

The Ranchos Independent



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50¢

*The Ranchos Breaks Ground for the Latest Jewel
in the Golden Valley School District Crown*



It's all smiles as Golden Valley Unified Assistant Supervisor Andy Alvarado (left), Superintendent Sarah Koligian and Golden Valley School Board President Mike Kelly turn over shovelfuls of ceremonial dirt at the location of the new Ranchos Middle School, slated for opening Aug. 1, 2009.

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Ground Broken for New Middle School

The latest jewel in the Golden Valley Unified School District crown is the new Ranchos Middle School that had an official groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, May 8.

Complete with hardhats and gleaming silver shovels, Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian led a bevy of local dignitaries in turning over a ceremonial pile of dirt on the location of the new middle school.

Located on the northwest corner of the property where Liberty High School is situated, work has already begun on the project with concrete slabs poured and bits of framing and plumbing popping up all around the worksite. If all goes according to plan, the school should open its doors on Aug. 1, 2009.

Please see **SCHOOL** on P. 12

Library/Community Center Poll: Tabulated, Examined, Explained

After a concerted effort spanning several weeks to seek community opinion, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Ranchos Library have released the results of the initial survey covering the conceptual plan of a possible new library and community center in the Madera Ranchos. The survey, in the form of a questionnaire, was circulated in the Ranchos Independent and was also available to community members at several local community events, including the Bigelow Townhall Meeting and the recent Seniors' Home and Garden Show.

It was considered somewhat disappointing that a total of only 47 surveys were returned with all, or most, of the questions completed. The questionnaire covered almost all of the possible features and amenities that could be included in a project that would contain a new full-service County library, community center and recreational fields and playgrounds.

The first part of the survey asked respondents to rank the importance of various plan

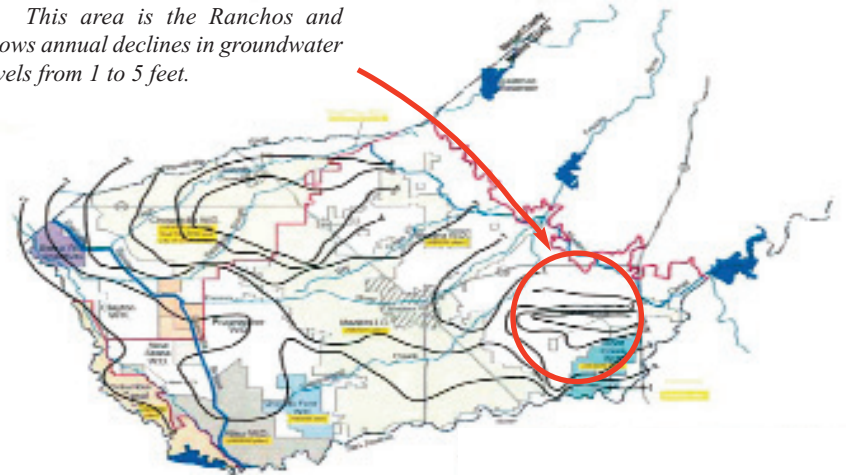


**MADERA RANCHOS
PARK**

Please see **CENTER** on P. 12

Ranchos Groundwater Drying Up More, Faster than Rest of County

This area is the Ranchos and shows annual declines in groundwater levels from 1 to 5 feet.



This map shows areas of Madera County and their respective declines in groundwater. The Ranchos had the highest rate of decline at more than 5 feet per year. This map can be seen at www.madera-county.com/supervisors/index.html.

By Christi McKinney

At a special meeting of the Madera County Board of Supervisors last month regarding water management for Madera County, a startling report revealed that the Madera Ranchos had the greatest average decline in water levels for all of Madera County, averaging a drop in water level of more than 5 feet per year.

The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was introduced at the above meeting by engineer Greg Farley with the Engineering Dept. of Madera County. Described as a "living document" with its goal to allow Madera County to better manage its water resources for the

exceeding 5 feet per year. Another area with very large water-level declines is in the eastern part of the Chowchilla Water District and to the east, where irrigated lands and the City of Chowchilla rely solely on groundwater.

This is resulting in an overdraft of 100,000 acre feet per year. Projections indicate that by the year 2030 groundwater use in Madera County (without mitigation measures) will increase an additional 100,000 acre feet per year resulting in an

A startling report revealed that the Madera Ranchos had the greatest average decline in water levels for all of Madera County, averaging a drop in water level of more than 5 feet per year.

overdraft of approximately 55,000 acre feet per year. This could potentially result in higher pumping costs, poorer water quality, land subsidence (sinking) and potential state regulation or adjudication of the basin.

benefit of its residents, the environment and the State of California, the IRWMP nonetheless painted a gloomy water picture for residents of the Madera Ranchos and neighboring communities.

The report states there has been virtually no water-level decline in recent decades near the San Joaquin River downstream of Mendota near the west edge of the Valley floor area - the flat-lying western third of the County - in Madera County. However in contrast, the Madera Ranchos, Rolling Hills and areas east of the Santa Fe Railroad and nearby irrigated lands that rely solely on groundwater show the greatest average water-level declines in Madera County,

The continued overdraft of the groundwater basins in Madera County is not sustainable.

Water users in Madera County rely on groundwater for all city and rural residential water and approximately 75 percent of agricultural water use. Groundwater for the Valley floor is pumped from the Madera, Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota groundwater sub basins. This continued reliance is straining groundwater supplies. Madera County residents use an average of 230 gallons per person, per day in the city and 170 gallons per person, per day in rural areas

Please see **WATER** on P. 13



Thank you Madera County and Thank you Governor Schwarzenegger

To our friends and supporters throughout the region,

The recent approval of a gaming compact for the North Fork Rancheria by Governor Schwarzenegger is an important step forward in the dream of economic self-reliance for our Tribe and prosperity for our community. We thank the Governor for his support of this vital project.

The North Fork resort project represents local governments, business chambers, private citizens, and tribal partners working together to transform and enrich a rural community through new jobs, business opportunity, and community investment. The project represents much more than just a tribal gaming project—*it represents a community effort and collective dream!*

The welcome we have received in Madera County is helping to make our dream a reality. We thank Madera's citizens and leaders who have resisted the special interests, outside politicians, and some media who have sought to undermine the will of our community.

Much work lies ahead for this development and this dream to be fully realized. When our land is taken into trust, *perhaps in late 2008 or early 2009*, followed by the California Legislature ratification of our compact, then our project will truly represent a partnership of governments at all levels – tribal, local, state, and federal—*working together for a common good.*

Our Tribe and Madera County have always shared a common history. When our casino resort becomes a reality, having worked together, we will also share a future filled with the promise of opportunity for all Maderans.

With our sincere thanks,

***The Tribal Council of the North Fork Rancheria of
Mono Indians of California***

Building a better Madera, together!

**Write the Governor today and
thank him for approving the
North Fork compact:**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Visit www.NorthForkRancheria.com for more info and to complete a support form — Click on "Support Us"



Editorial

Three Cheers For Activist Judges!

By Randy Bailey

One of the aspects of being a Californian that I have always been proud of has been our ability to put propositions on the ballot and then let the people of California decide what we think is really best for us. Legislators that either don't get it or are too timid to create legislation we really want have never stood in our way. I have never been one to attempt things by committee, and the ability to put together some thoughts, get more people behind it, get enough support to qualify for the ballot and then actually vote on it and have it become law, really appeals to me. It's that whole *doing* something instead of sticking around and waiting to see what will happen next. That's a little too pacifistic for my tastes.

Now, over the years I've been disappointed as well. Most recently I can think of the parental notification initiative that allowed parents of minor children to be notified if their child wanted to have an abortion. It seemed pretty fundamental to me that since I had to sign forms in triplicate at my daughters' schools if I wanted them to take an aspirin or a Midol, that notifying me if they wanted to engage in a major surgical procedure only seemed to make sense, but a majority of those in the state (interestingly in Los Angeles and San Francisco) knew better and it was voted down.

Oh well, you win some and you lose some.

But now there's something new on the horizon. Enter the activist judge.

With the stroke of a gavel, the will of the people is thwarted. Never mind that millions of Californians thought about it, talked about it, weighed the alternatives and then stepped into the holy of holies in our American political system, the voting booth, and cast that ultimate little bit of free speech, our vote.

Obviously we were confused. Obviously they *know* better. It's as if they let us run around a little bit on the first Tuesday in November or June and let us think that we're actually having some say in our elective process, just don't get too attached to the outcome.

I have noticed in recent years that any time there is a particularly polarizing initiative placed on the ballot that one of two things seem to happen. If the proposition is put forth by a Conservative group and it wins, there will be a lawsuit tomorrow in the courts nullifying the action until it gets resolved legally. Unable to win with millions of Californian voters, the obviously feel their odds are better with seven judges.

If the proposition is put forth by a Liberal group and it wins, something interesting happens: It becomes a law.

The opposite in each of these cases is telling as well. If the Liberal proposition fails, here they come back again and again and again and again ... until you finally vote for it just to get them to shut up. If the Conservative proposition fails, that's it. Everyone goes home.

So now the California Supreme court knocks down Prop. 22 that we passed in 2000. That was the one that defined "marriage" as being between one man and one woman. Setting aside the absurdity that we would even need to define that, 61.4 percent of Californians agreed with it. In 2003, just days before being booted out of office, Gray Davis signed AB 205 that conferred every right of marriage to same sex couples -- everything *except* the word "marriage." And now here we are in 2008 with a State Supreme Court that has put us exactly where we had the keen foresight to know we didn't want to end up eight years later.

It doesn't take a lot to get somebody jaded, especially when it comes to politics. A few behaviors here and there and you start to hear things like, "... they're *all* crooked." Or, "... what does it matter? *My* vote doesn't count."

Remember this: In California all it takes to correct this situation is to pass a Constitutional amendment to make it so. And, although appointed by the Governor, the electorate has to ratify those appointments at the next election. Get any ideas?

The Ranchos Independent

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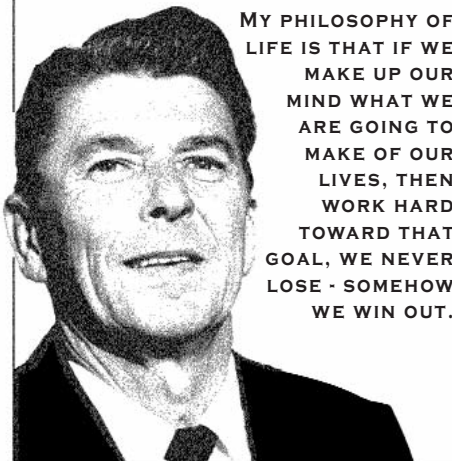
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Randy Bailey..... Editor
 Jean Briner..... Advertising Sales
 Christi McKinney..... Reporter

559-645-0634

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

THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



MY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE IS THAT IF WE MAKE UP OUR MIND WHAT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE OF OUR LIVES, THEN WORK HARD TOWARD THAT GOAL, WE NEVER LOSE - SOMEHOW WE WIN OUT.

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

Click on "Local News" at

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



New Madera Courthouse Project - I just read that Madera City's hijacking of the courthouse project has hit a snag. Someone in California Courts Administration must have been doing their job of oversight.

The City had this plan to buy up a big block of land, I am told, bordered by Courthouse Park on the North to where 145 crosses 99 on the South, 99 on the West, and Gateway on the East. This was not a new courthouse project, it was a City redevelopment project at the expense of the rest of the County and the State taxpayers.

Now is the time to take a serious look at putting the courthouse where it belongs. The only logical place for a new courthouse would be in the Justice complex next to County Jail. Madera County owns the land, millions would be saved in inmate transportation costs over the years. Citizens would be much safer without violent inmates being shuttled from jail to the downtown redevelopment site.

We the taxpayer/citizens were forced to build the "Granite Palace" government center at great added expense in the middle of Madera City. It is an absolute nightmare to get in and out of. We dumped millions of County road dollars fixing up roads so the city could annex them; you would think they could spring for one or two traffic lights.

Now imagine the new courthouse in the same fix.

Taxpayer/citizens living in the area of the jail have swallowed project after project that hurt property values. The halfway house/treatment agreement that goes with the jail expansion, Juvenile hall, and the Juvenile boot camp to name a few.

Don't you think it is time to throw a positive bone their way?

Water Bank - We (the County) have very little knowledge and no control over the operation of the bank yet the Memo of Understanding (MOU) is riddled with commitment by the County to:

"... offered by MID (Madera Irrigation District) and encouraged by the COUNTY ..."

"... MID and the COUNTY will work with third parties ..."

"...The COUNTY will advise ..."

As for costs:

"... The COUNTY would be responsible for all COUNTY administrative costs ..."

It does not spell out what "administrative" costs include. I for one would sure like to know who negotiated this one. MID it seems has full control and benefit of the project the COUNTY is being asked to eat all administrative costs and in return is being "allowed" to buy in.

DOG analogy - MID is starting a business. They want the County to provide grunt staff services and in return we will be permitted to buy shares like anyone else. So what do I - as an Eastern Madera County taxpayer - get out of all of this investment of my tax dollars and tax supported administration costs that we (the COUNTY) are responsible for?

A water bank may be a great idea. Before we sign onto an open ended MOU agreeing to SUPPORT, RECOMMEND and COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES (that are not identified or limited in any way), we should remember that it was created by a group of farmers and water brokers that have been responsible for overdrafting the Valley's aquifer by about a million acre feet a year with the end result of dropping the water table an average of 5 feet a year in areas. And now MID makes a magnanimous gesture of not fixing the problem but just slowing the damage they are doing, and using our tax dollars to do it.

I heard no apology, no promises to do better:

"Sign the damn MOU and give us your money."

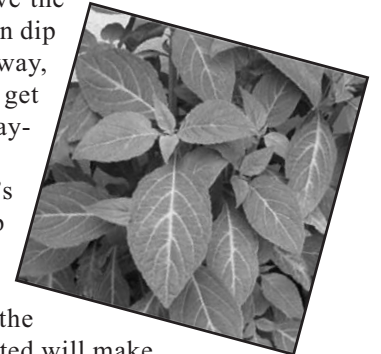
Do that and agree to back and recommend our plan and we will not destroy your aquifer quite as fast as we have been.

We as citizens should do our due diligence and know what we are getting into.

Random Notes

I hope everyone had a great time at the Flatlander's Day Parade a few weeks ago. I know I did. There were no official counts but everyone I talked to seemed to think there were more folks out milling around the booths at the Craft Fair and they seemed to stay longer. Since all of the money spent out there went to help the library, I'd say that's a pretty good thing. If any of you have enjoyed the parade or any of the other events out here in the Ranchos and were kind of toying with the idea of getting involved, come give the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce a try. You can dip your toe in the water or dive in head first. Either way, the Chamber could sure use the help and you *will* get something out of it. Stop by the offices in the Maywood Center or give them a call at 645-4001.

I got an interesting letter from my daughter's school the other day. It appears that there's an herb making the rounds at school called *Salvia divinorum* that's legal to buy, usually under the names Salvia, Mexican mint, Diviner's Sage, Sage of the Seers, etc., and when it's chewed, smoked or ingested will make you hallucinate. Some of the effects are uncontrollable laughter, the sensation of merging with objects and "overlapping realities"?!?!? What makes this disheartening is the letter came from my youngest daughter's school, Ranchos Middle School. I mean, I had never tasted beer until college, much less experienced "overlapping realities" in junior high. You can go to [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvia divinorum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvia_divinorum) for more info.



Thought you might like to know what a few good people in the Ranchos can do if they put their minds to it. Tom and Cheryl Hurst, owners of Hurst Hardware, had their "Demo Days" at their store back in April. They had vendors ranging from California Hardware and Midwest Fasteners to Forney welding supplies and Tru-



Turf artificial lawns. They had a raffle and putting contests and tri-tip sandwiches and when it was all said and done, they raised \$500 that they graciously donated to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Now how cool is that? Thanks Hurst Hardware!

The North Fork Arts Council is a coalition of artists promoting visual and performing arts and education in carving, drawing, music, painting, photography, sculpture, theater and writing throughout Eastern Madera County. They put on an annual Sidewalk Festival on Main Street in North Fork on June 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the arts and crafts, there will be live music performed by Chawanakee Jazz Band and Brett Nielsen Country Rock Band. Free admission and parking and it all benefits North Fork Arts Council scholarships. Call 877-2487 for more info.

Volunteers from the Madera and Madera Sunrise Rotary Clubs hosted a barbeque dinner and ice cream social for the residents at the Ronald McDonald House on May 17th because the two clubs are sponsoring a provisional Rotary Club in the Madera Ranchos and chose the Ronald McDonald House for their first service project.

In addition to dinner, Rotarian Jim Pierce presented the facility with a large American Flag, a gift from Congressman George Radonovich's office, that flew in Washington D.C. Nice work.

If you're a BUNCO fan, there's going to be a Bunco Tournament to benefit Trauma Intervention Programs on Saturday, June 14, at Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Avenue at 5th Street in Clovis. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and games begin at 1 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person, cash or check, at the door (no credit cards). No experience is necessary. For more information and to RSVP call 559-265-8730 or 905-7341.

SOBER GRAD, SOBER GRAD, SOBER GRAD!!! A great cause, keeps our kids safe on a very dangerous night and is a lot of fun! Call Suzie Dunn at 645-3500 to get involved!



The Olde Cowboy by Woody Laughnan

Immediately after breakfast, papa used to hurry outside and gulp deep breaths of crisp February air that was laced with a bit of fog and a tinge of frost.

In those olden days, outside air was cleaner than the air inside the house which reeked of smoke from the wood and coal-fired kitchen range with a sheet of protective asbestos nailed to the wall behind to serve as a firebreak. And there were odors of mama's cooking: fatback, burned toast, coffee that boiled far too long, and of course the ugly odors of the pot and the slop pail.

In contrast, if one ventures out of the kitchen after breakfast today during the swell of commuter traffic with gasoline fumes, belching 18-wheeler diesel ogres, aircraft roaring overhead bombing us with jet fuel residue, smelly garbage dumpsters, a neighbor burning trash in the fireplace and acrid insecticide and fungicide caught up by the wind winging its way to town from yon farms and dairies.

If I'd known then what I do today I'd have been tempted to bring my gas mask home from World War II. I mean if we didn't have to do it to keep alive most of us would be walking around holding our breaths, particularly when one catches a view of what's in a silvery ray of sunlight filtering through a tiny hole in the patio roof or a teeny crack in a window shade that illuminates millions of floating particles of dust, lint,

hair and I-do-not-know-what-all, and headed directly for our noses.

There was a time when one threw open the windows to air out the house. Today we invest in filter gadgets to clean out what does get in with the windows closed.

And if you're old enough, you may remember the old backyard clothesline. (They were always in the backyard to conceal from passers by women's bloomers, girdles and petticoats and men's long johns and red woolen underwear). Well, they've also become an air pollution fatality, at least I can't recall seeing a clothes line in years. And at one time they were a backyard fixture just like backyard privies. But that's another story.

It seems like only yesterday that milady of the house scorned electric dryers because she wanted her laundry to not only be kissed by pure sunlight but bathed in the fresh outside air.

Ah, I remember mama yet, removing a garment from the line, rubbing it against the face and saying, "Oh, how clean and pure it smells."

Her only worry back then with hanging Monday wash on the line was that birds passing overhead might do do-do on it.

But even then I wouldn't be surprised but what clinical studies would probably prove that it was 25 percent cleaner than it is now because of being washed in polluted water.

And does anybody out there remember blue skies?

Ranchos's Best Gardens Visited

By Pam Glueck

Finding suggestions for your landscape is not always easy. You can visit a garden center, go to a garden nursery, or page through picture books and magazines; but sometimes good ideas are found in nearby neighborhoods. That is just what happened in our Ranchos community on Saturday, April 26 with six unique and captivating gardens on display for the public to view at the inaugural Ranchos Kiwanis Annual Garden Tour and Wine Tasting.

With a duck pond in their backyard, beds of annual flowers and olive trees encircled with ivy, these were the foundations of Tony and Heidi Cantano's landscape. The garden of Paul and Charisse Stindt was truly a painter's pallet of beautiful living colors throughout the yard. Tom and Cheryl Hurst's yard was a golfer's dream, a permanent putting green surrounded by a forest atmosphere of pine trees. Andrew and Carrie Wheeler's garden was a perfect mix of a relaxing garden waterfall tucked away in pine trees with an open area large enough for children to play on their play

structure. An enchanting manicured rose garden with wonderful smells was only the beginning of Gordon and Nicole Shaffer's remarkable garden. Chuck and Debby Hall's garden was truly a makeup of "secret gardens" with a village of miniature castles and a dragon, a life size chess/checker set, and even an outdoor honeymoon suite. All of these homeowners were gracious in opening their gardens for this noteworthy event, as all the proceeds are going towards students with special needs at Golden Valley Unified School District.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos sponsored this event along with Fernwood Nursery, Pizza Factory and FedEx Kinkos. Culminating the tour at Birdstone Winery was a delicious and lovely display of food, complete with a chocolate fountain. With over 100 tickets sold our first year, the participants enjoyed a day of touring six local, one-of-a-kind gardens, eating some delicious food and tasting a hand-picked variety of wines by Tony and Kim Kirk. It proved to be a wondrous day for a notable cause.

Save this date!

AUG. 16, 2008

Madera County Fire Station 19
will hold its annual

FIRE-B-Q DINNER • DANCE • AUCTION



5/08

ARE YOU BEING RIPPED OFF?



5/08

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KIWANIS KORNER



Kiwanis President Elect Steve Monk puts on the dog at the Kiwanis booth at the 17th Annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Fair.



Birdstone Winery owner Kimberly Kirk (left) pours some of her finest for Connie Clendenan of Valley Teen Ranch at the conclusion of the Kiwanis Garden Tour.

Last month the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos held their inaugural Garden Tour and Wine Tasting Event, where we sold over 100 tickets. Our thanks go out to the homeowners who opened their gardens to the public for the tour: Tony & Heidi Cantano, Chuck & Debby Hall, Tom & Cheryl Hurst, Gordon & Nicole Shaffer, Paul & Charisse Stindt, and Andrew & Carrie Wheeler. The tour ended with a wonderful and flavorful lunch provided by Pizza Factory, along with some superb wine tasting at Birdstone Winery. Additionally, we are selling 20-month calendars with bright, beautiful, color photos of this year's gardens for only \$15. You can pick up your calendar at Pizza Factory, Farmer's Insurance and Hurst Hardware. All the proceeds of this event, including the calendar, go toward students with special needs at Golden Valley Unified School District. We are honored and pleased to be involved with this endeavor for the betterment of these students.

Most recently, we were at the Flatlanders event selling barbequed hotdogs with all the trimmings; including chili-dogs with cheese. Hope you didn't miss out on our very own Ollia Ridge's Strawberry Shortcake Desert, as we were selling those too. Oh my, they were so delicious! We will be back next year, so look for us with our barbeque fired up and our strawberry shortcakes being dished out.

We gave out \$2,000 in scholarships to Liberty High School seniors Hanna Ashcraft, Kayla Hodges, Lilian Gong and Ashley Monk. Our congratulations go out to these ladies as they carry on to the next

stage of their lives.

Sunday, June 1 is our "Cross the River Run" at Woodward Park. The various races start at 6:30 a.m. at Mountain View. Kids' races start at approximately 6:45 a.m. Proceeds from this event help to support many of our services for the members and children in our community.

As the end of the school year closes with all the events keeping us busy, we are pleased that we could once again provide assistance, financial and manpower to our schools and the students.

As announced in the past, our meetings are held at Pizza Factory on Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m., however on the last Thursday of the month we meet at 6:30 p.m. This allows members of our club and members of our community to attend the meetings when they have a hard time getting up early in the morning. If you would like to volunteer some time and give back to your community, please feel free to contact any of our officers at 559-645-4735. They would be happy to answer your questions. Our website is www.RanchosKiwanis.com.

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

Join Sheriff John Anderson, Supervisor Frank Bigelow, 11 Judges, the Madera Deputy Sheriffs' Association and many others in support of

**ERNIE
LICALSI II
FOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ernie LiCalsi Superior Court Judge FPPC #1303596

**Visit us at www.votelicalsi.com
Remember to vote on June 3rd**

Catch the Reading Bug @ Your Library and “Bee” a Ranchos Reader

By Ellen Mester

It's almost here! The 2008 Summer Reading Program at the Library, entitled *Catch the Reading Bug @ The Ranchos Library*, starts with an exciting kick-off party on June 19 at 3 p.m. in the library. There will be games, crafts, activities, food and lots of fun. Sign up to be part of the program and win prizes each week for reading. Plus each week performers will entertain and enlighten us. Stop by for a schedule of this summer's activities. All children are welcome. “Beeeee a Ranchos Reader!”

Metamorphosis @ The Ranchos Library, the 2008 Teen Summer Reading Program, has its cool kick-off on Saturday, June 7 at 2 p.m. in the library. It's a come-as-your-favorite-character-from-a-book-who-transformed-either-internally-or-externally. Think about that one. Most protagonists make some sort of transformation in a story, but how could you show that in a costume. (Teens: use your imagination and be creative.) There will be food, fun and some lively activities for teens 13 to 18. Liberty H.S. Librarian Melanie Lewis and several of the Ranchos Middle School teachers will be coordinating this event with the Library. We look forward to a good turn-out.

Flatlanders Recap

It was a beautiful day, not too hot, with the smell of food cooking on the grill and laughter in the air. The parade went smoothly with many of our local schools and clubs represented. Craft booths filled the parking lot with original designs and novel items. More people this year than ever turned out to celebrate Flatlander's Day. Many of the vendors sold out completely. Overall, it was very successful with only a few minor glitches. A great big thanks to the Friends of the Ranchos Library, The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers who helped make this such a successful event.

Special Programs

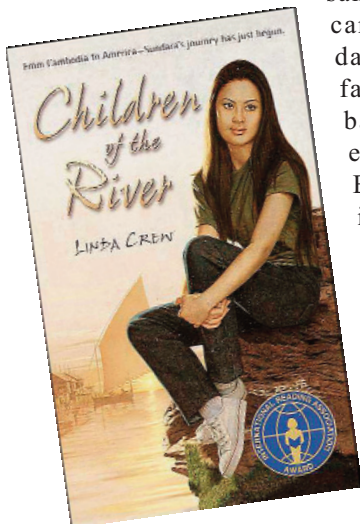
Bilingual story time with Ana Anaya is on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and the Read-to-Katie the dog program is on the first and third Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Both new programs have been very successful. There is always something fun to do on those early release Wednesdays at the Ranchos Library.

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

Craft and Story Night this month will be on May 20th from 3-5 p.m. This is our new day and time.

Book Recommendations

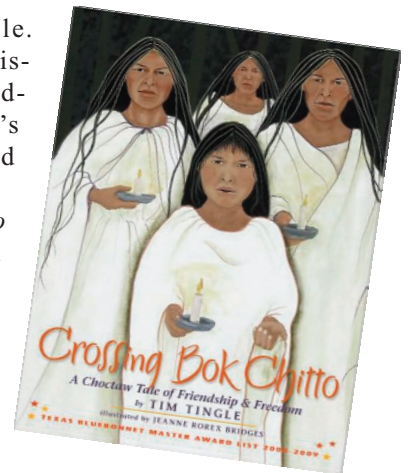
Young Adult Fiction: *Children of the River* by Linda Crew. After the Viet Nam war people living in Cambodia along the Mekong River were forced to flee their country as the Khmer Rouge ravaged the countryside, leaving thousands dead. The survivors ended up in refugee camps and eventually relocated to the U.S. Sundara, a young Khmer girl, was separated from her family while visiting her aunt who was having a baby. They were the lucky ones who eventually ended up in Oregon where they started a new life. But the customs of the Americans were confusing and didn't sit well with the older Khmer or Cambodians. Sundara, now a beautiful 17-year-old high school student was forbidden to talk with boys without proper chaperones. When the handsome football star takes a liking to her, she is torn between her two cultures. The fear of disrespecting elders, coupled with the anxiety of not knowing where your family is or whether they are even alive, tears at Sundara. This book examines the difficulty of living in



two cultures—especially for young people. More than that though, it also gives a brief historical background to the war and the hardships that many faced in refugee camps. It's well-written, considerate of both cultures and it has won several awards.

Juvenile Fiction: *Crossing Bok Chitto* by Tim Tingle. In the years before the Trail of Tears when Native Americans were marched to reservations in Oklahoma, there was peaceful coexistence between the Choctaw tribe and the white slave owners

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15



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5/08

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The Stock Report

School Year Ends as Projects Continue

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Now that the ground has been broken, the new Ranchos Middle School is going up as I write. The official Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on the future site of the new Ranchos Middle School on avenue 12½ on May 8. What a wonderful event it was! Middle School students were showing their spirit and excitement for all to see. Golden Valley Unified school board members, Superintendent Sarah Koligian, Madera County Superintendent Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County Supervisor Frank Bigelow and a lot of other important people attended as the hot wind blew and the Ranchos Middle School band under the direction of music teacher Dr. Nathan Sobiersalski played spirited music for the ceremony. There was even food and drinks provided by Geri Meddock, GVUSD Food

Service Manager. Randy Hardcastle, GVUSD project manager for the new Ranchos Middle School, provided dirt, shovels and hard hats for picture opportunities at the close of the ceremony. Oh, I forgot -- the district received a gold shovel on a plaque for the district office to display with pride. Building a new school doesn't happen very often, but here in Golden Valley Unified we have done the impossible by building Liberty High School, the Interim Ranchos Middle School and now the comprehensive Ranchos Middle School that will open in August of 2009. For a new school district that started without a box of paper clips in 1998-1999 we have a lot of which to be proud.

For you football fans there will be real stadium lighting and temporary bleachers for the football field by Aug. 1, 2008. Electricity and water have been piped to the football field for all of the future additions that will happen to the stadium. Little by little the stadium is starting to take shape. The first Liberty Green and Gold scrimmage will be on Aug. 22 with the home scrimmage with Madera South High on Aug. 29. I have been told that the field will be in great shape by then. Put it on your calendar so that you don't miss all of the excitement. It is so important that all of these timelines are met. The board has been assured that they will be met.

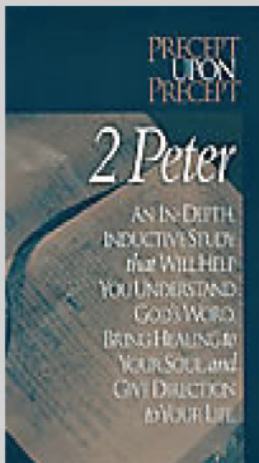
I was pleased to be able to attend the Mariposa- Madera County Chapter of the Association of California School of Administrators (ACSA) award presentation on May 12 at the Madera Municipal Golf Course. Bradley Abell from Liberty High School received a scholarship as an outstanding high school senior. His proud parents were there with him. Hal, Mary Ann and Chris Parks from the Pizza Factory were awarded the Golden Apple Award for the work they do for Golden Valley schools and the Ranchos community. They have given many of our students employment and if the school district is in need all we have to do is ask and the Parks are always there to help. So congratulations Hal, Mary Ann and Chris Parks. Keep up the good work. I was also awarded the first Golden Apple given to Golden Valley for getting Golden Valley started and serving on the founding school board. It is an honor and I am proud to have received the Golden Apple Award from ACSA.

On May 15 I attended the Fresno-

Please see **STOCK** on P. 11

5/08

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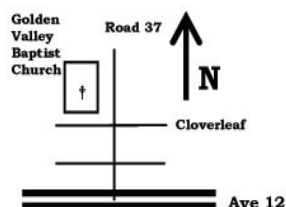
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Remember: Attitude is Everything

By Eleanore Burchell

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I'll braid my hair today." So she did and she had a wonderful day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmmm," she said, "I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did and she had a grand day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed she had only one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did and had a fun, fun day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed there wasn't a single hair on her head. "YEA!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

ATTITUDE is everything. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply and speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, IT IS ABOUT

*Live simply. Love generously.
Care deeply and speak kindly.
Leave the rest to God. Life isn't
about waiting for the storm to pass,
it is about learning to dance in the
rain!*

LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN!
(This great little reminder was received by email, author unknown).

BINGO IS BACK on the FIRST and THIRD TUESDAYS of each month.

Our 16th Annual Spring Home and Garden Festival was held on April 5 and we are still celebrating its success. Besides having many vendors and our sales such as plants, bake sale, boutique, raffle tickets, etc, we had several other attractions. The San Joaquin Gun Slingers, a local group with horses, costumes and all, gave us several exciting bank robberies. Thanks to all participants. Also a Ranchos Girl Scout troop provided us with a video on emergency preparedness then handed out elaborate kits to the first 100 who signed up for them. What a great community service was done by these girls! We need to commend them!

The Master Gardeners attended, which they do annually. They help identify plants and help with other garden suggestions. Our Annual Home & Garden Festival is a GREAT occasion for us each spring and we want to thank all who at-

tended. We will be looking forward to seeing you in April 2009 to help us celebrate again.

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, June 7. The garden area has many nice trees for you to plant in your yard. With spring almost past, this is the perfect season for planting trees, shrubs and flowering plants as they will be well settled in by the time the valley heat comes again. The Treasure House will also be open and waiting to see you. The bake sale, produce and boutique sections are held in the main building. Come in and check out the displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings, antiques, China items, etc. The produce section will have home-grown onions and potatoes soon and we still have some citrus. However, that may change daily so come in to check out what is there. Also please come in and visit us and see our new kitchen, tile floor, etc.

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

The May Birthday and Anniversary celebration luncheon was held at Luna's, 349 Pol-lasky in Clovis. A good time was had by all who attended. At Sizzler's in Fresno on June 21, 11 a.m. will be the next celebration for the Birthdays and Anniversaries. The sign up sheet will be on the table at the center. Please sign up, go and have fun with the rest of us.

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

If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come to see us. We are here for you.

Please see SENIORS on P. 22

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STOCK cont. from P. 9

Madera Area Agency on Aging luncheon with the Ranchos Hills Seniors. It was held at the Fresno Convention Center. Seven hundred and ten seniors from both counties attended this year's volunteer luncheon. The theme this year was "Back to the Fifties." Many of us seniors were just starting our families at that time. It was fun to dress in 50's garb and tell stories about our lives then. I even got to show off my bubble gum skill by blowing the biggest bubble at our table. Madera County Supervisor Frank Bigelow presented our own Ranchos Hills Senior, Esther Anderson, with the Madera County Volunteer of 2008 Award. Esther produces the Ranchos Hills Seniors monthly newsletter, bakes lots of goodies for our bake sales and serves on the Madera Council on Aging just to mention a few things that keep her busy. No one deserves this award any more than Esther. Plus every Monday morning she is the story lady at the Ranchos Library. I forgot to mention that Elvis and Marilyn Monroe were at the luncheon in costume. Joy Hanson, another Ranchos Hills Senior, was honored at the luncheon by FMAAA with the Outstanding Community Service Award for both Fresno and Madera Counties. Joy is on the FMAAA board of directors. We are honored to have such talented women as part of our Ranchos Hills Seniors.

I was able to drop in on the Liberty Career Fair on Friday, May 16. The booths

looked good and I had several interesting conversations. I met Rafael Atoian who is a wonderful artist. He is from Armenia and knew William Saroyan. We are so lucky in Golden Valley to have Rafael's son Avo Atoian as an art teacher in our district.

As the school year winds down there are many end of the year events going on. On May 22 Sierra View Elementary had their open house and music concert. On May 28 Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High will have a music concert at Liberty Theater. On May 29 Webster will hold their music concert. Then graduations start on June 3 at Educational Opts. Graduation will be held in the Sierra View Multi Purpose room. On June 5 it will be time for the Liberty High graduation, which is followed by the Sober Grad Night Party. On June 6 is the Ranchos Middle School 8th Grade Promotion ceremony. Last but not least both Sierra View and Webster will be having awards and promotion ceremonies during the week of June 3-6.

And then summer school starts on June 10 and goes through July 17. Summer school is broken into two sessions. The first session is from June 10 to June 26 and the second session is June 30 to July 17. Elementary summer school will be held at Webster and Middle and High School will be held at Liberty High. For more information call your child's school.

The next school board meeting is on May 27 at Liberty Library at 6 p.m. See you there.

Flipside Church Opens Youth Center

Flipside Christian Church opened the doors to their new activity center in the Maywood Center in late January of this year. The goal was to provide the youth of the Ranchos a fun and exciting place to hang and just be kids. The kind of environment that the kids would find stimulating and parents would feel comfortable. "In a society that is telling our kids that just about anything is ok, we wanted to give them a place where they could express themselves in a way that would not create future regrets," said Jon Bronkowski, Flipside's Youth Director. "We feel we owe that to our community."

The youth program at Flipside started in the detached garage of Pastor Karl Roth's home. "The garage served us well and we were blessed to have it available for the kids but we knew it was time to give them something more," Bronkowski said. The new facility is located in the heart of the Ranchos in the Maywood Center. With over 3,000 square feet to work with, the activity center is off to an amazing start. Flipside

has already installed the latest video games, foosball and ping pong, five TVs and more. "The best part is we are not even close to done!" the youth director said.

Currently the youth of the Ranchos can spend Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at the center. Jr. High Students are invited to stay after the center closes at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evenings for youth group which ends at 8 p.m. High School students get the same invite on Wednesday. Both youth groups are fast paced and give the kids time to socialize, ending with a relevant lesson that helps the Rancho youth face daily life. Special events are also planned for kids of all ages throughout the month. "This month we are bringing in four video projectors for an all night X-Box party," Bronkowski said with a grin. "It is one of the kids' favorite events and the four wall-sized screens make it fun to watch!" You can log on to www.Acts176.com for a complete calendar of events or call 559-790-0019 for more information.

CENTER cont. from P. 2

elements from 5 to 1, with 5 being very important and 1 being not very important. The average scores of several of the plan elements are listed below, from most popular to least popular:

Full Service Library	4.13
Banquet Facility/ Meeting Hall	3.77
Full Service Kitchen	3.68
Student Activity Center	3.58
On-site Management Offices	3.30
Fully-equipped Kid's Playground	3.58
Various Sports Fields	3.30
Emergency Medical Services	3.25
Public Safety/Sheriff's Office	3.23
Fire Protection	3.14
Stage/ Amphitheater	2.93
Wedding Garden	2.56
Recreational Swimming Pool	2.53
Jr. Olympic Pool	2.31
Olympic Pool	2.16
Pool Enclosure	2.18

An average score of at least 3.0 is considered viable for inclusion in a proposed plan. Any proposed plan to be brought forward for community consideration and approval will need to garner at least two-thirds vote in favor of the proposal in order to move forward.

The second part of the survey asked about the possible location for a new library and community center. A majority of respondents indicated that the most important issue regarding location was that it be "centrally located" to a majority of Ranchos residents. The question of locating a new facility on donated property was viewed as desirable, but not as important as central location.

The third part of the survey also dealt with the prospective location of a proposed new library and community center. It asked about proposed location in terms of community roadways that would be considered "too far" as a prospective location for a proposed new facility. A majority of respondents indicated that any new library and community center should be located on or

north of Ave 12, on or south of Ave 15, on or west of Rd 38, and on or east of Rd 36. This majority response seems to be consistent with the earlier response that a new facility should be "centrally located" to a majority of residents.

The final part of the survey asked respondents to indicate whether they would be willing to form a new "Special District" to build and maintain a new library and community center complex, and whether or not they would be willing to incur a new tax to pay the costs. The vote breakdown for the 47 responses that were received was:

On the question of forming a new "Special District":

30 voted in favor, 17 voted against. This is 63.83% in favor.

On the question of incurring new taxes: 28 voted in favor, 19 voted against. This is 59.57% in favor.

These numbers are the critical numbers from a community perspective. In order to form a new Special District and incur new taxes to plan and develop a new library and community center, it will require that 66.67% (of registered voters who actually vote) vote in favor of both the district and new taxes. This is a very high approval threshold to achieve.

The Organizational Committee will continue to meet and to refine conceptual plans for a new library and community center facility. It will also continue to solicit community opinion through the circulation of the survey. The goal will be to bring forward a plan that incorporates the input we have received from the survey, and to present a revised conceptual plan to the community in upcoming community townhall meetings. If you have an interest in completing a survey for this proposed project, please contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at 645-4001 or the Ranchos Independent newspaper at 645-0634. Both businesses are located at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C in the Maywood Center.

SCHOOL cont. from P. 2

Koligian acted as master of ceremonies for the event and shared the dais with Madera County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sally Frazier, Golden Valley Board of Trustees Mike Kelly, Steven Lewis, Mona Diaz, Roger Schuh and Audrey Stock, and Madera County District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow. Representatives of Assemblyman Mike Villines and Congressman George Radanovich were also present.

Doug Reitz, a representative of Harris Construction, the main contractor on the build, presented Koligian a plaque with a

golden shovel affixed to it to celebrate their partnership with the school district.

All of the students at the present Ranchos Middle School were invited as well and were informed by Koligian that technically they were the first middle school students to walk on the campus. In a touching gesture as a reminder that the school is being built for the children of the Ranchos, Koligian invited a handful of middle schoolers to come forward, put on a hardhat and turn some dirt themselves.

Music was provided by the Ranchos Middle School band conducted by Director Dr. Nathan Sobieralski.

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WATER cont. from P. 2

with a Countywide average of 190 gallons per person, per day. Currently, 97 percent of usage is agricultural and 3 percent is urban and non-agricultural. Agriculture continues to be the dominant industry in Madera County and comprises 53 percent of its total land use, with open space - primarily forest service - comprising 38 percent. Residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and irrigated landscapes represent 9 percent of the County's total land use.

Add to all of this the fact that Madera County is one of the fastest growing areas in California. The Madera County Planning Department estimated the population of Madera County at 150,000 in 2007 and expects that to reach 355,000 by 2030.

The IRWMP was created to offer possible ways to manage the ever increasing demands on the County's limited water supply from continued growth and the potential reallocation of water supplies for environmental purposes, but acceptance of the IRWMP is no small undertaking. It involves five public Advisory Committees and over 80 individuals representing various agencies, community organizations, municipalities and irrigation and water districts, as well as private citizens and is funded by AB 303 and Proposition 50 Study Grants from the California Department of Water Resources.

The IRWMP, which makes clear distinctions between its suggestions for the Valley floor and the remaining Eastern two-thirds of Madera County, which is referred to as the Foothills and Mountains, makes a number of suggestions as to how Madera County can begin to address its water issues.

Water Demand Reduction Measures

Agricultural water conservation as well as Residential water conservation. Studies indicate that installing water meters on community water systems on the Valley floor would reduce water usage approximately 15 - 25 percent. All new buildings built in California since 1992 have been required to have water meters.

Other possible water management measures could include:

- Limitations on new development if water supply is not sufficient to meet demand
- Increase minimum lot sizes in water short areas
- Water or irrigation district annexation as a prerequisite for development of irrigated agricultural lands on previously undeveloped land
- Potential water supply programs for new development

- Proof of water supply without mining or over drafting basin
 - Reclamation/reuse requirements
 - Dual plumbing
 - Incentive pricing for community systems
 - Mitigation Water Credit programs
- Flood Control Issues**

Including removing brush and vegetation and man-made obstructions in channels and levee maintenance. Madera County has already been put on notice by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board that deficiencies exist on the Chowchilla River, Berenda Slough and the Ash Slough that Madera County may face possible decertification on these levees which would preclude the county from receiving federal funds. Madera County is actively addressing these issues and has established a Levee Task force that has submitted a plan to the state to correct these issues. Discussions regarding the construction of storm water retention and groundwater recharge basins have already taken place.

Potential Water Augmentation Plans

- Chowchilla Water District - improving ties with Merced Water District for use on lands within Merced
- Madera Water Enhancement Project (Water Bank)
- Temperance Flat Dam (studies stage only). The bureau of reclamation has identified three potential sites above Millerton Lake
- Madera Canal/Hidden Dam Pump Storage; excess water in San Joaquin River and additional capacity in Hensley Lake
- Madera Lake Area Groundwater Storage; manmade lake off the Fresno River as a potential recharge area
- Madera Canal Capacity Increase (major artery for bringing San Joaquin River water into the County)

The initial IRWMP report is 211 pages in length with part two containing an additional 1,225 pages of appendices. It can be found in its entirety on the Madera County Website, however you may view the video of the Madera County Board of Directors Special Meeting in which the IRWMP was presented at www.maderacounty.com/supervisors/index.html. There you'll see Dr. Kenneth Schmidt of Kenneth D. Schmidt and Associates and Ken Swanson of Boyle Engineering Corp. summarizing the plan in a PowerPoint presentation.

Mark Twain said, "Whiskey's for drinking, water's for fighting over!" Although this is an issue we'd all prefer to not have to worry about, the reality is that everyone in the Ranchos needs to be informed and involved in the County's decisions. The IRWMP will change Madera County residents' lives in one form or another forever.

Sheriff Offers Heat Relief this Summer

In light of rising temperatures here in the Valley, Sheriff John Anderson is issuing the following information concerning cooling centers that will be open to the public.

CITY OF CHOWCHILLA

Chowchilla Senior Center
820 West Robertson Blvd.
Chowchilla
559-665-4781
Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 2 p.m.

CITY/COUNTY OF MADERA

Frank Bergon Senior Center
238 South D Street
Madera
559-673-4293
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Madera Rescue Mission
33 Elm Avenue
Madera
559-675-8321
As need basis

Pan Am Community Center
703 E. Sherwood Way
Madera
559-675-2095
Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Ranchos/Hills Senior Center
37339 Berkshire Drive
Madera
559-645-4864
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES
Coarsegold
Coarsegold Community Center
35540 Highway 41
Coarsegold
559-683-3811
Mon., Tue., Thur.: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Oakhurst
Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Lane

Oakhurst
559-683-3811
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

North Fork
56442 Road 200
North Fork
559-877-2812
Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information on County locations, please contact the Sheriff's Department at (559) 675-7770.

For more information on City of Madera locations, please contact City Administration at (559) 661-5400 (during regular business hours) and/or the Madera Police Department at (559) 675-4200. Transportation for City of Madera residents may contact Dial-a-Ride at (559) 661-7433.

For more information on City of Chowchilla locations, please contact the City Public Information Office at (559) 665-8615, extension 110 (during regular business hours); and the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600 after regular business hours. During business hours, residents may contact CATX for transportation at (559) 665-8655.

Heat Emergency Tips

Outdoor workers require special precautions during excessive heat conditions and employers must follow California's heat illness prevention regulations (www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/heatillnessoal-text.doc).

Children up to age 4, people taking certain medications, persons with disabilities, and seniors age 65 and older should be monitored throughout the day as they are susceptible.

Regardless of your level of activity, drink plenty of fluids – especially

Please see **HEAT** on P. 19



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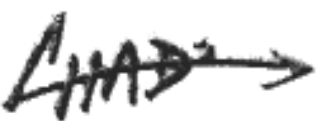
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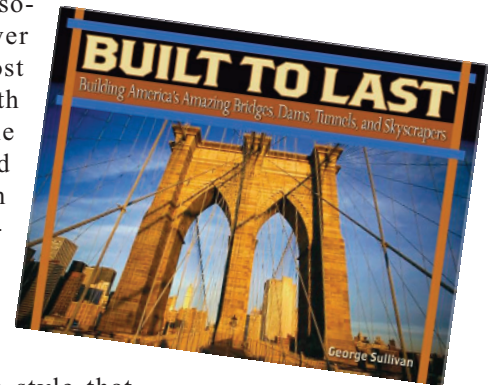
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 Orlando Vigil (CDF) (209)742-6292

5/08

BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

on the opposite sides of the Bok Chitto River in Mississippi. A little Choctaw girl named Martha Tom, crosses the river on the hidden stones that only the Choctaw know, in search of blackberries. While there, she hears beautiful singing from the forbidden slave church. Discovered by one of the men, she is taken back to the river by a young boy named Mo. He crosses the river with her and experiences the music and ceremony of a Choctaw wedding. Martha Tom eventually becomes a regular attendee at the forbidden slave church and befriends Mo and his family. This friendship turns into a lifesaving moment when the slave owners plan to sell Mo's mother. The Choctaw people help them to escape across the Bok Chitto and into the free land. This tale has been passed down by both the Choctaws and black people of Mississippi for 150 years. Tim Tingle belongs to the Choctaw nation and travels to storytelling festivals throughout the country telling this tale and many others. Recently, Tim was at the Mariposa Story Tellers Festival this March and I had the privilege of hearing this tale told in person.

Juvenile Non-fiction: *Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels and Skyscrapers* by George Sullivan. Have you ever wondered how some of our nation's landmark structures were built? Long before gasoline driven engines and big power equipment, men built some of the most amazing structures with brute strength and ingenuity. Beginning with the Erie Canal, the Transcontinental Railroad and the Capitol Dome and ending with the Sears Tower and New York Tunnel system, we get a look at the inner structures and some of the reasons for the designs. With incredible photographs, drawings, and plans, the writer combines text in a story-like style that makes for a very interesting read. This book may be classified as juvenile but it is definitely a book that adults will enjoy reading too.



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Friday, May 30th

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5/08

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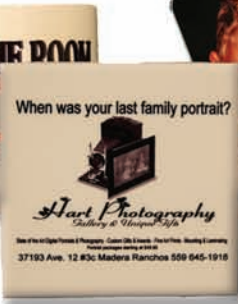
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5/08

The Next “Big” TV Innovation is *Very* Skinny - Meet the OLED’s

By Stewart Hough

Got a flat screen TV yet? Having a hard time deciding on the LCD type or the plasma type? Confused about performance claims, or just waiting for the prices to drop a little more? What would you say if yet another flat panel display (FPD) is coming that makes others look medieval? Maybe you have read the reviews, seen the TV news spot, or seen images of the new contender on the Web. Yeah, it’s true, there is another option emerging on the scene, so I am writing to sort it out a little and clarify the reports.

It is increasingly hard to imagine how we would get along without the electronic devices that we have surrounded ourselves with, from camera phones and iPods, to PCs and large screen TVs, and everything in-between. Whether for entertainment, communication or managing the increasing volume of information in our lives, the one thing all these devices have in common is the electronic display that makes the device work and makes it easy to use.

Simply put, perhaps because 80 percent of our human senses are visual, the need to create, preserve, manipulate, transmit and view electronic images is somehow intrinsic to our human nature. This has driven technology to pursue the “ideal display” that creates images as perfect as the natural world around us: an elusive goal that gets closer with each generation of development.

A short historical digression is valuable to put things in context. The Cathode Ray Tube (CRT), invented in 1897, led to black and white television, first commercialized in the 1930’s. The jump to color TV in the early 1960’s was the innovation that really

launched the TV era. Back then, the bulky, heavy and size limited CRT was the only game in town.

LCD’s (liquid crystal displays), were invented in 1958 and enabled notebooks and portable computing in the mid 1980’s. LCD dominance of PC monitors began in the late 1990’s. Now, after more than \$150 billion in investment, LCDs dominate cell phones to PC monitors and have set their sights on television, the single market for displays. LCD large screen TVs up to 120-inches diagonal have been demonstrated.

LCD’s main competitor in large TVs is plasma displays, invented at the University of Illinois in the late 1960’s, but the color version didn’t appear until 1993, developed by Fujitsu. The Ranchos community has the distinction of having had the only 42 in. color plasma display in the Western Hemisphere in 1996 (I had to field strip it on my dining room table to get it ready for a demonstration with CBS and Zenith for the first terrestrial broadcast of high definition television (HDTV) in Las Vegas.) Who says there is no hi-tech in the Central Valley? Plasma displays up to 140 in. diagonal have been demonstrated.

Why do we need a new display technology? LCDs and plasma have issues. LCDs have video motion artifacts that blur fast moving images. Colors in all models are not consistent from all viewing angles. Plasma consumes a lot of electricity and does not last as long as

LCDs. Plasma also has some video motion artifacts.

So, the search for the ideal display has led to the invention of Organic Light Emit-

Please see **OLED** on P. 23



The ultrathin Sony OLED prototype - the next “Big” thing in televisions?



New Series Started on May 25th
Recreation & Relation (R&R)
Services at 9:30 & 11:00 am
Liberty High School

Flipside CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Office located in the Maywood Center inside
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Father’s Day Picnic

NO CHURCH on Sunday, June 15, 2008 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Liberty High School Practice Field

Mommy & Me

Summer Dates: June 18th, July 16th, and August 20

9:30-10:30 AM | Flipside Activity Center

Family Lake Day

Saturday, July 19, 2008 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Millerton Lake

Family Night

Eat dinner together, talk to each other, and play a game together.



For more information on these events and others or to contact Flipside staff, check out our website at www.act176.com.



Golden Valley's Financials: Taking a Hard Look



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent, Sarah Koligian

Each day in the news and in the media, we are being surrounded with updates about California's bleak financial outlook. We recently read that the Governor is estimating a \$20 billion dollar deficit entering into 2009. This is twice as much

as what was previously estimated about a month ago. The May Revise of the State Budget recently gave us the most current update on our budget. The prognosis is one that will continue to be challenging for California public schools.

Budget Shortfalls for Education

Golden Valley Unified started planning for the estimated budget shortfall back in January, 2008. Per the Governor's reductions to education, school districts have planned for a decrease of almost 7% in base revenue limit spending, which is the amount allocated per student. Golden Valley has an approximate operating budget of \$17 million. The projected base revenue deficit of 7% requires the district to initiate a reduction of approximately \$1 million.

How does a district of over 2000 students and almost 200 employees, with fixed personnel costs of 80% reduce their budget? The answer to this question has not been easy and has required the district to make some very difficult decisions that have resulted in the elimination of positions and the reduction of work days for

the upcoming 2008-09 school year. Additionally, the district is analyzing possible reductions in supplies, materials and services.

District Convened a Budget Steering Committee

Earlier in March, I invited a stakeholder task force of GVUSD employees, parents and community members to form a Budget Steering Committee. The purpose of this committee was to review the current and future projected district budgets and to assist in recommending potential cost-savings recommendations to the Governing Board of Trustees. The committee provided a broad cross-section of recommendations. The committee's work also raised the level of awareness and urgency for working together with our community at large to address the challenges of the education budget.

Reduction in Staff for Next Year

Legal mandates specify specific deadlines by which a district must notify employees if their position will be eliminated for the following year due to a reduction in particular kinds of services. The deadline

for teachers and administrators was March 15th and for classified employees was April 30th. Subsequently and regretfully, the Board took action on some of the recommended reductions for 2008-09 involving personnel. These actions included the reduction of three elementary teachers, one high school teacher, one counselor, one learning director, one guidance learning specialist and one PE instructional aide. The action also involved reducing the work year of administrators and secretarial staff at the site and district levels. The total savings from reduction in staff and hours is approximately \$850,000. The district is still reviewing other recommended reductions in programs, materials and services to reach the \$1million total reduction in expenses for next year.

What can community members do to support and advocate for education?

Back in February, I wrote an article for the Ranchos Independent and also sent out information to our parent community regarding the state fiscal crisis and what

Please **SARAH** on P. 19



Kayla Hodges receives the Donovan Tessmer Memorial Spirit of the Team award from the Tessmer family, Megan, Martha and Duane.



Educational Options Principal Dr. Green (left) was joined by Superintendent Sarah Koligian, Roger Schuh and Mike Kelly for a visit to the Educational Options campus over on Paula Road and left with a new understanding of Art. The trio was introduced to Art in the classroom by Avo Atoian and later toured the campus. The visited the garden, the Computer Lab, Independence Continuation High School, Lincoln Community Day School, and Centennial Independent Study School. The visit was informative and fun for all concerned. Just in case you're curious about what goes on over there, anyone reading this article can schedule a visit to the Golden Valley Educational Options site by calling the Principal, Dr. Green, at 645-1137. He promises a time of enlightenment.

Click on "Local News" at



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RE-Generation Youth Group—Generation NeXt Children's Ministry
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5/08

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5/08



Sober Grad

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at
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HEAT cont. from P. 14

water. Dehydration can lead to serious health effects.

Make sure clothing is lightweight and comfortable. If possible avoid strenuous activity outdoors during the hottest part of the day. Try to schedule activities in the morning and evening. Be sure to wear a hat and use sunscreen.

Turn on air conditioners or evaporative cooling systems.

Do not rely only on electric fans during a heat wave. When the temperature is in the 90s or above, a fan will not prevent heat-related illness. A cool shower or bath is a better way to beat the heat and keep body temperatures at safer levels.

SARAH cont. from P. 18

we could do as community members and concerned citizens. I suggested writing our local legislators and presented a sample letter format. Our local legislators have received some letters and calls advocating for full funding of Proposition 98, more local flexibility with categorical funds and the delay of new program mandates until the budget improves. Senator Cogdill and Assemblyman Villines have been responsive to our requests and input. However, we can do even more. Recently, one of our own community members, Mr. Warren Parr, traveled to Sacramento on a legislative action day, as a member of the automotive industry, to meet with our legislators and further advocate for education. I would en-

Our local legislative representatives can be contacted at the following addresses:

Senator Dave Cogdill
State Capital Room 3048
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Assemblyman Michael Villines
State Capital Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

May 2008

Page 19

Use common sense. Avoid hot meals and heavy, spicy foods when the weather gets hot. Eat smaller meals more often.

Never leave infants, children or pets unattended in your vehicle, not even for a moment.

For information on protecting your pets from the heat, please visit www.aspc.org for Hot Weather Tips.

If you, or someone you know, may be at risk for heat-related illness, talk to a doctor or pharmacist.

In the event of a health related emergency call 911.

For more Information on how to beat the heat log on to the following sites:

www.dhs.ca.gov or www.red-cross.org

courage any member of our community to continue to contact our legislators either in writing or in person. Each contact they receive, does make a difference. My door is always open to our community and I am more than willing to meet to discuss how we can further advocate for fully funding education, no lower than the minimum requirements. Together, we can continue to make a difference!

How can we have our voices heard in Sacramento?

- Call on our Governor and Legislators to notify them that California should put our students first.
- Reject the across-the-board cuts that would damage our public schools.
- Protect the voter-approved minimum school funding law, Proposition 98.

The Garden Bug

Prairie sunflower

Colonies of this sun-loving wildflower often exclude other plant species. The roots exude chemicals that inhibit germination of seeds and young plant growth. However, because it is somewhat vulnerable to these chemicals itself, plants in the middle of these colonies sometimes die out.

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Carnival Time at Sierra View



Sierra View Elementary School had their annual school carnival on May 3rd. The Sierra View Parent Club hosts/organizes this event each year. A highlight for the evening was when hundreds of kids and parents watched the CHP helicopter land on the Sierra View soccer fields to drop off Chipper, the CHP mascot and to give families a close up look at the helicopter. It was a memorable event!

RMS Sweeps Academic Pentathalon



RMS 7th graders sweep the academic pentathlon sponsored by Madera County Office of Education. First place was received in each category along with the overall first place award. Several eighth graders also placed but were unable to win the overall event. Both teams consisted of highly academic, hard working students. Without doubt, the county event will continue to recognize RMS as we always strive to do our very best. A big "thank you" is also in order for our teachers/coaches. Each year RMS coaches do a great job of preparing our kids for competition. Go Mustangs!

Webster Special Olympics Swimmers Dive into Their Need for Speed




The Webster Elementary Special Olympics Swim team joined swimmers from all over the Valley to compete in this year's "Need for Speed" event. Students gathered at Clovis High School with swim caps, goggles and smiles.



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Adoption of Mathematics Textbook Recommended to GVUSD Board

By Andy Alvarado, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

The Golden Valley Unified School District staff has worked diligently on this year's primary adoption of mathematics textbooks. The School Board of Education adopted the timeline for the 2007 Mathematics Primary Adoption on January 12, 2006. The timeline reflected the requirements of California Education Code (EC) Section 60200(b)(1) which calls for adoptions to occur "not less than two times every six years" for language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science, and "not less than two times every eight years" in other subjects. The last primary adoption for mathematics took place in 2001.

As part of the math adoption process, GVUSD staff in grades K-12, through a series of exercises, identified the Essential and Enduring Standards for Golden Valley Unified School District in the area of mathematics utilizing the following resources: California Content Standards for Mathematics, California Mathematics Frameworks, the Blueprints for the California Standards Test, and the Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills from the International Center for Educational Leadership. The GVUSD Essential and Enduring Standards K-12 Mathematics Matrix represents a crosswalk of these resources and critical standards of understanding for each grade

level. A sample of the matrix is available online at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us through the "Services and Department" link. The matrix is pending Board approval scheduled for May 13, 2008.

Educational Services would like to send a special thank you to our GVUSD Mathematics Adoption Committee for their tireless efforts in recommending our newest adoption. The GVUSD Mathematics Adoption Committee consisted of the following staff and community member: Andy Alvarado (Assistant Superintendent), Jessica Simonton (Kindergarten-WES), Julia Kirkman (Kindergarten-SVES), Jennifer Woods (3rd-WES), Chelan Shepherd (3rd-SVES), MJ Gilio (5th-WES), Laura Mayer (6th-SVES), Shawn Harcastle (6th-WES), Teresa Nixon (6th-WES), Arris White (7th-RMS), Renee Harris (9-12 - LHS) and Julie O'Keefe (Parent). The committee met several times and used the Enduring Standards identified by GVUSD staff to sample the State of California's approved programs. The committee has recommended the adoption of the Harcourt School Publishers - California HSP Math program for grades K-6. The program is available for 30-day viewing at the GVUSD District Office Room 2 through May 21st. For more information regarding 2007 Mathematics Primary Adoption, please contact Andy Alvarado, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services.

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5/08

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

THE UP SIDE

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

The Panama Canal cruisers are home and still talking about their trip. If you are interested in traveling with us, please come in and pick up a flyer on the Nov. 1-8, 2008 7-Night Eastern Caribbean cruise. This will be on the spectacular "LIBERTY," which leaves Miami on Carnival's newest ship with dockings at San Juan, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. The flyers may be picked up in our office or for more information call Joann at 645-4864. Just remember, you need NOT be a member to participate in these cruises.

Remember BINGO has started up again and is being held the first and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 9 p.m. of each month. We have had a good number of players already, but there is still room for more.

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

More Facts and Fun

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

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

Up and Coming Events

June 3, BINGO, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
 June 8, Monthly Sale 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 June 17, BINGO, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
 November 1-8, Eastern Caribbean Cruise

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864)
 Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?
 Tuesday, BINGO, first and third Tuesdays of each month, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
 Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO
 Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.
 Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class
 Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (please bring your own plate and silverware).
 Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?



Get Ready to Ride

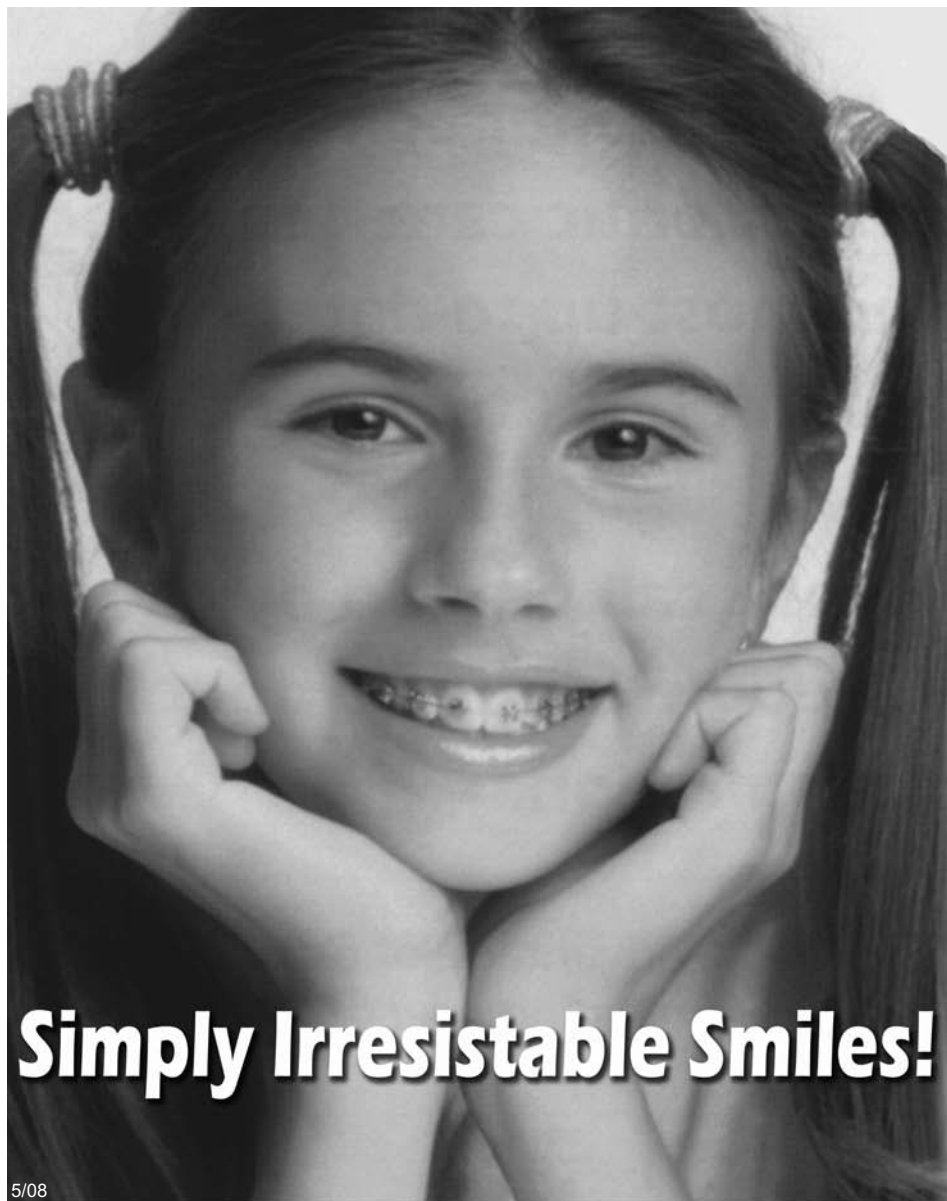
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Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.	Missionettes (Girls 5-17)
Youth.....6 p.m.	Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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5/08

OLED cont. from P. 17

ting Diode (OLED) technology. Yes, it actually uses organic polymers and monomers. Certain types of organic materials promote the conversion of electrons (electrical current) to photons (visible light energy). There are two types: the first invented by accident at Kodak in 1987, the second invented, also by accident, in Cambridge, UK in 1989. Twenty years later the first OLED TVs are emerging. OLEDs have been used as the small text displays in cell phones and MP-3 players for about five years.

Sony recently released an 11-inch OLED TV, the XEL-1 and demonstrated a prototype 27-inch OLED TV of the future. The 27-inch is the biggest OLED panel to date announced for volume production with resolution of 1920 x 1080 while the 11-inch panel is 1024 x 600 (WSVGA). In an article in the New York Times entitled "TV Images to Dazzle the Jaded" on May 1, the technology editor of the NY Times described a little experiment:

"At a cooperative Best Buy store, I did a little test. I set the XEL-1 up next to state-of-the-art plasmas and LCD sets — all hooked up to the same video signal for easy comparison — and recorded the reactions of shoppers and employees. Their adjectives for this picture included "astounding," "astounding," "incredible" (twice) and "amazing" (five times). They were right. The XEL-1's picture is so colorful, vibrant, rich, lifelike and high in contrast, you catch your breath. It's like looking out a window. With the glass missing."

Samsung has demonstrated a 40-inch display and LG Electronics is close behind. Toshiba and Panasonic as well as all the other major display/electronics com-

panies have been working on OLED display demonstrations and prototypes.

OLEDs are thin — real thin. The inner workings are about 1,000th the thickness of a human hair. Weight is much less than plasma or LCD. OLED video is instant with no artifacts. Viewing angles are ideal, power consumption is lower and color is excellent. OLEDs are also more environmentally friendly: less material, no mercury, less hazardous substances.

Too good to be true? Yes. OLED displays are scarce, cannot be made in high volume yet, and the organic materials do not last long. An OLED display with a white image is expected to last about 5000 hours until 50 percent decrease from initial bright-

ness. The colors do not age at the same rate, causing shifting of colors with time. These problems will be eventually worked out; it is not absolutely known when. Of special interest to display product developers is the fact that OLEDs can be placed on flexible substrates



People who have seen the OLED televisions are running out of adjectives to describe just how good the picture looks.

that can be molded to curved surfaces, made even thinner and lighter, and even flexed.

If you have to have the best and the latest, buy the Sony XEL-1, but don't leave it on all the time and don't crank the brightness to maximum. Prices are high - \$2500 for just the 11-inch display. Despite the remaining challenges, we have seen the future and it is flat, thin and vivid.

About the author: Stewart Hough is a 17+ year resident of the Ranchos with over 20 years engineering and business experience in FPD technology, including LCDs, plasma, FEDs and OLEDs. He has written numerous technical and business articles on OLED technology and continues to consult in the display industry.

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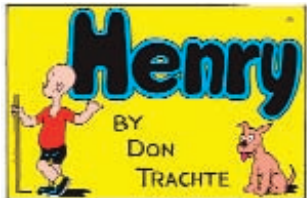
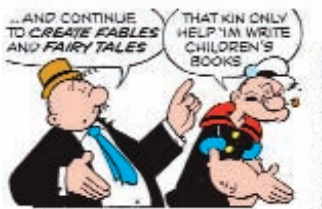
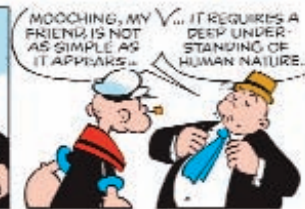
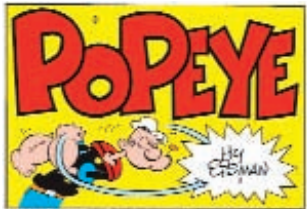
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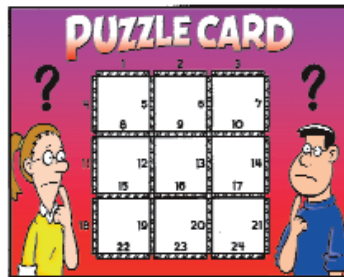
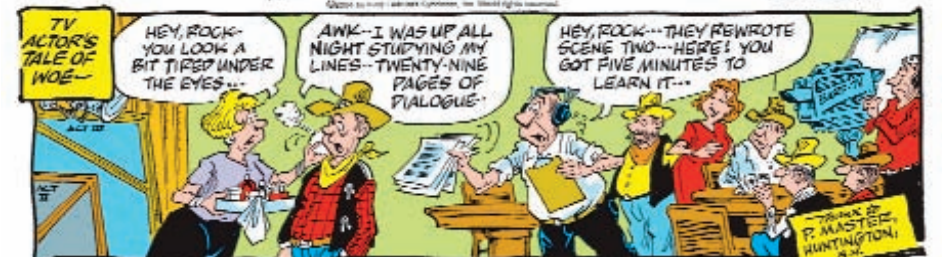
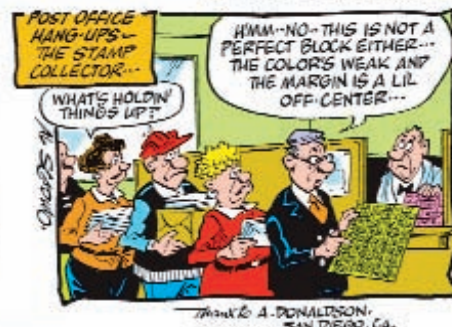
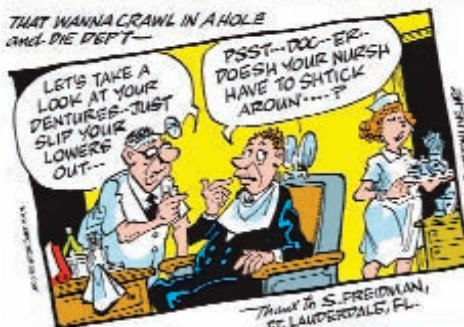
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FUN PAGES



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YOUR PROBLEM is to remove four straws from the 24 shown here and have five squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 2, 11, 14 and 23, you will be left with five squares.

A NIFTY NUMBER CHALLENGE! Challenge your friends to take the digits 1 through 9 and arrange them into two rows that each add up to the same total. When they give up, write them down as shown to the right. You'll find that each row adds up to 23.



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

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. HIT | 11. DIED |
| 2. SCOW | 12. JAGE |
| 3. ACE | 13. TEST |
| 4. CAD | 14. HER |
| 5. MESS | 15. LED |
| 6. TAR | 16. TIC |

Wishing Well

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

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

MAGIC MAZE — MARKET

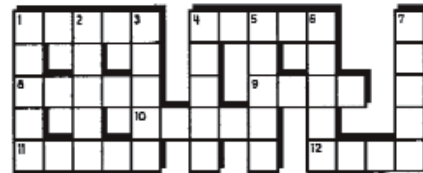
S	V	K	S	P	L	I	E	B	Y	V	R	O	L	I
F	C	Z	(C)	O	M	M	O	D	I	T	I	E	S	Y
W	T	Q	N	A	K	I	F	C	Z	W	U	U	E	R
P	M	J	H	E	L	C	Z	N	X	U	P	N	I	S
Q	N	L	J	G	E	B	C	S	O	E	O	Z	T	X
V	T	R	P	N	L	J	H	E	R	M	M	E	I	C
A	Y	W	V	T	R	P	N	R	L	E	M	K	R	K
I	G	E	C	B	D	T	N	U	A	Z	L	O	U	C
X	W	U	S	R	P	O	W	T	O	E	B	L	C	O
M	L	J	I	G	E	P	O	U	D	A	B	B	E	T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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|------------|-------|
| Black | Down | Meat | Spot |
| Bull | Food | Money | Stock |
| Commodities | Futures | Securities | Super |
| Common | Labor | Sellers | |

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A FILL-IN PUZZLE!

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 14 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

Miscellaneous Words

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| ABODE | NAMF |
| AGING | NYLON |
| ACI OW | SAINT |
| AMBLE | SCAMS |
| ARGON | SUGAR |
| GATES | TALK |
| ICING | TIGER |

Answers: (Across) 1. Scams 4. Argon 8. Icing 9. Talk 10. Abode 11. Tiger 12. Namf (Down) 1. Saint 2. Aging 3. Sugar 4. Nylon 5. Gate 6. Nylon 7. Acible

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What was the title of the first Pink Panther movie?
- MILITARY: What kind of ship is the USS Nimitz?
- LITERATURE: How many students participated in the Triwizard Tournament in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"?
- TELEVISION: What is the profession of the men portrayed in the reality show "Deadliest Catch"?
- MEDICAL: What causes the condition known as hypothermia?
- SCIENCE: How many horns did the dinosaur called a triceratops have?
- MATH: How many faces does a cube have?
- U.S. HISTORY: Who was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence?
- QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "In politics, absurdity is not a handicap."
- TIME ZONES: What time zone is most of the state of Nevada in?

Answers

- "The Pink Panther"
- Navy aircraft carrier
- Four
- Fishermen
- Extreme cold
- Three
- Six
- John Hancock
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Pacific

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



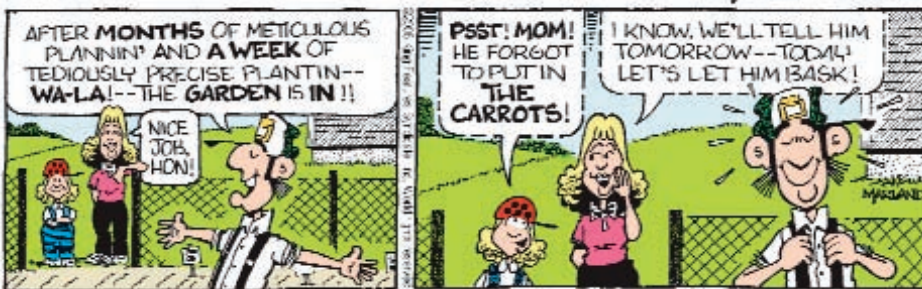
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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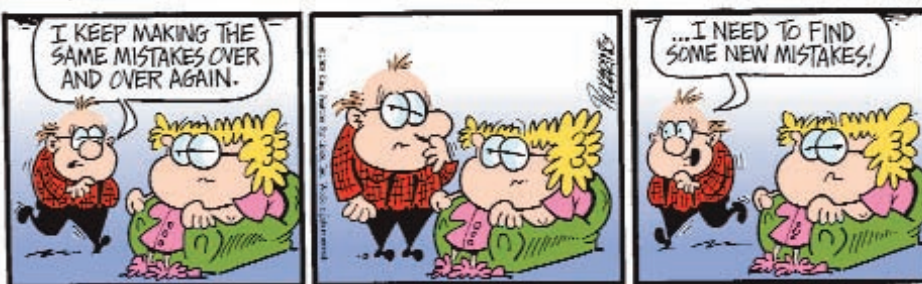
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



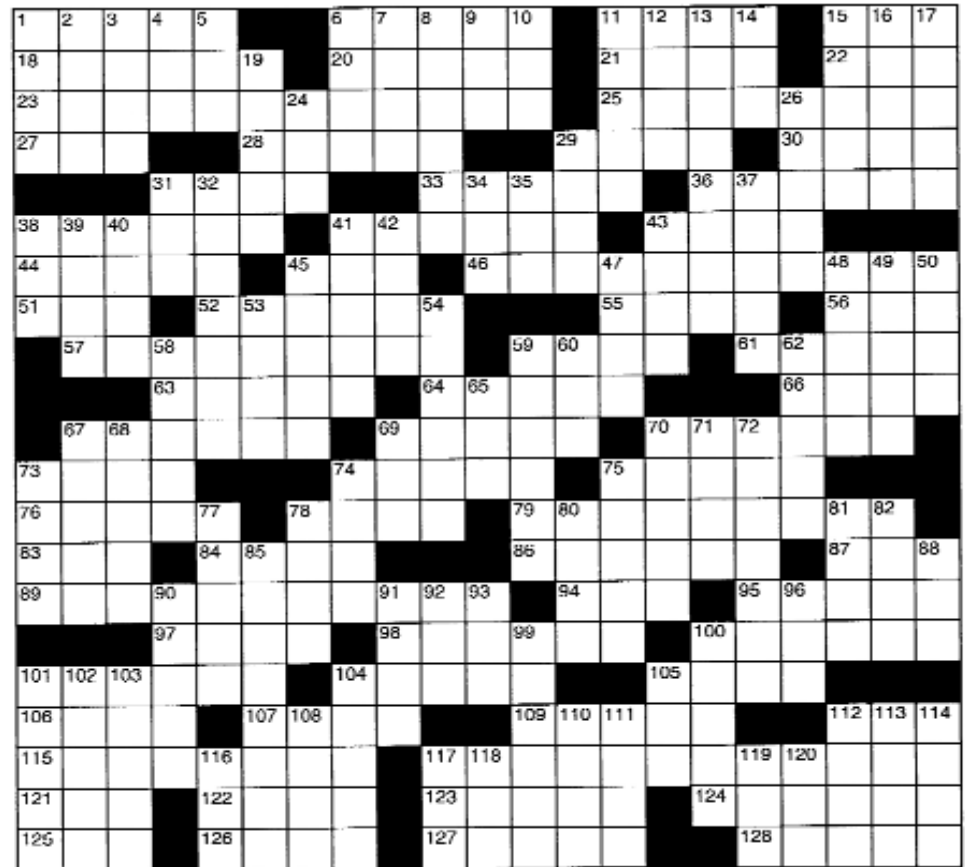
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY ROLINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Man is wearing sunglasses. 2. Window is missing. 3. Bushes added along fence. 4. More smoke coming from mower. 5. #2 missing from golf club. 6. More trucks have been added to foundation.

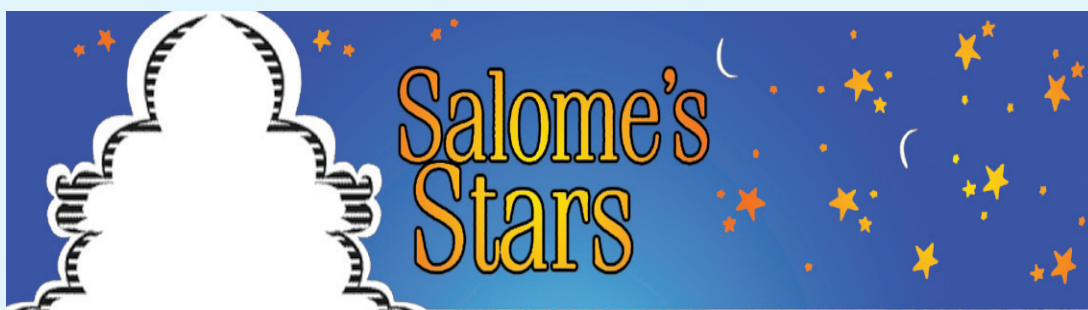
Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Oil-the-wall
 - 6 Ukrainian city
 - 11 Peepers, to Pope
 - 15 Arrange type
 - 18 Repeated
 - 20 French spa
 - 21 Rain heavily
 - 22 Gob
 - 23 Start of a remark
 - 25 Earmark
 - 27 Asian holiday
 - 28 Annual award?
 - 29 Shake — (hurry)
 - 30 Hurries
 - 31 Depraved
 - 33 Pile up
 - 36 Squirrel's stash
 - 38 Snake-charmer's crew
 - 41 Outcast
 - 43 Globule
 - 44 Riyadh religion
 - 45 Damone or Dana
 - 46 Part 2 of remark
 - 51 Neighbor of Fla.
 - 52 Rice dish
 - 55 Waikiki wing-ding
 - 56 Salute for Caesar
 - 57 Unaware
 - 59 Wee serving
 - 61 Poc crow
 - 63 Ain't right?
 - 64 Type of cabbage
 - 66 Part of NB
 - 67 High-rise building?
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 70 Know-it-all
 - 73 Semester
 - 74 Prickly plant
 - 75 Hellman's "The Little ..."
 - 76 Marsh sight
 - 78 It should be square
 - 79 Put an end to
 - 83 Carnival site
 - 84 Dentist's directive
 - 86 "The — Kid" ('84 film)
 - 87 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 89 Part 4 of remark
 - 94 Corn portion
 - 95 Broadcast in July
 - 97 Bates or Rickman
 - 98 Cheerless
 - 100 One of the Waughs
 - 101 Elegant
 - 104 — terrier
 - 105 Salchow kin
 - 106 Sludge
 - 107 Bloomsbury buggy
 - 109 Bookstore section
 - 112 Actress Cassidy
 - 115 Managers
 - 117 End of remark
 - 121 Be human
 - 122 MD's area
 - 123 Riser's relative
 - 124 Home on the range?
 - 125 "So there!"
 - 126 Man, for one
 - 127 Al daybreak
 - 128 Gushes
 - 8 One-dimensional
 - 9 Label
 - 10 Whichever
 - 11 Iridescent stones
 - 12 Hamlet or Herman Munster
 - 13 Where to spend lava
 - 14 Smash letters
 - 15 Flight segment
 - 16 Consumed
 - 17 Lock
 - 19 Name of a Day
 - 24 "My Gal —" (1905 tune)
 - 26 Butcher-shop display
 - 29 '75 Wimbledon winner
 - 31 Age
 - 32 Garlic hater
 - 34 Bad start
 - 35 Contented sigh
 - 37 — d'Alene, ID
 - 38 Spy org.
 - 39 '52 Winter Olympics site
 - 40 Spill the beans
 - 41 Navigate
 - 42 Bill of Rights grp.
 - 43 — major
 - 45 Like some leaves
 - 47 Chew out
 - 48 Sheltered spot
 - 49 Happening
 - 50 Russo of "Get Shorty"
 - 53 Maintain
 - 54 Beset
 - 58 Dellbes opera
 - 59 "Rusalka" composer
 - 60 Ely or Darling
 - 62 Disconcert
 - 65 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
 - 67 Get cracking
 - 68 It's kept in a quiver
 - 69 Bikini part
 - 70 Opposite
 - 71 Way out
 - 72 Merit
 - 73 Halcher of "Lois & Clark"
 - 74 Crooked
 - 75 Raid
 - 77 Adz and awl
 - 78 Chow —
 - 80 Actor Parley
 - 81 Viscount's better
 - 82 Cart
 - 85 Nursery items
 - 88 Hotel
 - 90 Desert refuges
 - 91 Dutch town
 - 92 — Lanka
 - 93 — the fields we go ...
 - 96 Smoked delicacy
 - 99 Response
 - 100 Be
 - 101 Sheep sheds
 - 102 "M" man
 - 103 Blue hue
 - 104 Social group
 - 105 Sternward
 - 108 TV's "— People"
 - 110 Barbecue fuel
 - 111 The — 500
 - 112 Mature
 - 113 From the top
 - 114 Gets by (with "out")
 - 116 Mai —
 - 117 Ideologue's suffix
 - 118 Singer's syllable
 - 119 Cock and bull
 - 120 Dem.'s opponent

FUN PAGES



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Lots of possibilities begin to open up by midweek. Some seem more appealing than others. But wait for more facts to emerge later on before you consider which to choose.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Bravo to the determined Bovine. While others might give up, you continue to search for answers. Expect your Taurean tenacity to begin paying off by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to consider stepping back from the task at hand for a while. This could help you get a better perspective on what you've done and what still needs to be done.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your keen Cancerian insight should help you determine whether a new offer is solid or just more fluff 'n' stuff. The clues are all there waiting for you to find them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Being ignored is difficult for any proud Leo or Leona. But pushing yourself back into the spotlight might be unwise. Instead, let things work themselves out at their own pace.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Trying to uncover a colleague's secret under the pretext of showing concern is ill-advised. Control your curiosity to avoid raising resentment in the workplace.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Expect to hear good news about a loved one. Also, be prepared for some changes in several family relationships that could develop from this lucky turn of events.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some surprises are expected to accompany a number of changes that will continue through part of next week. At least one could involve a romantic situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might be upset by some of your critics. But most of your associates continue to have faith in your ability to get the job done, and done well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A workplace goal that suddenly seems out of reach is no problem for the sure-footed Goat, who moves steadily forward despite any obstacles placed in his or her way.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Uncertainty about who is right and who isn't might keep you from making a clear-cut decision. Wait until you know more about what you're being asked to decide.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful to keep your emotions in check when dealing with a demanding personal situation. You need to set an example of strength for others to follow.

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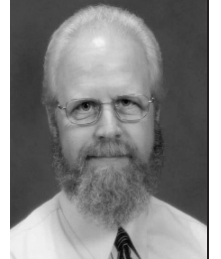


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Molly's Alterations - 35 years experience - Tailoring, repairs, and leathers. Fast service. Located at 36619 Ave. 12 or call 645-5527. Ask for Madlin.

Building Materials

Building Materials - Steal Building Deals! Up to 50% Off. Can Erect. www.scg-grp.com. Source#095. Call 559-742-1522.

Construction

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

For Rent

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

For Sale

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

For Sale - AQHA Horses. Buckskin weanlings and two yearlings. Lots of color. Call 559-645-5290 or 559-304-5073.

For Sale - Production Horse Sale. 25th Annual at Lazy K Ranch in Chowchilla. Sat., June 7. 70+ head, 50 in price range of \$575 to \$975. Call 559-665-2908. Go online at www.lazykranch.com.

For Sale - Bobcat S185 Tractor - 700 hours. Trailer & auger. \$35,000 OBO. Call 645-1500 or 970-4476.

For Sale - 2001 Ford F-250 PU - 4X4, 7.3 diesel, Super Duty P/Stroke Lariat. Platinum Edition - leather - loaded! Running boards, 2-tone champagne paint, tow package. 65,000 miles. \$21,700. Call 431-2351.

For Sale - Hot Tub/Spa - Loaded! Never used, therapy seats, ozonator, warranty, sacrifice \$2,475. Can deliver. Call 559-360-9047.

For Sale - Bedroom Set. Estate Quality, solid cherrywood, sleigh bed, 2 nightstands, dresser/mirror. All dovetailed - new in boxes! Cost \$7K sacrifice \$1,675. Extra pieces available. Call 559-230-0486.

For Sale - Pool Table. 8' solid maple, beautiful caving, 1" slate with accessories (Aramith balls, Simonis cloth, etc.). Cost \$6K sacrifice

\$1,500. Can deliver. Call 559-277-2511.

For Sale - \$125 All New Queen PILLOW-TOP mattress. Never used in plastic, cost \$599 sacrifice \$125. Call 559-438-0248.

For Sale - King PILLOWTOP mattress/box. Brand new w/warranty. Cost \$699 sacrifice \$275. Can deliver. Call 559-275-8813.

For Sale - Dining Room Set - Gorgeous solid cherrywood, China cabinet w/touch lighting, 6 chairs, double pedestal table w/2 leaves. Cost \$8,000 sacrifice \$1,950. A must see! Buffet \$450. Call 559-447-5066.

Gutter Services

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

Handyman Services

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

Housecleaning

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

Housecleaning - 20 years experience. Honest, reliable, references. Call Rachael at 822-3330.

Nanny Services

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

Painting Services

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

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

Real Estate/Foreclosures

Foreclosure Lists Available - Call agent at 645-1102 or email at ETiso54@comcast.net.

Roommate/Boarder Available

I am looking for someone to move in with in the Ranchos. I have 2 dogs (will explain when you call). I am very neat and clean for a living. All my kids are grown. Call Carol at 559-213-7272.

Tractor Services

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

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

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

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

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

Yard Work Help Needed

Wanted -Student for yard work. Four hours per week in Madera Ranchos. \$8.50 per hour. Call 645-4201.

Vacation Planning

RU Vacation Planning? - Best rates for Hawaii, Mexico and Cruise lines. All destinations available. Call Sharry at 474-0505 or online at RWeGoneYet.com.

Window Cleaning Services

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

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+		11
-		+		-	
	-		+		2
x		+		x	
	-		x		16
18		12		24	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

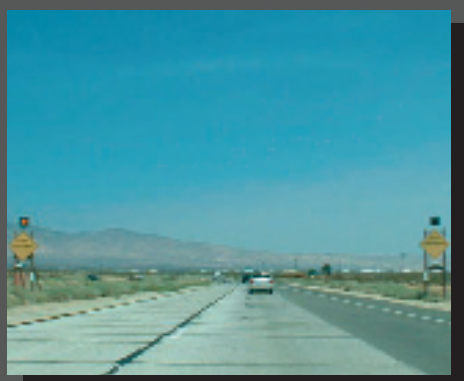
		4		7				8
	2				6		5	9
9			5			7		
	8				5	1		3
6		1		3		2		
		3	1					8
	9	5		2		3		
	3		9					4
7						1		6

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

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT ...

Changes are coming to Avenue 12 and the County wants your input as to what those changes should be



Tell Madera County the kind of community in which you want to live

To share your thoughts or for more information, call

559-363-9095

email: info@ranchoscommunity.com

