

# The Ranchos Independent



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Volume 6 Issue 9 2010

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## Decision in the Ranchos



POSITION  
STATEMENTS  
FROM ALL  
CANDIDATES  
INSIDE!

Six Candidates Vie  
for Three Seats on the  
Golden Valley Unified  
School Board  
November 2

*In This Issue*

Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 8  
Letters • Page 11 / Classifieds • Page 20 / Fun Pages • Page 26

## Candidates for GV School Board Share Their Views



Name: **Kathleen Crumpton** Occupation/Background: **Homemaker/Vocal Teacher**

I was born in Burley, Idaho in 1969 and grew up on the Snake River. I attended Heyburn Elementary, West Minico Junior High, and then Minico High School. I participated in basketball, track, volleyball, softball, and music. My interest in music eventually gave me an opportunity to audition and be accepted into the All-State Choir. I continued singing in many local events and charitable projects throughout the community. After high school I attended Rick's college in Rexburg, Idaho where I graduated with my Associate Degree in General Education. I began working on my Bachelor's Degree and eventually came to California, where I have been raising my

**Please see CRUMPTON on P. 9**



Name: **Mona Diaz, Incumbent**

I have been a business owner in the Ranchos for over 20 years. I ended my business and I am currently the Director of Marketing and member of the board for our family business with my husband Charles and my two sons Charley and Casey. Both of my sons attended Webster School from kindergarten to eighth grade. We did not have a high school in our community at the time therefore both attended high schools in other communities. I am the incoming President of the Ranchos Kiwanis, Current President of Madera County School Board Association, member of the California Trucking Association, member of the Institute of Family Business at California State

**Please see DIAZ on P. 18**



Name: **Brian Freeman** Occupation: **Maintenance Mechanic, Supervisor/Industrial Mechanical Construction background.** College three years.

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** I feel GVUSD has reached an important transition point. The building era is coming to an end. Times are tough and school budgets are taking serious cuts from the state. It is time to turn our focus to the students and direct our resources into keeping our classrooms and programs the best they can be.

**2. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** As a community member I have been ac-

**Please see Freeman on P. 18**



Name: **John Grauer** Occupation: **Retired general contractor, AA Criminology**

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** Our school district employees and our school board are doing a super job, highest API scores in Madera County and 100 percent graduation rate at Liberty High School – if it isn't broken, why try and change it? One board member is retiring and I'd like to replace him and continue on the direction and work of the present board.

**2. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** I am a retired general contractor and will be able to bring the ability to understand new construction and remodeling of our buildings. I was the

**Please see Grauer on P. 22**



Name: **Steven Lewis** Occupation: **Insurance sales**

Hello, my name is Steven Lewis and I am an incumbent running for a second term as your GVUSD Trustee as a "WRITE-IN VOTE." I am 40 years of age, have been married for 19 years, and I have four children. My wife Lori and I are very involved within our schools and community including softball, soccer and Girl Scouts. Each year I coach both soccer and softball in the Ranchos. For the last four years I have served as the Registrar for Liberty Ranchos Youth Soccer league. My wife actively participates in Parents Club at Ranchos Middle School and volunteers weekly in the classrooms at Sierra View Elementary.

**Please see Lewis on P. 22**



Name: **Edward Moseley.** Occupation/Background: **Secretary of the Board - Prime Films Inc.** Duties include the ratification and review of company and board policy, orchestration and recording of quarterly meetings.

I was born in 1982 and grew up in the Madera Ranchos area north of Avenue 15. I attended Sierra View, Spring Valley and Sierra High School which was the routine of most students in my region. During high school I was a student athlete, a member of Block S, part of the Federation of Christian Athletes, as well as the Boy Scouts of America. In my spare time I participated in Habitat for Human-

**Please see Moseley on P. 14**

## Don't Trash Old Glory

Please, don't throw that American flag into the trash!

Do you have an old, frazzled flag that's no longer fit for display, that's laying around your office or home and you just don't know what to do with it? Then send it to the Kitchen Table Gang Trust. They will properly dispose of it according to federal laws.

The Kitchen Table Gang Trust will retire your tattered, worn out and frayed American flags with full honors. Anything else is desecration.

Who are they? You can visit their website at [www.kitchentablegang.org](http://www.kitchentablegang.org) for details about them and what they do to help veterans and our soldiers overseas, plus giving proper respect for Old Glory.

You can send your flags to the not-for-profit Kitchen Table Gang Trust at 42922 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93638-8866 and they will dispose of your flags in a proper and dignified manner with full honors and dignity pursuant to the United States Flag Code Section 8K (PL93-344), TITLE 36, CHAPTER 10, UNITED STATES CODE . The Kitchen Table Gang (formed over 16 years ago) is a "rag-tag" bunch of patriotic military types helping hospitalized veterans and our soldiers and Marines overseas with "Care" packages.

Their flag retirement ceremonies are held on Flag Day, June 14 each year and are conducted by MGySgt Daniel Kelley USMC and an all volunteer military honor guard with Eagle Boy Scouts assisting. The Kitchen Table Gang Trust also has a nationally recognized educational program for our young people and students, teaching them the history, traditions and respect for our national emblem.

When you send a flag, please enclose a donation for this service which allows the group to continue and expand their many patriotic programs. They do good things with their contributions, just ask any veteran or military service organization.

They are located at the junction of Highway 41 and Avenue 12 just down the road from the world famous red, white, and blue barn with the fifty golden stars on the roof on the way to Yosemite National Park.

Please, send them your old flags.

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# Fall into a Good Book with the Library's Autumn Reading Program

By Ellen Mester

The Fall Reading Program is underway with new reading logs and weekly prizes.

## Prize # 1

**A coupon for a FREE personal size pizza from Ranchos Pizza Factory! (Once a month per child)**

## Prize # 2

**A FREE book from the Friends of the Ranchos Library book sale room!**

### Reading Rules:

Ages 5 and under read 300 pages

Ages 6-9 read 400 pages

Ages 10-12 read 500 pages

Turn in your reading log weekly to receive a prize!

### Weekly Programs

After school Wednesday programs at 2 p.m. for elementary age children with Read to Katie, Act Up Wednesday, Craft Wednesday and Game Day.

Monday Night Knitting Group meets from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the library. Call for more details.

### Say Good-bye to Noemi

Saturday, Oct. 2 at 3 p.m. we will have a "Good-bye ... Good baby" party for Noemi Gurule, who has been on staff with the Ranchos Library for over three years. She will be taking maternity leave and at this time does not plan to return to work. Please join us in wishing her the best. Refreshments will be served.

Join the Friends of the Ranchos Library on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the library. Also check out our websites: [www.maderacountylibrary.org](http://www.maderacountylibrary.org) or [www.theranchos.com/library](http://www.theranchos.com/library) for current information.

### Book Recommendations

**Adult Non-fiction:** *Poorer Richard's America: What Would Ben Say?* By Tom Blair. In 1732 Ben Franklin began publishing Poor Richard's Almanack offering wit,

wisdom and practical information of the day, all bundled in his somewhat mischievous humor. As a world traveler, scientist, diplomat, writer and founding father of our country, imagine how he might look at America as it is today. Tom Blair offers readers an enjoyable and sage overview of our current times through the eyes and words of Benjamin Franklin. His chapter on the Democrats and Republicans (which he calls the Honkers and Quackers) will strike a familiar chord but with a new ring. Later he expounds on how fascinating he finds our interpretation of the original Bill of Rights and the intentions of its original authors. We are not even close, in his opinion. There is a lot to digest in this slim little book—from religion to health care. It's quite an interesting read.

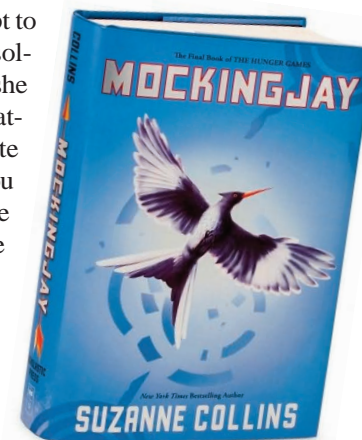
**Young Adult Fiction:** *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins. The long-awaited third book of the Hunger Games tril-

ogy is finally here and it is well worth the wait. Katniss

Everdeen, now relatively safe in District 13 with rebel forces, struggles to keep her sanity knowing that President Snow has his hands on Peeta and is using him

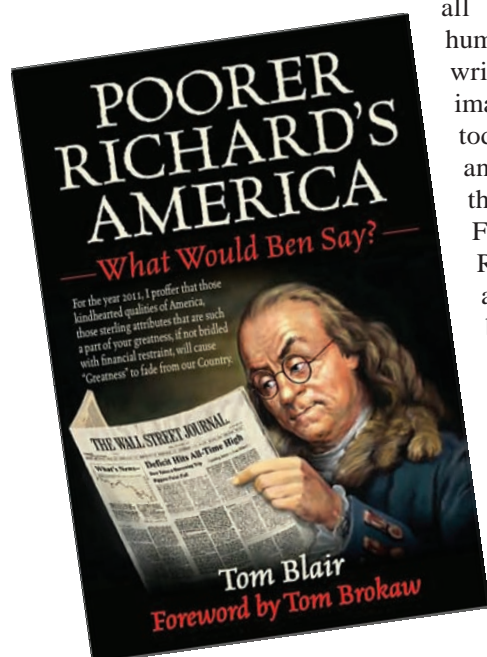
to demoralize the rebellion. In a daring rescue attempt to free Peeta and others being tortured by the Capitol soldiers, Katniss is once again caught off guard when she finds that Peeta has been brainwashed to hate her. Katniss decides there is only one thing left to do: eliminate President Snow. This thrilling conclusion will keep you on the edge of your seat right up to the end. If you are not familiar with this series, be sure to start with *The Hunger Games*, then *Catching Fire*, otherwise you will be lost. It's one of the best YA series in recent times because of all the possible analogies to exploitation of real events in today's world.

Check out these books and more and don't forget your library card: Don't leave home without it!



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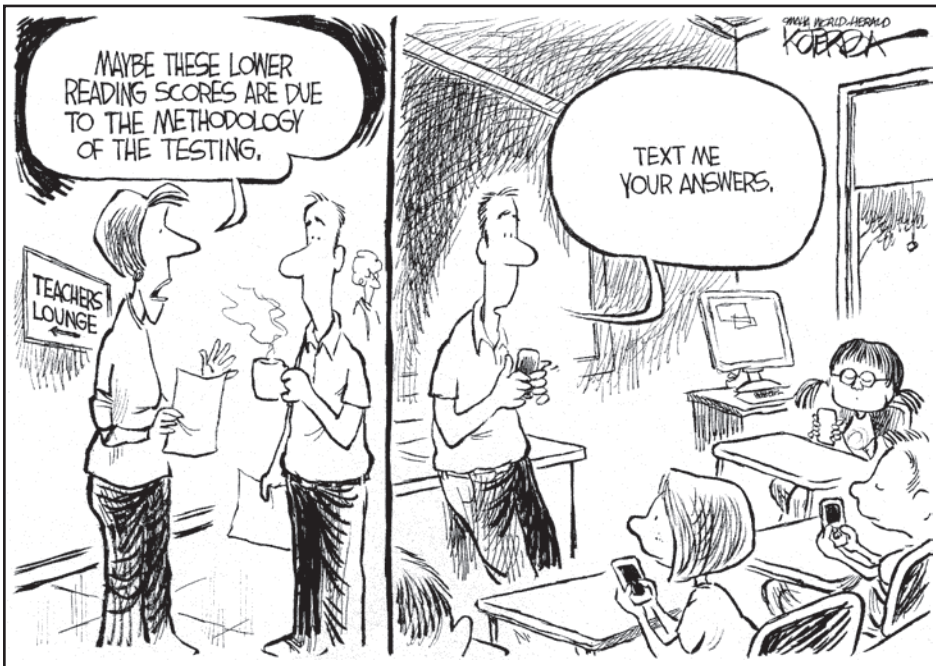
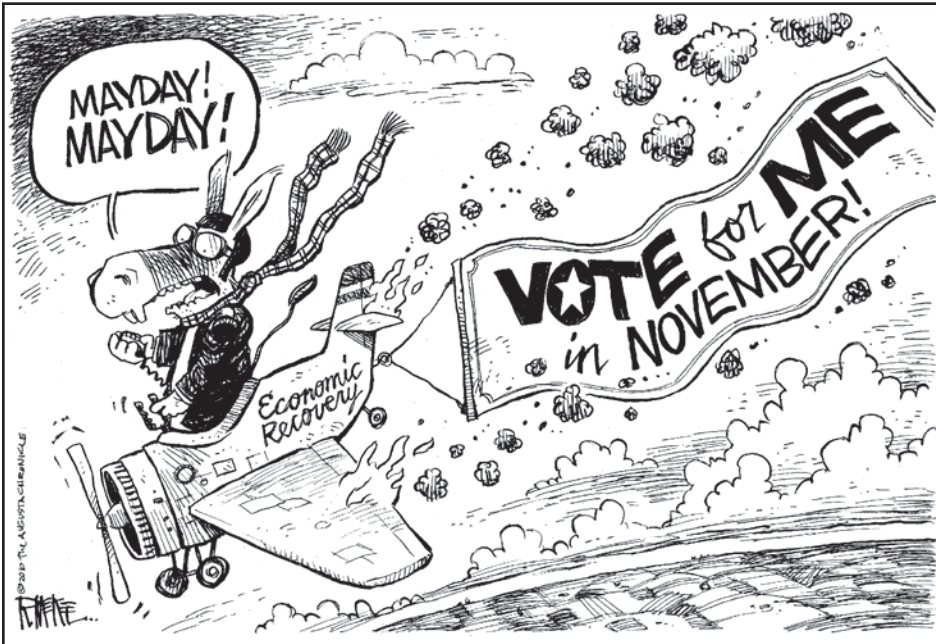
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Editorial

## All Politics is Local

By Randy Bailey

When former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, said, "All politics is local," he was making a point that the big-ticket issues that people think of when they turn their thoughts to Washington, D.C. and government in general, are not what usually concern Joe Six Pack, the average guy on the street. O'Neill was making the point that in order to get elected, a politician needs to know what's hitting you and me in the breadbasket right here where we live.

Well, if "all politics is local" applies at the national level, it *REALLY* applies here at the local level, and there is nothing more local that has the potential to affect more Ranchos lives than the election of the local Golden Valley School Board.

This November 2 is election day. There are many races and issues that will need to be decided by you and me. Everything from Governor for the state of California to Assemblymen to Congressmen to a bevy of initiatives. But also on that ballot will be five names and space for one write-in candidate, all vying for three spots on the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. Those candidates are Kathleen Crumpton, Mona Diaz, Brian Freeman, John Grauer and Edward Moseley. The write-in candidate is Steven Lewis.

Board members are the people that we entrust with our two most precious possessions: Our children and our money. Decisions that emanate from those School Board

Meetings have repercussions far beyond a specific meeting on a specific day. They quite literally have the ability to change lives.

There is a mood, an almost groundswell mentality, across America today in relation to politics that believes the only answer to any and *all* of our problems is to "throw the bums out!" On the national level it is easy to see why. On the state level it's not too hard to figure out either. Over and over again we have seen politicians - and usually *career* politicians - smile and pat us on our collective backs in order to win elections, only to take off in a totally different direction once they're in office. It infuriates us and seems to have come to a head this year.

But keep in mind: Those elected leaders got there because *we* put them there. When the depth of research into the character and values of a candidate go no deeper than accepting that someone *really* wants "hope and change," we ultimately get what we deserve.

And our local election is no different.

There are some very good people running for School Board this time around. Listen to what they have to say. Ask them questions. Don't be shy. Hold their feet to the fire. If they say something that sounds good, have them elaborate. If they say something that sends up a red flag, have them *really* elaborate. Press them. The last thing you want to have happen is a repeat of the 2008 election where, two years later, the buyer's remorse has set in and you want to throw *everybody* out.

On Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Candidates Night. Here is your chance to hear the candidates and get a feel for them. See if any red flags go up in your head. See if what they're saying squares with the situation here in the Ranchos. Are some of the candidates making mountains out of molehills while other candidates seem to be blissfully unaware of what's going on around them? You'll never know until you come out and hear for yourself. These are tough times and they require tough people who can make tough decisions; this is *NOT* the time to blindly walk into a polling booth and just check off any three names you see.

# The Ranchos Independent

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

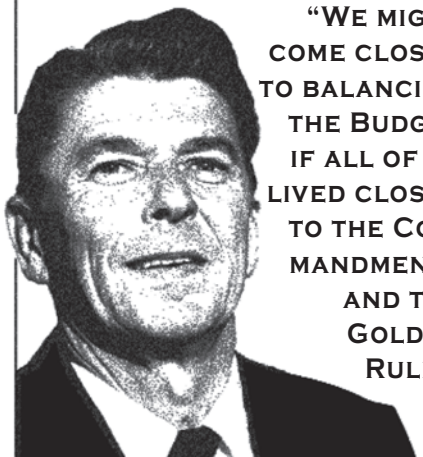
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# Cell Rudeness? Tomato Time

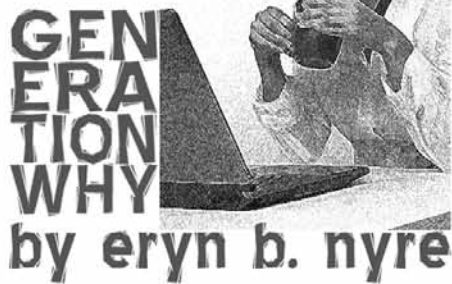
Like most of my generation, and just about everyone the world over, my cell phone is figuratively glued to my hand, and were it practical, I would have it surgically attached. On those rare occasions when something separates me from my beloved, I feel as though the world is going to end. I won't be able to make that final, dramatic call to a loved one to say goodbye, like a disaster movie heroine. I swear, there must have been a time when I didn't carry a cell around, but for the life of me, I can't remember it. Instead, I have invented memories of skipping off to Kindergarten with a phone tucked in my sock.

It seems that with each passing year, society gets more and more attached to its cell phones to the point that we can't pry ourselves away from them at all, and the more bells and whistles the manufacturers develop, the more difficult it becomes to simply put the phone down, even for a moment.

I was grabbing some lunch the other day when I noticed a group with their heads bent over their mobile screens, clickity clacking away on their tiny keyboards rather than interacting with each other. Just as I was about to pull out my own phone,

snap a sneaky picture and send it to all my friends with a snippy tag line, I was overcome with the irony of it. I, too, am not immune to the allure of the mobile world. Besides, I was recently a participant in a similar scene. While visiting family in Southern California, one of my cousins sauntered into the living room to find the entire family, myself included, with our faces buried in our phones, rather than visiting. In my defense, my uncle was watching golf and it was either play with my phone or succumb to a narcoleptic episode.

Despite the fact that my cell phone is basically another appendage, I try not to be rude, a notion that many people, both young and old, have yet to adopt. You see it every day, from the twit texting while weaving through traffic to the jerk holding up the line at the grocery store. I may not be able to go from my bedroom to my living room without my cell phone and mobile network in tow, but the concept of propriety is not lost on me. When I am at a grocery store I hang up when I get in line – for those who don't know, ending a call doesn't break the phone; you can always call back. When I am in my car, I use a hands-free device, if I use the phone at all. I figure there are enough idiots clogging up the roadways and I don't need to add to the statistical possibility of dying in a fiery car crash because I am blathering on the phone when I should be paying attention to the road and the other drivers, many of whom do not share my aversion to talking and driving and end up drifting into my lane without an



by **eryn b. nyre**

invitation. Even scarier than the incessant driver/talker is the driver/texter. I was always taught the best drivers keep their eyes on the road and not on a cell phone, which, of course, is on their lap so a cop doesn't catch them. Predictably, most of these offenders will say, "I can text without looking," which is a bunch of bovine excrement. Just because you can find the keys without looking doesn't negate the fact that you have to look at the screen to read the text in the first place. No text message is worth plowing your car into something, or worse, someone. My mother always says that no matter how

*I think there should be a rule: If you hold me up in line because you are rude and won't get off your phone, I get to throw a tomato at your head. Then you must cover the cost of the damaged produce and I get to feel better after seeing tomato guts mess up your hair.*

much I might want to, it is never acceptable to run people over, not even jay-walking teenagers with skateboards.

Less dangerous, but equally annoying is the person yammering away on their phone when they should be paying attention to the cashier at the grocery store. Never mind the line of 20 stacking up behind them. They just keep talking because their conversation is infinitely more important than anyone else's time. I think there should be a rule: If you hold me up in line because you are rude and won't get off your phone, I get to throw a tomato at your head. Then you must cover the cost of the damaged produce and I get to feel better after seeing tomato guts mess up your hair. Of course, absent a grocery store, I will likely not have one with me every time the need arises, but I could be persuaded to buy a bigger purse and carry a sack of tomatoes around if lobbing them at the discourteous ever becomes socially acceptable.

In the age of technology where you can connect to anyone, anywhere, anytime, it can make you feel lost and out of touch if your phone isn't on and buzzing every minute of the day. But contrary to popular belief, safety and common courtesy are more important than your phone conversation. That text can wait, that call can wait, but if it truly cannot, pull over or step out of the line and then conduct your business, or else I suggest you duck, because someone behind you might be buying produce, and they might not be inclined to wait for congress to pass the tomato law.

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## Senior Report

# The Fruits of Your Lifetime Labor

By Verlaine

Ten thousand times the labor movement has stumbled and bruised itself. It has been enjoined by the courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, traduced by the press, frowned upon by public opinion and deceived by politicians. But not withstanding all these, labor is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known and its historic mission is as certain of the ultimate realization as the setting of the sun. The fruit of our labor has left us to grow within and, through this labor, like the useful bee, builds a house and gathers sweetness from every flower and labor unites and becomes the labor of love. Through this love we create a family.

### The Dollar Fruit

The most recent calculation for raising a child from birth to 18 is \$160,140 for a middle class family not including college and perks.

It translates into \$8,896.66 per year, \$741.38 per month, \$171.08 per week and 24.24 per day. Just a dollar an hour (hey, something is wrong here ... I know some parents who pay a lot more for child-care per hour, but these figures are from the people that put our health care together). Still you might think the

best advice is, "Don't have kids if you want to be rich." Actually it is just the opposite.

### The Fruit of Love

As parents you get to enjoy naming rights: first, middle and last. Glimpses of God's everyday creation. Giggles under the covers every night. More love than your heart can hold, butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs. Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds and warm cookies, a hand to hold usually covered with jelly and chocolate and a partner for blowing bubbles and flying kites. Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stock performed; you get to finger paint, carve pumpkins, play hide and seek and catch lighting bugs. You never grow up. You have the

excuse to keep reading the adventures of Piglet and Poo, watch Saturday morning cartoons, go to Disneyland and watch Disney movies and wish on the stars. You get to frame rainbows, hearts and flowers under refrigerator magnets, collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day and cards with backward letters for Father's Day. You get to be a hero by retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking a training wheel off a bike, removing a splinter, filling a wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs and coaching a baseball team that never wins, but always get treated to ice cream, regardless. You get front row seat in history: the first step, the first word, first bra, the first date and first time behind the wheel. You get to be the immortal; another branch added to your family tree. And if you are lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great grandchildren. You get an

*As parents you get to enjoy naming rights: first, middle and last. Glimpses of God's everyday creation. Giggles under the covers every night. More love than your heart can hold, butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs. Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds and warm cookies, a hand to hold usually covered with jelly and chocolate and a partner for blowing bubbles and flying kites..*

education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communication and human sexuality no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up under God. You have the power to heel a boo boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever and love them without

limits. So one day they will love without counting the cost. Love and enjoy your children and grandchildren. It is the best investment you will ever make.

### How Children See and Feel Love

"Love is when mommy makes coffee for daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is ok."

"Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she could not bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands have arthritis too. That is love."

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 15



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

### Keep BBQing

Well, summer is almost over and you can put away that barbeque for another year. No, I'm not crazy, just checking to see if you were paying attention. In fact, in our family as in many of yours I imagine, the barbeque is never put away – maybe not used as often as in the summer, but still used. I have seen the boys out on the patio in the rain barbequing.

Before I started to write this article, I went on the internet to do some research on BBQing. Believe it or not, I got an English lesson. I discovered that how you use the word barbeque can be different parts of speech. When referring to the meat, the cooking apparatus (the grill) or to a party that include such food, it is a noun. But it is an adjective when referring to foods cooked by this method, and a verb when talking of the act of barbequing. Oh, and by the way it can be Barbecue, Barbeque or BBQ. In Australia and New Zealand it is a Barbie and in South Africa a Braai.

We didn't have baked beans in the store like there are today – again, we made our own. In fact, I prefer the homemade anyway because for me the canned ones are all too sweet. When you make your own, you can control the sugar or anything else you put in them. I started with Van de Kamp Pork and Beans and added what we liked – you don't need to measure after you make them a few times. I went on line and found a recipe that is pretty close to the one I use. Be sure to mix these in the baking pan you are going to use so you won't have to wash an extra bowl.

#### Baked Beans

- 32 oz. Pork & Beans
- ½ C Brown Sugar
- 2 T Mustard
- ½ C Ketchup

1 Onion – diced  
 3 T Molasses  
 Dash of Worcestershire Sauce  
 Mix everything together and just before putting into a 350 oven, lay three or four slices of bacon on top. Bake for about an hour or until bacon is done and beans are bubbly. This recipe didn't call for precooking the bacon, but I always do. Just fry it in a pan until it is almost done and drain it on paper towels before putting it on the beans. This way, you don't have bacon grease on the top of your food.

#### A Super Marinade

One of the best marinades for chicken I ever used was a recipe given to me by an Italian neighbor we had in Chowchilla. Into a pint jar (or anything with a tight fitting lid), pour a cup of cooking oil and mince two or three cloves of garlic and chop a couple of tablespoons of rosemary into the oil and shake. Let this sit for a while so the flavors will blend with the oil. Brush this on chicken that has been salt and peppered and cook.

Ever had your mouth watering for BBQ'd chicken or pork chops and didn't want to fire the outside unit up – or you just don't have one? Then cook your meat in the frying pan, using as little oil as possible. When meat is done, take it out and with a paper towel wipe out the oil and put the meat back into the pan with BBQ sauce and let it heat, turning to get sauce on all sides.

Once in a while we will have Tri Tip sandwiches after church. Don can cook a mean Tri Tip. In a gas BBQ, he turns the fire on high and sears the roasts on all sides, and then turns the fire down, closes the lid and let them cook for 45 minutes. Randy says don't open the lid for 45 minutes, but Don opens it and turns the meat about half way through. Either way – they are delicious – still pink on the inside!

Remember, you don't have to barbeque outside over charcoal or gas – you can BBQ in the oven, the frying pan or even in a crock-pot. If you want the smoke flavor, buy a bottle of Liquid Smoke, but use it sparingly, that stuff is strong.

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Brenda McElroy

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**CRUMPTON**

family and teaching vocal lessons out of my home. I had a winter and spring recital every year from 2002 to 2009. In 2009 I went back to school to finish my Bachelor's Degree, a dual major in Spanish and Public Relations.

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** I have eight children in this district. They attend three of the four comprehensive school sites, Webster, Ranchos Middle School, and Liberty High School. I have noticed parents do not have much of a voice on certain issues that arise in the district. I also began to see a large turnover of employees in this district. As these issues became more apparent, I noticed many good families were affected personally. I became concerned. I later learned that it is widely believed that often the voices of parents fall on deaf ears at the board level. I believe it is our children and our families who make this district. It is we; the homeowners who pay taxes here and we want our tax dollars spent judiciously.

**2. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** Because I have so many children in this district and rub shoulders with many parents, I hear their concerns. I feel I have a real sense of the pulse at the different school sites. It is important that board members interact with the very people who placed them on the board before they make a decision. Most of the current board members do not have children in school and rarely have I seen them on campus. I have personally asked one of the board members to meet and speak with me. It was stated, they were too busy.

**3. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley Unified School District?** Golden Valley Unified needs to reflect the values and ethics of the community. Parents and students should have a voice and be represented. All students should have an opportunity to receive educational options, whether it's college preparation, music, FFA, wood working, mechanics, etc. Emphasis should not be placed just on one particular interest.

**4. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** Running a school district is the same as running a business. If you treat your clients well, they will keep coming back. If you treat them badly, they will leave. It is important that families have a voice in this district and their suggestions are visible in the final decisions that are made.

**5. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** All decisions should revolve around the education of the students and fulfilling the needs of

the students. That includes sound financial decisions affecting current and future years.

**6. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** All people need extracurricular activities, but especially children/students. These types of activities build confidence and teach children how to be responsible, disciplined, hardworking, and successful. All of these activities lead them into adulthood and make our world a better place with productive citizens.

**7. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** Not every student is interested in going to a four year university and it is important for these students to have access to other opportunities, such as agriculture, mechanics, woodworking, or home economics.

**8. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** We do not always get our way in life and being a team player is something we all have to learn throughout our lives. Not all decisions that are made make everyone happy. Decisions made by the majority on a school board have to be supported, because the board is not run by one person, it is a team effort.

**9. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** Students and parents are the number one priority of a school district. They are what makes a school district and they have to be taken care of first. Parents and students should always be given an opportunity to become involved in the educational process. They should feel they are up close and personal, so they are informed and know everything that is going on.

**10. When Sacramento hands down additional budget cuts, what hard decisions are you prepared to make? What would go first and what would go last?** Good leadership leads by example. A captain of a ship should not place his or her crew's welfare above that of the others. When times are rough, that captain has an obligation to be fair to all. That being said, the cuts that have been made recently within this district have affected the people most directly involved with our children. It is time to make cuts at the top and be honest and fair to this community. Most people are willing to lend a helping hand to save each other's jobs, and most people would be willing to take a pay cut to do this. To answer, what would go first and what would go last? Cuts must start at the leadership level and go down. This type of leadership and example gains respect from the community represented, and makes it easier

Continued on P. 18

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# God's Repairers of the Breach

By Bob Crabb

*"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."* (Isaiah 58:12)

Many people who study these things report that Chapter 58 of Isaiah is a sermon that was given sometime shortly after Israel was delivered out of the Babylonian captivity. Now, the situation was this: God had delivered the people of God from being held captive by the Babylonians and the children of God had just returned to their homeland. Here the prophet Isaiah was preaching to a group of people who had returned from exile

and had gathered around the altar of God. They studied the Word of God, they mediated on the Word of God, they prayed the prayers of the Word of God and they studiously worshipped God. But apparently they did not seem to think that God was rewarding their religious efforts. "Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" (Isaiah 58:3)

For the religious, the idea that God is not seeing or noticing pious efforts must surely be daunting if not downright off-putting. Efforts of piety and devout reverence to the divine may encourage some to expect some sign that God is pleased with such effort. Fasting in those days was more than abstinence from food, it was a profound form of worship and dedication to God. Surely they thought God must have found it pleasing. The report seems to support the integrity of the people's worship: "For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them." (Isaiah 58:2) How can that be wrong? Apparently this was not enough and God calls their godliness inadequate: "Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that

*For the religious, the idea that God is not seeing or noticing pious efforts must surely be daunting if not downright off-putting.*

what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?" (Isaiah 58:5) The one thing they didn't do was allow God to use them as part of His plan of redemption for all His people.

The religious in this report were concerned about their relationship with God, but they weren't concerned about the well being of the community of God. They may have been prayerful but there had been no real attempt at a unified national will. In the fourth verse of Chapter 58 of Isaiah, we hear the words of God: "Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high." (Isaiah 58:4) In the fifth verse of the 58th chapter of Isaiah, God chal-

lenges the kind of worship that is only a humbling of body posture without a concurrent humbling of the heart. Worship (according to Isaiah) that is without concern for all of God's people is not authentic.

Worship must include a call to freedom, a call to unity and call to communication that does not include hateful and malevolent speech. Worship includes the feeding of the hungry and the freedom of the broken and exploited: "Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I.' If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:8-10)

Well, these words were spoken some 2,600 years ago and I suppose some may say the context is no longer appropriate for our modern ears. On the other hand, Isaiah is reporting about the God many of us claim today. This God that Isaiah speaks for and of seems to be a God who claims that the whole community of God is worthy of redemption. This God of which Isaiah speaks is not just a God of

Please see PASTOR on P. 23



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9/10

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

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Although I've not lived in this community for 20 years, I am a long-term resident with no plans to leave in the near future. My wife and I moved to the Madera Ranchos in 2002, we chose to live here because of the sense of community and we wanted a better quality of life than we were going to find in Fresno, Clovis or Madera. We love the open space, quiet streets and most of all the friendly people.

As our community has evolved/ grown, more people have moved here looking for some of the same qualities we sought after. As our community has grown, there are people who feel because we are in a rural area some common courtesies do not have to be followed. In

the past couple of years there are two things that bother me and I'm sure others too.

I live on a street where there are stop signs on both ends of my block and on any given day I see one or two people who drive like they are racing against the clock, running through posted stop signs. People need to realize, just because we live in a rural area you CAN'T drive through our neighborhoods going 50 MPH, failing to follow the rules of the road. It's a given those who are doing this are breaking the law, but more importantly they are putting the safety of our neighbors at risk.

Also, in the past three to four years I have become frustrated with people who feel the need to have Bands, DJ's or industrial sized speakers

for parties at their homes. My wife and I love to entertain our friends throughout the year just like the majority of you do. But recently, there have been four to five instances where I am in my house and all I can hear is the thumping of the deep bass of music or the yelling from DJ's. We all have a lot of space where we can have big parties (and we do too), but you have to respect your neighbors; the last thing I want to hear at midnight on a cool summer night is the volume of music that is at concert-sounding levels.

Respect is important when you live in a community. We live in the Ranchos because we love what our community offers. If you wouldn't speed through a neighborhood or have loud music or DJ's in the city, then you shouldn't do

it here either.

Let's keep our community a great place to live in peace. Thank you.

Matt Craven  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The time has come once again to fill three seats on our school board. When times are good and the school district does not have to cut back on teachers, classified employees and programs, you get good reasonable people to run for the

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 13

# Incumbent, Steven Lewis will NOT be printed on the Ballot! **Steven Lewis** is a **Write-In** Vote!

## 2 easy steps to "write-in" your vote for "Steven Lewis"

Sample Ballot

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GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Governing Board Member	Vote for no more than 3
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Steven Lewis</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
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MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS	
STATE	
19 "RAINY DAY" BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND: Changes the budget process. Cuts and future deficits and spending by increasing the size of the state. Year 01, Year 02, and 03	Yes
	No

### Step #1

Write-In "Steven Lewis" in the blank box

Write-In my name on one of the 3 blank lines following the 5 printed candidates

### Step #2

Fill in "Bubble" to have it count

All votes are read through an electric scanner that reads the Bubble. If you do not fill in the Bubble, your vote will not count.



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## Organize Your Kitchen

Have you been cooking up a storm in your kitchen, or does it just look like it? If you can't find an open space on the countertop, match a lid to a pot, or reach your mixing bowls without moving a plethora of mismatched mugs, it's time to put things in order. Here are some tried and true organizing tips for the kitchen:

### Workspace

Clear your countertop of everything. Give it a good cleaning. Return only the things you use at least twice a week. Determine if the rest of the items need to be tossed/recycled, given away, washed and put away, or relocated to some other part of the house.

Breadmakers, food processors, and other large appliances should be stored in a cabinet or pantry unless used frequently. If a microwave is taking up space, consider placing it on a sturdy wheeled cart and use the space below for cookbooks, or pantry items. Appliances that mount under the cabinet such as can openers and coffee makers also help restore countertop space.

Yes, you can keep a few decorative items, but save the majority of countertop space for preparing food.

### Purge

It's time to let go of plastic yogurt, cottage cheese, and lidless containers. Determine the number of containers you need for leftovers and food storage. Match that number of containers (preferably clear) with lids, and get rid of the rest.

Do likewise with your pots, pans and bake-ware. If finishes are worn or rusty, replace them. If you have duplicates and never use both at the same time, keep your favorite one and give away the other. If you can't part with the worn out little frying pan you used as newlyweds, store it in the cabinet above the fridge or in the attic where it won't take up

prime kitchen space.

Remove any boxed or canned food items that you haven't used in the last six months. Chances are if you haven't used them yet, you probably won't. Check dates on vitamins and medicines and toss if expired.

### Storage Space

Store the things you use frequently in the most accessible cabinets and drawers. Save the low, deep corner, and extra high cabinets for holiday dishes, your fondue set, and other rarely used items.

Store your everyday dinnerware and glasses in a cabinet near the sink or dishwasher to make the process of washing and putting away more convenient. Resist stacking bowls on plates, which requires an extra step to reach what's underneath. If need be, adjust shelving or add a shelf to eliminate wasted space.

Choose a location for such items as food wraps and plastic containers based on where you tend to use them.

Keep cookware near the stovetop. Nest your pots and pans inside one another and use a pot lid rack to keep lids neat. A slide-out cabinet tray is a good investment for your pots and pans cabinet, eliminating the need to remove what's in front to get to items in the back. For cookie sheets, muffin pans and serving trays use tray dividers and store them upright.

### Personal Favorites

Sliding wire baskets make retrieval of lower cabinet items easier.

Plastic grocery bag holders keep bags confined to a small area and handy for use.

Tiered cabinet organizers make back row cans and spices visible.

Turntables are good for storing medicines and spices.

Expandable partitions and interlocking drawer organizers are great for grouping drawer contents by type.

Follow these guidelines and you'll be well on your way to cooking with comfort and ease.

*If you have questions or need professional assistance with your organizing project, contact Brenda McElroy (Organized By Choice) at [info@organizedbychoice](mailto:info@organizedbychoice) or call 559-871-3314.*

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Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

LETTERS cont. from P. 11

board. When times are hard and difficult decisions have to be made, you also get a lot of radicals running for the board. People who want to change

everything from the top down. They believe that change for the sake of change is just what is needed. They also believe that because enough people feel as they do, that they won't be seen as radicals. Well I'm here to tell you: The radicals are coming, the

radicals are coming!

I'm not normally an alarmist but now I feel this alarm must be sounded. I believe that we've seen in the last presidential election what can happen when people vote for change just for the sake of change. We have three union-backed candidates running for the board who desperately want to change our school district. I admit that I don't know these people personally, but I do know that I don't want a union-run school board. My father always told me that, "People are judged by their associations," and once again he was right. Mrs. Kathleen Crumpton, Mr. Brian Freeman and Mr. Edward Moseley all have the endorsement of the CSEA union, which represents the classified employees. In fact, Mr. Moseley's father has been the union man every board has dealt with all the way back to when we first formed our school district. Mr. Freeman's wife is the vice president of the local union chapter and Mrs. Crumpton recently posted on her Facebook page asking people to vote for the three of them. Are they running as a ticket? A union-backed ticket?

On the other hand, we also have three candidates who are not backed by the union. Mrs. Mona Diaz, Mr. Steven Lewis and Mr. John Grauer. I don't know Mr. Grauer well but if the union didn't like him he must have said something right. I do know Mrs. Diaz very well and am proud to call her a friend. Mona Diaz has been on the board from the beginning. She has been there in the good times and the hard times. Her experience, leadership and governing skills are matched by no one. Mr. Lewis has

served us well as a board member the past four years. Now you will have to write in "Steven Lewis" if you want to re-elect him as he missed the deadline to file, due to the fact he was out of the country working for his church.

As a founding board member myself, I am very proud of the school district we have built. The highest academically performing district in Madera County. Both of our elementary schools, our middle school and our high school have been named California Distinguished Schools. I don't want a union-run board that will fundamentally change our district into one that serves employees instead of children. And yes, my wife is one of those employees and agrees with me, at least on this point. The union sees these hard economic times as an opportunity to stack the board in their favor. I ask you to please consider this on November 2 and do not vote for the union ticket of Mrs. Crumpton, Mr. Freeman and Mr. Moseley.

I believe that if we want our district to continue to be the academic star that it is, that we must have a board that will continue to put our children first. I realize that cutbacks and tight budgets are not easy to deal with. I also know that a union-run board is not in our children's best interest. Please join me in voting for Mrs. Diaz, Mr. Grauer and writing in Mr. Lewis.

Sincerely,

Mark Huddleston  
Founding Board Member  
Madera Ranchos



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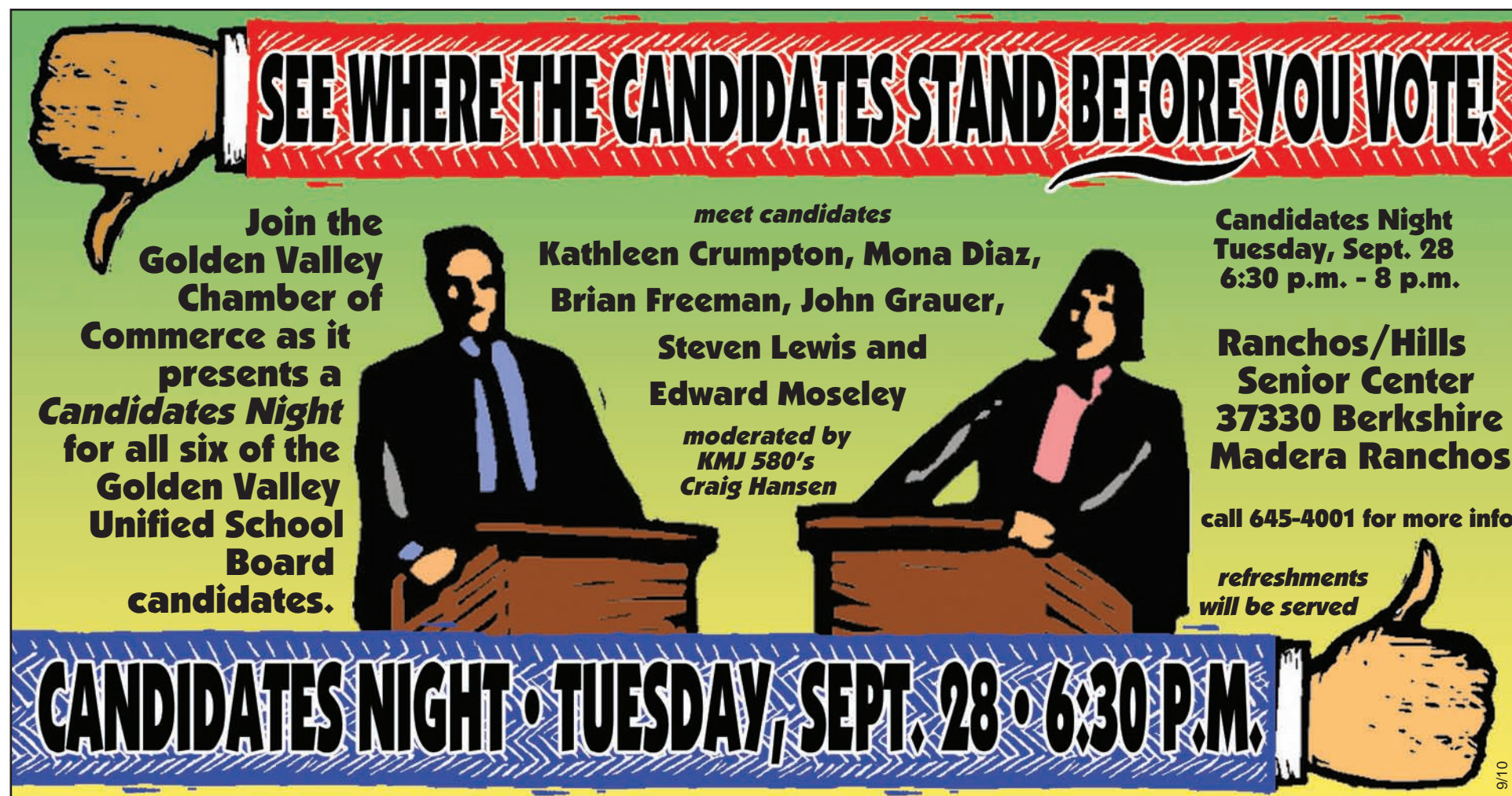
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## CANDIDATES NIGHT • TUESDAY, SEPT. 28 • 6:30 P.M.

9/10

Moseley

ity, Relay for Life and the creation of the San Joaquin River Parkway Kid's Board; a not for profit organization that helped establish wildlife preserves and trailheads along the San Joaquin River from Highway 99 to Millerton Lake. After high school I attended Merced Junior College where I was an athlete, as well as a student. I also attended the Madera Campus of Fresno Community College District. After attending the junior colleges, I transferred to California State University, Bakersfield, where I pursued my degrees, a BA and an MPA in Public Policy and Administration. After college I helped found the company Prime Films Inc. and I reside on the board still.

Education: BA - Public Policy and Administration, CSU Bakersfield

MPA - Public Policy and Administration CSU Bakersfield

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** Public concern first reached my ears in 2008. Many members of the community would ask me questions concerning budgetary matters, personnel matters and ethical issues. The members of the community who were talking with me expressed concerns of a lack of communication between their elected representatives and the constituency, a lack of accountability in all matters within the District, and a growing concern and fear over the budget and use of District money.

**2. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** I can't say that there is one single trait that makes any person uniquely qualified to represent the community, but it takes a

multitude of traits and a strong ethical code to be able to remain objective. The single greatest trait I possess is the ability to remain unbiased and listen to peoples' opinions and concerns while making an open minded decision based on the beliefs and opinions of the many. I am also able to make these decisions while retaining my core belief that all decisions must first and foremost be in the best interest of the students.

**3. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley Unified School District?** I envision a state of the art district that excels in all facets from academia to vocational education, and athletics. A District centered around its community, one that reflects the ideology, ethics and interests of the community; a District where parents want to enroll their students not solely on the fact that we are distinguished schools, but the fact that we are also a family and we will do what it takes as a community to elevate our children and ourselves to the top.

**4. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** There is a general feeling within the community that GVUSD fails to actively seek the community's opinions and involvement in the District. Since 2005 many stakeholders within the community felt that their voice has been falling on deaf ears and therefore they refrain from expressing their concerns or comments any more. This perceived failure to reach out to the community has in turn led to a distrust or disbelief in the District policies and actions.

**5. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** The duty of the School District is to facilitate the educational process of

our children; all decisions that are to be made must be made with that in mind. Ensuring and protecting the interests of students has to be put before everything.

**6. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** Extracurricular activities are extremely valuable resources and tools, these activities encourage not only student interaction and networking opportunities, but also increase community interaction and involvement as well. All activities ranging from athletics to 4H help children to build confidence, develop human interaction skills, and install a sense of community.

**7. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** Vocational education is an essential component in any society. Agriculture, machine technology, and carpentry, among others, are essential parts of everyone's life. To exclude or fail to expand these options in our children's educational choices only limits our growth as a society. The average age of farmers in the U.S. is approximately 65 years of age the replenishment of these labor sources are essential.

**8. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** I am fully capable of respecting a majority decision even if I am opposed to it; it is the duty of the board members to respect a majority decision and follow the protocol as dictated by policy.

**9. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** Students and parents are the primary stakeholders at any education facility. It is the duty of the Board to address the needs of their

student body and ensure that parents of the School District are well informed of the current events within the District. I personally believe that a District should strive to involve the parents in their student's educational experience both in the daily routines as well as their extracurricular activities.

**10. When Sacramento hands down additional budget cuts, what hard decisions are you prepared to make? What would go first and what would go last?** The unfortunate fact is that we as a state are under extreme financial strain. Our first step as elected representatives is to spread awareness within the District and the community, to bring all of the people under the same umbrella of knowledge thus limiting fear and increasing trust. If the state were to hand down additional budget cuts which are not retroactively reimbursed, we as a District must make cuts across the board ranging from top to bottom, excluding no one and no program. If these cuts are to be made we must perform them in such a way as to protect the student's educational experience. No priority in the District can come above our duty to provide an exceptional education.

**11. How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?** I hope that by the end of my term GVUSD will once again be a District driven by its stakeholders, a District that is unified by its community involvement and opinions. The School District will again be an asset that everyone in the community can take pride in for not only its outstanding academics, but for its versatility in educational programs, and its ability to openly communicate with its stakeholders.

ANSWERS

H	O	T	E	R	E	P	G	A	R	S	R	O	R	E	A	D
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**SENIORS** cont. from P. 7

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center is located at 37330 Berkshire, Madera. The center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging. Madera County Health Department provides free personal screenings including personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. A low-cost blood test is available, nutrition health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, are offered. The health screening is for adults ages 50 and above. If interested, please call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

The Center provides a nutritionally balance lunch program that is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a suggested price for 60 and above of \$1.75. Reservations are required a day in advance so contact the Center at 645-4864. The Center has a monthly calendar of events and activities and copies are available for each member at the Center so stop by and pick up your copy. They are also available at the Ranchos Market and at Hurst Hardware. Come and join us.

**Weekly Events**

Monday through Friday lunch at

11:30 a.m.

Exercise Class, Monday, Wednesdays and Friday at 10 a.m.

Tuesday: Pinochle at noon.

Thursday: Social 5:30 p.m.

Friday: Card Game 12:30 p.m.

The events that were enjoyed in September included the planning for crafts for the holidays, the birthdays and anniversaries, lunch at the Phoenician Gardens and the opening of the concession stand at Liberty High School, which the seniors assisted. Upcoming on September 25 is the Kiwanis Garden Tour and School Board Candidates Night at the Center on September 28 at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**October Events**

October 2: Monthly Sale - Plants, boutique, produce, bake goods, Treasure House.

October 10: Holiday - Columbus Day Closed, but the meeting is as scheduled.

October 11: Planning and "2 cents input," Planning Christmas Boutique, baked goodies and house tour and tea.

October 16: Birthdays and anniversaries at Copper River Ranch at 11500 N. Friant Rd., Fresno.

The seniors take their European trip October 4 through 17.



**"Come and You Will See"**

- Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30am
- Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon
- Youth Group: After Church on Sundays

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## Clarifying Misperceptions from a Very Tough Year of Tough Decisions



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

*By Sarah Koligian*

I was recently asked at one of our Board meetings to clarify some of the decisions that had been made regarding staffing and budget reductions that Golden Valley has experienced over the last couple of years. Even though over 20 public meetings were held last year to share the state of the district's budget with staff, parents, and community there are still misperceptions that are shared in public that are neither factual nor true. I want to take this opportunity to share and clarify these facts. In addition to community meetings, Mr. Monreal, Chief Business Official, has shared budget updates over the course of the last 18 months at each Board meeting. The presentations from the Board meetings have been posted on the district website and are accessible to the public. As superintendent, my door is always open to meet with community members to clarify any of this information in person. I may be reached at 645-7500.

In planning for the 2010-2011 school year, the district had to reduce expenditures by \$1.8 million dollars due to the state's budget deficit of approximately \$1600 per student. If the state fully funded the revenue limit, Golden Valley would receive approximately \$7200 per student. With the state's imposed deficit, Golden Valley received about \$5600 per student. Three years ago the district's total revenue was approximately \$17 million dollars; today it is just over \$14 mil-

lion, due to the state's deficit to the revenue limit. Imagine what we could fund if we were fully funded and received our total revenue limit?

Approximately 83 percent of the district's expenses are in personnel and most of the district's personnel are assigned to the classrooms. In order to achieve enough savings to meet the fiscal challenges, staffing was closely analyzed and reductions were made to administration (district and site), teachers and support staff. These decisions were both painful and difficult to make. The result of these decisions, per the recent budget update of the 2010 Unaudited Actuals Budget (September 13, 2010 Board meeting) indicates that the district's reserves have increased from 9 to 14 percent as a result of the difficult decisions and sacrifices that were made this past year. This reserve will help offset future reductions and deficits that are still forthcoming from the state. The state has still not adopted a budget for 2010-2011, although school districts are mandated to adopt a budget as of June 30th 2010 for the current year and the following two years.

- What were the reductions that were actually made? Reductions that were made affected administrators, teachers and classified staff that totaled approximately \$1.2 million dollars (Estimates from June 30th 2010 Adopted Budget - Administration = \$378,000; Certificated = \$700,000 (savings partially due to 6 retiring teachers); Classified = \$200,000)

- District administrative reductions

1. The Manager of Facilities position was eliminated and the job responsibilities of that position have been assumed by Chief Business Official, Mr. Monreal, in addition to the job responsibilities for managing the finances of the district.

2. The Administrator of Special Education position was eliminated and the job responsibilities of this position have been assumed by Assistant Superintendent of Education, Mr. Andy Alvarado, in addition to the oversight of Educational Services including standards, curriculum, assessment, state and federal categorical programs, library services, and instructional technology.

3. The district did not fill the Director of Human Resources three years ago. This year Superintendent Koligian has assumed

these responsibilities and those of Health Services in addition to the oversight and supervision of the district. (for job descriptions for CBO, Manager of Facilities, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Administrator of Special Education, Director of Human Resources, and Superintendent, please refer to the GVUSD website [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us))

- Site administrative reductions - One principal position was eliminated and the responsibilities have been distributed as follows:

1. Principal Tefft is assigned to both elementary schools – Sierra View (40 percent and Webster (60 percent). There are also Vice-Principals assigned to both elementary schools – Vice Principal Imperatrice is assigned to Sierra View full time and Vice Principal Black, is assigned to Webster at 60 percent and 40 percent is assigned to Ranchos Middle School

2. Principal Hatch is assigned to Ranchos Middle School

3. Principal Mann is assigned to Liberty High School

4. Principal Fisher is assigned as Director of the five Educational Options programs and Special Education

In 2009, there were new faces in some of the site administrative positions, but the positions themselves existed prior to them filling the positions. In 2009, Liberty High School hired a new principal, Ms. Mann, who was the former Learning Director at Liberty. When she became principal, her former position was replaced with the former Guidance Learning Counselor, Mr. Piedra. The GLS position was replaced with one of our own teacher leaders, Mr. Imperatrice. Also in 2009, the former full time vice principal at Webster resigned to take a position in Clovis.

The position was filled with another one of our own teacher leaders, Mr. Black. The responsibilities for this position were reassigned to provide support at two sites; 60 percent Webster and 40 percent at Ranchos Middle School. Prior to 2009, RMS did not have a vice principal. When RMS moved to the larger new site, the need for additional supervision was a concern which is the reason for assigning 40 percent of this administrator's time to RMS. There have been replacements but no new administrative positions have been

created.

- Certificated staff reductions

1. The district eliminated one psychologist position and four teaching positions. There were six teacher retirees this past June which in effect minimized the number of teachers who were in jeopardy of layoffs.

- Classified staff reductions

1. The district eliminated 2.5 custodial positions. Modifications were made to the non-drive time of the bus drivers. They now assist with custodial duties during their non-drive time in the middle of the day. In the past, the drivers assisted in the cafeteria during the middle of the day. The district hired four new cafeteria assistants out of the cafeteria funds to fill this need.

- Reduction in compensation – all employees agreed to furlough three days for 2010-2011.

- Reduction in supplies and materials – the district reduced expenditures for supplies from \$800,000 to \$500,000, which range from classroom to custodial supplies. The district provided the same supply budgets to sites this year as they had last year.

- Reduction in service costs - the district continues to negotiate with vendors to seek the best prices for services creating more efficiency in district operations.

- Class sizes in grades K-3 are higher than last year due to less compensation from the state to support the 1:20 Class Size Reduction Program. The district has increased the class sizes in grades K-1 to 25 students to 1 teacher; and grades 2-3 to 30 students to 1 teacher; grades 4-6 are still staffed at 34 students to 1 teacher, and grades 7-12 at 36 students to 1 teacher.

Despite the fiscal challenges that Golden Valley has faced over the past two years, we are STILL the highest performing district in Madera County (District API = 822 according to the state Academic Performance Index) and all schools are California Distinguished Schools. Thank you to our Board of Trustees, staff, parents, and community for your continued support and patience as we deal with one of the most fiscally challenging times in public education. We are confident that with continued support, dedication and cooperation we will weather this storm together, continue to provide a high quality education for our students, and continue to "grow our district of excellence."

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Jim and Cathe Hutchison are proud to announce the October 9 marriage of their son, Mark Hutchison, to Monica Garcia, daughter of Lucio and Celia Garcia of Fresno. After the wedding the couple will reside in Fresno.

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by Linda Thistle



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**Mission Statement**

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.

for difficult cuts to be accepted.

**10. How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?** At the end of my term, families will have been properly represented and listened to. It is important for families to know their voice is heard. It is my intention, to make that happen. I also expect that during my term as a board member, when the community comes before the board, no matter how upset they are, they will be talked to in a cordial manner and be thanked for their input no matter how offended a board member may feel by the comments. All letters written to the board by this community will be acknowledged. I intend to make every voice, no matter how big or small, important.

## DIAZ

University, Fresno where my time is volunteered.

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** What motivates me? Students! The students motivate me to want to continue to be a board member. Students are the reason that we created Golden Valley Unified. We envisioned an opportunity to educate the students in our community rather than sending them to other communities. Building on the values of the Madera Ranchos and maintaining education through 12th grade is a critical aspect of a student's development in life and something I believe in firmly.

**3. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** For those who do not know, Golden Valley was founded in 1999 after there was a need identified by the community for our own high school and district. I am proud to be one of the founding board members. I have been on a steep learning curve that has not slowed down since the conception of Golden Valley. I have not forgotten why we became our own District and when elected I will always work hard to see that the students and community's input is always at the forefront of every decision. For the last 11 years as a board member my time has been dedicated to building my knowledge of the school system, building networks with other school district's administrations and continuously learning how to better our district. I have completed a Certificate of Masters in Governance, attended workshops about all aspects of a school district, actively participated in the Small School District Association, and the Rural Summit for Small School Districts. Every learning experience that I have chosen to be active in was for the sole purpose of building a better district in the Madera Ranchos and a better educational experience for our students.

**4. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley Unified School District?** My vision for our community is to come together with the District to create a road map. This road map will be a true map of GVUSD'S future with timelines that will help direct Golden Valley Unified to what we the community and students want in place for the next five to 10 years. Such as student achievement, safety, a swimming facility, vocational classes and all that the community wants to see implemented in Golden Valley. It is important that we, the community, see that in this timeline things are implemented and always updated as the years go by. This road map will be posted in the District Office, Library, Chamber of Commerce, the Seniors Center, school sites and wherever else the public wants it posted. People will always come and go in Golden Valley Unified and the new people coming in will need this map to direct them as to what our vision is. Our community, along with the District, will create a road map to better enable the direction of our school district that will never be put aside and forgotten as we grow and changes are made in the future.

**5. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** Since GVUSD became a District we have had many challenges and many achievements. The number one challenge is communication: we must find ways to improve the way we communicate in GVUSD among the administration, faculty, staff, students and community. Rumors can and have grown to be very destructive in our community. I want a committee of students, parents, guardians, staff, business owners, Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, Senior's Center and anyone else interested to come together and tell us what we can all do to improve communication. This committee is not for one school year it is for all future years to come.

**6. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** I have always based my decisions on what is best for kids. Even if it goes against recommendations from our Administration. Often times a decision must be thought through very well and looked at from all angles to determine what exactly the best is for our kids. My belief is that there is always a way, but it takes some thinking through the situation to find that way.

**7. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** Extracurricular activities are of tremendous value to students. As students get involved in their school or their community it gives them a new way to try activities and meet new people, expanding their network. It builds social skills like the ability to get along with others. Extracurricular activities are critical to the develop-

ment of work habits, both in and outside of the classroom. Students involved in these activities tend meet supporting friends and others with common interests. These activities are very helpful when putting together a college application and applying for jobs.

**8. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** Vocational training is extremely valuable to students that do not wish to go straight on to college. There will always be a need for mechanics, hair stylists, firemen, police, real estate agents, photographers, truck drivers, plumbers, construction workers, fashion designers and so much more. Many of these students will become business owners and hire employees because we will always be in need of services. Graduates of a trade or vocational school have an advantage over one who has not attended. They hold a certificate that shows they completed "hands on" training on a specific skill. I received my Cosmetology license three months after I graduated from high school. I went to Cosmetology classes on Saturdays during my senior year. I was one of those students who wanted to get into the work world right away. In today's world careers may change many times for people before they find what they truly love to do. With our current economy GVUSD must be creative and flexible to the needs of our students for their vocational choices. You saw the short list above and there are many different fields for students to go into. I want to look into partnering with different vocational trade schools and businesses and then see how we can accommodate all the students who are interested in the fields of their choice. We must continue to stretch the dollars and provide all the tools we can for our students.

**9. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** When I am out voted, and I have been, I will support the decision. If I feel we need to bring it back in the future with further research and discussion I will do that too. It is important that the focus remains on the students when determining which decision to go with. The decision of the board has to be fair to the students and at the same time beneficial.

**10. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** Students and Parents have always played a very important role; they have come to me with issues and as an individual I will listen with confidentiality and pass on the information to the Administration to see things are corrected and many times I have requested that students and parents come to the board meeting with their concerns or ideas. That is how Liberty added Calculus several years

back. The parent first came to me personally and also showed up to the board meetings, but students also were there and the board as a whole directed that staff to look into implementing Calculus and we added it to the curriculum. I advised a board member to do the same with Agriculture and you can see that we have come a long ways with this program. My philosophy is that there is always room for discussion and improvement on all programs we add or currently have. I have listened to many different issues from parents and students and even staff. Without hearing from them how can we correct or improve the environment at GVUSD? I care about all students and want to see that all of them succeed. To those who have come to me I have been your voice and I will continue to do so. The parents often know their children's abilities better than anyone.

## Freeman

tive for years in school issues. I understand the time and dedication it takes to serve as a board member. I have no special interest connections and can serve all of the students and community with integrity and unbiased commitment.

**3. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley Unified School District?** I see GVUSD as a district that can reflect the unique personality of our community and offer a superior level of educational opportunities and programs

**4. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** I don't feel the voice of the community and the resources they have to offer are taken as seriously as they should be.

**5. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** Decisions should be made based on what is best for the students of this district within the confines of the State Educational Code.

**6. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** Extracurricular activities are valuable and help students explore their interests. They often involve parents and students together as a team that can build character and keep kids interested in school and in their education.

**7. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** I believe vocational programs are important. Not all of the students will be attending universities and vocational programs help them discover their interests and strengths in order to prepare them for real life after high school.

**9. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** Yes, although board members think as individuals, the outcome

Continued on P. 22

Click on "Local News" at

# School Board Election: Important, Eventful and Almost Here

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I was honored with four other Ranchos Hills Seniors to work the first time the new Liberty High Snack Bar was used when the first 2010 Liberty High football game was played. I am happy to report that both the Junior Varsity game and the Varsity game were both won by our Liberty Hawks football players. As I worked putting pizza on plates and handing hamburgers and hotdogs to the window order

takers, I thought about when Liberty High was just a dream in this community. We have come a long way and I am so proud to be a part of it all.

The November 2 election is right around the corner. It is the most important election that will affect all of us is in Golden Valley Unified School District. It is the election of three school board members. Mona Diaz is running again. She is at the end of another four-year term. She is the only member that has been on the school board since Golden Valley Unified

broke away from Madera Unified. Mona has the history, stability and passion to lead Golden Valley for the next four years. Mona was elected to serve as the president of the Madera County School Board Association six years ago and is currently president of all the school boards in Madera County

Steven Lewis also is an incumbent candidate. He will be a write-in candidate because he and his family were building a church in Mexico so he missed the deadline to get his name on the ballot with the Madera County elections office. When he got back he went to the election office and paid his fees so that he could be a write in candidate. Steven has been a school board member since 2006. I have watched him grow as he learned how a school board operates. Steven and his wife Lori have four children attending Golden Valley Unified Schools. Steven and his family live in the Sierra View school area.

Kathleen Crumpton stopped by my house and we had a nice talk. I am glad

that she is getting acquainted with the people that live in our school district. Kathleen is running for the first time as a candidate for Golden Valley School Board. Kathleen has eight children who are attending Golden Valley Schools. Kathleen and her family moved to the Ranchos just a few years ago and is still learning how this community has worked together to make our schools the best in Madera County. Kathleen got involved as a candidate because she was upset when Principal Shane Pinkard left the Ranchos Middle School.

I had a nice conversation with candidate John Grauer. John moved to the Ranchos after he retired as a building contractor in San Luis Obispo. John is a very positive person and thinks that his experience in building could help the school board.

I was introduced to candidate Brian Freeman by school board member Mark Toole. I really didn't have a chance to interview Brian. I know Brian's wife, Rose Freeman, who

works as a secretary at the Golden Valley Educational Options office. Brian might have conflict of interest with some of the votes that the school board has to make since his wife is an employee of Golden Valley School District.

I have not had a chance to talk to candidate Edward Moseley. I have met John Moseley, Edward's father. Edward Moseley's father is the union representative for the CSEA Union (California School Employees Association) employees of Golden Valley Unified. In my way of thinking this would be a conflict of interest if John Moseley was elected to the Golden Valley School board.

We will all get to meet the six candidates that are running for the three seats on the Golden Valley School Board at Candidates Night on

Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. The RHS Center is located at 37330 Berkshire Drive behind Pete's Drive-in. The Candidate Night will be put on by the Golden Valley

*The November 2 election is right around the corner. It is the most important election that will affect all of us is in Golden Valley Unified School District. It is the election of three school board members.*

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### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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	-		x		21
-		+		÷	
	x		+		9
x		x		+	
	x		-		15
24		18		16	

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of any vote is the final decision of the board as a whole.

**10. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** Students and parents are the reason GVUSD exists. Our schools and district should reflect the values and priorities of our community. We should be listening to students and parents and shaping the best educational opportunity we can offer to meet their needs.

**11. When Sacramento hands down additional budget cuts, what hard decisions are you prepared to make? What would go first and what would go last?** Classrooms and services have been cut deeply already. The budget is going to get worse and cuts are going to have to start from the top down. The worst thing that we could do at this point is make any more cuts at the classroom level.

**12. How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?** At the end of my term I would hope that the community has a sense of involvement in our schools and that through these challenging budget times we have preserved and protected the high quality of our programs and classrooms.

## GRAUER

From 1994 to 2009 I worked for Cox Enterprises as a District Manager overseeing four operations; superintendent for the County of San Luis Obispo and have been involved in building jails, city hall, court buildings, libraries and government centers.

**3. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley Unified School District?** My vision of GVUSD is intensely on the short term due to the constantly changing state/federal budgets and the need for rapid response. No one can know or even take a good guess at what the short term future will bring, so being armed with alternative courses of action and details on how to carry out plan A, B or C will take a team effort 24/7.

**4. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** Not being a sitting board member my knowledge of the inside little items that need tweaking is not developed. Ask me in three months if I get elected.

**5. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** A. Money first – the school runs on money – no money, no school! B. Core education for the students. C. Activities.

**6. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** The school room makes available the educational tools that prepare a person for life. Extracurricular activities

add the qualities of cooperation, teamwork, winning and losing. A simple playground relay race induces competition and the desire to win or the anguish of defeat. Losing musters the need to train and try harder to achieve goals, just like with a good job and even choosing a mate.

**7. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** Only 40 percent of high school students go on to attend college; the other 60 percent need to begin learning the art of making a living in some sort of service (trades, sales, medical, entertainment). I like the European method of schooling, about the 9th grade each student is placed into one of two groups: college student or trade student. They go two different paths and the trade people learn as apprentices to become some of the best master carpenters, electricians and service people in the world. We as educators need to provide side by side programs for our students. I think the industrial arts programs could be run with the help of the local union apprentice programs, they may also provide tools and equipment. The professional college people would have no place to work or reside if it were not for the workers.

**9. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** In public view I would show support but in private I'd talk with my supporters and see if the issue is worth pursuing at another time.

**10. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** The school board member has no interaction with students but input and participation by the parents with the teacher and local school site is the driving source for the success of our district. The board member needs to have an open ear to the parents and not using votes of the district to set policies that can appease both groups.

**11. When Sacramento hands down additional budget cuts, what hard decisions are you prepared to make? What would go first and what would go last?** If a person would make a priority list, cutting the budget is simplified; but if one uses the eclectic method the task becomes unmanageable. First cuts would be to elective courses (study hall, library, wood shop) and the support systems that run them (closing a room, reducing a teacher, maintenance person). Second cuts would be all extracurricular activities that do not produce revenue to support the activity. The last cuts would be the admin and staff.

**12. How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?** If elected I'd like my term to be thought of as a football game and me as one of the officials. You went to the game, saw the officials enforce the rules and kept the

## LEWIS

Fresno, Sacramento, Bakersfield and Las Vegas. I managed over 40 employees and I was responsible for creating and managing a \$5 million dollar annual budget.

After 16 years working for Cox Enterprises, I took a leap of faith and joined my family in the insurance business. My family has owned and operated Central Sierra Insurance for over 30 years. I am currently licensed to insure all commercial and personal lines.

In 1988 to 1989 I attended Duncan Polytechnical Vocational Program majoring in Commercial Advertising & Printing. In 1990 to 1991 I attended Fresno City College continuing my major in Commercial Advertising and Printing.

**1. What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?** My children are my first priority and my greatest motivation. My wife and I pride ourselves in choosing to be as active as possible in our children's education and development. Running for school board is one of the greatest ways to be involved.

**2. What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?** There are three items that allow me to be uniquely qualified. First, my involvement within the community and schools makes me easily accessible. This allows me to keep my ear to the ground and to better know the wants, needs, and requirements of the community. Second, I have a wealth of experience and knowledge managing a large business similar to GVUSD. During my 16 year tenure working for Cox Enterprises, it was my responsibility to annually forecast expenses and income growth, as well as create multi-million dollar budgets. Third, as an incumbent, I have current working knowledge and understanding of the school district and the difficulties that it will face during the tough financial times ahead of us. The State of California is projecting another \$750K cut from our school district for the 2011-2012 school year. More than ever we need a person on the school board who already has excellent working knowledge of the district and can make the needed changes to keep these cuts as far away as possible from the classrooms. We need a board member who won't look at site closures as a first or second option, but who will seek out new solutions that look outside the box, keeping all our schools open and fostering a strong, united community.

**3. What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley School District?** My vision is to build on the excellence that has already been established and to challenge our students and staff to reach even higher. All our schools have won the "The Califor-

nia Distinguished School Award" making GVUSD a distinguished school district. Our District API scores are the highest in Madera County (according to State API), and our graduation rate at Liberty High School is an unprecedented 100 percent. Our athletic programs are some of the best in the Central Valley with multiple league and valley championships. I believe our future is brighter than ever. I will continue to focus on expanding course offerings, and challenging our students to reach an API score of 900 or higher.

**4. What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?** Even among the best school districts, there will always be room for changes and improvements. Community input is one of the most important ways to determine what these changes and improvements should be. Prioritizing this community input will be a challenge, as well as finding the funds to implement the ideas. I will work my hardest to do what's best for all our students, while being respectful and open to all suggestions.

The State of California has forced our hand to make very difficult cuts to our budget in administration, faculty and programs. We were grateful to preserve the reading lab program at all sites. However, reductions were made to Reading Lab staff. If the state of California did not place us in this bind, I would like to see the Reading Lab staff fully restored at each site. By law we are forced to have a 3-year balanced budget...wouldn't it be nice if the state could follow the laws they force the schools to follow?

Other suggestions for improvement would be to expand and better develop our GVUSD web site and our PAMS (Parent Account Management System) web site. PAMS is the online portal for the parents of GVUSD students where they can access attendance and grade information for their children. I would like to see a parent committee formed to find ways to improve PAMS and give more information and resources to our parents. I would also like to see more updates and photos posted onto our GVUSD web site including all our academic and athletic accomplishments.

**5. Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?** Every decision a board member makes should consider the will of the community. However, when the will of the community conflicts with doing what's best for our students, the students' needs should always come first. Making decisions requires leadership. Decisions cannot and should not be made through a polling process of what is popular at the moment. Other factors that play into a board members decision process is Board Policies, Ed Code (state law), and

labor code. I am the candidate who will consistently place the needs and safety for all our students at the highest priority.

**6. What value do you see in extracurricular activities?** Extracurricular activities have valuable effects on our students who participate. Participation in school activities such as art, music, FFA, drama, and sports can lead to improved health, improved cognitive and motor skills, higher test scores, lower drop-out rates, and higher self-esteem. These effects can be particularly important for students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

**7. What value do you see in vocational training programs?** Vocational education provides a viable and important alternative for many students. As our district considers moving forward with implementing a vocational program, it will be imperative that we make the correct choices in deciding what type of vocational training to offer. Businesses are crying out for workers with technical skills. The economy and the business community are sending messages that they need these skilled workers. For many students, hands-on learning is not only exciting but also practical and, ultimately, lucrative.

**8. If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?** Yes. Board decisions are made by the majority, not the individual board member. The time to voice opposing views is during the meeting, not after it is done. There is no faster way to lose the respect or the trust of other board members (and the community) than to speak out beyond the meeting and undermine a decision that's been made.

An effective board member will need to have a good working relationship with the other board members and the Superintendent to get agenda items approved and moving forward.

**9. What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?** Over the next four year term, I will have one child in high school, one in middle school, and two in elementary school. My family's involvement in each school will give me an added advantage in understanding the needs and expectations of our students, our parents, and of the school facilities. As a parent, I understand that my role is not only to be a member of the community, but a participating and interested member of my children's educational team. It's not just one person that teaches a child – it takes an entire community. For this reason, board members must be accessible to all students, parents and community members as we work together to best educate our students.

**10. How will the schools of the Madera Rancho s be different at the end of your term?** In the past four years, during my term on the board, the district has made vast improvements. We have a brand new, state-of-the-art middle school. Webster Elementary has been modernized and Sierra View Elementary has begun their modernization plans to be completed next summer. We will have a brand new science wing opening up this October at LHS and we will have a completed football stadium in the next few weeks. Our API scores have improved by leaps and bounds and we are now the highest performing district within all of Madera County. We have multiple athletic teams that have won league and valley championships. Madera Ranchos has much to be proud of! In my next term I will continue to build on the successes that have already been established for our school facilities and for our students. We will continue to offer more course offerings and extra curricular activities and we will see our API scores climb higher and higher.

#### Final Words

Over the last four years, GVUSD accomplishments have been absolutely amazing. Our school district is only 10 years old and we have accomplished more than many of our neighboring school districts have accomplished in centuries. I am committed to our students, parents and community to building a stronger school district. As a parent, I fully understand we have plenty of room for improvements. But the facts are very clear: GVUSD has a strong record of success. I am running because I love this district and I truly believe I can continue to help make a difference and shape our school district for the future.

Over the next few years we will continue to face budget cuts from the State of California. We need board members who will challenge the status quo but have a record of working with all our stake holders within the community to keep cuts as far from the classroom as possible. To be an effective board member they will need to have a good working relationships with the other board members to get agenda items approved and moving forward....I am this board member!

Prior to running for GVUSD Board of Trustees, I attended every meeting for one year. My decision to run was planned and well thought-out. I understood to serve my community best I would need a solid understanding of not only the daily issues a board faces, but also a better understanding of board policies and community concerns.

As stated earlier, within this next four year term I will have a child at Liberty High, one at Ranchos Middle School, and two at Sierra View Elementary. As a father, coach and community member, I have a

**PASTOR** cont. from P. 10

separate individuals and families, but a God who is concerned for all the folks, even the ones who seem to be down and out and broken. This God of which Isaiah speaks of seems to be fed up with "finger pointing" and malicious talk (Isaiah 58:9) and does not like it.

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

If this agape love of compassion, mercy, service and sacrifice for the sake of the world in the name of Jesus Christ were to become the mark of the worshipers of Christ then perhaps Isaiah 58:9 -12 could be realized: "Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I.' If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."

I know that there seems to be a lot of religious talk these days and that may be good. On the other hand, perhaps Isaiah 58 does have something for us to consider in our present day world. The action of the people of God validates the worship of the people of God. If the people of God want God to listen to their voice, then they should also take care of the people God speaks of. God is a God of community, not only a God of individuals.

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

passion to see every student succeed. To all my friends and supporters: On November 2nd, I would appreciate your write-in vote. Whether you are an absentee voter or you vote at your precinct, the ballots all look the same. Vote for me in 2 easy steps:

Step #1: Choose one of the blank lines and write-in "Steven Lewis".

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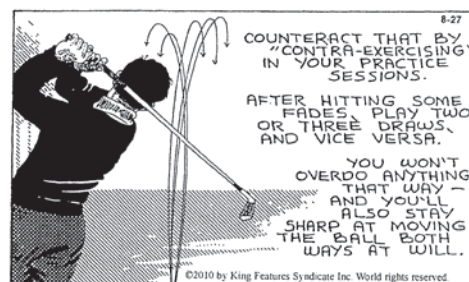
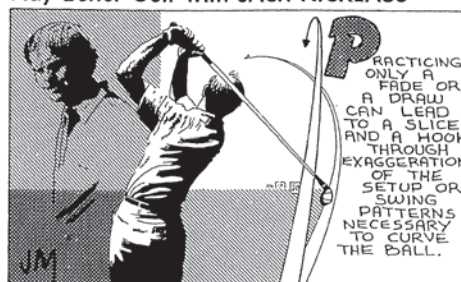
See my ad in this issue of the Ranchos Independent for an exact illustration of the (unofficial) sample ballot.

I have received the personal endorsements

from many in our community who would like to see me continue to serve: Current (outgoing) GVUSD Board President Roger Schuh, past Board Member Audrey Stock, Frank Bigelow Madera County Supervisor Area 1, and Ollia Ridge, Stephane McShane, Doug Reitz, all active member of multiple community organizations.

In closing, I would ask that you take the time to get to know me better and ask questions via my email at [SLewis7000@gmail.com](mailto:SLewis7000@gmail.com). You can also find me easily accessible at many of the soccer and softball practices and games within the Ranchos.

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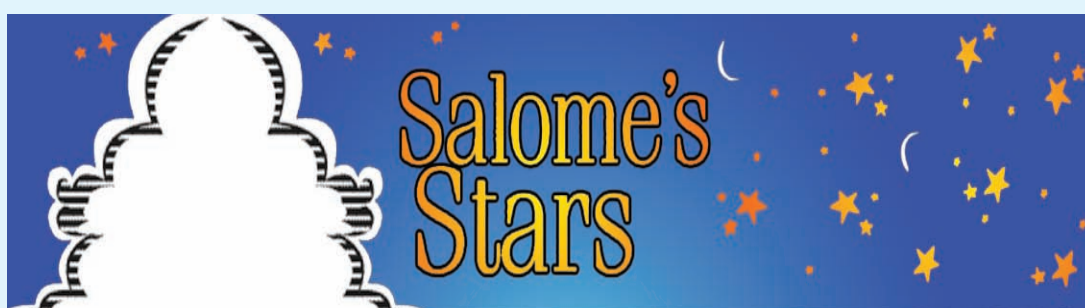
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Personal matters claim a good deal of the Lamb's time in the early part of the week. But by midweek, pragmatic considerations (work, school, job-seeking, etc.) begin to take priority.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The seasonal shift ignites the Bovine's creative aspects. You could do well if you try to combine your penchant for innovation with the more pragmatic demands of the week.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Ideas come easily to you this week. And never mind that some might suggest they're unworkable and/or impractical. It's your vision that counts. Work them out and see what turns up.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Personal matters continue to dominate the early part of the week. By midweek, more workaday issues once again begin to emerge. Balance your time to give both the attention they need.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A new contact could provide an expanded opportunity. But be sure you get all the facts before you consider signing on. Ask questions, and be wary if you don't get the right answers.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected development could cause some supposedly resolved disagreements to reignite. Deal with the situation before it leads to some really serious problems.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A clash of work-linked viewpoints needs to be discussed openly, honestly and calmly by all concerned before it can impede progress on an ongoing project.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) The Scorpion's pragmatic side helps you accept the possibility that a change of plans might be the wise thing to do. Be sure to weigh all your considerations carefully.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Some people might not take no for an answer. Never mind. Keep your resolve if you're sure you don't want to be involved in a potentially sticky situation.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) All other facts and figures aside, it's what you learn about potential colleagues that can be most helpful in assessing any decisions you're likely to make regarding a new project.

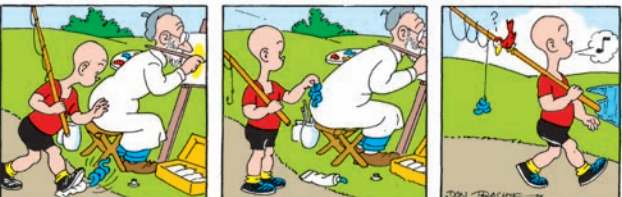
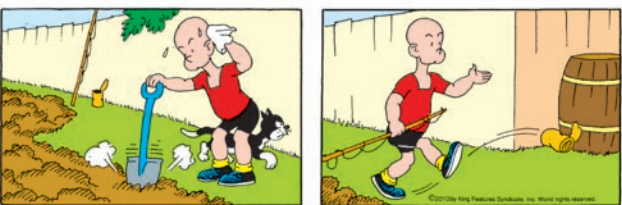
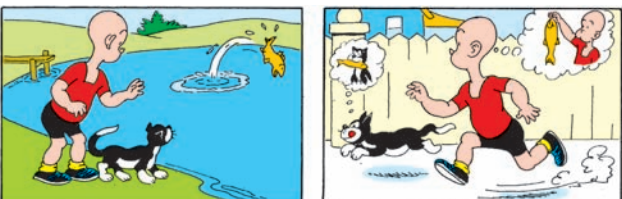
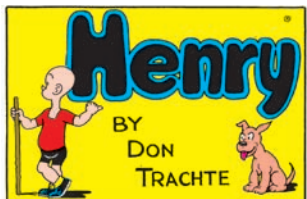
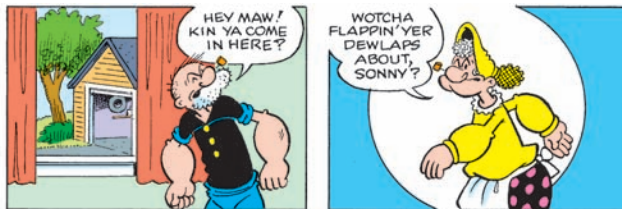
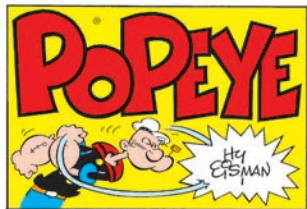
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might want to reconsider some of your outside commitments if they continue to demand more time than you can spare. Be honest with yourself when making a decision.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need your good advice regarding a matter. Be supportive. But unless you can be absolutely sure you have all the facts, be careful about any suggestions you might be asked to offer.

## Born this Week

You have a penchant for persuasion that would make you a fine candidate for a political career.

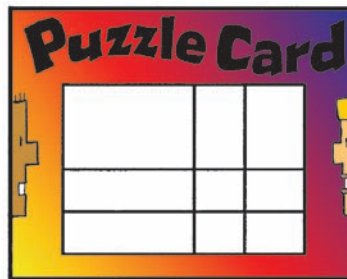
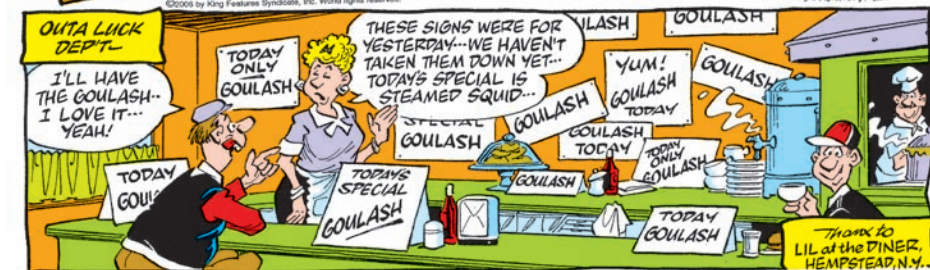
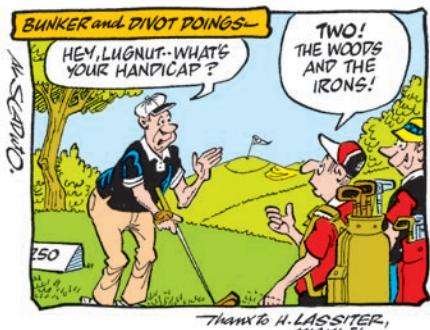
# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



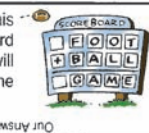
## BY AL SCADUTO



HOW MANY RECTANGLES of varying sizes can you count in the above drawing?

Answer: There are 26 rectangles in the drawing.

**SOLVE THIS ONE AND WIN THE GAME!** To solve this AlphaMath problem, replace the letters on our scoreboard with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.



**CAN YOU "RISE" TO THIS CHALLENGE?** Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

1. A supervisor.
2. An eating place.
3. Fish love it here.
4. Desperately urgent.



Answers: 1. Boss-obs, 2. Cafe-face, 3. Lake-kale, 4. Drive-ide

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## POPULAR GIRLS NAMES IN SWEDEN

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

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

- |           |          |         |          |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Alexandra | Emma     | Linnea  | Nathalie |
| Alva      | Filippa  | Lova    | Rebecka  |
| Ella      | Isabella | Maja    | Thea     |
| Elsa      | Josefin  | Miranda |          |

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend  
STUFF AROUND THE HOUSE!



Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 21 items that are common to most households. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the items you will look for.

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Bathtub | Dresser | Plants  |
| Blender | Goblets | Radio   |
| Books   | Griddle | Silver  |
| Bottles | Lamp    | Sofa    |
| Chairs  | Laundry | Stereo  |
| China   | Oven    | Storage |
| Crib    | Pillows | Table   |

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "There is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot at without result"?
2. GAMES: What five sports are included in the modern Olympic pentathlon?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of London's square-mile financial district?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many furlongs are in a mile?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eyes do bees have?
6. MOVIES: What was the first X-rated movie to win an Oscar?
7. TELEVISION: What was the name of the pet chimpanzee on "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
8. FIRSTS: What famous women's-rights leader was arrested for voting illegally in the 1872 presidential election?
9. LITERATURE: How old is Harry Potter when he discovers he's a wizard?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many colors are represented in a rainbow?

## Answers

1. Winston Churchill
2. Freestyle swimming, cross-country running, show jumping on horseback, pistol shooting and Zrze fencing
3. City of London
4. Eight
5. Five -- two compound eyes and three simple eyes
6. "Midnight Cowboy"
7. Cousin Bessie
8. Susan B. Anthony
9. 11
10. Seven

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Click on "Local News" at

# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



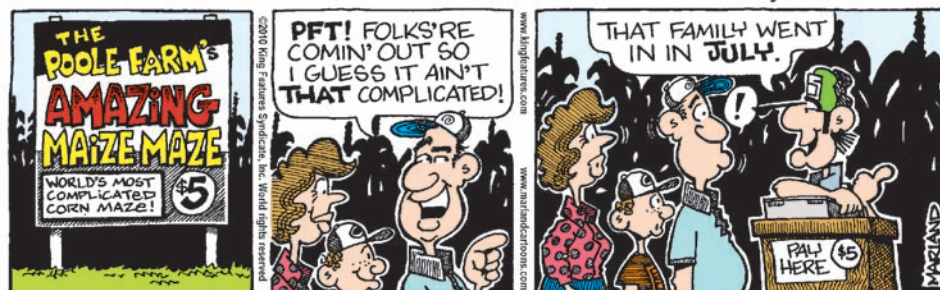
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# MAMA'S BOYZ

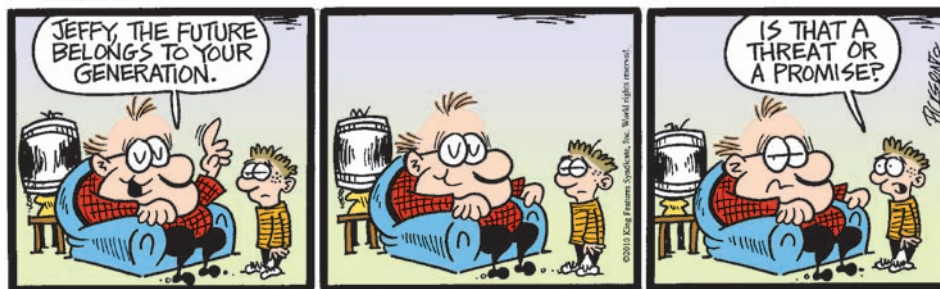
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JERRY CRAFT



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



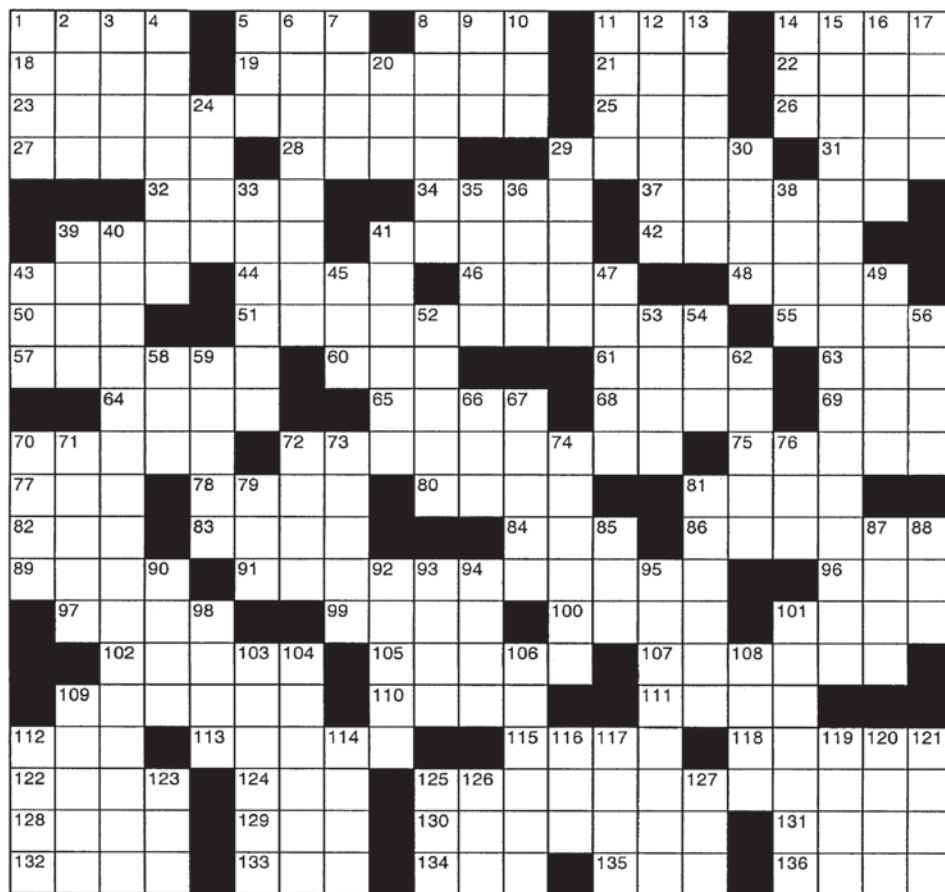
# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Blackboard writing is inverted. 2. Teacher's dress is not dotted. 3. Doorknob is missing. 4. Shoes are half black. 5. Books are missing. 6. Earring is black.

# Super Crossword



- |  |   |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Piglet's papa</p> <p>5 It's up your sleeve</p> <p>8 Waugh's "The Loved —"</p> <p>11 Vapor</p> <p>14 — check</p> <p>18 Eban of Israel</p> <p>19 Geometric figure</p> <p>21 Hibiscus garland</p> <p>22 Commedia dell'—</p> <p>23 Scott Hamilton's rival</p> <p>25 Chemical ending</p> <p>26 Obtains</p> <p>27 New Hampshire campus</p> <p>28 — ex machina</p> <p>29 Jury members</p> <p>31 "Ready! —! Go!"</p> <p>32 Ordered</p> <p>34 Gilpin of "Frasier"</p> <p>37 21st President</p> <p>39 Chews the scenery</p> <p>41 Annual award</p> <p>42 Bewitching location</p> <p>43 Dealt with a dragon</p> | <p>44 — Japan-ese War</p> <p>46 Harvest</p> <p>48 Hurler</p> <p>50 Rock's — Supply</p> <p>51 Scott Wolf series</p> <p>55 With 89 Across, "Batman" star</p> <p>57 Al of "Insomnia"</p> <p>60 Bond rating</p> <p>61 High-flying agcy.</p> <p>63 Claire or Balin</p> <p>64 Component</p> <p>65 Nab a gnat</p> <p>68 Adjusted an ascot</p> <p>69 Mil. base</p> <p>70 Show indifference</p> <p>72 Scott Baio co-star</p> <p>75 Column style</p> <p>77 Flicka's food</p> <p>78 Lohengrin's love</p> <p>80 Actress Mia</p> <p>81 Reject</p> <p>82 Periodontists' org.</p> <p>83 Wander</p> <p>84 With</p> <p>120 Down, Bowzer's group</p> <p>86 Uproar</p> <p>89 See 55 Across</p> | <p>91 Scott Glenn film</p> <p>96 Liechtenstein's cont.</p> <p>97 Command at a corner</p> <p>99 Iridescent stone</p> <p>100 Atmosphere</p> <p>101 Hotels</p> <p>102 Shortstop</p> <p>105 Vatican virtue</p> <p>107 99 and 007</p> <p>109 "The Producers" star</p> <p>110 — vera</p> <p>111 "Fantasia" frames</p> <p>112 Prohibit</p> <p>113 On — (doing great)</p> <p>115 Vittle statistics?</p> <p>118 "April Love" singer</p> <p>122 Riyadh resident</p> <p>124 By means of</p> <p>125 Scott Joplin composition</p> <p>128 Hint</p> <p>129 Sixth sense</p> <p>130 Varnish</p> <p>131 Pavlova or Paquin</p> <p>132 Table d'—</p> <p>133 Dem.'s opponent</p> <p>134 Predatory fish</p> <p>135 Theater sign</p> <p>136 "— my lips!"</p> | <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Conifer covering</p> <p>2 Bassoon relative</p> <p>3 Singer Lane</p> <p>4 Heavenly sight</p> <p>5 4 Down's shape</p> <p>6 Zimbabwe, formerly</p> <p>7 Grimace</p> <p>8 San Luis —, CA</p> <p>9 TV's "The Flying —"</p> <p>10 Slalom curve</p> <p>11 Merriment</p> <p>12 Vergil's vagabond</p> <p>13 — Leone</p> <p>14 Give in to gravity</p> <p>15 Scott Turov novel</p> <p>16 Furry fisherman</p> <p>17 Try out</p> <p>20 East Lansing coll.</p> <p>24 Tidy</p> <p>29 Damascus dish</p> <p>30 Normandy site</p> <p>33 Tyrant</p> <p>35 Spanish river</p> <p>36 Shorten a sail</p> <p>38 Olympic first lady</p> <p>39 Director Kazan</p> | <p>40 Scott Carpenter's profession</p> <p>41 "... say — do"</p> <p>43 Fool</p> <p>45 New Deal agcy.</p> <p>47 1492 vessel</p> <p>49 Hawaiian island</p> <p>52 Applauds a bore?</p> <p>53 Self-smitten</p> <p>54 Language suffix</p> <p>56 Not fem.</p> <p>58 Shiba — (Japanese dog)</p> <p>59 Neighbor of Mali</p> <p>62 "Farewell!"</p> <p>66 "I — Rock" ('66 hit)</p> <p>67 Museum piece</p> <p>70 Clarinetist</p> <p>71 Hot spot?</p> <p>72 "Comic Dictionary" author</p> <p>73 Dack of "Dallas"</p> <p>74 New Jersey city</p> <p>76 Baseball's "Master Melvin"</p> <p>79 Bud's buddy</p> <p>81 Sail with Sinbad</p> <p>85 — Simbel</p> | <p>87 Kennel features</p> <p>88 Cen. segments</p> <p>90 Stocking stuffers?</p> <p>92 Horrify</p> <p>93 Brad, for one</p> <p>94 Role for Liz</p> <p>95 Prophetic</p> <p>98 Wilson of "La Femme Nikita"</p> <p>101 To such an extent</p> <p>103 Restaurant employee</p> <p>104 Plaza Hotel kid</p> <p>106 Tone down</p> <p>108 Isle near Corsica</p> <p>109 Mrs. Phil Donahue</p> <p>112 Baroque composer</p> <p>114 Certain Finn</p> <p>116 Pipe connection</p> <p>117 "I Remember Mama" character</p> <p>119 Sarah — Jewett</p> <p>120 See 84 Across</p> <p>121 "My word!"</p> <p>123 Hum bug?</p> <p>125 Flavor enhancer: Abbr.</p> <p>126 "Gotcha!"</p> <p>127 System starter</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|

# FUN PAGES

By the Community, For the Community!  
**SEMCU's up and running ...**



**NEXT MEETING  
MONDAY, OCT. 18  
6:30 p.m.  
RANCHOS PIZZA  
FACTORY**

**... and the future is in your hands  
Now it's time to get to work**

Now that South East Madera County United (SEMCU) has been formed in the Madera Ranchos to help with pressing concerns and issues of water, transportation, noise, energy and other services provided by the County and other public agencies, we are still looking for willing hands and minds to help.

If the Ranchos is your home and you are concerned about its future, this is the organization for you. Call the number below or send an email for more information and discover just how badly you are needed.

SEMCU exists to advocate for, and act on behalf of, SEMCU members and the region by working with private granting agents and other parties to attain the above-stated purposes and to provide other services beneficial to SEMCU members and the region. If we don't get together, outside forces will take it into their own hands. Guaranteed.

# SEMCU

South East Madera County United

## 559-363-9095

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

[info@semcu.com](mailto:info@semcu.com)