

The Ranchos Independent



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DISTRICT 1 SUPERVISOR FRANK BIGELOW

EXPLAINS IT ALL AT HIS
FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING
IN THE RANCHOS

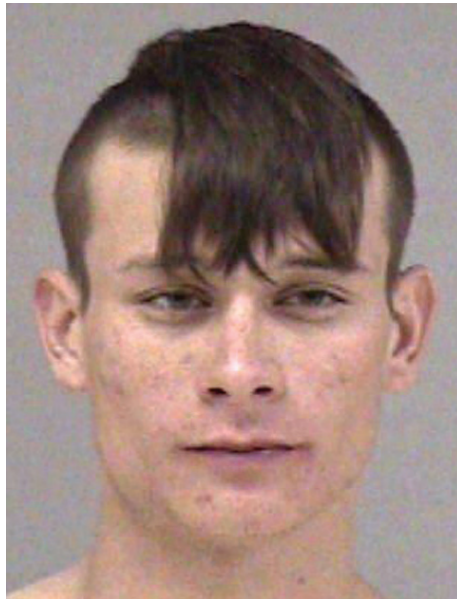
Cover Photo by Don Foster

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Three Captured in Ranchos Liquor Store Burglary

By Randy Bailey

The peace and quiet of the Madera Ranchos was shattered Saturday morning, March 15 at approximately 1:30 a.m. when one of the nine double-paned picture windows that surround the Ranchos Beer & Wine liquor store in the Maywood Center was demolished by a heavy object. The created hole allowed three young men to swarm into the store and in a matter of moments grab several bottles of alcohol and cartons of cigarettes, all under the watchful eye of a closed circuit camera system. Responding to a 911 call, the first of three Madera County Sheriff's deputies was on scene in approximately five minutes and was greeted by an unexpected surprise: the three suspected robbers were coming back for seconds just as the squad car pulled into the shopping center, catching all three of them in its headlights. The three scattered in three separate directions, two on foot and one on a mountain bike. The deputy took off after one who ran out the driveway between Central Valley Wireless and the Ranchos Library. Unfortunately, the suspect disappeared near Maywood and Berkshire.



Brandon Hollifield, 19, was booked into Madera County Department of Corrections on suspicion of First Degree Burglary, Receiving Stolen Property and Conspiracy. His bail was set at \$30,000. The other two suspects were minors.

Upon returning to Ranchos Beer & Wine, the other deputies had arrived, including a canine unit. The dog was sent into the liquor store to check for any remaining suspects and an "all clear" was given, but the dog seemed to have picked

up on something. When taken outside, the dog moved in the direction of Maywood and Berkshire and seemed particularly interested in one home's back yard. There, the deputies found some of the stolen items from Ranchos Beer & Wine. Deputies discovered the three suspects in the home and all three were promptly taken into custody without incident. Two of the suspects, one of whom was from Madera and the other who was from Fresno, were 17 years old and were booked into Juvenile Hall. The third suspect, 19-year old Brandon Hollifield, was booked into Madera County Department of Corrections. The names of the two minors cannot be released because of their age.

All three are facing charges of commercial burglary for their efforts which resulted in approximately four bottles of Vodka and several packs of cigarettes. Hollifield was booked on suspicion of First Degree Burglary, Receiving Stolen Property and Conspiracy. His bail was set at \$30,000.

Deputies Ryan Lutz, Darrell Swengel and their Sergeant, Mike Pace, were the officers who quickly responded to the break-in and succeeded with the speedy arrest.

IT'S COMING!



THE 2008
FLATLANDER'S
DAY PARADE

SAT. MAY 10

We need your help with the Parade!

CALL THE CHAMBER
645-4001
and see how you can help

Fifth Annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

All pictures courtesy of John Glueck



People everywhere best describes the turnout for the Fifth Annual Crab Feed. Over 220 showed up for the feast.



More than 20 student volunteers receive their last minute instructions before they begin waiting on tables.



Behind the scenes, head chef Don Foster made sure all of the courses came out perfect and that there was plenty.



Tony Soprano kept an eye on the items at the silent auction, a real crowd pleaser this year with autographed memorabilia.



Of course the star of the evening was the never-ending crab, enjoyed here by Jean and Tom Kellner.



Chamber member Steve Krueger talks to the crowd prior to the live auction while the winners' balloons stand ready.

Click on "Local News" at

BIGELOW'S BACK

FOR HIS FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING IN THE RANCHOS IN 2008

BY RANDY BAILEY

With standing room only at the Ranchos/Hills Senior's Center on Wednesday evening, March 12, Madera County Supervisor Frank Bigelow launched into his first town hall meeting in the Ranchos for 2008. After a preliminary overview of the general state of Madera County, California and the nation, Bigelow then focused on the Ranchos by leading off with Avenue 12.

"The time is coming for us to start addressing [Avenue 12]," Bigelow said. "It's a serious issue because we, the county, and you, the people, have to understand how we're going to look and feel here in the Ranchos and what that impact is going to mean to you." The main point that Bigelow made was that the County was not telling the Ranchos what it was going to do, but rather, was asking the Ranchos community what it *wanted* to do. "It's your community folks, *not* the County's." Bigelow stressed more than once that he and the rest of the County needs to know collectively what the community wants before the County acts. He also said that there was money available from Measure T funds and state 1-B funds for Avenue 12, both at the Highway 41

end and at the Highway 99 interchange.

Next came up the issue of PG&E and its plans to run additional power lines through the Ranchos.

"Before we get too much angst over it, we need to find out what it is PG&E is doing and find out how it can benefit us and how it can be a detriment to us. We need to find those answers before we get too far out on a limb," Bigelow said. Reminding the crowd about brownouts and blackouts just a few years ago, Bigelow said he did not want to go back to that. And without additional power generation, future power would grow increasingly expensive and harder to get.

To that end, Bigelow asked how many of the more than 80 people in attendance would be in favor of nuclear power somewhere in the Central Valley. To his surprise, almost 90 percent of the hands went up in favor of nuclear.

"I've been talking to the [nuclear power] folks and there's a very real possibility for the Central Valley. It's very clean power and a very reliable power source," he said. Bigelow talked briefly on the advancements in nuclear power and how the technology has advanced

since the days of Three Mile Island back in the 1970s.

Bigelow talked about a \$1 million grant available from the Chukchansi tribe that was available to non-profit groups throughout the County in increments beginning at \$25,000 and up for certain types of community projects. "There is criteria, but if you get with me, I can get you an application and help you get through it."

Bigelow then turned to the rumor mill.

"Folks have been asking me if I'm running for Congress," he said, pausing for effect. "I'm not. I want that stopped. I stopped it in Fresno and I'm stopping it here."

He said he didn't know what the future held for him, but he wanted to be crystal clear on his relationship with the people of the Ranchos. "I am committed to you and I want to see some things done ... I'm determined to see things happen."

Bigelow concluded the evening by taking questions from everyone who raised a hand and then talked to individual members of the audience one-on-one until nearly 10:45 p.m.

Organization Crucial for Madera Ranchos Residents in PG&E Fight

By Christi McKinney

Madera Ranchos residents are organizing to voice opposition to PG&E's proposed Central California Clean Energy Transmission Project which would build new 500 kV (kilovolt) high voltage transmission towers in our community. Several meetings have been held locally with representatives of PG&E in an attempt to get as much information as possible about the proposed project and to insure PG&E is aware of the community's concerns before they make they identify their preferred route and move forward on making their recommendation to the CPUC.

Details on the proposed project are still sparse. PG&E has yet to release detailed maps to property owners or to the public. They've also not determined whether these lines and the 10-16 story high towers will replace existing towers or be added alongside existing equipment. "We need much more detailed information about this proposal," said Frank Bigelow, Madera County District 1 Supervisor.

Jay Mahil, a grower and Director of the Madera County Farm Bureau, farms 4,700 acres of grapes and almonds West of Highway 99 on Avenue 7 between 28 and 28 1/2. Mahil has met with PG&E several times. "The proposed route is very close to my home, however PG&E is unable to tell me where the lines will be," Mahil said. "At this point I'm not sure whether they're planning on running lines directly overhead or adjacent to my home. This route is more densely populated and this project affects many more homes and properties than the other route PG&E is looking at."

PG&E has narrowed their search to two potential sites. The Eastern Corridor which would run thru Watts Valley or the Western Corridor which would run through the

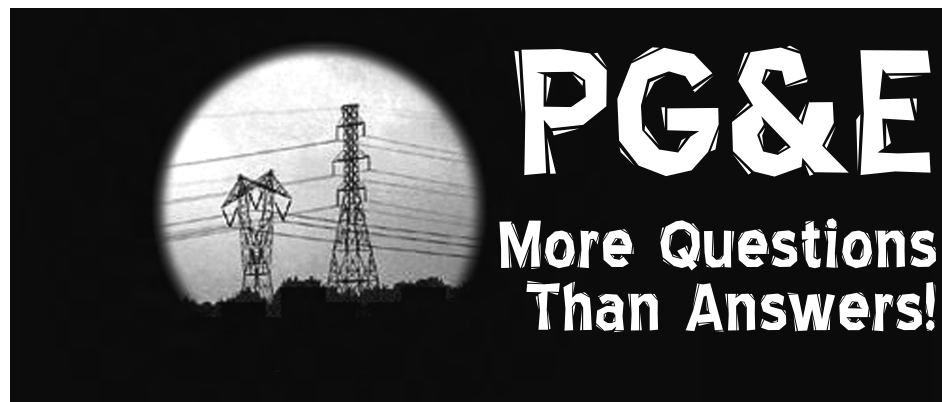
Madera Ranchos. "We hope to identify the preferred route internally within the next two months, after which we will spend another year on more in-depth studies of the preferred site," said Jeff Smith, PG&E spokesman. PG&E expects to present its recommendation to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in mid-2009. The CPUC will then take 12-18 months to conduct its evaluation and will then hold hearings in the community prior to its ruling. "They may choose to accept the PG&E recommendation or they may come back with their own plan," Smith said. "Construction on this project is not expected to start until sometime in 2110."

During a recent meeting with PG&E representatives, landowner Igal Treibatch pointed out that the maps that PG&E is working from are very outdated and omit several existing projects, as well as approved projects already reflected on the county planning maps. "These include the Community College and Liberty High School as well as several industrial projects and parcelizations."

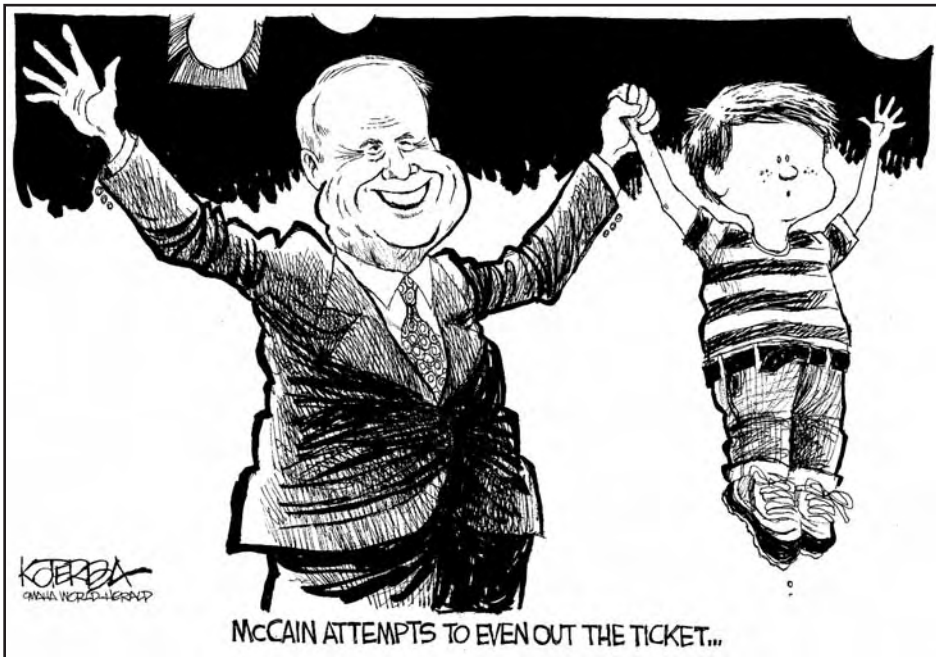
"The ramifications of this project will affect our community and our property values for generations to come," said Steve Krueger, Project Manager for Castle

and Cook Gateway Village, who has 35 years of experience in land development. "High voltage power lines and towers are the worst visual blights a community can have. PG&E is as close to a monopoly as you will find and they are very well connected politically, spending over \$100,000 a year on lobbyists. They also enjoy a solid relationship with the CPUC."

In the United States, high-voltage transmission lines carrying voltages over 345 kV



Please see PG&E on P. 20



The Ranchos Independent

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Editorial

Does This Offend You?

By Randy Bailey

I have a very good friend who didn't always have the best social skills. He's a funny guy and would often say something just because it sounded funny, without really thinking about the impact the words would have. He was just going for the laugh, after all. "It's just a joke," he would say.

I pointed out to him that sometimes what he said could be offensive to some people and that he just needed to be careful. He looked at me like a dog hearing a high-pitched noise for the first time.

"Offensive?"

"Yeah, offensive. Just use a little common sense."

"Hmmm ..."

A few weeks later we're at a party and I see him talking to a co-worker of ours who happens to be African-American. As I casually walked by them I hear my friend say, "OK ... tell me if this offends you ..."

Needless to say I jerked my friend out of there and we had a little talk. My main point was that if you were asking something that was so questionable that you had to ask the receiving party whether or not it might be offensive, chances were pretty good it probably was.

But nowadays, the term "offensive" has become so over-used that I'm not sure we know what it means anymore. It appears that the current use for "offensive" can be anything from something one would find abhorrent (which is where it belongs), to something that one merely doesn't like.

Need an example? I promise it won't be necessary to ask you if this offends you first.

In the last issue of the Ranchos Independent I featured artwork of stylized soldiers in shades of red and blue on the cover with accompanying text that said sides were being taken and lines were being drawn on the issue of the Avenue 12 Loop. I had someone come to me and tell me that they had a few friends that were "offended" by the cover.

"Offended?"

"Yes. Offended."

"What did they find offensive about it?"

"They didn't like it."

"Well OK, I don't like Dr Pepper, but it doesn't *offend* me. What was offensive about it?"

"They thought using soldiers was inappropriate."

"It's a metaphor. 'Battle lines being drawn.' 'One side against the other.' How else would you get that idea across in one picture on one page?"

"Well, they just didn't like it."

"I got that. But what about it - specifically - was offensive?"

"They didn't like it."

I was so worked up at this point I reached for a Dr Pepper and found myself getting offended.

In the previous month's paper I had created an ad for the Chamber of Commerce for the town hall meeting it had sponsored about the Avenue 12 Loop and I featured a picture of a ghost town and suggested that it was a possible future for the Ranchos if we didn't get together and figure something out. I could have just as easily used a picture of a bumper-to-bumper freeway and suggested THAT was our possible future, but the ghost town won the toss. The Chamber received a phone call saying they found the ad (can you guess?) OFFENSIVE.

"What's offensive about it?"

"They didn't like it."

I put the Dr pepper down.

"OK ... but what was offensive about it?"

"They said it didn't accurately depict the Ranchos."

"It wasn't trying to accurately depict the Ranchos *today*; it was suggesting a possible future if certain actions were taken."

"Well, they found that offensive."

"What??? What did they find offensive?"

"How the Ranchos was depicted."

"So if I would have used a freeway ...?"

"Offensive."

"What about a ...?"


"Offensive."

"A ..."

"Offensive."

I finished my Dr Pepper and sighed. Then I remembered - it was *Pepsi* that offended me ...

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

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



Sometimes a DOG just needs to bark!

Where are we going? And why?

Last Tuesday at the Board meeting the friends of the Oakhurst Library gave a presentation to the Board. They talked about the thousands of dollars that they had raised for the building fund, they spoke of contractors willing to donate their time and even had an architect on line at the counties remote access site in Oakhurst to speak. The entire Board seemed supportive of their desires for a library expansion ... but in the end though they were told none of that would get them their new library (I will get the reason in a bit).

Last Wednesday Supervisor Bigelow had a town hall meeting in the Ranchos. Hot topics were the traffic issues and road expansion plans; a proposal for a new transmission line through the area and the library-community center project (again it seems the community efforts and plans to build are being stifled).

Crabgrass

Government is a bit like crabgrass – once you get it going it takes on a life of its own. It grows out of control into areas of our lives that we want to be open and free, eventually choking out the flowers that made this country beautiful.

This country was founded on freedom to live liberated from the controls of oppressive government and the idea that with a little hard work the opportunity to make a better life for us and our children is possible. A few years back some politicians decided it would be a good thing to pass a law requiring that essential services buildings needed to be built a little stronger than other buildings so when “stuff” happens they will still be able to do their job. It sounds like a good idea, they even thought about rural areas like we live in and put in some exemptions for our little community fire stations and community facilities.

Then the crabgrass of government began to spread.

Amendments and building code additions took over and the exemptions became meaningless.

We now have laws that prevent a community from getting together to build a community center, a firehouse or for that matter any building that could be used by the public. We have contractors willing to donate time to their communities that are being refused; we are required to bid the jobs out and pay the prevailing wage for the Bay Area builders. Projects that could be built for a couple of hundred grand don't even slow down as they pass the million dollar mark.

Volunteerism is being choked out of our lives in favor of a bureaucratic mess that we can not afford. Community spirit is being systematically crushed.

It does not matter who you talk to, you get the same answer. They shake their heads and tell you they agree it is ridiculous, then they always add: “It's the law. There is nothing we can do about it.”

Last week the Board talked about how restrictive and unfair the system is, how we should do something to change it. The economy is in the toilet. Throwing money at the problem is no longer an option! Now is the time for our representatives to forget about playing nicely in the government sandbox and demand that we get some relief from these oppressive and ridiculous laws. My guess is that over 50 percent of our government spending is not necessary. It may be required, but that is a lot different than necessary.

DOG Idea: Madera County could become the spearhead of a movement to fix this mess. We have spent thousands so our representatives can travel around and network with other area representatives. I have been amazed at how much one person can accomplish by speaking honestly and having a logical argument. Imagine what our entire county government could do with the logical argument of: Our economy is bleeding. If you can't give us monetary support give us relief from being forced to waste what money we have.

Brown Act Violation Trial Update: This Friday at 8:30 will be a hearing in Department 5 of the Superior Court. Madera County does not want Supervisors Bigelow and Wheeler to testify under oath at the trial Friday. The judge will have read both sides of the argument and make a ruling. The actual trial date for that case should be set at that time as well.

DOG Reports past and present along with other information is now posted on the web at www.DemandOpenGovernment.org.

Random Notes

I had someone call me yesterday saying that our story on PG&E was wrong because it said PG&E was building TWO 500kV lines when there's only one. I checked the story and it didn't say there were two 500 kV lines, but it did say there were only going to be two 500 kV towers. Now, I'm sure they are going to need more than two towers to bring all those kilovolts into our community. What's the story? We contacted PG&E's PR man, Jeff Smith, to get a clarification and he responded: “Because we are still in the very early stages doing studies on the project, the specifics you requested have not been determined as of yet. Thank you.”

So there you have it. I would assume more than one tower but less than a billion. And I'm sure there's going to be two towers somewhere in the line, but PG&E is keeping mum.

And speaking of the whole PG&E thing, I've found out from a very reliable source that the group in Watts Valley (the alternate location PG&E is considering for the power lines) is getting REALLY organized, including contacting legislators, legislative candidates, the press, 60 MINUTES! Folks make no mistake – PG&E is going to place those power lines somewhere. If another community makes a stronger case than we do, we lose! Make sure to see the last page of today's paper and contact the Ranchos Citizens' Group at 559-363-9095 or email them at info@ranchoscommunity.com.

They are going to place those lines *somewhere*.

Big hats with flowers, fancy ribbons, high heels, gloves, lace and pearls ... nostalgia night at Elton John's place? NO! It's dress-up time at the Mother Daughter Tea Party and Gift Boutique hosted by the Madera Ranchos Assembly of God. On

Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. it's the "How Does

Your Garden Grow?" Mother/Daughter Tea Party & Gift Boutique. If you're in to “high tea,” then this is the place for you. It's only \$10 per person and the church is located at 35849 Ave. 13 ½. There will also be a photographer on-site to take a professional keepsake photo for just \$5. Deadline for purchasing tickets is April 20 and you can call Gail Krob at 645-0616 for more info. They're also going to have (just in time for Mother's Day) a gift boutique with vendors selling candles, jewelry, skin care products, music, books,

home decor and more. If you're interested in being a vendor, call Pam Hansen at 474-2330. Cheerio, dahling!

I know I've mentioned it before, but it bears repeating. We have a wonderful asset here in the Ranchos on the second Wednesday of each month. From approximately 10 a.m. to noon each month Mr. Ken May shows up and answers any and all questions that you would want to ask his boss, Congressman Mike Villines. The Congressman is in great demand these days as the highest ranking Republican in the California legislature so spending a little time with his Senior Field Representative is not a bad way to spend part of your morning. If there's something state-related that's been bugging you, Ken is your man. If he can't give you an answer, he'll find someone who can. Remember - STATE-related. He can't help you with county problems or your federal income tax, but if it has to do with the state of California, he's your man.

Second Wednesday of each month.

Ten a.m. to noon.

Be there!

Have a Happy Easter. In the Christian world it's the one day of the year that makes all the other days possible. There are several Ranchos churches and all of them are putting on some type of special Easter service this weekend, so go give one of them a try. As my third grade teacher used to say, “You just might learn something!”



Dear Editor:

Re: The DOG House by Dale Drozen
I read this article with interest, not because I care where the new courthouse goes, but it does make more sense to put it next to the jail. But I read it thinking if you replaced the words "Courthouse" with the words "Avenue 12 Expressway" or "the PG&E transmission lines," you could have the next Independent's DOG House.

"Losing the battle to put 'the Expressway' in the most logical spot ..."

"It looks like it was out of our hands all along from the selection ..."

"If we (the Board) don't ... support 'Avenue 12' ... they will think we don't want it and give the money to somebody else."

Yes Dale, there is a pattern in all levels of government, and they believe only they know what is good for us. I certainly want to believe that Ray Beach, Frank Bigelow and the gentlemen from Cal Trans really want to hear our concerns and take our interests into their final judgment; I want to believe that PG&E, Mike Neer, Project Manager, and Greg Parker, Principal Planner, really want to hear from us regarding the 500 kilovolt transmission lines crossing my property – but I don't believe in the Tooth Fairy anymore.

But maybe if we scream like little kids they will pay attention to us.

My letter from PG&E says they are proposing the 500 kilovolt transmission line to the foothills in northeast Fresno. They are developing new clean energy sources in the Tehachapi Mountains but the transmission lines are coming from Buttonwillow (67 miles west of Tehachapi) running through Bakersfield to Buttonwillow then back to northeast Fresno through the Madera Ranchos.

Are we "... losing the battle to put the 'transmission lines' in the most logical spot ..."? I haven't had the new math but when I learned geometry the closest distance between two points was a straight line, not a zig zag.

Thank you for keeping your eye out for us and informing us what is going down.

Bob Campbell
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I have owned land in Bonadelle Ranchos over 25 years. Avenue 12 has grown more busy and dangerous every year [with] big trucks using 12 to get to 99 and 41. Some years ago I became so concerned I phoned the editor of the Ranchos Independent. The editor was strong on the Madera Ranchos – community minded and very well thought of.

If I remember right, he talked of the loop from Avenue 12 and using 12 with four or six lanes. I only know that Avenue 12 or 9 or whatever has got to be done. Not everyone will be pleased, but it is emergency time. I use Avenue 12 and the cars drive fast and tailgate. I pull off of the road and let them race on. Nearly every morning on the radio Avenue 12 and Highway 41 – or just Avenue 12 – a car wreck is reported.

The talk must become action! A freeway is a must!

Thank you,
Sarah Key
Fresno

P.S. – Thank you for the Ranchos Independent.

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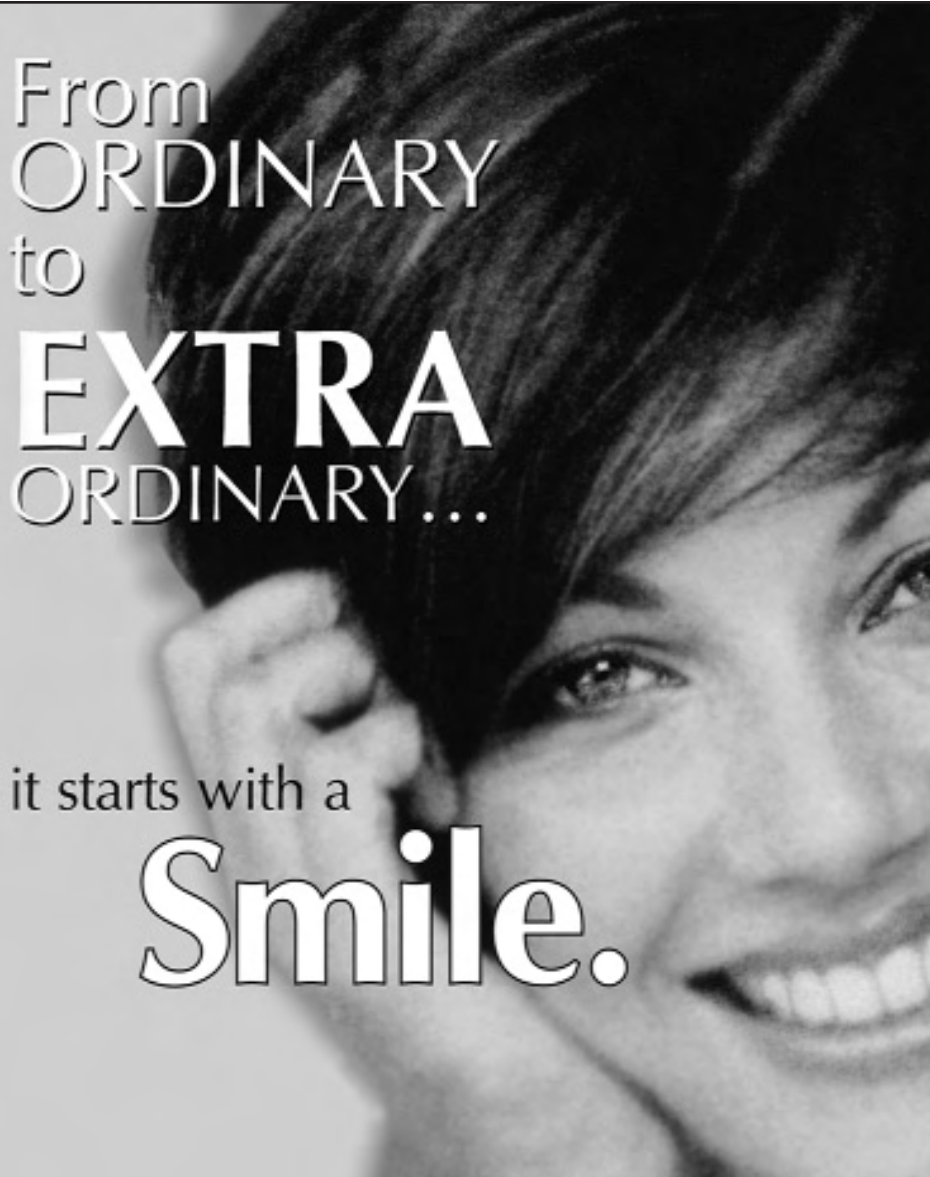
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IN 40 YEARS...

**WHAT WILL
YOUR COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?**

IT'S TIME TO VOICE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

The Madera County Transportation Commission is hosting a workshop for residents to vote on where and how they want the county to grow through the year 2050.

Visit www.maderactc.org for details on various Blueprint scenarios. Then join in the workshop discussion and cast your vote for your ideal growth scenario for Madera County.

Madera Workshop, March 24, 2008

Registration: **5:00 PM**

Workshop: **5:30 PM**

Location: **Madera Municipal Golf Course,
23200 Ave. 17, Madera CA**



For more information visit: www.maderactc.org

New Programs Springing Up for You at Madera Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

We have two exciting new children's programs at the Ranchos Library this spring. On the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., Grandma Penny and her dog, Katie, will visit us. Katie is a trained therapy dog and enjoys having children read to her. On her first visit we had five children take turns reading a book to Katie, who is half Pomeranian and half Cocker Spaniel. She is very sweet and such a good listener. There have been many educational studies across the nation that have shown that children who struggle with reading show marked improvement after regularly reading to a dog. But this means no help from parents or adults even when children aren't sure of the word. The purpose is to let them read unobserved. Katie won't correct them or judge them — just listen.

On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month we have Bilingual Storytime with Ana Anaya at 2 p.m. Ana is a bilingual kindergarten teacher who does a great job reading, singing and speaking in both English and Spanish. There are stories, songs, crafts and snacks packed into one hour of fun. All children are welcome to share the experience and learn some Spanish. (P.S. — Adults: please don't expect a quiet library on those days).

Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show

Registration for a craft or food booth is going strong for the 2008 Flatlander's Parade and Craft Show. The 12 ft. x 12 ft. booths are \$30 for crafts and \$50 for food. The date is Saturday, May 10. It is first come, first served. Don't wait! Parade applications can be picked up at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office. Craft Show applications can be picked up at the Ranchos Library.

New Library Planning Committee Update

If you haven't filled out the survey in last month's Ranchos Independent, then please take the time to do so. Drop it in the Library drop box. It is so important for the Library and the Community Center Committee to hear from the community in regard to the possibility of building a new library, a community center and ball fields. If you don't have the newspaper any longer, then stop by and pick up a survey at the Ranchos Library.

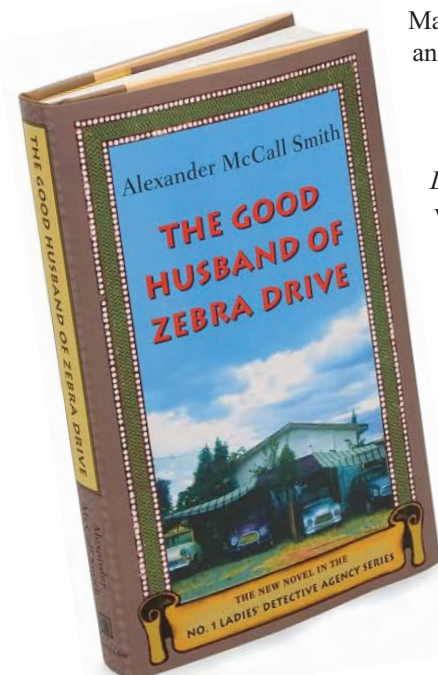
Coming Soon: The Ranchos Library Summer Reading Program. Before you know it summer will be here and this year we hope you will "Catch the Reading Bug @ Your Library," or for the teens we hope you will experience "Metamorphosis @ Your Library." Keep reading the Ranchos Independent for further updates. We have an exciting lineup this year of performers and activities starting with our big kick-off on June 19.

Regular Story Time for pre-school age children is every Monday at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson.

Craft and Story Night this month will be on March 25 from 3-5 p.m. We're trying a new day and time.

Book Recommendations

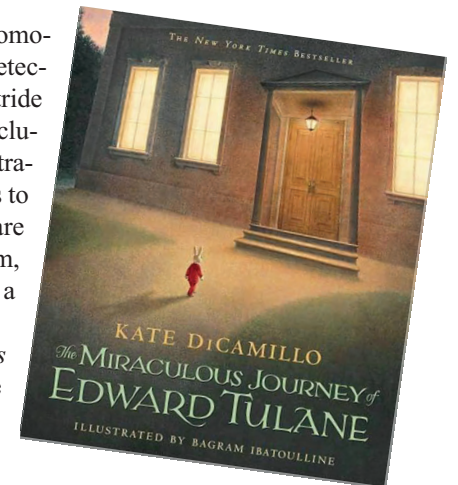
Adult Fiction: *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive* by Alexander McCall Smith. Once again we return to Botswana and the #1 Ladies Detective Agency owned and operated by Mma Ramotswe, a kind, intuitive woman with a "traditional figure." Mma Ramotswe is on a new case which involves a distant cousin, Tati Monyena, who is concerned about three unusual deaths in the Mochudi Hospital where he is the administrator. Meanwhile, Mma's assistant, Mma Makutsi, is planning her wedding to the furniture store owner, Phuti Radiphuti and contemplating leaving the Detective Agency. Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, Mma Ramotswe's husband, has taken an interest in investigative work, much to the amazement and chagrin of Mma Ramotswe. Normally he is content with



running his own business, Speedy Motors automotive repair. But suddenly, he wants to be a detective himself. As usual, Mma takes it all in stride and patiently works it all out to a good conclusion. Don't let the names deter you. They are traditional names that add flavor and uniqueness to McCall Smith's wonderful series. If you are looking for a good story without all the grim, detailed gore of most detective novels, this is a great read.

Juvenile Fiction: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15



Luke 24:6-7

Let Brian's Keep You Warm This Winter and Cool This Summer

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KIWANIS KORNER



Happy Easter, from the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos. We all hope you have a wonderful holiday. 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.

What is on track for the club in the next few months? The first event we are hosting is another E-Waste (electronic waste) fund raiser; this one will help fund our admin account. The last E-Waste event we had was a huge success and we are using the funds to support projects for the community and children. Believe it or not, we had E-Waste from all over Madera and Fresno counties delivered to our collection site right here in the Ranchos. Please help our environment by bringing any electronic devices you have laying around the garage or house that you've been waiting to discard. Let your friends and neighbors know it's time to bring in those unwanted electronic items. Let's recycle this stuff instead of putting it into our land fill. When: March 29 and 30. Where: Ranchos Market on Avenue 12. We look forward to seeing all of you there.



Got any old electronic trash sitting around the house? Bring it to the Ranchos Kiwanis E-Trash days at Ranchos Market March 29-30 and recycle it instead of sending it off to the landfill. Do a good deed, de-junk your life and help the Kiwanis raise some cash all at once.

Along with the E-Waste event we are also having a rummage sale. This event is going to be held in conjunction with our E-Waste event. Therefore, when you come to drop off your E-Waste you can also shop for some really cool stuff at our rummage sale. When: March 29 and 30. Where: Ranchos Market on Avenue 12.

Next on the list is our inaugural Garden Tour & Wine Tasting. The event is set for Saturday, April 26 and it will start at 10 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. The tour will start at Fernwood Nursery, we will then tour five local area gardens and then end at Birdstone Winery with a brunch and wine tasting. Any homeowners in the Ranchos area who would like to showcase their gardens and landscaped yards please contact any of the Kiwanis officers, board members, or Mona Diaz at 645-7606. You can also buy tickets at Fernwood Nursery, Birdstone Winery or Pizza Factory. It only costs \$20 for the tour, food, wine tasting and a souvenir glass. It will be an event full of camaraderie, some pretty sights and fun, and the proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward the needs of special education students at Golden Valley Unified School District.

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

Also, we have planned a contest for a new logo. We would like community involvement in designing a new logo that would incorporate the Kiwanis with our community. A \$100 award will be given to the winner who creates the best design. Applications are available at various locations throughout the community and on our web page at www.ranchoskiwanis.org.

One more announcement to make for our club is that our meeting place has changed. The club is now meeting at the Pizza Factory. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their new 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 which 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.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to contact any of our new officers for 2007-2008. They would be happy to answer your questions.

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

The RANCHOS AG BOOSTERS is being formed!

You mean by the parents of Ranchos youth?

Yep. They're looking to be one of the main sources for activities to support Ag Education in the Ranchos.

Support for facilities and financial support for individuals and groups?

Yep. All local money will stay local.

When and where do they meet?

Their very first meeting is coming up on April 10th at the Pizza Factory at 7 p.m.

Can I still get info by email at ranchosag@gmail.com?

Of course you can! Will I see you at the meeting?

Yeah ... just order me a vegetarian pizza.



3/08

Easter

The Time Beyond Change

From the Changeless One



"I am the Resurrection and the Life, ... he who believes in me will never die." Jesus in John 11

Golden Valley Baptist Church



Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship Service 10:15 AM

Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 PM

In the Madera Ranchos (NW corner, Road 37 and Cloverleaf)

12414 Road 37

Madera, CA 93636

559-645-1700

3/08

Pedal to the Metal for Ranchos Girl

The Ranchos' 12-year-old Emma Tucker showed she had what it took to win the 2008 Scotty Key Memorial Senior Honda Quarter Midget event at the Solano County Fairgrounds last month.

“She’s been racing three years and this is the second time she’s won,” said a beam-



Emma Tucker stands next to her quarter midget racer that propelled her to a First Place win at Solano County Fairgrounds last month.

ing Mary Tucker, Emma’s mom and owner of Ranchos Auto Repair.

The Ranchos Middle School seventh grader won once before as a novice and now in the Senior Honda class. “She’s won many other races and she’s always done well at Madera Raceway,” Tucker said.

Loose Dog Turns Up Loose Fugitive

A routine service call for a dog on the loose on John Albert Drive between Roads 35 and 36 ended with the arrest of a fugitive instead. Behind bars is 32-year old Gary Prentiss Dubois, booked for battery, criminal threats and violation of a court order.

The initial call came in from Cal Fire stating that a subject was suffering shortness of breath due to a panic attack brought on by an unrestrained dog. Deputy Mark Schafer responded to the call and found the dog in question had been



Gary Prentiss Dubois, 32, was booked for battery, criminal threats and violation of a court order after deputies responded to a call about an unrestrained dog in the Ranchos.

chained up all along but apparently his ferocious bark and demeanor was enough to terrify the passerby.

There was no harm to the frightened caller but when the deputy went to knock on the door at the residence a fugitive was found who was wanted on a trio of felony warrants issued out of Santa Clara County.

Dubois was booked on those three warrants as well as an additional charge for providing false information as to his true identity. He remains behind bars on a no bail hold.

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Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual entry or responsible person's name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No
 Approx. number of participants _____ Approx. length _____ft.

Entry Category (select ONE which most closely suits your entry):

Horses (Single) Horses (Group) Explain: _____

Band/Music Name: _____

Floats (Non-profit) Name: _____

Floats (Business) Name: _____

Floats (Other) Name: _____

Children's Groups Name: _____

Dance Groups Name: _____

Single Entry (Children) Name: _____

Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____

Novelty Name: _____

Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!
 Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.
 Parade route: Topper along Ave. 12 to Kensington

The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring or mail this form by **April 26** to: **Golden Valley Chamber 37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636** or call **645-4001**

Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

The Olde Cowboy by Woody Laughnan

Freeway 99, like no other road I've ever traveled, has always seemed to be a state within the Golden State, unrolling through the middle of the world's largest vegetable and fruit garden in which are grown some 200 different products that one can eat, wear or write and perhaps one of the largest concentrations of dairy farms in the country.

And while I have not looked recently, there was a business by Traver that made concrete burial vaults; and while I have never known the Chamber of Commerce to mention it in its promotional material, Fresno has a chicken feed plant nestled in the downtown area which may

be why travelers on Freeway 99 sometimes say the city stinks.

If explorer Hernando Cortez, searching Mexico – or "New Spain" – for the seven paved-in-gold cities of Cibola some 85 years before the Pilgrims beached at Plymouth Rock, were to return today and venture further north to the San Joaquin Valley, he would at least find seven cities producing products worth their weight in gold.

The Valley was named for San (Saint) Joaquin, the father of the Virgin Mary, and one holding firmly onto religious concept might even suggest that it was they who blessed this

land. And anyone would agree that San Joaquin is certainly a much more sophisticated name than "Jake Valley," which it could have been.

There is said to be no English translation for San Joaquin. Jewish historians say the name is akin to Jacob or Job, or just plain old Jake, which one must suppose spawned the old Okie expression of "Everything's Jake when you'all git to Tulare Lake," although I do not know that for a fact.

But moving this essay right along, the Valley's seven golden cities from north to South are: Bakersfield, Tulare Fresno, Madera, Chowchilla and Merced.

Oh, you say that's only six cities and you want to know which is the seventh. Well, I will leave that up to you. I mean it depends how far

south or north you wish to go – say from Weed Patch and Pumpkin Center to Delhi, Modesto and Stockton.

But it's not Earlimart, Pixley, Tipton, Traver, Kingsburg, Fowler, Selma, Fowler, Berenda, Fairmead, etc., even though each of these communities undoubtedly has golden attributes of their own.

Bakersfield is named for Old Man Baker who settled there. Tulare is named for the bull-rush and cattail (the 1930s Okie pronunciation "Tullir" is probably from the Spanish, meaning "bird poop"). May I hastily apologize to that fine, upstanding city, but look it up in the dictionary for yourself.

Please see **WOODY** on P. 29



The North Fork Rancheria Project

An Economic Stimulus Package that *Works* for Madera and the San Joaquin Valley

Jobs and Career Opportunity

- 4,250 permanent, temporary construction, and spin-off jobs
- Great salaries and benefits - *nearly three times the current local average*
- A career opportunity ladder offering diverse, permanent, well-paying positions

Business and Vendor Opportunity

- \$45-50 million annual goods and services purchased - *much of it locally*
- Increased local tourism, hospitality, and entertainment through the creation of a regional destination marketplace at the gateway to the Sierras and Yosemite and Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Parks

Community Investment

- \$5 million annually to the County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, and local communities to fund public safety, infrastructure, schools, parks, housing, economic development and local charities

Overall Benefits

- \$100 million per year in local economic benefits (\$277,000 per day!)
- Annual payroll and benefits of \$50-60 million a year
- Privately funded, environmentally clean, non-seasonal jobs
- A commitment to the community to mitigate significant project impacts and build a better quality of life and stronger social fabric for all citizens of Madera



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Home & Garden Festival Coming

By Eleanore Burchell

Our 16th Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival, to be held on April 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., is well into the planning stage. Please mark your calendars and plan to spend some time here. As last year, the day will start with a \$5 biscuit and gravy breakfast. Olen Williams and his garden crew will have over 100 fruit trees available, namely Granny Smith apple, apricot, three varieties of peaches, etc. The garden area also has many other nice trees, shrubs and flowering plants for you to plant in your yard as this is the season to get these plants well settled into soil by the time summer comes again.

Master Gardeners will be in attendance to help identify plants and help with other garden questions and suggestions. The Treasure House is waiting to show you their new items.

The produce, boutique, cookbooks and some vendors will be held in the main building. Come in and check out the displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings, antiques, China items, etc. For lunch, there will be BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs (maybe salmon patty sandwiches) and sodas. Several vendors will be in the main building along with the Child Identification Service. Come with your children and have their fingerprints and photos taken and put on file just in case these are needed someday. April 5 is a GREAT occasion for all of us and we would like to share it with you. Please come!

Did you know we have been remodeling? Please come in, visit us and see our new kitchen, tile floor, etc.

The Ranchos/Hills couple of the month is Russ and Helen Lowell who have been charter members since our inception. Russ spent many years with Pacific Telephone Company before retiring. They moved to Fresno in 1952 and are very proud parents of two sons, two granddaughters and two wonderful great grandsons. Helen was born in Kansas and moved to California in 1944. She was employed with the State Employees Retirement System and Department of Finance. Helen is one of our past presidents and is filling the post of vice presi-

dent of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. at present.

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.

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 come to our center 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

The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart. -- Ben Franklin

A Panama Canal cruise is ready to go on April 14 – 28. A flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. will be made and then board the ship with stops in Jamaica and Cartagena, Columbia. Then it's off through the locks of the canal and exiting into the Pacific Ocean with dockings in Costa Rica, three in Mexico, namely Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas. The trip concludes in San Francisco where we will disembark. This is really a spectacular cruise. And now, hot off of the press, 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 – on either cruise – call Joann 645-4864. Just

Please see SENIORS on P. 19

Our 16th Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival, to be held on April 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., is well into the planning stage. Please mark your calendars and plan to spend some time here.



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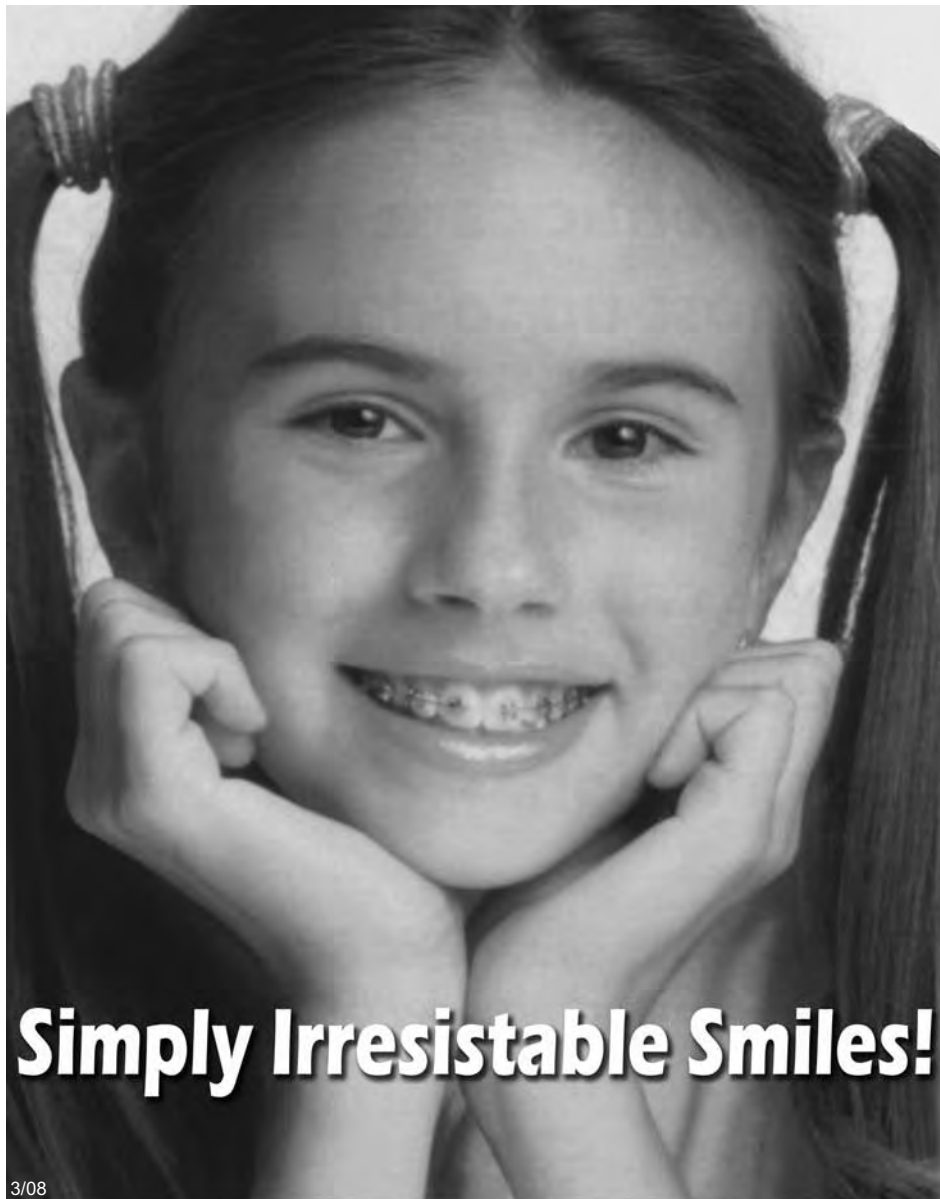


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The Stock Report

State Budget Cuts Hurt *Our* Schools

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Officially winter is over and spring is finally here. I am glad because winter is not my favorite time of the year. Did you wear your green for St. Patrick's Day? And how come Easter was so early in March this year? Golden Valley schools are out for Spring Vacation, which I still call Easter Vacation as it was called for so many years. March has been a busy month.

I have known for a long time that things are a mess in Sacramento but putting teachers and school personal out of work all over the state will only make matters worse.

At the March 11 school board meeting the board members were given the bad news about the California Governor's budget and how it will impact Golden Valley Unified. It makes me mad to think that after we have worked so hard putting all of the right people in the right positions that now we are being told that we have to lay off so many. Why is it that the governor wants to balance California's budget on the backs of California's school children? I have known for a long time that things are a mess in Sacramento but putting teachers and school personal out of work all over the state will only make matters worse. I wish that the governor and legislators would listen to the state financial advisor's recommendations for budget cuts.

Golden Valley is a small, young school district without a lot of places where you can cut \$1 million without it hurting our students. It is not fair to cut out the very programs that the community has worked so hard to get for their children.

have had the "No Child Left Behind" federal program to contend with and then the new California State standards have to be met or districts were punished by both the federal and the state. This has pushed many school districts into bankruptcy or near bankruptcy throughout the state.

Teachers have worked hard to meet these standards and school districts have put programs into place to make sure that teachers and administrators have the support they need to do the work required of them. Technology has

made a lot of costly changes necessary. Golden Valley is a small, young school district without a lot of places where you can cut \$1 million without it hurting our students. It is not fair to cut out the very programs that the community has worked so hard to get for their children. So, I am sad about this March madness and it makes

me feel helpless. Well enough of that for now. As you can see I am passionate about our Golden Valley and doing the best for our students.

On March 12 I went to the Ranchos Hills Senior Center to hear Supervisor Frank Bigelow talk about the various things that are going on in the Ranchos. There was a good turn out with standing room only. People have lots of concerns and Frank answered them to the best of his

School districts all over California

Please see **STOCK** on P. 14

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STOCK cont. from P. 13

ability. Many of us are concerned about the high voltage power lines that PG&E is planning on putting either through the Ranchos from Bakersfield up to the mountains or along the foothills, which the Sierra Club doesn't like. There is not much that Frank can do about this because PG&E is such a powerful company and is used to doing things its own way. There was lots of talk about roads. It seems that there is money for work on Avenue 12 and this is the only road being considered by Madera County. Will the Ranchos commercial area have a 4-lane highway through it or will there be a bypass around the commercial area? The bypass as a way to cut down on traffic through the area going both ways from Highway 41 to Highway 99 seems to be the only way. There is money to work on the Avenue 12 to Highway 99 off ramp. There were representatives from our fire stations at the meeting making their case for more paid firefighters to protect our community. Right now we depend on volunteer firefighters who have jobs away from the fire station and are not always available when a fire breaks out. Other things that were discussed were the state of the California's economy. Everyone wants to blame someone else for the problem. So there you are! The local Chamber of Commerce is working on the problem of the traffic through the Ranchos. They will be polling the commercial people about the choice of a 4-lane road or a bypass around us. The answer will affect all of us who live here.

On March 13 there were two school functions going on at the same time. Webster Elementary School's Open House and the Sierra View Elementary School 5th and 6th grade dinner show fundraiser for next year's 6th grade science camp. Part of the school board members went to Webster

while Steve Lewis and I went to the Sierra View dinner show. The food was very good and the performance of the play "Bed Bugs" was darling. The community parents painted the backdrops for the stage and made costumes for the cute bugs. It was great to see the excellent turn out of the parents and grandparents who came to watch the students perform. Congratulations go to the teachers who put in the extra time and effort to make this play a success. These are the type of memories for the students that last a lifetime.

If you want to have a fun night come out to the Liberty High Gym to see Donkey Basketball. The Liberty Basketball Girls Team vs. the Liberty Faculty and Student Body. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the game starting at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 advanced sale or \$6 at the door. BBQ sandwiches and burritos will be sold at the game. I have my ticket - have you got yours?

On March 29 and 30 at the Ranchos Market there will be an E-waste pick-up of your old electronic items. These items will be recycled instead of being put into a landfill. This is a fundraiser for the Ranchos Kiwanis.

Last but not least, have you gotten your ticket for the March 29 Annual Foundation for Golden Valley Schools Dinner at Birdstone Winery at 6:30 p.m.? Get your tickets at the district office and the cost is only \$40. "The Night The Stars Come Out" is the night that the foundation will recognize five winners from the school district who have been chosen as employees of the year. Also, grants will be awarded to teachers for special projects in their classrooms. This is a special night. Come out and support your favorite employee.

There will be a Golden Valley School Board workshop April 10 at the Liberty High library at 4:30 p.m.



3/08

Chad Harr

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EASTER CELEBRATION

The Impact of the Resurrection

(When Jesus Rose, Everything Changed)

Sunday, March 23rd
10:00 a.m.

Nursery & Kid's Church at 10:00 a.m.

Click on "Local News" at

BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

DiCamillo. Edward is a china rabbit with furry ears, about 3 ft. tall, owned and loved by Abilene Tulane. Edward is always impeccably dressed and enjoys the comforts of an affluent home life. But Edward doesn't appreciate or reciprocate Abilene's love and ponders over why Abilene's grandmother harshly told him, "You disappoint me!" He begins to understand when he is ripped from Abilene's arms and thrown overboard from an ocean liner by some mean little boys. From the bottom of the ocean he makes his way to a fisherman's home where he becomes Susanna all dressed in little girl clothes. After that he becomes Malone, the sidekick of a tramp and his dog, then Jangles the beloved doll of poor little Sarah Ruth who is slowly dying of a lung ailment. Each new owner becomes dearer and dearer to Edward until he finally realizes what love is and it is that which makes life worth living. It is a beautiful story that can help children understand some of the complexities of life.



The best part is the ending — happy of course.

Young Adult Graphic Novel: *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

This is a wordless story that is truly a work of art. The penciled illustrations tell a detailed story of a man leaving his wife and child to arrive in a large city in a foreign country. The setting has a science fiction look to it with odd creatures, strange food, bizarre travel modes, yet the people look very much like immigrants from the past and present. Most are travel weary, confused and struggling to understand a new language and culture. Fortunately for this man he finds kindness among other immigrants — each of whom has a story to tell. Eventually the man finds a job, a place to live and sends for his wife and daughter. It is the classic immigrant story told lovingly in a new format and style and no words at all. If you have only thought of graphic novels as glorified comic books then I highly recommend this book to people of all ages.

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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3/08

LEGAL NOTICE

"MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2008."

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

3/08

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3/08



STAR Award Nominees Named



Golden Valley Unified School District held a reception in honor of staff who were nominated for the 2008 STAR Awards on Monday, March 10. A review panel selected by the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools will meet and select the winners who will be honored at the March 29 dinner at Birdstone Winery.

Again congratulations to all the nominees and also to all the nominators for taking the time to submit the applications.

Nominated Classified Instructional Staff

Mary Helen Garcia Tonya Hudson
Leanne Williams

Nominated Classified Operational Staff

Diana Forshee Ray May

Nominated Certificated/Secondary

Ruben Iniguez Emily Muccianti
Jeremy Norris Frank Panian
Michelle Stetsko Sean Tovsrud
Nicole Ullrich

Nominated Certificated/Elementary

Lori England Anita Ford
Kathy Gorman Kelly Hardcastle
Laura Mayer Crissy McElhaney
Nola Neely Kandace Osborn
Larissa Sobieralski Chelan Shepherd
Ginger Taylor

Nominated Administrators

Kevin Hatch Scott Tefft

Kindergarten Sign Up at Sierra View

Spread the word! Sierra View Elementary School will be having their annual Kindergarten Round Up to pre-register, acquaint and assess Kindergarten students for next year. This event happens on April 14 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sierra View will be scheduling appointments for Kindergarten Round Up starting March 24. To Schedule an appointment, call the Sierra View office at 645-1122 and ask for Cheri. If you have neighbors with Kindergarten-age students, help us by getting the word out about Kindergarten Registration.

The following items will be required to register your child for kindergarten:

Your child must be five by Dec. 2, 2008.

You will need to bring in his/her birth certificate to verify this.

Your child's immunization records showing that your child is up-to-date on all of his or her shots: TB Test within 1 year prior to entering school (AGVUSD Requirement), Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Proof of residency within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries: This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.

A completed registration packet.

Registration packets for Sierra View can be picked up during office hours beginning March 10. It would be helpful for you to have them already filled out and ready to bring in on April 14. In addition, if you have concerns about your medical records and would like our health clerk to verify before April 14 that your child has all of the needed shots, you can bring your immunization record into our health clerk ahead of time.

LHS Girls Take League, go to Finals

Trying to repeat its Valley Division V Championship of last year, the Liberty High Girls Soccer Team was West Sierra League Champions again in 2007 – 2008 going undefeated in league play. For the second consecutive season they made it all the way to the finals, only to fall at the hands of San Luis Obispo's Mission Prep, with a final score of 1-4.

"The stats are impressive and speak for the hard work this team has done," said

Nader Badawi, head coach of the girls' team. And he's right.

The girls scored 99 goals in all of their games last season, more than double the amount of the next closest team, Fowler, at 49. The Hawks' lead scorer, sophomore Victoria Burnell, *personally* scored more goals than Fowler with an amazing 51 goals for the season. Junior Amanda Perez came in second with 14 and Nichole Shleuter came in third with 12.



The 2007-2008 Liberty High School Girls Soccer Team, West Sierra League Champs.

Photo courtesy of Tyler Takeda

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SENIORS cont. from P. 12

remember, you need NOT be a member to participate in these cruises.

Our February Birthday and Anniversary celebration luncheon was held at Carrow's on Monday, Feb. 18. There were 25 members and guests in attendance. March's luncheon is planned for Saturday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Shanghai Chinese Cuisine, 4011 N. Blackstone in Fresno. April's celebration is planned for April 19, 11 a.m. at IHOP on Cleveland Avenue in Madera.

There will be NO BINGO held until our remodeling is complete.

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 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 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

April 5, 16th Annual Spring Home & Garden Festival, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 14-28, Panama Canal Cruise

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, no BINGO at this time.

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.

Friday, 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing Class

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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PG&E cont. from P. 3

are considered extra high-voltage lines. Before the introduction of extra high-voltage transmission lines, the primary concern about transmission lines in general was their impact on the landscape's aesthetic appearance and property values.

Perception is Reality

Appraisers can analyze and calculate the extent of monetary loss experienced by property owners in the vicinity of a 500 kV transmission line and tower by doing an analysis taking detrimental conditions into consideration. The most significant issue in addressing the impacts of a detrimental condition on residential property values is the general predisposition of many people to believe that detrimental conditions affect value.

The role of the appraiser is to examine real-estate market data to determine whether there is any evidence of effects on property value as a result of the various concerns the public may have regarding aesthetic appearance and health effects. Therefore in this case, "Perception is Reality" since the public's perception of the property value is diminished by the existence of the lines and towers.

Those properties closest to transmission towers are most affected, however the height of the towers along parts of the proposed route will affect all properties within view of the tower. Therefore more properties will be adversely affected by the visual appearance of a tower than would be affected by the power lines.

In December of 2007 a market survey regarding a 500 kV project in Virginia was prepared. It broke down perceptions regarding the 500 kV lines into four categories. Those categories and the results are as follows:

1. Perception that 500 kV HVTL (High Voltage Transmission Lines) on Property Will Affect Value:

Property Owners:	88%	believe property values affected
Real Estate Agents:	90%	believe property values affected
Mortgage Lenders:	94%	believe property values affected
Land Trusts:	86%	believe property values affected

2. Perception of Amount that 500 kV HVTL on Property Will Affect Value:

Property Owners:	85%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Real Estate Agents:	55%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Mortgage Lenders:	40%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Land Trusts:	N/A	— Insufficient responses

3. Perception that 500 kV HVTL near Property Will Affect Value:

Property Owners:	67%	believe property values affected
Real Estate Agents:	97%	believe property values affected
Mortgage Lenders:	82%	believe property values affected
Land Trusts:	83%	believe property values affected

4. Perception of Amount that 500 kV HVTL near Property Will Affect Value:

Property Owners:	73%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Real Estate Agents:	35%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Mortgage Lenders:	40%	believe property values affected by -25% or more
Land Trusts:	N/A	— Insufficient responses

These responses to the surveys suggest that buyers and sellers would give significant weight to the perceived negative affect that 500 kV lines would have on property values.

Health and Safety Concerns

With the increased use of extra high-voltage lines, the public has shown concerns over the stronger electromagnetic fields (EMF) they produce and potential health hazards from direct exposure. Some studies show increased cases of Leukemia and Cancer in individuals who live or work near high voltage lines, although there is no definitive proof that transmission lines are the cause.

But there are a number of documented concerns about the impacts of high voltage transmission lines, including:

Possible interference with cardiac pacemakers.

Audible noise created by the transmission lines (humming and crackling) that

increases during inclement weather.

Radio and television interference, most common in lower frequencies.

Computer interference with images displayed on monitors, often described as screen distortion, or "jitter."

Fuel ignition: the potential for accidental fuel ignition.

Induced Currents: small electric currents can be induced by electric fields in metallic objects close to transmission lines.

Heat and chemical reactions with air components.

What Can You Do?

A petition opposing the Madera Ranchos as the preferred site for PG&E's proposed Central Valley Clean Energy Project and 500 kV Transmission Line and Towers can be signed at the following

locations:

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
37167 Avenue 12 Ste 5C
Madera, CA 93636
(559) 645-4001

Hurst Hardware
37398 Berkshire Dr.
Madera, CA 93636

Pizza Factory
37184 Avenue 12
Madera, CA 93636

PG&E suggests you submit any concerns to them in writing at PG&E, PO Box 27918, Fresno, CA 93729-7918. If you'd like to contact them to discuss how this project may affect your property, you can reach them at (800) 422-0841.

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Madera County Schools Honor Business and School Partnerships



(from left) Sally Frazier, Ed.D., Madera County Superintendent of Schools; Scott Tefft, Sierra View Elementary School; Cindy Ceja, Vulcan Materials; Bob Sears, Vulcan Materials; Sarah Koligian, Golden Valley Unified School District; Eric Kurtz, Madera Compact Chairperson.

Vulcan Materials, Ponderosa Telephone and The Vineyard Restaurant received the Crystal Tower Award March 3 at the Fifth Annual Business and Education Shareholders' Luncheon hosted by the Madera County Compact. Businesses were recognized for their partnerships with Madera County schools in front of nearly 200 business and community leaders.

"Madera County schools are truly fortunate to have businesses that invest not only financial support, but employee time and energy in school partnerships," said Cyndy Dolph, Assistant Superintendent, Madera County Office of Education.

One of the three awards was given to Bob Sears, Central and Northern California Vice President of Vulcan Materials. Vulcan was nominated by Scott Tefft, principal of Sierra View Elementary School in the Golden Valley Unified School District.

Vulcan Materials has donated more than \$20,000 worth of base rock and top soil for projects on campus. They absorbed all costs including man hours and trucking.

Representatives from Vulcan Materials attended planning meetings for the school carnival as well as designing and donating t-shirts for the event. Vulcan Materials donated more than 600 donuts for the annual Donuts with Dad breakfast.

The Madera County Compact is a

group of business, community and education leaders working collaboratively to support efforts to improve the quality of life in Madera County.

They promote business partnerships with schools to improve the achievement levels and skills of students and prepare young people for the increasing demands of society and the workplace.

Accepting the award for Ponderosa Telephone was President Luanne Silkwood and General Manager, Matt Boos. Ponderosa Telephone was nominated by Dr. Stephen Foster, Superintendent of Chawanakee Unified School District.

Ponderosa Telephone has been involved with Chawanakee Unified School District for more than 20 years. The company donates to Spring Valley School and recently the new Minarets High School. Silkwood personally donates to fund programs as well.

For four years Ponderosa Telephone employees participated in a reading program at Spring Valley School where they read with students on their lunch break.

Chris Mariscotti, owner of The Vineyard Restaurant, accepted the other Crystal Tower Award. Mariscotti was nominated by Madera High School, School of Human Services and Ron Pisk, principal of Madera High School.

Please see HONOR on P. 23

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Community Calendar of Events

By Linda Bresee

(all events in the Madera Ranchos UNLESS stated otherwise)

Flipside Church

Every Sunday, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. meetings
Liberty High School Ave. 12 & Rd. 36.

Flipside Church after School Youth Program

MON. Thru THURS. after school to 6:00 pm
• Maywood Center, old Game Room Suite.

Flipside Church

Sunday March 23rd 10:00 a.m.

Community Easter Egg Hunt - 11:00 a.m.

Liberty High School, Ave. 12 & Rd. 36.

Webster School Kindergarten Registration

Monday March 24th begins 9:00 am

First come, first served basis for a.m. or p.m. slots.

Ranchos Library Story Time & Crafts

Tuesday March 25th 3-5 p.m. • 37167 Ave. 12, Ste. 4-C 645-1214 • Public welcome.

Spring Break over

Return to school Tuesday March 25th.

Ranchos Library Bilingual Story Time & Crafts

Wed. March 26th 2:00 pm. Every other week
• 37167 Avenue 12, Ste 4-C. Info. call 645-1214 • Everyone is welcome.

Kiwanis Meetings

Thurs. March 26th 6:30 p.m. Pizza factory • All monthly meetings are held on Thurs. at 6:30 a.m. except the last Thurs. of each month, which is held at 6:30 p.m., Pizza Factory. Public is welcome.

Coffee with Principal Pinkard Ranchos Middle School

Thurs. March 27th 8:30 a.m. • RMS is located next to Liberty High School.

Golden Valley Foundation Dinner "The Night The Stars Come Out" Adult event

Saturday March 29th 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. • Birdstone Winery. Evening attire
Info. 645-3555.

Kiwanis E-Recycling & Rummage Sale

Sat. March 29th & Sun. March 30th • 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ranchos Market, Avenue 12 • Public event.

Soccer Tryouts

March 30th and April 6th - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Competitive boys and girls soccer tryouts at Liberty High School • For more information call Mike Moineau at 355-7801 or Dana Abbott at 907-2181.

New Community Center/Library meeting

Tues. April 1st 7:00 p.m. Chamber of Commerce • 37167 Avenue 12, Ste 5 • Public welcome.

Friends of the Library meeting

Thurs. April 3rd 7:00 p.m. • Ranchos Chamber of Commerce office • Public welcome.

Golden Valley School Board meeting

Tuesday April 8th & Tuesday April 22nd 6:00 p.m. • Liberty High School Library • Avenue 12 & Rd. 36.

Ranchos Middle School Civil War Ball

Liberty High School Gym • Friday April 11th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Madera Ranchos Assembly of God Church Annual Parking Lot Sale

Saturday April 12, 7:00 a.m. to noon • 35849 Avenue 13 1/4. Individuals are invited to purchase a booth for \$25. The booth fee will go to benefit missionaries and all of the money made on the sales will be kept by the individual • Contact Gail Krob 645-0616.

Sierra View School, Kindergarten Round-Up

Call for information to register students • Monday April 14th 645-1122.

New Library Committee meeting

Wed. April 16th 7:00 p.m. • Ranchos Library Public welcome.

Kiwanis Inaugural Garden Tour

Sat. April 26th 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Information 645-7606.



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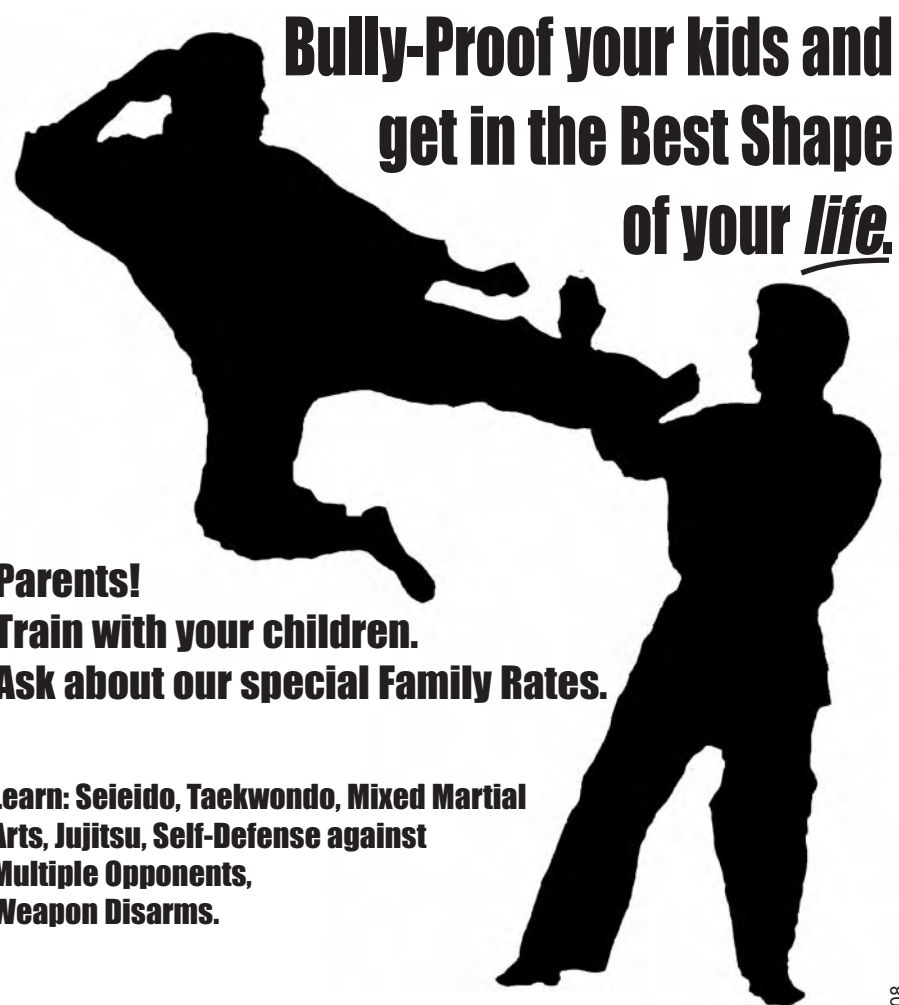
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“Kid’s Day” Best Ever for Hospital

In the early morning hours of March 10, volunteers took to the streets of the Madera Ranchos to sell a few papers and help a lot of kids. This year, they outdid themselves.

“The Kid’s Day paper sales were \$1,362.42,” said Chuck Hoover, volunteer captain at Station 19. “It’s the best day ever.”

For the 21st year, the Fresno Bee and ABC 30 have again sponsored the special day where the Fresno Bee is hawked on street corners throughout the Valley for \$1

each and then the proceeds go to Children’s Hospital Central California. In the Ranchos, local Madera County Fire Station 19 heads

up the volunteer staff that raises money from our community and are part of the nearly 4,000 volunteers throughout the Valley doing the same thing. Last year nearly \$425,000

was raised and this year the number was more than \$450,000. To date, over \$2.8 million has been raised through this event.



Kid’s Day volunteer Pam Glueck, right, sells Guss Keith a copy of the Fresno Bee, the proceeds of which will go to Valley Children’s Hospital Central California.

Photo courtesy of John Glueck

HONOR cont. from P. 21

Mariscotti has partnered with Madera High School for more than 10 years. Mariscotti hosts students to work alongside employees in his restaurant to learn the trade. He also speaks in Kampus Kettle classes, classes at Madera High preparing students for the food services industry. Each year Mariscotti meets with teacher Evelyn Frechou to discuss current culinary trends and equipment.

“This year’s recipients of the Crystal Tower Awards expressed their belief that it is the community’s responsibility to support the success of all students. And, it is the community that will ultimately benefit,” said Dolph. “The Madera County Compact shares that ideal and we hope other businesses will join us in this work through school partnerships.”

Along with businesses and educators in the community, the luncheon highlighted the exceptional student work Madera County has to offer. Many high schools in Madera County contributed to the luncheon.

As guests arrived they were saw floral arrangements created by students in Madera South High School’s Floral Program.

The event began with the National Anthem and “Seasons of Love” sung by the Chowchilla High School Choir.

Yosemite High School students,

guitarist Nathan Hinojosa and bassist Jamie McHenry played music while guests ate lunch.

Following lunch, Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County Superintendent of Schools spoke about the importance of business partnerships and highlighted the importance of preschool access for young children.

The keynote presentation, led by Eric Kurtz, General Manager of FMC and Chairperson of the Madera County Compact, highlighted how businesses are ever changing and how technology plays a pivotal role in the corporate business sector.

Madera County Teacher of the Year, Lorene Hensle, demonstrated the Promethian Board and elaborated on how changes in technology affect students as young as kindergarten. The Promethian Board is an interactive computer learning tool.

The luncheon was hosted by the Madera County Compact and sponsored by Florestone Products, Georgia-Pacific, Madera County Office of Education and State Center Community College District.

Past recipients of the Crystal Tower Award include A/Dolphin Associates, Bridge Store, Evapco West, FMC FoodTech, Kings Valley Industries, Mowers Plus, Madera Community Hospital, Pete’s Sport Shop, Sierra Telephone and S & J Lumber.

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Congratulations, Lamb. This is the week to finish your project and then bask in your well-earned approval. (And if you like, you can also say "bah" to all those detractors.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The bold Bovine could find a new opportunity too intriguing to be ignored. But don't charge into it. Go slowly so you see how things develop as you get more involved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might try to soften your stand on that important issue. A little more flexibility could actually get you what you're looking for. A new friend enters the picture midweek.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your inner voice is on the mark when it advises you to tackle that family problem now! The sooner you're able to come to terms with it, the better it will be for everyone.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Someone reveals important news about a longtime associate. But before you decide how to deal with this information, make sure it's reliable, and not simply self-serving.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Some intensive soul-searching early in the week can help you reach a decision by week's end that should please both you and the other person involved. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The possibility of a career change is intriguing. Learn more about what it can offer and what it cannot. Weigh everything carefully. And ask questions.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Work is your priority this week as you try to make up for lost time. Expect help from someone who cares about you. Things take a welcome turn by the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A health problem causes some anxiety early in the week. But prompt medical attention soon eases everyone's concerns. Enjoy an arts-filled weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As much as you might resent it, a changing situation could require you to adjust your plans accordingly. The good news: An associate agrees to cooperate.

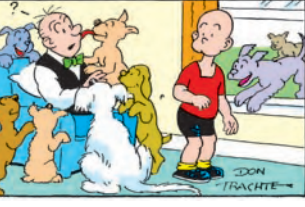
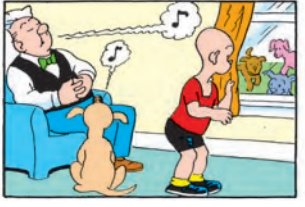
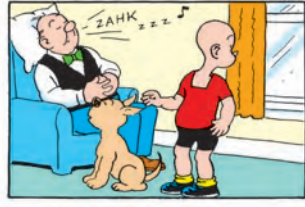
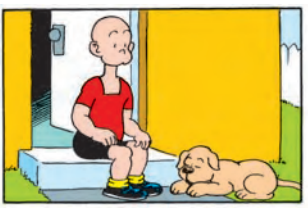
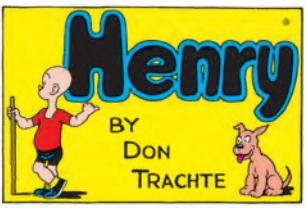
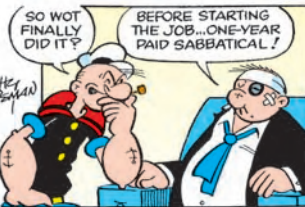
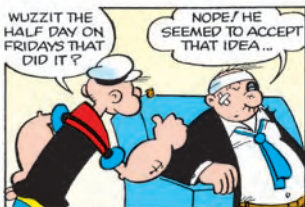
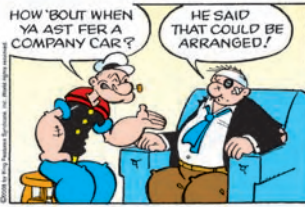
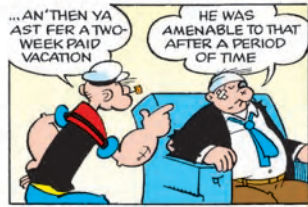
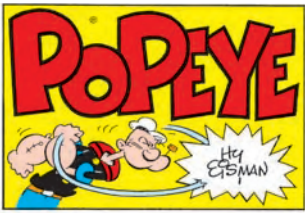
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) That old problem is finally resolved, just in time for you to take on a new work-related project. This one could be the super door-opener you've been looking for.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The early part of the week presents some difficult hurdles. But once you get over them, you can start to focus on matters that are more important to you.

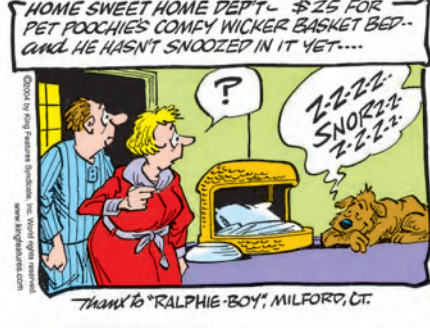
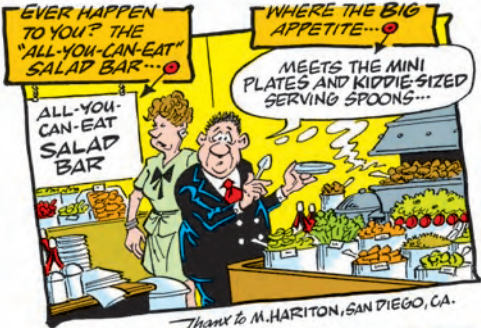
Born this Week

You are respected for your honesty and your dedication to doing the right thing, no matter how difficult that might be.

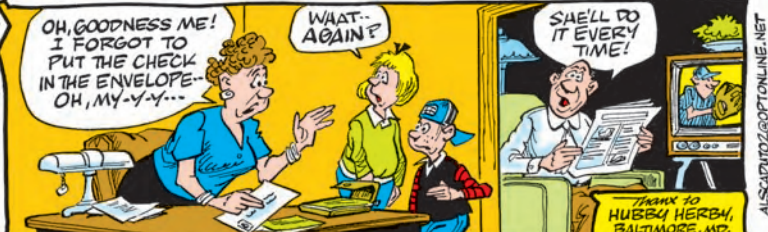
FUN PAGES



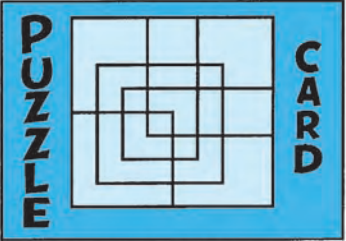
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



JEVER NOTICE?
IT'S ONLY AFTER YOU'VE STAMPED AND SEALED THE ENVELOPE... THAT YOU NOTICE...



BY AL SCADUTO

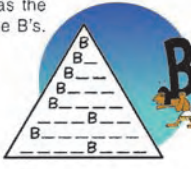


PUZZLE CARD
YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES to count all of the squares in the above drawing
Answer: 17 squares

SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by inserting three plus signs and one minus sign between the numbers:
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 = 100
Answer: $98 - 12 + 3 + 54 + 75 - 98 = 100$

THE 'B' PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the B's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Blood type (given).
2. To exist.
3. A wager.
4. To defeat.
5. A whining complaint.
6. Home to animals.
7. Shattered apart.
8. Type of trucks.



Answers: The words are b, be, bet, beat, beat, blasted, halibuts.

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● — STACK(S)

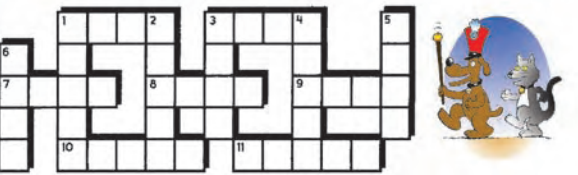
K	K	H	E	B	Y	W	T	R	O	L	J	D	G	E
E	K	A	C	N	A	P	B	Y	W	E	N	U	E	R
S	E	N	O	W	L	B	P	C	A	W	K	N	K	
I	G	D	N	B	Z	I	X	N	S	H	O	R	T	V
S	Q	O	T	M	K	B	E	K	I	M	D	P	N	Y
G	E	C	A	A	Y	R	C	O	S	W	H	U	E	E
S	Q	P	I	N	E	A	L	O	J	H	S	F	V	N
E	C	A	N	F	T	R	E	B	O	R	U	Y	X	M
V	U	S	E	S	Q	Y	P	N	M	Y	P	K	J	I
H	F	R	R	E	I	F	I	L	P	M	A	E	C	H
B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

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

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Amplifier | Container | Pancake | Short |
| Blow one's | Hay | Push-down | Stacks and |
| Book | Library | Reference | Vent |
| Chimney | Open | Robert | |

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Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend



A PET PARADE PUZZLE!
Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are words pertaining to cats and dogs that you will need to complete the puzzle, using the trial-and-error method. Try to finish before chow time!

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| 4-letter words | 5-letter words | | |
| BRED | SHED | FLEAS | |
| BULL | SHOW | LEASH | |
| HEEL | TAIL | LITHE | |
| OBEY | YELP | SMELL | WOOFS |

Answers: (Across) 1. Show, 3. Bull, 7. Heel, 8. Obeys, 9. Tail, 10. Leash, 11. Fleas (Down) 1. Smell, 2. Woofs, 3. Bred, 4. Lites, 5. Yelps, 6. Shed

TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: Who wrote a series of pamphlets during and after the Revolutionary War that was titled "The American Crisis"?
2. MOVIES: Where does the film "Casablanca" take place?
3. MEDICAL: What disease also has been known as "the great pox"?
4. LITERATURE: The novel "The Murder at the Vicarage" introduced which mystery detective?
5. SCIENCE: What are ocean tides called at their lowest levels?
6. U.S. STATES: What is Hawaii's state bird?
7. GAMES: How many pieces does each backgammon player receive at the start?
8. MYTHOLOGY: What was the name of the whirlpool that swallowed ships whole in "The Odyssey"?
9. BIBLE: What was the name of Moses' wife?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Scotland?

Answers

1. Thomas Paine
2. Morocco
3. Syphilis
4. Miss Marple, by Agatha Christie
5. Neap tides
6. The nene or Hawaiian goose
7. 15
8. Charlydis
9. Zipporah
10. Edinburgh

Click on "Local News" at

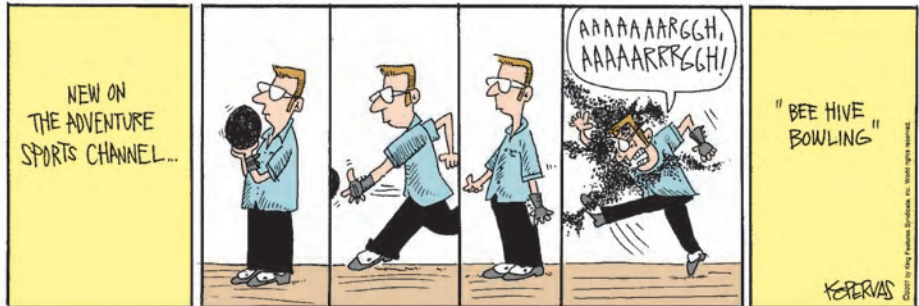
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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JERRY CRAFT



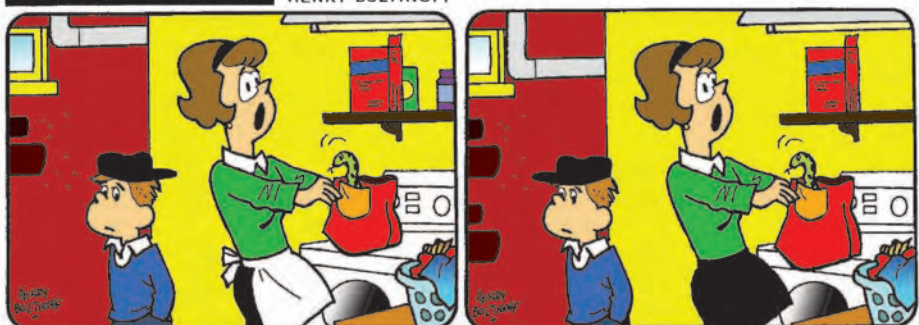
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



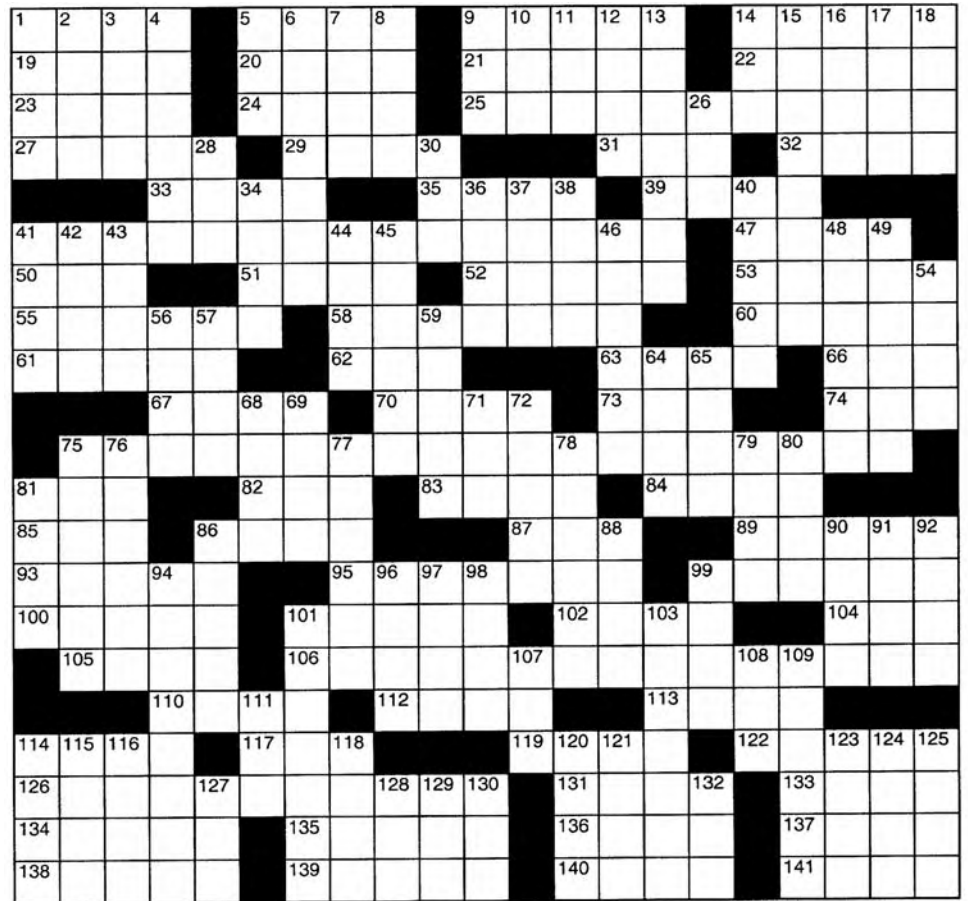
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



Differences: 1. Apron is missing. 2. Boy's cap is turned forward. 3. Shorts are longer. 4. Items are missing from shelf. 5. There are more wall bricks. 6. Pipe is lower on wall.

Super Crossword



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ACROSS

- 1 Stromboli spew
- 5 "Waterloo" rockers
- 9 Envelops
- 14 Gaiters
- 19 Mideastern muck-a-muck
- 20 Spooky Stoker
- 21 Disprove
- 22 Let
- 23 General Bradley
- 24 Rustic tower
- 25 Start of a remark by 126 Across
- 27 Athenian sage
- 29 Indian sectarian
- 31 Airport abbr.
- 32 Good-sized
- 33 Author Jessamyn
- 35 With 81 Down, '44 chemistry Nobelist
- 39 Hatch's home
- 41 Part 2 of remark
- 47 TV's "The Love —"
- 50 Santa —, CA
- 51 "Oh, woe!"
- 52 TV exec Arledge
- 53 Citified
- 55 Like a dachshund
- 58 Cozy cloth
- 60 Marten
- 61 — bear
- 62 Asian holiday
- 63 Skilled
- 66 Scottsboro's st.
- 67 Rubberneck
- 70 Morlocks' prey
- 73 Mexican Mrs.
- 74 Point
- 75 Part 3 of remark
- 81 Crone
- 82 R-V hookup
- 83 Head for the clouds
- 84 Actress
- 85 Khan opener?
- 86 ER
- 87 Minify a midi, maybe?
- 89 Top-drawer
- 93 Feeling
- 95 Like a gymnast
- 99 5 Across' home
- 100 Michael of "Dynasty"
- 101 Schell or Shriver
- 102 European capital
- 104 Foster's "— Dog Tray"
- 105 Half-baked?
- 106 End of remark
- 110 McGregor of "Train-spotting"
- 112 Creme — creme
- 113 Bathday cake?
- 114 — League
- 117 Fond du —, WI
- 119 Metric measure
- 122 Pulsate
- 126 Speaker of remark
- 131 Writer
- 132 Rendell
- 133 Autumn implement
- 134 Boredom
- 135 Draw forth
- 136 Exercise aftermath
- 137 Brute
- 138 Prepares cherries
- 139 Hazardous gas
- 140 — tetra
- 141 Tide type
- 5 Pecs' partners
- 6 "The — Stomp" ('61 hit)
- 7 Part of Indonesia
- 8 Out of control
- 9 Twisted
- 10 Rock's — Speedwagon
- 11 — Dhabi
- 12 Purple hue
- 13 Lawyer's concern
- 14 Bando of baseball
- 15 Excess
- 16 Jai —
- 17 Haynes or Rundgren
- 18 Fluctuate
- 26 "Unforgettable" name
- 28 Born
- 30 Torrid
- 34 Corset part
- 36 Aquatic bird
- 37 '82 Jeff Bridges film
- 38 Hautboy
- 40 Liplash?
- 41 Door hardware
- 42 In the know
- 43 Julia of "Havana"
- 44 Float vessel
- 45 In the arms of Morpheus
- 46 Loosen the ropes
- 48 Conductor Claudio
- 49 Fat stuff
- 54 Shipshape
- 56 Unfashionable eyewear?
- 57 Wild child
- 59 Reference volume
- 64 Soft cheese
- 65 Arrive at Kennedy
- 68 "Yo!" at the library
- 69 Singer James
- 71 Lennon's lady
- 72 "My Own Private —" ('91 film)
- 75 Endangered feline
- 76 Kampala's country
- 77 Sheriff's quarry
- 78 Aftershock
- 79 Had no doubts
- 80 Patriot Nathan
- 81 See
- 85 Across
- 86 Creature for taming?
- 88 Kid's creation?
- 90 Matinee —
- 91 Reveal
- 92 They may be split
- 94 It's all in your head
- 96 Angered
- 97 Location
- 98 Comic Mort
- 99 Mediocre
- 101 Superintendent
- 103 Basutoland, today
- 107 Acorn, eventually
- 108 Welcome item?
- 109 "Silkwood" screenwriter
- 111 Flagon filler
- 114 Very long time
- 115 Flat rate
- 116 Excellent
- 118 Musical finale
- 120 Where to speak Farsi
- 121 Last name in publishing
- 123 Frenzy
- 124 Creole veggie
- 125 Freeway sound
- 127 "Platoon" extras
- 128 "Father Knows Best" kid
- 129 Author Umberto
- 130 Actor
- 132 Lady lobster

FUN PAGES

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Delano perhaps has the most prestigious name in what might have been Jake Valley, named for Columbus Delano, secretary of state when the railroad reached there in 1873. Earlimart of course was named for early settler Earl I. Mart. Actually I put you on there. Earlimart was named by the town's promoters to give prospective farmers the impression that crops matured as early there as they did in the Imperial Valley, thus giving them an edge on marketing in the central and northern part of the state.

Pixley was named in the 1880s for Frank Pixley, deceased, founder and editor of the San Francisco Argonaut, a rather fiery fellow who predicted a great agricultural future for the valley.

All right, moving right along, Tipton, was the "tiptown" the railroad reached before construction began to the south. Traver owes its name to Sacramento land and canal developer Charles Traver. Kingsburg for its proximity to the Kings River. Selma is probably for Selma Michelson Kingsbury, wife of a Central Pacific Railroad official. Fowler is for early day State Senator Thomas Fowler. Malaga is for the grape and Calwa is for the California Water Company. Fresno is named

after the ash tree. When lumber interests in the Sierra built a flume to the railroad siding in 1876, it chose the Spanish word for wood as an appropriate name for the new town of Madera.

We are now coursing past Antilocapra Americana, (pronghorn antelope) or berrendo, Spanish for Antelope. About 75 California places existed with that name in bygone times, but only two survive: Berendo, a railroad station in Los Angeles County, and what's left of old Berenda in Madera County.

Off to our right a few miles up Freeway 99 is Fairmead, which is probably as one might guess, built "o'er the mead," as

William Blake referred to a meadow in his poem, "The Lamb," 200 years ago, although as far as I can determine he was not referring to this particular Madera County village.

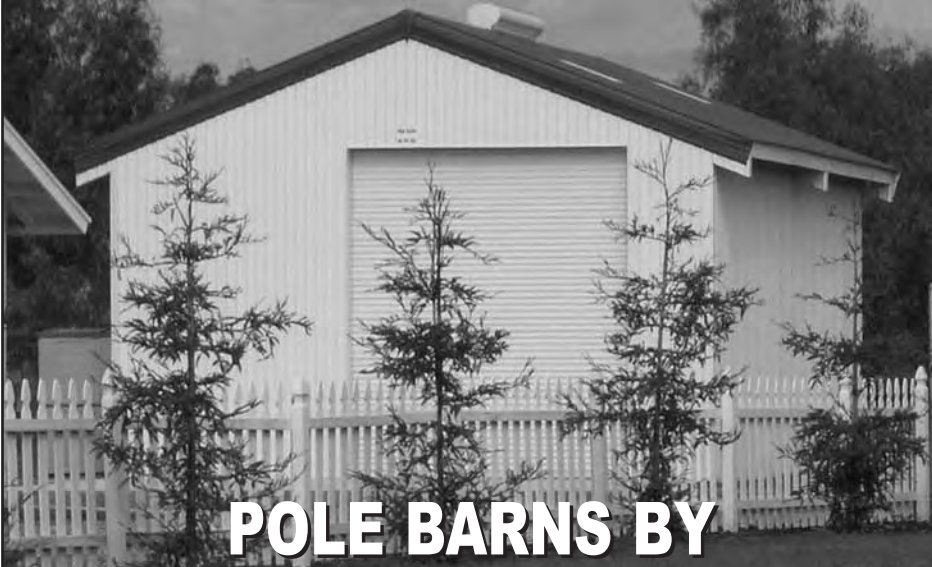
Our journey along Freeway 99 concludes today as we tool past fast-growing Rancheria de los Chauciles (or Chausila if you'd rather) as it was known in the 1820s and 30s. Today we call it Chowchilla. Do not for a minute underrate Chowchilla because it probably has more women per man than any city in these United States ... although if you are looking for a new sweetie, you'll have to wait until she's done her penance.

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FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD - REDUCED - @ 5946 E. McKenzie, Fresno. 3BD/2BA in Clovis schools. Owners motivated - make offer. \$220,000.

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For Rent

For Rent - Office for rent on Avenue 12. 400 sq. ft. Utilities paid. \$500 per month. Call 999-9005.

For Rent - House for rent on Avenue 12. 2,200 sq. ft. \$1,500 per month. Call 999-9005.

For Sale

For Sale - Personalized performance for your P.C. E-Machines brand pre-modded side panel & mod kit. Modware: 30 cases; 10 per case. Total 300 units. All with blue neon glow. All kits are complete. All kits are brand new. \$15 each - will negotiate for large quantity, or per case. Call 232-1747.

For Sale - Black Sonar drum set. 2003 w/crash & ride cymbals - \$300. Like new **Ride Snowboard** 143 cm w/bindings, bag, & helmet - \$200. **TSA weight bench** excel. cond. - \$50. Days 559-645-0679 or eves. 232-4801.

For Sale - Horses AQHA mares in foal, will only produce Palomino or buckskin. Also for sale, Perlino stallion. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

For Sale - Pool Table 2008. Never used in crate. 8' Professional, leather pockets. 1" slate. Cost \$3,500, sacrifice \$975. Can deliver. Call 559-230-0486.

For Sale - 2008 Hot Tub. Brand new! Loaded, ozonator, therapy seats, full warranty. Sacrifice \$2,475. Can deliver. Call 559-360-9047.

For Sale - Bedroom Set. Solid wood. Chest, dresser/mirror, nightstand, sleigh bed. New in boxes. All dovetailed! Cost \$8K sacrifice \$1,875. Call 559-438-0248.

For Sale - Queen PILLOWTOP mattress/box. Cost \$600 sacrifice \$195. Brand new with warranty. King cost \$700 sacrifice \$295. Call 559-447-5066.

For Sale - \$295 all new King PILLOWTOP mattress/box. Never used w/warranty. Cost \$700 sacrifice \$295. Call 559-438-0248.

For Sale - Dining Room Set - Beautiful solid cherrywood double pedestal table w/2 leaves, 6 chairs, 4-door china cabinet w/touch lighting. Cost \$8,000 sacrifice \$1,950. Matching buffet \$450. Call 559-277-2511.

For Sale - Pool - 13 1/2' x 17 1/2' - 2006 above ground pool - Holds 8,500 gallons. Freestanding, does not need liner. Comes w/pump, filter, ladder, bottom sweeper. Asking \$4,000. Contact 645-6044 or 706-5778.

For Sale - Kirby vacuum with rug shampoo attachment, asking \$400. Contact 645-6044 or 706-5778.

For Sale - Border Collie Puppies. Working Parents. Good homes only! \$200 each. Call 645-0021.

For Sale - 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser 4 x 4 (Estate Sale). Only 1,200 miles. Extras. \$25,000. Call 645-5248.

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.

Housecleaning

Jeannie's Housecleaning - Ranchos area. Business owner over 10 years. Reasonable rates, good references. Will do blinds, fans and laundry. Fast and thorough. Call 801-2391 or 645-4117.

Investment & Loans

Money To Loan Service - Oro Financial. Able to loan today. Credit not a problem. Cash for trust deeds. Mobile home on land. Call 438-9999.

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.

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 work, lot discing, mowing and scraping. Call Thomas at 645-6068.

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

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.

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.

	÷		+		10
x		x		+	
	x		-		16
-		+		+	
	x		+		17
10		10		24	

1 2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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A Ranchos Citizen's Group
OPPOSING

PG & E's Plan to Run
500 kV Power Lines
Through the Heart
of the Ranchos

IS BEING FORMED!

A petition will be circulated to
oppose placing these additional
power lines in the Ranchos.

Petition Sign-Up Sheets
will be Available at:

Hurst Hardware
Pizza Factory
Golden Valley
Chamber of
Commerce

for complete information call **559-363-9095**

or email us at **info@ranchoscommunity.com**