

The Ranchos Independent



PRSRST STD
ECR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADERA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 61

July 2008

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Marijuana in Madera County



Why Here?

Why Now?

In This Issue /

*Editorial • Page 4 / The D.O.G. House • Page 5
Fun Pages • Page 22 / Real Estate • Page 25 / Classifieds • Page 26*

Where's Our Water? Second Summer Water Outage Hits Ranchos

By Christi McKinney

On Sunday afternoon, July 6, an on-call technician with the Madera County Resource Management Agency, Special Districts Department, was dispatched to the Madera Ranchos to investigate reports of low water pressure.

"The technician determined that contact wires which had been spliced together on the primary New Fender well had heated up and become unstable," said

Steve Norman, Special District Utility Manager. "This created electrical problems and meant the pump had to be removed with a crane before repairs could be made. Unfortunately no crane was available until Monday. This also greatly reduced water flow from 1,000 gallons of water per minute on the primary New Fender well to using [the Fernwood] backup well that delivers less than 100 gallons of water per minute."

Temporary repairs were completed on

Monday, July 7, however additional parts were required and permanent repairs had to be made, requiring further outages. The Madera County Sheriff's department Reverse 911 emergency phone system was utilized to notify residents and businesses within the affected area to be prepared for further water outages. The New Fender well was finally fully repaired and back on-line by noon on Wednesday, July 9.

The Madera Ranchos Special Maintenance District 10A is located in the vicin-

ity of Avenue 12 and Road 36. The district provides water service to over 900 active connections, including approximately 41 businesses. There are a total of five wells in the district with a sixth one breaking ground soon which is expected to be online in 2009. However, only three of these wells are operational. The New Fender well, which experienced problems, is the primary well, delivering 1,000 gallons of

Please see **WATER** on P. 3

Stolen Ranchos Chaps Turn Up In Mule Rider's Picture Album

A picture was worth a thousand words – and a trip to jail – for a local Madera man who was seen wearing a pair of chaps in a photograph that matched a pair of chaps that had been stolen from a home in the Bonnadelle Ranchos.

Madera County Sheriff's Deputy Valerie Breedlove received word from a witness that William Lee Everett, 20, had taken the chaps – not from a dumpster as he had claimed – but rather from a neighbor's garage. Breedlove tracked Everett down to a trailer parked on a piece of property off Mark Road around the third of July where she found Everett inside the trailer with the chaps sitting out in plain sight. It was then that Breedlove found a picture of Everett wearing the \$200 chaps while riding a mule over on the coast.

Everett told Breedlove the chaps were his and that he had owned them for a long time, although he couldn't remember exactly how long. He did remember exactly

blonde-haired, blue-eyed boy's father found the chaps while "dumpster diving."

The timing of the "dive" didn't jibe for Deputy Breedlove and neither did the rest of Everett's



story, especially since the above-mentioned witness was located who claimed to have seen Everett remove the chaps from the victim's Ranchos garage. The victim is also missing a bridle and two reins – one split leather and the other roping braided – neither of which have been found. The victim said she thought she had simply misplaced her chaps, until the picture of Everett made its way to her.

Breedlove believes the owner of the chaps may not be the only victim in the Ranchos. Once the picture of Everett started circulating other Bonadelle neighbors began noticing their own equipment strangely missing.

Everett was booked on suspicion of burglary and possession of stolen property and his bail was set at \$15,000.

Anyone with any additional information is urged to call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or toll free at 1-800-560-4911.



how he acquired them and from whom he had received them. Everett said a blonde-haired, blue-eyed boy gave them to him after the

Facilities Update for Golden Valley

By Pete Petersen

Construction projects at Golden Valley Unified School District are progressing on or ahead of schedule. The new Ranchos Middle School project is on schedule with school occupancy set for August of 2009. The classroom foundations have been poured, the science classroom, multipurpose and administration building walls are being framed and the gymnasium concrete tilt-up walls have been raised. The project roadwork is nearly complete and sidewalks and approaches are nearing completion. The sport field is being leveled and prepared for irrigation. The play courts are being prepared for asphalt and the new school sign at the corner of Avenue 12 1/2 and Road 35 1/2 is set in place. Roofing material for the project has been delivered and PG&E has installed new service connections for the school. Water, sewer and gas hookup to the existing Liberty High School utility yard is underway and the new metering basin work is nearly complete on Avenue 12.

The Liberty High School Phase 2 Roads

Project is ahead of schedule and due to be completed in time for this next semester of school scheduled for August 13. When complete, this project will include a new intersection at Avenue 12 1/2 and Ruth Avenue. This will include a stop sign for traffic on Ruth and 12 1/2 Avenues. Improvements on Road 36 will not include a stop sign for through traffic but include new turn lanes. Underground conduit is installed for a future traffic signal when needed. Storm drains are included in the project that will benefit surrounding areas and new curb, gutters and sidewalks are included as well.

The Liberty High School Sports Field Lighting project is on schedule and due to be completed on August 1. Stadium lights are installed and powered, and the scoreboard, public announcement system and future emergency lights are being completed. New aluminum bleachers with a capacity of 800 for the home side of the football field have been purchased. Visitor side seating will be derived from existing bleachers used for home side seating in previous seasons.



Ranchos Middle School takes shape and freshly paved Road 12 1/2 points the way to just some of the construction projects progressing throughout the Ranchos.

Marijuana in Madera County - What's Growing in Your Back Yard?

By Christi McKinney

In Madera County's most aggressive approach ever to eradicating Marijuana farms, a multi agency task force that has eradicated more than 74,000 marijuana plants so far this season with an estimated street value of over \$190 million in nine raids and far surpasses last year's total eradication of 54,638 plants.

M a d e r a County Sheriff John Anderson is determined to put a stop to this rapidly growing, high value crop which is often concealed in vineyards, corn fields or located in the middle of a large cattle ranch in Madera County. Workers live in tents at the grow site after digging a pit for disposal of trash, human waste and chemicals. Mexican drug cartels have been known to smuggle illegal immigrants here under the guise of finding work in the fields only later finding out that they



What was once pristine forest land outside of Oakhurst is now covered with marijuana being cultivated. Over 500 plants were uprooted here by Madera County Sheriff Deputies.

must harvest the marijuana as payment for their transportation and their entry into the United States. They are constantly on guard for law enforcement agents and are often wearing camouflage themselves.

Growers are becoming increasingly more aggressive in protecting cultivation sites because of their high value. Armed with weapons ranging from pellet guns to assault rifles, growers have increasingly engaged law enforcement in armed standoffs in an attempt to keep the law at bay long enough for tenders to harvest as much of the crop as possible before a larger law enforcement team returns to eradicate the site.

The effort dubbed "Operation Fatigue" is described by Anderson as a carefully planned mission to "wear out the dealers and drive them out of the county!" The battle is designed to eradicate not only the plants but the growers

as well. The operation began in April – four months earlier than in years past. Anderson believes that by launching this battle so early in the growing season, significant progress will be made in driving drug cartels out of Madera County. "Growers have no fear. They are as brazen as they are fearless. They have absolutely no regard for the environment nor do they care about the people who live here – who are the ones who are afraid, and for good reason," Anderson said.

H a v i n g worked in law enforcement for 40 years, Anderson is well aware of the dangers law enforcement faces on a daily basis. Eradication efforts are very dangerous, grow sites are often camouflaged, some with potentially fatal booby traps. These operations pose a threat to property owners, hunters or hikers who may inadvertently enter the grow site and are confronted by growers. This was evidenced at a recent raid when a property

owner came face to face with armed growers.

The latest raid included members of the Madera County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MADNET), the US Forest Service, the State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), the Madera Regional SWAT Team as well as the Campaign against Marijuana Planting (CAMP). Other operations this year have included the Madera County Gang Enforcement Team (MADGET), the Department of Justice and agents with the California Methamphetamine Strategy Team (CALMS).



One of the by products of marijuana cultivation is trash. Human waste, chemical waste and debris of all sorts not only defiles the landscape, it can even work its way into our water supply.

Why Here?

The Central Valley of California is a major agricultural center for the nation. The area contains two international airports, hundreds of private airstrips and several major interstate

Please see **POT** on P. 24

WATER cont. from P. 2

water per minute. The Charlton well delivers 450 gallons of water per minute and the Fender well produces 425 gallons of water per minute.

The remaining two wells are the Sparta and Fernwood wells. The Sparta has been permanently shut down per order of the Department of Health because of high levels of nitrates. It has been deemed as not cost effective to repair. The Fernwood well is the backup well that was called into service in this incident. This well has tested positive for bacteriological contaminants in the past and requires chlorination when called into service during peak summer periods or emergency situations. It also has continual problems with sand, making it difficult to obtain clean water. This emergency, backup well produces less than 100 gallons of water per minute.

A Sixth well, the Kensington, is expected to break ground this summer. Once

completed in 2009, Norman hopes it will also produce approximately 1,000 gallons of water per minute.

Madera County Engineering Department routinely monitors these wells for contaminants in the drinking water as required by both State and Federal laws. Consumer Confidence Reports are prepared annually and the most recent report can be located online at www.madera-county.com/engineering/districts/MD-10A/index.htm.

Water Concerns

There are serious concerns about water supplies in the Madera Ranchos community in light of extensive growth and its ever-declining water table. The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) outlines a plan to address many of these issues. "An option for improving the Fernwood well would be to combine additional stored water with existing chlorinated water to dilute the water and improve the overall quality of the water produced by the Fernwood

well," Norman said.

District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow says the issues with water in the Madera Ranchos have been addressed by the IRWMP. "The County is in the process of applying for a new grant which will allow the County to answer the many unanswered questions as to how we can deliver reliable water," Bigelow said. "The county has been involved in supporting the construction of a new water storage facility on the San Joaquin River and has also been studying ground water recharge basins. This would include recharge and flood control needs. The county is also currently looking for funding for this project."

Fire a Real Consideration

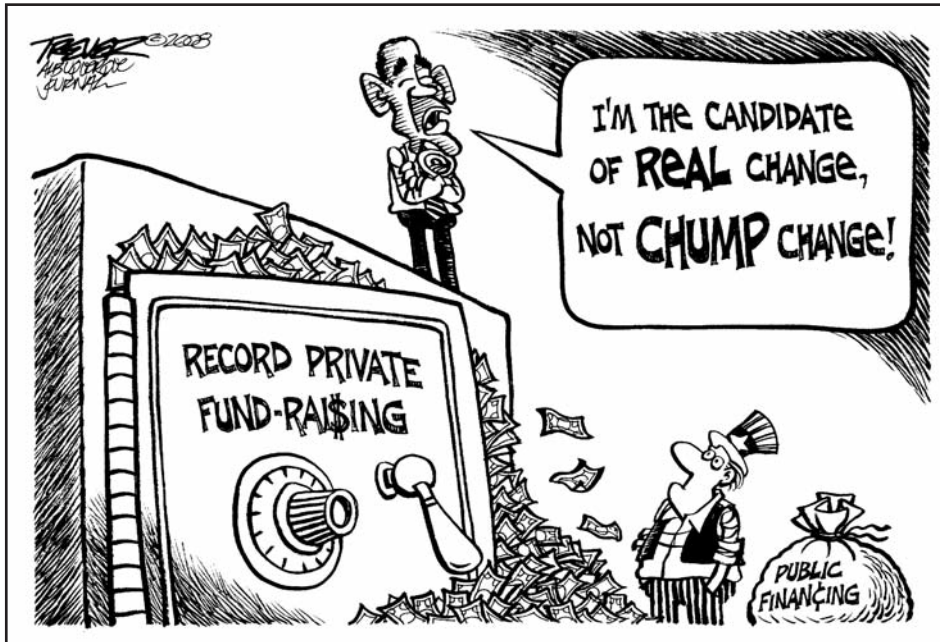
The Madera County Fire Department is well aware of the water limitations in the Madera Ranchos. With the current fire conditions and the already lean resources our firefighters are faced with on a daily basis, it is a very serious matter that demands our immediate attention. As it stands now, the

Fire Department is required to respond to any reports of grass fires or building fires with the assistance of a water tender to insure there is adequate water to put out a fire. "The Madera County Fire Department has a redundant system in place: when the Fire Department responds to a fire, it automatically responds with a water tender, or tenders, to provide for water demands. This is done even when it is in a known area where water is available," Bigelow said.

Sundays are high periods of water usage in the Ranchos, especially during the summer months. Norman suggests that if residents experience low water flow inside their home, turning off any outside water running will improve water pressure.

If residences or businesses experience water problems after hours or on weekends please contact the Sheriff's department at (559) 675-7769. The Sheriff's office will dispatch an on-call repair technician

The IRWMP is located in full on the Madera County Website.



Editorial

Business Exiting Via Bypass? Not!

By Randy Bailey

I got some sad news the other day. For the almost four years that I've owned the Ranchos Independent I've seen some stuff come and I've seen some stuff go. Restaurant owners are at the top of that list. After that would probably be churches, or more correctly, what are called "storefront" churches. Those that didn't come and go instead I've seen move around from one retail space to another. Often for more space, sometimes for less space because business got tough. I've only seen a handful just up and leave. It seems like most of the people who do business out here are in it for the long haul and they genuinely like it here.

So when I heard Central Valley Wireless was moving out and moving on, it took my by surprise. Brad and Cathy Burford have been my neighbors ever since I've been sitting in this office. They were featured in a Ranchos Independent "Business Profile" in the last issue before Bill Bell handed the reins over to me and I even wrote a few stories as well over the years that included them.

I know it wasn't a lot, but I bought stuff from them over the years and they were a regular advertiser in the paper. I enjoyed talking with Cathy and I enjoyed smoking cigars with Brad.

So here we are with a "moving sale" sign on the door and two bodies not even cold to the touch yet and I discover that someone has come into the Ranchos Independent office while I was out in the field and is opining that the reason Central Valley Wireless is moving out and taking Brad and Cathy with it is because of ...

The proposed Avenue 12 Bypass!

Was this true? Were all the fears of local businesses a reality? Were these just the first rats to jump off of the sinking ship?

I had to know. The nature of my business is best summed up in one word: Why?

I cornered Cathy just yesterday and asked her why they were moving and, more specifically, whether or not they were moving because of the flap over Avenue 12.

She scrunched her face up to try to physically show her disbelief at such a notion and then started laughing. "Unbelievable," was what came out next.

No, it wasn't Avenue 12 or a bypass around Avenue 12 or the proposed PG&E power lines or the dropping water table or our questionable wells or Castle & Cooke or any of a myriad of things that local minds would like to think that it is.

It was sales.

Cathy said she and Brad were doing quite well with their store but their sales weren't coming from the Ranchos. The sales were coming from Fresno. Care to guess what percentage of their sales were coming from the Ranchos? Their home? The place they supported?

Less than 5 percent.

And you know exactly what that means because you and I are guilty of doing it. We go to work in Fresno and as we drive down Blackstone we see some guy wiggling a sign for cell phones and it seems like a pretty good deal and we buy it and come home to the Ranchos with a new cell phone from Fresno. We do the same thing for satellite dishes and every time we bring home a Me 'N Ed pizza or have Red Carpet wash our cars or pop into Lowes or Home Depot for that flapper to fix the toilet.

Some things I understand. I have to get my prescription from Walgreens because there's no pharmacy out here. I bank in Fresno or I don't bank. You'd be hard pressed to buy a suit of clothes or a pair of shoes in the Ranchos. But you know as well as I do that there is literally a ton of goods and services right here that are competitive with anything in Fresno and they're being sold to you and serviced for you by people who have the same dream in their hearts for this little community.

We have got to do a better job.

Rent your movies here. Buy your pet supplies here. Get your hair cut here (and get those nails done too while you're at it). Buy your gas here (and keep the road tax money in Madera for our roads). Have your car serviced here. Have your electrical worked on by someone from the Ranchos. Have your lawns mowed and your landscaping done by someone who'll be looking at it every day when he or she goes to work.

As Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" The Avenue 12 Bypass isn't going to put us out of business - we'll do that all by ourselves.

The Ranchos Independent

The Ranchos Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.

All contents of this publication are copyright 2008, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

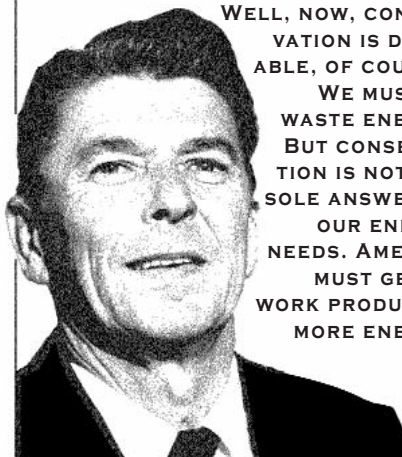
All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

Randy Bailey..... Editor
Jean Briner..... Advertising Sales
Christi McKinney..... Reporter

559-645-0634

37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • ranchosnews@theranchos.com

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



WELL, NOW, CONSERVATION IS DESIRABLE, OF COURSE. WE MUSTN'T WASTE ENERGY. BUT CONSERVATION IS NOT THE SOLE ANSWER TO OUR ENERGY NEEDS. AMERICA MUST GET TO WORK PRODUCING MORE ENERGY.

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

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



Planning Commission July 1 meeting – Item # 1:

This item is the classic example of what went wrong at Willow Cove at Bass Lake.

The applicant was appealing the Planning Departments decision to allow as much setback variance as he wanted. He asked for 8 feet from eaves to the road, Planning gave him 15 feet but CODE requires 25. He asked for 7 feet in the rear but CODE requires 20 feet.

The problem is the applicant is putting an elephant on a postage stamp.

The applicant said he just wants to build his retirement home but what is happening is another cabin is being replaced with (according to backup documents and applicant statements) a 9,600 square foot home with a parking garage under it with the capacity for “two or three boats and three cars.”

This little retirement cabin is at the end of a dead end road.

We all know Willow Cove is one of the most dangerous fire areas in the county. Narrow roads and only one way out. The Planning Department and the Planning Commission must have lost their minds. Giving a variance so this elephant can fit on this postage stamp lot is not even close to reasonable. If in fact a 15 foot setback is safe in this area we need to change the ordinance to allow 15 feet as the norm because no other area has anywhere near the safety concerns as where this is being built.

Item # 4

This is another departure from sanity. A conditional use permit to build a bed and breakfast in a residential area.

Problems:

First: The fire department apparently determined that emergency vehicles probably can not get up the steep, winding, private road leading to the site. The fire department’s answer was to require sprinklers. I guess the plan is to hope it burns slowly until they can walk in. I’m not sure what the plan is for a medical aid.

Second: The private road takes off on the west side of Highway 41 about half way up deadwood from Oakhurst. The applicant assured the Commission that there is already a legal encroachment for the private existing road onto Highway 41. This project encroaches on the private road only. Customers not familiar with mountain driving will undoubtedly create safety issues on an already dangerous stretch of road, as they enter or leave.

Item # 9

The Pines Subdivision was approved.

I have made no secret that I think it is grossly unfair to punish the applicant for past uncontrolled growth.

I could not believe my ears when the commission let the variance for Item # 1 stand. The Planning Department and the Planning Commission must have their heads in the sand.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS?

In the middle of the hearing on one of the items on the agenda, The Planning Director asked for a break. The chair called for a five minute break and immediately all of the planning staff, County Counsel and one or two Commissioners went into the back room. I protested to the Chair and he said he would look into it.

When the meeting resumed The Planning Director said he has a right to talk to his people any time he wants. County Counsel made assurances that he was present during the meeting in the back room and at no time was there a quorum, therefore no violation of the Brown Act. I spoke at the podium and agreed that there was indeed no Brown Act Violation but breaking for a private discussion was just plain wrong.

One of the Commissioners commented that they were trying to work with the applicant.

There were a lot of folks that drove a long way to participate in the government planning system. What happened was the very definition of a back room deal. It may have been a great deal. It may even have been the best deal possible to solve the issues. But to stop a public hearing then go in the back room to work out details away from the public, is insulting to those that showed up. My first thought was, “What do they need to say that could not have been said in front of the citizens/taxpayers sitting in the room?”

Budget:

Next year’s proposed budget is now on the County Website. Take a look at www.madera-county.com/administrativemanagement/prelim-budget.html.

Oakhurst Government Center: AKA multi million dollar boondoggle.

I am having problems following all this so be patient. It seems the new plan is to have the developer donate the property to the county (Great Deal?). Keep in mind every

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 11

Random Notes

Well here comes August. That can only mean one thing: The Station 19 Firefighter’s FireBQ dinner and dance! This is going to be the 23rd Annual incarnation of this venerable event. It’s going to be Saturday, Aug. 16 from 6 p.m. to midnight. There’s going to be a tri-tip dinner and adult beverages and everything. There’s going to be a silent auction, and a live auction and even a dessert auction. There’s even going to be dancing to the Donny Linger Band. This event sells out every year so you absolutely have to get your tickets early. The whole event is going to be held at Cobb’s Ranch and tickets are available all over town. The best part is that all of the proceeds go to buy the latest equipment for our local firefighters. I hope to see you there.

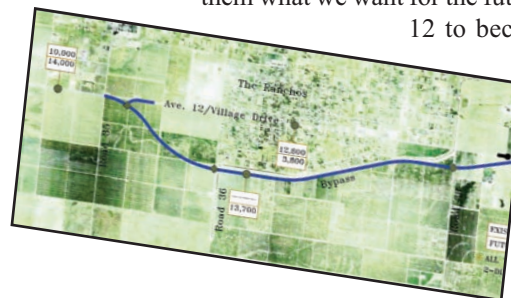
If you have any kids who play soccer the Golden Vally Youth Soccer league is having a soccer camp over at Liberty High all this week from July 28 through August 1, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. It’s for kids ages 6 - 12 to improve their soccer skills and it costs \$65. Call 645-0018 if you’re interested.

If you haven’t figured it out yet, changes are coming to Avenue 12 and the Ranchos. Madera County has said in no uncertain terms that the flow of traffic from Highway 41 to Highway 99 along Avenue 12 is pretty heavy now and will only get worse as population trends increase. The County is giving US the unprecedented option of telling them what we want for the future of our community. Do we want Avenue

12 to become a 4-lane super expressway? Do we want a bypass to carry the heavy traffic off of Avenue 12? If we do go with a bypass, what will that do to businesses on Avenue 12? If we elect four lanes instead, what will that do to the quality of life here? The only way to truly get to the bottom of all of this is for the community to speak up let its voice be heard. There are going to be a series of meetings in August to help put together a suggestion to the County from the people of the Ranchos. If you have any desire to be heard, you need to make it to these meetings. This is one of those rare opportunities where you can actually light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. Watch the back page of the Ranchos Independent for specific dates, times and meeting places and then just do it!

Finally, in last month’s paper we ran an article entitled “Get Up to Speed and Save at the Pump” that was intended as a two part installment. Well, thanks to the miracle of modern computers (or maybe just good old fashioned stupidity) I managed to erase all of my June 2008 issue off of my computer along with supporting articles for future reference ... like Part II of “Get Up to Speed and Save at the Pump.” I will get a new copy from my writer and I will get that info to you in the August edition. Also, I have a picture of a young soldier named Edward Aguirre but I don’t have any of the information that goes with the picture (see above). If anyone knows this young man’s proud grandparents and could ask them to give me a call, I would love to run his picture with his story ... providing I don’t erase everything again.

Have a good month and we’ll see you in August.



Announcements



Sadie Elizabeth Myers - July 9, 2008

Sadie Elizabeth Myers was born July 9, 2008 at 11:21 p.m. at Clovis Community Hospital in Clovis, Calif. Sadie weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

The proud parents, Anthony and Alisha Myers, and big sister Hailey, are home resting with their new baby. The prouder grandparents, Jack and Tina Shannon and Ray and Dawn Myers, are busy telling the world about their new grandbaby.

Liberty Ranchos Softball League Enters, Wins First Tournaments



The Liberty Ranchos Softball League 12-U Gold Softball Team included (back row) Coaches Dan McShane, Tom Shevenell and Don Pool. From left to right are Shannon Foley, Danni Pool, Caitlyn McShane, Nina Smith, Dianna Chapa, Darbi Duke, Jessica Lewis, Taylor Lewis and Courtney Jones. In the front row are Team Captains Miranda Porter and Hannah Shevenell. Not Pictured is Eunice Castro.

Liberty Ranchos Softball League 10-U, 12-U and 14-U Softball Teams played their first softball tournaments of the year and came away winners.

The Liberty Ranchos Softball 14-U team took first place at the Lemoore Fast Pitch Softball Tournament under the excellent pitching of Katelyn Pia and the batting of Haley Kirchner. The team played very aggressively and resulted in a championship win against the San Luis Obispo Fusion.

Liberty Ranchos Softball 12-U team took first place at the Lemoore Fast Pitch Softball Tournament on June 7 and 8 by beating the Coast Rip Tide in extra innings 6-5. This was the first ever First Place finish for a 12-U Liberty Ranchos team. The Liberty Ranchos Gold was down by one run going into the last inning when Darbi Duke hit a towering home run in the bottom of the 7th to tie the game. In extra innings with Miranda Porter on third, Dianna Chapa hit a single into right field to drive in the winning run.

The same Gold team took first place once again, this time at the Riverdale Fast Pitch Softball Tournament on June 14 and 15. Liberty Ranchos Gold beat the Hanford Flames in extra innings 5-4. In the top of the 8th, the Hanford Flames scored one run on a well-executed bunt. In the bottom of the 8th it was the Gold's turn. The inning started with Danni Pool stealing third and while sliding into third knocked the ball out of the glove of the

3rd baseman and was called safe. Taylor Lewis was up next and was walked. Danni Pool stole home and tied the game on a wild pitch while Lewis advanced to second. Darbi Duke then placed a perfect bunt to move Taylor Lewis to third. With Hannah Shevenell at the plate, the pitch was low and bounced away from the catcher. Taylor Lewis made a dash for home and slid right under the tag scoring the winning run. Hannah Shevenell who pitched 26 innings allowing only six runs and striking out 48 batters was named All Tournament MVP for her pitching performance.

The 10 & under Liberty Ranchos Gold girls fast pitch softball team earned their first second place finish of the season in the Riverdale tournament June 13-15. After going undefeated in pool play on Friday and Saturday, the young ladies beat two teams on Sunday morning to avoid elimination and make it to the championship game. Facing tough pitching and strong hitting, the young Gold team battled to the end, eventually losing 15-11 in a 7-inning game. Jyllian Ahart pitched a complete game. Siera Cullins and Haylee Hoelzel had multiple hits to lead the team's offense. The girls of all three teams will travel to Morro Bay for their next tournament, followed by a trip to Hanford for the Association Championships where they hope to earn a berth to the Western Regional tournament in San Diego.



Ron's Services Painting

641-7783
974-4382

- on time
- on budget
- interior
- exterior
- cabinets
- faux finish
- drywall
- texture repair
- 20 years experience



7/08






CA Cont. Lic. #495256

What does it take to have the most beautiful yard in the Ranchos?
Just a little Personal Touch.

NOW DOING WEED CLEANUP!

PERSONAL TOUCH
LANDSCAPE & GARDENING SERVICE
559-974-1357

FREE ESTIMATES • LIC. #B0008113 • FREE ESTIMATES

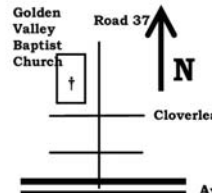
SO MUCH TALK ABOUT
"HOPE" AND "CHANGE"...

KNOW HOPE

KNOW CHANGE


"...with God all things are possible."

Jesus in Matthew 19



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

7/08

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos' own Website.
Get fully downloadable back issues of
the Ranchos Independent
(beginning with April 2006).
Learn how you can add your
Ranchos-area business to this site!

7/08

www.theRanchos.com
www.theRanchos.com
www.theRanchos.com
www.theRanchos.com

PLEASE SUPPORT FIRE STATION 19



23rd ANNUAL FIRE BBO

To Benefit
Station 19
Volunteer
Fire
Company

DINNER • DANCE • AUCTION

Sat., Aug. 16, 2008
Historic Cobb Ranch
8805 N. Highway 41



- No Host Cocktails 6pm to Midnight
- Dessert Sale and Auction 6 to 6:45pm
- Silent Auction "Bid or Buy" 6 to 8pm
- Tri-Tip/Chicken Dinner 7pm
- Introduction & Honoring of Firefighters 7:15 to 8pm
- Live Auction 8 to 9pm
- Dancing with the great Donny Linger Band 9pm to Midnight



TICKETS
\$25
ADULTS ONLY

Please Purchase tables of 8 from Virginia at the Chamber Office. (Mon-Thur, 10-2pm, this location will also accept Mastercard or Visa. 645-4001)
Individual tickets may be purchased from: Volunteer Firefighters, Ranchos Market, Ranchos Auto Service, Hurst Hardware, and Ranchos Independent

Questions
801-7703

7/08



KIWANIS KORNER



Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to thank all of the Ranchos residents who helped support our club by purchasing fireworks at our July 4th Fireworks booth. It was another very successful fundraiser that will go right back to our local kids here in the Ranchos. We hope everyone had a great holiday and played safe and sane. We also wanted to thank all of our members who donated time to help out – in 100 degree heat – at our fireworks booth. A special "thank you" goes out to John Herrera, who was the chairperson for the event, and Chris Parks, who was the co-chair. Also, we were very thankful to have the 4-H volunteers who donated time to this fundraising event. We would also like to thank some of the staff at Pete's Drive In: Marcy, JR and Alyssa. Thanks again for all your help.



Ranchos Kiwanis Volunteers Bev Delk (left) and Charisse Stind show off the "Big Bang" fireworks assortment at the Kiwanis fireworks booth that helped raise funds annually for projects for local children through the Kiwanis. The "Big Bang" is obviously more than a theory.

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

We just finished volunteering our time in helping to support a Fishing Derby with proceeds going toward Special Olympics. It was held at Wishon Lake where there were tagged fish of different denominations, from \$25 up to a \$10,000 fish. Two years ago, a gentleman caught the \$10,000 fish. It is a fun time with the funds raised going toward a good cause.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to remind everyone about the Fireman's Barbeque coming up on Saturday, Aug. 16 at Cobb's Ranch. Bring your appetites and dancing shoes for a great time. The proceeds from this event go to help fund our local firefighting departments, Station 9 and Station 19.

For the first time in the history of our club we have a Rodeo slated for Oct. 18 at Sierra View School. Be sure to look for more details in the coming articles of Kiwanis Korner.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect any of our officers for 2008. They would be happy to answer your questions.

You can also write to us at: Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos, 37221 Avenue 12 1-C #29, Madera, CA 93636.

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

Our webpage is at www.ranchoskiwanis.org.

President - Pam Glueck
President Elect - Steven Monk
Vice President - John Herrera
Secretary - Sandy Monk
Treasurer - Charisse Stindt
Past President - Chris Parks
Board Member - Marie Cameron
Board Member - Ollie Ridge
Board Member - Virginia Vick
Board Member - Bruce Blair
Board Member - John Glueck

Summer Reading Program Winds Down as Used Book Sale Takes Off

By Ellen Mester

Our Summer Reading Program is winding down, but we have had terrific participation from the children in this community — and a lot of fun too! After our action-packed kick-off, Norman Ng amazed us once again with his magic. He was the only repeat this year and sadly we will not get to see him again except on a big stage somewhere, some day. With all our new performers we were able to learn all about bubbles, bugs and puppets from outer space. One hundred fifty-three children signed up to read for 30 minutes a day. Prizes for readers who have completed 150 minutes of reading in one week have been awarded to many. All the gift baskets have been given out to winners of the drawing after each performance. It has been a great summer and I want to thank our Friends of the Ranchos Library and the Ranchos/Hills Seniors for funding our Summer Reading Program this year.

Friends Book Sale

The Blowout Book Sale finished on July 20. Many thanks to our local Boy Scout Troop for all their hard work in helping us get set up in the grueling July heat. And special thanks to the Golden Valley School District staff for allowing us to use Room 2 and the parking area for the book sale. Thank you all for purchasing books and supporting the Ranchos Library.

New Library Planning Committee Update

Our grant application for the annual Chukchansi grant program has been submitted. Now we must wait and hope we make it through the review process. We are also anxiously awaiting the report submitted by Kathy Page, the library consultant, with her recommendations to the county for our new library. I will keep you posted.

In these tough economic times, remember the library is a great place to check out books, videos and CD's for FREE. It's also a cool place to relax, browse magazines, use the computers and to catch up on the community information that is provided by the county, the schools, the state and countless non-profit organizations.

Congratulations to Esther Anderson, our Story Time Reader who recently was selected as the Madera County Volunteer of the Year. Not only does she volunteer her time to read to children every Monday morning at 11 a.m. at the Ranchos Library, but she volunteers at other organizations as well. We are very proud and happy for you, Esther.

Book Recommendations

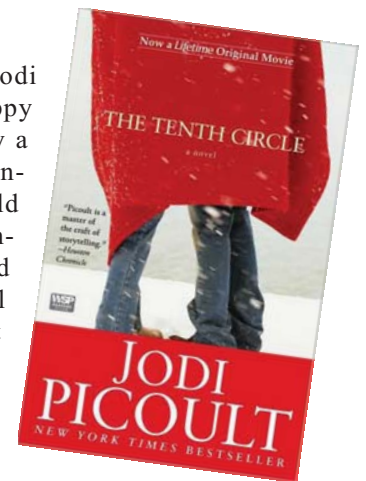
Adult Non-Fiction: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. This is an honest, thoughtful journey to three countries – Italy, India and Indonesia – that documents Gilbert's emotional, spiritual and physical being as she examines and discovers things about herself that had been repressed or denied. Her life opens up to reveal a new and whole person. The power and beauty of the story is the fulfillment and identification of oneself. It is written in such a funny, tender way that it reads more like a novel than non-fiction. Elizabeth is able to laugh at herself while painfully describing some of the darkest moments in her life. She also describes each of the three countries and their people in an endearing way — so much so that you feel compelled to visit all the places she writes about. In the end, it really is all about love. It's the people in our lives, those close to us and those we meet, that matter the most. It's

how we treat and care for one another, no matter what our differences are. I really appreciated how she arrived at that conclusion and how we can all do well to remember that love is the recurring theme among

almost all religions.

Adult Fiction: *The Tenth Circle* by Jodi Picoult. This chilling story of a once happy family, whose lives spin out of control by a few poor decisions, leaves the reader wondering if being a parent, or a spouse, could get any more difficult than this. Fourteen-year-old Trixie Stone, who has enjoyed being the center of her parents' affection all her life, falls for the senior star athlete at her high school, only to have her young heart broken when he breaks up with her.

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15



Has it gotten HOT enough yet? Don't wait until it's TOO late!



call Brian's Heating and Cooling for

FREE
estimates
on complete unit
change outs

SUMMER SPECIAL

\$10 OFF
SERVICE CALL

(one coupon per customer)

Luke 24:6-7



HEATING & COOLING
675-1681

WE DO SERVICE &
WARRANTY REPAIR
ON ALL MAKES
AND MODELS!

Brian's Heating & Cooling

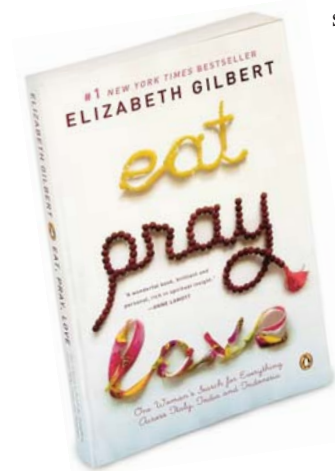
675-1681

Brian Padilla Owner/Operator
Contractor #862395



Financing Available O.A.C.

WE ACCEPT MOST COMPETITORS' COUPONS • CALL FOR DETAILS



Who Dunit?
 find out on the **CARNIVAL MURDER MYSTERY CRUISE**
 prices start at only \$329 per person
 (double occupancy cruise only • fees/taxes not included)
Sails July 17, 2009
 Fri-Sun!
 \$25 deposit holds your cabin!
 (per person due Aug. 5, 2008)
 Call Golden Travel of Madera 559-289-3357

Simply Irresistible Smiles!

Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics
 37144 Avenue 12 #104 • Madera Ranchos
559-645-5320
 www.ranchosdental.com

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent

The Stock Report

Ranchos Loses a Long-time Friend

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
 It is with a sad heart that I write today that Archie Burton of the Ranchos passed away Tuesday, July 15, 2008. The Ranchos lost a real treasure with the death of Archie Burton. Archie and his wife Barbara are long-time members of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Archie was the honorary mayor of the Ranchos. He never met a stranger and always had a smile and a joke for everyone. He was a super gardener and kept the Senior Center in vegetables and beautiful flowers. We will all miss Archie's stories about growing up in the Valley during the depression in the 1930s. He was born in Chowchilla on July 7, 1915. He was 93 years old. Archie owned and operated a service station in Fresno for 28 years before moving to the Ranchos. A memorial service and luncheon was held at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center to honor Archie on Saturday, July 19.

Summer school for the Golden Valley schools was over on July 17. Golden Valley Unified is busy putting many pieces in place for the 2008-2009 school year. The school board works on so much more than just the budget that is used to run the district schools. Making sure that our schools have the right teachers, books and principals is a full time job in itself. I am proud that both of our elementary schools, Webster and Sierra View, have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools. With the new math books and program the district math scores should raise at all

grade levels. With the California School Board mandating that all 8th graders will have passed algebra by the time they leave the 8th grade, all middle schools are being challenged to step up their math in middle school.

Right now your school board is keeping an eye on four different building projects. This is your bond money at work and we are trying to make sure that you are getting your money's worth. The Liberty High sports field lighting project has almost been completed. The lights are up and have been tested. I am not sure who is going to climb those tall

Archie was the honorary mayor of the Ranchos. He never met a stranger and always had a smile and a joke for everyone ... we will all miss Archie's stories about growing up in the Valley during the depression in the 1930s.

poles if a light bulb burns out. The Liberty High Stadium football field has been re-seeded to get ready for the football season. The temporary bleachers are to be delivered and installed by Aug. 12 in time for the first game.

Then we have the two road projects that we are working on with the Madera Road Department to widen Road 36 and to add sidewalks and gutters all along the side of the football field down to Avenue 12 1/2. Ruth Avenue has been aligned with Avenue 12 1/2 that will run in front of our new Ranchos Middle School. The road workers have had all kinds of problems, from wet dirt under the old road that had to be removed and replaced with dry dirt, to big old irrigation pipes that had to be removed and old AT&T boxes that had to be removed and replaced. They say that Road 36 will be finished in time for

Please see STOCK on P. 24

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds
Look Good and Feel Great
 • Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
 • AM PM Medications
 • Diet Injection
LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO
WE KNOW LOW CARBS! \$20 OFF 1st visit only
DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP
 "We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**
 OPEN: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM
 4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

The "Law of the Garbage Truck"

By Eleanore Burchell

One day a man hopped into a taxi and he and the driver took off for the airport. They were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of them. The taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded and missed the other car by just inches. The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling. The taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. He was unbelievably friendly!

A passenger in the taxi asked, "Why did you just do that? That guy almost ruined your taxi and sent us all to the hospital!" The taxi driver then taught his passengers what he called the "Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, full of hate and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they will dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to the people at work, at home or on the streets.

The bottom line is that "successful people" do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets.

So ... love the people who treat you RIGHT. PRAY for the ones who don't. Life is 10 percent what you MAKE it and 90 percent how you TAKE it!

Our next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden area still has many varieties of trees – Japanese or Trident maples, as well as a variety of new scrubs and flowering plants. The Treasure House will be open and they have received many new items to show you. There will be NO bake sale due to the heat of ovens in our homes. The summer produce has started to come in. You just must see George's huge onions! There were large nectarines and Armenian cucumbers there last week so come in to see what we have now. Also the boutique section has displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings and antiques.

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

The Ranchos/Hills couple of the

month is Olen and Norma Williams. Olen was born in Arkansas and had four siblings. At the age of 18 he joined the Marines and served our country for four years and was discharged from Camp Pendleton. He decided to stay in California and found a job here. Olen retired from Fresno Unified School District where he had spent 36 years as a Custodial Supervisor. He also has been the force behind the garden section of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Norma is a native Californian, however, her parents and their five daughters moved to the state of Washington when Norma was in the second grade. After Norma graduated from high school, she and one of her sisters moved here to Fresno where she met and married Olen. They have two grown children, a daughter and a son. Before her retirement, Norma worked for Madera County Welfare Department. At present, Norma fills a position on the Board of our Senior Center and is the Assistant Treasurer.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department periodically come to the center to give FREE check ups? The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure check, blood sugar check, a low-cost blood test available, nutrition and health education, and they offer referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and over at our center, occur ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

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

THE UP SIDE

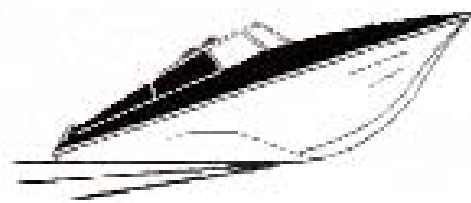
*Please give me a sense of humor,
Give me the grace to see the joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And to pass it on to other folk.*

August's Birthday and Anniversary luncheon (or breakfast if you want it) will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Little Red Caboose, 50 W. Bullard Ave. (Bullard and Minnewawa) in Clovis. Hope to see you there! The

Please see SENIORS on P. 13

Since 1964

**FORCE
OUTBOARDS**



Phone: 645-1977

Chrysler

CRONIN MARINE REPAIR

Jim Cronin
Madera Ranchos

7/08

**ENGINE AND OUT-DRIVE REPAIR
INBOARDS AND OUTBOARDS
TRAILER BOATS ONLY**



HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
LIC. 837274

559-662-0336

hvacbysam@sbcglobal.net

www.huckabeeshvac.com

One package for a perfect place

Affinity™ 13 SEER Packaged Cooling and Heating Units w/R-410A



Comfy and cozy is now less costly

- Choose from 7 designer colors
- Sized for outdoors to save space indoors
- Environmentally friendly refrigerant
- 10-year heat exchanger warranty
- Long-life fan motor

YORK
It's time to get comfortable.™



7/08

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent Place your ad TODAY at 645-0634

Click on "Local News" at

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

Refurbished Laptops



Knight & Day
COMPUTER SERVICE




Lots of New & Used Computers

645-0122 • next to the Pizza Factory

37184 Avenue 12, Suite 104 • Madera Ranchos

7/08



TUNE-UP SPECIAL
Lawnmowers • Edgers • String Trimmers

\$10⁰⁰ OFF

Regular Tune-Up With This Coupon
Expires 8/31/08

1097 S. Granada Suite #B • Madera • 661-0355

7/08

Fine Quality Craftmanship

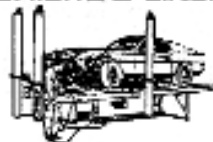


Specializing In:

- Foreign & Domestic Car Repairs
- Custom Paint
- Color Matching
- Insurance Work
- Frame Straightening
- Unibody Frame Repairs
- Chroma Vision Color Matching



CHIEF-Z-LINER



Precision Collision Repair



7/08

Insurance Claims Welcomed



FREE ESTIMATES
674-8591

D.O.G. cont. from P. 5

time Madera County jumps at a great deal we end up getting shafted.

Let's back up a bit.

Back around 2000 or 2001 we spent about \$20,000 out of the fire mitigation trust fund getting a complete set of plans drawn for the new fire station. I have not been able to locate them but I have heard rumors that they are in someone's office collecting dust. The next plan was to have the developer build the thing for us. Best I can follow this one, hundreds of thousands of dollars went into this project, but now that is being scrapped.

Now for the new plan:

In return for allowing the developer to donate the land and claim this gift in their taxes we are agreeing in the Memo of Understanding to be voted on to do the following:

The County (us) will pay the developer: \$127,500 for roads and utilities.

\$11,665 in refunds on permits they paid \$532,955 for stuff they have already done \$50,000 for improvement to the stream \$1,000 for incidentals

I make the total so far to accept this gift \$723,120 before a single nail is driven. It's a good thing the county doesn't need to pay school fees, road fees, development fees or permit fees like the rest of us or it would be even more.

Now we start over with a new engineering firm for about \$350,000 to draw yet another set of plans, and hopefully we can get it going in 24 months or we give back the property with no refunds that I can see.

Bass Lake sewer break:

I am still collecting information. What I have so far is:

There was no leak ... There was no major leak ... There was no significant event ... There was a 900 gallon leak but it was just lake water after the line was flushed ... There was no contamination of Bass Lake ... The only reason the lake was posted as contaminated was we made a mistake on asking for the lab report ... The lab made a mistake on the results ...


I hope you can understand why it may take awhile to sort out the fact from fiction. Imagine how much easier it could have been with some straight answers in the first place.

How Long:

Project after project we throw million of our tax dollars down the drain because of dropped balls and mismanagement. County Special districts have been mismanaged, are in financial trouble and still operating in the red. New fees are being created all the time while old fees are being increased. County Government is growing at many times the rate that the cost of living is raising. The number of employees is expanding and most employees just got substantial raises. We have a \$40+ million dollar government center we will be making payments on for years. Many hundreds of thousands that Army Corp of Engineers gave the County to maintain the levies just can't be located. Millions have been misappropriated from the Fire mitigation Trust Fund.

How long can we continue like this?

Keeping government open keeps government honest.




DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

Same Day Service

674-1663
14794 Hwy 41
Madera

*Family Owned
Since 1976*

7/08



The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship

On the corner of Ave.15 and Monreal
15048 Monreal Rd. Madera, CA 93638 559-645-0722

Senior Pastors Bernard & Linda Morris/ Resident Pastors Stoney & Amy Berna

Service Schedule

Sunday 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

3rd Monday of the Month 7 p.m. Manna Link Food Distribution
For needy families. Everyone Welcome!

Tuesday 7 p.m. Life Connections Home Groups **Thursday** 7:30 p.m. Family Night
RE-Generation Youth Group—Generation NeXt Children's Ministry
Nursery Provided Ages 0-3 yrs. Sunday and Thursday Services

7/08

HOME OWNERS • CONTRACTORS • PARTIES • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

ACTION

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

"REAL PEOPLE...REAL SERVICE"

559-438-1100

11116 HWY 41 • Madera (Rolling Hills)

20% Discount on your equipment rental

7/08

COUPON

Deegan's Appliance

Serving Fresno and Madera Counties

352 W. Bedford, Ste 103
Fresno, CA 93711
266-6044

\$5 OFF

Any Appliance Repair with this coupon

COUPON

We Service Most Major Brands
Sé Habla Español

Installation Now Available

7/08

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

AG

Madera Ranchos Assembly of God

NW Corner of RD 36 & AVE 13 1/2
Office 645-0716

Sunday	Wednesday7 - 8:30 p.m.
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)

7/08

CHAD →

Chad Harr

TRUCKING

CA# 142100 **645-5363**

Fill Dirt • Topsoil • Humus • Bark • Chips • River Rock
Crushed Rock • Base Rock • Rock Dust • Cobble Stone
Driveway Base • Fill Sand • Washed Sand • Plaster Sand

7/08

To Advertise Call

645-0634

TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815
36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos

Lic. #PLS 5815

7/08

Golden Valley Martial Arts

Bully-Proof your kids and get in the Best Shape of your *life.*

Parents!
Train with your children.
Ask about our special Family Rates.

Learn: Seieido, Taekwondo, Mixed Martial Arts, Jujitsu, Self-Defense against Multiple Opponents, Weapon Disarms.

Attend as many classes as you want for no extra charge. We require NO Contracts. Private Lessons Available!

"Summer Camp" sign-up now!
Limited space • Call for info

Contact Master Johnson 559-917-5262

www.goldenvalleymartialarts.com
email: info@masterjohnson.com

7/08

July celebration was held at the West Ashlan location of Yosemite Falls on Saturday, July 19. WONDERFUL FOOD! Everyone asked said they had a good time.

BINGO is being held on the FIRST

and THIRD Tuesdays each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Come join the fun!

In the senior years, many need someone to laugh with so come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterward. There is a lot of fun here. Remember laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does

not mean everything is perfect. It means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and

older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class has changed to Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. The Watercolor Painting class has also changed. It is now scheduled on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more – you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

August 2, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monthly Sale.

August 16, 11 a.m. Birthday & Anniversary Celebration, Little Red Caboose, 50 W. Bullard, Clovis (Bullard & Minnewawa).

November 1-8, Eastern Caribbean Cruise.

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO.

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

MADERA COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

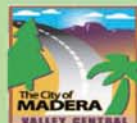


**Thursday Evenings
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
July 24-Sept. 18**

Courthouse Park
Yosemite Ave. & Gateway

For more information call
559-661-5155

Sponsored By:



STUDENTS: BOOK YOUR SENIOR PORTRAITS NOW!

Hart Photography Gallery & Unique Gifts

need
TROPHIES?
WE ARE YOUR
ONE STOP SOURCE
FOR ALL OF YOUR
TROPHY
NEEDS



Gift Certificates Available!

37193 Ave. 12 #3D in the Maywood Center, Madera Ranchos, CA
645-1918 www.hartphotographs.com Monday - Friday 10 - 4

7108

Click on "Local News" at

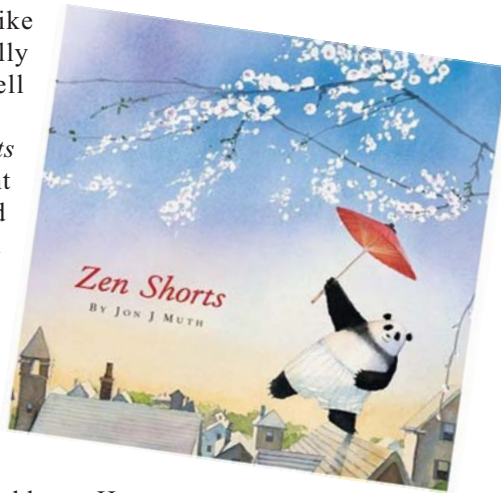
LIBRARY cont. from P. 8

Desperate to get him back, her best friend persuades her to go to a party where alcohol and sex are expected. At the end of the party, a traumatized Trixie goes home to tell her parents she has been raped. Not only does her life fall apart, but the lives of her parents and the accused boy do as well. The tragedy of it all is chronicled by Trixie's father, Daniel, who as a graphic artist draws the story as a modern graphic novel following the theme of Dante's Inferno and the nine circles of hell. Similarly, Trixie's mother, a professor at the local college, faces her own demons as she tries to end an illicit love affair with a graduate student. The odd, yet interesting connection with Daniel's Alaskan childhood years, is all part of the story but doesn't really fall into place until the end of the story. Like some of her other books, Picoult really makes parents wonder just how well they know their child.

Juvenile Picture Book: *Zen Shorts* by Jon J. Muth. Stillwater is a giant panda who practices Zen meditation and serves tea to his new friends Addy, Karl and Michael, the children who live next door. Whenever they are together Stillwater shares a Zen short with them. Zen shorts are short stories or parables with which to meditate and puzzle over. They help us to examine our thinking, our feelings and our habits.

This beautifully illustrated book is a Caldecott Honor Book. It's a great way to introduce children to the ancient use of stories as a way to instruct and entertain.

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



Madera Republicans to Meet Party Vice Chairman, Author

The next regular meeting of the Republican Party of Madera County (RPMC) will be a dinner meeting on Thursday, Aug. 14 at the Clubhouse of the Madera Municipal Golf Course at Ave. 17 and Rd. 23, with special guest speaker Tom Del Baccaro, Vice Chairman of the California Republican Party (CRP). Tom also sits on the CRP Board of Directors, its Budget Committee and chairs its Volunteer Com-

mittee and Strategic Planning Committee. He publishes PoliticalVanguard.com, and is the author of the new book, *The New Conservative Paradigm*. Newcomers are welcome. The cost of the meal is \$11. To RSVP or for more information call Bobbie Atkisson, Secretary, at 683-0719. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 6. See our website at maderagop.org for more information

Ranchos Area Rotary Being Formed

The Madera and Madera Sunrise Rotary Clubs are sponsoring efforts to extend Rotary into eastern Madera County, specifically for the Ranchos.

They are currently holding provisional club meetings at Children's Hospital on Tuesday Mornings from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Continental breakfasts are served for \$8.

Rotary is an organization of over 1 million business and professional people

worldwide and features humanitarian service, fellowship, development of goodwill, leadership and high ethical standards.

Volunteers are ready to go to work in the growing area east of the City of Madera. If you are interested in getting more information or would like to attend a program meeting, please contact Diana Barden at 559-674-7138 or email her at jerrybarden@comcast.net.



... one church, multiple locations

We believe in doing church wherever people want one.

Flipside is embarking on a "God sized" task of reproducing themselves, not once but in 4 services, in 3 locations, in 2 cities.

On August 24th we will "preview" each service.
The goal is to be "live" and every week on September 14th, the weekend of our 3rd birthday!

What Time:

Flipside Liberty @ 9:30 and 11
Flipside Maywood @ 10
Flipside 13 @ noon

What Style:

Flipside Liberty is loud and fast
Flipside Maywood is coffee house feel, keyboard, not loud
Flipside 13 is louder and faster,
hey... it's in a metal rock bar... what do you expect

Where:

Two services at our current location, Liberty High School in Madera Ranchos located at 1220 Ave. 12;
One service at the Maywood Center in Madera Ranchos located at 37193 Ave. 12, Suite 3H, and
One service at the Lucky 13 Bar located at Ashlan and Hwy 99.

Check out one or all of the three venues.
Make the rounds and discover the one that fits for you and your friends:
August 24th
Weekly beginning September 14th

7/08 For more information on these events and others or to contact Flipside staff, check out our website at www.acts176.com. Flipside Christian Church Office located in the Maywood Center inside of the "Flipside Activity Center"



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

by Superintendent, Sarah Koligian

I hope our community is continuing to enjoy their summer vacations and quality time spent with family and friends. The summer months in Golden Valley

Projects, Plans and Prep for the New School Year

Unified have been very productive and have kept us busy. We have experienced tremendous activity on our building projects as well as excitement and activity as we prepare for the new school year beginning on Wednesday, August 13, 2008.

These projects are all evidence of Golden Valley's commitment to implementing the Vision and Mission of the District's Strategic Plan. Our District Strategic Plan serves as our roadmap and specifically addresses five priority goals that are the "wheels" that keep our district rolling.

Golden Valley's "Vision" statement asserts that we are committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community based in excellence. The district's "Mission" is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment. The five priority goals that have been identified by our Governing

Board and community to energize the vision and mission of our district are encapsulated in the following goals:

- **Goal #1 – Instruction and Assessment** –

to develop, provide, and maintain a culture of achievement and personal character at all levels through the use of innovative and effective standards-based curriculum driven by frequent assessments

- **Goal #2 - Communication** –

to effectively communicate with the global learning community

- **Goal #3 – Facilities** – to provide safe, secure, and appropriate facilities to support GVUSD educational goals

- **Goal # 4 – Safety** – to effectively enable school teams to utilize a step-by-step planning process in the development of school safety plans for each site that comply with state and federal requirements while fostering a secure and

trusting learning environment of the entire school community

- **Goal #5 – Finances** - to maintain and improve GV's financial viability and to develop and utilize budgeting practices that engage the community and District staff

To this end, our District Strategic Plan continues to drive our progress as we have accomplished the following projects this summer in preparation for the new school year.

- **Goal #1 – Instruction and Assessment** –

- GVUSD hosted summer school for approximately 350 elementary, middle and high school students for reinforcement of grade level standards or for credit retrieval. Additionally, approximately 60 elementary students participated in the Summer Enrichment

Please see **PLANS** on P. 19

GV Math Benchmark Assessments

*By Andrew G. Alvarado
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services*

Golden Valley USD teachers have been hard at work gearing up for next school year. We would like to thank our teacher partners, Chelan Shepherd, Laura Mayer, Kristi Forshee, Jennifer Woods and Joy Hurt, for their support in aligning our GVUSD Essential and Enduring Standards K-12 Mathematics Matrix with our new math adoption, California HSP Math, Harcourt School Publishers. Pacing calendars for all grade levels in grades K-6 are being developed to include the matrix and benchmark exams. The pacing calendars will be available for staff prior to the first day of school.

Beginning with 2008-2009 school year, grades K-12 will administer quarterly benchmark exams to all students. The benchmark exams will consist of California Key Standards from the California Mathematics Framework and the GVUSD Enduring Standards identified through the GVUSD Mathematics Matrix. By the end of March 2009, 98 percent of all the key standards in mathematics for the State of California will be taught and assessed in grades K-6. The data received from the benchmarks will be used by staff to help monitor instruction and learning.

Benchmarks assessments are scheduled for the months of October, December/January, March and May. An assessment calendar will be available for review in August on the GVUSD Website. For more information regarding mathematics benchmarks, please contact Andy Alvarado at 559-645-7533.

New Hawk Adorns LHS Gym Floor



As part of the ongoing improvements throughout the Golden Valley Unified School District, Liberty High School's weight room received new flooring and the gymnasium floor (shown above) is now adorned with the latest rendition of the Liberty Hawk just in time for the upcoming year's basketball and volleyball games.

Click on "Local News" at

Funny how a little miracle can
bring a family back to church.



7/08

She needs all the love and guidance
you can give. And then some. We can help.
To strengthen the moral and spiritual examples
you set for her and help her find her place
in God's family.
Where there's plenty of room for you, too.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

Why Not Check Us Out?

Sundays 10:30 a.m. at the Central Valley Lutheran Ministry Christian Mission Center
Meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 • the corner of Avenue 12 and Loren Way
centralvalleychristians.org • 559-324-1144

2008-2009 BUS SCHEDULES

Liberty High School / Ranchos Middle School

12220 Road 36
Madera, CA 93636
Darlea Livengood, Principal / Shane Pinkard, Principal

Please note: Students are to arrive at the bus stop nearest to their home five minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Walking distance for students is: Grades 7-8 – one mile; 9-12 – two miles. **Please note, Sierra View Elementary School, and Webster Elementary have a separate schedule.

PICK UP

ROUTE 7

7:03.....10878 HWY 41
7:05.....10477 ROLLING HILL
7:09.....8805 N. COBB
7:18.....40380 RIVER ESTATE DR.
7:23.....8104 ROAD 39
7:27.....37107 AVENUE 9
7:31.....9400 ROAD 36
7:37.....11952 TRIESTE
7:40.....NW CORNER OF
BERKSHIRE & RD 37 ¼
7:43.....12504 MESA DRIVE
7:47.....LIBERTY HIGH

ROUTE 8

7:10.....8844 ROAD 35
7:14.....9303 ROAD 33 ½
7:17.....11500 ROAD 33 ½
7:22.....11224 IOWA
7:25.....33318 AVENUE 12
7:28.....34547 AVENUE 12 ¼
7:31.....13089 ROAD 35
7:33.....34703 AVENUE 13 ¼
7:36.....13529 ROAD 35
7:40.....14804 ROAD 36
7:42.....14472 ROAD 36
7:44.....13336 ROAD 36
7:47.....LHS/RMS

ROUTE 9

7:25.....14558 HUNTINGTON
7:27.....14567 SKYVIEW
7:34.....15048 MONREAL
7:36.....15661 MONREAL
7:38.....15874 MARK
7:40.....14838 ROAD 35
7:42.....14526 ROAD 35
7:47.....LHS/RMS

ROUTE 10

7:14.....15267 ROAD 36
7:19.....36477 BLANCA
7:22.....37871 AVENUE 17 ½
7:25.....37340 AVENUE 17
7:27.....37144 AVENUE 17
7:29.....36855 AVENUE 17
7:31.....36450 AVENUE 17
7:33.....36255 AVENUE 17
7:36.....SE CORNER OF
KAREN/AVENUE 16 ½
7:39.....16065 LA CANADA
7:47.....LHS/RMS

TAKE HOME

ROUTE 7

3:15.....DEPART LHS/RMS
3:17.....11952 TRIESTE
3:21.....12504 MESA DRIVE
3:24.....SW CORNER OF
BERKSHIRE & ROAD 37 ¼
3:34.....10878 HWY 41
3:36.....10477 ROLLING HILL
3:41.....8805 N. COBB
3:50.....40380 RIVER ESTATE DRIVE
3:55.....8104 ROAD 39
3:59.....37107 AVENUE 9
4:04.....9400 ROAD 36

ROUTE 8

3:15.....DEPART LHS/RMS
3:18.....13089 ROAD 35
3:21.....34703 AVENUE 13 ¼
3:23.....13529 ROAD 35
3:27.....14804 ROAD 36
3:29.....14472 ROAD 36
3:31.....13336 ROAD36
3:34.....34547 AVENUE 12 ¼
3:37.....11500 ROAD 33 ½
3:41.....11224 IOWA
3:43.....33318 AVENUE 12
3:48.....9777 ROAD 33 ½
3:55.....8844 ROAD 35

ROUTE 9

3:15.....DEPART LHS/RMS
3:20.....14610 ROAD 35
3:22.....14839 ROAD 35
3:25.....15874 MARK
3:27.....15661 MONREAL
3:29.....15048 MONREAL
3:36.....14567 SKYVIEW
3:38.....14558 HUNTINGTON

ROUTE 10

3:15.....DEPART LHS/RMS
3:17.....12336 HAVEN
3:22.....15267 ROAD 36
3:27.....36477 BLANCA
3:31.....37871 AVENUE 17 ½
3:34.....37340 AVENUE 17
3:36.....37144 AVENUE 17
3:39.....36855 AVENUE 17
3:41.....36450 AVENUE 17
3:43.....36255 AVENUE 17
3:46.....SE CORNER OF
KAREN/AVENUE 16 ½
3:49.....16065 LA CANADA

REV. 7-17-08

2008-2009 BUS SCHEDULES

Webster Elementary School

36477 Ruth Avenue
Madera, Ca 93636
Kevin Hatch, Principal

Please note: Students are to arrive at the bus stop nearest to their home five minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Walking distance for students is: Grades K-3 – ½ mile; grades 4-6 – one mile. The afternoon take home bus is the same as the morning bus. P.m. take-home is the same as the a.m. pick-up bus.

PICK UP

ROUTE 1

7:13.....12188 ROAD 37
7:16.....12504 MESA
7:19.....37422 AVENUE 13
7:21.....12809 Road 37 ¾
7:23.....12470 ROAD 37 ½
7:25.....12200 ROAD 37 ½
7:27.....SW CORNER OF
ROAD 37 ¾ & BERKSHIRE
7:28.....37611 AVENUE 12
7:31.....37027 KENSINGTON
7:33.....36740 KENSINGTON
7:36.....36103 KENSINGTON
7:41.....12201 GASTON
7:43.....34860 AVENUE 12 ¼
7:45.....12432 ROAD 35
7:47.....35179 MARCIEL
7:49.....35451 MARCIEL
7:51.....12783 ROAD 35 ½
7:53.....12880 ROAD 36
7:55.....ARRIVE WEBSTER

ROUTE 2

7:24.....13591 ROAD 35
7:26.....13869 ROAD 35
7:28.....35424 AVENUE 14
7:30.....35771 AVENUE 14
7:33.....35681 AVENUE 14 ½
7:35.....35237 AVENUE 14 ½
7:37.....14610 ROAD 35
7:39.....(SE CORNER 15 & 35)
14839 ROAD 35
7:40.....35302 AVENUE 15
7:42.....35946 AVENUE 15
7:44.....35789 BONADELLE
7:46.....35357 BONADELLE (WEST)
7:49.....35640 JOHN ALBERT
7:51.....14216 ROAD 36
7:55.....ARRIVE AT WEBSTER

ROUTE 3

7:05.....8320 ROAD 35
7:11.....11500 ROAD 33 ½
7:16.....32280 AVENUE 11 ¼
7:18.....11156 COLORADO
7:20.....33168 AVENUE 12
7:23.....12571 ROAD 34 ½
7:26.....34957 AVENUE 13 ¼
7:28.....35330 AVENUE 13 ¼
7:30.....(IRON GATE W/ HORSE)
35637AVENUE 13 ¼
7:33.....35625AVENUE 13 ½
7:35.....35325 AVENUE 13 ½
7:37.....34829 AVENUE 13 ½
7:39.....(SW CORNER)
34660 AVENUE 13 AND 34 ¾

7:41.....35176 AVENUE 13
7:43.....35746 AVENUE 13
7:46.....35863 AVENUE 12 ½
7:49.....NE CORNER
AVENUE 12 ½ & ROAD 35 ½
7:52.....12919 ROAD 36
7:55.....ARRIVE WEBSTER

ROUTE 4

6:55.....37496 AVENUE 12
7:06.....40380 RIVER ESTATE DRIVE
7:15.....8805 N. COBB RANCH
7:20.....10281 LANES BRIDGE
7:23.....10575 FIG GROVE
ROAD & GROVE COURT
7:25.....10845 POMEGRANATE
& POMEGRANATE CIRCLE
7:27.....11061 EL CAPITAN &
ADOBE WAY (SE CORNER)
7:29.....41221 BUTTE WAY
7:31.....11150 MOUNTAIN VIEW &
ADOBE WAY (SE CORNER)
7:33.....10644 MOUNTAIN VIEW
7:35.....10454 POMEGRANATE ROAD
7:37.....10118 FIG GROVE
ROAD & FIG GROVE CL
7:47.....36753 ORANGE GROVE
7:49.....36636 FENDER
7:51.....36307 FENDER
7:53.....11914 CHARLTON
7:55.....ARRIVE AT WEBSTER

***Parent/Guardian of a kindergarten student must be present and visible at the bus stop.**

REV. 7.17.08

2008-2009 BUS SCHEDULES

Sierra View Elementary School

16436 Paula Road
Madera, CA 93636
Scott Tefft, Principal

Please note: Students are to arrive at the bus stop nearest to their home five minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Walking distance for students is: Grades K-3 – ½ mile, grades 4-6 – one mile.

PICK UP

ROUTE 5

7:05.....	16901 ROAD 36
7:07.....	17345 ROAD 36
7:09.....	36441 VERDE
7:11.....	36578 BLANCA
7:14.....	36960 BLANCA
7:15.....	17638 ROAD 37
7:17.....	17322 ROAD 37
7:20.....	17287 LACANADA
7:23.....	17174 ANACONADA
7:25.....	17435 BONITA
7:27.....	37867 AVENUE 17 ½
7:29.....	37703 VERDE
7:33.....	17346 PAULA
7:35.....	17345 KAREN
7:37.....	17384 MONREAL
7:39.....	16714 MONREAL
7:42.....	16715 MARK
7:44.....	17345 MARK
7:47.....	SIERRA VIEW

ROUTE 6

6:55.....	14558 HUNTINGTON
6:58.....	14708 BROOKHILL
7:00.....	14367 BROOKHILL
7:03.....	14787 SKYVIEW
7:05.....	14176 SKYVIEW
7:12.....	15220 MONREAL
7:14.....	36760 PAULINE
7:16.....	36681 LEXINGTON
7:18.....	36799 FRANKLIN
7:20.....	36519 KENNETH
7:23.....	15494 MARK
7:27.....	36064 AVENUE 16
7:30.....	16065 LACANADA
7:32.....	16823 LACANADA
7:35.....	16750 ANACONDA
7:38.....	16397 ANACONDA
7:44.....	16211 ROAD 37
7:47.....	SIERRA VIEW SCHOOL

TAKE HOME

ROUTE 5

2:35.....	DEPART SIERRA VIEW
2:40.....	16901 ROAD 36
2:42.....	17345 ROAD 36
2:45.....	36441 VERDE
2:47.....	36579 BLANCA
2:49.....	36960 BLANCA
2:50.....	17638 ROAD 37
2:52.....	17322 ROAD 37
2:55.....	17287 LACANADA
2:57.....	17174 ANACONADA
2:59.....	17435 BONITA
3:01.....	37867 AVENUE 17 ½
3:04.....	37703 VERDE
3:08.....	17346 PAULA
3:10.....	17346 KAREN
3:13.....	17346 MONREAL
3:15.....	16714 MONREAL
3:18.....	16715 MARK
3:20.....	17345 MARK

ROUTE 6

2:35.....	DEPART SIERRA VIEW SCHOOL
2:37.....	16212 ROAD 37
2:39.....	16065 LACANADA
2:41.....	16823 LACANADA
2:44.....	16750 ANACONDA
2:46.....	16397 ANACONDA
2:49.....	36519 KENNETH
2:51.....	36799 FRANKLIN
2:53.....	36681 LEXINGTON
2:55.....	15220 MONREAL
2:57.....	36760 PAULINE
3:03.....	36064 AVENUE 16
3:05.....	15494 MARK
3:12.....	14787 SKYVIEW
3:14.....	14176 SKYVIEW
3:17.....	14367 BROOKHILL
3:19.....	14699 BROOKHILL
3:21.....	14558 HUNTINGTON

*AM Routes - Parent/Guardian of a kindergarten student must be present and visible at the bus stop.

* PM Routes - Parent/Guardian of a kindergarten student must be present and visible at the bus stop or the student will be transported back to Sierra View Elementary school at the end of the route.

Times are approximate. There are many variable to cause a bus to be late on any given day

REV. 7.17.08

PLANS cont. from P. 16

Program.

- GVUSD District Vertical Math Team met and developed pacing calendars and benchmark assessments for the new math adoption.

- District and site professional development for the year will be focused on the quality of instruction in the classroom through training on “Explicit Direct Instruction”.

- GVUSD has filled vacant positions and hired new members to our instructional team. Joining our GVUSD family are new teachers, Sonia Guitierrez - LHS math teacher, Mike Nolte – LHS Special Education teacher and Assistant Football Coach, Angeline Ohanesian – LHS Special Education and Stacey Keilmeyer – district health coordinator and nurse.

Goal #2 - Communication –

- GVUSD is revamping our district and school websites through a collaborative partnership with Madera County Office of Education. The new website will be more “user friendly” and will contain the most current and up to date information on district and school events and happenings. It is still under construction with a planned roll-out date in early fall.

Goal #3 – Facilities –

- Ranchos Middle School is well underway and on schedule for opening in one year, August 2009.

- Liberty High School Lights and Bleacher project are near completion and will be ready for the 2008-09 Hawks Football season

- Road 36 and Avenue 12 ½ Roads have been redesigned and upgraded to handle

the additional flow of traffic that will be created by the new Ranchos Middle School.

- Liberty High School’s weight room received new flooring and the gymnasium floor is now adorned with the latest rendition of the Liberty Hawk.

- Sierra View Modernization plans are in the initial planning stages.

Goal #4 – Safety –

- Our schools have updated their safety plans this past year and the district will be refining our crisis response plan to practice and review with staff for the upcoming year.

Goal #5 – Finances –

- GVUSD Business Office staff have worked diligently to present a balanced budget for the current year and the next two years, despite the continued challenges with the State budget.

- Once the State finalizes their budget for 2008-09, we will finalize our district budget for the upcoming year.

We are excited to share our progress with our community and our doors are always open to you to enlist your support or suggestions. I can be reached at (559) 645-7500 or by email at skoligian@gvusd.k12.ca.us. We look forward to our first day back with staff on August 11th and of course, we are eagerly anticipating our first day back with our students on August 13th. We welcome our students, staff and parents back to an exciting new school year and look forward to our continued partnerships to provide the highest quality education for all of our students.

“Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.” - Jane Goodall

NEVER PAINT AGAIN!

Turn Your HOUSE into a DREAM HOME
with **TEX - COTE** instead of paint



708

SPECIAL!

\$400⁰⁰ OFF

VINYL WINDOWS

W/COUPON EXP. 7/31/08

- Trenching
- Sand Blasting
- Patch
- Primer
- Tex Cote
- Paint Trim

Frank Kramer Exteriors 645-4113
Lic. #273099



To Advertise
call
645-0634

Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

Charisse Lindsay Stindt
Lic#0616281



FARMERS'
Auto • Home • Life

DISCOUNTS

37144 Ave. 12 Ste. #103 • Madera Ranchos
(559) 645-4124

PAINTING CONTRACTOR
TEXTURED COATING • PAINTING
VINYL SIDING • VINYL WINDOWS
ROOFING



Since 1970
FRANK KRAMER
EXTERIORS
(559) 645-4113

TEXTURED COATING SPECIALIST
INSURED
FRANK KRAMER LIC. #273099

VELVET TOUCH
CAR WASH & DETAIL



37075 AVE. 12 • MADERA RANCHOS
645-6630

B.M.T.
Computer Repair
(559) 917-4507

- Sales & Service
- In-Home Service

Sé Habla Español
Thomas Valdez Computer Tech.
Retired FPD 26 yr. Certifications: A+/Network +
Ca. Lic.#79328 Microsoft Certified Pro

Professional Dog Training



Vikki Campbell
Member A.P.D.T.

For the Love of Dogs

- Private/Group Training
- Behavior Consultation

(559) 645-4351
email: forloveofdogs@sbcglobal.net



Central Valley Wireless

645-1600

Brad & Cathy Burford
37167 Ave. 12 #D5
Madera Ranchos

Jo-De DRILLING



& TRACTOR SERVICE
HARDPAN DRILLING
674-7770

Notary in the Ranchos!
Mobile Notary and
Loan Document Signing

Daytime • Evening • Weekends

Diana J. Tucker
Serving Madera & Fresno Counties
381-5879

HIGH QUALITY GATE SYSTEMS



559-454-8060

ROGER PRATER CONCRETE

Residential & Commercial
38 years experience
Lic. # 599235



(559) 645-0911
(559) 645-0916

Tom Kellner
owner/broker



Kellner & Sons' Properties

Residential Sales
Real Estate Investments
License Training

Cell 706-3162
office 559-297-3770
fax 559-297-3776

Hart Photography
Gallery & Unique Gifts



- Professional photography
- Personalized unique gifts
- Gift certificates

645-1918
www.hartsphotographs.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADS

only **\$25**

(559) 645-0634

Ranchos Auto Repair & Chuck's Transmisssion



We specialize in transmission repair and service work.
We now do A/C service and repair.

Auto, Truck, Motorhome, 4x4, Automatic/Standard
12090 Rd. 37 1/2 • Madera
645-4475
SERVING THE VALLEY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

AWNINGS & Lonas Del Valle

Specializing in Awnings
Recovers • Repairs Tarps • Lonas



559-313-8407
License #B0006328

Let me make it simple

There's more to a mortgage than just getting a loan. Let me help you find the **right** loan for your financial situation.



559-907-9465
559-658-7611 x204
lmatthews@acceptancecapital.com

Acceptance Capital
Mortgage Corporation

CERTIFIED ARBORIST

- Artful Pruning
- Removals
- Disease Management



UPRIGHT TREE SPECIALISTS
645-TREE (8733)

THE COMFORT AND RELAXATION YOU DESERVE



BRIAN'S HEATING & COOLING
675-1681

Danny's

- Cleanups (Brush, Trash, All Other Cleanups)
- Tear Out • Many Other Jobs
- Construction Site • Light Demolition
- Light Concrete Hauling

Call Danny Powell at
559-363-0805 or **559-281-4696**
All projects expertly and professionally completed

MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR



- Weekly Service
- Full Service
- Equipment
- Supplies

• Residential • Commercial
• Locally Owned

251-2514 351-1605 645-4799
office cell after 5 p.m.



MZC

- Industrial
- General
- Farm
- Mig
- Tig
- Stick
- Certified
- Portable


Welding & Fabrication
call **JERRY CLARK • 706-3865**

Valley Green Hydroseeding

Wayne Jones

Business 645-8528 Pager 489-7859

NO JOB TOO SMALL



Ever Growing For Your Needs



B&M
Auto & Truck Parts

Store hours:
Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30
Sat 8:00-4:00
Sun 10:00-3:00



Madera Ranchos Plaza
37405 Ave. 12, Ste. 801
645-1570



Motorcycle & ATV Repairs

YAMAHA99
A Division of Premiere Powersports, Inc.

AUTHORIZED DEALER

Hwy. 99 and Ave. 12
645-4545

Valley Paintings Co.

Trust your home to a Licensed Painter



- Specializing in Interiors and Exteriors
- 30 Years Experience in the Valley
- The Highest Quality Materials
- Licensed and Bonded

275-7387 • cell 307-9180

Business Directory

FIRE TECH SYSTEMS



Installation & Repair
Commercial & Residential
24 Hour Service

5 Years Certification
Lic. #777780

Ron Cody 559-903-0586
firetech1@comcast.net

Huckabee's

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
LIC. #697274

559-662-0336

559-438-8260

Sales and Service - Free Estimates
Duct Testing & Certification
Locally owned and operated!

Clark's Performance

- GM, H1 & ASE Master Certified
- General Automotive Repairs
- Hot Rod Customizing & Lowering



Jeff Clark

645-1578

A
Delightful
Touch

Beauty Salon, Hair, Nails,
Pedicures & Gifts

645-8323
37164 AVE. 12 #103
MADERA RANCHOS

for MORE sales tomorrow, call

**JEAN
BRINER**

Today!

(559) 645-0634

The Ranchos Independent



Since 1984

Eileen Tiso - Owner

Resale • Foreclosures • Rentals
Property Management Available

559-645-1102
cell 559-706-0301

36946 Ave. 12 • Madera, CA 93636

BOB WATKINS TRANSPORTATION

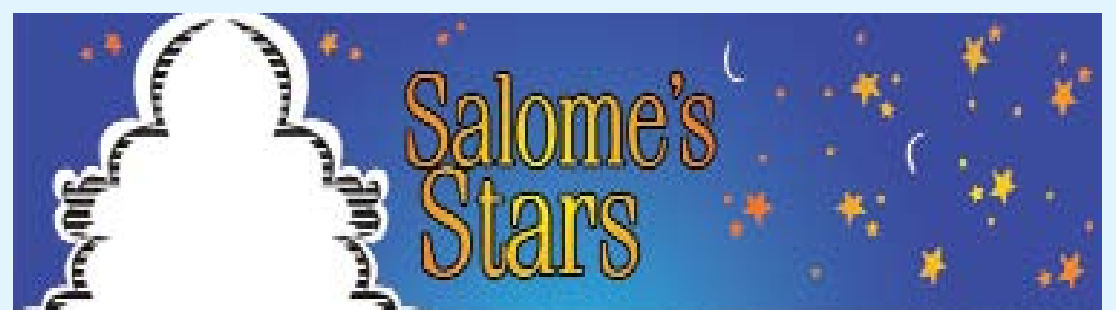
- LOT DISCING • SAND • GRAVEL •
- ROCK • BASE ROCK • GRADING •
- HOUSE PADS • DRIVEWAYS •
- COBBLES • HUMUS • BARK •

CALL BOB

289-1743



To Advertise
CALL
645-0634



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your zeal for challenges usually works well for you. But this week it's best to avoid jumping into new situations without more information. Vital news emerges by the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Once again, the Bovine's patience pays off as that pesky problem works itself out without taking too much of your valuable time. A new task opens interesting possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Those suggestions you want to share need to be set aside for a while so you can focus on the job at hand. There'll be time later to put your ideas into a workable format.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be sure about your sources before you use the information in any decision you reach about your new project. Some of the data might be out of date or misinterpreted.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A sudden challenge might rattle you at first. But pump up that strong Lion's heart with a full measure of courage and face it with the continuing support of family and friends.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Watch your expenses this week so you can have a financial cushion to fall back on should things tighten up later this month. Money matters ease by the 31st.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Uncertainty over workplace policy creates anxiety and confusion among your colleagues. Don't be surprised if you're asked, once again, to help work things out.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The workweek keeps you busy tying up loose ends and checking data that needs to be verified. The weekend offers a chance to relax and restore your spent energies.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is not the best time to go to extremes to prove a point. Better to set a sensible goal now and move forward. There'll be time later to take the bolder course.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A step-by-step progression is the better way to move ahead. Taking shortcuts could be risky at this time. Important news arrives on the 31st.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Avoid getting drawn into workplace disputes that should be handled by those directly involved. Instead, spend your energy developing those new ideas.

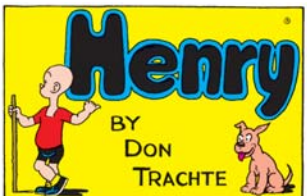
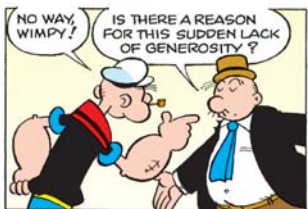
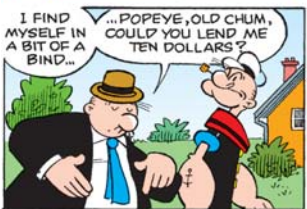
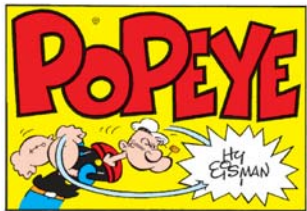
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You still need to be prudent about money matters. But things start to ease by the end of the week. A weekend encounter with an old friend brings welcome news.

(c) 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

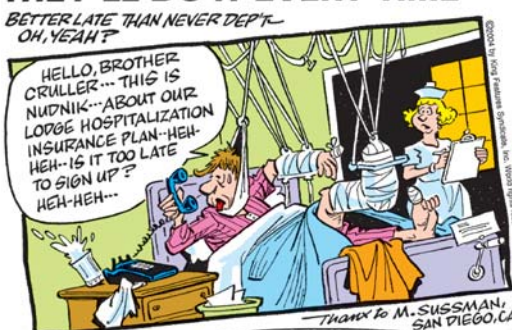
Born this Week

You handle challenging situations with boldness when
necessary - and caution when called for.

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER DEPT' OH, YEAH?
HELLO, BROTHER CRULLER... THIS IS NUDNIK... ABOUT OUR LODGE HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE PLAN... HEH-HEH... IS IT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP?? HEH-HEH...

Thank to M. SUSSMAN, SAN DIEGO, CA.

BY AL SCADUTO



Thank to L. WASHELL, WASHINGTON, D.C.



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? LOOKING FOR A PLACE IN THE BIG CITY WITH A POPULATION OF TWO MILLION PEOPLE... and WHO DO YOU PICK TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS?

Thank to HAIHAI M., TAMPA, FL.



BATTER UP! Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "L" in the left rail, "Little pitchers have big ears."

SIX OF ONE, HALF A DOZEN OF ANOTHER! You have 66 seconds to rearrange the numbers in the square so that the sum of any row, column or the two diagonals shall total 6.

1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1 ANTE | ION |
| 2 FAT | RICE |
| 3 EDIT | ABLE |
| 4 CAP | KIN |
| 5 DATE | HERS |
| 6 BUMP | LOPE |

Answers: 1. Antelope, 2. Edition, 3. Fatigue, 4. Capable, 5. Dateable, 6. Bumpkin.

Wishing Well®

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

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.

©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

MAGIC MAZE ● SHADES OF GRAY

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Arsenic | Feldgrau | Pale taupe | Slate gray |
| Bistre | Liver | Purple taupe | Taupe gray |
| Charcoal | Medium taupe | Sable | White |
| Davy's gray | Mouse | Silver | |

©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



TIME FOR ANGER MANAGEMENT!

- Try to keep from blowing your top while identifying these "anger" words. Each one contains the word IRE. Using the following hints, see if you can cool things down in less than five minutes.
1. Having dreadful consequences.
 2. To be stuck in the mud.
 3. When you're connected to the Internet.
 4. Part of many churches.
 5. Loud noisemakers.
 6. To strive toward an end.
 7. Seen on summer evenings.
 8. To have refereed.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: What is the common name of ascorbic acid?
2. MEASUREMENTS: How many bottles of champagne are contained in a jeroboam?
3. GAMES: How many lettered tiles exist in a Scrabble game?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Missouri is bordered by how many other U.S. states?
5. HISTORY: What was the name of the volcano that erupted and buried the city of Pompeii in Italy?
6. GOVERNMENT: What organization did the United Nations replace in 1945?
7. TITLES: What is the female counterpart of an earl?
8. MYTHOLOGY: How many muses of music, song and dance did the Greeks have?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What ingredients are included in a cocktail called a stinger?
10. MUSIC: The reggae band UB40 had a hit song about what kind of wine?

Answers

1. Vitamin C
2. Four
3. 100
4. Eight
5. Vesuvius
6. League of Nations
7. Countess
8. Nine
9. Brandy and white creme de menthe
10. "Red, Red Wine"

Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



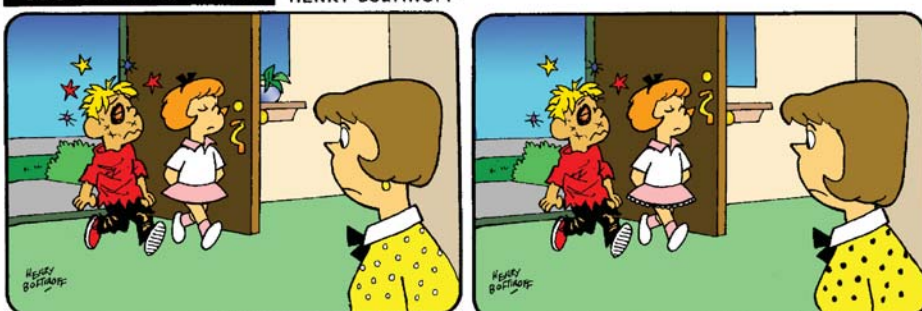
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



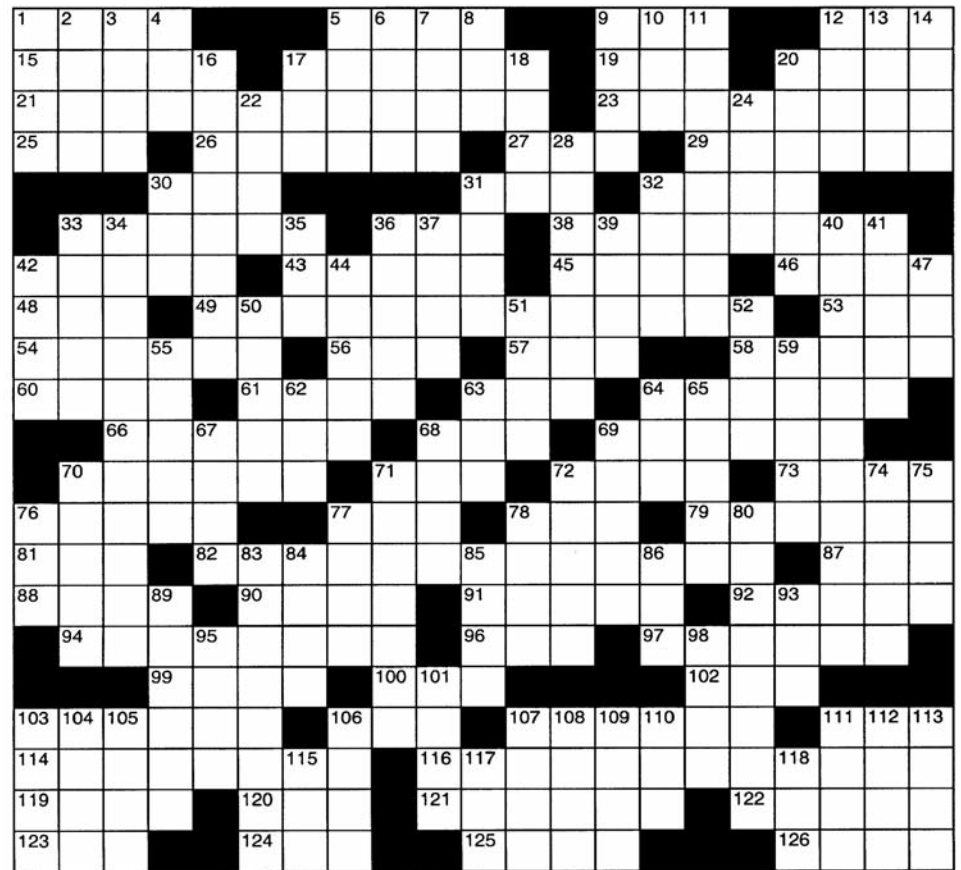
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Mom's hair is longer. 2. Girl's dress has ruffles. 3. Indoor plant is missing. 4. Door handle is higher. 5. Dress polka dots are black. 6. Fewer stars around boy's head.

Super Crossword



©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

ACROSS

- 1 Move like a mouse
- 5 Neighbor of Java
- 9 "— Medicine" ('88 hit)
- 12 Corpulent
- 15 Early computer
- 17 TV's "— Heroes"
- 19 Campbell of UB40
- 20 Poorly
- 21 Restaurant critic's zine?
- 23 Librarian's journal?
- 25 Explosive initials
- 26 Column
- 27 Max — Sydow
- 29 Bunch of ballplayers
- 30 Solidify
- 31 Weber's "— Freischutz"
- 32 Prepared to drive
- 33 Let up
- 36 Arthur or Pons
- 38 — carrier
- 42 Snapshot
- 43 — Lama
- 45 Strained
- 46 DEA officer
- 48 Browning's bedtime?
- 49 Gardener's monthly?
- 53 — jongg
- 54 Hymns of praise
- 56 Viper
- 57 Milne creature
- 58 Digression
- 60 Gouda alternative
- 61 — River, NJ
- 63 Tenor
- 64 Like Simon
- 66 Groovy
- 68 Pugilistic poke
- 69 Stephen King book
- 70 Mutiny
- 71 Produce a parka
- 72 — fide
- 73 Byzantine art form
- 76 Pants parts
- 77 Ram's ma'am
- 78 Directional suffix
- 79 Sock style
- 81 Feign
- 82 Tree
- 87 Middling mark
- 88 Whippet's wagger
- 90 Enormous
- 91 Terpsichore's sister
- 92 104 Down, e.g.
- 94 Broadway arrangement
- 96 Kennel feature
- 97 Kitten gear?
- 99 Petite pie
- 100 Sprite
- 102 "— Buttermilk Sky" ('46 song)
- 103 Classify
- 106 Maestro de Waart
- 107 "Electric —" ('83 hit)
- 111 To and —
- 114 Sailor's reading?
- 116 Depression era
- 119 Icelandic epic
- 120 Capek play
- 121 Bring to light
- 122 Goatish gamboler
- 123 Have unpaid bills
- 124 "Hiver" opposite
- 125 "— to Order" ('87 film)
- 126 Highflying agcy.
- 3 Crowdburst?
- 4 Lincoln son
- 5 Pipe part
- 6 Turkish title
- 7 Den
- 8 "Newhart" setting
- 9 Holstein's home
- 10 Flagon filler
- 11 Patois
- 12 Beat
- 13 Felipe, Jesus, or Matty
- 14 Little one
- 16 South African port
- 17 Cholesterol letters
- 18 Golfer Ballesteros
- 20 Nigerian city
- 22 "Aida" river
- 24 Forest ruminant
- 28 Ciceronian speech
- 30 "GoodFellas" gun
- 31 Place to pontificate
- 32 Correct
- 33 Forward
- 34 Rover's review?
- 35 Presidential monogram
- 36 Sanctify
- 37 Tombstone lawman
- 39 Shake-spearean heavy
- 40 Wholesome biker's publication?
- 41 Carpentry or printing
- 42 Monsieur Le Pew
- 44 Patriot Samuel
- 47 "Evita" character
- 50 — Park, CO
- 51 Uninteresting
- 52 Subdue
- 55 Pavarotti's love
- 59 Bit of parsley
- 62 Northwestern st.
- 63 Mouth piece?
- 64 Anger or envy
- 65 Composer
- 67 Slender trace
- 68 Be a wise guy
- 69 French impressionist
- 70 Chingachgook's son
- 71 Nailed a gnat
- 72 Boitano or Blessed
- 74 New York city
- 75 Require
- 76 The Kit — Club
- 77 In addition
- 78 Stocking shade
- 80 Antsy
- 83 Opera feature
- 84 Future of the present
- 85 Medieval menial
- 86 — de plume
- 89 One of the Jacks
- 93 Gobbled up
- 95 Apparel
- 98 Debtors' letters
- 101 Stud site
- 103 Lhassa —
- 104 Cabbage concoction
- 105 Philosopher
- 106 Bronte heroine
- 107 Where to find an onager
- 108 "Veni, vidi, —"
- 109 Markey or Bagnold
- 110 Fisherman's snare
- 111 Chalky cheese
- 112 Skates
- 113 Gumbo thickener
- 115 Absent
- 117 City on the Danube
- 118 Ashen

FUN PAGES

STOCK cont. from P. 9

Liberty High to open on Wednesday, Aug. 13. If you have had to detour around this work on Road 36 I am sure you will be glad when 36 is open again for through traffic. Avenue 12 ½ in front of the new Ranchos Middle School will be done about Thanksgiving this year. Every time the road crew runs into a problem it costs the district more money, which I am not happy about, but the roads have to be completed before Ranchos Middle School can be opened for stu-

dents.

If you look down Avenue 12 ½ you can see the Ranchos Middle School buildings going up. The roofs on all of the buildings are scheduled to be on before the first rain. I sure hope they make it. I have been paying taxes for many years but this is the first time that I

I have been paying taxes for many years but this is the first time that I can really see, touch and drive over (Road 36 and Avenue 12 ½) what my bond money is paying for.

can really see, touch and drive over (Road 36 and Avenue 12 ½) what my bond money is paying for. I am proud that I have had a part in making it possible for both our Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School to be built for the children of our district.

Here are dates you need to put on your calendar:

All Golden Valley Schools will open on Wednesday, Aug. 13.

The next school board meeting is on Aug. 5 at Liberty library at 6 p.m.

Aug. 14 is Back to School Night at Webster from 5:30-8 p.m.

Aug. 18 is Back to School Night at Ranchos Middle School from 6-8 p.m.

Aug. 19 is the GVUSD Board Meeting at Liberty library at 6 p.m.

Aug. 21 is Back to School Night at Sierra View Elementary from 6-8 p.m.

POT cont. from P. 3

highways, (favored transportation routes for narcotics transit from Mexico). Central California also has rail, bus, cargo and shipping port facilities as well as Interstate 5, a prime corridor for transporting marijuana and a well-traveled highway system. The region has recently experienced a dramatic increase in both narcotic traffic and in the number and scale of clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory operations. These labs and so-called "super-labs" are situated in the Central Valley because of its proximity to chemical supply companies and major interstate highways. These labs are large-scale, relatively sophisticated, are carefully planned and guarded, and can produce 20-200 pounds of high purity methamphetamine per cooking cycles.

At a recent raid near Bass Lake agents discovered Marijuana growers had cut into a PG&E Hydro Plant Flume approximately two months earlier and water was being diverted to six marijuana gardens via a drip irrigation system approximately a mile away from the hole in the flume. Although the damage was fairly minimal, the flume was still leaking water when narcotic agents arrived. This particular Hydro plant provides service to mountain area homes and businesses plus transmission to Clovis – via a 70,000-volt transmission line. Those tending the garden had set up a fairly large camp where agents removed vast amounts of garbage including toxic pesticides and fertilizer. Agents also found a number of deep pits filled with trash and human waste. A bear had torn through the campsite just minutes before agents arrived for the raid. Unfortunately the bear ran the growers off in the process.

US Forest Service Land is increasingly being used for grow sites. Statistics indicate approximately 80 percent of

eradicated plants have recently been discovered on public lands (20 percent on private land). In addition, more plants were eradicated in national forests in California than in any other state nationwide. The rough terrain is much more work for growers to maintain, however campsites are more easily hidden and growers quickly become familiar with trails and escape routes to avoid detection. Workers clear-cut native vegetation; poach protected wildlife; discard garbage, non biodegradable materials and human waste at deserted sites, and create wildfire hazards. Workers often terrace the land which results in rapid erosion. The cost of restoring land damaged by these practices is significant. The National Park Service estimates that for every acre of forest planted with marijuana, 10 acres are damaged and the cost to repair and restore an outdoor cultivation site is approximately \$11,000 per acre.

A constant area of concern particularly on public lands is water supply. This poses significant environmental concerns about contaminating the eco-system, poisoning the water supply and altering watersheds by diverting the natural water courses for irrigation. Growers typically use drip irrigation systems and often dam up streams and redirect the water flow. The average-size marijuana garden (approximately 1,000 plants) requires up to 5,000 gallons of water daily. This high demand for water often strains small streams and damages downstream vegetation dependant on consistent water flow.

CAMP states law enforcement officials are increasingly encountering dumpsites of highly toxic insecticides, chemical repellants and poisons produced in Mexico and transported into the U.S. for use at grow sites. Although similar chemicals could be purchased in the states, purchasing bulk quantities locally could alert law enforcement to their operations. Chemical repellants and poisons are applied at the

base and around the perimeter of the site to ward off or kill rats, deer and other animals that could cause crop damage. These toxic chemicals contaminate ground water, pollute watersheds, kill fish and other wildlife, and eventually enter residential water supplies.

Indoor cultivation operations in California have also increased over the past several years, as a result of increased law enforcement pressure on outdoor cultivation, successes in aerial eradication and improved heat sensing technology. Criminal organizations are increasingly cultivating marijuana indoors in densely populated areas of the state. The typical indoor operation is located in residential housing within suburban neighborhoods where entire houses had been converted into highly sophisticated cultivation operations.

There are an entirely different set of concerns in regard to indoor cultivation. Indoor gardens normally produce much smaller crops and there is the added expense of heating and operating grow lights. Winter crops are typically grown indoors and a new hybrid variety of marijuana matures at 4 feet tall versus the standard of 8-10-foot-tall variety. Black mold is a huge concern and can cause entire houses to be condemned.

Erica H. Stuart, Public Information Officer for the Madera County Sheriff's Department, encourages property owners to "... protect your property and your community by knowing who you're renting your property to." Experts suggest landlords should know their rights as property owners. Verify references and conduct a thorough background check whenever possible. Include a criminal records check, former landlord verification and a former eviction search as well as the standard credit report. Do your homework up front and save yourself time and money in the long run.

Why Now?

Domestically produced marijuana is preferred because of the higher THC content. California-grown marijuana usually contains 10 percent to 20 percent THC, versus 2 percent to 5 percent for the Mexican variety. This higher potency marijuana is being cultivated in large outdoor grow sites in Central California using a variety of improved cultivation methods. For example, they use only select seeds from Mexico, preparing seedlings in greenhouses, planting the seedlings before late April, separating male from female plants prior to pollination, using high nitrogen fertilizer, pesticides and cloned starter plants and using drip irrigation to each plant. All which significantly increase quality levels.

"Madera's mission is to make it impossible for marijuana plants to mature, make it harder for growers to garden again, and begin reversing decades of environmental damage," Anderson said. He is urging the agricultural community to stay alert and be vigilant about the potential for illegal cultivation cropping up in their fields. "Farmers and ranchers alike should routinely check their property for illegal activity."

Fish & Game agents are very concerned about the impact these operations have had on the environment. They will continue to work with Madera County assisting agents with eradication efforts and studying the environmental impact, assessing the damage and threat these gardens and the growers pose to Madera County's lands and streams.

Any information about illicit actions or suspicious activities should be phoned in anonymously to the MADNET tip line at 559-675-7776. Callers phoning the MADNET tip line can maintain complete anonymity. Stuart feels like the community is now understanding and trusting in the MADNET program. She estimates that 50 percent of their tips come from the MADNET tip line.

Real Estate



Nancy Watson

The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

645-5000

www.nancywatson.net



Nancy has been a Ranchos resident for 28 years and a full-time Real Estate Agent serving the Ranchos for over 17 years. She is a member of the Madera and Fresno Multiple Listing Service and is well known as a *Top Producer*. If you are interested in finding out the value of your home or know someone looking for a home, Nancy can help. Let the dedicated, experienced agent work for "You!"

7/08

For Sale

Beautiful New Custom Home

Built in 2007. Gorgeous new custom 2,928 sq. ft. home on 2+ acres with 4 big bedrooms and 3 spacious bathrooms. Big kitchen with granite counter tops. Living Room and Family Room with fireplace. Just off of Highway 145 in prestigious neighborhood.

7/08

Call Miriam Gonzalez at 301-1123 for details

NEED MORE SPACE?



barns big and small,
covers or shop buildings

many sizes
and colors
from which
to choose



POLE BARNs BY
S.J. LEACH CONSTRUCTION
559-269-1956

CCL #526211

7/08

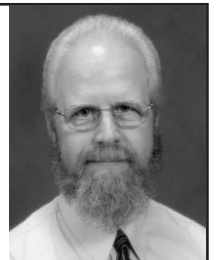


DAVID PARKER

Realtor Associate

www.davidparker.info

490-1989



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

7/08

The Milgard Makeover



SAVE ENERGY!

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME!
REDUCE STREET NOISE!

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

Clearly a beautiful offer.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

559-673-3583

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



Clearly the best.

7/08

To Advertise Call 645-0634

Classified

Alteration Services

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

Building Materials

Building Materials - Steel Show Buildings. Big or Small, Recession & Advertising Double Disc. Can Erect, Cheap Freight. www.scg-grp.com. Source #12B. Call 559-761-1160.

Construction

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

For Rent

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

For Rent - Ranchos Rentals Available. Call 559-645-1102. Agent.

For Sale

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

For Sale - Horses AQHA/TB Registered Appendix yearling filly. 15.5 hands high. Sire Cruisin Array. Dam TB mare Silent Verdict. \$500. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

For Sale - Horse Pinto/NSH - 9 year bay/white mare. Harlequin Magic Maker. Daughter in training past 60 days. Need experienced rider. Good home a must. Call 559-905-7724.

For Sale - Piano - Cable Imperial oak finish upright piano. Good condition. Seldom used. Bench included. \$500. Call 559-448-8770.

For Sale - Baby Furniture. Mahogany sleigh bed, crib, crib mattress, mahogany changing table. \$350. Call 559-645-1883.

For Sale - Bedroom Set. Estate Quality! Solid Cherrywood, Dresser/Mirror, Nightstand, Sleigh Bed, Brand New in Boxes! Cost \$7K sacrifice \$1,450. Extra pieces available. Call 559-447-5066.

For Sale - Pool Table. Solid carved Wood.

Never Used. 1" Slate, Leather Pockets with accessories. Cost \$5,000 sacrifice \$1,450. Can deliver. Call 559-275-8813.

For Sale - 1 All New King PILLOWTOP mattress set. In Plastic w/Warranty. Cost \$699 Sacrifice \$275. Call 559-277-2511.

For Sale - Dining Room Set - Solid Cherrywood, Double Pedestal Table w/2 Leaves, 6 Chairs, China Cabinet w/ Touch Lighting. Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,950. Matching Buffet \$450. Call 559-438-0248.

For Sale - \$175 Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress w/Box. Never Used. Cost \$599 Sacrifice \$175. Can Deliver. Call 559-230-0486.

Found

Found - Spaulding Zip-front Jacket. Left in Chamber of Commerce/Ranchos Independent Office during Flatlander's Day Parade. Describe it and it's yours! Call 559-645-4001 or 559-645-0634.

Found - Black & White male French Bulldog. Found Saturday, July 19 on Road 39 1/2 near Avenue 12. Call 559-246-6976.

Gutter Services

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

Handyman Services

Rancho Handyman - You need the Rancho Handyman. Call Ohan for estimates for fencing, electrical and plumbing jobs. Call 645-6924.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Part Time to coordinate Avenue 12 Bypass Project. Approximately 15 hours per week. Phone work, email work, Website and correspondence skills. Call 559-363-9095.

Nanny Services

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

Painting Services

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

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

Tractor Services

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

Tractor work, house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed.

Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-1500.

Tractor discing, grading, mowing, trenching, drilling, home irrigation systems. Call Tomas at 645-4932.

Tree removal, stump removal, clean ups, grading, dig swimming pool & ponds. **Biggest Bobcat in the Ranchos.** Call 559-474-3021.

Window Cleaning Services

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

SAY YOU SAW IT IN

The **Ranchos Independent**

645-0634

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

	÷		+		14
-		+		-	
	+		÷		3
x		÷		x	
	+		÷		3
9		3		4	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

© 2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Keep it Simple ...



... with simply the best hand-made aprons available in the Universe ...

... fully reversible and made right here in the U.S.A. from your choice of material.

The Unisex Adjustable®

the Classic Reversible®

The Classic Reversible®



U.S.A. made, fully reversible and classic -yet functional - styling with your choice of material on each side. Two aprons for the price of one!

only
\$30⁰⁰ + S&H
(PLUS sizes available)

To order today call 208-855-0830 or build your own at

www.itzsewlucy.com

7/08

ANSWERS

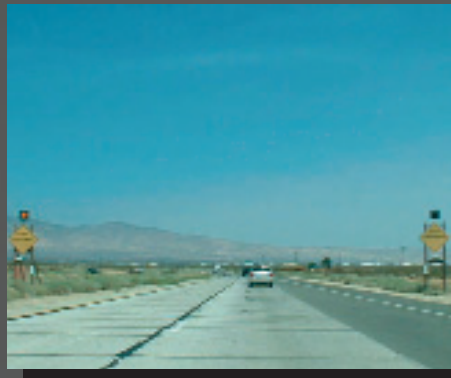
9	4	3		
9	4	÷	3	+
X	X	÷		
7	5	÷	8	+
-		-	+	
8	6	+	1	÷

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

TIME IS RUNNING OUT ...

several of your friends and neighbors are getting together to form a group that will help shape the future of Avenue 12 and the Ranchos

You Can Be Part Of The Solution!



come ask questions and get more info at an informal public meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 20 • 6:30 p.m.

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center 37330 Berkshire • Madera Ranchos

Future Meetings: Wednesday, Aug. 27 • 6:30 p.m.
More To Be Announced

559-363-9095

email: info@ranchoscommunity.com

