

# The Ranchos Independent



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Spring 2009

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



## Good Eats!

food, friends and fun  
the 6th Annual  
Chamber Crab Feed

*Pictures courtesy of Travis Hart  
More pictures on P. 10*

***In This Issue |***

*Editorial • Page 3 / The D.O.G. House • Page 4  
Fun Pages • Page 20 / Real Estate • Page 25 / Classifieds • Page 26*

## Second Quarry Planned for Ranchos

Location Revealed to be Corner of Hwy. 41 and Hwy. 145

By Randy Bailey

At the last Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, a group representing Vulcan Materials Company told a packed Chamber audience of the company's plans to build a new rock quarry near the southwest corner of Highway 41 and Highway 145.

"We're hoping to start construction in the next two years," said Cesar Aranda, permitting and reclamation administrator for Vulcan's western division.

Most people in the audience were aware of the plans for Jaxon Industries' Madera Ranch quarry at the intersection of Roads 209 and 406 in the foothills just northeast of the Ranchos, but the construction of another quarry by a competitor in such a conspicuous location caught many off guard. For many this was the first they had heard of Vulcan's plans.

At the meeting, attendees asked questions echoing the same concerns that were first brought up at the Madera Ranch meetings, namely increased water usage, in-

creased traffic, noise and dust. Aranda answered most of the questions but he was helped where necessary by Steve Grace, Vulcan's West Coast business development manager. Together, they stressed Vulcan's track record of corporate responsibility as the largest producer of gravel, crushed stone and sand in the United States. They stressed that with over 350 facilities employing nearly 10,000 workers delivering approximately 260 million tons of aggregate they were obviously doing something right.

In 2007 Vulcan was named to Fortune Magazine's list of most Admired Companies for 2007, ranking number 1 in its industry sector, "Building Materials, Glass." Vulcan also ranked among the top 10 companies in the Fortune 1000 for social responsibility and 2007 marked the sixth time Vulcan has been selected to the Most Admired list.

Vulcan is still a long way away from pulling any rocks out of the ground. Environmental Impact reports, Conditional Use Permits and every imaginable type of litigation await them and now the whole community knows their plans.

## Weed Abatement Notices Arrive County Says *Clean Up or Pay Up*

It's that time of year again. Madera County has just sent out its annual Weed Abatement Notices (based on Cal. Health & Safety Code 14900.6 Madera County Code 7.26) and here is the content of those notices.

Madera County has declared that the growth and accumulation of weeds in the unincorporated areas of the County poses a fire, safety and public health risk and has therefore declared weeds a seasonal and recurring nuisance. Each property owner named is responsible for abating the nuisance on the property. The nuisance must be abated on or before May 1st each and every year. If not abated pursuant to Madera County Code section 7.26.030, the fines and costs described herein, shall constitute a lien upon the property until paid. Commencing January 2005, THIS NOTICE APPLIES TO ALL LOTS AND PROPERTIES whether vacant, undeveloped or improved. Improved lots less than 3 acres in size may abate the nuisance by mowing weeds to a height of 1/2 to 1 inch of the ground in accordance with Madera County Code section 7.26.030. The Madera County Fire Department recommends that such mowing take place be-

fore 10 a.m. due to the lower probability of fire ignition caused by equipment use.

**FAILURE TO ABATE THE WEED NUISANCE BY MAY 1ST WILL RESULT IN A FINE OF \$250 BEING ASSESSED AGAINST THE PROPERTY. IN ADDITION, THE COUNTY'S COSTS FOR ABATING THE NUISANCE AND ALL ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE SHALL ALSO BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE PROPERTY.**

Due to weed re-growth and the resulting hazard continuing throughout the fire season, HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. THIS MAY REQUIRE ABATEMENT OF THE NUISANCE MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS GROW BACK.

*Direct any questions regarding this notice to the Weed Abatement Compliance Officer at 559-675-7799 or visit the Madera County web site at [www.madera-county.com](http://www.madera-county.com). Select "County Code" from the drop menu, then select Title 7 and then select Chapter 7.26 WEED ABATEMENT.*

## Israeli Water Scientists, Engineers, Managers to Visit Madera Ranchos

"Water without Borders" Concept Explained by Delegation

By Igal Treibatch

As the First World War wound down in Europe, a wave of pioneers made a push toward resettling old Judea. What they found was a beleaguered area, occupied by the Turkish Ottoman Empire ruling over mostly a desert and parched lands. No infrastructure, significant commerce or agriculture existed.

The next wave of settlers came with the onset of the Second World War. Escaping the upheaval, droves of families and individuals began to reoccupy Judea which by then was controlled by the British Empire. This wave of pioneers included many highly motivated and educated people eager to make a home in their ancestral homeland. They came by the thousands and they came with dreams and hopes.

To them it made no difference that there was no developed society there. "They came to build it" – to rebuild their home. Desert, parched land and constant droughts were only hurdles to be overcome with hard work and ingenuity.

By the time I was born in 1946, the push to recreate an independent Israel was irreversible. As I was growing up, beginning with kindergarten, the idea of lacking water and drought was always at the forefront, was always talked about and the prevailing dream was "Turn this desert into a garden."

Education, Research, Technology and Management were essential to survival in a land with only a minimal amount of water. Fulfilling the dream would have to become a national goal.

Today in Israel no one individual owns water. The water is owned by the government and allocations are strictly controlled and managed. It can be compared to a caravan of many people traveling through the desert, as Moses did, while not knowing where the next water source may be, having to make sure everyone has enough water to drink. Some of the results of all the efforts can be seen in the significant innovations achieved within the Israeli system.

We have invited a group of leading water scientists from Israel which will arrive in Central California in March to meet with local water scientists, engineers, experts and politicians to discuss common challenges and share technologies and management techniques. The delegation will arrive March 18 and will be hosted by us together with the California Water Institute at California State University, Fresno and other local busi-

nesses.

The delegation will consist of individuals from two water and agriculture related areas:

Mekorot - Israel's government technology laded water system operators and managers.

Mekorot is one of the world's most technologically advanced water companies. Seventy years of innovation in the face of Israel's significant environmental and security challenges have made Mekorot a world leader in desalination, water reclamation, water project engineering, water safety and water quality. Through continual research, experimentation and field innovation, Mekorot provides a steady flow of clean water to a rapidly growing population despite the region's limited freshwater resources, arid climate and difficult geopolitical realities. Mekorot's uniqueness as a water utility lies in its unparalleled experience, know-how, technologies and innovative processes for the management, operation and treatment of all types of water resources, whether surface water, groundwater, brackish water, seawater or effluents. More information is available at [www.mekorot.co.il/Eng/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.mekorot.co.il/Eng/Pages/default.aspx).

Volcani Institute - the research arm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), the research arm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is responsible for most of the agricultural research conducted in Israel. This research aims to improve existing agricultural production systems and to introduce new products, processes and equipment, thereby ensuring the basis of Israel's future agriculture. The ARO has an extensive research infrastructure that supports both basic and applied research, conducted by more than 200 Ph.D. scientists and 300 engineers and technicians. These workers are organized into six institutes located on the main campus at Bet Dagan, and in two regional research centers in the north and south of the country. You can see more detail at [www.agri.gov.il/en/units/institutes/6.aspx](http://www.agri.gov.il/en/units/institutes/6.aspx).

The visiting scientists represent the cutting edge of water technology in Israel and have been invited to the Valley because of the potential for our water industry, farmers and politicians to learn from the work that has already been completed in their desert country. They will be meeting with their

Please see **WATER** on P. 17

Click on "Local News" at



Editorial

## Hail to the Hype II

By Randy Bailey

In last month's editorial, *Hail to the Hype*, I started the piece off by saying it had been forwarded to me by a friend. That friend said it was written by the editorial staff at London's Daily Mail after Barack Obama won the presidency in November. Well, that friend is now on my "B" list.

The piece was written by a foreign columnist all right, but not in England. It was the work of Michael Coren, a columnist with the Toronto Sun in Canada. He wrote it on Nov. 8 and the original piece was entitled *Barack Fools Us - Whole world will pay for America's electoral mistake*. You can go to [www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/michael\\_coren/2008/11/08/7344746-sun.html](http://www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/michael_coren/2008/11/08/7344746-sun.html) and read his editorial in its entirety. It's interesting because it's not the pro-Conservative rant one might expect. He makes comments about McCain's weaknesses and some gratuitous comments about Governor Sarah Palin that could have just as easily been directed at Barack Obama without missing a beat, but there it is for all to see.

I bring this up because that editorial fired up some folks out there. They wrote me letters that are printed elsewhere in this issue of the Ranchos Independent.

I usually make it a point to not answer letters personally, and rather just let them write and share their thoughts and then leave it up to you, the readers, to decide. I also believe if you give the right people enough rope, they will often hang themselves with it.

I've always held as a personal creed that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but they're NOT entitled to their own set of facts. The facts are the facts and as long as you base your opinion on them, we've got no problem; start making things up and it's going to get ugly.

Both of these letters make up "facts."

One writer accuses me of writing an editorial entitled "Why I really, REALLY, hate liberals!"

Sorry. Never did.

He says I wrote it several "weeks ago."

Sorry. Only if October 2008 counts as "weeks" ago.

He says the centerpiece of that article was that some hapless guy without much courage had sent in his complaint to the Editor anonymously

Sorry. Not true. As a matter of fact, the centerpiece of that article is in paragraph 10 of the editorial, which reads, "But **the reason for this editorial** rested in paragraph three: *"Is this your way of scaring the dumb or unformed into your beliefs?"*

*Come on, I thought you were smart in a good way!"*

The editorial was about the snobbish, elitist, condescending tone of Liberal writers, a concept that TO DATE no Liberal has been able to grasp. To wit, the letter writer in today's issue leads off with, "... you ran a rather *thoughtless* article entitled ..."

Sigh.

The other writer says in his letter that, "Not long ago you wrote an editorial in which you criticized liberals (the dreaded 'L' word) like me who sometimes complain about the obvious conservative slant of your paper ..."

Sorry. Not true. I went back and reread all of my editorials through April 2006 and couldn't find a single editorial where I criticized a writer for accusing me of being Conservatively "slanted."

The same writer says, "You and your paper would have a lot more credibility if you

# The Ranchos Independent

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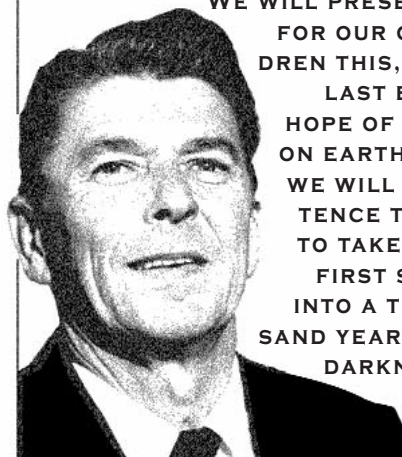
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Please see **HYPE** on P. 25

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Wherever Jesus went, He brought trouble. When Jesus went to a city He caused a shift in the culture and that's exactly what we want to see happen in the lives of young adults across this nation. No longer will students swim with the destructive culture that surrounds, but they will live a radical life like Jesus lived and cause others to follow in their footsteps. As the Acquire the Fire tour theme this year, Here Comes Trouble, it will be bringing this challenge to teenagers across North America.

Acquire the Fire is coming to Fresno on March 20 and 21. Bands like Leeland, Da 'Truth and Decyfer Down will be performing and Mike Guzzardo, Ron Luce and Meghan Stoddard will be speaking. Tickets are \$57 dollars for bowl tickets and \$68 for floor tickets.

If you would like more information please call the Regional Manager, Kristin Devalerio, at 903-324-7474.

Sincerely,  
Desiree Richards  
Fresno

*Editor's Note: This is a copy of a letter that Ranchos resident Chuck LaRue sent to Johannes J. Hovertsz, P.E., Road Commissioner for the Madera County Road Department that he has forwarded on to us.*

Dear Johannes:

Your insistence to increase and post the speed limit at 40 MPH through our community endangers thousands of residents and children. A posted speed limit of 40 MPH will result in these commuters to travel at 47 MPH or more. There are two new schools at Avenue

12 and Road 36 and the children attending those schools are walking on the paved road of Avenue 12 because there are no sidewalks.

After thinking about your attitude and then reading the same line about traffic moving smoothly in the local Madera Ranchos newspaper I realized that you have tunnel vision. You might have been taught to look at roads as means of transport, only. You interpret laws and rules to support the rapid transportation of vehicles on a paved road or highway. Perhaps you were not trained to think of the human safety element for a community like the Madera Ranchos. You can see that people now going 53 MPH through our community in your newly posted 40 MPH is efficient vehicular transport.

There is another human element to the equation. There is the safety of the residents of a community that drive into and out of their driveways and the many businesses in this two mile section that is partly a business district.

It is my understanding that children were killed on Avenue 12 30 years ago and this is the reason the speed limit was established at 35 MPH through our little community. You classify this 35 MPH speed limit as being an arbitrary number that was not established or supported by current survey models. You deny the reality that your predecessors in the Madera Road Department followed instructions from the powers in place 30 years ago to establish a 35 MPH speed limit through our community for safety reasons. Public safety was more important than speeding vehicular traffic. I really don't think that you and your department are qualified to supersede public safety to accommodate the speeding commuter traffic that runs through this community today. You citing laws that allow you to accommodate those speeders does not make it right. Legal does not mean right all of the time and I believe this is one of those instances

when public safety of this community, the Madera Ranchos, is not being met but in fact being denied and abused by your department to allow people to drive faster for two miles. What is the time difference for a vehicle traveling 40 MPH instead of 35 MPH for a distance of two miles?

60 mph = 1 mile per minute  
40 mph = .666 mile per minute  
35 mph = .583 mile per minute  
30 mph = .5 mile per minute

It takes about 3 minutes to travel through our two mile community at 40 MPH and it takes four minutes to travel through our two mile community at 30 MPH so we are talking about less than 60 seconds longer for you to maintain our speed limit at 35 MPH instead of a posted 40 MPH. Maintaining this established 35 MPH speed limit would allow some margin of safety for our citizens while these 16,000 vehicles a day are racing through here at an 85 percentile speed of 48 MPH in our historically posted 35 MPH residential and business districts on Avenue 12 between Roads 36 and 38, documented by your survey.

I believe you and your associates raising the posted speed limit to 40 MPH endangers these school children while these speeding commuters save less than 60 seconds on an hour commute drive.

What amazes me is that you acknowledge that 85 percent of these commuters had a speed of 48 MPH in a posted 35 MPH residential and commercial zoned property yet you ignore the reality that if that percentage is continued by these people driving through our community they will have an 85 percent speed of approximately 53 MPH. According to the California Highway Patrol officer that I spoke with that patrols this area, "The judges don't like us giving tickets for only five miles per hour over the posted speed limit."

I see the end result being that you, Johannes, and your public departments have created a situation where commuters can legally drive through our business district in excess of 45 MPH.

You dismissed my challenge to your interpretation and application of the California Department of Motor Vehicles Code that defines "business district" by email and told me "Please consider this e-mail the Department's response to your request for information on this issue. At this time we believe that we have addressed this issue properly and need no further follow-up."

I find it necessary to contact civil employees outside of your department to try to find an honest and unbiased ear that may still believe that public safety is paramount to a 40 second convenience for commuters.

I have never heard of a law that provides for adjusting public safety to accommodate the 85 percentile that chooses to violate posted laws. What a distortion of public safety.

I ask that you people rethink your decision to raise the speed limit in our little community. I find this unacceptable and sincerely request that you, or any other public figure that reads this, initiate a revised study of this situation with the community safety issue included this time. My interest is in the safety for the community and the commuters, primarily our community. If the County of Madera follows through with the southern bypass for Avenue 12 then the commuters will be removed from this two mile section but the community will still be using the business district and the children are still walking on the Avenue 12 pavement.

Sincerely,  
Chuck La Rue  
Madera Ranchos

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 24




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## The Stock Report

# Visionaries: Please Apply Now

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I am looking for a visionary person who can imagine what the Ranchos could look like in 10 years, 20 years or even 50 years from now. I have known a few such visionary people in my life. They make life exciting and give hope to the people who are working on projects. Memories, what great memories I have of Bill Bell and Steve Krueger. They opened my eyes to the potential of the Ranchos and the Golden Valley Unified School District. They said our community should take care of the people that live here from "birth to earth." We are not just a bedroom community as some people think. We now have distinguished schools, a variety of churches, the best Children's Hospital in the state, a shopping center and a great active Ranchos/Hills Senior center.

No wonder people chose to live here, but the bible says that "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." We need those visionaries who can keep us moving forward. We have a park committee who would like to see a park in our area. We also have a library committee that can visualize a new local library for the Ranchos. If you are interested in either of these projects join in and help makes these projects happen. I would like to see a skate park for our community skateboarders – they really need a place to call their own. Can you help with this project? What about the loop around the Ranchos? Can you visualize a shopping area where most of your needs can be met without going into Madera or Fresno? If you can the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce can use you. Get involved people – help to make things happen. This is where you live and raise your children. It is up to you to make it the kind of community that you what to live in ... not just a bedroom community.

Our Liberty High School opened in 2002 and what a lot of changes have been made in that time. To open a new high school involves so much more than people think. We started out with only 9th and 10th grades. We named the high school Liberty High partly because we had gotten

our liberty from Madera Unified after they had said, "Sorry, but we can't build even a middle school in your area," after they had purchased land and promised us our own middle school. So being a "can do" community, we worked to become Golden Valley School District, passed two bonds, built Liberty High School and are building Ranchos Middle School. Since we opened Liberty High we have had three principals and we are about to have the fifth graduating class on June 4, 2009. Not bad for a school district that has only been in business for 10 years. I have to laugh when I remember "... they said it couldn't be done!" Improvements are continuing to be done at Liberty High. It is not the full build out for 1,200 students that the original Liberty High plans were designed for, but we don't have that many students yet.

Some day we will.

Your school board members are working hard to keep Golden Valley Unified moving forward. Last year's audit of the district shows that the district office finally has things under

control. Sacramento has a way of changing the rules about school audits and that keeps all districts on their toes to comply. In this uncertain financial time, Golden Valley Unified, like all school districts, is struggling to pay the bills. Sacramento can't put politics aside long enough to pass a budget. We are halfway through this school year without knowing what the state budget will be. School districts are left hanging not knowing when or how much they will have to finish the school year. People are being laid off from their jobs all around us and Golden Valley Unified employees are concerned about their jobs. It is the law that pink slips are given out by March 15 but that doesn't mean that everyone who gets one will be laid off. This is never an easy time for anyone.

At the last school board meeting, Dr. Jim Green, principal of Golden Valley Educational Options schools, gave a site report and brought two of his students with him to tell about the program that they are in. Educational Option covers a wide area: Independence High is our continuation school where students that are behind in

Please see **STOCK** on P. 22

*No wonder people chose to live here, but the bible says that "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." We need those visionaries who can keep us moving forward.*

*The Pastor's Desk***Desperate Times call for Compassion**

By Bob Crabb

The violence of Lent and Holy Week were over and the report has it that "Mary stood weeping outside the tomb" (John 20:11). Standing alone with her wounded heart and broken spirit, tears coming down her face, Mary stood outside of the tomb and cried.

And why shouldn't she be crying? She had just been through the very first Lent and Holy Week and for her Easter Sunday hadn't quite dawned. That first Lent and Holy Week was a time that ended in great stress and trauma and pain. It had ended in the betrayal, abandonment and execution of Mary's beloved Jesus. And now as she stood outside the tomb and cried, even his body seemed to be gone.

That first Lent and Holy Week was a story of people who let each other down repeatedly and consistently. It was an ugly story of people lying, betraying, disrespecting, accusing, cursing, acting violently and making catastrophic mistakes. There was greed,

fear, politics and power and self-righteous behavior. The first Lent and Holy Week was a story of what it means to be human. No one lived up to their expectations and Jesus had been betrayed and deserted by his closest friends in life. They had arrested Jesus in the evening and then they beat Jesus and falsely accused Jesus and wrongly convicted Jesus and made fun of him and spit on him and tortured him. Jesus had been executed on the cross and everyone proved to be less than what they wanted to be. When it came time to stand up and be counted, everyone ran away. How could we ever forget the betrayal of Jesus by Judas? How could we ever forget how the disciples abandoned Jesus when he needed them the most? How could we ever forget how Peter disowned Jesus not once, not twice, but three times?

Mary is no longer with us, but haven't we seen her tears in our present day and time? We have seen her tears on the evening news – the tears

of people crying over loss and hurt and feelings of betrayal. Anytime you see wounded hearts, broken spirits and tears coming down people's faces you might also be able to see Mary standing outside the tomb. Mary is as human as she can be and she is us and we are her. In some places it is Good Friday all the time. Sometimes those tears are right here in our neighborhoods. It seems like everyone in the whole world at some time or another has to stand outside some tomb somewhere and just cry.

Many times we hear about Lent and Holy Week as 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter Sunday. Sometimes churches use this time to consider Jesus' ministry prior to the Resurrection or sometimes it is seen as a time for repentance or preparation

*I have heard on the news that things may get worse. We are overwhelmed with opportunities to reach out and serve in the name of Jesus Christ. It is God's work and it is in our hands. Now is the time for the community of faith gathered around Christ to stand up and be counted.*

for baptism. But in a real sense, the story of the journey to the Cross in the season of Lent and Holy Week point to the presence of Christ in the midst of human difficulties. The burdens people have and the life difficulties people experience are not some kind of imaginary condition. When your house gets repossessed, when your job lays you off, when the family member gets drunk one more time or when that relationship breaks up or that loved one dies, sometimes all you can do is stand outside with Mary and cry. Can you remember a time when you were crying? Perhaps you are experiencing loss even now. If you can identify with human struggle, then maybe you can identify with Mary and her tears. Standing outside of the tomb, she had yet to experience the Resurrection of Our Lord. She was still experiencing the season of Lent and Holy week up close and personal.

The message of Jesus Christ is a message of love and friendship with God even in times of great distress and uncertainty. Through it all, we are invited to participate with Christ in the saving message of the Gospel. Jesus called his followers "his

Please see PASTOR on P. 13



## The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship

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## The Bookshelf

# Flatlander's Day is Coming - It's Craft Booth Time to Help the Library

By Ellen Mester

Preparations for Flatlander's Parade and Craft Show on May 9 are already underway! Vendor applications have been sent and spaces are filling up. Craft booths sell for \$30 and we are trying very hard this year not to have duplicate crafts — first come, first served means just that. Food booths sell for \$50 and there are new county restrictions on food booths that are more stringent than in the past, so please check with us at the library if you are contemplating a food booth. We aim to be in full compliance with all agencies while keeping with the intended purpose which is to HAVE FUN and raise money for the Ranchos Library! For information regarding the craft fair contact the Ranchos Library at 645-1214. For information about the parade, please contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001.

### Author Visit

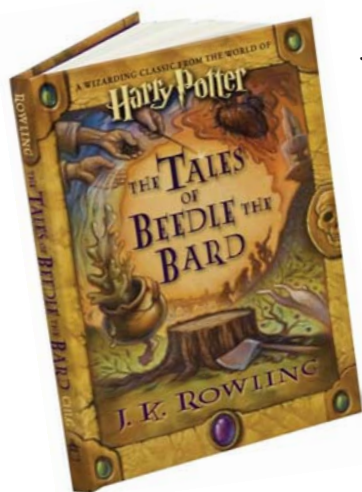
Motivational speaker and local author of Coach Sez, Don Smith, shared his real life experiences as a teacher and coach at Chowchilla High School with students, parents and teachers at the Ranchos Library on Feb. 12. Some of his former students accompanied him and talked about how the Coach had made a difference in their lives. It was an entertaining and thought provoking evening. We're hoping to have more author visits in the near future.

### Children's Programs

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. there is something for children ages 3-11 at the library. The first Wednesday of the month we have Read to Katie the Dog. Katie is a licensed therapy dog who enjoys listening to children. The second and fourth Wednesdays we have Bilingual Storytime where we learn new Spanish words and share the culture. It's a lot of fun. Then the third Wednesday we have Craft and Story Time where we make something seasonal and very special, and most importantly, we have Pre-school Story Time with Mrs. Anderson every Monday at 11 a.m.

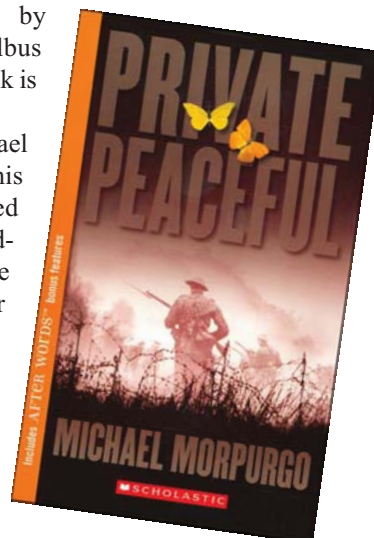
### Book Recommendations

**Juvenile Fiction:** *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* by J.K. Rowling. In the last Harry Potter book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Albus Dumbledore in his will left Hermione Granger a book written in ancient runes. Hermione translates the stories and one of the tales helps Harry figure out how to destroy Lord Voldemort. The tales are all very interesting — not totally unlike fairy tales for muggles (non-magic folk) which can seem like frightening fantasies that one wonders why they are ever told to children. Most do have some sort of lesson or message that parents use to teach children about morals, dangers or the brutalities of life. At any rate the Beedle's tales are quite entertaining and are accompanied by commentary from Albus



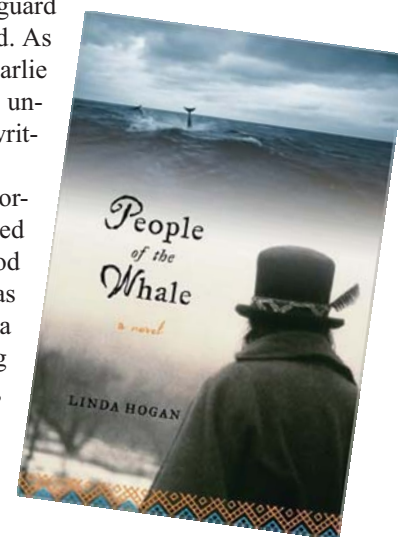
Dumbledore. For Harry Potter fans, this book is a must read.

**Young Adult Fiction:** *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. Thomas Peaceful always looked up to his brother Charlie. And consequently Charlie protected Thomas — even taking beatings for him. Their childhood in the English countryside began with a close family filled with love and laughter even when their nasty great-aunt came to live with them. Unfortunately, tragedy struck and their father is killed saving Thomas from a falling tree. Their mother is forced to work as a lady's maid at the big house on the estate where they live and the boys take on more chores under the evil eye of their great-aunt. Their best friend Molly is frequently by their sides and



both boys grow to love her. When WWI begins, Charlie joins up and is shipped to France. Thomas lies about his age and follows him. Much of the story is Thomas sitting in the cold wet trenches on guard duty remembering his life — the good and the sad. As the situation goes from bad to unbearable, both Charlie and Thomas fight to stay alive. The ending has an unexpected twist that punctuates this amazingly well-written compelling story.

**Adult Fiction:** *People of the Whale* by Linda Hogan. The horrors of the Viet Nam war have shattered Thomas Just's Native American soul. His childhood among his people on the Pacific Northwest Coast was legendary. He and his wife Ruth had heritage and a strong bond to each other, their tribe and all living things in the sea. They were the People of the Whale, but the U.S. Army had different ideas for Thomas and sent him to the jungles of Viet Nam where he



Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 12

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# Golden Valley Chamber 6th Annual Crab Feed - Fill 'er Up!



Prior to the event, the Liberty High cafeteria was turned into a silent auction area. These bidders got a sneak peek.



John and Pam Glueck were among the crowd eagerly awaiting their crab and the festivities.



Part of the fun was taking a chance on winning some money in the "50/50." Bill Whyman (right) was selling tickets all night.



Without a doubt, the highlight of the evening was the arrival of the crab for the nearly 200 hungry diners. And all for a good cause, too.



One of the more unique items being auctioned was a mobile flower planter hand-built from a wine cask by Bob Naden.



School Board Member Mark Toole filled in as auctioneer at the last minute and Miss Clovis Rodeo hopeful Brittney Hart helped out.

Photos courtesy of Travis Hart.

## It's Official! Alfresco Coffee Opens



On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Ranchos' newest business was unveiled to the world as the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce conducted an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Alfresco Coffee located at 37164 Avenue 12 #102 (next to Subway). Owners Sheila (left) and Jordan Sciacqua react as Chamber President Randy Bailey gets out of the way of flying ribbon and scissors.

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## ★ The Night ★ the Stars Come Out

You are cordially invited to attend the  
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"The Night the Stars Come Out" dinner event hosted  
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Saturday March 21, 2009

7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Liberty High School Theater

12220 Road 36

\* Evening attire—black tie optional


Tickets per couple \$50.00

For more information contact the Foundation at #645-3555  
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**Office 645-0716**

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Kid's Church.....8:30 & 10 a.m.	Worship Service
Worship.....10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.	Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
Youth.....6 p.m.	Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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## The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

An old-timer, engulfed in an abyss of time and space – walking through a world he hardly knows anymore – is drawn to a bench like a magnet and not necessarily because his limbs are worn out but for a lack of all those yesterday errands that finally are all done.

And so it was the other mid-morning, a burst of welcome bright sunlight breaking through endless layers of dreary fog that so often in winter's time creeps into our town on little cat feet as poet Carl Sandburg would have said, and I took a seat at the far end of a bench where an unshaven, middle-aged and sockless man-of-the-street, ruddy of face and wearing a badly soiled baseball cap and rag-tag clothes was bent over exploring the contents of a trash can. The can yielded little more than a partly devoured sandwich and a piece of dried pastry, but both were apparently to the liking of an empty and growling stomach and he took a seat at the other end of the bench and devoured both.

"How you doin' partner?" he asked me, mouth exposing what could have doubled for a rickety old fence with several pickets missing and the others brown and rotting away. Well aware that being addressed as "partner," a panhandler pseudonym predicating that he is about to ask for a handout, I mentally pictured the inside of my wallet to try and remember if there were a couple of dollar bills in there that I could spare.

"You don't happen to have a couple of bucks you could lend me for a few days to help get my feet out of the wet and cold?" he asked. "I'm figurin' to find myself some odd jobs, but folks don't hire men that don't have no socks on. I could probably pay you back by Friday or Saturday."

Not only was he without socks, I noted, but wearing mismatched shoes – one brown, but the color of the other pretty hard to distinguish because a buckskin-like string had been tied around it to prevent the loose sole from slapping against the pavement.

"After I get a couple of bucks to buy socks I'll head for one of those charity second-hand stores that sometimes will outfit a guy with clean pants, a shirt and even a jacket," he explained, "because a man has to look half-way presentable to get work."

I handed him a couple of dollar bills even though I realized the odds were he'd never set foot in a store that sold socks but head straight for the drug store down at the corner that sells a passel of cheap wine to down-and-outers that ignites a glow in their hearts and some heat in their bellies. I was about to move on when a slip of a shabbily-clad woman, tangled gray hair, wrinkles like turkey tracks across her face and teary eyes

approached and reached out for the man, and when he got up, threw arms around him and sobbed against his shoulder.

"M'gawd, look at you Charlie," she whimpered. "You just have to come home or some night you're going to die out here in the cold and wet of the street."

"Honest, Mama," he said, "I'm OK." He pulled her down on the bench as he put an arm around her trembling body as tears ran freely down her cheeks. "I just need a little money to get cleaned up, buy some duds, shoes and socks and get back on my feet. I'm gonna' find work any day now Mama. I promise."

"You tell me this every time we meet down here," she said, burying face in hands and shuddering.

"This time I really mean it, Mama," he said, laying an arm around her shoulders. "Probably I'll be working by this time next week if I can just round up 20 bucks to buy some clothes and socks, get a shower, haircut and shave. I promise you, mama, I'm going to make you proud of me this time. And all I need is 20 bucks."

I felt somewhat ashamed to be eavesdropping on the tragic conversation, but somehow couldn't tear myself away.

"If you could just find it in your heart to lend me that 20 Mama, I'd make you proud. I know I've told you all this before, but by God, cross my heart, this time I really mean it."

Hesitantly, the weary and sobbing woman reached into a tattered purse and pulled out a few bills and some change, I don't know how much it was but it sure didn't look like it would add up to 20 dollars.

"This is all I have until my next welfare check comes," she cried, "and I'm two months behind on the rent." And from her apparent physical condition it also appeared that she may not have eaten in awhile. Nevertheless she pressed the bills and small change in one of his grimy hands, got up and slowly walked away, trembling, and probably still crying.

"I'll see you around, partner," the man told me, offering a grimy hand shake that I'd rather not have accepted and then got up and headed in the opposite direction of his mother, and right past two charity second-hand stores on his hurried way to the corner drug store.

With heavy heart I sat there for a few more minutes. It had grown somewhat chill and I noticed that once again the sun had hidden itself in the overcast sky.

And fog was creeping back into town on little cats' feet.



# Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

When I “graduated” from first to second grade, my grandma asked me what I wanted for graduation. I told her I wanted a birthstone ring and a watermelon. So, taking her two-wheeled wire shopping basket, she walked to town and went to the dime store (there’s that place again) and bought me a ring with a ruby-red stone in it and then went to the store and bought a watermelon for me. Of course, with mama and daddy and two sisters and two brothers and grandma it didn’t last long, but still it was mine!

On our birthdays mama would cook our favorite meals and always our favorite cake. Mine was always fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, with homegrown green beans. I know some of you will shudder when I say this, but mama always fried her chicken in Crisco, and a big spoonful of - be careful, here comes THAT word – LARD! Oh, my mouth is drooling just writing about it. And I usually got a white cake with dark chocolate frosting and, with my birthday being in the summertime, there was most always a freezer of homemade ice cream from the old crank freezer – we didn’t have an electric one until one of my brothers was old enough to go to work and buy one for the family.

My youngest brother’s cake every year was banana nut. Mama would make it in three layers and put whipped cream (the real stuff) on top of each layer and sliced bananas on top of the cream before she would put the next layer on and repeat until she had all three layers with the whipped cream and bananas. I still have the plate she served it on (my brother, George, is 62 years old now so you can imagine how old the plate is). I was going to give it to one of his daughters so she could fix her dad a happy birthday banana nut cake, but I dropped the box the plate was in

(it’s pink glass) and it is now in about a dozen pieces – anybody know of a food grade glue I can repair it with?

## Banana Nut Cake

Preheat oven to 350  
3 ripe bananas  
5 T sour milk  
1 t baking soda  
¾ C shortening  
1 ½ C sugar  
2 eggs  
2 C flour  
½ t salt  
½ C nuts  
1 t vanilla

In small bowl, mix together the smashed bananas, sour milk and baking soda – set aside. In large mixing bowl cream together shortening and sugar, add eggs, one at a time. On waxed paper, mix flour and salt. Add dry ingredients alternately with banana mix to shortening mix. Add vanilla and nuts. Pour evenly into three 8-inch (or two 9-inch) cake pans that have been greased and floured lightly. Bake 30-35 minutes until done, test with a toothpick. Cool cakes completely before frosting with whipped cream and bananas.

My father’s only brother and his wife lived in Hanford and came to visit us often. Every time they came, Aunt Gladys would always bring either a cake or cookies. When their persimmons were ripe she would bring a big tray of persimmon cookies. She would also bring persimmons that weren’t quite ripe yet so that when they ripened mama could make some more for us. She would also bring a “Lazy Dazy” cake. As I remember her cake, it only had walnuts in the topping, but we always put coconut and walnuts.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 23

## BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

saw people lose all respect for life of any kind. It broke him completely. He slips away in the jungle and begins a new life among those Vietnamese who were neither enemy nor friend, but people just trying to stay alive. Eventually he marries and fathers a daughter, Lin. Meanwhile back home, his wife Ruth has had a son, Marco, who grows up without knowing his father. The military has said Thomas is dead but Ruth knows in her heart he is not. She scratches out a living from her fishing boat and raises Marco to be a fine young man in the tradition of the People. Eventually Thomas returns home an empty shell of who he once was. So much has happened and so many hearts have been broken. The story wanders and feels fragmented at times but the strength of the story and characters are such that I had to find out what happened to them. The end was definitely worth it, but I felt a bit bruised by the sorrow of it. This is not an easy read but certainly thought provoking.

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



**Chad Harr**

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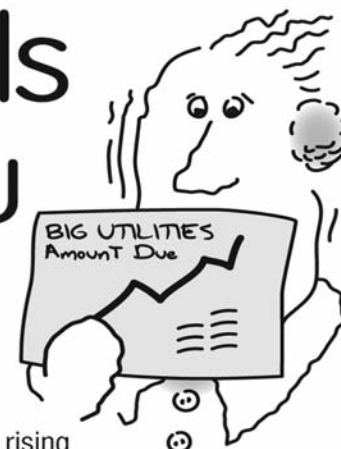


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PASTOR cont. from P. 6

friends" (John 15:8). He commanded his followers to "agape" love one another – to have an unconditional concern and regard for each other (John 13:34). This is the common task for all of us who claim the friendship of Jesus.

Today there are many who are going through times that may seem as desperate as that first Lent and Holy Week. Almost anywhere we look today we can find someone who seems very much like Mary crying outside the tomb. Yes we are beginning the church season of Lent and Holy Week and we wait anxiously for Easter, but there are also many of us who are experiencing a Lent and Holy Week that seems too much like that first Lent and Holy week. Today there is great national distress and global danger that have given many of God's people a reason to "stand outside of the tomb and cry." The distress is real and it is here even in our midst.

Now is the time for the people of God to reach out with agape love – not an imaginary love – but the kind of love that is real and concrete and present. Jesus said (John 13:34-35): "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you

Spring 2009

Page 13

must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." There has never been a more opportune time for the people of Christ to live out this kind of love. Now is the time to participate with Christ in caring and showing concern for each other. What better way to prepare for Easter Sunday than by practicing the presence of Christ with someone who is living though a sure enough real Lent and a Holy Week.

I have heard on the news that things may get worse. We are overwhelmed with opportunities to reach out and serve in the name of Jesus Christ. It is God's work and it is in our hands. Now is the time for the community of faith gathered around Christ to stand up and be counted.

By this they will know that you are a disciple of Christ. Even in a Lent and Holy Week that seem a little too real.

Next Month: The Resurrection of our Lord!

*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 10:30AM. All are welcome.*



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## Grace Changes Everything

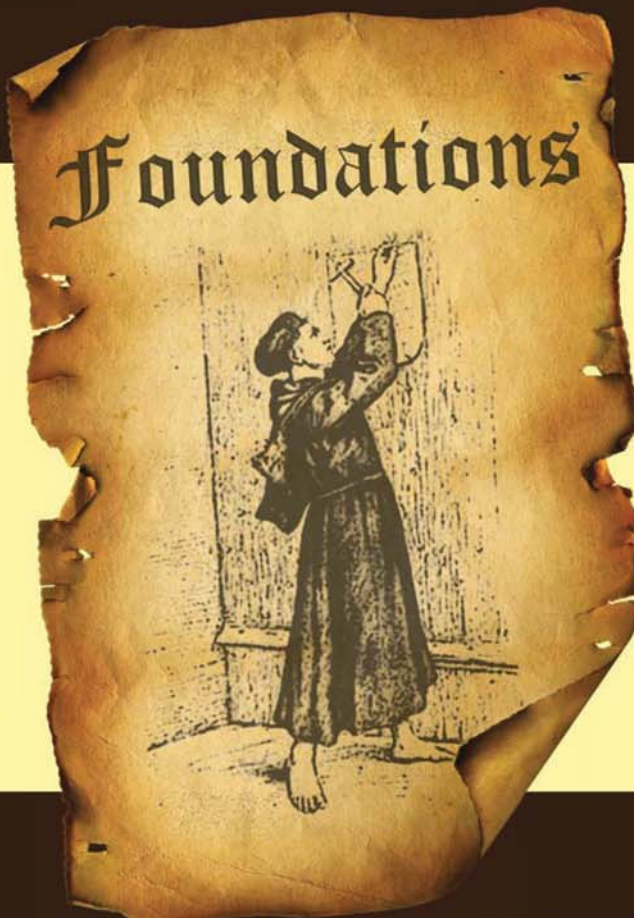
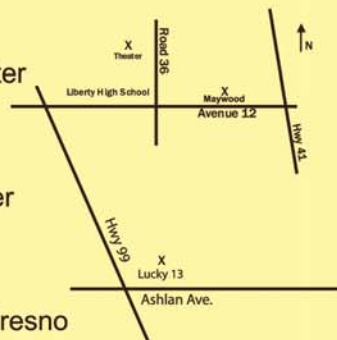
"the stewardship of God's grace... was given  
to me for your benefit" ephesians3/2nab

### Services on Sunday:

9:30 & 11:00 AM  
**Flipside** Liberty  
at Liberty High School Theater

10:00 AM  
**Flipside** Maywood  
at Flipside Activity Center

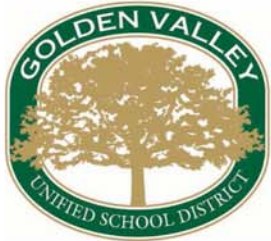
12:00 noon  
**Flipside** 13  
at Lucky 13 Bar in Fresno



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“MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2009.”

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

2/09

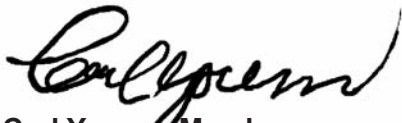
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### SKATEBOARDING AT GOLDEN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

We regret that we cannot make our property available for skateboarding or any other non-Church activities. Effective February 19, 2009 all non-Church sponsored activities on the property must stop. Our Insurance provider has given us notice that our policy does not cover any activities with such high risk.

We have checked with the schools and commercial businesses in the area for possible alternatives to using our parking lot but found they do not allow these activities either. We recognize there is no place where the youth in our community can skateboard or have any other unorganized activity. We do not have a Boys and Girls Club or any other location for outdoor activities such as those described. Madera has many facilities such as parks, ball fields, activity centers and even a skateboard park with a Recreation Department to administer it. Our community contributes a large percentage of the County's budget yet there has been no provision made for our Children's' recreational needs. There must be something our Supervisor, Mr. Frank Bigelow, can do to obtain a grant for a place to conduct after-school activities.

Our Church has ministries to the Madera Rescue Mission and Hypana Convalescent Home. We have helped many families in need in our community; our men have a ministry to the elderly and widows. We support missionaries in North America and throughout the World. During the summer we have Vacation Bible School and Church Camp for our Children so we are aware of the need to “reach out” to others. We are hopeful that the community leaders will “reach out” to fill this recreational need for the Boys and Girls in the Madera Ranchos.



Carl Yocum, Member  
Golden Valley Baptist Church  
12414 Road 37  
Madera, CA 93636

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WATER cont. from P. 2

counterparts, a California core group and others, to discuss issues and possible solutions in the related fields of water conservation, desalination, water quality, water reuse, water in agriculture, water recharge, deep well technology and water management. The goal is to network, create close contacts and ongoing working relationships by all who have interest, to find projects of common interest that can be worked on jointly in the coming years.

A community meeting is planned for Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Liberty High School in

the Madera Ranchos. This forum will be open to all and will be a chance to hear the best and brightest ideas on water and water conservation from the top experts in a nation facing even greater water challenges than we are here in the Central Valley.

For comments or questions you can e-mail [Ranchos.community@gmail.com](mailto:Ranchos.community@gmail.com) or call 559-363-9095.

For more information about Israel go to Israel – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) at [www.mfa.gov.il/MFA](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA). On the menu at the left side of the page, find and click on “Facts about Israel.”

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2/09



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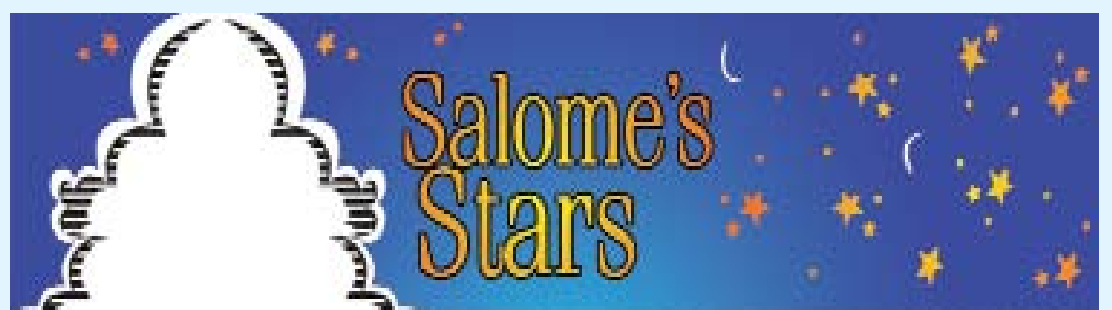
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Try to say as little as possible about the work you're doing through the end of the month. Then you can make your announcement and accept your well-deserved plaudits.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You face a more difficult challenge than you expected. But with that strong Taurean determination, you should be able to deal with it successfully by week's end.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Before you act on your "feelings" about that upcoming decision, it might be wise to do a little fact-checking first. You could be very much surprised by what you don't find.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A recent workplace success can open some doors that were previously closed to you. On a personal level, expect to receive some important news from a longtime friend and colleague.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Put your wounded pride aside and do what you must to heal that misunderstanding before it takes a potentially irreversible turn and leaves you regretting the loss of a good friend.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) One way to kick a less-than-active social life into high gear or rebuild an outdated Rolodex file is to throw one of your well-organized get-togethers for friends and associates.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Getting out of an obligation you didn't really want to take on can be tricky. An honest explanation of the circumstances can help. Next time, pay more attention to your usually keen instincts.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Use your Scorpion logic to push for a no-nonsense approach to a perplexing situation. This could help keep present and potential problems from creating more confusion.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A friend's problem might take more time than you want to give. But staying with it once again proves the depth of your Sagittarian friendship and loyalty.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat can benefit from an extra dose of self-confidence to unsettle your detractors, giving you the advantage of putting on a strong presentation of your position.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might want to ask a friend or relative for advice on an ongoing personal matter. But be careful not to give away information you might later wish you had kept secret.

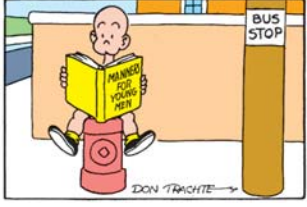
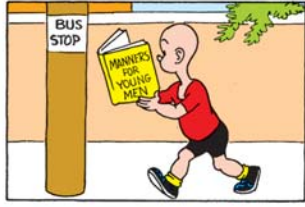
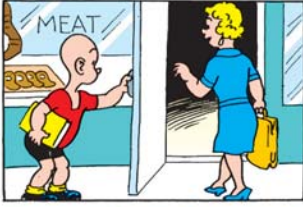
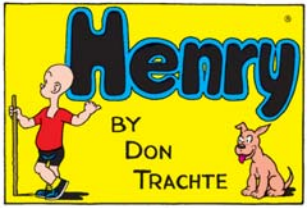
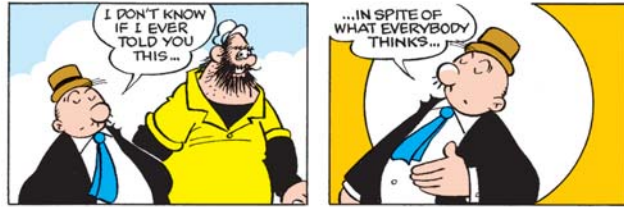
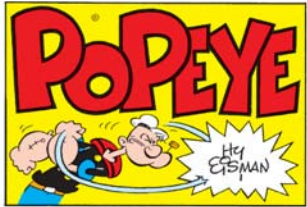
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Use the weekend for a creativity break to help restore your spiritual energy. Once that's done, you'll be back and more than ready to tackle whatever challenge you need to face.

## Born this Week

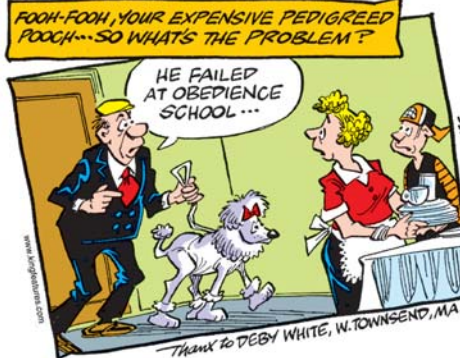
You get great joy out of creating beautiful things and sharing them with others who appreciate them.

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# FUN PAGES



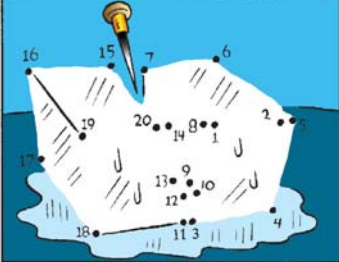
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO

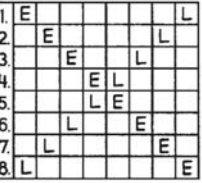


HOME DECOR DEPT-- THEY DID IT BACK IN CAVE-MAN DAYS... and THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH TODAY...  
—Thank to E. SQUEGLIO, FLORAL PARK, N.Y.



IF A BISCUIT is a soda cracker, what is an ice pick? Connect the dots and find out.

Answer: It's a water cracker.



FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for:

DEFINITION:

- Momentous
- To confuse or perplex.
- Farming apparel.
- Paper container.
- Game of chance.
- Animal enclosures.
- Foundation of language.
- To cover on both sides.

ANAGRAM:

- fuel + vent  
feud + bled  
save + roll  
pole + even  
lute + tore  
puns + bell  
peal + bath  
mail + tale

A "WINTER GOLF" PROBLEM! See if you can substitute the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for the letters on our pad so you will have a correct addition problem. The same digit is used for the same letter.

Answer: C=2, L=6, U=5, B=7, T=4, E=1, G=0, O=0, F=8, (2657 + 411 = 3068).

A "PEA" CULIAR PUZZLE! In this puzzle the words get progressively longer and they all begin with PEA. The following hints should help:

- Pea (in place).
- A delicious fruit.
- Found in the sea.
- Comes already wrapped.
- Loud burst of noise.
- Feeling much better.

Answers: 1. Pea, 2. Pear, 3. Pearl, 4. Peanut, 5. Pealing, 6. Peachier.

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

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## MAGIC MAZE — BAY PLACES

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

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

- |         |         |             |         |
|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Cruz    | Montego | Richards    | Thunder |
| Grand   | North   | Saint Ann's | Walvis  |
| Herne   | Oyster  | Sheepshead  | West    |
| Mallard | Palm    | Tampa       |         |

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. state does the Kennebec River flow through?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you"?
- MOVIES: In which movie was the following line uttered and by which character? "Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son."
- ANATOMY: What human gland produces growth hormones?
- MUSIC: In musical notation, what does the direction "mezzo" mean?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Of the seven deadly sins, which one is missing from this list - avarice, envy, gluttony, lust, sloth and wrath?
- ENTERTAINERS: What was comedian Jackie Gleason's famous parting line?
- LANGUAGE: How would you describe someone who is "garrulous"?
- TELEVISION: Cult favorite "Twin Peaks" was set and filmed in which U.S. state?
- TRANSPORTATION: Where might you ride a "vaporetto"?

### Answers

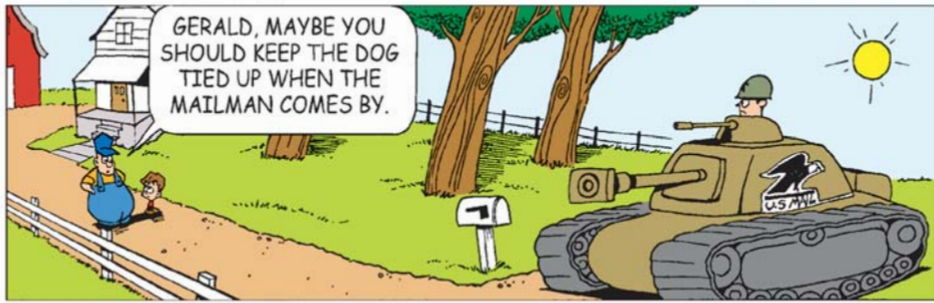
- Maine
- Will Rogers
- "Animal House" (Dean Wormer)
- Pituitary
- Middle or moderate
- Pride
- "And away we go..."
- Talkative or chatty
- Washington
- Venice, Italy. A vaporetto is a motorboat used for transport in the canals.

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Click on "Local News" at

# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



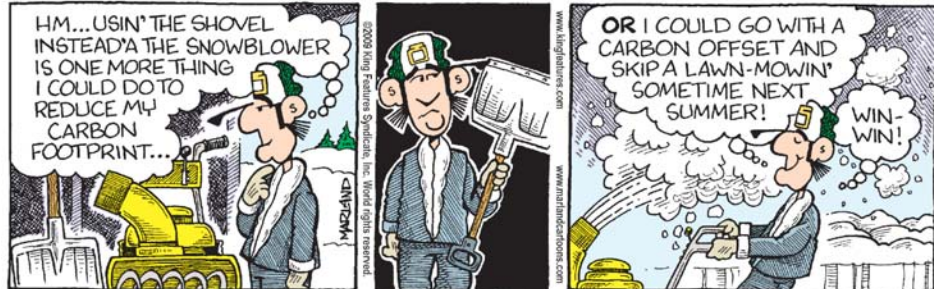
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

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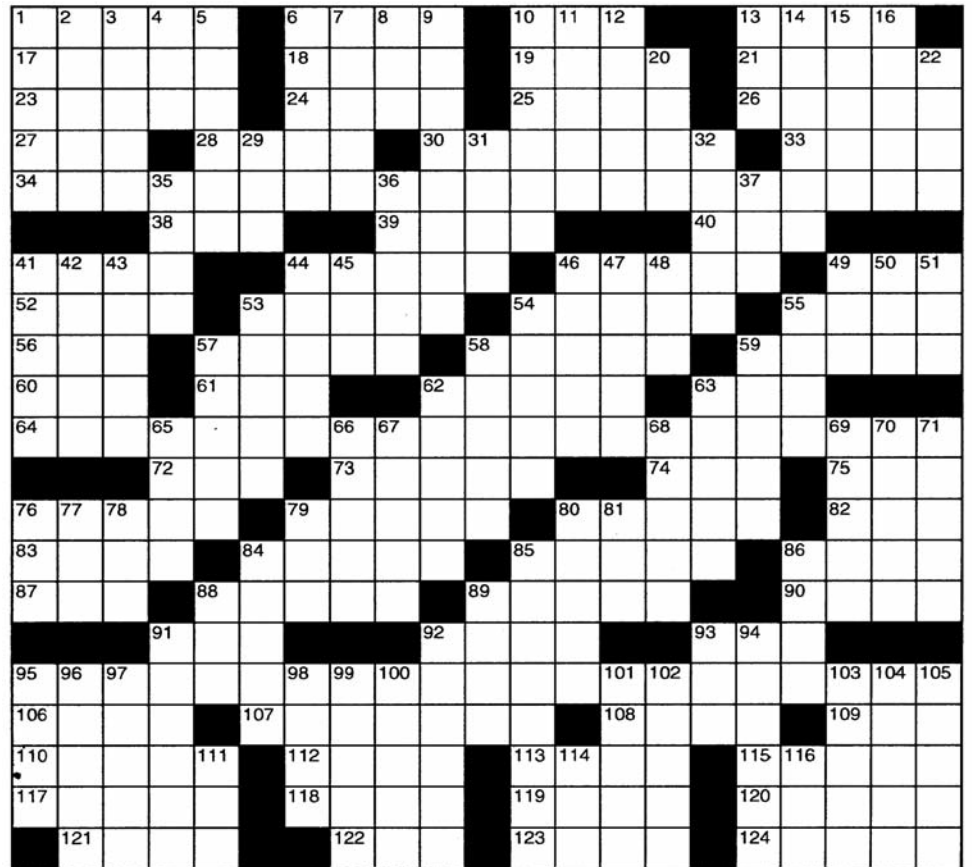
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Woman's hair is different. 2. Drum has been added. 3. Boy's drum is shorter. 4. Drums are shorter. 5. Man's tie is missing. 6. Guitar is missing.

# Super Crossword



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**ACROSS**

- 1 Resembling
- 6 Lowdown lit
- 10 Small shot
- 13 Ellipse
- 17 Prompts
- 18 Sheet of stamps
- 19 — League
- 21 Send payment
- 23 Buenos —
- 24 Computer image
- 25 Non-stereo
- 26 Praise for Pavarotti
- 27 "Norma —" ('79 film)
- 28 Bruins' sch.
- 30 "Ada" author
- 33 List entry
- 34 Start of a remark by Will Rogers
- 38 Author LeShan
- 39 About
- 40 Very cold
- 41 Mets' milieu
- 44 Artist Neiman
- 46 Steakhouse order
- 49 Kasbah cap
- 52 Printed matter
- 53 Hook on a hawk
- 54 Wall Street spoilers
- 55 Poi base
- 56 Code letters

- 57 Prominent Hatch?
- 58 Gardener's delight
- 59 So out it's in
- 60 Bow
- 61 Playground game
- 62 Uncool ones
- 63 Who stoops to conquer
- 64 Middle of remark
- 72 Snaky swimmer
- 73 Actor Lorenzo
- 74 Logical letters
- 75 "Knots Landing" character
- 76 Yankee Derek
- 79 Nickel creature
- 80 Toughen up
- 82 Dachshund declaration
- 83 Surrounded by
- 84 Dedicated to defamation
- 85 Laotian native
- 86 "La Boheme" seamstress
- 87 Lave the linoleum

- 88 Part of a process
- 89 Black piano key
- 90 Spirit
- 91 — Lanka
- 92 Mutt of mystery
- 93 — -relief
- 95 End of remark
- 106 Corner a cat
- 107 Indy 500 figure
- 108 Actress Freeman
- 109 Fury's food
- 110 Destined to diet
- 112 Lost
- 113 Ultimate whale watcher?
- 115 Former African nation
- 117 Actress Marisa
- 118 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
- 119 Theater section
- 120 New York city
- 121 Salamander
- 122 57 Across, e.g.
- 123 Look like a latch
- 124 Com. treaty

**DOWN**

- 1 Peck part
- 2 A Heap of Dickens
- 3 Come around
- 4 Look at
- 5 Sent out
- 6 Like some milk
- 7 Jungle bird
- 8 Top numero
- 9 "In Memoriam" poet
- 10 Hefty grass
- 11 Witch wheels?
- 12 Low-octane joe?
- 13 Sphere
- 14 Prove
- 15 Famed figure in fiddles
- 16 Bile producer
- 20 Opus
- 22 Magnum opus
- 29 R.E. Lee's govt.
- 31 Part of DA
- 32 Scores in ores
- 35 Best
- 36 Hitter Hank
- 37 Sail through
- 41 Scarecrow stuffing
- 42 Monsieur Matisse
- 43 Precise

- 44 A particular Key
- 45 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- 46 Mens the bar
- 47 Met men
- 48 Rossini's "Le Comte —"
- 49 Some trimmings
- 50 Bungle
- 51 Gnu center?
- 53 Seek out a school?
- 54 Conifer coverings
- 55 Really rain
- 57 Sleek swimmer
- 58 Some kind of a nut
- 59 — Island
- 62 "In Search of ..." host
- 63 Unyielding
- 65 Pay attention to
- 66 Opens the mail
- 67 Discernment
- 68 Hunker down
- 69 Serve a purpose
- 70 Fate
- 71 Impish
- 76 Berry sweet stuff?
- 77 Funny Philips

- 78 Inside info
- 79 Herd word
- 80 Farouk's faith
- 81 Nicole on "Fame"
- 84 Exercises the arms
- 85 "— is said and done"
- 86 A real butte
- 88 Expert
- 89 Tennis legend
- 91 Playground feature
- 92 Reach
- 93 Prohibition
- 94 Woman warrior
- 95 Subway station
- 96 Papal name
- 97 "Superman" star
- 98 Coup d'—
- 99 Desert refuges
- 100 Jacques, for one
- 101 Effigy
- 102 Like a judge
- 103 Man of steal?
- 104 Jeweler's weight
- 105 African scavenger
- 111 Tolkien creation
- 114 Form furrows
- 116 Cookbook phrase



# Middle School Picks Science Champs

The Ranchos Middle School Science Fair that started in November of last year concluded in February and has named its 7th and 8th grade individual and group winners. First place for an individual project in 8th grade went to Carolyn Bailey and in 7th grade, Katie Grant. First place winners in the group competition in 8th grade were Adam Swan and Luis Gonzalez and in 7th grade Scott McCoy and Tyler Northy.

Bailey, whose project was about using solar energy to desalinate water to help solve California's water shortage problem, was totally surprised when she found out she had won.



*Eighth grader Carolyn Bailey holds one of the four desalinators she made that led to her 1st Place victory at the Ranchos Middle School Science Fair.*

"I thought it was a good idea, but I didn't know if it was good enough to win," Bailey said. Making salt water desalinators has been done before for science fair projects but Bailey's twist was to make a "solar oven" out of a cardboard box to increase the sun's power on one of the desalinators. Even with the cloudy weather conditions over Christmas Break when she conducted the experiment, the solar oven got the desalinator to produce fresh water.

"I'd really like to try it again this summer and see it work with a lot of sun," she said.

The other winners were:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>8th Grade – Individual</i> | 2nd place Chloe Doyle                                   |
|                               | 3rd place Matthew Cuevas                                |
| <i>8th Grade – Group</i>      | 2nd place Joaquin Legaspi, Cody Davis and Jaycob Rousey |
|                               | 3rd place McKenna Coats and Alexis Moore                |
| <i>7th Grade – Individual</i> | 2nd place Justin Chase                                  |
|                               | 3rd place Henry Coulthard                               |
| <i>7th Grade – Group</i>      | 2nd place Roy Wolley, Sean Smith and Chris Lee          |
|                               | 3rd place Mikayla Brauer and Darbi Duke                 |

# Tournament Coming to Ranchos



Competitors of all ages from the Central Valley enjoyed an action-packed day of friendly competition in the Ranchos at Golden Valley Martial Arts. Parents of students helped to make the tournament a success and every competitor left with a beautiful trophy for displaying good character, respect for one another and demonstrating 100 percent effort. The next Friendship Tournament is scheduled for April 4 so contact Master Dave Johnson at 917-5262 for more information.

## STOCK cont. from P. 5

credits can attend to catch up and graduate; Lincoln Community Day School is a school for 7th to 12th grade students who have been expelled from regular classes and need a more confined classroom for study; Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School has court-ordered students from all over California; Centennial Independent Study works well for some students; Golden Valley Adult School is for anyone over 18 that maybe didn't graduate; and last, but not least, students that are at Valley Children's Hospital for more than five days are taught by Golden Valley Unified teachers. So you can see, Dr. Green has his work cut out for him. Not only does he have all of this to manage but also his schools will be going through the WASC accreditation program so his students can enter a four-year college program. One of the students that Dr. Green brought with him was Connor Hollman who is a Centennial Independent Study student. Home schooling works for Connor and he can still be in the music class and play football at Liberty High. Jacob Budfaloski, an Independence High student, showed up in

his Cadet uniform and looked real sharp. Jacob wants to join the Marine Corps when he graduates. These are just two of the many students in the Golden Valley Educational Options programs. Conner and Jacob did a great job speaking to the school board. I am proud of them. I am sure that Dr. Green is also.

Come by the Ranchos Hills Seniors on Saturday March 7 from 8 a.m. to noon for our monthly sale. There are plants for spring planting, fresh produce grown by our seniors, bake goods and boutique items plus a very large garage sale at the Treasure House full of things you can't live without. Having a June wedding? We have a beautiful \$1,500 wedding dress only worn for four hours. Give us an offer! Cleaning out your closets? We take your gently used items and recycle them. It helps keep the Ranchos/Hills Seniors in operation.

This school year is going fast. The school board meetings for March are March 10 and 24 at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m. President Roger Schuh is keeping the board in line. Way to go Roger. Every year is a challenge for the board president as well as for all of the board members.



## at Golden Valley Baptist Church

find out what God has in mind just for you!

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

Golden Valley Baptist Church



### Golden Valley Baptist Church



Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:15 AM  
Wednesday Prayer and  
Bible Study 6:00 PM

**12414 Road 37  
Madera, CA 93636  
559-645-1700**

## RECIPES cont. from P. 12

## Lazy Dazy Cake

3 eggs  
 1 ½ C sugar  
 1 ½ t vanilla  
 1 ½ C flour  
 1 ½ t baking soda  
 ½ t salt  
 ¾ C milk  
 1 ½ T shortening

Beat eggs until thick – add sugar gradually and add vanilla.

Sift together flour, baking soda and salt. Add to first batter, mixing well. Heat the milk and shortening just to boiling. Add all at once to cake mixture. Do not add any more flour as batter will be thin. Pour into greased 9-inch by 13-inch cake pan. Bake 30 minutes at 350.

While cake is baking, mix together 6 T melted butter, 10 T Brown Sugar, 4 T cream, 1 C chopped nuts and 1 C coconut. I usually double this – makes it yummiest. As soon as cake is done, remove from oven and while still hot, spread with frosting and brown under broiler.

About 10 years ago, when Randy's niece Eryn (my great niece) graduated from high school, they had a little party for her. Among all the goodies, her Nana had baked a lemon cake that was outstanding. Of course you could put sweetened lemon juice on shoe laces and I would probably try to eat them – I love anything lemon. This cake is so simple to make and you start with a Duncan Hines

Lemon Supreme cake mix.

## Lemon Supreme Cake

Mix together 1 box Duncan Hines Lemon Supreme cake mix and 1 small box lemon Jell-O. Mix in, following directions on box: 1/3 C oil, 1 1/3 C Water and 3 eggs. Pour into prepared loaf pan and bake at 340 until done, about 30-35 minutes. While cake is baking, mix together juice from one lemon and enough powdered sugar to make a glaze – not real thick. When cake is done, take out of oven and with a fork, or the handle of a wooden spoon, poke holes all over cake, then pour glaze over top of cake.

Randy's mom, who is my sister Faye, makes some decadent brownies, but she also makes a yummy Carrot Cake. At Thanksgiving some of her grandkids call her to make sure she is going to make one.

## 14 Karat Cake

2 C flour  
 2 t baking powder  
 1 ½ t baking soda  
 1 t salt  
 2 t cinnamon  
 2 C sugar  
 1 ½ C oil  
 4 eggs  
 2 C grated carrots  
 1 – 8 ½ oz can crushed pineapple,  
 drained  
 ½ C chopped nuts  
 Sift flour, baking powder, baking

soda, salt and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl. Add sugar, oil and eggs, mixing well. Add carrots, pineapple and nuts. Pour batter into three greased 9-inch cake pans. Bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool and turn out on wire racks.

When cool, frost with Cream Cheese Frosting. Cream together ½ C Butter, one 3 oz. package of cream cheese and 1 t vanilla. Beat in One 1 lb. package of powdered sugar. If too thick add milk, 1 T at a time until spreading consistency.

My maternal grandparents were born and raised ("reared" as Grandma called it) in east Tennessee and were plain folks. She would make a white cake without a recipe (I don't know of her ever using a recipe for anything but whatever she cooked was good. Her biscuits were delicious as well as her cornbread), I don't ever remember her putting frosting on her cake, but if there wasn't fresh fruit to put on it we would just spread butter on it. When I was writing this article, I thought these recipes I'm sharing have sure come a long way from Grandma's cake.

In going through mama's recipe cards there are cake recipes that bring back lots of good memories: Sock It To Me cake, Fruit Cocktail cake, Apple-sauce cake, Prune cake, English Tea cake and Watergate Cover Up cake. These recipes will have to wait for another issue as I'm about out of space for this time. I'd still like to hear from you with some of your favorites. Call me here at the office at 645-0634 or e-mail me at ranchosnews@theranchos.com.

## Free Training To Help Others In Crisis, Trauma

Trauma Intervention Programs (TIP) is offering a FREE training academy for citizens interested in helping fellow citizens in crisis. The classes will be held at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, 7300 North Fresno Street, in Fresno from March 19 to 28, evenings and weekends.

No experience is necessary to become a TIP volunteer. Volunteers must be able to attend all dates of the mandatory training academy to learn how to offer the emotional support needed in the first few hours following a tragedy.

Trauma Intervention Program volunteers have assisted the citizens of Fresno County for over 14 years on what is likely the worst day of their lives dealing with situations such as the unexpected death of a family member, a fire or tragic car accident involving loved ones. During these events, a TIP volunteer is with survivors to offer immediate emotional and practical support. Called to the scene by firefighters, peace officers, hospital or ambulance staff, volunteers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. TIP would like to expand its services beyond Fresno County and the mountain communities if volunteers in those areas complete the academy held in Fresno.

For more information and to register for the academy, please call 559-265-8730 or visit [www.tipfresno.org](http://www.tipfresno.org).

2/09



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2/09

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

Dear Editor:

I had to laugh when I read the editorial in the January issue of the Ranchos Independent. Not long ago you wrote an editorial in which you criticized liberals (the dreaded "L" word) like me who sometimes complain about the obvious conservative slant of your paper, and then every month you go out of your way to perpetuate it.

Your January editorial reprinted one allegedly published in "a British newspaper" written by "a British writer" from "somewhere across the pond" who, you said, "does not have his vision clouded by the American media". His editorial was offered as an indication that Bush has not tarnished America in the eyes the rest of the world after all – it's just the Left lying to us again. He then goes on to trash Barack Obama, calling him "no friend of freedom," and suggests that the Left believes that Fox News and Rush Limbaugh should be censored, along with a host of other stereotypical right-wing lies and propaganda. He also perpetuates the tired, worn out mantra of the Right that the mainstream media in America are "drastically liberal and

anti-conservative." In other words, they sometimes actually tell us the truth that the Right would rather we didn't know?

Face it, Obama's victory was not a victory for Hollywood, Oprah Winfrey, the mainstream media, special interests or stupid people. The Republicans got trounced – and rightfully so. It was a victory for America.

I find it interesting that you never tell us the name of the writer, the name of the paper, nor where the paper was published. How convenient. And far from representing any kind of even reasonably fair and balanced (sound familiar?) viewpoint, this guy makes Rush Limbaugh look like a liberal. He bashes everyone remotely to the left of Joe McCarthy as if we are all the devil's minions. And we are actually supposed to believe – all existing evidence to the contrary – that he represents how most people in Europe and the UK really feel about America, Barack Obama or George W. Bush? What's even more amazing is that you seem to believe it. But then, I shouldn't be surprised I guess, I've been reading the Ranchos Independent for some time now.

You and your paper would have a lot more credibility if you spent a little less time calling all of us on the Left un-American (or

just plain stupid), and a little more time representing us and our viewpoints fairly and accurately, and actually attempting to present something resembling a balanced and unbiased newspaper without the obvious and relentless conservative slant. But that's not likely; you're too busy gloating about finding some anonymous British writer from an anonymous publication with an obvious axe to grind, who actually agrees with your own far-right sensibilities – and then presenting his rantings as if they represent all of western civilization.

Yes, the Ranchos is a conservative and largely Republican area, but you might be wise to remember that there are those of us out here who have different social, religious or political values, and more than you might realize. I completely respect your right to your opinion and to express it in your editorials. But there should also be some vague attempt at balance and fairness. Continually and exclusively insulting the intelligence and integrity of those customers who have different political leanings is not a good business practice. Nor is it good journalism.

Rick Hodgson  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Does it concern you at all that the human race has advanced to the place where we can extinguish ourselves in any of several different ways? Easiest of all might be to simply dump a quart or two of manufactured viruses, for which we have no immunity, into the drinking waters of cities around the world. If one has faith that no matter how irresponsible the race becomes, God will not allow us to destroy ourselves, remember Sodom, where God became so enraged over human conduct that He not only destroyed the sinners, but surely roasted several thousand innocent babies in the process, both born and unborn.

Why are we so blind? Why do we comfort ourselves that no matter how terrible our capacity for self-destruction becomes, we are safe, because we won't do it? Is there anything at all in history to suggest these weapons are not eventually going to be used? No, there is not. So where does that leave us? Unthinkable as it seems, I see no hope but a massive, patient, determined effort to reconcile the differences among people of good will everywhere, while resisting the efforts of the

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 25

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### LETTERS cont. from P. 24

selfish, powerful leaders and groups to dis-unite us — to keep us constantly "divided, and conquered". We need reconciliation — "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Randy, several weeks ago you ran a rather thoughtless article entitled "Why I really, REALLY, hate liberals!" The centerpiece of that article was that some hapless guy without much courage had sent in his complaint to the Editor anonymously. More on that later. But are we so uncivilized that we cannot recognize that mature, thoughtful adults do not paint entire social groups containing millions of diverse components, with one brush? And now, you recently published an article written, allegedly, by an Englishman. Who he was, who pays him for what he writes, what his reputation is, is unknown. What is known is that you published an anonymous document, which bears all the earmarks of being written by one of your favorite whipping boys, a

"hack."

Consider these excerpts from the article: "rabid," "hysterical," "mad racist," "abandoned any sense of objectivity," "Obama worshippers," "victory for style over substance," "dysfunctional community," "group think," "herd mentality," "liberal zealots," "intrusive lawyers," "bana1 sentimentalists," "social extremists" and "urban snobs"! Randy, can you point to any single statement in the entire article that places substance over style? Can you tell me this anonymous author is trying to educate anybody? His entire effort is to excite and arouse the "faithful" and what style it is, not to seek common ground, not to simply disagree with the opposition, but to "put them down" en mass, literally, to HATE!

Randy, THIS DOES US ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD AT ALL. This attitude destroys our social fabric. Our fate hangs on whether we can unite on our shared values — or not.

Fred Mathes  
Madera Ranchos

### HYPE cont. from P. 3

spent a little less time calling all of us on the Left un-American (or just plain stupid) ..."

You get it by now: Sorry. Not true.

I've never called any of them on the Left "un-American," nor have I called anyone stupid. I have called them cowards for not using their names, an option I don't get to hide behind. And I have always offered anonymity for letter writers who have their reasons for wanting to be anonymous, providing I know who they are so I can verify it. Try to get an anonymous letter through the Bee.

In addition to these letters I got one call in the form of a message left on my answering machine from an irate woman responding to *Hail to the Hype*. In her message, where she gave no name or return phone number, she was upset about the editorial she saw in the "Clovis Independent" (I swear!) After offering some thoughts about what kind of a person she thought I was, she ended her call with, "How *DARE* you run a story like that!"

I was struck by the irony that during the last eight years I heard President Bush called every conceivable name under the sun, most notably "liar" and "idiot," and I watched him be accused of things he *never* did while at the same time he got no credit for the things he *did* do. And now here's a nameless, faceless voice on a phone telling me I should not even *DARE* to print such blasphemy by Michael Coren. I shouldn't even *THINK* it!

What amazes me about all of these responders is that not one of them addresses the most basic, fundamental question of Coren's piece: Is it true? Is any of it true? Is

on small part of it - somewhere - true?

One writer trashes the editorial because the author (at the time) was unknown. Fine. Now we know who wrote it. What's different? Is it true?

One writer doesn't like the devious tone. Fine. Is it true? If the tone was more subdued with kinder and gentler words, but the same message, is it true?

One of the writers brings up Senator Joseph McCarthy and they couldn't have brought up a better example. Throughout McCarthy's investigations and hearings he always sought the answer to just one question: Were there Communists in the State Department? The opposition of the time was outraged. How *DARE* he even ask the question? Had he no shame? How low would he go?

No one seemed to notice that reacting to the question was not the same as actually *answering* the question and so what began as an investigation into Communist infiltration into the U.S. State Department ended up being an indictment of McCarthy himself. It is only through the 20/20 prism of time and history that we now know that there were IN-DEED Communists in the State Department at all levels - the answer to the question McCarthy asked.

So is President Obama guilty of all of the charges Coren throws out at him in his editorial? Are the words Coren uses, although strong and often incendiary, any less accurate? Are they true? That's the answer I'm waiting for. If you throw out everything Coren said and only left one sentence, it would say it all. Obama's was a "Victory for style over substance, hyperbole over history, rabble-raising over reality." Amen.

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### SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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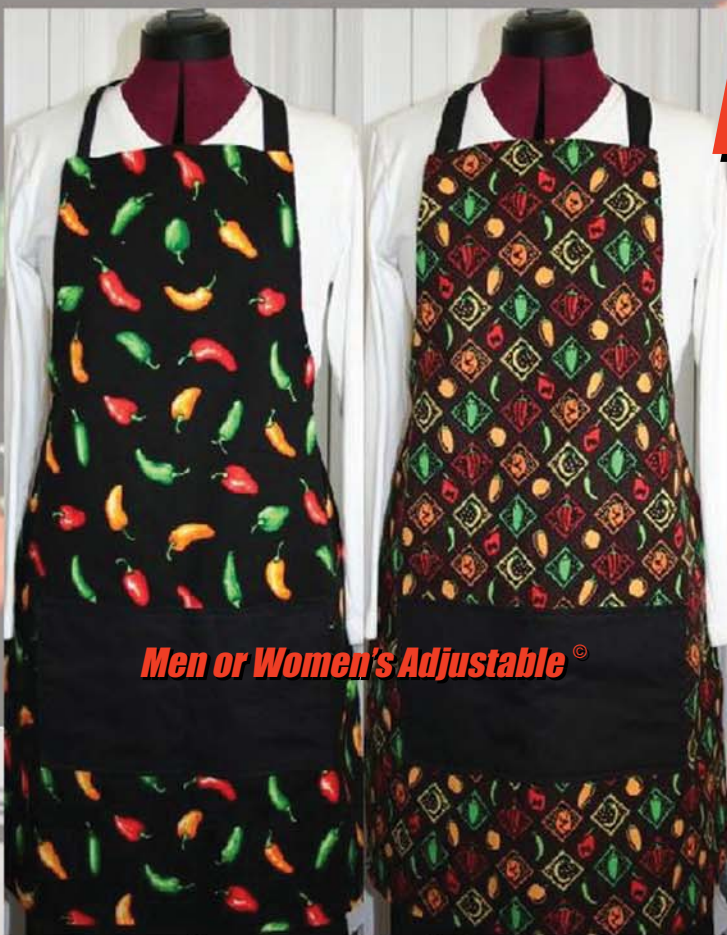
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	6	÷	2	+	8	11		
	X	X	X	÷				
	9	+	4	X	1	13		
	÷	+	+	+				
	3	+	5	+	9	17		
18		13			17			

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

PG&E?  
Ave. 12?  
Water?  
Sewage?  
Schools?  
Developments?

PG&E is on the move again.  
Find out what its latest  
plans are for the Ranchos.

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

**559-363-9095**  
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