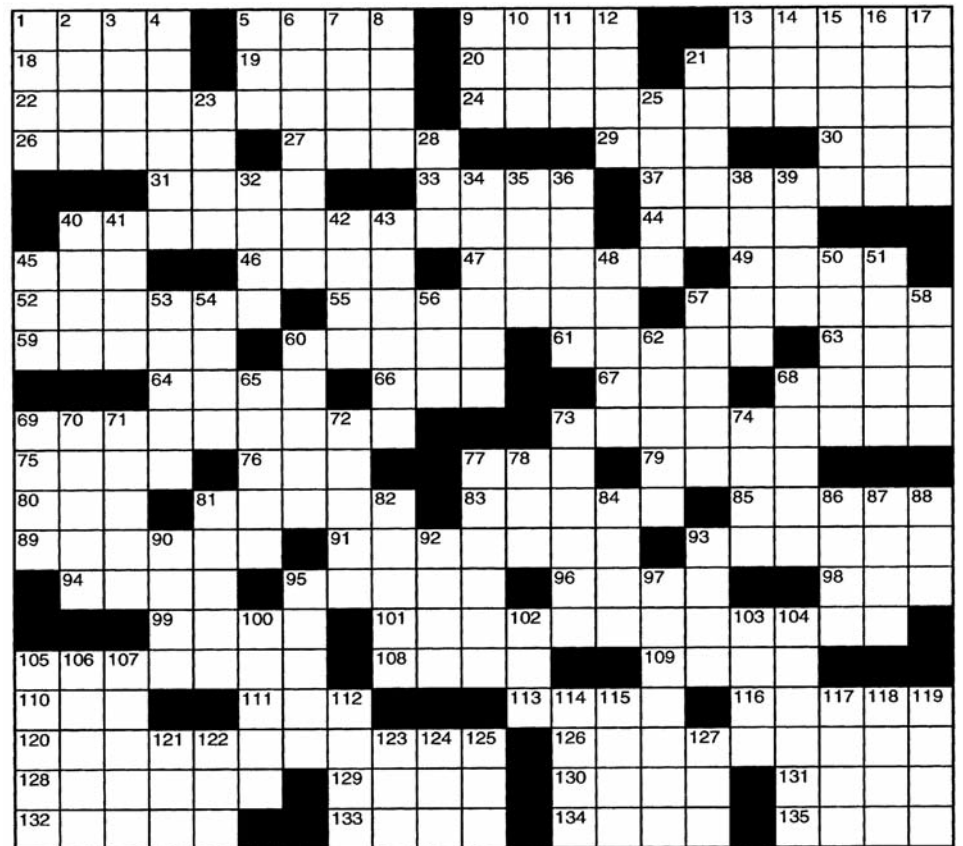
# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Catcher's shirt has a stripe. 2. Batter has a hat. 3. Mom's collar is different. 4. Sota has no ruffie. 5. Picture is tilted differently. 6. There's more glass on floor.

# Super Crossword



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## ACROSS

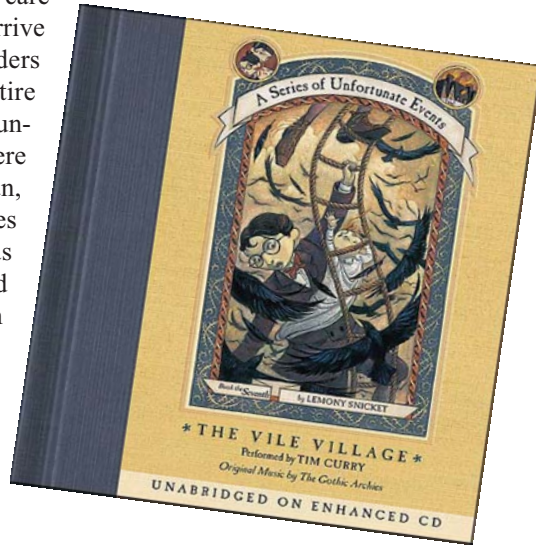
- 1 Summer stinger
- 5 Sailor's quaff
- 9 In the sack
- 13 Master, in Madras
- 18 "Dies —"
- 19 Melodious McEntire
- 20 — Valley, CA
- 21 Walked confidently
- 22 Tenured?
- 24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
- 26 Roman official
- 27 Umps
- 29 Bus. bigwig
- 30 Plant part
- 31 Writer Blyton
- 33 Tabula —
- 37 At full tilt
- 40 Violin bows?
- 44 Evils
- 45 Terry-cloth inscription
- 46 Cookbook author Rombauer
- 47 Deed
- 49 Wraps up
- 52 Incompetent
- 55 Neighbor of Latvia
- 57 TV's "The — Game"
- 59 Melo-dramatic
- 60 Progress
- 61 Chaka Khan's group
- 63 Pigeon English?
- 64 To boot
- 66 Spud bud
- 67 Bulldog, for one
- 68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
- 69 Capone impersonator?
- 73 Hire a private eye?
- 75 Landed
- 76 Palm Sunday animal
- 77 Humbug lead-in
- 79 Act like an antelope
- 80 Oxford figure
- 81 Vote in
- 83 "Watership Down" author
- 85 Defy a dictator
- 89 Salad veggie
- 91 Geronimo's birthplace
- 93 Draw
- 94 Donated
- 95 Swedish currency
- 96 Mardi —
- 98 It may be white
- 99 Signor Ferrari
- 101 Stock-brokers?
- 105 Petite pet
- 108 Blood components
- 109 Kid at court
- 110 Former govt. agcy.
- 111 Carpenter
- 113 Wine valley
- 116 Exit
- 120 FDA-approved snack?
- 126 "Equus," for instance?
- 128 Inventor Otis
- 129 Dingy digs
- 130 Pat on the buns?
- 131 Kuwaiti ruler
- 132 Blackboard figure
- 133 Type of chalcedony
- 134 Holler
- 135 Odense denizen
- 6 Keep the shelves stocked
- 7 Crumhorn cousin
- 8 Sail support
- 9 Furniture wood
- 10 Jacket info
- 11 Big bird
- 12 — brakes
- 13 Canonized Mlle.
- 14 "— you for real?"
- 15 Was an optimist
- 16 Unimprovable
- 17 Juicy fruit
- 21 Toast word
- 23 Await judgment
- 25 Macabre
- 28 — Lanka
- 32 Tennis pro Nastase
- 34 Moss Hart's auto-biography
- 35 "— Game" ('71 film)
- 36 Up and about
- 38 Requests
- 39 Ain't right?
- 40 Spanish sherry
- 41 Author Dinesen
- 42 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 43 Tried a mouthful
- 45 "What?"
- 48 Crack up?
- 50 Proclamations
- 51 A nose that shows
- 53 Coat-of-arms figure
- 54 Lovett or Waggoner
- 56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
- 57 Ignoramus
- 58 Used up
- 60 Gaggles gal
- 62 Wood and gas
- 65 Sedimentary stuff
- 68 Force
- 69 Lose luster
- 70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
- 71 Dano or Darnell
- 72 Messy Madison
- 73 Nickels and dimes
- 74 Designer Lagerfeld
- 77 Church sale
- 78 Bustle
- 81 Happening
- 82 Latin class no-nos
- 84 Scratches the surface
- 86 Zodiac animal
- 87 Buffalo waterfront
- 88 Actor Horsley
- 90 Currier's partner
- 92 Memo start
- 93 On a whale watch, perhaps
- 95 Asian nation
- 97 Clothes
- 100 African equine
- 102 Quayle or Blocker
- 103 Eye appreciatively
- 104 Acted like a chick
- 105 Garden supplies
- 106 In the slightest degree
- 107 "GoodFellas" group
- 112 Return address?
- 114 "Hi, sailor!"
- 115 Battery part
- 117 — mater
- 118 Self-smitten
- 119 Thornfield governess
- 121 Cornerstone abbr.
- 122 "Evita" character
- 123 "— -Tiki"
- 124 TV Tarzan
- 125 King's handle?
- 127 Costa del —

# FUN PAGES

Arthur's granddaughter Maddie brings out the paternal feelings in Sam causing him to examine the emptiness of his life. The story comes to a climax when the man who has been hunting Cal appears with a gun. Maddie, Arthur and Sam get caught up in the drama and one life is lost. Although it begins slowly it picks up speed at the end to reveal a surprising ending. It's beautifully written but takes patience to reach the finish.

**Juvenile Book on CD: *Vile Village*** by Lemony Snicket and read by Tim Curry. This audio version of the seventh book in the Series of Unfortunate Events continues the story of Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire, three orphans who are continually ensnared in Count Olaf's nefarious schemes to grab their inheritance. Mr. Poe, a banker who has been searching for a guardian for the children, finally decides to place them under the care of a town called V.F.D. When they arrive they discover that the Council of Elders expects them to do chores for the entire town and not to question any of the hundreds of rules the residents must adhere to. Fortunately the town handyman, Hector, houses them and soon becomes their ally. The reader, Tim Curry, has the perfect voice for the book and brings the story alive. This is also an interactive CD with a word game and photos so you can play it on a computer or just listen to it in the car.

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



## Exciting & Energetic After School Club

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1:15-2:30

Webster  
1:25-2:40

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charity@acts176.com

9/08

## Liberty FFA Scores at Madera Fair

By David Perry  
Chapter FFA Reporter

The Liberty High FFA's first fair of the 2008-2009 school year at the Madera District Fairgrounds was an overall success for the club with several members taking home multiple awards.

Liberty FFA members had four lambs and five pigs in the competition. The lamb exhibitor, Justin Hart, placed 2nd with his breeding ewe and placed 4th in chapter group all by himself. Later, Justin got \$5.50 per pound for his market lamb.

In the swine category, Kylie Bowe had a breeder and a market hog. Kylie placed 3rd in her class with her breeder and 4th in her market class and later received \$3 per pound for her market pig. Christopher Foster, a graduated alumni of Liberty High School who is able to show one year after graduation, placed 3rd in his market class. Patrick Foster, Christopher's younger brother, placed 4th in his market class. Sister Teri Foster's

hog did not make weight so she was not able to sell, but she was able to participate in a feeder class for all pigs that do not make weight and she placed 4th in her class for that.

This year the Liberty Madera FFA chapter participated also in the annual Madera Fair Judging Contest, performing fairly well. The 3rd highest overall team was Patrick Foster, Christopher Foster and Kylie Bowe. However, Cheyenne Hefley placed number 1 overall in the goats division, Megan Bowe placed number 2 in the goats and Patrick Foster placed number 1 in the sheep division overall.

This year the Liberty High FFA chapter had only five pigs because half of the members showed 4-H (Megan Bowe, Charmayne Hefley, David Perry and Megan Perry) due to technicalities with the FFA. Cheyenne Hefley did not show at the Madera Fair because her pig got a hernia, but she is looking forward to all of the other upcoming fairs and events.

# WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Get fully downloadable back issues of  
the Ranchos Independent  
(beginning with April 2006).  
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Ranchos-area business to this site!

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# 15th Annual Ranchos Run Jogs into Town Oct. 11

By Chuck Hoover

On Saturday, Oct 11, the Ranchos community will come together to enjoy an early morning event at Liberty High School. This will be the 15th Annual Ranchos Run for Life. This event started out years ago for folks who love a good 10K, 2 Mile Run or 2 Mile Walk. Over the years we have made this event into a family outing. If you love a good early morning run, go for it. If you like to just take a nice quiet walk with some of you friends, you can do that to.

And you cannot forget your kids. At 8:30 a.m. we have the best event of the day, the 1K Kids Race. The course for this race stays on the high school grounds and young and old can watch and cheer on each runner. This is the highlight of the morning and the looks on the kids' faces as they cross the

finish line regardless of First Place or Last Place is priceless. A "Kodak Moment!"

So why do I get out of bed so early on a Saturday morning? It is for a good cause. First, we all need the exercise. Second, this fund-raiser sponsored by the Ranchos Kiwanis and Station #19 Volunteer Fire Company buys medical equipment for our local schools and Volunteer Fire Fighters. For example:

Ranchos Run 2005 - 1 Automatic Defibrillator for Liberty High School

Ranchos Run 2006 - 2 Automatic Defibrillators for Sierra View and Webster

Ranchos Run 2007 - Raised money for a Defibrillator for the new Middle School

Ranchos Run 2008 - Finish fund-raising for Defibrillator and start CPR classed for community

This event is for everybody, young and old. There will be awards for the run and

walk winners, namely a race T-shirt and drawings for free gifts. Our goal is to have a Defib Unit with a medical bag at every Ranchos school. As this event grows, we will place more Automatic Defibrillators and medical bags with our Volunteers Fire Fighters who live in your neighborhood. The quick response from their homes have saved three heart attack victims in the Ranchos so far. We hope you, a loved one or your child at school will never need the use of this machine. Since 2005, the run has raised and spent over \$12,000. With our sponsors and your support, we will all have a great time. See you and your family Saturday morning.

If you or your business wish to be a sponsor of the Run or need information, call Race Director John Minney 559-275-5937 or visit our website at [www.station19.org](http://www.station19.org).



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Would you like to be a part of the Foundation?

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check us out!

The mission of the Foundation is to support:

**Academics**

**Arts**

**Athletics**

**Agriculture**

The Foundation meets on the first Wednesday  
of the month at the Golden Valley USD  
District Office (Room 2)

**37479 Avenue 12, Madera, Ca. 93636**

**At 6 pm**

If you would like more information about the Foundation please join us  
for a meeting or call Stephane McShane at #645-1218 or at

[Steph7170@earthlink.net](mailto:Steph7170@earthlink.net)

## Ranchos Girl Wins Big at Madera Fair



Young Ranchos resident and Webster School student Payton Poore, 6 years old, participated in the latest Madera District Fair, Sept 4-11 and entered seven artistic events and ended up taking six first place ribbons and one second place.

The entries were two silk floral arrangements, one decorated frame, one collage, one colored artwork, one photography entry and a junior table setting. She had a great time and looks forward to next year. She wants to encourage her friends here in the Ranchos to get involved next year!

## Ranchos Victim Of Hit and Run Needs Your Help

We need your help with a Hit and Run accident on Sept. 15, 2008 at 7:45 p.m. at the stop sign on Avenue 13 1/2 and Road 36 here in the Madera Ranchos.

There was a man on a motorcycle stopped at Avenue 13 1/2 facing eastbound, waiting to turn right on Road 36. An unknown vehicle was northbound on Road 36 that made a turn in front of a southbound red Toyota Truck, cutting the corner and hitting the motorcycle rider, knocking him down and breaking his leg and ankle.

Any witnesses to the Hit and Run or the driver of the red Toyota Truck, could you please contact Charisse Stindt at Farmers Insurance 645-4124.

A special thank you to the driver of the red Toyota Truck for stopping and assisting the injured motorcyclist.

**PROGRESS** cont. from P. 19

ing stick” used to determine the API Growth released in the fall. District trends show the following:

- The API for the District showed growth from 787 to 804.

- The District exceeded the State’s mark of 800 for the first time.

- The API score for Golden Valley USD is higher than the County average (722) and higher than the State average (742).

- Liberty High School represented an 11 point gain, increasing their API to 791, and ranking 5th in the Central Valley in comparison to other high schools.

- Webster Elementary represented an increase in their 2008 API score of 13 points; Webster’s API for 2008 is 845.

- Sierra View Elementary experienced a major increase of 29 points bringing their 2008 API score to 837.

rienced a major increase of 29 points bringing their 2008 API score to 837.

- Ranchos Middle School reported an increase of 12 points to 790.

The State’s goal is an API of 800. Any score above 800 is commendable.

**Program Improvement (PI)**

Program Improvement is part of the Federal accountability system and applies to all schools receiving Title I funds from the Federal Government. Schools are identified and enter PI status after missing AYP for two consecutive years in one of the following criteria:

- Same content area (ELA or math)

- On the same indicator (API or graduation rate)

A school or District entering PI

status is given three years to successfully remove itself from PI status by meeting its deficiency. None of our schools are in Program Improvement!

Overall, the APR brought great news and reasons to celebrate throughout the District. All of our schools in the District met their AYP targets for all significant subgroups and no schools are in PI status! There were double-digit increases in API at every school within the District. This is a true testament to the quality of instruction taking place at all of our schools. Golden Valley Unified School District still ranks among the top echelon of elementary, middle and high schools within the County and State. The elementary schools have exceeded the State’s mark of an API of 800 and Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School are within reach of the mark. The District will

continue to emphasize the importance of providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum at all grade levels and the importance of meeting the needs of all students. I would like to thank all of our Board members, administrators, staff, students, parents, and community for valuing the importance of a quality education. Go GVUSD!

*\*GVUSD Educational Options schools, Independence High School, Lincoln Community Day School, Home Hospital, Valley Teen Ranch and Centennial Independent Study did not have a significant number of students test in the 2007-2008 school year, due to school size, to be included in this report. Even though their numbers were not large enough to receive an API, they met all of their ASAM (Alternative School’s Accountability Measure) targets and state goals.*

# SPREAD THE NEWS!

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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.

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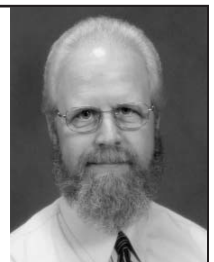


## DAVID PARKER

Realtor Associate

www.davidparker.info

**490-1989**



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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## The Milgard Makeover



### SAVE ENERGY!

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME!  
REDUCE STREET NOISE!

Nothing increases energy efficiency while reducing outside noise like award-winning Milgard replacement windows. Locally made and serviced, Milgard offers an industry leading lifetime guarantee. If your home is ready for a makeover, call your certified Milgard dealer today.

Clearly a beautiful offer.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

**559-673-3583**

Madera Glass & Mirror Co.  
1825 Howard Rd.  
Madera, CA 93637



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# Classified

## Alteration Services

**Molly's Alterations - 35 years experience** - Tailoring, repairs, and leathers. Fast service. Located at 36619 Ave. 12 or call 645-5527. Ask for Madlin.

## Construction

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

**Construction - Low competitive prices.** Windows, doors, kitchen and bath remodels. Room additions. 35 years experience. Hamett Construction. Lic. #295820. Call 559-674-4273.

## For Rent

**For Rent - Office** for rent on Avenue 12. 400 sq. ft. Utilities paid. \$375 per month. Call 999-9005.

**For Rent - Ranchos Rentals Available.** Call 645-1102. Agent.

**For Rent - Ranchos Rentals Available.** \$975 to \$1,250 per month. Call 559-706-0310. Agent.

## For Sale

**For Sale - 1962 Studebaker Lark Daytona Coupe.** V-8, Automatic, Air Conditioning, Power Steering. New wide whitewall B. F. Goodrich Tires. Runs and drives great. 80,773 miles from new. \$13,500. OBO. Call Bob at 559-645-7226.

**For Sale - 1924 Ford Track Roadster.** Street legal or vintage raced. 500 C.I.D. Caddy V8, 400 AT, 3,856 miles, new asphalt slicks/BF Goodrich radials. \$16,500. Call Bob at 559-645-7226.

**For Sale - Evaporative Coolers - DINGS & DENTS, GREAT PRICES.** Call 209-392-6103.

**For Sale - AQHA - Registered Appendix yearling filly.** 15.3 hands. \$400. AQHA mares in foal for Palominos and Buckskins. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

**FOR SALE - Record Collection -** Over 200 45's and large selection of 78's. Best offer gets them all. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

**For Sale - \$295 King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box,** Never Used in Plastic. Cost \$700 Sacrifice \$295. Call 559-447-5066.

**For Sale - Bedroom Set.** Brand New! Solid Cherrywood, Sleigh Bed, 2 Nightstands, Dresser/Mirror, Thomasville Quality -- New in Boxes! Cost \$7K sacrifice \$1,675. Extra pieces available. Call 559-438-0248.

**For Sale - Pool Table.** Solid Wood. New in Crate! Never Used. 1" Slate, Leather Pockets with Premium Accessories. Cost \$5K Sacrifice \$1,375. Can deliver. Call 559-230-0486.

**For Sale - Dining Room Set -** Beautiful Solid Cherrywood, Double Pedestal Table w/2 Leaves, 6 Chairs, China Cabinet w/ Touch Lighting. Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,950. Matching Buffet \$450. Call 559-275-8813.

**For Sale - All New Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress Set.** In Plastic. Cost \$600 Sacrifice \$195. Can Deliver. Call 559-277-2511.

## Free

**Free - To Good Homes - Seven bunnies** to be given away. White, gray or black. Call 645-0543.

## Gutter Services

**The Gutter Doctor** specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. Unusual jobs. Air conditioning service also available. Yearly cleaning. 29 years working in the area. Call 559-822-2759.

## 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.

## Nanny Services

**All ages accepted.** References available. Ranchos resident. Call Olga. 559-960-5314.

## Painting Services

**Gerald Scheffing Painting.** "Best in the West" for over 35 years. Call 674-2320. Lic. #313070.

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

## Recycle

**Save Our Landfill - Newspapers, magazines, phone books and other printed paper materials.** Large recycling bin located at Table Mountain Chevron @ Highway 41 & Ave. 15. Call 559-822-2517.

## 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 level-

ing, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-1500.

## Wanted

**CANNING JARS - ASAP -** Any size; and canning equipment, rings, water bath cooker, etc. Call Wil at 559-448-7667.

## Window Cleaning Services

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

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN**  
*The Ranchos Independent*  
**645-0634**

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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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.

	-		x		16
x		+		÷	
	x		+		20
-		x		x	
	x		+		27
23		15		28	

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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PG&E?

Ave. 12?

Water?

Sewage?

Schools?

Developments?

If you've got questions about what's happening in the Ranchos, now you have a place to call.

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**info@ranchoscommunity.com**