

The Ranchos Independent



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What's Going On with Road 36?

A photograph of a "ROAD CLOSED" sign on a blue post with yellow and white striped reflective panels. The sign is set in a dirt construction area with stadium lights in the background.

ROAD
CLOSED

With the new Liberty High School stadium lights serving as a backdrop, Road 36 at Avenue 12 1/2 sits quietly destroyed through the end of August in preparation for road changes required for the new Ranchos Middle School.

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What's Going On with Road 36?

By Pete Petersen

Golden Valley Unified School District began widening Road 36 and realigning Avenue 12 ½ with Ruth Avenue on June 9. This project is being done to allow for improved access to the new Ranchos Middle School scheduled to open in time for the fall semester of 2009. Road 36 is scheduled to be reopened Aug. 29, 2008. Work will include widening the road to match the portion that was improved when Liberty High School was built. Improvements will include new sidewalk, curb and gutter, in addition to infrastructure for a future traffic signal where Road 36 intersects Ruth Avenue.

Avenue 12 ½ and Road 35 ½ improvements are being done at the same time. Avenue 12 ½ improvements include a realignment to Ruth Avenue intersecting

Road 36. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks - including a bike lane on the school side of the street - are included in the project. Road 35 ½ will be extended south and terminate where the new Ranchos Middle School property ends. Avenue 12 ½ and Road 35 ½ work began on June 16 and the roads are scheduled to be reopened on July 16.



Ranchos Middle School construction is progressing with the building steel framework being installed. Concrete tilt-up walls for the gymnasium were formed and poured in

late May and preparations are being made to lift the panels. The schedule delays in January have been eliminated and work is now back on schedule.

The Liberty High School Sportfield Lighting project is on schedule. Lights have been delivered and were installed on June 13.

Heat, Dehydration, Leash Part of Ranchos Dog Death

By D.J. Becker

A 3-year-old Cocker Spaniel was found dead and entangled in a cable by motorists passing by on Avenue 15 near Road 35 ½ in the Bonadelle Ranchos on June 18 at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The dog died after allegedly being exposed to a full day of sun and heat exposure in 100+ degree temperatures and due to its entanglement was unable to reach either shade or water, according to witnesses.

According to Animal Control personnel the dog was tied in plain sight in the front yard of a residence on the south side Ave.15, just west of Road 35 ½.

The dog was found tied to a commercially available dog tie-out cable kit, secured by a single corkscrew pivot point pushed twisted into the ground. The dog had become entangled by wrapping the approximately 20 foot-long cable round the pivot point and was unable to reach shade or water.

Concerned motorists reported calling the Sheriff's Department on Sunday morning, June 15, about the entangled dog and reportedly the dog was not seen tied up after noon on that same day. However, witnesses

said they again saw the dog entangled in the cable on Wednesday morning and when the drove by on their way home later that evening they found the dog dead about 8:15 p.m.

"The dog was illegally tied on a cable. It was young, of good weight and apparently healthy," Madera County Animal Services director Kirsten Gross said. "This dog likely died of heat exposure and dehydration. The temperatures were over 100 degrees that day. It's not a pleasant way to die. And the death could have been prevented through proper observation and maintenance of the dog."

Gross said that although the death was apparently unintentional, it ultimately was the result of illegal tethering and negligence on the part of the owner. The California Anti-Tethering law prohibits tying a dog on to a single object like a post or a tree for longer than three hours.

"Animals - cats, dogs, horses, goats - all need a little extra attention during the summer heat. If dogs and cats can't be in the house, they need shade and plenty of cool fresh water. Wetting the ground or bushes with water from a hose or misters help, as do shallow kiddie pools of water. People also

Get Up to Speed and Save at the Pump

By Christi McKinney

Part I of II Parts

The oil companies blame the federal government, the federal government blames the oil companies, politicians blame each other and wholesalers blame everyone else. All we know for sure is that gas prices are soaring and gas is expected to reach \$ 5.00 a gallon by the end of summer with no relief in sight. The cost of commuting, running errands and going on vacation has risen sharply and everyone is looking for ways to improve gas mileage and save money at the pumps. Making a few simple changes can significantly lower your driving costs and may even improve your lifestyle in ways you haven't considered.

Quickly rising gas prices send many of us into panicked flashbacks of the fuel crunches of the 1970s and the summer of 1980. Thankfully, we picked up a few good habits back then when many Americans traded in their eight-cylinder gas-guzzlers for smaller compact cars with better gas mileage. Then along came the boom of the late 90s. How quickly we forgot! Though most of us still pump our own gas, we've fallen back into some old bad habits and we've found some new ones. We're once again embracing our gas-guzzling SUVs

and idling in drive-through lines whenever possible to pay \$4 for a "Venti Caramel Frappuccino."

Next time you're standing at the pump dizzily watching the numbers whizzing by like a broken slot machine, take a moment to ponder these statistics and suggestions.

Planning

Plan better, drive less! With a little planning you can avoid retracing your steps, saving time and money, reducing wear and tear on your car and helping the environment along the way.

How often do you find yourself 15 minutes behind a family member, coworker or neighbor on your way to work or school or just running into town? Consider carpooling or combining errands into one longer trip rather than making several quick trips. Short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when an engine is warm.

Consider "telecommuting." Many companies are now encouraging employees to work from home. This is normally a win-win situation as it greatly reduces auto expenses, increases the flexibility of your schedule and it has a positive effect on the environment. It also reduces your employer's cost of maintaining an office. Companies are also seriously considering a 4 day/10-hour-a-day work week for the same reasons. A successful telecommuting program requires a management style which is based on results and not on close scrutiny of individual employees.

Some Other Suggestions

Call ahead to confirm appointments.

Keep a running list of things you need to pick up on your next trip.

Use your GPS to find the shortest, fastest route to your destination.

Avoiding hills and stops will improve fuel efficiency.

Be a Smart Shopper! It pays to shop websites like MapQuest.com and Gas-Buddy.com to locate the best gas prices in your zip code. Recent comparisons indicate these sites save an average of \$9.45 per fill up. Some sites will even send you a text message telling you where to fill up at the best price.

Watch for fuel deliveries. If you regularly travel the same route pay attention to when the stations receive fuel deliveries and steer clear of a station for a day or two after they receive their shipment. When tankers unload thousands of gallons of gas into underground tanks, sediment and old gas gets stirred up and goes into the cars that fill up first causing decreased fuel efficiency.

(to be continued)

Part II Next Month

Click on "Local News" at



Guest Editorial

Scott McClellan, Official Spokesman

By Rich Lowry

Scott McClellan has learned the profound wisdom of the old Groucho Marx line about not wanting to belong to any club that would have him as a member.

The former press secretary has written a scathing memoir about his time in the Bush administration, but nothing he says in his book, dully titled (appropriately enough) "What Happened," is as damning as the fact that he spent nearly three years as White House press secretary.

Likable, but maladroit and plodding, he was the perfect spokesman for the administration of Harriet Miers, Michael Brown and Al Gonzales. For anyone who doubted that President Bush too often valued loyalty over talent, there was McClellan stumbling through daily briefings to embody the point more eloquently than he ever could have stated it. McClellan's book has all the inherent interest of one of his briefings.

He tells of an incident that was one of his "favorite moments" from working with then-Gov. George Bush in Texas. He stumbled upon Bush making sandwiches. McClellan picks up the tale from there: "For the next 20 minutes or so we munched on the sandwiches and talked about a variety of topics, few of which had to do with politics." No one

was going to pay any attention to a book replete with such banalities, so McClellan had to "sex it up." He took the conventional anti-Iraq War case and cut-and-pasted it into his book. He says that the administration engaged in a "political propaganda campaign" in the run-up to the war, doing "a disservice to the American people and to our democracy."

If McClellan's provocative language is stripped away, what he is saying is unremarkable.

McClellan is more compelling when he complains about his treatment during the Valerie Plame case. He maintains that Karl Rove and "Scooter" Libby made categorical denials to him of involvement in the leak. Whether that was the case or he missed subtleties in what they told him, McClellan said things from the podium about the controversy that were untrue, and no one bothered to correct him. That would have been grounds for resigning, but McClellan stayed. It wasn't until a new White House chief of staff arrived and wanted a better press secretary that McClellan was forced out.

The deep-think (and entirely commonplace) theme of his book is that Washington has a poisonous culture of the "permanent campaign." But people fighting for what they believe is more admirable than rank, unprincipled careerism. When McClellan first met with Bush in Texas for a job interview, Bush asked why he wanted to work for him. "Because I believe in you," McClellan said. What about Bush's agenda? McClellan hastily added he believed in that, too.

But he didn't in any meaningful way. He writes of the death penalty, which he defended in Texas: "I do feel significant doubts about it, much as I would later feel about the necessity of war in Iraq." But he swallowed them: "I was called on, as official spokesman, to defend a position despite inner qualms about it." Lo and behold, here is Scott McClellan, ever the mouthpiece, spouting views that happen to suit the interests of his New York publisher and betray his foolishly loyal former boss. If he has any inner qualms, we'll never know.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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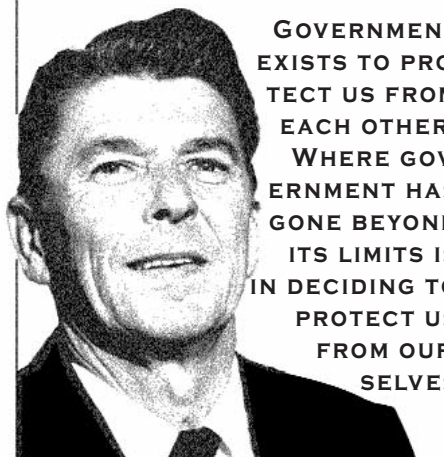
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THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



GOVERNMENT EXISTS TO PROTECT US FROM EACH OTHER. WHERE GOVERNMENT HAS GONE BEYOND ITS LIMITS IS IN DECIDING TO PROTECT US FROM OURSELVES

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

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



I will begin this report with a wagging tail.

Item 13: On today's agenda was an off-site tour of the newly remodeled Borden Court building that is now the home of the Probation Adult Supervision Division. All of the supervisors, some staff and I walked through to see what had been done with **\$150,000 of our tax dollars.**

The tour began in the lobby and moved to the conference room and a small office area. I was amazed. It all looked pretty good and it came in on time and on budget (not so fast ...). Now we went down a hallway to several private offices then walked out through the break room. At this point I asked Stell Manfredi, Madera County Administrative Officer, if the \$150 grand was *all* that went onto the project, then Deputy Chief Probation Officer Chip Brewton opened another door, to yet another hallway lined with 8 to 10 interview rooms. We went out the back door and were shown the new secure and paved parking lot for the probation vehicles. There was also a fenced area for the Boot Camp vehicles to be secured, and storerooms for the Boot Camp tools.

You can take every story I have ever written about waste and incompetence and hold them up as one side of the coin. This project is clearly the shining example of the other side of the coin.

I shook Chief Brewton's hand and congratulated him on a fantastic job well done but he would have none of it! He said the credit goes to the County maintenance crew and Terry Barney. These are the kind of people that created most of the items that are now falling into disrepair because of committee after committee "studying the problem," while month after month nothing happens.

To all the worked on this project Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Item 6: Consideration of action regarding **Madera County Film Commission.**

I have heard many reports to the board by Dave Wolin. It seems he would like a direct contract with the County for \$20,000 **to promote our county to the film industry.** I have been amazed by every one of his presentations to the board and the fact that he seems to be somewhat of a one-man band. **The Film Commission actually seems to be bringing in a lot more money than is used by their budget.**

We have a good thing going - let's keep it going.

Enough tail wagging. Time to get the old junk yard DOG back to work.

The board direction was to put off Wolin's recommendation until budget talks.

I would rather have seen them give staff direction to look into the issues it would raise and have that out of the way. Before the budget hearing we should know if we are going to contract with Dave or leave it with the Visitors Bureau. The only thing to decide at the budget hearings would be to fund it or not to fund it.

During public comment I gave a speech about accountability, or I guess I should say the lack of it. As I talked I could see three of the supervisors listening and nodding, I think in agreement. I spoke of how when the county screws up projects over and over again and wastes hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars, the only response from the board is, "We will do better on the next one."

Item 15: A request by the Fire Department to transfer \$74,475 to pay for a cost overrun.

When the Board was made aware the money being requested had already been spent *without* Board authorization then the explanation, in a nutshell, was, "Oh well, things cost more than we thought."

The Board's Response?

"We need to do better. We'll do better on the next one."

In several DOG reports I have written that it doesn't mater who dropped the ball, let's just pick it up. When it keeps happening project after project, it may be time to bump some heads. Ever hear the one about the mule and the 2x4? We can't afford to go on like this!

Habitat Banking: There has been a lot of speculation about what Planning Director Jerald James and the Resource Management Agency are really up to. I

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 5

Random Notes

You know what time of year it is: Three cheers for the ol' red, white and blue! As I get older, each year the Fourth of July seems to impact me on a deeper level. When I hear the Star Spangled Banner and watch the fireworks, I think about those who are in harm's way to provide me the freedoms that I so dearly love. The Fourth is a lot of fun, but I seem to be taking more moments each year to reflect on just what it really means to me, my family and my nation. Happy Fourth!

If your Fourth of July includes fireworks (and none of those illegal ones that will reduce the Ranchos to a smoldering heap in 15 minutes), you ought to come over to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's fireworks booth right between the Ranchos Cafe and Ranchos Beer and Wine. They've got all of the cool ones and the money goes to a good cause. As a matter of fact, if you've got a little extra time on your hands, they need some help running the booth. You and a buddy (over 18 please) get to hang out for a couple of hours and look at all of the fireworks. How cool is that? Call the Chamber office at 645-4001 if you can help.



Speaking of cool, Hurst Hardware is having a drawing for a trip to Puerto Vallarta. The best part is all of the proceeds go toward Ranchos groups, including the Chamber, our schools, Kiwanis and the library. It's one week at a beautiful resort called the Villas Vallarta plus \$3,500 to cover your airfare, food or whatever! The tickets are \$100 each BUT there's only going to be 100 tickets sold. I'm no mathematician, but those are pretty sweet odds. Go see the good people over at Hurst Hardware and maybe you'll be Mexico bound!



Finally, the NEW Community Guidebook is going to be finished in about one week. Be sure to stop by the Chamber at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C to pick up your copy, or get yours from any one of the businesses advertised in the book. This is a great little community reference book, they don't come out that often, and they're FREE! Get yours today.

Letters

Dear Editor:

It seems that our elected officials from both parties are more concerned with investigating one another for political missteps than with actually addressing the concerns of those they work for. Specifically, I refer to the reluctance of my representatives to address the problem of the rising price of gasoline and the related price increases that accompany this rise.

Instead of bowing to the moneyed interests of the radical environmentalist community and seeking concessions from foreign governments, perhaps it is time to resume development of our own natural resources. The argument that we will do harm to the environment through drilling in Alaska and offshore is weak. The fact that other countries, whose concern for the environment is less stringent than our own, would seem to indicate that it is counterproductive to allow them to produce energy for us. Indeed, paying others to pollute the environment so that we can feel good about not doing it ourselves is shameless pandering to a populace that is far better informed than Congress seems to think we are.

The retrieval of oil from our own sources should be considered as a necessary step to energy independence, while pursuing alternative sources of energy. It is time for Congress to concern itself with the issues that affect its constituency, rather than the petty political bickering currently being practiced. Not all of us who live in California are in agreement with the "progressive" elements in the Bay Area and Southern California. There is another constituency in our state that deserves representation, not dismissal.

Sincerely,
Tim O. Montgomery
Madera Ranchos

Click on "Local News" at

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

had a short conversation with Mr. James.

I am usually the one to hatch the conspiracy theories; I think that might be why James wanted to tell me he has no hidden agenda. He said his agenda is the environment and protecting the County from having private habitat banks come into Madera and create banks and charge us whatever they want and we will be powerless to stop them.

I believe Mr. James is an honorable man. If he says he has no agenda I will take him at his word until something proves me wrong.

With that said: I need to learn a lot more about habitat banking before I can jump on either band wagon.

My first concern: Everything the County tries to do becomes a very expensive "cluster."

Second: Mr. James may not have a hidden agenda but he does not speak for all of Madera County Government.

Third: If Mr. James moves on the village idiot could be put in charge of it next.

The habitat bank seems to be on the

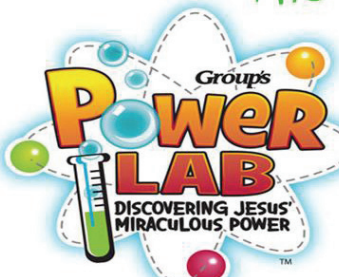
fast track, how about educating the public about it? I'm not talking about the usual cop out: "We put a legal notice in the paper but no one showed up."

I am beginning to see the Board of Supervisors as five guys driving a train. They have the throttle and the brake, but staff members are the ones laying the tracks and manning the switches. Without a lot of safeguards the habitat bank program will have unbelievable control over where the tracks are headed. So far, all we have are the broadest of concepts and assurances that all will be well.

On my way home from the Board meeting: On the north side of 145 just west of Road 33, there were two Caltrans pickups with their bright orange reflective stripes and their little lights on the roof flashing a warning alongside the road. I slowed down as I went by to see what the problem was. What I saw was the two drivers in the orchard pulling or picking fruit, leaves or branches off of the fig trees.


Inconspicuous is the only word that comes to mind.

**It's time for VBS at
The Lighthouse!**



THIS YEAR WE ARE BUBBLING WITH EXCITEMENT AS WE EXPLORE POWER LAB! EACH DAY KIDS, AGES 3-12, WILL SING CATCHY SONGS, PLAY TEAMWORK BUILDING GAMES, NIBBLE TEST TUBE TREATS, TAKE ON A DAILY CHALLENGE TO SHARE JESUS' AMAZING POWER IN THEIR LIVES, EXPERIENCE ELECTRIFYING BIBLE ADVENTURES, COLLECT BIBLE MEMORY BUDDIES TO REMIND THEM OF GOD'S WORD, AND CREATE BIBLE POINTS CRAFTS THEY'LL TAKE HOME AND PLAY WITH ALL SUMMER LONG.

It all takes place July 6-10, 2008 6-9 p.m. Nightly at
The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
Located on the Corner of Ave. 15 and Monreal Rd./15048 Monreal Rd.
Pre-Registration is requested Call 559-645-0722



**Get your
FIREWORKS
for the 4th of July**



**at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
& Friends of the Ranchos Library**

**FIREWORKS STAND
June 28 - July 4 • 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

Next to Ranchos Café in the Maywood Center

Come out and support your local library and chamber!

6/08



**win
puerto
vallarta!**

... and the Ranchos benefits!

Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Library, Golden Valley Unified Schools, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and Ranchos Kiwanis

ONLY 100 TICKETS TO BE SOLD!

Win a ONE WEEK TRIP for TWO to PUERTO VALLARTA
and \$3500 toward airfare and food

Stay at Villas Vallarta - a Gold Crown All-Inclusive Resort • Trip MUST BE TAKEN by Nov. 30, 2008

Tickets Available at HURST HARDWARE • only \$100 each

6/08



KIWANIS KORNER



Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to wish all of our new grads congratulations and remember to make every moment count in life. This is the time for all the schools in Golden Valley School District to have a celebration for the graduating students and members from the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos were at each and every event. It is a time for all of us to wish these students success on their new endeavors

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 holding fund raisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, events that help children here in the Madera Ranchos.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to thank everyone who supported our Cross the River Run. This year we had over 115 participants. The Cross the River Run helps to raise money to support local Kiwanis scholarship programs.

The Liberty Under the Stars scholarship was distributed at the Scholarship Banquet held at Liberty High School on May 12. Over \$2,200 in scholarship awards were presented and distributed out to winners: Kayla Hodges – Key Club Member and the first Liberty High School student to be appointed to West Point Academy; Lillian Gong – Key Club Member; Hanna Ashcroft – Key Club Member; and Ashley Monk – Key Club Member.



Just some of the 115 participants at the Kiwanis Cross the River Run that helps raise money to support local scholarship programs offered by the Kiwanis Club.

The Hope of America Award was presented to Jerad Fletcher and Natali Willhoite at Ranchos Middle School, along with the Mustang of the Year award presented to Stephanie Nechay, receiving \$500 from the Kiwanis Club.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect any of our new 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.** You can also call us at 559-645-4735.

One more announcement to make for our club is our meeting place has changed. The club is now meeting at the Pizza Factory. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their meeting room for our use. We now have delicious breakfast pizzas along with all the other morning goodies. 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.



Natali Willhoite (left) and Jerad Fletcher received the Kiwanis Hope of America Award during their promotion from Ranchos Middle School.

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

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!

6/08

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PLEASE SUPPORT FIRE STATION 19



23rd ANNUAL FIRE BBQ

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

6/08

The Olde Cowboy by Woody Laughnan

They were inseparable, Wil Seymour and dachshund Rambo, who was acquired when a divorced couple left him a doleful ward at the dog pound. Dog lover Seymour at the time was recovering from major surgery and somewhat doleful himself, and to brighten his day, Dianne surprised him by adopting four-month-old Rambo, whose job was to give him aid and comfort during his long and lethargic recovery and absence from the hustle and bustle of a busy dentist's life.

It seemed almost miraculous how quickly the two bonded, and it wasn't long before Rambo began sitting on his lap during much of the re-

covery time and offered a friendly lick on the face when Seymour seemed down in the dumps. And now and then when a sudden noise echoed from outside, he'd bark, apparently considering this also part of his job. He actually looked forward to his new master giving him a weekly bath.

One might have thought Rambo was also the family chauffeur because at the slightest inkling that Wil and Dianne were going somewhere he beat them to the car.

"He loved nothing more in this world than a spin around town," recalls Dianne, "sitting on my lap and looking from the window."

One morning sometime later, Wil and Rambo

made their customary morning visit to the patio to assess the progress of the backyard flora. When they didn't return to the house for what seemed too long a time, Dianne went to check on them and there on the patio floor laid her husband, dead of a massive heart attack and anguished Rambo only a few feet away.

His death was a heart-breaking blow to both Dianne and Rambo. Indeed, she employed a young woman to keep her company because she couldn't face night alone, and faithful Rambo every morning for several weeks dutifully searched every room of the home in search of his beloved master.

When the woman companion left after a year, Dianne found herself fearful of the thought of driving, which Wil had always done. But in des-

peration one morning, she grabbed the ignition keys and with Rambo at her side braved the streets she hadn't driven for years,

Life seemed to proceed ever so slowly for Rambo and her, the hands on the clock sometimes seemingly never moving at all. And during this time, Rambo gradually turned his affection to her.

Six and one-half years later, Rambo, who had slept with her since her husband's passing, for the first time one night was unable to make the jump to the bed, and slept on the floor beside it. But the next day he seemed to snap back, but it was only temporary and she took him to the veterinarian. After a thorough examination, the veterinarian

Please see **WOODY** on P. 13

TNT FIREWORKS

**STARTING
JUNE 28
THROUGH
JULY 4TH**

**PETE'S DRIVE-IN
PARKING LOT
FERNWOOD &
AVENUE 12**

WE THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE RANCHOS COMMUNITY WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS TO THE RANCHOS KIWANIS FIREWORKS BOOTH. COME BUY YOUR FAVORITE FIREWORKS FROM US, OR CHECK OUT SOME OF THE EXCITING NEW PRODUCTS. TNT FIREWORKS IS GIVING AWAY TWO TOYOTA TRUCKS THIS YEAR TO CUSTOMERS. YOU COULD WIN ONE! REMEMBER WHAT JULY 4TH IS ALL ABOUT AND PRACTICE SAFETY TECHNIQUES. THIS IS ONE OF OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISERS FOR THE YEAR AND PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.

MADERA RANCHOS KIWANIS



Summer Programs for Kids of All Ages and a Book Blowout at the Library

By Ellen Mester

O.K. Ranchos community we need your help! Our book sale room is overflowing with books and we have no place to store them. So the Friends of the Ranchos Library are having a huge book sale beginning July 12 through the 20th at the Golden Valley School District room 2. There will be great price breaks for those who purchase in large quantities. Support the Friends of the Ranchos Library and get some great buys on current or classic titles by your favorite authors.

Catch the Reading Bug @ The Ranchos Library

It was such fun to visit Webster and Sierra View Elementary Schools with my dog Sandy and bug friends to tell all the students about the Summer Reading Program and all the activities we have lined up for the summer. Congratulations to all of you for completing another year on your way to becoming educated individuals. Keep reading throughout the summer to keep your mind sharp and your conversation interesting. And when you stop by for a good book to read at the Ranchos Library, you can sign up for the Summer Reading Program and win prizes plus see some quality entertainment.

Here is a list of the performers and dates to remember:

Wednesday July 9 The Bubble Man 1 p.m.

Tuesday July 15 Matt McGee & Puppet Zeet Nagley 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday July 22 Lady Bug House or Circus craft 2 p.m.

Wednesday July 30 U.S.D.A. Bug Lady Judy Johnson 2 p.m.

Metamorphosis @ The Ranchos Library, the 2008 Teen Summer Reading Program got off to a great start with a kick-off party on Saturday, June 7 at 2 p.m. We played mind improving games, ate pizza and talked about our favorite books. Many thanks go to Melanie Lewis, Emily Muccianti and Shelley Roth for bringing it all together and to all the teens who participated.

Fireworks

Support the Friends of the Ranchos Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce by purchasing your 4th of July fireworks at our booth located between the Ranchos Liquor Store and the Ranchos Café. There will be a great selection and good prices.

New Security Gate

Many of you have commented on our new security gate at the front door of the Library. Interestingly, several people thought it was a weapon detector. Most were surprised that the purpose was to prevent theft of library materials. In fact some people were shocked to learn that people would actually steal from the library. Sad to say, they do, which is why we have the security gate. We still will keep our homey atmosphere but we will hopefully cut down on the loss of library materials.

Special Programs: Our Bilingual story time and the Read-to-Katie the dog program will be taking a break for the summer but will return in September. Keep reading the Ranchos Independent for updates on all the programs at the Library.

Regular Story Time for pre-school age children will continue throughout the summer 11 a.m. on Mondays with Mrs. Anderson.

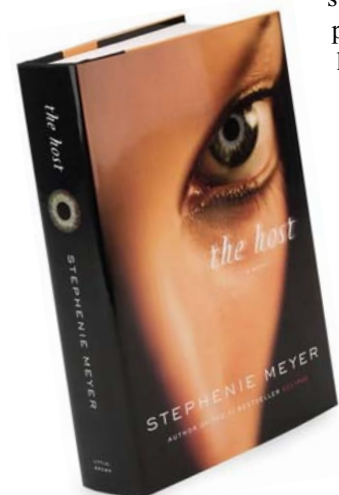
Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *The Host* by Stephanie Meyer. The story begins at the end of life on earth as we know it, following an invasion by alien organisms called Souls. Each tiny silver body of

a Soul was stealthily inserted into their human host leaving only the tell-tale silver ring in their eyes and a tiny scar at the back of the neck. The human

host bodies function the same but the human mind is usually repressed to the point of no return. In the new world there is no anger, crime, war and no need for money. All the Souls are honest and never lie, cheat or steal. The transformation might be for the better of the planet except that the hosts have no choice and are taken unwillingly. While the host's memories are left intact the personality is obliterated and the person ceases to exist — all except for one host. When the Soul named Wanderer is placed into Melanie's body, she encounters resistance. Melanie floods Wanderer with her memories in such a way that Wanderer is overcome with a longing for the humans that Melanie loves. This leads Wanderer into one of the last hidden strongholds of the human resistant movement fighting to stay alive in underground caves in Arizona. Together Melanie and Wanderer must build the trust of the humans to allow her to live. Wanderer also

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 9



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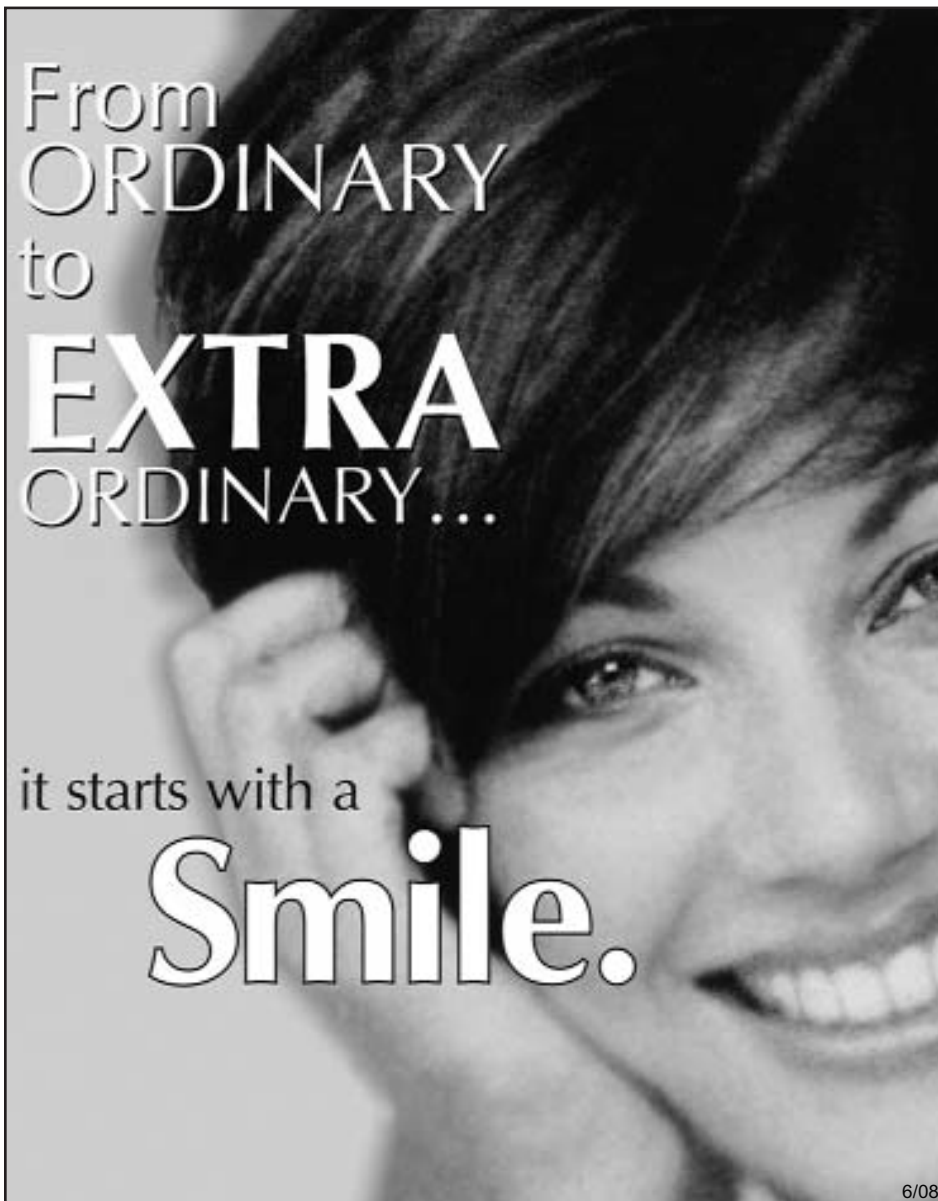
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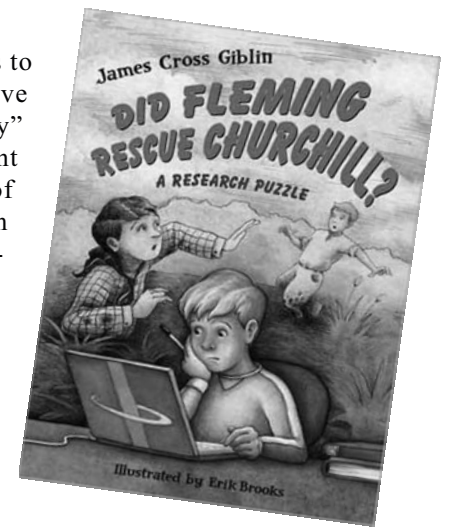


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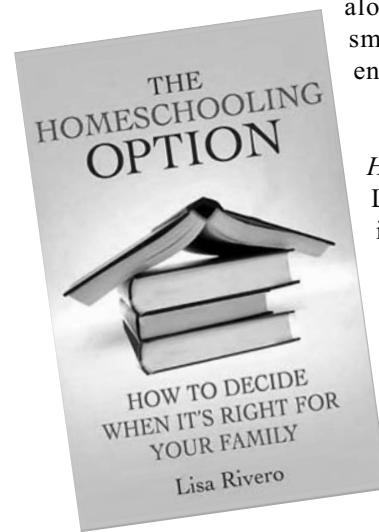
www.TheRanchos.com

BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

becomes a threat to the Souls as her bonds to the human resistance movement and the love she feels for the people in her new “family” becomes stronger. Meyer does an excellent job of creating a believable scenario out of seemingly unbelievable creatures — much as she did in her Twilight series. Her characters have depth and substance and most of all are likeable. Meyer is fast becoming one of my favorite writers.



Juvenile Fiction: *Did Fleming Rescue Churchill?* by James Cross Giblin. When Jason is assigned Alexander Fleming for his research paper on famous scientists for Social Studies class, he couldn't be more disappointed. Who ever heard of Alexander Fleming? About the most interesting thing he did aside from discovering Penicillin, (according to commonly told stories) was save Winston Churchill's life. But Miss O'Mara wanted his anecdotes to be factual and his sources authoritative. Every time he came across the story of Fleming saving Churchill's life it was always told differently and with a caution that there were no facts supporting the story. As Jason digs deeper into Fleming's life he discovers the importance of sound research in order to separate fact from fiction and that facts can be really quite interesting alone without the need to enhance them. This is a small but meaningful story written in a way that is entertaining and informative. Great for ages 8 to 12.



Adult Non-fiction: *The Homeschooling Option: How to Decide When It's Right for Your Family* by Lisa Rivero. Many parents have contemplated teaching their children at home for a variety of reasons, from religion to safety, negative peer influences to believing that only a parent can give the best education for their children. But not everyone has the capability or patient persistence that it takes to teach their children at home. One phrase that stuck with me was that homeschooling is a “family experience.” Another point was that “... homeschoolers teach themselves much of the time, and our job as parents is to facilitate, encourage and support” much like parents do anyway. So it is not so unnatural to extend it to education as well. This book is not about how bad schools are but what works best for your child. The most positive aspects of homeschooling listed here are allowing a child to work at their own pace, individual attention, strengthening of families, safety, and allowing individual interests to develop. There is also contact information and a list of support groups. So if you think homeschooling might be the best option for your child, this book may help in making your decision.

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

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Senior Report

Support "Red Fridays" for Our Troops

By Eleanore Burchell

A few weeks ago, a man was in an airport returning home from a conference he had attended in Atlanta, Ga. While waiting for his flight, he heard several people behind him beginning to clap and cheer. He immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism he had even seen.

Moving through the terminal was a group of soldiers in their camos. As they began heading to their gate, everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering. When he saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, then it hit him that he was not alone in feeling he was the only red-blooded American who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families.

Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing RED every Friday. The reason?

Americans who support our troops used to be called the "silent majority." We are no longer silent,

and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record-breaking numbers. We are not organized, boisterous or overbearing. We get no liberal media coverage on TV to reflect our message or our opinions. Many Americans, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of America support our troops.

Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect is by wearing red on Fridays. We here at home have just celebrated Memorial Day and Independence Day will soon be upon us so we encourage you to join us in sending this deafening message by wearing something red this Friday and each and every Friday until our troops all come home. Please join us by wearing RED on Fridays. Thanks!

Due to the heat of summer and the three-day holiday, our July 5 monthly sale has been canceled. However, we still have many varieties of trees. Japanese or Trident Maples, etc., as well as shrubs and flowering plants. Remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and

Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

The Ranchos/Hills member of the month is Joy Hansen. She is a native Californian and has lived in the Ranchos approximately 20 years. She was married to Don Hansen who also was a native Californian. He was a police officer who worked with juveniles for many years. He was also a past president of Rancho/Hills Seniors. They had two sons. Joy graduated from Fresno State and taught elementary school for 25 years. Her hobbies are reading, China painting and the volunteer time she spends at the Rancho/Hills Senior Center. She has been our president two different years as well as serving as the secretary and treasurer at other times. At present Joy is the bake sale and telephone committee chairman. She undoubtedly has been a

long-time, willing member.

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, low-cost blood test available, nutrition and health education, 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

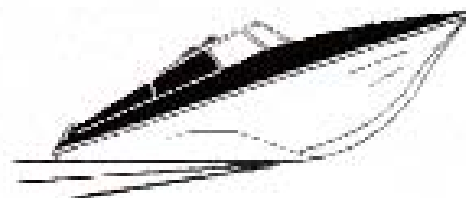
Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves

We have a Nov. 1 – 8, 2008 7-Night Eastern Caribbean cruise which has just been announced. This leaves Miami on Carnival's new "LIBERTY" ship with dockings at San Juan, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. The flyers may be picked up in our office or for more information call

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 19

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The Stock Report

GV Graduations, Promotions Impress

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

I hope all of you Fathers out there celebrated Father's Day with your children. Fathers are a very important part of a family. Fathers are the models for their sons and often daughters chose husbands that are very much like their fathers. So you guys out there don't underestimate your importance to your children. Fathers need to spend time with and love their children. My dad was my hero and I miss him.

As 131 Liberty High seniors walked across the stage and shook my hand and as I handed each of them their diploma, I had a feeling of déjà vu because 60 years ago it was me in a cap and gown reaching for my high school diploma in 1948. That was the year that I graduated from Grants Pass High School in Grants Pass, Ore. How the world has changed since then! World war two was finally over, but my boyfriend was a sailor on the island of Guam and was killed in an explosion, just as I was leaving for Humboldt State College. I have lived through four more wars since

then. Korea. Vietnam, Desert Storm and the current war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I hope the last two are over soon and the fighting men and women can all come home soon. I can only imagine how tired they must be of this fighting.

I also attended the graduation for the 10 students who attend our Educational Options classes. Not everyone knows that Golden Valley Unified has Centennial Independent Study School, Golden Valley Adult School, Independence Continuation High School, Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School, Lincoln Community Day School and Children's Hospital Central California School. Principal Dr. Jim Green has a very full day managing all of these schools. At the graduation on June 3, there were three students from Centennial Independent Study School, four students from Golden Valley Adult School, two students from Independence Continuation High School and one student from Valley Teen Ranch Community Ranch. It was a great night for these students and their friends and families who attended. We have incredible students at all of our schools. For a district that has only been in business for 10 years I know that we are laying a good

foundation for our students no matter where life takes them. Never stop learning. Life has a lot of lessons for you.

Our Ranchos Middle School 8th grade promotion was held on June 6, in the Liberty High School Amphitheater. There were 122 students and 11 of these were CJSF Honor students and most of the rest were either on the Principal's Honor roll, the Mustang Honor Roll or the Honor Roll. Principal Shane Pinchard is very proud of this year's 8th graders. He says that they are well prepared for Liberty High School, which is their next step. I saw a lot of proud family members watching this promotion ceremony. Good luck in high school; you are first year high school students now.

Both Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary had promotion exercises for their 6th graders. It is a big step from elementary school to middle school for these

6th graders. Again proud family members were there to watch these students take this big step forward. See you all at Ranchos Middle School next school year.

Golden Valley has a terrific art teacher named Avo

Atoian. He works with the Educational Options schools. Two of his students, one from Independence Continuation School and the other from Lincoln Community Day School, had their artwork win at the Regional Ocean Art Competition that was held in Monterey. Janelle Hernandez took first place and Shelly Lundy took second place in the competition. Their artwork has been sent to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national competition. We are so proud of them.

The 4th of July is coming up soon and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce needs help manning their Fireworks Stand. They will open on June 28 and sell through July 4. The stand is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you could work a 3-hour shift call the Chamber office at 645-4001. They need you.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors have cancelled their first Saturday of the month July sale because the 4th of July is on the Friday before July 5 when the sale was scheduled and some of us seniors will be out of town on that long weekend.

There will only be 1 school board meeting in July and it will be on July 15. I hope to see you there.



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Blessings: Kids *and* Adults Need Them

By Pastor Karl Roth

One of the things I appreciate about the Bible is that God has chosen not to hide the dirt of his people. He fully reveals both successes and failures. I have found it very helpful to learn from the failures of others as I don't have enough time in life to make all the mistakes myself. There are some "magnificent failures" in the book of Genesis. The biblical record of Jacob and Esau, sons of Isaac, grandsons of Abraham, reveal both successes and failures. Their lives are recorded in Genesis 25 through 35. Though there is much about them in the biblical record, I want to focus on their "early years"

and the blessing their father Isaac passed on to them.

In ancient Israel, and still today in orthodox Jewish families, the blessing of the kids by the father plays a significant role in the children's future. Esau and Jacob were no exception. In ancient

times the birthright (inheritance) went primarily to the eldest son. In this case it would have been Esau. The birthright meant the eldest got double the wealth when the father died and he also became the "priest" of the family (he took to role of spiritual leader). Esau was an outdoors man, he was an avid hunter, a "man's man." He liked the dirt, he enjoyed hard work, he was rough and rugged. He reminds me a lot of us guys here in the Ranchos. He didn't care as much for money as he cared about being free. He didn't care so much about the sacred responsibilities of being a "spiritual leader," he was happy to be on a good hunt! In a moment of recklessness he sold his "birthright" for a bowl of beans to his younger brother. He had been out on a tough hunt all day, he was famished and all he wanted was some good grub in his belly. His younger brother Jacob was more than happy to trade him a bowl of beans for the birthright.

In addition to the birthright was the blessing. They were given separately and of the two the blessing of the father was more important than any birthright he could give. In the account of Genesis 27 we see the blessing Isaac gave. Again, the younger Jacob tricked Esau out of getting the blessing but we'll not get into how that happened. I want to focus on what the blessing was. It meant more to the boys than a double inheritance. It meant more to them than money. It meant more to them than anything else they could have received from their father.

The same blessings are still passed on from orthodox Jewish fathers today. It is something we can

Dads of the Ranchos youth I charge you with the responsibility to be a blessing to your kids. Be a man and bless them. Be strong and tender; hug and love; speak value and a future into their life. This is what real men do.

learn from and give to our kids. It can make all the difference in the world for our children's future. Here are four elements of what a "blessing" is.

1. **Tender, Meaningful Touch:** The fact is that kids need tender, meaningful touches from their

parents. Especially their dad. Studies repeatedly show how important this is for young girls. When the father has not created a relationship with his daughter where she has received tender, meaningful touch from him, she will seek "touches" from some other male. In one study of girls who practiced "serial promiscuity" (pregnant three times or more by different men) the one common factor is that none of those girls had a father who practiced tender, meaningful touches. Whether it's modern day sociological studies, the Reese monkey study or ancient Biblical wisdom, it is clear our kids need tender, meaningful touches from their parents. Especially us dads. This was modeled for us by Jesus himself. The bible tells us that in a culture where kids were seen and not heard, where adult males, especially Rabbis, did not interact with children, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me," and he touched and embraced them.

Please see PASTOR on P. 18



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Where do we start? At the beginning I guess ...



Several years ago John Finley began CM&N Nursery, named after his children Chad, Melissa and Natalie, as a little hobby for growing Japanese Maple trees in his backyard on Ave. 12 ½. He started with seedlings from his parents' green Japanese Maple trees then he branched out to Aptos Blue and Soquel Redwoods that he bought as seedlings. He would later sell his trees at the Farmer's Market in Fresno and at various other local community events such as the Seniors' Home & Garden Show and Flatlander's Day. However, due to John's entrepreneurial skills, his three varieties of trees quickly grew from a backyard "hobby" to a business requiring more space. It was then

that John purchased the additional property next to his home and brought CM & N Nursery out to the public.

Due to public recognition, John's little hobby rapidly became a small business. Along the way, the nursery also received much attention in the local newspaper, the Ranchos Independent. Before long, John saw the need for another outlet for his trees and learned that Tom and Cheryl Hurst of Hurst Hardware had land that was available for lease in June of 2007. This began CM & N Nursery's first commercial location away from home. Within months another location opened in Kerman at Slumberger Lumber store and once AGAIN, due to overwhelming community support, CM&N Nursery needed more space for all the products they were carrying. A search began for a larger piece of property.

With sales and charitable donations reaching as far south as Los Angeles, east to Bass Lake, north to Sacramento and west to Coalinga, it was apparent to John and his partner Nancy that it was time to find a piece of commercial property of their own. With the assistance of Paul Sobaje and his wife Susan at Continental Realty, a new home for CM & N Nursery here in the Ranchos was found. On the corner of Fernwood Drive and Berkshire Drive, right behind Pete's Drive-in and next to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, a prime location right across the street from CM&N's first commercial location was found.

Of course there is still a lot of work that needs to be done: Mike Sutherland & Associates have surveyed the property, plans are being drawn and permits are "in process" with Madera County Planning Department. All of this just shows what can happen with a "backyard hobby" that's supported by its local community, family and friends. John and Nancy just want to say THANK YOU to all of you and we can't wait to see you at our NEW LOCATION!

During our transition, if you have any questions regarding plants, trees or nursery items, please call John at 559-974-2117, the house at 559-645-1075, or Nancy at 559-645-7677.

SPECIAL THANKS goes out to:

Randy Bailey, Editor, Ranchos Independent
 Paul and Susan Sobaje, Continental Realty
 Tom and Cheryl Hurst, Hurst Hardware
 Mike Sutherland, Sutherland & Assoc.
 Virginia Vick and Ollia Ridge, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Office
 Frank Bigelow, Madera County District 1 Supervisor
 Tom Kellner
 John and Harriet Finley, Mom and Dad

AND of course ALL of our customers who have supported us from the beginning. To all of you who have found us, we cannot tell you how much we appreciate your support!

Bear Reported In Vineyards

On Monday, June 24 at 9:20 p.m., Madera county Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a bear sighting in rural Madera County near Avenue 7 and Road 25. But after thoroughly searching that area and beyond, deputies were unable to locate a bear.

The Sheriff's Department received the call from a motorist who said he was driving west on Avenue 7 when he spotted a bear dart across the road and head into a vineyard near Road 25. While at the scene, Deputies were told that a bear was reportedly heard – though not seen – roaming in the area of Avenue 6 ½ at around 7:30 p.m.

The California Department of Fish and Game was immediately notified of the situation. Meantime, Sheriff John Anderson advised all residents to call authorities immediately if a bear is spotted near a populated area, and be prepared to provide detailed information to the dispatcher pertaining to the location of the animal.

Fish and Game offers a list of safety tips on how to keep bears away from your home and what to do if you encounter one. Click on www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/bear.html to view Fish and Game's "Keep Me Wild" brochure.

If you think you've seen a bear, the Madera County Sheriff's Department can be reached at 559-675-7770 or toll free at 1-800-560-4911.

WOODY cont. from P. 7

looked at her, and said ever so softly, "You'll have to help me out here."

"Knowing that I would be heart-broken if he died, he was reluctant to tell me it was time. There simply was nothing else that could be done for him and although it broke my heart, I had to let him go. Crying, I mumbled, 'Cremate him.' My husband told me to mix his ashes with his. I cried for weeks over my love of poor Rambo, and sometimes I still do," Dianne says. "And so much makes me remember him: the car rides he loved so dearly; the squirrels he chased; the shade of the pine tree he so loved in summertime; and every time Wil and I visited Starbucks on Bullard and West where we often took him in late afternoon and he basked with the friendly petting of patrons."

Several times the veterinarian's office called, asking her to pick up Rambo's ashes, but it wasn't until the third or fourth call that she pulled herself together enough to pick them up and put them in the trunk of the car. Entering the mortician's office and requesting that Rambo's ashes be mixed with his master's, she was told no, that California law prohibits such practice.

So what has become of them?

Well, they're in the trunk of Dianne's grey Cadillac in which he loved to ride and where they'll remain until who knows when.

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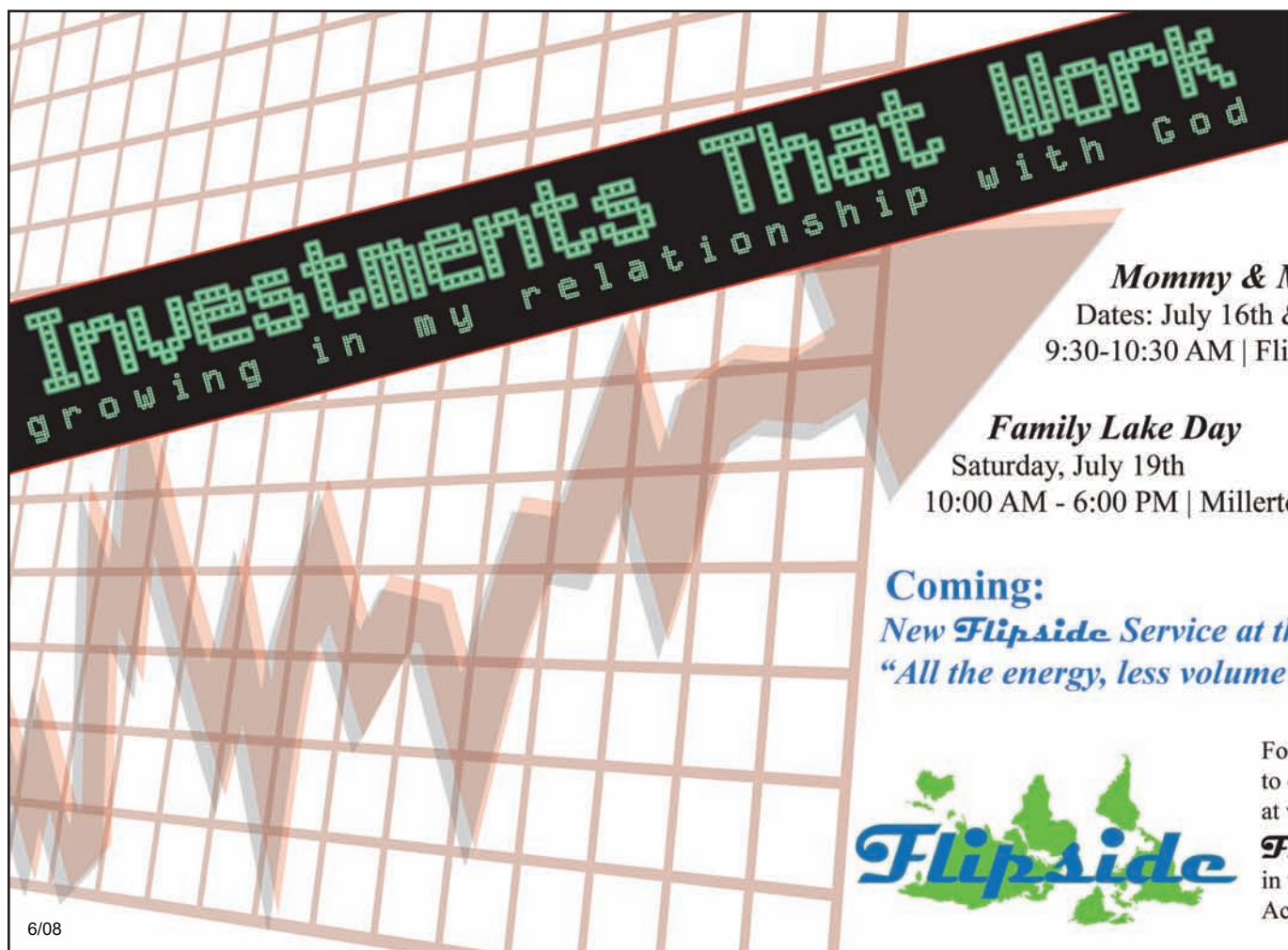
Wednesday Evening, July 9 at 7 p.m.

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6/08



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

Golden Valley Unified officially completed its ninth year of operation as a school district on June 6, 2008. I am proud to say that our end-of-year culminating activities, promotion exercises and graduation ceremonies all went smoothly as we closed out 2007-2008 and wrapped up the school year. I had the privilege of attending each of our school's year-end events during their last week. Many students from elementary through high school were recipients of well-deserved student awards and scholarships. The ongoing commitment by administration, staff and parents to support each of these events was very evident. Our community definitely honors and pays tribute to our students who have gone above and beyond to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom.

As we reflect upon the last year, there are many "first-ever" events to celebrate with pride. While not a complete list, here are just a few of our highlights that demonstrate the mighty power that exists within

"It's A Wrap!" for Golden Valley Schools in 2008

each of our schools and departments.

- 2007 Madera County Excellence in Education Employees of the Year – Administrator of the Year, Ms. Kristi Fisher (administrator, special education), Classified Employee of the Year, Mrs. Cheri Adams (secretary, Sierra View), and finalist for Teacher of the Year, Ms. Wendy Woods (reading lab teacher, Webster).

- Ranchos Middle School home visits to all incoming 7th grade families in July/August 2007

- District Employee of the Year Recognition Ceremony sponsored by GVUSD in conjunction with the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools (FGVS) honored 25 classified, certificated and administrative employees. The following outstanding employees were nominated by their peers.

- Star Service Instructional Employees of the Year Nominees – Mary Helen Garcia (WES), Tonya Hudson (LHS), Leanne Williams (RMS)

- Star Service – Operational Employee of the Year Nominees – Diana Forshee (Educational/Special Ed Services), Ray May (RMS)

- Star Secondary Teacher of the Year Nominees – Ruben Iniguez (RMS), Emily Muccianti (RMS), Jeremy Norris (RMS), Frank Panian (LHS), Michele Stetsko (LHS), Sean Tovsrud (Ed Opts), Nicole Ullrich (RMS)

- Star Elementary Teacher of the Year Nominees – Lori England (SV), Anita Ford (SV), Kathy Gorman (WES), Laura Mayer (SV), Kelly Hardcastle (SV), Crissy McElhaney (SV), Nola Neely (SV), Kandace Osborne (SV), Larissa Sobieralski (District Music), Chelan Shepherd (SV), Ginger Taylor (SV)

- Star Administrator of the Year Nominees – Kevin Hatch (WES), Scott Tefft (SV)

The following employees were selected as nominees for the 2008 Madera County Excellence in Education awards program – Principal Kevin Hatch, Teacher Jeremy Norris and Classified employee, Diana Forshee.

- Liberty High School 1st Place in the Super Quiz for the Academic Decathlon

- Ranchos Middle School 7th grade Academic Pentathlon complete sweep for first place in all categories

- Liberty High School wrestler, Mr. Nolon Doss, qualified for the state wrestling championship

- Webster Elementary Student Leadership Team reinstated

- Special Education students from all comprehensive sites participated in Special Olympics.

- Sierra View Elementary - recognition as a California Distinguished School

- Ranchos Middle School Booster parents and CJSF (California Junior Scholarship Federation) raised scholarship money which was formerly provided by Gear-Up.

- ACSA Golden Apple Awards to Volunteers of the Year to Hal, Maryann and Chris Parks from the Pizza Factory and student scholarship awardee, LHS senior, Mr. Bradley Abell.

- Sierra View "Bonner Character and Virtues In Education" Award

- Webster Elementary - Father Daughter Dance

- Sierra View Elementary Destination Imagination to State competition scoring 9th overall

- Liberty High School first-ever Dell Scholar winner, Miss Shannon Willhoite (four year scholarship worth over \$20,000) and senior, Miss Kayla Hodges appointed to the Military Academy at West

Point with her total scholarship valued over \$450,000.

- Education Options students, Ms. Janelle Hernandez and Ms. Michele Lundy won first and second place for their artwork submitted to the statewide Regional Ocean Art Competition in Monterey, California. Their winning artwork will be forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. for judging.

- Cafeteria menus were more varied and extremely efficient this year. Over 179,230 meals were served in 2007-08 and the program ran at a profit, exceeding \$100,000.

- Special Education Self-Review Monitoring Plan was selected as a sample model for all the SELPA's in the state at the request of CDE

- Transportation Department passed the CHP safety inspection with flying colors

- New Ranchos Middle School Groundbreaking ceremony – projected to open in August, 2009

As evidenced by this awesome list, there are many great reasons to celebrate the accomplishments of students and staff in Golden Valley. It has been my honor to be at the helm of this incredible team for the past year. I wonder what "firsts" lay on the horizon for next year? Stay tuned to the ongoing updates and successes of Golden Valley Unified School District as we celebrate our tenth anniversary as a school district next year. I wish all of our students, staff and parents, a restful, safe, and well-deserved summer break.

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

Margaret Mead (anthropologist)

Mission Statement

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



Click on "Local News" at

Webster Students take a “Vacation,” End Up on “Mars” in School Play



On May 27, Miss Forshee’s Fourth and Fifth Grade class put on a wonderful performance called “Vacation on Mars” for the parents and students at Webster Elementary. The students showed off their incredible talents as they acted and sang in the play. “Vacation on Mars” was a culminating activity that reinforced what the students had learned about our solar system and specifically about the “Red Planet.”

Outstanding LHS Senior Athletes Recognized, Awarded by GVUSD



Future West Point cadet Kayla Hodges (photo on left) stands next to a banner that will be placed in Liberty High School’s gym signifying her CIF State Spirit of Sport award. She received a standing ovation from the crowd when her award was announced. Nichole Schlueter and Nolon Doss (photo on right) were recipients of the 2008 Senior Athlete of the Year awards, as announced by Liberty Athletic Director, Mike Mazzoni.

WILL I BE LEFT BEHIND?

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Together we are reminded that God already answered these questions with the gift of Jesus
and the promise to abandon no one. Come and see living in God’s amazing grace.**

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Meeting at 36875 Ave. 12 • (corner of Ave. 12 and Loren Way)
centralvalleychristians.org • 559-324-1144**

PASTOR cont. from P. 12

Dads, hug your kids. regularly and daily. Your sons will learn how to give appropriate and healthy affection and your daughters will learn what appropriate and healthy affection is. If you don't give it to them in regular, healthy doses, I guarantee you that your sons will objectify women and use them and your daughters will be used.

2. Speak Messages of Valued, Valuable Evaluation: Kids become what they hear you say about them. Guess which child will become a secure leader in life: one who is spoken of as a leader, or one who is spoken of as a dolt. Kids will become what

they hear us speak of them. The most valuable messages your kids get will come from your mouth. Speak words that value them and that give them a valuable evaluation of not only who they are but what they can become. Speak of them as your "smart kid" not your "not so bright kid." Speak of them as your "champion," not your "loser." Tell your kids how beautiful they are. Tell your kids how great they are going to be, how much they are going to accomplish, how much you value them regardless of their performance. They will become what you say about them.

3. Speak to Them of a Special Future: Your children will walk into the future you have spoken into their lives. Speak into their lives what you see ahead for them. This is what Jesus did for Peter. When Jesus met Peter his name was actually Simon. That name meant "sand." Jesus spoke into his life and called him Peter. That name meant "rock." Who wouldn't rather be called a "rock" than sand? Dream what your kids could be and speak into them their special future.

4. A Continued Commitment: Assure your kids that you are committed to them regardless of what the future holds. Make certain they know that if everything else fails them you will not. Let them know that you will do

whatever you can to support and bless them.

These four things represent what the biblical blessing is. It is God's example to us in raising our own kids. They are what orthodox Jews still do for their kids. They are what our children are dying to receive from us. If you are a parent, no matter how old you or your kids are, it is never too late to begin blessing them. While the earlier you start the better, it is never too late. In the biblical account of Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Isaac was 137 years old and his sons were 77 years old. Even at that age they desperately needed their father's blessing. Dads of the Ranchos youth I charge you with the responsibility to

These four things represent what the biblical blessing is. It is God's example to us in raising our own kids. They are what orthodox Jews still do for their kids. They are what our children are dying to receive from us. If you are a parent, no matter how old you or your kids are, it is never too late to begin blessing them. While the earlier you start the better, it is never too late.

be a blessing to your kids. Be a man and bless them. Be strong and tender; hug and love; speak value and a future into their life. This is what real men do. Moms, this is your responsibility as well. This is not a job left only to the kids' dad. Your children need your blessing.

I know there are some who are now grown who never received a blessing like this from their father. I am fortunate to be one who did (from both my father and mother). I know there are plenty in our community who are now well past the opportunity to receive a blessing from their parents, however you are never too far removed to receive a blessing from the Heavenly Father. God wants to show you His great love, speak to you His valuable evaluation of who you are, speak to you of the special future He has planned for you, and make sure you understand His continued commitment to your life and eternity. You are never too old or far away from God to receive His blessing. We want to help you take the next steps in understanding God and His heart for you. You are always welcome at Flipside as we pursue God together.

Pastor Karl Roth is the pastor of Flipside Christian Church which meets in the Madera Ranchos



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6/08

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6/08



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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

Joann at 645-4864. Just remember, you need NOT be a member to participate in these cruises.

June's Birthday and Anniversary luncheon was held on Saturday, June 21 at 11 a.m. at Sizzler's Cuisine in Fresno. Everyone asked had a good time. The July celebration is scheduled for Yosemite Falls, 4278 W. Ashlan, July 21 at 11 a.m. Hope to see you there!

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

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 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 – 5 p.m. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The in-

structor 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

July 21, 11 a.m. Birthday & Anniversary Celebration, Yosemite Falls, 4278 W. Ashlan, Fresno

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

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, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.

Thursday, 3 – 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 – 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?

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Local Artists Win State, National Next



Golden Valley Unified School District students Shelly Lundy (left) and Janelle Jolliff celebrate their 1st and 2nd place finishes out of over 200 students statewide who competed in the Monterey Bay Aquarium Art Contest. Their artwork has moved on to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. where it will compete at the national level.

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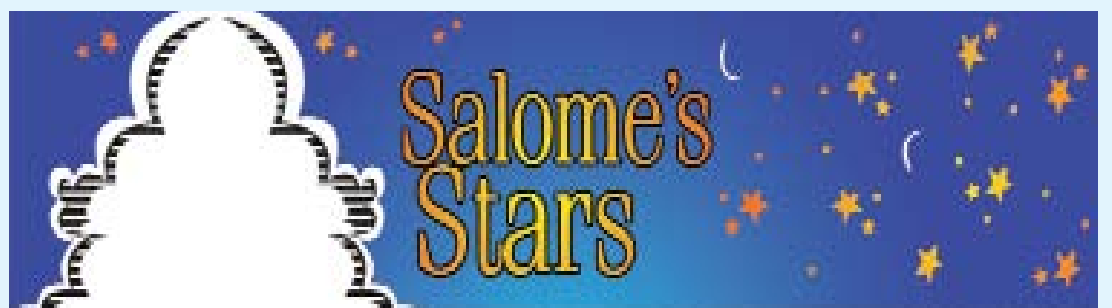
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Count to 10 if you must, but don't lose your temper, despite that person's (you know who!) efforts to goad you into reacting. Your restraint will pay off in a big way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This week finds you in a sociable mood, ready and eager to enjoy the company of family and friends. It's also a good time to seek out and renew old friendships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Patience is called for as you await a decision about that project you're eager to launch. Meanwhile, try to set aside more time to share with that special person in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid becoming involved in a workplace dispute early in the week by insisting both sides submit their stands to a neutral arbitrator. Things begin to cool off by Thursday.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It promises to be a busy but productive week for the Big Cat. The pace slows by Friday, allowing you to catch up on matters you put aside but that now need your attention.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A suddenly disruptive family situation is best handled with a cool, calm and collected response. Wait until things settle to let off all that pent-up emotional steam.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your practical side dominates the week as you re-assess your finances to make some sensible adjustments in what you plan to spend and what you expect to save.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected meeting with a former colleague opens some interesting possibilities. But you need to press for full disclosure before making a decision.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent flurry of activity eases by midweek, giving you time to readjust your disrupted schedule and make new plans for a weekend getaway.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're usually the one who gives advice. But now it's time to open yourself up to counsel from friends who have your best interests at heart.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might find resistance to your call for a full inquiry into a workplace problem. But by week's end even the most rigid naysayers begin to come around.

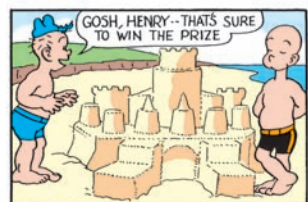
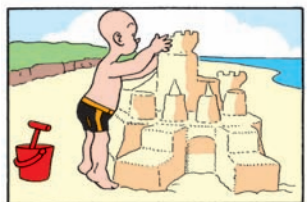
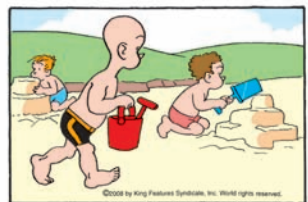
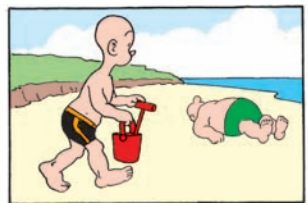
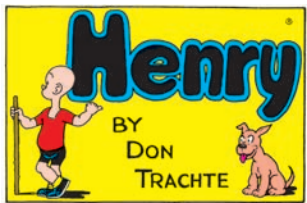
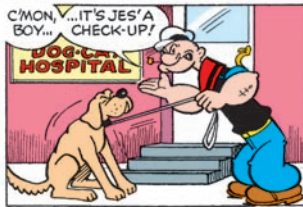
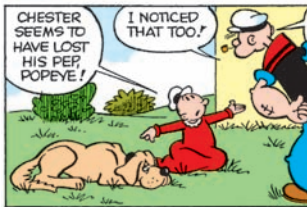
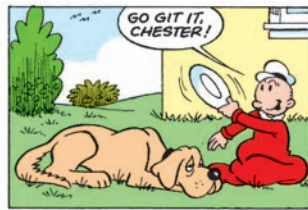
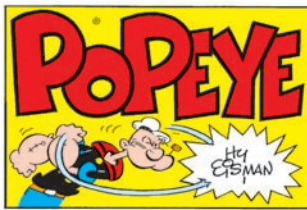
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A recurring problem surfaces once again. Maybe it's time you used your creative talents to help you find a new approach to resolving it once and for all.

Born this Week

You are guided in what you do both by your intelligence and your emotions. An acting career would suit you quite well.

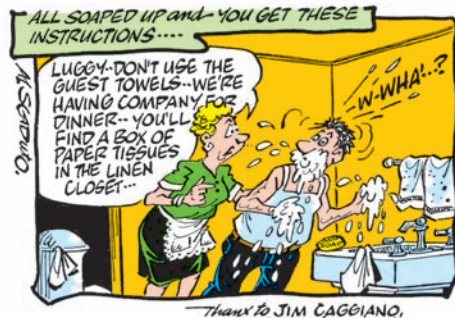
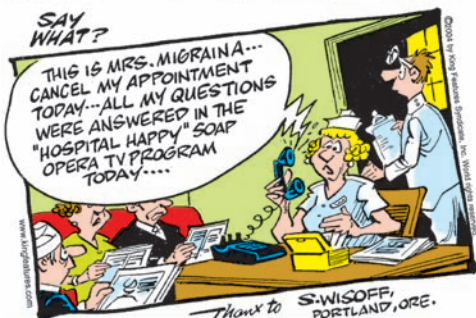
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



CONNECT THE DOTS to find out what are the best (or worst) slippers for the boardwalk.

Answers: Banana peels.

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ANSWER: 44 + 44/4 = 55

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "TALKER." See if you can replace these letters in the square so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers (Across): Law, air, hen, eat (Down): Lake, and, want.

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T	A	
L		I
K		N
E		

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER



Starting with the given word at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with GABARDINE.

1. A cotton fabric (given).
2. Coating made with crumbs.
3. A recitation of written material.
4. Something won.
5. To condescend to give or grant.
6. To eat.
7. A deafening noise.
8. The best group.
9. Roman for one.

Answers (from the bottom up): Gabardine, bread, reading, gained, design, dine, dir, in (the "in group"), I.

Wishing Well

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

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

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AMERICAN INDIAN TERMS

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

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

- Atlatl
- Calumet
- Comanchero
- Cradle board
- Hogan
- Kachina
- Kiva
- Long house
- Moccasins
- Potlach
- Sachem
- Totem
- Travois
- Wampum
- Wigwam

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the coming-of-age novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?
2. HISTORY: In what year did the United States establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China?
3. ADVERTISING: What brand of painkiller did actress Patricia Neal endorse in TV commercials?
4. SPACE: Who was the only astronaut to fly in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo manned spaceflight programs?
5. DISCOVERIES: Who was the first person to explain correctly how the circulatory system works?
6. ENTERTAINERS: How many children were in the Osmond family?
7. MUSIC: What was the theme song of "An Officer and a Gentleman"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the silkworm's sole source of food?
9. ANATOMY: Where are the triceps muscles located?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What does the "S." stand for in Harry S. Truman's name?

Answers

1. Betty Smith
2. 1979
3. Anacin
4. Wally Schirra
5. William Harvey
6. Nine. Seven of them became singers.
7. "Up Where We Belong"
8. Mulberry leaves
9. On the back of the arms
10. Nothing. It's just the initial "S."

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Driveway Base • Fill Sand • Washed Sand • Plaster Sand

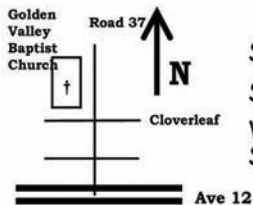
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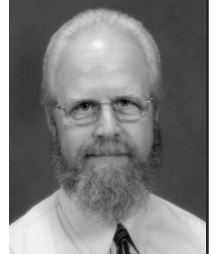


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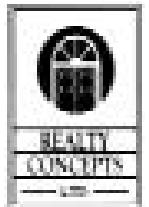


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For Sale - Bedroom Set - Solid Wood, Nightstand, Chest, Dresser/Mirror, Sleigh Bed. Estate Quality - New in Boxes! Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,875. Extra Pieces Available. **Call 559-438-0248.**

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		-		22
+		+		÷	
	x		-		27
÷		÷		+	
	-		x		18
2		4		17	

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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