

The Ranchos Independent



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Ranchos driver Matt Miller tears up the 1/4 mile track at the 51st Annual March Meet in Bakersfield in a dragster owned by Tom and Jan Treleven of the Madera Ranchos.

RANCHOS RAPID TRANSIT

Photo courtesy of Jere Miller

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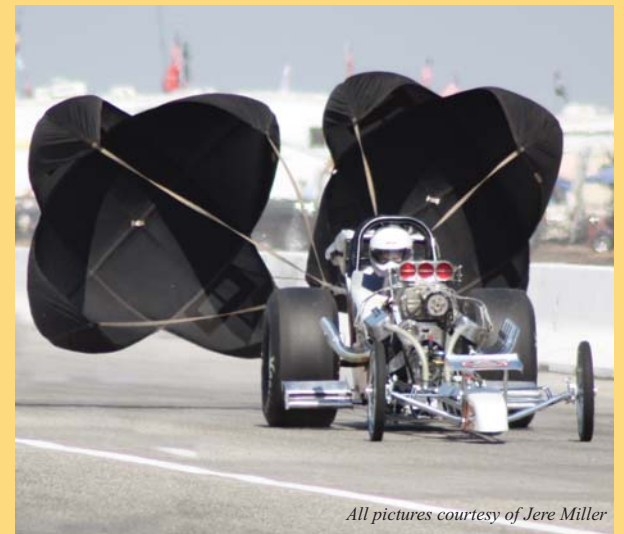
Seeing the World 7 Seconds at a Time at 191 Miles Per Hour



Driver Matt Miller inspects the About Time dragster that will soon be hurtling him at over 190 miles per hour in the span of just a quarter of a mile at the Famoso Dragstrip in Bakersfield.



In the pit area, Miller (left) and one of his crew members fine tune the About Time dragster that Madera Ranchos owners Tom and Jan Treleaven have resurrected for the Nostalgia Drag circuit.



All pictures courtesy of Jere Miller

The perfect end to a perfect race for Miller and the Treleavens is deploying the twin parachutes just beyond the finish line to bring the fire-breathing dragster to a safe conclusion.

Ranchos Family, Tom and Jan Treleaven, Find a Perfect Fit for their Blown Alcohol Nostalgia Eliminator Dragster with Local Driver, Matt Miller

By Christi McKinney and Randy Bailey

The sound is deafening. The pulsating of the alcohol-blown big block Chevy as it revs can be felt in the stands 40 feet away, but 34-year-old Matt Miller is only inches from the massive engine as he settles down into the cockpit of About Time, the dragster that he's about to catapult from zero to 190 miles per hour in a little over seven seconds.

He watches the "Christmas Tree" lights flash from yellow to green and there is an instantaneous bellow of power as he puts the throttle wide open and tears off

down the 1,320 feet of the Auto Club Famoso Raceway in Bakersfield this brisk March morning.

At the other end of the dragstrip just 7.663 seconds later, Miller pulls the ripcord for his twin parachutes and the deceleration forces slam his body everywhere the seatbelt harness touches.

It's been another good run.

Ranchos Owners

Long-time Ranchos residents, and passionate racing enthusiasts, Tom and Jan Treleaven are the proud owners of the About Time dragster.

"Drag racing is about time and it's about time to go drag racing!" said Tom with an exuberance that is infectious as he explains the dragster's name. The Treleavens both grew up with a love and passion for the sport of drag racing. Tom had been a racing fan for 25 years when he was recruited to help neighbor Wayne Stoeckel, a nationally known funny car drag racer, start one of his cars. He watched the arch of the fuel and heard the roar of the engine and knew at that moment that it was in his blood and he wanted to do it again. At the same time, wife Jan recalled fond memories of grow-

ing up working underneath a car with her father.

They are determined to share their passion with their children and grandchildren.

"The racing community is a giant family," Tom said. "Friendly competitors who will jump at the chance to help you with your car or with spare parts and who will shake your hand when you win against them."

Together, they think it's about time Madera had a dragstrip.

Please see **DRAG** on P. 22

Israeli Water Experts Travel to the Ranchos To Share Water Ideas



Photo courtesy of Christopher Foster

A prestigious delegation of top Israeli water scientists visited the Madera Ranchos on March 19 to conduct a Town Hall meeting and share ideas about water management and offer possible solutions to some of the Ranchos' water issues.

By Randy Bailey

How do you turn a desert into a paradise? How do you take inhospitable land and turn it into an agricultural breadbasket? The key is water. But what do you do when the area you live in receives less than 3 inches of rain per year and has precious few other sources of fresh water?

Call in the Israelis.

On Thursday, March 19 at the Liberty High School theater, that's exactly what a group of local sponsors did. The California Institute of Water at Fresno State, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, the law firm of Baker, Manock and Jensen, and Pegasus and Greenleaf Orchards invited six of Israel's top-ranking water experts to share the obstacles they have overcome and how their solutions might be applicable to the Ranchos.

Rafi Ifergen, vice president of engineering and technology for Mekorot, Israel's national water company, began the discussion for the Israelis. "The stress in Israel is different [than in the United States]. The water owned is not by individuals but by the government," he said, and the reasons are understandable. Israel naturally produces only 1/3 of the water the nation needs. As a result, they

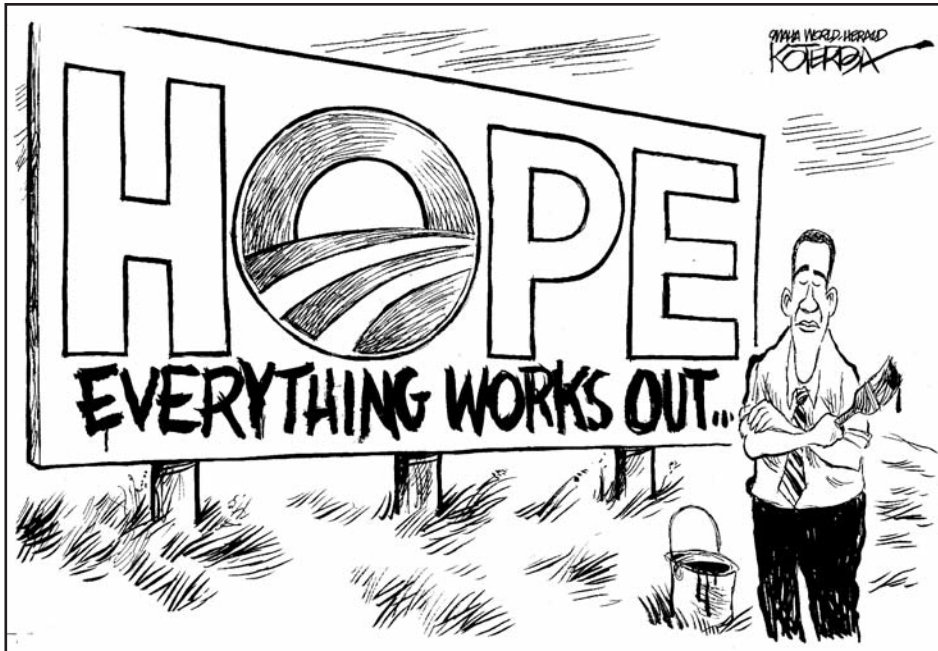
have to control what water they do have and look for creative sources of water for a thirsty nation.

Those creative solutions include basic water conservation but go much further in the form of desalination projects, water reuse and recharge techniques.

"We recharge sewage in huge amounts," said Avi Megemi, head of Mekorot's water resources department. "It's harmless, but we don't recommend drinking it." The system in Israel of using marginal or saline water and blending it with clean water is not allowed in the U.S., but it could be used for irrigation purposes.

"Desalination can be used on saline water in an area, not only water from the ocean," said Menaheim Priel, Mekorot's director of desalination. Israel has been at the forefront of desalination for the last 40 years, first on seawater and now on brackish wells from areas with high salinity in the soil.

The bottom line was made quite clearly by local grower and one of the sponsors of the event, Igal Treibatch. "Whatever the cost is today it will be cheap compared to the cost 20 to 30 years from now. We're not in critical mass yet, but Israel's been there for the last 50 years."



Editorial

Drill Here, Drill Now ... Aww, Forget It

By Randy Bailey

The recent *Water Without Borders* Town Hall meeting that was held at the Liberty High School theater was an eye opener. More than that it was a thought provoker. When you consider what the Israelis have had to deal with just to make their homeland liveable it really makes you thankful for what we've got here.

But what it really makes you realize is that the writing is on the wall. We're dropping our water level here in the Ranchos at a rate of 5 feet per year, the highest in Madera County. Igal Treibatch, a local grower and one of the sponsors of the Town Hall, said it so succinctly at the end of the event. "Whatever the cost is today it will be cheap compared to the cost 20 to 30 years from now. We're not in critical mass yet, but Israel's been there for the last 50 years."

As I sat in the audience and thought about the impact all of the information was having on me, I started to mind wander and began to think about a subject that has completely fallen off of everyone's radar screen: Gasoline.

Is it just me or was it not all that long ago that gas was inching up toward \$5 a gallon ... and beyond? Of course there were the mind-numbed robots on the Left who wanted congressional hearings and investigations into price gouging and blah,

blah, blah. On the Right we had former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, actually making sense about the situation. His plan was "Drill here, drill now, save money." Possessing an understanding of economics that eludes the Left, Newt grasped that supply and demand dictate the market. Our gas prices now are relatively low because the demand has lessened as the supply has increased.

But that blessed relief at the pump is going to be our undoing. Since gas prices have dropped to a "reasonable" \$2 per gallon, we act like it's 1965 all over again and gas is 29 cents a gallon. We're acting like there's no gas problem anywhere on the horizon and happy days are here again.

I just did an editorial for Fresno Magazine where I talked about environmental issues from a Conservative perspective and one of the examples I gave involved the Green River oil shale area covering parts of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. Estimates of the world's known petroleum reserves equal about 1.3 trillion barrels worldwide so take a guess how much is conservatively estimated to be in oil shale at Green River? Try 2 trillion barrels.

Yeah, you read that right.

In one area of our country there's estimated to be more potential oil reserves than in all the rest of the world right now. And what do we do? Nothing! We're thankful to get gas for \$2 a gallon and when it comes to tomorrow we're all from the Scarlett O'Hara school of thought: "Fiddle dee dee ... I'll worry about that tomorrow!"

When the Republicans were talking about drilling at ANWR and other key locations the standard response was always the same: "If you drill today it will be 10 years before we see any of that oil!"

Well what will it be if we DON'T?

And that brought me back to the water meeting at Liberty High and I realized I was seeing the same mentality at play.

"The water right now is 'OK.'"

"Sure, my neighbor's well went dry ... but mine's good."

"I heard the folks in Rolling Hills had some problems with their water but that doesn't affect me."

One of the speakers at the water Town Hall said, "Israel has always operated from scarcity -- we went from abundance to scarcity."

And not even that appears to be enough to scare us into action at either the gas tank or the water tank.

The Ranchos Independent

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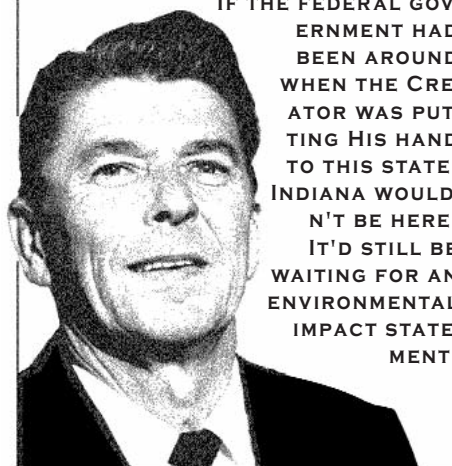
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THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AROUND WHEN THE CREATOR WAS PUTTING HIS HAND TO THIS STATE, INDIANA WOULDN'T BE HERE. IT'D STILL BE WAITING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

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

Letters

Dear Editor:

In February, the cultic adherents of Darwinism (the spawn of a biological theory that all life descended from a common ancestor – not necessarily a monkey) celebrated Charles Darwin's 200th birthday with celebrations and media events rivaling the devotion of Wiccans at Halloween. Using equivocation and heavy handed, authoritative esotericism under the guise of "objective science," Darwinists are actively seeking to increase their stranglehold on research funding, the publishing and review of alternative theories, education and even free speech.

Charlie Darwin theorized that random mutations of cells during replication, chance and the need of organisms to survive, were sufficient forces over long periods of time to produce all the highly complex spectrum of life we observe around us. While absurd at face value, it should be pointed out that poor Darwin lived at a time that it was believed that life could spontaneously begin in a bucket of mud and the smallest object observable was about

the size of a single human cell. So, we should not be too hard on Charlie.

More importantly, he lived before the four real physical forces that control the known universe and life were identified – gravity, electricity/magnetism, the force that holds atoms together and the force that allows radioactivity. Perhaps Charlie never studied physics and could not do the math, making biology a logical life choice as it is one of the lesser sciences precisely because there is no critical math involved. If he had done his studies properly, he would have known the real forces of nature are not sufficient to spontaneously create life, nor cause it gradually to increase in complexity under any purely natural circumstances.

Admittedly, Charlie expressly avoided theorizing on the first life creation event for the fundamental reason that he had no idea. Not much has changed in 150 years: Darwinists avoid discussion of life origins like vampires avoid daylight – they still have no clue. Darwin's famous book, *On the*

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7



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THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



The D.O.G. is back on the trail, at least for now.

For those of you that missed your D.O.G. report fix, I am sorry for the break in service. I had a bit of a setback in one of my little battles and needed some time to lick my wounds and recover. I wasn't sure about taking the time off until my computer crashed taking much of my data and all of your email addresses with it. That was the final straw. Pam and I packed the old motor home and headed for Death Valley country to recharge my old batteries and take a break.

So much for excuses – time to get on with participating in this government of ours.

I missed the last couple of meetings but it seems our Board came to its senses and dropped the idea of changing the Auditor Controller from an elected position to an appointed one. I am sure lots of other important stuff got done but I can't say for sure.

March 17's Board meeting was interesting – The consent calendar as usual had some hidden tidbits that deserved more recognition, the most interesting of them was item "O."

Item "O" – adopted the County capital improvement plan for the next five years. So far it looks like hundreds of millions in "planned" spending but not much is set in stone. It is on the Board of Supervisors' Website as backup and consists of about 100 pages. Either read it and comment to you representative or live with all that is there.

Item "6" – A presentation by the Madera County Workforce Investment Board. It is mindboggling how this program actually got started! It makes sense and not many government programs do. It seems to be successfully taking at-risk kids and young adults and giving them the skills they will need to become productive members of society instead of being a drain.

Item "7" – Back to reality! Now this is a government program that is performing at a level more like what we have come to expect. The idea was to have the Board form a committee to throw around the idea of implementing lots of new pet-limiting ordinances. Where the old train seemed to fall off of the tracks was the comments about not enforcing the regulations already on the books. Supervisor Bigelow asked about the committee already in place that had, through the board, given staff direction to deal with it.

Problem one – Staff dropped the ball.

Problem two – The Board, as usual, gave direction to do something and then when nothing happened they didn't notice.

Item "10" – Someone's flight of fantasy. Whoever wrote it must have come onboard after all of the arguments about how the "Water ADVISORY Commission" is and always will be limited to an advisory role.

Item "12" – Waive all fees and costs related to the Fossil Discovery Center. Not a bad idea but at a time when it is the goal of County agencies to pass along all costs to applicants using county services, who will pick up the slack for RMA expenses waived? Will it fall to the general fund and show RMA in the red or will it just be spread out and padded onto the cost of getting a building permit? If we are going to pass along all actual costs to someone building a house let's make sure the charges are actually caused by that builder.

I am confused about when it was presented, but Ray Beach gave the Board a presentation and some backup documents that I am hoping will be posted with the archived agenda on the County site. I have a copy of it but my little brain has a hard time following numbers this large. This is the longest and largest pie-in-the-sky list I have seen in my time watching our government.

It seems that the games have begun. As I understand how things are being set up, to be in line for any of the federal bailout billions you need to be put on a "LIST." To be on the list you need to have submitted one of

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 24

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3/09

Say you saw it in the *Ranchos Independent*

The Stock Report

Spring Has Sprung All Over GVUSD

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
 Spring has sprung in all of its glory! I have never seen the blossoms all come out at once like they did this year. We have our own blossom trail in the Ranchos. I like the extra hour of light since the daylight savings time change but it is harder to get up in the dark morning.

Randy Bailey and crew are working hard to put all of the pieces together for the Sober Grad Night after the senior graduation on June 4. The celebration for Liberty High students doesn't just happen; it takes a lot of planning, lots of people willing to work and money to make it special for the kids. I understand that there will be a car given away to some lucky senior this year. Randy and Don Foster are selling coupon books for \$20. These will help to cover some of the cost of Sober Grad. Stop by the Ranchos Independent office and get your coupon book and support the Liberty High senior class Sober Grad.

I went to the school board meeting the other night. Just because I am off of the school board doesn't mean that I don't want to know what is going on in our Golden Valley Schools. Mrs. Livengood, the principal of Liberty High, reported at the board meeting that Liberty High had just been the host to a group of California Distinguished School's people and that Liberty passed with flying colors. Now the Liberty application goes to Sacramento to the desk of the California State Superintendent, Jack O'Connell.

The principal of Liberty High reported at the board meeting that Liberty High had just been the host to a group of California Distinguished School's people and that Liberty passed with flying colors. Now the Liberty application goes to Sacramento to the desk of the California State Superintendent, Jack O'Connell.

Mrs. Livengood brought three Liberty High girls and their choir teacher Larissa Sobieralski to sing for the school board. They were very good.

I went to visit Principal Shane Pinkard at Ranchos Middle School a couple of weeks ago and he also had just passed a visit from a group of people from California Distinguished School. Shane and his teachers and students had positive feedback from this group. The application is also on the desk of Jack O'Connell. There are many positive

things going on at our schools. Wouldn't it be wonderful for the teachers, students and parents if we became a California Distinguished School District with all of our schools being recognized as such? Don't forget our elementary schools have already received this honor.

Don't forget that spring break is coming up on April 6 through 13. We are on the countdown now. Just two more months and it will be time for another Liberty High graduation. Just remember that if you have one foot in yesterday and one foot in tomorrow, you're missing today – so keep your goals straight.

On Monday, March 16, there was a celebration in which 40 Golden Valley employees were honored for the work they have done during the 2008/09 school year. From this group one class-

ified, one certificated and one administrator will be selected to represent GVUSD at the Madera County Excellence in Education VIP reception and awards ceremony. The nominees and finalists from the various Madera school districts in the county will compete. The 2009 teacher, administrator and employee of the year will be recognized at that time. Madera County Office of Education and the Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) put on this excellent event.

The Ranchos Hills Seniors will be having their annual Home and Garden Festival on Saturday, April 4. The fun starts at 6 to 8 a.m. with biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, coffee and more. The sale starts at 8 a.m. and goes to 2 p.m. There will be many vendors present plus the Ranchos Hills/Seniors Treasure House, boutique, home baked goods, fresh home grown produce and lots of trees, shrubs and bedding flowers in the garden area. Come enjoy the day with the Ranchos Seniors, the most active bunch of seniors you have ever met.

April Golden Valley school board meetings will be held on April 14 and 28 at Liberty library at 6 p.m. This is a busy time of the year for your school board. Come out and see what is going on.

Villines Brings Town Hall to Ranchos, Targets Budget



Assembly Republican leader Mike Villines brought the topic of the recently passed state budget to a Town Hall meeting at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.



Villines assembled a panel of local people to talk about how the newly passed budget affected them and the businesses they represented.



It was a full room at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center for the Villines Town Hall meeting, attended by approximately 50 question-asking local residents.

By Randy Bailey

Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines came to the Ranchos on Saturday, March 21 to conduct a Town Hall meeting to explain the ramifications of the passed California state budget and to explain why he voted for it.

“While the budget contained many difficult choices and asks each of us to sacrifice to save California from insolvency, I

believe it was the fiscally-responsible way to help California address its \$41 billion budget crisis, get taxpayers their long overdue state tax refunds and fix a broken system so this never happens again,” Villines said.

Presenting the budget as a “lesser of two evils,” Villines showed the budget that the Democrat-controlled Assembly and Senate wanted to pass and then showed the advantages of the passed budget, although

it included tax increases, anathema to most Republicans and all Conservatives.

Villines showed that the passed budget includes \$15 billion in permanent cuts to programs while the other budget only allowed for \$7 billion in cuts to reduce the size of government. There was also a spending limit to force the Legislature to live within its means. It also rejects plans

Please see **BUDGET** on P. 12

Origin of Species, or Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life naively – or deceptively – does not seriously address the first event. This fact is conveniently left out of readings and teachings on the theory of evolution all the while it is being praised as “... the best theory science has developed.”

One advantage of this supercomputing age is the ability to simulate and calculate probabilities for life generation scenarios. Computer simulation has determined there is zero possibility (in physics any probability less than 1 in 10 followed by 100 zeros equals zero possibility) that the random interaction of the atoms that comprise organic compounds could self-assemble to produce even the simplest non-replicating organic structures, let alone a repairable, reproducing organism, in 15 trillion years (the universe is about 1000 times younger). The earliest known life is estimated to be only 3.7 billion years old and complex life started less than 550 million years ago.

Poor Charlie also did not know about DNA, the self-replicating organic structure common to all life that is responsible for life’s wide diversity. Because it is the most complexly encoded information system in the known universe, the discovery of DNA should have killed the religion of Charlie decades ago. Charlie based his theory of evolution on the unguided process of natural selection – selecting the stronger/the fitter and discarding the weaker. Problem is, natural selection requires the replication of cells, in order to select the fitter candidate. But there is no replication without DNA (conjecture that the simpler RNA is sufficient is wishful thinking). But there is no DNA without proteins and there are no proteins without DNA. So, which came first, the DNA or the precisely aligned multiple hoards of proteins that comprise DNA? It is the splendor and elegance of DESIGN of DNA that allows for species adaptation, i.e., evolution, not random chance and necessity.

All of astronomy and physics are pursuing the theory that unifies the four fundamental forces of nature. Where is the biological analog striving for a unified theory of life? Instead, biologists/Darwinists obfuscate, subvert and litigate against alternate theories and wholesale avoid life’s initial development because they know that only one instance of non-naturalistic life development is needed to disprove Charlie’s theory. The naturalistic theory of evolution known as Darwin’s Theory of Evolution that is being foisted on us proves the maxim of human behavior that we trivialize what we do not understand. It is no longer a search for truth, rather an institutionalized ideology that is otterically guarded at any cost.

Unfortunately, it may take a new generation of more objective, open-minded seekers of truth to liberate science from its present hostage situation. You could have done better, Charlie, but happy birthday, anyway.

Stewart Hough
Madera Ranchos

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Invites you to a **TOWN HALL MEETING**

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Be on hand to hear Frank explain what’s happening both in the county and especially right here in the Madera Ranchos. Have your questions answered. Please attend for an interesting and informative evening with our own locally elected representative!



3/09

Monday Evening, March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

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The Bookshelf

Growing with Pride Flatlander's Day Theme, Ranchos Library's Goal

By Ellen Mester

We have a theme for our annual Flatlander's Parade and Craft Show on May 9! *The Ranchos: Growing with Pride!* The emphasis is on all the different ways in which our community is growing. Our community, our schools, our agriculture, our families and our library are growing. Someday soon we hope to see a new library with a large meeting room and up-to-date facilities. And we hope to see a park and community center, more businesses and more students filling our schools. We have come a long way already. Nineteen years ago, the library opened in 1300 square feet of space in the Maywood Center thanks to the hard work and determination of many members of our community. The Friends of the Library with the help of the Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce, the Seniors, the local Boy Scouts and individuals worked to fill the shelves with books. The County Librarian, Jeannine Semrau, worked with the volunteers and branch manager, Elaine Paisley, to prepare for the grand opening in October 1990. That celebration was the beginning of the Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show. It has since morphed into a community event but the primary purpose was and is to raise funds for the Ranchos Library. The proceeds from the sale of the craft and food booths go to the Friends of the Ranchos Library. They in turn purchase all of our books on CD, DVD's and children's programs. We wouldn't have these things without the Friends. Please plan to attend the 19th Annual Flatlander's Parade and Craft Show. For information regarding the craft fair contact the Ranchos Library at 645-1214. For information about the parade, please contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001.

We're making plans for the 2009 Summer Reading Program entitled "Be Creative @ Your Library." There will be music, art, crafts, storytelling, puppet-making, games and lots of fun at the Ranchos Library this summer. The kickoff will be on June 18 at noon, with a live checker game and stations all throughout the library with an assortment of activities. Plus you will receive your reading log, contest rules and bookmark. So mark your calendar for a summer full of fun at the Ranchos Library.

Recycle for the New Library

Help us build a new library by recycling your plastics, cans, bottles and newspapers. We are part of the Kids 4 Recycling program with regular pickups the first and third Wednesday of the month. Bring your recyclables to the library on the first and third Tuesdays and help build a new library while you are helping the environment too!

Children's Programs

There are only two more months of our regular Wednesday programs at 2 p.m. for children ages 3 to 11 at the library. The first Wednesday of the month we have Read to Katie the dog. Katie is a licensed therapy dog who enjoys listening to children. The second and fourth Wednesdays we have Bilingual Storytime where we learn new Spanish words and share the culture. It's a lot of fun. Then the third Wednesday we have Craft and Story time where we make something seasonal and very special. And most importantly, we have pre-school Story time with Mrs. Anderson every Monday at 11 a.m. During the Summer Reading Program from June to August we will take a break from our regular programs.

Book Recommendations

Adult Non-Fiction – *The Glass Castle: a Memoir* by Jeannette Walls. This book is not for the faint-hearted. It is a gritty, incredible true story about one extremely dysfunctional family growing up under extraordinary conditions. The strange thing that makes it a compelling story is that the children survived and went on (all except one) to become reasonably successful and happy. The difficulty for most readers is in trying to understand how parents could love their children, which I believe these parents did, yet avoid meeting the most basic needs of food, shelter and clothing for them. Jeannette and her two sisters and brother lived with their eccentric parents who were intelligent, artistic rabble-rousers. They moved from place to place, usually in the middle of the night one step ahead of the debt-collector. Rex Walls, the father, was an alcoholic which was the heart of the family



problems. He had engineering skills from his military training and his big dream was to build a glass castle in the desert. It included glass floors, ceilings, walls and a staircase and was powered by solar panels, which was ahead of the time in the 50s and 60s. The mother was an artist and a teacher but was unable to work within the constraints of the average American school. She would paint or read books all day, fixing popcorn for supper and was otherwise oblivious to the needs of her children. Sometimes Rex would find a good job and they would live a reasonable life for a while, but then he would create trouble for himself at work and be fired. As the children became older and began challenging their parents' behavior, the situation grew worse. Eventually they are able to leave their parents behind but in the end they take care of them much as they did when they were small. Amazingly, they don't harbor bitterness toward their parents. It's the mysterious family ties that bind us all. This book is often compared to Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*. It is worth the time to read it but it won't necessarily leave you with a smile.

Young Adult Fiction – *Pemba's Song: a Ghost Story* by Marilyn Nelson and Tonya C. Hegamin. Pemba – her name means "force of present existence" – is a 15 year-old African-American girl who has the unusual ability to communicate with ghosts; and not just any ghosts but a slave girl from the 18th century who was murdered by her master.

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 10

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KIWANIS KORNER



Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to remind everyone Earth Day is April 22. It is a time for all of us to think about issues that affect our planet, our community and our neighborhood. Let's all take some time and plant some wildflowers or a tree or any type of plant or bush. Start helping out the world one house at a time – begin by improving your landscape.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to thank our newest members, Charles Diaz,

owner of Diaz Trucking and Fernwood Nursery, and Carla Hart, owner of Hart Photography and Unique Gift store. They are the newest members of the Ranchos Kiwanis club.

What is on track for the club in the next few months? On May 11 the Torch of Excellence, hosted by the Kiwanis, benefits Fresno City College and Reedley Community College scholar athletes. Next on the list, our second annual Garden Tour and Wine Tasting Event is set for May 2 and it will start at 10 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. The tour will start at Fernwood Nursery and will then tour seven local area gardens and then end at Birdstone Winery with a brunch and wine tasting. There will be a special door prize, along with quite a few quality raffle prizes.

Last but not least is our booth at the Flatlander's Parade held on May 9. This year at the Flatlander's Parade we are going to have Tri-Tip Sandwiches. Please come by and help support the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos by having a Tri-Tip Sandwich. We will also be handing out immunization record magnets.

One more announcement to make

for our club is our meeting times have changed. The club is now meeting at the Pizza Factory. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their meeting room for our use. Our meetings are every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

at the Pizza Factory, except the first Thursday of the month which will be held at 6:45 a.m. to help accommodate our members who have difficulty attending the evening meetings. Thanks again to Hal and Mary Ann Parks for do-

minating the meeting room at the Pizza Factory.

Oh yes, it's that time of the year: tax time. Hopefully everyone got their taxes off on time. Uncle Sam needs our support! Now let's talk about what the Kiwanis is all about. The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos is a service club collectively united by local community members looking to volunteer their time and resources to enhance the lives of children in their

local community and worldwide. We help sponsor many service projects throughout the world but we pay special attention to our local community schools and children by holding fundraisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, events that help children here in the Madera Ranchos. To get a

hold of us, you can write to us at:

Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos, 37221 Avenue 12 1-C #29, Madera, CA 93636, or email us at info@ranchoskiwanis.com.

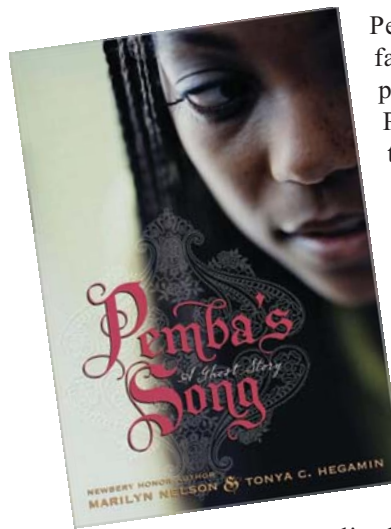
If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect any of our officers for 2007-2008. They would be happy to answer your questions.



The newest member of the Ranchos Kiwanis is Charles Diaz (left) who is receiving his Kiwanis apron from his wife, Mona Diaz, and his nametag from Steve Monk, Kiwanis president.

President - Steven Monk
 President Elect - John Herrera
 Vice President - Sharon Dunn
 Secretary - Sandy Monk
 Treasurer - Marie Cameron
 Past President - Pam Glueck
 Board Member - Chris Parks
 Board Member - Jim Heiden
 Board Member - Joliene Mason
 Board Member - Virginia Vick
 Board Member - Ollie Ridge

BOOKSHELF con't. from P. 8

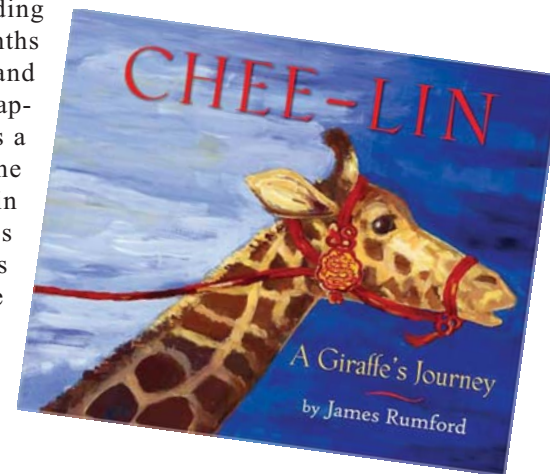


Pemba has had a visit before from the ghost of her father who was killed in the Iraq War, but this supernatural connection seems much stronger. When Pemba's mother gets a new job in Connecticut, the two of them pack up and move from Brooklyn, leaving behind Pemba's boyfriend and all of her girlfriends. Needless to say she sulks a bit until she begins to channel a slave girl named Phyllis who used to live in the house. At the library, with the help of a new friend, Abraham, Pemba researches the previous owners of the house. Little by little she uncovers the tragic story. In the process she learns history that is not taught in school and that all slaves weren't owned by cruel southern plantation owners. Cruelty, greed and murder have no boundaries. This is

a slim little volume that is well-written with an interesting story that incorporates poetry in both contemporary and centuries old styles. My only wish was that it was longer and more detailed because it leaves the reader wanting more.

Juvenile Picture Book – *Chee-Lin: a Giraffe's Journey* by James Rumford.

Sometime during the 15th century a baby giraffe was born in Kenya. He was named Tweega and grew quickly, nurtured by his mother and by feeding on the acacia trees. At four months old, he was already 8 feet tall and content – until suddenly he was captured and shipped off to India as a gift for the sultan. But before he could settle in to his new home in India, a fleet of Chinese ships sailed into the harbor. As soon as they saw Tweega they became very excited and called him Chee-Lin – a good luck sign. The sultan decided to give Tweega as a gift to the emperor of China. The Chinese took him



home to a lovely park where he was treated very well and lived a long happy life. The illustrations drawn by the author are detailed and exquisite. The colors are rich yet soft with a very elegant feel. You'll want to look through this book more than once to appreciate all of its beauty.

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

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

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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes
 by Jean Briner

I had another article almost finished for this month's paper when I realized this would be the Easter issue.

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed!"

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always end up with that many. There are the one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there is always egg hunts for the kids - seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be found (until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.

Our Easter Feast is real simple - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about

10 minutes. After the 10 minutes I usually test one to make sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me - if you have a method you have used, then by all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can handle them, cut them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would make them more festive.

As far as the ham goes, I think

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 12

RECIPES con't. from P. 11

everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and spoon the juice

mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use 10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time.

The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever your family likes.

BUDGET con't. from P. 7

for the early release of serious and repeat criminals, and protects funding for public safety, including critical dollars for rural law enforcement and the War Against Meth. Most importantly, Villines said, it contains an economic recovery plan to inspire more companies to invest in California and the Central Valley and create jobs in the region through \$1 billion in tax incentives. Finally, he said it would also help working families afford a home through a \$10,000 tax credit for Californians who buy a new home for their families.

In addition to Villines, the assemblyman gathered a group of local business people and elected officials to form a panel to discuss their thoughts on the impact of the passed budget. On the panel were Randy Bailey representing the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Rancho Independents; Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow; Madera County Sheriff John Anderson; Bobby Kahn, executive director of the Madera County Economic Development Commission; and Geri Cox from the Madera County Office of Education.

The consensus of the panel was that it was not a perfect budget but that it had

more to like than the alternative one offered. In particular was the fact that any tax increases under the new budget would be temporary and would end at the completion of a two-year period; the other budget called for permanent tax increases. Villines said the passed budget calls for a \$12 billion tax increase per year over the next two years only while the other budget called for a \$10 billion tax increase every year in perpetuity.

Villines' other two main points were that the passed budget maintains the 2/3 vote required to increase taxes on Californians, something the other budget wanted to reduce to a simple majority vote, and rejection of early release for prisoners as a means to reduce prison costs.

In addition, Villines said that the passed budget created a \$1 - \$2 billion reserve and would eliminate the deficit as opposed to the other budget that would have increased the deficit by \$23 billion.

A complete copy of the passed budget is available at www.ebudget.ca.gov/BudgetSummary/BSS/BSS.html.

Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines, of Fresno, represents the 29th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the Madera Rancho.

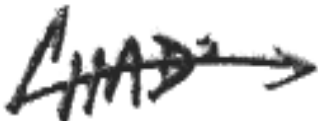

Like so many of our meals (we have seven households coming together) there are always a lot of desserts. My sister usually makes a coconut cake, I make a pineapple upside down cake (probably won't this year as my oven is on the fritz, and doubt if I can get it replaced before Easter), Adam will bring a couple of his apple pies and there will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner. But she made real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

I'm still looking forward to recipes

from the Rancho, Rolling Hills or Bonnadelle good cooks. Or how about kids? I'd love to do an article on kids' favorite foods – anything from hot dogs to s'mores.

My favorite Easter Hymn is *Christ Arose!* I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.



3/09

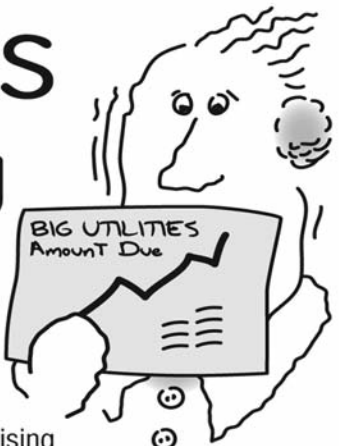
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17th Annual Home & Garden Festival Coming to the Ranchos April 4

By Eleanore Burchell

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 4 so you can come and spend some time with us at the 17th Annual Home & Garden Festival. A biscuit and gravy breakfast along with orange juice, cinnamon rolls and coffee will be served at 6 a.m. Then a hamburger/hot dog BBQ will be available for lunch. There will be many vendors outdoors and some in the main building.

From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., learn all about growing citrus from Lee Fannuchi who will be our special guest. Fannuchi is a Master Gardener and widely known for his generosity in sharing his knowledge. He will be telling us of his experience in growing citrus trees in the Valley. He also will welcome your questions.

The garden section has a variety of trees. Trees and shrubs planted at this time of year have a greater chance to do well as the roots can settle into cool soil and provide less shock to the plant. The fruit trees are waiting for someone to come and take them to a happy home soon. We also have many flats of flowering plants to brighten up your yard for spring.

The Treasure House will be open as they have received many new items to show you. There will be bake and boutique sales on the patio and the boutique section has displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings and antiques and many more interesting items. The produce section has several varieties of persimmons and many different jellies. George's garden is doing well and we have fresh vegetables. We also invite you to stop in to find out what else is on sale now. Remember – the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or

Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

We celebrate the Birthdays and Anniversaries of our members by going out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month. On Nov. 15 we went to the Japanese Kitchen at Willow and Shaw in Clovis. It is a GREAT place and we had a fun time. On Thursday, Dec. 4, the December birthday and anniversary members were honored with a catered dinner brought into the Senior Center. It was a real foggy night and very convenient to stay in the Ranchos and not travel to Fresno or Madera. On Jan. 19, the January birthday and anniversary celebration was held at Claim Jumpers in Fresno. YUM, very good! On President's Day, Monday Feb. 16, we celebrated the birthdays and anniversaries at the Blackstone Yosemite Falls restaurant. On Thursday, March 5 we gathered at Denny's at 11:30 a.m. at Herndon and Blackstone in Fresno. Our April plans are indefinite at this time.

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

Jewels are the gift of fortune, while character comes from within.

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is held

Please see SENIORS on P. 23



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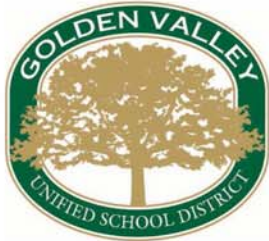
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Patriotic Day at Sierra View Elementary



Sierra View's First Graders presented their annual Patriotic Day Celebration on Feb. 27. This year they honored two of Sierra View's former students who are now serving our country in the military and will soon be heading to the front lines. Carl Roberts (left) is in the marines and Kevin Johnson is in the army.

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

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Golden Valley Chamber

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Parade Day: May 9, 2009 • \$10 Entry Fee

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 most closely suiting 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 **May 1** 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, Rancho Kiwanis and Friends of the Rancho Library.

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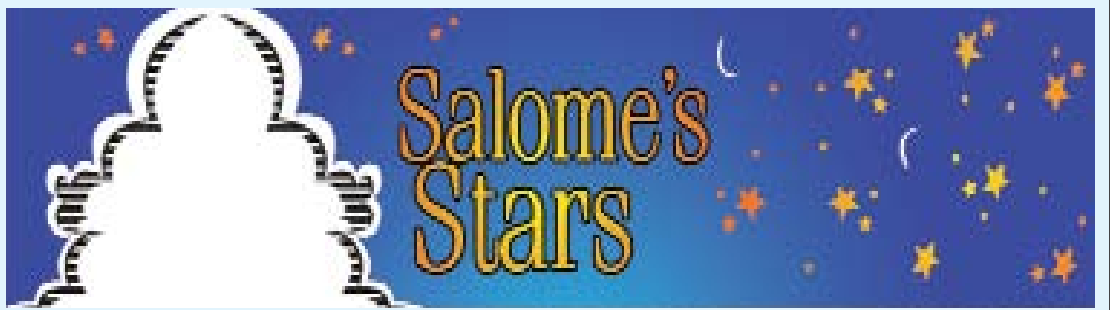
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Gerald Scheffing
Painting

674-2320



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You'll want to discourage well-meaning but potentially ill-advised interference in what you intend to accomplish. Your work has a better chance to succeed if it reflects you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's well-deserved reputation for loyalty could be tested if you learn that it might be misplaced. But don't rely on rumors. Check the stories out before you decided to act.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You've been going on adrenaline for a long time, and this unexpected lull in a recent spate of excitement could be just what you need to restore your energy levels. Enjoy it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Friends can be counted on to help you deal with a perplexing personal situation. But remember to keep your circle of advisers limited only to those you're sure you can trust.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Security-loving Lions do not appreciate uncertainty in any form. But sometimes changing situations can reveal hidden stresses in time to repair a relationship before it's too late.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time for single Virgos to make a love connection. Be careful not to be too judgmental about your new "prospect" -- at least until you know more about her or him.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your sense of justice helps you resolve a problem that might have been unfairly attributed to the wrong person. Spend the weekend doing some long-neglected chores.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel justified in your anger toward someone you suspect betrayed your trust. But it could help if you take the time to check if your suspicions have substance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Ignore distractions if you hope to accomplish your goal by the deadline you agreed to. Keep the finish line in sight, and you should be able to cross it with time to spare.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your creative self continues to dominate through much of the week. Also, despite a few problems that have cropped up, that recent romantic connection seems to be thriving.

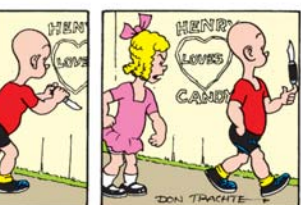
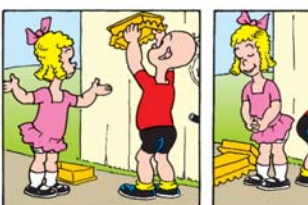
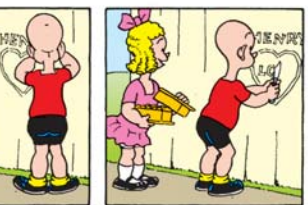
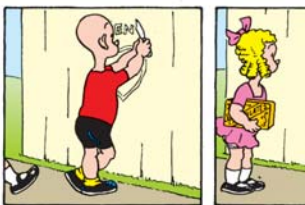
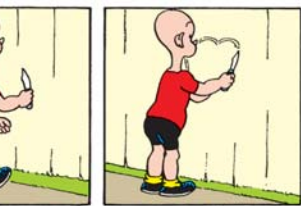
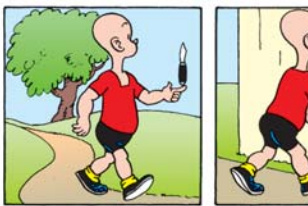
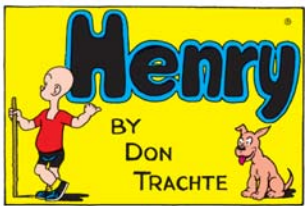
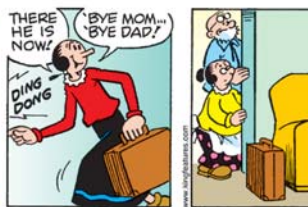
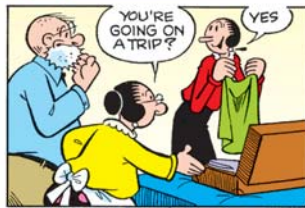
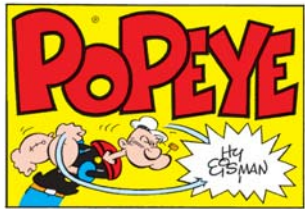
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) As curious as you might be, it's best to avoid trying to learn a colleague's secret. That sort of knowledge could drag you into a difficult workplace situation at some point down the line.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Instead of spending too much time floundering around wondering if you can meet your deadline, you need to spend more time actually working toward reaching it.

Born this Week

You have a natural gift for attracting new friends, who are drawn to your unabashed love of what life should be all about.

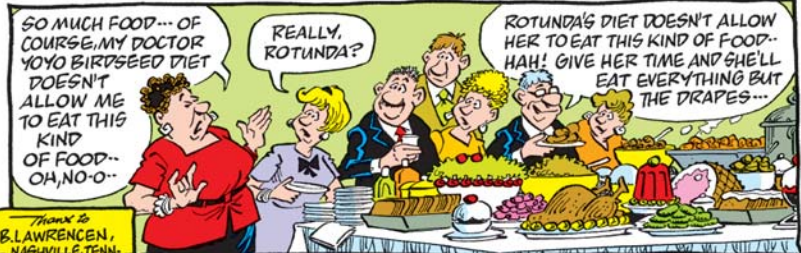
FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



SIGN OF THE TIMES—THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE AT AN EATING PARTY WHO'S ON A TRICK DIET...



Thank to B. LAWRENCE, NASHVILLE, TENN.

BY AL SCADUTO



A FAMOUS PROVERB is hidden in the above frame. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "C" in the bottom rail, "Children and fools speak the truth."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE PRESIDENTS!



Illustrated by David Coulson



Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 16 of our past presidents. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the presidents you're looking for.

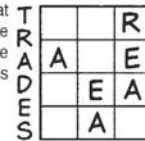
- | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Adams | Harrison | Johnson |
| Arthur | Hayes | Monroe |
| Buchanan | Hoover | Roosevelt |
| Bush | Jackson | Van Buren |
| Eisenhower | Jefferson | Washington |
| Fillmore | | |

FIND THE HIDDEN COUNTRY in this young man's sentence!

THE CHEESEBURGER MAN YAKKED WHILE FILLING MY ORDER!

Answer: The country is Germany ("...cheeseburger MAN Yakked...").

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



Answers: (Across): Ear, are, sea, ted. (Down): East, area, read.

Wishing Well

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

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MAGIC MAZE • CHILD'S PLAY



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

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Checkers | Hopscotch | Kickball | Tag |
| Dodge ball | I spy | Leapfrog | Tetherball |
| Dominoes | Jacks | Marbles | Tic-tac-toe |
| Hide-and-seek | Jump rope | Slug bug | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "My way of joking is to tell the truth, It's the funniest joke in the world."
- MOVIES: Which award-winning actress starred in "Auntie Mame"?
- TELEVISION: In which television sitcom did the character Reverend Jim appear?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the common birthstone associated with the month of February?
- HISTORY: Which two early American cities were linked by the Natchez Trace route?
- MYTHOLOGY: What were the Hesperides?
- GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies to the east of North Korea and South Korea?
- GAMES: What equipment is used in the game of curling?
- AD SLOGANS: What product is advertised with the slogan, "The quicker picker-upper."
- PHOBIAS: What kind of fear is represented by syngenesophobia

Answers

- George Bernard Shaw
- Rosalind Russell
- "Taxi!"
- Amethyst
- Nashville, Tenn. and Natchez, Miss.
- Greek nymphs of the evening
- Sea of Japan
- Special stones, handles and brooms
- Bounty paper towels
- A fear of relatives

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS

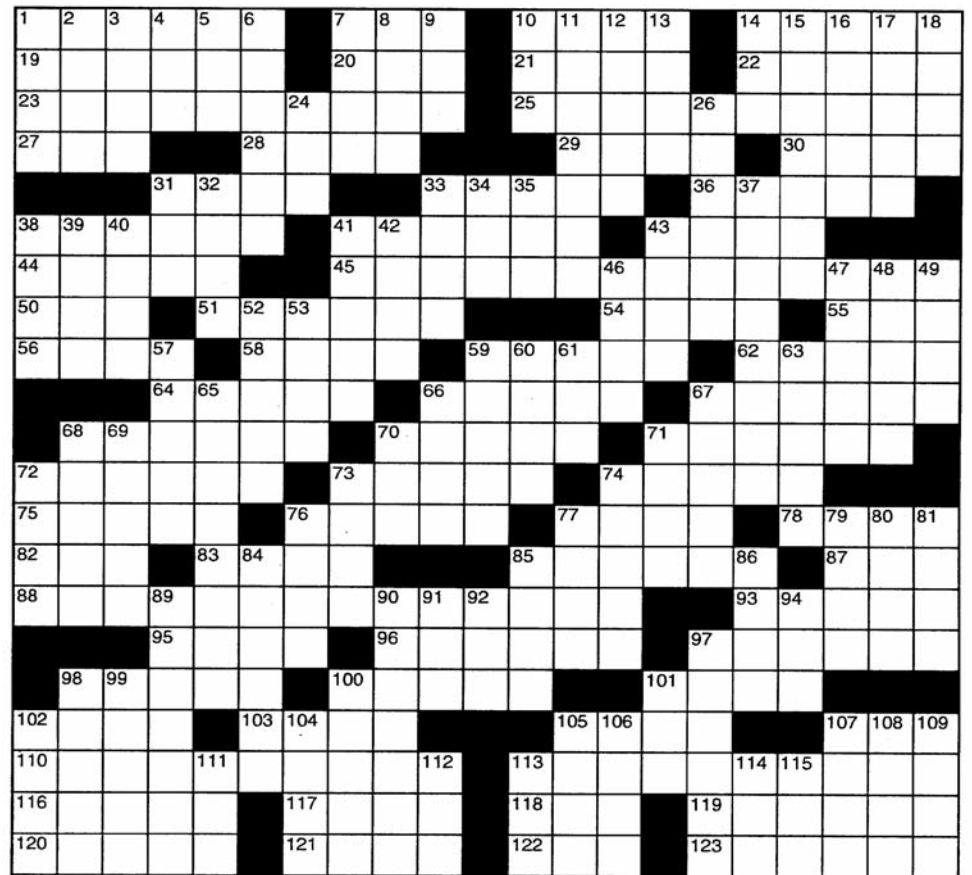
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Necklace is different. 2. Hammer is missing. 3. Chair ruffie is missing. 4. Boy's left arm is visible. 5. Extra page added to paper. 6. Boy's nose is different.

Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Writer Susan
 - 7 AAA handout
 - 10 Explorer Tasman
 - 14 Checker move?
 - 19 Carry too far
 - 20 Winter hazard
 - 21 Creme — creme
 - 22 Kunta — ("Roots" character)
 - 23 Start of a remark by Steven Wright
 - 25 Patrician
 - 27 Canadian prov.
 - 28 Victim
 - 29 Wool gatherer?
 - 30 Roll-call reply
 - 31 Level
 - 33 Entire range
 - 36 Put up with
 - 38 Thick stick
 - 41 Put aside
 - 43 Blind part
 - 44 See 11 Down
 - 45 Part 2 of remark
 - 50 It may get flipped
 - 51 Connecticut town
 - 54 Summit
 - 55 Live and breathe
 - 56 Mighty mite
 - 58 Sausage segment
 - 59 Long Island resort
 - 62 Tel Aviv teacher
 - 64 Out of the way
 - 66 Beak
 - 67 One way to park
 - 68 Tranquil
 - 70 Part 3 of remark
 - 71 Kukla or Lamb Chop
 - 72 Ill will
 - 73 Cherbourg chapeau
 - 74 Glee
 - 75 — a "Symphony" ('65 song)
 - 76 Submarine finder
 - 77 Competitors
 - 78 Facilitate a felony
 - 82 — Tin Tin
 - 83 Paradise
 - 85 Merchant
 - 87 Cal. page
 - 88 Part 4 of remark
 - 93 Over
 - 95 Jai —
 - 96 Sounds the tocsin
 - 97 Ullman or Gold
 - 98 Goatish gamboler
 - 100 Bar hop?
 - 101 Dr. Scholl's concern
 - 102 Source
 - 103 Cardinal
 - 105 — Flynn Boyle
 - 107 Mil. training ctr.
 - 110 African capital
 - 113 End of remark
 - 116 Jazzman Chick
 - 117 Forehead
 - 118 Organ of equilibrium
 - 119 Steak or lobster
 - 120 Abrasive substance
 - 121 — forgive those . . .
 - 122 Be too interested?
 - 123 Arid area
 - 7 Pixie and Dixie
 - 8 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
 - 9 Princess bruiser
 - 10 Orthodontists' org.
 - 11 With 44 Across, salad veggie
 - 12 "Silas Marner" author
 - 13 Endure
 - 14 Ring stat
 - 15 Kansas city
 - 16 "The Lady —" ('79 film)
 - 17 Gawk
 - 18 French bean?
 - 24 Fancy vase
 - 26 A Muse
 - 31 Inflatable item?
 - 32 Sell
 - 33 Continue
 - 34 Circle section
 - 35 "Mal de —"
 - 37 Impoverished
 - 38 Fountain order
 - 39 Component
 - 40 Carthaginian queen
 - 41 Book part
 - 42 Travel with Spock?
 - 43 — aerobics
 - 46 Rotisserie part
 - 47 Defer
 - 48 NASA lap
 - 49 Equine accessory
 - 52 Skirt shape
 - 53 Coney Island attraction
 - 57 Ballet's Tallchief
 - 59 Actress Stevens
 - 60 Santa's problem
 - 61 Destiny
 - 63 Dominant, as a dog
 - 65 On the sly
 - 66 Doris Day refrain
 - 67 Handbag
 - 68 Master, in Madras
 - 69 '85 John Malkovich movie
 - 70 Barnyard belle
 - 71 Mottled
 - 72 Sorvino or Nair
 - 73 — fide
 - 74 Complains
 - 76 Big rig
 - 77 Lute feature
 - 79 Coll. hotshot
 - 80 Roof part
 - 81 Playing card
 - 84 TV's "— & Greg"
 - 85 "Comin' — the Rye"
 - 86 Half-baked?
 - 89 More squalid
 - 90 Heavenly sight
 - 91 Alphabet sequence
 - 92 Network
 - 94 Try for a hit
 - 97 Provoked
 - 98 Biblical city
 - 99 Pianist Watts
 - 100 Fishermen, frequently
 - 101 Auber's "— Diavolo"
 - 102 Confront
 - 104 Swedish rockers
 - 105 Last name in limericks
 - 106 Crooked
 - 107 Grimm creature
 - 108 "Moon-struck" star
 - 109 Dele a dele
 - 111 Utter
 - 112 Blow away
 - 113 Drill sergeant's shout
 - 114 Compass pt.
 - 115 "— Not Unusual" ('65 hit)

DRAG con't. from P. 2

"Drag racing is much bigger than people realize and it doesn't get the public attention it truly deserves," Tom said. Together, the Treleavens agree that Madera County needs to recognize the positive impact an NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) sanctioned track would bring to the County both socially and economically. Amazingly, the Madera Airport was an NHRA Certified track back in the 1950's. "A dragstrip in Madera would be a huge positive, socially," Tom said with his signature enthusiasm – that quickly turned to concern. "Kids race on the street because they have no place to go to race – they're doing it on the streets."

After returning home from World War II, Wally Parks saw kids getting hurt in drag races in Southern California. This, along with his love of racing, inspired him to establish the NHRA in 1951 with a goal of promoting safety through the organization of drag racing. His creation was instrumental in establishing drag racing as a legitimate amateur and professional sport and resulted in the first concerted effort at getting racers off the streets and into controlled race tracks. Today the NHRA is the largest motorsports sanctioning body in the world.

Dangers are Real

The dangers of drag racing are certainly recognized and taken seriously. Dragsters must go through safety checks each time they race and cars have to be re-certified every three years. "Cars are a piece of engineering work, being challenged by physics as well as the guy in the next lane," Tom said. "It takes people whose interest in racing makes them want to achieve. They need to be familiar with mechanics, engineering and science." As the owner of a dragster, Tom has a burden of responsibility to select a driver who is capable behind the wheel and who recognizes his own limitations as well as the car's and understands the sport. He's found all of this in Matt Miller.

Miller, the father of two children, is also a Madera Ranchos resident and on this day has just returned from the 51st Annual March Meet held at Auto Club Famoso Raceway in Bakersfield. There he qualified 11th in a field of 32 cars with an elapsed time of 7.663 seconds in the Nostalgia Eliminator 1 category of the quarter mile race before About Time experienced problems with fried main bearings that prevented the team from making its next call to the starting line.

A signal maintenance technician for Burlington Northern Railroad, Miller has been racing for just over a year with his debut race occurring at the March Meet's

50th Anniversary Celebration in 2008. He placed 16th in a field of 86 cars on his first time out and reached a maximum speed of 191 miles per hour behind the wheel of the blown and injected 454 cubic inch big-block Chevrolet. Miller talks about his competitiveness as a "competitive gene" that reappears and gets fired up to win every time he gets loaded into the dragster. "A good driver sets goals for himself but [they only count] as long as you go out and nobody gets hurt."

The licensing process is a complex one with drivers having to pass the same FAA physicals as airplane pilots. The process involves not only officials approving of the prospective driver but also the signatures of eight other people who would have no problem competing against the driver.

Both Miller and Treleaven credit their crew with their success thus far. "The key factor in any race is your team. If you don't have a great team you don't have anything," Miller said. The About Time crew is a close knit group of friends, many of whom had never been in racing until the Treleavens bought the dragster. The crew includes Crew Chief Billy Lawless of Fresno, Jason Prator of Madera, Will Treleaven of Fresno, Rachel Mersing of Thousand Oaks, Josh Everitt of Turlock and Tom Treleaven. Matt's father Jere Miller is the official photographer.

The Treleavens are constantly fascinated by how the car brings people together and attracts new fans every time neighbors hear the roar of the engine, however the car is no spring chicken and has quite a history.

About History Time

About Time was originally built by Jay Smith in 1992, was extended in 1994 and previously raced under the name The Radio Flyer. How the Treleavens came by the car is a story in itself.

Tom was at the Turlock Swap Meet in 2006 with his family when he picked up a flier advertising a used dragster called The Radio Flyer. He picked up the flier thinking this was his dream car and how nice it would be to own it someday, so he stuck the flier in his pocket. He was waiting for his family when he came upon a blower starter, used for starting dragsters. Even though he didn't own a dragster it was something he had always wanted and began bartering with the seller, eventually paying several hundred dollars for this part. The price was well below the actual value of the starter and, pleased with his purchase, stuck the part in his grandson's wagon. He quickly acquired "buyer's remorse" and felt rather foolish about his purchase when his family asked him about it, but as they were on their way out he came face to face with a man who looked like a rodeo cowboy.

"Bought yourself a blower starter did ya?" the cowboy asked.

Treleaven responded that he didn't even have a car to use it on when the stranger said he had a hot rod that it would work on. That stranger turned out to be Jay Smith, builder of The Radio Flyer from the flier Treleaven had stuffed in his pocket.

The rest is history.

In a bizarre twist, about two weeks ago Jan Treleaven was scrounging through a box of old photos taken over a decade ago and found a picture of Tom at a drag race posing next to The Radio Flyer around 1995.

How weird is that?

The Treleavens purchased the car in 2006 and worked on fine tuning it for a year and a half before racing it. The average cost of a dragster of this type in a turnkey situation would average between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Today, About Time is 190 inches long and has had the protective roll cage modified to fit Miller's long torso.

"It's remarkable how much highly skilled engineering goes into cars like this that are hand built from nothing," said About Time supporter Mike Marion of Whitecap Construction.

"It was initially intimidating competing against people who have been racing

for over 30 years," Treleaven said, but he's been always impressed at the close-knit fraternity of people in the racing community. Treleaven said that Smith and former driver Bob Murphy have acted as mentors to the new owners.


The Future in the Valley

It's widely reported that the long-proposed drag strip project in Tulare County has been derailed. As a point of reference, the last sanctioned drag strip in the Central Valley area was Fresno Drag Ways in Raisin City which was refused a use permit by Fresno County in 1974.

Unbelievably, drag racing generates a fair amount of money for the Counties that have racetracks. Up in Spokane County in Washington, a 25-year deal has been struck with the County that's projected to bring in \$40 million in revenue. Bakersfield's March Meet is estimated to bring in \$5 million in tourism to Kern County from just a three-day event.

Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow, a racing fan himself, raced professionally for NASCAR from the early

Please see **DRAG** on P. 23



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Golden Valley Baptist Church

Road 37

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Cloverleaf

Ave 12

3/09

DRAG con't. from P. 22

70s to the mid-80s. Bigelow was asked what it would take to bring a dragstrip to Madera County.

"A big checkbook!" Bigelow said. "Two of the biggest hurdles would be securing national sponsors and television time, neither of which are easily found in the current economic situation when corporations are cutting way back." Bigelow further said that supporters would need to find an appropriate property zoned for industrial use with access to a major highway – suggesting Highway 99 would be ideal –

and schedule a meeting with the planning department.

Bigelow recalls several previous attempts to bring racing to Madera and to Merced which never got off the ground primarily because of inadequate funding. He warns that there are many hurdles to overcome and that many race tracks are financially unstable.

"An organized facility would be a great benefit to teenagers in Madera County and would keep teenagers off county roads," Bigelow said, citing a recent tragedy in Fresno County where a young woman was fatally injured during a street race.

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3/09



call Randy Bailey
at
559-645-0634

SENIORS con't. from P. 13

on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. The Watercolor Painting class has also changed. It is now scheduled on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more: You! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

April Birthday and Anniversary Celebration – To Be Announced
April 19-27, 2009, Ireland Tour

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

PASTOR con't. from P. 6

ful, for they will receive mercy." (Mat 5:7 NRSV) and "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36 NRSV)

If, in the name of Christ, you and I did not fear death and if in the name of Christ we believed in the forgiveness of our sins, could we be irresponsibly compassionate? Jesus said, "When the prodigal son was still far off, His father saw him and was filled with compassion; and the father ran and put His arms around His son and kissed him." (Luke 15:20 NRSV)

If the church of the Risen Christ – my church and your church – were completely convinced of the love of God in Jesus Christ, could we love – in the "agape" sense of love that was revealed in Jesus as a spiritual and selfless model for humanity – unwisely? Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them." (Luke 6:27-32 NRSV)

If my family and I and the other households of Christ were truly servants of the gospel of Jesus Christ, could we be disgracefully un-judging? Jesus said, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned." (Luke 6:37 NRSV)

Could we be shamefully concerned

about the people at the very bottom of society's class and status? Jesus said, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Mat 25:34-40 NRSV)

Could we be dishonorably forgiving? Jesus said as He was hanging on the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34 NRSV)

For those of us who claim the Risen Christ as our reality, we are an Easter people and we are free to live with a certain fearless faith in the love of God. This Easter, I re-commit myself to help somebody else to become a Fearless Christian. Maybe along the way, somebody will help me to become a Fearless Christian and maybe together we will help somebody else and then maybe – just maybe – together we will fearlessly practice the presence of the Risen Christ right here and right now.

Rev Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and all are welcome.

D.O.G. con't. from P. 4

these Economic Analyses. Where is reality in all of this? I have a "friend." He has maxed out all of his credit cards, got himself fired and is about to lose his house. I am going to advise him to try the government solution: First, he needs to take out a big loan. Then he needs to hire himself to do all of the projects he ever dreamed of, but knew he could never afford. The part I haven't figured out yet is how he can set up the payments so his grandchildren and great grandchildren will get stuck with the bill like our government has been able to do.

I guess I got back just in time – There was a "SPECIAL" meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 23 with only three items on the agenda.

The first item – Hearing to consider approval of the request of Talley Oil Company to amend the Madera County General Plan (GP #2008-002) pursuant to Section 65398 of the Government Code. The area to be considered consists of a portion of 61.67 acres (49.9 acres) of property located on the south side of Avenue 12 1/2, approximately 400 feet east of its intersection with Road 29 (no address available), Madera.

The proposal by Talley Oil, Inc.

is to amend the area now shown as LDR (Low Density Residential) designation to LI (Light Industrial/Business Park) designation. A Site Plan Review (SPR #2007-006) is additionally being considered for an asphalt batch plant. The property is owned by Kenneth and Christine Talley and is zoned an IH (Industrial, Urban or Rural Heavy) District. The project is located in the State Center Community College Area Plan and a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND #2008-62) has been prepared for the project in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We're talking about 61.67 acres total.

Hitting the Fan

This came up at a regular meeting awhile back and the smelly brown stuff hit the fan. It seems folks were a bit upset about the traffic that would be generated.

First we get a large quarry off of Road 406 West of Highway 41 north of the 22 Mile House, then we hear that an even bigger quarry is planned alongside Highway 145 just west of Highway 41. Now the plan is to put a blacktop plant on Avenue 12 almost to Highway 99.

I am wondering why anyone

Please see D.O.G. on P. 25

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D.O.G. con't. from P. 24

would want two quarries on northern Highway 41 and the blacktop plant on the other side, but now I see why there is such a push to widen Avenue 12. Gravel trucks loaded headed west on Avenue 12 and then returning empty headed east on the same route. Blacktop trucks headed for Fresno/Clovis eastbound full of product and returning westbound empty.

It seems our County has determined that changing the parcel from low density residential to an industrial use requiring a virtual convoy of trucks to keep it operating will not have a significant impact.

A Negative Declaration is set to be accepted.

The second item – A hearing to consider approval of the request of Green Acres to amend the Madera County General Plan (GP #2008-026) pursuant to Section 65358 of the Government Code. The area to be considered consists of 32 acres located on the east side of Highway 41, at the intersection of Highway 41 and Road 200 (no address available), O'Neals. The proposal is to amend the area now shown as AE (Agricultural Exclusive) designation to CC (Community Commercial) designation. The property is owned by Bradford Ditton, Nick Goldman and Dennis Flammang and is zoned ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive-40 Acre) district. A draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND #2008-67) has been prepared concerning the proposed project in compliance with provisions of CEQA for these 32 acres.

I spoke at the planning hearing on this one. The Planning Commission didn't seem concerned that the O'Neals Area Plan specifically forbids the development of additional commercial parcels.

I was amazed when the developer went on to outline his plans for the area.

He mentioned that he had met with Caltrans and had the Yosemite Lakes Parkway traffic light designed for a road to the east. He went on to describe the concept of frontage roads along Highway 41 from Road 200 to Yosemite Lakes Parkway.

My questions and concerns are with what seems to be a secret plan for development. Was any County staff involved in the meetings with Caltrans? If not. Why is Caltrans

March 2009

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meeting on the side with developers? Who paid for the changes to the intersection/traffic light designs? Are Area Plans like the one about to be heard for the Raymond area just a way to hold down values and prevent us normal folks from doing much while leaving a secret passage for developers with contacts?

Several projects were put on hold in the Ranchos area until the Area and General Plans can be updated.

The third item – A hearing to consider approval of the request of Madera County Planning Department to amend the General Plan pursuant to Section 65358 of the California Government Code. The area to be considered consists of 130,995.18 acres in and around the community of Raymond. The project proposal (PRJ #2008-010, GP #2008-019 and GP #2008-020) would amend the General Plan to include new General Plan designations and policies applicable to the designated Raymond Planning Area. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND #2008-53) was prepared for the project in compliance with provisions of CEQA.

A Reason for Concern

I am a bit concerned with the whole process. One of the things decided was that the town should remain little more than a wide spot on a narrow, quiet road. Those at the meetings came up with the idea to create a bypass with the bypass cutting through and virtually destroying many lots East of Road 600.

Will these property owners be compensated in any way? Were the owners contacted or are we falling back on the same old, "We made all of the legally required notifications ..."

The Area Plan does not just cover the Raymond Town Area. A complete plan of the Raymond area was completed and within the area is a subdivision consisting of 68 40-acre parcels with a private airstrip created as a "fly in" community. It is on FAA maps, Caltrans Aeronautics' documents and has a County Airport Airspace Overlay District protecting it.

Unfortunately there is no mention of the community or the airstrip.

My greatest concern is if the whole thing is just a big waste of time so privileged developers can slip through a change at the Planning Commission, no matter what the plan requires, and then have it heard at a "SPECIAL" meeting of the Board.

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by Linda Thistle

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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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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.

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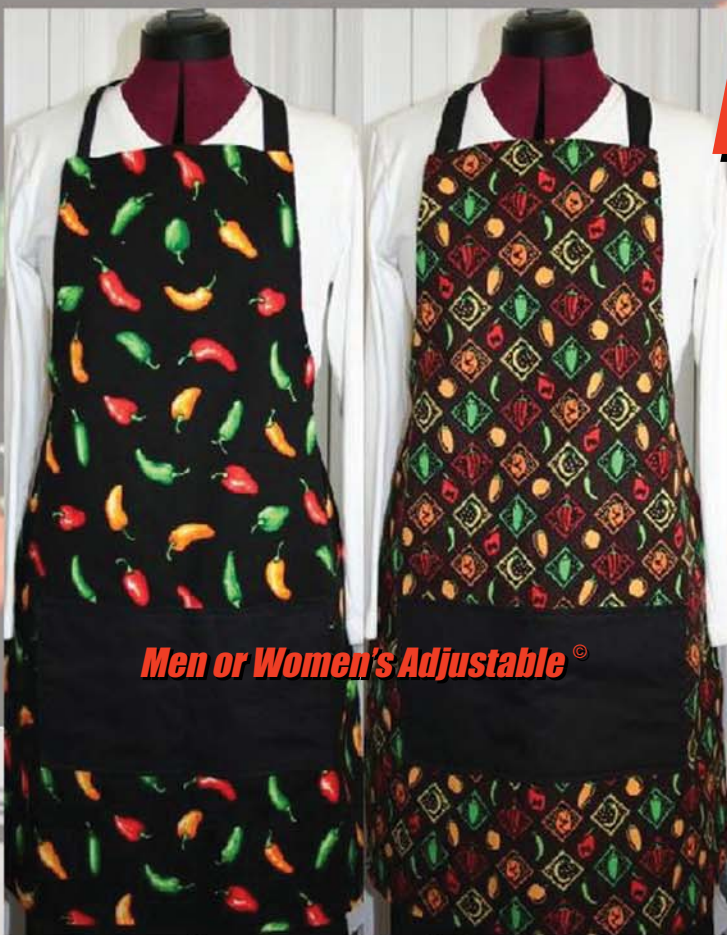
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3	X	8	-	1
X		+		X
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