

The Ranchos Independent



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ELECTION SPECIAL District 1

On Tuesday, June 6, the electoral process once again takes place throughout California. With two propositions and people running for everything from Governor to County Supervisor, it's time to take a look at some of the races that impact us in the Ranchos most directly.

"Tip" O'Neill — a longtime Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress — once declared, "All politics is local." Keeping that in mind, the *most* local candidates we have are those running for the position of Madera County Supervisor for our district, District 1. *The Ranchos Independent* sent a series of questions specific to the Madera Ranchos and its future to incumbent Frank Bigelow and challengers Hal Grant and Santos Medrano. The questions will be printed in **bold type** and the responses will be just as the candidates chose - or chose *not* - to answer the questions.



Frank Bigelow

1. Who are you? What is your background? How deep are your roots in Madera County? In which part of District 1 do you live?

Frank Bigelow is a life-long Madera County resident who resides in O'Neals, Calif. with his wife, Barbara and three children. His ancestors settled in the O'Neals area in the mid to late 1800's where his great grandfather and grandmother, Harmon and Leota Bigelow, operated a cattle and sheep business, along with a freight service by wagon and a stage line to the higher sierra country.

Great-great grandfather, Please see **BIGELOW** Page 7



Hal Grant

1. Who are you? What is your background? How deep are your roots in Madera County? In which part of District 1 do you live?

I'm a man on a mission. A man with the tools to complete the mission. A man who is committed to serving the people (I served in the Military; I was a career Law Enforcement Officer for 39 years), and I have served the Ranchos Community in the Kiwanis Club and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. I'm also a member of the Ranchos Senior Citizens Club. I was the Assistant Chief of Corrections for your County Jail for six years. I am a person who knows how to serve. I was trained in the Military and in Law Enforcement to serve as a Team player and as a Leader.

I have lived in the Madera Ranchos for nine years and I live in the North Ranchos in the 16000 block of Monreal Road.

What about you makes you uniquely qualified to represent the people of the Madera Ranchos?

Please see **GRANT** Page 10



Santos Medrano

1. Who are you? What is your background? How deep are your roots in Madera County? In which part of District 1 do you live?

I was born in Weslaco, Texas in 1958. I am 48 years old, have been married 28 years to Margie, and have three children: TJ, Michelle and Lil' Margie. I have been in law enforcement for the last 20 years as a correctional officer for the State of California and Madera County. I am a retired Sergeant E-5 from the California Army National Guard with 21 years of service.

I moved to Madera County in 1960, went to local schools and graduated from Madera High School, Class of 1976.

I currently reside in the Parkwood subdivision of Madera.

What about you makes you uniquely qualified to represent the people of the Madera Ranchos?

I am a common person who wants to continue to serve his community and make

Please see **MEDRANO** Page 14

Madera Ranchos - 93636? Ranchos to get New ZIP Code, Growing Pains Cited

By Randy Bailey

93636 — That's what you'll be signing on all of your letters and bills starting July 1, 2006. Due to the growth of Madera, and specifically the Madera Ranchos, the United States Postal Service has decided that it's time to add a new ZIP code for our area.

The area affected is all of the Ranchos; however the official area is a bit more ambiguous. The official notice states, "... the affected addresses are located south of the Fresno River and east of the railroad tracks, and east of Highway 99, south of Avenue 12." After talking to a representative of the Post Office in Madera — who didn't want to be identified — it appears the area is from the AT&SF railroad tracks east to Highway 41, then from the Fresno River coming out of Hensley Lake south to the San Joaquin River, with Highway 99 thrown in to round out the southwest boundary.

The new ZIP code will affect 4,074 addresses and will be official on July 1. Residents and businesses within the affected area will receive written notification by the end of May of their new ZIP Code.

The Postal Service is requesting that all affected customers notify their correspondents as soon as possible and are even offering postcards to help notify everyone on your mailing list. If you want to use the ZIP (plus 4) Code, go to www.usps.com and look it up.

"I want to assure all residents and businesses affected by the new ZIP Code that they will continue to receive their mail even if the old ZIP Code is used during the one-year grace period," said Susan Graf, Madera Postmaster. "The new ZIP Code will enable the Postal Service to continue to offer outstanding service to the Madera community."

Here's hoping you didn't just have 1,000 business cards made ...

Flatlanders' Parade in Trouble



An equestrian color guard set the tone for the Flatlanders' Day Parade.

Lack of Help Pushes Few Volunteers to the Limit

By Randy Bailey

Although this year's Flatlanders' Day Parade was well attended and was successful raising funds for its benefactor, the Ranchos Library, the limited number of community volunteers has caused the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the event, to question whether there will be a parade next year.

The bulk of the work for the entire parade fell upon two people, Chamber president Ollia Ridge and Secretary Treasurer Virginia Vick, who handled all organizational aspects of the

parade from obtaining permits and securing insurance to walking around with garbage sacks at the end of the event picking up trash.

Flatlanders' Day is a community event that was started approximately 15 years ago and has evolved into a giant block party for the people of the Ranchos. The Chamber makes no money on the event and all proceeds go to the Ranchos Library.

If Flatlanders' Day is to continue, there is going to have to be a degree of participation from members of the community so that the load can be more equally shared, or it will be gone.

INSIDE

Editorial Page 2
Letters Page 3
Stock Report Page 5
Fun Zone Page 27
Real Estate Page 29
Classifieds Page 32



Editorial

Madera's Election by Proxy: We'll tell you what to Think

By Randy Bailey

For the first time in my adult life, I watched as someone took my ability to choose between candidates away. I'm still not sure who did it, but it's there and I've got my ideas.

In the race for Madera County District Attorney you've got the incumbent, Ernie LiCalsi, who's had the job for 14 years. He seems like a good guy and he must be doing something right to hold down the position for that length of time. But still, there are rumblings. Stories from the Madera newspaper. Stories from an online news service. Stories from attorneys that have worked with and against him.

I'm not naive. I understand that when you have a highly public position like the DA, you become a pretty visible target for potshots. It goes with the territory. But still, those rumblings persist. Now here's where it gets weird. When any of those accusations are discussed with anyone related to LiCalsi's camp, the response is kneejerk and automatic: Look at the person making the accusation. This one is a bad person. That one is a liar. This one over here beats his wife. That one had a relative that got convicted ... but when you're done with all of the excuses you realize that your original question was never answered. You now know who's a bad person and who lies and who does whatever to whomever and you've got a smile on your face as you walk away until it hits you: You never got an answer. You

were shown what somebody wanted to show you and you were told what somebody wanted to tell you and anything that was contrary was conveniently given the bum's rush.

In the race for Madera County DA there is a contender named Franz Criego. Mr. Criego is no choir boy. He's had his share of history, both good and bad. He came into this race with both barrels blasting. It was sensationalist, it was over the top and it was negative. The only thing more disturbing than his attack was that there was no response to it. Nothing. Nada. It's an old political trick to make your opponent's claims appear to be so ludicrous that they're beneath even being honoring with a response. You just kind of shake your head when the opponent starts up, shrug your shoulders and look at the audience as if to say, "Do you believe what I have to put up with?"

From the beginning Criego has asked one question of his opponent and of any of his opponent's supporters: "What am I lying about?" This seems like it should be a slam-dunk case. Criego makes the claims, LiCalsi systematically goes down the list one by one and shows, once and for all, that they're all lies. Yet, that never happens. And instead of that, what *does* happen? Within a matter of a few days a couple of weeks before the election, Criego is accused of consorting with prostitutes, beating ex-wives, ripping off school dis-

Please see **LIES** Page 23

The Ranchos Independent

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Random Notes

Probably the most important thing to keep in mind is the election that's coming up on June 6. We've asked the three candidates for District 1 Supervisor the questions we hear the most often in our office and their answers are interesting. Make sure you read their responses.

Under the heading of "Hey! We're all in this together," I got a call from a Ranchos resident on Road 37 that's had people doing flat out stupid things to her home. People using her dumpster out front as a community dumpster; people coming onto her beautifully managed lawn to eat lunch in a park-like setting, then leaving trash all over the place; cigarette butts by her front porch (neither she nor her husband smoke and their porch is a LOOOOONG way from the street); and finally, a young tree in her yard was just broken in half. What's up with that? Let's keep the golden rule in mind, please? And let's keep our eyes open for each other.



Did you hear we're getting a new ZIP code? Starting July 1 we're going to be 93636. I kinda like the sound of that ... I PARTICULARLY like the sound of that since I was just about to buy new business cards and I got the information BEFORE I sent the order in. I love dodging financial bullets.

Congratulations go out to Mona Diaz for winning the Golden Apple award at the annual Association of California School Administrators award dinner. The group does a lot of work with scholarships for kids and we're happy Mona is thought of so highly by her peers. Congratulations.



By her front porch (neither she nor her husband smoke and their porch is a LOOOOONG way from the street); and finally, a young tree in her yard was just broken in half. What's up with that? Let's keep the golden rule in mind, please? And let's keep our eyes open for each other.

If you enjoy riding your motorcycle, here's a way to ride and help some sick kids in the process. The "One Nation Under God" ministry is having their second annual "Ride for the Cure" cruise to raise cash for Children's Hospital in their quest to combat cancer in children. Nothing but good all the way around on this one. Call 645-0199 if you need more information.



ENOUGH is ENOUGH!

People of Madera County ...

I have never misled the public as to my qualifications or statements concerning Mr. LiCalsi.

All statements I have made have been independently documented and verified by the McClatchy Company's Sierra Star Newspaper in Oakhurst, Calif.

I have been called a liar by Mr. LiCalsi and his supporters and as such I ask him:

"Prove that I have lied in an independent public debate."

Why is it suddenly so quiet?

Right Man, Right Choice,
Right Now!
Franz Criego
 Madera County
 District Attorney

Vote **CRIEGO** for Madera County District Attorney June 6

Paid for by Madera Residents for Responsible Government, Citizens for Law and Order and The Committee to Elect Franz Criego Madera County District Attorney FPPC#1284295

Letters

Dear Editor:

I have received and read your issue today for the first time and I am thrilled with the content. I was not aware that a small town would have such a well put together paper.

Please give my thanks to Randy Bailey for the information on the drug raid as this is just up the street from me. Very encouraging we are being protected and informed.

Several articles are well worth reading and it's great! So far I am impressed with the balance of sides and views.

Thank You,
Brenda Adams

Dear Editor:

Trough the years I've always viewed The Ranchos Independent as a carrier of positive news and events from our community. But on your last issue I found your editorial letter "One Teacher's View of Illegal Aliens" to be very disturbing.

The highly aggressive tone of it made me ask you: WHY? Why did you choose to publish such an instigating opinion on a presently sensitive issue? Is it because you support the contents and want this to be your stand?

You may answer me by saying you publish every single letter you receive ... so if someone writes to you about the pleasure of seeing someone die after they shot them, would you publish it? What about a letter commenting on child pornography and how satisfying it is for some people? Oh, so you DO draw the line at some point, do you?

As a Ranchos resident for over 16 years I am one of our strongest fans. I believe the greatness of our community is still one of the best kept secrets in the Valley. But what makes our area great is not necessarily our big yards, but our people. We are a uniform group of individuals who believe in working hard and building a strong future for our families. We teach our children about personal responsibility, honesty, generosity, charity and how the power to shape our lives is in our hands.

And your article, so full of hatefulness, did absolutely nothing to help me fuel those principles and give positive energy so I can pass it on, like you have always done in the past.

For that I say to you: Too bad. I was very disappointed by your decision, and I hope you remember how highly we view you, next time.

Bettina G.Villanueva

Dear Editor:

Often times we feel as if we do not have a voice in what impacts our lives, be it nationally or locally. Major decisions seem to be made behind closed doors by people with more money or political clout than we have. It seems as if "good ideas" take forever to achieve and "not-so-good ideas" happen too quickly to stop. We must remember that we do have a voice. We have the ability to communicate our opinion either in writing to our local, state, or national representative or to our local newspapers. We can phone our representatives if we want, or we can attend meetings or view them on the county Webcast over the internet. We can read and stay

informed. We can talk with our neighbors and listen to opposing views to understand the complete issue. (Remember there is always more than one side to an issue.) We need to honestly examine our personal priorities and then view them from a community standpoint. Just because something will not affect me right now, what about later? Or how will it affect my neighbors or the community? We need to have some foresight and conscience about the consequences of our actions. And we need to remember that just because others don't agree with our viewpoint doesn't mean that they are wrong or stupid or any of the other hateful things that divide communities.

My reason for writing this is to remind people why many of us moved to the Ranchos. We enjoy the rural feel of the community while being in close proximity to the conveniences of Fresno and Madera. I think we will be doing more harm to our way of life here if the Madera Ranch Quarry on Road 209 goes into operation. I believe that there will be more air, water and noise pollution, traffic congestion, and a significant loss of ground water. Others may view things differently based on their priorities. Regardless, we all have a voice that needs to be heard. I urge all of you to stay informed and attend the next meeting on this important issue on May 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Coarsegold Community Center.

Sincerely,
Ellen Mester

Dear Editor:

I hate elections. Candidates don't run on their own merit. They don't tell you

what they can do or what they will do. They make outlandish claims about opposition, in most cases without regard for the truth.

This time, Mr. LiCalsi's opponent made claims about the misuse of campaign funds. This questions MY honesty. I am the one who makes the deposits and writes the checks.

I can assure you that Mr. LiCalsi has never obtained a loan from his campaign funds. Nor has his California State Bar Association dues ever been paid from the account.

I can assure you that donors knew what their donations were being use for. No attorneys' fees were paid before the Fair Political Practice Commission ruled that they could be.

All funds donated to Mr. LiCalsi have been used in an honest and HONORABLE way.

Sincerely,
H.B. "Bud" Smith

The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you.

Send your letters to:

The Ranchos Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93638

or
FAX 645-4002

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The Bookshelf

Paws, Claws and Scales at Library

By Ellen Mester

The Ranchos community really knows how to have a good time. Flatlanders' Parade, Craft Show and Book Sale were a huge success as always! A big THANK YOU goes out to the Friends of the Ranchos Library, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ranchos/Hills Seniors and all of the community who support this wonderful event each year.

We're barking up a new tree now for the Summer Children's Reading Program, Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales. Our big bark-off will be on June 22 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the library with face painting, crafts, contests (bark/meow competition) and storytime. Kids and teens can sign up for the summer reading program and fetch a reading log. After reading 15 books (five for teens) and recording the titles on the reading log, the reader will then retrieve a book of their choosing from the Friends Book Sale room plus an entry form for the Dragon Drawing. Each week a lucky reader's name will be drawn from the Dragon Drawing. The winner will receive a prize package. Also there will be an opportunity to enter the Best Pet Photo Contest or the Best Decorated Pet Dish Contest. Each week through Aug. 1 we'll have special performances by local celebrities such as The Fratello Marionettes, Magician Norman Ng, Oklin Bloodworth, Randel McGee & Groark, and more. So don't be caught cat-napping and miss all the fun! Bring your tail to the Ranchos Library. Take a bite out of boredom and chew on a good book. (Not literally of course).

This year's Ranchos Roundtable Readers will enjoy "Literary Adventures in Early American History." Readers will choose novels from a selection of age-appropriate fiction from the time frame of 1740 to 1850. Poetry, art, culture and food from the era will be incorporated as well. This book club is open to anyone from 6 to 14 years of age and will meet every other Tuesday beginning June 27 at the Ranchos Library from 10 a.m. to noon for an open discussion led by parent volunteers, Julie Hale and Steve Bibler. This will be a fun and educational time in which each reader can examine and share how their story portrays life during America's formative years. Sign-up will begin June 1 at the library.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction Book: *The Last Templar* written by Raymond Khoury. While archaeologist Tess Chaykin is admiring ancient artifacts of the Vatican on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, four horsemen dressed as crusade-era Knights of the Templar crash the party,

behead an unfortunate guard and steal away with a special ancient decoding device. FBI agent Sean Reilly, a devout Catholic, is assigned to the case. In a struggle to protect the witness, Tess Chaykin, and find the artifact, a global pursuit takes place that is challenging not only to Sean's ability as a law enforcement agent but to his faith as well. Reminiscent of the Da Vinci Code, this book strives to uncover evidence that challenges the basis of Christianity. It's an action-packed novel that entertains but doesn't have the depth to be very believable.



Adult Non-fiction: *Gilgamesh* by Stephen Mitchell. This is a new English version (copyright 2004), that tells the oldest story ever written dating back to 2750 B.C.—before the Bible or the Iliad. Written on clay tablets and found among the ruins of Ninevah in ancient Assyria, this incredible work was lost for 2000 years until 1850 when Austen Henry Layard discovered it. It tells of the great king Gilgamesh and his friend Enkidu and their battle with the monster Humbaba. Unlike simple fairy tales that we're accustomed to, this ancient tale talks openly about sexuality, gods and goddesses, and jealous brutality. But it also talks about love, friendship, bravery and moving on after a tragedy. As Mitchell explains in the introduction, every negative is balanced by a positive. Although not recommended for children, this book with notes and lengthy introduction is interesting in its portrayal of characters from over 4000 years ago — as told by storytellers from long ago and interpreted into modern language.



Juvenile Picture Book: *I.Q. Goes to the Library* by Mary Ann Fraser. I.Q. is a pet mouse who lives in Mrs. Furber's second grade class. He shares lots of adventures with the students. In this book he accompanies the class to the library where Mrs. Binder, the librarian, shows the students all the interesting and different things to do at the



Please see BOOKSHELF Page 6

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JUNE 6th

The Stock Report

School Nearly Over, "S" Needed

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Did you go to the Flatlanders' Parade and Swap Meet? If not, you missed one of the most unique parades that a small community can put together. I just love it because it gives a real flavor of our community. The Ranchos Flatlanders' Parade features all of the different parts and people of this community. Young and old have equal opportunity to make a float, ride in an old car or new car and strut their stuff in front of their neighbors. The school students, the merchants and the local politicians were all there. The police, the sheriff, the firemen and our own Citizens on Patrol who keep our neighborhoods safe were also there. Thank you each and every one who make our parade so special.

Two special entries this year were our new Liberty High Drum Line in their shiny new uniforms. Their new hats came in just in time for them to wear the hats in the parade. They sounded great and looked fantastic and had really smooth moves. The Pizza Factory had its own world famous Pizza tosser who put on a great show for us in the parade. Justin Wadstein is a local young man who is so good at tossing pizza that he has competed across America and even went to Italy to compete against 12 different countries tossing pizza. Justin came in fourth at that competition and has been asked back to compete in Italy this summer. Go Justin! Least I forget, my Ranchos Hills Seniors friends put together a neat float that showed the different activities that we do at the Senior Center. They even put on a line dance performance behind the float. It was a good show of our very active Ranchos Hills Seniors.

Some of the most exciting news that I received this week was that Golden Valley received some prior year revenue and also an increase in some local supplemental taxes. This means that our computer technology replacement cycle plan can move forward now. Liberty High will receive 44 new computers; Sierra View Elementary will receive 32 computers and a printer for their computer lab plus 22 computers so that every teacher, the librarian and office staff will have a new computer plus the software to run the computers. Webster Elementary will receive 25 printers for the teachers who didn't have one and 12 new computers for the Reading lab. In addition, the district technology staff will be providing support to the sites and classrooms. It is exciting to create new learning opportunities for both the students and the staff in Golden Valley schools. Keeping up with 21st Century technology is always a challenge for our schools.

Last Friday I had the opportunity to attend the first Liberty High Career Day. Since Feb. 1, 2006 I have been attending the Liberty High Career Technical Committee meetings. This committee represents both men and women in different career fields. One of the Technical Committee's jobs was to help put together this first Career Day. Melissa Locke, a teacher at Liberty, was assigned the job of coordinating all parts of the Career Day

and she did an excellent job. Students were given an assignment to be completed when they attended Career Day based on what they discovered in their discussions with several employers.

Did you receive your absent voters ballot yet? I got my ballot last week. A couple of years ago I decided to vote this way. I am a busy person and I was afraid that Election Day might come and get overlooked. I haven't missed an election for the last 55 years and I didn't want to take any chances. This time California State, Madera County, California Superintendent of Schools and the very important Golden Valley Unified School District measure "S" are what you will be voting for. I hope you will vote YES on measure "S" so that Golden Valley can complete our Liberty High School, build a permanent Middle School and repair both Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary schools. If you don't want to vote for anything else in this election, please vote for measure "S". You will be voting for the future of the children that live in our community.

As we come to the end of another school year in Golden Valley's schools, students, teachers and parents have much to be proud of. Out sports teams have been great and our academic teams have shined in Madera County competition. For a school district that started only 7 years ago, I think we are doing a good job.

Our Liberty High Senior Class of 2006 will graduate on June 1, 2006. This will be our second senior graduating class from Liberty High. Do you know that Golden Valley has been graduating seniors for the last 7 years? When Independence High was our small necessary high school we graduated students every year that we have been in business. This has always amazed me. After the June 1, 2006 graduation there will be a Sober Grad Night party for all seniors. I was able to work at this party last year and I will work again this year. Graduation night is the most dangerous night of the year for high school seniors. Sober Grad is a way to keep our students safe. The Sober Grad committee of parents has been working hard to make this a fun night for all of our seniors. Thank you parents.

Would you like to give money in support of Diana Forshee's 26.2-mile marathon, on June 4, 2006 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society? Make checks payable to the Society. This is a cancer research fundraiser and each school site will be raising money to support Diana and her walk. This fundraiser will be going on from May 18 to June 1, 2006 the marathon walk is on June 4. Let's help Diana find a cure for cancer.

On May 18 the Band and Choir Concert will be held at Liberty High in the theater at 6 p.m. On Tuesday, May 30, the Sierra View 5th and 6th grade dinner theater will begin at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Ranchos Middle School's 8th grade graduation will be Friday, June 2, 2006 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Last but not least, on June 4 the Ranchos Kiwanis will be having a Cross the River Run for all of you runners.

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Artist Cori Balcom and her prize for coloring a clown for a Clovis Rodeo program. The \$25 gift card quickly became a Barbie nursery set.

Ranchos Artist Draws Her Pay

A budding Picasso from the Ranchos has scored her first paying gig: A \$25 gift card from Toys 'R Us.

Doesn't sound like much for a work of art? It does if you're only 7 years old.

Cori Balcom loves to draw and color - what 7 year old doesn't? - the only difference is that she's particularly good at it. Around the time of the Clovis Rodeo in late April, Cori

got her hands on a program that had been printed by the Thrifty Nickel company out of Fresno for the Clovis Rodeo. Inside the program was an offer to children under 12 to "color the rodeo clown" and possibly win a first prize of a \$25 gift card to Toys 'R Us.

Cori had never been to Toys 'R Us and she wasn't quite sure how much \$25 was, but she knew she wanted to enter the contest.

Approximately a week later Cori received a phone call informing her that she had won first prize and that the gift card was hers.

After much thought and after walking every aisle in Toys 'R Us, Cori settled on a Barbie nursery play set and a pair of sparkly, blue pom poms.

When asked if she would be entering any more contests, she said, "Yes!"

BOOKSHELF Continued from Page 4

library. He is so small but very intelligent and loves to read and be involved in everything the students do. In the end, each student - with his or her parent's permission - receives a library card. Poor I.Q. wants a card too but must find a way to get his permission slip signed. It's a great introduction to the library written for young children. Learning how to locate books as well as videos, books on tape or CD, videos, magazines and newspapers in the card catalog is valuable for everyone.

Check out these books and more at the library!

Remember your library card ... don't leave home without it!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce presents

A School Bond Town Hall Meeting

Have all of your questions regarding Measure "S" answered at an informative Town Hall meeting to be held

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

6:30 p.m.

at the LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Yes on "S" Committee members present will be Mike Kelly, Ron Osborn and Doug Reitz. For more information call the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or the Ranchos Independent at 645-0634.

Make an appointment with relief!

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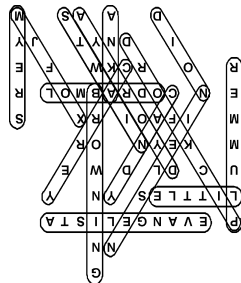
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Puzzle Answers

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



CANADA WALK OF FAME

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BIGELOW Continued from Page 1

Harmon, started the Ponderosa Telephone Company with two wires strung through trees so that his wife, Leota, could talk to her friend a half-mile away. Requests came in from other residents for service and when the Forest Service wanted Mr. Bigelow to take over its phones in 1908, the Ponderosa Telephone Company was officially established.

Frank Bigelow has been an employee of the Ponderosa Telephone Company since 1973 and is currently vice-president. He worked his way up through the ranks of the company, learning all facets of the business.

Frank Bigelow officially became a firefighter on his 18th birthday, but volunteered "unofficially" before that, working with his father and meeting a need for the local community. He volunteers to this day, having served over 30 years with the local volunteer fire department and feels that a volunteer fire department should be run by people in the community to meet a need, not as a second source of income or for personal gratification. Volunteers should do firefighting as a community service.

Frank Bigelow has and is involved in many organizations and committees, including his appointment by Governor Wilson to the Madera District Fair Board, his election to the Madera Ag Boosters Board of Directors, California Shorthorn Breeder's Association Board of Directors and the Madera County Cattleman's Association Board of Directors. He served as a leader in the Spring Valley 4-H Club and is a strong supporter of the Future Farmers of America. In keeping with family tradition, he has continued to raise champion registered Shorthorn cattle and champion registered Columbia Sheep. Bigelow Farms is one of the oldest active ranches in the County.

In November of 1998, Frank Bigelow won the Supervisorial seat for District 1 in Madera County on the belief that there is a need for strong leadership in order to confront several important issues, such as growth, impact of growth on agriculture, lack of jobs that pay a decent wage and especially, water.

In 2002, Frank Bigelow was appointed as Chairman to the Board of Supervisors and won a second term as Supervisor to District 1, which started in 2003. He also spearheaded the formation of the San Joaquin River Task Force that consists of several counties and agencies with the same concern for the water interests of the San Joaquin River and groundwater located within the central San Joaquin Valley.

Chairman Bigelow currently serves on the following:

Central Sierra Watershed Committee, CSAC Board of Directors, CSAC Policy Committee-Housing/Land Use/Transportation, Eastern Madera County Water Oversight Advisory Committee, Flood Control/Water Conservation Agency Advisory Board, Foreign Trade Zone Advisory Board - Alternate, Interagency Children & Youth Services Council and Executive Committee - Alternate, Local Agency Formation Commission, Madera Co. Transportation Authority, Madera Co. Transportation Commission, Mid Valley Water Authority, Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) Alternate, Resource Advisory Committee, Resource Conservation & District, San Joaquin River Conservancy, San Joaquin River Task Force (Chairman), Sierra National Forest Committee, Water Oversight Committee, Workforce Development Council - Alternate, Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) - Alternate.

May 2006

Page 7

What about you makes you uniquely qualified to represent the people of the Madera Ranchos?

A broad background and working knowledge that's already at speed, delivering for our community. I believe the other element that is brought to the table is the common sense value from a business perspective, being the only candidate to be in an active private business. I know the people of Madera Ranchos and have built relationships with the businesses, the seniors and the constituents over the past 10-12 years.

The Issues WATER

1. What specific plans do you have to help Ranchos residents and their water troubles?

The first action is to have the people become better informed on the facts about water. There is a lot of hype in the community that doesn't always have the full level of facts presented.

2. Would you favor a water treatment facility, including water and sewage facilities, to provide a constant, safe source of water for ALL of the Ranchos? If so, how would you suggest it be financed?

This question presumes that we need a plant such as suggested in the question. Having said that, we have been concerned for sometime that there are impacts occurring in the area that may dictate that these types of needs will be required. There have been changes in the state requirements for community water systems such as the one serving the Ranchos. This makes it very challenging to meet everyone's demand.

Sewer Plants are becoming the norm for newer or new developments that want to address their community impacts. These types of tools are very helpful in addressing water impacts and very well may be the tool of choice for communities that have a willingness to face their needs and impacts.

I believe that these would be a community effort solution, meaning this would most likely need to be done through a bond, which would require an election.

3. Would you be in favor of creating ponding basins in the Ranchos to help recharge our underground water and, if so, how would they be funded?

The county has been looking at addressing ground water recharge needs and locations. This area is most troubling because of the challenges of the ESA (Endangered Species Act). It isn't always possible to place the retention basins where it looks benign. We also must look at the flood control value that we receive from having ponding basins. This will be an added value brought to the community.

4. Does the Ranchos need to create its own water district?

The Ranchos is in a district of sorts. It is surrounded or bounded by two districts that are already in place. First, I would like to explore this area with members of the community and see if it is of benefit to the community. If not, then we need to decide what kind of district we want to create. We must start to talk about what we want the proposed district to accomplish. This is sure to be a long a lively decision. Thanks Randy!

Please see BIGELOW Page 8

BIGELOW Continued from Page 7

GROWTH

1. What is your vision of the future of the Ranchos?

This is a tough question. Why? Because this isn't about what I want - it is about what the community wants. I'm just the conduit to achieving those goals. If it is your question as to what I want, well I would like to have a community where people know one another, I would like to have the best schools for the children, I would like to be able to walk the streets without fear, and more places to work closer to home.

2. How will you help stimulate businesses being drawn to the Ranchos?

Stimulating business growth to the community is already in progress. The Board of Supervisors funds the Economic Development Commission. This program goes out and promotes Madera County, in particular the communities that are in need for services. This does boil down to people choosing to locate here.

3. How can you help the Ranchos in the following areas:
a. A post office

I did deliver a post office to the area. It was a portable from the main branch. Now that the population is increasing, and the Golden Valley school district is creating an increased amount of business as well as increased business in the area, it is time to have a conversation with the postal service to see if a branch post office is warranted in the Ranchos area. I would be pleased to facilitate that discussion.

b. A bank

I've tried working with a local bank for a site. I believe community members should also demonstrate an interest, as well as community businesses, with a local bank in Madera, such as Community Bank, to show support for a branch in the Ranchos.

c. An industrial park

This is interesting. As you or the readers may know, we have an industrial park in the area just down by the railroad tracks. We have several parties that want to invest and have had a lot of interest in investing. We hope to see a start soon on this park area with good paying local jobs.

d. A community park

For the last two years I have been

working with Golden Valley Unified as well as community members to identify a site for a community toddler park.

4. Why do projects like Gateway Village take so long to materialize when across the San Joaquin River evidence of growth on the Fresno side seems so robust? What will you do to even the playing field with Fresno development for Ranchos residents?

The Fresno side of the river has been pre-zoned for years through their General plan. As for Gateway Village, they have taken their project through the entire gamut, and as a result, they have had to go through a general plan amendment, rezoning and the entire process of map revisions due to lawsuits and some partners withdrawing their property.

There isn't an unlevel playing field between Fresno and Madera Counties. The issue is political in nature and a competitive marketplace. But, as your supervisor, I will continue to work for a balanced growth portfolio in the Ranchos.

5. What are your thoughts on the proposed Del Webb retirement community proposed for Avenue 15?

At this point I believe they have changed their minds and have moved on.

6. Aggregate is crucial to growth. What are your views on the proposed Madera Ranch aggregate quarry?

As I have stated, my family owns property that adjoins this proposed project so I have declared a conflict of interest. The Government code is very detailed on this matter. I wish I could say more.

7. What are your thoughts on the viability of the Ranchos becoming an incorporated city? Would you support or oppose such a move?

The community doesn't have the ability to be revenue neutral; this is a requirement of the state law. I couldn't recommend this action to anyone at this time based on what I know about this action.

8. How much of an advocate for the Ranchos will you be at the Board of Supervisors, during trips to Sacramento and while meeting with those who have the power to bring positive changes to the Ranchos?

I already am an advocate for the community, I have had the opportunity many times to speak to people who have

Please see BIGELOW Page 22

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1. Education Graduated Top 1% in Law School Class? Has obtained multiple degrees beyond BA?		✓ ✓
2. Experience Worked in Office of District Attorney? Successfully practiced Law in Multiple Settings? Successfully Managed National Law Firm? Certified as Specialist in Criminal Law?	✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
3. Professional Courtroom Ethics Court finds multiple ethical violations in multiple trials? Court finds prosecutorial misconduct during trial? Court finds intentional misleading statements provided to court and jury? Multiple cases reversed multiple times due to Misconduct? Blames improper plea bargaining on "busy" Judges?	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	
4. Ethics and Integrity Pleads to Ethical Violation before State Bar Court? Found to have violated Constitutional Rights of others? Found to have misused the system for the personal benefit of his family members and personal friends? Misleads Court in critical DNA evidence resulting in Wrongful Conviction and subsequent reversal of case? Engaged in multiple lawsuits costing taxpayers money?		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
5. Reputation for Truth and Honesty Distorts Public Conviction Rate? Routinely withholds evidence? Legal team sanctioned for failure to provide evidence? Uses Campaign Contributions for Personal Benefit?		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
6. Imposes Financial Hardship on Taxpayers Extortion Lawsuit Costs soar in excess of \$600,000 Improper hiring practice results in arson of Government Center in excess of \$700,000 Pending additional employment abuse-related lawsuits?		✓ ✓ ✓
7. Who Should Get My Vote?		✓ Criego!

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 Madera County
 District Attorney

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I am committed to the Quality of Life we have created for ourselves and our children in Eastern Madera County. I have a unique quality of perceiving people's character and real true intention.

**The Issues
WATER**

1. What specific plans do you have to help Ranchos residents and their water troubles?

Create a Water Resource Committee of my own with qualified water knowledgeable Ranchos residents and present my recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors and Sacramento Legislators. I am seriously meaning to eliminate the current Water Oversight Committee!!!

One main goal of our committees objective: To retain an engineering firm to map and track the amount of surface and underground water; assess and develop a precise and detailed water impact report; and make it available to public review.

2. Would you favor a water treatment facility, including water and sewage facilities, to provide a constant, safe source of water for ALL of the Ranchos? If so, how would you suggest it be financed?

YES, I am in favor of a Water Bank and sewage facilities and I would seek financing from County, State and Federal Grants. I would support sponsoring a Bond Measure as a last resort. Interest loans will continue to put our County in a deficit.

3. Would you be in favor of creating ponding basins in the Ranchos to help recharge our underground water and, if so, how would they be funded?

YES, My own water coalition would be introduced to all the key players in the water business, in order for all of us to understand the role these entities represent and their true intentions. Being volunteers would cut costs on some of their administrative overhead. Paid consultants, engineers and contractors would be paid on scheduled deadline with credit overights. Other revenue could be brought in from contributions, such as corporations, fundraising with gaming casinos, and once again bond measures being the last resort. Creativity is the name of the game and not redundant government intervention with outdated plans.

4. Does the Ranchos need to create its own water district?

YES, I would entertain the idea. However, we would require a thorough impact assessment. Establishing our own water district requires strategic planning and political tactics in order to become autonomous. Most assuredly, groundwater mapping and usage of water resources over a period requires hiring the best consultants and expert engineers. Indeed, thorough assessment must be taken seriously in order to take control of our water.

GROWTH

1. What is your vision of the future of the Ranchos?

A pro-active and steady growth with the participation of the Madera Ranchos and Rolling Hills community organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Senior citizens, PTA, Children's Hospital, Fire Stations, Sheriff's Office and the Taxpayers' Association. Utilizing their input in developing a residential and commercial infrastructure.

2. How will you help stimulate businesses being drawn to the Ranchos?

By stimulating the labor market through the Chamber of Commerce and the Madera Economic Commission. Appoint someone from the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce to sit on the Madera Economic Development Commission. That individual would work at utilizing the media, EDD and the internet, the most powerful tool in promoting new businesses in the Ranchos.

3. How can you help the Ranchos in the following areas:

a. A post office

Post Office - Work with the local Chamber and the Postmaster and mitigate installing another RV or office Post Office at the Ranchos. As your elected County Supervisor I have the power to lobby the Congressional Representatives on this issue.

b. A bank

Bank - Once again utilize the Economic Commission and the local Chamber of Commerce membership who are bankers and propose a bank satellite office in the Ranchos. Start off with an ATM Banking Center.

c. An industrial park

Industrial Park - Rio Mesa would be a viable location and potential spot. Our eastern Madera District requires an industrial park to enlarge the labor market and district revenues, however, infrastructure first and foremost must be evaluated and mitigated through their EIRs in order to target an advantageous location.

d. A community park

Community Park - In the past, The Kiwanis Club and Dr. Kim and other Ranchos Citizens proposed to create a Community Park at Liberty High School property that was donated for a park. The current County supervisor would not entertain the concept at that time. The project was tabled. When elected, I would re-open the issue and make it a reality.

4. Why do projects like Gateway Village take so long to materialize when across the San Joaquin River evidence of growth on the Fresno side seems so robust? What will you do to even the playing field with Fresno development for Ranchos residents?


Gateway - I am in favor of the Gateway Tract of Homes. I would like to know "Why" this has not occurred. I think the currently sitting Supervisor should explain this to the people. When elected I will seek the answers to this.

5. What are your thoughts on the proposed Del Webb retirement community proposed for Avenue 15?

Del Webb - I am in favor of this. Again, The current Supervisor should explain to the people why this hasn't happened?

6. Aggregate is crucial to growth. What

Please see GRANT Page 12



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ELECT HAL GRANT JUNE 6th

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GRANT Continued from Page 10

are your views on the proposed Madera Ranch aggregate quarry?

I am in favor of a quarry but NOT in the proposed area that it is currently planned. That area is all residences and zoned agriculture and there are too many concerns regarding water contamination and public safety.

7. What are your thoughts on the viability of the Ranchos becoming an incorporated city? Would you support or oppose such a move?

There is no tax base for it now.

8. How much of an advocate for the Ranchos will you be at the Board of Supervisors, during trips to Sacramento and while meeting with those who have the power to bring positive changes to the Ranchos?

110% full time Supervisor and 7 days a week.

SCHOOLS

1. Part of growth is more school facilities for our children. Where do you stand on the proposed Measure "S" School Bond issue for Golden Valley Unified?

Schools. I totally and whole-heartedly support Measure "S". Our children are our future. I look forward to the day when we can say our Golden Valley Unified Schools produces a Governor of California or a President of the United States.

ROADS

1. Growth has taken its toll on our roads. The replacement for Measure "A" provides for no repairs within the Ranchos. What are you specifically going to do to

get our roads in drivable condition?

The County of Madera ballot will show it as Measure "C" in November. I'm still studying the issues and I am still undecided.

CRIME

1. At present on weekends there are three Sheriff's deputies patrolling from Bass Lake to Firebaugh, making response time to the Ranchos sometimes futile. What will you do to increase the number of active deputies for the Ranchos, including the possibility of having an actual substation whose location would be ideally located between Madera and the Fresno border?

As a career law enforcement officer and former police chief and corrections chief, no one is more anti-crime than I am! I will work very closely with the Sheriff and assist him in obtaining more deputies to protect you. I will lobby for funds from the State and Federal governments. I will assist him in establishing a foundation for public safety which then can obtain funds from corporations and individuals for the sole purpose of law enforcement and public safety. No one can be more public safety-conscious than I will.

Is there anything else you'd like the voters of the Madera Ranchos to know when they go to vote on June 6?

Indeed, by all means, vote for the betterment of our district and the County of Madera. Do not be influenced by fancy flashy campaign ads and slim mailers or fictitious promises. I am a straight forward candidate with the simplest answers I can give you. And, the simplest answer is the most often and usually the truest answer. Elect Hal Grant for government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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- 6/9-Mo Fo Band
- 6/16-Sunset Steel Drum Band
- 6/23-Souled Out
- 6/30-Chain Reaction
- 7/7-Joe Lenigan Little Big Band
- 7/14-Mo Fo Band
- 7/21-nuff said
- 7/28-After Dinner Mints
- 8/4-Souled Out
- 8/11-Chain Reaction
- 8/18-Nite Flite
- 8/25-After Dinner Mints
- 9/1-Joe Lenigan Little Big Band

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District 1, including the Ranchos, a viable and attractive place to live.

**The Issues
WATER**

1. What specific plans do you have to help Ranchos residents and their water troubles?

Limit future development to research and development of water districts and recharge alternatives for growth. Look for funding to support a similar program as the water bank for the recharging of the water table in the Ranchos.

2. Would you favor a water treatment facility, including water and sewage facilities, to provide a constant, safe source of water for ALL of the Ranchos? If so, how would you suggest it be financed?

Yes, I would support a water treatment facility. I would look to use State and Federal Grants and bonds to finance the water facility.

3. Would you be in favor of creating ponding basins in the Ranchos to help recharge our underground water and, if so, how would they be funded?

Yes, I would use grants or bonds to finance a water recharge system.

4. Does the Ranchos need to create its own water district?

I am not sure if the Ranchos could be served with its own water district but I would research it with an open mind in keeping the best interest of the Ranchos residents.

GROWTH

1. What is your vision of the future of the Ranchos?

The Ranchos is unique because its residents want it to grow into its own city, but it has a few obstacles to overcome. Drainage, police and fire protection, water, roads; I will work hard to find solutions to the obstacles through a Ranchos Community Committee driven by the best interests of the Ranchos residents.

2. How will you help stimulate businesses being drawn to the Ranchos?

When we build the infrastructure, the businesses will come.

3. How can you help the Ranchos in the following areas:

- a. A post office
- b. A bank
- c. An industrial park
- d. A community park

I will work through the negotiation process to bring these services to the Ranchos as we work toward building the infrastructure.

4. Why do projects like Gateway Village take so long to materialize when across the San Joaquin River evidence of growth on the Fresno side seems so robust? What will you do to even the playing field with Fresno development for Ranchos residents?

I believe that the residents of the Ranchos want some growth, but we must keep in mind that growth takes water and we cannot allow one with out the other.

5. What are your thoughts on the proposed Del Webb retirement community proposed for Avenue 15?

My first concern is how are the roads to the development and what type of emer-

gency services will be available to it and where will they be coming from. What will be the response time?

6. Aggregate is crucial to growth. What are your views on the proposed Madera Ranch aggregate quarry?

I am still evaluating the planned quarry. I have some concerns but I am still gathering information from the residents of District 1.

7. What are your thoughts on the viability of the Ranchos becoming an incorporated city? Would you support or oppose such a move?

Yes.

8. How much of an advocate for the Ranchos will you be at the Board of Supervisors, during trips to Sacramento and while meeting with those who have the power to bring positive changes to the Ranchos?

I will represent the Ranchos in the same urgency as the rest of District 1, as their representative.

SCHOOLS

1. Part of growth is more school facilities for our children. Where do you stand on the proposed Measure "S" School Bond issue for Golden Valley Unified?

As a school board member I know how important funds are for schools and how hard they are to come by. I support the Measure "S" bond measure.

ROADS

1. Growth has taken its toll on our roads. The replacement for Measure "A" provides for no repairs within the Ranchos. What are you specifically going to do to get our roads in drivable condition?

I need to look more into the new Measure A. I would like to see that the measure includes language to repair the roads. Besides the measure, I will work aggressively to maintain and keep our county in serviceable condition. I do not want them to continue to diminish beyond repair. Our roads are a lifeline to a viable community.

CRIME

1. At present on weekends there are three Sheriff's deputies patrolling from Bass Lake to Firebaugh, making response time to the Ranchos sometimes futile. What will you do to increase the number of active deputies for the Ranchos, including the possibility of having an actual substation whose location would be ideally located between Madera and the Fresno border?

I will work very aggressively to fully staff the Sheriff's department and maintain an active substation to cut down the response time to the Ranchos community. The value of the volunteers on patrol program and the reserve officers is tremendous. I plan on supporting and building onto the existing programs in an effort to maintain the safety for the sheriff's deputies and the residents of the Ranchos.

Is there anything else you'd like the voters of the Madera Ranchos to know when they go to vote on June 6?

I want to make sure that that the residents of the Ranchos are not left out of any decisions that are made for district 1. When elected to office I will be forming a committee of representatives from each part of district 1 to be the eyes and the ears of the area. I want to hear from the ranchos and every other area in the district.

It will be my honor to represent you for the county and I hope to do so for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions.

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Golden Valley Unified School District 1999 Bond Information

Since the GVUSD Board passed the Resolution to put a \$70 million bond on the June Ballot, there have been numerous questions regarding the status of the 1999 school bond funds. The following information is an effort to address these questions.



Liberty High School Phase II Classroom Wing.

What were the Liberty High School, Phase I, construction costs?

• \$25,455,926.03. A complete listing of expenses are available on the Golden Valley District web site at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us.

What was purchased with \$20 million of local bond funds?

- One hundred forty-two acres of land – of which 85 acres were allocated for Liberty High School – all phases, with 51 acres remaining for future facility projects.
- Facility infrastructure where none existed; well pump; 1 million gallon water storage tank and wastewater treatment facility.
- Phase 1 of Liberty High School.
- Interim Middle School.
- Phase 2 of Liberty High School currently under construction.
- Webster modernization and District match.
- Ranchos Middle School permanent middle school design.

Why was the Interim Middle School campus built?

- To provide an interim campus to house 325 middle school student while the permanent Ranchos Middle School is being designed/built.
- Future use of the interim school includes: An overflow site while new schools are being constructed, possibly an adult ed school site, District Office or Liberty High School expansion.

Why has Liberty High School not been “finished”?

- The District master planned the campus for an eventual enrollment of 1,200 students.
- The District used all the State’s eligibility that was available at the time to build Phase 1 of Liberty High School for 700 students.
- The District used all of the bond fund it was able to access at that time – bond fund availability is based on the assessed valuation of the District.
- The District wanted to make sure classroom space was available to students before considering the football stadium and swimming pool projects.

GVUSD Graduations, Promotions and Awards

- **Liberty High School Graduation Ceremony** June 1, 2006 6:00 p.m.—(tickets required).
- **RMS 8th grade promotion** at Liberty High School June 2, 2006 6:00 p.m.
- **Sierra View Award Assembly and 6th grade promotion** at Sierra View June 1, 2006 8:15 a.m.
- **Webster Elementary 6th grade promotion** at Webster Elementary June 2, 2006 8:30 a.m.

Liberty High School Student Receives Scholarship at ACSA “Golden Apple” Dinner

LHS student Katie Sanders received the ACSA scholarship at the Golden Apple Dinner on May 9, 2006. Katie Sanders ranks 14th in her graduating class and she is currently carrying a 3.75 cumulative GPA. Katie has been an active member of the AVID program serving as an AVID tutor. Ever since she can remember, Katie has always been there to help others with their academics. She has been accepted to attend California State University at Fresno and plans on majoring in mathematics. Katie has aspirations of becoming a high school math teacher and would love to come back to Liberty High School and teach. According to Katie, “I have always wanted to be a teacher since the second grade. I love kids.”



Katie Sanders (front) received her scholarship from LHS Pricipal Andy Alvarado and Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Shepherd.

K-8 History-Social Science Adoption

This year the State Board of Education approved new History-Social Science materials for K-8 schools. Their statement accompanying the list of publishers is, “Preparing for the next generation of citizens is one of public education’s most important roles, and it is accomplished in no small degree through a quality history-social science program in schools.”

In Golden Valley a committee of teachers has worked since January evaluating all of the books and materials using a toolkit that looked at the content and organization of the materials, how the materials assessed student learning,

whether the books met the needs of Special Education students, English learners, struggling readers, and gifted learners. The committee chose Houghton Mifflin History-Social Science at the K-6 level and Holt California Social Studies for middle school students. These books are available for parents to see in Room 5 at the District Office. To see the books, come to Room 1 at the District Office, and someone will take you to Room 5. The books will be available for viewing from May 10th to May 24th. The adoption will go to the Board on May 23, 2006, for approval.

GOLDEN VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

**June 12 to July 28 • Monday through Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

All sites will also be observing the 4-day work week.

REMEMBER TO VOTE JUNE 6TH

Sierra View Panthers Had A Great Year



Sierra View has had a busy year full of fun and learning!

- Fun days like Crazy Hair Day!
- Sierra View Sixth Grade Camp
- Kinder Circus
- Sierra View's first graders sang songs, memorized portions of the constitution, and made presentations on influential Americans like Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln during Sierra View's Patriotic Day Celebration.
- Sierra View's GATE students worked hard in the Chaffee Zoo University.
- Sierra View students learned about fire safety from some of Madera County's finest.
- Sierra View students, teachers and community celebrated the safe return from Iraq of former SV teacher Mr. Lloyd Wilfong. Mr. Wilfong and his family were treated to music, delicious goodies, and a sizable check in appreciation of his service.
- Second graders at Sierra View launched Rockets to learn about motion, trajectory, apogee, gravity, angles and so much more. Who said learning wasn't fun.
- All Sierra View teachers participated in a week long training on teaching and implementing the language AB standards.



Webster Kicks Off the 2005-2006 School Year With Character!



One of the overarching themes at Webster this year has been that Character Counts! We started the year emphasizing the six pillars of good character and Webster's students continued to show good character all year long.

Some highlights of our year are:

- Grandparents Read and Feed - Grandparents had breakfast with their grandchildren and then went into their classroom and read their favorite book to the class.
- Webster celebrated student achievement at our STAR Awards Assembly. This assembly honors students who achieved proficient or advanced on the California Standards Test. Webster's API score of 829 showed a growth of 18 points over the previous year.
- Webster's Annual Carnival is always a big hit with young and old alike. The Ranchos Community is fantastic about coming out and supporting Webster.
- Webster's WPTC sponsored two Family Fun Nights this year. We had a movie night and our families went to Madera Skate for an evening of roller staking.
- Character Counts Desserts were implemented for the very first time. Each month a different child

who exemplified the character of the month was picked to represent their class at this event.

The California School Board Association honored Webster's Reading Lab with the Golden Bell Award.

- Two of Webster's students received bikes compliments of Pelco. They were both thrilled to be picked for this honor.
- Webster's Primary Winter Program was outstanding this year. The scenery was delightful and the children's singing was beautiful.
- Webster students once again were picked to represent our school at the Peach Blossom Festival held at Fresno State.
- Students "caught" exhibiting one of the Six Pillar of Character received a special Wall of Fame Certificate. Students throughout the campus were eager to be put on the Wall of Fame.
- Six Graders bundled up, fought the rain and the snow and had a great time at Sixth Grade Camp!
- Donuts with Dad was held for the first time at Webster, and it was a fantastic success with over 300 dads attending. Webster dads really supported this event and our students were delighted to have their dads share that special time with them.
- As our year winds down we are looking forward to several more very special events:
 - Our end of year Awards Ceremonies, Thursday, June 1st
 - And then the last day of regular school on Friday, June 2nd.

Even though the 2005-2006 school year is over, the Webster campus will not be quiet. Summer School for both Webster and Sierra View students will begin on Tuesday, June 6th and GVUSD's annual fee based SEA (Summer Elementary Activities) Program will begin also! At Webster Elementary, day in and day out, giving our students the best possible education is our one and only goal.



Ranchos Middle School Mustang Highlights



Grand Opening of the new Interim Ranchos Middle School was very exciting and was made possible by a lot of hard work from district and site personnel.

Ranchos Middle School won the title of "Gear Up School on the Move" – We are making things happen to help students succeed.

Our 8th Grade students placed 1st in the county pentathlon super quiz and our 7th graders placed second.

RMS came together a couple of times this year to support another student in a tragedy that occurred in

their life.

A beautiful and educational Civil War ball 7th graders dissecting the cow eyes got a lot of students thinking about science.

Hard working students enjoyed rallies and dances. Outstanding RMS Drama class performances. Awesome Band and Choir debut at Disneyland. All RMS 7th graders visit California State University Fresno.

All RMS 8th graders visit university campuses including US Santa Cruz, UC Davis and Cal Poly. First Annual Science Fair was held at RMS. Overall winning performances by Ranchos Athletics.

Ranchos Middle School Students worked hard this year, received awards and most of all showed an overall genuine concern for other students which is a lot to be proud of.



Liberty Hawks 2005 - 2006 Highlights

- 99.9% Completion of STAR Testing
- 87% Pass English Language Arts CAHSEE - 10th Grade Administration
- 84% Pass Mathematics CAHSEE - 10th Grade Administration
- 36 Associated Student Body Clubs
- Increase enrollment in Advancement Via Individual Determination
- Human Relations Day sponsored by LHS Leadership Class
- 10% increase in number of Students admitted into 4 year universities
- Coordination of First School-to-Career Fair
- Academic Decathlon Super Quiz Champions
- Increase Advance Placement Offerings (3)
- Character Counts Education was implemented
- Career Skills Challenge Sierra Division Champions
- Sports Medicine Program was implemented
- ROP Culinary Arts, ROP Careers in Education, ROP Commercial Art, ROP Sports Medicine
- Liberty High School FFA Chapter was started
- Girls Softball Valley Champions
- West Sierra League Wrestling Champions
- Girls Doubles Tennis Champions
- Football and Girls Basketball Team Make Playoffs
- 2nd Annual STAR Carnival
- LHS Varsity Football Team makes playoffs
- LHS Varsity Wrestling wins Valley
- Battle of the Bands
- Career Tech committee launched
- Senior Exit Interviews
- Phase II Classroom Construction begins
- WASC Accreditation Self-Study Process
- EduSoft
- Established Benchmark Exams
- Common Final Assessments
- Secondary Specialized Programs Math Grant Recipients/\$35,000



Alternative Education Grows in 2005 - 2006

Opened Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School
Relocated Independence Continuation High School
Opened Lincoln Community
Established Centennial Independent Study School
Reactivated the Golden Valley Adult School

Valley Teen Ranch:

First Awards Assembly
16 honor roll students
6 outstanding achievement awards
16 students with perfect attendance
First two students to pass the GED
1st try on all five parts
First student to graduate from VTR (pending CAHSEE results)
100% participation in STAR assessments

Independence Continuation High School:
Collaborative Garden Project with Sierra View Elementary School



Lincoln and Independence:

Presentations & Workshops
Champions for Today (professional football player spoke to students)
United States Army
San Joaquin Valley College
Fresno City College
100% participation in STAR assessments

Centennial Independent Study School:

1st graduate (December)
1st perfect attendance award
Steadily grown to over 30 students

Golden Valley Adult Education School:

Four classes offered
English as a second language (multi-level)
Bus Driving & First Aide
High School Diploma Class
Senior Citizens' Fine Arts Water Color Class

Liberty Holds First Tech Education Fair



Liberty High School held its first Tech/Ed Fair on Friday, May 12, 2006. Students were really excited by all the demonstrations and informational booths. Liberty High School and the District Office thank all of you for your support, help, and participation in making the Liberty High Career Fair a success.

A special thank you to Melissa Locke, Karie Hannigan, and Mary Lynn Herron for organizing the set-up and making many, many calls. We would like to thank the following participants of the LHS Tech Ed Fair:

Co Star Field Researcher – Mr. Herron
Real Estate Appraiser – Mr. Herron
Respiratory Therapist – Mrs. Lori Parr
Nursing – Mrs. Donna Hummer
Airline Pilot – Mr. Roel Pille
United States Marine Core – GYSGT Corzo
Madera County Fire Dept. – Moe Fleming
Carpenter's Union – Mr. David Ingram and Mr. Doug Reitz
Quantun Yields – Mr. David Hornor
Charter Funding – Ms. Lisa Scotti
Cal-Trans – Ms. Pat Bencomo and Ms. Cindi Sanchez
Fresno Oxygen and Miller Electric (Welding) – Mr. Bill Tenison and Mr. Matt Johnson
Fresno City College Welding Instructor – Mr. Brett Camacho
ALT-ESC Inc. – Mr. Bruce Blair
Madera Community Hospital – Ms. Melissa Bushey
UC Merced – Ms. Ausha Chugani
Fresno State – Ms. Stephanie Robert
Fresno Pacific University – Ms. Silvia Rojas

GVUSD Transportation was on the Move

Golden Valley runs 16 home to school routes, transporting close to 800 students on a daily basis. On any given day 3 to 5 buses may also be required to provide athletic or special event transportation, making coordination quite a juggling feat. The expertise of Transportation Coordinator Jeanne Hall helps to ensure that transportation runs smoothly. Also key to the department's efficiency is bus mechanic Gary Gleim. Solely responsible to keep all of the District's fourteen school buses legal and safe, Gary is a crucial to the operation.

The Transportation Department experienced many changes in the 2005-06 school year as it responded to the phenomenal "overnight" growth of the District. The addition of the new territory added Sierra View Elementary and Independence High School. The territory transfer added buses and personnel to Golden Valley. In addition, the following equipment/vehicles were added and we thank Superintendent Shepherd and the Board of Trustees for their support in approving these purchases:

- A new 25 passenger and/or wheelchair capable bus
- Three new 8 passenger vans were added to the "white fleet" for events
- A pneumatic lift system was added to the bus repair warehouse to allow a bus to be lifted overhead for a thorough inspection and for added ease in completing certain repairs

GVUSD is hiring bus drivers for the 2006/2007 school year. For more information contact the district office at #645-7500.



Pictured here are the current school buses drivers and substitutes in Golden Valley: Manuel Torres, Frank Lakatos, Ken Beal, Jesus Garcia, Lilia Garcia, Sylvia Diaz, Connie Winder, Richard Hanhart, Gary Gleim (Mechanic), Jeanne Hall (Transportation Coordinator). Not available for the picture: Mary Lou Castro.

REMEMBER TO VOTE JUNE 6TH

Garden Tips

May Gardening Chores Signal Garden Time has Arrived

By Thea Fiskin

Shopping for plants is fun for both the novice and experienced gardener alike. Finding plants is never difficult, since they are readily available at professional plant nurseries, farmers' markets, wholesale warehouses, as well as local drug and grocery stores. Most shelves are stocked full since the early spring weather has kept us cooped up indoors way too long this year. Hopefully May is our month to beautify the neighborhoods! With proper care annuals planted now should last till the first frost in November. Don't forget to plant those patio containers, window boxes and hanging baskets!

What to Plant

Annuals - Time to get rid of winter annuals such as pansies, primroses and snapdragons and plant summer annuals that thrive in heat. In your sunny spots try ageratum, amaranths, bedding dahlias, celosias, cleome, cosmos, dianthus, four o'clock, gomphrena, marigolds, nierembergia, petunias, portulacas, salvias, sunflowers and zinnias. Shaded areas can be brightened up with begonias, coleus, impatiens and New Guinea impatiens.

Vines - Annual vines like cypress vine, moonflower, hyacinth vine and scarlet runner bean seeded now can grow up an arbor, mingle with your climbing rose, or cover up that ugly fence or shed in no time at all. Be careful if planting morning glories, since one vine produces a huge plant with thousands of seeds. A variety called "Heavenly blue" produces sterile seeds. Hyacinth bean is wonder-

ful, it has a nice flower and the seed pods are beautiful.

Bulbs - Time to plant callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus and tuberoses.

Perennials - Try coneflower, coreopsis, coral-bells, gaura, gerbera daisy, ornamental grasses, ornamental sweet potato, sedums, verbena and yarrow. It's warm enough to plant sub-tropicals like bougainvillea, citrus, hibiscus and palms. Most fuchsias will perish in our dry summer heat.

Lawns - May is a prime time to renovate warm season lawns like Bermuda and St. Augustine. Dethatch them with a vertical mower, add fertilizer and water and they will spring back like new. Mow Bermuda lawns 1/2 to 1-inch and fescue lawns 2 to 3-inches tall. Mowing fescue lawns too low will encourage weeds and require more water. Mowing warm season lawns too high will encourage thatch to develop.

Vegetables and Herbs - Plant basil, beans, cilantro, corn, cucumber, eggplant, melons, okra, parsley, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash and tomatoes. Stagger your plantings so you have fresh veggies all summer long. When buying tomato seedlings look for the letters V, F and N or T next to the cultivar's name. These letters indicate disease resistance to Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Nematodes and Tobacco mosaic virus. The more letters, the more disease resistant your plant should be. With our long growing season there's still time to plant seeds. Seeds are very affordable and there is more choice in varieties.

Garden Chores

Fertilize - Feed lawns, roses, shrubs and trees. Give acid fertilizer to your azaleas, gardenias and rhododendrons as soon as they are finished blooming.

Pest Control - Blast aphids, mites and spittlebugs with a jet of water from a hose aiming at the undersides of leaves. Repeat regularly as doing it once is not enough. If infestations are extremely heavy try using an insecticidal soap. Watch for caterpillars or "worms" on plants, especially petunias and geraniums. If necessary spray with Bacillus thuringiensis, a natural pesticide commonly called Bt.

Continue to bait or handpick slugs and snails. Pull weeds when they are young and before they develop seeds. Be sure to get all the roots on perennial weeds other-

wise they grow right back.

Pinch-Prune-Maintain - Pinch out growing tips of bedding plants to promote branching and compact growth. To avoid that bedraggled look, give your spring blooming perennials a trim. Mexican sage benefits if you cut it back and give it some fertilizer and a good watering. It will get new leaves in no time and flower again in the fall. Put stakes or supports for tall perennials like asters, this will prevent them from falling over later in the summer.

Water - As the days get warmer increase your water time, but always try to conserve water. Infrequent deep watering during early morning hours is best. Test sprinklers to be sure they are

Please see GARDEN Page 21

The Garden Bug

Acid and alkaline

A "pH" level is a measure of the amount of lime (calcium) contained in your soil. Soil with a pH higher than 7.0 is alkaline soil; a pH lower than 7.0 is acid soil.

A hydrangea's flower color is blue in acid soil, and pink in alkaline soil.

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OPINION • OPINION • OPINION

An Open Letter to the Residents of the Ranchos Regarding the Proposed Madera Ranch Rock Quarry

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my opinion on the proposed Madera Ranch hard rock quarry, which if approved will be located north of the Bonadelle Ranchos on Road 209. The Madera County Planning Commission has met twice to discuss this proposal, the first time to hear the presentation of the planning department, the applicant and Cal Trans, while the second meeting was to hear the comments from the public. There is another meeting scheduled for May 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coarsegold Community Center where the planning commission will hear the rebuttal of the applicant. I would like to encourage all interested Ranchos residents to attend this meeting. I plan on being there, as I am opposed to the approval of this project.

The location of the proposed site is good from a businessman's prospective, but, is it good from the prospective of the people who live in the surrounding areas? Do the potential benefits out weigh the potential effects? The residents on or near Road 209, "the Bates Station Neighbors" as they call themselves, have put up a strong opposition to the project. If I lived that close to a proposed 85 acre strip mine I would be kicking and screaming too! They stand to face contaminated water, loss of well water, noise from blasting and trucks, truck traffic on their country lane (Road 209), and loss of value to their property, to name a few. These folks are our neighbors and they just want to keep what they have. Will the Ranchos residents stand with them in this fight?

So what do we in the Ranchos stand to lose if this project goes through? I live in the Bonadelle Ranchos, in the northeast corner. We all know that well water supplies are an issue. Just look at the number of us that have huge storage tanks next to our wells. My well is over 500 feet deep down through the granite. Many of the wells around my property are also deep wells. As Ken Schmidt, the hydrologist hired by the county to do a water study on this project, stated at the first Planning Commission meeting on February 22, the water in the granite fractures flows from north to south. Well, I'm located approximately 4 miles south of this mining project. Will the 72,000 gallons of water they use each day and the dewatering of the surrounding area (pumping out ground water to keep the pit dry as they dig) impact my well? What about the 90 acre pit 360 feet deep that they will leave after 50 years? Will that pit possibly disrupt the granite fracture system that delivers me my water? They plan to let the pit fill

up and become a lake. That lake will then lose water to evaporation for centuries, losing water that, presently, is in the ground.

As the project stands, it will destroy around 100 acres of the 1000 acre site owned by the applicant. As indicated by Cal Trans, the need for road base is substantial and sustained. Will the 90 acre pit turn into a 500 acre pit, as market demands for road base increase? I have also heard rumors of another, larger, company that is looking at another site closer to the Ranchos at Highway 41 and Avenue 15. If this Madera Ranch Quarry project goes through will it make it more difficult for concerned residents to stop these others from going into the road base business even nearer to the Ranchos area?

What about the increased truck traffic on Highway 41 and 145, Avenue 15 and Avenue 12? As one of the commissioners said at the first meeting, the traffic on 41 is a bottle neck where it turns into freeway just south of Avenue 12. He suggested that Cal Trans needs to step up to the plate and extend the freeway lanes of Highway 41 before this quarry should be considered. There will be 640 truck trips each day at the height of production should this quarry go in. Do we want to share our daily commutes with these additional trucks? Traffic on Avenue 12 has increased tremendously in the 16 years that I have lived here. Just try to make a left hand turn from a business on to Avenue 12 these days. Many of the trucks will be using Avenue 12, Avenue 15 and Highway 145 to travel east to Freeway 99. What about the increase in the incidence of head-on collisions on those highways when impatient drivers try to pass slow moving trucks?

Finally, as any of you that read this consider on what side you will stand about this issue. Take a drive down Friant and look at the mine that is just north of Fresno. Is that the type of development you want to see on the Highway 41 corridor? Do you want to see strip mines and dump trucks as you drive for a day hiking in Yosemite National Park with your families? Is this the image we want to project to tourists visiting the area? If this quarry goes in what will stop the others? I hope my grand children will be able to see an even more beautiful and better Eastern Madera County than I have experienced due to the steps our generation will make toward improving our environment. Please don't let this rock quarry make us take a big step backward.

Sincerely,

Julie Hale



Chad Harr
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Business Profile

Look What the "Cat" Dragged in
Fergie's has New Owners, Rename it "Cat's Diner"

It's funny when something goes full circle within your lifetime. When you actually get to see the starting point and then stick around long enough to see it come back again.

Twelve years ago, Catherine "Cat" Hammond worked at Fergie's as a waitress. She claims that it was there that she "... learned everything I know" about the restaurant business. She left there to spend the next 8 years running the family restaurant in northern California with her husband Robert. Robert's restaurant background runs pretty heavily through his veins too. His mom worked in a restaurant and, "... she put me to work in the kitchen when I was 10, and that's what started me in the restaurant business." Robert's been working in the restaurant business for the last 18 years. Acquiring Fergie's is their first restaurant of their own. "We've just been taking care of other people's," Cat said.

Plans for Fergie's
"We're basically going to keep it the same, but we're going to specialize in omelettes," Cat said. Specialize in deed. The couple is tentatively talking about approximately 65 different omelettes for Cat's Diner. That's a lot of omelettes.
"But we're not going to limit ourselves to breakfast," Cat said, noting that lunches will be a big part of their menu and they're kicking around some dinner specials as well.
"Everything is made from scratch," she emphasized. "Nothing canned!"
A point that the couple really wants to stress is that with the cost of gas these days there's absolutely no reason to drive into Fresno for a good meal. "Everybody can come here and eat!" Cat said.
Look for the same staff and the same hours, but budget enough time to start working your way through those 65 omelettes.

GARDEN Continued from Page 19

Thea Fiskin is a UC Master Gardener with Tulare/Kings County. Master Gardeners are members of communities who are trained by UC Cooperative Extension experts in different aspects of plant science and then volunteer to extend that information to their community. The mission of the Master Gardener program is to provide research-based information for gardening practices and technologies of home horticulture, integrated pest management and environmental resource conservation.

aimed right and in working order with no leaks or clogged emitters. Yes I know they were working fine last month but you never know until you check! Be sure that plant growth hasn't blocked their path or the dog hasn't used the sprinkler head as a chew-toy.

Summer will be here before you know it, so don't miss your chance to get your garden beautiful.



Endorsed by California Correctional Peace Officer Association; Madera Deputy Sheriffs' Association; Madera County Probation Peace Officers' Management Association; Madera Police Officers' Association; Madera County Correctional Officers' Association; Madera County Probation Peace Officers' Association; Chowchilla Police Officers' Association; Corrections U.S.A.; and Fresno Police Officers' Association.

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MADERA COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1

the power to have an effect, but it takes far more then speaking to people in power. It is the staying power to get the job or project done that matters. Too often [the people in power] want to make sure that there will be continuity. When a change is made the history and the connections are lost, which is what happens to most projects. Plus, people want to do it differently and in some cases they don't have the same focus. This is why a project falls by the wayside after much time and monies are spent.

SCHOOLS

1. Part of growth is more school facilities for our children. Where do you stand on the proposed Measure "S" School Bond issue for Golden Valley Unified?

I have some reservations BUT if we want to have the best SCHOOLS we are going to have to go after them. Let me ask this question: Aren't your kids worth it? Take a look at what you're getting.

ROADS

1. Growth has taken its toll on our roads. The replacement for Measure "A" provides for no repairs within the Ranchos. What are you specifically going to do to get our roads in drivable condition?

Take a look at the record as to what the Ranchos received in the first Measure A. The second highest level of dollars spent in an area. I disagree with the question. The measure is set up in a way to get more done than the first measure. In fact, we will see more benefit from being a self-help county than not being a self-help county. Case in point: we will have lost about \$8 million since Oct. 31 to the close of June 30. This doesn't take into account the matching dollars from the Federal or State matching monies. This is an important point: if we aren't at the table we will be left out from these funding sources. With about \$6 million in the road budget we will fall further and further behind in the maintenance of the road system. Also there are funds in the measure - it is in the way it is written. There are monies for construction, repairs, Maintenance Districts and new construction.

CRIME

1. At present on weekends there are three Sheriff's deputies patrolling from Bass Lake to Firebaugh, making response time to the Ranchos sometimes futile. What will you do to increase the number of active deputies for the Ranchos, including the possibility of having an actual substation whose location would be ideally located between

Madera and the Fresno border?

This is an area that has been a problem for understanding for a lot of folks. I have been very supportive of the safety area since I've been in office. In fact I was the only Supervisor to ask for more deputies in the 03-04, 04-05 budget and this year was able to get five positions in the 05-06 budget with the help of Sheriff John Anderson. Yes, we are down in this area at times, but we don't control what people do in their lives so some leave for higher pay and some just leave the profession. As many remember, the Ranchos sub-station was a grant that was funded when the hospital was built and the deputies were to have a sub-station in place in the future, funded by the growth from the area. To date that growth hasn't occurred and the grant has long since run out. There are plans that call for a sub-station to be located in the area of Children's Hospital. We are currently working on delivering this project.

Is there anything else you'd like the voters of the Madera Ranchos to know when they go to vote on June 6?

I believe I am the best candidate to continue serving the residents of the Ranchos, District 1, and all of Madera County. Serving as a County Supervisor is more than just appearing at Tuesday meetings. It's about building relationships, having a keen knowledge of the issues, being passionate about public service, devoting more than 40 hours per week to the people you serve, building rapport with your fellow supervisors and making connections at the state level. This is the short list. I have accomplished these things and many more. I am a lifelong resident of District 1. I plan to live in Madera County for the rest of my life. I always maintain an "Open Door" policy, and do not consider myself to be a "single issue" candidate. I treat all people fairly and equitably, and am interested in working collaboratively with constituents to make their communities the best they can be.

I will become the President of the California State Association of Counties in November, which provides Madera County access at the state level. I will continue to work at all levels for resources to bring into our county to enhance our county without compromising our rich agricultural heritage.

The task of County Supervisor requires knowledge of numerous areas and issues throughout our county and region. I am currently "up to speed" on all of the issues that are confronting our county today and in the near future. To change supervisors now would be a disservice to yourselves and your county. I respectfully ask for you to place your confidence in me for the next four years. Please vote on June 6.

Save this date!
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Madera County Fire Station 19
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LIES Continued from Page 2

tricts, disposing of Jimmy Hoffa and the Lindbergh baby. We are shown, in no uncertain terms, that Criego is not a good person but the question remains: What did he lie about?

In the 1950's a senator named Joe McCarthy asked the question: Are there communists in the State Department? The opposition called him names, questioned his tactics, questioned his character and eventually drove him into oblivion, but they never answered his question. Now, through the prism of history, we know that there were indeed communists within the highest ranks of the State Department. McCarthy was right. His question was right, yet McCarthy and the term "McCarthyism" are now terms of derision because someone with an agenda carefully controlled the debate. The truth was sacrificed on the altar of politics.

Which brings me back to what I said when I started this article: For the first time in my adult life, I watched as someone took my ability to choose between candidates away. Someone wants this to be a one-horse race and they've effectively got what they wanted. They've taken your and my ability to weigh these characters for ourselves and done all of the "heavy lifting" for us so that come June 6 there is only one way we CAN vote. And the best part is we STILL don't know the

May 2006

Page 23

answers to the questions. We know one candidate's a bad man and the other isn't and we should just shut up and be thankful for that, but by God that's a decision that I want to make, in the polling booth by myself.

I have said from the beginning to anyone who would listen: I am not an apologist for Criego. I wanted to look at both candidates and make a decision. The only problem with that is there are people out there right now in Madera County that don't believe I (and by extension, YOU) can be trusted to make the RIGHT choice once we step in the voting booth, so our hands have to be guided. And through all of this mess the question still stands because the question has never been answered: What did he lie about? The shopping list of accusations that ran in Criego's advertisements should be easy enough to disprove and get this over with once and for all, yet that's not the tack that's been taken.

I am one of the strongest proponents of voting that I know. I'm always trying to motivate people to get out and become part of the process by the most rudimentary avenue there is: voting. The one argument that I always railed against the hardest is the Bozo that chirps in with, "Aww, my vote doesn't count anyway, so what's the difference?" In this race, in little 'ol Madera County in the spring of 2006, Bozo may just be right.

Business Profile

Making Ranchos "House Calls"

Just like a country doctor, Oscar Segura will make house calls. The only difference is your financial health will be better when he leaves. "We close loans and open doors," Segura says.

As a certified lender for Guild Mortgage, Segura has been helping Ranchos residents secure financing for the last six years. "It's a satellite branch and I work out of my home," Segura said, "but I still have all of the facilities of the corporation available to me." Those facilities include 23 appraisers, three loan processors, and a network of offices throughout the western United States that helps with his incredibly fast turnaround times. "I can have an appraiser to your house in three to five days," instead of the usual two weeks that other mortgage companies offer, Segura said.

What Segura likes about his set up is the flexibility it affords his customers. "A brick and mortar, 8 to 5, Monday through Friday set up just doesn't work for my clients," he said.

Guild Mortgage has been in business



since 1960, starting in San Diego, and is now a multi-billion dollar company.

Segura is also a high school and college baseball umpire, a pastime that he has been enjoying for the last 36 years. The only thing he enjoys more than calling balls and strikes is helping people with their mortgage needs.

"Financing often allows people the ability to send their children to college. That's satisfying."

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Please follow our local heroes in voting for Frank Bigelow.*

Also Endorsed by Sheriff John Anderson.

Local 2881

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SCENES FROM THE MADERA RANCHOS FLATLANDERS' DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, MAY 13 2006



The vendors' area was sold out and preparations were made early before the crowds arrived.



KMJ's Traveling Road Show was on hand, broadcasting live from the parade.



Parade Grand Marshal Bob Naden takes his place of honor on the judges' stand.



With the CHP leading the way, the parade officially began on the warm, May day.



The volunteers from Station 19 were shined up and ready for action.



The Sheriff's Department's smallest squad car interacts with the Ranchos' smallest residents.



Liberty High's Drum Corps. was on hand to show off its new uniforms.



The Ranchos Youth Football Hawks had the coolest seat for the entire parade.



Proof that they will let absolutely ANYBODY in the Flatlanders' Day Parade.

All Parade Photos: Bill Whyman

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Local Sports Stars

Under 14 Softball Champs Ranchos Wrist Wrestler



Precision Paving Power beat B&D Pest Control 12-11 on Saturday, May 20, to win the Under 14 Division of the Liberty Ranchos Softball Championships. Rallying back from a 6-1 deficit, the team went ahead 7-6 and held on for a 12-11 victory.

Jakobie Howe pitched two scoreless innings after coming in at the bottom of the sixth inning to get the save.

Randi Wallace had a game-saving play at home in the bottom of the sixth by tagging out the tying run from a perfect relay by Kylee Hoelzel.

Underdogs from the start, the team won two victories earlier in the week that sent them to the Championship.

"It was a team effort and everyone of the girls on the team contributed in each one of our victories," said coach Andrew Howe.

The players are Jessi Wallace, Randi Wallace, Jakobie Howe, Kylee Hoelzel, Leiasa Horanic, Jackie Gomez, Caprice Parry, Trini-Jo Aleman, Danielle Rovenstine, Jessica Rovenstein, Breanna Estrada and Mykal Estrada. Assisting Coach Howe were Gina Wallace and Ed Horanic.

After 22 years away from the limelight as the result of a career-ending injury, Madera Ranchos resident Mike Bing stepped back into the world of competitive arm wrestling over the weekend of May 20 when he attended the Sixth Annual Valley Rendezvous Motorcycle Show at the Madera Fairgrounds.

"I just wanted to look at the bikes," Bing said, but the one-time California Left Handed State Champion got caught up in the excitement and the next thing he knew he was competing again.

"I injured my elbow and was forced to retire in 1984," Bing said. That was the year he was ranked Number 1 in the state, left handed, and in the Top 10 with his right hand. He says he hasn't wrestled in 22 years until the bike show. "I told myself that if it started to hurt I would quit," but it didn't, Bing said.

All of his competitors were in their 20s so Bing said he quickly built up a Rocky-like cheering section, rooting for the "old man," 55-year-old Bing said.

Does his victory mean a return to competition? "Naw, I just did it for the fun of it," Bing said. "My elbow's hurting right now."



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What steps are you taking to build yours?

Join us at **Flipside Christian Church** for a series running through Father's Day called, "Building a Stronger Family." We're exploring practical insights into family relationships, parenting, protecting your marriage, making your marriage last and more. Join us during this series and make an investment in your family.

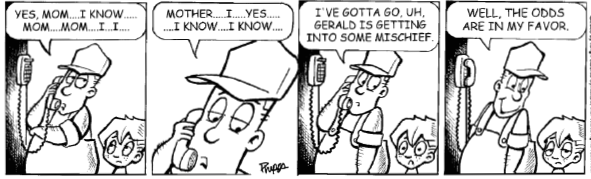
Also for the family: VBS June 11-15 for kids up through 6th grade.
 Music camp July 17-21 for kids up through 6th grade.
 "Spirit West Coast" in Monterey - 3 days of the top Christian bands in the world!
 Call 790-0061 or email us at info@acts176.com for more info

Flipside Christian Church

Meeting at Liberty High School Sundays at 10 a.m.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

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R.F.D.

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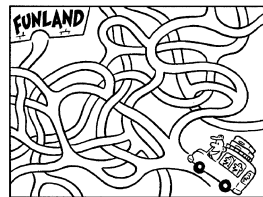
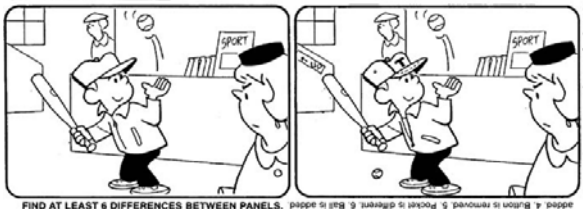


The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



A-MAZE-ING! See if you can find the route to Funland before it gets dark.

THREE FOR A DOLLAR! To win, you must knock three bottles off the shelves. But there's a catch: The numbers on these bottles total 50.

SECRET AGENT! Since our friends used a travel agent in setting up their trip, we're going to honor the profession with a word square puzzle. The diagram at right has the word AGENT already inserted. You need to find four more five-letter words so that all words used read the same both across and down.

- Serious play.
- Characteristic of a king.
- One that acts for another (AGENT, in place).
- A minister's house.
- Change.

Junior Whirl by Charles Barry Townsend



VACATION FUN! Our friends have arrived at their destination and can't wait to visit Funland. You can join in by identifying the FUN-filled words listed.

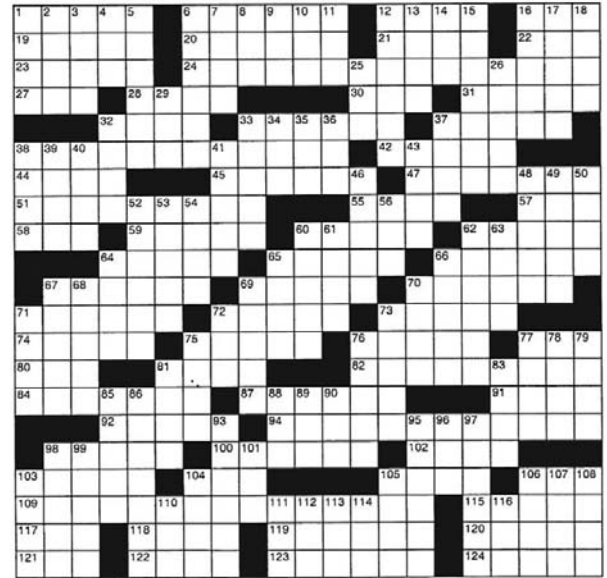
- Depressed mood.
- A fly ball for fielding practice.
- The animals of a certain region.
- Fail a test.
- Show off.
- Able to write or speak easily.
- Great wealth.
- Where metal is melted.



Time limit: 60 seconds.

Super Crossword LOVE'S LABOR LOST

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fowl family
 - 6 Drag before a judge
 - 12 Rock's partner
 - 16 Barbecue leftover
 - 19 Bar hop?
 - 20 Tchaikovsky's "Onegin"
 - 21 Butter sub
 - 22 Hwy.
 - 23 Column style
 - 24 Start of a remark
 - 27 Pressure meas.
 - 30 Hamburger holder
 - 31 Tinker Bell or Titania
 - 32 Head for the hills
 - 33 Malone's portrait
 - 37 Strong guys
 - 38 Part 2 of remark
 - 42 Agricultural inventor
 - 44 Rabbit relative
 - 45 Rock's Loggins
 - 51 "Evita" setting
 - 55 Villainous
 - 57 Travel need
 - 58 Street greeting
 - 59 Sylvan setting
 - 60 Run a meeting
 - 62 Tremble
 - 64 Fully grown
 - 65 Revolutionary writer
 - 66 Made a face
 - 67 Juicy pear
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 70 Sent to Sing Sing
 - 71 January of orange
 - 72 Military headgear
 - 73 Comic
 - 74 Rental agreement
 - 75 Like some signals
 - 76 — boom
 - 77 Envelope code
 - 80 Big —
 - 81 Falafel holder
 - 82 Method
 - 84 Bit of wit
 - 87 Narrow passage
 - 91 Literary pseudonym
 - 92 Some jeans
 - 94 Part 4 of remark
 - 98 Stage whisper
 - 100 Summit
 - 102 Big beginning
 - 103 Circa's suitors
 - 104 Alternative to nothing
 - 105 Kirk's leisure
 - 106 Short snooze
 - 109 End of remark
 - 115 Sun-dried brick
 - 117 Likable prez
 - 118 Butte
 - 119 Audrey Hepburn role
 - 120 Type of stout
 - 121 Litter sound
 - 122 Appear to be
 - 123 Hole grain food?
 - 124 Calm down
- DOWN**
- 1 Radar
 - 2 Bravo and Grand
 - 3 Start of whale
 - 4 Sapporo
 - 5 Compliant
 - 6 Farm youngster
 - 7 Car
 - 8 "That's disgusting!"
 - 9 Fire sign
 - 10 Burmese statesman
 - 11 Mrs. Al Bundy
 - 12 Porly Ken or Lena
 - 14 Author Wallace
 - 15 Leisure lovers
 - 16 Comic Auerbach
 - 17 No-nonsense
 - 18 Actress Lamarr
 - 25 Where Sopranos shouldn't sing?
 - 26 They'll never hurt me!
 - 29 Born
 - 32 Liberate
 - 33 Half a rock group
 - 34 From — Z
 - 35 Dierks native
 - 36 Canonized state
 - 37 Pump part
 - 38 Ultimate
 - 39 Author John Dickson —
 - 40 Southern constellation
 - 41 French psychologist
 - 43 Gulf ruler
 - 46 Martin and Stockwell
 - 48 PR concern
 - 49 Missing more than mittens
 - 50 Limited
 - 52 Novelist Gordimer
 - 53 Armistice
 - 54 Keep the pedal off the metal
 - 56 Compete
 - 60 Was concerned
 - 61 Subtle taste
 - 62 Marmalade fruit
 - 63 Unlikely to allure
 - 64 Benoit's buddies
 - 65 Unadulterated
 - 66 Franzied
 - 67 Inch along
 - 68 Muscat native
 - 69 Bavoricks' state
 - 70 Doyenne deity
 - 71 Czech river
 - 72 Got scammed
 - 73 Onward
 - 75 "La Boheme" heroine
 - 77 South African native
 - 78 2001 Judi Dench film
 - 79 — moss
 - 81 Macadamize
 - 83 — vu
 - 85 Spark in the dark
 - 86 Uses frequent flyer miles
 - 88 in addition
 - 89 Carpet
 - 90 Demolished dessert
 - 93 Saudi salutation
 - 95 Inspires a smile
 - 96 — Aviv
 - 97 Exotic pet
 - 98 Chase the z's
 - 99 Tendon
 - 101 Thickness
 - 103 Do laps
 - 104 Chatter part
 - 105 Vaudeville bit
 - 106 Salmon snack
 - 107 Assist a felon
 - 108 Soccer superstar
 - 110 Ruby or Sandra
 - 111 Arch. tool
 - 112 Med. insurer
 - 113 Sundown, to Shelley
 - 114 Actor Guenger
 - 116 Apply gently



TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: In feudal times, what was a serf's position?
- DANCE: Who composed the music for the ballet "Romeo and Juliet"?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is graphophobia a fear of?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) located?
- MOVIES: What does a "gaffer" do on a movie set?
- MUSIC: What does the musical term "non troppo" mean?
- TRANSPORTATION: What is Qantas Airways' home country?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the country of Tunisia?
- HISTORY: When was the peace treaty between the United States and Vietnam signed?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "the last frontier"?

Answers

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M P O K E Y N M K O R I G E H

M D B I F A O I Z R X X W U S

E T N R C O D R A B M O L Q R

R O N O L J R C K W I G F F E

D C A Y I X W D N Y T V T J Y

S R P O N D L K A J A S I G M

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

Anka: Carry, Lombardo, Pickford
 Aykroyd: Dion, M. J. Fox, Plummer
 Browning: Evangelista, Myers, S. Twain
 Candy: Little, Nielsen

- Peasant
- Sergei Prokofiev
- Writing
- Atlanta
- Chief electrician
- Not too much
- Australia
- North Africa
- 1973
- Alaska

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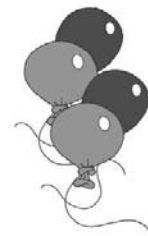
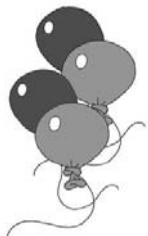
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CORRECTION NOTICE

Gross annual sales for Fergie's Diner is \$330,000+. Our office, not the Ranchos Independent, made a gross mistake in the last publication related to this important information. We deeply regret this error and any problems and distress it may have caused.

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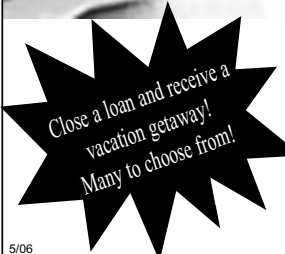
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LOST AND FOUND - LOST TURTLE ON ROAD 36 1/2 AND CLOVERLEAF. IF FOUND PLEASE CALL ANI HOME# 645-4430 WORK# 432-2090 OR CELL# 363-2646

LOST AND FOUND - LOST CAT - BLACK AND WHITE NEUTERED MALE CAT WITH COLLAR AND TAGS ON ROAD 37 1/2 AND CLOVERLEAF. IF FOUND PLEASE CALL 645-1813

LOST AND FOUND - FOUND TUESDAY 5/9/06 GERMAN SHORT HAIR DOG. MALE 1 + YEARS OLD, BROWN AND WHITE, LOVES CHILDREN, VERY WELL BEHAVED. IF NOT RETURNED TO OWNER, HE WILL BE GIVEN TO GOOD HOME. IF INTERESTED CALL 645-5331

PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR ONLY

\$ **10**

FOR 25 WORDS OR LESS PER AD

CALL

645-0634

PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR ONLY

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FOR 25 WORDS OR LESS PER AD

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