

The Ranchos Independent



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MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

Volume 5 Issue 8 2009

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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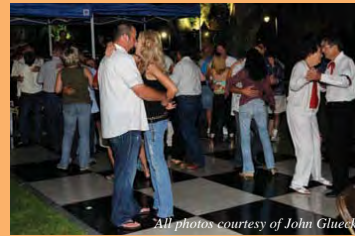
24th Annual Firefighters' BBQ Fundraiser Sizzles



The star of the evening was the great food and the great company, all working together for a great cause - Station 19 firefighters.



There were auctions all night long with donated items ranging from Budweiser go-carts to hunting rifles with the proceeds going to the firefighters



After dinner and the auctions and all the socializing was done, it was time to dance the night away and several couples did just that at Borba Ranch.

All photos courtesy of John Glueck

By Christi McKinney

Over 600 people attended the 24th Annual Fire Department BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 15, hosted by Mark and Peggy Borba at their Rancho Vista del Rio on the banks of the San Joaquin River. The annual fundraising event benefits Station 19 in the Madera Ranchos and enables the primarily volunteer fire department to raise money for much needed equipment. This year's goal was to raise funds to complete the newly constructed Community Training & Meeting Room at Station 19. Funds raised will enable them to install a TV, computers and other technology and to furnish the room. Once completed, the room will also be available for use by community groups and individuals.

The evening began with wine tasting provided by California State University, Fresno followed by a dessert sale and auction, as well as both silent and live auctions. Madera County Supervisor Ronn Dominici shared master of ceremonies duties with Monte Pistorosi and served as the evening's auctioneer.

A number of presentations were made during the evening. The Ranchos Kiwanis Club presented Hal and Mary Ann Parks, owners of the Ranchos Pizza Factory, with the annual Community Service award. Anthony LaNotte, a Volunteer firefighter for 29 years and active California Highway Patrol officer, was named Volunteer of the Year. Later in the evening Anthony's 84-year-old father, Jerry LaNotte, along with dancing partner Traci Dhindsa, won the first ever "Ranchos Dancing Stars" award. Jeri Becker and Roger Anderson placed second in the competition.

Several volunteer firefighters missed the evening's festivities because they had been dispatched to help fight fires in other parts of the state. An unexpected presentation was made during the evening when Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino presented Station 19 with a banner of the "Fireman's Prayer" to be hung in the new Community Training and Meeting room. Attendees danced into the night with music provided by the Donny Linger Band.

Staff from Station 19 responded to 625 calls for assistance in the past year

with one fulltime paid Fire Captain and approximately 25 trained volunteer responders. These men and women work full time jobs and have families, yet they wear pagers so they'll be able to respond to calls in often life or death situations

"We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support of our volunteer firefighters by sponsors, the business community and Ranchos residents," said Debbie Farr, this year's event coordinator. She said they had expected a considerably lower turnout this year than in the past because of current economic conditions but were delighted when over 600 people attended this year's event. Debbie says her phone has been ringing off the hook with people calling to complement her on the turnout and to see how they can help with next year's banner 25th Anniversary event.

Mark your calendars for Saturday night, Aug. 21, 2010. Anyone interested in donating services or items for next year's event can contact Farr at 559-801-7703.

Many more photos from the event can be viewed on Station 19's Website at www.station19.org.

Ranchos' "Water Without Borders" Travels to Israel

By Igal Treibatch

As you may already know, a core group of us from the Central Valley have been continuously working on creating water-related relationships between academia, the scientific community, the political sector and other private interests. The intent is to encourage and build relationships, exchange information and technology and ultimately work on projects of mutual interest.

The core group recently hosted an Israeli delegation from Mekorot, the National Water Company of Israel. That group included department managers of Resources, Desalination, Effluent Treatment and the overall Director of Engineering. During their visit, an invitation for a reciprocal trip was extended by the visitors. The invitation is for a large group of leaders (which may include as many as 20 people) from different disciplines which in one way or another relate to water. After discussions among an expanded core group it became evident that a fact-finding mission should take place before a larger group could maximize the benefits of such a visit. The idea behind the fact-finding visit was to identify and focus on the best that the Israeli water industry has to offer in terms of facilities, products, services and applied research.

In June, a delegation of eight from California travelled to Israel, where we were hosted by Mekorot, and treated to an extensive tour of the nation's water facilities and extensive meetings with representatives from Mekorot, a number of Universities and the private sector, including principals of over a dozen water technology companies. The delegation included Fabian Oberfeld and Igal and Kathleen Treibatch of Liberty Groves; Jose Faria of the Department of Water Resources; Dr. Karl Longley, chairman of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; Doug Haaland, senior staff member of the California State Assembly water committee; David McGlasson, civil engineer with Provast & Pritchard Consulting Group; and Isaac Faria, an independent civil engineer.

Upon our arrival in Tel Aviv, Sunday evening, we attended a welcome reception with senior Mekorot staff and other invited guests including representatives

Middle School Opens as District Celebrates 10 Years



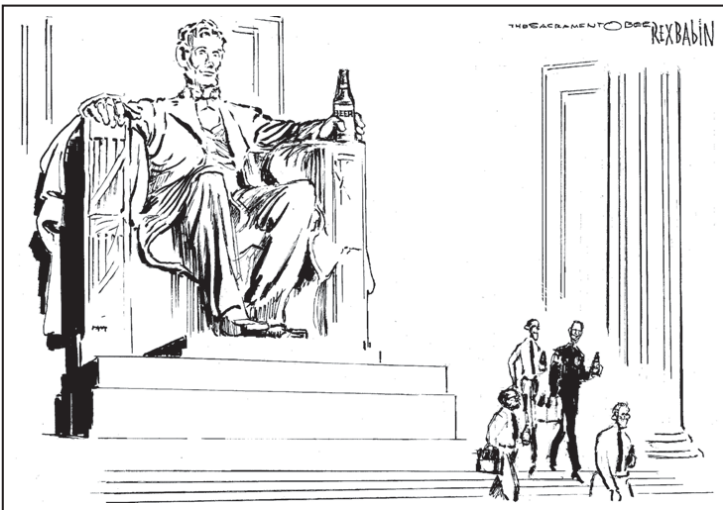
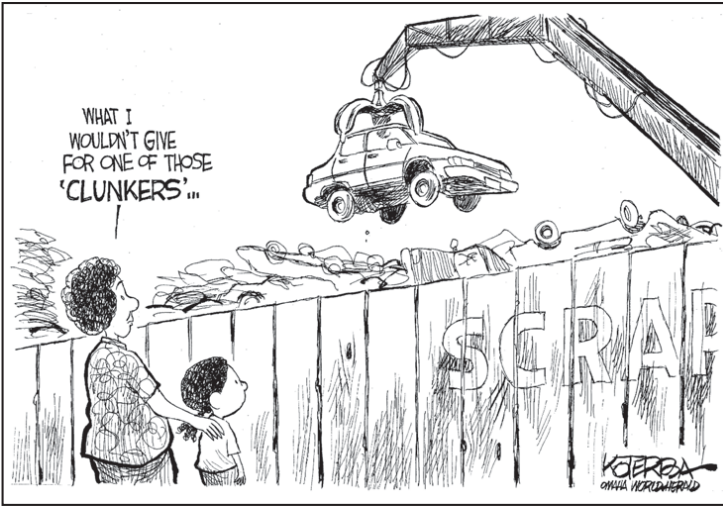
Ranchos Middle School Principal Shane Pinkard (fourth from left) and Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Sarah Koliagian (third from right) cut the ribbon for the brand new Ranchos Middle School as other school board trustees and administrators look on.



Local Dignitaries and 10 year's worth of Golden Valley Unified School District Board members celebrated the 10 Year Anniversary of the District along with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the totally new, state-of-the-art Ranchos Middle School.

Please see **WATER** on P. 6

Click on "Local News" at



Guest Editorial

Progressively Out of Control

By Peter Heck

The Democrat leadership is out of control. That's the only way to put it. Whether it's caused by panic, arrogance, shock, or a combination of those things, the utter contempt for normal American citizens that has been flowing from the lips of these liberal elitists has been downright disgusting. The bitterness was always just a matter of time given the left's fundamental misreading of the 2008 election results.

The truth was that the election of Barack Obama was much more about charisma and image than it ever was about ideology and philosophy. Suffering from Bush fatigue and without any viable alternative, a majority of Americans went to the polls mesmerized by the history-making figure that they saw in Obama...too caught up in the mantra of "hope and change" to pay any attention to those tiny details like what "change" might really

mean.

But that reality was lost on the liberal "progressives," who riding the wave of Obamamania, ecstatically proclaimed the outcome to mean that Americans were finally embracing the policy goals of the far left. And so, beginning in January of this year, we have seen a steady onslaught of the freedom-destroying

Not to be outdone, the always classy Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, demonstrated an even more direct approach by asserting that these evil protesters were carrying swastikas into meetings. What a bold new Democratic strategy for confronting concerned constituents: call them Nazis.

aims of liberal statism - an ideology that scorns the notion of individualism and personal liberty.

Every policy initiative they have introduced - whether taking over your health-care, your credit card company, your bank, your retirement, your business, what

light bulbs you use, how far you're allowed to drive - is tailored to fit their belief that they can run your life better than you can.

Thankfully, normal Americans have recoiled at this attempted revolution, and have pulled those dusty First Amendment freedoms off the shelf. In town halls and tea parties, formerly disengaged citizens have begun to remember what it means to "peaceably assemble" and use their "free speech" to "petition their government for a redress of grievances." And that has the liberals worked into a tizzy.

Now, undoubtedly the intense opposition to socializing American society that the left is facing from their constituents is an unwelcome surprise to them. But that doesn't excuse the strategy of "denigrate and destroy" being ordered from the highest levels of Obama, Inc. Far from being the great uniter who would - as he said in his inaugural address - "put an end to petty grievances," President Obama's deputy chief of staff urged Democrat Senators returning to face the American people, "if you get hit, we'll punch back twice as hard." No word yet on

Please see **EDITORIAL** on P. 9

The Ranchos Independent

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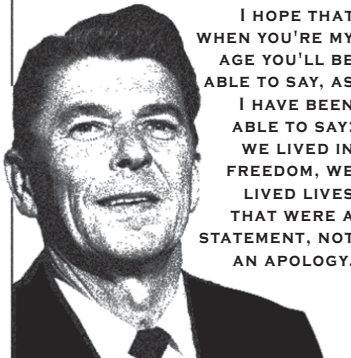
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RONALD REAGAN SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Aprons: From Adam & Eve to You

By Eleanore Burchell

Some researchers point to a Biblical reference about aprons and cite a passage in which Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. Today, as well as in the past, aprons are being used by both men and women for a variety of other tasks that tend to be messy.

The principle use of an apron, as we know it, was for grandma who wore an apron to protect the dress underneath. She only had a few dresses and aprons used less material to make and were easier to wash than dresses. Aprons fulfilled many duties such as removing hot pans from the oven. They were wonderful for drying children's tears and even at times to clean dirty ears. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. It was also surprising how much furniture could be dusted in a matter of seconds when unexpected company was seen driving up the road.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying in eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. In cold weather, grandma would wrap her apron around her arms to keep warm. Those big old aprons also wiped many a perspiring brow while she was bent over a hot woodstove. Also chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

The apron carried in all sorts of vegetables from the garden. After the peas were shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When dinner was ready, Grandma would walk out onto the porch, wave her apron and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

Types of Aprons

Cobbler—over the shoulders with side ties

Waterproof—heavy-duty black vinyl with adjustable straps

Tuxedo—V-neck twill with adjustable neck straps

Shop—black, breast pocket for pens and multiple other pockets

Waist—(waitress) apron

Bistro—longer than waist with lower pockets

Bib—with and without pockets

Chef—long, white without pockets

4-way—no pockets but folds to show four clean sides

Some aprons are embroidered, some with screen printing. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old time apron" that served so many purposes.

Next Sale

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Master Gardener will be present to help in the plant area. She is extremely knowledgeable and more than willing to help anyone. There are many of our workers there to help also. Please also remember that the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. George has been bringing in large, beautiful tomatoes by the boxful. We also have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently, there are huge onions, great tomatoes, zucchini, some corn and okra, if you come at the right time. The fresh corn on the cob and okra both sell quickly!

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

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is avail-

Please see SENIOR on P. 24

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



The old DOG needs to back down a bit and regroup.

My last report [circulated via email and calling for a recall election of ALL five Madera County Supervisors] was written in the fog of frustration and the feeling of being betrayed. After talking to a few of my readers I have come to the conclusion trying to recall five supervisors would be a mistake. With the time limits and some fancy stalling we could be stalled and frustrated until just before the election. This would burn out all involved and leave nothing for the actual election.

Three of the supervisors are up for reelection next year.

It is about timing and getting an accurate accounting of their records in front of the voters close enough to the election to have it fresh in the voters' minds as they cast their ballots.

Now is the time to begin the search for three viable candidates – four if the interim DA doesn't do his job – and hold the County accountable for violating open government laws.

Now is the time to build organizations in the three districts up for election next year.

To those who have responded to my comments by volunteering in the recall effort, I must say I am sorry to give you false hope and then turn around and tell you it was a bad idea. A sprinter doesn't run five miles to the stadium before a race.

I need to cover more points on the budget.

To "balance" the plan approved by the Board includes a \$10.7 million loan. My first problem with this idea is: We can't stall inevitable cuts by putting it on a credit card. The plan put forth at the budget hearing was to get the money from the Measure "A" road "trust" fund. What got me started in all of this three years ago was our Board illegally, as an off-agenda item without allowing public comment, transferred \$3.2 million in measure "A" dollars to Madera City to help build the Ellis street overpass in the city of Madera. I lost that case and thousands in attorney fees because, according to the judge's declaration, the statement by Rayburn Beach was submitted by the County indicating the funds had all been spent so any reversal would have been a moot issue.

Now three years later we still don't have our road projects funded.

We are told there is \$12 million in the Measure "A" "TRUST"/slush fund to loan the County, to stave off any cuts beyond essential services. Before the Board agreed to loan the money from the "TRUST" fund they checked with the Chief Accounting Officer, the Madera County Road Commissioner and County Counsel, all department heads serving at the pleasure of the Board.

We voted for Measure "A" because we were promised it would be used only on road projects in a fair and balanced way.

I am having some concerns with the Board's plan to break yet another promise and bail out departments and programs they do not wish to cut. I certainly hope I am not offending anyone by asking for an outside opinion from someone not connected to or working for the County. This is one of those times when it is good to have a strong INDEPENDENT Controller elected by the voters to research and give us an un-board-controlled opinion.

Enough of my chasing the Measure "A" rabbit.

There was a surprise plan add-in at the hearings to pay the loan off in one year.

It seems we have something called a TEETER fund. As I understand the TEETER fund it is a stash of money, in our case about \$12 million. How it works is when we pay our property taxes they

Please see D.O.G. on P. 13



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8/09

The Stock Report

Middle School Newest Ranchos Star

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

On Aug. 4, 2009 there was a combination Golden Valley Unified 10 Year Anniversary Celebration and the new Ranchos Middle School ribbon cutting ceremony held in the new middle school all-purpose room. This room was full to overflowing. The stage in this room was a perfect place for the ceremony to start. The stage was filled with the many speakers that took part in the ceremony. Golden Valley now has a comprehensive middle school of which the students, teachers, staff and community can be proud. Principal Shane Pinkard, his teachers and staff had about two weeks to move from their old home to the new school and get ready for this ceremony. Moving is never an easy job. The middle school teachers and staff had lived in the interim middle school building for four years and you can collect a lot of stuff in that length of time. I know since I was a middle school

the bottled water cold.

Superintendent Sarah Koligian opened the ceremony with many introductions. Boy Scout Troop 118 presented the American and California flags and led the flag salute. Liberty High School student, Victoria Lokey, sang the National Anthem. This got the rest of the ceremony off to a great start. Rhonda Cargill, Madera County Board of Supervisors representative for Frank Bigelow, presented a plaque to Golden Valley School Board President Roger Schuh. State Senator Dave Cogdill's field representative Shannon Major and Ken May, the field representative for State Assemblyman Mike Villines, also presented Schuh with

Sarah [Koligian] likes to quote anthropologist Margaret Mead who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Thank you Sarah when you stepped into the Golden Valley Unified Superintendent job; you continued to keep the Golden Valley dream alive.

plaques. This just goes to show that when Golden Valley Unified District opens a new school the State of California and the County of Madera want to be involved.

Madera County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Frazier, who was the first interim Golden Valley Unified Superintendent, talked

about the persistence of this community that wanted its own high school and the dedicated group that formed in 1995 who worked tirelessly to create Golden Valley Unified. She talked about how Golden Valley was born and how it became a district on July 1, 1999. She said that this community is filled with positive thinkers who achieved the impossible. She mentioned how the various school board members have worked with the community as they celebrate these first 10 years of remarkable accomplishments. Sally congratulated Golden Valley as she spoke with pride on behalf of the Madera County Committee on School District Organization and the staff of the Madera County Office of

After the program we all moved outside to watch the raising of the American flag and California flag for the first time over the school by Boy Scout Troop 118. These flags will fly proudly over the new middle school. Then came the ribbon cutting ceremony and Connie Clendenan, the CEO for Valley Teen Ranch, played God Bless America on her trumpet. After all of this people were free to roam through the various buildings on the campus. Last year's 8th grade leadership class members were stationed at all of the buildings to help people find their way around and give tours. Refreshments were provided by the district and the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. Thank you Cathy Barrow, Aimee Beintker and Mary Blair for manning the refreshments table and keeping

Please see **STOCK** on P. 23

WATER cont. from P. 2

from the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and the First Secretary of the United States Embassy to Israel. Several presentations helped familiarize us with the status of the water situation in Israel and served as a preview of some of the facilities we would visit. Like California, Israel is currently suffering through a multi-year drought that has them scrambling for new ways to stretch their already-tight water budgets to meet the increasing needs of their growing country. We learned that Israel has only about 15 percent as much water per citizen as the United States, a statistic which has a profound effect upon life and industry for the entire nation. In terms of per-household domestic use, Israel consumes only about one-quarter of an acre-foot of water per household per year. The average home in Madera County (in the Valley area) uses about one acre-foot per year, four times as much! (The average home in the City of Fresno uses a little more than one acre-foot per year, so this isn't to pick on Madera County.)

Our first full day, Monday, was spent driving to northern Israel, where we toured the main pumping station at the Sea of Galilee, or Lake Kinneret as it is more commonly known in Israel. This pumping plant is located beneath a mountain in a hardened facility, where it was built in the 1950's. This location was considered necessary as at the time the Golan Heights, which are directly across the Sea from the pumping plant, were part of Syria and were considered to be enemy lands. Standing on the ground beside the Sea, it is easy to imagine how a rocket fired from the Golan Heights could have been devastating to Israel's water supply and the prudence of the pumping station's designers is clear.

Later in the day we travelled west from Galilee, up into the central mountains, and arrived at the Central Filtration Plant at Eshkol. This plant treats the water pumped from the Sea of Galilee up to the standard for domestic use and discharges it to the National Water Carrier (the NWC), a 108-inch pipeline that runs to south-central Israel as far as Ashkelon. The NWC supplies drinking water to a majority of the Israeli people and also supplies a significant quantity of high-quality irrigation water for agriculture.

As Israel grows, the NWC is being extended with branches to the east and west and is being used to distribute desalinated water from the major treatment plants along the Mediterranean Sea to the inland areas. That evening we enjoyed presentations by representatives from the

Israeli academic community, including Yoram Oren of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at Ben Gurion University and Avner Adin of the Department of Soil and Water Sciences at Hebrew University in Tel Aviv. Dr. Longley also presented the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's role to our hosts.

Tuesday, we journeyed to downtown Tel Aviv to learn about the Yarkon River, which was of particular interest for us who live near the San Joaquin River. The Yarkon River had been completely dried up by agricultural diversions upstream, and had been left as nothing more than a high-flow flood channel. Sounds pretty familiar, doesn't it? But much as is now being attempted on the San Joaquin, Israel implemented a restoration project about 15 years ago. The Yarkon now runs year-round, filled with treated wastewater effluent. The channel through Tel Aviv has been restored as well, with complex riparian habitat, walking trails and passive recreational amenities like benches and interpretive signage. But reuse of treated wastewater in such a constructive way was not enough for Mekorot. The project also includes a pumping station near the Mediterranean Sea which lifts the river flow back upstream, east of Tel Aviv, and delivers the water to local farmers so that it can be used again, this time for irrigation. Such a system might be an inspiration to those concerned about losing San Joaquin River water to the ocean. Mekorot has proven it possible to support both fish flows and crop irrigation at the same time. These issues do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Wednesday, we found ourselves in the Negev desert, having flown the previous afternoon from Tel Aviv to the resort city of Eilat, on the Red Sea. Standing there on the beach one can see Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt just by turning from left to right. The geographic significance of Israel is unmistakable. The waters of the Red Sea are clear and very warm, as the average summer temperature in Eilat is near 110 degrees. Even hotter and more arid than our own Valley, the average annual precipitation in and around Eilat is just less than 1 inch! The NWC ends at Ashkelon, about 175 miles to the north, and there is no drinkable groundwater in the desert region so all drinking water in Eilat comes from the desalination plant operated by Mekorot. Originally this plant treated brackish groundwater for domestic use, but as demand has grown an additional

Please see **WATER** on P. 23


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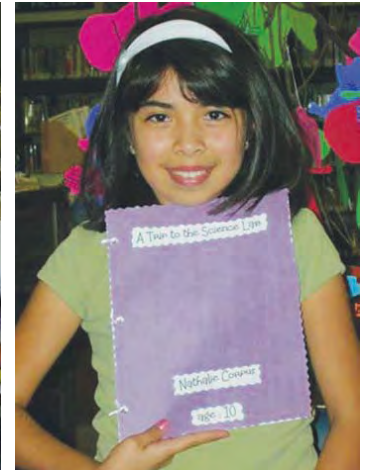
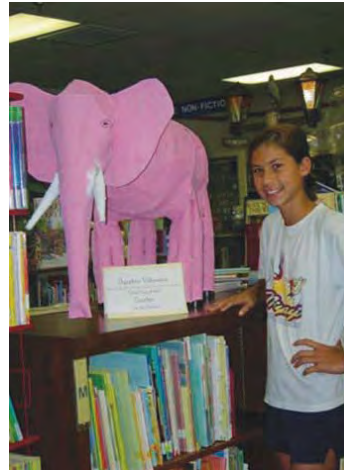
Get Away to Alaska

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

- 1) Feb. or March 2010 Reno Amtrak Snow/Fun Train for 3 days/2 nights. Ages 21 and over.
- 2) June/ July 2010 10 day Alaska Cruise on Princess Cruise Line round trip from SF. All Ages (special programs on board for children of all ages).

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

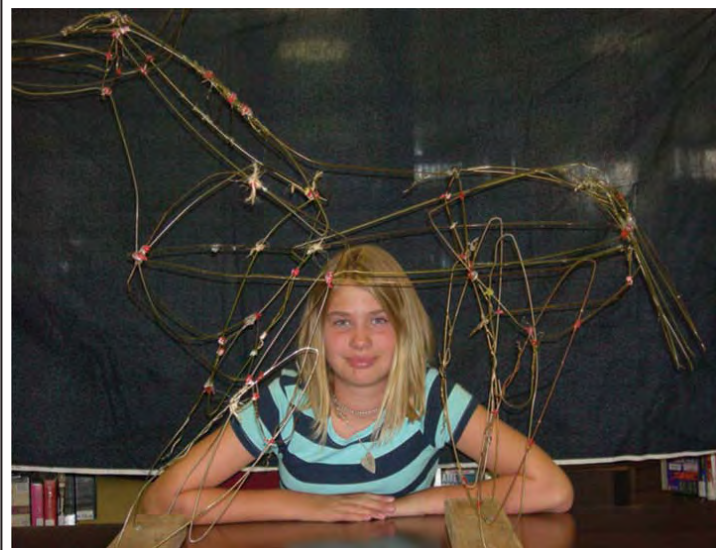
Creativity Oozes from Library



As part of the *Be Creative @ Your Library* theme for the Summer Reading Program, 11 young creative residents selected from 25 bags of “stuff” put together by the staff to take home and create a work of art. There were rules to follow such as no other material could be added with the exception of glue, string, tape, staples or any other binding material. Color could be applied and a base in which the artwork could stand or be supported.

The judges awarded points based on five criteria. The highest scoring projects were done by Augustina Villanueva with her “Elli the Elephant” made from toilet paper rolls and Katie Bennett with her “La Horse,” created from coat hangers.

We also had a writing contest in which the author had to show creative skill and imagination in writing an original fiction or non-fiction story. Nathalie Corpus received the highest points for her story entitled, “A Trip to the Science Lab.”



Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

Summer Reading Program Winds Down, Ranchos Children Benefit

By Ellen Mester

It has been a wonderful summer at the library, with a record number of children participating in the Summer Reading Program and attending the weekly events. Once again on behalf of myself and the library staff, I want to thank the Friends of the Ranchos Library, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Ranchos Kiwanis, and private donors for their continued support of this valuable program.

All the art and writing projects have been turned in for The Be Creative @ Your Library Summer Reading Program. The kids have done an outstanding job creating art from a bag of "stuff." Please stop by the library and take a look at the creativity and imagination that is on display by our local young artists. It is incredible! Augustina Villanueva's "Elli the Elephant" made from toilet paper rolls and Katie Bennett's "La Horse" made from coat hangers ranked the highest by the panel of judges. All the artwork is so wonderful that it made the judging difficult. The writing contest winner was Nathalie Corpus for her excellent story entitled "A Trip to the Science Lab." Congratulations to all the participants for being creative at your library.

Future Programs

We received several calls from people interested in forming a knitting group. In order to accommodate those who work during the day we selected a time in the evening to get together at the library. The first gathering of knitters will be on Monday, Sept. 14 from 5 until 7 p.m. and every Monday afterwards with the exception of holidays. Everyone interested in knitting is welcome. It is an opportunity to share knowledge and knitting patterns.

Fundraising Programs

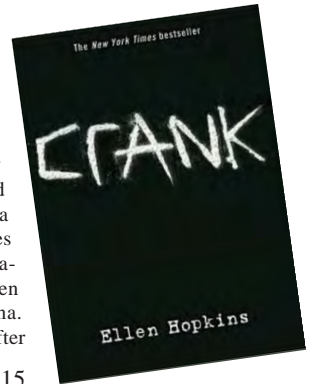
We currently have two programs that everyone can be involved in to help generate funds for the new library. The recycling program is a great way to recycle paper, plastic and cans which help the environment, create jobs and contribute toward a worthy cause. Drop off your recycling at the library on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Dianna from Recycle 4 Kids picks up the recycling the next day. The other way you can help is to pick up a S.H.A.R.E.S. card at the library. It is free! When you use a library S.H.A.R.E.S. card at Save Mart or Food Max, 3 percent of your purchase total goes to our new library account. This is a very direct method of building capital. If the Ranchos community participates in either or both of these programs, we will be on our way toward building our share of the local support that we will need to make this dream of a new library come true.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See. Pearl Chin and her younger sister May are lovely, modern and carefree young women in 1937 Shanghai, China, considered to be the Paris of Asia. Defying tradition, the girls model for artists, generating income for the family while their father gambles away his fortune from his profitable rickshaw business. In order to pay off his debts, the father sells his daughters as wives to two men who arrived from California looking for Chinese brides. Just as the Japanese attack China and WWII begins, the sisters must travel overland to find a way to reach California and their new life. The path is treacherous but strengthens them for what lies ahead in America — living with strangers, facing discrimination, hardships and a Chinese traditionalism that they had always defied. This novel takes a good look at many issues, especially focusing on the plight of the Chinese during a time when the emphasis often is on the Japanese.



Young Adult Fiction: *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. Kristina Georgia Snow is known as a good student, quiet, polite and just starting her junior year in high school. What isn't known about her is her alter ego, Bree, who takes chances, flirts with disaster and ends up being controlled by THE MONSTER. While staying with her divorced alcoholic father over summer break, Kristina meets Adam, her dad's neighbor, who introduces her to crank, otherwise known as methamphetamine, crystal, ice or THE MONSTER. This is when Bree really begins to establish her hold on Kristina. Bree continually makes dangerous choices even after



Please see **LIBRARY** on P. 15

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EDITORIAL cont. from P. 3

whether the Senators burst into a spontaneous chant of "yes, we can!"

If President Obama was truly concerned with "putting an end to the politics of the past" as he has told us numerous times, he would take this opportunity to do so. He would go on national television, withdraw all current healthcare proposals and say, "Let's take this slow, let's listen to the people, and let's get this right." Instead, he has allowed the AFL-CIO President to call for union thugs to intimidate any town hall dissidents, approved a DNC attack ad that calls concerned citizens "extremist mobs," and set up a White House website to accumulate names of those spreading "disinformation" about Obamacare. So much for the inauguration day pledge of choosing "unity of purpose over conflict and discord."

Not to be outdone, the always classy Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, demonstrated an even more direct approach by asserting that these evil protesters were carrying swastikas into meetings. What a bold new Democratic strategy for confronting concerned constituents: call them Nazis.

As it turns out, the swastika appeared on a homemade sign with a

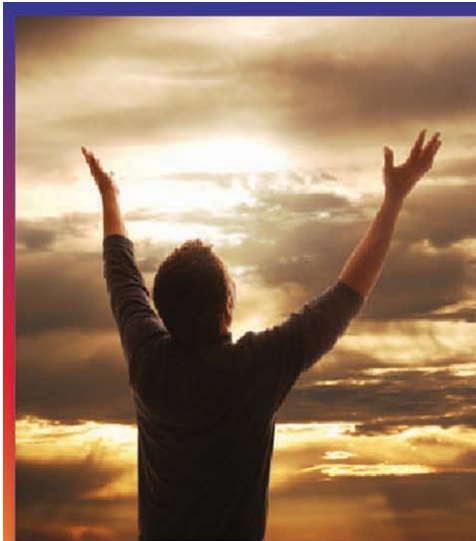
giant "NO" line going through it. Mrs. Pelosi, with all due respect, many of these folks who are protesting your crusade for socialism were among those who actually fought the Nazis a few years back, so how about a little respect? Furthermore, a bit of advice: when you lead a Democrat Party whose own platform frighteningly mirrors the Nazi Party Platform (rabid environmentalism, abortion and euthanasia rights, nationalized healthcare, government works projects, anti-profits, anti-big business, animal rights, etc.), it would probably be a wise move to limit any references to swastikas.

It's interesting...on the campaign trail, candidate Obama seemed to understand the significance of grassroots activism. He said at a September campaign stop, "I need you to go out and talk to your friends and talk to your neighbors...I want you to argue with them and get in their face...You are my ambassadors. You guys are the ones who can make the case."

We can assume that applied only to those who agree with him. To those who don't, the message is somewhat different: "try any of this at a town hall meeting on healthcare, and our union thugs will kick in your teeth." Ah, the politics of hope.



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8/09

The Olds Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

"While I accept that everyone has a right to wear whatever they choose," I told my grandson the other day while seated in Starbucks, my home away from home, "I don't think I'd hire anyone with a ring in her nose or one showing from her belly button."

I was referring to a young woman at the next table who was also wearing a rhinestone ring in her lower lip, another from an eyebrow, and if I understood my grandson correctly, several more that are not immediately visible without an X-ray machine.

"Grandpa," quoth my grandson, "you're prejudiced. I bet you don't even approve of my long hair, baggy pants or the graffiti printed on the back of my Raiders jacket."

I thought that a cutting remark for a young man to make to his elder who has always considered himself a champion of tolerance: supporting equal pay for women, racial and religious equality, a woman's right

to choose, gay marriage, the spotted owl, the endangered horny toad and the vanishing yellow-bellied sapsucker. And as painful as I find it to be, I have even defended the right of free speech to Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly.

"What's that sir? Oh, you want to know what I think of cross dressers?"

Well, I stand on my rights under the Constitution not to answer, but I must admit being abashed by lewd slogans and depraved illustrations printed across men's chests. Indeed, some of these are so explosive that if I attempted to set them on my computer it would go up in smoke.

In the ancient era in which I was reared, the expression "cross dresser" was not even in the dictionary. As a matter of fact, there

are many other words in common usage today that were not yet in the dictionary back then. I mean we did not even use them behind the barn for fear they were so hot they would set the hay on fire.

But returning to the practice of young people wearing rings on various parts of the body, I turned to a young man seated at the next table who wore 27 visible, and I assume that many more that weren't, and inquired about the process.

"Doesn't it hurt to have holes bored into you to insert the rings?" I asked.

"Of course," he said, "especially if the point of the ice pick is dull the pain is excruciating. I

all but passed out when I put one on my do-hickey. Like pain man, it was the most!"

"Wow!" I replied. "I bet that did smart. But if it hurts so bad, why do you do it to yourself?"

He looked at me in disbelief.

"What was that you said,

old man? Better run that by me again because I don't think what you said was what I thought you said."

I swallowed a couple of times and repeated myself. "If it hurts so bad why do you do it to yourself?"

"Man!" he said, "why do you think we do it? You old farts just don't get it, do you?"

"Yeah," agreed my grandson, "you just don't get it, do you grandpa?"

Luckily, from the hostile look the young man who said "I just don't get it" was giving me, I was glad to be seated near the entrance which enabled me to make a fast getaway into the waning afternoon. But I had to admit that he was right.

I just don't get it.

"Yeah," agreed my grandson, "you just don't get it, do you grandpa?"

Luckily, from the hostile look the young man who said "I just don't get it" was giving me, I was glad to be seated near the entrance which enabled me to make a fast getaway into the waning afternoon. But I had to admit that he was right.

I just don't get it.

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It Takes More Than a Village . . .

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From birth to 18 years of age, Kerinna's journey has been an interesting one. Moving from the Ranchos to Clovis, we reflect on the community who helped keep this special girl alive, gave encouragement through extraordinary times and provided blessings beyond imagination. We will never forget the wonderful neighbors that picked up countless prescriptions late at night, took care of our home while away at the hospital and blessed us with a full Christmas dinner recovering at home from surgery. We think about the very special friends who always made time to create campfire memories and the Jello salad. We remember the dear friend that provided to us a unique vacuum to assist in Kerinna's lung health. The many incredible individuals and 8th grade classmates that donated and organized a "Community Garage Sale" to help with the expenses of a fourth open-heart surgery, traveled to UCLA Medical Center with goodies and snacks and left a huge sign in our hotel room stating "We Love You Kerinna!" It seems like yesterday when a gracious and handsome student took Kerinna to the Winter Formal. We will never forget the amazing classmates who shared with Kerinna a special friendship from Kindergarten to Graduation that continues. An incredible 8th Grade Class and 8th Grade Teacher that learned from one another and leaned on one another during some very tough times. The amazing students of the 2009 Graduation Class that

live by the example of inclusion. The Adaptive PE Teacher who took a child from the sidelines and showed her how wonderful the outdoors could be through activities. The General Education Teachers and Special Education Aids that helped a student with special needs learn. And a Special Education Teacher who took a personal interest in helping a student who has a true love for life and a yearning to learn to reach their own individual goal - a diploma. After four open heart surgeries, spinal rod placement surgery, three pacemaker placements, the removal of the right inner ear due to an embolism and countless other surgeries and hospitalizations, we realize we would not be the same as individuals or as a family without the Ranchos; without you. You have touched our lives in more ways than you can imagine. From the heart, thank you. We lived in the Ranchos for 21 years and we will forever remember.

Jim, Tamra and Kerinna Bane

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8/09



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

One weekend last month we traveled to Southern California for the 25th wedding anniversary of one of Randy's brothers and his wife. We had a wonderful time – all of Randy's brothers and their wives were there (Randy is the oldest of five boys), and all of his nieces and nephews – except Jessie, who was on a motor trip across the United States with her Nana and Austin who was at a swim meet in San Diego. Even my youngest brother and his wife were there so it was a nice “family reunion” in addition to the anniversary party. I feel so sorry for people who don't think family is important; they are missing so much. It is their loss. I know this doesn't have anything to do with recipes, but just had to brag about how good it was to have the family together.

I love soup in the winter time, but I know people (my youngest sister for one and Virginia here in the office) who would eat soup every day of the year.

A Soup Lover

I love soup in the winter time, but I know people (my youngest sister for one and Virginia here in the office) who would eat soup every day of the year. I usually have a pot of homemade soup in my refrigerator ready to warm up most of the time when it is cold outside. On Halloween, we have a “souper party” at either my sister's or over at Steve's, one of my nephews. We have a pot luck of soups, each bringing our favorite to share. There is always a pot of vegetable soup and I take a pot of split pea and someone brings a salad and lots of French bread. This way the kids get to eat a little before they go out trick or treating and they usually eat again when they get back.

Years ago, when I was working for Rod Stock in downtown Fresno, some of us in the office would go down to the Yturri Hotel for lunch and eat in the dining room with the shepherders. You sat at these long tables with the shepherders, although they usually congregated by themselves. Food would be served “family style” – first big bowls of soup, followed by big stainless steel bowls of salad, then vegetables, the entrees and ending with dessert. They prepared the best beef barley soup I have ever eaten and with a big plate of their salad and French bread that was enough for lunch. Salads weren't fancy, sometimes just chopped lettuce with a vinaigrette dressing. When you

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 12

RECIPES cont. from P. 11

left there if you were still hungry it was your fault. Or does anyone remember the Greek Restaurant that was in the old Farmers Market in that triangle where Divisadero & Tulare streets meet (there is an Office Depot there now)? That's where I learned to love Lamb Shanks – they had the best spinach salad ever. Just spinach, a little hardboiled egg and a vinaigrette dressing that I wish I had the recipe for.

Last month I told you I had received two soup recipes from Linda Manter. The first one is Turkey Tortilla Soup.

Turkey Tortilla Soup

1 pkg. ground turkey meat
 1 large onion – chopped
 1 large can chicken broth (49 oz.)
 1 can diced tomatoes – do not drain
 3 garlic cloves, chopped
 2 stalks of celery – chopped
 1 can kidney beans, drained
 4 carrots – sliced
 ¾ tsp ground oregano
 1 ½ tsp cumin
 ½ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
 ½ tsp black pepper
 ½ tsp salt
 Brown and cook meat with onion then add the rest of the above ingredients and simmer for 45 minutes. Then add:

½ pkg. frozen corn *
 1/3 bunch of cilantro rough chopped
 2 large potatoes, cubed
 Cook until potatoes are done. Serve with crumbled tortilla chips or warmed tortillas. If you think you need more broth, add additional chicken broth.

*Linda is referring to the 1 pound bag. I use these all the time; they are cheaper than buying the little box. Just use what you need out of the bag and fold the top down and secure bag with a rubber band until next time.

From Around the World

Recently Igal Treibatch was in the office and Randy

was telling us about the Bee-rocks he made the night before. Igal said they reminded him of something he makes. Maybe sometime we can prevail upon him to give us some of his recipes. However, he did say that his favorite salad was “Israeli Salad.”

Israeli Salad

1 large cucumber
 (Some people call them English cucumber, wrapped in cellophane in the super market)
 6 medium sized tomatoes
 1 bell pepper – seeded
 1 full bunch of red radishes (Trimmed, using red portion)
 1 bunch green onions (Using only the green portion)

Chop all vegetables into about a quarter inch cubes, the smaller the better. Mix together with 1/3 tsp salt and ¼ tsp black pepper. Mix in a quarter cup Extra Virgin Olive oil and the juice of half a large lemon. Let this sit for about an hour before serving. Juices will form in bottom of bowl. Igal said to NOT drain those off because they are delicious sopped up with a piece of French bread.

According to the Internet, this salad is “Distinguished by the tiny diced vegetables and described as the ‘most well-known national dish of Israel.’ It is widely regarded as an Israeli National dish.”

Soup in the Garden

For those of you that have a summer garden, you can literally have a pot of “summer salad soup” in your yard. For the soup, just boil a piece of meat – a chunk of chuck steak or roast or a couple of pieces of chicken with salt and pepper until they are done. Take the meat or chicken out of the pot and add vegetables from your garden: chopped tomatoes, onions, zucchini, corn, okra, maybe string beans and a chopped up potato. Just anything that you like, but of course you wouldn't be grow-

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 13

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RECIPES cont. from P. 12

ing it if you didn't like it. Let this simmer until all the vegetables or done and the broth is the consistency you like for soup and then add the chopped meat. For flavor you might want to add a can or two of chicken broth instead of water and there you have it, a pot of soup all for the price of some meat. Or, don't use the meat and you have a vegetarian soup. Just remember, as in all cooking, be sure to use seasoning as you go.

Well, I didn't get to Linda's other soup recipe, but I definitely will! Anything with lentils in it has got to be good.

This too hasn't got anything to do with my recipes, but it is something my mother

did with lentils. She was the manager of the Chowchilla High School cafeteria for 14 years and had to make daily menus up with the supplies that were sent to her. Having five children, and eight grandkids, she knew what it meant to fix things the kids would eat. One day she received a case of canned lentils! Knowing the kids wouldn't eat 'just cooked lentils' she fretted over what to do. Finally she came up with the solution – she ground them up and put them in the meat and served the kids tacos! She knew she had done it right when the kids started asking for seconds.

OK, that is it for this issue. Talk to you next time but in the mean time send me those favorite recipes!

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

are divided among many agencies or bonds being paid. When the taxpayers are late – as I have been a couple of times because I just forgot – or late because of not having the money or foreclosure or whatever, the TEETER fund pays the bonds or the agencies the full amount they have coming and I guess you could say "holds the note" on what is delinquent.

One of the reasons given for collapsing the TEETER fund was that in these hard times it will take all of the funds in it to cover the delinquencies. My issues with doing this are:

1. The TEETER fund is the golden goose about to lay a whole carton of golden eggs and we want to slaughter and eat her just before she does.
2. The note we are holding when TEETER fund money goes out is one of the most secure around. Eventually when someone sells the property the back taxes must be paid ahead of anything else to get through escrow. *Now for the GOLD part of the deal.*
3. When you are late on the taxes a 10 percent penalty is attached. If you still don't pay in two months another 1.5 percent is added at the beginning of

every month until it is paid IN FULL.

So here is the investment tool we want to kill: If, as predicted, all of the \$12 million is needed to cover late taxes, the fund earns \$1.2 million. After two months, and every month thereafter, it will earn another \$180,000 per month until the money is back in the fund. The way I calculate it, we would be losing the 10 percent upfront and 18 percent per year. I wish I could get money in something that secure and high paying.

We are killing the goose and future earnings to justify the loan, to balance the budget and to stall needed cuts within the "CASTLE WALLS" until next year. No one I have talked to expects next year to be any better; most think in just a few months it will get a lot worse.

There is not much left to cut out in peasant land.

How about making Madera County government a four-day-a-week operation? Twenty percent furlough one day each week to start and begin rebuilding as soon as we can. When our farmers see a water shortage they cut back before it hits, keeping only the land in production they can support, rather than planting the full crop and losing it all.



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8/09

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

LIBRARY cont. from P. 8

returning home and trying to maintain a “normal-looking” Kristina life. But THE MONSTER keeps drawing her back to it, demanding her complete devotion. As her life unravels at an increasingly faster pace, Kristina finally hits the proverbial brick wall that forces her to seek help. With the help of her family and friends she puts her life back together but THE MONSTER is always lurking nearby, waiting for her. This story is fiction loosely based on the author’s own daughter’s experience with crank. It is a chilling reminder of how vulnerable teens can be if personality and circumstances present themselves at a point in time. It is the one wrong decision that can affect their whole life. Written in verse, with interesting line breaks, this book is understandably a big hit with teens for its gritty honesty and frank portrayal of those who live with THE MONSTER.

Juvenile Fiction: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. This book was a Newbery Medal winner in 1963 and is still popular today. The Murry family is not your ordinary American family. Both parents are scientists who work on the secret government project involving the interesting phenomenon of a tesseract, otherwise known as a wrinkle in time. Unknown to his family, this wrinkle allowed Mr. Murry to travel to a “dark” planet that has prevented him from returning home. For years they have worried and hoped that he would return soon. Finally one day, an unexpected visitor arrives that leads daughter Meg and the youngest son Charles Wallace along with schoolmate Calvin O'Keefe to travel through space and time to rescue Mr. Murry. It is a frightening and exciting trip that involves physical and mental dangers that are unimaginable.



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Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

"Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in."

Abraham Lincoln

Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to "Growing a District of Excellence". We make every effort to live this motto each day as we implement the District's Strategic Plan, our road map for success. The Strategic Plan goals cover five core areas including

Welcome to Golden Valley 2009-2010

Instruction and Assessment, Communication, Safety, Facilities and Finances. Our Governing Board of Trustees and staff have identified measurable objectives for accomplishing tasks within each of these focus areas. These goals and objectives are the driving force behind all decisions and actions. Our district and community take action to provide the necessary resources, including time, money, personnel, facilities, and materials so that the District's goals can be accomplished at high levels.

Just 10 short years ago, the Madera Ranchos community and staff had a dream to create an independent, successful school district that would offer students the highest quality education in state-of-the-art facilities. I am pleased to share that this dream has since become a reality; administrators, teachers and support staff have worked diligently to offer students a challenging and rigorous curriculum that actively engages students academically through meaningful learning experiences. Our schools focus on developing the "whole child" and offer a variety of extra and co-curricular learning experiences including character education programs such as the "Character Counts" program.

Golden Valley Unified has defined "excellence" by achieving California Distinguished School Recognition for all of its elementary, middle and high schools. Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary have

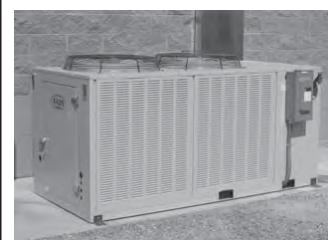
both earned the prestigious state-recognized Golden Bell Award for outstanding programs. Golden Valley Unified teachers, support staff and administrators have been recognized as outstanding employees in the district and throughout Madera County. We have one of the highest CAHSEE passing rates in Madera County and a very high percentage of students who are college-bound. These are just a few highlights of the many successes achieved in ten short years.

Our thanks to the community for their support on the successful passage of Measure G and Measure S school facility bonds which provided the means to construct our state of the art Liberty High School, Ranchos Middle School, and to modernize existing sites. When we first became a district in 1998 our motto was, "Watch Us Grow." Not only have we grown but we have been able to weather through some very challenging fiscal storms and not only survive, but thrive during these difficult times. We will continue to be wise stewards of our most precious resource, our children, while maintaining fiscal viability and continuing to "Grow a District of Excellence."

"Never doubt that a small, committed group of citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that has."

Margaret Mead

Sierra View Sees Improvements



Sierra View Elementary School enjoyed some nice improvements over the summer. A new HVAC unit was installed in the Sierra View Multipurpose Room because of a \$50,000 donation from community members Joyce and Kirby Smith. Girls Scout Troop 145 helped beautify the Sierra View office with some colorful flower boxes. It was a job well done.



HAWKS '09 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



Fri 11/20/09	CIF Playoffs	7:00PM
Fri 11/27/09	CIF Playoffs	7:00PM
Fri 12/04/09	CIF Playoffs	7:00PM
Fri 12/11/09	CIF Playoffs	7:00PM

Varsity Football		Junior Varsity Football		Freshman Football	
Fri 08/28/09	*Scrimmage - Madera South 6 PM	Fri 08/28/09	*Scrimmage - Madera South 5 PM	Fri 08/28/09	*Scrimmage - Madera South 4 PM
Fri 09/04/09	Coast Union 7 PM	Fri 09/04/09	Coast Union 5 PM		
Fri 09/11/09	@ Immanuel 7:30 PM	Fri 09/11/09	@ Immanuel 5 PM	Thu 10/15/09	Kerman 5 PM
Fri 09/25/09	@ Fowler 7:30 PM	Fri 09/25/09	@ Fowler 5 PM		
Fri 10/02/09	Kerman 7 PM	Fri 10/02/09	Kerman 5 PM	Thu 10/22/09	Chowchilla 6 PM
Fri 10/09/09	@ Dos Palos 7 PM	Fri 10/09/09	@ Dos Palos 5 PM		
Fri 10/16/09	Yosemite 7 PM	Fri 10/16/09	Yosemite 5 PM	Thu 11/05/09	@ Chowchilla 6 PM
Fri 10/23/09	@ Washington Union 7 PM	Fri 10/23/09	@ Washington Union 5 PM		
Fri 10/30/09	Sierra 7 PM	Fri 10/30/09	Sierra 5 PM	Thu 11/12/09	@ Kerman 5 PM
Fri 11/06/09	Chowchilla 7 PM	Fri 11/06/09	Chowchilla 5 PM		
Fri 11/13/09	@ Coalinga 7 PM	Fri 11/13/09	@ Coalinga 5 PM		

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Despite your Aries penchant for wanting to tackle a problem head-on, you might want to take a little more time to see how a current situation develops. It could surprise you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Taking on the role of peacemaker in a disruptive environment is a challenge. But you can do it. Just continue to have the same faith in yourself that so many others have in you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although your work schedule keeps you busy, you should make time to start preparing for that important upcoming family event you'll want to celebrate in a special way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Home is where the Moon Child wants to be early in the week. But by week's end, a chance to travel raises her or his excitement level, and that of the lucky person who gets to go along.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be careful not to be a copycat when dealing with someone who uses unfair or even unkind methods to reach a goal. As always, do the right thing the right way, and you'll win in the end.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An offer could have many good things attached to it that are not apparent at first glance, including a chance to move into another career area. You might want to check out its possibilities.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) With responsibilities surging both in the workplace and in the home, it's important to prioritize how you deal with them. Be patient. Pressures will begin to ease starting early next week.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A positive reaction to a suggestion could indicate that you're on track for getting your message to the right people. Devote the weekend to catching up with the special people in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new attitude from those in charge could make things difficult for you unless you can accept the changes without feeling as if you're being pressured into doing so.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family matters once again dominate much of the week. But don't neglect your workplace duties while you deal with them. An offer to help could come from a surprising source.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A difficult workplace situation begins to ease, but there are still matters that need to be dealt with before it's fully resolved. There's also a more positive turn in domestic relationships.

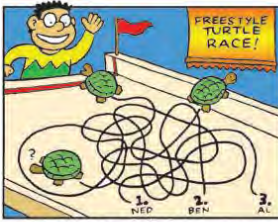
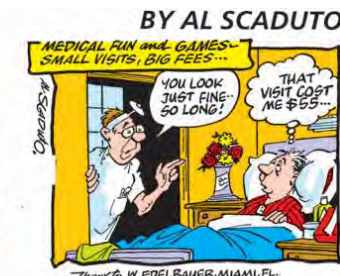
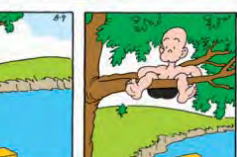
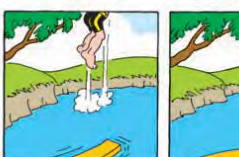
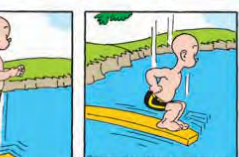
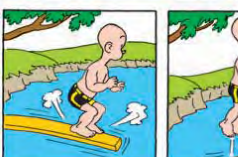
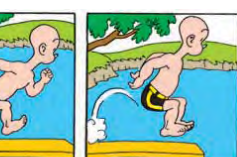
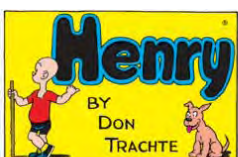
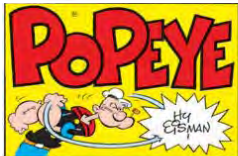
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Don't let yourself be rushed into making a decision about an intriguing financial arrangement. Asking questions and checking it out now could pay off in a big way later on.

Born this Week

*You might have a tendency to be more than a bit judgmental,
but others understand it comes from a warm, loving heart.*

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FUN PAGES

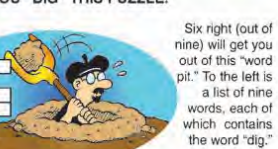
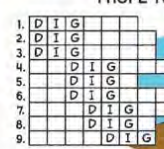


YOU HAVE 30 SECONDS to find out who won the race, which is a lot faster than the winner's time!

Answer: Ned won, in 5 minutes, 23 seconds



I HOPE YOU "DIG" THIS PUZZLE!



Six right (out of nine) will get you out of this "word pit." To the left is a list of nine words, each of which contains the word "dig."

A BARNYARD TEASER! Out in Farmer Brown's pasture, you'll find 300 sheep, 3 shepherds, 2 horses and 3 dogs. How many feet can you count?

Answer: Six feet. All the others are hoofs and paws.

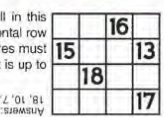


Using the following hints, see if you can figure out what these words are:

- To absorb mentally.
- To raise the status of.
- To stray from the point.
- An impoverished person.
- This will make you blue.
- A factor in buying a dog.
- A returning wasteful son.
- A very smart person.
- A festive party.

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 2 through 12 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column and even the four corner squares must total 39. We've filled in five of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error — and a good eraser!

Answers: First row: 9, 12, 16, 12; Second row: 15, 3, 8, 13; Third row: 4, 18, 10, 7; Fourth row: 11, 11, 6, 5, 17



Answers: 1. Digest 2. Dignify 3. Digress 4. Indigent 5. Shindig 6. Pedigree 7. Prigdig 8. Prigdigy 9. Shindig

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● FIRST NAME RECOGNITION



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

Monday's unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF IRAQ

- Babylon
- Beijing
- Carthage
- Cordova
- Istanbul
- Jericho
- Larsa
- London
- New York
- Paris
- Rome
- Thebes
- Tokyo
- Uruk
- Xiadu

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the largest desert in the world, outside of polar regions?
- MATH:** What is the square root of 256?
- HISTORY:** During the Great Depression of the 1930s, what were the makeshift camps of homeless people called?
- PERSONALITIES:** What 1980s fitness entrepreneur wrote the "Never-Say-Diet Book"?
- MOVIES:** Who was originally cast to play Inspector Clouseau in "The Pink Panther"?
- FIRSTS:** In what year were women officially allowed to run in the Boston Marathon?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Where is the headquarters of NATO located?
- LITERATURE:** Which famous artist served as a correspondent for Harpers' Weekly magazine during the Civil War?
- TELEVISION:** What television sitcom family lived at 1313 Mockingbird Lane?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who served as the 16th president of the United States?

- Answers**
1. The Sahara Desert in North Africa
 2. 16
 3. Hoovervilles (named after President Hoover)
 4. Richard Simmons
 5. Peter Ustinov, who dropped out. The lead role went to Peter Sellers.
 6. 1972
 7. Brussels, Belgium
 8. Winslow Homer
 9. "The Munsters"
 10. Abraham Lincoln

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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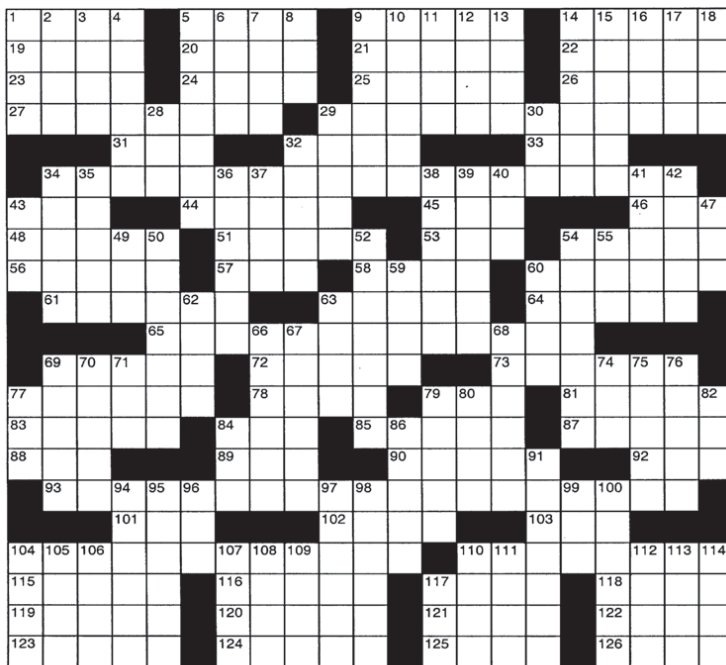
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Box pattern is different. 2. Boy's sweater is different. 3. Window is different. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Boy's pencil is gone. 6. Mom's shoe is different.

Super Crossword



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| ACROSS | 1 Had kittens? | 5 Frolic | 9 Elsie's appendage | 14 Gather | 19 Come unglued | 20 Spread in a tub | 21 Sib's kid | 22 Send the money | 23 Tel — | 24 Balm | 25 Build a barrier | 26 Where Athenians assembled | 27 Combative | 29 Speaker of remark at | 34 Across | 31 Sloth or anger | 32 Bone-dry | 33 Lubricate | 34 Start of remark | 43 Dogpatch's Daisy — | 44 Inventor Howe | 45 — | 46 Chop | 48 Bronte's "Grey" | 51 More aloof | 53 Merino male | 54 Emulate | 56 Summarize | 57 Rocker | 58 "Gracious me!" | 60 Actress Wendy | 61 Dignified calm | 63 Writer Bret | 64 Church instrument | 65 Part 2 of remark | 69 With 29 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star | 72 Leases | 73 Gives in to gravity | 77 Not as messy | 78 Bk. loan | 79 53 Across' mate | 81 Rock's — Trick | 83 Like Yale's walls | 84 — | 85 Day or Duke | 87 Yaphet of "Homicide" | 88 Saucepan | 89 Actress MacGraw | 90 Get the soap off | 92 "Sea Hunt" shocker | 93 Part 3 of remark | 101 — G. Carroll | 102 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin | 103 Ferris-wheel unit | 104 End of remark | 110 Texas town | 115 Tycoon | 116 Time on the throne | 117 Word with pad or powder | 118 Equipment | 119 Disintegrate | 120 Football's Herber | 121 Frank or Francis | 122 Peruvian Indian | 123 Gardening tool | 124 Elbowed | 125 Dandelion, for one | 126 Playwright Coward | 2 Sitarist Shankar | 3 Demonic | 4 Concoct | 5 Bookstore section | 6 Ken or Lena | 7 Dissolve | 8 Seal school | 9 Open Old Glory | 10 Fuel choice | 11 Lions' lairs | 12 "Behold!" to | 13 Virginia — Brutus | 14 Mideastern tongue | 15 Word form for "great" | 16 Run — (lose control) | 17 Father Herber | 18 Show-stopper | 28 Pewter base | 29 See 69 | 30 Card game | 32 "Carmen" setting | 34 Bet | 35 Ergo | 36 Master Twist | 37 Isinglass | 38 Thiss and that | 39 Highfalutin' headgear | 40 "— Dooley" ('58 hit) | 41 Actress Maureen Spacey | 43 Deface | 47 Elfin | 49 "The Bells" monogram | 50 Bad | 52 Showed one's feelings | 54 Sorcerer | 55 Unit of work | 59 Univ. tests | 60 Piglet's papa | 62 Practice boxing | 63 — up (detained) | 66 Imitation gold | 67 Feature | 68 Crusader kingdom | 69 St. Andrews clod | 70 Writer Wharton | 71 Recline | 74 "Now I've got you!" | 75 Lorre or Lely | 76 Gorged | 77 Hint | 79 Slezak or Eleniak | 80 Jeroboam contents | 82 Office seeker, for short | 84 Eastern "Way" | 86 Primate | 91 Flew the coop | 94 Refer (to) | 95 Bank employee | 96 Court | 97 — bag | 98 Lamented | 99 Conflict | 100 Startling point | 104 Hoskins in "Hook" | 105 Puzzle part | 106 Like kids at Christmas | 107 Certain sandwich | 108 Architect | 109 Hughes' millieu | 110 Top-notch | 111 Lion's pride | 112 Jocular | 113 Teddy trim | 114 Evangelist Roberts | 117 Observed |
|---------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------|---------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|

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STOCK cont. from P. 5

Education. On my behalf I want to thank Sally and her staff for all of the help they gave Golden Valley and are there still if we need them. Sally spoke to the students in the audience and complemented them on their academic achievements.

Bruce Blair, who was the founding Golden Valley School Board President, spoke about the challenges that the first school board members faced as they put together a school district. Bruce has said that I was his inspiration and I was thinking that the first school board were all so young and had so much energy and such wonderful ideas that I felt,

and still feel, blessed to have been working with them. Bruce spoke about how the community passed the Measure G Bond and made it possible to buy 132 acres. By adding the 28 acres that Madera Unified had already bought but never built on, Golden Valley had the acreage to build both Liberty High School and the new Ranchos Middle School. When people asked Bruce why we were doing what we were doing he always responded, "Why not?" I would like to take this time to thank Bruce for speaking for all of us five first school board members. You did a good job Bruce!

Sarah Koligian finished up by saying she had watched our district

and saw how committed the community was to have the best schools for their children before she decided to apply for the job of Golden Valley Unified. She is proud to be the superintendent of both elementary schools, Webster and Sierra View, that both have become California Distinguished schools. And just last year both Liberty High and Ranchos Middle Schools also received this honor from the state of California. She is proud that Golden Valley offers its students the highest quality education in state-of-the-art facilities. Sarah likes to quote anthropologist Margaret Mead who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can

change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Thank you Sarah when you stepped into the Golden Valley Unified Superintendent job; you continued to keep the Golden Valley dream alive. Also thank you Sarah for putting together such a nice 10 Year Anniversary Celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony for Ranchos Middle School. It is one of those memories that I will treasure.

I can't believe that fall is almost here. I was told there are just 130 days to Christmas and this was on Aug. 16. The next school board meetings are on Sept. 8 and 22 at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there.

WATER cont. from P. 6

and much larger unit, fed by seawater, was constructed. Mekorot's expertise with desalination and subsequent remineralization means that the local drinking water tastes much like good bottled water. The quality is very high, not at all what one might expect of "treated seawater."

Stops on Wednesday included a Kibbutz operated entirely on locally desalinated water, two different brackish wells being treated sufficiently for use as irrigation water and the largest tropical fish hatchery in Israel. These are salt-water fish for the pet industry and this facility is shipping 900,000 fish per month, providing a welcome expansion to the area's limited economic engine.

Our last stop of the day was purely recreational as we swam in the Dead Sea right at sunset with the temperature still hovering at 105 degrees. The buoyancy created by the extreme saltiness of the water is hard to describe. It's almost like floating on, rather than in, the water. Just be careful. Don't get it in your eyes, and wash it off your body when you get out, or be prepared to feel the burn!

We overnights in Ashkelon and spent the early morning Thursday touring the largest operating desalination plant in Israel. It produces over 70 million gallons of high-quality drinking water each day for five years, supplying about 15 percent of Israel's domestic water demand and relieving the demand on the Sea of Galilee. Its twin will go into operation north of Tel Aviv later this year and an even larger plant is slated to come online further north on the coast in the Spring of 2010. Seawater desalination is the future of Israel's

domestic water supply, up to 100 percent as their demand grows and the reliability of the Sea of Galilee remains subject to the weather cycle.

Leaving the desalination plant, we were met by a pair of Mekorot engineers who described for us the groundwater recharge system created by Mekorot to dispose of a portion of the treated effluent from the Ashkelon wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), as well as to make beneficial use of a portion of local river flow before it is lost to the Mediterranean. We then visited the Ashkelon WWTP itself and learned about the various pilot projects that are under way to treat effluent to very high levels, allowing it to be reused in more varied ways.

One of these pilot projects involves spreading the treated effluent on the ground and allowing it to percolate through soil for 100 days. A ring of monitoring and recovery wells around the spreading site assures that the effluent is contained and is then pumped back to the surface after its 100-day treatment period in the soil. The results of this pilot are very encouraging. Not only does the final effluent show extremely low levels of biological contaminant (well below California's Title 22 standards) but test results indicate removal of certain pharmaceutical compounds to "non detectable" levels. Pharmaceuticals are an area of concern here as we seek to make better use of treated effluent and this pilot project may provide one direction for additional local research in this country.

Thursday night we heard presentations from nearly a dozen start-up technology companies based in Israel, focusing on various aspects of water reclamation and treatment. Several of

these ventures are parts of business incubators similar to the one operated by California State University, Fresno and have been developing their technologies and business capacities in hopes of winning investment capital and entering the international marketplace. Many exciting ideas were on display including new concepts for water systems control, brackish water desalination, brine stream management, evaporation and many more. If successfully launched, these businesses could bring their new technologies to California, benefitting our own water industry directly.

On Friday, our delegation spent the day in the Old City in Jerusalem, a short drive from Tel Aviv. There are few words to describe Jerusalem, being such a centerpiece of history and the focal point of three major world faiths. Suffice to say that it would not have been a trip to Israel with the opportunity to at least visit this much-storied place. Then it was back to the hotel for a quick change of clothes and on to the airport for the 25-hour flight home. Long and arduous, but exciting in so many ways. We were left energized by what the Israelis are doing with water and how we might apply those principles here in our Valley.

We are now charged with disseminating the information gained in our visit in order to help educate others as to what we saw and experienced. One can't argue with what we saw, or the efficiency of the way they use water, and in many respects their management systems and technology can only be envied by us at this time. The key words here are "at this time."

We did reach the moon! Can we reach our water?

Ranchos Martial Arts Master Again In Hall of Fame

Local Martial Arts Master Dave Johnson was inducted into the Masters Hall of Fame Saturday, Aug. 8 in Long Beach, Calif.

The Masters Hall of Fame event was a star studded event as the stars came out to honor the Masters Hall of Fame Inductees who have spent their life in the betterment of the Martial Arts community. The Masters Hall of Fame success is predicated on a long held tradition in the Martial Arts of respecting and honoring leadership in the Martial Arts community.

Master Johnson was presented the "Pioneer Award" in recognition of being the FIRST martial artist in history to develop a complete self-defense training program available 24/7 via the internet, thereby serving the entire Global Community.

Master Johnson is also credited with developing the Elite Martial Art of "Sei Ei Do" that is taught locally and practiced worldwide through his online course. Johnson is also credited for helping to develop many local community youth programs including Fresno's P.A.L. Martial Arts Program under Chief Jerry Dyer.

This is Master Johnson's second Hall of Fame induction. He was inducted into the "World Martial Arts Hall of Fame" in 1996, where he was named "Master Instructor of the Year."

Master Johnson owns and operates Golden Valley Martial Arts, is employed by National University as the Director of Center Operations and spends what little spare time he has acting. He recently starred in "Nine to Five Ninja" and will appear in the soon to be released thriller "Stricken."

SENIOR cont. from P. 4

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

Our members and friends go out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. September birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated with a luncheon on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Japanese Kitchen, Shaw at Willow in Clovis. On Saturday, Aug. 22 we celebrated at the West Shaw Sizzler in Fresno. In July we had 34 members who went to Black Bear Restaurant in Madera. If you want to come, eat and have some fun, you are welcome to join us!

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

Senior Thought of the Day

Remember: while money talks, chocolate sings!

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

More Facts and Fun

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

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


Up and Coming Events

Saturday, Sept. 19, 11:30 a.m., Japanese Kitchen, Shaw at Willow, Clovis
 Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m., Famesi's, Madera
 Nov. 14 11 a.m., Olive Garden, 389 East Shaw Ave., Fresno

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864.
 Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
 Tuesday, Pinocle, noon until?
 Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
 Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun
 Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinocle or other games. Please bring your own plate and silverware
 Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
 Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

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



The Garden Bug Seeds

There are three ways of producing seeds:

- “F-1 hybrids” are hand-pollinated, often sterile, and used by commercial growers to control productivity;
- Bioengineered seeds** have had their DNA changed – fish genes spliced into a tomato’s, for example, to enhance certain traits;
- Open-pollinated** (“heirloom”) seeds are pollinated by plants, animals, or the wind, producing plants that have **biodiversity** (vary widely in genetic traits).



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8/09

Tips for Kids Starting School

By Chinayera Black-Hardaman

The first day of school has already come for many kindergarteners – being both exciting and overwhelming for many young children. Your child is learning a new routine, becoming familiar with a new place and meeting new people. By taking steps to prepare your child for his or her new experience, you can help to make your child's transition to school an adventure instead of a mystery. First 5 Madera County provides the following tips to help you make your child's transition to kindergarten as smooth as possible and prepare him or her for success in school.

to develop decision-making skills by providing opportunities for him or her to make choices within daily activities. For example, you can ask your child to pick which outfit to wear or which healthy snack to eat.

Make breakfast a habit. Children have more energy to stay focused and learn when they start the day with a wholesome meal. Making a nutritious breakfast part of your child's morning routine can also help him or her have an easier time adjusting to school.

Practice school skills. Help your child get ready for school by getting him or her acquainted with regular school activities. Have your child practice using school supplies, writing his or her name, lining up and carrying a lunch tray to become ready to do these tasks each day.

Review numbers, colors, shapes and the alphabet. Practice counting, spotting colors and shapes and naming familiar letters and sounds to help your child brush up on these concepts

and be ready to use them in the classroom.

First 5 Madera County encourages all parents and caregivers to learn about local resources that can help their young children. For more information, please call 559-661-5155.

Take Steps to Prepare

Take care of entrance requirements. Children entering public school for the first time in California must be up-to-date on all immunizations and must have completed a dental exam. For children starting kindergarten who have not yet filled these requirements, more information is available from First 5 Madera County at (559) 661-5155.

Talk to your child about school. Have conversations with your child about his or her expectations for school and what the new daily schedule will be like. Children who know what to expect at school are less nervous on the first day and beyond.

Visit the school in advance. Visit the classroom so your child can see where he or she will be going to class. If your child's teacher is available, meeting him or her can also help your child feel more comfortable.

Prevent fear of separation. Plan for your child to spend supervised time away from you before going to school. Whether at day care or with friends and family members, this will help your child be less anxious about being apart from you.

Encourage independence. Help your child

Encourage independence. Help your child to develop decision-making skills by providing opportunities for him or her to make choices within daily activities.

Chinayera Black-Hardaman is Executive Director of First 5 Madera County. Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Madera County distributes Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.



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Group Forming

A local Christian Business Group is being formed in the Ranchos. The group, made up of local business people, will meet for lunch and discuss biblical principles as they relate to modern life, specifically in the Ranchos. Lunch will be held at the Ranchos Cafe on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m. **For more info call Bob at 324-1144 or Randy at 645-0634.**

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	X		-		20
+		÷		+	
	+		+		21
X		+		÷	
	X		-		7
14		7		3	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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